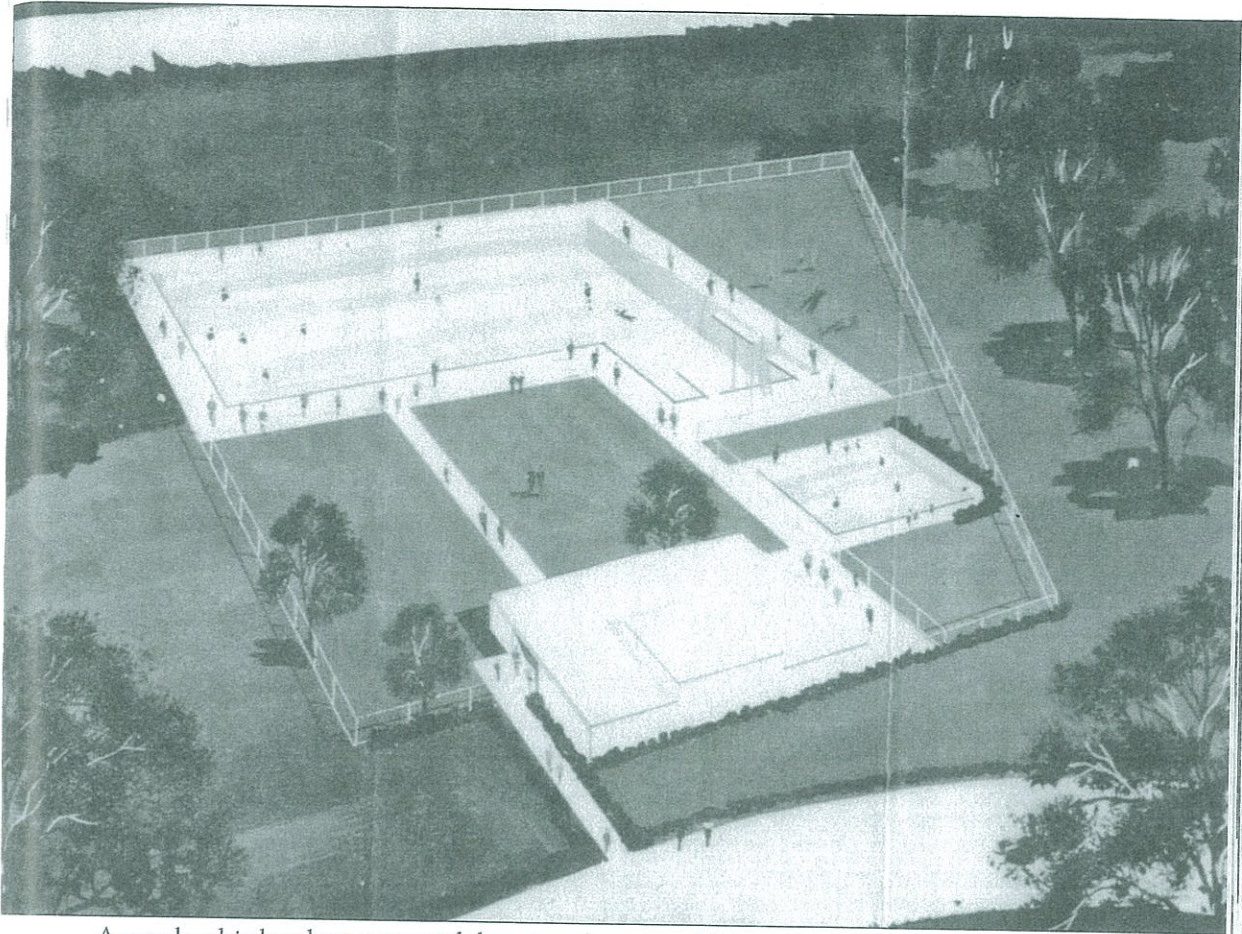


IMAGES
of America

MOUNT RAINIER



Bryan Knedler and Jimmy Tarlau



A membership brochure promoted the privately operated Prince George's Pool, which opened on Buchanan Street in 1956. H. Mitchell Jernigan, president of the Mount Rainier-Brentwood Teen Club, pitched the idea of a swimming pool to the club's board of directors in 1953 to give children an alternative to using the contaminated Northwest Branch swimming holes. As was common for many swimming pools of that era, it had a whites-only membership policy. After being rejected for membership in 1974, Raymond Bowlding, with the support of the NAACP, filed charges with the US Department of Justice and the Maryland Commission for Human Rights. The pool changed its policy in 1975; however, Bowlding did not join, fearing retribution against his children at the pool. He died in 1994. In 2015, the Bowlding family attended the ceremony dedicating a new pavilion. A plaque on the building says, "In honor of Raymond Bowlding, whose courage and perseverance led to the integration of PG Pool in 1975." (Courtesy of PGCHS.)