# How we lived—

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that site was Dr. Lilly Carroll Jackson, class of 1910.

August, 1892 was not only an eventful month for the AFRO-AMERICAN Newspaper but also for one of the local high schools as well.

City College, the citadel on the hill at Alameda and 33rd, was once located at Pennsylvania Ave. and Dolphin St. in the same building that later housed Colored High School.

A governor of Maryland and two superintendents, of Baltimore Public Schools attended City College at that location.

This is one of the little publicized facts of Baltimore's history.

At the same time that AFRO founder John Murphy was starting a newspaper, City College was undergoing a great event in its history.

### Second oldest H.S.

City College is the second oldest high school in the United States having been founded in 1839.

It was a proud day in 1875 when it moved into its third location at Howard and Centre Streets.

The school occupied a choice position right next door to Johns Hopkins University.

If City College students ever ventured next door they might have encountered an earnest young man from Stauton, Va. working on his degree in history. That young man was to make his mark in the world as President Woodrow Wilson.

All did not go well for the new location for construction work in the area was soon to undermine the building.

The Baltimore and Ohio Railroad built a tunnel under Howard Street to Camden Station.

### 1892

On August 4, 1982 the foundation of the school gave way and a portion of the building caved in.

This was the very same month that John H. Murphy Sr. founded the AFRO-AMERICAN Newspaper.

Fortunately this occurred during the summer vacation and no one was injured. The building was condemned and the entire school had to find new quarters.

A new location was secured at Male Grammar School No. 1 at Fayette and Greene Streets, a building that is still standing today directly across from the Poe burial place.

This location was shortlived for unknown reasons and a new one had to be found. City fathers decided on a school located at Pennsylvania and Dolphin.

The school was originally built as an elementary school but an increasing number of German immigrants were moving into the area who could neither read nor write in the English language.

The building became a German-American language school sometime during the 1870s and served the present population very well.

### BY 1893

By 1893 an increasing number of Americans of a darker hue were moving into the neighborhood and there was a decreasing need for a German-American school.

The building at Pennsylvania and Dolphin was deemed the proper site and so the fall of 1893 saw City College moving bag and baggage into its "temporary location."

Bureaucratic red tape lengthened the stay and by 1897 City College was still in the same "temporary" location. This caused some difficulty as recorded by a contemporary. "Discontent, restlessness and grumbling because of crowding and lack of convenience are seriously impairing the discipline and instruction of students now numbering 705 since the cave in of 1892.

Now at Pennsylvania and Dolphin the teachers and student body are beginning to chafe under the long delay in what was to be temporary headquarters while plans for the new building are debated and shuffled about."

If the bureaucrats were debating and shuffling business was going on as usual for the first graduating class at the new location contained no less a figure than David W. Weglein "94."

Dr. Weglein later became principal of Western High School and superintendent of Baltimore Public Schools.

His tenure as superintendent from 1927-1946 was the longest of any in the history of Baltimore Public Schools.

Several other well known figures attended City College at the same location. Dr. William Flowers, assistant superintendent, of schools graduated in "99" and Harry W. Nice, governor of Maryland 1935-1939 attended the school for 3 years leaving in 1896.

The new building on the old site at Howard and Centre Streets was finally completed and on October 2, 1899 the faculty and student body marched into the new edifice.

City College had spent six years of its existence at a "temporary" location at Pennsylvania Avenue and Dolphin Street and several hundreds of City College students spent

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1892-1982

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# Entrepreneurship—

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result of the new businesses.

Draper said although the numbers are impressive, establishing black businesses in the city continues to pose an uphill battle. She said, "Blacks who are in business, especially construction, are still having a difficult time having access to money, getting bonding and good procurement opportunities. Yes, we're helping people, but we still have a long way to go."

As John Ellis Bell found out, one can get tangled in the red tape and policies of the aid agencies. Bell served 35 years in prison for check forgery. But six years later, the 58-year-old was still paying dues. But this time, the dues for being black and trying to establish a contracting firm.

He won a $32,000 city home renovation project that, closed out when more serious problems turned up that would require him to come up with more money than he had, turned into a nightmare.

He blames CEBO for misguidance on the contract and the Sharon - Savings and Loan Association who Bell says discriminated against him, for his financial demise.

**"CEBO has obtained more than $20 million for its clients who have an annual gross sales volumn in excess of $150 million."**

According to Bell, CEBO loaned him $9,000 to finish the rowhouse on the condition he use subcontractors hired by the agency. The money eventually paid the subcontractors for work they never completed. And in 1977, Bell defaulted on the project.

CEBO sued for repayment of the money, and later a summary judgement was found in favor of CEBO when Bell did not appear at court. (Bell later discovered that the summonses were sent to uninhabited properties and not to his home address).

Claiming Bell owed the institution almost $6,000, Sharon Savings and Loan, foreclosed a $5,300 second mortgage Bell had taken out to finance the project. Yet bank records credited him with paying almost $10,000 in interest, principal and expenses on the loan.

Because of the double talk and errors, the state Human Relations Commission is investigating Bell's discrimination claims against the bank.

Rudy Gustus' transition to the private sector has been much smoother. For Gustus, it didn't make sense to follow black tradition in setting up chicken or soul food joints. To Gustus, launching a business meant using the experience he had and building on it. Gustus drove an oil truck for years (just how many he can't remember), and constantly saw a gap in inner city service.

While making stops to customers, Gustus recalled how he was constantly approached by neighborhood folk for oil. But because of company policy, he had to turn them down so as not to interfere with the regular service.

"At that time, the black community was having a real problem getting service," he remembered." The biggies were reluctant to go into the ghettos period. And then, especially after a certain time of day — but that's when blacks got their money."

Eventually 10 years later in 1962, after sacrificing and saving his own cash, Gustus opened Gustus Oil Co. on Warwick Ave.

Many of the agencies designed to aid minority business did not exist or just gave Blacks a cold shoulder. So minus, bank or agency loans, he bought his first truck for under $1,000 in cash from Allen Quille. At the time, Quille was selling oil trucks to go into the parking business. Quille is now president of Quille's Parking Center, and was named vice - president of Harbor Bank of Maryland, which is to open this month.

"If there was help, I wasn't aware of it, "Gustus recalled," Blacks were hardly getting help from the SBA and CEBO wasn't around. I started right on the ground floor," he said.

The year CEBO did come into business, Gustus said the agency presented his business package to lending institutions. He received a $25,000 loan from SBA.

Gustus Oil has since expanded from the one used oil truck to 30 trucks and 55 employees and now his market has shifted to industry and government, with very little concentration on service in the inner city.

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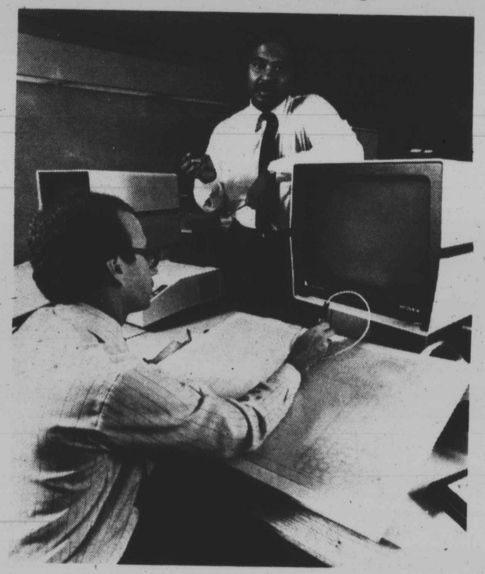
"Becoming an engineer isn't easy. But it's exciting. Challenging. And it pays well."



George Reynolds wasn't always an engineer. As a teenager, he liked to draw planes. And design and build model cars. He was so good at it his designs won awards. But the talented teenager might have ended up driving a truck if someone hadn't suggested that he think about mechanical engineering.

Today George is proud of his status as a Registered Professional Engineer. He supervises some 40 engineers at the Westinghouse Defense Center in Baltimore, Maryland. And he and Westinghouse are encouraging more minorities to aim for careers in engineering.

"Only 4% of the engineering graduates from U.S. universities this year are minorities. That's not enough," says George.

We agree. Minority engineers need to play a larger role in developing the technologies which will help this country overcome energy and other problems.

Ask your school guidance counselor about careers in science and engineering. Who knows? One day you might even get to work with George Reynolds.

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Minority Engineers.