-Du has come along way

Continued from page 1

will do to their sisters, like teasing and pulling hair," she said. "But we were close."

As a child, Burns worked odd jobs. He sold newspapers for the old News-Post. With his brother, Thomas, he made a wagon and used it to haul people's groceries home from the Belair Market. He was about 12 then, Mrs. Futrell said.

Politically, Burns was influenced by his father, who at one time belonged to the Republican party, but as a precinct worker the elder Burns helped elect such people as Democratic Gov. Albert Ritchie, she said.

Some of the city's most influential politicians of the day were guests in the Burns' home. Mrs. Futrell said she resisted her father's efforts to entice her into politics. Brother Clarence, however, was much more willing.

"No. I didn't want to go when he went out (making his political rounds," she said.

Money was an inducement. At election times, Burns senior would give his children a dollar a piece to distribute political pamphlets.

"Thomas and I would go out together, but Thomas would get tired and we'd come home. Clarence liked to go alone. He would stay out until he got rid of the last one," she said.

Several years passed. Burns completed high school and found himself serving in the U.S. Army Air Force stationed in Florida. It was 1944 and another staff sargeant who had been a tenor saxophone player with the Erskine Hawkins Band profoundly influenced Burns' life.

Listening to him play, Burns told the AFRO he was "hooked." He said he learned to play the saxophone and practiced several hours a day "driving everybody nuts with that horn."

Burns' end of duty was near. He said he wrote to schools in Atlanta and Morgan about entering on his GI bill benefits. Although he was accepted to Atlanta University and Morgan, he chose to return home to Baltimore and attend the Larry London School of Music because he was hooked on jazz and the saxophone.

Burns said he studied with some of the city's finest musicians at the school. He said he had dreams of playing with the bands of Count Basie and Duke Ellington, but it was not to be.

Work as a musician was unsteady and "gigs" paying $6 or $8 a night were not enough to support a family. By then he had married an East Baltimore girl, Edith. They had a daughter Cheryl, who now is a kindergarten teacher. Burns had to find something steadier.

"I did not give music up," he said. "I phased it out because I was starving to death."

At City Hall, he said he spoke with Thomas D'Alesandro, Jr. "He gave me a job with the Bath Commission." The old Dunbar High School had a public bath, Burns worked there 22 years. It was a job, he said, that allowed him the opportunity to do other things, one of them, politics.

Burns said music still played a part of his life. He passed his musical skills and knowledge to his nieces, nephews and other area youngsters.

He worked with kids, proudly coaching teams to many championships, local and regional during his Dunbar years. It was the kind of activity Burns said one does not receive credit. Instead, people talk about him being a locker room attendant.

Changes were afoot in the nation and in Baltimore City. In 1967, he was one of the founders of the Eastside Democratic Organization. It later aligned itself with another powerful political club.

In 1971, at the age of 53, Burns was elected to public office, serving as a 2nd district councilman. He has a solid track record of accomplishments he can point proudly to in his native east Baltimore.

Burns also has a solid cadre of critics and opponents. He has been called Uncle Tom and much worse, but he has perserved by playing the political game where others have not.

In October, 1982 in nominating then council Vice President Burns to replace Walter Orlinsky as council president, former councilwoman Victorine Adams is reported to have said Burns "is intelligent, he is street smart, he is ambitious and he works hard. He had the nerve and the verve to rise above his circumstances."

Criticism of him will continue and in the months to most likely will escalate. He has made no secret of his plans to run for a full term as mayor.

Burns remains calm and undaunted. He speaks of the future and it is tempered with realism.

"I'm afraid to say what I'm going to accomplish (as mayor)," he said. Looking at funds available from the federal and state governments and in light of what is happening in other parts of the country, "it looks very bleak."

But if the money is somehow made available, Burns said he will have no problem accomplishing what needs to be done for Baltimore City. He is emphatic, however, about not raising taxes," that would be suicidal for me," Burns said.

Education and economic development are important items of his agenda because "the two go hand in hand," Burns said.

As mayor, Burns said he cannot do it alone. Good people are needed and with them in place he can delegate authority allowing them "a chance to perform. That's good business, it's the thing to do," he said.

If he has a message to people, Burns said it "is the same message I've applied to myself. If there is anything being done in the world that somebody is doing, you can do it too."

Burns said if he had listened and had been swayed by people talking about "humble beginnings, I would have given up." I arrived at his position with all my shortcomings. They are not shortcomings, they are experiences.

"My ambition was to be a great jazz musician. I studied music, harmony, arrangement ... but I starved to death. If I had it all to do over again, I would not have followed music as a thing to make a living.

"I think I would have followed politics because I've been successful with that," Burns, the 45th mayor of Baltimore, said.

CHAMPS — This AFRO file photo was taken in 1950 when Burns, as manager of Sam's Sportsmen, coached his team to a championship. Pictured left to right are Burns, William E. Jones, commissioner and Spencer Mack, the team's captain.

THE MSU CHOIR, under the leadership of Dr. Nathan Carter, sang several selections at the Inaugural. One of their selections, "Precious Lord," was a request by the mayor.

AFRO photo by P. A. Greene

PORTRAIT — Left to right are Mayor Burns, Marie C. Henderson, the portrait and artist, Arthur Milton, a Maryland Institute of Art graduate student who painted the protrait and presented at Monday's Inaugural.

AFRO photo by P. A. Greene

SHERIFF Shelton Stewart looks on as Burns and one of his City Hall staffers sign the city's book at his historic swearing-in Monday, Jan. 26, 1987.

PHI DELTA KAPPA' PLANS BLACK HISTORY EXTRAVAGANZA

The National Sorority of Phi Delta Kappa, Inc., Gamma Chapter, will be presenting an extravaganza entitled "A Black History Celebration (open to the public with admission free) at the Pimlico Middle School, 3500 W. Northern Parkway, Sunday, Feb. 15 at 4 p.m. The theme is "The Black Heritage: Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow."

The committee chairperson is Soror LaNita B. Brown, second anti-basileus. Committee members are Sorors Vera Bethune, Fannie Putty, Adele Harris, Geraldine Shepherd, Nellie Bowie, Rhonda Bartie, Charlotte Brooks, JoAnn Rogers, and Cathy Thomas. Leanna Ferrell is basileus; Rose Gallop is Executive Advisor.

Special guests are the Rev. Jimmy C. Baldwin, Pam Yerby, Robert Evans' Ensemble, Arena Players Youth Theatre and P.S. MAD Kids.

Other participants will be outstanding youths representing various schools, churches, organizations, etc.

This educational program promises to be very interesting as it will commemorate Black History Month. Sunday, Feb. 8 the sorority will appear on City Line at 12 noon to inform the public of the program.

Ballet Auditions

Area ballet students will have an opportunity to audition for two new ballets choreographed by Jean-Pierre Bonnefoux on Thursday, Feb. 12, at 5:30 p.m. in the Lillian Welsh Hall Dance Studio, Goucher College. The ballets will be performed at Goucher's annual spring dance concert on May 8 and 9, 1987.

Jean-Pierre Bonnefoux, former principal dancer with the New York City Ballet, has achieved international recognition as a choreographer since retiring from the NYCB in 1980. He is ballet artist-in-residence at Goucher.

To reserve audition space, dancers should call the Goucher Dance Studio, 337-6390, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on weekdays.

Our World

Pattie Hodges

OUR WORLD EDITOR

PARTYLINE

'SOME OF US' KICK OFF YEAR AT WATERGATE

"Some of Us" - the Washington-based social group, got 1987 off to a splendid start with worship service at D.C.'s New Bethel Baptist Church recently (D.C. Delegate Reverend Walter Fauntroy pastors there) - then a simply elegant brunch hostessed by member Janice (Panky) Wilcox at the fabulous Watergate Hotel.

Between sumptuous bites, plans were discussed for the coming year with club members Blanche Carr, Eunice Cherry, Berayce Fletcher, Ruth Hall, Diane McCrae, Mary Randall, and Panky Wilcox. The club's unique format (which requires that each member plan a social or cultural event for her meeting), and the fact that members are from such diverse places as D.C., Silver Spring and Annapolis, Md. and Arlington, Va. calendars in the metropolitan area.

KERMIT GOLDEN RETIRES

A celebration honoring Kermit Golden Sr. upon his retirement after 30 years of service of the C & P Telephine Co. was hosted by his family Saturday, January 10 at the Quality Inn Northwest, 10 Wooded Way.

It was a joyful celebration, both for Kermit, the honoree, who is also the leader of the Travelaires Gospel Singing Group, as well as his numerous guests.

The Occasion was given by Barbara Shaw, who also introduced members of the dais, and greetings were extended by Sarah Bell Horsey, who also served as toastmistress for the evening, which began at 7 p.m. and lasted till 12 a.m.

Invocation and Grace were by Havana Bell, and prior to the consumption of the sumptuous buffet dinner, Kermit sang "I Thank God."

An original poem "Retirement" was done by yours truly.

Entertainment was provided by Corie Golden, son of the honoree, who sang and danced, and by Crystal Golden, the honoree's daughter who sang the solo, "The Greatest."

Lee Byhoff, C & P Telephone supervisor, presented a plaque of appreciation, a Hamilton Beach engraved watch and tie clasp. (all with diamonds and a ruby on them), and a golden ring and a Baltimore Pride Logo hat to an ecstatic Kermit.

Joe Williams, Travelaires member, gave remarks of commendation, spoke of the honoree's loyalty to his family and the singing group.

Alease J. Mason presented a Citation from the mayor's office. Kermit also received a Citation from the City Council.

His brother, Dr. Lawrence Bell (local dentist) presented Kermit a plaque from the family; Billy Hamlin (the honoree's nephew) presented a scrapbook for his memoirs and Mary Ross , his aunt presented a stereo-component set from family and friends.

Other family members and friends who made loving remarks about Kermit included his sisters Minnie Sanders and Carrie Johnson; Brenda Wade, and two other members of Dispatch at C&P Richard Hulligin, supervisor, C&P; Lydia Lewis, supervisor, C & P; and Sarah Horsey, his sister.

Other relatives and friends attending were DeWitt Johnson, Vance Ross, uncle; Mrs. Roxie Bell, the honoree's mother, and Mrs. Lawrence Bell, sister-in-law, and Lelia Lewis, friend.

Kermit, who was togged to the teeth in a white tuxedo, with white shirt, powder blue bow tie, cummerbund and handkerchief, was thrilled by it all, so humble and gracious in his thanks to his friends, co-workers and family members, that he gave off a warm glow which enveloped all. He also treated everyone to the Sam Cooke songs, "Darling, You Send Me" and ended with "We're Having a Party" which brought everyone to the floor.

The evening continued with music by the AXYS - The Golden Image Recording Artist.

Chairperson for the event was Sarah Horsey. Co-chair was Mary Ross. Secretary was Crystal Golden.

ELLEN HOWARD, MEOC BRING NAT'L ACCLAIM TO BALTO

Ellen Dolvey Howard, Director of the Maryland Education Opportunity Center (MEOC) brought national acclaim into Baltimore. At a recent news conference held at the National Press Club, in Washington. D.C. Ellen was one of four recipients of the Delta Adult Literacy Awards.

Mrs. Hortense Canady of Lansing, MI, National President of the Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Inc., launched the "Delta Adult Literacy Weekend" with the awards presentation.

The presentations went to institutions that have made a significant difference in decreasing the 27 million adults who are functionally iliterate.

Other award recipients were James Duffy, president, Capital Cities/ABC television network; Ms. Beth Mastin, Northeastern Coordinator for the Public Broadcasting Service (PBS); U.S. Department of Education-Division of Adult Education with Karl Haigler accepting the award on behalf of the department; Ms. Mary Sceiford, Asst. Director, Elementary and Secondary Education for the Corporation for Public Broadcasting (CPB); and Ms. Donna Limerick on behalf of the National Public Radio (NPR). Dr. Calvin Rolark, local black newspaper publisher (The Washington Informer) also received a plaque on behalf of the Assault on Illiteracv Program (AOIP).

Ellen Dolvey Howard and her MEOC staff have exemplified their concern for literacy by instituting a number of programs that have made a difference. At MEOC adults are given assistance in using basic reading, writing and computational skills for everyday life situations, Adults who are marginally illiterate or able to read, write and compute but unable to use these skills proficiently are given the assistance necessary for proficiency.

Many Baltimoreans have been helped with college applications, job application, etc. at the center.

High school dropouts are given preparatory assistance for the high school equivalence

Continued on page 10

Scenes from the Belvedere Mandela reception

MAYOR CLARENCE "DU" BURNS (R) presents a gift to Zenani (Mandela) Dlamin, daughter of Nelson and Winnie Mandela, Swaziland, Africa during the reception hosted for her at the Belvedere, Wednesday, Jan. 15 as her husband Thumbumuz; Dlamini looks on.

THE HONOREE seems poised and ready to address her more than 200 attendees at the reception.

DR. EARL RICHARDSON (R) welcomes guests as Dr. Levi Watkins, chairperson for the event looks on.

WILLIAM ANDERSON (l) the Treasurer of the Morgan State University Foundation and Francis Gates, the Chairman of the Morgan State University Foundation were out to mingle during the festive occasion.

MARY CLAYBURN (C) and Arthur Bugg chat with a friend at the elegant reception.

FRED GRANT (C) a prominent Baltimore lawyer, and Portia Badham, P.R. Director for Liberty Medical Center, share a few jubilant moments with Jay Johnson.

ELLEN DOLVEY HOWARD (second from L) holds her recently won Literacy Award as looking on (from L) are Dr. Rebecca Carroll president, Baltimore Alumnae Chapter, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority; Mae Wright Peck and Hortense Canady, Delta's National President.

COUNCILMAN NATHANIEL MCFADDEN (L), Councilwoman rochelle Spector and Harry McGuirk were among the crowd of well wishers who came to the Belvedere to meet the daughter of Nelson and Winnie Mandela.

HERBERT OLIVERA, (L) Dean of Morgan's School of Business and Management and Baba Whisler (R) enjoy the fine food and beverages at the reception along with a friend, Arlethia Garrison.

JAN 1987