By TIM ROWLAND
Staff Writer

MARTINSBURG, W.Va. — President Ronald Reagan might be better versed on the needs and concerns of minorities today if he had the help of a powerful black leader such as the late Martin Luther King Jr., a noted Washington, D.C., journalist said yesterday afternoon.

Paul Berry, a television journalist with WJLA-TV and best known for the consumer feature "Seven on Your Side," spoke in Martinsburg yesterday on the eve of the national holiday saluting the civil rights activist's birthday.

Berry was the keynote speaker for the annual Martin Luther King Scholarship Dinner in Martinsburg.

The $15-a-plate dinner raises money for college scholarships which are awarded to needy students, regardless of race.

During a pre-meal press conference, Berry said he respects Reagan, but thinks a solid leader such as King would have been instrumental in advancing the issues of blacks.

"I think (King) would have been dismayed with the opportunities which have been lost during this administration," he said.

"I believe Dr. King would have thought it was tragic that Reagan has not once agreed to meet with a member of the National Black Caucus.

"I don't see President Reagan as a callous man, but I see him as a protected man," Berry said. "If we had a leader like Dr. King here today, he might have had the opportunity to sit down and break bread with the President.

"And I think the President would have listened. I think Dr. King could have been very effective," Berry said.

Washington has had its share of racial tension in the past year, including a racial slur against King by a city disc jockey, who returned to the air two hours later to offer his apologies.

Then a new Sunday magazine published by the Washington Post was blasted for what some perceived as ignoring positive black contributions to the community.

"I wonder how George Washington would have felt about his birthday becoming another day off from work, a little more sleep or getting the car you want at half price," he said.

"I love Dr. King. I have a love for his memory," Berry said. "And I hope I will never see a 'We Shall Overcome' special down at the local department store."

Above all, Berry said he hopes King's holiday does not become just another special sale package down at the local department store.

"I wonder how George Washington would have felt about his birthday becoming another day off from work, a little more sleep or getting the car you want at half price," he said.

"I love Dr. King. I have a love for his memory," Berry said. "And I hope I will never see a 'We Shall Overcome' special down at the local department store."
Voice Of The People

Readers are invited to express their views in the Voice of the People column. Letters should be kept to a maximum of 250 words. The Daily Mail reserves the right to edit and condense letters. All letters must be signed and contain the address of the writers. Preference will be given those letters whose writers permit publication of their names.

Mr. Vaughn and Company

I would like to comment on a Jan. 24 Daily Mail article entitled “Councilman opposes spreading low income housing.”

This matter has lingered on and on. Here again, Larry Vaughn takes punches at Mayor Paddock to make it appear he’s at fault of all city matters. I don’t feel it’s always the mayor.

The housing issue does not need the approval of the council because it doesn’t affect the city housing plan.

I would like to see the federal government take away the city funding and see how Vaughn would react to that. You know, Mr. Vaughn, the more federal programs you have the more money you get the next time you go back to the “feds,” in most cases.

Mr. Vaughn, what you fail to realize, which is nothing new, is that the concept of spreading low income housing throughout the city does not create monsters of housing projects with all the domestic problems and high crime rates.

When you can openly state, Mr. Vaughn, that people on the same street had better contact you if they want this stopped before “they tear the whole goddamn neighborhood apart,” you should have a court injunction placed against you for your prejudice and bigoted remarks.

One of the streets named was Jonathan and I live in this area. However, I wouldn’t call you because if you remember, you were councilman of this area at one time.

Remember when you attended a meeting at the Bethel Gardens Community Center and you stated that all citizens had to do was contact you and the job would get done? You stated how much you would do even if some people called you a “nigger lover.” Mr. Vaughn, we knew then where you stood with blacks and poor people.

You haven’t done anything yet to impress me, and the only thing I’ve seen you do is arrest winos and interfere with employees at City Hall. But then that’s part of your “watchdog” technique to protect the welfare of our city.

Mr. Vaughn, you have blacks, and poor people in public housing areas in your ward. Ever think what it would look like if you had spread housing instead of that massive complex?

I can’t see how you think you represent the people when you don’t represent the poor and blacks.

If the citizens don’t impeach you and your cohorts first, I hope they think twice before placing the puppet show back in City Hall next election.

Bruce Greg Johnson
Chairman, Northwest Central Citizen Committee
Jonathan St., Hagerstown
Church Council To Study Employment Discrimination

The Washington County Council of Churches revealed plans last week for a study of employment discrimination here, and condemned the trick or treat collection for UNICEF scheduled tomorrow night.

The annual meeting of the county-wide organization was attended by 135 persons in Christ's Reformed Church.

Its social action committee and the United Church Women of Washington County have prepared a questionnaire "to determine our county's willingness to grant equal employment opportunities to all persons," it was revealed. Nearly 2,000 questionnaires will soon be sent to all places of business in the county.

Based on the returns from this investigation, a letter of commendation will go from the Council of Churches "to those businesses that do grant equal employment rights to all citizens."

The social action committee had previously surveyed accommodation practices in this county.

The Washington County Council of Christian Youth reported on plans for the annual UNICEF collection, which had aroused some opposition in previous years from certain groups.

The meeting passed without dissenting vote the motion to commend the young people for this project to assist children in need overseas.

No final action was taken last night on another motion, which would budget $7,750 additional for salaries and office expenses in connection with chaplaincy work and executive secretary duties for the organization. After an involved parliamentary procedure, the group voted to resudy the project and consider it again at the next meeting in April.

Reports were heard from the evangelism committee, headed by the Rev. E. W. Stumrun.

del unpaid by the Rev. W. Ronald Fears; the comity committee barred by the Rev. J. Russell Butcher; the volunteer chaplaincy committee, headed by the Rev. Donald P. Flick; and the United Church Women, whose head is Mrs. Lawrence N. Strunk.

The principal speaker was the Rev. Dr. William A. Keese, president of the Maryland Council of Churches, who called the movement toward union among denominations "the grand religious fact of our day."

The pastor of Grace Methodist Church, Baltimore, he said: "The tide is running toward union."

He cited such unity moves in recent decades as the merger in the United Churches of Canada the joining of three Methodism groups, the creation of the Evangelical and Reformed and Evangelical United Brethren denominations, and the settlement of fam
City Housing Code Changes Proposed To Make It Work

A law professor at Georgetown University says that Washington's housing regulations look like a cure-all but don't work.

Writing in the current American University Law Review, Associate Professor Robert Schildhinsky points an accusing finger in several directions—at what he calls the laxity of housing officials, the outdated procedures in the Department of Licenses and Inspections, and the long, drawn-out legal proceedings that usually seem to favor the landlord.

The regulations, he says, must be vigorously enforced. He does not think that this has been done.

Moreover, he feels that the six or seven months now required to process violations is too long and favors the landlord.

According to Schoshinsky, "many violators procrastinate for many months before making an effort to comply, secure in the knowledge that they will not be penalized for their delay and that more probably any fine imposed for the initial violation will be suspended upon eventual compliance."

He says that in fiscal 1964, only 115 cases reached the court of General Sessions out of 7,440 referred to the Corporation Counsel. Schoshinsky says that out of the 115, penalties were imposed and suspended in three cases, personal bond was taken in two cases, two landowners were found innocent and 27 cases were settled "in various ways before trial date."

The professor thinks what is needed is a more streamlined procedure to deal with violators. He proposes elimination of "time-consuming procedures within the Corporation Counsel's office" such as summonses to appear at complaints instead of hearing them themselves, further extensions of inspections and other devices.

In brief, Schoshinsky makes these recommendations:

• If landlords fail to comply with the Housing Regulations, their licenses to operate housing should be suspended.

• No license should be issued while violations exist.

• The Director of Licenses and Inspections ought to use his power to place placards on houses which are unfit for human habitation. This power is not currently being used upon the recommendation of the Corporation Counsel.

• District officials have the power to make repairs to slum housing and then charge the costs. Officials say they haven't got the money to purchase labor and materials. Schoshinsky says that a "substantial fund should be given to seeking the appropriation of such funds."

• Housing authorities should have the right to impose a mandatory injunction requiring correction of code violations. Other cities use the device; it doesn't exist here.

• The city should establish a special housing tribunal to deal with housing code violations.

• If a landlord is making extensive repairs and he must move tenants out, the tenant should receive some sort of relocation payment so they do not have to absorb the total cost of moving. Bill S.2331, now before Congress, would make this possible.

• Tenants should be given the right to withhold rent while housing code violations exist.

• The city should enact a rent control law, similar to the one now used in New York City.

The long range solution to the problems of the indigent, says Schoshinsky, lies in a greater commitment by the Federal Government "in the construction and refurbishment of standards and low-cost housing."

"Until this source of supply is tapped effectively, the major hope for the indigent will seem to lie in a more progressive judiciary, and a more effective administration of the housing regulations," he concludes.
Concept of "Y" Here  
At Odds With Intent  
Of Y.M.C.A. Movement

**EVEN** with untrained staff workers and inadequate facilities, our "Y" does a remarkable job. It doesn't actually function as a Y.M.C.A., since it has no real athletic program other than supervised games in the evenings, but it does fill a need as a community center for residents in its immediate vicinity.

You're right, this appraisal couldn't possibly refer to our fine Y.M.C.A. on N. Potomac St. But it does, very emphatically, describe the North St. Branch "Y".

Or didn't you realize that this branch "Y", maintained as a segregated facility for local colored people, presently doesn't even have a gymnasium at its disposal?

Perhaps now, during Y.M.C.A. Week, is a good time to examine the "total" Y program in our community. Is it right that some of our young people should be denied the Y facilities available to others? Is it morally right that segregated Y facilities should be continued here, especially now that our schools have been successfully integrated?

The truth is that the North St. Branch Y has not been able to secure the services of a professionally trained worker, either as secretary or athletic director, for some time now. It gets along with one full-time "manager", who is experienced to a degree but not trained, and three part-time assistants. With no gym it can do little more than serve as a community center for our Negro population.

One of the real imponderables in our Y program locally is that the Y.M.C.A. is the only Unified Fund agency that holds to segregation in its offering to the public. The Salvation Army, the Volunteers of America, the Red Cross, the Boys and Girls Clubs all serve colored and white alike, and not in segregation.
Since the desegregation of schools in our county, white and colored youths have been taking school gym classes together, sharing the same locker rooms, playing on the same teams in intramural and varsity sports. The problems predicted by die-hard segregationists have not arisen; instead, white and colored youngsters alike have learned to be better citizens, realizing that equality of opportunities is a basic American right.

Without getting into a discussion of civil rights, the point overlooked by many seems to be that the letters "Y.M.C.A." still stand for, "Young Men's Christian Association"—just as they have ever since the start of the International Y movement more than a century ago. Encyclopedic descriptions of the movement still allege that "any young man of good moral character, regardless of race or creed, may become a member of this organization and enjoy its privileges"!

The important thing in this definitive qualification for Y membership is that young men of both Jewish and Catholic faith are accepted as members of Y's today, even though the first Y.M.C.A.'s were limited to young men of the Protestant Evangelical faith. The evolution in concept of this fundamental Christian movement long ago dissolved color as well as creedal barriers in most progressive American communities. But not locally.

Our Y.M.C.A. does a fine job, at least for those whom it serves at its main location. Its acquisition of an adjoining property in the past year indicates long-range plans for an expansion that is vitally needed. But wouldn't those plans be a lot more logical and realistic if the decision were made now to integrate all local Y facilities in one building? It is a cinch that combining of the separate U.F. budgets for the main Y and its North St. branch would result in more economical and effective use of the funds contributed by the public for Y use.

Let's face it, it is not possible to hire a qualified secretary or any other official for the North St. Branch Y. Every applicant in the past year has turned down the job because of the living conditions in the area where he would be forced to reside if he became associated with the wish to take part in a full Y program, and who can afford to pay the membership fee, should be allowed to join the main Y.M.C.A. If the present branch Y is continued in operation at all, it should not be under Y.M.C.A. aegis but as a community center.

Here's hoping that Y.M.C.A. Week this year will signal the launching of a new, more vital Y movement in our community—one as Christian in operation as it always has been in concept.

TTS—No. 10—
Bethel Gardens almost full

After more than a year of problems and disappointments, Bethel Gardens apartments are almost full.

In March of this year, ten months after the complex opened, more than a quarter of its units remained vacant. But five months later, all but one or two of its 94 apartments and townhouses have tenants.

Two factors are primarily responsible, according to Curtis Furgason, Bethel manager since February.

The first one, he says, was advertising. Shortly after he took on the manager’s job, Furgason placed a large ad in local newspapers.

“That drew a lot of people,” he says. “That as what we needed.”

The second factor Furgason cites was the availability of federal subsidies under the Section 8 program of the Department of Housing and Urban Development.

As a result of this program, tenants with limited incomes could get federal help in paying their rents. Those units in Bethel Gardens which were eligible for subsidized rents quickly filled up once Section 8 funds were provided, Furgason says.

A third factor also helped. “Nobody’s moving out,” Furgason says. For a while, that had been a problem. Rents were re-adjusted as tenants’ incomes rose, forcing some of them to move to other housing.

That stopped gradually as tenants who moved out were replaced by others with more stable incomes.

Another, less tangible factor also helped contribute to a higher occupancy rate. That was the gradual removal of a stigma which was associated with the complex since before its construction began.

Built off Jonathan Street in the city’s predominantly black neighborhood, the housing complex had a “black, low-income image in many people’s minds,” Furgason said.

“But that stigma lessened as more and more white people moved in,” he says. “Now we’ve got a good mixture of racial and economic groups.”
DRIVE AGAINST THIS — NAACP branch President Leonard Curls has said he will try to organize the Negro community's younger citizens in a massive block-by-block clean-up campaign. This accumulation of debris in Harmon's Alley is an example of the debris that the NAACP will try to get rid of. Curlin said he will ask for trucks to haul the accumulation away residents collect it. Besides robbing it of one excuse for not renovating pro Curlin said, it would demonstrate the community's pride.
Urban Renewal Called Most Significant Defeat Of All

The "most significant defeat" of the five losing bond issues was rejection of the urban renewal bonds, Thackera Brown, of the Economic Development Commission staff, said Wednesday.

Hagerstown voters rejected urban renewal by a vote of 3,719 to 1,350. About 72 percent of the city's registered voters did not turn out.

"Anytime the needs of the community are turned down," he said, "it is detrimental."

Many industrial prospects would have been of great benefit to downtown. But the people evidently don't want it, he said.

Councilman Jacob Voros said, "The people have spoken. I'm going to follow the wishes of the people."

Mayor Winslow F. Burhans said that the vote showed the people of Hagerstown were not quite ready for urban renewal at this time.

He is still hopeful, however, that they might approve it at some future time.

The Census Bureau estimates our daily population increase will average 7,200 during November.
ESTATE SALE
Having duly qualified as Personal Representative of the Estate of Beulah E. Spriggs and pursuant to an Order of the Orphan's Court for Washington County dated April 5, 1977, I, Marshall W. Branch, will offer for public sale

Friday, May 13, 1977
at 12:00 Noon
403 North Jonathan St.
Hagerstown

HOUSEHOLD GOODS:
2-pc. living room suite, port. TV set & stand, 3-pc. dining room suite, Oak bow and china closet, 3-pc. sectional suite, 2 Windsor type chairs, small wooden & metal, overstuffed chairs & others, barrel back chair, smoking stand & others, platform kitchen cabinet, utility cabinets, small chest type freezer, wood, coal & gas stove, gas stove, tables, auto, clothes tree, metal wardrobe, stands, 4-pc. maple bedroom suite, wood & rocking chairs, side chairs, port. elec. sewing machine, wash stand, towel rack, dishes (some antique), Tiffany type light, kitchen light, what-nots, pictures, jardinieres, rugs, books, pots & pans, porch swing, lawn chairs, hand & garden tools, other items too numerous to mention.

TERMS: Cash.

REAL ESTATE:
All that lot or parcel of ground, together with the improvements thereon, fronting 32 feet on the West side of North Jonathan Street, and extending back therefrom with the same uniform width, a distance of 66 feet, more or less; being improved by a double frame dwelling now known as 403 and 405 North Jonathan Street, covered with siding. 403 has 3 rms. on 1st floor, 1 rm. and bath on 2nd. 405 has 3 rms. on 1st floor, 2 rms. on 2nd. Both sides have attics and dirt floor basements. Small shed attached to rear of house. Metal roof. Being the same property conveyed by Earl N. Spriggs and Beulah E. Spriggs, his wife by Nethersole Jones, by deed dated E. Jan. 16, 1957 and recorded in Liber 319 folio 170 among the Land Records of Washington County, Md. Last call for real estate shall be 2:00 P.M.

TERMS: 10% of purchase price cash on date of sale. Balance within 30 days or upon date of settlement, whichever shall first occur. Real estate taxes shall be pro-rated as of date of settlement. Purchaser shall pay all costs of documentary stamps, transfer tax and survey, if required.

AUCTIONEER: Louis M. Riner
CLERKS: Sayler & Secrest
MARSHALL W. BRANCH
ATTORNEY: Robert B. Stone
739-4700

Maryland approves $165,000 for North St. pool project

A proposed swimming pool behind the old North Street School will become a reality next summer.

The State Board of Public Works has agreed to add $165,000 to the $85,000 already granted by the federal government for the new pool, according to District 2-C. Del. Donald Munson.

Munson and Washington County Commissioner Lee Downey claimed credit for persuading top state officials to back the project.

The pool, expected to be opened next May 30, will replace an existing pool located behind the old day care center on North Street. That pool was shut down two summers ago, leaving the Hagerstown Municipal Pool as the sole outdoor pool then open to the public in the city.

The old pool was first operated by the YMCA for blacks when segregation was still in effect nearly three decades ago. The Memorial Recreation Center took over operation of the pool several years later when integration opened its use to all races.

MRC president Donald Evans said the pool was closed after the 1975 season because it was no longer safe. "The walls were cracking and the plumbing had deteriorated," he said.

A contract for construction of the new pool was signed with Callas Contractors Inc. of Hagerstown a few weeks ago. But approval of the contract was contingent upon the receipt of funding approval from the state.

There will be a new pool, a wading pool with deck areas, underwater lighting, a bathroom, a parking area and other equipment. No local money will have to be added to the project.

MRC president Evans said the new pool will be a little smaller than an Olympic-sized pool "but larger than what we have now." He said the first floor of the old day care center will be renovated to provide locker rooms and shower areas.
Mayor Varner L. Paddock, left, installs a sign marking the spot where the first city housing rehabilitation loan was given. Joseph Rowe, center, chairman of the agency that ok'd the loan and Frederick Stoner, recipient, participated in ceremony.
Local family receives first home fix-it funds

By PAT KING

When the Frederick L. Stoner family bought a run-down five-bedroom house on Charles Street in 1968 they really had their work cut out for them.

In fact their fix-up list was so long and their funds limited that they weren’t sure they’d get to everything before their six children reached adulthood.

That was until yesterday when the Stoners’ dreams were brought closer to reality. They got a rehabilitation loan from the City of Hagerstown for “a little more than $11,000,” Stoner says.

It was obviously cause to celebrate for the Stoners. But the city had many reasons, too.

The Stoner loan kicked off their ambitious rehabilitation loan program.

That was why city officials and the Stoners got together for a little celebration in the front yard of the home.

Mayor Varner L. Paddack, flanked by city staffers and a citizens loan board, pounded a city project identification marker into the ground. He called it an historic time.

“It’s the first (governmental) subsidized loan and it’s an historic time for us when two governments get together with the private sector to make improvements.”

Stoner’s loan comes from a $125,000 kitty provided by the federal government’s community development block grant program.

The fund provides loans up to $10,000 each for persons in the Jonathan Street area, at interest rates between one and 8 per cent, depending on the family income.

Robert S. Juravich, who administers the program at City Hall, says he is processing 11 other loans. But because the city will get another $128,000 for its loan fund, he hopes more people from the area will apply. “Two-thirds of it is still uncommitted,” he said. “That is the word we hope to get across.”

If the Stoners’ experience is any indication, the red tape — even with government involvement — is minimal.

Juravich takes applications, has city departments inspect the property for code violations, consults with the property owner, and assists him in securing a cost estimate on which the loan is based.

In most cases it takes three to four weeks.

“There was no red tape at all. Mr. Juravich took care of it.” Stoner said. It’s not bad. Everything ran so smooth.”

Stoner heard about the program by a letter from the city. “A lot of people threw their letters away,” Stoner said. “They shy away because they think it’s a lot of red tape.”

Stoner and his wife are going to get cracking soon on improvements.

First, they plan to have a concrete wall built in their cellar. Then they plan to hire electrical contractors to wire upstairs bedrooms, which have been without heat. The rooms will be paneled. The improvements will be topped off with aluminum siding for the exterior, now sorely in need of paint.

The Stoners have already made considerable improvements before the city loan. Stoner said the kitchen was renovated and two front rooms had to be fixed up. A new furnace was needed, and chimney repairs were done. “We just have been able to do things as we go along. Now we’ll be able to get moving faster.”

Stoner, 40, works two full-time jobs to support his family. He is employed by Terrace Liquors and the Letterkenny Army Depot, in Chambersburg.

The loan program is part of the city’s neighborhood redevelopment program. A comprehensive study of the city’s poorest neighborhood completed in February, 1976 showed that many houses in that section were in dire need of basic improvements.

The loans are restricted to those who live or own property on Bethel, Church, Charles, Clarkson, Forest, N. Prospect and Jonathan streets.

Low-income families are given priority. Applicants must show evidence that they can repay the loan and that they can’t get a loan at comparable interest rates elsewhere.

The program is designed to bring properties into full compliance with city building code standards. But loans can be used to finance more improvements also.

For more information, contact Juravich at 731-3200.

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Number of whites declining

Maryland black population increases at fast rate

WASHINGTON (AP) — Figures released by the Bureau of the Census Tuesday indicate that the black population in Maryland is increasing at one of the fastest rates in the country, while the number of whites is declining.

During the period from 1970 to 1975, the number of blacks in the state grew by 18.3 percent—from 700,300 to 828,500. In that same period, the number of whites in the state grew from 3.19 million to 3.25 million, an increase of 1.7 percent.

But more significantly, the white population in the state began to decline in the period from 1973 to 1975. The white population in the state decreased by an estimated 5,000 persons during those years.

Nationally, both the black and white populations increased in the period from 1970 to 1975. The black population grew by 8.2 percent, while the number of whites increased by 3.9 percent.

Without breaking down the patterns any more specifically, the report noted, “Maryland, for example, gained an estimated 87,000 blacks through immigration during the period.”

“Much of it may have been the movement of blacks out of the District of Columbia into the Maryland suburbs,” the report continued.

If the trend continues, the pattern suggests significant political implications in Maryland.

In the 1982 election, there could be a change in the racial composition of the General Assembly, and there is also a possibility of a second black congressional seat in the next decade.

In Maryland’s Fifth Congressional District, which borders the District of Columbia and includes two-thirds of Prince Georges County as well as a small portion of Montgomery County, the black population has been increasing rapidly.

The District had more than 77,000 blacks in 1970, and projections indicate that blacks may comprise a majority of the population at some point in the 1980’s.

In recent statistics on migration patterns in the United States, the Census Bureau indicated that Maryland is one of four states with a large increase in its black population resulting from migration. The other states were Texas, Virginia, and Florida.
On Jonathan St.

Housing plan downtown fails

By ARNOLD S. PLATOU

A plan to bring some new housing to Jonathan Street has fallen through.

Last fall, a newly-formed construction company had big plans for a lot there that was vacant, save for an abandoned print shop.

The company, which was formed as an offshoot of Bushey and Burrey Architects of Hagerstown, wanted to build six moderately-priced homes on the three-quarter acre lot. The homes would have been among the few new houses built along Jonathan in recent decades.

But the only customer who ever showed an interest in buying the homes, didn’t. “He didn’t get a job he thought he was going to get,” architect Jack Burrey said Thursday. So none of the homes were built.

However, Burrey said, the lack of success thus far does not mean a “death knell” has been sounded over the project. “We’re still trying,” Burrey said. “We may be doing some townhouses (there instead).”

Burrey said the Community Action Council is interested in helping the firm build new housing in the area. He said CAC is doing a market survey of the housing needs of moderate income citizens.

“We’re happy that CAC is willing to work for the community,” Burrey said. He said that it is his firm’s aim, too. “We’re not in the charity business, but we are willing to work to improve the community.”

Burrey’s firm had planned to sell the houses at prices “in the low 30’s. Unfortunately, the price of (building) housing is just too damn high these days.”

“So we had to go up to 39 (thousand dollars), which obviously is either too high, or people were not interested in (moving into) the area,” he said.

Burrey noted that his firm’s plans have had at least one good result thus far: “We took the Spong (Printing Co.) building down. It was starting to fall down. It was becoming an eyesore.”

The print shop had been vacant since arsonists set a fire about five years ago which did heavy damage to the building.

beefs kill tax
Negro Cleanup Called Prelude To Bigger Task

Two speakers at the monthly meeting of the local NAACP branch at the North Street YMCA Tuesday night called upon members and Negroes in general to continue the fight for equal rights.

"The cleanup campaign starting Saturday will be just a prelude to what we intend to do," said Leonard Curlin, branch president, who presided.

He said the Negroes demands in Hagerstown will become greater. Along this line he mentioned the need for better housing.

Some city trucks will be used Saturday to remove rubbish from properties being improved. The area includes that from Franklin Street to the Western Maryland tracks and from North Potomac Street to Prospect Street.

Curlin called upon landlords also to clean up. He included some colored landlords in his criticism, saying that some of them rent nice places to white people but will not rent to Negroes.

Curlin was answering the challenge hurled at local members by Colin Cromwell, Baltimore, field secretary of the NAACP.

The president said: "We are very much awake here. We are going to fight because we are not satisfied with conditions."

Curlin said it is hoped at some future time to establish an employment bureau which will help to give Negroes better jobs.

"The Negro in Hagerstown is only getting about 50 per cent in pay compared with white people," he said.

The speaker said he had light report back later.

Cromwell said more money is needed to fight for equal rights. He also mentioned the great need for more workers.

The speaker attacked the action of Governor Wallace of Alabama in entering the Democratic presidential primary in Maryland. He said he hoped he would receive a small vote.

He emphasized the importance of the civil rights bill in Congress. Cromwell urged Negroes to write to Senator Daniel Brewster and Senator Glenn Beall of Maryland urging them to remain in Washington during discussions and action on civil rights.

In conclusion, Cromwell said, "We must get some of those clean, easy jobs. We should get some supervisory jobs."

He said Negroes should continue to complain and said there was nothing wrong it complaining in order to secure equal rights.

Preceding these talks, Fred Otto, registrar of the Hagerstown Junior College, spoke on home rule. He served as chairman of the Washington County Study Commission which gave a report on home rule.

He said one advantage of this system would be that many laws could be enacted locally. He explained how home rule would have to be approved by voters.

Gerald Smith, training chairman for Washington County Boy Scouts, explained how the branch could go about forming a cub pack. It was decided to have the youth work committee study the suggestion and
A commentary

Book sheds light on slavery conditions in county area

By HARRY WARNER

A newly published anthology throws more light onto one of the darkest areas of the local past, slavery.

"Slave Testimony" is the Louisiana State University Press volume compiled by John W. Blassingame. He has collected the words of scores of the nation's slaves from hard-to-find sources. Included among the letters, talks, published interviews and autobiographies are several references to Hagerstown and the surrounding area.

The most unsettling of the accounts relating to this area countian to sell one of his slaves to the slave's brother, a free black minister.

Back in 1854, a slave named Stephen Pembroke and his sons, Robert and Jacob, ran away from their masters, two Washington Countians named David Smith and Jacob H. Grove. They were caught in New York and brought from there back to Maryland. Six days after their escape, Grove wrote to Stephen's brother, James W. C. Pennington, suggesting that he might like to buy his own brother.

Pennington had been a slave here until 1827, when he escaped from his owner, Frisby Tilghman. Pennington was luckier than his brother, because he was rescued by abolitionists in Connecticut. In freedom, Pennington began a career as a minister in churches in New Haven and Hartford, Conn., then in New York City where he was pastor of the First (Shiloh) Presbyterian Church.

Nine days after their escape, ironically on May 30, the day that was to become the major holiday for the war caused by slavery, Stephen wrote to his brother with the help of a friend. Referring to Grove, his master, Stephen wrote from Sharpsburg to his brother:

"He told me I might return if you would give him his price. Do, my dear brother, make arrangements, and that at once, for my relief. ... My two sons were sold to the sylvania, under the delusion that this made him totally free. He apparently knew nothing at that time of the Fugitive Slave Law.

In Chambersburg, a man gave him work in the garden. He ate with a black woman there and got from her excellent advice: "If you haven't sufficient free papers, I would advise you not to stay here tonight." Curry jumped over the garden wall, having already suspected that his apparent benefactor was unduly interested in him. Eventually, near Philadelphia, Quakers gave him shelter and worked and arranged for him to reach Canada.

The book notes that 27 years later, in 1865, after Emancipation, Curry returned to North Carolina to seek the family he had left behind. Whites promptly beat him up.

During the Civil War, someone in Canada interviewed George Ross, who was from Hagerstown originally but had fled slavery a dozen years earlier. Unlike many slaves, Ross managed to take his family with him to freedom.

Ross termed the last of his three masters "a very nice man and very much a gentleman," who never whipped him. But the freed slave remembered seeing slaves transported in droves of 150 to 200 adults and children.

Slavery conditions in Hagerstown were better than in Virginia, he said.

Ross described wild stories that were circulated in Hagerstown to discourage slaves from heading northward. One fable contended that the government took half of everything a person earned in Canada, a situation that is quite close to coming true in Maryland a century later. There was also a legend that Canada was too cold for human survival.

"I don't think a great many believed those stories, for we knew they were told to keep us there," Ross told his interviewer.
A senior from North High and one from South High were winners of the Martin Luther King scholarships given this year by the Youth Council of the Washington County Branch of the NAACP. North High graduate Monica Ray Cooper (left) of Manor Drive in Hagerstown will attend Howard University in the fall and study physical therapy. She is the daughter of Deborah and Raymond Cooper of Hagerstown. South High graduate Sheila Jacqueline Hardy (right) of Hickory Lane in Hagerstown will study international business at the University of North Carolina in Chapel Hill, N.C. She is the daughter of Michael and Jacqueline Hardy of Hagerstown. Funds for the scholarships were raised by the Youth Council through the MLK scholarship luncheon, which is held in January on the Sunday prior to the birthday of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.
15 YEARS AGO: Feb. 12, 1972 — Two Hagerstown men, with no prior experience in radio and without pay, produce a weekly radio show called “Black Spectrum” which they say is the first local program to present the point of view of the black community.

The program airs each Tuesday at 7:15 p.m. on WJEJ by Wendell Greene and Kenneth Moten, who also head the job assistance committee of the Black Awareness Movement (BAM). The show has been on the air for six months.

30 YEARS AGO: Feb. 12, 1957 — The legislature’s role in traffic safety was given somewhat different interpretations today at a meeting of the First District, Maryland Federation of Women’s Clubs.

A Republican member of the General Assembly deplored the fact that state agencies are opposing the motor vehicle revision program before the legislature.

Del. C. Ray Barnes (R-Carroll) said, “We simply are not staying abreast of the new roads and the new cars.” He said politicians hesitate to pass severe and needed traffic restrictions because they are afraid of public reaction. “Horsepower was safer when only horses had it,” he added.

45 YEARS AGO: Feb. 12, 1942 — Hagerstown’s nearness to the war zones was emphasized when an announcement was made here by Civilian Defense headquarters that two directional markers or signs which may be seen by fliers indicating the names of the city, have been obliterated. One was at the Hagerstown airport, the other on the roof of the Hagerstown Shoe and Legging Company.

The Maryland Council of Defense had requested that all such markers be painted out for the duration of the war.

The removal of these markers on the roofs of buildings was described as of the utmost importance because such markers are of tremendous help to enemy bombers.

Civilian Defense headquarters are also seeking to have any markers in the county, which may identify the area, removed at once.

60 YEARS AGO: Feb. 12, 1927 — Tentative plans for fighting fires in the county were made by members of the City Council, the Board of Street Commissioners and Fire Chief Geo. B. Alexander at a conference yesterday at the Courthouse.

In the future the city engines will not respond to alarms of fire from places in the county unless it is definitely known that the firemen can be of real aid on their arrival at the fire. In places at which there is no water with which to fight the blaze, the firemen will not be sent to the scene, since without a sufficient amount of water they are practically helpless at a fire and can do little more than a bucket brigade of farmers.

The fire engines cannot stand travel over tough roads and farmers who expect aid from the city department will be required to keep their roads in such condition that there is no danger of the engines becoming mired in the mud. They will also be asked to dam streams so that a sufficient quantity of water will be on hand.
One woman our common mother?
Researcher says all humanity sprang from single African woman

By PAUL RECER
AP Science Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) - New research strengthens an earlier study that claimed humanity sprang from a single primitive woman, the "mother of us all," who lived in Africa about 200,000 years ago, a study published today says.

Mark Stoneking, an anthropologist at Pennsylvania State University, said genetic tracing based on samples collected worldwide show that we all originated from "anatomically archaic humans" who lived south of the Sahara Desert between 166,000 and 249,000 years ago.

Among this group could have been a single woman who first possessed a genetic pattern that can now be traced through a long series of mutations and overlapping similarities to all humanity, Stoneking said.

The study is being published today in the journal Science.

Other experts in the field say the study and its conclusions are suspect. One researcher called the findings "a house of cards" based on assumptions that cannot be proven.

The study is a refinement of a 1987 report by Stoneking, Rebecca Cann and the late Allan C. Wilson at the University of California, Berkeley. Wilson, who died last summer, described it as a search for "the mother of us all."

Stoneking said the new conclusions are based on an analysis of genetic information from 189 people around the globe.

"We're assuming that the mtDNA are mutating at a constant rate," he said. By knowing the number of mutations and assuming a specific rate of mutations, it becomes a mathematical process to determine when the mtDNA originated. That math, said Stoneking, set the time at between 166,000 and 249,000 years ago.

Eric Trinkaus, a professor of anthropology at the University of New Mexico, said the Stoneking study cannot be considered a final conclusion on the origin of humanity because it is based on unproven assumptions about the rate of inherited mutations.

This "molecular clock," said Trinkaus, "has been seriously challenged by scientists in genetics working with everything from humans to monkeys."
Rebate

Continued from A1

In fact, according to the bingo permits file, at least a half-dozen other commercial bingo operations held permits to run bingo games in the county, outside of any municipality's limits. The permits were filed by Bingo City, Stonestreet Tents Organization, S.R.O. Bingo, Four Seasons Bingo, Leprechaun's Bingo Hall, and Rich's Bingo-its.

The permits, which must be renewed each year, are kept on file in a drawer in the County Commissioners office and signed by their clerk.

Commissioners Vice President Ron Bowers, who suggested forgiving the debt, said he never looked in the permits file to see who else might have been operating. He said he assumed the comptroller's office would know which businesses were paying taxes.

Commissioners President Dick Roulette agreed. "We relied on the comptroller's report," Roulette said. "We inquired and the comptroller said no one else had been operating."

After reviewing the state's files Monday, a spokesman in the comptroller's office confirmed there were "at least several" other bingo operations paying taxes during that time. He declined to name specific parlors or estimate how much money may be refunded because amusement taxes, which are paid to the state and the sent to local governments, are not public information.

The other taxpaying parlors may have been overlooked in the first search because the comptroller's office did not have specific names of parlors to look for, said spokesman Marvin Bond.

Bill

Continued from A1

Lawlah said that decision will be left to the chairwoman of the House Rules Committee, Del. Hat tie Harrison, D-Baltimore. Harrison said her committee would meet Friday.

"I hate discrimination," Munson said. "But Munson said he thinks men- or women-only clubs should be permitted. It's a great loss to the community -- just in charitable donations -- when a club closes down, Munson added. Munson is a member of the North American Rod & Gun Club and belonged to the recently closed Moose lodge near Hagerstown.

Reginald Keyes, exalted ruler of Hagerstown's black Elks lodge, said the Jonathan Street club does not discriminate and has white members, Keyes said. There's also a women's auxiliary, but Keyes said he doesn't think the club's bylaws would bar a woman from joining the club. Keyes said the lodge doesn't operate under the same national charter as most Elks lodges, which don't allow women to join the actual clubs.

"Having a woman's auxiliary does not exempt a club," said Anita Woody, Lawlah's legislative aide. Joe Beach, exalted ruler of the Robinwood Drive Elks Lodge, and Al Davis Jr., president of the Washington County Clubs Association, would not comment on the bill.

Lawlah's bill gained support after the all-white Downsville Pike Moose lodge rejected a black applicant in February. The chapter was shut down days later by Moose International leaders, who said the lodge had repeatedly violated Moose policies. Bylaws prohibit racial discrimination. Sens. Michael Wagner and Philip Jimeno, D-Anne Arundel, and Walter Baker, D-Cecil, also said the bill is unfair because it exempts religious organizations, such as the Knights of Columbus, that limit membership to followers of specific religions.

Wagner, a member of the Elks, said, "I realize there's been some acts of discrimination that are unacceptable, but I don't think this is the right way to address it."

"We're killing a gnat with a sledgehammer," House Speaker Casper Taylor, D-Allegany/Washington, said he hasn't assessed the bill's chances in the House.

But Lawlah said the speaker, who is a member of the Elks, was more encouraging during a private meeting after the Senate vote.

"He was very well aware of the bill," Lawlah said of Taylor. "He was very forthcoming and supportive."
If more people don’t join an effort to revitalize Hagerstown, it will fail, an organizer said Tuesday.

The city could lose out on a Clinton-Gore program that seeks to boost poor urban areas, said Marjorie Williams, a consultant working to organize the community effort.

Being selected for the Enterprise Community program would mean $3 million, tax breaks and other assistance.

About 35 people came to the second of three Town Meetings on Tuesday to identify problems and find solutions. But that’s 15 fewer than last week’s Town Meeting, she said.

Another meeting is set for 7 p.m. on Wednesday, April 6, at Birs Inc. of Washington County, 126 Washington Ave.

“We need more people who have a stake in the plan,” Williams said.

A plan written by community members will be judged on its participation, as well as its ideas and chances for success, she said.

“The government cannot plan his program for you,” said organizer George Andreve, manager of the city’s community development programs. “It is you who must decide what to do and what funds go where.”

At the first meeting, the group formed six task forces to work on business, education, human resources, housing and food, health and public safety.

The programs will be targeted to areas with the highest poverty rates.

Sitting in a kindergarten room at Bester Elementary, five people began talking about how to revitalize business.

“It all goes back to generating income, which is business,” said Art Hicks, a hearing examiner for the state of Maryland.

Frank Nobles suggested luring tourists from Washington, D.C., and Baltimore as an economic boost.

“There should be some way we could attract some of that business here,” he said. “It’s only 70 miles away.”

Others suggested tax incentives for employees who hire and train workers.

For that to work, Hugh Snively said, employers and entrepreneurs need training to teach them how to fit workers’ interests with the company’s needs.

Tell Us What You Think

Reviving Hagerstown’s downtown area has been a troubling topic for years, producing reports, committees and proposals, but limited results.

Now we’re asking you: How would you improve downtown?

You may call our phone line 791-6877 to leave your answer.
Building renovated for apartment, offices, Black American Legion

By LIZ ANDERSON
Staff Writer

The building that will one day serve as the home for American Legion Post 74 should be completed by April of next year, say the co-owners of the 6,000-square-foot former furniture store on the corner of Church and Jonathan streets.

George W. Knight Jr. and Jeff Crampton said that besides the Legion, the building they bought together in 1985 will also have an apartment and office space on the first floor and five apartments on the second floor.

But the veterans organization, one of the few black American Legion posts in the state, was the main tenant the pair had in mind when they bought the property.

"When I bought the building, I had them in mind," said Knight, a member of the Sharpsburg American Legion Post 296 and a former county Legion commander.

Before work began on the building, Knight said he tried to finance the project using city Commercial Revenue Bonds. After that fell through, he was able to get a loan "in excess of $100,000" from Hagerstown Trust.

Preliminary work on the building began last summer when Crampton, who is also the contractor for the renovation work, brought a crew in to gut the structure.

The heavy work was started in September, he said.

As the work progressed, the owners found some problems with the structure, Knight said.

"We had to completely replace the north wall" on the second floor, he said.

The Legion will occupy most of the first floor and will be able to take over more room if needed, Knight said.

Post Commander James Chandler could not be reached for comment, but he said last year the post had been without a permanent home for more than a decade.

The post, founded by 17 veterans, was named after Charles Harden, a late Washington County veteran.
Must all news coverage of blacks be negative?

To the editor:

In recent discussions there have been concerns expressed regarding the news media’s coverage of various activities taking place in Hagerstown — and more specifically, the Jonathan Street area. One of the chief concerns is regarding what criteria is needed to make an article newsworthy.

Directing your attention to recent events taking place, there seemed to be no problem with the article and picture appearing in the Oct. 25 issue of the newspaper with the black man laying spread-eagled with an automatic weapon pointed at him — inasmuch as I’m certain the news media had no prior notice of the raid. Arrangements had been made to have full coverage for another event, which brings me to this point.

A request was made for coverage regarding the Annual Mens’ Day event on Oct. 19 at the Ebenezer A. M. E. Church weeks prior to the date. I personally brought copies of the event, as well as information on the guest speaker, to you and thought an article would have appeared before the event — and most certainly following the event — but there was nothing.

The speaker, Commissioner Bishop Robinson of the City of Baltimore Police Department, spoke on an issue that was in-line with the everyday problems regarding drugs. Our theme, “A Call To Men,” was geared toward obtaining the support of not only men but everyone within the community. Our hats are most certainly off to the fine job done by our law enforcement agencies and the agencies that assist them in this increasing problem with drugs.

This letter is being written not only to note our disappointment that no one from the news media came to cover this event, but to bring out the fact that not all blacks in the community are involved in the distribution and/or use of illegal drugs. Our involvement in other worthwhile, informative, and helpful activities should certainly be given equal coverage and be made known.

It is not the intent of this letter to create a problem in this matter, but it is to make it known we feel an injustice was done. As previously stated, we were disappointed that no one at the newspaper saw fit to have any concern in covering this event. After all, this was after the invitation was received by you, and after we were told someone would be there.

I certainly feel that should you conduct a poll of the elected officials and candidates running for various offices who were in attendance, they would verify that Commissioner Robinson’s talk was most definitely worth printing. I’m sorry you didn’t have the opportunity to print it — or hear it.

William L. Mason
Hagerstown
To the editor:

I’m beginning to think nothing happened at City Hall. When I looked in the paper I saw where the council had asked the administrator to step down. This is the best thing that has happened to City Hall. I have dealt with the administration even before Mayor Frush. I haven’t accomplished anything from it yet.

Three years ago Frush was in office and I was informed by the mayor and also by Councilman Coss that the walk light on Jonathan and Franklin streets had been approved by the state. All the administrator had to do was to phone the Signal Department and have the walk lights installed. We have had several other projects which the administrator was aware but chose to ignore.

The first one is 146 Bethel St. and also 110 Clarkson Ave. The sidewalks on portions of Bethel Street and Charles Street have been the same for 20 years!

I am very upset by the statements the mayor has made concerning Lee Potterfield. The mayor’s statements that Potterfield is not qualified for the job is way off base, especially since Potterfield is filling a temporary position. Perhaps the mayor isn’t qualified for his position, since he apparently isn’t getting the job done.

I hope the citizens in my community do not misunderstand this letter to mean we are not accomplishing anything, because through their hard work and determination we will have our concerns met.

Mickey Toliver
Hagerstown
The life of slaves at Blackford's Ferry Hill plantation

Much research into black history as been accomplished in Hagerstown in recent years. But it is still difficult to find detailed specific information about what life was like for slaves in this area before the Civil War.

One of the few sources which provide inadvertent information on slavery in this county is the "Ferry Hill plantation Journal" kept by John Blackford in 1838 and 1839 when he owned the farm of that name on the Potomac River near Shepherdstown. It was published by the University of North Carolina Press in 1961 with extensive notes by Fletcher M. Green.

Blackford wasn't writing for publication when he made daily entries in his journal for a period of a year. So the entries which relate to his slaves are more candid than those written for public purposes by individuals with strong opinions pro or con slavery around the same time. Unfortunately, there's no way to be sure if Blackford treated his slaves with more kindness or more cruelty than the average slave owner in this area during the first half of the 19th century. Green intimated that Blackford was more humanitarian with his human possessions than many other slave owners. But it's hard to be sure, and the problem is complicated by the difficulty of determining if certain entries refer to slaves or to free blacks or to white farmhands, since Blackford mentioned many workers only by a first name.

The journal could be used as evidence either that some slaves in this area weren't as badly treated as most people assume nowadays or as proof that these slaves' lot was frighteningly terrible.

Blackford wrote during that year many notes indicating that he paid attention to the needs of his slaves and gave some of them more privileges than their situation required. One slave named Caroline hurt herself when she fell while playing in the barnyard. Blackford called for a doctor to attend her, and he prescribed "salts and to rub the swollen parts with spirits in which Indian pepper is strained." Another female slave, Daph, became ill. Blackford suspected the reason and called not only the doctor but also a midwife. The doctor gave her oil and Daph miscarried two children. Blackford suspected her of inducing an abortion, but sent her to a hospital where she received care for 11 days. Such episodes could be interpreted two ways: as genuine sympathy for the welfare of the blacks or as an attempt to prevent the incapacitation or loss of valuable property.

There are many entries attesting to Blackford's frequent purchases of new garments and bedclothing for his slaves. Some clothing was custom made, because one day "Rebeccah Neff brought Murf's and Ned's coats which her mother has made." Sometimes he allowed a slave to shop for new garments: "Negro George came, gave him $1 to purchase a hat," for instance.

Blackford also seems to have given his slaves money occasionally for no specific purpose. Ned "asked me for money this evening," he noted in one entry. Sometimes he allowed one of his slaves to earn money: "Will asked for permission to haul some hoop poles for Mr. Austen to Sharpsburg as a perquisite." Austen paid Will $1 for the work.

But Blackford sometimes behaved in a manner resembling the familiar image of slave owners. "I corrected Enoch by giving him a few lashes," he wrote after this slave had allowed a horse to run away and a cart had been damaged. On another occasion, Isaiah laid on the ground food apparently meant for a meal of the laborers, the hogs got into it, and "I whipped him for his conduct." Isaiah was also punished "pretty severely" for misconduct on another occasion.

Green pointed out that Blackford gave his slaves responsibility in many ways. Two of them operated the ferry without supervision and Blackford seems never to have questioned their honesty in reporting to him the receipts. One day he wrote: "Will states that he bought from J. Knode's 11 bushels blue stem wheat last week, 11 of which he sowed in the orchard and the balance is on hand," which seems to prove that slaves made decisions about farming operations.

The life of slaves at Blackford's Ferry Hill plantation is a fascinating and revealing glimpse into the past. It is a reminder of the complexity of the issues surrounding slavery and the need for continued research to better understand this important period in American history.
in 'CoHon
tes
sell them, the book says.

BLACK
IfiSTORY
sale and another broke his skull with a
stone, the book says.

While the history book talks about slavery and popular opinions on the subject by
white people and institutions, it says little
about blacks.

The number of slaves in the county
decreased from 3,201 (one-eighth of the
population) in the 1820 census, to 1,435 in
the 1860 census, the book says.

But not all blacks were slaves.
In 1860, the census counted 1,677 free
blacks, up from 627 in 1820.

Because of Washington County’s prox­
imity to the free state of Pennsylvania,
“professional” slave catchers came to
work in the county.

During the early 1800s, the county jail
was improperly used to hold runaway
slaves until their owners came to claim or
sell them, the book says.

In 1819, a petition from county residents
asked the state Legislature to put a stop to
the slave traffic in Hagerstown and
improper use of the jail.

In 1825, a grand jury asked the sheriff to
fire a jailor who “caught slaves, and whilst
they were held in chains in some private
dungeon, the jailor was negotiating with
their owners, and extorting from them
unreasonably high prices.”

The book also mentions the founding of
the Colored Methodist Episcopal Church
of Sharpsburg on Oct. 20, 1866.

The 18-by-30-foot one-story log building
was built on High Street, on land given to
the church by Samuel and Catharine
Craig, “both ardent members of the
church,” the book says.

Please turn to BLACKS, A6

Blacks

Continued from A1

"The membership at Sharpsburg
consists of 35 members who are
mostly well to do people,” it says.

There is no companion book to
"A History of Washington County,
Maryland" that details black history in Washington County.

However, Hagerstown black histor­
orian Marguerite Doleman began
researching black history at her
kitchen table. After years of
research, she wrote a pamphlet on
local black history.

The following are a few mile­
stones she found:

■ The first record of blacks in
Washington County came in 1754,
when a Leitersburg man willed
slaves to his son.

■ The first black deputy sheriff
in the West was Hagerstown native
Henry O. Wagoner, who was born
on Feb. 12, 1812.

■ In 1968, the first black school in
Washington County was set up by
the Freedmen’s Bureau in Williamsport.

■ No black person has ever been
elected Hagerstown mayor or City
Council member. However, Leon­
ard Curlin won the Republican
party’s nomination to the council in
1961.

■ In 1938, Washington County
Hospital saw the birth of its first
black baby. Her name: June
Wright. The hospital had been open
since 1905.
All-black schools set big reunion

By ELIZABETH DOUGLAS
Staff Writer

What began as a simple get-together for the seven 1945 graduates of the North Street School has mushroomed into a reunion of all former students of Washington County's all-black schools.

It all started when Margaret Washington, North Street Class of '45, decided to do something about the fact that she had never had a class reunion.

But she graduated with only six other people, and figured that wouldn't be much of a party. So she decided to invite people from a few other classes. Before long, she decided to open the reunion to everyone who attended the all-black schools.

The reunion is scheduled to begin May 31.

Bethel Gardens will host a hospitality gathering Friday evening, according to Christella Keyes, who is helping to set up the reunion.

On June 1, the North Street School will be open and school memorabilia will be on display. A dinner dance is scheduled for that evening at the Venice Inn.

On June 2, the Memorial Pool and Wheaton Park will host a picnic.

Ms. Washington, who is a little overwhelmed by the size of what she's gotten herself into, has enjoyed every minute.

She estimates that about 1,000 letters have gone out, either from reunion organizers or through families of former students whom she contacted by going door-to-door.

Schooling for black children started in 1869 when the Freedman's Bureau set up the first black school in the county in Williamstown, according to historian Marguerite Doleman, author of We the Blacks of Washington County.

By 1881, there were 12 one-room schools for black children in the county, plus a school on Bethel Street in Hagerstown, now the Masonic Hall.

In 1889, a four-room North Street School was built. Part of it is now the Memorial Recreation Center. Elementary children went to the Bethel Street School and first graders attended school in a Jonathan Street building near Zion Baptist Church.

Letitia Comer, 94, who taught at Bethel Street, may be at the reunion, Ms. Washington said.

Students who wanted to attend school past eighth grade had to travel to Storer College in Harpers Ferry, W.Va.

Four rooms were added to the front of North Street School in 1924, and the first full-fledged North Street High School graduation took place in 1928, with two graduates, both women.

The new North Street School was built in 1947 with 14 classrooms, a training shop, library, combination auditorium and gymnasium, and boys and girls shower rooms. By that time, black children from all over Washington County were bused to the school, Doleman said.

In 1954, schools were ordered desegregated after the Supreme Court decision in Brown vs. the Board of Education of Topeka, Kan.

Desegregation of county schools began in 1955-1956, when schools outside Hagerstown were integrated. It took until 1964 for Hagerstown schools to be fully integrated. The last North Street graduating class was 1956, Keyes said.
North Street School Changes Slated Soon

All special education programs will be brought together at North Street School when classes resume in September. The Washington County Board of Education office has also announced the transfer of some North Street School students to Woodland Way School starting in September.

The cerebral palsy class that was taught in recent years at Woodland Way School will be moved to North Street, the school board office said.

Another special education class to be added at North Street School will be composed of children suffering from brain injuries.

As a result of these changes, the only special education students not receiving studies at North Street will be some older ones undergoing training at the grades.

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 hasher and Toilet Ban Still Unsigned

The anti-"frost-free" toilet ordinance has not yet been signed by Mayor Winlow P. Burhans, and turned over to City Clerk John Conrad, Conrad said Wednesday.

It will not become law until the Mayor does so.

"I haven't done anything official yet (to enforce the ordinance)," City Plumbing Inspector Ray Ford said, "I don't know whether the Mayor has signed it. They haven't said anything to me about it." He said he cannot act until the ordinance becomes law.

The ordinance was passed unanimously at the last meeting of the Mayor and Council. It forbids new "frost-free" toilets, and requires those already existing to conform to State Health Department regulations.

The objection to these toilets is that they could permit toiletage to back up into the city water system. Officials estimate there are over 100 such connections in Hagerstown.

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More blacks get degrees

STATE COLLEGE, Pa. (AP) - A record number of black students at Pennsylvania State University received baccalaureate degrees last year, officials announced yesterday.

However, the number of first-time black Pennsylvania freshmen was down in fall 1986 by 105 compared to the previous fall.

Penn State awarded baccalaureate degrees to 164 blacks in 1985-86, the most black graduates in a one-year period, William Asbury, chairman of the Equal Opportunity Planning Committee, told a meeting of the university's Board of Trustees.

In addition, 17 blacks received associate degrees, 41 received master's degrees, six got doctoral degrees and one took a medical degree from the Hershey Medical Center, Asbury said.
Book celebrates African American artists

By PEGGY LANGRALL
Smithsonian News Service

Edward Mitchell Bannister managed to learn art while working at various low-paying jobs after moving from Canada to Boston in 1848. His landscape painting "Under the Oaks" was accepted in the Philadelphia Centennial Exposition of 1876, where it won the first-prize bronze medal.

But when judges found out that Bannister was black, they wanted to "reconsider" the award. His fellow artists, however, upheld the decision and Bannister received the medal. He was the first African American artist to receive a national award. Sadly, the location of the winning work is unknown since the turn of the century.

A similar fate has befallen much of the work of African American artists. "It can become an almost archaeological challenge to unearth information on some who worked as recently as the 1920s and 1930s," says Lynda Roscoe Hartigan, a curator at the Smithsonian's National Museum of American Art in Washington, D.C. "And their careers and lives have gone undocumented or underdocumented, at best."

In recognition and celebration of black artists, the museum recently published a book titled "Free Within Ourselves" (National Museum of American Art in association with Pomegranate Artbooks, San Francisco), by Regina A. Perry, a former professor of African and African American studies at New York University for more than 20 years; and Minnie Evans (1890-1987), from rural Fenger County, N.C.

A new building

The story of the building of the Museum of American Art's collection, now numbering some 1,600 works by black artists, begins in 1964. At that time, the museum's head of design, Harry Lowe, read a newspaper article about the self-taught artist James Hampton (1908-1964), a black veteran who worked as a janitor cleaning government buildings. In his free time, over some dozen years until his death, Hampton built an astonishing work of faith and art that he titled "The Throne of the Third Heaven of the Nations Millennium (sic) General Assembly."

The 10-by-27-by-15 foot construction consists of 180 silver and gold-leaf-wrapped parts suggesting a chancel with altar, a throne, oratory tables, pulpits and chairs as well as objects and writings of Hampton's own invention. All are made of "found objects" from second-hand shops, federal office buildings or the streets of Washington, D.C.

Shortly after Hampton's death, his lifework was purchased and placed on loan to the National Museum of American Art until its donation to the collection in 1970.

The museum continued to collect works by African American artists and acquired New York City's Harlem Foundation collection of works by black artists, including almost all of the works of William H. Johnson.

Lawrence's story

One of the most widely acclaimed African American artists of this century, as noted in "Free Within Ourselves," is Jacob Lawrence, born in 1917 in Atlantic City, N.J. He is one of only a small number of black artists whose works are included in standard art textbooks.

Lawrence is known primarily for his series of panels on the lives of important blacks such as Haitian Gen. Toussaint L'Overture, statesman Frederick Douglass and abolitionist Harriet Tubman. His best-known series, "The Migration of the Negro," about the movement of a million blacks from the South to the industrial cities of the North, includes 60 panels completed in 1941.

Another renowned African American included in the book is artist, scholar, writer and curator Romare Bearden (1912-1988). Bearden lived in Mecklenburg County, N.C.; New York City; Pittsburgh and St. Martin Island. His vivid watercolors and paintings on collage represent stories, memories and traditions of African American life. In 1987, Bearden received the President's National Medal of Arts for his lifetime achievement.

Nashville sculptor William Edmondson (1886-1961) is another self-taught artist. After working at menial jobs and as a orderly, Edmondson, at age 52, turned to cutting tombstones. He considered a pile of limestone that had been dumped on his property a "gift from heaven." He stated that God ordered him to obtain a mallet and chisels.

In 1987, when photographs of his sculpture came into the hands of Alfred Barr, director of the Museum of Modern Art in New York, Barr was so impressed that he arranged an exhibition, and Edmondson became the first African American artist to have a solo exhibition in that museum.

Bob Thompson, who painted incessantly and lived extravagantly, is one artist who interests the Smithsonian's Hartigan, particularly because of the quality and character of his bold, colorful metaphoric paintings.

Thompson traveled to Europe and received a grant to extend his time there, returning to New York with a large body of work, which was exhibited in the city's influential Martha Jackson Gallery. He died less than a month before his 29th birthday in 1966 of lung complications — the result of an indulgent lifestyle resumed too soon after emergency surgery.

Teaching art

Contemporary artist John Biggers was born in 1924 in Gastonia, N.C., where he lives today. His father was a teacher, school principal and shoemaker; his mother was his homemaker. Biggers' goal was to become a plumber. He went to Virginia's Hampton Institute (now Hampton University) in 1941, and enrolled in an art class taught by Viktor Lowenfeld, an Austrian Jew who had moved to the United States to flee Nazi persecution. Lowenfeld encouraged his students to explore the cultures of their own people.
Nation

Alert ended at nuclear plant

OMAHA, Neb. (AP) — A nuclear plant was shut down after thousands of gallons of reactor coolant spilled out of a holding tank onto the floor of a containment building.

An alert was declared at the Omaha Public Power District's Fort Calhoun Station at 11:55 p.m. Friday and ended at 6:30 a.m. Saturday, said spokesman Gary Williams.

There was no threat to the public or employees and no release of radiation into the atmosphere, utility officials said.

Investigators were looking into the incident. Joe Gilliland of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission said the utility called the alert because of the "magnitude of the leak."

Star-spangled salute from space

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. (AP) — Columbia's seven astronauts unfurled a large U.S. flag and shouted "Happy Birthday America!" in a star-spangled salute from space on Saturday.

"Here on our 216th birthday, we can't spend this evening with our family and friends back in the good, old United States, we'd just as soon spend it in space," shuttle commander Richard N. Richards said in a special Fourth of July video beamed down to Mission Control.

The five men and two women briefly interrupted their science experiments and other orbital work two-thirds of the way through NASA's longest shuttle flight to share their views of America with America.

Crock beaten by bar patrons

HOUSTON (AP) — A bar patron was fatally shot during a robbery that was foiled when the robber was attacked by other customers, police said.

"The crook picked the wrong pub to rob," said police Sgt. Boyd Smith.

A masked man armed with a 12-gauge pump shotgun walked into the Wilcrest Pub on Friday, fired into the air and tried to rob each of the patrons. Brett R. Taylor, 21, was shot when he tried to grab the gun, police said.

After Taylor was shot, other patrons wrestled the robber to the ground and beat him. They held him until police arrived. There were about four or five guys beating the hell out of him," said bartender Michelle Lee. "He kept yelling, 'Help, help me!'"

Steven Wayne Woodrow, 23, was charged with capital murder and remained jailed without bond Saturday, police said.

World

Blast kills 2 in Christian town

BEIRUT, Lebanon (AP) — A car bomb exploded Saturday outside a stadium in the Christian town of Jouniyeh, killing two people and wounding three in the first such attack in Lebanon this year, police said.

A car rigged with 22 pounds of explosives blew up hours before Mexican entertainer Lucio Mendez was to sing. No group claimed responsibility.

Police said they believe the attack was carried out by producers who had lost out on a bid to put on Mr. Mendez' concerts. On Thursday a grenade was hurled at the entrance to the stadium from a speeding car, scattering the glass of ticket booths but causing no casualties.

Ms. Mendez, 35, gained fame as Raquel, the lead character of a Mexican soap opera titled "Tu no Nadie," Spanish for "You or to play games in the park.

Some working parents like the program because it provides supervised child care, Conrad said.

City Administrator Stephen M. Feller commended the program, saying many families depend on it.

"Before, there wasn't the kind of camp structure," he said.

The children say it's a great way to have fun with their friends.

"All you get to do is sing songs and play," said Russ, a Statue of Liberty designer.

The Wheaton Park program and a sister daycamp at Frederick Manor, formerly run by the Hagerstown/Washington County Recreation Commission, were nearly a summer.

Because of new, costly staffing requirements, the recreation commission was forced to cut the sites from its free daycamp program.

The City Council, however, agreed in June to fund the YMCA programs out of $25,000. The YMCA programs would have given to the recreation commission.

Conrad said enrollment exceeded expectations, but then still room for more children.

Parents can register their children at the park or at the YMCA, said Conrad.

Sewer

YMCA counselor Justin Harbert gets dunked by camp kids.

Camp

Conrad said she had to reassure some children who said they were worried about more violence.

On any given day, 80 to 90 children will arrive at Wheaton Park at 9:30 a.m., starting their day with classroom-type arts and crafts, Conrad said.

At lunchtime, they're served a free meal.

The afternoon is dedicated to fun, with the children choosing to swim or to play games in the park.

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The Wheaton Park program and a sister daycamp at Frederick Manor, formerly run by the Hagers- town/Washington County Recre-
Ritchie contest focuses on Black History

By SHAWN LEES
Staff Writer

FORT RITCHIE — They invented golf tees, the third rail system used in subways, horseshoes, lawn mowers, traffic lights and greatly aided the growth of society. Yet their contributions aren't readily found in any textbook nor do their names pop up in casual conversation. But for one night this week, these and other contributions by black Americans will be highlighted in an annual Fort Ritchie contest that will test participants' knowledge of black history.

The post's Black History Committee put together a book containing hundreds of questions and trivia about black contributions. Four teams compete by ringing a buzzer and answering the question appearing on the screen in front of them and the audience.

"Members of the panel take this very seriously," said Lucinda Kauffman, chair of the Black History Committee. "They've read the book and they know the answers."

Some team members have even memorized the question number so they can recite the answer even before the question is shown, Kauffman said.

The contest, which gives the winning team a trophy, T-shirts and bragging rights for a year, draws between 60 and 70 audience members.

"If you get 60 people for an event here, you're doing something wonderful," said Marcus Wilson, who is helping compile the book.

The main goal is to get people to recognize the contributions of others, Wilson said.

"It's not just black history, it's American history," said Wilson, editor of the post newspaper. "It was a history that was denied, ignored and hidden."

Some of the questions are very straightforward while others are trickier. For example, team members are asked, "True or false: Black history occurs during the month of February?" The first answer that may come to mind is true but the answer is wrong.

"Black history is every day," Wilson said. "Black history is going on while we speak."

The book, which is revised annually, was created about four years ago to educate the military community about African American history. Now its role has expanded and is being incorporated into Frederick County schools.

The post contest is just one of many Black History month events, which will be highlighted by a Feb. 26 dinner dance focusing on African American scholars.

For both Wilson and Kauffman, they see the contest as a way to expose people, white and black, to new role models and new dreams.

"You go and try to show these kids, hey, you have a hero and you have a culture," Wilson said. "You try to reach the youth and say you can do this."

Monday, February 22, 1993

'Did you know'

Here are some questions from "Did You Know?"

- Name the title of the most controversial novel ever written about slavery, "Uncle Tom's Cabin."
- What does the "Dee" stand for in Billy Dee Williams name? December.
- Who was the first black female tennis player to ever win Wimbledon and the U.S. Open? Althea Gibson.
- Who invented the third rail system now used in subways? Granville T. Woods.
- Name the invention of George F. Grant that transformed the game of golf. The golf tee.
- A.J. Burr, a black inventor, received a patent for this device which has become a major source of irritation for teens, especially on Saturday mornings. What is it? The lawn mower.
- Both the gas mask and the traffic light were invented by this African American. Who was he? Garrett Morgan.
- Who played the original "Cat Woman" in the television series, "Batman?" Eartha Kitt.
Washington County Youth of the Year Daniel Henderson poses with some hand-made pals from the Lighthouse Puppeters. The 10-person troupe is part of the Union Rescue Mission Outreach Program.

Super Teen
Youth of the Year Honored

By ROBIN SCHWARTZ
Journal Staff Writer

The number of activities that Daniel Henderson participates in would make most teenagers' heads spin. Last week the Washington County Commissioners recognized Henderson as Youth of the Year.

"It's refreshing to see a young man that other people can look up to," Commissioners President Ronald Bowers said.

Commissioner Linda Irvin referred to the new program as "positive peer pressure."

"We wanted to see people get community recognition for good reasons and there are a lot of them out there," Irvin said.

The 17-year-old youth hopes to pursue a career in the theatre after graduating from North Hagerstown High School next year. He isn't wasting anytime either. Currently Henderson is active in the Washington County Playhouse, the Lighthouse Puppeters and the high school chorus.

Since Henderson is theatrically oriented, it makes sense that his favorite classes are English and chorus. But he quickly adds, "If I had to pick one it would be chorus."

Henderson also works part-time at the Union Rescue Mission doing office work and in a few weeks he'll begin work at the mission's children's camp.

He is involved in many community organizations, too. He is president of the local youth NAACP and a substitute Sunday school teacher.

Henderson was recommended for the award by Ruth Ann Monroe, a supervisor at the Memorial Recreation Center.

Monroe has known the teen for more than 10 years, ever since he started coming to the center for swimming lessons.

"Daniel is always willing to help and I just couldn't think of anyone else more deserving," Monroe said.

To be eligible for the award Henderson had to get letters of recommendation from church family, school and community members. The applications were screened by the Children's Community Council and submitted to the County Commissioners for final selection.

"We're very pleased with this program and we hope it continues," Irvin said.
Band aids former member

Janet Carter, left, presents a $100 check on behalf of the Northern Middle School Band Aid Association to David Washington of 33 Charles St. Hagerstown. Right is Gary Carter, a classmate of Washington’s. Mrs. Carter is vice-president of the band aid group. Washington and Gary Carter are former band members. Washington, 16, was stricken with throat cancer late last summer. Mrs. Carter also presented a card of prayer to the Washingtons. Co-presidents of the association are Mr. and Mrs. John Kirby, not pictured.
These young ladies will be vying for the title of South High homecoming queen tonight. Shown in the front row, left to right, are Robin Miller, Stevette Campbell, Jill McCauley and Sheri Nield. In the back row are Nancy Snyder, Karen Saufley and Mary Startzma. Driftwood will be playing at the dance at the 10 p.m. to 1 a.m. event in the school gym.
Lawrence Dixon, 3, of Frederick Manor has his own version of swinging while Robbie Prytherech, 4, of Brightwood Acres tries it upside down. Both children attend the Robinwood Child Development Center at Hagerstown Junior College.
People are interested in the program especially when their insurance doesn’t cover the procedure.”

The state program is working with professional groups such as the American Cancer Society, National Medical Association, and the American College of Radiology to develop educational programs.

A computer program will track women participating in the screening and monitor the progress.

Earl Stoner is the coordinator of the outreach services of the Health Department.

“I basically coordinate the outreach workers and man the outreach office on Church Street. We have special projects such as the BCCP, we hand out flyers, and promote programs that the Health Department supports. We are trying to help people help themselves,” Stoner said.

“The outreach services are countywide and anyone can come in. Fees are based on income and the ability to pay. If people cannot pay, then the services are free. No one is turned away,” he added.

The eligibility for the BCCP is:

* Women 18 and over - pap test and pelvic exam.
* Women 40 and over - breast exam and mammogram.
* Women 35-39 with a personal history of breast cancer or with a mother or sister with breast cancer which occurred before her menopause.
* No health insurance or insurance that does not cover mammogram and pap test.
* Medicare recipients on the year Medicare will not pay.
* Women with low family income.

Maryland Governor William Donald Schaefer felt that Maryland has such a big problem with cancer that he decided this was going to be a big issue. He allocated money from the cigarette tax to pay for anyone of any age who has been diagnosed with cancer. The money will pay from the diagnosis through the treatment. Treatment includes medication, chemotherapy, surgery, hospital and doctor bills, and any treatment needed. The service is only for Maryland residents and is not connected with the C.D.C. grant.

The Health Department does work with the private physicians. The Medical Society has supported the county tremendously and is participating in the programs.

Outreach workers will also be the walking resource person. They can promote the BCCP as well as refer patients to the proper place for other problems.

The outreach program is an ongoing project through the Health Department and, at present, is concentrating on the BCCP. But the personnel want to convey to the public that the outreach services are available to everyone for all health concerns.

The outreach workers’ areas are as follows:

Margaret Jones - West, north and east of Washington Street.
Yvonne Parsons - West, east and south of Washington Street.
Ruby Barnett - Western portion of the county.
Patricia Nicholson - Eastern and northern portion of the county.
Linda Sheppard - Southern portion of the county.

For more information call the Health Department office at 791-3235, or the Outreach office at 790-7947.

September 22, 1993
Youth Night: more than fun and games
By DIANA J. SIMS
Staff Writer

The word up and down Jonathan Street is drugs. But up the block, on Bethel Street, the language is more diverse.

It includes ideas some black leaders say are missing from the street that runs through this predominately black community — concepts like hope, support, affection and values.

These are the words Gloria Campher and Rev. Leroy Jackson, pastor of Ebenezer A.M.E. Church, are hoping they can introduce into the mental vocabulary of the youngsters who live in the neighborhood before they hit the streets.

"The streets are dangerous now. I guess you learn not to do strange things."

— Naki Claybon
Age 11

Campher, a parishioner of Ebenezer and a teacher, decided a back-to-basics approach may be the only way to protect children from the drug problem that's become pervasive here.

She decided what the kids needed was plenty of love, support and healthy role models.

"They don't have much more in the area to lean on than the church," she said.

So last October, Ebenezer started a non-denominational Youth Night. The program brings in youngsters of all ages, from preschoolers to teenagers, for an evening of games, art projects, refreshments and Christian education.

"The goal was to try to reach children in some way because of the problems with drugs and alcohol," Campher said. "We felt the church was the main way of coming in contact with children and their families.

"As they grow stronger, maybe it will help in the prevention of drugs," she said.

Although many of those who attend Youth Night are members of the church, church leaders said the goal of the program is not to increase church membership. Non-members are encouraged to attend as well.

The program is the only organized church-based program held during the week in the community, church officials said.

Last Tuesday, after opening with the Lord's Prayer, singing a few hymns, and passing the offering basket, Campher and four volunteer teachers led about 40 children into the church fellowship hall, where there dispersed into five groups of different ages.

Campher sat in a small chair surrounded by pre-schoolers, cutting out and coloring pictures.

In a small room behind her, six pre-teen and teenagers — two boys and four girls — rehearsed their lines for an Easter program.

The youngster said they came to Youth Night for something to do. A few said their parents made them come. If they weren't here, they said, they'd be at friends' houses, the Memorial Recreation Center or the Boys Club.

They weren't sure what the youth program might do for them. But a few said what they learn here — about values, morality, and religion — may help them when they're out in the neighborhood.

"You're not gonna use church stuff on the street," 11-year-old Naki Claybon said. "You learn church stuff and make it street stuff."

"The streets are dangerous now. I guess you learn not to do strange things," she said.

One week last month about 50 youngsters, ages 3 to 15, and several parents, piled into a borrowed bus and headed across town to go bowling, according to Jackson.

"It was a real shock. A lot of the kids' parents had never been bowling," he said.
Cool break

Temperatures in the 90s made ice cream a hot commodity for this Hagerstown family yesterday. Brian Williams, 4, his mother Ruby and father Quinten found the relief at a Dual Highway eatery.

Photo by Richard T. Meagher
Dukakis' doctor discounts rumors

President apologizes for remarks

BOSTON (AP) - Michael Dukakis' longtime physician today said rumors that the Democratic presidential nominee had received psychiatric counseling "have no basis in fact" and were politically motivated.

Dr. Gerald R. Plotkin was marched out late Wednesday and appeared on two television networks this morning to discount rumors about Dukakis' medical past that were brought into full focus with a gaffe by President Reagan earlier Wednesday.

"He has never had any psychological symptoms or problems and he has never had any treatment for such," Plotkin said on CBS-TV's "This Morning."

Plotkin said on NBC-TV's "Today" show that Dukakis "is usually feeling well, upbeat and very vigorous."

"I would have to assume that the rumors are political," he said. "I don't know whether the term is dirty tricks, but I think certainly the allegations ... have no basis in fact."

On Wednesday, Plotkin said Dukakis showed no signs of clinical depression after two incidents that supposedly caused him to stumble psychologically: his loss in the 1978 gubernatorial primary, and the 1973 death of his brother Stelian in a hit-and-run accident. Stelian had undergone psychiatric treatment.

"I'm a very healthy guy," Dukakis told reporters earlier. "I think it was the Greeks who said a sound body and a sound mind is what one needs, especially if one is running for president."

Dukakis and Plotkin were responding to rumors that had been spread during the Democratic National Convention by supporters of political extremist Lyndon LaRouche and reported in a few newspapers in recent days.

The questions intensified after Reagan referred to Dukakis as an "invalid" when asked Wednesday morning whether he thought Dukakis should release his medical records. The question was posed by a reporter for the Executive Intelligence Review, a LaRouche publication.

The president apologized a few minutes later and said he was attempting a joke.

"No apology was really needed," Dukakis said. "We all occasionally misspeak and I don't think the president needed to apologize."

Plotkin released a three-page statement he said summarized all treatment he has given Dukakis over the past 17 years at the Harvard Community Health Plan, a health maintenance organization whose services are available through the state employees benefits program. Prior to that, Dukakis...
With the benefit of the Memorial Recreation Center in their neighborhood, children from 6 to 20 have the opportunity to grow up in a wholesome environment. Recreational, educational and social youth services are provided year round at this United Way agency, which provides a happy, healthy atmosphere for kids from our community.

Your gift supports activities like swimming, arts and crafts, modern dance, karate lessons, tutoring and much more.

*This ad sponsored by the Howard Johnson Hotel*
Daredevil of the snow

Marcel Campbell, 8, enjoys the ride down a hill, in a backyard on North St., in Hagerstown.
New Christmas
Six children offer their own ideas on the season

By PAT KING
A giant candy cane could be wrapped around every door. A Christmas tree could go in front of every store. And oh, what if the city could convince the real Santa to come for a visit?

That's how some Hagerstown children would handle the task of decorating the city's downtown shopping area.

Now don't get them wrong - Chrystel, Stephanie, Chris Benjamin, Laura and Aubrey like what the adults have done up to this point.

But in an interview Friday afternoon, these Potomac Heights Elementary School first graders found much that could be improved on, to make the holiday that has traditionally been set up on an adult's terms.

"I would put a huge basket in Public Square with hundreds and hundreds of pieces of candy," in honor of Hannukah, which falls on the same day as Christmas this year, said Benjamin Cohen.

"I'd make a candy cane as big as a tree and put it downtown," says Chris Byer.

Stephanie Carl would color many pictures and put them in all the windows in the shops downtown Hagerstown. Chrystel Jones would build small gingerbread houses for all who come to shop.

For Laura Gordon, the answer to livening up downtown would be talking reindeer, chattering away on the roofs of the stores there.

And if merchants want to guarantee bigger sales, they ought to get someone special to play Santa Claus, the six suggested.

"How about getting the real Santa to play Santa Claus?" suggested Benjamin. "Or President Carter," said Chris and Chrystel. "That's silly," said Aubrey Russ, who said he knew about such things.

"Or I could bring my grandfather," suggested Stephanie, in an excited voice. "He's big and round.

Each year for the last dozen years, five or six men from the Hagerstown Signal Department spent their evenings for nearly a week, brightening up the downtown area with decorations.

Plastic snowmen, candy canes and Christmas trees adorn more than 50 light posts or poles. And more than two dozen displays are strung across the streets overhead, as well.

"I like what they've done downtown for Christmas," said Aubrey. "I don't know who did it — maybe the elves."

"No, it was the mayor's family who put 'em up," said a knowledgeable Chris. "You'd have to talk to the people who made the decorations. They put them up," maintained Laura.

The six children said if they had their wishes, they'd string blinking holiday lights all over the city.

"I'd put them around the big clock in the square," said Chris. "I'd put them all over the Christmas trees and the talking reindeer."

While the scene might appear to be developing like a child's dream, the children didn't forget that one of the main purposes for decorations is to attract Christmas shoppers downtown.

"I'd put lots of presents under the big tree," explained Chrystel, "and they would have Mommy and Daddy's names on them."

"I'd bring a pack of reindeer to the grocery stores," said Chris. "Or free gingerbread men," said another.

The cost of this holiday extravaganza would not be high, say the kids, depending on the state of the city's pocketbook.

"All the money in the world should be spent to make a nice Christmas for everyone," said Laura. "No. It'd take about $200,000 or $20,000," said Aubrey, who then changed his mind. "I'm not sure how much it is."
Take that

Five-year-old Janero Cross (left) and his buddy, Steve Harris, 9, find that a couple of plastic helicopters and trucks — combined with a convenient curb — make a perfect way to 'war' away the afternoon.
Up, then down

Herald-Mail carrier Clarence Ferguson finds that going up North Street in Hagerstown is a long pull, but the ride back down makes up for it.
Michele Fuller
Smithsburg High School

1987 Graduating Senior
Herald-Mail Carrier
June 1, 1987
Kid stuff

Heather Burke, left, and Jada Copeland don't seem to tire of puddling around on Jonathan Street in Hagerstown next to a car wash. The two appear to be attempting a cleanup after last night's sudden downpour.
Basketball players shoot hoops on the new court at Wheaton Park, off Johnathan Street

Wheaton Park ready for play

By Joanna Falcone

Wheaton Park is ready for play. Improvements to the neighborhood center's face lift are nearly complete, and the much-awaited basketball court, lighting, playground equipment, and bathroom have been completed through funding from the city and Washington governments.

The improvements were initiated when the Washington County Commissioners agreed to earmark the neighborhood park a $25,000 share of the $90,000 profit from the sale of the old jail grounds at the corner of Jonathan and Church streets. The city also agreed last year to give $10,000 for a park bathroom, which would make it fully accessible to the disabled.

"It looks really nice," City Administrator Steve Feller said. "It's a big improvement." But delays to the project last summer drew sharp criticism from area residents who said the city was dragging its feet on the improvements.

Memorial Recreation Center Director Ruth Ann Monroe last year said she was upset with the city for not having the improvements completed for summertime play.

Feller said then the concerns were understandable and the project was due for completion in the fall.

But the project was again delayed and the bids for the work were awarded in the winter. The project was based on the recommendations of a neighborhood leadership committee, which were turned over to the city in the winter.

Monroe yesterday said she hasn't seen the improvements so she didn't want to comment. But she said she was happy the neighborhood would have an improved park by summer.

"I'm very happy they're going to have them done by summer," Monroe said.
Third runner-up Lori Smith goes through a body building pose during her talent presentation.

By MARIE BELL

Robin Harmon-Miss Washington County 1981

Broadcast journalist adds ‘Crown No. 4’

First runner-up in the contest was Julie Wagner, 20, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Donald Wagner of Boonsboro. A student at Hagerstown Junior College, she performed a pantomime to the music of “The Entertainer.” For placing first, Miss Wagner receives a $200 savings bond.

Second runner-up was Cally Lee Spielman, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Franklin Spielman. For her talent presentation, the 17-year-old Boonsboro High School student performed a mime-robot dance. She will receive a $100 savings bond.

Capturing third-place honors was Lori Smith, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Dave Smith of Boonsboro. Miss Smith, 17, is a member of the 1981 graduating class at Boonsboro High School. For her talent, she performed body building poses. She receives a $50 savings bond.

Kim Burger, 19, a 1979 graduate of Williamsport High School was named “Miss Congeniality” and recognized for most tickets sold was Denise Reynolds, who is currently employed as a clerk-typist in the Department of Justice in Washington, D.C. Both winners receive a $50 savings bond.

The theme for this year’s pageant, sponsored by the Hagerstown Jaycees and Jayceettes, was “Off Broadway.”

Providing musical entertainment was the Ray Birely Band and soloist George Miller. Lisa Daskal, the reigning Miss Maryland, was also on hand to perform the talent which won the pageant for her last year and a $2,000 talent award at the Miss America Pageant.

Other contestants included Shelley Manley, Joanna Byers, Rhonda Wilcom, Tina Voxburgh, Cheryl Robin- son, Suzanne Ott, Barbara Baetz, and Tammy Morris.

Serving as mistress of ceremonies was Linda Townsend, a former Miss Maryland.

Judges for the competition included James Bennett, a freelance writer; Debi Liebert, a judge for local and state pageants; Emma Jane Robinson, general manager for the Grantsville Holiday Inn and a portrait painter; John Rosson, the restaurant critic and picture editor of The Washington Star and a judge for Miss America preliminary competitions; and June Wagner, a veteran judge of beauty pageants, including local contests, Miss Maryland, and the Junior Miss Program.

GENUINE DOUBLE DIAMOND PENDANT

(Tiffany Settings)

only $7

As part of a reader response test, we will send to anyone who clips and returns this notice before midnight, June 2, 1981, a GENUINE DOUBLE DIAMOND PENDANT FOR ONLY $7 plus $1 shipping. Each of these breathtaking .25 pt. GENUINE DIAMONDS, FEATURES 17-facets and is mounted by master gem-setters in authentic twin-Tiffany Settings for ultra-reflective beauty. You'll receive a full refund of your purchase price (less shipping and handling). There is a limit of one (1) GENUINE DOUBLE DIAMOND PENDANT PER ADDRESS, BUT IF YOU CLIP AND SEND THIS NOTICE BEFORE May 26, 1981, you may request five GENUINE DOUBLE DIAMOND PENDANTS (an ideal gift for friends and relatives) by enclosing an additional 

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Children get holiday shopping spree

By MARLO BARNHART
Staff Writer

What's a dream come true for a child? A good guess would be a toy store where they can pick the toy they want for Christmas.

That's just what happened for several dozen children Saturday, thanks to the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge, Free and Accepted Masons, who gave $3,500 toward the goal of making Christmas a little brighter for a lot of tots.

The shopping spree started shortly after 9 a.m. Saturday at the Ames Department Store on the Dual Highway, according to Bill Mason of the Bethel Gardens Corporation.

Gregory Fowlkes, worshipful master of the Oak Spring Lodge No. 41 in Hagerstown, was to be on hand Saturday for the event, Mason said.

Approximately 35 to 40 children from all over the Hagerstown participated in the program, Mason said.

The tradition was begun in the early 1980s by the late James Mickey Tolliver who used his own money to see that as many as 60-70 children got presents for Christmas.

In 1985, for example, Tolliver spent $900 on 63 youngsters who got to pick out their own toys at the store.

Tolliver died in 1987, but the tradition was upheld by a group of citizens for the next couple of years because they didn't want to let the children down.

The group, as Tolliver had done, collected newspapers to raise money for the toy fund.

This year, the Grand Lodge Masons which oversees all the lodges in the state of Maryland decided to take on the project, Mason said.

"We asked them if they could donate about $2,000 and they sent us $3,500," Mason said. "It was wonderful."
Third-grader finds her own way to help relieve hunger in Africa

By LISA TEDRICK
Staff writer

What could a local third-grader and pop music's finest have in common? They're among the many who, concerned about famine in Africa, have taken action to raise money for relief.

Alkecia Keyes, a student at Fountaindale Elementary, has raised almost $200 for famine victims. She and her friends have made posters urging people to give money for the victims because, she said, "we had an idea that we could start raising grain and send it if we made enough money."

She wanted to raise money for the hungry in Africa after she saw the rock video, "We Are the World," made by several celebrity musicians who called themselves USA for Africa.

She also saw some children from New York on the television show 20/20 who were giving a concert to raise money for the victims.

"I thought I could help," she said.

Unsure what she could do, she shared her concerns with her grandmother, Christella Keyes.

"I gave her tagboard to make posters and told her to go to the stores and ask if she could post them," Ms. Keyes said.

"Alkecia really wanted to start raising money in school, but we really didn't know what to do," she said. So she met with William Wells, principal of Fountaindale, to determine what could be done.

Since school is almost over this year, they decided it was too late to start any major projects.

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Even so, they decided "to work on a poster project to encourage the public to contribute," Wells said.

Alkecia first reached the public with posters she and her friends made. Her plans were also made public at the Ebenezer African Methodist Episcopal Church in Hagerstown, where she serves as an altar girl. Altar girls lead the choir procession, pass offering plates to the ushers, and hold the plates while the pastor blesses the money.

When the pastor of the church, Rev. Leroy Jackson, found out about Alkecia's project, he wanted to help her out. He found a way at a choir concert at the church.

"Rev. Jackson told the people about her plans and let her stand in the back of the church with an offering plate after the concert," Ms. Keyes said.

This effort alone enabled Alkecia to collect $155.

According to Ms. Keyes, a check will be made out in Alkecia's name to Africare, an organization established to help the famine victims.

The choir also contributed $25 for her efforts. "They'll probably use that for tagboard," Ms. Keyes said. This tagboard will be used for additional posters.

Three of Alkecia's posters are posted in the community now with such slogans as "The starving children need your help." There are bound to be more out soon, Ms. Keyes said.

"She not only makes posters during her free time at school, she has another group of friends that she makes posters with when she gets home," Alkecia's mother, Sonya Keyes, said.

When Alkecia and her friends make posters on her porch, her mother said they listen to "We are the World" and practice singing it. "We'd like to have our own concert someday, just like our church choir did," Alkecia said.

"I'd like everyone to start helping the starving children of Ethiopia.

This young lady definitely has some high hopes. Her grandmother said she's always stopping by after school and she's always doing something.

"She's very active," Wells said.

School principal Wells noted how unusual it is for a third-grader to be interested in national events.

And her mother said, "I encourage her ... I'm proud, very proud."
Boys Choir of Harlem opens concert season

Oct 2, 1988 /outed

The Hagerstown Community Concert Association will kick off its 1988-89 season on Sunday, Oct. 2, with a concert by The Boys Choir of Harlem. The concert in The Maryland Theatre will begin at 3 p.m.

The Boys Choir of Harlem was founded in 1968 as a small group of choir members at Ephesus Church in central Harlem in New York City. Under the direction of Dr. J. Walter Turnbull, the choir was incorporated in 1975 to provide a positive creative alternative for New York's inner city children. Since then, the singers have gained international recognition as one of the finest boys choirs in the world, with a repertoire ranging from classical music to contemporary songs, gospel and spirituals.

Perhaps more importantly, says Turnbull, the choir has provided outlets for hundreds of children whose lives have been redirected into productive channels through its comprehensive program of music education, counseling and academic tutoring.

The choir has sung at the White House and at opening sessions of the United Nations General Assembly. It has traveled extensively throughout the U.S., performing in Avery Fisher Hall and Carnegie Hall, and has completed several tours to the major musical centers of France, Holland, England, Switzerland, Austria and Italy. The choir traveled to Japan in 1985 and sang in Tokyo's prestigious Budokan Concert Hall.

The choir was the subject of the Emmy Award-winning documentary "From Harlem to Haarlem: The Story of a Choirboy."

The Hagerstown concert season also will include the exotic Alexandria Quintet on Nov. 30; the American debut of Teatro de Danza Espanola on Jan. 11, 1989; and Carroll McLaughlin and Bill Marx in a tribute to Harpo Marx's contributions to music on March 31.

The local concert association has agreements with concert groups in Chambersburg, Waynesboro, Frederick, Cumberland, Gettysburg and Westminster whereby members of these various groups have free admission to each other's community concerts.

Members of Hagerstown's association are asked to be seated 2:45 p.m. Sunday so that members of the neighboring concert associations may fill remaining seats before the concert begins.

The Boys Choir of Harlem
Breakfast with mom

Vivian and Evan Medley, 5, say grace before eating breakfast yesterday at Hagerstown Day Nursery in Hagerstown. Parents were invited to breakfast each day this week at the school to participate in National Breakfast Week, an event held each year to promote the importance of breakfast for children. Yesterday's breakfast included fruit cup, quiche, muffin and milk.