

# Bus Trip To Forest Hill

## Honors Dr. Eartha M. White

Dr. Eartha Mary White, Doctor of Humanities, founder-president of Clara White Mission, 611-15 West Ashley St., Jacksonville, Florida, was honored in a bus tour to Forest Hill and Lowell Correctional Institution, Sunday. The trip was sponsored by the officers and members of Clara White Mission, the New Testament Baptist Church, Rev. Dennis A. Rhodes, pastor; and the Friendly Christian Aid Association, Deacon D. H. Jackson, president, Naaman Calhoun vice president, Mrs. Christine Frasia, founder-secretary.

The group toured all sections of Forest Hill of Girls, and Lowell Women's Correctional Institution, both colored and white. As they passed through the corridors, many of the residents called out, "Hello, Miss White. You did come back to see us. and reached to shake hands with her as she gave them scriptural portions. She gave Mrs. McCoullough, the senior matron at Lowell Women's Correctional Institution, who acted as guide at the request of Mr. West, the superintendent, identical packages of literature, religious portions and other articles to be distributed to the 300 women there. At Forest Hill, the distribution was made to the 111 girls through Mrs. Mosell Cooper of Tallahassee, director of education, who was on duty in place of Mrs. A. Wooten, supervisor, and acted as hostess to the visitors.

Mrs. Zora Bradly of Interlachen, Florida, was on duty as summer relief house mother when Mrs. Cooper escorted the group through the Eartha Mary Magdalene House as the model for the other structures named for Mrs. Inez Austin Beyer, of Tampa, Grand Most Worthy Matron of the Order of the Eastern Star; Mrs. Alice G. Hickens, of West Palm Beach, Florida, representative of the United States Treasury Department, Savings Stamps and Bonds division. Mrs. Minnie L. Rodgers, of Bradenton and Tampa, Florida, widow of the late Dr. Garfield Devoe Rodgers, former president of the Florida Federation of Women's Clubs; Dr. Effie Carrie Hampton of Ocala, Marion County, Florida, pioneer physician, civic-social leader; and the late Dr. Mary McLeod Bethune, founder-president emerita of Bethune Cookman College at Daytona Beach Florida, founder president of the National Council of Women, for thirteen years counsellor to the late president Franklin Delano Roosevelt and Mrs. Eleanor Delano Roosevelt, Representative of the State Department of the United States of America at the formation of the United Nations Organization.

The group was also shown the Florida Federation Room, furnished by the Florida State Federation of Women's Clubs under the presidency of Mrs. Fannye Ayer Ponder of St. Petersburg, in addition to seeing the education, amusement, recreation, beauty culture, housing, dining room and other features of Forest Hill Institution. Mrs. Ponder is a world traveler, pioneer educator, vice president of the National Council of Women.

from the Florida State Correctional Institution at Raiford, Fla. August 1st, 1957, received food, lodging, counsel, employment and guidance through the Clara White Mission regardless of color. Some were passing through Jacksonville to other states, but were aided at the Mission.

As her key to success and happiness, Dr. White admonished the girls that "they should (1) obey their parents (2) seek the Kingdom of God and His righteousness and all other things desirable will be added unto you; (3) and abide by the scripture as found in St. John's 15:7, that "what so ever you want shall be given you.

The ageless philosopher and counsellor advised the girls that "Your coming here was God's way of using you for some purpose. Surely you come to an institution like this without leaving a better person. Every one can do something for God. You have to decide what your place is in life and get into it. There is something every one can do for God as found in St. Matthews, 26th Chapter, viz; —feed the hungered, house the outcast, clothe the naked, comfort the distressed, visit the sick, and attend those in prison."

She told them she had given the first \$100.00 to the Board of Control toward a scholarship for any girl who will show improvement or a desire to prepare herself for the better life."

She concluded her address by announcing her intentions to see a state supported home for orphaned indigent young people, not in any way under the jurisdiction of the juvenile court for any law violations.

As Miss White finished speaking, Mrs. Dixon directed the audience to sing the National Negro Anthem in tribute to her. After which the choral group sang, "It's No Secret What God Can Do," and one of the residents sang a solo, "The Last Mile of the Way." An original poem was read by Rev. Joseph Eugene Solmon Ray, public relations counsellor and coordinator, expressing the hope of countless thousands that Dr. White "Shall Have Eternal Life. "The visitors were served a luncheon of fried chicken, salads, beans, cake, and cold drinks.

Among those representing the three sponsoring groups on the committee were Rev. and Mrs. Dennis A. Rhodes and daughter Miss Bessie Lee Rhodes; Deacon D. H. Jackson, Naaman Calhoun, Willie George, Peter Adams, Mrs. Arellia Johnson, Mrs. Anna Rodgers Mrs. Altamease Pinkney, Mrs. Ruby Oliver, Mrs. Ada G. Murray, Mrs. Daisy Hodges, Mrs. Christine Frasia, Mrs. Caroline Goosby, James W. Clark and daughter Miss Henrietta Clark and little master Clark, Miss Winifred Braddock, Miss Beall, Miss Sarah Ann Cooper, Miss Willie Lee Lewis, Master Tyrone Cooper, Master Harold Cooper, Master Alphonso Merritt, Master Teddy Taylor, Jr.

As a climax of the trip Dr. Andrew Reynolds Raiford of Ocala, Marion County, Florida, the volunteer chaplain of the regular 3:30 p.m. Sunday religious services at Forest Hill, was master of ceremonies of an impromptu program in tribute to Dr. White, in appreciation for her tireless interest in girls and women through which she lobbied at Tallahassee to obtain legislation and appropriation for the establishment of Forest Hill, and encouraged the support of legislation urged by Rev. L. F. Chapman (retired) Superintendent in his effort to move the women from the Florida State Correctional Institution at Raiford, Florida, to Lowell.

Associated with Dr. Raiford were his assistant Chaplain, Rev. J. P. Franklin of Starke, Florida; Fred A. Brown of Ocala, Marion County, Florida, assistant to Mrs. A. D. McPherson, Superintendent who presented a class of 26 candidates for baptism; James A. Martin of Reddick and St. Augustine, summer teacher in elementary subjects; Mrs. Alexandria Dixon of St. Petersburg, minister of music, who is reportedly using this branch of the fine arts effectively in the rehabilitation program of the institution.

Rev. Dennis A. Rhodes, pastor of the New Testament Baptist Church, was the guest preacher on the occasion and spoke from St. John 14:1: "Let not your heart be troubled; Ye believe in God, believe also in me." The class of candidates for baptism, seemed a symbolic benediction of Dr. White's life long effort to save souls and aid young and old to find the "better way of life." thru the facilities of Moncrief Springs and the Mission for evangelistic campaigns, baptismals, community educational projects, etc. Mr. Brown will receive, through the recommendations of the educational extension department of the Clara White Mission, a list of 20 free correspondence Bible study courses such as are used at Raiford All Souls Church under the chaplaincy of Rev. James Thompkins, to be offered the girls.

In her discourse, Dr. White modestly disclaimed any credit for her accomplishment during the 81 years of her useful life, but sought to place the praise upon the shoulders of the public officials, co-workers, philanthropists, and beneficiaries of her manifold units and activities ranging from hospital for un-wedded mothers, day nursery for working mothers, mercy hospital with 79 beds certified by the State of Florida, with trained registered nurses on duty twenty-four hours daily; home for aged; prison mission service including evangelism, training, guidance, housing, clothing, feeding, institutional visitation and rehabilitation; adult education; child welfare; civic and religious education, all of which are coordinated under the Clara White Mission with Dr. White as director and Mrs. Grace M. Bateman, executive secretary.

Dr. White reported that seven of the 119 men who were released