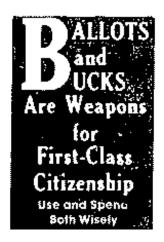


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Mildred Brown Had a Key Role

place in the Midlands. As publisher of the Omaha Star, the nation's longest-operating black-owned newspaper run by a woman, she provided neighborhood news and commentary for more than 50



day at the age of 76, held a special helping of information about (values. A newspaper trade associaevents and opinions in the black tion spokesman once said that she community.

Among her concerns was the struggle for racial equality. She done." hired Charles Washington, who is widely remembered for his civil rights work, as a reporter and columnist for the paper. Whitney Young, who was executive secretary of the Omaha Urban League before going on to head the National Urban League, contributed editorials,

Mrs. Brown recalled in a 1988 interview that the paper sometimes supported boycotts to spotlight discriminatory practices, and that she and her staff were secused of being "troublemakers."

played an important role by calling jothers, had what it took to succeed. attention to the accomplishments [Her accomplishments should not of people in the black community, be forgotten.

Mildred Brown, who died Thurs. | years, giving her readers a weekly Mrs. Brown emphasized positive did "little things for little people to make them proud of what they have

> Her work "touched hundreds of people personally," as Robert Armstrong, director of the Omaha Housing Authority, said recently. "She has always been a positive force," Armstrong said.

Mrs. Brown once said that she had no fear. Certainly it took courage and self-confidence to start a newspaper in the 1930s, when times were hard and fewer doors were open to blacks and women than is the case today.

But Mrs. Brown, who liked to The Star and its publisher also print stories about the success of

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