

Livingstone — 100 Years Old And Looking Forward

By Mae Israel
From The Star of Zion

"I do not care how dark the night, I believe in the coming of the morning."
— Dr. Joseph C. Price

SALISBURY — The young black college was about to perish, but a black preacher with an argument "so exquisite it struck like fire", stirred a group of white Southern businessmen to donate \$1,000.

It wasn't easy 97 years ago for Dr. Joseph C. Price to capture support for Livingstone College, especially when most of the other colleges for blacks were being organized by whites.

Price's plea for help resulted in the college's getting one building and forty acres of land on the western edge of this textile and farming community, nestled halfway between Greensboro and Charlotte.

Livingstone College, which began its 100th anniversary celebration [this month], survives as a monument to Price's relentless determination for a black college to educate the whole man, "his hand, his head and his heart."

The small coeducational institution actually was begun in 1879 in Concord under another name (Zion Wesley Institute) by the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church. From its meager start, Livingstone has flourished against the tides of rising costs, competition from predominantly white universities and lean resources.

Through its first eighty years, the college existed without any state or federal aid, depending on philanthropy, alumni and the financial support of the AMEZ Church. It has kept its black identity.

Livingstone, a 22-building liberal arts college and the Hood Theological Seminary, is anchored by Price's philosophy: "I do not care how dark the night, I believe in the coming of the morning."

The school's buildings are scarred with age; the blacksmithing, shoemaking and rigid student regulations of an earlier era have vanished. College faculty no longer live just across the street; required weekly oratorical sessions are little more than a silent echo.

There is an inevitable new atmosphere, but the educational quality which produced the first black neurosurgeon in the country, several college presidents, and black orators still is important.

"We're in this business forever," asserts Dr. George Shipman, school president. "If we made it 100 years, we were doing something right. Desegregation has had its impact. Our biggest problem is still money. But we have a special mission."

"We put emphasis on motivating, taking students from disadvantaged backgrounds and inspiring them to learn. We make sure the student believes he is somebody."

Shipman and the college trustees this year are promoting a five-year \$5 million fund-raising campaign, the construction of new buildings, faculty development, student financial aid, and campus beautification.

Competition from predominantly white universities has forced the college to develop an intense recruitment program.

As the changing, growing Livingstone embarks on its future, it still clutches its history, its college family.

—In December 1892, the country's first black intercollegiate football game was played on campus between Livingstone and Johnson C. Smith University at Charlotte, then Biddle University.

—It was one of the few colleges started in the 1800's by blacks for blacks and has remained under black administration.

—Livingstone is named in honor of David Livingstone, a British missionary to Africa. Price changed the name from Zion Wesley Institute after he learned Livingstone's son was buried in the National Cemetery at Salisbury following the Civil War.

—And, in August, 1942, Livingstone captured the attention of [Mrs.] Eleanor Roosevelt, who spoke there during a general convention of the AMEZ Church.

The former first lady was accompanied to the college by Mary McLeod Bethune, a civil rights leader who served on what was called the "Black Cabinet" of the Roosevelt administration.

"Oh, it was a big theme, we had the wife of the President," remembers Mrs. Josephine Price Sherrill, the 86-year-old daughter of the founder of Livingstone. "We had so many prominent people. We had recitals with people from all over — Marian Anderson, Booker T. Washington, Roland Hayes — all of the leading entertainers and musicians of the day."

Mrs. Sherrill, who still lives in the Price home, a stately house guarding the gates of Livingstone, was born a few months after her father's death, but knows about him through her mother and her years as a student at Livingstone and as head librarian for fifty years.

"He was a great orator and had the power of persuasion and influence," she said. "We used to have literary societies to give students a chance to become accustomed to argumentation and debate. It provided the rudiments for careers in law and education."

One of Price's students, who attended the college in 1903, described him as "the strongest, sturdiest oak the race had. He (Price) was nearer the people than (Frederick) Douglass. He was the Langstone with egotism. He was (Booker T.) Washington without his compromises. He was the best that was in the three."

Mrs. Sherrill, who remains active in college activities, is proud of Livingstone. "It was difficult," she said. "The presidents had to do a lot of speaking to try to get funds to keep the college going. The choir performed around the country. It has been a struggle but we have kept going. There will always be a Livingstone. We'll make it somehow."

The thread of assistance which Mrs. Sherrill believes will sustain Livingstone, has been characteristic not only of her father. The college is wealthy with family personalities and devotion.

There is the Duncan family firmly tied to Livingstone by education, leadership and moral and financial support.

Dr. Samuel E. Duncan Jr., president from 1958-1968, returned to the college "to give back ten years of education he had received there."

"He planned to build eight new buildings in ten years," explained his sister, Dr. Elizabeth Duncan Kooztz, assistant superintendent of the State Department of Public Instruction and also a Livingstone graduate. "He died ten years and ten days after accepting the presidency. He was getting up and dressing, getting ready to sign for the last building when he died."

The Duncan parents met and married at Livingstone; five of the seven children attended its high school and college. Miss Julia Bell Duncan serves as the college's registrar and treasurer for 47 years; John B. Duncan, a Washington D.C. attorney is a member of the board of trustees.

The Duncan contribution to Livingstone is described of the college community as "humanitarian leadership." Mrs. Louise Roundtree, the college research librarian who lived at the Duncan home for 22 years, can't recall days when Julia Bell Duncan wasn't making a loan to a student who needed help; or when the family home wasn't stuffed with friends and college visitors.

"Julia Duncan was a walking, talking, encyclopedia, Miss Livingstone," Miss Roundtree explained. "She was strict and dependable."

Dr. William J. Trent, Jr., whose father served for 32 years as president of Livingstone (1925-1957), fondly remembers Sam Duncan and the brotherly talks they had just before he died. "He knew he had a bad heart and the doctor tried to get him to stop," Trent said. "He had a way of getting people to do things they didn't know they were going to do."

Trent, also a Livingstone graduate, was the first executive director of the United Negro College Fund, an instructor at Livingstone and Bennett College in Greensboro and a member of the Department of the Interior and staff during the Roosevelt administration.

His father is recognized for receiving the AME Zion Church contributions to the school by establishing an annual Founder's Day rally and relieving the small college of several hundred thousand dollars of debt.

Trent is a staff assistant at Bennett, working closely with Bennett President Isaac Miller, also a Livingstone graduate.

As do other alumni, Trent says there was a special closeness between students and faculty while he was at Livingstone. Dr. Kooztz similarly described a "strong spirit of brotherhood."

No longer is Livingstone College the farm where students in the 1900's raised food for the dining hall table; or the rush to whitewash trees in anticipation of special guests; or the brick yard that sold thousands of bricks to Salisbury citizens while students constructed the school's first buildings.

The old uniforms have faded away to fashionable clothes and student briefcases. The religious atmosphere "which almost compelled a man to turn from his wicked ways and make a sinner powerful lonesome," doesn't saturate college life. There is religious emphasis, however, at the theological seminary.

The small, private, church-related college in 1979 is basking in history and preparing for a future.

Joseph Price's words, "I do not care how dark the night, I believe in the coming of the morning," are reinforced with each singing of the college song: O Livingstone, my Livingstone, When thou art old with age, Thou, too shalt hold a noble place

That's bright on memory's face, And in the sky no cloud shall be Instead, the sun shall beam. Prosperity shall live always. Amid its golden gleam."

Durhamites Attend Workshop

RALEIGH — Mrs. Jessie Lucky, Mrs. Lillie Edwards, Mrs. Mary M. Young and Thomas Davis of the Durham City Schools attended a two-day workshop conducted recently by North Carolina State University's School of Engineering for teachers and administrators of school systems participating in the Southeastern Consortium for Minorities in Engineering, Inc. (SECME).

"SECME's goal is to increase the numbers of underrepresented minorities in the engineering profession," according to Ms. Carolyn Chestnut of Atlanta, Georgia, executive director of SECME.

"Blacks, Mexican-Americans, Puerto Ricans

and American Indians are the major target groups," she said. "Through SECME efforts, students receive academic enrichment and motivational experiences to help them prepare for university level programs, particularly in science and engineering."

Presentations included information on how to write proposals for SECME grants, a discussion of SECME and its goals and an overview of the Junior Engineering Technical Society.

Participants reported the techniques suggested will help teachers to motivate math and science students and will help improve student attitudes that are basic to good performance in math and science.

A FIRST GRADER'S LETTER TO THE HOSTAGES

(This is a sample letter written by one of the boys in Mrs. Grady's class.)

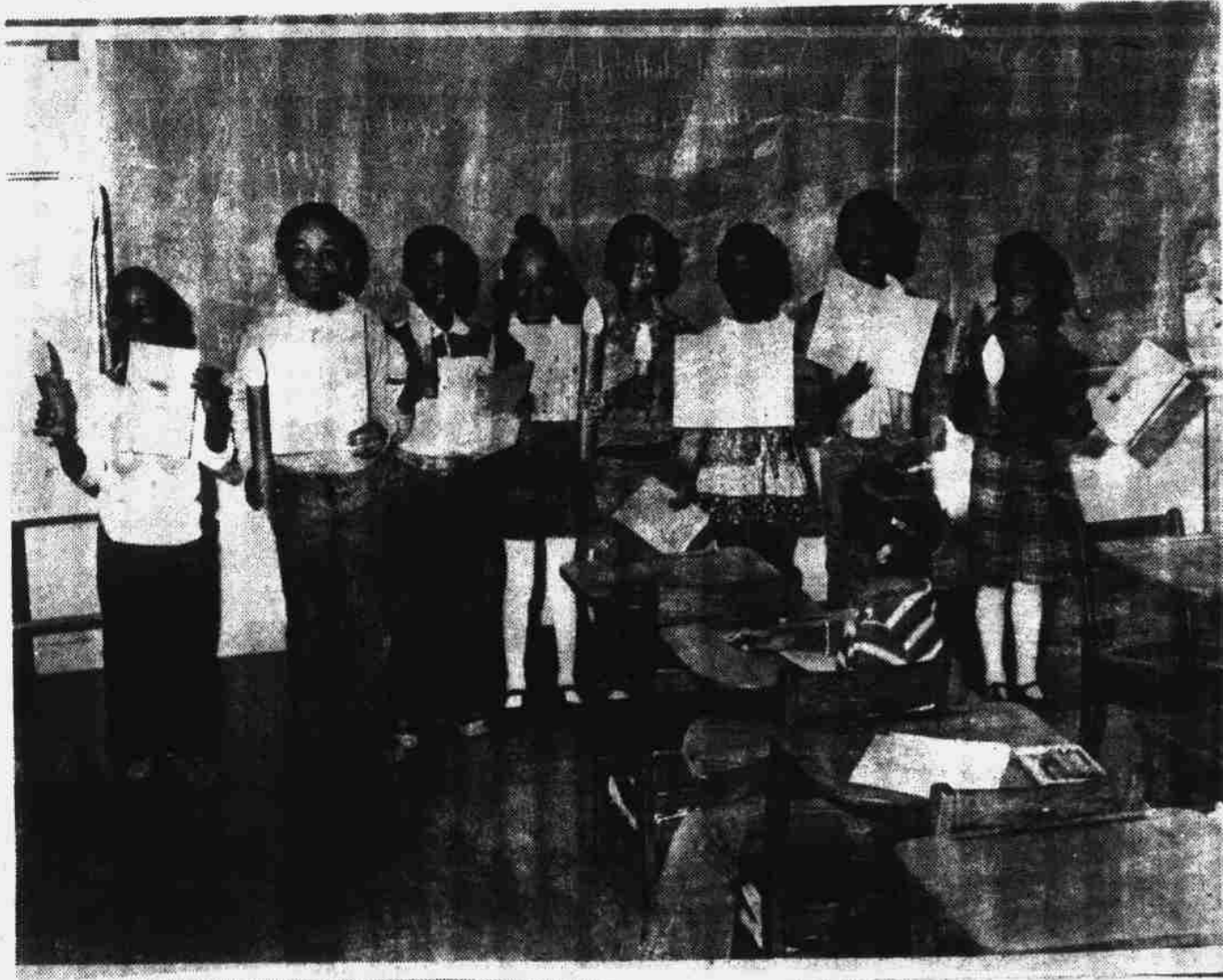
Dear Americans,

I hope you come back home today. I love you. We hope you get back home today. We love you. Jesus loves you too. I am Jemon Council. I am in Mrs. Grady's room. I live in Durham, N.C.

I hope you get home. We want you to get out of there. Iran is holding the men, but I want you back home today, please!! Mrs. Floyd want you back. Mrs. Grady wants you back today. We all love you.

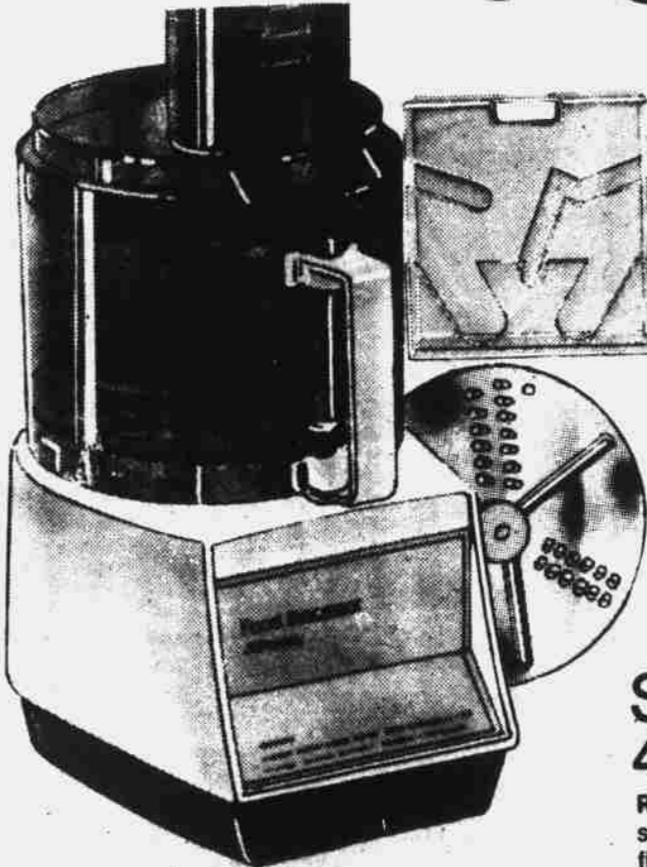
Merry Christmas and Happy New Year 1980!!

Jemon Council
1st Grade
Burton School

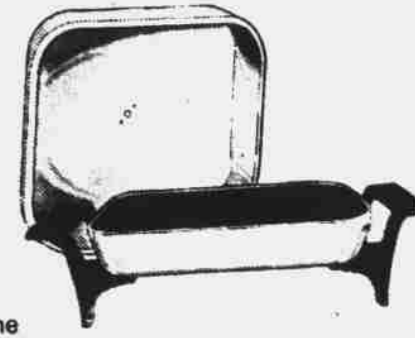


LETTERS TO THE HOSTAGES — Members of Mrs. Ernestine Grady's first grade class at Burton School have written letters to the Americans being held hostage in Iran. They have also made paper candles which they will keep in their windows at home until the hostages are freed. Photos by Jim Elliott

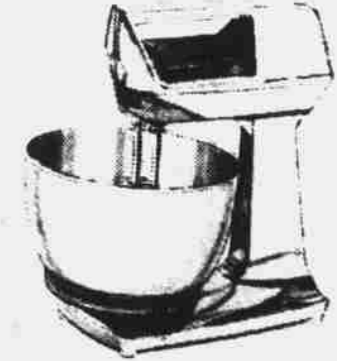
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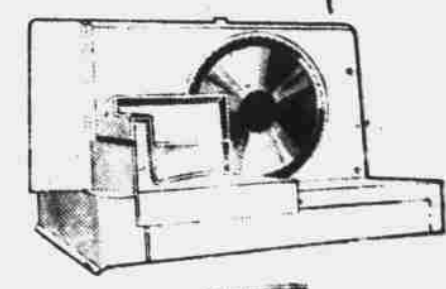


Sale 44.99
Reg. 54.99. Nine-speed chrome-finished mixer with dough hooks. Includes 1 and 3-qt. stainless steel bowls.

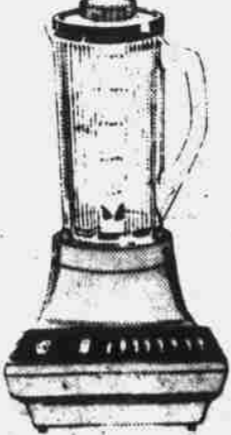


Sale 49.99
Reg. 64.99. JCPenney food processor with powerful direct drive motor. Includes break-resistant workbowl; 3 stainless steel blades for chopping, slicing, shredding; plastic mixing blade; spatula, and cookbook. French fry blade, 5.99. Accessory blade holder, 9.99

Sale 34.99
Reg. 39.99. Folding food slicer slices cold cuts, bread and more. Folds for storage. Easy-to-clean.



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Sale 24.99
Reg. 29.99. Hot air corn popper pops delicious corn without oil. Built-in butter warmer.



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