PEOPLE AT WORK

Racetrack tellers

By Tea Montier
AFRO Staff Writer

Working... it's the fiber that keeps America together. Workers are the people who make the marketplace go. But what about those people who work at the activities most of us consider leisure or just fun?

What about those happy people at the race tracks that sit cheerfully behind the white counters collecting monies and taking bets? How happy are these people at their work. What really is their "work" all about?

To get answers to these questions, and a behind the scenes look at the life of a teller, this writer Wednesday travelled to Pimlico Race Track to meet two of its tellers and get a feeling for what their work is all about.

Kathleen Myers handles her money like a seasoned pro. Tall and lean with a pleasant disposition, counting greenbacks never looked like such fun.

"My job is very exciting because we sell the winning tickets," beamed the charismatic teller who sells on the average 7,000-8,000 tickets a day. "I very seldom bet, I leave that for the customers, but I love it. I love my job."

Myers admits she never really was much of a gambler. In fact when she found out about the job opening at Pimlico 10 years ago through the words of a friend she wasn't even a regular visitor to the tracks.

She applied for the job, discovered she liked it, and for the past decade she has been consistently counting money. Myers is quick to point out however that although counting money may be fun it is a job not to be taken lightly.

"You have to be careful in this business," said the teller as she eyed the balance of bills in her box. "But it's not hard once you learn it. You always have to watch the screen."

Sixty-four-year-old Willie Stone watches the "screen" a lot also. The Augusta native in Baltimore since 1945 has been a teller at Pimlico for the past 14 years.

During that time says Stone, he too has come to love his job.

"It's pretty hectic at times... then it's nice and pleasant," said the teller as he sat back recollecting his years at Pimlico. "It's one of those things... up and down but on the whole it's a good job."

Continued Stone in an impressively calm tone of voice, "I started 15 years ago. I was a cashier making $50 a day. I was out of work and I came to the race track and had a couple of dollars to bet."

"I saw a couple of guys working and asked them what I could do to get on. They told me to contact my politician and have him recommend me. At that time there were five or six blacks working here.

"I got on at the night races and that gave me something to live on until I became a regular."

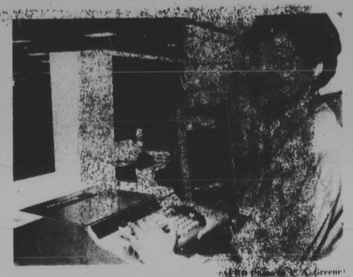
Stone says the rest of his story is history, but it's a good story indeed. "A whole variety of people" bet the races says Stone. They can include doctors, lawyers, and business people. But there's a certain type-level-joy tellers vicariously share in and that's when they are cashing winning tickets.

"I like to see people win. I love to see people win, and I like to be helpful to the customer."



(AFRO Photo by P. A. Greene)

TAKING THE BETS—With a fistful of money and fingers ready to go, Willie Stone is all set to take bets at Pimlico Race Track.



(AFRO Photo by P. A. Greene)

TACTFUL TELLER—Kathleen Myers beams [illegible] many race track fans have come to know and [illegible] Pimlico Race Track.

Highlights of Judge Gordy's swearing in



Photo by Pat Ward Williams

A JUDGING TRIO — Newly appointed Circuit Court Judge Clifton J. Gordy is seen here following his May 24 swearing-in ceremonies at the Mitchell Courthouse. Gordy is joined by Judge John R. Hargrove of U.S. District Court, left, and Judge David Ross also of Circuit Court.



Photo by Pat Ward Williams

HERE'S THE NEW JUDGE — A couple of well wishers flank newly appointed Judge Clifton J. Gordy. He was officially sworn in to his new position. Gordy is the latest appointment made by Gov. Hughes to fill a vacancy on the city's circuit court.

Marion Banfield, social worker and family counselor dies

Baltimoreans from all stations of life are mourning the passing of noted social worker and family counselor Mrs. Marion Banfield.



Mrs. Marion Banfield

Born on January 9, 1915 in Newton, MA., Marion Martin Banfield grew up in Massachusetts and Jamaica, West Indies. She attended Howard University in Washington, DC, where she won a one-year fellowship to study in India. After graduating Magna Cum Laude from Howard, she earned a Master's degree in social work from the University of Pittsburgh.

Mrs. Banfield devoted her professional life to family issues, workers serving as case worker supervisor, District Director and Director of Family Life Education for the Family and Children's Society, from which she retired in 1981. Over the years, she was called on by schools, neighborhood associations and community groups as a consultant, speaker and discussion leader in various areas of human relations.

She was a member of the Academy of Certified Social Workers, a registered clinical member of the National Association of Social Workers, a member of the American Association of Sex Educators, Counselors and Therapists and many other professional organizations.

At various times she worked as a columnist for the AFRO-AMERICAN newspapers, as well as a television personality. She moderated the talk show, "Metro," on WJZ, Channel 13 and also participated in a number of other talk shows, including "Square Off" on WJZ, Channel 13.

Mrs. Banfield had been active with many community organizations both on the state and local level, including the Governor's Commission on Contemporary Problems in Education, the Mayor's Task Force on Equal Rights in Education and the Baltimore Council on Adolescent Pregnancy, Parenting and Pregnancy Prevention.

Although she was not trained as a teacher, teaching was her favorite volunteer activity. Over the years, she formed various educational and cultural clubs and activities for her four children and their friends. She tutored at Fallstaff Middle School and Mount Washington Elementary School. Having started as a Sunday School teacher inthe Baltimore Ethical Society 25 years ago, Mrs. Banfield became director of the Sunday School.

Among her hobbies were gardening and flower arranging. She was a member of eight plant societies and was the first black woman in Maryland to become an official flower show judge. She organized a Junior Garden club at Fallstaff Middle School.

She was a member of the League of Women Voters, the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, the Me-De-So Wives, among other groups.

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She served on the following boards: The Central YWCA, the Religious Coalition for Abortion Rights, Maryland Conference of Social Concerns, of which she was vice president, and Community College of Baltimore.

Mrs. Banfield, a member of the Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, received numerous awards for Community Service from the AFRO-AMERICAN Newspapers, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Philomathians, Lambda Kappa Mu, YWCA and many other organizations.

After a lengthy illness, she passed away on May 28, 1985. She is survived by her husband of 46 years, Dr. Gilbert Leslie Banfield Sr., four children, Sondra, Gilbert Jr., Karen and Adrienne, seven grandchildren; a brother, Ralph Martin, and other relatives and friends.

A memorial service will be held on Saturday, June 1, 1985 at 12 noon at the unitarian-Universalist Church of Baltimore, Charles and Franklin Streets.

In lieu of flowers, contributions can be made to educational funds at Forest Park High School or Fallstaff Middle School or to the Baltimore Ethical Society.

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Description of Project: Construction of approximately 115 feet of 8-inch sewer and 10 feet of 8-inch water house connections to serve Central Plaza Shopping Center, East University Boulevard, Adelphi, Chillum Election District No. 17, Prince George's County, Maryland.

Sealed bids for construction of the project will be received in the Bid Room, Phair Office Park, 8103 Sandy Spring Road, Laurel, Maryland then publicly opened and read on June 11 1985 at 9:45 a.m.

Copies of the documents may be examined at the Commission's Contract/Technical Services Section, Phair Office Park, 8103 Sandy Spring Road, Laurel, Maryland, phone 441-4150. Documents will be available May 28, 1985 at a price of $10.00 per set. Only check or money order accepted.

An obligation to participate in the WSSC Mandatory Minority Business Enterprise Program as described in the Information for Bidders is required for bids $75,000.00 or more.

Grace Jones the exotic May Day

Exotic and statuesque Grace Jones creates one of the most deadly adversaries James Bond has ever faced — May Day, Max Zorin's murderous accomplice, in "A View To A Kill."

An exceptionally talented musical performer and successful fashion model, Jones made her motion picture debut in "Conan the Destroyer" as Zula, the Amazonian warrior. Her physical presence is just as dominating in "A View To A Kill," in which she yields not a degree alongside her more experienced and quite illustrious colleagues.

Complimenting her extraordinary face and figure, Jones wore some of the most unusual costumes ever donned by a Bond villainess as May Day. The actress collaborated with her personal designer, Azzedina Alaia, and the film's costume designer, Emma Porteous to create the basic look.

"I knew what I wanted and they allowed me my way," she recalls. "I think the film company rather liked some of my personal wardrobe, and several outfits were copied for the movie. The look is striking — it bears a resemblance to something out of a Walt Disney movie."

"When I first did my makeup," Jones continues, "I thought director John Glen might think it was too strong. But he thought it was great, and even said I should add more color. It was wonderful, because I feel I was given a free hand."

Born in Spanishtown, Jamaica, Jones is the third of seven children. Her father, a clergyman, descended from a family active in Jamaican politics for generations. Her paternal great-grandmother had come from Nigeria, while her maternal great-grandmother was half Scottish. Jones also suspects some Chinese in her background, "because my whole family has a sort of slanted eye look with a flatness across the eyebones."

Jones moved to Syracuse, New York with her family at the age of 12, where she continued her schooling and ultimately entered Syracuse University as a Spanish major. Halfway through her college years, however, she discovered music. "A drama professor thought I had a voice, even though I'd never thought much about having talent in that area," she recalls. "In my third year, he left to produce a play in Philadelphia, and I left to work in it with him."

Jones was only 18 when she moved to New York and was signed by the Wilhelmina Modeling Agency. "Even though the agency kept me pretty busy, I auditioned for every play and film I possibly could. But they all wanted a black American sound, and I just didn't have it. Finally, I got tired of trotting around, and took myself to Paris."

Within three months, according to Jones, she had established herself as a top European model. Following appearances on the covers of Elle, Vogue, and Der Stern, she turned to performing at the suggestion of a friend. "He told me about a company that was looking for recording talent, and asked me if I wanted to make a demo. I wasn't that interested, but did it anyway."

The record company offered Jones a year of singing lessons, after which she cut her first record. Her new career direction was soon noticed by Island Records, for whom she cut "I Want A Man" in 1977. Five albums followed, of which "Portfolio" was the first to go gold (in France and Italy). With her second album Jones' musical direction shifted from disco to New Wave. "Night Clubbing," her third, sold over four hundred thousand units, and produced the number one black record of 1981: "Pull Up to the Bumper."

"Somewhere in there," she continues, "I got the idea for a fashion type show in a discotheque, something that had never been done before. In effect, I started with modeling and added singing and some theatrics, like riding around on a motorcycle, and put it all in a small place—a disco." The 'Disco Theatre' that Grace Jones initiated played a series of clubs all over the United States. In 1979, she carried the concept to a climax at Roseland in New York, performing a series of extraordinary costumes and interacting with live tigers and leopards.

Jones regards her interest in the sport of kick-boxing as an important ingredient of her performance as May Day. "I'm in very good shape, and it allows me to do things fearlessly. If you know anything about the life of a kick-boxer, you realise that you can't smoke or drink. You must always be alert and ready for the unexpected."

A videocassette of "A One Man Show," loosely based on Jones' 1982 performance in London's Drury Lane Theatre, will be released soon in the United States. She is also the subject of Jungle Fever, a book by her longtime associate, Jean-Paul Goude.



Has 007 finally met his match? Grace Jones stars as May Day, the exotic and deadly accomplice of a psychotic genius who intends to cancel the British Secret Service Agent's license to kill forever in the new James Bond adventure, "A View To A Kill."

Showtime

Ida M. Peters What's Happening



CELEBRITIES

The effervescent EVELYN "CHAMPAGNE" KING will headline the third edition of the KOOL CITY JAM national tour of ten cities this summer. Joining the versatile Ms. King at various points on the tour will be national recording artists KoKo-Pop, Klymaxx and RJ's Latest Arrival.

These national stars will be joined by an array of local musical groups as the 1985 KOOL CITY JAM tour crisscrosses the country with one of the largest free concert tours ever assembled.

The KOOL CITY JAM tour debuted in 1983 and met with both audience and critical acclaim immediately. Nearly one million people have witnessed these electrifying outdoor concerts in its short two year history. The free afternoon concerts take on a festival flavor in each city with picnic lunches and lawn chairs creating the open air theatres for the concerts held in public parks.

The 1985 edition of the KOOL CITY JAM tour starts in Los Angeles, on June 2, on the campus of the Southwest Los Angeles Community College. Evelyn King and Klymaxx, the six member, all female rock band currently riding the crest of their latest hit "Meeting in the Ladies Room," will kick off the concert series in L.A.

In July, the KOOL CITY JAM tour begins its East Coast and Midwest swing in Newark's Weequahic Park on July 7. Again, Evelyn King will headline the show, but this time with RJ's Latest Arrival. This R & B group has already had a top five chart hit with "Shackles" in 1984. The group's leader and keyboardist, Ralph J. Rice, also composes, arranges and produces all of RJ's Latest Arrival's material. His writing talents also extend to other artists such as Dionne Warwick with a special written song for the PBS documentary, "American Journey."

KoKo-Pop and Evelyn team up again in Memphis for the July 14 KOOL CITY JAM in Tom Lee Park. Then it's RJ's Latest Arrival and Evelyn "Champagne" King headlining the tour's last four concerts starting with Gary, Indiana on July 21 in Gilroy Stadium. Next the tour visits St. Louis' Forest Park on July 28, Cleveland's Luke Easter Park on August 4 and finally, Detroit's Michigan State Fairgrounds on August 11.

In each city, the national artists will be joined by the tops in local musical talent. These local groups are favorites in their respective cities. Also, local minority businesses and organizations are encouraged to participate making each concert a major community event.

In each city, the concerts will be held on a Sunday afternoon at 1 p.m. and are scheduled to end at dusk. The concerts are free to the public.

Actress-dancer PAULA KELLY has been signed for a major role in "Jo Jo Dancer, Your Life Is Calling," a Richard Pryor Film for Columbia Pictures release. A tragicomic fantasy about an American entertainer, the picture toplines Richard Pryor in the title role. It also stars Carmen McRae, Debbie Allen, Diahnne Abbott, Scoey Mitchell and Billy Eckstine. Pryor is producer and director of the film.

Kelly is cast as "Satin Doll," a stripper-vocalist who becomes one of the early spiritual supporters of the young aspiring comic, Jo Jo Dancer. "Jo Jo Dancer, Your Life Is Calling" reunites her with Pryor. She appeared on an Emmy-nominated segment of the NBC Richard Pryor Show.

A Julliard graduate, Kelly has been a soloist dancer with companies such as Martha Graham, Alvin Ailey, Donald McKayle and Anthony Tudor. She has appeared in such films as "The Andromeda Strain," "Sweet Charity," "Soylent Green," "Uptown Saturday Night" and "The Spook Who Sat By the Door."

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Presenters and performers have been announced for THE 39th ANNUAL TONY AWARDS, special, the presentation of the American Theatre Wing's 1985 Antoinette Perry (Tony) Awards, to be broadcast live, Sunday, June 2 on the CBS TV Network. The program is presented by The League of American Theatres and Producers, Inc.

The presenters and performers are Susan Anton, Hinton Battle, Matthew Broderick, Jim Dale, Rex Harrison, George Hearn, Van Johnson, Maureen McGovern, Mike Nichols, Stefanie Powers, Juliet Prowse, Lee Roy Reams, Lynn Redgrave, Chita Rivera, Rex Smith, Leslie Uggams, Dick Van Dyke, Tom Wopat and members of the casts of "Big River," "Grind," and "Leader of the Pack."

Top R&B Singles
1. Rock Me Tonight — Freddie Jackson
2. You Give Good Love — Whitney Houston
3. Sanctified Lady — Marvin Gaye
4. Electric Lady — Con Funk Shun
5. Suddenly — Billy Ocean

Top R&B Albums
1. The Night I Fell In Love — Luther Vandross
2. Can't Stop the Love — Maze-Frankie Beverly
3. Emergency — Kool & The Gang
4. Whitney Houston
5. Diamond Life — Sade

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