There's something special about Atlanta, Georgia

Now that all eyes are on the South, this town is the center of the world

Not that Atlanta hasn't always been special in the South, but since Jimmy Carter went to the White House, this antebellum town as risen to the top like cream. And now, it's setting the pace in race relations, fashions and fine feathers and down-home foods.

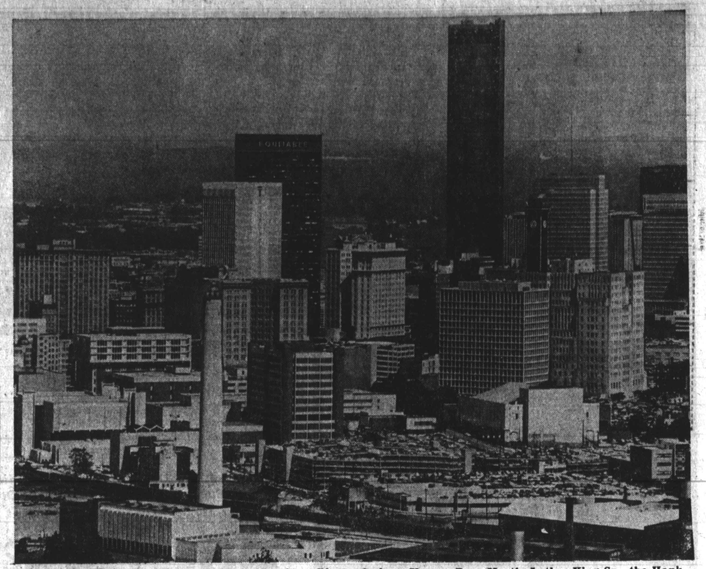
According to some, Atlanta is today "the center of the known world" in lifestyle and prestige. The AFRO picked Atlanta for its first set of photo-features for those reasons and more. The 18th largest US city, the black population is about 53 per cent and it boasts many multi-millionaires and just plain millionaires, fabulous residences, businesses and countless famous folks.

Begun in 1837 as the terminus of a railroad line, the town was first called Terminus, then as Marthasville and was finally incorporated as Atlanta in 1847. The city had to be almost entirely rebuilt in 1864 after destruction by General Sherman.

Today, leaving the Civil War and slavery to the dead past, Atlanta rises from its own ashes with a black mayor. Flourishing and flowering proudly over its first US cabinet member, numerous White House appointees and the shrine of history's greatest, Dr. Martin Luther King, the town is indeed in the eyes of the universe.

Not only are central air conditioning and dishwashers "par for the course" but exquisite mansions set back on terraced lawns mile after mile. Who hasn't heard of Hank Aaron's Hall of Fame, the Atlanta Braves and the Hawks, the 18-member city council, every school with a cafeteria, free text books, 70 private schools, the 20 degree-granting colleges, the cool tropical Southern nights and the 2,000 churches?

You've got to believe it after you see what the AFRO's bringing you in subsequent editions.



TALLEST HOTEL ON EARTH, the 70 story Peachtree Plaza Hotel which dominates this skyline view of Atlanta, witnesses many a sumptuous banquet with such famed guests as President and Mrs. Jimmy Carter, UN Ambassador and Mrs. Andrew Young, Rev. Martin Luther King Sr., the Hank Aarons and Mayor Maynard Jackson, the first of his race since Reconstruction.

(All photos by Bill Ransom)

ELIZABETH M. OLIVER

Only the beginning

Atlanta's coming pictures and stories are only the beginning of what the AFRO has in store for the future. Afterwards, we go to the United Nations for a prevue of our expansion into International Coverage. And you're going to like it. This exclusive peep inside and around the globe will reveal what's going on in our world, where you can go to see for yourself, what for and why. It's a new day and you'll be there with AFRO Editor Elizabeth M. Oliver reporting.

Palatial homes are symbols of gracious living

HIGH GEORGIA PINES form an elegant backdrop for sprawling homes along Southwest Oakcrest Drive. Our coming editions will take you in photos inside and out such palaces where swimming pools and tennis courts are standard facilities.

FAMOUS FOR THE BEAUTY of its residental areas, this is but one example of the mansions which line the streets of Southwest Atlanta's Kingsdale Drive. Spacious rear gardens often see 200 guests dining at a barbecue.

Southern ladies are beautiful, busy, comfortable

INVOLVED in her husband's career is beauteous Mrs. John Lewis, wife of the man who recently ran for the congressional post vacated when Andrew Young became a member of President Carter's cabinet. Other lovely ladies you'll read about soon hold down their own $ million firms and manage their own property investments.

They've got it made

You're due for a rare treat and you'll be delighted to know, Southern ladies are not all drowsy, drawling and lack luster, "with skin like porcelain, gloves and parasols."

In the Atlanta Series, the AFRO will show first hand they've got it made at home and outside the house. Most of them play a significant role in business, church, social and civic life although snug and comfortable on their three-lined streets.

You'll get to know their philosophy, a little gossip, what their husbands do and how they prepare those Southern dishes that date back 200 years.

Highlighting the men folks too, futher AFRO features will give you for example one minister's secret for eternal youth and another's plans for an even greater black Atlanta.

All this and more in Special Atlanta, coming soon in your AFRO.

A few Atlanta facts

Our banks are open from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday-Friday.

We have major bus lines

We are members of most boards, commissions and associations

The $2½ billion rapid transit system will be ready in 1980

We are not excluded from any church nor club nor organization

Year-around recreation facilities are open to all

All public schools have facilities for exceptional children

Located at the foot of the Blue Ridge mountains, the city is in the subtropical climate belt

The cost of living ranks among the lowest of the nation's metropolitan areas

Some 1,112,111 cars are registered to residents

Some 12,568,689 air passengers enplaned last year

Some $102,200,000 came in through convention expenditures last year

Bank clearings reached $80 billion last year

Some liquor, beer and wine outlets and restaurants are open until 3:55 a.m.

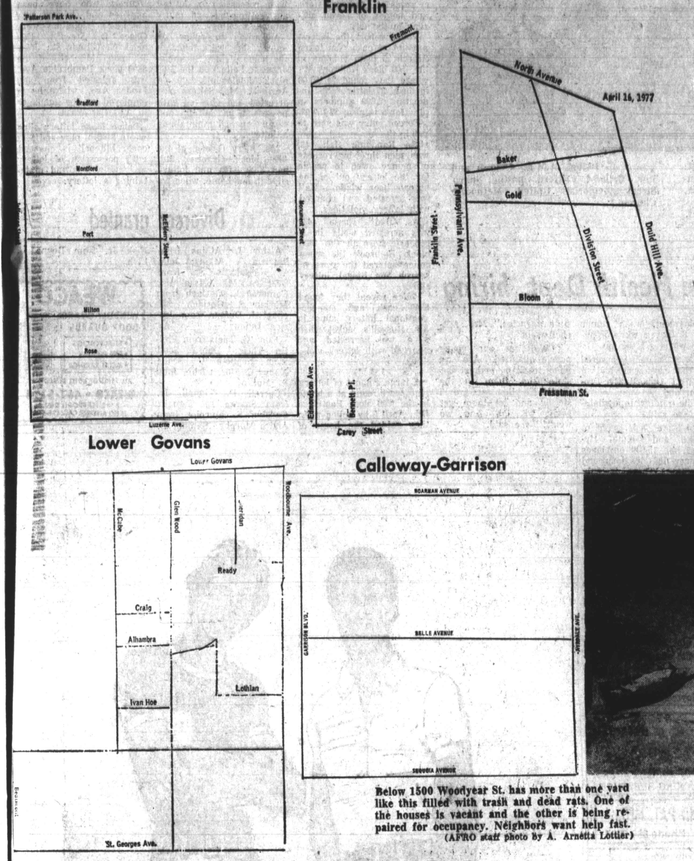
Sports arenas are permited to sell liquor, beer and wine from 12:30 p.m. to Midnight on Sundays

The Morehouse, Spelman, Clark Colleges and Atlanta University complex is one of the most famous of all schools of higher learning in the world

Martin Luther King's grave at Ebenezer Baptist Church, 413 Auburn Ave. N.E., has had more visitors than ay other point of interest in the city.

FLOWERS are not the only hobby of Mrs. Jesse Hill, wife of the president of Atlanta Life and the No. 1 President Carter advisor. But future stories will tell you more. Also in photos you'll see ladies who collect four leaf clovers and priceless antiques and keep home fires burning while the kids go off to college.

Bulk trash pick-ups April 16



Below 1500 Woodyear St. has more than one yard like this filled with trash and dead rats. One of the houses is vacant and the other is being repaired for occupancy. Neighbors want help fast. (AFRO staff photo by A. Arnetta Lottier)

Blocks on the Move

Visit Self-Help Housing Centers

By Arnetta Lottier

Self-Help Housing Centers invite residents to visit them to see the services they offer to neighborhoods. This program is designed to provide resident home-owners and tenants with assistance, information and materials to help themselves.

They help residents clean alleys, vacant lots, yards, etc. They do this by education and persuasion. They also employ a Sanitation Corps that actually helps groups and residents to clean up.

They help residents maintain clean, safe, healthy and inexpensive housing. There are enviormental Counseiors who can let you know what your rights and responsibilities are and assist you with other housing problems.

Problems between landlords and tenants are ironed out with the help of these centers. If you feel your rent is too high, or there are repairs your landlord should make or you feel you are unfairly being evicted, Self Help will help you.

Self-Help also assists inner city residents in locating housing, organiring neighborhood groups and special projects and help residents contact the right agency concerning their problems.

Why not visit the Self-Help Center closest to you if you are having a problem in your area. There are four locations: Central office, 329 East North Ave.; East Office, 422 North Bond St.; Rosemont office, 3114 West North Ave. and West office, 2114 Edmondson Ave. or call 685-4141

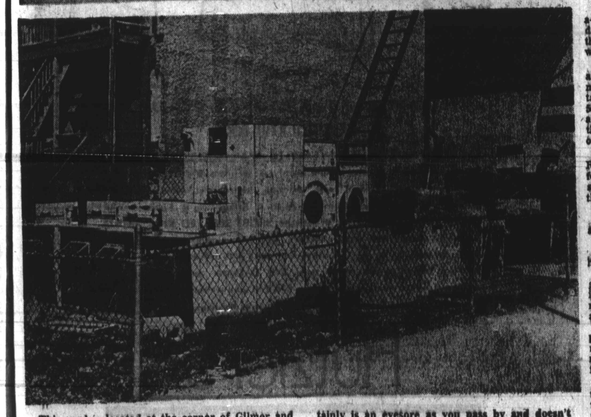
Members of the Lakeview Neighborhood Association have been working hard to get their area cleaned up. Here are some of the youngsters who helped in the mass clean-up on two weekends. They are: from left: front: Vanessa Randolph, Michelle Collins, Sonya Smith, Demetris Gittings, Shaunda Morrison, Lisa Bailey, Denise Bailey, 2nd row: Cynthia Kennedy, Barbara Robinson, Lora Robinson, Annette McLauren, 3rd row: Paula Turner, Mary Warren, Rosetta Ward, Yvonne Bailey, Kathy Dabney, Lance Thompson, Ronald Thompson, Berch Kennedy, Junius Dabney. Last row: Henry Hennegan, Anthony Sinclair and Mrs. Minnie Williams. AFRO Clean Block Advisor. Not shown is Mrs. Mertha Morrison, Brookfield Association.

Clean Blockers needs Brooms

Calls are coming into the AFRO Clean Block office from poor neighborhoods who cannot afford rakes, brooms and shovels.

Businessmen, corporations, and individuals who would like to donate such items to the AFRO or send a contribution to purchase brooms, rakesand shovels in bulk for a lending pool, Call AFRO Clean Block office, 728-8200.

It seems such a shame when youngsters want to clean off vacant lots or alleys but can't afford the tools. Won't you help?



This yard is located at the corner of Gilmor and Baker Sts. behind the Gilmor projects. It certainly is an eyesore as you pass by and doesn't do anything to improve the neighborhood.

Help for Elm trees

Elm trees in Baltimore have been suffering from a deadly disease known as Dutch elm tree disease. Mayor William Donald Schaefer launched a campaign this week to inoculate 6,000 elm trees against this disease.

There is a new fungicide named Lignasan which will combat the fungus that kills the elm tree if it is applied at the right time, and in the right manner before the trees are infected. It takes several hours to treat a tree which makes it very costly to the city.

Mayor Schaefer is asking for volunteers in neighborheads where there are elm trees to administer the chemical to the trees. Licensed horticulturists will train the volunteers in how to handle the equipment and chemicals.

The city will continue to spray, prune and remove dead elm trees. They will also treat those trees in mediam strips, but trees on sidewalks will have to be treated by volunteers.

Time is most important in this campaign. Inoculation must take place between the end of May and the middle of June The city has scheduled its first training course for volunteers on April 23. Leaflets explaining how to purchase the Lignasan chemical can be obtained by calling 435-7246 or write to Box 16233, Baltimore, Md. 21210.

Do you know whether you have an elm tree in your block? Here is a description of an elm tree. Some have the shape of a vase, gradually spreading out at the bottom. Others spread out at the top forming an umbrella. They are 75 to 100 feet tall, some live for 200 years. They have a small greenish flower that blooms and fall before the leaves come. The leaves are oval, the wood of the bark is tough and hard. The bark is also light brown in color. There are 18 species of elm trees.

Ride-A-Bike Safety hints

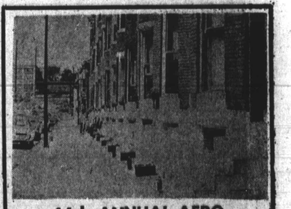
Sunday, April 20 is Ride-a-Bike for the Retarded day. They need all the help they can get to help this worthy cause.

You can send for your application at the Baltimore Association for Retarded Citizens or call 323-8800. You can also obtain application blanks from the AFRO Public Relations office.

An accident during the Ride could spoil things for everyone so here are some hints to help prevent them.

1. Ride Right!
2. Obey all traffic signals and signs, just like a car.
3. Wear bright clothing.
4. If you have a safety hat wear it!
5. Watch out for potholes, glass and bike trap gratings (those with bars running in the same direction as the road).
6. When riding past parked cars, look ahead and make sure a driver will not suddenly open his door in front of you.
7. Don't suddenly swerve to avoid road hazards as there may be a moving car right behind you. If necessary, stop your bike to avoid swerving in front of traffic.
8. Let drivers know your intentions. They will look out for you and it helps them if you signal what you are going to do.
9. When riding in traffic, keep your bike in a low gear, this helps you to move easily and quickly away from a standing position. It will also help to prevent swerving.
10. Safety check your bike. Listen for our announcements concerning bike clinics to be held a week or so before the ride. There will also be a few Bike Shops giving free inspections.
11. Wear good shoes with soles that will not slip off the pedal platform and cause you to lose control.
12. Ride in a single file, not two or more abreast.

There's more to bike safety but, to sum it up: Be careful, think and plan ahead as you ride. And, please, let us remind you again, this is not a race! It is our chance to enjoy ourselves safely while helping others who need our help.



44th ANNUAL AFRO CLEAN BLOCK CAMPAIGN APPLICATION BLANK

I WOULD LIKE TO BE CAPTAIN OF MY BLOCK AND PLEDGE TO HELP KEEP OUR BLOCK CLEAN AND BEAUTIFUL.

Name .....Age .....

Address .....Phone .....

Zip Code .....

TALENTS AND HOBBIES

.....

.....

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