

# WEEK IN REVIEW

## Real estate titan dies

Bernard Manekin, who turned a business he founded with his brother at the end of World War II into one of the largest real estate companies in the region, died Saturday at his home in Baltimore. He was 95. Manekin & Co. was initially a small firm specializing in brokering the city's 2 million square feet of vacant industrial space left over from the declining clothing industry. In 1960 it got its big break, when the **Greater Baltimore Committee** chose Manekin Corp. to lease and manage One Charles Center, the flagship project of Baltimore's downtown development renaissance. The company later developed such projects as The Rotunda in Northwest Baltimore and The Parkway, a commercial office park near Baltimore-Washington International Thurgood Marshall Airport.

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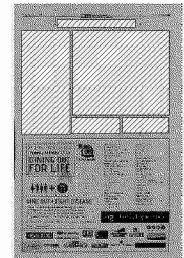
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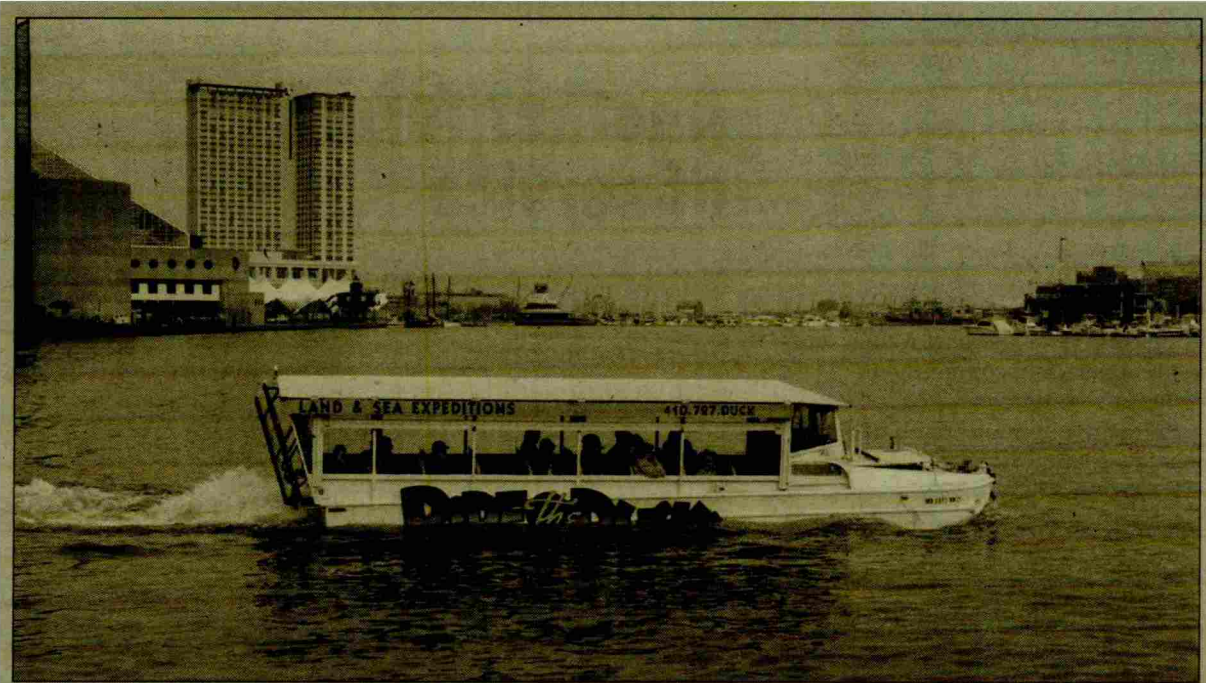
## Bad news on foreclosures

Distressed Maryland homeowners are facing grim foreclosure numbers. August foreclosure filings in the state were up nearly 70 percent over August 2008, and up 6.6 percent compared with July 2009, according to numbers released by RealtyTrac Inc. It is the fifth consecutive monthly increase in the year-over-year foreclosure rate. In August, 5,491 Maryland homes were in some stage of foreclosure. "The ultimate reality is that loan modifications have not been successful. There aren't enough people trained to do them, the banks aren't interested in doing them, and there are a lot more lawyers interested in doing foreclosures," said Alexander Gordon IV, an Easton-based bankruptcy attorney.

## Census Bureau creates jobs

The U.S. Census Bureau will open 11,350 temporary census jobs in Maryland this fall, officials said last week. The next hiring phase will begin in mid-November, with another scheduled for spring. The Data Capture Center in Essex is expected to hire 2,500 to 3,000 people, and jobs also will be available at five Maryland census offices to open in Catonsville, Easton, La Plata, Rockville and Towson. Offices are already open in Baltimore, Frederick and Largo. Jobs range from full-time management to short-term positions as field workers. "With the economy the way it is, we get lawyers and master's degree holders who are out of work. And we're happy to provide jobs to tide them over," spokeswoman Sylvia Ballinger said.





FILE PHOTO

The Ride the Ducks attraction, which ran its last tour in Baltimore over Labor Day weekend, had been in the city since 2002.

## Say goodbye to the Ducks

**Ride the Ducks** has given its last tour in Baltimore. The Norcross, Ga.-based operator cited poor revenues and fewer-than-expected visitors as the main reasons for its departure. The company, whose amphibious vehicles began roaming Baltimore's streets in 2002, ran its last tour over Labor Day weekend and informed city officials Tuesday. Bob Salmon, vice president of marketing and sales, said the attraction lost more than \$1 million in Baltimore over the last seven years. "Given the fact that it's a tough economy and Baltimore tourism has been down ... we were concerned about our long-term profit potential," he said.