—To use handcuffs

(Continued from page 1)

his attempts to recruit new patrolmen?

"It seems to have stimulated the filing of applications rather than otherwise.

Mr. Hephron made these statements one day after releasing 10 report on crime for the month of September.

* * *

IN A REPORT released Wednesday, Inspector Hephron said:

Incidence of serious crime in Baltimore decreased by 18.4 per cent in September, 1956 as compared with the correspond ing month last year.

"This is the second successive month in which serious crime in Baltimore has decreased—the decrease in August, 1956 over the same month in 1955 having been 10.6 per cent."

He also said:

"In September 1956, murders, (despite the recent bad weekend in which there were two homicides) showed a 28.5 per cent decrease.

"The five different categories of robbery decreased by 37.8 per cent, while purse-snatching dropped by 43.4 per cent. Even the larceny of automobiles, in which there has been a marked national increase, dropped slightly—the percentage being 2.8 per cent."

* * *

THE COMMISSIONER while encouraged over the decrease in crime, said:

"Our gains in the last two months must not and will not cause any lessening in our efforts but will stimulate us in an even more determined drive against the criminal element, for our crime rate locally and nationally would still be far, far too high even if it were cut in half.

"The remedy lies in large part in an increased force, adequately trained and properly deployed'... During the last weekend for example, 120 men from the Academy were assigned to areas in the Northwestern and Northeastern Districts from 6 p.m. to the early morning hours."

Inspector Hephron called attention to a memorandum to district police captains which was read at all roll-calls. It cited the decrease in crime and said:

"There is a week-end ahead of us, however, and it is at such time that we experience our Friday and Saturday nights.

"Let us therefore take every possible precaution and make this, if humanly possible, with all the available staff we have, one of the most crime-free weekends we have yet had.

* * *

OTHER CRIMES and the percentage of their decrease over last year, cited in the report, were: manslaughter, 16.6; rape, 10; carnal knowledge, 42.8;

Robbery, 37.8; aggravated assault, 12.6; burglary, other than from homes, 32.2; forgery, 55.7 and false pretense, 90.1.

Crimes showing increases — and their percentages, were: Burglary from homes, 7.2; pickpocket, 400; shop-lifting, 43.4; auto accessory larceny, 6.4; embezzlement, 100 (there was one this September—none last September) and miscellaneous sex offense, 3.2.

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THE CHEWING-GUM LAXATIVE

PHYSICIANS ALL — Dr. Barnett M. Rhetta Sr. (center) is shown with his two physician children, Dr. Barnett M. Chicago (right). Rhetta Jr. (left) and Dr. Helen Rhetta,

Funeral services for Dr. Rhetta

Private funeral services, attended only by relatives and a few intimate friends were held this morning (Friday) for Dr. Barnett M. Rhetta Sr., 72, practicing physician here for 47 years.

Dr. Rhetta died in his sleep early Tuesday at his home, 2139 Druid Hill Ave. Death was due to a heart attack.

Although he had not been well for several years, he had been

See Editorial Page 4

griefstricken since September 22, when his oldest daughter, Mrs. Erovelle Brinkley, a Dunbar High teacher, suffered a stroke and died suddenly.

At the time of her death, he told the AFRO-"It has just about killed us."

THERE WAS no wake or review prior to the funeral services this morning at the Elroy Wilson Funeral Home.

A daughter, Dr. Helen Rhetta of Chicago, explained: "These were his own wishes, not the wishes of anyone except himself."

The Rev. F. J. Frye, pastor of Ames Methodist Church, officiated at the funeral. Burial was in Arbutus Memorial Park, where his daughter was buried two weeks ago.

Christened Barnett Milton Rhetta, he was the son of Mr. and Mrs. Elijah Rhetta. His father was a Mexican farmer who migrated to Calhoun, Alabama, where he was born on December 1, 1883.

While he was enrolled at a missionary school in Calhoun, Booker T. Washington visited there and asked the pupils who they considered the pupil most likely to succeed.

The students unanimously agreed Barnett M. Rhetta, and so upon his graduation from the missionary school he enrolled in Hampton.

* * *

DR. H. B. FRISSELL, then the principal, suggested that young Rhetta specialize in vocational education as carpenters were badly needed in Calhoun, but he refused to change his mind.

After graduation from Hampton, he went to Saratoga Springs where he earned tuition by working in the hotels, and in 1903, enrolled in Howard University.

He was graduated from medical school in the class of 1915, which included Dr. Frank Cardozo, now a retired physician; Dr. Albert O. Reid, a local dentist and Dr. Gideon Brown of Kansas City.

In 1908, following a year's internship at Freedmen's Hospital in Washington, he began the practice of medicine in Baltimore.

* * *

DURING HIS 47 years' service, he gained a reputation as an indefatigible general practitioner who often received no pay for his services.

He estimated in a recent AFRO interview that on an average day he saw 80 patients. Although the fee for office visits has increased to $3 and $4 and over, Dr. Rhetta still charged many of his patients only $2.

Dr. Rhetta was known as a hard fighter for causes in which he believed. He was an ardent worker in the Hampton and Howard University alumni associations.

Although he was not a member of the Provident Hospital staff, he gave generously to all hospital drives.

He was also a contributing member of the NAACP, and a member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity.

* * *

HE IS remembered best as the physician who was responsible for employment of the first colored nurses and doctors by the city of Baltimore.

About 1912, he waged a campaign to have the city hire colored doctors and nurses. When the city said it had no funds, Dr. Rhetta went to the churches and raised $400 a month for 10 months for the first four nurses to work in the city.

After that the city employed colored doctors and nurses.

Today, there are approximately 250 colored persons in the Health Department including 60 nurses, 25 physicians and dentists, 20 in the sanitary division, 14 clerical workers, 4 laboratory technicians and 10 miscellaneous workers.

* * *

DR. MACEO WILLIAMS, director of the Druid Health Center, recalled this week, "Yes, we didn't have any colored workers on the city health department payroll prior to 1920.

"It was largely through Dr. Rhetta that we were able to get these people in. I remember they were taken in on a trial basis and he helped pay their salary because he knew they were going to make good and they have."

Several years ago when he was asked whether he would be a physician if he had his life to live over again, Dr. Rhetta said: "Yes, I would be a general practitioner because in the general practice of medicine I find the finest opportunity to help people."

"I am happy when I am working. If you hear of me working a part of my last day in life, you know that that is as I would have it."

Before retiring Monday, Dr. Rhetta saw approximately a dozen patients, and worked in his office until 8:30 p.m. He was found dead in bed by his wife at about 6 a.m. Tuesday. The family physician, Dr. C. R. Campbell, pronounced him dead

DR. B. M. RHETTA SR.
As he looked in 1913 when he fought for first city health department workers

SCHOVEL RICHARDSON

—Judge?

(Continued from page 1)

Price Administration in Washington 1943-1944 and was dean and professor of law at Lincoln University until he received his present position.

* * *

MR. RICHARDSON'S family in St. Louis includes his wife, the former Miss Inez Williston of Washington and four children, Frances E., Alice I., Marjorie L. and Mary L.

A member of the Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Mr. Richardson has contributed frequently to the National Bar Journal and was active in the legal fight for the outlawing of housing restrictive covenants.

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—Cycle crash fatal

(Continued from page 1)

the hospital to see her about 9 a.m. They told me to sit in the waiting room until the doctor came from the operating room.

* * *

"IT WAS 10:30 when they sent a nurse's aid to get me and she took me upstairs to an office in the colored ward. The nurse and the doctor were there then.

"They told me they had done all they could for Ruth but that she had died at 6 a.m. that morning.

"I was so shocked I did not think to ask why they did not let me know earlier.

"I got no message at all. I was too upset to think at all, only that my daughter was dead," Mrs. Anderson, said.

Also injured in the accident was the driver of the motorcycle, Ludwig Kaudes, 25, of 3905 Chesley Ave., a steamfitter; and a male companion.

Mr. Kaudes was treated for shoulder and head injuries at South Baltimore General and charged with reckless driving.

A hearing has been scheduled in Traffic Court for Nov. 11, at 7 p.m.

ACCORDING TO Mrs. Anderson, her daughter had gone to a sandwich shop with friends and was returning to an automobile parked on the opposite side of the street when the accident occurred.

Overcome with grief, the mother continued her account of the accident:

"We had spent the whole afternoon together and she was in such a happy frame of mind when she left home.

"Ruth was always pleasant and everyone who knew her loved her. She liked to go out now and then but her job and her home were first with her.

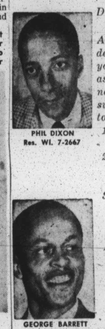
"She left home about 9:15. The next thing I heard, her friends were calling to tell me she had been hurt in an accident.

"I SUPPOSE her friends were so shocked they just drove along behind the ambulance without asking any questions about what hospital they were taking her to," the mother said.

A native Baltimorean, Mrs. Sterrette is survived by the husband, Jerome; her mother, Mrs. Adelaide Anderson; a sister, Miss Adelaide Anderson, and four brothers, Donald, Arthur, James Jr., and Elmer Anderson. Her father, James Anderson, is deceased.

Funeral services were held this afternoon (Friday) at the Evergreen AME Church, Catonsville.

The Rev. Charles Mack officiated. Burial was in the Baltimore National Cemetery.



PHIL DIXON
Res. WL. 7-2647

GEORGE BARRETT
Res. LA. 3-5147

MRS. RUTH STERRETTE
Killed in frenk motorcycle crash.

Gets life for wife's murder

"I'm guilty in self defense" William E. Tiller, 55, 1826 Laurens St., who pleaded thusly at his arraignment two months ago, was sentenced Thursday to life imprisonment for the shotgun murder of his wife at their home.

Judge Joseph L. Carter imposed the sentence after finding the defendant guilty of first-degree murder in the July 22 death of Mrs. Alberta Tiller.

Mrs. Tiller was found by police seated erect in a chair with a pool of blood at her feet. She was shot once through the chest with a .410 guage shotgun.

Mr. Tiller said he shot his wife after she threatened him. They had an 11-year-old daughter.

Norman Williams dies at Mercy

Funeral services for Norman Williams, 48, 1901 Ruxton Ave., will be held on Saturday at 9 a.m. at St. Pius Catholic Church, Schroeder St. and Edmondson Ave.

Mr. Williams died Wednesday in Mercy Hospital after a brief illness. He had been employed as a foreman in the maintenance department of a local newspaper plant for over 30 years.

He was a member of St. Pids and the Holy Name Society. Burial will be in the New Cathedral Cemetery.

SURVIVORS include his wife, Mrs. Robinette M. Williams, a teacher at School No. 147, four sisters, Miss Bernita Williams, Mrs. Elenora Williams, Mrs. Maud L. Williams, principal of School 126, and Miss Lettie Williams; one brother, Richard Williams, and other relatives.

—Eliza-Mickey

(Continued from page 1)

out of the week. Their clothing was completely removed from each other.

"I have talked with her husband and he told me that he didn't want a reconciliation; that he was interested in someone else."

* * *

MORGAN M. BUCKNER, auditor and master, in handing down the opinion that denied the divorce said:

"In my opinion, the proof is insufficient for a divorce on the grounds alleged, and I am unable to recommend a decree.

"The parties are still living in the same house, alone, although in separate rooms. Mrs. Hudnell, the witness, who attempted to corroborate the plaintiff's allegation of desertion, lived at a different address, and stayed overnight at the home of the parties on two or three occasions weekly.

"In my judgment this witness was not in a position to furnish corroborative testimony to the degree required by law."

MRS. ROBINSON, a teacher at Douglass High School, and Mr. Robinson, a salesman with the Baer Paper Company, were married on August 31, 1951.

The marriage was her second. She had been married to and divorced from Elson Higginbotham, AFRO advertising executive.

21 DAYS to register in the NAACP
annual membership campaign
Closing Date
OCTOBER 26
15,000 members wanted

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AS 1,000 WATCH firemen take to the roof of 821 and 823 Pennsylvania Ave. to put the finishing touches on a fire that cast a pillar of smoke hundreds of feet in the sky last Monday. No one was hurt in the dwelling which was extensively damaged. Fire investigators say the cause is still unknown.

Ike ripped for ignoring Judge Hastie

NEWARK

"Failure of President Eisenhower to appoint Judge William P. Hastie to the Supreme Court is a slap in the face to colored Americans and an insult to our intelligence."

This criticism was made here Sunday by Councilman Irvine L. Turner, a Democrat.

"The President," the militant Central Ward leader said, "could have appointed a qualified colored judge or lawyer to fill the vacancy, since all the Supreme Court Justices are white."

* * *

TURNER told the AFRO that his criticism of the President is not an attack upon the integrity and high qualifications of his appointee, Justice William J. Brennan of the New Jersey Supreme Court.

"Every Jerseyan should feel proud of the President's choice. Justice Brennan will be a great asset to the Supreme Court," the councilman said:

"However," he added, "apparently the President feels that the position is just a little too high for a colored judge or lawyer at this time;

"Or, he feels that he does not wish to offend the South...

* * *

"THE APPOINTMENT of Judge Hastie to the Supreme Court would have been a grand slap in the face of those bigots in the South who are, this very minute, challenging the Supreme Court's ruling against public school segregation.

"I can only conclude that President Eisenhower is not as serious beneath the surface on the moral issues of civil rights and first-class citizenship for all Americans as he talks from above the surface.

"Had he been sincere in his thinking, he would have appointed Judge Hastie to the Supreme Court—he ranks among the nation's greatest jurists."

Chapman receives new Air Force Job

CHANUTE AFB, Ill. — Maj. Oscar J. Chapman has been appointed deputy director for the Propulsion Laboratory, at Chanute Air Force Base, Ill.

Major Chapman is a graduate of Ohio State University, with a Ph.D degree in education and psychology.

He had been professor of education and psychology at Morgan State College in Baltimore, president of Delaware State College and member of the faculty at Tennessee State University, prior to his return to active military duty in 1952.

Major Chapman's assignment prior to the new one was Deputy for Research Operations of the Old Training Aids Research Laboratory. He is the son of Capt. and Mrs. Henry C. Chapman of Stockton, Md.

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'I'd had a full day and was worried'

"I'd had a full day and I was worried about the child I went to Sparrow's Point to see. I took medicine there and didn't expect it to have any effect on me before I got home."

Mrs. Martha Claudine Dowdy, 38, 1008 block McDonogh St., a public school teacher, was speaking Monday in Traffic Court before Magistrate Richard Gilbert.

She faced charges of reckless driving and operating under the influence of liquor or drugs.

Roy C. Ferns, 1700 block Ellsworth Ave., testified that Miss Dowdy ran into his car which was parked in front of his Ellsworth Ave. address, about 11:20 p.m., September 20.

When asked about the defendant's sobriety, Mr. Jonus replied: "She was unsteady."

* * *

"I CAN'T CLOSE my eyes to the fact that she is guilty of the offense," Magistrate Gilbert said in sentencing Mrs. Dowdy. Her license was suspended for 15 days.

A $25 fine for reckless driving was suspended, but she was fined $100 for operating under the influence. "The minimum fine" the magistrate commented.

ENDS YEAR IN U.S. POST

BALTIMORE—**John R. Hargrove,** graduate of the University of Maryland Law School, completed his first year as an assistant United States attorney here on Oct. 3. Mr. Hargrove practiced law here in Baltimore for five years before accepting his present position.

Edward Clark 'Dad' Ridgley was Maryland's first Democrat

"Most of his friends knew him as "Dad" and will remember him playing pinocle at the YMCA along with his pals in his later years," Mrs. Rozena Ridgley told the AFRO.

She was speaking of her husband Edward Clark Ridgley, of 1516 McCulloh St., Maryland's first registered Democrat, who died Sunday after a two month illness.

"He died at 7:30 p.m.," she continued. "Although he would have been 90 years old this coming January he worked faithfully in politics up until last May. Politics was his heart.

"He registered to vote with his chosen party over 45 years ago," she said.

* * *

BORN IN Alliance, Ohio, "Dad" was active in show business in his early years. He was an impressario in Germany, Sweden, France and Switzerland where he had his own shows.

In 1940 he was married to the former Miss Nightingale of Washington who was with "Shuffle Along" in 1929, and one of the original Cotton Club beauties at the Savoy in 1925.

Mr. Ridgley's political life was colorful as the era in which he lived. He was first associated with Tom Smith, then J. Alvin "Mickey" Jones and William B. Dixon in addition to the Jack Pollack faction of the 14th Ward, 10th precint of the Fourth District.

* * *

FUNERAL services were held Thursday at noon from the Arlington Phillips Funeral Home.

Besides his wife, Mr. Ridgley is survived by a son, Charles, who is pianist with "2 B's and A Honey," and Alfred, a Warner Brothers electrician in New York.

Also survivng are a niece, Mrs. Veronica Bradley, and three grandchildren, Vicki, Veronica, Edward and Alfred Duvall of New York City.

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SPECIAL RAW OAK FRAMED PICTURES 77¢
9 x 12 and 12 x 16-inch sizes in beautiful verplexed pictures (without glass). A variety of subjects.

SPECIAL 20x40-INCH "CANNON" BATH TOWELS 3 for $1
First quality Cannon towels in assorted striped and plaid patterns. Choose from many attractive high-shade colors.

SPECIAL 27x50-INCH LOW LOOP SCATTER RUGS
Washable cotton chenille in lovely shades of Hunter Green, lawn green, old gold, chartreuse and sandlewood. $1.66

SPECIAL PRINT & SOLID COLOR PERCALES 27¢ Yard
Beautiful 80-square percales, the finest quality you can get, in an assortment of gay prints and solid colors. In 10 to 20-yard lengths.

BOYS' 4 to 12 ZIPPER DUNGAREES 99¢
Regular $1.49 values of heavy 10-ounce Sanforized blue denim. Zipper fly, belt loops and no-scratch rivets on front pockets.

SPECIAL REGULAR $2.95 LONG SLEEVE SPORT SHIRTS $1.97
Wonderful assortment of plaid-ginghams, striped cotton suedes and solid color viscose Gabardines. All washable; one and two breast pockets. Men's small, medium and large.
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