Mildred Johnson Speaks

Again I greet you, my readers, in the name of Jesus Christ, Our Maker, who gives us our health and strength to live another day. This prayer can be said and I would like to share it with you:

Slow Me Down Lord

Slow me down, Lord
Ease the pounding of my heart by the Quieting of my mind.

Steady my hurried pace with a vision of the Eternal reach of time.

The calmness of the ever-lasting hills.

Break the tension of my nerves and
Muscles with the soothing music of the Singing streams that live in my memory.

Help me to know the magical, restoring power of sleep.

Teach me the art of taking a few lines from a good book.

Slow me down, Lord, and inspire me.

Send my roots deep into the soil of lifes enduring Values that I may grow toward the stars.

Of my greater destiny.

At this writing I am still in a state of shock over the passing of my only sister, Lydia R. Wilson who passed away suddenly at home on the evening of May 26th. She was my right hand and I do not ever think I will forget having such a devoted sister. To me she was a jewel. Here is the article that appeared in the Democrat & Chronicle regarding her.

LYDIA R. WILSON DIES; AIDED POOR

Lydia R. Wilson, who assisted her sister, Mildred W. Johnson, in operating the Virginia Wilson Helping Hand Center, died Sunday (May 23, 1980) in Rochester General Hospital after a long illness.

Mrs. Wilson, 46 Farbridge St., was 78.

Mrs. Johnson said her sister had a history of heart trouble and diabetes, but was "the backbone" of the center’s goal of helping poor people when they couldn’t help themselves.

The center was named after their mother, Virginia Wilson, who died in 1963, and was formerly known as the Negro Information Center. The office is in the Powers Bull and gave

Mrs. Johnson said the success of the center would have been limited if her sister hadn’t helped take messages and direct those needing clothing, food or shelter to the proper agencies. Many times, homeless persons would live temporarily with Mrs. Johnson and her sister in their Farbridge Street home.

Mrs. Wilson also was a charter board member of the center.

Born in Brighton, Mrs. Wilson grew up in the Bulls Head area and attended School 17 and Madison High School.

Although she was a member of Mt. Olivet Baptist Church where she formerly sang in the choir, she also was the first pianist for the Rev. Robert Warren’s Mt. Vernon Baptist Church when it opened on Joseph Avenue during the 1930s.

As a child, she studied piano for about five years and gave lessons for a brief period herself.

During World War II, she worked as a seamstress for the WPA (Works Progress Administration).

Mrs. Wilson lived in Washington, D.C. from 1943 to 1962, where she retired to Rochester.

Besides her sister, she was survived by her husband, Willie Wilson of New Orleans; one son, Roland Hayes Guyton of Washington, D.C.; a foster-sister, Calvin DuBois of Rochester; four grandchildren and two nephews, Phillip Johnson and Kenneth Berry of Rochester, N.Y.

Lydia was buried from the Mt. Olivet Baptist Church, where she spent her childhood days under the pastorate of the Rev. Dr. James E. Rose. Dr. Leardrew Johnson, pastor of Mt. Olivet delivered the eulogy. Other participating ministers were Dr. Louis Bell of Niagara Falls, N.Y., Rev. Halsey Hickman, Dr. Talik Walker and Rev. Thomas Hewlett of Washington, D.C.

The annual Headen family reunion was held last Sunday at Ellison Park in Webster. Rev. D. J. Jackson, pastor of Mt. Vernon Baptist Church where the Headens hold their membership, opened the reunion with prayer. Hundreds came from many cities, some from as far as Mobile, Ala. I feel very privileged that I am considered a member of the Headen family, so that I can share in the love shown in this great family. The menu contained ribs, chitterlings, salads of all kinds, chicken in many different ways, ice tea, milk, Koolaid, lemonade. So much food was cooked we could not finish it all at one seating. Those who came from here were Linda Simson and children and grand-children, Johnnye, Carolyn, Tanis, Johnnie, Simson, Jr. and Jeron Simson, Jessie Wilson, Myra Wilson, Ruth Wilson and mother, from Cleveland were Quenie Dawson and granddaughter Emerald Hall, Cornelia Black, Arnold Black and children, Lueneita, Valerie, Steven, Eddie Leogrand, Walt McQueen, Debbie Dorsey, Alvin Dorsey, Alvin Dorsey, Jr., Jimmy Dorsey and Nanyamka Dorsey, the Gibson family, Eloise, Abron, Sharon, Ann, and Calvin, Marvin Jackson and grandchildren, Vasessa McDowell, Antwon McDowell, Lachon McDowell and Valonra McDowell, Charles Macabrew and children, stereo, Maurice and Rose.

Mrs. Headen’s father, Prince Albert came from Mobile, Ala., her mother resides with her here in Rochester, Mrs. Bosa Macabrew, Mr. and Mrs. James Simson Jr. of New Hartford, N.Y. attended the reunion. The Macabrew children who come are as follows: Mr. and Mrs. Jessie Albert and son Michael. Mr. and Mrs. Isaiah Albert both of Rochester, Mr. James Macabrew and Bobby Davis, of Chicago, Ill., Mr. & Mrs. Charles Pickett of Montgomery, Ala., Mr. & Mrs. John Macabrew of Cleveland, Ohio.

Continued on Page 5

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Frederick Douglass

July 24-29, 1980

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**PHONE**

546-6076

Frederick Douglass

Voice

Inc.

ROCHESTER VOICE NEWSPAPER

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<tr>
<td>Action for a Better Community, Inc.</td>
<td>42 South Washington St.</td>
<td>325-7898</td>
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<tr>
<td>NSIC _1</td>
<td>609 Clinton Ave. N.</td>
<td>325-2500</td>
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<tr>
<td>NSIC _3</td>
<td>223 Union St. North</td>
<td>325-1773</td>
</tr>
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<td>Baden Street Settlement, Inc.</td>
<td>152 Baden Street</td>
<td>325-4910</td>
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<td>Charles House</td>
<td>39 State Street</td>
<td>454-2290</td>
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<tr>
<td>Commonwealth of Puerto Rico</td>
<td>643 Clinton Ave. N.</td>
<td>454-4000</td>
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<td>Community Relations Office</td>
<td>242 Andrews St.</td>
<td>325-5990</td>
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<tr>
<td>Div. of Vocational Rehabilitation</td>
<td>Civic Center Plaza</td>
<td>454-7200</td>
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<tr>
<td>Family Court</td>
<td>86 Prospect Street</td>
<td>436-9800</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FIGHT, Inc.</td>
<td>177 Exchange Street</td>
<td>546-6076</td>
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<tr>
<td>Frederick Douglass League, 567 Plymouth S.</td>
<td>P.O. Box 3033</td>
<td>546-6076</td>
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<tr>
<td>Genesee Settlement House</td>
<td>10 Dale Street</td>
<td>288-1800</td>
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<tr>
<td>Human Relations Commission</td>
<td>39 Main Street W.</td>
<td>454-7200</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lewis Street Settlement</td>
<td>67 Lewis Street</td>
<td>546-3230</td>
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<tr>
<td>Manpower Training Center (NYSES)</td>
<td>242 W. Main Street</td>
<td>325-6934</td>
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<tr>
<td>Montgomery Neighborhood Center</td>
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So for our 100th birthday, we asked recreation and education people how we could put a little more fun into life—how we could give people something that would last longer than the party.

They suggested a whole new concept called "New Games" which everybody can play. Not to win or lose. Not for the "thrill of victory" or the "agony of defeat." Just for fun.

We presented a lot of these "New Games" to the Genesee Valley Recreation Society, and invested in the training of people in the ways of "Schmerltzes" and "Blobs."

We hope you'll join the fun. The games start just about anytime at area recreation centers, parks, camps, nursing homes or schools.

Joe LaLonde of St. Joseph's Villa for children is one of many who sees the value of a laugh. These "New Games," he says, "emphasize give and take, comradery without competition ... and can be beneficial to any person, young or old."

Fun. What's a birthday party, or life, without it?

If you want to know more about Schmerltzes, phone the Kodak Centennial number: 724-4480.
Home Improvement Loan Program

What Home Improvement Programs Are Available?
The City of Rochester currently offers four home improvement programs to city residents. They are the Home Improvement Grant Program, the Home Improvement Loan Program (HILP), the Personal Investment Program and Section 312 Rehabilitation Loan Program. This handbook deals primarily with the Home Improvement Grant Program.

The Grant Program provides live-in homeowners in the low and very low income brackets with a grant for home repairs, particularly for those that correct building code violations.

This handbook was written for two reasons: (1) to help you decide if you are eligible to apply for a grant and (2) to help you through the grant process after you have been accepted.

All home improvement programs are administered by the Department of Community Development through its Office of Rehabilitation Services, which is more popularly known as the HILP Office.

If, after reading this handbook, you need more information on the Grant Program, call the HILP Office at 428-6890.

How Do I Know If I Qualify For A Grant?
A number of things determine whether you qualify for a grant:

1. You must live within the city limits.
2. You must have owned your home for at least one year and live in it now.
3. Your home may be a single, double, or three- or four-family dwelling.
4. If you have a mortgage, you cannot be more than one month behind in your payment.
5. You cannot be more than one quarter behind in the payment of your city taxes.
6. You cannot have more than $10,000 in savings, cash, or stocks and bonds.
7. Income limits are very important in determining whether you qualify for a home improvement grant. They are based on the amount of household income you receive from all sources and the number of people you support (or claim as income tax deductions) over the past 12 months at the time you apply.

Income Eligibility Scale For The Grant Program

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Gross Household Size</th>
<th>Income Level I</th>
<th>Income Level II</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>$ 4,800</td>
<td>$ 7,250</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>6,350</td>
<td>10,200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>7,150</td>
<td>11,450</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>7,950</td>
<td>12,750</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>8,650</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>9,250</td>
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<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>9,850</td>
<td>15,100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>10,500</td>
<td>15,900</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

9 or more: Add $650 for each additional member of your household.

* For applicants over 65 years of age, an additional exemption can be claimed when figuring the household size.

* If you have unusual expenses — such as uninsured medical bills, child care, or care for a disabled family member — you may be able to subtract them from your income total.

If you do not qualify for a grant, you may be eligible for a HILP loan or Personal Investment subsidy or a Section 312 (3%) Rehabilitation Loan. Additional information about these programs appears on page 9. You may also call the HILP Office at 428-6890 for more information about the HILP and Personal Investment programs or call 428-6888 about the Section 312 Rehab Loan Program.

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Mildred Johnson Speaks

Continued from Page 1

Mrs. Headen’s children in attendance were Mr. & Mrs. Harold Bain and children, Gines, Cleveland, Gena Johnson, Clinton Howard, Jr., Chubby Dundore, Paul Bain and children and Desmond Headen.

Other Rochesterians attending were: Mr. and Mrs. Dwight Powell and children, Yvette, Cathy, James and Anthony Byron Powell Jr., Annette Williams, Sandy Williams, Tisha, Benita, Crystal and Kandise Williams.

Other Rochesterians were: Mary Dorsey and children Sandra and Jerry, Mr. & Mrs. Roosevelt Griggs & children, Jessie, Pat, Darryl and Shawn. Rev. & Mrs. D. J. Jackson, pastor of Mt. Vernon Baptist Church, Mrs. Mildred W. Johnson, Dir. Virginia Wilson Helping Hand Center, Mr. George Bryant, Mr. John Simons, uncle, Mr. & Mrs. Chris Dunbar and children, Chris, Sharon and Valrie, Mrs. Georgia Shipp and daughter Linda, Mr. & Mrs. Charles Headen & Daughter Charlean, Mr. & Mrs. Steve Lawson and children Veronica Myraa, Mrs. Mary Lee, Mrs. Ann Scott & children Ramos and Doretta, Mr. John Macabrew and children Lorraine, Garfield and Billy, Maurice and Tony.

Next year’s annual reunion will be held in Detroit, Mich.

Ms. Joyce Balkum Johnson has written a book named “Millie The Hell Raiser” and is now very late being gotten to the public, but the reason for this delay is the fault of the printer. This interesting book is about yours truly, Mildred Johnson. It will be on sale as soon as the printer corrects a few pages. Be sure to get a copy from the Virginia Wilson Center Office 230 Powers Blvd., or call and order a copy at 325-9433. You will find it interesting reading. In the meantime read the following poems written by Ms. Johnson entitled “Getting Used To Nothing.”

Getting Used To Nothing

Have you ever been sorry, I mean REALLY and TRULY sorry?

I have—
I am—
I’m sorry for the Man who can’t accept purity
Resents Sincerity
Deplores Honesty
Exploits Respect
Destroys a good image
Begs for Everything
Lies — physically and verbally
I’m sorry for intelligent ignorance
Ilerates, disgusting PHONINESS
I’m sorry for:
Poor judgment
Self Superiority
Self Hate
Adverse blame
Not used to RESPECT for just plain ole
Women and ladies
No insults
All pain cease after Awhile
There is heavy damage
I’m sorry
I know — Hate works that way—
Jealousy even worse—
—By Ms. Joyce Balkum Johnson

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Please check your recent billing and consumption history.
BARBER B. CONABLE JR. REPORT

I have just come back from the Republican Convention in Detroit. It was more of a social experience than I needed, with long sessions, swirling masses of people, irregular meals, with little sleep and ceaseless activity. The dominant element at a political party's convention is the professional politicians, as it used to be, but activists among the whole party membership who have run for delegate positions in order to have their day and express their dismay about the professional politicians. They do not worry who have run for delegate positions in order to have their day and express their dismay about the professional politicians. They do not worry about the booby traps in the issues, or the refinements of ideology, which are the professional politicians' stock-in-trade. For four heady days they feel like kings, yell a lot, feeling that somehow the righteousness and purity of going to explain away the big prize later. Thus, both President Carter and Ronald Reagan are not likely to seek close identification with their party's platform, carefully working around its weaknesses without actually repudiating, specific wording they have had to swallow to get the delegates out of town. And in the final analysis, since it is a person who governs rather than a collection of imperfectly expressed ideas, it is more important to listen to what the person says than to speculate about the ambiguities in the party's platform's wording.

It will be interesting to see the impact on the Reagan campaign of the Republican platform's failure to include symbolic. I do not believe its necessary if the negative symbolism of the omission, Governor Reagan is going to be constantly forced to defend his ambiguous support for equality for women, to spell it out in specific detail, to make compensations far beyond those necessary if the negative symbolism were not present. He wants to win, and the omission makes the issue hard to finesse.

At a convention, one battleground is the platform, and the leading warriors are rarely the same people who have to fight for the big prize later. Thus, both President Carter and Ronald Reagan are not likely to seek close identification with their party's platform, carefully working around its weaknesses without actually repudiating, specific wording they have had to swallow to get the delegates out of town. And in the final analysis, since it is a person who governs rather than a collection of imperfectly expressed ideas, it is more important to listen to what the person says than to speculate about the ambiguities in the party's platform's wording.

But it's part of the process, and there's no denying it. Maybe the smoke-filled rooms who wind up as standard bearers who do want to win elections more than to express viewpoints. The messes are hard to hear above the din of the convention, and since professionals deal in nuances they can hardly wait for the delegates to get out of town so that they can start dealing in their stock-in-trade again.

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Barber B. Conable Jr. report has been excerpted from the Frederick Douglass Voice, July 24-29, 1980.
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