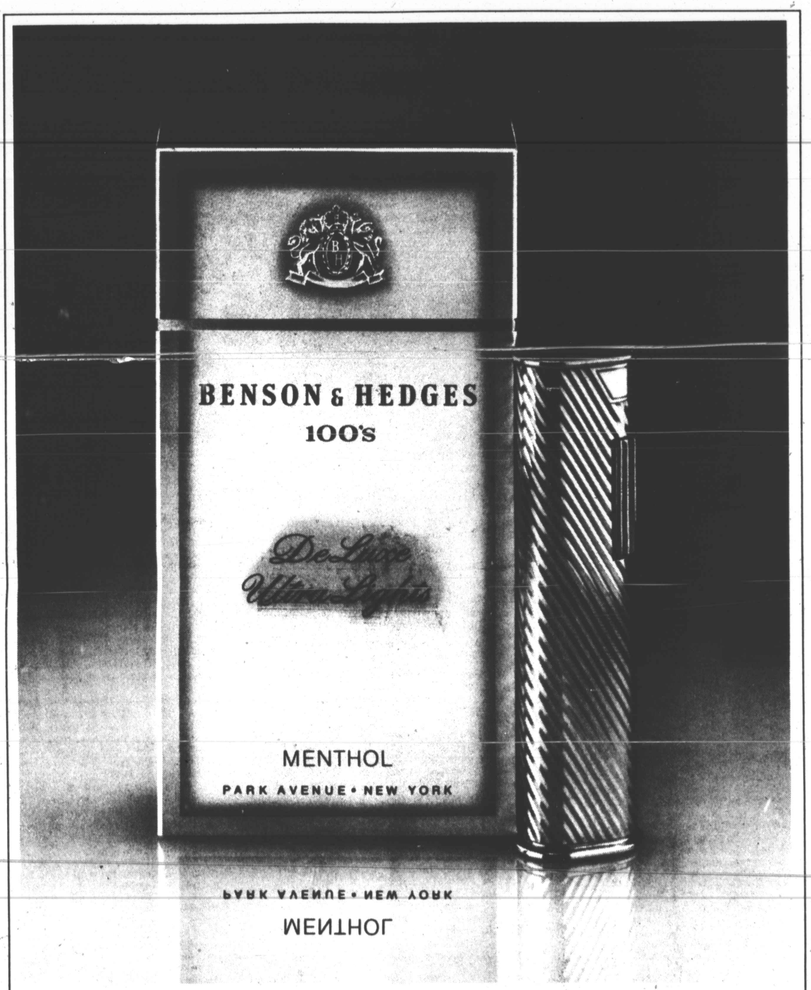
BENSON & HEDGES

The Deluxe 100.



Deluxe Ultra Lights

Only 6 mg, yet rich enough to be called deluxe.
Menthol and Regular.

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Warning: The Surgeon General Has Determined That Cigarette Smoking Is Dangerous to Your Health.

6 mg "tar," 0.6 mg nicotine av. per cigarette, by FTC method.

THE AFRO PROFILES . . .

MT. WINANS & WESTPORT

NEIGHBORHOODS

By Tyrone Vines
AFRO Staff Writer

Neighborhoods are just as complex as the human body. They grow, mature, and sometimes prosper. Like the human body they are made up of a multitude of living organisms. All with different characteristics. Each surviving on the notion that all of the other parts that make up the whole will perform its needed function.

This concept has kept two neighborhoods alive and growing here in Baltimore City. Mt. Winans and Westport are two such neighborhoods. They are located in the south side of the city. Each has its own particular characteristic. They are for the most part a thriving unit within themselves.

Taking a look at Mt. Winans and the 1,106 persons living there, one can clearly see that through unity there is growth. Mazie White, president of the Mt. Winans Civic Interest Group, said of her community that, "We were once called the forgotten community' back in the late 70's." "At that time there were no cement sidewalks, poor sewage systems, not enough street lights, and plenty of old dilapidated houses in Mt. Winans," she said.

"We are located between Paca Street, Hollins Ferry Road, and Forest St. There are railroad tracks that border this community on three sides," White described. Mt. Winans is special because each generation that is brought up here sometimes remain here in the community."

Walter Hill, who has lived in the neighborhood for several years, said, "There was a time when there were cobble stones on the streets. They use to call it Hogtown, Mt. Winans, when I was a little boy." "Things have changed a great deal since I was president of the Mt. Winans Civic Action Group. Many of the new homes were part of the revitalization and Urban renewal plans."

Another facet of Mt. Winans makes it different from any of the other communities in the area is that through community efforts neighbors were able to remove the old run-down homes and replace them with new homes that could be brought at a considerable savings. The contrast between the old and the new has made the community a perfect example of how planing and organization can bring together two different ideas.

People like Nelson Kyler, who at the age of 77, remembers when "A old man would come and light the street lights, one by one. There were cow pastures, pigs, and other livestock right there above Huron Street."

There are no more livestock in Mt. Winans. What remains is a community that has seen the benefits of change. A positive change and no one in the community will deny that that change has been for the better.

This isn't the only community that has seen a change. Westport which is across Hollins Ferry Road from Mt. Winans, is another community that has undergone change in the past 20 years.

Elizabeth Wright, director of Westport-Mt. Winans Parenting Center, reflected that, "Westport I was built in the 40s for the families with fathers in the military. It was later turned into public housing units that you see today." "There are 200 units in the Westport section, along with Westport II extension) which opened in 1960, with 232 units."

"The community has grown but there are many needs within the Westport area that have not been met. We need more programs designed to aid the unemployed and the young people with children to find works also, access to better means of getting an education, " Wright said.

Herbert Kelly grew up in Westport, he remembers when, "There were no means of transportation into Westport. The transit buses did not come any further than Annapolis Road in those days. It was a mixed racial area in my younger days, and there were always fights between the whites and blacks. But now things have changed and Westport is largely black and they work better together."

Togetherness is what makes any community grow. The notion that when you give a helping hand to your neighbor you are in fact giving yourself a helping hand has maintained communities larger than the ones mentioned here.

Mt. Winans and Westport have gone a long way in helping develop the concept that blacks, when working toward a central goal, can work miracles. They can in fact control their own destiny. In what was once a useless piece of ground now has turned into a community of positive-minded citizens. Their goals and values are still high, eventhough the star they seek is still some distance away.

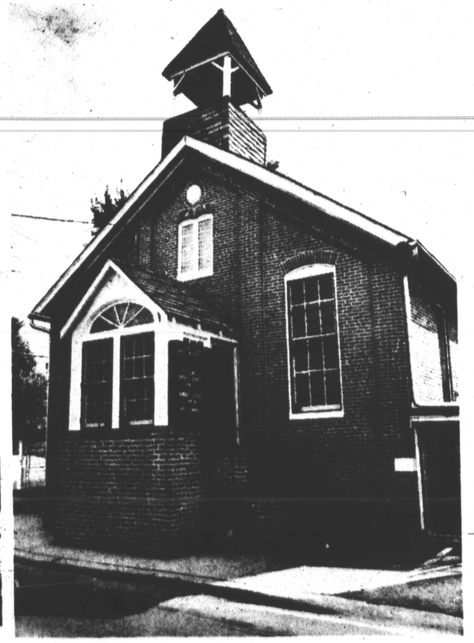
MRS. ELIZABETH WRIGHT, director of Westport/Mt. Winan's Parenting Center.

MISS MAZIE WHITE, president of the Mt. Winan's Civic Interest Group.

Home of one of Mt. Winans oldest families, the William Parkers. They are among the early settlers of the area.

(AFRO Photos by Jay Baker)

THESE homes are located in the Westport section of Baltimore. They are part of the newer developments in Westport.



MT. WINAN'S United Methodist Church is shown here. It is one of four churches in Mt. Winan's on Hollins Ferry Rd.