











AGNES
Grove
Honeye
Father's Day Tea
big top
T. M.
M. J. J.



DeWitt, N.
M. J. J.
Father's Day
Tea
Chopin



M. J. J. Mother's Day - ESTHER K. J. J.



M. J. J. Mother's Day - ESTHER K. J. J.



M. J. J. J. J. J.



J. J. J. J. J.

HONEY'S FATHERS DAY TEA



HONEY'S FATHERS DAY TEA 6/20/71

MADAME

HONEY'S FATHERS DAY TEA 6/20/71



Charitable to Mrs. Jane Wilson sold

HONEY'S FATHERS DAY TEA 6/20/71



HONEY'S FATHERS DAY TEA 6/20/71



Charitable to Mrs. Jane Wilson sold

HONEY'S FATHERS DAY TEA 6/20/71



HONEY'S FATHERS DAY TEA 6/20/71

6/20/71



FATHERS DAY 1974



MOTHERS DAY 1974



HOWARD L. WELLS



FATHERS DAY 1974



HOWARD L. WELLS



HOWARD L. WELLS



Mrs. HINES - L. MCKAY





H. M. CARTER

HONEY'S
FATHERS DAY TEA

1971



HONEY'S FATHERS DAY TEA

HONEY'S
FATHERS DAY TEA

1971



HONEY'S FATHERS DAY TEA

1971



M. HINES W. BRIT

HONEY'S
FATHERS DAY TEA

1971



HONEY'S FATHERS DAY TEA

HONEY'S
FATHERS DAY TEA

1971



HONEY'S FATHERS DAY TEA

HONEY'S
FATHERS DAY TEA

1971



**Patriotic & Proud
Antique & Beautiful**

ANNA TUTT HONEYS
Senior Citizens
Champaign^{OF} County

IVA & HENRY MATTHEWS

Over the past 71 years Henry "Harrison Tutt" Matthews has done "a little of everything." At age twelve he opened his own bicycle shop. From 1930-1937, he owned and operated Matthews Coal Company. Then he ventured into the scrap yard business with Consolidated Coal and Salvage and later ABC Wrecking, a nationwide demolition company based in Chicago.

Since returning to Champaign in 1963 he has worked with his wife, Iva "Big Honey" Matthews on a series of volunteer projects.

Mrs. Matthews has notably been involved in Anna Tutt Honeys, a senior women's group that she organized in 1969. She has also started a club for Black girls.

Over the years the Matthews have been most interested in offering "love, care, and concern for others, and doing something about it."



BERTHA
JENNINGS

19

ELLA
WASHINGTON


Bertha
JENNINGS

ELLA
WASHINGTON


OFF TO CHICAGO Mrs. Iva Matthews,
founder of ~~Champaign~~ and director of the
Anna Tutt Honeys of Champaign-Urbana,
and other members of the club prepare to
go to Chicago.

JUN. 24 1932






IUA MATTHEWS



L. Wilson

IUA

O. D. Wilson



Douglass Center Senior Citizens Group aboard bus for weekly shopping trip

Help for Mrs. Matthews 'honeys'

SUN FEB 28 1971

By Jean Andrews
Of The Courier

Every Thursday afternoon a busload of senior citizens from north Champaign and Urbana leaves the Douglass Center for a shopping trip, and when it returns, its elderly passengers are laden with groceries for the week.

This is but one activity organized for the members of the Douglass Center Senior Citizens Group by Mrs. Iva Matthews

hews

"Usually there is a big crowd for the shopping at the first of the month, but some cannot afford to go every week."

It is the only means of getting to the store for some of the citizens. Thursday there were 16 on the bus.

Mrs. Virginia Starks, 86, arrives at the center just before the shopping bus leaves. She lives alone in Urbana and is out for her "once a month" shopping trip.

Another elder arrives in stretch pants and draws the admiration of the group.

A few couples, such as Mr. and Mrs. Willie O. Wilson, enjoy the outing together.

Mrs. Bessie Peacock, about 70, walks to church, but she, like many others depends on the bus trip.

Going places

Mrs. Matthews' "honeys," as she likes to call them, range in age from 67 to 91. "They are mostly interested in going places and seeing things," and for the present that is the way it has to be.

Because the center is used by Washington School children for physical education and after-school activities. That doesn't leave much room for the senior citizens. "We have all ages — 8 to 80 — crammed into this building," Mrs. Matthews said.

And when the youngsters arrive "hollering and screaming," sometimes have to cut their activities short.

Mrs. Matthews, employed by Champaign Park District, hopes a meeting place will be found where there will be room for crafts and other activities.

Growth from a membership of four persons to 88 has developed within a matter of months. In that time, activities have included the weekly shopping trips, Krannert Center performances, trips to the Rockome Gardens and trips to Indiana and elsewhere.

The possibility of a senior citizens group for the North End was mentioned about two years ago, in a conversation between Robert Abbuehl of the park district and Mrs. Matthews, who then was only "an interested citizen."

SUN FEB 28 1971

The project didn't really get off the ground until last May when a group of four gathered for the first trip, a drive to Rockome Gardens near Arthur.

The idea spread by word of mouth and Mrs. Matthews had eight in her station wagon for the next trip. There were day programs through the summer.

"Besides my church, I think it is the loveliest thing I have ever been into," said Mrs. Vennie Britt, 77, who was one of the founders of Mount Olive Baptist Church more than 50 years ago.

By summer's end a festivity week was planned and about 40 persons went to the Greater Champaign County Fair as a group. From that time, Mrs. Matthews has been on the park district payroll as a part-time employe.



Mrs. Iva Matthews



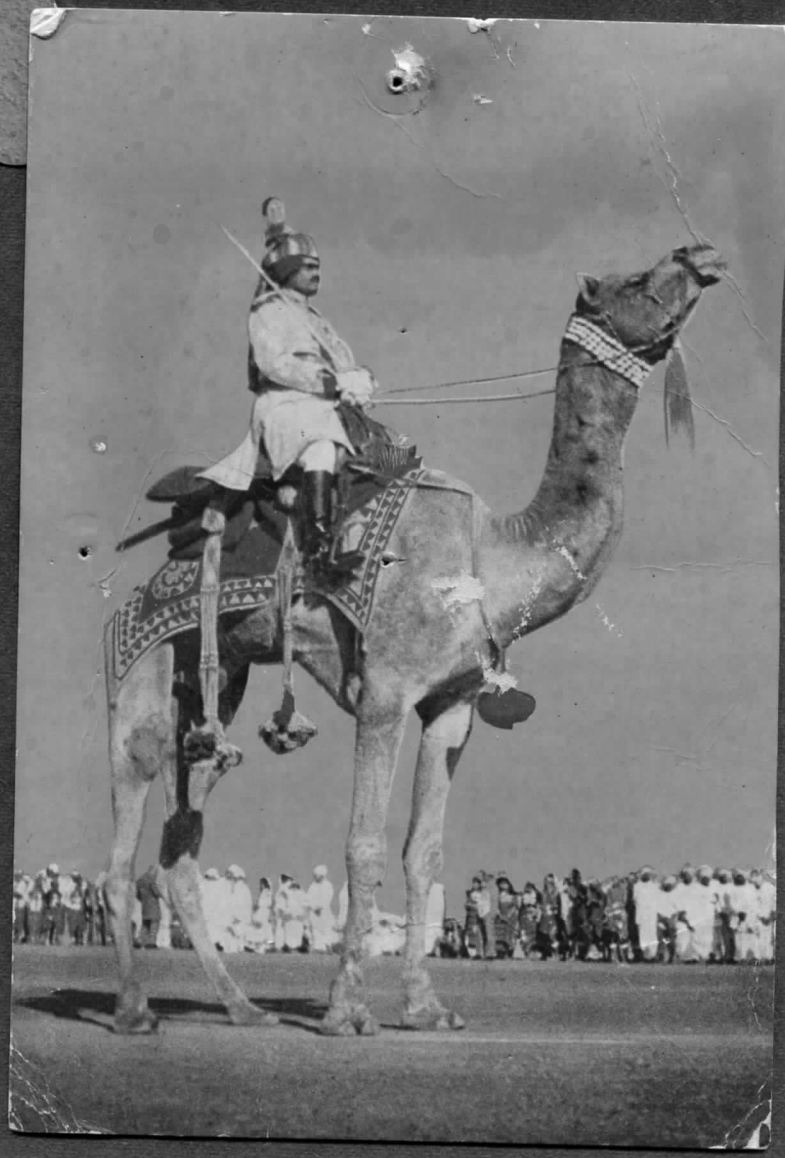


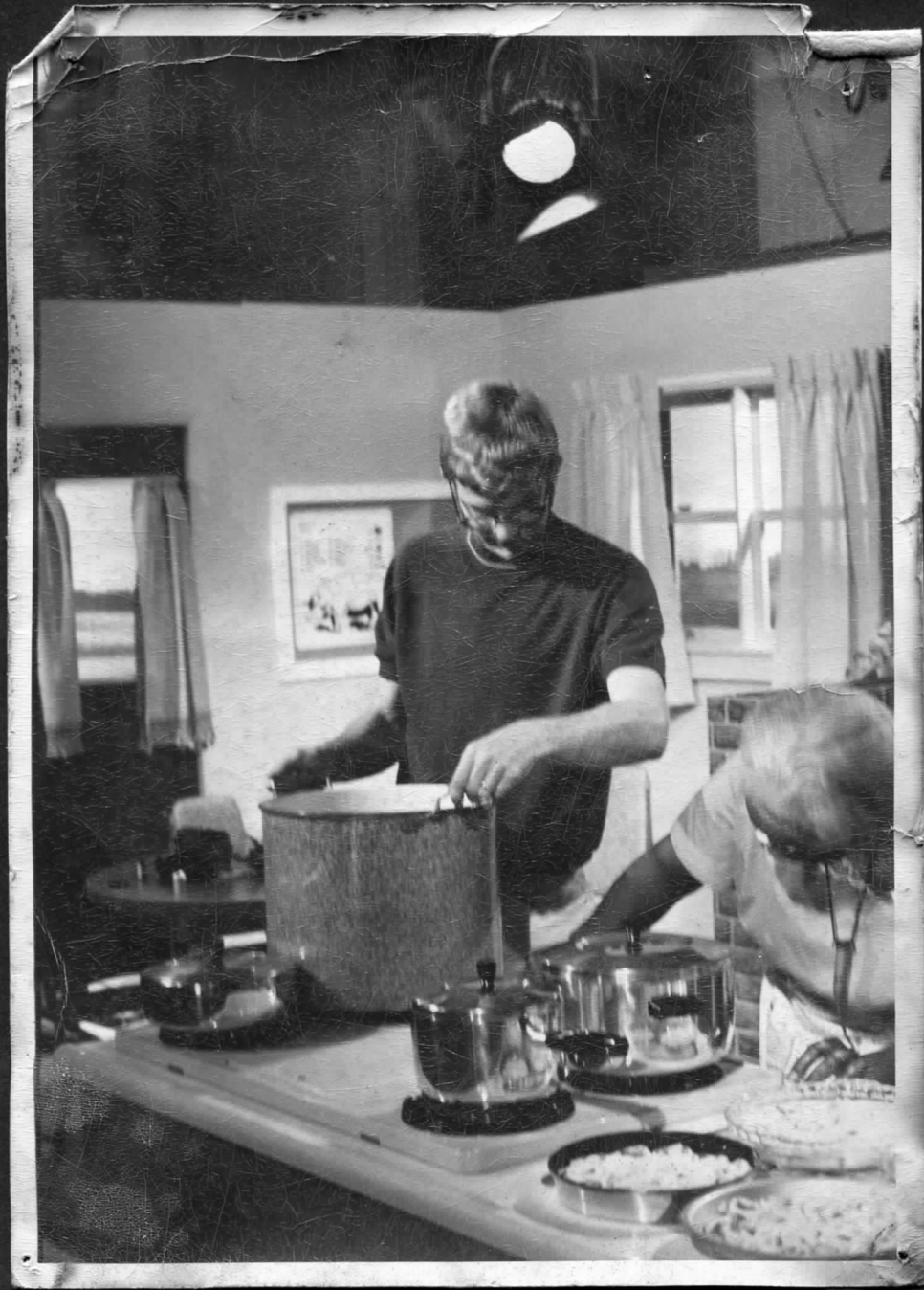


















176
Alma's
Hostess
Honey
Fathers Day Tea
6/25/53



177
Honey
Fathers Day
Tea
6/25/53

W. M. ...



178
J. BELL
J. ANDERSON





HONEYEY
FATHERS DAY TEA
6/20/51

M. B. WILSON



CHERRY BLOSSOM
MRS. WILSON



HONEYEY
FATHERS DAY TEA
6/20/51



CHERRY BLOSSOM
MRS. WILSON
FATHERSON



HONEYEY
FATHERS DAY TEA
6/20/51

M. B. WILSON





Mrs. Wilson

W. Wilson

PORTER & WILSON
MAY 23 1971

WILSON Fisheries Division

Wilson



HONNE's
FATHERS DAY TEA
6/20/71



HONNE's
FATHERS DAY TEA
6/20/71



HONNE's FATHERS DAY TEA



HONNE's FATHERS DAY TEA



HONNE's
FATHERS DAY TEA
6/20/71



HONNE's
FATHERS DAY TEA
6/20/71



HONEY'S
FATHER'S DAY TEA 6/20/11



MEMBERS - J. W. ... - H. ...

NEWS / OBITUARIES

Local junk dealer, 'litigator' Matthews dies

By The News-Gazette

CHAMPAIGN — Champaign County's circuit clerk's office may notice a significant lightening of the load.

Henry Matthews, demolition contractor, junk dealer, landlord and one of Champaign County's most active pro se litigants is dead at 83.

A pro se litigant is a citizen who files his own lawsuits. And Mr. Matthews filed a lot of them.

Some of the bigger targets on the prodigious list were Urbana, Champaign, Champaign County and Round Barn Manor.

Mr. Matthews seldom won in his legal struggles, yet no matter his setbacks, he was always ready for another round. A constant visitor to the the University of Illinois law library, he was able to tie his larger opponents up in court for incredibly long periods of time.

Perhaps the most epic struggle in Mr. Matthews' constant trips to the circuit clerk's office was a 25-year battle with the city of Champaign over the Harriet J. Lawhead school building that once stood at 412 E. Grove St., C.

The Lawhead school was closed in 1959 and Mr. Matthews bought it at auction in 1960 for \$4,000.

For five years, Mr. Matthews and his wife, the late Iva Fykes Matthews, used the building as a youth center and senior citi-



MATTHEWS

zens center.

In 1965, the city cited Mr. Matthews for zoning violations on the building. For 25 years, Mr. Matthews proved an able foil to the city, holding off city action until 1990, when

the final appeal was heard and the final judgment rendered.

Mr. Matthews maintained that he did not own the property. Ownership was in the hands of ADIC Inc., created by Mr. Matthews, which was dissolved by the secretary of state in 1979 for failing to file annual reports and pay franchise taxes.

The property was then reportedly bought by Mr. Matthews' wife in 1985. Many of his properties were listed as being wholly or partly owned by the Iva Matthews Senior Citizen Development Corp.

But the appeals eventually wore out and Champaign won. The building, which had since slipped into a state of advanced decrepitude, was demolished almost exactly five years ago in August 1990. While the building was gone, as recently as 1992, Mr. Matthews was talking about building a Head Start school on the site.

Champaign City Attorney Fred Stavins said Mr. Matthews had the city in and out of court "for at least 20 years."

"He was a vigorous litigator," he said. "He always represented himself. In another time... he would have been a good lawyer."

Stavins recalled one time in the early 1980s when one case against the city seemed particularly well done. Stavins said he later talked to a law clerk with the city who mentioned how he'd recently helped an older gentleman at the UI law library.

"I told him 'You just helped Henry Matthews sue us,'" recalled Stavins.

Stavins recalled another time when a judge told Mr. Matthews he'd have to stop "junking."

"Henry responded, 'Your honor, I'm sorry. Junking's in my blood,'" Stavins said.

Urbana City Attorney Jack Waaler would say only "He was an interesting character" about Mr. Matthews.

In another of his more famous cases, Mr. Matthews fought with Champaign County and Urbana over property he owned along Wilbur Road near the J.M. Jones warehouse which was operated as a junkyard.

For 10 years, Mr. Matthews feuded with them over the op-

eration and maintenance of the junkyard. At times junk from Mr. Matthews' junkyard leaked out onto Wilbur Road, which Mr. Matthews claimed he owned.

In 1986, Urbana firefighters battled several fires on the property, which then was in Champaign County, and then in 1987, the city of Urbana charged that several barrels of suspicious waste had been deposited at the junkyard. The Illinois Environmental Protection Agency was called on the scene to do the cleanup.

Champaign County took Mr. Matthews to court in 1988, and a judge found that Mr. Matthews was operating a junkyard without a permit and that the land was a nuisance.

Champaign County hired a company to clean up the property and presented the \$14,878 cleanup bill to Mr. Matthews. He never paid.

Instead, he filed a new lawsuit against Champaign County and Urbana.

In a sense, Mr. Matthews also got the last laugh on the junkyard property. Young Auto Salvage of Peoria rented the property from Mr. Matthews to use as a salvage yard.

According to counsel for Champaign County, the county couldn't deny issuing a permit to Young Auto Salvage because a junkyard was a permitted use on the property.

NEWS / WEATHER

NATIONAL

for noon, Thursday, Aug. 17.

0s 40s 50s 60s 70s 80s 90s 100s 110s
high temperature zones for the day.

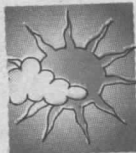


© 1995 Accu-Weather, Inc.

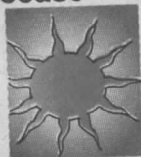
MS FLURRIES SNOW ICE SUNNY PT. CLOUDY CLOUDY

LOCAL FORECASTS

Today
sunny,
and humid.
in the low-
middle

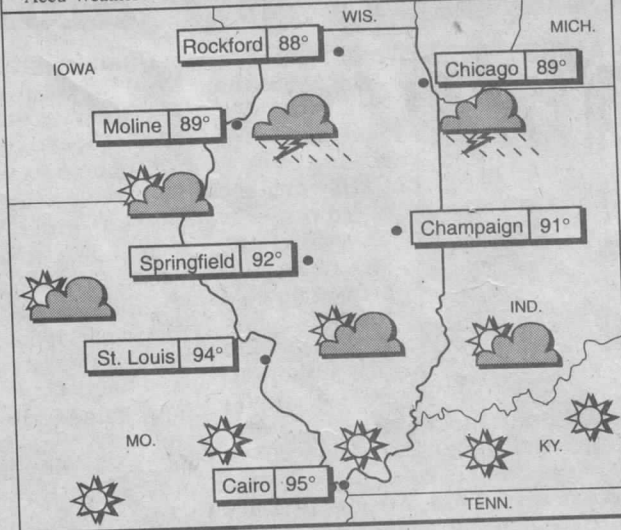


Extended forecast
Hot, humid,
chance of thun-
derstorms Fri-
day through
Sunday. Highs
low or mid 90s.
Lows in 70s.



Thursday, Aug. 17

Accu-Weather® forecast for daytime conditions and high temperatures



LOCAL STATISTICS

Tuesday, Aug. 15, 1995

High: 91 (1:40 p.m. CST);
Low: 74 (4:50 a.m. CST)
Mean: 83 (10 above average)
7 p.m. barometer: 29.97;
Humidity: 76 percent
Cooling degree-days: 850; 1994: 744; aver-
age: 718
Pollen count: 52 (low), weeds

Wednesday, Aug. 16, 1995

Temperature: 7 a.m. 75;
Low: 74 (4:30 a.m. CST)
24-hour precipitation to 7 a.m.: 0 inches
Total for month: 4.46 inches
7 a.m. barometer: 29.98;
Humidity: 100 percent
7 a.m. dew point: 75
4-in., 8-in. soil temperature: 84
Year ago high: 80; low: 56
Record high: 101 (1988); low: 51 (1927)
Sunset: 7:49 p.m.; sunrise Thursday: 6:07
a.m.

WORLD

Temperatures, conditions from midnight to midnight previous day.

	Hi	Lo	Wthr
Athens	90	64	cdy
Barbados	84	75	cdy
Beijing	77	68	rain
Beirut	88	73	clr
Berlin	75	57	cdy
Bermuda	81	79	cdy
B'Aires	50	45	cdy
Cairo	93	75	clr
Dublin	75	61	cdy
Hanoi	90	81	rain
Havana	88	77	cdy
Hong Kng	84	79	clr
Jerusalem	86	64	clr
Jo'burg	68	52	cdy
London	84	66	clr
montreal	88	66	clr
Moscow	61	54	clr
Nairobi	64	55	cdy
Nassau	90	79	cdy
Paris	82	61	cdy
Rio	99	66	clr
Rome	86	63	clr

Temperatures on left indicate the previous day's and the overnight low to 7 a.m. CDT. Today's fore-
temperatures and tomorrow's temperatures and
look are in the right columns.

	Yesterday			Today			Tomor		
	Hi	Lo	Prc	Hi	Lo	Prc	Hi	Lo	Prc
Albany,N.Y.	84	73		88	66		88	68	
Albuquerque	91	71		88	63		87	64	
Amarillo	83	67	.02	89	67		92	67	
Anchorage	65	53		68	45		68	44	
Asheville	93	71		91	69		85	66	
Atlanta	85	77		100	78		98	78	
Atlantic City	84	66		82	68		82	70	
Austin	94	74		96	75		96	75	
Baltimore	88	74		89	74		84	72	
Billings	94	57		95	60		84	52	
Birmingham	101	75		100	75		98	74	
Bismarck	92	66		97	66		99	67	
Boise	95	55		81	50		69	37	
Boston	83	72		83	68		81	69	
Brownsville	89	78	.01	90	76		93	76	
Buffalo	89	70		88	69		85	70	
Burlingtn,Vt.	89	74		88	62		87	62	
Casper	93	59		98	60		96	49	
Charltn,SC	88	78		96	75		95	75	
Christn,WV	74	73	.01	93	71		93	71	
Chritte,NC	96	75	.04	93	72		88	72	
Cheyenne	89	56		92	60		90	55	
Chicago	87	76	.97	88	74		91	75	
Cincinnati	93	75		92	72		92	73	
Cleveland	95	74		91	71		89	70	
Columbia,SC	100	76		99	75		97	74	
Colmbus,Ohio	93	75	.01	93	73		91	70	
Concord,N.H.	84	66		90	65		89	64	
Dallas-Ft W.	94	76		95	75		96	74	
Dayton	93	74		93	72		90	74	
Denver	91	62		94	62		93	66	
Des Moines	85	72	.52	87	69		90	66	
Detroit	91	73	.08	88	73		89	74	
Duluth	83	58		83	65		84	66	
El Paso	88	71		90	70		93	74	
Evansville	98	77		97	75		96	74	
Fairbanks	57	50		63	46		68	44	
Fargo	88	68		92	70		95	74	
Flagstaff	79	55	.02	74	50		77	54	
Gnd Rapids	86	68		81	70		84	66	
Great Falls	85	57		72	52		68	44	
Gmsboro,NC	95	73		92	72		87	74	
HartfrdSpfld	87	64		88	67		88	68	
Helena	92	50		77	52		66	44	
Honolulu	89	75	.07	90	75		89	74	
Houston	94	73	.01	96	74		92	74	
Indianapolis	92	76		92	74		92	74	
Jacksn,Miss.	95	73		97	73		97	73	
Jacksonville	93	75		96	77		94	74	
Juneau	57	47	.19	67	46		68	46	

We'll be seeing the messages on buses and billboards. Everywhere we look, we'll be seeing Character Counts."

8/31/97

- Donna Reed, speech pathologist at South Side Elementary School in Champaign on efforts to teach children at her school character values through the Character Counts program.



News-Gazette photos by Robert K. O

column in the gym of Champaign's South Side Elementary School presents one of the six pillars of character. Students last week

received an introduction to a yearlong program that attempts to foster ethics.

Lessons in life: Pupils learn character counts

PAUL WOOD
News-Gazette Staff Writer

CHAMPAIGN — The Character Counts program moves this fall to an audience where it might make the biggest difference: schoolchildren.

In an opening-day assembly last week at Champaign's South Side Elementary School, pupils learned about six pillars of character — after first finding out what a pillar is.

The word turned out to be one of the few vocabulary challenges for the grade school program, which is presented in language kids understand, without being trendy or frivolous.

Joe Omo-Osagie of Cunningham Children's Home, who received training in Character

Counts last year among a pioneering group, used songs and slogans to convey the message of good citizenship.

The Community Forum for Character and Values, founded locally last year, led to Character Counts in Champaign County, fostering education in ethics.

The group has identified six universal pillars of character: trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, fairness, caring and citizenship.

September at South Side will stress respect, October stresses citizenship, October and November caring, January is a review month, February stresses trustworthiness, March fair-

See CHARACTER, A-10



Joe Omo-Osagie of Cunningham Children's Home talks about character at South Side Elementary School.

Funeral Services
of
Henry "Tutt" Matthews

(1912 - 1995)



Friday, August 18, 1995 -- 12:00 P.M.

Canaan Missionary Baptist Church
402 West Main Street
Urbana, Illinois
Rev. B.J. Tatum, Senior Pastor

Rev. Willie L. Jones, Officiant

OBITUARY

"Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of His saints." (Psalm 116:15). Again death has visited Canaan Baptist Church.

Henry Matthews was born June 21, 1912, in Farmer City, Illinois, to the union of Rulen and Beulah Tutt-Matthews.

At age seven, Mr. Matthew's family relocated to Urbana, Illinois. On September 7, 1957, he was united in Holy Matrimony to Iva Fykes Matthews in Chicago, Illinois. No children were born to this union. The Family relocated to Milwaukee, Wisconsin. After residing in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, the couple moved to Champaign, Illinois on November 24, 1963.

Henry Matthews attended the Champaign Schools. He was baptized at Freewill Baptist Church in Terra Haute, Indiana. He was an entrepreneur in the ABC Wrecking Company in Terra Haute, Indiana and the Cole Egg Industry in Champaign, Illinois. He was a Charter Member of Canaan Baptist Church, Urbana, Illinois.

Mr. Henry Matthews departed this life on Tuesday, August 15, 1995 at Covenant Medical Center in Urbana, Illinois. He leaves to mourn a cousin, Marion Webb, Kingston Heights, Indiana; one sister-in-law: Eva-El, Chicago, Illinois, and other relatives and friends.

He was preceded in death by his parents and wife, Iva Fykes Matthews.

"I have fought a good fight, I have
finished my course, I have kept the faith."
II Timothy 4:7

ORDER OF SERVICE
Rev. Willie L. Jones, Officiant

Prelude.....

Processional.....

Selection.....Choir

Scripture and Prayer.....Minister

Acknowledgment of telegrams, cards, and condolences

Obituary.....Dorothy Friend
Church Clerk

Selection.....Choir

Eulogy.....Rev. Willie L. Jones
Outreach Minister

Recessional.....

INTERMENT: MT. HOPE CEMETERY
CHAMPAIGN, ILLINOIS

"Thy testimonies have I taken as an heritage for ever:
for they are the rejoicing of my heart."
Psalm 119:11

Pallbearers

Rodney Armstrong
Joe Ash
Vincent Carter
Johnnie Harris
Leroy Meeks
Edward Mitchell

Flowerbearers

Friends of the Family

Life on earth is a transient affair-
Just a few brief years in which to prepare
for a life that is free from pain and tears,
where time is not counted by hours or years...
So death is not sad- it's time for elation,
a joyous transition, the soul's safe and free
to live with God through eternity.

Acknowledgment

We are deeply grateful and have been comforted by all
the loving expressions of sympathy and deeds of kindness
shown during this period of bereavement.
Each will be acknowledged at a later date.

The Family

Arrangements entrusted to
Bluitt-Parker Funeral Home
704 North Fourth Street
Champaign, Illinois

7/17/95

Today I interviewed Mr. Matthews. I picked him up at his home 6th & Grove & brought him to my house. He wasn't feeling too well on that day, but we proceeded with the interview.

He was born June 21, 1912 in Farmer City, Illinois, lived with his grandparents. At age seven, they moved to Champaign where he was enrolled in school here. He attended Lawhead, Willard & Marquette schools.

At age 12, he started his entrepreneurship. He would get discarded bicycles from the University, repair them, and rent them to the neighborhood children to ride for 5¢ an hour; As a young man, he used to drive race cars. Through this endeavor, he earned money whether he won or lost.

He did get married to a young lady, a Ms. Flowers. She died some years later, thus he married Iva Fyke - a Chicagoan

2)
and they lived here in Champaign.

Continuing on with his businesses, he had a trucking business - including hauling coal from the mines near Danville and selling it locally. Mr. Matthews told me of his negotiating with the University of Illinois - to supply the coal for its Power Plant. He was successful with his bid and in order to get the job done, he hired other local truckers to help fulfill the contract, and at a profit of course. This was quite a lucrative business during the late 30's, 40's & 50's, until Natural Gas heating became more or less mandatory, due to the Air Pollution problem.

Mr. Matthews expanded his holdings by obtaining the abandoned Lowhead School building - ~~at last~~ During the War years some space was used as a center for the Negro airmen from Champaign Field. Later, Mrs. Iva Matthews organized the

Senior group called "The Anna Telt Honey". It was very successful for so long as it lasted. Mr. Matthews was very supportive of his wife's efforts both morally & financial. He gave me some pictures of their activities during the years. These, he was able to retrieve from the school building prior to its being demolished. They are quite faded.

In add to his accomplishments, Mr. Matthews was well-known among the University College of Law staff & the local legal community because of his lengthy legal battles with the cities of Champaign-Urbana over his extensive ownership of properties i.e. the Lawhead School Building and the "junk-yard" acreage he "owned". The matters were still in litigation at the time of his death.

I am so sorry I was not around (I'd gone away on vacation) to continue with our interviews. He was truly a

4
legend in the community & even tho'
some considered him controversial, by
the same token he was respected for
who he was & had endeared himself
to many people in Champaign-Urbana.

I'm also sorry I did not get to know
him better. I admired him so very much
his ~~at~~ broad knowledge of the law &
his intelligence & perseverance in what
he believed was fair.

There was much much more
to his story that will be missed.

He was the person who told me of
the Oklahoma incident. I didn't know
about it.

FRIDAY, MAY 31, 1996

National Report

Henry Matthews' Story

The New York Times

75 Years Later, Tulsa Confronts Its Race Riot

By SAM HOWE VERHOVEK

TULSA, Okla., May 29 — The Tulsa of 1921 was awash in oil money, so much so that even the poorer, predominantly black Greenwood section enjoyed a measure of prosperity that earned it a reputation as “the Negro Wall Street of America.”

All that changed in the span of a few hours on June 1 of that year, when Greenwood burned in one of the worst incidents of racial violence in the nation’s history, one that left scores of people dead and 40 city blocks looted, then leveled. Twenty-three churches and 1,000 homes and businesses were ruined.

But as the years and then decades passed, Tulsa seemed determined to forget the riot. No memorial was erected; no citywide commemoration was held; not a single person was ever charged with the deaths or the fires. In the city library, articles about the riot and the formation of white lynch mobs were simply cut out of that day’s issue of *The Tulsa Tribune*.

And when the 50th anniversary arrived, “as bitter as the wounds were, nobody really wanted to talk about it,” recalled the Rev. G. Calvin McCutchen Sr., pastor of Mount Zion Baptist Church. “It’s almost as if it never occurred.”

Now, Tulsa has decided to remember.

In what the dwindling corps of riot survivors generally describe as a belated, but nonetheless welcome gesture, an interracial coalition has put together a series of events this weekend to mark the riot anniversary and promote better race relations in Tulsa, which today, as in 1921, is about 12 percent black.

On Saturday, a service will be held at Mount Zion, which was burned to the ground in the riot two months after it had opened; over 31 years, it has been painstakingly rebuilt on the same spot. Speakers will include survivors of the riot, who are now in their 80’s and 90’s, along with Mayor Susan Savage and David Boren, the University of Oklahoma president and former United States Senator. And then the black-granite “Black Wall Street of America” monument will be dedicated at the Greenwood Cultural Center.

“I wouldn’t say it’s too late, but it



Tulsa Historical Society

A black section of Tulsa, Okla., was leveled by fire in 1921, after the spread of an erroneous story of an attack by a black teen-ager on a white one. It led to one of the worst racial violence incidents in the nation’s history.



local potter’s fields, insisted the count was absurdly low. The authorities were never able to correct the count because hundreds of black families fled Tulsa to escape the fires and possible attacks, making it impossible to determine who had left and who had died.

Scott Ellsworth, a Tulsa native and historian formerly at the Smithsonian Institution who wrote “Death in Promised Land: The Tulsa Race Riot of 1921” (Louisiana State University Press, 1982), said black deaths probably approached 100 but

'I wouldn't say it's too late, but it shouldn't have taken this long.'

shouldn't have taken this long," said 92-year-old LaVerne Davis, a former housemaid and a survivor. "You're not supposed to cover up history. The only way you're going to know history is to talk about it."

Mayor Savage, noting that Tulsa was preparing for a major commemoration of its own centennial in 1998, made much the same point. "You cannot know where it is you are going unless you know where it is you have been," she said.

Ms. Savage, a Democrat who is white (Tulsa has never had a black mayor), said that although she grew up here it was not until she was an adult that she learned about the rioting. "It just wasn't something that people discussed," she said.

Indeed, the truth behind much of what happened in Tulsa on June 1, 1921, will never be known.

The incident that led to the violence was the arrest of a black shoeshine man, 19-year-old Dick Rowland, a former star halfback at Booker T. Washington High, for supposedly assaulting a white teen-age elevator operator.

"Nab Negro for Attacking Girl in Elevator," screamed a headline in The Tulsa Tribune, which also re-



Michael Wyke

Witnesses to the 1921 riots who will attend commemorative services, are from left, George D. Monroe, LaVerne Davis and Robert L. Fairchild.

ported that an angry group of whites was gathering to lynch the man.

One of the most unfortunate aspects of the riot, Mr. Ellsworth said, is that it may have sprung from a misunderstanding: The police later concluded that Mr. Rowland had stumbled into the girl as he was getting off the elevator, and all charges in the case were dropped.

But the angry whites had gathered within hours, and many blacks armed themselves. While all the property destruction occurred in

black neighborhoods, hand-to-hand combat left people of both races dead.

Even the death toll is in dispute. In a report to the Oklahoma Adjutant General, Charles F. Barrett, filed a few days after the worst of the violence, a surgeon with the state National Guard said 26 blacks and 10 whites had died and an additional 317 people were injured.

But many black and white witnesses, saying trucks filled with bodies of black victims had been taken to two

might have been much higher.

Several survivors said the week's events are of great symbolic importance here.

Robert L. Fairchild Sr., for example, a former city health worker who is black, said: "I am extremely pleased that Tulsa has taken this occasion seriously. A mistake has been made, and this is a way to really look at it, then look toward the future and try to make sure it never happens again."

Mr. Fairchild, 92, vividly recalled fleeing the neighborhood at 5 A.M. on June 1 with his mother as crowds of white men with torches and guns swept through and many blacks, also armed, fought back.

But there are many black people here who say the ceremonies on Saturday are perhaps a way for the city to forgive itself and feel better about race relations without anyone having been made to pay for the crimes.

No financial reparations were made to black families and the city's white leaders at the time refused offers of help that had poured in from around the nation, said Mr. Ellsworth. "Black Tulsa," he said, "re-built itself."

George Douglas Monroe, an 80-year-old nightclub owner, remembers hiding under a bed with his two sisters and a brother while four white men broke into the family's house, next to Mount Zion.

"They went straight to the curtains of the house and set them afire," Mr. Monroe said. "As they walked past the bed, one of the men stepped on my finger. As I went to scream, my older sister, Lottie, put her hand over my mouth. That's something I will never forget."

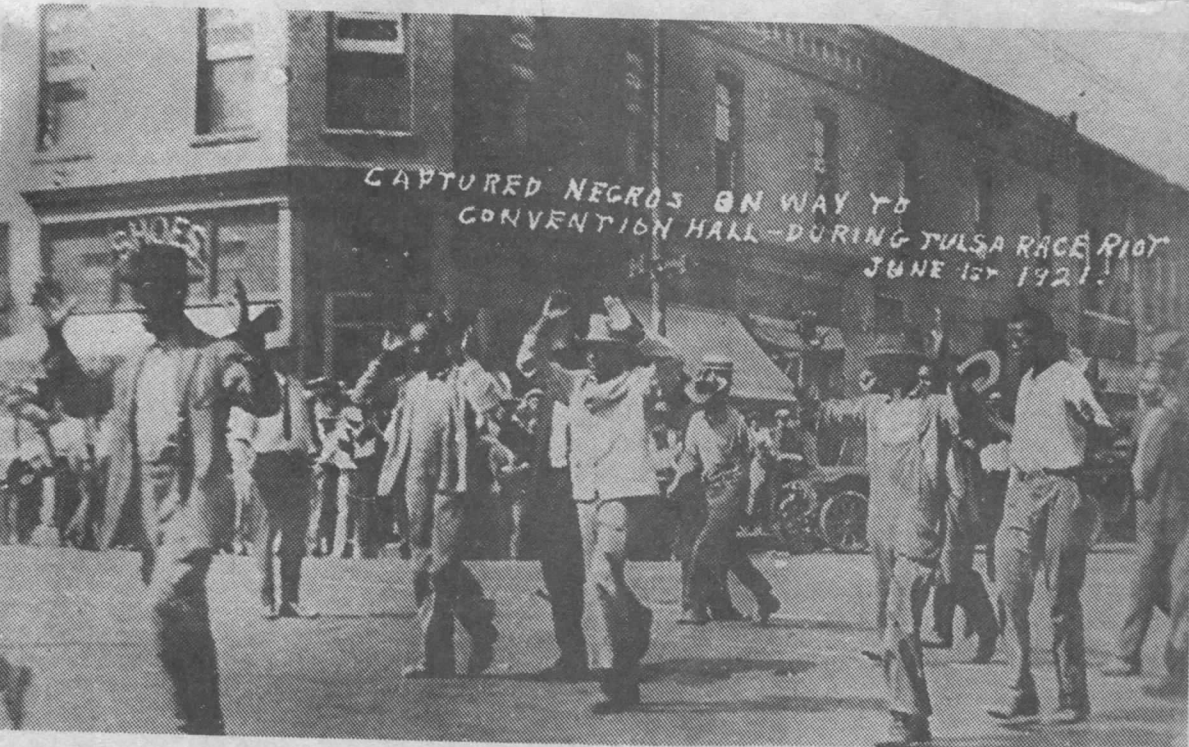
Mr. Monroe and his family ran out of the house, which burned to the ground. The family's business, a roller-skating rink in Greenwood, was also destroyed and was never rebuilt; his father, Osborn Monroe, could find work later only as a janitor at a white-owned theater.

As he spoke, Mr. Monroe fingered a necklace that he made many years ago out of the charred dimes the family later recovered from a strongbox.

For Mr. Fairchild, the commemorative services are important. "Of course we've got to talk about this," he said. "People can learn how to get along with one another. It can be done, but you have to work at it. It's an art."

But Mr. Monroe was clearly torn about whether to attend the commemorative services.

"I guess I have decided to go, more or less because of one reason," he said. "And that is, because my Dad has finally been recognized by the City of Tulsa. I'll leave it right there at that."



Tulsa Historical Society

ong a taboo subject in the city, the 1921 week of disturbance in Tulsa will be the subject of a commemoration n Saturday. A photograph that survived the riot shows black men being taken through the streets.