

Excerpts of Select Edmondson Village Oral Histories 1

Excerpts are from *Blockbusting in Baltimore: The Edmondson Village Story*¹ by Dr. W. Edward Orser.

“I recall that about 1960 Goldseker came into the neighborhood, and he [presumably an agent of the Morris Goldseker Company] went door to door, literally, offering people a large sum of money for their houses – I would say the sum was fifteen thousand dollars – at least that’s what I heard offered on my street. Those people who moved immediately got that; those people who waited till the neighborhood was “broken,” as they called it, got half that – they got six thousand for their houses. My own parents got eight thousand or eighty-five hundred dollars when they moved, but they gave it as a trade-in of a house they bought [elsewhere]. What Goldseker was doing was buying a house for fifteen thousand dollars and almost giving it away to get a black family in, and then he would buy a house for six thousand dollars and sell it for fifteen thousand dollars – that’s how he made his money on the deal.”

-- “Alice Hughes” (alias), white former Edmondson Village resident, p. 102-3

“Our schools could not handle the increase; our city services were strained to the breaking point; our people began to wonder if they themselves were creating another slum... Money was literally carted out of 16-08 [Edmondson Village’s census tract number] for redistribution in the more affluent areas of the city and suburbs... In spite of all these odds against them, far from creating or accepting the slum that was a distinct possibility, [Edmondson Village residents] summoned forth their strength and integrity to such an extent that 16-08 is a viable neighborhood today.”

-- Parren Mitchell, African American Edmondson Village resident, p. 137

¹ Orser, W. Edward. Blockbusting in Baltimore: The Edmondson Village Story. University Press of Kentucky: Lexington, 1994.