Is Gladys Knight's hubby having pipe dreams?

By Ida Peters

It seems that Barry Hankerson has had a change of heart about divorcing his fameus singer wife, Gladys Knight after four years of marriage.

Jet Magazine reports this week in an interview with Hankerson that he has concluded he loves his wife and children more than anything on earth and he will not bring any type of legal action against his wife or his marriage.

Meanwhile, Gladys Knight's manager Ron Weisner in California told the AFRO they have no comment about Gladys or her whereabouts.

The AFRO did learn that Gladys leaves for a European concert today with Weisner, something he told the AFRO four weeks ago.

Our friend Rita Griffen, Entertainment Editor of the Michigan Chronicle in Detroit says she hasn't heard anything in Detroit about the divorce being dropped.

She states she hasn't been too high on the Hankersons since her newspaper, the only black newspaper in Detroit, was kept out of their wedding.

Win Willford of CBS Record could not or would not comment on the Hankerson statement but did tell the AFRO he is awaiting a new album from Gladys.

The question before the house is — are the Pips going to Europe? Is Barry Hankerson going to Europe? We'll let you know when we know.

Two newcomers to the CBS Records family, Barry White and Gladys Knight, were all smiles recently at the annual CBS Records Convention held in Los Angeles, California. Gladys has signed with Columbia Records where her already legendary career will continue to flourish. Barry will be recording on his new label, Unlimited Gold Records, along with the Love Unlimited Orchestra and Love Unlimited.

Jesse Walker's N.Y. ... and now a word

The Press Reception for the First Harlem Jazz Festival (Aug. 17-31), drew some media bigwigs to Small's Paradise last week. James Baldwin, who is Official Spokesman for the Festival called it an "attempt to redeem our enourmous heritage." TV stars such as Stan Siegal, Stuart Klein, the N.Y. Times Jazz critic John Wilson, and Hugh Wyatt of the Daily News were among those who packed Small's. Pianist John Hicks entertained. Producer Frank Weston greeted guests, as did Bill Hickman, new owner of the new Small's.

Forty - six advertising and production executives from Chicago, Detroit, Washington, Baltimore and NYC gathered Aug. 9 and 10 at the J. Walter Thompson Co. Agency in NYC to judge first awards program to recognize excellence in advertising and communications aimed at the blac consumer. The Communications Excellence to Black Audiences (CEBA) Awards will be presented at a dinner to be held on Oct. 24 at the New York Hilton Hotel. The World Institute of Black Communications, Inc., founded by the National Black Network, formed CEBA.

Stevie Wonder has thrown the Congressional Black Caucus into a dither by deciding not to appear at the group's eighth annual dinner on Sept. 30 at the Washington Hilton Hotel. As originally set up, the Caucus was to hold one dinner. But later plans were made to hold a second dinner simultaneously at the Shoreham Americana, with an appearance by Natalie Cole. Wonder was not scheduled to perform at the secon dinner. His contract had called for him to address and perform for all present.

Grambling State University, which meets Morgan State in the annual Football Classic at Yankee Stadium on Sept. 23, won't be appearing in any post season football and basketball competitions this academic year. Nor will it be showing off its teams on any NCAA - controlled TV programs because of a one - year probation imposed on the school for violating NCAA regulations.

Howard University has been charged with almost 30 rules violations by the NCAA dating back several years but nobody seems overly concerned about them. Athletic coaches were due in Boston on Friday to meet with NCAA Infractions Committee. There is a feeling that NCAA has been after the predominantely black college and universities for years, but it's admitted that there was no real way to substantiate the allegations.

Walter Jackson at Emerald Gardens presented by Brice's.

The Afro - American Studio is presenting a revival of Joseph Walker's hit drama "The River Niger" and Kani Ntoshona and Furgard's "The Island" at the Harlem Performance Center, 2349 Adam Clayton Powell, Jr., Boulevard through August 27.

The Atlanta Symphony has submitted an affirmative action plan for the hiring of blacks to a City Council Committee, clearing the way for the orchestra to receive $85,980 for this year's concert summer series.

Free Spirit Theatre honors two women

Percy Thomas Free Spirit Theatre honored two women last Saturday at their Arena Playhouse production of "None To Call Him Father."

During intermission, Thomas presented handsome engraved plaques to Miss Hazel Joan Bryant director of the Richard Allen Center for Culture and Arts, New York and Mrs. Ida Peters, Entertainment Editor of the AFRO.

Mrs. Mary Robinson made the presentation to Miss Bryant, her niece, executive producer and director of the Afro-American Total Theatre for exposing black artists and supporting them in her theatre in downtown New York across from Lincoln Center.

Percy Thomas' play was produced in New York to sell-out audiences. Travis Winkey has been produced in her Fashion and Design Center as well as Alice McGill who after her appearance was reviewed in the London Times.

Miss Bryant is the daughter of Bishop and Mrs. Harrison J. Bryant and graduated from Oberlin Conservatory of Music. She started with the Robert Shae Choral, toured Russia and studied opera in Sweden and England.

This columnist was cited by the Free Spirit Theatre for her dedication and work with theatre people as one of the few black critics in the U.S. Sister, Dr. Elizabeth Murphy Moss gave the tribute and dedication. It was so beautiful that this writer and many in the packed audience were visibly moved.

Talking with Mary Robinson later, discovered that she has had much to do with Percy Thomas' development. He was a student at Carver High School under her husband, Charles, and she has done much to expose his talents.

He attended Maryland State on a football scholarship and will soon receive his Doctorate from Johns Hopkins. He is employed at the National Institute of Mental Health.

He studied drama under Trazania Beverly, has been active with the Arena Players and has acted and directed many films, plays and TV works.

Space does not permit a review of Melvin De Gree's play "None To Call Him Father." This is the kind of play that needs wide exposure and perhaps Center Stage in Baltimore, Arena Playhouse in D.C. and Negro Theatre in N.Y. will take it further.

If someone tells you the play is about Nat Turner and a rebellion of slaves in 1800 . . . you get one concept.

Melvin DeGree's dialogue between the black slaves as well as the white „family gives all sides of the black - white question and all the shadings in between. The problems of today and yesterday seem to be the same. We're still not free.

It's a joy to see a play at the Arena Playhouse. Have to comment that the audience got so carried away that throughout the play they commented, talked back, and said Amen to the extent that they became part of the play.

When you see this kind of interaction between actors and audience you know you have a good play and more people should see it.

Athol Fugard's "Blood Knot" is to be presented by Harmon Watson's Morgan State University Theatre group will be at the Arena Playhouse. Saturday, one-night only, August 26 at 7:30 p.m.

MARK HAMILE IN CORVETTE SUMMER

"Corvette Summer," starring Mark Hamill and newcomer Annie Potts, is now at area theatres.

The role provides yet another giant career step for Hamill, who made his motion picture debut and rocketed to stardom as the true-blue hero of "Star Wars," he comes down to earth as a contemporary high-school graduate who learns a lot about life while tracing a stolen car. Annie Potts plays his gregarious girlfriend.

Eugene Roche also is starred in the film, which is set in Los Angeles and Las Vegas.

Oscar Brown moving to B-more?

Oscar Brown Jr., the composer and playwright out of Chicago brought his family and excerpts from his play "In De Beginnin" to Morgan State University's McKeldin Student Union last week.

The occasion was the 3rd annual Black Family Day sponsored by Paul Coates of the Afro Bookstore (no relation to the AFRO-AMERICAN Newspapers).

Tuesday night, Aug. 29, he will be doing part of his touring musical review, "Faces of Brown" at Gatsby's "Soiree '78" with his exotic singer-dancer-wife Jean Pace.

At Morgan, Oscar Brown's group included his daughter, Iantha Brown, Africa Brown, 9; Gloria Petty (sister-in-law), Oscar Brown III, Calvin Brunson, pianist; Anthony Davis, drums and Dale Williams, guitar.

"In De Beginnin" is a verse play in dialect, a take-off of the Book of Genesis and the story of Adam and Eve. In Brown's play, a woman plays The Lord, the Devil and the Snake.

Asked Brown why he was contemplating moving his theatrical family to the Baltimore-Washington area, especially since Robert Hooks wasn't able to make a go of it here.

Brown says that Baltimore looks like a very progressive theatre town. He says he's going to look around and talk to people before making a decision.

He has written eight musical plays that he "would like to get on while I'm still around to see them."

His plays include "Black Stars," "Crecie," "Rex Oedison," "Kicks and Co.," and "Buck White."

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Mon., Aug. 28

Fells Point Center: Films — "Braverman's Condensed Cream of Beaties" and "Man, Monsters, and Mysteries," 2 p.m.

Tues., Aug. 29

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

Fort Worthington Center: Films — "Granny Lives in Galway" and "The Fable of Me and Sne," 2 p.m.

Herring Run Branch: Back to school bingo, 2 p.m.

Wed., Aug. 30

Brooklyn Branch: Film — "The Hobbit," 1 p.m.

Cherry Hill Center: Arts and crafts, 1:30 p.m.

Lafayette Square Center: Films — "Superman," "A Lad in the Lamp," and "The Runt," 1:30 p.m.

Pimlico Branch: Film — "Maurice Sendak's Really Rosie," 1:30 p.m.

Canton Center: Story hour, 4 p.m.

Patterson Park Branch: Film — "P. J. and the President's Son," 7 p.m.

Thurs., Aug. 31

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

Washington Village Center: Films — "The Red Balloon" and "Hoover Blvd. Highway," 2 p.m.

Northwood Branch: Arts and crafts, 2:30 p.m.

Brooklyn Branch: Working with clay for ages 6 to 12, 2:30 p.m.

St. Paul Street Center: Films — "Them That Hells," "The Seven Ravens," "Might Mouse in the Witch's Cat" and "Trill Foreign Liquor," 2:30 p.m.

"Go Ask Alice," Pratt's Hamilton Branch, Monday 7 p.m.

"The Equal's Work," and "Fellow Citizen, A. Lincoln," Central Pratt Library, Tuesday, 2 p.m.

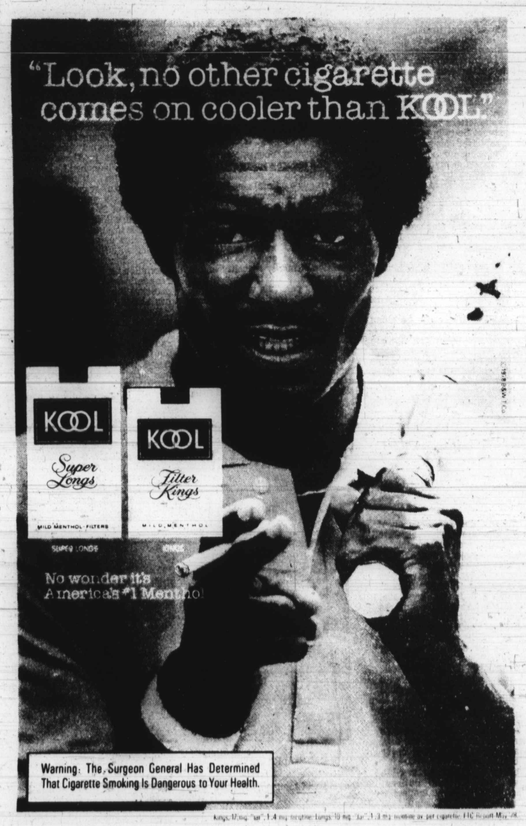
"The Hobbit," Pratt Brooklyn Branch, Wednesday 1 p.m.

"Root Cause: George: The War," Pratt's Clifton Center, Wednesday, 6 p.m.

"Black Shadows on a Silver Screen," Pratt's Fort Worthing Center, Wednesday 6 p.m.

"The Six Wives of Henry VIII: Anne Boleyn," Pratt's Waverly Branch, Thursday 2 p.m.

"Behind the Scene," "Buster Keaton Rides Again," "Oldsh Cavalcade," and "The Railroad," Central Pratt Library, Saturday 2 p.m.



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YOU KNOW BECAUSE YOU READ THE AFRO

Rev. Cleveland's confab draws 15,000

GOSPEL

By Vashti McKenzie

Mrs. McKenzie is Radio Announcer for WYCB - Radio 1040 - AM in D.C.

The 11th Annual Gospel Music Workshop of America led by founder and president the Rev. James Cleveland is in Washington, D.C. for a week of concerts, workshops and religious services through today, Friday, August 25.

15,000 people from all over the United States are gathered at the Shoreham Hotel for all - day and quite possibly all - night concerts and services at Constitution Hall and D.C. Armory.

Also in session at this time is the Gospel Announcers Guild.

Representing Baltimore is Mrs. Pauline Wells Lewis, Ms. Aurelia White and Ms. P. Elaine Thornes. From Eaton, Md., Rev. William Reverly.

Representing Washington, D.C. is Rev. Theodore King, Henry A. Thomas, Robert J. Fryson, and chapter president Shirley Berkeley.

The organization was founded by the Rev. Cleveland in Detroit in 1968 to "magnify God's name through gospel music."

The convention carries the theme "Where Everybody is Somebody," warning "to Touch Somebody's Life In Song. . . You May Never Pass This Way Again. . . ."

Its purpose is to perpetuate America's only golden original art form while giving inspiring artists the opportunity to perform in some of the largest and finest arenas and theatres all over the country before vast audiences.

The workshops series includes choral direction, voice, publishing and copyrights, music theory composition, gospel music history, sight singing.

The convention started last Saturday with a picnic in Rock Creek Park and on Sunday, the "Crown Prince of Gospel," the Rev. James Cleveland who sold more records than any gospel performer in recent years stated that "we're not about establishing a convention to showcase each other. We're about building something that we can all point to years from now, an institution."

Sunday night the Rev. J. C. Wade of Omaha, Neb. was guest speaker. Monday, Dr. Frederick G. Sampson of Detroit was guest speaker. The Baltimore Fellowship Choir sang as did the Cincinnati, Connecticut and Minnesota Mass Choirs, The Doris Johnson Singers, Quintella Caldwell, Rev. Jimmy Morton and The Voices Supreme.

Monday night as a tribute to the late Alex Bradford, Vinette Carroll's musical "Your Arms Too Short To Box With God" was presented.

Evangelist Shirley Caesar from Durham, N.C. was the special guest at a luncheon this past Tuesday. Her albums "First Lady" and "From The Heart" are very much a part of everyone's gospel collection. Also appearing was Martha Jean, "The Queen" of WJLB, Detroit.

At the Wednesday night concert Andrea Crouch, Walter Hawkins and the Walter Hawkins family were special guests at the Shoreham.

At the same time, at Constitution Hall, choirs from the South and West sang before a capacity audience until after 1 a.m.

Wednesday saw the debut of the Mass Youth Choir from the Youth Division of the Workshop. Youngsters ranging in age from 8-20 filled the stage bringing the audience to their feet by singing "Nobody But Jesus" and moving many to tears. Approximately 300 sang in unison after two days of intensive rehearsals.

At The Youth Service prior to the nightly sing, the Rev. Gregory Simms of Landover, Md. delivered the message.

A licensed minister at the age of 19, he is certainly wise beyond his years and a provocative messenger of the word of God.

The final concert is tonight (Friday) at the D.C. Armory in Southwest Washington. Devotions begin at 6:30 p.m. and the National Mass Choir will sing from 7 p.m. to 12 midnight.

The Tuesday night concert went on until 4 a.m. so tonight, plan to stay awhile and enjoy a lot of good gospel.

Mayor Walter Washington presents silver tray to Rev. James Cleveland.

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Randy Jackson on "Soul Train"

Friday

Dinah: Guests today are Norm Crosby, Fernando Lamas, Marilu Tolo, Mercer Ellington and the Duke Ellington Band. 4:00-5:30 p.m.-Channel 9.

Mike Douglas: Joining Co-host Red Reed, Marty Robbins, Dr. Joyce Brothers, Butterfly McQueen, Boxer Larry Holmes and Author Elvin McConald. 4:30-6:00 p.m.-Channel 13.

CBS News Special: A backward glance at 1968-its biolence, energy and ecuberance. Major segments review the dissension within the black movement over Mart Luther King Jr's. philosophy of nonviolence and the nationwide outbreak of araon and looting that followed his assassination. 9:00-11:00 p.m.-Channel 2.

Saturday

Fat Albert: The gang learns that hard work is the key to being good at sports. 12:00-12:30 p.m.-CBS.

American Bandstand: Evelyn "Champagne" King sings "Shame" and "Smooth Talk." 12:30-1:30 p.m.-Channel 7.

Soul Train: Guests today are The Emotions and Randy Jackson. 12:30-1:30 p.m.-Channel 11.

NFL Great Teams-Great Years: Jim Brown and Gale Sayers are among the players featured in a tribute to the Cleveland Browns and Chicago Bears of 1965.

Sports Spectacular: Another look at one of the most remarkable upsets in boxing hisotry: Leon Spink's victory last February over Muhammad Ali for the world heavy weight championship. 4:30-6:00 p.m.-Channel 2.

NFL Football: The Colts take on the Lions in an exhibition game at Detroit. 8:00-11:00 p.m.-Channel 2.

Love Boat: A gossip columnist has a field day reporting a feverish game of musical cabins among the passengers. 9:00-10:00 p.m.-ABC.

1978 Miss Black America Pageant: The Miss Black America Pagent, taped Aug. 18 in Philadelphia. Ten finalists vie in talent and swimsuit competition. 11:30-1:00 a.m.-Channel 5.

Nancy Wilson: From a music festival in Sopot, Poland, Nancy Wilson welcomes singer Nina Van Pallandt and musical groups from several countries. 2:00-3:00 a.m.-Channel 4.

Sunday

For You . . . Black Woman: Actress Ja'net DuBois discusses her work on "Good Times," her childhood and her family life. 8:30-9:00 a.m.-Channel 9.

Newsmakers: Jerry Turner's guests are the 45th district (East Baltimore) Democratic candidates for the Maryland State Senate. 12:30-1:00 p.m.-Channel 13.

Baseball: The Seattle Mariners vs the Orioles at Memorial Stadium. 2:00-4:30 p.m.-Channel 13.

Black Athlets Hall of Fame Awards Presentation: Honoring sports figures including Wilt Chamberlain and O.J. Simpson in the fourth annual ceremony held June 1977 in New York. Bill Cosby is the host. 2:30-4:30 p.m.-Channel 4.

NFL Perspective: Brent Musburger, Irv Cross, and Jayne Kennedy preview the upcoming season. 5:00-6:00 p.m.-CBS.

ABC Movie: "Murder at the World Series" — the main plot, a vengeful man's attempt to kidnap a pitcher wife is enmeshed in a web of personal dramas. Starring Tamara Dobson. 9:00-11:00 p.m.-ABC.

Paul Anka: Host Paul Ank is joined by Suzanne Somers and Donna Summer for a tour of the tiny principality to Manaco. Stops include Price Rainer's Palace and the Monte Carlo casino. 10:00-11:00 p.m.-CBS.

Monday

Good Morning America: Guests this morning or Coretta Scott King and Perry Como. 7:00-9:00 a.m.-Channel 13.

Dinah: Guest today are McLean Stevenson, Vicki Lawrence, Susan Anton, Teddy Pendergrass. 4:00-5:30 p.m.-Channel 9.

The Jeffersons: People change, as an unsuspecting George learns when reunited with an old Navy bunkmate who has had a sex change operation. 8:00-8:30 p.m. CBS.

Police Story: An officers obsession with his work irritates colleagues and threaten to destroy his marriage. Starring Smokey Robinson. 11:30-12:55 a.m.-ABC.

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