Serving Gaston County

The Charlotte Post
Alliance

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Eddie Bridges Promoted General Manager

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Self-Esteem Extolled By Civic Leaders

CCC Sponsors Black History Programs

In observance of Black History Month, Cleveland Community College's Black Awareness Club and Visiting Artist program are sponsoring a variety of special events that are open to the public:

February 1-28 Charles D. Rogers, assistant professor of art education at Johnson C. Smith University, will exhibit a collection of acrylic paintings in the College Gallery.

February 1-28 Photo Show, "Cleveland County: Heritage/Legacy," will be on display in the Hoover Gallery (photographs by Zane Saunders, Cliffside).

February 6-10, 12 noon-1p.m. RAPS "Race and Peace in Our Society," seminar will be moderated by Paula Larke.

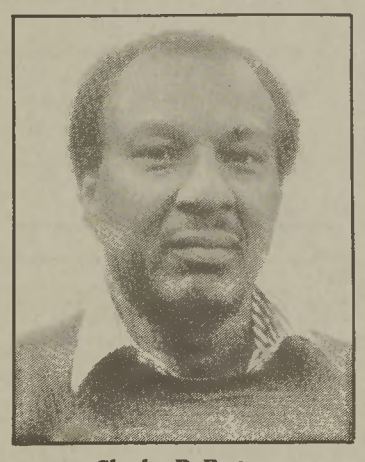
February 9, 7 p.m. Demonstration by Shelby Martial Arts in the College auditorium.

February 16, 7:30 p.m. Duo concert will be presented by Pianist, William Chapman-Nyaho, visiting artist from Davidson County Community College, and Paula Larke, CCC visiting artist.

February 22, 7 p.m. Minority Job Forum for community youth will be conducted by the Cleveland County Business and Professional Association in the College auditorium.

February 28, 7 p.m. Image Building Workshop will be conducted by Ron Harrill in the college auditorium.

For more information call 484-4025.



Charles D. Rogers

Photo/FRANK WILLIAMS

Oscar Penegar is the executive director of Look Up Gaston.

Look Up Gaston Reforms County Image

By MILLICENT LINK
Alliance Staff Writer

The story of LOOK UP GASTON is one of a community in change, a community which discovered that many time-honored perspectives, those which had contributed to comfortable security in the past, were no longer reliable guideposts for the future.

During the industrial revolution, Gaston County proceeded to build communities at local streams, and along railroad accesses. These industrial sites paved the way for the mill-village. These villages were developed into small towns and the citizens established a pattern of leadership.

By 1979, the county was confronted by the instability of the textile industry, competition of municipal partisanship, and the expansion of its neighboring city Charlotte. The county became afflicted with a self-perception of community inferiority.

The perception became a major topic of discussion for the Board of Directors of the Gaston County Chamber of Commerce. They immediately began to examine methods of reform for the county.

There inability to agree on changes that needed to made, resulted in the Chamber's decision to conduct a survey of the county citizens, and LOOK UP GASTON was formed.

LOOK UP GASTON, which was originally initiated in 1979, is a community development organization, politically independent, committed to serving the citizens of Gaston County.

Oscar Penegar, executive director of the foundation says, "It is the mission of LOOK UP GASTON to assess the future possibilities of the Gaston community, for the purpose of helping our leaders and our citizens find consensus and cooperation on the issues and their priorities in a mutual desire to create a higher quality of life and a greater share of opportunity in our individual and collective future."

Penegar says the one factor that is predictable in our future is change. "The expectation of change brought LOOK UP GASTON into existence and is the one reason that its' concepts are so vital to our future," he says."

Gaston County consists of 14 municipalities. Gaston has more municipalities than any other county in the state.

"Our goal is to improve the quality of life and economic opportunities of the citizens of Gaston County, with the attitude that you may have to change to succeed," says Penegar.

Currently, the organization, which is funded by the business community, is forming an agenda to develop sub-divisions or committees that will generate new projects.

"We are an important part of a great metropolitan area. This region is rapidly becoming a world class center, to which the Gaston community contributed diversity and cultural richness. It is also the beneficiary of its resources. Because of our position, we are about to enter a fantastic era of development, of high quality community life, as well as opportunity," says Penegar.

The organization is accredited with the establishing of a variety of programs and accomplishments of the county: the beautification of the county, Textile Week, Science and Technology Fair, Gaston Tomorrow Month, High Tec/High Touch, along with several other programs.

Penegar, a native of Charlotte, is a graduate of N.C. State University, where he majored in forestry. He also attended UNC-Chapel Hill, where he majored in English and chemistry, and minored in anthropology and history. Penegar has acquired extensive academic study and training at a number of other institutions for higher learning. The academic scholar is fluent in a number of languages.

He is also affiliated with numerous organizations.

Penegar says that the late May Morrow, whom he refers to as Uncle May was very instrumental in his life and contributions. Morrow, a black man, was his mentor. "Uncle Morrow was the most influential man in my life. He sparked my interest in learning. I wish there was a way that I could give him more acclaim," say Penegar.

Church News
Friendship Missionaries Host Annual Program

Alliance Church News
By Sonya A. White

FRIENDSHIP

Reverend Maurice Floyd, pastor of Hopewell Baptist Church in Shelby, will be the guest speaker for the annual program of the Missionary Department of Friendship Baptist Church on Sunday, February 5, 1989. Rev. Floyd will be accompanied by members and choirs of Hopewell. The public is cordially invited to attend the service, which will begin at 3 p.m. Mrs. Jeannette Cunningham is president of the missionaries. The church is located at 227 W. Bradley in Gastonia. Rev. John T. McCullough is Interim Pastor.

SPRINGFIELD

Reverend Theodore Armstrong, pastor of Springfield Baptist Church in Stanley, and members and choirs of Springfield will be special guests at the 10th Anniversary Program of Dr. Logan Carson, pastor of Webb First Baptist Church in Ellenboro, N.C. Rev. Armstrong, who is also moderator of the Gaston County Baptist Association, will deliver the anniversary message. The service will begin at 3 p.m. on Sunday, February 5, 1989.

MT. MORIAH

Beginning Sunday, February 5, 1989, Mt. Moriah Baptist Church will temporarily hold Sunday worship services at Queen Of The Apostles Catholic Church at 503 North Main Street in Belmont. Service will be held at this location until work to rebuild the present Mt. Moriah sanctuary is complete. Worship service will begin at 12:45 p.m. Sunday School will continue to be held in the education facilities of the Mt. Moriah church at 110 Lincoln Street and will begin at 11 a.m. The public is welcomed to attend Sunday School and worship service. Rev. Kenneth Alexander is the pastor.

FAITH HAVEN

If you need a miracle, Reverend Andrew Rollinson, guest minister, will be preaching the Word in the power during revival services for Faith Haven Mission in Charlotte, N.C., where Rev. Ona Murray is the pastor. The revival began on Monday, January 30, with an outpouring of the spirit as Rev. Rollinson spoke boldly on divorce and remarriage. It will run through Friday, February 3, 1989. Service will begin at 7:30 p.m. in the Teamers School Building located at 2600 Newland Road in Charlotte. Rev. Rollinson says there will be nightly prayer for healing, and needs met. All are invited to come for a blessing. Rev. Rollinson is the pastor of New Haven Mission in Gastonia.

MINISTER'S WIVES

Members of the Gaston County Minister's Wives met at the home of Rev. and Mrs. (Valery Ann) W.E. Garrison on Monday, January 30, 1989. Business included discussion of plans for an activity to raise funds for the annual contribution, which the group makes to Shaw Divinity School. Mrs. Vanessa Friday, wife of Rev. Jerry Friday, pastor of New Cannan Baptist Church in Gastonia, was selected to act as Program Chairperson for the next quarter. Other acting officers who will assist President Valdora Armstrong, wife of Rev. Theodore Armstrong, who is pastor of Springfield Baptist Church in Stanley are: Vice President--Mrs. Sonya White, wife of Reverend Eric White, pastor of Mt. Pleasant Baptist Church in Belmont; and Secretary, Mrs. Valery Ann Garrison, First Lady of Friday Memorial Baptist Church in Dallas. Mrs. Virginia Holmes, of Tabernacle Baptist Church, will continue as Devotions Chairperson. Mrs. Ruby Alexander, wife of Rev. Kenneth Alexander, pastor of Mt. Moriah Baptist Church in Belmont will host the next meeting. All minister's wives in the Gaston County Association are invited to join in the fellowship and service. If you would like further information about becoming a member, contact Mrs. Valdora Armstrong, president, at 864-6145.

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Rev. Andrew Rollinson

Rev. Theodore Armstrong

Reid Begins Career As Playwright

By MILLICENT LINK
Alliance Staff Writer

Mable Reid is preoccupied with the Black experience. The 29 year-old playwright, has found this is an excellent source from which she draws material to create her plays.

Ms. Reid recently wrote a play for the Gastonia-based cultural arts group EMERGENCY.

EMERGENCY consists of nine black and white teenagers from Ashbrook High School in Gastonia, who recognizes the problems confronting teens today.

The group recently performed a play in Raleigh, written by Ms. Reid at a Martin Luther King, Jr. celebration. The three-part play recognized the three major problems teens face today: drugs, sex, and depression.

Ms. Reid says, "EMERGENCY was a great group of individuals to work with. It was really a team effort. They really seem to believe in what they are working toward," she says.

Ms. Reid has been writing for two years. Her interest began in the church, when she composed a short skit for her pastor's anniversary. The skit was entitled "Pastor For A Day."

She also performs with an acting team. The team consists of her sisters Regina, and Charley Mae. Mable composes the plays for the group.

Reid has written a number of plays for other organizations in church community. These organizations include pastor anniversaries, children's programs, and choir events.

Although she usually writes for religious organizations she has no preference. "I could write on anything," says Reid.

She especially enjoys writing on topics about the Black experience. "Being Black you are always threaten. You never know what the future may hold," she explains.

Reid says her mother has been an inspiration to her. "My mother has always been there for me. She has been a positive influence in my life. Mom has also been very supportive in my work," says Reid.

She has entered two of her plays in a playwright competition.

Mable Reid reflects back on a play she composed. Photo/FRANK WILLIAMS

Mrs. Mozelle Burris

CCC Displays Portraits

"Cleveland County: Heritage/Legacy," a collection of photographic portraits of elderly people and children is on display in the Hoover Gallery at Cleveland Community College, Shelby, through February 28. One of the photos in the display (shown above) is a portrait of Mrs. Mozelle Burris of Kings Mountain. The photographic works by Zane Sanders of Cliffside, N.C., were compiled by Cleveland Community College's visiting artist, Paul Larke.