

Leaders of Wilmington

Principal Officers of the City of
Wilmington, Delaware 1832 – 2007

Donn Devine

Bloomington, IN



authorHOUSE®

Milton Keynes, UK

THE COUNCIL
of
THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF WILMINGTON
1925-1927

PRESIDENT	Howard M. Ward (R)
1ST WARD	Arthur Johnson (R)
2ND WARD	William J. Winchester (R)
3RD WARD	Joseph B. Green (R)
4TH WARD	Robert Bruce Clark (R)
5TH WARD	Alexander R. Abrahams (R)
6TH WARD	John O. Hopkins (R)
7TH WARD	James S. Evans (R)
8TH WARD	James B. McManus (R)
9TH WARD	Harry E. Vincent (R)
10TH WARD	William M. Duffy (D)
11TH WARD	John S. Birowski (D)
12TH WARD	Sybil U. Ward (R)

CITY CLERK and CLERK OF THE COUNCIL	Homer C. Simmons (R)
MAYOR	George W. K. Forrest (R)

THE COUNCIL
of
THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF WILMINGTON
1927-1929

PRESIDENT	William N. Cann (R)
1ST WARD	Arthur Johnson (R)
2ND WARD	William J. Winchester (R)
3RD WARD	Joseph B. Green (R)
4TH WARD	James A. McKenna (R)
5TH WARD	Charles S. Lednum (R)
6TH WARD	John O. Hopkins (R)
7TH WARD	James S. Evans (R)
8TH WARD	James B. McManus (R)
9TH WARD	Harry E. Vincent (R)
10TH WARD	James D. Lewis (D)
11TH WARD	Leroy F. Hawke (D)
12TH WARD	Sybil U. Ward (R)

CITY CLERK and CLERK OF THE COUNCIL	Homer C. Simmons (R)
MAYOR	George W. K. Forrest (R)

THE COUNCIL
of
THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF WILMINGTON
1937-1939

PRESIDENT	Albert W. James (R)
1ST WARD	Fred Brown (R)
2ND WARD	William J. Winchester (R)
3RD WARD	John J. Ayars, Jr. (R)
4TH WARD	Paul M. Palese (R)
5TH WARD	Frank J. Corsano (R)
6TH WARD	John O. Hopkins (R)
7TH WARD	Irving Warner (R)
8TH WARD	John J. Anderson (R)
9TH WARD	William E. Skellenger (R)
10TH WARD	William J. Graney (D)
11TH WARD	John A. Osowski (D)
12TH WARD	John M. Conway (D)

CITY CLERK and CLERK OF THE COUNCIL	Homer C. Simmons (R)
MAYOR	Walter W. Bacon (R)

THE COUNCIL

of

THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF WILMINGTON

1939-1941

PRESIDENT	Albert W. James (R), succeeded to mayoralty Bayard Sharp (R), installed Jan. 15, 1941
1ST WARD	Fred Brown (R)
2ND WARD	William J. Winchester (R)
3RD WARD	Joseph B. Green (R)
4TH WARD	Paul M. Palese (R)
5TH WARD	Frank J. Corsano (R)
6TH WARD	John O. Hopkins (R)
7TH WARD	Bayard Sharp (R), resigned C. Emerson Maxwell (R), appointed vice Sharp, Jan. 15, 1941
8TH WARD	John J. Anderson (R)
9TH WARD	William E. Skellenger (R)
10TH WARD	William J. Graney (D)
11TH WARD	John A. Osowski (D)
12TH WARD	Albert T. Strawbridge (R)

CITY CLERK and

CLERK OF THE COUNCIL

Homer C. Simmons (R)

MAYOR

Walter W. Bacon (R), resigned
Albert W. James (R),
inaugurated Jan. 15, 1941

*Charles Tilly
Wagner D. Jackson
and Barry Kay*

Race and Residence

in Wilmington, Delaware

*Bureau of Publications
Teachers College, Columbia University • 1965*

Each of them leads away from the city center in a direction in which there has been a small cluster of Negro housing for some time.⁴

One prong of the trident is an extension of the cluster of Negro housing below the Christina River southward along New Castle Avenue. Some movement of the Negro population outside the city along this line had already begun before 1950. Just inside the city limits, an all-Negro public housing project of 180 units, Southbridge, was built during World War II. In 1945, a medium-priced, all-Negro, Veterans' Administration-financed development, Dunleith, was opened just outside the southern boundary of Wilmington and immediately adjacent to an all-Negro, temporary war-housing project (Millside). This was the first group of new, purchasable private houses ever made available to Wilmington Negroes.

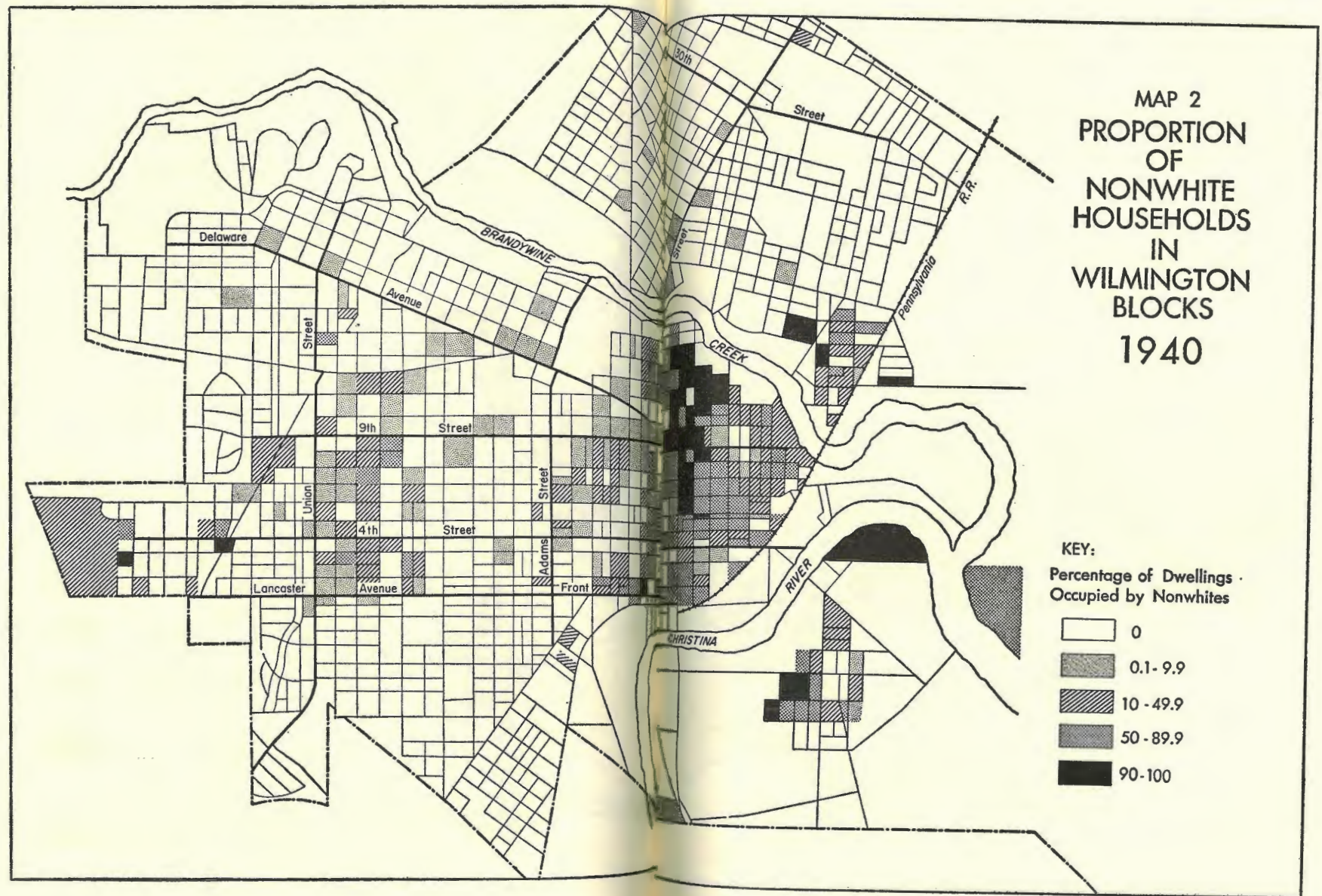
The movement of Negroes along this path out of the city continued as the first Negro families moved, without incident, into an old, established community of single-family detached housing, Eden Park, just a stone's throw away from the Southbridge Extension public housing project. Shortly after that, Negroes moved into another small group of newer, semi-detached homes called Rosehill Gardens, adjacent to Dunleith. Originally built for white occupancy, Rosehill Gardens now has a large majority of Negro residents.

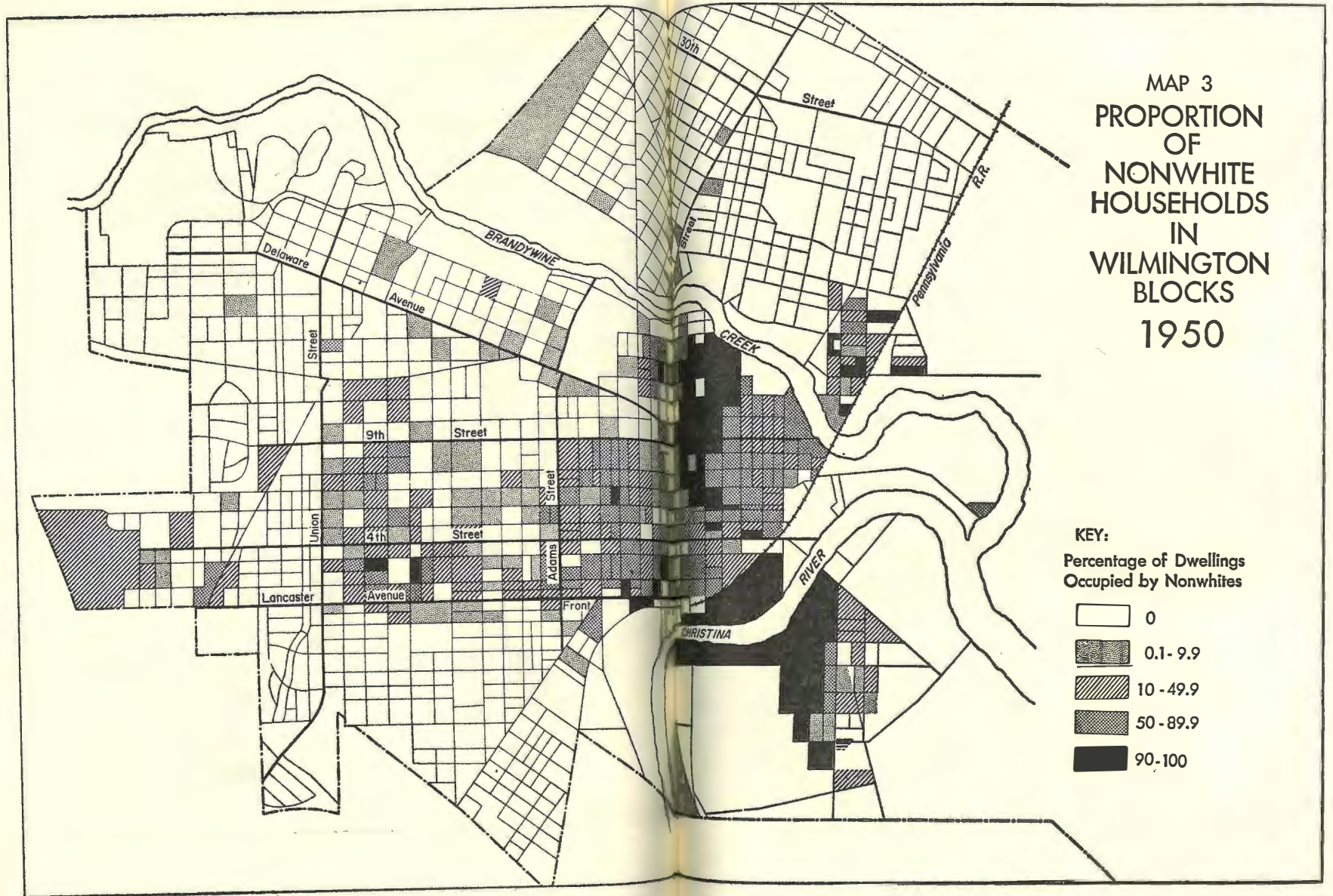
The most recent addition to this southern prong is Rosegate, begun in 1960. Since it is located in the Eden Park-Oakmont-Rosehill Gardens area, this development is a consolidation, rather than an extension, of Negro residence areas. Advertised as middle-income (in the \$9,000 to \$10,000 range), "open occupancy" housing, these row houses are probably destined by their location, and by the rarity of new, good-quality housing available to Negroes, to become virtually all-Negro. The same can be said of the slightly higher-priced housing at Oakmont.

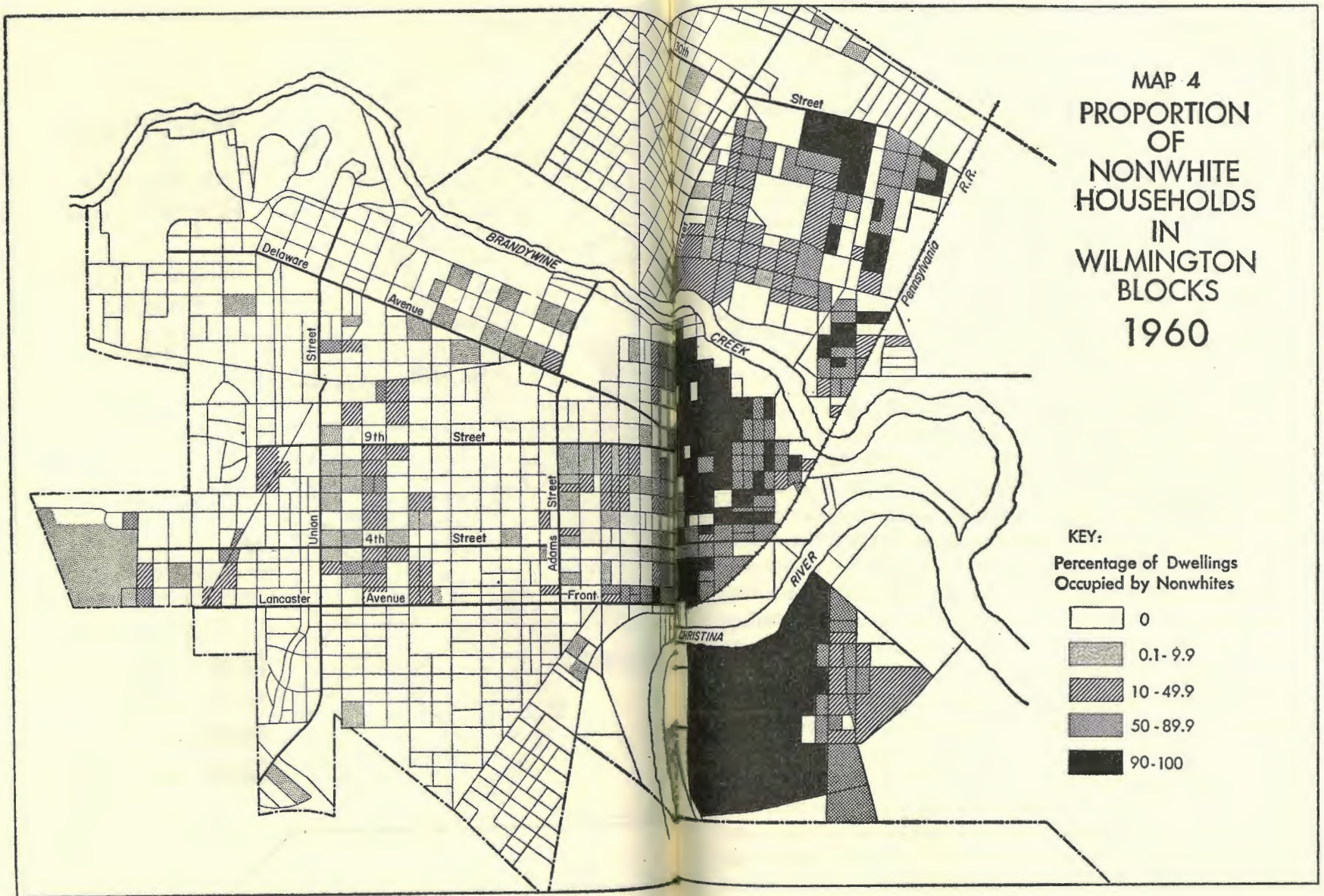
Rosegate and Oakmont are especially significant to this study since their existence suggests that a growing number of Wilmington's Negroes can now afford "middle-income" housing, and illustrates the consolidation trend which finds a decreasing number of Negro families living in the same blocks and neighborhoods as white families.

The response of all-white suburbs lying in the path of this southern movement was perhaps foreshadowed by the so-called "Collins Park incident," which received international attention. Collins Park is a moderately-priced subdivision roughly five miles south of central Wilmington, composed of houses built at the beginning of World War II, adjoining the small city of New Castle, itself an industrial center and the suburb of Wilmington which has the highest proportion of Negro population.⁵ The first Negro family to move into Collins Park was harassed by white demonstrators and threatened repeatedly. Eventually, two mysterious explosions damaged, and then destroyed, their home. As a result, Collins Park has remained all-white. This incident marked the first violence to accompany Negro residential expansion in the Wilmington area. It is important to note that it occurred in the suburbs rather than in the city itself; there is good reason to believe that potential resistance to Negro expansion is much greater in Wilmington's suburbs than in the central city. However, the line from the center of the city to New Castle connects a large band of Negro residences in the city, the cluster of Negro-occupied developments near the city, the tiny channel (New Castle Avenue) along which Negroes are moving slowly but steadily southward, and the already substantial Negro dwelling areas of New Castle. This line is likely to be the axis of the principal area of Negro expansion into the suburbs of Wilmington.

The first prong of Negro population movement reaches beyond the limits of Wilmington, but the other two are con-







MAP 4
 PROPORTION
 OF
 NONWHITE
 HOUSEHOLDS
 IN
 WILMINGTON
 BLOCKS
 1960

KEY:
 Percentage of Dwellings
 Occupied by Nonwhites

- 0
- 0.1 - 9.9
- 10 - 49.9
- 50 - 89.9
- 90 - 100

Profiles of Black Leaders in Delaware

1993 HONOREES



“WITH CHANGE COMES OPPORTUNITY & SUCCESS”



PAAC
Preservation of Afro-American Culture, Inc.
Volume I • February 1993

\$5.00

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He is the Host and Producer of the Community Live Weekly TV show, which appears on TCI Cable on Sundays at 3:00pm throughout New Castle County. He has been honored by the Wilmington Branch N.A.A.C.P., the Southbridge Tenant Council, the Walnut Street YMCA, and other community organizations.

He is the Dinner Chairman of the Annual Dr. Martin Luther King Dinner, held in Wilmington at the Longshoreman's Hall.

He remains a member of the Wilmington Branch of the N.A.A.C.P., Advisor to the Wilmington Housing Authority's Tenant Council, Member of the Addiction Coalition of Delaware, and is chairman of the Church and Society Committee of the Mt. Joy United Church where he is a member. He is also a former community representative to the Heald Street Program.

He is divorced with four children and resides in Wilmington, Delaware.

HERMAN M. HOLLOWAY, SR.



Herman M. Holloway, Sr., of Wilmington, Delaware, began a new phase in the political history of the First State when on November 3, 1964, he became the first Afro-American ever to be elected to the Delaware State Senate. Representing the Second Senatorial District in the City of Wilmington, Holloway is the present holder of the highest elective office attained by a member of his race in Delaware. He was born in Wilmington, Delaware, February 4, 1922, and active at the district level for twenty years. His prior legislative experience consisted of one year in the Delaware State House of Representatives. He was elected on November 23, 1963, to serve out the unexpired term of the late State Representative Paul F. Livingston.

In 1988, Senator Holloway became the most tenured legislator in the present Delaware General Assembly. He has 25 years continuous service, more than any minority legislator elected at the state or congressional levels of government through-out the nation. Senator Holloway, for twenty consecutive years, has served as a member of the Joint Finance Committee and 16 years as chairperson on the Senate Committee on Health and Social Services and Aging. He presently serves as a member of the Senate Committees on Labor, Revenue and Taxation and the Committee on Corrections. He is a member of Delaware's Interstate Cooperative

Commission and a member of the Human Resource Task Force, Eastern Region of the National Legislator Conference. Senator Holloway has been the recipient of numerous commendations and awards from various professional, civic and social groups including fraternities, business and industry, labor, religious and educational organizations.

Identified by the local press in 1974 as having sponsored and passed more socially progressive legislation than any legislator in Delaware history, such as Delaware's Public Accommodations law, Open Housing Legislation, mandating education and training for all handicapped children within the state's public education system, Adult Protective Services and various programs and benefits for the States' Aging population, effective Child Support Collection legislation, Child Protective laws, Consumer Protection Legislation and numerous enactments to provide opportunity and benefits for women, and disadvantaged and the poor.

His legislative interest and participation remove him from and above the narrow confines of special interest or group problems. He says, "...this is as it should be. As a State Senator, regardless of my elective district, I am a representative of all the people, special considerations and interest notwithstanding".

Educated in both the parochial and public schools of Wilmington, Senator Holloway graduated from Howard High School and later attended Hampton University, Hampton, Virginia. In June of 1969, he was awarded an honorary Doctor of Law degree by Delaware State College. In 1972 he was awarded an Honorary Associate's degree of Applied Science by the Georgetown Branch of Delaware Technical and Community College.

Churchman and fraternalist, he is a member of My Joy United Methodist Church; a Past Worshipful Master of Union Lodge #21, Prince Hall Masonic Order. He has served as a member of the Board of Managers of the Walnut Street Y.M.C.A., and the Monday Club, Inc. He is the founder and President of the Citizens Political Issues League.

Married to the former Miss Ethel Johnson of Wilmington, Senator Holloway is the father of three daughters and two sons.

During his tenure to date in the Delaware General Assembly, this Delawarean has created an impressive new image of the Afro-American in relation to his aspirations for citizenship, opportunity and participation in the mainstream of community life. Senator Holloway has influenced many young aspirants of his race to pursue the field of public service.

Home Edition

JOURNAL-TRIBUNE EVENING

FULL SERVICE OF THE ASSOCIATED PRESS, UNITED PRESS AND INTERNATIONAL NEWS SERVICE

Vol. 16 No. 262 Evening Journal Founded 1888 Every Evening Founded 1871 Consolidated Jan. 2, 1953 Wilmington, Delaware, Thursday, November 4, 1948 Price Four Cents 56 Pages

THE WEATHER

MOSTLY CLOUDY AND MILD TONIGHT. GENERALLY FAIR AND SLIGHTLY WARMER TOMORROW.
Temp. Today 8 a. m., 60°; 1:30 p. m., 69°
(Weather Map and Full Weather Details On Page 4)

New Assemblyman



William J. Winchester

G. O. P. Plans To Reorganize State Senate

Party Has One-Vote Lead In Upper House; City Man Is First Negro Member

As one result of the elections Tuesday, the Republicans will organize the Senate of the 1949 General Assembly in which they won a one-vote majority.

The House, control of which has seemed to lie first with the Republicans, then with the Democrats, appears now to be certainly under control of the latter.

A correction of figures from the Ninth Representative District, Kent County, received just before noon today, give Jehu F. Camper, Democrat, 1272 votes instead of the 672 previously recorded for him and makes him the winner over R. H. Nelson, Republican, by 479 votes.

The Ninth District has long been a Democratic stronghold. It was carried in 1946 by Dr. William T. Chipman, a Republican, for the first time in history.

An interesting sidelight is that, for the first time in history, the Legislature will have a Negro member, Republican William J. Winchester, who was elected representative from the first district, Wilmington, by a majority of 427 votes.

The G. O. P. control of the Senate rests on one newly-elected senator, J. H. Powell of the Fourth Senatorial District, Sussex County, and eight holdovers from the 1947 General Assembly.

Among the Senate holdovers are George W. Rhodes of Newark, who was president pro-tem of the 1947 Senate, and E. Paul Burkholder of

(See ASSEMBLY—Page 4)

Assembly

(Continued From Page One)

Dover, who was Senate majority leader.

Other holdover Republicans are: Senators James S. Evans of Wilmington; Raymond B. Phillips of Bellefonte; Vera G. Davis of Dover—only woman senator in the state's history—Nelson M. Hammond of Felton; Leon C. Bulow of Bridgeville, and John R. Hitchens of Georgetown.

This group will choose a president pro tem and floor leader, appoint some 25 Senate attaches and control 22 Senate committees.

The Democrats elected six new senators to add to their two holdovers, Wilson A. David of Townsend and Howard H. Dickerson of Laurel.

Newly-elected Democratic senators are: John E. Reilly, Sr., Second District, Wilmington; Frederick Klair, Fourth District, New Castle County; E. Sherman Webb, Sixth District, New Castle County; Dudley Crossley, Second District, Kent County; William O. Cabbage, Fourth District, Kent County, and W. T. Cannon, Second District, Sussex County.

Mr. Reilly won his seat with a majority of 3,452 votes over his Republican opponent, Frank Obara. Mr. Powell, the Sussex County Republican, had a majority of 841 over Democrat Paul B. McCabe. The other seats were taken by the Democrats by majorities of 258 to 334.

Of the 17 Republicans elected to the House, three served in that chamber in the last General Assembly, and one other, Harvey G. Lawson of Millsboro, served in the Senate in the 1945 and 1947 legislatures. Mr. Lawson had previously served in the House and was an important and vocal member of the 1947 Senate majority.

The three Republicans who served last time are: Robert L. Armstrong of Wilmington, John P. Sinclair of Newark and Noble S. Warren of Dover.

The 13 new Republican representatives, in addition to Mr. Lawson, are: Mr. Winchester, Henry W. Bryan, Joseph A. Bruno, all of Wilmington; F. Albert Jones, Dr. Ernest B. Benger, Robert Kelton, Harvey F. Lee and Francis E. Holliday, all of rural New Castle County; H. C. Evans, G. V. Cool, John M. Longbotham, Kent County, and Joseph Calhoun and K. D. Givan of Sussex County.

The Democrats will have two 1947 representatives in the 1949 House and 16 new faces. William Mabrey of the Fifteenth Representative District, New Castle, and Warren L. Allen, Third District, Sussex County, are the reelected representatives. The others are: Martin J. Walsh, Wilmington; Calvin R. McCullough, Sudler J. King and A. Woodall Cochrane, rural New Castle County; George M. Blendt, Allen J. Cook, R. H. Carey, S. C. Hughes, John F. Camper and W. K. Paskey, Kent County, and William Morgan, George Collison, O. L. O'Neill, Paul G. Spear, A. B. Cordrey and W. T. Marvel, Sussex County.

These men will select a speaker and floor leader, appoint some 29 attaches and control 26 House committees.

Mr. Paskey was elected to the House by a majority of only 10 votes over his Republican opponent, Biggs, in the Eighth District Kent, and Republican Robert L. Armstrong won reelection over Robert H. Wahl, in the Second district, Wilmington, by only 88 votes.

Mr. Winchester, the Negro representative, ran for the House of Representatives in 1944 and was defeated by Senator-elect Reilly by 89 votes. He is a former city councilman, having served in that body for 16 years prior to 1941. He claims the distinction of having been the first Negro to serve on a grand jury in Delaware, the 1945 New Castle County grand jury. He is superintendent of garbage collections for the Wilmington Department of Health.

Delaware Day

A Salute to

Senator Herman M. Holloway, Sr.

December 7, 1993

Grace
Dr. Janet Harmon

"Star Spangled Banner"

"Our Delaware"

Greetings
Secretary of State William T. Quillen
Governor Thomas R. Carper

Toast: Class of 1992
Senator Robert J. Voshell

Pumpkin Mushroom Bisque

Toasts: Classes of 1988 & 1990
Senator Patricia M. Blevins
Senator David P. Sokola
Senator Richard A. Hauge
Senator John C. Still, III
Senator Robert L. Venable

Cornish Game Hens with Wild Rice and Pecans
Melange of Brussel Sprouts, Carrots and Chestnuts

Toasts: Class of 1980
Senator Myrna L. Bair
Senator Robert T. Connor
Senator David B. McBride
Senator James P. Neal
Senator James T. Vaughn

Mixed Winter Greens with Raspberry Vinaigrette

Toasts: Classes of 1974, 1976 & 1978

Senator Robert I. Marshall
Senator Harris B. McDowell, III
Senator Nancy W. Cook
Senator Andrew G. Knox

Tuiles with Fresh Berries
Coffee

Toasts: Class of 1972
Senator Thurman G. Adams, Jr.
Senator Roger Allen Martin

Domaine Chandon

Champagne Toast: Class of 1972
Senator Richard S. Cordrey
President Pro-Tempore
The Senate of the State of Delaware

Response: Class of 1964
Senator Herman M. Holloway, Sr.

Benediction
"God Bless America"

Lieutenant Governor Ruth Ann Minner, Senator Thomas B. Sharp and
Senator William C. Torbert regret that they are unable to attend.

"Our Delaware"

Oh the hills of dear New Castle, And the smiling vales between,
When the corn is all in tassel, And the meadow lands are green;
Where the cattle crop the clover, And its breath is in the air,
While the sun is shining over, Our beloved Delaware.

Where the wheat fields break and billow, In the peaceful land of
Kent, Where the toiler seeks his pillow, With the blessings of
content; Where the bloom that tints the peaches, Cheeks of
merry maidens share, And the wood land chorus preaches, A
rejoicing Delaware.

Dear old Sussex visions linger, Of the holly and the pine, Of
Henlopes Jeweled finger, Flashing out across the brine; Of
the gardens and the hedges, And the welcome waiting there,
For the loyal one that pledges, Faith to good old Delaware.

From New Castle's rolling meadows, Through the fair rich
fields of Kent, To the Sussex shores hear echoes, Of the
pledge we now present; Liberty and Independence, We will
guard with loyal care, And hold fast to freedom's presence, In
our home state Delaware.

CHORUS

Oh, Our Delaware! Our beloved Delaware! For the sun is
shining over our beloved Delaware, Oh! our Delaware! Our
beloved Delaware! Here's the loyal one that pledges, Faith to
good old Delaware.

WILLIAM J. WINCHESTER

William J. Winchester, born in the State of Maryland, came to Wilmington, Delaware at the age of 15. Resided in South Wilmington until his passing in 1951. Became interested in government at an early age and aligned himself with negro republican party leaders such as Johnny Thompson and Charles H. Coleburn, both of whom prepared him to assume the leadership as they moved from the political scene in the State of Delaware.

Mr. Winchester became a member of the Mt. Joy United Methodist Church, located in South Wilmington, where he served as President of the Board of Trustees for 22 years, and held numerous positions of leadership with the now defunct Delaware Conference.

Active for years in community affairs, Mr. Winchester earned the respect of countless number of both black and white citizens throughout the State of Delaware. He was elected six times Wilmington City Councilman from the old Second Ward in the City of Wilmington where he emerged as the single most trusted and prestigious black spokesperson for his race in the history of The First State. His advocacy for his race was always foremost. His approach was always judicious, diplomatic, yet firm.

He served for 20 years as a member of the Republican State Committee in association with such notables as C. Douglas Ruck, Frank V. du Pont, T. Coleman du Pont, Thomas Peeny, Ike Brown, John Townsend, Walter Bacon, John O. Hopkins, Hannibal Cooper and Oscar Sewell. William J. Winchester, because of his firm loyalty to the Republican party, his integrity and his unswerving devotion to the principles of equality for all people, began a new phase in the political history of the State of Delaware, when in January 1949, he became the first black person ever to be elected to the Delaware State Legislature.

From 1920 until his untimely passing in 1951, Uncle Jim, as he was affectionately called by his many admirers, gave unselfishly of himself. His many statewide involvements and all contributions significantly improved the social and economic status of all black citizens in the State of Delaware.

William J. Winchester served long years ago as a builder of bridges for wholesome race relations.

DEL BLACKS/
BLACK
HISTORY

A bridge on a road to freedom

William J. Winchester, Delaware's first black legislator, really believed that all men are created equal and are "endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights" such as life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.

And I'm sure the small group of blacks who huddled Thursday on the new bridge over the Christina, downstream from the old Third Street Bridge, also believes in literal application of that creed.

As I sat with them in a snowfall at the bridge dedication, it occurred to me how significant it was that the span be named after the late William Winchester.

I have a hunch Sen. Herman M. Holloway Sr. was influenced by instinct when he promoted the naming of the bridge for William Winchester.

The fact is that this bridge is on the route Caesar Rodney took about 200 years ago on his famous ride from Dover to Philadelphia, also in inclement weather, to vote for the Declaration of Independence.

During the brief but impressive ceremony under the capable guidance of Sen. Holloway, I thought of when the Declaration was adopted with most signers really not believing in literal application of the creed it espoused.

It took many years of conflict, a major civil war, lots of bitterness, and thousands of demonstrations before we neared the goal of human rights and civil liberty.

And William Winchester was one of the pioneer blacks who tested that creed when he successfully ran for office, particularly in the legislature, a mere 32 years ago in Delaware.

In July of 1776, when Rodney as a member of the Continental Congress set out from Dover for Philadelphia to vote for the Declaration of Independence, he followed the route then available. This took him to New Castle, then Delaware's capital, and from there to Wilmington

Bill Frank

ton by way of present day New Castle Avenue to the Christina, just about at the southern end of Winchester Bridge.

In those days there was no bridge and Rodney crossed on a ferry.

Once across, he continued his dash through today's east side Wilmington to the present Philadelphia Pike, thence to Chester and eventually to the State House in Philadelphia, now called Independence Hall.

So the Winchester Bridge is an important link in the Delaware freedom route followed by Rodney. Naming it for a man who helped develop genuine freedom for his race turns out to have been of greater significance than Sen. Holloway or the legislature thought.

Adding to the importance of Thursday's dedication was that it was also the 52nd birthday of the late Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., who had a dream of racial equality.

An added factor was attendance of Republicans and Democrats who laid aside political differences to honor a man whose life and activities confirmed the American creed that all men are created equal.

I've attended any number of dedications but never one like this one, thanks to Sen. Holloway and Mayor William McLaughlin who seemed to vie in relating boyhood experiences around the old Third Street Bridge.

Each told of confronting the gangs that roamed the area, the rivalry between baseball teams and how on one occasion Third Street Bridge had to be lifted to stop one gang from invading another's territory.

I thought of when oyster boats anchored at a small park on the north side of Third Street Bridge while the captains sold their wares to Wilmingtonians who flocked there for the succulent seafood.

It was appropriate to have the Rev. Jesse L. Walker of Mt. Joy Methodist Church offer the invocation since William Winchester was an official of that church. Trafianna

Wilson was inspiring in a vocal solo, assisted by the Mt. Joy choir.

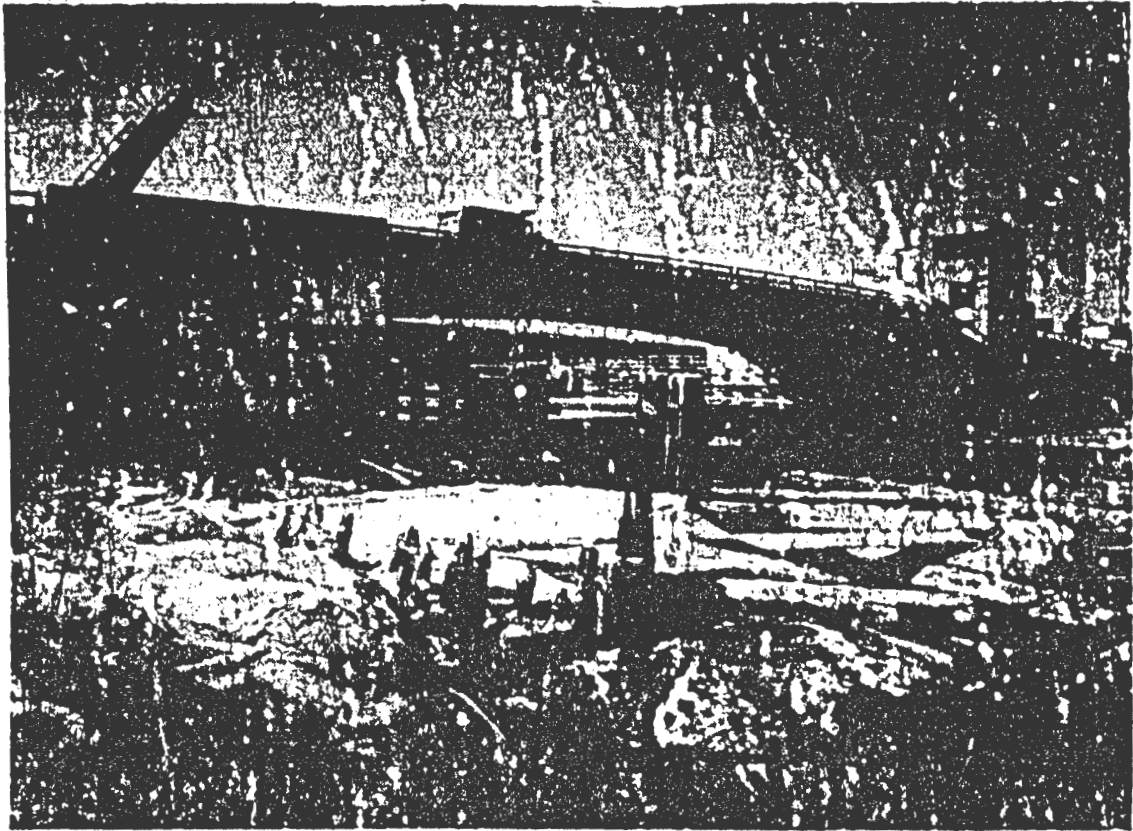
But the peak was when Anna Coverdale of Greenwood, a daughter of William Winchester, and Stella Bolden, a niece, cut the ribbon to the applause of the witnesses, with a score of Winchester kinfolk including many grandchildren and great grandchildren present.

William Winchester was elected to City Council six times and twice to the General Assembly. He died in January of 1952 at the age of 76 in his home, 1118 B Street.

The first state official to express regret was then Gov. Elbert N. Carvel who called Mr. Winchester "an outstanding member of his race who had gained the respect and admiration throughout the state."

The dedication, by the way, was no doleful affair. Despite inclement weather, Sen. Holloway kept the program moving, with dignity but not without humorous moments which I'm sure William Winchester would have relished.

The Morning News, Wilmington, Del., Tuesday, Jan. 12, 1981



The William J. Winchester Bridge is open to traffic, with dedication ceremonies planned for Thursday. (Staff photo by Pat Crowe)

William J. Winchester Bridge open

By WILLIAM P. FRANK
Staff writer

The \$7.6 million William J. Winchester Bridge — named after the first black member elected to the General Assembly — is now open to traffic, replacing the nearby 69-year-old Third Street Bridge.

But the bridge that spans the Christina River will be temporarily closed shortly before 10 Thursday morning for its official dedication by Gov. Pierre S. du Pont IV.

Sen. Herman M. Holloway Sr., D-Wilmington, had recommended in 1979 that the new bridge

be named in memory of Winchester. Winchester served 16 years on Wilmington City Council before being elected to the House of Representatives in 1948, where he was the first black member ever elected to the General Assembly. He died in 1952 during his second term.

Construction on the new bridge began in 1975. It is directly in line with East Fourth Street, and it was financed primarily by \$7 million in federal funds.

The old Third Street Bridge, which is several hundred yards upstream from the Winchester bridge, had become known as the

"bridge of sighs" because it presented so many problems to highway officials.

Before construction on the new bridge began, federal officials had warned that the old span was becoming increasingly unsafe for heavy traffic. It will cost about \$1 million to demolish the old bridge.

Joining the governor in the dedication ceremony Thursday will be Holloway, Kermit Justice, secretary of the Department of Transportation, the Mt. Joy Methodist Church choir of Townsend Street and its pastor, the Rev. Jesse H. Walker.

W.F. Jan 4, 1952

William J. Winchester

TO WILLIAM J. WINCHESTER, who died yesterday at the age of 76, belongs a definite place in the history of his race and of this state. He was the first Negro to become a member of the General Assembly of Delaware. Elected first in 1948, he was reelected to a second term in 1950 and was a member when he died, although illness kept him away from the recent special session. Before that he had served for 16 years as a member of Wilmington's City Council.

A loyal Republican, Mr. Winchester had been committeeman of that party for the Second Ward for 30 years. A good churchman, he also served as a trustee of Morgan College in Baltimore. His many public services were recognized in 1949 when he was granted the honorary degree of doctor of laws by Delaware State College. His death is a loss to the party, the city, and the state he served so long and faithfully.

W.F. Jan 4, 1952

Death Delays Dover House Call for Day

Chamber Will Not Meet Monday Out of Respect For Rep. Winchester

The scheduled return of the House of Representatives to Dover Monday has been postponed until 11 a. m. Tuesday.

Speaker Harvey H. Lawson announced the postponement out of respect for Rep. William J. Winchester (R-Wilmington), who died yesterday at his home.

The funeral for Mr. Winchester will be held at 1 p. m. Monday at the Mt. Joy Methodist Church, B and Townsend Streets. Friends may call at the Caulk Funeral Home, 827 Pine Street, after 9 p. m. Sunday.

Mr. Winchester, 76, was the first Negro in Delaware's history to serve in the legislature. He was elected in 1948 to serve in the House from the First Representative District in Wilmington and was reelected in 1950.

In announcing last night that he had rescinded the first call, Speaker Lawson, from his home in Millsboro, said:

"Rep. William J. Winchester was highly respected by all of the members of the two legislatures in which he served and by no one more than I. In the deliberations of the members of the House of Representa-

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Assembly

(Continued From Page One)

tives during the 115th and 116th General Assemblies his opinions were well valued.

"Each one of us respected him, too, for the intelligent and warm hearted way in which he forwarded the cause of his race. That he was held in high esteem by the constituents of the First Representative District of Wilmington was obvious from the fact that they elected him to serve twice in the General Assembly.

"His interest in all legislative problems and his willingness to work made him all the more appreciated by those who served with him. I was particularly close to him and had the honor of calling him to the rostrum to act as Speaker of the House on at least one occasion.

"Out of respect to Mr. Winchester and in the belief that all members of the House of Representatives will approve this action I am rescinding the call made last night to reconvene on Monday, Jan. 7, at 11 a. m.

Asks All to Be in Seats

"The present recess of the House, which started on Dec. 19, when the House recessed to the call of the chair, will end on Tuesday morning, Jan. 8, at 11 o'clock. At that time I ask all members and officers of the House to be in their seats."

Mr. Lawson was not ready yet to make any statement regarding the issuance of a writ of election to fill the vacancy created by Mr. Winchester's death.

The Delaware Constitution provides, in part, that "Whenever there shall be a vacancy in either House of the General Assembly, by reason of failure to elect, ineligibility, death, resignation or otherwise, a writ of election shall be issued by the presiding officer of the House in which the vacancy exists . . ."

The Speaker said that he had not learned of Mr. Winchester's death until late yesterday and had had no opportunity yet to confer with other legislative leaders on the action to be followed.

Newspaper
Clippings—
Personal—Winchester

350 Years of African American Heritage in Delaware



The Afro-American
Historical Society of Delaware

COVER: Peter Spencer and the Big Quarterly by Simmie L. Knox. Courtesy of Delaware King Memorial Foundation

Mr. Knox was born in Mobile, Alabama. He holds both a B.F.A. and M.F.A. from Temple University in Philadelphia. Though he has worked in a variety of media, it has been through portraiture that he has received national acclaim. His portraiture has been commissioned by Alex Haley, Dorothy Height and Bill Cosby, to name a few. Mr. Knox's paintings are in the permanent collections of the state capitols of South Carolina and Tennessee and the Museum of African Art of the Smithsonian Institution. He formerly taught art at Howard High School and the Delaware Art Museum.

350 Years of African American Heritage in Delaware

**Art from the exhibit at The Gallery of
The Afro-American Historical Society of Delaware
Howard High School
Thirteenth & Poplar Streets
Wilmington, Delaware**

**Sponsored by:
The Afro-American
Historical Society of Delaware**

Opening - June 2, 1989

Introduction

African American settlers were among the first in Delaware. Their native African culture blended with the Anglo customs they were forced to adopt, forging a vibrant heritage. In capsule form, "350 Years of African American Heritage in Delaware" proudly displays that birthright. It commemorates the achievements of African American men and women whose victories in their public lives have inspired many as well as those whose private acts of courage have passed unnoticed. The artwork in the exhibit, reproduced in this catalog, was created by Black and white artists, most with Delaware roots -- some amateurs, some teachers and some professionals. These artists have enriched their work with the legacy of Delaware's African American traditions.

The Afro-American Historical Society of Delaware was founded with the recognition that if African Americans do not take the initiative to preserve and teach the heritage of our forebears, then it is destined to disappear. Through exhibits such as this one, we hope to raise the public's awareness of the struggles and triumphs of African Americans throughout Delaware's history.

The Gallery of the Afro-American Historical Society of Delaware at Howard High School will be the future setting for more exhibits exploring the contributions of African Americans to history, art and other fields of endeavor both locally and nationally.



Harmon R. Carey

President and Founder

Afro-American Historical Society of Delaware

June, 1989

Nanette M. A. Crist

Louis L. Redding

Nanette first exhibited her work at age 9 and by age 12 had sold nearly 30 portraits in the Delaware area. Her formal art education included fine art studies at the University of Delaware, illustration from Famous Artists' School, portraiture at the atelier of Daniel Greene, sculpture from Charles Parks, Jr., and the business of art from Pyle School artist Charles Colombo. Her work has been described as "spiritual realism" and although her subjects reflect diversity of interest, her portraiture exhibits a lifelike, multi-dimensional quality. Notables such as former U.S. Attorney General Edwin Meese III and actor-singer Burl Ives have commissioned her portraits.



Herman M. Holloway, Sr.



Percy Ricks

Black Samson of the Brandywine

Percy Ricks was born in Washington, DC, and subsequently moved to Delaware. He established himself as an international spokesman for African American artists by attending the Second World African Art and Cultural Festival in Nigeria as the Tri-State representative. In works such as "Black Samson of the Brandywine", he explores the mythic elements of African American heroes.

Ollie Johnson

Judy Johnson

Ollie Johnson, a native Delawarean, was commissioned to paint this portrait of Judy Johnson, only African American from Delaware elected to the Baseball Hall of Fame at Cooperstown, New York. Mr. Johnson served as art editor of a national, black sports magazine published in New York. His work has appeared in many copies of that magazine and other sports publications.



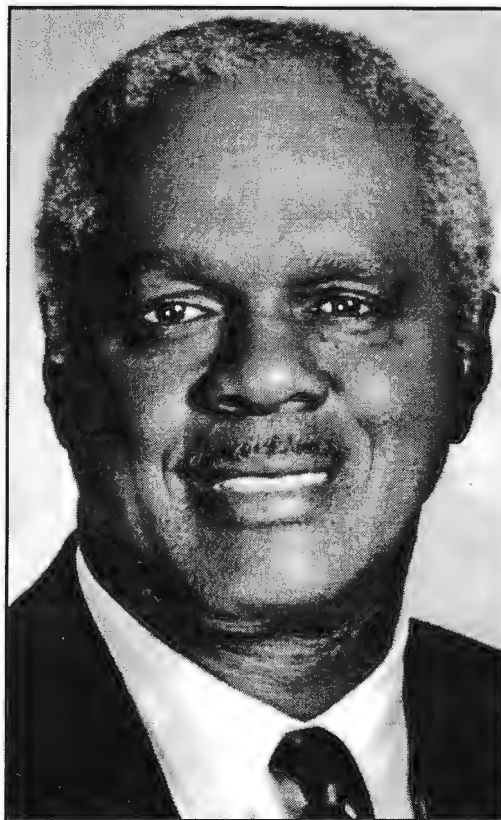
Firsts By **AFRO AMERICANS** In Delaware & Across America



Joyce Riley, Dallas Riley
& Darlene Riley



Stephanie Bolden



Mayor James Sills



Janis Shields



Arana Pettyjohn

An informative compilation of backgrounds, histories, and noteworthy achievements of a few of the many Afro-Americans in Delaware as well as across the nation.

People You Should Know...



Congressman Michael N. Castle

Michael N. Castle was sworn into office as Delaware's lone Congressman in the United States House of Representatives on January 5, 1993. He is the only former Governor in Congress and the first Republican to serve as Delaware's Congressman in ten years.



Herman M. Holloway, Sr.

Herman M. Holloway, Sr. began a new phase in the political history of the First State when on November 3, 1964, he became the first Afro-American ever to be elected to the Delaware State Senate. Representing the Second Senatorial District in the City of Wilmington, Holloway is the present holder of the highest elective office attained by a member of his race in Delaware.



Rep. Herman M. Holloway, Jr.

Rep. Herman M. Holloway, Jr. was elected in 1977 to the State House of Representatives and served through 1983. He was recently re-elected on September 12, 1992, back to the House of Representatives and is also a member of the House Committees on Human Resources, Education, Substance Abuse and Labor.



Darrell J. Minott, Esquire

Darrell J. Minott was sworn in by Governor Thomas R. Carper as Delaware's Secretary of Labor on January 29, 1993. Secretary Minott was formerly president of the New Castle County Economic Development Corporation (NCCEDCO), Director of Business Finance for the Delaware Development Office, and an associate attorney with Richards, Layton & Finger.



Herman M. Holloway, Sr. **(First Black Senator)**

Herman M. Holloway, Sr., of Wilmington, Delaware, began a new phase in the political history of the first State when on November 3, 1964, he became the first Afro-American ever to be elected to the Delaware State Senate. Representing the Second Senatorial District in the City of Wilmington, Holloway is the present holder of the highest elective office attained by a member of his race in Delaware. He was born in Wilmington, Delaware, on February 4, 1922, and has been active at the district level for twenty years. His prior legislative experience consisted of one year in the Delaware State House of Representatives. He was elected on November 23, 1963, to serve out the unexpired term of the late State Representative Paul F. Livingston.

In 1988, Senator Holloway became the most tenured legislator in the present Delaware General Assembly. He has twenty-five years continuous service, more than any minority legislator elected at the state or congressional levels of government throughout the nation. Senator Holloway, for twenty consecutive years, has served as a member of the Joint Finance Committee and sixteen years as chairperson on the Senate Committee on Health and Social Services and Aging. He presently serves as a member of the Senate Committees on Labor, Revenue and Taxation and the Committee on Corrections. He is a member of Delaware's Interstate Cooperative Commission and a member of the Human Resource Task Force, Eastern Region of the National Legislator Conference. Senator Holloway has been the recipient of numerous commendations and awards from various professional, civic and social groups, including fraternities, business and industry, labor, religious and educational organizations.

Identified by the local press in 1974 as having sponsored and passed more socially progressive legislation than any legislator in Delaware history, such as Delaware's Public Accommodations law, Open Housing Legislation, demanding education and training for all handicapped children within the state's public education system, Adult Protective Services and various programs and benefits for the state's aging population, effective Child Support Collection legislation, Child Protective laws, Consumer Protection Legislation and numerous enactments to provide opportunity and benefits for women, the disadvantaged and the poor.

His legislative interest and participation remove him from and above the narrow confines of special interest or group problems. He says, "...this is as it should be. As a State Senator, regardless of my elective district, I am a representative of all the people, special considerations and interest notwithstanding."

Educated in both the parochial and public schools of Wilmington, Senator Holloway graduated from Howard High School and later attended Hampton University, Hampton, Virginia. In June of 1969, he was awarded an honorary Doctor of Law degree by Delaware State College. In 1972, he was awarded an Honorary Associate's Degree of Applied Science by the Georgetown branch of Delaware Technical and Community College.

Churchman and fraternalist, he is a member of Mt. Joy United Methodist Church; a Past Worshipful Master of Union Lodge #21, Prince Hall Masonic Order. He has served as a member of the Board of Managers of the Walnut Street YMCA and the Monday Club, Inc. He is the founder and president of the Citizens Political Issues League.

Married to the former Miss Ethel Johnson of Wilmington, Senator Holloway is the father of three daughters and two sons.

During his tenure to date in the Delaware General Assembly, this Delawarean has created an impressive new image of the Afro-American in relation to his aspirations for citizenship, opportunity and participation in the mainstream of community life. Senator Holloway has influenced many young aspirants of his race to pursue the field of public service.

More Individuals in the Field...

- **Sidney Clark** - First Black judge
- **Emily Morris** - First Black prothonotary
- **Darrell Minott** - First Black appointed secretary of labor, 1993
- **Henrietta Johnson** - First Black Female state representative
- **Haile L. Alford** - First Black female judge