

Recreational Center For Colored Soldiers Opens

N.A.C.W. Announces Program for Mass Meeting

N. A. A. C. P. Closes Membership Drive

All eyes are centered on the giant Mass Meeting which will be held at Bethel A. M. E. church, Columbia, S. C., Sunday, February 23, at 4 o'clock. As has been announced, this meeting is being sponsored jointly by the local branch of the N. A. A. C. P., Dr. E. A. Adams, president; and by the Columbia branch of the National Association of College Women, of which Mrs. S. E. Nelson is president. Seventeen prominent and well known organizations are cooperating with these two groups in order to have a record-breaking attendance. Posters have been placed in conspicuous places throughout the city, bearing this information, and handbills are being distributed, especially through the churches, for the ministers of the city and county are 100 percent behind the meeting.

When it became known that the N. A. A. C. W. had planned a Mass meeting on defense for February and that the N. A. A. C. P. was desirous of having a mass meeting to close its membership drive in February also, the suggestion that the groups combine forces and have a bigger and better meeting, was readily accepted by both organizations. It happens that every member of the N. A. A. C. W. is also a member of the N. A. A. C. P. and as Dr. Adams expressed it: "It is very fitting that the local branch of the N. A. A. C. P. should be a co-sponsor in a defense program, inasmuch as the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People has been conducting for several months, a survey of jobs for Negroes on defense projects in order to integrate an equitable quota of Negroes into the defense program."

"The Part the Negro Should Play in the National Defense Program" is the theme of Sunday's meeting. For sometime the members of the N. A. A. C. W. have been looking forward to a public discussion of this problem. Encouraged and assisted by their friends, they have made preparation for it through group discussions, forums, and committee meetings.

The meeting for Sunday has been well planned and timed. Some of the high points of the program are: The Army set-up and Negro Participation; Prof. Gurney E. Nelson; The National Defense Education Program in the State and Nation; Prof. J. Andrew Simmons; The Home and National Defense; Mrs. Anna B. Weston; Some Prob-

lems Confronting our Group, led by Dr. R. W. Mance and participated in by the audience. Members from the Girl Scout and Boy Scout organizations will serve as ushers. Music will be furnished by the local colleges. Following the program on Defense, all of those persons who have not had the privilege of joining the N. A. A. C. P., will be given an opportunity to do so. Information will be furnished about the drive, which is something extraordinary in the history of the Columbia chapter, and certain important resolutions will be read. You cannot afford to miss this meeting!! Come and bring your friends.

Local NAACP Presses Membership Drive

Books Are Still Open To Joiners In This Massive Campaign

Officers of the local branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, assisted by members who are interested in making the annual membership drive an outstanding success are working hard to make a creditable report during the mass meeting which is to be held Sunday at Bethel A. M. E. church under the joint sponsorship of the NAACP and the local branch of the National Association of College Women. The latter organization is planning the special mass meeting program which will have as its theme, "The Negro's Part in National Defense."

Relative to the drive, the Rev. E. A. Adams, president of the Columbia branch of the NAACP repeats his urgent request of a week ago that every member try to interest at least one other person to join the organization during the Sunday meeting. President Adams is confident that this can be done, he states, because scores of persons have voluntarily expressed the desire to join. President Adams also paid a warm tribute to the local organization of college women, of which Mrs. Gurney E. Nelson is president, when he said, "I am certainly gratified to see the interest that these women are taking in the problems which face their less fortunate brethren. These women and their families have jobs and a certain measure of security and peace of mind. Despite that they are working hard to help remedy situations which darken and jeopardize the lives of others. This is most commendable. I sincerely hope that hundreds will come out to Bethel Sunday to enjoy the program they have prepared for us."

State N. A. A. C. P. Committee Meets

During a meeting of the Executive committee of the South Carolina Branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, held in Sumter on February 14, a tentative plan of the state meeting will be held in Columbia, June 15 and 16 was arranged. A committee of which Mrs. Andrew W. Simkins of Columbia was appointed chairman was given charge of arranging the final program and details related to the annual meeting. Other members of this committee are Dr. J. E. Briggs and L. Raymond Bailey both of Columbia.

The executive committee also drew up a suggested plan for the launching and promotion of membership drives in all the local branches. These branches now located in Aiken, Charleston, Columbia, Florence, Georgetown, Greenville, Cheraw, and Sumter have been asked to hold membership drives which run simultaneously from March 2 to March 30, inclusive. Each branch is asked to hold a mass meeting on March 16 at which time speakers suggested by the executive committee or others chosen by the branches would make the main addresses. Victory programs featuring music, panel discussions or forums, and the making of final reports are suggested for March 30.

The state branch reaffirmed the locals that "No minority in any country can win its rights and a measure of security unless it is organized, and no organization can function effectively unless it has support in members and money," and that, therefore, it is most necessary that South Carolina cooperate with the national organization. In making public an urgent appeal that South Carolinians, whether in towns where there are local branches or in adjoining towns or counties, support the N. A. A. C. P. The Rev. A. J. Wright of Cheraw, president of the South Carolina Branch quoted the following: "Negro Americans found out early that they had to fight every step of the way to get the rights which are supposed to be theirs under the Constitution. They have had to fight for physical security, for their lives and personal safety. They have had to struggle against mobs, against riots, against police brutality, against packed juries, against brutally unfair prosecutors, against prejudice courts.

They have had to fight for employment at decent wages. They have had to fight for the right to vote. They have had to fight for an education to prepare them for life. They have had to battle for decent places to live and rear their children. They have had to fight against and lying propaganda against them in newspapers, magazines, books, and school textbooks. They have had to fight against discrimination, insult and humiliation in the public places of their native land and on public conveyances.

No single Negro, no single Negro family, and no single friend of Negroes can win any of these battles. There had to be an organized, continuous fight carried on year after year along the whole battlefield of civil rights.

"The organization that has done this job for thirty-two years is the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People."

Surely President Wright continued, "This association should have our unstinted support."

Mrs. M. B. Robinson of Cheraw is the state secretary and S. J. McDonald, Sr., of Sumter, is chairman of the executive committee.

Prof. Duckett Appointed District Deputy Grand Master

News has reached The Palmetto Leader that Prof. Thomas L. Duckett of Benedict college has recently been appointed district deputy grand master for Richland, Sumter, Calhoun and Lexington counties by Grand Master J. S. Stanback of Chester.

This news will be welcomed by all who knew Prof. Duckett, especially by those Masonic seekers of the above named counties. Mr. Duckett is well acquainted with Masonic rules, having been affiliated with the running of the grand lodge for many years. Because of his school and church duties, he was forced many times to refuse masonic positions offered him in the past. Now he has seen his way clear to accept the above position which will certainly bring prestige to the counties he is supervising.

Prof. Duckett is no stranger in South Carolina, having taught in Benedict college for twenty or more years and has represented his school on many occasions.

Anyone in the above counties in need of any information masonic in nature may write him at Columbia in care of Benedict college.

Again the "Leader" wishes to congratulate Dr. Duckett for the position given him and also congratulate Grand Master Stanback for appointing such a strong and representative person to represent us in the masonic field.

Allen Univ. Singers Will Broadcast From University Chapel

The administrative staff of Allen university is happy to announce that the University Singers, you have listened to each Friday over station WIS for the last three months, will be heard from the chapel of Allen university each Thursday from 7:15 to 7:30 beginning Thursday, February 27, over station WCOS.

We hope you will become a regular listener to this program.

Hampton Builders Conference Appeals to Roosevelt Carmody Will Begin Immediate Inquiry; 3-Day Meet Proves Nationally Significant

Hampton Institute, Va.—The 15th biennial Hampton Builders' Conference, meeting in conjunction with the National Builders' Association on February 10, 11, and 12 at Hampton Institute, was packed with nationally significant events concerning defense construction and the Negro.

In a personal letter to the assembly delegates, John M. Carmody, administrator of the Federal Works Agency, announced for the first time the opening of an immediate inquiry into discrimination against Negroes on National Defense housing projects in the Hampton Roads area.

With this hurdle passed, the 200 delegates from 20 states listened to George Zuidema, sole hiring agent for all contractors engaged in construction work at Fort Eustis, Virginia, as he attempted to answer the personal charges made on his discriminatory practices against skilled Negroes.

Unsatisfied with Zuidema's explanation that you can't change a custom overnight," the Conference dispatched a 580-word telegram to President Franklin D. Roosevelt and 19 other key government officials, denouncing discriminatory practices, submitting specific proof, and asking for immediate action.

With these three lightning thrusts into the national consciousness, achieved on the first day of the meeting, wire services hummed with the story of the momentous Builders' Conference and editorials sprang up the next day throughout the nation.

The Office of Production Management, through Emmer Lan casted of the Department of Commerce, next told the delegates of its sympathetic attitude toward Negro contractors and its intention to "fair out" defense contracts to small business men and sub-contractors.

Charles F. Palmer, coordinator of all National Defense housing dispatched his executive assistant, Carl H. Monsees, to the Conference by plane Wednesday morning to explain to the assembled builders, architects, contractors, and labor unionists—the Coordinator's Office's stand. Mr. Monsees agreed that the "discriminatory clause" released by Carmody was a statement of policy without enforcement provisions, but was emphatic that "you can have faith in Mr. Carmody, for there isn't a fairer administrator in Washington."

The National Defense program of vocational educational training for Negroes was praised in a resolution passed at the close of the meeting.

Organized in 1923, this meeting of the Hampton Builders' Conference proved to be the most outstanding in its history. Elected president of the National Builders' Association was Walter H. Aiken, Atlanta, Ga. contractor. It was announced that the next year's conference will be held in the Municipal Auditorium, Atlanta, Ga. Dr. Malcolm S. MacLean addressed the Conference at a banquet on Monday evening and introduced H. Whitmore Brown, who organized the Conference in 1923.

Administrator Carmody's letter, which was addressed to William H. Moses, Jr., chairman of the Hampton Builders' Conference said: "Yesterday I had a telegram from a group of men who are making a similar protest to yours about conditions in the same general area. So far as I have been able to learn, none of the complaints applies specifically to any construction job that comes under the immediate jurisdiction of this Agency. However, discrimination in a confined area, like defense spreads even to healthy bodies. With this in mind, I am arranging to have an inquiry made into the conditions in the area, with a view to correcting any abuse that we might find in our immediate operations, and giving those who are otherwise concerned such facts as we gather."

Baptist Will Hold Inspirational Meeting

Group meeting for the Baptist Educational and Missionary Convention of South Carolina will meet February 26 at the Tabernacle Baptist church, Hudson St. Rev. W. M. Watson, pastor. The meeting will open at 11:00 a. m. and will last until 9:30 p. m. 11:00 a. m. devotional message, Rev. I. B. Moon, followed by opening sermon, Dr. W. M. Peace, pastor of the Friendship Baptist church, Aiken, South Carolina. The speakers for the day will be: Topic Hour, Dr. L. C. Jenkins and Rev. J. C. Cowans; Educational Hour, Dr. J. P. Garret, Morris College, Dr. J. H. Goudlock, Friendship College; Missionary Hour, Dr. J. R. Reeder and Rev. S. S. Youngblood; Sunday School and B. Y. P. U. work, Dr. C. E. Gandy, Dr. S. C. Campbell.

The Woman's Convention will also be represented. At 7:00 p. m. a very fine program will be rendered by musical talents of the Piedmont section. At 8:00 p. m. President H. H. Butler, president of the Baptist State Convention of South Carolina, will deliver the closing sermon. The meeting will cover the following counties: Aiken, Edgefield, Saluda, Greenwood, Newberry, Abbeville, Laurens, Anderson, Pickens, Oconee, and Greenville. The auxiliaries are asked to pay a representative fee of \$1.00.

Gospel Tornado

Hello World—I am speaking from South Florida conference, West Palm Beach, Fla. We are having a good-time, weather ideal. I am preaching each night in Miami—will be there two more weeks. I will give a full report next week. My time will not permit at present. I have sent fruit to a number of my friends, all who have received yours, please write today that I may know you have it. Those who desire a box of fruit write and let me know because next week will be the last shipping. Send all mail to Miami, Fla., general delivery.

Old Viv was lost last week in a car lot looking for a second hand car. Don't know what she will buy, will tell you later. So long will be on the air next week over station PMLOC.

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Allenites Hear Noted Speakers Founder's Day

Three able speakers: Dr. S. R. Higgins, Dr. H. W. Baumgardner and Attorney Nathan Dobbins, were heard by Allenites and Allen university students on the Founder's Day celebration at the college last Monday.

The student body heard Dr. Baumgardner at ten o'clock presented the origin of Allen university from its beginning at Cokesbury. In introducing the speaker President Higgins made a masterly talk and at the close of the program came back with profound doctrine about Richard Allen and the A. M. E. church, speaking like a modern Demosthenes.

The keynote speaker at the nite session was Nathan Dobbins, noted Attorney of Washington, D. C. Lawyer Dobbins spoke on "Allen University and Its Relation to the Changing World."

Dr. Robert Weston Mance, president of the Columbia A. U. club, presented Attorney Dobbins. There were hundreds of Allenites in attendance at the night session.

Mrs. Minerva Mae Diggs, Passes

Rembert, February 13—Mrs. Minerva Mae Diggs was born in Sumter county in the spring of 1835. Died February 9, 1941.

She was the last of the thirty members that organized the Raften Creek Baptist church, which is now eighty years old.

She was the wife of the late Reverend Theodore B. Diggs, who ministered Raften Creek Baptist church for sixty-two years.

She was the mother of sixteen children, and is survived by three sons: Rev. W. C. Diggs with whom she lived; Rev. A. C. Diggs, and Theodore B. Diggs, Jr., both of Chicago, Ill.; twenty-one grandchildren; thirty-three great-grand children; ten great-great-grand children, and a host of relatives and friends.

When but a girl she was baptized in the Swift Creek by Rev. Furman, a white minister, then the pastor of the old Swift Creek Baptist church.

During these many years as a Christian, a mother and wife, her life was worthy of emulation. Her matrimonial career comprised seventy-eight years.

In conversation with her at any and all times were these cherished words: "I am just waiting for the call." In other words, she had fought a good fight and had kept the faith and was ready to be offered up.

CHESTER PARAGRAPHS

Miss Neina Wilkerson, a student at Benedict College, Columbia, spent the week-end here with her sister, Miss Ernestine Wilkerson.

Mr. James Hardin came down from Charlotte and is spending a few days with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. James Hardin.

At the rally at Calvary Baptist church last Sunday afternoon when the days of the week reported Mrs. Pearl Reno, president of the B. T. U., made a report of \$5.00, which should have been included in the last week's report. Mrs. Reno is a wide awake teacher in the B. T. U. and has a group of young people who are faithful and ready to work. They hold their meetings each Sunday evening at 6 o'clock.

Vesper services will be held Sunday afternoon at 4 o'clock at Brainard by the N.Y.A.—Paying Camp Ground, Prof. Brown, president of Clinton College, Rock Hill, will be guest speaker. Miss M. M. McKisick will preside.

The Calvary Baptist Junior Club which consists of the converts recently baptized, will give a program at 4 o'clock Sunday afternoon at the church. They will have an hour of interesting selections of music, speeches, dialogues, and pantomimes. Mrs. C. M. Finley has these young people in charge. They were organized a few months ago by the pastor, Rev. M. T. Coker.

Mrs. Mary M. Clure Nelson died at her home near Columbia St. Saturday after an illness of a few days, from a paralytic stroke. Funeral services will be held Wednesday at her church, Friendship Baptist, of which she was a consistent member. Deacon John McClure of Calvary Baptist church is her brother, also Mr. Willie McClure her sister. Mrs. Bessie Lee, came down from Washington, D. C., for the funeral services.

Miss Abbie Byrd attended the funeral in Whitmore of her cousin Mr. Albert Wallner whose body was brought here by motor from Cincinnati, accompanied by the

RIDGE SPRING NEWS

Sunday school began promptly, with Mr. I. L. Gardner in charge. The lesson was interestingly taught in nine classes. Too much praise can not be given Mr. Gardner for acting as an assistant Supt. in the

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Citizens Are Urged to Cooperate With Sponsors

Notice Extraordinary

A. M. E. PRESIDING ELDERS CALLED TO MEET

The twenty presiding elders of the South Carolina district are hereby requested to meet in All university, Columbia, S. C., Monday, February 24, 1941, 3:30 p. m. Please without fail.

President S. R. HIGGINS, Chr. J. E. THOMAS, Secretary

Woman's Society of Christian Service

SOUTH CAROLINA CONF. METHODIST CHURCH

Mrs. G. A. Thomas, Chr. of Spiritual Life Committee is calling special attention to the observance of the World's Day of Prayer for Missions the first Friday of Lent, February 27.

Mrs. W. G. Gupple and Mrs. M. D. Stokes heads of the Department of Missionary Education and Service request the strict observance of the Lenten Season with a prayer and a penny each day for forty days. Please report to Conference Treasurer Miss E. E. Small, 217 Coming St., Charleston, S. C. at close of Lent.

Mrs. M. E. Grant, Chr. of Literature announces the special drive for subscribers to our National Official Organ, The Methodist Woman to begin now and continue through May. Goal at least 25 subscribers on each district. Charleston district is now in the lead.

Mrs. E. W. Strother and Miss Marie Singleton heads of the Department of Christian Social Relations and Local Church Activities have sent plans and goals of this department to all district chairmen and ask your full cooperation.

Watch the Palmetto Leader next week for each district president and a roster of her official staff.

Mrs. John C. Gibbes Conference President.

PINE GROVE A. M. E. CHURCH

Rev. C. A. Dunlap, Pastor

Sunday was a beautiful day for all church goers. Sunday school began at its usual hour with the Supt. at his post of duty.

We were glad to have our pastor with us on Sunday. He has been away for three months. Just his presence was delightful. High noon service began at the usual hour. The pastor, being unable to preach the morning message was delivered by Rev. James McCliment of the M. E. Conference, Sumter district. He used as his text, "Making Preparation." It was enjoyed by all.

The Big Sister Club is progressing fine. The meeting, at the home of Mrs. Josie Jiles, was a success. The report was delicious. The next meeting will be at the home of Mrs. Daisy Rhett.

Every day school is progressing fine. On last week we were glad to have our Supt. of Education, Mr. Cobb and Mr. Felton, our state agent of Negro schools with us. He stressed the fact of children coming to school every day. The county nurse visited our school and gave every child a thorough examination, also our supervisor, Mrs. Lenkin. We have a new set of books in our circulation library.

The wedding bells are ringing in our section. Mr. Wade Paris is on his way back with Anna Robinson of Batesburg, S. C., and Miss Lizzie Graham was joined with Mr. Miles of Columbia, S. C. We all wish them a happy and a prosperous life.

Those on the sick list are, Mr. James Faust and Mr. Elex Washington. We all are praying for their speedy recovery.

DOLBLE BRANCH A. M. E. CHURCH

Rev. B. C. Cunningham, Pastor

West Columbia, S. C.—The Sunday school opened at 10 a. m. with the Supt. and teachers at their posts of duty. The lesson was beautifully reviewed by the pastor.

At 11:30 a. m. Rev. Cunningham preached a soul stirring sermon from the Book of Numbers, 14:6-7, subject, A Minority Report. All hearts rejoiced as this God sent man delivered this wonderful message.

6 p. m. the A. C. E. league was largely attended by the members and visitors. We are glad to see the league growing and we are asking more to join us.

Sunday evening at 7:30, another wonderful message was delivered

The local Brothers of the Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity are the sponsors of the newly opened soldiers center at 1125 1-2 Washington street. Contributions will be needed to carry on the work. All interested organizations, fraternities and individuals are urged to contribute to this cause. Monetary donations, magazines, athletic equipment, games of all kinds and other recreational equipment will be greatly accepted and appreciated. The local Kappa Brothers are as follows: C. F. Flipper, J. E. Dickson, Alexander Reid Herbert Eli-Dickson, John Powell Maceo Entzinger, W. F. Robinson, Dr. H. G. Thompson, J. D. Marshall Thomas Reese and R. E. Jones.

If you have any thing to contribute please bring it to the center 1125 1-2 Washington street, second floor or call any member of the committee.

Annual 'TB' Essay Contest Opens

Attractive Prizes Offered in High School and College Competition

The eighth annual essay contest on tuberculosis which is to be conducted among Negro students in universities, colleges and high schools throughout the Nation opened in South Carolina, February 15. All applications to enter contest must be in the offices of the South Carolina Tuberculosis Association, 1208 Bull street, Columbia, according to a statement issued by Mrs. Andrew W. Simkins, director of the Negro program of the organization.

The chief purpose of the contest, held under the supervision of Camerin St. C. Guild, M. D., director of the Negro program of the National Tuberculosis association, is to encourage the students to study the problem of tuberculosis as it affects them as young people and as it affects their race as a group. Each school entering the contest must have a contest sponsor and students must enter the contest and work under the direction of this sponsor.

College contestants will choose one of the following subjects: "How Can I In My Future Profession Help to Control Tuberculosis?" "The College Essay Contest—Its Values, Limitations, and Possibilities." "The National Student Health Association—Its Objectives and Possibilities." College winners in the state contest will receive cash prizes of \$25.00, \$15.00, \$10.00, and two of \$5.00 each. Essays receiving first, second and third places in the state contest will be entered in the national contest where the following prizes will be awarded: first, \$50 plus a gold medal; second, \$25 plus a silver medal; third, \$15 plus a bronze medal; two special prizes of \$10.00 each; and five honorable mention prizes of \$5 each.

Persons preparing manuscripts in the high school will have a choice of two subjects: 1. "Why, What, Where?" Why should I know about tuberculosis? What should I know, and where in my community and state may I obtain information and service? and 2. "The Opportunity of the High School in the Control of Tuberculosis." High school winners in the state contest will receive cash prizes of \$15, \$10, \$7, \$5 and five honorable mention prizes of \$2 each. The winner of the first prize in the National contest will have the choice between a cash award of \$50 or a scholarship amounting to \$100 which will be paid to the university or college selected by the winner. In the event that the student is unable to enter college for one or more years, the scholarship award may be held over until such time as the student is able to attend college. The winner of the first prize also receives a gold medal. Other prizes are: second, \$40 plus a silver medal; third, \$30 plus a bronze medal; fourth, \$20; fifth, \$10; special \$7.50; and honorable mention, eight prizes of \$5 each.

Besides cash prizes and medals given to winning students, certificates will be awarded to sponsors of winning students and books will be placed in the school libraries where winning students are enrolled.

The contest closes April 30.

Persons preparing manuscripts in the high school will have a choice of two subjects: 1. "Why, What, Where?" Why should I know about tuberculosis? What should I know, and where in my community and state may I obtain information and service? and 2. "The Opportunity of the High School in the Control of Tuberculosis." High school winners in the state contest will receive cash prizes of \$15, \$10, \$7, \$5 and five honorable mention prizes of \$2 each. The winner of the first prize in the National contest will have the choice between a cash award of \$50 or a scholarship amounting to \$100 which will be paid to the university or college selected by the winner. In the event that the student is unable to enter college for one or more years, the scholarship award may be held over until such time as the student is able to attend college. The winner of the first prize also receives a gold medal. Other prizes are: second, \$40 plus a silver medal; third, \$30 plus a bronze medal; fourth, \$20; fifth, \$10; special \$7.50; and honorable mention, eight prizes of \$5 each.

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The contest closes April 30.

by Rev. Cunningham. His text was taken from Psalm 37, subject "God Do Care for His People." Truly the spirit of God was with us while His servant spoke.