Meet the international diplomats

UN Ambassador Ferdinand L. Oyono of Cameroon

By Arnold deMille

Ferdinand Leopold Oyono, permanent representative of the United Republic of Cameroon to the United Nations, has a vivid recollection of the most dramatic moments in his life as a career diplomat.

He was serving as ambassador to France and simultaneously to Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia and Spain. He had received an invitation from the King of Morocco to attend a birthday party for the King.

"While the party was going on — there were many, many diplomats from all over the world — everybody was eating and drinking and enjoying themselves when there were shots from a machine gun. People all around me fell, some died," Oyono began.

"It was a coup de etat! It was shocking! The diplomats were on one side of the room and the population — the ordinary people — on the other side.

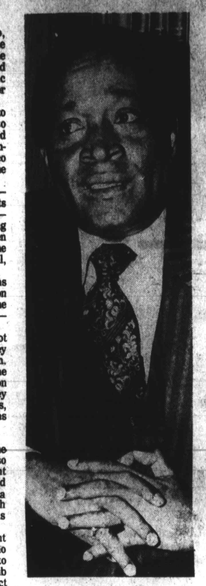
There were VIPs who were not diplomats but were invited; they were at another corner of the room. But when the burst of shots came they all ran together. The common people and the diplomats, they were all the same during this crisis, this confusion — everybody was running for his life."

But what really startled him, the ambassador said, was to see how so many people died. One moment they were eating and drinking and having a good time. "Then all of a sudden they were dying with glasses in their hands. It was shocking.

"I, myself, was hit on the right thumb and in the back," Oyono explained. He then put his hands to his face. "I was hit on the thumb when I put my hands up to protect my face."

He said by covering his face with his hands probably saved his life. The bullet that struck his thumb could have struck him in the temple. He was flown to Paris where he was operated on.

"At first they were going to amputate my right hand but they gave me a lot of antibiotics and then [illegible] necessary for me to have one hand amputated."



FERDINANRD L. OYONO

'The common people and diplomats were all the same during the crisis.'

The back wound was not too serious, he said, and required only a few stitches.

"Life and death play a role in this world. You come here with nothing, and you leave with nothing. When this thing happened, in all the confusion and despite titles and positions, everybody came together. So the best thing is to be yourself — forget about position and title — just remain yourself."

Aside from the vivid memories of the tragedy, the ambassador has a useless right thumb which will remain with him the rest of his days, but a thumb which saved his life.

Now 49, the ambassador is a native of Nigoulemekong. His father was a high government official before the country gained full independence and sent young Ferdinand to Paris to complete his secondary and university education.

Following graduation from the French Faculty of Law and Economics, he entered the Diplomatic Section of the French School of Administration (1958) and then into training for the foreign diplomatic service.

Upon completion of his studies at the School of Administration, he was sent to the French Embassy in Rome, Italy as a trainee. By the time he completed all of his courses to become a full - fledged diplomat, the Cameroon had gained full independence from France (Jan. 1960). Oyono decided to return home and enter the diplomatic service of his own country.

'Life and death play a role in this world... you come with nothing and leave with nothing.'

"The Cameroons have always been jealous of their independence," the ambassador declared. "They fought the Germans for their freedom. The Germans slaughtered a lot of them for that. This is before the first World War. When the French came they fought again for their freedom."

Cameroon became a UN Trust territory in 1946 and a local assembly was established. By this time opposition to colonial rule was mounting throughout Africa.

The French Cameroon Assembly in 1957, then an autonomous self - government, voted for full independence. Jan. 1, 1960 it became the Republic of Cameroon and was admitted to the United Nations Oct. 20, 1960.

As a result of plebiscites held in 1961 under UN supervision, the southern region of the British Cameroon became independent and elected to reunite with the Republic of Cameroon, while the northern region united with Nigeria.

Unification became effective Oct. 1, 1961 and the country became the Federal Republic of Cameroon. However, by majority vote of the people in 1972 the name was changed to the United Republic of Cameroon.

Ambassador Oyono said the country major exports are cocoa, coffee, cotton, bananas, rubber and tobacco. Other produce are rice, peanuts, sugar, millet, potatoes, casaba, tea, dried beans, potatoes and palm oil.

Natural mineral resources include gold, uranium, tungsten, iron and bauxite, a big export. Twelve years ago oil was discovered, the ambassador said.

"We have 3,500,000 goats, 800,000 pigs and about 10 million poultry," he laughed.

In 1976 the government adopted a new 5 - year plan with emphasis on economic development through timer production, cattle raising and processing industry and oil refinery.

"Much progress has been made to accomplish these aims," His Excellency said.

His first appointment with the new government came in 1960 when he was placed in charge of Cameroon's General Consulate in Paris. He was also named a member of his country's first delegation to the United Nations General Assembly in New York.

"I was like the first delegate to the UN since Cameroon obtained independence," the ambassador explained. "It was the first time Cameroon participated in the General Assembly, so I was like one of the pioneers."

His upward movement was rapid. In 1963 he became counsellor to the Ministry for Foreign Affairs on all economic and political matters between his and other nations.

During those early days Oyono had the distinction of also serving as envoy to meetings of Heads of States in Africa, as special envoy to the European Economic Community and negotiated the first market agreement between the EEC countries and Cameroon.

"I was also vice - chairman of the Cameroon Mission to the Soviet Union (1962) when we reached the first agreement with the Communist government," he point[illegible] out.

In addition, he served as vice - chairman of a good - will mission to the Soviet Union, Poland, Czechoslovakia, Sweden and Denmark. Also, he was extraordinary and plentipotentiart envoy of a good - will mission to Romania, Bulgaria, Austria, Yugoslavia, Greece and Italy.

But it was not until 1963 that Oyono moved into the inner circle of the diplomatic corp. He was appointed ambassador to Liberia. Two years later he became ambassador to Belgium and simoultaneously to Holland and Turkey.

Then in 1969 he was appointed ambassador to France and accredited to Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia and Spain. In March 1975 he became his country's permanent representative to the United Nations in New York.

Since joining the diplomatic corp at the World Assembly, Ambassador Oyono has served as president of the Political Commission of the meetings of Ministers of the Non - Aligned countries held in Lima, Peru (1975) and as president of the UN Security Council sessions which dealt with the conflict between Great Britain and Iceland (1976).

The ambassador is also a well - known author. He has written three books and a number of articles. Two of his books have been translated into several languages. He was recently mentioned in the New York and the Los Angeles Times among other well - known African writers.

His Excellency says his country has a population of 7,700,000 with some 200 tribes. The major ones are the Bantus, Kirdis and the Foulbes.

PARTY GOERS — Ms. Rochelle Butler and Ms. Ethel Wise attended the gala "Strip" affair held last weekend at the Civic Center.

THE GALA EVENT is reflected in the warm greetings exchanged by (L.TO R) Dr. Andrew Billingsley, Morgan University president; City Council Vice President Clarence Du Burns and Del. Margaret Murphy.

—Sam Lacy

(Continued from Page 31)

Robinson, Bowie, Md.

PRESS LUNCHEON
Budweiser - Winner's Distributors
Key Wines

NEWS MEDIA
WMAR - Channel 2
WBAL - Channel 11
WJZ - Channel 13
WEAA - FM 103
WWIN
AFRO - AMERICAN Newspapers
DAWN Magazine
Evening Sun
Morning Sun
News American

SCHOLARSHIPS
Anheuser - Busch
Greyhound Corporation
Heublein Company

DONATIONS
Converse Rubber and
William C. March Funeral Home

SOUVENIR PROGRAM
Editing - Dr. Cathy Pope Smith
Insert
AFRO - AMERICAN Newspapers

Mrs. Mrs. Odessa Dyson, Afro executive secretary, who received the Second Mile Award.

Guests of
WBAL - TV
City Champions, 10 - 12 yrs. Team
Bentalou Recreation Center of the Bureau of Recreation League
Head Coach - Herman Johnson
Asst. Coach - Michael Blue

PROJECT SURVIVAL
Winter League Champions
Ages 10 - 12; Saint Edwards; Coach Pier Johnson
Ages 12 - 14; Mr. Lee's Rockets; Coach Mr. Lee
Ages 14 - 16; Cherry Hill; Coach Alonzo Lynn.

HEADTABLE
Earl C. Banks, master of ceremonies; John J. Oliver Jr., president, AFRO - AMERICAN Newspapers; Leroy Walker, professor of Physical Education, Central University; guest speaker; William "Boo" Harris for the governor; Sam Lacy, the honoree; Donald Millard, assistant director, Department of Recreation, representing the mayor; Suzan Harrison, Special Promotions Director, Civic Center; Charlie Eckman and John Steadman, sports writers.

Walter Orlinsky, president, City Council; Mal Goode, NBC; Ernie Accorsi, representing NFL; Fred Brown, Anheuser - Busch; Joe Black, Greyhound Corp.

Sherman Briscoe, executive director, National Newspaper Publishers Association; Elva Edwards, associate director, USA; Vernon Nolan, director, Project Survival; Dr. Andrew Billingsley, president Morgan State University.

Margaret Murphy, member House of Delegate; Billy Taylor, WWIN; John C. McLendon, Converse Rubber Co; John H. Murphy, III, chairman of the board, AFRO; Victor Julien, Heublein Co.; Bob Barnett, head of Project Survival officials;

John Murdock, team coordinator, Project Survival; Stanley Goldberg, Alleghany Pepsi; Lenwood Ivey, executive director, USA; William Proctor, deputy director, Fiscal Office;

The Rev. Marie Braxton, asst. Allen AME Church; Clarence "Du" Burns, vice president, City Council; Samuel LaBeach, director of Department of Recreation, Wash., D.C., representing the mayor; Theodore Thomas, secretary of personnel, state of Maryland; Alvin S. Steele, neighborhood development counselor, USA; Rev. Wendell Phillips, pastor, Heritage United Church of Christ.

SPONSORS
AFRO - AMERICAN Newspaper's
Allen Glover Insurance
Baltimore Federal Savings & Loan
Breslin Agency
Brown's Supermarket
Budweiser
Converse Rubber
Fred Frank, Bailbondsman
Freedom Distributors
Good Humor Company
Greyhound Corp.
Susan Harrison
Heublein Company
Hub, Inc.
Inner Harbor Marina
Jesco, Inc.
Kappa Alpha Psi
Korean Business Men's Assoc.
Benny King, CPA
Left Bank Jazz Society
Lefty Produce
Liberomarch Cleaners
Linden Lounge
Local 194
Local 44
McDonald's Broadway
March Funeral Home
Mar Rocrest
Miller's Brewing Co.
Monumental Corp.
Morgan State University
NFL
Park Heights Barber Shop
Jim Parker
Pepsi Cola
Russell T. Baker Realtors
Schlitz
Sparky's Inc.
Sphinx Club
Super Pride - Hilton Court
Sol Heep Housing
WBAL
Winner Distributors
WWIN
Berger King

PATRONS
AFRO - AMERICAN Newspapers
Ashburton Insurance, Ltd.
Association Black Media Worker
Baltimore City Jail
Baltimore Colts
Earl Banks
Black and Decker
Black Enterprises
Baltimore High School Coaches
CEBO
Civic and Convention Centers
Commercial Credit Company
Cultural Arts Program
C & P Telephone Co.
East - West Advisory Council
Greater Baltimore Committe
Frank Gunther
Jewish Times
Mazelle Johnson
Memorial Stadium
Morgan State University
Municipal Employees Credit Union
Arthur Murphy
Naval Reserve Center
Fort McHenry
Sam Owens Insurance
Pimlico Race Track
Project Survival Officers
St. James Teen Centers
University of Baltimore
Urban Services Agency
United Black Fund
Washington Bullets
Vernon Wolst
Colt Corale 954
Operation Champ
Community Residents Center

CITIZENS COMMITTEE

HONORARY CHAIRMEN
Hon. Harry Hughes
Governor of Maryland
Hon. William Donald Schaefer
Mayor, City of Baltimore
Hon. Marion Berry
Mayor, Washington, D.C.
Carroll Rosenbloom
Owner, Los Angeles Rams

GENERAL CHAIRMAN
Coach Earl C. Banks

VICE CHAIRMAN
John H Murphy, III

COORDINATOR
Alvin Steele

PROJECT SURVIVAL
Vernon Wolst, Director,
John Murdock, Coordinator,

BUSINESS & INDUSTRY
The Hon. Walter S. Orlinsky

PUBLICITY CHAIRMAN
Suzan Harrison

GOVERNMENT & URBAN SERVICES
Elva Edwards

PROGRAM & ENTERTAINMENT
John J. Oliver

TICKET OPERATION & TREASURER
William Proctor

COACHES & ATHLETIC ORANIZATION
Jesse Thomas

HOSTESS
Gertrude M. Steele

MEMBERS
Hank Aaron
Ernie Accorsi
Vince Bagli
Frederick A. Bailey
Herb Baumeister
Dr. Andrew Billingsley
Dorothy Bishop
Joe Black
Senator Clarence Blount
Rex Barney
William (Bill) Boucher
Fred Brown
Toni Y. Buckson
Hon. Clarence Burns
Lester Butler
William "Sugar" Cain
Roy Campanella
Skip Campbell
Art Carter
Mary Clayburn
George Collins
Lanier Covington
Jack Dawson
Jack Dun III
Leroy O. Dyett
Odessa Dyson
Charlie Eckman
Elva Edwards
Lee & Rose Elder
Don Ellison
Werner Evans
Rhea Felker
Frank Fennell
Bob Perry
William Fowler
Angela C. Gibson
Stanley Goldberg
Ed Goldman
Al Goldstein
Mal Goode
Frank Gunther, Jr.
Susan Harrison
Neill Harvey
Talmade Hill
Elvin Hayes
Joe Holman
Eddie Hurt
Lenwood Ivey
Catherine Jasmin
Jennie Jenkins
Ruth Jenkins
Dorothy M. Jordan
Victor Julien
Harvey Kaseff
Herbert Kaseff
Ruth Kirk
Chick Lang
Bob Maisel
William C. March
Julia R. March
zbob Matthews
zrom Maffe
John B. McLendon
Senator Clarence Mitchell
Hon. Parren J. Mitchell
Lennie Moore
Arthur Murphy
Del. Margaret Murphy
Don Newcombe
Maxie Newson
Bill Nunn, Jr.
Elizabeth M. Oliver
John J. Oliver, Sr.
Hon. Walter S. Orlinsky
Jim Parker
Rev. Wendell Phillips
William B. Proctor
Brooks Robinson
Rachel Robinson
Wilma Rudolph
Dr. Cathy Pope Smith
John Steadman
Gertrude M. Steele
Alfred Sweeney
Bill Tanton
Billy Taylor
Jesse Thomas
Chuck Thompson
Pete Tomasai
Dorothy Towler
Carolyn J. Tutman
Ernie Umbles
Wes Unseld
Klaus Wagner
Bernice Walker
Marie Phillips Braxton
Dr. & Mrs. Leroy Walker
Clayton Weaver
Kenneth Wilson
Wendell Wright
Claude "Buddy" Young
James P. Tinney
Jack Johnson
Johnny Couser
Dr. and Mrs. Ralph Quarles
Thomasine M. Pines
Pagel C. Hall
George H. Collins
Frederick A. Bailey
George H. Collins
Johnny Couser
William Fowler
Pagel C. Hall
Julia R. March
zwilliam C. March
zthomasine M. Pines
Jean Quarles
Dr. Harriett P. Trader
Dr. Herbert W. Trader

Fairer sentencing for crimes aim of new Md. court program

An experimental program sponsored by the federal government may bring a new system of fairer sentencing guidelines to Maryland courts, according to a Baltimore Supreme Bench judge.

Judge Marshall A. Levin said this week that a group of judges are waiting for the federal government to decide whether it will fund the $270,000 program. The program would start July 1 and last two years, said Levin.

He said courts in four Maryland counties would participate in the uniform sentencing program.

"The federal people want to find out if sentencing guidelines will work in disparate jurisdictions, like Baltimore City, suburban counties like Prince George's and Montgomery, and a rural county like Harford," he said.

Levin said the program would set guidelines designed so that criminals would get similar sentences for committing similar crimes.

Levin said judges are permitted to impose different sentences for different offenders. Although that works out well in many cases, there can be "gross disparities," he added.

He cited an example of three defendants from three different counties, convicted of the same crime, with identical criminal histories, that can get sentences ranging from two to eleven years each, depending on which county the case was tried in.

He said the program will try to make the punishment fit the crime no matter where the crime is committed.

The results will be reviewed not only by the federal government, but also by an 11 - member committee or local judges appointed last May to explore ways to bring about more uniform sentencing in Maryland.

Blue Cross to speed up handling of claims

State Insurance Commissioner Edward Birrane said Thursday that Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Maryland are adopting new policies to accelerate handling of claims in response to consumer complaints.

Birrane said the new measures announced at a meeting last week resulted from subpoenas he issued for the health insurers' records on processing claims after he received in consumer complaints during the first quarter of 1979.

The subpoenas have been withdrawn since the meeting, he said.

"The meeting was very fruitful and Blue Cross and Blue Shield acknowledged that there were some problems," Birrane said. "But they emphasized to me these were in a small minority of cases.

"The problem I had was not necessarily with mishandling of cases, that is to say wrong decisions, but the complaints we were getting a delay in resolving problems," he said. "There is no reason why people ought to be hassled claims - wise."

Birrane said the non - profit health insurers will implement new claims procedures. "That will greatly increase the efficiency of handling claims on a priority basis."

The insurance commissioner said he has sent a team of investigators to review the plan and determine if the new policies will result in greater efficiency. He said a report will be issued on their findings.

OUR WORLD

500 attend women's consciousness confab

By Portia E. Badham
AFRO Staff Writer

Councilwoman Victorine Adams

Attorney William Murphy Jr.

Women from all parts of the community, young and old, both black and white gathered at Morgan State University April 28 for a full and interesting day of consciousness raising.

The second annual conference of the Black Women's Consciousness Raising Association proved to be an enlightening day for the nearly 500 women and pleasantly surprising large number of men who attended.

Discussing such topics as racism, sexism, self - concept, stree and legal rights through panel discussions and workshops, the consciousness of many was raised to new heights as they listened to members of the community from medical, educational, employment and legislative area.

Despite the fact that the luncheon speaker, Michele Wallace, author of the controversial book "Black Macho and the Myth of the Superwoman" did not show, the audience listened intently as Dr. Roslyn Terborg - Penn, author of the book "The Afro American Woman, Struggles and Images" replaced her as guest speaker.

Dr. Penn, who says she was prompted to write her book because there was "not a lot of accurate scholarly information out about black women and their history", is an associate professor of history at Morgan and served as a panelist during the morning workshops.

"The patterns of racism and the patterns of struggles against it were and are evident in most aspects of female life," she said.

Speaking in the Baltimore area on behalf of the city of Los Angeles was Mrs. Alfovise Davis, wife of Sammy Davis Jr., who urged black families to vacation in Southern California to see more than just "Tinsel Town".

Mrs. Davis attended the luncheon and served as one of the head table guests. "I support the consciousness raising association since I believe in women and working," she stated.

Some 100 persons were awarded for their outstanding achievement and dedication to the community.

Among the honorees are:
AFRO City Editor, Elizabeth M. Oliver, Bart Kaper, C. Vernon Gray, Andrew Billingsley, Walter Dean, Hilda Ford, Norman Ford, Luckus Outlaw, Cecelia Bryant, James Ballard, Sandy Dobson, Arnetta Flowers, Ida Peters, George Collins, Yvonne Theodore, Diane Weaver.

Also, Marie Tarbell, Kathleen Carter, Naomi Bundee, Shirley Page, Roslyn Terborg - Penn, Lucille Venture, Jean Thayer, George McKhly Phillips, Margaret Pendell, Doris Richardson, Rochelle "Ricki" Specter, Phyllis Fowler, Barbara Murray, Saundra Banks.

And Kwelai Mtume, William Gross, Troy Bailey, Agnes Welch, Sheila Wynett, Cassandra Marshall, Jean Boone, Louise Young, Hattie Harrison, Adlene Hord, Josie Bass, Paul Sarbanes, Norman Brailey, William Hall, Ventura Harrison, John Green, Bernice Lewis, Bernita Collier.

Also, Alpha Kappa Alpha, Peggy Murphy, Oprah Winfrey, William "Boxx" Harris, Douglass Sands, Curtis Davis, Betty Darden, Jean Spencer, Phyllis Shelton, Norman Ross, Darlene Ross, Michele McRae, Harriet Jones, Gloria Gray, Ann Irving, Richard Johns, Angela Gibson.

And, Jewel Crowell, Gwendolyn Cooke, Marguerite Campbell, Clarence "Du" Burns, Cathy Pugh, Mary Robinson, Anthony Robinson, Joseph Chester, Billy Murphy, David Sloan, Anita Austin, Marianne Alexander, Victorine Adams, Wanda Schroeder, Helena Harrison, Robert Green, Elihu Plessett - Bey, Lutricia Bridgeforth.

And, Ed Smith, Beryl Williams, Robert Douglass, John Douglass, Clarence Mitchell, Wendell Phillips, Verda Welcome, Frank Conaway, Howard Rawlings, Clarence Mitchell, Isaiah Dixon, Lena Lee, Larry Young and Earl Davis.

READY AND WAITING to hear Michele Wallace, author of "Black Macho and the Myth of the Superwoman," were Marguerite Campbell and Agnes Underwood. Ms. Wallace did not show.

MORGAN PRESIDENT Andrew Billingsley and Congresswoman Barbara Mukulski, D-3rd, chat before taking their seats as head table guests for the luncheon.

ALTAVISE DAVIS, Sammy Davis Jr.'s wife (second from right) was among the guests at the second annual conference luncheon. From left, Dr. C. Vernon Gray, Louise Johnson, president of the Black Women's Consciousness Raising Association and Rick Johnson.

R.S.V.P.

One 'star' doesn't stop the show

By Marie Phillips Braxton

One person doesn't stop the show — no matter how so - called important she might be. And a living example of that was on Saturday when several hundred black women, along with a sprinkling of men, went on with the second annual conference of the Black Women's Consciousness Raising Association, despite the fact that the "star" didn't come.

So what — stardom lasts but for a little while.

Overall, "The Black Woman Meeting the Challenges of the 80s" was a tribute to the participants and attendees. Folk came from other points — Annapolis, Philadelphia, Washington, New York City.

The feelings from the conference can be expressed best by those who attended. Like Delma Timpson who says, "The conference was inspirational despite Ms. Wallace not showing up. The issue of the conference was not to hear any one particular person speak, but to raise the black woman's consciousness in various areas. I feel that this was accomplished."

Says Ethel Gordon, "I enjoyed my stay to the utmost. All topics were of great interest to me. I'm only sorry that we had to come to an end of my particular workshop." Another attendee said that it should have been for two days.

Our own, the Rev. Edna Issacs, who carries the title of Ambassador of Goodwill to Liberia, delivered the invocation followed by Valerie Fields, who sang "The Lord Prayer" — a great beginning!

Eight workshops spoke to some of the concerns of black women, and the presenters, of high calibre, each represented government and private organizations. Discussions were led by other professionals following the presentations

(Continued on Page 34)

Capacity crowd attends NAFAD luncheon-fashion show

FURRY HAT — Brenda Laney models a casual summer outfit with jeans and pleated pants topped by a fur hat. Ms. Laney was one of more than 10 models who displayed clothing created by local designers at the annual Fashion Show sponsored by the Baltimore Chapter of the National Association of Fashion and Accessory Designers Inc.

By Pattie Hodges

The annual luncheon and fashion show sponsored by the Baltimore Chapter of The National Association of Fashion and Accessory Designers (NAFAD), which was held Sunday, April 29, can be summed up in three words — fabulous, fantastic and fun.

This affair took place in the Francis Scott Key Room of the downtown Hilton Hotel from 1:30 until 4:40 p.m. There was a capacity crowd of more than 400 attending.

Guests enjoyed cocktails and a delicious, full - course sit - down dinner, viewed many lovely fashions done by our own local designers and won many prizes.

The theme for the occasion was: "New Dimensions in Chic." This theme was fully exemplified as 11 of our local models aired the beautiful, eye - catching outfits of 14 of our local designers.

From loungewear to swimwear to business to after five, the designs shown were truly chic. They were soft and clingy, bold and dashing, classic and dignified.

Many were outfits which were convertible and could be worn several different ways. All were original and unique, and Sunday's occasion was an excellent showcase for them.

In addition to the bodywear, the models sported many gorgeous hats done by Nell Sheridan, local milliner of both standing and reputation. Ms. Sheridan, who is president of NAFAD'S local chapter.

NAFAD is a non - profit organization which was originally founded in 1949 in New York City. Its purpose is to meet the needs of blacks actively engaged in the field of fashions. National President is Ernestine Stovall.

Designers represented in Sunday's show were: Tony Dorsey, Barbara Dungee, Gladys Williams, Geneva Taylor, Sherman Smith, Genevieve Massey, Deborah Gregory, Barbara Worsham, Sonya Armstrong, Gloria Jennings, and Selena Thomas. Guest designers were: Fran Straughn, Catherine Wooten and Janine Wright.

Models who so glamorously displayed the designs were: Gwen Kellum, Pat Bowley, CeeCee Stokes, Anita Williams, Andrea Bland, Avalon Jackson, Vanessa Williams, Shelley Thomas, Brenda Laney, Stephen Smith and Gary Cotten. Moderator for the show was Ms. Delores Brown.

Prizes, which were given to guests at different intervals during the show, were donated by the designers. They included jewelry, gift certificates for various local department stores and special articles of clothing made by the designers. Ticket stubs were drawn to pick winners.

One especially delightful prize was a green, snap - brim French felt hat which sported a bold orange feather — a Nell Sheridan original.

Partyline

By Pattie Hodges
AFRO Staff Writer

Anniversary celebration

The 60th Anniversary of Eureka Lodge No. 1 - A. F. & A.M. and 50th anniversary of Calvary Chapter No. 3 of the Order of Eastern Stars was celebrated on Friday, April 27, at the S & R Banquet Room, 5600 block of The Alameda. These groups are affiliated with the Hiram Grand Lodge.

This glorious affair, which included a delicious banquet dinner at 7:30 p.m., musical interludes, a dynamic guest speaker and honors bestowed on its members, was most inspirational. More than 200 people attended.

The theme for the occasion was "Fraternal Brothers and Sisters Meeting Today's Challenges For a Better Tomorrow,"

Master and mistress of ceremonies were: **Brother Allen Laney** and **Sister Virginia Backmon.**

Mrs. Myrna Powell, (speech clinician with the Baltimore city public schools) was guest speaker.

She delivered an inspirational address on the ABC's of sisterhood and brotherhood, which so moved those attending that they gave her a standing ovation when she finished her speech. She spoke of love, sharing, helping and caring for one another and the importance of true unity of spirit among people.

The multi - talented Mrs. Powell also rendered a beautiful selection, "There's A Sweet Spirit" during the evening.

Greetings from the mayor were given by Roscoe Harrington.

Head table guests were: **Honorary John V. Thornton, Honorary Columbus McNeil, Sister Helen V. Benton, Sisters Helen Carter** and **Sister Shirley Thornton.**

Past Matrons honored were: **Sister Ophelia Mathais, Illinois Wise, Ardessa Pitts, Laura Gibson, Bessie Campbell, Daisy McCorkle, Marie Mister, Carrie Perry, Pauline Wilson, Margaret Canty, Ethel Harrell,** and **Beatrice Williams.**

Honorary Matrons were: **Sister Dora Hicks, Sallie Carroll,** the **Rev. Mildred S. Fisher,** and **Sisters Edith Wright** and **Mae Grant.**

Serving on the Banquet Committee were: **Brother Gassaway Carter,** chairperson, **Sister Lillie Wilson,** co - chairperson and **Sister Virginia Backmon,** secretary.

Other guests present at this lovely affair were: **Mrs. Georgia Gillis, Mrs. Asdean Johnson, Miss Missy Rea, J. Kevin Backmon, Mr.** and **Mrs. Elwood Shockley** and **Miss Renee Peacock.**

Retirement dinner

On Saturday, April 28, the family of **James N. Williams Sr.,** of the 3200 block of Fairview Road (Baltimore County), gave a Retirement Dinner in his honor.

This affair was held at the Four Winds Club in Fort Meade, Md., from 5 until 8 p.m.

More than 60 family members, friends, co - workers and fellow church members came out to wish Mr. Williams well and to celebrate with him.

Mr. Williams is retiring from his foreman job with Lever Brothers of Holabird Avenue after 34 years of service.

For Mr. Williams and his guests' enjoyment these was a buffet dinner of mammoth proportions, cocktails and much lively conversation and reminiscing. There was a beautiful white cake which was inscribed: "Much Success in Your Retirement Years".

(Continued on Page 34)