

Dunbar High
School Class Of
1960 To Reunite

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Dunbar High School Class of 1960 To Reunite June 29-July 1



The reunion committee of the 1960 class of Dunbar High School is shown making last minute plans for their 30th class reunion at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence E. Bolling. Members present from left to right are: Lawrence E. Bolling, GERAL T. BUTLER, Chairperson, Patricia T. Dabney, and Danny McCain.

Members absent are: Barbara Ann Cofield, Fire Chief William Anderson and Deputy Sheriff Clarence Coleman. The festivities will begin June 29th and last through July 1st. Headquarters for the reunion will be Holiday Inn South.

On Saturday afternoon the group will sponsor an "All Family Picnic - Rain or Shine." The Class program is scheduled for 8:00 on Saturday night, which will be followed by a semi formal dance.

On Sunday the class will worship together at Rivermont Baptist Church. A farewell Party will follow on Sunday afternoon at the home of GERAL TURNER-BUTLER.

Alicia Jenkins re- ceives Ohio teaching award.

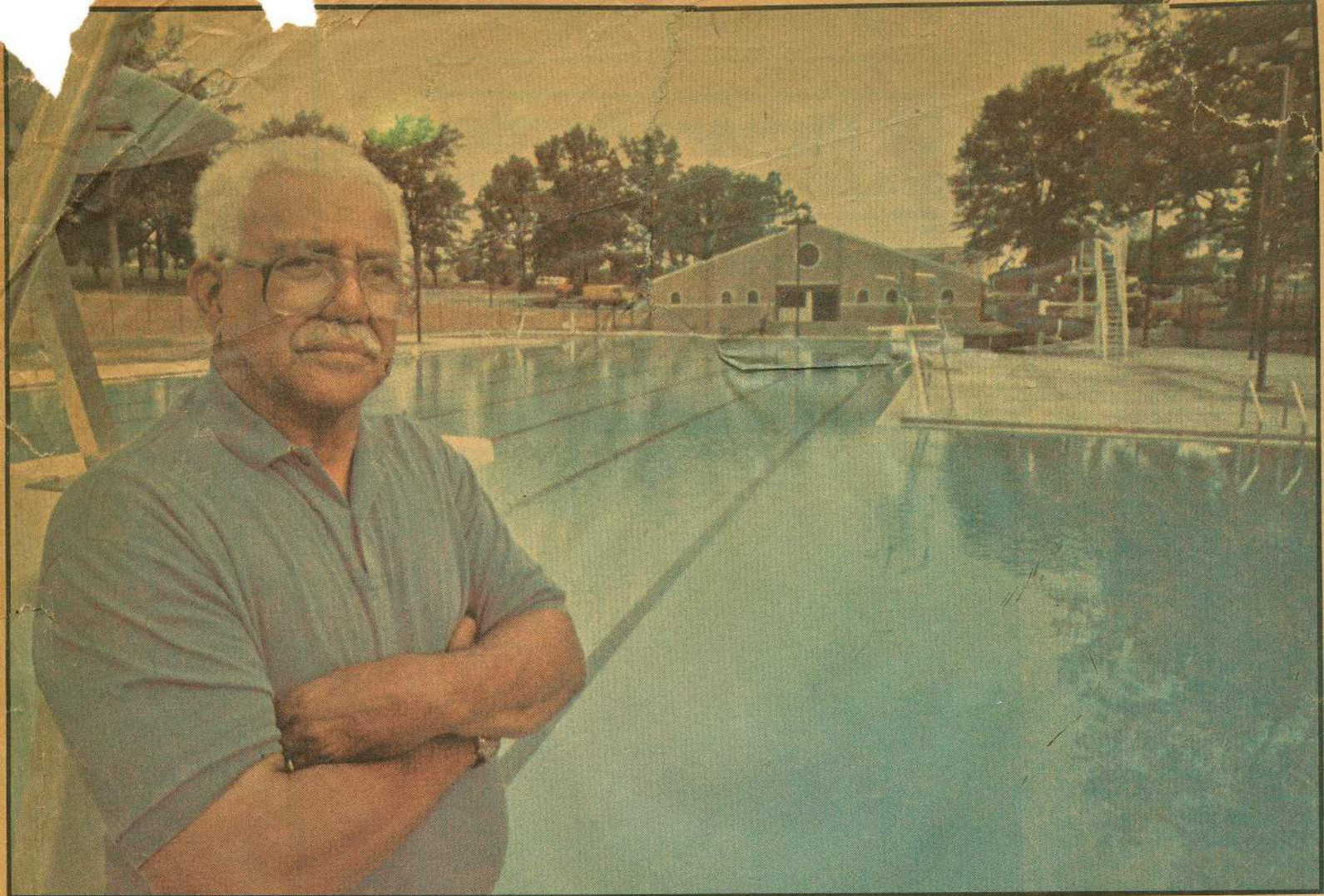


Alicia Jenkins

Alicia Jenkins of Columbus, Ohio, formerly of Lynchburg, was informed by William D. Armaline, Director of Field Experiences and Mr. Richard Murray, principal at Duxberry Park Alternate school, where she teaches, that she is one of 31 recipients of the "Honoring Excellence in the Teaching Profession" Awards for 1987 by the College of Education at Ohio State University, Columbus, Ohio. The College of Education Cooperating Teacher

Awards Banquet was held at the Ohio State University Golf Course. Dr. Donald Anderson, Dean of the College of Education presented awards to each winner following the dinner buffet.

Jenkins is a graduate of Dunbar High school; Elizabeth Cith State University, North Carolina; Masters Degree from Ohio State University and a Reading Specialist Degree from capital University also in Columbus, Ohio.



Staff photo by Aubrey Wiley

Olivet C. Thaxton, in front of new Miller Park pool, led the test of Lynchburg's segregationist policies

For Thaxton, 1961 Swim In was duty

By Marie Gresock
Staff writer

Lynchburg civil rights leader Olivet C. Thaxton is 68 now. His battles are mostly behind him.

Thaxton's hair has grayed. His life is relatively quiet, though he still gets an occasional phone call about purported civil rights abuses.

For Thaxton, the 1961 Miller Park Swim In was just another battle, another test of the city's racist laws that barred blacks from most public areas.

July 4 will be the 25th anniversary of the

Swim In, led by Thaxton to gather evidence against the City of Lynchburg for a lawsuit.

As temperatures climbed into the 80s on that July 4 afternoon, Thaxton and six young black children — their swimsuits and towels tucked under their arms — asked to enter the Miller Park pool.

They were turned away at the admission gate. Waiting for them were City Manager Robert D. Morrison, Police Chief R.P. Brooks and recreation department supervisor Floyd K. McKenna.

Thaxton was told that if they insisted on entering the pool, Morrison would order all three of the city's pools closed — including

the Jefferson Park pool for blacks.

Thaxton persisted. Morrison closed the pools. They never reopened.

Today, the all-white pool at Riverside Park is little more than an oval indentation, its blue walls barely visible above the grass.

A concrete terrace now leads to a bare field where the Jefferson Park pool had been tucked at the edge of the Dearington public housing project.

The Jefferson Park pool "sat in the bottom (of a field) and when it rained real hard, the mud would slide down right into the pool.

Please see Pool, Page A-2

"We told the police department that we were coming, but the police chief ... told us the Nazi party would be in town and he said there wasn't adequate police protection" for us.

"When I (got) to the money booth, I told the lady I wanted to get into the pool. She never said anything. I said, 'What is the fee to go into the pool?' "

"The police had formed a line all the way across, and the white people were behind that, and the black people were behind (them)."

Thaxton said either Morrison or McKenna, he can't remember which, said, "If you insist on getting in the pool, we'll close it. And I said, 'Yeah, I insist on getting in' and he blew his whistle and closed the pool."

Another local civil rights activist, the Rev. Virgil Wood, had told Thaxton, "I'm going to take your picture as (you're) going off the diving board."

"I never even got to the bath house," Thaxton said. "They closed the pool while I was at the admission booth. I never even got as far as the bath house to change my bathing suit."

Thaxton said Wood had asked him to lead the swim in. Parents were invited to send their kids along. "They wanted to swim. I don't think they understood anything about integration."

After the pool test, Thaxton and some friends went to the city armory to see if they would be allowed admission.

"We had reserved seats for a wrestling match, and they gave us our money back," he said. That, too, was added to the integration suit. Their perseverance paid off — the city began desegregating its public areas in 1963.

Thaxton paid a price for his commitment to racial equality. He had a contracting business during the '60s, but lost some of his business because of his civil rights activities.

He said it was an inexpensive price to pay. The Miller Park Swim was only a small battle in the war against racism.

Culpepper Heads Library Of Congress Microform Reading Room



Betty Culpepper

Betty Culpepper is the new head of the Library's Microform Reading Room in the General Reading Rooms Division, Constituent Services.

Comprising about four million titles, the Microform Reading Room's collections include books, serials, manuscripts, pamphlets, dissertations, government documents, broadcasting transcripts, and a variety of ephemera. The collection of doctoral dissertations is probably the world's largest.

A schedule reorganization of the General Reading Rooms Division is designed to facilitate collections development. Part of the plan is to integrate the subject organization of microforms with that of other collections. Culpepper's position, which she took in July, will then be transformed to head of the new Social Science Team.

A native of Lynchburg, Va., the daughter of Agnes Culpepper Witcher, and a graduate of Dunbar High School, Culpepper graduated *cum laude* from Howard University with a major in history. She also holds three master's degrees: one in history from Kent State University, a second in public administration from Howard University, and a third in library science from the Catholic University. She is working on a doctoral degree in political science at Howard.

According to L. Garnell Stamps, local educator, poet and TV show host, Dr. Sylvia Render said, "Betty Culpepper is the finest library researcher that I have encountered in the eastern portion of the United States.

Before coming to the Library, Culpepper held two positions at the Moorland-Spingarn Research Center at Howard University. She also served as chief of the Washingtoniana Division at the D.C. Public Library and as a branch librarian in Prince George's County.

She has written "Moorland-Spingarn: a Legacy of Collectors," a chapter in the book, *Black Bibliophiles and Collectors*, edited by Paul Coates and Elinor Sinnette and published by Howard University Press. Also to her credits is an article, "Genealogical Resources in the Moorland-Spingarn Research Center," published in the *Afro-American Historical and Genealogical Society Journal*. For her master's thesis in history, she compiled an annotated bibliography on Langston Hughes.

Culpepper speaks enthusiastically

ly of Moorland-Spingarn as the largest black studies collection in the United States except that of the Library of Congress, which she says is its complement in some ways. There is some overlap between the two collections, but each also has its own unique holdings in such areas as manuscripts and photographs.

Questioned about her motivation in coming to the Library, Culpepper spoke of LC as the "premier library institution," where superior service is provided by the best in the profession. She looks on her new job as an opportunity for self-development through association with top-notch professionals. She is also excited about the challenge of the team concept soon to be implemented in GRR and looks forward to honing her "people" skills.

Culpepper's new chief, Suzanne Thorin, is enthusiastic about "the strength she brings to the group through the sureness of her intellect and the quiet confidence of her personality." Her other key attribute, according to Thorin, is the "breadth and depth of her background in interdisciplinary studies."

A life so immersed in scholarship leaves little time for recreation, Culpepper admits. Not surprisingly, her spare time is largely devoted to reading and research. A fan of the Boston Celtics, she enjoys basketball as both a spectator and a participant. But mostly, the distinction between work and play is for her not a firm one. She looks forward to what she calls the "fun" of reference work, because "every day is different."

Businessman couldn't resist call of ministry

— **Carl B. Hutcherson Jr.** — Funeral director

Part of the church all his life

By CYNTHIA T. PEGRAM
Staff Writer

A man who has dealt daily with death, Carl B. Hutcherson Jr., remains a man who is committed to life.

Patience, humor, compassion and an intolerance for injustice are part of the personality of the man who bears the name of a city funeral service business and an elementary school — and who has been both undertaker and teacher.

"I had started out to be a lawyer," Hutcherson said with a rueful laugh.

But, at 38, he's a student in his final year of a three-year program at Duke Divinity School in Durham, N.C.

"I've been part of the church all my life," he said, "But I was called to the ministry in 1975." The place was the Holcomb Rock Baptist Church, and The Rev. N.S. Walker was giving his sermon. But, Hutcherson resisted. "It was like a tugging. I was trying to tug this way, the Lord was tugging that way. And of course, He won."

Hutcherson became a licensed

minister in 1978 and serves four small churches. His goal is ordination in the United Methodist Church and he must complete required training first. So, he and his family are living in Durham, N.C., while he attends divinity school.

Hutcherson is also head of his late father's funeral business, having graduated from the state's John Tyler School of Mortuary Science. In addition, he holds a degree in history and political science from Hampton Insitute, where he played football.

"It used to be that a black man had three choices: he could be a teacher, a funeral director or minister — I've been all three."

Born in Lynchburg — the third Hutcherson generation to live here — he attended Robert S. Payne Elementary School and graduated in 1962 from Dunbar, then the city's all-black high school.

His name had high visibility even then, because he was the son and namesake of one of the first black men to break racial barriers in the city. The list of the senior Carl B. Hutcherson's "firsts" is a long one and included being the first black



man to be on the city School Board and the first person still active with the board to have a school named after him.

But the elder's commitment to social progress and meeting the needs of his demanding business was not without cost.

"I didn't see a lot of him" Hutcherson said of his father who died in 1979. "That's one reason I came here, to work with him. I guess I missed some of the things little boys miss. I missed the fishing trips; the father-son talks, but I missed them as a child, I didn't miss them as an adult."

Hutcherson, who began his teaching career at Campbell County High School, was teaching at E.C. Glass High School and coaching cross-country, when his father became ill.

"I came here and I grew to love the business. It was the one time we had gotten the opportunity to really get close to each other — it's a small business, a 24-hour business,



and one that takes time.

"It's more ministering than anything else — you're meeting people at a time of their greatest need."

Becoming a funeral director had not been in his plans until his father needed him. And, the job is not an easy one.

"I've done work and cried the whole time.

"I think my faith has grown stronger. I can view their death in a more Christian light ... in the light that to be absent from the body is to be present with the Lord."

Some people suffer terribly from grief, he said, but he feels incapacitating grief can be overcome if the person tries to work through it.

"I believe that everybody should work through the grief process — that which takes you from anger to realization to final acceptance. It can be a long process or a fairly quick process."

But, overcoming grief is harder for some than for others.

"My dad was a gregarious person, a fun-loving person, up until the

time my mother died. He was a person who never worked through the grief process in the three years between their deaths — he just never recovered."

Hutcherson and his father grew up in the same city, but faced different problems. At Hampton Institute, the younger Hutcherson was active in sit-in attempts to racially integrate; his dad was not similarly active in Lynchburg.

"He was the kind of person who would do all he could to work in the system — we could still love each other, yet have differences of opinion. We all wanted the same goal, it's just how people go about it.

"Both ways helped. People like my father — and Bill Gordon, maybe Mr. (C.W.) Seay — those people were attacked on both sides. They were being called Uncle Toms in the black community, and they were just some more black folk in the white community.

"Yet, as I reflect on the so-called Uncle Toms, I can see how many of

them were struggling in their own way to bring about equality and justice, and served almost as meaningfully as those persons who marched in the streets. Because at least Uncle Toms were the ones who were allowed to sit down, were brought in and consulted."

Expansion is planned at the funeral home, Hutcherson said. The firm owns most of the land surrounding it, and plans call for expanding the building this summer.

But Carl Hutcherson's active participation in the business may be in doubt.

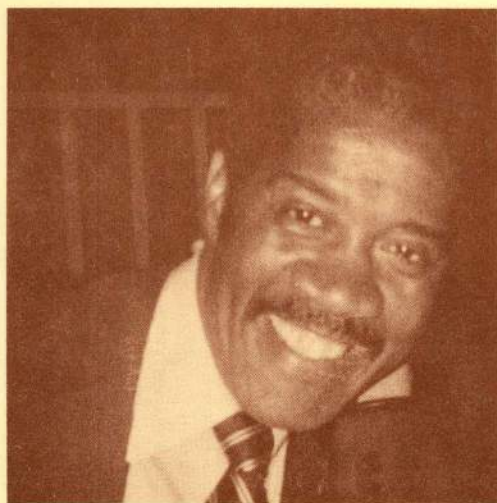
The United Methodist Church has an itinerant minister system. Following ordination, Hutcherson knows he may be facing reassignment out of the Lynchburg area. He hopes that won't happen, because the area has so few locally owned black businesses.

But he is first of all, a minister and if he is following in only some of his father's footsteps, it's because he's creating his own path.

B-4 THE NEWS & DAILY ADVANCE, Lynchburg, Va., Tues., Nov. 24, 1987

Army Col. Thomas O. Langhorne Jr., son of Laura D. Langhorne of Lynchburg, has been awarded the Legion of Merit in Falls Church. Langhorne is director of resource management with Headquarters, Criminal Investigation Command.

Memorial Service
In Loving Memory of



Hugh Christopher Banks, Ph.D.

January 22, 1929 — August 25, 1990

Thursday, August 30th, 7:00pm
St. Albans Congregational Church
172—17 Linden Blvd., St. Albans, N.Y.

"To set the mind on the flesh is death,
but to set the mind on the spirit is
life and peace."

—Romans 8:6

Death Notices

Paid death notices are offered to those who would like to print more information than appears in the obituary listings and other news columns.

Dr. Hugh D. Banks

Dr. Hugh D. Banks of New York City departed this life Friday. He was a U.S. Army veteran and a professor of psychology at New York University. He was a son of the late Richard A. Banks and Mrs. Dorothy Banks.

He is survived by one daughter, Sonia Banks, of New York.

Graveside services will be conducted Friday at 4 p.m. from Christian Aid Cemetery in Amherst, with the Rev. James Johnson officiating.

The family will receive friends Friday from 2:30 to 3:30 p.m. from Community Funeral Home Chapel.

Obituary

Hugh Christopher Banks was born January 22, 1929 to the late Richard Banks and Dorothy Massie Banks in Lynchburg, Virginia. He departed this life on Saturday, August 25, 1990 at New York University Hospital.

He received his B.S. and M.S. degrees with honors in Psychology at Howard University in 1950 and 1952 respectively. From 1952 to 1954 he served as a psychologist in the Korean war. Upon his return he was employed at the Veterans Administration in New York, and held additional positions at Pratt Institute, and the Bleuler Center for Psychotherapy.

In 1960, while yet a doctoral candidate at New York University, he was joined in holy matrimony to Olivia Coleman, mother of two children, Mulbah Coleman and John Coleman. To this union was born Sonia in 1962, an auspicious year, during which he also received his Ph.D. in Psychology. In 1965 he was appointed an Associate Professor at New York University, and held the position of Special Assistant and Assistant Chancellor from 1968 to 1975.

During the 38 years of his vocation, he served as a consultant to the Pennsylvania State Police, the Nabisco Co., and several eastern regional Veterans Administration Hospitals. He was also active in a great many professional and civic organizations including the: American Psychological Association, New York Psychological Association, American Association for Counseling and Development, Association of Black Psychologists, Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, and the Boy Scouts (Scoutmaster, Troop 381, Queens, N.Y.)

He leaves to cherish his memory, his wife, his children, his nephew Billy Banks, grand nephew Aaron Banks, sister-in-law Betty Banks and a host of friends.

May his soul rest in peace,
and light-perpetual shine upon him.

1946 Graduate

Dunbar High School

Salutatorian

Vice-President of Class

Death Notices

Lucius (Yellow) Patrick

Lucius (Yellow) Patrick of Detroit, Mich., formerly of Lynchburg, departed this life Saturday.

He was the son of the late T.D. and Rosa Patrick. He was formerly a member of the Diamond Hill Baptist Church deacon board. He graduated from Dunbar High School and Virginia State College and was a member of Wolverine and the Michigan Bar Association. He practiced law in Detroit, was a member of Omega Psi Phi and was a U.S. Army veteran.

He is survived by one sister, Mrs. Lillian Pennick of Detroit.

Funeral arrangements are incomplete.

Death Notices

The Rev. Royal Smith Jr.

The Rev. Smith was born March 21, 1930 in Lynchburg, Va. He was the oldest child of Royal Sr. and Dorothy Parker Smith. Educated in the public schools of Lynchburg, he graduated with honors from Dunbar High School in 1947. He attended Hampton Institute in Hampton, Va., graduating as a commissioned Army officer in 1951.

His service to his country continued for 20 years until his retirement as a major in 1971. While he began his military career as an artillery officer, he was among the first black officers to qualify and be assigned to the Counter Intelligence Corp. Serving in a classified position frequently, he was hand-picked for special intelligence assignment in the United States, Europe and Asia. He organized and commanded the first U.S. Intelligence Team for support of Non U.S. NATO Nations, received the Army Commendation Medal for excellence of command of 2nd Military Intelligence Detachment, and was cited by the president of the Republic of Korea for outstanding performance in the line of duty.

At the conclusion of his military career, Rev. Smith embarked upon a new career. He attended Hollins College in pursuit of a masters degree in psychology, completing his work at Lynchburg College in Lynchburg, with a masters degree in Special Education/Mental Retardation. As the first black unit manager at Lynchburg Training School & Hospital, he organized and directed the first state facility summer camp program for the severely and profoundly retarded residents. He was a part-time instructor for extension courses for the University of Virginia, Randolph-Macon Woman's College and Sweet Briar College. He served as assistant director of the O'Berry Center for Mental Retardation in Goldsboro, N.C., and later became the first black director for The Sunland Center in Fort Myers, Fla.

In 1985, he received a Masters of Divinity degree at Emory University in Atlanta, Ga. At his death, he was pastor of the First Atlanta Free Methodist Church in Atlanta.

Active in civic and social organizations, he was a member of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, the American Association of Mental Deficiency, board member of the Virginia Society of Mental Health and Mental Retardation, and a Master Mason.

He is survived by his wife, Mrs. Barbara Robinson Smith; three

children, Stephanie Smith, Germany, Shelley Smith, Lynchburg, and Scott Smith of Atlanta; two stepchildren, Melissa Robinson and Nigel Robinson, both of Atlanta; two sisters, Mrs. Doris McClain and Mrs. Elaine Merritt, both of Lynchburg; and one brother, Clarence Smith of Englewood, N.J. Many relatives and friends will also mourn his death.

Funeral services will be held Wednesday in Atlanta and interment services will be held Friday in Arlington National Cemetery. A memorial service will be held at Jackson Street United Methodist Church at 6:30 p.m. Thursday.

Death Notices

Mrs. Betty Davis Cooper

Mrs. Betty Davis Cooper of 1101 N. 23rd St., Allentown, Pa., formerly of Lynchburg, departed this life Tuesday, May 17, 1988.

She was born Sept. 30, 1948, in Lynchburg, the daughter of James W. Davis and Lillie White Davis of Lynchburg. She was a member of Altha Grove Baptist Church. She was a teacher and a graduate of Dunbar High School and Cedar Crest College in Allentown.

In addition to her parents, she is survived by her husband, Woodrow E. Cooper Jr.; two sisters, Mrs. LaVerne Burroughs of Decatur, Ga., and Mrs. Barbara Cofield of Lynchburg; one brother, Dr. Reuben McCoy of Timonium, Md.; one godchild, Darron Cooper; eight aunts; eight uncles; eight nieces; six nephews; her mother-in-law, Mrs. Ardele Cooper; her father-in-

law, Woodrow E. Cooper Sr., and other relatives, in-laws and friends.

A funeral service will be conducted at 2 p.m. Saturday in Altha Grove Baptist Church, the Rev. Warren Anderson officiating and Dr. N.S. Walker assisting. Interment will be in the church cemetery.

The family will receive friends at the residence of her parents, 415 Grayson St.

Community Funeral Home directing.

Death Notices

Martin J. Smith III

Martin J. Smith III of 3306 St. Luke Lane, Baltimore, Md., and formerly of Lynchburg, departed this life March 8, 1988. He was the husband of Mrs. Rachel L. Smith.

He was born in Lynchburg, the son of Martin J. Smith Jr. and Mrs. Gracie Richardson Smith of Lynchburg. He was director of the Boys Club, was formerly with the Baltimore Orioles and worked at the Gilmer School.

In addition to his wife and parents, he is survived by two sons, Marlon M. Smith and Martin L. Smith, both of Baltimore; two sisters, Mrs. Phyllis E. Spradley and Mrs. Theresa L. Younger, both of Lynchburg, and a host of other relatives and friends.

A funeral service will be held at 1:30 p.m. Sunday at Rivermont Baptist Church, the Rev. Harry Pilson officiating. Interment will be in Forest Hill Cemetery.

He will lie in state at the church from 12:30 p.m. until time of funeral.

The family is at the residence of his parents, 301 Grayson St.

Community Funeral Home directing.

LOCAL/STATE

The News & Daily Advance

B

Monday, December 29, 1986

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Both enjoy a key role in the city's schools



Staff photo by Jimmy Ripley

Dr. Leslie Camm, left, and Dr. Vivian Camm share addresses and employers
After parallel college careers, they moved to Lynchburg and became educators

Which Dr. Camm?

By Pamela Stallsmith
Staff writer

Sometimes it gets confusing.

Dr. Leslie Camm and Mrs. Leslie Camm are two different people. They share the same address, and they also have the same employer, Lynchburg Public Schools.

They are husband and wife.

Dr. Leslie Camm is one of two instructional supervisors with the schools. His wife, Dr. Vivian Camm, is an assistant superintendent for staff development and personnel services at the downtown office. She was the first woman named an assistant superintendent, and she is the highest ranking female in the city school system.

As far as any school officials can remember, they are the first professional couple to work in the school administration office.

They both work on the second floor at the office at 10th and Court streets, so when mail isn't clearly addressed, it's easy for their correspondence to get crisscrossed.

"When there's something addressed to 'Mrs. Leslie Camm,' we

aren't always sure who it's for until we open it," he said.

The same thing for credit cards — Vivian has accounts as Mrs. Leslie Camm, but because Leslie is both a male and female name, her husband sometimes runs into difficulty convincing clerks he's Leslie Camm.

There's also the situation of having two Dr. Camms at a meeting. "Usually, they'll call us 'Les' or 'Vivian,' but sometimes I'm called 'Mrs. Dr. Camm,'" Vivian chuckled. "But we have a really good relationship, so these things don't matter."

It shows. As they talk, one will look at the other as a question is answered, knowing the other will fill in overlooked information. A strong bond is obvious.

They met at Shaw University in North Carolina in 1958. She was the oldest of 10 and grew up on a farm in Harnett County, N.C. He was from Lynchburg and was attending Shaw on a football scholarship. They married three years later, in

Please see Camms, Page B-2

★ Camms

Continued from Page B-1

August 1961, after Vivian graduated and before Leslie's senior year.

"There was nothing odd about the two of them. They were the perfect couple," said Otis Tucker, who co-captained the Dunbar High School football team with Leslie in 1958. Tucker, the assistant football coach at E.C. Glass High School, and his wife, Yvonne, a physical education teacher at Linkhorne Middle School, went to college with the Camms.

Even the red and white colors of Leslie's Kappa Delta Psi fraternity and Vivian's Delta Sigma Theta sorority matched.

They both sang in the choir. Vivian, the majorette, cheered Leslie, the football player.

Both wanted to teach. When Leslie graduated, the Camms moved to Lynchburg. Leslie was raised on Garland Street, in the city's Dearrington section.

They climbed the educational ladder after joining the school system in 1962.

Leslie, a social studies teacher, taught at several schools, including E.C. Glass. He was director-principal of the former Lynchburg Learning Center.

After finishing his doctorate in 1976, he worked at Linkhorne Middle. He was assistant principal at Dunbar Middle before becoming principal of Kizer-Dearrington Elementary School. Last September, he moved to the central office.

Vivian began teaching at the Armstrong School. Following integration, she became a unit leader at Bedford Hills Elementary. After earning her master's degree, she became the system's reading coordinator. She became principal of Garland-Rodes Elementary School in 1977. She returned to the school's downtown office in 1984 to help de-

velop the staff development program.

Their work never seems to escape their conversation.

"I find my husband a good sounding board," Vivian said. "It helps sometimes having someone with whom you can discuss your job."

However, Leslie said they don't let it overshadow their first responsibility — their family. The Camms have three children: Valerie, 24, who recently married WSET-TV sports reporter John Organ; Les Jr., 16, an E.C. Glass student; and Larry, 7, a second-grader at Kizer.

Even though the Camms work in the same building, they don't see each other very often. "We've had lunch twice since Leslie came down here," Vivian said.

"In fact," she said during a recent lunchtime interview, "This is the longest I've seen him in a week."

Lynchburg, Va., Thurs., June 12, 1986

Native honored

A Lynchburg native was named Citizen of the Year for 1986 in Bluefield, W.Va.

Dr. Payton Randolph Higginbotham, born in Lynchburg in 1902, was presented the award at a recent meeting of the Greater Bluefield Chamber of Commerce.

Higginbotham, who practiced medicine in Bluefield for 60 years, was given the award because of contributions to the city, said Mayor Paul Cole.

Higginbotham, a general practitioner, was an organizer of the county's health board and an emergency ambulance service. He has worked at Bluefield State College's medical clinic since 1932. He still works for a regional hospital and has a private practice.

Peyton Randolph Higginbotham was a graduate of Lynchburg Colored High School - Tuesday, June 18, 1918

Two In A Row For Pi Phi (Note: 1966 graduate of Dunbar High School)

Dr. Pinn Receives Award

By Winfred B. Cross
The Charlotte Post

Dr. Melvin Thomas Pinn Jr., medical director of the Neighborhood Medical Center on North Alexander, is proud to be a member of the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity.

And apparently the organization is just as proud of Pinn. He was honored August 1 as the International Omega Man Of The Year, the highest honor the group gives to a member, at the fraternity's 66th Grand Conclave held in Detroit.

Pinn was selected as the 1989 winner, but did not receive the award until August 1. The fraternity holds its conclaves every two years.

Pinn was notified by a letter before he left for the conclave on July 29.

"I was jubilant," Pinn says about receiving the award. "It's actually very exciting to win that award. Of all the districts in the country and the international chapter, you've been selected the num-

ber one brother.

"It's also a honor when some of your frat brothers are people like Bill Cosby, Michael Jordan, Jesse Jackson and other national figures."

Pinn was voted Omega Man Of the Year by his chapter, Pi Phi -- one of the fraternity's 400 graduate chapters -- in 1989. He was then awarded the same honor by the Sixth District, which is comprised of chapters in the Carolinas.

The district honor made him eligible for the international honor. He was selected by the group's National Achievement Week committee over eleven other candidates.

Pinn also had the honor of being the second person in as many years from Pi Phi to win the honor. N.C. Sen. Jim Richardson won the award in 1988.

"That may be extremely rare," Pinn said. "I would have to research it, but I bet you it's never happened before."

Pinn, who is basileus

(president) of Pi Phi, became an Omega Dec. 9, 1967 at Johnson C. Smith University's Rho chapter. He began pledging in the spring of 1966.

Pinn was voted Rho chapter's Omega Man Of The Year in 1970. He was voted Citizen Of The Year by Pi Phi in 1986.

Originally from Lynchburg, Va., Pinn graduated from Smith with a degree in chemistry and physics.

While at Smith, Pinn was an All-CIAA tennis player and has remained an avid fan of the sport. He has won numerous national titles including the National Medical Association tennis tournament in 1989 and the National Tennis Association National Doubles Champion in 1981.

Pinn lives in Charlotte with his wife Evora and their three children Tanika, 14, Melva, 10, and Melvin III, 6. His mother, Mrs. Vera P. Tweedy and brother, Mr. David W. Pinn both reside in Lynchburg.

Dunbar grads gather in city for reunion

By GWEN FARISS
Staff Writer

Hundreds of Dunbar High School graduates gathered here this weekend as the Lynchburgers Club, Inc. held its first reunion in the members' home city.

Graduates who moved to Washington, D.C., years ago in pursuit of jobs formed the club in 1977 as a way for the Lynchburg natives to maintain contact with one another in spite of distance.

Lynchburg Vice Mayor M.W. Thornhill proclaimed Saturday as Lynchburg Day in honor of the 60-member group. Thornhill, an associate member of the club, said, "I took the liberty to invite them here. This is where their roots are. And they graciously accepted."

Lynchburgers began arriving Thursday night for the club's eighth annual reunion with the theme, "Back Home With Much Love."

Vernell Wright, membership chairman, said more than 600 people had registered for the weekend event.

A reception was held Friday night at the Radisson Hotel, where more than 200 of the visitors stayed. About 750 attended a disco Friday night at the hotel.

The weekend gathering also featured a festival Saturday on the Dunbar High School football field; a luncheon at the hotel, attended by about 300, and a ball and breakfast Saturday night.

The event was to conclude this morning with a church service on the Dunbar grounds.

Raye Scott, president of the club, said the club's roots began at a picnic in Washington in 1977 when several Dunbar High School graduates reunited. Friendly controversy exists over who thought of creating the club.

The Lynchburg reunion "has been tremendous," Mrs. Scott said. Tickets to the event were sold weeks ago and the hotel was booked to capacity, she said.

Jenny Smith, guest service representative for the hotel, said 208 Lynchburgers were registered at The Radisson on Saturday. A total of 380 people stayed at the hotel Friday night.

The Lynchburgers Club, Inc. probably will vote to hold another reunion in Lynchburg, Mrs. Scott said.

B

Monday, July 7, 1986



Classmates

Three of the members of the Dunbar High School Class of 1956 who helped plan the weekend reunion were, from left, Clifton O. Turner of Lynchburg, Raymond L. Holmes of Rockville, Md., the class valedictorian, and Helen W. Haskins of Lynchburg, the class salutatorian.

Staff photo by Jimmy Ripley

Dunbar alumni bring memories to reunion

By Steven Zweig
Staff writer

Thirty years after graduating from Dunbar High School, seven years after the all-black school was torn down, alumni gathered in Lynchburg for a weekend of reminiscing and reliving.

"The thoughts come back. You can almost hear the sounds" of the old school, said Helen Haskins, 48, next to Dunbar Turnpike. As the group of 48 — out of the 1956 class of 98 — toured the site of the old school, back, Haskins said. One class member did not know that Dunbar Middle School, the memories came marker the school building was demolished in 1979. A high school and a parking lot occupy the spot where the Haskins, a co-chairwoman of the event who joined a committee of eleven others to plan the reunion, frequently mentioned the memories the gathering was eliciting. And the love. The love shown by the teachers and classmates and parents.

"The love was planted early on. We are determined to keep the spirit alive," Haskins said. Theresa Mosby of Virginia Beach was a tennis star, ranked number 2 in the state, when she attended Dunbar in the 1950s. Among her hobbies is playing an airplane. But Saturday she was on the ground, riding in a tour bus and recalling transportation of a more pedestrian nature.

"On the tour I was reminiscing about how we walked from the stadium to Dunbar High, about how we used to walk from the school down to the corner of Ninth and Jackson to the old Hunton Branch Y," she said. The group gathered in the parlor of the Radisson to see a film strip about the school's 47-year-long history. In it, the narrator described how students were

forced to travel to Dunbar as best they could while whites were bused.

The Supreme Court's landmark decision in 1954 ended the "separate but equal" qualification, but blacks in Lynchburg considered the education provided by Dunbar to be equal, if not superior, to the education provided by the white high school, according to the film's narrator.

"Kids today don't have the same opportunity we had; they don't have the same dedicated teachers we had," said Odessa Dabney Thomas, who is an administrative secretary for a union in Washington, D.C.

"Dunbar was more than a pile of bricks," said Raymond Holmes, class of '56 valedictorian and a

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★ Dunbar

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computer systems engineer in Washington. "It represented a time in our lives when we were trying to prepare for a hostile environment of white racism that we didn't know existed. Our parents protected us from that hostile environment."

Holmes said the film should have focused more on the sacrifices of the parents, the uneducated busboys and ditchdiggers who sacrificed to see their children given an education, even if it meant doing without the curriculum and equipment of the white high school.

"I assumed a better school replaced it (Dunbar)," said Holmes. "That is more important. If that is what replaced it, then I have no ambivalence (about Dunbar closing). Black parents have done the most, they are the ones who have made us what we are... I am not as concerned about progress (in black education) since I was in high school, as I am about the work still to be done. This is just catching up," he said, adding progress will not have been achieved until the national statistics show blacks faring as well economically as whites.

"The film told an interesting story which needs to be told," said Ernest W. Mosby, president of the class of '56 and a deputy director of public affairs for the Maryland Department of Natural Resources.

"It has historical significance in the roots of black education in the city of Lynchburg. It was negative in the way (Dunbar) ended as a result of desegregation, which didn't have to be. There was a need for more than one high school in Lynchburg. One high school opened after Dunbar school closed," he said.

Dunbar High closed in 1970. Theresa Mosby and Ernest Mosby both felt the school should have remained open and been integrated.

"With the closing of (Dunbar) school, the educational community

lost a significant number of well-qualified black teachers," Ernest Mosby said, adding black teachers transferred to E.C. Glass when Dunbar closed did not go as teachers.

"They went as counselors, administrators, as hall monitors," he said.

The reunion brought together old yet familiar faces, some of which triggered a funny story or the memory of a humorous incident. For some, it was the first time they had seen their classmates in 30 years.

And the educational legacy continues. "A solid educational foundation never leaves you," said Ernest Mosby. He said he has taught in schools all over the world, and many could not compare with the quality of Dunbar.

Although the school lacked the best laboratory and athletic equipment, the former class president praised the desire of his teachers to give quality instruction, and ruminated about the change in parental attitudes between then and now.

"The parents in my generation were concerned about education. It takes parents and teachers to educate a child. All parents back then were sacrificing ...

"Being a minority they felt they were on the bottom rung of society. Education was the key out. Now the thought process has changed. Some parents don't pay as much attention to get out," he said.

The film strip ended with the alma mater of the old high school, sung to the tune of auld lang syne. The first refrain went like this:

"We love old Dunbar best of all,
The ideals for which she stands;
We are her sons and daughters
true

And we try to bring her fame."
The audience followed along, and some eyes in the house were not dry.

WEEKEND CALENDAR

Friday, August 3:

RECEPTION
6:00 P.M. - 8:00 P.M.
Popular Forest Room
Free Admittance

Friday, August 3:

DISCO
9:00 P.M. - 1:00 A.M.
Blue Ridge Ballroom
CASH BAR
(Admission by valid ticket, only)

Saturday, August 4:

FESTIVAL
10:00 A.M. - Until Dusk
Dunbar Football Field on Dunbar Drive

Saturday, August 4:

LUNCHEON
1:00 P.M.
Blue Ridge Ballroom
DOOR PRIZES
(Admission by valid ticket, only)

Saturday, August 4:

BALL AND BREAKFAST
9:00 P.M.
Blue Ridge Ballroom
CASH BAR
Music by: "STANDING ROOM ONLY"
(Admission by valid ticket, only)

Sunday, August 5:

CHURCH SERVICE
9:00 A.M.
Dunbar Grounds
Rev. Haywood Robinson, Pastor
(Auditorium in inclement weather)



Staff photo by John McCormick

Lucinda Booker, Loretta Preston, Bessie Coles, Dorris Mitchel, Geraldine Franklin, Deloris Wiley, cheer Dunbar on

Dunbar grads recall school days, revere achievements

By Laura Schaufert
Staff writer

Tears rolled down the cheeks of many Dunbar High School alumni Saturday as they clasped hands, rolled back 1,600 voices and filled the auditorium with an idea whose time had come.

We're pulling for you, Dunbar, dear... The voices rang out as old friends, family and fellow classmates swayed in the aisles, holding on to each other despite the heat in Dunbar Middle School.

"Just like old times..."

"Can't help it, it's a beautiful song..."
"Amen."

On stage stood Rosa Lomax Davies, class of 1939, who wrote the school song 50 years ago when she was 16 years old.

Saturday, she raised her voice with the graduating classes of 1923 to 1970, brought together for the first weekend-long "All Dunbar Reunion." In the past, single class reunions had been held in Washington, D.C. and elsewhere.

The party took place at the middle school because the building that housed Dunbar

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High School was torn down in the 1970s.

Davies shared the floor with city Vice Mayor M.W. Thornhill Jr., United Negro College Fund President Christopher F. Edley, and other celebrated Dunbar graduates and friends who gathered to remember the accomplishments of the defunct high school's 47 graduating classes.

Acknowledging that many of the all-black school's graduates had settled in Washington, D.C., where black people in the 1920s to 1970s found more opportunities than in rural Virginia, Thornhill applauded those who had stayed behind.

"I would like for you to know that all of us didn't leave," said Thornhill, class of 1940. "Some of us stayed. And I'd like you to know that we turned this city upside down.

"At the time, we said city hall was lily white. I want you to know it is now salt and pepper," Thornhill said, adding that blacks worked in every office in the building.

"We and Lynchburg have not been standing still. We have been rolling right along."

There to congratulate Dunbar alumni on their struggles and accomplishments were State Sen. Elliot S. Schewel, D-Lynchburg and Del. Edward R. Harris, D-Lynchburg. And although they didn't put in an appearance, former National Education Association president Mary Hartwood Futrell, who graduated from Dunbar, and Lt. Gov. Doug Wilder, who didn't, sent letters to the graduates extending their greetings and best wishes.

During the opening ceremonies, Thornhill beseeched classmates to donate to Wilder's gubernatorial campaign. Passing buckets around the auditorium, he reminded graduates that if elected, Wilder would be the first black governor in the country.

Master of ceremonies L. Garnell Stamps, a Lynchburg writer and history teacher, announced Wilder would attend one of several dances for Dunbar alumni Saturday night.

While most speakers focused on the large number of successful Dunbar graduates, many of whom became doctors, lawyers, judges and politicians, featured speaker Edley voiced concern over the lagging educational accomplishments of blacks nationwide.

"An insidious virus has struck.

We're not doing well with education in the 1980s," he said.

There is a drastic shortage of black teachers, he said. By 1995, less than 5 percent of American teachers will be black.

And, he said, the number of blacks dropping out of high school is increasing, while the number of blacks enrolling in college is declining.

Yet by the year 2000, most entry level jobs will require at least one or two years of college.

If blacks don't get more education, he said, they won't stand a chance in tomorrow's labor market.

Worse, he said, there were more black males in prison than there were in college.

Against that backdrop, Edley said, Dunbar graduates had a lot to be proud of.

Of the 49 graduates of Dunbar's 1931 class, for example, 31 went to college.

Ilean Thompson Lomax, 76, was one of them.

For her, the weekend gathering was more than a class reunion: it was a family reunion.

Lomax and five of her brothers and sisters, all Dunbar graduates, travelled from Michigan and North Carolina to remember their Dunbar accomplishments. Four of them went on to college, Lomax said.

Her family spanned 17 years of Dunbar's history. Her sisters, Cecil McCurry (class of '38), Josephine Jackson (class of '40), Thelma Thompson Jennings (class of '41), Phillis Thompson Guy (class of '48), and her brother, Melvin Thompson (class of '43), returned every year to Lynchburg, she said.

But this year's reunion was best of all, she said.

After the opening ceremonies, which lasted more than two hours, Dunbarians ate lunch, took trolley tours of the city, browsed through an arts and crafts show, and watched a talent show and alumni basketball games.

Six former cheerleaders, and some who always wanted to be cheerleaders, donned purple and yellow T-shirts and called up some of their old school spirit.

One, Sharon Stone Jackson (class of '66), said doing the old cheers as a 41-year-old was fun, but somehow not what she remembered them being.

"It's strange when you get this old," she said.

Proud Dunbarian

Editor:

It is with great pride that I write this letter. I would like to thank the planning committee for their success in putting together the Ail Dunbar Reunion. It was one of the most memorable events of my life.

I've always been proud to be a part of the Dunbar family, but after attending the events of Aug. 4, 5 and 6, it makes me all the more proud to call myself a Dunbarian. God bless you, fellow Dunbarians, and thank you.

DORIS MORRIS BERRY
Amherst
(Class of 1958)



Parks

• Allen L. Parks, a native of Lynchburg, has been elected vice president of Wachovia Bank and Trust Company in Greensboro, N.C. Parks joined Wachovia in 1971 as an examiner in the Winston-Salem audit department. In 1976, he became a Personal Banker in High Point, worked in the High Point retail loan department in 1978 and was promoted to Greensboro retail mortgage loan administration officer in 1985.

Parks holds a degree in economics from North Carolina A&T State University.

The News & Daily Advance, Lynchburg, Va., Sun., Aug. 20, 1989 - F-3

pushed old Dunbar to the top; she's the pride of every man."

DAVID M. CARRINGTON

Class of 1966

SANDRA R. DAVIS

Class of 1963

JULIANN S. EDWARDS

Class of 1970

Proud of Dunbar

Editor:

"I've had the time of my life" -
- these words almost communicate
the affection in our hearts for the
recent All-Dunbar Reunion.

The majesty of the occasion we
are sure will soon become legend.
However brief the moment, we
(Dunbarians) were together again.
So united were we, that time itself
shall never dim our memory of this
monumental event.

We are especially proud of all
our alumni who conducted
themselves with honor, dignity and
discipline. The respect, tenderness
and caring displayed by our
younger alumni to those
Dunbarians blessed with advanced
age shall forever be an uplifting
role model for children throughout
our city.

No letter would be complete
without ample praise for the
committees and any who
participated in making this reunion
a great success.

Be proud, Dunbarians, "you've

Editorial

Dunbar reunion offers milepost for civil rights

As an institution, Lynchburg's old Dunbar High School proved to be magnetic over the weekend as some 1,600 graduates of the school returned for the first ever All Dunbar Reunion. Nine hundred from out of town were joined by about 700 who live in the city or surrounding counties.

By all accounts it was a wonderful gathering of friends and former classmates who spent the reunion weekend rejoicing and celebrating. Previous individual class reunions had been held in Washington, D.C., and elsewhere around the country.

The school on 12th Street was the black high school in the city's racially segregated school system from 1923 to 1970, when integration led to its conversion to a middle school. The main building was torn down in the late 1970s.

The Dunbarians returned from all 50 states and four foreign countries, where they made their way successfully after leaving Lynchburg. Among them are doctors, lawyers, judges, politicians and educators. One of the most successful at the national level is Christopher F. Edley, Class of '45, who is president and chief executive officer of the United Negro College Fund, which raises money for a consortium of 41 black colleges around the nation.

Edley seized the opportunity to tell his classmates that the future for blacks is not as bright as it could be because they aren't getting the education they need. "We're not doing well with education in the 1980s," he said.

A drastic shortage of black teachers exists, he said, and by 1995 less than 5 percent of American teachers will be black. The number of blacks dropping out of high school is increasing while the number of blacks enrolling in college is declining.

The message was clear: If blacks don't get more education, they won't stand the chance that should be theirs in tomorrow's labor markets.

As for the civil rights effort here, a public forum convened on the subject Sunday evening accurately pointed out that blacks in Lynchburg have a ways to go. The gap between black and white has been narrowed, but it has not been closed. Much progress, however, has been made.

Lynchburg Vice Mayor M.W. Thornhill Jr. pointed to some of that progress in a presentation to the Dunbar graduates Saturday. A 1940 graduate of the school, he said he was one of the few who remained in Lynchburg and worked to improve equal opportunity for blacks.

"At the time, we said City Hall was lily white. I want you to know it is now salt and pepper," he said, noting that blacks work in every office in the building.

Some — by no means all — attitudes are changing. It will take more time. How much more is not clear.

A short message in the All Dunbar Reunion program from the editors took note of the hardships and sacrifices that those Dunbarians who stayed in Lynchburg endured. On this positive note, it added:

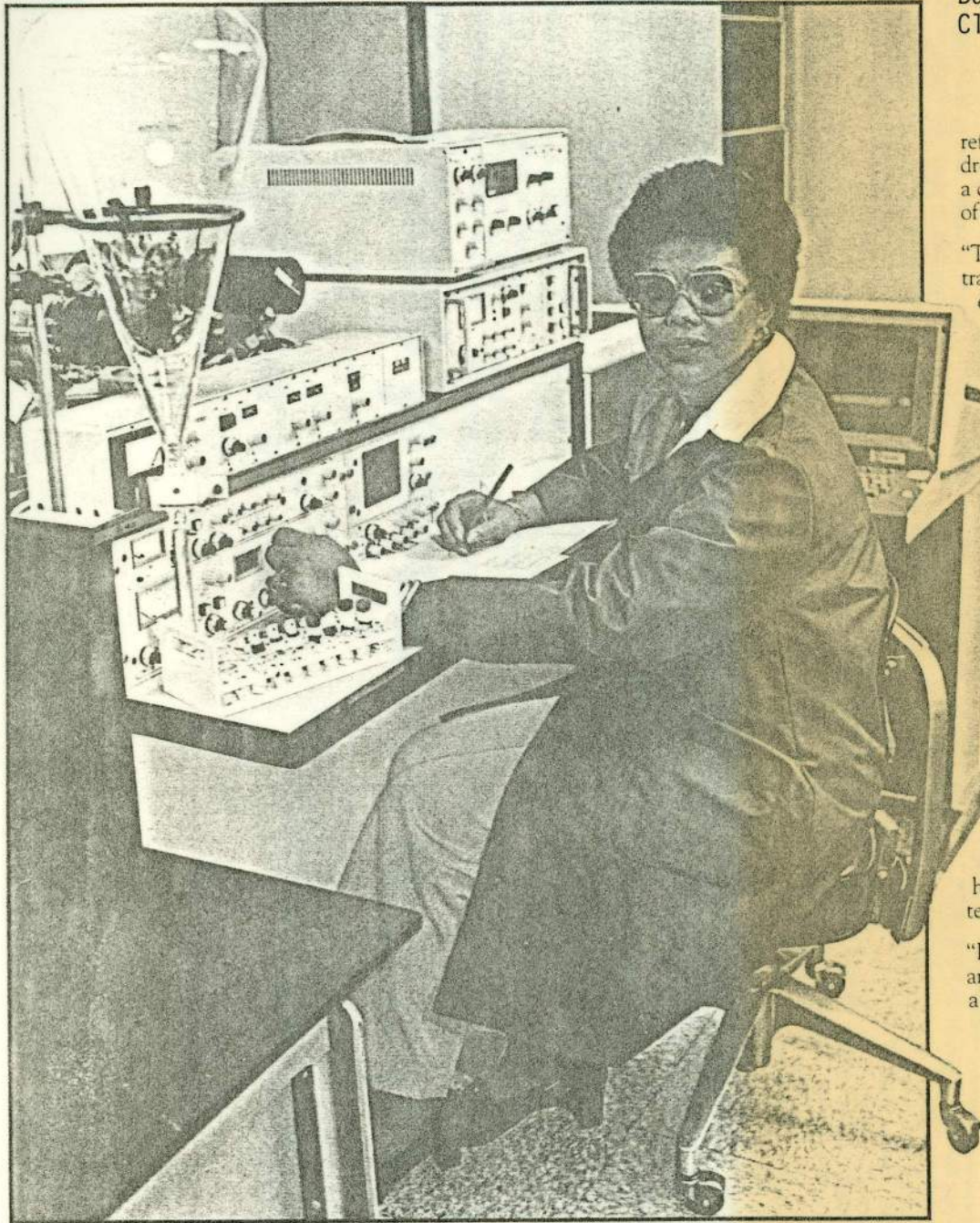
"They stayed with perseverance and contributed their talents to help build a city that strives to become the best in education, the best in government, the best in human relations, the best to deserve the title that it so recently earned, the All-American City."

Those are goals toward which everyone in Lynchburg, especially blacks and whites, ought to be working together. Those are the goals of a city that cares about its future and is willing to work harder to get there. Paul Lawrence Dunbar, we're confident, would not accept anything less.

"America is beautiful, and Gulf and I work at keeping it that way."

Evanda Gale Jefferson, Senior Chemist

Dunbar High School Graduate
Class of 1966



"It takes a lot of water to refine crude oil. We use hundreds of thousands of gallons a day in the cooling systems of our refineries.

"That's where I come in, my training in analytical and environmental chemistry includes the inspection and testing of incoming water. I'm part of a team that makes sure that after we use the water, it gets pumped back into our rivers and lakes even cleaner than when we took it out.

"Responsible energy management is a big challenge. It costs money and takes trained people to do the job. I am one of the first chemists to take part in Gulf's training program in advanced environmental research and management techniques. Gulf has a commitment to keep the oil flowing. We also have a commitment to protect the environment.

"I'm proud of my position and Gulf's contributions to a better environment."

Human Energy: America's greatest resource.



Business People



Langhorne

• **Horward R. Langhorne**, assistant vice president and manager of the Lynchburg main office of Central Fidelity Bank, has been promoted to vice president, and **William D. Claman**, systems analyst, has been named bank officer.

Langhorne joined Central Fidelity in 1978 as a management trainee, was named senior credit analyst in 1980 and assistant Vice President and manager of the Credit Department in 1981. In 1982, he became assistant manager of the main office and was promoted to manager in 1984.

A graduate of Hampton University, Langhorne holds a bachelor's degree in accounting. He is also a graduate of the Virginia School of Bank Management at UVA and has completed a number of courses sponsored by the American Institute of Banking.

Great experience

Editor:

Hats off to the Executive Committee of the "All Dunbar Reunion!" The arrangements were so perfect that it seemed as if professional planners had been employed to pull it off.

Memories shared will last forever — the Dunbar spirit, the joy of seeing former classmates and instructors, the program, the religious service, the recreation, and just plain old fun. The courtesies shown by residents and city officials were excellent. It seemed as if everyone went out of their way to make our visit pleasant.

Thanks, Executive Committee, other persons assisting, and the City of Lynchburg for making the "All Dunbar Reunion" an experience never to be forgotten!

FRANCES ABRAMS WILLIAMS
Greenbelt, Md.

Business People



Lewis

► **Lemuel E. Lewis**, vice president/administration of the Broadcasting and Video Enterprises Division of Landmark Communications Inc., has been named vice president and general manager of KLAS-TV in Las Vegas, Nev.

Lewis, a 1965 graduate of Dunbar High School in Lynchburg, joined Landmark in 1980 as assistant treasurer and moved through several sales management positions to his present post. He is a member of the UVa Board of Visitors and serves as a director and treasurer of the Planning Council in Norfolk.

Landmark is a privately held media company, publishing seven daily and 23 semi-weekly newspapers, shoppers and free newspapers with a circulation of more than 330,000 and newsprint magazines in various locations.