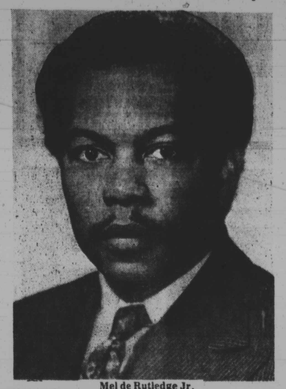
Mel Rutledge to begin AFRO housing, economic development series



Mel de Rutledge Jr.

The AFRO-AMERICAN Newspaper is proud to announce a weekly series of reports called "The Housing and Urban Development Report".

Each weekly report will be designed to help the consumer maximize his current knowledge of the housing and urban real estate process.

These reports will give the reader up to the minute information on important subjects such as selling, buying, advertising, management, financing, appraising, federal aid to financing, federal regulations, federal taxation, energy conservation techniques, new ideas and current urban developments for the minority participant.

Look for topics such as:

—Availability of Mortgage Money

—Who can Afford to Buy a Home

—Tips on Rehabilitation

—Current Mortgage Interest Rates

—Tax Credit for Energy Conservation

—Tax Benefits on Homeownership

—How to Put a Damper on Rising Fuel Costs

Also, a glossary of real estate terms will be provided as a guide to familiarize the consumer with current urban development terminology.

The contributing editor of these reports, Mel de Rutledge Jr., is a native of Ft. Wayne, Indiana, a 1976 graduate of Morgan State University with a B.S. degree in Business Administration, and presently resides at the Village of Cross Keys.

Prior to coming to Morgan, he also attended Purdue University and Indiana Business College in Indiana. Mr. Rutledge not only holds a degree in business administration, but is also a graduate of the Real Estate Securities and Syndication Institution, a graduate of Investor Education Services, and a graduate of the Wharton School Institue on Real Estate Investment Analysis.

He is currently the President of Centennial Group, Inc. which is a development-design-build team of planning, marketing and economic experts focusing on the "urban" retail real estate market.

This total involvement ensures the coordination of all project aspects, delivering carefully designed products to meet market demands.

The Centennial Group draws upon the experience of in-house planners as it engages in market research, mortgage financing, land-use planning, construction, marketing, and merchandising.

Mr. Rutledge is an affiliate of several professional and community organizations, namely, NAACP, Real Estate Management Institute, Urban Land Institute, Home Builders Association of Maryland, et al.

He has also, upon numerous occasions, delivered lectures to students of several community colleges here in the city and surrounding counties. He formerly served as Chief Executive of an independent insurance and financial planning firm, was general manager of the Freestate Contractors Association and also developed and operated construction development programs for minority contractors in the Maryland area under the auspices of the Office of Minority Business Enterprises (OMBE).

Western High reunion

The 1975 graduating class of Western High School will be holding its fifth year class reunion on Sunday, June 15, at Blue Crest North, 401 Reisterstown Rd.

All interested persons who have not been contacted, please call 597-1712 or 323-1010 for more information.

Eloise Richardson is cited for success with poetry therapy

Ms. Eloise Richardson
Acclaimed Poetry Therapist

ANNAPOLIS, MD — "Poetry Therapy Has Power to Reach the Mentally Ill" was the front page streamer headline for a story written about the work of Ms. Eloise Richardson by a staff reporter for the local daily newspaper, the Evening Capital.

It stated that "to those who know her and her work, Eloise Richardson is one of a kind. She is Crownsville Hospital Center's libraring and poetry therapist, recognized and acclaimed nationally for pioneering the only rehabilitative poetry therapy program in the state of Maryland."

The story was picked up by the Associated Press and is being published by other daily newspapers all over the country.

Ms. Richardson established the Patients' Library at Crownsville 17 years ago. A consultant of the State Department of Education declared the library as the model library under the Department of Mental Hygiene.

Ms. Richardson began working with poetry therapy nine years ago and was certified by the Association of Poetry Therapy, an international organization with headquarters in New York.

"The program is successful because poetry is very powerful. It says things like no other kind of writing because it is written by people who are expressing their feelings. It comes from their emotions and therefore has a tendency to reach out to other people," Ms. Richardson said.

The therapist said "persons who enter mental hospitals are more or less thrown aside by our society. They are mentally ill, and many so-called normal people regard them as worthless.

"Poetry therapy brings about communication and is a potential for making them aware of their personal worth. When they begin communicating, you can help them."

She further said "although poetry therapy can be conducted through other methods, the group method conducted on the basis of individual sensitivity aroused by poetry content is a technique of confrontation, and this brings about communication.

Also the group method plays big part for the psychiatric patients because they may begin to overcome their difficulties in interpersonal relationships. It offers an opportunity for diversion or attention from symptoms."

Patients gather in the hospital library weekly and leaf through volumes of poetry, select a verse that appeals to them and read aloud to each other.

Ms. Richardson serves as their catalyst and therapist.

Ms. Richardson says "The poems selected by the participants offer a key to their emotions. Usually they choose something that is meaningful to them. It may mean one thing to one patient, and something completely different to another.

"But they have the opportunity to be spontaneous about their reactions to certain words and moods that a poem creates for them," she added.

Ms. Richardson always introduces her sessions with music because music, she feels, awakens poetic thought and sets a mood for the poetry reading.

Many of her patients have become inspired to write their own poetry in the library setting and elsewhere. In the library they write while listening to music.

An excerpt from a poem entitled "The Dark Side of the Sun," written by a psychoneurotic depressive patient at Crownsville follows:

"I offer the prayer for
the mentally ill,

When at last their poor
minds are quiet and still,

That they find a special
place in Heaven above,

Where they can soak up
some of the laughter and
fun

That most people know
on the bright side of the
sun."

The poem brought a citation and Certificate of Merit from the past governor of the state of Maryland, Marvin Mandel.

Ms. Richardson stated that she has kept poetry written by mental patients in the hope of eventually publishing a book.

"I do not know when I'll get to it, but I will do it sooner or later," she said. She intimated that the book would be something that could be used well in other poetry therapy programs because the poetry will be written by people who have related problems.

Ms. Richardson has shared her knowledge in this field by serving in many instances as a resource person for various groups.

Nationally she is a regular program participating member of the Association of Poetry Therapy. On one occasion she has been quoted in the New York Times.

She has served as a resource person in her work for in-service training workshops for the hospital, for departments of the state of Maryland, for an institute of librarians working with disadvantaged people at the University of Maryland;

Also for a guidance class at Johns Hopkins University, for an Abnormal Psychology class at the Anne Arundel Community College in Maryland, for the Department of Mental Hygiene and Hospitals' professional staff in Virginia, for the annual meeting of the New York State Library Association at New York City, for a segment of the National Association of Recreation and Parks at Ocean City, Md. and a number of public school English classes in Anne Arundel County, Md.

She is also a long-standing member of the National Sorority of Phi Delta Kappa, Alpha Mu Chapter.

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You can count on A&P to look for ways to help you save! We're offering you savings you can actually add up before you even come into our stores! Between now and Sat. May 3, we will redeem all national manufacturers' cents-off coupons up to $1.00 for double their value. Offer good on national manufacturers' "cents-off" coupons only! It does not apply to other store coupons whether a manufacturer is mentioned or not or to free coupons. Cigarettes and certain other items are excluded by law. Customer must purchase coupon product in specified size. Expired coupons will not be honored. One coupon per customer per item. When the value of a manufacturer's coupon exceeds $1.00 or the retail of the item this offer is limited to the retail price. Offer expires Sat. May 3, 1980. Offer not available at the Dumfries, Fredericksburg, Culpeper, Front Royal, Luray, Manassas or Warrenton, Va. stores.

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