If you ask me

By Bettye Moss

Hats off!

This week's salute to a father - son business firm comes from a reader who writes: "They attracted our attention in a 7 - 11 convenience store at 4916 Harford Rd., in northeast Baltimore.

"The son, Rodney, was politeness, helpfulness and charm itself, as he served customers. I stood aside for a while to watch. Then, an older man, also dressed in red and white, appeared. He was pushing a polishing machine, and making the floors bright.

"I approached him and inquired who owned the franchise. He hesitated, then advised that he was the owner and had been at the site for nearly a year and was pleased that the store was doing quite well in the neighborhood.

"His name is William A. Lowery Sr. He had been employed for over 24 years by Food Fair, and had always dreamed of going into business for himself. Hats off to the Lowerys."

Please let this column know about people you observe performing well. We seek in this section to prove that people do take time to praise others who shine.

The Lowery's

After receiving the nomination for our Hats Off section above, we called to learn more about the Lowerys and their 7 - 11 franchise, and to arrange for the photo on this page.

We learned that during Mr. Lowery's 24 years with Food Fair, he had worked at the Mondawmin and Northwood outlets, and was store manager at Moravia Park. He resigned 8 months before Food Fair withdrew from the Baltimore market.

While employed at the chain, Food Fair arranged for study at Catonsville Community College, where he earned a degree in business management.

At his 7 - 11 store, Mr. Lowery is proud that he can provide service 24 hours a day, seven days a week. He employs nine persons.

On sale are a variety of items, as at other 7 - 11 outlets, plus soups, sandwiches, hot dogs and coffee.

Newspapers, including the AFRO, are on sale.

There is also an amusement center with 5 video games.

Those who know them report that the Lowerys are a strong, united family. All are native Baltimoreans.

Mrs. Lowery is the former Vivian Garnett.

They have five children. In addition to son, Rodney, 21, who is training to be an overland truck driver, others are:

William Jr., 25, manager of a McDonald's in Jessup; Vivian, 26, who lives at an Arizona Army base with her husband, S. Sgt. Wendell Welsher; Donna, 23, staff member at Hamilton Business School; and Valerie, 17, senior at Western High.

The family attends Morning Star Baptist Church of which the Rev. Samuel Ray is pastor. Mr. Lowery Sr. is a Mason, active in Zerabuble Lodge.

LOUIS E. COX, longtime AFRO pressman buried. See If You Ask Me.

About people

Louis Cox, 74, who was buried last week, was a 46 - year employee of this newspaper.

Older employees recall Mr. Cox joined the AFRO staff as a helper in the pressroom, then headed by the late Rev. N. B. Carrington.

His on - the - job training equipped him to be a valuable worker in the old days when all hands were on deck to get the press clean, get the paper out — (we folded papers in those days), and to stay on the job until all work was completed.

Mrs. Lucille Venture and her sister, Mrs. Helen Jackson, are in from W. Palm Beach, Florida.

They were there to attend funeral services for her friend, Mrs. Clarence (Beatrice), Foman. She and her husband were longtime co - workers in the government, who moved to Florida after their retirement.

Mrs. Jewell Moseley Marsan is in a new post at the University of Maryland.

As of Feb. 1, she joined the administrative staff. Her title, assistant to the vice president (Bob Smith).

She still retains her title of associate professor in the university's School of Nursing.

Mrs. Marsan holds degrees from the university (B.A. and M.A.), and from Provident Hospital School of Nursing. Before joining U. of Md. faculty, she was associate nursing director at St. Agnes Hospital.

Hurry up and get - well cards to one of our town's good, good neighbors — Sherlock Grinage. (He's the recently retired Kronheim veep, now serving the firm as consultant.

Wife, Ivy, reports he had surgery at Hopkins Hospital on Thursday, is doing well.

More good news: Dr. Walter Shervington and Dr. Jerry Luck are both out of the hospital.

Real beauty spot is Pauline Brooks new boutique located in the Belvedere Hotel shopping plaza at Charles and Chase Sts.

The new location has spacious display areas, dressing rooms, just the thing customers said they wanted when she was at Mondawmin.

Now she has them — plus a variety of new clothing to suit your taste.

Cuff note: You can see the new Pauline Brooks fashions if you attend the lunch - fashion show benefit for Morgan Christian Center on March 12, 12:30 p.m., at the Forum.

Call the Christian Center at 254 - 7166 for ticket information.

7 - 11 STORE owner on Harford Rd. in northeast Baltimore is William A. Lowery Sr., right, shown here with son, Rodney. See details in If You Ask Me.

Mrs. Higgins

Mrs. Martha Davenport Higgins, 63, was eulogized on Monday at Community Baptist Church in Jessup.

She was the retired dietician at Montebello who had served at Clifton T. Perkins and the Montebello State Hospitals.

Nice gesture: Five minister friends of the large family, joined Rev. Robert Hurte, Community pastor, at the service. Among them, Rev. William Morris from King and Queen County, down Virginia way, where the family originated.

Mrs. Higgins is survived by her husband, Mayford; an adopted daughter, Mrs. Edith Kenner; and 2 grandchildren.

Also sisters, Mrs. Mable Spead, Mrs. Lucille Russ, Mrs. Camilla Sherrard, Mrs. Myrtle Cole; and brothers, Clifford, Milton and George White, all of Baltimore.

Chums pause

Members of Baltimore chapter of Chums Inc., that national women's group, paused over the weekend to observe the organization's 36th birthday.

Member, Sarah Elias, hosted the Saturday meeting at her Cross Keys home, where members participated in re - dedication service.

On Sunday morning, members, and their mates, who are called Hums, worshipped together at Trinity Presbyterian Church, then lunched at the Baltimore Museum of Art's new restaurant. (Pretty snazzy, and the food is good and reasonable.)

Later they gathered for fellowship, but curtailed these activities when the snow came in heavy doses.

Blanche Beckham is president of the group.

At Trinity

Trinity Presbyterian, where the Chums worshipped, is at 3200 Walbrook Ave. in northwest Baltimore.

Church is without a pastor — currently seeking one — Morning speaker was the Rev. William J. Hunt of the Presbytary of Baltimore, who was accompanied by his wife.

Frank Brown is organist and director of the 15 - member choir, which does an admirable job.

Flowers on the altar were the gift of Mr. and Mrs. Willie T. Jones in memory of Mr. Jones' mother and stepfather.

(Continued on page 49)

THEY HAD TO KILL THE ENEMY TO KILL RACISM.

Believed by the Army to be inferior to white pilots, the separate Black Air Force of WW II fought to win the war for America and for Blacks.

Episode three of Tony Brown's four-part series, *The Black Eagles*, provides rare footage of the battles that proved Blacks were the equal of the best combat pilots. Next week, the series concludes with a tribute to these heroic airmen.

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The LIVING CHURCH

30 Baptists honored at annual fellowship banquet

MILES W. CONNOR AWARD was presented to the Rev. Walter E. Paige, pastor of Faith Baptist Church. Shown with the honoree is Mrs. Mary Gwaltney and the Rev. Lester P. Hamrick, president of the Baptist Congress of Christian Education.

AFRO Photos by P. A. Greene

The annual fellowship and awards banquet sponsored by the Baptist Congress of Christian Education was held Feb. 4 at Martin's West.

The theme was "Commit Thy Works Unto The Lord, And Thy Thoughts Shall be Established." Awards were presented to 31 people for their dedicated services to their church.

The Miles W. Connor Award was presented to the Rev. Dr. Walter E. Paige, pastor of First Baptist Church for his community service in the field of Christian education.

Honorees were Elizabeth Able, Mt. Moriah. She is a member of the Gospel Chorus and served as president for the Intermediate Ushers for five years.

Audrey Baker, a member of Macedonia Baptist is a Sunday School teacher. Nathaniel Barr Jr., of Concord Baptist is a member of the Deacon Board and a church school teacher for junior high school students.

Helen R. Brackett of Central Baptist Church has served as president of the Baptist Minister's Wives Alliance and is a life member of the United Baptist Missionary Convention and a member of the Minister's Wives State Convention.

Elaine Brown, of Whitestone Baptist is a member of the Baptist Training Union, Senior Missionaries Convention Circle, Silver Leaf, Flower Circle and is the former president of the Baptist Training Union.

Other honorees were Ida M. Burley of Perkins Square. She is a teacher in the Junior Department of Perkins Square Bpatist Church for 40 years.

Robert Butler of First Baptist Guilford is a member of the Deacon Board. Lucille Dixon of Leaden Hall Baptist is secretary of the Joint Official Board of Trustees and Deacons, member of the Board of Christian Education Coordination Council.

Herman J. Gadson of Southern Baptist Church was formerly a very active member of the Baptist Training Union, Junior Missionary Choir and Youth Choir.

Marion K. Hart of Mt. Ararat Baptist has been a member of the church for 27 years. She has been active in many facets of the church program, especially those activities which involve young people.

Veryl I. Harvey, a member of First Baptist Church has served as superintendent of the Children's Department in the Church School and chairperson of the Missionary Evangelism Committee.

The Rev. James Jeffers of New Shiloh Baptist in Turner Station is the associate minister of the church. He is also a teacher for the adult class and provides transportation for church members to special meetings.

Christina Johnson, a member of New Psalmist Baptist Church has served as the church clerk and director of the Children's Choir.

Daniel B. Jones, a member of Faith Baptist Church since 1936 has served in the Baptist Training Union as associate director and as an adult leader for intermediates and juniors.

Mable Marby is a member of the Inspirational Choir of Mt. Hebron Church and has contributed spiritually to the growth of the church.

Other honorees were the Rev. Leonard Massie of Jones Tabernacle Church. He is a teacher for the Senior Bible Class, advisor for Junior deacons.

Leon Nowlin Sr., of Timothy Baptist teaches a Sunday School Class. Lorraine Owens of Simmons Memorial Church is active in the church and community.

Doris G. Plummer of First Cherry Hill is a member of the New Members Club of the church and president of the Gospel Chorus.

Frances A. Robinson is a member of Calvary Baptist Church and secretary and church librarian. She is also assistant treasurer of the choir.

Helen Robinson of City Temple Baptist Church is active in missions, teaching and singing. She teaches the Young Adult Class and serves as a deaconess.

Katie Robinson has been a member of Enon Baptist for 30 years. She was inducted in Enon's Hall of Fame in 1978 and honored on Women's Day in 1982.

Olga S. Smith of Fountain Baptist assisted in the organization of the first Girl Scout troop of the church and served for five years as the leader. She has served as director of the Day Care Center of the church for approximately nine years.

Mildred Spann has been an active member of Fountain Baptist for 30 years. She has been a supporter and promoter of Christian Education through her leadership as a teacher for two years.

Rose L. Thomas of New Antioch Baptist Church was very instrumental in reorganizing the youth department. She is director of the Youth Department and a teacher for junior high school Sunday School students.

The Rev. Darryl T. Walker of Mt. Lebanon Baptist is one of the assistant ministers of the church. He is also a Sunday School teacher and president of Hiriam E. Smith Choir.

Stafford L. Ward of First Bpatist in Annapolis has provided transportation for special events at First Baptist. Members of the church say he is most dependable and exhibits a special concern in dealing with people.

Joseph S. Watkins Sr. is a member of the Baltimore Minister's Conference, Volunteer Clergy Staff of Provident Hospital and active in other civic groups.

Acie L. Williams Sr. has been a member of the board of Trustees of Pleasant Hope Baptist for 16 years.

Ruth Wilson of Wayland Baptist spends many hours visiting hospitals and homes of the sick. She is the departmental superintendent of the Primary Junior department and teacher of the primary junior department.

Melviner Worrell of Morning Star Baptist Church is a teacher in the Middler Department of Morning Start and teaches youth between 7 and 9 - years - old.

Doris Collier presided at the banquet. Other participants were Jacqueline Brooks, Roscoe Herring from the mayor's office, the Rev. Edgar L. Reid, Bernice B. Lewis, Ernestine Hill, James Stoval, Bessie Mason.

Also, Arlene White, Dr. Lorenzo Graves, Mary E. Davis, the Rev. Lester P. Hamrick, Oscar Cobbs, Mabel Gee, Hughetta Whitaker and the Rev. Charles Coger.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS who participated in the annual fellowship and awards banquet shown from left are Doris Collier, chairperson; Lillian Wright, Rev. Lester Hamrick, Alice Streeter, Mary A. Gwaltney, Katrina Boyd, Cornelius Minter and Mattie Love.

20 BAPTISTS were honored at the annual fellowship and awards banquet on Feb. 4 at Martin's West. The banquet was sponsored by the Baptist Congress of Christian Education auxiliary to the United Baptist Missionary Convention of Maryland.

A.M.E. churches observe Founder's Day

African Methodist Episcopalians from North Carolina to Baltimore will observe Founder's Day with a weekend of activities Feb. 10- 13.

The Second Episcopal District of the African Methodist Episcopal Church, which includes Baltimore celebrates the founding of the oldest black institution in the country with workshops and worship service in Washington under the leadership of the Rev. John Hurst Adams.

The combined Board of Examiners met on Feb. 10 at Turner Memorial AME Church in Washington. Attorney Patricia Russell was one of the speakers and music was provided by the 300 voice District Choir.

Today, (Friday) the AME church will be featured in a multi-media presentation with workshops begining at 10:15 a.m. Workshops being held are "The Black Church and Prison Ministries" with the Reverends James H. Robinson, Frederick Harrison and W. W. Easley Jr. leading the discussions.

The second workshop is on "The Church Resources Community Hardship" led by the Rev. Dr. John R. Bryant, pastor of Bethel AME Church. Attorney Leroy Nesbitt and the Rev. S. W. William Jr., will also participate.

The Women's Missionary Society and the youth department will have a group meeting while the Lay Organization will meet at St. Paul AME Church at 2:30 p.m.

Ministers of the district will meet at Metropolitan AME Church in Washington. They will have a workshop on the Black Church Involvement in Strengthening Black Family Life, Economic Development and Money Management.

Founder's Day services will be held on Sunday, Feb. 13, 6 p.m. at Bethel AME Church, 1300 Druid Hill Ave., The Rev. Woody Hall is the speaker. Bishop William Ball will be the Sunday 11 a.m. speaker at Bethel.

International Women's Day is March 8 at Bethel

In celebration of the Declaration of the United Nation's International Women's Day, March 8, the women of Bethel AME Church, Druid Hill Avenue and Lanvale Street, will honor four women.

The honorees are Barbara Cooper, NAACP executive director of the Baltimore City branch; Mother Theresa, Nobel Peace Prize recipient; Dessima Williams, Ambassador of Grenda to the United States, Lena Boone, director of Upton Community and Lydia Tabi Efimba, director of Women's Literacy Program in Cameron, West Africa.

The march of nations and 150 flags of the United Nations will commence at 7 p.m. Ambassador Dessima Williams will be the guest speaker. Women representing the six continents will make remarks on the theme for the day, "Equality, Development, Peace."

Pennsylvania Avenue AME observes Women's Day

"Christian Women Reaching Out To Christ in Faith and Love Determine Not to Turn Back," is the theme for the annual Women's Day services at Pennsylvania Avenue AME Zion Church, Pennsylvania Avenue and Dolphin Street.

On Sunday, Feb. 18, the women of the church will sponsor a Valentine's Day tea in the multi - purpose auditorium of the church.

Sister Debbi Sababu Thomas, of Adams Chapel AME Church will be the prayer breakfast speaker on Saturday, Feb. 26, 9 a.m.

Elder Robert Evans and the Highway Delegation from Highway Church of Christ will be singing at the breakfast.

On Sunday, Feb. 27, 11 a.m. the Rev. Gloria Morris Snipes from Trinity AME Zion Church, Delta, Pa., will be the Women's Day speaker. Mrs. Betty Johnson, an active member of City Temple Baptist Church is the 3:30 p.m. speaker.

A gospel extravaganza is scheduled for 6 p.m. Feb. 27. Among those singing will be the Women's Chorus, Zion Echoes, Jimmy A. Thomas, Samuel Shufford, Deacon Ronald Huff, Douglass Howell from Charity Baptist Church.

Dorothy Bryant is chairman, Bessie Monk and Margert West are co-chairman and the Rev. Dr. Marshall H. Strickland is pastor.

Elaine Hopson speaks at Baha'i Faith center

The Spiritual Assembly of the Baha'is of Baltimore will have Ms. Elaine A. Hopson from New York as their guest speaker on Feb. 13.

Ms Hopson was born in France and became a Baha'i in 1962 in Tacoma, Washington. She is the author of The Baha'i Faith and The Arts.

Special programs will be held at the Baha'i Center, 5301 Gwynn Oak Ave., during the month of February, which precedes the Baha'i Holy days of fasting and the Baha'i New Year.

Speakers for the services being held at 12:00 on Feb. 13 are Ms. Hopson. Her topic is Native American Religions and Prophicies.

A film will be shown on Feb. 20 on the topic of The Temple of Love. Mrs. Serena G. Mills will be speaking on Feb. 27 on the topic of Fasting with the Spiritual. One Many-fast prior to Baha'i Fast be held on Feb. 26, 7 p.m.