Grays, Holmes promoted at Penn Optical

At the recent quarterly profit-sharing meeting of the staff of Penn Optical Company several promotions were announced.

Celetia Grays will be the new manager of Penn's Monument Street office and Joseph L. Holmes will be manager at Mondawmin.

The announcements were made by Dr. Irwin Fuss, optometrist and president of the fast-growing firm whose sixth Baltimore office is opening soon.

Mrs. Grays has been affiliated with Penn Optical for 13 years. She completed the Optician's course at Essex Community College.

Holmes has had 12 years optical experience, covering eye glasses, contact lens and laboratory.

Celestia Grays

Joseph L. Holmes

Among Penn Optical doctors and staff included in the promotions were:

Beverly Booker, optical technician; Irene Butts, optical receptionist; Fred Champion, general manager; Barbara Christian, optical receptionist; Charles Curbeam, laboratory optician; Mary Eley, optical technician.

Also, Marcia Fuss, vice-president of administration; Cynthia Grant, optical receptionist; Dr. Erick Gray, optometrist; Annette Isaac, co-manager of the new Greenmount office; Kenneth Pfleiger, laboratory manager; Helen Preston, optical technician; Dr. Manfred Sklar, optometrist; Richard Slone, co-manager of Greenmount office.

And Alanda Smith, dispensing optician; Craig Smolen, laboratory optician; Cynthia Taylor, department head of billing; Marsha Tolson, office manager of Gay Street office; Abbe Veney, dispensing optic optician; Dr. Carl Waxman, optometristp and Diana White, optical technician.

Penn Optical Company's present locations include Mondawmin, Old Town Mall, Monument Street, Greenmount Avenue and Pennsylvania Avenue. The new office will be in the Parkside Shopping Center at Sinclair Lane and Moravia Road.

Union Trust offers 'floating rate'

Union Trust will offer its first and only "floating rate" savings instrument beginning Aug. 1 as a result of recent banking deregulation moves which moved interest rate ceiling on certificates with maturities of four years or longer.

Purchasers of Union Trust certificates after that date will be able to select a new, four-year money fund certificate, the interest rate on which will vary weekly for the duration of the certificate, or the bank's 30-month savings certificate, the interest on which is now no longer capped at 11 and three-quarters or 12 percent owing to the recent deregulation.

These two certificates are fully insured by the FDIC, and each can be obtained for as little as $500.

Crip Florist is family business

Crip Florist, the family florist, was started by George Smith in 1939 as a wholesale company.

His son, Clarence "Crip" Smith Sr., came into the business around 1958. At that time the specialty was artifical flowers and retail. It has since expanded into retailing of fresh, as well as artificial flowers.

He not only sells fresh floral arrangements but makes and arranges flowers for weddings and is known for his floral arrangement of Jewish weddings and bar mitzvahs.

The quality of his work has been recognized by such groups as the Mosher St. Association, Virginia Union Alumni Association, the Covenant Guild, as well as the Women's Legislative Caucus of Maryland, the March and Nutter Funeral Home.

Crips Florist has been approved by the American Floral Service (AFS), Telefora and Red Book which qualifies him for international wire service orders.

The family business consists of his wife, Jeanette and their children, Clarence Jr., Debbie and Michelle.

Realtors nominate new officers

Robert E. Latshaw Jr. has been nominated president of the Greater Baltimore Board of Realtors.

Latshaw, a resident of Homeland, is president of Latshaw & Co. and Latshaw Commercial Properties.

He currently serves as first vice president of the Greater Baltimore Board of Realtors and chairman of its membership services committee.

A graduate of Johns Hopkins University, Latshaw is a member of the Maryland Association of Realtors' directorate, the Real Estate Securities and Syndication Institute and has earned the designation of Certified Commercial Investment Member of the Realtors National Marketing Institute.

He is also a member of the Baltimore County Chamber of Commerce, a former member of the Maryland House of Delegates and past president of the Baltimore Polytechnic Institute Alumni Association.

The following also were nominated officers of the Greater Baltimore Board of Realtors for one-year terms each: Otis Warren Jr., vice-president; James Piper III, second vice-president; Michael Yerman, secretary; and Sally Broadbent, treasurer.

Nominated directors to serve two-year terms each were the following: H. Richard Belman, Frederick E. Chippendale, H. Adrian Cox, Ronald F. D' D'Anna, William H. Engel III, Mary Lou Kaestner, James E. Matthews (the board's retiring president) and Mary E. Schuler.

C. Willis Hammond, the board's executive vice president, is appointed annually by the directorate.

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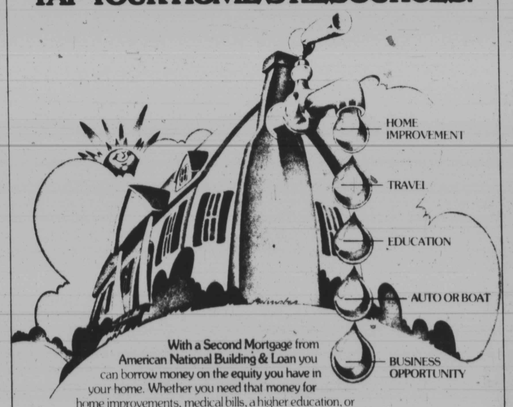

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Black Pages presents awards

The Black Pages, Baltimore's newest directory of black business and professional services, began delivery to more than 100,000 homes in the Baltimore metropolitan area.

In announcing the delivery of the new publication, its publisher, Jaki Hall, also announced the 1981 recipients of the Black Business Awards for outstanding contributions to minority enterprise in the area.

The Established Business of the Year Award went to The Leon Bridges Company, an architectural firm located at 5 E. Centre St., for the design of several local buildings.

The company is especially noted for award-winning designs by its founder and president, Leon Bridges which include the Administration Building at Coppin State College, the William March Funeral Home, the Arena Playhouse, and a gasoline station at North and Madison Avenues.

Bridges has also earned national recognition from the American Institute of Architects for the design of a residence in Seattle, Wash. and the Federal Highway Administration's National Citation for Design Excellence in Community Architecture.

He is being honored by the Black Pages for his outstanding ability to "create edifices that are compatible with existing architecture while maintaining respect for existing structures."

The Emerging Business of the Year Award was presented to Radio Station WEBB for progressive marketing efforts spearheaded by Dorothy Brunson, the station's owner since 1979.

The first and only black female to own a station in Baltimore, Mrs. Brunson's long-range goal is to make WEBB the number one station in the city by tailoring programming activities to the needs and aspirations of the black community.

To date, she has transformed a failing New York City radio station into the number one station in the market and plans to own a chain of radio stations across the country.

Mrs. Brunson's 20-year background in business also includes various positions in banking and broadcast institutions in New York.

The awards were presented at a reception held Aug. 5 at the Gatsby's.

Business notebook

Dennis King has been elected president of Northeast Inc., sponsor of the non-profit Northeast Real Estate Center. The center is a cooperative venture of the real estate industry, the city's Department of Housing and Community Development, and 15 neighborhood associations.

Mary C. Wright, entering her second year as a Northeast preferred agent, has been elected as Northeast's vice president. She is an agent with Merrill Lynch Realty-Chris. Coile. Reelected as Northeast's treasurer was William F. Cassidy, a real estate agent for Piper Company.

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