AREA OBITUARIES

Mrs. Early Reed

Funeral services for Mrs. Early Vee Reed were Thursday, Feb. 26 at Gillis Memorial C.C. Church. Burial was the next day at the Arbutus Memorial Park.

Mrs. Reed died Sunday, Feb. 22 after a brief illness. She was 67.

Mrs. Reed was the daughter of Dan Mears and Mrs. Olivia tilman. She was born April 29, 1919 in Augusta, GA.

Mrs. Reed married the former Emmery Williams. The couple had a child, Earlene williams. Mrs. Reed later married Johnny Neihmiah Reed in 1948, and he adoped her daughter.

Mrs. Reed was a noted seamstress for many years. In 1962, she graduated from Sinai Hospital as a nurses' aide.

Upon completion of her education, she pursued her nursing career at the Office of Aging, where she performed numerous procedures to aid the sick.

She was a lifetime member of the Gillis Memorial Baptist Church.

Mrs. Reed is survived by her daughter, Mrs. Earlene Reed harvey, two sisters, Mrs. Clara Bell Hines of Baltimore and Mrs. Alice Bell of Orlando, Fla., four grandchildren; Herschel, David, Dawn and Desiree; and five great grandchildren.

Mrs. Margaret J. Smith

Funeral services for Mrs. Margaret J. Smith were Wednesday, Feb. 25 at the chapel of the March Funeral Home West.

Mrs. Smith who lived on Rosedale Street in Baltimore died Saturday, Feb. 21, at the Liberty Medical Center. She was 64.

A native of Marion, IN, the former Miss Margaret Jones was a graduate of Marion High School. She received a bachelor's degree in education from Coppin State College in 1964.

She was a member of Mount Ararat Baptist Church, the Kappa Alpha Psi Silhouettes, the Retired Teachers Association and the Hanlon Improvement Association.

Among Mrs. Smith's survivors are her husband, Robert A. Smith, Sr.; two sons, Robert, Jr. and Roderick Smith, both of Baltimore; a daughter, Mrs. Reba S. Coates, of Glen Arm, MD;

Also surviving are her father, William Burke Jones and a sister, Mrs. Elizabeth Stewart, and three grandsons.

St. James' Episcopal Church
Lafayette and Arlington Aves.
The Clergy
The Rev. Charles L. Taylor, M. Div., Interim Rector
Maurice Murphy, Mus. D., Choir Director, Organist
SUNDAY, MARCH 8, 1987
8:00 A.M.....Holy Communion
9:00 A.M.....Church School
10:00 A.M.....Choral Eucharist and Sermon
The public is cordially invited to attend these services.

NEW CHRISTIAN MEMORIAL CHURCH
3525 CATON AVENUE
BALTIMORE, MARYLAND 21229
WILL BE CELEBRATING THEIR PASTOR'S
SEVENTEENTH ANNIVERSARY
SUNDAY, MARCH 8, 1987 — 11:00 A.M.
GUEST SPEAKER:
REVEREND THOMAS HOLMES
COMMUNITY BAPTIST CHURCH
NEW HAVEN, CONNETICUT

WALTER BRONSON, JR. Pastor

CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY CHURCH OF GOD
2701 W. Baltimore St.
BALTIMORE, MD. 21223
SUNDAY, MARCH 8, 1987
Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, for as much as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord. I Corinthians 15:58
9:00 A.M.....Sunday Church School (All Ages)
10:30 A.M.....Live Radio Broadcast Service WYST 10:10 AM Dial
11:00 A.M.....Divine Morning Worship Service — Sermon by Elder C. Green
3:30 P.M.....The Ladies Guild will celebrate their 26th Anniversary. Evangelist Ricky Williams, President of Baltimore for Jesus, will be the guest speaker.
7:00 P.M.....The Ladies Guild will climax their anniversary with the congregation of the Shiloh Christian Community Church. Rev. Jimmy C. Baldwin, pastor.
Elder Conway Green, Founder & Pastor

Elder CONWAY GREEN
Founder and Pastor

E.D. Nixon, rights leader, dies

Organizer of Montgomery Bus Boycott

Funeral services for Edgar Daniel Nixon, a civil rights leader and activist, were Tuesday, March 3, in his hoime, Montgomery, AL at the Bethel Missionary Baptist Church.

Mr. Nixon died Wednesday, Feb. 25 at the Baptist Medical Center where he had been hospitalized since Feb. 16 for treatment of respiratory and heart ailments. He was 87.

Mr. Nixon was the man who selected the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. to lead the Montgomery boycott in 1955.

He was the former president of the state branch of the Alabama NAACP and was a principal mover behind the boycott which began after then-department store seamstress, Mrs. Rosa Parks, refused to give up her seat to a white man and move to the back of the bus.

Mrs. Parks was arrested under the Alabama segregation law.

During a recent newspaper interview, Mr. Nixon told a re porter about his meeting with young Dr. King:

"I went to see him and said, 'You've got to take the lead in this thing.' Martin was young and smart and he had a wonderful speaking voice. I knew it would take somebody young and intelligent with leadership ability."

The bus boycott was the first major protest to follow the Supreme Court ruling in 1954 which outlawed segregated schools. It also set the stage for the protests leading to the civil rights laws of the 1960's.

During the 1920s, when Mr. Nixon was a Pullman porter on the train from Montgomery to Chicago, he joined A. Phillip Randolph in helping to organize the first successful black labor union, the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters.

When he became president of the Voters League of Montgomery in 1944, Mr. Nixon organized a march of 750 blacks to the Montgomery County Courthouse where they demanded to be allowed to qualify to vote.

Mrs. Nixon was the first black man to campaign for political office in Montgomery County since Reconstruction. That was in 1954 when he ran for the county executive committee. He lost by a narrow margin.

Afterward he became active in the Montgomery Improvement Association, a local group which he insisted become more active.

After Mr. Nixon retired as a railroad porter, he became director of a local housing project. In recent years, he was known as Dr. E. D." because of the honorary doctorate bestowed him by Alabama State University.

Among Mr. Nixon's survivors are his wife, Mrs. Arlet Nixon; a son, Edgar D. Nixon, Jr. of Los Angeles; four sisters, Jeraldine, Mary, Elizabeth and Polly, all of Montgomery; and a brother, Henry Nixon of Montgomery.

"Back By Popular Demand"
The Musical
"The Gift of Water"
Written by Rosa Lee Henningan
AUDITIONS: Will be held on March 19, 1987 from 6:00-9:00 p.m., for actors, actresses, and singers interested in playing a part in this soul-stirring musical. Contact the Director, Benedict Dorsey
366-2879

Mrs. Fannie Friend was pioneer nurse

Mrs. Fannie Mayo Friend, a retired Baltimore City Hospital nurse and longtime member of the Mount Olivet Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), died on Feb. 28 at the age of 84.

Funeral services were held at the Mount Olivet Christian Church at 230 N. Fulton Ave. on Wednesday, March 4 at 7 p.m. Burial was at the Arbutus Memorial Park.

Mrs. Friend served for many years as one of the first black nurses at the City Hospitals. She was awarded many certificates for long, faithful and exemplary service. She is a graduate of St. Phillips School of Nursing in Richmond.

Mrs. Friend was married to the late Bernard A. Friend, Sr. of Richmond. Three of their four children have taught in the Baltimore City Public Schools and have served with distinction.

Mrs. Friend is a longtime and faithful member of her church and was a deaconess, a charter member of the Nurses' Unit, and a member of the Christian Women's Fellowship. Her attendance at the Church School and worship services did not cease even during her illness.

She is survived by four children: Mrs. Edith F. Harris, Bernard A. Friend, Jr., Mrs. Madeline T. Reed, and Robert Friend; ten grandchildren and six great grandchildren; nieces; nephews; cousins; two daughters-in-law; and one son-in-law.

Alexander Williamson, Sr.

Funeral services for Alexander Williamson, Sr. were Sunday, Feb. 15 at the Zion Baptist Church. Burial was the next day at the Cedar Hill Cemetery.

Mr. Williamson died Wednesday, Feb. 11. He was 66.

A native of Stony Creek, VA, he was the son of Mr. and Mrs. Hesse (Eliza) Carter and was born Feb. 24, 1920. He moved to Baltimore as a young child and attended the public schools including Dunbar High School.

Mr. Williamson was a U.S. Navy veteran and saw action during World War II. He was a member of the Apostolic Faith Church on Caroline Street.

Retired, Mr. Williamson had been a chauffeur 47 years. He worked for one company 17 years and later at another firm 30 years. In his spare time, he enjoyed working on cars.

He married his wife, Margaret, November 7, 1948 and the couple had six children.

Mr. Williamson is survived by his wife of 38 years; six children, Elaine, Carolyn, Loretta, Annie, Deborah and Alexander, Jr.; 13 grandchildren, seven great grandchildren; his stepmother, Mrs. Pauline Carter; four sisters, six brothers; and two aunts, Mrs. Rosetta Jones and Mrs. Lena Barnes.

Mrs. Sarah E. Walker

Funeral services for Mrs. Sarah Elizabeth Walker were Friday, Feb. 27 at the March Funeral Home East Chapel. Burial was the following day at Mount Auburn Cemetery.

Mrs. Walker died Monday, Feb. 23 after a long illness. She was 84.

She was born June 15, 1902, one of two daughters born to Mr. and Mrs. James (Rosita) Greer of Charles County. Mrs. Walker was a member of the United Baptist Church.

Among her survivors are seven children, Mrs. Lilly Murphy, James Lipson, Ms. Catherine Avery, Mrs. Mary Robinson, Mrs. Aselee Willis, John Walker and Willis Walker, all of Baltimore; 26 grandchildren; 50 great grandchildren; 12 great great grandchilden; and a sister, Mrs. Bertha Smith.

SHARP STREET MEMORIAL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
1787 1987
Bicentennial of Preaching and Mission
DOLPHIN & ETTING STREETS
BALTIMORE, MARYLAND 21217
PRESENTS
GOSPEL FEAST
SUNDAY, MARCH 8, 1987 — 6:00 P.M.
LIVE IN CONCERT . . . . . .
Sharp Street Auditorium
* THE ASHBURY-BROADNECK YOUNG ADULT GOSPEL CHOIR ANNAPOLIS, MD
* THE METROPOLITAN UNITED METHODIST INSPIRATIONAL CHOIR GLEN BURNIE, MD
* THE HALLS UNITED METHODIST MALE CHORUS—HALLS UM CHURCH GLEN BURNIE, MD
* CHRIST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH YOUNG ADULT CHOIR SEVERN, MD
* KINGS RECORDING CHORALE-ADAMS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH LOTHIAN, MD
* THE GOSPELIERS-UNION U.M.C. DAVIDSONVILLE, MD
* THE PARHAM ENSEMBLE-AMES UNITED METHODIST CHURCH BALTIMORE, MD
AND MANY, MANY OTHERS . . . . . .
COME JOIN US IN A MUSICAL CELEBRATION TO KICK-OFF THE LENTEN SEASON DURING OUR BICENTENNIAL YEAR.
ALL ARE WELCOME
FREE FREE
REV. EUGENE MATTHEWS, PASTOR

SHARP STREET MEMORIAL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

DOUGLAS MEMORIAL COMMUNITY CHURCH
Lafayette and Madison Aves.
"The People of the Way"
Dr. Marion Curtis Bascom D.D. Minister
James S. Hammond, M. Music

Sunday, March 8th, 1987
Eight and Eleven O'Clock Service
Marion Curtis Bascom Preaching

Choral Introit: You Who Have Spent the Silent Night Old 22nd
8:00 A.M. — Anthem: Bound For the Promised Land — Arr. Buryl Red
11:00 A.M. — Anthem: In His Care-o — Arr. William Dawson

MORNING STAR BAPTIST CHURCH OF CHRIST
"The Witnessing Church"
1063 West Fayette Street
SUNDAY, MARCH 8, 1987
8:00 a.m.....PRAISE & SPIRITUAL HEALING SERVICE
8:45 a.m.....CHURCH SCHOOL — Deacon William Nelson, Director
9:45 a.m.....CHURCH/COMMUNITY HOUR — Dr. Cynthia Neverdon-Morton, Chairperson
TOPIC: Project Business, Jr. Achievement & 4H Club
11:00 a.m.....MORNING WORSHIP
MUSIC THE ANTHEM: "I'll Walk With God".....Brodszky
THE SPIRITUAL: "Ride On King Jesus".....Ehert
Bro. James R. Peterson, Director
PREACHING:.....Reverend Robert Branch
Wednesday, March 11, 7:30 — Lenten Service, Reverend Errol Gilliard, Greater Harvest Baptist Church, Choirs and Congregation will fellowship with us.
REVEREND DR. SAMUEL RAY, PASTOR

Montgomery County

By Davetta Madison

School commitment criticized

During the past three years, the school system initiated a number of educational initiatives aimed at raising teachers' expectation for minority students and increasing the number of minorities in schools' gifted and talented programs.

The superintendent, Wilmer S. Cody, also launched efforts to involve minority parents in their children's education and bring more minority teachers into the school system critics contended, however, that the school system cannot point to anything it has done to change or improve minority achievement in the past three years.

James Robinson, who heads a parent group that monitors minority achievement said, "These efforts have led the school system into a morass that I am not optimistic they will be able to extricate themselves from." Robinson argued that the latest proposals only confuse the situation further with new planning initiates and promotion schemes.

"There is no mystery to what needs to be done, the question is commitment. Robinson said the plan, called "Blueprint for Progress," the superintendent's latest program designed to improve minority student achievement, is a little too late, charged board members and community representatives at a recent hearing package meeting.

Critics complained that the package lacked objectives, an accountability process that holds people accountable the package did show a plan for improving minority achievement. The package also proposed to have a new procedure for evaluating schools' individual efforts to achieve success in this area be established, the superintendent described the package as a way to build commitment to the board's priority of improving minority student achievement the latest test scores show progress, but black and Hispanic ninth graders continue to lag behind on the Maryland functional math while they are holding their own on the functional reading test.

According to recent school board report, 67 percent of black ninth graders passed the standardized math test required for graduation, an increase of two percent over year's results.

Hispanic students' passing rate also improved, going from 63 percent to 64 percent. The passing rate for white and Asian students is above 90 percent.

NAACP TO HOLD 50TH-YEAR CELEBRATION

The Montgomery County NAACP kicked off its year-long observance of its 50th anniversary of service and advocacy in the County with a special "Black History Month" program highlighting its struggles and successes in the quest for equal rights and opportunities for blacks.

The program which was held February 22, at the Carver Educational Services Center, in Rockville, Md., honored the 14-year leadership of Edith Throckmorton as chapter president as well as the organization's overall five decades of impact.

Throckmorton headed the civil rights group from 1962 through 1976.

The major event of the 50th celebration will be the annual "Freedom Fund" Dinner scheduled for March 29. It will pay tribute to the 50-year partnership and service mutually enjoyed between the NAACP and local black educators.

P.G. County Report

By J. Smith Cason

Glenarden's Mardi Gras

Upon entering the Gold Room of the Glenarden Town Hall there was a festive feeling of "The Splendor of Africa" — The theme for this year's Mardi Gras Ball.

The swelling of the drum beats, the partygoers dressed in bright dashikis and head dress, the make-believe safari decor with tigers, lions, and panthers staring from behind palm trees as if waiting to prey upon the inhabitants, the twirling of the illuminated crystal ball overhead, and the smell of the roasting pig set the mood for a grandiose evening.

King Arthur Cooper and Queen Alyce Cooper were serenaded as they entered the ballroom. During intermission, Maryland State Attorney Alexander Williams proposed a toast to the king and queen, who were seated center court. King Arthur and Queen Alyce were then joined on the dance floor by Mayor and Mrs. James Fletcher for a slow dance.

First place award for best dressed was presented to Pamela Blue. Emma Cary won second place honors. Connie Mack was a close contender with his ferocious orange and black tiger costume.

Jean Key, the Mardi Gras chairperson, stated that "she was very pleased with the support and attendance from the Town Council and staff, as well as the community."

Other committee members in attendance included: Lois Stephens, Verle Wilson, Eleanor Gaines, Cleo Green, James Clark, Hercule Clark and Alyce Cooper. Ethel Choice, the originator of the Glenarden Mardi Gras, was also in attendance. Maryland State Senator Decatur Trotter was among the masqueraders.

The Fabulous Esquires provided the entertainment for the affair.

* * * *

Prince George's County Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority presented its Fifth Annual Black History Observance at Glenarden Municipal Center, Glenarden. The theme for this year's observance was "Living the Dream Through Our Children." Esther Hardin served as mistress of ceremonies. Eddi Tisdale gave the welcome, followed by an invocation by Delores Guy. Glenarden Mayor James Fletcher extended greetings to everyone.

Antoine Sharpe, a fifth grade student from Nalle Elementary School in Washington, D.C., recited an essay on Black History. He presented the same essay and won in the Ninth Annual Velma B. Johnson Oratorical Essay Contest.

Other participants were Cymando Henley, a sixth grade student at Sligo Seventh Day Adventist School. Mr. Henley gave "A Chronological View of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr." The Ebenezer A.M.E. Junior Choir of Fort Washington, Md. rendered musical selections and poetry. Claudia Dabney served as directress of the program. Musical selections were sung by the Jeanette M. Johnson Intermediate Choir, First Baptist Church of Glenarden. Merlene Caldwell, directress.

Betty Shaw made the presentations. Remarks were given by Jean Key, who represented the Glenarden Recreation Council. Susie Bolling, first vice president of Delta Sigma Theta, delivered the closing remarks. The program ended on a spiritual note with the singing of Negro National Anthem: "Lift Every Voice and Sing."

ANNOUNCEMENT

HOLY LAND TOUR, November 11-18, 1987. Only $1,398 from JFK/NY.

INCLUDES: Round Trip Jumbo Jet Fare, Deluxe Quality Hotels, 3 Meals a Day; Complete Sightseeing, Transfers.

EXTRAS: Only $99 for Tips, Taxes, Border Crossing and Visa Fees, Airport Inspection Fees.

CONTACT PERSONS: Reverend C. Anthony Muse, Brandywine, MD, (301) 372-6130

Terri Reaves, Coordinator (301) 322-2906

Project HEART is a program co-sponsored by Prince George's Voluntary Action Center and the Prince George's County Public Schools that are recruiting volunteer tutors for targeted elementary and high schools.

According to information disseminated in the schools and communities, to qualify as a tutor, an individual needs only to have time, patience and some knowledge to share: (1) 2-4 hours a week; (2) during or after school. Orientation and training would be provided. Tutors would work with students who need improvement in basic skills.

Project HEART was on the agenda at the last Milliken II Steering Committee meeting. The meeting was held at Overlook Elementary School of Temple Hills. Jan Stocklinski, Comer Process Coordinator of P.G. Public Schools, along with other officials and citizens who attended the meeting, believe that there is a definite need for more volunteer tutors.

Schools needing volunteers are: Barnaby Manor Elementary, Oxon Hill (894-4550); Berkshire Elementary, District Heights (735-1896); Bradbury Heights Elementary, Capital Heights (420-4333); Chillum Elementary, Hyattsville (559-3956); Columbia Park Elementary, Landover (773-8402); District Heights Elementary, District Heights (568-6100); Dodge Park Elementary, Landover (773-1177); Forest Heights Elementary, Oxon Hill (567-2525); Glassmanor Elementary, Oxon Hill (839-6060); Green Valley Elementary, Temple Hills (894-8121); Hillcrest Heights Elementary, Temple Hills (423-6200); John Bayne Elementary, Capitol Heights (336-1200); Overlook Elementary, Temple Hills (423-4450); William Beanes Elementary, Suitland (420-7474) and Benjamin Stoddert Middle, Temple Hills (423-7600).

New cancer, nutrition program started

The National Cancer Institute, one of the National Institutes of Health, and Giant Food have started Eat for Health, a joint 4-year consumer education program on diet and cancer risk reduction.

The program is designed to inform consumers about nutrition, health promotion, and cancer risk reduction and to test the effectiveness of a supermarket nutrition education program.

According to Dr. Vincent T. DeVita, Jr., director of NCI, "This is an exciting project that enables NCI to give shoppers important dietary information that they can use at the very moment they choose their food. We hope this innovative approach will have a positive effect on food-buying habits."

As part of its nutrition education efforts, NCI encourages Americans to decrease their fat intake; and increase their fiber intake to 20-30 grams of fiberday, but no more than 35 grams a day.

This can be done by consuming more fruits, vegetables, and whole-grain breads and cereals and by eating less fat and fatty foods.

There's good news and bad news about the state of literacy

There is good news and bad news about the state of literacy in the United States. This is the conclusion of John Carroll, Kenan Professor of Psychology emeritus at the University of North Carolina, in a recent article.

The good news, widely circulated by such spokesmen as Archie Lapointe, director of the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP), is that "reading achievement over the last decade and a half is up" — though even Lapointe admits that we "are still a long way from our goals."

The bad news, according to Carroll, is that "the goal of 12th-grade literacy for all adults must remain only a tantalizingly remote possibility."

In his article, Carroll analyzes **The Reading Report Card**, which reports data on the reading achievement of 9-, 13-, and 17-year-olds over four national assessments from 1971 to 1984. He then compares the data from these assessments with those contained in **Literacy: Profiles of America's Young Adults**, which reports results of a 1985 assessment of the reading skills of a national sample of adults aged 21 to 25.

New methods of analyzing the results of these assessments have allowed researchers at the Educational Testing Service to construct a "reading Proficiency Scale" that can be used to compare the performance of populations in the various assessments and place them on a scale of five levels of reading proficiency: Rudimentary, Basic, Intermediate, Adept, and Advanced.

"It is now possible for the first time," Carroll writes, "to gain a nearly complete view of the state of literacy in the U.S." But the picture revealed by these assessments is not as hopeful as the one that the NAEP tends to report to the public and the education community. First, typical NAEP reports rely heavily on "average scores for various groups by age, race/ethnicity, and other relevant attributes."

But Carroll reminds us that "the average does not adequately characterize the distribution."

And it is in looking at the variability of specific portions of the distribution of scores that the NAEP data are most revealing — and at the same time most disturbing. For example, in considering trends over the four national assessments in reading, Carroll points out that, for "advantaged urban" students, "there are no significant trends or changes in performance over the four national assessments."

On the other hand, the data for "disadvantaged urban" students show much more change, and "on the whole, levels of skill for the disadvantaged group are higher in 1984 than in earlier years." Moreover, Carroll points out, the larger increases tend to occur in the lower portions of the distribution.

Ellington International festival slated

By Robyn-Denise Yourse
AFRO Staff Writer

To mention the name Duke Ellington is to evoke melodic mental stirrings of some of music's most enduring compositions — "Satin Doll" . . . "Caravan" . . . "Take the A Train," just to name a few.

These classics are but a small part of his legacies that will be remembered as the District prepares to pay tribute to her most famous native son in a month-long celebration.

Musicians and public figures gathered at Georgetown's Blues Alley earlier this week to unveil plans for the first Duke Ellington International Festival. The commemorative celebration will begin April 1, and will include a series of concerts by renowned jazz artists as well as the dedication of Ellington's birthplace at 1217 22nd St., N.W. as a historic landmark by District Mayor Marion Barry.

"In this city of monuments, there is nothing to mark the birthplace of one of Washington's most famous citizens," Grant said, citing this singular fact as the incentive from which the Festival evolved.

"And although the house on 22nd Street (formerly 2129 Ward Place) no longer stands," continued Grant, "it is both important and significant that a marker will be placed which acknowledges Ellington's birth site."

Clarke Terry, Jimmy Heath, Al Grey, Hank Jones, Butch Miles, Keter Betts and vocalist Anita Moore, will join local notables Larry Davis, Tommy Williams and Chuck Royal, who will, along with many others, provide the nucleus for a diverse and varied program.

Legendary tap stylist Charles "Honi" Coles and opera great McHenry Boatwright are also slated for performance, as is the Howard University Gospel Choir.

Other Festival activities scheduled will include a Cotton Club Nite at the Hyatt Regency on Capital Hill, and a "big band competition" among orchestras from local schools.

The "Duke's" music, which includes both secular and sacred compositions, provides the most profound insight into the man born Edward Kennedy Ellington to Daisy and James Ellington on April 29, 1899 at the little house on Ward Place, N.W.

Always the industrious maverick, Ellington left Armstrong High to develop his own poster design company. While still a high school student, he performed at the old True Reformers Hall, and shortly thereafter wrote his first composition, "Soda Fountain Rag."

The early 1920's found Ellington performing and later recording with many local bandleaders including "Toby" Hardwick, Arthur Whetsol and Louis Thomas. It was during this period that the slender young man from Washington, began to develop into a noted composer who would, over the next 50 years, give the world of music some of its most enduring melodies.

The legacy of Duke Ellington was further heralded in the 1981 Tony Award winning musical; "Sophisticated Ladies," a lush, whimsical review featuring many of his most noted compositions.

Ellington's distinct musical stylings often paralleled his gifts as a composer as in the case of the well-known piece, "Take the A Train." Although composed by another jazz great Billy Strayhorn, "Take the A Train" under Ellington's musical craftsmanship, became his signature piece.

William Johnson, acting director of the District's Department of Recreation echoed Felix Grants sentiments.

"I can think of no more appropriate means than to commemorate his birthplace and honor his music through this month-long festival," he said.

If Ellington were here, he would undoubtedly concur, and perhaps lyrically respond with, the words of his own composition, "I'm Just A Lucky So and So."

Photo by Courtney

REVIEWING the details of the Ellington International Festival set for next month were honorary chairperson Effie Barry; broadcaster Felix Grant who conceived the idea and Charlin Jazz Society head Charles Cassell.

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