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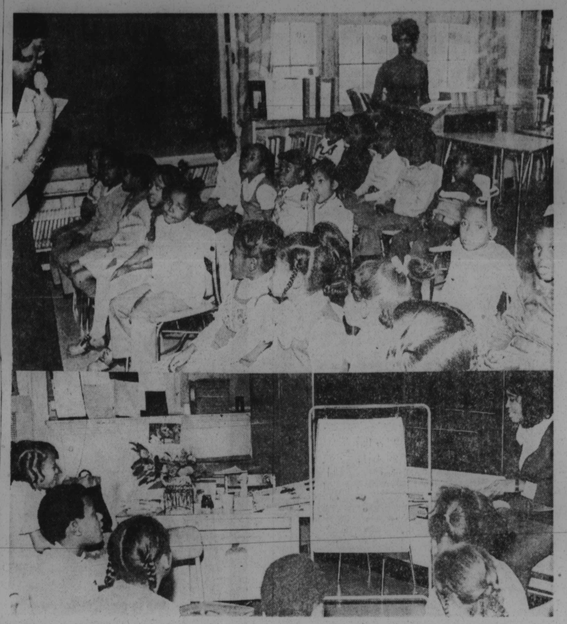

AIN'T WE GOT FUN — Students of the Jackie Robinson Elementary school find that learning can be fun. Pictured at the school located at Lombard and Catherine Sts., is (left) Mrs. Jacqueline Conway with a 1st grade class, and Mrs. Doris Homes instructing her Special Elementary students.

(AFRO staff photo by Roman Hankewyčz)

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Beautiful, Historic Leningrad

By Garth C. Reeves
Editor-Publisher Miami Times

LENINGRAD — After an all-night train ride from Moscow, a group of bleary-eyed black newspaper publishers arrived in Leningrad, 400 miles to the nortwest on the marshy estuary of the Neva River.

This truly beautiful city, called by many the Venice of the North, is the second-largest city and most important seaport of the Union of Soviet Socialistr Republics.

From its founding in 1903 to 1971 it was the capital of the former Russian Empire. Most of the city is built on the west banks of the Neva and on islands in the river, the waterways being spanned by more than 600 bridges.

* * *

It was cold and raining on our ride to the Hotel Europeiskaya on Nevsky Prospekt and Brodsky Street, one of the busiest intersections in Leningrad.

Just across the way we could see Arts Square and the majestic white-columned building of the former Mikhailovsky Palace now housing the Russian Museum. Here also is the Maly Opera and Ballet Theatre, the Musical Comedy Theatre and the Leningrad Philharmonic Society, well known to world music lovers.

We missed a real treat Saturday night when we were unable to get tickets to the theatre. A Russian company was doing "Porgy and Bess," which must have been something to see.

* * *

Our hotel was very comforable and lavishly furnished. The two women in our group (Frances Murphy of the **Afro-American** and Lenora Carter of the **Forward Times**) had a suite that would do the Regency proud. Only one thing strrt about this hotel. The water was so bad the women wouldn't even bathe in it.

Leningrad is a city with great historical, revolutionary, industrial and fighting traditions.

It was here that Russia emerged as a naval power; that Russian industry received its first impetus; that the revolutionary movement, which from the end of the last century was led by Lenin, the founder of the Communist Party and the Soviet State, was born.

It was here that under Lenin's leadership the Great October Socialist Revolution took place.

One of the most beautiful and impressive monuments in Leningrad is the Piskariovskoye Cemetery where over 470,000 victims of hunger or German bombs and shells are buried.

Citiezns of this city speak proudly, though sorrowfully, of the 900-day siege that Leningrad withstood during World War II when German troops blockaded the city and the people tried to survive on meager rations.

Most of this city was leveled by German shelling during the war, but few of the scars are visible today. The Russians have done a fantastic job of rebuilding and restoring most of their remarkable architectural monuments and buildings. The massive building program has more than doubled the size of the city since the war and officials claim a new apartment is completed every ten minutes.

Peter the Great, Catherine II and Alexander I were famous Russian rulers who commissioned palaces from great Italian architects.

* * *

After the Revolution these palaces were converted into museums and today stand as some of the finest in the world. Two of the most elaborate in the city are the Winter Palace and the Hermitage, truly two of the finest museums in the world.

* * *

The nearest thing we have seen to the Hermitage is the Louvre in Paris. It contains a magnificent collection of pictures and other works of art.

Leningrad is a notable intellectual and cultural center of the USSR. Other museums of note are the Museum of Art Culture, Museum of Comparative Religions, Central Historical Museum and the Museum of the Red Army.

* * *

The third largest cathedral in the world (after St. Peter's in Rome and St. Paul in London) is found here — St. Isaac's Cathedral with its dome of beaten gold.

* * *

Leningrad is particularly famous for the production of electrical equipment and fine machinery and tools. Other principal industries include ship building and the manufacture of heavy machinery, agricultural equipment, paper, furniture, textiles and clothing, tobacco, leather and stone products and chemicals.

* * *

The most famous Russian poet of all time was Alexander Pushkin, grandson of an Abyssinian general in the Russian Army, ennobled by Peter the Great.

* * *

Judging from the number of monuments and statues we saw in Russia of Pushkin, he must rank right behind Lenin in popularity. The most beautiful, we thought, was the one in a park outside Leningrad.

* * *

Pushkin wrote poetry and prose. His poetical tales are full of drama. **Boris Godunow** and **Eugene Onegin** are the basis of famous operas by Mussorgky and Tschaikowsky respectively.

* * *

Some of Pushkin's works are published under the pen name of Ivan Belkin. The most famous of his short stories is **The Queen of Spades** (1834).

* * *

Leningrad was such a beautiful city with so much to see that we spent our entire two days sightseeing and visiting the museums. Helena Sergeevne and Katya Alexeeva of the Leningrad Journalists Society made our visit a memorable one.

NNPA Publishers pause outside after visiting Smolny Museum in Leningrad.

ETERNAL FLAME — Katya Alexeeva, Garth Reeves, Robert Thomas and Mrs. Frances Murphy pay their respect at the eternal flame marking the burial place for 470,000 citizens of Leningrad who died in the 900-day siege during World War II.

PAP Smear volunteers

Volunteers from various organizations in the Baltimore area are traveling throughout the West Baltimore area doing a survey to find out how many females from 15 years and older are in need of a pap smear.

Sponsored by the Garwyn Foundation, this project entitled, BACK (Baltimore Against Cancer the Killer) will aid Baltimore physicians so they can be sure the women in their specific areas are having regular pap smears.

Cancer is the second largest cause of death in the United States. A survey has been made in this area, however, since the mortality rate at the turn of the century was 100 per cent and has fallen to the present 65 per cent.

Great strides have been made in the area of cancer of the cervix. The death rate from this disease has been lowered by 50 per cent in the past generation. Cancer of the cervix could become almost a completely preventable disease if women would report their doctors for a pap smear.

A pap smear is a simple, painless test which only takes a few minutes. If this type of cancer is discovered early enough, it can be cured. Cancer of the cervix affects larger numbers of women who are 40 and older, but other age groups can also have it.

Studies have shown that more women have cervical cancer in lower income groups. Others who are more likely to develop this disease are those who have been married and had pregnancies during their teens or have had early sexual experience.

With the efforts of pap smear volunteers and the concern of Baltimore citizens, the fear of cervical cancer may be wiped away.

4th District group installs new officers

The 4th District Democratic Organization holds Installation of officers and a Christmas party at 7:30, Dec. 17 at headquarters, 1524 W. North Ave.

The Rev. A. J. Payne, pastor of Enon Baptist Church, will induct:

John Thornton, president; Del. Troy Brailey, special assistant to president; Sen. Verda Welcome, executive advisor; Mrs. Beatrice Lewis, first vice president; Charles Michael, treasurer; Mrs. Mignon Atkins, executive secretary; Mrs. Mary Murray, corresponding secretary; the Revs, M. D. Norton and James Wise; chaplains and Bertram Dorsey, sergeant-at-arms.

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DeCosta fellows listed

Eight Morgan State College graduate students were named Frank A. DeCosta Fellows by Dr. King V. Cheek Jr., president of the Northeast Baltimore (Md.) institution.

The DeCosta Fellowships, which total some $4,000, were named for the late Dr. Frank A. DeCosta, the first and the organizing dean of the Morgan graduate school.

The fellows are: Iris J. Clarke, urban planning; Richard G. Greene, business administration; Miss Lillie M. Jackson, history; Miss Ann Koger, physical education; Miss Lauren C. Larsen, history-social science; Miss Charyn A. Marmash, elementary education; Miss Phyllis A. Moore, reading, all of Baltimore and Werner K. Ferrone, urban planning, of Edgewood, Md.

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