AFRO Clean Block Awards Sunday, Aug. 31

Prince Hall Masonic Temple 1307 Eutaw Place 2-4 p.m.

Touring Murphy Homes

By Sue Williams

It was a rainy, overcast day when the AFRO took its Clean Block tour of the George B. Murphy Homes, but there was beauty and pride seen in the homes that not even the bad weather could disguise.

Accompanied by Mrs. Gloria Burton, director of the Tenant-Management Together Program, and Ms. Adrienne Norton, an assistant to Mrs. Burton and coordinator of AFRO Clean Block efforts in the Murphy low rise units, this reporter was shown freshly painted hall walls, some with impressive art work, huge vegetable gardens, and sparkling floors.

"We've had our share of problems," said Mrs. Burton as we moved through the lightly falling rain to a high-rise unit, "but some of these floors have really come a long way."

That statement was easily verified as we stepped off the elevator onto the 4th floor of the high-rise located at 725 George St. Looking over to our left, we saw a woman busily wacing a floor that already looked quite shiny, to be truthful. The pale blue walls, freshly painted, were spotless as well.

The woman who was so hard at work on the floors turned out to be the captain, Mrs. Doris Conway. The industrious, Mrs. Conway turned her head slightly toward us as we approached.

"You workin' hard?" she was asked.

"No," she said, never missing a stroke. "This is just something we're supposed to do. Ain't workin' no harder than we ordinarily do."

Looking down the right side of the hall, we could see that Mrs. Conway had gotten other floor residents to do their share, as well. Our presence was no big thing; it was hot and stuffy and far more important to get the floors finished before the weather get worse than to stand around talking to reporters.

The 12th floor of 727 George St. was equally as beautiful. The walls were painted a cool-looking mint green, and the floors were shiny enough to see one's own reflection. Captain Lelia Dougherty said that sure, there had been a few problems in getting the floor clean, but nothing that they could not handle. And, she added, it had been worth it.

Yogi Bear greeted us as we stepped off the elevator on the sixth floor. Yogi and his friends were painted on the wall, immediately visible when the big doors of the elevator slowly opened. The light green walls were decorated with flowers and hanging plants, all well-watered and taken care of. Donald Hawkins, the captain of the floor, was modest when complimented on the floor. In fact, he didn't really say much, but would only smile. The pride was obvious.

As we walked out of the foyer, of the 725 building, two young men, busy painting walls in the main hallway looked at us, but continued working, even as we took a couple of pictures. Their determination and diligence seemed to be the norm in the 725 Building, and a big reason behind the good-looking floors we had just seen.

"This next building," said Mrs. Burton pointing to the 851 George St. high-rise was probably one of the hardest units to not only get involved in the AFRO Clean Block, but to get residents to stay interested." She went on to explain that the reason for the small problem was the large amount of traffic in the building, with people coming and going at all hours of the night.

As we travelled from floor to floor, we could see the evidence of some Clean Blockers having become discouraged, but interspersed between them were floors that had been obviously worked on very hard.

The most impressive floor was that of Thomas Langley and his wife Helen. The walls were lined with plants, and the pictures hanging on the walls gave the floor a comfortable, home-like feeling. Mr. Langley and his wife were not only able Clean Block captains, but were responsible for the organization of the Marguis, the marching band dressed in yellow and white at the AFRO 88th Birthday Parade last week.

Mr. Langley was a little "under the weather" and would not pose for a picture, but we did manage to give a smile and encouragement as we continued on our way.

Some of the other floors in the 851 Building were just as interesting as Mr. Langley's with residents coming out to greet us and show us around. They made it feel like home.

Ms. Lillie Robinson had done a tremendous job as captain of the 761 block of George St., with all the lawns freshly cut and flowers everywhere. And the 781 block of George St., another low-rise unit worked on by William Hines, had a garden with greens growing like they do down South. There was absolutely no trash, no debris . . . anywhere.

From 761 George St. we moved across to 800 George St. Mrs. Burton explained that this was Brune Street's first year with AFRO Clean Block. As we rang the doorbell of the captain, Mrs. Louise Goodman, did a scant check of the block. The well-kept yards, and the spotless streets made me think of the times we have heard people put all projects into one category — unkempt. Made me want to go pull some of those people over to Murphy Homes to just take a look. Ruxton and Towson could not look better.

Mrs. Goodman invited us into her home and told us that yes, she had had a few problems, but nothing too great. She said she wanted to take part in AFRO Clean Block next year, too, provided she was still in Murphy Homes.

The 801 and 755 block, also low-rise units, had well-kept lawns and painted window sills. The chair posts looked freshly painted, and flowers had been planted everywhere. There was nobody around to talk to when we went past, but in reality, the blocks spoke for themselves.

Sonya Thomas, the captain for the 600 block Brune St., was a bit surprised when we rang her doorbell. Brune St., as well as Mrs. Goodman's block, has newly-built units. Nonetheless, despite the more modern look of the units, there had been much to do and many hurdles to jump. Mrs. Thomas and her co-captain, Mrs. Etha Scott, posed a little reluctantly for a picture, but said they were glad somebody had taken the time to see what they had done.

From Brune St. we moved over to 900 Argyle Ave., another high-rise unit. By this time, the rain was beginning to subside, and residents were starting to gather on the courts.

"Ya'll from AFRO Clean Block?" somebody called.

"Yeah" we called back, steadily moving toward the building closest to construction on the city's Harbor Boulevard.

We saw most of the floors in the building, but the 11th floor and the 7th floor made the deepest impressions.

We were warmly greeted on both floors by residents; Mrs. Effie Ricks, who was the captain on the 11th floor was not around, but her neighbors talked to us and posed for pictures. On the 7th floor, captain Sheila Foreman talked to us and showed us around. She had no complaints . . . just pointed out that the 7th floor "keeps clean all year around. . . ."

Margaret Leftwich, captain for low-rise units in the 902-908 blocks of Argyle Ave., had stalks of corn growing in her front yard . . . corn healthy-looking enough to pick. Her AFRO Clean Block flag was proudly displayed in front of her home; she, like other residents, had no complaints. As we thanked her and moved on, I saw the second most fabulous garden in Murphy Homes in Mrs. Leftwich's backyard. It looked like Mrs. Leftwich, like the gentleman in George St., had had some training in good down-home country gardening.

We didn't talk to anybody in the 918 block of Argyle Ave., but the block was outstanding. About the only company we had was a persistent bee, apparently drawn by the abundance of flowers on the block . . . but immensely interested, as he flew around, the visitors to his territory. We said goodbye to him as quickly as we could and moved, finally, to our last building, the 1058 block of Argyle Ave.

High on the 14th floor, I could see an AFRO Clean Block flag hanging on the porch of one resident. Even that high up, the flag and all it stood for stood out. Inside the 1058 Building, we were greeted by the same clean walls and creativity we had seen in other buildings. We made note of the most impressive floors, kind of sad that we had to pick out the best and leave some out. It seemed that everybody who had participated in AFRO Clean Block deserved something.

That did it. After two hours of walking and talking, we had finished touring Murphy Homes. I looked at the four massive high-rise structures that I had, before today, only known from a great distance. They meant a lot more now, and I left with a feeling that AFRO Clean Block was important to a lot of people for a lot more reasons than many people will ever realize.

(Photo by Sue Williams)

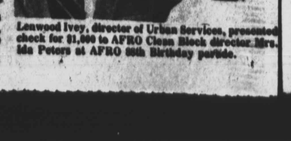
Judges for the 46th annual AFRO Clean Block program stopped midday during the tour Sunday for a much-needed lunch break at the Gino's at Harford & Hillen Rds. Lunch was courtesy Gino's and George Larkins, director of Community Relations for the fast-food chain. (Shown are L-R): Reuben Tisdale, Rat Rubout Team; Mr. Larkins, Ms. Mereida Goodman, Department of Housing, HCD; Norman Brailey, Mrs. Ida Peters, director, Clean Block; Ms. Delores Hall, Department of Consumer Services; Ms. Rona Stokes, Balto. Gas & Electric Co.; Mike Bold, manager of the Harford-Hilton Rd. Gino's.

Folks in 900 block N. Gilmor St., were waiting for AFRO Clean Block judges. Street was clean, and flowers in urns were some of best-kept up on tour. Rev. Mary Antoinette Phillips was advisor.

Captain for the 2500 block Garrett Ave., Miss Stephanie Savoy, was only 11. She, along with her co-captain Ms. Erica Goodman and advisor Laura Edwards, managed to get block in top shape for final AFRO Clean Block inspection tour.

Empty houses were the biggest problem for the 1200 block Rutland Avenue, but that was no deterrent for captain Ms. Vernell Askew and co-captain Mrs. Mattie McCory. Houses were painted, streets were spotless, and flowers planted in windows made block outstanding.

The Rev. Mrs. Carrie Hopkins, captain of Stoddard Court proudly marches in the AFRO's 88th Birthday Parade. She is wearing her AFRO T-Shirt and carries a broom to proclaim she's ready to fight trash. Rev. Hopkins was born Oct. 23, 1906 and is an active AFRO Clean Blocker; a member of and one of the ministers at Gillis Memorial Church. She is a member of the Baptist Minister's Courtesy Committee and chaplain at Pennsylvania Avenue Nursing Center.



Lenwood Ivey, director of Urban Services, presented check for $1,500 to AFRO Clean Block director Mrs. Ida Peters at AFRO 88th Birthday parade.

It's called creativity . . . Many Clean Blockers were creative with walls and doors of abandoned buildings. This garage door in 1200 block Braddish Ave. showed that someone had given just a little thought to AFRO Clean Block and what it was really all about. Mrs. Mary Sawyer was captain for the block, and the co-captain was Ms. Mable Hamilton.

How to have block party

AFRO Clean Blocks planning to have block parties should start making arrangements now. Here's what to do:

1. Call the Police Department Public Relations Officer in your district to have your street blocked off.
2. Go to the Bureau of Permits, 222 E. Saratoga St., Room 100 for an application to have a party in your block. Cost is $4.00.
3. After filling out permit, go to 411 N. Calvert St. (The old Post Office) for a food permit. Cost $10.

Update on Eareckson-Bethel

Ahmad Imran, AFRO Clean Block captain for 1600 Eareckson and 1800 N. Bethel Streets and his wife Karima have the following comment on Tuesday's AFRO front page story:

"We do not feel that the article in Tuesday's AFRO portrays the true picture of the Eareckson Place-Bethel Street situation. True, we were ganged twice, but on each occasion, we fought back and if necessary, we will fight again, and the people involved in the incident know it.

"We believe in the truth and are prepared to die for that truth. None of us are cowards and we do not intend to be intimidated.

"Since the incident, we have gotten scores of phone calls from others who believe as we do and are prepared to support us.

"The homeowners and tenants in this community were not shaken by the incidents. We are sick and tired of senseless violence.

"The youth living in our blocks have benefited greatly from this summer's AFRO Clean Block Program, attending the Colt games and the movie parties. In the beginning they were cool to participating in the Clean Block effort.

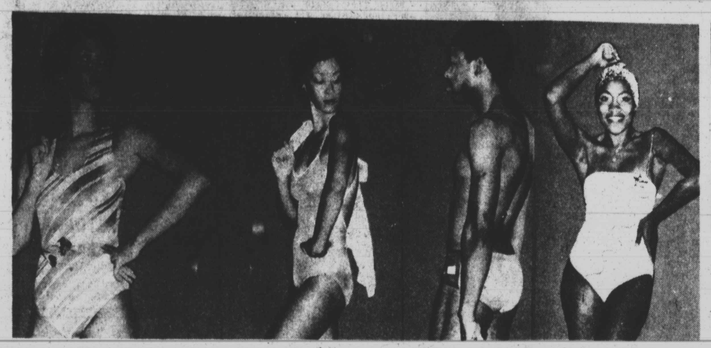
"Some of the youth outside this community need guidance and hopefully they will work with us for positive change."

The Eareckson-Bethel Community Association meets Wednesday, Aug. 27 at 7:30 p.m. at 1600 Eareckson Place.

OUR WORLD

partyline, pacesetters, people

Korea, Inc. hosts 600 in Hidden Valley



WET LOOKS — Airing the latest in swimwear designed by Korea during the Fashion Show-Bull Roast hosted by Korea, Inc. at the Hidden Valley Country Club, Randallstown, Saturday, Aug. 16 are (L to R): Diana Ckyyou, Lydia Phinney, Duane Cozart and Carmalite Coombs.

AFRO Photos by Roman Hankewycz

CHECKING IT OUT — Enjoying the party scene at Korea, Inc.'s Fashion Show-Bull Roast held on Saturday, Aug. 16 at the Hidden Valley Country Club are (seated, L to R): Ms. Robin Robinson and Ms. Phyllis Janey; (standing L to R): Hanford Jones and Victor Green.

By Pattie Hodges
AFRO Staff Writer

Korea, Inc., that dynamic brother-sister team — (Korea and Greg Johnson), who along with Larry Hughes and their assistants, have put together several fabulous affairs this year — have done it again.

"A Mid-Summer Night's Dream," their fashion show-bull roast, held at the Hidden Valley Country Club in Randallstown on Saturday, Aug. 16, from 7:30 p.m. until 3 a.m. was a dream come true.

600 people attended, many taking advantage of the transportation to and from the club by D. & J. Bus Service, which Korea, Inc. provided.

The affair was held inside and outside, making for a truly delightful time for all. Upon arriving, everyone received the party favor of a sun-visor hat.

Many guests swam and played tennis. All were treated to scrumptuous bull roast party fare which included roast beef, burgers, hot dogs, ham, soups, assorted salads, pizza, munchies — to name a few.

There was continuous open bar, and guests could have anything they wanted to drink.

Music for dancing was continuous also. For those who wished to dance outside, there was music provided by the Warren Garrison Quintet, featuring Warren himself on alto sax; Gary Richardson, on bass guitar; Allen Thomas on lead guitar and Gary Leslie on drums. Inside, guests could do their thing dance-wise to the finger-popping tunes of the rock group, 'Trigger Happy.'

Special highlights of the occasion were the outdoor and indoor fashion shows, with music for modeling done by 'Stevie' whose recorded tunes also provided music for dancing during band intermissions.

The first segment of the five-segment fashion show was called 'Wet Looks,' and featured swimsuits.

'Gentle Sweet Suits' featured business and sports suits for males and females.

During the 'Casual Stroll' segment, ladies afternoon dresses and the chic gunfighter scene 'Death Valley Days' which aired the western look for ladies were featured.

'As Evening Falls' was a segment that highlighted the sleek after five fall wear.

Oriental clothing and loungewear were featured during the 'Black Slanted Eyes' segment.

For the new season hemlines are at the knee or three to four inches below; the influence is on plaids and the western look and the popular colors are plum, maroon and burgundy.

All female fashions were created and made by Korea. Men's wear was from Hyatt's Men's Shop in Mondawmin.

Models who showed off the creations to great advantage were Brenda Miller, Bridgette Hines, Diana Ckyyou, Carolyn Jackson, Sandra Brown, Lydia Phinney, Tina Paige, Johnnie Smith, Dennis Caple, Robin Burton, Duane Cozart, Louis Carter, Joyce Lott and Carmalite Coombs.

Comments such as "fantastic" and "beautiful" could be heard, and according to one observer, the entire affair was reminiscent of a Hollywood Premiere Night.

A few guests seen about were Sandy Mallory, of WJZ-TV; State Senator Clarence Mitchell III, Curtis Kane, Robert Clay, B. T. Bentley and Rodney Russell.

Also on hand for the fun and the beauty of the occasion was 'Star Point,' that internationally-known, upcoming rock and roll group whose latest pop hit is 'I Just Want To Dance With You.'

Proceeds from this affair, and from all Korea, Inc affairs, will go towards the group's goal of opening a fashion boutique.

Tony Benton, lighting engineer, created special effects that gave a special, dreamy air to everything.

Scenes of the Great NECO EXPO

AFRO Photos by Hankewycz

YUM-YUM — Snacking on delicious cotton candy during the Great NECO EXPO, sponsored by the Northeast Community Organization near the Alameda Shopping Center and in Chinquapin Park on Saturday, Aug. 16 is little Yolanda Johnson, 5.

By Pattie Hodges,
AFRO Staff Writer

The Great NECO EXPO, sponsored by the Northeast Community Organization, came to Baltimore on Saturday, August 16. With it came something for everybody.

Folks must have known that this would be the case because between 11 a.m. and 7 p.m. 5,000 jammed the area in the rear of The Alameda Shopping Center and adjoining space in Chinquapin Park.

Features for children included carnival rides, Operation Champ's basketball, obstacle course and playground rides and picture-taking with Star Wars, Muppets and Swing Era themes available.

For those who wanted more action there was a boxing demonstration and a martial arts demonstration of self-defense techniques by Young I. Lee's School of Martial Arts.

Music for the day included sounds by The Vevalium Players, Hot Ice and Pisces I, soft rock groups.

The Sign-Painters, recently featured in the Sunday Sun, were on hand during a portion of the day and did "signing" to music. Movement arts were also performed by The Entourage.

A flea market with 40 spaces, health screenings, a variety of crafts, plants and over 70 exibits rounded out this celebration of NECO's 10th anniversary.

The North East Community Organization helps organize efforts in the community and helps various neighborhoods and churches in the area bounded by Greenmount Avenue into York Road, 33rd Street, City Line and Perring Parkway and Hillen Road.

SNAPPY TOYS, which were the contribution of Govan's Presbyterian Church and the city to the Great NECO EXPO are being sold by Darryl Rorie, 17, (R), to John Sharp (L) as Tai Huynh, 19 (C) looks on.

BLOOD PRESSURE CHECK — Tracey Davis, 6, gets her blood pressure checked by Ms. Deborah Brothers of North Central Baltimore Health Corp. during the Great NECO EXPO.

Partyline Lees and Paynes hold family reunion

Men of Mount Royal host 'Appreciation Day' party

By Pattie Hodges
AFRO Staff Writer

The Men of Mt. Royal District of Social Services (housed in Metro-Plaza) hosted a super-unique party on Saturday, Aug. 16 from noon until midnight in the 6800 block of Huntington Drive in Lochearn.

The fun-filled bash was called 'Appreciation Day for the Women of Mt. Royal' (the female employees in that district) and what a day it was!!

Not only did the fellows plan and carry out the party and provide all of the party goodies, they waited on the ladies hand and foot — proving once again that "chivalry is not dead."

Nearly 100 ladies of the agency and their guests enjoyed delicious steamed crabs, hamburgers, potato salad, collard greens, fruit salad done up in a scooped-out watermelon and munchies. There were also all kinds of cocktails available.

Pretaped music and records provided a pleasant atmosphere for listening and dancing.

While many guests danced, others took a refreshing dip in the pool. There was also card playing and lots of lively party patter — creating an atmosphere of highly charged camaraderie.

What made the party unique, in addition to the gesture on the part of the guys who gave it, was the fact that there was almost 100 percent participation on the part of the ladies of Mt. Royal District. Most of them were there and enjoyed the party to the hilt.

So much did the ladies enjoy their 'Appreciation Day' that they are now planning an "End of the Summer" affair for the entire District.

The innovators and creators of this unique party were Ernest Custis, Robert Smallwood, Fred Jones and Blair Pinacle.

Others on the planning committee were: Steve Marz, William Monroe, Joseph Thomas, John Ruddy, Edward Grant, Harold Bollin, Johnny McGowan, Joseph James and Thomas Lee.

Among these ladies and their guests who attended were: Sue Johns, Anna Jones, Linda Young, Anna Kilson, Jacqueline Lovesbey, Alice Brown, Ellen Simpson, Vanessa Gantt;

Also Marian Peaker, Vickie Hamilton, Gladys Basilio, Lucille Boykins, Coby Walker, Shirlene Adams, Lillian Jones, Gail Fulton, Frances Hamm, Phyllis Miller, Dorothy Hopkins, Inez Dorsey, Gloria Duckett, Mary Carter, April Hunter, Mary Newman, Sharon Rumney;

LEES AND PAYNES — Program participants pictured during the recent family reunion of the Lees and Paynes are (L to R): Ms. Beatrice E. Payne, giving family history; (she is the granddaughter of the Payne family's late patriarch Joseph Payne); Moses G. Payne, family grandson, giving the occasion and the Rev. Samuel Lee III, giving greetings. He is a great-grandson of the late patriarch and matriarch Samuel and Mildred (Milly) Lee, of that branch of the family.

Also Coretha Lyles, Gehazer Wilborne, Brenda Sears, Gloria Jones, Nope Thompson, Bernice Anderson;

Also Messrs. and Mesdames Ray Wright (Kitty), John Taylor (Rosella); Thurman Arrington (Phyllis); Pie Lawson (Marcella) and Edward Grant (Sandy).