



AnnaBelle Weakley

**"I think I set the
groundwork in Ogden for
black women to feel
proud about
themselves."**

AnnaBelle Weakley and her husband, Billie, owned the Porters and Waiters Club on 25th Street. After marrying Billy in 1947, AnnaBelle took over management of the club and spent the next four years improving it. She built a lounge in the basement and, with the help of Joe McQueen and others, started to book entertainers to play. Soon the Club developed a reputation for spectacular entertainment from some of the best jazz musicians, including B.B. King and Duke Ellington, among others.

In the era of segregation, the Porters and Waiters Club was one of the few establishments in Ogden open to blacks. The club was segregated until 1951, but AnnaBelle welcomed railroad workers, airmen, and jazz greats alike, earning her the nickname, "Queen of 25th Street."

She worked with the Boys and Girls Club, the YMCA, Salt Lake Senior Center and the Legal Aid Society. AnnaBelle was named to the governors Black Advisory Council, where she specialized in substance-abuse counseling. Later she worked at the state prison as an ethnicity minority specialist.