Mrs. Alma Schofield, 75, has had full, rich life

Mrs. Alma Schofield was born on May 9th, 1892, just three months before the birth of the AFRO. She has been an avid reader most of her life because she thinks the AFRO "speaks my language."

MRS. ALMA SCHOFIELD

Mrs. Schofield, of 1723 E. Lafayette Ave., came to Baltimore in 1912 from her native St. Mary's County, Md., where she lived until she married Thomas Schofield. He was an auto mechanic who died in 1943.

In the past 55 years, Mrs. Schofield has reared her own family of six children (a seventh died), and has been foster mother to other children.

There are five generations of Schofields living in Baltimore — Mrs. Schofield is the oldest at 75.

Her daughter, Mrs. Bertha Sledge has four children.

Her granddaughter, Mrs. Alma Powell, has four.

Her great-granddaughter, Mrs. Sona Powell, is the mother of Mrs. Schofield's great-great granddaughter, Lisa, age 4.

• • •

MRS. SCHOFIELD is the only remaining member of her family, which consisted of four older sisters and brothers.

Her mother, formerly Miss Mary Ella Deminds, married John Thomas Brooks, son of a Methodist minister.

Although her mother was Catholic and her father Methodist, Mrs. Schofield has been a staunch member of Wayland Baptist Church for 55 years.

She has served as usher, missionary, pastor's aide and was president of the Willing Workers for a long time.

New Year's day brings new excitement to Mrs. Schofield because of her annual task of cooking the "old folks dinner" as she calls it, at Wayland.

The secret for long life is to "take care of yourself-keep busy, move around . . . but never drink," Mrs. Schofield says.

• • •

LIKE MOST senior citizens she is concerned about the younger generation.

To her, the explanation for all the misunderstanding and confusion between generations and people generally is to be found in the Bible.

"I read the Bible," she says. "The 119th Psalm says 'war and rumors of war' and Revelation talks about the beast."

"Those things are coming to pass now, and these children are trying anything. When I come along, we had to go to church. Now kids do anything for kicks."

Mrs. Schofield has seen a lot of changes in her lifetime. She is especially surprised at the large salaries today, compared to approximately $10 per week when she was a young woman.

But she is puzzled by the fact that money doesn't go as far as it used to.

There are other good signs of the times. Mrs. Schofield is very pleased with the improvement in the school system, and hopes that the youngsters will make good use of their education.

WHO ARE THEY? — This is a picture of what is said to be one of the first graduating classes of the old Colored High and Training School, then located at Pennsylvania Ave. and Dolphin St. Old line Baltimoreans should have fun identifying the graduates of the Class of 1904. Among names submitted with picture include Mattie Callis, Lottie O. Chase, Sadie E. Chase, Annie Hughes, Ellen Latimer, Mary E. Peck, Bessie Quille, Mabel Roberts, Lucky D. Slowe, Estelle Taylor, Amy Thompson, Bertha B. Walker, Mary Wallace, Alethea Washington, Janie Whyte, and Norma Williams. Since there are 19 young women and only 16 names no attempt will be made here to say who is who.

Jazzing-up church music once gained Frisby fame

Best known now for his numerous trips to the Arctic lands, Herbert M. Frisby, retired educator, smilingly recalls when he was labelled an "infidel" for jazzing up church music in early AFRO days.

Dr. Frisby, of 3403 Bateman Ave., remembers his youthful days as superintendent of Ebenezer AME Church Sunday school in South Baltimore.

He doubled as pianist, and admittedly had the church rocking with his lively accompaniments. The Sunday school was packed every week.

He added on an orchestra (minus a drum). Orchestrated hymns drew larger crowds including the elders who were at first, suspicious, then curious, and finally, lively participants in the rhythmic singing.

• • •

EGGED ON by the success of this innovation, "that Herbert Frisby," sneaked in a drummer through the back door. The crowds grew larger, at Ebenezer, and literally non-existent in other Sunday schools.

Sister (Duke) Jones, completely caught up by the music one day shouted up one aisle and down the other, praising the Lord all the while until she spotted the drummer. She came to a dead stop and a sudden revelation that what had really moved her was "the devil in the church," in the guise of the drummer.

The sequence of events is easy to surmise: Herbert Frisby was fired and replaced, and the Sunday school attendance dwindled to a mere ground they could obtain porter jobs at $5 a week to be turned over to the mother. They were allowed to keep $2.

It was thought third grade education would equip a girl for marriage and motherhood.

The son of the late Joseph E. and Ida Henry Frisby, then of 107 Leadenhall St., Dr. Frisby said the average home had a reed organ, and the "classy" folk an upright piano.

Piano and organ lessons were from twenty-five to fifty cents for an hour's instruction.

CHURCH PROGRAMS provided opportunities for talented youth to display their progress, especially on Sunday at the 6 p.m. Epworth League of the Methodist Churches and the BYPU of the Baptist congregations.

Apparently disciples of the jazzed up hymns a la Frisby, Lewis Young and George Brent were well known at the youth programs at Allen Chapel, located in the 1100 Block of W. Lexington St.

• • •

With no automobiles, radios and television to fill in spare hours, young people found their recreation in a variety of ways.

Long walks to Druid Hill Park by way of Eutaw Place were taken on Sunday afternoons.

A ride on the "electric car" to Laruraville, what is now the end of the No. 19 bus line, was also popular.

Girls did embroidery and fine hand work, and learned the finer points of cooking and the household arts. The

'Grateful for influence' D'Alesandro:

The City of Baltimore can well be grateful for the work and influence of the AFRO-AMERICAN. The tradition of honest, crusading journalism which has been the trademark of the AFRO has been a primary factor in the long, hard, but winning battle to achieve for our colored citizens those rights which for too long have been denied them.

It is no coincidence that the years of growth and success for the AFRO — have been years in which many barriers to opportunity have dramatically tumbled.

• • •

BUT IT would be a mistake to assume that the AFRO speaks only for colored citizens.

In championing the causes of equal rights and social and economic justice, it has spoken vigorously and eloquently for all persons, whatever their race, creed or color, who have not shared equally in the benefits of our society.

The death this year of Dr. Carl Murphy, who played such a large part in the achievements of the AFRO, left a huge void in our community. But his legacy is clear, a legacy best expressed in the famous words of Thomas Jefferson.

". . . Were it left to me to decide whether we should have a government without newspapers, or newspapers without a government, I should not hesitate a moment to prefer the latter."

The AFRO has consistently

Dr. Robert C. Weaver:—

I welcome this opportunity to extend my warmest personal regards to the AFRO-AMERICAN Newspapers on the occasion of the celebration of your 75th Anniversary.

Since its founding in 1892, the AFRO-AMERICAN, under the wise and dedicated direction, first of the late John H. Murphy, and then of the late Carl Murphy, has spearheaded an unrelenting drive for universal freedom and equality.

You have borne magnificently the torch lit 140 years ago by John B. Russwurm, founder of "Freedom's Journal", the first colored newspaper.

In the words of the citation accompanying the Russwurm Award presented annually by the National Newspaper Publishers Association, the AFRO-AMERICAN is "making possible a richer conception of democratic principles" and is indeed "upholding those highest traditions known as the American way of life."

ROBERT C. WEAVER,
Secretary of Housing and
Urban Development

IN YOUNGER YEARS — This is a photo of Mr. and Mrs. William (Pearl) DeCoursey shortly after they married 49 years ago. Both now happily retired, Mr. DeCoursey, like the AFRO, is celebrating his 75th birthday (July 2). The couple lives at 297 N. Amity St. in the Poe Housing Development.

DeCoursey was born here in 1892

William DeCoursey, 207 N. Amity St., Apartment 11, in the Edgar Allen Poe Homes, [illegible] 27, 1917, 49 years ago by the Rev. Harvey Johnson.

He and his wife, Mrs. Pearl DeCoursey, spoked together

'Responsible spokesman,' says Shay:—

I send my personal greetings and good wishes to you on the celebration of your 75th Anniversary.

The very important place you hold in the community and the weight of your influence is testimony to the fact that you are a responsible spokesman for a large segment of the population of Baltimore and the other communities you serve.

As one who is interested in raising educational, cultural and living standards for all people, I am most interested in the problems of our colored people, and I believe I am as sympathetic and emphatic as one can be without having black skin himself.

We must all work together in the constant quest for the betterment of our fellows and I hail your contributions to the achievement of this goal." — DAVID SHAY, chairman Liquor Board

'Good for all,' Judge Watts:-

Congratulations on your 75th Anniversary!

The AFRO has been and I am sure will continue to be the greatest force for good in the life of our community. Through the years, it has unhesitatingly supported the great crusade of the march to freedom.

It has done so courageously, unselfishly and with a profound dedication to what is good for all the citizens.

Its independence from political or factional denominations has given it dignity and

Judge Marshall is Douglass Hi grad

In 1892 when the AFRO was born, Douglass High School had 9 graduates for the year.

Now in 1967 as the AFRO marks its 75th anniversary Douglass High School awarded diplomas to 600 of the city's youth in colorful ceremonies held at Baltimore's multi-million dollar Civic Center.

The most distinguished Douglass alumnus is Thurgood Marshall, former solicitor general of the United States. Mr. Marshall, who became world renown as NAACP counsel, is President Johnson's most recent Supreme Court appointee.

Marshall graduated from Douglass in 1925.

• • •

THE 1899 graduates were: Charles Anderson, John Anderson, Henry G. Brown, Isabelle Hall, Florence Hammond, James Johnson, M. Louise Smith and Lillian Trusty.

The ranking 1967 graduates were Beverly Ann Hayward, Elizabeth Lynn Holley and Patricia Ann Nicholson.

The year 1904 found Douglass High School moving to its fifth location at Pulaski St. and Gwynns Falls Parkway. It now had a spacious campus with tennis courts, its own stadium, playing field, track facilities and swimming pool included in the modern building complex.

THE HISTORY of the Colored High School began in a building on Holliday St., across from the Old City Hall. It soon outgrew this facility, and was moved to another structure on Saratoga near Charles.

The school moved into a new building at Dolphin St. and Pennsylvania Ave. in 1921, where it remained 4 years.

The pride of the colored citizenry was the handsome new structure built at Carey, Calhoun and Baker Sts., in 1925. It was renamed Frederick Douglass

well known teachers in early AFRO days were Miss Fannie Barbour, equally exacting as a disciplinarian, as she was a brilliant mathematician;

Dwight O. W. Holmes, later president of Morgan State College, who headed the Science Department and coached the football teams;

Ralph Cook, art teacher, and Ralph Reckling, the latter a history teacher and later principal, both tennis enthusiasts.

Gough McDaniels, a Brown University graduate, was well known as a public speaker. He was a history teacher who also coached the debating teams, and headed many dramatic and musical productions, and coached participants in the Declamation Contests. Winners were awarded the H. S. McCard Medal.

Perry D. G. Pennington, taught science, Levi Moore, woodwork.

John H. Murphy Jr., son of the AFRO founder, taught woodwork and printing.

Lucy D. Slowe, an English teacher, went on to become Dean of Women at Howard University.

Former State Senator J. Alvin Jones, was a teacher of Ironwork and Mechanical Drawing.

To Llewellyn Wilson, music teacher, goes the honor of having the first high school to present a full scale opera, "The Flying Dutchman."

THROUGH THE years, Nellie Buchanan, Latin teacher, headed the Mask and Wig Club, whose classic dramatic presentations raised hundreds of dollars for Douglass High School.

The inimitable Leonard (Duck) Gibson, after whom the school's football team was named in latter years, coached many a team to victory, in track and basketball.

Mesdames Lillian Parrott Murphy and Edna Gray Campbell claim the honor of

BIRTHDAY GREETINGS FROM LBJ, OTHERS

SHE REMEMBERS — Mrs. Annie Kelson Thomas (right) has an intimate knowledge of history of the AFRO. Her father, the late Thomas P. Kelson, long-time operator of a moving firm, moved the newspaper in 1907 from its old home at 307 N. St. Paul St. to its present site. She was present last winter at the AFRO Annual Service Awards ceremonies when her daughter, Mrs. Alice Thomas Carroll (second from left) received her 15th year service pin. Mrs. Carroll is chief bookkeeper and administrative assistant to Howard H. Murphy, AFRO comptroller. John H. Murphy III, president, is at left and Mrs. Carroll's daughter, Miss Annie Carroll, a public school teacher, was also present at the ceremony.

Her father moved AFRO

The AFRO moved from 307 St. Paul St. to 628 N. Eutaw St. in 1907.

According to Mrs. Annie Kelson Thomas, 1675 W North Ave., a longtime AFRO reader, the job was done by horse and wagon by her father, the late Thomas P. Kelson who was in the hauling business.

Assisting Mr. Kelson in what was then considered a modern and prosperous moving firm were his two oldest sons, Edward and Henry Kelson, now deceased.

MRS. THOMAS has had many other connections with the AFRO through the years.

Her daughter, Mrs. Alice Carroll, has been employed in the AFRO business office a total of 26 years. She is now payroll comptroller and secretary to the business manager, Howard H. Murphy.

Her granddaughter, Miss Anne Carroll, a former AFRO employee, is now mathematics teacher at Carver Vocational High School.

BUT, TO go back earlier, Mrs. Thomas recalls she and her brothers sold AFROs when the price was 3-cents. Her father also sold the paper in his spare time.

Mrs. Thomas recalls her long acquaintance with Mrs. Edna Rawlings, an AFRO employee from 1912 to 1962, who was working in the business office and collected money from her for the papers she sold.

The elder Mr. Kelson, who retired from the moving business at the age of 70 in 1935, died at the age of 87 in 1952.

Mrs. Thomas has been a lifelong member of Ames Methodist Church and has served as a steward along with her daughter, Mrs. Carroll, for a number of years.

Her brothers Thomas E. and George Kelson who were well-known undertakers are now deceased.

The surviving brother is Charles Kelson of Baltimore.

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

July 12, 1967

Dear Mr. Murphy:

The seventy-fifth year of continuous publication is a proud milestone for Afro-American Newspapers -- and for the profession that they have served so long and so well.

The unfettered press is one of America's most cherished freedoms. But more than that, it is the guardian and sentinel of all freedoms. And for three quarters of a century it has found full and responsible expression on the pages of the Afro-American Newspapers.

So as you observe this meaningful anniversary, I am delighted to extend my congratulations and warm good wishes to you and to the staff and readers of your fine publications. I know that you will carry forward your enviable reputation. And I am confident that you will sustain the prompt and reliable news coverage that has earned you the respect of colleagues in the Fourth Estate and the confidence of Americans everywhere.

Sincerely,

Lyndon B. Johnson

Mr. John H. Murphy, III
President
Afro-American Newspapers
628 North Eutaw Street
Baltimore, Maryland 21201

Catholic Review:—

All of us who live in Maryland share in a general feeling of pride that, for three quarters of a century, the Baltimore AFRO-AMERICAN has served the community so well.

Your sense of service provides one of the most distinguished marks of the AFRO-AMERICAN.

I hope that your next seventy-five years are as fruitful, courageous and dedicated as the first seventy-five.

A. E. P. WALL
Editor, Catholic Review

N.C. READER 50 YEARS

'I am proud of the Afro....'

'I am a regular reader of the AFRO and have been for over 50 years. . . . I am proud of the AFRO for championing our rights.

'If it wasn't for the AFRO, I don't know what we all would have done in the past years. I hope that the future will bring much more progress. . . .

JOHN MOORE SR.

This is the testimony of John Moore Sr., a Raleigh, N.C., barber for half a century.

In congratulating the AFRO on its 75th birthday, Mr. Moore observed:

"I am proud to be living in an era when there are many changes, and we are integrated in many facets of American life. I was denied these opportunities when I was young.

• • •

'I NEVER thought in my lifetime I would see a day when colored and white children would be going to schools and colleges together in the South and using public facilities. . . .'

Mr. Moore was born Jan. 1, 1892, the same year the AFRO was born.

He attended public schools in Franklin County, N.C., and later moved to Wake County. (Raleigh.)

He is married to the former Miss Josephine Thompson of Raleigh. They observed their 49th wedding anniversary on August 4.

Their two sons, both college graduates are: John Jr., professor and chairman of the department of history at Edward Waters College, Jacksonville, Fla., and William H. Moore, North Carolina State University clerk. Both are World War II vets.

• • •

MR. MOORE is a 50-year member of St. Matthew AME Church and belongs to the Elks.

He likes to read. In addition to the AFRO, he reads the Bible and books and magazines.

Politically, he is a registered Democrat, and has been since the days of Franklin Roosevelt.

'I extend my greetings to the AFRO on its 75th anniversary and with it success in future years,' said Mr. Moore.

congratulations