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AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL
REV. WALTER L. HILDEBRAND
1300 DRUID HILL AVENUE
BALTIMORE, MARYLAND

CONGRATULATIONS FROM
WAYLAND BAPTIST CHURCH
3200 GARRISON BLVD.
BALTO., MD. 21216
TO THE PRINCE HALL MASONS THE EASTERN STARS AND THE INTERDENOMINATIONAL MINISTERIAL ALLIANCE IN OBSERVANCE OF THE EMANCIPATION PROCLAMATION DARNEAL F. JOHNSON, JR.
J. EDGAR HENSON,
ASSISTANT, PASTOR

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE INTERDENOMINATIONAL MINISTERIAL ALLIANCE THE PRINCE HALL MASONS IN OBSERVANCE OF THE EMANCIPATION PROCLAMATION AND THE ORDER OF THE EASTERN STARS FROM
TRINTY BAPTIST CHURCH
1601 DRUID HILL AVE.
BALTO., MD. 21217
REV. W. C. CALHOUND, PASTOR

MELVIN A.
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REV. RONALD BRAXTON

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WE SHARE WITH YOU THE STRUGGLE FOR FREEDOM AND HUMAN DIGNITY
REV. C. S. ALEXANDER,
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Juanita Jackson Mitchell, Counselor

SUPPORT
BLACK
BUSINESSES

AFRO History

The newspaper read by over 611,028 persons each week today differs vastly from the 10 by 14-inch four-page sheet termed AFRO-AMERICAN and issued 83 years ago.

The editor was the Rev. William M. Alexander, 525 McMechen St., pastor of Patterson Avenue (later Sharon) Baptist Church, president of the Northwest Baltimore Colored League and chief supporter of the Northwest Supply Company, which operated a provision store at 1210 Fremont Ave. and a printing plant at 1112 Fremont Ave.

The price was three cents a copy.

Associated with him were five men termed business manager: W. E. Toney, William H. Daley, George W. Reid, F. A. Gains and George Dowtin.

STALL KEEPERS

Messrs. Daly, Toney and Reid were stall keepers in Lafayette Market. Mr. Dowtin was a grocer at 244 Brice St.

After the first issue, the size was increased to a 13 by 19, four-column page before adopting the standard eight column format.

News items were much the same as now.

JOHN H. MURPHY SR.

The Cab Calloways celebrated their 20th anniversary. Bishop James A. Handy held an AME Conference. Bethel Church presented its pastor, the Rev. J. H. A. Johnson, a $50 purse.

John H. Murphy Sr. was called to serve on the Federal Grand Jury.

The Howard-Lincoln football game was called off when the Baltimore Athletic Association refused to rent its pro-league baseball park. Reason assigned was "social equality."

FREDERICK DOUGLASS

Dr. Marcus Cargill was a member of the City Council from the 11th Ward.

Frederick Douglass wrote the AFRO a letter concerning the World's Columbia Exposition at Chicago.

George W. Murray was the one black member in the U.S. Congress.

LEXINGTON BANK

The Rev. Frank Williams pastored Perkins Square; the Rev. Alfred Young, John Wesley ME; the Rev. J. C. Allen, First Baptist.

The Lexington Savings Bank, Everett J. Waring president, had $57,000 in deposits.

Warner T. McGunn was clerk at the Liquor License Board, Lloyd Lowndes was governor of Maryland.

CHANCES EXCELLENT

McKinley's chances of election to the U.S. presidency were considered excellent.

Dr. William H. Weaver, pastor of Madison Avenue Presbyterian Church was appointed to the board of the Industrial Home for Colored Girls at Melvale.

There was a shake-up in the Maryland Mutual Benefit Association, of which Nathaniel Gibson was president and Walker Lewis, treasurer.

The name has since been shortened to Mutual Benefit Society.

AFRO-AMERICAN

William Johnson's Barber Shop was located 527 Lanvale St.; George P. Douglass' dining room at 732 N. Eutaw; John C. Minnis, ice cream manufacturer, at 534 W. Biddle St.; Dr. J. W. Johnson had a dentist office at 434 Orchard St.

The AFRO announced that the term "Negro" was offensive and would not be used. Its columns thereafter would employ the term "Afro-American" or "colored" instead.

The Rev. Mr. Alexander was no beginner in the newspaper field. His first venture was the "Home Protector," a weekly which he published for three years, until he changed its name to AFRO-AMERICAN.

WELL EDITED

Under Dr. Alexander the paper was well printed and well edited.

He remained the owner of the AFRO until August, 1895 when it was taken over by the Northwest Supply Company, of which William H. Daly was an able business executive. Later he became a successful theatrical owner.

HERE TO STAY

William T. Griggs, age 11, addressed the directors of the Supply company, with which his father was associated, and advised them that the AFRO was here to stay.

At that time two other colored weeklies were published here, "The Standard" and "The Hour."

Young Griggs was a prophet but he did not see the failure of the N. W. Supply company with its four stores.

THRIFTY WIFE

John H. Murphy Sr., then 50 years of age, borrowed $200 from his thrifty wife, Martha Howard Murphy, salvaged the name and printing equipment, moved to 1210 Patterson Ave. and the AFRO got its second wind.

Mr. Murphy was editor, advertising and circulation manager, type-setter and make-up man. A job printing department helped finance the newspaper.

On Jan. 6, 1900 the AFRO was merged with the Ledger, owned and published by Dr. George F. Bragg, then rector of St. James P.E. Church located on N. High Street.

LEDGER DROPPED

The Ledger plant was located, first, at 1605 McElderry St.; moved to 210 Courtland St., a block away from 307 St. Paul St., to which later spot the AFRO also moved its plant.

The Ledger was dropped from the mast head on Dec. 11, 1915. During these 15 years, Dr. Bragg received the princely sum of $8 a week as chief editorial writer.

When John H. Murphy Sr. died in 1922 he was succeeded by his five sons.

THE LITTLE PEOPLE

Carl Murphy, then a German professor at Howard University, became editor and later headed the firm as publisher for 45 years, until his death in February, 1967.

Dr. Carl Murphy's administration was marked by his emphasis on those he termed "the little people."

He waged a continuous war for equal justice for colored citizens long before bold action for civil rights became popular, in the days when his contemporaries hardly "dared to touch the subject."

'MR. CARL'

"Mr. Carl," as he became known among AFRO-American employes, lived up to the letter Mr. Murphy Sr. wrote to his sons in 1920:

"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;

NO OTHER GOAL

"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.

LOYAL CONSTITUENCY

"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."

John H. Murphy Jr., oldest incorporator, who retired as circulation director in 1951 after 33 years service. He

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THE BAPTIST
MINISTERS
CONFERENCE
OF BALTIMORE and VICINITY
TAKE GREAT PRIDE IN BEING A PART OF THE PROCLAMATION FOR FREEDOM AND HUMAN DIGNITY FOR ALL
Dr. A. C. D. VAUGHN
PRESIDENT

IF IT CAN BE DONE WE WILL DO IT
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"WE ARE WITH YOU IN THE BOND OF UNITY ON THAT GREAT DAY OF FREEDOM"

Dr. Allen was dean of Grand Masters

"DR. WILLARD W. ALLEN, Masonic Grand Commander, in AFRO file photo dated 1957.

Five solemn fraternal services preceded the funeral, Oct. 6, 1961, for Dr. Willard Wallace Allen.

10,000 join in Masonic services for 73-year-old leader; 4,500 attend church rites.

Over 2,500 persons crowded into the Enon Baptist Church auditorium and lower halls, and another 2,000 gathered outside as the services began at 1 p.m.

Some 10,000 persons participated in the five fraternal rites and passed his bier, first at the Sullivan Funeral Home, and later at the new $350,000 Eutaw Place Masonic Temple purchased in 1960 under Dr. Allen's leadership.

The 73-year-old civic, business and fraternal leader died Oct. 2, 1961 of a kidney ailment. He had been hospitalized a week.

He was best known for his leadership in Prince Hall Masonry.

RETIRED IN 1960

UNTIL HE retired in 1960 to become Grand Master Emeritus, Dr. Allen held the office longer than any Grand Master in the country — 38 years.

He was also the Most Puissant Sovereign Grand Commander, Prince Hall Scottish Rite Masons, for 32 years.

Only two other Baltimoreans, Joseph L. H. Smith (1907 to 1910) and AME Bishop James A. Handy (1887 to 1888) have held that office.

The Scottish Rite Southern Jurisdiction which Dr. Allen administered, covers 22 states from Maryland to Florida and West to California.

EACH OF the five fraternal services held at the Masonic Temple, Thursday, was attended by a capacity audience of 1,700 persons.

There were:

8 p.m. — Lodge of Sorrows — Samuel T. Daniels, Grand Master, assisted by Mt. Horeb Lodge No. 24;

9 p.m. — Grand Chapter OES — James R. Parker, Grand Patron, assisted by Rebecca Chapter No. 35;

9:30 p.m. — Royal Arch Masons — Seth Robinson, Most Eminent High Priest, Hiram Holy Grand Chapter, assisted by Adolphus P. Hall Grand Chapter, District of Columbia;

10 p.m. — Imperial Council Services, A.E.A.O.N.M.S. — Booker T. Alexander, Imperial Potentate, Detroit, assisted by Jerusalem Temple No. 4 of Shriners;

It was at Mr. Alexander's direction in 1957, that Shriners gave Dr. Allen Past Imperial Potentate honors.

12 midnight — Supreme Council Scottish Rite Services — John G. Lewis, acting Most Puissant Sovereign, Grand Commander, Baton Rouge, La., assisted by Hiram Consistory No. 2.

CITIZENS HONOR GUARD members were dressed in the colorful uniform of the Commandery, a military outfit, with knee-length coats, white plummed headgear, white gloves and armed with swords.

Also in attendance were Mayor J. Harold Grady, former Mayor Thomas D'Alesandro, Judge Robert B. Watts; former State Senator Harry A. Cole;

And, Dr. Carl Murphy, chairman of the Morgan State College trustee board on which Dr. Allen served for 20 years, and other members of the board, including Judge E. Dale Atkins, Dr. Eugene Byrd, Judge Josiah F. Henry, Richard Emory, L. Manus Hendler, Dr. Kenneth O Walker and Henry E. Nuez

Morgan President Martin D. Jenkins is hospitalized.

REPRESENTING the civic and business endeavors of which Dr. Allen was affiliated were: Judge Designate Thurgood Marshall of New York, who has since been made the first member of the United States Supreme Court and Dr. Lillie M. Jackson.

Masonic services were led by Grand Master Samuel T. Daniels.

DEAN OF GRAND MASTERS

In an editorial in Sept., 1960, the AFRO termed Dr. Allen "dean of Grand Masters in the United States; confidant and counsellor of mayors and governors; a man who wore the mantle of leadership in all good causes; a man who lifted himself from a lowly estate to command a place of respect in the field of insurance and real estate; a truly remarkable Baltimorean."

Dr. Allen was a veteran insurance executive, a world-famed fraternal leader, churchman, educator and civic leader who termed himself "a self-made man."

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THURS. & FRI. 8 AM TO 10 PM
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SUNDAY 8 AM TO 2:00 PM
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WE SALUTE ....
YOUR EMANCIPATION EFFORT!
ED and SHIRLEY HUNT - OWNER/OPERATOR