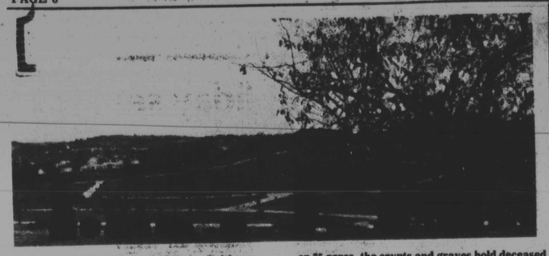

ARBUTUS MEMORIAL PARK in Baltimore County has no tombstones but uses bronze markers for more than 25,000 burial plots. Situated on 75 acres, the crypts and graves hold deceased persons, many of whom contributed to the history of black Baltimore.

Historic Arbutus cemetery now under new ownership

By Elizabeth M. Oliver

Due to the fact that a cemetery records the history of a community in part, there is vast interest in the ownership of any burial ground.

A recent change in ownership and control of Arbutus Memorial Park, one of the historic burial grounds in the Baltimore area, came about on Oct. 15.

In an AFRO interview this week William J. Callis, Sr. revealed that he is now the president and owner of the controlling interest in the 50-year cemetery.

He states that on Oct. 15 the Lloyd E. Mitchell Co. which has held the majority of stock since 1936 was paid off in full and that firm disolved. Callis was a former part owner.

The new firm under the same old name of Arbutus Memorial Park Inc. has Callis, Sr. as president; his son, William J. Callis, Jr. general manager and Richard E. Perkins vice president and chairman of the sales department.

Perkins has been vice president since 1960. A resident of the Village of Cross Keys, Perkins is the brother of the late, longtime and well known lawyer, Ernest L. Perkins who is buried in Arbutus.

Perkins accents, "There will be no change in policy nor services nor will burials be limited. There are enough plots and crypts to accommodate more deceased persons than expected in our lifetime."

Arbutus Memorial Park is located in Baltimore County in the community called Arbutus near the Baltimore County University of Maryland. The boundaries are Sulphur Spring Road and Shelbourne Rd.

The 75-acre plot of land is the resting place of over 25,000 persons either in graves or in the crypts.

To list a few of the deceased buried there recalls a portion of Baltimore's historic past. An example, is Dr. Lillie Carroll Jackson who died in 1975 and is known nationally as Baltimore's great civil rights leader. Her body now reposes in a crypt.

Among others listed by Mrs. Kathleen L. Parham, keeper of cemetery records, are Chick Webb, famed musician; William Pinderhughes a school administrator; Herbert Frisby, the famed Arctic explorer; Rev. D. Ward Yerby noted pastor of Perkins Square Baptist Church; Dr. Emerson Julian, the physician and City Councilman and his brother physician Dr. James L. Julian; Arlington Philips, undertaker; Rev. Theodore C. Jackson;

Also, Dr. Bernard Harris, Sr., longtime East Baltimore physician; Dr. Franklin Phillips; Dr. Ralph Reckling, Sr., Rev. Baxter L. Matthews, leading Baptist clergyman; Bishop Randolph Carr, founder of the local Apostolic church; Charles and Catherine Law, longtime morticians; Dr. Maybelle Weaver, one of the first women physicians; Attorney Josiah Henry; Judge U. Theodore Hayes;

And Dr. Carl James Murphy and his wife, Vashti; David Arnett Murphy, his wife Sadie and daughter Virginia; Harry Clark; George V. and Lillian Lottier; Dr. Jacob B. Oliver, Mary Thompson Oliver (Mrs. John J. Oliver, Sr.) Colonel William (Box) Harris; Talmadge Hill, noted Morgan College coach; Howard Hughes Murphy; Rev. B.F. Jackson, Rev. Isaac Williams, Rev. Dennis Barrow, Rev. George W. Bernard, George and Juanita Kelson, morticians.

Callis, Sr. notes that Arbutus Memorial Park is the only perpetual care cemetery for black persons in the area.

The land was once the old Sumner Francis plantation owned by the family of the old Consolidated Engineering Co. Slaves buried there "are on one ticket."

The only tombstone in Arbutus was placed there when it was thought that old Laurel Cemetery would move there from Belair Rd. and North Avenue. That was in the 1950's when a deal to build a Social Security building did not go through.

Termed a garden-type cemetery, the graves have bronze markers with marble bases. The graves are lined with concrete, stone and steel, everlasting materials that will never disintegrate nor deteriorate, Callis explains.

There are two buildings that hold crypts also made of everlastings materials. Planned by the new administration is a series of 34 more buildings to hold crypts for over 18,000 deceased persons.

Arbutus Memorial Park is in a new era of progress, the elder Callis states.

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DOUGLASS HI CLASS HOLDS REUNION

The Frederick Douglass High School Class of June, 1955 held its 30th Year Celebration on October 19, at the Forum. The theme of the Dinner Dance was "on the Move to Greater Challenges." Music was provided by Wild Bill No. 1.

The officers of the Class are as follows: Margarett Jeffries Smith, president; Shirley Harris Stokes, vice-president; Selma S. Rozier, secretary; Mary L. Johnson, treasurer; Miriam L. Curtis, business manager; John Rucker, sergeant-at-arms and Charles E. Green, chaplain.

Members of the Planning Committee were: Joyce Brooks Brown, Lois Kess Harris, Wesley B. Johnson, Martha Landon, Lillian Tate Mitchell, Shirley Matthews Newsome, Josephine Wing Shelton, Arzella Fuller Stevenson and Moses Levi Walker.

There were 181 persons in attendance. The out-of-town classmates were: Twila Sledge Driggins, North Brunswick, NJ; Mary Wallace Hewlett, West Chester, PA; Emily Lee Christian, Dayton OH; Barbara Holmes Greene, Montclair, NJ; Woodrow Holmes Howell, NJ; and Alice Brailey Torriente, Bronx, NY.

Other classmates in attendance were: David Ronald Moore, Earl Henderson, Harry Johnson, Gardenia Saunders Hall, Lavinia Thompson Henson, Delores Smith, Lorraine Alston Allen, Grayson M. Williams, Christine Smith Williams, Hattie Williams Cockrell, Beatrice Henson Smith, Rayfield F. Wimbush, Doretha Ridgely Blackwell, Maola Inman Day, Myra A. Harris, Charles Brightful, Almac C. Robinson, Lois Bell Webb; Margaret Conney Wright, Aaron Hopkins, Jr., Eugene Austin, Jr.;

Also Winfield R. Ligon, Howard LaPrade, Loretta Johnson Stokes, William D. Penn, Rachel Briley, Katherine Booker Johnson, John W. Osborne, Jr., C. Vernon Locklear, Claudia Ross Johnson, Leonard D. Welling, Dell Edwards, and Gregory L. Daniels. Also in attendance was Alice W. Chalmers, mother of one of the Class' deceased classmates.

The proceeds from the affair will be used to grant a scholarship to a needy student graduating from Frederick Douglass High School and the Mayor's Adopt-A-Family Program.

RODELL BRANFORD SPEAKS TO NANBPW CLUB MEMBERS

Rodell Branford, Acting Director of Community and Visitor Services of the National Aquarium in Baltimore, was guest speaker at the monthly meeting of the Baltimore Chapter of the National Association of Negro Business and Professional Women's Clubs.

He spoke about the various aspects of the aquarium with a video showing to illustrate this and emphasized that fun and adventure can be found at the aquarium.

He also informed the members of the Henry Hall fund that provides internships, scholarships and training opportunities available in the aquatic Marine Sciences.

Interested students of the minority race, in junior or senior high school are eligible for consideration of these opportunities and awards. This could lead to a professional career in Marine Operations, Marketing, etc.

Rodell Brandford

Henry Hall was a black Baltimorean who donated funds and his personal aquatic collection to the city, which was the beginning of the present aquatic collection.

He was a concerned individual who cared about the intellectual and professional development of the inner city youngster and his donations were for this purpose.

LAMBDA KAPPA MU HOLDS NORTHEAST REGIONAL CONF.

The Lambda Kappa Mu Sorority, Inc. held its North East Regional Conference recently at the elegant Williamsburg Hospitality House in Williamsburg, VA.

The conference was hosted by the LKM National Body with the help of Sigma Chapter sorors from Newport News and Hampton, VA. Mrs. Ovella D. Queen from the Baltimore Chapter was outstanding as Northeastern Regional Director.

Sorors enjoyed an Early Bird Halloween Party. They participated in many workshops which addressed the conference theme: "Improving the Quality of Life for Ourselves, Our Sorority and Communities."

Williamsburg is such an outstanding tourist area and sorors took in the tourist attractions as well.

A Showcase Luncheon featured the Hampton University Dancers, the Virginia State School for the Deaf Signing Choir and the Hampton University Theatre Group.

At the Awards Banquet, three prominent Virginia citizens were honored for their unique contributions to their communities. They were Mrs. Cynthia Davis, Mrs. Margaret Smith and the Honorable William Stone.

The speaker for the evening was Mr. William A. Smith, Attorney, Newport News, VA.

Sorors in attendance from the Baltimore Chapter included Elaine Alexander, Gladys Baird, Olivia Bates, Ruth Cooper, Ethel Covington, Elizabeth Day, Imogene Douglass, Marie Dowell, Josephine Flournoy, Glynnia Hill, Sheila Jessups, Dorothy Pollard, Ovella Queen, Josephine Maxwell, Arabella Ross, Dorothy Smith, Dorothy Stone, Joyce Sturgis, Lenora Terrell, Louise Turks, Marguerite Wilkins, Denise Weems, Ida Wroten and Margaret Yates.

The Baltimore Chapter of the Lambda Kappa Mu Sorority is headed by Mrs. Marguerite Wilkins.

TENANTS' ASSOC. HALLOWEEN PARTY-SHOW

On Thursday, October 31, big Mike Murgis dressed as Santa Clause and went to 5900 Park Heights Avenue to perform with the Toronto Group. It was the yearly Halloween dress-up Party, given by the Tenant's Association of the Senior Residence.

Mike delighted the ladies by singing "My Satin Doll", "It's A Sin To Tell A Lie", "Goodie-Goodie", and other songs familiar to the aging ladies (and men). Audience participation was encouraged.

Murgis is one of the close-knit Toronto Group that is greatly sought after, for they are indeed an entertaining group of International performers.

Other artists heard from were: Mrs. Mimi Bailey, one of "Baltimore's Best" who sang a medley of Show tunes and also danced a little jig; Marvin Gold, a Broadway songster and dancer who entertained from "center stage"; Mr. and Mrs. March - both singers (he the more operate one) who were very colorful in their renditions, and Jerry, himself a talented singer of robust voice, rounded out an hour of constant musical enjoyment with the accompaniment of Bill Young.

Refreshments were unusual but tasty. There was Chocolate Pinwheels, Peanut-Butter Bars, Fresh popped Corn, Dry Roasted Nuts, Orange Soda, Coffee, Almonds.

Prizes were awarded for Best Costume, first, second, and third place. There were also lots of door prizes given out.

The Committee included: Miriam Linderman, vice presi-

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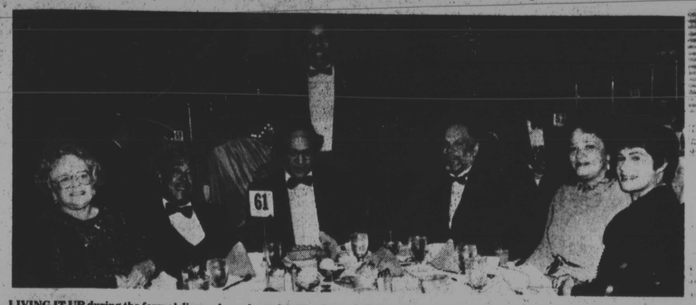
Columbia AKAs launch holiday season



LIVING IT UP during the formal dinner dance hosted at Martin's West Friday, Nov. 1 by the Iota Lambda Omega Chapter, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority (Columbia) are (L to R): Mildred Campbell, Dr. S. Eugene Owens, Henry Smith, Donald Chambers, Carldeen Smith, and Jacqueline Chambers. Standing is Eugene Solomon.

DANCE COMMITTEE MEMBERS (L to R) are: Vera Hayes, Constance Rotan, E. Marie Johnson, Grace Dixon, Louise Owens, chairlady; Roberta Briscoe, Barbara Smith, Doris Stacks and Lesly Ogumbemi. Not pictured is Carol White.

BASILEUS RAYNA WOODFORD is poised to greet guests warmly as they arrive.

Over 300 guests attended an elegant Formal Dinner Dance at Martin's West given by the Columbia Chapter, Iota Lambda Omega Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, November 1. Rayna Woodford, the basileus, gorgeous in a black gown with a black and gold metallic tunic, greeted guests at the door.

The setting was a thing of beauty and elegance. The chandeliers were sparkling. The tables, set with pink cloths and green napkins, were graced with silver candelabra centerpieces. The lady guests were resplendent in their long gowns and the male guests were handsome in their tuxedoes.

Guests enjoyed a delicious sit down dinner of fresh fruit in cataloupe halves, prime ribs of beef, potatoes risole, green beans, and for desert, strawberry parfait.

Dennis Fisher and his group, with Jenifer Jones, his talented singer, supplied the music and set the mood for dancing.

The dance, which ended at midnight, left everyone feeling the holiday season had begun wondrously.

Committee persons were Louise Owens, Chairlady; Grace Dixon and Lesly Ogumbemi, Co-Chairladies; Doris Starks, Barbara Smith, Roberta Briscoe, Carol White, Constance Rotan, Vera Hayes, and E. Marie Johnson.

O'Nose party, give scholarship

ENJOYING THE O'NOSE PARTY held Friday, Oct. 25 at Blue Crest North are (L to R): Eliza Lindsey, Berine Bundara, Odessa Dyson, Beatrice Wright, Mattie Mumby and Priscilla Marshall.

O'NOSE MEMBERS (from L) are: Clarence Hillen, Otis Froe, Ralph Williams, Lorenzo Felder and Marcellus Moore.

Members of the O'Nose, a Baltimore city men's club, held their annual Autumn Festival on Friday evening Oct. 25 at Blue Crest North.

The black tie affair was elegant, with a reception in the Warren Room prior to dinner and dancing in the ballroom. Dennis Fisher provided music for the evening.

A highlight of the evening was announcement of the $500 scholarship winner for the Earl Bundara Award, created in 1983 to honor the memory of the late Mr. Bundara, a charter member of the club, and a vocational high school teacher in the city schools.

Present to receive this year's award was Allen Polston, a 1985 Carver High grad, now enrolled in Morgan State University. The first winner was Candice Distance, a Mervo grad.

Mr. Bundara's widow, Berine, was present to assist in making the presentation. The group announced that another high school grad will be selected in 1986. Applicants mut have grades and aptitude scores which will qualify them for college, and must indicate a need for help.

O'Nose members present with wives were: Messrs and Mesdames Argin Hutchins, Ray Haysbert, Marcellus Moore, Ralph Williams, Melvin Smith, William Mumby, William Griggs, Eddie McDaniels, Otis Froe, Sam Newton, Joseph Walker, Robert Quarles, Sr., Clarence Dyson, Talley Portee, Clarence Hillen, J.C. Reaves, Lorenzo Felder, Harrison Puller, and Norman Branch and Malcolm Chamberlain and guests.

O'Nose guests were: Messers, Mesdames Milton Branch, Barrington Branch, Willard Gross, Charles Robinson, Harry Barnum, Joseph Boston,

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