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Collection 53
Elizabeth Bettie B. Bradshaw Collection
of NAACP Materials

By Paul Buckley
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Biography/History

Elizabeth “Bettie” B. Bradshaw (1921-2011) was a newspaper columnist, state worker, and Trenton resident for the entirety of her life. A graduate of Trenton State Teachers College, she began writing her column “Looking at Trenton” in 1949 for the New Jersey Afro-American Newspaper. She retired from the State Department of Labor’s Division of Unemployment Disability Insurance in 1987 after 40 years. She died in Decatur, GA, on June 13, 2011 at the age of 90.

The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People was founded in 1909 in Springfield, Illinois, and became a prominent organization during the Civil Rights Movement. Its mission is to “secure the political, educational, social, and economic equality of rights in order to eliminate race-based discrimination and ensure the health and well-being of all persons.”

Scope and Content Notes

A March 1991 newspaper clipping states that Bradshaw donated her collection of “important newspaper clippings, photos and stories” dating back to the 1950s to the library. At the present, the items in this collection are the only material found in Trentoniana that is directly attributed to her. When other items are located, they will be added to this collection.

This collection consists of programs from annual NAACP conventions, letters concerning the conventions and publications that were given out during the conventions, NAACP reports, newspaper clippings, and printed matter from different Black activist groups, dating from the 1950s to the 1980s. These materials are contained within 7 folders in one manuscript box. Though original order is unknown, it is likely that these items had been arranged by year.

Notable items include the funeral program for Medgar Evers, a re-election flyer for Irene H. Smith, a NAACP appointment calendar, and a flyer from 1976 featuring a picture of the oldest and the youngest members of the NAACP (aged 102 and 2, respectively).

Container List

Folder 1: NAACP Annual Convention Agendas/Programs/Memos/Letters (1950s)

- NAACP 46th Annual National Convention Program, June 20-26, 1955
Includes numerous beverage advertisements, including Pepsi ad with African-American model
- NAACP 46th Annual Convention Program, June 21-26, 1955
- Letter invitation to the 4th Annual Freedom Dinner, December 12, 1956
- Testimonial Dinner honoring Dr. Ulysses S. Wiggins, May 10, 1958

Folder 2: NAACP Annual Convention Agendas/Programs/Memos/Letters (1960s)

- NAACP National Convention Program, Chicago, Il, July 1-6, 1963
- NAACP Fight for Freedom Fund and Awards Dinner Program, July 5, 1963
- Letter to NJ chapter of NAACP, welcoming to 1964 convention in Washington, June 20, 1964
- Appeal letter from SNCC, c. 1965
- Copy of the American Federationist Magazine printed by AFL-CIO on civil rights, November 1966
- 7th Annual Boston Branch NAACP Awards Banquet, 1966-7
Includes illustrations and short story on “Black Power” by Al Capp
- NAACP Positive Program for Boston Annual Report, 1969

Folder 3: NAACP Annual Convention Agendas/Programs/Memos/Letters (1970s)

- 63rd NAACP Convention Program, July 3-7, 1972 in Detroit, MI
- 66th NAACP Annual Convention Schedule in Washington, DC, June 30-July 4, 1975
- 66th Annual Convention Memorial Services Flyer for deceased officers, June 30, 1975 in Washington, DC
- Mississippi Crisis: The NAACP branches Respond, pamphlet, 1977
- 68th Annual NAACP Convention Schedule, June 27 to July 1, 1977 in St. Louis, MO
- 70th Annual NAACP Freedom Fund and Awards Dinner Program, June 29, 1979 in Louisville, KY
Includes postcard of Galt House Hotel that hosted the event
- 70th Annual NAACP Convention Souvenir Journal/Program, June 25 - 29, 1979 in Louisville, KY
- Information concerning the Thalheimer Awards for NAACP branches, June 29, 1979 in Louisville, KY
- Memo to State Conference Presidents of NAACP regarding Voter Registration Drives for high school students, August 1979

Folder 4: NAACP Annual Convention Agendas/Programs/Memos/Letters (1980s)

- “A Call to Political Action in 1980” NAACP Voter Education Dept. Appeal Letter, 1980, undated
- NAACP 25th Annual Fellowship Dinner Program, January 13, 1980, in Sheraton Centre Hotel, New York, NY

- NAACP 25th Annual Fellowship Dinner Flyer, January 13, 1980, in Sheraton Centre Hotel, New York, NY
- Report of the Executive Director to the NAACP Annual Membership & Board of Directors, January 14, 1980, New York, NY
- *The NAACP Leader Legislative Update* Letter, January 1980
- 77th Annual NAACP Convention Announcement, June 29, 1986
- 77th Annual NAACP Convention Program, June 29 to July 3, 1986, in Baltimore, MD

Folder 5: Publications (1955-1971)

- “Article One” Magazine by New York State Commission Against Discrimination, July 13, 1955
- “The Crisis” Magazine, April 1966
- “The Road Ahead”, 1967, publication of Boston NAACP
- “College and the Black Student”, 1969, publication of Boston NAACP
- 1971 NAACP Appointment Calendar

Folder 6: Publications (1980-1985)

- “Key Travel” Magazine, June 28-July 4, 1980
- “The Crisis” Magazine, October 1980
- “Tony Brown’s Journal”, January/March 1984
- “Tony Brown’s Journal”, 2nd Quarter 1985
- “The State of Black America” 1985 Report by National Urban League

Folder 7: Miscellaneous Printed Materials

- Undated biographical sketch of Mitchell Andrew Davis (1891-1918), the only African-American from Trenton, NJ, to die in World War I
- Undated list of the first Black police, firemen, and correction officers for the city of Trenton
- NAACP program for Medgar Evers memorial service, June 1963
- Newspaper clipping, “Roy Wilkins: The end of a long hard career”, from Sunday Times Advertiser, Trenton, NJ, July 3, 1977
- About the retirement of Roy Wilkins, 46 year president of the NAACP
- Virginia NAACP advertisement for Life Membership featuring William Vest (then 102 ½ years old) and Murphy Pepper (then 2 ½ years old), dated 10/10/1976
- Two re-election pamphlets for Irene H. Smith, president of the New Jersey State Conference of NAACP Branches
- Photocopy of “Collection is donated to library branch” article from the March 16, 1991 edition of the Times of Trenton, describes how Bettie B. Bradshaw donated her collection of papers to the Trenton Free Public Library