100 years of service to Baltimore:

Enoch Pratt Free Library — 1886-1986

By Paula J. Wagner

For all the people of Baltimore, "rich and poor, without distinction of race or color," did the philanthropic Enoch Pratt offer this substantiated institution, known as the Enoch Pratt Free Library.

Born in Middleboro, Mass., on September 10, 1808, Enoch Pratt moved to Baltimore in 1831. Here he established himself as a commission merchant. He founded the wholesale iron-houses of Pratt and Keith and Enoch Pratt and Brother.

Later, he was director and president of the Philadelphia, Wilmington and Baltimore Railroad Company, and director of the Savings Bank of Baltimore.

He was said to have had a heart "beyond the selfish calls of the mere ambition for gain," and manifested an interest in education, religion, reform, charity and in public improvements.

Wishing to help the many black children, who were said to be homeless and friendless in the streets of Baltimore, Enoch Pratt established and served as president of the House of Reformation and Instruction for Colored Children at Cheltenham, Prince George County. This site, a 730 acre land, was a donation of his from farm property at Cheltenham.

In 1877 he was elected, by the City Council, as one of the Finance Commissioners of Baltimore, where his influence helped to shape the financial policy of the municipality. However, although he manifested an intelligent interest in politics and legislation, Enoch Pratt showed no desire for office.

In his time he was approached for candidacy for congress, governor and mayor — all of which was turned down.

In 1882 Enoch Pratt submitted his proposal to the city for establishing a free circulating library. It was to be in cooperation with the city and to be named the Enoch Pratt Free Library of Baltimore City.

He had intended to expend one million dollars on this project. The planning and building of the Central Library and its initial four branches were done under his personal supervision — its cost, $300,000.

In addition he gave the city $833,333.33 for a permanent six percent endowment of $50,000 to be paid quarterly, forever. His total expenditure, $1,133,333.33.

On January 4, 1886, the Centray library (then located on Mulberry Street) and its four branches opened its doors to Baltimoreans. However, along with the rapid growth of the city, the library services grew and by 1888 and 1906, respectively, two additional branches were added to Pratt's initial four.

Then in 1906 Andrew Carnegie, a friend and admirer of Enoch Pratt, gave Baltimore half a million dollars, with which 14 branches and half of the 15 were financed.

Enoch Pratt's legacy created one of the finest library systems in the U.S.

Anna Curry, director of Pratt Library

Meanwhile, dedicated librarians at the Central library were building stronger subject collection, by setting up special divisions for children's literature, education, technology and fine arts. Consequently, there became a growing need for a larger, more spacious Central library.

Under the leadership of librarian, John Wheeler, this need began to be addressed and formulated.

Five years after Baltimore voters approved a bond issue of $3,000,000, in January, 1933, a structure one block long and half a block in depth, located at 400 Cathedral St., was appropriated. This construction is called a Wheeler original and is said to be revolutionary for its time.

At a time when designs of central libraries were expected to bestow a grandeur appearance that evinced prominence and profundity, the Enoch Pratt Central Library was "simple."

Lacking the grand steps and huge outdoor columns so uniformly eminent for libraries its time, the Enoch Pratt Central Library, with its street entrance, was accessible and inviting.

Its 13 display windows exhibited community interest and further enhanced ties with the library and the community.

However, most significant to the Wheeler construction was his introduction to subject departmentation, which meant the gathering of materials under one broad discipline in one single location, serviced by a group of professionals.

Even today, in designing public libraries, planners come from all over the country to understand and adapt the Wheeler design.

Today, as ever, the library continues to grow. And under its new director, Mrs. Anna A. Curry, the Central Library, in particular, continues to withstand more radical ideas, more expansions, in honoring the needs of its patrons.

Presently under its first major renovation (which is expected to be completed in April), its restoration can already be appreciated. The new sky-light roof of the lobby, for example, adds brightness and highlights artistic beauty that may have once gone unnoticed.

Rose colored carpet and study nooks add a warm, homely quality on the new mezzanine floor. But the most significant aspect of the renovation, says Mrs. Curry, is "space."

The installation of the mezzanine will give an additional 10,000 square feet to library space. The public will now have access to more materials. Materials that was once in stacks will now be displayed for the public's usage, Mrs. Curry said.

"Pratt is," she shared, "by reputation, collection depth and scope, among the top ten libraries in the country." Some of their special services include special phone services for the deaf (at the Central and Northwood branches), large print books for the visually impared and elevators to service the handicap to and from the new mezzanine. Pratt also have a wide collection of records, tapes . . . and what about videos?

"We've had videos for ten years," says Mrs. Kadis, Public Relations Manager. "We have been way ahead of everyone."

"We want the public to know," stated Mrs. Curry, "that information is heavily depended on technology and we're moving in that direction." At Pratt information is limitless.

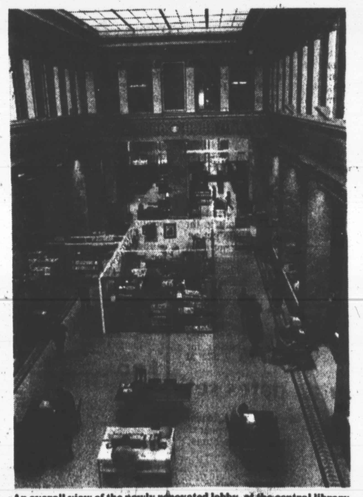
"We have books on how to get a job, how to cook, how to put up your child's bicycle, how to be a better consumer . . . we have all the information that is essential to our survival."

Having available for reference use and borrowing some 2.5 million volumes, thousands of films, magazines, federal government documents, maps, state government publications, newspapers, monographs in microform, pamphlets, cassettes, slides, filmstrips and more, the Maryland General Assembly, in 1971, designated Pratt Central Library the State Library Resource Center (SLRC).

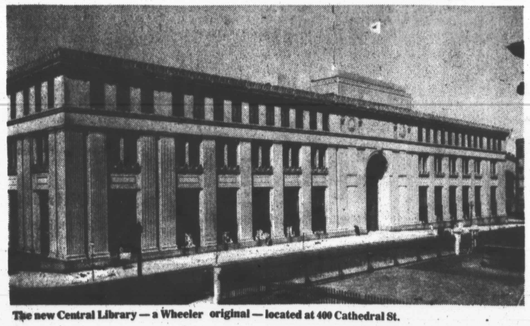
The Central Branch contains a complete microfilm collection of the Baltimore AFRO-AMERICAN, from its inception in 1892 to the present.

Branch 17 has been the nurturing place for many black scholars passing through the Baltimore schools. It is located on historic Pennsylvania Ave.

Beautifully carpeted staircase that leads from first floor to new mezzanine.



An overall view of the newly renovated lobby, of the central library. In the middle is "Browse and Buy," a new attraction at the library.



The new Central Library — a Wheeler original — located at 400 Cathedral St.

(AFRO Photo by Paris Gray)

Mrs. Thelma Bell, Miss Howard Hubbard, Mrs. Sandy Eisenberg, and Miss Betty Williams are shown at the Pratt celebration.

Mrs. Peggy Hargrove, William Johnson, and Mr. and Mrs. Thomas (Anna) Curry are also at the celebration on Jan. 4 at the Maryland Historical Society.

IT WAS RIGHT — Last week over the caption "Momma's Back" was a photo of Evelyn Ashford. Over the weekend, the new mother and baby Raina (Washington) took the victory lap, both wearing big smiles, after Evelyn won the women's 55 meters at the U.S. Olympic Invitational track meet at the Meadowlands. It was Evelyn's first competition after an 18-month maternity layoff.

AFRO SPORTS

Weekend Basketball

COLLEGE WEEKEND

Friday

Virginia State at Virginia Union
Va. State at Va. Union (women)
Hampton at Va. State (women)

Saturday

Morgan at Coppin State (women)
Morgan at Coppin State
Delaware State at Howard
Delaware St. at Howard (women)
Bowie State at Lincoln
Bowie St. at Lincoln (women)
Va. State at Elizabeth City
Va. State at Eliz. City (women)
Virginia Union at Norfolk State
Va. Union at Norfolk St. (women)
Winston-Salem at Johnson C. Smith
W. Salem at J.C. Smith (women)
N. Carolina Central at Livingstone
N.C. Central at Livingstone (women)
Hampton at St. Paul's
Hampton at St. Paul's (women)
Fayetteville at Shaw
Fayetteville at Shaw (women)
Ala. A&M at Albany State
Ala. A&M at Albany St. (women)
Jackson State at Alcorn State
Texas Southern at Miss. Valley
Southern at Ala. State
Prairie View at Grambling
Dillard at Southern (men & women)

Monday

Coppin at Delaware St. (women)
Coppin State at Delaware State
Bowie State at Norfolk State
U of DC at Lincoln (women)
Virginia State at Hampton
Paine College at Albany State
Paine at Albany St. (women)
Southern at Jackson St.
Prairie View at Miss. Valley
Alcorn at Alabama State
Texas Southern at Grambling
Tougaloo at Dillard (men & women)

MIDWEEK RESULTS

Howard 68, Bethune 67 (women)
Howard 81, Bethune-Cookman 74
Elizabeth City 89, U of DC 76 (women)
U of DC 79, Elizabeth City 77 (OT)
A and T 56, Delaware State 42
S.C. State 72, Md., Eastern Shore 56
Johnson C. Smith 71, Shaw 61
Livingstone 95, Fayetteville 94
Norfolk State 59, Hampton 50
Trenton State 77, Lincoln 68
Tenn. State 103, Miles 63
Columbus 119, Edw. Waters 77
Talladega 61, Montevallo 59
Ferrum 94, Knoxville 72
Okla. Baptist 72, Langston 69
Southern 88, Grambling 60
Alcorn 73, Miss. Valley 70
Texas College 89, Bishop 63

MEAC STANDINGS

Howard Univ.	8	0	1.000
N. Carolina A&T	7	2	.778
Morgan State	5	3	.625
Coppin State	5	4	.556
Delaware St.	4	5	.444
S. Carolina St.	2	7	.200
Bethune		10	.00
Md., E. Shore			.22

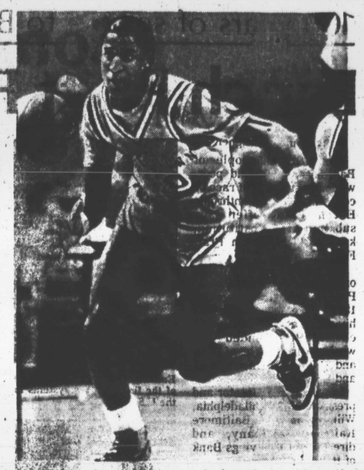
CIAA STANDINGS

Northern Division

Norfolk State	13	1	.929
Va. Union	12	3	.800
Hampton	11	4	.733
Elizabeth City	8	7	.533
Va. State			.429
St. Paul's			.133
Bowie State			.067

Southern Division

Winston-Salem	10	5	.667
Johnson C. Smith	9	6	.600
N.C. Central	9	6	.600
St. Augustine's	9	7	.563
Livingstone	8	9	.471
Shaw	4	11	.267
Fayetteville	2	14	.125



HOMECOMING TUESDAY — Morgan State basketers, at the peak of an improving campaign, are setting the stage for a homecoming of sorts. The Bears will meet Georgetown with David Wingate (photo) and George Williams at the Civic Center Tuesday night. Wingate and Williams, products of the spectacular Dunbar High School program, are key players in the Hoyas' 19-4 season record.

HACKERS' CORNER by Don Haskins

How many times does your ball land in the fairway in a round of golf? Not many?

Did you say by chance that you seem to find your way in the trees more than anywhere else? And, what's more disheartening, if there is one tree that blocks your shot to the green you will find yourself behind that tree?

If your answer is yes, then, join the club, friends, for we've all been there, and, in competition, too. What is the problem? Hang on, help is on the way.

* * *

The wooden clubs that you have in your golf bag are designed for distance and therein lies the problem. Aside from faulty fundamentals, the problem is that we have difficulty playing within ourselves.

We are constantly playing a mental game of seeing how far we can hit the ball instead of plaing percentages, which is smart. When the ego controls the thought process, bogeys and worse will follow.

My experience playing golf suggests you will not find many players making pars and birdies from places where the deer, rabbits and snakes reside.

The common-sense approach to hitting a driver is to hold back on the throttle a bit just to get the ball in position to strike at the flag. You simply cannot maintain control of the ball when swinming all out, to say nothing of not being able to play your best golf when you want most to do so.

* * *

There are times, depending on the length and lay-out of a hole, when it pays to leave the driver in the bag and play a three or four wood for position short of trouble, so that the worse thing you can do is to miss the ball toward the green on the next shot as opposed to playing hide and seek from the jungle.

Every golfer has a particular shape to his or her shot- perhaps a fade or draw- but it is predictable. I cannot urge too strongly that you play your own game. Do not fall into the trap of trying to do as others do, particularly in the area of hitting the long ball. Golf is not won on how far you drive but in how you arrive.

What club you use to effect a shot as compated to what someone else uses in meaningless since no two people play alike and, what makes matters worse, the ego is thinking again.

Golf is scored according to how many, not how. Remember that always.

* * *

The driver and fairway woods are swung the same way. The only difference in the execution of the shots is that the driver is hit off a tee with one half the ball resting above its face and swung with a slightly upward sweeping motion, with the ball played just opposite the left heel to the left instep depending on the flight characteristics desired.

The fairway woods are played one to three inches behind the line to the left heel so that the ball will be met sooner in the downswing causing the ball to rise faster, carry further and land softer. If you take a little grass (divot) with the fairway woods, do not fret, it is perfectly natural and correct to do so.

Of course, for lefthanders it is just the opposite.

Week in boxing

Feb. 13 at Taegu, Japan - c-Jiro Watanabe vs. Yun Suk Hwan, 12, WBC junior bantamweight title.

Feb. 15 at Dublin, Ireland - c-Barry McGuigan vs. Danilo Cabrera, 15, WBA featherweight title.

Feb. 16 at Reno, Nev. - c-Livingstone Bramble vs. Tyrone Crawley, 15, WBA lightweight title.

Feb. 16 at Troy, N.Y. - Mike Tyson vs. Jesse Ferguson, 10, heavyweights; Carl "Truth" Williams vs. Mike Weaver, 10, heavyweights; Frank Tate vs. Jerry Williams, 10, middlewights.

NFL stars in town for dinner

A bevy of National Football League stars are gathering in Baltimore this weekend for the annual Ed Block Courage Awards dinner Tuesday at Martin's West.

Coach Don Shula of the Miami Dolphins will be the main speaker and Ethel Ennis will provide the entertainment.

Among the NFL standouts to be honored are the colorful Billy "White Shoes" Johnson, Curt Warner, "Stump" Mitchell and Ron Jaworski.

Longtime Sunpapers columnist Bob Maisel will be the media award recipient.

McCovey induction scheduled Aug. 3

Induction ceremonies at The Baseball Hall of Fame will be held Aug. 3, Hall of Fame director Howard C. Talbot, Jr., announced Friday.

The world champion Kansas City Royals and Texas Rangers will play in the annual Hall of Fame game at Doubleday Field the following afternoon.

Willie McCovey, voted into the Hall of Fame by the Baseball Writers' Association of America, will be inducted on Aug. 3 along with whatever other candidate or candidates are named by the Hall of Fame's Veterans Committee, which meets in Tampa March 10.

CIAA fives ranked

Norfolk State and Virginia Union, running neck-and-neck for the CIAA Northern title, are both ranked among the NCAA Division II basketball teams this week.

But, although one game separates them in their conference race, the NCAA pollsters rate Norfolk fifth and Union 20th on their list.

Meeting opens Monday

Pimlico plans elaborate spring

Ready and waiting with a revitalized racing strip, Pimlico officials have announced plans for what promises to be 90 days of outstanding thoroughbred activities.

The spring-summer meeting which climaxes with the running of the historic Preakness, commences Monday. Post time is 1 p.m.

Twenty-three stakes events are listed with a total value of $1,695,000 in purses. Included are six races worth $100,000 or more and eight with purses upward of $50,000.

The Preakness, fixed at $350,000-added, last year was worth $345,700 and a winner's share of $423,200 to Tank's Prospect.

* * *

Its counterpart, the Black-eyed Susan Stakes for fillies, is scheduled May 16, the day before the Preakness, and carries an added value of $100,000 with a Breeders' Cup bonus of $50,000 to the winner.

* * *

Monday opens on an auspicious note, the first of the $100,000 events being listed as the feature race. It is the General George Stakes, the distance a mile and one-sixteenth for 3-year-olds.

Pimlico also is the home of the John B. Campbell Handicap, Dixie Handicap, the eighth oldest stakes in the nation.

One of the most modern plants in the country, Pimlico is completely glass-enclosed and heated and cooled for all-weather racing. The plant has undergone $25 million program of capital improvements since Baltimoreans Ben and Herman Cohen assumed control in 1952.

It also has one of the most talked about innovations in Maryland racing, the "Info Centre." Constructed at a cost of over $25,000, the "Info Centre" serves to better inform the racing fan about the Sport of Kings through the use of graphic displays and video.

The track is the site of the National Jockeys Hall of Fame. Although all the portraits of Hall of Fame members were destroyed by fire in the century-old Members' Clubhouse in 1966, the original artist has completed duplicates of the treasured paintings. Twenty-five jockeys have been enshrined.

Scholastic sport schedule

FRIDAY

Varsity Basketball
Carver at Douglass

Varsity Wrestling
Citywide trials (all MSA schools) at Southwestern High

Girls Basketball
N. Western JV at Eastern JV
Mervo at Edmondson
Northwestern at Eastern
Lake Clifton at Forest Park
Wm Penn at Western
Northwestern at Eastern

SATURDAY

Basketball
Edmondson at Dunbar
Edmondson JV at Dunbar JV

Varsity Wrestling
Citywide finals

Girls Basketball
University City at Western

MIDWEEK SCORES

Boys' Games
Mervo 63, City College 50
N. Western 69, Douglass 61
Lake Clifton 52, Poly 42

Girls' Games
Edmondson 46, S. Western 37
N. Western 59, Forest Park 55

Pro cage weekend

NBA Bullets
Saturday
Washington at Seattle
Monday
Washington at L.A. Clippers

CBA Lightning
Thursday
Baltimore at Albany
Friday
Toronto at Baltimore
Saturday
Baltimore at Bay State
Sunday
Baltimore at Albany

Ask Barry

Q. I am a senior in high school — I play football — and I am looking for an athletic scholarship to a large school. But I am worried about this new rule called Proposition 48. My grades and test scores aren't going to be high enough. Is there any loophole, any way I can get around the rule? — Name withheld by request, East St. Louis, Mo.

There is one way. Find out what large schools are willing to sign you to a grant-in-aid if you can get your academic shortcomings straightened out. What you will have to do is apply to the school on your own and get accepted. While you may not meet the academic standards for athletes, and you may be able to get in as a regular student.

In any case, the admissions department will be able to make an exeption for you, particularly if you are a minority. You need to make sure you register for classes this summer. Take at least one class and complete it before August. Then, when Proposition 48 takes affect in August, you will be considered a college student, not an incoming freshman.

High school tourney dates set

The annual Baltimore City Public Schools basketball tournament gets under way early next week at selected school sites.

Girls competition is scheduled to commence on Tuesday. Boys preliminaries open on Wednesday.

Semi-final play will take place - also at participating school gyms - on Friday, with the championship finals slated Sunday (23rd) at Morgan State University.

Committed to vie for tourney honors are Douglass, Dunbar, Edmondson, Forest Park, Lake Clifton, Poly, Northwestern, Southern, Southwestern and Walbrook.

Pre-tournament estimates place Dunbar and Walbrook as favorites among the boys teams. Walbrook and Western appear to hold the edge in the girls' bracket.

NEW YANKEE—At Holland, a key figure in the Phillies' 1983 NL pennant, has signed with the New York Yankees for 1986. The left-handed reliever who played college ball at North Carolina A&T, is a former Giant, Indian and Angel.

$ MONEY $

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