

NAACP workshop

Thirty-five members of the Board of Directors of the Portland and Vancouver branches of the NAACP met Saturday March 6 for an all-day Training Workshop at Bethel AME Church, according to Ellis Casson, Portland Branch President.

Betty Black, field trainer on the national staff of N.A.A.C.P., conducted the sessions which began at 9:30 in the morning and ended at 4:30 that afternoon.

Discussions dealt with ways of informing the general community about the activities and purposes of N.A.A.C.P., along with techniques of involving more people in the work of the organization... In talking about committee responsibilities, Mrs. Black describes how other chapters carried out projects - in their communities. She referred especially to California communities, since she is working in the Los Angeles field office.

Mrs. Black pointed out how many black people who have "made it" owe their success to the training and backing they received through N.A.A.C.P. She also stressed that better command national offices of the organization is needed to inform people of all the things that are being accomplished in their behalf.

Board members discussed the membership drive which started March 1, with James Lee and C.A. White as chairmen. Goal for the drive is 2,000 members. In order for people who want to renew or take out new memberships to get in touch with someone, volunteers are staffing the NAACP Office-- Mondays through Fridays from 1:00-5:00 P.M. The telephone number is 284-7722.

The membership drive is scheduled to end on Sunday, March 21, with a mass meeting at 4:00 P.M. in Mt. Olivet Baptist Church. Althea T. L. Simmons, national director for Training in the national NAACP Office in New York will be the speaker.

Referring to Miss Simmons, Mrs. Black commented that "she is a fine person to work for, and also a fine speaker, worth hearing."

Since Mrs. Black herself impressed those present with her speaking ability, her knowledge, her quick wit, and her pleasing way with people, President Ellis Casson indicated that she may be asked to return to Portland for another training session later in the year. She has been a member of the national staff for three years, and was active in NAACP while working for the state of California Parole Division and Department of Corrections, with special responsibilities with drug addicts and their families. She became interested in NAACP's youth group while working toward her degree in Sociology at Oklahoma University, was vice president and secretary of the area conference, also served as regional secretary, and was appointed to President Kennedy's Community Relations committee for two years.

Her husband, Dan Black, was President of the Pomona Chapter of NAACP when their home was in Pomona. Mr. Black is a bookkeeper with a public utility, lectures on Black History at City College of Los Angeles, and is attending UCLA working toward his Master's degree in Political Science.

The Blacks have a daughter attending UCLA, an adopted son at Oklahoma University, and an African girl from Kenya who has lived with them for eleven years and is now attending Cal Poly....

Next week the Observer will inform readers about the NAACP MASS Meeting on February 21, with details on the speaker Althea Simmons.



Nothing could make these executive board members take their eyes off Betty Black during the NAACP workshop.



Betty Black pauses to lean on the strong arms of the Portland branch NAACP Prexy, saying "I KNOW MR. PRESIDENT THAT THE BRANCH WILL MOVE FORWARD UNDER YOUR LEADERSHIP".



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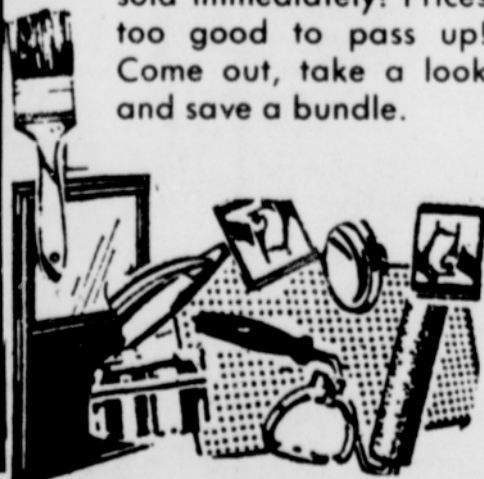
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