'Old Baltimore' families, scenes recalled by writer

A nostalgic letter this week tells of some of the well-known families and ways of life for "Wake Up, Old Baltimore." The letter was written by Mrs. Lillian Watty and offers an interesting picture of the life and times.

Mrs. Watty writes:

"Two trends in interracial relationships in recent years in Baltimore remind one of an earlier era in this city before race relationships were the theme of the day or integration made good copy.

"One is the city-wide expansion of our group into all sections of the city, and the other is the lifting of some shopping restrictions in the downtown stores.

The housing expansion reminds of an interracial neighborhood of some years back which did not seem to disturb any of its residents.

"During the days when I started to school at P.S. 113 we lived on Chase Street between Cathedral and Maryland Avenues, in a nondescript little house, while across the street lived many of the city's aristocratic whites, including the Chatards, a medical family.

* * *

"ON MY SIDE of the street, where I lived with a cousin, the Chambers family dwelt-for a while.

"The family included besides the parents: Evadine, music teacher and organist at St. Francis Xavier Church; Mamie, J. Clarence, for many years a teacher in Douglass High; and another brother, Carroll.

"As far as I know "Dine" is still living in an aged home. Alice Rusk, librarian, is the daughter of Clarence.

"Robert W. Coleman, long director of the Association for the Handicapped, who wasn't blind then, also lived in the same house, although I don't remember who lived there first.

* * *

"AROUND THE CORNER on Cathedral Street lived the Milton Whites, and their daughter, Mattie F., now Mrs. Mattie Ashton, physical education instructor at Booker T. Washington Junior High School.

"Across Cathedral Street lived the J. Edward Lapseys, with their daughters, Mamie, Ellen, Florence, Agnes, and their son, T. Wallis, later manager for many years of Druid Laundry.

"Another daughter, Fannie, who was the first Mrs. Harry T. Pratt, I think, was married at that time and not living at home. I used to go over to their home on Sunday to read the funnies, but do not remember her as living there then.

* * *

"NEXT DOOR to them lived the Roberts family and down the street in the next block, the Fessendens. He was well-known shoemaker — when shoemaking was an art done in the craftman's style.

"His daughter, Edgleanor, taught here for many years until her sudden death a few years ago.

"The Tripps lived around another corner on Maryland Avenue. The Blays, Charles, and Emma, and daughter, Irene, lived in the "Flatiron" corner of Park Avenue and Richmond Streets, just down the hill from Dunlaps, famous oyster house of that time.

"Many of our first families lived on Tyson St., now the quaint colorful artist colony.

"My route out Chase Street to school took me past the Belvedere Hotel and Christ Episcopal Church, where such beautiful hymns were played on its chimes every Sunday morning.

"At Calvert Street I met a group of schoolmates, the Gaines sisters, Josephine, "Jo", Cecilia "Sister," Florence, and Jeannette, "Tsing", and the James family, Florence, "Florsie", Bertha, "Bert", now Mrs. McFarlane Fitzgerald of Cambridge, Mass., and Bradford, "Brad."

"SOMETIMES THE Speeds, Sammy, and his sister whose name I forget, were along. All of them lived on Center Street at the time.

"The Rev. A. L. Gaines, later Bishop Gaines, was pastor of Bethel AME Church before it moved uptown.

"Another family group who used toh hrsr wuj ion eet A c used to join us were the Archers, who lived on Howard Street near Richmond Market, then in its heyday.

Then there were Laura, Julian, Kate, May, Richard, "Mickey," and Hattie now living in California. Laura, May and Kate have since passed. I think Julian is living in Grand Rapids, Mich.

"IN THOSE DAYS there was no store problem of any consequence but there has always been a hotel problem in Baltimore. Sometimes I used to go into the Belvedere to the office to purchase stamps.

The secretary would be very pleasant and often gave me candy. This practice doesn't make much sense to me now, but I suppose it was the difference in the tempo of life at that time, or perhaps just a neighborhood custom.

"Either the snowstorms were very severe in those winters or we were so small that they bothered us more. Many a wintry morn we little girls were glad to be lifted across the drifts at the crossings by "Big Brother" Wallis Lansey.

* * *

"ANOTHER HAZARD was crossing the Calvert Street or Guilford Avenue bridge on a cold windy day. But we arrived at school safely and we nearly always walked. I walked just as far in the other direction to St. Francis Xavier Church on Sunday mornings.

"It was years after first communion and confirmation days before I realized that every large city did not have a cardinal, and that it was something indeed to have been confirmed by his Eminence, James Cardinal Gibbons.

"There were romances too. Anita Tucker and Roscoe Adams, brother of E. Romaine Jones, walked hand-in-hand, he carrying her books in the old tradition.

They later married, as did "Jo" Gaines and Wallis.

"There were probably others, but who remembers that far back because certainly none could be that old."

Mrs. Watty certainly deserves a bouquet for her garland of memories.

You, too, can share your memories of the good old days gone by. Just drop a letter to "Wake Up, Old Baltimore."

Air Force's top recruiting honors to Sgt. John Dennis

"I had an idea that I might get it, I knew that as hard as I had worked it would be pretty hard for another fellow to beat me out."

T-Sgt. John C. Dennis, outstanding Air Force recruiter-salesman for the fiscal year, 1956, was speaking Wednesday in the AFRO City department.

Sgt. Dennis, who is assigned to Detachment 201, of the 350nd USAF Recruiting Group here in Baltimore, received one of the two top USAF recruiting awards for the entire United States.

The award was presented to Sgt. Dennis at Chanute Air Force Base, Ill., August 13, in recognition of his obtaining 310 enlistments for the Air Force fiscal year, 1956.

He was selected for maintaining an average of 25.8 enlistments per month. The blonde airman sharing recruiting honors with him had an average of 19.1 enlistments per month.

THE CITATION accompanying the plaque said in part: "His production record, his cheerful cooperative attitude, and fine community relationships are indicative of his desire for perfection."

A 10-year-veteran in the Air Force, Sgt. Dennis less than a year ago received a special armband for outstanding recruiting activities at Detachment 201.

Sgt. Dennis was invited to Chanute Air Force Base August 13 to 16, where he, the only colored airman present, sat in a conference with Air Force officials and discussed personnel and other problems.

Concerning the award, Sgt. Dennis said: "I received an incentive award as the top recruiter salesman for the detachment, which was for the state of Md. in June, and was selected from the entire group as the outstanding recruiter-salesman from this area.

"This was submitted to our wing headquarters and eliminated down to six individuals. So I figured it would be pretty rough for a fellow to beat me out."

* * *

SGT. DENNIS, who has a recruiting office at 710 N. Gay St., during World War II saw duty in France, Germany and Belgium. Later during the Korean Conflict, he served both in Korea and Japan.

Returning stateside in 1953, he was assigned duty in Amarillo, Tex., and came to Baltimore as a recruiting sergeant in October 1954.

"The biggest job of a recruiting sergeant," Sgt Dennis beamed, "is to meet people."

Exuding some of the energy that took him to the top, Sgt. Dennis said thoughtfully "I'm on call 24 hours a day. Anytime I get a lead I check it.

"I visit the parents of boys I have recruited after they go into service. I want them to know that anything I can do to help their sons I'll do."

* * *

SGT. DENNIS explained that his work also includes speaking to graduating high school classes, PTA meetings, visiting other induction centers and centers of influence.

"What are centers of influence?" the sergeant was asks.

"Centers of influence," he replied," are pool rooms, movies, homes, anywhere there are guys who may want to join the Air Force."

Referring to how he feels about the Air Force Sgt. Dennis said: "If more or less depends on what a fellow is looking for. For younger men anything they can find in civilian life can be found in the Air Force, education, advancement, security . . . most anything in civilian life."

Sgt. Dennis plans on retiring in 10 years, when he will be 39. He estimates that he has recruited about 700 men since coming to Baltimore. "I would stay in recruiting for the rest of my time in service, if possible," he smiled.

THERE'S A lucky photo with a head encircled in this and every edition of the AFRO. Look for it. It may be you. It's worth $5 cash if it is. All you have to do to collect is report to City Desk before the next edition is published.

CITED—T/Sgt. John F. Dennis—Stationed in Baltimore, Det. 201 of the 3502nd USAF Recruiting Group, Sgt. Dennis was recently honored as the outstanding Air Force recruiter-salesman for 1956. Sgt. Dennis obtained 310 enlistments for the Air Force for the fiscal year 1956. Summoned to Chanute Air Force Base, Ill., he was cited for his "production record, cooperative attitude, fine community relations and his desire for perfection."

"YOU CAN'T WIN BY YOURSELF"
Join or Renew Your Membership!
In The Baltimore Branch
National Association for the Advancement of Colored People
EVERY DAY A MEMBERSHIP DAY
MEMBERSHIPS $2 AND UP PER YEAR
OFFICE: 402 DOLPHIN ST.—LA. 3-8503 - 3-8504
OPEN DAILY 9 TO 5:30
COMING!—MRS. ROSA PARKS,
Prominent in Montgomery, Alabama Bus Case
at NAACP Kick-Off Mass Meeting
Fall Membership Campaign
SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 23rd, 3:00 P. M.
at Sharp St. Memorial Methodist Church
Dolphin and Etting Sts.
ADMISSION FREE
MRS. LILLIE M. JACKSON, Pres. DR. CHARLES E. WATTS, Treas.
ROWEN K. JACKSON, Exec. Sec. MRS. ELAINE FIELDS, Off. Mgr.
REV. JOHN O. GRAHAM, Fec. DR. W. G. REYSON, JR., Auditor
REV. HARRY T. MCDONALD, Chairman, Membership Committee.
DR. CARL MURPHY, Chairman, Legal Redress Committee.

Got Relief from Burning, Itching Sting of
UGLY BUMPS
(BLACKHEADS)
"I was miserable with itching, burning of bumps and blackheads. Nothing seemed to help my discomfort until I tried Black and White Ointment. It's wonderful."
Elizabeth Gardner
Kansas City, Kansas
Itchy Hands
"My hands used to sting, itch, become irritated. Black and White Ointment really eased this misery."
John Ruffin
Baltimore, Md.
Over 51 Million Packages Sold
Checks itch, sting of simple ringworm, eczema, acne pimples. 15¢, 25¢, 75¢. Cleanse with Black and White Soap.
BLACK AND WHITE OINTMENT

FROM THE NORTH POLE — Herbert N. Frisby accompanied by Mrs. Frisby and his five-year-old grandson, H. Russell Frisby Jr., with H. Russell Frisby Sr., trailing, leave the B & O station on Mt. Royal Ave., Labor Day. Mr. Frisby just returned from the North Pole, where he, the second colored person to reach the Pole, dropped a plaque honoring Matt Henson, who reached the North Pole with Admiral Robert E. Peary in 1909.

Herbert N. Frisby returns from Pole

"Frisby's all right. Frisby's all right." This chant of a host of friends and relatives, led by Mrs. Annie R. Frisby, his wife, greeted Herbert N. Frisby as he stepped from the crack Capital Limited at 10:54 a.m. Monday, (Labor Day) at the Mt. Royal Ave. B. and O. Railroad Station.

Returning from a month's trip to Alaska, from where he had flown to the North Pole where he dropped a plaque honoring Matthew Henson, Mr. Frisby still looked 'cool' neatly dressed in a brown business suit, brown shirt and tie and tan shoes.

Removing from his head a brown, comfortable- looking cap, the noted adventurer told an exuberant group of friends and relatives:

"All I can say is that I made it, but I was scared to death that my wife was going to collect $25,000 in insurance."

With humor in his voice, Mr. Frisby continued: "Just as we were about to fly over the Pole, one of my engines conked out. The pilot said, 'Put on your parachutes and jump! I didn't know where I was going to jump except into the Arctic Ocean.'"

It was not necessary to make the jump, however, and the plane landed safely.

* * *

MR. FRISBY smiled broadly as he continued: "It was a childhood dream come to pass. When I was in the sixth grade I learned that the North Pole is not a stick but a point—the northern most point of the earth."

He described the North Pole as being "a glaze of ice" and told of his two previous attempts to reach the North Pole. "This year about May I started preparing and it finally came to pass."

Mr. Frisby paused and said: "I offer my sincere thanks and appreciation for what has happened."

In an interview with an AFRO reporter, Mr. Frisby said: "I left from Elmendorf Air Force Base, outside of Anchorage, Alaska, Headquarters of all Alaskan defenses."

* * *

ONE OF THE crewmen who opened the door so we could drop the plaque lives in Dundalk. Another lives in Philadelphia. The captain was a Texan and said that he was happy to participate in honoring Matthew Henson.

Mr. Frisby quoted the captain as saying, "Just think we came up in a plane. He and Peary walked."

The explorer added: "The door got stuck as I dropped the plaque. When the door was opened, it caught one of the fellows in his mouth and the 60-degree below zero weather almost froze his jaw."

When asked how he knew where to drop the plaque, Mr. Frisby replied: "When the navigator indicated we were over the Pole, I let the box go."

The box, besides a plaque honoring Henson and with inscriptions from the National Newspaper Publishers Association and the AFRO, contained a photograph of Henson, a seal of the state of Maryland and an American flag.

Mr. Frisby said that he was welcomed everywhere he went and that there is integration throughout the Alaskan command, so much so he added that, "I was embarrassed to raise the question."

When asked, "Do you plan on going back?" Mr. Frisby nodded toward Mrs. Frisby, smartly dressed in a red dress with white polka dots and said: "Ask the madam."

"Never!" came the instant reply. She added however, "I kept encouraging him."

With humility in his voice, Mr. Frisby remarked: "Matthew Henson went by dog sled; I went by air. It was a realization of a life's dream."

Among the well-wishers on hand to greet Mr. Frisby were: Miss Ida Chisholm, 900 block N. Bentalou St.; Miss Jennye Thomas, 2900 block W. Lafayette Ave.;

Mrs. Annie Beverly, 2900 block Presstman St.; Mr. and Mrs. James H. Jones, 1600 block N. Appleton St.; Mrs. Viola Freeman, 900 block N. Bentalou St.;

Mrs. Catherine Frisby, 2300 block W. Mosher St., his daughter-in-law and his 5-year-old grandson, H. Russell Frisby Jr.; Mr. and Mrs. J. Arnett Frisby, 500 block N. Arlington Ave. Also present, of course, was the explorer's son, H. Russell Frisby.

* * *

MRS. FANNIE W. HOWARD, 30 block Simon St. Miss Almira Miller, organist at Madison Ave. Presbyterian Church; Mrs. Ethel O. Welcome, 2100 block Liberty Heights;

Mrs. Mary Chase, 2000 block Bentalou St.; Miss Ruth Russell, 700 block Dolphin St.; Mrs. Alice Keys, 800 block N. Fremont Ave.; Mr. and Mrs. Henry Sampson, 1100 block Etting St.

Mrs. Rosa S. Meyers, 800 block N. Fremont Ave.; Mrs. Edith Butler, 1800 block Druid Hill Ave.; Alvin Waters Jr., 3000 block Elgin Ave. and Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Stansbury, 2300 block Druid Hill Ave.

Off the Beaten Path

By ELIZABETH MURPHY OLIVER

On the curtain of Ford's old opera house was the following verse by Charlotte Cushman (1816-1876).

God conceived the world, that was poetry;
He formed it, that was scripture;
He colored it, that was painting;
He peopled it with living beings; that was the grand, divine, eternal drama.

LAWYERS OFTEN suffer an unsavory reputation because they are unable to perform miracles for their clients. Often, things beyond their control come up in the case, but they are expected to take care of such emergencies regardless.

Recently I persuaded Bob Watts to see what he could do about one of his clients who had called the AFRO saying that because of the husband's accident they were about to lose their home and the children were not able to enter school because of no shoes, no clothes.

Mr. Watts called back almost within the hour. He had contacted the building loan, the house was saved. He had "come to it," in some marvelous fashion, that the children would be ready to go to school.

* * *

THE PORT of Baltimore: A truly fascinating young man to talk with is Lewis Crach of the Maritime Exchange. He can tell you what goes on in the Port of Baltimore which is one of the largest in the world, you know.

August was a peak month, he says, for arrivals and departures with 480 incoming ships, 183 of which were American while 297 were flying foreign flags.

While you are unmindful in the day, asleep at night, ships come almost within your touch at the Pratt street pier from almost every country in the world.

They are called "foreign flag vessels," Mr. Crach tells me and they came in August, from:

Brazil, Costa Rica, China, Cuba, Finland, Ecuador, France, Italy, Greece, Israel, Nicaragua, Panama, South Africa, Spain, Sweeden, Venezuela, Yugoslavia, and Germany.

It's a beautiful sight at night. The later the better. The great boats are resting quietly on the water but from inside you can hear the babble of foreign tongues.

* * *

WHERE DOES tapioca flour come from? It comes into Baltimore on a ship from Bangkok.

Toys are now coming in for Christmas from Germany.

Champagne comes from Antwerp, wine from Bordeau crepe rubber from Monrovia, artificial flowers, hooked rugs from Japan, tea and window glass from Rotterdam. Cement from Sweden, smoked oysters (ish) and barbed wire from Schimnui.

A local integrated night club charges 55 cents for cigarets when you get them from the girl who comes around with that box strung from her neck, the one with the short kiddie dress on.

Highest I ever heard of; in Atlantic City's Club Harlem they charged 45 cents for a 25 cent package.

* * *

HAIR BLEACHING is quite a process, exerciuating, I imagine. Here's how it's done: Apply a bleach to get the color out in a hurry, let it stay on one and one-half hours!

Next apply a preparation to strengthen the hair (since bleach weakens the strands). Following are two applications of a vegetable compound which remain on the hair one hour each.

In between each application there is a rinsing which takes more time. If the job is not effective in removing all the color, it has to be repeated before the dying process begins.

Over in Sand Town, a section back of Lafayette market, on Laurens Street - you know where I mean - is Dirty Ida's establishment. Everyone I know, knows this lady who sells everything from firecrackers from an ancient Fourth of July to china in a barrel.

She certainly must give service to her customers for many Baltimoreans have been shopping there for over a quarter of a century.

* * *

"WHERE YOU find poor people you will find birds, mostly pigeons," someone has said.

I noticed in a square off lower Eutaw Place a great flock of fat pigeons who were being fed by adoring children, little children, who idled there. From the amount of feeding going on I would say these people are not poor. With bread at 22 cents a loaf.

* * *

A BRAND NEW school teacher in a brand new school who has 4th grade children who are brand new to her, says that she was talking generally to the little fellows on theirs and her first day.

They got into the mysteries of life and the new teacher said: "Surely, Johnnie, you have a soul. Didn't you know everybody has a soul?"

One hand came up. The little tike put his hand over his heart. "I got one teacher, and I can feel it ticking."

* * *

FAMILIAR SIGHT on Sunday afternoon: little children peering from Key Highway cars at the ships in drydock at the Bethlehem Steel Key Highway Yard.

Facts which concern adults here are that it is one of the world's largest floating drydocks where during the year ships come from every nation in the world to be repaired mended and checked.

The hottest heat yet is supposed to come from a solar furnace. The heat is supplied by the sun reflected through glass lenses.

The highest emperature possible in the open hearth furnaces at Bethlehem Steel, Sparrows Point, is 2800 degrees farenheit.

Here the iron is purified, the carbon oxydized, and the ingredients added to make steel. Molten iron comes from the blast furnaces, according to the plant's public relations office statistics.

September and October are the months when Junior and Senior high school kids run away from school and home, according to Captain Hartung of Missing Persons. April and May are the other two months when kids decide to take off because of failure to make good in school.

Where do they go?

Capt. Hartung says children follow a certain pattern. They either go from this section of the country to Florida or to the far west, like Arizona.

Adult's follow a different pattern. They are liable to go any place. It may be where they have never had the opportunity to visit before or they may go to see relatives they have not seen in a long time.

GORDON'S
IT'S CRYSTAL CLEAR...
94.4 PROOF

There's no Gin like GORDON'S
Clearly America's Favorite
94.4 PROOF, 100% NEUTRAL SPIRITS DISTILLED FROM GRAIN. GORDON'S DRY GIN CO., LTD., LONDON, N.Y.

'Right now Donald Best seems awfully mythical character'

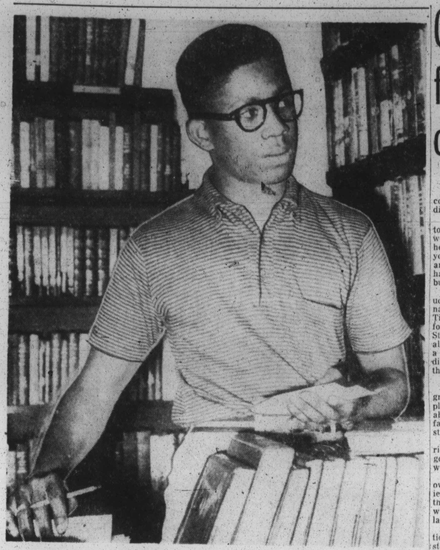
"Right now Donald Best seems to be an awfully mythical character to me."

This was the judgment of Magistrate Meredith Hoffmasten in Northwestern Police Court Sunday as he imposed a 4-month term in the House of Correction upon Robert Lee Dabney, 23, 1200 block Linden Ave.

Mr. Dabney was on trial for larceny of merchandise value at $57 from an automobile on August 17.

The defendant denied the theft, but maintained that he pawned the goods for a friend named Donald Best because he was too young to hock them himself.

The AFRO Goes To State Fair At Timonium



WILBUR LE ROY PINDER JR., 1322 Druid Hill Ave., a Baltimore City College senior, is a page at the Main branch of the Enoch Pratt Free Library. Among his duties is the replacement of books correctly on the shelves. He has worked six months, was recommended by his school.

Carnival and farm meet on Midway

By JAMES D. WILLIAMS

Cotton candy, hot dogs, popcorn, lemonade, bar-b-que, candied apples.

Also poultry, cows, pigs, tractors, a man who guesses your weight and pays you when he's wrong, horses on which you can lose your money, and a side show featuring a hairless and a hairless white bull.

These things aren't the product of an over-active imagination but are all out at the Timonium Fair grounds where for the 75th year the Maryland State Fair is being held with all the color and excitement of a carnival and the contrasting dignity of farmers showing off their best from their farms.

* * *

ON TUESDAY afternoon the grounds were covered with people, many of whom had probably never been closer to a farm than the corner grocery store.

Near the main entrance the rich odor of bar-b-que drifted gently from a stand out on the warm air.

In a nearby show ring, the owners of five handsome ponies were putting their animals through their paces as a judge walked slowly past and made lazy notations on a pad.

Over at the outdoor exhibition of farm equipment, youngsters played happily on the giant tractors and combines, while the men in charge smiled and sat in the shade.

Seven-year-old Chester Fleming, 2831 W. North Ave., wrapped his hands around the steering wheel of one of the tractors, and as he sat in the driver's seat he was captain and master of all he surveyed.

After all, who's going to bother a man driving a tractor that weighs several tons.

"Beep, beep," went the horn that was really the voice of Chester. "This is fun," he said to nobody in particular as two smaller boys looked up at him from the ground with envy in their eyes.

* * *

DOWN AT the bingo stand one of the employees was busy calling out the numbers as they were selected. The players were mostly women and as each number was called they scanned their cards and if they gave a little ladylike yell, everyone knew that they had the number.

The markers being used were heavy ear of corn and little piles were before Mrs. Marie Brown, 1105 Slater Rd., and her companion, Mrs. Irevine Whye, 3112 Leeds St. In between them sat a rather bored by the game was little Wade Whye.

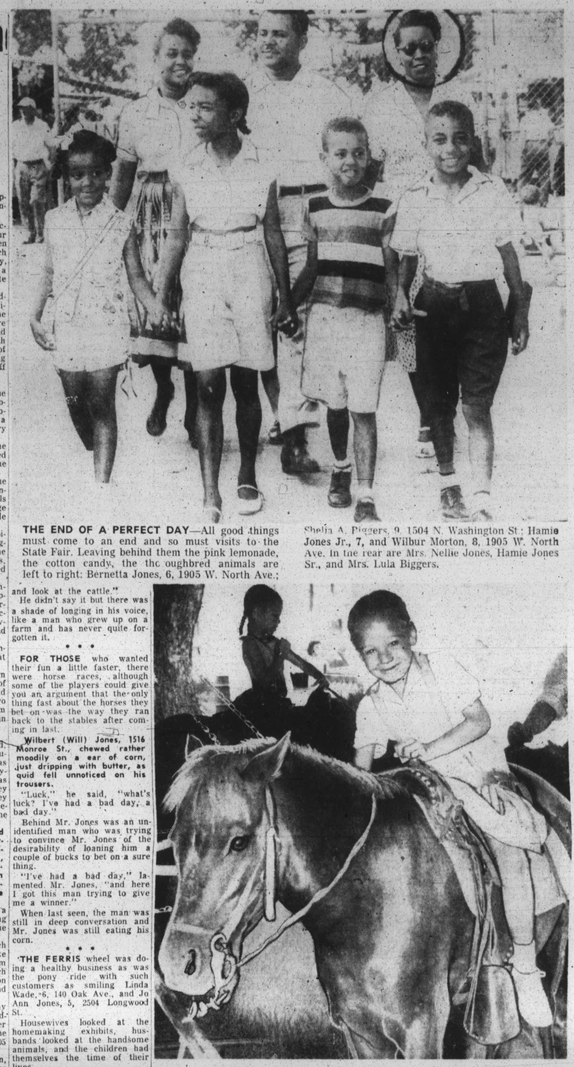
A lot of the fairgoers got a kick out of walking by looking at the various exhibits and the games.

There was a game in which you throw pennies on a coke bottle, or tried to throw them on. There was a game in which you tried to throw hoops on prizes. There were games and there were games.

WALKING UP the midway with a balloon over her shoulder and a box of popcorn in her hand was little Gail Dianne Robinson, 5, who lives at 305 Raleigh Rd.

Her father, Harold Robinson, walked with her and their eyes drank in the wonders of the state fair.

"I come out here every year," volunteered Mr. Robinson. "I was raised on a farm in Virginia and I like to come here. Among his duties is the replacement of books correctly on the shelves. He has worked six months, was recommended by his school.



THE END OF A PERFECT DAY—All good things must come to an end and so must visits to the State Fair. Leaving behind them the pink lemonade, the cotton candy, the thic oughbred animals are left to right: Bernetta Jones, 6, 1905 W. North Ave.; Sheila A. Piggers, 9, 1504 N. Washington St.; Hamie Jones Jr., 7, and Wilbur Morton, 8, 1905 W. North Ave. in the rear are Mrs. Nellie Jones, Hamie Jones Sr., and Mrs. Lula Biggers.

and look at the cattle."

He didn't say it but there was a shade of longing in his voice, like a man who grew up on a farm and has never quite forgotten it.

* * *

FOR THOSE who wanted their fun a little faster, there were horse races, although some of the players could give you an argument that the only thing fast about the horses they bet on was the way they ran back to the stables after coming in last.

Wilbert (Will) Jones, 1516 Monroe St., chewed rather moodily on a ear of corn. Just dripping with butter, as quid fell unnoticed on his trousers.

"Luck," he said, "what's luck? I've had a bad day, a bad day."

Behind Mr. Jones was an unidentified man who was trying to convince Mr. Jones of the desirability of loaning him a couple of bucks to bet on a sure thing.

"I've had a bad day," lamented Mr. Jones, "and here I got this man trying to give me a winner."

When last seen, the man was still in deep conversation and Mr. Jones was still eating his corn.

* * *

THE FERRIS wheel was doing a healthy business as was the pony ride with such customers as smiling Linda Wade, 6, 140 Oak Ave., and Jo Ann Jones, 5, 2504 Longwood St.

Housewives looked at the homemaking exhibits, husbands looked at the handsome animals, and the children had themselves the time of their lives.

The color of a carnival and the home spun atmosphere of life on the farm. That's the Maryland State Fair.

The fair exhibits will run through Saturday and the racing will continue until Sept. 11.

A LADY AND HER MOUNT—Little Jo Ann Jones, 5, 2504 Longwood St., found it a real pleasure to climb aboard an honest-to-goodness pony at the Maryland State Fair. Only trouble was that the pony's only direction of travel was in a circle and the gait was a slow walk. But little things like this did not prevent Linda from enjoying her ride on the "bronco."

Pratt Library expands scope of services

You can call on the phone and receive from the telephone reference desk at the Enoch Pratt Free Library main branch the answer to almost any question you may ask in a matter of minutes.

This is one of the newest services offered the public according to the 1955 annual report of the library.

A quick-answer service, it is in the General Reference Department and the librarian whose duty is to do nothing but answer questions, has a battery of every-ready reference books close at hand. In 1955, 547,664 reference questions were answered.

* * *

PATRONS OF THE city libraries seem to prefer the modern buildings to the older ones.

This is proved by comparison of the books borrowed and new cards issued from the old branch library at North and Bentalou and those from the new Pennsylvania Avenue and North branch, the report indicates.

Over 10,000 more new cards were issued and approximately 100,000 more books loaned from the new location.

In addition there is the special service of lending books and magazines to tuberculosis patients at the Baltimore City Hospitals, which is a service that the library staff terms immeasurably beneficial.

The main branch has established programs for adults, noon-hour lectures, evenings with drama and poetry, weekly television programs, branch film showings and discussion meetings.

* * *

THE CHILDREN'S librarians made contact by visits of school classes to the library, with over 130,000 of the 138,840 public and parochial school children. Story hours attracted over 19,000 youthful guests.

It was discovered that the ten best sellers for 1955 fell in the department of education, philosophy and religion.

The popularity of "The Power of Positive Thinking," "This I Believe," "Thinking Life Through," and Gift of the Sea" indicate that people are making a search for spiritual values.

The library issues a colorful list of library activities, booklists, and seasonal publicity flyers.

One of the most interesting and successful events of 1955 was the showing of "The Jackie Robinson Story" at the Pennsylvania Ave. branch. It attracted over 700 men, women and children matinee and evening. The showing of the film offered an opportunity to circulate books.

$50 A WEEK for news tips and photos. Be on the alert—call in your tips to the AFRO City Desk. Phones: MU. 5-6015, 4016, 1812 or 1813. Say "I've got a News Tip." If no answer, call LA. 3-2811 or RI. 4-0500.

MISS ROSE C. TYLER, 433 N. Calhoun St., is an avid reader who enjoys her books in the quiet and comfort of one of the spacious reading rooms of the main branch of the Enoch Pratt Free Library. A former Hopkins nurse' aid, she likes reading books about doctors and nurses. Here she is browsing through her selected book, "Labrador Nurse" by B. J. Banfill.

HOWARD CRAWFORD, age 13, a student at school 128, smiles in anticipation of receiving the books he has chosen to be checked out on his card by the librarianan in the children's room at the central branch of the Enoch Pratt Free Library. Howard reads in every spare moment at home,

Democratic Viewpoint

By ROBERT B. WATTS

Now that the summer vacations have ended and the November elections are almost upon us, we will have plenty of political food for thought.

This is a national election year and the air channels and T.V. will be full of all sorts of political news. Many will find that one day they are for Ike and the next day they will be for Adlai.

Both of these men, along with their vice presidential candidates will be speaking to the nation on every occasion for the various news services will be right on hand to record their every word.

It is wise to keep in mind however the slanting of the news which the Republicans have a monopoly (virtually) on. It is no secret that most of the major newspapers in the country are pro-Republican. In the last campaign that was a major issue and will be in this one.

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THE SUNPAPERS, for example will slant the news on many occasions to the Republican point of view. Life magazine will do the same. It is up to us as intelligent people to read the news objectively.

Certainly comments about what these men have said are helpful, but we must guard against being convinced of a given point of view simply because it is what we read in the newspaper.

We must arrive independently at our own decisions on vital issues to be presented in this campaign.

Civil Rights will of course be the chief issue for most of us though it is not the only issue.

In this election civil rights will be a major issue just as it is the biggest moral issue of time irrespective of its political significance. We must however keep in mind some of the other issues that directly effect us such as social security, taxation, and the foreign policy of our country.

I feel confident that if the issues of this campaign are brought to the attention of the voters for their serious consideration, we will have a Democratic President in the White House.

These are serious times and we must seriously consider the issues and not be blinded by the popularity of the candidate.

* * *

IN THE last election Eisenhower was elected primarily on his popular appeal and because the people wanted a change.

These two items—popularity and need for a change—are in my mind of little real significance.

The real basic, fundamental issues involve civil rights, the farm problem, employment, tax reduction and foreign policy.

I believe that Adlai Stevenson and the Democratic party of Franklin D. Roosevelt and Harry S. Truman are best fitted to assume the leadership and to give guidance in these fields.

I urge you to judge the candidates and their pronouncement on these vital issues and if you do, I feel like all of the delegates who assembled at Chicago, that this is a Democratic year.

CORN EATER—That's a hot ear of buttered corn that is rapidly disappearing in the hands of Wilbert (Will) Jones, 1516 Monroe St., one of the visitors at the State Fair. The corn eating session was sandwiched in between the races on which Mr. Jones commented: "I could use a winner."

A GUY WITH IMAGINATION — Given a huge shiny tractor and the usual imagination of a seven-year-old youngster, a guy can really live it up for a while. Chester Fleming, 2831 W. North Ave., is the man behind the wheel of this piece of farm equipment and he is barrelling down a furrow at a mile a minute. The outdoor display of farm equipment at the State Fair was one of the biggest drawing cards on the midway, especially for the youngsters who were free to climb all over the machines to the heart's content.