Man kills self in police station

Found hanged in cell after he drew term for wife beating

Using a shirt as a rope, Edward Coston Jr., 28, of the 1300 block Pennsylvania Ave., hung himself on Tuesday afternoon in a cell at the Northwestern police station.

The suicide was discovered 15 minutes after Coston had been sentenced to 45 days in the city jail for beating his wife and had been placed in the cell to await transportation to prison.

Coston had been released from the city jail earlier on Tuesday after he served 28 days of a 35-day sentence for the larceny of $10.

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A NUMBER OF persons who had gathered in the station house for the daily 3 p.m. hearings saw Coston's body as it was carried through the station and placed in a patrol wagon for the ride to Provident Hospital.

Physicians at the hospital pronounced him dead on arrival. His body was taken to the City Morgue.

The suicide came as a complete surprise to police officers at the station as Coston had given no indication that he was considering taking his own life after the 45-day sentence had been imposed in Northwestern police court by Magistrate E. Everett Lane.

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COSTON WAS led from the courtroom to the cell by Patrolman Thomas Reese, the turnkey. Reese returned to the courtroom to bring in another prisoner, and 15 minutes later when he checked the cell he found Coston's body dangling from a noose fashioned out of his shirt.

One end of the shirt had been fastened to the top of the cell door. The body was cut down by Officer Reese.

The 45-day sentence was imposed on Coston by Magistrate Lane for striking his wife, Bernice, during an argument in their home.

Mrs. Coston said when her husband arrived home on Tuesday from jail he found a pair of new shoes and several other items of clothing belonging to her. She said her husband was not satisfied with her explanation of where the clothing had come from and assaulted her.

Coston admitted striking his wife but denied that he had kicked her. He said they argued because his wife did not bring him cigarettes while he was in jail.

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BOYS' Rayon Sport Shirts 3 FOR $1
BRASSIERES 2 FOR $1
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Ruffle Slips 3 FOR $1
Women's Rayon Mesh Knit Panties 5 FOR $1
MEN'S ATHLETIC SHIRTS & BRIEFS 3 FOR $1
RHUMBA SUITS 2 FOR $1
Women's Slips and ½ Slips 1 FOR $1
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BOYS' SHEEN GABARDINE LONGIES 1.50
Pleat Bedspreads 2.75

3 convictions end dope ring

New York man is key figure

The final curtain dropped this week on a large scale dope ring which had been active in Northwest Baltimore and New York, when three men were convicted in Federal Court of conspiring to violate the narcotic laws.

The trio was nabbed, last April by local and federal narcotics agents, along with five other Baltimore addicts, all of whom were convicted are now serving time in the state penitentiary.

Key man in the setup was Prince "Chappie" Chapman, of New York City, drug wholesaler, who sold several quantities of heroin to the local addicts, it was testified.

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CHAPMAN WAS given a three year term by Judge Roszel Thomsen, to run concurrently with a similar sentence he received last month by New York authorities for making the sales.

Bernard Shelton, 25, 2000 block Saratoga St., an addict and the one who purchased the drug in New York from Chapman, for the Baltimore ring, was given an 18-month sentence.

James 'Jazz' W. Wilson, 39, 1000 block W. Saratoga St., received a one-year suspended sentence and was placed on probation. He was convicted for driving Shelton to New York.

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PLAYING THE title role in exposing the ring was the tall, handsome, brown-skinned federal narcotics agent "Agent D," who conducted three months of undercover work before the arrests were made.

With the aid of a special employer of the Treasury Department, "Agent D" was introduced to Shelton, Feb 15, the court learned. He gave Shelton $150 to purchase the heroin in New York.

On this trip, the addict went alone with Wilson, the agent said. The second time, "Agent D" accompanied the two to New York and 237 grains of heroin in loose powder form were purchased.

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EARLY IN MARCH, the agent convinced Shelton that he should take the risk of traveling to New York and arrangements were made for him to meet the big city contact, Prince Chapman, it was testified.

"Agent D" said he bought over $100 worth of heroin from Chapman in various places between W. 42nd St. and W. 126th St. near 8th Ave.

Both Chapman and Wilson pleaded guilty to the charges. Shelton contended that he had been trapped into buying the dope for the agent but the judge denied his plea.

NE district has largest crime load

The semi-annual crime report in Baltimore, from Jan. 1 to June 30, released this week, by Police Commissioner Beverly Ober, shows that more crimes were committed in the Northeast District than in any other police district in the city.

Some 2,951 crimes, the majority of them larceny and burglary cases, were reported in this district. Running a close second, with 2,755 crimes for the period, was the Northwest District.

A total of 41 murders two of which remain unsolved, were committed in the city during this time: 17 in the Northwest district, 13 in the Southwest district.

A monthly breakdown of killings in the Northwest district shows: January, 3; February, five; March, two; April, two; May, five and June, none.

In the Southwest District: January, five; February, two; March, none; April, four; May, one and June, one.

Machinist helpers wanted at Aberdeen

Applications for employment as machinists helpers at the Army Chemical Center must be received no later than Aug. 16 by the Board of U.S. Civil Service Examiners, Army Chemical Center, Md.

The pay scale for diemakers and toolmakers at the Center has been amended to $2.15 an hour.

CONDUCT BRINGS FINE

Bryant Smith, 41, of the 1400 block W. Fayette St., was fined $15 and costs on Thursday in Northwestern police court, on a disorderly conduct charge.

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DENTIST
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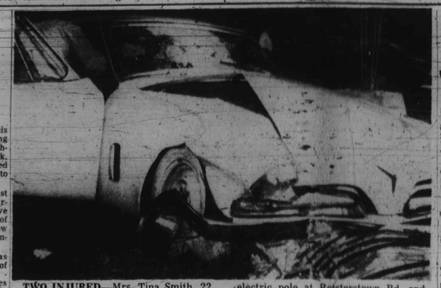

TWO INJURED—Mrs. Tina Smith, 22, of the 2900 block Mosher St. and Rose Fleushman of the 3300 block Bancroft St. suffered minor injuries on Monday when this automobile smashed into an electric pole at Reisterstown Rd. and Gwynns Falls Pkwy. The driver, Douglass Todd, of the 3500 block Lauretta Ave., was not injured. (Photo by Joe Lee)

EDDIE SWINSON

Find Baltimore man in river

D.C. kids heard victim cry 'help'

Funeral services for Eddie Swinson, 35, of 100 block Ellicott Drive, who died mysteriously Tuesday in Washington's Anacostia River will be held Sunday in Farmville, N.C.

Mr. Swinson's body was found beneath the Benning Road bridge after some children in a nearby carnival park had seen him dangling from a ledge on the bridge. It is not known whether he jumped, fell or was pushed into the river.

Relatives both in Baltimore and Washington denied Mr. Swinson had been despondent or in ill health.

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A BROTHER, James B. Swinson, of the 5000 block Jay St. NE Washington, did not even know Eddie Swinson was in town. The bridge beneath which the body was found is located only a block from Mr. Swinson's home.

Washington police identified the body by the Baltimore address found on Mr. Swinson. A Union Station locker key revealed a bag and train ticket to North Carolina in the station.

In Baltimore, Mr. Swinson lived with his brother Glasco, and sister-in-law, Mrs. Helen Swinson.

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"WE CAN'T understand why he was around that bridge," Mrs. Swinson said here.

The children who notified police the man was in the water first noticed him when they heard a call for help.

Mr. Swinson, an employee of the Ligon and Ligon Construction Co., was unmarried and had been living in Baltimore for the past nine months.

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HE OFTEN lived in North Carolina and was returning there to his mother, Mrs. Ienthia Swinson, when he met his death.

Another brother, Roland Swinson, is a resident of Washington and a sister, Mrs. Mary Blount lives in Farmville.

Man plunges to death after threatening to take his own life

A 24-year-old man made good his threat to take his own life when he jumped from a third story window early Monday morning.

Leon Burnett, of the 900 block N. Mount St., was pronounced dead on arrival at Franklin Square Hospital as a result of injuries sustained in the fall. Police have listed his death as suicide.

Police quoted Mrs. Mary Willia of the Mount St. address as saying that Burnett had threatened to commit suicide on the day before his death and had been despondent because of marital difficulties with his wife, Mrs. Ophelia Burnett of Freeman, Va.

Bail set for man charged with cashing 7 bad checks

A tall, unassuming red headed young man, charged with passing worthless checks on seven occasions in the Northwestern district, was ordered held in bail of $7,500 Thursday.

Charges were filed against William J. Johnson of the 2500 block W. Fayette St., after three witnesses, including a delivery boy and a salesman, picked him from a police lineup.

Johnson was charged with the following:

Forging a check for $2.92 worth of groceries and $17.08 in money from Paul Barditch, 2100 block W. North Ave., on July 7.

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FORGED BOGUS check for $2.50 and $17.50 in money from Jerome Kessler, 1400 block W. Lanvale St., July 22.

Forged check for $4.75 in merchandise and $15.25 in money from Jacob Levin, 100 block W. Mosher St., July 16.

Larceny of three checks valued at $60.41 belonging to Lester Miller, 2100 block Druid Hill Ave., July 19.

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ENDORSED A CHECK for $38.83 to the Northwestern Loan Co., 1701 Pennsylvania Ave., July 13.

Forged check for six bottles of beer and money to the amount of $19 from Archie Landon, 1900 block Druid Hill Ave., July 14.

Forged and endorsed check for $15.19 to the Northwestern Loan Co., July 13.

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JOSEPH DYSON, delivery-man for Levine's grocery testified that on July 16 he took change for a $20 check and groceries to an apartment in the 100 block W. Lafayette Ave.

He returned ten minutes later after finding out that the check was not good, he said but "the man was gone." He identified Johnson in the lineup.

Abe Blum, salesman for Northwestern Loan said Johnson bought a pair of $4.98 slacks with one check and endorsed a second for $15.19. Both were the property of Mr. Lassister, police said.

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MR. BLUM said Johnson told him that he worked at night "I thought to myself," Mr. Blum testified," that fellow's a nice man."

Donald Moody, 16-year-old delivery boy for Sach's Pharmacy identified Johnson as the man who met him with a check in his hand declaring that he had "already cleared it with the folks at the drug store" about cashing it.

Three convicted for stealing gas

Three men convicted of the larceny of three gallons of gasoline valued at $.75 were convicted on Wednesday in Northwestern police court. The sentences and fines were:

GEORGE E. BOYD, 1900 block Brunt St., $25 and costs.

LEROY R. ALLEN, Edesville Md., 60 days in jail.

JOHN D. FORD, Charleston, W. Va., $50 and costs.

Police charged that the gasoline was siphoned from an automobile belongonging to Archie Gardner of the 2100 block Division St.

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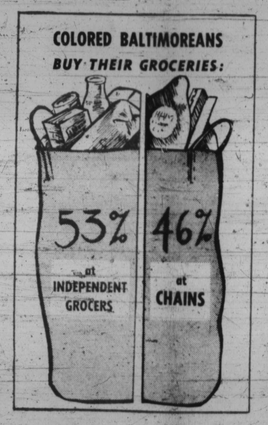
RECENT SURVEY* BY FACT FINDERS ASSOCIATES REVEALS

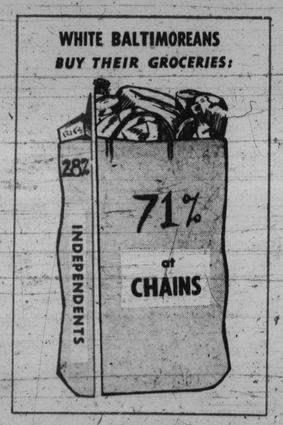
Important Difference in Grocery Buying Habits in BALTIMORE

*"Analysis of 501 Baltimore Negro Families compared with 501 White Families living in homes of similar rent or value." (August 1952) —Fact Finders Associates, Inc., N. Y.

COLORED BALTIMOREANS BUY THEIR GROCERIES:



WHITE BALTIMOREANS BUY THEIR GROCERIES:



We don't deem it necessary to go into the reasons for these differences in buying habits between white and colored families.

We do believe it is essential for advertisers to have as many important FACTS about the valuable market we serve as we can gather for them.

Only then can they make a wise selection of the media to give best results in this market.

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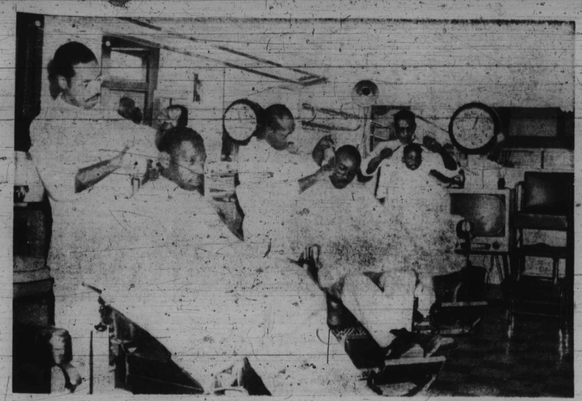


NEW SHOP, NEW CUSTOMERS — While customers remain cool under a huge fan in his new shop at Baker and Bentalou Sts., Pinkney Howell, left, starts off a busy day with two of his three barbers, Solomon Taylor and Chester Cago, not shown is Thomas Paschel. The all-new Howett barbershop features the latest in modern equipment. Included are an infra-ray machine for facials, an ultra violet ray machine for scalp treatment, and an infra-violet ray sterilizer. Haircuts are $1 adults, 65 cents for children. For entertainment, the shop offers both television and radio. For the ladies, as well as men, Mr. Howell offers manicures.

CENTER OF DISPUTE—These wooden stalls on site of the burned down Lafayette Market are the cause of a ever-growing argument between Pennsylvania Ave. merchants who claim they are an "eyesore" and "health hazards" and stall keepers who deny both charges. Over $400,000 has been appropriated to re-establish the old Lafayette Market which was destroyed in a $2,000,000 fire in May 1953, but certain acquisitions of property have held up progress. Present stall-keepers claim they have spent as high as $20,000 on their present investments. There are now 35 stall-owners operating 85 stalls at the present site.

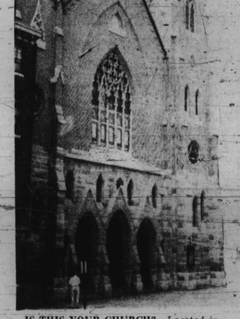
FAREWELL PARTY—After serving as a senior recreation leader at the Cherry Hill Center for more than two years, Miss Sallie Bulger, left, resigned her post recently to teach school this fall. At a farewell party given by the recreation staff Friday, she was presented a gift by Mrs. Alice Parham, director, Cherry Hill Community Center. Officials from the Baltimore Bureau of Recreation were guests.

HIGHLAND BEACH—on the Chesapeake Bay is a favorite cooling-off spot for Washington residents, these hot summer days. Blue sky, blue water and sparkling white sand offer a perfect setting for relaxation. Even those who don't swim enjoy just rolling on the beach. The group pictured here includes, from left: Melvin Walker, 7, and Mrs. Mary Mickey, both of 2705 14th St., NE; Alonzo Aden, founder-director of the Barnett Aden Art Gallery at 127 Randolph Pl., NW; Mrs. Elizabeth Walker, Melvin's mother, and Russell, his twin brother.

AFRO FOTONEWS

The Baltimore Afro-American, August 7, 1954

NEW STORE OPEN—In business at her new High's ice cream store at Thomas and Baker Sts., Mrs. Elois Parker starts off by advertising her products. In addition to the AFRO the store features ice cream and general merchandise. Mrs. Parker says hot weather more people buy ice cream and sodas to keep cool. Her husband, Earl Parker is a plumber and does gas conversion work.



IS THIS YOUR CHURCH?—Located in the 1000 block W. Fayette St., near Carrollton Ave., Morning Star Baptist Church which was organized in 1896, is considered to be one of the most attractive churches in the city. It was constructed in 1898, rebuilt in 1912, and purchased in 1925. The Rev. N. H. Wicks is pastor.

IN COMPETITION—The spotless appearance of the 2500 block Madison Ave., presents a graphic reason why Captain Queen Willis and her crew are definitely in the competition for top prizes in the AFRO's 20th annual Clean Block campaign which closes August 27.

THEATRE DOORMAN—Quinton Williams of 815 T St., NW, has been a doorman for the District Theatres for five years. A native of Santa Rosa, Va., he has lived in D.C. for 50 years. Above, he accepts a rose from Mrs. Florence Richardson at the Republic Theatre.

EVERYTHING'S SHIP-SHAPE at "The Wave," Columbia Beach cottage of Mrs. Sarah Jones and Mrs. Julia Franklin of 3117 Belmont Ave., Baltimore. Even their terrace, pictured above, looks like the deck of a boat. In the photo are, from left: Mrs. Jones, Mesdames V. Jackson and Elsei Griffin, Miss E. Jackson, the Rev. Marion Bascomb, John N. Lindsay, James R. Hite, William L. Watkins, Mrs. Franklin, Arthur Sharps, and Mesdames Elsie Wesley, Lillian Burke and Marguerite Crigler.