

HOLIDAY SPIRIT

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"I had been there for a year and a half, and when this thing happened, me and my wife had just moved two weeks prior to that. We weren't even settled into our new house yet, then all of a sudden... BOOM!"

Oates is one of the lucky ones. He already has a new job, but the tragedy meant that he and his wife had to exhaust their savings, so it will be a while before they are caught up on their bills.

Union officials and activists who have counseled the survivors say that the tragedy has brought blacks and whites together in Hamlet like never before. A New York City radio minister chartered a bus ride for some of the children of victims to come to New York last weekend to visit, all expenses paid. Checks for amounts ranging from \$10 to \$7,000 have come from as far away as California. Rev. Jackson has already made two trips to Hamlet, helping to give out food on his second visit. The spirit of giving has given the survivors strength to start again.

"I think everybody in this country should be really grateful," said Cassandra Smith. "If they have their loved one there with them, they've got everything. This holiday is going to be really hard for a lot of people here. And we have these children [of the victims] who still don't understand. It's going to take a lot of time, and a lot of work."

Contributions can be made to the Imperial Foods Victim Relief Fund, P.O. Box 151, Hamlet 28345.

DEPRESSION

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weeks for his paychecks from a Passaic fur company when they were first married in 1935. She said she remembered sewing men's vests to help her out-of-work father before she married.

Today she isn't sure where the economy is headed, she said.

"It's frightful," she said. "You don't know what's going to happen next. The way Bush is going I have no idea. I don't trust him somehow or other... People don't have the money to pay carfare to get to work."

Rev. James Peyton, 54, pastor of the Resurrection Church of Jesus Christ in Teaneck, said his family survived on food they shared with their Virginia neighbors during the Depression.

Today, he said, the economy is headed on a downward spiral as domestic jobs are lost to foreign competition and neighborly concern fades.

"Then there were hopes," he said. "Now people don't trust the government anymore."

SHOOTING

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J.B. Bennett, 42, of 1209 Fayetteville St., was charged with aiding and abetting in the shootings. Records claim Bennett supplied Williams with the weapons used in the incident.

Bennett also was placed under \$5,000 bond. Foster was taken to Wake Medical Center for treatment and was listed in stable condition.

In other news:

The search for an 84-year-old woman missing since Thursday was officially called off Sunday, but about 30 volunteers continued to tramp through Chatham County woods looking for her.

Mabel Seymour, who suffers from Alzheimer's disease, walked away from the Deer Hollow Rest Home in northern Chatham and was last seen crossing U.S. 15-501 at the Hamlet Chapel Hill Road intersection.

Temperatures dipped to 14°F the night she was discovered missing from the rest home.

A search team of about 80 people searched a four-square-mile area around the rest home on foot and

horseback. A state Highway Patrol helicopter scanned a wider area by air before authorities formally ended the search on Sunday.

The search effort was concentrated in wooded areas along major roads. Seymour's family placed her in the rest home five days before she disappeared.

REP. JOHN LEWIS

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died—for human rights. These punks [who are killing each other] are selling the legacy of the freedom rights down the river," said the former chairman of the Student Non-violent Coordinating Committee who marched with Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

"Our communities must recapture the spirit of the 1960s. We need a united front because the solution should begin inside black America," said Lewis, who is serving his third term as a representative from Atlanta's Fifth Congressional District. Earlier this year, he was appointed deputy majority whip to help organize the Democratic Party majority members in the House of Representatives after Rep. William H. Gray (D-Pa.) resigned as the second ranking leader of Congress to become president of the United Negro College Fund.

An active member of Congress, Lewis serves on several key committees, including the Committee on Public Works and Transportation which secured the passage of the \$151 billion surface transportation bill signed by President Bush last week.

Lewis has announced that Georgia will get \$3.4 billion in transportation funds over the next six years as a result of the bill, including \$75 million for special demonstration projects primarily in the Atlanta area.

"The new transportation plan will provide a tremendous boost to Georgia's economy and will help rebuild our state's infrastructure. I am pleased to see that Atlanta will benefit from this plan," said Lewis, who served in the city council prior to his election to Congress after he began seeking economic and political influence in the area as a "Freedom Rider" in contrast to methods used by today's youth.

"Those who roam our streets and neighborhoods selling drugs, beating, shooting, and killing innocent bystanders have no respect for human rights. Those young people who prey on the young and elderly are a disgrace to the memory of those brave young men and women who attempted to march from Selma to Montgomery on 'Bloody Sunday' for the right to vote," the congressman said.

tion of the Piedmont.

State Republicans, the estate chapter of the American Civil Liberties Union and the NAACP had asked the Justice Department to reject the plans.

Kelly Alexander, president of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People in North Carolina, told a local Raleigh paper he was pleased with the Justice Department's action.

"They did the right thing," he said. "They zeroed in on the very things that the NAACP said was a problem. I hope that they [legislators] will come back and draw some realistic lines."

The proposed congressional district plan contains one majority black district drawn in the northeast region of the state—from Durham to Elizabeth City.

But the Justice Department said the "irregular configuration" of the new district did not have the purpose or effect of minimizing minority voting strength in that region.

The Justice Department said the House plan appears to weaken black voting strength in eight southeastern counties as well as in the District 8 proposed for northeastern North Carolina and in Guilford County.

NEWS BRIEFS

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benefits when their regular state unemployment benefits run out, as well as retroactive benefits.

ROAD WORK POSES HOLIDAY HASSLE

The road home for Christmas is likely to prove long and winding this year for many North Carolina motorists. Construction is likely to cause delays on major roads under repair, including Interstate 85 between Orange County and Greensboro, Interstate 95 in Northampton County and the Raleigh Beltline.

LONG AIDE FIRED AFTER CONVICTION

Ronald Graham Moore, a top aide to state Insurance Commissioner James E. Long, has been fired after being convicted of his fourth drunken driving charge, department officials said Monday.

Moore's official last day with the insurance department will be Jan. 17, 1992, said Allen Feezor, chief deputy insurance commissioner.

Moore, 44, directed the department's office of minority affairs and occasionally drove Long on state business, the Greensboro News and Record reported in their Monday edition.

ECONOMIC

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just to pay on the interest... we can't survive this thing."

Maxwell admonished the audience to work toward being debt-free.

Upon accepting his award, Dolphus Pearson, using insurance as an example to illustrate the responsibilities of having an economic vision for the future, said that African-Americans must "share the risk" with their children. "And if we don't take them by the hand and show them how to pay the premium, we're going to be in trouble. We're going to have to lead them, we're going to have to show them the way," said Pearson.

Ms. Irving paid personal tribute to Dr. Dupree as a humanitarian radio commentator and as an editor. She lauded Dr. Dupree as a pioneer broadcaster on Shaw University radio. "That was a step toward future advancement for our youth, and for the people of Raleigh," said Ms. Irving. She noted how proud she was to see African-American youth today excel in many varied professions, and credited Dr. Dupree as a contributor to today's trend.

The most dramatic personal testimony during the banquet was that of O.A. Dupree Scholarship recipient Crystal Johnson. Ms. Johnson graphically illustrated how her previous life of drug addiction and criminal activity five years ago was turned around when Ms. Margaret Rose Murray, chairperson of the O.A. Dupree Scholarship Fund, reached out to help her.

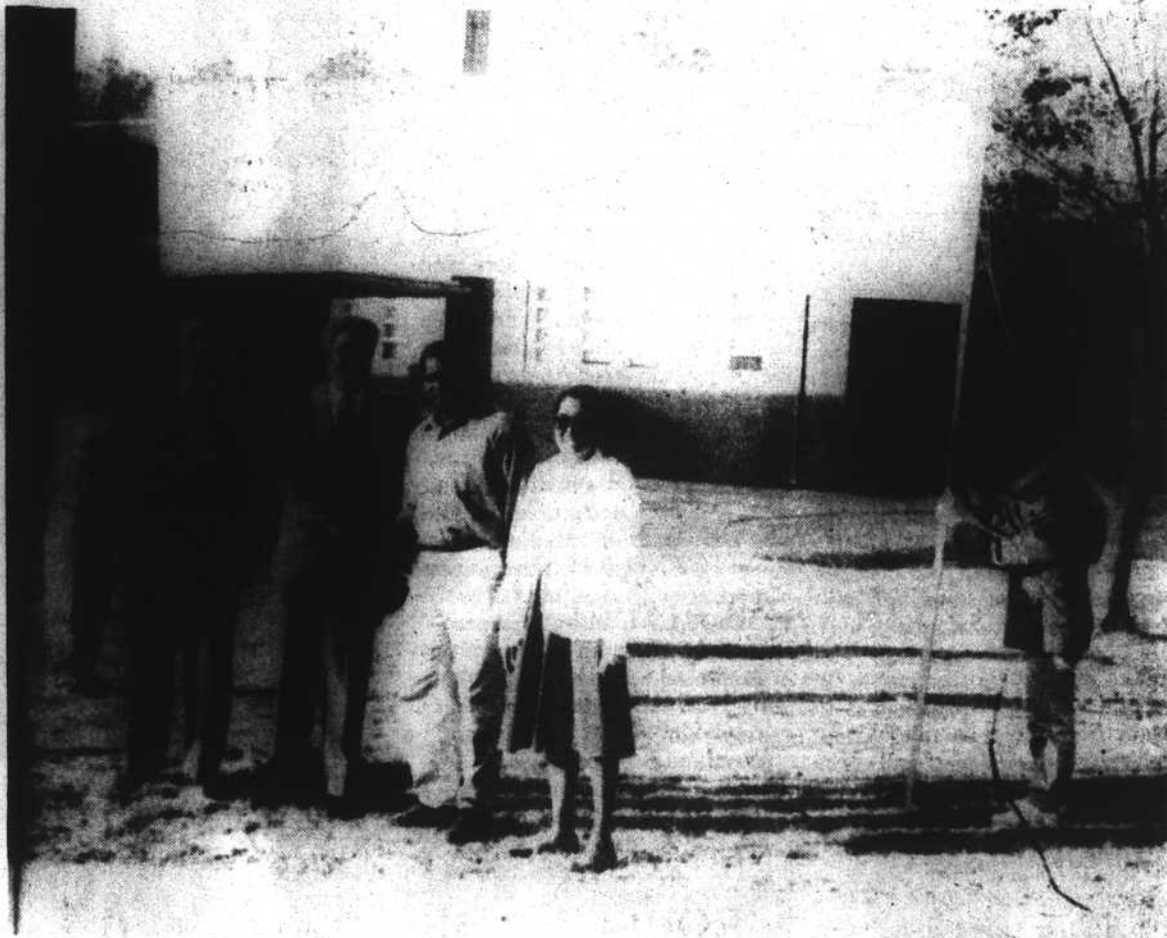
"I kind of wonder, how I came to be here and some of the others are not here. It's not because they're not intelligent, it's not because they haven't anything to offer. It's because we haven't been able to reach out."

"The limbs aren't strong enough," Ms. Johnson said. Today she attends a law school preparatory class at UNC-Chapel Hill, where she is second in her class and will graduate



SUPER FUND '92 — Washington, D. C. Mayor Sharon Pratt Kelly is honorary chairperson for Super Fund '92, WHMM TV's second annual casino fundraising gala to be held on Saturday, Feb. 1. With her are WHMM general manager Edward Jones, Jr., left, and Super Fund '92 chairman Leonard Manning, who is also chairman of the

board and CEO for Lottery Technology Enterprises. The theme for the event is Escape to the Caribbean. The evening will feature live entertainment, casino games, a delicious buffet, celebrity hosts, dancing, exciting auctions of celebrity donations and more. For information call 202-806-3202.



APPRECIATION DAY — In honor of Robert Taylor, an alumnus of Garner's all-black high school, now East Garner Middle School, the school asked Mr. Taylor, its head custodian, to sing Silent Night to the Wednesday morning assembly. Before the assembly was over, Taylor received a plaque and several tokens of appreciation and as the band played, students cheered and brought out a

banner that read We Love You Mr. Taylor. Pictured under the banner, left to right: Principal R. E. Cobb, Ullice H. Williams, retired supervisor and friend; Robert Taylor, honoree and Mrs. Frances Haywood, counselor. Holding the banner, left to right: Marcus Davis and John Creech. ((Photo, J. Giles)

General Baptist State Convention Gets W.K. Kellogg Foundation Grant For Services

The General Baptist State Convention of North Carolina has been awarded a grant of more than \$464,000 by the W.K. Kellogg Foundation to assist in establishing a Maternal and Child Outreach Ministry Project.

The Kellogg Foundation, located in Battle Creek, Mich., is involved in supporting community efforts around the world that address health concerns. The pilot phase of the project, scheduled to begin in the spring of 1992, will respond to the high infant mortality rates and poor access to prenatal care experienced throughout North Carolina. The three counties targeted for the pilot program are New Hanover, Warren and Vance. The program will be open to all pregnant women in these participating counties.

A cadre of 300 church and community volunteers will be recruited and trained to encourage and assist new mothers and pregnant women to use health care and related services needed to achieve good health, independence and maximum development of personal resources.

Participating volunteers will be concerned women in the community who are respected and trusted. Pregnant women will receive one-on-one support from these volunteers throughout their pregnancy and during the first years of their infant's life. An emphasis will be

placed on providing nutritional education and family life skills training as well as promoting the importance of the mother's continuing education, job training, community involvement and spiritual health.

Currently, North Carolina has the 49th highest infant mortality rate in the nation. In response to the consistent high death rate among infants, Gov. James Martin formed the Commission on Reduction of Infant Mortality to address the problem. Studies have shown that low birth weight is a significant factor contributing to infant mortality. Better use of existing services can contribute toward solving this problem.

The project was designed by the GBSC with the assistance of the Health Behavior and Health Education Department of the University of North Carolina School of Public Health and an advising panel comprised of clergy, lay leaders and

health professionals.

The GBSC is a state denominational body of more than 1,700 black Baptist churches representing 450,000 members in North Carolina. In 1979, the convention began a Health and Human Services Ministry that introduced health promotion through local churches. Over the past 10 years, the Health and Human Services Ministry targeted reduction of hypertension within the black community and trained more than 1,000 church volunteers as health advocates to respond to this concern.

For the 1990s the convention has adopted as its mission focus the improvement of maternal and child health. The Maternal and Child Outreach Ministry was developed to respond to this mandate. This project is the first phase of a comprehensive initiative to strengthen family life within the black community.

Fourth Ward Floral Club Hosts Annual Holiday Meet

Fourth Ward Floral Club was honored Dec. 14 by Ms. Elsie Green, 1705 Oakwood Ave., with a pre-Christmas dinner. Everyone started by singing Christmas carols.

The hostess then invited everyone into the dining area. The menu consisted of turkey with dressing, giblet gravy, barbecued ribs, butterbeans, corn, potato salad, tossed salad, cranberry sauce, hot rolls, cakes, pie, tropical punch and sodas.

Members present were Ms. Laura McLain, Ms. Elizabeth Pugh, Ms. Ida Moore, Ms. Louise McGregory, Ms. Irene Wilson, and Ms. Elsie

Glenn. Absent were Ms. Irene Peppers, Ms. Helen Rogers, Ms. Bessie Raiford, Ms. Clina Upchurch, Ms. Josephine Cameron and Ms. Berdie Hunter.

Guests were Ms. Carrie Banks, Ms. Loetta Avery, Ms. Katherine Jones, Ms. Ruth Cameron, Rev. Jimmy Yarborough, Royce Calloway, Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Matthews, and Thomas Turner.

Ms. McLain thanked the hostess, Ms. E. Glenn. Ms. Laura McLain is president and Ms. Elsie Glenn is secretary.



DAN BLUE
House Speaker

REDISTRICTING

(Continued from page 1)

ity-black district drawn by Rep. Dave Balmer, R-Mecklenburg, that would stretch from Charlotte to Wilmington.

"Nobody that I talked to, black, white or anybody else, other than the author of that strange-looking district, took it seriously," Blue said. "But apparently there is some strange communication between him and the Justice Department."

Other lawmakers were just tired of the whole process. Sen. Laura Tally, D-Cumberland, who complained about many of the redistricting plans in her area, now seemed more resigned.

"At this point, I think a lot of us would just like to see them draw up something and tell us what it is," she said.

"I don't care what they do to me," added Sen. Fountain Odum, D-Mecklenburg, with a shake of his head.

State legislatures draw new boundaries for their congressional and legislative districts every 10 years to reflect the changes in their population. The task was complicated this year in North Carolina by the addition of a 12th congressional district, which the Legislature drew in a predominantly Republican sec-

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