Lyda V. Merrick

A Vivid Past

Over the years, The Merrick/Washington Magazine for the Blind — a magazine written completely in Braille — has illuminated world events for many sightless citizens.

The magazine began, as most far reaching ideas do, with one person, Lyda V. Merrick, listening and caring about the wishings of her sightless friend, John Carter Washington.

"There needs to be some kind of news publication for blind readers," he told her.

Mrs. Merrick heard Mr. Washington and the result of long hours of diligent effort was the creation of the *Negro Braille Magazine* — a free publication for the blind.

But good ideas don't confine themselves to social groups and races. The *Negro Braille Magazine* crossed the lines of ethnic lifestyles and now serves a diversified audience in the United States and throughout the world.

Mrs. Merrick served as unpaid editor of the magazine until 1969, financing the project from contributions of friends and businesses. Later, under able editorships of Charlotte Hackett and Margaret Whisenton, the publication made large strides in readership and management.

As The Merrick/Washington Magazine for the Blind enters its 30th year, the tradition continues on even a larger scale. The magazine seeks to reach more readers, more often. But your support is needed to do so.

Editorial and Production

The Merrick/Washington Magazine for the Blind draws its editorial content from articles of well-known publications. Articles are grouped under various subject headings such as National and International News, History, People,



Editorials, and Entertainment. The magazine also provides space for letters to the editor and a special section for announcements of interest to the sightless.

The 76 page publication printed in no. 2 Braille carries no advertising. Even so, contributions have allowed the magazine to sustain its circulation annually.

Our Readers Wait

Readers of The Merrick/Washington Magazine for the Blind have come to want and expect our

publication. Like those of us who enjoy a lazy Sunday morning with our favorite newspaper, our readers anticipate the coming of what often is their only source of news and quality reading.

Requests for subscribership far exceed our funds to fulfill them. And because there is no charge to our readers for the magazine (though many do contribute substantially), our only hope to meet these requests for subscriptions is through contributions.

Become A "Friend"

The Merrick/Washington Magazine for the Blind continues solely through the generous help of friends and businesses. Our expanded readership and coverage necessitates that we actively seek others who can help us continue this worthwhile project.

Your contribution of \$30 or more entitles you to membership in the Merrick/Washington Friends Society, a handsome membership certificate, and periodic updates on the progress of *The Merrick/Washington Magazine for the Blind*. Those who agree to sustaining membership through annual contributions of \$100 or more will receive a distinctive engraved plaque for their home or office.

Of course, membership contributions are tax deductible.

The continued success of *The Merrick/* Washington Magazine for the Blind depends upon your generosity. As Mrs. Merrick states on the cover of our brochure in the handwriting of the sightless: This magazine is a window for the blind. They, too, want to know what is happening in the sighted world. We must keep this window open.

You can help us do just that.

THE MERRICK/WASHINGTON MAGAZINE FOR THE BLIND

319 Wayne Circle Durham, North Carolina 27707