

Charleston Club Tattler

Volume 16, Issue 68

A publication of The Charleston S.C. Club of Washington, D.C. Area

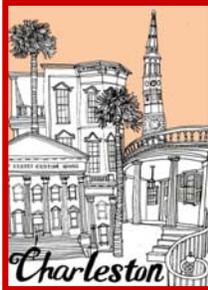
September 1, 2013



Charleston Club 65 Years Old!

Charleston Club Celebrates 65 Years Young in 2013

The Charleston Club just celebrated its 65th Anniversary this past summer ~ **July 10, 2013**. The club members attended a religious service at a local church, had lunch together and then visited one of the two remaining Charter Members of the club...Orval Grant Cooke. Julia Magwood Harris is the other living Charter Member.



Charleston Club Meeting of July 10th 1948 ~ The Stage

July 10, 1948 was a typical hot summer day in Washington; 89°F. Two months earlier, May 1948, Israel became an independent state after Israel was recognized by the United Nations as a country in its own right within the Middle East. Ralph Bunche would be awarded the Nobel Peace Prize (1950) for having arranged a cease-fire between Israelis and Arabs during the war which followed the creation of the state of Israel in 1948.

It was an election year and the Republicans had just completed their nominating convention (June 21st~25th) in Philadelphia, and the Democrats were coming to the same city that following Monday July 12th. President Harry S. Truman was in "hot waters," he had labored for more than three years in the enormous shadow of F.D.R. All but the most optimistic Democratic thought that the president was a "gone goose." The other major topic of the day was the 1948 Olympic Games. After a 12-year break due to World War II (1939 to 1945), the Games were triumphantly returning to London (July 29th-Aug 14th).

World War II was over, Europe was still ravaged from the war. When it was announced that the Olympic Games would be resumed, many debated whether it was wise to have a festival when many European countries were in ruins and the people near starvation. To limit the United Kingdom's responsibility to feed all the athletes, it was agreed that the participants would bring their own food. Surplus food was donated to British hospitals. No new facilities were built for these Games, but the Wembley Stadium (1923) had survived the war and proved adequate. No Olympic Village was erected; the male athletes were housed at an army camp and the women housed at local college dormitories. Germany and Japan, the aggressors of World War II, were not invited to participate in the games.

In Charleston, Arthur J.H. Clement, Jr., (1908-1986), a pioneer black business leaders was beginning his unsuccessful run as a candidate for Charleston County Council. Mayor William M. Morrison (D) was in his first of three terms as Mayor of Charleston (1947~1959).

In the world of sports, two weeks earlier (June 25th) at Yankee Stadium, Joe Louis had just knocked out Jersey Joe Walcott in the 11th round to retain his heavyweight title for the 25th time. Shortly after the bout, Louis would announce his retirement from boxing. Early in the summer, Citation became the 8th horse to win the Triple Crown. In baseball, the Cleveland Indians (4) were on their way to defeating the Boston Braves (2) in the Fall Classic. In Game 5, a new World Series single game attendance record would be set (86,288 fans) during the appearance of Negro League legend Satchel Paige for the Indians.

The stage was set, all of the "hard work" of getting all of their Charleston friends notified was complete. Ed Deas and Bill Magwood, Jr. were ready to start their very own "homies-only" Charleston Club. It wasn't easy to contact everyone, but they "**done it!**" All of their Avery, Burke and ICS friends (and spouses) were going to meet at the Park Road (NW) home of Bill and Kitty Magwood; it would be more social than business. They all knew each other from their school-days in the Holy City. It was simply a matter of getting acquainted with their spouses. Charleston was not a "big city" then, census records showed Charleston with about 80,000 in city population. Needless to say, the meeting did not start "on time," but that was not important, what was important ... the meeting was "**ON!**"

There are no minutes of that meeting still around these days, but we can be sure that a GOOD Time was had by one and ALL! And that, the meeting lasted until the "wee" hours of that Sunday morning...**and that was 1948!**

Meet Your Charleston Club Members!

During this year's editions of *The Charleston Club Tattler* we will profile each of your Charleston Club members. We will pull 3~4 Club members' names out of a hat, ask them some profile questions and write about them in future issues of *The Tattler*. The first members to be profiled are seasoned members of the club; their names were not from "the hat" but the next members will be out of the hat!

Meet Charter Club-Member - Julia Magwood Harris

Julia Ursuline Magwood was born and raised in Charleston, a week ago; she celebrated her 90th birthday on August 24th. She was born in 1923 to William L., Sr. and Lucille Hutchinson Magwood. She had three siblings; Lucille, William, Jr. (fellow charter-member) and Philip H. (current club-member) Magwood. The family lived at 66 Lee Street, at the



foot of the newly constructed Cooper River (Grace Memorial 1929) Bridge. Julia started school at Immaculate Conception (corner of Sheppard & Coming Sts.) through the 8th grade. High School, she attended Avery Normal Institute and graduated in Avery's Class of 1940. She spent the following year completing Avery's Normal (teaching) curriculum and graduated in the Class of 1941. That fall she entered St. Augustine's College (Raleigh, NC) and graduated in 3-years, in 1944.

Her first job was in Charleston, sewing uniforms for The Citadel; earning 0.25¢ cents a day! After 6 months of substitute teaching in Charleston, she was hired as a Math Teacher on the integrated staff of the elite private "All (black) Girls" boarding school, Allen High School (1887~1974) in Asheville, NC. Allen served the African American population of Western North Carolina for three quarters of a century. Julia spent two-years (1945-47) teaching at Allen H.S. before moving to Washington and resuming her professional teaching career. In 1952 Julia married Washington native, Calvin S. "Bootsie" Harris at Calvary Episcopal Church in Charleston. He attended Howard University where his athletic abilities stood out, especially football; he served in the Army during World War II. Julia continued her education and earned her Master's degree from District of Columbia Teachers College (now University of District Columbia (UDC)) in 1977. Julia spent 37 years as a secondary school teacher at nine (9) different schools in Montgomery County (MD) before retiring in 1983. The couple had one daughter, Illona Maria Harris who still lives in the Washington area. The couple was married for 37 years before Calvin's death in Oct. 1989.

Julia served as president of the Charleston Club during the "**First Charleston, SC Club Reunion**" held in Washington during the summer of 1979. At one time Calvin became a member of the Charleston Club, but he could never fully understand the club-member's "Geechie Talk" language! During the 1980s, Julia delighted in hosting the Charleston Club's annual picnic at their Harris' Family Retreat in Falling Waters, WV. Julia is still a very active member of the club, and routinely attends meetings and club outings. She now lives in a senior community in Chevy Chase, MD. Most recently she served as the club's financial secretary. As recent as December 2012, Julia traveled to Atlanta to share in the joy of life-long friend and Avery classmate (Class of 1940) Cynthia McCottry-Smith's Surprise 90th birthday celebrations.

Meet Charter Club-Member - Orval Grant Cooke

Orval E. Grant was born in Charleston on September 22, 1918, the daughter of John and Annie Oakes Grant. The family lived at 147 Spring Street. Orval and her younger brother, John, Jr. ("Johnny Grant") attended Immaculate Conception School and she graduated in ICS' Class of 1938. Shortly thereafter she came to Washington, enrolled in Freedmen's Hospital School of Nursing, enjoying dormitory life and traveling back and forth to Charleston. After graduation from Freedmen's in 1941, she entered the



work-force as a Registered Nurse in the DC area schools. One of her first nursing assignments was at the Margaret Murray Washington Vocational School (27 "O" Street, NW). Originally known as the "O" Street Vocational School, the school was established to provide "manual training for boys and domestic science and art for girls." By the turn of the century, Tuskegee Institute founder Booker T. Washington espoused widespread vocational training for African Americans. It was fitting then, that the school was renamed in 1926 for the late widow of B. T. Washington, "Lady Principal" of Tuskegee and a leader of several black feminist organizations. The Margaret Murray Washington (MMW) School offered instruction to pupils at nearby elementary schools as well as to the high-school-age youths that made up its student body. During World War II, the school began offering courses in nursing. Its graduates were lauded by the military, and a three-year, evening nursing program grew quickly after the war and was soon accredited.

In the early 1940s she met and married Everett Carl Cooke, a native of Middleburg, VA. He attended Catholic University in Washington. Everett worked as a dental technician at Walter Reed Medical Hospital and in private dental practices in DC for many years. Everett Carl Cooke served as Charleston Club president in the early years of the Club. Everyone called him "**Cookie**" as did his wife; he called her "**Ms. Grant**" up until his death in January 1975.

The couple enjoyed many years of "good times" hosting Charleston Club meetings and functions in their home on Franklin St. NE. Orval experienced an adventurous 30 year career in nursing during the war-years in Washington and the DC Public School System. She officially retired from nursing in the mid-1970s. Orval lived in the family homestead for over 30 years before moving in 2005 to her current assisted living residence in Hyattsville MD. Orval and Everett were charter-members of the Charleston Club, she will turn 95 years old this September 22nd!

Meet Charleston Club-Member – Jametta White Martin

Jametta Isadora White was born and raised in Charleston; the daughter of Rev. James Wofford and Lula J. Morton White. Her father, Rev. J.W. White was the pastor of Memorial Baptist Church on Alexander Street for years; the family lived in the parsonage next door to the church. Jametta's first grades of schooling were at the Wallingford Academy and the Mary Street School through the 4th grade. In the 5th grade she started at Avery Normal Institute, and graduated valedictorian in the Class of 1940. In her junior/senior year she was "**Miss Avery.**" In those days, the student who sold the most



candy-bars in their annual “Lincoln Fund” was crowned Miss Avery. While at Avery she distinguished herself academically and for having a gift for music. She was/is an accomplished pianist, known for playing at numerous Avery programs and performed a personal piano recital during her senior year. During her high school years, a very close family friend from Moncks Corner, Virgie Evans (Shokes), came to live with her family. Both girls excelled at Avery and formed a life-long sisterhood. Both Jametta and Virgie attended Talladega College (Talladega, AL) in the early 1940s. Today, Talladega holds the distinction as Alabama's oldest private historically black liberal arts college. Jametta became a member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority and graduated from Talladega in 1945. Her father died in July 1944, he did not live to see her graduate from college. Soon thereafter Jametta and her mother moved to the Washington area to live with family relatives.

Jametta taught “music” for a year at Talladega before going to Oberlin College (Oberlin, OH) for her Master’s in Music (Organ) 1946-1948. With her Master’s in Music, Jametta returned to Talladega to teach (organ & music) for four years. Then she returned to Washington (1952) and began her musical teaching career at Bowie (then Maryland State Teachers College at Bowie). She taught music at St. Augustine’s College for a year and resumed teaching at Washington schools; Eastern H.S., Dunbar H.S. and Roosevelt Senior H.S. She retired from teaching in 1980.

In 1957 she married fellow Charlestonian, Harold S. Martin (D.D.S.), in Newark, NJ. Harold was from James Island, (SC); they knew each other socially from his college days in Howard’s Dental School. The couple were proud members of the Charleston Club for years before his untimely death in 1984. Jametta was an organist at St. Luke’s Episcopal Church (1514 15th Street, NW) for over 35 years (1969-2005); today she lives a very active life in her N. Capitol St. home. Her son, Harold “Gregory” Martin lives in the Laurel MD area with her two grandchildren. She is always present at Club meetings and functions; active in her religious life and her bowling club activities.

Meet Charleston Club-Member – Catherine Manor Briggs

Catherine Elaine Manor was born in Coffee, GA (near Alma, GA) on July 24, 1925, the daughter of Oscar and Lillie Jones Manor; her father worked as a “box chipper” in Georgia’s turpentine industry. When she was a toddler the family moved to Charleston and lived in “railroad housing.” Catherine and her three siblings; older brother Rev. Lee S. Manor (diseased), Barbara Jackson Richardson and Alethia (Habeebulah Muhammad) once lived at 126 Hanover St. Her first schooling was at 4-Mile School in the Rosemount area, on Meeting Street Road. Catherine was a smart student and skipped the second grade while in school.



She started Burke Industrial School in 8th grade, and

played forward on Burke’s “girls 3 on 3” basketball team. She has fond memories of her high school days and graduated from Burke in 1943. Her mother wanted her to become a “train-nurse” so she entered SC State College (1943-44), majoring in Biology. The next year she joined the WW II Cadet Nursing Corps, enrolled in Washington’s Freedmen’s Hospital School of Nursing where she continued her education and graduated in June 1947. With her Registered Nurse (RN) certification in hand, she returned to Charleston and applied for a RN position at Roper Hospital, only to be told “we don’t hire colored,” but she could apply for an assistant nursing position. Catherine rejected the idea and returned to Freedmen’s for employment. She remembers sharing a house with five (5) other nurses, they were on “easy street,” they made \$2,644.80/year each. They called themselves the “26-44-80” club. Soon, one by one they got married and club dissolved.

Catherine became adventurous; she joined the newly formed U.S. Air Force Nursing Corp in 1951, her first duty station was a 1-year tour in Denver, CO. Next tour was not what she wanted (Europe), but at Elmendorf AF Base, in Anchorage, AK. First Lt. Manor spent a 2-year tour in Alaska in the base’s general hospital. There she met and married California native, Albert David Briggs, Sr. in Alaska. The couple had two sons, Albert David, Jr. and Joseph Spencer Briggs. The couple lived in Los Angeles, CA for a couple of years before divorcing in the 1950s. Catherine joined the Charleston Club in the 1970s; she was sponsored by Club member Paul Cunningham. She has been an active club member for almost fifty (50) years, and today she serves as club treasurer. She is a member of Gethsemane U.M.C. in Capitol Heights, MD. She still loves attending college studies (i.e. Howard U, University of Maryland, Catholic U., and UCLA) and dancing; line-dancing is her favorite! Currently she lives in Cameron Groves, a seniors’ community in Upper Marlboro, MD; has three (3) adoring grandsons; and enjoys traveling to her annual family (43rd~2013 Jones-Manor-Gray) reunions.

Charleston’s IAAM is Making Progress!



Charleston’s International African American Museum (IAAM) is making progress towards becoming a reality. Mid-July 2013 was the deadline to meet a \$50K Challenge Grant, and they exceeded their goals. Secondly, they were successful in their campaign to get SC state representatives to understand and support their mission; and override

Governor Haley's veto of the 2013-2014 State Budget. VETO #54, was a \$300K line item for "a Charleston research center on African-American history." The funding was a requested to help further the IAAM mission.

So, what is the IAAM project? Forty percent of all Africans ~ men, women and children ~ destined for slavery in America were said to have been brought to Charleston on ships to **Gadsden Wharf** at Calhoun and Concord Streets. They were stored, more than 8,000 at a time, according to historians, in warehouses along East Bay Street as they waited to be sold into slavery in various parts of the South. Many died along the way and were dumped into the Cooper River; not enough burial space. As such, one of the largest wharfs in North America, **Gadsden Wharf** has become a memorial site and a fitting place for the proposed \$50 million International African American Museum.

A trace of heritage ... "It's a heritage site because 80 percent of all African-Americans can find one ancestor who came through the port of Charleston", said John Fleming, museum director. Arrival Square, as the area will be called, will be a place of remembrance where millions of blacks can trace their heritage, and visitors can learn about African culture and how it contributed to American culture. Visitors can learn about life in West Africa before the arrival and how Africans brought to the Lowcountry their rice production skills, which led to a rich state and local economy. Fleming said the cultures are so intertwined; there can be no American culture without African culture. The museum will look at 400 years of U.S. history, including the Civil War, Reconstruction and Jim Crow. It will explore how blacks changed U.S. culture through the economy, road and building construction, song, dance, food and language.

No amount is too small, said Mayor Joe Riley, who heads the museum board, said the 44,000-square-foot building will have permanent and rotating exhibits and will be of national significance. Because so much of African-American history has gone largely untouched, the museum will be similar to an archaeological body of work unearthing history. The site will be a community gathering place for special events and an avenue for people to connect with other local places, such as Avery Research Center, to help tell the story of African-Americans.

Fleming and Riley envision people coming from all over the world to visit the museum, now gearing up for its capital campaign. So far, \$2.5 million has been raised for research, planning and design, including the most recent \$248,000 Boeing donation. In mid-2012, the museum's website (www.iaamuseum.org) and on Facebook (www.facebook.com/IAAMuseum) were launched online, for people to be able to learn more about the project and how they can donate. Mayor Riley's committee has been putting together the fundraising plan, targeting public and private funds, including corporations, foundations, churches and individuals. No amount is too small. A \$1.00 contribution will be part of the museum's history, Riley said. The target date for completion is 2017.

After 125 Years, St. Paul's College Closed June 30th 2013

After 125 years of service, St. Paul's College, the beleaguered HBCU in Lawrenceville, VA ceased operations on June 30, 2013. In recent years, the Southern Association of Colleges and



Schools (SACS) cited Saint Paul's for a series of deficiencies and violations, among them the lack of financial stability and too many faculty without terminal degrees. The college was eventually stripped of its accreditation. A federal judge later issued a preliminary injunction, allowing the college to keep its accreditation on a probationary basis so that Saint Paul's could continue to enroll students and hold classes. It opened last fall with about 111 students.

During a two-year probation, the college struggled, but couldn't fix what creditors found lacking at the institution that largely serves low-income, first-generation students. Student enrollment continued to tumble, slipping below 100 and the money it raised from gifts, alumni donations, and desperate appeals, never seemed to be enough for the fledgling college to thrive.

Late last year, a merger-acquisition plan with Saint Augustine's University in Raleigh, NC, seemed to be the lifeline Saint Paul's College needed. But in May, Saint Augustine's dashed those plans, saying that acquiring the college was "not a fiscally responsible option." The proposal, which some in the Black college community called innovative and historic, would have created "the Saint Paul's College campus of Saint Augustine's University on the Saint Paul's College." The acquisition would have also meant assuming Saint Paul's debts which were estimated at between \$4-\$5 million dollars. Saint Paul's College and Saint Augustine's are two of three Historically Black Colleges and Universities founded by the Episcopal Church. The other is Voorhees College in Denmark, S.C.

Over the summer months, the focus at Saint Paul's has been the business of shuttering the rural 184-acre campus. Close-out plans also meant satisfying faculty and staff contracts, and transferring students to neighboring Virginia institutions, such as Norfolk State University and Virginia Union, selling off more than \$30 million in property and buildings, and settling debts.

Tattler ~ One liners . . .

- Frederick Douglass statue dedicated in the U.S. Capitol on June 19, 2013. It honors the legacy of abolitionist, author and statesman...Frederick Douglass. The former slave who became a champion for civil rights in the 19th century is now the fourth African-American with a statue in the Capitol, and the first representative of the District of Columbia. Emancipation Hall is also home to statues of **Rosa Parks, Sojourner Truth and Martin Luther King Jr.**

- The Fly on The Wall !