RETIRED NOW, are extreme left, Sylvester J. Short, of 1527 Argyle Ave., post office distribution clerk with 40 years of services, and Richard V. J. Peed, of 1524 McCulloh St., also a distribution clerk with 38 years of service. Left to right from Mr. Peed are: Sidney D. Raymond, city carrier, 40 years of service; J. Frederick Kopp Jr., letter carrier, 44 years of service; William F. Laukaitis, acting postmaster, who presented honorary certificates to the retiring men; William H. Gunther, superintendent Southwest station 34 years service, and Edward C. Harrington, city carrier, with 37 years service. A total of 11 men were in the group who retired Monday. Not shown is A B. Koger of 1301 Madison Ave., window clerk with 34 years of service.

Union Baptist loyalty fund needs $44,000

Latest reports from the Union Baptist Church Special Gifts Committee and the Loyalty Campaign Committee indicate that $44,000 is needed to pay off the $60,000 indebtedness still due on the $150,000 community building.

According to the campaign committee chairman, Dr. Houston R. Jackson, $16,000 has been received to date.

The Rev. Baxter L. Matthews is pastor of the Union Church which is located on Druid Hill Ave. near Dolphin St.

Insurance company lists name change

The corporate name of the Home Friendly Insurance Company of Maryland was changed to the Home Mutual Life Insurance Company, it was announced this week.

With home offices at Centre St. and Park Ave., this firm has been serving life insurance needs since its incorporation as a mutual life insurance company in May, 1884.

The new corporate name of the firm will express better its specific nature of the business presently carried on by the company, a spokesman said.

Home Mutual Life Insurance Company operates in Maryland, Delaware, Pennsylvania and the District of Columbia.

'NUTS TO YOU'—That's what five-month-old Donna seems to be saying to our cameraman who spied her in Lafayette Square where her mother has taken him to get a cool breeze. Mother is Mrs. Charles Richardson, the former Miss Shirley Diggs a Baltimore policewoman. The baby is a first grandchild for Mr. and Mrs. Chuck Richardson (he's the radio personality) and Mr. and Mrs. Shirley Diggs.

Businessman explains why he picketed Mondawmin Ave. house

"All that I can see is happening is the colored families move in, the white families move out and you just have a large ghetto over there.

"There is no desegregation. At the rate they're going as it has been going there will be no desegregation.

"I'm entirely in favor od desegregation, I believe it could be worked successfully at this stage by allowing white blocks to stay as they are and the colored blocks to stay as they are.

"Then a little later on in the development of this program they might become entirely disintegrated as we would like to see them done.

"But the method employed by some of the realtors and some I think stupid people, they're not going to accomplish that end. That's my feelings on the matter entirely."

* * *

THE SPEAKER of these words was Jerome Libowitz, 3909 Mondawmin Ave.

He was explaining to the AFRO why he ran a short-lived picket line in front of his next door neighbor's house on Friday.

The neighbor, Reuben Foreman of 3911 Mondawmin, has offered his home for sale. After the picketing began, Mr. Foreman secured an injunction which halted the demonstration.

A hearing on the injunction is set for next week in Circuit Court.

Mr. Libowitz, in explaining his views pointed to the fact that he conducts a furniture store business in the 1900 block Edmondson Ave., which has a large colored patronage.

* * *

"I HAVE no objection to colored people," Mr. Libowitz said, "I think I'm well known on that matter.

"I just don't think what's happening is good for the desegregation movement.

"I would welcome myself personally colored neighbors as long as they are of the calibre I would associate with.

"But I am opposed to blockbusting methods, where the realtors call you at home, and tell you there is a colored family coming into your blocks and asking would you care to list your house for sale.

"I just don't approve such methods," Mr. Libowitz added.

SALE OF the Foreman home is being handled by the Carter-Hall Realty Co; Mrs. Philathea Hall, head of the firm, told the AFRO: "Mrs. Foreman called me and asked me to put the house up for sale.

"I will sell to anyone regardless of race or color." Mrs. Hall denied that she or her agents used any so-called 'block busting' tactics.

Mrs. Hall said she and Mr. Libowitz had cooperated on sale of some homes in other areas.

"What Jerry is mad about," added Mrs. Hall, "is that colored people are moving in his block, that's all."

'She told me she was 17 and wasn't scared . . .'

"She told me she was 17 and wasn't scared of nothing a man had . . . I didn't force her. . . She said she was going to leave home because her father was mean to her."

Willie Earl Ellerbee, 22, 1900 block Boone St. was testifying Monday before Judge John Tucker.

Convicted on a statutory rape charge, the youth received a year's suspended sentence in the State Reformatory, and was placed on probation for one year. He also was fined $150 and costs.

Court testimony disclosed that the girl, now only 14, was 13 at the time of the incident last September. The prosecuting witness told the court:

"Willie asked me to go in his car; later he asked me to go to his house. I went three times."

* * *

"SHE EXPLAINED that on one occasion, the defendant had her to quietly go upstairs to his bedroom and partially remove her underclothing.

The following sxchange took place between William M. Toadvine, defense counsel, and the prosecuting witness:

Q.—"How old did you tell him you were?"

A.—"I told him I was 14."

Q.—"Did you ever say you were 17, 18, or older?"

A.—"No, I did not."

Q.—"Isn't it a fact that you had relations with 10 men in one day?"

A.—"No sir."

Q.—"Having sexual relations with men is not new to you?"

A.—"I don't know what you are talking about."

Q.—"You know what sexual intercourse is; don't you?"

A.—"I do now."

Policewoman Carolyn Robinson of Northeastern District said that in a statement to her on May 14, the defendant admitted having relations with the girl, but insisted he did not know her true age.

Complete GLASSES! $10.50

Examination Included — WHY PAY MORE?

Choice of 40 styles, complete with lenses SINGLE VISION! TINTS! KRYPTOK-BIFOCALS!

GUARANTEED FIRST QUALITY MATERIALS!

PRESCRIPTIONS FILLED—LENSES DUPLICATED

Park Ave. office open Mon. & Thurs. till 9 P.M.

UNIVERSAL OPTICAL

Cor. Park Ave. & Fayette St. Hours 9-5:30 Mon. & Thurs., 9-9 P.M. Cor. Eastern Ave. & Conkling St. 9-9 P.M. Tues. & Wed. 9-6 P.M.

Blue Shield Driving School

Opposite Commissioner of Motor Vehicles

2109 GUILFORD AVE. BEImont 5-6731

Learn to Drive . . . NOW the Safe and Easy Modern Way

PROFESSIONAL INSTRUCTIONS

INSURANCE OF ALL KINDS

Fire, Casualty and Life Insurance specializing in

JR 11—SR 22

Free pick-up service. Full dual control, late model cars. Enroll NOW for Learners, Refresher and Parking Courses.

Give a Driving Lesson Present to the High School Graduate

CALL AT ONCE BE. 5-6731

WE WILL TRAIN YOU IMMEDIATELY

We secure your learner's card and also give you notary service.

OPEN 8 A. M. TO 8 P. M.—7 DAYS WEEKLY

Who but Four Roses could bring you the World's Finest Gin?

Four Roses DISTILLED London Dry GIN

FOUR ROSES DISTILLERS CO., N. Y. C. DISTILLED LONDON

STOP AT THIS SIGN FOR... CITIES SERVICE

The Big 5

The Most Advanced Gasolenes for Every Car!

"100 PLUS" (for ultra-high compression cars)

Over 100 octane for the most powerful cars of '56 and '57—and the last word in luxury performance from any car! New 100 Plus also contains the patented 5-D additive for a cleaner engine, longer engine life, more power, and more mileage than ever before possible!

"SUPER 5-D" (for high compression cars)

A new super premium, but still at the price of ordinary premiums! New Super 5-D offers extra-high octane, finer performance, greater engine protection! New patented 5-D additive reduces combustion chamber deposits up to 14% and provides four times greater rust protection!

"MILEMASTER" (for standard compression cars)

More power, more octane, more engine protection than ever before—but still at the price of regular gasolene. Milemaster is the perfect fuel for the average car, new or old. Will break records for you in economy and smooth, knock-free performance—even on steepest hills!

Service is Our Middle Name

Cities Service presents "SPORTS PICTURE" with George Rogers—Mon., Wed., Fri., 6:55 P.M. . . . WMAR-TV, CH 2

YOUR MID-TOWN CITIES SERVICE DEALER

DORSEY'S SERVICE STATION

575 WEST MOSHER STREET

ROAD SERVICE, TIRES, BATTERIES

CHARLIE'S CITIES SERVICE

2631 GWYNNS FALLS PARKWAY

OPEN 'TIL 10 P.M. Phone LONGWOOD 6-9702

$50 A WEEK for news tips and photos. Be on the alert—call in your tips to the AFRO City Desk; Phones: MU. 5-6015, 6016, 1812 or 1813. Say "I've got a Newstip." If no answer call LA. 3-3024.

2ND TO MERIT AWARD—SPARTSNBURG, S.C.—Scout Explorer Raymond K. Cox, member of Post 126, sponsored by New Bethel School, Woodruff, S.C., became the second scout in Palmetto Area Council to earn the God and Country Award. It was presented to him by the pastor of New Bethel Baptist Church at a formal ceremony.

PARTY FOR GRADUATES—Photos made Friday evening at Morgan Christian Center when the Wilson Park Moms Club entertained for graduates of Woodbourne Junior High, No. 46. The youngsters were the first to graduate at the school since integration. Photo at left, shows parents who sponsored party. Left to right, Mesdames Lois Street, Telen Robinson, Willie Oglesby and Pearl Harris. In center, the graduates are top row, Scott Williams, James Robinson, Anthony Wicks, William Street. The girls, left to right, are Joan Matthews, Miriam Johnson, Geraldine Oglesby, Jean Harris, Aurelia Cleg, Adriana Fennel, Natalie Thornton, Mary Cleg and Elaine Thornton. In right photo, Miriam Johnson and Parlette Moore Jr., enjoy a dance.

442 DHS Grads In Largest Class

"This is the largest class in the history of Douglass High School. I am proud of each one of these graduates".

These were the words of Mrs. Lillian M. Parrott, principal of Douglass High School speaking of the 442 graduates at the 69th annual commencement exercises.

The commencement was held on Thursday evening at the Polytechnic Institute.

Girl graduates were dressed in white dresses — some short formals, others long.

Boy graduates were dressed in white summer formals — white coats and dark pants.

All graduates were seated on the auditorium stage as were school officials and Mayor D'Alesandro who awarded diplomas.

The Mayor was on hand when the exercises began promptly at 8 p.m. but left for another engagement after awarding the diplomas.

Dr. John Fischer, superintendent of schools introduced the Mayor.

* * *

THE CAPACITY audience gave extended applause when 17-year-old Ernest Maurice Sewell, 17, who held a 91 average throughout his four years, came forward to receive his diploma.

Young Sewell, who wants to be a chemical engineer and plans to study at Johns Hopkins University in the fall, received four of the 35 prizes and scholarships awarded the graduates.

To Sewell went the Alumni Medal, Charmette Club award, faculty scholarship and William Deddes scholarship.

The salutatorian, Miss Elveer Bessie Allen, who averaged 90 for her four years, won the Zeta Phi Beta scholarship and a Deiches scholarship.

The graduates were:

Nathaniel W. Alexander, Daniel L. Allen, Elveer B. Allen, Barbara V. Alston, Barbara E. Anderson, Mildred A. Arthur, George J. Ashby, Richard M. Askew, Edward L. Autry, Brenda R. Ayers, Linda J. Baker, Charles Briscoe, Gerald M. Briscoe, Berry A. Brockus, Doris E. Bradie, Benetta R. Brooks, Phillis L. Brooks, Sylvia C. Brooks, Barbara E. Brown, Barbara M. Brown, Carolyn E. Brown, Eleanor V. Brown, Frederick E. Brown, George W. Brown, Norma R. Brown, Hilda J. Longston, Irene Bolton, Carmella M. Banks, Dolores V. Banks, Dorothy Banks, Helene R. Berkeddle, Charles E. Barnett, Alicia F. Barrett, Roberta M. Bates, Barbara B. Battle, Cornelia M. Bean, Miriam D. Beckwith, Constance E. Bell, Eugenia M. Bell, Mary E. Bell, Patricia A. Bell, Arthur L. Bennett, Barry J. Berry, Charles E. Blackwell, Frank D. Bowman, Rosalia A. Boyd, Marcella M. Boyd, Velner M. Boyd, Cora Boykin, Evelyn G. Bradley, Catherine Brannon, Sylvia E. Brown, William B. Brown, Gertrude Bryant, Milton Bryant, Cynthia C. Bryant, Edward Bush, Barbara J. Butler, Constance E. Butler, Jean D. Butler, Julia M. Butler, Berniece L. Caesar, Leatha Campbell, Donald C. Campbell, Joseph E. Campbell, Edna M. Canty, Nancy Carey, Robert Carey, Arlene M. Carney, Jean L. Carrington, Barbara D. Carroll, Georgia A. Carter, Gertrude A. Carter, Mildred E. Carter, Phillis A. Carter, Portia B. Carter, Ruth G. Carter, Ronald E. Carver, Carl F. Case, Rosemarie Chapman, Monte R. Chappell, Jonathan Chatman, Shirley T. Chavis, Franklin Cherry, Laura F. Clinton, Ronald C. Cobb, Edward E. Colbert, Thomas Cole, Cecile Coleman, Catherine Collins, Thomas G. Cook, Shirley H. Cooper, Charles B. Corbin, Richard J. Corbin, Alphonso Cornman, Alayne S. Cox, Charles E. Craig, Carl E. Dandridge, Shirley A. Danigan, Agnes E. Davis, Avis W. Davis, Constance P. Davis, Norma A. Davis, Rosemary D. Dennis, Wilhelmina C. Dickerson, Una B. Dobson, Peggy V. Dorsey, Franklin D. Dozier, Gorrie G. Drennon, Patricia L. Dunmore, Jeanette M. Early, Otis M. Eaton, Marion C. Edwards, Therese M. Elliott, Betty J. Ellison, Faye A. Embry, Andrew S. Ennis, Cera Evans, Hermione Evans, Ernestine E. Everett, Edwin F. Farley, Faye D. Flanagan, Jacqueline Fleming, Jeanette C. Floyd, Calvin R. Foster, Myrnyth B. Fortune, Melvin L. Fossett, Stephen Foster, Mary M. Fowlkes, Chester France, Jr., Janice C. Frankie, Vander Frye, Emily M. Fulton, Ellsworth Gardner, Samuel A. Gary, Delcenia D. Georgia, Peggy J. Giles, Theresa P. Carney, Steven Gilbert, Rosylee Gladney, Thomas E. Glaggett, Barbara Goldsmith, Leonard Gordon Jr., Howard Grady, James W. Graham, Donald A. Grant, Paul L. Gray, Avon R. Green, Alvin F. Griffin, Anna E. Grimes, Decatur G. Grimes, Rosetta Gross, Christine C. Hall, Paul L. Hall, Sylvia L. Hall, Frank J. Hamm, Barbara Hammond, Frieda Hardek, Mildred E. Harrell, Virginia Harrington, Marion E. Harris, Sallye A. Harrison, Dorothy M. Harvey, James Haskin, Jr., Kenneth L. Hawkins, Robert E. Hawkins, Albert Hawthorne, Ella R. Hayne, Harold Henderson, Elizabeth Hendricks, Ann Henry, Clifton W. Henry, Torline Henry, Patricia L. Henson, Claudette Hickman, Sarah Hicks, Larry G. Hines, Charles L. Hite, Margaret Holland, William L. Holland, Annette L. Holly, Maxine T. Howell, Rosemary E. Howell, Monroe Hughes, Thomas A. Hurley, Audrey M. Iler, Viola L. Irby, Constance Ireland, Alecia Jackson, George B. Jackson, Jean D. Jackson, Lucille Jackson, Mildred A. Jackson, Nonnette Jackson, Roosevelt Jackson, Frances B. James, Ernestine Jefferson, Verrice Jefferson, Barbara D. Johnson, Barbara F. Johnson, Beverly D. Johnson, Brenda E. Johnson, Catherine Johnson, Charity Johnson, Edwin Johnson, Jr., Gary A. Johnson, Jacqueline Johnson, James S. Johnson, Reginald Johnson, Barbara D. Jones, Carol A. Jones, Charlotte Y. Jones, Fred H. Jones, Jeanette Jones, Lillie Mae Jones, Mahvadean L. Jones, Sandra L. Jones, Thelma Ella Jones, William L. Jones, Audrey Jordan, Joe L. Joplin, Delores Z. Keel, Margaret Kendrick, Blanchie Kimbrow, Elizabeth Kitchen, Neatha E. Knocks, Andrey E. Knox, Mary L. Lane, Blanche Langston, Eleanor A. Lee, Elaine E. Lewis, Glenda Lewis, Lillian E. Lewis, Odessa Lewis, Robert H. Liggins, Charlie M. Liles, Alfred F. Lipscomb, Joan W. Lipscomb, Shirlene M. Loftus, Jean A. Adelle Logan, James M. Logan, Delores Lomax, Gwendolyn Lomax, Johnnie B. Long, Thelma Lum, Jeanette Lyles, Constance L. Macey, James F. Makel, Grayson Marshall, Ellen D. Martin, Jacqueline Ann Mason, Dorothy J. Mason, Jerome Matthews, Henry Matthews, Jr., John Matthews, Jr., Carolyn Matthews, Melvin Matthews, Chester M. Maxwell, Ruth Meyers, Barbara A. Mayo, Allen V. McCallum, Lawrence McCloud, Barbara J. McCray, Clifton McDonald, Margaret McDonald, Stephen McDowell, Viola M. McGee, Margia M. McKoy, Gaylord W. McNeil, Jacqueline McNair, Carlton McPherson, Betty A. Meeds, Norman J. Mellerson, Hannibal Mickens, Alice Midder, Loretta A. Milam, Bertina R. Milburn, Shirley M. Miles, Barbar Millings, Dorelina M. Mills, John Minor, Christopher Mitchell, Haywood L. Mizen, Richard L. Mooney, Michael C. Moody, James E. Montague, Andrew Montgomery, Theola Montgomery, Carolyn B. Moore, Maurice S. Moore, Wilbert Moore, Mary I. Morris, Betty Morris, Lennie G. Morton, Herbert Muldrow, Yolanda A. Murray, Jeannie E. Murray, Sandra A. Murray, Hilda M. Nelson, Earl Nott, Barbara A. Newman, Evelyn B. Newman, William C. Nixon Jr., Shirley E. Oliver, Louis W. Ollie, Howard L. O'Neal, Janet C. Owens, Joseph F. Palmer, Evelyn A. Parker, John Patterson, William B. Payne, Judith A. Peeler, Constance B. Perkins, Donald Perry Jr., Julia Thereso Perry, Binah C. Phillips, Barbara E. Pinkney, Florence Plantier, Barbara E. Powell, Lonzella Preilleau, Patricia A. Press, Fluzetta Price, Joyce Marie Pulliam, Betty Dale Pulley, Ethel Ann Purcell, Robert Pyatt, Thomeca Queen, Jakenie Reaves, Senora L. Reckling, Jesse M. Redmond, Alvin E. Reid, William Rhodes, Leonard Rice, George E. Richards, Purnell Richardson, Delores Richberg, Bernice A. Roach, Dolores A. Roberts, Bettie J. Rodgers, Hilahie C. Rodgers, Elmer Monroe Ross, Rosemae Ross, Clemon Rucker, Jr., Julia M. Russell, Carole F. Saunders, Esther M. Savage, Leverdia L. Savoy, Evelyn Lucille Scott, Leonard S. Scott, Oliver P. Scott, Joseph B. Scruggs, Thomas J. Semmes, Ernest Mc. Sewell, Jean C. Shands, Ernest A. Shields, Raymond Simmons, Donald Simms, Hattie Smallwood, Barbara A. Smith, Dorothy L. Smith, Evan Joe Smith, Jean A. Smith, Leon A. Smith, Lenora E. Smith, Marion Elaine Smith, Marion Estella Smith, Vondie A. Smith, Vernon M. Smith, Susana A. Snead, Melvin S. Snowden, Dolores E. Stanley, Gertie Stephens, Evelyn Stevenson, Nathaniel Stevenson, Barbara C. Stewart, Joseph Stokes, Sylvia V. Stokley, Julia Swearingen, Beverly E. Sye, Rose L. Tarver, Randolph T. Tate, Marcia L. Taylor, Phyllis D. Taylor, Debora Terry, Alton Thomas, Jeanette C. Thomas, Shirley M. Thomas, Rosetta Thompson, Aurin Timmons, Jr., Lois S. Tautlon, Marion E. Towns, Fred T. Trent, William Tucker, Jr., Edith L. Turner, Barbara A. Tutman, Alfred C. Vaughn, Thelma E. Walker, Ann E. Walker, Johnetta L. Ward, Barbara Jean Washington, Cordelia Violet Washington, Reginald Washington, Edith L. Waters, Marion Watkins, Esther D. Watson, Vernetta Watson, Leonore A. Watts, Marva A. Wax, Donald P. Weaver, Maxine Weer, Donald E. White, Dorothy White, Joann Agnes White, Joyce A. White, Marie L. White, Robert White, Ruth Ann White, George Williams, Avelna Williams, Barry L. Williams, Carolyn Leroy Williams, Curtis L. Williams, Dorothy Williams, Hattie Williams, Joyce A. Williams, Juanita Williams, Lincy Lee Williams, Hopper Williamson, Geneva J. Wilson, Mildred E. Wilson, Leroy J. Wilson, Cora P. Wise, Jimmie L. Wise, Emmett Wood, Mary M. Wright, Louella R. Wylie, Deloris Young, James Young.

TOPS AT DHS—Ernest Maurice Sewell, 17, who maintained a 91 average during his four years at Douglass High, is shown as he received diploma from Mayor D'Alesandro during commencement exercises on Thursday. Class of 442 was largest in school's 69-year history. Young Sewell received four awards and will study chemical engineering at Johns Hopkins University in the fall.

GETTING READY to march into the auditorium for their commencement exercises are Cynthia Ann Bryant and Jean Augusta Carter. They were among 442 Douglass High graduates who made up largest class in history of the school. Exercises were Thursday evening at Polytechnic.

New Meharry trustee named

DETROIT, Mich.—Physician and civic leader, recently elected trustee of Meharry Medical College, is Dr. D. T. Burton, a graduate of the 1920 medical class of Meharry. Dr. Burton is one of Detroit's most active civic leaders in the United Fund. The Dr. Burton Boy Scouts of America and religious affairs. In 1922 he married his college sweetheart, Miss Alice Boyd, a graduate of Fisk University. They are the parents of three children. The youngest daughter, Gail, recently finished Wesley College with honors and will matriculate in September at the College of Medicine of Michigan University.

IN LARGEST class ever to graduate from Douglass High School were Roberta Haynie, Neatha Knocket and Velner Boyd. They were photographed at 69th graduation exercises Thursday evening at Polytechnic. Class members numbered 442.

Bishop College to move to Dallas

MARSHALL, Texas — Within the next two years, Bishop College, located here for 78 years, will abandon its present site and a new Bishop College will be constructed near Dallas.

Present plans call for construction of the new institution on a 100-acre site in the Bon Aire development located in Oak Cliff between Loop 12 and U.S. Highway 75 just outside the Dallas city limits.

Announcement of the move was made recently by Dr. M. K. Curry Jr., president of the college, in an address before the National Sunday School and BTU Congress in Dallas.

Your school honors Paul L. Dunbar

By GARFIELD HINTON

We wear the mask that gins and lies,
It hides our cheeks and shades our eyes,
This debt we pay to human guile;
With torn and bleeding hearts we smile,
And mouth with myriad subtleties.
"Why should the world be overwise,
In counting all our tears and sighs?
Nay, let them only see us, while
We wear the mask."

"We Wear The Mask," is one of the many poems written in literary English by Paul Laurence Dunbar. Dunbar was a poet. No other word so aptly describes him.

A poet of the people, Dunbar has been compared with Robert Burns, as well as Shelly, Keats and Byron, other romantic poets.

Born into poverty frail of health, sensitive, melancholy, unfortunate in love, dead at 33 — this was Dunbar; what better ingredients for a poet?

Dunbar's father, Joshua, a plasterer fled Kentucky slavery to Canadian freedom, by means of the Underground Railroad. Joshua later returned to the United States, where after serving in the 55th Regiment in the Civil War, he married, Mrs. Matilda Murphy, a young widow, with two boys.

The family settled in Dayton, Ohio, where Paul Laurence was born June 27, 1872. Mrs. Dunbar early realized that Paul was a very talented boy.

She did her best, in between washing neighbors' clothing to teach Paul, all that she knew. Paul graduated from the public school system of Dayton.

In high school, Paul edited the school paper, served as president of a literary society and was generally, a well-liked, ad lib, although the only colored youthin his class.

* * *

AFTER HIGH SCHOOL, Dunbar pondered what to do. His father had died, when the youth was only 12; his half-brothers had left home, a baby sister had died in infancy. So, his immediate concern was to earn money in order to help out at home.

To this end, Dunbar, found employment in a downtown hotel as an elevator operator.

Operating an elevator did give Dunbar an opportunity to write poetry. He didn't know exactly when he started writing poetry. At 6 or 7, he began trying to rhyme. At 13, in Sunday School, he recited some original verses.

While earning his bread and butter by operating an elevator, Dunbar began sending some of his poetry to publishing companies. The young poet received his share of 'pink slips,' but he did not give up, and some of his work was readily accepted.

FINALLY, IN 1892, when Dunbar was all of 20, a publishing house, not far from where he worked, agreed to publish a volume of his poetry. The volume: "Oak and Ivy," was published at a cost of $125 to Dunbar.

He did not have that much money; so, soon very few people rode the youthful poet's elevator, without being told why they should purchase his book.

Although Dunbar had a difficult time selling copies of "Oak and Ivy," today that first-edition is priceless. In 1893 Dunbar received a clerical position at the Columbian Exposition, held in Chicago, from Frederick Douglass, who was in charge of the Haitian Exhibition.

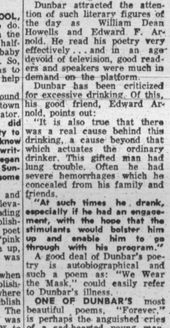
When he was 23, Dunbar published: "Majors and Minors," which included "Ere Sleep Comes Down to Soothe The Weary Eyes," "The Parlo ty," and "When Maindy Sings."

The volume, "Lyrics of Lowly Life," appeared in 1896, when Dunbar was 24. This book was a selection of Dunbar's best poetry. The following year in 1897, Dunbar sailed to England. From there a London correspondent wrote:

"PAUL DUNBAR, the American Negro poet, has captured London. He has been received with marked attention by good society, and he is in high demand in the most fashionable drawing-rooms.

"No color line is drawn in England, and the taintedof American is much sought after. He reads his verses at receptions, garden parties and other entertainments, and he has received the most favorable criticisms from the press.

"Mr. Dunbar came to London well recommended by W. D. Howells and other



PAUL L. DUNBAR
Baltimore school honors him

American Literary lights well known to the British public. His humble origin and the story of his self-culture, struggles and final triumph have won him a peculiar regard here. . . ,"

Returning to the United States some months later, Dunbar worked as an assistant in the Congressional Library. Troubled by his health, Dunbar resigned from this job, after about a year.

* * *

HE TRAVELLED FIRST to New York and later to Colorado. When he was 26, the poet married a lovely young lady, Alice Ruth Moore, from New Orleans. Dunbar tried for awhile in Washington, but the marriage was ill-fated. Mrs. Dunbar, a teacher and writer, achieved a measure of success in her own right.

Dunbar attracted the attention of such literary figures of the day as William Dean Howells and Edward F. Arnold. He read his poetry very effectively . . . and in an age devoid of television, good readers and speakers were much in demand on the platform.

Dunbar has been criticized for excessive drinking. Of this, his good friend, Edward Arnold, points out:

"It is also true that there was a real cause behind this drinking, a cause beyond that which actuates the ordinary drinker. This gifted man had lung trouble. Often he had severe hemorrhages which he concealed from his family and friends.

"At such times he drank, especially if he had an engagement, with the hope that the stimulants would bolster him up and enable him to go through with his program."

A good deal of Dunbar's poetry is autobiographical and such a poem as: "We Wear the Mask," could easily refer to Dunbar's illness.

ONE OF DUNBAR'S most beautiful poems, "Forever," is perhaps the anguished cries of a sad-hearted young man, whose thirst for love was gone unquenched. Listen:

'I had not known before
Forever so long a word.
The slow stroke of the clock of Time
I had not heard.
'Tis hard to learn so late;
It seems no sad heart really learns,
But hopes and trusts and doubts and fears,
And bleeds and burns.
The night is not all dark,
Nor is the day all it seems,
But each may bring me this relief—
My dreams and dreams.
I had not known before
That Never was an and a word.
So wrap me in forgetfulness
I have not heard."

Dunbar was most popular for his dialect poetry, which is highly descriptive and humorous. Besides poetry, he wrote short stories and novels. It is as a poet that his fame rests, however.

After he and his wife parted, Dunbar returned to Dayton, where he had bought a home for his mother. There his final days were spent, vainly striving to regain his health.

On February 9, 1906 he died. He was buried in Dayton, where a few years later the citizens erected a monument in his honor. Benjamin Brawley, author, teacher and critic, writing in 1937 said of Dunbar:

"No one else has been able to duplicate his success or to approach his hold on the heart of the people."

THE PAUL LAURENCE DUNBAR High School Junior and Senior High School No. 133 at McElderry and Caroline Sts. was named in 1932. Robert Diggs is principal, vice-principals are Mrs. Mildred J. Seaborne and Charles E. Brown.