WHEN YOU THINK READING YOUR AFRO THINK OF HOME FOR A HOME

RUN RIGHT TO READ'S

For HOLIDAY ENTERTAINING ★ For GIFTS!

Day In and Day Out . . . you, Our Customer, will Save PENNIES to DOLLARS for at READ'S—
Day in and Day out . . . The VALUES Are BETTER!

CHARGE YOUR PURCHASES

8 Distinctive Gold Decorated GLASSES in Brass Finish CARRYING CADDY with Wood Handle

$2.88 SET

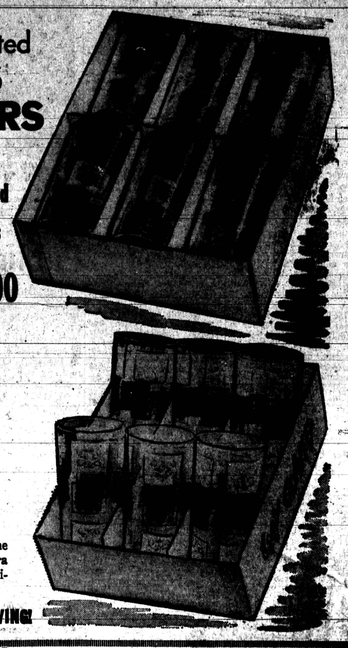
★ 10-Ounce Glasses with Extra Heavy Weighted Sham Bottoms
★ Frosted White or Turquoise Design with Elegant Gold Decoration
★ Attractive Extra Sturdy Carrying Caddy Double Handle with Wood Grip

Attractive Gold Decorated GLASS TUMBLERS

10-Ounce Heavy Weighted Sham Bottoms

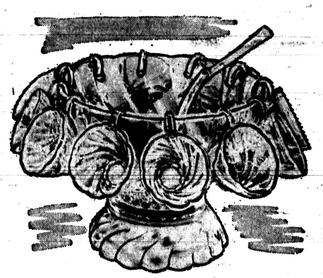
6 In Box For $1.00

Sparkling Designs In Black-White Turquoise or Coral Trimmed In Elegant Gold



Get your home set for the holidays — You'll need extra glasses for entertaining holiday guests!

BOXED FOR GIFT GIVING!



Colonial Swirl Design . . . Crystal Glass
15-PIECE PUNCH BOWL SET

Set consists of:
★ Large Punch Bowl with Base
★ Large Crystal Clear Ladle
★ 12 Matching Punch Cups

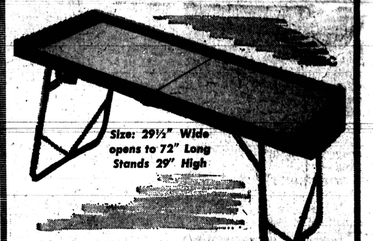
$2.99 Boxed

Ever Popular . . . Blue Willow Ware
53-PIECE DINNER SET

Complete Service for 8 Includes:
★ 8 Cups ★ 8 Saucers ★ 8 Cereal Bowls ★ 8 Dinner Plates ★ 8 Bread and Butter Plates ★ 8 Soup Bowls ★ 1 Meat Platter ★ Gravy Bowl ★ Sugar Bowl with Matching Cover and Creamer.

$9.99 BOXED

BIG $14.97 VALUE



Size: 29½" Wide opens to 72" Long Stands 29" High

Jumbo Size Steel
FOLDING TABLE

★ Attractive Marbelized Top with Border
★ Sturdy Braced Legs . . . Folds Easily . . . Compact
★ Carried by Own Handle. Useful and Ideal For Holiday Entertaining

Slight imperfections will in no way impair wearing quality.

AT READ'S ONLY $9.97

Milk White Glass
12-PIECE STARTER SET

Consisting of:
★4 Cups ★4 Saucers
★4 Plates

$1.00

HEATS FAST . . . SAVES FUEL . . . ROASTS EVENLY

Pure Aluminum . . . Large
TURKEY ROASTER

★ Prepares Large Fowls or Extra Large Roasts to a Delicious Taste
★ Self Basting Lid . . . Sanitary Durable . . . Easy to Clean

$2.99 Made 12 lb. Fowl or 10 lb. Beef or Pork Roasts

ALUMINUM CAKE COVER with Glass Cake Plate

$1.50 VALUE ONLY $1.00

RUN RIGHT TO READ'S

NOW OPEN Read's Newest SELF-SERVICE DRUGSTORE Kenwood Mall Shopping Village 23 Baltimore Avenue Towson, Md.

Matt Henson—Trek To The Pole

Baltimore Afro-American
Feature Page
NOVEMBER 18, 1961 17

By Garey Reynolds

Matthew Alexander Henson was born in Charles County, Md., in 1866, one of 11 children. His mother died when Matt was seven and he was sent to Washington to live with an aunt.

At 11 years of age, Matt ran away from his aunt's home, and walked back to Baltimore. He was befriended by a woman who ran a restaurant. She took him as her helper, and cared for him.

During his stay there, Matt met an old sea duffer named Baltimore Jack, who whetted the youngster's appetite for the sea with his tales of high adventure.

Consequently, he was led to ask Captain Childs of the "Maria Hines," docked in the Baltimore harbor at that time, to take him on as cabin boy.

The Maria Hines with a cargo of wheat aboard sailed for China with Matt as cabin boy.

He stayed with the ship for four years, seeing much of the world, and becoming an expert sailor.

Put ashore in 1887, now 21 years old, Matt returned to Washington and took a job as stockboy with the B. H. Steinmetz Hat Store, then located on Pennsylvania Ave.

A young naval officer, Robert E. Peary, came into the store in the summer of 1887, to buy a tropical hat to wear on an expedition to Nicaragua.

He asked Matt if he would like to accompany him on the expedition as a valet.

Sam Steinmetz told Matt he could go and his job would be waiting for him when he returned.

Matt Henson as he appeared in 1927, posed with a pair of snowshoes.

Henson went on the expedition and returned to Steinmetz until Peary called him to New York as a clerk in a government office, and to prepare for the Arctic expeditions.

* * *

IN DUE TIME Henson's versatility impressed Peary so much that he made him, as Peary put it, "an ambitious explorer's assistant."

Peary's dream since 1884 was to reach the North Pole.

For him, the man who stood with the "360 degree" Longitude beneath his feet would rank with Columbus and the other great explorers of the past.

In his specially built ship for Arctic exploration, "The Roosevelt," Peary and his staff made six unsuccessful attempts to reach the pole.

Each time Henson became more valuable to him because of his ability to make friends with the Eskimos, his fluency with their language, his skill as a sledge driver, and his genius at confronting Arctic dangers.

The trips took place from 1898-1909, when they discovered the North Pole.

On those trips, Henson had three times saved Peary's life.

Once by shooting an enraged musk ox which had charged Peary. Another time he cared for Peary's frozen feet until medical help could be had.

A third time, when one of his party was so badly frozen that to try to bring him back could have meant death for Matt, Peary and the frozen man.

However, triumphant against the odds, Henson brought all three back to safety, saving them all from starvation.

* * *

ON THE seventh and final trip which began March 1, 1909 Peary decided that the days were becoming long enough for the most dangerous leg of the trip.

His plan for the 413 mile sledge run from Cape Columbia to the Pole was as follows: to send a pioneer division and supply division ahead of the main party to break trail, and to build igloos and leave supplies along the route.

As the entire party progressed Northward, the supplies began to dwindle. Some men would be sent back to Cape Columbia and the rest would push on. The retiring men would keep the trail open and repair igloos.

The expedition began with 24 men and 133 dogs. A month later Peary was 133 nautical miles from the Pole, and the last supporting division turned back.

Peary kept Matt because as he said, "Henson is not to return. I can't get along without him."

Only Henson, the four strongest Eskimos and 40 dogs were left.

Now farther north than any man had ever been, Peary and his men, leg weary, with their food supply running low, were alone with the horrors of the Arctic—

It took the party five days to reach the region of the Pole. In those last five days, there is some doubt that Peary could have walked because he was crippled by the loss of eight toes.

Henson, remembering what happened, in later years.

"Well he walked and he didn't walk. Every morning an hour before we left camp, Peary would get up and start walking slowly toward the pole. Then we would overtake him and he would sit in the sledge, and rest.

"At the end of the day he'd get off again and walk ahead till we camped."

At the end of the fifth day's march they knew they were near the Pole. But it was the next afternoon before Peary was satisfied he had found the spot.

Henson recalled Peary told him, "Plant the Stars and Stripes over there, Matt."

Peary then said "at the North Pole" and shook hands with Henson.

"Let's go home, Matt. Let's go home," he recalled Peary saying.

* * *

IT TOOK 37 days to reach the Pole and 16 days to return because of the trail kept open by the returning party.

Five days before the world learned of Peary's reaching the Pole, a similar claim had been made by Dr. Frederick Cook, once a member of Peary's expedition.

But in 1910 the National Geographical Society stifled belief in Peary's claim, and a year later Congress gave him a vote of thanks.

Peary came home to fame and fortune, Henson came home to obscurity.

In 21 years of service he was payed nothing until the last exploration, for which he received $25 a month. Henson also received a $150 bonus given to all members of the crew for a successful voyage.

For years, Matt Henson was not heard from. In 1913, an outraged friend found Henson working in a Brooklyn garage.

By pulling some political strings, the friend was able to get Henson a civil service appointment as messenger boy in the New York Customs office.

Following his retirement after 23 years of service, Matt had this to say about his appointment:

"Now that is just fine. We get along alright, my wife and I, because she worked too and we had no children.

"Of course, retiring at 70, I didn't like. I was fit as ever and the retirement pay of $1,020 annually meant that Lucy could not retire with me.

"But we get along."

In 1945, Henson was brought to a downtown navy office in New York and presented a Congressional medal by a Naval captain.

Then in 1947 with the publication of "Dark Companion" by Bradley Robinson, Matt began to get some long deserved recognition.

Said Matt of the book: "It comes a little late. I am 81 years old."

* * *

ON A RADIO broadcast that same year, Matt said twice during the program, "Nobody has ever given me $1 that I didn't earn."

Two years later in Baltimore, Herbert M. Frisby, head of the Douglass High School Science Department, began a 13 - year quest to get Henson recognized in "an honorable and creditable manner."

In 1954, Mr. Frisby succeeded in getting Henson an invitation to the White House to see then President Eisenhower. A year later, when Henson died, the Maryland Legislature passed a resolution, commending Henson.

As far North correspondent for the AFRO, Mr. Frisby flew over the North Pole and dropped a memorial plaque to Henson.

Mr. Frisby presented a resolution to the state legislature in 1959 asking that a memorial to Matt Henson be placed at the Pomonkey High School in Charles County. The legislature passed the resolution.

When Governor Tawes' Matt Henson committee met to make final plans for the memorial, Mr. Frisby who was chairman asked that the memorial be placed instead in the State's capital.

The legislature passed this resolution, too.

* * *

THE MEMORIAL bronze plague, 28 by 36 inches, will be unveiled by Mrs. Henson in formal ceremonies Saturday, 11 a.m. in the old Senate chambers.

Some 1,000 persons are expected to attend the dedication which is presided over by Mr. Frisby.

Included in the list are Andrew Hatcher, presidential associate press secretary; James C. Evans, Department of Defense counselor; Commander Edward Peary Stafford, Admiral Peary's grandson; Clifford Mackay, AFRO editor;

Dr. Russell Frazier, Explorers Club of New York; Governor J. Millard Tawes and Dr. Martin D. Jenkins, president of Morgan State College.

AT THE NORTH POLE five of Admiral Peary's fellow discoverers held up flags for this photo. At center, Matt Henson held the American flag which Admiral Peary had carried hopefully for 15 years. The other flags, from left, are those of the Navy League, Delta Kappa Epsilon Fraternity, Daughters of the American Revolution and that of the Red Cross.

HERBERT M. FRISBY
Kept memory alive

MRS. LUCY HENSON
widow to be honored

Judge Who Collects African Art

By George Collins

Take a restless Navy commander who has a flair for adventure during the height of World War II.

Pull him off ship and send him on a 2,000-mile military convoy mission across North Africa.

Do this and there's a good chance you may come up with an African art collector.

Proof of this can be found at 2302 Brookfield Ave., where a modern, comfortable row house, shielded by a forest of sycamore trees, hides the most fabulous African art collection anywhere in the Free State, except the art museum.

A closeup of its owner uncovers a man who is as diversified, interesting, and fascinating as the collection.

He is Albert H. Blum, judge, lawyer, lecturer, world traveler, adventurer, scholar, and a couple more titles thrown in for good measure.

He is the only Marylander who is a member in good standing in the Order of Royal River Rats, a knight in the Italian Order of the Crown, and board member of the Maryland Academy of Science, to name a few.

* * *

JUDGE BLUM was appointed to the Municipal Court bench July 15, and currently fills in during the absence of one of the other 14 sitting judges.

"Have robe will travel," is the way he describes it.

But listening to the tales of misery and woe of those who get caught in the meshes of the law is but a small portion of the vigorous life of Judge Blum, whose youthful appearance belies three-score years of eventful living.

A widower, graduate of City College, Johns Hopkins University, and the University of Maryland Law School, the many-sided collector lives alone among his vast cache of primitive art from deepest and darkest Africa.

His wife, Mrs. Cale Blum, died 13 years ago. Their daughter, Sunny Jo, who was raised by her grandparents, is a Goucher freshman.

But this is not to infer that the friendly, easy-going, personable jurist is lonely. Anything but. In fact there just isn't enough time.

When he's not lecturing — and three requests came by phone during the interview he's sitting in court — attending meetings of one of the dozen or more organizations in which he holds memberships; reading (he has more than 2,500 volumns in his sprawling library); he's caring for the rare wood and metal carvings picked up from the Dark Continent.

Beginning Thursday, Nov. 30, art lovers will again have a rare opportunity to view part of Judge Blum's treasured collection.

At that time, an exhibit, "The Art of Africa," will open in the Murphy Fine Arts Building at Morgan State College.

In galleries one and two will be 82 pieces of primitive African art from his honor's abundant supply.

Among them will be masks, orna-

(Continued on Page 21)

BREAKING AX—Judge Blum holds up ax which meant end of the line for errant tribesmen who ran afoul of tribunal' lawr. Made of metal, the ax could be centuries old since it resists effects of climate and termites which destroy objects carved from wood.

A COLLECTOR AND HIS HAT—Judge Albert H. Blum shows off part of his tremendous African art collection. From left, the objects are Bundo tribe ceremonial mask from Sierra Leone, antelope head gear from French Sudan, Jbo tribe mask from Nigeria, Alangua figure from the Ivory Coast, Senufo figure, French Sudan, and mask of monkey fur, antelope skin, and cowrie shells from the Congo. The delicate pieces which require great skill and patience to produce, are priceless, the owner said.