

In the Name and by the Authority of the

STATE OF ALABAMA

We, the undersigned do hereby certify that the

HONORABLE

IDESSA REDDEN

Having completed the required training in federal and state laws governing elections is hereby designated as a

CERTIFIED POLL WORKER FOR 1994-1995

and eligible to serve upon appointment by the County Poll Worker Appointing Board in the precinct in which you vote. On election day the poll worker is the official who serves on the front-line to ensure that elections are fair and administered honestly. On behalf of the citizens of Alabama we express our appreciation for your willingness to serve in this capacity.



IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Alabama to be affixed at the State Capitol in the City of Montgomery.

Walker Hollie Jr.

Probate Judge

Jim Bennett

Jim Bennett Secretary of State

Seniors of Achievement

The 1990 Seniors of Achievement will be honored at a banquet May 15 featuring syndicated advice columnist Abigail Van Buren.

The seniors who will be honored for their community service are Betty Fitz-Gerald, John A. Garrett, J.J. Kirschenfeld, James L. Loeb, Sadie Gardner Penn, Idessa Williams Redden, Frank Slaughter, Ethel Tankersley Todd, Sarah E. Tyler and Evelyn Kennedy Wheeler.

Each of the award winners is profiled on page 16A.

Proceeds from ticket sales for the banquet, sponsored by *The Montgomery Advertiser* and *The Alabama Journal* and the Montgomery Area Council on Aging, will benefit the council's Meals on Wheels project.

The MACOA is the primary charitable agency serving the needs of area senior citizens. Funds are desperately needed to provide one hot meal per day for 300 frail elderly residents who cannot prepare their own meals. The waiting list to join the program has grown so large that some people must wait up to three years to join, said Lucy Parsons, MACOA spokeswoman.

Tickets for the 7 p.m. banquet in the Alabama Room at the Governor's House Hotel are \$50 per person. Tickets also are available for a 5 p.m. reception at the home of Mary Katherine Blount to meet "Abby." Tickets for cocktails and dinner are \$100 per person.

For reservations and ticket information, call MACOA at 263-0532. Tables are available for 10.

Volunteer didn't expect recognition

By JORDAN GRUENER

From the work she did in the civil rights movement to her current family service work, Idessa Williams Redden never expected to win an award for her community spirit.

"I was thankful to the person who nominated me," Mrs. Redden



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said. "The things that I did to achieve the award, it never dawned on me that it would be recognized."

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so they can pay rent.

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She currently works seven hours a day as a Headstart Family Service worker in Trenholm and Tulane courts and the Macedonia community.

A member of St. Jude church for many years, Mrs. Redden has been involved in the Social Service Department of the church.

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Her only break from Ladies of Charity came during the 1950s, when she was involved with voter registration for the civil rights movement, she said.

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So Mrs. Redden had the woman bake pies and Mrs. Redden sold them every weekend for 25 cents to raise money for taxes.

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"I was on a constant go," she said. "The civil rights movement was working for my civil rights."

Jordan Gruener is a staff

**Rufus Lewis Regional Branch Library
Black History Program**

Salute to Idessa Redden:

“Pioneer Voting Rights Activist”

By

**Dr. Gwen Patton, Archivist
Trenholm State Technical College**



February 25, 2003

11:30 a.m.

at

Rufus Lewis Library

Black History Month

Montgomery City-County Public Library

**3095 Mobile Highway
Montgomery, AL 36108
Phone: 334-240-4848**

WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE

STATE OF WISCONSIN

OFFICE OF THE COMPTROLLER

REPORT OF THE COMPTROLLER
FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 1911

WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE

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montgomeryadvertiser.com

College prepares to honor Redden

By Jannell McGrew
Montgomery Advertiser

A Montgomery woman described as one of the pioneers of the voting rights and civil rights movements in Alabama will be honored for her works today, eight days before her 90th birthday.

Idessa Williams Redden will be recognized by H. Council Trenholm State Technical College during a special birthday celebration at 11:30 a.m. at the college's Culinary Arts Centre on Mobile Highway.



Redden

Redden "is a pillar in our community," said Gwendolyn Patton, head archivist at Trenholm.

"She has, since her teenage days, vowed to fight for first-class citizenship for African-Americans and she has been consistent ever since."

Patton said Redden was known for her courage and straightforwardness as she defied pressure from segregationists and sought to convince blacks to register to vote.

Redden said she felt honored by the college's gesture.

"I really think it's a good idea, and I appreciate it very much," she said.

In characteristic fashion, she added with a chuckle, "I hate to say it, but I think I deserved it because of my hard work in the community."

Born Nov. 27, 1912, she became a registered voter in 1949, when most blacks weren't registered to vote. As a block captain, she worked with voting rights icon "Coach" Rufus Lewis in the crusade for full voting rights for blacks. Her job was to encourage blacks to sign up for voting rights clinics.

"She would visit people at night on dark roads while vigilantes and Klansmen were laying in wait," Patton said. "She's had several scary encounters as she went about organizing black people to fight for their voting rights."

Redden also worked with the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. and served as an organizer with Lewis on the Montgomery Improvement Association's Voter Registration Committee.

Redden has a collection of papers and various other materials at Trenholm State Technical College Archives.

Jannell McGrew, who covers race relations and religion for the Montgomery Advertiser, can be reached at 240-0121 or by fax at 261-1521 or by e-mail at jmcgrew@montgomeryadvertiser.com.

Montgomery Advertiser

Tri-County

COVERING MONTGOMERY, AUTAUGA AND ELMORE COUNTIES



Wednesday
Nov. 20, 2002

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Alabama	3C
Obituaries	4C

Woman's civil rights work honored

Community leaders salute Idessa Williams Redden on her 90th birthday

By Alvin Benn
Montgomery Advertiser

During the civil rights era, those who participated in demonstrations against racial injustice were divided into two categories — leaders and foot soldiers.

Occasionally, a small third category came along. Idessa Williams Redden was placed in it Tuesday afternoon.

"She was more of a drill sergeant," said Quinn Brisen, who flew to Montgomery from Chicago to help honor a woman who meant much to him during a tumultuous period in American history.

More than 100 other local and area residents turned out at the H. Councill Trenholm State Technical College Culinary Arts Center to salute Redden for her upcoming 90th birthday.

While many who took part in the civil rights era were honored during or



Kevin Glackmeyer Advertiser

Idessa Williams Redden, left, was honored Tuesday for civil rights work during a celebration of her 90th birthday. In the background is her son, John Redden Jr.

after that time, most who marched and were jailed have received little recognition other than their own personal satisfaction.

In Redden's case, her praises were literally sung Tuesday with two versions of Bette Midler's popular "Wind Beneath My Wings."

Leroy Barrow, who repre-

sented the Rev. Manuel Williams of Resurrection Catholic Church, added "You are the wind beneath our wings," while Bobby Jackson, who operates the World Heritage Museum of Montgomery, closed the program with his another version.

Jackson also led everyone in a rousing rendition of "Happy Birthday" and made sure it ended with "and many more."

Quinton Ross, who has been elected to represent Senate District 26 in the Legislature, credited Redden and others like her with helping him and other black lawmakers attain a goal unavailable to them before passage of the Voting Rights Act in 1965.

Ross said if he had been in office already, the celebration honoring Redden would have been in the State House "because it is because of you that we are able to walk those halls and make decisions on behalf of this community and this state."

Redden, born in Montgomery on Nov. 27, 1912, registered to vote in 1949 when few blacks in Ala-

bama were allowed to vote. She became a block captain after that and encouraged black Montgomery residents to register.

Elected officials and civic leaders took part in the celebration of Redden's life. Each described the importance of her actions.

"Many of the changes that I take for granted, the likes of Mrs. Idessa Redden were responsible for ushering them in," Alabama historian Richard Bailey said.

Bailey said Redden is a woman who "doesn't make a big to-do over what they've done in this world of ours. Those are the people who don't seek out the honor and the glory and all of the attention."

Redden had little to say as she basked in the honors being bestowed on her. She spoke briefly at the end of the ceremony and said, "Thank you, thank you, thank you."

Alvin Benn, who covers state news for the Montgomery Advertiser, can be reached at 240-0111 or by fax at 261-1521. E-mail him at benn8071@bellsouth.net or abenn@montgomeryadvertiser.com at work.

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Montgomery Advertiser

dedicated works



Kevin Glackmeyer Advertiser

Gwen Patton, left, hugs Idessa Taylor Williams-Redden at her 90th birthday party.

Community turns out for birthday celebration

Idessa Taylor Williams-Redden won't turn 90 until Wednesday, but family and friends turned out last week to honor her at a morning reception in the Joseph L. Dickerson

Culinary Arts Centre at the H. Council Trenholm State Technical College Archives.

Instrumental in both the voting and civil rights movements, she registered as a voter in Alabama in 1949. She said she has spent the last 50 years helping to "uplift my fellow man."

For nearly 30 years she was a family service worker with the Montgomery Community Action Agency. She still devotes many hours to the St. Jude Ladies of Charity.

"I don't do things for honor," she said, "I just do things."

But it was an honor for so many friends to attend the party for her, for which students of the Culinary Arts program, under the direction of Mary Ann Campbell, prepared the refreshments. There to lead the singing of "Happy Birthday" was another of Montgomery's

distinguished seniors, Bobby Jackson.

Many of her fellow church members of St. Jude's Catholic Church were there, as were former co-workers and Trenholm Tech staff and faculty, including the president, Anthony Molina; participants of the Montgomery Friends of the Historic Voting Rights Trail; Quinton Ross, who was recently elected Senator of state District 26; Ella Bell; Larry Barrow; Dr. Richard Bailey; Willy Leventhal; Trenholm archivist Gwen Patton; and the Rev. Tom Gardner.

Coming from Woodbridge, Va., for the event was the honoree's son, John Redden.

Sunday, July 29, 2001 page 1

Montgomery Advertiser

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A GANNETT NEWSPAPER
Incorporating the Alabama Journal, 1993

RETRACING CIVIL RIGHTS

Philadelphia group recalls the movement

The City of Brotherly Love met the birthplace of the civil rights movement this weekend.

For a 14th year, youth from Philadelphia's Martin Luther King Jr. Association for Non-violence started on a "freedom ride" to Alabama's historical sites.

Along the way, they met activists such as Sheyanne Webb-Christburg, who as a child crossed the Edmund Pettus Bridge with demonstrators, and Idessa Redden, an office aide to King.

"In re-blazing this historical trail," said C. Delores Tucker of the association, "the youth discover their own personal value system in accordance with Dr. King's philosophy of non-violence."

—Montgomery Advertiser



David Bundy Staff

Civil rights activists Idessa Redden, left, and Gwen Patton, right, both of Montgomery, are escorted Saturday through the Montgomery Visitor's Center by Cheyney University student Darnell Anderson of Cheyney, Pa.

Committed To The Political, Spiritual, Economical, Educational and Social Development of Black America

Montgomery's WESTSIDE Weekly

VOLUME FOUR No. 21

APRIL 20-26, 1995



Ladies Of Charity Support Special Children

The group above include (from left) Fannie Hawkins, Idessa Redden, Frank May, Jr., administrator of the FPM Center, accepting the Ladies' check; Eunice Lewis, FaTher Matthew Sindik, director of the City of St. Jude; Essie Smith, president of the ladies of Charity, making the presentation; Dorothy Brundidge, secretary; Sister Theresita Sabol, VSC, spiritual advisor; Janie James, vice-president; and Carolyn Tillage.

In addition to their many other charitable projects at the City of St. Jude, the St. Jude Ladies of Charity have a special place in their hearts for the handicapped children at the Father

Harold Purcell Memorial Exceptional Children's Center. Every year they make a generous donation to the Center to help with the care and treatment of its 58 special children.

This year's presentation was made on the feast of St. Louise DeMarillac, their patroness, when the Ladies attended Mass in a body at St. Jude's Church.

An Open Letter To Bob Ingram To Smear Dr. Thad McClammy

Bob Ingram's center-page commentary in the Advertiser (3/28/95) demonstrates, again, the extremes pundits will go through to whitewash racism.

Even a sophist student of logic can deduce that there is an insidious campaign to smear and then to get rid of Thad McClammy once and for all. Why? The answer is as simple today as it was yesterday at the height of the Civil Rights Movement: Many Whites in high places have a deep-seated intolerance, if not down-right hatred of any independent, Black person who advances the progress of the Black community. Leadership of this magnitude is "reversed" for Whites only. Blacks are never to be in control of anything that Whites think important.

In this insistance, Bob Ingram suffers with the "Gone With the Wind" syndrome. Whites of this ilk do not understand Blacks who do not need "White approval" to determine their

Montgomery Herald Day At Montgomery

Volunteer didn't expect recognition

By JORDAN GRUENER

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Jordan Gruener is a staff writer for The Alabama Journal.



Redden



Mrs. Idessa Williams

Tri-County Youth Program Staff



MEMBER OF THE MONTH

Idessa is a life long resident of Montgomery. She hails from a very poor family. She attended the St. John Catholic School and later the Loveless Junior High School where she completed the 9th grade. Being from a poor family, Idessa had to quit school and go to work.

Three months Idessa did domestic work and soon was convinced that this was not her future endeavor. She learned to sew and applied for a job at a sewing factory. She was hired and worked there for ten years. During this time she moved up to a supervisor. To supplement her earnings, she took a course in cosmetology and completed it in six months. She worked in various beauty shops for a short time and later opened a shop of her own.

Idessa cites the greatest turning point in her life was the experience working with the Civil Rights Movement. Quote "There are things about the struggle I will never forget — This period was the happiest part of my life because I was working for a worthy cause. I will never let the dreamer dreams die as long as I am alive." Unquote.

Long before the Civil Rights Movement, Idessa was considered a troublemaker because she fought for better working conditions and wages, but she didn't stop.

Idessa is a Catholic and was one of the few Catholic families in the city at the time Father Harold Purcell came to try to get St. Jude started. She volunteered many hours of service for this cause.

Idessa was very interested in voter education and voter registration. She started classes in her home. She obligated herself to attend workshops in various cities to prepare herself for the vital and most needed work in the south.

Idessa worked with the Barrister Club whose members were black lawyers of the city. She served as chairman of voter registration for the Montgomery Improvement Association from 1964-1968. She always supported the cause of brotherhood long before she understood it to be social service.

In April, 1970, Idessa came to work with the Montgomery Community Action Agency after many volunteer hours given to the cause. She was hired as a teacher's Aide in the Head Start program and was later transferred to the Social Service Department of Head Start. From 1970-1974 Idessa states she made 1,263 home visits, counseled 811 individuals, transported 240 and referred 10 people to vocational training. These were all Head Start families but worked with countless other people that were not Head Start families.

Idessa is grateful for the poverty program for she says it has been very beneficial to her. I have been given an opportunity to study for the G.E.D. test which she took and passed. It also gave her an opportunity to attend night typing classes which has been much help to her.

Redden shares King's advice

By Sean Selman
ADVERTISER STAFF WRITER

Throughout the month of February, the *Montgomery Advertiser* profiled people who participated or contributed to the Montgomery bus boycott.

Not all of what was said would fit into the short profiles.

Idessa Williams Redden, who registered voters on behalf of the Montgomery Improvement Association, had much to say about the movement and its leader.

The following are excerpts from a recent conversation with her about the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr., who served as president of the Montgomery Improvement Association and leader of the boycott:

■ "He was a man among men."

On Monday, Dec. 5, 1955, she and her cousin went to the mass meeting at Holt Street Baptist Church.

"When we got there, we just did

get a seat in the balcony. That was the first I heard of Dr. Martin Luther King."

She asked her cousin who that young man was, and she was told he was the new preacher at Dexter Avenue Baptist Church.



Redden

knew black Montgomery had found the leader they needed.

"I raised my hands, and I said, 'Lord, you have sent us a leader!' — I never had screamed out in church before.

"I knew the good Lord had sent us this man, and I could follow him."

■ Mrs. Redden said she learned from the Rev. Dr. King:

One time she got impatient with a media circus that had gathered in the aisles of the Rev. Dr. King church just before a mass meeting.

She was trying to get to her place and she stepped all over the white cameramen and reporters kneeling in the aisles.

The next day, she was summoned to the Rev. Dr. King's office.

"He said, 'Have a seat.' Then he said, 'Mrs. Williams, we got to love our white brothers.'"

"I said, 'I don't understand.' And he said, 'Mrs. Williams, we got to love our white brothers.' I said, 'What have I done?' He said, 'Mrs. Williams, we got to love our white brothers.'"

"He must have said it five times and it sank in. Then it came to me how rude I was that Monday night. I said, 'Dr. King, I can't promise I will love them better. But I will try.'"

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MARCH 1st - 3rd

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AUDIO EQUIPMENT

MONDAY SPECIAL

Remembering the dream



PATRICIA MIKLIK STAFF

Idessa Redden was one of about 200,000 marchers who descended upon the nation's capital in 1963 in support of pending civil rights legislation.

Marcher thinks of past, looks to future

By Michael Wilson

ADVERTISER STAFF WRITER

The white boy sat quietly in a tree, gazing down at the strong, steady river of black faces on the streets and lawns below.

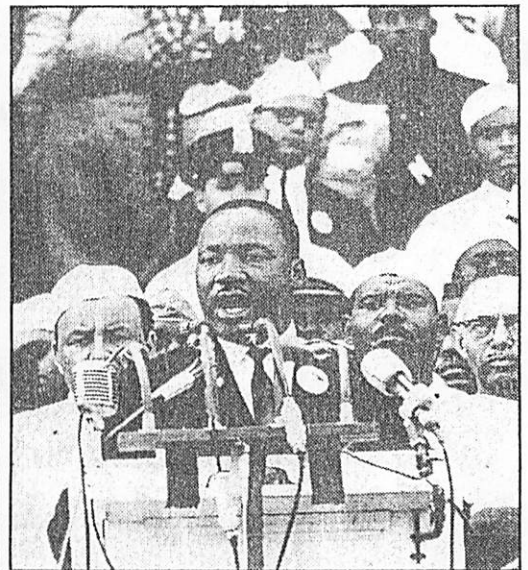
Idessa Redden has a photograph of the boy tucked away somewhere, with the rest of her memorabilia from the civil rights march on Washington, D.C., held 30 years ago this weekend.

"He could see and hear, and he could be seen," she said last week, smiling when the boy unexpectedly tread across her memory.

Mrs. Redden was one of about 200,000 marchers who descended upon the nation's capital in 1963 in support of pending civil rights legislation, 100 years after President Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation took effect.

There, they heard firsthand what their children and grandchildren have

Please turn to **MARCHER, 4A**



FILE PHOTO

Martin Luther King Jr. speaks to thousands gathered in front of the Lincoln Memorial in 1963.

MARCHER

from page 1A

come to call the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.'s greatest speech.

"I have a dream that my four little children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin but by the content of their character," the Rev. Dr. King told his huge audience.

"I'd never seen that many people," Mrs. Redden said, seated in the front room of her Bragg Street residence last week.

A plaque from her family says she's 80 years old. She doesn't look 70.

She could, singlehandedly, fill a chapter of a civil rights textbook. Her stories are spiced with the winks, grins and cackles of a woman who's never stood for any lip.

Before, during and after the civil rights movement, Mrs. Redden had an attitude.

"It was a trying time, but I enjoyed every minute of it," she said. "I have never been a fearful person."

Her face gives away the ending of a story before she gets there. It grinned brightly before she finished this one:

A white man, years ago, pulled her out of the door of a streetcar on Dexter Avenue because, being white, he should have been allowed to board first.

She beat him up with her umbrella. "He didn't get on that streetcar."

A Montgomery activist

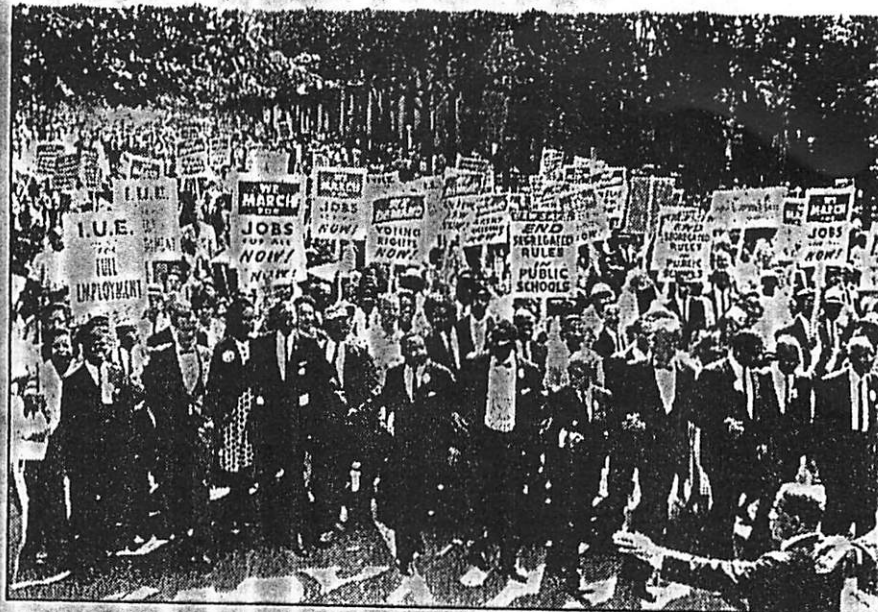
It took her six trips to the voter registration office to be allowed access to a ballot box. In 1956, she began working to register other black voters. By 1961, she was the voter registration director for the Montgomery Improvement Association.

She remembers speeches that spurred her and others to get more blacks on the rolls, like one by the late James Thomas "Cotton Tom" Heflin, mayor, U.S. representative and senator. Mrs. Redden heard him say "no one need ever worry about niggers voting" because they couldn't come up with the \$3 poll tax.

Boy, that set her off. "That made me get out in the streets every afternoon. Weather like this didn't bother me," she said, nodding toward a window keeping out the muggy heat.

'No God-sent leaders'

She laughs easier than she cries and isn't one to get choked up and emotional. But after a string of speeches before the Lincoln Memorial that afternoon in 1963, she remembers falling to her knees when, pushed briskly across



FILE PHOTO

The leaders of the march lock arms as they lead the way along Washington's Constitution Avenue in this photo from August 28, 1963. The Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. is at the center, seventh from right. At extreme right is A. Philip Randolph, the march director. By Mr. Randolph is Roy Wilkins, executive secretary of the NAACP.

the lawn with huge speakers, gospel singer Mahalia Jackson's voice carried the song "How I Got Over."

"I yelled 'Mahalia, sing it, 'cause only the black folks know what you're singing about,'" she recalls. Then a white man, his family nearby, tapped her on the shoulder and told her she was wrong.

She cried when the Rev. Dr. King died.

No one's filled the hole left by his murder, she said. "There's no God-sent leaders now."

She's heading back to the nation's capital Friday, flying this time. She wants to hear today's speeches and songs at the 30th anniversary ceremony Saturday.

A friend's eyes and ears

A friend of Mrs. Redden heard the same speeches and songs in 1963.

Alma Hampton was 55 years old when she climbed aboard a bus with her cousin for the long, hot trip north.

"We got there just in time for the march," Mrs. Hampton recalled last week.

Marchers waited near their bus' parking spots for the growing crowd to reach them before melting into the moving, singing, chanting body.

"I couldn't get tired," Mrs. Hampton said of the long day under the summer sun.

Thirty years later, she does. Her arthritis acts up, and her sight and hearing aren't what they were then, but she can still see the man she calls "my leader" from her spot right before the podium that day.

She can still hear his words.

"From every mountaintop, let freedom ring," the Rev. Dr. King said in his speech.

Unlike her friend, Mrs. Hampton has no souvenirs. They were ruined when the room she kept them in flooded years ago.

"My memories are good," she said, and laughed. "I don't know for how long, though."

She'll depend on Mrs. Redden's eyes and ears to report on the anniversary Saturday. Mrs. Hampton's health will keep her from attending. She hopes this ceremony comes a little closer toward stopping hatred.

"How can I be happy with the world today? It makes me unhappy to see so much hate, and I want love."

"I have had people ask me what makes me happy in my condition. I tell them that I don't hate. That's what makes me happy," she said.

All ages attending

Marisara Graham was born 18 years after the 1963 March on Washington. She's heard recordings of the "I Have A Dream" speech.

She can't help it that she missed the first march, but she's joining other friends from the Metro Montgomery Youth Council of the NAACP on a bus that will take them to the anniversary.

"I want to see a leader of today so I can be one tomorrow," she said. It'll be her first time in Washington.

Meanwhile, Mrs. Redden will be watching Saturday's crowd for a face from yesterday, a three-decade old gem she pulls out and polishes when she speaks of the 1963 trip.

A small girl, maybe 3 years old, was wearing a sash that said "I WAS THERE," Mrs. Redden regrets not taking a photograph of the girl.

"I hope she'll be there this time," Mrs. Redden said.

judged by the color of their skin but by the content of their character," the Rev. Dr. King told his huge audience.

"I'd never seen that many people," Mrs. Redden said, seated in the front room of her Bragg Street residence last week.

A plaque from her family says she's 80 years old. She doesn't look 70.

She could, singlehandedly, fill a chapter of a civil rights textbook. Her stories are spiced with the winks, grins and cackles of a woman who's never stood for any lip.

Before, during and after the civil rights movement, Mrs. Redden had an attitude.

"It was a trying time, but I enjoyed every minute of it," she said. "I have never been a fearful person."

Her face gives away the ending of a story before she gets there. It grinned brightly before she finished this one:

A white man, years ago, pulled her out of the door of a streetcar on Dexter Avenue because, being white, he should have been allowed to board first.

She beat him up with her umbrella. "He didn't get on that streetcar."

A Montgomery activist

It took her six trips to the voter registration office to be allowed access to a ballot box. In 1956, she began working to register other black voters. By 1961, she was the voter registration director for the Montgomery Improvement Association.

She remembers speeches that spurred her and others to get more blacks on the rolls, like one by the late James Thomas "Cotton Tom" Heflin, mayor, U.S. representative and senator. Mrs. Redden heard him say "no one need ever worry about niggers voting" because they couldn't come up with the \$3 poll tax.

Boy, that set her off. "That made me get out in the streets every afternoon. Weather like this didn't bother me," she said, nodding toward a window keeping out the muggy heat.

'No God-sent leaders'

She laughs easier than she cries and isn't one to get choked up and emotional. But after a string of speeches before the Lincoln Memorial that afternoon in 1963, she remembers falling to her knees when, pushed briskly across



FILE PHOTO

The leaders of the march lock arms as they lead the way along Washington's Constitution Avenue in this photo from August 28, 1963. The Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. is at the center, seventh from right. At extreme right is A. Philip Randolph, the march director. By Mr. Randolph is Roy Wilkins, executive secretary of the NAACP.

the lawn with huge speakers, gospel singer Mahalia Jackson's voice carried the song "How I Got Over."

"I yelled 'Mahalia, sing it, 'cause only the black folks know what you're singing about,'" she recalls. Then a white man, his family nearby, tapped her on the shoulder and told her she was wrong.

She cried when the Rev. Dr. King died.

No one's filled the hole left by his murder, she said. "There's no God-sent leaders now."

She's heading back to the nation's capital Friday, flying this time. She wants to hear today's speeches and songs at the 30th anniversary ceremony Saturday.

A friend's eyes and ears

A friend of Mrs. Redden heard the same speeches and songs in 1963.

Alma Hampton was 55 years old when she climbed aboard a bus with her cousin for the long, hot trip north.

"We got there just in time for the march," Mrs. Hampton recalled last week.

Marchers waited near their bus' parking spots for the growing crowd to reach them before melting into the moving, singing, chanting body.

"I couldn't get tired," Mrs. Hampton said of the long day under the summer sun.

Thirty years later, she does. Her arthritis acts up, and her sight and hearing aren't what they were then, but she can still see the man she calls "my leader" from her spot right before the podium that day.

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"I hope she'll be there this time," Mrs. Redden said.

We've always known we had something special and were proud of you. — THE GARRISON —



WOMAN OF THE YEAR

Mrs. Idessa Williams Redden (right) of St. Jude's Parish was the recipient of the Woman of the Year Award from Iota Phi Lambda Sorority, Inc., Mu Chapter, Montgomery, at the group's Fifty First Business Month Celebration held May 11 at South Trust Bank Community Room. Making the presentation in recognition of Mrs. Redden's outstanding accomplishments in the civic, educational, social and religious projects of her community was Mrs. Gertrude Thomas, president of the local chapter. Mrs. Redden, 85 years of age, is a veteran civil rights activist who marched with Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. in 1963 at the nation's capitol and was honored with an invitation to President Lyndon B. Johnson's Inaugural Ball. As one of Montgomery's first civil rights activists she initiated registration drives and held voter education classes in her home. Despite her advanced age Mrs. Redden continues to work today with Montgomery's Head Start Program and is active with the St. Jude Ladies of Charity, especially its ministry to the sick and disabled. Modest about all of her accomplishments, Mrs. Redden's favorite saying is, "I don't do things for honor, I just do things."

A GIFT OF REMEMBRANCE

What better way to honor your loved ones and friends, living or deceased, than by sending a contribution to the City of St. Jude assuring them of a remembrance in all of our spiritual and temporal works of mercy. An acknowledgment card will be sent to the person honored or, if deceased, to the family, as well as a personal acknowledgment to you.

Please write today to:
Mission Director
The City of St. Jude
2048 West Fairview Avenue
Montgomery, Alabama 36108

...as organized by the
...Oncology Group
...sponsored by the
...ancer Institute (NCI) and
...of Research and Women's
...ational Institutes of Health.
...ld in Tuskegee to emphasize
...h studies will never be done
...RTOG is a national cancer
...arch organization sponsored and
...ded by the National Cancer
...stitute and administered by the
...American College of Radiology
...(ACR). It is made up of more than 200
...leading medical facilities across the
...nation and Canada.

Because of fears generated by the
Tuskegee experiments, where the 400
men were left untreated by U.S.
Government scientists to examine the
effects of the disease, African-
Americans have been reluctant to
take part in other clinical trials. NCI
has reported that while African-
Americans make up 15 percent of the
populations, only 2-4 percent of those
participating in cancer prevention
trials are African-Americans.

The report notes that cancer death
rates are some 50 percent higher for
African-American men than for white
men and are some 20 percent higher

potentially better...
The report, published in the form of
a booklet, contains a series of
telephone numbers to contact for more
information about joining clinical
trials. To obtain a free copy of the
booklet, Clinical Trials, Improving
Health Care for African-Americans,
write to ACR Publishing Sales, PO
Box 2348, Merrifield, VA 22116.

Montgomeryians Respond To "Operation Care"

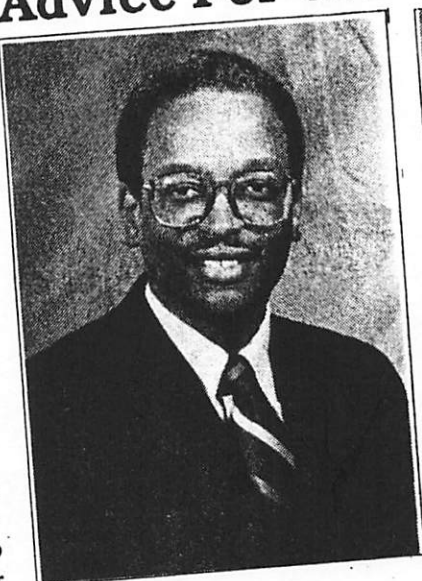
Montgomeryians responded in droves
to "Operation Care" May 3 and 4,
with more than 650 of those receiving
free medical check ups at Abston Air
National Guard Station that weekend
being referred for medical or dental
follow ups on June 7 and 8.

The Montgomery Primary Health
Care Center on the Mobile Highway
will open until 4 p.m. each day to
receive those patients referred for
follow up medical and dental services.

MPHCC is one of two urban health
centers operated by Health Services,
Inc., a non-profit corporation
providing primary health care services
to the medically underserved residents
of Montgomery and surrounding
counties.

...glad he did. And...
...thank you, sir.
I would also like to ask three family

Advice For Grad



CURT FIELDS

After the graduation parties have
ended and the thank you letters are
written, graduates must turn their
attention to two things: Jobs and
success.

What will make a person successful
in his or her adult endeavors? What

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but s...
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exper...
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more...
tests...
writin...
world...
resume...
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Mrs. Idessa W. Redden of St. Jude's Parish Recipient of the Woman of the Year Award

Mrs. Idessa Williams Redden (right)
of St. Jude's Parish was the recipient
of the Woman of the Year Award
from Iota Phi Lambda Sorority, Inc.,
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up's Fifty-First Business Month
Celebration held May 11 at the South
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Making the presentation in recognition
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plishments in the civic, educational,
social and religious projects of her
community was Mrs. Gertrude
Thomas, president of the local chapter.
The 85 year old Mrs. Redden is a
veteran civil rights activist who
marched with Dr. Martin Luther King,
Jr. in 1963 at the notions capitol and
was honored with an invitation to
President Lyndon B. Johnson's
inaugural Ball. As one of
Montgomery's first civil rights
activists she initiated registration
drives and held voter education classes
in her home. She also served as
chairperson of Voter Registration for
the Montgomery Improvement
Association. Despite her advanced age
Mrs. Redden continues to work today
with Montgomery's Head Start
Program and is active with the St.
Jude Ladies of Charity especially in
its ministry to the sick and disabled
and her first love—the children's
program. Mrs. Redden's favorite
saying is, "I don't do things for honor,
I just do things." (Photo by Ann Little)



M/gy - Tuskegee Times, P.1, 5/29/97

2/27/96

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Montgomerian registered black voters



MARK MILLER/STAFF

Idessa Williams Redden, now 83, made it her mission to register black voters in Montgomery for 18 years.

Idessa Williams Redden 1912 -

During the Montgomery bus boycott, Idessa Williams Redden worked long and hard for the Montgomery Improvement Association, registering blacks to vote. And she relishes her memories of the struggle.

"Oh, some glorious days," she said. "I enjoyed it, and I learned a lot, too. I had a chance to meet so many people."

When Rufus King stepped down as chairman of the group's voter registration arm in 1962, Mrs. Redden assumed the job.

A Montgomery native, Mrs. Redden moved away from the city for a time but returned with her husband in 1955, just one month before Rosa Parks' arrest.

She first heard of the boycott from her cousin the night before it began.

"I didn't believe we, as black people, were just going to stay off the city line," Mrs. Redden said.

But she was surprised Dec. 5, 1955, as she watched buses running

through her neighborhood without a single black face staring out the windows.

"I said to myself, 'Maybe these people do mean business.'"

By 1956, Mrs. Redden had begun registering voters for Mr. Lewis. She was the captain of Precinct 2 North, bordered by Early, Bell and Goode streets and Air Base Boulevard. At the time there were only 400 registered black voters in the precinct.

"I had a team of ladies working with me. We'd go out in the afternoon," Mrs. Redden said. She and the others would ask residents if they were registered to vote, then offer to register them if they were not.

"Some told us no, some told us lies, but we kept at them," Mrs. Redden said. "When I stopped, or rather, when I slowed down, we had about 3,000 registered up there."

She remained chairwoman of the Montgomery Improvement Association's voter registration efforts until 1974.

— Sean Selman/Staff

COMING THURSDAY: *Alabama Senate Judiciary Committee*

1d 66/ee/5 5/22/99 P.
Wfg - Tuskegee - Mrs. 5/22/99



D.L. THOMAS

Thomas, who serves as the department's Animal Control coord

Fairse Thomas Sr.

Before joining the work force, Thomas was a homemaker.

She decided she wanted to do something different, so she went to work for the city's police department.

In 1989, she attended the department's police academy and became a sworn officer.

"I always wanted to become a police officer," She said.

Thomas said she'll miss work, but she's eager to be at home with her family.

"After my retirement, we'll do some traveling and just enjoy life," she said. Thomas and her husband are parents of three adult children, Eleanor, Fairse Jr. and Michael.

They are members of Bethel Missionary Baptist Church.

Officer D.L. Thomas will be retiring from the Montgomery Police Department on April 30, 1999. Officer Thomas has been with the Police Department for 25 years. Officer Thomas was employed with the Police

Officer Thomas also worked pool games at Crampton Bowl. In 1990, Officer Thomas became Assistant Supervisor of Animal Control. Officer Thomas also served subpoenas and Affidavit's for the court.

Officer Thomas will be the first Animal Control Officer to retire from the Montgomery Police Department

Former Montgomerian, Mabo



St. Jude Altar Society Honors Senior Mothers



The Altar Society of St. Jude Church honored six Senior Mothers at a special Mothers Day Mass. Each mother was presented with a white carnation corsage. The youth of the church presented a program including a poem read by Amber Bradford and a performance by the St. Jude Dance Group.

Church