

# Writers Forum

by George E. Rus



W. P. EDWARDS

When "Ma Ola" wrote home and mentioned that it would be wonderful if a Family Reunion could be arranged while she was visiting the old hometown, she had no dreams that the suggestion would be met with more than a nodding acceptance, or, a promise that next year will be a better year for "flushing out" the multitude of relatives throughout the land.

First of all, the grand-dame had no idea that her suggestion had been casted in the channel of good timing and was readily swept into the floodgates of good fortune. This is the season of Family Festivals and the spirit of breaking bread together is high on the social list of many Durhams. Therefore, "Ma Ola's" suggestion was met with more than good natured dissonance.

Plans for a "One Part" Family Reunion was blueprinted immediately and carefully labeled "secret element-of-ma-Ola's" vacation. Mrs. Ola Hargrove motored down from Dorchester, Mass. with her grandson Joe Decatur, Jr. The July heat wave had reached the noontime when Joe's station wagon parked in front of the home of Mr. and Mrs. Albert Ransom of Hamlin Street. Mrs. Hargrove stepped out of the car, Daisy fresh. If the Family Reunion had been in progress, she was ready to meet the people. But, unbeknownst to her reunion, still in its preparatory stage, was a week off. The sparkle in her dark, penetrating eyes betrayed her great joy at being home "once more and again."

In no time flat, "ma Ola" was swamped with invitations from friends and relations to be special guest at small supper parties, coffee klatches or a dinner party: Mr. and Mrs. Henry Holman of Gray

Edwards' Family Reunion began unfolding. The home of Mr. and Mrs. W. P. Edwards (Pratt) of 1207 Hazel Street was the gathering place for the Edwards' germane. And "Ma Ola" donned her prettiest smile and formed her own reception line to greet the arrivals one and all.

A Saturday afternoon cookout was the pacesetter for the main event of the reunion. Food, family joshings and excellent weather were natural inducements for a return engagement—Family Dinner on Sunday.

The cookout included charcoal grilled steaks, hamburgers, hot dogs, potato chips, soft drinks and Eastern Carolina watermelons; happy children and proud parents. Sunday morning was a crystal-clear day filled with the

auspiciousness of a salubrious day ahead for the Edwards' household and kinfolk; though miles apart, were, together heart to heart.

Mrs. Elizabeth Edwards was the hostess for this sacred and festive, semi-formal occasion and, as usual, our gracious hostess left no detail to idle that might contribute to the health, happiness and welfare of everyone in attendance of Part I of the Edwards' 1973 Family Reunion.

A color scheme of green and white set the stage for an assortment of garnished bowls, platters, trays and covered dishes: sparkling crystal reflected the beauty of the gleaming green and white table setting.

Soft music in the background was a framework for the happy greetings and

merry laughter of the adults—and the finger popping of the starry-eyed children.

Part I of the Edwards Family Reunion was a huge success and many thanks are extended to all who contributed to this Family Festival:

Mr. and Mrs. W. P. Edwards, Mrs. Ola Hargrove-Dorchester, Mass.; Mr. and Mrs. W. P. Edwards, Jr. and daughter Wendy—Atlanta, Ga. Mr. and Mrs. John Wilson Edwards and children: Brain and Robin; Mr. and Mrs. Clark Witherspoon and children: Marsha, Anita, Loria, Joyce; Miss Julia Harris, Joe Decatur, Jr., Miss Elmira LeGrand, Mrs. Minnie Fikes; Mr. and Mrs. Albert Ransom, Tracey Creese—Augusta, Ga.

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## Kenyan Gov't Bans Asians from Trading in Their Country

NAIROBI — (NBNS) — The Kenyan government has banned more than 1,000 businessmen, most of them British citizens of Asian descent, from trading in this country.

Announcing the government's decision, which had been reported by the National Black News Service more than six months ago, was Commerce and Industry Minister Julius Kioko. He pointed out that highly specialized businesses had been

exempted and said care had been taken to avoid confusing Asians who are citizens of Kenya and non-citizen Asians. The merchants have until August 15 to appeal the decision and until December 31 to close up their businesses, according to the announcement.

The move by the Kenyan government, which follows that of the Ugandan government months ago, was made in an effort to Kenyanize the economy, a policy which

has been consistently referred to by President Jomo Kenyatta.

According to the government, a total of 1,100 businesses are affected, 466 in the capital, and others spread throughout the country.

Last January, 400 non-Kenyan Asians had their business licenses withdrawn by the government.

Minister Kioko told reporters that the majority of those affected were Asians holding British passports, but he refused to give the exact number involved.

In the future, according to Kioko, foreign businessmen in Kenya and abroad will have to ask Africans to represent them and distribute their products.

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