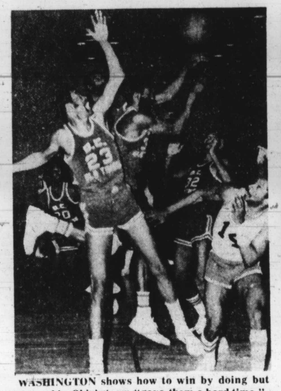
Oldtimers pre-holiday meeting held in Baltimore

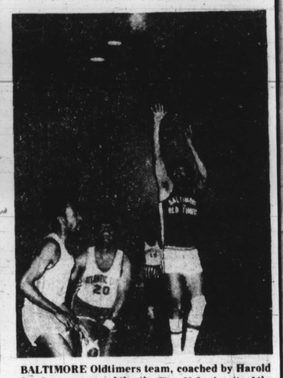
OFFICIALS present on the scene in Baltimore for the pre-holiday meeting included (L to R) Jesse West, Washington, D.C. and Lee Morgan, Columbus, Ohio, vice-presidents; Lee Cornute, Columbus, president; Walter Blass, Washington, business manager; Frank Mowery, Washington, vice-president and Morris Craig, treasurer. BALTIMOREANS (right panel) Lonnie Seaberry, financial secretary; Dr. Richard Milbourne, president; Howard Rollings, sergeant at arms; Michael Moore, treasurer; Benny Hill, business manager; James Dunaway, first vice president. Not shown are secretary, Harold Hart and Charles Brightful, past president.

All photos by Glasco Ryales

PRETTY LADIES hosting the out-of-towners included Mrs. Gertrude Diggs, Mrs. Earline Burdnell and her sisters, all of Baltimore. The Women's Auxiliary to the Old Timers was first accepted as a body and given recognition at the National Oldtimers meeting, the Sahara Hotel, Philadelphia, Pa., Oct. 17, 1964.



WASHINGTON shows how to win by doing but Columbis, Ohio's team "gave them a hard time."



BALTIMORE Oldtimers team, coached by Harold Darden, won over Atlantic City, N.J., despite Atlantic City's putting up a big fight.

COLUMBUS, OHIO basketball team, the losers in the game against Washington, D.C., was bright-eyed and bushy tailed, the eager beavers that they are, before the whistle blew. Center bottom row is coach Lee Morgan who says it was a good game and every man a top player.

Basketball rivals arrive from From Columbus, Atlantic City

By Elizabeth M. Oliver

Oldtimers Club members arrived in Baltimore the weekend before the Christmas holiday for the basketball contests and revelry once again. Somehow folks who do not know think the group is a bunch of senior citizens. To the contrary, the Oldtimers is an exclusive club of former U.S. athletes who are mostly young men, ages 35 and older and still quite able to give competition on the gymnasium floor to all comers.

The club was established in 1961 in Philadelphia, Pa. by Walter A. Willis Jr. who became first president. It was his idea to band together all the guys who wanted to keep in shape for athletic games and get them together from the Eastern Seaboard and the mid - west and go from there to a nationwide body.

Support came from Wilmer Allen and Samuel "Army" Armstrong of the Wilmington, Dela., and Baltimore clubs and Athletic City joined up under guidance from Oscar W. Williams Jr. The AC club enlisted Ralph P. Greene, the town's athletic director and George N. Weeks. The first meeting was hosted by the Philadelphia chapter and the National Oldtimers became reality July 13, 1963 at the Union League Building in Atlantic City.

Present were AC's Greene and William; Harry Scott Jr., Harry Evans Jr., Larnie Shields, John Yancey, Clifton Bush, Merritt W. Wilson, Samuel Mortin, Al White, Walter Willis, George Boggs and William McKant, all of Philadelphia. Willis was chairman and Wilson, secretary.

August 10, 1963 was the date of the second meeting at the Golden Key Yacht Club in Atlantic City.

Baltimore 's Oldtimers joined with Edward L. Slater, president and Bernard S. Scott, secretary; Thomas L. Carroll and Sam "Army" Armstrong members and delegates.

The first Inter - league Basketball finals playoff of the four chapters was Baltimore vs Wilmington, played in Wilmington in January, 1964. The first Interclub Jamboree was in Atlantic City in 1964.

The first convention was in July, 1964 at the Golden Yacht Club in Atlantic City with city officials welcoming the athletes and their guests. Willis was elected national president, Ed Slater of Baltimore, first vice; Merritt W. Wilson, Philly, secretary; Herman J. Cole, Wilmington, treasurer; Oscar E. Williams, Atlantic City, chaplain.

The board of governors included Ralph P. Greene, Atlantic City, Harry Scott Jr., Wilmington and Benjamin A. Patterson, Baltimore. The program committee was Greene, Slater, Evans, John W. King Jr., Cole, Harry and Bernard Scott.

Charter members are BALTIMORE — Slater, Scott, Patterson, Thomas Carroll and Welton J. Clanton; ATLANTIC CITY — Weekes, Williams, Greene and George Gilliam; PHILADELPHIA — Willis, Wilson, John W. King Jr. and Alonzo E. White; WILMINGTON — Harry Scott, Harry Evans, Cole and Charles Kent.

The present Baltimore officers who served as hosts for the December, 1978 meeting are Charles Brightful, past president; Dr. Richard Milbourne, president; James Dunaway, first vice; Harold Hart, secretary; Lonnie Seaberry, financial secretary; Michael Moore, treasurer and Howard Rollins, sergeant - at - arms. Harold Darden is the Baltimore basketball coach. Walter Howard, a former Baltimore coach, now ill in University Hospital, was saluted by the group at the meeting.

Here are the national chapters of the Oldtimers:

Asbury Park and Atlantic City, N.J.; Baltimore, Md.; Cleveland and Columbus, Ohio; Essex County, N.J.; New York N.Y.; Quaker City Pa.; Washington, D.C., Wilmington, Dela., Brooklyn, N.Y. and Columbia, Md.

HALFTIME entertainment was furnished by the beauteous Carver High Dancers who combined classic grace with disco in an unusual routine which brought cheers and applause for more.

WASHINGTON, D.C. team was led to victory over Columbus, Ohio by coach J. Frank Mowery (top row left) who admits the losers were good, "but we were better." All games were played in the gymnasium at Carver High School in Baltimore and followed by an evening of dining and dancing.

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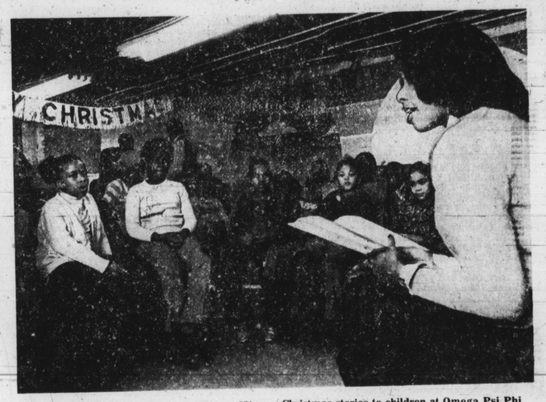
OUR WORLD

Inside: Partyline/ Christmas safety hints/ Holiday snacks

Omega men, sweethearts play Santa

Photos by Roman Hankewycz

STOCKINGS FOR THE KIDS — Members of Omega Psi Phi and their sweethearts gave a Christmas party for children at Echo House Foundation, 1705 W. Fayette St. Felix Jackson, a Morgan senior; Olivia Biggs, a Morgan sophomore and Jocelyn Wright, a Morgan senior, gave fruit-filled stockings to Kim Crosby, 9; Tanya Matthews, 6 and Marvin Brown, 12 (L to R).



STORYTIME — Miss Michelle Yates, Miss Black Maryland and a Morgan student, reads Christmas stories to children at Omega Psi Phi party at Echo House Foundation.

Members of Omega Psi Phi University, Pi Chapter, Morgan State University and their sweethearts brought Christmas cheer to about 70 youngsters at the Echo House Foundation on West Fayette Avenue.

The Omegas and their ladies gave every child a fruit and candy - filled stocking and other gifts, including toys, games, a hat or pair of gloves.

Gregory Jones, basileus, said his group was "star - studded" because two of the sweet hearts are reigning beauty queens.

Glynice Coleman, Miss Morgan, led the children in singing Christmas carols.

Miss Black Maryland, Michelle Yates, read holiday stories.

Jones said Echo House was chosen because the fraternity wanted to help make Christmas brighter for black Baltimoreans.

Officers of the Pi Chapter for 1979 are Jones; Wilfred Frye, vice basileus; Charles Parrot, keeper of record and seal; and Robert Cragway, keeper of finance.

Officers from 1978 who contributed time and effort to the Christmas celebration are Wayne Thomas, vice basileus; Michael Mello, keeper of record and seal; and Felix Jackson, keeper of finance.

SINGALONG — Glynice Coleman, Miss Morgan, leads Echo House children in Christmas carol singing.

PARTYTIME — Omega Psi Phi fraternity members and sweethearts gather around the Christmas tree at Echo House Foundation where they held a Christmas party for children.

Alpha Wives hold annual champagne sip

See RSVP for story, more pictures, page 35

HOLIDAY FUN — Mrs. Zelma Brown, Mrs. Louise Mapp and Mrs. Haermia Jordan (L to R) share a laugh at the recent Alpha Wives bash held at Emerald Gardens.

IN CHARGE — Members of Alpha Wives who planned the club's annual party held at Emerald GARDENS ARE (L to R): Mrs. Helena Hairston, committee member; Mrs. Elizabeth Brooks, vice president; Mrs. Eleanor Anderson, committee member; Mrs. Catherine Adams, committee member, and Mrs. Edwin Burke, president. Now shown is chairperson Mrs. Virginia Draper.

DEC