Wife No. 1 asks court to void insurance exec's 1954 divorce

Who is the legal wife of William H. Tymous, 37-year-old Baltimore insurance executive?

Is it wife No. 1, a 37-year-old Washington matron from whom he won a divorce in 1954, two years before he married wife no. 2?

Yes, says wife No. 1, who is Mrs. Vashti Tymous, a nurse who formerly resided in the 1300 block R St. NW — the 1954 divorce was illegal because she had no notice and it should be set aside.

But Judge James K. Cullen who listened to three days of testimony in Baltimore Circuit Court, said on Tuesday he would have to withhold a ruling until he could study the case further.

• • •

DOCUMENTS introduced show that Mr. Tymous and Mrs. Tymous No. 1 were married in Rockville, Md. on Sept. 25, 1948. He is identified as special assistant manager for the Mutual Benefit Society, Baltimore insurance firm.

Papers on file also show that Judge Cullen signed the decree awarding Mr. Tymous a divorce on Oct. 22, 1954.

The divorce became final after Mr. Tymous told the court he did not know his wife's address nor her whereabouts, cited her by publication in a Baltimore newspaper, and testified before the court that his wife had deserted him.

He also stated that he had been a resident of the state of Maryland one year before he filed for the divorce on July 26, 1954.

• • •

IN 1956, Mr. Tymous took wife No. 2, the former Mrs. Lillian Bristol, an agent in the insurance firm where her husband works.

However, the facts of the involved case were brought to the attention of the court on October 28, 1957, when Mrs. Tymous No. 1 contended she had no knowledge her husband had divorced her until October, 1956.

In a petition to the court she asked that the divorce be stricken out and that Mr. Tymous's original bill of complaint be dismissed.

Mrs. Tymous not only denied she knew about the divorce but she also stated that she and Mr. Tymous resided as man and wife at the 1300 block R Street address in Washington as late as June 30, 1954. In addition Mrs. Tymous denied that she locked Mr. Tymous out of their R Street home at any time.

She also told the court that Mr. Tymous had not been a resident of the state of Maryland a year prior to his request for the divorce and stated that he had been under a Washington Municipal Court support order since September, 1951.

• • •

WHEN THE hearing came before Judge Cullen in the Baltimore Court last week both Mrs. Tymous and Mr. Tymous were present with their attorneys.

Mrs. Tymous was represented by Charles Howard while Mr. Tymous was represented by U. Theodore Hayes.

Mr. Howard told the court that Mr. Tymous had obtained the divorce in a fraudulent manner.

He said: "The whole case is filled with fraud.

"Mr. Tymous stated in his petition that he conducted himself as a kind and faithful husband and yet witnesses state that he mistreated his wife.

"He stated that he was a resident of the state of Maryland one year prior to the petition he filed for divorce yet witnesses state they saw him at the R Street residence in 1954."

• • •

BEARING OUT Mr. Howard's contention was Mrs. Peggy Adams, Silver Spring, Md. who told the court that she had been acquainted with Mrs. Tymous and Mr. Tymous for many years.

She testified: "I saw him at the R St., NW Washington residence in August, 1954.

"He was in a house coat and pajamas. It was about 8 p.m. When I left, he was still there.

"I saw his clothes there.

"In 1951 I went to the Walter Reed Hospital with Mrs. Tymous. She was bruised terribly. She said her husband had beat her up. That was in July, 1951."

• • •

HOWEVER, THROUGH his attorney, Mr. Hayes, Mr. Tymous sought to establish the fact that he was t resident of Maryland for a-year prior to his July, 1954 divorce action.

When Mr. Tymous took the witness stand on Tuesday he identified 1953 bank statements, post cards and letters, which were mailed to him at addresses which he claimed were his residences in the 900 block and the 500 block of N. Carrollton Ave., Baltimore.

He also identified 1954 gas and electric receipts in his name which showed he paid for service at an address in the 500 block N. Carrollton Ave. where he stated he had a one-room apartment.

• • •

TESTIFYING FOR Mr. Tymous was George F. Smith, a Baltimore Mutual Benefit Society supervisor who stated he had been employed by the company 40 years.

He said: "Mr. Tymous was employed by the company in July, 1953.

"In July, 1953 he moved to 517 N. Carrollton Ave., where I collected rent from him."

Also testifying was his sister, Miss Evelyn Tymous. Mr. Tymous' sister, who identified as a Washington public school teacher.

Miss Tymous told the court that in August, 1951 her brother resided at her home in the 900 block W Street, NW.

She stated that later he resided at 6515 Defense Highway, Landover, Md., with another sister who had leased the property as a summer home.

• • •

ROBERT STOKES, also a Mutual Benefit Society supervisor who resides in Baltimore in the 2800 block E. Federal St. told the court that he knew of Mr. Tymous' residence in Baltimore.

He said: "On August 28, 1954, we had a New York appointment. We remained in New York through August 29."

At the conclusion of Tuesday's hearing, Judge Cullen made a brief statement although he refrained from giving a final decision.

In his statement, Judge Cullen said: "The burden of the petitioner is to prove non-residence.

"So far I find no evidence of fraud.

"She (Mrs. Tymous) waited three years to come in court on this case.

"The evidence is that he (Mr. Tymous) lived here (in Maryland) and the evidence is documentary.

"I find no evidence that he lived any place except Maryland."

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SEEKS $300,000—Mrs. Rosa Johnson, 2200 block Poplar Grove St., who with her husband, James Johnson, last week filed suit for $300,000 in Superior Court against two University Hospital physicians. They claim an October 1955 operation has left her a paraplegic for life. She told the AFRO she uses this utility table to get around her house.

'I feel like a taut rope'

"I feel just like a taut rope—you know—somebody on the other end has to let go before it will bend."

This was Mrs. Rosa Johnson, 2534 Poplar Grove St., explaining her discomfort as she attempted to sit down in her living room Monday evening.

Mrs. Johnson is the attractive 48-year-old matron who filed suit for $225,000 against two physicians.

Her husband, James D. Johnson, 49, has also filed suit for $75,000.

Their suits contend that Mrs. Johnson is paraplegic for life resulting from an operation in 1955.

Although crippled for three years, the formerly active woman is optimistic about her condition.

• • •

"WE USED to dance, go to the movies and play cards, but now, we do everything we used to do except dance," she said.

"I do the best I can to get around the house with my cart," she said pointing to a kitchen utility table on wheels.

Taking a leg brace from its place on a lower level of the cart, she explained, "I can't trust myself on crutches and the brace rubs my leg.

"The cart is the best thing for me to use around the house because my legs will jump from spasms any time and throw me off balance if I used the brace or the crutches," she says.

She has been married to Mr. Johnson for five years and says, during her illness, he has "proved that he is a perfect husband."

Mr. Johnson his been employed at Social Security for 15 years.

To fill up her time at home, Mrs. Johnson crochets and does leathercraft.

Since Mrs. Johnson has been crippled, she has been active as a member of the National Paraplegic Foundation.

She has flown to attend their conventions for two years and is secretary of the Baltimore chapter.

Plugging her organization, Mrs. Johnson said, "Right now, we are raising funds for grants and trying to help supply hospitals with equipment.

"Petey," the parakeet, and "Sputnik," her pippy, get their share of her time, too.

Critique given

Dr. Albert N. Whiting, assistant dean of Morgan State College, gave a critique at the meeting of the Southern College Personnel Association last week in Washington, D.C.

Dr. Whiting gave a critique of a paper on "The Changing South" read by Chancellor Gordon Blackwell of Woman's College of the University of North Carolina.

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REV. JENTRY McDONALD, Chairman, Membership Committee
DR. W. H. WATTS, Chairman, Life Membership Committee
MRS. MARY E. HAWKINS, Chairman Christmas Seals
DR. CARL MURPHY, Chairman, Legal Redress Committee

Truck driver convicted of manslaughter

Frank Blackwell Jr., 32, of the 1600 block Linden Ave., was convicted of manslaughter Tuesday in Criminal Court, and was given a three-year suspended sentence.

Mr. Blackwell, a truck driver pleaded not guilty to stabbing Clifton C. Luckett, 24, on August 16.

Testimony was given before that the slaying occurred after Luckett went to Blackwell's apartment and insisted on seeing a woman whom he identified as "Little Sis."

Although Blackwell insisted that no one was in his apartment by that name, Luckett allegedly forced his way into the living room.

• • •

IN A STATEMENT read in court, Mr. Blackwell said that as Luckett brushed past him, his (Blackwell's) hand fell on a butcher knife that he had a lady friend had used to cut sandwiches with.

Blackwell also declared that following the incident, "I panicked and ran out and threw the knife away."

While on the stand the defendant said that he is married and is the father of four children.

Youths charged with robbery

Two youths from Simpsonville in Howard County, were charged Saturday night with armed robbery in which an alleged attempted kidnapping was foiled.

The youths, 17 and 18 years old, were arrested by a State trooper who said he traced them through a car he remembered seeing near the holdup scene.

Richard Gardiner, 23, of Takoma Park, Md., told state police he was robbed of $130 by the two gunmen shortly after 1 a.m.

The gunmen reportedly told Mr. Gardiner's companion Miss Beverly Howe, of Mt. Rainier, Md., to get out of the car and come with them.

Mr. Gardiner, shouted to the youths, "If you want the girl you'll have to come and get her."

The teenagers reportedly settled for the money and escaped.

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COLTS HEAD FOR CITY'S FIRST SPORTS CROWN

Baltimore Afro-American

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'1 Squeezed PATTIE'

Strangler Of Girl, 7, Faces Gas Chamber

(Story in column 1)

JAMES HENRY WILLIAMS
Faces life imprisonment or death in gas chamber for murder of 7-year-old Pattie

KILLER 'After she got limp, SAYS: I turned her loose..'

IN A NUTSHELL

- **No tears shed in crowded courtroom when 48-year-old man is convicted in strangulation death of seven-year-old neighbor.**
- **Convicted man claims confession police introduced was forced from him . . . pleads not guilty.**
- **Defense attorney describes defendant as an alcoholic . . . calls him modest and full of tension.**
- **Judge Sodaro finds him guilty of murder in first degree, says he will study case before deciding whether sentence will be life or gas chamber.**

With arms folded and eyes half closed, a sullen James Henry Williams heard himself convicted of the Easter Sunday slaying of seven - year - old Patricia (Pattie) Fox, Thursday.

At the end of a two - hour and 15-minute Criminal Court trial, the 49-year-old ex-slaughter house worker was convicted of murder in the first degree.

Not one tear was shed in the crowded court room when the verdict was rendered by Judge Anselm Sodaro.

Due to the seriousness of the crime, Judge Sodaro said he would not pass sentence because, "I want time to think about whether I will impose capital punishment or life in prison."

These are the only penalties possible on a first degree conviction.

• • •

WILLIAMS, who entered a plea of not guilty through his attorney Joisah Henry, contended that a statement admitting the guilt was given "involuntarily."

At one point in the statement, Williams was quoted as saying, "reached out and grabbed her by the neck and squeezed for about three seconds. After she got limp, I turned her loose. . . ."

Dressed in a black sweater, blue trousers and a white shirt opened at the neck, Williams at times was an uncooperative witness while on the stand.

At one point in his testimony, in answer to a question by Judge Sodaro, the defendant snapped: "I don't see how I could do that to a little child."

• • •

THE DEATH of Pattie Fox came as a shock to Baltimoreans last April when her abused body was found in a debris littered cellar not far from her home.

Following an all night search, the girl's stepsister found her body in a cellarway when she peered into a house in the 600 block of W. Vine St.

Turning away in horror Mrs. Lorraine Wilks sounded an alarm which brought on a Parker of 631 W. Vine St., had bought her for Easter.

A MEDICAL EXAMINER'S report disclosed that the little girl had been molested and strangled to death.

From the position of her body, police were able to determine that following the attack and murder, her lifeless body had been hurled down the cellar steps.

Williams, who resided in the home of his sister, Mrs. Isabell Scott at 655 W. Vine St., was arrested a few hours after the discovery.

He was first brought in for questioning after the murdered girl's playmates said she had been in the man's house.

Other girls told police that while in the house, Williams had given them money for candy.

• • •

THE SUSPECT was arrested by Sgt. Calvin Lotz and Officers E. O. Connor, Richard Conally and Albert Varnauskus.

Other Southwestern District officers who questioned neighbors and youngsters for infor-

(Continued on Page 2)

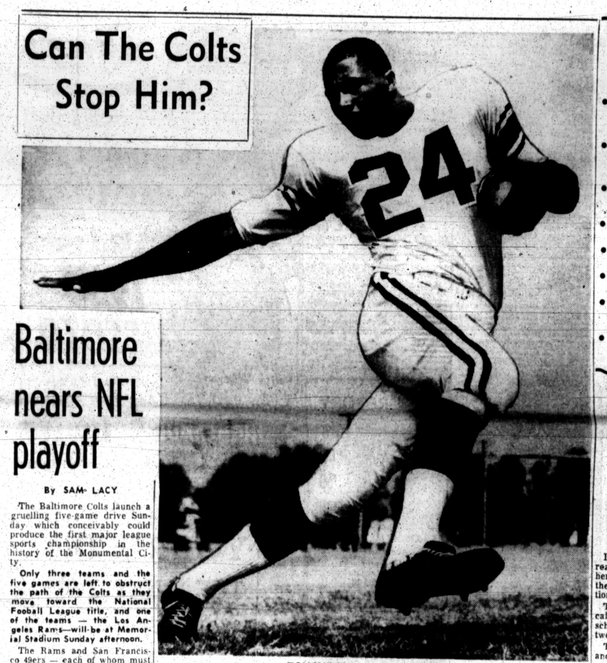
PATTIE FOX
Bright-eyed first grader

'NOT UNTIL I HAVE READ MY AFRO'

"While you're down there, look around and see if you can spot some fish for me. I'll break the ice and pull you out just as soon as I read my AFRO."

You won't be "out in the cold" if you call for AFRO Home Delivery at MUberry 5-4015.

Can The Colts Stop Him?



TOUCHDOWN TOM WILSON
He's Rams' biggest threat

Baltimore nears NFL playoff

By SAM LACY

The Baltimore Colts launch a grueling five-game drive Sunday when two contending rivals produce the first major league sports championship in the history of the Monumental City.

Only three teams and the five games are left to abstract the path of the Colts as they move toward the National Football League title, and one of the games — the Los Angeles Rams—will be at Memorial Stadium Sunday afternoon.

The Rams and San Francisco 49ers — each of whom must be met twice — stand between Baltimore and the Western Conference crown. And should they win three of these four contests to clinch the conference title, the Colts then would qualify to take on the Eastern Conference champion, possibly Cleveland, in a December 21, playoff.

• • •

THE $7,557 persons expected for the battle with the Rams will be pulling for more than a Baltimore victory over Los Angeles. At such times as their eyes will not be glued on the field, they will be pinned on the scoreboard to follow the

(Continued on Page 31).

Integrate vs. no school

By SAMUEL HOSKINS

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. — The real question to be decided here on Dec. 6 is whether there is to be school integration or no public schools.

This is the concensus of local opinion regarding the school board election set for two weeks from now.

The alternatives of compliance with Federal court orders or closed schools were first expressed in the statement issued by the five school board members who resigned Nov. 12.

• • •

THE STATEMENT noted that the mass resignations would give citizens their first clear cut opportunity to decide whether they wanted to continue public schools.

By the filing deadline at midnight Saturday, 15 candi-

(Continued on Page 2)

INSIDE

- MORTICIAN'S husband dies three days after auto crash. She and two others injured . . . Page 32
- FIRE claims life of Eastside matron, three children, another matron escape . . . Page 32
- FAMED comedian lives quietly, recalls 50 years on stage . . . Page 25
- CITY TAX rate will increase next year . . . Page 32
- UPTON Home now school for trainable children Page 9
- 20 YEARS for man convicted in robbery . . . Page 16
- SCHOOL No. 142 honors Robert Coleman, leader of blind . . . Page 9
- CIVIL rights bill hearing in City Council on Monday . . . Page 32

Laurel Cemetery lot owner is planning to file suit

Tucker R. Dearing, Baltimore attorney, has announced plans to file a law suit on behalf of a client whom he reported holds a deed to a burial loi at the old Laurel Cemetery in the 2300 block Belair Rd.

Mr. Dearing said the suit will ask that the sale of the cemetery be set aside on the grounds that the company which sold the burial place held no right to dispose of the lots to which deeds were held by private citizens.

Associated with Mr. Dearing in the proposed action is Paul J. Cockrell, another attorney.

• • •

MR. DEARING reported that a check of records in Federal Court indicated that title to the property was obtained in 1939 by the New Laurel Cemetery Co., but that the sale only included those lots to which no deed was held by an individual.

The attorney was retained to make an investigation of the Laurel Cemetery matter by the Legal Redress Committee of the local branch of the NAACP.

The sale of the Laurel Cemetery was reported in the AFRO last Friday along with the information that the number of remains and some tombstones had been moved to a new site in Carroll County.

• • •

RECORDS INDICATED that the property was purchased from the bankrupt Laurel Cemetery Co., for $100 by the McKamer Realty Co., whose officers were listed as Clement R. Mercaldo, Lloyd G. McAllister and Dorothy M. Klipper, all of the City's Law Department.

The property was in turn sold to the Belair Road Enterprises, Inc., whose incorporators were listed as David S. Rubens, Jerome, H. Levy and Harold J. Kaufman, also members of the law department.

It was reported that the latter firm is considering the pos-

(Continued on Page 6)

John R. Pinkett dies in D.C.

WASHINGTON

John R. Pinkett, prominent Washington businessman and founder - president of the John R. Pinkett Real Estate Co., died at Freedmen's Hospital Wednesday night.

Funeral services will be held Monday at 1 p.m. at the Andrew Rankin Memorial Chapel at Howard University. Interment will be private.

The body will lie in state from 1 p.m. Sunday at the McGuire Funeral Home, 1820 Ninth St., NW, and at the Rankin Chapel at Howard on Monday from 9 a.m. to 12 noon.

He is survived by his wife Flaxie H. Pinkett, two sons, John R. Jr. and Charles C.; four daughters, Flaxie M. Pinkett, Mrs. Charlotte Dodson, Mrs. Margo P. Dyson, and Mrs. Frances P. Roberson; a brother, Roscoe D. Pinkett and eleven grand-children.

'Jamaica' dancer weds son of wealthy banker

NEW YORK — Miss Josephine Premice, dancing and singing star of the Broadway hit "Jamaica," disclosed Tuesday that she and Timothy Fales were wed five days earlier.

The Haitian - born star, who is 32, said she and the bridegroom, 35-year-old son of a wealthy banker, spoke their wedding vows in a quiet ceremony performed by Rev. Adam Clayton Powell, pastor of Abyssinian Baptist Church) in her Greenwich Village apartment. "Just a few friends and relatives were present," she said.

• • •

MISS PREMICE admitted the marriage following several days of sensational headlines created by one Belle Levy, a woman private detective.

Miss Levy has instituted a $100,000 suit against Fales, charging that he punched her in the eye when she surprised him kissing Miss Premice in the dancer's apartment at 5:30 a.m.

Fales, whose entire family is listed in the social register, formerly was married to Ellen Wood. Miss Wood, a model obtained a Mexican divorce from the banker in September.

• • •

THE BRIDE admitted that her family was well pleased by the marriage, but refused to

(Continued on Page 2)

MISS JOSEPHINE PREMICE

4 SHOPPING WEEKS LEFT
BUY CHRISTMAS SEALS
1958 1958
FIGHT TB

Fire at Morgan

Two fire trucks responded to a call from Morgan State College shortly before midnight last night (Thursday).

The blaze, of unknown origin, was confined to one room on the third floor of Banneber Hall for men.

$50 for News Tips

There is a total of $50 available each week for news tips and news photos. If you have a tip or a newsworthy photo, call AFRO City Desk, MU. 5-6015 and say, "I've got a news tip." Bring photo to City Desk. If no answer, call LA. 3-3024.

• THE WEATHER •

Friday, sunny, high near 40, fair and cool at night, temperatures in 30's.
Saturday, fair and warmer, cloudy at night.
Sunday, cooler.

Miss Wharton is principal of million $ Lemmel School

Miss Hermione E. Wharton is principal of the new William H. Lemmel Junior High School No. 79, 2900 block N. Dukeland St.

The appointment was one of thirteen personnel changes approved on Thursday by the School Board.

The million-dollar Lemmel school is scheduled to **Miss Wharton** open on February 1. It will have 30 teachers and over 700 pupils. By Sept. 1959, it is expected to have its full complement of 2,000 pupils.

There had been much conjecture as to who would get the coveted principalship.

Of her appointment, Miss Wharton told the AFRO: "I hope I will justify the faith the administration has shown in putting me there. I will do the very best I can."

• • •

MISS WHARTON completes 40 years in the Baltimore schools as teacher and principal in February, 1959.

She has served as principal of the Cherry Hill Junior High No. 180 for the past 2½ years. Before that, she was principal of Harvey Johnson Junior High No. 106; vice principal of Douglass High, special assistant at Washington Junior High No. 130, and for 26 years a teacher at Dunbar High.

She is a native of Baltimore, daughter of the late Heber Wharton, one of the first Baltimore school principals who died in 1918, and the late Mrs. Pauline Wharton, a music teacher at Dunbar High School for 30 years, who died in March, 1958.

The new Lemmel principal is a graduate of the Baltimore schools, Coppin Teachers' College and Morgan State College. She holds a master's degree from New York University.

She has also done graduate work at Columbia, Harvard, Loyola and Johns Hopkins.

• • •

JAMES HITE, principal of Harvey Johnson Junior High School No. 106, will succeed Miss Wharton as principal of the Cherry Hill Junior High.

Special assistant at Clifton Park Junior High School No. 46, will be vice principal at Lemmel Junior High School.

• • •

OTHER CHANGES include: Cyrus Marshall, from vice principal at Cherry Hill to vice principal at Dunbar High School No. 133.

Earl Turner, from vice prin-

(Continued on Page 2)

You can register NOW so you can vote in '59 city elections

Are you a registered voter? If not, you can register NOW so you will be able to vote in the 1959 city elections.

The primary election in Baltimore when candidates for mayor, city council and and other city offices will be nominated will be held on March 9, 1959.

The General Election will be May 5, 1959.

Who qualifies to register: Any resident who has become 21 years of age. Any new resident of the state who has resided here a year or will have been here a year by election time.

Where to register: At the Supervisors of Elections office, People's Court Building, Fayette and Gay Sts., daily 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Saturdays 9 a.m. to noon.

YOU CAN WIN $25

As the letters and cards pour in from persons hoping to win an easy $25 in cash by guessing the date and time of day or night the first measurable snow will fall on Baltimore Airport, some interesting things have come to the Snow Editor.

Like the guy on W. Lee St. who guessed it would be 9:05 a.m., Nov. 13, which is already behind us. His card was postmarked Nov. 19. And like the young lady who wants the money for her first child. Seems it snowed first Dec. 3 last year, and she was married on Dec. 3. She thinks lightning will strike on the same date for her).

All anyone has to do to be in the running for the $25 cash is to send a prediction to the AFRO-AMERICAN Newspapers, Snow Editor, 628 N. Eutaw St. No family may enter more than three guesses and in case of a tie the letter bearing the earliest postmark will be the winner.

Be sure to put the time of day or night in your guess with the date.

Every day takes us closer to the day or night it will snow and someone will be $25 richer.