BUSINESS/REAL ESTATE

This week's financial section produced by P. E. Badham

Computer firm aids small businesses

By Portia E. Badham
AFRO Staff Writer

Metro Computer Services, a new black-owned computer firm, is making strides to aid small businesses.

The firm, owned by Raymond Bantum and Daryl Mosby, offers data processing services including financial statements, depreciation and amortization schedules, word processing, mailing lists and even biorhythm charts.

The owners are seeking out small businesses that they feel can best benefit from their services.

"Quite often the proprietor of a small business does not possess the necessary accounting expertise or time to generate a meaningful set of financial statements," said Bantum.

"The alternative is to contract the services of a CPA or an accountant to perform these tasks. The problem here is that many small businesspersons do not have the necessary capital to afford a CPA or accountant."

That's where Metro Services comes in. Both the owners have tried to maintain low operating costs so that their services can be available and affordable to the small business.

Bantum, who worked as a senior assistant auditor with the accounting firm, Deloitte, Haskins and Sells, left in December to develop plans for his own company.

"I saw there was a market that was untapped," said Bantum. "I wanted to put my expertises back into the community."

Bantum was joined in his efforts by a former classmate, Daryl Mosby who had his own marketing firm. The two teamed up eights months ago and combined their expertises to get Metro Services off the ground.

The company began operation in May.

Both the owners feel they are coming in the technological field at a time when it is wide open to anyone with the experience, especially minorities.

Black Enterprise magazine in its June issue on the top 100 businesses, states, "One way of changing the status of blacks is to acquire and use information. The computer is the key.

"The only way to take part in the next social revolution— the Information Age— is through the computer. Used with skill and understanding, the computer could be the great equalizer for blacks in the coming decades."

BUSINESS PARTNERS — Baryl Mosby and Raymond Bantum who were high school classmates came together several months ago to combine their expertises and formed Metro Computer Services which provides data processing services to various companies.

AFRO photo by Roman Hankewycz

Mosby, vice president of the company and in charge of marketing, stated that the firm is already expanding its clients to New York and New Jersey and is developing a possible nationwide service for Amway distributors.

Other plans of the firm include using students from Coppin State College on a work study program and developing an educational classroom computer package for the Baltimore city public school system.

Black business confab set for July 19-23

The Maryland Office of Minority Affairs along with the Maryland Black Chamber of Commerce will sponsor the 1981 Black Business Conference Sunday, July 19 through Thursday, July 23.

A Black Business Day parade, guest speakers, business delegations, workshops, summit meetings with key government officials and a black economic thrust banquet highlight the conference activities.

The conference was first held in 1980 for two days and included nearly 300 black businessmen.

Doug Sands, director of the Office of Minority Affairs and one of the conference coordinators stated that he expects as many businesspersons to participate again this year.

"Basicly, the conference which is now four days instead of two, will be the same as last year," Sands stated. "However the economic situation has changed and more emphasis will be placed on saving existing businesses.

"We will be more selective about encouraging certain specialized new businesses."

The conference will begin July 19 with a parade that will include marching units and a motorcade representing various black firms. The parade will travel through the Madison Park area en route to the Inner Harbor.

During the four-day conference, participants will serve as representatives to make up a Round Table on Black Business Affairs to meet with the governor and mayor.

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July 11, 1981, 8 p.m.
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Small firms take part in opportunities confab

Small businesses are experiencing a failure rate of 20 percent, according to Rep. Parren Mitchell, D-Md.

Mitchell, chairman of the House Small Business Committee, addressed more than 200 small and minority businessmen who participated in the Mid-Atlantic Technology and Business Opportunity Conference held June 24 at the Convention Center.

"Small businesses are in danger," said the congressman. "They're facing a bankruptcy date much higher than before and this is a very dangerous situation. And whatever is happening to small businesses applies doubly to minority businesses."

The one day conference was sponsored by Sen. Charles McC. Mathias, R-Md., who is a leading advocate in Congress for implementing a new law passed last year aimed at increasing public access to scientific and technological information as well as to federally-owned patents resulting from taxpayer-funded research.

"The administration has called upon the private sector to take up the slack created by the cut-backs in federal programs," said Mathias. "As a result, we have never been more dependent on the good health of business, especially small business than we are today."

Mathias stated that the federal government spends more than $30 billion each year on federally - funded research and development in all areas of science and technology.

"We are not using this resource to the full," he said. "Some private firms, however, have made good use of governmental research and development to build businesses.

Businessmen attending the conference were able to participate in panel discussions on "Small Business Opportunities," "How to Prepare a Bid," "Exporting Opportunities," and "Commercialization of Research and Development by Minority Businesses."

Savings Bank building subway station office

The Savings Bank of Baltimore plans to begin construction in November on its new six-story downtown office building, according to William A. Beasman Jr., president.

The new building, located at 5 E. Baltimore St. next to the bank's main office, will feature a banking office 30 feet below the ground's surface with a direct entrance to the mezzanine level of the Charles Center station of the subway.

"The building is necessary to accommodate growing staff, customer and service demands," said Beasman. "The bank is proud to take an active role in the future of downtown Baltimore, through growth and revitilization."

With the last few years, the bank has restored and renovated property it purchased at 19 S. Charles St. as well as the property it has owned for some time at 2 E. Redwood St., the historic Hansa Haus.

The building will proceed on its own construction schedule, according to Jack Sheffield, vice president of Real Estate Operations and not depend on subway progress.

Target date for the building's completion is October 1982. The opening of the sub-basement banking office will coincide with the opening of the subway.

The Savings Bank of Baltimore is the only bank to have made a request to the Mass Transit Authority to leave entry space.

Design work was completed in February by Cochran Stephenson & Donkervoet, a local firm experienced in subway work and known for its design work in Bolton Hill.

George Evans Associates Inc. will serve as the consulting construction engineering company, and Henry Adams Inc. is the mechanical and electrical engineering company. Henry H. Lewis Contractors Inc. is the general contractor.

The new building's third floor will be joined to the bank's main office mezzanine and the two buildings will also be joined at their basements to facilitate east passage.

The Savings Bank of Baltimore is Maryland's oldest and largest mutual savings bank with assets in excess of $1 billion.

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SHOWTIME

Countee Cullen immortalized Baltimore's famous racism

By Ida Peters

Countee Cullen, 23, on the marble steps of his host Dr. Ernest Lyon on McCulloh St. He read his poetry before 600 delighted persons June 26, 1926 at Ames Memorial Methodist Church.

Countee Cullen (1903-1946) was known as "The Poet Laureate" of the Harlem Renaissance. He was also a writer, playwright, scholar and teacher, working for more than 20 years teaching and influencing youngsters. James Baldwin was on of his favorite students.

Countee Cullen's poems were quoted in more books written in American in 1980, according to Harper and Row his publishers, than any other writer published by that company.

Last month, the First Annual Countee Cullen Memorial Celebration was held at the estate of Dr. Robert Hill in Old Westbury, Long Island, New York with poets, artists, entertainers and community officials joining in the tribute to a great American.

The Countee Cullen Foundation was founded by his widow, Mrs. Ida M. Cullen in 1950 to keep his works alive and available. Although there are two schools and a library in New York and a school in Chicago named in his honor it is unfortunate that many people today do not know his works.

One of his most famous poems "Incident", published in many anthogies and written about 1923, tells of an early hurt when he was 8 years old visiting Baltimore.

Incident

Once riding in old
Baltimore, Heart filled,
head - filled with glee.
I saw a Baltimorean.
Keep Looking straight
at me.

Now I was eight and
very small,
And he was no whit
bigger;
And so I smiled, but he
poked out
His tongue and called
me "N---r".

I saw the whole of
Baltimore From May
until December;
Of all the things that
happened there
That's all that I
remember.

Countee Cullen was born May 30, 1903 in New York, the son of the Rev. Frederick A. Cullen, founder of Salem Methodist Church and Mrs. Carolyn M. Cullen.

While a student a DeWitt Clinton High School he won a poetry award for "I Have A Rendezvous With Life". This work is included in "Caroling Dusk: An Anthology of Verse By Negro Poets" edited by Countee Cullen (1927) and is still available in book stores according to Harper and Row, his publishers.

Countee Cullen was educated at New York University, Harvard University and the Sorbonne in Paris.

Most of his poems for "Color", his first book, published in 1925, were written while he was a student at New York University.

"Copper Sun" published in 1927 was principally a collection of love poems.

Granted a Guggenheim Memorial Fellowship in 1928 to study in Paris and England he returned to America to publish "The Black Christ" and his first novel, "One Way to Heaven" in 1932.

Before leaving for Europe in 1928, he married his first wife, Nina Yolande Du Bois, a Baltimore school teacher and daughter of Dr. and Mrs. W.E.B. DuBois. The New York wedding saw a train load of 17 bridesmaids embark from Penn Station in Baltimore for one of the most talked about and written about weddings of the Easter season. New York.

The marriage ended in divorce in 1932. Yolande DuBois Cullen Williams resumed her teaching career at Booker T. Washington Junior High, Douglass High and Dunbar. She died in 1961.

To their marriage and parting Contee Cullen dedicated some of his first works.

In "For Yolande", "I held your hand this way upon a hill, and felt my heart forbear, my pulse grow still"...

After their parting and divorce Cullen wrote:

"At A Parting"... "Let us not turn for this aside to die, crying a lover may be our friend. Our grief is vast enough without that lie. All stories may not boast a happy end".

In "The Black Christ and Other Poems", 30 of the 47 poems were on disappointment in love. most famous is "Nothing Endures"... Nothing Endures Not even love Though the full heart purrs

Never love with all
your heart,
It only ends in aching
For bit by bit to the
smallest part
That organ will be
breaking

Countee Cullen won many prizes and honors for his poems published in leading magazines throughout the United States. At one time he was Assistant Editor of Opportunity Magazine, and from 1934 until his death, taught French at Frederick Douglass Junior High in New York.

His plays included "Byword for Evil", 1935; "One Way To Heaven", 1936; "The Third Fourth of July" (with Owen Dodson) 1946 and "St. Louis Woman" co-authored and adapted from Arna Bontemps novel "God Sends Sunday", 1946. After his death, play opened on Broadway giving world famous Pearl Bailey her start in the field of theatre.

African Roots of Jazz update

An informative newsletter arrived this week updating the activities of the African Roots of Jazz and the release of their new album soon. They will be involved in this year's AFRAM and the Baltimore City Fair.

African Roots of Jazz has opened a San Francisco Branch located at 2470-27th Ave. and they have expanded into three separate entities: African Roots of Jazz, Inc.; AROJ Publishing Company and AROJ Records.

On Feb. 11, Eccleston W. Wainwright Jr. and Rickey Kelly conducted a Lecture-Demonstration at the U.S. Customs office in San Francisco, State University for Black History Month.

April 3 to May 1, African Roots performed concerts at Yoshi's of Oakland, Calif. Also in April, Wainwright joined the "Voices of Inspiration" of Bethel A.M.E. Church in San Francisco and Performed in concert at the San Franciseo Art Institute.

May 4, African Roots performed with voices at the Japan Center Theatre. A visit of the East and West coast families resulted in new material for their new album due for release in Baltimore soon.

Board of Directors of African Roots of Jazz are Eccleston W. Wainwright Jr., president; Dr. Walter Gill, vice-president; Atty. Roberta Gill Mara), vice-president; Ms Viera Williamson, secretarytreasurer; Rosa Peay Hicks, executive director.

Memories of Bloom Street

By Anita Smith Hall

Dear Mrs. Peters:

After I read your column and saw the pictures of Brown's boat I became so interested in it, that was my class of 1930's boat ride. I know those friends and saw them at our reunion in October.

My birthplace, 561 Bloom St. has been boarded up since the city bought it in order to complete the Upton Project. It is so sad to see it all boarded up waiting to be torn down.

Memories run through my mind about the good times I had in that house, that was really a home and the block between Division St. and Pennsylvania Avenue.

I was born there to my parents John and Annie Smith on December 20, 1912. There were four girls in my family, Minnie, now deceased, Cecilia, Hilda and me, Anita.

The neighborhood was intergrated, by this I mean, Greeks, Italians, Germans, Chinese, Jews, Black and Whites. My parents were the third black family to move in the block.

All the children played together and went into each others homes and ate the food and was loved by all the parents. Our families had togetherness and love for all the children of the neighborhood, regardless of race. We did not know what segregation was in the neighborhood, until later on the 1940's, after World War II when the white Southerns moved up North, on Pennsylvania Avenue.

My father was a Red Cap porter at Penn Station and my mother stayed home and cooked good food and sewed pretty dresses for us four girls and curled our hair and made us look pretty at all times.

My father had a "Model T" Ford car in 1925 and he would gather up the kids and take us for a ride all around the neighborhood and around Druid Hill Park Lake often and all the kids loved him for this. We played tag, hide and seek, catch, jump rope, step ball and ball and jacks.

In the 1920's and 1930's there weren't many cars in those days, so Bloom Street hill was the meeting place for children to meet on skates and in the winter when it snowed we all met on the hill with our sleds. The hill was fast and we would take turns watching the traffic at Division Street and signal the gang when it was safe and they would come down the hill and go as far as Druid Hill Avenue and that was fun.

Girls and boys from all over the neighborhood came, from Druid Hill Avenue, McCulloh Street, Division Street, Pennsylvania Avenue, School Street, Gold Street, Pressman Street to meet on Bloom Street Hill and we really had fun.

I will recall some of my neighbors.

On the North side of Bloom Street and Pennsylvania Avenue there was an ice cream parlor run by a Greek family by the name of Christian Bros. They made candy in the basement of the store and would give us kids some of the taffy out in window and we would watch them in the basement pull the taffy. On the South side corner there was a family named Playell. They had a meat and grocery store, it was a large store. All the people went there when they didn't go to Lafayette Market.

My house was the first in the block. Mrs. Kane and her daughter Elizabeth lived next door but Mrs. Kane had a beauty shop on the corner of Brunt Street. Mr. and Mrs. Enoch Mason, Sr., daughter Elizabeth and son Enoch Jr. Mr. Mason was the only black driver for the Stewart & Co. when he drove the horse and wagon to make deliveries before they had trucks.

Mr. and Mrs. Tollie Fox and daughter Evelyn is now a retired teacher. Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Mitchell, Sr. and children, Clarence Jr., Evelyn, Elsie, George, Anna Mae, Lorenzo and Parren. These names are very well known to Baltimore. Clarence Jr. just retired from his job in Washington, D.C. and Parren is our Congressman for Maryland. Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Smith lived there after the Mitchell's moved away.

The Gough family and only Katherine survives and she lives in New York. Mr. and Mrs. Lee and children, Kenneth, De Sails, Elva and Audrev.

Mrs. Jobes and sons Harry and Frank. Mrs. Jobes used to sit at the window in her rocking chair and talk to the children as they came by and spoke to her. Harry's wife, Frankie still lives on Bloom St. The Holland Family, Frankie, Bernice, Irene and Hilda.

Mr. and Mrs. Kerr had three children, Dorothy, Franklin and Charles. I loved those kids. I used to watch them every evening when I came home from school. Mr and Mrs. Bell and daughters Rita and Rosa Mae. Mr. and Mrs. Richard Lamb and children Ellis, Evelyn, Louise and Helen. Mr. and Mrs. Williams and Mable.

On the corne, of Brunt Street there was a shoe store and the other side a show makers shop owned by Mr. Levinson. Most of the neighbors bought shoes there. Mr. John Goldsborough had a barber shop on the corner of Division Street and Bloom. He was very friendly and he would play with the kids when he wasn't busy in the shop.

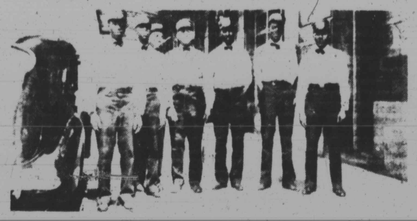
After I finished Beauty School, I opend a shop in the basement of my home called "Milady's Mirror".

After I was married I would go to the shop everyday and when the kids were born, I would go back to the shop and the kids would play with other kids that lived there. My mother stayed in that house until 1970. She lives with me now and she is 94 years old.

Mrs. Anita Hall in 1928 in the back yard of Mr. and Mrs. Enoch Mason. Young man is young Enoch Mason Jr.

Mrs. Hall in 1925 in front of her home, 561 Bloom St. near Pennsylvania Avenue. Background shows American Stores (now Acme Stores) on corner of Pennsylvania

Grocery Store at corner of Division and Bloom owned by a Mrs. Bass. John Goldsborough holding Franklin Kerr Jr.



The writer of this article Mrs. Anita Hall's father, John Smith, fourth from left, was a Red Cap at Pennsylvania Station from 1920 to 1942. Starting from right, Stafford Taylor, Charles Hall (Mrs. Hall's husband), a Mr. Ford, Mr. Smith and James Green. The last men on the left are unknown. Picture was taken about 1935.

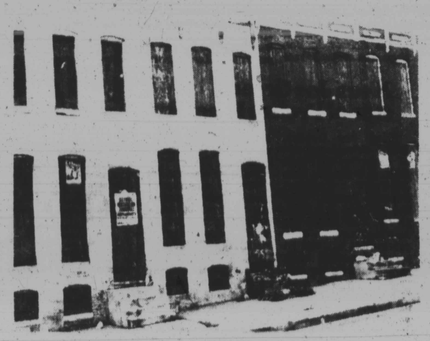
Mrs. Annie Smith, now 94, is pictured in her living room at 561 Bloom St. about 1951. She moved to Moreland Avenue in 1970.

The Good Old Days

John Goldsborough has a Barber Shop at Division and Bloom Streets attached to his house. Here he shaves John Smith.

Bloom Street in 1981

Corner of Bloom and Brunt where Mrs. Kane had a beauty shop.



1981 — Houses in 500 Bloom St. are boarded as part of Upton Urban renewal.