Chuck Richards - radio, TV pioneer

Charles (Chuck Richards) Richardson retired a week ago after 14 years as staff announcer at Channel 2 (WMAR).

Many people hearing his deep, rich pleasant voice, giving the news, or on countless spots, ads or announcements know of his tremendous accomplishments in the entertainment fields.

Chuck Richards, who shortened his name for professional purposes, was born in Baltimore and attended Baltimore and New York High Schools.

Born June 19, 1923, at 18 with violin, piano and voice training he received his diploma from Douglass High School.

He went to work as an elevator boy at a local department store. One day when the elevator stopped between floors, Richardson began to sing. Morton Blum heard him and gave him a spot in a Hebrew Association show.

He was well received and invited to audition for WACO where he became the first black to work under a staff artists contract.

Success followed success and he went on the road as a crooner singing with the Mills Blue Ribbon Band, Chick Webb and Fletcher Henderson.

He sang all over the world in England, Paris, New Zealand, Honolulu and Australia.

He became a featured singer on New York Radio and sang at the Cotton Club as well as the Paramount, Capitol and Lowes Theatres on Broadway.

A desire to be with his family brought him back to Baltimore in 1941.

He started as a free lance Disc Jockey with sponsored shows on all the radio stations, first with WITH. During World War II, he was doing 18 programs a week, writing scripts for several others and doing war work at Western Maryland Dairy.

For 16 years he did regular nightly shows on WBAL radio sponsored by National Beer.

TV was born in 1947 and Richards went along as a free lance producer of "Tomorrow's Stars," the first regularly sponsored black show in Baltimore TV. M. Goldseker was the sponsor and regular talent included Ethel Ennis and Johnny Sparrow's Band. Outstanding local talent was featured as well as national talent including Erskine Hawkins, the Platters, Sonny Till and the Orioles.

Chuck joined WMAR in 1964 and gained fame for the nine years he served as assistant director of public affairs and local host for the Jerry Lewis Labor Day telethon for Muscular Distrophy.

He says he will enjoy his new job as customer relations executive with Victor Frenkil's Baltimore Contractors.

Of his years in radio and TV, he says he has enjoyed the work because he likes being with people and the people he has met at schools, colleges and civic affairs.

1937 AFRO file photo shows Chuck Richards when he was crooner with Fletcher Henderson's band.

Chuck plans telethon with Jerry Lewis in Las Vegas as local Baltimore host.

Luke Skywalker (Mark Hamill) and See Threepio are startled to see vicious Tusken Raiders following their frail in "Star Wars" new at area theatres.

Enoch Pratt

Films

"The Peach Gang" and "Goodbye God, I've Gone to Bodie." Central Pratt Library, Tuesday 2 p.m.

"Santa Fe Tail." Pratt's Dundalk Avenue Branch, Tuesday 6:30 p.m.

"Car," "The Rainbow Bear," "River Boy," and "The Concert." Pratt's Brooklyn Branch, Wednesday 1 p.m.

"Jazz Ball." Pratt's Broadway Branch, Wednesday 1 p.m.

"Roots: The African." Pratt's Clifton Center, Wenesday 6 p.m.

"Jamaica Inn." Pratt's St. Paul Street Center, Wednesday 6 p.m.

"D. W. Griffith: An American Genius," "Sergei Eisenstein," and "Abel Gance, Yesterday and Tomorrow." Central Pratt Library, Saturday 2 p.m.

Mon., July 31

Edmondson Avenue Branch: Films — "Popeye the Sailor Meets Sinbad the Sailor" and "A Little Girl and a Gunny Wolf," 1 p.m.

Central Library, Wheeler Auditorium: Films — "Winter of the Witch," "Granny Lives in Galway," and "This Is Only a Mouse," 2 p.m.

Morrell Park Center: Film — "P. J. and the President's Son," 6 p.m.

Tues., August 1

Highlandtown Center: Preschool story hour, 10:30 a.m.

Edmondson Avenue Branch: Films — "Popeye the Sailor Meets Sinbad the Sailor" and "A Little Girl and a Gunny Wolf," 1 p.m.

Hampden Center: Sign language workshop, 1 p.m.

Waverly Branch: Story hour for ages 6 and over, 1 p.m.

Fort Worthington Center: Film — "Wreck Raisers," 2 p.m.

Reisterstown Road Branch: Films — "Up the Creek," "People Soup," and "Hansel and Gretel: An Appalachian Version," 3 p.m.

Bill Lane in Hollywood

SUZANNE de Passe of Motown and Paul LeMat hurried off to honeymoon in Mexico after their glittering wedding rites in Beverly Hills, the affair attended by a flock of notables including Marisa Berenson, Lauren Hutton, Barry Diller, Dionne Warwick, Neil Bogart, Ken Norton, George Schlatter, Smokey Robinson and Sy Weintraub. Even Rick James was there. And the grand and spiffy bridegroom himself wept; the bride did not shed a tear. Berry Gordy, like a happy godfather, beamed throughout, and Diana Ross was kept busy keeping up with her trio of youngsters.

THE CRUSADERS made it official that they are still an entity, with their (July 28) concert at the Roxy here . . . Joe Williams gets loads of kudos for his very, very special arrangement of "Everything Must Change" on the Johnny Carson "Tonite Show" a few nights ago. Williams has been appearing locally at Ernie France's Parisian Room here, while Arthur Prysock is holding down a song spot in Lainie's Room of the local Playboy Club . . . Singer Alton McClain's new record album on Polydor due out pronto . . . ABC publicist Herb Honis and his spouse Carol happy over the birth of their new daughter Michelle Diana at the UCLA Medical Center . . . Lloyd Richards directing a segment of "Roots" for Wolper and WB . . . Sayings are that Della Reese will possibly re-share Lee Magid for her manager, since she filed that lawsuit against her mentor - manager Atty. Frank Evans over alleged conversion of a reputed hundred grand of her own reputed money to his own reputed use.

O. J. SIMPSON back in California after filming "Fire Power" in the Caribbean, and now doing workouts with the San Francisco 49ers. The Jamaica Tourist Board sent us a note that tourism is booming in Jamaica despite the political news reports. Up thirty percent over this time last year . . . Publicist Paul Gardner left for Pittsburgh, for six weeks, to do unit publicity on the movie "The Fish That Saved Pittsburgh." . . . And mood organist Don Raphael, long an entertainment fixture on the Detroit entertainment scene, phoned us from Philadelphia, his current play place.

DIANA Ross to be doing much publicity for the recently completed film "The Wiz," in which she stars On Oct. 16 she hosts the "Tonite Show." The music soundtrack for "The Wiz" will be released by MCA Records . . . Dick Clark readying his second good ol days rock 'n' roll by TV special, this one to feature Chubby Checker, Brenda Lee, Frankie Avalon, Jerry Lee Lewis, Bobby Rydell, Patti Page, Teresa Brewer and The Four Tops, with filming at Malibu and at Pop Singer's drugstore in Philadelphia . . . Japan's Sumitomo Bank has bought 19 branches of the Bank of California, the state's first bank and which was controlled at one time in the distant past by San Francisco's historic black madam, Mammy Pleasant.

WARNER Bros publicity executive Vincent Tubbs showed up as guest of MCA New Ventures' Norbert Simmons at the Huntington Hartford Theatre re - opening of "For Colored Girls . . . ," with a beauty that popped the eyes of both Calvin Lockhart and Bill Withers. Tubbs is not a regular on the Hollywood scene, but when he appears it's usually something, or with someone, to remember.

Top R & B Albums

1. Life is a Song Worth Singing — Teddy Pendergrass
2. Natural High — The Commodores
3. Come Get It — Rick James
4. Togetherness — L.T.D.
5. A Taste of Honey
6. Sounds . . . And Stuff Like That — Quincy Jones
7. So Full of Love — The O'Jays
8. Love Shine — Con Funk Shun
9. Smooth Talk — Evelyn Champagne King
10. Thank God It's Friday — Various Artists

25th ANNIVERSARY 1953-1978

Silver Summers Series '78

FIRST ANNUAL INVITATIONAL THEATRES FESTIVAL

AUGUST 3, 4, 5, 6
Julian Mayfield's
"FOUNT OF THE NATION"
Don Owens, Director
ARENA PLAYERS, INC.

AUGUST 10, 11, 12, 13
Michael Jones'
"A MATTER OF TIMING"
Mike Jones, Director
THE NEW BALTIMORE MINSTRELS

AUGUST 17, 18, 19, 20
Melvin Deagree's
"NONE TO CALL HIM FATHER"
Percy Thomas, Director
THE FREE SPIRIT THEATRE

AUGUST 20, 25, 26, 27
Athol Fugard's
"BLOOD KNOT"
Harmon Watson, Director
MORGAN STATE UNIVERSITY THEATRE

AUGUST 31, SEPT. 1, 2, 3
Don Evans's
"SHOWDOWN"
Ed Terry, Director
ARENA PLAYERS, INC.

BALTIMORE'S SUMMER DAZZLES WITH LIVE THEATRE!

Summer Season

Last 5 chances to see Baltimore's one and only CAB CALLOWAY (Starring in) Bubbling BROWN SUGAR

The Smash Hit Musical Revue with music by DUKE ELLINGTON · BILLIE HOLIDAY · ANDY RAZAF · CAB CALLOWAY · EARL HINES · J. C. JOHNSON

NOW THRU JULY 30!

STARTS TUES.! DAMON EVANS (Starring in) THE ME NOBODY KNOWS

A warm and touching young people's musical

AUGUST 1-13 Limited 2 Week Engagement!

SPECIAL LOW SUMMER TICKET PRICES

TUESDAY - SATURDAY - 8PM
SATURDAY MATINEE - 2PM
SUNDAY - 3 & 7:30PM

CHARGE YOUR TICKETS BY PHONE — 727-4102.
TICKETRON / GROUPS - 752-1407

THE NEW MECHANIC THEATRE

Northy & Wampler, Theatre Hopkins Place Baltimore, Maryland 21201

John Travolta · Olivia Newton-John

GREASE is the word

A ROBERT STIGWOOD ALLAN CARR PRODUCTION
JOHN TRAVOLTA OLIVIA NEWTON JOHN GREASE
STOCKARD CHANNING · EVE ARDEN · FRANKIE AVALON
JOAN BLONDELL · EDD BYRNES · SID CAESAR · ALICE GHOSTLEY · DODY GOODMAN · SHA NA NA
FRONTE COLLIDAY · ALICE PLAYTEN · DERAN SARAFIAN
KENNETH ANNAN · MARK TOR · PRODUCER
ROBERT STIGWOOD · ALLAN CARR · DIRECTOR KENT ALEXANDER
PG PARENTAL GUIDANCE SUGGESTED

Hippodrome 12 N EUTAW 539-4775

$1.50 Until 12:30 or Capacity - Except Sun. & Holidays

MYSTERIOUS VISITOR WITH UNKNOWN POWERS ON OUR PLANET FOR SUPPLIES.... A SIX-PACK OF TUNA ?

CAT FROM OUTER SPACE

WALT DISNEY PRODUCTIONS' THE CAT FROM OUTER SPACE Starring KEN BERRY, SANDY DUNCAN, HARRY MORGAN, RODDY McDOWALL and McLEAN STEVENSON Written by TED KEY Music LALO SCHIFRIN
Co-Produced by NORMAN TOKAR Produced by RON MILLER Directed by NORMAN TOKAR • TECHNICOLOR®
Distributed by BUENA VISTA DISTRIBUTION CO., INC. ©1978 Walt Disney Productions G

and we're here too... WINNIE the POOH and TIGGER TOO
A WALT DISNEY PRODUCTIONS ANIMATION SPECIAL TECHNICOLOR®

MAYFAIR 508 N HOWARD 539-7128
$1.50 Until 7:30 Capacity Except Sun

To break the driver, the cop was willing to break the law.

THE DRIVER

RYAN O'NEAL · BRUCE DERN · ISABELLE ADJANI
in a A LAWRENCE GORDON PRODUCTION "THE DRIVER"
Co-Starring RONEE BLAKLEY · Associate Producer FRANK MARSHALL · Produced by LAWRENCE GORDON
Written and Directed by WALTER HILL · Music MICHAEL SMALL · COLOR BY DeLUXE®
A Twentieth Century Fox/EMI Films Presentation PG PARENTAL GUIDANCE SUGGESTED

PLUS CHAMPIONS ALLEY

$1.50 MON.-SAT. UNTIL 12:30

TOWN 315 W FAYETTE 539-2294

TV Watching

By Vanessa Johnson

Friday

Johnny Carson: Guests tonight are Muhammad Ali, Bert Convy and pediatrician Lendon Smith. 11:30 - 1:00 a.m. - NBC.

Don Kirshner's Rock Concert: The Spinners, Mink DeVille and many others are guests tonight. 11:30 - 1:00 a.m. - Channel 9.

Midnight Special: Leo Sayer, guest host is joined by Randy Newman, Chuck Mangione and Bonnie Tyler. 1:00 - 2:30 a.m. - NBC.

Saturday

Fat Albert: Fat Albert learns his first lesson about love when he falls for a girl who doesn't return his affection. 12:00 - 12:30 p.m. - CBS.

American Bandstand: High Inergy performs "Lovin Fever" and "Peaceland." 12:30 - 1:30 p.m. - Channel 7.

Soul Train: Johnny Mathis and Deniece Williams and the Soul Train Gang are the guests today. 12:30 - 1:30 p.m. - Channel 11.

Blackpoint: A look at the work of Sister Cities International and Baltimore's sister city Gbargna, Liberia. 12:30 - 1:00 p.m. - Channel 13.

Golf: Third round play in the Sammy Davis Jr. Greater Hartford Open. 4:00 - 5:00 p.m. - CBS.

Baby, I'm Back: Ray and Luzelle get stranded together on a blizzard whipped mountain road. 8:30 - 9:00 p.m. - CBS.

Love Boat: Finding no vacancies for male passengers, a man poses as a woman to get a berth and then must keep up the charade with a very alluring cabin mate. A quarreling couple (Sherman Hemsley & Lawanda Page) get trapped in an elevator. 9:?? + ½?:00 p.m. ABC.

Sunday

Behold Wondrous Things: An African colony in revolt is the setting for "The Nuncio," first of a two part drama examing the church's role in political affairs. Originally telecast in 1966, the play stars James Earl Jones, Yaphet Kotto and Donald Davis. 11:00 - 11:30 a.m. - Channel 2.

Movie: "A Patch of Blue," poignant story of a mistreated blind girl befriended by a compassionate young man, Sidney Poitier. 12:30 - 2:30 - Channel 5.

Baseball: The California Angels vs the Orioles at Baltimore. 2:00 - 4:30 p.m. - Channel 13.

Tony Brown's Journal: A discussion of J. A. Roger's book "The Five Negro Presidents." 3:30 - 4:00 p.m. - Channel 11.

Monday

Phil Donahue: Guest today is Sammy Davis Jr. 9:00 - 10.00 a.m. - NBC.

The Jeffersons: Florence puts her job on the line when she lets her boyfriend spend the night in the Jefferson's home. 8:00 - 8:30 p.m. - CBS.

Little House on the Prairie: When Garvey is injured, Charles takes his place in the ring against a touring boxer (Moses Gunn) who's in no condition to fight. 8:00 - 9:00 p.m. - NBC.

Good Times: Bookman poses as Willona's husband to facilitate Penny's adoption. Meanwhile, the Evanes debate whether to join Florida and Carl at their new home in Arizona. 8:30 - 9:00 p.m. - CBS.

HEARST'S Special Projects division has come out with a nifty and informative book, "Dizzy, Duke, The Count and Me," The Story of the Monterey Jazz Festival, by Jimmy Lyons and Ira Kamin.

TENNIS pro Henry Hines gets a chance to star in front of a lot of people when he appears on Dinah Shore's "Dinah!" the week of September 13. On the show Hines gives tennis tips to Dinah and guest Carol Burnett.

Diane Steinberg stars with Bee Gee's, Earth, Wind, and Fire, Billy Preston in "Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band" now at area theatres.

Top R & B Singles

1. Close the Door — Teddy Pendergrass
2. You and I — Rick James
3. Boogie Oogie Oogie — A Taste of Honey
4. Three Times A Lady — The Commodores
5. Last Dance — Donna Summer
6. Stuff Like That — Quincy Jones
7. Shame — Evelyn Champagne King
8. Shadow Dancing — Andy Gibbs
9. If You're Ready (Here It Comes) — Enchantment
10. I Like Girls — Fatback Band

Top Jazz Albums

1. Sounds . . . And Stuff Like That — Quincy Jones
2. Feels So Good — Chuck Mangione
3. Weekend In L.A. — George Benson
4. Don't Let Go — George Duke
5. Arabesque — John Klemmer
6. Sunlight — Herbie Hancock
7. Magic In Your Eyes — Earl Klugh
8. Modern Man — Stanley Clarke
9. This Is Your Life — Norman Connors
10. Freestyle — Bobbie Humphrey

TV-RADIO TUBES
COMPLETE LINE OF PHONOGRAPH NEEDLES
$2.50 UP (TUBES CHECKED FREE)
WE REPAIR PORTABLE TV'S
RELAY ELECTRONICS
311 S. BROADWAY • PHONE 675-0588
Open 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.—Sat. till 7 CLOSED THURSDAY

THE ESTEEM TEAM

WARREN GANTT · MONTY POULSON

AUTOMOTIVE CONSULTANTS
NEW CARS — USED CARS
TRUCKS — VANS
We Arrange Financing For Everyone.
Contact Us At!
AL PACKER
Lincoln-Mercury
5800 Belair Rd 488-6222

Bay College graduation, moving

By Frederick I. Douglass

During 1978 I have attended dozens of concerts, talked to scores of entertainers, and listened to hundreds of new recordings, but the most moving moment of the year came about when I attended the graduation of Bay College students this past Sunday.

Over the past few months I have seen the name Bay College embrazoned in the headlines of several newspapers and there have been several television broadcasts outling the schools financial and administrative problems.

What trying times these must have been for students trying to gain a foothold in the academic world. Many of the students at Bay stated to me after the ceremony that the college was their last hope, their only opportunity to prove that they could do college work in the hopes that they could eventually get admitted into a four year college.

Many students stated to me that Bay College was the only school that they could afford to attend while trying to gain some kind of marketable skill. And yet someone, somewhere wants to slam the door shut on these students. Admittedly, many things have gone grave awry at Bay College, but I would be willing to bet a month's pay that far worse things have happened at predominantly white community colleges and that the problems were solved without closing the doors to students hungry for education.

BLACK FOLKS BEWARE! The hands on the clock are spinning backwards and the gains made during the Civil Rights movement are slowly being eaten away by subtle and slick legal tricks. With things going down like the Bakke decision, we had better learn to cherish and protect any institution of higher learning that allows blacks and other minority group members an opportunity to enter the academic world and to gain any kind of diploma that facilitates their entry to the mainstream of American society by earning the bucks that it takes to live here even on the most basic level.

Yes it was a moving experience to see the graduating seniors from Bay College march across the stage at Coppin, beaming with pride as they received the diplomas that were almost ripped from their eager hands. A special hat to Penelope Sykes, the Valedictorian who had a 4.0 average; Dorothy McCutheon who received the Second Mile Award for going above and beyond the call of duty to help over students during the hours of crisis at Bay College; and Henry Ross, the Salutatorian who had a near perfect academic record.

Just let me say for the record that Black politicians, ministers, and other leaders and citizens of Baltimore need to fight to keep Bay College alive. We need all the education we can get.

THE LEFT BANK JAZZ SOCIETY PRESENTS
JAZZ CONCERT EVERY SUNDAY
5-9 P.M.
THE FAMOUS BALLROOM
1717 N. CHARLES ST.
SUNDAY, JULY 30, 1978
SAM JONES — TOM HARRELL
12 Piece Orchestra

Merriweather Post Pavilion
UNDER THE DIRECTION OF THE MESSRS. WEIDENLANDER
15 MINUTES FROM THE BELTWAY IN COLUMBIA, MARYLAND
JULY 29 & 30
GEORGE BENSON
PAVILION: $8.50 LAWN: $6.00
FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CALL
(202)953-2424
(301)730-2424

Vacation In Wildwood N.J.
Lily Mae Hotel and Picnic area, 3 blocks from the B/Walk offers accommodation. Reasonable rates.
Call: 609-522-1504

PAINTERS MILL MUSIC FAIR
PATTI LABELLE
PLUS SPECIAL GUEST
MICHAEL HENDERSON
SAT. & SUN. - AUGUST 5 & 6
ONE SHOW NIGHTLY 8 p.m.
ALL SEATS RESERVED /$7.50
At All Montgomery Ward — Ticketron Locations all Record & Tape Collectors, Gordon Miller Music, Music Machine - Pikesville, Record Rack Music Liberated, Modern Music Mondawmin. Produced by Multimedia Concerts Inc.

Travel Guide

VILLA BAY MOTEL
Located in the heart of WILDWOOD, N.J.
410 W. YOUNG AVE
Attractively furnished efficiency units and family units including cooking facilities, free TV. Air Conditioning in some units. Ideal accommodations by day - week or month.
Call Mrs. Rosa J. Dixon 925-5VL 4-1323
After June 25 Call Wildwood 609-522-9779

McLEANS GUEST HOUSE
714 Arctic Ave. Atlantic City, N.J.
609-345-5657 or 345-0794
Some with private baths and TV. All rooms are air - conditioned. The finest home - cooked meals in our dining room — open to the public. Enjoy a delicious shore dinner with us. Open year round.
Call or Write: MRS. LOUIS McLEAN Telephone: 345-5657

ARLENE GUEST HOUSE
111 Grammercy Pl., Atlantic City, N.J.
ROOMS & APTS.
OCEAN VIEW, 1½ BLOCK FROM BOARDWALK AND BEACH
FREE PARKING
WRITE OR CALL
MRS. ARLENE HENSON. Prop.
Phone 609-345-3880

THE HARMON MOTEL
Luxurious Vacation in a MODERN DOUBLE DECKER MOTEL in the heart of WILDWOOD. Regular Motel. Efficiency Units. Private LARGE and Small apt. and cottage, all rooms air cond. Children Welcome.
Telephone for Rates
Air Conditioned Some Units, TV
Phone (609) 522-1786 Mrs. O. Harmon
4308 Hudson Ave., WILDWOOD, N.J.

THE HILLSIDE MOTEL
• EFFICIENCY APARTMENT AND COTTAGES • T.V. AND SWIMMING
Air Condition
• 5 MINUTES FROM WILDWOOD, N.J.
Write or Call
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Richardson (Prop.)
P.O. Box 68 Shore Rd.
Whitesboro, N.J.
Tel. (609) 465-4176
AIR CONDITIONED

ADVERTISE IN THE AFRO

LEARN TO FLY

Werner Jordan

$279 (up to solo)
Introductory Flight $10
Ground Instruction (Flying Club Forming)
Sight-Seeing Trips
PHOTOGRAPHY
Weddings, Groups, Movies
Portraits or Churches
566-5388

EASTERN'S SUPER SAVINGS EVERYWHERE

NOW'S THE TIME TO VISIT FARAWAY FACES.

SAVE 30% TO 50%* EVERYWHERE EASTERN FLIES IN THE U.S.

Remember those people far away? The family, friends and loved ones you haven't seen in such a long, long time? Just think how good it would be to see them again.

Well now you can, because Eastern Airlines is bringing faraway faces close together with the greatest fare reductions in our history. Eastern's got Super Saver fares that can save you from 30% to 40% off the regular round-trip daycoach price to any of our destinations in the continental United States. And a whopping 50% off with our Super Saver Night Coach fare (where available) Monday through Thursday, and 40% off Friday through Sunday. Children 2-11 years old flying with you can go for 50% off the regular daycoach fare on any flight any day of the week.

Some Super Saver fares have advance purchase and length-of-stay requirements. Seats are limited, so plan early.

Eastern is accepting reservations now. For details call your travel agent or Eastern. We've got the right time, the right place, and the right price for you.

EASTERN THE WINGS OF MAN

*Super Saver fares may not be available on every flight and are not available over certain holiday periods.
"The Wings of Man" is a registered service mark of Eastern Air Lines, Inc.