Library No. 1 to pass into realm of remembered things

Like the old swimming hole, the one room school and the dime street carfare, the old library will soon be a think of the past.

The two-story building at Fremont Ave. and Pitcher St., which has opened new worlds of fact and fantasy to thousands of children and adults for 71 years, will close its doors for the last time on March 15.

Somewhere in this city a few may shed tears at the passing of this landmark but the regret is somewhat softened by the fact that the closing is dictated by the march of progress.

* * *

STANDING AT the corner of Pennsylvania and North Aves. is a gleaming modern library complete with all the latest trappings in library science.

This library will fill the place in the community left vacant by the closing of the old Branch No. 1.

With its stately gables and quiet exterior that give it the appearance of a shrine, Branch No. 1 will probably be used for a time, to store books, according to Mrs. Vivian Owings, librarian.

* * *

TO MANY Baltimore residents Branch No. 1 at one time was "The Library," the place where they could go to do research, find adventure or meet their friends.

But recent years and the opening of new branches, accompanied by a shift of population, has diminished the need for Branch No. 1.

In the early years, Branch No. 1 was the only one of the branch libraries where colored people attended in great numbers and felt welcome.

But even then, the staff was not integrated.

All of the persons on the staff were white until Mrs. Louise Kerr Hines, through the NAACP, sued to enter the class, ex-in library science offered there.

* * *

LATER, however, Mrs. Iona Wood Collins, who now heads the little School on Arlington Ave., became the first professional librarian hired there.

Mrs. Thelma T. Bell, a Hampton graduate, followed as children's librarian, and the first colored person to head the staff went there in 1944.

She was Mrs. Alma B. Gray, a graduate of the library school at Atlanta University with experience as librarian at Camp Stewart, Ga., for two years.

For a while, Mrs. Gray and the two colored persons who preceded her were the extent of the staff, but when others were added, they were colored.

At the height of its employment, the library had a staff of six full - time employees, headed by Mrs. Gray.

MRS. GRAY left Branch No. 1 in March of 1955, and became head librarian at the Broadway branch (No. 5) where her staff has included personnel of various races. Currently, a Chinese girl is the children's assistant to the library.

"I guess I felt a little sentimental when I learned that Branch No. 1 was to be closed" Mrs. Gray said.

She said she had many memories attached to the branch and the many children who attended during her service there.

"I believe, however, that with the better and larger facilities at the new Pennsylvania branch, they will have better service," she said.

* * *

MRS. OWINGS of 2201 N. Eilamont St., the present librarian came to the branch from Branch No. 5 a year ago. She heads a staff that includes an assistant, a page, two part-time clerks and a custodian who has served the branch since 1923.

All of them will be transferred to other branches "without change in their status or grade," according to Mrs. Lee B. Gorsuch, chairman of the Pratt Library's extension division.

* * *

BRANCH NO. 1 was one of the original branches set up by Enoch Pratt, merchant and public benefactor, in the 1880's.

When the Boston-born benefactor decided to contribute a free library system to the cultural life of Baltimore, he made it clear that this gift would be one which could bring good to all.

He said:

"For 15 years I have studied the library question, and wondered what I could do with my money so that it would do the most good . . . I soon made up my mind that I would not found a college — for a few rich.

"My library shall be for all, rich and poor without distinction of race or color, who, when properly accredited, can take out the books if they will handle them carefully and return them."

* * *

TWO YEARS AFTER its opening (1888), Branch No. 1 had the largest circulation of any of the branches (72,479). It started with 5,087 volumes and closed out the 1956 year with 21,394.

Dow Mitchell, whose 34 years as custodian at Branch No. 1 span almost half of the library's existence, has seen "lots of books come in and go out, and lots of librarians come and go, too."

Mr. Mitchell of 4417 The Alameda, recalls too, the late 1930's and the early 1940's when the branch library had the largest juvenile circulation in the city.

During those years, he said, "I got to know a lot of kids," who knew him well enough to call him "Pop."

They still know him pretty well, he said, and "they still call me 'Pop' and first one thing then another."

* * *

WITH MANY "Pops" Mitchell has watched the numbers of the Pratt branches grow to the gratifying number of 27. Like the closing of Branch No. 10, however, the closing of Branch No. 1 is due to the building of larger, finer branches.

The closing of the Fremont-Pitcher landmark became apparent before completion of Branch No. 17, at North and Pennsylvania, the largest, most modern of the branches in the city.

In her 1953 report, Mrs. Alma Gray, the branch librarian at that time, wrote:

"As anticipated, circulation and registration took a sharp dip in 1953. At the opening of the new Pennsylvania Ave. Branch, total circulation fell off almost 50 percent registration almost 25 percent."

IN THE YEAR Branch No. 17 was opened (1953), the circulation at Branch No. 1 dropped from 68,870 to 48,965—a dip of almost 20,000.

This decline in circulation necessitated a change in staff personnel from three professional librarians and one desk assistant, to the present staff of only one professional librarian, one assistant, and several part-time helpers.

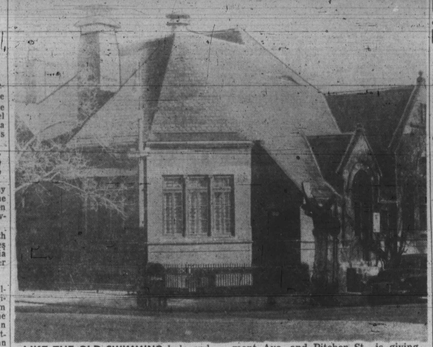
Last year's circulation at Branch No. 1 was 35,165, a drop of more than 9,000 from the previous year's circulation.

Mrs. Owings, the librarian, said that part of the decline was due to a change in open hours which cut nine hours per week from the previous time.

* * *

OTHER PERSONS to work at the branch presently are: Mrs. Loretta Ellis, 3408 Duvall Ave., desk assistant; Mrs. Antionette R. Hill, 2416 Pennsylvania Ave., part-time assistant; Miss Sandra Johnson, 2142 W. North Ave., page; and Miss Josephine Booker, 1673 Bakbury Ct., part-time substitute.

Mrs. Gorsuch, said that Mrs. Owings was "an excellent librarian," and that the books from Branch No. 1 will be transferred to the Pennsylvania Branch "so as not to deprive the people in that area of the facilities."



LIKE THE OLD SWIMMING hole and the five-cent cup of coffee, this old Enoch Pratt Library branch at Fremont Ave. and Pitcher St., is giving way to progress. It closes next month.

HIS JOB AS BOOK CHECKER will soon be over. Dow Mitchell shown above at his post by the door has "checked out" for 34 years. Proud of his job, Mr. Mitchell knows most of the children by name. Shown above is Calvin Smith, 1403 W. Lanvale St., who likes to read, has borrowed five books. He's a ninth-grade pupil at Booker Washington Jr. High School.

TO ERECT NEW PLANT

Completion of a new plant, erected at a cost of $1,500,000 at Curtis Bay, Baltimore, to produce reforming catalyst for petroleum refineries, was announced this week by Davison Chemical Company, Division of W. R. Grace and Co.

Free Baltimore man in abandonment case

HALIFAX, N.C. — Charged with abandonment of his only living child, three others having died of food poisoning, Cleveland Faulcon, 26, was freed of that count and a non-support charge in recorders court here Tuesday.

The case against Mr. Faulcon, employee of a Baltimore Venetian blind firm, collapsed when both his estranged wife, Mrs. Maxine Faulcon, and her sister, Miss Cathereen Taylor, admitted he had regularly sent money and clothing for the children over the past two years.

* * *

MR. FAULCON'S attorney, Julian R. Allsbrook of Roanoke Rapids, told the court that out of his salary of $40 a week his client had sent payments of from $10 to $15 a week, along with clothing when possible, except when he was unemployed.

After Judge Bernard Allsbrook ruled Mr. Faulcon not guilty, Solicitor Nicholas Long took a nolle prosse with leave in the case of Mr. Faulcon's estranged wife, Maxine, who was charged with abandonment.

Speaking through his attorney, Mr. Faulcon stated in open court that he wanted custody of his remaining child, Clementine, 7, to take her back to Baltimore.

He said he would go back to Baltimore and make arrangements for her care there and until that time he wanted to leave the child with his mother, Mrs. Matilda Faulcon, who lives between Aurelia Springs and Littleton.

The court gave a tongue lashing to Mr. Faulcon's brother-in-law, Anthony Taylor, 31, for living within 50 yards of his sisters and yet not knowing the children had no clothing after Mrs. Faulcon left for NYC last December.

* * *

ACCORDING TO MR. FAULCON, Clementine and her deceased brother and sisters, Robert, 3, Barbara Ann, 4, and Jean, 6, had lived with him in Baltimore until about three years ago when they returned to live with his mother.

After they had stayed with his mother for about three weeks, Mr. Faulcon said, his wife took them to Bethlehem with her. When she left for NYC the children remained in custody of her sister.

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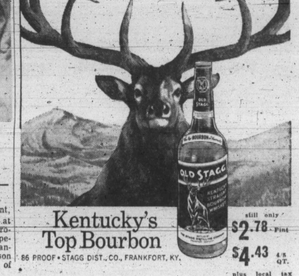

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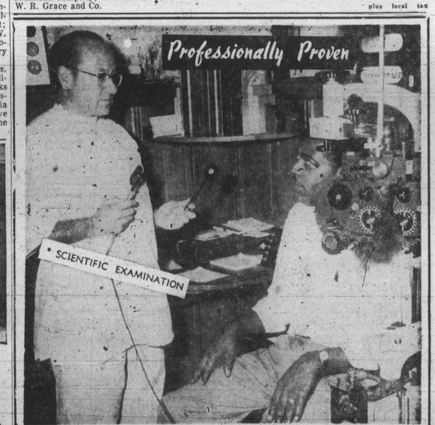

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QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS — Dr. John Hope Franklin (left), head of the history department of Brooklyn College, Brooklyn, N.Y., answers questions from students at Coppin State Teachers College. He spoke there last week.

Third graders learn of new instruments

The third grade class of Mrs. Wallace at School No. 137 has been following the radio series, Adventures in Music Listening. Recently the instruments of the orchestra were introduced.

They wrote to Miss Judity Murray, a music major at Morgan State College. She brought her violin to the school for the pupils to see. The pupils were able to hold and feel the violin and a few even tried to play it.

* * *

RAYMOND KITZ of Morgan State College brought his saxophone. The pupils were impressed with its size, shape, weight, and color. They particularly enjoyed the requeest time.

The third graders enjoyed the music so much that they invited the college students to return and play for them.

The pupils in the class are: James Blake, Julian Brigbs, Carroll Carter, Cornell Butler, Dwight Cosby, Bernard Hill, Reginald Hill, Nelson Layton, William Manns, Lloyd Neale, Andrew Pearson, Tyrone Powell, Douglass Robertson.

Others are: Winston Scott, Jerome Shird, Bernard Taylor, Leroy Thomas, Thomas Wilson, Barbara Braxton, Joyce Brewer, Mary Lou Carr, Barbara Cosby, Carolyn Frink, Evelyn Jones, Josephine Loper, Angela Matthews.

Also, Catherine McCullers, Sella Outten, Margaret Richardson, Ruby Shaw, Barbara Tibman, Cynthia Walker, Phyllis Williams, Mildred Winkey, Cynthia Wyatt, Frances Watters, Bertha Yates.

Edward L. Murray is principal and Mrs. Lillian H. Ross is vice-principal of the school.

Your school honors ... Harvey Johnson

"This cup is so heavy, but I intend to perform my duties until I drop."

Those words spoken by the late Dr. Harvey Johnson, during a communion service at Union Baptist Church, shortly before his death, January 13, 1922, are a graphic illustration of the type of man he was and the type of life he lived.

Dr. Johnson had realized a lifelong ambition just preceding that gay holiday season, by rounding out 50 years as pastor of Union Baptist Church.

* * *

MANY PUPILS AND graduates of the Harvey Johnson Junior High School, named in his honor, as well as other citizens are not fully aware of the many contributions Dr. Johnson made to the community.

This, therefore, is an attempt to briefly recapture the life of a remarkable man.

Born in Fauquier County, Va. August 4, 1843, Dr. Johnson received his education at the Old Baptist Seminary in Washington, and was called to the pastorate of Union Baptist Church in 1872.

Five years later he married Miss Aurelia E. Hall. Several children were born to the happy couple.

* * *

UNDER HIS AMAZING leadership, the little church of 200 members grew until there were more than 2,000 on its membership roll. The church moved several times, finally settling on its present location on Druid Hill Ave., near Dolphin St.

The church was built from the ground up and in his will he requested that the church-project never be mortgaged.

Dr. Johnson's timely and thought - provoking sermons caused his fame to spread beyond the city limits of Baltimore, to such an extent that he was nationally in demand as a speaker with a message.

He became known as a fighter for what today are called civil rights. He fought jim crow vigorously, objecting to discrimination by white Baptist ministers against colored Baptist ministers.

* * *

ONE OF THE first to join the old Niagara Movement, which developed into the NAACP, Dr. Johnson led the fight to allow colored lawyers to practice in Maryland, and did not rest until colored women were also protected under the bastardy law.

He fought for the rights of teachers, built two churches here and started several others. The author of a book, "The Nations From A New Point of View," he also wrote several pamphlets, a popular form of expression of that day.

Nearly 2,000 persons listened attentively on January 13, 1923, as Dr. Walter H. Brooks of Washington in a brief eulogy said:

"He was a preacher to fire the soul, a John Jasper, but cultured and learned. He was a fighter for the race. He was an independent thinker; the real pastor, never old in spirit and always keeping time with the advancing trend of the age."

* * *

IT IS NO WONDER that a few years later in 1928, School No. 106 which had been founded in 1802, should change its name from Booker T. Washington to Harvey Johnson in honor of this man.

James R. Hite is the current principal of the Harvey Johnson Junior High, on Hill St. near Sharp St., a monument to a great man.

The school serves grades 7-9, and has a faculty of 27, with an enrollment of 571 pupils.

REV. HARVEY JOHNSON Junior High No. 106 honors him

Girls at Booker T. High view spring fashion show

By EMMA DORSEY

The girls in Booker T. Washington Junior High School saw a spring fashion show on Monday of clothes that they can sew for themselves.

A hooded coat was modeled by Blanche Jones and a slim skirt was worn by Veronice Reeves. A fashion-new Dutch boy suit was worn by Brenda White.

Cape ensembles, one in mauve with a striped lining, and the other in violet with a gay print, were modeled by Gloria Hill and Beatrice Jackson.

A cape collar dress was worn by Christine Dates. Norma Neal modeled an ensemble in gold tones combined with a print dress with a coat lined in the same material.

The glamour gown of the group was a lemon yellow affair modeled by Barbara Campbell.

Other models in the show included Deiores Martin, Claudia Simpson, Esther White, Brenda Brooks, Barbara Clary, LaVern Wallace, Joyce Grifiin, Janice Smith and Jacqueline Butler.

* * *

MEMBERS OF the 9A class met in the auditorium with their parents to talk with counselors of the schools they expect to attend when they graduate.

The counselors were: Miss Roberta White from Western High, A. Sinclair Swann of Carver, Mrs. Mae Fortune of Douglass, and David Kaufman of City.

Following the assembly, at which each of the counselors spoke to the entire class, the pupils separated into groups according to the school that they plan to attend.

In observance of Brotherhood Week a film, "Do You Want to be Happy and Free," was shown to all history classes. The 8A and ninth grade pupils saw the film, "High Wall."

HARVEY JOHNSON—This is Public School No. 106, Harvey Johnson Junior Hight, at Sharp and Hill Sts., named in honor of a minister who fought for civil rights and equal education. The school serves grades 7-9, has a faculty of 27 and an enrollment of 571 pupils. James R. Hite is principal. Note the old building at right and new annex at left.

Harvey Johnson roundup

February is a busy month for the pupils of Harvey Johnson Junior High School No. 106.

The Senior Sponsor's Club and the Big Brother's Club were formed to assist 7B students adjust to the new school.

Their aim is to help enforce all school rules by setting examples for new students. Both clubs entertained the 7B classes last week.

Theodore Gross is advisor of the Big Brother's Club. Senior Sponsors are Theresa Wells, Maxine Brooks, Lydia Scott, Betty Cooper, Crystal Dingle, Dorothy Harrell.

Others are Stephanie Young, Carolyn Spruell, Shirley Tyler, Mary Commodore, Thelma Wilder, Leulla Dingle, Doretha Richardson, Joan Crawford and Barbara Mercer.

A STUDENT government was organized last week. The purpose of this organization is to establish habits and skills of pupil participation in the management of the school.

Each homeroom class has elected officers. The officers will help plan activities for the pupils.

The ninth graders elected an advisory council. Members include: Junior Crawford, Carolyn Allen, Patricia Perry, Mary Commodore, Barbara Mercer, Roland White, Peggy Caroline, Paulette Banks and Marion Franklin.

Highlights of Brotherhood Week will be the presentation of a skit by a ninth grade class and the showing of a movie: "Our Town in the World," a dramatic lesson in democracy.

A tribute to the colored people will be made by Blanche Johnson. Musical selections will be provided by Mrs. Alice Ford, and Mrs. Mattie Tyson.

* * *

MRS. PEARL PRATHER is advisor to the National Junior Honor Society. The pupils in this organization are rated on their character, citizenship, leadership and service.

Members are Paulette Banks, Brenda Chase, Marion Franklin, Carolyn Jones, Marene Johnson, Dorothy Harrell, Shirley Tyler and Melvina Moon.

The Model Airplane Club sponsored by Joseph Armstead meets twice a week Monday and Friday. The club tries to develop an interest in modern aeronautics. Membership is open to all boys.

The Y-teen's Club sponsored by Miss Luella Black is having a "Record Hop" Thursday in the school gymnasium.

The Hi-Y Club is sponsored by Norman Uncles, who, at the beginning of the semester helped boys plan activities according to their interests.

Officers are: Wynwood Curry, president; Harry Williams, vice-president; Asa Richardson, secretary; Jerome Forester, treasurer.

Other members are. Lynwood Scott, Ronald Jamison, Steve Thornton, Donald Currice, Sylvester Brooks, Elroy Vaughn, Bernard Houston, Willie Briscoe Yvone Manokey, James Hawkins.

James R. Hite, principal, has encouraged the operation of each group. With the cooperation of all the pupils and teachers, Harvey Johnson will be, not one of the best, but the best junior high school in Baltimore.

2 first aid classes begin on Thursday

Baltimore Chapter, American Red Cross safety services has announced two new classes in standard first aid to begin next week.

Beginning Thursday, February 28, one class will be held from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m., the other will be held from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. the same day.

The classes will meet once a week for 8 weeks.

CERTIFICATES WILL be awarded to those who successfully complete the course, which will be taught by qualified Red Cross instructors.

All calsses will meet in the safety services classroom, 3rd floor, chapter headquarters, 23rd and St. Paul Streets.

Registration may be made by calling the Red Cross, Hopkins 7-9905.

Pupils raise 1,484 dimes for polio fight

The March of Dimes campaign got a big boost this week from several high school pupils who collected 1,484 dimes in a three - week campaign among their schoolmates.

The $148.40 was collected by Jeanette Malone of Booker T. Washington; Arlice Debman, Wisteen Ned, and Ruby Williams of Douglass; and Richard Hatfield of Carver.

The gave the dimes in exchange for tunes played on a local radio station.

Billy Foxx, Mary Dee, Bill Mullen, Chuck Richards and Kelson Fisher played the records, and Miss Helen Wherley directed the drive.

Mr. Fisher said the aid by the pupils "proved once again that there is more good than bad in kids. They didn't get a thing out of it for themselves," he said.

FIGHTING POLIO — Leroy Taylor and Michael Poe, pupils of Abraham Lincoln Elementary School No. 141, receive their vaccine shots from Dr. Walter E. Sherwington. Nurse Marie Crook and a parent, Mrs. Hastings, help out.

Sandra Henley gets second ranking post with new Y Council

Sandra Henley of Turner Station was recently elected vice-chairman of the new City - Wide Council of the Hi-Y and Tri-Hi-Y clubs. Miss Carol Nizer, Sparrows Point, was elected chairman.

Other officers elected were: of Turner Station, Arelia Lopez, secretary; John Spencer, treasurer; Andrew Petite, chaplain; David Vaughn, delegate-at-large.

These six high school youths will coordinate the programs and efforts of the 20 Hi-Y and Tri-Hi-Y Clubs of the YMCA in Baltimore City and County, involving more than 300 youths.

Sollers Hi Mardi Gras tonight

The Coronation Ball will be held tonight at the Sollers Point High School as the annual Mardi gras comes to a colorful clock.

The Jolly Jax misical combo will furnish the music for this affair.

The enthroned king and queen will reign over the activities which are opened to the public.

Morgan president returns to campus

Dr. Martin D. Jenkins, president of Morgan State College, returned to the campus early Wednesday morning after attending sessions of the meeting of the American Association of School Administrators in Atlantic City, N.J.

Today (Friday), Dr. Jenkins will witness the inauguration of Dr. Milton Eisenhower as president of Johns Hopkins University.

Baltimore Afro-American SCHOOL PAGE

JAMES D. WILLIAMS, School Reporter

The AFRO solicits news from all public and parochial schools. Address releases to City Desk, AFRO-AMERICAN, Baltimore 1, Md. — Tuesday edition deadline Friday noon. Friday edition Tuesday noon. If you desire photos of school events call City Desk MU. 5-6015 at least one week prior to event.

Pre-meds at Morgan accepted by schools

Two Morgan State College students and two recent graduates have received at least two acceptances each for admission to a total of six medical schools, Dr. John W. King, adviser of the Pre-Medical Club at the college, has disclosed.

Students receiving acceptances are Allen Chandler, senior, Hagerstown, Md., University of Maryland, Temple University, and Jefferson Medical College; and Miss Angela Webb, junior, Baltimore, who has been accepted for admission by the University of Maryland, Woman's Medical College, Philadelphia, Pa., and Meharry Medical College.

Also accepted have been Major Gladden, of Baltimore, who completed all requirements for graduation this February, Howard University and Meharry; and James Will, a 1954 graduate of Aquasco, Md., who has been admitted to the same medical schools.

* * *

ALSO, Wylie Hill, James Baker, Donald Cooke, Wilkington Sumpter, Nathaniel Alexander, Stephen Forster, Claud Calston, Charles Williams, Dorothy Rumson;

Others were Charles Jefferson, Jerry Dorman, Jerome Carroll, and last but not least, me.

The Stenlinel Gents composed of Gordon Ayres, McNair Taylor, Ronald Lee, Edward Williams, Steaven Burke, Leroy Hawthorne, Dorsey Skiner, William Randolph, Henderson Clarke, and Leroy Pinder, has become, with the Social Debs, affiliated.

H. Blackwell is the advisor of the Stenlinel Gents.

ATTENDS MEETING

Mrs. Grace L. Burke secretary to the Assistant to the president of Morgan State College, attended the eastern meeting of the College and University Personnel Association last Friday at Rutgers University, New Brunswick, N.J.

Patterson Park has special piano class for evening students

"The Patterson Park Evening Center is offering two course in piano, one for beginners and one for those who have some knowledge of piano.

Music reading, keyboard study, harmony, and other fundamentals of the subject are taught. The beginning class meets on Monday evenings at 7:30 p.m. and the advanced class on Wednesday evenings at the same hour.

Registration for these classes should be completed as soon as possible. The school is located at Pratt St. and Ellwood Ave.

TEEN AGE MEDLEY

By LAVANIA RICE

On Saturday the Social Debs gave a surprise graduation party for one of their mascots, Albert Hawkins. Albert was one of the graduates of Poly's February class.

The other three boys were: Kenneth Broom, Eddie Savage, and Jones. Now, back to the party which was a great success. Some of the guests were: Eileen Bowser, Michael Moses, Harry Johnson, Raymond Carr, Albert Pasteur;

Others were: Delfield Yoes, McRaymond Harrington, Ray Alston, Lennie Penny, Julia Butler, Earl Booker, Rodney Douglass, Beverly Johnson, Barbara Jones, Lewis Gross;

Una Dobson, Jeanette Eady, Evelyn Brown, Jackie Johnson, Hilda Nelson, Barbara Allen, James Carroll, Bernard Payne, Michael Woodlawn;

* * *

ALSO, Wylie Hill, James Baker, Donald Cooke, Wilkington Sumpter, Nathaniel Alexander, Stephen Forster, Claud Calston, Charles Williams, Dorothy Rumson;

Others were Charles Jefferson, Jerry Dorman, Jerome Carroll, and last but not least, me.

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GETS INTERNATIONAL POST

BATON ROUGE, La.—**Harold Sims,** an honor graduate of the past semester of Southern University, was recently called to fill a position in the International Affairs Office of the United States National Student Association.

Sims is a native of Memphis, Tenn., and a graduate of Booker T. Washington High School, there.

THEY ATTENDED GRADUATION — The recent graduation exercises at Poly saw this group in attendance. Shown are Mrs. Anna M. Jones, Orange, N.J.; Mrs. Ruth Broom, 2912 Riggs Ave; Mrs. Katherine Gross, 2021 Riggs Ave.; Gwendolyn Alston and Maria Broom. Mrs. Broom is the aunt and little Miss Broom is the sister of the gentleman who attracted all this attention — graduate Kenneth L. Broom.