New Md. Baptist Home for elderly rises out of the ashes

In January 1970, an early morning blaze nearly destroyed the Maryland Baptist Aged Home at 2601 Rayner Ave. Patients were evacuated and many taken to Lutheran Hospital.

Several weeks after the fire the home was opened again for senior citizens. The Rev. Dr. Lorenzo Graves stated it was decided the same day of the fire to expand and renovate the Baptist Aged Home.

The Fire Renovation Expansion Drive Committee (FRED) was then formed and banquets have been held each year to raise money for renovation and expansion of the home.

This year's banquet is scheduled for March 17 at Martin's West with 1,000 guest attening and Dr. T. J. Jemison as guest speaker.

Nearly 150 citizens attended the groundbreaking ceremony last Sunday for the new addition to the home.

The Rev. Arthur E. Jones stated contractors are expected to start building the new wing in the spring.

There are now 19 citizens living in the home and the new wing will include a nurses station and space for at least 18 additional citizens.

The Baptist Aged Home has been in its present location since 1954 and was organized in 1920. The FRED committee is asking all churches to purchase subscriptions for at least two tables or make a contribution to the home.

The Rev. Dr. Lorenzo Graves is chairman of the groundbreaking celebration banquet and co-chairmen are Miss Helen V. Benton, Mrs. Gladys W. Patterson and Mrs. Bessie H. Mason.

OUT OF THE ASHES—New Maryland Baptist Home for the aging will be built on site of original structure shown above. Groundbreaking ceremony was held last Sunday and among ministers who attended were (L to R) Reverends Montague Brackett, Arthur Jones, Lorenzo Graves, Matthew R. Silver Sr., Walter Paige, C. C. Alexander and William Brown.

St. Katherine's offers young artists' concert

The Church of St. Katherine of Alexandria, Division and Pressman Sts., will sponsor a series of young artist in recitals.

The first concert is scheduled for Feb. 13, 4 p.m. at the church when Leroy O. Dorsey, vocal instructor will be presented Dorsey is also a soloist with the National Symphony Orchestra.

Ms. Corine Anderson, pianist, will appear in a recital March 20, 4 p.m. at the church.

She is a student at Peabody Conservatory of Music and winner of the Florida State Music Teachers Award.

Sylvester R. Graves, tenor, is a graduate of Virginia State College and Peabody Conservatory of Music. He will be at St. Katherine's Church April 17, 4 p.m.

Ms. Daisy Jackson, soprano and graduate of University of West Florida and Peabody Conservatory of Music Ms. Jackson, who is also a soloist with Pensacola Symphony Orchestra and winner of the Marian Anderson award will be presented in a recital May 15, 4 p.m.

LINCOLN UNIVERSITY, Pa.—John Young, instructor of music and pianist-in-residence at Lincoln University, was to perform a series of recitals under the auspices of the Alabama Center for Higher Education, to be offered at Alabama A and M, Miles College and Talladega College.

Churches band to stop S. African bank loans

NEW YORK — Church investors have filed stockholder resolutions with five major U.S. banks in an effort to stop loans to the South African government.

* * *

The resolutions charge that U.S. bank loans, totaling more than $750 million last year, "provide financial support and lend moral legitimacy to South Africa's apartheid government." The 15 religious groups involved seek corporate policies prohibiting further loans to South Africa until apartheid is abandoned.

The filing was announced last month by the Interfaith Center on Corporate Responsibility, and agency related to the National Council of Churches. The banks involved are Citicorp, Continental Illinois Corp., First Chicago Corp., Manufacturers Hanover Trust and Morgan Guaranty Trust Co.

* * *

Protestant and Roman Catholic groups own nearly $10 million in bank stock and this move marks the first time church investors have taken banks to task for their South African involvement.

Robert C.S. Powell spokesman for the investors and African director for the National Council, said, "As the sources of foreign financing for apartheid grow more to find willing leaders in government has continued scarce, the South African the U.S."

In Our Churches

By Pam Widgeon

Churches are invited to send news of special church activities and a copy of their church programs.

Members of the Octettes Club will celebrate their anniversary on Sunday, 3:30 p.m. at Shiloh Christian Community Church, 2590 W. Lombard St. Mrs. Betty McLeod is chairman; Mrs. Carrie Gibbs, president, the Rev. George W. Baynard is pastor.

The Henry McNeil Turner Society of Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church will sponsor an African liberation weekend Feb. 11-13 at the church, Druid Hill Ave. and Lanvale St. where the Rev. Dr. John R. Bryant is pastor.

The historical conference will feature African ambassadors along with American authorities on Africa. The program is an educational one and is being organized in conjunction with Cong. Parren J. Mitchell, Morgan State University and Coppin State College.

Members of Douglas Memorial Community Church, Madison and Lafayette Aves., will celebrate its 52nd anniversary Feb. 13.

Services will be held 8:30 a.m. with the Rev. Marion C. Bascom, pastor, speaking. The Rev. Frank Williams of Asbury Methodist Church, Washington, D.C. will speak at the 11 a.m. services.

The Dynamics will be presented in concert Feb. 18, 7:30 p.m. at Union Baptist Church, 105 Main St., in Turner Station where the Rev. William E. Johnson is pastor.

St. James' Episcopal Church
LAFAYETTE SQUARE
THE REV. DONALD O. WILSON, Rector
DR. ROBERT FORD, Deacon
A. MAURICE MURPHY, Choir Master-Organist
SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 1977

BETHEL Celebrates Its 192nd ANNIVERSARY YEAR
Maryland's oldest Black Independent Church
Come and worship
SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 1977 11:00 A.M.
Preaching:
REV. JESSE JACKSON
Operation PUSH
Singing: The Mass Choir
The Imani Messengers,
Sis. Katie Jackson
REV. JESSE JACKSON
BETHEL A.M.E. CHURCH
1300 DRUID HILL AVE.
JOHN R. BRYANT, Pastor

Perkins Square Baptist Church
2500 EDMONDSON AVE. CORNER OF WARWICK
SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 1977
JUNIOR & INTERMEDIATE CHOIR DAY
8:00 A.M.—Early Morning Worship, Sermon by the Pastor
9:15 A.M.—Church School and new member class
10:30 A.M.—Open Heart Service
11:00 A.M.—Morning Worship, Sermon by the Pastor, Baptizing
6:00 P.M.—Baptist Training Union and new member class
WE WELCOME YOU
REV. RICHARD H. OGLE IV, Pastor

Candlemas
8:00 A.M.-Holy Communion
9:00 A.M.-Lower Church School
10:00 A.M.-ONE GREAT SOLEMN SERVICE OF CANDLELIGHT
Sermon by
The Rev. Dr. Stephen S. Mann
Dean of Ecumenical School of Theology, St. Mary's Seminary
SILVER SERVICE TEA
Immediately following the candlemas service in the Guild Hall
Sponsored by the ALTAR GUILD
MRS. ELAINE B. NOLAN, Warden
THE PUBLIC IS CORDIALLY INVITED TO ATTEND

CARD OF THANKS
The Family of the late Dr. Irene W. Paige are most grateful for the many kindnesses extended to them at the sudden passing of their wife, sister, godmother and friend. Acknowledgement of the many cards, telegrams, floral designs, monetary donations, use of cars and food contributions. Expressions of gratitude to everyone for prayers, participation and concern. Every gesture has done much to console us, when we needed it most. May God bless each of you.
Dr. Walter E. Paige and Family

PENNSYLVANIA AVE. AME ZION CHURCH
"The Church of the Burning Heart"
Corner Pennsylvania Ave. and Dolphin St.
SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 1977
11:00 A.M.—Church Worship Service
Meditation and Holy Communion
Music: Sanctuary Choir and Gospel Chourses
A FRIENDLY WELCOME TO ALL
REV. MARSHALL H. STRICKLAND, Minister

Douglas Memorial Community Church
"The People of the Way"
LAFAYETTE and MADISON AVES.
MARION CURTIS BASCOM, D.D. Minister
JAMES S. HAMMOND Minister of Music
JUANITA HALL DAVIS, Organist
SUNDAY
FEBRUARY 6, 1977
COMMUNION
Dr. Marion Bascom Preaching
MUSIC
8:30 A.M.
"BROTHER JAMES'S AIR" —arr. Jacob
11:00 A.M.
"BROTHER JAMES'S AIR" —arr. Jacob
"LITTLE INNOCENT LAMB" —arr. Bartholomew

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Haley came in 1975 to honor our roots in Orchard Church

Citizens of Columbia were hosts but few came to hear

By Elizabeth M. Oliver

Perhaps it was the bitter cold evening, Sunday, Nov. 23, 1975, but few persons came to hear Alex Haley when he appeared at Wilde Lake High School in Columbia.

Mrs. Bernice Takach, his hostess and committee chairman, after long months of preparation, had adequate publicity in all news media and on TV that the now internationally known author was due there to speak on his book ROOTS for the benefit of the old slave church, Orchard Street Church.

However, it seemed 1975 was too early in Haley's career and his ROOTS, which today has blossomed beyond the popularity of the all-time attraction Gone With The Wind.

Nevertheless, the Orchard Church 1975 benefit and the letters Mrs. Takach and Mrs. Mary Carter Smith received from Mr. Haley are now highlights of history.

ROOTS EARLY DAYS

Mrs. Takach, member of the Orchard Church board of directors says she had visions of Haley's greatness seven years ago.

genealogist herself and now employed at the National Archives in Washington, she says she was at first struck with Haley when she read a small story in the New York Times that he was trying to get money to continue his research of his African ancestors.

She says she had been waiting all those years for ROOTS to come out and one day met Mary Carter Smith in a Bible class in Columbia.

Mrs. Smith was an Orchard Church board member but Mrs. Takach did not know. However, she said she asked Mrs. Smith, do you know Alex Haley

ORCHARD STREET CHURCH built by slaves

Mrs. Smith looked at Mrs. Takach very strangely and replied she had just mailed him a cake in a special package. She said she was trying to organize an Orchard Church benefit.

Mrs. Takach said she'd help, thinking, "How wonderful." No one could be better than Alex Haley.

"So I wrote him," she states.

HIS LETTER

On July 19, 1975, Haley wrote Mrs. Takach:

Your letter awaited my return here day before yesterday. In response, I put it this way, such is my respect for James Walker and Mary Carter Smith that you can be certain that I go way out of my way to share appearance on a program with them at the first chance I can during this coming winter as you specified, as I get into Washington from time to time.

Right now, I can't give any specific date, of course, the main problem being that the filming of my coming book ROOTS (to be published next March) will start during October and will probably continue into February, with me very much involved in the production.

But, as I say, I do get into Washington off and in. Could you maybe write me suggesting three or four potential ideal dates for you, during the winter and we'll see what might be worked out.

Mrs. Takach replied and named some dates of the benefit for Orchard Street Church.

Here is Haley's letter that followed:

FINISHING ROOTS

Oct. 9, 1976

Dear Ms. Tackach — Apologies please for my being this long answering your letter. I am deep into finishing the book on which I have been working for 10 years.

And it's a very pressurized time indeed. It's cute, your account of how you met Mary Carter Smith and asked if she knew me, to learn that she just mailed me a cake.

Have you ever tasted Mary's coconut pound cake. If you haven't you've missed something.

I've just written both to Mary and to her agent who has offered to help with press relations, that I'll be forwarding some photographs I have none at hand but will have some made. Also I'll send them some bio material for press releases.

TENNESSEE BOY

To tell you the truth, sentimentally, I hope I'll forever regard myself as a Tennessee boy who was raised by my dear, wise good grandma and somehow I've never gotten very carried away with this so-called celebrity business.

You offer that my travel expenses could be paid from the proceeds. Don't you think of it! Our purpose is to help Orchard Street Church and the least I can do is to get myself there.

Will be in further touch later on, either directly to you or via Mary and I hope it has worked out that Jimmy Walker can come. He is one beautiful human being and he knows more black history than most of us ever thought about. The very best to you.

COMMITTED TO THE CHURCH

Letters back and forth from Haley to Mrs. Smith contain these paragraphs:

Dear Mary: A couple or three weeks ago, I had a letter from a lady — let me look in the filing box — yes, a Ms. Bernice Takach of Columbia, Md., wanting to know if sometime this winter I could appear on a program, for saving that church, with James Walker of the National Archives and you.

And I wrote to her, "I'll put it this way: such is my respect for James Walker and Mary Carter Smith that you can be certain I'll go well out of my way to share appearance on a program with them at the first chance I can during this coming winter.

About the church event I am so committed it's incredible, but this I want to do.

My best chance will be to see if I can't join up a date with something already on the book.

Nov. 9, 16 or 23 would be ideal, you say.

I'll surely be amid the filming of the TV series then, but no matter, I have to be on Nov. 21 in NYC to speak at NYC Library Assoc., so why don't we go for Nov. 23.

I'll put it into my book here now it's in a tentative state, but I'll work at it.

We'll see if Jimmy Walker can make it then, too. If he can't you and I will, and we'll have a ball.

I will of course expect you to feed me.

Incidentally, would the church event be afternoon, or evening?

As I might have to fly out that night, but if it's evening, I'd try to take care of that somehow.

FAMED AUTHOR ALEX HALEY (center) is shown in AFRO file photo, November 1975 at the Sunday gala at Wilde Lake High School with (L to R) Norman Ross, Committee for the Preservation of Orchard Street Church treasurer; Mrs. Diane Oblerst; Mrs. Ellen Kennedy, James D. Walker, genealogist, National Archives, Washington; Mrs. Karen Belsford, Mrs. Bernice Takach, chairman of the church's Columbia group and hostess; Mr. Haley, Mary Carter Smith, hostess and member of the church's Restoration Committee. Not shown is Freddie Green, a dancer who appeared on the program.

Mary and Bernice had already in their excitement made announcements to the newspapers and TV Haley replied when he read the notices:

BEFORE THE DREAM COME TRUE

Dear Mary — Thanks for the xeroxes of press story

But that "Alex Haley is one of the most famous of all living authors." That's vastly inaccurate.

"I dream like all writers that one day might be said, but it's sure not now the case.

The Orchard Church benefit, held as scheduled that cold Sunda had a 4-page printed program with listings of Haley telling of his ROOTS: Mary, reading her poems; James D. Walker telling how anyone can find their roots; Ellen C. Kennedy, reading her published. "Negritude Poets;" Freddie Green, dancer and the Holy Trinity Church Choir singing Spirituals.

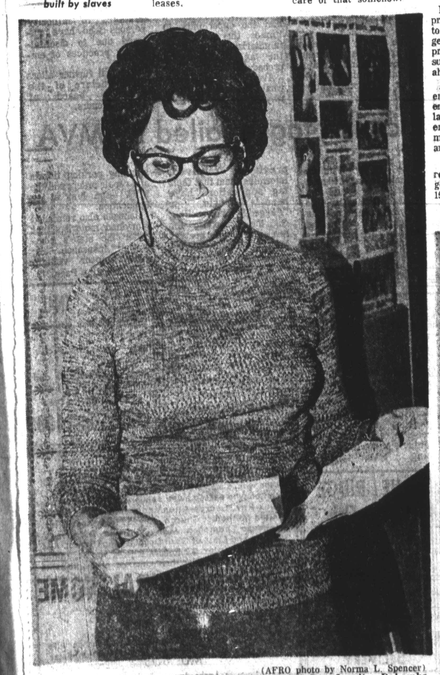
FEW THERE

Among those in the audience were James Rouse, the Columbia City builder and Mrs. Rouse Mrs. W.A.C. Hughes, president and members of the Orchard Church preservation group and Nroman E. Ross board member, coordinator.

A reception followed at the Columbia home of Dr. and Mrs. Vincent Blake. With the Orchard Church board, the Blake children, Mary and Bernice and Mrs. Hughes as hosts, it was a very exciting evening for the few who at that time appreciated Alex Haley.

Board members of the Committee for the Preservation of Orchard Street Church Inc. include Mrs. Hughes, president; Mildred Kington, vice-president; Viola Jackson, secretary; Bernice Thompson, assistant; Madeline Ray, Norman Ross, Norman Brailey, Joseph Clayton, treasurers; William D. Parrish and Hershey Richardson, membership chairmen; Mrs. Oliver, Restoration chairman; Chessie Brailey, Gift Shop chairman; Michael B. Mitchell, attorney; and members, Dr. Chester L. Wickwire, Dr. W. W. Payne, Fr. Henry Offer, Marcella Adams, Dr. Rev. I. Williams, Ann Davis, Bernice Takach, Glasco Ryales, Mary Carter Smith, Mary Carter Smith, Elva Edwards, Juanita J. Mitchell, Van Story Branch, Charles Fletcher, Quentin Lawson, Marguerite Campbell, Albert Smith, Cornelia L. Smith, Esther Middleton.

AT THE RECEPTION at the Baltimore home of Mary Carter Smith, Alex Haley, news media and members of the Committee for the Preservation of Orchard Street Church dined on his favorite foods prepared by the hostess. (L to R) in AFRO file photo by Roman Hankewyez are Orchard Church Restoration Committee Chairman Elizabeth M. Oliver, Mr. Haley and Committee President Mrs. W. A. C. Hughes.



PRICELESS DOCUMENTS from her own "roots" history are displayed by Dr. Juanita DeLomba Jones Williams (AFRO photo by Norma L. Spencer)

Bethlehem Steel is 'looking up'

Bethlehem Steel's recent press conference was held to bring employees and the general public up to the present on the 1976 year summary and take a "look ahead."

Addressing the conference was R.R. Jones, general manager of Maryland's largest firm which employs 16,700 persons mainly in the Baltimore area.

Jones said he believes recovery from a not-so-good 1976 year will come in 1977.

* * *

In essence, Jones' talk included the following report:

First, let's take a look at present business. As you know, 1975 was a very poor year for the steel industry and for the plant in terms of steel shipments. But in the first six months of 1976 business picked up.

However, by the third quarter demand began dropping again and we ended the year on a flat note, with business about where it had been a year earlier.

I am glad to say, however, that we believe the pause in the economic recovery is near its end, and steady and more balaice economic growth appears likely.

We believe that a recovery is coming in the heavy construction and industrial goods markets, which have been in the doldrums for some time.

* * *

It is difficult to predict how soon this will occur. But when the recovery in these sectors gets underway, it should provide the basis for a strong economy for several years to come.

Bethlehem Steel plans to increase its capital spending in 1977 by more than 50 per cent over 1976 to approximately $675 million. We believe that, for the long term, the prospects are bright for the increased consumption of steel in this country.

The Sparrows Point plant's plate mills, as well as our galvanizing lines, would particularly benefit from a pickup in the construction and capital goods markets. Such a pickup would also increase demand for pipe, sheet, nails, rod and wire, and other products we make at Sparrows Point.

The plant employment now stands at 16,700.

On the environment front, we have made steady progress. As you know, our production in the third quarter of 1976, bringing with it the latest in pollution control devices for both air emissions and water discharges.

It will replace several older, less efficient furnaces.

Our new sintering plant, which went into production early last year, has replaced six old sinter strands and has resulted in a substantial reduction in air emissions.

Some $25 million worth of major anti-pollution projects were under construction at the end of last year. At the coke ovens, design is under way for a $6.8 million one-shot car system to control pushing emissions at Nos. 11 and 12 batteries. These control systems are expected to be very effective in silving the pushing emissions problems.

We have completed the haul road to our Bay Shore properties and have been using this area for storage for some time. We believe that the situation has been worked out to the satisfaction of our neighbors.

One of the areas most critical to the plant, and to the steel industry as a whole, is energy. Steelmaking uses vast amounts of energy, and as a consequence we are constantly searching to find ways to save this expensive and scarce ingredient.

Since the 1950's the steel industry as a whole has been able to decrease its consumption of energy per ton of steel produced by about one fifth.

But we feel that the nation must develop a strong and coherent national energy policy to ensure adequate supplies of energy at all times. The plant will continue to investigate ways to use its energy supplies in the most efficient manner.

And we are encouraged by the progress being made toward the eventual dredging of the channel to Baltimore to the necessary 50 feet.

This dreadging will help to put the plant on a more even footing with foreign steel plants that already obtain their ore through the use of larger, more efficient ore carriers.

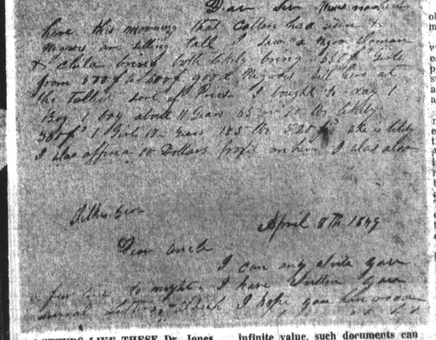
Although, due to delays, the completion of the channel dredging is still years away, the plant is already putting the finishing touches to the pier and ore handling complex that can handle the larger vessels.

We intend to keep the plant moving forward as a vital force in the employment and economic stability of the Baltimore area.

* * *

Mr. Jones has been general manager of Bethlehem Steel Corporation's Sparrows Point, Md., plant since Nov. 1, 1975, after serving as assistant general manager for three years.

He is a 28-year veteran of the steel industry, having served his entire career with Bethlehem. He joined the corporation's management training program for college graduates in 1948 following graduation from Lehigh University with a bachelor of science degree in chemical engineering.



LETTERS LIKE THESE Dr. Jones has in her files show the dates and give vivid history in her relative's own handwriting. Reliable and of infinite value, such documents can be the beginning of your own roots. Records in your old family Bible can also start you on your way back in your family tree.