

Famed Journalist - Teacher Visits Springfield, Mo.; Addresses Group

SPRINGFIELD, Mo. — Mrs. Thelma Thurston Gorham of Oklahoma City was guest speaker at a public meeting sponsored by the Baha'i community of Springfield, Sunday, August 9, at the Community Youth Center, 618 Benton. Her subject was "The Challenge of the Atomic Age."

"Perhaps the greatest challenge of the atomic age," the speaker declared, "is the acceptance of change in all areas of our lives—in the social, cultural, and spiritual areas of our lives as well as the physical, mental, political and economic phases of our on-

going on this planet."

She said that if men were more conditioned to accept social change, there would be no such incidents as "the spectacle of Little Rock, persecution of persons like the Bradens in Louisville, bombings of Negro homes, burning of crosses on their lawns, and the inhumanity of mob and lynch violence."

"All men are created to carry forward an ever advancing civilization," Mrs. Gorham stated, "and change is inevitable. We

cannot live under twentieth century conditions guided by eighteenth century concepts. By failing to meet the challenges of the atomic age, it is like living in a \$35,000 split-level, luxury-type home and bathing in an old-fashioned wash tub or going outside to an old-fashioned privy of outdoor toilet."

Mrs. Gorham was introduced at the public meeting by Dr. Leland Jensen of Joplin, Mo. "A Prayer for All Mankind" was read by Count Harvey of Springfield.

Mrs. Gorham was accompanied to Springfield by her son, Darryl Theodore. They were houseguests of Mr. and Mrs. Count Harvey, 1700 South Campbell. Saturday evening, Mrs. Gorham was a guest at a fireside meeting in the home of the Harveys. Sunday afternoon she was taken on a sight-seeing tour of the city by Mr. and Mrs. Ed Adams, who recently became the first Negro members of the Springfield Baha'i community.

One of 18 winners of Mass Media of Communications Fellowships awarded for 1959-60 by the Fund for Adult Education, a Ford Foundation subsidiary, Mrs. Gorham will spend the ensuing year studying at the Institute for Communications Research at Stanford university, Calif.

During July she attended an institute for the fellowship winners at the Frank Jay Gould House, Ardsley-on-Hudson, N. Y. On the return trip to Oklahoma City she stopped in Chicago, in order to visit the Baha'i Temple at Wilmette.

While in Chicago she also visited the Defender offices on South Michigan and South Indiana. She was formerly an assistant professor of journalism at Lincoln university, Jefferson City, Mo. Two of her former students at Lincoln, Lee Blackwell and Eddie Madison, are employed on the Defender staff.