

BLACK CANADIANS YOU SHOULD REALLY KNOW

CARRIE BEST



A black Nova Scotian who founded the nationally recognized newspaper "the Clarion".

Carrie Best was an activist for Black rights. From her earliest years, she was encouraged by her parents to learn about her history as a black woman. She took that into adulthood, constantly protesting discriminatory practices around her. One of her boldest actions against racial discrimination took place in 1941, when she was forcibly removed from a movie theatre for sitting in the "whites only" section. She'd been told by the cashier that she couldn't purchase tickets for the main floor, but that only infuriated her. She sat down and refused to get up until she was forced to. But Carrie didn't stop there, she filed a racial discrimination lawsuit

against the theatre after the incident. Although the judge dismissed her charges, she was only encouraged to keep fighting these laws. In 1946, she and her son founded the newspaper "the Clarion". The paper published Nova Scotian current events, but specialized in the experiences of Black Canadians. It began national circulation in 1956, just 10 years after it was started.

Dec. 1946

THE CLARION

Yes, it's a tiny sheet, and certainly not worthy to be rated as a newspaper, but please note the title. It is a "CALL" for unity, service and devotion to God, to Home and to Country. In this issue I shall try briefly to tell my readers how much their help is needed in our Community, and from time to time inform you of the progress we are making.

The Editor.

THE CHURCH

How happy we are that once again we have a leader of our own race as Pastor of Second Baptist. While the Rev. Donald Thomas has not yet been inducted into the Pastorate, he and Mrs. Thomas and their two daughters, Carolyn and Cheryl are now in residence. And while we are on the subject of the Pantheon, do you know that this old eye sore is about to have a face-lifting soon? Yes, the trustees are right on the job this year and very soon we will have a new feeling of pride when we pass by. Unless I miss my guess the Thomas', both Mr. and Mrs. are just the ones to keep it shining, once it is made livable. Already the Pastor and his wife must feel the surge of new life and interest, but until every one is solidly behind them, our work on the "Clarion" call rings out, "COME TO CHURCH, WE NEED YOU, YOU NEED THE CHURCH."

On June 19th a business meeting was held and plans made for future activities. Briefly here are some of the highlights of the meeting.

1. The Pastor will be inducted soon. Plan to attend this service.
2. Every district will have a Financial Officer to distribute envelopes to every one who is earning. We

THE COUNTRY

About all we have to say about our Country is "Thank God" for it. With all its shortcomings it is still the best place on earth. I would like to start complaining about segregation in theatres and restaurants, but as I look around me and see the food stores filled to overflowing while countless millions are starving I just can't get het up now over not eating in certain places, I am EATING and RECOVERING. Later on, maybe, but not now. Canada is still all right with me.

THE HOME

It still is the pivot around which all our other activities centre. Let's make our homes a place where Christ will be the Head and the Unseen Guest at every meal.

PERSONALS

Mrs. L. B. Mills has returned from a fortnight's visit in Halifax. She attended the funeral of the late Dorothy Kinney. Our heartfelt sympathy is extended the bereaved.

Mrs. W. H. Shepherd was in Sydney recently being called there by the tragic death of a relative, Mr. Walter Griffith.

A recent visitor in New Glasgow and guest of Mr. and Mrs. A. T. Best, was Miss Irma Halfpenny of Saskatoon, N. B.

Sorry to record that Mr. Bert Skinner has been on the sick list. He was burned while at work at the Maritime Steel.

I don't like to close without reminding you that we have the support of some of our local merchants in providing these pamphlets and we in turn should show our appreciation by supporting them.

Did You Get That TIE At

FANJOY'S

Why—Of Course. They Have the Latest in Neckties. As well as all Men's Furnishings.

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GEORGE ELLIOTT This poet has won too many awards to count. His work specializes in the experiences and histories of Black Canadians. He was the 2016- 2017 Canadian Poet Laureate, meaning he composed poetry pieces for national events. He's won prestigious awards such as the Governor General's Award for Poetry, the Martin Luther King Jr. Award, and the Pierre Elliott Trudeau Fellowship prize. He's published 17 collections of poetry, two novels, and four drama/opera works.



An accredited Canadian poet and playwright.

The Ballad of Othello Clemence

The Ballad of Othello Clemence

BY GEORGE ELLIOTT CLARKE

There's a black wind howlin' by Whylah Falls;
There's a mad rain hammerin' the flowers;
There's a shotgunned man moulderin' in petals;
There's a killer chucklin' to himself;
There's a mother keenin' her posied son;
There's a joker amblin' over his bones.
Go down to the Sixhiboux River, hear it cry,
"Othello Clemence is dead and his murderer's free!"

O sang from Whylah Falls and lived by sweat,
Walked that dark road between desire and regret.
He pitched lumber, crushed rock, calloused his hands;
He wasn't a saint but he was a man.
Scratch Seville shot him and emptied his skull,
Tore a hole in his gut only Death could fill.
Now his martyr-mother witnesses in cries
Over his corpse cankered white by lilies.

There's a black wind snakin' by Whylah Falls;
There's a river of blood in Jarvis County;
There's a government that don't know how to weep;
There's a mother who can't get no sleep.
Go down to the Sixhiboux, hear it moan
Like a childless mother far, far, from home,
"There's a change that's gonna have to come,
I said, a change that's gonna have to come."

By: GEORGE ELLIOTT
CLARKE

