

BIRTHDAY

10/26/60

Bensyl

Catherine Louise Bensyl, 405 W. Broadway, Ogden, will celebrate her 80th birthday at an open house from 2 to 5 p.m. Nov. 4 at the Ogden Masonic Lodge.

The event will be hosted by

her children. Family and friends are invited to attend.

Mrs. Bensyl was born Nov. 3, 1920, at Toluca, a daughter of Roy Allen and Amy Ingeborg Miller. She married Ora Bensyl Jr. in February 1939 at Anderson, Ind. He died Nov. 11, 1975.

She is the mother of Mary Duitsman, Fallbrook, Calif.; Don Bensyl, Muncie; Cathy Brown, Riverton, Wyo.; and Roger Bensyl, Ogden. She has 11 grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren.

Mrs. Bensyl retired from the University of Illinois in 1982 after 22 years of employment.

Ed's ex-wife's Mom.

An ageless warmth flows at birthday

By J. PHILIP BLOOMER
News-Gazette Staff Writer

CHAMPAIGN — The goateed gentleman behind the money tree pushed aside his untouched plate of food and greeted his guests warmly, remembering the names of them all.

He may have been the guest of honor, but the guests came first. Maybe that's why so many of his friends come to his birthday party.

Theotto "Major" Bowles was 93 Friday, and on Saturday, acquaintances and family flocked to Salem Baptist Church to celebrate the occasion. The money tree was there in lieu of presents. Donations, he insisted, would go to the Salem Baptist building fund.

The finishing touches are being put on the new church at 500 E. Park St., C, a point of pride with Bowles, a deacon and member of the building committee.

Bowles joined the church in 1930, two years after moving to Champaign with his late wife, Luvata. Here, he raised eight children, working two jobs much of the time, preached the value of education and made public service part of his life's work.

A friend, Ruth Hendricks, organized Saturday's party. "He deserves it," she said. "When you live to be 93 years old, you deserve anything you get."

Bowles began work in Champaign running a cleaning and pressing business in the basement of the old Beardsley Hotel, later the Tilden Hall, at Hill and Neil streets. He later worked as a



News-Gazette photo by Curt Beamer

Theotto Bowles, center, celebrates his 93rd birthday with Ruth Hendricks, left, and his son Destin Bowles. The event at Salem Baptist Church on Saturday was organized with Hendricks' help.

maintenance man at Chanute Air Force Base, for the Eisner and Piggly Wiggly stores, at Christie Clinic and the Champaign City Building. He also sold Mason brand shoes in his spare time.

He later became a life insurance salesman and retired in 1976.

Throughout the decades, he has been active in his church, the Masons and the Republican Party.

Bowles was the first black man appointed to the city plan commission. A son, Wilborne, now deceased, was also the first black teacher in the Champaign school system, Bowles said.

In 1978 Bowles tried to break ground again in a run for the Champaign County Board.

"I lost by 123 votes. That was the end of my political career," he said.

His loss wasn't for lack of effort, said June Mank, a longtime Champaign City Council member, at the party Saturday.

"I campaigned with him in my precinct, and he knew more people than I did," she said.

Three of his children were in attendance Saturday: Destin Bowles of Chicago, Theola Murphy of Evanston and Alora

Bowles of Champaign.

Alora Bowles said her father remains active, and just quit driving, reluctantly, in August, and had to sell his 1967 Pontiac. He continues to live in the family home at 411 W. Maple, with his dog, Trixie.

After most of the food was gone Saturday, Dorothy Hite sang her own version of "Happy Birthday" for the major, hitting a high C — with authority — on the last note.

"I did that for him," she joked. It was a nice touch, for someone who has been doing for others for 93 years.

10/3/93



DAVID: Happy 70th.

EVEN people who never voted for **David Dinkins** concede he is a class act. They'll be thronging the New York Historical Society on Tuesday to toast the former mayor's 70th birthday. The invite reads, "five years as a senior citizen, 10 years as a grandfather, 32 years in public service, 44 years of marriage, 70 years of kindness, courage and decency." Expect **John Lindsay, Abe Beame, Ed Koch** and hundreds of other luminaries. "It started out small, but word got out, and it's getting bigger," said one Dinkins loyalist.

7/10/97



HAPPY BIRTHDAY—Master Terry Fonville of East Washington St., celebrated his 2nd birthday quietly at home with his mother, Mrs. Thurman Fonville, of the same address. His father, Corp. Fonville, is overseas.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY



Five generations on the picture, left to right, Mrs. Eva Higgins, granddaughter, Mr. John Higgins, grandfather, Mrs. J. H. Tisdale, daughter and Emmerson Maningley on his grandmother's lap, Mrs. Dorcus A. Hopkins. Many more happy returns to dear Mother Hopkins.

BIRTHDAYS

Hunt

Ella Luter Hunt of DeSoto, Texas, celebrated her 100th birthday at Jan. 23 and 25 parties at the nursing home where she lives.

A daughter of William and Dora Howard Luter, she was born Jan. 23, 1903, in Carbondale.

She married Dossie Hunt, in McLemoresville, Tenn. He died in 1965. The couple were sharecroppers and became the first blacks in the area to own their own farm in Carroll County, Tenn. She is the oldest living member of the Reedy Creek Baptist Church, McLemoresville, Tenn.

Her nine children are Doris



HUNT

Hutch and Jewel Wright, both of Cleveland; Ella R. Bolton, Urbana; and the late William Hunt, James Hunt, Paul Hunt, D.H. Hunt, Odell Hunt and Dora Lipscomb.

She has 28 grandchildren, 67 great-grandchildren and 32 great-great-grandchildren.

01/04/01

BIRTHDAY

Hunter

Willie M. Hunter, a resident of Heritage Nursing Center, 1315 B Curt Drive, C, will celebrate her 90th birthday at 7 p.m. Saturday at the nursing home.

The event will be hosted by her granddaughter, Ann Lipsey of Champaign.

Mrs. Hunter was born Jan. 8, 1911, at Baltimore, Miss., a daughter of Jack and Carrie Lo-

gan. She married Israel Hunter Sr. in 1939 at Leland, Miss. He died May 23, 1986.

She is the mother of the Rev. Israel Hunter Jr., Anne Williams and Ethel Davis, all of Champaign. She has 13 grandchildren, 35 great-grandchildren and 26 great-great-grandchildren.

She worked at Blytheville Air Force Base in Arkansas until she retired in 1975.



—PHOTO BY JOE BLESSMAN
MRS. EMA G. MANSPEAKER

Mrs. Ema G. Manspeaker of 201 West University avenue, celebrated her eighty-first birthday anniversary on Monday by entertaining members of the Gold Star Mothers' club, of which she is a member, and the officers of Champaign Unit 24, American Legion auxiliary. Mrs. Manspeaker, who has been a resident of Champaign for many years, is the oldest charter member of the Champaign Woman's club, also of the American Legion Auxiliary and the Emanuel Memorial Episcopal Church Guild.

Co 1930x

My grandmother Sarah Meier worked for the Robinsons
Mrs. Manspeaker - a Robinson family member also the Heunefelders

75 Years Young



HAPPY BIRTHDAY: Mrs. Ma
Mason of East Washington St.
happily entertained on her 75

A classmate of mine - Class of 1928 - UHS
for Jack + his School

BIRTHDAYS

Mumm

Frieda Anderson Mumm, 866 County Road 1900 E., Sidney, will mark her 90th birthday on April 20.

A family celebration will be held during the summer.

Mrs. Mumm was born on a farm near Block and formerly lived in Mahomet. She now resides on a farm southwest of Sidney.

She has a daughter, Janet Anderson Lowenstein, Mahomet, and one granddaughter.



J. Robert Norwood
December 2, 1907

B. E. Payne Celebrates Birthday



Mr. B. E. Payne who celebrated his 75th birthday on Xmas day, a very energetic citizen and ardent worker. On last Tuesday night in the home of Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Chandler 140 W. Baslin Street. He entertained his pastor and wife, Rev. and Mrs. A. G. Webb and following official staff Rev. Martin, Rev. O. Johnson and wife, Rev. O. B. Johnson and wife, Rev. C. E. Campbell, Mr. U. Moreland treasurer, Miss H. Chandler, assistant clerk, deacons J. Garland and wife, Ed Benton and wife, John Brown H. Pierce trustee, W. H. Chandler and wife with host Mr. and Mrs. Ed Payne. Home was beautifully decorated for the occasion. Evening was spent with the history of the Bible.



Mr. Payne on
his 75th B.D.
also he was a
Mason.
Cir 1940's

CENTENARIAN MARKS YULE



ROYALETTES PROVIDE BOUNTIFUL FOOD BASKET.

Thousands of persons in Cham paign — Urbana sat down to Christmas dinners Monday, but only one was able to say he had experienced more than 100 such occasions.

He is Mr. Chas. Perkins of 509 N. 4th St. who is in his 102nd year. Perkins born in 1848, has lived here since he was 8 years old.

It was all taken care of that he have a bountiful Christmas dinner. Members of the Royallettes club called at his home Friday

shooting ducks where the 1st National bank building stands, and later working in a livery stable on the site of the Ill. Power Co. building.

Perkins, the first person baptized in the Bethel AME church doesn't leave the house these days.

His wife died many years ago. There was a son, but his father has not heard from him in years and fears he may be dead. F. C. Coleman, 67, with whom Perkins lives watches out for the venerable

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ingredients, including a roasting
chicken as the piece de resistance.

Perkins told th delegation from
the Royalettes that Champaign
was nothing but prairie when he
arrived.

His first job, when he was but
10 years old, was herding cows
25 cents weekly. He recalls

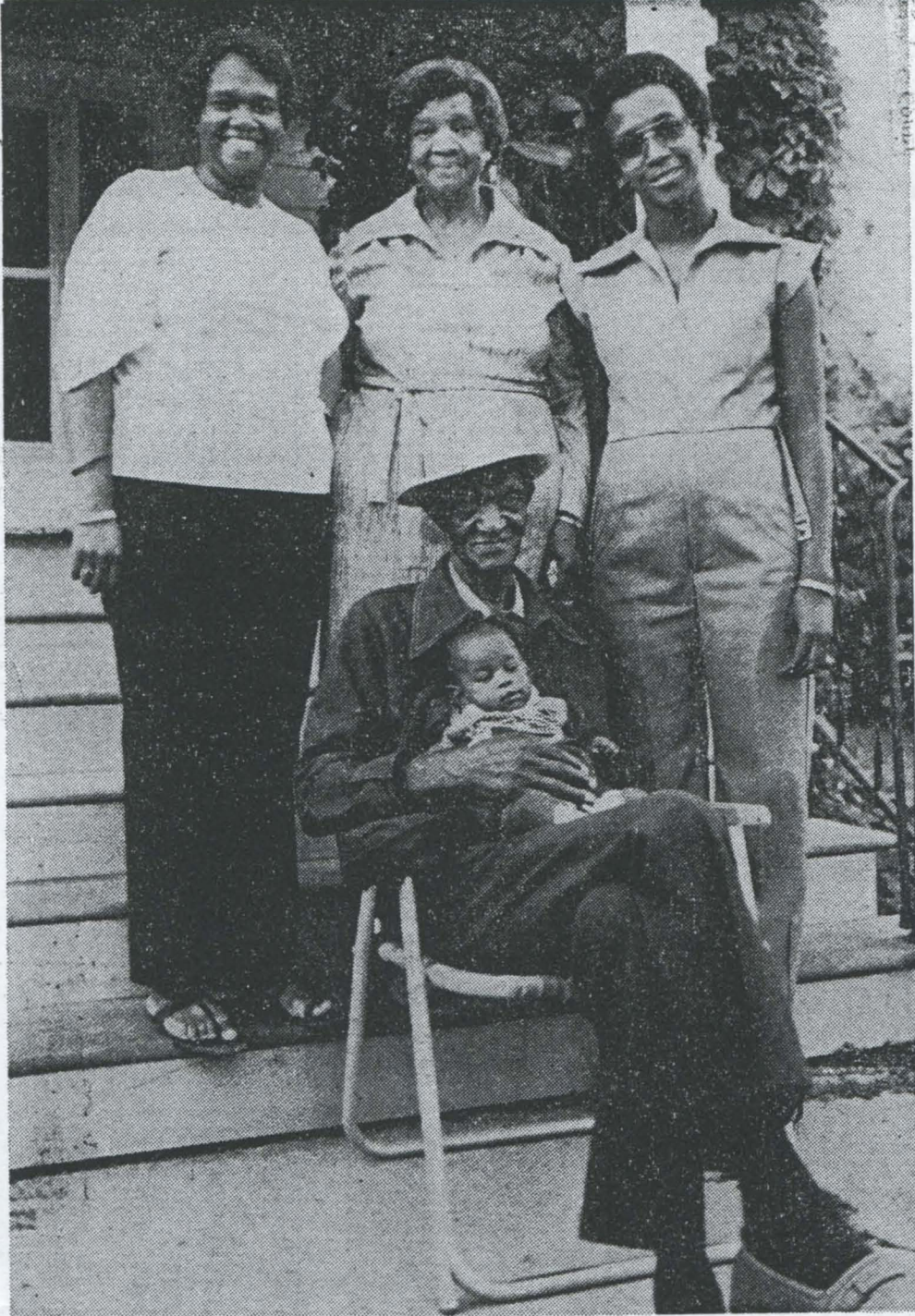
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The Royalettes club, of which
Miss Wilda Herndon is president
distributed Christmas dinner pack
ages to 33 families. Each parcel
delivered in a gaily decorated
waste basket intended for perma
nent use, included a chicken, po
tatoes, cranberries, peas, lettuce,
oranges, apples, nuts, and candy.

Friday, June 17, 1977



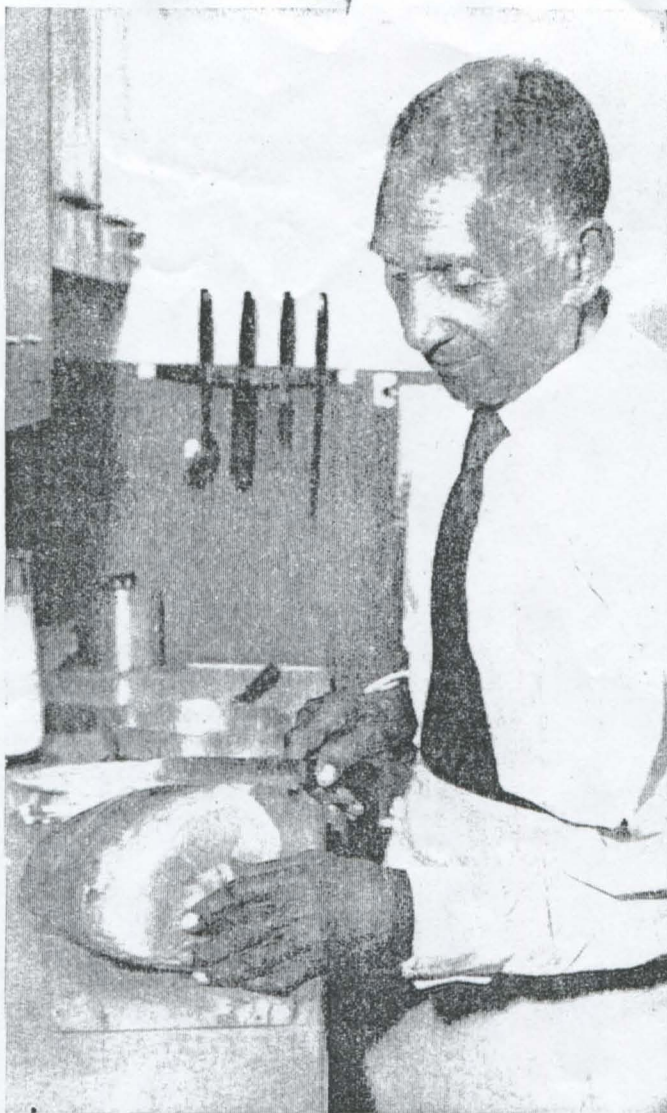
96TH BIRTHDAY. Lester Scaggs, a former mule skinner and the last survivor in a family of 12 children, will celebrate his 96th birthday at an all-day family reunion June 25 at the Elks Pavilion in Lake of the Woods Park near Mahomet. As a young man Scaggs farmed before moving to Onarga; he later moved to Loda where he worked for Healey Poultry

Company. Scaggs drove mule teams that hauled corn to the Rankin Canning Plant. His wife Katherine died in 1970. With Scaggs are, from left, Shirley Sykes, his granddaughter; Viola Morris, his daughter, and Cynthia Sykes, his great-granddaughter. He holds his three-month-old great-great-granddaughter, Donyell Sykes.

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Woodward Thomas 89, Does Job He Knows Well

Day Away From the Stove

Woodward Thomas, Longtime Cook, Now 89.

Woodward Thomas, Route 2, Urbana, celebrated his 89th birthday Thursday by not doing something he has done nearly every day of his adult life—cook.

A cook for more than 30 years on the University of Illinois campus, Mr. Thomas now lives with his son and wife, Mr. and Mrs. Taylor Thomas.

Mr. Thomas, who has been re-

tired for about 20 years, was cook at the Zeta Beta Tau fraternity house for 27 years and cooked for many years at other houses on campus.

He still hears from a former Illini who was a dishwasher at ZBT in the 20's, Lou Gordon, who became an All-American football player. Gordon now is a meat packer in Chicago.

According to his son, Mr. Thomas remains active in his retirement days and still likes to keep his hand in at the stove. He cooks at least once a day at home, and his favorite dishes are chili and lemon pie.

He was married for 59 years to the former Alice Taylor of Champaign, and he holds a 50-year pin from the Masons. His wife died in 1961.

Friends held a party for Mr. Thomas Thursday night, and his only other relatives, a niece and two cousins from Chicago, were to visit him Saturday.

1952



News-Gazette photo by Robert K. O'Daniel

Happy 104

Ella Washington, left, listens as staff and residents at Americana Health Care Center in Urbana sing 'Happy Birthday' in honor of her 104th birthday. Joining in the festivities were, in rear, from left,

Jackie Fedderson, admissions director, and Natasha Boedeker, activities volunteer. The party was complete with ice cream, cake, punch, hats and a dozen roses for Washington.

8/1/90

For Lucille White's 75th
Birthday Party

When Jacquie called me to ask if I would say a few words about her Mom, my response was "I'd feel honored to do so." Then I thought what could I say about Lucille that hasn't already been said from her ownself as a role model to all of us who know her?

And so I recollected back to the time I first met her - many years ago when I was very active in the Urbana School System, I had to go to the Administrative Offices. At that time they were located in the old Thornburn Junior High School Building. The person who graciously greeted me was Lucille White, then a Secretary-Receptionist at the Administrative Offices. We met and became friends. Our next major encounter was at the then Mercy Hospital during the illness of her beloved husband.

I spoke with her frequently and invited her to come on board as an Auxilian and also to work with the then Coffee/Patient Mail Service. She agreed, and has been a faithful worker ever since and still is. This typifies the spirit and character of Lucille, giving to help others.

All of this kindness and caring lends itself to some of my favorite biblical quotes taken from Proverb IX: When one finds a worthy wife, her value is far beyond pearls. Her husband, entrusting his heart to her, has an unfailing prize. She brings him good, and not evil, all the days of her life. She puts her hands to the distaff, and her fingers ply the spindle. She stretches out her hands to the poor, and extends her arms to the needy. She fears not the snow for her household; all her charges are doubly clothed. She is clothed with strength and dignity, and she laughs at the days to come. She opens her mouth in wisdom, and on her tongue is kindly counsel. She watches the conduct of her household, and eats not her food in idleness. Her children rise up and praise her; her husband, too, extols her. "Many are the women of proven worth, but you, Lucille, have excelled them all."

HAPPY BIRTHDAY, Lucille, God loves you and so do I.



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