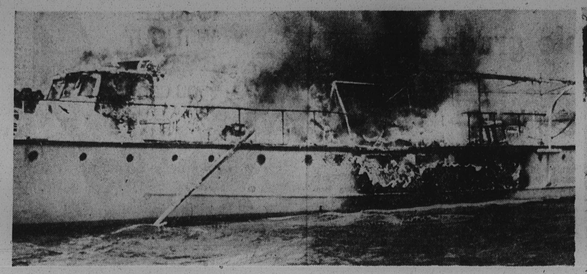


SMILES CAME LATER—But there were no smiles, just stark fear, when 103-foot motor yacht, Warrior Geraint, exploded and burned in Atlantic Ocean near Antigua, British West Indies, last week. Vacationing Marylanders were among 45 passengers aboard the boat on a day-long tour of the Caribbean waters. Top photo by A.P. Moss, one of the vacationers who was ashore collecting shells, shows severity of blaze which completely destroyed vessel. It was taken as he and others were in rescue boat manned by U.S. Navy. Lower photo rives before view of the luxury motor yacht. Incident occurred near Maid Island. Captain Tony Garton and two crew members suffered severe burns. All others miraculously escaped uninjurred although they lost personal belongings, including airline tickets, money, cameras and clothing. Marylanders flew home on Sunday evening. In the group at right, standing from left, Mr. and Mrs. Don Reid, Gaithersburg, Md., Mr. and Mrs. Charles Thompson and Mr. and Mrs. A. Paul Moss and kneeling, Dr. and Mrs. Samuel R. Owings, all of Baltimore. Arrow in lower photo shows where Mrs. Moss, Mrs. Owings and the Thompsons were seated when explosion erupted in ship's galley. Accompanying story tells of rescue.

'The Lord Had His Arms Around Us'

By BETTYE MOSS
(AFRO Vice President-Treasurer)

It was as beautiful as the travel brochure said it would be when the eight of us landed in Antigua, the British West Indies island, on Monday, Feb. 19.

We left Baltimore's 40-degree wet and chilly weather to find balmy 84-degree weather when our Pan Am Boeing 707 reached Puerto Rico, two and a half hours later.

An hour's ride further took us to tiny (16 miles wide), Antigua with its 'seascape of rocky caves and coves alternating with sunny, white beaches.'

In no time at all, the friendly custom officers and taxi drivers transported us and our baggage — to the loveliness of the Jolly Beach Hotel, where our rooms did indeed look out on the white, sunny beaches.

* * *

Free at last . . for seven days we would have the peace and quiet we'd waited for and talked about during the long, hard summer and early fall when we'd gone without vacation.

We spent the first day enjoying the island's advertised balt breezes and low humidity which make Antigua one of the right little islands where land and sea make beauty.

Like most people not used and to unwinding immediately, we talked about home, the children, and things, nothing serious, just idle chit-chat to while away the time.

Then came Tuesday morning. We were cluttered together under the three beach umbrellas, taking the rays of the hot sun gradually — no fast tans, we said.

Some of us talked about the beautiful people on he island. We never made it to the Bird Island or tasted the curry.

The yacht had anchored 300 feet from Maid Island and half of the 40 guests aboard had been carried by boat to collect sea shells.

The rest of us sat and watched them and admired the beauty of the nearby uninhabited island.

And, then there was a startling noise (it sounded like a gun shot) but the canvass of the yacht was blown off above our heads and the smoke began pouring from the galley and we knew immediately there was trouble ahead

* * *

What do you do when you're anchored in the middle of the Atlantic, 100 far from shore to swim to safety, and there is an explosion and fire?

It you're like me, you're dazed . . you walk around the ship with your transistor radio in one hand, your pocketbook in the other as though waiting for direction.

Minutes later, when your friend, (Mrs. Samuel Owings (Barbara) starts over the stern of the boat yelling at you to come on you still stand there.

There were more yells. I vaguely saw the swimmers in the water, (Dr. Owings and my husband, A. Paul Moss urging us not to jump; to wait for the boat at the side.

Somehow I heard my husband's voice 'get in the boat, get in the boat.'

* * *

He had been ashore with the group collecting the precious sea shells and when the first explosion came was photographing them and the boat.

This writer had just reiterated her dread fear of boats when a fascinating blonde man with a handsome tan approached.

Are you vacationers?' he asked. We nodded our heads and he pulled out the brochure.

And that is how we ended the next day Wed. Feb. 21, 1973) going aboard Tony Garton's 103-foot Warrior Geriant, a 'luxury trans-Ocean motor yacht." for what was to have been a 'day long curry tour to Maid Island and Great Bird Island, with all you can eat and drink for $22 per including 20 native side dishes."

* * *

Some of us talked about how good it felt to see black people in charge of the ticket windows, at the hotel desks, conducting the customs inspections etc.

* * *

There was panic for a minute as voices urged us to get back 'get back, get back.' there may be another explosion. It could come over here."

We had lost our shoes so we walked on bare sea shells and never felt the pain. Dr. Owings and Mr. Reed and my husband who had swum in the direction of the burning boat in their clothes didn't appear to know they were soaking wet as we all ran some hysterically, back on the island, fearful of flying debris.

Gradually, we regained our composure and worked ourselves around the other side of the island and that's when we all rejoiced — the United States Navy was there

Uncle Sam's men, black and white stationed in Antigua, and their West Indian counterparts, were manning boats, complete with radios which could speed us to safety and land.

* * *

Do you cry with joy? Of course. Do you show your gratitude unashamedly and thank God over and over again that there was no loss of life and, pray that the three men who suffered burns will recover? Of course you do.

And, you also say over and over again . . suppose the explosion had come during the first hour when the boat was cruising without sight of land?

And, you know then that the Lord had to have His arms around the passengers on the Warrior Geraint, now sunk in the deep waters off Antigua's north shore.

He said later he does not know what compelled him to leave the group on the island's mountain top and come down on the beach.

I like to think it was because the Lord had His arms around us.

* * *

After his insistent, 'get in the boat, get in the boat' commands, I recall my friend, Barbara, falling to the floor of the lifeboat and then pulling me and my bag and transistor in beside her.

The Charles Thompsons (Mary) also of Baltimore, were among the last to leave the fiery vessell, but I did not see them even though the boat was small. You're in a daze and you lose all sense because you're so scared

When we safely reached the island, where other others on the yacht had gone, there was reunion with our other friends, Mr. and Mrs. Don Reid (Sandy), of Gaithersburg, who had gone together to collect shells.

* * *

But the danger was not over . . there had been three explosions on the boat and there was fear there would be another.

The small blonde who had gotten up and moved her seat when the eight of us boarded the pleasure boat was most solicitous and asked if she could help

Another passenger who had appeared mad with the world was first to comfort one of the two black mates who suffered severe burns and to urge medication for the captain whose body was on-fire when he jumped from the yacht, the last to leave.

Mr. King is married to the former Gloria Woods of Lawnside, N. J. They have five children, Benjamin Jr., 21, junior at Hampton Institute; Tony, 18, freshman at U. of Md.; Pamela, 14, and Kora, 12, both pupils at Pimlico Junior High; and Marty, 9, Roosevelt Elementary School No. 18.

Benjamin King new CPA board chairman

Benjamin L. King was elected chairman of the State Board of Public Accountancy on Thursday. He succeeds Harry Casbarian, who retired.

First black certified public accountant licensed in the state in 1957, Mr. King has been a member of the five-member board since 1969. Governor Mandel named him to a second three-year term in 1972.

Others on the five-member board are: Dr. Tom Cadegna, secretary treasurer; Daniel E. Kine, attorney; and Gunther R. Borris. There is one vacancy.

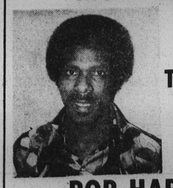
Mr. King, who is 46, a graduate of Va. State College, African University.

He maintains offices at 1509 Pennsylvania Ave. where he recently took in a new partner, Mrs. Xovonda Brooks, who passed the CPA exam last November.

In addition, he is instructor in accounting, auditing and taxes at Morgan State College, where he has been responsible for encouraging students to enter the field of accounting.

The first female is Mrs. Christiana Ricks of Baltimore who was licensed in 1971.

MONTGOMERY WARD



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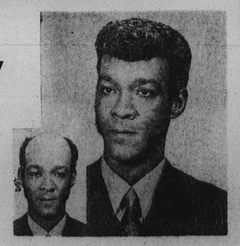

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MARKET OPENING — Kenneth Wilson, AFRO vice-president in charge of advertising greets Herbert Beckenheimer, manager of the new Brown Super Market on Monroe and Pressman Sts.

More janitors must receive minimum wage, high court rules

The Supreme Court ruled in a split decision Wednesday that property management firms must include income from total rents to determine whether federal minimum wage standards apply to building workers.

The decision in a Pittsburgh case would affect tens of thousands of low-income maintenance and service workers in apartment and office buildings across the nation, the Institute of Real Estate Management said in a court brief.

The higher payroll costs also could be passed on to tenants in the form of rent increases, a property management official in Washington said.

The Labor Department sued Arnheim and Neely, Inc., a real estate management company, accusing it of violating the fair labor standards act which requires employers with more than $250,000 in gross income to pay the federal minimum wage, which is now $1.60.

* * *

The company manages eight commercial office buildings and the apartment complex in the Pittsburgh area. It does not own the properties.

The district court ruled that the company is the "employer" of the janitors and supervisors and maintenance people of the buildings. The gross rentals become the "gross sales" of the enterprise under law, and are the measure by which the minimum wage is set.

Charles W. Sherren, vice president of Frederick W. Berens Sales, Inc in Washington, said the decision "could create higher costs in cases where workers are receiving less than the federal minimum wage of $1.60. That does not apply in Washington because of the city's $2.25 minimum."

In other rulings, the court:

Eased the traditional rule that a prisoner wishing to claim denial of constitutional rights must bring his habeas corpus action in the district where he is confined. The 6-3 decision resulted from an appeal by Charles D. Braden, who began a 10-year sentence in March, 1972, in Alabama, and faces trial for burglary in Kentucky.

3rd district calls journey big success

Organizers of the Third District Blacks For Political Action recent Journey Into Blackness have called the event a big success.

The program featured seminars held by such persons as the Rev. Vernon Dobson, Dr. Benjamin Quarles, Dr. Nick Aaron Ford, Dr. Gilbert Ware, James Lewis and Douglas Sand.

Participants had the opportunity to focus attention upon themselves and assess the energy, time and resources needed to help map our political strategy in the district.

The seminars were also able to provide insight into the potential strength and responsibilities of blacks in the district. Topics included religion, history, literature, politics, art and economics.

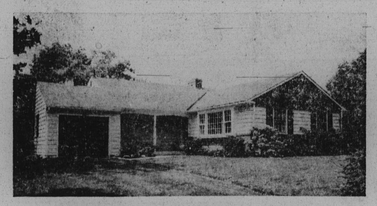
The program featured music, songs of history including James Weldon Johnson's — Lift Every Voice and Sing rendered in rich baritone by Mr. Hugh Jackson, a member of the New City Singers.

The Arthur Lamb Players: talented, gifted, spirited and young renderer a skit that was meaningful and appropo to the black's current dilemma. Mrs. Elvina Hopkins read searching poetry. Her style, voice and dress heightened the audience's interest.

Eastern drama

The Eastern High School drama class, under the direction of Mrs. Helen Bartholow, sponsored the Dulaney Valley Senior High School Jazz Show at a total school assembly, Feb. 20.

"Traci and Bill," the professional duo who headlined the show, were backed by the award winning Dulaney Jazz Band and the Ruth Benson Dancers. William Myers directed the show and William Sarangoulis directed the Jazz Band.



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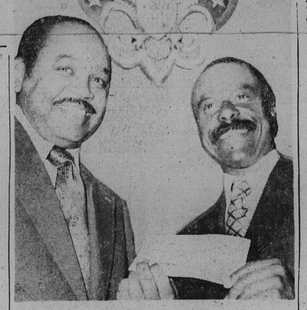

GIFT TO SCOUTERS—Nathaniel Jackson, right, chairman of the sustained membership enrollment (SME) program of the Constellation district receives a $100 century club donation from Robert L. Johnson, president of the Baltimore chapter of the Frontier International.

Membership drive set for scouters

Nathaniel Jackson, chairman of the Sustained Membership Enrolment (SME) program for the Constellation district of Baltimore's Boy Scouts has announced the scouters are ready to meet their goal of 11,500 members.

Men serving on the advisory committee included Milton Branch, a local insurance executive, and Louis A. Doering, a local civic leader.

The century club phase for donations over $100 is headed by Dr. James A. Priest, Charles Howard Jr., Herman Sydnor, Wallace Oest, Charles Williams, Milton Branch, Achniel Muldrow, Walter Shade and Al Evans are assisting him.

Jackson and Doering have stated that the District is divided into seven sections and Community Chairman are: James Frentz, Peter C. Barnes, Robert Epperson, William Matthews, James Murray, Mrs. Sarah Bundy of Cherry Hill, and Al Evans of South Baltimore.

District Chairman, Milton Branch stated that some 200 volunteer Scouters are involved in the SME program.

The Captains involved are: Dr. Raymond Gladue, Richard Collins, William Thompson, William Sweeney, Martin Corry, Stanley Vinion, Lee Hall, Theodore Hunter, Theodore Press, Bernard Brooks, Jack Thornton, Betty Turner, Gene Greene, Samuel Jackson, Bernard Burroughs, Gene Prettyman, Harry Carpenter, William Young, Raymond Wade, Marge and William Butler, William Harris, Mary LeCount, Aaron Ellis, James Flippin, Clarence White, James Gilliam, Robert Anderson, Julia P. Duran, Hullane Anderson, Delores Jackson, Wilbeck Moore, Robert Nelson, Rosa Coleman, Charles Perkins, James Davis, [illegible] Edward Bow-

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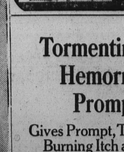

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