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MONROE-GILL REUNION

450 family members gather for gala reunion festivities

The Morgan State University was the center of attraction a weekend ago when some 450 members of the Monroe-Gill family gathered there for old time reunion festivities.

The family members are descendants of James Monroe and Mary Ella Gill. They were entertained the entire weekend by family members who opened their homes to visitors. They include Walter Gill, Dr. Robert L. Gill, Thomasina Byrd and Samuel Jenkins.

On Saturday members of the family toured the city of Baltimore and played games of softball, tennis and others on the campus grounds. A dinner dance was hosted later that evening.

On Sunday family members joined together in services at the Morgan Christian Center. Mrs. Eloise J. Cabrera, supervisor of Community Schools, Tampa, Fla. presided.

The services were conducted by family ministers who included the Rev. Lawrence T. Glean, Detroit, Mich. and the Rev. Casper I. Glean, San Diego, Calif.

During the services members honored the oldest members of the family. They are: Walter Isaiah Gill, Micanopy, Fla.; Essie Gill Davis, Brooklyn, N.Y.; Lewis Gill, Belleville, Mich.; and Ethel Gill, Flint, Mich.

MORGAN CHRISTIAN CENTER located on the campus of Morgan State University was the site a weekend ago for the Monroe-Gill family reunion.

From left are: Mrs. Ada Gill Waters, Detroit, Mich.; James Byrd, Kalamazoo, Mich. and Jack Gill, Sapencar, N.C.

GILL HONOREES — Walter Isaiah Gill, Micanopy, Fla., Essie Gill Davis, Brooklyn, N.Y. and Lewis Gill, Belleville, Mich. were three of the honorees cited recently at the Monroe-Gill Family reunion here in Baltimore.

OLD TIME REUNION—A gala old time reunion was held at the Morgan State University for members of the Monroe-Gill Family. From left are Mrs. Inez Ford, Brooklyn, N.Y., William Rushton, Detroit, Mich. and Clemit Glenn of Baltimore.

(ALL PHOTOS BY ROMAN HANKEWYCZ)

RELAXING LITTLE FELLA—Leroy McCrary, 57 of Detroit, Mich. strolls his little grandson, Terrance McCrary around the grounds of Morgan State University during recent reunion.

THE DAY WAS TOO MUCH for little 18-month-old-Tara Makeda Maraj who was lucky enough to be held by her grandfather, Dr. Robert L. Gill, 64.

SPEAKING OF WOMEN

New book profiles black women

Dr. FRANCES N. BECKLES, educator and journalist, is an assistant professor at Morgan State University. A graduate of the University of Pennsylvania, she began working on the book, Twenty Black Women, over two years ago. Assisted in this effort by the Maryland Bicentennial Commission, which felt that the idea for the book had merit, she was awarded a starting grant with the intent of also financing the publishing of the book. Midway through the project, the Commission's funds became depleted and financial support for this project was discontinued.

Through the resourcefulness and perseverance of the author, assisted by caring people in the community, the book manuscript is finally a reality. But the final publication of the book is yet to come.

Financial assistance is needed greatly to put this book in the hands of the people.

The book itself presents profiles of twenty contemporary black Maryland women who have distinguished themselves in medicine, law, theater, arts, literature, religion, social science, education, business and politics.

Through the skilled writing of Dr. Beckles more than just a chronicle of their achievements is revealed. It glimpses into their character and personality. Having spent a year meeting and talking with these women, who are still active and productive, the author is able to present insightful and informative discussions about their mastery over personal hardships and strategies for success.

The twenty women featured in the book include: Dr. Nina Rawlings, Medical Director of Sinai-Druid Comprehensive Children's Medical Center; Grace Hunt, former executive director of the Baltimore YWCA; Dr. Beryl Williams, Dean of Morgan University's Continuing Education Center;

Mary Carter Smith, Baltimore's own Griot and female poet; Enolia McMillian, president Baltimore NAACP; Vivian Washington, pioneered the rights of education for pregnant and first principal of school for pregnant girls;

Helen Stafford, a representative of the Baltimore business community and special advisor to Mayor Schaefer for minority businesses; Maria Broom, TV personality and dancer; Edna O. Campbell, educator and distinquished member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority;

Victorine Adams, council woman; Ellen Woodland, Woodlawn, a good neighbor in Morris Cidar Hill Community, Anne Arundel County; Phyllis Douglass, political activist and former chairperson of 1976 voter registration drive for the State of Maryland;

Lucille Clifton, poet and writer of children's stories; Dr. Delores Hunt, educator and volunteer; Lena K. Lee, attorney at law and state senator; Rosetta Jolly, Baltimore president of the Association of Black Social Workers;

Thelma Cox, educator; Pauline Brooks, owner and operator of Pauline's Brooks Boutique; Wenonah K. Carter, ordained minister and author; Thelma T. Daley, career counselor and national president, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.

(Robin McGinty Photo)
DR. FRANCES N. BECKLES
Educator and journalist

Gwen wears new pageant title

She's petite with a soft spoken voice, about 5'3" in height and has all the grace and charm of a professional New York model.

On the runway she glides with the greatest of ease and projects a radiant smile which reflects her very personal personality.

Her name is Gwen Totten, 26 who recently won the new title of 'Miss First Productions 1977' in competition at the First Productions Homecoming Reunion at Nixon's Farm, West Friendship, Md.

Miss Totten is a graduate of Forest Park High School and the Community College of Baltimore. Employed by Social Security Administration, Miss Totten is also a model and instructor for Pepcie Productions, Inc.

Once a student at the Travis Winkey Modeling, Miss Totten says, "All my life I've wanted to be a model. I started modeling freelance about 10 years ago. My life's goal is to be a professional model."

In addition to modeling, Miss Totten sings and has recorded background music for well-known groups and personalities such as, Winfield Parker, Julius Brockington, Earth's Children and Raw Man Steve.

Miss Totten also loves to sew and design. She's been doing this since her high school days.

As winner of the 'Miss First Productions' Pageant, Miss Totten received a trophy, a $100 savings bond and a portfolio.

Other contestant runner-ups in the 'Miss First Productions' pageant were: Patricia Silver, second place; and Carol Melvin, third.

(Roman Hankewya Photo)
GWEN TOTTEN
Miss First Productions 1977

Crystal is young and determined

Crystal Johns, a native Baltimorean, is one of the increasing number of young blacks entering the challenging and often misunderstood field of public relations.

Ms. Johns, 22, is administrative director of the Ebony Collective, a non-profit organization specializing in aid to other non-profit groups needing public relations and other organizational technical assistance.

The Ebony Collective, with offices on St. Paul St., is a group of talented young people who see their mission as that of helping black organizations communicate more effectively with the people they serve.

Crystal is one of the motivating forces of the Collective.

Educated at Simmons College in Boston, Ms. Johns recieved her bachelor's degree in Management and Public relations Administration in 1976.

Petite, Crystal does not strike one as being an outgoing administrative director, but she is. Like so many young black people today, Ms. Johns is constantly on the move. In addition to overseeing the day to day operations of the Collective, Ms. Johns duties often include dealing directly with public.

A business minded person, Ms. John's previous job experiences included working as a production assistant at television Station WCVB in Boston, as well as a public relations assistant with the Boston Ballet.

Single with no immediate plans to marry, Ms. Johns is a very dynamic and aggresive individual.

"I'm very much a career oriented person, in terms of the Collective — or my particular function within the group. I beleive there's a lot that can be done. There is a definite need for organizational development to just learning how to write a press release, which is where the Collective is headed," said Ms. John.

"My getting the job with the Collective was almost what you might call a fluke, it was wild! I sent my resume in and it was like "well, you got the job." It's fun, it's a learning experience — yet at the same time it's very serious."

Ms. Johns also feels that being a woman often effects her job responsibilities.

"One of the main problems of being a woman in this business is that people tend to underestimate my job abilities. But I feel that given the opportunity one can do whatever he or she wants. You can't deny yourself, and you've got to deal with folk . . . that doesn't mean change your values, just go out and get what you want.

"That's something my parents passed on to me. They aren't doctors or anything like that — but the knowledge given to me has nothing to do with the material or physical things in life."

(Robin McGenty Photo)
CRYSTAL JOHNS
Administrative director

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