How it all began 40 years ago

Miss Frances - Aunt Frank AFRO's first "Clean Block Lady"

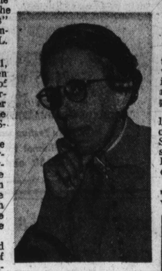
This year marks the 100th anniversary of the birth of "Miss Frances" and "Aunt Frank" to hundreds; Miss Frances L. Murphy.

She was born April 21, 1874, the fourth of eleven children in the family of the late John H. and Martha E. Murphy. Her father was the founder of The AFRO-AMERICAN NEWSPAPER, 83 years ago.

From 1896 to 1934, she was a teacher and supervisor in Theory and Psychology in the Baltimore public schools and upon her retirement became known in Baltimore and in many other cities of the United States as "The Clean Block Lady."

"I just can't sit still and see a thing in need of being done and doing nothing about it," said Miss Murphy after being asked why she didn't fold her hands and gracefully retire from the public scene.

At the age of 60, she decided to do something about what she saw on an early summer morning near her Madison Ave. home.



Frances L. Murphy

She saw streets littered with paper and trash; windows and steps unwashed, woodwork needing paint, backyards and cellars not cleaned and most important of all, children out of school with plenty of time on their hands.

Miss Murphy got the children and the problem together and initiated the AFRO Clean Block Program in 1935, signing up 3,880 children that first summer.

Last year in its 39th year the Clean Block program worked with 9,000 children in 286 blocks giving away more than $5,785 in cash prizes and 30 honor flags.

Miss Murphy successfully guided the clean block campaign for 12 years. Since then there have been several "Clean Block Ladies" heading up the clean-up-paint-up program.

"Miss Frances" as she was fondly called by those who know her, turned over her program to her niece, Mrs. Frances L. Murphy H, former chairman of the board of the AFRO. She was followed by the late Mrs. Farnces McKay, wife of the late Cliff McKay, AFRO executive editor. Mrs. Jeannette Leath, now with the Department of Housing and Community Development; Miss Paula Brooks, advertising sales representative for the Sunpapers; Miss Michelle McRae, AFRO ass't. women's editor.

Heading the 40th Clean Block Campaign is Mrs. Ida Peters, AFRO's Public Relations Director and Entertainment editor.

During Miss Murphy's 39-year career in the classroom, she pioneered many teaching techniques and humanitarian programs.

As a first grade teacher she noticed the under-nourished condition of many children. She was determined to do something for them and with the help of friends the first penny lunches were instituted in the public schools. The policy of serving milk and free lunches to under-nourished children was later adopted by the school system.

In 1908 she introduced in the city a definite plan using hand work to teach disadvantaged children in classes below the sixth grade. Recognizing the wisdom of this work, the school system adopted it classes in certain schools.

When she was supervisor for cadet teachers, Miss Murphy devised and used mental tests to classify children, aiding in the assigning of the right pupil to the right teacher.

The Clean Block program was praised all over the country and she also received honors at home.

In 1964, Mayor Theodore R. McKeldin of Baltimore, presented her a Certificate of Award and Merit as "A formal expressing of appreciation and gratitude for her fine quality of public service." At that time, only six such awards had been issued.

Miss Murphy, in her early years, poses in front of her "Tin Lizzy."

1951—Youngsters of 1500 Dallas St.

1973—1500 Dallas Street was an AFRO Honor Block

In 1961, Coppin State Teacher's College named its new demonstration school after tneir one-time teacher and supervisor honoring her life in education. The school was known then as the Coppin Normal School and was a part of the public school system.

"Miss Frances" died in 1958 at the age of 84. All of her years were spent in helping others ... in teaching and guiding younger people.

School No. 20 Opens Campaign

Sir Robert Eden Elementary School, No. 20, Eden and Federal Sts., held their Clean-Up Campaign Kick-Off program in their outdoor arena this week.

Mrs. Ruth Thaxton, home liaison teacher and Mrs. Camilla Sherrard planned the Parent Involvement Program to coordinate the Oliver Community and community organizations to clean-up, paint-up and join the AFRO Clean Block Program. Joseph Jones was co-ordinator.

The entire school was urged to dress in red and white for the day. The band under Willie DeGraffenreid learned a clean-up song; the chorus under Mrs. Lillie Mills, music teacher was ready with their clean-up song to the tune of "Amen."

The school patrol pushed their brooms in rhythm. Parents and teachers along with the upper school competed to make the best signs.

Signs read, "Double Your Trashballs to the Trash Basket" ... "Dig This Scene, Keep It Clean."

Guest speaker was Mrs. Ida Peters, Clean Block Director, who stressed how students may join the AFRO campaign and win cash prizes. Mrs. Queen Robinson, Model Cities Council B, told the students if "I can, you can, we all can."

The highlights of the program were the cheer leaders dressed in red and white under student teacher, Miss Ward, who led a "Morgan type" cheer for T.R.A.S.H.

Neighborhood groups involved with School No. 20 are Area B, Mrs. Margaret Todd; Oliver Improvement Association, Mrs. Lois Brown; 1500 blk. Eden, Mrs. Bessie McClinton; NE Neighborhood Club, William Young and Adjacent Neighborhood, Mrs. Inez Spicer.

Model Cities Day Care Center, Area A visited the AFRO last week as part of their Newspaper In The Classroom program. Seated on front row are: Herman Walker, Douglass Carter, Robert Jones, LaTonia Mealy, Anthony Cypress, William Taylor, Devon Lane and Jay Watty. Standing are: Miss Jean Turney, Miss Amelia Matthews, Jerry Chambers, Damon Johnson, Avery Duncan, Monica Fisher, Audrey Duncan, Keith Watson, Eric Wheeler and Mr. Lester Gibson.

TV Notes

By Cynthia Stevenson

Jim Brown, Rod Taylor, Yvette Mimieux and Kenneth More star in "Dark of the Sun," a realistic drama set against the background of the violent conflict in the Belgian Congo in the early 1960s. This agonizing story of rebels, mercenaries, refugees and murderers will be presented on "ABC Sunday Night Movie," May 19.

* * *

Don Cornelius, producer, writer and host of television's only black format show, Soul Train, has been nominated for the coveted Emmy Award for "Best Writing for a Talk, Service or Variety Program," by the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences.

The Spinners, the Independents and Leroy Huston combine their great talents this weekend to headline Soul Train.

The Spinners, who recently completed a successful tour of Great Britain and Scotland, will sing their single "Mighty Love" from the album of the same title. They'll also sing "One Of A Kind" and "Ghetto Child" which is a big hit abroad.

Spinners

Don Cornelius

The Independents is a brand new group out of Chicago who have racked up some big selling records. The guiding genius behind the Independents is twenty-eight-year old Chuck Jackson (brother of Reverend Jesse L. Jackson) who is writer, lead singer and producer of the group which includes Helen Curry, Maurice Jackson (no relations), and Eric Thomas.

They'll entertain the Soul Train gang with two of their super-hot hits, "The First Time We Met" and "Arise And Shine."

Writer, producer and arranger Leroy Hutson is probably one of the more creative musicians on the scene today. A graduate of Howard University from a five year program with broad training in all aspects of music and music theory qualifies him to do a vast number of things.

Following graduation from Howard he was invited to join the Impressions where he remained for 2½ years. Since leaving he has spent much of his time writing, producing and arranging and performing two solo albums. Leroy will sing "Ella Weez."

"Big Blue Marble" is conceived as a children's television show that deals with the whole world and appeals to the whole child. It is planned to entertain and to educate.

The show is designed to appeal particularly to children in the 8-to-12 age group. This is the period when children in the 8-to-12 age group. This is the period when children are particularly curious, outgoing, and eager to expand their horizons and identity with their peer group.

David Janssen stars as the sheriff of a small Louisiana bayou town, terrorized by a modern-day Wolf," Monday, May 20. Wolf."

Shipwrecked victims are taken on a fabulous and treacherous journey through inner space — to a city of gold under the sea — in a tale inspired by Jules Verne, "Captain Nemo and the Underwater-City," Friday May 17.

Pat Boone guest stars as junior high school principal Tim Hartford, opposed by his wife in a suit for the custody of their ten-year-old son, Toby, and accused by her of having a romantic affair with a student in "Child of Wednesday," on "Owen Marshall, Counselor at Law," Saturday, May 18.

After the initial shock and embarrassment of a sexual attack have abated, should the victim be willing to suffer the further indignities of an investigation and its inevitable character analysis in order to bring the criminal to justice?

This is the dilemma of young, attractive Betty Jenner in the rebroadcast of Leonard Freeman's production of "Cry Rape!", on Tuesday, May 21

Enoch Pratt

Friday, May 17

"Cry for the Beloved Country," film at the Pratt Library's Northwood Branch, 2:00 p.m.

Saturday, May 18

Informal lecture by Stan White of the Baltimore Colts at the Central Pratt Library, Wheeler Auditorium, 2:00 p.m.

Coming Events (Week of May 19-May 25)

Tuesday, May 21

"Imogen Cunningham: Photographer" and "The Man Called Edison," films at the Central Pratt Library, Wheeler Auditorium, 2:00 p.m.

Wednesday, May 22

"Fast Is Not a Lady Bug," "Little Blue and Little Yellow," and "The Little Cowboy," films at the Pratt Library's Waverly Branch, 10:30 a.m.

Thursday, May 23

"The Circus," film at the Pratt Library's Dundalk Avenue Branch, 3:30 p.m.

"Drugs — Their Use and Abuse." Two films — "Hooked" and "David: Off and On" — will be followed by a discussion period led by Valerie Bell and Dan Ickberg, drug counselors from Project Adapt. Pratt Library's Gorsuch Avenue Library Center, 3:30 p.m.

Saturday, May 25

"Mr. Shepard and Mr. Milne" and "Dylan Thomas," films at the Central Pratt Library, Wheeler Auditorium, 2:p.m.

Exhibit

Photgraphs by Barbara Young at the Pratt Library's Pimlico Branch, through June 28.

Paul Gonsalves, Duke Ellington's saxophonist was found dead in bed in a London, England rooming house this week. He joined Ellington in 1950. Only 53, he also played with Count Basie.

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A muddy track

By Don and Val Hymes

The horses have left the starting gate, kicking and snorting. From all, signs, it's going to be a nasty race.

Gov. Marvin Mandel, who couldn't act more confident if he owned the voting machines, says he'll take the high — not the low — campaign road. But his aides might.

But when his vocal opponent, Sen George Snyder, left the gate last week, he insisted that the corruption issu can' be avoided. Special interests and big money have been running the state, he said, though Mandel's "kitchen cabinet."

"When a special interest is paid back," Snyder said, "it breeds corruption."

There will be no way of getting away from it.

The other announced Democrat, retired appellate Judge Wilson Barnes, said he is running because the people are "sick and tired of cronyism, low-grade political manipulations."

* * *

Republican candidate Louise Gore said she would not attack the Democrats for corruption. But sensitive to Watergate, she made the point when she filed that she is running to restore some confidence and integrity in public officials.

And whether Congressman Lawrence Hogan runs or not, he's already attacked Mandel for giving state business, favors and appointments to contributors.

Most observers feel that although the scandals may whirl around Mandel, touching friends and aides, nothing short of a juicy indictment could defeat him.

The politicians feel the public is more concerned with the grocery bill, the mortgage they can't get, and whatever the gas shortage will ruin their vacations.

President Nixon apparently felt that way last year when he said about Watergate: "(Expletive deleted) it is a terrible lousy thing — it will remain a crisis among the upper intellectual types, the soft heads, our own too — Republicans — and the Democrats and the rest.

* * *

"Average people won't think it is much of a crisis unless it affects them (unintelligible)." The events of 1974 are proving that analysis was wrong.

The balloon is up on Watergate; it is up on kickback corruption from Agnew to Anderson and now veers toward Alton. But will it go up on Mandel?

Many feel the key to that lies in the media. And that raises a very serious question. Is an overzealous or sinister media spawning the scandals — for personal or political gain — out of what has always been routine and acceptable behavior by politicians of doing favors for friends? Mandel thinks so.

"The way I see it," said erat who is active in civic affairs, "if he wanted to, a cop following me down the road could find at least three violations no matter how hard I tried to obey the law.

"The public is beginning to wonder what's behind it all," he says. "These things just don't happen by themselves."

Then there was the Baltimore County businessman who asked, after hearing another rundown on the corruption cases in his local government, "Who's going to prosecute the press?"

* * *

There's no question that Watergate was exposed by the press, or that the Agnew case, which began with a probe into the Democratic Dale Anderson administration, came to a faster climax because of daily media bird-dogging.

The public was able to understand the issues at the beginning. Republican U.S. Attorney George Beall was merely going after the Democrats for rubbing GOP noses in Watergate, they said.

But confusion compounded, though, as one Republican prosecuted another when a Democratic state's attorney and county executive were convicted, and when a succeeding Democratic prosecutor probes prison payoffs all the way into the governor's offices.

Who's the villain?

Lately the media, as its members testify before grand juries and become part of the cases they have covered, or uncovered.

Where will it all lead?

Nobody can answer that yet, but the press must ask itself if it isn't really trying to make up for lost time, for its failure to spot and expose the corruption in government under Agnew and Anderson.

And is it really corruption?

At least there will be a forum for these painful questions in the campaign ahead.

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Coppin commencement events

The Senior Class at Coppin State College announces its schedule of events to kick-off activities for the annual Senior Week beginning Friday, May 17.

Seniors will host a "Wine and Cheese" sip in the J. Millard Tawes College Center at 7:30 p.m. The traditional baccalaureate service is set for Sunday, May 19 at 4 p.m. in the College auditorium. A senior banquet will be held off-campus on Monday, May 20 at 8 p.m.

Tuesday, May 21 at 7:30 p.m. the annual Alumni Reception for seniors. The next evening, Wednesday, May 22, graduating seniors will present a night of recognition for their parents in the College Center.

Thursday, May 23 at 8 p.m. will feature a boat trip on the "Port Welcome" down Chesapeake Bay. A dance will be held aboard the boat.

Culminating the week will be the farewell assembly set for Friday, May 24, 7:30 p.m. in the College auditorium. Dr. and Mrs. Calvin W. Burnett—the College president and his wife—will honor the class with a reception at their campus home. This is scheduled for Saturday evening.

Finally, the 74th Commencement Exercises will be on the lawn of the College's north campus on Sunday, May 26 at 4 p.m. The speaker will be Dr. Alvin F. Poussaint, an associate professor of psychiatry at Harvard University.

Del. Boswell to attend conference

Del. Hildagardeis Boswell, D.-4th-Balto., announced that she has been invited to participate in a planning conference on May 23, to be held in Washington.

The conference will be preceded by a cocktail party given by attorney Edward Bennett Williams in honor of Robert Strauss, chairman of the National Democratic Committee.

The conference will address itself to the 21-hour telethon to be aired on June 29-30, on CBS Network (Channel 2).

Del. Boswell is a candidate for state Senate in the new 38th District.

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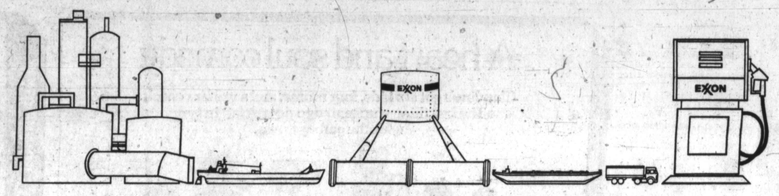

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You've seen those big tanks in our refineries and terminals. They exist primarily to even out the flow of gasoline to you. In most cases what's more important than how much is in those tanks is how much comes in...and how much goes out. That's the amount moving to you. And how much it is depends on how much we produce in our refineries.

What it takes to keep the system working.

It takes some minimum amount of gasoline just to keep the supply system working. Part of it is in our refineries, some is on ships, in pipelines, barges, terminals and tank trucks.

At Exxon there are approximately 650,000,000 gallons in the system, on their way to you.

Although we count all of this in "inventory," it's gasoline we can't sell unless we replace it, any more than you can use water in your home without having some more pumped into your water pipes behind it.

How much more we have.

In addition to the 650,000,000 gallons needed to make the system work, we have some gasoline in storage. At the start of May, this amounted to about 160,000,000 gallons. Scattered throughout our system, this volume helps buffer the variations in demand and supply which occur due to more driving in summer and less in the winter and to unforeseen happenings like equipment problems at our refineries, ship delays, etc.

Of course, when you're used to thinking of gasoline in terms of what it takes to run your car, 160,000,000 gallons seems like a lot. Actually, it's less than six days' supply to our customers. Or you can look at it another way. 160,000,000 gallons is slightly over one gallon for each car, bus and truck in the U.S.

So the supply of gasoline at the pump depends most on how much we produce in our refineries... every day...rather than how much we have in "inventory". For you to have more, we have to refine more.

What we have to do.

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