

Carrie Best

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Born March 4, 1903 in New Glasgow, Carrie Best was the daughter of James and Georgina Ashe Prevoe. One of her biggest influences was her mother and how she reacted during a race riot at the end of the First World War. In the 1940s she and her son were arrested for sitting in the whites only area of the Roseland Theatre in New Glasgow.

In 1946 she created the *Clarion*, a single page (8"x10") newspaper aimed at the Black community in New Glasgow. By 1947 the *Clarion* had grown to a broadsheet format. The purpose of this paper was for the betterment of race relations. The *Clarion* was published from 1946 to 1956.

In 1952, she had her own radio program titled *The Quiet Corner*, where she read her own poetry and stories. *The Quiet Corner* ran for 12 years.

In 1968 she started writing a column regularly for the *Pictou Advocate*. Under the heading *Human Rights*, Best used this column to push for better living conditions for Natives and fighting discrimination. She stopped writing the column in 1975.

In 1974 she was awarded the Order of Canada, with her citation reading: "On behalf of the Negro community in Nova Scotia, in recognition of her zealous work as writer and broadcaster." She was promoted to Officer of the Order of Canada in 1979. Her citation on the promotion reads: "Humanitarian, of New Glasgow, Nova Scotia, who has devoted most of her life to the underprivileged regardless of race, colour, creed or sex, and particularly her own people of the Black community."

Sources:

Sheryl Grant. *Carrie M Best A Digital Archive*. <http://www.parl.ns.ca/carriestbest/>

Governor Generals Office. *It's an Honour*. <http://www.gg.ca/honour.aspx?id=138&t=12>