SCHOOL OF THE WEEK

Guilford Station No. 214:

Stand and Deliver

By Delfield S. Yoes, III
AFRO Staff Writer

The "School of the Week" page has reported on many unique features of Baltimore City Public Schools, but probably none of them is quite as unique as the post office at Guilford Elementary School.

No it's not a "make believe" post office with play money, Guilford Elementary, a.k.a., Guilford Station #214, is a functioning post office.

The Guilford School established a relationship with the U.S. Postal Service about three years ago, when the school's postman Bill Reed began thinking of several ways in which the post office could contribute to the academic progress of Guilford.

Reed began sharing his ideas with educators, parents, students and postal workers and his plans were encouraged. Next Reed wrote up a proposal outlining the correlation between the operation of a post office and the elementary school curriculum. Then in September of 1989, Reed approached Patricia Talley, Guilford's principal with his proposal and Talley was very receptive of Reed's concepts.

Talley and Reed began submitting the proposal to different divisions of the postal service including the post master and in March of 1989, the establishment of Guilford Station #214 at Guilford Elementary School became official.

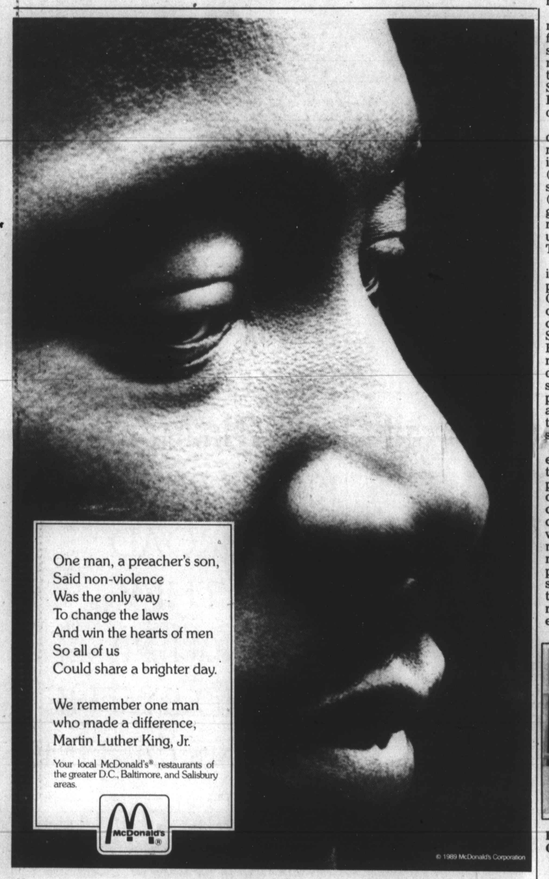
The Guilford Station is indeed an innovative way of reinforcing reading (incoming, outgoing mail), math (weighing mail, selling stamps), pre-vocational skills (filing, sorting), and geography skills (following a route for delivery and pick-up), but it's just part of Pat Talley's program at Guilford.

"An emphasis on improving instruction is always a primary focus," says Talley. Other immediate goals and considerations for Guilford include: "reinforcing Mayor Schmoke's goal of making Baltimore, 'the city that reads,' increasing attendance, decreasing suspensions and providing a safe, positive, comfortable, relaxed and secure atmosphere for teachers and students," states Talley.

Principal Talley has established two teams of teachers to help realize these primary goals, as well as others. The administrative council and the grade level chairperson committee, along with Talley, convene once a month to create and implement strategies. For example; the third grade chairperson meets with third grade teachers to design third grade reading and math diagnostic exams.

This way teachers are directly involved in the decision making process, as opposed to a dictatorial relationship between principal and faculty.

"My rapport with my staff is wonderful... they have an awareness of what my job is all about. I love working here and I think they (staff) have an appreciation for why things are the way they are, because they're discovering for themselves," states Talley.



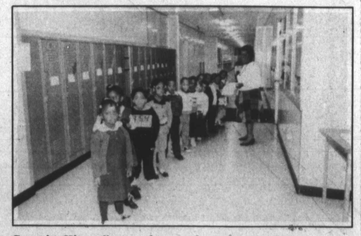
"Postal Cashier," Dexter White is on the job at Guilford Station #214.

Music instructor, Joyce McNair leads Barbara Shaw's third-grade class in a song.

Elizabeth Nesbit and her kindergarten students.

Patricia Talley, principal of Guilford Elementary School.

"Postal Carrier," Miracle Jones, (front) and "Postal Mistress," Michele Hayes won't allow, "...slow nor sleet nor dead of night..."


Georgia King, first and second grade "reading through literature" teacher.

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LIFESTYLE

Social Notes

By Paula Brooks
Lifestyle Editor

An article on the Urban Services Christmas party for the Homeless appeared in last week's lifestyle page. The article was contributed by Twilah Scarborough, dedicated AFRO columnist. Sorry to say Twilah's name did not appear through error.

New Lifestyle page

It's a new year—a new decade even, and resolutions are flying left and right. Mine include doing whatever I do, to the best of my ability. This includes my work as lifestyle editor. I'd like the Lifestyle page to attain its former greatness and excitement. People still talk about Lula Jones Garrett and her days as gad-about town.

People also talk about B-more and how dead it is here, but with the help of you, the reader, we'll prove them wrong! Let us know about events that your organization is sponsoring in advance, so we can try to schedule a photographer, or print coverage of the affair.

Young people take heart and write us about positive affairs that you are sponsoring in the community. You do not have to be over 50 to be included on these pages. You do have to care about what's going on in our community, and read the AFRO!

Marc local dance contest

There's a group of stalwart Baltimoreans who brave the work commute to Washington daily. These ambitious folk catch the train-the Marc Local to and fro five days a week. Determined to make the best of what could turn into a tedious and tiresome routine, these commuters formed the Marc Local Society.

As another in a series of on-going events, The Marc Local Society Club held an Exotic Dance Contest aboard the train on its return from D.C. This year's contest was won by Mr. Edward Alston of Baltimore.

Mr. Alston's Zorro costume was made of black silk with mink trim. Although his costume was expensive and very brief, He won the dance contest on his professional dancing ability.

Bill Chapman of Washington won second place and third place went to Mary Paschal of Wilmington Del. Other top contestants included Jean Merrick, B-More; Annette Alson, Woodlawn, Md.; and Brenda Jenkins, Pomfret, Md.

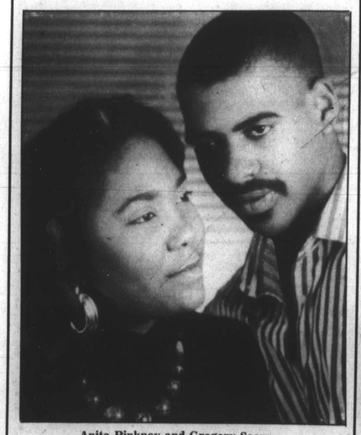
All passengers enjoyed the exuberance and talent of the dancers immensely..

Pinkney/Sears

Mr. and Mrs. Brown M. Pinkney, Sr. of Northwest Baltimore have announced the engagement of their daughter, Anita C. Pinkney to Gregory L. Sears, son of Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence O. Sears, Jr.

The bride-elect graduated from Baltimore City College High School and Tuskegee University with a B.S. in Ocupational Therapy. The prospective bridegroom graduated from Baltimore City College High School and Allegheny College with a B.A. in International Studies.

The wedding will take place January 27, at Pennsylvania Avenue AME Zion Church.


Anita Pinkney and Gregory Sears

Red, Black and Green Ball

The first annual Red, Black, and Green was held recently at the YWCA on Franklin St. The affair, sponsored by Renaissance Productions, a cadre of artists, community activists and other progressive, grass roots folk, was a celebration of African survival in the midst of adversity.

The Ball will become an annual observance during the month of Kwanzaa, during the principle of Nia-pupose-the collective work of restoring our people to their traditional greatness. It was officially known as "The Overcome" celebration.

A King and Queen contest was held and nominations were solicited from those in attendance based on an individuals civic participation in exemplifying Nia. Mary Carter Smith, Baltimore Griot crowned the King, Queen and First Lady-in-Waiting.

Charlie Dugger, who has always been a guiding light in the search for and awareness of our African history was crowned King. Olu, well known African dancer and culturist was crowned Queen, renowned artist, Sallah became First Lady in Waiting.

Be sure to attend next year's Ball.

Stallah, First Lady In-Waiting, King Charlie Dugger and Queen Olu (Photo by Ray Gilbert)

Miller appointed Sigma Director

Carter D. Womack, National President and the General Board of Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc., confirmed the appointment of Dr. Lawrence E. Miller as national executive director during their national board retreat on November 9-12, 1989 at the Miami Lakes Inn, Miami, Florida.

In his new position, Dr. Miller will serve as the chief officer of operations for the fraternity's national headquarters, staff and its more than 90,000 membership. Dr. Miller will become the third national executive director of the fraternity since its founding in 1914.

"Lawrence's extraordinary record as a skilled manager speaks for itself," said President Womack following the announcement of Miller's hiring. "His knowledge of the fraternity and his sensitivity to the challenges we face in the 1990s' make him that rare individual who combines the best elements of creativity and executive acumen," Womack added.

"I accept this positiion with great anticipation. I am excited at the opportunity to work with seven regional directors and the membership of our organization,'" said Miller. "I believe that we will conquer the challenges that face the African American males which will then strengthen our communities."

Born in Columbia, South Carolina and reared in Raleigh, North Carolina, Dr. Miller is a member of Alpha Sigma Chapter of the fraternity. He also is currently serving as chairman of Alpha Sigma's reactivation and recruitment campaign. He is also the Eastern Region's secretary for the fraternity. He serves on the executive council of the United Church of Christ which is the highest deliberation board for 1.7 million denomination.

Dr. Miller is listed in the 1982 edition of Outstanding Young Men of America and the 1989 edition of Who's Who Among Black Americans.

Dr. Lawrence E. Miller is new director of Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc.

Columbia Capers

Omegas 78th founders day

By Pinnie Ross

COLUMBIA, MARYLAND — The Columbia Maryland chaptr of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., recently celebrated the 78th anniversary of the fraternity's founding with a lavish Founder's Day/Achievement Week Program held at the BWI Guest Quarters Hotel.

The program attended by members of Tau Pi Chapter, guests and friends, honored the fraternity founders in an improvisation using senior members of the chapter as sit-ins. The senior members of the chapter were also awarded beautiful plaques commemorating their many years of outstanding service to Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. The most senior members of the chapter honored were: Daniel W. C. Brown; Gerald Q. Greenfield; Osbourne A. Payne; and, Emerson C. Walden, Sr.

The current officers of Tau Pi Chapter are: A. Clinton Sellers, Basileus; Michael A. Littlejohn, Vice - Basileus; John N. Marshall, III, Keeper of Records and Seal; and, Mitchell Smith, Jr., Keeper of Finance.

Daniel W. C. Brown is presented award by Charles Mathieu.

Osbourne Payne is given award by David Charon