Baltimore Afro-American

OPINION

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The astronaut and the explorer

There was a pleasant irony in Lt. Col. Guion S. Bluford's visit to Baltimore.

Bluford, scheduled to become the first black astronaut to rocket into space next July 4 with the NASA's shuttle program and thereby take his place among the legendary explorers of history, paid a visit to an elderly Baltimorean living in the city's northwest.

For a few moments, two great explorers shared the same room.

Bluford took the time from his busy schedule to pay homage to Herbert M. Frisby, whose devotion to the pursuit of knowledge led him on more than 20 exploratory trips to the earth's artic regions.

During the time of his explorations in the 1940s, 1950s, and 1960s, the artic was as much an unknown frontier as is space today.

Although the two gentlemen will undoubtedly we remembered as among the first black individuals to pioneer in space and the artic, respectively, it was a driven determination and a devotion to excellence which has earned them their place in history, not the color of their skin.

Bluford and Frisby rightly deserve to be seen as among America's great individuals in their own right.

Still, they have sprung from the black community, our community. And one cannot help but be a little extra proud.

NUL misses Jordan, Young

Bland is the word that describes the outlook for National Urban League's annual conference, this week, in Los Angeles. As the radio - television sports commentators say about a dull contest, it is about as exciting as kissing your sister.

These annual conferences, get this straight, are not conventions. The Urban League is made up of more than 100 affiliates. They confer annually and do not legislate...conference rather than convention. Dig?

The conferences take on the characters of their leader. During the Whitney Young era, the League took on a whole new dimension.

Formerly a "goody - goody" group of social workers to share problems and drink bourbon, things changed. Uner Young, the League became directly involved in community problems.

It was about 16 years ago in New Orleans, Young uncovered his domestic Marshall Plan. It was a comprehensive presentation.

To demonstrate his concern, Young scheduled many of the League's annual workshops into meeting places located in the so-called Black ghetto.

Young's domestic Marshall Plan called for the Federal government to help the inner cities that have been ravaged by urban renewal activities of the 1940's.

The young leaders of today are unaware of the renewal era of our cities. Critics of urban renewal said then, and time has proven them right that urban renewal was a systemized, carefully planned strategy to remove Blacks and other minorities from the heart of the urban centers in every area of the nation.

Washington, D.C. is a prime example. Blacks were prominent residents in the Georgetown, Foggy Bottom and Southwest sections. Through what has become known as "red lining," a tool of the lending institutions things changed. "Red Lining" meant that mortgage lenders would only make available to home buyers of color loans in certain prescribed areas.

They would not make loans to Black home buyers in areas restricted to whites. By whites, that meant, white Anglo-Saxon. The fact that whites dominate the private housing west of Rock Creek is no accident.

Georgetown's dwellings are termed townhouses. Foggy Bottom has been replaced by Watergate, and luxury high-rise apartments have been construct ed in Southwest.

You can bet your bottom dollar that those Blacks who have cracked through the "red lined" sections obtained their financing through a Black institution, namely a Black insurance company.

In the campaign to integrate housing, Black insurance firms played a leading role. Our Black savings and loan firms had not been established in those days. They are a phenomenon of the Nixon days.

So, back to the main part of the week's history lesson. Driven from the family homestead under the law of eminent domin, Blacks were uprooted from the inner cities by Urban Renewal, a policy that took many forms. One form was to declare an area an urban renewal area and level the old structures for industrial parks, business offices and high rise luxury apartments.

The other was to build a superhighway through the urban renewal area and leave communities decimated and as islands within the inner city.

With the uprooting of families, the dearth of employment opportunities, and loss of their homes, the culturally deprived Blacks groped for survival. The migration of Blacks from the inner cities to certain housing developments was in the 1950's not during the post-Civil War years of the 1860's.

Young's domestic Marshall Plan was the basis for President Lyndon B. Johnson's "War on Poverty." The establishment of OEO (the Office of Economic Opportunity) and various educational training grant programs were to be used as ammunition for the struggle.

Recent history takes care of the effectiveness of LBJ's poverty struggles. Recent statistics, including the Urban League's recent State of the Black Union Report, indicate that ill housing, poor education, high unemployment and poverty continues to plague the Black community.

Young's experiment in taking the League's conferences into the ghetto was short-lived. It became a failure in its second year in New York.

Young, however, was creative. His annual conferences became the best meetings of its type. Certainly, among the civil rights organizations it attracted the largest attendance. The well programmed annual League conferences were attended by hundreds prior to Young, and grew to more than 15,000.

Following Young's death, at the peak the "Black is Beautiful" era came Vernon Jordan. To many females, Jordan physically symbolized the theme.

An eloquent speaker and supported by a solid organization, the national conferences were spicy, educational and thought-provoking with controversial subjects. It was a national forum under Jordan because he programmed all points of view.

Four years ago, Jordan startled the then incumbent of the White House, a fellow Georgian, by a harsh observation. The verbal dart was hurled by Jordan on the eve of the Urban League's Chicago conference. Mrs. Carter, a luncheon speaker in Chicago revealed "Jimmy (Carter) was hurt by Vernon's remarks."

During her address, Mrs. Carter recited the names of Blacks holding executive-level jobs in her husband's administration. Mrs. Carter, as a sample, said, "Patricia Harris is secretary of Housing and Urban Development, who happens to be Black."

"Andrew Young is U.S. ambassador to the United Nations, who happens to be Black," and on she recited the identity of Carter aides "who happen to be Black."

As well meaning as her efforts, the more sensitive listeners felt it was patronizing.

PARREN J. MITCHELL

A great black woman is honored

It feels very good to share a most rewarding event which occurred in the U. S. House of Representatives this week. On Monday, Aug. 2, the House passed H. R. 6091, to designate the Mary McLeod Bethune Council House in Washington, D.C. as a national historic site.

In light of the fact our outstanding black Americans are often ignored when it comes to national recognition, I feel compelled to share my remarks on the floor of the House during the consideration of H. R. 6091:

Mr. Mitchell of Maryland. Mr. Speaker, it gives me immeasurable pleasure and great pride to rise in support of Congressman Walter Fauntroy's bill, H. R. 6091, "Designating the Mary McLeod Bethune Council House in Washington, District of Columbia, as a National Historic Site, and for other purposes."

A renowned educator and political activist, Ms. Mary McLeod Bethune's staggering accomplishments established her as one of America's most vivacious leaders.

As founder and President of Bethune Cookman College, Ms. Bethune challenged the racial prejudice which pervaded the campuses of white colleges and championed the cause of higher education for black people.

Appointed by President Franklin Roosevelt as Director of the Division of Negro Affairs of the National Youth Administration, Ms. Bethune sought to make this country more responsive to the needs of its youth.

Finally, by establishing and directing the National Council of Negro Women, this tireless individual organized the skills and abilities of talented women to improve the quality of life for black Americans.

If passed, Congressman Fauntroy's bill would honor Ms. Bethune by designating her last official residence, 1918 Vermont Avenue, N.W., as a national historic site.

As a result Bethune Council House would be able to receive federal funds for maintenance and restoration costs.

Today, many standard American history books neglect to mention the monumental contributions black women have made to our country. The Bethune Council House, under the competent direction of Ms. Bettye C. Thomas, is being used to remove the blindfold of ignorance concerning these important Americans.

Presently, the museum is featuring the individual histories of 20 black women prominent during the 19th century. Next year, an exhibition featuring the history of black women's organizations will be held.

For the young, history is more than an explanation of past names, dates, and places. It is a source of pride and self-respect which forms a solid foundation for personal growth and maturity. Consequently by documenting and preserving the achievements of Ms. Bethune and her contemporaries, this living history book provides knowledge that will assist in the character building of future generations of black and other Americans.

Incredulously, the Administration has questioned the historical significance of Ms. Bethune's work. Neglecting the fact Ms. Bethune was an advisor to four Presidents and an international consultant on human rights, the National Park Service refuses to conduct a study to determine the historical significance of Ms. Bethune's life.

As a black American, I am outraged that the precedent setting work of this magnificent woman to improve the housing, employment, educational and health care conditions for black people is being contested.

By supporting H. R. 6091, the House would be satisfying its commitment to honor those Americans who sought to eliminate economic deprivation and racial prejudice.

In addition, such action would indicate that, unlike President Reagan, this country is willing to recognize the historical achievements of black Americans.

The following was dictated to a reporter from Ebony Magazine on May 18, 1955 — her legacy

Mary McLeod Bethune

I leave you love? I leave you hope; I leave you the challenge of developing confidence in one another.

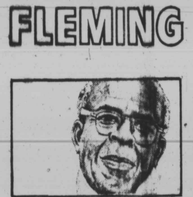
I leave you a thirst for eduation; I leave you a respect for the use of power.

I leave you faith; I leave your racial dignity.

I leave you a desire to live harmoniously with your fellow man. I leave you finally a responsibility to our young people.

G. JAMES FLEMING

National committee needed to save Meharry Medical College



It would be an unforgivable shame — and loss — if black Americans allow Meharry Medical College to die, or to disappear. A shame on all other Americans, too.

This Nashville, TN. institution — which has served the nation more than 100 years — is needed. It must be saved because the black American population is still very short of doctors but, also, because the millennium has not yet arrived and black institutions must be kept alive and flourishing.

Black institutions must be kept alive in the event the anti-black pendulum swings back to where it was before 1955, and where it still persists in so many places in the United States.

Sadly, even in 1982, as Meharry Medical College knows so well, present-day racism, or the vestiges of racism, or the scars of racism keeps blacks, their institutions and their programs at vast disadvantage.

Any medical school, as in the case of Meharry, which has produced 40 percent of all black physicians and other medical practitioners is too valuable to lose.

In addition, in these days of the Caribbean Basin Initiative, it is worthwhile recalling Meharry has also prepared a good number of physicians in the Caribbean — friends of the United States who may speak even more for our way of life than anything said or done in Washington.

At this writing, some notable first-aid help is reaching Meharry, thanks especially to the intervention of the Reagan administration by black Americans and their friends that they want to insure the future of Meharry — a future of strength, growth and continuity, a future in history.

It could well be that even the NAACP might find new life for itself if it should use its national network and influence to help save such another worthy institution as Meharry.

Here too, is an opportunity and challenge for predominantly or substantially black insurance companies and other corporations, for labor unions and for successful enterprisers to follow the example found among other ethnic groups to support and underwrite the organizations and programs serving them or dedicated to their interests.

This is an opportunity and challenge for the Greek letter college societies, the prestigious women's organizations, and the Mason and other secret societies to extend themselves beyond the good works they are already doing. Meharry needs major support; indeed, sacrificial giving.

"Give until it hurts," a slogan of World War I, could well be given new meaning — this time for a life-giving enterprise.

Perhaps what is urgent is a gigantic national, "blue ribbon" Save Meharry Committee, with a smart, experienced money raising staff. Certainly, what is also needed is an aroused, concerned black population which can use its numbers, its votes and its dollars as leverage to attract more support for Meharry — in Nashville, in Tennessee and throughout the United States.

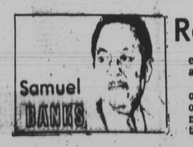
We have referred to numbers and votes because some of the troubles of Meharry have resulted from continued racial practices on the part of the white medical institutions and the white power structure of Nashville ("local custom" they call it). Where these must still be uprooted, it may well take political arousement.

Americans would be suspicious and resentful if some Arab country, or if Israel, would offer to come to the aid of Meharry, to the tune, say, of $100 million. Most of us Americans would be up in arms if the Soviet Union would try to match such a sum with another $100 million.

Perhaps only such offers from across the seas, however, will open the purses and the strong boxes of Americans, black and white and in between, in the drive to save Meharry Medical College.

SAMUEL DANIELS

Reagan's visit: Views of misery



President Ronald Wilson Reagan's visit to Baltimore Tuesday, July 13, 1982, after a deferral last winter because of snow, provided an occasion for ceremonial dazzle, tendentious and florial oratory and, for Baltimore's corporate and civic elite, sumptuous food and abundant euphoria.

The majority black population of Baltimore, reduced to an army of spectators, elected, for the most part, "to go fishing" during the president's visit.

What the president offered in the name of his "New Federalism" was anticipated by blacks and the poor: LIFT YOURSELVES BY YOUR OWN BOOTSTRAPS.

As President Reagan made his way to Park Circle, one of the highest areas of unemployment in the city, he must have seen the concentrations of bedraggled black youths and adults from Park Heights, Liberty Heights and Pennsylvania Avenues with forlorn and hangdog looks devoid of jobs and hope.

He, too, must have seen the wretched and deplorable housing, in abundance in these areas, where people are forced to live.

President Reagan no longer can ignore this bleak "Other America" which personifies, to a substancial degree, urban communities across our nation.

Mayor William Donald Schaefer is to be commended in his efforts to emphasize and keep before President Reagan, the urgency and necessity of jobs for Baltimore's unemployed and destitute.

The tragic fact is, I believe, in spite of President Reagan's amiability and charm, he lacks a fundamental understanding of the enormous socio-problems confronting black Americans, Hispanics, and the poor in our

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Our problem with elective politics is us!

An AFRO commentary

Reduced to the lowest common denominator, the major reason black citizens do not have greater influence in the governmental affairs of Baltimore City is not enough of us vote.

All external excuses and exclamations aside, the bare fact is that our community's failure to respond to the political process, in numbers which would provide influence commensurate with our share of the overall population of Baltimore City is the primary reason we lack true representation at all levels of the City's governing structure.

Some persons will find discomfort in the effort to place squarely on the shoulders of our community the prime responsibility for our lack of political representation.

However, it is hoped that after digesting the materials set forth in this article and the additional articles in this series, those persons, as well as all other readers, will find that the responsibility has been well placed.

More importantly, it is hoped that the acceptance of the responsibility will motivate us to vote, and vote intelligently, in the up-coming Primary Election on September 14th.

Our need to increase the level of our political influence is indicated by the following:

1. Baltimore is the largest black majority population city in the United States in which the majority segment of the population does not constitute the dominant factor in governmental affairs.

At a time when the need and the opportunity to radically change the current situation is so great the needs will go unmet and the opportunity will be lost without a profound change in our voting habits.

The 1980 census reported the following population statistics for Baltimore as of April 1, 1980:

Total Population:	786,775
Total Black Population:	431,151
Black Percent of the Total Population:	54.80 percent
Total White Population:	341,113
White Percent of the Total Population:	43.36 percent

Broken down by age, the population statistics for Baltimore were as follows:

Age	Black	White
0 to 17	141,513	67,175
18 to 64	255,933	211,679
65 +	33,705	66,259

2. Although we constitute the majority of the City's population, black elected officials hold none of the top four elected posts in city government (Mayor, City Council President, Comptroller, and State's Attorney); blacks only hold 6 of the 18 seats in the City Council (33.33 percent); only 6 of 23 seats on the Supreme Bench of Baltimore are held by blacks (26.08 percent); only one of secondary elected positions in the courthouse (clerkship, register of wills, and sheriff) are held by black elected officials; and as a result of the recent legislative redistricting plan, still only hold approximately 45 percent of the seats in the City's delegation in the Maryland General Assembly.

3. Baltimore City's government is a $1.3 billion dollar corporation; it is the largest employer in the entire region, and is the provider of health, welfare and public safety services to the entire City's population.

Ultimately, the decisions as to who gets what, how, and when are political decisions. Our community depends most on the services provided by government. However, those without political influence receive the table scraps after the needs of those with influence are satisfied; and,

4. Under the domestic policies of the Reagan Administration, greater power to determine how federal funds are to be spent is being turned over to the State government.

Under Maryland's Constitution, the Governor has the sole power to determine what goes into the budget. The Legislature can only reduce the amounts the Governor may request.

Therefore, our black legislators must be in a position to influence the Governor's decision - making powers. The Governor, whoever it is, will determine the level of influence based on the number of votes he receives directly, and the number of votes which the legislator has garnered.

In 1982, we have a golden opportunity to respond to the needs to vote listed above. On September 14th, primary elections will be held for all statewide offices, including all State Senators and Members of The House of Delegates.

Additionally, here in the City, the office of State's Attorney; three seats on the Supreme Bench of Baltimore; Clerk of The Circuit Court; Register of Wills; and Sheriff, are all up for election.

For each of these offices, there are qualified black candidates seeking election. With regard to Attorney Kurt Schmoke's effort to be elected to the State's Attorney office, white political commentators have accurately pointed out that his chances for election hinge in large part on the black community's response to his candidacy. The same is nevertheless true for all of the other black candidates seeking election this year.

In each instance, we must assume the responsibility for doing what we feel is in our own best interest. While our primary need is for increased political influence, the quickest and surest route to attaining that influence is through our undivided support of black candidates.

Our election of black candidates does not automatically mean that the land of milk and honey will be immediately at hand.

What it does mean is that those who sit in the major seats of power in our community will receive a clear message to the effect that we are not bashful about voting in our own self - interests.

Such a message is sure to have a profound effect on the decision - making processes of all politicians who will be seeking election.

They will know that we demand a quid pro quo in return for our support, i.e. what have you done for us in the past and what are you going to do for us in the future. No positive answers, no positive votes.

If we are to rise to the occasion 1982 presents us, then we must radically change what has been our past voting behavior.

The first step in the change process is for us to recognize and act upon the importance of Primary Elections.

Many people say "I am waiting to vote in the General Election" — the "big" election. We must recognize the fact that for the most part, the Democratic Primary is the "big" election for most offices contested in Baltimore City.

The Democratic Primary is the most important election because the overwhelming majority of Baltimore's voters are registered as Democrats, including approximately 90 percent of all black voters.

Since it is virtually guaranteed that the winner of the General Election for most city offices will be a Democrat, the process of selecting the Democratic nominee becomes the important election in the process.

The only exception to this rule is found in the election of judicial candidates. Such candidates run in both the Democratic and Republican Primaries.

To graphically demonstrate where we have been, and where we must go, in order to attain the influence we must have, consider the accompanying map and the following statistics.

The shaded areas on the political map of Baltimore City denote those precincts in which blacks constitute at least 90 percent of the total population. Out of a total of 502 City precincts, 159 precincts are in the 90 percent plus category.

Furthermore, there are approximately 210 precincts, or 42 percent of the total precincts, which have over 50 percent black population.

According to the 1980 census data, there were 312,568 black residents in the 90 percent plus precincts. This constituted 72.50 percent of the City's entire black population.

For the 1978, 1979 and 1980 Democratic Primary Elections, there was an average of 133,056 registered voters in the 90 percent plus black populated precints.

In those three elections, an average of 40,978 or 30.80 percent of the persons registered to vote actually voted. Therein lies the heart of our problem.

Looking at this statistic in another way, of every 10 black persons registered to vote, only 3 took the time to do so.

Projecting the total registration and voting statistics for the entire City would yield the following averages:

Average number of registered voters 183,525

Average number of voters 56,521

The voter registration statistics are another aspect of our problem. The average number of citywide registered voters (183,525) is only 63.4 percent of the 289,638 voting age eligible black persons (see the previously cited Census statistics).

The impact of these statistics is readily apparent when we consider the results of the following citywide contests held in each of the years included in the study:

1978 — Dwight Pettit lost his bid for the State's Attorney's Office.

1979 — John Douglass lost his bid for the Comptroller's Office.

1980 — Judge Robert Bell and Billy Murphy, Jr. won their bids for seats on the Supreme Bench, but only with better than 30 percent of their vote coming from white voters.

In contrast to the statistics for Primary Elections, the number of votes in the 90 percent black precincts soar from an average of close to 41,000 to approximately 115,000 in a Presidential General Election.

This is partially understandable in light of the intense media coverage given to a Presidential Election.

However, the understanding is diminished greatly if one stops to consider who is likely to have the greater direct impact on you and your family, the President or the Mayor of the City of Baltimore.

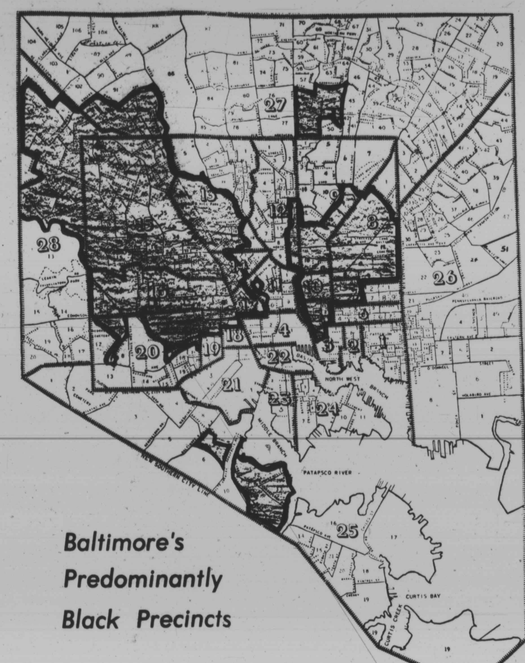
Obviously, the Mayor will have the greater direct impact; he is responsible for your trash collection and the quality of the education in the school your children attend.

The point is, if we can muster the energy to go to the polls to vote for Jimmy Carter, we should be able to double our efforts to elect a local official.

The statistics show both where we have been and where we have the ability to go. They also show that the genuine responsibility for political performance is ours, and ours alone.

The AFRO-AMERICAN Newspapers, COPE '83, the Prince Hall Masons, the NAACP, and numerous other religious and community groups are joining in an effort to assure that there is a 90 percent black voter turnout in the 1982 Primary on September 14th.

The goal is not unrealistic. As an added incentive to do your part to attain a 90 percent mark, just remember, if the effort succeeds, after September 14th, someone outside of our community may write an article in the white press entitled, "The Problem With Elective Politics Is That They Vote."



Baltimore's Predominantly Black Precincts

ELIZABETH M. OLIVER

City Editor

For all we know

Summertime Events

"THERE COMES A TIME when you let it all hang out."

This is what 90 - year old Dr. Herbert Frisby, the Arctic explorer said Wednesday after a special guest at his Bateman Avenue home departed.

Dr. Frisby who is the second man in history to reach the North Pole, said the late evening visit of Lt. Col. Guion Bluford, the first black astronaut, was "my finest hour," and he wants everyone to know.

Dr. Frisby who has been in headlines since his Aug. 12, 1956 trip to the North Pole, succeeded the first Arctic visitor, Matthew Henson, who went there with the discoverer Robert E. Perry on April 6, 1909.

Since 1956 Dr. Frisby has made other trips to the "Top of the World" and has caused both Henson and Perry to receive worldwide fame.

LT. COL. BLUFORD arrived at the Frisby home escorted by NASA's Roscoe Monroe shortly before 7 p.m. Wednesday, Aug. 4, 1982 (for the record) and enjoyed cheeses and white wine, a look at the many Frisby items from the Arctic and good conversation.

A present for Frisby was a portrait of the astronaut who was told by Frisby, "Visit Mars, Jupiter and the others but stay away from Saturn. It has too many rings." Frisby also asked to go along on the coming 1984 outer space trip.

THE HERBERT FRISBY Historical Society received a NASA photo of one of the rockets blasting off.

GUESTS at the reception were Ella Dix, Lota Howard, Mr. and Mrs. William Burrell, Louester Lee, Mr; and Mrs. Roscoe Monroe, Mr. and Mrs. John H. Murphy III, Catherine Frisby, Madeline Murphy, Ruth Rosedom, Louise Turk, Rosalind Lee, Margurite Wilkins, John Cothorn, Ida B. Freeman, Mr. and Mrs. Eugene Ward, Margurite Williams.

AFRO founder's great, great granddaughter to wed in Hawaii.

Dr. Herbert Frisby, Arctic explorer, entertains our first astronaut in his Baltimore home

MARILYN ROSE GERMAN, great granddaughter of Mary Rose Murphy Oliver

ARCTIC EXPLORER Herbert Frisby and Astronaut Guion F. Bluford on Frisby's porch

MARILYN ROSE GERMAN ENGAGEMENT TOLD

MARILYN ROSE GERMAN, age 18 and a resident of Hawaii is scheduled to wed Airman Shannon Carter of Hickham Airforce Base, Hawaii, in Honolulu this month.

Airman Carter is 20, a career man and son of Mr. and Mrs. Earl Carter of Los Angeles, CA.

MARILYN is the great, great granddaughter of AFRO founder John H. Murphy Sr.

Marilyn Rose bears the name of the late Mary Rose Murphy Oliver, Mr. Murphy Sr.'s daughter and strangely the two are not only look - alikes but also have the same mannerisms.

MARILYN ROSE'S MOTHER, Marsha Rose German, reveals the 18 - year old bride - to - be's resemblance to her relative of four generations ago is termed a "throw - back" and adds, "Marilyn Rose seems to be an incarnation, a bit old - fashioned.

Marilyn Rose's paternal grandmother is Frances Robinson German of Baltimore whose family, founders of old Whatcoat Methodist Church, includes Police Commissioner Bishop Robinson.

Marilyn Rose's parents are retired Airforce Capt. Elmer W. German Jr. and Mrs. Marsha Rose German, both of Hawaii. Her maternal grandparents are the late Marshall K. Hood and Elizabeth M. Oliver Hood Abney of Baltimore.

CARTERS RETURN FROM AFRICA SOJOURN

DR. HAROLD A. CARTER wrote from Kenya that his party of 42 Baltimoreans had a fantastic experience and there is nothing in the world like that land where civilization first began.

He stated in a brief missle (to be followed by the full story and photos) that "the trip is exciting, thrilling, spiritual."

Dr. Carter presided at the big African wedding of the young man he and Mrs. Carter sent through college in Baltimore.

AMONG others who wrote us that Kenya is beyond description in history and beauty is Mrs. Lawson (Ardell) Vessells who kept us abreast through a series of wonderous postcards.

RECENTLY we read other astonishing facts about our Africa.

Relics of a 4 - million year old human being were found in Ethiopia. This, man's oldest direct ancestor, was unearthed in the Awash River valley of the Afar desert in north central Ethiopia.

AFRICA is rich, fabulous, ancient and sweet. It has its troubles like anywhere else in the world, but we still believe God has a special glorious thing in mind for this ancient continent, something better than anything else — one day.

Afterall, Africa is where mankind started shortly after the Creator said, "Let there be light." The Garden of Eden is still there.

AUG