Harlem Park School Site Dispute Unresolved

26 leaders decry city court bill

Twenty-six community leaders drew up a resolution Wednesday opposing the oft-defeated municipal court bill in its present form on the ground that it does not "serve the best interests of all the citizens of the city of Baltimore."

This action, taken at a meeting in the AFRO offices, was in effect a vote of confidence for State Senator Harry A. Cole.

(The bill was defeated in the 1955, 1956 and 1957 sessions of the General Assembly.)

THE MEASURE would create a new municipal court system with a chief judge and ten associate judges appointed by the governor to terms of two, four and six years duration.

The judges would submit themselves for re-election on a city-wide basis at the expiration of their appointive terms.

The proposal provides a salary of $15,500 for the chief judge and $15,000 each for associate judges.

This bill would abolish the offices of present police court magistrates.

* * *

SENATOR COLE said he opposed the proposal "as a matter of conviction," but would support the bill if it provided for municipal judges to be reelected on a legislative district rather than a city-wide basis.

* * *

AUTHORS of the municipal court bill argue that such a reform would take magistrates out of politics.

In voicing opposition to the measure signers of the resolution offered four suggestions which they feel would strengthen the municipal court bill. They were:

1. That magistrates be appointed by the governor to long terms subject to Senate confirmation.

2. That candidates for municipal judge be appointed by the governor for reasonable terms, confirmed by the Senate and thereafter submit themselves for election on a legislative district basis.

3. That there is some question as to whether there is a need for ten full-time magistrates, some of whom presently sit for from three to six hours per day, at a modest salary of $6,000.

4. If it is desirable to take judgeships and magistracies out of politics there should be a study made to determine the possibility of permitting candidates for magistrate or judge to file in both political parties.

THE PRESENT magistrates are Robert B. Watts, appointed to Traffic Court, and Lindsay Roger Cole, president of Northwestern Police Court.

George L. Russell Jr., a young attorney, was recently appointed a substitute magistrate.

They were appointed by the governor and confirmed by the Senate.

Under the proposed court bill they could only continue in office after a city-wide election.

Until Governor McKeldin's administration, there were no colored magistrates.

* * *

SIGNERS of the resolution were:

The Rev. Marcus G. Wood, pastor of Providence Baptist Church; Dr. Furman Templeton; Dr. Robert J. Hill, president of the Frontiers Club; Dr. A. C. Burwell; the Rev. V. T. Williams, pastor of First Baptist Church; George W. E. Hill.

The Rev. C. Edward Browne, pastor of Memorial Baptist Church; Herman Ennalls, a lay leader at Memorial; the Rev. Harrison C. Bryant, pastor of Bethel AME Church.

The Rev. J. Timothy Boddie, pastor of New Shiloh Baptist Church; John W. White, president of the local National Alliance of Postal Employees; Dr. Alexander J. Walker;

Mrs. Lillie M. Jackson; Mrs. Juanita J. Mitchell, the Rev. Arthur J. Payne, pastor of Enon Baptist Church;

The Rev. Edward G. Carroll, pastor, and the Rev. Julius S. Carroll, associate pastor of Sharp St. Memorial Methodist Church; Samuel T. Daniels;

State Representative Emory R. Cole (R. 4th), Dr. John E. T. Camper; the Rev. W. L. Clayton, pastor of Macedonia Baptist Church;

Dr. Martin D. Jenkins, Mrs. Lena K. Lee, Dr. Carl Murphy, Dr. Willard Allen, and the Rev. Reginald T. Daniels, pastor of Madison Ave. Presbyterian Church.

* * *

THE RESOLUTION follows:

"Whereas, it has come to our attention that the 1958 session of the General Assembly of Maryland will consider what is commonly known as a municipal court bill; and

"Whereas, it is our considered opinion, after thorough discussion, that the passage of the municipal court bill, in its present form, would fail to serve the best interest of all the citizens of the city of Baltimore; and

"Whereas, it is our sincere belief that the position of Senator Cole on this bill best preserves the protests and interest of all the citizens of the City of Baltimore;

"Therefore, be it resolved, that we, and each of us, do hereby endorse the position of Senator Cole and urge him to continue his opposition to the municipal court bill in its present form.

"Be it further resolved, that copies of this resolution be sent to the Honorable Theodore R. McKeldin, Governor of Maryland."

SHE'S SORRY — Accompanied by Northern District Patrolman Bernard Wagner, Mrs. Minnie Dunn of the 700 block Newington Ave., is shown as she left Provident Hospital Monday night following her arrest on charges of assaulting her husband Elwillie. Mrs. Dunn told police they argued because she wanted to attend a movie.

Mate spurns movie, lands in hospital

"And God Created Woman" was the picture when they visited the Newington St. home Monday evening in answer to a phone call and found the injured man lying in a pool of blood bleeding from a stab wound of the chest.

Patrolmen Bernard Wagner and Bernard Delingman stated that when they arrived at the Dunn's home, they were told by Mrs. Dunn that her husband had stabbed himself.

The following morning at Pine St., the accused woman reportedly told police that she had spent a sleepless night and had decided to tell the truth.

In her statement, according to police, Mrs. Dunn declared that when she arrived home from the dentist around 5 p.m. her husband was preparing dinner and she mentioned the fact that she wanted to see the movie "And God Created Woman."

She allegedly stated that when Mr. Dunn told her that he didn't want to go, she told him she would go alone.

* * *

SHE SAID that when she started for the door her husband grabbed her by the shoulder and she took a butcher knife from a nearby table and stabbed him.

Mrs. Dunn added that as he fell, Mr. Dunn told her, "I love you" and advised her to tell police that he had stabbed himself.

POLICE SAID they entered the home when they visited the home and found the injured man lying in a pool of blood bleeding from a stab wound of the chest.

That, according to police, is the version given by Mrs. Minnie Dunn, 31, 700 block Newington Ave., wanted to see on Monday night.

However, police said, her husband, Elwillie Dunn, 36, wasn't anxious to accompany her.

As a result of this difference of opinion, police report that Mr. Dunn went off to Provident Hospital while Mrs. Dunn was taken on a ride to the Pine St. station.

There the wife was charged with allegedly pushing a knife into her spouse's chest and released on $2,500 bail for a further hearing.

In Provident on Thursday Mr. Dunn was reported in a fair condition.

Park Board confers on S. Balto. General

"The question of discrimination at South Baltimore General Hospital was touched upon at a meeting of the Park Board Thursday afternoon.

The reference to the hospital came during a discussion on a proposal to sell five acres of land in Broening Park to the institution.

South Baltimore had asked for an opportunity to buy the property for construction of a new nine million dollar hospital.

The discussion came about after a spectator informed the Board that she was opposed to the sale of park property.

The elderly blonde woman was told by Chairman James C. Anderson that the Board was planning to sell only a portion of the property that they had no use for.

The property for hospital has asked for is in the vicinity of the Baltimore Yacht Club near the 2900 block of S. Hanover St.

* * *

IN DISCUSSING the matter, Park Board Secretary Joseph J. King stated that an inquiry about the sale had been made by the Rev. Edgar W. Ward, president of the Cherry Hill Coordinating Council.

He explained that the Rev. Mr. Ward had sought permission to come before the Board to voice his objection, and had expressed surprise upon learning that only five acres of land would be given up.

Mr. King added that the Rev. Mr. Ward was under the impression that the entire park area would be sold to the hospital.

Mr. King said that when the Rev. Mr. Ward was asked to state his objections, in order that a meeting with the Park Board could be scheduled, he stated that he was opposed to the transaction on the following grounds:

1. The policy of discrimination at South Baltimore General.

2. The sale would deprive the Cherry Hill community of needed park space.

J. Alvin Jones, a member of the Board told the group, "that situation (meaning discrimination at South Baltimore) has been settled by the Urban League."

Mr. Anderson ended the discussion with the comment that if the Rev. Mr. Ward cared to come before the board to discuss the loss of playground space he could.

Mr. Anderson added however: "I don't think we should go into the internal policies of the hospital. Mr. Ward should take that up with the hospital."

During the two and a half hour session, the Park Board approved a proposal to place a one million 300 thousand dollar park and recreation loan on the November 1958 ballot.

The loan must first meet with the approval of the Board of Estimates.

Given six years for attempting to holdup taxi driver

"This is a very serious crime. Cab drivers are in a very risky business.

"They are at the mercy of those who sit in the back seats of the cabs. They need protection."

Judge Anselm Sodaro, gave this comment in Criminal Court Monday prior to sentencing Eddie James, 29, of the 1400 block Barnes St., to six years for attempting to rob a taxi driver.

Mr. James was accused by Robert Ellison of the 700 block S. Bouldin St., of entering his taxi on Dec. 21 at Stricker St. and attacking him in a robbery attempt at Gay and Caroline Sts.

T. H. Hawkins seeks divorce

Thomas H. Hawkins, 919 Madison Ave., filed suit for a divorce from his wife, Mrs. Catherine Hawkins, 1203 E. Preston St., on Jan. 2.

It was previously incorrectly stated in the AFRO that the divorce had been granted. This was in error.

Mayor mum at hearing Thursday

"Education is one of the foremost things we need in this country . . . the necessity of having a school on this site or any site is important . . . we have had 51,000 children entering our schools since 1947.

"If you don't want a school up there, we might take that money and put the school somewhere else."

Mayor D'Alesandro offered this comment to 32 opponents and proponents of the proposed Harlem Park school site, as they brought the 10-month-old dispute before him, to solicit his aid in resolving this difference.

At the end of the hour and 40 minute discussion, the Mayor reserved his decision on what recommendation he will make to the City Council when it meets Monday, to vote on the school condemnation ordinance.

OPPONENTS OF the School Board's site who appeared were:

Harlem Park Homeowners Association, represented by Mrs. Juanita Jackson Mitchell, attorney; Dr. Sol Lemler, a druggist in the 4400 block of W. Lanvale St., represented by Meyer Reamer, attorney, and the NAACP, represented by James L. Bundy and James W. McAllister, attorneys.

Favoring the site were the Harlem Park Neighborhood Council, Mrs. Mary N. Brooks, president; the Baltimore Urban Renewal and Housing Agency, represented by Walter Sondheim, Jr., and the School Board, with Dr. John H. Fischer, superintendent of schools, and John N. Curlett, member of the Board of School Commissioners.

The meeting was held in the Board Room opposite the Mayor's office.

Opponents and proponents of the site sat side by side.

* * *

MAYOR D'ALESANDRO entered the room at 2 p.m., and sat at the conference table on the platform.

He called eight of the City Councilmen present to sit with him, including Solomon Liss (D-4th) chairman of the Council's Judiciary Committee, which has been studying the school site for several months.

This committee will make recommendations to the entire council when it meets Monday.

"I didn't know," the Mayor said, after rapping for order at 2:06 p.m., "I didn't know this was going to be an open hearing.

"The meeting was called at the request of the School Board. But now that you are here, I am willing to let everybody be heard."

He then called State Senator Philip Goodman, of the city's Fifth District who said:

"Some months ago, I attended a meeting at a church in this area where some of the residents were protesting this site. I came to put this before you."

DR. JOHN H. FISCHER, superintendent of schools said:

"We are trying to provide educational facilities for school children in the area, to the recreation and education together in a new school development, and to carry forward the first major steps in Urban Renewal development."

He then stated that the proposed junior high school in the 1400 and 1500 blocks of Harlem Ave. would be designed to accommodate 2,000 students expected to populate the area in the next decade.

The elementary school planned for the square block between the 400 blocks of Calhoun and Stricker Sts., is proposed to service 1,000 children.

"We are also concerned with costs. If we use a million dollars more than is needed for one school, this means we can not build another school.

"They are clearly the only three blocks that meet my requirements in that area."

* * *

DR. FISCHER had this to say of the alternate site proposed by the Harlem Park Home owners' Association: bounded by Laurens St. on the north, Allison St., on east, and Stricker St. on the west.

"The School Board site has an assessed value of $1,321,000. The alternate site is assessed at $1,686,820.

"The loss to the city in taxes would be for the School Board site $25,952, and for the alternate site $48,580.

"The School Board site would displace 332 families. The alternate site would displace 362.

The School Board site has 125 houses in good condition. The alternate site has 279. The School Board site has 29 houses in dilapidated condition, and the alternate site has 16."

* * *

"WHAT WOULD be your position," City Council President Leon Abramson asked Dr. Fischer, "if the Council did not accept the School Board's plans?"

"Our Committee did not say, 'we would oppose a school there,'" Mr. Liss, interrupted to state.

"We said we would not oppose the taking of one of the three blocks, there as a site for an elementary school.

"But we will not allow the three blocks to be taken."

Dr. Fischer stated that $800,000 in Federal funds would be lost in the erection of the schools, if the locations were moved outside the Urban Renewal area.

"We have never seen the primary source of those figures," Mrs. Mitchell interposed at this point.

She added:

"We would say that ultimately the city will be called on to remove those slum areas anyway."

"We say why not enlarge the Harlem Park Urban Renewal to include this slum area of the alternate site?"

The committee feels that an elementary school belongs in the area."

* * *

DR. FISCHER then answered Mr. Abramson's question with:

"We have never been faced with this kind of issue before, and what the School Board would do I am unable to state.

"This would face the School Board with an issue of having its best opinion turned down.

"There would be the serious question of being asked to recommend a site not of its best judgment."

He added that whenever there is a question of moving homes for children somebody is likely to get hurt.

* * *

WALTER F. SONDHEIM JR., board chairman of the Urban Renewal and Housing Agency board, added:

"If this site is not approved, let's not talk about expansion of

(Continued on Page 27)

10 Police killings in Baltimore area

APRIL 19, 1956—Robert McLaurin, 14-year-old Dunbar High School student of 404 E. Chase St., shot while running away from a stolen car at Madison and Fallsway by Officer Donald E. Mitchell of the Central District. Magistrate Meyer Cardin exonerated the policeman.

JUNE 25, 1956—Harry Boyd Jr., 27, 1417 S. Broadway, shot in the back by Northeastern Patrolman Charles Fennell, who arrived on scene after a street fight. Magistrate Meyer Cardin ruled the officer acted in line of duty, and the killing was justified.

JULY 7, 1956—Robert O. Harper, 34, 1614 Barclay St., shot in leg and bled to death following shooting by Southwestern Patrolman Walter Moss Jr., who told superiors he was breaking up a disorderly crowd. Officer Moss was exonerated of the killing by Magistrate Meyer Cardin, who ruled he acted in the line of duty.

AUGUST 15, 1956 — Frank J. Williams, 24, was shot and killed by Sgt. Albert Heck as a suspect in two holdups, and the non-fatal shooting of a tailor shop proprietor. Sgt. Heck was exonerated of the killing in Central Police Court by Magistrate Meyer Cardin.

SEPTEMBER 2, 1956—Donald Jackson, 23, 971 Ellicott Dr., shot in the arm and chest by Southwestern Patrolman Benjamin Leden. Leden said he shot the man "in defense of my life." In the 600 block Gilmor St. Patrolman Leden was exonerated of the slaying by Magistrate Cardin.

OCTOBER 15, 1956 — Benjamin Brown, 14-year-old patient at Rosewood Training School shot and killed by Northwest Patrolman Marshall V. Brewer with rifle. He didn't know was loaded." Magistrate Meyer Cardin dismissed the shooting charge after witnesses testified Patrolman Weiss said the State could not make out a homicide case against the officer who said the shooting was an accident.

NOVEMBER 7, 1956—James H. Duggan Jr., 28, white city sanitary department worker, killed by a policeman awakening cries for help. Central District Patrolman Joseph Rutee was exonerated by Magistrate Meyer Cardin.

NOVEMBER 24, 1956—Clarence Wilkerson, 39, 1304 Harlem Ave., shot and killed by a Baltimore County Policeman while getting out of a car as ordered. Officer Louis DeManns was charged with homicide by State's Attorney Frank Hewell. On Monday Dec. 10 a Baltimore County jury failed to indict officer DeManns. He was returned, to the force with no official punishment.

JANUARY 21, 1957 — James Kenneth Robbins, 17, 1800 block Jackson St., was shot and killed after a robbery assault. Southern District Patrolman Melvin Kearns said as he fired a warning shot, he slipped on the ice. A bullet struck the youth in the back of the head. Patrolman Kearns was exonerated by the police magistrate. Meyer Cardin who declared that the shooting had occurred in the line of duty and was accidental.

AUGUST 4, 1957 — Benjamin Williams, 281 Decker Ave., shot and killed by Patrolman Stanley Richardson who declared the officer was acting in the performance of his duty.

Letters to Governor back his reprieve order 10-1

"A vast majority of the 'spite letters' or those that were adverse were unsigned.

"And a person who does not have the courtesy to sign his name is a pretty small potato to start with.

"We got approximately a total of 130 letters and I would say that 10 to one they were in favor of saving the boy's life."

Thomas Carr, executive secretary to Gov. Theodore McKeldin, made the above statements to the AFRO on Monday.

* * *

HE WAS speaking of the letters received by the State's Chief Executive after the 17-year-old Alvin Braxton from death in the gas chamber.

According to Mr. Carr, the number of persons who urged the governor not to commute the death sentence was very few.

He continued: "It was interesting to note that most of the adverse correspondence was unsigned or it was signed with a name which could not be identified."

He added: "A few of them were signed 'Disgusted Citizen' or some such title."

* * *

MRS. BESSIE BRAXTON McCLOUD, mother of Braxton, sent a telegram to Governor McKeldin as soon as she received notice that he had saved her son's life.

Her telegram said in part: "I want to thank you from the depths of my heart. I feel the Lord has worked through you. May God bless you all your days . . ."

There were dozens of others who also wrote including a ten-year-old girl, Joyce Vincent, who told the Chief Executive: "I think Braxton deserves another chance."

* * *

IN COMMUTING Braxton's death sentence on January 13, Governor McKeldin said he was moved to act because of his youth (he was only 17 when convicted) and the fact that he was the product of a broken home and lived under extreme poverty and because psychological tests showed he was a sociopath with features of depression and schizophrenia.

Had Braxton not been granted a reprieve he would have been the youngest person to be executed in Maryland and he would have been the second person to die in the state's new gas Chamber.

He was convicted September 19, 1956 for the slaying of Rookie Patrolman John Phelan.

BRAXTON contended during his trial that the policeman was accidentally killed when they grappled for possession of a revolver while he was being carried to the hospital for treatment of gunshot wounds received at the hands of other officers.

The State, however, contended that Braxton shot the patrolman in cold blood and a youth court jury, after deliberating just 25 minutes, found him guilty of first degree murder and recommended no mercy.

Judge James K. Cullen imposed the mandatory death sentence and the Court of Appeals upheld the conviction and sentence.

Braxton was removed from death row on Jan. 14. He had been confined there for 347 days. He is now awaiting assignment to a job in the regular pen.

William Fletcher still in hospital

William Fletcher, 90, the oldest living Methodist lay leader in the state is still ill at the Anne Arundel County Hospital in Annapolis.

Mr. Fletcher, is also the oldest living person who saw service on "The U.S.S. Constitution."

'Something broke loose'

"Suddenly it felt like something broke loose," said Cornelius Jones, 34, 1724 W. Franklin St., in Traffic Court Wednesday.

Officer Henry Fulkoski testified before Magistrate Henry Miller that what Mr. Jones felt breaking loose were the wheels and the axle from the rear of his truck.

They completely left the truck and struck a Cadillac parked nearby.

Mr. Jones was charged with reckless driving, drunken driving and leaving the scene of the accident.

* * *

EXPLAINING his situation, Mr. Jones insisted, "No sir, I don't drink . . . I just left because, frankly, I was a little scared."

Magistrate Miller dismissed the charge of reckless driving but fined Mr. Miller $150 and costs for drunken driving and $50 and costs for leaving the scene of the accident.

Housewife wins $10,000 suit

A 59-year-old housewife who suffered a fractured hip in an auto pedestrian accident at North and Payson in March of 1956, was awarded a $10,000 settlement in Superior Court last week.

Mrs. Annie Stanton of the 2000 block Westwood Ave., had asked for $20,000 in her suit against Charles B. Stanley of the 2000 block Ruxton Ave.

She was represented by David J. Markof, attorney.

$50

Is the total set aside last week for News Tips and News Photos. For News Tips, call MU. 8-6018, 6016, 1812 and 1813. If no answer, call LA. 3-3024. Bring your News and Photos to the City Desk.

COMMENDATIONS— Governor McKeldin, left, and Police Commissioner James Hepbron, third from left, are shown here with two detectives cited for outstanding police work. Det. Furrie L. Cousins Jr., second from left, and Det. William A. Burke, right, both received commendations.

YOU REGISTER Now So You Can Vote

Here are the facts in Baltimore:

Colored persons over 21	144,216
REGISTERED	86,187
Not registered	58,029

You MUST register before April 19, 1958 in order to vote in the next election.

For further information call Register and Vote Committee.

The Rev. John L. Tilley, chairman.

402 Dolphin St.
LA. 3-8503

Between hours of 8:30 A. M. - 5 P. M.

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Attorney gives Harlem Park residents side

"The property owners in the Harlem Park area are not opposed to building of schools; they are opposed to waste."

Mrs. Juanita Jackson Mitchell, attorney for the Harlem Park Homeowners Association, was commenting this week on the City Council's Judiciary Committee decision to deny the School Board the request to place a junior high school and an elementary school on a three block site immediately north of Harlem Park.

"Why tear down good, substantial, first-class homes, when just one block north of the proposed site there are slums which need to be razed.

"THESE CITIZENS have spent their life's earnings in their homes and in helping to make a more beautiful residential neighborhood, why penalize them?

"They have fought through the years to retain Harlem Park for the fresh air and scenic beauty which it provides for their families.

"They are opposed to taking park space anywhere in the city, because our city has so little of it.

"We are grateful to the City Councilmen of the Fifth District and Solomon Liss, chairman of the Judiciary Committee, for recognizing human values alone."

DODGERS PLEDGE SECURITY FOR ROY CAMPANELLA
(Story in Column 1)

Baltimore Afro-American

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Slayer Must Die

Coaching or scouting job likely for Campy

GLEN COVE, L.I. — Roy Campanella, star catcher of the Los Angeles Dodgers currently in Glen Cove Community Hospital with a broken neck, need not be concerned about his future.

The baseball player, in a state of semi-paralysis from an early morning Tuesday automobile accident, has not been told about it yet, but President Walter O'Malley of the Dodgers has pledged security for Campanella and his family "for a long time."

O'Malley declared in a television interview on Tuesday afternoon that Campy "will be around baseball for a long time."

* * *

REMINDED by the AFRO just before he took off for Florida Thursday morning that his statement was "a sort of generalization," the Dodgers' president declared:

"I didn't think it was. I cannot speak for any other team in baseball, so I must have had the Dodgers and the relationship between the Dodgers and Roy in mind.

"If you want a more positive statement," continued O'Malley, "you might say that, as far as the Dodgers are concerned, Campy need not be worried about his future."

Did the Brooklyn head man mean to say that Campanella has a job waiting for him when he recovers from his injuries?

"CAMPANELLA," replied O'Malley, "is a sick man at the moment. Suppose we give all our thoughts to his recovery. Let's pray that they gets well and then see what happens.

"As I've said before, Campy is the kind of fellow you can never count out; he may even play again, despite medical opinions.

"But, I'd still prefer to leave it as I said it. As far as the Dodgers are concerned, he need not worry about the future."

* * *

THE CONVERSATION with O'Malley preceded a Thursday talk with the stricken catcher's wife, Mrs. Ruthe Campanella. She told the AFRO she had not discussed the future with either O'Malley or Buzzy Bavasi, the Brooklyn club's vice president.

(Continued on Page 2)

IT'S A BOY — Mr. and Mrs. Edgar S. Cahn, both students at Yale University in New Haven, Conn., are parents of a boy born January 20 at the university hospital. Baby weighed 8 pounds, 3½ ounces and has been named Jonathan Daniel. Mrs. Cahn is the former Joan Camper, daughter of Dr. and Mrs. J. E. T. Camper of Baltimore. She is a graduate student in law. Mr. Cahn, who is working on his Ph.D. at the same school, is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Edmund N. Cahn. Mr. Cahn is the famed N.Y.U. law professor. The Cahns were married in Rogue in New York.

$408,042 estate has kin in court

WASHINGTON (NNPA) — Theodore Matthews, who died last December 9, left an estate of $408,042.

A total of $83,000 was invested in U.S. Savings Bonds and $41,000 was on deposit in various banks and building and loan associations.

Probate Court here must decide who are the heirs because he left no will.

Surviving relatives are:

Mrs. Gladys L. Matthews, who claims to be the undertaker's widow, and

Phillip Matthews and Mrs. Bernice Gordon, children of the undertaker's brother.

THE UNDERTAKER'S wife has appealed to the court for the right to administer the estate and operate the funeral business.

Opposing her appointmen ate the niece and nephew of the deceased.

They are asking that a neutral person be named the administrator or that a collector be appointed to conserve the assets of the estate.

* * *

THEY CONTEND that Mrs. Matthews was not the legal wife of their uncle and is therefore not his legal widow.

They also contend that the annual the ceremony and declare the marriage void from the beginning.

In seeking the right to administer the estate, Mrs. Matthews brands her husband's niece and nephew as "illegitimate."

* * *

SHE ASSERTS that her husband's brother, Samuel Matthews was never legally married to Irene Bond, their mother.

(Continued on Page 2)

SURPRISE WIFE No. 1—Mrs. Margaret Holdier of Indianapolis, Ind., shown leaving Baltimore after testifying in pre-trial examination of her suit to recover $2,000 plus interest which she says the late Dr. Marion E. Wilson owed her. She contends she is the physician's first wife and blamed him for her illness while he was in Indianapolis and the University of Indiana and before their marriage in 1930.

Dr. Wilson committed suicide in January, 1954. His estate, originally estimated at $100,000, is to be divided between his mother, Mrs. Martha Wilson of Indianapolis, and his widow, Mrs. Margarer Matthews Wilson.

An accounting of the estate by Louis Silberstein, administrator, listed debts of $14,263.27, and said that $16,982.58 had been retained for further accounting.

Mrs. Holdier's revelation of marriage came as a shock to Baltimore friends who knew only one wife, the widow, whom he married in 1954, and Mrs. Sadie Myers Wilson, who died in 1957.

The physician was senior visiting surgeon on the staff at Provident Hospital at the time of his death.

Mrs. Holdier is a public school nurse in Indianapolis.

Court sets execution of Elliott for March 17

"We find the sentence imposed is just and proper. The motion for reduction of sentence is denied.

"We have signed the death warrant, and set the date to be the week of March 17."

Judge John T. Tucker, sitting with Judge James K. Cullen in Criminal Court Thursday morning, thus ordered the gas chamber execution of John Wesley Elliott, 47, of the 700 block Bradley St.

Mr. Elliott was sentenced to death for the shotgun slaying on September 12, 1956, of Lindsay Calhoun, of the 500 block Ogston St.

Dressed in a light blue suit and white shirt without a tie, Mr. Elliott accepted the sentence with no visible facial emotion.

However, both hands, hanging loosely at his sides, suddenly gestured a couple of times in front of him, as though he were trying to flick something away from him.

* * *

Mr. Elliott was convicted by a jury, convicted Mr. Elliott of first degree murder in a trial on March 13 of last year.

A motion for a new trial was denied by the Supreme Bench, and he was sentenced to death in the gas chamber on May 6.

However, Dallas F. Nicholas his attorney, carried the case to the Court of Appeals. This body upheld the decision of the lower court.

* * *

KEY testimony at Mr. Elliott's trial was that he and a Mrs. Maude Belle Beckwith had been seeing each other for a number of years until early in 1956.

On September 11 of that

(Continued on Page 13)

REGISTER SO YOU CAN VOTE
A GOOD CITIZEN IS REGISTERED SO HE CAN V-O-T-E. ARE YOU?
Who must register: Any new resident who plans to make Baltimore his home.
Any resident who has just turned 21.
Any resident who failed either to register or to vote at least once in the past five years.
Where to register: Basement People's Court Building, southeast corner of Fayette and Gay Sts.
When you can register: Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.; Saturday, 9 to 12.
If I have already registered, do I have to register again? — Ans. — No, not unless you have changed your address.
When is the last date I can register in order to vote in the next election?—Ans. April 19, 1958 and don't wait until the last minute! Mind your voting card in your church Sunday.

Honor Roll time again!

All people have at sometime during their life performed some deed worthy of honor.

But where are these people who deserve to be honored by their fellow citizens.

The AFRO is searching for 10 persons who may be honored for display of courage, ability, intelligence, tenacity, generosity or unselfishness. We are asking our readers to help.

Your nomination for a place on the 1957 AFRO Honor Roll might be a pastor, a business man, a government worker, a state or municipal employee.

He or she may be a mother or a father of extraordinary children who are making good, a housewife or a man who works with his hands.

* * *

JUST REMEMBER to choose persons who have reflected credit upon your city, your state, your community, your neighborhood, those who have performed a service above the average.

Sit down today and write about the person you choose for your nomination to the AFRO's annual Honor Roll.

Address all letters to the AFRO Honor-Roll, City Desk, AFRO, 628 N. Eutaw St., Baltimore 1, Md.

Will the groundhog see shadow? ...or ...

The old tongue-twister, how supposition that February 2nd much wood could a woodchuck chuck if a woodchuck could chuck wood, is a riddle which mentions a furry little animal whose Springtime predictions are also a riddle.

Each February 2nd brings Groundhog day. Each year, somebody mean and evil doubts the ability of the celebrated prophet to tell human beings whether spring be near or far off.

Everytime some nosey busybody wants to know: "Do you REALLY think a lil ole wood chuck knows when Spring will come?"

* * *

TO BE certain no such ugly remarks come to the hard-working ground hog this year as he contends his time-proven opinion, we herein cite the legend:

"Tis a longtime American

as a lady, convicted Mr. Elliott of first degree murder in a trial on March 13 of last year.

A motion for a new trial was denied by the Supreme Bench, and he was sentenced to death in the gas chamber on May 6.

However, Dallas F. Nicholas his attorney, carried the case to the Court of Appeals. This body upheld the decision of the lower court.

* * *

KEY testimony at Mr. Elliott's trial was that he and a Mrs. Maude Belle Beckwith had been seeing each other for a number of years until early in 1956.

On September 11 of that

(Continued on Page 13)

65 guests at swank party floored by food poisoning

"At least 65 of the 240 guests who danced with the Chipperettes at one of the swankiest parties of the season, Saturday night, were not so chipper over the week end.

They were in the throes of stomach cramps, back and neck aches and diarrhea. They

(See photos, other stories Page 8)

were still unable to eat on Thursday, five days after the party, and were still wobbly on their legs.

Many of the victims reported that they had experienced pain along with their stomach aches and fevers.

The illness was diagnosed as food poisoning by several physicians, and as a "mild infection" by the City Health Department's Food Control Bureau.

* * *

THE PARTY, the closing affair of two days of festivities hosted by the club of popular young matrons, was held in Union Hall, Dundalk and featured an elaborate buffett.

The huge rectangular table held no fewer than 12 types of dishes, some highly spiced.

So tasty had been the viands that many guests returned to the table for seconds.

Served were baked beans, short ribs, crab cakes, chicken salad, shrimp salad, potato salad, spaghetti and meat balls, friend chicken, fruit aspic, hot rolls, and coffee.

As long as 22 hours later, those who had dined on the food, woke up groaning.

* * *

FERDINAND A. KORFF of the Health Department's food control bureau told the AFRO Thursday that he first received the report of the suspected food poisoning on Wednesday afternoon and has launched an investigation to determine what caused it.

He added that inspectors Melvin Johnson and James Edwards are assigned to the case.

"So far," he said, "they have discovered that 65 of the 240 guests were taken ill, there may have been more. We have found that the food was prepared at the caterer's place and taken out to Unity Hall, and served as a sort of cafeteria way, (buffet).

"But the people didn't get ill until 22 hours later. The caterer's place where the food was prepared was remarkably clean, but the hall where the food was served was not ideal. It leads us to believe a food handler, who failed to wash his hands, could have been responsible. But it was a mild infection because not many people were affected."

Mr. Korff said that his men have examined some of the food which was left over, but "you can't put very much confidence in that because that

(Continued on Page 2)

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Mrs. Lee named

Mrs. Lena King Lee, school principal and member of the Urban Renewal and Housing Agency Commission, has been named to a fact-finding committee by Mayor D'Alesandro, which holds its initial meeting today (Friday) to study the economic effects of the manufacturers' tax.

Jealous teacher kills librarian in school

RALEIGH, N.C. — "She told me I wasn't good enough for her and I shot her."

The confession tumbled from the lips of Frederick Parks, 31-year-old Selma assistant teacher who said he shot his former girl friend in the library of the Richard B. Harrison School.

Miss Lois Tomlison, 27-year-old librarian, died instantly of bullet wounds in the throat and chest. The shooting occurred at 8:55 a.m., as the high school pupils were leaving their homerooms for assigned classes.

Parks, who had dated the Clayton girl for the past five years, told police he stood in front of the girl's desk and fired all six bullets from the .22 calibre German revolver.

A high school pupil, who witnessed the shooting, said Miss Tomlison — already injured — jumped up and started to run for the door. She fell as Parks fired again.

* * *

IN A CONFESSION made to Capt. R. E. Goodwin, Lt. W. G. Maddry and Officer R. L. Dunn of the Raleigh Police Department, Parks said Miss Tomlison told him Friday she was engaged to another man.

He said he went to the school this morning to talk her out of it once and for all.

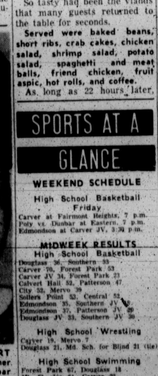
Lela Williams, 18, another pupil who witnessed the shooting, told Selma Police Capt. P. L. Moore, she was in the library when Parks first came in. He sent her to his room to pick up a book.

* * *

UNABLE TO locate the book she returned and Parks asked her to search again. The girl said before she left the room the second time Parks pulled the gun from his pocket and fired all six.

"He shot her three times. I

(Continued on Page 2)



ELIZABETH EVERHART was valedictorian of her graduating class at Dunbar Junior High School. For other photos of graduations see page 7.

SPORTS AT A GLANCE

WEEKEND SCHEDULE

High School Basketball
Friday:
Carver at Fairmont Heights, 7 p.m.
Poly vs. Dunbar at Eastern, 7 p.m.
Edmondson at Carver JV, 3:30 p.m.

MIDWEEK RESULTS

High School Basketball
Douglass 35, Southern 38
Carver 76, Forest Park 55
Carver JV 38, Forest Park 21
Calvert Hall 52, Patterson 47
City 53, Mervo 39
Poly 52, Central 52
Edmondson 55, Southern 47
Edmondson 37, Patterson JV 39
Douglass JV 55, Southern JV 48

High School Wrestling
Cathy 19, Mervo 7
Douglass 23, Md. Sch. for Blind 21 (tie)

High School Swimming
Forest Park 67, Douglass 18
St. M. Joe 41, Carver 25

Collegiate Basketball
Bowie 58, Southeastern 48

7 blind persons face loss of their homes and happiness!

"An extension until April 1, 1958, is hereby granted in order to allow time to evacuate boarders from the building."

**The above statement from Raughley, L. Porter, building inspector-engineer, was made in a recent letter addressed to Thomas Knox, attorney for the