George Tunstall: a good works, deeds

By Yvonne Leonard

When I was just a little child,
I met a man who was gentle and mild.
And today, he remains the same.
George Henry Tunstall is his name.
His 84 years certainly don't show.
Where he gets all his energy, I don't know.
I think he'll say it comes from good clean living.
And through the grace and blessings his God is giving.

One evening as I was reflecting on how our society has changed over the past years from a caring society to one that is now recognized as a "me" society, I was wondering where all the good and kind people have gone.

Just a I was pondering this very question, my telephone rang, and when I answered it, on the other end was a dear friend, Mrs. Minnie Harrison, a long-time community supporter and businesswoman who owns her own produce stall in the Hollins Market.

As I began to express my melancholy feelings about the state of humanity, she interrupted me to tell me about a project she wanted undertaken centering around adedicated and kindhearted elderly gentleman, George Tunstall.

Mrs. Harrison went on to explain that Mr. Tunstall had recently retired after 15 years of service with the Baltimore City public school system.

As we delved deeper and deeper into his past, it became clearer that all hope in humanity had not been lost, and there were still many caring and God-fearing people here.

Mr. Tunstall, by his good works and deed, has proven to be a living example of a tender, quiet man who has always put God and his fellowman ahead of himself.

His is the kind of tale that is especially appropriate during this holiday season.

* * *

On March 11, 1900, a son was born to Mr. and Mrs. Louis H. (Lotsy Baker) Tunstall in Dunnsville, Essex County, VA. His name was George.

George was one of seven children born to the Tunstalls. Three (George, 84, Seldon, 66, and Martha, 65) are still living today.

He began his schooling in 1905 at the Dunnsville Public School. Later, he attended the Rapond Industrial Academy and completed his studies there in 1915.

George also began simultaneously to cultivate his early Christian training, attending the Angel Visit Baptist Church in Ozena, VA.

His parents were the first generation of Tunstalls to be born free blacks. George's grandfather was a slave up until the time of the Civil War. Following emancipation, he was able to purchase land and start a farm.

It was on that farm that George's father worked the land until his own sons took over.

George and his family later moved to Baltimore in 1915. It was here that he resumed his schooling at the Pennsylvania Avenue Old Colored High School in 1922. School No. 125 (Furman L. Templeton Elementary School) is near that site today.

He studied French and Latin during his first semester at the school, and with World War I in full swing at the time, worked part-time at a Hanover Street defense plant.

That same year in 1922, George met his future wife, Miss Helen L. Lee, whom he later married. The couple took up residence in the 1800 block Raynor Avenue where they raised six children (George Jr., Dorothy, Margie, Charlotte, Samuel and Annette).

In retrospect, as one sums up the life of this one great little man who managed in his 84 years to accomplish more than many have done in two lifetimes. The list of achievements of George Tunstall are truly impressive.

Employment at the F.W. Woolworth Company

Mr. Tunstall was employed as a "fireman" for the F.W. Woolworth Company for over 44 years. By today's job market standards the term "fireman" would be the equivalent of an engineer.

He was responsible for all the heating and cooling systems for the store's Lexington Street location as well as being responsible for making regular bank deposits for the firm.

Baltimore City Employee

He left the F.W. Woolworth Company after more than four decades of loyal service and took a job as a custodian at the Windsor Hills Elementary School No. 87 (4001 Alto Rd.)

The school's present principal, Mrs. Esther C. Bailey, who has been acquainted with Mr. Tunstall for the last 10 years, described him as someone who was "always punctual," "a very hard, diligent worker" who was "present each day" and had not used a sick leave in the entire time that she had known him.

She went on to explain that he was always "willing to tackle any and all tasks" and "able to relate in a positive manner to all (the) teachers, staff, parents and pupils," maintained a personality that was "most respectful and (was) a true gentleman at all times."

George, according to Mrs. Bailey, remains today "an extremely caring and warm individual" long after his retirement from the school system in 1983.

Civic Affairs

He is a member in excellent standing at the Macedonia Baptist Church and has been the church's choir director for the last 45 years.

Mr. Tunstall also fills in as a substitute Sunday School teacher when necessary.

The Macedonia Baptist Choir has toured throughout Baltimore City under his leadership. So devoted to the music ministry is he that he later established a similar choir inside the Baltimore City Jail. He even managed to secure choir robes for the inmates.

The Macedonia choir could be heard for many years over local radio Station WCAO during the 1940's. Among its early members was the late Mrs. Violet Hill White, this city's first black policewoman.

He turned his attention to the area of neighborhood sports and established a basketball team for the black employees at F.W. Woolworth's during the 1940's.

In those days blacks could not play with white players, but somehow the word got around town about George Tunstall's outstanding basketball team and about how well they played.

Whites demanded that his team play against them. And they did.

Aiding the War Effort Locally

During World War II, he served as an air raid warden for the Edmondson Avenue community in which he lived and worked, an area which included parts of downtown Baltimore.

Harlem Park Neighborhood Council, Inc.

Mr. Tunstall was a member of the Harlem Park Neighborhood Council, Inc. for several years holding the positions of chaplain and assistant business manager.

He served for five years as a member of the Executive Committee, the organization's governing board. The group oversees the community interest of the entire Harlem Park Community.

AFRO Photo by P. A. Greene

Mr. George Tunstall, 84, in his home at 1711 Edmondson Ave.

Twilah Scarborough

TWILAH SAYS. . .

THE PLAIN TRUTH ABOUT THANKSGIVING

Stop and think a moment! Very few have never reflected on why they believe what they do, why they follow the customs they do, or from where those customs come. We grew up accepting them without question. We sorta tend to follow the crowd, whether right or wrong for blessed holidays. "Thanksgiving Day" to me is a subject to politely express gratitude to thank God, thank heaven, thankfulness of being conscious of what we are about to receive and thankful of what we had received.

Thanksgiving is a celebration of divine goodness. Growing up in a very large family was a big day of joyfulness and togetherness. My grandmother would write a large list for the girls to do the thanksgiving shopping at Lafayette Market which was within walking distance. The meal and menu would always repeat itself each year. Living on Myrtle Avenue and surrounded by all necessary convenient shopping sites we, "The Mallorys" had it good, low moderate income family, but "proud we were."

Going back each year as I reminisce, in which I love to indulge in, during Thanksgiving the whole family had great acknowledgement of celebration. Our meal consisted of a large fresh (killed) turkey bought in the Lafayette Market from Mama's favorite place.

The turkey was between 25 or 30 pounds. There was then at that particular time a large glazed ham served along with the menu. Today, (smile) ham is not part of my menu.

We had one of our favorites, a garnished platter which consisted of celery stalks, small green pickles, olives, chow chow, and small onion pickles. We had sauerkraut and pigtails, hominy with butter sauce and parsley flakes, string beans, garden peas, giblet gravy, and cranberry sauce made from scratch.

Mamma Mallory would always use the fresh cranberries. She would cook them and have one of the girls to strain, sweeten and chill them. Homemade rolls were kneaded and covered over for the next day to be rolled and pulled and placed in roll containers for the oven right before the meal.

Mama would always want her rolls to be hot from the oven and covered and placed on the table. She would have her best china closet dishes to be used and served. (It was so strange back then but I laugh at it now.) Mama would ask us girls to get the chinaware out of the closet and have us wash and towel dry all the dishes and fingertip bowls, and long stem water glasses.

She would have us set the dining room table two days before Thanksgiving.

We had to put on her best white on white linen tablecloth. The tablecloth had white butterflies on the back of it. We had to make certain the knives and forks were on the right sides and set properly. It showed Mama that our home economics subject was well in line and got across from our teacher at Douglass High School.

The Thanksgiving table had to be well set and correct because, believe me, it was well checked by her. If not correct, we had to correct it.

It was a family gathering and we ate in style. We were "low income," but proud. Mama sat at the head of the table, and Papa sat at the head of the other end of the table.

At that time we had extensions to insert into the table to make the table long enough to sit us all. The boys (brothers) just arriving from Morgan's game, and naturally the girls in the kitchen filling up the serving plates, etc., were waiting for Mama to ring the dinner bell.

We all bowed our heads with our hands folded in our laps. Papa Mallory said the table blessing and, believe me, he was sorta long winded until Mama Mallory put her hand to her mouth and coughed a little to let Papa know that it was time to eat.

The head of the household was strict indeed, but now I am so grateful that he was. We had hot lemon tea for our refreshment and homemade mince meat pie or sweet potato pie and ice cream which was purchased from McClaw's Ice Cream Parlor.

The parlor was located on the corner of Lafayette and Fremont Avenues which is now Kerr's Income Tax Center.

After everyone had their share of feast and laughter, the brothers and grandchildren would go into the parlor to relax and talk about the dinner, etc. The girls would clear the table and bring the rest of the food off the table. The girls then placed the food on the kitchen table.

Mama would prepare the food to be placed in the pantry. Our pantry at this time was like an ice cold freezer.

The food was well-wrapped and placed on the shelves and other food (vegetables) would be placed in the ice box. We would wash the china and place the china on the kitchen table and Mama would then take over. The china would be carefully placed and neatly arranged on each shelf in the china closet.

Mama would lock the china closet, stand back, look and smile about how the closet looked. Every dish was back in its place shining for the next Thanksgiving.

We did a lot of hard work preparing for the big feast, but it was worth it. There was joy, laughter, loud voices, and family entertainment.

Fenton Mallory, my deceased brother, was the wholly clown of the family. Without Fenton, bless his heart, he kept everyone laughing with tears in their eyes. He made sad times laughing times.

The plain truth about "Thanksgiving" to me is worthy of thanks: the many acts of each household giving and expressing thanks for well being, being together to break bread, and rejoicing a thankful celebration of divine goodness.

* * *

MORNING STAR DAY CARE CENTER - Located at 1063 W. Fayette Street

Leslie Murphy, director of the U.S.A. day care center, shared with me that the ever-ready Annual Thanksgiving Dinner will soon be taking place at the center. The ever-ready supporting working staff, the teachers, parents, and day care children will soon be feasting at their center. The children's parents each year bring the pot pourings and all the trimmings.

The teachers and staff cook and bake the large turkey and ham. Leslie shared that her children's parents play an important part with the Thanksgiving dinner.

Each year the dinner improves more and more. The parents look forward to playing a part in the celebration. It's a delightful sight and a rainbow picture just to stand aside and stare and look at the tables of happiness and the reaching out of each.

THOUGHT FOR TOMORROW

Grab your children or child, caress them, give them a big hug and super kiss, tell them how happy you are to have them around and so thankful that they are Alpha and Omega. See Ya!!

Beverly Burke leaving Channel 13 this week

People are talking...about "People Are Talking" co-host Beverly Burke taking her final bow Wednesday on WJZ-TV, Channel 13 after almost two years.

In addition to her talk show duties, Burke co-anchored the noon news and participated in many community activities.

Burke, according to one WJZ source, is now in New York for the holiday and will be returning to Baltimore next week. She is reportedly mulling over several job offers.

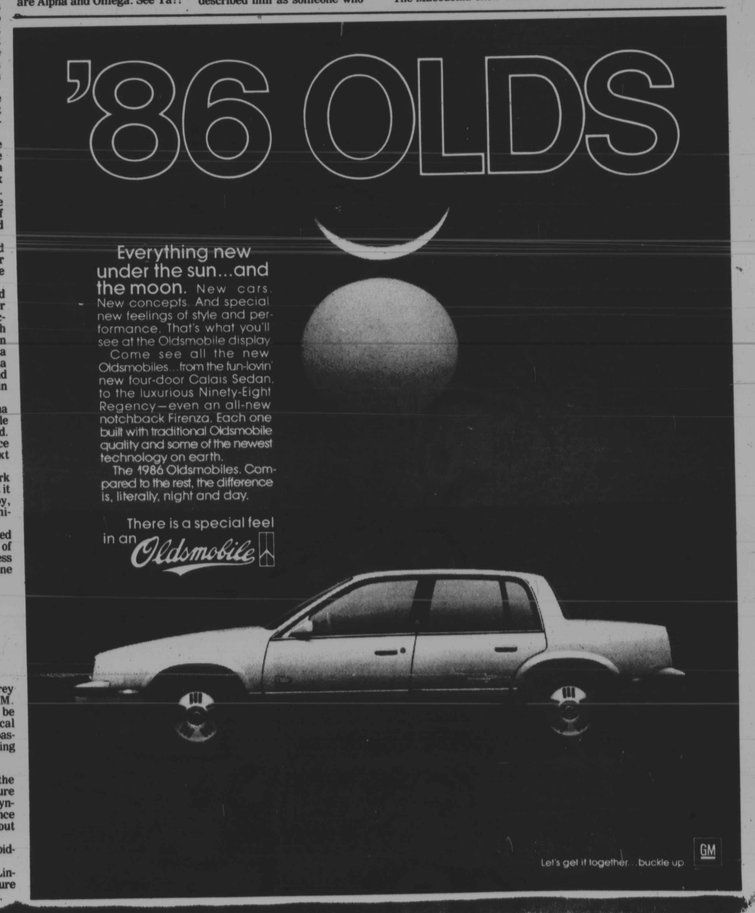
According to Joyce KaShima, public relations assistant at WJZ, Burke is still looking around. "She doesn't know what she's going to be doing."

Burke replaced Oprah Winfrey who is now host of "A.M. Chicago." Winfrey can also be seen in the upcoming theatrical release, "The Color Purple," based on the Pulitzer Prize winning novel by Alice Walker.

Winfrey will return to the Baltimore market in the future when her show begins a syndicated run. People will once again be talking, but about Oprah--on a rival channel.

WJZ-TV reportedly lost the bidding wars for the program.

Burke will be replaced by Linda Harris, who begins her tenure with the program on Dec. 16.



—Meeting on handguns

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city.

According to 5th District Councilman Tom Waxter, the committee's aim Monday will be to defuse the ongoing handgun problem in Baltimore by hearing various viewpoints and discussing possible legislation that will place tighter restrictions on handgun use and possession.

Although Waxter, who serves as committee chairman, is strongly supported by councilpersons Nathaniel McFadden, Tony Ambridge, and Agnes Welch, he said that he expects some opposition from various gun manufacturers and groups like the Nathaniel Rifle Association.

Waxter reported that the City Council has invited all of the state's senators and delegates.

"We did this because there will be pressure from both sides. Those who want guns and profit from their sale and use will ask: Why take handguns away, and those who oppose will ask; Why have handguns at all? We also hope to have representatives from the National Coalition to Ban Handguns, present to support their views," Waxter said.

You never know what can come out of such a meeting. For a long time there has been a sincere interest in restricting handguns in Baltimore," Waxter added.

Waxter said that his hopes are that this meeting will provide a forum on the topic of handgun usage that will examine the problem from a number of relevant perspectives.

"We want to try to analyze the problem from a police perspective, from a health perspective, a community perspective, etc. We think that this way, we will be more able to show the seriousness of the problem," Waxter told the AFRO.

Committee vice-chairman, Councilman Tony Ambridge said that despite the attitudes of persons and groups who oppose handgun restrictions, he maintains a pre-conceived notion on the issue and will push for legislation that will limit the sale, transfer or possession of handguns in Baltimore City.

"This meeting will be to analyze the problem, but I already have drawn certain conclusions. Through extensive research on the topic, I've concluded that the only purpose of handguns is to kill human beings," Ambridge said.

Pointing to the findings of his two and a half year research, Ambridge said that for every time that one criminal is killed with a handgun, 118 innocent persons are killed with handguns as well.

"I have statistics that prove that when guns are removed or unavailable, deaths decrease. But in spite of this, federal courts have mandated that local government cannot regulate gun transactions," Ambridge told the AFRO.

Councilman Ambridge plans to further disclose the results of his study which he says draws on information obtained from various law enforcement agencies including the F.B.I.

"Also I plan to hold a special hearing on this issue. Hopefully this will send a signal to the General Assembly that the voice of the people is crying out for stronger gun control," ended Ambridge.

At AFRO presstime it was announced that the Maryland Committee for Gun Control will hold a press conference at 9:30 Monday on the west side of the Clarence Mitchell Courthouse. Representatives are expect to be present at the 7 p.m. meeting.

—S. Africa embassy

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movement against companies that do business with South Africa and the release of 11 labor leaders by the Botha government are some of the accomplishments of the movement in this country.

Despite those signs of hope in the movement in this country, the apartheid regime continues and has even intensified its repression of the black majority. Leaders of the movement say they plan to expand their protests to include selective boycotting of companies which engage in South Africa.

"We are calling for the total isolation of South Africa and the removal of all U.S. corporations," said a spokesman for the Free South African Movement.

Until stricter sanctions are imposed no changes will occur in South Africa, according to the spokesman. Leaders of the movement feel that Reagan's Executive Order in posing sanctions against that country are too limited and will not have a significant impact on that country.

After the Executive Order was announced, Congress turned away from the issue of apartheid and began looking to other things, said the spokesman. "We have to hold off until the opportunity presents itself, when we can show that the Reagan sanctions is not enough.

Congressman William H. Gray III (D-Pa.), said if the South African government fails to take significant steps to dismantle apartheid and to ensure that the blacks in that country enjoy the same economic, political, and social rights as the white minority, he is ready to join with others in both the House and Senate to pass even stronger sanctions.

"These sanctions could include a ban on the landing of South African airways in our country as well as a ban on any new U.S. investments in South Africa," said Gray.

The NAACP has also entered into the picture and said it plans to begin a selective buying campaign against U.S. businesses which do business with South Africa. "... because we oppose apartheid," said Althea T. L. Simmons, director of the Washington Bureau of the NAACP.

What companies they plan to target will be announced in February in connection with their quarterly board meeting to be held in New York, said Simmons.

Leaders of the Free South African Movement said they plan to implement a major drive to educate the American people to what is going on in Namibia, Angola and Mozambique. "People need to know how South Africa is backing opposition groups to establish its domination in the region by overturning the governments of Angola and Mozambique," said the spokesman.

—Rumor mills

Continued from page 1

we received a tip that he was in a particular (hospital) room. I personally checked it out and he was not here.

"I don't think its true. I think the whole thing is a hysterical rumor (and) the way it started was the man lost 160 pounds very rapidly. That's the way it started," said Paula Correia, Associate Public Relations Director at Cedars Sinai Medical Center.

ALSO HONORED at the Council of 100 luncheon was the Washington AFRO-AMERICAN Newspaper. The AFRO award was received by Art Carter, left, editor-publisher, who joined Mrs. Elaine Jenkins, president of the Council; Wilfreda J. Gonzalez, associate administrator of the U.S. Small Business Administration, the luncheon speaker, and Melvin Bradley, right, special assistant to President Reagan, at the dais.

(By Photo Graphic News)

New Annapolis mayor to be sworn in Monday

Annapolis, Md.'s new mayor Dennis Michael Callahan will be sworn in Monday, Dec. 2 at 12 noon on the Southeast Portico of the Maryland State House.

In the event of rain, the ceremonies will be held at St. Anne's Church. The U.S. Navy Band Guards and all the flair of historic old Annapolis will accompany the rites which will be read by Anne Arundel County Clerk Aubrey Collison.

Highlight of the occasion is the swearing in of the eight City Aldermen, two of whom are black.

Third Ward Alderman Samuel Gilmer, 66, a second term member, is a former president of the A.A. County NAACP, a civic leader and retired government employee.

The second is Alderman Carl O. Snowden age 34, who will begin his first term. Snowden, a longtime activist, is owner of a consulting firm, Snowden and Associates and elected from the Fifth Ward.

A third black person in high position is Norman Brailey appointed by the new mayor as his administrative assistant. Brailey, the son of State Senator Troy Brailey, recently resigned his post as an employee of U.S. Senator Paul Sarbanes to take the position in Annapolis and will move from Baltimore to Annapolis.

Brilley told the AFRO that he and the new mayor were high school classmates at Poly in Baltimore.

Mayor Elect Callahan will swear in the eight aldermen one by one after he becomes officially the mayor of Annapolis.

The 44-year old father of two children is formerly of Laurel, Md. He owns a lucrative chain of tuxedo rental businesses in Annapolis, Severna Park and Laurel.

Callahan has been active in Annapolis civic affairs for six years and a resident 10 years. When he takes the chair as chief executive it will crown his first political effort.

On the inaugural, program will be Gov. Harry Hughes who is scheduled to speak briefly. Others are Rev. Rufus Abernathy, pastor of Mt. Zion Baptist Church, Annapolis who will give the opening prayer; County Executive James Lighthizer and Fr. Kevin Milton of St. Mary's Catholic Church, Annapolis, who will give benediction.

The new mayor, his team of Aldermen plus John Hudgson, the new city attorney, will move to historic City Hall on Duke of Gloucester St. for a reception.

The Building once witnessed a ceremony for First U.S. President George Washington when Annapolis was the Capitol in the 1700's.

Dignitaries from across the state will be in attendance at the plush affair which supporters describle as one of the "grandest" in recent history.

Equal in brilliance is the Inaugural Ball which is slated for Monday night from 9 to one o'clock in the morning at the Governor Calvert House on State Circle. The black tie event is predicted as one "which will reflect the coming administration" of Mayor Callahan.

Jackson charges 'Cold War journalism'

By Zachary D. Smith
AFRO Staff Writer

The Rev. Jesse Jackson said that media accounts of his controversial meeting with Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev last week have "diverted attention" away from the concerns of 1.25 million Amerians who favor a nuclear freeze.

Speaking at a Washington Association of Black Journalist sponsored briefing at the Howard Inn on Tuesday night, Jackson accused the white press of practicing "Cold War Journalism" and "inaccuracies" in coverage of the 40-minute Jackson-Gorbachev meeting in Geneva last week.

"There was a 50-member delegation there (in Geneva)... Jesse Jackson went... as a representative of the Rainbow Coalition," said Jackson referring to the delegation of American anti-nuclear activists that were in Geneva for the U.S. Soviet summit.

News reports on the Jackson-Gorbachev meeting focused on Jackson's comments on Soviet Jewry and charges from critics that Jackson "upstaged" President Reagan.

Jackson responded to his critics by defending the American anti-nuclear activists presence in Geneva.

"We exercised our constitutional right to petition our government and we challenged both governments to halt the nuclear race a place a comprehensive ban on testing," Jackson said.

"Even our government (the U.S.) didn't object to our right," he added.

Jackson also said that the American anti-nuclear delegation sought a meeting with President Reagan, but was told that Reagan was not available, and the group met with a State Department official instead.

What is Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev like?

"As a leader he expressed self-confidence by meeting with us in an unrehearsed press conference," Jackson said.

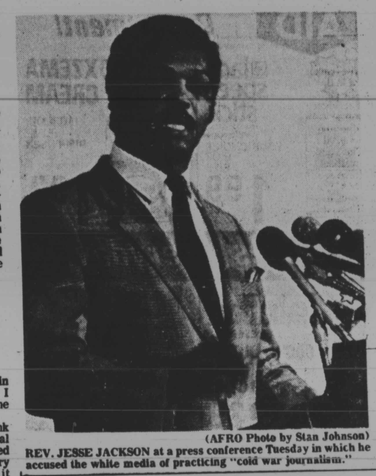
Jackson described Gorbachev as an "eye-to-eye" communicator who was "clear on his point of view."

Jackson said that he did not press Gorbachev on answers that were evasive because "we were making a moral appeal...not negotiating."

Jackson predicted that Soviet Jews may experience an easing of Soviet immigration policies as a result of improved relations between the U.S. and the Soviet Union.

Jackson is doubtful that developments in Geneva last week are any cause to celebrate.

"For Congressmen and Senators to say that the world is a better place, is to say that a handshake can stop a missile in the air," he said.



(AFRO Photo by Stan Johnson)

REV. JESSE JACKSON at a press conference Tuesday in which he accused the white media of practicing "cold war journalism."

Legal Notices

To Whom It May Concern:

Chicago Associates Limited Partnership is building a 38,000 square-foot factory/warehouse, of which approximately 7,000 square feet is office space. The trades that will be required for this project are paving, landscaping, utilities, concrete, masonry, steel fabrication and erection, carpentry, roofing, electrical, plumbing, HVAC, acoustical and drywall, painting, carpeting, VAT, accents, and doors and windows.

Since the site is located adjacent to and underneath Interstate 295, a minimum $2 million comprehensive liability is required, and the contractors must be bondable to be considered for this project.

The project is being managed by Dalsemer, Catzen & Associates, 121 Water Street, Baltimore, maryland 21202, interested parties should contact P.B. Catzen in writing to be considered for the bid list. All inquiries should be received at the above address by December 2, 1985.