Baltimore reunion of Bell-Riddick family, owners of a whole town in Virginia, brings relatives here from East Coast to Dallas, TX

The Ninth Annual Bell - Riddick Family Reunion held in Baltimore Sept. 1-3 brought members of the distinghished native Virginia family from as far away as Texas.

Stemming from the slave families of Bells and Riddicks, the clan has owned the town of Bells Mill, VA. for over 200 years. The settlement often known as Chesapeake, VA. is in the vicinity of Norfolk and Suffolk and was formerly a thriving mill ,and lumber area.

Hosts for the auspicious occasion were David R. Riddick, the president of Diamond Cab Co.; his sister Mrs. Ardessa Riddick Walker, Turner Station and Mrs. Helen Riddick, (Mrs. David Riddick) chairman, all of Baltimore.

The three festive days of swimming, disco, luncheons, shopping and sightseeing tours ended Sunday night with the family banquet and the business session in the ballroom of the Belmont Holiday Inn.

Nearly 300 guests enjoyed the dinner which was designed as good old Virginia fare including ham, barbecue, roast beef, baked chicken, dressing, gravy and the chef's dessert table of homemade apple and peach cobbler, layer cake and tarts.

The banquet program was made a delightful experience with David Riddick representing the Riddick side of the family and Louis Bell III of Norfolk, VA the Bell side. Participants included young and old of both branches which came from the original stem, Joseph Bell and David Riddick Sr. born in the early 1800's and the Riddick branch from Joseph and Mary Riddick, all of Bells Mill.

The oldest persons present were Albert Bell, Bells Mill, who is 96 and Mrs. Irene Riddick Jordan, age 91,. Brooklyn, NY.

Nostalgic moments came during prayers and memorials for deceased members. Soloists Ramon Wells, Ms. Jo Ann Farley and Brian Ransom were featured as well as the Unknown Singers of New St. Marks Baptist Church, Baltimore, who received standing ovations.

The Bell-Riddick 1985 Reunion is slated for Norfolk, VA. the week of May 30 with Louis Bell Jr., 901 Bells Mill Road, as general chairman. Heading the committee are Mrs. Pearl Holly and Mrs. Rose Marie McDonald.

AFRO photo by Paul A. Greene

AMONG DISTINGUISHED GUESTS were (L to R) Supreme Court of New York Judge Howard E. Bell, New York City; Mrs. Ardessa Walker, Turner Station, MD, retired secretary; David F. Riddick, president, Diamond Cab Co., Baltimore; Mrs. Estell Small Rutherford, Dallas, TX, assistant to the editor in chief of Boys' Life Magazine, organ of Boy Scouts of America; Louis C. Bell Jr., Bell's Mill, VA, the chairman for the May, 1985 reunion.

ELIZABETH M. OLIVER
FOR ALL WE KNOW

NOTED SCIENTIST Clarence Stith of Meredithsville, Brunswick County, Va. hosted a family union last weekend at his spacious home and surprised guests with his new, first-of-a kind, white watermelon. The outside is white and inside "like any other watermelon" with delicious red meat.

Stith, a college teacher, botanist and biologist, and the kind of farmer who likes to experiment and cross breed, putting seeds together, is member of the Stith - Taylor - Shell - Bridgefort - Blackwell clan with history going back over 300 years.

The family tree recently appearing in EBONY and entitled as "The World's Largest Black Family" has also appeared in the AFRO frequently. Listed are over 3,000 members, names, addresses and occupations.

The gathering which witnessed Shells, Graves, Stiths, Taylors, Blackwells and Bridgeforths arriving from Baltimore was highlighted by the Fish Fry. The Stith family bought up all the fish in the county for the occasion which lasted two days and nights "with all the trimmings."

ATTORNEY ALICE G. PINDERHUGHES, daughter of the School Superintendent, is associated with the Cohan and Finkelstein Law firm.

TOWSON STATE U is inviting all admission - free to the World Peace Day event Sept. 16 in the Albert S. Cook Library. Time 1 p.m.

Speakers are Robert Orange, member of the executive board of the NAACP and Mrs. Marjorie Scott, executive director of the American Friends Committee. Music and refreshments follow.

AH, A GRAND AFFAIR was the week - ago family reunion held at the estate of the Del. Shopshires near Jessup, MD. Mr. and Mrs. Shopshire raise sheep and lambs on their rolling, simply beautiful acres and he has his own firm. The Roll N Lamb Exterminating Asso. 1928 Montevideo Rd.

In addition to all the family grown-ups, present for feasting, games, and swimming and hiking were over 40 youngsters, members of the families who arrived from all over.

THE MAGNIFICENT MEN and the Pastor Parish Relations Committee of St. Matthew United Methodist Church are honoring St. George I. B. Crosse, the pastor, Sept. 13.

the banquet at La Fountaine Bleu is in the form of a testimonial. Chairpersons are Thomas E. Jones, Ophelia Brown and Richard Byrd.

CANCER INFORMATION SERVICE, Johns Hopkins Oncology Center is offering a valuable booklet free called "Taking Time." The information inside is for persons who have family, close friends who face cancer, those persons who have fears, anxieties and frustrations that are new to them: "People who have cancer and those who care about them" will find the booklet a real friend.

Call Cancer Information Service, toll free, 1-800-4-CANCER and ask for Donna Cox or reach her at 955-3636. The famous Johns Hopkins Oncology Center and Cancer Communications Network Office is Suite 307, 550 North Broadway, Baltimore, MD. 21205 or you wish to write or visit.

Statistics show that increasing numbers of people are surviving cancer and 48 percent of all patients are curable. Of the bthers, many may live a long time with the disease.

THE BALTIMORE REGIONAL CHAPTER, American Red Cross 79th annual meeting is set for Sept. 20, 4 p.m. at the Baltimore Hebrew Congregation, 7401 Park Heights Ave.

There will be a reception following and then opportunity to tour the Congregation's gallery.

CONGRESSIONAL BLACK CAUCUS DINNER set for the Washington Hilton in D.C., is $250 per person and comes the last Saturday, Sept. 29 in fact. The weekend occasion starts Sept. 27 and expects over 10,000 persons from across the nation including movie stars and "cream of the crop" from everywhere. Even at $250 each, you will have to get your ticket order for the banquet in early to attend.

ATTORNEY JUANITA J. MITCHELL arrived home last week from a trip to Paris taken with a group from Baltimore. The week-long journey followed her earlier visit to the NAACP National Convention in Kansas, the African Methodist Episcopal convention there also and then the Olympics in Los Angeles.

Her California visit was with her sister Marian. But, the Paris trip was an answer to a longtime dream to go there and have the experience in the city she describes as simply beautiful. Besides the historic sights Mrs. Mitchell accented the wonderful hotel accommodations and the friendly French people.

She returned home to find her Druid Hill Avenue residence, the one which her family has occupied nearly half a century, had been refurbished by her sons. Delighted with the new kitchen and dishwasher, she added in her own delightful way that she misses her old iron skillet.

POLICE COMMISSIONER Bishop Robinson, (a relative of mine by marriage) and his beauteous wife are now residents of that fabulous area on the other side of Harbor Place. The fantastic homes around Barre Street, Henrietta Street etc. used to be the location of our old South Baltimore families and some of the longtime business people like the Columbus Gordon family. Their dreys did the hauling of furnishings from the tall downtown buildings involved in the 1904 Baltimore fire.

TOMORROW'S NEWS

Commissioner Robinson is mentioned as a possible candidate for mayor of Baltimore come 1978. The other possible is Kurt Schmoke. And, another person constantly on the wind is Bob Emory. While Mayor Schaefer is preparing for his campaign for governor, City Council President Clarence Du Burns will be acting mayor and thus another candidate to add to the list.

The political bets are also on Sen. Clarence M. Mitchell III whom they say will go to Congress and his wife Joyce who is now a Master in Chauncery will become a Supreme Bench jurist.

Mrs. Josephine Morton

Dundalk CC annual awards ceremony held

At Dundalk Community College's annual awards ceremony for its classified staff, employees received special recognition.

For 10 years of service to the college, DCC honored Rich Toni, a Maintenance Mechanic I and Carla Crisp, the evening switchboard operator. For five years service to DCC, the college honored: Irene Boyce, Secretary to the dean of instruction, Ms. Josephine Morton and John Sparks, custodians; and Ms. Margaret Tirschman, Secretary to the director of Institutional Research and Grants.

"Superior Performance Awards" went to: Carla Crisp, Evening switchboard operator; Toni Dahl, accounting clerk; Barbara Harper, library circulation services assistant; Mary Huffman, room reservations clerk; Sue Wright, personnel assistant and Lisa Zinn, library technical services assistant.

The college also rewarded these "Superior Performance" awardees with three days paid vacation.

"Sustained Superior Performance Awards" went to: Katrina Hawthorne, data entry clerk; Rose Kues, floristry and horticulture technical assistant, Patricia Scardina, division secretary for the Math/Science/Engineering Division, Margaret Tirschman, secretary to the director of Institutional Research and Grants; and Lynn Wilson, registrar's assistant.

For their achievement, Katrina, Rose, Patricia, Margaret and Lynn each received an additional ½ step pay increment.

A Classified Staff Recognition Committee made the award selections based on excellence in job performance, faculty and administration nomination letters and basic criteria set by the committee.

Basic criteria for the "Sustained Superior Performance Award" was 30 months employment, including 12 months in the present position. Criteria for the "Superior Performance Award" was 15 months employment, including 9 months in the present position.

Principal proposes elimination of sports

By Arthur Johnson
AFRO Staff Writer

Boyse Mosley, principal of Northwestern Senior High School, announced Wednesday that he will request permission from the city school superintendent to eliminate interscholastic sports, home economics, woodworking and print shop courses at the school and use the left over funds to hire teachers in the areas of English, Science and Mathematics.

Mosley, who is beginning his second year as principal of Northwestern, said he would also establish a comprehensive reading program at the high school.

"I don't think this has been done before. We're going to get input and reaction from the staff, the community and the students and submit a proposal to the city in the Spring," he said.

Mosley explained that youngsters at Northwestern are not performing well on standardized tests, and have received scores at or below grade level in reading, math and science.

"A school must establish its priorities based on instructional needs. With limited resources, we must concentrate on those areas which are the foundations for learning," he continued.

The principal stressed that he is not suggesting that athletics are not worthwhile, only that Northwestern cannot afford the "luxury" of athletics at this time.

"For example, I love caviar, but I can't afford buying it. We must give our youngsters a stable diet of the essentials," he said. Youngsters inclined toward athletics at the school would be permitted to transfer to another school, he explained.

Mosley said that he expects resistance to his proposal, but added that what he is actually doing is implementing the concept of school site budgeting which is being implemented on as a pilot project this school year in several city schools. Northwestern is not involved in the pilot program.

Mosley added that since principal's evaluations are based on th academic performance of their student bodies, principals should be empowered with the authority to do what they feel is necessary to improve those areas for which they are evaluated.

"I want this school to send a message that this is a comprehensive school that prepares youngsters to compete and be successful in life. Our goal is to make certain that every youngster with a diploma from here can compete whether in college or in the job market," Mosley stated.

Dr. Irving P. McPhail, chief executive officer of Baltimore City Public Schools, said Thursday that he would be interested in reviewing Mosley's proposal from the perspective of impact of the changes on a balanced educational experience; the academic needs of the students; and how the savings would be used to supplement instructional areas. Dr. McPhail said he was particularly interested in the plans for the reading program.

The chief executive officer also stated that any such changes would "obviously require (school) board approval."

"Hey, Momma, I got the job."

I had been looking for work for a long time, but with no luck. Then I heard that a McDonald's in the neighborhood was looking for help. I went down there, had my interview, and got the job.

I'm a member of what they call, "the crew." We do a little bit of everything. Work behind the counter. Make the french fries. Grill the hamburgers. My supervisor told me I could move up if I put my mind to it. She said she started the same way and now she's being promoted to first assistant manager. She told me that some crew members have even gone on to own their own McDonald's.

Man, I'm ready to give it all I've got. But, for now, it just feels good to be able to say, "I got the job."

A fact about McDonald's involvement with Black employment.

• Overall, McDonald's is the largest employer of Black youth in America.

WE'RE INVOLVED

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One of the world's deepest chasms is the 34,000 foot Puerto Rican Trench, which begins two miles off of Puerto Rico's north coast.

CLASSIC HONOREE — Georgetown basketball coach John Thompson will be one of three receiving Whitney M. Young Jr. Memorial awards Saturday at the Urban League football classic between Grambling and Boston University. Also honored will be former football star Willie Davis and the Delta Sigma Theta Sorority.

AFRO SPORTS

Morgan opens rugged schedule with SC foe

Morgan State returns to the fold of the Mid - Eastern Athletic Conference (MEAC) this year, though on a limited basis.

For this first season back after a 7 - year hiatus as an independent, Morgan plays only two games against MEAC competitors — S.C. State and Howard — both of them on the road.

The Bears visit South Carolina on Oct. 13 and Howard in D.C., on Nov. 17.

Inauguration of the Morgan season tomorrow (Saturday) however, will launch the Bears on one of the most rugged schedules framed on the Hillen Road ,campus in years.

The guest for the opener will be Texas Southern, indisputably one of the true all - time powers of the tough Southwest Athletic Conference, along with Grambling and Jackson (Miss.) State.

Kickoff is 1:30 o'clock.

Next Saturday (15th), the Bears travel to Boston to meet the Yankee Conference Champion Terriers.

The rest of the schedule hints at no "breathers" for Jim Phillips' charges.

Connecticut in Connecticut follows (22nd); the Central State at home, Yale at New Haven (Oct. 6), S.C. State, Virginia State in Petersburg; Jackson State here, University of Delaware there, Towson State and Howard.

College football

SATURDAY SCHEDULE

Texas Southern at Morgan St.
Hampton at Howard University
Delaware St.-SC State at Phila., Pa.
Va. Union at Fayetteville (N)
Va. State at N.C. Central U.
Norfolk State at St. Paul's (N)
Winston-Salem at A and T
Elizabeth City at Livingstone
Catawba College at J.C. Smith (N)
Frostburg St. at Geneva College
Towson St. at Phila. Textile

LAST WEEK'S SCORES

Rhode Island 31, Howard 21
Winston-Salem 14, Virginia St. 0
NC Central 21, Livingstone 17
Furman 28, South Carolina St. 10
Tennessee State 44, Hampton Inst. 0
Livingston St. 43, Morris Brown 7
Miss. Valley 86, Kentucky State 0
No. Alabama 29, Miles College 0
Illinois State 54, Mo. Lincoln 0
Texas Southern 13, Lamar College 7

NFL this weekend

THURSDAY GAME

Pittsburgh at N.Y. Jets

SUNDAY GAMES

Indianapolis at Houston
Buffalo at St. Louis
Cleveland at Los Angeles Rams
Dallas at New York Giants
Denver at Chicago
Detroit at Atlanta
Green Bay at Los Angeles Raiders
Kansas City at Cincinnati
Minnesota at Philadelphia
New England at Miami
San Diego at Seattle
Tampa Bay at New Orleans

MONDAY NIGHT GAME

Washington at San Francisco

Mike Young
'Shake 'n Bake' visitor

Attractive talent mix features Monday mat card at Civic Center

Established stars and promising newcomers are prepared to highlight the first Monday night wrestling card at Civic Center.

The one - fall finish feature might well be World Wrestling Federation heavyweight champion Hulk Hogan's toughest title defense when he is challenged by Jesse "The Body" Ventura, the new No. 1 contender.

Ventura is boldly predicting that he will demand the championship best of Hogan, who concedes his opponent nothing.

Sgt. Slaughter, former Marine bully boy, but now a nice guy, relaxes comfortably, confident as he awaits aggressive Cowboy Bob Orton in the co - feature.

A six - man, tag - team bonus treat matches the three - man alignment of Adrian Adonis and Dick Murdoch, WWF tag team champions, and manager Lou Albano, against Samoans No. 1 and 2, tough tag teammates, and awesome Andre the Giant in 2-of-3-falls.

Additional time - limit supporting matches list: Junkyard Dog vs. The Iron Sheik, Moondogs No. 1 and 2, vs, The Free Birds; Pat Patterson vs. Nicolai Volkoff, Greg Valentine vs. Steve Lombardi, and Dr. D. David Schultz vs. Jose Luis Rivera.

Weekend in MSA

FOOTBALL SCHEDULE

Friday

City College at Belair (N)
Southern at Cambridge (N)
Northern at Annapolis High
Parkville at Mervo Tech
Southwestern at Edgewood (N)

Saturday

Calvert Hall at Edmondson
Northwestern at Fort Hill (N)
Patterson at Centennial

SOCCER GAME

Monday

Pompei at City College, 3 p.m.

CHANGING OF THE GUARD—Pinklon Thomas (R) sinks a right to the body for one of a rash of uncontested blows delivered to "Terrible" Tim Witherspoon as he lifted Witherspoon's WBC heavyweight title at Las Vegas. The decision favoring Thomas was unanimous despite a pre-fight pronouncement by the ex-champ that he would "destroy" the challenger.

Do-or-die home stand begins tonite for O's

Maybe there are some optimists who cling to the belief that a "typical" baseball September will propel the Orioles to within shouting distance of the Detroit Tigers.

Beginning tonight (Friday) local fans will be able to more accurately assess the Birds' chances of overcoming the 13 - game lead enjoyed by division - leading Detroit — 12 in the loss column.

The consistent bats of Eddie Murray and Cal Ripken Jr., the resurgence of Al Bumbry on offense and defense, and the steady plate improvement by Mike Young have combined to lift the hopes in Baltimore. But some feel it may be too little, too late.

Incidentally Young, who has gradually worked his way into the fixed nucleus that includes Murray and Ripken, also is in demand for community appearances.

Tomorrow (Saturday) the young outfielder will appear from noon to 2 p.m., at the Shake 'n Bake Family Fun Center. He'll sign autographs, give out color pictures and award prizes to visitors.

The 6 - game home stand that opens with Milwaukee offers a distinct Monday night bargain. For in addition to being the start of the year's final series with the division - leading Tigers, it is the next - to - last 3 - buck night on the '84 schedule.

The last of these enticements is listed for Thursday, Sept. 20, with the Boston Red Sox in the stadium.

Survival golf date mistake

An earlier AFRO (Tuesday) edition incorrectly listed the 3rd annual Project Survival golf tournament as this Saturday. The popular event will be held next weekend, Sept. 15.

This year's tourney returns to the site of its inauguration two years ago, the Mt. Pleasant course.

Last fall the Pine Ridge course was the host.

As in previous years, a slingshot format will be in effect with a shotgun start at 8 a.m., teams playing in fivesomes.

On Wednesday, Thursday and Friday area players may compete in a long - driving competition, commencing each day at 6 p.m.

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