The Special AFRO 90th Year Edition preview

Rare Old Photos

AFRO FOUNDER John H. Murphy Sr., in a rare old family portrait, is sporting the bow tie and alpaca suit complete with vest, pocket watch and chain.

REV. AUGUSTUS TOLON
first Afro-American Catholic priest

A PARTY DRESS of the 1890s

A beauty of the 1890s

FREDERICK DOUGLASS, the great diplomat, statesman and orator, when he was a young man.

DR. JOSEPH B. MASON
age 95

HISTORY

Dr. Mason was 50 years ahead of his time

EDITOR'S NOTE - Here is a sample of the historic features which will be printed in the coming Special AFRO 90th Year Edition. This and much more. Watch for it.)

of 95 years and is described by his daughter Mrs. Ruth Mason Dorsey of Baltimore as a man who, 50 years ago, was ahead of his time.

Certainly Dr. Mason is one of Baltimore's most colorful citizens. He now resides in Atlantic City.

Over 50 years ago he started his vegetarian diet, his jogging every morning around Druid Park Lake, and he took a stand against cigarette smoking.

Some 50 years ago he established Dr. Mason's Health Food Center, the first of its kind in Baltimore.

By profession he is Baltimore's oldest chiropodist.

Before retirement, he was cited by the Pennsylvania College of Podiatric Medicine as the oldest podiatrist in the nation. He was then 86 years of age.

Dr. Mason started the Wonderland Amusement Park, the first of its kind for black citizens, located near the Hanover Street Bridge.

Among Dr. Mason's other business ventures was the manufacture of Dr. Mason's Idrosine Foot Powder which was bottled, labeled and sold in Baltimore drug stores.

He also had a Health Mayonnaise, whole wheat bread, goat's milk from his own goats on his farm in Randallstown. The goats were named after famous black Americans such as Joe Louis and Marian Anderson.

He also fitted and sold health shoes and made his own orthopedic devices.

(MORE IN THE COMING SPECIAL AFRO 90th YEAR EDITION).

AFTER 90 YEARS

AFRO published by founder's 3rd generation

Present Generation

The grandchildren of AFRO founder John H. Murphy Sr. are publishing the Baltimore AFRO in the 90th year.

The third generation descendants include John H. Murphy III, chairman of the board of directors; John J. Oliver Sr., president; Mrs. Mae Murphy Dyson, corporate secretary; George Lottier, grandson-in-law, treasurer; Mrs. Arnetta Lottier, circulation director and board member; City Editor Elizabeth Murphy Oliver, editor of the 90th Year Edition; Frederick Howard, production vice - president; Mrs. Ida Murphy Peters, Clean Block director and entertainment chief; Mrs. Frances Murphy Campbell, former chairman, summer assisting on the National AFRO; Robert Matthews, grandson - in - law, DAWN Magazine editor.

This is only the beginning of the story of the Murphy family owned newspaper which is now rated as the largest chain of newspapers printed for a predominately black readership.

Since 1892, the line remains unbroken. The 90th Year celebration will be marked in many ways throughout the 1981-1982. First comes the Special 90th Year Edition, an historic publication, which will contain the full AFRO story. In addition, the special edition will highlight the past 90 years with features on families and personalities who have all these years called the AFRO their hometown paper.

JOHN H. MURPHY III
board chairman

JOHN J. OLIVER SR.
president

MAE MURPHY DYSON
corporate secretary

GEORGE LOTTIER
treasurer

ELIZABETH MURPHY OLIVER
editor, 90th Year Edition

ARNETTA MURPHY LOTTIER
board member

IDA MURPHY PETERS
Clean Block director

FREDERICK HOWARD
vice - president, production

FRANCES MURPHY CAMPBELL
former board chairman

THERE IS STILL TIME for you to get in on the Special AFRO Year Edition. Write us today.

TELL US ABOUT YOUR ROOTS

JOHN HENRY MURPHY was born in Baltimore, Christmas day in 1840. His father Benjamin Murphy, was a white washer.

The war over, Mr. Murphy returned to Baltimore and married Martha Howard of Montgomery County, Md. who was visiting his parents at the time.

S.S. Helper

His first venture in the newspaper field was the Sunday School Helper which he set up and printed himself to create interest in Sunday school work.

He remained publisher of the AFRO for 30 years until his death in 1922. He left to his ten children what was then the largest black newspaper plant in the country operated and manned by 138 employees with a circulation of 14,000.

CHILDREN

John H. Murphy Sr. had ten children five girls and five boys.

All of the children helped at the newspaper, no matter how young, either running the hand press, gathering news, mailing, writing or selling AFROs.

On his death bed in 1922, old man Murphy called his family together and especially his sons and gave them a mandate.

His legacy to them was a family business, with all stock owned by family members where any member of his family would always have a place to work.... down to his children, his children's children, down to the last generation.

Very rarely do you find a family with this kind of togetherness.

More will come in the 90th Year Edition.
Watch for it.

AFRO FOUNDER AND SONS, John H. Murphy Sr. (1840 - 1922); (C) George B. Murphy (L) 1870 - 1955; Daniel Murphy (R) (1893 - 1922); STANDING (L to R) - John H. Murphy Jr. (1880 - 1973); D. Arnett MUrphy (1892 -1972); Carl James Murphy (1889- 1967) (Photo in 1921 courtesy Rose Murphy Oliver estate)

Founder's Daughters

ROSE MURPHY OLIVER

LILLIAN MURPHY THOMPSON

SUSAN MURPHY PURDY

HARRIETT MURPHY GILBERT

FRANCES LOUISE MURPHY

SHOWTIME

Ethel Ennis, Morgan Choir in Pier 6 concert

The legendary Ethel Ennis will appear at the Pier 6 Concert Pavilion on Wednesday, September 2 at 8 p.m. as the "Harborlights Music Festival" begins its final week of performances for 1981.

Ms. Ennis is a versatile performer whose style cannot be labeled as "jazz", "pop" or "soul". She sings everything from Beethovan and Ellington to blues, the Beatles and Stevie Wonder.

The 48-year-old performer has sung professionally for more than 30 years. For the past five years, Ethel has worked predominately in her home area: the Baltimore - Washington-Annapolis triangle.

Ethel pops in and out of national public attention like a re-occurring comet. Such moments occurred in 1958, when she toured Europe with an all-star Benny Goodman band; in 1954, when she astonished the Newport Jazz Festival; and in 1973, when she stirred the nation with a soulful, a cappella version of the National Anthem during the Presidential Inauguration.

Her greatest musical contemporaries have sung her praises. Fans include the late Billie Holiday and Nat King Cole, Ella Fitzgerald, Frank Sinatra and Tony Bennett.

Joining Ms. Ennis on stage at Pier 6 will be the Morgan State University Choir conducted by Nathan Carter.

The Choir has distinguished itself as one of the most outstanding and active of American University Choruses. Among their accomplishments are performances with the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra for the past three years; also, on January 17, 1979, Morgan sang for the inauguration of Maryland's Governor Harry Hughes. Just recently, the singers have returned from a week of engagements in Bermuda. Their press and audience appeal were so great that the group has been invited to return.

Wednesday nights "Harborlights Music Festival" will be a true musical variety show, offering spirituals, operatic selections, popular tunes and gospel numbers.

MORGAN STATE UNIVERSITY CHOIR

Fellowship Exhibition II

The Cultural Arts Program in collaboration with the Maryland Arts Council will present an exhibition of works by the ten winners of the Fellowship award, which is awarded bi-annually to visual artists by the Maryland Arts Council. The winning artists are Mary Annella Frank, Louis Brent Hennessey, Frank P. Herrera, Walter Hnatysh Jno, Allan Sandor Janus, Scott M. Kesler, Kirby Malone, W.C. (Chip) Richardson, Joyce Jane Scott and Joan Yatsevitch.

The exhibition entitled "Fellowship Exhibition III" can be viewed from Sunday, September 6 through Wednesday, September 30, at Gallery 409, 409 North Charles Street, Downtown Baltimore. For further information call 837-2988.

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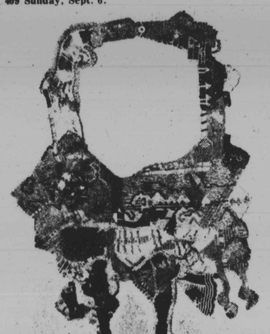
Joyce Jane Scott is a 1970 graduate of the Maryland Institute of Art with further study at Instituto Allende in Mexico; and the Haystack Mountain School of Crafts.

She is a guest lecturer at the Maryland Institute of Art and a Visual and Performing Artist of the Maryland Arts Council.

In 1980, she exhibited in "Sculpture 1980", Maryland Institute; "Power Objects", Howard University; and at museums in Delaware, Philadelphia, Los Angeles, Wisconsin and Connecticut.

Joyce Jane Scott will exhibit her works at Gallery 409 Sunday, Sept. 6.



"Bird Trapped in Shadows," 1981 by Joyce Jane Scott.

Wonder gives Gold Award to young girl victim of tragedy

Bill Lane in Hollywood

At the recent Rose Bowl unveiling of the first annual Black Music Family Fair in Pasadena one thing besides the grand music stood out. It was the outstanding orderliness of the huge crowd. Nearly 60,000 people of every shade of suede possible, sitting and standing together for tweleve hours, all in urbane enjoyment of a concert that featured Frankie Smith, Ashford & Simpson, The Whispers, Evelyn King, Tierra, Grover Washington Jr., Andrae Crouch, Third World and Stevie Wonder.

Unlike some of the exalted rock concerts, there were no mass "pass outs" from dope, no raging fights and strongarmings and no police sweeps for reefer heads, and no panic in parking. In fact, many families arrived early and spread picnic baskets on the adjacent Brookside grounds before attending the concert.

Hardly could it be said that all acts preceding Stevie Wonder were warmup acts for The Great One. All performers provided stellar entertainment, and the place is still rocking with the gospel vibrations of Andrae Crouch and his mighty Disciples. The crowd was actually rocked out when Wonder came on, highly receptive to his beautiful love ballads and the rapt command he holds over any audience, mass or miniscule.

Master Blaster Wonder also held the vast audience's attention, respect and appreciation when he called out to the crowd for a young lady to come to the stage where he presented her with the Gold Record he had earned from the mass sales of his "Hotter Than July" album. Wonder's reason for making the presentation was unprecedented in social awareness, empathy and sympathy. The lady receiving the Gold Record was Tami Rogoway who on the night of December 12, 1980 had attended with her boyfriend Randy Burrell, 20, a Stevie Wonder L.A. Concert and enroute home had stopped together at a Big Boy restaurant for a snack. News recalls that several thugs entered the place, committing robbery and murder. One of the persons murdered by the hoodlums was young Randy Burrell, just a customer who happened to be in the wrong place at the wrong time with his girlfriend, Tami Rogoway.

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Not long ago when this writer interviewed Ross (Harold J. Smith) Fields at his Pacific Palisades home he told how he had been death. "I also sent a special wheelchair", said the embattled sports promoter accused of "crediting" $21-million from Wells Fargo Bank. "I told Joe's widow, Mrs. Martha Louis, the other day if she needed anything to let me know. I understand she's a pretty good lawyer." I told him she was one of the best, that at one time she was a lawyer for the late Jimmy Hoffa. As fate would have it, Ross Fields needed the help of Martha Louis before she needed his. It was Mrs. Louis who recently mortaged her Las Vegas home for bail money to get Ross Fields out of jail. Fields has now resumed his attention on promotion of the upcoming Hearns-Leonard title bout to be held in Las Vegas on September 16.

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Aretha Franklin set to be named "Woman of the Year", and a music study scholarship will be established in her name when the members of the Boys and Girls Club of Venice hold their annual banquet, this time at the colorful New Otani Hotel in Los Angeles' new and modern Little Tokyo district.

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Frankie Smith booked to appear with Rick James, Teena Marie and the Stone City Band in concert at New York's Madison Square Garden on September 3. Should be quite a blast, considering the attendance records Rick James has been shattering on his current national tour, with Cameo in Memphis and the James troupe did two shows (sold out) at the Mid-South Coliseum, tying the record set there by the late Elvis Presley. The draw was 25,000 in Alabama, and in Baton Rouge, La., the draw was 30,000 souls, with, as our man Dave Clark reports, "forty thousand more people who tried in vain to get in."

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Confabs still going on for black promotions (Gap Band Yarborough & People) ace Lonnie Simmons to work out a bonded partnering deal with a major record label, since the deal he thought bonafide, signed, sealed and delivered fell through at Polygram, it is reported. News goes a computer check disclosed to the company that had reputedly okayed the deal with Simmons that he would make "too much" and that the company would not make "enough". Just like that, no deal. Other companies, however, said to be interested.

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Arthur Prysock broke all house records here at the swank Page Four nightery. Sharing the spotlight with Arthur and his musician brother Red were the attractive and smooth Lyn Dillard Lipstick Dancers and the dependable funnyman, comic Reynaldo Rey. Calls have been frantic to get Rev back to the Parisian Room as house comic, since Rodney Winfield winged off to Vegas and Joe Tex reportedly "took sick". Etta James is now starring at the Parisian.

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James Mtume and Reggie Lucas working with the Spinners on their new album... Model Glenda Meeks lensed by Harry Langdon for a Schlitz glamor ad in a deal set by the busy Burrell Agency in Chicago... It's official, Teddy Pendergrass is now an Honorary Citizen of L.A. at the behest of Mayor Tom Bradley. Queries comic Reynaldo Rey: "Can you imagine a governor named Tom?"... In Las Vegas savings and loan executive Wesley Brazier into the hospital for surgery... Jimmy Gay of the Aladdin Hotel firming up a Nov. 22 testimonial for Sammy Davis, Jr., with next Atlanta mayor Andrew Young as featured guest. Bill Cosby to co-emcee, and Lou Rawls a co-producer... Natalie Cole winged to Monaco to star in a big one Princess Grace and her Prince Rainer... TK Productions filed bankruptcy in Florida... Cab Calloway's daughter Chris to play Lena Horne in Bob Evan's upcoming film "The Cotton Club". Lena Horne was a dancer at the old Cotton Club during the early years of Duke, Cab, Jo Baker and Ethel Waters. In fact, Lena says it was when she heard Miss Waters sing at the Cotton Club that she herself decided to become a singer.

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Lonnette McKee set to star in the upcoming Broadway musical about the late Jackie Robinson. So, that's why Neil Bogart wants to move to NYC... Bouncy Cheryl Lynn to duet with Kool & the Gang at the Greek here... Good bets are being laid that the new weekly two-hour talk-music show for radio hosted by Isaac Hayes will be a hit in the syndication market. The show, called Black Music Countdown, kicks off with guests as the Commodores, Ray Charles and Atlanta's sensational S.O.S. Band, and Hayes will spotlight the Top 20 Records of the week... Big listening is "Get On Up, Do It Again", by Suzy Q. and Carl Weathers the actor is now Carl Weathers the singer, out with a new one on Mirage. It's a ballad titled "You Ought To Be With Me". That's what Sly Stallone told him.

Arena opens with 'Patio' schedules Karl Gipson

The Arena Players, Inc., announces its pre-season opening with a return engagement of the Karl Gipson Kosmopolitan Troubaddurs. The Troubadours were so well received during the 1980-81 season with their presentation of excerps from "Porgy and Bess" and "Madame Butterfly" that public demand resulted in this return engagement.

Karl Gipson, lead tenor, founder and guiding inspiration of the Troubadours is a national and international acclaimed performer. A native of Beaumont, Texas, he attended the Los Angeles Conservatory of Music and Arts, the Opera Department of Hunter College in New York City, the University of Vienna in Austria and has studied voice under the noted Alfred Knopft in Munich, Germany.

The program should please music lovers of all persuasions with a varied musical revue including excerpts from "Carmen Jones", Broadway shows and the operatic stage. Dolores Jones, Baltimore's grand lady of opera will again bring her brilliant voice to Arena along with other artists.

The show will run Thursday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday evenings, September 10, 11, 12 and 13.

The Arena Players regular 1981-82 season opens September 18 with two once-act plays, "Patio and Porch", featuring veteran actresses June Thorne and Joan Coursey.

Free Spirit's 'Makin' It' at Morgan

"Makin' It", featuring the Free Spirit Youth Ensemble will be performed on the Morgan Campus, September 3-6, with directions and choregraphy by Natalie Carter and Penny Johnson, under the admistrative supervision of Cassandra Jamison.

Free Spirit Theatre's major production will be "The First Breeze of Summer", starring Ms Mary West Miller and directed by Bob Smith. Show time: September 10-20, 8 p.m., with Sunday matinees at 3 p.m. at the Little Morgan Theatre on the Morgan State University Campus, Cold Spring Lane at Hillen Road. For additional information contact, Ms Irene Heigh, 466-8059.

Night Scene Seen

By Bob Matthews

Change with the times is one measure of success, and The Garrison Lounge stays in the forefront of clubs trying [illegible]

The big dining room, which had become some what of an institution, albeit a white elephant, is no more. That room is now closed, but food is still one of the biggest items at the lounge.

The back dining room has been redone, with multi-colored table cloths and other niceties, and the menu has undergone a drastic overhaul.

Lounge manager Persis Butler says they are going the fast food route with a bit of a difference — this can be classed as quality fast food.

Service is still available — food that is — at the bar, and the 2-4-2 and the rest of the frills remain intact. Was anxious to find out whether those gorgeous crab cakes were still available — they are.

Asked Perty what upcoming events were scheduled, and she asked me to point out that Tonie Ricks has now been working at the lounge for one year.

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Can't help but wonder why one club would hold an affair at another club, but it is happening. Tiger Lil, who operates the (Chez Janel) over on Orleans St., is sponsoring a farewell cocktail slip for Jody Myers, well known vocalist about town.

But here's the kicker — the affair will be held at the Personality Club over on Harford Rd. Danny Brown and The Dynamics will be on hand to provide live music, and it all happens Sunday, August 30, at cocktail time.

Oh yes, it's being held at the Personality Club, because there is more room there— makes sense.

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The barmaids at Bob Dockins S.S.B.B.D. Club are holding a breakfast show Sunday from 8 a.m. 'til 12 noon. They call themselves the Ladies of Distinction and will be presenting live music plus disco during the breaks.

On hand will be Maurice Dow, guitar; Mickey Fields, tenor sax; Boby Ward, drums; Lionel Jenkins, keyboards, and Mabel Smith, vocals.

The 20 Grand out on Bowley's Lane has a live jazz night each Wednesday presented by vocalist Ruby Glover. On hand are Harold White, drums; Tom Williams, trumpet; Lee Hawthorne, piano; Mark Russell, bass, and Ellery Eskelin, tenor sax.

At The Sportsmen's Lounge,) vocalist Bill Harris will hod down the stage for the Fri.-Sat. night sets. O'Donnel Levy has the Sunday night gig.

For the Saturday afternoon jazz jam, Mickey Fields will head up a group of sit-in musicians.

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To the immense credit of the Dept. of Tourism, we can now tell you who will be with Herbie Mann as he plays the Pier Six concert Saturday night.

Herbie will, of course, be playing flute, along with Frank Gravis, bass; David Johnson, percussion, and Badal Roy, tablas and other percussive instruments.

Have also learned that the Oscar Peterson concert slated for Sept. 5 at the Pier Six facility, will be a solo performance, similar to the one he did at Shady Grove near D.C. and Painter's Mill a couple years ago.

Pete really gets a chance to stretch out during his solo sessions— it will be a goodie!

Top Hits

Albums	Singles
1. Street Songs — Rick James	1. Endless Love — Diana Ross & Lionel Richie
2. It Must Be Magic — Teena Marie	2. She's A Mama Jama — Earth, Wind & Fire
3. Dimples — Richard Dimples Fields	3. Square Biz — Teena Marie
4. I'm In Love — Evelyn King	4. I'm In Love — Evelyn King
5. In The Pocket — The Commodores	5. Lady — The Commodores