

**NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF COLORED PEOPLE**

P. O. BOX 598

MARIETTA, GEORGIA 30061

(404) 425-5757

**1985-86 OFFICERS**

Oscar R. Freeman, Jr.  
President

John F. Perdue  
Vice President

Randolph Scott  
2nd Vice President

Willie Hill  
3rd Vice President

W. Pearl Freeman  
Secretary

John T. Kilgore  
Treasurer

October 10, 1985

Mr. William Bradford Reynolds  
Assistant U. S. Attorney General  
Civil Rights Division  
United States Department of Justice  
Washington, D. C. 20530

**EXECUTIVE BOARD  
MEMBERS**

Leola Anderson  
Johnnie Banks  
Deanne Bonner  
Frances Broughton  
Rev. Hugh Byrd  
Ernest Christian  
Rev. William Collins, Jr.  
Luther Copeland  
Attie J. DeVille  
James Dodd  
Larry Ezzard  
Mack Eppinger  
Dover Ferrell  
W. Sue Hill  
Carol Howell  
William Howell  
Bishop - J. D. Husband  
Rev. R. L. Johnson  
Lola M. Jones  
Edna Lockhart  
Sarah Nichols  
Walter G. Robinson  
Lindsey Scott  
Dr. Harris T. Travis  
Annie M. Solomon  
Dr. Joseph H. Silver  
Lorenzo Woods  
A. W. Young

Dear Mr. Reynolds:

I am writing as President of the Cobb County, Georgia Branch of the NAACP about a very serious matter which I would hope you would give your immediate attention and consideration.

The City of Marietta, a municipality of about 40,000 residents and the county seat of Cobb County (pop. 350,000), is home to a substantial majority of the minority population of Cobb County. The independent Marietta public school system educates an overwhelming majority of the minority student population of the county. (The Marietta school system population is about 28 percent black.)

During the 1984 session of the Georgia General Assembly, the State Legislature, by private act, annexed the Kennesaw Mountain Battlefield National park, composed entirely of federal property, into the city limits of Marietta.

This annexation was pre-cleared by your office in a letter dated December 10, 1984.

While there are no residents on the federal property and no property tax dollars involved, the park is important to the City of Marietta in that it opens a gateway to the west for expansion of the city limits in that direction. The mountain previously had served as a natural barrier.

Marietta is faced with barriers, natural and legislative, on essentially all other fronts, precluding normal growth by annexation in those directions. Westward, on the other side of the national park property, is the only feasible direction Marietta can look toward for future growth. Most of the land in that direction is undeveloped and would be residential.

Continued balanced growth through voluntary annexations by the City of Marietta is important to the minority community of Marietta because of the following factors:

- (1) The City of Marietta is home to a substantial majority of the minority population of Cobb County. It is through the City of Marietta, as a block and as a political entity, that this minority population is able to be heard at the county and state levels of government. To dilute the political clout of the City of Marietta as a whole, through annexation constraints like de-annexation of the national park, would serve to further disenfranchise the minority electorate.
- (2) To deny Marietta growth by closing the door to the west could, in all probability, cause further detrimental effect to the minority community since because of the demographics involved, the minority community would continue to grow disproportionately to the entire city, resulting in "white flight" to suburban Cobb County and its almost totally white county school system and neighborhoods. This would serve to further disenfranchise minority others who would have no political voice at all as a black island in a sea of conservative, white suburbanite Cobb County residents. Cobb, one of the fastest-growing counties in the United States, will continue to boom in its growth, reducing the political clout of the city, especially if the city is not allowed reasonable and balanced growth.
- (3) Closing the primary avenue of growth of the City of Marietta also would have a disadvantageous impact on the minority community in that without normal growth and expansion of the tax base, rising costs would force higher taxes, felt most severely in the generally less affluent minority community.
- (4) Constraining Marietta growth, particularly in the area where residential growth would be anticipated, would be to deny the independent Marietta public school system its very viability and threatening its continued existence because a reasonable student population level must be maintained to make the school system viable. Again, if the ratio of minority-to-white in the school population increases, it could well result in white flight, resulting in an integrated school system.

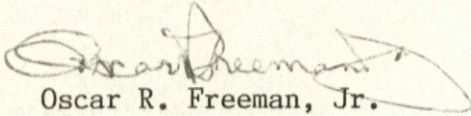
In its 1985 legislative session, the Georgia General Assembly, on an act of political whim and expediency, voted by private act (an action requiring but three votes in the Georgia Senate and six votes in the Georgia House, voted to de-annex the south half of the national park from the City of Marietta. This returns no tax dollars to the county. But it would have a disastrous impact on the City of Marietta and its minority community for the reasons stated above and for other reasons.

The City of Marietta, supported by the Georgia Municipal Association and the Cobb County NAACP, asked the Governor of Georgia, Joe Frank Harris, to veto

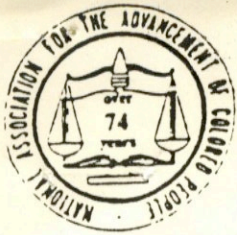
the national park de-annexation bill. The governor met with city officials personally and carefully considered the request, telling them that he understood their arguments and concerns. Governor Harris ultimately signed the bill because of political considerations, saying he could not veto it since local legislators had passed it as local legislation and there was no historical precedent for vetoing local legislation. (It should also be noted, as city official pointed out to the governor, that there was no historic precedent for legislative de-annexation against the will of the municipality involved.)

So the United States Justice Department is our last avenue of appeal. We ask you to carefully consider this de-annexation measure and then to disallow it because of its detrimental impact on the minority community of Marietta.

Sincerely,



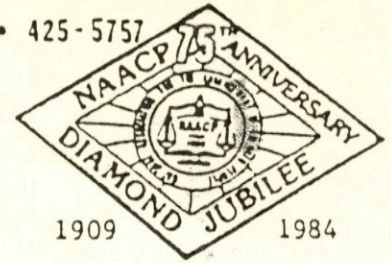
Oscar R. Freeman, Jr.  
President, NAACP  
Cobb County Branch



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION for the ADVANCEMENT of COLORED PEOPLE

COBB COUNTY BRANCH • P.O. BOX 593 MARIETTA, GA 30061 • 425-5757

June 29, 1984



1983-1985 OFFICERS

Oscar R. Freeman, Jr.  
President

Lindsay Scott  
Vice President

Annie M. Solomon  
2nd Vice President

Rev. William Collins, Jr.  
3rd Vice President

Gloria Miller  
Secretary

John T. Kilgore  
Treasurer

EXECUTIVE BOARD  
MEMBERS

Leola Anderson  
Deane Bonner  
Jesse Bonner  
Mary Cater  
Ernest Christian  
Luther Copeland  
Essie Densmore  
Melinda Darts  
Edwin Dryer  
Dover Ferrell  
Marsha Gaber  
Hugh Grogan, Jr.  
Anna Johnson  
Rev. Robert L. Johnson  
Rev. B. J. Lockhart  
Edna Lockhart  
George Miller, Jr.  
James Moody  
Walter Robinson  
Randolph Scott  
Rosa Scott  
Ernestine Slade  
Dr. Harris T. Travis  
Kathryn Woods

Dr. Betty Siegel, President  
Kennesaw College  
Frey Lake Road NW  
Kennesaw, GA 30144

Dear Dr. Siegel:

The Executive Board of the Cobb County NAACP and the Black leadership in Cobb County have established an initial coming together with the administrative officers of Kennesaw College, to help contribute to an environment that is supportive of guided growth and greater representation of blacks at Kennesaw College. We are hopeful this cooperative relationship will facilitate improved participation of blacks at all levels.

It has been brought to our attention that, as we are striving for support of minorities currently at the College, there is an area of serious concern. More specifically, I am writing in response to a complaint against Kennesaw College involving personnel decisions concerning recognition for promotions based upon years of employment and job performance.

Based upon the report given to us by two employees under the direct responsibility of the Office of Controller, it would seem there are very strong indications of race, sex, and age discrimination in promotion decisions.

During our conference with the Kennesaw employees, it was alleged that blacks are not promoted on an equal basis as are whites. Out of the twenty plus campus custodians, there has not been a black elevated to a supervisory position when there are blacks who have experience ranging from 5 to 15 years, who are qualified for promotions, and who have been overlooked for promotions in selection for white employees who have fewer years of experience, and who are younger white males.

Dr. Betty Siegel, President - 2 -

If this information has not been reported accurately, we welcome the exact status of this very serious complaint. Please advise me as to the action we can cooperatively take to resolve this issue. We will be available to meet with you and your staff.

Sincerely,



Oscar R. Freeman, Jr.  
PRESIDENT- COBB COUNTY NAACP

cc: Dr. Joseph H. Silvers  
Dr. Ed Rugg  
Dr. Roger Hopkins  
Mr. Earl Shinholster  
Mr. Jerry Dodd  
Mr. Robert Flannagan  
EXECUTIVE BOARD

# **COBB NAACP LIFE MEMBERS**



**DEANE BONNER**



**DOVER FERRELL**

**THOMAS E. MISHOU**

## **1984 LIFE SUBSCRIBING MEMBERS**

LUTHER COPELAND  
JERRY DODD  
ANNA JOHNSON  
WILLIAM QUINCE  
WALTER ROBINSON  
HARRIS TRAVIS  
JESSE BONNER  
THE LINKS

Oscar R. Freeman, Jr., Branch President  
Cobb County Branch NAACP  
P.O. Box 598  
Marietta, Georgia 30061  
425-5757



Greetings:

To our many supporters and this years award winners . . . .

The Cobb County Branch NAACP takes this opportunity to express our thanks and appreciation to you. Your friendship in the struggle for economic equality and justice for Black Americans has been the cornerstone of many years of success.

Your financial and moral support to our 3rd Annual Freedom Fund Awards Banquet represents and also is a testimony to the plain and simple language of your attitude and willingness to continue in the struggle. Though, the challenge and the insurmountable odds to make things better for those who were left out have been many, it goes without saying how much we appreciate you.

As we approach the 21st century it becomes seemly, "so hard, so difficult to find men and women who will stick to a purpose, who will maintain a principle, for the good of that purpose. If there is a race that needs such men and women in the world today, God Almighty, knows it is the race of which I am a member."

High honor and praise goes up to God who has permitted the Cobb County Branch NAACP to attract just a few of such persons as afore mentioned. We are exceedingly grateful for the success that has come as a result of the dedicated men and women of this local branch to the minority citizens of this county. We believe that we are on the right track. It has been said that the immediate things we do right away, the impossible takes a little longer.

This year marks three years of celebrating past achievements at the local level. Therefore, we take pride in surrounding you our friends, with a climate for gala festivities so all can come and share with us those special feelings, one receives when an event takes place for a group of dedicated people who have added much to the community in which they reside.

Cobb County Branch NAACP members and supporters collectively extend special congratulations to this year's winners. We also take this opportunity to sincerely thank those who have worked so hard and diligently to make this banquet the enormous success we are witnessing this evening.

Remember that, "Prayer is the key, and faith unlocks the door."

Yours . . . . . and HIS,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Oscar R. Freeman, Jr.", written in a cursive style.

Oscar R. Freeman, Jr.  
President

Thursday, February 19, 1987

# COBB/GEORGIA

## Cobb full of bias, black leaders say

By Katie Long

Marietta Daily Journal Staff Writer

Cobb County could turn into another Forsyth County, local black leaders say, if county officials keep "closing the door on us" and ignoring racial problems.

Anger at the Cobb Commission's failure to form a human rights commission to address race relations sparked a press conference Wednesday by black activist Mary Cater, outgoing NAACP President Oscar Freeman, Marietta businessman Mack Eppinger and IBM analyst Thomas Carter.

"The Cobb County Commission is closing the door on us and giving off the message: 'Blacks, take it as you get it,'" said Cater, a one-time candidate for the state Legislature. "They may not throw rocks or be members of the klan, but their mentality is just as bad."

Carter drew a comparison between Cobb and Forsyth counties, saying the other Georgia county didn't want to discuss its problems either, "until one day 20,000 people showed up."

"We are telling you as civil rights activists that we have potential serious problems right here in Cobb County," Freeman added. "We won't let them divide our community. We are going to band together and we will have a human relations council."

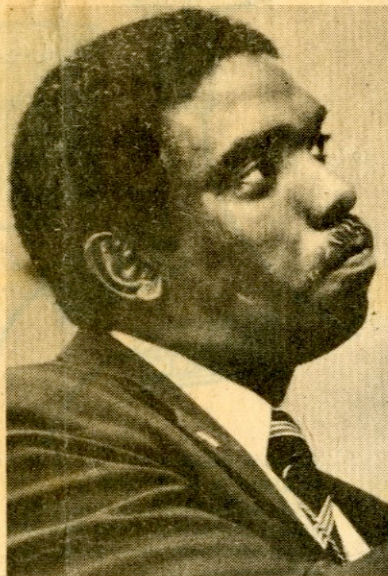
Rose Sanders, executive assistant to commission Chairman Earl Smith, said Carter had expressed his displeasure over the matter to the commission last week. The commission will respond to his comments within 30 days as is the normal procedure with public comments, she said.

Sanders added that Freeman has requested meetings with Smith or the commission several times, "but every time sends someone in his place," as was the case last week.

The focus of the dissatisfaction is a recent Housing and Urban Development Grant awarded to the county. County officials want to use the \$75,000 grant, earmarked by HUD for a "Housing and Community Development Assistance Program," for a telephone help line operated through the county's Emergency Aid Office as well as a housing data base.

Black leaders say they are unhappy because county officials are now planning something other than what they requested.

In December 1983, Cater said she and other representatives from Cobb's black community appealed



Oscar Freeman  
'Serious problems'



Mary Cater  
Says door closed



Thomas Carter  
Wants council set up

to the commission for the creation of a human relations council to deal solely with race relations.

In February 1984, the possibility of such a council was discussed a second time, Cater said, and then-Marietta Mayor Bob Flournoy submitted a proposal to create it.

But Cater said the proposal was later changed without anyone notifying the black community. County officials attached other social problems to the original request for a race relations council, which black leaders say will take the emphasis from what they consider a major problem.

The first time the black community heard of the grant, and the proposed Cobb Community Relations Council was in December 1986, Freeman added.

"Why weren't we informed?" Freeman asked. "The real problem is that we started the push and we didn't even know the money was coming until we read about it in the paper. It doesn't even deal with racial problems."

County representative Sanders said the Rev. Bill Collins, active in the black community before he moved recently, was very much involved in the drafting of the county's resolution, passed in February 1985.

By making the human relations council a combined race relations-child abuse and social problem catch-all, Cater said, it cannot adequately address racial concerns.

"That clutters it down to the point that it will never deal with race relations," she said. "Our demand is for a real human relations council. We have too many problems not to have one."

Cater and her fellow black leaders said they want a 16-member council to address racial problems in housing, on the job, in school and with the police.

They want to appoint one black member from each of the county's six cities and want representation from other civil rights groups in the county.

"We don't want a black board, we want a bi-racial council," Cater said. "Then we can discuss what this county needs."





**Betty Siegel**

# voting, Cobb NAACP re-elects Freeman as head

Novak  
Writer

NAACP's regular  
s was thrown out  
headquarters in  
zation held a new  
ected its president,

of the National  
se/ancement of  
old  
\$1

Colored People had ruled that there were "sufficient irregularities" in the December election held by the Cobb NAACP for the results of the election to be voided. The new election was held Tuesday night.

"I am totally delighted that this is over and finished," Freeman said Wednesday.

The new vice president is John

Perdue, a retired school administrator. Second vice president is Randolph Scott, a federal employee, and third vice president is Willie Hill, who works for the Marietta Board of Education.

The new secretary is Pearl Freeman, president Freeman's wife, who works for the Marietta Tax Department. Treasurer Thomas Kil-

gore was unopposed.

Members who called for a new election did so because they objected to voting procedures in the December election, Freeman said. The organization's membership was not large enough to permit voting for 12 hours, as some members thought, but only for six hours.

# Local NAACP official urges deannexation veto

By Bob David

Marietta Daily Journal Staff Writer

The president of the Cobb County National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, saying that blacks will be "detrimentally affected economically and educationally" if two bills deannexing property from Marietta are signed by Gov. Joe Frank Harris, has thrown his support behind the city in the deannexation feud and is urging the governor to veto the legislation.

In a letter being sent today to Harris, Oscar R. Freeman, president of the Cobb chapter of the NAACP, says that the Cobb County School System is leading the effort to stymie the future growth of Marietta, "and at least part of that effort is racially motivated to keep the black population of the county hemmed in within the confines of the Marietta."

"That is fine with us. Our people want to live in the City of Marietta.

It is their home and they love it.

"The inability of the city to continue to grow through reasonable and voluntary annexations would threaten or imperil the very existence of the (Marietta city) school system," the letter says.

The city of Marietta and the Cobb County Board of Education have been embroiled in a long-standing dispute over Marietta annexations.

The county board says that the annexations unfairly reduce their tax base, while city officials deny the charge.

"We are at a disadvantage when educators step out of their realm and into politics. They should stay within their calling — which is to educate our children — and leave politics alone," Freeman said in an interview Wednesday afternoon.

Dr. Wade Sholes, assistant superintendent for policy and administrative services for Cobb County Public Schools, said today that the

annexation/deannexation issue is not one of politics, but one of "equity."

"We have always tried to talk about equity and being able to provide for our students a budget built on a solid tax base," he said. "When that tax base continues to erode for any reason — be it annexations or anything else — we become concerned. This has never been anything but an equity question."

Sholes denied Freeman's statement that Cobb school officials are trying to halt the growth of Marietta.

"We have never said that, and we are not doing that; but where is it going to stop, at the Alabama line?" he said.

Freeman, who wrote the letter as a "concerned individual citizen of Cobb County and as president of the Cobb NAACP," said that he was taking the action for the black

population of the city and county, although the members of the NAACP did not take a vote on the matter.

"One of my jobs is to be a keynote speaker for the NAACP of Cobb as a whole," Freeman said. "I listen to the sentiments of those in the NAACP and also to those not in the group. So when I speak, I speak for the majority of county blacks."

The black population of Marietta is approximately 30 percent of the estimated 37,000 who live in the city, while blacks in the county make up about 5 percent of the total population. The NAACP has about 850 members in Cobb.

The deannexation measures, which would return the southern half of Kennesaw Mountain National Battlefield Park south of the Dallas Highway and four adjacent private parcels to the county, passed the state Senate on the last day of this year's General Assembly — March 8

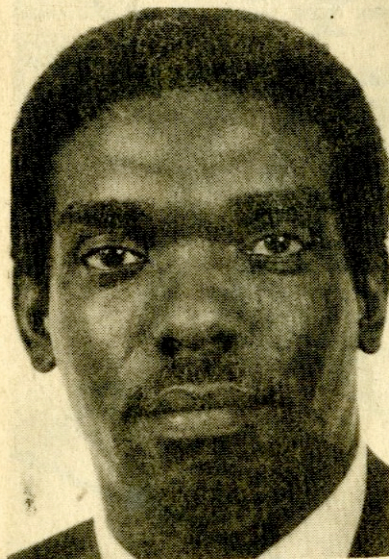
— and were then sent on to the governor.

Although Harris — who is expected to sign the bills because they were passed as "local legislation" with the required signatures from the Cobb legislative delegation — has until April 17 to decide whether to sign or veto the bills, he will probably pass judgment on the legislation on or before April 12.

If he does not act on the bills, they will automatically become law.

Legislation to deannex the entire 2,800-acre park from the city was introduced during the session but failed due to a lack of support from local legislators.

Freeman, who lives outside the city limits of Marietta on Sonya Drive, said that Harris' approval of the bills would cause the city "to go the way of other cities, particularly those in DeKalb County, which have stagnated and died because their growth was blocked."



Oscar R. Freeman  
Cobb NAACP president

# Cobb minorities make strides toward equal job and business opportunities

By Ellie Novek

Staff Writer

Minority citizens of Cobb County are making progress, but still have a long way to go before they are fully represented in the community, according to Cobb NAACP president Oscar Freeman.

Though it helps cope with frequent racial slurs and an occasional incident of violence, the Cobb branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People concentrates on economic development for blacks in their county.

Operation Fair Share, in which the NAACP asks businesses or governments to commit themselves to adding blacks to their management teams, has one enthusiastic participant in Cobb and may soon have two more.

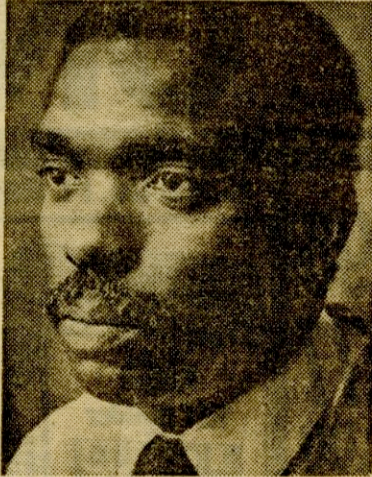
Cobb-based Georgia State Bank agreed last year to hire and promote more minority employees and to make an effort to lend money to blacks who want to start their own businesses.

"When you walk into an institution in Cobb County and there are no blacks in positions of power, something is wrong," Freeman said. "We are saying, 'we want an opportunity, but we don't want you to be afraid that we're going to abuse that opportunity.'"

Since the agreement with Georgia State Bank was signed, "blacks have come to us saying that this agreement has enhanced their chances of making a substantial loan to start a business."

This attitude marks a change in the way lending institutions in Cobb view their black customers, Freeman said. In the past, local banks would offer blacks auto loans or short-term loans for buying things, but would not be willing to offer longer-term loans for starting businesses.

Because of this, young blacks



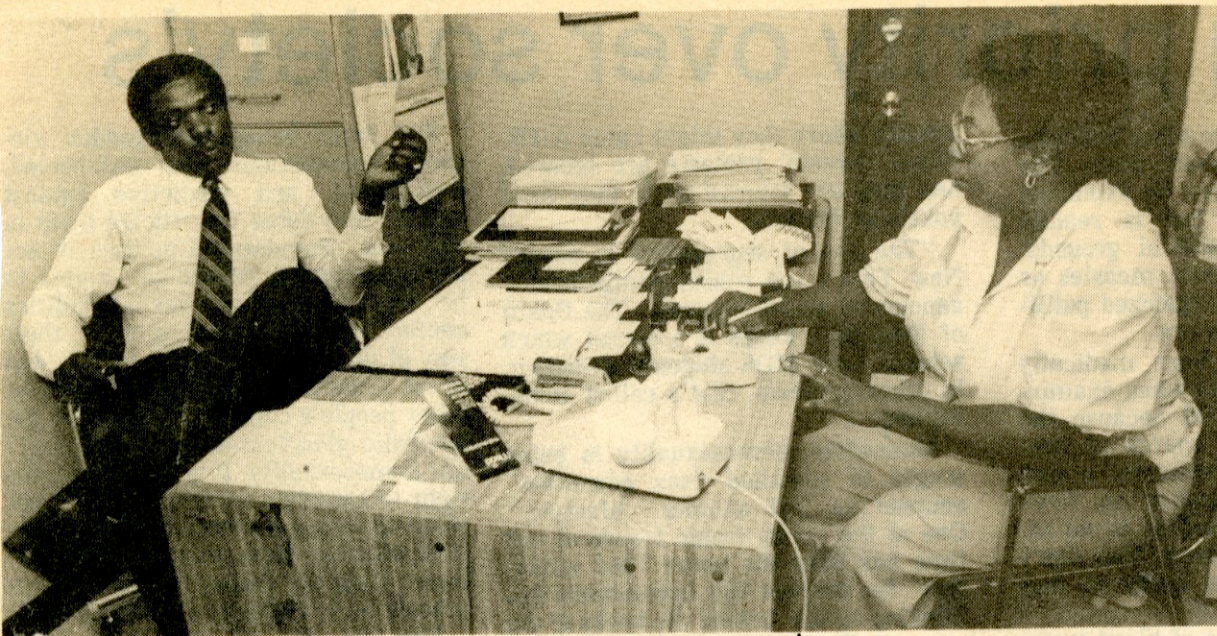
Oscar Freeman

who went to college and became professionals rarely returned to Cobb County to share their skills with their community because they could not borrow money to get started, he said.

The NAACP is negotiating with another local bank and a large municipal government for Fair Share agreements, "where they can be as proud of what they've reached out to do as the other people who are involved," Freeman said.

In other developments, Kennesaw College has set up a task force to study young black business people, and Southern Technical Institute has its own youth chapter of the NAACP.

And the NAACP has applied for a \$7,000 Community Development Block Grant.



Cobb NAACP president Oscar Freeman Jr., discusses the agency's new Advocacy Employment Service Program with assistant Barbara Head. The pilot-program is designed to assist the unemployed and underemployed in their job search.

# Cobb NAACP begins employment program

By Denise Keefer  
Marietta Daily Journal Business Writer

Underemployment is a problem which is not often associated with Cobb County; with over 160,000 people working throughout the area, Cobb is generally seen as having a healthy employment picture.

The problem does exist, however, and it is most prevalent among local minorities.

The Cobb County branch of the NAACP has begun a pilot program which targets the unemployed and the underemployed, the first such program approved for any branch of the 76-year-old association.

The program is funded with a community services block grant.

"We received a three-month grant for this pilot program, which will expire at the end of this month," explained Oscar R. Freeman, Jr., president of the Cobb County NAACP branch. "The nation is really focusing on us now, to see just what we can accomplish with this Advocacy Employment Service Program."

He added that initial results seem to indicate that the program has been successful, and that pre-applications have already been filed for a \$30,000 grant to continue through fiscal year 1986,

with an initial service goal of 200 persons for the upcoming year.

Attie J. DeVille of Marietta has been named executive director of the program.

"Our plan is to serve anyone who is looking for, but unable to find, employment. We are targeting 90 percent of our efforts to the underemployed," said DeVille.

DeVille's responsibilities will include job marketing, recruiting, interviewing, counseling, testing, evaluating and placing applicants. Her work will concentrate on those with skills or desire to work in the following areas: technical, accounting, management trainees, computers, marketing industrial, secretarial and customer services.

DeVille is working with 15 agencies which provide these services.

So far, most of the clients have come to the program through informal channels.

"We've gotten referrals from churches and NAACP members, and people looking for work have just come in," DeVille explains, "Word-of-mouth has really brought most of our people in."

Marcus Proctor, a 20-year-old Cobb resident said that he probably would not be working now were it not for the efforts of DeVille and her two

part time assistants.

"I've lived here for a year," Proctor explains, "And I'd been trying to find a job for more than a month....My girlfriend came here and found a job, so I came in, too."

Proctor is now working at Circuit City, and he recommends the program highly.

DeVille is pleased with the initial results of the Marietta Advocacy Employment Service Program. To date, her office has seen 88 people — of those, six have already found permanent employment, several others are awaiting word from recent interviews. Five other clients have been placed in the Job Corps training program.

"Transportation is one really big problem," noted Freeman, "The lack of public transportation in Cobb makes it difficult when our clients can't get to the training or jobs that we find for them."

DeVille agreed, "It has definitely hurt our programs," she said, "We are trying to arrange for several people in the Job Corps to car pool, that sort of thing."

Calling her approach "people-oriented," DeVille explained that what she wants is to help people.

## Martin Luther King's first holiday drawing little notice in Cobb County

By Herb Schild  
Staff Writer

Marietta's schools will be closed Jan. 20 to honor Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. but in the rest of Cobb County business will go on as usual.

"No formal plans have been made to observe his birthday that I'm aware of," said Davi Reynolds, a spokesperson for the county. In Smyrna, Powder Springs, Austell, Kennesaw and Acworth city officials said there are no particular

observances planned for the slain civil rights leader from Atlanta whose birthday became a national holiday this year.

Kings's efforts to defuse the violent uprisings of many blacks during the Civil Rights movement gained him worldwide recognition as being the "Black Moses" and won him the Nobel Peace Prize in 1964.

For the first time, federal, state and several metro area schools and governments will shut down this

year on Jan. 20 as part of the first national holiday to honor King, who died eighteen years ago after being shot by an assassin.

The federal holiday for King will be on the third Monday in January, while King's birthday was on Jan. 15.

Among the churches in Cobb that will be honoring King is St. Catherine's Episcopal Church at 681 Holt Road S.E., Marietta. Ann Haynes, a spokesperson for the church, said Atlanta Mayor Andrew

Young will be the keynote speaker at "Celebration of a Dream," starting at 7:30 p.m. on Jan. 15, King's birthday.

On Jan. 19 the Zion Baptist Church, 165 Lemon St., Marietta, will have a memorial service for King. Sponsored by Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity Men of Cobb County, the service will be open to the public and starts at 11 a.m., said Willie Hill, a church member.

Also the Wright Street Baptist Church, 395 Wright Street, Marietta,

will have a program to honor King on Jan. 19 at 11 a.m. The public is invited to attend.

Unlike neighboring Fulton County school students, Cobb County school children and employees will not observe the Jan. 20 holiday this year.

"No. We have not made any plans to give them the day off," Jerry Ingram, associate superintendent

See KING

5

## King

FROM 1

dent of Cobb County schools said.

However, the holiday has been approved for students and teachers in Marietta's seven elementary schools, one junior high school and one senior high school, an official said.

"We have a calendar committee which met and voted to give them the day off," said Maureen Clayton, a school spokesperson. "That day was not added, but will be taken from another holiday like Christmas or spring break."

A day off for city of Marietta employees has not been approved.

Employees of the huge Lockheed-Georgia Co., in Marietta will not be getting King's birthday off either because the holiday was not included in union negotiations last year, said Dick Martin, a Lockheed spokesman.

A bill for a nationwide holiday was signed into law by President Reagan. It was passed by the House in 1983, with three Georgia representatives voting against it. Among them was the late Larry McDonald, of Georgia's 7th District.

The lack of any apparent plans

to honor King on the county level, where there are more than 3,000 full and part-time employees, does not surprise Oscar Freeman, head of the Cobb chapter of the NAACP, because most Cobb officials are not overly sensitive to the plight of minorities, he claims.

"From every position we've ever approached them, they've always been on the defensive," he said. "They say there are no problems. All the minorities are happy."

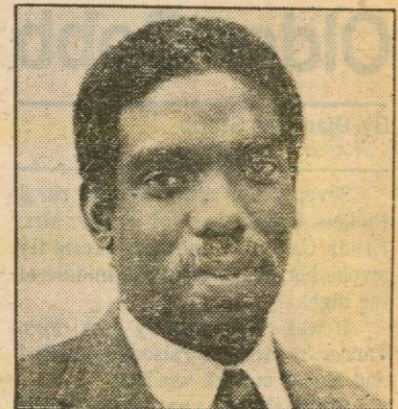
"We have talked to some members on the commission about making it a holiday. We haven't really been able to sensitize the

commission. They don't view Dr. King as the Black Moses to the blacks. Just like other minorities blacks need to have someone good to emulate, too," he said.

Freeman said there are about 32,000 black residents in Cobb. Cobb County officials say there are about 19,000 blacks in Cobb of which about 6,000 live in Marietta.

Nevertheless, in Georgia, legislation approved by Gov. Joe Frank Harris will give state employees a holiday Jan. 20.

DeKalb County, joined Fulton County and the city of Atlanta this year in setting aside the holiday.



Freeman

Briefly...

## Cobb school board OKs King holiday

From staff reports

The Cobb County Board of Education Thursday added the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. holiday observance to the current school calendar on Jan. 19.

Dr. Thomas S. Tocco, school superintendent, recommended the change in response to a request from representatives of the NAACP, and church and civic leaders, for school district observance of the national holiday.

Local community leaders praised King as a hero for the entire community, during the public comment session prior to the board's Oct. 23 meeting.

They argued that the observance should not be just a black holiday, saying that King's works and dreams were international.

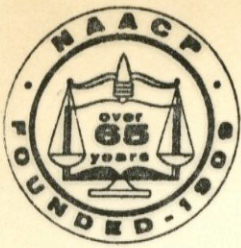
The revised calendar, approved by the board, lengthened the school year by one day to accommodate the addition of the holiday. The last day of school was moved up from Friday, June 5, to Monday, June 8.

In other business, the board recognized Tritt Elementary School, recently named an A-plus school by Instructor magazine.

The elementary school located at 4435 Post Oak Tritt Rd., Marietta, was one of nine schools selected out of 700, Tocco told the board Thursday. Selection was based on academic programs, teachers, community support and concern for individual students, according to the magazine's board.

The board also approved a resolution calling for a retired teacher's day observance, the third Sunday of November each year.

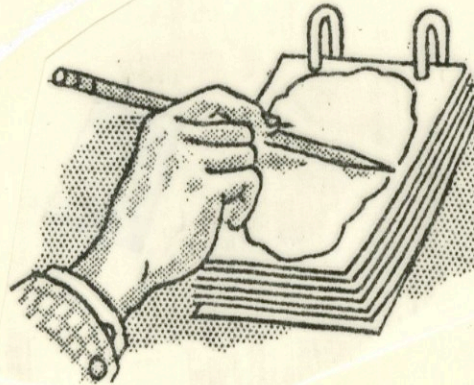
— Peggie R. Elgin



# NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF COLORED PEOPLE

COBB COUNTY BRANCH - P.O. BOX 598 - MARIETTA, GA 30061

OSCAR R. FREEMAN, JR.  
President



MARK YOUR  
CALENDAR  
FOR  
THESE DATES

## INFORMATION SHEET

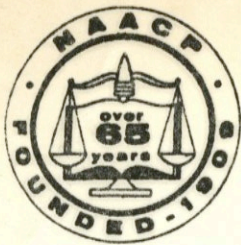
-----1985 CALENDAR-----

PLEASE START NOW TO MAKE PLANS

- JANUARY 1 ANNUAL JUBILEE DAY CELEBRATION  
( Emancipation Proclamation / Installation services  
for 1985-86 Branch Officers ) DR. KING'S BIRTHDAY
- FEBRUARY BLACK HISTORY MONTH ( Second week Celebration )  
N.A.A.C.P. BIRTHDAY ( 12th FEBRUARY )
- MARCH 14 - 16 33RD SOUTHEAST REGIONAL CONVENTION - HILTON HOTEL  
BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA  
REGISTRATION - \$20.00 Per Person - Adult  
5.00 Per Person - Youth  
HOUSING COSTS - Singles and Doubles - \$57.00 Per Room  
Per Night plus 7% sales tax
- JUNE 24 - 28 76TH ANNUAL NAACP CONVENTION - DALLAS, TEXAS  
DALLAS CONVENTION CENTER - 630 South Griffin Street  
REGISTRATION - \$40.00 Per Person - Adult  
\$15.00 Per Person - Youth

CONVENTION HEADQUARTERS HOTEL - HYATT REGENCY





NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF COLORED PEOPLE

COBB COUNTY BRANCH - P.O. BOX 598 - MARIETTA, GA 30061

OSCAR R. FREEMAN, JR.  
President

January 3, 1985

TO: Mr. Jack Crain, City Manager

FROM: Mr. Oscar R. Freeman, Jr. Branch President

Dear Mr. Crain:

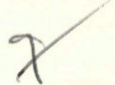
On behalf of and, in concert with the Cobb County Branch NAACP, I would like to take this opportunity to express our sincere thanks to you and the city of Marietta for extending to us the use of the council chambers on January 1, 1985, (New Years's Day).

The Emancipation Proclamation Installation of 1985-86 branch officers event was certainly enhanced by having such a fine facility at our disposal.

As the 1985 year rolls in, it carries with its tides some very promising hopes for a better relationship between the NAACP and the City of Marietta. We are looking forward to working with you throughout 1985 and many years to come.

With enthusiastic anticipation, and sincere thanks for your assistance.

Warm Regards,

  
OSCAR R. FREEMAN., Jr.

## NAACP plans awards dinners

Final preparations are being made for the Cobb NAACP's Fourth Annual Freedom Funds Award Banquet, set for Sept. 28 at the Northwest Atlanta Hilton Inn on Windy Hill Road. From left, Pearl Freeman and Randolph Scott, co-chairmen of the event, discuss plans Wednesday night with committee member Winston Strickland. The featured speaker for the 7 p.m., \$25 per person dinner will be state Sen. Julian Bond, D-Atlanta, and 7th District Congressman Buddy Darden will also attend. For further information, call 425-5757. (Staff photo by Tami Chappell)



# Reagan asks elderly to help reform taxes

By Ira R. Allen

United Press International

TAMPA, Fla. — President Reagan told the elderly today his tax reform plan would correct a system that makes it difficult for children to care for their parents.

He also promised that nothing in the plan would affect Social Security.

Continuing his nationwide campaign attacking special interests trying to preserve certain tax deductions and loopholes, Reagan spoke to senior citizens in Tampa, Fla.. It was part of a once-a-week travel schedule to push Congress into action by the end of this year, despite near-unanimous opinion from lawmakers there is little interest among constituents.

Aside from reassuring the elderly they would benefit from the reforms, Reagan also renewed his attack against New York Gov. Mario Cuomo, who has led the fight

to preserve deductions for state and local taxes.

"Now, last weekend on television, a prominent national figure said our tax plan would hurt the middle class. Well, if I may use a word that people our age will remember, balderdash," Reagan said. "There are some earthier words but that will have to do."

"The (current) tax code has, in effect, made it more and more expensive to care for older parents or to give children the good upbringing and education they deserve," the president said.

But under his tax reform program, Reagan said, "Every group in America will be better off — and anybody who tells you otherwise doesn't understand."

The president cited a study by New York Comptroller Edward Regan that state taxpayers would save \$588 million a year. "And that's the point: if individuals are better off, states are better off — and

America is better off."

The comptroller is a Republican and Cuomo is a Democrat.

Reagan promised that "the poor and all blind, elderly or disabled Americans living in poverty would be completely removed from federal income tax rolls — not one penny of tax to pay."

Reagan reminded his elderly audience, "I've been accused of wanting to tamper with Social Security more times than I've had birthdays, and that's getting to be a pretty big number.

"Well, it just ain't so. ... I want you to know that nothing in our tax plan would affect your Social Security checks in any way — period."

Reagan again asked for voters' help in persuading Congress to act. "A certain senior citizen is going to need your help," he said. "A fella named Ronald Reagan."

He told the elderly that he, like they, have "lived out a great part of

our lives" but that tax reform is a question of "What's best for the next generation?"

Last week, Reagan spoke in Missouri and North Carolina and plans to travel to Concord, N.H., next week with the same message.

Passing tax reform this year has been his main goal, even in the face of congressional activism for trade and farm legislation as higher priorities.

But after a meeting Wednesday with GOP House and Senate leaders, where Reagan appealed for Republican unity, House party leader Robert Michel said, "I think we'll be working together."

"It is imperative that we work together as Republicans to develop responsible legislation to deal with the many issues facing us," Reagan told them.

White House spokesman Larry Speakes said, "The leadership meeting is an indication that things look exceptionally good for a good finish

to the legislative year."

Items threatening to upset Reagan's agenda of tax reform are:

—The lingering attempt in the Senate to pass a bill imposing tougher sanctions against South Africa than Reagan wants.

—Spending bills yet to be acted upon that are within congressional budget limits but above the amount Reagan will accept. The president has threatened repeatedly to veto appropriations bills he does not like.

—A looming fight over raising the national debt ceiling to the \$2 trillion mark, a bill that could be decorated with other controversial legislation objectionable to the White House and could, if not passed in time, cause a government shutdown.

County, just across a fence from one end of the balefield.

Miller said installation of the trench barrier will cost about \$19,700. Commissioners Tuesday approved Miller's request to negotiate with Industrial Enterprises of Atlanta for the materials. Industrial is expected to begin its installation Sept. 24 and finish by Sept. 27.

The job was not put up for bids, Miller said, because time was crucial to meet the EPD deadline. The EPD extended the deadline several times, Miller said, to allow the county to negotiate to buy the Wise home and a second house nearby. The county decided not to buy the houses, Miller said, because the owners were asking too much for them.

"If they ever come through with a reasonable offer, it would be advantageous for us to buy both properties," Miller said.

Have we got  
plans for you!