—Retirement party

(Continued from Page 15)

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Bea Wright spoke of Mrs. Banfield's work with the USO and her invaluable advice to women on how to be ladies.

Verniece Reynolds of AKA presented her with a citation from that group.

Kalman "Buzzy" Hettleman, director of the state Department of luman Resources, stated, "She epitomizes what social work is all about—ifficulties.

He jokingly said, "I have arranged a cubicle for her at my office where she can report as soon as she finishes up here."

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Kalman "Buzzy" Hettleman, director of the state Department of Human Resources, stated, "She epitomizes what social work is all about and attacks the very system that puts people in need of social service."

Ruth Harvey, a close friend with whom she was associated with the WPA in 1938, spoke of her ability to help people go for th-themselves."

Charles Tildon spoke of her ability to "keep everybody honest" and of her being good not only as a social worker but also for students. In tribute to Mrs. Banfield he read the poem "I Was Hungry."

Mike Tranche, reader of the Ethical Society, Mrs. Banfield's religious affiliation, told of her impact on community life through the years.

Lorraine Green spoke of her impact on education and Charlotte Brooks read Langston Hughes' "Mother to Her Son."

Ivy Johnson, a house parent, read the poem, "House by the Side of the Road."

Mrs. Banfield said that as a human being as well as a social worker, it is important to care for people.

"I hope we won't get through with people at 5 o'clock," she said.

She gave credit to her husband, Dr. Gilbert Banfield, as a fantastic helpmate and father.

She introduced her fafily and said she enjoyed being a wife, mother and social worker.

Her husband ended the affair on a humorous note when he said, "I want you all to know I had something to do with this."

Mrs. Banfield will be returning to Family and Children's Society as director of the Family Life Program.

MEET THE GRANDCHILDREN — Mrs. Marion Banfield pauses at a recent reception in her honor to pose with grandchildren, Brett Fox, 5; Jada Pinkett, 8 and Jason Timoll, 7½. Although Mrs. Banfield retired as district director for Family and Children's Society, she will remain at the society as director of Family Life Education.

Columbia Capers

Director, dancer to star in history event

By Pinnie L. Ross

Dr. Percy Thomas, director of the Free Spirit Theater in Baltimore will be featured in the Black History observance held at St. John Baptist Church, Sunday, Feb. 17, at 5 p.m., Interfaith Center, space I.

Other guests are John Taylor and his dance troupe which will perform African and jazz dances.

Miss Marcia Faulkner, semi-finalist in the Miss Talented Teen Maryland pageant and junior at Walbrook Senior High School, will be guest soloist.

The St. John Adult Gospel Choir will render excerpts from "Roots and Branches". The Rev. Calvin Morris will be the guest speaker at the 11:45 a.m. service and youth choir will sing.

Dr. Thomas began his acting career in 1967 at Arena playhouse under the direction of Sam Wilson in the role of Bama in "Clara's Ole Man".

Since that production he has played character roles including: "In The Wine Time, In New England Winter," "Electronic Nigger," "Wait Until Dark", "Slow Dance on the Killing Ground," "No place to be Somebody", "None to Call Him Father," and "First Breeze of Summer."

Percy Thomas John Taylor

Dr. Thomas has been seen in the following movies: "The River Niger", "The Other Side of Midnight," "Brotherhood of Death," "Sparkle," "Don't Call Me Boy".

He has written and directed several productions, including "Piper," "Shoes," "Baby Makes Three," "Where the Sidewalk Cracks," "What It's Like to Be Free."

The actor's latest production is "From Deep River to Harlem" presented recently at the Community College of Baltimore. Dr. Thomas adapted the historical manuscript and writing of Langston Hughes to the stage and wrote the narration and vignettes in the production.

The production "From Deep River to Harlem" was made possible by grants from city arts projects, The Maryland Arts Council and the National Endowment of the Arts.

He opened The Free Spirit Theater in 1977 to give youth and young adults an opportunity to develop their dramatic potential.

Dr. Thomas is also program director of the Staff College, National Institute of Mental Health, Rockville, Md.

Sykesville native serves internship, wins overseas study award

Nancy L. Burkett, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Harold Burkett of Sheppards Lane, Sykesville, Md., is currently serving an internship in communications at KDKA television station in Pittsburgh, Pa. until May 1980.

Ms. Burkett, a graduate of Seton High School in Baltimore and a member of the Alpha Sigma Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, is currently a junior at Chatham College in Pittsburgh, Pa.

She is the recipient of the Vira Heinz Award and will travel to England this summer for a program: "British Drama: Text and Performance."

The Vira Heinz Award is for juniors who have never studied abroad. Ms. Burkett, with the help of faculty adviser Dr. Barbara Palmer, drafted and submitted a proposal in November 1979. After an interview with the selection board, she learned she was the award recipient in December 1979.

Nancy L. Burkett

While in England, Ms. Burkett, who is majoring in communications and English, will study with the University of London, attending one theatrical performance each week which will be supplemented with lectures and discussions.

The course, running from July 5 to Aug. 14, will include a performance by the Royal Court Theatre.

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Beautiful Baltimore Brides

Miss Washington to wed Mr. Dotson

Mrs. Celestine Traynham Redd of Randallstown, Md. and Joseph L. Washington of Baltimore announce the engagement of their daughter, Lauralyn Denise Washington to David Andre Dotson.

The bride-to-be attends the University of Virginia, Charlottesville, Va. and will receive her bachelor of science degree in nursing in May.

Miss Washington is the granddaughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. James W. Traynham Sr. of Baltimore and the late Mr. and Mrs. James E. Washington Sr. of Richmond, Va.

Lauralyn Washington

The prospective bridegroom is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Richard H. Dotson of Baltimore. He graduated from Baltimore City College and attended Ohio Institute of Technology in Columbus, Ohio.

He is currently a guidance counselor for the Marine Corps Recruiting Service.

A fall wedding is planned.

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