117 YEARS—This is the total years of service of the four men above, with Postmaster William F. Laukaitis, center, who retired from their post office jobs last week. Left to right, they are: Harry Bernstein, clerk, 31 years; Dudley M. Smith, mail handler, 29 years; Mr. Laukaitis; William A. Doty, clerk, 19 years; and George W. Rosier, clerk, 38 years. Lawrence M. Cordery, carrier, 38 years; Oscar Frederick Jackson, mail handler, 39 years; and John T. Ward, carrier, 32 years, were among nine men retired last month.

Heroic exploits of policeman lead to retirement after 16 years on force

WASHINGTON

Police Pvt. Thomas F. Walker, 45, is a former Howard University athlete, but it was a fall while chasing a suspect that resulted in the Precinct No. 13 officer's disability retirement after 16 years and seven months.

A special ceremony was called Friday on the second floor of the precinct to honor Mr. Walker. He was praised by Capt. Charles L. Wright and presented a new billfold in which was a crisp $100 bill.

Mr. Walker's wife, Thelma, was also honored, with a basket of flowers for her "trials and tribulations as wife of a veteran police officer."

CONDITIONS here at the precinct have changed as the years went by," recalled the officer now in civilian attire and on a cane. "We had some rough times but we came out pretty well."

The disability, an endless knee ailment, started in 1942, while Private Walker was patrolling his T St. NW beat on which he was as familiar as on his U St. beat.

At 13th and T, he investigated the report that a man had stolen a coat off a parked truck. Taking off in pursuit of a suspect, Private Walker tripped and fell, got up and caught the suspect who had thrown the coat between his legs. Ever since, he has suffered a knee ailment.

BUT THE major citation came in April 1950 when the North Carolina Mutual Insurance Company at 11th and U Sts., NW, was robbed. Private Walker had a shoot-out with the bandit in an alley and recovered the loot.

Retiring to his home at 6105 Fifth St., NW, Mr. Walker says "I'm not going to sit by and die doing nothing. I'll find something to do."

A native Virginian, he graduated from Huntington High School of Newport News and came to Howard University, playing football and basketball from 1930-34. He was All-CIAA at center in football and played guard on a Bison basketball championship club.

While a pre-law student, he dropped out of Howard University because of financial difficulties and later attended the old Robert Terrell Law School. Subsequently, he joined the police force.

Assigned to Precinct No. 13 throughout his career, he was appointed to the force in April 1942, retiring as of Nov. 1, 1958.

GREETINGS

To one and all, our best wishes for a happy holiday.

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Man rescues baby

"She hugged me and thanked me a thousand times."

Harvey Roberson, 2800 block E. Federal St., told the AFRO this was the happy reaction of a young mother, after he had rescued her three-month - old baby from a fire in her home Friday morning.

Mr. Roberson was treated afterwards at St. Joseph's Hospital for a cut on his hand. The child, daughter of Mrs. Dorette Wright, 2800 block E. Federal St., was treated at the hospital for burns and smoke inhalation.

Mr. Roberson said he broke in a rear window of the Wright home when he saw Mrs. Wright running toward a fire box, and she told him her home was on fire and her baby inside.

Fire hits home of Bishop R. R. Wright

PHILADELPHIA

A fire of undetermined origin damaged the home of AME Bishop and Mrs. R. R. Wright Jr. at 554 N. 58th St. last Saturday night.

Mrs. Alberta McClain, a daughter and secretary to her father was in the house alone when the fire occurred.

Mrs. McClain told the AFRO that she was awakened by the smell of smoke and telephoned the fire department, which responded immediately.

She could give no estimate of damage but said the fire was confined to the second floor. The house is the homestead of the late Major R. R. Wright Sr., founder of Citizens and Southern Bank.

Bishop and Mrs. Wright are in Los Angeles, district headquarters of the Los Angeles area over which he presides. They are not expected home for Christmas.

County has to cut building plans

School officials in Baltimore county have revealed that the county's proposed 1961 - 1962 school construction program has been drastically reduced to but 44 per cent of total needs due to limitations imposed upon the county's ability to create additional bonded indebtedness.

Whereas school construction needs, estimated to cost $54,980,000, were proposed for start of construction during 1961 and 1962, studies show that only $24,000,000 in county bonds will be available for this purpose during these two years.

Proposed new 1961 - 1962 school construction, aggregating $30,980,000 in cost, has been deferred by the County Board of Planning thereby resulting in a 56 per cent reduction in school building needs required to accommodate the county's skyrocketing public school population.

FOR THE NEW BUILDING—At the dedication of the new McKeldin Student Union Building at Morgan State College, a high point of the ceremonies was the presentation of the keys to Dr. Martin D. Jenkins (left) Morgan president. Richard Emory (right) vice-chairman of the board accepted the keys in the absence of Dr. Carl Murphy, board chairman.

Hospital expands

After being located for years in two separate buildings — a Fayette St. basement and the first floor of an old house on Lexington St.—Franklin Square Hospital's out - patient clinics are now housed under one roof.

It is th old brown brick house on the corner of Calhoun and Lexington Sts. which was acquired by the hospital last summer and completes its occupancy of the entire block of Calhoun from Fayette to Lexington.

ATTENTION!
FEB. CLASS OF 1939
DOUGLASS HIGH SCHOOL
Payment date for dues has been extended to JANUARY 15th
Please participate.

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Recreation News

LEINGXTON STREET RECREATION CENTER

Lexington Center held its annual Christmas Roller Skating Party with sixty-eight boys and girls attending. Among those present were:

James LaSane, Daniel McDonald, Russell Biddle, Francis Mason, Raymond Stewart, Ronald Young, Roland Payton, John Foster, Mayellen Thornton, Rudy Smith, Stanley Dickerson, Stanley Leager, Emory Parker, Daniel Robinson, Vernon Williams;

William Jones, Sandra Broggens, Vernon Johnson, Ralph Green, Carolyn Gross, Reginald Broggen, Owens Bristow, Alice Wilson, Barbara Selby, Herbert McAllister, Turner Williams, William Wiggins, Anne Shaw, Gilbert Baxdale, Sammy Rogers, Woody Lee, Francis Lipscomb;

Christine Heyward, Florence Myers, James Daper, Elizabeth Turnage, Shirley Brooks, Elitha Burrell, Naomi Thomas, Clalvin Franks, Jessie Stewart, Arthur Myers, Marim Mason, Calvin Adkins, Norman Adkins, Louis Gross, Marion Pratt, Willie Turnage, Ronald Gross, Kathryn Wells.

Carolyn Hardy, Mary Terry, Gloria Freeland, Inez Woodard, Mary Marten, Betty Lowery, Barbara Henderson, Alexandria Pegram, Richard Green, Gloria Washington, Shirley House, Barbara Whiting, Mildred Hawkins, Georgiana McCray, Vernon Misam, and Hilda Louis.

Floor guards were: James LaSane, Richard Green, Vernon Johnson, Sandra Brogden, Jessie Stewart and "Dueky" Gross.

Leaders in charge are Mrs. Thelma Millard, Miss E. Johnson, Mr. Walker Carr and Mr. T. Holley. Mr. Christo L. Walker, senior center director.

The cooking class will have its Christmas Lunch on Dec. 29, and the 4-H Club and Junior Misses will have their party on the same day.

The Reindeer Hop for the Teen Council and guests will be held on Dec. 30, 1958.

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Comes in a magnificently designed gift carton. White with brilliant red ribbon effect and embossed gold KENTUCKY GENTLEMAN seal. Truly the smartest looking gift carton yet! Also available in the Fabulous "TRAVELER" FLASK FIFTH with Gold Jigger Cap.
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Varied Activities Mark Holiday In Baltimore

MRS. SANTA'S HELPERS—These young ladies are volunteers who answered the AFRO's plea for persons to wrap gifts and pack baskets distributed among needy families in Baltimore. They are from left to right, Miss Yvonne Barnes, Carolyn Beasley, Jaunita King, Yvette Barnes and Brenda Watts.

IN A DIFFERENT role on Monday was the gentleman in the Santa Claus suit. His name is Eugene (Big Daddy) Lipscomb, who is at home on a football field in the uniform of the Baltimore Colts. The occasion was a Christmas party given by the Goldseker Realty Co. at the Douglas Memorial Church for 130 needy youngsters. Committee members for the affair included the Rev. Marion Bascom of Douglas; David Gleen of the Baltimore Urban League; Mrs. Jean Harris of the AFRO; Buddy Young, Joseph Lee of the YMCA. Standing with Big Daddy is Sidney Weise of Goldseker. The children received sweaters, shoes, toys, candy, cake and ice cream.

HELPING OUT the AFRO's Mrs. Santa Claus were the merchants connected with the Pennsylvania Ave. Lafayette Market Association (PALMA). Shown here with the food baskets, which were stuffed to the top with good food are, left to right: Albert Mittleman, Tom Cimbolo, Richard Waskey and Nathan Hendler. The delicious poultry in the baskets was the gift of Covington's Poultry and Sea Food Store, 614 Laurens St. The firm also made a cash contribution to the Mrs. Santa Claus Fund to help needy families have a happy time at Christmas.

JOIN THE NAACP
15,000 Wanted

SOMETHING TO REMEMBER was the fun the 1,586 children of East Baltimore had at the 15th annual Christmas Party of the Eastside Community on Friday at Lafayette Courts Auditorium. They received stockings filled with candies, nuts and fruits. Twenty-five children from Northwest Baltimore gave a dramatization under the tutorship of Mrs. Joyce Smith and Mrs. Sadie Maddox. Holliman's Children's orchestra furnished the music.

WRITING OUT a healthy size check for the AFRO's Mrs. Santa Christmas Fund is Morris Wolf of the Champion Realty Co. The lady is his secretary, Mrs. Betty Cary. Mr. Wolf was one of the public spirited citizens who helped make the project a success.

THESE PUPILS AT the Francis M. Wood Elementary School No. 176 did not forget their neighbors at Christmas time. Here some of the pupils are shown with baskets ready for distribution. The pupils include Curtis Mitchell, Bernard Wallace, Fred Hall, Della Shatten, Diane Smith, Charles Williams and Leonard Terry.

THERE'S NOTHING like a bit of open air carol singing to get the Christmas holiday off to a good start. That's what the citizens around Lafayette Square did on Sunday. Left to right: Mrs. Grace C. Gates, Clarence Ringgold, chairman of education and information, Harlem Park Council; Vern Stern and son, Dale Alan, Miss Verneta Hill and Miss Nancy Henneman.

'Now we'll have a Merry Christmas'

"We really did need these things. I know we'll have a merry Christmas Now."

Speaking on Monday was a resident of the unit block of S. Carlton St., the first recipient of the AFRO's Mrs. Santa gifts.

The mother and her nine children gathered around the kitchen table of their modest but neat home and graciously thanked the AFRO representative of Mrs. Santa Claus for the gifts which had been donated by readers.

The family was one of the more than 1,500 who appealed to Mrs. Santa for help.

They received two baskets of food and three baskets filled with clothes and toys.

THE EXPRESSIONS on the faces of the family would have made any donor glad he gave.

And this is only one example of how the gifts were received throughout the city.

"I hope everyone will be as happy about receiving the gifts as I am," said the mother and her sentiment was echoed in just about every home visited by Mrs. Santa and her helpers.

TO BE GUEST SPEAKER

Dr. Donald H. Andrews, chairman of the Maryland Great Decisions Committee, has announced that Joseph C. Harsch, senior European correspondent of the National Broadcasting Company, will be the guest speaker at an open meeting on Tuesday, Jan. 6 at 8:30 p.m. at the Roland Park Public School, Roland Avenue at Deep Dean.

HELP AT CHRISTMAS—Children of the Rosewood State Hospital were happier at Christmas because of the combined efforts of the students and faculty at Charles Houston Junior High School. The Junior Red Cross and the Honor Society staged a "penny day" which helped defray the costs of filling Christmas stockings for the young patients. Shown here are four members of the Honor Society filling stockings under the supervision of Mrs. June Bowen. Left to right: Joan Watson, Mrs. Bowen, Barbara Brooks, Jennette Woods and Patty Drake.

Hayes school holds annual Yule hour

The faculty and staff of the Hayes School No. 102 held its Annual Christmas Fellowship Hour at the school on Thursday.

The Christmas Message, was delivered by the Rev. Octavius Graham, pastor of Knox Presbyterian Church.

Gifts were exchanged among the faculty members. The music was directed by Mrs. Jean Julius, music teacher at the school.

Mrs. Gwendolyn Daye, school assistant, rendered a beautiful selection, "O Holy Night." Mrs. Ruth King led the group singing.

Mrs. Anne L. Payne gave the closing remarks.

Participants were Mrs. Glendora Rey, Mrs. Marian Bordley, Miss Mildred Hall, Miss