



## B-1 United States Navy Band Holds Reunion At Chapel Hill Holiday Inn

The B-1 United States Navy Band held its reunion last weekend at the Holiday Inn in Chapel Hill.

From Friday evening's "Get Reacquainted" hour through Sunday mornings Memorial Service, followed by a business meeting, band members and their families from across the United States recalled happy and sad times.

This first all-Negro Band dates back to April of 1942 when plans were advanced to organize a 44-piece band for the U. S. Navy Pre-Flight School scheduled to be commissioned the following month at Chapel Hill.

With the aim of creating the band from the best Negro musicians available in North Carolina, the Navy Department sent Chief Bandmaster C. E. Dudrow, USN (Ret.) to North Carolina to select the bandmen and supervise their early training.

On May 27, 1942, the selected musicians assembled in Raleigh and entrained for Norfolk, Va., and nine weeks of Navy indoctrination. It was essentially a college trained group, one-third of them being college graduates, and almost all of the remainder having had at least

two years of college work to their credit.

Reporting to Chapel Hill on July 31, 1942, the band was housed in a new building started as a community center for the Negroes of Chapel Hill. They played at regimental reviews, war bond rallies, parades, ship launching, concerts and at athletic events.

Following the tour of duty at Chapel Hill, the band was transferred to the U. S. Naval Barracks, Manana, Oahu, Hawaii, May 24, 1944 until the end of World War II. A few new members were added there.

After the war, the members became lawyers, doctors, teachers, businessmen, entertainers and some went into other endeavors.

Co-sponsors of this reunion were Robert Brower of Winston-Salem and Simeon O. Holloway of Altadena, Calif.

Judge James P. Parsons who was leader of the band, delivered the major address during dinner on Saturday evening.

Deceased members, memorialized on Sunday morning with J. D. Morgan as master of ceremonies, are: William H. Cole, Julian B.

Jordan, Alvin Butler, James B. Scott, Sherman Williamson, Robert Tate, John Carlson and Willie Judkins.

Living members of the band not previously mentioned are: W. E. Carson, John Clay, Willie E. Currie, Thomas J. Gavin, W. T. Gibbs, William Gison, Arthur W. Guy, Walter F. Haith, Otto D. Harris, W. R. Herring, Robert A. Holland, Roger F. Holt, Silas A. James, R. H. L. Jones, Thomas A. Keller, Roy Lake, Bennie D. Lakin, Juey L. Lawrence, John Mason, Maurice O. Miles, Nathaniel Morehead, James D. Morgan.

Calvin F. Morrow, Raymond Pettiford, Herbert E. Reeder, Robert Sellers, Rayland V. Siler, William E. Skinner, Melvin P. Thomas, Abe Thurman, Melvin L. Wall, Jewitt L. White, Lawyard L. Wilson, Charles L. Wood and James C. Youse.

The next reunion is now set for 1980 in Chapel Hill.

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JUDGE PARSONS

## PARDONS FOR W10

[Continued From Front Page]

innocence from a variety of political and religious groups throughout the State of North Carolina. He recently met with defense attorneys and the families of the "10" following a 125 mile march through North Carolina organized by the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC).

In expressing optimism, however Ms. Kazana indicated that hers and other support groups are continuing the effort to gain additional support for Rev. Ben Chavis and his 9 co-defendants. "Part of the battle in getting Governor Hunt to act is letting him know that the effort is growing, that people are concerned, and that he will be

ruined politically if he fails to grant these pardons".

The Wilmington 10, nine young black men and one white woman, were convicted in 1972 of burning a grocery store. The charges stemmed from a school boycott and other racial demonstrations in Wilmington in 1971. Last May, a superior court judge denied the group a new trial despite the testimonies of three former prosecution witnesses who stated under oath that they lied for the state at the 1972 trial. The nine black men are serving prison terms averaging more than 28 years. Ann S. Turner is now free on parole having been convicted of a lesser charge.

## PRODUCERS

[Continued From Front Page] eight years, Maslansky said, Abby Mann interviewed major civil rights figures gathering material for the film's script, including U. N. Ambassador Andrew Young, Mrs. Coretta King, Dr. King's widow, Rev. Fred Bennett, and Atlanta Mayor Maynard Jackson.

But Rev. Hosea Williams, in a separate interview, said many of the figures that Mann portrays did not participate in some of the events they were attributed to have played major roles in the film. Williams was King's field general.

One example Williams says is the scene of the "Selma March" in which Williams was a key organizer. Williams charged that U. N. Ambassador Andrew Young did not participate in the march but was given a major role in the march by film-writer Abby Mann. Maslansky rebutted saying "we depict Andy Young for the sake of 'dramaturgy' in the march but I don't think that's perverting history". Maslansky speculates that Williams and others are jealous because they were not included in the film.

The effect of the film upon the public's conception of history is where the present controversy lies. C. T. Vivian contends that the distortions in the made-for-television movie will be taken by many as the truth and will have a detrimental effect upon the civil rights move-

ment. Civil rights attorney Jerry Paul, hired by Dr. Ralph Abernathy to stop the film's presentation on NBC affiliate stations, says that Dr. Abernathy has been defamed in the film. "No matter how much they disclaim and how much they say this is a fictional thing, people assume that this is a documentary," Paul comments.

Maslansky admitted that Dr. Abernathy had been asked to sign a release to Filmways so that Abernathy could be depicted in a fictional manner and Abernathy refused. A release is not needed from public figures when their portrayal is not defamatory. According to one SCLC source many of the characters that appear in the film have signed releases.

Hosea Williams, after seeing several of the film clips said the film has Abernathy around to "tell a few jokes, and (be) just a jolly fellow" and is a "great injustice to history."

All of the SCLC criticism has been clearly attacking King depicted as "manipulated by whites" and the fact that the film is

written by a white writer and produced by a white network. Maslansky countered surprisingly saying that such charges were "racist" and "unfounded" and that "every attempt" had been made to hire black technicians, which he says have been hired in greater numbers than in the production of Alex Haley's "Roots".

So far as black writers are concerned, Maslansky is quipped with a metaphor, "that's like saying the life of Jesus has to be written by a Christian, or the life of Mohammed had to be written by a Muslim. I mean, that's a racist remark. Its a pure and simple racist remark that has nothing to do with the non-violence of Dr. King."

Two black film writers took a different view calling the film making industry racist. One writer said "to have Dr. King's life written and produced by whites is certainly ironic because you've got them exploiting the oppression that they are presenting." The writer went on to say that if producers had wanted a black film writer and a black network that could have been done.

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