# This Is Martinsville, Va.

Martinsville's Albert Harris School, built three years ago, has elementary and high school departments. The new addition houses elementary classes, cost $400,000, and has 24 classrooms, library, cafeteria, clinic, and gymnasium. There are 985 pupils and a staff of 39. J. Elmer Turner is principal of both the high school and primary divisions.

Martinsville, Va., found 25 miles west of Danville, is the hub of Henry County.

With a population of 55,000, of whom some 18,000 are colored Martinsville is a growing industrial city. Furniture, with 13 factories devoted to its manufacture, is one of this town's big sources of income and employment.

**The DuPont nylon plant and the Jobbers Pants Company are two other large concerns here. Jobbers is unique. The building is owned by a corporation of colored residents and is valued at $100,000. The building is leased to the clothing combine which in turn employs 900 colored women.**

Martinsville boasts that its housing record is one of the most distinctive in the nation.

### Large Property Holdings

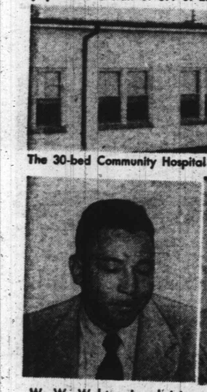
Almost 100 per cent of the property in which colored residents live is owned by colored citizens. Several parcels of white business establishments are also owned by colored.

Politics is a live issue in this city. The Va. Voters' League has 300 members and Joseph W. Pritchett is president. It takes a keen interest in the city's management.

**This city is advancing. More young businessmen are striking out on their own and residents are pressing for wider hiring of colored workers in local industry.**

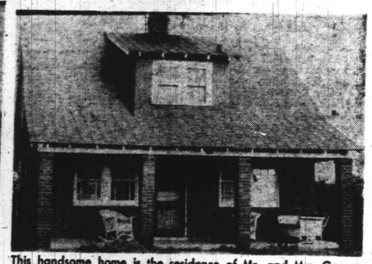
One blot mars Martinsville's current progress—the infamous "Martinsville Seven" case in which seven colored men were executed for supposedly assaulting a white woman.

For all this, the city still looks forward. The pictures on this page are evidence of its growth and prosperity.

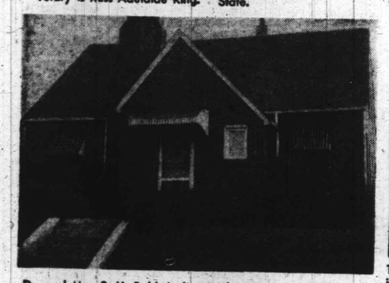


W. W. Walston is administrator of Community Hospital. He is a North Carolina College graduate. His secretary is Miss Adelaide King.

J. Elmer Turner is principal of Albert Harris School. He heads a staff of 39 teachers including graduates from Notre Dame, Hampton and Va. State.

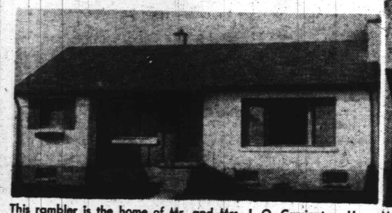


This handsome home is the residence of Mr. and Mrs. George Rollins of Martinsville. Mr. Rollins is a barber.

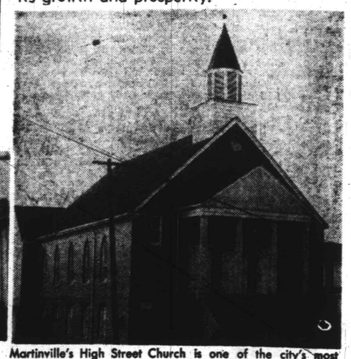


Dr. and Mrs. S. H. Baldwin live in this gracious home. He is a Martinsville druggist.

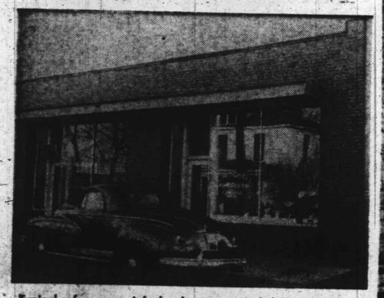
**NEXT WEEK:** MILTON, N. C. Henry County, Va.



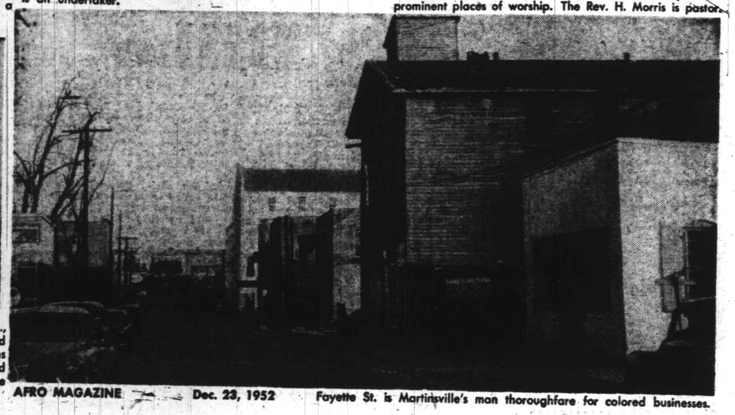
This rambler is the home of Mr. and Mrs. J. O. Carrington. He is an undertaker.



Martinsville's High Street Church is one of the city's most prominent places of worship. The Rev. H. Morris is pastor.



Typical of commercial developments on bustling Fayette St., is this new office building built by M. Mitchell, plumbing and appliance dealer, and shared with real estate agents, Williams and Muse. Gregory Swanson, attorney, and first colored graduate of University of Virginia law school, has offices here also.



Fayette St. is Martinsville's man thoroughfare for colored businesses.



*From AFRO Headlines Of Yesteryear Comes This Strange Story Of*

# The Man Who Had 40 Wives

## This Baptist Pastor Was A Ladies' Man

- ***He Wooed Them***
- ***Won Them,***
- ***Then Left***

A generation and a half ago, the nation was rocked by the story of a Baptist minister who confessed he had married 40 women.

When arrested on a bad check charge in Dayton, Ohio, the Rev. William Lawrence Jones, then 56, told police he had exchanged vows with 40 goodlooking women between the ages of 16 and 37 years.

He directed police to his personal effects where they found photos of 29 of the lovelies and twenty marriage licenses and other marriage records.

### Shocking Expressions

Some of the letters were exceedingly good in composition, showing fine character, education and general devotion in love and in co-operative spiritual work.

Several expressed indignation and anger at certain treatment and the preacher's lack of husbandly attention to their living needs.

A few letters contained choice gems of expressions, pointed and punctuated with words that must have shocked the pious preacher.

In addition to the letters was found a varied assortment of watches, cuff buttons, rings, pins, neckties, jeweled brooches containing women's pictures, lavalliers, silver, cutlery and other trinkets ranging from $1 to $250 in value, all presents from Rev. Jones' forty wives and other women admirers.

**Hidden among the preacher's effects in addition to the pictures, marriage licenses and records were hundreds of letters from his wives, running the gamut of sweet, tender endearments, passionate, love and eternal devotion, declarations, spiced with references to certain "most joyous sieges, of exhilarting moments and hours" passed together.**

Some declared that life without him at home was an "empty, pleasureless, dreary existence."

One said:

"When you hold me in your arms, close to your heart, and the warmness of your personality goes out to me, my heart jumps, my blood rushes in wild hotness, my whole being is tingled with delight and earth is heaven to me."

Still another missive laden with characteristic expressions of undying endearment from a Chicago wife includes this dainty morsel:

"My beloved honey man, if you don't hurry back home to me pretty soon, and bless me with your love, I am so hungry for you, I'm just going to eat your picture?

"So honey, please get back here instantly and bless me."

### Women All Like Preachers . . .

"How did you ever succeed in getting forty women to marry you?" Rev. Jones was asked.

""That's easy," he is said to have answered, "the women all like preachers, they get stuck on us right away, somehow or other, then it's a cinch to get 'em and all they've got."

"What did you want with so many wives?" was another question.

"Well, you see, there was always a pawerful lot of women after me, lots of them were very pretty and otherwise attractive—and I like women too. There wasn't nothing else left for me to do but to try and accommodate as many as I could," is the reported answer.

He continued: "Some of them wives asked me to marry 'em, and I ain't missing nothing good if I can help it."

### Three Wives White

That Rev. Jones was a staunch believer in the Scriptural truth, "Out of one clay have I made all nations, etc.," and that he was not prejudiced to color was shown by the reported claims: "Three of Rev. Jones' 40 wives are white women," and that the complexions of the other thirty-seven range from very fair, yellow to high dark brown.

### Found Each One Different

He is quoted as saying that he liked to try all kinds, and that he found some kind of deligtful difference in each one.

Brigham Young, the notorious old Mormon elder, had nothing on Rev. Jones.

### Compared With Harems

Turkish harems, in point of feminine variety were outdone and all bigamist records of modern times were made pikers and cast into the scrap heap by this "marrying parson."

He never had been divorced from any of them and most all were living. The police told reporters that Jones confessed this.

His wives were all "good-looking." Their ages ran from 16 to 37 years, with "chickens" predominating."

Scores of children resulted from Reverend Jones' 40 matrimonial adventures. He had an astonishing attractiveness to women.

The following is a list of the wives of Rev. William Lawrence Jones and the date of marriage, according to the records the police obtained:

**Mary Carn, London, Ohio, 1890; Cora Ridgely, Hogan, Mich., 1891; Sulta Winton, Battle Creek, Mich. 1894; Delia Cortney, Newark, O., 1895; Lovina Bordley, Baltimore, Ind., 1897; Edith Winn, Bloomington, Ill., 1900; Lizzie Harris, Memphis, Tenn., 1901; Leona Lewis, Chillicothe, O., 1903; Optree Young, Paris, Tenn., Florence Cate, Monsier, Pa.,1918;**

**Garnett Tooks, Pittsburgh, Pa., 1918; Gertrude Davies, Pittsburgh, Pa., 1918; Atta Roan, Steubenville, O., 1920; Blanche Van Horn, Columbus, O., 1920; Mamey Mason, Chicago Ill. 1920 ;Elizabeth Morriss, Chicago, 1921; Daisy Colons, Chicago, 1921; Tillie Heatro, Chicago, 1921;**

### Michigan Wife

Edith Larsen, Greenville, Pa., 1921; Cora Borden, St. Joseph, Mich., 1921; May Beal, Wornock, Mich., 1921; Grace Grayson, Chicago, 1921; Lucille Billingsley, Chicago, 1921; Lennie Lassiter, St. Louis, Mo., 1921; Esther Holmes, Wichita, Kan., 1922; Annie Williams, Marion, Ind., 1922; Virginia Ryder, Chicago, 1922; Florence Henley, Detroit, 1922; Nancy Jonas , Monroe, Mich., 1922; Florence Stall, Joliet, Ill., 1922; Lenora Miller, Chicago, 1922; Helen Bronson, Cleveland, O., 1922; Florence Jason, Buffalo, N.Y., 1922; Caroline Rhodes, Rochester, N.Y., 1922; Arline Arnall, New York City, 1922; Luella Statler, Madison, Miss., 1922; Josephine Tyler, Chicago, 1922.

Discovery of the preacher's 40 wives came about when he was arrested when a $10,000 check he paid for a movie made for him turned out to be bogus.

### Five Wives In Baltimore

He exhibited a note-book which listed from one to five wives each in Baltimore, Memphis and Paris, Tenn., St. Louis and other cities.

Jones claimed he lived with his first wife 16 years in Oxford Pa., and then he began his marrying spree.

Police declared Jones had served 22 months in the Western Pennsylvania Penitenary for bigamy when arrested.

He went to jail again, perhaps gladly, for his part in the matrimonial storm he created.

### EACH WIFE WAS DIFFERENT

*"Women all get stuck on preachers," the Rev. Jones told Dayton police after his arrest, "And I missed nothing good."*

*He was right, he married 40 lovelies but never divorced any of them.*

## Dale Carnegie Says .....

### Make the Most of Situations

HARRY K. GARD, Galesburg, Illinois, a year ago came perilously near to losing his local automobile agency and, as he says, all because he was stupidly allowing worry and fear to poison his mind. He had just purchased the agency when the factory went into a prolonged strike; his bank account was at a very low figure. Uncle Sam was

Finally, he went to one of the local banks to establish a line of credit. His sales talk to the bank president was probably he world's poorest, for his turn-down was a verbal kick in the pants. In other words, the banker's refusal told him that he didn't think he had the ability to succeed in Galesburg.

He went back to his office fighting mad. Calling all his employees together he told them the situation and asked for their co-operation without too much financial consideration. He was very fortunate! He says.

"You should have seen those fellows work. We purchased two barrels of paint and remodeled our whole place. Everyone, including myself, arrived early and worked late —and the agency took a new lease on life. The enthusiasm was contagious. All the old customers started rolling in and new ones came from curiosity."

As a result, they lost a little, but only a small amount of money during the strike; and it wasn't too long before a big money lending firm called him and asked if he needed some money (which he didn't). Everything has been just Jim Dandy because he didn't take time to worry and fret, but got to work and made the most of the situation at hand.

by E. B. REA

# Miss Butterfly McQueen

*Both her voice and her name are the real McCoy*

Butterfly McQueen will be remembered for her portrayal of Prissy in "Gone With the Wind," civil war picture which brought the late Hattie McDaniel, the Academy Award.

Butterfly, that's her real name, was born in Tampa, Fla., January 8, 1922, and has educated at the Walker Baptist Institute and St. Benedict Covenant, Augusta, Ga.

IN THE RAIN

During her early school days, she appeared in many amateur shows, giving an early indication of her flair for unusual comedy.

### Entered Nursing School

However, when her family moved to New York, Butterfly enrolled in the Lincoln Nursing School and studied for six months before deciding that the stage was her first and best love.

She made her stage debut on Broadway in 1938 in the short-lived "Brown Sugar." When it folded, she enrolled in a dramatic school.

### Returns To Broadway

Then things began to come her way. She was called back to Broadway to appear in George Abbott's "Brother Rat," and when that play ran its course, she took to the road in "What A Life."

By this time, her special type of comedy and high, fluttery voice had attracted the attention of other producers.

### Debuts With Goldbergs

She made her radio debut in the "Goldbergs." Other appearances included the Dinah Shore program; Jack Benny show with Eddie (Rochester) Anderson, and her current role of Oriele on the radio "Beulah," show which, incidentally, featured the late Miss McDaniel.

Miss McQueen almost missed the role in "Gone With the Wind." In her first effort to get in the picture, she was turned down because she "was not the type."

### Signed For "Wind"

Later, however, a Selznick scout caught her performance in "Brown Sugar" and immediately signed her as the giggling, forgetful Prissy in "The Wind."

Her other motion picture credits include "Since You Went Away," "The Women," "Duel in the Sun," "Cabin in the Sky" and "Mildred Pierce."

### In Summer Play

Last summer she was co-starred with Katherine Alexander in "Somersault," a new play by Irenne Ganne, at the Cape Playhouse, Dennis, Mass.

Combining her comedy with pantomimes and sketches, she was presented three times weekly in a "one woman show" at New York's Carnegie Hall for 12 weeks, October 14 through January 1, 1952.

### Student Of Bible

Success has not changed her life as to clean living. She is still an avid reader—her favorite book being the Bible.

Despite the rigors of travel and show life, she neither drinks intoxicating beverages nor smokes, and is rarely seen in nightclubs, unless as a performer.

### Fair Specialty Dancer

She is a fair dancer, having studied at the Katherine Dunham dance school. Her forte is tap and specialty dancing for professional purposes.

She is a natural comedienne. Her voice is not a put-on. It, too, is natural. Her demeanor, on and off the stage, screen, radio and television makes her respected by the entire profession.

BUTTERFLY McQUEEN
As "Prissy" in Gone With The Wind

DIXIE BELLE