Countless friends at Mitchell fete

MAYOR HARRY KELLY of Ocean City, Md. and his aide were there from the Eastern Shore resort city and extended greetings to Sen. Clarence Mitchell III with "You really got some party going here, you know that."

Photo by Ryales

ANNAPOLIS BUILDER — Norman Masterson and Attorney Juanita Jackson Mitchell (both left) mother of the evening's honoree, Sen. Clarence M. Mitchell III, are shown with Mrs. Rachel DeFord and Eugene Newmis.

Ryales photo

Photo by Jordan

LONGTIME FRIENDS, Maryland Attorney General Francis "Bill" Burch and Sen. Clarence M. Mitchell III, had a lot to say to each other at the testimonial for the senator, the youngest ever elected to the Maryland General Assembly. At 38, he is making a bid for another term. Burch is running for governor.

Even some 'enemies' were there

By Elizabeth M. Oliver

Everyone who could possibly crowd in the Blue Crest North door made haste to be seen at the testimonial given May 25 for state Sen. Clarence M. Mitchell III. Someone in the 38-year-old lawmaker's family chuckled, "Even our worst enemies are here."

It was impossible to get a head count or a who's who list since the throng was packed in tight, each person hoping to get up front or into the lens of the TV or press cameras. Most of all they wanted to get to "wherever the Mitchells are" before the evening was over.

It was a swinging affair, a "great big thing" beyond 1,000 guests who gladly paid the $100-a-ticket price just to say they were there. If they couldn't get near Rep. Parren J. Mitchell, Sen. Mitchell, his campaign manager brother, Councilman Michael Bowen Mitchell, then, as one lady said, "Maybe I can get my picture" with his mother, Mrs. Juanita Jackson Mitchell or father (former UN Ambassador for the United States Clarence M. Mitchell Jr.).

At any rate, the lively guests kept the gracious, smiling group of Mitchells busy far past the scheduled closing hour of 9 p.m. and even some of their "bosom" enemies" lingered to drink toasts and chat some more.

It was noticeable.

The politicians swarmed, hoping for a Mitchell nod to help them get elected or "a corner on the black vote."

Not one hid from TV or news cameras and most assumed "buddy-buddy poses" as if all were close friends.

A full page biography tells the strides Conaway made as a delegate (1971-75) and accomplishments which brought to life in two years his Ashburton Insurance Co., now the largest in this section of the nation.

Recently, Conaway was given the million dollar insurance package from Provident Hospital.

He is a Prince Hall mason, member of the Elks, Chesapeake Club and the Meritocrats Inc., the Frontiers, Pigskin Club and advisory board of the Advance Federal Savings and Loan. A familiar figure in Annapolis, he is the first of his race to become an insurance lobbyist.

He is a graduate of Douglass High School and Morgan State University in 1960, after serving in the Army.

COURTHOUSE CORNER — City Sheriff George Freeberger (right, in checkered coat) and Circuit Court II clerk John Kelly held down the Court House corner of the banquet room for the testimonial to Mitchell and were joined by others, including (center) Del. and Mrs. Troy Brailey.

Photo by Ryales

Conaway dinner draws support

The $25-a-ticket May 26 fundraiser for former Delegate Frank M. Conaway to return to the Maryland House was in keeping with his mode of dress and business approach, "impeccable and in good taste."

A table of attractive women supporters listed guests at the door. A receiving line of the candidate's friends and relatives stood just inside smiling welcome. The bar and buffet reflected the same pleasant, jovial flavor.

Everyone had a good time, no doubt, for there was the live orchestra, few speeches and hardly any interruption from dancing or dining.

Each guest is described by Conaway as a staunch supporter.

The conversation piece was the 20-page magazine with the red and white cover which pictured his committee and even a map of his 40th District, free to each of nearly 500 guests.

Committee members are co-chairmen, the Rev. Theodore Jackson and the Rev. Samuel T. Redd, Mrs. Odessa M. Hampton is treasurer. Other photos, some as large as a full page, show Conaway with friends and other candidates and his church members.

CHATTING — Dr. and Mrs. Benjamin Quarles chat with Frank Conaway, a candidate for the House of Delegates at his appreciation dinner held last Friday.

PARTICIPANTS—Among the guests at the Conaway appreciation dinner were (L to R): Otis Warren, Baltimore realtor; Sandra Banks, candidate for clerk of Court of Common Pleas and the Rev. Theodore Jackson, pastor of Gillis Memorial Baptist church.

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- Anniversaries and more

Partyline

By Michele L. McRae

The Hiram Grand Lodge Masonic School of Instruction, under the direction of the Ill. James D. Elliot, grand lecturer of the Most Worshipful Hiram Grand Lodge recently presented their annual charity May Ball at Martin's West.

The gala affair marked the end of the school year for the students on roll and marked two purposes. The first purpose was to allow the students to relax, unwind and enjoy socializing with one another and their respective families.

The affair attracts so many others because it has become one of the truly great social events of the season. It serves as a source of pride to all in attendance to see so many well dressed, handsome young men go through their paces, delighting everyone with their display of inner pride.

The second purpose of the affair is that it allows students and the officers to contribute to the charity of the year. This year for the very first time the Masonic School of Instruction has a May Ball queen who will reign for the 1978 - 79 term.

The queen, Miss Mary Peterson, though very attractive was not chosen for her physical attributes. She won in a contest in which the most industrious individual would be crowned. She and her sponsor sold mor chances than any other contestant and their sponsors.

Proceeds of the contest went to the Hiram Grand Lodge Building Fund and to three summer camps. Some 35 children will attend camp for a week this summer.

The Creoles

The Martin's North Point Gardens was the setting for the Creoles' 30th Anniversary last Saturday evening. The club wined and dined 400 guests who danced to the music of Jimmy Smith.

The yellow tablecloths were accented with unique name cards shaped in the form of the number thirty. Each member was wearing a pearl corsage made and designed by multi - talented club member Regina Nutter.

In the lobby, artist Osborne Dixon made a display showing pictures of the achievements of the club over the past thirty years.

During intermission, president Rosita Uncles gave a brief

(Continued on Page 27)

MAY BALL QUEEN — James Elliot, grand lecturer, Most Worshipful Hiram Grand Lodge is shown presenting the May Ball queen, Ms. Mary Peterson, a token from the mayor's office at the annual benefit dance at Martin's West.

THE SUGAR HILL GANG

Upper Northwest Baltimoreans get together to share memories and merriment. Watch for pictures and stories in next Friday's edition of the AFRO.

Photo by Rayies

LOOKING NOT A DAY OVER 50, Mrs. Susie E. Murphy beams on her 75th birthday and says she had a wonderful time at the banquet at her Mt. Morial Baptist Church, May 26.

Dr. Lillie's museum attracts national attention, opens Sunday

By Elizabeth M. Oliver

Among personalities in the throng expected to attend the opening of the Lillie Carroll Jackson Museum Sunday June 4 will be scores of persons both great and small whose lives were touched by the deceased honoree, Dr. Lillie Mae Jackson.

Known as "The Great Lady of Baltimore", Dr. Jackson was founder with the help of Dr. Carl Murphy, the late AFRO publisher, of the Baltimore NAACP. She held the presidency 35 years. Born May 25, 1889, she died July 5, 1975.

The AFRO, NAACP, local clergy and the citizens of Baltimore were her "team" in the civil rights critical years.

The news of the opening of the museum at her 1320 Eutaw Place home where she died, has attracted national attention.

Guests arriving from out of state include NAACP national President Emeritus Roy Wilkins and Gloster Current, retired NAACP national official of New York and Mrs. Daisey Bates the famed Little Rock, Ark. NAACP president who led the school integration fight of the "Little Rock Nine."

Other civil rights leaders who fought by Dr. Jackson's side during the public accommodations and bus boycott years, are expected to arrive over the weekend.

ADMISSION FREE

The formal opening of the museum which is termed "A Tribute to Humanity's Continuing Struggle for Freedom," is a reception set for 1:30 to 5 p.m. Invitations read, Dr. Lillie Mae Jackson, Servant of God and Champion of the People, Mother of Freedom."

Co - hosts are Dr. Lillie's daughters and son Bowen Jackson; the grand, great and great - great grandchildren and other relatives including Congressman Parren J. Mitchell.

Admission is free. Open to the public, tours are open for schools, churches, labor groups, neighborhood clubs, fraternities, sororities and all others. For appointments call 523 - 1208.

Mrs. Virginia Jackson Kiah, Mrs. Lillie's daughter, is founder-director and Mrs. Kelly (Viola C.) Jackson, assistant director.

Other officers are Bishop Harrison J. Bryant, president; Judge Robert B. Watts, chairman, board of trustees; Charles L. Wagandtt, vice - chairman; Mrs. Elizabeth Randall, secretary; Councilman Michael Bowen Mitchell, treasurer; Rev. A.J. Payne, chaplain; Mrs. Juanita Jackson Mitchell, another daughter, counsel.

FOR THE MASSES

The Lillie Carroll Jackson Museum, according to Founder Mrs. Kiah, is to be a "museum for the masses."

When interviewed by the AFRO, Mrs. Kiah recalled the early seed for the museum was planted in her mind when she was a small girl in Baltimore," a town which then barred black persons from its museums."

A talented artist, she longed in vain to visit a museum. Nevertheless she was encouraged by her mother, Dr. Jackson, who said "You will be an artist and you'll have a museum of your own. I'll help you."

Mrs. Kiah says in 1935 when tenants moved from the property her mother had sacrificed to acquire, some of them would leave what they called "junk" but what was sometimes of great value.

Thus, Mrs. Kiah says, in weeding out the non - museum quality material, she obtained valuable training. Later with the aid of Michael B. Mitchell, her nephew, she moved the collection to the third floor of the Eutaw Place house.

While Dr. Jackson lived, she and her daugher, Mrs. Kiah, went to black leaders asking for exhibit materials they might donate.

COLLECTING BEGINS

Among those contributing are George McMechan family, relatives of the first black man ever on any school board local or national; Dr. John T. Colbert, who like Frederick Douglass, was an abolitionist. Mrs. Charlotte Colbert Mebane was contacted about the award presented to her great-grandfaber.

Mrs. Florence Kerr Owens presented in 1937 a hand - painted plate and a quilt.

Mrs. Agnes Green, Sharp Street Methodist Church Community House secretary willed a hand painted plate. The late Mrs. Mary E. Hawkins who worked with Dr. Jackson many years, gave a family heirloom cradle.

When Rev. Kelly Jackson was pastor of Sharp Street Church, Mrs. Kiah asked his wife, Mrs. Viola Jackson, to assist her "when the museum becomes a reality."

DR. JACKSON'S TREASURES

Highlight of the items now on display are those of Dr. Jackson herself... one of her hats, her purse and gloves, the familiar dress of the great lady who was never in public without them.

From an old trunk in her attic, Mrs. Kiah and sister, Mrs. Juanita Mitchell, retrieved some old letters Dr. Jackson wrote to her husband Keiffer Albert Jackson, who was on the road 43 years showing motion pictures to religious audiences nationwide.

One letter written when Calvin Coolidge was U.S. president, says, "Our Little girls are so dear. They are so smart and so sympathetic. Virginia has been drawing all evening, working on a picture of you. She is a born artist. She painted a picture of Mrs. Coolidge and it is wonderful. I am determined if I live to give my children every advanatge of developing the arts they desire."

HER HOME

Dr. Jackson's final step toward the museum future was to will to Mrs. Kiah the 1320 Eutaw Place residence for that purpose.

Before her death "Ma Jackson," as NAACP members nationally called her, expressed a wish that the two front rooms of the first floor where she and her husband lived remain as they were during their lifetime.

Visitors to the museum will see her furnishings, now valuable antiques, and the bedroom where she died.

Beginning in September, 1976, Leslie B. Wood, who had maintained Dr. Lillie's property for 25 years, began preparing the Eutaw Place house for the museum opening. He was assisted by Ma Jackson's grandson, George Davis Mitchell?

City Counciman Michael B. Mitchell and his Aunt Virginia (Mrs. Kiah) are responsible financially for the preservation and restoration of the beautiful town house which is located in the same block as the Francis Scott Key monument.

Consultant for the first floor is John W. Brown, exhibit planner for more than 25 years for the Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C.

HISTORIC RECORDS

Mrs. Juanita J. Mitchell, the "right arm" of her mother, is family history consultant and Mrs. Kiah director.

The rear first floor gallery exhibit is derived from the "Lillie Mae Jackson - Mayor Theodore McKeldin Leaders of Human Rights" exhibition held at the Maryland Historical Society, Nov. 16, 1976 - Jan. 30, 1977 and arranged by Elizabeth Hartley Eager, curator,

Mrs. Francis Scott Key and Charles Lewis Wagandtt II, brought the project to fruition.

In the film, Dr. Lillie's 35 years as president of the Baltimore NAACP is coordinated with McKeldin's term, twice as governor and twice as mayor.

Over 80 interviews were taped from the governor to the man on the street in Maryland counties and in Baltimore. The material is on deposit in the Pratt Library and at the Maryland Historical Society for students and scholars. The project was funded by the Maryland Committee for the Humanities and Public Policy.

TRUSTEES

Members of the museum board of trustees include:

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THE GREAT LADY — Dr. Lillie Mae Carroll Jackson rarely appeared in public without her hat and gloves. This hat, a favorite, is displayed in a museum case and will be seen by scores of guests, great and small Sunday, 1:30 to 5 p.m. at the museum, 1320 Eutaw Place, her late residence.

Mrs. Susie Murphy cited at 75, is still 'Mrs. NAACP' after 26 years

Mrs. Susie E. Murphy, age 75, has earned the title close friends know her by — "Mrs. NAACP"

At her birthday celebration May 26, she was cited for her 26 years service as member, official and life member of the Baltimore NAACP. Also fondly known as "Susie," Mrs. Murphy is a member of the organization's executive board and during the 25 years presidency of the late Dr. Lillie Mae Jackson, was known as "Ma Jackson's right arm."

She has been a delegate to the NAACP national convention each year, has raised the highest money in the membership drive among Baltimore churches the past 25 years and was always the first - place winner in the annual Human Dolls NAACP Baby Contest in the churches except this year.

Through her dedication to the local NAACP, Mrs. Murphy has brought in nine full - paid life memberships and "is working on number 10."

Hardly looking over 50 years of age, Mrs. Murphy was the recipient of many honors and citations when her family and friends saluted her reaching her 75th birthday on May 26 — which by the way is a day after her beloved Ma Jackson's May 25 birthday.

Highlighting the dinner party at her Wayland Baptist Church were the citations of School Superintendent Dr. John Crew, the Susie E. Murphy Nurses Unit which she founded at the church in 1952; her family, the church as a whole and organizations of the church.

The AFRO presentation by City Editor Elizabeth M. Oliver cited Mrs. Murphy's close cooperation with the newspaper over 40 years and noted her Page One stories on USO and Red Cross activities during World War II.

Mrs. Murphy was one of the first nine women to organize the WWII Senior USO Club in Baltimore. She also organized the Murphy Family Circle Club in 1947 and the 3000 block Gwynns Falls Parkway Neighborhood Club, a group noted for preserving the area through the years. Mrs. Murphy is president.

Church citations honored Mrs. Murphy as "Wayland's Mother of the Year" and her active membership nearly three decades and member of the Missionary and Fuel Clubs.

The mother of five children (three living) and is grandmother of seven; four great-great-grandchildren and countless nieces and nephews. Members of the Nurses' Unit and the church and community were at the sit - down dinner.

Among relatives were children, Mrs. Betty M. Frazier, James Murphy and Ernest R. Murphy; daughter in - in - law, Mrs. Lorene W. Murphy, Delegate Arthur G. Murphy Sr.; grandchildren, Jacqueline and James Williams; Delores and Ronnie Powell, Beverly and Harold Hemphill; Marion and Andre Murphy, Charlene M. Frazier, Craig Murphy and Karen Murphy;

Great - grandchildren, Kirk Hemphill, Ronde Murphy, Deneen Powell, Tony Winston;

Other relatives are Amos Murray, John Murray, Eva Coleman, Grace Murphy, Peggy, Terri and Grant Murphy; Claudia Ellis and Gloria Murphy, Nora M. Etheridge, Karen, Kevin, Talia and Tiffany Etheridge.