BALTIMORE SOCIETY HAS GONE THAT-A-WAY!

By
LULA JONES GARRETT

BALTIMORE —Society, as indicated by the clanning of the so-called elite in this town was born, flourished and has gone "that-a-way" during the 75-year span of the existence of the AFRO-AMERICAN.

Dig back through the files of the newspapers, talk to the now elderly citizens dreaming away in rest homes, and listen to the stories handed down by word of mouth to 65-year-old retirees, to realize the phases through which this section of living developed and died.

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IN THE first third of the span people were too busy trying to make out existences, plant the seeds for careers and get children educated to worry about status in a community.

If there was any status it was in the churches. The great majority went into the bustling AME, AME Zion and Baptist Churches.

The fashionables were Episcopalians and Methodist Episcopalians, which churches took some doing to get into . . . or should I say some looks to get into.

The Catholics were a clan into themselves, and woe to the communicant who stepped out of bounds.

The fact is, the clergy kept close reign on their parishioners. There were church suppers, young people's meetings and Ladies Aid Societies. But one could be excommunicated from the Baptist Church for attending a dance.

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THERE WAS, however, a small clique of advantaged persons in Baltimore, who were hosts to distinguished personages such as the then young Booker T. Washington and Dr. W. E. B. DuBois. There were the relatively few who had exceptional educations, and rated in a select social group. They and their families moved in a closed little circle.

Came the second third of the span, and things social took on a different turn.

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TOWARD THE end of this span, there was a larger number of educated who

stuff, . . . and another, where lines and lines of all descriptions of under pants composed the decorations.

The only refreshments served at dances in those days was punch. But there were numerous cocktail parties before each dance, and always a flock of breakfast parties afterwards. So the affairs were pretty gay.

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EVEN THE depression scored for some. For the young women teachers and government workers were drawing salaries, while patients were not paying. Many of the former garnered young professional husbands, and the magic titles opened the doors of society to them.

Came the latter third of this 75-year span, and an entirely different complexion to local society.

Now there were the intercity groups, the Commissioners (candidates were expected to have at least $20,000, a lot of money in those days), the Guardsmen (one requisition being that a Guardsman, wife fit into a certain looks mold) the Girl Friends (which to this day has a stated type of member) the Gay Northeasterners, the original Moles all of whom are still rolling on.

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SOMEWHERE MID-SPAN, the so-called social set looked around and there was a whole new gang of status folks . . . the money men and women. It didn't make a great deal of difference where either you or the money came from, if you had it you were in. If you didn't have it you pretended you did. With an expensive car, a beautiful home, a mink coat (and ulcers) you were in, too.

Today's elite on the home front is the brain trusts, the intellectuals and the service concerned. The one person who turned the tide of thinking from who to what you are more than any other, is Dr. Lillie Jackson.

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DR. JACKSON practically made it a disgrace for a social group not to put funds into the fight for education, for fair play for all Americans and to secure the vote. Whether you were a member

MR. AND MRS. JOSEPH SPRIGGS
married 59 years

Spriggses review 59 years of marital bliss, old Baltimore

Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Spriggs, 1357 Woodyear St. were married March 3, 1908. They marked their 59th wedding anniversary, this spring.

They have been members of Metropolitan Methodist Church for 59 years, have lived in the same house for 59 years and have raised a family of 11 children.

Counting their grandchildren, and great-grandchildren nieces nephews great-

The Rev. Mr. Williams succeeded the Rev. Kelly Jackson who became District Superintendent and then retired as the Sharp Street Methodist Church pastor in June, 1967.

Mr. Spriggs served as class leader at Metropolitan for 30 years and is still active as a member of the Methodist Men.

Mrs. Spriggs is a longtime member of the Penny Club and the Sick Committee and

Frank L. Williams is the present pastor.

Until recent years the Spriggses had never missed a camp-meeting from the Eastern Shore of Maryland over to Philadelphia.

NEXT TO being church historians, the Spriggses are also authorities on the era of the days when they were young.

During the early 1900's Mr.

From Capitol Hill:-

Rep. Friedel

The very fact that the AFRO-AMERICAN newspapers are observing their 75th anniversary of dedicated public service is evidence that they fill a genuine need of a large segment of our population.

Numerically, the colored man is the largest of the discernible racial groups in the United States and, according to the latest statistic, the population of the City of Baltimore will soon be 50 percent colored. Therefore, when your papers "speak," they do so with authority.

It is in large measure through the influence of your newspapers that there has been a marked improvement in status of colored people in almost every phase of American life.

As a representative in Congress, I have fought for and actively supported many of the causes you advocated, particularly with respect to civil rights.

Your newspapers are to be commended for their interest in civic affairs and public improvement and for their record of solid accomplishment.

The best tradition of American journalism has always insisted upon maintaining the press as a public trust and the AFRO is an excellent example of this heritage.

May the years ahead be even more productive and fruitful than the past and may they be marked with continued success in helping to make the communities you serve better places in which to work and live.

SAMUEL N. FRIEDEL, M.C.
Md., 7th

Rep. Mathias

It is especially appropriate that the anniversary of such a distinguished newspaper should fall in the month of July, the month of American independence and the establishment of our basic American rights of freedom of expression, which were fought for so long and which since which has won for it the highest respect of not only the journalism profession, but educators, civil rights leaders, law makers and businessmen.

Such distinction comes only as a result of the efforts of intelligent, enthusiastic, diligent and dedicated men: — John H. Murphy Sr., founder of the AFRO, was such a man.

Upon his death his position of president of the company was assumed by his son, Carl, who during his tenure saw the expansion of his chain to include papers in Washington, Philadelphia, Newark and Richmond.

At the time of his death, early this year, February, 1967, he was chairman of the Board of Directors.

The current president, John H. Murphy III, has continued to demonstrate a keen awareness and perception of the problems facing nation and today, as his predecessors did.

CHARLES McC. MATHIAS, Jr.
Md., 6th
M. C.

Sen. Brewster

The 75th birthday of the AFRO-AMERICAN Newspapers stands as a hallmark in the annals of journalism.

Founded in the aftermath of civil trife in this country, and nurtured through the dark days of the depression the AFRO has continued to be a spokesman and a Spartan in the fight for freedom, free press and speech.

As a United States Senator and a regular subscriber I know of the real worth and work of the newspaper. My only regret about this celebration is that Dr. Carl Murphy is not here for this Diamond Jubilee.

I am confident that the AFRO will carry on in his great tradition setting new precedents for newspapers on the East Coast and across the nation.

DANIEL B. BREWSTER
United States Senator
(Md.)

Rep. Fallon

I send my personal best wishes for continued success on the 75th anniversary of the AFRO-AMERICAN newspapers. Your paper is held in high regard, and I sincerely feel congratulations are in order.

I wish you many more happy and successful years.

Congressman
GEORGE H. FALLON

Maryland newspapers included The Messenger, the Rev. Ananian Brown editor, established in 1 E2 and published 28 years; The Herald with W. T. Andrews editor first a daily, then a weekly.

We Salute
THE AFRO-AMERICAN
NEWSPAPERS
On Its' 75th Anniversary
the Key to
the NEGRO MARKET is
The Louisiana Weekly
72,000 Weekly Readers

Leadership role of AFRO praised by Morgan president

On behalf of the entire Morgan State College community I congratulate the AFRO-AMERICAN on its 75th Anniversary. From a small and humble beginning with a limited local clientele you have grown to be a large and influential newspaper chain with national and international circulation. You may justifiably look back with great satisfaction to your many contributions and achievements since your founding.

The ARFO is first of all a newspaper. Your coverage of the news of colored people — local, national and international — is outstanding.

But the AFRO has always been more than just a newspaper — it has been a consistent force for implementing the democratic principles of our nation.

Every movement for improving the lot of the colored people has had the uncompromising support, and often the leadership, of the AFRO. You have both educated and persuaded your large body of readers on the virtue and effectiveness of legal action, of active participation in the political arena and of social action demonstrations.

I am particularly sensitive to your deep interest in and support of education and your efforts to motivate colored youht to stay in school. I am especially appreciative of your long-standing support of Morgan State College.

This Diamond Anniversary is also an occasion for looking forward. I am confident that the AFRO in the years ahead will continue its outstanding service to the community and the nation.

DR. MARTIN D. JENKINS,
Morgan State College
President

Drug stores were a major business

By LOUISE K. HINES

In early AFRO days drug stores were among the most numerous businesses in Baltimore.

Dr. T. Henderson Kerr, retired pharmacist, recalled that drug stores served a dual purpose: both medical and social.

For 40 years this Howard University pharmacy school graduate owned and operated his store on the southwest corner of Myrtle Ave. and George St.

He retired when the area was taken over by the city to erect a school, and the multi-story low-rent housing project named for the late Dr. George B. Murphy, son of the founder of the AFRO-AMERICAN.

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IN CASES of injury or accident, "the drug store doctor," was often more easily accessible than the general practitioner. It was the pharmacist who stopped nosebleeds, "got something out of your eye," bandaged cuts, bruises, burns, bumped heads, scraped knees, settled upset stomachs.

Along with a little "psychological" first aid, "the drug store doctor" soothed the shattered nerves of many a sick and frightened customer.

"Ice cream parties" in the corner drug store on Sunday after church the year-round his drug business for a short while at Pressman and Etting Sts. Derry's Pharmacy was at Druid Hill Ave. and Oxford St. It was preceeded by a store owned jointly by the late Dr. E. V. Stokes and the late senior Dr. Derry.

He was succeed by his son Dr. Harold Derry. The son later gave up pharmacy to enter Federal service.

The late Dr. Stokes went to South Baltimore to open a store on Sharp St. near the John Wesley Methodist Church. He moved back to Northwest Baltimore to Druid Hill Ave. and Mosher St. in the basement of a building owned by the late J. Logan Jenkins, caterer.

Easily the largest and most popular drug store in early AFRO days, was Fennells Pharmacy at Druid HIll Ave. and Biddle St.

Spacious and immaculate, its white marble topped tables were usually crowded with regular customers for the "specialties of the House:" chocolate sodas and sundaes.

Dr. Fennell used to buy chocolate by the barrel. Dr. Fennell's slogan was "only the Best."

Dr. Charles H. Fowler, a physician, owned the drug store on the northwest corner

In 1892 the Lexington Savings Bank, with Everett J. Waring president listed deposits of $57,000. Other Baltimore bankers include Harry O. Wilson, Sr. and the oners of the taylor and Jenkins firm and the Wingate and Thomas firm.

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The Rev. Harvey Johnson, pastor of Union Baptist Church, led Maryland crusades for freedom and reforms and ranks as a great statesman, writer and humanmanitarian.

LONGTIME READER — The Rev. Hezekiah L. Randall, 3004 Vineyard La., says he has been reading the AFRO-AMERICAN all his adult life. The 75-year-old minister is like thousands of other Baltimoreans who look to their AFRO to keep them abreast of important news in the community which they often cannot get elsewhere.

Chamber of Commerce

Our heartiest congratulations to you and your splendid organization for completing 75 years of continuous service to our community.

This is a splendid tribute to the founders of your firm and to all who have followed after them.

There is great respect to be found throughout the entire community for your newspaper and for its record of accomplishment over its three-quarter-century history.

Undoubtedly you are already pointing your sights towards your Centennial in 1992, and I hope to be around to help you celebrate that occasion.

To you and your entire staff go our best wishes for your continued success in the years ahead.

H. G. BAILEY
Executive Vice President

AFRO's community role hailed by Gov. Agnew:-

Greetings to the AFRO-AMERICAN Newspapers and their readers on the occasion of this 75th Anniversary.

It gives me special pleasure to extend congratulations because the AFRO-AMERICAN reflects the finest tradition of responsible journalism.

The AFRO does more than mirror the feelings and actions of the community. It pursues an active role in criticizing or supporting administrative and legislative actions which affect the general public.

And it provides a voice of moderation in this period of time when extreme voices of the right and left are attempting to defeat many principles upon which our democratic heritage is based.

The AFRO-AMERICAN Newspapers have set an outstanding record of service in the past 75 years, and I am sure that this fine record will continue in the future.

Sincerely,
SPIRO T. AGNEW,
Governor of Maryland

Dr. James Nabrit greets us from Howard U.

On behalf of the Board of Trustees faculty students and administrative staff of Howard University it is with extreme pleasure that I extend my heartiest congratulations to the AFRO-AMERICAN Newspapers on their 75th anniversary.

As you know Howard is celebrating an anniversary this year too, It's 100th. It seems indeed fitting that our institution and yours should celebrate these milestone at the same time for it is a common goal that both of us seek.

Throughout its history the AFRO-AMERICAN has been a poignant voice in the struggle for equality. Partly because of your efforts the attainment of the inalienable rights guaranteed by our constitution is much nearer to reach of all Americans.

Again let me express to you Howard University's congratulations on a job well done in your first 75 years and wish you continued success in the years ahtad.

JAMES NABRIT, JR.

Frederick Douglass, Maryland slave, became a U.S. diplomat. He is also famed as an abolitionist, writer, scholar and orator. At one time a worker on the Port of Baltimore, he caulked ships. He became marshall of the District of Columbia, Recorder of Deeds and then minister to Haiti.

People are