

looked no detail, no matter how small — and feared no adversary, no matter how powerful.

It is told that once while driving through Druid Hill Park, he saw some teenage boys purposefully defacing and destroying a tree. Sam Hammerman leaped from his car and treated the would-be vandals to a tongue lashing lecture on the vital importance of conservation and the joys of natural beauty's preservation.

This intensity and vigor of conviction were some years later turned upon the Mayor of the City of Baltimore, when he proposed to appropriate several acres of the same park for the construction of Baltimore's Civic Center. S. L. Hammerman waged a relentless battle to preserve this parkland in its totality, and he won. His courageous stand later came to have overwhelming significance for the city — for not only was the purity of the park preserved, but the downtown location of the civic center created the impetus for all future and further downtown revitalization. So important was this negative, defensive battle that upon his death a Baltimore *Sun* editorial, while noting his many civic and philanthropic contributions to the community, praised S. L. Hammerman's victory to relocate the Civic Center as his greatest achievement.

But Sam Hammerman's spirit was greater than one of tenacity in defense of ideals, it was one demanding constant constructive action. He led the fight to acquire and preserve Assateague Island as a public park. He chaired the Committee which developed Maryland's first master plan for a comprehensive State Park network.

Under his leadership, the Baltimore City Park Board expanded its zoo so that today its recreational and educational facilities are ranked among our nation's finest.

Nor was S. L. Hammerman's energy exclusively focused upon the improvement and expansion of parks for his City and State. His endeavors for Loyola College and for the Advertising Club of Baltimore City were equally vigorous and admirable. His recognition that a commitment to public service inevitably demanded political action led him to take an active role in Maryland's Democratic Party where he served as a delegate to three successive national conventions.

This was a very special man, a gentleman; a warm, vibrant and gregarious personality; a man who made it big but never forgot he started small; a man who was equally content and comfortable in the company of university presidents and bricklayers; a man who had