Baltimore Afro American

FOUNDED Aug. 13, 1892 by John H. Murphy Sr., 1840-1922. Published every Tuesday and Saturday by the AFRO-AMERICAN Co., of Baltimore City Inc.

May we let our light so shine that it will illuminate that which is good and beautiful and magnify our Father which is in Heaven.
CARL MURPHY, (1889-1967)
Editor-Publisher, (1922-1967)

Clean Block Time

It's that time of year again, the period when the Baltimore AFRO-AMERICAN conducts its annual Clean Block Campaign.

The opening session today at the McCulloh Homes Auditorium attracted representatives, captains and workers in the first 120 blocks to register in this 39th annual drive.

Long before other municipal groups and organizations saw the need and importance of sprucing up the city, AFRO clean blockers were at work.

A retired school teacher, the late Frances L. Murphy, initiated this newspaper's campaign.

Last week at Houston, Texas at the 33rd Annual National Newspaper Publishers Convention, the campaign won first prize, a $500 award for its significant contribution to an urban community.

Last year, under the direction of Mrs. Ida Murphy Peters, the AFRO's public relations director, clean blockers reached into 400 blocks, with 9,000 youngsters and adult helpers to brighten up their own blocks and surrounding neighborhoods.

As an incentive, the drive raised $5,000 from the community and used the funds to reward outstanding workers. The same is true this year.

All AFRO readers can share in this endeavor. Those who can not be active in a cleanup drive in their own neighborhood, can assist young people who are committed to cleaning up their blocks by contributing to the AFRO Clean Block Drive.

All contributions are tax deductible.

New Fuel On Fire

The recent disclosure that nearly a half million dollars in federal funds has been spent for improvements on President Nixon's San Clemente home in California — all for "security reasons" — presents an interesting commentary on the extremes existing in the Nixon Administration. These extremes are between the President and a large number of people he seeks to govern, especially minority groups and particularly black citizens.

On one hand, the Administration has been kept busy explaining how four and sometimes five digit sums were paid for such things as driveways, fences, walkways, bullet proof swimming pool screens, bridges and new heating and sewer systems for the Western White House, which, as we all know, is not owned by the government.

On the other hand, one of the Administration's major agencies, the Labor Department, has been casually revealing how much money normal American families needed to survive. These figures, incidentally, show many black households to be about $1100 short of making it all the way to the bottom ring.

The unbelievable expenses for the Western White House also come at a time when the Administration has been demanding cutbacks in expenditures for federally-financed low income housing, day-care centers, health and welfare benefits. The Administration's argument is that the budget must be reduced.

All of this, too, comes in the wake of the daily disclosures of the Watergate mess.

There is little wonder that there is no money left in the budget; we have spent it all on the President's home. At least, that is what many of us are prone to think.

Seriously, however, there is and should be due concern and protection for the safety of the President as the head of state. Anything else would be unthinkable.

But the question arises as to whether or not such huge sums spent in the ways they were are necessary. The more we think about it, the more perplexing the situation seems.

It must be remembered that this is the same President who declared that there is nothing wrong with welfare recipients doing menial tasks in order to get their checks. Of course, we don't expect the White House to set an example of the ambitious workfare ethic, as the Administration suggested, but when the fund-spending goes so far in another direction there is bound to be some questions asked.

Realities such as the expenditures revealed in connection with the San Clemente home improvements cast a rather empty ring to Nixonian ravings about holding the line on spending.

They only add fuel to the fire of socio-economic advocates who see a clearly defined ruling class at the government top, a self-serving elite to whom government becomes a tool by which to sustain the status quo at the expense of the poverty programs which it claims "have not worked."

It is a truism that charity begins at home, and it is obvious that some people in the Nixon Administration have learned that lesson extremely well.

Duel Of The Earls

The recent literary effort titled, "The Duel of the Earls," was the sort of respite Baltimore baseball needed.

The change in reading material came at a time when the Orioles' brand of high school baseball was beginning to alienate the customers. So the suspension of Earl Williams by Earl Weaver served as quick relief — like the legendary "sugar pill" of oldtime medicine.

Through Wednesday night, the warriors of 33rd Street had dropped their swords and crutches and were happy again.

Weaver blasted Williams during the last weekend in Boston, implying that the catcher-first baseman was lackadaisical and insubordinate. Williams fired back that the manager was making him the scapegoat in the team's shortcomings.

It all combined to provide a change in reading material. And what better occupation can one find on a weekend in Boston?

But before it can be taken too seriously by those of us who remember such things, the brief flare-up between the Earls should be placed in its proper perspective.

Weaver put himself squarely on the spot last winter when he insisted that the O's obtain Williams from the Atlanta Braves in a trade that many still maintain cost the Birds too dearly. With the young slugger, the manager vowed, "We will win the pennant."

From the moment the trade was made, Williams began feeling the pressure that Weaver had dropped on his shoulders. He has never stopped. "trying too hard," as the saying goes.

Weaver's team hasn't been winning and he has heard grumbles about the job he is doing. Williams hasn't produced well enough to satisfy either the manager or himself.

The result: a clash of frustrations and the theme of the new work, "The Duel of the Earls."

AFRO CREDO

A newspaper succeeds because its management believes in itself, in God and in the present generation. It must always ask itself—

Whether it has kept faith with the common people;

Whether it has no other goal except to see that their liberties are preserved and their future assured;

Whether it is fighting to get rid of slums, to provide jobs for everybody;

Whether it stays out of politics except to expose corruption and condemn injustice, race prejudice and the cowardice of compromise.
(Dec. 25, 1920.)

(From The Papers of John H. Murphy Sr., who founded AFRO Aug. 13, 1892).

Everybody Can Help This Effort

A little About A Lot

By Madeline W. Murphy

The overpowering mindset and hysteria of law and order politicians have led to the events now uncovered by Watergate.

The press has pandered to this mindset because it has been intimidated by threats to its freedom, on the one hand, and therefore, on the other hand, has not fulfilled its mission to inform the public on both sides of issues, regardless of the painful consequences or dangers to the media.

In a recent book, "The Politics of Lying, Government Deception, Secrecy and Power," by David Wise, the unequivocal statement he makes is that the consent of the governed is basic to American democracy.

"If the governed are misled, if they are not told the truth, or if through official secrecy and deception they lack information on which to base intelligent decisions, the system may go on — but not as a democracy.

"After nearly 200 years, this may be the price America pays for the politics of lying."

On the local front, the startling revelations of large numbers of policemen, indicted for accepting bribes, for short-counting drug evidence, for being light-fingered in regard to large sums of confiscated money, point to this danger.

In addition, public officials who beat the drum for heavier fines in minor criminal offenses, who criticize the system of justice, in blinding defense of a rotten system, develop the public's attitude of general distrust toward all government officials.

Thus, the syndrome — "you can't trust a politician 'cause all politicians are dishonest," threatens our system of government.

There are increasing pressures upon the press, and other public media, to withhold information from the public.

As witness attempts to suppress public disclosures of the Pentagon Papers — and the subsequent knowledge that "national security" was a catch word to keep political favor and power in the Nixon Administration's escalation of the war in Vietnam and now Cambodia.

Never mind that this information was already spelled out in Lyndon B. Johnson's autobiography.

Never mind that much of the so-called classified information was readily available in government printed documents accessible to the public.

The celebrated Pentagon Papers controversy opened the door for infringement of the rights of the press and the idea, when so-called "national security" was at stake to develop court intervention under this guise of what they termed "prior restraints."

At the same time, reporters who refused to disclose confidential sources of information have been arrested and jailed.

And, recently on television, a controversial play dealing with the hostility and hardships toward a Vietnam veteran upon his return from active duty, was cancelled because it interfered, with the fanfare and publicity of President Nixon's well orchestrated and televised party for the 500 or more returned POWs.

In line with this interference of free expression in the media by the Nixon Administration, very few people know of a recent incident at Pekin, Ill., when President Nixon officiated at the opening of the Dirksen library.

The late Senator Dirksen's son-in-law, Sen. Howard H. Baker (R-Tenn.) Incidentally co-chairman of the committee investigating Watergate, was seated with Nixon on the dais.

According to Tom Fitzpatrick, Chicago Sun-Times columnist, June 24, a young man named Richard Grawey "was arrested for attempting to raise a sign, 'Impeach Nixon.'

"Grawey was hustled away by police and secret service men. A set of keys was jammed in his mouth. He was forced to his knees and his wrists were handcuffed. . . . was placed in a cell and told he would be held there until the President left town."

Grawey is quoted as saying, prophetically, "I did it because I feel we're living in a police state . . . President Nixon won't go anyplace where he thinks he will see anyone who opposes him, and that's why he went to Pekin . ."

Also in Pekin, that day, another incident involving protestors resulted in an old woman being knocked down and injured while zealous "55" men broke up a group of banner-waving protestors.

The fact the TV cameras avoided filming any such incidents indicated the pervasive power of the President to manipulate the media and to keep the public believing all is well and there is overwhelming approval of his "reign."

We have seen in the Watergate that the blanket tag: "for reasons of national security" has successfully blacked out release of damaging information about the policies of government and without any effort to define the catch-all phrase, it conveniently closes out many channels where the public's right to know has been illegally and seriously thwarted.

As Wise says, "In short, in the crucial field of national security, the government controls almost all the important channels of information.

And where government controls the channels of information, there is a great possibility that information will be distorted. It is indeed time to untangle this dangerous web of deceit.

Yes, Johnny Can Read

Dear AFRO:

During recent years, many students in Baltimore City public schools have illustrated through standardized tests that they fall below the national norm in reading and language skills.

The staff and faculty of school No. 32 at Guilford Ave. and Lanvale St. feel that they have begun to bring about a reversal of that trend.

The gloomy days are gone. I believe that the teachers and students at No. 32 have taken that step towards quality education. But that step was, for us, a carefully planned and well thought out procedure. A procedure that involved community input, parent cooperation, professional development and enlightened leadership.

I was impressed with the skill of my co-workers at Model School No. 32, but I was especially impressed with the skill of the reading and language teachers in accepting recommendations from parents as well as professional educators and translating those recommendations into programs that brought about outstanding achievement from the students in reading.

Using data provided us by the Right to Read (R 2 R) office of the Baltimore Department of Education, we were able to compare the 1972 Iowa Test of Basic Skills reading results of our students with the 1973 results.

IOWA TEST OF BASIC SKILLS

Class:	1972 Voc.	1972 Read.	1972 Comp.	1973 Voc.	1973 Read.	1973 Comp.	Average Growth Per Class Voc.	Average Growth Per Class Read.	Average Growth Per Class Comp.
99-44	3.6	3.6	5.5	5.0	5.5	6.9	+1.9	+1.4	+1.4
99-55	5.1	4.5	7.7	6.3	6.3	9.5	+2.6	+1.8	+1.8
99-60	4.6	4.4	6.2	6.3	6.0	8.1	+1.6	+1.9	+1.9
99-66	6.3	5.7	9.3	8.0	8.7	12.3	+3.0	+2.3	+2.3

In 1972, classes 99-44, 99-55, 99-60 and 99-66 averaged 3.6, 5.1, 4.6 and 6.3 respectively in vocabulary on the Iowa Test of Basic Skills. In 1973, those same classes averaged 5.5, 7.7, 6.2 and 9.3 in vocabulary.

In 1972, classes 99-44, 99-55, 99-60 and 99-66 averaged 3.6, 4.5, 4.4 and 5.7 respectively in reading comprehension. In 1973, those same classes averaged 5.0, 6.3, 6.3 and 8.0.

I realize that test results are just one means of assessing pupil growth and I cite these test results as one indicator of pupil growth.

Further, I believe that the kinds of programs i.e. individualized instruction, tutorial, learning stations and centers need assessment, diagnostic and prescriptive teaching used at school No. 32 can serve as a model for improved instruction in the total academic program.

It has been a difficult year for public education in Baltimore City, but the educational program was not stymied at School No. 32. To the pupils, parents and staff of Guilford Avenue Elementary School, "Well done."

JAMES PATTERSON
(Mathematics teacher, Guilford Ave. School No. 32)

Murderer

By PAUL D. McALLISTER

Murderer: a voice wakes me from my sleep
How sad to hear a spirit weep
My accuser has no form, he has no face
Perhaps this is a haunted place
Murderer: here it echoes back again
I'm certain that I'm not insane
The tension now begins to stifle
I am concerned, more than a trifle
Murderer: who dares to call me by this name
I'm innocent of any blame
This uttering grows louder still
How can this be; who would I kill?
Murderer: I search my mind but all in vain
Could it be Abel calling Cain
Begone; says I, I am no slayer
Why would you think I'm your betrayer
And then quite finally I knew
For soon a wandering parrot flew
It was no ghost, just a homeless bird
And all he spoke was this single word
Murderer!

WASHINGTON REPORT

Middle Class Gap

By PARREN J. MITCHELL
(D-7TH DISTRICT-MD.)
U.S. House of Representatives.

In recent days, the House of Representatives has voted on a number of people-oriented bills such as the Labor Department Appropriations Bill, the Health, Education, and Welfare Appropriations Bill, and the Legal Services Corporation Bill.

Opposition to these Bills has been tough.

There was an amendment to reduce the H.E.W. Appropriations by 600 million dollars.

Why this tough opposition?

Why the turning against people oriented legislation and people oriented programs?

There is no one single answer, of course, but a partial answer is found in a faulty argument: "These programs are for black people; black citizens have made considerable progress over the last decade; therefore, legislation and programs are no longer needed."

The great national delusion began with the concept of benign neglect and was further built up by Nixon's statement "The Urban Crisis is Over."

Perhaps the most dangerous addition to the illusion about blacks and the poor has been an article, "Black Progress and Liberal Rhetoric," which appeared in the magazine "Commentary" and which has been widely distributed and quoted.

Written by Ben Wattenberg and Richard Scammon, the article makes the point, or attempts to make the point, that in recent years, Blacks have come so far that now, the majority of blacks have achieved middle class status.

It is this article which is being used as a justification of present public policy against the poor and the oppressed in this Nation.

Would if were that the article was indeed factual, but it is not. Dr. Karl Gregory, distinguished Black Economist, and, who among other high duties, serves as Chairman of the Caucus of Black Economists, has made a trenchant analysis of the Scammon-Wattenberg thesis.

Dr. Gregory attacks the thesis on several fronts.

First, he argues, that census figures on income exclude vast amounts of earnings properly regarded as income.

These exclusions amounted in 1958 to 35 per cent of the income reported by the census and operates primarily for the benefit of upper income groups.

Second, he points to the weakness of the assumption that relative income gains made by young blacks entering the labor force will be maintained in subsequent years.

Gregory maintains that "the income gap narrowing that has taken place chiefly because of a disproportionately young Black population being confronted with reduced discrimination at entry-level jobs may not continue." He adds, "Indeed, although starting out equally, Blacks may well tend to fall behind as the years pass. . .the income gap of Blacks as a group would then rise as the average age of this relatively young population group increases."

Third, after a hard hitting display of data and analysis, Dr. Gregory states boldly, "The fact remains, that even in the Wattenberg-Scammon analysis, the median income of blacks is about 40 per cent below that of whites."

Dr. Gregory is so right! Although the ratio has risen, the absolute gap in purchasing power between whites and blacks has expanded.

The dollar gap between black and white families has widened. In 1947, it was $2,000. In 1970, the gap was $3,700.

A brief report of the state of the black economy was introduced into the Congressional Record by me. Many Members of Congress will not read that report. Others will read it and not believe it to be true.

The law makers of this Nation like to pretend that social problems don't exist, or they like to rationalize them away.

"Negroes prefer their own toilet in bus stations" (1954). "Colored people would be afraid to go to school with white people" (1955). "They don't want to join labor unions because too much money is taken out of their pay checks" (1958).

The Nixon Administration, some members of Congress, the Moynihans, Scammons, Wattenbergs and others would have Black citizens believe that we are one step away from reaching "de promised land."

79 YEARS AGO — "The interests of the Afro-American population of Baltimore are identical and any faction of the race which fosters strife to gratify its own selfish ambition, should be classed with the enemy."
(From the AFRO-AMERICAN, April, 1893)

Baltimore Afro American

OUR READERS SAY

Readers are invited to submit letters for publication. All letters must be signed, but signature will be omitted if requested. Letters should be no more than 200 words in length. Address them to "Our Readers Say," Baltimore AFRO-AMERICAN, P.O. Box 1857, Baltimore, Maryland 21203.

Get The Big Ones

Dear AFRO:

I am writing to you in reference to the Liddy Jones trial. Now I am not one of those people who believes in using those fancy words and I am going to say what I have to say in the words that I feel best fit this situation.

To begin with I do feel that Mr. Jones is not getting a fair trial when he has an all white jury.

Then comes the point of him being just a little man in this death-defying dope racket and here he is one of the first ones to go to trial.

The people have taken all of what he had and now they are leaving him with nothing and they expect him to take all of the weight for what the great white fathers have done.

Now I ask you where are they now? Why not bring them out into the open and expose them for what they really are, "Dope Dealers Undercover."

I don't believe in all this dope but I do believe in what is right and I will fight for it.

Now let's do it right and get the big men to trial and at that time let's see if the white fathers will have an all black jury.

MRS. R. PARHAM

Baer School Orchids

Dear AFRO:

I would like to take this opportunity to thank publicly all the parents of the William S. Baer School, No. 301, for the physically handicapped, for a fruitful year of active participation in their children's school.

Their dedication and willingness to work for and in the school, as well as with their children at home has been evident all year. The results are apparent on the faces of the proud and happy student body of the school.

It has been a busy, but profitable year for the parents. They worked to regain their ESEA Title I funding. They worked through the difficulty with bussing.

Parents of hearing-impaired children studied and graduated from a sign language class so that they might better communicate with their children.

Others joined together with community leaders forming the "Lift for Life", which has raised over $7,000 so far, and is still raising funds in order to purchase a special bus with a lift. They have proven themselves to be capable and effective.

On Sunday, June 10, 1973, over 500 people, relatives and friends of Baer families, gathered on the school grounds for a day of picknicking and fun.

The parents worked far beyond the call of duty to make these affairs the successes they were.

My hat is off to them and this type of commitment and concern wherever it exists.

If all the parents of all the children in Baltimore City schools take the same interest in their children's schools, not only will Right to Read be a success, but we will surely then have the right to call ourselves Education City, U.S.A.-

(Mrs.) MARLENE PERLMAN
School-Home Liaison Worker School No. 301

Right To Read

Dear AFRO:

Dr. Patterson of the public school administration recently initiated the right to read program, which was promised to be a great success.

The only element of success was the advertisements, because most teachers showed much dissappointment with the program and stated nothing new was manifested.

This program depleted the school budget for the last three weeks of school and consequently left the summer school program practically null.

Some say, those who failed deserve it; but don't forget those students who take summer school for enrichment and early graduation.

Which is more important, a poorly organized reading program or the right to learn the entire three r's?

I suggest the next right to read program, or any other program be started with assurance of sufficient funds and without hardships to others.

JOHN T. BAILEY
(former AFRO employee)

Perkins Thanks

Dear AFRO:

On behalf of the entire staff at Clifton T. Perkins State Hospital, please accept our sincere thanks for the publicity you gave during our recent Open House for Mental Health Month.

PHILIPPA M. PONTIER (Mrs.)
(Volunteer Services Coordinator)

A Column Of CHOICE

Baltimore's Ethical Society

BY MARION BANFIELD

After writing about the Ethical-Humanist Award presented to Bryant Alexander, I have had inquiries as to what kind of religious organization the Baltimore Ethical Society is.

It was fitting that our first award be given to a 23-year-old man. The religious group was started by a 25-year-old man.

In 1876 the Ethical Culture Society was founded in New York City by Felix Adler who was born in 1851. Adler was the son of a rabbi and had been sent to Europe to study.

He returned to America and said he could not become a rabbi. He had found that established religions tended to divide human society.

In Adler's opinion, religion should be a uniting force among mankind. So many wars had been fought, so many humans slaughtered, so much hatred and ostracism fostered and such terrible exploitation done in the name of religions; he felt there needed to be a better religious experience.

Since ideas about how many gods, who was the true God, questions of life after death, how the world began, and who were more favored on earth were questions about which groups quarreled; it seemed wiser to approach the vastness of human experience with humility.

To members of the Ethical movement, there are questions and problems of existence which are beyond the intellectual comprehension of mankind.

There need be no creed to a god, no dogma of obedience to make humans value each other and enjoy the awesome splendor of our world.

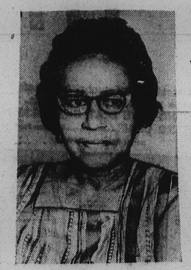
Rather than to quarrel about the unknown, and perhaps the unknowable, it was felt that man's relationship to man was the most valuable focus of religion. Members have been encouraged to act so as to bring out the best in others.

Throughout his life Felix Adler and the early members were active in education and social reform. The Ethical Culture School in New York was founded for the children of working men. The school was such an excellent institution that board members who founded it, sent their own children. It still is a challenging private school in New York.

Instead of ministers or priests, the Ethical Society is guided by Leaders — men and women of exceptional educational and philosophical background who are involved with social reform. Activity in housing reform, better race relations, labor arbitration, child labor laws, industrial reforms and world peace have continued to be moving issues for Ethical Societies in America and Europe.

We believe firmly in separation of church and state.

Ethical Societies are small in membership, rather intellectual in their approach to problems. In addition to adult assemblies, there are usually Sunday Schools for children.



MARION BANFIELD

Baltimore's Ethical Society meets at 3800 Gwynn Oak Avenue on Sundays from September through May. There are no summer meetings.

Members vary in their attitude toward a deity. Some believe in a God. Others are agnostics and are not sure of any deity. Equally at home are atheists who believe that there is no supreme being.

Since our focus is on man's relationship to man, we do not quarrel about a person's private beliefs on a supreme being or life after death.

Our children understand that they are free to choose any religion when they become adults. We respect other religions enough to study them and expose our children to other religious ideas.

We believe that mankind has great control of human welfare. We believe that there is choice as to peace or war. We believe that humans are better off when we are respectful and kind to each others.

A NEW TALL MAN AT THE TOP

By Marjorie R. Green

"It's nice to be first!

"But it's only nice if it opens doors and nice if you can help others."

These were the impressive words of Edwin C. Simmons. On June 10, he became the first black GS-16 in the Social Security Administration (SSA).

Assistant bureau director, Program Policy is the title that goes with this super grade in the Bureau of Retirement and Survivors Insurance at the Woodlawn office in Baltimore.

The salary range for GS-16 is $31,000 to $39,000 annually. In civil service, it is equivalent to top management in industry.

There are only 38 GS-16s in Social Security, all white until the Simmons promotion. There are 11 GS-17s and 4 GS-18s.

A graduate of Temple University in Philadelphia, Mr. Simmons had planned a career in the field of education, but instead he took a job as manager in the Pennsylvania Employment Service shortly after graduation.

His career in SSA began in 1960 in the Philadelphia Payment Center where he started as a claims autorizer.

In 1964, he came to Baltimore as a budget analyst in the Bureau of Retirement and Survivors Insurance.

And, 1969 was the year he was chosen to participate in the SSA executive development program. This is a plan where GS-14s and above are given the opportunity to gain experience in different jobs in preparation for future management positions.

Prior to his new position, Mr. Simmons was deputy assistant bureau director, Program Policy.

As to his goals, Simmons told this writer he wanted "to develop further a program that reaches and serves social security beneficiaries. A program that is completely uncomplicated.

"To develop a policy organization that is viable and has flexibility to adapt quickly to change and respond to the beneficiary needs and to the people who work in the organization so that they can feel that they have a vital stake in the organization."

He gives credit for his movement in SSA to Hugh McKenna, director of the Bureau of Retirement and Survivors Insurance.

He is married to the former Anne Galamison. They are the parents of three children.

The oldest is Edwin Jr., 17, a former Northwestern High School track star who will enter Dartmouth College in September; Kevin, 14, a student at Pimlico Junior High School and seven-year-old Christina attends Windsor Hill Elementary School near their Windsor Hill area home.

His parents are Mr. and Mrs. Junius Simmons of Philadelphia. His mom is a retired state government worker and his dad a retired cook.

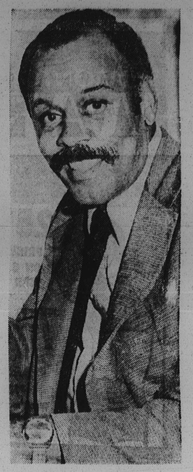
He holds memberships in the NAACP, Urban League and has held several offices in the Boy Scout Organization.

In his spare time, Mr. Simmons collects coins, builds H O Model trains and makes miniature military figures.

This tall (6 ft. 11), well groomed, distinguished man who speaks with a soft warm voice knows which direction he is heading. He reminds one of a mountain climber reaching out and up with his eyes on the peak.

There is no doubt in his mind or in the minds of others that his success will continue as he climbs higher up the mountain. Ed Simmons is that kind of a guy.

He is black and he's qualified.



EDWIN C. SIMMONS
The first GS-16

If YOU Ask ME

By Bettye Moss

You haven't lived unless you have been to the southwest.

The past weekend found us in Houston, Texas where the National Newspapers Publisher's Convention was holding its 33rd annual meeting.

Houston is nearly halfway across the U.S. from Baltimore, within easy access to Mexico and New Orleans.

Before we went to Houston, we could never understand why Baltimore was nosed out as the sixth largest city in the nation. We know now. Houston is big, big, big, big.

Fact is, it is the nation's sixth largest and fastest growing major city.

It's on the Gulf Coast prairies, with average temperatures in the upper sixties. Last weekend it was in the 80's, with just enough breeze to be comfortable.

And, Houston is known as the largest industrial and manufacturing center in the south and southwest.

Cuff Note: Had a view of the town's famous Astrodome, America's largest enclosed sports stadium, home of the National League Astros baseball team, the National Football League Houston Oilers and the University of Houston football team, Cougars.

Note to Baltimore C and P Telephone Co.: Houston's phone book is easier to read. Type is larger and clearer than yours.

More cuff note: If you want to get an idea of what mass transit will look like here in Baltimore, visit Houston. The highspeed freeways are numerous, and it is true you can get lost and run around in a circle.

Huge buildings, apartment complexes, glass structures abound. And, like many a southwestern city, there is a variety of people.

You cannot tell whether the person standing next to you in line is a black American or a Mexican American. There is a great mixture there.

BETTYE MOSS

In the main, people seemed kind and courteous and tried to be helpful, although we have not yet gotten over that $15 fare from the airport via Yellow Cab, which we found out later could have been a $4 trip on the bus.

Saying something is the new Hyett Regency Hotel which recently opened. It beats the one in Atlanta and Chicago.

When you walk into it, it seems like you are in another world. Imagine going into a hotel with a half dozen restaurants and clubs and people milling and moving about at 4 a.m. It's fantastic.

They do say that you can't go far without meeting somebody from home.

Saturday afternoon we were standing in the famed Nieman Marcus Department Store, mulling over whether to buy a toy for a youngster, when a handsome young man said, "It's certainly good to see somebody from home." We were astonished. In fact, I thought he was talking to someone behind us.

The speaker, identified himself as Rene Patterson, 25-year-old chemist and a 1972 graduate of Morgan State College. He arrived in Houston just a week ago.

He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Patterson, (Leah Davis) of West Mosher St. and has three sisters, Joyce, Iris and Meta.

Many may remember young Mr. Patterson when he worked with the Boone Appliance Co. here in Baltimore.

More Baltimoreans seen in Houston. Mr. and Mrs. Vernon Locklear (Cormellia Harmon).

Both are Morgan State grads (1961). She is a former teacher at School No. 37 and he was with IBM here in Baltimore and Ringwood, N.J. before he was transferred to the Houston office in Oct., 1972 as sales manager.

The Locklear children are Lynn, 9 and Karen, 7.

Baltimore relatives of the Locklears include his mother, Mrs. Dolores Locklear of Richwood Ave.

An uncle, Francis Locklear, resides on Druid Hill Ave. and another uncle, Joseph Locklear on Ruxton Ave.

Mr. Locklear also has three brothers residing at the Richwood Avenue home, Guy, Gregory and Stanley.

Another brother, Roland lives on Lawina Rd. and another, Melvin, in Stamford, Conn.

The Locklears' Houston address is 13111 Highwood Rd., Houston, Texas 77024.

More cuff note: — Baltimore's Vashti Smith McKenzie, wife of the Houston Rockets basketball star, was our dinner guest on Saturday. They live in Houston during the basketball season, occupy a fabulous home in Portland, Oregon during off-season.

It was our good fortune that she was in Houston to do a television commercial. In Portland, she manufactures her own pocketbooks and models for leading department stores. Her line of ladies bags is called, "Funky Popcorn."

Men's bags are called, "Stanley The Poo."

Cuff Note: Mrs. McKenzie was saying something with her stylish clothes and new hair design. Everywhere we went people turned to stare!

More cuff note: Vashti is daughter of Mrs. D. John Peters (the AFRO's PR lady, known professionally as Ida Murphy Peters).

NOW and THEN

Small Towns Reminder Of Early U.S.A.

By G. James Fleming

Every once in a while it is good to get back to some of the little towns of America, to be reminded that there are still quiet, sedate, homes-centered places, away from the hustle and bustle of the crowded cities.

And, of all the off-the-beaten-track places, few are more picturesque and historic than those of New England, many of which have preserved their 18th century charm.

One (at least this writer), never ceases to wonder how the early New Englanders built such a solid culture, structured such lasting institutions, and influenced an entire nation, despite the hardships of making a living and of conquering the mountains and the bitter winters.

To start calling names of the makers of history who had their origins, or made their homes, in little New England towns, would be like a roll call of the great men and women of early America!

One wonders, also, if some of the troubles of our current highly industrialized and urban society is not its bigness: Gigantic cities, mammoth factories, huge corporations, multi-thousand-member labor unions, complex government, shocking crime statistics and facilities.

No one would like to give up the conveniences, enjoyments and political clout of the big cities, but it is good to be reminded that bigness is not the answer to everything.

It may even be that many of the quaint, delightful towns could not exist today, if the crowded places did not send their millions of tourists to spend their dollars as they stop or vacation in the country places.

As always in New England, one is impressed by the attractive gardens and little farms and the views along the backroads (here and there dotted by a former one-room schoolhouse), where no one seems hurried, where everyone seems smiling and courteous, and where there is such a sense of love of the surroundings.

One gets this feeling even when one talks to ex-big city folks who have transplanted themselves to Grafton, Putney or Brattleboro, in Vermont, or to Keene, in New Hampshire, or to Concord, Northampton, Wellesley or 100 other places in Massachusetts, and to the several faraway places in Maine.

The lifestyle in these small towns is different, but there is nothing backward about the people.

Like their ancestors, they are "up" on the important happenings of the day. They have their ideas on Watergate; they read local and big-city newspapers; they use their libraries.

Each town seems to have its own historical society.

The small towns of New England are also still attractive because of the good food obtainable in their inns and other indigenous eating places.

This goes, not only for New England clam chowder, lobster and other seafood, but for all foods. Dining is a pleasure.

Whether it is New England or Maryland, we recommend driving out of the city, visiting some of the small, semi-rural places; looking at the architecture of earlier periods; visiting the backroads; becoming acquainted with new plans and wild flowers; and tasting foods cooked "with tender, loving care."

Occasionally, you'll be disappointed, but most times you will be delighted.

ABOUT NURSES — This year marks the 100th anniversary of the establishment of schools of nursing in the United States — a year being marked by many ceremonies.

Nurses, especially nursing trainees, are again being reminded that they are expected to be efficient as nurses; to be at their patients' beck and call; to be always full of vim, vigor and vitality; to be forever smiling; to be sympathetic and understanding; to be like the legendary Florence Nightingale.

But nurses should be given "equal time" to give their side to the public, including patients and their kinsfolk. The writer thinks nurses would say:

"Please remember that we nurses are human beings; that we are not the doctors; that we cannot be everywhere at all times; that we cannot smile every second of the day; that we, too, get fatigued."

These nurses would continue:

"Please remember, too, that nurses appreciate a smile sometimes; that we sometimes do the most good when we refuse to coddle patients; and that we would appreciate less griping and more cooperation from the family of patients, even though we understand their tensions and confusion."

To all those nurses who live up to the highest tenets of their profession, whether in hospitals, at home, or in nursing homes, the public owes a deep sense of gratitude and appreciation. To the nursing schools we owe our support.

G. JAMES FLEMING

79 YEARS AGO — "The interests of the Afro-American population of Baltimore are identical and any faction of the race which fosters strife to gratify its own selfish ambition, should be classed with the enemy."
(From the AFRO-AMERICAN, April, 1893)