Home town honors Parrish

By Kathryn Hall Bogle

Newspaper headlines proclaim it. The fliers are out.

"It's Flora Parrish Day" in Canton, Mississippi and the whole town is celebrating. So says the "Madison County Herald" in a page 1 story of this weekly newspaper of Can-

The Mayor of Canton has presented the "Key to the City" to Mrs. Parrish. A state legislator, Bob Montgomery, brought her a big bouquet of flowers, and the president of the Mississippi NAACP cooperated with the Canton branch of the NAACP to host the day-long celebration on Saturday, July 18.

Mrs. Parrish, the 87-year-old lady of the hour in Canton, is the esteemed Portland lady, the mother of Carmen Parrish Walker of this city. Mrs. Parrish had a career as Home Economist in Portland with Head Start Program after working as a Home Demonstration Agent for 30 years in Mississippi.

Flora Parrish Day in Canton, recognizes on a city wide basis the contributions to the Black community Mrs. Parrish has made through the years. In the current list of philanthropies is a block of land comprised of 50 acres, known as the Flora D. Parish 4-H Training Center. Mrs. Parrish granted the use of the land in 1949 to the state extension service to establish a camp for Black 4-H participants in the state. Increased to encompass 84.9 acres, the camp opened its doors to youngsters in June 1951.

A stipulation of the land grant by Mrs. Parrish was that the land be maintained as a camp ground and be used by the state cooperative extension service.

On visits to the Canton area after her 1961 move to Portland, Mrs. Parrish said she noted a decline in the facilty and eventually the camp was closed. The state surrendered all claims to the land in May of this

Now the Canton NAACP would like to put the buildings on the site in usable condition and to start a program in operation there. Flora Parrish Day is the day work began to refurbish the camp. About 1,000 people of all races attended the festivities, according to Carmen

Parrish Walker in a telephone inter-

Opening ceremonies were at 9:00 a.m., with presentation of colors and invocation. At 9:30 a.m., picnic activities began and included fishing, softball, baseball and other games. Recognition ceremonies were keynoted by an address concerning Mrs. Parrish's contributions by Mrs. Donnel Allen, formerly in a supervisory position with the North District Home Extension Service in Mississippi.

An evening reception was held in the recreation building at the camp on this auspicious occasion.

Arthur Tate, treasurer of the Canton NAACP, arranged to have representatives from various government offices, extension officials and personnel from Mississippi Industrial College in Holy Springs where Mrs. Parrish graduated.

Gowned in navy blue voile with white accessories, Mrs. Parrish acknowledged her pleasure that the land has been returned to the control of her family who will decide to what uses the land will now be designated.

Attending Mrs. Parrish along with Mrs. Walker, her daughter, were her son, Lehman E. Parrish of Chicago, and her granddaughter, Florice Walker of Philadelphia.



Stacey Baseden and Jason Ford look for customers for successful car wash to benefit The Black Police Officers Association.

(Photo: Richard J. Brown)





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Senior lunch draws crowd

Last Tuesday, (July 13, 1981), the Eliot Neighborhood Development Association held its first Summer Pot-Luck Luncheon at the Masonic Temple, 116 NE Russell Street.

About forty-five Senior Citizens and youths attended, including such dignitaries as Commissioner Gladys McCoy and Commissioner Caroline Miller: Edna Robertson; Marie Smith; Texana Fisher; Lucy Cochran and Barbara Bivens, Director of the Senior Citizens Center for the Urban League. Senior citizens from the Unthank Plaza were well represented. Dorothy Vickers, Charles Person and Mary Calvert acted as hostesses.

Thomas Vickers, Director of the Center, introduced Commissioner Caroline Miller, who explained Senate Bill 861. The bill is designed

to provide reimbursement for home/health care for the elderly who choose to remain at home, but without support services would be placed in a nursing home.

Senators Packwood and Bradley introduced Senate Bill 861, and the benefit package would include: (1) Intermittent Nursing Care; (2) Physical, speech and occupational therapy; (3) Homemaker - home health aide service; (4) Adult day services; (5) Respite services so that responsible relatives could have temporary relief from supervisory care of elders; (6) Case coordination for frail elderly.

Immediately following the luncheon, Spencer Lorten gave a talk on crime prevention for the elderly in Portland.



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