Laurel Cemetery May Be Closed Unless Improved

(Continued from Page One)

spent $10,000 to clean up the cemetery so as to attract buyers for the remaining 1000 lots, it would still be losing money because of the low sale price.

Lot Owners Raise $264

When reports about possible elimination of the cemetery became public a few months ago, some 60 lot owners, who are interested in maintaining the burial ground, organized the Laurel Cemetery Protective and Improvement Association to raise funds for improvements.

But they are handicapped in this campaign because they are unable to locate many other lot-owners while still others have shown only a cursory interest in the project.

The group recently gave a tea which brought their total funds up to about $264, whereas it will cost approximately $1000 to clean up the one section of the cemetery on which they have been granted permission to begin work.

Upkeep Another Problem

Besides having difficulty in strengthening their group, raising funds and obtaining workmen to do the job, the association pointed out that if one section of the cemetery is cleaned up, there would remain the problem of keeping it so and also of what to do about the rest of the grounds.

Headed by Mrs. Estella Barry of 1735 N. Caroline St., the association has about 200 members listed, but fewer than 25 are active.

A delegation, including Mrs. Barry, Mrs. Anita Scott, secretary; Mrs. Mollie Bowen, Mrs. Ella Dyer, Mrs. Priscilla Cattis and Ira Jones, discussed the problem with Mr. Kaufman on Monday.

They had heard reports that the city was planning to condemn the cemetery in order to develop a street through the area.

Reports Denied

A check with city officials, however, revealed that no such action has been undertaken although the idea of eliminating the cemetery has been discussed.

If the city were to take over the property, negotiations would be made with the owners for reburial of the dead.

Last September, the neighborhood Belair-Edison Improvement Association, headed by Dr. Joseph Rosskopf, appealed to the Park Board to do away with the cemetery and develop a playground there. This proposal was turned down.

When advised that the organized group of lot-owners were frantically working to clean up the grounds, Dr. Rosskopf said that would certainly satisfy his association. Since then, they have taken no further action toward eliminating the graveyard.

Few burials now take place in the cemetery. Two years ago, one funeral party left the cemetery with the body of its dead after finding the grounds in such disgraceful condition.

Noted Bodies Listed

Although it contains tombstones dated as early as 1847, the cemetery is distinguished not for its age, but for the prominence of persons buried there.

This group includes:

Bishop Daniel A. Payne (1811-1893); Bishop James A. Handy (died 1911); the Rev. John Collett, the Rev. Daniel Draper (1834-1902); Bishop Alexander Wayman (1821-1895); the Rev. C. W. Nichols (died 1898); the Rev. Darius Stokes, the Rev. W. I. Carr, Jacob A. Seaton, all AME churchman.

The Rev. P. Carter Neal (1868-1920), once pastor of the city's oldest Baptist church, the Rev. Harvey Johnson, the Rev. R. T. Wynn, the Rev. George Kenard, Hiram Watty, the Rev. Cassius Mason, the Rev. William H. Wesley of other denominations.

Samuel E. Young, caterer; Isaac Myers, business man; Cabell Calloway, W. H. Lively, Dr. James C. Creditt, Samuel Derry, Samuel T. Chase, undertaker, and Dr. John Johnson, East Baltimore physician.

The parents of the late Harry O. Wilson Sr., banker, were once buried here.

Houston Sums Up Residents' Case

(Continued from Page 1)

Council hearing on the traffic ordinance was a "top to the citizens" and placed them in a position wherein "they might as well have been testifying to a blank wall," Donald Murray is co-NAACP counsel.

Through the court proceedings, the residents seek to enjoin the city permanently from enforcing the one-way street plan which they have labeled a "death way," contending:

That the city knew about the traffic plan when it raised assessments on their property in the fall of 1947; that through the following months the city led them to believe that the plans were still pending; and that the hearings given the citizens in January and February of last year were a "sham," forcing them to accept the edict which was linked up from the beginning with the $400,000 expressway already constructed through Druid Hill Park.

Tax Injunction Asked

Further, Mr. Houston asked the court to enjoin the city from collection of the increased property taxes, the effect of which would be to have the property reassessed in view of the traffic factors which were not considered previously.

This, said the attorney, will enable the residents to object to the increased taxes from the very beginning.

Representing the city, Hamilton O'Dunne, assistant city solicitor, contended the the issue of the conversion plans was never closed until the ordinance was passed last February.

Takes "Too Bad" Attitude

He said further that the Court of Appeals has ruled that "once you embodie the city has the right to control traffic and streets, and then someone is injured as a result, that's too bad."

Mr. O'Dunne also asserted that the plans for the traffic conversion was decided "only from an engineering standpoint" in the initial stages.

Testifying on Wednesday, Paul Holland, director of public works, admitted that the construction of the park expressway was based upon an earlier decision to make Druid Hill Ave. and McCulloh St. one-way traffic outlets.

No Alternate Plan Broached

He said, also, along with George Carter, his deputy, that no other route was approved because officials were interested in minimum damages to the park.

This led Mr. Houston to observe that the interest of the neighborhood and the citizens was given less consideration than that of the park and the trees.

R. Brooke Maxwell, director of recreation and parks, produced a rule which decrees that trucks are barred from Druid Hill Park. It was said that truck traffic would not be barred from Druid Hill Ave. and McCulloh St.

9,000 Children Endangered

City officials said they made no particular study in reference to the 9,000 children in the area who must cross the two streets to attend nine schools. Mr. Carter admitted saying "regardless of the children, we have to get this traffic downtown."

Mayor D'Alesandro shrugged off responsibility saying, I'm no engineer."

Asked by Judge Mason what alternate route he would suggest for the traffic, Milton Brown, Baltimore NAACP executive secretary, referred to Eutaw St. and Madison Ave.

Mr. Brown added that this alternate would be a serious matter to residents, but "it wouldn't be quite as serious as the present route."

Pastors Oppose Plan

The Rev. V. V. K. Stokes, pastor of Trinity Baptist Church at Druid Hill Ave. and McMechen St., and the Rev. Baxter Matthews, pastor of Union Baptist at 1219 Druid Hill, both testified to the hazard their members and Sunday School children would have to face in crossing the streets to attend services.

Said the Rev. Mr. Stokes who lives on McCulloh St., which is already a two-way boulevard, "If it were possible, I would move away from there."

He spoke of noise, fumes and dirt form the busses, and said that late at night, the din from trucks "is almost unbearable."

25% Property Depreciation

Arnett Frisby, realty expert, said from 20% to 25% property depreciation could be expected from the traffic conversion.

Pointing to the link between the one-way street plans and those of the Baltimore Transit Company for conversion from streetcars to busses, Mr. Houston declaired "The city was advancing the interest of the Baltimore Transit Company, a private corporation."

He said that the residents are not waiting for the resulting factors of property depreciation and decreased residential sales value, but are "coming in advance to present their inevitable injuries, which constitute special damages for them."

Throughout the proceedings, the Druid Hill-McCulloh residents have been supported by residents on St. Paul and Calvert Sts., which were converted into one-way boulevards last year.

Two of the residents from that section testified that since the conversion, they have had to suffer nuisance, noise, dirt and unrest because of the increased traffic flow.

Pending the outcome of the court litigation, the one-way operation of Druid Hill Ave. and McCulloh has not been put into effect, although the Baltimore Transit Company has placed bosses along the two streets in connections with its own conversion plans.

Holiday Newlyweds

Mr. Ford Miss Wright

Miss Catherine Wright, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Willie Wright of 1829 E. Jefferson St., became the Christmas Day bride of Algia Ford Jr., son of Mr. and Mrs. Algia Ford of 919 Eutland Ave.

Visiting Hometown

Miss Coretha M Weekes, graduate of Harlem Hospital in NYC, is home visiting her parents at 818 Appleton St., Baltimore. She plans to attend Columbia University next semester.

Cupid's Corner

(Continued from Page 1)

COX-BELL—John, C., 51, 1414 W Mulberry St., Mattie, 40, widow.
WASHINGTON-SIMMS—Vernon, 19, 1708 Druid Hill Ave., Catherine, 18.
STEWEY-JAMES—Lorenzo, 38, widower, Emma, 29, divorced.
LITTD-PERSON—Funny, 40, Hattie 39, 1707 Dallas St.
MOORE-WILKINS—Waldell, 23, 106 S Caroline St., Mattie, 22.
HARDY-MILES — Robert E., 23, divorced, 1640 E Barnes St., Doris, 18.
SONNER-WILLIAMS—John Jr., 19, 122 N Amity St., Doris, 18.
QUEEN-BRISCOE — George, 25, 818 N. Stricker St., Jean, 21.
WHITAKER-BAGDALE — William, 36, 310 Pine St., Hattie B., 36.
MCDOWELL-PURDIE—Jesse L., 28, 307 Cherry Hill Rd., Alease, 22.
DORSEY-DUNGER — Weaver, Chester, 22, Annapolis Jct., Md.
HILL-HOLCOMB—John, 26, Estelle M, 46, 1233 Ashland Ave.
GREEN-BALES—James H., 30, 1706 Madison Ave., Marie, 28.
DUPYE-MANCE — James E. C., 23, 2548 Mace St., Lucille, 22.
ATKINS-WHITSTONE—John H., 46, divorced, Margaret, 37, divorced, 602 Pierce St.
STICKLEY-POTTS — Philip H., 22, 1335 Ashland Ave., Carole J., 18.
BOARDLEY-DEAN—Harrison, 39, 613 N. Bond St., Viola, 33.

Parker Guilty in Embezzling BHA Monies

(Continued from Page One)

he moved into the apartment last March 7 and through June paid Mr. Parker a total of $164, at the rate of $41 a month, without receiving any receipts.

Robert Lee Sullivan, administrative assistant to the director of managers of the Housing Authority, told Judge France that during that time, the organization had no record of a tenant occupying that unit, and that no rent payments were shown.

Tenant Ordered to Move

Mr. Sullivan said also that the apartment had not been officially rented because it was among several scheduled for rehabilitation.

Mr. Smith told the court that in the middle of May he came home and found that part of his furniture had been moved next door. The tenant there testified that Mr. Parker had asked permission to place the furniture there that day because an "inspector was coming around."

It was in June, Mr. Smith continued, that the manager ordered him to move and threatened to report that he was living in the house without his knowledge.

Denies Collecting Rent

Mr. Parker, 35, of 1804 Druid Hill Ave., testified that he did not know that Mr. Smith was living in the house until the latter part of April, because he had told the man two months earlier that he was ineligible for occupancy as a non-veteran.

He said that Mr. Smith then told him a "sad story" and he therefore gave the man a couple of weeks in which to move out. He insisted that he collected no rent from the tenant.

Judge France asked Mr. Parker how Mr. Smith obtained a key to the house, and the defendant said he did not know.

Authority Questioned

"Well as project manager, do you have power to let a tenant stay in two or three weeks without reporting it?" Judge France asked.

Mr. Parker said that as manager, he had authority to attempt to work the situation out so that it would not jeopardize his record. W. A. C. Hughes, attorney for the defense, pointed out that Mr. Parker knew that managers were responsible to the authority for all financial matters.

Judge France then asked, "Isn't it a part of your job to know when a change is occurring, and when it occurs?"

Explains Moving Furniture

Mr. Parker said that Holabird Homes had 1600 tenants, which made it difficult to account for each.

"Regardless of that, it was still your job," the judge insisted. Mr. Parker then said that it depended upon how often the homes were checked.

Referring to the furniture moved next door, Mr. Parker said he had ordered this in an attempt to show Mr. Smith that he meant business and that he had given the order some two hours before he knew an inspector was coming.

The defense produced several character witnesses for Mr. Parker who said he was attached to the Housing Authority since 1943, had been at Holabird since 1945 and was formerly an employee at the Social Security Board.

In arguing for an acquittal, Mr. Hughes declared that certainly a man with Mr. Parker's background would not take the chance of jeopardizing such a job, which "is more difficult for a colored man to obtain than a man of another race."

MENTAL HOSPITAL NEEDS STUDIED

Governor Lane met with Dr. George H. Preston, chairman of the State Board of Mental Hygiene, and superintendents of the five State hospitals for mental defective patients this morning (Friday) in a conference pertaining to needed improvement at the institutions.

Bob Ming and Wife Spend Holidays in Virgin Islands

ST. THOMAS, V. I. (ANP)—Taking time out from his teaching duties Dr. Robert Ming, professor at the University of Chicago, spent his Christmas holiday season here on the virgin islands with his wife.

Central Baptist Feud Continues

(Continued from Page 1)

ing; and he has "persisted in attempting to force his unwanted services upon the church."

This group declares further that the minister was dismissed because he was "incompetent, arbitrary, overbearing and contemptuous of the rights of the members."

Cite Baptist Law

It basis its action upon the statement that "under the Baptist law and usage, the wishes of the congregation are the supreme law of the church."

The minister, on the other hand, filed the bill of complaint after he was ejected from the pulpit on Dec. 26.

Those who ejected him declare in their answer to his complaint, "If said Guthrie was in fact injured, it was brought about by his arbitrary and capricious refusal to obey the mandate of the church's body and persisting in entering a place where he does not belong and is not wanted."

Assault Charges Dismissed

Five of the men opposed to the pastor landed in magistrate's court, last week, on charges of assault and disorderly conduct growing out of the Rev. Mr. Guthrie's attempts to officiate from the pulpit on previous Sundays.

All of the parties were dismissed. No arrests were made in the matter.

BOROTYMO MAYNOR TO SING AT BENNETT

GREENSBORO, N.C.—Dorothy Maynor, soprano, will appear in recital at Bennett College here, Friday, Jan. 21.

NEWS FLASHES!

(Continued from Page 1)

easter police station this morning (Friday).

Patrolman James P. Stromberg testified that after he heard one shot and saw the flash from a second, he arrested Bracy who kicked him in an effort to escape.

MAN GETS 9 MONTHS FOR ATTEMPTED SHOOTING

Found guilty of attempting to shoot his wife, Fannie, and of carrying a deadly weapon, Leroy Futrell, 30, of 910 Leadenhall St., was sentenced to nine months in jail today (Friday) by Judge Herbert F. Franklin.

The sentence, 30 days for the deadly weapon count and six months for attempting to shoot, were imposed in Southern police court.

TEEN-AGER ACCUSES MAN, 48

Robert Williams, 48, of 828 N. Dallas St. was charged this morning (Friday) at Northeastern police station with criminal attack on a teen-age girl. He is expected to be given a hearing this afternoon. Policewoman Carolyn Robinson worked on the case with Patrolman Paul Altes.

NEW EFFORT AT DEMOCRACY:

Jim-Crow Travel Law Repeal Bill Introduced

(Continued from Page 1)

in the last two seasons of the General Assembly.

The nearest it came to becoming law was in 1945 when it passed through the Senate by a 20 to 8 vote, only to be killed in the House of Delegates.

If passed by the General Assembly, the repeal bill would become effective on June 1, 1949.

To Up Princess Anne Grants

In the educational field, it was learned that Sen. Edward D. Storm (Dem., Frederick) plans to present a measure increasing the number of Senatorial scholarships to Maryland State College at Princess Anne from one to three.

During the opening days of the session, the Legislative Council submitted several bills based on recommendations by the Marbury Commission on Higher Education.

One of these measures would replace this scholarship system with one whereby scholarships would be doled out by the Department of Education, with appointments based on competitive examinations and merit.

Hospitals' Probe Pledged

The perennial "expose," of disgustingly deplorable conditions at Crownsville and at the State's other mental hospitals, also came in for its share of publicity this week.

An Open House at Crownsville, attended by a mere handful of legislators, Wednesday, plus timely newspaper publicity, drew results from Governor Lane, who promised to have the situation thoroughly investigated.

World War II veterans will receive a healthy long-awaited bonus of the current plans of Senator Kimble materialize.

U. of Md. Accounting

However, the measure, which would provide for payment of $500 to each man and woman who served in any branch of the armed forces during the recent war, has not met with too much favor. The proposal has not been presented to the Assembly.

Toward the possibility of paring down State appropriations to the University of Maryland, Delegate Horace P. Whitworth Jr., (Rep., Allegany) plans to introduce a measure calling for an accounting of the Federal funds received by the institution.

The delegate told the AFRO that the measure, yet in its draft stage, will require the university to give a full accounting of government funds.

As it now stands, he explained, it is difficult for the legislators to act on State budget allowances for the university.

Love-Mad Grocer Shoots

(Continued from Page One)

followed a conversation in which the matter of marriage had been discussed. Johnson suddenly whipped out a pistol from his pocket, and fired five shots striking both the girl and her uncle, detectives say.

Both victims were taken to the hospital in an unconscious condition by police who arrived on the scene shortly after the shooting. However, Johnson had fled the scene before their arrival.

Wanted Nursing Career

Miss Carter had gone to Philadelphia in early November, intending on taking a nursing course after graduation from a high school here. While in Baltimore she resided with a sister, Mrs. Thelma L. Carter of 936 W. Franklin St.

Her mother, Mrs. Louise Carr, notified of the shooting, arrived in Philadelphia on Monday from her home in Dame's Quarter, Md.

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