

BEECHVILLE GAZETTE



* SPECIAL * EDITION *

N (). 32.

OCT. 9 - 15

Paul Dorrington
Ivan Wright
Terry DeLeon

BEECHVILLE GAZETTE

WHO'S WHO:

Paul Dorrington:

- Son of Deacon Les and Helen Dorrington
- Born in Beechville
- Former member of the Beechville Baptist Church, Beechville Choir, Mens Brotherhood, BYF President and Dorrington Family Gospel Group.
- Worked on Canada Works Summer Program. Recreation with children 1973.
- project Manager and Bookeeper of Summer Program Community Action Project 1979.
- Worked as grocery clerk at IGA 1975.
- Nova Scotia Teachers College Course, Certificate in Child Development and Childhood Illnesses.
- Certificate in Ukele and Sheet Music.
- Graduated from Sir John A. MacDonal High School 1977.
- Participated in; Basketball (Captain 76 & 77) 2nd player in SJA's histroy to be chosen among the top 10 players to the Halifax and County area All-Star Team.
- 9th in scoring 1976, All Star 76 and 77.
- Organized and Captain of the Beechville Boston Kingsmen. Black Basketball Champions of 1980, 81 and 83.
- Tournament All Star 1981 in Nova Scotia Provincial Playdowns with Maple Leaf Taxi - 1st place champs.
- Also played Volley Ball & Track at SJA.
- Mainland South Basketball League leading scorer 1983.
- Member of BUF Council representing Beechville.
- Member of Dorrington Family Gospel Group.
- Member of Timberlea & Area Lions Club.
- Working in liaison with BUF's Frances Clements on Beechville Co-Op Housing.
- Attended Dalhousie University 2 years, played basketball on J.V. team both years.
- Worked for Halifax Housing Recreation for 2 years 82-83.
- 81 warehouse worker at Simpsons.
- Class president Timberlea Junior High School 1973-74.
- Involved in Community work since early 70's.
- Presently Program Co-ordinator of Community Awareness Program (CAP).
- Also in the process of writing a book on Beechville's history in liaison with Ivan Wright and Terry Deleon.
- All around nice guy, easy going; cool cat.

OPINION:

As Project Manager of the Community Awareness program, these past eight months have been a great learning experience for me. In working closely with the Beechville people, I have noticed that most have a negative attitude against their church. For those people, I would suggest that they get off their butts, become a member of the church and do something about these acusations and complaints. You cannot accomplish anything by sitting at home watching TV, smoking, drinking, etc. You must get involved, voice your opinions and stand together strong as a community. Don't let yourself be led around like puppets on a string, we as a community can accomplish a great deal if we only stick together. If you want things changed you have to get out and do something about it. Don't wait for some all might leader to appear, do it yourselves together.

Before I started this program, I had always had the opinion that the community of Beechville was dieing. Over these past eight months I have learned through talking with the people while delivering this paper that the people are intelligent and opinionated and we should not let our community fade away. Hopefully with the peoples' cooperation in our up and coming Co-Op Beechville will grow to be the vastly populated area it once was in earlier years.

I could sit here with my pen and paper in front of me and write page after page about the things that are happening in our community, but I no longer want to bore you with the complaints unwhich you are already aware of.

In conclusion, I would just like to say that the future of Beechville is in all of our hands, young and old, don't sit back waiting for things to get done get out and do something about it, get involved. Let's have meetings from time to time and talk about our future and what we would like to do about it. This is Our Community, Our Church, and Our Church Centre and if we sit back and let things be run in any fashion, then we will suffer the consequences. Stick together, work together, and get involved and our future will look much better in Beechville.

Program Manager
Paul Dorrington

WHO'S WHO??

Ivan Wright:

- Born son to Mr. & Mrs. Sydney Wright on July 20, 1953.
- Attended Beechville School under the direction of Marion Skinner and Mrs. Symonds.
- I served time in the Beechville Lakeside Consolidated School and Alderwood.
- had the opportunity to be present at the opening of a new school (Sir John "A").
- Played soccer - volleyball, basketball, ran 4 x 100 relay, threw javelin, shotput, discus, and other running events.
- Set record in javelin in the metro high school champions.
- Won the high school scoring record in boys basketball league, tied in another.
- Played on the metro boys volleyball championship team in the provincial playdowns (2 years) beat QEH for trophy.
- Graduated from Sir John "A" in 1973.
- Worked construction for H. W. Corkum for eights months.
- Worked for the Atlantic Symphony Orchestra as stagehand for four years.
- Received a position with CN Railway (Layoff in 82).
- Received a diploma in bartending at NSIT in 1982.
- Attended NSAAD taking 3 courses in photography.
- Worked as bartender at General Wolfes Lounge (now Ocarrols).
- Worked for CAP for eight months.

OPINION:

Community Awareness Program of Beechville. A program designed for the people of Beechville, a program with you in mind. We ask what would you like to see, hear or do? Your answer. I don't know. So we didn't received the glorious Beechville Centre, we tried! I don't see how anyone could let his or her child walk 3/4 of a mile to see a movie, while right in the community we have the facilities. The people or governing body responsible for these actions are destroying the community not only mentally and physically but spiritually too!

Why can't we come to some sort of agreement, yes I understand that it's a church centre now, which means What! Does this give the church the authority to say no you can't use it or even rent it. What's going to become of the Beechville Church Centre and the people of Beechville. Will they survive? Let's end this nepotism that has hurt our

community for many years. Maybe become undivided and unite as one, working as one force, for the same goals, pushing in the same direction, two positive forces.

While working on this program co-ordinated by Paul Dorrington, I came to know the Beechvillians, especially the children, the future generation.

The future generation reflects the mood and ideas of parents. To put it bluntly Beechville will get old and die, and be a large industrial park.

The reason why it's dying, no social life, no dances, no boys or girls club, no more bugle lessons, no more ukele lessons, no fitness classes, nothing. What do they do? Walk the roads at night, walk down to the pool hall, walk to Lakeside for social relaxation. We have the facilities, let's use them.

It's up to the community to voice their opinion to whom it may concern. You don't need a leader, you're all leaders in your own right, if you have something to say, say it. Your community depends on it. Don't let one person or anyone deprive your child or even yourself of your destiny. How can one recongize ones goals or learn to co-operate if he or she doesn't see it in the home, school or community. Communication is the name of the game, so why don't we communicate and co-operate. The results will shock you, as well as the progress you accomplish. You won't know unless you ask. Don't hesitate!



"But Sarge, they taught us at the academy that it's our duty to become involved with the community."

WHO'S WHO:

Terry A. DeLeon:

- Son of Connolly and (late) Viola DeLeon.
- Graduate of Timberlea Jr. High and Sir John A. MacDonald High Schools.
- Member of Sir John A's: Basketball Team, Softball Team, Soccer Team, Coach of Girls Basketball Team, Coffee House Club, Key Club.
- First Balck Beechvillian to play hockey for T.A.S.A.
- Starting pitcher for the first Beechville Jr. Rockets.
- Winner of the Martin DeLeon Heart Award for Basketball and Softball
- President of the Beechville Rocket's Bowling League.
- Player of the Beechville Rocket's hockey team.
- Invited out to try for the Nova Scotia Jr. Softball Team.
- Student Supervisor at Timberlea Jr. High.
- Went to Dalhousie University for 1 year in the Transition Year program (TYP).
- Winner of Intermediate A Batting Championship 1982
- Co-worker of C.A.P. (Community Awareness Program).

OPINION:

The Community Awareness Program is over but this does not mean that everybody should go back into the house and stay there. This means that you should carry out what was started by CAP, so everybody can stay involved. All CAP was to do was to get you started and you finish it.

You all should look around you and see that the people in the community are young and able and willing. Come on let's not set back and wait for this one and that one to start something, let's all start it together. Remember how we all got involved during BEECHVILLE DAY, let's do it all year around and not just on that one day.

It's a big problem when you want to do something but you got no place to do it. I know, so all we have to do, is get together and find a place. (But not outside of the community). If we stick together we can get what we want. Come on let's do it.

We of CAP know how the people of Beechville feel about this and tried to do something about it, but we couldn't do it alone. We enjoyed working with you and yours. There's only one thing we feel bad about and that's having to take your children outside of the community to show them movies. We didn't want to do this but you all know why we did it. If one of the kids would have got hit by a car while going to a movie, which could have been shown in the community, it

would have been a different story.

It was nice working with you!

T. A. DeLeon

JOKES:

Why do golfers wear two pairs of pants?

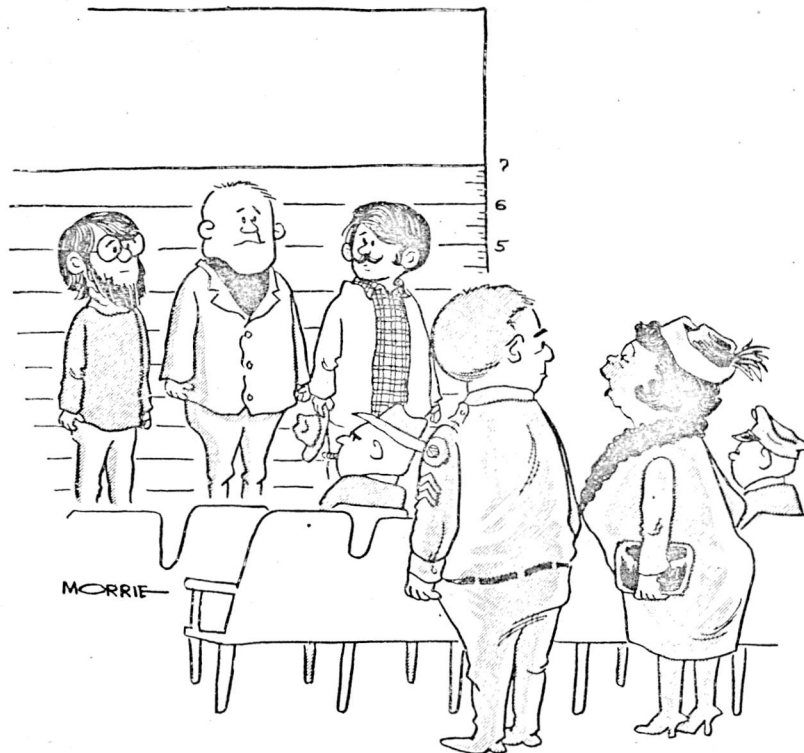
In case they get a hole in one.

Country & Western singer Willie Nelson has been struck by a car last weekend!!!!

He was playing On the Road Again.

What do you call two black motorcycle policemen?

Chocolate Chips!



"Well, I don't know—They all look alike to me."

COMMUNITY NEWS

C.A.P. would like to wish Miss Emilie Jarvis a Very Happy Birthday. Her birthday was on the 30th of September.

DO YOU REMEMBER WHEN?

The Beechville Youth Group elected their executive and it consists of:

President - Vernon Brown
Vice President - Curtis Jarvis
Secretary - Emilie Jarvis
Treasurer - Candi Hamilton
Ass't Secretary & Treasurer - Marion DeLeon

Entertainment which was open to all contributing member of the club. The club had a planning committee which consisted of two young ladies and three charming gentlemen namely - Carolyn Dorrington, Margaret Stevens, Wayne Hamilton, Ross Anderson and Brian Higgins.

ROAR! ROAR!

Ivan Wright and Paul Dorrington will be inducted into the Timberlea & Area Lions Club on October 19 in Lakeside Parish Hall.

Ah-Ah. Excuse me Lion Paul, but do you have the gong yet! from East Dartmouth.

Sydney Wright went into hospital on Thursday of last week. Mr. Wright seemed to be in fine spirits on Saturday as he was home for a short visit. (Take'er easy Sid.)

BEECHVILLE DAY 84:

We are all looking forward to the next Beechville Day celebrations slated to get underway August 25, 1984. This day is set aside for Beechville's 166th Birthday on March 27, 1984.

C.A.P. would like to thank Conoly DeLeon and Terry DeLeon for allowing us the use of their home to set up an office for the C.A.P. staff to work out of. If not for these gentlemen we would have had to work out of the St. Lukes Church in Lakeside or the BUF office in Dartmouth.

"Study hard" and good luck to the students who are attend Universities, Vocational Schools, High Schools, Junior High Schools and Elementary schools. Best of luck in the future students, determination and hard work is the answer to a good future.

Paul Dorrington and Ivan Wright would like to say farewell to L. Dee and Kelley, the faithful watchdogs of the CAP office. These faithful well groomed K9's kept our office free of visitors and burglars. Two well trained, burnt-out mutts only good for dog meat at your local Chinese restruant. "Lay down "L. Dee", "Sit Kelley", "Rise from the dead L. Dee".

We would also like to thank Margorie Wright, Doris Shephard and Barbara Turner for volunteering their time during our family movies, for mustering together the treats for the people at the movies. Thank You Ladies!

Thanks to the very few people who volunteered their time and gas for driving the kids to the various activities in the city.

Special Thank You to the people of Beechville and Lakeside for supporting our programs throughout the year. We are unhappy to be leaving but the Government allowed us 32 weeks only unfortunately. To the faithful readers of our Beechville Gazette, we hope the Gazette has been very informative and gratifying to each and everyone of you. We hope to get funding for the next year and hopefully this will not be our final edition.

Poeple of Beechville, get out and support our Beechville Baptist Church each Sunday. An hour once a week to support an establishment that has been the backbone of our community in the past since 1844.

Mr. and Mrs. Walter Brooks of Sarah Jane Clayton Manor in East Preston celebrated their 36th wedding anniversary over the weekend with family and friends. Happy Anniversary and we hope you see 36 more happy years together.

Clarence and Viola Wright celebrated their 26th Wedding Anniversary last August 1983.

C.A.P. would like to mention, a special hello to Miss Jenette Murphy of Beechville. Don't be a spoiled sport Jenette, be nice and go with the flow. And stop ripping up our Gazette.

ATTENTION:

Anyone having any old photographs of family, friends and relatives in the community of Beechville please contact paul Dorrington at 876-7297 or 477-0295.

C.A.P. would like to wish Dezianna Shephard a Very Happy Birthday. Which she celebrated on Monday October 3, 1983. "Happy Birthday Dezi".

THANKSGIVING:

Have a Very Happy Thanksgiving weekend and let's not forget who we are thanking and be thankful to God for our lives, food and all that we have and accomplished.

Congratulations, it's a girl!

Catherine Fletcher became the proud mother of a bouncing baby girl. Catherine Fletcher, the daughter of Ellsworth and Vandella Fletcher of Uniake Square, became the proud mother of a bouncing baby girl, the child was born on Tuesday morning at 6:00 a.m. weighing 7 lbs and 3 ozs. Good Luck Cathy!

Heather Brown and Robert Tufts were wed in Holy Matrimony on October 1st. The wedding took place at St. Mark's Church in Halifax. Cal, as known by his friends united the two. The evening was highlighted with a reception at the Fire Hall in Lewis Lake in which John Mitchell and Helen Langley assisted the band in a few of their favorite tunes.

CHURCH NEWS:

BEECHVILLE BAPTIST CHURCH:

October 9 will be Harvest Sunday at the church and service will be held at 11:00 a.m. Sunday School will be held at 9:45.

On October 15, the Women's Institute will be in Tracadie. They will be holding an all day service. The ladies from Beechville will be taking part in the event.

Deepest symphaty to the Jackson family who lost their Mom last week. The late Mrs. Vera Jackson.

CHERRY BROOK BAPTIST CHURCH

Tuesday October 5	CGIT meeting 7 p.m.
Wednesday October 5	CGIT meeting 7 p.m.
Thursday October 6	Choir rehersal for youth 7 p.m.
Friday October 7	Senior Choir of the Church will participate in Revival Service held at Hammonds Plains. They will be bringing the music.

Harvest Sunday was held last Sunday and guest choir was North Preston Youth Choir.

EAST PRESTON BAPTIST CHURCH

Sunday October 9 Annual Harvest services at 3 p.m. and 7 p.m. with massed choir at 3 and St. Thomas Senior Choir at 7 p.m.

ST. THOMAS BAPTIST CHURCH

Saturday October 8	Fellowship Night sponsored by WMS WWG & CGIT at 6:30 p.m.
Sunday October 9	11:00 a.m. service conducted by Deacon Wallis Smith and the Junior Choir. Harvest service at East Preston at 3:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m.
Monday October 10	Thanksgiving Services conducted by Boys Choir
Sunday October 16	Harvest Service at St. Thomas 3 p.m. and 7:00 p.m.
Saturday October 22	Praise Night conducted by Youth Choir
Sunday October 23	Official Opening Services of the Dedication of Expansion Wing at

St. Thomas. Services at 11:00 a.m., 3:00 p.m.
and 7:00 p.m.

DEATHS:

Paulette Wilson	33
Linda (Cindy) Brooks	35
Kathleen Beals	66
Travis Downey	4
Maizie Munroe	62
Roy Phillips	12
Wilford Thompson	55
Deacon Sidney Cromwell	82
Asa Langford	85
Osborne Husband and Sister Vera Jackson	77
Ernest Talbot	78

CULTURAL NEWS:

MRS. VERA JACKSON age 77, died last Wednesday in Halifax Infirmary after a brief illness.

Born in Halifax, she was a daughter of the late B.A. and Iris (Lucas) Husbands. She was member of the Cornwallis Street Baptist Church and its Helping Hand Society, Ladies Auxiliary and Missionary Society. For 10 years she was the official Hospital visitor for the African United Baptist Association.

She was member of the Halifax Infirmary Ladies Auxiliary, Royal Canadian Legion, Vimy Branch 57 auxiliary, Halifax Womens Council, Chebucto Branch of the Women's Christian Temperance Union and the Nova Scotia Black Educators Society.

She is survived by her husband John (Tom), three daughters, Shirley (Mrs. Frank Richards) and Mrs. Joan Byard, both of Winnipeg; Sylvia (Mrs. General Baskenville) Virginia Beach, U.S.; two sons, Leonard and Cecil and a foster son, Auston, all of Halifax; a brother Kenneth of Montreal; two sisters, Mrs. Zina Williams, Halifax; Augusta (Mrs. Joseph Firmin), Hyde Park, Mass.; 20 grandchildren; and several nieces and nephews. She was predeceased by six brothers and five sisters.

The funeral was held last Saturday at the Cornwallis Street Baptist Church with Dr. J. C. Mack officiating, assisted by Dr. W. P. Oliver, Rev. D. D. Skeir and Rev. D. E. Fairfax.

We pour out our sympathy to the dearly departed loved ones and the loss of a great human being.

CULTURAL NEWS continued:

RESOURCE CENTRE - HAMMONDS PLAINS

Upper Hammonds Plains residents are making full use of their Community Resource Centre, according to Co-ordinator Evelyn Gough.

In a office in the rear of the Upper Hammonds Plains Community Recreation Centre residents can pick up free information on every subject from health to employment; research a school paper with encyclopedia and other reference books; become more familiar with black history and culture; get the minutes of their club's meetings typed; and find out how to apply for a pension, unemployment insurance, a grant or a scholarship.

The Centre is open from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. weekdays. Beginning this week the centre is offering an orientation program for pre-schoolers from the Upper Hammonds Plains area.

The Centre is sponsored by the Upper Hammonds Plains Community Recreation Association for the Secretary of State grant, has already had its funding.

Gloria Parsons sixteen years old of Lucasville, died Saturday evening after being struck by a car while walking across the Walker Connector Road in Sackville.

Gloria Parsons a member of the Baptist Youth Association. Gloria was an orphan who had been living with her grandparents, Lawson and Ethel Ford for the past three years. Gloria was also involved in the Baptist Church and the youth group. She was a member of the basketball team at Sackville High. Gloria has four other sisters, Brenda Lucas, Elaine Burke and Shelly and Cindy Lucas of Bedford.

Valerie Johnson also mourned her death, as they roller skated together, from time to time.

SPORTS NEWS:

Answers to Beechville Triva:

- 1 Jeff Payne - Catcher
- Paul Blackmore - 1st Base
- Joey Higgins - 2nd Base
- Martin DeLeon - Short Stop
- George Adams - 3rd Base
- Harold Brown - Outfield
- Dicky Brown - Outfield

Richard Roope - Outfield
Terry DeLeon - Pitcher
Leo DeLeon - Pitcher
Gordie Adams - Outfield
Michael Beals - Outfield & Catcher
Connoly DeLeon - Coach

- 2 In their 1st year they came in 1st.
In their 2nd year they came in 2nd.
- 3 They have won it 3 years.
- 4 Their record was 21 wins and 3 losses.
- 5 Terry DeLeon and then Paul Blackmore.
- 6 Curtis Jarvis, Ross Anderson, Ruford Wright.
- 7 Wayne Hamilton, Brian Higgins, Martin DeLeon,
Paul Blackmore, Barry Wright and Bonita
Hamilton.
- 8 Alfred Jarvis - 12 wins; Terry DeLeon 9 wins -
3 losses.
- 9 Yes for softball with the first Beechville
Rockets.
- 10 David DeLeon.

CAP Staff Stiffed

Last Wednesday CAP staff got kicked by Martin DeLeon and his girls (Marj Wright, Doris Shephard and Paula Blackmore) in the challenge bowling match. In 3 strings they beat CAP twice. We want a rematch cheaters. Paula learn how to count 3 not 5.

Major Immigrations and Emigrations of Black Settlers To and From Nova Scotia

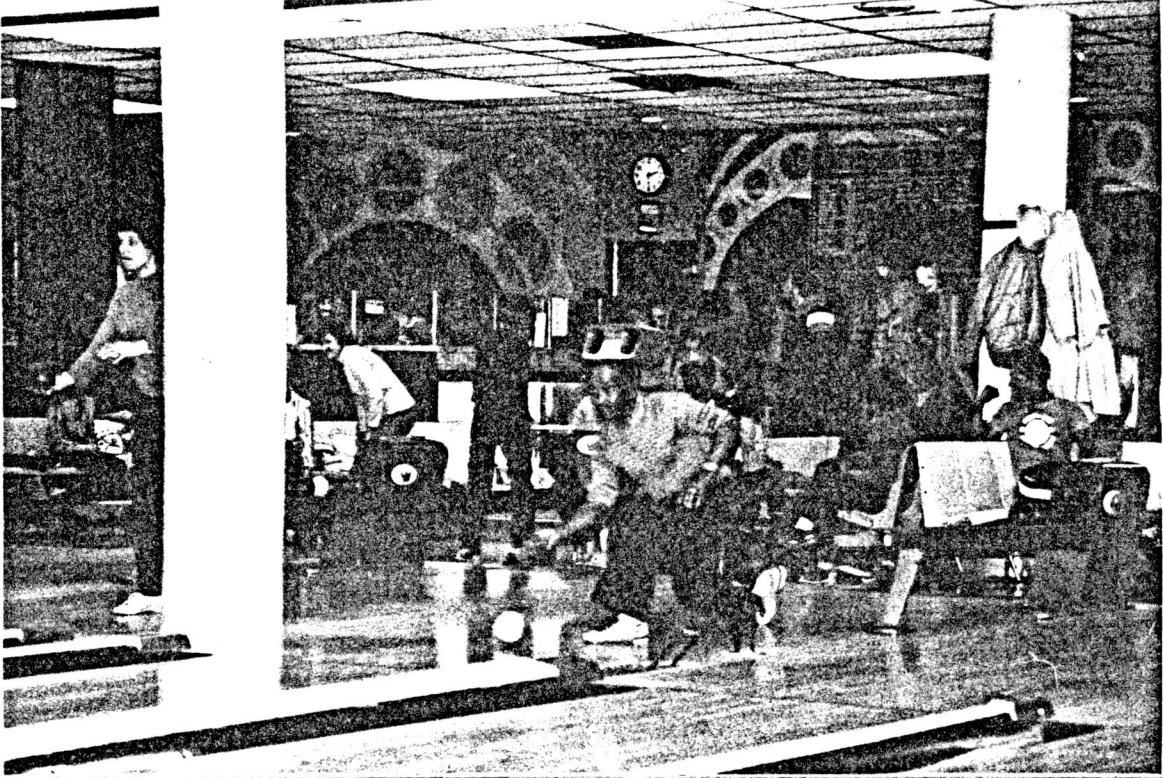


Immigrations:

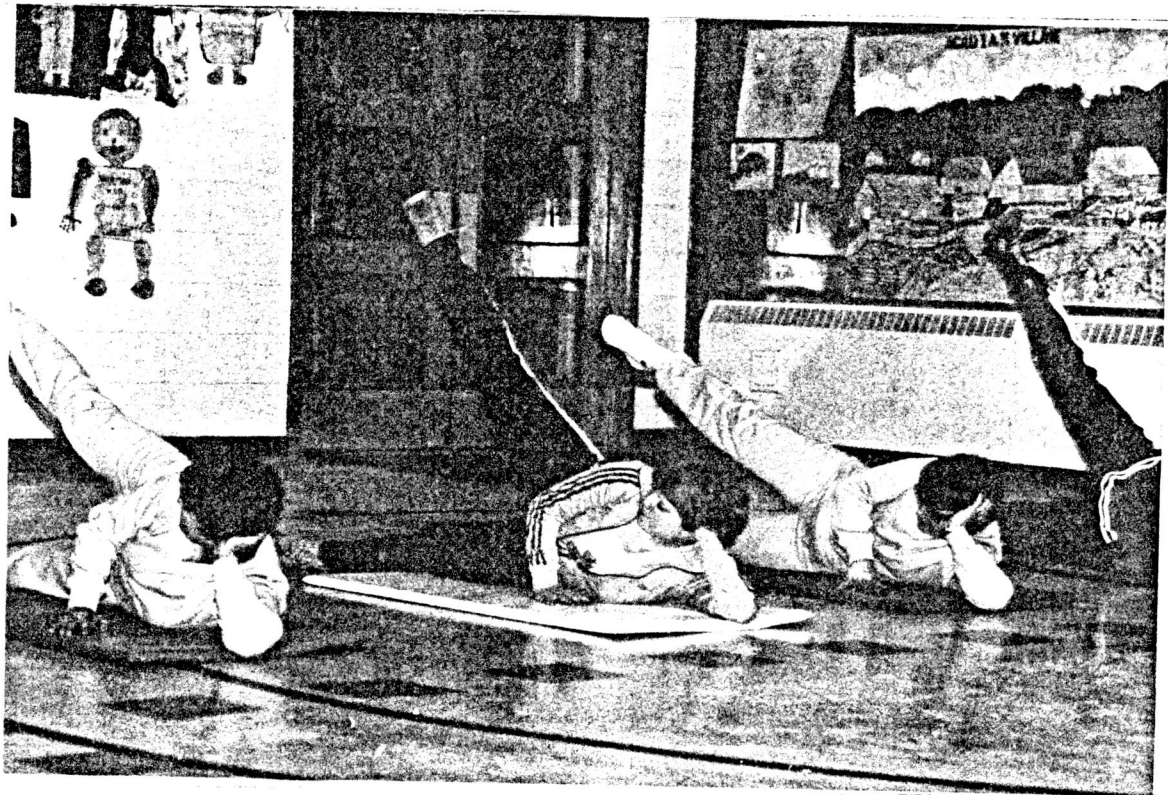
Black Loyalists from New York to Shelburne and Halifax, 1783.
 Maroons, Jamaica to Halifax, 1796.
 Black Refugees, Delaware and Chesapeake to Halifax, 1813-1815.
 Black Refugees, Delaware and Chesapeake to Halifax, via Bermuda, 1813-1815.

Emigrations:

Black Loyalists, Halifax to Sierra Leone, 1792.
 Maroons, Halifax to Sierra Leone, 1800.
 95 Black Refugees, Halifax to Trinidad, 1821.



SENIOR CITIZENS and ADULT BOWLING



WOMENS FITNESS CLASSES



MOVIE NIGHT at ALDERWOOD SCHOOL
TUESDAY NIGHTS



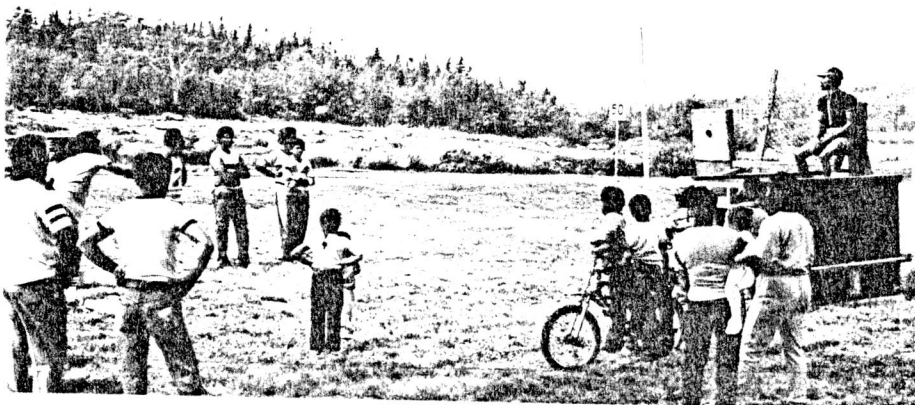
INTERVIEW WITH A COUPLE OF OUR SENIOR CITIZENS
FOR OUR BEECHVILLE ELETE COLUMN:
RICHARD HAMILTON and HERBERT HAMILTON



BASKETBALL JAMBOREE

1ST ANNUAL BEECHVILLE DAY:

165th birthday



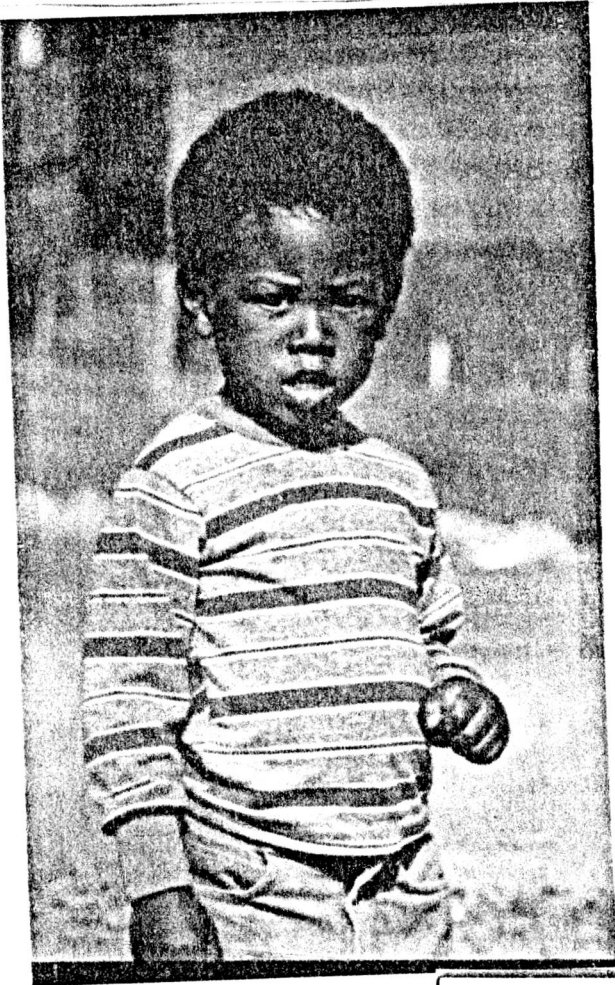


BEECHVILLE BOWLING LEAGUE



PAUL DORRINGTON PRESENTING CONOLLY DELEON
WITH A GIFT FOR NAMING THE PLAYERS OF
THE FIRST BEECHVILLE ROCKETS TEAM.

LOYCE ASHE ENJOYING A FINE INDIAN SUMMER AFTERNOON.



BEECHVILLE EAGLES (1940's)
LEFT TO RIGHT ARE: BACK ROW CLARENCE (POODLES) JOHNSON, BILLY REDCLIFF, LES DORRINGTON,
AND TOM JEFFERIES. SITTING ARE BILL GROUSE, HARROLD GROUSE, LORNE (MANNY) GRAY AND
BUSTER DRUMMOND. SQUATING IN FRONT IS JOHNIE WILLIAMS.

BEECHVILLE HISTORY

Below is an official written document to license the land to the men of color (Blacks), the 27th of March 1818, called Beechville at the time. Refugee Hill was also license granted to the Blacks located near the North West Arm in 1815.

License To Men of Colour at Refugee Hill, 27, March 1818 (vol 419, doc. 36:

By His Excellency Lieutenant General Right Honorable George Earl of Dalhousie Baron Dalhousie of Dalhousie Castle Knight Grand Cross of the Most Honorable Military Order of the both Lieutenant Governor and Commander-in-Chief in and over his Majesty's Province of Nova Scotia and dependencies-

License is hereby given to the following men of colour to occupy possess and enjoy for and during the term of five years from the date hereof (then if their conduct is industrious peaceable and loyal subjects shall be approved to receive Grants of confirmations from Government) the following lots of land on which they are respectively settled, situated lying and being in the Township of Halifax to the Westward of the Peninsula of Halifax and within the limit of a tract of land formerly granted Martin Shier and others in the following shares or proportions to wit, Unto Abraham Barnes, the Lot Number One in the division letter A containing ten Acres, unto Williams Roberts the Lot Number two in said division containing ten Acres, Unto Joseph Blackwell the Lot Number Three containing ten Acres, Unto Abraham Greer the Lot Number Four in said division containing Ten Acres, Unto David Chain the Lot Number Five containing Ten Acres and unto Pompey Cooper the Lot Number One in the division Letter B containing Ten Acres, unto Benjamin Roberts the Lot Number Two in said division Letter B containing Ten Acres, unto Robert Hamilton the Lot Number Five in the said division Letter B containing Ten Acres, unto Henderick Hamilton the Lot Number Six in said division Letter B containing Ten Acres, unto Arron Wheten the Lot Number Seven in said division Letter B containing Ten Acres, unto Charles Lovet Senr., the Lot Number Eight in said division Letter B containing Ten Acres, and unto Charles Lovet Jr., the Lot Number Nine in said division Letter B containing Ten Acres, all which several lots of land are abutted and bounded according to this plan

Given under my Hand and Seal at Arms at Halifax, the 27th day of March 1818 in the 58th year of His Majesty's Reign.

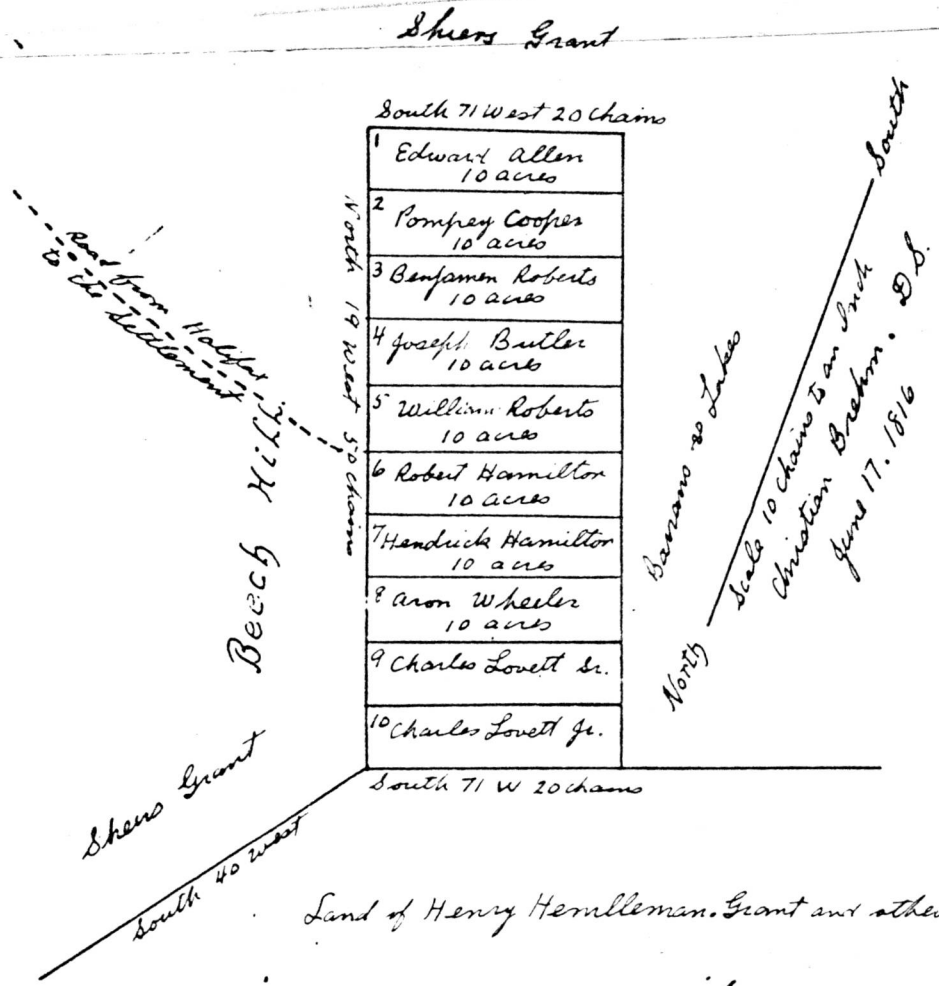
By His Majesty's Command

Rupert D. George

(Plan)

The land was granted for a term of five years if their conduct as industrious, peaceable and loyal subjects was approved, they were supposed to receive grants of confirmation from the Government. The ten men granted land first in Beech Hill and their families consisted of 89 people, they were originally refugees from the war of 1812.

This is a map of Beech Hill during the year of 1816. It shows the ten acre lots the government gave to the first people of the community.



Charles Morris
Jr

G.M
48

BECH
HILL

Land Granted

Granted
Thos Hosterman

Refugee
Hill

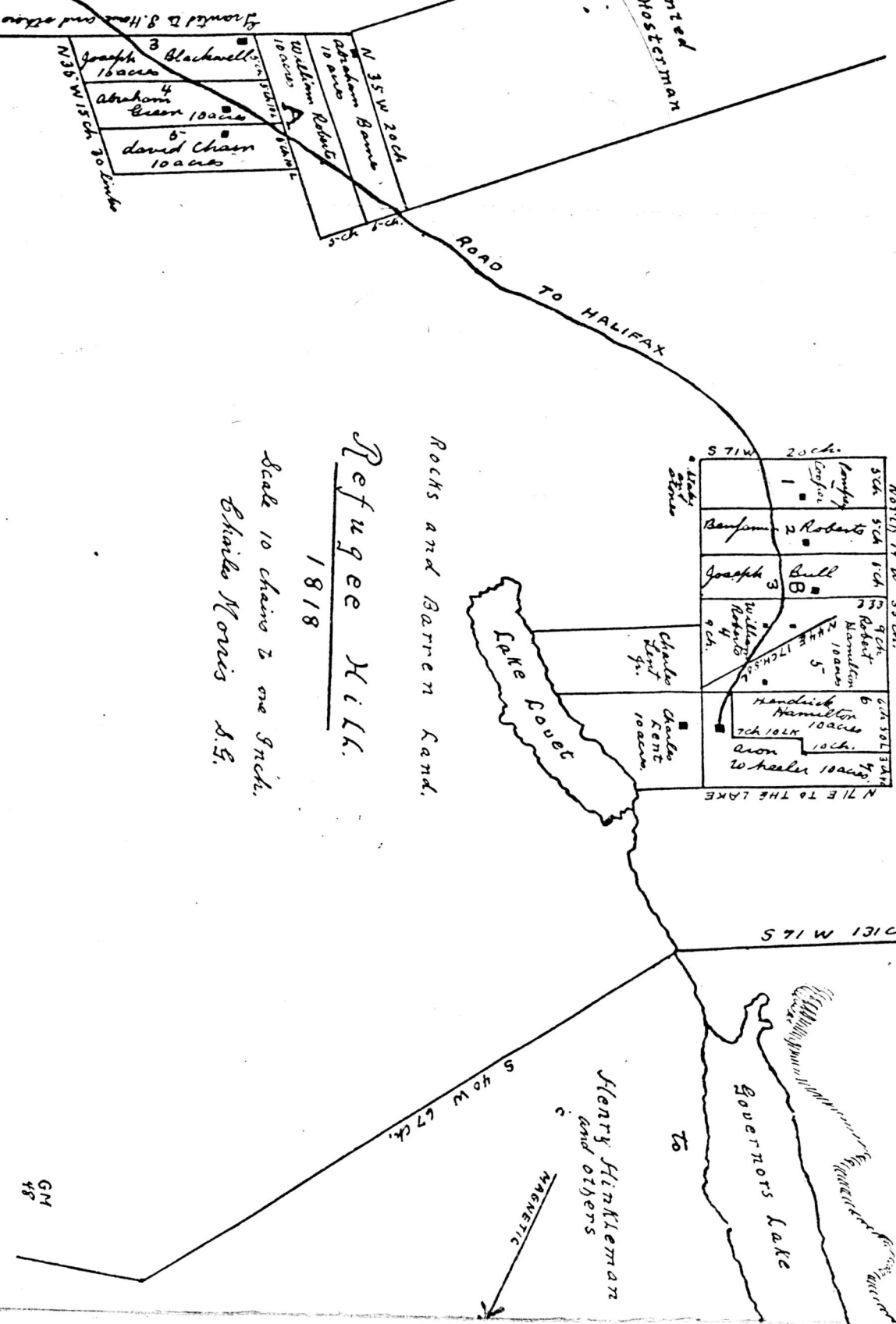
ROAD TO HALIFAX

Rocks and Barren Land.

Refugee Hill.

1818

Scale 10 chains to one Inch.
Charles Morris S.S.



GM
48

MICHAEL JACKSON

Michael Jackson was born in August of '58. He was the seventh of nine children. His father, Joe Jackson, was a crane operator in Gary, Indiana. Mr. Jackson wanted a much better future for his family. He wanted his kids to learn to play instruments and to sing. This is when he bought his five oldest sons used guitars and drums and encouraged them to sing.

At the age of four, Michael began singing lead in their little gathering in which they formed a quintet. At first, Mr. Jackson had to show Michael how to hold a microphone. Michael learned quickly.

Their father rehearsed them each day. While the other kids were out playing baseball in the park behind the Jackson house, the Jackson boys were inside sweating and practicing. They were often teased by the other kids who would sometimes make faces in the window.

The Jackson Five started officially in '65. During this year, they entered some Gary talent shows. Winning each contest they entered, Michael remembered being so nervous! He soon mastered the piano and drums. Their first job was at a local place called Lucky's where they earned five dollars a night. Soon they were playing gigs in nearby towns. On the weekends their father would load up the old bus he owned. The Jackson Five performed up to five shows a night. Their pay was usually low.

When their reputation grew as a hot soul act they were later offered a contract with Steeltown Records. They cut two singles for this small Indiana label. These two cuts both failed outside the Gary area. They are now collector's items today.

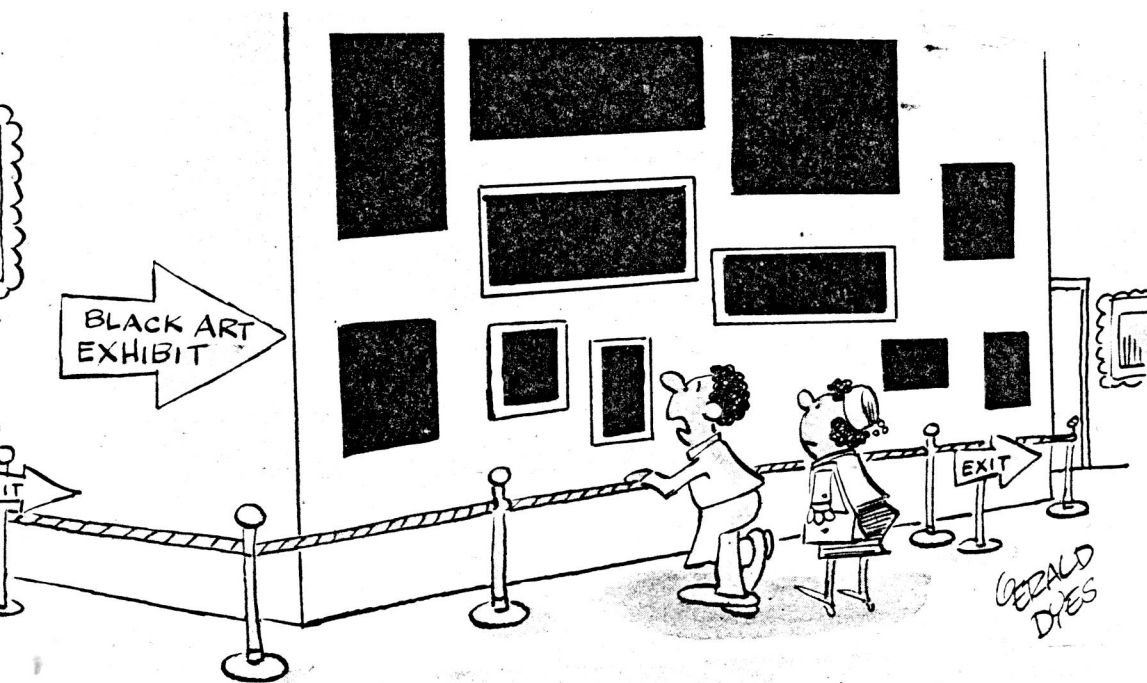
Legend has it that Diana Ross "discovered" the Jackson Five. That simply isn't true because they always believed that their dad 'discovered' them. It just so happened that they were playing at Theater in Chicago. It was like an audition place for Motown. Diana Ross did introduce them for the stage. But they were already a professional act for years. Motown Records contacted the Jackson Five. Soon after that the group was auditioning at Motown's Detroit office. The boys were accepted at once. Since the boys were still minors, their father had to sign the record contract.

In 1969, the Jackson Five's career took off. "I Want You Back" was a number one Motown hit and this helped their career. Within nine days one million singles were sold. Hit songs were nonstop after that. The Jackson Five cut eleven top 5 singles within 3 years. They then became Motown's biggest sellers ever with Michael as lead singer.

Michael started to sing on his own in '71. He made four top 10 hits in two years. One of the records "Ben" reached number one. The Jackson Five's Motwon hits slowed down after awhile. Then the Quintet signed with Epic Records in '76, in this switch over of labels they then became the Jacksons. In '76 "Enjoy Yourself" became a success. Then three years later "Shake Your Body Down (to the ground)". Michael then again sang lead on those Epic winners. In '78, Michael was offered his first movie role in the film "The Wiz" in which he played the scarecrow with Diana Ross, who played Dorothy. After seeing the Broadway play seven times he then studied L. Frank Baum's classic "The Wizard of Oz". Michael explains, "The scarecrow is a shy person who didn't believe in himself and he looks for something that he already has". Michael liked filming the movie. He had wanted to act for years. But movie-making isn't all glamour. It took three hours to apply the make-up to Michael's face each day. After peeling the make-up off his face his tired eyes would water.

In '79, The Wiz was a well received film. He hit big again with his "Off The Wall" album. During that year radio airwaves were filled with the sounds of Michael's first Epic hit. That was, "Don't Stop 'Till You Get Enough." This single reached number one in just a matter of time. This hit song also pushed Off The Wall up the charts. Michael won a Grammy award off of his single "Don't Stop 'Till You Get Enough" in which he had co-written. Soon after this "Rock With You", another Off The Wall single followed. By early '80, the LP's title track had become a Third Top ten hit single. "She's Out Of My Life" became the album's fourth hit. The album with all of these famous hits sold an incredible 4 million copies.

Michael explained, "that he's just a person who does different jobs than others. I've never felt I was better than anyone else." Michael now lives in southern California splendor. He lives in a beautiful home and drives new cars. He owns motorcycles and dune buggies. He dresses in the finest clothes, he has been a wealthy success most of his young years.



"Somehow, I had expected something a little different."