Son of a sharecropper, once a shoeshine boy, now a Maryland state senator

Sen. Troy Brailey is first South Carolinian to become a MD legislator since Reconstruction

No. 1 in a series of profiles on our lawmakers

By Elizabeth M. Oliver
City Editor

NOTE: This is the first in a series of profiles on our legislators in the Senate and House of Delegates in the 378th Maryland General Assembly which opened in Annapolis Jan. 12 and closes the 90 - day session April.

State Senator Troy Brailey of Baltimore is the first black South Carolinian to become elected to a state legislature since Reconstruction.

He first served in the Maryland House of Delegates 16 years. He was elected in 1966, served until he was sworn into the Maryland Senate Jan. 12 1983.

Born in Lynchburgh, S.C., he is the son of James Brailey, a blacksmith and Addie Davis Brailey, a school teacher. However, in those days it was necessary to do other things to make ends meet.

The elder Brailey also ran a bailing press in a cotton gin and, along with his six children, did sharecropping.

Senator Brailey today, inspite of his important position as a Maryland lawmaker in the highest house, is not hesitant to say he is the son of a sharecropper.

Unusual circumstances caused Sen. Brailey to come to Baltimore.

Here briefly is the story which led him eventually to the State House in Annapolis.

Troy decided against his mother's wishes to leave home at an early age.

The reason for his departure stemmed from the attempt of a white banker who tried to accused him of altering the amount of a check and threatened him with being put on the chain gang. It was later discovered - that the banker's son had altered the check.

Before leaving, Troy promised his parents that he would not get into trouble, continue in church and make something of himself.

WALKED TO BALTIMORE

Brailey left South Carolina in the 1930s with 15 cents in his pocket.

He and a friend left for Baltimore on foot. They hitched a ride whenever a passing motorist opened his heart and his vehicle door. They begged food and slept in cotton fields. Troy recalls one night when they were sleeping in a field, it rained as never before.

SHOESHINE BOY

When Brailey arrived in Baltimore, the pickings were slim. He worked as a shoeshine boy, pants presser and waiter before railroading changed his life.

He became a Pullman porter and in 1941 joined the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters. Very quickly he became president of the Baltimore Division of the Brotherhood and the youngest president of the nation.

A. Phillip Randolph, founder and international president of the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters, noted Brailey's leadership ability. He took young Brailey under his wing and adopted him.

Troy learned the winning ways and strengths of organized labor and the social activism of Mr. Randolph, who was a model of dignified insistence on black rights.

ELECTED IN 1966

Brailey has continued in the Randolph mold, heart and soul for his people and ever ready to go to bat for his people.

He was elected to the House of Delegates in 1966.

In 1971 when Brailey was chosen vice - chairman and later interim chairman of the Baltimore City's 43 member House Delegation, he became the first black person ever named to a leadership position in the House or the Senate.

LEADERSHIP

In 1941, Brailey was one of the leaders of the proposed March on Washington, which led to the issuance of Executive Order 8802 by President Franklin D. Roosevelt, thus, establishing the Fair Employment Practices Commission.

In 1957, he was one of the coordinators of the Prayer Pilgrimage to Washington.

In 1958 and 1959, he was Maryland's Chairman of the Youth March to Washington. He also served as state chairman and organizer for the 1963 historic march on Washington.

BRAILEY SCHOLARSHIP

Troy has helped many young people in Baltimore to further their education. He has established a Troy Brailey Scholarship Fund for needy students in Lynchburg, his home town.

MANY DOORS OPENED

He was also responsible for the first black man employed by one of the local daily newspapers; the first black assistant Superintendent of state schools; the first black assistant director of the Baltimore Civic Center;

One of the first black newscasters on a local television station; the first black man in personnel at Western Union;

Frank Robinson's coming to the Baltimore Orioles; and, the first black ushers, ticket - takers and office personnel at Memorial Stadium.

He was also responsible for the first black professional football player being employed in the front office of a National Football League Club, the first black man employed in personnel at Commercial Credit Corp;

The black personnel in the sales division of Lucas Brothers Inc.; the first black manager at Big Valu Supermarkets.

Troy was responsible for the black fire fighters being admitted to the union and the first black officer in the Baltimore Fire Department.

Brailey was the first black to criticize blacks who thought they had it made for mistreating less fortunate blacks.

He is noted for going around in old clothes checking on conditions affecting the poor.

LABOR LEADER

Brailey works with all disenfranchised workers, including the employees at the Maryland Workshop for the Blind.

He has won hundreds of dollars in back pay for fired black workers, and got them reinstated to their jobs.

Troy was instrumental in getting a $550,000 annual raise for public school cafeteria workers in 1965.

Troy Brailey works for interracial harmony.

In 1972 through 1980, he promoted Award Dinners for "persons who have done the most to bring about better relationships between the races."

Troy sponsored the Bob Boyd Night in 1955, Lenny Moore Day in 1962, and Jim Parker Day in 1968.

The proceeds of $10,000 from the Parker Day were donated to the Provident Hospital Building Fund.

MINIMUM WAGE LAW

Since he has been in Annapolis, he has enacted the following important Bills:

Bill No. 560 covered 100,000 new workers under the minimum wage law.

Before the passing of this Bill, many Marylanders were earning as little as $.60 per hour.

Bill No. 330 amends the Maryland Merit System Law and grants suspended State employees the right of an appeal to the Commissioner of Personnel irespective of the period of suspension.

Under the law, employees could be suspended up to 15 working days without the right to appeal.

Bill No. 460 covers employees in non - profit institutions and organizations under the Maryland Workmen's Compensation Law.

Bill Mo. 516 raised the minimum wage for one million workers.

Bill No. 1079 makes it mandatory that meat used in hamburger shall be fresh beef.

Bill No. 692 granted all employees in Maryland time and one-half their hourly wage rate for hours worked in excess of forty hours during any week.

Bill No. 11 reduced bus fare for senior citizens from 30 cents to 15 cents.

AWARDS

Sen. Brailey is the recipient of the following awards: AFRO - AMERICAN Newspaper Award for superior service without thought of personal gain in 1964;

Outstanding Citizenship Award — Baltimore highest award in 1965;

Native Son Award presented by citizens of Lynchburgh, South Carolina, in 1966;

A. Phillip Randolph Award in 1966; Leadenhall Baptist Church 1970 Man of the Year Award;

Omega Psi Phi Fraternity Outstanding Citizen of the Year Award in 1972;

Doctor of Humane Letters from Virginia Seminary and College, Lynchburg, VA, in 1973;

Humanitarian Award from the Nuxi Alpha Chapter - Alpha Chi Pi Omega Sorority in 1973;

Legislator of the Year from Macedpnia Baptist church in 1974;

Recognition Award from the Baptist Pastors Conference of Baltimore in 1974; and, Recognition Award from the Mt. Holly Improvement Association in 1975; Man of the Year Award from the Inmates at the Maryland House of Corrections in 1975.

Brailey is a member of Leadenhall Baptist Church, the Metropolitan Baltimore Council AFL - CIO Unions, the NAACP.

He is vice president of the Afro - American Labor Council, Boy Scouts of America, Young Men's Christian Assoc., Prince Hall Masons, OIC Board of Directors, Baltimore Streetcar Museum and Salvation Army advisors boards.

He was member of the 1966 White House Conferences "To Fulfill These Rights" and founder and board chairman of the New Horizons Democratic Organization.

He and his wife, the former Chessie Granger, a cosmetologist, have two children, Mrs. Faye Torriente, a Yonkers, NY educator and Norman Brailey, a field representative for U.S. Senator Paul S. Sarbanes. Their grandson is Wilfred Torriente Jr., a New York high school student.

HIS CLUB

Officers and members of Brailey's New Horizons Democratic Organization are:

Mr. and Mrs. Chris Dyer, Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Moore, Mr. and Mrs. Steven Wainwright, Mr. and Mrs. Nathaniel DeVoe, Mr. and Mrs. Nathaniel Freeman, Mesdames Ann White, Enga Perry, June Thorne, Cecelia Kyles, Olobisi James, Carrie Nichols, Diane Nichols, Evelyn Glenn, Catherine Davis, Sheila Mack Adam, Hattie White, Nancy Davis, Eva Mitchell, Emma Jean Love, Chessie Brailey, Messers Lawrence Smith, Charles Jeter, Earl Brown, Joseph Shipman, Richard Green, Norman Brailey.

SENATOR TROY BRAILEY is sworn in by Senate President Melvin A. Steinberg. Brailey first elected in 1966 was a member of the House of Delegates 16 years.

FAMILY — The Braileys include daughter, Mrs. Faye Torriente; wife, Mrs. Chessie Brailey; son, Norman and grandson, Wilfred Torriente Jr.

GUESTS — Dr. and Mrs. Eddie R. Wilson of Leadenhall Baptist Church; Dr. and Mrs. Calvin P. Crosson of John Wesley United Methodist Church and William D. Parrish, International Longshoremen's administrator.

MORE GUESTS in the receiving line at the Senate Building reception — Chrystal Dyer, Tracie McKenzie, Thelma Gilmore, Reginald West, Bernard Goins, Elizabeth Goins, Ruth White, Katherine Moore, Richard Moore, Richard Green, Joseph Shipman, Ida Russell, Emma Jean Love.

SURPRISE RECEPTION in the Presidential Suite by the New Horizons Demos — Cris Dyer, Roslyn Dyer, Nathanie DeVoe, Lawrence Smith, Ann White, Eva Mitchell, Emma Jean Love, Addie Hughlette, Elizabeth Caldwell, Norman Brailey, Erma Perry, Evelyn Glenn, Carolyn Wainwright, Helen DeVoe, Stephen Wainwright, Katherine Davis, Thelma Gilmor.

SPORTS AFRO STATS

Basketball

Howard 69, SC State 66 (OT)
Fla. A - M 79, Md., E. Shore 74
Hampton 90, Va. State 71
Delaware St. 68, A and T 67
Norfolk St. 79, J. C. Smith 77
Central St. 69, Gannon 65 (OT)
Knoxville 75, Miles 74
West Ga. 107, Morehouse 98
Ark - Pine Bluff 52, Mo. Lincoln 46
Ky. Wesleyan 70, Ky. State 31
Tenn. State 72, Jackson St. 58
[illegible] 54
Armstrong St. 80, Edw. Waters 79
Auburn - Mont. 114, Talladega 63
Alcorn 63, Miss. Valley 56
Nicholls St. 72, Grambling 59
Southern 82, Dillard 80
Bishop 94, Jarvis 87

College scores

THURSDAY
J. C. Smith at Norfolk St.
SC State at Ga. Tech.
T. Southern at Tex. - Arlington

Women
J. C. Smith at St. Aug.

FRIDAY
Mt. St. Mary's tournament
West Ga. at Clark

Women
Bowie St. at Eliz. City
UDC at Randolph Macon

SATURDAY
Morgan at UMBC
Delaware St. at Howard
Mt. St. Mary's tournament
Norfolk St. at Va. state
Cleveland St. at Md., E. Shore
Hampton at St. Paul's
J. C. Smith at Livingstone
A and T at Bethune
SC state At Fla. A-M
Savannah St. at Clark
Dillard at Xavier

Women
Delaware St. at Howard
SC State at Fla. A-M
Savannah St. at Clark
Jackson St. at Tex Southern
Dillard at Xavier

SUNDAY
Men
Livingstone at J. C. Smith

MONDAY
Men
UDC at Va. State
Howard at Md., E. Shore
A and T at Fla. A-M
SC State at Bethune
Xavier at Belhaven

Women
SC State At Bethune
Xavier at Belhaven
Miss. Valley at T. Southern
Hampton 97, NC Central 94
A and T 67, Tenn. State 58
Long Island 71, Howard 70 (women)
Knoxville 106, Morris Brown 94
Ala. State 90, Bethune 65
Newberry 56, Edw. Waters 52
Birmingham - Southern 104, Talladega 65
Paine 85, Voorhees 62
Miles 74, Montevallo 71

'Super' playoffs

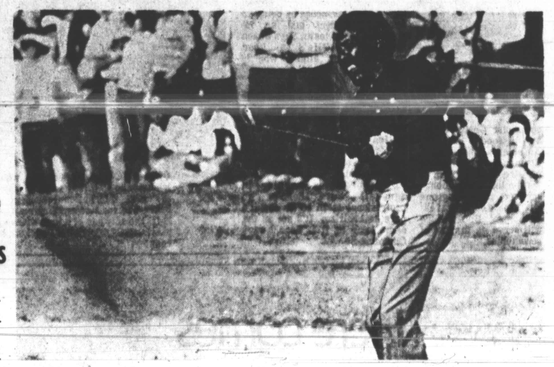
SATURDAY
Minnesota at Washington, 12:30
N. Y. Jets at L. A. Raiders, 4 p.m.

SUNDAY
San Diego at Miami, 12:30
Green Bay at Dallas, 4 p.m.

MINNEAPOLIS — Ted Brown dashed off left end for a 5 - yard touchdown with 1:44 left Sunday to rally the Minnesota Vikings to a 30 - 24 triumph over the punchless Atlanta Falcons.

Atlanta's last chance fizzled when Minnesota's John Turner notched his second interception of the game and returned the ball 8 yards to midfield with 57 seconds remaining.

HOW SWEET IT IS — Head coach John Thompson and his assistant raise their arms in jubilation as a subdued crowd peers dejectedly in background at Carrier Dome in Syracuse. Mixed emotions followed Georgetown's 97-92 Big East victory, first in conference play.



HE'S TRYING AGAIN — Blowing a 2 - stroke, final - round lead at Tucson (Ariz.) last week as result of this unusual (for him) kind of mistake, Peete is at Palm Springs for the second tournament of the pro golf tour. Two consecutive bogeys closed out the final round for Calvin and cost him the first prize of $54,000. His share was a little over $13,000.

Marichal elected to 'Hall'

Right - Handed Pitcher Juan Marichal and slick - fielding Third Baseman Brooks Robinson became the newest members of baseball's Hall of Fame.

Marichal, one of baseball's best pitchers during his prime years with the San Francisco giants, missed by only seven votes being elected last year. The Dominican right - hander rivaled Sandy Koufax of the Los Angeles Dodgers as a star pitcher in the mid 1960s and finished a 16 - year major - league career with the Giants, Boston Red Sox and Dodgers with a 243 - 142 won- lost record for a .631 percentage.

Marichal was a 20 - game winner six times, with best records of 25-8 in 1963, 25 - 6 in 1968 and 26 - 9 in 1966. He also pitched a no - hitter in 1965, had an earned run average under 3.00 nine times and a 2.89 lifetime era.

The high - kicking right hander also was involved in one of baseball's most bizarre incidents. In 1965 he was suspended for nine days and fined $1,750 later that year when he struck catcher John Roseboro of the Los Angeles Dodgers with a bat.

JUAN MARICHAL, high kicking righthanded pitcher, was elected to baseball's Hall of Fame Wednesday by the Baseball Writers Association of America. Photo shows Marichal when he was pitching for the San Francisco Giants in the 1965 All Star Game in Minnesota. Brooks Robinson, former Baltimore Oriole infielder, also was voted into the Hall. (UPI Photo)

Robinson, who starred for the Baltimore Orioles from 1960 - 77, won in his first year of eligibility and became only the sixth third baseman to be selected to the hall of fame, which was founded in 1936. During his illustrious career, Robinsin won 16 gold glove awards and also collected 2,848 hits, 1,357 RBI and 268 home runs.

He was the most valuable player in the American League in 1964, the MVP of the all - star game in 1966 and the 1964, the MVP of the all-series.

Black colleges call new rules racist, NCAA issues denial

SAN DIEGO (UPI) — The executive director of the NCAA has denied reports that mostly black colleges were angered by new rules requiring higher academic standards for student - athletes.

"Since yesterday I have talked to six or seven leaders of predominately black institutions and none of them has said anything to me," Walter Byers said after the NCAA convention adjourned Wednesday.

"The decisions made on the floor were made by the delegates," Byers said. "There was a full exchange of views. It was conducted in a most orderly manner and I don't know anything about relationships that have been breached."

Byers said he knew more black conventioneers than the reporters did and said he did not sense "friction and animosity."

Black educators Tuesday told reporters in the lobby of the San Diego Convention Hall where the NCAA annual convention was held this week that they would consider pulling their schools out of the NCAA.

The proposals, which were passed easily and which will take effect in 1986, require high school students to score a 700 on the SAT college entrance exam and carry a "C" average in academic basics, such as English and Science.

Critics said the stricter scholarship requirements would hurt athletes at low income schools, mostly black, because the quality of education available might not be good enough to equip them to score 700 on the SAT and survive college courses. The highest score on the SAT, a two - part test of verbal and math skills, is 1,600.

NBA weekend

SCHEDULE
Thursday
Cleveland at Milwaukee
Seattle at Phoenix

Friday
New Jersey at Boston
Golden State at Washington
New York at Atlanta
Philadelphia at Detroit
Chicago at Indiana
Denver at Dallas
Houston at San Antonio
Kansas City at San Diego
Portland at Seattle

Saturday
New York at New Jersey
Indiana at Philadelphia
Los Angeles at Atlanta
Boston at Cleveland
Milwaukee at Chicago
Denver at Houston
Washington at San Antonio
Dallas at Utah
San Diego at Phoenix
Kansas City at Portland

Sunday
Golden State at Milwaukee
Utah at San Diego
Kansas City at Seattle

Monday
Atlanta at New Jersey
Chicago at New York

Walton to coach in USFL

Former NFL quarterback John Walton, who has been a CIAA coach in North Carolina the last three years, has decided to give playing another shot with the USFL's Boston Brokers.

Walton, a coach of the Vikings at Elizabeth City State College since 1985, last played professionally with the Philadelphia Eagles through 1980.

He spent five years with the Eagles, at first working behind Roman Gabriel, the Breakers' offensive coordinator. In addition, former Philadelphia assistant coach Dick Coury is the Breakers' head coach and general manager.

Walton began his pro career with the Los Angeles Rams and also did a stint in the old World Football League, leading the circuit in several passing categories in the mid 1970s.

John Walton exits Vikings

Marauders cite Baltimoreans

Two local youngsters - Alvin Street and Robert Peacock - have been honored for outstanding play with the Central State University football team.

Street is a 185 - pound freshman running back from Mervo. Peacock, a 250 - pound offensive tackle, is a product of Northwestern High.

Sophomore quarterback James Woody played high school ball at Ballou in Washington.

BATTLE OF BIGGIES — Seven-foot Patrick Ewing (33) of Georgetown and 6-11 Andre Hawkins of Syracuse (53) wage typical under - the - board battle during play in Monday night's Big East basketball game before record Syracuse crowd (31,591). Ewing and Hoyas defeated the Orange, 97-92.

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