Pratt Library – A Gift To City

"Voltaire would weep for joy, Plato would stare.

What is it, easier than a church to enter.

Poltter than a department store, this center

That like Grand Central leads to everywhere?"

These lines from a poem "Public Library: To Epil" by Earl Shapiro were written in 1944 because in the late 1670's one man asked a question. The question — "What is the greatest present need of the City of Baltimore?"

The answer — "A free circulating public library, open to all citizens regardless of property or color."

The man responsible for the question and its answer, the man who changed and enriched the lives of countless generations of Baltimoreans, was Enoch Pratt, a New Englander who came to Baltimore to make his fortune.

"My library," he said, "shall be for all, rich and poor without distinction of race or color, who, when properly accredited, can take out the books if they will handle them carefully and return them."

* * *

WITH THIS in mind, the philanthropist late in 1881 began building on Mulberry Street. Public curiosity wavered between rumor of a cam factory and an asylum. Finally, in a letter to the Mayor and City Council on Jan. 21, 1882, Mr. Pratt offered Baltimore a central library building, branches in four quarters of the city, and an endowment.

The City Council accepted ten days later and Baltimore voters approved the gift at a special election on Oct. 25, 1882.

Enoch Pratt then began to build the four promised branches, Fremont Avenue, Hollins Street, Light Street and Canton. He had completed all five buildings by 1884 when he turned the management of the library over to the first board of trustees.

The original nine-member board was selected by Mr. Pratt, who specified that all vacancies were to be filled by the board, and further that "no Trustee or officer shall be appointed or removed on religious or political grounds."

* * *

AT FORMAL dedication exercises, held on Monday, Jan. 4, 1886, Mr. Pratt closed his short public address with these words:

"Now, in the hope of God's blessing, I hand it over to you, expecting you will foster, protect and increase it, that its beneficient influence may be for the benefit of the present and future generations, as long as our beloved city of Baltimore shall exist."

In land, buildings, and endowment, Enoch Pratt had enriched Baltimore by $1,145,833.33. His plan assured a perpetual annuity of five percent on its capital.

And, before the annual sum of $36,000 was entirely absorbed in operating expenses, two more branches (Broadway in 1888 and St. Paul Street in 1896) were built.

For almost seventy years Enoch Pratt's gift to the people of Baltimore has been "fostered, protected and increased." The famed free library that bears his name, now largely financed from public funds, is known and respected around the world as one of America's finest public libraries.

* * *

FROM THE old Central Library on Mulberry Street and the six branches, the Pratt Library has grown as the needs of Baltimoreans have grown.

Today, the Enoch Pratt Free Library consists of a new Central Library at 400 Cathedral St. (opened in 1933) and 23 branches, and an over 2,000,000 strong collection of not only books, both hard cover and paperback, but films, slides, records, documents, maps, newspapers magazines and pictures all available with a free library card. And they are used.

In 1965 alone almost five million items were borrowed, more than one-half million reference questions answered, and more than seven hundred thousand readers assisted.

Its current director, Louis Castagna, in charge of the system since July of 1960, has a staff of 600.

In 1965 the budget of $4,025,711 came from city, $3,506,272; State $629,000, and federal, $89,000.

The Pratt Library is known for its public service. It has never waited for people to come to it but has always gone out to acquaint them with the library's services and materials. Pratt uses community talks, exhibits, newspaper, radio and television releases, booklists, and the now world famous twelve Cathedral Street windows to alert people to important community events and to the materials the Library has to offer.

ON THE MOVE

The Pratt Library began reorganization of its branch system in 1948. From 1952 to 1965 ten new branches and bookmobile headquarters were built and three branches modernized and enlarged.

From 1966 through 1977 six new branches will be built and plans are taking shape for the enlargement of the Central Library.

EXTENDED SERVICES

In addition to its role as Baltimore City's public library Pratt serves as the resource center for Maryland's public libaries.

Under an agreement between the State of Maryland and the Pratt Library, and with the use of state funds, Pratt in 1960 established reference-loan services to county libraries throughout the state.

And in 1965, to facilitate further this state-wide service Pratt and all the county libraries were linked by teletype.

In addition to the above-mentioned inter-library loan program, since January 1964 the public library systems in metropolitan Maryland, including the Pratt Library, have been cooperating in a program to provide their registered borrowers with free borrowing privileges in all outlets of the participating libraries.

Thus residents of Anne Arundel, Baltimore, Carroll, Harford, Howard, Montgomery and Prince Georges Counties who may find it more convenient to use Baltimore City's library or who need the more specialized resources of Pratt's Central Library collection may upon presenting their county library cards obtain a reciprocal borrower's card from Pratt.

In turn Baltimore City residents are accorded the same privilege in the seven cooperating metropolitan counties.

The program, extending to eighty percent of the State's population, is financed by funds provided under the federal Library Services and Construction Act and coordinated by the Division of Library Extension of the Maryland State Department of Education.

WAR ON POVERTY

All the while the Pratt Library extends its services throughout the state, intensification of its program within the city continues.

Reaching toward the non-library user for whom its sources may have special benefits, in July 1965, through a contract with the Community Action Agency of Baltimore, the Library initiated a special project to bring library service to the people living in the Action Area of the city in new and more effective ways.

Books, pamphlets, magazines, newspapers are available from revolving paperback racks and from informal library rooms in the Community Action Centers for all who come to the Centers for help.

The Library also works with other agencies which are cooperating in the city's Anti-Poverty Program such as the Urban League in its Consumer Education Program, the Health and Welfare Council in its Job Guidance Clinic, the Street Club Workers, the Knox Presbyterian Church in its Day Care Program and Action Area Tutorial Groups meeting in and outside the Centers.

THE STUDENT EXPLOSION

Along with the population explosion has come the student explosion and with it the increased emphasis on non-textbook information.

As a result of the Deiches study on student use of the Library, published in 1963 as an aid to improved service to the Library's numerous student public, a new position of school liaison was established at Pratt, and the excellent program of cooperation between the Library and the city's schools continued to be developed.

One further step toward enrichment of the Pratt Library's resources was the recent announcement of an agreement by the trustees of the Pratt and Peabody Institute Libraries whereby the Peabody collection other than the music collection will be transferred to Pratt.

Under the agreement, once financial support has been obtained, services in the Peabody Library building will be administered by the public library.

Among the anticipated services is a student study center, an additional implementation of the Deiches survey.

* * *

FINDING that its system of classifying books is no longer adequate in the face of today's information explosion, the library has embarked on the mammoth project of changing the classification of its nearly 2,000,000 books to the more adaptable Library of Congress system.

Plans are also afoot to take advantage of modern technology by replacing the 65 card catalogs with catalogs in book form, which would then give all branches and county libraries a complete listing of the Library's holdings, a convenience for the public which does not now exist.

In order to speed up this project so as to reduce public inconvenience, a bond issue for the reclassification and book catalog is being sought on the ballot on Nov. 8.

INFORMATION FOR ALL

Changes may occur, but service remains the keynote. The Pratt Library offers service without charge to all the people of Baltimore.

Its public includes the pre-schooler who wants a picture book, the housewife who wants to know how to sew a dress or just read a good book, the man he wants to repair his car, the executive who needs information on the stock market or the scientist testing a camera which will take pictures of the moon.

A wealth of material is available for children, young adults and adults.

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HOW DO you get a free borrower's card? If you live in Baltimore, go to any Pratt branch, bookmobile stop or to Central—with identification, which includes both your name and address.

Once a simple form has been filled out, you can borrow books immediately. Children have to fill out an application and take it home for a parent's or guardian's signature. If you live outside the city limits, visit your nearest county library for a card.

Film programs, lectures, concerts and story hours for children are also a part of Pratt's services.

These and any of the community programs held at the Central Pratt Library or its branches are open to everyone without charge.

Morgan faculty members visit, study and work the world over

Morgan State Colege faculty members are making important contributions to national and international affairs by not only acting as adviser to the U.S. Government but also aiding the government in such places as Iran, Northern Nigeria and Latin America.

In the past few years, Morgan professors have studied abroad in England, Pakistan, West Berlin, Germany, France, Italy, Brazil, Luxembourg or served on government committees in Tokyo, Russia, Poland, Libya, Liberia and countries in South America.

Most of these traveling, studying professors have returned to the Baltimore campus to share their experiences with their students.

Some have been tapped for other jobs such as Dr. Regina Goff, former chairman of the department of education, who was recently appointed Assistant Commissioner of Education, U.S. Office of Education. Previously, Dr. Goff had served as Education Adviser to the government of Iran.

Or like Dr Tuna Mishoe who is now president of Delaware State College or Dr. Samuel Myers, former professor of economics, who is currently financial adviser to Latin America in the Bureau of Inter-American Affairs.

As Morgan prepares for its 100th anniversary, a close look at what the faculty has done and is doing resulted in this research.

There are few countries in this world that someone from Morgan has not visited. Some 13 teachers come from foreign countries including the Ukraine, India, Korea, Scotland, Italy, Austria, Germany, Poland, and British Guiana.

Many more have done graduate work abroad and lived in France, England, Cuba, Canada, West Berlin, Scotland, Puerto Rico and Luxembourg.

They have lectured and done research in such far-flung places as Japan, Nigeria, Germany, Tripoli, Denmark and Sweden, to list a few.

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MORGAN PROFESSORS, associate professors and assistant professors total around 144. Over one-half of these had made outstanding contributions to government, national and international affairs.

Dr. G. James Fleming, professor of political science, most recently observed programs of Operational Crossroads in several African countries. He has served as moderator of U.S. Information Service broadcasts of panels on African Affairs.

Dr. Armin E. Mruck, associate professor of history, has spent several periods in Europe doing research in preparing a book on the German underground and Dr. Theodore Maull, associate professor of biology, has conducted plant pathology in Brazil.

Dr. Frank A. DeCosta, dean of the graduate school, last summer served as Education Adviser to the Ministry of Northern Nigeria, while Dr. Ulysess G. Lee, Jr., professor of English, and James E. Lewis, professor of art, delivered a series of lectures in West Africa under the auspices of the American Society for African Culture.

Aurora Federal among oldest, largest in city

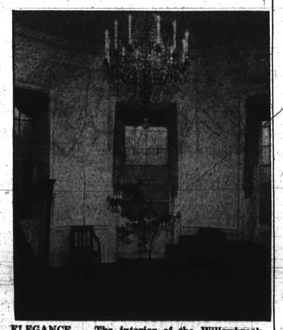
Aurora Federal Savings and Loan Association is one of the oldest and largest institutions of its kind in the Baltimore area. Founded in 1894, its main office is located in its handsome 11-story building at Charles and Saratoga Sts.

In July 1965, Aurora Federal expanded into the Reisterstown area by merging Glyndon Federal into its organization.

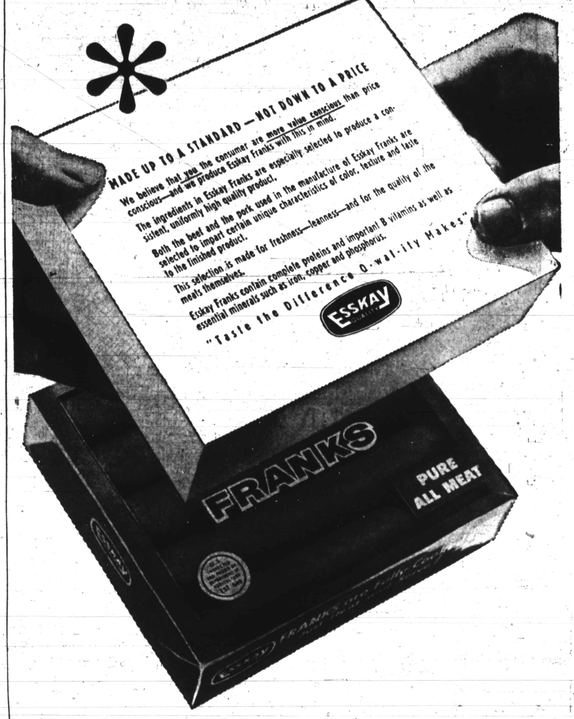
In addition, Aurora Federal serves the Severna Park area of Anne Arundel County by its office in Severna Park Shopping Village.

The assets of Aurora Federal are in excess of $40,000,000. Dwight F. Brunk is president.

Capt. Dennis P. Melle is commanding officer of Western Police District. It begins at the corner of West North Ave. and Druid Hill Ave. and goes South on the West side of Druid Hill through Paca St. to the Northwest corner of Baltimore St. to Hilton St.; out Hilton to North Ave. to the beginning point.



ELEGANCE —The interior of the Willowbrook Oval Room appropriately reflects the elegant influence the Baltimore Museum of Art has on the cultural life of the city.



MADE UP TO A STANDARD . . . NOT DOWN TO A PRICE.

The back of this package is important to you. It tells the truth about Esskay Frankfurters . . . the quality story of a frankfurter that offers you more meat value for your money. You'll notice how plump and juicy Esskay Franks grill up. That's because these tasty franks are made only of smoothly chopped and firmly packed 100% pure beef, and pure pork, plus the choicest imported spices money and Esskay can buy. So treat your family to the franks that are made up to a standard, not down to a price and...

Taste the difference Q-WAL-ITY makes.

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School 118 is oldest in city

By ROGER J. NISSLY

The oldest public school in the city celebrated its 100th anniversary in 1958.

The week of activities centered around the works of the school's namesake, Harriet Beecher Stowe, and reminicences of the school by former students and principals.

Today Elementary School 118, at Argyle Ave. near Lanvale St., is the most inner city schools, only more so.

An American Flag billows out over Argyle Ave., which —a familiar scene to inner city dwellers—is closed to autos from Dolphin to Lanvale Sts. at lunch hour each day to add to the meager playground space for the youngsters.

The interior of the school is badly in need of paint, with the schools' 11 teachers often resorting to covering the walls as much as possible with murals and student art to hide the blemishes and peeling paint.

In the newer elementary schools being planned by the Department of Education, corridors are being eliminated or used for teaching space.

AT SCHOOL 118, it was not planned that way, but that is how it turned out.

To reach two of the classrooms on the second floor students have to walk through another classroom, with possible disruptions in both the classes.

The adjoining rooms, which are really larger rooms cut in half by partitions, cannot be successfully opened up for group teaching assignments as the corridorless classrooms in the newer schools can.

The brick, two-story wooden-floored building's kindergarten to sixth grade classes reach near the overcrowding load of 40 pupils in each classroom.

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THE HEATING plant of the school is up to date, with the coal furnaces being replaced about five years ago with 12 individual heating units, one for each classroom.

There are, of course, no cafeteria or gym facilities.

A brightening feature in almost every classroom is the centerpiece attraction of an aquarium. In addition there is a kiln in the basement for artwork and ceramics.

The teaching at the school is a story of the teachers doing an exceptional job with the materials at hand.

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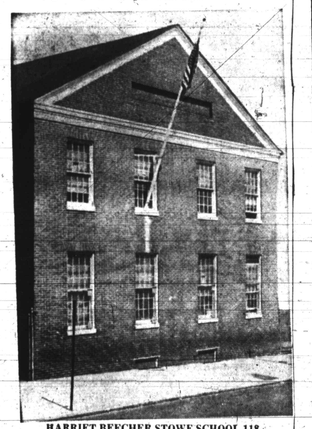
THE SCHOOL has a large variety of clubs and three TV sets and a movie projector from the department.

The Pratt Library bookmobile brings books twice a year for the students to exchange and select from.

The past school year's major activity was centered on literature, with students drawing pictures from their favorite stories and writing essays on myths and legends and doing orginial poems and stories.

The activity culminated in a Book Week and Book Fair during which parents were encouraged to purchase books for their children.

In the area, School 118 has a very high reputation and, according to Principal Mrs. Lillian Johnson, "Many parents want their children to go here because they went here."



HARRIET BEECHER STOWE SCHOOL 118
Baltimore's oldest school

$5 million program to aid poor pupils

Beginning this summer the fruits of a $5 million program to enhance reading capabilities among pupils from low-income families will become evident.

The program, funded for a total of $5,144,240 under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, this year will reach 30,000 students in public and parochial or private schools.

Affecting 63 elementary schools and 23 secondary schools — mostly from the poverty program's Action Area — the project is designed to increase reading competency and provide a number of supplementary services for boosting pupils chances for success in school.

With increased staff and materials, the communication program aims to: enrich classroom teaching, enlarge and increase staff competency, provide special experiences in after - school centers and give enriching summer experiences.

Among the supplementary services provided are: counseling, art, music physical education, social workers, speech teachers, home visitors, complete health programs, safety services, increased clerical help for teachers and audio - visual aids.

The bulk of the money is being used to purchase the innovative educational materials and recruit teachers during the school year — all of which will belong to the school system after the funding period ends.

* * *

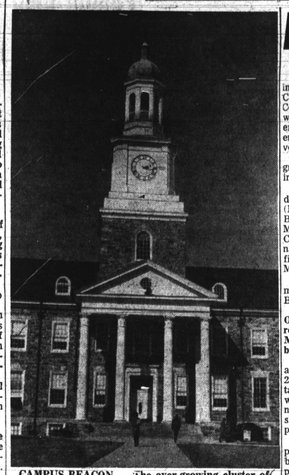
AFTER SCHOOL and evening programs until June are being operated on a $233,000 budget.

But the summer program, which will provide 13,000 pupils with additional enriching experiences, is expected to be the most effective. It will be run on a $1.7 million budget in 20 elementary centers and 5 secondary school centers.

About 1,000 parochial school students will profit from their portion of the budget in similar reading projects.

An unusual new residence for the elderly has recently been opened by the Salvation Army in Flushing, New York. The Williams Memorial Residence is an impressive and beautiful home for senior citizens. Because it is adjacent to The Salvation Army's Booth Memorial Hospital moreover, the residents of Williams have full-time access to all the facilities of a modern, streamlined hospital, while living independently in a completely separate and homelike environment.

In one year, officers of The Salvation Army's Correctional Services Bureaus visit more than 150,000 prison inmates to offer counsel and to help these men and women prepare for constructive lives upon release.



CAMPUS BEACON — The ever-growing cluster of modern buildings which make up the Morgan State College complex is dominated by Holmes Hall, a campus beacon which tells visitors in advance they are nearing the Coldspring La. and Hillen Rd. institution of higher learning.

Morgan Marking Its Centennial

Preparations are now being made for the Centennial Celebration of Morgan State College which will begin with the Commencement Exercises on June 5, 1967 and end with a Centennial Convocation on Dec. 2, 1967.

Many and varied programs are planned for the intervening dates.

Three years after the freedom of slaves in Maryland (November 1, 1864), the Baltimore Conference of the Methodist (Episcopal) Church founded the Centenary Biblical Institute, the first of three names by which Morgan has been known.

Founders consisted of 13 ministers and laymen of the Baltimore Conference.

Classes were started on Oct. 1, 1867 in the lecture rooms of the Sharp Street Methodist Church which was built by freedmen in 1802.

The Charter was signed and recorded on November 27, 1867. The classes were taught by three ministers who felt that the greatest need of the recently freed slaves was the training of preachers.

The Charter included the purpose of the Institute as being "for the education of pious young men, especially colored, for the ministry of the Methodist Episcopal Church."

The first president, the Rev. J. Emory Round, was employed in 1869 at which time the General Education Board, the Rosenwald Fund and State Aid, the growth of the College would have been stymied.

DR. MARTIN D. JENKINS
Morgan President

YOUNG WHITE men applied for admission and were accepted. Thus the student body was integrated, a situation which did not prevail in the Board of Trustees and Faculty for many years.

The enrollment grew to such an extent that in 1880 the Trustees constructed a stone building on a lot donated by the late Dr. John F. Concher at the corner of Edmondson and Fulton Avenues.

The Rev. Dr. Lyttleton F. Morgan, chairman of the Board of Trustees, donated a sufficient sum of money purchased and occupied at time the first building was purchased and occupied at 44 E. Saratoga St.

* * *

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The Rev. Dr. Lyttleton F. Morgan, chairman of the Board of Trustees, donated a sufficient sum of money in 1890 which made it possible to offer courses of study on the college level.

The Trustees then changed the name of the Centenary Biblical Institute to Morgan College. It is obvious that the roots of the College are deep in the traditions of the Baltimore Conference of the Methodist Church which celebrated its bicentennial in 1966.

The second building soon was overcrowded since it housed the College and an Academy. The latter provided college preparatory courses for Marylanders of color for whom there were no high schools in the state outside the City of Baltimore.

The Trustees spent several years searching for a new site. In 1917 they purchased approximately three and one-half million dollars.

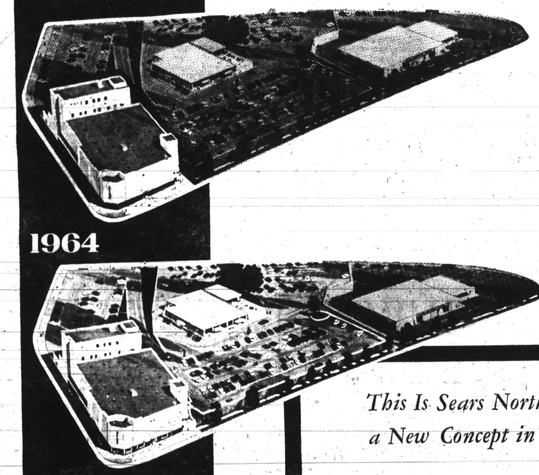
The academic offerings are of a high order, the faculty is strong, the student body is 4,000 in number and many dynamic programs are being successfully implemented. Including a Graduate School.

Several imposing and functional buildings have been constructed under state auspices. However, overcrowding conditions still persist.

But in spite of this, the College is meeting the challenge to train scholars, teachers, pre-professional persons and personnel for social, economic and political leaders in the city, state and nation.

Sears

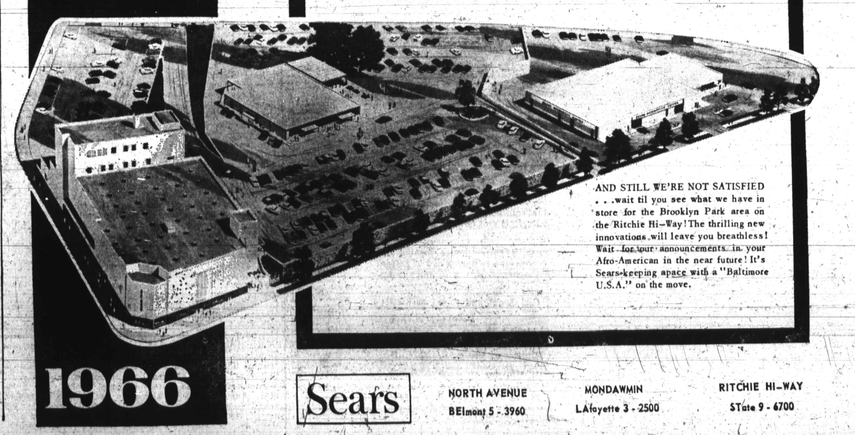
Sears...Growth with the Community!



Remember 1939? When everyone in Baltimore was talking about the new Sears at North and Harford? Why, it had absolutely acres of storeside parking! And big, beautiful sales floors with lavish displays of merchandise---PLUS the World's Largest Show Window! Well, Sears is still setting the trends in the retailing world. Today Americans are more affluent, but the majority still prefer the practical, budget stretching values they find at Sears. For shopping at Sears is easier than ever before. Our family has grown to include a uniquely-designed North Avenue complex covering twice the area it did in 1939. Mighty Mondawmin serves all of Northwest Baltimore, and work is going forward on our Ritchie Hi-Way Shopping Center expansion.

This Is Sears North Avenue Today . . . a New Concept in Shopping Pleasure!

The renovation of the Sears North Avenue store incorporated so many advanced ideas in planning that the work was divided into three dramatic phases. First, the entire interior was renewed, the parking facilities enlarged 25% and brightly illuminated to give a daytime quality to nightime shopping. Secondly, centrally located here, bloomed the Four Season shop, keyed to the changing calendar for the freshest possible selection of seasonal merchandise, be it crocus or Christmas bulb! Thirdly, early this year you undoubtedly discovered the motorist dream come true—Sears North Avenue Automotive Center, the largest operation for complete car servicing in Central Maryland. That's why we boast about Sears One Stop shopping. . .a landmark of quality and thrift in Baltimore for almost 30 years!



AND STILL WE'RE NOT SATISFIED . . .wait til you see what we have in store for the Brooklyn Park area on the Ritchie Hi-Way! The thrilling new innovations will leave you breathless! Wait for our announcements in your Afro-American in the near future! It's Sears-keeping apace with a "Baltimore U.S.A." on the move.

Sears

NORTH AVENUE BElmont 5 - 3960

MONDAWMIN LAfayette 3 - 2500

RITCHIE HI-WAY STate 9 - 6700

JUN