

# Dr. Reginald Claypool Neblett (1900-1978) & Hattie L. Neblett (1903-1993)

By Jerry Long  
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**A Pictorial History of Owensboro – Daviess County, Vol. I**  
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Dr. Reginald Claypool (RC.) Neblett, 1930s. Died July 17, 1978, at age of 79. At his death he had long been Daviess County's only black physician. He and his wife came to Owensboro in 1930. He was the first black member of the Daviess County Medical Society. He and his wife founded the Community Recreation Center in 1936. In May 1978, they received the Jane Addams Medal by the National Federation of Settlements

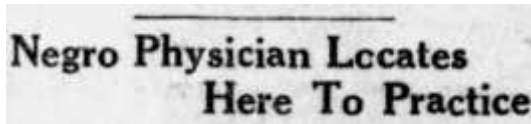
and Neighborhood Centers for their work with the center.



Dr. R.C. and H.L. (Hattie) Neblett, 1930s. They moved to Owensboro in 1930. She personally made sure black children had a place to go for indoor recreation. They founded the Community Recreation Center in 1936. She was president of the center from 1936-1973. It was later renamed the H. L. Neblett Center in her honor.



**Owensboro Inquirer, Owensboro, KY, Friday, 3 January 1930, p.14:**

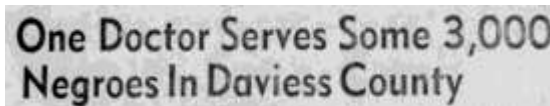


Dr. Reginald C. Neblett, negro, 613 Elm St., has begun the practice of medicine in the city. His office being located at Ninth and Breckenridge streets, associating with Dr. C. E. Simpson.

Dr. Neblett is a graduate of Meharry Medical College at Nashville, Tenn.; and holds a B. A. Degree from Tennessee A. & I. State College at Nashville. Too, he has just completed one year of practical work at the Provident Hospital at Baltimore, Maryland, the best equipped hospital in this country for negroes. It is indirectly connected with Johns Hopkins University and having 34 of it's staff members from that University.



**Owensboro Messenger, Owensboro, KY, Sunday, 15 March 1953, p.4A:**





Examining a patient – Dr. R. C. Neblett checks over little James Curry, one of his many patients among the estimated 3,000 Negro population in Owensboro and Daviess County.

By Charlotte Baumgarten

Dr. R. C. Neblett had been in town exactly 15 minutes when he went out on his first case.

The young Negro physician, fresh from internship at a Baltimore hospital, had come to Owensboro to practice medicine. His first stop was at a drugstore in the colored district. While he was asking the druggist for directions, a man came in urgently calling for a doctor. His companion had been shot in a fracas down the street.

Both the practicing Negro doctors in town were out of their offices.

With the words "I'm a doctor," the newcomer picked up his bag and followed the man.

That was nearly 23 years ago in December, 1930. As it turned out, his patient died shortly after the new doctor got him to the hospital, Neblett recalls. It was not only his first case in Owensboro but the first case in his medical career. But the unfortunate start had one good aspect – the Negro doctor found that he was welcome to the facilities of the Owensboro-Daviess County Hospital, from that day to this has been accorded every courtesy due men of his profession at that institution, as well as at Our Lady of Mercy Hospital since the time of its opening.

Now in his early 50s, Dr. Neblett is the county's sole Negro physician for an estimated 3,000 colored population. His two predecessors have died. Dr. Amos Cornelius, who was in failing health when Neblett came, succumbed to illness in 1943 after a retirement of several years. Dr. C. E. Simpson, with whom Neblett practiced during his first 12 years here, died in 1951.

Despite the size and burden of his over-large practice, the doctor appears unhurried as he makes his rounds on his daily schedule – one that sometimes keeps him up around the clock. Ask him about his office hours and he smiles slowly, saying "So far I haven't been able to establish any."

#### **Office in His Home**

His office is located in his home at 626 Elm St., a modest frame house just recently remodeled. Three rooms in the residence are devoted to his work – two are waiting rooms and the

other a small examining and treatment room. One thought the doctor had in mind when he began his remodeling project was interesting a young Negro doctor to come here and practice, to share his work and his office. But so far Neblett has been without success in finding a partner.

At present two Negro students are being assisted in their education at Meharry School of Medicine, Nashville (Dr. Neblett's alma mater) by loans from the Kentucky Rural Medical School fund of the Kentucky State Medical Association. Daviess County is high on the priority list of those counties needing more Negro physicians. Within a year or two help may come to Neblett from this quarter.

Two problems that seem to keep young Negro physicians from establishing in Daviess County are the low-income bracket of Negroes in this section and the lack of social activity for the colored people, Dr. Neblett says. The surroundings he is satisfied with do not meet the critical eye of forthcoming practitioners. Meantime he carries on alone, hoping for help in the near future.

If it hadn't been for an accident that cost him a finger, Reginald Claypool Neblett might never have become doctor. When he was barely three years old, in Clarksville, Tenn., he lost the index finger on his right hand when he got in the way of an older brother who was chopping kindling. His injury was treated by Dr. Robert T. Burt, Negro surgeon who has retired from practice but still resides in Neblett's home town. The Burt High School for Negroes built in Clarksville last year was named in the veteran doctor's honor.

The hand injury episode gave the Neblett boy the clue to his vocation. Dr. Burt gave him inspiration and advice during the ensuing years. The high school at Clarksville only went to the 10th grade during Neblett's school days, so he finished his secondary studies in Nashville before entering Tennessee State College. In 1924 he received a Bachelor of Science degree and was admitted to Meharry School of Medicine, Nashville, an institution for Negroes in the same city.

#### **Met Wife in College**

During his sophomore year in med school, Neblett married Hattie Ross, a schoolmate from Tennessee State. For the next five years his wife followed her profession as a grade-school and home - economics teacher and served as a home demonstration agent until the doctor hung out his shingle. Money was a scarce item with Neblett, who came from family of six children. But he knew how to make his own way. He financed his college and medical education through a series of summer jobs, working in a copper mill in Detroit, as a bellhop in Chicago, with a railroad section gang in Nashville, as a laborer in a flour mill in Clarksville and waiting tables on a railroad dining car.

Back in the 1920s, Meharry School ran on an eight-month schedule. Christmas, the only holiday, was limited to Dec. 25, Dr. Neblett remembers. Vacation time away from classes meant a four-month working period in which he had to earn money enough for the coming year.

Provident Hospital in Baltimore, a 265-bed charitable institution for Negroes, accepted Neblett on his graduation from Meharry in 1929. At the end of a year's internship there, the doctor was offered a position as a staff surgeon but he had his heart set on a small-town practice somewhere in the South, land he came to locate in Owensboro.

Mrs. Neblett gave up her teaching job in Tennessee and came to join her husband. The first years of practice were hard ones for them both.

During his career, Dr. Neblett has handled all types of cases in his role as a general practitioner. The majority of his patients he treats in their homes. Relatively few Negroes have insurance and few can afford hospitalization, Dr. Neblett says. Most of the estimated 1,200 babies he has delivered have been born at home.

Health conditions in the Negro districts of town are what the doctor terms "good." With the city's two hospitals, and the health and at welfare departments, he believes the health of the Negroes is well protected. However, if he had his wish, he would like one general improvement in the picture – not a clinic or hospital of his own but better financial opportunity for the colored.

Explaining that he seldom sends bills for professional services rendered, Dr. Neblett says he gets paid when his patients have the money, sometimes years after the persons have been treated. "My people are honest with me," he says kindly, "and would pay me in every case if they had it." Still about one-third of his fees are never, settled and he writes these off his books.

Vacations have been few and far between. Three times during his long practice the doctor has returned to Provident Hospital for refresher courses. His fine white doctor friends take care of his patients while he is away, he says, adding that members of the Daviess County Medical Society treat him as an equal in the profession. He is a regular, attendant at all staff meetings of both hospitals.

Retirement is a long way off for him, he says. After 23 years he considers himself "just warmed up." His one ambition is to return to Provident Hospital for a year's study, and he may do that after another Negro doctor settles here for practice.

Between calls and after hours the doctor pursues a hobby as avidly as he does his practice. He's a murder mystery fan of the Perry Mason School. Sometimes in the fall he sneaks in a few squirrel-hunting sessions.

The doctor and Mrs. Neblett are active in the promotion of civic, educational and cultural advancement for the colored residents of Owensboro. Both have been prominent in the establishment and work of the Community Recreation Center at 5th and Elm Streets and have taken leading roles in church activities and community drives.

A telephone call brought the interview to an end. The doctor had been summoned on a case. He barely had answer one last question about his formula for success.

"Hard work and early Christian training," Dr. Neblett replied. Putting on his hat and coat, he walked out in the rain, black bag in hand.



**Owensboro Messenger, Owensboro, KY, Wednesday, 27 January 1954, p.1:**

**Dr. R. C. Neblett, Negro, First  
Of His Race To Be Admitted  
To Daviess Medical Society**



A New Member – Daviess County Medical Society officers congratulate Dr. Reginald Claypool Neblett, second from the left, who was admitted to the doctor's organization last night. At left is Vice President Joseph H. Kurre, and from right to left Secretary-Treasurer Clinton M. Lacy and President B. H. Warren. Neblett is the first Negro doctor to join the Daviess society.

The Daviess County Medical Society admitted its first Negro doctor to its membership last night. The general practitioner is Dr. Reginald Claypool Neblett, who has practiced in Owensboro since December, 1930.

The society held its regular meeting at Gabe's, and was addressed by Dr. Robert J. Dancy, Madisonville, Ky. Dr. Dancy is the head physician at the State Tuberculosis Sanitarium.

Dr. Neblett has practiced in the Owensboro-Daviess County hospital since his arrival in Owensboro after completing his internship at a Baltimore hospital. His first case was a victim of a shooting, who died shortly after his arrival at the Owensboro-Daviess County Hospital. It was not only his first case but the first case in his medical career, Neblett said.

The 54-year-old Negro physician brought into the world 15 ago Thomas "Tommy" Perkins, the Western High School student whose oratorical efforts won him the state Voice of America contest this past December.

Upon the opening of the doors of Our Lady of Mercy Hospital Dr. Neblett was immediately placed on the staff. He had served at the Owensboro-Daviess Hospital since the treatment of his first patient.

The doctor is the county's sole Negro physician for an estimated 3,000 colored population. His two predecessors have died. Dr. Amos Cornelius, who was in failing health when Neblett came, died in 1943, and Dr. C. E. Simpson, with whom Neblett practiced during his first 12 years here, died in 1951.

The only other Kentucky society which has admitted a Negro doctor to its rolls is the Jefferson County Medical Society. Jefferson County contains the state's largest city, Louisville.



**Owensboro Messenger, Owensboro, KY, Saturday, 3 February 1954, p.3:**



Doctor receives award – Dr. R. C. Neblett, left, recently admitted to the Daviess County Medical Society as its first Negro member, displays a metal plaque after Mayor Casper C. (Cap) Gardner, right, presented it to him at a dinner held in his honor Thursday night. Plaque denotes Dr. Neblett’s “Outstanding Negro Man of 1953.”



**Messenger-Inquirer, Owensboro, KY, Monday, 26 June 1961, p.14:**

**Mrs. Hattie Neblett  
Honored For Service  
To Recreation Center**



Twenty-five years service – Mrs. Hattie Neblett, right, president of the Owensboro Community Recreation Center, was honoree Sunday at a party given for her for the 25 years work she has devoted to the organization/ The party, at which Mrs. Neblett received matched luggage, a plaque for meritorious service, and a sum of money, was held at the home of Miss Emma Edwards, 1509 Sweeney St. Here, Mrs. Gertrude Talbott presents Mrs. Neblett with one of her many gifts.

The Owensboro Negro Recreation Center officials held a party for Mrs. Hattie Neblett yesterday in honor of Mrs. Neblett's work in the organization.

Mrs. Neblett is president of the present recreation group and was the founder of the movement in Owensboro. The social event was in recognition of her 25 years of service to the organization.

She was presented with a 4- piece set of matched luggage, a plaque for meritorious service, and a sum of money at the party held at the home of Miss Emma Edwards of 1509 Sweeney St.



**Messenger-Inquirer, Owensboro, KY, Friday, 9 Jul 1965, p.1B:**



PHYSICALS - Dr. Reginald Neblett prepares to test the reflexes of Paul Swanagan at the Owensboro-Daviess County Health Center Thursday morning. All students are given free physical examinations by the health department in connection with their participation in Operation Head Start. The group pictured is from the Western center in the city program. Looking on are Mrs. Wanda Sutton and some of Paul's classmates who are waiting in line to have their knees tapped.



**Messenger-Inquirer, Owensboro, KY, Thursday, 28 March 1974, p.2C:**

**Doctor's Day salute**

***Medical auxiliary honors senior professionals***

Two of Owensboro's most senior members of the medical profession will be honored today by the Medical Auxiliary to the Daviess County Medical Society.

Dr. Reginald C. Neblett and Dr. William L. Woolfolk began practicing medicine in the city more than four decades ago. Throughout the years, these two men also have made significant contributions to the city's welfare and development.

Dr. Neblett, the city's only physician of his race, is being honored by the auxiliary "for 44 years of dedicated, humanitarian service to alleviate the pain and suffering of his fellowman."



Sharing their medical knowledge and abilities are Dr. Reginald Neblett and Dr. William Woolfolk, right, who are being honored today by the Daviess County medical auxiliary in observance of Doctor's Day celebrated March 28 each year. The two men each have practiced in Owensboro for more than 40 years and are the most senior members of their profession still active.

The Clarksville, Tenn., native is the son of the late Mr. and Mrs. Egbert Neblett Sr. who saw the young man complete his early education at home and later graduate in the first class to receive degrees from A and I State Normal College, Nashville. Dr. Neblett received the bachelor of science degree from the college where he was president of the senior class in 1924. After completing the M.D. degree at Meharry Medical College, also in Nashville, the young man the following year completed internship at Providence Hospital, Baltimore, Md. Dr. Neblett and his wife Hattie came to Owensboro in late 1929. He opened his first office in January 1930 in Porter's Hall at 9th and Breckenridge streets. Several years later Dr. Neblett moved his office to his home, 626 Elm St., where he continues to practice medicine. His wife of 49 years is a teacher.

The doctor and his wife have a foster son and five grandchildren "who are a great source of happiness."

Together the Nebletts have given countless hours and regular financial assistance to the programs at the Community Recreation Center organized with their help in 1936. The center has flourished through the years under the watchful eye of Dr. Neblett who serves on its board of directors.

His interest in people and their welfare also is reflected in the experiences of Dr. Neblett's ancestors which he enjoys recounting. The physician's grandfather was a slave on a Tennessee

plantation and it is said that after the Civil War began, this man "liberated" his master's horse and rode north to join the Union Army. After the rebellion, the grandfather became an expert on securing War Service Pensions for citizens of Montgomery County, Tennessee. He is reputed also to have been noted for his accurate memory of historical facts.

Dr. Neblett, the grandson, also is noted for his involvement in the welfare of others. He is a member of St. Paul AME Church, Omega Psi Chi fraternity, Owensboro-Daviess County Medical Society and the American and Kentucky Medical Associations. Also, he holds staff memberships at Our Lady of Mercy Hospital and at the Owensboro-Daviess County Hospital.

June 1, 1932, marks the day Dr. Woolfolk began his practice of medicine in Owensboro. His family was among the early settlers in Daviess County. This tall, energetic man also was a pioneer.

Dr. Woolfolk introduced hospital surgical procedures for eye, ear, nose and throat patients. Previously, surgical treatment was performed in the physician's office. During this period, other surgical procedures also were moved into hospitals.

Owensboro's only eye, ear, nose and throat specialist during World War II received the M.D. degree in 1929 from the University of Pennsylvania. He spent two years of rotating internship at Presbyterian Hospital, Philadelphia, Pa., before specialized training at Charity Hospital in New Orleans, La. Earlier Dr. Woolfolk had graduated from Owensboro High School where he was salutatorian of the Class of 1921 and valedictorian of the 1925 graduating class at Washington and Lee University where he was elected to Phi Beta Kappa.

The genial doctor followed in the footsteps of his father, Junius A. Woolfolk, who practiced medicine in Daviess County from 1878 to 1919. It might be said that Dr. Junius Woolfolk's death resulted from changing times. He died from injuries sustained in an accident when a car struck the doctor's buggy.

Today's honoree has been a generous community volunteer and has been a leader in his church. Dr. Woolfolk was president of the Owensboro Rotary Club in 1937, and for many years was secretary of the Daviess County Medical Society before being elected president. He was a member of the Daviess County Board of Health for 18 years and served seven of those years as chairman. He was president of the Kentucky Ear, Nose and Throat Society in 1949 and holds membership as a diplomat or elected fellow in several professional societies. These include the American Board of Otolaryngology, American Academy of Ophthalmology and Otolaryngology, and the American College of Surgeons.

The doctor's other interests include membership in Lt. Robert Moseley Chapter, Sons of the American Revolution, and he is a trustee and member of the official board at Settle Memorial United Methodist Church.

This evening, Dr. and Mrs. Byron Harrison are hosting a dinner in observance of Doctor's Day at their home in Stone Creek Park. Other auxiliary activity today includes recognition of Dr. Harrison who has delivered 10,000 babies since he began practice here in the 1940s. The group of doctors' wives also will place a book in the Owensboro-Daviess County Hospital Medical Library in memory of Dr. Charles E. Hornaday.

Doctors throughout the United States are being honored and recognized as Owensboro joins in the salute to its own humanitarians in the profession.



**Messenger-Inquirer, Owensboro, KY, Sunday, 3 August 1975, p.1C:**

At 75, Neblett is city's only black physician  
'I feel the pulse of Owensboro,  
and the pulse is good'

By Jack Lyness, Messenger Staff



Dr. Neblett



Left: Dr. Reginald C. Neblett, Owensboro's only black physician for the past 24 years, leaves his office in his home on Elm Street to make another house call. Right: House calls are part of a general practitioner's [sic] life, Dr. Neblett believes. At 75, Neblett still makes house calls, such as his visit to check the blood pressure of long-time patient, Mrs. Ruth Tisdale, 94.

Dr. Reginald C. Neblett never heard of a scholarship when he was working his way through medical school in 1925 waiting on tables in a dining car on a cross-country railroad.

"I thought it was some kind of smallpox or something," he laughs.

Neblett thinks many of today's youth tend to want things given to them on a velvet cushion. Some, he maintains, would be better off if they, too, had to have the experience of working their way through school.

Nevertheless, a scholarship fund is to be established in Neblett's name during this week's Black Expo '75 activities. Still practicing at age 75, Neblett has been the city's only black doctor for 24 years.

The fund, to be gathered from donations collected by the Expo organization, will be officially announced at a testimonial for Neblett at 8 p.m. Tuesday at the Dugan Best Recreation Center. It is intended to help local black students enter science-related fields, according to David Kelly, a member of the Expo planning committee.

In spite of his Spartan attitude toward self-help, Neblett he thinks the scholarship fund is a good idea if it will help to encourage black students to enter the field of medicine.

He would, however, like to see the scholarship restricted to those seriously seeking medical careers. America needs today 25,000 more doctors. 20,000 more dentists and 18,000 more registered nurses regardless of their race, he says without hesitation.

He has tried unsuccessfully for most of his 45-year career in Owensboro to convince another black doctor to join his practice. Neblett says.

Today, however, he says it is very difficult to convince youth to enter general practice, especially in Owensboro. As for being a family doctor, "They say 'I can't afford the time. It would interfere with my social life'." Neblett says. And when he does try to convince a young black general practitioner to locate here. Neblett says he is usually told "I want to be where I can have some fun."

Neblett is not sure that his retirement will be a bad thing for the local black community. "I'll practice as long as I can give satisfactory service," he says with a grin. But he thinks the absence of a black doctor might have the effect of forcing some members of the black community to be less particular about who attends to their medical needs.

Neblett does not include the term "black" in his own vocabulary. He refers to himself and fellow members of his race as "Negroes." The term "black" "doesn't mean anything, he says. He says it is an "angry" and "forceful" word. "I just don't like it."

Neblett's life is a local success story. He maintains a small office in his home at 626 Elm St., the heart of the near westside black community, where he has lived and worked for 45 years. Today, however, he sees 95 per cent of his patients at Owensboro-Daviess County Hospital, where he spends most of his time.

Though he has accumulated enough wealth during his career to be considered affluent, the gains are not displayed around his modest home.

A Clarksville, Tenn. native, Neblett received a bachelor of science degree from A & I State Normal College and his M.D. from Meharry Medical College, both in Nashville, Tenn.

He and his wife, Hattie, came to Owensboro in 1930. On his first day in town, he says he was summoned by a frantic "doctor in the house" call only to have his first patient die on the way to the hospital, the victim of a gunshot in the buttocks.

He was the first member of his race to be admitted to the Daviess County Medical Society and the second to join the state medical society. He is a member of the staff of both local hospitals.

Neblett and his wife founded the Community Recreation Center, long the only indoor public recreation facility for black youth in Owensboro. Together, they have been the largest contributors of both time and money to the continued existence of the facility.

Today with the old building at 801 W. 5th St. in deteriorated condition and some younger members of the community calling for it to be destroyed and built anew, Neblett is less than satisfied. A remodeling of the old building, which also houses the West End Day Care Center, is now underway.

Sometimes, he says, his wife has been so involved, she "neglected our home for the center. They (those who want to tear it down) just don't realize what she's done."

In spite of the fact that he hasn't agreed with some of the changes he's seen in his 75 years, Neblett is happy and says he is profoundly honored by the appreciation being shown him by the community.

"I feel the pulse of Owensboro every day, and the pulse is good," the quick-talking, cigar-chomping doctor says. He says he loves Owensboro, as evidenced by his decision to stay here through the years. Larger cities and counties which remain without doctors would offer more rewards.

He once considered setting up his practice in Baltimore, where he served his internship at Providence Hospital. He says he strongly considered at the time becoming a surgeon, but he decided to come to a smaller community and become a general practitioner.

"I grew up in Clarksville and lived there 18 years, and I love that town," he says, "but I've lived here for 45 years now and I love it that much more."



**Messenger-Inquirer, Owensboro, KY, Tuesday, 10 February 1976, p.1B:**

### **Service portrait**

*Community Recreation Center unveils painting of a founder, Hattie Neblett*



Hattie Neblett –  
40 years of service.

A portrait of Mrs. Hattie L. Neblett, one of seven charter members of the Community Recreation Center board, was unveiled Monday night at the center's 40th anniversary celebration banquet.

The portrait, to be hung in the center at 801 W. 5th St., recognizes Mrs. Neblett's 40 years of service. Mrs. Neblett and her husband, Dr. Reginald C. Neblett, are the only members of the original board who remain active in the center's work today.

Guest speaker at the banquet was the Rev. W.R. Brown, pastor of Fourth Street Baptist Church, who related the history of the center in his larger topic of black history.

The Rev. Brown said Mrs. Neblett helped found the center because she knew "an ounce of prevention is worth more than a pound of cure" and that the energies of the young "must be let out" in constructive ways. Saying the center "is more than the building," he said its importance is in the children and people the center has influenced.

Mrs. Neblett arrived in Owensboro in 1930. She recognized the need for a facility to help eliminate juvenile delinquency in the community. With the support of her husband, Dr. Neblett, and local citizens, the center began to become a reality.

In 1936, a field representative of the National Recreational Association Mr. E.T. Atwell, gave service and counseling in the formation of a temporary organization and long range planning. A permanent organization was established in March, 1936 and was known as the Community Recreation Council.

From 1936 until 1942, the Council met in various churches and schools to plan youth activities and rehearse for its annual musical recital while cooperating with the Statewide Recreation Project.

A campaign for funds to purchase a building to house the recreation program was launched in December, 1940 and \$1,400 was donated. "We felt rich," Mrs. Neblett says.

In 1942, the present site was purchased and renovated. The two wooden stories were razed and other improvements made.

The building remained little changed until 1967 when the first floor in the rear of the building was converted to house the West End Day Care Center. Funds for this project came from public donations and the Organization for Economic Opportunity.

During World War II, the center furnished sleeping quarters and a USO for visiting soldiers from nearby camps. Classes were held in the center during the construction of Western School – now Goodloe Elementary School and at one time the congregation of the St. Paul A.M.E. Church worshipped there.

Mrs. Neblett served as president of the center from 1936 until 1973. She is now President Emeritus.

Other charter board members were L.R. Jones of Toledo, Ohio; Evelyn Agnew and Merle Thruston, both of California, and W.O. Weaver and S.W. Wheatley, both deceased.



**Messenger-Inquirer, Owensboro, KY, Wednesday, 11 August 1976, p.3D:**

**Doctor to get  
2 TSU awards**



Dr. Reginald C. Neblett, an Owensboro physician for 47 years, will receive two awards this weekend during summer commencement exercises at Tennessee State University in Nashville.

The university's outstanding achievement award will be presented to Dr. Neblett at 6 p.m. Saturday during commencement at W.J. Hale Stadium on the campus.

During the university's alumni association Vintagers Club luncheon Friday, he will receive the donor-of-the-year plaque for contributing the most money to the university during the 1975-76 academic year.

The achievement award recognizes Dr. Neblett as a "man of vision" for his contributions to the university's alumni association and to the community as a physician and civic leader.

A member of the first class to graduate from A and I State Normal College (now Tennessee State University), Dr. Neblett received a bachelor of science degree in 1924. He was president of his senior class and is a charter member of the Vintagers Club, an organization for alumnus of 40 years or more.

He received his doctor of medicine degree from Meharry Medical College, Nashville, and completed his internship at a Baltimore hospital before going into private practice here in 1930.

Dr. Neblett was instrumental in organizing the Owensboro Community Recreation Center in 1936 and currently serves on its board of directors.

He and his wife, Hattie, live at 626 Elm St.



**Messenger-Inquirer, Owensboro, KY, Wednesday, 31 May 1978, p.3D:**

**... in service of humanity**



Dr. and Mrs. Reginald Neblett with Jane Addams medal.

By Sheila Garin, Messenger-Inquirer

The medal fits easily in the palm. It is gold and bears the profile of Jane Addams, founder of Hull-House in Chicago, 1931 Nobel Peace laureate, crusader for social justice.

For Hattie Neblett, the medal is a talisman of 40 years of tireless scrambling to keep one small neighborhood center alive.

"Who would have thought that little raggedy center would get so much recognition," says Mrs. Neblett, founder of the Community Recreation Center at Fifth and Elm.

Recognition has come in the form of the prestigious Jane Addams Medal, awarded every two years by the National Federation of Settlements and Neighborhood Centers.

Mrs. Neblett and her husband, Dr. Reginald C. Neblett, won the award this month over nominees from 30 states. The inscription is to "outstanding leaders in the service of humanity."

Noble words, but Mrs. Neblett's memories of years of struggle aren't quite so grand.

"We been with it all the way. There was some hard times and some tight places, but we came through. He (Dr. Neblett) said we were going to kill ourselves."

Fund-raiser, organizer, janitor, Mrs. Neblett did it all for the center, long the only recreation facility for black youth in Owensboro.

At 74, her neck and back curved by painful arthritis, she speaks with love and humor of her life's work.

"When I get to talking about the center, it just goes on and on," she says, with the high, quick laugh of a schoolgirl.

"We went from at first, I'd guess you'd say, empty hands ... When we first came here our children didn't have anywhere to go, anything to do and they were constantly getting into trouble.

"In 1940, we got ambitious. We thought we would have a drive. When we came out with \$1,400, we thought we were rich. We thought we were ready to go some. Of course, I knew we just had a drop in the bucket, but it was thrilling." I

n 1942, the present site, a former tobacco warehouse, was purchased.

"It was a terrible-looking place. People were saying, 'What you all buy that for? You can't do nothing with it.' But we were just so pleased. We thought we had something, and of course, the kids did too. It was the only place they could go in and dance and party and skate."

Mrs. Neblett served as president of the center from 1936 until 1973, her involvement never flagging.

"He (Dr. Neblett) said he thought maybe something was going to happen. He didn't know if he was going to have a divorce or what," she laughs, adding, "But when I went to the various regional meetings, it was always out of his pocket."

In her reminiscence about the center, Mrs. Neblett talks more of others than herself. She speaks warmly of Ella Valentine, a close friend and life member of the center who died this winter.

"She was 95, if she'd lived to May, she'd be 96. She was just a little lady, but a worker, oh yes, a worker from way back. She was right by my side all the time."

She refers to another early organizer as "our guiding light," words more applicable to Mrs. Neblett herself.

She's lived on the same block, a 3-minute walk from the center, since coming to Owensboro in 1930. When the street is quiet, she misses the sound of children playing. "My sons and daughters, I call them," she says.

The Nebletts were unable to go to Denver earlier this month to receive their award. Mrs. Addie Talbot, chairwoman of the center's board of directors, went in their place, accepted the award from Sen. Muriel Humphrey and came home with \$1,000 won in a conference raffle for the center.

"I thought we did pretty good for a little town," says Mrs. Neblett, characteristically turning the event into a community award.

But then the Nebletts' medal speaks for itself.



## *Local doctor dies at 79*



Dr. Reginald C. Neblett  
Physician dies at 79

By Jack Lyness, Messenger-Inquirer

Dr. Reginald Claypool Neblett, 79, long Daviess County's only black physician and a much heralded community leader, died Monday.

He had made the rounds at Owensboro-Daviess County Hospital to check on his patients as he had for nearly 50 years only hours before he suffered a stroke July 5 which brought him back to the hospital as a patient. He suffered a second stroke while there last week, and died of the coronary thrombosis that resulted, according to his physician, Dr. Horace Harrison.

Neblett was perhaps most involved in the community through the Community Recreation Center which he and his wife, Hattie, helped to found in the heart of Owensboro's near west side black community in 1936. The Nebletts were recently awarded the prestigious Jane Addams medal by the National Federation of Settlements and Neighborhood Centers for their work with the center.

Neblett was born in Clarksville, Tenn. His grandfather was a slave on a Tennessee farm who ran away to join the Union army after the Civil War began. Neblett earned a bachelor's degree from Tennessee A&I State Normal College and a medical degree from Meharry Medical College, both in Nashville, while paying his way working as a waiter in a railroad dining car. He served an internship at Provident Hospital in Baltimore, Md.

He and his wife came to Owensboro in 1930 and he immediately set up a general practice in Porters Hall at 9th and Breckenridge streets. A few years later he moved his office to his home at 626 Elm St., where it remained.

Neblett was the first black member of the Daviess County Medical Society, and the second to join the state medical society. He was a member of the staff of both Owensboro-Daviess County and Our Lady of Mercy hospitals.

He was a former member of the board of directors of the Owensboro-Daviess County United Way and the Owensboro Education Commission. He was named "Owensboro's Outstanding Negro Man" in 1953.

He was a member of St. Paul AME Church.

He had no children of his own but raised a foster son, James "Jamie" Curry. He delivered all eight of his foster grandchildren.

Other survivors include a brother, Egbert Neblett of Huntingdon, Tenn.

Funeral services are scheduled for 10 a.m. Thursday at St. Paul AME Church in Owensboro. A memorial service is also scheduled at 3 p.m. Thursday at St. Paul AME Church in Clarksville, Tenn. Burial is in Evergreen Cemetery. Visitation begins at 4 p.m. today at the McFarland Funeral Home.



**Messenger-Inquirer, Owensboro, KY, Friday, 8 June 1979, p.1C:**

**Honoring Mrs. H.L. Neblett**

## **Community center will reopen**

By Andrea Heil, Messenger-Inquirer

A visit from Gov. Julian Carroll at the dedication of the Community Recreation Center in Owensboro Sunday will spark a week of festivities at the newly renovated center.

During dedication ceremonies, the center, at 802 W. 5th St., will be renamed the H.L. Neblett Community Center, after a founder of the facility.

The week's activities include a block party, fashion show, open house, dance contest and a banquet.

For the past 2½ years recreation the center has been located across the street while renovations were being made. In 1975, city officials voted to contribute \$225,000 to renovate the building, which is an old tobacco warehouse.

Renovations have just been completed, said Mrs. Addie C. Talbott, president of the board of directors.

The recreation center will be named after Mrs. H.L. Neblett of 626 Elm St., a founder of the center in 1936. She served as president for 40 years.

When Mrs. Neblett moved to Owensboro in 1930, she recognized the need for providing more facilities and programs to help decrease juvenile delinquency in the city. And with the help of her late husband, Dr. R.C. Neblett, and other Owensboro residents, she put her ideas into action.

"We didn't have a place for the children to play. So we found that old building," Mrs. Neblett said. "It's really beautiful now. But it took quite a bit of doing to get it all together – since 1936, that's a long time."

From 1936 until 1942, the Community Recreation Council met in various churches and schools to plan youth activities. After a fund drive, the tobacco warehouse was bought for \$3,200.

In 1967 the first floor in the rear of the building was converted into the West End Day Care Center, and it operates rent-free.

The building has been a meeting place for various social, religious and civic organizations. During World War II, it was used as sleeping quarters for visiting soldiers from nearby camps. Classes were held in it the construction of Goodloe Elementary School, and the St. Paul A.M.E. Church used it as a place of worship when the church burned.

Most importantly, board members say, the center has helped decrease the juvenile delinquency rate in town.

The building deteriorated, and in the early 1970s, local and state inspectors declared it in violation of several health, fire and safety codes. City officials provided funds to bring the center under minimum, temporary compliance.

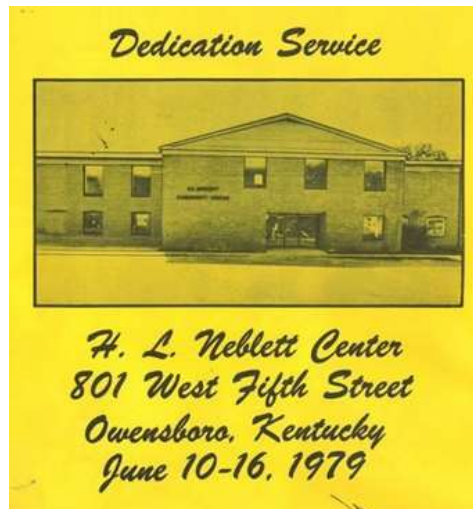
The center operates on a \$43,820 annual budget, with major funding from the Owensboro-Daviess County United Way, federal Community Development grants and fund-raising projects and donations.

The dedication and open house Sunday will be from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. Mrs. Neblett will speak, as will Gov. Carroll, Mayor Jack Fisher, and former Mayor C. Waitman Taylor, among others. There also will be songs, refreshment and tours of the building.

On Monday and Tuesday, tours of the center will be given by youths in the Super Kid program. This program awards former to juvenile delinquents points to attain the status of Super Kid by performing civic activities. Refreshments, souvenirs and brochures will be distributed from 1 p.m. to 6 p.m. An open house will be held on Wednesday, and a fashion show of men's and women's spring styles starts at 6 p.m. A blockbuster block party will be Thursday from 6:30 p.m. to 11 p.m. with dance contests, bands, disco music, the Job Corps Drill Team and refreshments. Elm Street from West 4th to West 5th streets will be blocked off.

On Friday, tours will be given from 1 p.m. to 6 p.m., and at 7:30 p.m. the Miss Community Center beauty pageant will be held. Contestants age 14 to 17 will compete in categories of talent, swimsuit and evening gowns.

A banquet will be held Saturday, the final day of festivities, at 7 p.m. The speaker is William (Sonny) Walker, director of the Regional Community Service Office in Atlanta, Ga. Tickets are \$6, and can be purchased at the door, or from any recreation council member. All other festivities are free.



Cover of program for the dedication of the H. L. Neblett Center



**Messenger-Inquirer, Owensboro, KY, Saturday, 28 August 1993, p.1B & 2B:**

Hattie L. Neblett

Hattie L. Neblett of 626 Elm St., Owensboro died Thursday, Aug. 26, 1993, at Mercy Hospital. She was born in Georgia, was a retired schoolteacher, was the co-founder of the H.L. Neblett Center, was a member of the Fourth Street Baptist Church and was president emeritus of the H.L. Neblett Recreation Center. Her husband, Dr. R.C. Neblett, died July 17, 1978.

Survivors include one daughter, Betty McCreary of Owensboro; nine grandchildren; 13 great-grandchildren; two nephews, Lawrence Neblett of Oakland, Calif., and Reginald Bagwell of Clarksville, Tenn.; and two nieces, Percena Johnson of Philadelphia and Clora Hixon of Paducah.

Services will be at 10 a.m. Wednesday at Fourth Street F Baptist Church. Burial in Evergreen Cemetery in Clarksville, Tenn. Visitation from 5 to 7 p.m. Tuesday at McFarland Funeral Home, Owensboro.

### **H.L. Neblett Center's namesake, president emeritus, dies Thursday**



Hattie L. Neblett

By Steve Vied Messenger-Inquirer

Hattie L. Neblett, who personally made sure black children of Owensboro had a place to go for indoor recreation, died Thursday at Mercy Hospital.

Neblett founded the Community Recreation Center with her husband, the late Dr. Reginald C. Neblett, in 1936. The center was later renamed the H.L. Neblett Center in her honor. The present location at 801 W. Fifth St. was purchased in 1942 for \$3,200. Several renovations and additions have taken place over the years.

Neblett was president of the center from 1936 until 1973. She was later president emeritus.

"We've lost a great person and a great leader," said Wesley Acton, a 19-year veteran of the Neblett board and its chairman for three years.

"When she moved to Owensboro she had the community at heart, especially black children," Acton said. "There was no place for indoor recreation and she saw to it that it was provided. She lived for that center."

The West End Day Care Center became part of the Neblett Center in 1969. In May 1978, just two months before Reginald Neblett died at the age of 79, the Nebletts were awarded the Jane Addams Medal by the National Federation of Settlements and Neighborhood Centers.

In 1976 the Nebletts were given life memberships on the recreation center's board of directors in recognition of 40 years of service.

Neblett served as fund-raiser, organizer and even janitor at the center, which was for many years the only recreation facility for black youth in Owensboro.

"When I get to talking about the center, it just goes on and on," Neblett was quoted as saying in 1978 upon receiving the Addams Medal. ... When we first came here our children didn't have anywhere to go, anything to do and they were constantly getting into trouble." Soon Neblett's children and other black youth had a place to skate, dance and have parties.

Neblett, of 626 Elm St., was born in Georgia and was a retired teacher. She is survived by one daughter, Betty McCreary of Owensboro, nine grandchildren and 13 great-children.



**Messenger-Inquirer, Owensboro, KY, Wednesday, 1 September 1993, p.7A:**

**Editorial:**

**Hattie Neblett leaves  
an enduring legacy  
in center, community**

Hattie L. Neblett's life is over, but her legacy will long endure.

Mrs. Neblett, who died last week, is the namesake of and guiding force behind the H.L. Neblett Community Center on Owensboro's west side. Since 1936, the facility she and her husband founded has been the heart of the West Fifth Street neighborhood and a blessing for the entire Owensboro-Daviess County community.

The center, which has anchored the 800 block of West Fifth Street for more than half a century, began as an indoor recreational haven for Owensboro's black children, who used it for skating, dancing and parties. For many years, it was the only facility of its kind in this community.

But as the years rolled on and times changed, the center expanded its role accordingly, reaching out to people of all races and ages with a wide variety of necessary services. Its current clientele is substantial – more than 400 children and teens, plus more than 4,000 adults.

Accordingly, the center's list of services is just as substantial. For adults, activities range from a federal jobs training program to classes through Owensboro Community College. For kids, there are preschool classes, a nutrition program – even piano lessons. And of course, recreational activities remain a mainstay at the Neblett Center; kids still roller skate there during cold weather.

All of that is a tribute to the vision, compassion, determination and hard work of Mrs. Neblett and her husband, Dr. Reginald C. Neblett. Throughout her nearly six decades with the center – including almost 40 years as its president – she did what needed to be done, whether the job was fund-raising or cleaning up. She was, as longtime board member Wesley Acton noted recently, "a great person and a great leader."

Her accomplishments benefited all of Owensboro-Daviess County, and her loss is felt communitywide. The Hattie Neblett of the world aren't easily replaced.



**Messenger-Inquirer, Owensboro, KY, Sunday, 13 April 1997, p.3G:**

**Owensboro's Women in History**

**By Aloma Williams Dew**



H.L. "Hattie" and Dr. R.C. Neblett in the 1930s. The Nebletts moved to Owensboro in 1930. Hattie Neblett personally made sure black children had a place to go for indoor recreation. She and her husband founded the Community Recreation Center in 1936. Hattie Neblett was president of the center from 1936 to 1973. It was later named the H.L. Neblett.



**Messenger-Inquirer, Owensboro, KY, Sunday, 29 August 1999, p.3E:**

### **The Dream Lives On**

By Glenn Hodges, Messenger-Inquirer



Dr. Reginald and Hattie Neblett resolved to give children of Owensboro's near west end something to do that would keep them off the streets and out of trouble. The community center they helped start at 801 W. Fifth St. became the Nebletts' legacy. It was their way of showing how individuals, through hard work and determination, can make a difference in the life of their community. Their efforts earned them a prominent place in the history of Owensboro during the 20th century. "Who would have thought that little raggedy center would get so much recognition," Hattie Neblett said when H.L. Neblett Community Center won a national award in 1978. "I thought we did pretty good for a little town."

### Nebletts 'did pretty good for a small town' in aiding children, founding center

After Dr. Reginald and Hattie Neblett came to Owensboro in 1930, they lived at 626 Elm St. for the rest of their lives. When the street was quiet, Mrs. Neblett said she missed the sound of children playing. "My sons and daughters, I call them," she used to say.

The children of the black community in the near west end of Owensboro meant the world to the Nebletts, and they resolved to give them something to do that would keep them off the streets and out of trouble.

It was this concern for those children that compelled the Nebletts to lead the effort in 1936 to establish what became H.L. Neblett Community Center, an indoor recreation center for black children, only a three-minute walk from the Nebletts' home.

The community center at 801 W. Fifth St. became the Nebletts' legacy. It was their way of showing how individuals, through hard work and determination, can make a difference in the life of their community. Their efforts earned them a prominent place in the history of Owensboro during the 20th century.

Dr. Neblett was born in Clarksville, Tenn., and grew up there. His grandfather was a slave on a Tennessee farm before he ran away and joined the Union Army during the Civil War. Dr. Neblett received a bachelor of science degree from Tennessee A&I State Normal College (now Tennessee State University) and earned his medical degree at Meharry Medical College, both in Nashville. A strong believer in self help, he paid his way through school working as a waiter on a railroad dining car. He served his internship at a hospital in Baltimore.

Neblett considered becoming a surgeon in Baltimore but decided to go to a smaller community and be a general practitioner. When he and Mrs. Neblett moved to Owensboro, he set up his practice in Porter's Hall at Ninth and Breckenridge streets. A few years later, he moved his office to his home on Elm Street, where it remained.

He became the first black member of the Daviess County Medical Society and the second to join the state medical society. He was a member of the staff of both Owensboro-Daviess County and Our Lady of Mercy hospitals. In 1953, he was named Owensboro's Outstanding Negro Man.

His wife, Hattie, was born in Georgia and also graduated from Tennessee State University with a degree in elementary education. She became a home economics and music teacher. After she moved to Owensboro, she taught piano lessons in her home, organized a community chorus, was pianist at Fourth Street Baptist Church and started a youth choir at the church.

She also threw all of her energy into starting the recreation center, and was the driving force in its establishment.

"The Nebletts were both very caring about other people," said Wesley Acton, who served on the Neblett Center board for 19 years and was its chairman for three years.

Her contemporaries described Mrs. Neblett as a "straight lady, good, loyal, honest and upright" who always emphasized good citizenship and was good at inspiring and motivating young people to achieve their full potential.

"She was very compassionate, deeply concerned about the fact there was no indoor center for children to play," Acton said. "Many of the kids did not have a warm home to go to after school in those early days. She wanted a warm facility where they could go."

In 1936, a field representative of the National Recreational Association provided Mrs. Neblett and other local residents counseling in the formation of a temporary organization and long-range planning. A permanent organization was established in March 1936 and was named the Community Recreation Council.

From 1936 until 1942, the council met in various churches and schools to plan youth activities and rehearse for its annual music recital while cooperating with the statewide recreation project.

A fund-raising campaign to purchase a building for the recreation program was launched in December 1940. "When we came out with \$1,400, we thought we were rich," Hattie Neblett said in an interview with the Messenger-Inquirer in 1978.

With the help of another donation, the present site, a former tobacco warehouse, was purchased in 1942 for \$3,200 and renovated. Two wooden stories of the building were razed and other improvements were made.

"It was a terrible looking place," Mrs. Neblett said. "People were saying 'Why did you all buy that? You can't do anything with it.' But we were just so pleased. We thought we had something and of course, the kids did, too. It was the only place they could go in and dance and party and skate."

During World War II, the center furnished sleeping quarters and a USO for visiting soldiers from nearby camps. Classes were held in the center during the construction of Western School (later Goodloe Elementary School) and at one time the congregation of St. Paul A.M.E. Church worshiped there after its church building burned.

"The Nebletts used their own money in many cases in the early stages of organization," Acton said. "Dr. Neblett pitched in and saw that there was enough money to get through a crisis. He was her greatest supporter. This was what she wanted to do and he helped her in any way he could."

Mrs. Neblett served as president of the center from 1936 to 1973. She was undaunted in her support for the facility, serving as fund-raiser, organizer and even janitor.

In May 1978, the community center received the prestigious Jane Addams Medal from the National Federation of Settlements and Neighborhood Centers. Dr. and Mrs. Neblett, as the founders of the center, won the award over nominees from 30 other states, and they were honored as "outstanding leaders in the service of humanity."

For Hattie Neblett, the medal was a reward for more than 40 years of tireless struggle to keep one small neighborhood center alive.

"Who would have thought that little raggedy center would get so much recognition," she said after receiving word about the award. But typically she downplayed her own role in the achievement and gave credit to other residents in the community who played a vital part. "I thought we did pretty good for a little town," she said.

Dr. Neblett died only a few months after he and his wife received the award. He suffered a stroke July 5, 1978, just hours after making rounds at Owensboro-Daviess County Hospital to check on his patients. He was hospitalized there, suffered a second stroke and died July 17, 1978.

He was 79.

After her husband's death, Hattie Neblett continued her work with the center as president emeritus. After major renovations to the center in the late 1970s, the facility was renamed H.L. Neblett Center in her honor in June 1979.

She died Aug. 26, 1993.

"We've lost a great person and a great leader," Acton said after Hattie Neblett's death. Recently, Acton said he was always impressed with her deep concern for people and her leadership skills. "She was good at motivating children to do the best they could do and be the best person they could be and get an education. The kids respected her and went to her with their problems."

The Nebletts had no children of their own, but raised a foster son, the late James Curry. Dr. Neblett delivered all eight of his foster grandchildren.

"They loved children and devoted their lives to them," said Betty McCreary, Mrs. Neblett's foster daughter-in-law.

As years passed and times changed, the Neblett Center expanded its role, reaching out to people of all races and ages with a wide variety of necessary services. The emphasis remained on helping children.

Today, the Neblett Center has an enrollment of 200, serving an average of 75 children daily. It provides lunch, snacks and evening meals for kids up to 12 years old, tutoring, computer lessons, and, of course, indoor recreation. Young girls can learn leadership in the Sister-Sister program. The Success Seekers program for 11-to 18-year-olds helps motivate them, teaches them self-esteem and encourages them to stay in school.

The children can take piano lessons at the center and sing in the choir. They go on field trips to businesses to learn about career opportunities. They also learn about politics as they prepare themselves for lives as adults.

Linda Board, the present director of the Neblett Center, speaks about the Nebletts with admiration and respect.

"Their dream was to have a community center to get kids off the streets and give them something to do. That dream is more alive than ever and the center is continuing to grow and offer more programs to help kids develop social skills.

"When I look at the Nebletts' picture here in the center and see where we are as a center, I think they would be very proud," she said.

Their dream does live on.



**Daviess County, Kentucky, 1815-2015, Celebrating Our Heritage,**  
**Daviess County Bicentennial Committee**  
**(Evansville, IN: M. T. Publishing Company, Inc., 2015) p.169:**

### **The H.L. Neblett Center**

In 1929, Hattie Neblett, a Tennessee State University student and an extension worker, came to Owensboro to join her husband, Dr. R.C. Neblett, a medical physician. She became increasingly concerned with the plight of the youth and the high crime rate of juvenile delinquency. In 1936, she met with concerned citizens and they agreed to help her form the Community Recreation Council. The original council members were Mr. and Mrs. Junius Valentine, Mrs.

Sallie Griffith, Mrs. Laura Doss, Mrs. Eula Danzy. Dr. and Mrs. Neblett were co-chairs of the Council. Later members, were Mrs. Gertrude Talbott and Mrs. Estelle Moss. The Council members functions were (1) to raise funds and (2) to provide activities for the youth and adults. Social activities were held in Mrs. Neblett's home and meetings were held in different citizen's homes. The community recital was one of the largest community activities held. A community chorus was formed and it practiced all year, culminating in a community recital in the Western High School gymnasium. Mrs. Neblett led practices herself and eventually brought in a special choral director to finalize the program. The event was advertised and people from all over the area came for the event. Mr. C.D. Davidson and his wife participated as singers and musicians.

From 1936 to 1942 the council met at local churches to plan its recreation programs. They launched a fund drive in 1940 and raised money to purchase an old, dilapidated tobacco warehouse at 5<sup>th</sup> and Elm Streets. The building served a variety of purposes: a meeting place for civic committees, a site for conventions, church meetings, business meetings, NAACP conferences, and youth activities such as games of checkers, ping-pong, volleyball and skating. The center became an active place and safe place to give children recreation, entertainment, education, and culture, and pride in their community. In 1967 the first floor was converted into the West End Day Care Center run by Estelle Moss.

In 1974 the building was renovated to bring it up to code and provide more services. These efforts were supported by Mayor Waitman Taylor and local businesses and industries. In 1981 the facility was awarded a youth services award for its career program and programs were offered for children four and up. There were senior citizen activities, arts and crafts, drama and field trips offered. A new multi-purpose building was added in 2006 which allowed expansion of offerings and computer access to more young people and to continue the goal of motivating children to set and achieve goals and to build self esteem. The center is open to the public, regardless of age group, race, or culture.

When the new 2,400 square foot addition to the Neblett Center was opened in 2006, one of the speakers was Denise Griffith, retired Regional Vice President for Pepsico's Frito Lay division. She recalled spending time at the Center, and later as a high school student she worked there and mentored other children. She called the new building with its increased programing, the "first step in changing many lives."

Griffith was the first black woman in Kentucky to be named All-American and one of the first to play in the USA Professional Women's Basketball League. She had been on the girl's basketball team as a student at OHS and graduated from the University of Louisville.

She was named by *Ebony Magazine* as one of the top ten African-American women in Corporate America with their "Women at the Top in Corporate America award.

She exemplifies the influence of Hattie Neblett, Addie Talbott and others who had a dream for the community building.



## **Family Notes**

Reginald Claypool Neblett was born 12 January 1900 in Clarksville, Montgomery County, Tennessee and died on 17 July 1978 in Owensboro, Daviess County, KY. He was the son of Egbert A. Neblett (1871-1965) and Kathleen Farley (1870-1952). Egbert Neblett was a retired mechanical

engineer. He was the son of Dennis Neblett (1840-1923), a prominent farmer in the Port Royal section of Montgomery County, TN.

Dr. R. C. Neblett married Hattie L. Ross on 24 December 1925 in Davidson County, TN. Hattie, a daughter of John Acy Ross & Margaret H. Parker, was born 7 September 1903 in West Point, Georgia and died in Owensboro, KY on 26 August 1993. Dr. R. C. Neblett, his wife, and his parents, are buried in the Evergreen Cemetery in Clarksville, TN.



Ruby McFarland (far left) and Dr. Reginald C. Neblett (far right) look into renovating aspects of the original Community Recreation Center.



Dr. Reginald C. & Hattie L. Neblett