

known as "fancy farmers," lasted through the 1870's and led to the establishment of areas like Homeland, Cedarcroft and Dumbarton.

Woodbourne Avenue, in addition to its boarding houses and summer cottages, housed many well-known Baltimoreans. Estates along this corridor include W. Abell's "Woodbourne," William T. Walters' "St. Mary's," and Pratt's "Tivoli."

Tivoli, an Italianate stone building, presently serves as the

Woodbourne Center and the area that was once William T. Walters' St. Mary's is now the site of the Chinquapin Park Middle School. Many old farmhouses and estates have not fallen to the onrush of the 20th century urbanization and some still remain as private residences.

After World War I, Govans was annexed to Baltimore City. It grew rapidly until the housing market responded to the Crash of 1929. The late 30's and early 40's brought little residential

development to Govans. But post-World War II created a boom which led to a new wave of housing construction and an increased emphasis on consumer products. This, in turn, created a new set of business establishments. Even the neighborhood grocery store gave way to the idea of the modern supermarket. Of course, all of the commercial growth led to another significant increase in the population of Govans.

Today, unlike homogeneous

middle class suburbs, Govans is not exclusively "blue collar" or "white collar," "working class" or "professional." Many people of various backgrounds live in Govans and the community displays a surprisingly comprehensive, heterogeneous mix of people, families and occupations. And it has entered into another phase in its growth, as the York Road Planning Council melds private industry, government help and human needs into a comprehensive approach to tomorrow.

Mayfield

by Walter Alvey

The area bounded by Erdman Avenue on the south, Chesterfield Avenue on the north, Crossland Avenue on the east and Lake Montebello on the west, is known as Mayfield. Many attribute that name to the choice of one of the largest landowners of the area, Judge John J. Dobler.

At the onset of this century, the main artery through Mayfield was really a dirt tract. In dry weather, the dust on Harford Road was six inches deep. Rain made it a mud trough. The road surface was rutted from the big wagons used to haul stones from the quarry at Hall's Spring. The west side sported streetcar tracks, while the east was lined with honey bean locust trees. The neighborhood was mostly farmland, except for Erdman Cemetery. And most of it was owned by Judge Dobler, Charles Knox and Theresa Skirven.

Improvements were slated for Harford Road—paving, regrading, and the running of ever-increasing numbers of electrical and telephone wires underground. The estates were

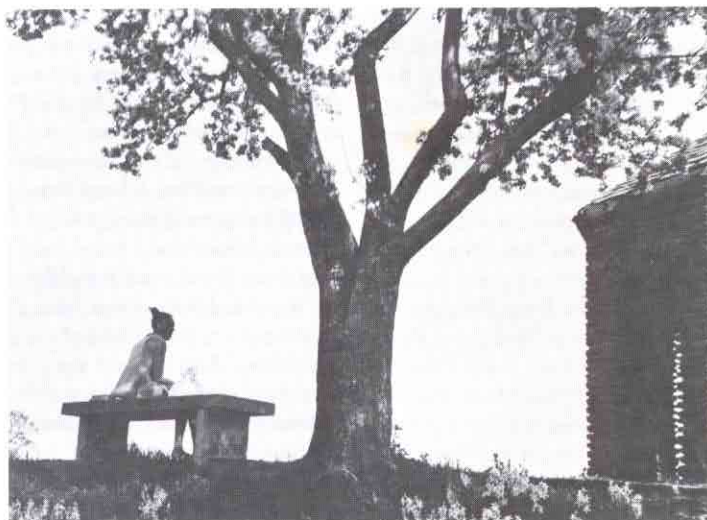


Photo by Gilbert Witten

surveyed and laid out into streets and lots, especially Dobler's larger acreage.

Development began in earnest. Lots were sold and houses built. Judge Dobler's home (now the Disney House) and the Eutaw Methodist Church were among the first to be built on Mayfield Avenue. 1909 marked the laying of the cornerstone for the church. The original Eutaw Church on the hill at Hall's Spring remains. It serves as a picnic area in Herring Run Park.

Numerous other churches were to follow; boulevards were constructed; gardens and parks were laid out. All provided a setting for the massive houses that were built of brick, stone or frame. Later, even the smaller semi-detached houses reflected this grand view of pleasant City living.

The growth of Mayfield was controlled and orderly. It became—and still is—a most pleasant neighborhood in which to live...surrounded today by the pastoral lands of Clifton Park, Herring Run and Lake Montebello.