

# Septima Clark Had A Great Vision

How quickly we forget. While driving past Sam Johnson's car dealership the other day, I heard on the radio that Septima Clark had died. It jolted me, but not for the reason you might think. Without the work this little old lady did many of our successful minority business people might still be working for the Man.

Driving into the dealership, I got out and asked a salesman, a young black man, if he'd heard about her death. Septima Clark? Wasn't she the English singer who recorded "Downtown"? Well, she had a hit record all right—a long one. And it's still playing.

In America, the dog that barks the loudest gets the biscuit. Ask somebody about Rap Brown, Eldridge Cleaver or Angela Davis and they never confuse them with Peter, Paul and Mary. Septima Clark never barked as loud as some. She gnawed at the bone of social injustice.

Like Miriam, the wise and patient sister of Moses, she stood at the side of Dr. Martin Luther King during the turbulence of the 1960's civil rights movement. While Rev. King stormed the bastions of segregation, Septima Clark trained demonstrators in techniques of nonviolence. And registered voters—after teaching many of them to read, so they could know who



was on the ballot. What did she care? Well, she was the daughter of parents who had been slaves. And she was fired, in 1958, from a position as a school teacher after 27 years. Just for being a member of the NAACP.

Septima Clark had been there. She knew that people of color would never be safe in the system unless the system could be changed. Dr. King knew her value, both to the movement and to posterity. That's why he took her with him to Stockholm, where he was awarded the Nobel prize for peace. He said it belonged to her as much as to him. Jimmy Carter and a host of others would come to know and honor the quiet works of this amazing woman.

So what? Well, without the

foundation laid by Ms. Clark, Dr. King and others, many minority entrepreneurs would not yet be free to maximize their opportunities.

It has not been too long ago that there were no black car dealers in Charlotte, for instance. The publisher of this newspaper is a vice president with one of our biggest banks. Without the pioneer work of the civil rights activists, he might have had to remain in his original, and more traditional, field—education.

What most people call God,

## Committee To Study Housing

Raleigh - Representatives Anne Barnes of Orange County, Pete Cunningham of Mecklenburg, Milton Finch of Wilson, John Tart of Wayne and Betty Wiser of Wake will help conduct a study of housing discrimination and the need for a separate State Department dealing with housing.

They have been appointed by House Speaker Liston B. Ramsey to the study to be conducted by the Legislative Research Commission.

The group will consider whether the various State agencies with responsibilities for housing programs should be consolidated to form a North Carolina Department of Housing. It will also "study discrimination in housing in North Carolina, including sexual harassment in the rental of housing, discrimination against families with children, discrimination against persons with handicaps, and other areas of unfair treatment in the sale or rental of residential housing."

Representative Barnes, chairman of the House Corrections Committee, was selected as co-chairman of the study.

the American Indians call Manitou. To have Faith, they say, is to have a Vision. They call caring for fellow humans "hearing the Song From the Earth." As a Kiowa, I will pay Septima Clark our highest compliment. She served Manitou.

Though she will not be with us this Christmas, she gave us the greatest gift of all. She advanced freedom. And think what she will receive at Christmas. She'll see Jesus face-to-face. That is the gift, gift she always wanted most.

Say Amen, somebody.

Cunningham, a Charlotte car dealer, represents a portion of Mecklenburg County in the 59th House District.

Fitch, a Wilson attorney, is chairman of the House Committee on Housing.

Tart, a resident of Route 1, Goldsboro, is president of Johnston Technical College.

Mrs. Wiser, a Raleigh businesswoman, represents part of Wake County in the 64th House District.

## Views On Dental Health



MICHAEL GIVENS, D.D.S.

### THUMB-SUCKING SYNDROME

Does thumb-sucking lead to crooked teeth? Most experts don't think occasional thumb-sucking in infancy causes any problems with teeth. But there is a general agreement among dentists that prolonged and intensive thumb-sucking past the time the first permanent teeth erupt - at age 5 to 6 years of age - can lead to misshapen mouths and displaced teeth.

Actually, the position of individual teeth displaced by thumb-sucking is of less concern to orthodontists than the effect on the bony support of the teeth - and the development of abnormal, deforming muscle activity. If, for example, the habit persists past two years, it could alter the child's swallowing pattern. Once this happens, the

youngster may develop a protrusion of the upper front teeth; a narrowness of the upper dental arch; and an obvious malocclusion (improper bite) problem. As long as there are infants, there will be thumbsuckers. However, if the habit continues longer than usual, it's best to have the child checked by a dentist before it causes any problems.

Prepared as a public service to promote better dental health. From the office of:

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Mr. Charles, R.B.

QUESTION? Ah! Christmas  
With all of its fanfare, what  
style should I wear?  
ANSWER: Upsweeps, waves,  
French rolls, twist braids, Lots  
of polish with a clean healthy  
look; More of the Spanish and  
French tailored high fashion  
look designed for candle light.  
Merry Christmas!

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