

# C-U Days to be held in August

By The News-Gazette

CHAMPAIGN — Champaign-Urbana Days, billed by the Champaign Park District as one of the largest African-American events in the county, will be held Aug. 9 through 11 at Douglass Park.

This year's activities will include a barbecue cook-off, youth games, a bounce house, carnival rides and a basketball tournament. Also included is a car show and a talent and fashion show. Vendors from around the area will offer their wares.

The final day will feature a senior luncheon, along with a gospel fest showcasing local choirs, the park district has announced.

Two other events are being held in conjunction with Champaign-Urbana Days:

— The Urban League of Champaign's "March for Achievement" parade.

— The first "All Classes Reunion" designed to bring together black alumni from Champaign Central High School, Champaign Centennial High School, Urbana High School and University Laboratory High School from the years 1927 to 1997.

For questions about Champaign-Urbana Days, please call Rasul Mowatt at 398-2573.



News-Gazette photo by Robin Scholz

## Soggy cleanup

Henry Walker of Champaign cleans up following a rained-out festival in Champaign's Douglass Park. He volunteered his services Saturday afternoon. Warmer, drier weather is forecast for today, with the high reaching the mid-80s.



News-Gazette photo by Robin Scholz

9/10/97

## **Soggy cleanup**

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# Park district swears in two new commissioners

4/22/99

By ALDEN LOURY  
News-Gazette Staff Writer

CHAMPAIGN — The Champaign Park District board has seen few changes in 85 years, but it looks much different than it did just a decade ago.

The board added two new commissioners Wednesday night, including only its second black commissioner.

Newly elected commissioners Jim Barham and Alvin Griggs were sworn in during a special meeting. Park commissioners serve six-year terms.

Only 32 commissioners have served on the board since its creation in 1914. But with the addition of Barham and Griggs, four of its five members have been elected this decade.

Morgan Powell was elected in 1994 and Midge Wallace in 1991. Newt Dodds is now the senior board member, having served since 1976.

Barham and Griggs replace Gil Brinkmeyer and the late Don Bresnan who served a combined 48 years. Mr. Bresnan, who died in March, was first elected in 1963, and Brinkmeyer was first elected in 1987.

"Don Bresnan provided a lot of leadership that got the park district rolling in the '60s and

'70s," said park district General Manager Bob Toalson.

Mr. Bresnan also worked to bring the city's playground recreation department to the park district, Toalson said.

Brinkmeyer often served on the district's facilities committee and provided expertise in land acquisitions, Toalson said.

"I'm very excited and very honored ... especially in light of the two (commissioners) that have recently stepped down and the wonderful accomplishments the park district has made (with them)," said Barham, who runs his own insurance business.

Barham, a park district volunteer the past seven years, said he plans on being an "active" board member. That includes continuing his volunteer efforts at the Taste of Champaign-Urbana, visiting park programs and talking with staff.

He also wants to make sure all Champaign kids have access to park district programs.

Griggs, a retired teacher in Champaign and Urbana schools and former director of Champaign County Head Start, becomes the board's first black park commissioner since Richard Davis in 1975.

"I just grew up with an inter-

est in physical education and recreation. That's where my life started out, even as a little kid. I remember more things in the park than anything else," said Griggs, recalling many summers playing baseball, tossing horseshoes, camping and swimming as a child.

Griggs had stints working for both the Champaign and Urbana park districts during the '60s and '70s.

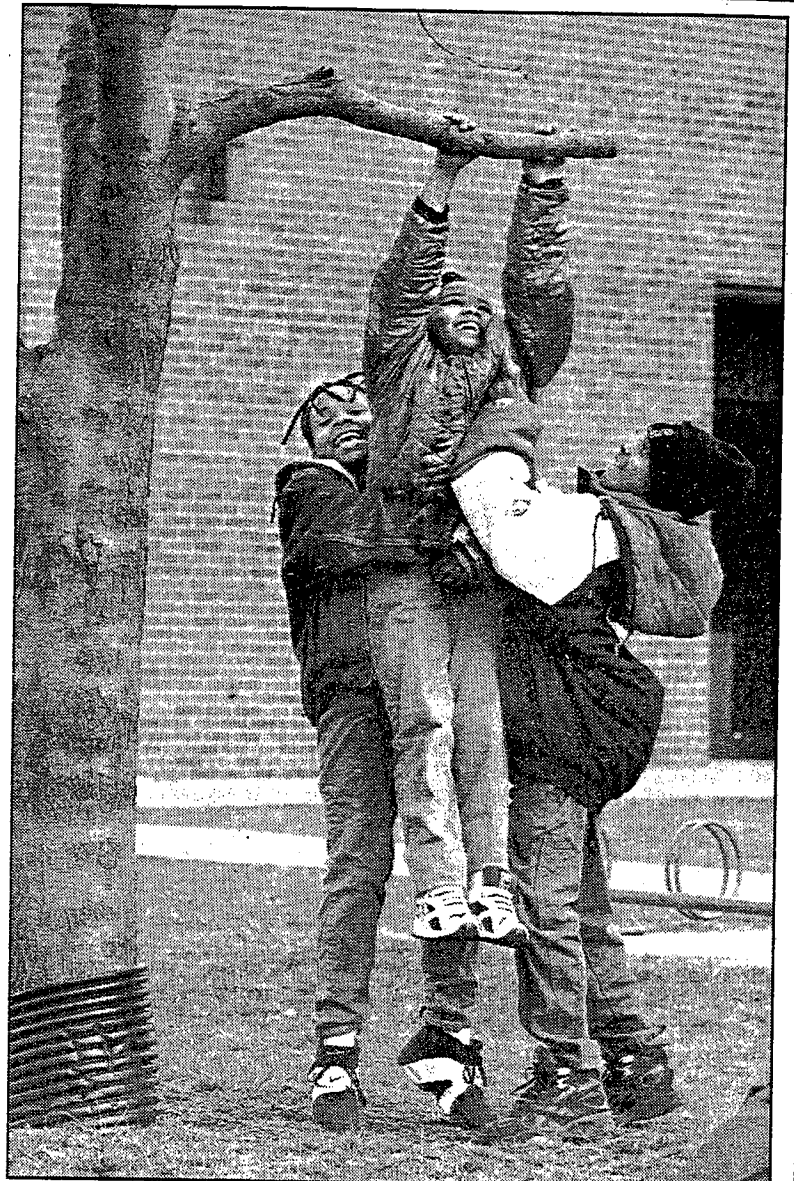
He said he would like to see the Champaign Park District do more in poorer neighborhoods and provide scholarships for programs that charge fees.

Toalson said deciding what role the district will play in the Virginia Theatre's future, planning for future parks and dealing with financing under tax caps will be among challenges facing new commissioners.

Both Barham and Griggs said they could support some role in the Virginia Theatre's future as long as it would not burden the district financially. They said finding a replacement for Toalson, who's nearing retirement, is also an important task.

Also on Wednesday, the board elected Powell as its new president. Wallace was chosen again as the board's vice president.

Park  
Don  
Griggs



News-Gazette photo by John C. Dixon

### *A little help from her friends*

Heather Rose, 10, gets a boost from Janise Rose and Jeff Taylor, both 11, to reach a tree limb in Champaign's Douglass Park. The youths were playing in the park after school Tuesday.

ext  
weekend!

NY 08-01-02

# Champaign-Urbana Days

## DOUGLASS PARK

512 E. GROVE STREET • 217.398.2573

FRIDAY  
august **9**  
6-9 pm

Youth Scholarship Talent Show

Children's Activities

Car Show

Senior Luncheon

Bar-B-Que Cookoff

Gospel Fest

Achievement Matters Parade

Fashion Show

Basketball Tournament

Vendor Fair

Exhibition Baseball Game

Hot Air Balloon Rides

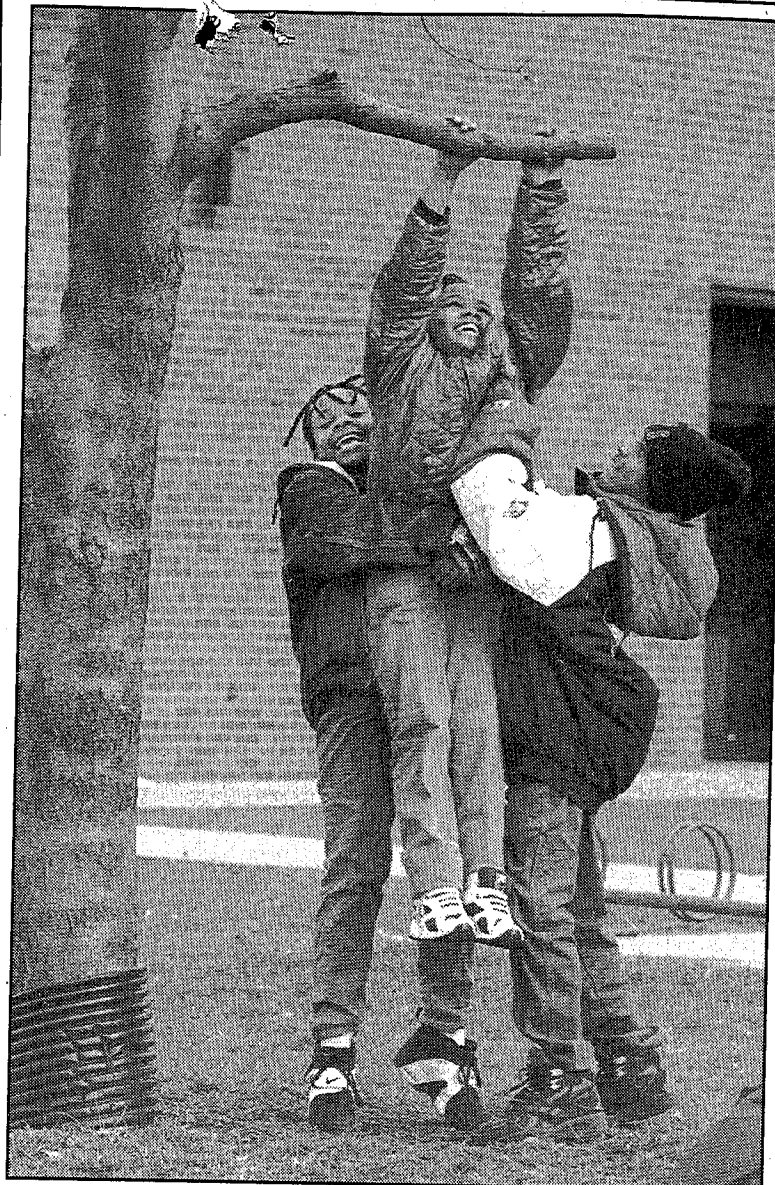
SATURDAY  
august **10**  
12-6 pm

SUNDAY  
august **11**  
4-7 pm



www.champaignparkdistrict.com

573520

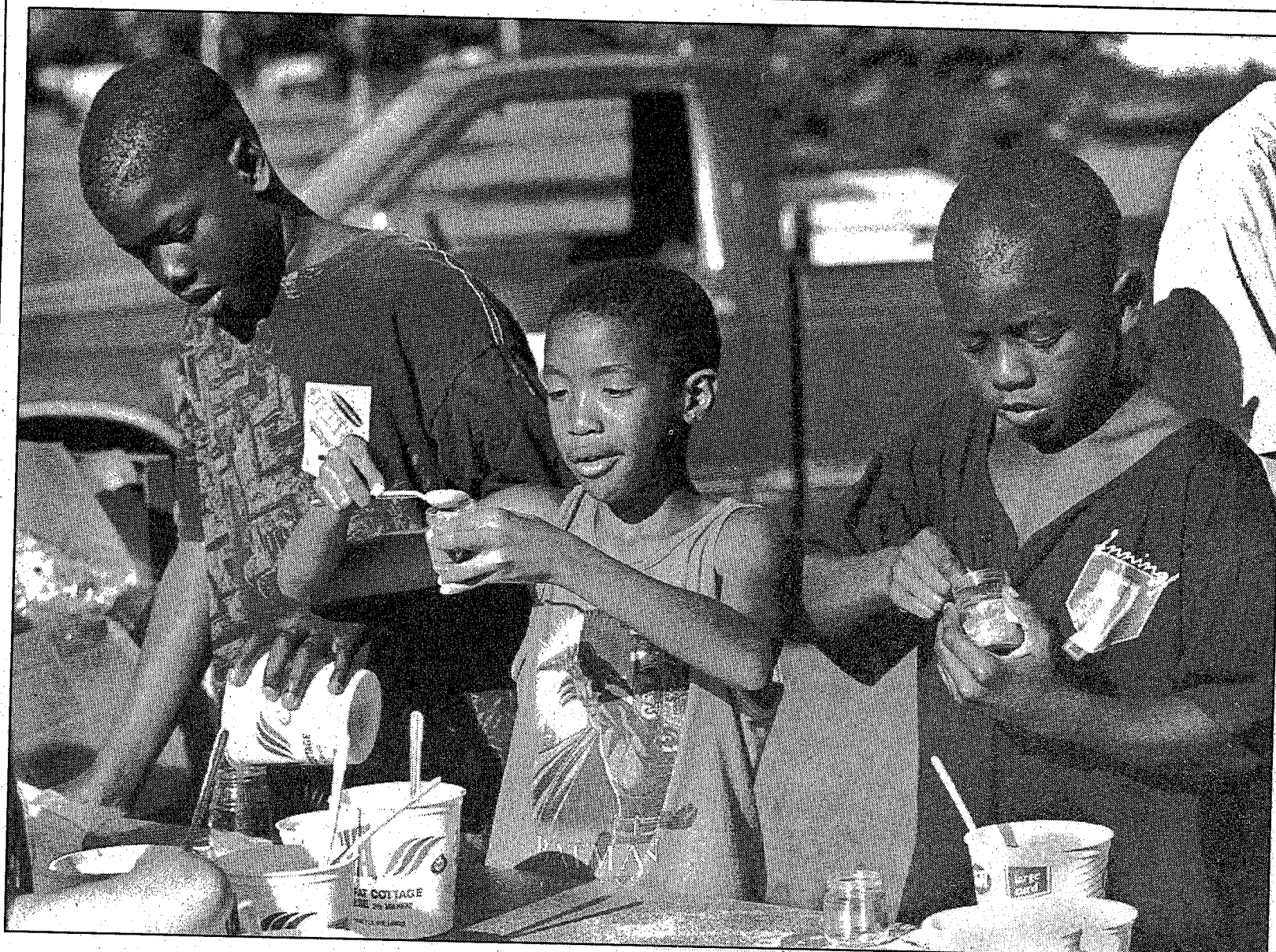


News-Gazette photo by John C. Dixon

### A little help from her friends

Heather Rose, 10, gets a boost from Janise Rose and Jeff Taylor, both 11, to reach a tree limb in Champaign's Douglass Park. The youths were playing in the park after school Tuesday.

3/30/94



News-Gazette photo by Delfina Colby

### Art in park

Martez Grant, 8, center, measures a spoonful of colored sand. Also working on creating sand art Monday were Antione Wallace,

11, left, and Larry Smith, 8. They were among participants in a Champaign Park District-sponsored event at Douglass Park.

Saturday, February 4, 1995

# NEWS / EAST CENTRAL ILLINOIS

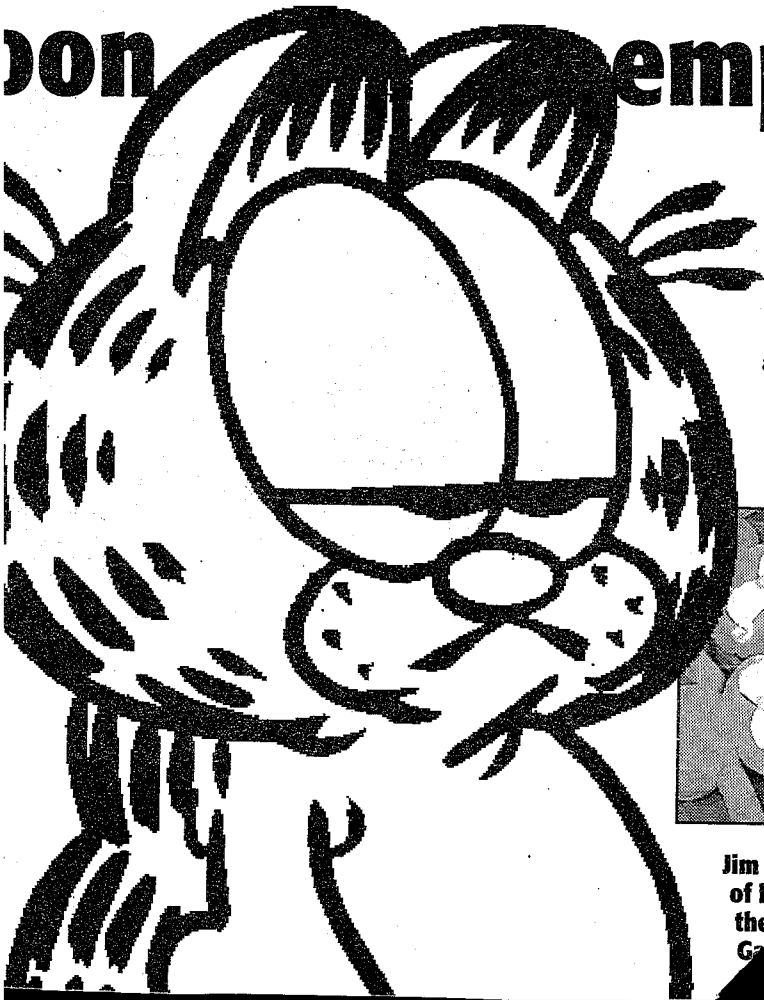


NEWS / EAST CENTRAL ILLINOIS

THE NEWS-GAZETTE

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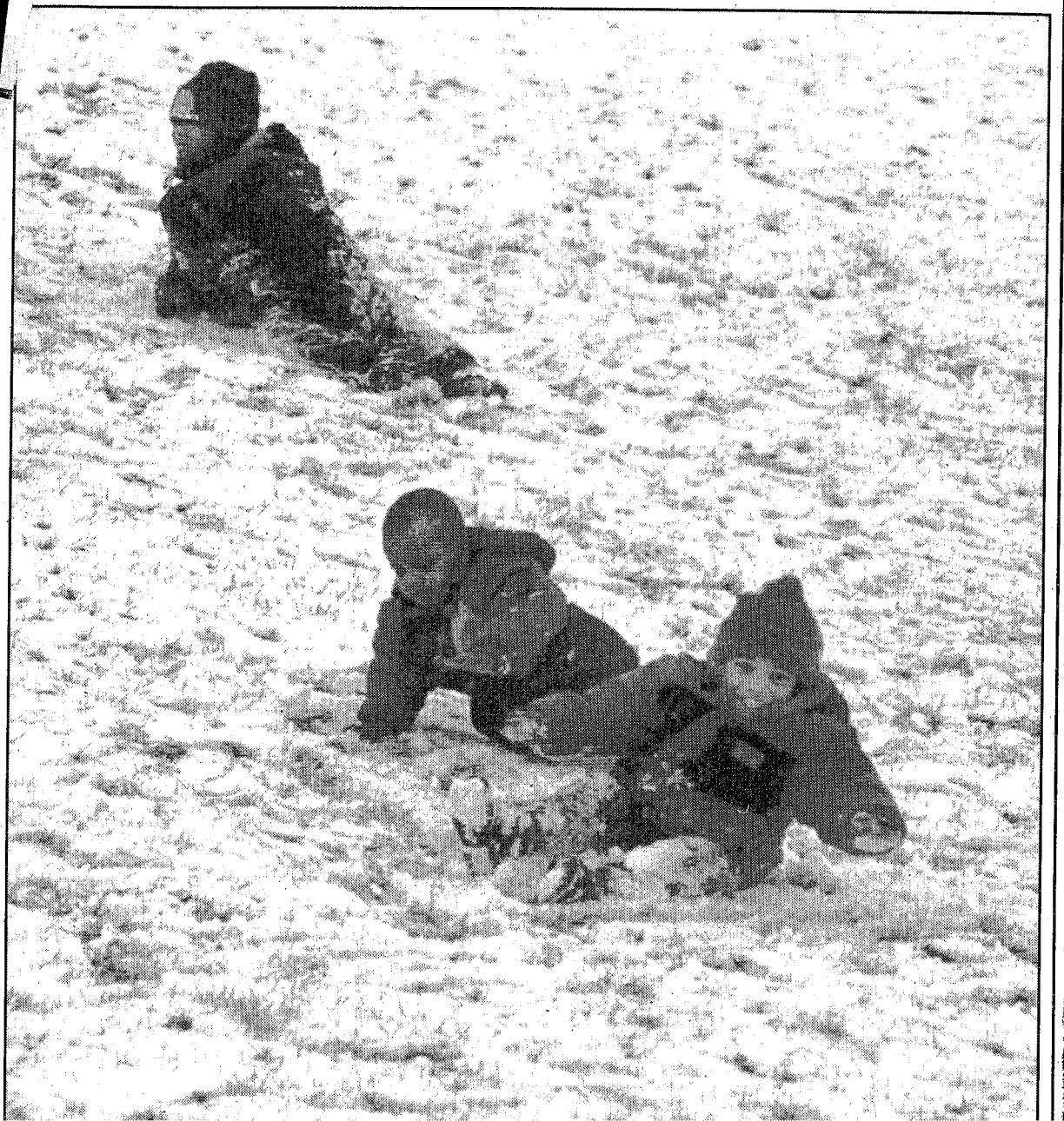
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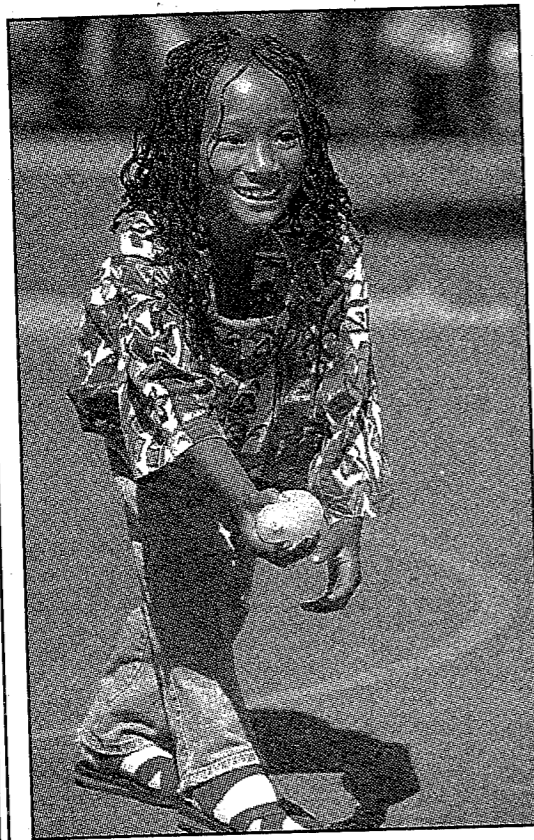
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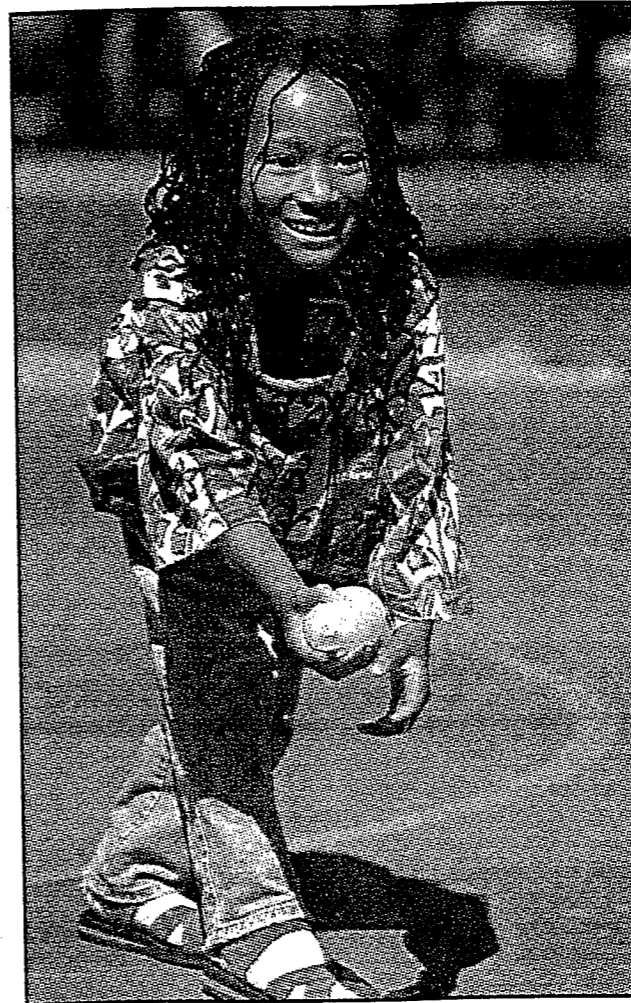


8/7/97

News-Gazette photo by John Dixon

### It's a toss up

Veronica Martin, 6, of Urbana prepares to toss a water balloon to her partner. She was participating in the 'Wacky Olympics' Wednesday at the day camp program in Douglass Park in Champaign.



8/7/97

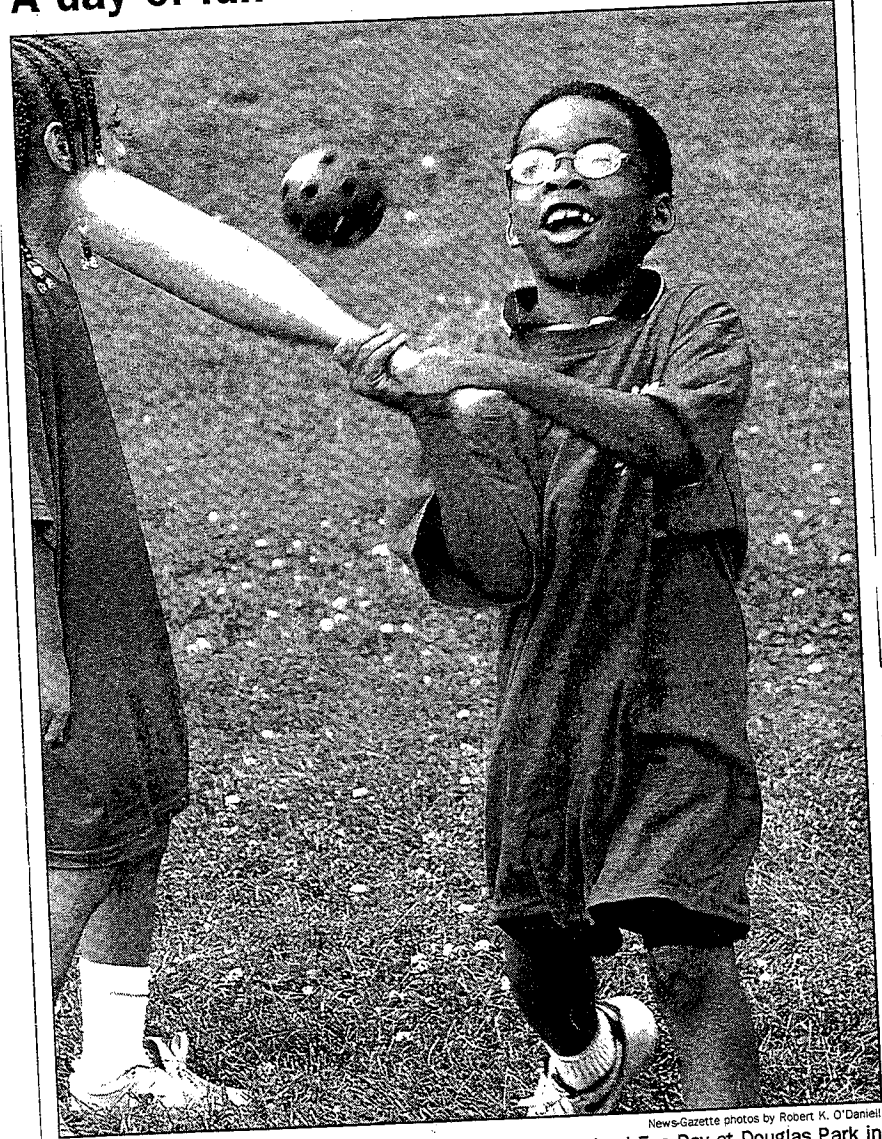
News-Gazette photo by John Dixon

### It's a toss up

Veronica Martin, 6, of Urbana prepares to toss a water balloon to her partner. She was participating in the 'Wacky Olympics' Wednesday at the day camp program in Douglass Park in Champaign.

6/29/02

### A day of fun



News-Gazette photos by Robert K. O'Daniel

Above, Darrion Brown, 6, takes a swing at the ball Friday during the Champaign Park District's Preschool Fun Day at Douglas Park in Champaign.



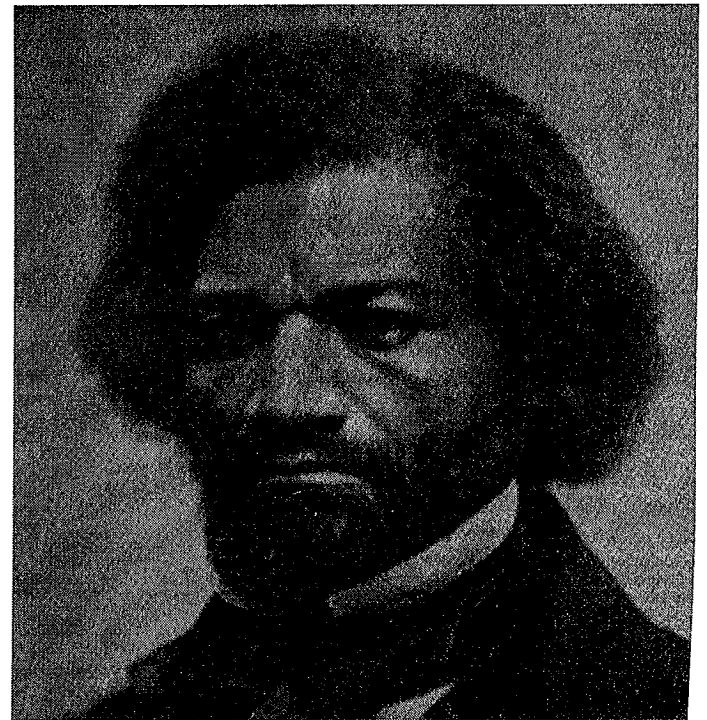
Celia Rojas, 3, left, apparently likes her hot dog bunless. She was attending the Preschool Fun Day at Douglas Park in Champaign. The event featured stories, games and food. Several area day camps attended the fun day.

# DOUGLASS PARK

## Calendar of Events

# March 1999

Douglass Annex	804 N. Fifth	398-2572
Douglass Community Center	512 E. Grove	398-2573
Douglass Branch Library	504 E. Grove	356-4455
Eager Beaver Pre-school Program	512 E. Grove	398-2576
Douglass Concerned Citizens	512 E. Grove	398-2371



### Times for Regular Events:

ACE Mentorship	DC	M - F	3 - 5 pm
		Sat	11 am - 1 pm
Bingo	DA	F	1-3 pm
Cheer-Pom Clinic	DC	T	5:30 - 7 pm
It's Tax Time	DA	T & Th	1 - 3 pm
Junior Lions (14 - 18 yrs)	DC	M	5:30 - 7 pm
Leisure Hour	DA	W	1 - 4 pm
Lions Practice (19 & up)	DC	T	7:30 - 9 pm
		Sat	3 - 6 pm
Lil' Lions (up to age 13)	DC	W	5:30 - 7 pm
Open Gym			
Adult	DC	W	7 - 9 pm
Family	DC	Sun	12 - 3 pm
Peacemeal - Make Reservation	DA	M - F	11:45 am
Senior Bowling	Western Bowl	T	1:30 pm
Senior Computer Class	DA	T & W	1 - 3 pm
Senior Game Day	DA	W	1 - 3 pm
SHARP	DA	M - Th	4 - 6 pm
Story Shop	DL	Th	10 - 10:30 am
Weightroom	DC	By Appointment	

### Special Reminders:

- All of March will be Eager Beaver Parent/Teacher conference and home visits
- Free Blood Pressure Checks will be given at Douglass Annex on March 8th from 1 to 2 pm.
- Register now for Summer 1999 Douglass Day Camp
- Look for the Urban League's Annual Dinner in April
- Teen Party on April 17
- In Search of an Egg Easter Egg Hunt on April 3
- Garden Plots are available in Douglass Park April 5
- Grandparent/Grandchild Spring Break Park Tour on April 6
- Barnyard Banter on April 6
- Barnyard Petting Zoo on April 10
- Senior Trip - Nashville/Memphis - Aug. 27-31 Cost: \$462

### Key to Locations:

- DA - Douglass Annex
- DC - Douglass Community Center
- DL - Douglass Library
- EB - Eager Beavers Pre-school

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 DC School's Out Fun Day 7:30 am - 5:30 pm	2	3	4	5	6 Ghana, Africa under Kwame Nkrumah gains independence, 1957
	British sign peace treaty with Maroons in Jamaica in 1739	Howard University founded in 1867, Washington D. C.		Zensi Miriam Makeba "Empress of African Song" born in 1932	Crispus Attucks dies for American Independence	Dred Scott Decision formally denies rights of citizenship to Africans born in the U.S., 1857
7 EB Preschool Benefit City of New Orleans 6:00 - 8:30 pm	8 EB Parent Meeting 5:45 pm	9	10	11 EB Transition Meeting for Kindergarten Parents 310 W. Church Savoy Headstart	12 DA Senior Birthday Party 1:00 pm	13
600 peaceful voting rights demonstrators attacked by police in Selma, Alabama, 1956	Supreme Court rules that employees cannot use job tests that have the effect of screening out Blacks and other minorities	Plessy vs. Ferguson Supreme Court decision legalizes "separate but equal" in public facilities	Harriet Tubman "Black Moses" dies in 1913		Benjamin Banneker is commissioned to lay out the District of Columbia in 1791	
14	15 DC Teen Week \$25 Day Camp Deposits due	16 DC Teen Week	17 DC Teen Week EB Cooking and Nutrition with Ms. All 11:00 am	18 DC Teen Week	19 DC Teen Week	20 DC Teen Party
		Samuel Cornish and John Russwoms' "Freedom Journal" is the first Black owned newspaper in the US, 1827	Nat King Cole, singer and pianist, born in 1919		T. J. Boyd, inventor, awarded patent for apparatus for detaching horses from carriages in 1972	Ethiopians defeat Italian Colonial Army in the Battle of Adena in 1896
21	22	23 EB Storytime w/ Janet Otto 10:30 am	24	25 DC ACE at Skateland	26	27 Gamma Upsilon Psi Society Coutillion at Holiday Inn
Sharpville Massacre in South Africa saw the murder of 69 and wounding of 200 by police during peaceful demonstration in 1960	Civil Rights march from Selma to Montgomery, Alabama, 1965	Walter Rodney, Author and Historian, born in 1942		J. E. Matzeliger invents shoe lasting machine, patented 1883	Thomas J. Martin, inventor, is awarded patent for fire extinguisher in 1872	Shirley Graham DuBois, author, dies in 1977
28	29	30 DC A.C.E. Parent Meeting 5:00 - 7:00 pm	31			
	Alice Parker, scientist, invented the Gas Heater Furnace in 1919	15th Amendment guarantees African Americans the right to vote, ratified 1870	Republic of New Africa organization is founded in Detroit, 1968			

# OKs tax incre

### Related news:

■ Medicaid reduction forcing hospitals to make tough cuts, **B-2**.

nesses.

"Illinois needs to make good on its bills," the Republican governor said in a statement. "Many vendors find themselves in a crunch because of a delay in payments from the state."

Ryan and lawmakers, after months of argument, decided to fill a gaping budget deficit by raising some taxes and cutting most state services, some deeply.

Two prisons are scheduled to close in the fiscal year beginning Monday, as are a mental facility and a home for

the developmentally disabled. Around 7,000 state jobs will be cut through layoffs, early retirement and attrition. Schools will get less money, as will hospitals and nursing homes.

Hospitals, nursing homes and pharmacies already are suffering from the state's financial problems. A shortage of cash has left the state unable to pay its bills on time, creating a backlog of \$1.2 billion.

Many businesses have had to wait months for their money. Some have laid off employees, borrowed money to keep going or started turning away Medicaid patients.

The state's financial officers have agreed to borrow \$1 billion next month and repay it by setting aside a little money throughout the coming



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05/24/02

# Health fair set at Douglass Park

By The News-Gazette

CHAMPAIGN — The local group SisterNet — addressing what its director calls a health crisis in the black community — will stage its fifth annual health fair Saturday at Douglass Park and the complex of buildings there.

Soul Strut 2002, a walk for all fitness levels, ages and races, will kick things off at 8 a.m., said Imani Bazzell, founder and director of SisterNet, a black women's health network.

A continental breakfast comes next, then health screenings and various workshops, Bazzell said. The event is held as part of National Black Health and Fitness Month.

The fair, this year called "Get With the Program," will focus on mainstream and alternative therapies and practices related to fitness, disease awareness and prevention, nutrition and reproductive health, Bazzell

said. Workshop subjects include yoga, progressive relaxation, chiropractic screenings, menopause, and exercising to salsa music, among others.

Another part of the fair will be taste testing of low-fat soul food, with recipes and nutritional counseling available. Creole food will be featured this year.

The health screenings — to be conducted by the health department in the Douglass Branch Library — will include a blood pressure check as well as cholesterol and glucose tests, Bazzell said.

"Our idea is to have women get screenings, then check out providers to see how, say, acupuncture, homeopathy, chiropractic, body work, soy products or exercise could complement their efforts to address health problems," she said.

Weather permitting, some activities will be outside in the park. A new addition to the event this year is a children's health fair, to be held at Douglass Center.

The main health fair is designed mainly for women, but everyone is welcome.

"We target women because they are the caretakers of the family," Bazzell said. "If women adopt healthier lifestyles, it would have an impact on the whole family."

The Parkland Office of Women's Programs and Services is a co-sponsor of the event.

There is no cost for any of the activities, Bazzell said, and participants in Soul Strut 2002 get a free T-shirt.

The fair ends by 1 p.m. "We always tell people there's no reason not to come. You've got the rest of the day," Bazzell said.

■ **SisterNet Health Fair:** Free screening tests; healthy soul food recipes; workshops on martial arts, relaxation and yoga; Douglass Park, Center and Branch Library, Champaign; 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.



DOUGLASS DAY IN THE PARK

Douglass Concerned Citizens for a Better Neighborhood  
*will host the second Neighborhood Improvement Program (NIP)*

## Community Meeting

March 9th, 10-11:30 a.m.

At Pilgrim Baptist Church, 1310 N. 6th Street

### AGENDA

Residents in Champaign's Planning Area 2 will:

- ASSESS DOUGLASS AREA STRENGTHS AND WEAKNESSES (FROM CITIZEN PHOTOS AND OTHER INPUT)
- BRAINSTORM POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS TO ISSUES RAISED
- SOLICIT VOLUNTEERS FOR DOUGLASS PLANNING AREA COMMITTEE TO GUIDE N.I.P. ACTIONS

### TENTATIVE TIMELINE FOR THE DOUGLASS PARK NEIGHBORHOOD IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

February	March	April	May
* Introduce The Neighborhood Improvement Project	* Analysis of fieldwork results with cameras	* Identify specific projects to meet goals and objectives	* Finalize neighborhood action issues
* Resident fieldwork with Cameras	* Identify Douglass Park action issues	* Set six-month and one-year goals	* Bring neighborhood plan to City Council
* Building the Douglass Concerned Citizens for a Better Neighborhood group	* Form Committees to address action issues	* Organize City Council and Planning Commission presentations	* Implement planning strategies that are approved by City Council
* Resident fieldwork with cameras	* Set goals and objectives for the Neighborhood Improvement Project		* Evaluate plan and planning process for future neighborhood projects

For more information,  
 please contact: MABLE  
 THOMAS, Coordinator,  
 Neighborhood Services  
 Department, City of  
 Champaign, 102 N. Neil  
 351-4427



NIP is Co-Sponsored by:  
 Douglass Concerned Citizens for  
 a Better Neighborhood (CCBN),  
 Neighborhood Services  
 Department, City of Champaign,  
 and the Department of Urban and  
 Regional Planning, University of  
 Illinois



Photo courtesy of Champaign County Historical Archives

Peace Stone members raise their flag in a vow to unify Champaign's black gangs outside a meeting at Douglass Center in May 1969. Gang membership had grown in importance to local black youths.

**Kina**



# r king

role for the king in drafting the foundation for a new peace.

Zaher Shah returned to open the loya jirga — a grand national council of tribal elders and other representatives — that will choose a new transitional government in June.

"I want to serve the people of Afghanistan," Zaher Shah said on Kabul television Thursday.

Many Afghans see Zaher Shah as a powerful symbol in Afghanistan because he reigned during the country's last stretch of peace.

Others resent him for sitting out their suffering in the comfort of Rome.

Either way, it was clear Friday that the former king wasn't prepared for the devastation.

## Douglass town hall meeting to continue

By The News-Gazette

4/17/02

CHAMPAIGN — Area residents are encouraged to help "build a common vision" for the Douglass Branch Library on Thursday.

The second installment of the town hall meeting will be from 7 to 8:30 p.m. Thursday, following the regular board meeting, which starts at 6 p.m. at the branch, 504 E. Grove St., C.

The future and mission of the branch were originally topics for discussion during the town hall meeting in February, but discussion focused solely on Charles Moore, the

former branch manager who was fired in December.

The Moore part of the Douglass branch debate is closed, after library board members voted 8-1 last month not to offer Moore his job back. Michael La Due, who also serves on the city council, was the only library board member who wanted Moore to be reinstated.

Moore, of Gary, Ind., was hired after a two-year search and was let go before his six-month probation period was up. Library administrators cited performance-based issues as the main reason for

the firing.

Moore's departure prompted a large turnout at January's board meeting, where local civil rights leaders and members of the black community demanded answers and another chance for Moore.

That meeting also brought to light several issues at the branch, from what purpose the branch serves to the types of books in its collection.

Essie Harris continues to serve as the interim branch manager until a search is conducted for Moore's replacement.

1942

5.

MONEY CONTRIBUTED FOR THE  
NEW COMMUNITY CENTER  
NAMES

	AMOUNT PLEGGED	AMOUNT PAID	DATE
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TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

This is to certify that

Miss Mary Grace Jordan

Mrs. \_\_\_\_\_

Miss \_\_\_\_\_

or Members of his or her team

Mr. \_\_\_\_\_

Mrs. \_\_\_\_\_

Miss \_\_\_\_\_

Has been duly authorized by

Mayor James D. Flynn, of the City Champaign, Mayor George F. Hurd of the City of Urbana, and the Douglas Park Recreation Area Council, to solicit funds. With which to build a community Center, so that we will have adequate facilities for recreation, meetings Etc. for the Negro Citizens of our Community.

**YOUR CONTRIBUTION WILL BE GREATLY APPRECIATED**

R.M. Scott, Pres.  
Douglas Park Area Council  
Mrs. Odelia Wesley, Secretary

Ray E. Hines,  
Chairman Campaign Committee  
Mrs. Edna Duffey, Secretary  
Dr. Harry D. Ellis, Treasurer

THE FOLLOWING ORGANIZATIONS ENDORSE THE DRIVE AND URGE THE SUPPORT OF THE ENTIRE COMMUNITY.

Ministerial Alliance  
Masonic Lodge  
University Lodge of Elks  
American Legion, William F. Earnest Post # 559  
N.A.A.G.P.  
Order of Eastern Star  
Daughter Elks  
Women's Home Economic Club.  
American Legion Auxiliary  
Douglas Civic League  
Lawhead P.T.A.  
Willard P.T.A.  
Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity  
Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority  
Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity

CITY OF CHAMPAIGN

State of Illinois

James D. Flynn, Mayor

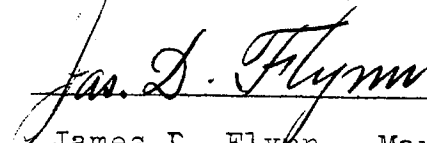
February  
11th  
1942

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

The Douglas Park Council is endeavoring to raise sufficient funds to build a community center near Douglas Park in Champaign for recreational use.

In my opinion this is a worthy cause and one which deserves the support of the community.

Very Truly Yours,

  
James D. Flynn, Mayor

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

City of Urbana

Illinois

George F. Hurd  
Mayor

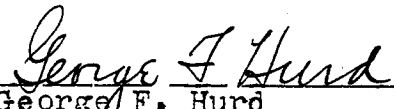
February 12, 1942

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN;

The Douglas Park Recreation Council are endeavoring to raise funds for a Community Center to be built between Wright and Sixth Street in Champaign.

There is an urgent need for this type of project, and I personally feel that it is a worthy cause.

Sincerely Yours,\*

  
George F. Hurd  
Mayor

GFH:b

The present recreation facilities are are inadequate and greatly hamper our Community Recreational Program.

Some one may ask, Why a recreation program ? To this we answer that supervised recreation has been almost Universally adopted for several reasons:

- 1- Decrease in Child Delinquency.
- 2- Teach the people to make better use of their leisure time.
- 3- To discover hidden talent, and help develop that talent.
- 4- To reach democratic ideas, sportsmanship, good citizenship, health and many other things that have been found very beneficial to our youth.

Supervised recreation was started in Champaign-Urbana, Nov. 11th. 1935, and was sponsored by the Federal Government until June 1939. At that time it became a tax support program, having been submitted to a referendum of the voters April 1938.

The first Center was located at 503 E. Washington, St. facilities were inadequate and as a consequence, recreational participation limited.

Later it moved to Willard School as a temporary location. Then later it was moved to Lawhead School for the evening program. Facilities were again inadequate and participation again limited.

Recreation was next moved to Douglas Center and remained there until a notice was received that they must move by Oct. 7th as the place had been sold. So at the meeting we not only decided to help by allowing them to use the buildings now occupied to carry on a skeleton program we determined then and there that we would build a community Center that would meet our future needs.

We have planned to build a Center with a swimming pool, Gymnasium, Club rooms, offices, Stage, Showers and all other facilities that a City of our size and caliber should have.

Our campaign plans are to raise our share of the money, (We hope to raise anywhere from \$ 1,500 to \$ 2,000) In order to do this we're going to ask every Negro in our Community (young and old) to contribute to this great cause.

We sincerely hope that your interest in this matter will become the same as ours and that you will work with us to the finish.

MONEY CONTRIBUTED FOR THE  
NEW COMMUNITY CENTER  
NAMES

		AMOUNT PLEGGED		AMOUNT PAID		DATE	
1	Mrs. Sandy Jordan	1	<u>00</u>	1	<u>00</u>	March	6/42
2	Mrs. Francis Shelton				<u>50</u>	"	6-42
3	Mrs. Sarah Roberts	1	<u>00</u>		50	March	6-42
4	Mr. Raymond Williamson	1	<u>00</u>				
5	Mrs. Marie Hill	1	<u>00</u>	1	<u>00</u>	April	16-42
6	Mr. Urick Moreland		<u>25</u>				
7	Mrs. George Moreland	1	<u>00</u>	1	<u>00</u>	March 6	1942
8	Mrs. Urick Moreland	1	<u>00</u>	1	<u>00</u>	March 14	1942
9	Mr. Luther White	1	<u>00</u>	1	<u>00</u>	March 14	1942
10	Mr. J. Willis	1	<u>00</u>	1	<u>00</u>	March 15	1942
11	Mrs. Amanda Adison		50		50	April 16	1942
12	Mrs. Bruce						
13	Mrs. Pearson						
14	Mrs. C.M. Hardison	1	<u>00</u>	1	<u>00</u>	March 21	1942
15	Mrs. Opal Clark						
16	Mr. Samuel A Hill	1	<u>00</u>				
17	Rev. Clark	1	<u>00</u>	1	<u>00</u>	April 17	1942
18	Mrs. Lizzie Alma Johnson	1	<u>00</u>	1	<u>00</u>	April 28 <sup>th</sup>	1942
19							

Monday

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## 'OPTIMISTS' SET \$8,000 DRIVE END NOV. 15

Champaign - Urbana Optimists have set November 15 as their goal for completion of an \$8,000 fund-raising drive for the club's initial philanthropic project.

The money will be used to purchase a residence property on the northeast side where Mrs. Frances Nelson may supervise the care of from 12 to 14 underprivileged colored children.

Report on progress of the fund-raising was made at the first fall meeting of the Optimist club held Monday night at the Urbana-Lincoln hotel.

About \$4,000 in cash and pledges have been received thus far, representing contributions of Champaign-Urbana church and mission groups, retail and industrial businesses, lodges, veterans' organizations and numerous individuals, Jack Mcrop reported for the committee heading the campaign.

Many contributions of \$100 or more each have been received, and club leaders have decided to intensify the drive during the next two months so that the project may get under way before the first of next year.

Reverend Herbert L. Miller, chairman of the committee for the special project, reported excellent cooperation from missionary societies of a number of local churches. A number of societies have not yet contributed, but have indicated their intention of doing so, he said.

Interest of the colored citizens of the community in the project, and explanation of how the home would be set up and function, were explained by James Henderson and Charles Phillips, special guests at the meeting.

Henderson and Phillips are members of the five-man board of trustees, established to supervise and administer the project. Other members of this board are Charles B. Busey, president of the Optimist club; Don Reno, member and former president of the Lions' club; and Gordon Heggie, county juvenile probation officer.

"Our people appreciate the need for a home to adequately conduct this program," Phillips said. "We appreciate your sponsorship of the project, and we want to contribute what we can toward it."

Henderson told of the services for a few underprivileged children which Mrs. Nelson has been rendering for sometime, under numerous handicaps. The county provides only \$35 a month for each child assigned to her care and Mrs. Nelson has operated a small laundry on the side to help defray costs, he said.

Henderson and Phillips have interested several of the colored church societies in the project, and are asking others to support the campaign.

Optimist club president Busey announced that the larger home available, for purchase will be known as "The Frances Nelson home for children" when the project is culminated.

## Truck Driver Held On 3 Charges

Robert Knox, 303 East Vine street, was in jail Saturday night charged with leaving the scene of an accident, lacking a driver's license and driving a vehicle without license plates. Champaign police said that a truck driven by Knox collided with a car driven by Perry Mason, 603 East Vine street. It is reported Knox jumped out and ran from the scene.

Sergeant Lyle Jochim and Officer Clyde Redmon picked up Knox at 9 p. m. Saturday, four hours after the call had been sent out for his arrest. Justice of the Peace E. A. Fabert issued warrants for his arrest on the three charges.

Mr. and Mrs. Albert Thomas, West Dublin Street are happily wed in the home of their parents. Mr. and Mrs. W. Anderson officiated at each Street.

## 2 BOOKED FOR ASSAULT AFTER 3-WAY ROW

Roggie White, 30, 510 East Tremont street, and Edward Brown, 31, 507 East Tremont street, both colored, were held in the county jail Tuesday on assault and battery charges preferred by Alberta Brown, also colored, 714 North Ash street.

Miss Brown, who police said is not related to Edward Brown, charged the two men with beating her up north of Champaign Monday night. She was unconscious when police sent her to Burnham city hospital in an ambulance, but she was able to leave after treatment for a fractured cheek bone and broken nose.

In statements taken by police, Brown insisted that he did not strike the woman. He said he grabbed White by the throat and pulled him away when he was kicking and beating the woman.

Brown said an "argument" developed while the three were sitting in a parked car.

## HOLD WOMAN FOR STABBING HUSBAND

Mrs. Myrie Taylor, 19, colored, who lives in the civilian barracks at Chanute Air Base, was held in the county jail Saturday while authorities investigated charges that she stabbed her husband with a paring knife Friday night.

The husband, Prentiss, was reported not seriously injured. He was in the base hospital. Assistant State's Attorney Eugene Lierman said the man was wounded in the right shoulder.

Lierman said the stabbing apparently took place during a family squabble. Mrs. Taylor picked up the knife from a table after her husband had thrown her onto a bed in the barracks.

The couple lives in the civilian housing area outside the east north gate at the base. Taylor works in post exchange No. 2 at the base.

After the stabbing the sheriff's force was notified and Deputy James Denney picked up the woman. No definite charges had been placed against her at noon Saturday.

## 30 REGISTER AT DOUGLAS PARK KINDERGARTEN

About 30 four and five year old boys and girls were registered Tuesday for the new fall term at the Champaign-Urbana kindergarten.

Classroom work was begun Wednesday afternoon, Mrs. Ruth Marshall, curriculum supervisor, reported.

Registrations will be continued from 1 to 4 p. m. daily through Friday, with the quota of 60 children expected to be reached by the end of the week, Mrs. Marshall said.

The inter-racial kindergarten will conduct about the same type of program as last year, with classes being held Monday through Friday afternoons at the Douglas community center building.

Members of the association board met several days ago with Mrs. Marshall and the staff of three teachers hired for the ensuing year, to make final arrangements for this year's instruction.

At their meeting, board members expressed regret at having lost a valuable member of the board in the death of Albert R. Lee. Mr. Lee, retired chief clerk in the UI president's office for many years, died two weeks ago.

## Charles Lee Hurt As Autos Collide

Charles Lee, a truck driver, was taken to Burnham city hospital for first aid treatment after a collision at 6:15 p. m. Saturday at Poplar and Washington streets with a taxicab operated by Michael Gerrie. Both vehicles were extensively damaged. Officer Leo Parnell investigated the accident.

Robert Knox, 303 East Vine street, was arrested on a state warrant after he allegedly fled from the scene of an accident at 5:10 p. m. Saturday at First and Washington streets. His truck was involved in a collision with the car of Perry Mason, 603 East Vine street.

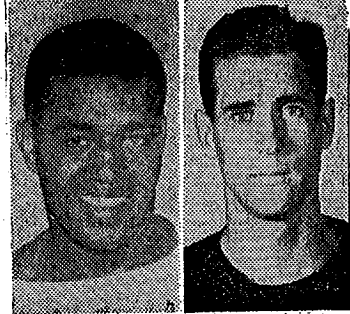
## Prymuski Apparently Out For Army

FOOTBALL NOTES. The off-again, on-again case of Tackle Bob Prymuski appears to be off for Saturday. Prymo dressed Tuesday night and worked out lightly by running around the field but present indications are he won't be ready for the Army Saturday.

Murney Lazler did not engage in any contact work Tuesday afternoon, favoring a pulled muscle which is not expected to be bothersome. . . Sam Piazza ran at his left halfback spot. . . Paul Patterson was running better than any Illinois back Tuesday. "I'm forgetting everything such as injuries," he said, "and I'll be ready Saturday."

Ruck Steger has the solution: "We've got to catch fire," he told some of his mates. "Yes, sir!" solemnly agreed Dike Eddleman. "We've got to catch fire."

Tommy Stewart and Eddleman ran south in the wind sprints, ran



PATTERSON EDDLEMAN

back north to get ready for another, and when they were finished ran to the locker room.

Since the Wisconsin game the Illinois coaching staff is offside conscious. Tuesday afternoon Leo Johnson was equipped with a horn to blow when this infraction occurred in scrimmage. Lynn Lynch was too frequently an offender. Dick Mueller also broke too soon at times.

## Douglas Center Post to Nelson

Earnest F. Nelson, 1002 North Fifth street, has been named acting director of the Douglas park community center, 510-12 East Grove street, Julius X. Davis, chairman of the Champaign recreation and playground board, announced today.

Nelson's appointment is for a trial basis, Davis explained. He replaces Taylor Thomas, who resigned to join the Danville public school system as a teacher and coach. Thomas had been the center's director since it was opened in 1945.

The new acting director has studied in the School of Physical Education of the University of Illinois for three years. He will begin his duties immediately.

Miss Doris Banks will continue as the assistant director of the center which is operated by the city recreation department.

## Thousands Expected At Emancipation Fete

An audience of several thousand is expected for the third annual Emancipation Proclamation day observance starting at 8:30 p. m. Monday in the gymnasium of Champaign junior high school, General Chairman Joe W. Somers reported Saturday.

Entertainment will include Mrs. Joe Louis, the wife of the world's heavyweight boxing champion, who will present a style show, and "Little Boy Blue," a seven-year-old piano playing prodigy.

The principal speaker for the occasion will be Rev. J. L. Horace of Chicago, president of the state Baptist convention. Rev. A. S. Webb, pastor of Salem Baptist church, will deliver the address of welcome, and B. E. Payne, deacon of Salem Baptist church, will read the emancipation proclamation.

Mrs. Odella Wesley, Lawhead school teacher, will give a reading, accompanied at the piano by Willie Mae Pickens.

Climax of the evening will be the crowning of a queen of Champaign-Urbana. The queen is to receive a 15-jewel Elgin diamond-studded wrist watch.

## 3 Youths Held In Bike Thefts

Three teen-age youths living outside Urbana were held in the county jail today on charges of bicycle larceny. Urbana police reportedly had obtained admissions and had gone with them to recover parts discarded in a cornfield near the Brownfield woods more than a week ago.

Attention this morning was focused on the theft when a farmer living on route 2, Urbana, brought bicycle parts to the Urbana police station, reporting that they had been found in his cornfield.

The police blotter showed that on Oct. 3 Urbana police had rounded up the trio, obtained statements and visited the field, but failed to recover all of the parts. The youths told police that they had stripped the bicycles, keeping certain parts, the report showed. The case apparently was revived this morning when the missing parts were brought to the station.

A check on the frame numbers showed the bicycles belonged to Reggie Smith, 409 Duval street, and to Gene Armstrong, 1012 North Sixth street. The bicycles were taken from the Douglas community center.

## Three Youths Charged In Bike Thefts

Delinquency charges were filed Saturday in county court against three youths who admitted stealing bicycles and hiding them in a cornfield outside Urbana.

Gordon Heggie, juvenile probation officer, reported that a hearing on the charges would be held next Saturday before Judge William L. Springer. The charges are against the youths, 13, 14, and 15 years of age, who are being handled by Assistant State's Attorney Eugene D. Lierman.

The boys were arrested by the Urbana police after A. C. Bell, route 3, Urbana, had found one of the bicycles in his field, after which the boys had been reported to have taken the bicycle from another field.

The youths admitted taking the bikes and hiding them in the cornfield where they had been taken down for parts. Heggie reported that the bikes were taken from Douglas center.

Heggie reported that the boys had gone to the field with one of the bikes, including some tools and bike accessories.

## Plan Dinner For Thomas

"Making Your Vote Count in '48" will be the subject of Norman Thomas, Socialist party candidate for president, who will talk at a rally at 8 p. m. Monday in Champaign senior high school. He will meet voters earlier at two receptions and a dinner.

The veteran campaigner is directing his 1948 effort toward independent voters. He is campaigning this week in Wisconsin and Minnesota and recently returned from a second swing through the Far West. The stop here is a part of a four-day trip through Illinois and Michigan.

THOMAS' schedule calls for a press conference at 10:30 a. m. at the Inman hotel after his arrival at 9:45 a. m. at the Illinois Central station. He will lunch with leaders of the local Socialist party. At 2 p. m. he will meet high school pupils of the two cities at a press conference for teen-age journalists, also at the Inman.

The first of two receptions is set for 4 p. m. at the Unitarian church at Mathews and Oregon streets, while the second is at 5 p. m. at Douglas Park Community center, Sixth and Grove streets. Earlier he will drive through the business districts of the two towns and visit the University of Illinois campus, stopping briefly at the Union building and in Illini Village and Stadium Terrace. In accord with university regulations, Thomas will hold no formal meetings on the campus.

A DINNER honoring Thomas will be served at 6 p. m. for 80 guests in the Guild hall of the Emmanuel Memorial Episcopal church.

Thomas will move on to Chicago early Tuesday. There he is slated to speak at a rally in behalf of Socialist Maynard C. Krueger, University of Chicago economics professor, who is campaigning for Congress in the second district on Chicago's south side.

## PASTOR RETURNS

Rev. E. Talborn and wife have returned to this community for another year at the Bethel A.M.E. Church. The meeting was largely attended and financial strength was much greater.

The gospel singers of St. Louis Missouri were the guest of the Gospel chorus on Monday night the attendance was overflowing. The chorus of the Salem Church sang several numbers. Mrs. Theo. Bowles is president of the chorus and Rev. R. L. Lillard is pastor.

**RETURNS FROM HOME**  
The four sisters of the late Mrs. N. Hampton family, Mrs. N. C. Hampton, Mrs. M. C. Hampton, Mrs. D. C. Hampton, and Mrs. E. C. Hampton, returned after visiting father's home in Urbana, Ill., where they spent his 86 birthday and were with him 106 years old at Huntington, Tenn.

**PROUD PARENTS**  
Captain and Mrs. Charles McGee, of Columbus, Ohio are the proud parents of a son born recently. Captain McGee flew to see his son and Mrs. Joe Nelson, grandmother left on Friday to see the newcomer. The McGees have another child Charlotte.

**CLOSES SUCCESSFUL MISSIONARY YEAR**  
The members of the Bethel A. M. E. Church closed an successful missionary year and thanked the community for their assistance. Mr. Charles Phillips president and Rev. Talborne pastor.

**Douglas Kindergarten**  
Enrolls 30 Children  
Champaign-Urbana kindergarten enrolled, reports Mrs. Ruth Marshall, teacher. The quota is 60 children she advises, and enrollments will be taken the rest of the week.

## Clayton Bound To Grand Jury

Pvt. James E. Clayton, 25-year-old Negro Chanute Air Force Base soldier, was bound over to the September grand jury on a murder charge Wednesday afternoon before Police Magistrate Earl Meenach of Urbana.

A coroner's jury concurred Wednesday night in recommending that he be held on the charge after he related the details of the fatal stabbing of William R. V. Baker, 21, Champaign Negro civilian. Clayton, who waived preliminary hearing, was returned to the county jail and is being held without bail.

At the hearing Wednesday afternoon, Clayton asked whether he should say anything as to his guilt or innocence, but Meenach advised him not to speak in court without counsel of an attorney.

**THE INQUEST**, conducted by Dr. W. F. Lamkin, county coroner, before a large group of persons in the Parker funeral home, 704 North Fourth street, produced a finding that Baker "came to his death through stab wounds at the hands of James Clayton."

Clayton, who was taken into custody Tuesday afternoon at Chanute, recited the story he had told authorities earlier. He was not represented by legal counsel.

The soldier maintained he stabbed Baker only once in an argument in front of a North Fourth street establishment early Saturday morning, but the testimony of Dr. Max Appel, Burnham city pathologist who performed the autopsy, disclosed the existence of two deep wounds.

**OTHER WITNESSES** included Eddie Baker, a brother of the victim; and Corp. Levi H. Irvin and Sgt. Dean Smith, Chanute soldiers who have been held as material witnesses.

Jurymen returned their verdict quickly after an hour of testimony. Members of the jury were George Persons, foreman; Speedie McDowell, Richard Banks, Gus Dixon, Allen A. Rivers, and Thomas Jackson.

Funeral services for Baker will be conducted at 2:30 p. m. Saturday in the Douglas Park Community center, 510-12 East Grove street, by Rev. Ab Johnson, assisted by Rev. M. A. Crowder and Rev. Mr. Anderson. Burial will be in Mount Hope cemetery.

Friends may call at the Parker funeral home until noon Saturday.

A veteran of World War II, during which he served 18 months in the Aleutian islands, he leaves his mother, Mrs. Mamie Baker; his father, Eddie Baker, Oakland, Calif.; a brother, Eddie Baker, Jr., Champaign; a grandmother, Mrs. Stella Lyde, and a step-grandfather, Joseph Lyde, both of Champaign-Urbana; a grandfather, Henry Baker of Chicago; six aunts, Mrs. Willie Dean and Mrs. Lucille Hassell, both of Champaign; Mrs. Doris Wylie and Miss Edna Baker, both of Urbana; Mrs. Vivian Henry, Xenia, Ohio; and Mrs. Esther K. Bush, New York city.

### SURPRISE RALLY

The Stewardess Board No. 1 of the St Luke C. M. E. Church recently gave a surprise rally for the Churches benefit. Mrs. Tillie Hegm was chairman. Those contributing were Mrs. Gertude Robinson \$5.50, Mrs. Anna B. Pettiford \$5.00, Mrs. I. Woods \$1.00, Mrs. Ruth Ray \$1.00, Mrs. F. Jordan \$1.25, Mrs. L. Hegmon chairman; \$25.00; total of \$38.75. The chairman and committee wish to thank the public for their contribution. Mrs. Bessie Osby is president of the board and Rev. C. W. Williams is pastor.

### VISITS FRIEND

Mrs. Mary Butler, of Chicago, Illinois was a recent visitor of Mrs. Dora Blackwell, of East Church Street.

# Chanute Private Admits Stabbing

## Soldier Says Trivial Quarrel Led to Baker's Death.

Pvt. James E. Clayton, 25-year-old Negro soldier at Chanute Air Force Base, confessed the fatal stabbing of William R. V. Baker, a 21-year-old Champaign colored civilian, within a few hours of Baker's death at 3:50 p. m. Tuesday in Mercy hospital.

Clayton was taken into custody at Chanute by the provost marshal's office and handed over to Champaign and county authorities who obtained his statement of the killing in a lengthy questioning session conducted Tuesday night at the police department.

According to the soldier's statement, a petty argument in front of a restaurant on North Fourth street early Saturday morning led to the stabbing. Baker, who lived at 606 East Grove street, had lingered near death for several days in the hospital where he was taken by Clayton and two companions.

Attempts by Capt. Russell Burke of the Champaign police to question Baker before his death revealed little useful information as the wounded man's condition was too critical for a coherent account of the incident.

**CHANUTE OFFICIALS** undertook an intensive investigation of the base and their questioning of Negro soldiers led to the identification of Clayton as having been in an encounter with Baker.

Clayton and two soldiers detained as material witnesses, Sgt. Dean Smith, 22, and Corp. Levi Irvin, 26, were taken from the Champaign police department to the county jail shortly after midnight by Sheriff Joseph T. Clancy.

Dr. W. F. Lamkin, county coroner, has scheduled the inquest for 7:30 p. m. today in the Parker funeral home, 704 North Fourth street. Clayton, Smith, and Irvin will be among the witnesses.

Police Magistrate Earl Meenach of Urbana issued a murder warrant for Clayton shortly after 1 p. m. today. He said Clayton would be brought before him later this afternoon.

State's Attorney John J. Bresee said the case against Clayton will go before the next grand jury session opening Sept. 20. The accused man was to be bound over to the grand jury sometime today on a murder charge.

**DR. MAX APPEL**, Burnham city hospital and coroner's pathologist, performed an autopsy disclosing two relatively deep knife wounds, one entering on the front of the body at the left side below the shoulders, the other in the back of the left shoulder, causing internal hemorrhages.

The murder weapon has not been located. Clayton said he dropped it at the scene, and described it as an ordinary pocket knife with a short blade. Dr. Appel's findings indicated a long-bladed knife, however.

Clayton's story is that he emerged from the restaurant, known as "Larry's," to encounter Baker standing near the entrance.

He admitted making a remark about the "foul smell" of the cigarette the civilian was smoking, whereupon Baker assertedly replied "you — soldiers want to run the city of Champaign."

Clayton claims Baker slapped him on the face and snatched up a stick as if to strike him again. He admitted then grappling with him, "hugging" as he termed it, and inflicting the knife wounds.

**SMITH AND IRVIN**, who had been inside the establishment earlier with Clayton, told the authorities they had taken a woman home and returned to find the fight in progress as they drove up. They said they saw Clayton "slap" Baker in the chest with his hand but did not actually see the knife penetrate.

Baker slumped to the ground and was taken to Mercy hospital by his attacker and the two witnesses. Mercy hospital told the investigators that the nurse who admitted them remembers seeing three men come to the door with Baker, but said one disappeared without entering. He was established to have been Clayton.

The time of the assault was fixed at approximately 2:30 a. m. Saturday, Captain Burke said, although the injured man was not admitted to the hospital until about 3 a. m. Hospital authorities immediately notified Champaign police and Sgt. Mark O'Neill obtained the names of the two soldiers who had brought Baker to the hospital. At that time their story was that they had found him lying in the street.

**CAPTAIN BURKE** said much of the credit for the prompt identification of Clayton as the attacker should go to Chanute officials, including Staff Sgt. James C. Kanaley, 33-year-old military policeman, in force criminal investigator, Donald Greenwood and S. Wildman, a civilian, and Lt. Stacey, the base provost.

Clayton admitted having a moment with Baker during a visit to Champaign, Capt. Burke related. State's Attorney and his assistant, E. Lierman, were present during the interrogation Tuesday night.

Baker, who had been employed by a paper-hanging and painting contractor, was not known to be particularly quarrelsome as far as authorities could learn from talking to acquaintances. He had been arrested by Champaign police for minor offenses, but had never been in serious trouble. His full name was William Rudolph Valentino Baker.

**CHANUTE REPORTED** Clayton listed as the son of Mrs. Mina Chapman, 469 West Green street, Milledale, Ky. He is unmarried, six years of air force service, has been at the base since Sept. 1947 working in the laundry. Smith, a resident of Dillon, Ohio, is an airplane mechanic, and Irvin, whose home is in Las Vegas, Nev., is a welding student at the base. Both have four years of service.

Sheriff Clancy indicated this morning he is not completely satisfied with Clayton's statement in the belief that he has withheld some information.

**BAKER WAS BORN** Sept. 3, 1926, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Edward Baker of Champaign. In addition to his parents, and a brother, he leaves his grandmother, Mrs. Stella Lyde, and grandfather, Henry Baker, both of Chicago. He was a veteran of World War II, having served with the army on Luzon. Arrangements for funeral services have not been completed.

Clayton, who is an airplane mechanic with four years' service. All are stationed in Squadron F-1 at Chanute.

**May Hold Irvin**  
Bresee said that Smith will be released and returned to the air base, but that Irvin, who is not permanently assigned to the base, may be held here to appear as a witness.

After the signed statement was obtained from Clayton, who related his account of the stabbing without hesitation, Sheriff Joseph T. Clancy removed Clayton to the county jail.

Clayton was feeling pretty "downcast" Wednesday morning, Sheriff Clancy said.

Bresee directed the sheriff to file a charge of murder against Clayton.

The state's attorney said he probably would not call a special session of the April grand jury to return an indictment, after Clayton is bound over, since the fall grand jury is scheduled to convene September 20.

Recalling of the grand jury, for a special session, would cost the county several hundred dollars.

Working with Captain Burke in solving the case were the Chanute provost marshal, Staff Sergeant James C. Kanaley, 23, of Chicago, a military policeman; and Donald Greenwood and Denzil F. Wildman, investigators in the provost's office.

All assisted in the questioning of Clayton and the material witnesses by Bresee and Captain Burke.

Captain Burke gave special credit to Greenwood and Sergeant Kanaley, of Chanute, whose investigatory work "led to the break in the case."

After being informed of Baker's death; during the questioning, Clayton expressed regret but displayed no particular emotions, Bresee said.

**Find No Motive**  
No motive for the stabbing was uncovered, other than the spontaneous argument between Baker and Clayton which preceded the fight, authorities said.

The stabbing victim, William Rudolph Baker, was born Sept. 3, 1926, in Champaign. He was the son of Mr. and Mrs. Edward Baker.

He leaves in addition to his mother and father, one brother, Junior Baker of Champaign; a grandmother, Mrs. Stella Lyde, and a grandfather, Henry Baker of Chicago.

He was a veteran of World War II and served in the Aleutian islands.

The body was removed to Parker funeral home. Funeral arrangements are incomplete.

## Douglas Park's Attendance Top

Participation figures for the Champaign summer supervised recreation program at seven parks and playgrounds were reviewed by the recreation and playground commission at a meeting Tuesday evening in the offices in the city building.

These figures include a separate tabulation each time a participant came to the park or playground to take part in the activities. For the various units they were:

Beardsley, 1,582; Clark, 5,361; Douglas, 10,317; Eisner, 3,604; Scott, 2,557; Switzer, 4,567 (includes softball leagues); West Side, 4,826 (includes softball leagues).

Popularity of activities varied from park to park. At West Side park croquet was the most frequent diversion with shuffleboard second, excepting, of course, the softball games.

Scott park participants liked croquet and shuffleboard, and Eisner park participants softball and shuffleboard.

For Clark park horseshoes was the top activity, followed by softball and shuffleboard. Softball led in interest at Douglas park, with shuffleboard and horseshoes also drawing many participants.

Beardsley park liked softball best and gave second place preference to horseshoes. In all of the parks interest was demonstrated in high and low organized games conducted by the park supervisors, handicraft, inter-park tournaments, etc.

### FATHER VISITS

Mr. Frank Blake of Fort Wayne Ind., is visiting in the home of his daughter Mr. and Mrs. Louis Gray of West Hill St. The family visited in the home of his daughter Mr. and Mrs. Herman Harris of Decatur, Ill. Master Stephen Gray is visiting in Chicago with Mr. and Mrs. Antony Russell of Chicago, Illinois. Miss Don Vance of Chicago is visiting the Gray home this summer. Mr. and Mrs. Gray visited a cousin Mr. and Mrs. G. Vance recently in Chicago, Ills.

### CALLED TO ALTON ILLINOIS

Mrs. Emma Hines, of West Charles Street was called to Alton, Ill. to attend her sister in laws funeral, Mrs. Means.

Birth  
STOVALL, to Mr. and Mrs. Robert L. 108 East Church Street, Champaign, a daughter at 5:54 p. m. Tuesday in Carle hospital.

VISITING  
Mrs. Minnie Mc Duff and Mother Mrs. Agnes Giles visited in the home of relatives Mr. and Mrs. George Giles in St. Louis Mo.

RUSHED TO HOSPITAL  
Mr. James Hegmon, of East Grove Street has been rushed to the Carle hospital after a recent accident.

KING, to Mr. and Mrs. David, 1105 North Romine street, a son at 9:35 p. m. Monday in Champaign county hospital.

WELLS, to Mr. and Mrs. Lewis, 508 North Popular street, a daughter at 6:53 p. m. Thursday in Burnham hospital.

Birth Notices  
BRITT, to Mr. and Mrs. Jessie, 910 North Fourth Street a son at 8:20 a. m. today in Burnham hospital.

# \$1,000,000 Gate For Louis - W

## CHAMP FAVORED BY 13 TO 5 ODDS TO HOLD TITLE

### Tale Of The Tape

JOE LOUIS	Age	WALCOTT	Age
34 years	34 years	34 years	34 years
214 pounds	Weight	194 pounds	Weight
6 ft. 2 in.	Height	6 ft.	Height
76 inches	Reach	74 inches	Reach
42 inches	Chest	40 inches	Chest
45 inches	(normal) Chest	43 inches	(expanded) Chest
17 inches	Neck	17 inches	Neck
15 inches	Biceps	16 inches	Biceps
12 inches	Forearm	13 inches	Forearm
8 inches	Wrist	7 3/4 inches	Wrist
11 3/4 inches	Pist	12 inches	Pist
23 1/4 inches	Waist	35 inches	Waist
22 1/4 inches	Thigh	21 inches	Thigh
14 inches	Calf	14 inches	Calf
10 inches	Ankle	9 3/4 inches	Ankle

By JACK CUDDY

NEW YORK, June 22—(UP)—As Joe Louis and Jersey Joe Walcott loafed about their camps today, storing up energy the Wednesday night's return title fight at Yankee stadium; Herman Lenin of the 20th Century club's box office predicted:

"The gate will go close to a \$1,000,000."

He said more than \$60,000 worth of tickets were sold Monday and "the demand is simply terrific."

### Forecast Cloudy Weather

The U. S. weather bureau was less enthusiastic, though not pessimistic. It forecast: "Wednesday partly cloudy, quite warm and humid, with moderate south to southwest winds."

However, the scattered showers forecast for Tuesday might dampen the ardor of would-be ticket purchasers.

(The fight will be broadcast over WENR at 9 p. m. CDT.)

The sentiment of betting men and sports writers swung more heavily toward Louis, sending the price from 12-5 to 13-5 in New York. It went to 14-5 at a betting center in Newark, N. J., and 14-5 was reported from Philadelphia.

Writers Favor Champ  
This trend contradicted week-end predictions by bookies, who forecast that increased support for Walcott would hammer down the odds to 2-1 by Wednesday.

An informal poll of 27 sports writers at 20th Century headquarters disclosed they favored Louis, 21-6.

Walcott, the 34-year-old challenger, was scheduled to break camp at Grenloch, N. J., after dinner Tuesday night and motor into New York. He will remain at a downtown hotel until the weigh-in at Madison Square Garden Wednesday.

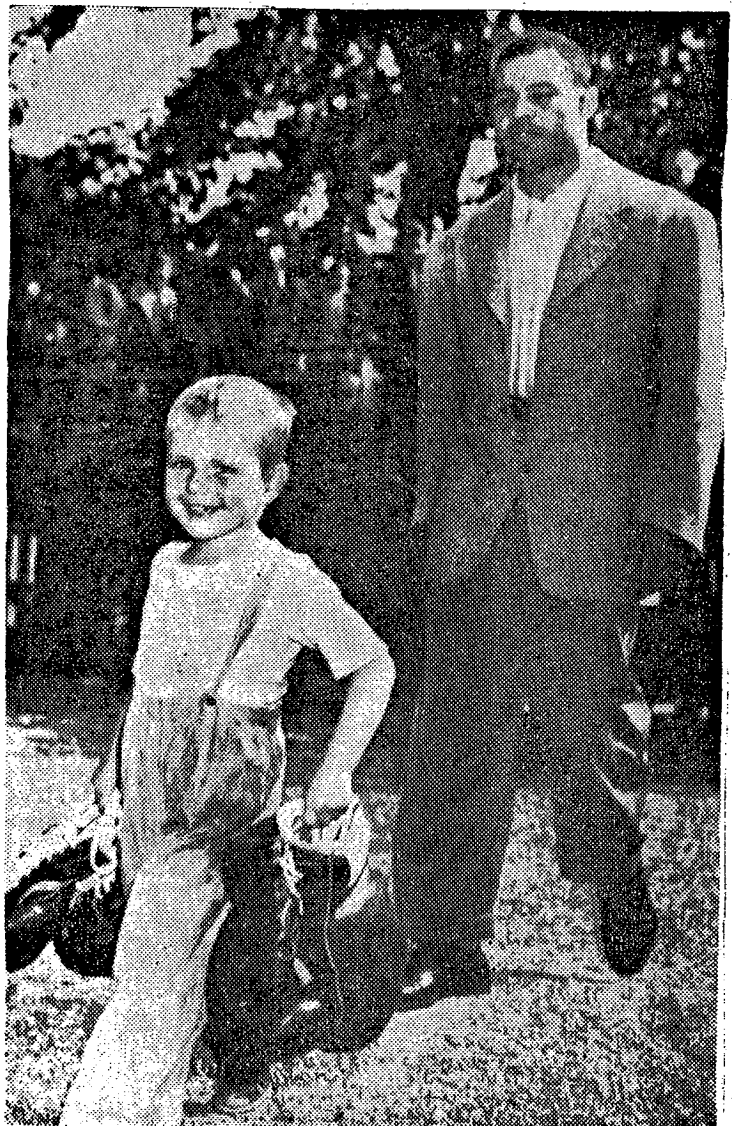
Louis, who completed training Monday with four rounds of sparring against four mates at Pompton Lakes, N. J., will break camp at 10 a. m. Wednesday and drive into New York.

Both weighed 213 pounds Monday. He expected to scale between 214 and 215 for the fight. Walcott, who finished training Sunday, will register about 194.

When the champ finished his final workout, he said he was from 50 to 75 percent sharper than in December when he nearly lost his title to Walcott. Trainer Mennie Seamon agreed with him.

Joe expressed confidence. He said, "I think I can win. I've always been able to solve a fighter's style the second time I met him."

Louis repeated his promise to retire after Wednesday night's fight "win, lose or draw."



**HELP FOR LEWIS.** Joe Lewis gets a helping hand from four-year-old Butch Hopper who carries his gloves from the ring at Louis' Pompton Lakes, N. J., training camp after the heavyweight champ finished training for his title match with Jersey Joe Walcott to be held in Yankee stadium Wednesday night. (AP Wirephoto.)

### Louis' Defenses

Joe Louis will defend his heavyweight championship title for the 25th time when he meets Joe Walcott for the second time at Yankee Stadium Wednesday night.

A list of his defenses, dates, opponents and results follows:

- Aug. 30, 1937—Tommy Farr, 15 rounds, decision.
- Feb. 23, 1938—Nathan Mann, 9 rounds, K. O.
- April 1, 1938—Harry Thomas, 10 rounds, K. O.
- June 22, 1938—Max Schmelling, 1 round, K. O.
- Jan. 29, 1939—John Henry Lewis, 1 round, K. O.
- April 17, 1939—Jack Roper, 6 rounds, K. O.
- June 28, 1939—Tony Galento, 4 rounds, K. O.
- Sept. 20, 1939—Bob Pastor, 11 rounds, K. O.
- Feb. 28, 1940—Arturo Godoy, 15 rounds, decision.
- March 29, 1940—Johnny Paycheck, 10 rounds, K. O.
- June 20, 1940—Arturo Godoy, 8 rounds, K. O.
- Dec. 16, 1940—Al McCoy, 16 rounds, K. O.
- Jan. 31, 1941—Red Burman, 7 rounds, K. O.
- Feb. 17, 1941—Gus Dorazio, 2 rounds, K. O.
- March 21, 1941—Abe Simon, 13 rounds, K. O.
- May 23, 1941—Buddy Baer, 7 rounds, K. O.
- June 18, 1941—Billy Conn, 13 rounds, K. O.
- Sept. 29, 1941—Lou Nova, 6 rounds, K. O.
- Jan. 9, 1942—Buddy Baer, 1 round, K. O.
- March 27, 1942—Abe Simon, 6 rounds, K. O.
- June 19, 1942—Billy Conn, 8 rounds, K. O.
- Sept. 18, 1942—Tami Mauriello, 1 round, K. O.
- Dec. 5, 1942—Joe Walcott, 15 rounds, decision.

### JOE WALCOTT 'GRUMPY' AS FIGHT NEARS

GRENLOCH, N. J., June 22—(AP)—Jersey Joe Walcott is getting grumpy. Not really very grumpy, because he is a kind-hearted man, but moody and withdrawing into his shell.

"Why he didn't exchange two words with me on our last hike," said his trainer, Dan Florio.

"So everyone around the camp nods and says, yes, Jersey Joe is sharp now for his fight next Wednesday night in Yankee stadium against Joe Louis for the heavyweight championship of the world."

### Mrs. Crittia Bryant Services Friday

Funeral services will be held at 2 p. m. Friday at the Vine Street Holiness church for Mrs. Crittia Bryant, 86, Champaign. She died at 7:05 p. m. Tuesday at Champaign County hospital.

Reverend Julius W. Hamilton will officiate at the services, assisted by Reverend W. A. Bonner of Danville. Burial will be in Mount Hope cemetery, with the Parker and Son funeral home in charge.

Mrs. Bryant had been a resident of Champaign for the past 43 years. She leaves a son, Thomas Bryant, Washington, D. C., and three grandchildren.

## Louis Defends Title Against Jersey Joe

### Mrs. Crittia Bryant Services Are Friday

Mrs. Crittia Bryant, 85, widow of the late Thomas Bryant, died at 7:05 p. m. Tuesday in the Champaign county hospital.

Funeral services will be held at 2 p. m. Friday in the Vine Street Holiness church, with Rev. Julius W. Hamilton, officiating, assisted by Rev. W. A. Bonner of Danville. Burial will be in Mount Hope cemetery. The Parker and Son funeral home is in charge.

Mrs. Bryant was born Dec. 15, 1862 in West Virginia. She had lived in Champaign for the past 43 years. Her home was at 408 1/2 East Vine street.

She leaves one son, Thomas Bryant of Washington, D. C., and three grandchildren, Charles, Ruth, and Mary Lou, all of Chicago.

### LIGHTS READY FOR DOUGLAS SOFTBALL PLAY

New candlepower is brightening Champaign's summer recreation program.

Completion of a lighting system this week at the Douglas center softball diamond now makes possible the playing of night-time softball at two of the city's park playgrounds.

In observance of the new facilities, the Douglas Center men's softball team will engage the Illinois Village team in a game to be played at 7:30 p. m., Saturday on the Douglas diamond.

Both teams are members of the summer industrial league, but this engagement is a non-league affair, Taylor Thomas, Douglas recreation director, said.

A campaign to raise funds to pay for the new lights at Douglas was conducted under Thomas' leadership.

## Fight Rumor Denies Bout With Lesnevich

DETROIT... (AP)... Heavyweight champion Joe Louis, commenting on reports he might return to the ring for a Sept. 22 bout with Gus Lesnevich, said Tuesday, "I don't know where those rumors came from. I've retired and that is all there is to it."

Louis, in an interview with Lyall Smith, Sports editor of the Detroit Free Press, appeared a bit irked over the reports that he would take on Lesnevich, the light heavyweight champion.

Louis' comments were in connection with a copyrighted story by Nat Fleischer in the September issue of Ring magazine. In that article, Fleischer said Louis had indicated his willingness to come back for just one more fight.

### Tired of Queries

"I haven't seen or talked to Mr. Nat Fleischer since the night after my fight with Jersey Joe Walcott," said Louis.

The heavyweight champ said he was tired of answering questions about his retirement.

He added, "I have until six months after the Walcott fight to notify the New York boxing commission that I have officially retired. Why can't they give me those six months and let me alone?"

Questioned by Smith as to whether he definitely would file the retirement papers, Louis replied quickly, "absolutely."

John Roxborough, long time manager and friend of Louis, said "a lot of pressure is being brought on the Brown Bomber to junk his retirement plans and meet Lesnevich."

**FISH FRY:**  
The Education Committee of Victory Temple No. 530 held a fish fry at the Elks Hall on Saturday. Mrs. Etta McCutcher chairman. Mrs. E. H. Hill, St. Louis, has returned home after visiting with his brother James in Chicago. His during his vacation.

**ATTENDING WEDDING:**  
Mrs. Arnold Yarbber of East Co. lumbia Ave. attended the wedding of his class mate while attending college in Ohio. The wedding was held in Chicago. His in charge.

**PLAYS GOLF:**  
Mr. and Mrs. Harry Jordan of East Grove St. and Mrs. Willie C. Pyle motored to Decatur on Monday to play "Golf" with friends in Decatur.

**WILL VISIT MOTHER:**  
Mr. and Mrs. Paul Rankin, of Detroit, Mich., will visit their mother Mrs. Alice Moreland soon.

# Champion Joe Predicts Quick Knockout

## Challenger Is Confident of Gaining Title

New York, June 22 (AP)

Confidence radiated from both camps today as Champion Joe Louis and Challenger Jersey Joe Walcott enjoyed a brief lull before their 15-round heavyweight title bout tomorrow night at Yankee Stadium.

"I'll get him quick," was the cold prediction of the Brown Bomber, who announced this 25th defense of his crown will be his last ring outing.

"HE'S READY," was the tag handlers put on Walcott, the amazing comebacker who almost snatched the title last December.

Odds favoring the champion remained firm at 5 to 13 although there was talk of a late flow of Walcott money that might reduce them slightly by ring time.

This is the shortest-priced choice Louis has been since the second bout with Max Schmeling 10 years ago when he was held at 5-9.

The weatherman, meanwhile, gave the outdoor attraction a temporary blessing, promising a cloudy, humid day but no rain.

TICKET SALES continued brisk but Promoter Mike Jacobs' hopes of a million dollar gate appeared certain to fall short. The Twentieth Century Sporting club is counting on a turnout of around 55,000, a gate of approximately \$900,000. Television and radio receipts are extra.

Louis put in his final training licks at Pompton Lakes, N. J., yesterday, turned up with a black eye and announced afterwards, "I think I'm 50 or 75 per cent better than I was for the last fight."

The discolored optic, not serious, was a parting gift of one of the champ's sparmates. The champion scaled 213 after his last drill but expects to hit between 214 and 215 when he weighs in Wednesday noon.

JERSEY JOE, who finished tapering off Sunday, planned to break camp at Glenloch, N. J., today and move to New York to await the weigh-in. He will check in at around 195.

Both of the 34-year-old gladiators were reported in excellent condition after long training grinds.

## CONLEY TRIAL ON SHAKEDOWN RESET JULY 18

A hearing for Frank Patrick Conley, 60, of Alton, arrested last week after allegedly attempting to shakedown a colored gambler, was continued Thursday for 10 days.

Justice E. A. Fabert reset the case for hearing July 18 at the request of a Champaign attorney representing the Alton man.

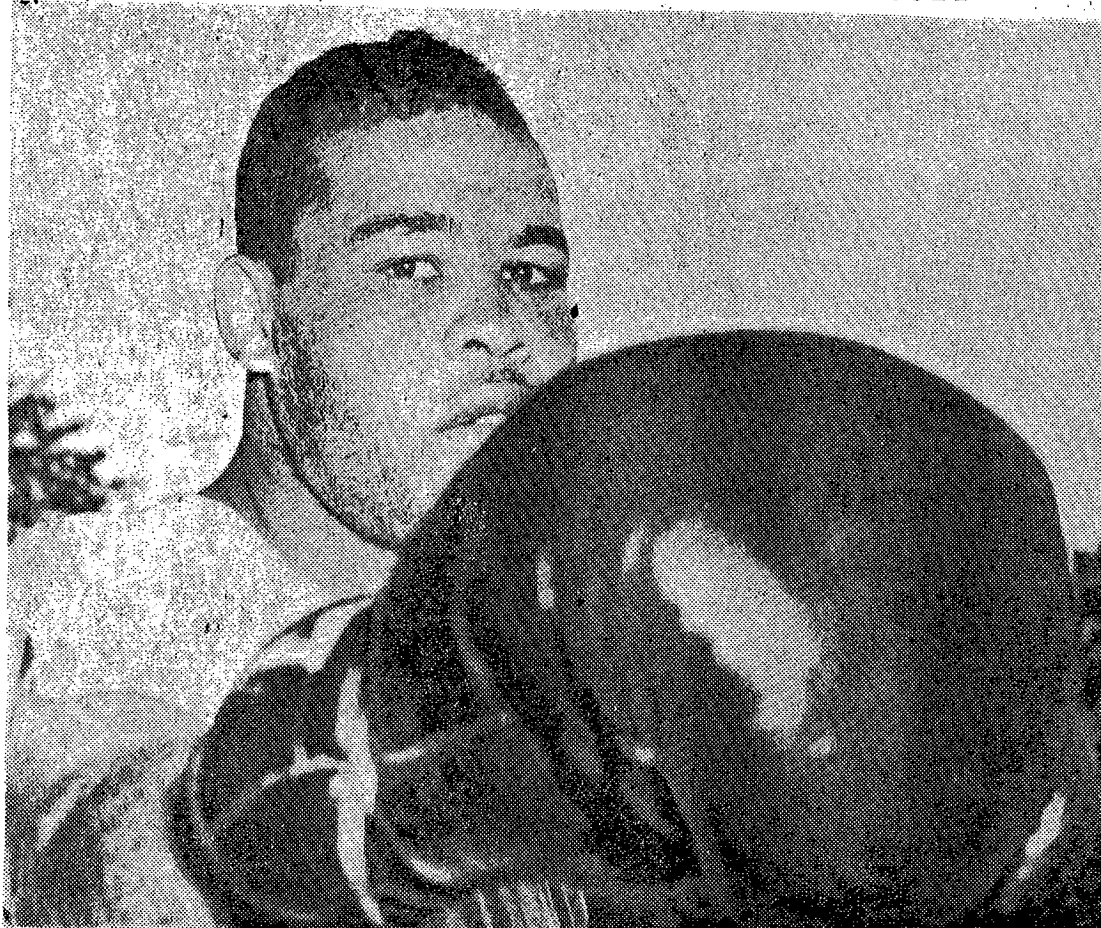
Conley is charged with vagrancy in a complaint filed by Police Chief Clyde R. Davis, who arrested him. He posted \$1,500 bond for his release in little more than an hour after he was sent to the county jail.

A colored gambler said Conley demanded \$100 a month for the privilege of operating a policy wheel and claimed to be representing the Republican state organization.

## Three Local Women Attend Chorus Meet

Mrs. J. W. Valentine, 405 East Park street, Champaign, will leave Sunday for Brooklyn, N. Y., to attend an annual gospel chorus convention which opens Monday. She is a delegate of the gospel chorus at Salem Baptist church. Accompanying her will be Mrs. Luvada Bowles and Mrs. Hattie Anderson. En route home Mrs. Bowles will visit her daughter in Harrisburg, Pa., and Mrs. Valentine and Mrs. Anderson will visit in Chicago.

## HOW CHAMP'S GLOVE WILL LOOK TO WALCOTT

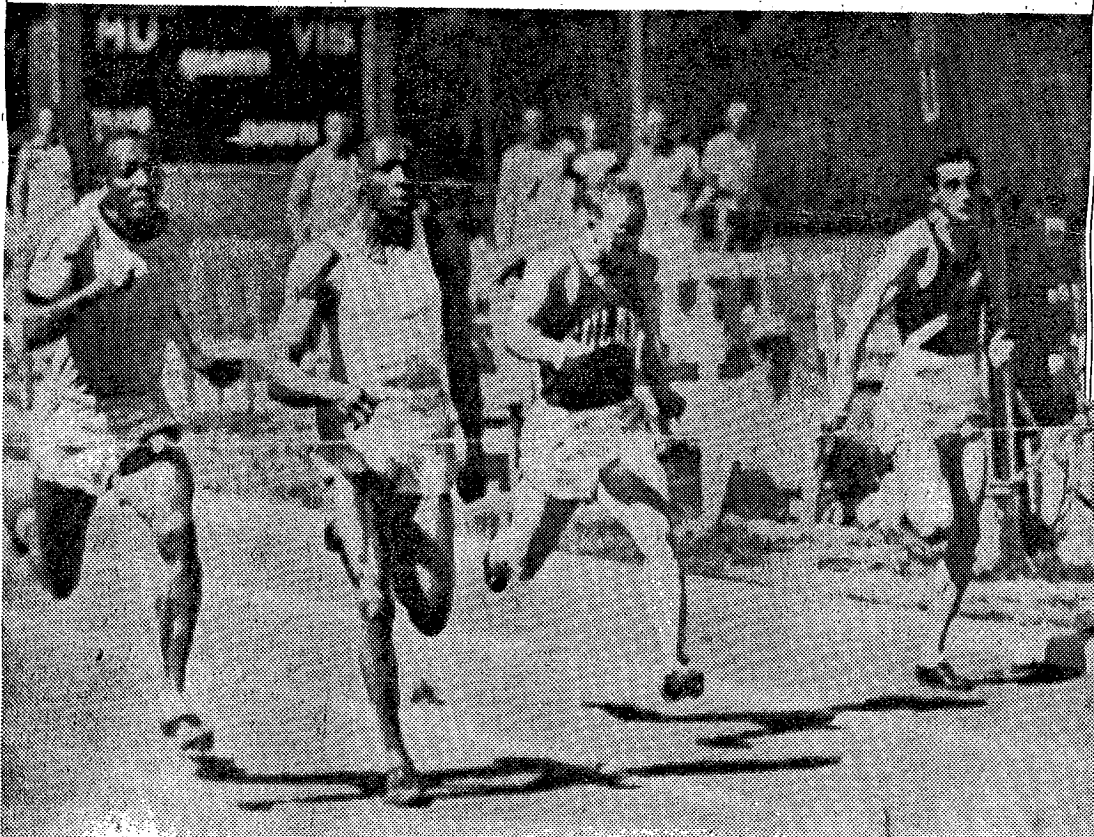


Joe Louis puts leather to the fore in his Pompton Lakes, N. Y., training camp yesterday

as he completed training for his title-defense fight with Jersey Joe Walcott in New York's

Madison Square Garden Wednesday night. (AP WIREPHOTO)

## AFTER 82 STRAIGHT VICTORIES... DEFEAT



Harrison Dillars, left, Baldwin-Wallace hurdler-sprinter who won 82 races consecutively, is nosed out by Barney

Ewell, second from left, in the 100 meter A. A. U. final yesterday at Milwaukee. Paul Bienz, third from left, of Tulane, finished

third and Don Anderson, right, of California was fourth. (AP WIREPHOTO)

## Ather Johnson Dies Wednesday in Outlook

Ather Johnson, 46, of 1209 West Eads street, Urbana, died at noon Wednesday in Outlook sanatorium, where he had been a patient since Jan. 19. Funeral arrangements, in charge of the C. E. Campbell funeral home, are incomplete.

Mr. Johnson, a Champaign resident for the past six years, was born Jan. 10, 1902, in Evadale, Ark.

He leaves his wife, Mrs. Bessie Johnson, Chicago; one daughter, Mrs. Juanita Henderson, Chicago; two sisters, Mrs. Anna Willis, Urbana, and Mrs. Mary Burch, Memphis, Tenn.; two brothers, Van C. Johnson, Urbana, and Moses Johnson, Chicago, and four grandchildren.

## GUEST:

Mr. and Mrs. C. W. Williams and Mrs. Butts of Chicago motored to the graduation exercises of Mr. and Mrs. Butts daughter from the University of Ills. The friends were guest of Mr. and Mrs. Ed. Glover and other friends. Little Ora Kemp, Miss Claudie Kemp, of Decatur, Ills. was house guest of Mr. and Mrs. Albert Connell and family.

## SISTER VISITING

Mrs. Harriett Edwards of Henderson, Kentucky is visiting her sister Mrs. Theo. Bowles of W. Maple St.

## TOURING:

Miss Eunice Jones, eldest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Irvin Jones of West Vine St. is visiting at Eagle Beach, Fort Clinton, Ohio. Mrs. Betty Jones has returned to Chicago with her sister Mrs. Daisiy Owens after and throat operation. Another sister Josephine also lives in Chicago.

## Maple Briggs Fined On Assault Charge

Maple Briggs, colored, was fined \$12.50 and costs Monday in the justice court of E. A. Fabert, on an assault and battery charge. The complaint was filed by Sam Davis, colored, following a fight Saturday evening. Briggs entered a plea of guilty.

DANVILLE  
Mr. and Mrs. H. Davis, the former Gene Lewis of Johnson St. have a new daughter born recently.  
Mrs. Buelah Bigham of North St. is among the sick.  
Mr. Edward Murray, of Harrison St. passed recently.

MARRIED IN DANVILLE  
Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Thomas, former Oneida Pepps who were recently married are honey mooning at Niagara, Falls.  
Miss Othelo Turner and Mr. Theotto Lillard married recently.  
Mr. Laffetta Shaw and Miss Melvina Norwood.  
Mr. Earnest Norwood and Miss. Georis Haines.

## J. C. Johnson Post 559 Head

John C. Johnson was elected commander of William F. Earnest post, No. 559 Thursday night at a meeting in the post's hall, 903 North Fifth street.

Other officers elected are: Hoy Minor, first vice commander; Luther Wise, second vice commander; Cecil D. Nelson, Sr., finance officer; Rubavent Utley, sergeant-at-arms; Kenneth Stratton, judge advocate; Eldridge Long, service officer; Ann Porter, historian; Thomas Burke, chaplain; John C. Johnson, delegate; Alvin Foxwell, alternate delegate.

Members of the post and their wives and girl friends will have a social meeting in the hall Thursday, Aug. 19.

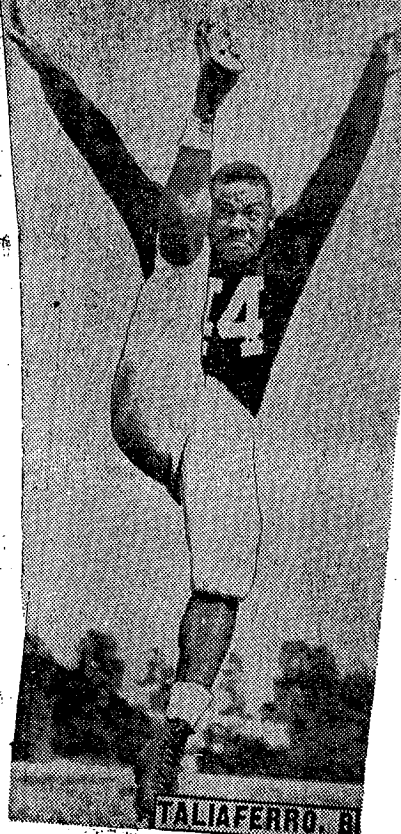
LeRoy Barnes Arrested On Weapon Charge  
A colored barber, LeRoy Barnes, 61, 914 North Poplar street, was arrested Thursday night by Patrolman Clyde Redmon and Deputy Sheriff James Denny on a state warrant charging him with carrying his straight-edged razor as a concealed weapon. He posted a \$300 bond for appearance August 10 before Justice A. S. Weeks.

TOOLS STOLEN  
John Pickens, 406 East Washington street, Champaign, Tuesday reported the theft of tools in a canvas bag from his car parked in front of his house. Pickens estimated the value of the tools at \$50.

CHORALLETES ORGANIZED AT C.J.H.S.



The Choralettes, new girls' vocal ensemble at Champaign Junior High School, have been organized. Members are, first row, left to right, Norma Hertzman, Mary Jane Stark, Carol Knott, Marjorie Schneidt, Pat Bing, Mary Ann Stahl; second row, Martha Sanford, Shirley Trueblood, Gloria Cardwell, Eunice Nelson, Emily Valentine, Dotty Lu Picken, Joyce Munnis, Mary Sanford and Joyce Hansen.



The Kids Say

Question: Do you think a "pickup date" is ever allowable or proper?  
Where asked: Urbana high school.

**BOB McCARTNEY**, sophomore: You mean where a boy goes down the street and asks some girl he doesn't know out? I don't think so.



**BOB McCARTNEY**      **JEANNE BRUNKOW**

I think maybe if a boy asked her and she volunteered to go, all right. I certainly wouldn't do it.

**JEANNE BRUNKOW**, freshman: No, I don't think its right. I don't think that a boy who would ask a girl on a "pickup" is the type I'd want to go out with.

**JAY LARSON**, junior: I think its all right if the girl asks the boy. Oh, you mean they don't know each



**JAY LARSON**      **EDITH HENSLEY**

other? Then I don't believe so. It's asking too much of a girl to expect her to go out with a setup like that.

**EDITH HENSLEY**, sophomore: It's allowable but not proper. If you didn't know the boy very well I don't think you should. I certainly wouldn't ever.

Next Challenger?

Joe Louis Praises Bivins

Champ Hit Hard in Cleveland Exhibition.

Cleveland, Nov. 18 (AP) Heavyweight Champion Joe Louis labels Jimmy Bivins the best opponent he has faced so far in his exhibition tour. "I don't know why he shouldn't be a contender if he gets serious in his training," Louis said in a press room last night after winning in a six-round no-decision with the Cleveland Negro. "I threw two good right hands and I knew I was hit, but it weren't hard enough to bother

me," the champion added. "Anyone who fights him has to be very careful." WITH BOTH fighters using 12-ounce gloves instead of the regulation eight, Bivins opened a cut above Louis' left eye in the second round. Joe received the wound originally Nov. 8 when he accidentally bumped heads with Johnny Shkor in an exhibition at Boston. The cut bled only slightly, but Bivins opened it up again in the fourth.

Bivins did most of the leading, while Louis opened up only sporadically. He almost dropped Bivins with a right in the second when the two were in a neutral corner. The champion jabbed most of the time and seemed content to take it easy, but opened up suddenly at one point in the fifth and drove Bivins to cover with a flurry of rights and lefts.

ALTHOUGH THE exhibition was a no-decision affair, matchmaker Larry Atkins conducted a poll among newsmen at ringside and reported the writers favored Bivins by a 9 to 5 vote. However, most everyone agreed that Louis had plenty in reserve.

Louis weighed 220 and had a 40-pound edge over Bivins, who appeared to be in extra good shape. A crowd of 10,088 saw the bout, which produced a gross gate of \$47,591. Louis received 35 per cent.

Douglas Center Plea Studied

Funds for a new program at the Douglas Park Community center, 510-12 East Grove street, were requested from the Community Chest at a meeting of the Chest board of directors Thursday afternoon in the offices at 303 South Wright street.

The request was submitted by Julius X. Davis, chairman of the city recreation and playground board, and Richard R. Edwards, chairman of the Douglas center advisory board.

The said the proposed new program is outside the scope of the tax-supported activities carried on by the city recreation department, which operates the center.

Directors of the Chest, who had previously declined to contribute directly to the center because it is tax-supported, asked for more information on the program and a detailed budget before reaching a decision.

Warren F. Sawyer, executive secretary, submitted a report on the recent successful fund appeal for 1949. Clean up work on the drive still is in progress.

*Our Loving Mother*  
**DREWY MAERIE G. DREWRY**  
In loving memory of our devoted Mother who passed away 15 years ago, October 25, 1938.  
"Peaceful be thy rest dear Mother  
It is sweet to breathe thy name  
In your life we loved you dearly  
And, in death we do the same."  
Children-Fowler, Lettie, George-  
tte, Booker

Ask Addition For Lawhead

An addition of four rooms at Lawhead school, Champaign, will be recommended by the building and grounds committee at a special meeting of the school board some time this week.

The four-man committee made an inspection of Lawhead Friday afternoon to decide whether a new

building or an addition was necessary. Elmer Bash, committee chairman, said it was generally agreed that "adding four rooms at the present time seems most beneficial."

Estimated cost of this project nears \$125,000, Bash said. Included in the same building program will be an addition at Switzer school, costing around \$230,000. Switzer school's addition was previously approved by voters but that was in the days of the old district 71.

U. I. TRUSTEES SET NEXT MEETING NOV. 17

November meeting of the University of Illinois board of trustees will be held Friday, Nov. 19, in the Blackstone hotel, Chicago, it was announced today.

There will be an executive session at 10:30 a. m. and an open meeting at 2 p. m. President George D. Stoddard will miss the session, as he will be in Lebanon attending a U.N.E.S.C.O. meeting.

Many of the trustees and university officials are expected to remain in Chicago for the Illinois-Northwestern football game Saturday, Nov. 20.

JURY HEARING OLDSON SUIT FOR DAMAGES

A damage suit brought by Emil Oldson against Frank Kunza as a result of a traffic accident on First street was being heard Wednesday in circuit court.

Jurors were hearing the action brought by Oldson following the accident on November 7, 1947. They included Russell Elliott, 210 West Oregon street, Urbana; Stoffer Frerichs, 106 East Clark street; Willie C. Pyles, 406 East Grove street; Charles Bengston, Longview.

Joe Loslo, Rantoul; Nellie M. Coon, 1610 Glen Park drive; Lucille P. Holt, Mahomet; Mamie E. Foley, Rantoul; E. J. Bowers, Philo; Agnes L. Palmer, St. Joseph; Charles Gorman, Rantoul, and Minnie Roney, 402 East Elm street.

Mr. Dale Nicholas, of East Park street celebrated his 70 birthday quietly at home last Sunday.

5 Whites Held In Negro Death

Lyons, Ga., Dec. 4 (AP) Five white men were arrested today and held under suspicion of murder in the ambush slaying of Negro Robert Mallard Nov. 20.

Mallard was slain as he approached his home, 18 miles southeast of Lyons. His widow, Amy James Mallard, said he was killed by five or six robed but unmasked white men.

The arrests were announced by Capt. Delmar Jones of the Georgia bureau of investigation. They came after Superior Court Judge Robert H. Humphrey called the Toombs grand jury into special session at 10 a. m., Friday to probe the Mallard murder.

Captain Jones identified those arrested as J. Roderick Clifton, 36; William Lamar Howell, 24; James Spivey, 24; Herschel Sikes, 34, and Barney Sikes, 34, all of Lyons.

County officers absolved the Ku Klux Klan of the slaying in a report to Grand Dragon Samuel Green of Atlanta.

Mrs. Fanny Arrington and niece Gloria, have moved into their new purchased home at 208 North Second street.

Kindergarten Needs \$1,622

Champaign-Urbana kindergarten needs \$1,622 to meet its budget for the current school year, it was reported at a meeting of the sponsors, attended by about 60 persons Thursday night in Douglas center.

The budget totals \$5,025, and the following funds are in hand or assured: Balance from last year, \$443; Community Chest, \$1,560; tuition, \$900; civic foundation, \$500.

The finance committee led a discussion of plans to raise the remaining funds needed. Mrs. Cullen Owens made the financial report.

Possibility of establishing a thrift shop, where outgrown clothing would be received and dispensed at a nominal sum to children needing the garments was discussed. Mrs. A. R. Turquette and Mrs. Louise Brown are making arrangements. It is hoped to open the shop before Christmas, though a site has not yet been found.

ATTENDS PARTY

Sgt. and Mrs. Mc Kenny of Chanute Field, Illinois, Mrs. Hallie Chatman Mr. and Mrs. Earnest Dickerson and Rev. M. Rayno attended the affair given in Bloomington, Illinois last week. Mrs. Iola Bowden is chairman of Education Dept. of Bronze Temple and gave the very fine affair which was a grand success.

This was given during the Normal Homecoming affair.

**DOUGLAS CENTER BEATS TUSCOLA CAGERS**  
Douglas Center's basketball team defeated Tuscola in an E. C. game at the Center Tuesday night, 50 to 32. Ring of Tuscola was high scorer with 17 points. Holt of Douglas had eight points and made Hines.

Mr. Hershel Anderson of Danville was at the bedside of his uncle Mr. Hite. Mr. Hites nephew and brother Leslie Hite at California called their sister Mrs. Hite Anderson and mother of Harry Anderson concerning their brother and uncle Hines.

**RETURNS TO HINES, ILLS.**  
Mr. Alvert McKinley Jr. writes that the patients of Hines hospital needs encouragement. Mr. Johnnie Waller at Vaughan hospital ward 53 is doing nicely and Mr. Jimmie Roberts was expected to be discharged in December. The hospital is badly in need of help.

# What's New on New York Central

(Shopped by your Central photographer)



**SCHOOLHOUSE ON WHEELS.** Waiter Smith Starling scores high in his final tests aboard one of New York Central's new "King-Size" diners. He serves his instructor, Mr. Robert Ogg, a delicious dinner on a table set with snowy linen, gleaming silver, glass and china. Every New York Central waiter attends these classes to brush up on the niceties of service so important to your dining pleasure. Today you'll find this famous Central hospitality in the smart surroundings of a great new dining car fleet. New full-length diners with separate kitchen-lounge cars... new single-unit diners... and smart new diner-lounge cars too... all part of the NEW in New York Central.

## SUMMER RECREATION LEADERS START PROGRAM



Supervised summer play activities opened Monday afternoon in seven Champaign parks and playgrounds. Preceding the opening of the program there was a training session for the park supervisors in the offices of the city recreation department. The staff, reading from the left, front row, is Mrs. Jean Davis, Eisner park;

Maurice Walworth, Eisner park; Mary Crackel, West Side park; George Henderson, Beardsley park; Mrs. Jean Lindley, Beardsley park; and Miss Hazel Iungerich (extreme right), recreation director; second row, Anthony Sivittello, Switzer park; Mrs. Victoria Larson, Switzer park; Roberta Bloom, Clark park; Bert J. Sea-

man, Clark park; Donald Porter, West Side park; Doris Banks, Douglas park; third row, Warren Gleason, Scott park; Mrs. Elizabeth Strasser, Scott park; Ernest Nelson, Douglas park; Taylor Thomas, Douglas park; standing in rear, Miss Nell Hays, director of women's and girl's activities.

"Ethiopia Awakening", carving of a Negro girl's head in black marble, won \$50 prize for Marion Perkins.

**VISITING:**  
Mr and Mrs. Polkinghorn and two daughters and grandson are visiting with daughter and son in law Mr. and Mrs. Earnest Nelson of El Park St.  
Mrs. Elsworth Oliver of East Park St. sister of Mrs. Earnest Nelson is the proud mother of a daughter born Monday night in the Burnham hospital.  
Mr. and Mrs. Oliver have several other children. Mr. Polkinghorn returned to his home by the way of St. Louis to visit relatives enroute to his home in Penscola, Florida.

**OPEN HOUSE:**  
Throughout the Country thousands of friends and members of the Masonic family drove, flew and journeyed to the Annual Open House held at Rock Island, Ill. last Sunday. The weather was beautiful which gave great joy and hospitality at the gathering.

**RETURNS HOME**  
Mrs Le Mae Baughm of East Hill St. has returned to her home with her parents and others that attended the services held in Chicago, Ill. Last Sunday, at the Church of God and Saints of Christ. Mrs. Smith met her daughter and husband in Chicago enroute home from the War Mothers' No. 2 convention held at Lansing, Michigan. She accompanied the president Mrs. Laura Papa to the meeting.  
Mrs. Lotise McLendon and several friends visited in Ky. recent-

**SPEEDING CHARGED**  
Morris Pealer, 604 North Ash street, and E. J. Smothers, a taxi cab driver, were arrested at 10:15 p. m. Sunday in the 100 block East University avenue by Police Officers E. W. Schweigart and Clyde Redmon on charges of speeding. They furnished cash bonds of \$12.50 apiece.

**RECEIVED:** Mrs. Mary Jane Reed, 600 1/2 East Columbia, avenue, 4 a. m. Thursday at her home. Funeral arrangements incomplete.

### RETURNS HOME



**MEMBER OF THE NEGRO WELFARE & SOCIAL WORKERS LEAGUE.**

Mrs. Peoples is member of "The Negro Welfare and Social Workers League of America, and Interracial Institution" and also a member of Rockfield Chapter of Women's Army for National Defense and a Red Cross worker.

Mrs. Peoples was called to South Haven, Michigan May 29 for the special opening of the Simmons Evergreen Resort. She returned to the carport after spending three refreshing days. Any one who desires to spend a very pleasant vacation, Mrs. Peoples would be glad to give them valuable information. Kindly Call Mrs. Peoples at 408 East Beardsley Ave. % Rev. McDuffy.

**RETURNED HOME:**  
Mr. and Mrs. Bill Schucraft were recent week end hostesses to Mr. and Mrs. Fred Smith of Chicago, Ill.  
Chapter Hall were guest of Royal Worthy Master and Royal Association Grand Patron.  
Mr. and Mrs. Robby of Chicago visited Rose of Sharon Chapter No. 2. They hail from Queen of Sheba Grand Lodge Chicago, Ill. A covered dish luncheon was served. Mr. & Mrs. Moody were overnight guest of the Worthy Matron.  
Mrs. John Tabor and husband of E. Eureka St.

Left to right, Dill...  
Loyce Beach, Panama, third...  
fifth, is not shown.  
(AP WIREPHOTO)

# GOD SAID REMEMBER THE WORLD FORGOT!

*Elder Laurance of Milwaukee*  
What?

This is the question to be answered in the Bible lecture;

**"When God Said Remember and the World Forgot."**

to be delivered at the

BIBLE TRUTH INSTITUTE GOSPEL TENT

Nothr Wright Street at East Vine.....Sunday August 8...8:00 P.M.

Everyone Welcome All seats free

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This week at the Tent...

- Monday... Bible Class
- Tuesday... "What Did Jesus Nail to His Cross?"
- Wednesday... "The Other Side of Death"
- Thursday... "The One Thousand Dollar Text... Can You Find It?"
- Friday... "Examination Day in Heaven"
- Saturday at 3:30 P.M. "The Secret of True Discipleship"
- Sunday August 15... "Who Made The World Forget?"

All services at 8:00 P.M., except the 3:30 P.M. service Saturday

## ALL THE TRUTH FOR ALL

**HONORARY MEMBER**  
Mr. Fred Gray, a citizen of Champaign and member of the Masonic branch, and member of the Bethel A. M. E. Church was made Honorary Member of the "Arrow Head" Council Boy Scout organization. He also attended the party of the canoe trip to Wis. and Michigan.

After a program, in charge of Miss Beatrice Bailey, the family sat down to a delicious repast. After the repast, a business meeting was held, ending with election of officers. The following officers were elected: Frank D. Gray, Springfield, President; Mrs. Gertrude Mahoney Reed, Detroit, Michigan, Vice President; Harold D. Gray, Ill. Secretary; Howard S. Gray, Champaign, Treasurer; Fred C. Gray, Washington, D. C. Historian.

The following families were present, Howard Gray's Clarence Gray's, Lewis Gray's and Hugh Bailey's all of Champaign; Mr. and Mrs. Harold D. Gray, and Donald Gray Indianapolis; Mrs. Beatrice Gray Howard, Detroit, Michigan.

The second annual reunion will be held in Indianapolis, July 29, 1949.

**Two Are Arrested For Beating Woman**  
Edward Brown, 31, 507 East Tremont street, and Roggis White, 30, 510 East Tremont street, both colored, were held this morning in the county jail on assault and battery warrants after a brutal beating administered to Alberta Brown, 714 North Ash street.

The Brown woman is in Burnham city hospital with a fractured cheek bone, broken nose, swollen eyes, and numerous bruises. She was taken to the hospital in an ambulance at 11:13 p. m. Monday while still unconscious.

In a signed statement to police Edward Brown admitted "slapping" the woman while they were riding in an automobile. White's statement, however, asserted that Brown repeatedly beat and kicked her after they became embroiled in an argument, and desisted only after White seized him by the throat and held him away.

The two Negroes were arrested at 2 a. m. today at the New York Central railroad's shops, where they are employed, by Urbana police officers acting at the request of Champaign police.

Mrs. A. Jackson of West Dublin Street is a patient at Burnham hospital.

**New Douglas Director May Be Named Tonight**  
Members of the Champaign recreation and playground board hope to be able to appoint a new director for Douglas Park community center at their regular bi-monthly meeting tonight. Julius Davis, chairman of the board, has reported.

"We have three or four candidates who are being considered for the position," he said. The appointee will fill the vacancy caused by resignation of Taylor Thomas, who accepted a position as eighth grade teacher and coach of basketball, softball and track teams in Danville schools. Thomas submitted his resignation in June, effective Sept. 15.

The recreation board session is set for 7:30 p. m. in the recreation department's office in the city building.

**Three Autos Damaged In Champaign Crash**  
Three autos were damaged in a collision at 9:40 a. m. Sunday at Springfield avenue and State street. Cars driven by Albert D. Hines of Arlington Heights and Bernard Ragle, Jr., route 2, Champaign, came together in the intersection, causing one of the vehicles to crash into the parked auto of Vernon L. Kretschmer, 714 West Washington street.

**WISCONSIN SON**  
Mrs. Anna Mc Neil visited her son Mr. and Mrs. Norman Mc Neil of Chicago.

Mrs. William Elmore and two sons of La Grange spent weekend with parents Mr. and Mrs. U. S. Scagg.

## ANNOUNCES MARRIAGE

Mr. and Mrs. Charles Glass, of Eads St. announces the marriage of their niece Miss Carrie Lee White to Mr. Johnny Pleasant. The ceremony taken place in Montgomery, Ala. in the presence of 75 relatives and friends. Aug. 1. The double ring ceremony was performed by Rev. Thomas Watts in the home of an aunt. The decorations were roses and gladiolas. The bride was attired in a white dress and blue accessories, carrying a bouquet of red and white roses. The maid of honor was a cousin and the bestman a cousin.

The bride chose for her going away trip a pink suit with blue accessories. After a two weeks in Florida Mrs. Pleasants a graduate from the Urbana High School class of 47, will enter Ala. State teachers college and take home economics this fall. Mr. Pleasant son of Rev. and Mrs. Johnny Pleasant sr. graduate of the Montgomery High School class of 46. He is employed as dietian in the Central hospital in Ala. The couple will be located at home 205 Mitchell St. Montgomery, Ala.

## RECENT MARRIAGE

The daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Fort Wesley, of East Vine St. became the bride of Sgt. Benjamin G. Myers Jr. son of Mr. and Mrs. Benjamin Myers sr. of Texarkana Texas, at 2 p. m. June 27th in the Bethel A. M. E. Church. Rev. Taborn performed the double ring ceremony before an altar of lilies. Lots of gladiolas and background of green ferns and candelabras.

Mrs. J. W. Venable played the organ, vocal music before and during the ceremony. Mrs. Bona Burdgett sang "I love you truly and because, before the wedding march. The bride was taken by a friend Mr. Lawrence Shams of Chicago. She wore wedding dress with short bubble sleeves, wearing long white gloves. Her stonework well of white lace. She wore pearl necklace and earrings a gift of her sister Elizabeth Russell. The bride's bouquet of white carnations was tied with white streamers. Miss Elizabeth Russell, the brides sister was maid of honor. She wore a powder blue dress and blue bonnet shaped hat and carried a bouquet of white and blue carnations. Miss Elvie Mc Kinley was the bridesmaid. She wore pink dress and bonnet shaped pink hat. She carried pink and white carnations. Sgt. Nunnell a friend of the bridegroom served as the ring bearer.

**WITH RELATIVES**  
Mrs. Thomas of West Dublin St. Urbana is with relatives at Racine Wisconsin during her illness.

1st Lt. Wendell Long, visited with parents Mr. and Mrs. Horace Long of East Washington.

**Back and SARY**

**ENTERS SCHOOL**  
Miss Colleen Doyam, of East Vine entered Urbana School at Decatur, Ill.

Mrs. Mc Kinzie, of North Market St. has as guest her brother a Methodist Minister from Dixon, Tenn.

## DOUGLASS CENTER GIVES AWARDS



Mrs. Leonard Jones, left, presents awards to workers at Douglass center during a party given in honor of volunteer workers who served as hosts and hostesses, ac-

tivity leaders and helpers during the center's winter season. Receiving the awards are, left to right, Charles Robertson, Levi Davis and Melvin Penn. These three were se-

lected for awards after consideration of hours worked, general leadership and behavior and general appearance.

(Photo by Gene Suggs)



**DOUGLAS  
COMMUNITY  
CENTER**

**FIRST ANNIVERSARY  
PROGRAM**



**Sunday, September 22, 1946**

Five O'clock P. M.

**Douglas Community Center  
Champaign, Illinois**

**DOUGLAS  
COMMUNITY CENTER**

**First Anniversary  
Program**

**FIVE O'CLOCK P. M.**

**SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER TWENTY-SECOND  
NINETEEN HUNDRED FORTY-SIX**

[REDACTED]

# In Memoriam

[REDACTED]

**DR. HARRY D. ELLIS**

1894 - 1946

TREASURER., FUNDS RAISING COMMITTEE.  
MEMBER BUILDING COMMITTEE.  
MEMBER ADVISORY BOARD.

[REDACTED]

## PROGRAM

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 1946.

Julia Walden Valentine,  
Director of Music.

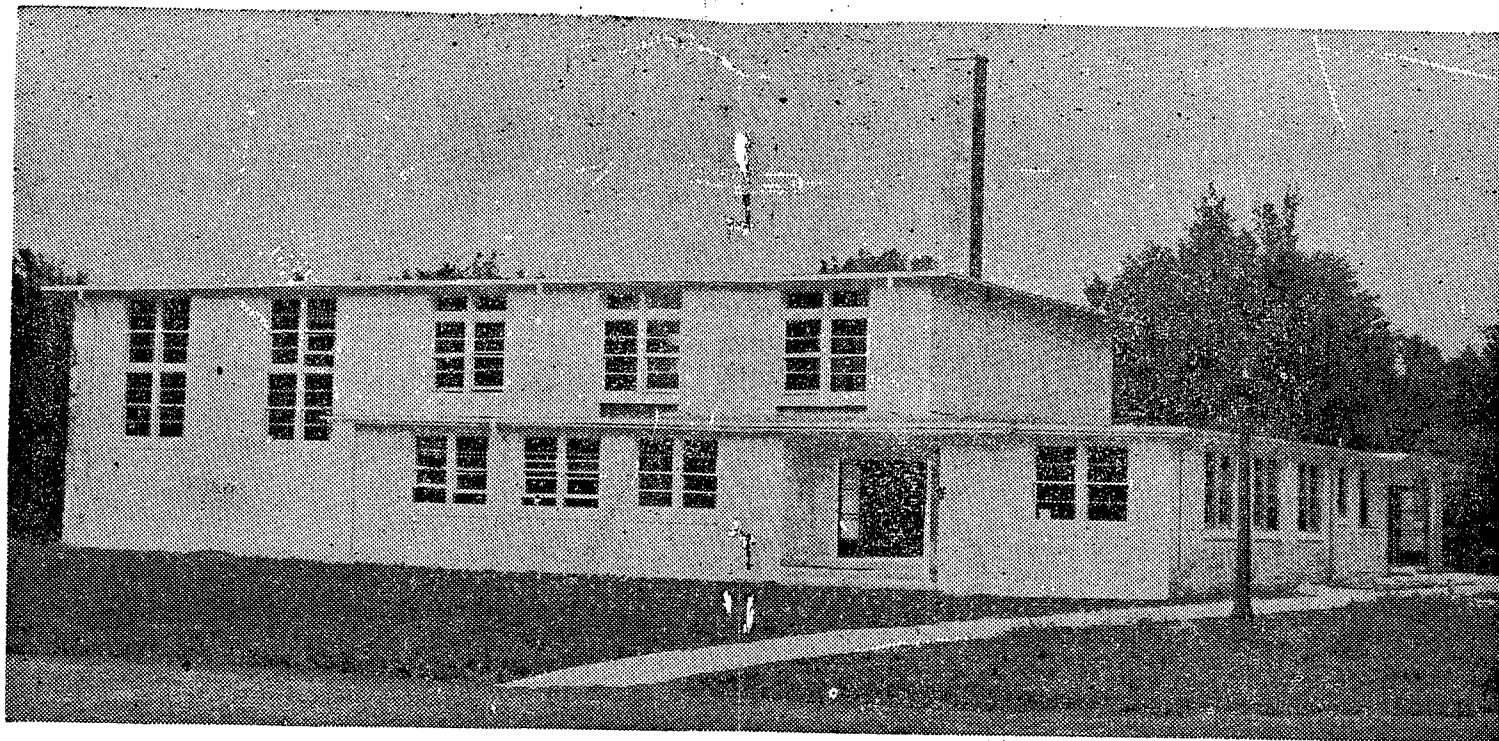
- "Negro National Anthem" ..... James Welden Johnson  
Community Chorus and Audience.
- Prayer ..... Rev. M. A. Crowder.
- "I've Got a Robe" ..... Arranged by Willa Townsend
- "Wade in the Water" ..... Arranged by Edward Boatner  
Community Chorus - Charles Latham, Soloist.
- "Thank God for a Garden" ... .. Del Reigo  
Mrs. Thelma Holloway.
- "I Could't Hear Nobody Pray" ..... Edward Boatner  
Community Chorus ..... Mrs. Hattie Winfield,  
Soloist.
- "Swing Low" ..... Arranged by Edward Boatner  
Mrs. Thelma Holloway, Soloist.
- "Thine Alone" ..... Victor Herbert  
Mr. Charles Latham.
- "It's Me" ..... Arranged by Willa Townsend  
Community Chorus - Mrs. Thelma Holloway, Soloist.
- "O'Devine Redeemer" (Prayer) ..... Gounod  
Mrs. Hattie Winfield.
- "King Jesus is a Listing" ..... William A. Dawson  
Community Chorus.
- Remarks ..... Director of Douglas Center
- "We are Climbing Jacobs Ladder" ..... Community Chorus

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- Remarks ..... Director of Douglas Center
- "We are Climbing Jacobs Ladder" ..... Community Chorus



**DOUGLAS COMMUNITY CENTER**  
**SIXTH AND GROVE STREETS**

## CHORUS

### Soprano

Marie Smith  
Hattie Mae Winfield  
Odelia Wesley  
Pauline Cockran  
Amie Clark  
Ella Williams  
Susie Patterson  
Luvada Bowles  
Lovie Anderson  
Lucy Jess Gray  
Odessa Lashley

Thelma Holloway  
Hassie Wells  
Dorothy Ransom  
Willie Mae Williams  
Ruth Gray  
Elease Clements  
Mrs. Lindsey  
Pearl Milliner  
Ruth Ray  
Lillie Snell  
Sophia Phillip

### Alto

Emma Liddell  
Lillie Smith  
Neppie Donaldson  
Louise McClendon  
Mary B. Jones

Alease Milton  
Albert Crenshaw  
Naomi Ransom  
Minnie Caldwell

### Bass and Tenor

Osborne G. Monroe  
Charles H. Browne  
Phillip Milliner  
Charles Latham  
Theotto Bowles

George Ray  
William Williams  
Clifford Jones  
Fred Morris  
Edward Benton

## USHERS

Catherine Humphrey  
Pauline Johnson  
Jean Clark

Rosa Pealer  
Daisy Jackson  
Marion Anderson

Douglass Community Center

20th

Anniversary Program

Oct. 24, 1965

3:30 P.M.

Douglass Center is open for activities  
from 1:00-10:00 P.M. daily Monday through  
Friday.

Staff Members:

Mr. Augustus C. Williams, Director  
Mrs. Gloria Burks, Assistant Director  
Mr. Arthur Davis, Jr. Assistant Director

Douglass Center Adult Council Members

Reverend Morris Clark, Chairman  
Mrs. Wanda Smith, Secretary  
Mr. Prentis Howell  
Mr. Sylvester Sayles  
Mr. Richard R. Edwards  
Mr. J. W. Pirtle  
Mrs. Steve Friend  
Mrs. Ella Williams  
Mrs. Joe Jackson  
Mr. John Pickel  
Mrs. Myrtle Taylor  
Reverend J. E. Graves

Champaign Recreation Board

Mr. E. H. Mellon, President  
Mr. Seely Johnston, Secretary-Treasurer  
Mr. Julius X. Davis  
Mr. Verne Scott  
Mr. Donald Bresnan

New members are welcome. We need your  
help.



## HISTORY

More than two decades ago, a group of citizens concerned about our community united their efforts toward the establishment of a community building.

In 1943, after this group had secured the space adjacent to Douglass Park for a building, a committee headed by Raymond M. Scott, began to seek ways to obtain financial assistance. Others on the committee were Cecil D. Nelson, Homer L. Chavis, Charles F. Pettiford, and Alvin Foxwell. Requests were made to the Home and War Chest, Champaign Recreation Board, City of Urbana, and the Federal Security Agency.

Lyle Gallivan, who was executive chairman of the Champaign - Urbana Home and War Chest, formulated and developed a co-operative plan for the center, which could also be used as a servicemens' center.

In order to secure federal funds, local donations were necessary and committees were formed to work on this community plan.

A Douglass Center Council was organized to guide the planning and to assist the original group. Mr. R. M. Scott served as president, Mrs. Odellia Wesley was the secretary.

Mr. Ray Hines accepted the chairmanship of the campaign committee, Mrs. Edna Diffay was secretary, and Dr. Harry D. Ellis was the treasurer.

*Deanna*

The Community Center Drive Committee had

these officers: Chairman, Mr. Richard R. Edwards, assisted by Mr. Alvin Foxwell, Mr. L. P. Diffay, Mr. Cecil Pope, and Dr. H. D. Ellis.

Among the many people helping out in innumerable ways, special help came from Mr. Al Rivers, Sr., Mrs. Alvin Diffay, Mr. George Mc Combe, and Mr. Julius Davis, Mr. Seely Johnston, Mr. James Heffernan.

The government would furnish \$18,500 if the community could raise \$14,100.

Pledges were made in these amounts: \$2,500 from the Home and War Chest, \$3,500 from the Champaign Recreation Department, \$2,000 from the City of Urbana. The balance came from some donations from individuals a few organizations and surplus community chest funds.

Assurance of donations was certain by September, 1943 and once the federal grant was cleared, construction began.

Douglass Center was dedicated as a building for community use in September, 1945. It was the result of a recognition of future needs by a small group of people living in the area, who in turn appealed to other community minded individuals throughout the city.

A number of those who gave of their time are no longer with us. Many are still here and are highly esteemed. To this group, and to all who have helped through the years, we say Thank You.

PROGRAM

Pledge of Allegiance	Boy <del>Scout</del> <sup>Scout</sup> Troop #100 Mr. Otis Scott, Scout Master
Opening Song	<del>Choir</del> , Mount Olive Baptist
Invocation	Reverend J. E. Graves
Welcome	Augustus C. Williams
Introduction of Speaker	Mrs. Odelia Wesley
Song	Joseph E. Graves, Jr.
Speaker	Mr. Taylor Thomas
Remarks	Mr. Richard R. Edwards
Recognition of former directors	Augustus C. Williams
Benediction	Pastor N. Eugene Larson

Refreshments served in lobby

# Park district leader named 'Citizen of the Year'

By STEVE BAUER

News-Gazette Staff Writer

Walter C. Smith Jr., chosen as "Citizen of the Year" for 1991, is looking forward to the new year.

Smith, 42, was honored for his contributions to a better community by the Concerned Citizens for Better Neighborhoods at their annual Christmas dinner on Dec. 19.

"My major thing is to try to develop a future for these kids, something positive they can carry over into their lives," he said.

Smith is in his sixth year at the Fredrick Douglass Center, 512 E. Grove St., C. He became facilities supervisor two years ago and previously served as assistant to Nate Dixon for four years. The Champaign Park District facility has a full-size gymnasium and offers a wide range of recreation programs.

With Smith's leadership, the center will offer a 500-mile walking and jogging club, ballet and a wilderness adventure outing. Other new programs are a popular church league basketball and mid-night basketball programs for young men, a drum corps and a pre-school gymnastics program.

Smith said a new \$37,000 floor being installed at the center's gymnasium will be a great investment for the community.

Vera Wesley, organizer of the north Champaign neighborhood

**'He works very well with the senior citizens and the children,' said Concerned Citizens for Better Neighborhoods organizer Vera Wesley.**

**'His eyes just light up when he talks with the children. It's the same way with the senior citizens. He treats them like his mother.'**

improvement group, said some of the programs Smith has begun have helped make a difference for the youth and elderly living around Douglass Park.

"He works very well with the senior citizens and the children," Wesley said. "His eyes just light up when he talks with the children. It's the same way with the senior citizens. He treats them like his mother."

Local residents enjoy working with Smith and respect him, she said.

"Everybody we award, they go beyond the call of duty," Wesley said.

Smith studied physical education at the University of Illinois. He began working with the Special Olympics program in 1981 and helped develop a fitness program for the Special Olympics athletes.

In 1983, he was chosen to coach the state Special Olympics teams at the national competition.

"That was quite an honor," Smith said.

The most exciting thing about working with Special Olympics athletes, Smith said, is watching some people discover talents they didn't even know they have.

"I enjoy working with kids," Smith said. "They are our future."

Recreation and sports programs are one way for some youths to develop self-discipline and learn teamwork, he said. The tutorial programs also help develop academic skills and self-esteem.

He also has served as track chairman for the state Amateur Athletic Union and coaches a summer track club on his own time. Smith's son, Sedrick Davis Smith, a sixth grader at Champaign's Franklin Middle School, is a state-ranked distance runner.

He and his wife, Dean, also have three girls — Shalena, Erica and Ebony.

Smith played baseball and football as a youth and then com-

peted in track while in the U.S. Army, winning a 100-yard dash, long jump.

Smith is proud of the programs at the Douglass Center and the need for more.

"We need to expand the culture center, somewhat problems can come out of it."

The park district substitute for family, Smith said the programs can be a big help in the community.

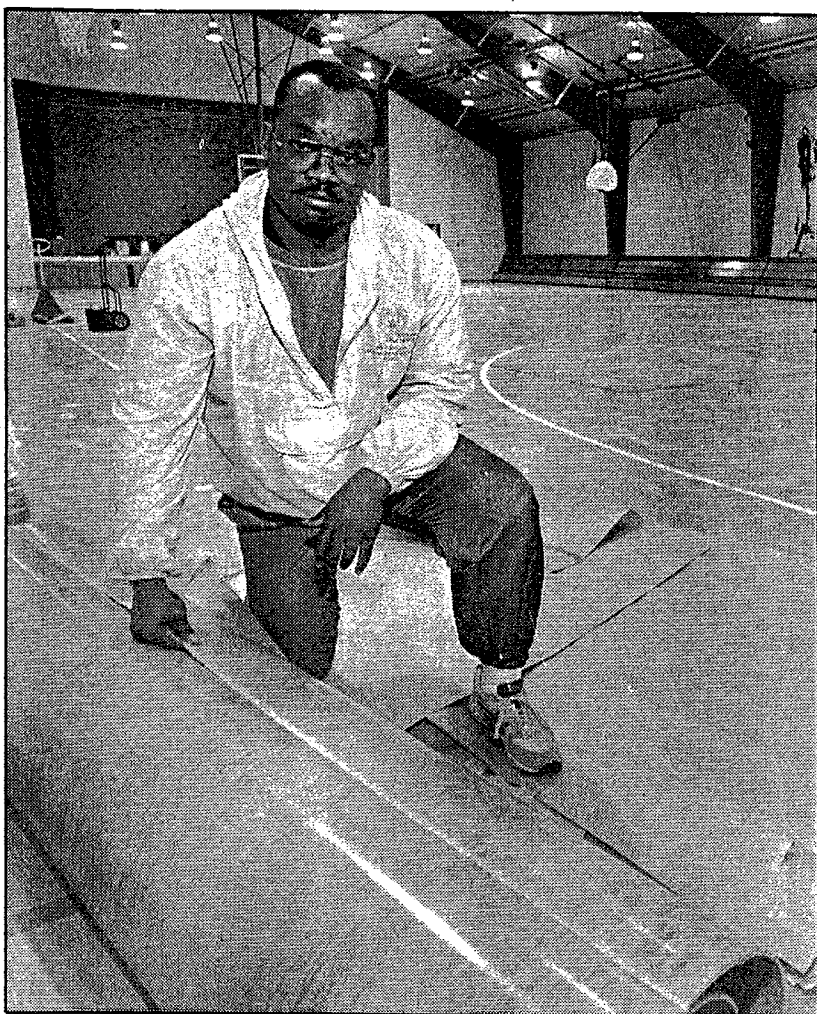
"If we can reach the parents, we can reach the parent," Smith said. Vera Wesley is an inspiration.

"Without Miss Wesley, we wouldn't be able to do our goals," Smith said.

Last year, Champaign's Jim Gadbury was named the citizen of the year.

The Concerned Citizens for Better Neighborhoods was organized in 1987, has organized activities in the Champaign neighborhood including recreational activities, school tutoring and counseling and has organized activities such as a "Day in the Park" program.

Wesley and the center have been cited by the Home Town Award of the J.C. Penney's "Golden Awards" program and



News-Gazette photo by Robert K. O'Daniell

Walter Smith, facilities supervisor at Champaign's Douglass Center, has been chosen "Citizen of the Year" by the Concerned Citizens for Better Neighborhoods.

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Smith played baseball and football as a youth and then com-

peted in track while serving in the U.S. Army, winning medals in the 100-yard dash, long jump and shot put.

Smith is proud of the programs at the Douglass Center, but sees the need for more.

"We need to expand," he said. "We need a teen center and a culture center, somewhere kids with problems can come and be safe."

The park district is not a substitute for family, Smith said, but the programs can be a link to families in the community.

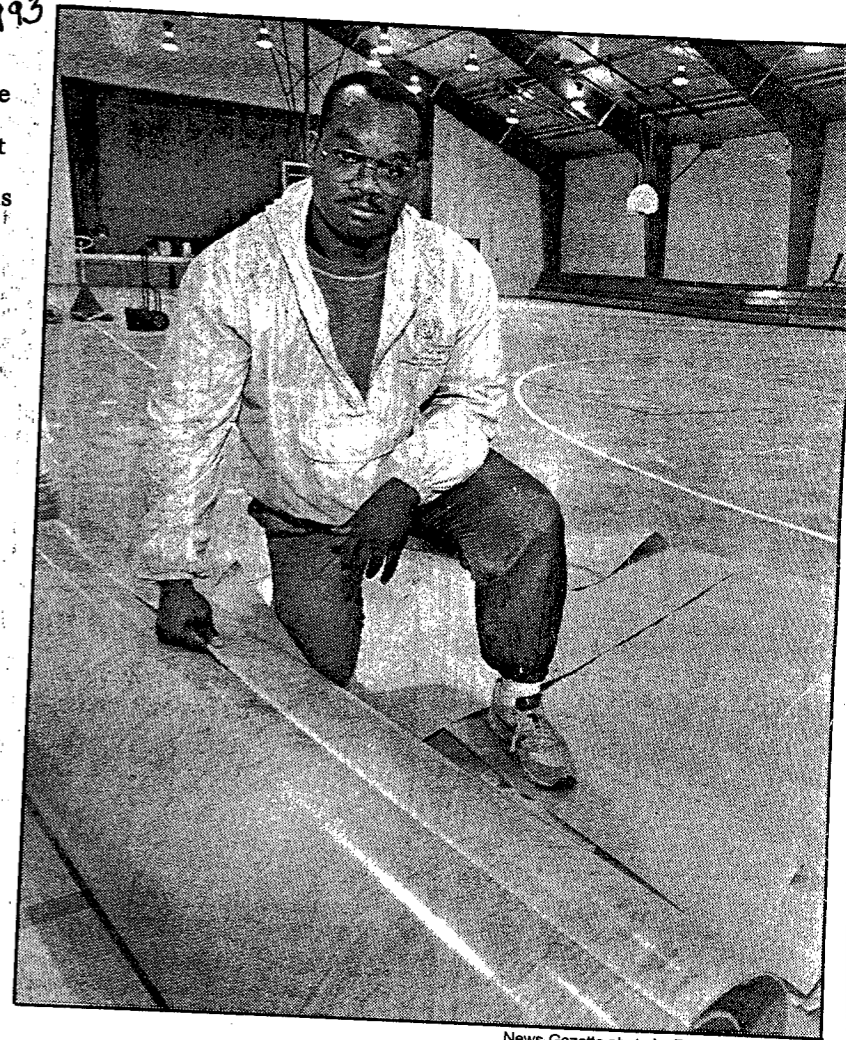
"If we can reach the kids, we can reach the parents," Smith said. Smith said Vera Wesley is his inspiration.

"Without Miss Wesley, I wouldn't be able to achieve half our goals," Smith said.

Last year, Champaign mailman Jim Gadbury was named the organization's citizen of the year.

The Concerned Citizens, started in 1987, has organized recreational activities in the north Champaign neighborhood, offered recreational activities, after-school tutoring and employment counseling and has sponsored activities such as talent shows and a "Day in the Park" picnic.

Wesley and the group also have been cited by the Governor's Home Town Award competition, J.C. Penney's "Golden Rule" Awards program and USA Today.



News-Gazette photo by Robert K. O'Daniell

Walter Smith, facilities supervisor at Champaign's Douglass Center, has been chosen "Citizen of the Year" by the Concerned Citizens for Better Neighborhoods.

## **Douglass Center's segregated origins**

To the editor:

In a recent article in honor of black history, the headline stat-

ed "Civil rights efforts tied to soldiers." After reading the article, you might wonder: What soldiers? The article shown in the picture was a publication in "Through The Years" an African-American history in Champaign County. It concerned the fact that black soldiers from Chanute Field were not welcomed at the USO in downtown Champaign. A center was provided for them in the two basement rooms at Lawhead School. It became known as the Lawhead Servicemen's Center and was under the direction of the Champaign Recreation Department.

Later, a committee composed of chairman Raymond Scott, Cecil D. Nelson, Homer Chavis, Charles Pettiford and Alvin Foxwell raised \$3,000 in the black community and purchased the lots at the corner of Sixth and Grove streets. With the help of the Community War Chest and federal funds, the Servicemen's Center was built with the stipulation that it would be deeded to the city of Champaign at the end of the war. Thus it became Douglass Center.

ERMA S. BRIDGEWATER  
Champaign

Celebrate Black Heritage

First Annual  
Frederick Douglass  
Community Center  
Black History Month  
Celebration



## BLACK HISTORY MONTH

*The staff and volunteers of the Frederick Douglass Community Center cordially invite you to be our special guest at the First Annual Douglass Community Center Black History Month Celebration. Come and enjoy a celebration of the richness and beauty of Black history and culture that is sure to instill a sense of understanding and pride.*

*Our program will begin promptly at 5:00 pm on Sunday, February 21, 1999 at the Frederick Douglass Community Center 512 E. Grove St., Champaign, IL.*

FOREWORD

THE 'HOWARD ROOM' OF DOUGLASS COMMUNITY CENTER OF CHAMPAIGN AND URBANA IS THE GIFT OF MR. HARTWELL C. HOWARD. IT WILL SERVE AS A MEETING PLACE AND AS AN OPPORTUNITY TO DISCOVER AND DEVELOP THE TALENTS OF ALL AGES.

MR. HOWARD INQUIRED OF THE 'STAFF' WHAT IMPROVEMENTS THEY THOUGHT HE COULD MAKE. THE 'HOWARD ROOM' WAS THE FOREMOST-OTHERS ARE BLEACHERS FOR OUR PARK, REDECORATION OF THE LOBBY, AND A PIANO.

GENEROSITY HE HAS, SUCH AS IS POSSIBLE TO THOSE WHO PRACTICE AN ART, NEVER TO THOSE WHO DRIVE A TRADE; DISCRETION, TESTED BY A HUNDRED SECRETS; TACT, TRIED IN A THOUSAND EMBARRASSEMENTS; AND WHAT ARE MORE IMPORTANT HERALD CHEERFULNESS AND COURAGE.

GRATITUDE IS BUT A LAME SENTIMENT; THANKS WHEN THEY ARE EXPRESSED ARE OFTEN MORE EMBARRASSING THAN WELCOME; BUT YET WE MUST SET FORTH OURS TO MR. HARTWELL C. HOWARD.

WE NEVER FEARED IT WOULDN'T GO THRU,  
BUT NOW WE SEE THE DREAM COME TRUE.  
YOU MAY ASK WHY, THO YOU'RE THE CLUE,  
FOR IT WAS DONE BECAUSE OF YOU.  
WE MADE REQUESTS, YOU HEARD THE CALL,  
YOUR GIFTS AND AID, THOSE LARGE AND SMALL,  
WERE POOLED AS ONE, TO STUNT A FALL.  
SO WE CLIMBED ON BECAUSE OF YOU,  
AND SO TODAY YOU EACH MAY CHEER,  
TO SEE THE ROOM THAT HE BUILT HERE.  
AND PLEASE BELIEVE WE ARE SINCERE,  
TO SAY IT'S ALL-BECAUSE OF YOU.

THE STAFF  
*The Staff*

PROGRAM OF THE DEDICATION

MASTER OF CEREMONIES.....MR. R. EDWARDS

SUNDAY AFTERNOON, MARCH 4, 1956

'AMERICA'

INVOCATION.....REV. A. PARKS

MUSICAL SELECTION..AIRMAN SECOND CLASS  
LUTHER MOORE

REMARKS.....DR. MELLON

INTRODUCTION OF MR. HOWARD-DR. MELLON

MUSICAL SELECTION...MARY HALEY

DEDICATORY ADDRESS..TAYLOR THOMAS

BENEDICTION.....REV. A. PARKS  
OPEN HOUSE



# Seek Federal Aid For \$32,600 Recreational Center For Colored Servicemen

## EXPECT \$14,100 TO BE DONATED BY COMMUNITY

### Balance Sought From Government; Chest, Recreations Board To Contribute

Based on a plan of community cooperation, an application for federal assistance in constructing a Champaign-Urbana recreation center for colored service men will be submitted to the Federal Works agency early next week, it was disclosed Saturday.

The application proposes a \$32,600 project and requests that the federal government furnish \$18,500. It was submitted in the name of the city of Champaign, signed by Commissioner Roger E. Zombro, mayor pro tem, who said it had the approval of all council members.

Lyle Gallivan, executive secretary of the Home and War Chest, who formulated and developed the cooperative plan, said it is proposed to raise the community's \$14,100 share of the cost by contributions from individuals in both Champaign and Urbana, a fund-raising campaign to be conducted among colored citizens by their leaders, a \$2,500 allotment from the Home and War Chest, and a \$3,500 expenditure by the Champaign city recreation department.

**Approval Expected**  
"Officials of the Federal Works agency and the Federal Security agency have assured me there is good reason to expect the application will be approved by them. It must also be approved by the War department and the War Production Board."

While intended to fill the war time recreation needs of colored service men, the building will be a permanent structure and, according to the application, will "serve the surrounding community after the war."

Zombro said, however, the application flatly states that the community will be unable to bear the cost of the servicemen's center without federal assistance. Now pending before the same federal agencies asked to provide the building funds is a city application for \$5,800 to operate the existing Lawhead school servicemen's center for the next eight months.

#### Would Replace Lawhead

If the proposed new recreation building is erected, it will replace the Lawhead center—consisting only of two small rooms and described as "inadequate." The recreation department's expenditures and federal assistance would be diverted to the new building.

Colored citizens already have acquired two vacant lots at Sixth and Grove streets, immediately adjacent to Douglas park. They will furnish the site as a part of their contribution.

Gallivan said civic leaders and officials in Urbana have voiced favor of the project and assured their support in raising Urbana's share of the local contribution. The Home and War Chest directors have included \$2,500 in their budget for the project and the members of the city recreation board were reported to have pledged \$3,500 from their funds. Gallivan declared he was optimistic that the balance of the \$14,100 can be raised by donations from individuals and organizations.

#### One-Story Building

Preliminary architectural plans call for a one-story building of concrete blocks, with an over-all size of 80 by 70 feet. Its principal feature would be a 37-by-68-foot assembly room plus a writing room, library, office, kitchen, and toilets. It was estimated it could be completed within four months.

In the application, costs were broken down as follows: Land, \$1,000; contracts, \$25,000; equipment, \$4,000; contingencies, \$1,000; engineering, architectural, and other fees, \$1,400; and legal expenses, \$200.

As he signed the applications for the city, Commissioner Zombro said Mayor George J. Babb had expressed his intention of doing so before his sudden illness and operation Thursday. The council is in complete agreement, the acting mayor asserted.

"The whole deal is off," Zombro said, "if the community fails to raise its share of the cost."

## FWA Approves Negro Center Project Here

Chicago regional office of the Federal Works Agency has approved the \$18,500 federal grant for the proposed \$32,600 Negro community center for northeast Champaign, Lyle H. Gallivan, executive secretary of the Home and War Chest, announced today.

Sanction of the regional office of the Federal Security Agency was announced previously. The project application was forwarded today to Washington, D. C., for approval of the main office of the Federal Works agency, but this is largely a formality as the indorsement of the regional FWA office is tantamount to final approval from that agency.

However, the War Production board must grant its consent for the erection of the building because of the critical materials involved, and

Gallivan said this is probably the largest remaining hurdle before the federal grant can become a reality. Concurrence of the War department also is needed to signify its value as a military project as the proposed center would serve to provide for the recreation needs of colored soldiers in this area for the duration of the war.

Erection of the building is also contingent upon obtaining \$14,100 in donations here. The Home and War Chest has pledged \$2,500 if its campaign for funds in November is successful and the remainder is to be raised by solicitations in Urbana and Champaign and among the Negro residents.

Colored persons obtained sufficient money in a drive last year to purchase two lots for the site for the building at Sixth and Grove streets, just opposite Douglas park.

The building would be of concrete block or similar lightweight masonry construction, 82 by 63 feet and would provide a large hall 35 by 68 feet, and smaller rooms for library, reading room, kitchen, office, showers and lavatories.

## Gallivan Plans New Plea for Colored Center

Federal officials have thus far declined to approve a federal grant for the construction of a Negro community center in northeast Champaign, Lyle H. Gallivan, executive secretary of the Home and War Chest association, announced today.

Approval has been withheld by officials of the Federal Works agency on the ground that the war-connected need is insufficient, he explained.

The War department, which

must approve the project as the building would serve as a recreation center for Negro soldiers until after the war, has ruled there are not enough colored troops currently stationed at Chanute Field to justify the expense.

**'New Evidence' Ready**  
However, Gallivan said that he and others interested in the project are continuing to press the request for federal funds and are planning to present "new evidence" on the need for the project.

EVERY SUBSCRIBER SHOULD FILL OUT A CARD

Name		DIVISION		<b>Suggested STANDARD OF GIVING</b> IF ANNUAL INCOME IS GIVE less than \$ 1,200 . . . 1/4% \$ 1,200 to \$ 4,000 . . . 1% \$ 4,000 to \$ 6,000 . . . 2% \$ 6,000 to \$ 8,000 . . . 3% \$ 8,000 to \$10,000 . . . 4% \$10,000 and over . . . 5%
Business		1943		
Res. Address		TOTAL GIFTS Dollars Cents		
In consideration of the gifts of others, I promise to pay THE SUM OF <input type="text"/> to the <input type="text"/>				CASH OR CHECK PAID Dollars Cents
CP NEGRO SERVICEMEN'S CENTER DRIVE ion For the Year Ending October 31, 1943				
Payable in _____ installments, as follows—Beginning Nov. 1, 1942 <input type="checkbox"/> Quarterly <input type="checkbox"/> Monthly <input type="checkbox"/> Weekly    or _____ By payroll deduction . . . . . <input type="checkbox"/> By collector . . . . . <input type="checkbox"/> To Fund Office—303 South Wright Street, Champaign, Illinois . . . <input type="checkbox"/>				BALANCE DUE Dollars Cents
SIGNED _____ Address to which mail is to be sent _____				
Subscription obtained by _____ Date _____		AUDITOR _____		You May Designate -- On Other Side of This Card ★ Over — Use receipt on other side of this stub for amount pledged and paid. (OVER)
Address _____		SUBSCRIPTIONS MAY BE DEDUCTED FROM INCOME TAX RETURNS.		

*History*  
Two decades has passed since a group of persons decided on the idea of the importance of a community and service men's center in northeast Champaign.

The Douglas Park Recreation Council was authorized by Mayor James D. Flynn, of the City of Champaign and Mayor George F. Hurd, of the City of Urbana, to solicit funds with which to build the much needed center. This facility would provide a meeting place for various organizations as well as wholesome recreation for all Negro Citizens of the community.

The Council was composed of Mr. R. M. Scott, President; Mrs. Odelia Wesley, Secretary; Mr. Ray E. Hines, Chairman Campaign Committee, Mrs. Edna Diffey, Secretary; Dr. Harry D. Ellis, Treasurer.

The Community Center Drive Committee was composed of Mr. Richard R. Edwards, Chairman; Mr. Elvin Foxwell, Mr. L. P. Diffey, Mr. Cecil Pope and Dr. H. D. Ellis.

Other persons closely connected with the movement by way of affiliation with the council or board of directors were Mr. Al Rivers, Mrs. Foxwell, Mr. L. P. Diffey, Mr. George McCombe, Mr. Julius Davis and Mr. Paul New Hurst.

The Ways and Means Committee: Mr. Banks, Chairman, Mr. Leroy Pickens and Mr. Raymon Scott.

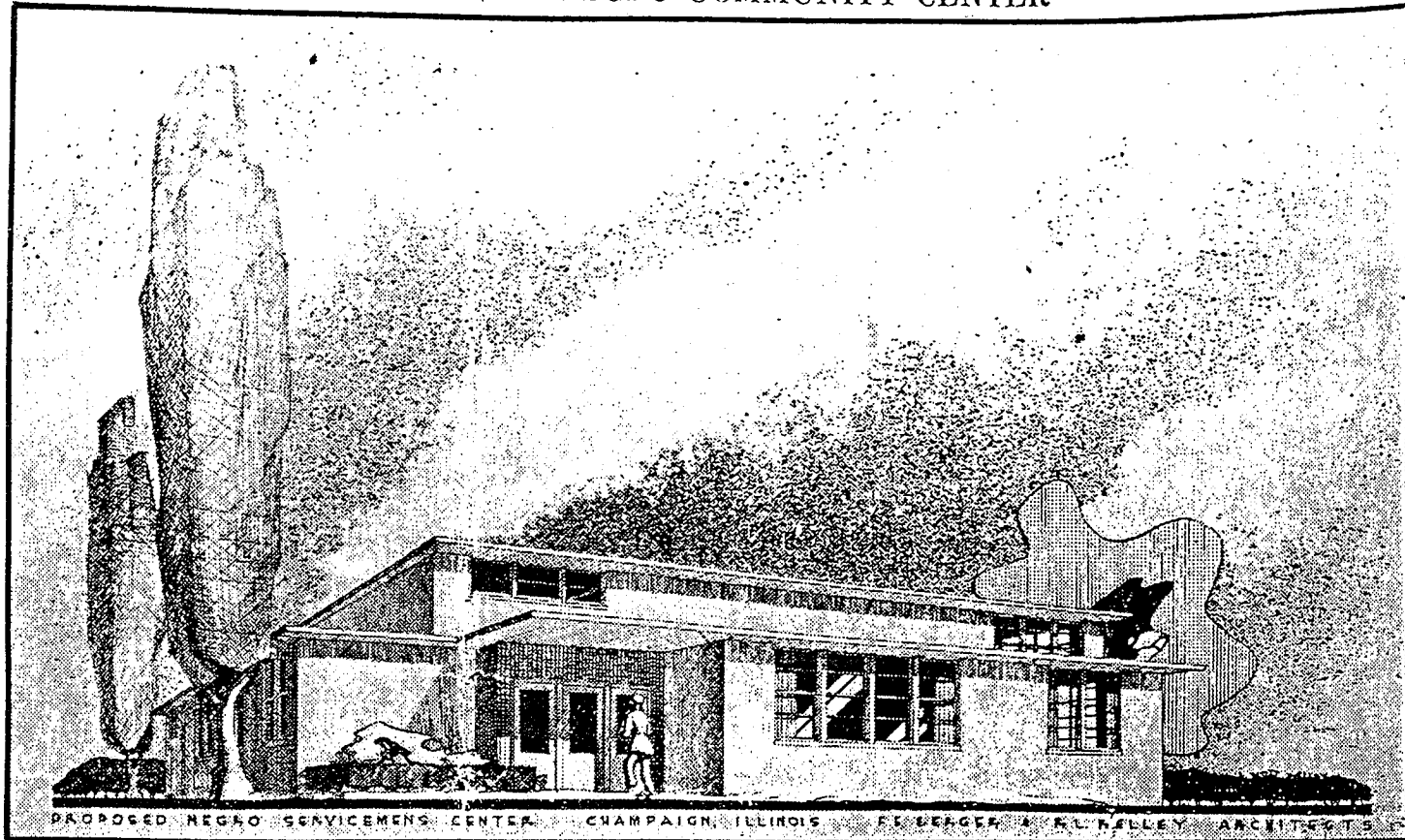
The Program Committee: Mr. John Walker, Chairman, Mr. Percy Larry, Mr. Cecil Nelson, and Mr. Eram Scott.

The House Committee: Mr. Cecil Nelson, Chairman and Mrs. Odelia Wesley.

The Devience Committee: Mr. Harry Fletcher, Chairman and Mr. George Roberts.

From this drive approximately \$39,000 dollars was raised. More aid was needed in this effort and many business people responded. ~~Mr. Foxwell~~ of the ~~Home and War Chest~~ incorporated was ~~main local citizens~~ making the necessary contributions. Thus a dream became a reality.

PROPOSED NEGRO COMMUNITY CENTER



This architect's sketch presents a tentative conception of the proposed Negro community center which may be erected at the northwest corner of Sixth and Grove streets if the subscribers to the Home and War Chest approve the allocation of

part of the Chest surplus for such a project. The one-story building, construction of which might be possible in 1945, will contain a large meeting or social hall, kitchen, library, reading

room, showers, etc. The site, adjacent to Douglas park, has already been acquired by the Negro residents who have accumulated some funds for a center. An additional amount is promised through private subscription on the total of \$30,000

estimated to be required for its erection. Amount to be contributed by the Home and War Chest, if the subscribers approve, will be about \$15,000.

Thursday, November 30, 1944

# Chest May Make \$15,000 Gift to Colored Center

## Subscribers Asked to Approve Grant From Surplus Funds.

Allocation of \$15,000 or more in Home and War Chest funds to pay approximately half the cost of erecting a Negro community center in northeast Champaign will be undertaken if the proposal merits the approval of the subscribers to the Chest, Lyle H. Gallivan, executive secretary, announced today.

A petition requesting the allocation of a portion of the Chest's surplus for a Negro community center was presented Wednesday evening to the executive committee of the Home and War Chest. It bore the names of more than 300 subscribers.

The executive committee appointed J. G. Thomas and Prof. G. L. Jordan as members of a special committee to take the proposal presented in the petition to the Chest subscribers. More than 13,000 letters asking the subscribers' views on the request will be mailed out shortly.

### Cost May Be \$30,000

Cost of the Negro community center is estimated in the neighborhood of \$30,000. Several thousand dollars raised previously for such a project are available to be

added to the proposed Home and War Chest contribution, and the executive committee has been assured the remainder needed would probably be forthcoming locally.

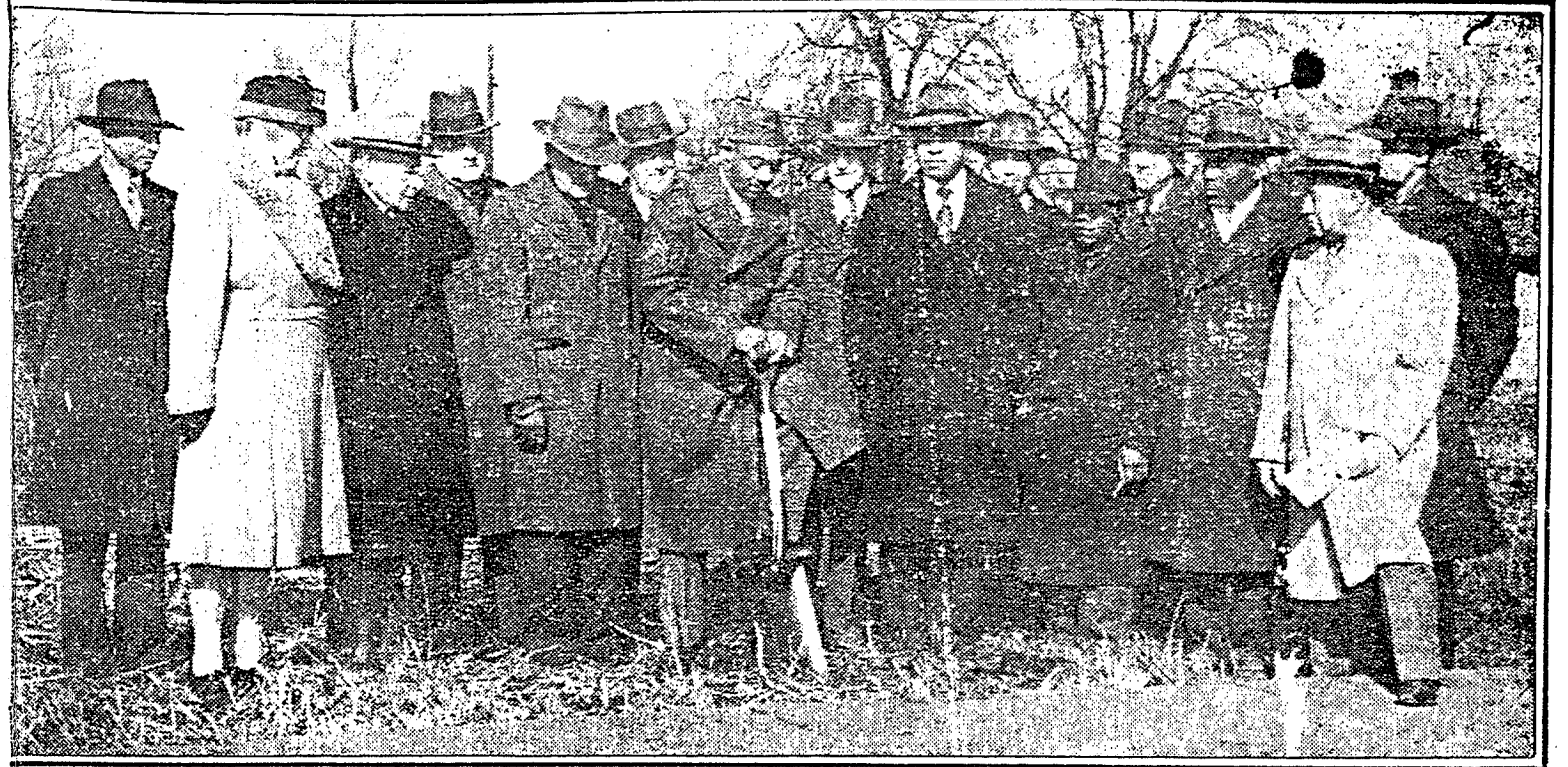
Of the funds collected earlier for the center project, part was raised by the colored residents under a committee headed by Ray Scott with Richard Edwards as chairman of the campaign.

The colored citizens also acquired at that time two lots at the northwest corner of Sixth and Grove streets, adjacent to Douglas park, as the site for such a center. These two lots give a total area of 132 feet by a 132 feet.

As a result of its 1944 campaign conducted in the fall of 1943, the Community Chest had set aside \$2,500 for a Negro community center, which is also available for the revived project.

Part of the additional funds which will be required above those obtainable from Chest sources or already on hand is proposed to be procured in a drive among the colored townspeople.

GROUND BROKEN FOR NEGRO COMMUNITY CENTER



## Battle Veteran Breaks Ground At New Center

Consummation of the community's long-cherished hope for a Negro community center was signalized Sunday afternoon as between 125 and 150 spectators gathered in the cold February sunshine to witness the breaking of ground for the building at 510-512 East Grove street.

Honor of turning the first bit of earth went to Sgt. George Evans, son of Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Evans, 504 East Tremont street. He is home from 28 months in the Mediterranean theater of operations wearing campaign ribbons with four battle stars.

Achievement of the plan for the center, together with the recreational possibilities its erection presages, was hailed in brief talks by Richard Edwards, chairman of the campaign for funds among the Negro residents, and R. A. Stipes, Jr., member of the Home and War Chest building committee.

Ray Scott, president of the Douglas Community Service organization, introduced Mayors George J. Babb and George F. Hurd, the members of the Home and War Chest building committee, members of the Champaign recreation and playground board, and others interested in the project.

Rev. M. A. Crowder, pastor of the C. M. E. church, gave the invocation, and Rev. B. J. Bayne of the Salem Baptist church, the benediction.

Dr. L. P. Diffay was the master of ceremonies. After Sergeant Evans had disposed of the initial clump of ground, members of the Home and War Chest building committee, led by Mrs. L. T. Gregory, took a turn at the task.

E. N. DeAtley, Champaign contractor, will begin work within the next two weeks if the weather permits. Last minute revisions in plans are still being carried through. The latest addition is an enlargement of shower facilities.

Dougllass Community Cent

"FOR THE SAKE"

## Order of Events

Welcome

Black National Anthem  
*Three Sounds of Soul*

Omnimov Dance Troupe

Special Presentations

Gospel Choir  
*Pilgrim Missionary  
Baptist Church*

Musical Selection  
*Three Sounds of Soul*  
*Stephen Humphrey*  
Community Address  
Cleveland Jefferson

Special Presentation  
*ale group (Africans)*  
*Allen Jackson, Chicago*  
Refreshments Served

*This program is in memory of Jettie Rhodes, Irma Bridgewater, Joyce Phillips, Nathaniel Banks Sr., Steven Blasingame and the countless others who have tirelessly served the Douglass Park Community*

## Who Said It?

**" I freed hundreds of slaves and could have freed hundreds more if they had known they were slaves."**

**"If there is no struggle, there is no progress."**

**" Up you mighty race, accomplish what you will"**

**" A sure way for one to lift himself up is by helping to lift someone else up."**

**" Learn to see...listen...and think for yourself."**

**" There is no future for a people who deny their past."**

**" don't pray when it rains if you don't pray when the sun shines."**

1. Harriet Tubman 2. Frederick Douglass  
3. Marcus Garvey 4. Booker T. Washington  
5. Malcolm X 6. Adam Clayton Powell 7.  
Satchel Paige



## *History of the Douglass Community Center*

Douglass Community Center was known as Neighborhood  
published in 1934, it was located at 503 East Washington

Douglass Community Center was moved to a house on the  
Douglass Park and Tremont Street. A new Douglass Commu-  
was built and dedicated in 1945. It was used as a USO  
black servicemen from Chanute. The cost of the building  
D.

Douglass Community Center was built in 1975-76 at a  
,705.

### *Leaders of Douglass Community Center*

water	Taylor Thomas
lson	James Jones
/	Paul Hursey
illiams	Booker T. Ford
ght	Percy Gordon
	Walter Smith
ti(current)	

### *Would like to extend our gratitude to....*

and Joe Deluce of the Champaign Park District for their  
with in our programs

is Annex Seniors for their support and guidance

Advisory Committee for your never-ending support

is Center Advisory Committee for your time and your guid-

League of Champaign County for your continued commit-  
ke changes in the Douglass Community

of Champaign County for its steady leadership

# Douglas Limited; Repairs Needed

7/10/57

By Dudley McAllister  
 Densely populated northeast Champaign, with many hundreds of children, depends for summer recreation on the two and a half acres of Douglass Park where even the modest existing facilities are in a crippling state of disrepair.  
 Between 200 and 300 youngsters crowd into this small plot, behind the Douglass Center and Washington School, on many

## First of Series

Editor's note — This is the first of a series of articles dealing with the Champaign Park system and the specific needs for improvements, largely as related by the people in the neighborhoods who use the parks. Other parks in the system will be dealt with in succeeding articles.

summer evenings, according to Paul Hursley, program director there for the City Recreation Department.

A quick look at the shuffleboard and tennis courts illustrates the problem of physical facilities at Douglass Park.

Cracks in the concrete render both of the shuffleboard courts unplayable. No puck, however accurately propelled, could surmount these fractures and come home true.

The single tennis court's backstops are gone and one of the anchor poles for the net is lacking.

There is little playground equipment. Only one outdoor oven, a makeshift affair built by a former summer program director, is available for picnickers. And more tables and benches are needed urgently.

## Athletic needs cited

Director Hursley sees other needs, such as a basketball stand, with backstop. The turf on the infield of the main baseball diamond, he says, needs to be skinned or taken up so that the balls will not bounce around unpredictably in the ruts.

Two weeks ago, at a public discussion of Champaign's park problem, Hursley said he would like to see high jump and broad jump pits so that maybe in a few years some of the boys will go on to line for Champaign High.

The Park Board has provided a load of sand and Hursley has since put in those facilities.

"These small things," Hursley noted, "make a difference in whether the kids will come to the park or somewhere they should."

Hursley has made some progress on the ball diamond and tennis courts. Wiring was provided by the Park Board and volunteers handled the installation. But two of the floodlights won't illuminate due to broken porcelain sockets.

Closing of an alley at the rear of Douglass Center so that autos will not jeopardize youngsters running back and forth between the park and the center also is recommended by Hursley and the Community Council.

## Relatively New Park

A part of the precious space of Douglass Park is taken up by a brick building in the southeast corner in which the Park board stores its vehicular equipment, power tools, etc., for all of the parks.

Douglass Park is a relatively new addition to Champaign's admittedly inadequate park system. It was acquired in the early 1930's from the Anton Roland estate through the efforts of the Frederick Douglass Civic League, of which Richard Edwards, now on



## CRACKED COURT

Chuckie Adams (left) and Larry Jackson can't do anything more than make playful passes at shuffleboard in Douglass Park on E. Grove St. Cracks in the concrete surface are enough to turn the courts unplayable.

the school board, was then president.

One of the leaders in this movement which brought northeast Champaign, its only park, was the late Rev. Dabney Jones, the pastor of Salem Baptist Church and valet for many years to United States Sen. William B. McKinley of Champaign.

Most of Champaign's parks are hemmed in by built-up areas and thwarted from future expansion.

There is a thread of hope, however small, for enlargement of Douglass Park, however.

Part of the adjacent ground to the east is still vacant and unused except for farming. The books show it belongs to the city of Champaign and U.S. 101.

Powers of park boards include the acquisition of land by negotiation or condemnation where the public interest is paramount and overriding.

MONDAY, OCTOBER 25, 1965.



**HONOR DOUGLASS FOUNDERS.**  
Several of the original committee and staff of Douglass Community Center were honored Sunday at a celebration of the 20th anniversary of the founding of the center. Pictured at the celebra-

tion, left to right, are Mrs. Raymond Scott, wife of one of the founders; Mrs. Edna Diffay, past secretary; Richard R. Edwards, past board chairman; Taylor Thomas, first director; and Odelia Wesley, past secretary.

News-Gazette Photo by Ron Beckley



**GROUND BROKEN FOR  
NEGRO COMMUNITY CENTER**

Between 125 and 150 persons, congregating at the corner of Sixth and Grove streets Sunday afternoon witnessed the ceremony as Sgt. George Evans, flanked by civic leaders and city officials, broke ground for the \$35,000 Negro community center for Champaign Urbana. Sergeant Evans recently finished 28 months of overseas service. Reading from the left are Alvir Foxwell Mrs. L. T. Gregory, Isaac Kuhn, A. H. T. Lybber, Mayor George F. Hurd, Lyle H. Gallivan, Sergeant Evans, Mayor George J. Babb, Richard Edwards, Cecil Nelson, Ray Scott, Royal A. Stipes, Jr., Dr. H. D. Ellis, Dr. L. D. Diffay and Delos L. Huxtable. Construction of the one-story concrete block building will be

started within the next two weeks by E. N. DeAtley, Champaign contractor if the weather is favorable.

In the short ceremony that preceded the digging, Richard Edwards, chairman of the Douglas Community Service organization's campaign committee, stated that it is to provide the building site more than 18 months ago and were continued despite many difficulties.

**Thanks People**

The \$35,000 building became possible, Edwards pointed out, when the Champaign County Home and War Chest added \$17,000 to the fund that was contributed by citizens of both races.

Edwards thanked "people of both races" and dedicated the building to "the youth of today—our hope of tomorrow."

Speaking from the Home and War Chest R. A. Stipes, jr., said the Chest contribution was "small" compared to the effort made by the colored citizens. He expressed hope that the building will be used "for all purposes."

Title to the building will be held by the Champaign Civic foundation. The center will be operated under the supervision of the Campaign recreation commission, but a committee of colored citizens will take an active part.

**Priorities Granted**

E. N. DeAtley, general contractor for the project, said Monday that about 90 days will be required to complete the job. Work will be slow, he pointed out, until materials are received, but all necessary priorities have been granted.

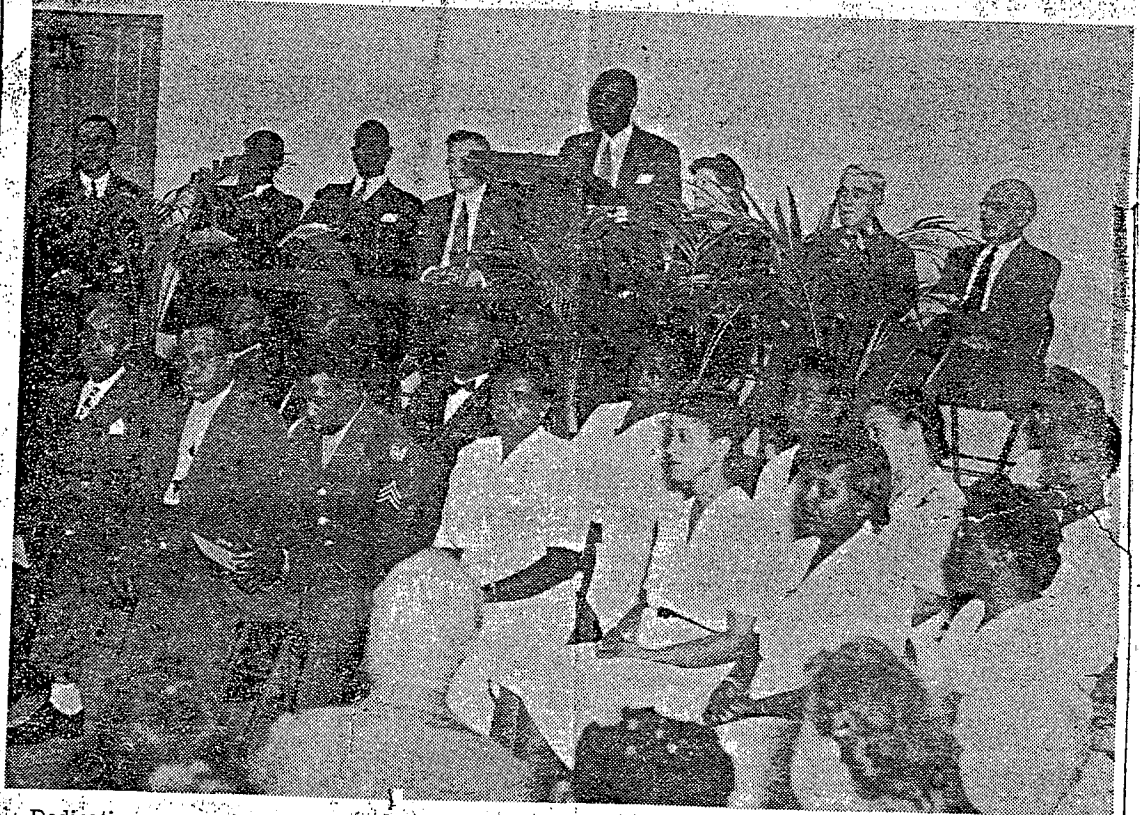
Introduced during the groundbreaking ceremony were Lyle H. Gallivan, Professor A. H. Lybber, Mrs. L. T. Gregory, Doctor H. D. Ellis, and Isaac Kuhn, members of the building committee; D. L. Huxtable, Seely Johnston and Cecil Nelson, members of the reaction commission; Mayors George J. Lubb and George F. Hurd; Architect Ralph Kelley; and DeAtley. Ray Scott, president of the Douglas organization, presented Sergeant Evans with the spade, and Doctor L. P. Diffay served as master of ceremonies.

Sergeant Evans, son of Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Evans, 504 East Tremont street wears four battle stars for major engagements in North Africa and Sicily.



THE EVENING COURIER

DOUGLAS CENTER DEDICATED SUNDAY



Dedication ceremonies for the \$35,000 Douglas community center, 510-12 East Grove street, drew a capacity crowd to the building's auditorium Sunday afternoon. Speaking is Raymond M. Scott, who recounted the four-year struggle for realization of the center idea.

Seated in the background on the speaker's platform, reading from the left, are Richard R. Edwards, chairman of the advisory committee and master of ceremonies for Sunday's program; Rev. A. S. Webb, Rev. M. A. Crowder, Lyle H. Gallivan, executive secretary of the

Home and War Chest; Miss Hazel Iungerich, director of the recreation department; Mayor George J. Babb of Champaign, and Mayor George F. Hurd of Urbana. In the foreground are members of the Community chorus who were heard in five numbers.

## THE SUNDAY COURIER

### QUARTET HERE OCT. 14



The Southernaires, radio and concert quartet, will appear in a concert to be given, at 8:15 p. m., Oct. 14, in Champaign senior high school auditorium, under the auspices of the Twin

City Douglas Civilian and Service Men's organization. Members of the quartet are Ray Yeates, Lowell Peters, Jay Stone, Toney and William Edmonson.

## Quartet Gives Concert Oct. 14

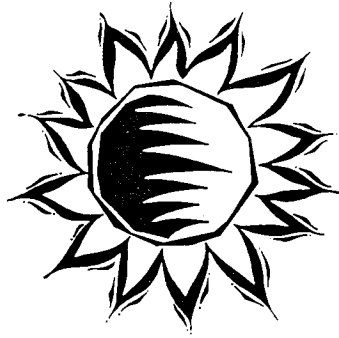
A concert by The Southernaires, radio and concert quartet, will be given at 8:15 p. m. Oct. 14, in Champaign senior high school auditorium. The program is under the auspices of the Twin City Douglas Civilian and Service Men's organization, and proceeds will be contributed to the fund now being raised to provide a colored service men's center. The local colored community is raising \$3,000 as its quota of this fund.

The Southernaires are well known in musical circles, winning wide popularity in their programs over the National Broadcasting Co. Members of the quartet are Ray Yeates, lyric tenor; Lowell Peters, second tenor; Jay Stone Toney, baritone and William Edmonson, bass.

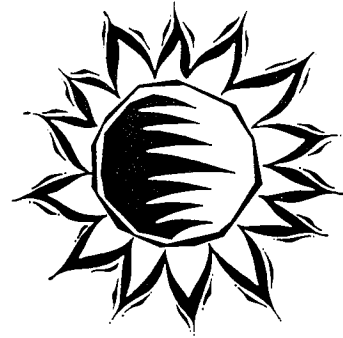
Yeates has appeared in "Porgy and Bess," and with Paul Robeson in "John Henry." Peters is a former member of the Hall Johnson choir. Spencer Odom is accompanist and arranger for the quartet, which has a repertoire of some 2,000 Southern and Negro melodies.

Edgar G. Harris, publisher of the Illinois Times, is in charge of local arrangements.

Tickets will be 83 cents and \$1 when they go on sale Friday in the Illini union, Knowlton-Bennett, Swannell, Faulkner and Lierman stores.



# CPD BRIEFS



May 1998

## Community Clean Up Day A Success

In an effort to make Champaign county Litter Free by 2003, over 400 volunteers converged on Champaign-Urbana for two hours on Saturday, April 18 for a clean up day.

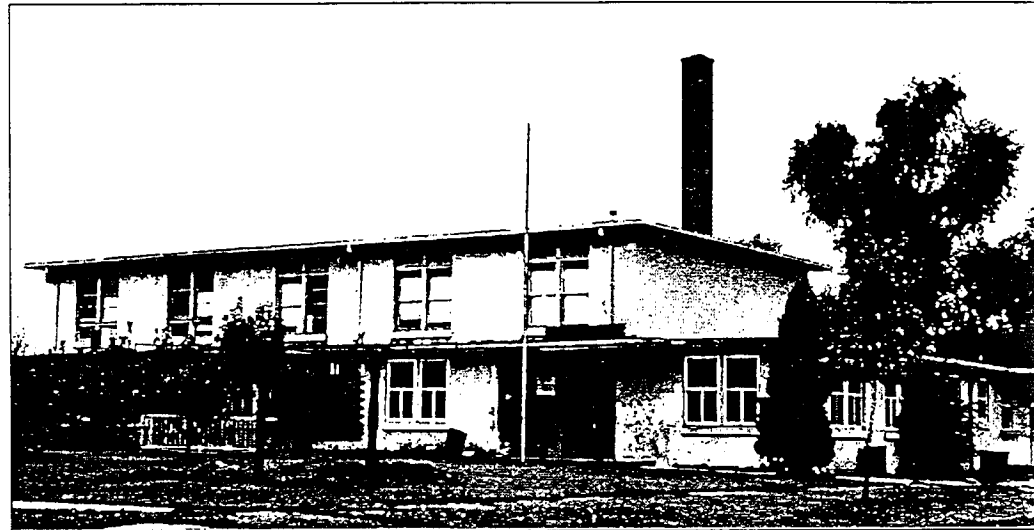
Volunteers collected over 10,000 pounds of litter in that short period of time. The volunteers consumed 125 pizzas from Papa John's and enjoyed donated Pepsi after all of their hard work.



Thanks to Nick, Rebecca, Joe, Sue, Mandy, Stacy, Brenda, and Mr. Toalson for a job well done.

The next Community Clean Up Day will be in conjunction with Make a Difference Day, on Saturday, October 24.

To continue to do our part in the Litter Free by 2003 program, the first Friday of each month will be designated as Litter Free pick up day. Each facility should arrange a time to spend approximately 30 minutes picking up litter.



## Douglass Community Center History

The first Douglass Community Center was known as Neighborhood House. Established in 1934, it was located at 503 East Washington Street.

In 1939 the Douglass Community Center was moved to a house on the corner of Douglass Park on Tremont Street.

A new Douglass Community Center was built and dedicated in 1945. It was used as a USO center for black servicemen from Chanute. The cost of the building was \$35,000.

The present Douglass Community Center was built in 1975-76 at a cost of

\$817,705.

Directors of the Douglass Community Center have been:

- Irma Bridgewater
- Taylor Thomas
- Ernest F. Nelson
- James Jones
- C. Lee Carey
- Paul Hursey
- Augustus Williams
- Booker T. Ford
- Edgar McNight
- Percy Gordon
- Nate Dixon
- Walter Smith
- Rasul Mowatt

### Inside...

Community Clean Up Day	1	Employee of the Month	3	Tips To Consider	3
Committee Updates	2	In All My Years	4	Welcome	4
Day In The Park	3	Milestones	4		
Douglass History	1	Please Take Note	4		

## A Day In The Park

A great kick off to get this summer rolling would be your participation in the 14th Annual Day in the Park, on Saturday, June 6, at Hessel Park.

This year's event will be spectacular! New participants and attractions include:

- Mental Health Center's "Centeriffic" Tent
- Volleyball and Tennis Tournaments
- Bicycle Demos from Prairie Cycle
- Dunk tank and fundraising efforts from the Aquachiefs
- Fundraising efforts by C-U Special Recreation
- Prairie A's Model A Club 10-Car Demo
- A fun obstacle course, giant slide, and bounce house for the kids
- Strolling magician, jugglers, and balloon entertainers
- National Hot Air Ballooning Championships display
- Talent showcase by local area teens
- Pepsi Hot Shot contest and local sporting celebrities

Come out and join in on the fun. Plenty of food will be on hand, along with live entertainment and much, much more.



## Tips To Consider

Be a trouble-shooter. When you run into a problem, try to think of at least two solutions before you take that problem to your boss. It shows that you're a thinker and a problem-solver, as well as a doer.

Source: *You Can Find More Time For Yourself Every Day*, by Stephanie Culp, Betterway Books, 1507 Dana Ave., Cincinnati, OH 45207

Try this simple tip to help you project a good first impression: Notice the color of a person's eyes as you shake hands. *Why it works:* You'll gain strong eye contact in a way that shows you're interested in what the person has to say.

Source: *Secrets of Power Persuasion*, by Roger Dawson, Prentice Hall, Englewood Cliffs, NJ 07632

When correcting an employee, don't use the following words: "always," "never," "ever," and "perpetually."

Source: Dr. Feme Cheme, P.O. Box 2406, Portola, CA 96122

## Employee of the Month

Each month we will highlight the life of the employee who has been named Employee of the Month. This month we are taking a close look at the life of **Brenda James**.

### 1. What is your job at the Champaign Park District and how long have you worked here?

"I am the program Supervisor of the Douglass Community Center. I have worked full time at Douglass since May 1, 1996. As a part time worker, I was day camp leader in 1993 and 1994, and day camp director in 1995."

### 2. What kinds of things do you do in your position?

"I supervise the day-to-day and seasonal programming at the Center, such as Eager Beaver Preschool, A.C.E. Mentorship Program, and Cheer Pom Clinic. I also manage the staff and coordinate special events such as the Holiday and Halloween Parties, In Search of an Egg, and Saturday Night Live Teen Parties."

### 3. What do you like to do in your free time?

"During my free time, I enjoy going to the movies, going out to eat and spending time with youth whom I mentor."

### 4. Tell us about your family or background.

"I was born and raised in Chicago. I am the youngest of two children and I have an older brother. In high school, I ran track and was an excellent sprinter. I also played the clarinet in the band. I came to Champaign as a student at the University of Illinois in 1990. I graduated in 1994 and decided to stay in Champaign because I enjoyed the ties I had made here and the work that I could do here."

### 5. Are there any outside organiza-

### Sunlight Can Be Hazardous To Your Job

Sixty dancers cast in "Swan Lake" were banned by the English National Ballet from sunbathing for six weeks, reports *Self* magazine, to make their skin suitable for playing swans.

### True To Blue Bags

A recent proposal to package Rold Gold pretzels in green bags was rejected, reports *The New York Times*, when experts deemed that "guys in bars who eat pretzels w beer" wouldn't like them in a "foofy green package."

tions with which you are involve. In what capacity?

"I am involved in Community Response to Kids a Committee of the Champaign-Urbana Area Project. I help coordinate youth programs. A pancake breakfast and a Mother's Day program are our two major programs."

### 6. What is your favorite holiday and why?

"My favorite holiday is Kwanzaa. Kwanzaa is more than one day. It is seven days long and it gives an opportunity for families to come together and reflect and celebrate their history."

### 7. If you could be anyone for a day who would that be and why?

"If I could be anyone for a day, I would remain myself because I am at point in my life that instead of wishing were someone else, I study the quality I admire in others and strive to enhance those characteristics within myself."

### 8. Tell us your favorite joke.

"I don't know any clean jokes."

### 9. Do you have any nicknames? What calls you that and why?

"My nickname is Queen Brenda and all my subjects call me that. Otherwise they will be banished from my Queendom."

### 10. What is your favorite part about working for the Champaign Park District?

"My favorite part about working for the Champaign Park District is my interaction with the community. On a daily basis I come into contact with people of all ages, from toddlers to seniors. I appreciate having the ability to interact with people and to work in a place that is a resource for the community. Another favorite part of working here is the flexibility in the types of programming that can be done."

## Monthly Committee Updates

### Safety Committee

Kevin, Lori, Nate, and Dave Schneider attended the semi-annual PDRMA Risk Management Institute on Friday, March 27. Congratulations to Rich Bosch, Jim Gordon, Eddie Fay, and John Smith for their winning safety suggestion submissions for the month of March. Please see Karla for your prize package. Congratulations to John Smith for winning the quarterly safety suggestion award of \$25; and Dave Schneider for the winning monthly submission. The Safety Committee will be over-seeing the CPR/Standard First Aid certification program for CPD staff. To this end, we are looking for instructors of these classes. If you are interested in becoming an instructor, please contact Kim Hunsley at 398-2374. All staff who are in need of either or both certifications will need to register through the front desk at Bresnan. Call Kevin or Kim for more information.

**NOTE TO STAFF:** The Safety Committee reminds all staff that bloodborne pathogen training is a requirement of each position within the District. This is a yearly certification and must be renewed annually. If you or your staff need renewal or first-time training, contact Nate Dixon immediately to reserve your training time. Also, supervisors of afterschool programs need to stress to their on-site staff that as the weather gets warmer and the groups move to outdoor activities, they need to be very cognizant of what activities they are running. Blacktop and "red rover" don't mix, so be aware of the kids' activities. BE SAFE.

### Technology Committee

The Technology Committee members are John Olden, Kim Kennedy, Rebecca Childress, Sean Hurst, Sandy Klitzing, Mike Seibold, and anyone else who would like to be. The committee was formed to review the District's current computer equipment needs and to review the possible problems the District could have with the year 2000. The committee is finalizing the computer equipment budget for 1998-99, so if you have any computer needs please contact any of the members.

### Personnel Committee

Revisions have been made to the personnel handbook for regular full-time employees and approved by the board at the March 11 board meeting. Mr. Toalson will be asking the board to amend the section on evaluation. The amendment will state "only one evaluation per year," as opposed to two at present.

The committee is now in the process of reviewing the part-time/seasonal personnel handbook. The handbook probably won't be ready for summer staff training. We would like to have it finished sometime in June.

Staff should be aware of the following:

- Professional appearance. The committee reviewed Mr. Toalson's memo and recommended that all supervisors review the current dress code as written and enforce accordingly.
- Tom Gilbert will be putting together a survey on dependent dental insurance. It is pretty expensive and we will need approximately 80% participation in order for this to become a reality.
- The sick leave pool is now in place. The Park District has put in 80 hours to get things started. We need everyone's participation for this to work as planned. Please see Tom on details for enrollment.

The Personnel Committee meetings are open to all employees. We usually meet on the first Monday of the month at 8:00 a.m. at the Bresnan Meeting Center.

### Fitness Kickoff

Come join your fellow co-workers as the Wellness Committee presents a Fitness Kickoff on Tuesday, May 19, in the board rooms at Bresnan. Activities will include:

- Noon - 1:00 p.m. Salad Potluck
- 1:00 - 1:30 p.m. Guest Speaker on Nutrition and Back Care/Treatment
- 1:45 - 3:00 p.m. Staff Kickball Game or Walking in Park

Keep your eyes open for sign up sheets. Also look out for future events including a lunchtime walking club starting in June.

### Wellness Committee

Spring fever is here, and we're all getting a little stir-crazy! The Wellness Committee is creating opportunities for you to get active. You can work off excess energy while enjoying the company of your co-workers. We hope you're up for a "Fitness Kick-off," as well as the debut of a staff walking club.

A calendar of activities we are planning for staff will be distributed this month. If you'd like to assist with any of the events, have suggestions for future events/programs, or want to find out more about the committee, feel free to come to our next meeting on Tuesday, May 12 at 2:00 p.m. in Operations' planning room.

In the meantime, get outside and enjoy the sunshine! Ride your bike work. Take a brisk walk during a morning or afternoon break. Take your kids (or a neighbor's) fishing. Enjoy your lunch in a park. Be happy, and be well!

Here's a twist on a familiar light dessert you might like to sample after some exercise:

### Fruit-Nut Treats

- Vegetable cooking spray
- 1 TBSP butter
- 2 TBSP peanut butter (reduced-fat version would be best!)
- 1 bag (10 oz.) marshmallows
- 1/2 C. wheat germ, toasted
- 1/2 C. dried fruit, chopped (strawberries, blueberries, cherries, or cranberries)
- 4 C. Rice Krispies cereal

Coat a 13" x 9" pan with cooking spray. Melt butter and peanut butter in a large, deep pot over low heat, swirling occasionally. Add marshmallows, and stir until completely melted. Remove from heat.

Stir in wheat germ and fruit, then add cereal. Stir well to coat. Using waxed paper or your hands, spread into prepared pan.

## Milestones

### Birthdays

<b>April</b>	
George Dorris	4/1
Dave Price	4/2
Pam Virgilio	4/5
Lillie Adams	4/8
Mike Seibold	4/8
John Smith	4/18

### May

Marcia Sage	5/2
Brenda James	5/12
Kevin Maynard	5/14
Marc Mitchell	5/27

### Anniversaries

#### May

Joe DeLuce	1 year
Karri Thomas	1 year
Sheila Wenger	1 year
Randy Hodges	2 years
Brenda James	2 years
Kenny Rosenberger	5 years
Jim Gordon	5 years
Rich Bosch	12 years
Johnnie Tillman	27 years

## Welcome A New Employee

Yvette Anderson has joined the Champaign Park District as the director of the Eager Beaver Preschool program. She began on April 1 and is responsible for planning curriculum, obtaining a program license through DCFS/Headstart, lesson planning, and increased parental involvement.

Yvette has a degree in human development and family studies from the University of Illinois. Prior to joining the Park District, she was employed for nearly four years by Cunningham Children's Home as a Shift Leader/Child Care Worker.

Originally from Chicago, Yvette enjoys working with children, reading, and writing short stories.

Please drop by the Douglass Community Center to introduce yourself to Yvette and make her feel welcome.

## In All My Years, I've Learned...

...that if someone says something unkind about me, I must live so that no one will believe it. —Age 39

...that just when I get my room the way I like it, mom makes me clean it up. —Age 13

...that children and grandparents are natural allies. —Age 46

...that even when I have pains, I don't have to be one. —Age 82

...that silent company is often more healing than words of advice. —Age 24

...that if you pursue happiness, it will elude you. But if you focus on your family, the needs of others, your work, meeting new people, and doing the very best you can, happiness will find you. —Age 65

...that hotel mattresses are better on the side away from the phone. —Age 50

...that regardless of your relationship with your parents, you miss them terribly after they die. —Age 53

...that you can't hide a piece of broccoli in a glass of milk. —Age 7

...that the greater a person's sense of guilt, the greater his need to case blame on others. —Age 46

### Did You Know?

The mind is most active 5 minute before sleep and 15 minutes after waking up.

### Please Take Note!

A great big thank you to all those who contributed to this issue of CPD Briefs. This newsletter is a light-hearted publication which is published monthly for the employees of the Champaign Park District and is distributed with checks on the first pay period of each month.

With the summer months and events quickly approaching, CPD Briefs will take vacation. The next issue of this publication will be distributed with pay checks Thursday, September 10. If you have any information you would like to see in the next issue of CPD Briefs, please submit it to Mandy Roesch no later than Monday September 7. All staff committees should still keep notes on what progresses over the summer months. If so desired, committee reports can still be submitted on monthly basis and will be kept until September.

...that life sometimes gives you a second chance. —Age 62

...that it pays to believe in miracles. To tell the truth, I've seen several. —Age 73

...that you shouldn't go through life with a catchers mitt on both hands. You need to be able to throw something back. —Age 64

...that brushing my child's hair is one of life's great pleasures. —Age 29

...that wherever I go, the world's worst drivers have followed me there. —Age 44

...that you can make someone's day just simply sending them a little card. —Age 44

...that if you want to cheer yourself up you should try cheering someone else. —Age 13

...that although it's hard to admit it, I'm secretly glad my parents are strict with me. —Age 15

...that you can tell a lot about a man the way he handles these three things: a rainy day, lost luggage, and tangled Christmas tree lights. —Age 52

...that if you want to do something positive for your children, try to improve your marriage. —Age 61



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Taylor Thomas - First Director.

THE HISTORY OF DOUGLASS CENTER  
AND DOUGLASS PARK

## DOUGLASS PARK

The original plot of land that is now Douglass Park was purchased by the Township Park District on April 30, 1931, from Vern A. Roland, his wife Anna K. Roland, Lela Collins and her husband Lloyd S. Collins. There are 2 deeds to the park, the main one being for an area of 3 ½ acres while the other one is only for a ten foot wide, 162 foot long strip of land which was bought on April 29, 1931 for \$1.00. The main deed was written up so that \$2,000 in cash was paid at the time of sale with two more payments of \$7,500 each, the first one to be paid June 1, 1932 and the second one June 1, 1933. (Records Office, Deeds Department, County Clerk)

The decision to name the new park in 1933, was made by the Park Board which included J.W. Stipes, D.C. "Pick" Dodds, and Lee Greenman. According to Mr. Dodds and Mr. Greenman, the decision was left up to the people of the community. They made a survey of the residents of the area, which were predominately black, and the general consensus was in favor of naming the Park after Mr. Frederick Douglass. The Park Board accepted this choice and officially named the Park.

In 1935 Mr. King J. McCristol, now head of the Physical Education Department at the U of I, organized and directed the first five playgrounds, including Douglass Park. The park has always had organized activity since then.

In 1936 a planning committee was organized for recreation, composed of Seely Johnston, W. Swearingen, K. McCristol, H.E. Konney and H. Ammerman. In 1938 the people of Champaign voted for tax supported recreation and the first tax money

## THE HISTORY OF DOUGLASS CENTER AND DOUGLASS PARK

Part One	Douglass Park
Part Two	Douglass Center
Part Three	Frederick Douglass

Prepared by: Melinda Nichols  
Field Student  
Southern Illinois University

## HISTORY OF DOUGLASS CENTER: PRELIMINARY OUTLINE

3/16/'71

ATTENTION READER: This is a rough outline of the history of Douglass Center compiled after limited research and interviewing. The purpose of such a history may be many-fold, but its immediate purpose is to be used in the text of the Champaign Park District's response to the proposal for a multi-purpose center to be located adjacent to the Douglass Center site, submitted by the Community Advocacy Depot. There may be factual errors in this outline, and there undoubtedly are significant omissions. I would very much appreciate your review of this rough outline, and any additions which you feel are significant. In addition to factual, descriptive information about the history of Douglass Center, I would be most interested in analytical and evaluative comments. Suggestions as to the content and purpose of such a history would also be of special interest.

Residential and social segregation, inadequacy of recreational facilities in the Black community, feelings of alienation on the part of Black servicemen with regards to regular USO centers, and more than four years of effort by people like Raymond W. Scott and Richard Edwards led to the submission of a \$32,600 grant proposal to the federal government for the construction of a recreation center for Black servicemen in September of 1943.

The application requested \$18,500 from the federal government, the remaining \$14,100 to be raised by a cooperative effort of the local citizenry. Local support included a \$3,000 contribution from the Black community of Champaign and Urbana, \$2,500 from the ~~Home~~ Community and War Chest Organization in lieu of a donation to the Washington St. colored nursery, \$3,500 from the City of Champaign Recreation Department, and \$2,000 from the Urbana Community.<sup>1</sup>

The proposal was a revival of a similar one made two years previously but denied by the federal government. However, during the two years which elapsed,

<sup>1</sup> Champaign-Urbana News Gazette. Sept. 17, 1943.

received for this was in 1939. At that time, the city took over all recreation. The Community Chest had funded all previous programs.

The first Superintendent of Recreation under the tax supported recreation programs before Recreation became a separate Department was Fred Major. He was followed by Hugh Enocht and Hazel Jungerich. In 1967 the merger of Parks and Recreation occurred.



Although the programming and operation of Douglass Center has never been completely in the hands of the Black community, these functions have always been the responsibility of the director and staff. A chronological list of directors follows; please make any additions necessary.

Mrs. Erma Scott Bridgewater

Mrs. Odelia Wesley

Mr. Taylor Thomas

Mr. Lee Carey

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Mr. Paul Hursey

Mr. Williams

Mr. Edgar Mc Night

In 1956 an addition to the building was constructed with a donation from Mr. Hartwell Howard.

Although the original plans called for a wide diversity of programs and opportunities, the actual use of the facility has been skewed toward young males with interests in basketball. The facility is inadequate as a gymnasium, and the use as such limits its ability to serve the recreational needs of girls and younger children.

Youth gang rivalries which were associated to Douglass Center by the press in 1967-68 created another kind of problem; parents in the area were somewhat reluctant to send their young children to the center for fear of gang influence.

citizens in the Black community were able to raise sufficient funds to obtain two lots just adjacent to Douglass Park, the present site of Douglass Center, which were donated to the effort.

Lyle Gallivan, executive secretary of the Champaign-Urbana Home and War Chest was credited by the press for formulating the cooperative plan for sponsoring the center. The actual application was submitted to the Federal Works Agency and the War Production Board by the City of Champaign and signed by city commissioner Roger E. Zomro, mayor pro tem, with full approval from the Champaign and Urbana Councils.

Although Major E.F. Resek, in charge of all recreational facilities at Chanute Field, stated that adequate facilities had been provided for colored servicemen there, the application stated the intention of the facility was to fill the war time recreation needs of colored servicemen, and the needs of the surrounding community after the war.

Serving this function, the new building was to replace the Lawhead Servicemen's Center in Lawhead School, an inadequate facility consisting of only two small rooms. Black community centers had existed previously, the first at 503 E. Washington in 1934. Rent for this house was paid by the Community Chest, utilities paid by the Township Supervisor. In 1936 a recreation committee was formed by the City of Champaign, and 1939 saw the first tax supported Black community center in a new location in a house on a corner of Douglass Park. The center was moved three more times, to St. Luke's C.M.E. Church basement, the American Legion Post, and finally to the present site adjacent to Douglass Park as a result of the effort made in 1943.

The Department of Recreation under the directorship of Miss Hazel Iungerich controlled programming and operation of the center until 1967 when the function of recreation became the jurisdiction of the Champaign Park District.

soldiers' recreation during the war. No federal grants were forthcoming, however, and in July 1943, the Community Chest offered its assistance, contributing first \$2,500 then and in 1944, \$17,000. The building was made possible from private donations and from a generous over-subscription of Community Chest funds. Some furnishings were the gift of Mr. Issac Kuhn estate. (Gazette 9/22/45)

\* In 1943 a group of citizens secured the space adjacent to the Park for the building of Douglass Center. The federal government offered \$18,500 if the community could furnish \$14,500.

The community received \$2,500 from the Home and War Chest, \$3,500 from the Recreation Department, and \$2,000 from the City of Urbana. The balance came from individual and group donations. Assurance of donations was certain by September 1943 and land was cleared and construction was begun. The contract was let for Douglass Center on February 12, 1944, and the ground was broken on February 18, 1944 to begin construction. The total costs of the building was \$35,000. (Courier 9/24/45)

The building is of haydite block painted white on the outside and finished in light green on the inside. The general assembly, a two story high section of the building, is used for dances, meetings, and basketball and is partially surrounded by the rest of the building which consists of a lounge, snack bar, kitchen, office, and two large rooms which may be used for meetings, and small groups. Furniture for the lounge came from closed USO buildings and the Lawhead Service Center Fifth and Grove Streets. (Gazette 9/22/45)

#### HOW DID WE GET DOUGLASS CENTER?

The first Community Center in Champaign was known as the Neighborhood House and it was located at 503 East Washington. This center was established in 1934 and the Community Chest Funds paid the money for the rent. The heat, light, gas, water and telephone were provided by the Township Supervisor. The first programs at this center included sewing, cooking, courses in nutrition, first aid, and various things. The funds were received from the Community Chest to cover the cost of the program. (Nelle Hayes)

In 1939 the Community Center was then moved to a house in the corner of Douglass Park on Tremont Street. From this time until 1967 when the merger of Parks and Recreation occurred, rent and all operational expenses were paid by the Champaign Recreation Department. The Center was then moved from the house in the Park to St. Luke's Methodist Church basement, then to the American Legion Post and from there to the present site in September 1945. (Gazette 9/22/45)

Plans for the Douglass Community Center were begun in 1940 when a house adjacent to Douglass Park in which the community had carried on its recreational program was turned over as a residence. The Douglass Community Service Committee was organized at that time to raise funds for a new recreational building. The first two drives were conducted in 1940 and 1941 and enough money was raised through contributions and entertainment to buy the ground adjacent to Douglass Park. In 1941, also, an appeal was made to the government for federal aid to build the center which would be used for

they were completely cut off in July 1947. They were used to provide recreation programs for black servicemen. At this time, changes began to take place at Douglass Center. In 1946, the Board of Directors at Douglass Center voted for \$300. to be used for landscaping the Center. From this time on, a great amount of funds were put into Douglass Center for improvements and additions. In July 1951 Douglass Center was redecorated.

In April of 1950, Douglass Center applied to the Community Chest to enter the fund and was accepted. They were granted \$1,210 for the six month period of May 1, 1950 - November 1, 1950. A study was to be made after the allotted period of time to study the effectiveness of the program, and to decide whether another six month period of funding was justified. (Gazette April 23, 1950)

According to the Gazette in December, 1950, the Recreation and Playground Board attained full charge of Douglass Center in December, 1950. Title was transferred from the Civic Foundation, which was dissolved because of tax problems, to the City of Champaign. The Civic Foundation, a non-profit organization, had held the title since 1945 when the Center opened. It was a surprise move to the City of Champaign, and they reluctantly accepted the title without formal ceremony. They had tried to get someone else to take it because of the burden of the cost of maintaining and managing it. When the civic foundation had transferred the deed, they divided up the cities \$11,200 assets among four agencies. At this time, the funds received from the Community Chest were no longer continued.

In October, 1961, 2.2 acres @ \$3,000/acre were added to the park for a ball diamond. (Gazette October 1961)

The Building was dedicated on September 22, 1945. The Park Board Commissioners at the time Douglass Center was dedicated were Lee Greenman, Hardin Boulware and D.C. "Pick" Dodds, Sr. Mrs. Cecil (Irma) Bridgewater assumed the position of Director of the Center at that time. She was replaced by Taylor Thomas on November 1, 1945, because a male director was preferred. (Taylor Thomas, Gazette 10/11/45)

\* Mr. Thomas resigned to assume a teaching position in September, 1948 and the directors of the center following him to the present are as follows:

September 1948 - July 1951 - Ernest F. Nelson - resigned (Gazette 9/45)  
 July 1951 - November 1952 - James Jones - resigned - (Gazette 11/52)  
 November 1952 - January 1955 - C. Lee Carey - (Gazette 1/55)  
 January 1955 - April 1960 - Paul Hursey - (Gazette 4/60)  
 April 1960 - March 1, 1964 - Irma Bridgewater - (Gazette 4/60  
 Irma Bridgewater)  
 March 1964 - October 1967 - Augustus Williams - (Gazette 10/67)  
 October 22, 1967 - August 1, 1969 - Booker T. Ford - (Gazette 8/69)  
 October 1969 - Present - Edgar McNight

Edgar McNight took over originally as temporary replacement after Mr. Ford left then he was assigned as permanent Director. (Edgar McNight)

According to the Gazette in July 1947, during World War II, Douglass Center was also used as a U.S.O. Center for Servicemen. In August 1946 the USO - Champaign/Rantoul - offered to donate \$200 a month to Douglass Center to offset the loss of federal aid. In March 1947 the funds were cut to \$100 a month and then

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In June and July of 1963, the Twin City Boosters Club sponsored a six week Day Camp program in the park. In October 1968, one more acre was added to the park and was purchased by Mrs. Catherine Alagna.

In July 1970, approximately 6.7 acres of land were added to the Park for a multi-purpose game area for \$42,000. Labor and material were \$7,400 at maximum. Only 2 men were hired to do the labor so the majority of the labor was done by 4 neighborhood youth groups that volunteered. This multi-purpose area was designed for play, picnics and an area for outdoor performing arts.

The library project for Douglass was initiated in November, 1970 and was funded through a \$60,000 federal grant. The remodeling of the room for the library was begun in November 1970 and was completed on March 18, 1971. The library opened as a branch of the Champaign Public Library on January 1, 1972 and received a federal grant of \$18,500 for a one year period. From March, 1971 until that time, the library was operated under a joint effort of the Urbana Public Library, The Champaign Public Library and The Lincoln Trails Library.

The years of continued interest making the present facility possible were the efforts of many. To name a few - Mr. Seely Johnston, Mr. Seward Staley, Mr. James Hefferman, Mr. John Mitter, Mr. Cecil Nelson, Mr. Julius X. Davis, Mr. Vern Scott, Mr. W.H. Thompson, Mr. M.G. Snyder, Mr. James O'Neil, Mr. Don Bresnan, Mr. E.H. Mellon, Mr. D.L. Huxtable, Mr. A.V. Sapora, Mr. Richard Edwards, Mr. Ray Scott, Mr. Lee Greenman, Mayors Flynn, Babb, Lafferty and Dexter.

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ARMED Forces - Military + NAVY

MAY 14, 1942

Mayors George F. Hurd, Urbana, and James J. Flynn, will speak and Dean Albert J. Harno, University provost, will extend wishes from the University.

Complete program is as follows: Mayor Hurd; Mrs. Ollie MacLin, "Deep River;" Dean Harno; Nathaniel Green, Chicago, tenor, "Dunna;" Mayor Flynn; Bruce Hayden, clarinet solo, "Grand Fantasy;" Mrs. Rosella Smith, soprano, "Homing;" Julia Walden Valentine, instrumental solo, "May Night;" Hattie May Winfield, mezzo soprano, "Brown Bird Singing;" Dorothy Jones, reading, "Plantation Melodies;" and spirituals by the Bethel A.M.E. choir including: "I Couldn't Hear Nobody Pray," "Swing Low Sweet Chariot," "Sometimes I Feel Like a Motherless Child," and "I'll Be a Servant."

NEWS-GAZETTE

JUNE 29, 1942

Bethel AME Choir Surprises A. R. Lee

The choir of Bethel A. M. E. church called on its president, A. R. Lee, chief clerk, office of President A. C. Willard, Friday evening and surprised him. The occasion was his birthday. Lee has been with Bethel choir almost continuously since 1894, and has been president since 1912. The choir will sing at the Union services at Rantoul July 12.

MAY 13, 1942

Bits about 'em . . . We had a navy lieutenant in our apartment last week-end. Much to our surprise while we were at work Sunday morning, he cleaned up the house, sweeping the rugs, dusting and making the beds. That navy training must be very thorough . . . The Beta Theta Pi's have turned over their house Sunday afternoon so their cook of 17 years, Mrs. Ollie MacLin, may give a benefit tea for the anticipated community and recreation center for the colored boys in service. A musical program has been arranged and the town folks are invited . . . The grill work on many of the homes in New Orleans, particularly in the French quarter, is very beautiful, but Uncle Sam could pick up several carloads of iron there . . . The most unpopular ferry tale in Germany is the story of thousands of American bombers shuttling over to England.

NEWS-GAZETTE

MAY 14, 1942

PLAN MUSICAL AS COLORED BENEFIT

Plans are going forward for a benefit musical to be given from 4 to 6 p. m. Sunday in the University chapter house of Beta Theta Pi fraternity. Funds derived from the benefit will be used to build a community recreational center for colored service men.

Mayors of Champaign and Urbana have accepted invitations from the fraternity to speak on the program. President A. C. Willard is unable to attend and Dean Albert J. Harno, University provost, will speak on behalf of the University.

Several groups of colored musicians will take part in the two-hour program. Julia Valentine, pianist, WDWS performer, and the Bethel A. M. E. church choir are two of the artists on Sunday's program.

Carrie MacLin is chairman of entertainment and has arranged the entire day's program.

Members of the fraternity, prominent faculty, students, and the general public is invited to the benefit.

THE ILLINOIS T. S., DANVILLE, ILLINOIS

MAY 16, 1942

BETHEL CHOIR AS GUEST The choir of the Bethel AME church was the guest of the 1st Methodist church on last Sunday night at 7:30. Mr. A. R. Lee president of this choir. They will sing at Chanute Field on the fourth Sunday.

NEWS-GAZETTE

JUNE 9, 1942

Service Men's Mothers To Be Honored Tuesday

Mothers of all Champaign-Urbana men in military and naval service—and particularly Gold Star mothers—will be honored Tuesday night at a "Victory week" program starting at 7:30 p. m. in Chamber of Commerce square.

Mrs. Smith Wisegarver will speak on behalf of the community, following special musical selections by the Bethel A. M. E. church choir, and Jane Morrow and Neva Minor, accompanied by Julius Cohen at the piano. Mrs. H. F. Rawlings will preside over the program.

Wednesday night a "Youth Dedication" program will be presented at 7 p. m. by Recreation Director Hugh Enochs. Members of the Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, and 4-H clubs and children from parks of the city will march from West Side park to Chamber of Commerce square.

NEWS-GAZETTE

SUNDAY, MAY 17, 1942

List Program For Center Benefit

Program for the benefit given by UI chapter of Beta Theta Pi fraternity from 4 to 6 p. m., Sunday, will present a variety of entertainment. The benefit is being given in an attempt to raise funds for a Community Recreation center for colored men in the armed forces. Ray E. Hines is master of ceremonies.

Scan for WWII label on the Homefront

them to eat. Mrs. Befford of Danville was the first director followed by Miss <sup>Wallace</sup> Wallace of Galesburg and later <sup>Edna Scott Bridgewater and Pauline Johnson, directors of the new center.</sup> Edna Scott Bridgewater and Pauline Johnson, <sup>The latter were named, acting</sup> directors of the new center.

It was quite evident that more space was needed, <sup>and so</sup> The Negro Servicemen's Center drive was launched in 1943 by a committee composed of Ray <sup>mead</sup> Sept as chairman, Cecil D. Nelson, Homer L. Chenis, Charles D. Pettiford and Alvin Foswell. Various fund raisers were used, <sup>such as</sup> a concert featuring the "Southeraires" a radio and concert quartet. The committee raised \$3,000 in the Negro community. These funds were used to purchase land at the corner of Sixth and Grove streets and <sup>and</sup> ~~with~~ funds from the Community War Chest and the Federal Works Agency ~~significant~~ funds were <sup>applied</sup> ~~used~~ to build the Servicemen's Center. <sup>The</sup> ~~was~~ understood that it would become a community center after the war.

Many ~~of the~~ <sup>men</sup> men were active in the community. In reporting the dedication ceremonies, the newspaper stated that "Corporal Robert Brooks of

1978

Airmen of the Pursuit Squadron  
~~The~~ 99<sup>th</sup> in Champaign-Urbana

The Douglas Center of today was made possible by the presence of the "colored" soldiers of the 99<sup>th</sup> Pursuit Squadron who were stationed at ~~the~~ Chanute Air Force <sup>Base</sup> in Rantoul, Illinois.

The U.S.O., nationally created for the entertainment of our men in service did not welcome the colored airmen in their facility here in Champaign-Urbana. Instead the Sawhead Servicemen's Center was created for them. It consisted of two rooms 22' x 25' each in the basement of the old Sawhead School located at the corner of <sup>and</sup> Fifth and Grove streets. <sup>It was</sup> estimated that 2500 servicemen and hostesses per month attended the center.

The City of Champaign Recreation Department provided staff and programming. <sup>The</sup> ~~program~~ program included movies, dancing, special holiday festivities and a snack bar. The snack bar was very popular since there were few if any places for



Chanute Field whose rich baritone voice has captivated numerous Champaign Urbane audiences in the last few years presented two solos, Maxwell Granville, who later acted on Broadway, produced a Christmas Pageant at the new center. This fact was mentioned in a book published by him ~~in later years~~.

~~It~~ The treatment you received ~~was~~ was, unfortunately, indicative of the times, but your legacy to our Black Community and the benefits to our youth will live on forever.

~~It~~  
am

~~and to those of you present who were~~

And so in closing to those of you present who were here in the early years!

Thank-you

Mrs. Erna Scott Bridgwater

# City Operation Of Center Has Group Approval

outlining the Douglas Service organization's of the Champaign County and War Chest proposal for city-owned community center for Negroes has been released by a six-man committee. The group declared that a position for "self-help" center taken by the executive committee of the joint advisory council of the Twin City Community committee does not represent the viewpoint of the masses of colored people of the community.

The statement follows:  
"It appears that a number of the Home and War Chest subscribers are confused by the letter received from Prof. Donald R. Taft, chairman of the executive committee of the advisory group of the Twin City Community committee. Some seem to think that they are to decide as to whether they wish the proposed Negro community center building to be owned by the city and operated by the city recreation commission or whether it shall be privately owned and controlled.

**'ORIGINATORS' OF MOVEMENT**  
"This is not the case as it appears to us there is no alternative. The only question is whether we have a city-owned building or no building at all as there are no other provisions made in the money already raised or that offered by the chest providing the subscribers agree.

"The effort for a community building was begun in 1941 by the Douglas Community Service organization. The movement was supported by 32 Negro civic, social and fraternal organizations of the Twin Cities.

"Negro citizens of the community have contributed \$3,000 to be building fund with the understanding and knowledge that the building would become the property of the city.

"The five Negro members of the joint advisory council of the Twin City Community committee had approved this plan, and two of its

members served on the campaign for funds committee. This, however, was before the Twin City Community committee was organized.

"The Chest committee plans to supplement the fund originally promised but later refused by the federal government.

## **LIBRARY, HOSPITAL CITED**

"While the Twin City Community committee's letter may meet the unanimous approval of the five white and five colored members of its advisory group, the Chest proposal meets the approval of the masses of Negroes who are to be served by it, and the masses feel that the Chest proposal gives the only assurance of a building and of a permanent maintenance and program.

"We do not feel that the city ownership of such a building will make it a political football any more than our city library or hospital, which are city-owned, and tax-supported institutions. We have not lost faith in our form of city government.

"Too much emphasis cannot be placed on the need for such a building, and its use will be more urgent when our boys return from the war to a rehabilitation program.

"The committee of the Douglas Community Service organization urges that you sign and vote favorably on the Home and War Chest proposal as a delay or an attempted change of policy may mean the loss of a much-needed building."

## **OPENS NEW CAMP LIBRARY**

**CAMP KILMER, N. J. (ANP)**—Langston Hughes, famous poet and playwright, was the guest speaker at the opening of the new Service Club Liberty No. 3 on Sunday. The dedication ceremonies were held in the main auditorium of the service club before a large audience of officers, enlisted men, and visitors.

# Dawson Escorts Powell To Floor; Sit Together

## Hazel Scott Is Present During First Session

BY HARRY S. McALPIN

WASHINGTON, D. C. The historic 79th Congress of the United States, before a packed gallery which had less than 30 Negro spectators in it, saw two Negroes take the oath of office when Congressmen William L. Dawson (D) of Illinois and Adam Clayton Powell, Jr., (D) of New York were sworn in. The oath was taken by the entire body of 374 Congressmen present at the same time.

Powell, newest member of the Congress and the first Negro from the State of New York, was escorted to the Legislative Chambers by Dawson. Their offices are next to each other in the old house office building. The two Negro Congressmen sat together during the preliminary organization of the House during which time Representative Sam Rayburn (D) of Texas was reelected speaker.

## **MEETS COLLEAGUES**

Later, during the session, Powell spent much of his time talking with Representative Vito Marcantonio (ALP) of New York, who will be their colleagues during the 79th Congress.

Rumors that Powell would be seated beside Representative John Rankin (D) of Mississippi, failed to materialize during this first session. Rankin occupied five different seats during the session. No one was assigned to any particular seat. Powell, by choice however, was seated on the Democratic side of the House, though elected on the Democratic, Republican and American Labor Party ticket.

From New York for the swearing in ceremony and to pay their respects to the new Congressmen came Hazel Scott, of movie and night club fame, whose name has

(Continued on back page)

# Taft Reports Many Replies

"Encouraging replies" have been received to a circular mailed by the joint advisory council of the Twin City Community committee to subscribers of the Champaign County Home and War Chest relative to diversion of surplus Chest funds to building of a Negro community center, Prof. Donald Taft, chairman, said today.

The community committee group's letter contained return postcards asking Chest subscribers to express themselves on the plan of the executive committee of the Chest to divert one-half its surplus, approximately \$17,000, for establishing the center which would be turned over to the city of Champaign and would be operated by the Champaign Recreation commission.

Favoring a self-help plan in which ownership would rest in a joint bi-racial commission and management would be in the hands of the colored group with advice of a bi-racial group, the Twin City Community committee and its advisory council have opposed the Chest's arrangements.

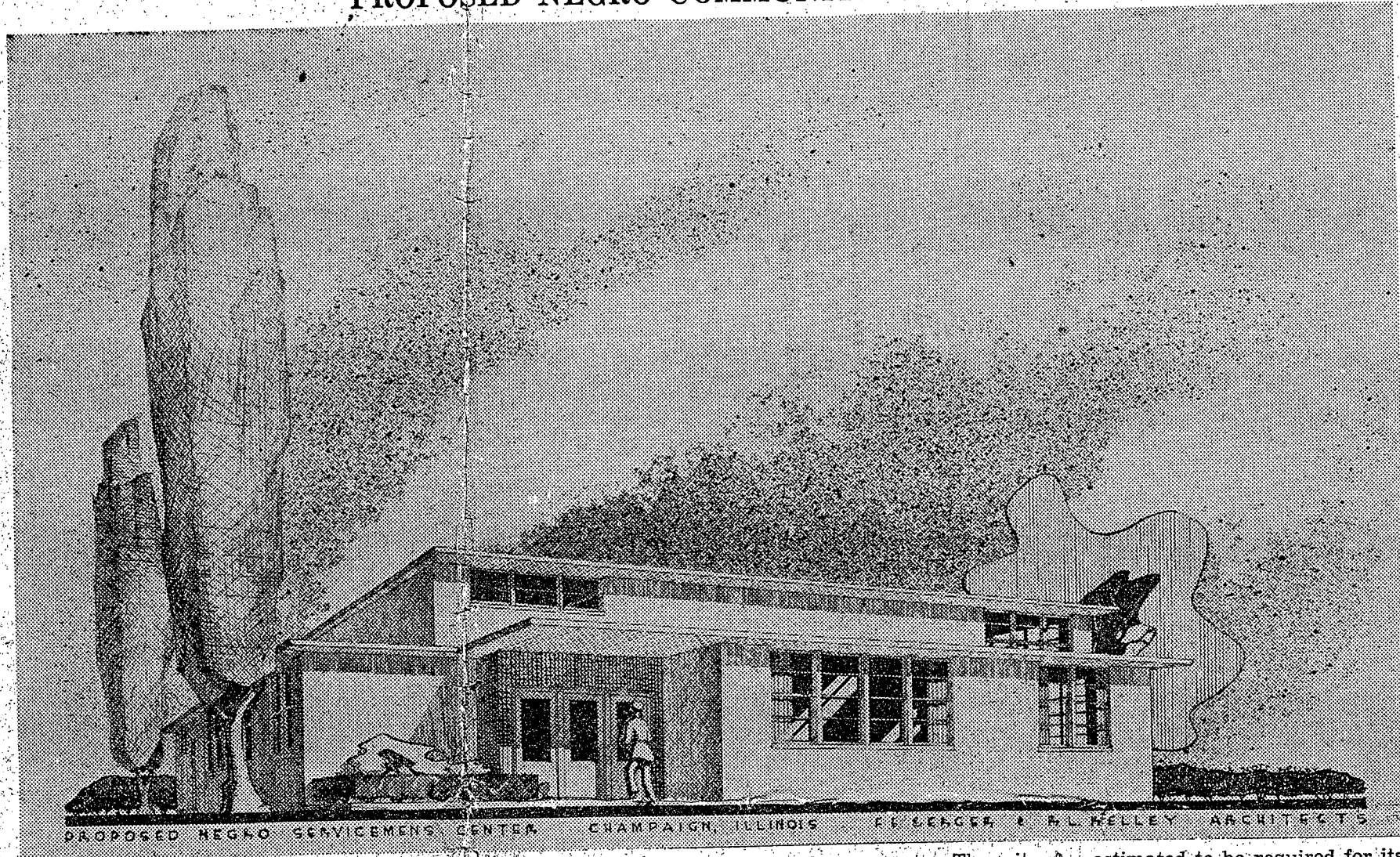
Professor Taft complained in the letter accompanying the return postcards that an earlier poll taken by the Chest did not allow an opportunity for expression on all alternatives. Therefore the community committee issued its mailing piece to allow further opportunity for expression.

Mailing by the community committee group has not been completed, about 1,000 letters remaining to go out after the Christmas holidays. Volunteer help is being used in preparing the mailing pieces.

Professor Taft pointed out his group is not yet ready to make a public announcement on sentiments expressed in the poll, and he added that he is writing to Lyle Gallivan, executive secretary of an agreement on future procedure.

"We of our group still are hoping for a mutually satisfactory arrangement, Professor Taft commented.

PROPOSED NEGRO COMMUNITY CENTER



This architect's sketch presents a tentative conception of the proposed Negro community center which may be erected at the northwest corner of Sixth and Grove streets if the subscribers to the Home and War Chest approve the allocation of

part of the Chest surplus for such a project. The one-story building, construction of which might be possible in 1945, will contain a large meeting or social room, kitchen, library, reading

room, showers, etc. The site, adjacent to Douglas park, has already been acquired by the Negro residents who have accumulated some funds for a center. An additional amount is promised through private subscription on the total of \$30,000

estimated to be required for its erection. Amount to be contributed by the Home and War Chest, if the subscribers approve, will be about \$15,000.

PROPOSED NEGRO SERVICEMEN'S CENTER CHAMPAIGN, ILLINOIS FEENEY & KELLEY ARCHITECTS

**UNITY CENTER FOR COL-**

This proposed community center building for colored residents can be built early next year if the Champaign County Board approves expenditure of \$17,000 of the Chest's surplus for that purpose, it was announced Thursday. Balance of the \$30,000 needed for the building is available or can be raised, Secretary Lyle Gallivan said. Lots for it already have been purchased at Sixth and Grove streets. Plans drawn by Berger and Kelley, architects, who prepared this sketch, provide for a large meeting room, a smaller meeting room, snack bar, lounge, office, and toilet facilities.

**For Chest May Allot  
For Colored Center**

Home and the Champaign recreation department is considering "true community center" and not a recreation building alone, he emphasized.

Architects' plans as drawn by Berger and Kelley provide for a concrete-blocks building that would include a large, 40-by-68-foot community room that also could be used as a gym, a smaller meeting room, a snack bar, lounge, director's office, and toilet and heating facilities.

Gallivan explained the Chest surplus was built up by an excess of collections over budgets. The proposal that part of it be used to finance the colored center was made in petitions presented to the executive committee by 300 subscribers.

A committee of Gallivan, chairman, Professor A. H. Lybys, Doctor H. D. Ellis, Ray Scott, Mrs. L. T. Gregory, R. A. Shipps, Jr., and Richard Edwards was appointed to prepare the project in its final form.

locate the center on the northwest corner of the streets, are planned with a federal aid building the chest construction year, Gal- authorities ministrations be.

id for the Chest's surplus of \$2,500, so by an by Mrs. pledged van said

\$17,000 of the Chest's surplus for that purpose, it was announced Thursday. Balance of the \$30,000 needed for the building is available or can be raised, Secretary Lyle Gallivan said. Lots for it already have been purchased at Sixth and Grove streets. Plans drawn by Berger and Kelley, architects, who prepared this sketch, provide for a large meeting room, a smaller meeting room, snack bar, lounge, office, and toilet facilities.

THE NEWS-GAZETTE SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 4, 1943.

**Seek Federal Aid For \$32,600**

**For Colored Servicemen  
Recreational Center**

**EXPECT \$14,100  
TO BE DONATED  
BY COMMUNITY**

**Balance Sought From  
Government; Chest,  
Recreations Board  
To Contribute**

Based on a plan of community cooperation, an application for federal assistance in constructing a Champaign-Urbana recreation center for colored servicemen will be submitted to the Federal Works agency early next week, it was disclosed Saturday.

The application proposes a \$32,600 project and requests that the federal government furnish \$18,500. It was submitted in the name of the city of Champaign, signed by Commissioner Roger E. Zombro, mayor pro tem, who said he had the approval of all council members.

Lyle Gallivan, executive secretary of the Home and War Chest,

While intended to fill the wartime recreation needs of colored servicemen, the building will be a permanent structure and, according to the application, will "serve the surrounding community after the war."

Zombro said, however, the application fully states that the community will be unable to bear the cost of the servicemen's center without federal assistance. Now pending before the same federal agencies is a city application for \$5,800 to operate the existing Lawhead school servicemen's center for the next eight months.

**Would Replace Lawhead**  
If the proposed new recreation building is erected, it will replace the Lawhead center — consisting only of two small rooms and described as "inadequate." The recreation department's expenditures and federal assistance would be diverted to the new building.

Colored citizens already have acquired two vacant lots at Sixth and Grove streets. Immediately adjacent to Douglas park. They will furnish the site as a part of their contribution.

Gallivan said civic leaders and officials in Urbana have voiced favor of the project and assured their support in raising Urbana's share of the local contribution.

Cover

Thursday, November 30, 1944

# Chest May Make \$15,000 Gift to Colored Center

## Subscribers Asked to Approve Grant From Surplus Funds.

Allocation of \$15,000 or more in Home and War Chest funds to pay approximately half the cost of erecting a Negro community center in northeast Champaign will be undertaken if the proposal merits the approval of the subscribers to the Chest, Lyle H. Gallivan, executive secretary, announced today.

A petition requesting the allocation of a portion of the Chest's surplus for a Negro community center was presented Wednesday evening to the executive committee of the Home and War Chest. It bore the names of more than 300 subscribers.

The executive committee appointed J. G. Thomas and Prof. G. L. Jordan as members of a special committee to take the proposal presented in the petition to the Chest subscribers. More than 13,000 letters asking the subscribers' views on the request will be mailed out shortly.

### Cost May Be \$30,000

Cost of the Negro community center is estimated in the neighborhood of \$30,000. Several thousand dollars raised previously for such a project are available to be added to the proposed Home and War Chest contribution, and the executive committee has been assured the remainder needed would probably be forthcoming locally.

Of the funds collected earlier for the center project, part was raised by the colored residents under a committee headed by Ray Scott with Richard Edwards as chairman of the campaign.

The colored citizens also acquired at that time two lots at the northwest corner of Sixth and Grove streets, adjacent to Douglas park, as the site for such a center. These two lots give a total area of 132 feet by a 132 feet.

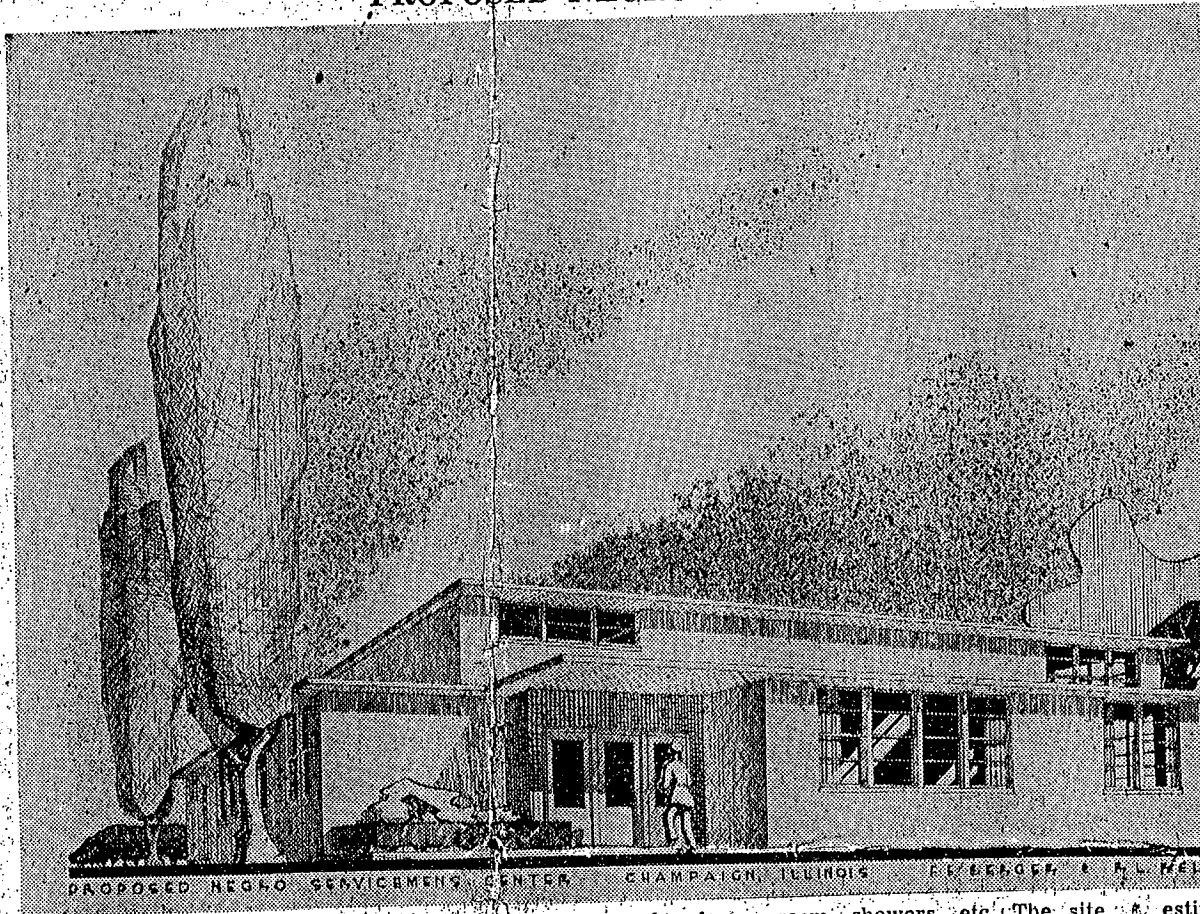
As a result of its 1944 campaign conducted in the fall of 1943, the Community Chest had set aside \$2,500 for a Negro community center, which is also available for the revived project.

Part of the additional funds which will be required above those obtainable from Chest sources or already on hand is proposed to be procured in a drive among the colored townspeople.

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THE EVENING COURIER

PROPOSED NEGRO COMMUNITY CENTER



PROPOSED NEGRO COMMUNITY CENTER - CHAMPAIGN, ILLINOIS - E. BERGEE & H. MEL

This architect's sketch presents a tentative conception of the proposed Negro community center which may be erected at the northwest corner of Sixth and Grove streets if the subscribers to the Home and War Chest approve the allocation of

part of the Chest surplus for such a project. The one-story building, construction of which might be possible in 1945, would contain a large meeting or social hall, kitchen, library, reading

room, showers, etc. The site, adjacent to Douglas park, has already been acquired by the Negro residents who have accumulated some funds for a center. An additional amount is promised through private subscription on the total of \$30,000

FRIDAY, 19, 1943

# ASSURE URBANA DONATION FOR NEW CENTER

Assurance of an Urbana donation of \$2,000 toward the construction of a recreation center adjoining Douglas park in Champaign for colored service men was expressed at a meeting of 35 Urbana citizens Thursday night in the Urbana Association of Commerce office.

Oscar Steer, A. of C. president, was chairman of the informal meeting which included representatives of the A. of C. board of directors, the Urbana city council and various social and service organizations.

Lyle Gallivan, executive secretary of the Champaign-Urbana Home and War Chest, who formulated and developed a cooperative plan for sponsoring the center, reviewed the steps taken to date and announced the tentative approval of the project by the Federal Works agency and the Federal Security agency. He reported that the plans are now on their way to Washington for the expected approval of the War Production board.

**\$18,500 From Government**  
Governmental approval of the plans, revised after being rejected a year ago, would mean a government grant of \$18,500, Gallivan stated, toward the total cost of \$32,500. Local support, he added, would include a \$3,000 contribution by Champaign-Urbana colored citizens, \$2,500 by the Home and War Chest organization in lieu of a donation to the Washington street colored nursery, \$3,500 from the Champaign community and \$2,000 from the Urbana community.

Major E. F. Resek, in charge of all recreational facilities at Chanute Field, expressed the opinion that a "real need" for such a center existed in the Champaign-Urbana community, although adequate recreational facilities had been provided for colored men at Chanute Field.

### Need Is Urgent

Mayor George Hurd agreed that

# FWA Approves Negro Center Project Here

Chicago regional office of the Federal Works Agency has approved the \$18,500 federal grant for the proposed \$32,600 Negro community center for northeast Champaign, Lyle H. Gallivan, executive secretary of the Home and War Chest, announced today.

Sanction of the regional office of the Federal Security Agency was announced previously. The project application was forwarded today to Washington, D. C., for approval of the main office of the Federal Works agency, but this is largely a formality as the indorsement of the regional FWA office is tantamount to final approval from that agency.

However, the War Production board must grant its consent for the erection of the building because of the critical materials involved, and Gallivan said this is probably the largest remaining hurdle before the federal grant can become a reality.

Concurrence of the War department also is needed to signify its value as a military project as the proposed center would serve to provide for the recreation needs of colored soldiers in this area for the duration of the war.

Erection of the building is also contingent upon obtaining \$14,100 in donations here. The Home and War Chest has pledged \$2,500 if its campaign for funds in November is successful and the remainder is to be raised by solicitations in Urbana and Champaign and among the Negro residents.

Colored persons obtained sufficient money in a drive last year to purchase two lots for the site for the building at Sixth and Grove streets, just opposite Douglas park.

The building would be of concrete block or similar lightweight masonry construction, 82 by 63 feet and would provide a large hall 35 by 68 feet, and smaller rooms for library, reading room, kitchen, office, showers and lavatories.

## Colored Citizens To Meet Friday

A meeting of all colored citizens of Champaign-Urbana to discuss funds for the erection of the colored Servicemen's center will take place at 7:30 p. m. Friday at the

To the Budget Committee of the Community War Chest of Champaign County

We the Negro Servicemen's Organization of Champaign and Urbana Illinois representing the entire Negro population of this community requests the assistance of the Community War Chest of Champaign County in the raising of funds for the erection of a building to be used as a Negro Servicemen's Center in our community as present facilities are inadequate. We are launching a drive to remedy the present situation.

**One-Story Building.**

Preliminary architectural plans call for a one-story building of concrete blocks, with an over-all size of 80 by 70 feet. Its principal feature would be a 37-by-68-foot assembly room plus a writing room, library, office, kitchen, and toilets. It was estimated it could be completed within four months.

In the application, costs were broken down as follows: Land, \$1,000; contracts, \$25,000; equipment, \$4,000; contingencies, \$1,000; engineering, architectural, and other fees, \$1,400; and legal expenses, \$200.

As he signed the applications for the city, Commissioner Zombro said Mayor George J. Babb had expressed his intention of doing so before his sudden illness and operation Thursday. The council is in complete agreement, the acting mayor asserted.

"The whole deal is off," Zombro said, "if the community fails to raise its share of the cost."

*Raymond M. Scott*  
President

*Cecil D. Nelson*

*James L. Charis*

*Char. J. Pettiford*

*Alvin Foxwell*

*Raymond M. Scott*  
Committee

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

We the Negro Servicemen's Organization composed of civilians of Champaign and Urbana, Illinois, representing the entire Negro population, request that consideration be given to the erection of a building to be used as a Servicemen's Center in our community as the present facilities are inadequate.

At present a Servicemen's Center is being operated in the basement of the Lathrop School Champaign, Illinois in two rooms twenty-two by twenty-five each by the Champaign Playground and Recreation Board. This Service Center was opened on March 26, 1943 with an attendance to date of 3,000 service men and hostesses to bring the total attendance to 12,500 an average attendance of 2,500 per month. In such a small amount of space it can be readily seen that the facilities are inadequate to carry on a successful and complete program, therefore we are requesting that a building of suitable proportions be erected for such a purpose. We will do all within our power to promote and assist in any movement that might be taken in securing said building.

*Raymond M. Scott*  
President

*Cecil D. Nelson*

*Char. J. Pettiford*

*James L. Charis*

*Alvin Foxwell*

*Raymond M. Scott*  
Committee



Other persons closely connected with the movement by way of affiliation with the council or board of directors ~~were~~ Mr. Al Rivers, Mrs. <sup>Alvin</sup> Foxwell, Mr. ~~L.P.~~ L.P. Diffay, Mr. George Mc Combe, Mr. Julius Davis, and Mr. Paul New Hurst.

The Ways and Means Committee: Mr. Banks, Chairman, Mr. Leroy Pickens and Mr. Raymon Scott.

The Program Committee: Mr. John Walker, Chairman, Mr. Percy Larry, Mr. Cecil Nelson, and Mr. Eram Scott.

The House Committee: Mr. Cecil Nelson, Chairman and Mrs. Odelia Wesley.

The Devience Committee: Mr. Harry Fletcher, Chairman and Mr. George Roberts.

From this drive approximately \$39,000 dollars was raised. More aid was needed in this effort and many business people responded. ~~At the~~ ~~of the~~ ~~Kubie and~~ ~~Summers Company~~ ~~incorporated~~ ~~was~~ ~~any~~ ~~local~~ ~~citizens~~ ~~made~~ ~~the~~ ~~necessary~~ ~~contributions.~~ Thus a dream became a reality.

## History

Two decades has passed since a group of persons decided on the idea of the importance of a community and service men's center in northeast Champaign.

The Douglass <sup>City</sup> Park Recreation Council was <sup>an</sup> authorized by Mayor James D. Flynn, of the City of Champaign and Mayor George F. Hurd, of the City of Urbana, to solicit funds with which to build the much needed center. This facility would provide a meeting place for various organizations as well as wholesome recreation for all ~~negro~~ Citizens of the community as well as <sup>to</sup> servicemen.

The Council was composed of Mr. R.M. Scott, President; Mrs. Odelia Wesley, Secretary; Mr. Ray E. Hines, Chairman Campaign Committee, Mrs. Edna Diffay, Secretary; Dr. Harry D. Ellis, Treasurer.

The Community Center Drive Committee was composed of Mr. Richard R. Edwards, Chairman; Mr. Alvin Foxwell, Mr. L.P. Diffay, Mr. Cecil Pope and Dr. H.D. Ellis.





citizens in the Black community were able to raise sufficient funds to obtain two lots just adjacent to Douglass Park, the present site of Douglass Center, which were donated to the effort.

Lyle Gallivan, executive secretary of the Champaign-Urbana Home and War Chest was credited by the press for formulating the cooperative plan for sponsoring the center. The actual application was submitted to the Federal Works Agency and the War Production Board by the City of Champaign and signed by city commissioner Roger E. Zomro, mayor pro tem, with full approval from the Champaign and Urbana Councils.

Although Major E.F. Resek, in charge of all recreational facilities at Chanute Field, stated that adequate facilities had been provided for colored servicemen there, the application stated the intention of the facility was to fill the war time recreation needs of colored servicemen, and the needs of the surrounding community after the war.

Serving this function, the new building was to replace the Lawhead Servicemen's Center in Lawhead School, an inadequate facility consisting of only two small rooms. Black community centers had existed previously, the first at 503 E. Washington in 1934. Rent for this house was paid by the Community Chest, utilities paid by the Township Supervisor. In 1936 a recreation committee was formed by the City of Champaign, and 1939 saw the first tax supported Black community center in a new location in a house on a corner of Douglass Park. The center was moved three more times, to St. Luke's C.M.E. Church basement, the American Legion Post, and finally to the present site adjacent to Douglass Park as a result of the effort made in 1943.

The Department of Recreation under the directorship of Miss Hazel Iungerich controlled programming and operation of the center until 1967 when the function of recreation became the jurisdiction of the Champaign Park District.

ATTENTION READER: This is a rough outline of the history of Douglass Center compiled after limited research and interviewing. The purpose of such a history may be many-fold, but its immediate purpose is to be used in the text of the Champaign Park District's response to the proposal for a multi-purpose center to be located adjacent to the Douglass Center site, submitted by the Community Advocacy Depot. There may be factual errors in this outline, and there undoubtedly are significant omissions. I would very much appreciate your review of this rough outline, and any additions which you feel are significant. In addition to factual, descriptive information about the history of Douglass Center, I would be most interested in analytical and evaluative comments. Suggestions as to the content and purpose of such a history would also be of special interest.

Residential and social segregation, inadequacy of recreational facilities in the Black community, feelings of alienation on the part of Black servicemen with regards to regular USO centers, and more than four years of effort by people like Raymond W. Scott and Richard Edwards led to the submission of a \$32,600 grant proposal to the federal government for the construction of a recreation center for Black servicemen in September of 1943.

The application requested \$18,500 from the federal government, the remaining \$14,100 to be raised by a cooperative effort of the local citizenry. Local support included a \$3,000 contribution from the Black community of Champaign and Urbana, \$2,500 from the ~~Home~~ Home and War Chest Organization in lieu of a donation to the Washington St. colored nursery, \$3,500 from the City of Champaign Recreation Department, and \$2,000 from the Urbana Community.<sup>1</sup>

The proposal was a revival of a similar one made two years previously but denied by the federal government. However, during the two years which elapsed,

<sup>1</sup> Champaign-Urbana News Gazette. Sept. 17, 1943.

Although the programming and operation of Douglass Center has never been completely in the hands of the Black community, these functions have always been the responsibility of the director and staff. A chronological list of directors follows; please make any additions necessary.

Mrs. Erma Scott Bridgewater

Mrs. Odelia Wesley

Mr. Taylor Thomas

Mr. Lee Carey

Mr. Jones

Mr. Paul Hursey

Mr. Williams

Mr. Edgar Mc Night

In 1956 an addition to the building was constructed with a donation from Mr. Hartwell Howard.

Although the original plans called for a wide diversity of programs and opportunities, the actual use of the facility has been skewed toward young males with interests in basketball. The facility is inadequate as a gymnasium, and the use as such limits its ability to serve the recreational needs of girls and younger children.

Youth gang rivalries which were associated to Douglass Center by the press in 1967-68 created another kind of problem; parents in the area were somewhat reluctant to send their young children to the center for fear of gang influence.

speaking to groups about slavery. It had all begun when he went to Nantucket in 1941 to attend an abolitionist meeting. The group requested him to speak and he received such a tremendous response more and more groups requested him to speak at their meetings.

In many instances, Frederick was beaten because people did not believe that he could ever have been a slave because of his tremendous speaking ability. In order to prove that he had actually been a slave, he wrote the story of his life. He called it "Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass, An American Slave." In his book he named his master and consequently escaped to England so that his master could not reclaim him. In 1846, the people of England collected \$700. to buy his freedom from his master and they also collected \$2,100 to help Douglass continue his work.

After 21 months, Douglass returned to the states a free man. He then took his family and moved to Rochester, New York, and started a Newspaper with the money the people had collected for him. He named it "The North Star".

He dedicated his life to help slaves and he led them to free states. He was given the title of Marshall for the District of Columbia for President Garfield.

Two years after his wife died, Douglass married a white woman, Helen Pitts, in 1882. They made their home on W. Street, Cedar Hill in Washington, D.C.

In February 1972, the Frederick Douglass home was dedicated on the 155th anniversary of his birth, as part of the National Park System. President Lincoln characterized Douglass

FREDERICK AUGUSTUS WASHINGTON BAILEY  
ALIAS  
FREDERICK DOUGLASS

Frederick Augustus Washington Bailey was born a slave in February, 1917 on a plantation in Talbot County, Maryland. Frederick's mother was a slave so he lived with his grandmother, Betsey Bailey. Colonel Edward Lloyd owned the plantation where his mother was a slave and Captain Anthony was the manager of the Lloyd plantations.

When Frederick was eight years old, his mother died and he was put to work as a slave on the plantation. The daughter of Mr. Lloyd took an immediate liking to Frederick and recommended that he be sent to Baltimore to work for the Auld family. There he got an introduction to reading lessons and mathematics. but Mr. Auld soon put an end to his education.

While in Baltimore, Fred made friends with a black sailor who gave him his passes and uniform so that Fred could escape. He ran off to New York and escaped with no difficulty. During his time in Baltimore, he had met Ann Murray and had sent for her when he arrived in New York. When she arrived, they were married and shortly after they moved to Bedford, Massachusettes.

At this time, Frederick decided to change his name to conceal his identity. He renamed himself after a man he greatly admired, Douglass, so his new name would be Frederick Douglass.

Frederick and Ann had two children, Rosetta and Lewis. After they had gotten settled, Douglass began a career in

ORIGINAL DOUGLASS CENTER

1941 - Douglass Community Service Organization started movement for Douglass Center supported by Black civic, social and fraternal organizations of Champaign Urbana.

Black citizens contributed \$3,000 to the building fund.

Champaign County Home and War Chest allocated \$19,500 to the project.

Contract for construction - February 12, 1945.

Ground breaking - February 18, 1945.

Dedication - September 23, 1945 - Cost \$35,000.

Taylor Thomas - First Director.

DOUGLASS CENTER

INDIVIDUALS AND SOURCES THAT CONTRIBUTED INFORMATION FOR THIS PAPER

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\* "Pick" D.C. Dodds  
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352-9731

\* Lee Greenman  
Greenman's Clothing Store  
352-2433

News Gazette

Courier

This article was  
hand written by  
Mr. R. M. Scott, Jr.  
c 1946's

## History

Two decades has passed since a group of persons decided on the idea of the importance of a community and service-men's center in northeast Champaign.

The Douglass Park Recreation Council was authorized by Mayor James D. Flynn, of the City of Champaign and Mayor George F. Hurd, of the City of Urbana, to solicit funds with which to build the much needed center. This facility would provide a meeting place for various organizations as well as wholesome recreation for all negro citizens of the community.

The Council was composed of Mr. R. M. Scott, President; Mrs. Odelia Wesley, Secretary; Mr. Ray E. Hines, Chairman Campaign Committee, Mrs. Edna Duffay, Secretary; Dr. Harry D. Ellis, Treasurer.

The Community Center Drive Committee was composed of Mr. Richard R. Edwards, Chairman; Mr. Elvin F. Howell, Mr. L. P. Duffay, Mr. Cecil Pope and Dr. H. D. Ellis.

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Other persons closely connected with the movement by way of affiliation with the council or board of directors were Mr. Al Rivers, Mrs. Elvin F. Howell, Mr. L. P. Duffay, Mr. George McCombe, Mr. Julius Davis and Mr. Paul New Hurst.

The Ways and Means Committee: Mr. Banks, Chairman, Mr. Leroy Pickens and Mr. Raymond Scott.

The Program Committee: Mr. John Walker, Chairman, Mr. Percy Larry, Mr. Cecil Nelson, and Mr. Eram Scott.

The House Committee: Mr. Cecil Nelson, Chairman and Mrs. Odelia Wesley.

The Devience Committee: Mr. Harry Fletcher, Chairman and Mr. George Roberts.

From this drive approximately \$39,000 dollars was raised. More aid was needed in this effort and many business people responded. ~~Mr. H. H. Hurd~~ of the ~~Hurd~~ and ~~Stromberg~~ Company Incorporated was ~~one of the~~ ~~local citizens~~ ~~who~~ ~~made~~ the necessary contributions. Thus a dream became a reality.



COMMITTEE, COMPOSED OF RAYMOND SCOTT, CHAIRMAN, CECIL D. NELSON, HOMER L. CHAVIS, CHARLES PETTIFORD AND ALVIN FOXWELL. VARIOUS FUND RAISERS WERE HELD, AMONG THEM, A CONCERT FEATURING THE "SOUTHERNAIRES" A RADIO AND CONCERT QUARTET. THIS COMMITTEE RAISED \$3,000 IN THE NEGRO COMMUNITY. THESE FUNDS WERE USED TO PURCHASE THE LAND AT THE CORNER OF SIXTH AND GROVE STREETS. ADDITIONAL FUNDS FROM THE COMMUNITY WAR CHEST AND THE FEDERAL WORKS AGENCY WERE ALLOCATED TO BUILD THE SERVICEMEN'S CENTER. WITH THE UNDERSTANDING THAT IT WOULD BECOME A COMMUNITY CENTER AFTER THE WAR. MANY MEN IN THE COMMUNITY WERE ACTIVE IN THIS ENDEAVOR.

IN REPORTING THE DEDICATION CEREMONIES, THE NEWSPAPER STATED THAT "CORPORAL ROBERT BROOKS OF CHANUTE FIELD, (WHOSE RICH BARITONE VOICE HAS CAPTIVATED NUMEROUS CHAMPAIGN-URBANA AUDIENCES IN THE LAST FEW YEARS,) PRESENTED TWO SOLOS." MAXWELL GRANVILLE (WHO LATER ACTED ON BROADWAY), PRODUCED A CHRISTMAS PAGEANT AT THE NEW CENTER. THIS FACT WAS MENTIONED IN A BOOK PUBLISHED BY HIM IN LATER YEARS.

AND SO, IN CLOSING TO THOSE OF YOU PRESENT TODAY AND WHO WERE HERE IN THE EARLY YEARS: THE TREATMENT YOU RECEIVED HERE WAS, UNFORTUNATELY INDICATIVE OF THE TIMES, BUT YOUR LEGACY TO OUR BLACK COMMUNITY AND THE BENEFITS TO OUR YOUTH WILL LIVE ON FOREVER.

THANK YOU, MRS.. ERMA SCOTT BRIDGEWATER

AIRMEN OF THE 99th PURSUIT SQUADRON IN CHAMPAIGN-URBANA

THE DOUGLASS CENTER OF TODAY WAS MADE POSSIBLE BY THE PRESENCE OF THE "COLORED" SOLDIERS OF THE 99th PURSUIT SQUADRON WHO WERE STATIONED AT THE CHANUTE AIR FORCE BASE IN RANTOUL, ILLINOIS.

THE U.S.O., NATIONALLY CREATED FOR THE ENTERTAINMENT OF OUR "MEN IN SERVICE", DID NOT WELCOME THE COLORED AIRMEN IN THEIR FACILITY HERE IN CHAMPAIGN-URBANA. INSTEAD, THE LAWHEAD SERVICEMEN'S CENTER WAS CREATED FOR THEM. IT CONSISTED OF TWO ROOMS, 22' X 25' EACH, IN THE BASEMENT OF THE OLD LAWHEAD SCHOOL, LOCATED AT THE CORNER OF FIFTH AND GROVE STREETS IN CHAMPAIGN, ILLINOIS. IT WAS ESTIMATED THAT 2500 SERVICEMEN AND HOSTESSES PER MONTH ATTENDED THE CENTER.

THE CITY OF CHAMPAIGN'S RECREATION DEPARTMENT PROVIDED STAFF AND PROGRAMMING, THAT INCLUDED MOVIES, DANCING, SPECIAL HOLIDAY FESTIVITIES AND A SNACK BAR. THE SNACK BAR WAS POPULAR SINCE THERE WERE FEW, IF ANY PLACES FOR THEM TO EAT. MRS.. BUFORD OF DANVILLE, WAS THE FIRST DIRECTOR, FOLLOWED BY MISS KATHRINE WALLACE OF GALESBURG AND LATER MRS.. ERMA SCOTT BRIDGEWATER AND MS. PAULINE JOHNSON OF CHAMPAIGN. THE LATTER TWO WERE NAMED ACTING DIRECTORS OF THE NEW CENTER.

IT WAS, QUITE EVIDENT THAT MORE SPACE WAS NEEDED; AND SO, THE NEGRO SERVICEMEN'S CENTER DRIVE WAS LAUNCHED IN 1943 BY A

## DOUGLASS PARK

The original plot of land that is now Douglass Park was purchased by the Township Park District on April 30, 1931, from Vern A. Roland, his wife Anna K. Roland, Lela Collins and her husband Lloyd S. Collins. There are 2 deeds to the park, the main one being for an area of 3  $\frac{1}{2}$  acres while the other one is only for a ten foot wide, 162 foot long strip of land which was bought on April 29, 1931 for \$1.00. The main deed was written up so that \$2,000 in cash was paid at the time of sale with two more payments of \$7,500 each, the first one to be paid June 1, 1932 and the second one June 1, 1933. (Records Office, Deeds Department, County Clerk)

The decision to name the new park in 1933, was made by the Park Board which included J.W. Stipes, D.C. "Pick" Dodds, and Lee Greenman. According to Mr. Dodds and Mr. Greenman, the decision was left up to the people of the community. They made a survey of the residents of the area, which were predominately black, and the general consensus was in favor of naming the Park after Mr. Frederick Douglass. The Park Board accepted this choice and officially named the Park.

In 1935 Mr. King J. McCristol, now head of the Physical Education Department at the U of I, organized and directed the first five playgrounds, including Douglass Park. The park has always had organized activity since then.

In 1936 a planning committee was organized for recreation, composed of Seely Johnston, W. Swearingen, K. McCristol, H.E. Konney and H. Ammerman. In 1938 the people of Champaign voted for tax supported recreation and the first tax money

## THE HISTORY OF DOUGLASS CENTER AND DOUGLASS PARK

## HOW DID WE GET DOUGLASS CENTER?

The first Community Center in Champaign was known as the Neighborhood House and it was located at 503 East Washington. This center was established in 1934 and the Community Chest Funds paid the money for the rent. The heat, light, gas, water and telephone were provided by the Township Supervisor. The first programs at this center included sewing, cooking, courses in nutrition, first aid, and various things. The funds were received from the Community Chest to cover the cost of the program. (Nelle Hayes)

In 1939 the Community Center was then moved to a house in the corner of Douglass Park on Tremont Street. From this time until 1967 when the merger of Parks and Recreation occurred, rent and all operational expenses were paid by the Champaign Recreation Department. The Center was then moved from the house in the Park to St. Luke's Methodist Church basement, then to the American Legion Post and from there to the present site in September 1945. (Gazette 9/22/45)

Plans for the Douglass Community Center were begun in 1940 when a house adjacent to Douglass Park in which the community had carried on its recreational program was turned over as a residence. The Douglass Community Service Committee was organized at that time to raise funds for a new recreational building. The first two drives were conducted in 1940 and 1941 and enough money was raised through contributions and entertainment to buy the ground adjacent to Douglass Park. In 1941, also, an appeal was made to the government for federal aid to build the center which would be used for

received for this was in 1939. At that time, the city took over all recreation. The Community Chest had funded all previous programs.

The first Superintendent of Recreation under the tax supported recreation programs before Recreation became a separate Department was Fred Major. He was followed by Hugh Enocht and Hazel Jungerich. In 1967 the merger of Parks and Recreation occurred.

The Building was dedicated on September 22, 1945. The Park Board Commissioners at the time Douglass Center was dedicated were Lee Greenman, Hardin Boulware and D.C. "Pick" Dodds, Sr. Mrs. Cecil (Irma) Bridgewater assumed the position of Director of the Center at that time. She was replaced by Taylor Thomas on November 1, 1945, because a male director was preferred. (Taylor Thomas, Gazette 10/11/45)

\* Mr. Thomas resigned to assume a teaching position in September, 1948 and the directors of the center following him to the present are as follows:

September 1948 - July 1951 - Ernest F. Nelson - resigned (Gazette 9/45)  
 July 1951 - November 1952 - James Jones - resigned - (Gazette 11/52)  
 November 1952 - January 1955 - C. Lee Carey - (Gazette 1/55)  
 January 1955 - April 1960 - Paul Hursey - (Gazette 4/60)  
 April 1960 - March 1, 1964 - Irma Bridgewater - (Gazette 4/60  
 Irma Bridgewater)  
 March 1964 - October 1967 - Augustus Williams - (Gazette 10/67)  
 October 22, 1967 - August 1, 1969 - Booker T. Ford - (Gazette 8/69)  
 October 1969 - Present - Edgar McNight

Edgar McNight took over originally as temporary replacement after Mr. Ford left then he was assigned as permanent Director. (Edgar McNight)

According to the Gazette in July 1947, during World War II, Douglass Center was also used as a U.S.O. Center for Servicemen. In August 1946 the USO - Champaign/Rantoul - offered to donate \$200 a month to Douglass Center to offset the loss of federal aid. In March 1947 the funds were cut to \$100 a month and then

soldiers' recreation during the war. No federal grants were forthcoming, however, and in July 1943, the Community Chest offered its assistance, contributing first \$2,500 then and in 1944, \$17,000. The building was made possible from private donations and from a generous over-subscription of Community Chest funds. Some furnishings were the gift of Mr. Issac Kuhn estate. (Gazette 9/22/45)

\* In 1943 a group of citizens secured the space adjacent to the Park for the building of Douglass Center. The federal government offered \$18,500 if the community could furnish \$14,500. The community received \$2,500 from the Home and War Chest, \$3,500 from the Recreation Department, and \$2,000 from the City of Urbana. The balance came from individual and group donations. Assurance of donations was certain by September 1943 and land was cleared and construction was begun. The contract was let for Douglass Center on February 12, 1944, and the ground was broken on February 18, 1944 to begin construction. The total costs of the building was \$35,000. (Courier 9/24/45)

The building is of haydite block painted white on the outside and finished in light green on the inside. The general assembly, a two story high section of the building, is used for dances, meetings, and basketball and is partially surrounded by the rest of the building which consists of a lounge, snack bar, kitchen, office, and two large rooms which may be used for meetings, and small groups. Furniture for the lounge came from closed USO buildings and the Lawhead Service Center Fifth and Grove Streets. (Gazette 9/22/45)

In June and July of 1963, the Twin City Boosters Club sponsored a six week Day Camp program in the park. In October 1968, one more acre was added to the park and was purchased by Mrs. Catherine Alagna.

In July 1970, approximately 6.7 acres of land were added to the Park for a multi-purpose game area for \$42,000. Labor and material were \$7,400 at maximum. Only 2 men were hired to do the labor so the majority of the labor was done by 4 neighborhood youth groups that volunteered. This multi-purpose area was designed for play, picnics and an area for outdoor performing arts.

The library project for Douglass was initiated in November, 1970 and was funded through a \$60,000 federal grant. The remodeling of the room for the library was begun in November 1970 and was completed on March 18, 1971. The library opened as a branch of the Champaign Public Library on January 1, 1972 and received a federal grant of \$18,500 for a one year period. From March, 1971 until that time, the library was operated under a joint effort of the Urbana Public Library, The Champaign Public Library and The Lincoln Trails Library.

The years of continued interest making the present facility possible were the efforts of many. To name a few - Mr. Seely Johnston, Mr. Seward Staley, Mr. James Hefferman, Mr. John Mit-tender, Mr. Cecil Nelson, Mr. Julius X. Davis, Mr. Vern Scott, Mr. W.H. Thompson, Mr. M.G. Snyder, Mr. James O'Neil, Mr. Don Bresnan, Mr. E.H. Mellon, Mr. D.L. Huxtable, Mr. A.V. Sapor, Mr. Richard Edwards, Mr. Ray Scott, Mr. Lee Greenman, Mayors Flynn, Babb, Lafferty and Dexter.

they were completely cut off in July 1947. They were used to provide recreation programs for black servicemen. At this time, changes began to take place at Douglass Center. In 1946, the Board of Directors at Douglass Center voted for \$300. to be used for landscaping the Center. From this time on, a great amount of funds were put into Douglass Center for improvements and additions. In July 1951 Douglass Center was redecorated.

In April of 1950, Douglass Center applied to the Community Chest to enter the fund and was accepted. They were granted \$1,210 for the six month period of May 1, 1950 - November 1, 1950. A study was to be made after the allotted period of time to study the effectiveness of the program, and to decide whether another six month period of funding was justified. (Gazette April 23, 1950)

According to the Gazette in December, 1950, the Recreation and Playground Board attained full charge of Douglass Center in December, 1950. Title was transferred from the Civic Foundation, which was dissolved because of tax problems, to the City of Champaign. The Civic Foundation, a non-profit organization, had held the title since 1945 when the Center opened. It was a surprise move to the City of Champaign, and they reluctantly accepted the title without formal ceremony. They had tried to get someone else to take it because of the burden of the cost of maintaining and managing it. When the civic foundation had transferred the deed, they divided up the cities \$11,200 assets among four agencies. At this time, the funds received from the Community Chest were no longer continued.

In October, 1961, 2.2 acres @ \$3,000/acre were added to the park for a ball diamond. (Gazette October 1961)

ORIGINAL DOUGLASS CENTER

1941 - Douglass Community Service Organization started movement for Douglass Center supported by Black civic, social and fraternal organizations of Champaign Urbana.

Black citizens contributed \$3,000 to the building fund.

Champaign County Home and War Chest allocated \$19,500 to the project.

Contract for construction - February 12, 1945.

Ground breaking - February 18, 1945.

Dedication - September 23, 1945 - Cost \$35,000.

Taylor Thomas - First Director.

citizens in the Black community were able to raise sufficient funds to obtain two lots just adjacent to Douglass Park, the present site of Douglass Center, which were donated to the effort.

Lyle Gallivan, executive secretary of the Champaign-Urbana Home and War Chest was credited by the press for formulating the cooperative plan for sponsoring the center. The actual application was submitted to the Federal Works Agency and the War Production Board by the City of Champaign and signed by city commissioner Roger E. Zomro, mayor pro tem, with full approval from the Champaign and Urbana Councils.

Although Major E.F. Resek, in charge of all recreational facilities at Chanute Field, stated that adequate facilities had been provided for colored servicemen there, the application stated the intention of the facility was to fill the war time recreation needs of colored servicemen, and the needs of the surrounding community after the war.

Serving this function, the new building was to replace the Lawhead Servicemen's Center in Lawhead School, an inadequate facility consisting of only two small rooms. Black community centers had existed previously, the first at 503 E. Washington in 1934. Rent for this house was paid by the Community Chest, utilities paid by the Township Supervisor. In 1936 a recreation committee was formed by the City of Champaign, and 1939 saw the first tax supported Black community center in a new location in a house on a corner of Douglass Park. The center was moved three more times, to St. Luke's C.M.E. Church basement, the American Legion Post, and finally to the present site adjacent to Douglass Park as a result of the effort made in 1943.

The Department of Recreation under the directorship of Miss Hazel Iungerich controlled programming and operation of the center until 1967 when the function of recreation became the jurisdiction of the Champaign Park District.

ATTENTION READER: This is a rough outline of the history of Douglass Center compiled after limited research and interviewing. The purpose of such a history may be many-fold, but its immediate purpose is to be used in the text of the Champaign Park District's response to the proposal for a multi-purpose center to be located adjacent to the Douglass Center site, submitted by the Community Advocacy Depot. There may be factual errors in this outline, and there undoubtedly are significant omissions. I would very much appreciate your review of this rough outline, and any additions which you feel are significant. In addition to factual, descriptive information about the history of Douglass Center, I would be most interested in analytical and evaluative comments. Suggestions as to the content and purpose of such a history would also be of special interest.

Residential and social segregation, inadequacy of recreational facilities in the Black community, feelings of alienation on the part of Black servicemen with regards to regular USO centers, and more than four years of effort by people like Raymond W. Scott and Richard Edwards led to the submission of a \$32,600 grant proposal to the federal government for the construction of a recreation center for Black servicemen in September of 1943.

The application requested \$18,500 from the federal government, the remaining \$14,100 to be raised by a cooperative effort of the local citizenry. Local support included a \$3,000 contribution from the Black community of Champaign and Urbana, \$2,500 from the Home and War Chest Organization in lieu of a donation to the Washington St. colored nursery, \$3,500 from the City of Champaign Recreation Department, and \$2,000 from the Urbana Community.<sup>1</sup>

The proposal was a revival of a similar one made two years previously but denied by the federal government. However, during the two years which elapsed,

<sup>1</sup> Champaign-Urbana News Gazette. Sept. 17, 1943.

...ing and operation of Douglass Center has never  
...abds of the Black community, these functions have  
...ility of the director and staff. A chronological  
...rs; please make any additions necessary.

Mrs. Erma Scott Bridgewater

Mrs. Odelia Wesley

Mr. Taylor Thomas

Mr. Lee Carey

Mr. Jones

Mr. Paul Hursey

Mr. Williams

Mr. Edgar Mc Night

...to the building was constructed with a donation

...al plans called for a wide diversity of programs and  
...l use of the facility has been skewed toward young  
...basketball. The facility is inadequate as a gymnasium,  
...ts its ability to serve the recreational needs of  
...en.

...s which were associated to Douglass Center by the press  
...er kind of problem; parents in the area were somewhat



payroll made it a little difficult. In time the director left and I continued to work there. At that time Douglass Center was a house in Douglass Park, and it was a six-room house. That's where I learned to make a fire in the furnace, because it had a furnace in the basement. There was a pretty good program there. We had a good outdoor program, baseball, softball. (Doorbell rings). (Pause).

Dallas Brown: You were telling me about how you learned to . . .

Erma Bridgewater: Yes, make a fire in the furnace. Well, as I said, the program was a good one. It involved, especially the part in the park . . . We had a lot of elderly people there who played shuffleboard, checkers, and I'm not sure of my years, but the Chanute Field had — there were a lot of soldiers from there who came down and we had special programs for them although there was that jealousy between the townspeople, you know — youngsters, especially about the girls and soldiers. It was the 99th Squadron was up there, and at that time they were a good many of them college graduates and I think pilots, quite a few of them were pilots at that time too. There were dances out in the park, some tennis, not much. But, the program was pretty good.

I was sent to a conference in Dayton, Ohio, and that's when I got excited about a new center because I was there representing — I was sitting in a, I think it was about a \$200,000 building in Dayton with all kinds of facilities and everything and representing a house — a six-room house with thirteen broken windows. (Laughs). From there we went to visit a center in Lima, Ohio, and there were about — let's see, they had an \$80,000-building, and I think there were about 500 blacks there, and they even had a swimming pool. And I figured, "Well if they can do that, then we ought to be able to do something." And I came back all inspired and talking, and my dad and Mr. Richard Edwards, Mr. Foxwell,

area 10-10-48

Erma Bridgewater in  
interview by Dallas Brown

Newman Hall, and it was under a black woman who was as mean as I don't know what. My mother was working there too at the time, but I had looked around trying to find a job and couldn't. At least I wasn't able to right away. But I worked there until I decided it was time to leave and try something else. I've never wanted to leave Champaign. I've always felt that I could find something here someway, somehow. I did go around a little bit with some people who lived down the street from us looking for work, in social work. Of course, my degree was in sociology. At that time there wasn't a school of social work and I just didn't find anything.

Until the Douglass Center or the — it wasn't really Douglass Center — it was Neighborhood House in the beginning. And it was under WPA. And that was when they changed it over. The city took over the Douglass . . . well, took over the program was when I was hired as recreation leader. But they had a full staff there then that was on WPA, and I was the only person there with a college degree and they sure made it tough for me for a while. You know how we do. It's "Who do you think you are?" and I lived on the other side of town, and they sent me home crying quite a bit in the beginning. For one thing, the woman that was director didn't . . . Well, I had no training in recreation and, as director, she didn't help me much. She sent me down to the swings to swing the kids which wasn't too bad because I was learning to get used to youngsters. But then I finally went to the office and told them I wasn't learning anything. They got after her and then she started teaching me crafts and so on.

But the rest of the staff was just as bad in that respect. So I finally decided that what I had to do was to say a few curse words here and there, and do a few things, you know, and say that I drank a little bit now and then in order to get in with them. It worked. It took a little time but it worked, and we finally got to where we got along swell together. But being the only employee on the city's

sure are getting fat." And then I quit. I got married in 1941, he was born late in 1942, and then when my husband went to the Navy I went back to work. I went back to Douglass and worked until he came home, and then I quit from 1945 to 55, I think it was. I believe, because it was a ten-year span there when I didn't work, when I decided to quit and raise my children. However, I didn't work there but my dad and I served parties during that time.

Dallas Brown: You mean catering?

Erma Bridgewater: Catering, yes. He was very good at that, and it was something I could do and still stay at home. And I enjoyed working with him, too, and the money was pretty good — came in handy. Then I went back to work after the kids were all up. I hadn't really planned to but we wanted to do some work on the house and they asked me to come back so I went back. And it took me — having been away about ten years from young people — it took me about a month to get used to their slang and their dances and everything else. And I sat around for that month and watched them, and finally I learned some of the dances, and you know, if you can do that you're in. So I was in with them and I stayed there for about nine years. We had some good programs. I really enjoyed working with the youngsters. Of course, I had the girls . . . I went there as assistant director then, and we had drill teams. I taught sewing, cooking, I even learned to square dance so I could teach it. I think one of the greatest advantages to me in . . . [End Side A]

a few of them formed a committee. Ray Hines. And began talking about a center. Also the Community Chest, which later became United Way, had some extra funds. Along with that, though, there was also this idea of not wanting black soldiers to come into the USO that they had here, and so in that case they needed someplace for them to go.

We had left the house because the man wanted it back, and had gone to the American Legion Hall. They let us in there for a while. Then we went to a church basement, the CME church basement, and from there on to Lawhead School basement, so we were sort of going around. And that was where the Lawhead Servicemen Center was, in the Lawhead School basement. That turned out to be real nice. We had some nice programs there. One of the young men I saw in New York once who was active in one of our Christmas programs we had, also in some of the programs we had there at the center. And then from the Community Chest they had some surplus funds, and with that and the fact that there were some people who said if you raise a certain amount we'll give a certain amount. And I think it was . . .

→ Dallas Brown: Was that the War Chest?

Erma Bridgewater: Yes. They started that campaign for money on December 7 — they bombed Japan, Hiroshima — yes, it was December 7, 1941, that which made it a good time for raising money, too. (Laughs). Then the center was built in 1945, and I was there as director for one month. My husband came back from the Navy and I decided I was ready to go home. By that time I had had the first child, because that was when I was still working. Let's see, that was before the Lawhead Servicemen Center. I was working in Lawhead School with the preschool program. I was pregnant, one of the little boys said, "Miss Scott you

## Erma Bridgewater, Oral Interview

### SIDE B

Erma Bridgewater: I was able to have my children come there after school, and I got to know what other kids were wearing, what they were doing, the slang. I even taught mine some of the dances, and I think it not only helped me, but it helped them a lot, too. It helped them to get used to other kids and to fit in, and they never had problems with getting along with the rest of them because they were in with them. They went to Washington School — my youngest child was my daughter — she went to Washington School, and, of course, she could come right there after school. The rest of them could come there. They got into basketball and track.

In fact, there was a time when I thought I didn't care too much about track. It seemed to — you know, just sitting around waiting for somebody's turn to get ready to run, but when I found out my youngest son could run track, boy I really got into it then. And then we got girls into track. And I really got involved in it and we took them, oh, as far as state meets in the JC Jamboree, and we had a lot of winners, too. That was one of the, really the most rewarding things I think I've had happen to me was in the work at Douglass Center. And as I see the kids — well, see them now as young men and women they still are anxious to come up and let me know the good things they're doing and that really gives you a real lift.

Let's see, I stayed there until 1964 I believe it was, as director part of that time. They decided they needed a man as director which was fine. I didn't have any quarrel with that. But then when they finally got him they cut my salary in order to pay his, and I felt like that was asking a little bit too much, so I left. And I got a job then — let's see, I was 50 years old then, which is kind of old to go out looking for a job. So I went to the University and I either had too much education

Champaign Park District  
Douglass Senior Citizens  
who worked for the new center

Carrie M. Nelson	Trudi Overstreet
Katie T. Gray	Willie Wilson
Daisie Johnson	Dona M <sup>e</sup> Kinzie
Mamie Smith	Bernice Chambers
Anna Lee	James A. M <sup>e</sup> Kinley
Violet Flowers	Belver M <sup>e</sup> Kinley
Bertha Moss	Alice Pope
Sarah Scott	Callie Glover
Lena Lindsay	Gracie Moore
Lydia E. Wilson	Amanda Ford
Margaret Brown	Annabell Pettiford
Zelle Woodard	Mary Herron
Carrie Anderson	Rebecca M <sup>e</sup> Nair
Ella Washington	Grace Smith

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## ANNUAL EXHIBITION TEA GIVEN



Annual Exhibition Tea given by Toppers Club of Douglas Recreation Center, held Easter Lea and Exhibit. Reading from left to right: Emline Alexander, Ruby Smith, Ruth Ray, vice-pres., Margaret Woodruff, Odelia Wesley, Sarah Bradley, treas., Juanita Cameron, pres., Margaret Utley, sec., Rosa Pealer, Lillie Saunders, Helen Apples. All are members of Champaign elite.



ALL AFTERNOON:

Music by the University of Illinois Andean Ensemble—West Gallery  
Special exhibitions—Art and Design Lounge and Krannert Art Museum  
Child-guided tours of African Art and Pre-Columbian Art Galleries—Lower level  
Water-color painting activities—Art and Design Lounge  
Kids as Curators: Create Your Own Museum Label—Lower Krannert Hall  
Display of Urban Partnership Projects  
Drawing: Artistic Prizes for all Ages! 4:30 Reception Desk

For Information call: 217.333.1361

Krannert Art Museum and Kinkead Pavilion  
500 East Peabody Drive  
Champaign, IL 61820

**CHAMPAIGN PARK DISTRICT  
DOUGLASS ANNEX SENIOR CITIZENS ROSTER  
1999**

*Director Barbara McGee  
Office Phone: 398-2562*

NAME	ADDRESS	CITY	ZIP	PHONE	B-DAY
1. Adams, Charles	303 N. Third	C	20	356-0270	Apr 29
<i>Del</i> 2. Alexander, Mary	2304 Southmoor Dr.	C	21	356-2363	Aug 24
3. Algee, Eva	1213 Gwetrude	C	20	352-9818	Sept 5
4. Allen, Mahalie	404 W. Eureka	C	20	398-4803	July 2
5. Anderson, Dollie	404 W. Ells	C	20	352-0433	Oct 3
<i>Del.</i> 6. Anderson, Lovie	603 E. Washington	C	20	356-2727	May 12
7. Anderson, Minnie	1105 N. Fourth	C	20	352-9851	Sept 8
8. Avant, Mary	1219 Redwood	C	21	356-8438	Oct 14
9. Avant, Mozell	1201 W. Eureka	U	01	367-0154	Mar 25
10. Banks, Dawson Jr.	923 N. Linview Dr.	U	01	384-1655	July 14
11. Barnes, Johnny	707 N. Busey	U	01	367-9285	Dec 7
12. Barnes, Theresa	707 N. Busey	U	01	367-9285	Apr 26
13. Bean, Margie	1409 W. Beardsley	U	01	367-5821	Sept 14
14. Benton, Olivetta	108 W Washington #407	C	20	355-0669	Sept 20
15. Booker, Edna	504 N Ash	C	20	356-3080	July 3
16. Bracy, Helen	921 N Fourth	C	20	352-8327	Apr 30
17. Brent, Emma	111 Belefontaine	C	20	352-0803	Aug 6
18. Britt, Richard	510 E Beardsley	C	20	356-0086	Nov 9
19. Brown, Donald	1709 Harrington	C	21	356-5503	Feb 18
20. Brown, Garnetta	1709 Harrington	C	21	356-5503	Jan 3
21. Brown, Jerry	1414 Hollyhill	C	21	356-4309	Aug 6

	22. Bright, Clara	1208 W. Tremont	U	01	384-5304	Apr 27
	23. Campbell, Catherine	2506 Roland Dr.	C	21	359-3729	Oct 8
	24. Campbell, Juanita	1209 N. Sixth	C	20	359-6027	Mar 12
	25. Campbell, Willie	1210 W Bradley	C	21	351-2174	June30
<i>Q-22</i>	26. Chambers, Berniece	603 E. Columbia	C	20	352-5714	May28
	27. Coleman, Earnestine	1005 E. Hill	U	01	328-4320	Sep 19
	28. Conley, Dorothy	1203 W. Ellis	U	01	367-1417	Mar 19
	29. Conner, Lula	1504 Summit Ridge	C	21	359-6617	Nov 5
<i>Jel</i>	30. Davis, Jean	1207 Dorie Miller	C	20	352-5372	Mar 21
	31. Davis, Samuel	1207 Dorie Miller	C	20	352-5372	Oct 20
	32. Deshong, Ruthie	507 E. Beardsley	C	20	352-4451	Apr 26
	33. Drake, Rosie	1103 N. Fourth	C	20	356-1517	Jan 26
	34. Dixon, Carolyn	1617 W. Union	C	20	356-0580	Jan. 7
	35. Donald, Willie	907 N. Harvey	U	01	384-5680	Sep 27
<i>?</i>	36. Edwards, Maude	1204 1/2 N. Goodwin	U	01	367-0763	Sep 17
	37. Fonville, Ruth	1303 Brian Pl. #4	U	01	337-0310	Nov 4
	38. Foster, Olive	306 E. Park #206	C	20	356-8205	Mar 12
	39. Franklin, Berniece	601 E. Columbia	C	21	359-0046	Nov 27
	40. Friend, Dorothy	1203 Williamsburg	C	21	359-5977	Sep 15
	41. Gipson, Susie	1909 Diana Ln.	C	21	356-5561	Aug 8
	42. Gray, Rosetta	1307 N. Romaine	U	01	384-7258	Feb 12
	43. Gray, Ruth	802 Oakcrest	C	21	359-3692	Dec 13
	44. Green, Dorothy	711 Bethume	C	20	356-8399	May13
	45. Harrsion, Esther	275 Alexander	R	66	892-4175	May14
	46. Hayes, Jim	1204 W Dublin	U	01	384-6334	Oct 31



47. Hendricks, Ruth	1908 Joanne Ln.	C	21	352-2885	Oct17
48. Hillsman, Ruthie	3328 Ridgwood Dr.	C	21	356-0396	Dec. 26
49. Hines, Marie	305 E Washington	C	20	356-6595	May27
50. Hite, Dorothy	1212 N Sixth	C	20	356-2771	May6
51. Hornbuckle, Willie C.	930 Linview	U	01	344-6016	Apr 11
52. Howell, Ellie M.	509 E Grove	C	20	356-5228	Dec 2
53. Hudson, Odessa	1212 Paula Dr.	C	21	359-4623	July25
54. Huffman, Ether	1213 Crispus Dr.	C	20	356-9488	Apr 2
55. Humphrey, Kathryn	716 Tawney Ct.	C	20	356-4180	Jan24
56. Jackson, Daisy	1210 W Eureka	U	01	328-1329	Nov 7
57. Jackson, Edwin	1210 W. Eureka	U	01	328-1329	Nov10
58. Jamerson, Dora	1305 W Tremont	U	01	328-2045	Dec29
59. Johnson, Daisy	#4 Columbia Pl	C	20	356-6316	Apr18
60. Johnson, Theresa	1601 Gates Pl	C	20	356-5188	Mar27
61. Jones, Mildred	717 Tawney Ct.	C	20	398-6273	Apr2
62. Jordon-Luckey, Dorothy	1210 Crispus Dr.	C	20	352-3169	May22
63. Kennedy, Ethel	903 N Fifth	C	20	359-5490	Dec7
64. Kennedy, John	712 Tawney Ct	C	20	352-0325	Feb11
65. Kennedy, Marge	712 Tawney Ct	C	20	352-0325	Mar14
66. Killion, Gladys	1204 Ellis Dr	U	01	-----	Aug 15
67. Kindle, Freddie	404 E Eureka	C	20	356-4890	June5
68. Kinney, Abella	1111 N Market	C	20	356-9346	June30
69. Latham, Ruth	410 E Columbia	C	20	352-4393	June24
70. Lewis, Carol	2573 Clayton Blvd	C	22	351-6174	July22
71. Mason, Juanita	1209 N Sixth	C	20	359-6024 <sup>7</sup>	July21
72. McCoy, Mary Louise	501 Columbia Pl#8	C	20	356-4950	Nov23
73. McClean, Mary	1510 Aztec Dr.	C	21	384-3789	Jan 11

74. McGee, Caroline	1805 S Cottage Grove#108	U	01	367-2149	June12
75. McNeal, Alice	412 E Park	C	20	359-2710	Nov25
76. McNeal, Effie	1104 N Champaign	C	20	356-7427	Sept24
77. Matthews, Beatrice	418 Farview	C	20	352-3992	Sept27
78. Mays, Marguerite	1306 W Tremont	U	01	344-7378	Jan30
79. Merrifield, Estelle	1403 W Beslin	U	01	367-4845	July4
80. Merrifield, Fred	1403 W Beslin	U	01	367-4845	Feb26
81. Milton. Elease	1216 N Sixth	C	20	359-3547	Jan25
82. Minor, Margaret	1202 N Crispus Dr.	C	20	356-2280	Aug18
83. Moreland, Dorothy	1414 W Eads	U	01	367-7594	Jan24
84. Melvin, Lee	1209 Dorie Miller Dr	C	20	352-4997	Aug 5
85. Nash, Mary Ola	411 E Beardslye	C	20	398-8008	Nov11
86. Nelson, Bertha	108 W Washington	C	20	239-3405	Dec21
87. Nichols, Maxine	1211 Crispus Dr.	C	20	356-6843	Oct31
88. Oliver, Blandena	1303 W Dublin	U	01	337-1103	Feb8
89. Oliver, Theo	1310 W Beardsley	U	01	344-4725	Oct3
90. Pelmore, Pauline	501 E Columbia#7	C	20	356-5238	Jan21
91. Perkins, Eloise	108 E Washington Sq	C	21	356-3407	Oct19
92. Phillips, Ophilia	1212 Mimosa Dr.	C	21	356-3407	Feb5
93. Pollard, McClenda	1808 S Prospect	C	20	359-4630	Oct 4
94. Powell, Hildra	3202 Kimberly	C	21	356-9844	June15
95. Ranson, Florance	801 Westfield Dr.	C	21	352-9483	Aug20
96. Reid, Ebell	1307 W Tremont	U	01	384-8167	Nov25
97. Reid, Etha	1307 W Tremont	U	01	384-8167	Nov25
98. Rivers, Eunice	109 Stanage	C	20	356-4759	Sept22
99. Robinson, Gladys	909 N. Grefory	U	01	367-1622	Dec5
100. Robinson, Oscar	909 N Gregory	U	01	367-1662	Aug12

101.	Robinson, Willie B	#10 Lemon Tree Shadow Trailer Park	C	20	-----	Feb11
102.	Scott, Nettie	1301 Carver Dr.	C	20	359-1057	Aug14
103.	Session, David	2312 Tamarack	C	21	359-2647	Dec5
104.	Session, Halestine	2312 Tamarack	C	21	359-2647	July12
105.	Shelton, Emma L.	1208 N Crispus Dr.	C	20	352-1393	Aug4
106.	Smith, Earl E.	1302 Crispus Dr	C	20	352-5520	Dec25
107.	Smith, Lillie	1208 Ellis Dr.	U	01	344-4659	Dec17
108.	Smith, Margaret	1302 Crispus Dr.	C	20	352-5520	Jan11
109.	Smith, Mamie	301 E Bradley	C	20	359-7504	Oct16
110.	Stith, Billie J	2009 Sagamon	C	21	359-4695	June25
111.	Stovall, Clara	601 E Columbia	C	20	352-2730	Aug4
112.	Stratton, Genevieve	901 Scottsdale	C	21	352-2296	Jan2
113.	Sykes, Emma	2000 W John #249	C	21	356-3301	Aug4
114.	Sykes, Willie	200 W John #348	C	21	356-3423	Sept11
115.	Tanner, Louise	2403 PrarieGreenDr,E	U	02	367-8850	Aug29
116.	Taylor, Dorothy	3203 W William	C	21	359-4273	Oct3
117.	Taylor, Eula B.	1204 W Eads	U	01	239-1309	Sept27
118.	Thomas, Mary	1503 N Romaine	U	01	-----	May31
119.	Townsend, Marsha	1306 W Tremont	U	01	344-7378	Jan 8
120.	Underwood, Ruby	904 N Romine	U	01	384-4040	Oct3
121.	Vasser, Elizabeth	2000 W John	C	21	352-9362	June30
122.	Wade, Pearl	916 N Gregory	U	01	367-9832	Nov 21
123.	Wallick, Malinda	1211 W Hill	U	01	367-1691	Aug 13
124.	Walker, Asa	1210 N Busey	U	01	367-0318	Jan 30
125.	Walker, Pauline	1210 N Busey	U	01	367-0318	Feb 3

126.	White, Lucille	1212 Dorie Miller	C	20	356-7625	Aug 14
127.	Williams, Christine	710 Tawney Ct.	C	20	359-5628	Dec 25
128.	Williams, Willa Mae	705 W Vine	C	20	356-1495	May25
129.	Wilson, Carolyn	2306 Burlison Dr.	U	01	328-4860	Oct 2
130.	Wise, Hazel	1010 N Fifth	C	20	356-8025	July19
131.	Yarber, Ada J.	54 E Columbia	C	20	352-3224	May16
132.	Yarber, Arnold L	54 E Columbia	C	20	352-3224	Sept28
133.	Young, Edna	1517 W Kirby #12	C	21	356-8015	Oct 17

**NURSING HOME MEMBERS**

Rosie Anderson	Urbana Care Center	June 26
Juanita Campbell	Champaign County Nursing Home	March 12
Verene Cole	Manorcare Health Center	Jan. 12
Jerry Friend	Urbana Care Center	Jan. 13
<i>R.O. e'd</i> Callie Glover	Urbana Care Center	Oct. 1
Eddie Glover	Urbana Care Center	Dec 20
John Smith	V.A. Danville, IL	May 30

## Playwright to present one-woman performance

By The News-Gazette

CHAMPAIGN — Reanae McNeal, an award-winning playwright, poet and performer, will present her one-woman show that traces the history of black women.

Her "Don't Speak My Mother's Name in Vain" uses vignettes, dance and song to trace the experiences of black women from historical slavery through modern times. Each character reveals how the women have survived rape, sexual assault and oppression. The show deals with racism, sexism, classism, slavery, sexual harassment and child abuse.

Through the play, McNeal tells her own story of being a sexual assault survivor while in college. McNeal's appearances are part of the University of Illinois Sexual Assault Awareness Month (April).

The performances of "Don't Speak My Mother's Name in Vain" will be at 7 p.m. Monday in the Douglass Center Auditorium, 512 E. Grove St., C, and 7 p.m. April 30 in the Illini Union, Room A, 1401 W. Green St., U. They are free and open to the public.

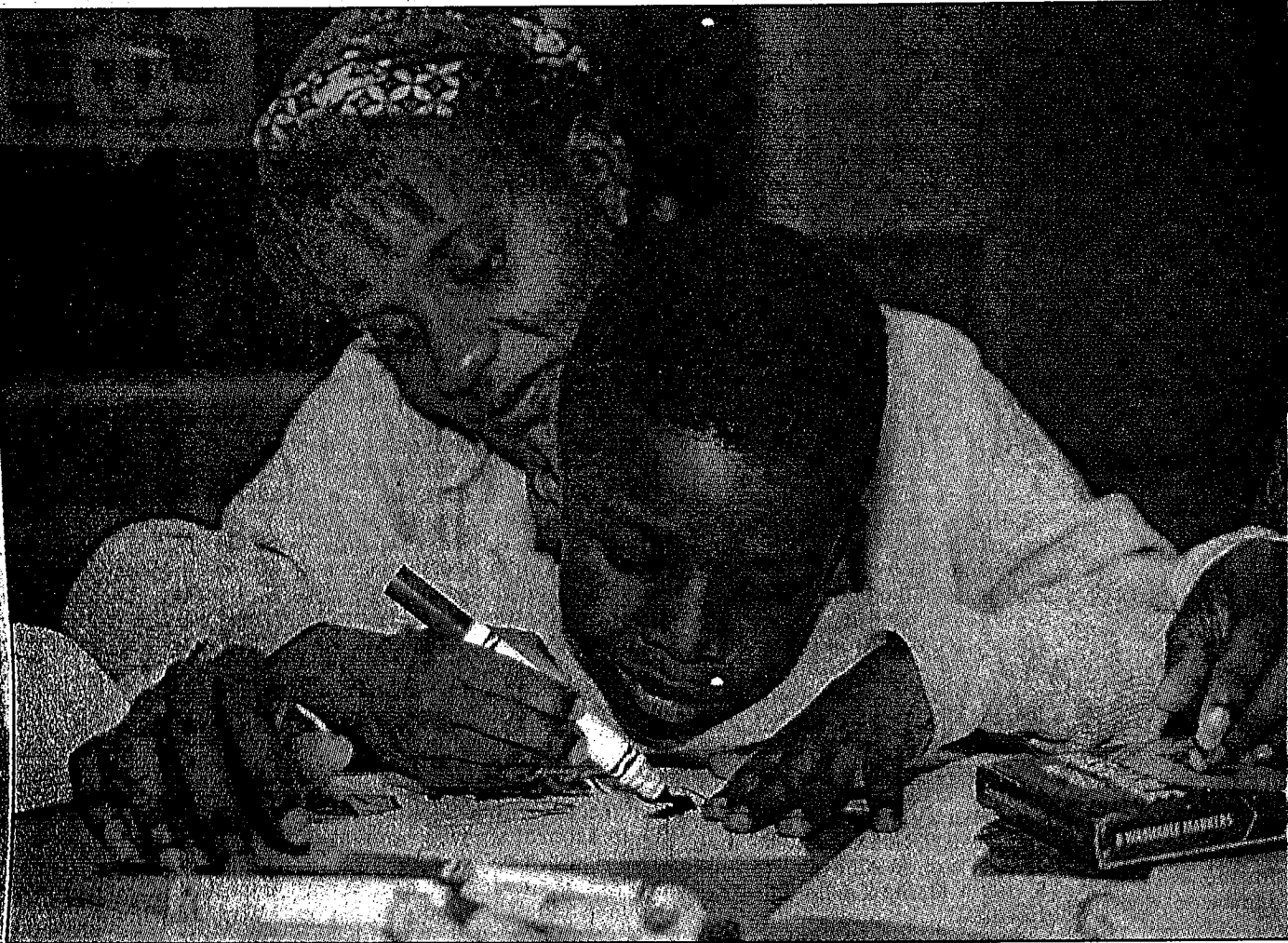
McNeal also will deliver a brown-bag discussion/lecture at noon Tuesday in the Arcade Conference Room in the Turner Student Services Building, 610 E. John St., C. She will discuss the use of theater in response to sexual violence issues.

McNeal is a performance artist, vocalist, motivational speaker, storyteller and trainer and has received many awards, including the Afro-Heart Award, Women of a Stolen Legacy Award and the NAACP Appreciation Award.

She has toured extensively in the United States, Hungary, Italy and Russia. She toured Russia under the sponsorship of the International Arts Institute, telling African-American stories and folk tales.

3/6/97

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 Spin Off ..... B-8



News-Gazette photo by Robert K. O'Daniell

Scott Clark, 5, draws while Kali Thomas, a University of Illinois student, watches. They were participating in the men-tors program at Douglass Community Center in Champaign last month.

## Helping hands

Area not-for-profit agencies rely heavily on volunteers to get job done

By ALDEN LOURY  
 News-Gazette Staff Writer

CHAMPAIGN — Volunteer efforts are essential for most not-for-profit agencies, like the Men's Emergency and Community Day Shelter in Champaign, which are caught in a funding desert where even the most reliable resources are beginning to dry up.

"We definitely would not be able to function without them," said Kelly Lidinsky, the shelter's volunteer coordinator.

"There used to be a time when we had only volunteers."

Even though the homeless shelter can now afford to have at least one paid staff person on hand, volunteers are still a must, considering the shelter's recent surge in population.

Lidinsky said the shelter usually has five or six volunteers in the evening helping to prepare meals, clean up and interact with as many as 70 homeless men each night, "because obviously one person can't take care of all that."

Longtime volunteer and coordinator Pat Chapel, who served as the director of the Volunteer Center of the United Way of Champaign County for 15 years, said the most significant challenge facing not-for-profits today is the need to attract more volunteers.

In order to bring in volunteers needed to keep their programs going, volunteer coordinators stress the importance of working together and letting the public know about volunteer opportunities.

Through the Vermilion County Council for Volunteers, agencies that rely heavily on volunteers and some individuals are able to exchange valuable information and build partnerships.

Council member Louise Free said agencies even refer some of their volunteers to other member agencies which might benefit from their talents.

Sharon Wade Cooke, a former president of the Vermilion County Council for Volunteers, said council members began to depend on the relationships they built among themselves almost as much as those with their volunteers.

"It (is) a big help because you need to have that information gathering, to share ideas, share needs, to find out what's going on," she said.

Several agencies in Champaign and Vermilion counties are also attempting

### Survey shows who volunteers

It is estimated that 93 million adults volunteered in 1995 — or 4 million more than in 1993 — and gave an average of 4.2 hours per week.

Of those who responded to a national survey, 49 percent volunteered during 1995.

Here's a breakdown of respondents to a nationwide survey by gender, age and employment status. The list shows the percentage for each category of respondents who volunteered in the 12 months before May 1996.

■ By gender:  
 Men — 45%  
 Women — 52%

■ By age:  
 18-24 — 38%

25-34 — 51%  
 35-44 — 55%  
 45-54 — 55%  
 55-64 — 48%  
 65-74 — 45%  
 75+ — 34%

■ Employment status:  
 Employed — 52%  
 Full-time — 50%  
 Part-time — 58%  
 Not employed — 46%  
 Retired — 40%

Source: *The Trends in Giving and Volunteering Study*, conducted by the *Independent Sector with the Gallup Organization* and released Oct. 9, 1996. The survey was conducted in 1995.

"Educate your kids. Educate them on the benefits they get from volunteering their time. Then everyone wins out of that situation."

— Cheryl Collins, director of marketing at the United Way of Champaign County

to let their communities know what's going on through newsletters, public service announcements, newspaper ads and the World Wide Web.

Dozens of agencies are already linked to the United Way of Champaign County's volunteer website, [www.uway-helps.org](http://www.uway-helps.org).

The World Wide Web address lists hundreds of volunteer opportunities at dozens of agencies and businesses throughout Champaign County.

People can look for opportunities based on their interests, or they can scan through an alphabetical list of specific agencies and organizations, Chapel said.

In Vermilion County, the council for volunteers is also working to establish a clearinghouse for volunteer jobs.

Information about agencies needing volunteers and people wanting to volunteer their time will soon be available using Com-Link, an information and referral system providing free services to five Illinois and Indiana counties.

"That's been one of our big goals," said volunteer council member Ina Patterson.

With the referral network, Patterson said, people can say, "Here's my talent. I'd like to volunteer. Where should I go?" and immediately find answers.

Volunteers themselves can also play a major role in spreading information about volunteer opportunities.

Lidinsky said the Men's Emergency Shelter had twice as many volunteers during January as for that month in 1996, due in part to word of mouth.

"People talking about the positive experiences they've had," Lidinsky said, "and then their friends get interested, as well."

Cheryl Collins, director of marketing at the United Way of Champaign County, suggests that volunteers always try to bring a few friends or family members along.

"Educate your kids," said Collins, who started volunteering as a child by tagging along with her mother.

"Educate them on the benefits they

get from volunteering their time. Then everyone wins out of that situation."

Chapel said agencies should strive to build opportunities for family volunteers.

"We have to have more stuff where mom and the kids can go," she said. "That is going to be the new way of getting things done."

Volunteer coordinators in Champaign and Vermilion counties say the public has responded but the need for volunteers is still great.

"There are so many opportunities in the counties to volunteer, and we need them so desperately," said Free, who heads the Readers' Route program, an almost completely volunteer-driven effort at Danville Area Community College.

"Our students are 16 years and older and read below the ninth-grade level. We help them read better," said Free.

"It's not difficult. Most of the volunteers love to read."

Free thinks more people would consider volunteering if they could find a little time to help out by doing something they love to do.

"They have to have an interest in it," she said.

Once potential volunteers have found their niche, usually something related to their job, favorite hobby or personal experience, Collins said they should find at least one hour a week to donate their time.

And an hour a week is all that's needed to become hooked on the joy of helping others, she said.

"Once you do it and get that feeling, you just keep wanting to do it," Collins said. "It's a little contagious."

Brian Malone gets that good feeling twice a week when he visits the Douglass Community Center in Champaign to serve as a mentor to young black males.

"I felt the need to try and get involved," said Malone, who enjoys working with the kids but also considers it his duty.

He said all adults should feel that way when it comes to today's children.

"(Adults) have a responsibility to help the younger generation make it to where they are," said Malone.

"There really are no guarantees that these kids will make it."

# 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Evening of Celebration and Recognition



*INSPIRING  
OUR YOUTH!*

## NCAAM GOALS

Provide leadership,  
positive  
role models for Black  
Youth

Build a common  
fellowship of men and  
women

Empower African  
American Men to  
assume responsibility for  
their own lives and those  
of their families and  
community.

Out of over Three hundred that started,  
One hundred fifty-five may?

**Business of the year Award  
The Whip Hair Designs  
& The Whip Cafe**

Owner Seon Williams & Roline Brumfield

In recognition of sales and the  
years of entrepreneurship

**Golden Spirit  
Helping Hand Award**

**Eular M. Henderson**

In recognition of your dedication  
to improving your community

**Outstanding Community  
Service Award**

**Barbara A McGee**

In recognition of your  
outstanding contributions to the  
African American community

**Booker T. Washington  
Achievement Award**

**Henrine L. Casey**

In recognition of your dedication  
and excellence in education

**Keynote Speaker**

**Nathaniel Banks**

Nathaniel Banks is a life-long resident of Champaign. He went to Gregory School, one of the oldest integrated schools in the country. Nathaniel attended the University of Illinois and received his Bachelor and Master Degrees in music. Nathaniel began his career working as the Assistant Director of the Afro-American Cultural Program under the Direction of Bruce Nesbitt. He remained in that position nine years, then left campus for four years to become the Principal at Judah Christian School. He returned to campus to work in the Office of Minority Student Affairs, and now Directs the African American Cultural Program. Throughout his career, Nathaniel has been interested in working on behalf of young people. To that end he has served as a Director of Upward Bound, as a Board member of the Don Moyer Boys and Girls Club, the Champaign Urbana Area Project, the United Way of Champaign County, and the Urbana Rotary Literacy committee. Nathaniel is a Christian and as a result, has devoted his life to serving the community in whatever way he can. He and his wife, Lisha have been married for thirty years and have three grown sons.

Welcome:

Daryl Yarber and Mike Neal  
(National Council of African American Men)

Invocation:

Reverend, Walter Graham  
(National Council of African American Men)



Special Performance

ILLNOYZ

Introduction of Speaker:

Laura Weis  
(Champaign County Chamber of Commerce)

Keynote Speaker:

Nathaniel Banks

**NCAAM, Inc. 9th Annual Recognition Awards Presentation**

- 1) Golden Spirit Helping Hand Award: **Eular M. Henderson**  
Award Presenter: Rita Myles (National Council of Negro Women)
- 2) Business of the Year Award: **The Whip Cafe, Roline Brumfield**  
**The Whip Hair Designs, Seon Williams**  
Award Presenter: Laura Weis (Champaign County Chamber of Commerce)
- 3) Outstanding Community Service Award: **Barbara A. McGee**  
Award Presenter: Tracy Parsons (Urban League of Champaign County)
- 4) Booker T. Washington Award: **Henrine L. Casey**  
Award Presenter: Artice James (National Council of African American Men)

***NCAAM INC. Scholarship:***

***Rickey Greer***  
***Centennial High School***

Remarks:

Artice James, Robert Walker, and Rodney Butler

Comedian:

Timothy Edward .

Closing:

Daryl Yarber and Mike Neal

**For your pleasure L. J. Capital City D.J of Springfield  
will play dance music the rest the evening.**



# Acknowledgements



**Bank one**  
**AC Humko**  
**State Farm**  
**Bank Illinois**  
**Meeks & Guest**  
**Heartland Bank**  
**Parkland College**  
**Carle Foundation**  
**Eagle Lodge 3075**  
**Provena Covenant**  
**Seno Formal Wear**  
**Tim McCoy & Guest**  
**Ronnie Claiborne & Guest**  
**Advance Filtration Systems Inc.**  
**National Council of Negro Women**  
**Urbana League of Champaign County**  
**Jackson Hewitt Tax Service (1704 W. Bradley Ave.)**  
**Champaign County Chamber of Commerce**  
**Kraft**

**Special thanks to Razor Sharp Band for providing the dinner music and  
L. J. Capital City D. J. for providing dance music at the end of the program.**

*Sponsored by The National Council of African American Men  
and the Champaign County Chamber of Commerce*

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!**

## **NCAAM OFFICERS**

**Chairman: Robert Walker, Vice Chairman: Rodney Butler**  
**President: Artice James, Vice president: Daryl Yarber**



News-Gazette Photo By Robert K. O'Daniell

### ***Holiday sharing***

Leola Jackson helps 2-year-old 'Peaches' Jones with her drink Sunday at the Fourth Annual Thanksgiving Dinner sponsored by the local graduate chapter of Iota Phi Theta fraternity on behalf of area senior citizens. According to the service fraternity, 150 people attended the dinner at Champaign's Douglass Center.

S

# City to help fund social services

■ Straw vote puts annual ceiling at \$150,000

By J. PHILIP BLOOMER  
News-Gazette Staff Writer

CHAMPAIGN — Local social-service agencies will continue to get a helping hand from city government after all.

The Champaign City Council agreed in a straw vote Tuesday to spend up to \$150,000 on social services annually.

"This is recognition that government is not just police and fire and public works," said community activist John Lee Johnson.

The \$150,000 spending ceiling will be accompanied by a new allocation procedure reworked to eliminate the confusing and politicized procedures of the past.

For the last four years, the council has allocated \$100,000 in taxes from off-track betting to an array of local agencies. That was outside of initiatives undertaken with Community Development Block Grant funds awarded by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

Fed up with the earlier process, the council last May agreed to begin depositing off-track betting revenue in general funds.

Some council members pointed out that the city's dedication of resources to social needs has continued at a generous pace.

Contracts with agencies getting block-grant funds continue, to the tune of nearly \$80,000 this fiscal year.

Plus, one-time expenditures for special projects include:

✕ The Douglass Branch Annex, \$250,000 from block grant funds.

funds.

— Head Start initiative, \$80,000 annually from general funds.

— Center for Women in Transition, \$75,000 from Urban Development Action Grant funds.

Under the new allocation process, the block-grant funds are still dedicated mainly to housing programs. But under Housing and Urban Development guidelines, cities can allocate up to 15 percent of their annual grant to social services that complement that mission.

The city's grant is around \$1 million annually, meaning that up to \$150,000 would be available for social services.

Since the 15 percent must be dedicated to programs meeting federal goals, at the suggestion of Mayor Dannel McCollum, the council agreed to substitute up to \$50,000 from general revenues that could be provided for programs outside federal criteria.

✕ That would allow the city, for example, to help such programs as the Correctional Employment Service and the Retired Senior Volunteer Program.

"The \$50,000 contingency would be available in case a priority came up that was not eligible for (block grant) funds," said Dorothy David, the city's neighborhood services director.

The spending ceiling would remain \$150,000 if that was done.

To streamline the process, the social-service allocation process will be integrated with the existing block-grant process, an annual routine of public hearings and data collection that goes into an application to the federal government.

Agencies that might be eligible under federal or city goals will be encouraged to apply.

The council approved the process on an 8-1 vote. Maggie Mattingly opposed the allocation and the funding on principle. Mi

CHAMPAIGN PARK DISTRICT  
DOUGLASS SENIOR CITIZENS  
DOUGLASS ANNEX 398-2572  
BARB MCGEE - SENIOR SUPERVISOR

ADAMS, CHARLES	303 NORTH THIRD, CH	61820	356-0270	APRIL 29
ALEXANDER, MARY	2304 SOUTHMOOR DR, CH	61821	356-2363	AUGUST 24
ALLEN, MILDRED	811 WEST CLARK, UR	61801	367-1555	NOV 28
ANDERSON, LOVIE	603 EAST WASHINGTON, CH	61820	356 2727	MAY 12
ANDERSON, MINNIE	1105 NORTH FOURTH, CH	61820	352 9851	SEPT 8
ANDERSON, ROSIE	108 W. WASHINGTON, #512	61820	352 8793	JUNE 26
ARRINGTON, WILLIE M.	102 E. WASHINGTON, CH	61820	N/A	DEC 27
AVANT, MARY	1219 REDWOOD DRIVE, CH	61821	356-8438	OCT 14
BANKS, IDA	302 EAST WASHINGTON, CH	61820	356-2781	OCT 25
BANKS, OLA	401 EAST BEARDSLEY, CH	61820	356-3848	AUGUST 28
BANKS, OTIS	302 SOUTH SECOND, #304	61820	352-8840	NOV 28
BARNES, THERESA	707 NORTH BUSEY, UR	61801	367-9285	APRIL 26
BOLAND, ELFREDA	302 SOUTH SECOND, CH	61820	398-3168	JULY 1
BOOKER, EDNA	504 NORTH ASH, CH	61820	356-3080	JULY 3
BOYD, ERSALINE	917 NORTH LINVIEW, UR	61801	344-0216	OCT 12
BRACY, HELEN	912 NORTH FOURTH, CH	61820	352-8327	APRIL 30
BRAMLEY, LESLY	1207 NO. CHAMPAIGN, CH	61820	356-2296	APRIL 16
<del>BRANCH, CAROLINE</del>	<del>302 SO. SECOND, CH</del>	<del>61820</del>	<del>356-7364</del>	<del>MAY 2</del>
BRENT, EMMA	111 E. BELLEFONTAINE CH	61820	352 0830	AUGUST 20
BRITT, HUBBARD	604 EAST VINE STRETF CH	61820	359 5248	AUGUST 20
BROOKS, J.W.	1412 1/2 W. DUBIN, UR	61801	337 0815	MARCH 23
BROOKS, MARY	804 W. HILL STREET, UR	61801	367-7276	JULY 28
BROWN, LILLIE MAE	302 SO. SECOND ST, CH	61820	356 5033	DEC 17
BYRD, WESLY <i>DEC.</i>	506 E. BEARDSLEY, CH	61820	359 7259	MARCH 1
CAMPBELL, WILLIE	1210 W. BRADLEY AVE, CH	61821	351-2174	MARCH 12
CAMPBELL, JUANITA	1209 NORTH 6TH ST, CH	61820	359-6027	MARCH 12
CHAMBERS, BERNICE	603 EAST COLUMBIA, CH	61820	352-5714	MAY 28
CHAMBERS, KATHERINE	1202 W. EADS ST, UR	61801	328-2472	FEB 8
CHATMAN, MYRTLE	105 E. CHURCH ST, CH	61820	356-1077	JULY 15
CLAYTON, ANNA	210 1/2 EAST HILL, CH	61820	398 4215	APRIL 16
COLE, VERENE	406 1/2 E. EUREKA, CH	61820	356-2668	JAN 12
COLLINS, RUTH	1007 NORTH BUSEY, UR	61801	344-0286	OCT 5
CONNELL, LOUELLA	208 W. WILLIAM, CH	61820	352-2987	FEB 4
CONLEY, DOROTHY	1203 WEST ELLIS DR, UR	61801	367-1417	APRIL 19
CONERLY, ATHA	902 N. GREGORY, UR	61801	344-5875	-----
DAVIS, ESTELLA	1805 SO. COTTAGE GROVE	61801	367-1096	MARCH 4
DAVIS, JEAN	1207 DORIE MILLER DR, CH	61820	352-5372	MARCH 21
DAVIS, SAMUEL	1207 DORIE MILLER DR, CH	61820	352 5372	OCT 20
DERRICKS, EZELL	1102 NORTH BUSEY, UR	61801	384-3017	JULY 2
DIBRELL, WILLA M.	2000 WEST JOHN STREET CH	61821	356-4160	FEB 25
DODD, SUSIE	1122 W. BRADLEY AVE, CH	61821	356-3641	OCT 21
EDWARDS, MAUDIE	1204 1/2 N. GOODWIN, UR	61820	367-0763	SEPT 17
EVANS, PEARL	1112 W. HILL STREET, UR	61801	367-4920	OCT 14
FONVILLE, RUTH	2503 W. SPRINGFIELD, CH	61821	356-8467	NOV 4

ESTER, OLIVE	306 E. PARK AVE #308 CH	61820	356-8205	MARCH 12
FRANKLIN, BERNIECE	601 E. COLUMBIA ST, CH	61820	359-0046	NOV 27
FRIEND, DOROTHY	1203 WILLIAMSBURG, CH	61821	359-5977	SEPT 15
FRIEND, JERRY	1203 WILLIAMSBURG, CH	61821	359-5977	JAN 13
GANDY, ELENORA	412 EAST CHURCH ST, CH	61820	359-2457	NOV 27
GILLESPIE, ALMA	704 NORTH STATE ST, CH	61820	398-1150	OCT 3
GIPSON, SUSIE	1804 JOANNE LANE, CH	61821	356-5561	AUGUST 8
GLOVER, CALLIE	403 NORTH THIRD ST, CH	61820	352-9762	OCT 1
GLOVER, EDDIE	403 NORTH THIRD ST, CH	61820	352-9762	DEC 20
GOINES, LEE ANNIE	1307 NORTH CLOCK ST, CH	61820	356-5350	DEC 12
GOINES, R.E.	1307 NORTH CLOCK ST, CH	61820	356-5350	DEC 12
GRAY, MILLARD	802 OAKCREST, CH	61821	359-3692	AUGUST 16
GRAY, RUTH	802 OAKCREST, CH	61821	359-3692	DEC 13
HAYES, MAE	509 W. BRADLEY, CH	61820	356-4285	JAN 12
<del>HENDRICKS, FRANK</del>	<del>1908 JOANNE LANE, CH</del>	<del>61821</del>	<del>352-2885</del>	<del>SEPT 14</del>
HENDRICKS, GEORGE	1201 E. HARDING DR, UR	61801	384-3064	OCT 10
HENDRICKS, RUTH	1908 JOANNE LANE, CH	61821	352-2885	OCT 17
HENDRICKS, VELMA	1315 CURT HERITAGE HOUSE	61821	N/A	AUGUST 12
HINES, MARIE	305 EAST WASHINGTON, CH	61820	356-6595	MAY 27
HITE, DOROTHY	1212 NORTH SIXTH ST, CH	61820	356-2771	MAY 3
HORNBUCKLE, WILLIE C.	930 LINVIEW AVENUE, UR	61801	344-6016	APRIL 11
HORNSBY, SHIRLEY	1502 E. FLORIDA AVE, UR	61801	328-5422	OCT 30
HOWARD, LOTTIE	406 EAST VINE ST, CH	61820	356-1529	AUGUST 27
HOWELL, ELLIE MAE	509 EAST GROVE ST, CH	61820	356-5228	DEC 2
HUFFMAN, MAE EMMA	AMERICANA HEALTHCARE, UR	61801	N/A	MARCH 31
HUMPHREY, KATHRYN	716 TAWNEY COURT, CH	61820	356-4180	JAN 24
JACKSON, ARROW	406 EAST VINE ST, CH	61820	356-1529	APRIL 27
JACKSON, CLARENCE	806 SOUTH THIRD ST, CH	61820	367-1852	AUGUST 8
JACKSON, DAISY	1210 WEST EUREKA ST, CH	61801	328-1329	NOV 7
JACKSON, LEOA	33 EAST HEALEY ST, CH	61820	352-7786	NOV 3
JACKSON, MAMIE	503 SO. PRAIRIE, CH	61820	356-0283	OCT 21
JAMERSON, DORA	1305 WEST TREMONT, UR	61801	328-2045	DEC 29
JARRET, ARMSTER	1214 ELLIS DRIVE, UR	61801	367-5315	JUNE 3
JARRET, GENORA	1214 ELLIS DRIVE, UR	61801	367-5315	NOV 6
JOHNSON, DAISY	708 NORTH LINCOLN, UR	61801	367-7565	APRIL 18
JOHNSON, EDDIE	708 NORTH LINCOLN, UR	61801	367-7565	SEPT 3
JOHNSON, MARIE	1212 CARVER DRIVE, CH	61820	N/A	MARCH 12
JONES, BEATRICE	1709 HARRINGTON, CH	61821	356-5503	OCT 2
JONES, EDWARD	717 TAWNEY COURT, CH	61820	398-6273	JAN 19
JONES, MARION	306 EAST PARK #308, CH	61820	356-0444	MARCH 4
JONES, MARY LOU	1202 E. HARDING #412	61801	328-4031	NOV 19
JONES, MILDRED	717 TAWNEY COURT, CH	61820	398-6273	APRIL 2
KENNEDY, EARL REV.	903 NORTH FIFTH ST, CH	61820	359-5490	DEC 4
KENNEDY, ETHEL	903 NORTH FIFTH ST, CH	61820	359-5490	DEC 7
KENNEDY, JOHN	712 TAWNEY COURT, CH	61820	352-0325	FEB 11
KENNEDY, MARGERY	712 TAWNEY COURT, CH	61820	352-0325	MARCH 14
KINDIE, FREDDIE M.	401 EAST EUREKA, CH	61820	356-4890	JAN 1
KINNEY, ABELLA	1111 NORTH MARKET, CH	61820	356-9346	JUNE 30
KYSE, ANNIE	108 W. WASHINGTON, CH	61820	356-8053	JAN 25
KYSE, BERNICE	701 NORTH BISEY, UR	61801	367-1100	SEPT 25
LEE, ANNA	<del>610 E. WASHINGTON, CH</del>	<del>61820</del>	<del>352-8423</del>	<del>JUNE 5</del>
	1701 E. MAIN, U (CCH)	61801		

ANDSEY, LENA	1315 CURT HERITAGE HOUSE	61821	N/A	APRIL 19
FINZY, CHARLES	1213 WEST TREMONT, UR	61801	328-5882	OCT 2
LUCKEY, DOROTHY	1210 CRISPUS DRIVE, CH	61820	352-3169	MAY 22
MATTHEWS, BEATRICE	302 SOUTH 2ND #210, CH	61820	352-2745	SEPT 27
MCCAIN, ELLEN	804 WEST COLUMBIA, CH	61820	359-3870	MARCH 17
MCCOY, MARY LOUISE	#8 COLUMBIA PLACE, CH	61820	356-4950	NOV 23
MCFARLAND, ELLA	1404 W. BESLIN, URBANA	61801	367-7413	NOV 23
MCGEE, ARVELIA	911 NORTH LINCOLN, UR	61801	367-4530	JAN 10
MCKINLEY, BELVA	710 TAWNEY COURT, CH	61820	356-9277	OCT 11
MCKINLEY, LOUISE	AMERICANA HEALTHCARE, UR	61801	N/A	OCT 3
MCKINZIE, DONA	714 TAWNEY COURT, CH	61820	352-2734	APRIL 10
MCLEAN, MARY	1510 AZTEC DRIVE, CH	61821	N/A	NOV 11
MERRIFIELD, ESTELLA	1403 BESLIN, URBANA	61801	367-4585	JULY 4
MILES, EARL	1213 W. TREMONT, UR	61801	328-5882	JULY 9
MILLER, CHARLOTTE	108 W. WASHINGTON #602	61820	356-0181	NOV 20
MILTON, ELEASE	1216 NORTH SIXTH, CH	61820	359-3547	JAN 25
MINOR, MARGARET	1202 CRISPUS DRIVE, CH	61820	356-2280	AUGUST 16
MORELAND, DOROTHY	1414 WEST EADS, UR	61801	367-7594	JAN 24
MOSS, BERTHA	#7 COLUMBIA PLACE, CH	61820	351-6217	JUNE 13
MOLDEN, MARTHA	1814 GREENDALE DR, CH	61820	352-3020	APRIL 18
MULLEN, MARY REV	714 BETHUME COURT, CH	61820	356-3628	JULY 1
MULLEN, RANDOLPH SR.	714 BETHUME COURT, CH	61820	356-3628	FEB 6
NEIL, PAULINE	#4 COLUMBIA PLACE, CH	61820	359-2338	SEPT 12
NICHOLS, MAXINE	1211 CRISPUS DRIVE, CH	61820	356-6843	OCT 31
OLIVER, THEO	515 EDGEBROOK #48, CH	61820	352-9372	OCT 3
OVERSTREET, TRUDY	#1 COLUMBIA PLACE, CH	61820	352-3237	APRIL 10
PALMER, EDDIE	306 EAST PARK #316, CH	61820	356-4967	MARCH 26
PEACOCK, BESSIE	2412 CARRELTON DR, CH	61821	356-6115	APRIL 4
PEALER, MARGARETTE	1306 WEST TREMONT, UR	61801	344-7378	JAN 30
PELMORE, MILDRED	508 EAST VINE ST, CH	61820	352-8024	APRIL 27
PELMORE, PAULINE	505 EAST PARK AVE, CH	61820	356-5238	JAN 21
PIERCE, ORA LEE	302 SOUTH SECOND, CH	61820	356-9805	JUNE 25
POLLARD, MCCLENDA	1808 SO. PROSPECT, CH	61821	359-4630	OCT 4
<del>RIVERS, EILEEN</del>	405 1/2 E. PARK AVE, CH	61820	352-8580	NOV 20
<del>ROBERTS, BETTY</del>	306 E. PARK AVE, #305	61820	352-4908	SEPT 15
RODGERS, VIRGINIA	207 E. WASHINGTON, CH	61820	352-4907	OCT 3
SAYLES, ODESSA	203 E. WASHINGTON, CH	61820	356-4519	AUGUST 22
SCOBY, BEVERLY	916 HOLIDAY DRIVE, CH	61821	356-6371	MARCH 25
SCOTT, NETTIE	1301 CARVER DRIVE, CH	61820	359-1057	AUGUST 14
SHELTON, EMMA	1208 CRISPUS DRIVE, CH	61820	352-1393	AUGUST 4
SMITH, EARL	1302 CRISPUS DRIVE, CH	61820	352-5520	DEC 25
SMITH, MARGARET	1302 CRISPUS DRIVE, CH	61820	352-5520	JAN 11
SMITH, MAMIE	301 EAST BRADLEY, CH	61820	359-7544	OCT 16
SMITH, TISHIANN	1113 NORTH MARKET, CH	61820	352-2052	OCT 28
SPEED, EMMA	1204 PAULA DRIVE, CH	61821	356-3170	OCT 8
<del>STATON, GRACE</del>	223 ELMHURST (AREA CODE--(313) HIGHLAND PARK, MICH.	48203	865-6120	MAY 13
STEWART, ALICE	1010 NORTH FIFTH, CH	61820	356-6812	MARCH 27
STEWART, J.C.	1805 S. COTTAGE GROVE, UR	61801	337-6161	DEC 25
STITH, BILLIE J.	2009 SANGAMON DRIVE, CH	61821	359-4695	JUNE 25
STOVALL, CLARA	602 EAST COLUMBIA, CH	61820	352-2730	AUGUST 4

FANNIE  
 TINNEY, WILLIE M.  
 SYKES, EMMA  
 SYKES, WILLIE  
 TAYLOR, DOROTHY  
 TOWNSEND, MARSHA N.  
 TURNER, ARVILLE  
 UTLEY, DOROTHY  
 WEBB, RUBY  
 WHITE, LUCILLE  
 WILLIAMS, MAGGIE  
 WILLIAMS, NEILLIE  
 WILLIS, MARGARET  
 WILSON, LAVERNE  
 WILSON, LYDIA  
 WILSON, MILDRED  
 WOODS, ~~CONNIE~~

1209 ELLIS DRIVE, UR  
 3101 KIMBERLY DRIVE, CH  
 111 EAST HILL ST, CH  
 2000 W. JOHN #348, CH  
 3203 WEST WILLIAM, CH  
 1306 WEST TREMONT, UR  
 1204 NORTH MATTHEWS, UR  
 920 NORTH THIRD, CH  
 1312 WEST TREMONT, UR  
 1212 DORIE MILLER, CH  
 302 SOUTH SECOND, CH  
 1004 WEST HILL, UR  
 922 NORTH THIRD, CH  
 111 EAST CLARK, CH  
 405 EAST TREMONT, CH  
 1014 FRANK DRIVE, CH  
 1209 1/2 WEST HILL, UR

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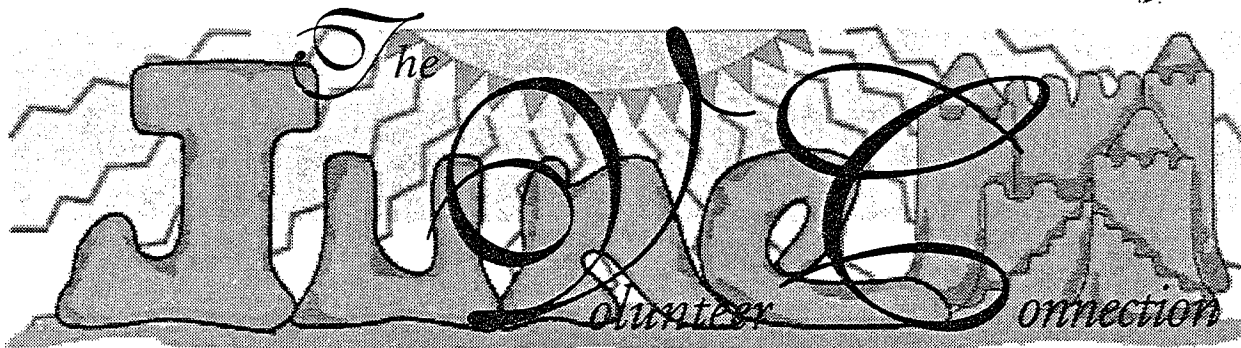
FEB 5  
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June 1998

RETIRED AND SENIOR  
VOLUNTEER PROGRAM

48 Main Street  
Champaign, IL 61820  
Phone: 217/359-6500  
Fax: 217/359-6550



## Let's Meet A Volunteer...

### PAULINE PELMORE

#### PAULINE PELMORE...

Although Pauline Pelmore has been with RSVP only a few weeks, she has been engaged in volunteering for most of her 76 years.

She is basically involved in crafts and teaching them but she also transports friends, neighbors and those who need a ride to doctors' appointments, shopping and other engagements.

Pauline who lives in Champaign holds her classes at Douglas Center, in Urbana schools and for residents at Columbia Place.

She has just moved into a different apartment and once she has gotten settled in, she will be taking on additional assignments for RSVP.

Pauline is a superb seamstress. She is well-known for her quilts, Afghans and other crafts. She also makes all of her clothes.

Her work has been on display in a Quilt Show at Krannert Center in 1994 and has been written up in a book by a Parkland College professor on quilting.

She formerly entered various contests at fairs and public shows and was a frequent winner of prizes.

Also she has been much honored for her volunteer activities for nearly 20 years. The wall of her living room is covered with citations and certificates.

"I just love to help people," she says. "I just can't seem to say no to anyone. That sometimes causes scheduling problems but we manage to work it out."

Pauline has no idea as to how many quilts she has made.

She says she got interested in quilts when she was three years old standing at the knees of her mother. She was taught a few things by her mother and by the time Pauline was



seven years old, she had made three quilts on her own.

Pauline laughingly tells the story that illustrates her proficiency and how fast she works. She went to Douglas Center wearing a new dress and a staff member remarked how pretty it was and said "it must take you days to make one like that."

Pauline said it would only take a couple of hours and went to her sewing machine. She returned an hour and a half later with the completed garment.

"She has called me Speedy Gonzales ever since," Pauline says with a smile.

Pauline never sells anything she makes nor takes money for them.

Pauline Gates was born in Oklahoma, raised in Arkansas and lived in Tennessee for awhile.

She was one of 12 children. Her parents are now deceased.

Pauline was born with a serious heart problem which has hampered her activities from time to time.

While living in Arkansas and Tennessee she worked as a practical nurse and as a seamstress. But since coming to Illinois, she has been employed as a domestic.

Pauline moved to Champaign-Urbana in 1957 from Arkansas. She had two sisters living here at the time.

Once here she met Jimmie Pelmore, a construction worker, and they were married. He died in 1976.

Pauline retired in 1984 and since has devoted most of her time to her hobbies and to volunteering. She says she still likes people but was tired of the 8 to 5 routine.

"And another advantage—you don't have to worry about getting fired," she says with a chuckle.

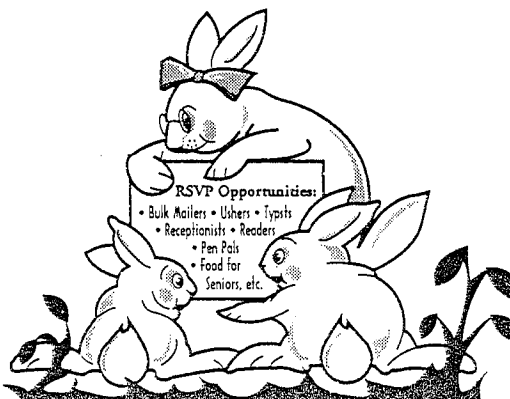
As one would expect, her hobbies are limited to her crafts, sewing and quilting, and being with people.

She is a member of the Morning Star Baptist Church.

As soon as Pauline gets her living quarters organized, she will be back on a full schedule with her craft classes.

She also has the only automobile in her housing complex and her neighbors depend on her for all sorts of transportation needs. And as she said she never says no to them.

**"Every 'Bunny' Needs**



**An RSVP Volunteer"**



# Douglass Seniors At Home, At Last

By KAREN D. ROBINSON  
News-Gazette Staff Writer

It's "Home Sweet Home" at last for the Douglass Senior Citizens group as they begin moving into their newly remodeled recreation center, located at the corner of Fifth and Grove streets in Champaign.

The building officially opened Saturday with members of the Champaign City Council, the Better Housing Committee and the Champaign Park Board on hand to celebrate the event.

The 3,276-square-foot facility, formerly an IGA Foodliner, will now be used primarily as a "social activities center" for the 66-member group.

Remodeling of the building took about nine months and cost the district some \$138,000. Furniture for the center was purchased with a grant from the Illinois Department on Aging.

According to Crystal Green, director of the senior citizens program, the center is "exactly what we asked for."

"Right now, all of the senior citizens are very pleased with it," she said.

Now that they have a home, the next task, according to the group's president Mamie Smith, will be to try and find the money to hire a full-time staff person, so that the center can be open every day of the week.

"We want to keep this place open all the time," said Smith. "We want it to be a place where people can come all the time, to just sit and relax, or visit, or if they're waiting for a bus, they can just stop in."

The entire staff at the center is Green, who is employed on a part-time basis. Green said that she has discussed the need for a full-time staff person with both Robert Toalson, park district general manager,

and the park board, but nothing has been worked out yet.

Board President Patricia Leonhard said that eventually the board hopes to be able to hire at least one full-time and one part-time staff person for the center.

Green pointed out, however, that the problem of insufficient staff is not one which is peculiar to the Senior Citizens Center.

"It's the same with Douglass and Bicentennial," she said. "There's just not enough money to hire the staff that's really needed."

Green said that she's planning to start several new programs now that the center is open, including a series of activities designed especially to attract senior men.

"We never have any problems as far as attracting women goes," she said. "But what we need to develop

are programs that will allow men to use the facilities too."

According to Leonhard, the road to completing the center was not without its share of potholes.

"We passed the bond issue (which financed the project) in 1972 and it took us until 1974 to sell all of the bonds. By that time, building costs had almost doubled. Then Douglass Center ran way over projected costs, so we had to cut out one wing (of the building), which would have been used for the senior citizens."

Fortunately, according to Leonhard, the construction of the Bicentennial Recreation Center, which also was financed by the 1972 bond fund, ran about \$100,000 under projected cost.

The money the district saved from that project was used to finance the Senior Citizens Center.



S

# City to help fund social services

## ■ Straw vote puts annual ceiling at \$150,000

By J. PHILIP BLOOMER  
News-Gazette Staff Writer

CHAMPAIGN — Local social-service agencies will continue to get a helping hand from city government after all.

The Champaign City Council agreed in a straw vote Tuesday to spend up to \$150,000 on social services annually.

"This is recognition that government is not just police and fire and public works," said community activist John Lee Johnson.

The \$150,000 spending ceiling will be accompanied by a new allocation procedure reworked to eliminate the confusing and politicized procedures of the past.

For the last four years, the council has allocated \$100,000 in taxes from off-track betting to an array of local agencies. That was outside of initiatives undertaken with Community Development Block Grant funds awarded by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

Fed up with the earlier process, the council last May agreed to begin depositing off-track betting revenue in general funds.

Some council members pointed out that the city's dedication of resources to social needs has continued at a generous pace.

Contracts with agencies getting block-grant funds continue, to the tune of nearly \$80,000 this fiscal year.

Plus, one-time expenditures for special projects include:

✕ The Douglass Branch Annex, \$250,000 from block grant funds.

funds.

— Head Start initiative, \$80,000 annually from general funds.

— Center for Women in Transition, \$75,000 from Urban Development Action Grant funds.

Under the new allocation process, the block-grant funds are still dedicated mainly to housing programs. But under Housing and Urban Development guidelines, cities can allocate up to 15 percent of their annual grant to social services that complement that mission.

The city's grant is around \$1 million annually, meaning that up to \$150,000 would be available for social services.

Since the 15 percent must be dedicated to programs meeting federal goals, at the suggestion of Mayor Dannel McCollum, the council agreed to substitute up to \$50,000 from general revenues that could be provided for programs outside federal criteria.

✕ That would allow the city, for example, to help such programs as the Correctional Employment Service and the Retired Senior Volunteer Program.

"The \$50,000 contingency would be available in case a priority came up that was not eligible for (block grant) funds," said Dorothy David, the city's neighborhood services director.

The spending ceiling would remain \$150,000 if that was done.

To streamline the process, the social-service allocation process will be integrated with the existing block-grant process, an annual routine of public hearings and data collection that goes into an application to the federal government.

Agencies that might be eligible under federal or city goals will be encouraged to apply.

The council approved the process on an 8-1 vote. Maggie Mattingly opposed the allocation and the funding on principle. Mi-





## DOUGLAS COMMUNITY CENTER

SIXTH AND DEARBORN STREETS  
CHAMPAIGN, ILLINOIS

### ADVISORY BOARD

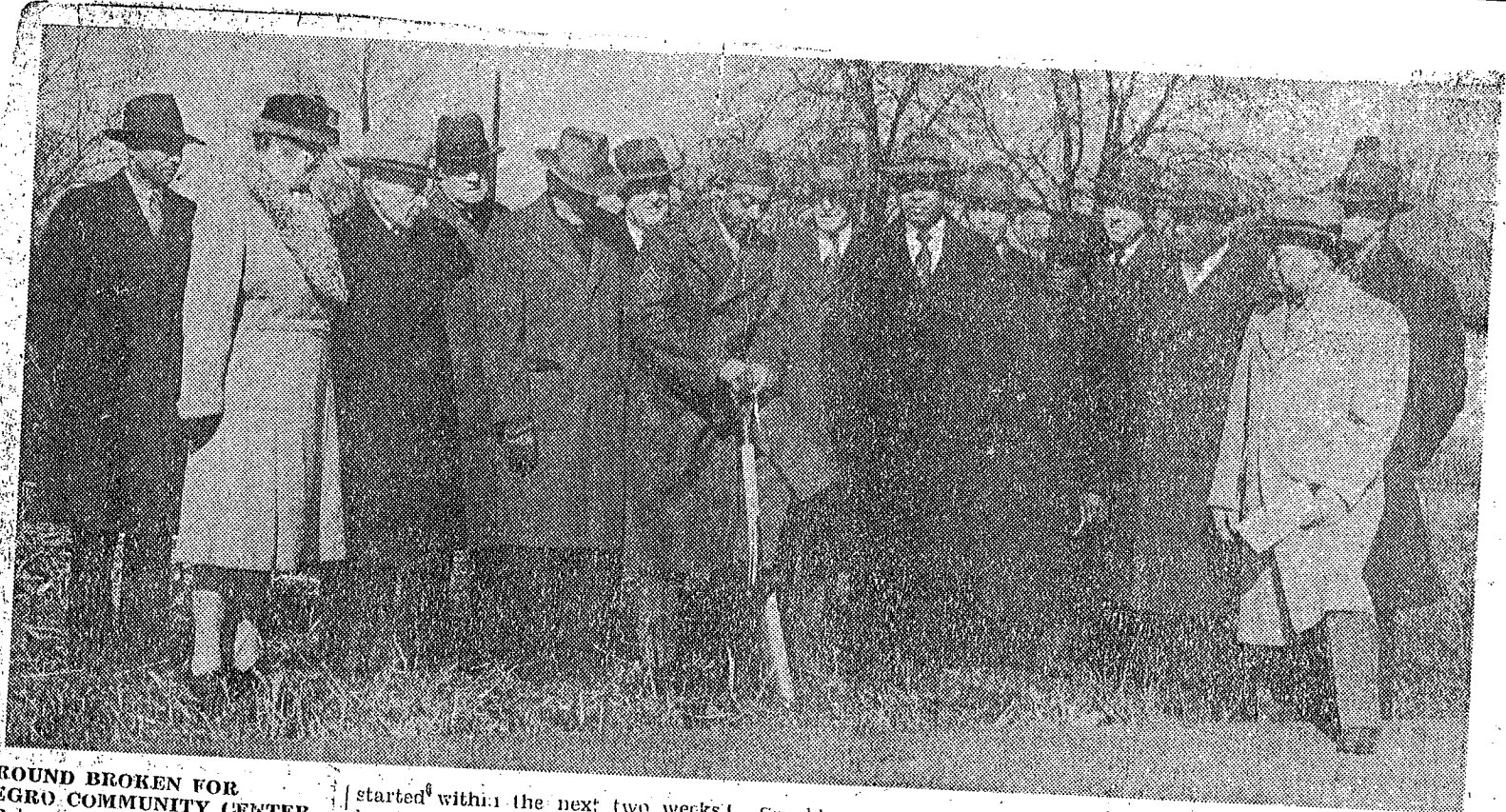
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**GROUND BROKEN FOR  
NEGRO COMMUNITY CENTER**

Between 125 and 150 persons, congregating at the corner of Sixth and Grove streets Sunday afternoon witnessed the ceremony as Sgt. George Evans, flanked by civic leaders and city officials, broke ground for the \$35,000 Negro community center for Champaign Prhana. Sergeant Evans recently finished 28 months of overseas service. Reading from the left are Alvir Foxwell, Mrs. L. T. Gregory, Isaac Kuhn, A. H. Lybyer, Mayor George F. Hurd, Lyle H. Gallivan, Sergeant Evans, Mayor George J. Babb, Richard Edwards, Cecil Nelson, Ray Scott, W. A. Stices, Jr., Dr. H. D. Ellis, L. P. Diffay and Delos L. Huxford.

started within the next two weeks by E. N. DeAtley, Champaign contractor of the weather is favorable. In the short ceremony that preceded the digging, Richard Edwards, chairman of the Douglas Community Service organization's campaign committee, stated that it is to provide the building started more than 18 months ago and were continued despite many difficulties. **Thanks People**

The \$35,000 building became possible, Edwards pointed out, when the Champaign County Home and War Chest added \$17,000 to the fund that was contributed by citizens of both races.

Edwards thanked "people of both races" and dedicated the building to "the youth of today—our hope of tomorrow."

Speaking from the Home and War Chest R. A. Stipes, jr., said the Chest contribution was "small" compared to the effort made by the colored citizens. He expressed hope that the building will be used "for all purposes."

Title to the building will be held by the Champaign Civic foundation. The center will be operated under the supervision of the Campaign recreation commission, but a committee of colored citizens will take an active part.

**Priorities Granted**

E. N. DeAtley, general contractor for the project, said Monday that about 90 days will be required to complete the job. Work will be slow, he pointed out, until materials are received, but all necessary priorities have been granted.

Introduced during the groundbreaking ceremony were Lyle H. Gallivan, Professor A. H. Lybyer, Mrs. L. T. Gregory, Doctor H. D. Ellis, and Isaac Kuhn, members of the building committee; D. L. Huxford, Secly Johnston, and Cecil Nelson, members of the reaction commission; Mayors George J. Lubb and George F. Hurd; Architect Ralph Kelley; and DeAtley. Ray Scott, president of the Douglas organization, presented Sergeant Evans with the spade, and Doctor L. P. Diffay served as master of ceremonies.

Sergeant Evans, son of Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Evans, 504 East Tremont street wears four battle stars for major engagements in North Africa and Sicily.



Above, Barnan Carrodine serves Lydia Wilson; in photo below, Marthell Hicks does some last-minute carving

News-Gazette Photos by Robert K. O'Daniel

# Seniors celebrate at Douglass

Ul's Iota Phi Theta provides turkey and trimmings

11/18/84

**DOUGLAS  
COMMUNITY CENTER  
DEDICATION**

11/2  
DOUGLAS  
CTR



**CHAMPAIGN, ILLINOIS**

### Foreword

The Douglas Community Center of Champaign and Urbana is the gift of the several thousand contributors of the Champaign County Home and War Chest Association and the personal gift of many interested friends. It will serve as an opportunity to discover and develop talents of all ages and to further interests in the Community as a whole.

For a number of years the Negro residents of Champaign and Urbana have looked forward to the day when adequate facilities for recreation and community activities could be provided.

In July 1941, a mass meeting was held to start a drive to raise funds for the purchase of the ground where the building now stands. Ground was broken for the New Center Sunday, February 18, 1945. The structure was completed September 1945 and dedicated on Sunday, September 23, 1945.

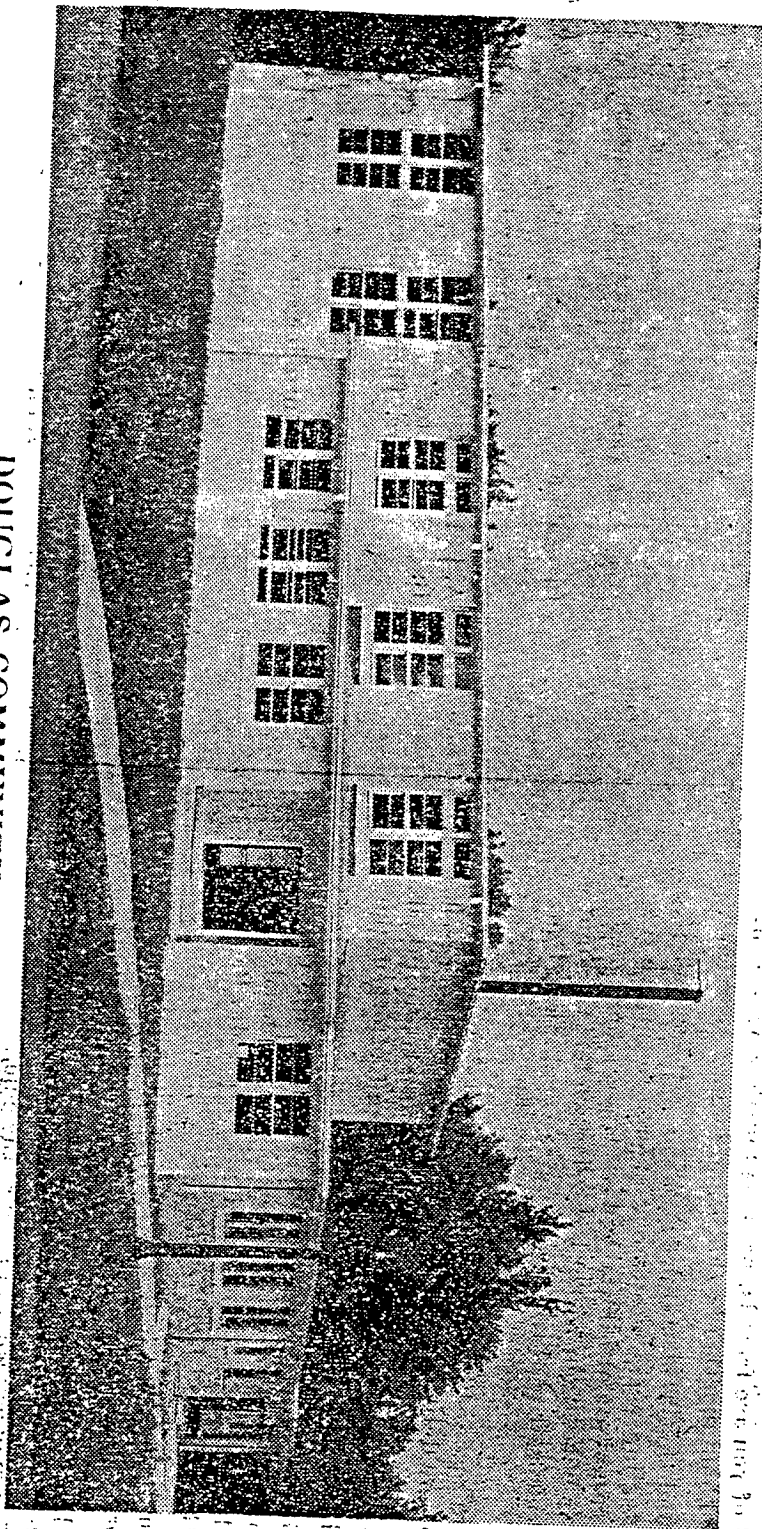
# Douglas Community Center Dedication



September Twenty-third  
Nineteen Hundred and Forty-five



DOUGLAS COMMUNITY CENTER



### Program of the Dedication

Richard R. Edwards  
Master of Ceremonies

Julia Walden Valentine  
Director of Music

Sunday Afternoon, September 23

"God Bless America"

Mrs. Lucy Jess Gray and Community Chorus

Invocation . . . . . Rev. M. A. Crowder

Community Chorus

A. "His Name So Sweet" . . . . . Hall Johnson

B. "Swing Low"  
Mrs. Thelma Hallaway and Chorus

Remarks . . . . . Raymond M. Scott

Introduction of Committees

Community Chorus

A. "Plenty Good Room"

Mrs. Mae Jones, Mrs. Thelma Hallaway, Chorus

B. "Steal Away"  
Mr. Charles Latham and Chorus

Dedicatory Address . . . . . Dr. John C. Ellis

A. "One Who Has Yearn'd Alone" . . . . . Tchaikousty

B. "The Last Chord" . . . . . Arthur Sullivan  
Corporal Robert Brooks

A. "Gertinly Lord"  
Mrs. Hattie Winfield and Community Chorus

Benediction . . . . . Rev. A. S. Webb

Champaign County Home and War Chest

Board of Governors

Mr. E. J. Anders	Mr. Dick Lewis
Mr. A. G. Anderson	Mr. Leonard D. Lewis
Rev. C. L. Bromley	Prof. A. H. Lybyer, Chair.
Rev. A. Ray Cartlidge	Mr. George Mayes
Mr. W. E. C. Clifford	Mr. H. J. Millard
Mr. Arthur L. Denman	Mr. W. E. Riegel
Mr. George Ekblaw	Mr. Oscar Steer
Mr. A. H. Grindley	Mr. R. A. Stipes, Jr.
Dean A. J. Harno	Mr. J. D. Thomas
Mr. Sherdie Jones	Mr. Glynn White
Prof. A. R. Knight	Mr. John T. Wilcox
Mr. William H. Lee	Mr. Lyle H. Gallivan, Sec.

The Civic Foundation

Mr. George McComb	Mr. Albert Eisner, Jr.	Mr. Don Vance
Mr. T. A. Hagan	Mr. J. W. Thrasher	

Building Committee

Mr. Lyle H. Gallivan, Chairman	
Mrs. L. T. Gregory	Prof. A. H. Lybyer
Mr. R. A. Stipes, Jr.	Dr. H. D. Ellis
Mr. Richard R. Edwards	Mr. Isaac Kuhn
Mr. Raymond M. Scott	

"Because of You"

(A Tribute to Citizens of Champaign County)

Dear Friends:

And all of you are friends, brought together by a common interest and held together by this bond for over ten years.

The bond that held us and, constantly gathered others, during our struggling years was strong enough to survive the clouds which benighted our efforts and at times almost made our dream a star beyond our reach, but today we feel the light and warmth of our star in this - The Douglas Community Center.

We were successful because the bond that held us together was not the delicate fragile string it sometime appeared to have been, but a chain of faith and determination, linked together by the cooperation, contributions and effort of the Citizens of Champaign County.

We are here today because of you. We can smile today because of you. Our children will find the much-needed recreation facilities in this Center and all of us, Ma, Pa, and Granny and Grandpa will find something of interest.

To you dear Citizens, dear friends of Champaign County the Advisory Committee can only say:

I know we feared it wouldn't go thru,  
But now we see the dream come true.  
You may ask why, tho you're the clue,  
For it was done because of you.  
We made requests, you heard the call,  
Your gifts and aid, those large and small,  
Were pooled as one, to stunt a fall.  
So we climbed on because of you,  
And so today you each, may cheer,  
To see the Center you've built here.  
And please believe we are sincere,  
To say it's all - Because of you.

The Advisory Committee

# Hails Sponsors At Dedication

Four years of effort, in which there were several obstacles to overcome, culminated successfully Sunday in the dedication of the \$35,000 Douglas Community building, realization of hopes for a recreation and meeting place for Champaign-Urbana's Negro residents.

More than 300 persons heard the hour-long dedication ceremonies in the center's big auditorium, and swarmed through the building to inspect the lounges, club rooms, snack bar, kitchen, and office.

The white-painted concrete block building has a cheery atmosphere, the interior attractive and well-lighted. Pastel shades decorate the rooms, and furniture has been purchased through the U. S. O. and transferred from the Lawhead center. Asphalt tile flooring is to be installed in the next several months, and the grounds will be landscaped.

Richard R. Edwards, chairman of the advisory committee, presided, singling out for notice the various individuals and groups responsible for the center's erection.

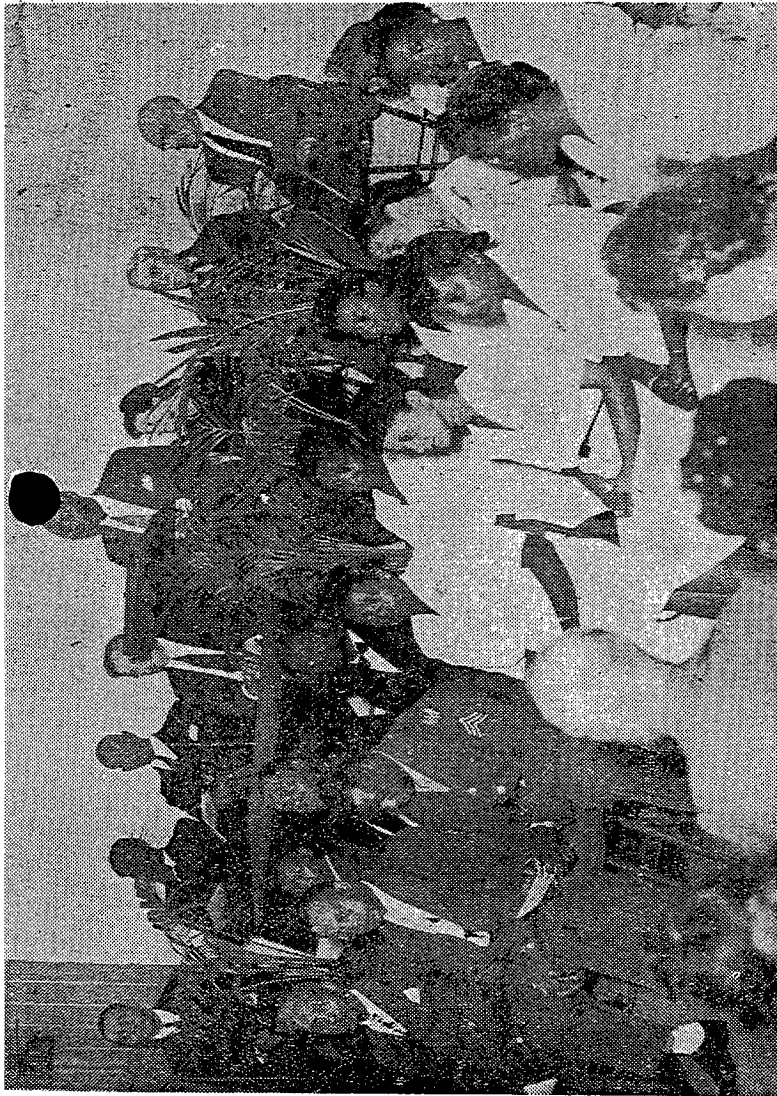
Recognition was directed on the board of governors of the Champaign County Home and War Chest and the thousands of subscribers. Through the Chest, \$19,500 was allocated for the project, the remainder coming from private subscription.

Also cited were the Civic foundation, which will hold title to the structure, the building committee, headed by Lyle H. Gallivan; the recreation commission, operating agency for the center, the advisory committee, and the Douglas center drive committee.

Chairman Edwards pointed out the zeal with which Raymond M. Scott had pushed the project for more than four years. In a brief talk, Scott recounted for the audience step-by-step the consummation of the center idea.

Scott particularly mentioned the constant attention devoted to the undertaking by Lyle Gallivan, executive secretary of the Home and War Chest.

Mayors George J. Babb and George Hurd were introduced, and Miss Hazel Ingerich, director of the recreation department, here



Dedication ceremonies for the \$35,000 Douglas community center, 510-12 East Grove street, drew a capacity crowd to the building's auditorium Sunday afternoon. Speaking is Raymond M. Scott, who recounted the four-year struggle for realization of the center idea.

Home and War Chest; Miss Hazel Ingerich, director of the recreation department; Mayor George J. Babb of Champaign, and Mayor George F. Hurd of Urbana. In the foreground are members of the Community chorus who were heard in five numbers.

## STUDENTS GIVE BENEFIT DANCE AT DOUGLAS CENTER

Several students of the U. of I. group here gave a benefit dance Saturday night at the new Douglas Community Center, charged a small admission fee and turned over to officials of the Center \$155.21. This was indeed

a commendable act on the part of these students; as the need for operating funds for the new Center is great. Those taking the lead in the affair were Misses Ella Robinson, Louraine Savage, Doris Overton, Fredes Burton, and

## Douglas Center Opens Sept. 23

CHAMPAIGN, Ill. — (WNS) — Plans are being developed for a ceremony at 8 p. m. Sunday, Sept. 23, marking the opening of the \$35,000 Douglas Park Community Center at 510-512 East Grove Street.

Financed by a grant from the Community Chest and the Home and War Chest and by private subscription, the center will meet the recreational needs of residents of the northeast part of the city.

A Chicago attorney is being

# CENTER IS DEDICATED

A resume of the history of the Douglas Community Center and simple and sincere expression of thanks to its backers turned out to be the dedicatory speech at the opening of the new building at Grove and Sixth streets at 3 p. m. Sunday.

Raymond M. Scott, one of the chief workers for the Center, became the official dedicatory when the guest speaker, Doctor John C. Ellis of Decatur, failed to arrive.

Scott closed his brief history with the words, "May we express our thanks and appreciation to the Home and War Chest board and all of the contributors. It was your idea and your interest that made our efforts possible. May we express our thanks and appreciation for the personal gifts. It is because of your gifts and your help that we are here today. May we express our appreciation to the press. It was you who kept the public informed of our needs and may be give thanks to God for this country in which we live. Today we dedicate because of all of you."

Seated on the platform were Richard R. Edwards, master of ceremonies; the Reverend M. A. Crowder of the CME church; the Reverend A. S. Webb of the Salem Baptist church; Scott; Lyle Gallivan, executive secretary of the Community chest; Mayor George F. Hurd, Mayor George J. Babb, and Hazel Ingerich, director of the Champaign Recreation commission. Members of the Community chorus, the women in white and the men in black, were seated about the platform.

The program opened with the song "God Bless America," sung by Mrs. Lucy Jess Gray and the Community Chorus. The entire audience joined in the chorus. All of the music was directed by Julia Walden Valentine.

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## Champaign Recreation Commission

Miss Hazel Ingerich, Director

Miss Mary Scott

## Board of Directors

Mr. Julius X. Davis, Chairman

Mr. Seely Johnston

Mr. D. L. Huxtable

Mr. Cecil Nelson

Mr. W. Herman Thompson

## Douglas Center Advisory Committee

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Mr. Julius X. Davis

Dr. H. D. Ellis

Mrs. Odelia Wesley

Mr. George McComb

Mr. Alvin Foxwell

Dr. L. P. Diffay

Dr. George Hunt

Mr. Raymond M. Scott

## Douglas Community Center Bible Committee

Mr. Richard R. Edwards

Dr. H. D. Ellis

Mr. Cecil Pope

Mr. Alvin Foxwell

Dr. L. P. Diffay

Mr. Raymond M. Scott

## Douglas Community Center

Mrs. Erma Scott, Bridgewater, Acting Director

Mrs. Pauline Johnson, Assistant

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Seated in the background on the speaker's platform, reading from the left, are Richard R. Edwards, chairman of the advisory committee and master of ceremonies for Sunday's program; Rev. A. S. Webb, Rev. M. A. Crowder, Lyle H. Gallivan, executive secretary of the

Home and War Chest; Miss Hazel Iungerich, director of the recreation department; Mayor George J. Babb of Champaign, and Mayor George F. Hurd of Urbana. In the foreground are members of the Community chorus who were heard in five numbers.

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- Board of Directors
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- Mr. W. Herman Thompson
- Mr. Cecil Nelson
- Douglas Center Advisory Committee
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- Mrs. L. T. Gregory
- Dr. H. D. Ellis
- Mr. Frank Corray
- Mr. Julius X. Davis
- Mrs. Odella Wesley
- Mr. Alvin Foxwell
- Dr. George Hunt
- Douglas Community Center
- Advisory Committee
- Mr. Richard R. Edwards, Dr. H. D. Ellis
- Mr. Cecil Pope, Mr. Alvin Foxwell
- Dr. L. P. Dittay, Mr. Raymond M. Scott
- Douglas Community Center
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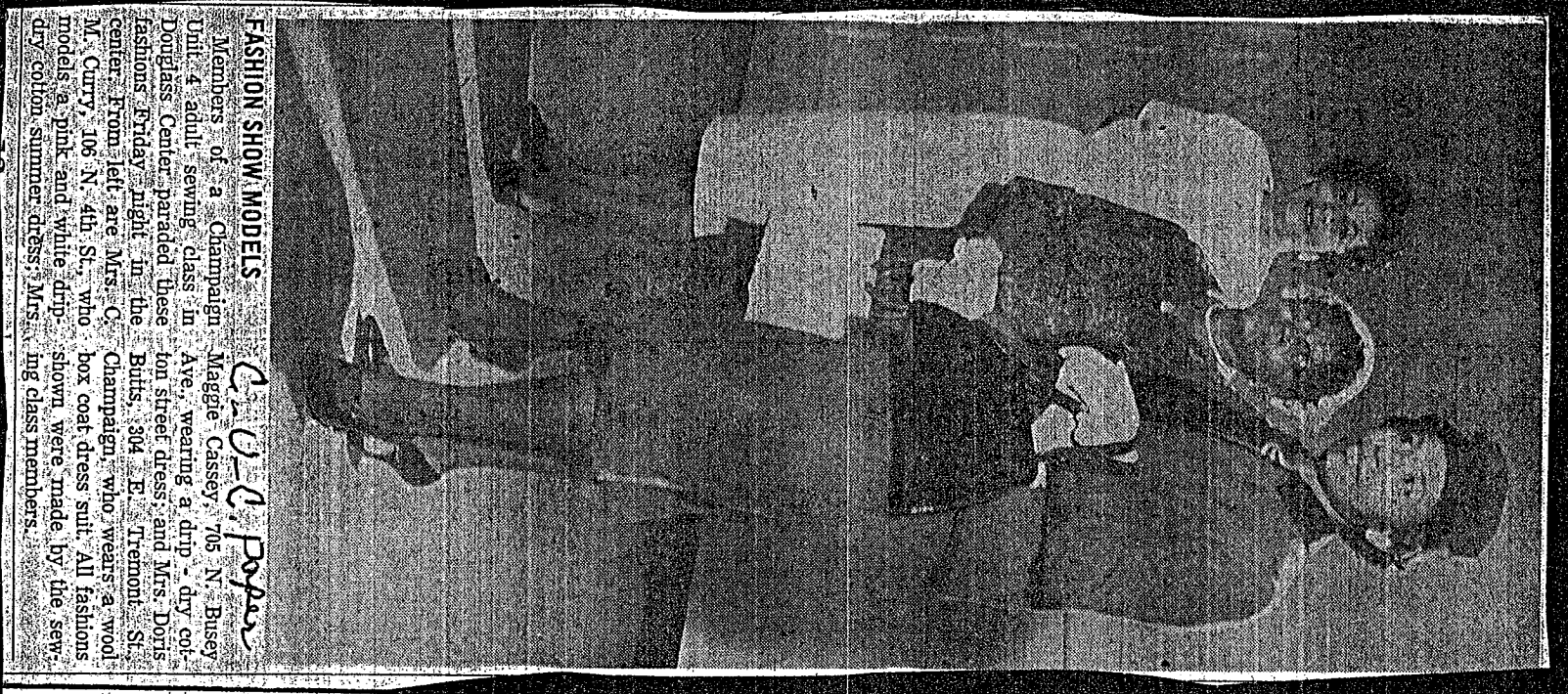


**FASHION SHOW MODELS** *C-U-C Paper*  
 Members of a Champaign Unit 4 adult sewing class in Douglass Center paraded these fashions Friday night in the center. From left are Mrs. M. Curry, 106 N. 4th St., who models a pink and white drip-dry cotton summer dress, Mrs. Maggie Cassey, 705 N. Busey Ave., wearing a drip-dry cotton street dress, and Mrs. Doris Butts, 304 E. Tremont St., Champaign, who wears a wool box coat dress suit. All fashions shown were made by the sewing class members.



*Barbara  
Graham*

*Dean  
Ratburn*



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*C. O. C. Pappas*  
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DEAN RAYBURN

BARBARA GRIFFIN

MONDAY, OCTOBER 25, 1965.



**HONOR DOUGLASS FOUNDERS.** Several of the original committee and staff of Douglass Community Center were honored Sunday at a celebration of the 20th anniversary of the founding of the center. Pictured at the celebra-

tion, left to right, are Mrs. Raymond Scott, wife of one of the founders; Mrs. Edna Diffay, past secretary; Richard R. Edwards, past board chairman; Taylor Thomas, first director; and Odelia Wesley, past secretary.

News-Gazette Photo by Ron Beckley

**DOUGLAS  
COMMUNITY  
CENTER**

**FIRST ANNIVERSARY  
PROGRAM**



**Sunday, September 22, 1946**

Five O'clock P. M.

**Douglas Community Center**

**Champaign, Illinois**

Cover

**In Memoriam**

**DR. HARRY D. ELLIS**

1894 - 1946

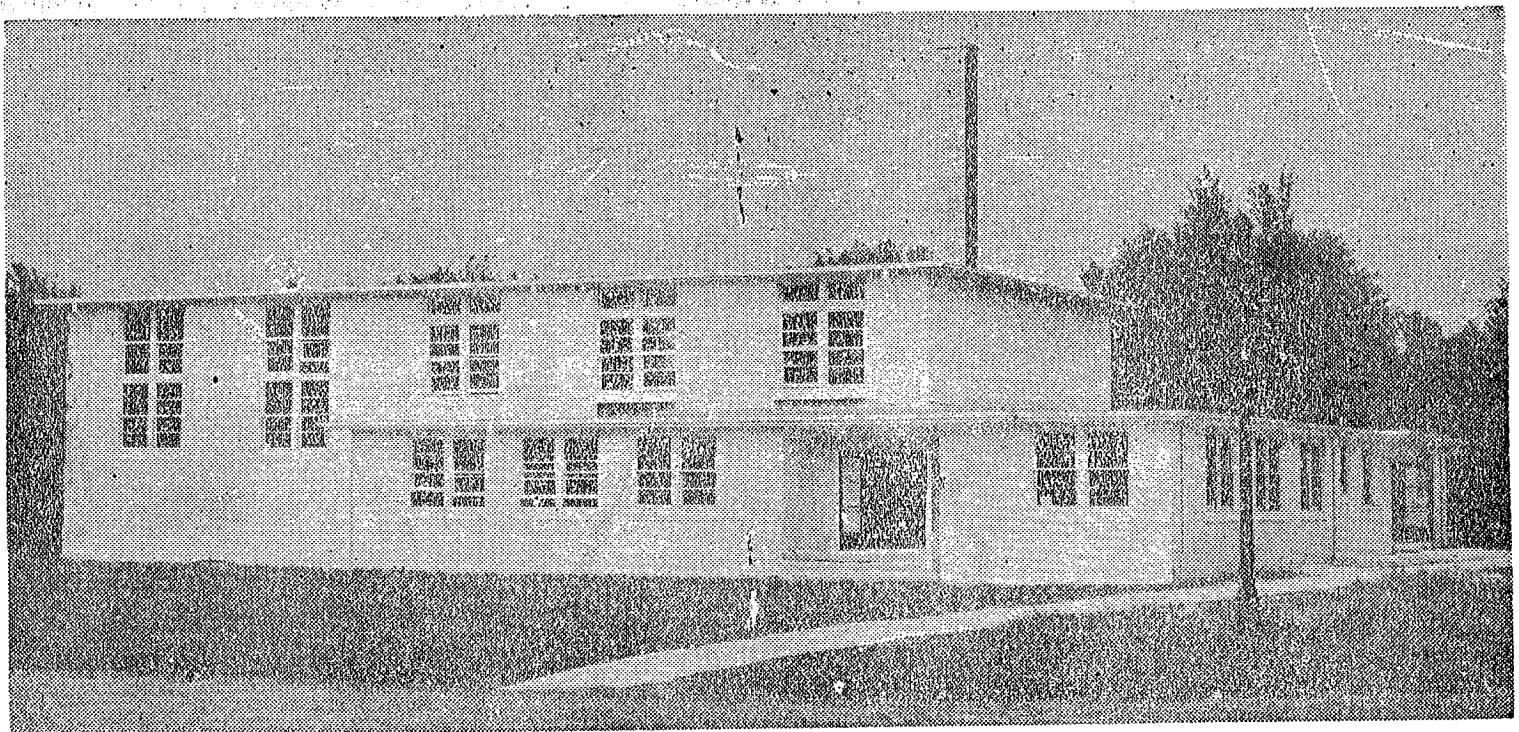
TREASURER., FUNDS RAISING COMMITTEE.  
MEMBER BUILDING COMMITTEE.  
MEMBER ADVISORY BOARD.

**"NEGRO NATIONAL ANTHEM"**

Lift ev'ry voice and sing  
'Till earth and heaven ring,  
Ring with the harmonies of liberty;  
Let our rejoicing rise  
High as the list'ning skies,  
Let it resound loud as the rolling sea,  
Sing a song full of the faith that the  
past has taught us;  
Sing a song full of the hope that the  
present has brought us;  
Facing the rising sun of our new day begun,  
Let us march on 'til Victory is won.

God of our weary years,  
God of our silent tears,  
Thou who hast brought us thus far on the way;  
Thou who hast by Thy might  
Led us into the light,  
Keep us forever in the path, we pray.  
Lest our feet stray from the places, our God,  
where we met Thee;  
Let our hearts, drunk with the wine of the  
world, we forget Thee;  
Shadowed beneath Thy hand, may we forever  
stand  
True to our God, true to our native land.

Words, Walter Weldon Johnson.  
Music, J. Rosamond Johnson.



**DOUGLAS COMMUNITY CENTER**  
SIXTH AND GROVE STREETS

Lucia



CHAMPAIGN RECREATION COMMISSION  
Miss Hazel Iungerich, Director

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Mr. Julius X. Davis, Chairman  
Mr. Seely Johnston                      Mr. D. L. Huxtable  
Mr. Cecil Nelson                         Mr. W. Herman Thompson

DOUGLAS CENTER ADVISORY BOARD

Mr. Richard R. Edwards, Chairman  
Mr. Frank Corray                         Mrs. L. T. Gregory, Treas.  
Mr. Julius X. Davis                        Mr. Albert Rivers  
Mrs. Odelia Wesley, Sec'y.                Mr. George McComb  
Mr. Alvin Foxwell                         Dr. L. P. Diffay  
Dr. George Hunt                            Mr. Raymond M. Scott

Taylor L. Thomas, Director

Souvenir Programs  
Thru the Courtesy of  
Les Femmes Club.

DOUGLAS  
COMMUNITY CENTER

First Anniversary  
Program

FIVE O'CLOCK P. M.

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER TWENTY-SECOND  
NINETEEN HUNDRED FORTY-SIX

PROGRAM

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 1946.

Julia Walden Valentine,  
Director of Music.

CHORUS

Soprano

Marie Smith  
Hattie Mae Winfield  
Odelia Wesley  
Pauline Cockran  
Amie Clark  
Ella Williams  
Susie Patterson  
Luvada Bowles  
Lovie Anderson  
Lucy Jess Gray  
Odessa Lashley

Alto

Emma Liddell  
Lillie Smith  
Neppie Donaldson  
Louise McClendon  
Mary B. Jones

Bass and Tenor

Osborne G. Monroe  
Charles H. Browne  
Phillip Milliner  
Charles Latham  
Theotto Bowles

USHERS

Catherine Humphrey  
Pauline Johnson  
Jean Clark

Thelma Holloway  
Hassie Wells  
Dorothy Ransom  
Willie Mae Williams  
Ruth Gray  
Elease Clemments  
Mrs. Lindsey  
Pearl Milliner  
Ruth Ray  
Lillie Snell  
Sophia Phillip

Alease Milton  
Albert Crenshaw  
Naomi Ransom  
Minnie Caldwell

George Ray  
William Williams  
Clifford Jones  
Fred Morris  
Edward Benton

Rosa Pealer  
Daisy Jackson  
Marion Anderson

"Negro National Anthem" ..... James Welden Johnson  
Community Chorus and Audience.

Prayer ..... Rev. M. A. Crowder.

"I've Got a Robe" ..... Arranged by Willa Townsend

"Wade in the Water" ..... Arranged by Edward Boatner  
Community Chorus - Charles Latham, Soloist.

"Thank God for a Garden" ..... Del Reigo  
Mrs. Thelma Holloway.

"I Could't Hear Nobody Pray" ..... Edward Boatner  
Community Chorus ..... Mrs. Hattie Winfield,  
Soloist.

"Swing Low" ..... Arranged by Edward Boatner  
Mrs. Thelma Holloway, Soloist.

"Thine Alone" ..... Victor Herbert  
Mr. Charles Latham.

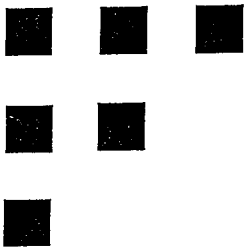
"It's Me" ..... Arranged by Willa Townsend  
Community Chorus - Mrs. Thelma Holloway, Soloist.

"O'Devine Redeemer" (Prayer) ..... Gounod  
Mrs. Hattie Winfield.

"King Jesus is a Listing" ..... William A. Dawson  
Community Chorus.

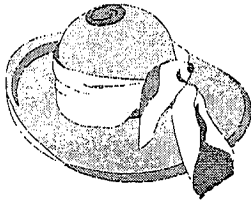
Remarks ..... Director of Douglas Center

"We are Climbing Jacobs Ladder" ..... Community Chorus



September 27, 1998

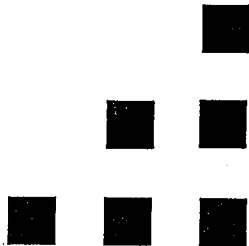
In Memory of  
Estella "7.7." Davis



FRANCES MOONEY Wellene Howard  
Black Dress Red Suit

Douglass Seniors' 9/27/98

Annual Style Show



Welcome .....	Estelle Merrifield
Prayer .....	Rev. Charles B. Jackson
Salads Served .....	By Table Number
Introduction of M. C. ....	Barbara McGee
Mistress of Ceremonies .....	Sharron Jackson
Modeling .....	Sports & Casual
Selection .....	Noah Brown
Pianist .....	Todd Taylor
Modeling .....	Dress
Reading .....	Faye Catching-Puckett
Modeling .....	After Five
Closing Remarks .....	Elease Milton, President

### Officers


President .....	Elease Milton
Vice President .....	Donald Brown
Recording Secretary .....	Lucille White
Assistant Secretary .....	Margie Bean
Financial Secretary .....	Nettie Scott
Planning Committee .....	Daisy Jackson
Social Committee .....	Mildred Jones
	Ruth Fonville
	Theo Oliver
	Malinda Wallick
	Margaret Minor
Birthday Cards .....	Malinda Wallick
Get Well Cards .....	Gladys Robinson
Sympathy Cards .....	Margaret Minor
Senior Director/Treasurer .....	Barbara McGee

## Douglass Annex

### Senior Style Show

Sunday, September 27, 1998  
4:00 p.m.

Douglass Center, 512 E. Grove St.  
Admission: \$4 Salad Spread



on  
k

5

### Tickets

Marion Jones .....	Chairlady
Ruth Lotham	Olive Foster
Ruth Hendricks	Lula Conners

### Decorating

Clara Bright .....	Chairlady
Mozell Avant	Liza Vassor
Catherine Campbell	Pauline Walker
Daisy Jackson	Clara Thomas
	Marie Hines

### Models

Mozell Avant	Clara Bright	Catherine Campbell
Marilyn Cleveland	Bernice Franklin	Esther Harrison
Kathryn Humphrey	Alice McNeal	Estelle Merrifield
Shirley Mock	Irene Oldham	Elaine Owens
Joyce Phillips	Marvarine Pirtle	Nettie Scott
Jenny Sheffield	Montrula Shelby	Mamie Smith
Linda Turnball	Brenda Vonner	Bertha Williams

### Men

Khair Ali	Greg Harris	James Hayes
Cyrus Williams	Ronald Williams	

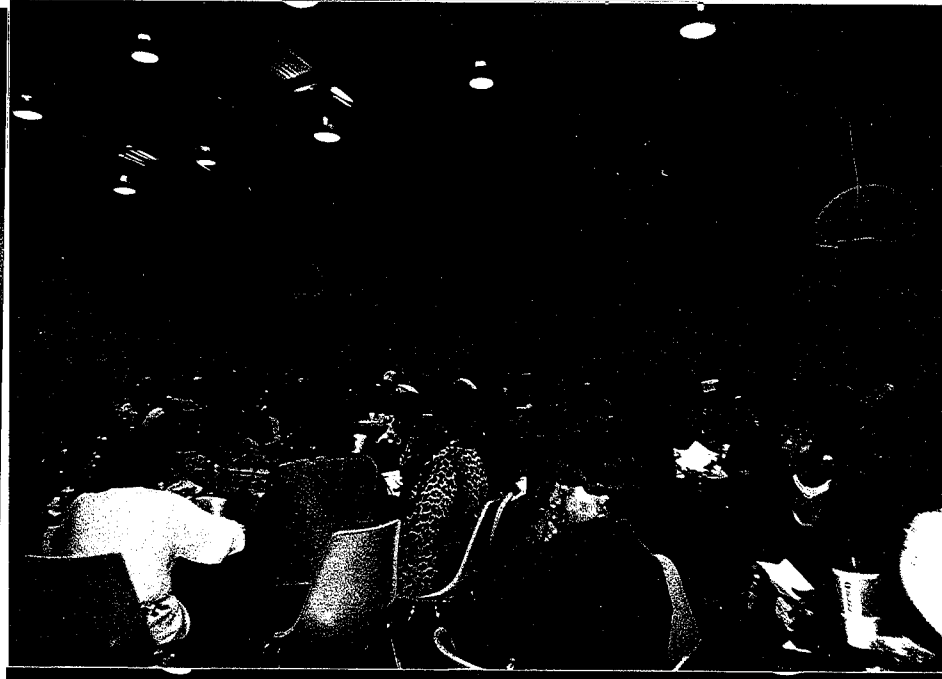
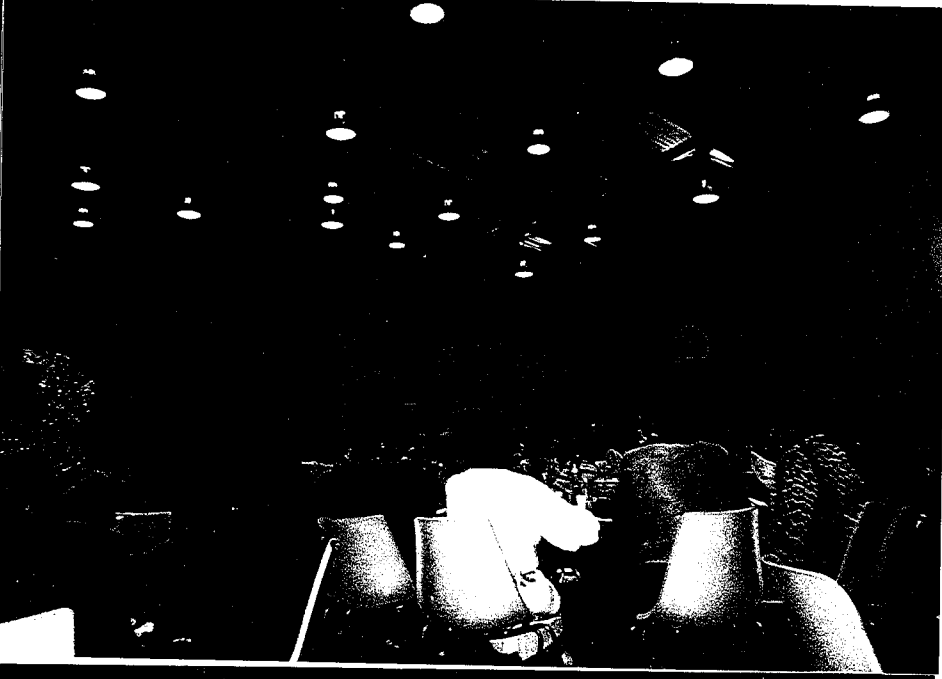
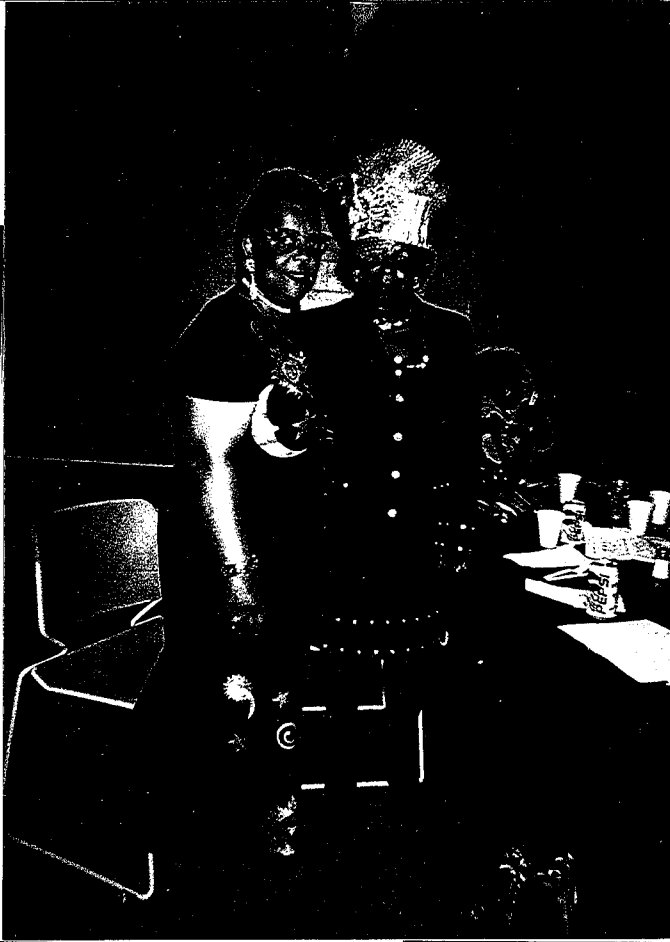


*In Loving Memory*

Estella "T.T." Davis was a smooth lady in everything that she did. She was a very proud lady that dressed in the finest of clothes and jewelry. Estella was one that really loved the Style Show and the people loved to see her strut down the stage with so much grace. She would smile and look down at herself when she would style. As we all know T.T. loved her hats, so T.T. our hats are off to you. You will be greatly missed but will never be forgotten.

*Special Thanks*

Thanks to everyone on the program the models and each of you who made this day possible!



## Douglas Kindergarten Registration Tuesday

Plans for registration of children at 1 p. m. Tuesday in Douglas center were completed at a meeting of the Champaign-Urbana Kindergarten association called by Miss Jane Gates, co-chairman, Thursday night. Mrs. Lizzie Johnson, the other co-chairman, also attended. Mothers of children to be enrolled in the interracial kindergarten for four and five-year-olds were asked to have the pupils' diphtheria, smallpox and whooping cough inoculations taken care of by the family physician before the opening of the term or as soon thereafter as possible.

The four new teachers for the kindergarten were introduced. The board expressed its regret at the death of the late Albert R. Lee, who was a member of the board.

## Kindergarten To Get \$500

A donation of \$500 is being made by the Civic foundation of Champaign to the kindergarten operated at the Douglas Park Community center, 510-12 East Grove street, it was disclosed Saturday.

The contribution has been approved by the board of directors of the foundation and will be paid in September when the kindergarten's fall term opens.

Organized last year, the kindergarten cares for the pre-school age children of working Negro mothers, carrying on both an instructional and recreational program.

This is the second gift made by the Civic foundation to the Douglas center. The previous gift went for landscaping the center, which was erected with Community Chest funds.

The foundation was organized three years ago as a non-profit corporation to receive and admin-

ister funds donated for worthwhile civic purposes. Its grant of \$500 to Douglas center comes from the interest realized on an initial gift of \$5,000 in stocks and bonds by Hartwell C. Howard of Champaign.

Rulings are being sought from the U. S. bureau of internal revenue as to the tax status of the foundation and donations made to it. The foundation has held the title to Douglas center, but may have to turn the title over to some other agency to be recognized for tax exemption.

## DOUGLASS CENTER GIVES AWARDS

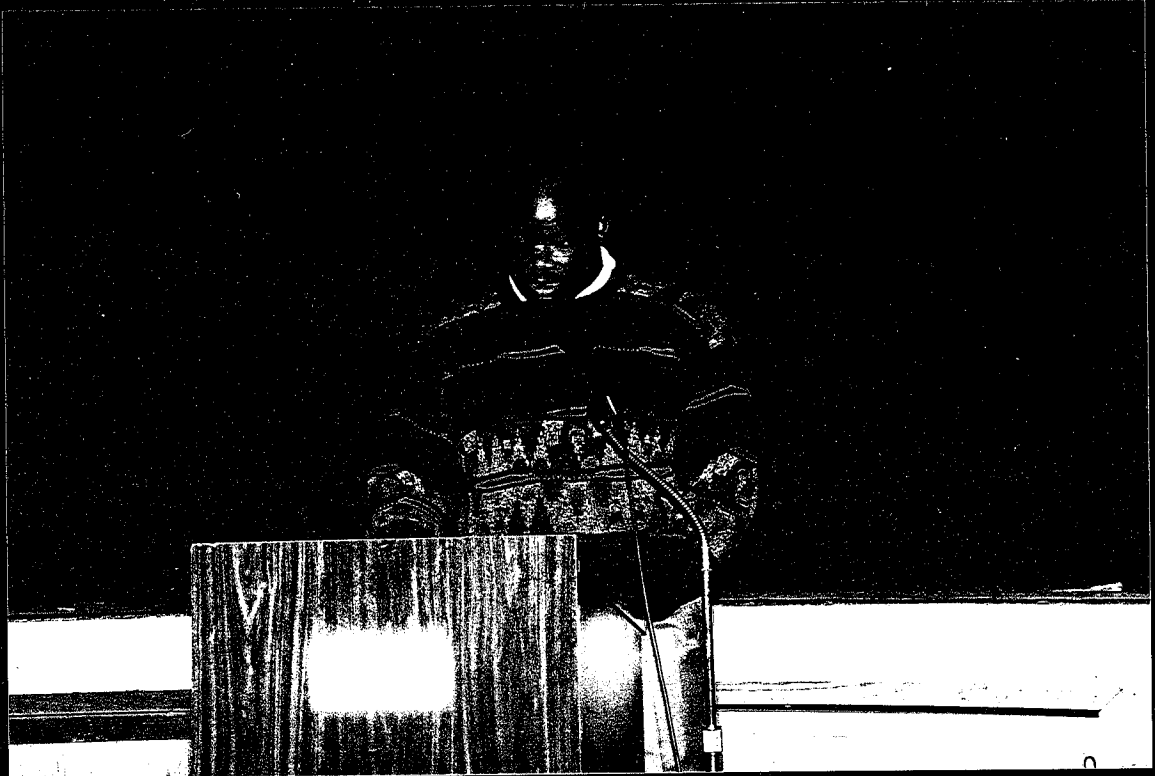


Mrs. Leonard Jones, left, presents awards to workers at Douglass center during a party given in honor of volunteer workers who served as hosts and hostesses, ac-

tivity leaders and helpers during the center's winter season. Receiving the awards are, left to right, Charles Robertson, Levi Davis and Melvin Penn. These three were se-

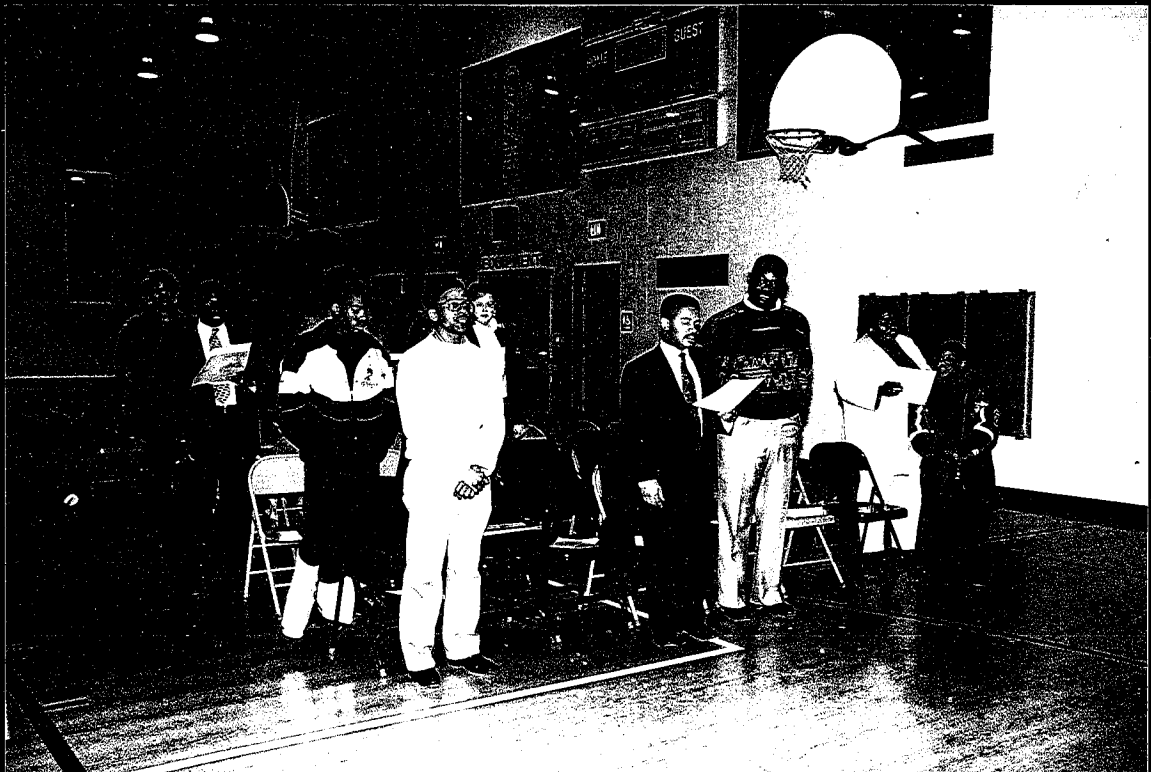
lected for awards after consideration of hours worked, general leadership and behavior and general appearance.

(Photo by Gene Suggs)



✓ Mr. Hall Smith

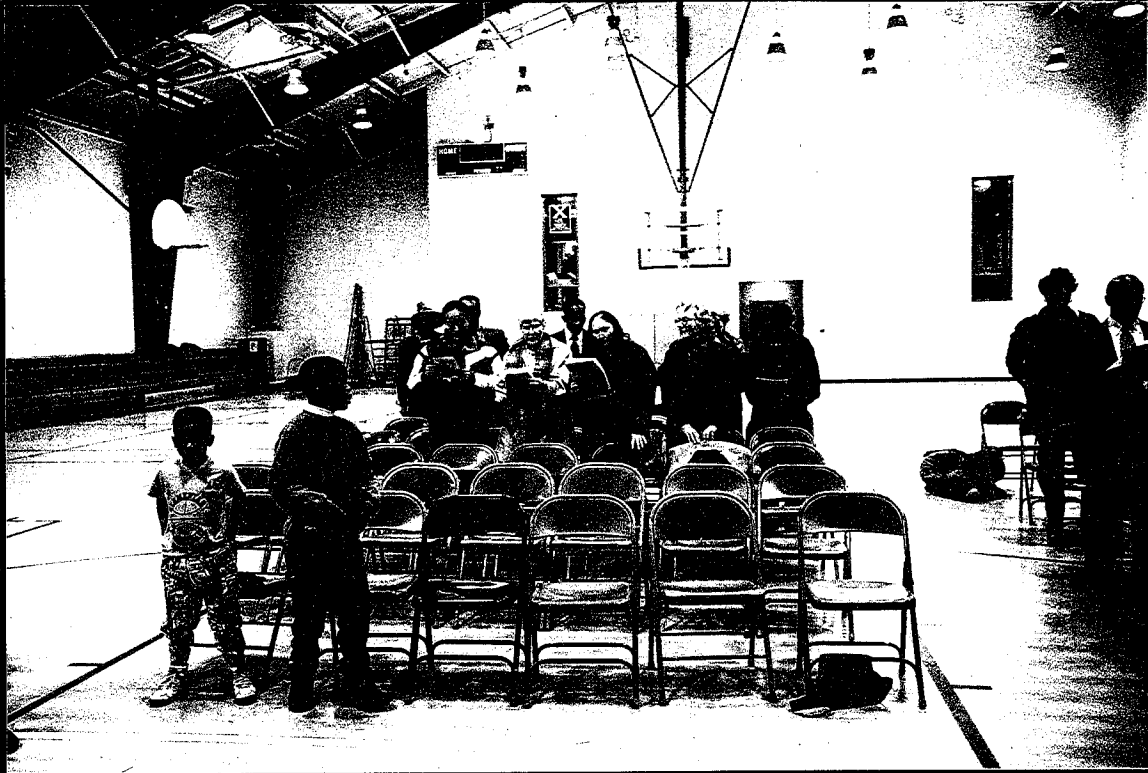
①



Attendees & Evening Program  
(1, 2 + 3)



5



3



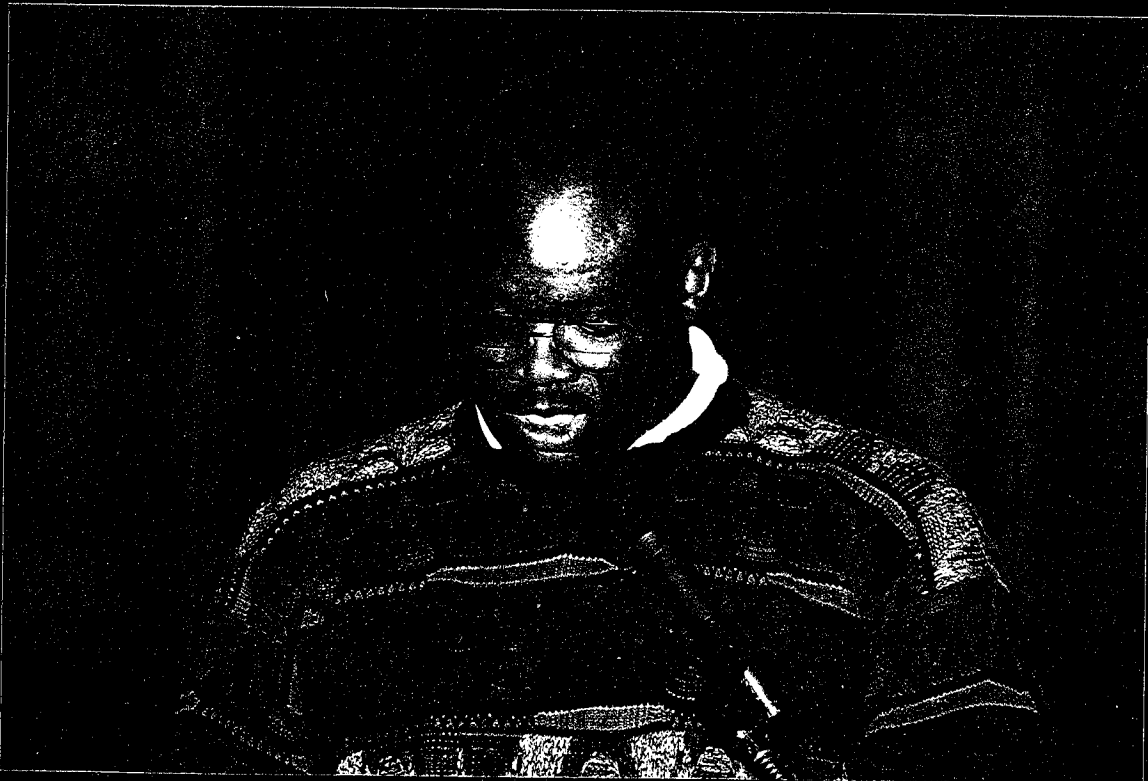
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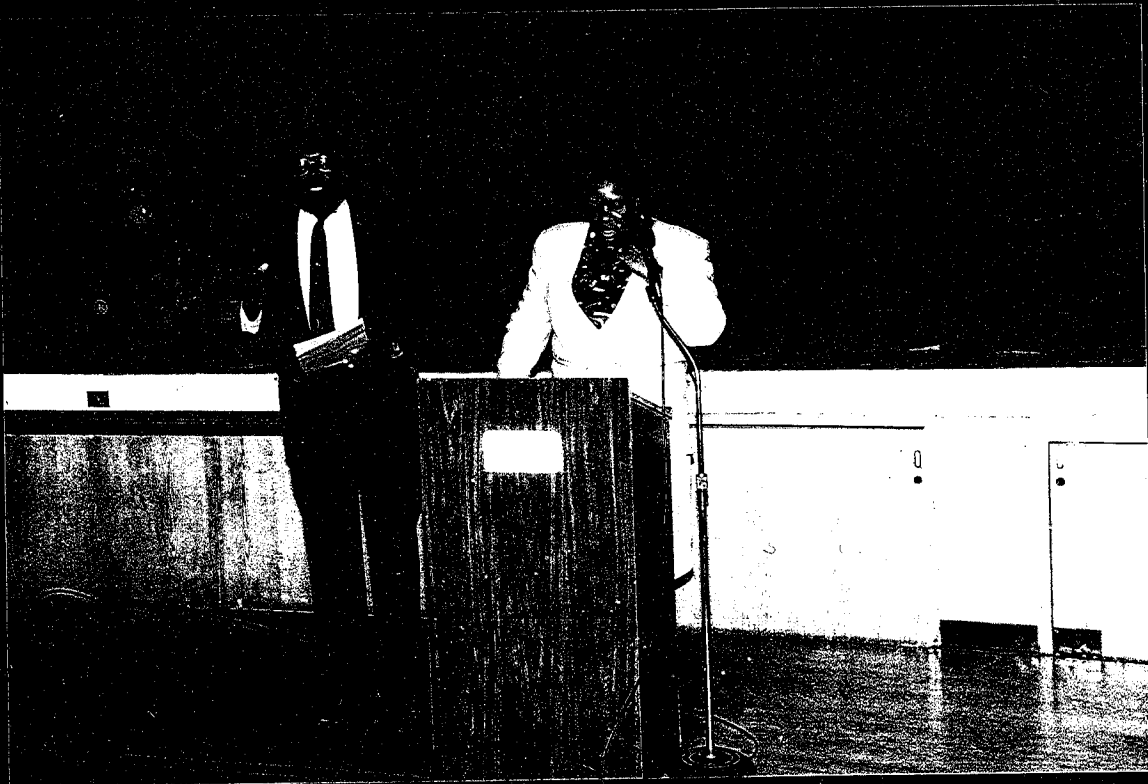
Mr. Th. act Smith, Director,  
Frederick Douglass Center

13



Washington - Catching Duo  
(1, 2 & 3)

12



①

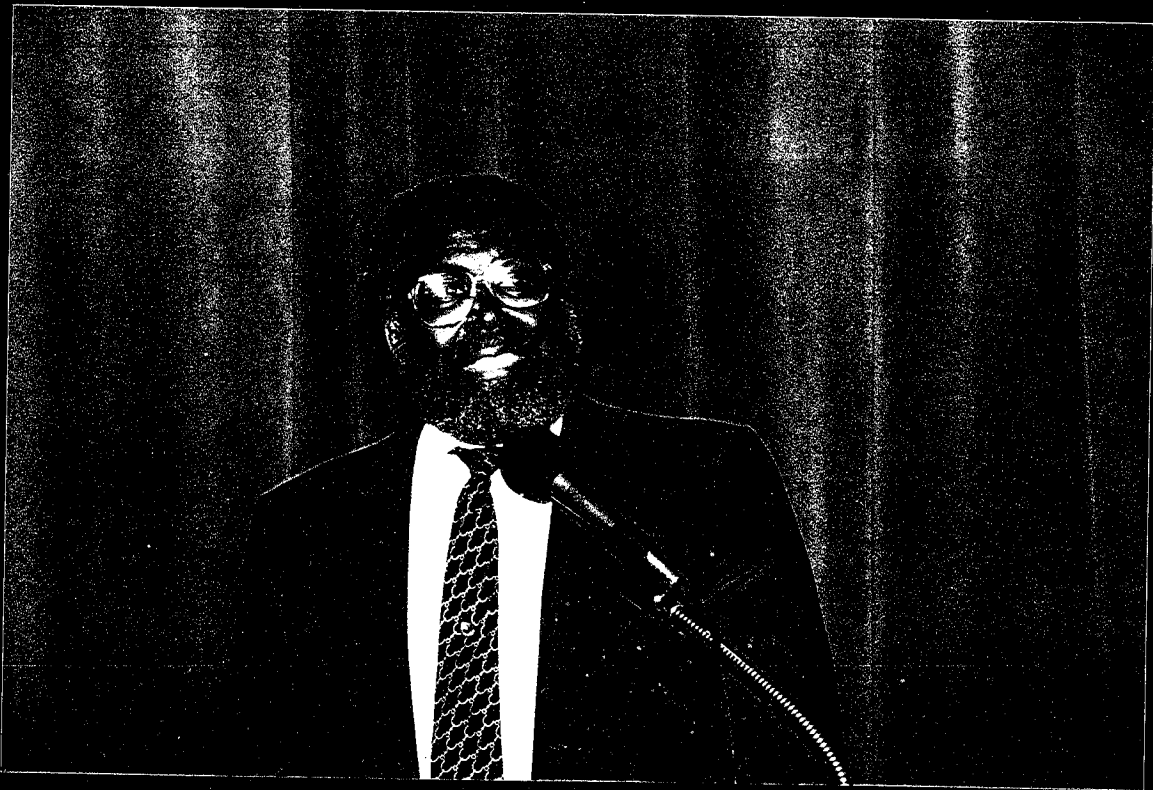


Ms. Faye Catching, guest speaker  
(1, 2, 13)

②



3



Mr. Harris B. Washington  
Guest speaker

## Mamie R. Smith

# "I don't ever get stiff"

BY Connie Conroy

Staying healthy is merely a symptom of a busy schedule for Mamie R. Smith, 64, of 301 Bradley, Champaign. A community volunteer and president of Douglass Senior Citizens, Smith said constant activity keeps the aches and pains from setting in.

Born in Evergreen, Alabama, Smith moved to Mississippi where she lived and married before moving to Danville in 1944. There, she worked in a plant during World War II before moving to Champaign in 1961. Once in town, she began working for the University of Illinois residence halls, the Ramada Inn and finally ended up as a cab driver before an accident forced her into an early retirement in 1971.

"I haven't worked since," Smith said. The accident seriously damaged her left ankle and she had to have two skin grafts. "The doctor wanted to amputate because it was slow to heal," Smith said. "I told him no. I didn't want to lose it."

Smith's instincts were correct. Although her doctor told her to keep weight off the ankle, on the day of this interview Smith ran down the hall at Douglass Annex to ask program director Crystal Green a question. After the skin grafts Smith's recovering was moving a-

"feeling right."

"I kept going to the doctor, but he said nothing was wrong with me. I was used to stirring around so I got to volunteering. Because she keeps moving Smith said, "I don't ever get stiff."

On weekdays Smith can be found serving lunch at the Mt. Olive Church for the Peace Meal Nutrition Program for senior citizens. "I started going up there to eat," Smith said, "then I started going to staff meetings." Smith also sits on a Nutrition Council that serves the east central Illinois area that meets about every two months.

Smith doesn't restrict her time to senior citizen activities. She has seven grandchildren and three grown daughters: Eunice Lipscombs of Rantoul, Helen Smith of Urbana and Joyce McDuffy of Rome, N.Y. Her children may be well out of school, but Smith still keeps up with Champaign's Unit 4 school board. In the past year she worked on the Bradley-McKinley bus committee. She also spoke at a recent school board meeting in favor of Muhammad Abdullah's appointment to the board to replace Mary Nesbitt who resigned.

"I know Abdullah well," Smith said. "I worked with him on the



work." Smith attends Pilgrim Missionary Baptist Church at 1310 N. Sixth St., Champaign.

Smith begins her Sundays by teaching a Sunday School class after which she attends morning, afternoon and evening services. On

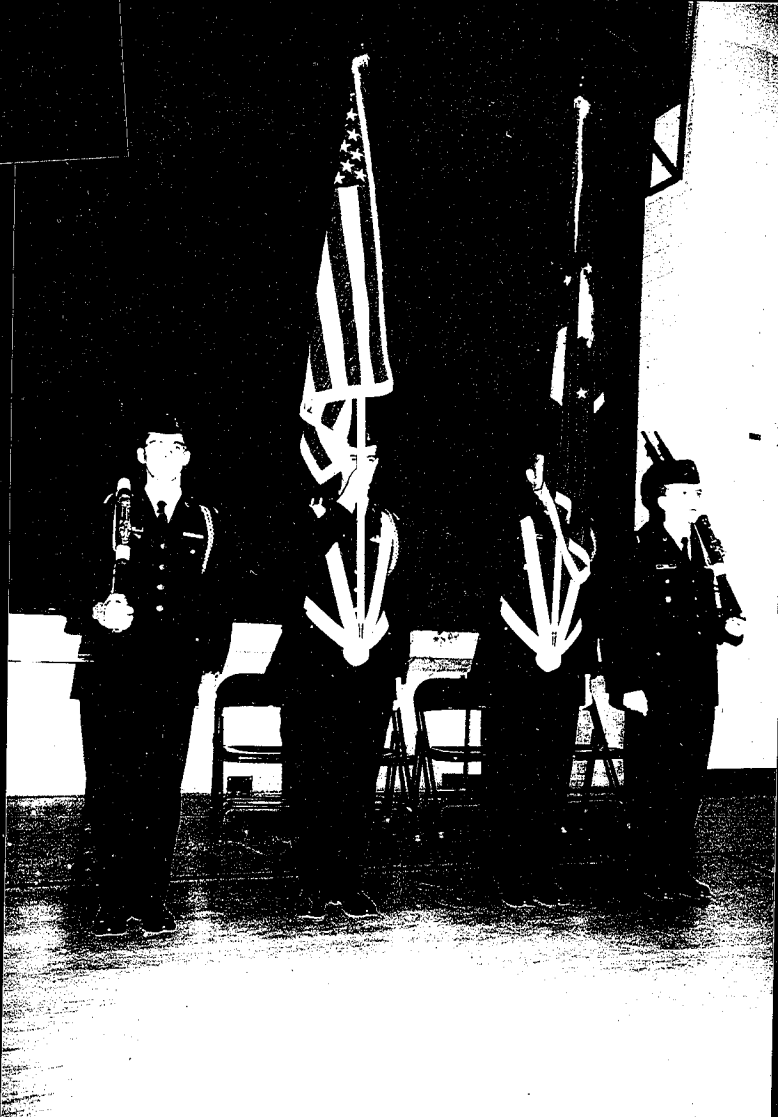
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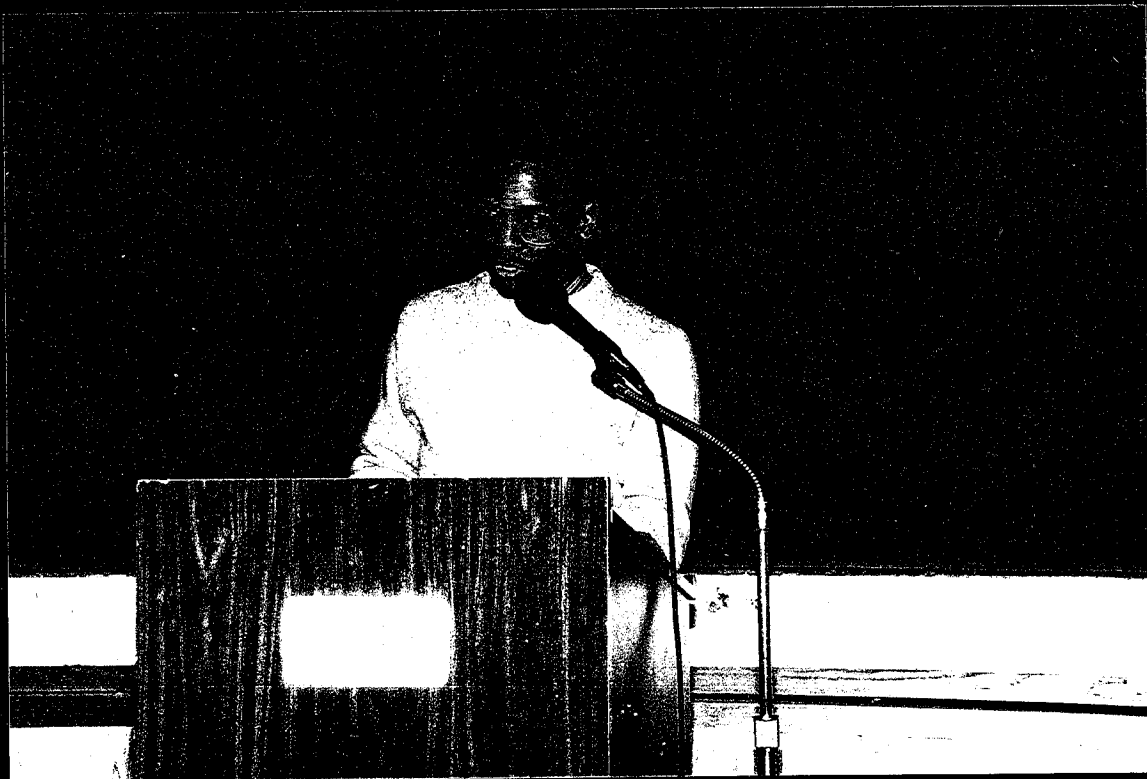
*Color Guard*

3





Rev. D. Roy Johnson, C.A.E. Church, Champaign,  
Ill. - Welcoming Address



Guest speaker - Mrs. Nathaniel Banks, Jr.



## ANNUAL EXHIBITION TEA GIVEN



Annual Exhibition Tea given by Toppers Club of Douglass Recreation Center, held Easter Lea and Exhibit. Reading from left to right: Emline Alexander, Ruby Smith, Ruth Ray, vice-pres., Margaret Woodruff, Odelia Wesley, Sarah Bradley, treas., Juanita Meron, pres., Margaret Utley, sec., Rosa Pealer, Lillie Saunderson, and Apples. All are members of Champaign elite.

Ca. 1946

# Garden Tea Party And Exhibit



**CHAMPAIGN, Ill.**—Garden Tea given by the home making department of the W. P. A., at Douglass Recreation Center, on north 5th street. Hostesses, Madam Allen and A. Howland. Assisting hostesses, Madam Lachley, B. Milean, and B. Jameron. Honored guests were Miss Erma Scott, supervisor of Douglass Center; Mr. W. L. Porter, Jr., supervisor of teachers of adult education; Mrs. William Rhodes, supervisor of N. Y. A. district No. 4 of Danville. Program rendered was as follows: Reading by Mrs. E. Jordan,

"House by the Side of the Road"; trio, "My Desire," Scott, Lachley and A. Pope; Welcome to inspect the various projects, call for community cooperation and needs was very amply given by Mr. M. L. Porter, Jr., Solo, Little Miss Clo Ann Jordan, "Jesus Loves Me." Mrs. A. Seward was mistress of ceremonies. Assisting with refreshments Betty Jones, Alice and Helen Berry, and home workers' production.





### GROUND BROKEN FOR NEGRO COMMUNITY CENTER

Between 125 and 150 persons congregating at the corner of Sixth and Grove streets Sunday afternoon witnessed the ceremony as Sgt. George Evans, flanked by civic leaders and city officials, broke ground for the \$35,000 Negro community center for Champaign. Prana, Sergeant Evans recently finished 28 months of overseas service. Reading from the list are Alder Foxwell, Mrs. L. T. Gregory, Isaac Kuhn, A. H. Lybver, Mayor George F. Hurd, Lytle H. Gallivan, Sergeant Evans, Mayor George J. Babb, Richard Edwards, Cecil Nelson, Ray Scott, Royal A. Stiles, Jr., Dr. H. D. Ellis, Dr. L. P. Diffay and Delos L. Huxtable. Construction of the one-story concrete block building will be

started within the next two weeks by E. N. DeAtley, Champaign contractor of the weather is favorable.

In the short ceremony that preceded the digging, Richard Edwards, chairman of the Douglas Community Service organization's campaign committee, pointed that efforts to provide the building started more than 18 months ago and were continued despite many criticisms.

**Thanks People**  
The \$35,000 building became possible, Edwards pointed out, when the Champaign County Home and War Chest added \$17,000 to the fund that was contributed by citizens of both races.

Edwards thanked "people of both races" and dedicated the building to "the youth of today—our hope of tomorrow."

Speaking from the Home and War Chest, R. A. Stiles, Jr., said the Chest contribution was "small" compared to the effort made by the colored citizens. He expressed hope that the building will be used "for all purposes."

Title to the building will be held by the Champaign Civic foundation. The center will be operated under the supervision of the Campaign recreation commission, but a committee of colored citizens will take an active part.

#### Priorities Granted

E. N. DeAtley, general contractor for the project, said Monday that about 90 days will be required to complete the job. Work will be slow, he pointed out, until materials are received, but all necessary priorities have been granted.

Introduced during the groundbreaking ceremony were Lytle H. Gallivan, Professor A. H. Lybver, Mrs. L. T. Gregory, Doctor H. D. Ellis, and Isaac Kuhn, members of the building committee; D. L. Huxtable, Selby Johnson, and Cecil Nelson, members of the reaction commission; Mayors George J. Babb and George F. Hurd; Architect Ralph Kelley; and DeAtley, Ray Scott, president of the Douglas organization, presented Sergeant Evans with the spade and Doctor L. P. Diffay served as master of ceremonies.

Sergeant Evans, son of Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Evans, 504 East Tremain street, wears four battle stars for major engagements in North Africa and Sicily.



#### FASHION SHOW MODELS

*C. U. C. Paper*

Members of a Champaign Unit 4 adult sewing class in Douglass Center paraded these fashions Friday night in the center. From left are Mrs. C. M. Curry, 106 N. 4th St., who models a pink and white drip-dry cotton summer dress; Mrs. Maggie Cassey, 705 N. Busey Ave., wearing a drip-dry cotton street dress; and Mrs. Doris Butts, 304 E. Tremont St., Champaign, who wears a wool box coat dress suit. All fashions shown were made by the sewing class members.



## Colored Children Are Entertained

in accordance with their annual members of Champaign Junior Woman's club, entertained 35 colored children at a Christmas party, Tuesday evening at the Douglas center.

Songs were sung and Guy Ware, dressed as Santa Claus, distributed presents to each child. Treats of fruit, balls, chocolate Santa Claus, and candy canes were also served. The club also took gifts to be presented to the children of pre-school age.

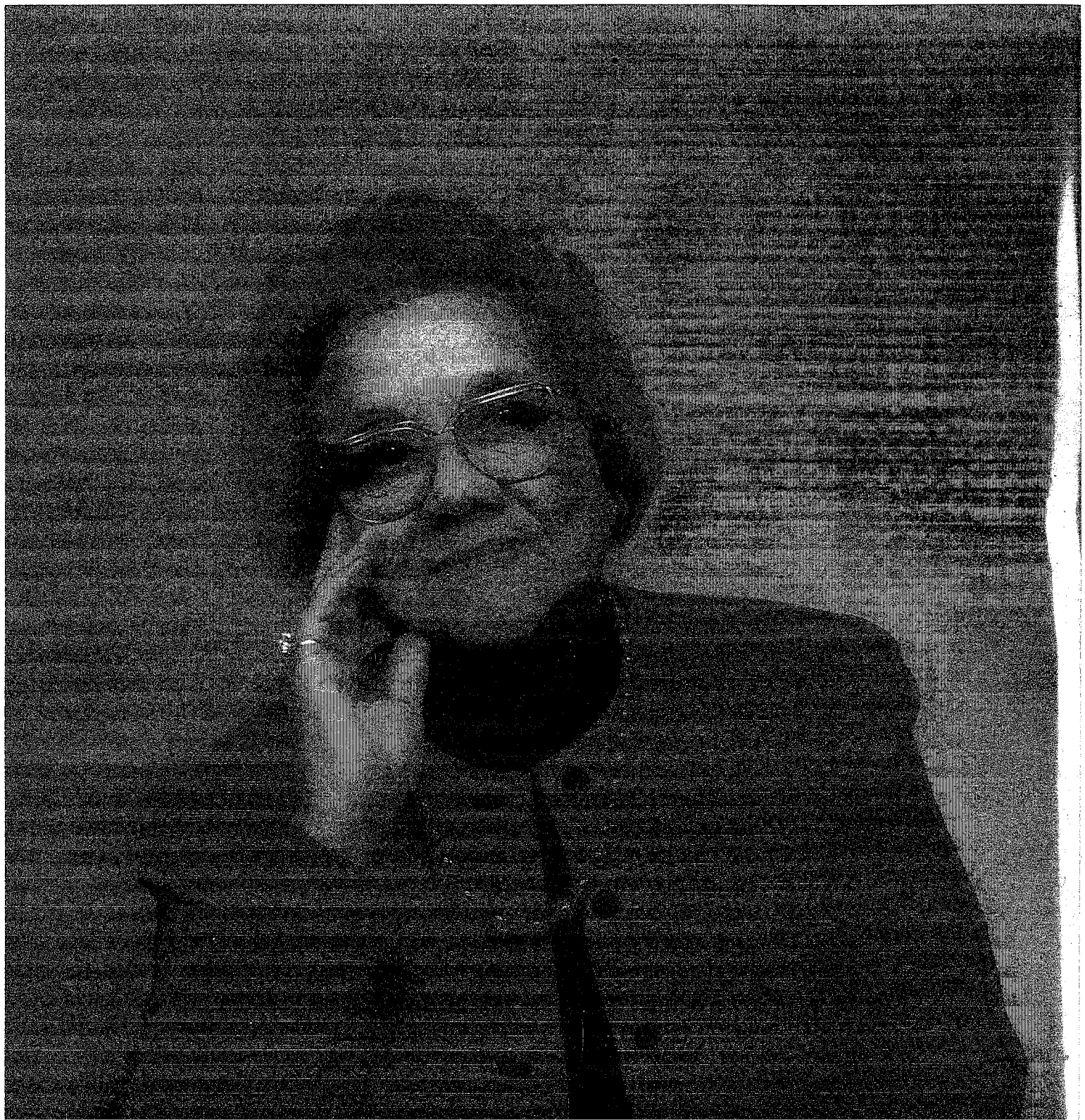
Paul Prehn, one of the sponsors and 15 club members assisted. The committee making arrangements for the party was headed by Dorothy Vose, chairman. Other members were: Inez Caudera, Harriet Davis, Evelyn Douglass, Pauline Esch, Eleanor Johnson, Louise Gladys McCullough, Harriet, Helen McFarland, Ida Mann, Naumann, Mary Sullivan, Edna and Jane Thompson, Marmmerman, Mary Lou Hayes, Lou Irvin, Dorothy Jensen, Virginia Webber.

Thursday night the club will meet at 6:45 at the city building and are going to the Cunningham children's home to sing carols and distribute toys.

The children at Douglas center sang carols in the neighborhood during the party. An adult group sang Monday night and Tuesday night a group of high school students were to sing.

 **AVERY™**

**PV119**  
**M**



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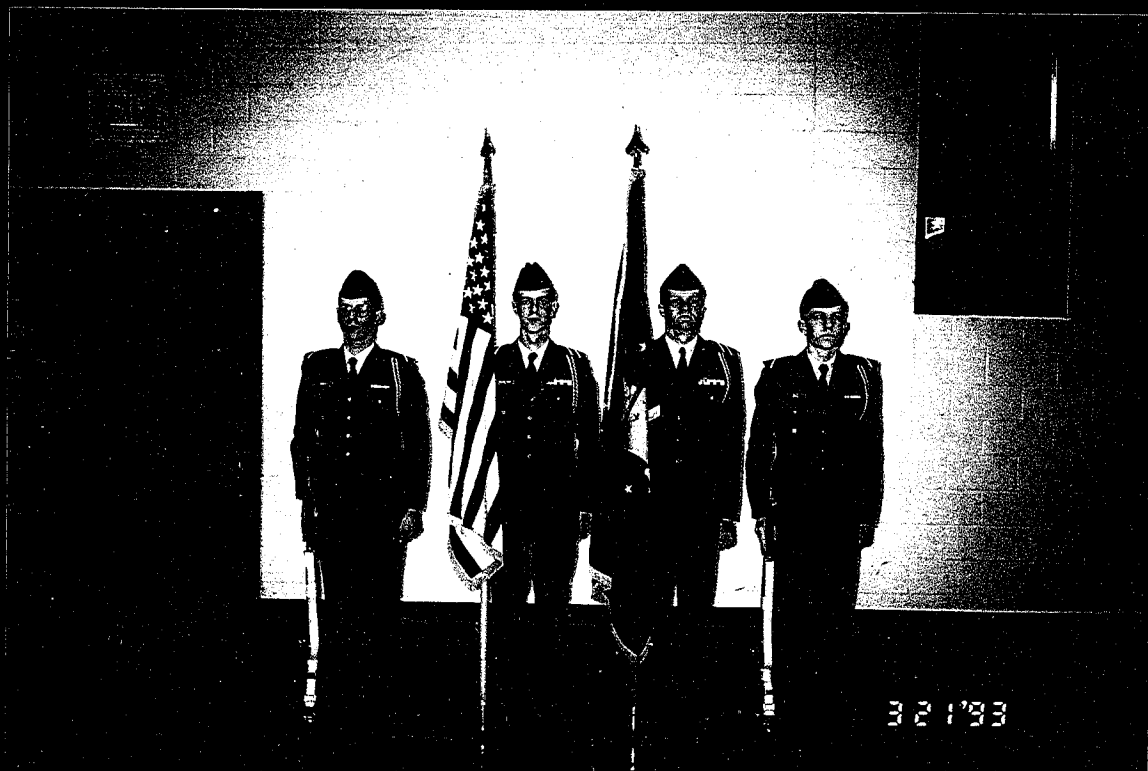
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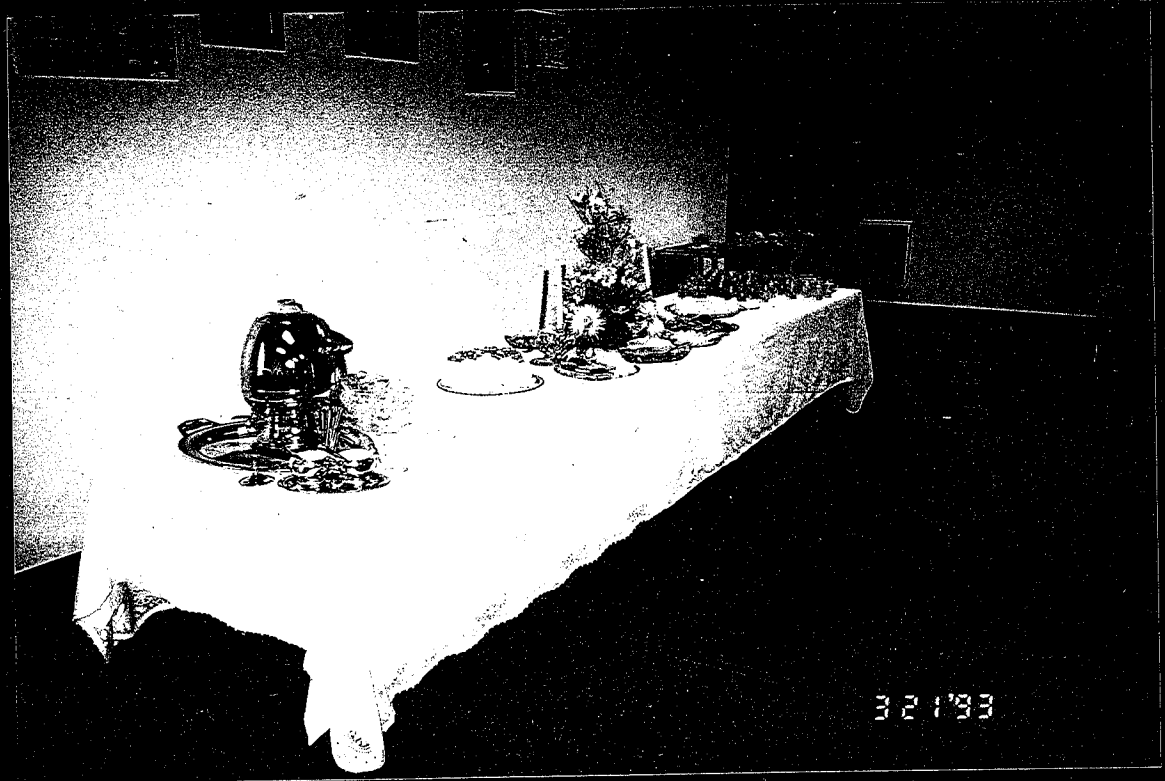
*Reception Committee*



*Cadet Guard - Chanute Air Base,  
Burlington, Missouri*

Reception: Douglass Army - Celebrating  
the week-long Tribute to Frederick A. Douglass

March  
21,  
1993



Reception Committee Members  
Lt. B. C. Nesbit, D. Hopkins, C. Kennedy, B. Mc Gee,  
S. M. Alexander.

① Gymnasium in Douglas Center



②



Hygiene Class from Washington School

1



2



6



7



2



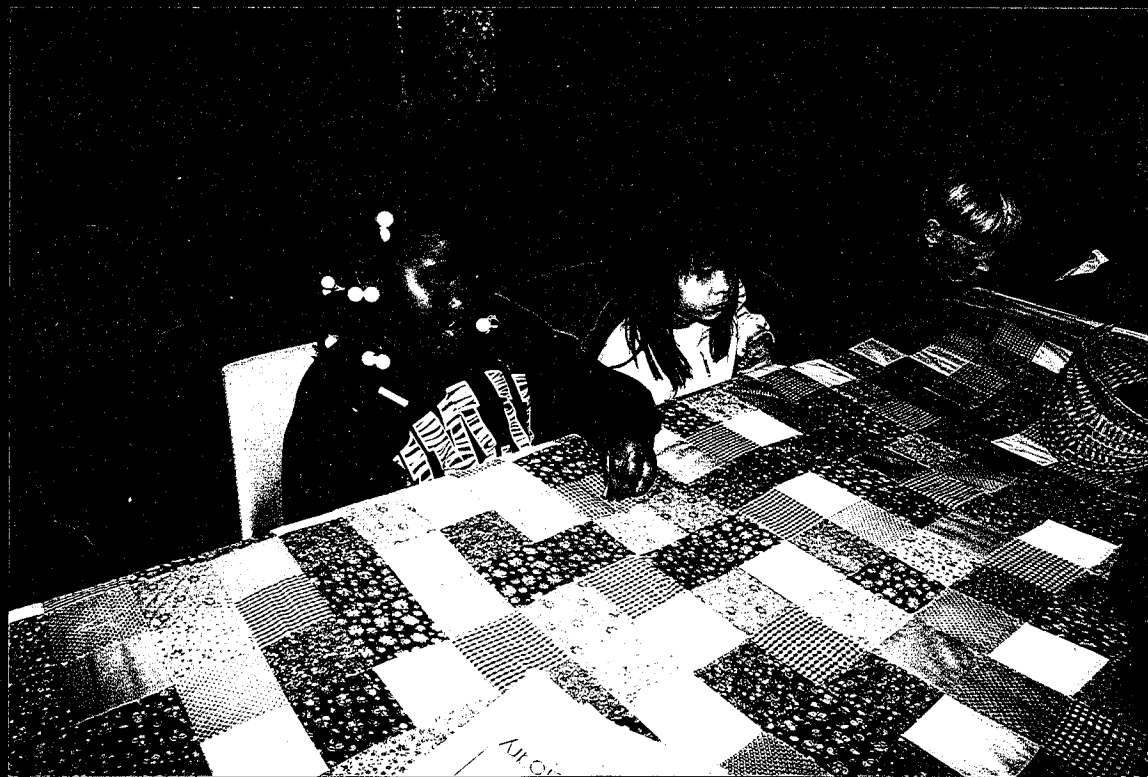
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43



44





6



7



Ermine Brand demonstrates Quilting

6



B

Rub-a-Dub-Dub!



Pauline Pehner demonstrates laundry  
1800s & early 1900s

2



3



2



3



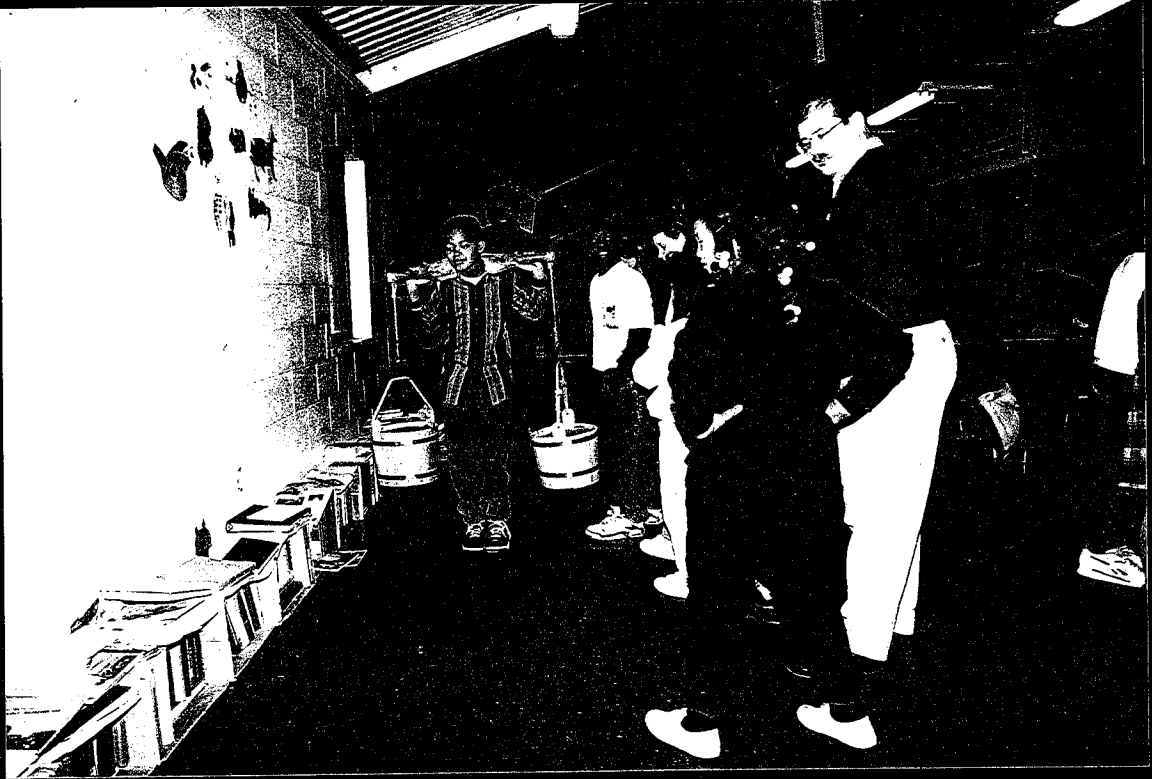
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13

Marbles? A favorite game of boys and girls - Salt of the earth



in today's world.

This is how water was carried from a stream or well to our homes.

(B)



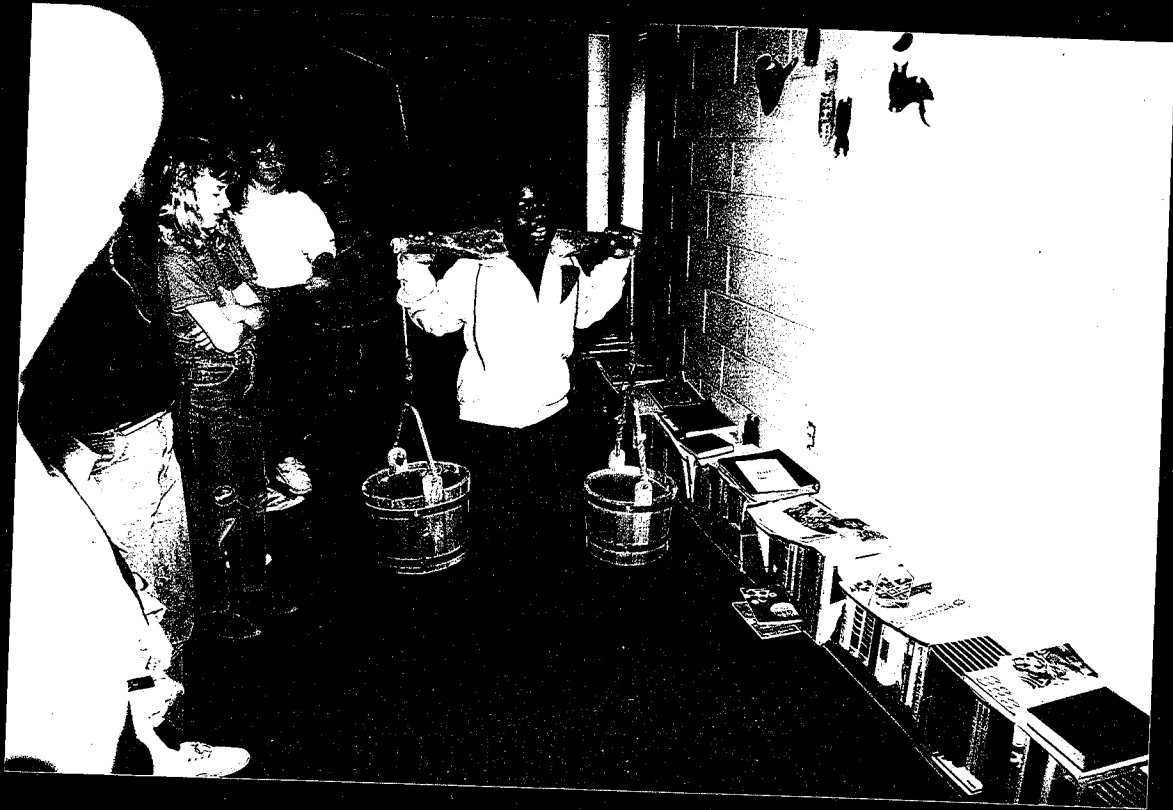
Water for cooking, drinking, doing laundry

(A)





3



4



1



Mary Mc Coy - Butter Churning  
in kitchen 1 thru 4

2



Museum Volunteers -  
Churning butter

3



4



1

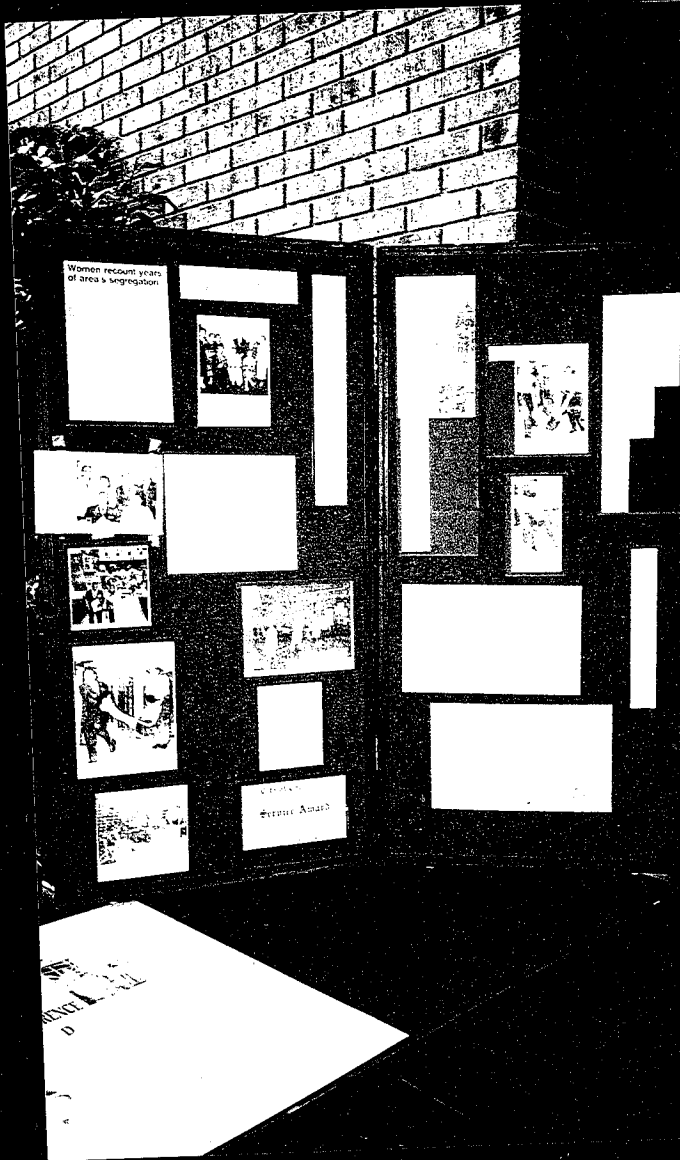


Victorian Wash-day. Mary Alexander

2

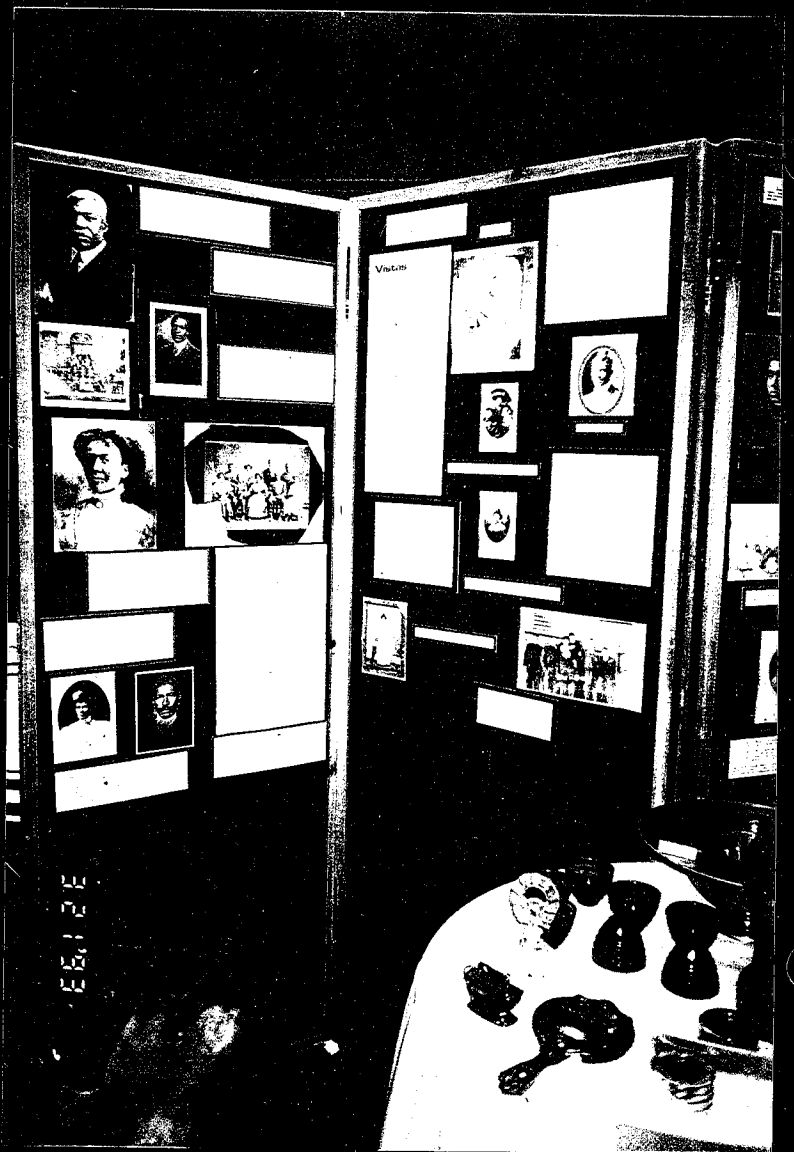


Carrie Banks with school children



Mary Alexander's  
 Exhibit of Civil Rights  
 Movement in Cham-  
 paign, Illinois in  
 the 1960s.

Carrie Pope Banks'  
 Family History in-  
 cluding Photos





Carrie Banks  
Co. Hosts of Exhibit

Mary Alexander

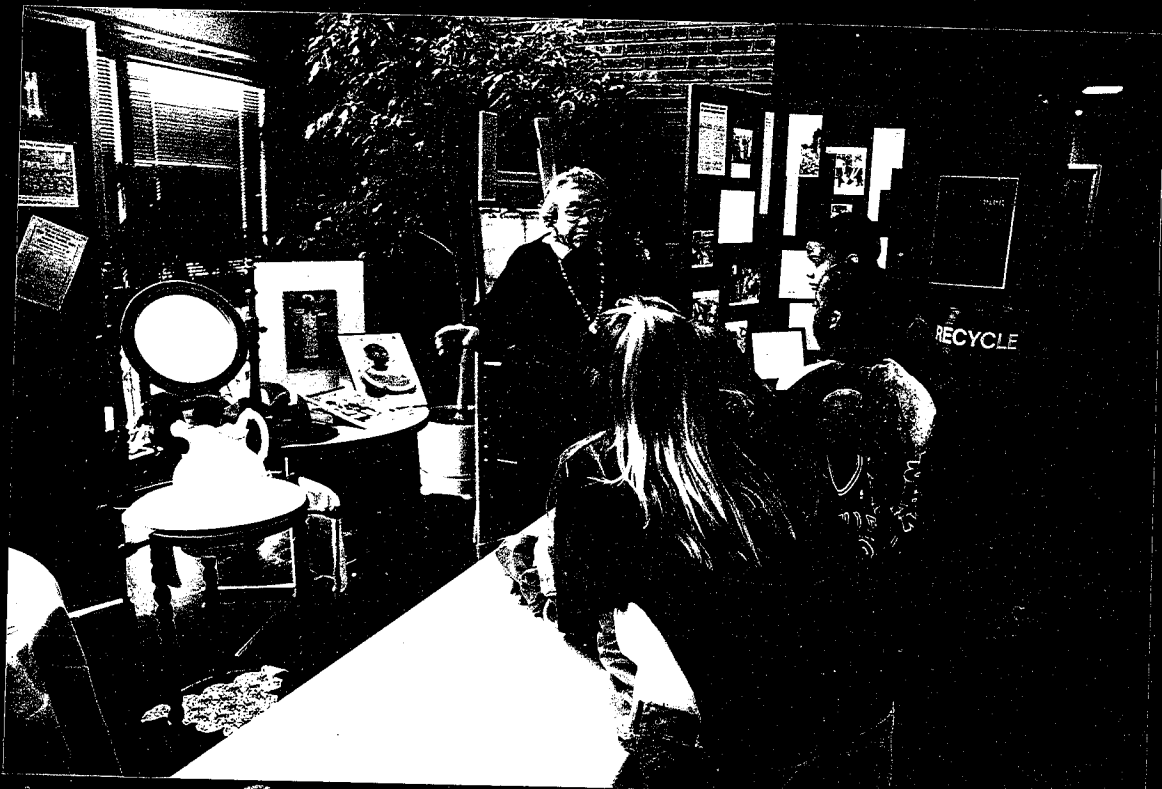


Display items

2

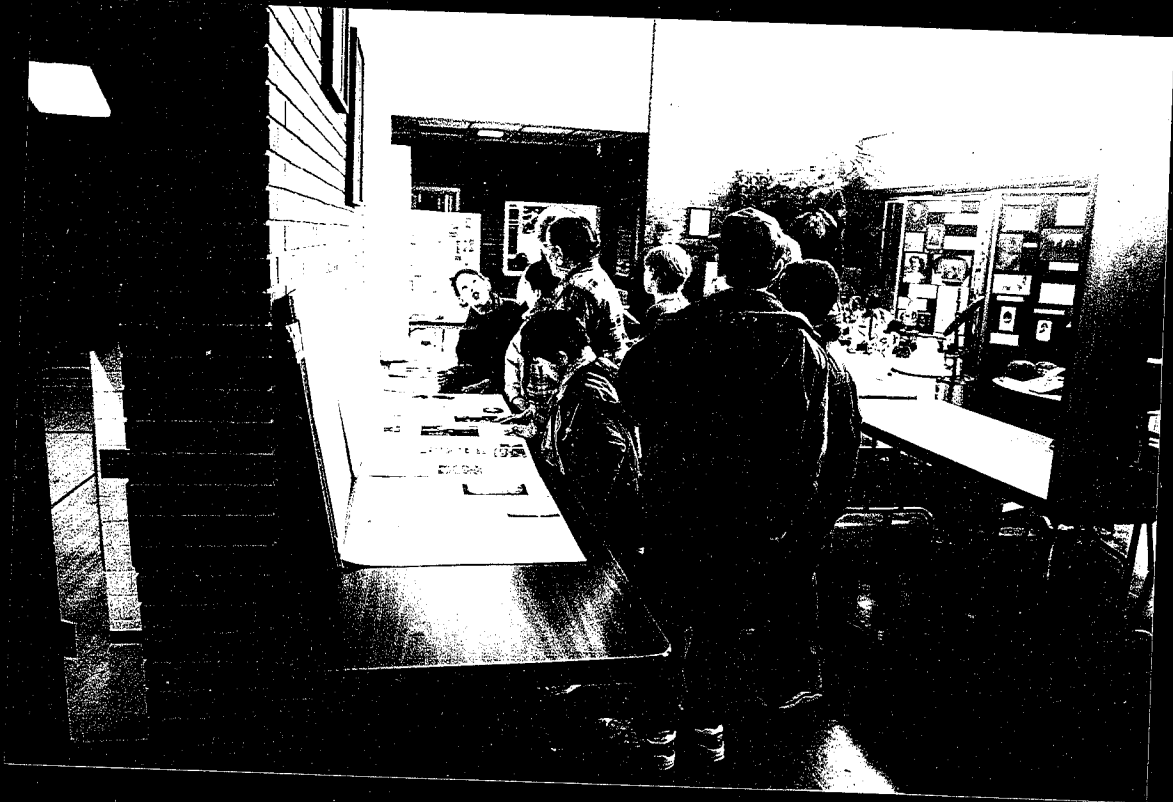


*Display*



*Mary Alice under explains to school children about the display items*

2



3





1



Full view of the display of items used during 1800's. (1 to 2)

2





Library Books on Black History



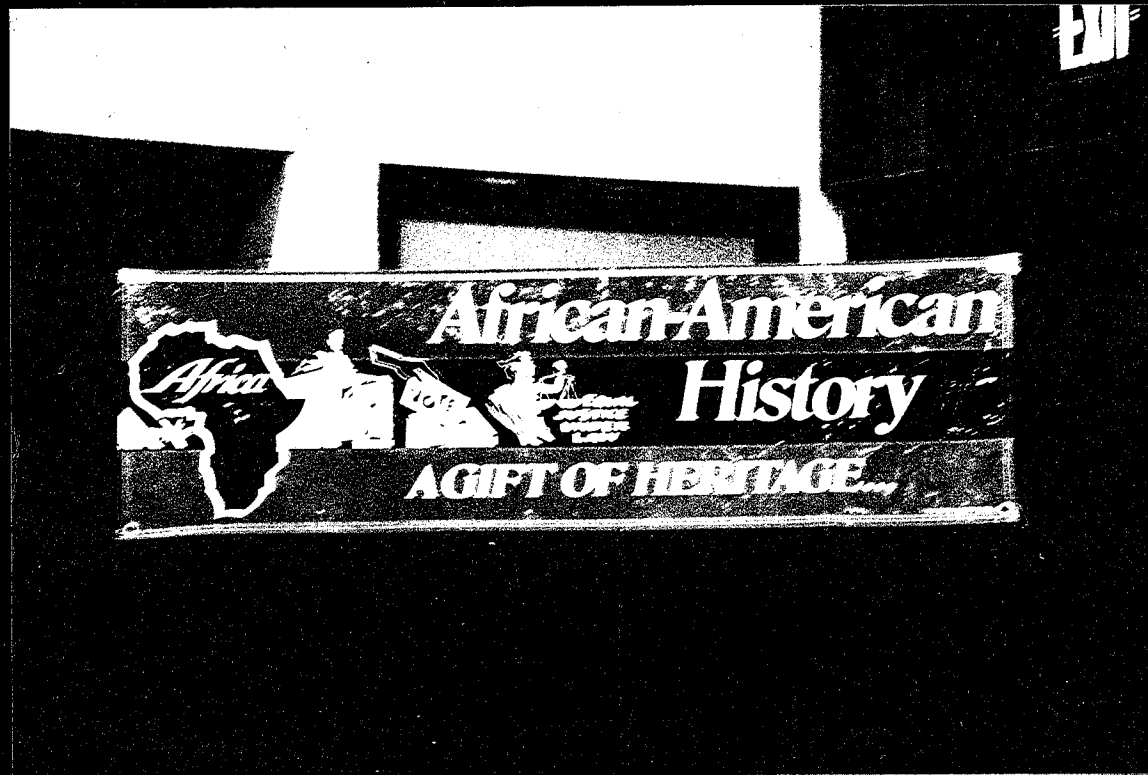
The Broadlands Smith Family  
History - Urbana Free Library Archives



Display Case: History of Douglas Center



Visiting school children to the  
exhibit

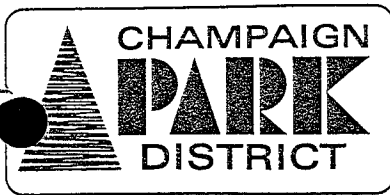


Salute to Chang sign County  
Black History with a Special Tribute  
to: Frederick Douglass

March 15-21, 1993

In All My Years





706 Kenwood Road  
Champaign, IL 61826-3125  
Phone (217) 398-2550  
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MIKE SEIBOLD, CONTROLLER  
SUE GREY, DIRECTOR OF VOLUNTEERS  
NATE DIXON, COORDINATOR OF COMMUNITY SERVICES

March 29, 1993

Mrs. Doris Hoskins  
1208 West Church  
Urbana, IL 61801

Dear Mrs. Hoskins:

On behalf of the Champaign Park District Douglass Center and Champaign County Black History Committee, I would like to thank you for your generous support during our Black Heritage Program.

Without your support, it would not have been possible to provide a quality program for the Black community. It is great that you are helping to provide Douglass Center the opportunity to strive for success. Thanks again.

Sincerely,

Walter S. Smith  
Douglass Facility Supervisor

WSS:cf

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By GINGER ORR

---

# Giving kids alternatives to gangs

Walter Smith lost half his football team to gangs.

Which shows this Champaign youth director is onto something.

---

**T**welve-year-old Robert Turner sat on top of a picnic table in the middle of Frederick Douglass park, his chin resting in his hands, his elbows propped on dark, scabbed knees. A North Carolina blue and white baseball cap was pushed forward over his eyes. He was waiting for the rest of his teammates to show up for the day's football practice. Gradually they arrived, coming from all directions across the park to gather at the blacktop basketball court in the middle. Some had their purple jerseys slung over their shoulders. All carried white helmets with the purple Warriors emblem plastered on the side. There were only 11 boys playing on the Pee Wee football team at Sunday's game. Normally there were 13, but Rodney would be out of town that weekend and Clifford broke his pinkie finger last week. Both of them showed up for practice anyway.

A whistle cut through the air. "C'mon fellas," their coach, Walter Smith, called out to the scattered boys. Within seconds the middle school-aged boys clustered around the imposing 45-year-old man who stood a good two feet over them. The park fell silent as Smith told them they were short two players. This meant every one had to play the whole game. If anyone got hurt or kicked out, that was it. Be careful, he warned them before barking out orders to lap the large one-block park — the standard start of practice. The boys took off, the taller ones quickly taking the lead, their long, thin legs looking like they would snap with each step in their clunky, over-sized leather high-tops. Off to the side, members of a local gang crowded around the basketball hoop and watched them.

Robert lives in a neighborhood where gangs have stolen the sense of community away from its residents, and Walter Smith is fighting to get it back. His sports teams give kids like Robert an alternative to gangs and a safe haven from the streets. In a neighborhood beset with poverty, growing fear and desperation, Smith attempts to counter the lure of gangs with opportunities of his own.

**I**t all started with football. For two years, the director of the Frederick Douglass Center had wanted to form a football team for the black youth in northeast Champaign. The Champaign Park District didn't offer a program. So, like many of his other projects, Smith initiated the idea on his own.

For most of the boys it was their first chance to participate in anything more than a neighborhood pick-up game. They had

never worn uniforms or shoulder pads and never had a pair of cleats or a real coach. Growing up in the public housing around the Douglass Center, 11-year-olds went home to empty apartments with little supervision and nothing to do but hang on the streets. The only teamwork they had ever known came from the gangs that ruled their neighborhood — the Gangster Disciples and the Vice Lords who had come down from Chicago to recruit middle schoolers because they were less likely to get punished in the juvenile court system.

The gangs use force, Smith said. "They say to some of them if they don't sell these drugs, they won't let them on the bus, they'll beat them up, they won't let them go to school. They use school as an enforcer to get to the kids. You can't walk way over there to Robeson School or Bottenfield or Westview. That's a long ways for these kids to be walking. That's something we've got to work on."

Officer Gene Stephens, one of two community police officers who walks the streets around Douglass, estimates that 85

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*One of the highlights is a trip to the Bulls training center. One youngster got to sniff Scottie Pippen's shoes*

---

percent of the high school-aged black males and 50 percent of the middle schoolers in northeast Champaign are involved with gangs in some way, either as a runner, lookout or drug dealer. Stephens said he makes an average of two or three arrests a day for fights, weapons or drug activity related to the gangs.

The gangs may control the four public housing developments bordering the one-block park, but the Douglass Center has been unofficially declared a neutral zone. The center's new-looking, brick building with tall, narrow windows lined up across its front looks like an oasis surrounded by the tired rows of low-rise frame apartments that cluster in groups around vacant concrete courtyards. Grade school children

Douglass playground after dinner, unsuper-  
vised. They stop by to pick up free loaves of fresh bread  
from a local bakery. Pee Wee football practices every  
week in the park surrounding the Center. Even gang mem-  
bers come for Open Gym Nights, but once they step inside,  
they come off and they are just teenage boys who want to  
play basketball. Whatever gang activity occurs, happens off  
the Center's property.

One measure of Smith's success is the fact that the gangs  
clearly regard his programs as competition. Whether  
they are gang members or not, most of the kids try out  
for Smith's teams. At the start of the season, 25 kids between  
the ages of 10 and 12 signed up to play in the C-U Youth Foot-  
ball League with the Warriors. This was the first time an all-  
black team from northeast Champaign had joined the league.  
They even won their first four games until the "gang bangers"

on the team decided to quit. All 12 of them.  
"They couldn't take the weight," said Smith. "They can talk  
a big game, but they couldn't handle it. All of the ones in  
Mansard Square and Parkside [public housing complexes in  
northeast Champaign] decided to quit the team. All of them."  
He shook his head sadly. The gangs got in the way. "They were  
told not to get involved," he said.

Even though the loss of half the team ended their winning  
streak, Robert continues to show up faithfully for each prac-  
tice. He joined the Warriors because he wanted to play on a  
real football team, but the seventh grader at Edison Middle  
School knows there is more to it than that. "It keeps kids out  
of trouble and gang-related stuff," he said.

The fact that the gangs join in some of the activities at the  
center, however, doesn't bother him. "They come and play bas-  
ketball, but they don't cause no trouble."

Smith's no-nonsense attitude helps ensure this, as does the



Photo by Carlos T. Miranda, a photo-journalism student at the University of Illinois.  
Walter Smith and his "gang." Fighting the influence of street gangs is an endless battle, says the director of Champaign's Douglass Center, because there is no single, magic solution. But he believes that showing youngsters they have options in life can be a powerful antidote to the lure of street gang activity.



Community policing  
 residents feel more com-  
 the police more involved in the  
 try to let them know that we are  
 job to do," said Officer Stephens. "We'll  
 the store to get milk for the next morning.  
 We'll do whatever it takes to get people

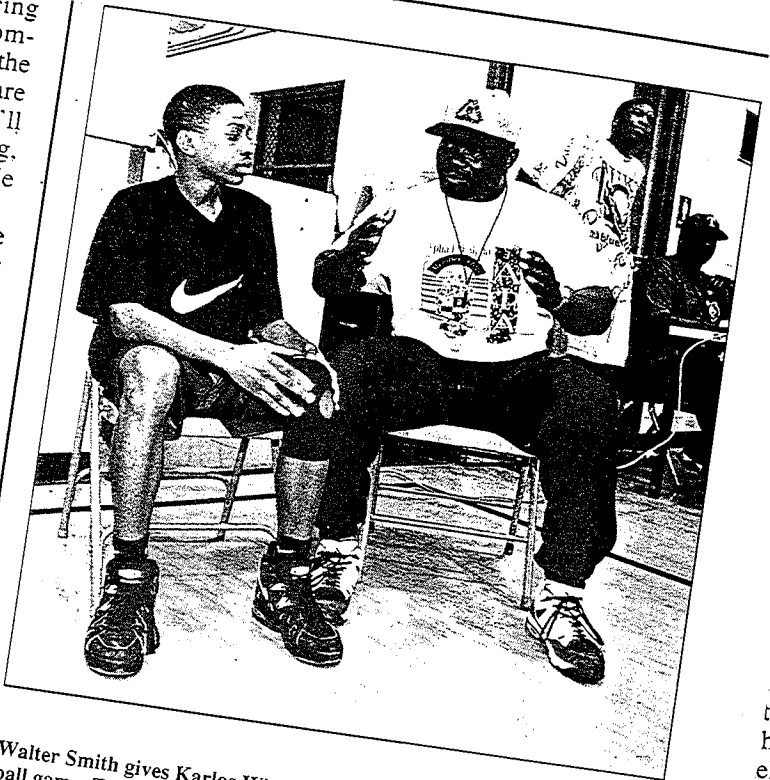
admits that while he can't insist that all areas be  
 territory, he can make sure that Douglass Center  
 so. "I am not going to tolerate any gang activity," he  
 said. "If they fight, I'll shut the center down and they'll have  
 no place to go." The way things are now, Stephens said, "It is  
 no matter if you're a Vice Lord or a Gangster Disciple. You  
 can go up there and play basketball and not worry about a fight.  
 Parents don't have to worry about their kids getting shot,  
 stabbed, run over or threatened."

"We've had drug dealers come in and want to use the bas-  
 ketball to play outside. 'I'll give you 100 dollars'; they try to  
 bribe me," Smith said. "We don't play that kind of stuff here.  
 They know if they mess with us, they go to jail for a long  
 time."

Gang members or not, the neighborhood kids swarm to the  
 park every afternoon. It is the programs that Smith initiates on  
 is own that attract most of them. Right now he volunteers a  
 minimum of 15 hours a week to coach the Warriors, and he had  
 e basketball teams scheduled to play 16 games with Boys  
 clubs in central Illinois before he had found the players to  
 ke up the two teams. "I go out recruiting them [the kids] just  
 a college coach," he said.

Probably the most memorable part of being on one of  
 Smith's teams is the traveling. Last year Smith loaded up his  
 red-and-white striped van with the 15-member basketball  
 and headed for Chicago to tour the Bulls Training Center  
 "One of the kids sniffed Scotty Pippin's shoes," Smith  
 groaning. "They really enjoyed the tour, and it inspired a  
 kids when they saw that. They got to sit in the chairs they  
 see the court, the weight room, the gigantic whirlpool."  
 Smith plans to take the Warriors camping as a reward at the  
 their season. "They never forget the experience," he  
 they never think Illinois has caves and hills and small,  
 re mountains. Fear of darkness gets a lot of them."  
 the kids have never been outside of the city.

most difficult thing Smith has to work around, how-  
 er, is funding. Illinois park districts are considered  
 varate government agencies, so they are not eligible  
 -profit grant money that often funds these kind of  
 But even the \$45,000 to \$60,000 a year Douglass  
 h initiates. The end result: a lot of time networking  
 mity businesses and organizations for private dona-  
 ill help ease the burden on the kids and keep the  
 ing.  
 of one week, Smith managed to collect \$1,300 to  
 California for the Scholastic High School Cham-  
 rack and Field. "I just tell them it's for the kids,"  
 kid had an opportunity of a lifetime. And now



Walter Smith gives Karlos Winston of Urbana pointers during a basket-  
 ball game. The Douglass Center is a neutral territory for the gangs.  
 Photo by Carlos T. Miranda

he's gotten letters from colleges all across the country for  
 track, from Miami, Princeton, Manhattan, Missouri, Purdue."  
 This spring Smith is working on getting funding from  
 Champaign and Urbana for a midnight sports night and a sum-  
 mer basketball league. Currently neither city is involved in the  
 Douglass Center in any way.

Although Smith agrees that his work should remain local in  
 scope, he believes that some of these programs would be bene-  
 ficial if they were expanded. "It could work," Smith said. "It's  
 something that would force gangs to change their philosophies  
 — you have to push them out."  
 It is an endless battle because there is no one way to wipe it

out, he said. You just have to keep fighting at it and try to show  
 the kids that they have options. Smith has been dreaming up  
 new ideas and methods to make them succeed for years.  
 For the last four of those years Robert has been an active  
 participant. Every afternoon when he finishes his newspaper  
 route, the 12-year-old rides his bike over to Douglass for prac-  
 tice. "Ever since I was a little kid I've wanted to play football,"  
 he said. "And when I heard about this, I knew I wanted to play.  
 That's what I want to do when I grow up." Although being  
 raised in this neighborhood may have made Robert seem more  
 grown up at 12 than many adults, a part of him fights to hold  
 onto that child-like dream. As he speeds into the park and leaps  
 off his bike, letting it fall to the ground with its wheels still  
 spinning, the surrounding gangs and violence are the furthest  
 thing from his mind. He just wants to play ball.

Ginger Orr is a graduate student in journalism at the University  
 of Illinois.

a pair of  
 around  
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 Chicago to  
 ely to get

ne of them  
 on the bus,  
 pool. They  
 t walk way  
 Westview.  
 hat's some-

police offi-  
 cates that 85

nd 50 percent of  
 re involved with  
 it or drug dealer.  
 hree arrests a day  
 the gangs.  
 ous develop-  
 ; Douglass Center  
 one. The center's  
 ow windows lined  
 ounded by the tired  
 cluster in groups  
 de school children

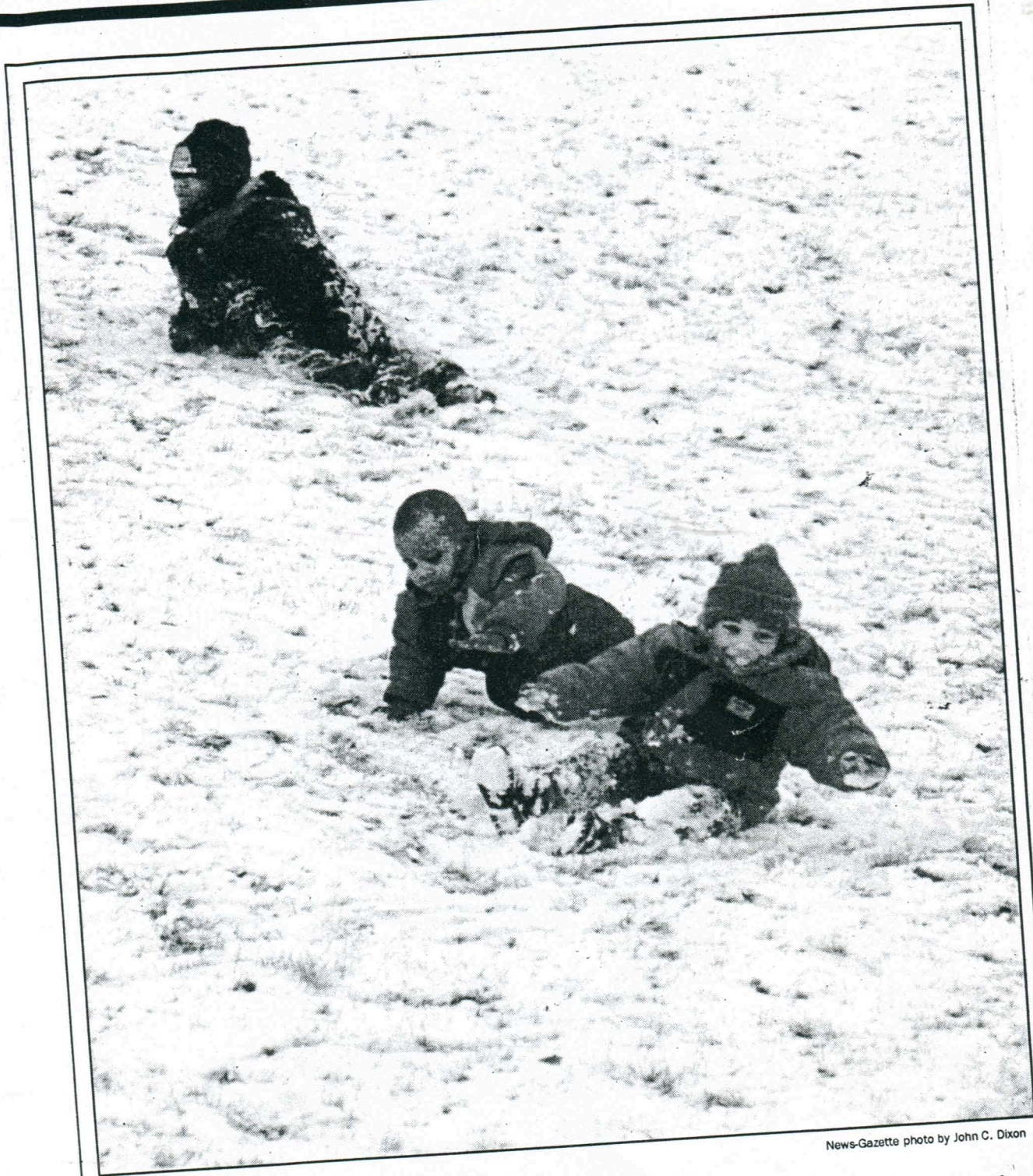
3/23/93

Dear Doris,

Thank you for your help over these past few weeks and for your support of the project. I look forward to the opportunity to work with you further and the many possibilities that lie ahead.

Sincerely,  
Cheryl

# NEWS / EAST CENTRAL ILLINOIS

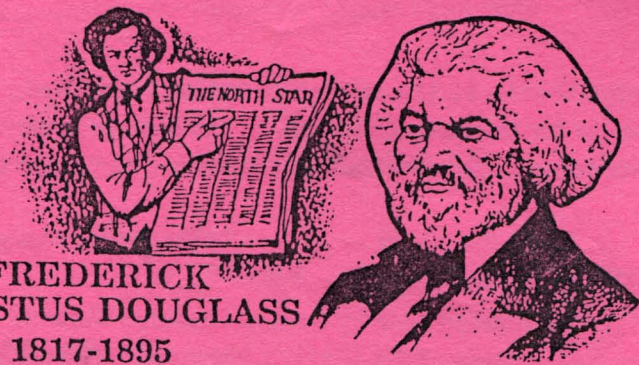


News-Gazette photo by John C. Dixon

## Snowy roll

Three youngsters tumble down the snow-covered hill at Douglass Park in Champaign. They are, from the top, Charlie Chaney, 2; Ervin Mafaua, 3; and Deandre Williams, 5. The children, all from Champaign, were in the Eager Beaver day-care program Friday at the Douglass Center.

Salute to Champaign County  
Black History  
with a Special Tribute to  
Frederick Douglass



FREDERICK  
AUGUSTUS DOUGLASS  
1817-1895

Sunday, March 21, 1993  
Douglass Recreation Center



Illinois Humanities Council



Douglass Branch Library

• 310 E. Bradley Ave. • Champaign, IL 61820 • 358-4168

## Agitate! Agitate! Agitate!

These were the famous words of Frederick Augustus Douglass, the means by which he believed Black Americans must unconditionally struggle for equal rights.

# Salute to Champaign County Black History with a Special Tribute to Frederick Augustus Douglass

Special thanks to the organizations and individuals who made it possible for the establishment of the first program developed to promote and celebrate Black History in Champaign County.

Alpha Phi Alpha

Beta Phi Pi

Champaign County Forest Preserve District

Champaign Park District Volunteers and Staff

Champaign Public Library-Douglass Branch

Dusable Museum-Mr. Willie Dixon Jr.

Early American Museum and Garden Volunteers

Illinois State Library

Sigma Gamma Rho

University of Illinois African-American Library

University of Illinois-Black Greek Council

Urbana Public Library

### Douglass Community Citizen Contributions

Isabell Adams

Mary McCoy

Lillie Adams

Pauline Pelmore

Emma Brent

Mamie Smith

Mary Dabney

Vera Wesley

Pearl Evans

Margaret Willis

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EARLY AMERICAN MUSEUM/DOUGLAS CENTER  
ILLINOIS HUMANITIES COUNCIL EVALUATION  
PUBLIC PROGRAMS EVALUATION

Program Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Date \_\_\_\_\_

Please rate the program in the following categories:  
1=excellent 2=good 3=average 4=unsatisfactory 5=poor

- |  |   |   |   |   |   |
|--|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1. Introduction:   | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 2. Objectives clearly stated:                                | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 3. Scope of the program:                                     | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 4. Effectiveness of presentation:                            | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 5. Use of historical scholarship:                            | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 6. Opportunity for audience involvement:                     | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 7. Physical accessibility of the program:                    | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 8. Did you travel more than ten miles to attend the program? |   |   |   |   |   |
| Yes  |   |   |   |   |   |
| No   |   |   |   |   |   |

If yes, how far?

Please complete the following sentences to reflect your assessment of the program.

I was pleased with...

I was surprised by...

I remembered...

I was disappointed by...

I learned...

I relearned...

I wish...

If I ran this program, I would have...

Illinois Humanities Council

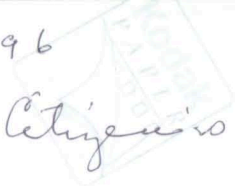






9/27/96

Dr. Citizeno's Style Show

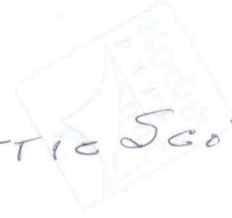




9/27/98

Sr. Citizens Style Show

NATTIE SCOTT







# AUGUST

MON

TUES

WED

THURS

FRI

SAT/SUN

## 1996

Civic Holiday  
(Ontario)

			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	



JUNE 1998 - JULY 1998

MONDAY

JUNE 29

JULY 1998

THURSDAY

JULY 2

TUESDAY

JUNE 30

FRIDAY

JULY 3

WEDNESDAY

JULY 1

Canada Day (Canada)

SATURDAY

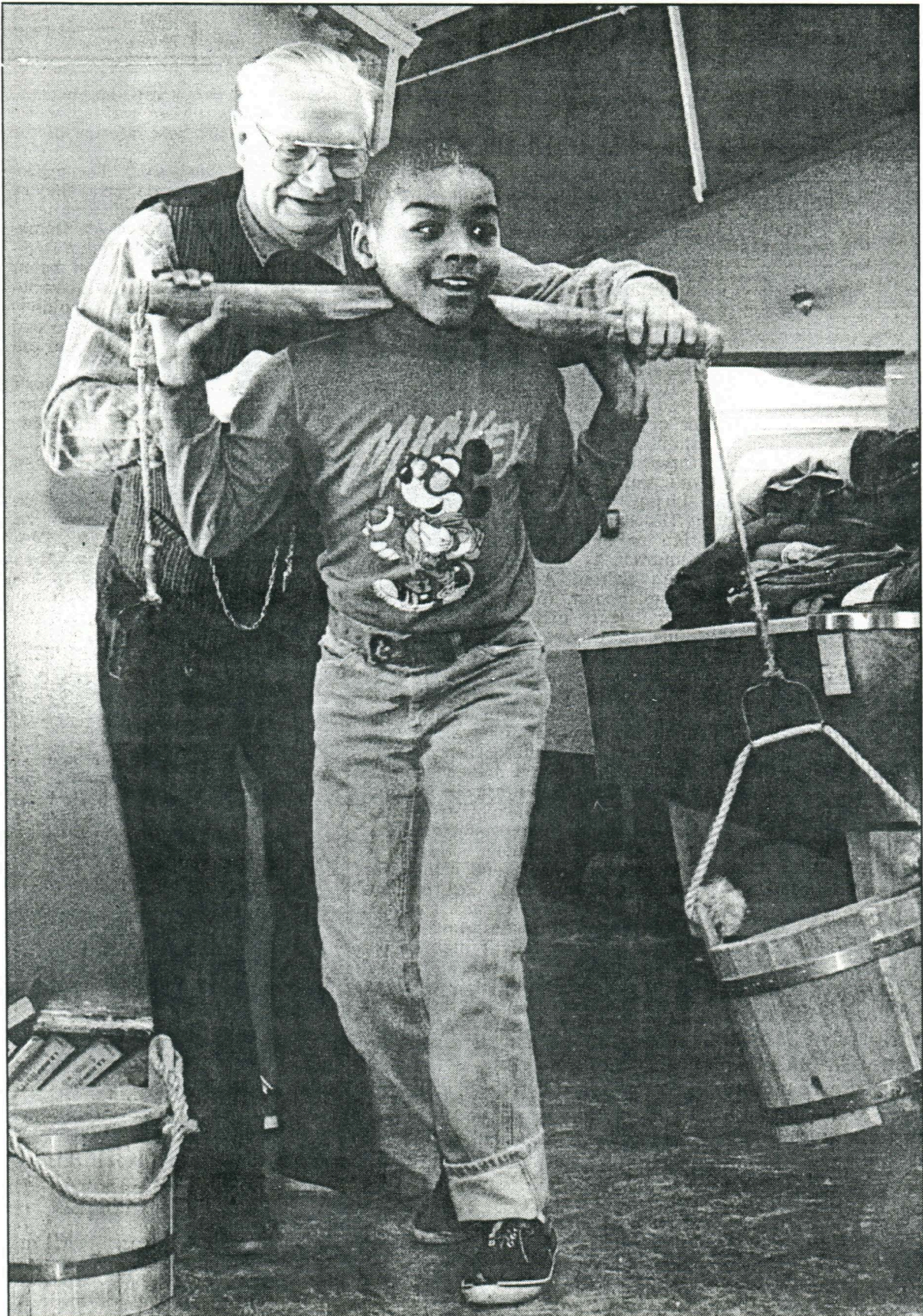
JULY 4

Independence Day

SUNDAY

JULY 5





### **Heavy load**

Mark Breland, a fourth-grader at Wiley School in Urbana, gets help from volunteer Otto Haack in using a double-bucket water carrier at Douglass

Recreation Center. The 10-year-old was viewing 1800s exhibits Wednesday as part of a program saluting Champaign County black history.

News-Gazette photo by Delfina Colby

## "LIFT EV'RY VOICE AND SING"

Lift every voice and sing  
Till earth and heaven ring,  
Ring with the harmonies of Liberty;  
Let our rejoicing rise  
High as the listening skies,  
Let it resound loud as the rolling sea.  
Sing a song full of the faith that the dark past has taught us,  
Sing a song full of the hope that the present has brought us,  
Facing the rising sun of our new day begun  
Let us march on till victory is won.

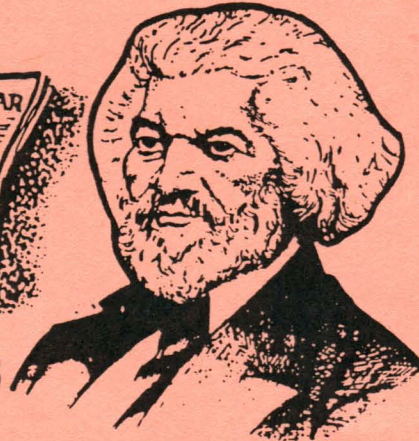
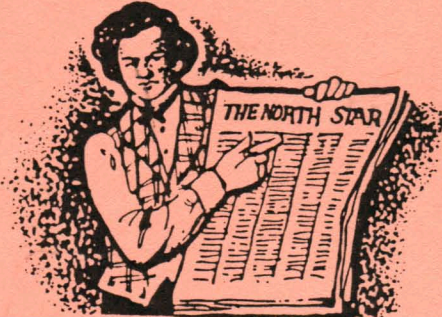
Stony the road we trod,  
Bitter the chastening rod,  
Felt in the days when hope unborn had died;  
Yet with a steady beat,  
Have not our weary feet  
Come to the place for which our fathers sighed?  
We have come over a way that with tears have been watered,  
We have come, treading our path through the blood of the slaughtered,  
Out from the gloomy past,  
Till now we stand at last  
Where the white gleam of our bright star is cast.

God of our weary years,  
God of our silent tears,  
Thou who has brought us thus far on the way;  
Thou who has by Thy might  
Let us into the light,  
Keep us forever in the path, we pray.  
Lest our feet stray from the places, Our God, where we met Thee,  
Lest, our hearts drunk with the wine of the world, we forget Thee;  
Shadowed beneath Thy hand,  
May we forever stand.  
True to our GOD,  
True to our native land.

Salute To Champaign County Black History  
with a special tribute to

# Frederick Douglass

March 15 - 21, 1993



**FREDERICK  
AUGUSTUS DOUGLASS**  
1817-1895

Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday

9:00 - 10:30 a.m. & noon - 1:30 p.m.

- Champaign Park District Douglass Center Celebration (512 E. Grove St.)
- Special exhibits and demonstrations
- School activities by reservation only

Tuesday

- Special Middle School appearance by Mr. Willie Dixon, Jr. on a narrative about Frederick Douglass, 9:00 - 11:00 a.m.

Saturday

- Fashion Show at Douglass Recreation Center, 5:00 - 7:00 p.m.

Sunday

- Reception at Douglass Annex (804 N. Fifth St.), 2:00 - 4:00 p.m.
- Salute to Civil War Soldiers, American Legion Post 559
- Frederick Douglass Commentary by Dr. Juliet Walker, 4:00 p.m.
- Introduction of Family And Community History Program, 4:00 p.m.
- Music, 4:00 - 6:00 p.m.

For more information contact:

Walt Smith, Douglass Center - 398-2575  
Barb McGee, Douglass Annex - 398-2572  
Cheryl Kennedy, Champaign County Forest  
Preserve District - 586-2612

**Committee Members**

Mary Alexander  
Carrie Banks  
Erma Bridgewater  
Nate Dixon  
Katherine Humphrey  
Cheryl Kennedy  
Estella Merrifield  
CharLotte Nesbitt  
Walter Smith  
Mary Grace Thomas



Illinois Humanities Council



**Douglass Branch Library**  
• 310 E. Bradley Ave. • Champaign, IL 61820 • 356-4168

■ ■ ■ ■  
Champaign Park District's  
Douglass Annex Senior Citizens  
welcomes you to our reception honoring

Dan K. Hibbler  
DIRECTOR of RECREATION



■ ■ ■ ■  
November 13, 1994

## Dan K. Hibbler

Dan was born on the West side of Chicago, Illinois. Dan, his parents, and seven brothers and sisters lived in the Chicago Metropolitan area until he left for Western Illinois University in 1987. After graduating top of his undergraduate class, Dan was heavily recruited by graduate universities from coast to coast. Because his heart belonged to the Midwest, he chose to do his graduate work at Indiana University where he received a Master of Science in Public Recreation Administration. While in school, Dan was recruited by the City of Bloomington to renovate and manage the park department's Westside Community Center which he did for the duration of his stay in Bloomington, Indiana.

In January of 1992, Dan decided it was time to return to Chicago where he worked for the Chicago Park District as Executive Director of the prestigious South Shore Cultural Center. While successfully managing the Center, he was asked to join the Champaign Park District team as the Director of Recreation.

Dan comes to the Champaign Park District with a tremendous amount of knowledge and expertise in the field of parks and recreation as well as a great deal of enthusiasm to enhance Champaign residents' quality of life through recreation and leisure services.

# Douglass Center's new director a familiar face

By J. PHILIP BLOOMER  
News-Gazette Staff Writer

CHAMPAIGN — Douglass Center gets a new director today, though for many people, he's not all that new.

Norman "Rasul" Mowatt, 23, has been hired to replace Walt Smith, the longtime director who left in December to become superintendent of recreation for the Hazelcrest Park District.

Mowatt, originally from Chicago, has lived in Champaign for the last six years, earning a degree in history from the University of Illinois and the respect of neighborhood stalwarts around Douglass Park.

"He's dedicated to making a difference out here. I'm glad he was chosen," said Vera Wesley, a founder of the Douglass Concerned Citizens for a Better Neighborhood.

Mowatt has run that group's tutorial program out of Douglass Center for five years. It serves about 80 children, ages 4-13. Mowatt said that work was an extension of his involvement with the American Friends Service Committee of Chicago and its African-American Community Empowerment Program.

The director's job is being expanded to encompass all park activities, said Jamie Sabbach, the park district's facilities and program manager.

"He'll be responsible for not just the center and the annex, but will also be overseeing the entire park," Sabbach said. "We think the transition will be beneficial for the entire neighborhood."

It's a key position for the district in that it involves one of the district's busiest facilities and the kind of outreach that takes the district beyond traditional recreational programming.

Park district usage statistics show that 97 percent of the time the center is open, there's programming and people using it. The center served around 125,000 visitors in 1994-95.

"I think he'll bring a fresh perspective to the Douglass community," Sabbach said. "He's very committed and has set his roots here, and I think he feels a strong commitment based on his experience here."

Mowatt said it's the residents who made him want to stay.

"I really started to form some connections with Mrs. Wesley, parents and students. It's hard to let that go," he said. "I hope to be able to provide some programming that makes a difference."

The concerned citizens group is sponsoring a reception for neighborhood residents to meet Mowatt from 7 to 9 p.m. Friday at the Douglass Center.

## NOTICE

In memory of our friend and colleague

Dave Piper

Insurance Risk Managers

will close at Noon on Friday, February 2.



Insurance  
Risk  
Managers, Ltd.

# STAGEPAGE

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Urban Bush Women  
Tryon Festival Theatre  
Krannert Center for the  
Performing Arts  
College of Fine and  
Applied Arts/UIUC

April 15, 1997  
10:00 am

Educational materials for the Krannert Center Youth Series are made possible by SuperValu/JM Jones, The Champaign-Urbana Junior Woman's Club, and Robb Springfield.



## Urban Bush Women

This *multi-disciplinary* performing group was formed in 1984 by its artistic director, Jawole Willa Jo Zollar, to *express* the Afro-American experience through song, dance, drama, and the spoken word. Drawing from African, Caribbean, and Afro-American folklore and religious traditions, Urban Bush Women seek to '*explore the struggle, growth, transformation, and survival of the human spirit.*'

The Urban Bush Women have been described as 'superb dancers, fine vocalists, and exceptional *mimes.*' (Gene Jones, *Charleston News and Courier*).

Their work is '*startlingly original,*' and '*the lines of communication between them and the audience are so clear and direct, you blink as if seeing daylight for the first time.*' (Nancy Goldner, *Philadelphia Inquirer*).

Be prepared to be entertained, challenged, and *inspired* as you participate with the Urban Bush Women. After spending time with them you may just find yourself wanting to '*write a song or shout, or stamp.*'

(Alexandra Bellar, *Michigan Daily*, Ann Arbor).

(Brainstorm with your classmates or use a dictionary to find the definitions of the italicized words.)

# Travel the World with the Urban Bush Women

The Urban Bush Women have traveled throughout the United States and the world to teach, perform, and inspire the people to use their cities' cultural traditions, especially dance and music, in their plans for improving their neighborhoods and bettering the lives of those in their communities.

Try to locate the cities in the United States on the map where the Urban Bush Women have performed. Match the letter of the city with the numbered space on the map.

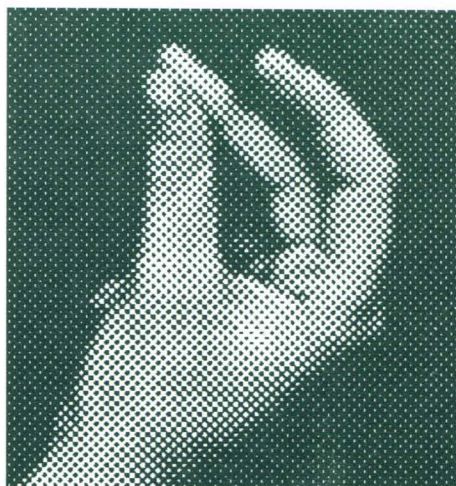


- A. New York City, New York
- B. Los Angeles, California
- C. Houston, Texas
- D. Boston, Massachusetts
- E. Minneapolis, Minnesota
- F. Austin, Texas
- G. Albuquerque, New Mexico
- H. Wilmington, North Carolina



## Hands

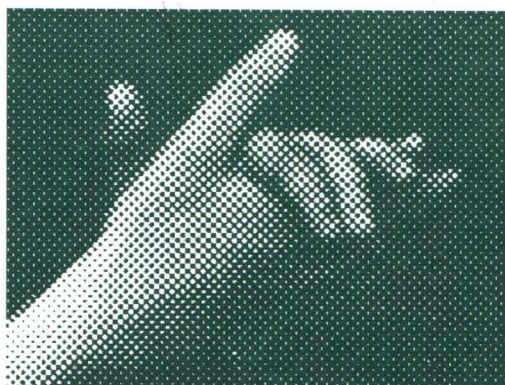
- Make up hand-clapping rhythms alone or with a friend.
- Use different positions of the hands: cupping and / or brushing hands together+ use heels of hands, fists, and different patterns of clapping, snapping
- Tap or slap (gently) different parts of your own body
- After you practice, teach your pattern to the rest of the class.



## Feet

- Stamp your feet—Use your whole foot, try toes only, or heels, or maybe toes then heels.
- Shuffle your feet, jump on one foot or two feet. March, hop, glide, skip.
- Can you think of other movements? Did you try different levels (on tiptoes, bending over), different speeds? What about loud and soft?
- Can you add arm movements?
- Share your ideas with the class. Can they follow your lead? What about moving around the room?
- Use music with your choreography.

# Choreograph a dance



## Drum, Shake, Scrape. . .

Improvise percussion instruments to use with movement!

- Use rulers, pencils, or hands to tap out rhythms on the bottom or sides of a plastic tub.
- Fill containers with snap-on lids (coffee cans, margarine tubs) with pebbles, beans, paper clips, or popcorn kernels. Shake and / or tap.
- Use rhythm sticks to tap together or on the floor.
- Blocks of wood can be rubbed or clapped together.
- Use clean meat trays, aluminum pie plates, regular and plastic-coated paper plates to make tambourines. Punch or cut holes around the rim, tie on bells, large paper clips, buttons. These can be decorated with paint, ribbons, yarn.
- Use your instruments to create rhythms for yourself and other dancers.

# Community Sing

Krannert Center for the Performing Arts

Krannert Center for the Performing Arts and the Champaign Park District invite you to join the **Urban Bush Women** on **Tuesday, April 15th at 7:30 pm at Douglass Community Center for a *Community Sing!***

This extraordinary group of women expresses the richness of our culture by incorporating African-American folklore and gospel music (both instrumental and vocal) into their dance performances. The **Urban Bush Women** began doing *Community Sings* as a way of engaging a broader community than the dance community in its outreach activities.

A *community sing* is simply a way for anyone interested in singing to come together and have a wonderful time!

It's not very often that professional touring artists have the time to participate in outreach activities in the communities in which they are performing. We're excited to have the **Urban Bush Women** returning this season to Krannert Center and look forward to your participation in this special community event!

For more information about the *Community Sing* contact, **Brenda James at 398-2573**  
**Douglass Community Center or**  
**Barbara McGee at 398-2572**  
**Douglass Annex**

## *Community Sing!*

Free and open to the public

Tuesday, April 15, 1997

7:30 pm Douglass Community Center



For ticket information contact the Ticket Office at 333-6280.

For information on Group Discounts contact 244-0549.



UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS  
AT URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

Krannert Center for the Performing Arts  
500 South Goodwin Avenue  
Urbana, IL 61801-3788

February 5, 1997

Mrs. Doris Hoskins  
1298 W. Church  
Urbana, IL 61801

Dear Mrs. Hoskins,

On April 15th of this year, a very special community event will occur at Douglas Center in Champaign!

Krannert Center for the Performing Arts, in cooperation with the Champaign Park District, will host a *Community Sing* with various choirs, individuals from the local community and **Urban Bush Women**.

Rooted in folklore and spiritual traditions of African Americans, **Urban Bush Women** has earned wide acclaim for its exploration of the struggle, growth, transformation, and survival of the human spirit. **Urban Bush Women's Community Sing** will be a participatory event designed to bring a greater understanding of the power and wealth of African American culture through song to people of all ages.

Two years ago, **Urban Bush Women** participated in a *Community Sing* with members of Bethel AME Church. We are pleased to have them returning this season and look forward to planning another community event with this extraordinary group of women! But in order for this event to be a success, we need help from community leaders, such as yourself, to plan the activity and to get the word out to interested individuals and choirs.

I hope you will join me on **Wednesday, March 5th at 6:30 pm in the Krannert Room at Krannert Center** where I will present more information about **Urban Bush Women** at this time and ask for your advice and input to make the *Community Sing* a success! **Please RSVP me at 244-0549 by Wednesday, February 19th.**

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS  
AT URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

Krannert Center for the Performing Arts  
500 South Goodwin Avenue  
Urbana, IL 61801-3788

I look forward to meeting with you! Thank you very much for your consideration!

Sincerely,

*Crystal Womble*

Crystal Womble  
Community Liaison