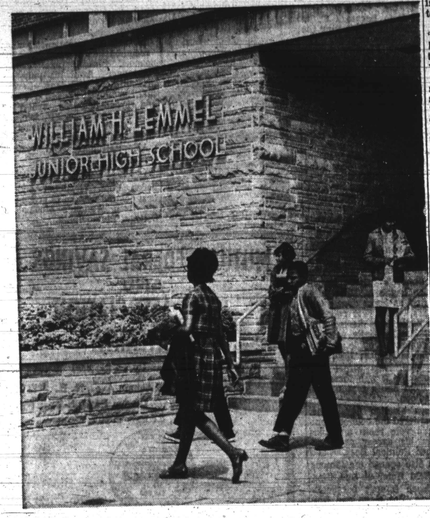
Colored pupils 60 percent of Baltimore's '67 enrollment



'Bigger and better business every year....'

By ROGER J. NISSLY

Most of the radical changes which have taken place in the Baltimore City Public Schools in the last 75 years have come within recent memory.

The important ones date from, and were largely predicted by, the Supreme Court decision in 1954 barring segregation in the schools.

At that time Baltimore was one of the first cities in the nation to move to implement the decision. The action became effective with little incident.

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IN SUBSEQUENT years, the top administrative staff was integrated, colored pupils grew to be the majority in the system, and Federal aid now reaches to nearly $12 million a year.

This figure, for Federal aid for special programs, is higher than the yearly operating budget for 95 percent of the school systems in the country.

One man who has seen all of these changes and is in part a symbol of the different attitudes is Dr. Houston R. Jackson, who retires in August from his position as assistant superintendent.

Leaving his post as head of Pupil Personnel and Staff Services, he ends 47 years in public education, the last 40 of them with the Baltimore schools.

Upon his retirement, the School Board adopted a resolution commending him and noting in part that Dr. Jackson "has at all times stood for a public school system to serve 'all' the children of 'all' the people."

Illustrating the change, it is noteworthy that Dr. Jackson was once assistant superintendent in charge of the colored schools in the old dual system.

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PRESENTLY Dr. Saul M. Perdue also serves on the Board of Superintendents, as assistant superintendent for Business Management, and a Washington educator, John O. Hopkins will take over a new place on the board in charge of School-Community Relations.

With enrollment in the city schools edging toward 200,000, the Department of Education becomes bigger and bigger business every year.

Enrollment for the present year was nearly 194,000 — about 73,000 in the secondary grades and 120,000 in elementary.

The ratio of colored to white children in the schools is 60-40. This just reverses the ratio in the overall city population, in which 41 percent is colored.

The city has nearly 8,000 teachers — 4,160 in the elementary grades and 3,730 in secondary schools.

Colored teachers hold the majority in the elementary schools, with 2,407 as compared with 1,756 whites.

In the secondary schools there are 1,627 colored teachers (or "non-whites," as department statistics describe them) and 2,103 whites.

All administrators — secondary, elementary and central office — are about evenly divided.

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HANDED A $139.5 million school budget for next year, the City Council sliced some $5 million from it, but the appropriation still stands as by far the largest allotment in history.

The increase over last year is 18 percent and amounts to some $21 million.

The beginning salary for teachers, at $6,000, will be the highest in the state. Expenditures for materials and supplies will be increased from $16 per pupil to $26 per pupil.

Before the end of 1968, the department plans to place under contract schools worth $32 million.

An additional bond issue for $20 million of construction will be up to the voters in November.

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THE CITY was partially pushed to accepting the big jump forward in the budget by the rivalry between two groups for teachers' affections.

The rivals were the Public School Teachers Association, an affiliate of the National Education Association, and the Baltimore Teachers Union, an affiliate of the American Federation of Teachers (AFL-CIO).

On this last day of school, the union, with its colored president, Dennis Crosby, won in an election the right to be sole negotiator with the School Board for teachers.

The union, with direct action and tough stands, promises to bargain hard for teachers and students.

In what some called a "sour grapes" request, the losing P.S.T.A. in July asked the N.E.A. to invoke nationwide sanctions on Baltimore.

The N.E.A., basing its decision on its comprehensive survey of Baltimore, which was highly critical of the city's inner city schools, complied with partial sanctions that are designed to discourage teachers and businesses from moving here.

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BALTIMORE has recently had a string of fighters for school superintendents, all nationally - respected educators.

Dr. John H. Fischer, now president of the Teachers College of Columbia University, was the first to move against segregation.

The present superintendent, Dr. Laurence G. Paquin, recalls that the nation watched with awe his "leadership in being the first to move" after the 1954 Supreme Court decision.

Dr. George B. Brain, his articulate successor, is now dean of the School of Education of Washington State University.

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DR. PAQUIN was billed as a fighter before he even got here two years ago. He had proved victorious in managing his controversial bussing plans and other innovations in New Haven, Conn.

One of his most courageous steps in Baltimore has been his formation of a five-year plan for the secondary schools, which flew in the face of several pressure groups.

The plan, with vigorous solutions to the problems of the high schools, took these statements as guiding assumptions:

"The question is no longer whether there shall be integration in the Baltimore City Public Schools, but how integration can be worked out so that educational needs and interests of all children will be met and safeguarded.

"The public school system has a responsibility to take steps to eliminate 'de facto' segregation."

NEWSPAPERS TODAY

Industry statistics show that 44 percent of all daily newspapers in the United States are controlled by chains, and 54 percent of all papers sold daily are published by multi-paper corporations operating in more than one city.

Thirty chains alone own 306 major newspaper, controlling 40 percent of all daily newspaper distribution.

In 1910, most cities of any size had competing dailies — now only 4 percent have such a condition. Also in 1910, there were 2,200 newspapers published in 1,200 cities and 58 percent of all urban places had their own paper compared with 24 percent now.

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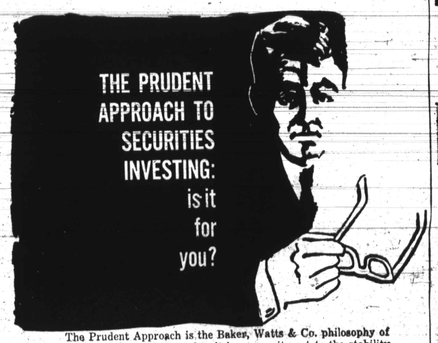
EUBIE BLAKE, born in Baltimore Feb. 7, 1883, and Noble Sissle born in Indianapolis, Ind., July 10, 1889, opened the first all-colored Broadway show, "Shuffle Along," May 23, 1921. After 1 year, for 1 year it took Chicago by storm, the first such musical ever seen. Blake wrote the music, Sissle the lyrics.

Their first hit tune, "It's All Your Fault" was sung by Sophie Tucker at a Baltimore Theatre.

Congratulations to the Baltimore Afro-American on 75 years of outstanding service and progress and our best wishes for success and prosperity in the coming years.

Gino Marchetti

Everybody Goes to Gino's



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71 GREAT PRESCRIPTION
DRUG STORES IN BALTIMORE
AND NATIONWIDE

Life has been good for McLeod family

By CAROLYN K. ERWIN

There comes a time when every family must pass through a period of crisis. How well that family is able to hold up during this period often determines its success or failure in the end.

Mr. and Mrs. Charles W. McLeod, 1415 Broadway, have been through such crises and have emerged "victorious" due only, they concede, to an "unshakeable faith in God."

Their ardent belief in and practice of family prayer has carried them through the trials of two wars, eased them over the financial strain of having three children in college at the same time, and now makes it possible for them to celebrate 30 happy years together come September.

Mr. and Mrs. McLeod came to Baltimore from Sumter, S.C., in 1937.

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NOT LONG afterward, World War II broke out and Mr. McLeod was called to serve in the Marine Corps. Mrs. McLeod and her three young children, Charles, the oldest, Maudestine, next, and Evelyn, the youngest, were left to care for the home.

"The responsibility of caring for the family fell on me," Mrs. McLeod explained.

"We had ration tickets then but you could only get meat at certain times. If someone said that there's meat at a certain store, you had to get there in time or you got no meat.

"We had a portable kerosene stove at that time," she continued. "One day while I was out it started smoking.

"The three oldest children were alone in the house at the time. Charles Jr., who was the man of the house while his father was away, climbed through the window to get a neighbor.

"When they returned, she threw some coats on the stove and prevented it from exploding."

"God had to be there."

During the two years that Mr. McLeod served with the Marine Corps motor transport division in the Marshall Islands and Guam, his family lived in a four-room house in the 1000 block Chapel St.

Their chief support was a service pension which provided $30 a month for each child and $50 a month for his wife.

"Things were cheaper then, if you could get them," confided Mrs. McLeod.

"The things that you needed, however, were always so scarce."

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WHEN THE war ended, Mr. McLeod returned home.

Finding the four-room quarters suddenly overcrowded, he moved his family to a neat, two story, red brick row house in the 1400 block of Broadway in 1949. It was there their youngest daughter, Bettye, was born.

Gradually, family life at the McLeod household began to settle back to normal. Mr. McLeod resumed his chauffering job with Delivery of Baltimore and his wife now devoted her full attention to raising the children and joining community activities.

As a young mother, Mrs. McLeod confesses that many of her notions on child care came from "books and word of mouth" handed down by relatives and neighbors.

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AS SHE became more experienced in the art of motherhood, however, she laid down her own set of rules.

"The children always had a chore to do. They were never left idle even if it meant just setting out the milk bottle," she recalled.

"They had to be in bed by 8:30 every night.

"Whenever we had problems in the family," she continued, "we gathered around the table in jury like fashion and talked them out."

Being a religious family, it was not an uncommon thing on Sunday mornings to see Mr. McLeod sitting among the trustees at Faith Baptist Church, Mrs. McLeod playing the organ, and the four McLeod children singing in the choir.

This same attitude toward faithful worship was present in their home.

"Every morning I would gather the children in my room for morning devotionals to help guide them in their school work," she said.

For Mrs. McLeod's three older children, this guidance was greatly needed. With not more than three years difference between their graduations from Dunbar High School, Charles Jr., Maudestine and Evelyn found themselves almost beginning their careers in college together.

Charles chose to attend Virginia State College in Petersburg. Maudestine, Towson State and Evelyn, Morgan State.

"We had to pay the full tuition for Charles since he was an out of state student. Maudestine and Evelyn, however, won scholarships to help with part of their expenses," Mrs. McLeod stated.

In 1961, Charles and Maudestine graduated. Charles was awarded a B.S. degree in bacteriology, and Maudestine a B.S. in education. Three years later Evelyn received her B.A. in political science.

Today, the McLeod family picture has not lost any of its luster. Prominently displayed around their home are pictures and awards won by various members of the family.

Over in a corner of the dining room stands a glass case which contains wood cravings, cow horns, elephant tusks and other art pieces from Africa.

The McLeod children have grown up now. Charles Jr., 29, is a captain in the U.S. Army, married and beginning a family of his own.

Maudestine, now Mrs. Ralph Godsey and 28, is a teacher at Collington Square Elementary School No. 97.

Evelyn, 25, who returned not long ago from a Peace Corps assignment in Liberia, W. Africa, is pursuing a master's degree at Penn State University.

Bettye, 17, is looking forward to a career in music after she graduates from Eastern High School next spring.

As for Mr. McLeod Sr., 54, and his wife, 52, they plan to spend the rest of their married lives together enjoying the "fruits of their labors." All because they shared a belief long ago that "the family that prays, together, stays together."

There is a plaque which hangs in the front hallway of the McLeod home. Upon entering the home it is the first thing that catches your eye, upon leaving it is the last.

This cardboard plaque best expresses the sentiment that lies behind this family's success. It reads:

"CHRIST IS THE HEAD OF THIS HOUSE.

The silent listener to every conversation.

The unseen guest at every table."

MAN OF TOMORROW

Freshman, in a barber shop: "How long will I have to wait for a shave"?

Barber, after close inspection: "Oh, about a year — maybe two."

COURAGEOUS FAMILY . . Members of the McLeod family of 1415 N. Broadway have survived one crisis after another through courage, determination and a strong faith in Providence. From left are daughter Miss Bette McLeod Sr. father; Mrs. Lesia McLeod, mother; Misses Evelyn McLeod, Maudestine Godsey, relative, and Charles Jr. young army man.

HEALTH NOTES — 1967

Sunday, May 21, 1967 "End Measles Sunday" went down in Baltimore's public health history as the day rubeola, the seven day common red hard measles, was given the knockout blow, thus adding measles to the list of communicable diseases, that have been virtually eradicated from the city. 14,000 children were immunized in Baltimore, 64,033 in Maryland.

The record shows no smallpox in Baltimore City beginning in 1928; the first diphtheria free year in 1959; the first year without a case of tetanus in 1963.

HISTORY THIS WEEK

Aug. 20, 1619 — First groups of Africans brought as slaves to Jamestown, Va.

Aug. 21, 1831 — Nat Turner, a slave, led what is regarded as the best known of all American slave revolts, an uprising in Southampton County, Va., in which approximately 60 whites were least 100 blacks died. Thirteen slaves and three freemen were arrested immediately, tried and hanged. Turner captured Oct. 30, was executed —going clamly to his death, according to newspaper reports —on November 11, 1831. The rebellion was the climax of a three-year period of great slave unrest throughout the South, and had significant repercussions upon pro-and anti-slavery thoughts.

Aug. 21, 1906 — Orchestra leader and composer William "Count" Basie born in Kansas City, Mo.

Aug. 22, 1939 — Henry "Hammering Hank" Armstrong lost the lightweight title to Lou Ambers. Armstrong was the only fighter in history to hold three world championship simultaneously.

Aug. 23, 1917 — Colored soldiers attacked at Houston, Tex., leading to protest by black troops; 13 were hanged; 41 given life sentences. The men, members of the 24th U.S. Infantry, were executed for their alleged part in a Houston riot.

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Congratulations and Good Wishes to the Afro-American in their Diamond Jubilee, 75th Year of Publication

"Hats Off" to the Afro. Your 75 years of continuous publication has been a contributing force to the economy of the Baltimore community. All of the persons involved in producing the Afro can look with pride at their product and its informative value to Baltimore's Negro Community. We, at Brager Gutman's sincerely wish you well on your continued success.

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- Annual August Sale of Furniture and Bedding
- Pre-Season Back to School Lay Away Sales
- Pre-Season Home Fashion Decorating Sales

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