Philadelphia Tops In Housing

Philadelphia, New York, Detroit, Washington, Los Angeles and Chicago are how the cities stack up in numbers of colored home owners.

More colored people own their homes (39,702) in Philadelphia than any other city in the United States, according to the 1950 census.

Eighty-two (82,000) thousand colored families rented homes in Philadelphia.

New York stands second in the ownership of colored homes, with 29,183.

Colored New Yorkers rented 216,000 homes, which makes New York have 245,000 colored homes.

Five Northern cities top the list in the ownership of colored homes. They are:

Philadelphia, New York, Detroit, Washington, Los Angeles and Chicago.

Birmingham, with 18,000 owned colored homes, tops all cities in the Southern states.

* * *

IT IS important to note that these figures are for the 1950 Census only and have materially changed in the seven years since this census was taken.

In the next census, it is believed that Baltimore will increase its number of colored homes owned and so will many another USA city, due to the fact that the Supreme Court outlawed restrictive real estate covenants in 1948.

The result was that colored people, no longer restricted to home ownership in a colored section, moved out into other areas in large numbers, and in many cases purchased more homes than they rented.

THE GENERAL prosperity and employment in the past 10 years has also resulted in large purchases of homes.

To illustrate how rapidly colored people are acquiring homes, only 1,471 colored people owned homes in Washington in 1940.

The number increased by 20,000 to 31,248 in 1950.

It is extremely likely that colored people in Washington will have bought an additional 20,000 homes in the last 10 years—so that the number of colored home owners in Washington in the next two years will be in excess of 50,000.

* * *

COST PLAYS an important role in the home ownership. But the home that cost $3,800 in Richmond is worth $2,300 in Norfolk; $5,100 in Atlanta, $12,100 in Washington.

If colored people could sell their homes in Washington at the $340,000,000 evaluation in 1950, they could buy all the homes, colored and white, in Providence, Rhode Island and have $72,000,000 left.

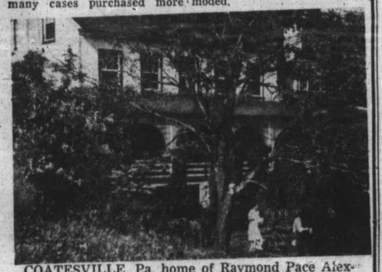
If they were to use the same money in Atlanta, Ga., they could buy up all the colored homes there and have $19,000,000 left.

This 1950 table therefore, showing colored homes owned and colored homes rented in selected cities, is definitely outmoded.

TABLE

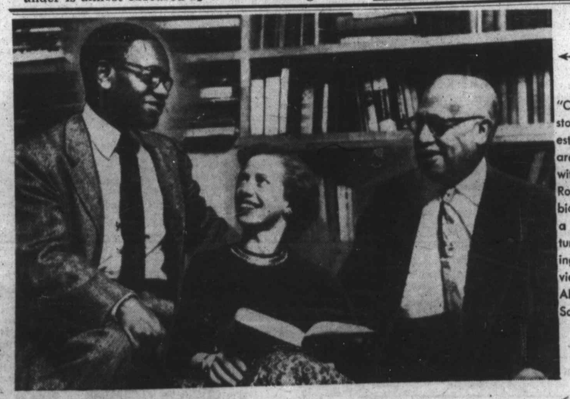
CITY	Colored Homes Owned	Colored Homes Rented
Philadephia, Pa.	39,702	82,598
N.Y.-Northeastern, N.J.	29,183	216,913
Detroit, Mich.	26,609	48;271
Washington, D. C.	24,440	48,129
Los Angeles, Cal.	24,310	33,671
Chicago, Ill.	24,079	124,539
Birmingham, Ala.	18,276	34,301
St. Louis, Mo.	15,917	40,637
Houston, Texas	15,692	26,012
Baltimore, Md.	15,684	43,971
Memphis, Tenn.	15,081	31,393
New Orleans, La.	12,912	41,398
Atlanta, Ga.	11,818	28,861
Kansas City, Mo.	11,164	15,385
Norfolk-Portsm'th, Va.	9,949	20,215
Pittsburgh, Pa.	9,467	23,437
San Francisco-Oakland, Cal.	9,409	28,467
Cleveland, Ohio	9,157	26,103
Mobile, Ala.	8,968	10,936
Richmond, Va.	8,666	12,343
Jacksonville, Fla.	8,010	11,890
Little Rock-N. Little Rock, Ark.	6,386	6,234
Charleston, S.C.	6,208	11,120
Nashville, Tenn.	5,916	11,221
Tampa-St. Petersburg, Fla.	5,312	10,120
Cincinnati, Ohio	5,278	22,727
Fort Worth, Texas	5,248	6,116
San Antonio, Texas	4,682	3,904
Savannah, Ga.	4,250	11,789
Miami, Fla.	3,627	11,217
Columbia, S.C.	3,144	7,619
Winston-Salem, N.C.	2,800	8,180
Greensboro-High Point, N.C.	2,756	5,718
Charlotte, N.C.	2,719	9,101
Boston, Mass.	2,664	10,822
Wilmington, Del.	2,600	5,163
Omaha, Nebr.	2,554	1,920
Roanoke, Va.	2,496	1,763
Durham, N.C.	2,307	5,609
Charleston, W. Va.	2,204	4,148
Atlantic City, N.J.	2,144	5,505
Buffalo, N.Y.	2,121	7,626
Flint, Mich.	2,050	1,532
Trenton, N.J.	1,856	1,959
Greenville, S.C.	1,618	6,088
Springfield, Ohio	1,514	1,059
Harrisburg, Pa.	1,503	2,225
South Bend, Ind.	1,211	826
Decatur, Ill.	547	321
York, Pa.	303	451

PHILADELPHIA HOME of Judge William H. Hastie is this well shrubbed house on N. 8th Street, Oak Lane.



COATESVILLE, Pa. home of Raymond Pace Alexander is almost obscured by trees and lush growth.

VICTORIAN FARMHOUSE of Marian Anderson in Connecticut. She sits on the lawn with Fenon, a Kerry Blue terrier.



Dorothy Sterling, author of "Captain of the Planter," the story of Robert Smalls, and Ernest Crichlow (left), illustrator, are pictured at left consulting with Robert Smalls' son, William Robert Smalls. Mrs. Sterling's biography of the slave who took a Confederate steamboat and turned it over to the Union during the Civil War will be reviewed in an early issue of the AFRO Magazine Section by Saunders Redding.

MODERN IS the California home recently purchased by Willie Mays.

AFRO Magazine Section

THE AFRO-AMERICAN, JANUARY 25, 1958

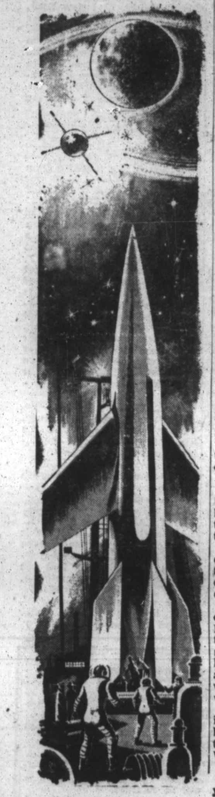
The Menace Of Sputnik

The only reason we don't have a sputnik circling the globe today is money. Scientists feel sputniks aren't as important as missiles. Teachers are taught too much how to teach, and not enough what to teach.

By Ralph Mason

Everyone today is up in arms about the Russian sputnik satellites, and incensed over this country's seeming lassitude in getting our own satellite into orbit.

The average man in the street wants an American sputnik circling the globe because he feels we have lost "face" in the eyes of the rest of the world because of the failure of our widely over-publicized Vanguard.



Whether a satellite is the most important scientific challenge we should take up first is of no significance, John Doe feels. That good old American competitive urge says get us a satellite!

* * *

BUT HOW do this country's scientific minds feel about it.

I talked to a brilliant young aeronautical engineer with the unlikely name of Ambrose Nutt.

Nutt is branch chief of special projects branch—Air Craft Laboratory, at Wright - Patterson Field in Dayton, Ohio.

Getting right to the point, I asked Mr. Nutt what was holding up the American satellite. His answer was one word: "money!"

He elaborated a bit. "If the United States wanted to channel all of its defense appropriation into a satellite program, we could put a satellite up tomorrow.

"But many scientists feel that getting a sputnik up is not our prime consideration. They feel that our missile program should be in the forefront, for after all, the sputniks are still more or less experimental research.

"Consider this. The Russians have put two sputniks into orbit. These events were well publicized and everyone knows that they were traveling at a speed of 18,000 miles an hour.

"Now, suppose they launched a ICBM (intercontinental ballistics missile) with a H-bomb war head toward the United States at that speed.

"We'd better have something to stop it or compete with it or poof! that's all she wrote."

* * *

SHUDDERINGLY CONCEDED that this line of thinking had never occurred to me. But the wheels were beginning to turn in my head.

Historians can prove that every attempt at domination of the world has been directly in conjunction with development of new weapons.

History has repeated itself over and over in this respect. From the Egyptians who tried to conquer the world with a new weapons, chariots; to Hitler who made his attempt with a new technique, fast armored vehicles, blitzkrieg, and Luftwaffe.

Now another new technique is emerging—missiles. Will it be the impetus for another attempt at world domination? Who can say?

* * *

AMBROSE NUTT is a 37-year-old Detroiter, though he was born in Milwaukee, Wis. His parents died before he was twelve, and he was raised by his aunt and uncle, Mr. and Mrs. Rollie McMahan in Detroit.

He graduated from Northwestern High School in 1935, at the age of 15, and was hailed as a mathematical genius.

In those dread depression days, Ambrose showed some of the vision necessary to be a good scientist, for he enrolled at the University of Michigan as an engineering student.

Four years later, he was awarded his B.S. in mechanical engineering, and a year later, a B.S. in aeronautical engineering. This, mind you, at a time when professional men were standing in the breadlines alongside the unemployed factory workers.

* * *

UPON GRADUATION, there were no jobs open in the field of aviation for an engineer with a tan face, no matter how brilliant he was.

Nutt took a job with the Detroit Civil Service Commission, making up examinations until one of the many letters of application he had sent out paid off.

In 1941, he went to work at Wright Field in Dayton as a junior engineer.

With three years out to answer the "greetings" of Uncle Sam, he has been at Wright Field ever since.

He was made senior engineer in 1946, became a project engineer in 1948, elevated to Section Chief in 1952, and in 1955 attained his present position of Branch Chief, in charge of over 60 engineers and officers.

* * *

HE WAS instrumental in the development of the ejection seat, now standard equipment in all jet aircraft. He is one of the designers of a crew escape system.

The Research Test Track in Hurricane, Utah, is directly under the command of the branch he heads.

* * *

AN AVID football fan, Ambrose attended a Michigan homecoming game in 1953. At a post-game party, he met an Ann Arbor miss, Elaine Henderson.

Seven months later, they were married.

Mrs. Nutt is a graduate of Michigan State Normal and is now a special education teacher at Whittier Elementary School in Dayton. They have no children.

The Nutts are avid music and Hi Fi fans. Ambrose says his favorite artists are the Modern Jazz Quartet and Stan Getz. In the classical vein, anything by Bach meets with his approval.

If you are a Hi-Fi enthusiast, his rig consists of Bogen preamp and 10-watt amplifier (had a small apartment when I got it, Nutt explains), Garrard RC 80 changer, and University 12-inch coaxial speaker in base reflex enclosure.

* * *

AMBROSE IS a 32nd degree Mason, member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Institute of the Aeronautical Sciences, and the Chevaliers.

He is an excellent bridge player, and has amassed a number of master points at duplicate play.

* * *

NOW THAT I had learned something about Nutt, the man, I was interested to find out something about Nutt the scientist.

I asked him point blank, "What is the threat of the Russian sputnik?"

He put his answer this way: "If two trains are traveling parallel to each other at the same speed, they will remain in their same relative positions to each other.

"Suppose a sputnik was sent up traveling at the same speed as the earth revolves. Then the sputnik would remain stationary over a given spot.

"Now, let's assume this sputnik was a space station, orbiting over the United States at the same speed the earth revolves. Don't you see, that sputnik would be over us all the time.

"If it were manned, the Russians would have a listening post over us 24 hours a day.

* * *

"WHY AREN'T you getting enough scientists and engineering to fill our needs?" I asked Nutt next.

This launched him into his

(Continued on Page 8)

BACK TO THE OLD DRAWING BOARD—Aeronautical engineer Ambrose Nutt strikes a familiar pose, with T-square and triangle.

Washed Out

While an aviation cadet at Tuskegee during World War II, Ambrose Nutt was training to be an Air Corps pilot.

The instructor, one day, was busily describing the seat mechanism on one of the old T-6 training planes when he noticed that Cadet Nutt was staring off into space apparently paying no attention whatever.

The instructor brought him up sharply and demanded to know what was the matter.

"Oh," says Nutt, "I know all about that mechanism, you see I designed it while I was an engineer at Wright Field before I went into the service."

This was a lame excuse in the eyes of the unbelieving instructor who reported Nutt for insubordination. He was washed out as a pilot, and finished his stint in the army as a corporal.