**WEATHER**
IDEAL for second game of World Series, Friday. Temperature about 72. Cooler but still warm Saturday. Humidity 100. Some cloudiness Saturday afternoon.

# Baltimore Afro-American

Time to share . . . Joint appeal now on. All benefit, all should GIVE

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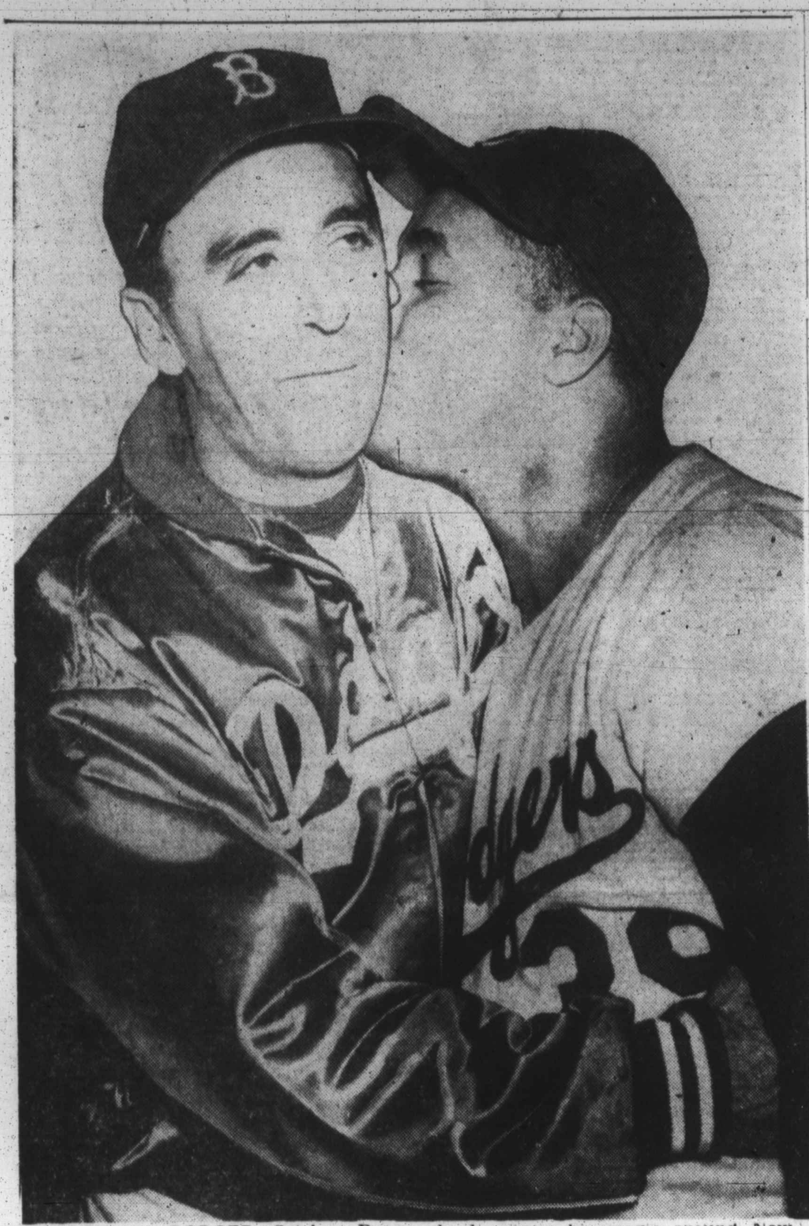
# Baby Sitter, 16, Slain

## 'They Did Not Tell Me My Daughter Was Dead..'



**BROOKLYN DODGER** Catcher Roy Campanella plants a big kiss on the cheek of Pitcher Sal Maglie in the dressing room after the 39-year-old hurler wove his magic around New York batters for a 6-3 Dodger victory in the opening World Series game. President Eisenhower saw the game.

## Freak cycle crash fatal to matron

"Ruth was my oldest child. We were more like pals than mother and daughter, and we even looked alike.

"I didn't think her injuries would be fatal. I sat there in the hospital four and one half hours waiting to see her and then they told me Ruth had died at 6 a.m."

**Mrs. Sedonia Anderson, 335 S. Ellamont St., was telling the AFRO Thursday about the freak motorcycle accident which killed her daughter, Mrs. Ruth Anderson Sterrette.**

Mrs. Sterrette, a 24-year-old elevator operator for a downtown department store, was struck by a motorcycle while

(SEE PHOTO PAGE 2)

crossing at the busy intersection at Washington Boulevard near South St. at 9:45 p.m. Sunday.

She suffered a fractured pelvis, fractured ankles and a broken back.

"My Lord, I don't know what I will do without her," the mother said in despair.

"What puzzles me is why they took her to South Baltimore General Hospital when University was so near where the accident happened.

**"When I left her at South Baltimore General, Sunday night she was delirious, but I thought when she came from under the shock she would get better. I did not know her injuries were so severe.**

"She suffered. She kept saying, 'My back, my back.' It was terrible.

"The next morning I went to

(Continued on page 2)

**ACCUSED** — Alvin H. Braxton, 17-year-old ex-Douglass High student, is borne on stretcher by police and ambulance attendants from Maryland General Hospital to City Hospitals where he is now confined. He is charged with fatal shooting of Patrolman John Phelan.

## 3 children found with girl's body

By HERB MANGRUM

"I walked into the house and there she was on the stairway with nothing on but a shirt.

"I knew there was no use talking to her. I could see she was dead.

"Her eyes had set."

**Puffing calmly on an aromatic corona cigar, that was the manner in which a father talked about the death of his teenage daughter on Thursday.**

Shaking his head slowly from side to side, Howard Blocker of 2213 W. Hamburg St., Mt. Winans, could give no reason for the death of 16-year-old Shirley Blocker, a 9-B pupil at the Cherry Hill Junior High School.

* *

**THE TALL,** handsome father said he found his daughter's unclad body in a pool of blood when he was called home by his son Howard, 4.

**The young girl who had stayed home from school Thursday to care for her sister's children had been stabbed twice in the chest.**

Mr. Blocker learned of the slaying when his young son ran to him on his job and yelled, "Daddy, —— has killed Shirley with a knife."

Mr. Blocker, who works in a warehouse across the street from his home, said he ran home and found his daughter's body on the stairway in the living room.

* * *

**IN CONNECTION** with the slaying, Southwestern District police are holding Anderson Lee Best, 18, 2400 block of S. Paca St., the dead girl's brother-in-law, for questioning.

According to Mr. Blocker:

**"Shirley was alone with my daughter Pearl's two children and my son when she was killed."**

Mr. Blocker said when he arrived home he found the children, a boy and girl, ages two and one wandering about the house.

"Whoever killed her must have had a hard battle. They fought from the attic down to the first floor.

**"You can still see the blood over there.**

"I figured I knew right away who did it so I called the ambulance and then the police.

"They took her from here to the morgue. There was no use taking her to the hospital."

* * *

**THE FATHER** added:—

"Anderson was supposed to have been down town this morning in court, but I think he was here.

"His wife Pearl told me she had been having trouble with him and had taken out a warrant for nonsupport.

**"I have no idea why Shirley was killed. She was innocent.**

"I can't get over the fact that he was here when he was supposed to have been down there in court.

"Poor innocent kid. Seems as if she just slid down the stairs.

* * *

**"WHOEVER KILLED** her got in through the pantry window. There's a butcher knife missing out of the kitchen too."

**Rising from his seat to search for a picture of his daughter, the young father declared, "I just don't understand it.**

"Why did anyone have to kill my daughter?" he asked this reporter. I had no answer.

Besides her father, the dead girl is survived by her mother, Mrs. Mertina Blocker, was was at work at the time of the killing; and two sisters, Mrs. Best and Mrs. Rosetta Strand; and a brother, Howard Blocker Jr.

## 4 youths in police killing case charged

"We are asking for a further hearing to be set by the state's attorney's office. There is a possibility of additional charges being placed."

So requested Lt. Paul Aires late Thursday afternoon in Northwestern District Police

See Eyewitnesses' Stories And Photos Page 27

Court at the arraignment of three youths charged with a series of holdups.

**A fourth youth, 17-year-old Alvin Herbert Braxton, is still in the City Hospitals, having been shot five times after trading bullets with policemen Saturday night in an attempted holdup of a liquor store in the 2700 block of W. North Ave.**

He was formerly charged Thursday in Central Court with assault and shooting and causing the death of 21-year-old officer John Phelan. He will be given a hearing at a later date.

The three other youths held are: Alvin Braxton's 19-year-old, brother, Albert, 1900 block Warwick Ave. $10,000 bail on one attempted robbery and one armed holdup charge;

Roger Welden Ray, 21, 800 block N. Payson St. armed holdup counts. $55,000 bail on 41 armed holdup counts.

And, Earl C. Pickett, 19, 400 block N. Pine St. was held in $20,000 bail on four armed holdup charges.

* * *

**ALL THREE** men stood mutely before the magistrate as bail was set for them. They stared blankly into space as they leaned on the courtroom rail.

**Ray, against whom, 11 counts were added up, held a Bible in his right hand. A tall slender youth, he wore a blue serge suit and a red sport shirt open at the top.**

Pickett wore a pink shirt, unbuttoned at the top, and gray trousers.

Smallest of the three was the older Braxton boy, who stands 5' 4" and weighs 155 pounds. He also wore gray trousers, but a blue sweater and jacket. His tan shoes were highly polished.

The crowded courtroom was cleared by the magistrate when this case came up except for friends and relatives of the youths.

There were no demonstrations by relatives. However, Mrs. Roger Ray, seated midway in the courtroom, sobbed quietly throughout the hearing.

The specific charges against

Continued On Page 27

## 'I tried to raise my children right . . .'

"I've been a good mother. I've raised my children right. If you go around the neighborhood and talk, people will tell you what kind of person I am . . . they will tell you he was well-raised.

"If he did a crime . . . remember this was a kid, a child, no matter what he did, and when he hit back, he defended himself.

**"We're not responsible for what our children do when we raise them right. They're like the seeds that you plant, you know. You don't know how they're going to come up, even though you plant them right. You've heard about this delinquency and all that."**

Tight-lipped Mrs. Pearl M. Braxton, 683 Pierce St., was talking about her son, Alvin Herbert Jackson, 17-year-old former Douglass High School pupil, who has been charged with the fatal shooting of Patrolman John Phelan.

* * *

**A SECOND SON,** Albert Henderson Braxton, 19, 1900 Warwick Ave., is one of three other youths facing 15 charges of assault and robbery of liquor stores and restaurants over a four-month period.

The younger son, Alvin, is confined to City Hospitals with five bullet wounds suffered during a battle with police.

**Of her younger son, Mrs. Braxton emphasized: "He's 17 years old, and he's never been in trouble before, neither one of my children. I don't get angry about the truth about them, but I don't like no lying."**

Advised that her sons might be linked to a series of robberies, Mrs. Braxton commented: "Maybe so. I won't say they aren't. But how long do they keep them for questioning? I know my child might have commited a crime."

* * *

**WITH HER** voice choked with sobs, the accused youths' mother said: "My other children are sick about this. I'm not sick because I am a Christian, and I pray to God to give

Continued On Page 27

**FAMILY COVERAGE**

It is a habit with over 37,000 families to look for the AFRO every Tuesday and Friday. Why don't you?

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## Eliza can't divorce Mickey, court rules

A divorce was denied Mrs. Eliza Fennell Robinson, here, Saturday, when she failed to prove that she and Milton U. (Mickey) Robinson Jr. were not living as man and wife while they occupied the same house.

**The Robinsons live at 2309 Poplar Grove St. She charged him with desertion when she filed suit for divorce in April.**

Later, taking testimony before an examiner,

Mrs. Robinson said:

"My husband left me. He is still living in the house I am occupied by me. We formerly occupied the second floor front. He moved his clothing and personal effects into the second floor room at the back."

* * *

**THE SEPARATION,** she said, occurred January 24, 1954.

Asked why Mr. Robinson moved into a room away from her, the wife said:

**"He told me he was interested in another woman, and that he did not want anything else to do with me."**

In answer to a question as to why Mr. Robinson did not move out of the house, she said:

"He felt that part of the house was his, that he owned as much as I did." Mrs. Robinson said that on many occasions she had attempted a reconciliation with her husband, but had been rebuffed.

* * *

**WITNESS FOR** Mrs. Robinson was her cousin, Mrs. Vera C. Hudnell.

Mrs. Hudnell testified that Mrs. Robinson had been a "good, true and kind" wife through her entire married life.

**As to the separation, Mrs. Hudnell said: "I stayed there at least two or three nights**

(Continued on page 2)

**MRS. ELIZA ROBINSON**
*Matron denied divorce from her husband . . .*

## Dodgers set to go

By SAM LACY
AFRO Sports Editor

NEW YORK—The fates who once were being viewed with suspicion by the Brooklyn Dodgers tossed a smile their way here Thursday.

Rain washed out the second game of the World Series.

This same kind of weather had brought a scowl to Flatbush the previous week. Two days before the end of the regular season (Friday), rain had erased a game with the Pittsburgh Pirates, necessitating an unwelcome double header on Saturday.

Double headers are unpopular in the final hours of a bitter pennant race; hence the cursing of fate in Brooklyn.

* * *

**IT WAS A** different story here Thursday.

The Bums and their followers were sure that, regardless of what transpired thereafter, this was a stroke of luck they had not anticipated in their tangle with the New York Yankees.

The day off meant another day of rest for the Dodgers' hard-used pitching staff — particularly for Don Newcombe, who had been slated to start the

(Continued on page 20)

## •INSIDE•


- FIREMEN praised. 'They save our lives,' 'They deserve a raise,' say residents in area of Partt St. fire.—Page 15.
- BOSS fires father of Gordon children who attended Clay school. Page 7.
- ELKS FILE answer to fraud suit.—Page 2.
- TEN commandments and honesty pay says mother of 11-year-old who found Morgan student's $236 tuition money—Page 7.
- DEATHS—Dr. Barnett M. Rhetta Sr., physician; 'Tippy' Garrison, grocer; Mrs. Preston Linberry, mortician's widow; and the Rev. John W. Davis, minister, among week's dead—Stories Page 2.
- DEMOCRATS — Local political leaders vote to boycott meetings in 'restricted' hotels.—Page 15.


## $500 in prizes in this AFRO contest

Politics is in the air! Now you can speak your mind and and get paid for it.

In a brand new political contest beginning today, you can win $500 in cash prizes just by stating who you think will be the next President of the United States.

First prize is $200 in cash, and $5 will be paid for every letter printed.

For details, see the announcement on Page 15 of this issue. Enter today—contest closes October 22.

## To be Federal district judge?

WASHINGTON

Reports are current here that Scovel Richardson, 44, chairman of the United States Parole Board, with offices in Washing-

(SEE PHOTO PAGE 2)

ton since 1953, will be nominated by President Eisenhower for Federal district judge in St. Louis.

A graduate of the University of Illinois and of Howard University Law School, Mr. Richardson practiced law in Chicago during 1938-1939, was associate professor at Lincoln University (Mo.) 1939-1943, was senior attorney for the Office of

(Continued on page 2)

## Cops to use handcuffs from now on—Hepbron

"I gave the order to use handcuffs because of a couple of bad things that happened—such as what happened the other night (the fatal shooting of a rookie patrolman by a robbery suspect).

"If the man had been handcuffed with leg irons on, the death probably wouldn't have ensued."

**Police Commissioner James Hepbron spoke Thursday of his order that handcuffs and leg irons will be standard equipment in all crusing patrols; radio cars will be equipped with handcuffs.**

Asked if there had been a previous order to use handcuffs, he said:

"The officers were given discretion to use them when they see fit. Usually in a case where a man is being taken to the hospital in an ambulance, you don't need them but this man was strong as an ox." The Commissioner referred to Herbert Braxton, held in connection with the death of Officer John Phelan.

"I saw him on the operating table and he had five bullets in him that didn't seem to affect him any more than pin pricks would you or me.

"He was 17 but I would have taken my oath that he was at least 25."

* * *

**DOES THE COMMISSIONER** think this unfortunate occurrence will have any effect on

(Continued on page 2)

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