There's no rocking chair for Senior Citizen Whitley

Senior citizens won't be allowed to rock themselves quietly into older age and loneliness in at least one section of Baltimore City if a certain chipper lady has her way.

Though her blood pressure is often up, you can't keep this good little woman down and out — especially out of MUND, THE Model Urban Neighborhood Demonstration. She is Mrs. Viola Whitley, a spry, greying, jovial lady who got herself involved in MUND because, as she says, "I always have to stick my noise into something new."

• • •

MUND is the Nation's model and forerunner for the Model Cities Program and happened to be set up within the area where Mrs. Whitely lives in a modest townhouse on East 22nd Street.

She was a candidate for the Board of MUND's Neighborhood Development Corporation, the resident's governing body in the Demonstration. The MUND area extends from North Avenue to 25th Street and from the Jones Falls Expressway east to Harford Road.

The U.S. Office of Economic Opportunity has appropriated $810,000 to the Neighborhood Development Corporation, now entirely administered and controlled by area residents, to carry out their programs aimed at improving the quality of life in their community. The event marked the first time that residents of a poor neighborhood had been provided with such a large sum of funds by the Government in the war against poverty.

Initial goals of the program were to develop ways in which a partnership of business, residents of a poverty neighborhood and the agencies of city government could develop a model to permit the people of the community to deal effectively with the range of urban problems including housing, education, crime, health and basic city services.

• • •

Though not directly involved in these projects, Mrs. Whitley is doing her thing and helping the senior citizens do theirs by being Chairman of the Senior Citizens Committee of MUND. She assures the world that MUND's old folks won't rock the rest of their lives away all alone in a little room decorated with a few memories.

When asked about her connection with the senior citizen group, she replied, "Well, in the first place I did civic work in the Northeast Improvement Association at the Easterwood Center, and lo and behold, to my surprise, I was elected chairman of the senior citizen's group.

"We had a real eager bunch there and made ceramic statues, had social events and made the loveliest hats you've ever seen, she said as she shuffled upstairs in her fluffy pink slippers and reappeared with a stylish navy blue wide brim hat decorated with green and yellow flowers. "Here's my prize," she said, fingering the plastic flowers.

• • •

"When MUND was in the planning stages about three years ago, I went and stuck my nose in it because it was something new. At the time we were planning to organize the senior citizens in my neighborhood. Since we had to connect the group to something what was better than MUND?"

MUND assigned a community organizer to the project to work with Mrs. Whitley.

MRS. VIOLA WHITLEY

"We will choose a co-chairman in each of the four MUND districts who will be responsible for finding the addresses of all the senior citizens and then visiting each one. This person will then report back, with written statements, about the health problems, living conditions, the need for apartments in the proposed aged people's home, and what type recreational or craft activities they might like to pursue."

• • •

"Each district will set up their own schedules of events and then meet socially with other districts upon occasion," Mrs. Whitley explains.

"I really see great things for the senior citizens. We want to keep them active and happy, even at the bowling alleys. They'll do their own things, too," she said.

When asked if her husband, William, was involved in MUND, Mrs. Whitley replied, slapping her arms down onto her lap, "Oh; no! I can't keep him off the job long enough. He worked with the Wright Construction Company building roads all over the place. He's right busy."

Mrs. Whitley came to Baltimore from her native state of Florida in 1930 and from 1940 to 1965 was a nurse at City Hospital. A plaque hangs next to her favorite chair recognizing her years of "appreciated service." "I haven't regretted coming to Baltimore one bit but I sure am scared of the storms you have here," she exclaimed.

"I really think MUND is a wonderful thing and the more that people realize what it means, the more response there will be. Now that the election is over, the delegates will be getting into citizens homes and really explaining plunge in," she added. MUND. These people around here just don't take things for granted. They're cautious and want to sniff around things before they plunge in," she added.

According to MUND officials, the overriding singular effort of the Demonstration during the first two years was to involve the local residents in the program's planning and management.

Floyd Rogers, chairman of the Neighborhood Development Corporation, stresses that the purpose of the MUND project is not merely to treat the obvious symptoms of poverty, such as poor housing, but to develop a plan in which the residents of the community, working with business and governmental leaders, could mount a continuing attack on the causes of poverty and inadequate community services. This more sophisticated approach was the reason why the OEO chose to fund the program on a demonstration basis.

"The emphasis on resident participation and self determination," said Mr. Rogers, "became the hallmark of the MUND team." He added that MUND hopes that its successes and failures will serve to aid other community action and model cities programs around the country to do a more effective job in meeting real and felt needs of the people they are intended to serve.

With aggressive and enthusiastic people like Mrs. Viola Whitley, that result should be forthcoming soon.

Davis quits top MUND for U.S. job

Lloyd C. Davis, who served for the past two years as Project Manager of Baltimore's Model Urban Neighborhood Demonstration, has resigned to become Director of Housing Assistance Programs in the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development in Washington.

"This resignation is a great loss to the entire MUND program," said Floyd Rogers, chairman of MUND's Neighborhood Development Corporation, the agency's resident-controlled governing body.

"Under Mr. Davis' leadership, MUND has expanded with major impact upon the entire city."

Harry Smith, MUND's Director of Community Development, has been named temporarily to serve as Acting Project Manager until a permanent appointment is announced.

He has been with MUND since its inception and has a broad background in social service activities, including the CAA.

MUND originally began as a partnership demonstration between Baltimore's Community Action Agency, Westinghouse Corporation, the Greater Baltimore Committee and the MUND neighborhood, bounded by North Ave., Harford Rd., 28th St. and Jones Falls Expressway.

It is now completely controlled by MUND residents and encompasses two satellite corporations dealing with housing and economic development.

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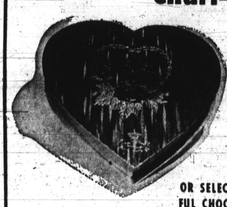

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Republicans urge Shriver to run

ANNAPOLIS—Two Republican senators have asked their chamber to welcome and invite R. Sargent Shriver, U. S. Ambassador to France, back to his home state of Maryland.

Thetwo, Thomas M. Anderson, Jr., (Howard-Montgomery) and Jervs S. Finney (Baltimore) introduced Thursday a resolution asking the senator to urge Mr. Shriver to return to Maryland.

Senator James A. Pine (D.-Baltimore,) noting that one of the sponsors was from his county, wanted to know why the resolution was brought up and especially by two republicans.

Mr. Shriver is a Democrat and is being urged by his admirers to return to this state and run for governor.

After some humorous exchanges between the Democratic and Republican senators, President William S. James, (D. Harford) sent the simple resolution to the judicial proceedings committee.

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Conference hits state budget for welfare aid

The Maryland Conference of Social Welfare believes that the budget proposed by the Governor for Fiscal 1971 for the Department of Social Services is totally inadequate, according to Dr. Daniel Thursz, President of the Conference.

The budget provides for an average grant of $40.05 per individual per month or $1.30 a day.

That figure includes food, shelter, clothing, transportation and all miscellaneous items. Milk costs 28 cents a quart, bread runs 28 cents a loaf and eggs are 85 cents a dozen. The actual amount paid by most Maryland welfare families for shelter (utilities and rent) averages out to about 71 cents a day per person.

The average grant in Maryland is about $1900 a year for a family of 3.9.

The maximum for four is $2200. The low cost subsistence allowance according to the U.S. Department of Labor Statistics is $3800 a year for four ... and this is recommended for temporary periods only.

A Maryland family lives on $150 per month or just 50 per cent of the poverty level.

"Maryland spends only 10 cents out of every tax dollar on welfare and although we are fourteenth among the states in the number of children on AFDC we rank twenty-fifth in the amount of our average grants ... i.e. $40.05 against a national average of $45.05," said Dr. Thursz.

The Maryland Conference points out that the assistance given to children, the majority of AFDC clients, is less than the grant to old age assistance clients ($63.52) or to the disabled ($84.34).

The total grant per child per year is $461 compared to about $5500 to keep a child in a correctional institution.

The Department of Social Services, in its original budget request, asked for increased standards in shelter, clothing, food and household maintenance.

These requests would have brought the average up to $3300 per year for a family of four. None of these increases are included in the Governor's proposed budget for fiscal 1971.

A request by the Department of Social Services for a supplemental budget is in the making, but the Maryland Conference has been told that it does not contain any increase in standards.

The additional amounts are for needed personnel, increased Day Care, free legal services for the poor and the major amount, $2,500,000 to $3,000,000 is for increased case load.

"Due to the economic recession and other factors, the welfare caseload increased ominously during the month of January and indications are that it will continue to increase," Dr. Thursz said.

"It therefore becomes necessary to provide some measure of support for those marginal families and individuals coming on the welfare rolls. The Maryland Conference urges the passage of the supplemental budget even though it deeply regrets that there are no increases in standards."

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Mayor's daughter to wed Robert Freeman

MONTCLAIR, N. J. — Mayor and Mrs. Matthew G. Carter, of this city, announce the engagement of their daughter, Miss Betiye Frances Carter, to Robert Turner Freeman, III, of Washington, D.C.

Miss Carter is a graduate of Montclair High School and is a senior at Boston University, majoring in sociology. She was presented at the Star-Lite Debutante Cotillion in Columbus, Ohio in 1966 and at the Montclair Council of Negro Women's Debutante Cotillion in 1967.

Her father served four years on Montclair's Town Commission as Director of Public Works before he was elected Mayor by his fellow Commissioners in 1966. Mayor Carter, who was formerly associated with the National Board YMCA, is manager of Consumer Affairs at Hoffmann-La Roche Pharmaceutical Company.

• • •

Mr. Freeman is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Robert T. Freeman, Jr., of Washington, D.C. He attended the International School while living with his parents in Accra, Ghana, and the Pennington School in Pennington, New Jersey.

Mr. Freeman attended Howard University before transferring to Boston University where he is a junior in the School of Fine Arts.

His father is Director, Capital Development and Finance; Bureau of Africa, Agency for International Development (AID).

• • •

He served as president of Freeman-Cole Associates, Inc.; associate director for management of United States Peace Corps; managing director, State of Ghana Insurance Corporation, Accra; and founder and managing director, Ghana Insurance Company and Ghana General Insurance Company.

The wedding will take place in the Spring.

Dr. Jackson City Matriarch say citizens

Cited as a woman who envisioned the world as it should be and said 'Why Not?", Dr. Lillie M. Jackson, retired president of the Baltimore Branch of the NAACP, received the plaudits of the citizens of this city, Thursday evening.

More than 300 persons filled the ballroom of the Lord Baltimore Hotel for the banquet which drew speakers from New York, Washington and Baltimore, relatives and friends from as far away as California.

The banquet formally ended a 35-year career of Dr. Jackson as head of the local branch which was activated in 1934 by the late Dr. Carl Murphy, president of the AFRO-AMERICAN.

Presiding on Thursday evening was the Rev. Marion C. Bascom, minister of Douglas Memorial Church.

Terming Dr. Jackson as "the most singular distinguished woman in America," the Rev. Mr. Bascom pointed up the leadership of the Honoree in the fight for freedom and first-class citizenship in every facet of the life of this city and state.

Other speakers included, Arthur Murphy, representing Governor Marvin Mandel, Mayor Thomas D'Alesandro, 3rd, Judge Harry E. Cole, Francis D. Murnaghan, Jr., Mrs. Bettye Murphy Moss, Dr. Martin D. Jenkins, Samuel T. Daniels, Lawrence Cardinal Shehan, Dr. Leon Sachs, the Rev. Vernon N. Dobson, Bishop John Wesley Lord, the Rev. Forest C. Stith, the Rev. Clinton R. Coleman, Bishop Stephen Gill Spottswood, who gave the testimonial address. Senator Clarence M. Mitchell, and the Rev. Messrs. Arthur J. Payne and Henry Offer, S.S.J.

• • •

Mrs. Enolia P. McMillan, current president of the Baltimore Branch, NAACP, who awarded a plaque from the organization to Dr. Jackson, noted that Dr. Jackson has not "retired" from duties, but just "slowed up" for her own sake. The plaque, inscribed "A farewell to arms" noted that her leaving office was neither a retreat nor end of service.

The banquet was arranged by a committee headed by the Rev. Mr. Bascom and includingDr. Charles E. Watts, the Rev. S. A. Thompson, Mrs. Mary E. Hawkins, the Rev. Howard L. Cornish, Dr. Martin D. Jenkins, Bernard Nash, the Rev. Lorenzo Graves and Mrs. Susie Murphy.

Music was by Morgan State College choir under director Nathan Carter, and Miss Lillie Jackson Jr., grand-daughter of the honoree.

2 die in fire

(Continued from Page 32)

have left for work earlier. The fire report came in at 7:16 a.m.

The mother, Mrs. Pantheria Jones, was brought to the scene where she became hysterical and was taken to Johns Hopkins Hospital where she was being treated for shock at AFRO presstime.

The firs victims were also taken to Hopkins where they were pronounced dead on arrival.

No cause of the fire has been determined. The fire department is investigating.

Deltas mark anniversary in New Bern

NEW BERN, N.C. — The Trent Room at the Holiday Inn was the setting Saurday evening, January 17, for the 57th Observance of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority.

The New Bern Alumnae Chapter served as host to chapters from Fayetteville, Greenville, Goldsboro, Kinston, Raleigh, Rocky Mount, Wilmington, and Wilson.

Greetings to the out-of-town chapters were extended by Soror Ruth C. Houston, local chapter president.

"Deltas Hang Up, and Bag of Dreams" highlighted the address.

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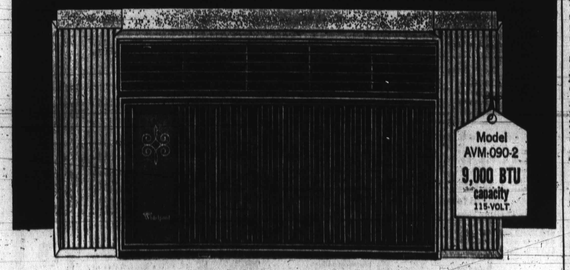

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