Although the large number of the persons who patronize his dry cleaner are non-black, Rob Harper makes effort to make sure the larger portion of his work force is black.

As long as there are shirts and pants Rob Harper will make it his way

Robert J. Harper,
President
Harper's Cleaners
Columbia, Maryland
Age: 47

Total Sales: $112,000

Bob Harper does not like to admit that he dreams a lot. One of his favorite dreams is to one day be able to repay his children and wife for their sacrifice in helping him build one of the more modern dry cleaning plants in Maryland.

Not too long ago several of his children gave up their social lives and college education to work twelve and fourteen hours a day pressing clothes, operating his computer operated cleaning machine and waiting on customers. It was not easy for them and Rob Harper makes no bones about his appreciation and love for his family team.

His wife Delores still works at the cleaner along with eight other full and parttime employees. His five children are either in college or starting families of their own. For the first time in about thirty years Delores and Bob are on their own and are about to enjoy results of the years of sacrifice and hard work.

Bob Harper's father owned a dry cleaning plant in East Baltimore about thirty years ago and that is where Bob got his training. He began his own business and it lasted about fifteen years on the east side . . . until one day he made one of the more important decisions of his business life. He decided to move to Columbia.

It was 1967 when he read a newspaper ad on Columbia. That ad talked about James Rouse's dream of building a multi-racial planned city in the middle of Howard County. Rob Harper saw a good place to raise his family in an environment which represented the American dream. He also saw a place where he could rebuild his business. He did just that.

With an SBA loan of $110,000 he bought some of the most advanced dry cleaning equipment this country had to offer. He also received a promise from the developers of Columbia that his business would be the only one of its kind in the area. The closest dry cleaner to the Harper Cleaners is

Changing your credit file

(Continued from p. 14)

do something about it.

If you have a question about your file, call your bank to get a list of the credit reporting agencies they use. Call the credit agency and demand a copy of your credit file. Most will not give you a copy, but under the law they are supposed to let you see it.

Since early 1971, when the Fair Reporting Act went into effect, credit bureaus have been required to let you look at what they send out about you and to give you a chance to challenge it. If you challenge anything in the file, you should demand that the challenge is placed in your file and sent to any one who requests credit information.

Many of the credit bureaus resist giving people information. Be stubborn. The law is on your side.

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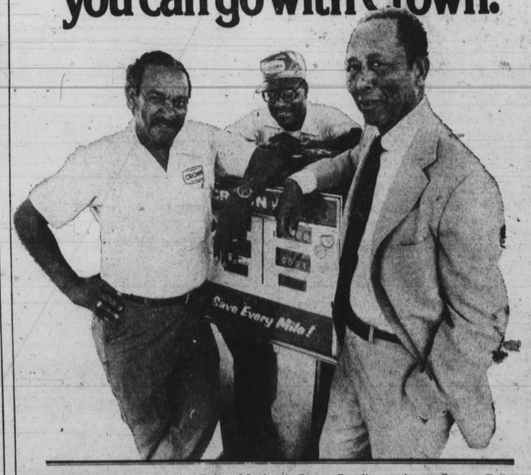

Next time you stop at Robert Matthew's Crown Gasoline station on Gwynns Falls Parkway, ask him how he became the operator. Or ask Lawrence Bowman when you fill up at his West Franklin Street Crown station.

And if you happen to spot Mel Callaman checking on a Crown station, ask him how he became one of only four men who supervise all of our stations here in Maryland..

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