Family of Nine in Windowless Room

Mrs. Nellie Henley and her eight children pose in the windowless room they occupy at 1103 Thomsen St. Shown, left to right, first row, are: Joyce, Carrie, Louise and Barbara; second row, Mrs. Henley, Raleigh, Marion, Robert Lee and Roosevelt. Two of the Henley children are out of school because they do not have the clothing necessary for cold weather.

Mother, 8 Children Share 1 Room With Groundhog

(Continued from Page 1)

This small room—about 15 x 18 feet—has been home to the Henley family ever since.

The room contains two single beds, a bureau and a two-burner oil stove. The children take turns sleeping on the beds—as many as can be accommodated—while the others sleep on a pallet on the floor.

Ground Hog Privileged

The ground hog, Sally, sleeps on the bed during the day. I was unable to find out what space she occupies at night, but did learn a little of her background.

Sally was born on the Eastern Shore of Maryland a little over a year ago. She was found by Mr. Henley, who was working in the fields there and thought the animal might be a good pet for the children.

Mr. Henley left his family a few months later, but Sally, the ground hog, lingered on. The children are fond of Sally. They say she is intelligent and kind.

Supported by the Welfare

Like thousands of other families, the Henleys are desperately in need of a place in which to live. They get a monthly check from the Welfare Department, which keeps them fairly supplied with food.

This check does not take care of proper clothing, however, and two of the children are now out of school because they lack heavy coats.

When I visited the Henley's, one of the small girls wore a tattered sarong, which she said was her weekday dress.

16 Live in 5 Rooms

The Henleys refused to be photographed in their "weekday" clothes. The picture which accompanies this article was made after the young mother dressed her brood in their Sunday best.

At present, 16 persons live in the five-room house at 1103 Thomson St. They are Mrs. Henley and her 8; Mr. and Mrs. Stream and their 3 children.

Mrs. Henley's children are Roosevelt, 13; Marion, 10; Raleigh, 7; Louise, 6; Barbara Jane, 5; Carrie, 4; Joyce, 2, and Robert Lee, 1 year old.

Contributions to the family may be made through Policewoman Carolyn Robinson at the Northeastern District police station, Olive 6147.

Female Impersonator Held in $100 Bail

A defendant charged as a female impersonator, arrested on disorderly conduct charges along lower Pennsylvania Ave, feels he can obtain a fairer trial in the Criminal Courts, Magistrate Fitzpatrick was told in Northwestern police district, Wednesday.

William Yorker, 27, 617 Jasper St., was arrested by Officer Henry Phiffer who testified he had often warned Yorker.

Yorker, a hairdresser by profession, denied the charge but asked that his case be sent downtown. He contended that he can get a fair trial before the Criminal Court juries. Bail was fixed at $100.

Shakedown Game Charged to Knight

For allegedly continuing his wartime powers as an auxiliary policeman in a reputed shakedown racket along lower Pennsylvania Ave., James Knight, 42, 1421 Myrtle Ave., was placed under $1,000 bail, Wednesday, to face grand jury action.

Knight, a hauling contractor, was arrested shortly after 10 p.m., by Officer Jerome Glass on the complaint of six young women. According to the officer, the women accused Knight of threatening to arrest them if they didn't share their money with him.

"What these women are doing is their business," the officer continued, "but I don't think Knight has any right molesting them."

Wears Police Equipment

Officer Glass presented a gun holster, badge, flashlight and police call box key which he said he found on Knight.

The defendant said he used those items while serving as auxiliary patrolman during 1944 and 1945 and that he had been given permanent possession of them when his services were terminated.

Knight denied the shakedown charges before he was told by Magistrate Fitzpatrick in Northwestern police court to "tell it to the jury."

Maryland GI's in Japan Get New Assignments

Pvt. John Campbell, 917 N. Stricker St., serving with the 933rd AA Automatic Weapons Bn., in Yokohama, Japan, has been placed on temporary duty with the QM Depot in Tokyo, to guard important Army installations in that port.

Pvt. Campbell enlisted in Dec 1947, and was assigned to his present unit upon arrival in Japan.

Stationed with the 25th Signal Company of the Eighth Army in nearby Osaka is Pfc. Kenneth R. Hunichen of 313 E. 2nd St., Frederick, Md., as personnel clerk.

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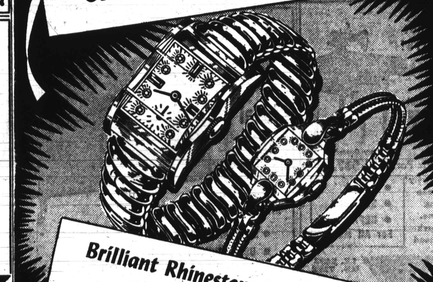

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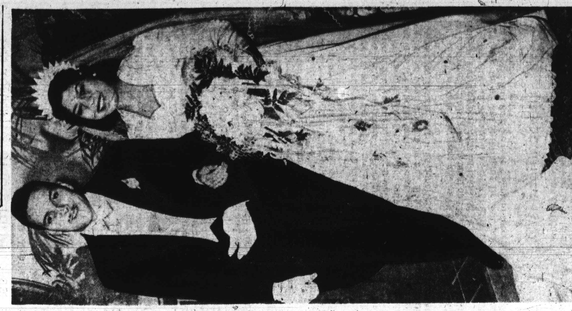


The David Drivers presented radiant smiles to the 300 persons who attended their reception. Dressed in the traditional white satin, the bride's gown was enhanced by the pearl and crystal encrusted veil of illusion worn by her mother.

With the echoes of the wedding vows still in their ears, Mr. and Mrs. David Driver leave the Bethel A.M.E. Church where the Rev. John T. Colbert in one of the prettiest pre-Christmas weddings of the season.

Perhaps the new Mrs. David Driver is smiling over her new name. She is shown arriving at her parents' home for the reception. Behind her and the bridegroom is her father, Samuel Owings Sr., local school principal. (AFRO photos by I. Henry Phillips)

Joan is the month of brides, but December is a month of wedding bells. And often they ring out their joy amid the festive holiday season, mixing with the jingle of Yuletide bells and chimes. Such was the case when Miss Margaret Owings, attractive daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Catonsville High School principal, were principals in a pre-dawn wedding at Bethel A.M.E. Church, Grace Presbyterian Church with the Rev. John T. Colbert officiating.

Black tulle and lace gowned Miss Also holds a master's degree from Morgan State College. She was the daughter of Mrs. Mary Cross.

Mr. Driver presented her with a diamond encrusted veil of illusion worn by her mother 26 years ago. Her gown was patterned after her mother. Her gown of white satin was fashioned with a sweetheart neckline and a fitted bodice with a floor skirt.

Matron of honor, Mrs. Driver was attended by Mesdames Arnetta Stanley Best man was Raymond Driver, brother of the bridegroom, usher was Samuel Owings Jr., bride's brother, Samuel Owings Jr., and Joseph Wright, cousin of the bride's parents. Mr. Driver and his bride left for a honeymoon at new brides, doesn't make the can opener too much a part of her culinary art, she's a good cook.

She finds cooking intriguing, and her specialties are fried chicken, fresh vegetables, hot rolls and biscuits and other delectables on the domestic 'tranquillity,' she's discovered.

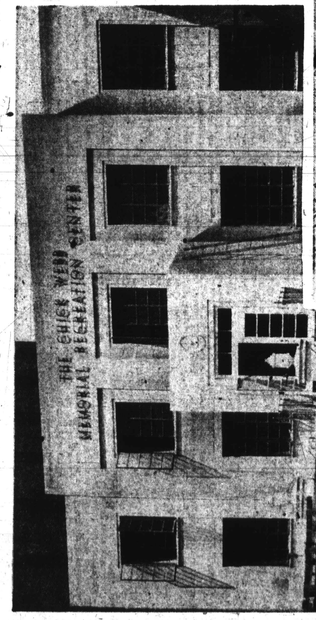
The romance of Miss Owings and Mr. Driver began when they both attended Douglass High School in Catonsville, and the couple continued to be sweethearts at Morgan where Mr. Driver was to do graduate work at Columbia.

He returned to Baltimore and Morgan last June and resumed his courtship with the charming young lady who was to become the bride, family of Druid Junior High School No. 137 in Baltimore.

A scene to remember at the Owings-Driver wedding was that of the receiving line which greeted the 300 guests who attended the reception. Left to right are: Samuel Owings Sr.—the bride's father; Mrs. Mary Cross—the bride's mother; Mrs. Samuel Owings Sr., Raymond Owings, best man; the bridegroom, Mr. David Driver; Samuel Owings Jr., Mrs. Betty Bundara, Milton Owings, Miss Mary Stanley and Charles Stokes.

haven for east baltimore youngsters:

Chick Webb Center Observes Anniversary



This is the Chick Webb Recreation Center as it was nearing completion during July, 1947. Located in the 600 block N. Eden St., the center now serves East Baltimore youth.

Since the Chick Webb Memorial Center opened its doors a year ago, some 8,000 persons have made use of its facilities.

The middle one building where a plucky little drummer who refused to give in to physical handicaps, Chick Webb, served its first anniversary without fanfare.

More than a building where children can find recreation, the Webb Center represents a nine-year struggle of local citizens to give the youth of this city what can best be described by telling of the variety of activities held there.

The center has an active enrollment of 700 children, all of whom are members of one or more of the 20 organizations sponsored by the center.

Well represented in local athletics, Webb Center won the city championship in basketball, and the Scarlet Horsemen from the center copped the city basketball crown.

This group of women also find the center useful. Here, they are in the center's sewing class. Adult groups meet regularly at the center.

Making gifts for Christmas is one of the seasonal activities the youthful patrons indulge in at Chick Webb Center. This is a class in sewing.

leisure-time activities for all ages:

Headed by L. Clement Nixon, former Army lieutenant, the Webb Center staff consists of the following persons: Mrs. Zelda Grange, Miss Naomi Cannon, Irvin Bevans, Miles Harris, Mrs. Ruth Wright, Mrs. Carrie Mae Cross, Mrs. Ruth Wright, Harry Gail, Mrs. Velma B. Webb, Mrs. Beatrice Collins, A. Dunlop Jones, Cornell Taylor, Ezra Murdock, Clarence Carter and Lawrence Smith.

The center has activities for all age groups. Some 150 mothers attended its mother-daughter banquet this year, while 100 fathers were present at the father-son banquet. Other highlights of the year were the teen-age spring dance and the spring festival.

Games are employed by directors at the center to help form wholesome recreational habits for youngsters. Here, a group of children are shown playing checkers and cards.