If You Ask Me

By Bettye Moss

Hats off!

We thought the voice said, "Gas Man," but when we opened the door there stood an attractive young woman wearing a Gas and Electric meter reader uniform.

She has been reading meters in the northwest Baltimore neighborhood for five months. Her name is Miss Alice Burley.

She is 29, and a graduate of Coppin State College. Until she took her G and E job, she was working on her master's degree at Morgan State University.

Her career goal—to complete her graduate studies and to work up to an administrative post in the G and E drafting department.

Hats off to Miss Alice Burley.

Cuff notes: Miss Burley was such a pleasant person when she rang our bell early one morning last month, we called her supervisor, Tom Walsh, to tell him.

He confirmed that she is a very personable and capable employee.

Miss Burley resides in northwest Baltimore, and lives with her mom. Mrs. Brenda Burley, senior leader with the city recreation department. The family attends St. Peter Claver Catholic Church.

METER READER is Miss Alice Burley gets Hats Off salute See If You Ask Me.

Hats off to Alice Burley.

Please write this column when you observe or hear of others who stand out. Help us prove that people will take time to praise others when they do well.

Vic Adams

Blessings on longtime City Councilwoman Victorine Q. Adams. This week, she retired after 16 years as representative from the Fourth District. Baltimore today is not a bit like it was back in 1967 when she left her post as delegate in the State Legislature to serve her city:

Remember, Thomas D'Alesandro 3rd was mayor at the time. William Donald Schaefer, now mayor of the city, was president of the City Council. Bon Douglass represented the 2nd District, and there were whites only in the 5th.

Other 4th District representatives when she began service were Henry G. Parks and the late Dr. Emerson Julian. First bill Vic introduced in Council was to legislate against indecent exposure. Her last measure backed the Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard in downtown Baltimore.

Even though subtle racism and discrimination in employment are still headaches in Baltimore 1983, our city today is vastly different from the jim crow town it was 16 years ago when Vic Adams left the schoolroom to assume office.

In her public career Victorine Adams has been a reliable, dedicated and earnest public servant—whose door has been open to all. She has shown the same kind of compassion for people's problems, no matter their station in life.

We remember the early days when she helped to organize women. Womanpower Inc. is one of the organizations she assisted in creating—and her efforts to involve women in all aspects of community life. It is true that Vic Adams has paid her dues to her native Baltimore. She has been a good and faithful servant.

And get this—even though she is retiring, she already has in the mail her annual Yule cards with a note on behalf of her favorite charity—the Baltimore Fuel Fund, Inc.

Tax deductible funds to this charity help poor people keep warm in winter. Say "thank you" to Vic Adams by giving to her pet charity. Send your contributions to Baltimore Fuel Funds, Inc., P.O. Box 1096, Baltimore, Md., 21203.

As Vic says in her Christmas greeting, "Remember your blessings and continue to share them...."

About people

On the mend—Janet Woolridge, the retired teacher, is still confined to home with that leg she injured while travelling abroad.

Thinking-of-you cards, please, to Mrs. Bernice Chatmon, who has been ailing for a spell...and glad-you're-better hellos to G. Luther Washington.

AFRO sports editor has eye surgery next week at a D.C. hospital.

Gerard Moore is the name of the Coppin State College senior who was appointed last month by Gov. Hughes to be student representative on the Board of Trustees of State Universities and Colleges.

Moore is an honor student at Coppin, where he is majoring in math, with a minor in computer science. He has played a leadership role in a number of campus organizations.

Sympathy cards to the family of Ms. Beatrice Taylor, 21, She was the Reisterstown Plaza department store employee who was found slain on a Liberty Heights church lawn.

Last rites were Friday, (Dec. 9) at Greater Refuge Temple Church of Christ on Frederick Ave, where she was a lifetime member. The Eulogy remembered her as "a loving, kind and unselfish person."

The deceased was an 1980 grad of Polytechnic, and studied at Northampton Community College in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania.

Survivors: Her mother, Mrs. Ethel Taylor; brothers, James and Linwood Taylor Jr., sisters, Ruby and Teresa Taylor; and daughter Tiffany; foster brother, David Hill; and godmother, Mrs. Delores Hill

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— AREA OBITUARIES —

Ellwood Beane

Services for Ellwood Beane were held Nov. 30 in the Chapel of the William C. March Funeral Home, Inc. Burial was in Arbutus Memorial Park.

Born in Lancaster County, Virginia on Aug. 29, 1928. He attended Baltimore public schools and was employed by Cloverland Farms Dairy for more than 20 years. Mr. Beane distinguished himself by being awarded for perfect attendance despite longstanding problems with asthma.

He is survived by his mother, Ruby.

Mrs. Betty L. Ware

Services for Mrs. Betty L. Ware were held in the ChaPel of the William C. March Funeral Home Nov. 28. Burial was held in St. AlPhonsus Cemetery. Mrs. Ware died Nov. 24 after a brief illness.

Mrs. Ware, a graduate of the Maryland Training Center for IBM Keypunch, worked for The Marriott Corporation for 16 years and was also the owner and operator of a dry cleaner business for many years.

She is survived by her four children, Anthony, Myra, Colleen and Ronald; and her husband, Berlin Ware.

John Jeffers Collins

John Jeffers Collins died Nov. 23. Born on Sept. 19, 1918 in Roxboro, N.C. and he was employed at Eastern Stainless Steel and served in the U.S. Army from 1941 to 1944.

After moving to Baltimore, Mr. Collins joined the Gospel Tabernacle Baptist Church and became a member of the Board of Trustees until his death.

Mr. Collins is survived by his wife, Ruth.

Services were held Nov. 29 at Gospel Tabernacle Baptist Church. Burial was in Arbutus Memorial Park.

John Eric Robinson

Born on Feb. 16, 1959, John Eric Robinson died Nov. 23. Mr. Robinson attended Baltimore City public schools. He is survived by two daughters, Nikia and Sherry; and a son, Tyree.

Services were held Nov. 29 in the Chapel of the William C. March Funeral Home, Inc. Burial was in Mount Auburn Cemetery.

Sadie Watton Yette

Funeral services were held at Zion Baptist Church for Sadie Walton Yette, wife of former journalist and Howard University professor Samuel Yette.

Burial will be Saturday in Eutaw, Ala.

A media specialist at Rolling Terrace Elementary School in Silver Spring, Mrs. Yette died Monday from head and chest injuries suffered in an automobile accident last Saturday in Riverdale, Md. She was 49.

According to reports, the Yettes were on their way to a faculty dinner in Riverdale when the accident occurred at Riverdale Road and Mustang Drive. Yette, who is the author of "The Choice" was hospitalized at Prince George's General Hospital with abrasions and lacerations.

He is listed in fair condition at presstime.

A native of Eutaw, Ala., Mrs. Yette was the valedictorian in the 1952 graduating class at Greene County Training School. She received her bachelor's degree from Knoxville College and a master's degree in library science from the University of Maryland College Park in 1976.

Christmas
AT THE
Cathedral
Come and fellowship with the Doswell Cathedral Family in our Third Annual Christmas Candlelight Service
Sunday, December 18, 1983
7:30 P.M.
Doswell Cathedral
Church of God in Christ
520 Whitmore Avenue
Baltimore, Maryland
BISHOP J. I. DOSWELL, Pastor

St. James Episcopal Church
Arlington and Lafayette Aves.
(Lafayette Square)
The Reverend Donald O. Wilson, Rector
Dr. Robert T. Ford, Deacon
Maurice Murphy, organist — Choirmaster
8:00 A.M. — Holy Communion
9:00 A.M. — Church School-Family Service
11:00 A.M. — Holy Eucharist
The Public Is Cordially Invited To Attend All Services

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Showtime

IDA PETERS What's Happening

CELEBRITIES

Globetrotters humiliated

Three members of the Harlem Globetrotters basketball team, who were forced to lie spread-eagled on the ground and held at gunpoint by police who mistook them for robbers, say they were shaken by the incident.

"If somebody pointed a revolver at your head, you don't just shake that off", said Globetrotter Louis Dunbar, 30.

The players, who were Christmas shopping when the incident occurred in a downtown jewelry store Tuesday afternoon, were released after questioning.

Detective Neil Sharpe, who apologized to the players, explained that police became nervous when they entered the jewelry store. A jewelry shop in nearby Montecito had been robbed by three men.

Mr. Dunbar, Ovie Doison, 26, and Jimmy Blacklock, 35, were arrested as they prepared to take a taxi back to their hotel.

— —

A headline story in the New York Post, Dec. 1 alleges and headlines that Percy Sutton, 63, the former NYC Manhattan Borough President must take a paternity test.

The chairman of Inner City Broadcasting, which owns WLIB-AM and WBLS-FM is the defendant in a paternity suit brought by a woman who claims he fathered her daughter.

Manhattan Supreme Court Justice Richard Wallach issued a decision this week denying Sutton's motion to dismiss the suit on technical grounds and ordering the businessman to submit to blood test.

Wallach directed the court clerk to seal the file, so the only information made public on the case is contained in the decision, which identifies the plaintiffs as Laura O. Hunt and her daughter, "a young lady under the age of 18, Nicole Creola Hunt".

The decision states that their suit "seeks a judgement declaring the infant "to be lawful daughter of th defendant" and awarding other incidental relief including support".

Sutton is the youngest of 15 children himself. His son Pierre, 36, is president of Innes City and his daughter Cheryl, 30, runs a family venture capital business out of Inner City's offices.

To determine whether Sutton has a third child, Judge Wallach ordered him to submit to a "human leucocyte antigen blood tissue test" at the N.Y. Blood Center on East 67th St. within 25 days.

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Waymes Lonnie Reed, a trumpter who played with Count Basie's orchestra from 1960-1974, died of cancer in Nashville last week at the age of 43. Mr. Reed, who toured around the world with the Basie band before becoming a freelance musician in New York and Los Angeles, also had performed with the Mercer Ellington orchestra, the Thad Jones orchestra and Buddy Rich's band, and soloed with the Henry Mancini orchestra.

Roy Ayers and Anita Baker at Morgan Saturday

By Frederick I. Douglass

Roy Ayers, the vibraphonist whose disco oriented LP "Lots of Love" is rapidly bringing him back into the limelight on a nationwide basis and Anita Baker, the petite lady whose album "The Songstress" ranks among the best released in 1983, will be appearing in the Carl Murphy Fine Arts Center on Morgan State University's campus this Saturday night. There will be two shows; one at 8:00 p.m. and one at midnight.

Roy Ayers has become an increasingly controversial musician over the years because he first became known as a "Jazz vibist" and later switched up to play more danceable or disco oriented sounds. Ayers has been on the music scene for many moons and has recorded more than a score of albums included "Virgo Vibes," "Stoned Soul Picnic," and "Virgo Red." He has worked and recorded with the most outstanding musicians of the 1960's, 70's and 80's including Herbie Hancock, Joe Henderson, Ron Carter, Hubert Laws and Baltimore's best known saxophonist, Gary Barts.

Skilled vibes players are about as hard to find as chickens with lips and snakes with hips. Contemporary vibes players include Milt Jackson, Walt Dickerson, Bobby Hutcherson, Lionel Hampton and a few others that you can count on your fingers. The vibraphone or vibraharp is an electronic descendant of the xylophone, a percussion instrument consisting of wooden bars graduated in length so as to sound the notes of the scale when struck with small wooden hammers. While the xylophone has always played a major role in Latin and African music, the instrument has generally been relegated to a minor percussive role in symphonic orchestras because its relatively fragile sound is so easily overpowered by the roar of trumpets, trombones and saxophones.

Roy Ayers

Anita Baker

Then one day someone decided to build a xylophone out of metal instead of wood and to galvanize the instrument with electricity. VOILA! The vibraharp was born. Yet the vibraharp was still to be regarded as a novelty until such jazz musicians as Lionel Hampton began making serious noises on the instrument, playing his classic rendition of "How High the Moon."

Soon the vibraharp became known in jazz circles as the "vibes" and those who mastered the ax gained considerable respect among their peers. Why? Because the vibraharp is such a difficult instrument to play that only a handful of contemporary jazz artists have chosen it as their main music maker.

But when it comes to playing the the vibes, Roy does not put on airs. He gets right down to the real nitty-gritty, flailing his instrument with two, four, six and sometimes even eight sticks at a time. His attack is even more aggressive than that of most drummers as he pounds his electronic vibes unmercifully. His sound incorporates elements of all contemporary musical styles. While Ayers started out as a jazz musician, during the late 1960's and early 1970's, he began allowing other influences to color his music as he began drawing from Sly Stone, Earth, Wind & Fire and other more Top-40 oriented artists. Naturally, jazz purists began screaming "SELL-OUT!" but Roy knew what he wanted to do and paved the way for other artists like Herbie Hancock who did "Chameleon" in the 1970's and currently is tearing up the airwaves with "Rockit" and "Autodrive."

Interestingly, comparing Ayers' playing on "Lots of Love" with some of his older, more jazz-based recordings, clearly demonstrates that the man is playing many of the same phrases or riffs, but to a danceable beat instead of a jazz beat. My only complaint about this album is that I would like to hear Roy take more in-depth solos. The best cut on the LP is "Black Family," a song that talks about the need for Black unity and togetherness, a subject which we should discuss every day.

Anita Baker, who will be appearing Saturday night with Roy Ayers is relatively unknown, but a musical force to be reckoned with. The lady's voice is cello mellow, yet powerful. Her album "The Songstress" is the best Christmas present you could give a serious music lover.

Folks Sharing and Caring

V.I.M. (Very Important Men) a newly organized Investment group presented Mrs. Santa's helper Shawn Murray with $250. to help needy families. Above seated, Sherman Wilkins, Abraham Johnson and Benjamin Feaster. Standing Leon Grimes, vice - president; Rasul Kareem, secretary; Robert Neal, president and Frank Parker.

Photo by Vanessa Johnson

Dr. Linda Miles of Garwyn Medical Center helps Mrs. Santa with check for $50.

Photo by Vanessa Johnson

Robert G. Draine Sr. Polemarch and William R. Smith, chairman of the Charity Committee of Baltimore Alumnae Chapter of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity presents $200. to Mrs. Santa's helper, Mrs. Janice Stewart, AFRO Advertising Manager.

Photo by Vanessa Johnson

Michael A. Cassell, chairman of the board of the Real Estate Brokers of Baltimore Inc. presents a check for $150 to the AFRO's Mrs. Santa. This group is the largest local chapter of the National Association of Real Estate Brokers. Their annual Christmas party will be Dec. 19 at the Kappa House to benefit Mrs. Santa and the Westwood Community Center. Bernie Jackson is president.

.....more happenings

Around Town: The sixth mammoth Christmas Tree in Harlem will be lighted on Saturday, Dec. 17 at 4 p.m., in the plaza in front of the Adam Clayton Powell Jr. State Office Building, to be followed by a gala reception at Showman's Restaurant, 267 W. 125th St.... Magazine and radio personality Vy Higgenson Wydro expecting an heir in February... Harlem YMCA inaugurating its Sports Hall of Fame on Friday, Dec. 9, inducting basketball greats William "Pops" Gates and Robert "Bob" Wilson, and former featherweight champ Sandy Saddler... Herb Wright busy these days as he is getting construction underway for the Innis Francis Houses, located in the former Sugar Ray Robinson block from 123 to 124th Streets, on Adam Clayton Powell Blvd. The 232 unit project will contain 78 town houses, with occupancy expected by August of 1985... Hard-hitting Daily News columnist Earl Caldwell and Democratic political leader Mrs. Elsie Banks being honored at the 51st annual dinner-dance of the Boys of Yesteryear at the Holiday Inn.

BOB MATTHEWS ...Night Scene Seen

Keep hearing good and better reports about the Birdcage Lounge, which has rebounded with all horns blaring—and we're happy about the whole thing.

Got a call this week from one of our favorite people, Rosa Pryor, who just wanted to let us know that Nikki Cooper, along with Andy Ennis, Tom Hersey and Bobby Ward, will be appearing on Saturday afternoons at the Birdcage.

They'll be on from 4 until 8 p.m., which gives them enough time to make their evening gig at the Lighthouse Inn out on Frederick Rd.

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Live jazz is back at the Gentlemen Ten out on Edmondson Ave., where John Lamkin and his quartet are on tap each Sunday.

Unfortunately, they go on from 5 to 9 p.m., which makes it difficult for those who would like to catch both the Gentlemen Ten set and the Left Bank Jazz Society presentations, but then, LBJS will be on its annual holiday break following this Sunday's production.

—

On tap at the LBJS session this Sunday is saxist Arnold Sterling who will have a rhythm section consisting of Marc Cohen, piano; Larry Kinling, bass, and Tony Sweet, drums.

Naturally, a lot of the local musicians are expected to drop in, for this occasion is a fund raiser for LBJS. They, of course, are trying to acquire the matching funds necessary to purchase the 5 West Playhouse building on W. North at Charles St.

Part of the LBJS 1984 schedule has been released. Listed is Wynton Marsalis and his group, which has really been making music news around the world these days.

Wynton et al are on tap for the January 29 session, opening the new season. On Feb. 5. it will be Pieces of a Dream; Feb. 24, Houston Person and Etta Jones and Feb. 26, the Chico Freeman group.

—

Was walking up Franklin St. the other day and spied Henry Baker, Jr. in the Jazz Closet. He was quick to tell me that he is no longer managing the club. He's handling the beauty shops these days.

The club continues to program some live jazz on weekends, although the policy of bring in the big names is in hiatus for a while. According to Henry, Willie Barber with his trio have been gigging at the club some weekends.

—

The Sphinx Club is really hopping these days. Not only is Carlos Johnson doing his thing on Fri. and Sat. nights, but through the month of December, O'Donel Levy will be whaling away on Sunday nights.

You can catch Carlos at Maceo's on Thursday nights, and Sunday afternoons as well. The Thursday gig has Charlie Covington on piano and Chico on drums.

—

At the Sportsmen's Lounge this Sunday, Bob Haynes, Nita and staff are presenting a Christmas party for the needy beginning at 6 p.m.

You are to bring useable toys, or canned goods as the price of admission, and there will be both recorded and live music on tap.

The live session will be handled by the Dave Ross trio, along with Marlene Ross. Should be a lot of fun. Monday nights are still jumping at the club, with Mickey Fields, Andy Ennis, and the group.

—

At the Maryland Inn in Annapolis, Ethel Ennis comes in on December 21 through Christmas Day. She has a two-week engagement at the club, and will be there for the New Year's eve celebrations.

Over in D.C., Gil Scott Heron is in residence at Blues Alley beginning December her 20. Noel Pointer is there through this Sunday night.

And, if you miss Noel there, he will be in concert here in town at the Forum on Primrose Ave., on December 28 and 29.

Also on the bill these two nights will be Jennelle Fisher and Bill Harris.

—

And, just for planning purposes, Ahmad Jamal will be the New Year's eve talent at Blues Alley in D.C., and Brook Benton will headline the festivities at the Famous Ballroom on Charles St. that same evening.

With Brook, will be Lady Rebecca along with the unique Herman Kapebela. Don't ask. We must confess we've never heard of Herman and have no idea what to expect—but we'll find out for you.