

After 50 Years Of Marriage

Hendersons' Love Burning Bright

By Loretta Manago
Post Managing Editor

More than fireworks were exploding on that Fourth of July over 50 years ago; the sparks that would bring Mamie and James Henderson together at a holiday picnic were igniting as well.

That love is still burning brightly today as the couple recently celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary at McDonald's Cafeteria. The reception was given to the Hendersons by their nephews and nieces, Rev. and Mrs. Gilbert Harper Sr. and Mr. and Mrs. Wilbert Harper.

Seeing 50 years together has been no accident. For the Hendersons it has meant always remembering that they still loved one another even when they disagreed with each other. It has meant handling arguments and disputes by talking things out as calmly as possible.

For them, love, prayer, and understanding are what make a marriage work and they advise any couple planning to marry to make sure that they love one another.

The Hendersons also caution betrothed couples to beware of the pitfalls that endanger many marriages today. According to them, today's generation's different values contribute greatly to the demise of marriages now.

After 50 years of marriage James Henderson still see those qualities in his spouse that first attracted him to her. "She is beautiful and fussy, but she has a sweet disposition," commented Mr. Henderson.

Mrs. Henderson admits that while it was her husband's good looks and height that first caught her eye it is his witty personality that captured her heart.

The couple were married on October 14, 1935 in Winthrop, SC. They recently took a trip to Daytona Beach, Florida, prior to the celebration of their golden anniversary.

At 72, Mrs. Henderson, a retired beautician, is still active in the church where she and her husband



James and Mamie Henderson
...Celebrate golden anniversary

attend at Clinton Chapel AME Zion Church, she is a member of the Missionary Society. In the community, she belongs to the YWCA and the National Council of Negro Women.

Mr. Henderson also served in the church as a trustee and steward. At 76, he is a retired ceramic tile setter of 16 years and a retired ceramic tile contractor, having operated his own business for 26 years.

Biggest Challenge Facing Blacks?

Rock Hill - Lerone Bennett, senior editor of Ebony magazine, told reporters November 7 he believes the greatest challenge facing black Americans today is "to complete the tasks begun in the '60s."

Bennett was at Winthrop College in Rock Hill, SC, at the invitation of the Association of the Ebonites, a black student organization.

He said although the civil rights movement raised Americans' consciousness in many areas and paved the way for improvement, the job isn't finished. In fact, "in many ways we have lost ground, in terms of economics, of employment and poverty."

Bennett pointed out the problems of poverty do not affect black people only. "Tens of thousands of poor white people are hurting, are hungry," he said. "It's a common American plight."

"The economic situation of people is fundamental," he said. "It is a very dangerous situation for all concerned."

He said he believes discrimination continues to plague blacks, other minorities and women. "We need to beware of institutional barriers," he said. While racism and discrimination may be less overt today, the problems have not ceased to exist.

He said blacks, minorities and women suffer from the "conservative backlash" of recent years. Many powerful and not-so-powerful people "wish for the good ole days - when blacks and Hispanics and women stayed in their places."

Bennett told of helping to mold the direction of one of the nation's leading black populations. For 40 years, Ebony magazine has tried to "make all Americans appreciate the black image and the black contribution to America," he said in the next 40 years the magazine should "change as black Americans change, and anticipate how they want to see themselves."

He said the celebration in January of Martin Luther King's birthday should be an occasion for reflection on the part of all people.

He added that America does not lack black leaders. King had "a rare spirit," Bennett said, although "he was one in a generation."

Black leaders include business professionals and city mayors, such as recently reelected Charlotte Mayor Harvey Gantt; Council members, even a few U.S. legislators, Bennett said. "We don't have a King, but we do have fine leaders."

But he said he believes black youth need more black role models. Again, he said, blacks have lost ground since the '60s. "We need to see more black teachers and administrators," he said. "People talk about us in sports - we need to see more black coaches!"

Bennett said black and women politicians need fair, balanced coverage. "They have not in general gotten the same shake as white (male) politicians."

He said substantial progress has been made, but more needs to be done. "We can't stop. The danger is

we'll stop where we are and not complete the tasks of the '60s. And we'll be pushed back again."

"We've made a good first step. Now we must get on with the business of making it possible for all of the people of this country to share all of the fruits of this country."



BEST COSTUMED guests at 1985 Omega Mardi Gras Ball last Friday at Charlotte's Convention Center. At left, Best Dressed Couple, Mr. and Mrs. Lomax Brooks Jr.; Best Costumed Female, Leora Waters; and Best Dressed Male Henry Wallace. (Photo by Peeler's Portrait Studio)

New Businesses Can Avoid "Failure Trap"

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supporting documents as your personal resume, letters of reference, credit reports, job descriptions, copies of leases, contracts and other legal documents, and any other relevant information.

According to Gagnon, parts of your business plan will require

constant evaluation, while other parts will need to be reviewed less often. "Your plan is an operating tool that you should use to evaluate your performance, isolate problems, and find solutions," he notes.

"Remember-your business plan is the road map to success." Sound like a lot of hard work? You

bet. And this is just the beginning. So if hard work isn't your thing, think again about having your own business. It might be better to drop the idea now than after you've invested your time and money.

Next week: Organizing your business.



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