

Black Women's
Caucus
of Washington State

and

The Washington
Commission
for the Humanities



presents

**Esther Hall Mumford,
Author**

in a

**JUNETEENTH CELEBRATION
LUNCHEON**

Lakewood Terrace
Friday — June 9, 1990

JUNETEENTH

Thirty months after President Lincoln had signed the Emancipation Proclamation, General Gordon Granger, who had been placed in command of the Federal occupation troops, arrived at Galveston Bay, June 19, 1865. He issued GENERAL ORDER NO. 3 - EMANCIPATION. This was the birth of Juneteenth in Texas.

Juneteenth Celebrations were held informally for 114 years. In 1978 State Representative Al Edwards of Houston, Texas envisioned that blacks could have a formal celebration of emancipation from slavery. During his first year as a legislator he authored the most meaningful piece of legislation for the black community that had ever existed in the history of Texas or any other state. He wrote and lobbied to get passed into law the bill making June 19th a legal state holiday, **the first official Black Holiday in the United States**. After numerous setbacks and hard work, Representative Edwards pushed the bill through successful votes of the Texas House of Representatives and Senate within the last twenty-four hours of Texas' 66th Legislative Session.

At a memorable and historical ceremony on the grounds of the Texas State Capitol in Austin, Texas, hundreds of supporters witnessed the bill being signed into law by Governor William P. Clements on June 13, 1979. As a result of Representative Edwards' efforts, Texans now witness the "NEW CELEBRATION OF JUNETEENTH," an Official State Holiday.

JUNETEENTH CELEBRATION

Programme

Mistress of Ceremony

Lillian Jasper

Welcome

Sarah Gordon

Invocation

Laura Neal

The Celebration

Lillie Morris

~ LUNCH ~

A Personal Experience

Willie Stewart

Introduction of Speaker

Dr. Ella Williams

Esther Hall Mumford

Author - Historian

The "Jubilation Dance"

Michelle Murray

~ REMARKS ~

The African American Anthem

~ MUSIC ~

Toni Neal

Members

Versa Alexander
Frances Brown
Lois Butler
Alma Canty
Hattie Crisp
Bertha Davis
Sarah Gordon
Charlotte Henderson ✓
Marion Hill ✓
Jacqueline Holland ✓
Lynitra Jackson ✓
Lillian Jasper
Irma Miles
Brenda Moore
Lillie Morris
Laura Neal ✓
Zelda Robinson ✓
Odessa Simon ✓
Virginia Taylor
Anne Wade ✓
Ella Williams ✓