



**Ms. Yvonne Williams  
Mr. Paul Blackmon  
Mr. Joe Merriweather  
Mr. Keneerd Brooks  
Mr. David Rawls  
The Culinary Arts Center  
The Program Participants  
&  
All of You for Coming!**

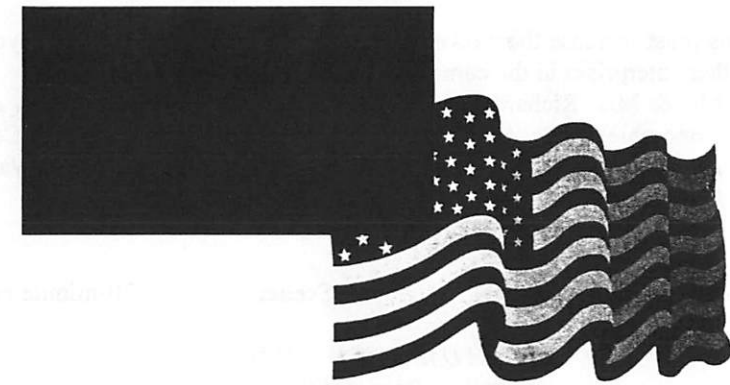


## **H. COUNCILL TRENHOLM STATE TECHNICAL COLLEGE**

### **ANNUAL BLACK HISTORY PROGRAM**

**Theme:**

**“Heritage and Horizons: The African American Legacy  
and the Challenges of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century”**



**February 17, 2000  
10:00 a.m. - 12 noon  
Ernest Sharpe Cafetorium**

**Sponsored by  
The Department of Student Services  
in Conjunction with  
The Division of Library & Archives  
and Radio-Television Broadcasting Program**

## THE LEGACY

WRMA-AM Radio, 950 on the dial, was a White-owned radio station with a Black-format. The owner was Zenas Sears out of Atlanta at the parent station, WAOK-AM.

WRMA-AM existed from 1953 to 1973, and was first located on Commerce Street, and later moved to the Lower Wetumpka Road in the Flatwood Community.

Black business sponsors for various programs were Josh Reynold's TIJUANA CLUB, Cat Wiley's AFRO CLUB (known as the ROOF TOP in the Ben Moore Hotel), the ELK's Club, Rufus A. Lewis' CITIZENS' CLUB, Brenda's BBQ PIT among others.

In 1967, the radio station hired Mrs. Bertha Carter as the host for "It's A Woman's World," a progressive statement about women in what was considered as "A Man's World." But as R&B singer, James Brown said, "It means nothing without a woman or a girl."

Other DJs were "Father Rock," Allan Lee ("Mr. Lee"), Ron Allen ("RA"), Ralph Featherstone, Tracy Larkin, Rev. J.H. Hawthorne, Rev. B.B. Lambert and Mrs. Gertrude Jenkins. Norman Lumpkin served as News Director, Judd Spaulding as Station Manager and Mrs. Jeanette Penney as Traffic Manager in formatting advertisement.

In 1973, the radio staff went on strike after the owner refused to materially support programs in the Black community, the targeted listening audience. The staff encouraged sponsors to withdraw their advertisements. Within a 2-month period, all sponsors canceled their accounts, effectively taking the station off the air.

## THE CHALLENGE

African-Americans must increase their ownership of radio stations and move beyond to own cable-television networks, and other enterprises in the communications/technology fields.

Primary Sources: Mr. & Mrs. Richard and Bertha Carter, The Honorable Frank A. Bray, Sr., The Honorable Rufus A. Lewis, The Rev. Solomon S. Seay, Sr. Collections—TSTC Archives Interview with Mrs. Jeanette Penney and Mrs. Diane Ward.

## "THE RE-ENACTMENT"

Setting: WRMA-AM Radio Station      Scene: 30-minute radio broadcast

### IT'S A WOMAN'S WORLD Historical Personalities

<b>Mrs. Bertha Carter</b>	Radio host; Dt. Ruler of the Elks; Loveless PTA President; entrepreneur
<b>Rev. Solomon Seay, Sr.</b>	Third President of the Montgomery Improvement Association; Pastor at Mt. Zion AMEZ Church.
<b>Rufus A. Lewis</b>	Father of Montgomery's Voting Rights Movement; one of the founders of the Alabama Democratic Conference; entrepreneur
<b>Frank A. Bray, Sr.</b>	Montgomery Civic League; National Executive Board Member of the National Alliance of Postal and Federal Employees - dedicated underwriters which helped financed the Montgomery Bus Boycott.



## The Honorable Frank A. Bray, Sr.

Frank A. Bray, (1920 - 1997), member of the Montgomery Civic League during the Gertrude Perkins' Case. He was one of the first two Blacks to serve as a Montgomery County Commissioner, and was representative for the Alabama, Mississippi, and Tennessee District of Black Postal Employees. He was a member of the National Executive Board of the National Alliance of Postal and Federal Employees. Bray's influence on the Board led the Alliance to become a major underwriter for the successful 1955 Montgomery Bus Boycott Movement.

Source: "I Was There By The Grace Of God" by Reverend Solomon S. Seay, Sr., Educational Foundation, 1990.

\* Period photographs of Old Ship AMEZ Church, Schools throughout Montgomery County, and the Elks are available for your perusal in the TSTC Library & Archives.

Source: Mr. & Mrs. Richard and Bertha Carter, Sr. Collection  
Photographs from the 1950-60s circa



**The Honorable Rufus A. Lewis**

The Honorable Rufus A. Lewis, (1906 - 1999), began an earnest and consistent Voting Rights Drive in the early 1940s. In an October 8, 1995 issue of U.S. News Report, the article states: "Back in the '40s, Rufus Lewis became obsessed with voting rights. An entire generation of Montgomery (B)lacks say that Lewis, who is barely known today, is the reason they first voted."

Mr. Lewis is a graduate of Fisk University and served as football coach at Alabama State University. He was a partner in the Ross Clayton Funeral Home business and opened the "Citizens' Club", a night club for African Americans which he also used to help register black to vote. He was also one of the founders and the first Montgomery County Chapter President of the Alabama Democratic Conference (ADC). Mr. Lewis was elected to the Alabama State Legislature, but resigned in 1976 when U.S. President Jimmy Carter appointed him to serve as a United States Marshal, the first Black marshal ever in Alabama.

Source: Rufus Lewis Collection, TSTC Library & Archives. Dr. Gwen Patton, Archivist.

## Programme

Invocation .....	Rev. Ron Giles, Environmental Services
Welcome .....	Dean Sam Munnerlyn, Student Services Ms. Norma Hall, SGA President
Occasion .....	Dr. Gwen Patton, Archivist
Song .....	"Lift Every Voice and Sing" Directed by Ms. Shirley Billups, Special Programs

### Lift Every Voice & Sing

Lift every voice and sing, 'til 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 'til victory is won.

### "The Re-Enactment"

Mrs. Bertha Carter .....	Dr. Gwen Patton, Archivist
Rev. Solomon S. Seay, Sr. ....	Rev. T. E. Bass, TSTC Student
Rufus A. Lewis .....	Mr. Lonnie Green, TSTC Faculty
Frank A. Bray, Sr. ....	Mr. Stinson Holmes, TSTC Staff

Expressions ..... Audience Participants

Remarks ..... Mrs. Zenobia L. Blackmon, Library Director  
Dr. Douglas Littles, Interim President

**\* Reception Immediately Following the Program \***



**Mrs. Bertha Carter**

Mrs. Bertha Carter (1912 - 1998) in her WRMA-AM (Radio) office. Mrs. Carter served as Daughter Ruler for Southern Pride Lodge #431, I.B.P.O.E.W. The Carter family owned "Carter and Son (Richard, Jr.) Dry Cleaners," located at 765 Dorsey Street in the heart of a thriving Black business district. When construction of interstate 85/65 devastated the district, the Carters expanded the cleaners to add a washerteria and relocated on 1000 West Jeff Davis Avenue, now a part of the Historic Voting Rights Trail. The Carters were financial supporters for the Civil/Voting Rights Movement.

Source: Mr. & Mrs. Richard Carter Collection, TSTC Archives  
Interviews with daughters: Mrs. Richetta Randle, Mrs. Mae Danzy,  
Mrs. Linda Richardson, and Mrs. Lurlene Goldsmith



**Reverend Solomon S. Seay, Sr.**

Reverend Solomon S. Seay, Sr., (1899 - 1988), a forerunner of the Movement. He was one of the few ministers who were lashing out against injustices long before it became popular to do so. He was a member of the powerful Negotiating Committee of the Montgomery Improvement Association, (MIA), third President of the MIA, Editor of the MIA Newsletter, and member of the Executive Board of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC).

It was he who suggested that all of the ministers go to jail rather than have Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., isolated.

Source: I Was There By The Grace Of God by Reverend Solomon S. Seay, Sr.,  
Educational Foundation, 1990.

# The Montgomery-Tuskegee Times

Rev. Al Dixon.....Editor

Published weekly on Thursday of each week by MOR-  
NEWS. Office location, 150 West Fairview Avenue •  
36105, P.O. Box 9133, Montgomery, Alabama 36108,  
Phone (334) 280-2444

2/9/00

## "ADC Young Democrats Host Black History Month Oral History Program"

ADC Young Democrats will be hosting a Black History Month evening of oral history, February 10, 2000 At 6:30 pm. at the Rufus Lewis Library. The program will feature a recorded interview of late Mr. Rufus Lewis.

For many years Mr. Lewis was a prominent Montgomery businessman and owner of Ross-Clayton Funeral Home. For a time he also worked at Alabama State University. Of course, those who knew him best say that his first love was promoting voter registration, civic education, and political participation. As the owner of a popular nightclub called the Citizens Club, Lewis required all members to become registered voters for the first time.

In addition to being one of the founders of the Alabama Democratic Conference in 1960, Mr. Lewis was the first African American to be appointed as a United States Marshal in the Middle District of Alabama in the 1970s. Before he died he donated his extensive collection of papers and political documents to the library archives at Trenholm State Technical College in Montgomery, Alabama.

The upcoming event is free and open to the public. So please come out and enjoy it.

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