

'Sitdown' Leader



KEYNOTES CAMPAIGN—Mrs. Clara Luper, who led the youth of Oklahoma City, Okla., in a "passive" movement for equal rights, will keynote the 1958 membership campaign of the Cleveland branch of the NAACP. According to the latest reports, the work of the Oklahoma City youth, who staged "sitdown strikes" in restaurants, churches and other public places, will be carried on by parents after school opens.

Okla. Crusader Opens Local NAACP Drive

Mrs. Clara Luper, the woman who is leading hundreds of Negro children in a silent, Gandhi-type assault on Oklahoma's invisible wall of segregation, will come to Cleveland next Friday to tell how her "silent campaign" has opened the doors of 19 white churches and several soda fountains in the Sooner State.

Mrs. Luper will speak at the opening meeting of the 46th annual membership campaign of the Cleveland NAACP in E. Mt. Zion Baptist Church, 9990 Euclid Ave., at 8 p. m., Sept. 12.

Mrs. Luper has gained nationwide, perhaps international fame through her leadership of the Oklahoma City NAACP Youth Council. The youths have begun sit-down campaigns in various white establishments including restaurants and hotels and churches, protesting segregation.

In many of the establishments, the youth have succeeded in breaking down racial barriers in downtown eating places and some churches.

In some places, the youths sat for days on end before they were finally invited to eat or to leave.

AT THE SAME time, the local NAACP branch announced appointment of co-chairmen of the coming drive. They include:

Rabbi Alan S. Green, spiritual head of the Temple Emanu El; Rev. O.M. Hoover of Olivet Institutional Baptist Church;

Father Joseph Danko, assistant pastor of the Immaculate Conception Parish.

Miss Gertrude Gorman, New York City, a national NAACP secretary and a former Cleveland-er, will conduct the local campaign which extends from September 12, through October 14.

The Branch has adopted a new program for this campaign. Four area chairmen will coordinate the campaign in their respective sections of the city. Each will have a battery of captains and volunteer workers.