This Is Our 82nd Birthday

Three men — two of them clergymen and one a Sunday school superintendent, but all with a single hobby — were responsible for the AFRO's birth.

The Rev. William M. Alexander, pastor of Sharon Baptist Church in Baltimore, organized a provision store and on August 13, 1892, printed a four-page sheet which he called the AFRO-AMERICAN, to advertise his church and community enterprises.

John H. Murphy Sr., a whitewasher by trade and superintendent of St. John AME Sunday School, wanted above all else, to unite State Sunday Schools into a convention on the order of Epworth League and Christian Endeavor.

He purchased type fonts and a press, put them in his cellar and printed his small paper, which he named the "Sunday School Helper."

The Rev. George F. Bragg, pastor of St. James Episcopal Church, printed a church and community organ which he entitled, "The Ledger."

The Rev Mr. Alexander was a better pastor than publisher, so he sold the AFRO-AMERICAN to Mr. Murphy, who had borrowed $200 from his wife, Martha Howard Murphy, to purchase it at auction.

In 1907, the Rev. Mr. Bragg merged The Ledger with the AFRO-AMERICAN, which for a time was known as the AFRO-AMERICAN Ledger, with Mr. Murphy as publisher and the Rev. Mr. Bragg as editorial writer.

Abandoning the whitewash brush, Mr. Murphy turned all of his attention for the next 25 years to printer's ink, and when he died in 1922, left a successful newspaper property to his sons.

The marvel of this is that Mr. Murphy was past 52 years old when, overnight, he became a newspaper owner with $200 borrowed from his thrifty wife's savings.

Today, the AFRO-AMERICAN chain of thirteen newspapers is the largest cluster of black weekly newspapers in the U.S.

As we enter our 82nd year, we are cognizant of the founder's words of wisdom contained in the Credo which appears on this page.

Originally, this code we live by appeared in a December, 1920 birthday letter which he wrote to his sons two years before his death.

At one point the letter said: "A newspaper succeeds because its management believes in itself, in God and in the present generation. It must always ask itself—

"Whether it has kept faith with the common people;

"Whether it has no other goal except to see that their liberties are preserved and their future assured;

"Whether it is fighting to get rid of slums, to provide jobs for everybody;

"Whether it stays out of politics except to expose corruption and condemn injustice, race prejudice and the cowardice of compromise.

"The AFRO-AMERICAN must become a semi-weekly, then a tri-weekly and eventually, when advertising warrants, a daily.

"It has always had a loyal constituency which believes it to be honest, decent and progressive. It is that kind of a newspaper now, and I hope it never changes."

As we observe our birthday this week, we would like to think that we have had success in following the founder's charge. On this our 82nd anniversary, we pledge to try even harder.

We were surprised last week when two sets of visitors expressed amazement that all 13 editions of this newspaper, twice a week in Washington, twice a week in Baltimore, and once a week in other cities where we maintain branch offices, (Richmond, Newark, Philadelphia) as well as area newspapers up and down the Eastern Seaboard, are produced in our Eutaw Street plant here in Baltimore.

They were astounded that editions of the AFRO are published on Sundays, the first day of the work week, clear up until Friday.

We are amazed that they are. A newspaper the size of the AFRO is not a three or four day operation. We wish it were. It is a seven-day operation.

As we reassess our values and goals for the years ahead; we would hope that we could further strengthen our input in the community and live up to the founder's dream to publish three times a week and eventually, every day.

For the moment however, we are proud to note that in this year 1973, we have launched a new project, DAWN Magazine, a slick paper, four-color publication, now appearing in 29 newspapers, with a guaranteed circulation of 600,000.

With new production methods and machinery, we have crystalized the five-year plan for moving to modern offset production.

We take pride in the fact that the AFRO's sole living incorporator, John Henry Murphy Jr., director emeritus of the AFRO-AMERICAN Co., and son of the founder, is still living. He marked his 93rd birthday on August 4.

And, we are especially proud that AFRO readers who marked their birthdays this month took time to write and tell us about themselves. We offer them special congratulations.

Readers' Birthdays, Too

Here are some AFRO readers who have written to us about their birthdays!

Mrs. Darcenda Williams, 2626 W. Cold Spring Lane, says: "My birthday is August 13th and I have been very sorry because you know how people tease you about the 13th.

"I feel as though I am lucky to be born on that day. I was born in the 1000 block of N. Mount St. I have 3 girls and 1 boy and 2 granddaughters.

"My husband works at Bethlehem Steel Co. and I am a housewife.

"Thanks for sharing your birthday with me. I buy your paper every Tuesday and Friday and read every word of it. My son is 22 years old now, but he used to serve the AFRO for about four years. I only wish it came out everyday."

Larry Alvin Jones of 2429 Wilgrey Court in Westport, writes: "I will be 15 Monday, August 13. I am a Leo and like all sports."

Mrs. Phyllis J. Womack of 2922 Garrison Blvd. tells us: "I was also born on August 13. I am the mother of two children and one niece, Michele, Mark, Nicola. My husband's name is Henry. I love going to church with my family.

"My hobbies are sewing, cooking and going to church. I would like to wish all persons who were born on August 13, a happy birthday, too."

Mrs. Blanche White of 1702 W. North Ave., writes to tell us about her aunt, Miss Mattie Sutton, whose 84th birthday is August 11. She says she spends her birthdays and vacations here in Baltimore and sang on her church choir until her eyes failed her.

Mrs. Pearl Purnell of 1502 Pentwood Rd., tells us about her husband, Raymond Purnell, who was born August 15, 1925.

Mrs. Celestyne R. Thompson

Raymond Purnell

Mrs. Mattie Sutton

Mrs. Darcenda Williams

She reminds us that he was very much in the news because he was one of the first black firemen. We recall that AFRO stories have chronicled his activities, including the near fatal accident in 1968 when he was aboard the African Star, which collided with an oil barge in New Orleans while on its way to Australia. It was he, even though injured, who managed to save five lives.

Finally, we are particularly pleased that one of the newest members of the AFRO staff, Mrs. Celestyne Thompson, a PBX operator, took time to send us best wishes on our birthday, which is also hers.

She wrote: "Because of our mutual birthday, it simply wouldn't do to miss a special chance like this to greet you and express sincere good wishes for unlimited success."

Baltimore Afro American

FOUNDED Aug. 13, 1892 by John H. Murphy Sr., 1840-1922. Published every Tuesday and Saturday by the AFRO-AMERICAN Co., of Baltimore City Inc.

"May we let our light so shine that it will illuminate that which is good and beautiful and magnify our Father which is in Heaven."
CARL MURPHY, (1889-1967)
Editor-Publisher, (1922-1967)

A little About a LOT Scapegoating And Power

By Madeline W. Murphy

Within the last few weeks, we have heard a great deal about the Relf case.

The horrible tragedy of two virginal young black girls, who were sterilized as the result of their parent's ignorance as to what papers they were signing, or because they were being duped by judgmental social workers who didn't want the girls to become pregnant on the claim that they were mentally retarded.

Now, according to the New York Times, (July 22,) another case of different proportions comes from Aiken, S.C.

A pregnant white welfare recipient, Mrs. Carol Brown, was refused medical care because she would not agree to be sterilized. She had been supporting her three children on welfare, since her husband went to jail in February for grand larceny.

In an investigation, it was revealed that nearly half of the welfare mothers who had babies on Medicaid — only welfare recipients receive Medicaid in S.C. — in Aiken County this year have been sterilized. At least 16 mothers agreed to the operation.

It has been a policy of local obstetricians to require welfare mothers with three or more children to agree to sterilization to receive treatment.

One of the sterilized women said that her doctor told her that he worked hard to pay his taxes and was tired of having people come to him to have babies he would have to support with his tax dollars. Records show that this doctor received $60,826.40 in 1972 and the first six months of 1973 for treating Medicaid patients.

To many black Baltimoreans, this comes as no surprise, since it has been rumored that some of our local hospitals have been silently and unobtrusively sterilizing black women for many decades.

However, what we should be concerned about, now that there is mounting public outrage, is that more local cases should be revealed, and more people should demand that Senator Kennedy's committee enact legislation that would make all hospitals receiving federal funds, who practice involuntary sterilization, cease and desist.

A provision of this legislation should require that boards of review, representing women being served, oversee sterilization and abortion criteria, so that such illicit practices will not continue.

These genocidal practices forecast the point Congressman Parren J. Mitchell (D-7th), raised in a recent TV interview. He warned that as the shame and frustration over Watergate mounts in Middle America, Middle Americans will thrash about for a scapegoat. The logical choice will be black oppressed people.

President Nixon, now cornered, not only with Watergate, but with the deception about secret bombings in Cambodia in 1969, about the wheat deals to the Soviet Union, will come down harder on blacks to divert attention from himself to preserve the power Watergate wrested for him.

Locally, this attitude is evident in borhood Youth corps, Out-of-School program into the Mayor's Manpower program. This transfer of the program will affect 700 youth, mostly black, cuasing them to lose approximately $64 every two weeks, making them likely prospects for welfare.

The program has always been hounded by red tape, bureaucracy, with unrealistic guidelines and uncertainty, with intransigent racist industries — euphemistically called, the "private sector" — who refuse to hire poor black youth.

Now in the take-over, there is this self-fulfilling prophecy. One can imagine the Mayor saying with pained expression: "We gave you a chance, but you just messed it up!"

Even though revenue sharing is supposed to be based upon census figures, yours and mine; on income, yours and mine; on taxes we pay so that revenues can pour back into urban areas to effect changes, this vicious circle becomes another cruel joke on the poor and oppressed.

In addition, after community pressure brought about black representation on some of the forty or more boards and commissions in the city, the commission to revise the City Charter should give fair warning to activist black members and citizens alike, that they may have gained too little, too late.

A few years ago, a warning was sounded by Walter Orlinsky, when black members of the Board of School Commissioners were struggling with their right to determine how their schools would be run.

Mr. Orlinsky threatened that he saw no need for a Board of School Commissioners and suggested revising the Charter of the City of Baltimore to wipe it out.

What other boards, commissions will become obsolete and take government further from the People?

Perhaps the best thing the black community can do is prepare for the mayoral election in 1975, and drop the following slogan in that well publicized suggestion box at City Hall: Schaefer isn't the best one to have, when you're having more than one — term, that is!"

New Friend

Dear AFRO:
Through prayers, patience, hope and trust
I found a very nice friend
And I hope very much things stay that way
Without a bitter end.
Our conversation were very compatable
Our ways very much the same
To bring forth a distance between all of this
Would truly be a shame
We've made a chain of hopes and trust
With each link to hold for days
For years these links will never part
Leaving things as they are always
I'm the happiest person in the world today
No more lonely hours to spend
For now I have someone to be around
Yes, thanks for a brand new friend

HARRY BOLDEN

Baltimore Afro American

OUR READERS SAY

Readers are invited to submit letters for publication. All letters must be signed, but signature will be omitted if requested. Letters should be no more than 200 words in length. Address them to "Our Readers Say," Baltimore AFRO-AMERICAN, P.O. Box 1831, Baltimore, Maryland 21203.

Joy At Provident

Dear AFRO:

Sincere congratulations to the editorial page of the current (Aug. 4, 1973) issue of the Baltimore AFRO concerning unfounded criticism of Provident Hospital.

These criticisms, uttered by persons with no actual contact with that institution, do much to hinder the much needed elevation of public opinion about what should be our community pride and joy in hospitalization.

Nothing is 100 per cent perfect in administration, but as a layman, and from daily contact, I find nothing 100 per cent wrong there.

As your editorial said, I am sure any constructive suggestions would be welcome both by the administration and the receiver.

After retirement from the Baltimore City school system, I became a volunteer at Provident, working in several areas. My daily contacts have brought me in close view of many employees, some past students of mine.

In the office where I spend a few hours daily, certainly one could not meet a more courteous, capable and friendly corps of five young ladies, primarily secretaries.

I have had many pleasant daily contacts with them — which also involves the closing of a deep generation gap. I look forward to working daily.

These young women recently afforded me a most pleasant and memorable afternoon — a surprise birthday party in the office. They used their funds, time and ideas to fete me. I'll never forget it, for it showed friendship and consideration.

The planners and participants included Misses Naomi Booker, Ricki Baker, Benniva Grady, Mary Cooper, Barbara Jefferson, Nan Richardson, Jean Zhebozien and Debbie.

Provident will grow and grow — for these ladies are typical of the spirit of the employees. I could mention many more — but this particular incident serves as one example of needing to know about the general attitude of the workers there.

CARRIE DORSEY JACKSON

Good neighbors

Dear AFRO:

I live in the Mt. Winans area where I am happy to say that the representatives of the rectory of Cherry Hill have visited our area every Monday for six weeks, working with our kids from Westport and Mt. Winans.

They left us Monday and gave our kids a farewell picnic.

The wonderful sisters were: Sister Mary Kay, Sister Mary Joe and Sister Helen.

The volunteers were Mrs. Lizzie Harris, Mrs. Frances Bennett, Mrs. Aneta D. Baldwin and Mr. Ollie Allen.

Also, Karen and Antonio, who are wonderful teenagers.

(Mrs.) FRANCES BENNETT

TLC For Mandel

Dear AFRO:

Governor Marvin Mandel of Maryland has announced he will divorce his wife of 32 years and marry Mrs. Jeanne Dorsey.

As we do with most engaged couples, we should offer our congratulations to the governor and our best wishes to the bride-to-be.

And, we should hope that once the minor details of the divorce are worked out and the Governor's Mansion is returned to its proper owner, that he and the new Mrs. Mandel can settle down to a long and happy life.

It is not any citizen's responsibility to pass moral judgment on another or to criticize.

Whomever Governor Mandel decides to marry, whether she is Jew or Gentile, red, white, black or yellow, is his own business.

But citizens can hope that the chief executive officer of the state selects a wife who will give him tender, loving care.

M. F. C.

Roses For Allen

Dear AFRO:

Heavy negative rhetoric has in recent weeks been directed scornfully at our State's Attorney Milton Allen by poison pen letters to the editor.

However, having been Mr. Pressman's "whipping boy" should have been sufficient, since all the trips were approved by the City Council and not at random like former Mayor Yorty.

In retrospect, where were the comments or praise from Hynie and fellow consorts for Mr. Allen's diligence during the investigation of the missing heroin from central police headquarters?

To be the only black state's attorney in the nation has to be difficult. I should think to retain this position communication direct with other cities in person to enrich the level of Baltimore's court proceedings is indeed appropriate.

As my wife puts it, give me roses while I am still living, and not the thorns that Mr. Allen currently is receiving, for a job well done.

JOHN T. BAILEY

BTU Letter

Dear AFRO:

In your Tuesday edition (Aug. 7) on page 13 appeared a story headed, 'BTU president upset over Dr. Walton's stand.'

The last line is missing. What did it say? - J. R. Suges

(Ed's Note: The AFRO regrets that in some copies, the last lines were omitted. The letter from BTU President Godfrey Moore to School Board President John Walton said, in conclusion:

"Surely you must realize that in 1972 the average cost to institutionalize a juvenile in Maryland was $12,300.00 per child per year. Yes, Dr. Walton, $284.00 was spent, by a state which ranked 11th in per capita wealth in the United States; to educate the youth in the seventh largest city in the nation.

"And thus, in concluding this letter and news release, as a final thought, I leave you with the Peter Principle "that individuals tend to rise to their level of incompetence."

Black October

Dear AFRO:

Recently, a new organization called Black October has become the topic of much conversation. Many condone the group's suspected actions, and many condemn these actions.

All breathe easier when discussing the group's main purpose — to fight the dope pusher and his supplier.

Perhaps the vigilantic tactics of Black October are the only way out for a community run over with the evils of dope.

For such a secret group can go where the law can not go, see what the law can not see and take immediate action that the law can not take.

However, here are several words of warning to such a group. Beware of unjust dealings and dark pitfalls in the cause of justice. Judge well before condemning, for might is not always right.

HARRIET TANZYMORE

William Watson Jr.

Dear AFRO:

While your readership has been made aware of the tragic death of Mr. William Watson Jr., one of our faculty members, many of them are not aware of the gentle nature of this man who made a tremendous contribution to the educational lives of our students.

William Watson Jr. not only possessed the technical competencies required of a teacher, but additionally was most effective in shaping the personal development of many of the students he taught. This he did through his genuine concern for students, clearly evident to them in his sympathetic handling of their concerns and his exemplary conduct as he related to them on a human level.

The flood of anguished telephone calls from students learning of his death attest to their deep feelings of loss, feelings shared by our total faculty and student body.

Certainly, with the opening of school in September the shock of our loss will strike us again. I can only trust that the students will build on the positive values he exemplified as he related to them and that we, as a faculty, move to fill the void he leaves.

ARNETT J. BROWN JR.
Principal, Alicia Crossland School No. 17

'Damned Lies'-Guilty Before Trial

AN EDITORIAL

The tendency today to judge a person guilty even before a court trial is a direct result of the black-white justice system that has existed in the United States of America.

For hundreds of years, black men and women have been arrested, put in jail and forgotten. Preliminary hearings were a joke. If the man charged was black, his bail bond was set unusually high so he was sent to the county or city jail to await trial.

If he was white, his bail bond was set reasonably low and he was soon back in the street.

In true sense, black men and women were judged guilty before trial.

Cities like Baltimore have encouraged this "guilty before trial" system through their grand jury system despite talk of bail bond reform.

In the Baltimore "Handbook for Grand Jurors" prepared by the Circuit Administrative Judges of Maryland, the section, "How To Determine Whether To Indict Or Dismiss," advises jurors:

"In performing its duties, the grand jury should bear in mind that it does not decide in any case whether a person is guilty or innocent of the crime with which he is charged. The proceedings are one-sided: the grand jury hears only the evidence presented by the prosecuting authorities. You hear witnesses and any others you may decide to hear. The accused has no right to notice of, your investigation of him or to be heard by you, and you cannot compel him to testify. If, however, you should decide to receive his testimony and he will give it voluntarily, it is proper for you to hear him. In the latter event, it is necessary to obtain from the accused a written waiver which the state's attorney will prepare.

"The grand jury then determines from the evidence presented whether the accusation, if proven at a subsequent trial, would be sufficient to bring about the conviction of the accused. If the evidence is sufficient, you vote an indictment, 'a true bill', to be formally drafted by the state's attorney. If the evidence is not sufficient, the grand jury votes 'not a true bill', or 'ignoramus' (we ignore)."

Under this formula, it is not unusual for 75 per cent of the persons indicted to be convicted.

Since jurors are neither trained in law nor criminology, and since most persons presenting cases before these jurors are white and most persons charged are black, there is more chance of injustice than justice.

The September 1972 grand jury said:

"During the term of this Grand Jury it was very evident that the best asset it could have had was its own legal advisor who could have eliminated or minimized the following conditions:

"1. The frequency of cases being presented to the Grand Jury where the charges and specifications were not compatible.

"2. The presenting of witnesses who were not in a position to provide the necessary evidence on charges on which they had been summoned to testify.

"3. The astounding number of witnesses who failed to respond to summonses."

Like most systems, once judges, lawyers and jurors find they can mistreat one group of people they soon reach out to others to increase their power and it is not long before all persons feel threatened and no longer have faith in the so-called system of justice.

A real test of how well this system works is shown in the reaction of bigwigs when they are accused. Few, if any, say that they will get a fair trial.

Most react like Vice President Agnew, who, although not charged with any crime, cries out "damned lies" in violent protest against the investigation.

He knows that investigations of this type in most people's minds spell "guilty", and he doesn' want that label put on him.

Speedy trial, innocent before proven guilty, trial by peers, are freedoms denied most blacks and it seems that while no one was looking they are slowly being denied to all Americans, black and white.

Tough Going For Friends Of President

By G. James Fleming

There are undoubtedly many, many thousands of Americans who have long been supporters of Richard Nixon, who have voted for him, and who consider themselves his friends.

Some of these will remain Nixonites, regardless of what happens to the President — "come hell or high water." Many really believe the Watergate investigations are attemps "to get" Mr. Nixon.

But, its "tough going" for other thousands of the President's friends. He has made it very hard for them.

First, he was not going to allow any of his aides to have anything to do with the Ervin Committee, on grounds of "executive privlege" and "separation of powers."

But, he changed his mind, under pressure, and allowed his key assistants to testify. And we have heard from Mitchell, Erlichman, Haldeman and the rest.

He has often said that he would make no reply to the revelations of the Ervin Committee until the hearing ended. But, ever so often, his new key aides (Buzhardt and Garment, for instance), have drafted some questions or some memoranda and sent them to the committee, giving the President's side or defending the President.

Now, of course, former Congressman Melvin Laird, the president's new counsellor for domestic affairs, has publicly promised that the President will be rebutting the Watergate testimony unfavorable to him when the first phase of the hearings is over. When, how and where no one knows at this writing.

Friends of the President, who still believe he is guiltless of involvement in Watergate and its cover-up, are also confused, and their trust in him strained, because of his position denying Special Prosecutor Cox and the Ervin Committee the opportunity to read, or listen to, non-Presidential documents and certain tapes — records pertaining to the President's reelection in 1972.

But, while U.S. Senators have been refused the tapes, the President turned over these to H. R. Haldeman — now and then a private citizen and Mr. Haldeman took these tapes to his residence — to do with them whatever he dared.

It must be noted, also, that Mr. Nixon, after promising a free hand to Prosecutor Cox, has now begun to treat Mr. Cox as if he, too, is an "enemy," out "to get" him.

Now, the country faces this constitutional situation, in which both the Special Prosecutor and the Senatorial Investigating Committee have been forced to serve subpoenas on the President of the United States. And the President, of course, by continual refusing, has taken the "tapes issue" into the courts.

All these manipulations, hanky-panking, and double-dealing in the White House, by Presidential advisers, and by employees of the Committee to Reelect the President have made it, and are making it, most difficult for "friends" of the President not to be shaken, not to become disenchanted, not to want to say to him: "Tell me it is not so" . . . "Prove to us it is not so."

Now and Then

Dr. Fleming

SUBPOENAS — Serving subpoenas on President Nixon, to compel him t release certain tapes and documents to the Cox grand jury and to the Ervin Watergate committee, may have played into the President's hands.

The subpoena route is the judicial route, and the judicial route is the slowest process in the U.S. system of government.

As the subpoenas move through the courts, Mr. Nixon's lawyers will make countless motions and raise countless objections; they will resort to all the appeals possible; they will exhaust all delays — those based on procedural as well as on substantive grounds.

They will play for time, quite aware that the Teapot Dome scandals of the Harding administration took six years to reach adjudication.

Indeed, there may be a new President before the American people really know what is what. Certainly, there will be many new faces in the U.S. Congress. Death may even visit the Ervin Committee and the Supreme Court.

If You Ask Me

By Bettye Moss

Mrs. Paul L. Vance (Sandra), lost the first baby they were expecting in late October.

Mr. Vance is one of Baltimore city's handsome, talented, new young (36) men, whom School Superintendent Roland N. Patterson lured from Philadelphia to become his no. 1 assistant, deputy for executive matters.

Mrs. Vance, Sandy to her friends, is the former Sandra Redmond of Philadelphia.

You can welcome her to Baltimore with cheery cards if you address them to their temporary residence, 110 W. 39th St.

Cuff note: The Vances' friends, John and Joan Brentley, were here over the weekend while Mrs. Vance was hospitalized.

Not going: James E. Lewis, the noted Morgan State College art professor, will not be leaving our shores after all.

Note in the mail from Purdue University (West Lafayette, Indiana), states Mr. Lewis has declined appointment as chairman of the college's Afro-American Studies Committee.

P.S. the college is still looking for someone to fill the post says Dean Robert L. Ringel.

Good news about a University of Minnesota classmate: came in a late evening phone call from Mrs. Mildred Williams, the retired Baltimore city teacher, who was with the L'Etoile Club which vacationed in Hawaii.

She reports she was seated in a sunny spot watching people go by when a friendly voice said, 'hello.' The speaker turned out to be Mrs. Lottie Young Waddell, formerly of Tuskegee, Ala., and Fargo, North Dakota.

She and her husband, Dr. William Wardell, the Fargo veterinarian, will have moved in their new home in Hauula, Hawaii (54-060 Kukuna Rd., Hauula, Hawaii, 96717), by the time you read this.

Their daughter, Kay Brundage, is already settled there, teaching at the university. Small world!!

Speaking of vacationers seeing your old friends: Some months back, Mrs. Bernice White, the Social Security executive and AFRO columnist was in St. Thomas, Virgin Islands.

And, that is how we learned that former Baltimorean Vera Garrison McLean, (remember when she was Madison Ave. YW dance instructor?), is now Mrs. William G. McLean.

Her husband is conservation officer for the island's urban renewal board. She is public relations officer for the Tourism Department.

Son, Eric Garrison, a Howard U. Law School grad, is involved in communication in the island; daughter, Gail Garrison, a Colorado U. grad, is employed in a Denver department store.

Two youngest children are Mora McLean, who finished high school in June, plans college work in communications; and Elizabeth, 12, who is a budding ballerina.

And, to think we were right in St. Thomas last year and didn't know she was there!

Baltimore friends can write Mrs. McLean at Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1692, Charlotte Amalie, St. Thomas, V.I., USA.

Cuff note: Home in Baltimore after four weeks in her native Davenport, Iowa is Mrs. Calvin Burnett, (Martha), wife of the Coppin State College president.

She, by the way, is working on her doctorate at Catholic University of America in Washington. Smart girl!

Charlotte, N.C. visitor in our midst this past weekend: Mrs. Gwen Cunningham, guested with her brother, Dr. James S. Davidson.

Get well cards please to Elmer Burgess, the retired teacher. He was readmitted to Union Memorial Hospital, Intensive Care Unit, on Thursday. He has improved and is now in Room 415.

Dr. Saul Perdue, the retired school executive, had surgery at Provident, is doing fine.

Sunshine to Mrs. Ruth Butler Campbell at Huntington Memorial Hospital, Pasadena, California. She underwent surgery this week for the removal of two ruptured discs from her spine.

She is the sister of Mrs. Lillian B. Reid, retired Art Supervisor in the Baltimore City Public Schools.

Doing nicely, thanks to frequent visits by family and friends is Mrs. Simon Carter (Kay).

She's the social worker and wife of the physician, who injured her leg in that freak accident outside her Morgan Park home last month.

Even though she's still in a cast, she is able to get around with help.

Weekend visitors who cheered her included her sister, Mrs. Madeline Rodgers, Long Island; cousin, Dr. Doris Harris, Teaneck, N.J., and aunts, Misses Mildred and Doris Caesar of N.J.

Ernest (Sonny) Goodman, the U.S. Information executive in Copenhagen, Denmark, for the last 5 years, is a native Baltimorean. (AFRO interview with him was published in our Aug. 7 issue).

He arrived in the states last month for workshops. With him are his wife, Bente, and 12-year-old stepson, Michael.

He dropped in on Baltimore cousins for a brief visit and called us on the phone before shoving off for the West Coast.

He'll be in Los Angeles with a cousin, Mrs. Edna Deaver McCormick (2069 W. 30th St., Los Angeles, 90018), for a while, but promises to let friends in Baltimore know when he returns this way before he assumes his new assignment abroad.

Newcomers: Clarence Deberry joins the teaching staff of Cardinal Gibbons High School this fall.

He is a native of Asbury, N.J., and will be the music instructor and band director for the combined music program of Cardinal Gibbons and Archbishop Keough high schools.

He taught music for eight years in Virginia public schools, and for the past three years in Ohio.

His bachelor's degree in music is from North Carolina College (Durham, N.C.). He and his wife have two children. The family will live in East Baltimore.

Prayer of week: The following appeared in a recent issue of the bulletin published by Baltimore chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority:

You never know when someone
May catch a dream from you.
You never know when a little word
Or something you may do
May open up the windows
Of a mind that seeks the light—
The way you live may not matter at all,
But you never know — it might.
And just in case it could be
That another's life, through you,
Might possibly change for the better
With a broader and brighter view,
It seems it might be worth a try
At pointing the way to the right —
Of course, it may not matter at all,
But then again — it might.—AMEN

MRS. MOSS

80 YEARS AGO — "The interests of the Afro-American population of Baltimore are identical and any faction of the race which fosters strife to gratify its own selfish ambition, should be classed with the enemy."
(From the AFRO-AMERICAN, April, 1893)

A Column Of Choice

By Marion Banfield

MRS. BANFIELD

In trying to understand why so many elementary age children have serious adjustment in schools, I would like to raise a few questions.

Are some children thrown into independence and mature responsibility at too early an age?

Is the transition from freedom to roam the streets from age 4 too much of a contrast to the structured, orderliness of classrooms?

It is sheer nonsense to talk about inborn inability to think among blacks. While some psychologists enjoy digging up numbers to support their ideas, others face the realistic effects of cultural problems and educational practices which prevent intellectual growth.

When mothers leave 7, 8, 9, or even 13 year old children to look after 3 and 5 younger children, this is just plain, outright child neglect and emotional abuse.

Children aren't born as adults. Parents who push children into adult responsibility distort the nature of children.

Children who have baby-sitting responsibilities forced on them are liable to resent or hate the younger children who make life miserable.

With the mothers feeling guilty, — if they know enough to be guilty, — home becomes a miserable hot house for youthful and adult anger.

A child whose mother has allowed him to roam the streets from morning to night finds classroom structure a strange attempt to limit his freedom.

There can be no learning in classrooms without some structure and some giving up of individual freedom.

If he has learned to survive the meanness of other neglected children, dodge cars, and evade the police, a classroom teacher is a difficult adult to understand.

Some street children haven't been taught to read. They've been taught to survive urban stress.

Street children do what they please far more than children whose parents set limits of responsibility for both parent and child.

The classroom must seem dull and repressive to a child who has been exposed to mare lack of parental care and concern than many dogs get from their owners.

Children who roam the streets are not just the unhappy offspring of mothers struggling to earn enough to stay away from welfare grants.

Many mothers who have too many children to try to work, exist on welfare grants but lack the knowledge, educational or family background that would have taught them how to be good mothers.

Mothering in Baltimore is no easy task, Fathering in any urban setting is a sophisticated undertaking.

Since these same mothers would much prefer training and self-respecting job, 12 hour child care programs would benefit the whole community.

Children would be off the streets. Mothers could learn skills and get jobs which would give them more self-respect. They would consider their unplanned children less of a burden. With some guidance in how to mother children, they would feel happier as a parent.

With mothers and fathers taking time to understand how very difficult it is to rear a child in today's society, we might have children receiving more understanding, more controls and more love.

In case you think children don't want controls, try talking to junior and senior high school children who resent teachers who do not try to set limits.

Those children know — and not from books — that teachers who don't exercise some control over students don't care what happens to students.

A choice is for parents to take responsibility for the children they bring into the world and not to thrust that responsibility where it doesn't belong.

Parents who set reasonable limits for children make it easier for children to function in a classroom. Children who have respect and understanding and love from home are better able to learn in school.

A choice is for parents and teachers to work together to establish outer controls for children while the youngsters develop wholesome inner controls.

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Adequate black representation on all public boards and commissions of Maryland cities, counties and the state itself, including colleges and universities.

Extensive and meaningful black political power.

Equal job opportunities in fact as well as theory.

Equal housing opportunities in fact as well as theory.

Black judges on all benches of the city, county and state court systems.

A black owned and operated taxicab company.

A black owned and operated bank.

A black majority on Baltimore City Board of School Commissioners.