Historic Photographs

Legislators

1870

1982

YESTERDAY — THE FIRST BLACK LEGISLATORS ever in America - Members of the 41st and 42nd Congress, Senator Hiram R. Revels, Miss.; Senator Blanche K. Bruce, Miss.; Cong. Joseph H. Rainey, SC; Cong. Jefferson F. Long, GA; Cong. Benjamin S. Turner, AL; Robert C. DeLarge, SC; Cong. Robert B. Elliott, SC.

TODAY — Del. Frank M. Conaway, head of the largest number of black state legislators in the nation and Mrs. Conaway; Congressman Parren J. Mitchell, Maryland's first black congressman; Mrs. Saundra Banks, first clerk of the Court of Common Pleas in Maryland and in the nation; U.S. Senator and Mrs. Paul Sarbanes.

HISTORIC OCCASION, the Feb. 24, 1982 Maryland legislators' affair included salutes from the state's elite. The Caucus includes Del. John Douglass, Sen. Robert Douglass, Sen. Clarence Blount, Del. Nathaniel Exum, Del. Walter Dean, Sen. Tommis Broadwater, Del. Larry Young, Del. Wendell Phillips, Sen. Clarence M. Mitchell III, Del. Margaret Murphy, Del. Frank Conaway, Del. Christine Jones, Del. Pattie Harrison, Del. Pete Rawlings and Del. Joseph Chester. NOT SHOWN are Dels. Lena Lee, Isaiah Dixon, Troy Brailey, Sen. Verda Welcome and Sen. Louise Murphy and Del. Sylvania Woods who are in another photo below.

TOP SHELF GUESTS — Deputy Police Commissioner Bishop Robinson, Atty. Leronia Josey, Atty. Joyce Ellis, Sen. Clarence M. Mitchell, Ocean City Mayor Harry W. Kelley, Mrs. Rachel DeFord, Annapolis Mayor and Mrs. Hillman, Mrs. Trudy McDowell, Judge James A. Parrott, Arrie Davis.

RYALES PHOTO

Mr. and Mrs. John Kilby, Fisk U Alumnus; City Councilman Norman Reeves and son Norman III; Sen. Rosalie Abrams and Michael Callis, chairman, Washington County Demo Central Committee; Del. and Mrs. Exus and NAACP prexy Enolia McMillan.

RYALES PHOTO

Jeff Snodgrass and father Brent Snodgrass, Bethlehem Steel execs; Lt. Col. Michael Lorenzo; Del. Chester and Mrs. Chester, Mrs. Elizabeth Reed, William Chester, son and daughter, India and son-in-law, Hiawatha Watkins, Del. Sylvania Woods and June Potter.

Newlyweds Mr. and Mrs. Otis B. Hooper exchanged vows in Catonsville, MD. Feb. 27. RYALES PHOTO

Great Grandaughter of S.C. legislator weds retired Social Security executive

By Elizabeth M. Oliver
City Editor

Speaking of history, Mrs. Bettye McCullough Posey, a Rock Hill, SC school teacher was married here in Catonsville, a suburb of Baltimore, Feb. 27 to Otis B. Hooper, a retired Social Security administrator.

The new Mrs. Hooper is the great - grand-daughter of Glasco McCullough who was the first South Carolina state legislator after the Civil War. Her illustrious family also records its history back to Africa.

The double ring rites took place at Morning Star Baptist Church on Winters Lane in Catonsville with the pastor, Rev. Jentry E. McDonald reading the vows.

The bridegroom, Mr. Hooper, is a Morning Star Church deacon and president of the Hoop-A Bookkeeping Service at Lexington and Amity Streets in Baltimore.

Following the brief, private ceremonies attended by their children of former marriages, the newlyweds were the dinner guests of Rev. Mr. and Mrs. McDonald.

The new Mrs. Hooper returns next week to her 5th grade classroom in Rock Hill. At the end of the school year, the couple will be at home in their Catonsville ranch home.

Among wedding guests were Mr. and Mrs. B. T. Bohannon Winston-Salem, NC; Derick Posey, the bride's son, Rock Hill; Mrs. Beryl Johnson and Lakeisha Johnson, Mr. Hooper's daughter and granddaughter; Mr. Hooper's son, Otis, neighbors and church members.

Mrs. Hooper's great-grandfather served in the South Carolina legislature during Reconstruction. He was the son of a blacksmith who purchased his freedom.

The bride's parents are Thomas Jefferson McCullough and Mrs. Ora Lee Thorne McCullough of Rock Hill.

The new Mrs. Cooper is a member of the Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority.

Howard Co. mother held without bond pending psychiatric hearing

Columbia - A mother accused of drowning her young son in a bathtub and setting his body afire in her apartment is being held without bond pending a psychiatric evaluation, court records show.

"I tried to kill myself and my son," Beverly A. Pouncey, 26, told District Judge Raymond Kane in Howard County during a bail review hearing earlier this week.

"...People kept telling me, suicide was the best way out," she is reported as saying.

Kane tried to silence Ms. Pouncey before she blurted out her alleged intention to kill herself. The woman did not elaborate.

Kane told the woman his only task was to determine whether she should be held without bond. The judge ordered her held without bond pending a psychiatric examination.

Ms. Pouncey was charged Sunday with first degree murder and arson in the death of her son, William T. Pouncey, 5. The State Medical Examiner's office said Monday the boy apparently drowned in a bathtub of his mother's apartment before his body was placed atop a kitchen stove.

"It looks like she tried to burn down the apartment, but everything would be speculative at this point," Sheldon Greenberg, a police spokesman, said. "The fire started in the kitchen, but we don't know just where in the kitchen."

Police said they were called to the scene early Sunday, Feb. 28, after Ms. Pouncey called to report the fire and the death of her son.

Randy Roby, a police spokesman, said officers arrived at the nine-floor high rise in the Joseph Square area of Columbia and found smoke pouring from under the door to Ms. Pouncey's apartment.

Officers broke down the door, found Ms. Pouncey and evacuated the building. Firefighters found the boy's body in the kitchen after they extinguished the two-alarm fire. UPI

Convicted murderer indicted in W. Baltimore blazes

A city grand jury Tuesday indicted a convicted murderer for arson stemming from fires at four vacant buildings that were part of a string of suspicious blazes that terrorized a city neighborhood in January.

The four separate indictments were returned against Eugene Rozzell Jr., 30, who was arrested last month for deliberately setting the fires.

Rozzell was free on parole from a life sentence for a 1967 first-degree murder conviction at the time of his arrest, and is now being held in city jail.

During a four-day period at the end of January, a rash of 17 fires struck the west Baltimore area of Franklin Square. No one was injured in the blazes, most of which were set in vacant row houses.

"They were all vacant buildings, but they were attached to row houses that were inhabited," said one prosecutor. "It was a threat to the lives of inhabitants in the area."

Baltimore man accused of $9,000 welfare fraud

A 34-year-old Baltimore man has been accused of defrauding the welfare system of more than $9,000 and a food stamp violation, the assistant State's Attorney said.

Porter Williams is charged with four counts of forgery and one count of attempted theft and one count of theft, Timothy D. Murphy, assistant state's attorney said. An arraignment hearing has been scheduled for Wednesday, March 10.

Murphy said to date Williams is alleged to have received a total of $7,062 in cashed checks and $2,088 in uncashed checks. In addition Murphy said Williams has received several thousand dollars in food stamps.

The State's Attorney office has recommended Williams bail be set at $35,000. At AFRO presstime, Williams was held at the Baltimore City Jail.

Murphy said Williams is charged with defrauding the system from July 1979 through December 1981, when he allegedly received benefits from the Department of Social Services through "misrepresentation."

Williams began applying for a six-month benefit program in 1979, which entitled him to receive $116 per check on the 10th of each month, Murphy said.

Williams is accused of filing under his name and seven other fictitious names and different addresses, he said.

When the benefits ran out, Murphy said Williams would re-apply under a different name and address and also has applied for benefits during the same period using four different names.

"This is a particularly flagrant violation," Murphy said. "But (it is) a good case for the state to pursue. We can show the craftiest welfare cheaters that we are on the job."

William A. Swisher, State's Attorney, said Williams allegedly obtained disability forms illegally, filled them out and forged a physician's signature to obtain benefits.

Williams then fraudulently signed checks subsequently issued by the city department of Social Services, Swisher said.

The investigation was a joint effort by the Major Frauds Unit of the State's Attorney Office and the Special Investigations Division of the Social Services Department.

Lou Brandt, social services investigation handling the case, told the AFRO the investigation has not been completed.

Brandt said the investigation began in late 1981 when the agency worker found certain "irregularities in the case. The eligibility technician, who processes applications also found some similarities which aroused curiosity," Brandt said.

He said on several forms filed, the original address was changed to the same address, a Cliftview address.

If Williams is convicted on all six counts, he would face a maximum prison term of 65 years, Swisher said.

MTA 'busnapper' corralled by police after chase

City Police believe they have apprehended a busnapper.

An officer, said the theft of two Mass Transit Administration buses - both stolen the same night - may be a first.

"This is the first time I can recall a city bus being stolen, much less two in one night," Officer Ronald Savage said earlier this week. "This is my first arrest for this in 14 years on the force."

In a second heist, Savage and his partner saw a juvenile driving the vehicle erratically. The juvenile ran a traffic light and would not pull over.

"When he finally did stop, he bailed out of the bus and after a short chase, we caught him," Savage said.

The juvenile was arrested about two miles from a MTA parking lot where the bus was taken from.

In the other incident, police found a bus abandoned near at least two parked cars the bus smashed into, Savage said. Authorities said the juvenile matches a description of the person driving that bus.

The juvenile was charged with unauthorized use of a vehicle and driving without a license.

"Driving without a license is a $250 fine," Savage said. "I gave him a ticket for that and he didn't like it. He was mad about that."

The officer praised the suspects driving skill, but questioned his taste.

"He was doing pretty good. But who would want an MTA bus? I'd be scared to drive one of those things," Savage said. UPI

Youth Program marks its 10th anniversary

The board of directors of the St. James Community Services Ventures, Inc., a youth development program operated under the Baltimore City Urban Services Agency, will celebrate its 10th anniversary March 9.

The Rev. Donald O. Wilson, pastor of the St. James Episcopal Church will receive the mayor's citation for his dedicated service as chairman of the board since its inception.

More than 100 guests are expected to attend the anniversary at St. James Guild Hall, 829 North Arlington Avenue, until 2:30 p.m.

Formerly run by the old Model Cities Agency, St. James assumed responsibility for its operation in 1972, and has subsequently increased its services to inner-city youth through a wide range of meaningful activities. Dr. Lenwood M. Ivey, executive director, and Mrs. Elva J. Edwards, associate executive director, Urban Services Agency will be the speakers.

Ms. Josephine Davis, a graduate of the St. James Youth Development Program will speak on the benefits of the program and how it has helped her become successful. Other speakers will include Ms. Martha Tate, center director, region F; Dale Dixon, center director, region G; and Gordon Ayers, director of the Bronze Eagles Cadets Program.

Brief remarks will be made by Carlene Henry, education specialist; Alice Ebb, coordinator, for criminal justice; and Wendell Sutton, job preparation coordinator. An overview and final remarks will be spoken by Cleveland Brister, director of the entire program.

Refreshments will be served following the conclusion of the ceremonies.

State to receive more free cheese

Maryland will receive another 800,000 pounds of surplus government cheese by next month, a state official said Wednesday.

Ken Shifflett, head of Food Distribution for the State Department of Education, said the shipment will be Maryland's portion of 70 million pounds of surplus cheese that will be released nationwide.

Shifflett said he hopes the cheese will be delivered the last week in March or the first week in April.

In January, Maryland received 558,000 pounds of cheese, its share of 30 million pounds distributed across the United States.

Many of the same needy families that received cheese free of charge in January, will receive more cheese this time, Shifflett said. - UPI

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