Success Stories:

Mrs. Muriel W. Spriggs Gwynn, sightless since the age of ten, works as a clerk - typist in the medical unit of the Baltimore Post Office. She has been named the Postal Service's Outstanding Handicapped Employee of 1981. Mrs. Gwynn is shown above with plaque printed in Braille along with Postmaster General William Bolger.

1981 USPS Outstanding Handicapped Employee named

A clerk - typist in the Medical Unit of the Baltimore, Maryland Post Office, who has been sightless since the age of 10, has been named the Postal Service's Outstanding Handicapped Employee of 1981.

Mrs. Muriel W. Spriggs Gwynn, a 13 - year postal veteran, efficient in office procedures, takes messages and maintains a telephone log in Braille, uses a dictaphone for transcribing medical reports, develops X - ray films, and communicates with the Baltimore Post Office's hearing - impaired employees and with applicants for postal jobs by the means of sign language.

She is self - sufficient both at home and at work, her only limitation being that she must be accompanied by another employee when walking through the post office workroom floor.

The national award was bestowed at a luncheon attended by top postal officials, postal organization leaders, and presided over by Postmaster General William F. Bolger.

He paid tribute to Gwynn, chosen to represent the Eastern Region, and to the handicapped representatives of the other four postal regions and headquarters.

Honoring the high sense of duty exhibited by handicapped postal employees, Mr. Bolger said: "On June 29, the Postal Service joined in a worldwide effort to give attention to measures and programs to help the disabled by issuing a commemorative stamp bearing the legend, 'Disabled doesn't mean Unable.'

During the ceremonies, George N. Trexler, Director of Mail Processing in the Richmond, Virginia Management Sectional Center, was commeded for his outstanding initiative in developing a recruitment program to hire physically handicapped people.

Blind since the age of 10, Mrs. Gwynn was selected as the United States Postal Service's "Outstanding Handicapped Employee of the Year" for 1981 from among 666,000 postal employees throughout the country.

A rare optical disease, Vogt - Kayangi - Harada, left Muriel sightless 38 years ago. Her parents, determined that she would lead a normal life, enrolled her in the Maryland School for the Blind.

In 1953 she entered Morgan State College and graduated in 1957 with a Bachelor of Science degree in education. She was the first blind female student to graduate from Morgan State.

The Maryland Governor's Committee to Promote the Handicapped and the President's Committee on Employment of the Handicapped selected her for awards in 1968.

Muriel Gwynn has this to say about herself and her work:

"Working for the Medical Unit of the Baltimore Post Office has been one of the most gratifying experiences of my life. Any handicapped person who has gotten a job knows of the numerous problems one encounters while seeking employment. All we ask for is a chance to put to use those skills for which we have been trained.

"Thirteen years ago I was allowed to do this. Loss of sight, hearing, limbs, etc., restricts you to a degree, however, there are things you can do successfully, with proper training, to become a self - sufficient, productive citizen in our society."

Mrs. Gwynn is married and the mother of a son, Skipper, who currently is a sophomore at Towson State University.

She is the daughter of Mrs. Muriel Fulton and Ellsworth C. Wilson, long - time AFRO employee.

She teaches crafts and is skilled in weaving, knitting and crocheting and leathercraft. She also is an accomplished pianist.

NAFAD

(Continued from Page 9)

What a treat this was! With dinner over, guests watched garments in all fashion categories which had been designed by members of the various NAFAD chapters across the nation being aired and judged.

It was a show filled with excitement, glamor and class, showcasing the designing talents of NAFAD members and carrying out their 1981 theme: 'A New Spirit of Adventure' with expertise to the nth degree.

It was a superb, and superbly commentated by Willie Ray, of Chicago, Ill., with many local and out - of - town models airing the fashions. Winning designs and designers were: in the suits, coats and ensembles category — Barbara Worsham, Baltimore (Honorable Mention for a coat); Elsie Reed, Washington, D.C. (third place for wool burgundy suit; Barbara Worsham, second place, for a silk toupe suit and Ava Cutler, Philadelphia, Pa., for a mohair suit.

In the Special Design category — Geneva Washington, Cleveland, Ohio, won second place for a black crocheted dress with yellow shawl and Sarah Shortt, Washington, D.C. garnered top prize for a crocheted top and skirt.

In the Evening Wear department, honorable mention was given Celestine Bryant, Denver, Col. for a black - silver evening outfit; third place went to Exagene Stradford, Cleveland, Ohio, for a light blue gown; and to Ora Williams, Washington, D.C. for a three - piece purple silk;

Second place was won by Juanita Williams of Philadelphia for a red evening dress and first place winner was Arvester Frazier of Chicago, for a black velvet evening gown.

In the menswear deivision, again Exagene Stradford was a second place winner, as was Catherine Wooten. For dresses, Jean Taylor (Baltimore) won third place for her rainwear dress ensemble; Ann Harris, (D.C.) second place for a wool rose dress and Ava Cutler, of Philly got first prize for a striped, multicolored dress.

In Loungewear, third place went to Barbara Hunter, (Washington, D.C.) for a dashing purple lounge outfit; second place to Betty LaCraft (Philly) for a plum and pink kimono and first place to Ha' - Fiz, also of Philly, for a daring brown chiffon.

Elsie Reed, of Washington, D.C. won second place for her brilliant hat design; sombrero. Helen Reeves of D.C. won first prize for

(Continued on page 13)

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weddings

Diana Sessoms, Arvell Good marry

AFRO Photo by Roman Hankewycz

RECENTLY MARRIED are Mr. and Mrs. Arvell Richard Good, who pose lovingly after their marriage at St. Marks United Methodist Church. The bride is the former Diana Sessoms.

The wedding of Diana Sessoms, daughter of William and Florence Sessoms, of Baltimore, and Arvell Richard Good was at St. Marks United Methodist Church on June 20.

The matron of honor was Mrs. Phylis S. Scroggins, of Baltimore. The bridesmaids were Demetrius Artis of Baltimore; Demetrius McLean of Elizabeth City, N.C.; Edris Segree and Maria Sessoms, both of Baltimore and Virginia Williams of West Orange, N.J.

The best man was Rodney Nesbitt, of Baltimore. The ushers were Douglas Johnson, Darrin Scarbough, Donald Taney, Larry Sessoms, Leroy Taylor and David Williams.

The flower girls were Tracey Scarbough and Erika Sessoms, both of Baltimore. The ring bearers were Daniel Freeman, of St. Albans, N.Y. and Termain Good, of Baltimore.

The double ring ceremoney was performed by the Rev. Bernard Keels. The bride was given away in marriage by her uncle, Hillard Sessoms.

A reception was at the Church Social Hall. The hall was decorated in apricot and blue. A gourmet meal was served to 200 guests.

The bride is a graduate of Northeastern High School in Elizabeth City. She attended Community College of Baltimore and is employed by the Department of Social Services.

The groom is a graduate of Forest Park Senior High SChool. He attended Community College of Baltimore and was a former member of the United States Army. The groom is a manager at Amoco Service station.

Victor W. Myrick was the organist at the wedding. Jimmie A. Thomas was the soloist. Gene Bradby provided the music during the reception. Wedding coordinator was Elnora Burton.

Barbara Keets weds

NEWLYWEDS — Mr. and Mrs. Freddrick "Fred" Patterson smile radiantly following the nuptials at St. Gregory Catholic Church which joined them in marriage recently. The bride is the former Miss Barbara "Baba" Keets, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Iglehart Keets (Ike and Bobbie).

On Sunday, July 5, Barbara Keets, daughter of Ike and Bobbie Iglehart, was married to Fredderick Patterson, son of the late Freddie Lee Patterson and Madeline Patterson of Chicago.

The bride is an employee of Commercial Union Insurance Co. where she works as a commercial insurance policy rater.

The groom is an employee of the United Bank of Denver. He is a commercial securities issuer and also is in the Air Force Reserves. The groom is presently taking postgraduate coursework to become a certified public accountant.

The ceremony was performed by Father Damien Nalepa, Pastor of Saint Gregory's Church.

Matron of honor was the bride's sister, Mrs. Mary Jay, recently of Colorado Springs, Colorado now of Baltimore.

Bridesmaids were Miss Bobbi A. Heath, Miss Diane Hutchins and Miss Vickie Coker.

The best man was Otis C. Jay, recently of Colorado Springs, now of Baltimore.

Ushers were Roland R. Selby, Jr., the bride's nephew, Edward L. Bailey and Michael Deschilds.

Mrs. Marion Alston directed the wedding. Flowers were furnished by Crip's Florist.

A rehearsal dinner was given by the bride's sister, Mrs. Rita Selby at her Groveland Ave. home. A shower was given by the office staff where the bride is employed in Denver.

The couple will make their home in Denver.

Kyra Ross weds William Cooper Jr.

The Wedding of Kyra Deborah Ross, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Elliot Ross of Randallstown, to William David Cooper, son of Mr. and Mrs. William D. Cooper Sr. of Monrovia, Liberia was Sunday, June 28.

The Rev. Richard Trankel performed the ceremony under a flowered bridal archward on the lawn of the bride's parents home.

Bridesmaids were Alisa Myhand of Detroit, Mich., Thalia and Sharon Cooper of Liberia, Robin Kane and Traci Harris, both of Baltimore.

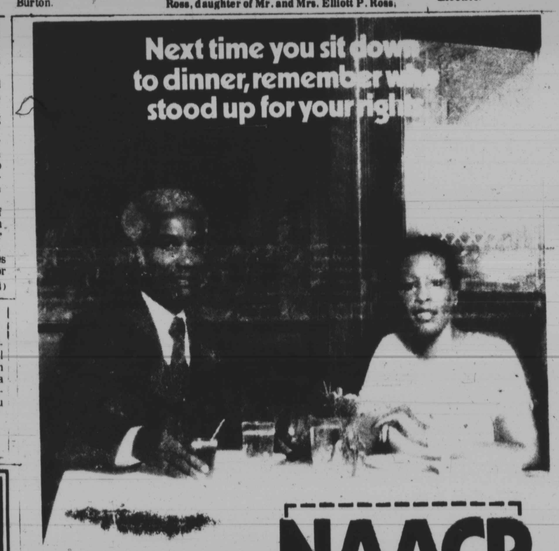
Gregory Lucas, of Baltimore, served as the best man. Ushers were E. Mark Ross of Randallstown, Ronald Cooper, Tulasi Markham, Zuan nah, all of Liberia; Michael Robertson, of Southfield, Mich. and Craig Hall of Baltimore.

Mrs. Marion Harris a close friend of the bride's family, coordinated the wedding.

A reception, attended by more than 300 friends and relatives, was at the Inter-Faith Center in Columbia.

The Coopers will live in Gaithersburg, Md., where the groom works for Semix. The bride is employed by General Electric.

MR. AND MRS. WILLIAM D. COOPER JR. beam radiantly following their June 28 wedding held at the Randallstown, Md. home of the bride's parents. She is the former Miss Kyra Deborah Ross, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Elliott P. Ross.



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Seafood items & prices effective thru Fri., July 17, 1981

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