R.S.V.P. With Marie

By Marie P. COOKE
Reflections Editor

"Remember this night for greeting old friends . . . we are here tonight to celebrate this golden anniversary." Mrs. Carolyn M. Robinson spoke those words at the 50th reunion of the 1926 class of the Frederick Douglass High School. Ah, it was a gala affair held June 27 at Martin's West.

Some 50 members of the class along with another few hundred friends and alumni joined in on the festivities. They were greeted at the door by several young hostesses and then passed through a white picket archway trimmed with an array of freshly cut flowers. And there was a lighted fountain with more flowers. . one knew it was going to be a r-e-a-l celebration!

Following a social hour, dinner was served after the Rev. Daniels, minister, Madison Avenue Presbyterian Church gave the invocation. Greetings came from J. Hiram Butler, master of ceremonies, and Mrs. Carolyn M. Robinson, class president.

Classmates and their friends made an extensive guest list. Some came from various points of the state and country. Like Mrs. Charlotte Parrott Hackett and family who motored from Durham, N.C. Mrs. Hackett introduced the former Douglass High School teachers who helped "shape" their lives. They included: Miss Nellie Buchanan, Latin instructor; Bernard Nelson, French; Mrs. Beatrice Reesby, mathematics, and Mrs. Lilla Barnum, French. Miss Buchanan gave the response on behalf of the teachers and recalled, "the days we spent with the class of '26 were with beautiful children." In addition, she cited Herbert Frisby, also present, "who wasn't one of your teachers, but thought he was."

Mrs. Mildred Thompson Murphy gave an eloquent introduction of the guest speaker, Mrs. Edna Over Campbell, retired educator, administrator and principal emertius of Douglass High.

Mrs. Campbell's remarks were nostalgic. She had done extensive research and had come up with some facts that were unknown to many of her listeners. She had located a copy of the '26 commencement program and recalled it (class) was the first to be graduated from the new building, then located at Calhoun and Baker Streets.

Her address was quite timely in this being the bicentennial year and especially for black people whose historical data is often overlooked amid other celebrations. Mrs. Campbell cited former principals and some of Douglass' students who are now outstanding leaders.

The Dr. Mason A. Hawkins Scholarship Award was presented to Miss Stephanie O. Watkins, a '76 honor graduate of Douglass by Alonzo Kelly. Miss Watkins is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Murray Watkins Sr.

Following the presentation, Earl Hagan, current DHS principal gave remarks. A tribute was paid to the late Mrs. Ruth Lighston, former class president.

But the celebration did not end there.

Filmstrips of the class members were shown and brought back memories. . laughter and tears, too.

Officers of the class are:

Mrs. Robinson, president; J. Hiram Butler, vice president; Lillian B. Reid, recording secretary; Ella Brooks, financial secretary; Alonzo Kelly, vice president-treasurer; George Briscoe, chaplain; Theresa Nelson, also a recording secretary, and Charles Nitchner, sergeant-at-arms.

Members are:

Matthew Anderson, Mable Bates, Mildred Bryant, Blanche Con, Osborne Dixon, Margaret Dorsey, Norman Edwards, Gladys Fields, Gladys Gardner, Mary Gordon, Catherine Green, Charlotte Hackett, Marguerite Haley.

Fannie Jackson, Electra James, George Johnson, Lortina Johnson, Wilbert Johnson, Louise Jones, Melvin Loggins, William Mack, Gabriel Maddox, Virginia Mannings, Mildred Murphy, Evelyn Payne, Marion Phillips, Marian Ransom, Edith Reid, Lillian Reid, Frances Stafford, Hester Thomas, Alma West, Laura Wheelton, Marie Wiggins, and Melvin Williams.

Weekend wrap-up: Wesley and Carolyn Stubbs celebrated their 20th wedding anniversary with a cocktail party at their Chevy Chase home on Saturday.

Mrs. Mattie Gardners' Randallstown Road lawn was the scene of her annual July 4 hellos to family and friends on Monday.

Members of the Whoozits were at the Yancy Whittakers' poolside on Monday, and the Ollie Ringgold family gathered at the Aberdeen, Md. Homestead on Sunday.

Family Reunion: Decendants of Calvin and Maggie Felton of Edenton, N.C., gathered here in Baltimore over the weekend for a family reunion. A series of parties honored the out-of-towners from Virginia, New York, Pennsylvania, North Carolina and the District of Columbia.

Highlight of the three-day gathering was a July 4 pool party at the Eldorado Avenue home of the James Bateses, who are family friends. Here the family paid special tribute to two senior members, Joseph Felton and Mrs. Emma Morris, both of Baltimore. They were gifted with a money tree, tie and corsage. A ten-page program with American flag cover was presented each guest. It contained words to the theme of the celebration, "Let Us Live One Day at a Time," words to the national anthem and names of participants.

Mrs. Helen Royster, Kimberly Doughty and Ruth Overton saluted Mrs. Morris.

The presentation to Mrs. Felton was by daughters, Beverly Williams and Burnetta Brown and granddaughter, Marsha Bennett.

Mrs. Doris Doughty presided. Prayer was by the Rev. Brooks Waters, family friend. Welcome was by another Felton daughter, Anita Malone of D.C.

Other participants in word and song were Mrs. Odessa Brinkley and Franklin Doughty.

Younger members of the family gave their salute in dance arrangements. They were Tania, Pamela, Kevin, and Bryan Doughty; and Daphine, Burnadette, Derwin and Calvin Royster Jr. and Anthony Canty.

Out-of-towners from Edenton, N.C. were: Mrs. Johnnie Bell Sessoms, Irvin Sessoms, Miss Gussie Elliot, Mr. and Mrs. Sheldon Badhan and Mr. and Mrs. Richard Satterfield;

Chesapeake, Va.: Mr. and Mrs. Willie Wright and Mr. and Mrs. Leroy Brinkley and son, Fenton.

Virginia Beach, Va.: Mrs. Nancy Smith, Mr. and Mrs. James Privott and family and Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence Alford;

Portsmouth, Va.: Mrs. Annie Ricks and family, Mr. and Mrs. James Easter, Mr. and Mrs. Reuben Harris;

Norfolk, Va.: Levi Privott, Mr. and Mrs. Odell Shaw, Mr. and Mrs. Lincoln Canty and Mr. and Mrs. James Canty;

Goldsboro, N.C.: Mr. and Mrs. Paul Overton and son, Gerald; and Mr. and Mrs. Paul Jones;

Fayetteville, N.C.: Mrs. Evalena Sherman and son and Miss Joy Privott.

Brooklyn, N.Y.: Leroy Privott and Mrs. Queenie Peterson and daughter, Crystal;

Philadelphia: The Rev. Mr. and Mrs. Milton Satterfield and family;

Washington, D.C.: Mr. and Mrs. James Hamilton and family, Mr. and Mrs. Calvin Felton, Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Bennett and Alexander Malone.

Also in attendance from Baltimore were William Morris and Mrs. Leona Felton, husband and wife of the honorees; Woodrow Williams, Mrs. Pearl Waters; Mr. and Mrs. Frank Doughty; Mr. and Mrs. Calvin Royster;

Thomas Royster, Nathaniel Felton, Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Green, Mr. and Mrs. Walter Mapp; Mr. and Mrs. Edward Waters and Mr. and Mrs. Alphonso Cottman.

(AFRO staff photo by Benjamin M. Phillips)

DOUGLASS CLASSMATES—The Douglass High School Class of '26 reunion brought classmates together from far and near. Pictured from L to R: Warren Wilkins, anniversary committee member, and Mrs. Carolyn M. Robinson, class president. In right panel are Mr. and Mrs. Rufus Hackett and daughter, Veronica from Durham, N. C. Mrs. Hackett, the former Carlotte Parrott, introduced the former teachers.

(AFRO staff photo by Benjamin Phillips)

DOUGLASS PRINCIPALS — Highlights of the gala 1926 Douglass High School class reunion included an address by former principal, Mrs. Edna O. Campbell and remarks by the current principal, Earl Hagan.

Columbia Capers

... by Pinnie L. Ross

Columbians celebrated the 200th birthday of our country in similar manner as other American's throughout the land. Many ventured to Baltimore and participated in the birthday bash at Fort McHenry.

Others journeyed to the nation's capital to take part in its activities, and others came to take part in the events on Sunday evening at the Columbia Mall.

The Fourth of July, a traditional celebration around the beautiful Kittamajund Lake, attracts thousands of spectators each years, but this year the number was far greater than in previous years.

If residents were not in the city by 6 p.m Sunday they were found in the slow moving traffic on Route 29 which was backed up at least six miles before they could even get to their own street. Two miles or more to get to the lake to see the display of fireworks.

Many carried blankets, Chairs, refreshments and even had their little ones in their arms or on their backs.

Nevertheless, they made it in time to see the sparklers of rainbow colors shoot into the sky.

Private neighborhoods in different parts of the city celebrated in their own special way with parades in the Thunderhill and Longfellow neighborhoods.

The Longfellow Parade is an annual one, according to Mrs. Rhea Hanel, and husband John, one of the coordinators. Their parade started some six years ago, stemming from a neighborhood softball game. The first year it attracted about 400 neighbors. This year it has reached the 2,000 observers' mark.

It was an outstanding parade with various floats made by neighborhood and local residents, Mrs. Hamel told this writer that, "Most of the floats were joke-type such as one that read," "Come Back America, All Is Forgiven."

Leading the parade as marshall was police chief, Robert Matthews, Howard County. After the marching celebration ended at the Homel's home in Longfellow, the festivities continued with a picnic. She called it their "fund raiser".

A good neighbor of the year was cited. She was Marilyn Scherr, cited for her dependability, volunteer work and neighborhood doings.

"Any time you call on Marilyn, she makes herself available. In cases of an emergency, she will always lend a hand."

(Cuff Note:) Congratulations to Mrs. Scherr. You deserve the title of "Good Neighbor of the Year". If there were more neighbors like you, not only in Columbia, but in the world it would be a better place in which to live.

The Longfellow Neighborhood also chose a queen. It was an honor bestowed upon Mrs. Maggie Brown, who is a diligent worker with children in Columbia and the Longfellow neighborhood.

Some Columbians, hosted cookouts on the lawns and at the many recreational areas that abound in Columbia. The Columbia Lakes were filled to overflowing with picnics and boaters.

One guest noted that as she journeyed out Route 29 from Baltimore she could smell the charcoal burning for miles before arriving in Columbia and the odor intensified as she drove through the streets of Columbia.

Thought for the day: "All the beautiful sentiments in the world weigh less than a single lonely action" James Russekk Lowell.

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