

# Fraternity buys black colonel's mansion

The home of Col. Charles Young, the first black to reach the rank of colonel in the United States military, was purchased by the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity. The announcement was made by Dr. L. Benjamin Livingston, grand basileus.

The colonial-style mansion with 60 acres of property located in Xenia, Ohio, near the campus of Wilberforce and Central State universities, was purchased for \$90,000.

In addition to being the home of the first black to become a colonel in the army, the Col. Young home was part of a major route of the Underground Railroad by which slaves escaped to the North from the South. A tunnel underneath the house still exists.

Acquisition of the Young mansion culminated the first step of a major project of Omega Psi Phi, and paves the way for the development of an historical museum and a senior citizens complex.

Said Livingston, "The fratern-

ity is looking to develop a national Afro-American history museum that will highlight the work of Col. Young and the rich history of Omega Psi Phi."

Working with the Ohio Historical Society, the fraternity is now seeking to have the 60-acre property officially declared an historical site.

Then, the 80,000-plus member fraternity will start on a \$103,000 renovation project.

The renovation will be performed in accordance with plans designed by the Moody-Nolan architectural and engineering firm in Columbus, Ohio.

According to the plans, the mansion will be developed into a museum, a satellite fraternity office and will serve as a retreat site. Later, a senior citizens complex will be developed.

Col. Charles Young was the second of four honorary members of the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity. He was elected an honorary member on March 8, 1912, less than one year after the fraternity

was founded at Howard University by Dr. Edgar Love, Oscar Cooper, Frank Coleman and Dr. Ernest Just. Just, who was the faculty advisor at the time of the founding, was the first honorary member. The other two honorary members were Carter G. Woodson, father of Afro-American history, and the late Count Basie.

Col. Young was active with the fraternity until his death in Africa (Liberia) on Jan. 2, 1922. He was the ranking black in the U.S. military at the time of his death.

The highlight of his involvement with the fraternity came when he served as the keynote speaker at the fraternity's Ninth Grand Conclave in Boston in 1919. That conclave also featured then-Massachusetts Gov. Calvin Coolidge, who four years later became the country's 13th president.

In 1922, Omega Psi Phi established Omega Memorial Day to commemorate the work of Col. Young. Today, Omega

Memorial Day is a day fraternity members pay tribute to all Omega men who have died.

The fraternity also dedicated a Col. Charles Young Monument on Armistice Day, Nov. 11, 1926, at Arlington National Cemetery.

Col. Young's influence on the Omega Psi Phi fraternity also led to the establishment of the Students' Army Training Corps (SATC) at Howard University. It was established through the U.S. War Department in 1918 for college students. This program was the predecessor of the present day Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC), and the old Army Specialized Training Program (ASTP) during World War II.

The acquisition of the Young property was achieved through a fraternity committee headed by Livingston. The property is under the fraternity's national authority, which includes attorney Lloyd Jordan of St. Louis, realtor L.A. Westley of Memphis, and attorney Calvin Brown of Charlotte, all of whom belonged to the property acquisition committee.

# Order of the Eastern Star meets in Asheville

The Grand Chapter Order of the Eastern Star, Prince Hall Affiliated, Jurisdiction of North Carolina, held its 83rd Communication in Asheville on Sept. 3-5.

Winston-Salem, the 11th district, has five Eastern Star Chapters and five grand officers. The officers are Mrs. Elizabeth Tilley, grand worthy matron; Francis B. Eaton, grand associate patron; Mrs. Mary L. Fair and

Mrs. Lula H. Jenkins, grand foreign corresponding secretaries, and Mrs. Dorothy Sprinkle, grand district deputy.

Grand Worthy Matron Tilley has served four years as head of the organization, which has over 18,000 members.

The session was well attended. The mayors from three cities, Hendersonville, Brevard and Asheville, presented keys to their cities to welcome the Eastern Star members. William A. Clement,

most worshipful grand master of the N.C. Grand Lodge Masons, jurisdictions of New Jersey, West Virginia, Pennsylvania, Maryland and the District of Columbia, also attended the meeting.

During the closing session of the meeting, all grand officers retained their offices.

The officers are Grand Worthy Matron Sister Elizabeth Tilley, Grand Worthy Patron Brother J.A. Carter, Grand Associate

Matron Sister Margaret Minon, Grand Associate Patron Brother Francis B. Eaton, Grand Secretary Sister Maria E. Singletary, Grand Beneval Secretary Sister Veatrice Davis, Grand Treasurer Sister Alice Collins, Grand Trustee Chairman Brother James Mungo, Grand Conductress Sister Olinzie Johnson, Grand Associate Conductress Sister Lillian Rhodes, Grand CCFC Sister Mary L. Fair and Sister Lula H. Jenkins.

## Community Calendar

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Executive session. Please call Patrick Hairston at 748-1072.

•The Twin Cities Business and Professional Womans' Club will sponsor a fashion show entitled "Packaging Yourself" at 6:30 p.m. at the YWCA on Glade St. A wine and cheese social hour will precede the show at 5:30 p.m. in the Pine Room. Admission is \$4. Please call 760-3310 for more information.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 19

•Author Jack Burnham will lecture on modern sculpture at 8 p.m. in the Southeastern Center For Contemporary Art at 750

Marguerite Drive in Winston-Salem. The talk will be based on his book, "Beyond Modern Sculpture." Admission for the lecture is \$2 for SECCA members, students, and senior citizens. There is a \$3 admission for the general public. For more information call 725-1904.

### PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENTS

•The Union Baptist Day Care Center at 406 Northwest Blvd. in Winston-Salem has begun a Child Care Food Program. Meals are free for children enrolled at the day care center. Family size and income levels are used to determine eligibility for the program. For more information, call 724-1775.

## Aristocrats seeking new teen members

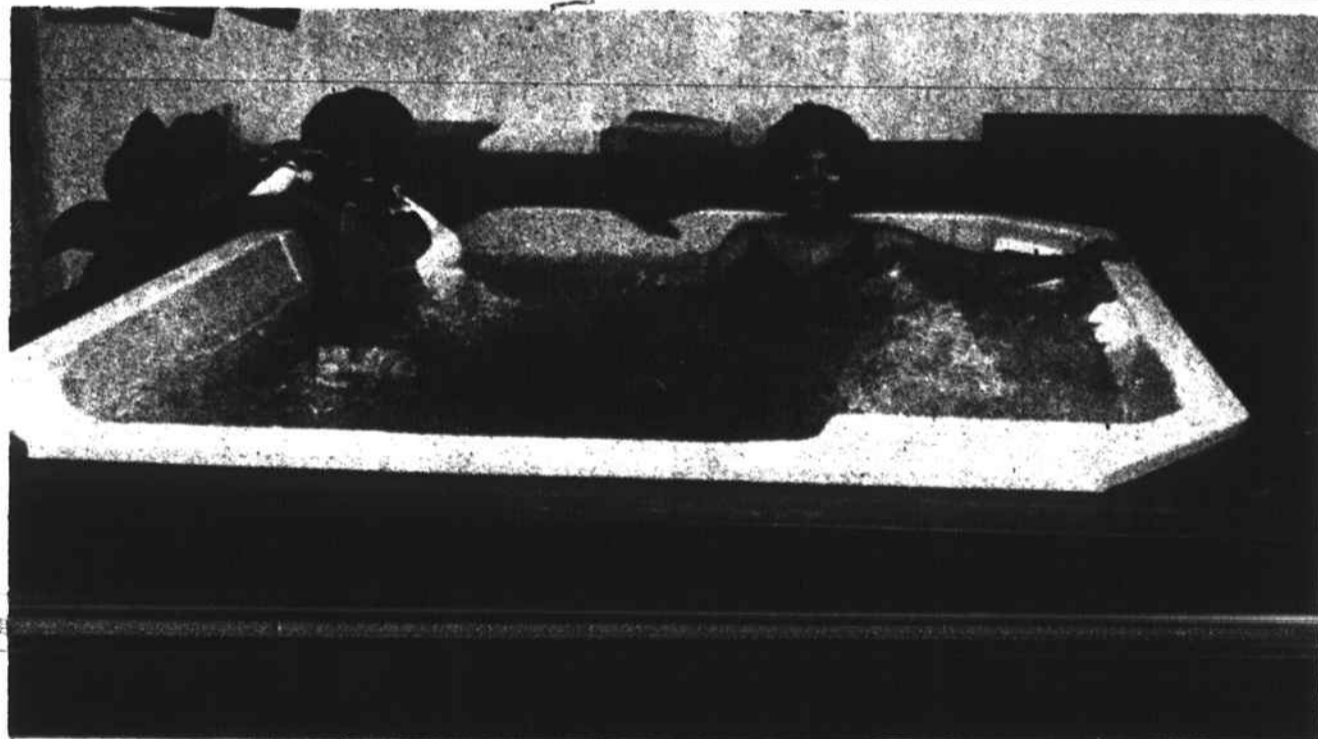
The Delta Delta Chapter of the Aristocratic Society Youth Group Inc. is holding a membership drive for men and women 15-19 years old. The deadline for membership applications is Sept. 21.

Members of The Aristocratic Society Youth Group serve as ambassadors for civic events and fundraisers and help with the Red Cross Blood Mobile. The members will also compete for scholarships and be the guests at an annual coronation ceremony held in honor of their achievements throughout the year.

The group is looking for young men and women who have exhibited achievement in some field and have made contributions to their communities, churches, and schools and who show promise of becoming future leaders.

The group's officers are Cedric E. Flynt, president; Carlette Russell, vice president; Freddie Roundtree, reporter; Mrs. Alice M. King, chairman of the board, and Mrs. Betty J. King, co-chairman.

Interested persons should send \$1 along with their names, age, phone numbers and photographs to the Aristocrats at 3960 Shamel St., Winston-Salem 27105.



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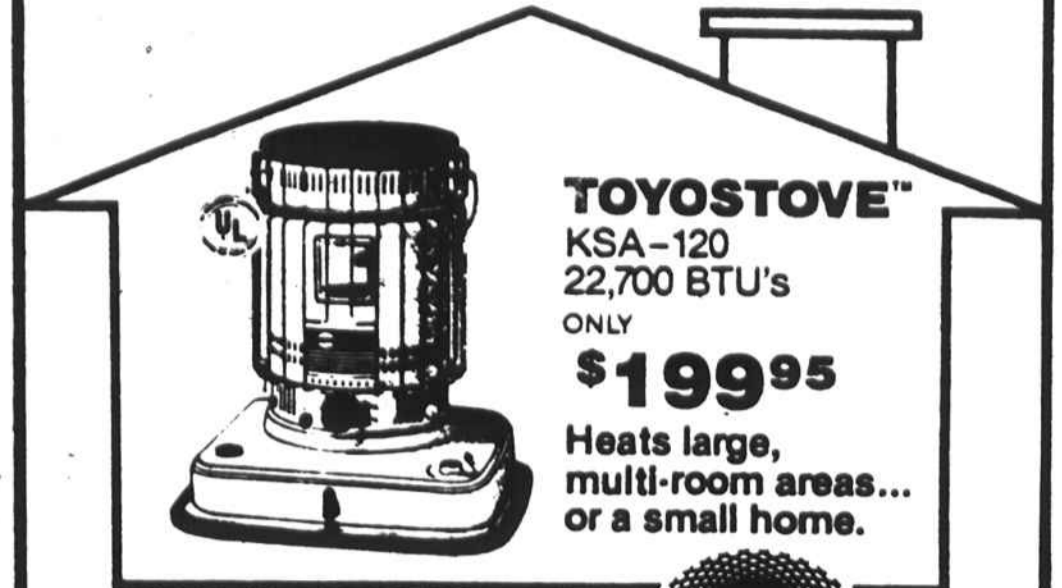
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