Naomi Grand Chapter marks 50th anniversary year

50TH ANNIVERSARY of the Naomi Grand Chapter, Order of Eastern Star, Hiram Grand Lodge, A.F. and A.M., ceremonies were witnessed by Miss Ruth Clayton, mistress of ceremonies; the Rev. Cecil McCleary, City Temlpe Baptist; Hiram Grand Lodge Officials, John V. Thornton, Grand Master; Illustrious Clarence Wycoff, past grand master emeritus; Columbus McNeil, Most Worthy Deputy Grand Master; G. W. Matron Helen V. Benton Past Matron Ardessa Pitts, Past G. W. Matron Clara V. Brummell, Past Matron Agness Portee, Rosa Gibson, Mattie N. Johnson. Mesdames Benton, Portee, Gibson and Johnson are 50-year members.

Naomi Grand Chapter passes the half-century milestone

One of the most brilliant of springtime occasions was the recent Baltimore celebration of the 50th Anniversary of the Naomi Grand Chapter, Order of Eastern Star, Hiram Grand Lodge A.F. and A.M.

Marking the occasion was the presentation made to Grand Worthy Matron Helen V. Benton by City Councilwoman Victorine Q. Adams (see photo Page 1).

The Grand Worthy Matron frocked in queenly attire, received the honorary citizenship citation from the mayor on behalf of the citizens of Baltimore and was accorded congratulations for her Order for reaching the half-century mark.

Naomi Grand Chapter was chartered March 25, 1925 under direction of Deputies Georgianna Robinson of New Jersey; Mary L. Jones, New York and Mary C. Hogan, Massachusetts.

Naomi Chapter has been a great force in the community city and state and nation in its half-century existence and counts among the many its contributions to cultural, educational and spiritual growth of all citizens.

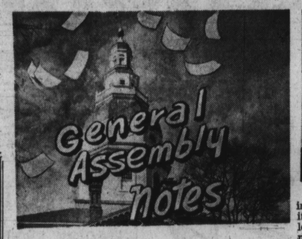
Of the present NGC 19 state chapters, there are four 50-year members in the Rising Star Chapter No. 2, one of the organizing chapters.

In addition to the 19 chapters under the banner, there are three juvenile circles, a chorus, a nurses' unit, two Courts of Amaranth, two courts of Heroines of Jerico, a Court of Daughters of Sphinx, an encampment of Ladies of Knight Templars and the College of the Rose of Seven Seals.

ROYALTY — PAST MATRONS Lucenda Rucker, Mary L. Johnson, M. E. Rose, M. L. Burkes College, Mary L. Pettus, grand trustees and RSS.

(All Naomi Grand Chapter photos are by J. D. Howard)

GRAND PATRON Jesse L. Pettus



By Angela Chatman

ANNAPOLIS — Only three days are left in this 90-day session of the Maryland General Assembly. It is scheduled to end Monday.

The Legislature is entering those final days when it tries to make up for time lost during the first two months of the session.

Ms. CHATMAN

However, despite the urgency of these last few days, it might be said that all of us, legislators and reporters included, are experiencing a lull before the storm.

Bills are moving rather slowly though methodically and the double sessions which were begun last week are quite often uneventful. But, as one pointed out, things are happening and bills are passing.

Here are some of them:

JUVENILE JUSTICE

On Monday the House of Delegates passed by a vote of 118-0 a measure that provides for the creation of a commission on juvenile justice.

House Joint Resolution, 50, introduced by delegates Marilyn Goldwater, (D-16) and Joseph E. Owens, (D-17) of Montgomery County, called for the creation of a 15 member commission to "review and evaluate the existing law, programs, and services relating to the juvenile justice system in Md."

The Commission would be charged with making an interim report to the 1976 session of the General Assembly and would make a final report in 1977.

TWO MORE

The House also passed two bills dealing with juvenile law. House Bill 1616, introduced by Delegate David Gray Ross (D-24) of Prince Georges County, provides that an escapee from a juvenile correctional institution can not be given more than 30 years added sentence.

The bill, which was co-sponsored by Delegates Leo E. Green and Gerard F. Devlin, (D-24) and Pauline H. Menes, (D-21), also provides a penalty not to exceed 10 years for any employee of an institution who aides the escapee.

It was passed by a vote of 121-1.

House Bill 1634, also introduced by Delegate Ross sets up certain guidelines and standards for the waiver of jurisdiction over juveniles between the ages of 14 and 18 through the adult court.

The measure would provide that the court take into consideration the age of the child; mental and physical condition of the child; child's openess to treatment; the nature of the offense he committed and public safety

The bill would require a study of the child, his family, environment and other matters relating to him.

BLACK JOBLESS

House Joint Resolution 98 calling for a creation of a task force to "study black youth unemployment and to implement the results of such a study," was passed on Monday.

It was co-sponsored by Delegates Walter R. Dean Jr., Arthur G. Murphy Sr. and Pinkney A. Howell, (D-41), passed by a vote of 107-1.

HUMAN RELATIONS

By a vote of 122-0, the House passed a measure on Tuesday providing for hearing before the Human Relations Commission or a trial examiner, or a hearing tribunal.

Introduced by Delegate Joseph E. Owens (D-17), Bill 186 also allows the parties involved to petition for a review of the decision of the tribunal, if its findings are not unanimous.

ENERGY

By a 11-0 vote, the House approved a measure calling on the Energy Policy Office and the Minority Business Energy Task Force "to submit a report concerning urban aspects of the energy crisis on minority businesses."

The resolution was introduced by Delegate Larry Young (D-36).

VOTING RIGHTS

On Tuesday, the House of Delegates passed the House Joint Resolution 44, calling for the extension of the 1965 Voting Rights Act until 1985.

The resolution was introduced by Delegate Isaiah "Ike" Dixon Jr., (D-33) and has 45 co-sponsors.

It has been returned to the Senate Constitutional and Public Law Committee

SHOTGUN

A measure prohibiting the possession of short barrelled shotguns or rifles has passed the House of Delegate by a vote 114-1.

(Continued on Page 11)

NOTICE

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Super Pride Market has top quality food

By Bob Matthews IV

Black owned and black operated, the Super Pride Market at E. Chase and Patterson Park Ave., stands as a model of a successfully run business, at a time when business failures are the norm.

Reorganized in 1969, from the old Super Jet market, Super Pride has seen sales triple and the number of employees reach 70.

Super Pride owes success to the shrewd business acumen of Charles T. Burns, chairman of the board and chief executive officer.

Mr. Burns has recruited the management staff from professionals who have all had extensive experience in supermarket retailing.

His top assistant, Theodore R. Peters, brings 23 years of supermarket experience to Super Pride. Oscar Smith, a Morgan grad, is store manager.

Other top staffers include meat supervisor with 16 years with A and P chain; Quincy Mason, director of operations, with 11 years with the Colonial food chain and James Pearsall, meat manager with 15 years supermarketing experience.

Honored by a national magazine, as one of 100 black businesses in the country, Super Pride draws its customers from all over the city.

Prices are the lowest in town, according to Mr. Peters. The market is open every day of the year except Christmas.

* * *

Expansion into other areas of the city is planned in a few months. New store openings are expected for Lafayette and Payson and at Dolphin and Pennsylvania Ave.

Providing grocery supplies to Super Pride are the PA and S Small Co. of York, Pa., a multi-billion dollar wholesaler.

Some of the workers who help keep Super Pride the pride of Baltimore are: Ms. Regina Haynes, head cashier; Glenn Bullock, grocery manager; Ms. Dorothy Rollins, bakery manager and Ted Barkley, produce manager.

Also, Ms. Diane Epps, office manager; Morris Epps, receiving manager; Earnest Purdy, security chief; Ms. June Conway, service counter manager and Ms. Dorothy Randall, cashier.

Others working hard to insure top quality service include: Ms. Margaret Johnson, Mark Guy, Ralph Cherry, Ms. Grace White, Clifton Johnson, Ted Barkley, Darryl Jones, Theodore Smith, Robert Peak, Lee Pearson and many others.

READY TO SERVE — Some of the Staff members of Super Pride supermarket, Chase and Patterson Park, who will insure that the food you buy will be of top quality. From left; Carl Owens, James Pearsall, Glenn Bullock, Oscar Smith, and Ted Barkley. Front, Ms. Regina Haynes and Dorothy Rollins.

REGISTER now so you can vote for the next mayor and city councilpersons. Do so today at Supervisors of Elections, People's Court Building, Fayette and Gay Sts., next election is Sept., 1975. Get prepared NOW.

Police spy panel may have data enough for grand jury indictments

ANNAPOLIS, Md. (UPI) — State Senate President Steny H. Hoyer, D-Prince Georges, predicts the Senate Constitutional and Public Law Committee will be permitted to continue its unprecedented inquiry into alleged Baltimore Police spying beyond the April 7 closing of the General Assembly Session.

"I think the Senate will stand behind them (the committee)," Hoyer said.

"I think there will be senators who will vote against them, saying there isn't enough evidence. But when people on this committee say they think there's something that's got to be looked into, I think they'll be allowed to continue."

* * *

Following an hour-long executive session Tuesday, Sen. Edward T. Conroy, chairman of the committee, said there was "considerable" evidence to substantiate charges of police surveillance, breaking and entering without criminal warrants, wiretapping, following of citizens not involved in any criminal activities.

* * *

He said the committee would make its preliminary report to the Senate by Thursday.

"We didn't take a vote," Conroy said. "But there appears to be an overwhelming feeling in the committee that we should ask the Senate's approval to go forward with the investigation.

"We've developed a lot of materials as far as the investigation is concerned, but we have not reached any conclusions.

"We'll be giving the Senate an outline of what our evidence is and what we plan to do, without naming persons who want their names protected." Conroy said, adding that the report will detail instances of alleged invasion of privacy by police.

* * *

Conroy also said the panel has uncovered evidence "both in public and private sessions that is the jurisdiction of the grand jury."

He said the evidence will be given either to the Baltimore Grand Jury or to the U.S. Attorney, whichever has jurisdiction.

If the Senate approves extension of the probe, Conroy said the panel will hire additional staff and a second attorney to serve as an investigator and will concentrate its investigation on illegal wiretapping by police agencies operating without court authorization.

Trial date not set for kidnap suspects

No date has been set for the trial of Ronnie Burrell, 28, and his brother, Arthur, 33, charged with two counts each of kidnapping the children of Bernard Jerome Lee (Big Head Brother) March 20. Both are being held without bail.

The two men are accused of abducting Zenobia (Tee Wee) Penn, 6; and her sister, Monique, 8, fondly called "Tiny."

Police state Arthur Burrell is being held under a $100,000 bond. He reportedly surrendered to City Jail March 23 and told a guard he wanted to turn himself in, "because of conditions that existed in the street."

* * *

Ronnie Burrell turned himself in at the Southeastern District Police Station about 5:30 p.m. March 25.

The girls were abducted as they left Grove Park Elementary School No. 224 at Kennison Ave. and Weglin St. They were released unhurt three days later after their family convinced the kidnapers that the $100,000 ransom demanded could not be met.

ARTHUR BURRELL

RONNIE BURRELL

Birthrate increases as marriages decrease

The rate at which women bear children in the United States continued to decline last year, but at a significantly lower rate than in the years between 1970 and 1973, according to Health Resource News, published by Public Health Service of HEW.

The provisional 1974 vital statistics of NCHS show that the fertility rate for 1974 was 68.4 births per 1,000 women in the childbearing ages. This is about one per cent below the rate for 1973. Between 1970 and 1973, the average annual decline in theh fertility rate was seven per cent

The total number of births was another story, however. They rose slightly over the preceding year. There were about 3,166,000 new babies in 1974 while the previous year's crop was about 3,137,000. The number of women of childbearing age more than offset the slight decline in fertility, according to NCHS.

Marriages decreased during 1974 for the first time since 1958. An estimated 2,223,000 marriages were performed last year, about 2.4 fewer than in 1973. The marriage rate decline — which was nation-wide — occurred despite an increase in the number of people of marriageable age.

What wedded bliss there was was not enough to go around, it seems, because divorces increased again for the 12th consecutive year. There were an estimated 970,000 divorces in 1974, up 6.2 per cent over the preceding year.

Propelled by a sinking infant mortality rate, the overall number of deaths and the death rate declined last year. The infant mortality rate was an estimated 16.5 per 1,000, the lowest annual rate ever recorded in the United States.

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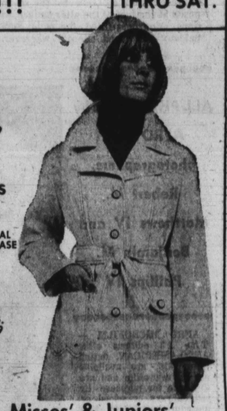

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