Annapolis DOINGS

Mrs. Diggs Hostess at Christmas party

by Eloise Richardson

Mrs. Paul Diggs in Smithville Street was the charming hostess to the El Progresso Art Club at its Christmas Party on Tuesday evening.

There was a festive air throughout the rooms and the Christmas motif was predominant in the decorations. The table was centered with an artistic arrangement of silver Christmas balls under which was a lace cloth. The tasty turkey dinner was served in three courses.

Beautiful gifts were exchanged among the members and Mrs. William H. Richardson, a guest, read the Christmas story "The Littlest Angel." Other guests were Mrs. Harrison Thomas (Maria and Miss Barbara Jackson.

Members who enjoyed the festivities were Mesdames Dorothy Ireland, chairman of the buying committee, Pinetta Crampton, Helen Jones, social committee chairman, Elizabeth Greer of Baltimore Ardenia Parker, corresponding secretary, Alice Darnell, treasurer, and Miss Margaret Ridgely, president.

Members who could not be present because of illness were Mesdames Louise Coates of Washington, Viola Chase, Anna Chapman and Katherine P. Brown.

This group of women, who are natives of Annapolis, have been together as a group for 38 years. It was organized with twenty members on October 26, 1927 by Mrs. Emma Stepney, now deceased, at the old Community Hall on Calvert Street. Other deceased members are Mrs. Rachel Carter Smith and Mrs. Edith Notis.

Mrs. Diggs, the former Elizabeth Jones, who also was a charter member, for the past several years, has lived in Florida where she was married to the Dean of Men of Bethune - Cookman College. While there, she served as a counselor to freshmen girls. Since the death of her husband she has returned to Annapolis for permanent residence.

The club is a group which has always set the pace for sisterhood and good friendships and members do art needle work as a pastime when they are together. On their 25th anniversary they celebrated by entertaining friends at a reception, and dance.

The group supports education in the community each year by giving a scholarship to the graduate of Bates High School who excel in English for their four years.

Each year a trip of some special nature is taken and the annual club picnic is held at the summer home of Mr. and Mrs. Harrison Thomas at Arundel-on-the-Bay.

Mr. James Jefferson of Washington, nephew of Mrs. Jones, entertains the club annually at dinner and at the theater in Washington.

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FATHER WARNER TRAYNHAM, vicar of St. Philip's Episcopal Church, was named the new president of the Anne Arundel County Branch NAACP on Thursday evening, when a public meeting was held at the first Baptist Church.

Father Trayham, who has served as a churchman in Annapolis since August, 1962, has been actively engaged in civic affairs in the city of Annapolis.

He served as vice - president of the Anne Arundel County Ministerium, as vice-president of the Citizens' Planning and Housing Association, and is a member of the board of the Anne Arundel County Council of Churches, a member of the Bi Racial Committee for the city of Annapolis, and a member of the Mayor's Citizens Advisory Committee.

Other officers named for the branch were Miss Mary Wiseman, vice - president; Miss Pearl Rose Holland, recording secretary; Mis Aliceteen Mangrum, corresponding secretary, and Mrs. Ethel Wilson, treasurer.

Guest speaker for the meeting was Mrs. Juanita Mitchell of Baltimore, attorney and president of the Maryland NAACP branches.

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MRS. MITCHELL talked on the important work needed to be performed by the NAACP during this crucial period of time. She named the Anne Arundel County Branch NAACP as the key branch of the state and urged that accelerated effort be put forth to work to work in the interest of young people, our future generation.

She stressed the need for young people to grow up in a civilization which condemns the idea of developing an inferiority complex within their ranks.

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MRS. JACKSON also stressed the importance of building race pride in these young people and she attacked the work of biased historians in the writing of textbooks of United States history, excluding the fine contributions made by our colored forfathers.

She pointed out that if these textbooks were written to give information on the fine contributions made by our people to the progress of this country, our young people would be accepted for they would be inspired to feel that had a place in the world as first class citizens. They would strive to achieve and reach for goals that were handed down by their forefathers.

Milton Haskins, who has been working with the branch in the interest of colored people registering and voting, reported that out of a population of more than 20,000 people in the county, only about 7,000 are registered voters. It was urged that concerted effort be put forth to increase this number.

Reports from the membership drive were made by Mrs. Joseph Hardesty. Among workers who reported to Mrs. Hardesty were Messrs. Dallas Pace, Harry Simms, Capitol Hills Manor, Bates High School, Ira Thompson, Churchton, Md., Charles Tyler, First Baptist Church and Ernest Coates, Jones, Md.

Also Mesdames Yvonne Bell, Beatrice Coates, Mt. Olive AME Church, Mary Thompson, Mt. Zion Methodist Church and Miss Alicetee Mangrum.

The Program also included readings by Mrs. Lula Hardesty and Carla Jacobs and Mary Fields, sixth graders of Adams Park School. Remarks were made by the outgoing president, Dr. Theodora H. Johnson.

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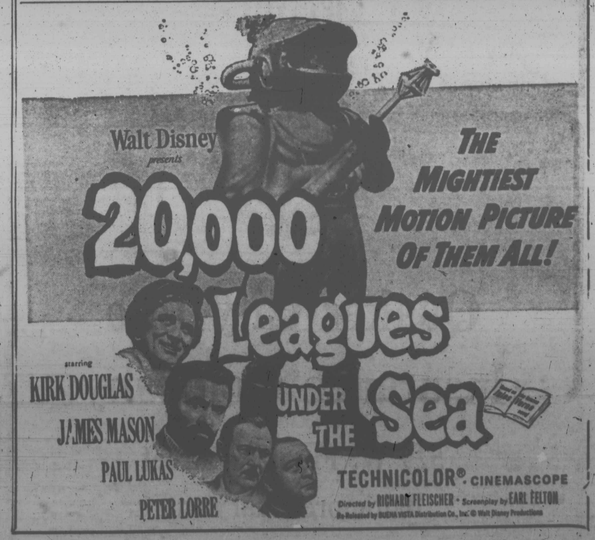

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