

# THE BETTER WE KNOW US

A desire to make available to all families to bare essentials of life has perhaps been the underlined motivation and source of strength of Mrs. Evelyn Williams McKissick as she performs her duties as Chairman of The Soul City Sanitary District. Assisting the residents in her district to have adequate clean water, proper sewage and garbage disposal, adequate fire protection, and sound accounting and fiscal policy has been a dream realized by Commissioner McKissick.

At Soul City, the Sanitary District is the first unit of local government and is charged with the responsibility of providing municipal services. At the present time, the Sanitary District is engaged in the installation of water and sewer in Soul City's first residential subdivision at a cost of over \$140,000.00. In the past under the dedicated and tireless leadership of Mrs. McKissick, the Sanitary District has established a solid waste collection system, erected an elevated water and storage tank with a holding capacity of 250,000 gallons, installed initial water and sewer lines,

established an accounting and fiscal policy, and completed construction of the Industrial Fire Protection System.

The citizens of Henderson and Oxford have both profited from the planning, initiative, programming, and leadership exerted by The Soul City Sanitary District in securing a \$12 million governmental grant for the construction of the Kerr Lake Regional Water System. The Mayor of Oxford expressed the following to Soul City on the occasion of Soul City's official groundbreaking.

"Looking back over the past two years at the untiring efforts which I have seen you and your associates give to bring about the Regional Water System for the City of Henderson, Soul City, and the City of Oxford, I can truly appreciate the great sense of satisfaction which will be yours on this momentous occasion. On behalf of the people of the City of Oxford, I congratulate you on the culmination of a magnificent idea into a reality.

With these congratulations, I would again like to express our sincere appreciation and gratitude

to you for your relentless endeavors toward our common goal in the development of the Regional Water System, which system has terminated an acute problem plaguing Oxford and Henderson for the past many years. Without your guidance and support this joint venture would never have reached maturity."

Mrs. McKissick is a native of Asheville and in 1942 married Attorney Floyd B. McKissick, and they are the parents of four children: Joycelyn M. Myers, Andree M. Julian, Floyd B. McKissick, Jr. and Charmaine McKissick. Mrs. McKissick became concerned about the living conditions of people in the early part of her life and for over 25 years she has been involved in the struggle for civil rights, better living conditions, education and guidance for the youth, and many other programs that are designed to assist uneducated, unskilled, unemployed, underemployed, and underprivileged people.

Prior to coming to Soul City, Mrs. McKissick was intimately involved in the Community programs in Durham, where she

worked with the Durham Committee on Negro Affairs; The Durham Recreational Department; The Union Baptist Church Youth Program; The NAACP-Core Chapter and with the Durham Pre-School Educational Program which resulted in the present Operation Breakthrough Program in Durham. For about six years Mrs. McKissick and the family lived in New York, and gave valuable assistance to her husband who was then National Director of CORE.

During the summers of 1970, 1971, and 1972, Mrs. McKissick headed a summer Educational Enrichment Program for children 4-14 in the Soul City area. This project assisted by The American Friends Society was funded by the Economic Development Corporation and was designed to provide recreation, tours, arts, crafts, drama, dancing, and counseling for about 100 children. The programs have been labeled very successful and beneficial to the long range planning of Soul City.

Mrs. McKissick, an inspiration to an aspiring community, is this kind of leader with whom we all should be familiar--for the better we know her, **THE BETTER WE KNOW US.**



# THE TRIBUNAL AID

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The 1976 Editions of THE TRIBUNAL AID will be dedicated to America's bicentennial Celebration, with emphasis on contributions our Race has made in the making of America, from birth to the present.

In 1976 there should not be a need to lift these contributions from isolated sources. Our past

should be interwoven into the fabric of our civilization, because we are, except for the Indian, America's oldest ethnic minority.

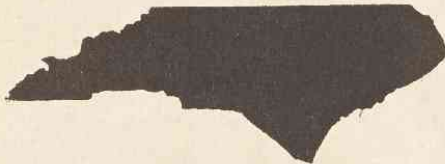
We have helped make America what it was, and what it is, since the founding of Virginia. We have been a factor in many major issues in our history. There have been many misdeeds

against us, yet we have been able to live through them and fight back. This is living proof of our history.

Our role in the making of America is neither well known or correctly known. Many positive contributions have escaped historians and have not found their way into the pages of many history books.

We will strive to give readers, Black and white, many little-known facts about our past and it is hoped that a proper perspective of our history will be of value to persons who may believe that as Black people we have an unworthy past; and hence, no strong claims to all rights of other Americans.

Faye Ashe, Black History Editor



**A VIABLE, VALID REQUIREMENT  
RESPONDING TO  
BLACK NORTH CAROLINA**

## WHITNEY YOUNG JR.; JULY 31, 1931-MARCH 31, 1971

WHITNEY YOUNG, JR. was unjustly called "WHITNEY YOUNG" on occasion, because of his approach to the problems of racial injustice. But Whitney Young carved out a major role for himself and his agency in the civil rights struggle despite the fact that he never appeared on a picket line, never was arrested, and never served a jail sentence. His growing influence in the Black struggle for equality is owing in no small measure to the new look he gave the NATIONAL URBANE LEAGUE. A venerable social work agency that some Blacks have accused in the past of being "White-controlled" and "too slow in producing results".

Under Whitney Young's aggressive administration, the League broadened its approach, expanded its services, and launched new programs aimed at providing equal opportunity for Blacks in employment, education, housing, health, and welfare.

Whitney Young, Jr. was born July 31, 1931 in Lincoln Ridge Kentucky. His father was President of Lincoln Institute, a boarding high school for Blacks. Young was inspired by his mother, a former teacher. In a secure environment, removed from the racial trauma that most of his Black contemporaries suffered, with his two sisters, Young was raised in Lincoln Ridge and at the age of fourteen he graduated from the school his father headed. He attended Kentucky State College and achieved many accomplishments. He was president of the senior class and a member of the basketball team, and graduated at the age of nineteen. His desire to become a physician was not to become a reality after he became ill with a case of double pneumonia which consumed his savings. He had no choice but to fall back on teaching. When the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor, the idea of medical school and a medical career burned briefly for a second time. The United States had established the Army Specialized Training Program (ASTP), which afforded an opportunity to study medicine. Young gladly volunteered for service. He applied for entry into the nation's two Black medical schools. Both were

full and would be until 1946.

Instead of medical school, Young went to study engineering at Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Two years later he was sent to Europe as a private with the 369th Regiment, Anti-Aircraft Artillery Group, a Black Company with a white Southern Captain. He was assigned to road building rather than combat, but he did fight in the Battle of the Bulge. Because of his experiences in the Army, Young decided to get into the field of Race Relations because of the problems he saw there.

He enrolled in the University of Minnesota for graduate study and was awarded his M.A. degree in Social Work in 1947. The subject of his thesis had been the history of St. Paul Urban League and in 1947 he joined the league as director of Industrial Relations and Vocational Guidance. He supervised the field work of Atlanta University and the University of Minnesota Social Work students.

In 1950, Young moved to Omaha, Nebraska to accept the position of Executive Secretary of the Omaha Urban League. His responsibilities included teaching group and community organization as an instructor at the School of Social Work of the University of Nebraska from 1950 to 1954.

Feeling an obligation to be in the South during a difficult stage in the struggle for integration he went to Georgia in 1954 to become Dean of the School of Social Work of Atlanta University. He served there until he accepted his office in the NATIONAL URBAN LEAGUE on August 1, 1961.

As executive director of the National Urban League, Young headed a professional biracial Social Work Agency founded in 1910, with a professional staff of 500 that is supported mainly by community chest in the seventy cities in which it has offices. The budget was \$300,000 upon Young's arrival. Within his first year as national director that figure doubled. Young's army experience had taught him two vital lessons. One was that if you wanted to deal with big organizations you get to the top

men as quickly as possible. The other was that when you had something the top man wanted, you were in the position to bargain for what you wanted in return.

Whitney Young moved in on big industry, Time, Inc., International Business Machines, Ford, American Telephone and Telegraph, and Kaiser Industries were ranking targets. He persuaded their head men that it was in the best interests of their organizations to join together with him in forming his Corporate Support Committee. Getting the nation's top industrial leaders interested in the Black, urban, employable (but unemployed) Americans was a worthy move in a positive direction. He won friends for the League, friends with money and power. Six years after he became the League's number one man TIME in recognition of his achievements in the business community, invited him to join in a twelve-day tour of Eastern Europe with twenty-five business executives. He thought at first that he was invited merely as a "showpiece" abroad. But before the tour ended he had been offered several corporation Vice-Presidencies. What pleased Young most, however, was that from those twenty-five executives he was able to secure fifty thousand jobs for Black workers. And just to ice the cake he received a check from Henry Ford II for \$100,000. Young used the money and similarly given monies to enlarge the League's National program.

The goal of the League is "to eliminate racial segregation and discrimination in American life; and to give guidance and help to Blacks so that they may share equally the responsibilities and rewards of citizenship". Young's leadership is credited with accelerating League programs to open up opportunities in new fields for Blacks. One of his most controversial proposals was for a "DOMESTIC MARSHALL PLAN" for Black Americans, to make up for the long years of deprivation they suffered. In an article for the NEW YORK TIMES MAGAZINE (October 6, 1963) Mr. Young spelled out his programs and cited statistics indicating the

need for a "crash program" to close the economic, social, and educational gap between white and Black citizens. Young's program called for a mass attack on educational, providing for special job training and placement programs, eliminating ghettos, and offering increased

services "to help Negro families develop a deeper sense of parental and community responsibility". Asserting that "for more than 300 years the White American has received special consideration or preferential treatment over the Negro", Young

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