

25 1079

## Stamp

Hampton Institute was recently (April 15, 10:30am) made a repository for the original art work used in producing the Harriet Tubman stamp issued by the U. S. Postal Service, February 1, 1978, "for as long as you want it," said Richard A. Thompson, U. S. Postal Service general manager of Special Events.

The occasion was a joint celebration in HI's Armstrong Little Theatre, of black heritage and "The Year of the Nurse," and was co-sponsored by the HI Department of Nursing and the American Nurses' Association (ANA), the professional organization for registered nurses in the country.

Tribute was being paid to an outstanding nurse and abolitionist - Harriet Tubman. Members of the nursing profession, government, clergy and friends participated in an event which saw the U. S. Postal Service present a "grid" or page of 50 Harriet Tubman postage stamps and a gold embossed stamp book to HI's M. Elizabeth Carnegie Nursing Archives.

Also in attendance was a young mother of two children, Naomi Walker Black, a distant relative, who, dressed after the fashion of her famous relative, bore a striking resemblance to pictures of Ms. Tubman.

The recognition ceremonies took place within the shadows of the historic Emancipation Oak on the HI campus where the Emancipation Proclamation was read to area residents in 1863. The shade of the Oak served as the first classroom for a newly freed people seeking the blessings of education.

This time, another kind, although nevertheless, sure to be historic proclamation, acknowledging Tubman's humanitarian deeds, was read by a representative of the Honorable Ann H. Kilgore, mayor, City of Hampton. It was presented to HI President Carl M. Hill.

The Postal Service's issuance of the Tubman stamp earlier this year makes Ms. Tubman the first black in a new Black Heritage USA Series to be recognized for contributions to the growth and development of the U. S. She is also the third nurse to be so honored.

Tubman is the woman whom actress Cicely Tyson will portray in an upcoming NBC special, "A Woman Called Moses."

Tubman, born a slave in Maryland, could neither read or write, but escaped slavery to Pennsylvania and returned - with a staggering bounty on her head - 19 times to assist some 300 fugitive slaves out of the South. During the Civil War, she later became a scout and intelligence agent and a Union Army nurse at the "Colored Hospital," Ft. Monroe, VA.

Bishop Charles H. Foggie, Fifth Episcopal District, AME Zion Church and vice chairman of the Harriet Tubman Foundation, in tribute to Tubman said, "She formulated a philosophy which stood her in good stead on the Underground Railroad and indeed, in all her life. She said, 'There are two things I've got a right to, and these are death and liberty.'"

In relating the history of the AME Zion Church he said that blacks believed that Divine Providence was in their struggles for freedom and redemption. As a result, he said that many freedom seeking blacks such as Sojourner Truth, Frederick Douglass and Ms. Tubman took up membership in and received succor and comfort within it, and he noted that "sprinkled throughout the Underground Railroad were AME Zion Churches serving as way stations."

Tubman was described "as a symbol of black achievement potential in spite of adversity," by Dr. Pat Sloan of HI's Nursing Department and founder of the M. Elizabeth Carnegie Nursing Archives which contain an early U. S. history of nursing education for blacks.

Dr. Sloan added that Tubman is acknowledged beyond the nursing profession for humanitarian contributions as a "Moses" of her people. Her statements were underscored by ANA's

President Ann Zimmerman who explained that the honor being paid Tubman is not only a tribute to the roots from which nursing care by Afro-Americans sprang, but also acknowledges in this, "The Year of the Nurse," expanded roles for nurses in the 1970's.

ANA's Public Relations Director Ellen Fowler added that nurses nowadays are involved in areas other than the traditional doctor or hospital related setting, and that real effort is being made to update the unformed "handmaiden image" of yesterday.

The program included a special dramatic reading, "Let My People Go," by Dr. Mary Cristian, director, Division of Education and Mrs. Greer Wilson, coordinator, HI's Student Union.

Other highlights included a capsule description of Tubman's life presented by ANA's Nurse Historian Dr. Joyce Ann Elmore who admitted to being very close to the subject as a result of her having graduated from Freedman's Hospital, Washington, DC, one of the first established to train black nurses.

Two musical selections rounded out the program. The first was "City Called Heaven," by Ms. Henrietta L. Thomas, and ended with "Lift Every Voice and Sing" by James W. and Rosamond Johnson.

Among the prominent guests were: Ann Zimmerman, president, ANA; Brigadier General Madelyn N. Parks, chief of the Army Nurse Corps; Col. Hazel Johnson, R.N., Ph.D., director, Walter Reed Institute of Nursing; Dr. M. Elizabeth Carnegie, editor, Nursing Research; and officials of the Association for the Study of Afro-American Life and History, Inc.; Dr. Carl M. Hill, HI president; Fostine G. Riddick, chairman, HI Department of Nursing; Dr. Patricia Sloan, chairman, M. Elizabeth Carnegie Black Nursing Archives; and Dr. Joyce Elmore, nurse historian; and Ms. Mable K. Staupers, former executive director, National Association of Colored Graduate Nurses.

The special committee representing the successful program included Ms. Ellen Fowler, public relations, ANA; Ron Powell, public relations, U. S. Postal Service; Dr. Theresa Christy, School of Nursing, University of Iowa; Dr. Mary Ann Gurrigan, School of Nursing, Boston University; and Ms. Shirley Fondiller, editor, The American Nurse.

Members of the Program Committee were: Earl S. Clanton, III, HI public relations director; Dr. Willia Daughtry, Department of Music; Ms. Pat Hinton, Department of Nursing; Mrs. M. Barbee Pleasant, Secretary of the College; Mrs. Maymie Proctor, Department of Nursing; Robert Rice, Special Projects; and Dr. Pat Sloan, program chairperson.



SUPERIOR PERFORMANCE AWARD -- Gov. Mike O'Callaghan, center, accepts plaque from U. S. Department of Labor (DOL) for topping goal for federal jobs program in rural Nevada. State government hit 106 percent of the goal by creating public service employment for 476 jobless rural Nevadans in nine months through last February. The jobs are federally funded under the Comprehensive Employment and Training Act. Shown with O'Callaghan are William J. Haltigan, left, administrator of Region IX for DOL, and Larry McCracken, director of the Nevada Employment Security Department.

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