

The Anderson Family Reunion

It was a mutual love affair as Andersons from all over the nation and The Netherlands came to Seattle for a family reunion, turning Independence Day into their version of "Reunion '93" weekend celebration.

They were royally received at Embassy Suites of Tukwila who gave them excellent service and made their stay enjoyable. Gene Coulon Park on Lake Washington was the base of operations as the Andersons enjoyed a family picnic.

Home of Good Barbecue was the able caterer as they dined on traditional delicacies such as barbecue beef, ribs, hot links, hamburgers, and chicken. The weather prevailed as they enjoyed a log fire, home-baked pies and cakes--food, fun and fellowship Anderson-style. They had their evening meals at Freedlander CCF.

In true Anderson tradition, they worshipped as a family at Cherry Hill Baptist Church and contributed a sizable donation to the church. In addition, to being together and sharing family history, the Andersons visited many local landmark areas of interest beginning with Ft. Nisqually at Pt. Defiance Park in Tacoma.

The Andersons then continued their travel on the "Supersonics" Bus to Bremerton where they toured the battleship USS Turner Joy. They ferried across Puget Sound and enjoyed the sights and sounds of Seattle. And, of course, the Andersons enjoyed a day in Canada seeing many points of interest including the Queen Elizabeth Gardens.

Everyone enjoyed the talent displayed by family members on talent night. El Paso, Texas City Councilman, Dusty Rhodes, warmed hearts with a very dramatic reading of several chapters from the Bible.

Veronica Rhodes-Buggs sang a soulful rendition of "The Lord's Prayer." LaShauna Smith (1st runner-up to Hal Jackson's Talented Teens) danced a beautiful ballet. Poetry was read beautifully by Karen Cameron.

Lynitra Jackson sang a beautiful gospel song. Twana Rhodes and her protegee Tamara danced and sang in true Las Vegas fashion. Henry McDaniel III played the saxophone and charmed guests with his quick wit and humor.

Brian Anderson must have taken guitar lessons from his brother Stuart as he "strutted his stuff" picking a six-string guitar which had been newly purchased by Raymond Kirby.

Who can forget the booming rendition of "Lift Every Voice and Sing," sung by Brea Hill, and "It's So Hard To Say Good-bye To Yesterday" sung by Roger Filgo, Jr. and Kelvin McDaniel. Rose Filgo and Patricia Smith entertained with their beautiful voices and gospel songs. Bill McDaniel provided the music and Shanonne Kirby was an excellent mistress of ceremony.

Deacon, Dusty Rhodes rendered the invocation prior to the talent show and before they dined on shrimp canapes, Chinese egg roll with honey mustard, finger sandwiches, fruit of the season served on a mirror, honey yogurt dressing, fruit punch and coffee.

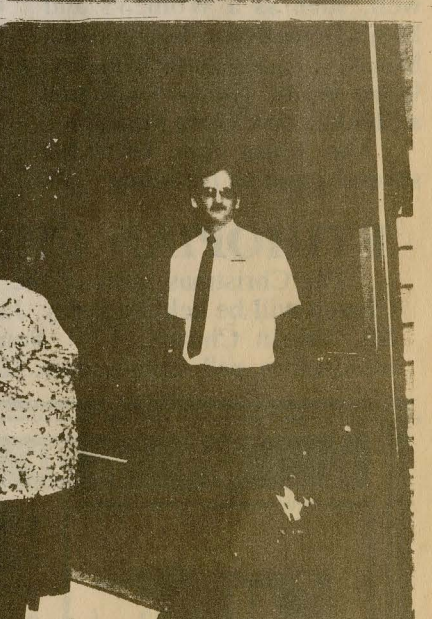
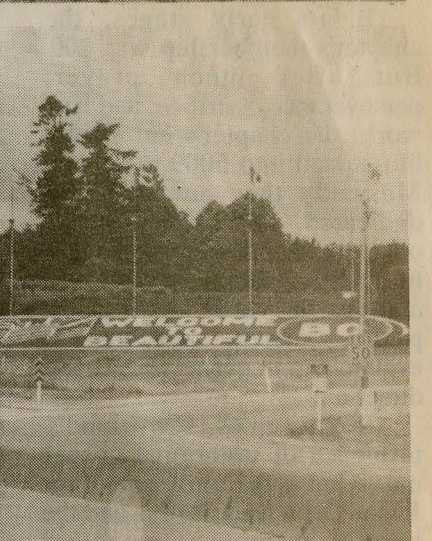
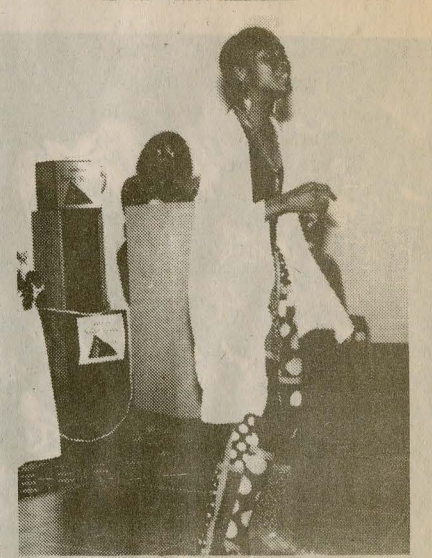
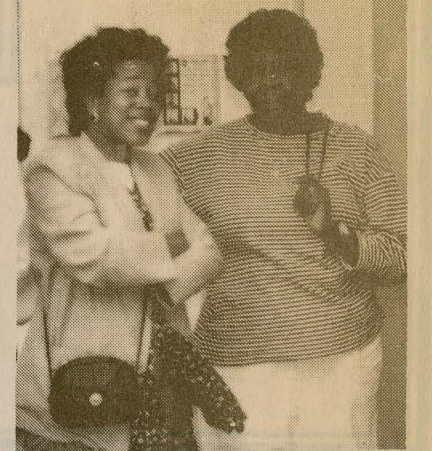
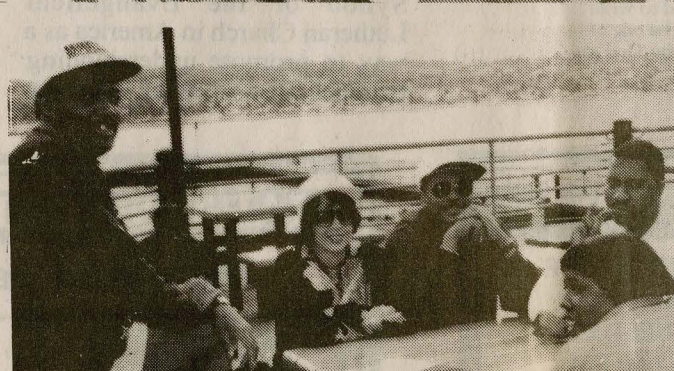
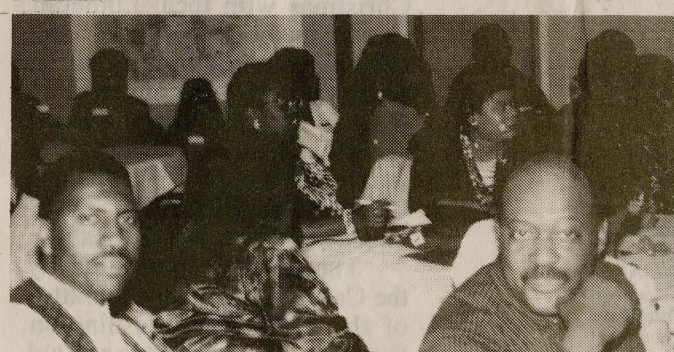
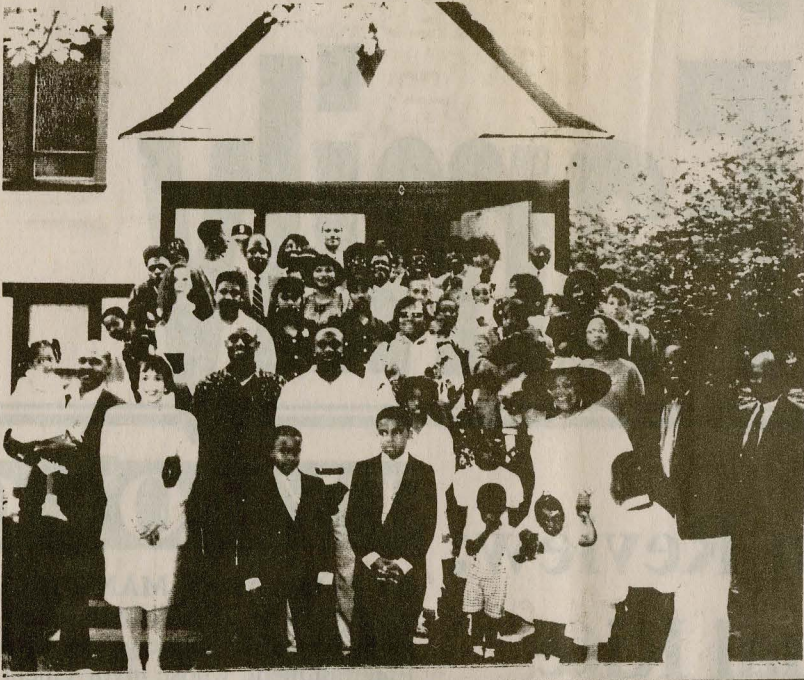
Prior to coming to the reunion in Seattle, Rebecca Rhodes retired after many years of service as "Teacher of the Year" in El Paso, Texas. Another bright light in El Paso is Councilman Dusty Rhodes who was elected this past election to the El Paso City Council.

Mrs. Charlyse Heard of Memphis, Tennessee donated \$100 which will be the impetus for the Anderson Scholarship Fund.

The Seattle Reunion was dedicated in memoriam to Zelpha Anderson-McDaniel and Ester Anderson-Shelwood who could not be with them and passed away after long illnesses.

The first Anderson Reunion was the vision of Claude Anderson and brought to fruition by Bernice Anderson-Ott, Otis Anderson, Phyllis Anderson-Lovette, James Kennedy and Johnny Shelwood.

Otis Anderson has been the historian and Griot for all of the family reunions. His dedication



and painstaking work is appreciated by all family members. Otis will never tell you that he is an architect, faculty member of Morehead University in Detroit, Michigan, and on the Board of Trustees of Holly Spring College in Holly Spring, Mississippi. He is too modest, says his sister Bernice Anderson-Ott.

James Kennedy, Johnny Shelwood and their family hosted the first Anderson Reunion at the University of South Alabama in Mobile, Alabama. James is the head of the Art Department at the University of South Alabama. He is also the official record-keeper of all old Anderson photographs.

The reunion brought together family members across generations, all descendants of George Anderson, Sr. The eldest member was George Anderson of Cleveland, Ohio--80 years young, son of John Anderson. The youngest member, "Mr." Jovan Grady Wright, 3 1/2-weeks-old--great grandson of Ora Grady Allen. Furthest

traveler was Twana D. Rhodes from The Netherlands. Recorded attendance was 70.

The next family reunion is scheduled for 1996 in Houston, Texas. The host will be Mrs. Veronica Rhodes-Buggs.

The committee members for the Pacific Northwest gala: Mrs. J. M. Davis, chairperson, sponsor; Mrs. Bernice

Anderson-Ott, Mr. John McDaniel, Ms. Lottie Jackson, Ms. Ora D. Grady Allen, planning committee; Mr. & Mrs. Raymond and Shannone Kirby, entertainment committee; Mr. & Mrs. William and Pat McDaniel, music and table logo; Mr. & Mrs. Clarence and Patricia Smith, picnic committee; and Mrs. Otis Anderson, historian.