Rouse Co. buys out its partner

Columbia's Rouse Company will shortly become the sole owner of the subsidiary — Howard Research and Development Corporation — which has been responsible for the dramatic role the company has played in the development of the Howard County community into a sophisticated and internationally acclaimed American "new town."

Rouse and Connecticut General of Hartford entered a critically admired general partnership nearly two decades ago which sired not only Columbia City, but also a whole new concept in creating planned communities in the 1970's and 1980's.

Rouse Chairman Mathias J. DeVito announced Thursday afternoon that his company will acquire — contingent upon the acquisition of satisfactory financing — Connecticut General's now known as CIGNA Corporation, 80 percent share in Howard Research.

"Under terms of the purchase, Rouse will acquire CIGNA's interest in the project for $120 million payable in cash at closing which will take place on or before September 30, 1985, and an additional $10 million by December 20, 1985 for CIGNA's share of the current year's sales and cash flow from operations. Following the purchase Rouse will own 100 percent of HRD," DeVito said.

"Things will continue as usual," DeVito said when he was asked about the acquisitions long-term impact on Columbia.

He added that it is likely the new town's various constituences will find the purchase agreeable because "there is now some kind of stability." This was a reference to a few past concerns about CIGNA's possible sale of its interest to another owner.



Final inspection is underway on the 'World's Largest Replica of the Star-Spangled Banner' in preparation for National Flag Day, June 14. Measuring 100' x 60', nearly four times the size of the original, the flag is patterned after the famous 15-star and 15-stripe banner which was flown over Ft. McHenry in 1814. Workers at F. W. Haxel Co. have been readying the huge symbol of our national anthem this Spring for unveiling during Flag day ceremonies.

CATHOLIC CHARITIES APPEAL MONTH

Last year more than thirty thousand of your neighbors across Maryland were helped by Associated Catholic Charities, without regard to race or religion—helped because thousands of people like you opened their hearts to their neighbors in need. Open your heart. June is Catholic Charities Appeal Month. Please give. Call 547-5476.

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—Cat owners

Continued from page 1

and inate hunting ability, cats are probably at greater risk of acquiring rabies from a raccoon than a dog is," said Dr. Joseph T. Horman, D.V.M., the state public health veterinarian.

Rabies a viral disease which affects animals, (especially carnivores) is characterized by irritation of the nervous system followed by paralysis and (in virtually every instance) death.

The virus is found in the saliva of infected animals, which transmit the disease by their bites. The disease may also be spread if open wounds are contaminated by infected saliva.

"The clinical picture of rabies in cats is similar to that of the dog, except that violence and aggression are more commonly observed in the cat, making rabid cats particularly dangerous to humans," added Dr. Horman.

Seven rabid cats have been reported in the state so far this year. Those seven cats have exposed 11 people to rabies. There have been no cases of dog rabies this year.

According to Lynn B. Guttenberger, chief, division of Public Relations for the state department of Health and Mental Hygiene, there have been 29 laboratory confirmed cases of feline rabies from 1983 to the present.

In 1982, there were 209 cases of feline rabies nationally.

Vaccination of dogs in the U.S. has controlled canine rabies. Most cases are the result of bites of infected wild animals such as skunks, foxes and bats.

Infected animals may have the "furious" form of the disease (in which they become very agitated and aggressive) or the "dumb" form (in which change of habits or paralysis predominates).

The diagnosis of the disease may require laboratory tests and examination of the nervous tissue of the animal obtained at autopsy.

Lynn Guttenberger said that the incubation period for humans is two to three months.

Once the first symptoms of the disease appear, the disease is inevitably fatal.

—$1,500 reward

Continued from page 1

woman evidently did not have on any shoes when she left home.

She stated, "We know every pair of shoes she has because her mother buys them for her. Not one pair is missing. Her houseshoes, two pair, are both here."

The grandmother also revealed that the missing nursing student always slept on one side of her bed and the other pillows left unused on the other side. However, the extra pillows were on the floor when the grandmother went to check the bedroom.

She said this did not seem right since her granddaughter always kept her room in good order. The grandmother also said that the electric clock was almost pulled from the socket and was left blinking "7:27" or 27 minutes after seven in the morning. This only lends to the mystery of the young woman's disappearance, she said.

In addition, the grandmother noted that Miss McBryde's clothes she intended to wear to her Coppin class that day were untouched on the chair in her bedroom.

She had neatly laid out what she was to wear the night before, the grandmother told the AFRO.

The grandmother said that she herself left for work between 7:15 a.m. and 7:30 a.m. May 21 and her granddaughter was still at home. She was due to take a Mathematics exam at Coppin at 12:30 p.m.

A check with the authorities at Coppin revealed that the young woman had not arrived for the examination.

Adding to the mystery, Miss McBryde's new 1985 automobile given her by her grandfather two months ago was still parked in front of the house.

Her grandmother said when she returned home from work at about 2:45 p.m. May 21, she thought perhaps her granddaughter had been picked up by another student to go to school.

Relatives who arrived at the Baltimore residence the next day from North Carolina and New York were also left wondering what had happened since they also know very well Miss McBryde's habits of promptness "since she was a little thing."

The grandmother informed, "She had no trouble at school. Her last marks were A's and B's and only one "C". In all her school life at Mercy High, she had good grades and had only missed two days in four years."

The grandmother revealed that she and her granddaughter were busy sewing May 20 since the young woman did not have to go to class at Coppin.

She said there was no sign of worry nor anxiety as to her granddaughter who seemed happy and without any downcast mood. She was making a dress and the grandmother a blouse.

The missing student is a member of the Junior Choir and secretary of the Sunday School at St. Paul Institutional Baptist Church, 2010 W. North Avenue where the Rev. Manassah Cramortie is pastor.

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Religion In Modern Life

John Wesley completing $700,000 renovation plan



Rev. Calvin Crosson points to construction site at John Wesley United Methodist Church, 3202 W. North Ave.

ALL PHOTOS BY PAT WARD WILLIAMS

By Brian Tyson
AFRO Staff Writer

The John Wesley United Methodist Church, located at North Avenue near Bloomingdale Road, is nearing completion of the $300,000 renovation of its sanctuary. The sanctuary includes beautiful refinished walls, floors, pews, and a brand-new 890 Rodgers Organ.

"We've enlarged and renovated the entire pulpit and choir area to make it more comfortable for our guests and choirs. We're not like most churches when it comes to choirs. You would expect the average choir to have about six to nine members. Each one of our six choirs has at least 25 members; so we need the extra space," Rev. Calvin Crosson, the church's pastor told the AFRO.

The renovated sanctuary also includes a modernized air - conditioning system with several huge wooden fans that hang from the building's ceiling.

"The fans will help us cut heating and cooling cots by pushing the air downward into the church where it is needed. Our church has exceptionally high ceilings, but we need the air down here where the people will be," said Rev. Crosson.

The church will officially occupy the renovated facility on June 16.

"When we finish paying for the work that's already been done, we'll move towards the church's TOTAL renovation," the pastor added.

The idea of renovating the church came to Rev. Crosson in 1978 as he began his pastorship. After coming to John Wesley from Howard Park United Methodist Church, Rev. Crosson looked around and realized that the church badly needed renovation.

"In February of 1979, a restoration and renovation committee was appointed, and plans for the church's renovation were discussed," Rev. Crosson recalled.

"The 12-member committee sat down and outlined a plan to raise the needed $400,000 to begin the renovation project. We thought that we could do it in one year, but it ended up taking three or four."

When the restoration committee hired a contracting company to do a feasibility study, it learned that it would cost the church nearly as much to renovate as it would to rebuild.

"At that point members were suggesting that we demolish one side of our building and just renovate the other side. I decided to appeal to the National Board of United Methodist Churches for help," according to Rev. Crosson.



The huge fans up there push the air downward so our members can breathe.

When the national board responded giving the church a $50,000 loan, church members raised additional funds, through dinners, pledges, concerts, and other functions.

Rev. Crosson plans to continue renovation by making the church's fellowship hall, which is connected to the sanctuary, the next project for improvement.

"I believe that churches should have their own dining facility. I'll be glad when ours is refurbished. In fact, we may even do a little catering when it is. Just think, every time a church has an affair and its rents a place like Martin's, it costs anywhere from $4,000 to $5,000. The same money could go into the church's treasury," stated Rev. Crosson.

After renovation of the church's dining - fellowship hall, Rev. Crosson plans to offer a number of vital community services.

"We will have clinics that will be operated by the city or other charitable groups. There will be meeting space for neighborhood or civic groups who wish to assemble for the well - being of the community. Also there will be a center for workshops, seminars, and educational events that will prepare people to do God's work in the outside world," he said.

Over the years, according to Rev. Crosson, the church has been outstanding in rendering services to the community.

"We used to have a clothes and food pantry for needy members of the community before we started the renovation project. We also assisted folks who faced evictions and gas and electric shutoffs," he said.

Since 1978, John Wesley has owned the Triangle Center on North Avenue near Bloomingdale Road. Rev. Crosson plans to revitalize the three - building center into a "busy intersection" for community service.

Rev. Dr. Charles Cobb to retire after 19 years

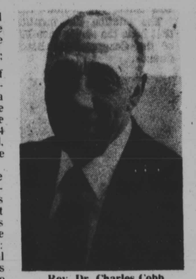
NEW YORK: The Rev. Dr. Charles E. Cobb has announced his retirement after 19 years as executive director of the United Church of Christ's Commission for Racial Justice.

Not bad for a man whose job had a projected one-year life span.

But Charles Cobb is nothing if not a scrapper. He'd been the first black man to run for mayor of Springfield, MA and a leader in civil rights struggles in the state. "I was tremendously impressed that my church was willing to commit itself at its national convention to a committee on racial justice," he recalls. "We were a minority in the denomination and objects of action rather than being part of mission. I vowed to change all that."

From those days in the mid-60's, when the United Church of Christ had only three black national staff members, only two blacks on any of the boards of directors of the eight national church agencies and only nine black delegates out of 700 to the denomination's General Synod, Dr. Cobb can point "with pride" to the situation in 1985: Four of the church's nine national agencies are headed by blacks, with a healthy representation in middle management as well, and there are 43 black delegates out of 704 at the upcoming General Synod, the denomination's top deliberate body.

"We organized in the church just the way we organized in the streets," Dr. Cobb says matter of factly. He is most proud of what he considers his legacy to the church, the three organizations he brought to life: Ministers for Racial and Social Justice, United Black Christians and National Black Staff. "I hope I will be remembered for bringing these black men and women into the mainstreams of this church," he says thoughtfully.



Rev. Dr. Charles Cobb

Charles Cobb has not always found it smooth sailing. "When I first came," he remembers, "it took them some time to understand I was not the kind of black that they had so frequently been accustomed to. I think they liked mild-mannered blacks; I was controversial." And tenacious.

The church found out with the Wilmington 10. In 1971, nine young black men and a white woman were arrested in Wilmington, NC on charges of arson and conspiracy. The young men, including then Commission for Racial Justice field organizer, the Rev. Benjamin chavis, were convicted and given prison sentences totaling 282 years. Convinced of their innocence, Dr. Cobb waged a sometime-acrimonous always - controversial struggle for almost 10 years until the convictions were finally overturned in 1980. He was confronted by some hostile church members; a skeptical press, particularly in the South, and a host of local prosecutors and court officials who stonewalled him every step of the way.

Charles Cobb remembers vividly "one terrible time" when his United Church of Christ supporters nearly yanked the rug out from under him. Stymied by successive court decisions against the Wilmington 10, he had turned to a public education campaign to elicit worldwide support. As a result, people started to be more sympathetic to the case, and then, right in the middle of the effort, the Executive Council, which acts for the General Synod between biennial meetings, decided to discontinue funding the program.

"I was livid," Dr. Cobb recalls. "I stormed into that room and gave them a rousing speech. Really, I was about to cry."

Funds were restored. "The Wilmington 10 was the first big test of white support in this church," according to Dr. Cobb, "and they did me proud. I had plenty of fights, but, basically, this church backed us from the beginning to the end. It was one of the church's greatest victories against racism and injustice."

Other struggles have been met with mixed success. Dr. Cobb is a zealous opponent of capital punishment, and he plunged his commission into the fight to save Marie Hill, a black woman convicted of murder. "Imagine sentencing a 16-year-old to the gas chamber?" he asks. Her life was spared, and he is proud of the stand the United Church of Christ's General Synod has taken opposing capital punishment. But he sees a national resurgence of support for the death sentence and condemns it for its "racist overtones."

"Given racism in the criminal justice system, the prison population is already disproportionately black," he reports.

Metro Church Briefs

MT. ARARAT BAPTIST CHURCH

The Sunday School of Mt. Ararat Baptist Church will celebrate its anniversary on Sunday, June 6 at 6 p.m. The special guest will be the "Stars of Grace" gospel singers.

The church is located on the corner of Gwynns Falls Parkway and Longwood Street. Dr. Samuel B. Redd is the pastor. All are invited to share in this glorious occasion.

TRINITY BAPTIST CHURCH

Trinity Baptist Church will hold its Women's Day celebration on Sunday, June 2. The theme will be "Women Strengthened by Christ's Power." The speaker will be Mrs. Rosanna Miles of Browns Memorial Baptist Church.

The program will begin at 11 a.m., and the church is located at 1601 Druid Hill Ave. You are invited.

BROOKLYN UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

There will be an "All You Can Eat" crab cake and ham smorgasboard at Brooklyn United Methodist Church, 4th St. and Pontiac Ave. on Saturday, June 8 at 11 a.m.

Cost for adults is $6 and $3.50 for children between ages 6 and 12.

MACEDONIA BAPTIST CHURCH

On Sunday, June 2, there will be three great events at Macedonia Baptist Church, Fremont and Lafayette Aves.

At 8:15 p.m. there will be Morning Worship Service with Rev. Glodia Wright as the guest speaker. At 11 a.m. there will be Morning Worship with Rev. Darlene McGuire as the guest speaker, and a Fellowship Buffet following the morning service.

All are welcome to attend.

THE CITY TEMPLE OF BALTIMORE

The Junior Missionaries of the City Temple of Baltimore Baptist Church will be celebrating our Risen Savior in a five-night Youth Revival on Monday, June 10 through Friday, June 14, at 7 p.m. nightly. The church is located at 317 Dolphin St. at Eutaw Place.

The speaker for this occasion will be the Rev. Errol Gilliard, pastor of the New Mt. Carmel Baptist Church. The theme will be "Christian Youth Seeking a Deeper Love, a Greater Understanding, and a Closer Walk With God."

Come out and support the Junior Missionaries and Youth with your prayers and your presence. We are sure that you will receive a spiritual blessing.

ST. TIMOTHY'S CHRISTIAN BAPTIST CHURCH

There will be renewal of wedding vows for any Christian married couple who desires to participate, and especially for those who have been married by Pastor Carl Washington, of the St. Timothy's Christian Baptist Church, 4005 Groveland Ave. on Sunday, June 9 at 4 p.m.

For further information, call Mrs. Carmi Turner at 566-1326 or Mrs. Minnie Washington at 496-3565.

UNITED BAPTIST CHURCH

The Men's Day Committee of the United Baptist Church presents a mini concert featuring The Excelsiors Choral Ensemble and the George E. Vanderford Male Chorale on Friday, June 7 at 7 p.m.

MT. ZION UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Would you like to put your spare time to good use in a very rewarding skill? Join the Macrame' Class at Mt. Zion United Methodist Church, Liberty Heights and Wabash Avenues.

The classes begin Saturday, June 1st. For information phone Ethel Chambers at 944-8671 after 6 p.m. Monday through Friday.

You will learn to make decorations, gifts, and earn extra money for any occasion.

DOUGLAS MEMORIAL COMMUNITY CHURCH

Douglas Memorial Community Church is presenting its annual Spring Concert on Sunday, June 2 the Chancel Choir, one of the oldest and most distinguished choirs in Baltimore, will be featured at 6 p.m. that evening.

This performance is being sponsored by WANA, a civic club of Douglas Memorial Church, to help raise funds for Camp Farthest Out, a church supported summer resident camp for inner city children.

The concert will be a celebration of Bach, Handel, and Afro American music. It will be held in the sanctuary of the church at Lafayette and Madison Ave. The public is invited to come and enjoy this outstanding performance.

PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE AME ZION CHURCH

Come out and fellowship with Pennsylvania AME Zion Church at annual praise and thanksgiving services starting June 9 and lasting through June 14. The program will begin at 7:30 each night.

Dr. Norman H. Hicklin, president elder, Henderson District of the Blue Ridge Conference, will be preaching nightly. Dr. Hicklin, a native of Chester, S. CA, will deliver the 11 a.m. Morning Message, Sunday, June 9. Different choirs will render music nightly as follows:

Monday, Rev. Gabriel Church of Union Temple Baptist Church.

Tuesday, Rev. Alfreda Wiggins of Christ Edmonson United Methodist.

Wednesday, Rev. Leslie Davis of Patterson Asbury AME Zion Church.

Thursday, Rev. Ricky Spain of Allen AME Church.

Friday, Rev. Earl Warren of Whitestone Baptist Church.

For information call Dr. Marshall Strickland at 728-7416 or 542-7944.

ST. JAMES FREE BAPTIST CHURCH

The St. James Free Baptist Church is sponsoring a tour to Montreal, Quebec, departing from 1508 E. Layfayette Ave. on July 8 at 6 a.m. and returning on July 11, at 10 p.m.

The tour includes round trip motorcoach transportation, three nights, hotel accommodations, baggage handling, and a half day sightseeing tour of Montreal (the second largest French-speaking city in the world). The cost of the tour is $220.000 per person, based on double occupancy.

For further information and reservation, call Rev. Morris at 945-2216 or Edith Drakeford at 837-6986.

REHOBOTH CHURCH

There will be a fellowship service of former and present members and friends celebrating the 50th Anniversary of Rehoboth Church, founded by the late Bishop R. A. Carr, convening June 8th and 9th, at 2:00 p.m. at 219 N. Mount St. For further information, call 669-7306.

HISTORIC STRAWBRIDGE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

The men of Strawbridge United Methodist Church will hold its first Annual Prayer Breakfast on Sunday, June 2, at 8:30 a.m.

The speaker for this event leading to Men's Day will be Brother Lee Michaels.

The church is located at Park and Wilson Sts. in Baltimore. For more information please call Walter Gray at 669-5387 or Purnell Spruill at 335-3326.

MINIATURE MISS PAGEANT

There is still time for young ladies age six through 12 to enter the fifth annual Miniature Miss Pageant, to be held Sunday, June 2 at the Maryland Historical Society, 201 W. Monument St.

To be eligible, youngsters must either sing, dance, play an instrument, or give an oral presentation.

A trip to Disneyland and a Peabody Scholarship will be awarded to the winners. Applications can be obtained at the Maryland Historical society or by calling 947-1496.