freedom justice equality

a perfect prescription...

...for us to ponder over for another 200 years.

" Let each of us strive to make a valuable contribution not only to the future of this great country, but to the future and welfare of mankind as well. "

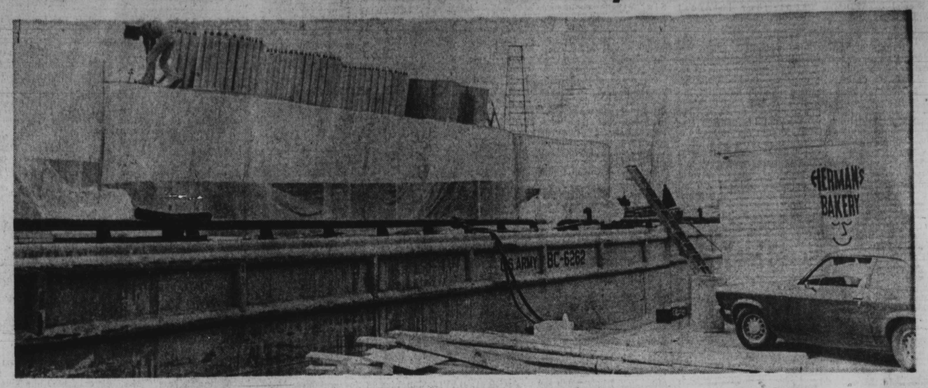
1776-1976 america

READ'S DRUG STORE SERVING THE BALTIMORE COMMUNITY FOR 93 YEARS.

" PEOPLE WORKING TOGETHER FOR A BRIGHTER TOMORROW...TODAY! "

RUN RIGHT TO Read's DRUG STORES

Baltimore Bicen accents War of 1812, not July 4, 1776 birthdate



AFRO staff photo by Roman Hankewycz

WALLY'S FOLLY — This is the oldtime barge with the plywood platform and 200 candles that Bicentennial Chairman Walter Orlinsky plans to carry him and the Bicen cake to Ft. McHenry for the July 4 celebration. City employees have dubbed the occasion and the cake "Wally's Folly". Ft. McHenry is a War of 1812 site and has nothing to do with the July 4, 1776 founding of the nation.

Birthday cake has no black bakers

By Elizabeth M. Oliver and Clarence W. Hunter

BALTIMORE — July 1 — Baltimore's big Bicentennial celebration to be on TV nationwide July 4, may become the most mix-matched event of the century.

The Bicentennial cake termed America's biggest July 4 dessert, fails to represent all citizens and will hardly be eaten by black citizens. Further, with the 200th birthday centering around the Revolutionary War and the July 4, 1776 birthdate of the nation, the Baltimore Bicen accent on Ft. McHenry and Francis Scott Key's Star Spangled Banner is way off. The Star Spangled Banner comes from the events of the war of 1812.

HERE'S THE STORY

Regardless of how many eggs the Baltimore Bicentennial Cake has, it's still all-white.

By admission of the owner of Herman's Bakery, no black citizens are employed there and no black citizens had a hand in the baking of what is supposed to be America's Birthday Cake.

Owner Harry Herman, 57, 7500 Holabird Ave., told the AFRO when asked if the bakery did its part on the 70,000 pound cake without black citizens having "input" "I'm sorry. I don't have any black employes at all."

He said his head bakers are Melvin Stec and Stanley Zakrzeska and the head decorators are Dan Olenick and Larry Desantas. Herman, in business in the Dundalk area since 1958, said he employs about 60 persons.

CAKE FALLS

Ms. Sharon Stopak, assistant to City Council President Wally Orlinsky, the prime mover of the "white cake that seems to have fallen," told the AFRO, "Herman came to us about making the cake. We never looked into it (about the all-white bakery)."

Asked if she, or Orlinsky, is aware of the law and present-day attitudes to "all-white and lack of minority participation," Ms. Stopak replied, "Of course."

She said the 150,000 slices Orlinsky wants to sell by mail nationwide at $2.50 a slice, will pay for whatever expense there might be to the city of Baltimore.

Otherwise, she said there is no out-of-pocket money involving taxpayers of Baltimore, "going into the cake."

RUNNY ICING

Thus the birthday cake slated to top Baltimore's giant celebration at the Harbor and Fort McHenry July 4, is in reality "flat as a pancake."

Touted as a perfect Baltimore red-white-and-blue salute and a Bicentennial highlight, the ill-fated batch of dough also suffered from an act of God, RAIN, Wednesday night.

An unexpected shower hit the icing when it was almost 95 per cent complete. Sitting on a rusty barge in the Baltimore harbor, the 15,000 pounds of icing began to drip and the red, white and blue ran together in a mess.

The real icing was on the plywood base. Plans were to place the individually wrapped pieces of real cake inside the base Thursday.

WHO PAYS?

Firemen had to hose off the icing and Herman had to get ready to "do something" about the re-frosting. Paint now replaces the original edible stuff.

The AFRO was unable to find out who is bearing the expense of the old or the new icing or the cake, for that matter.

The Baltimore Bicentennial mix-matched celebration is slated to be viewed by 60 million TV viewers.

Some 50 entertainers led by Ed McMahon will present the cake during a running TV show from Saturday 7 p.m. to 15 hours later.

The live show will originate aboard the Frigate Constellation moved to Ft. McHenry Thursday. Remote pickups will come from Los Angeles and California.

AT AFRO presstime, the once plump City Councilman Wally Orlinsky, now reduced to somewhat skinny, was slated to be strapped to a ladder 40 ft. high to light the 200 candles on the "Wally's Folly" cake at Ft. McHenry.

As his plans are hopefully carried out more successfully than the cake and icing episode, 60,000 voices of some singers hollering "Happy Birthday" are slated to blow out the 200 candles.

Prior to that time, the press has been informed, Orlinsky will be aboard the cake barge as it sails to the Fort where Francis Scott Key wrote the Star Spangled Banner in 1814.

The cake-carrying barge is supposed to be pulled by an old steam tugboat, "The City of Baltimore" one of the first tugs ever made.

WRONG WAR

Strange is the fact that the Revolutionary War which came 200 years ago is NOT the event of the Star Spangled Banner national anthem. The Baltimore celebration instead, is marking events of the War of 1812.

The World Almanac re-

(Continued on page 2)

BROTHER TESTIFIES AGAINST SISTER IN CONTRACT MURDER

He says he thought her murder plot against mate was a joke

A 29-year-old security guard testified in Baltimore County Criminal Court that he thought "his sister was joking when she asked him to find someone to kill her husband, Randolph A. Williamson Jr."

Nelson Boone, of the 8400 block Winands Rd., in Randallstown allegedly arranged the connections between his sister, Mrs. Joyce Williamson and Lawrence M. Merrick, 28, for Williamson to be killed Oct. 5 after "a family party."

* * *

Mrs. Williamson, 31-year-old alcoholic counselor at City Hospitals is charged with murder, conspiracy to commit murder and solicitation to commit murder. She faces life in prison.

Williamson was found dead Oct. 5, 1975 lying in a pool of blood on the front passenger's seat of his car in front of his home. Police report he had been stabbed five times.

* * *

The case is being heard by an all white jury and Judge Kenneth Proctor is presiding. This is the first "contract murder" ever brought to a Maryland court. The case will continue today (Friday).

Boone is the state's key witness and is testifying against his sister because the state promised to drop the murder and conspiracy to commit murder charges, if he testified. However, he is charged with solicitation to commit a felony.

* * *

Boone told the jury Lawrence Merrick, 28, agreed to kill his brother-in-law and was paid "$50 by his wife to do the job."

"Lawrence was unemployed and said he needed a job. I told him my sister wanted her husband knocked off and I called her so Boone could talk to her," said Boone to the jury.

Merrick, of the 5300 block Chandler Ave., was convicted of first degree murder March 15 in Baltimore County Criminal

(Continued on Page 2)

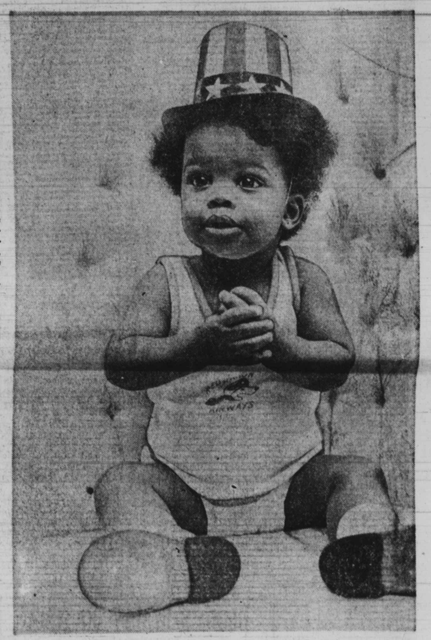
Dawn Bicen services at Mt. Vernon

Music, scripture readings and prayer are on the agenda for the Dawn Bicentennial service to be held July 4, 6:30 a.m. to 7:30 a.m. at the Mt. Vernon Methodist Church and the adjacent Washington Monument.

Speakers Rabbi Herbert Brockman, Father Joseph Connolly, and the Rev. William Johnson, will also present statements of 20th century concern and will appeal for commitment to the ideals of life, liberty, pursuit of happiness and of the rights of the poor.

Participating groups include the Interdenominational Ministerial Alliance headed by the

(Continued on Page 2)



(AFRO staff photo by Benjamin M. Phillips)

AFRO'S BICENTENNIAL BABY is Ronald Robert Crockett Jr. son of Mrs. Zenobia Carr and Ronald Crockett Sr., who will be a year old July 4. Arriving at 10:45 a.m. July 4, 1975, he marks the auspicious birthday a year later with a party at his home. Over 32 little tots will join him as they play and perhaps unknowingly celebrate also the 200th birthday of the United States.

Hunter Home for Blind needs $10,000 now to stay open, pay bills

MRS. ANNA MAE HUNTER, founder, now unable to walk is shown in her wheelchair. Standing is William Davis, treasurer of the board of directors.

By Pam Widgeon

The Anna Mae Hunter Foundation Home for the Blind is in desperate and urgent need of at least $10,000 to stay open, pay their employees and provide an excellent home for the residents.

The home for the blind was founded by Mrs. Anna Mae Hunter, 69, and is now located at 1321 Eutaw Place.

If the home does not receive funds shortly, the doors might be closed soon.

Last week Mrs. Hunter was not able to pay her staff because she did not have the money. The staff includes a cook, housekeeper, secretary part time house keeper. Their total monthly salary is $1,698.

This week the Baptist Ministers, Rev. A.C.D. Vaughn, president, made a large contribution.

Among other outstanding" bills owed are $700 to Hilltip Beef Company; $800 to Calvert Oil Company, the phone, gas and electric bill and other bills.

* * *

AFRO readers are urged to help.

If you, your church, club or organization would like to contribute money to the home, send your checks or money orders to Anna Mae Hunter Foundation Home for the Blind, P.O. Box 4699, Baltimore, Md., 21212.

* * *

Members of the board for the Anna Mae Hunter Home for the Blind are, Mrs. Anna Mae Hunter, president, James D. Elliott, chairman; John M. Maynor Jr., financial secretary; William M. Davis, treasurer; Melvin J. Davis, executive treasurer; Robert Perkins, James C. Williams, Mrs. Willie Mae Perry; Mrs. Alice R. Catlin; Miss Barbara Ann Johnson, correspondent secretary and Mrs. Lillian Jenkins.

* * *

Mrs. Hunter receives most donations for the home at Christmas and then the public seems to forget the home is open.

In 1943 Mrs. Hunter organized the Blind Associ-

(Continued on Page 2)

Bicen Bits

The Oblate Sisters were founded in Baltimore on this day Friday, July 2, 1829. Also on this day in 1788, George Washington sold his slave Negro Tom in exchange for "food stuffs."

(AFRO staff photos by Benjamin M. Phillips)

A RESIDENT of the Blind Home is Mrs. Geneva Bowser (with cane) accompanied by Mrs. Carrie Tillett, housekeeper.

(AFRO staff photo by Benjamin M. Phillips)

NOT BY BREAD ALONE, such as James Duckett the cook displays, but the Blind Home has to live on donations from others for shelter, heat, clothing and other necessities.