# Gets 15 Years In Druid Hill Avenue Assault

## Convicted of attack on widow, 75

"I consider it a serious matter, very serious."

**This was Judge John Tucker's opinion Monday of the shocking assault on an elderly Druid Hill Ave. matron as he imposed a total of 15 years in the Penitentiary on the man convicted early last week of the crime.**

The jurist also ordered George Lee, 52, 1200 block Pennsylvania Ave., committed to Patuxent Institution for observations to determine whether he is a defective delinquent.

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**JUDGE TUCKER** noted that a medical report submitted to the court by medical officers of the Supreme Bench "recommended that he be sent to Patuxent."

Mr. Lee received 10 years for assaulting with intent to rob Mrs. Mary Giles, 1621 Druid Hill, on Dec. 26, 1956. He was given an additional five-year term for committing a perverted act on the 5-year-old matron.

**The defendant, wearing a gray double-breasted suit, stood motionless as sentence was imposed.**

Disposition of the case was postponed following Mr. Lee's conviction on April 16 when the defense attorney indicated a new trial motion would be filed.

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**MRS. GILES** on the first day of the two-day trial positively identified Mr. Lee as the man who attacked her after entering her home of the pretext of renting a room.

Mrs. Giles, a resident of the neighborhood for 50 years, lives next door to the Druid Hill YMCA and on occasion provide accommodations for young men when the Y is overcrowded.

**The aged widow said Mr. Lee demanded $200 from her, and when she refused he assaulted her. Mrs. Giles was confined to Provident Hospital for several weeks after the attack.**

Northwestern District officers Leroy Moody and Stanley Jastrzemski arrested Mr. Lee nearly three months after the attack when Mrs. Giles picked hispicture from a police rogue's gallery.

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**AT THE** trial Mr. Lee accused police of beating him in an effort to get him to sign a confession.

This allegation was denied by the arresting officers, Sgt. Violet Hill Whyte and Lt. George Deuchler, who interrogated the man.

The lieutenant testified that Mr. Lee admitted verbally that he visited the home of Mrs. Giles during the latter part of December.

**KILLED HERE** on Wednesday afternoon was three-year-old Deborah Purvis, of 1839 Aisquith St., who was run over by a truck. The "X" marks the spot where the child was last seen sitting on the steps of her home by her grandmother, Mrs. Hester Jenkins, who was standing nearby. The arrow points to the outlined blood-marked spot where Mrs. Jenkins next saw the child just as the truck struck her.

**HEART-BROKEN** relatives of three-year-old Deborah Purvis, of 1839 Aisquith St., who was struck and killed by a truck in the street in front of her home on Wednesday, are, left to right, Mrs. Hester Mae Brown, aunt; Mrs. Hester Jenkins, grandmother, who witnesed the accident; and Mrs. Annie Lou Purvis, mother.

## Thought he'd make the grade

"They thought he was going to make it for awhile but he was too far gone.

"He lasted for about four hours."

**That was the comment of Central District Police Tuesday as funeral services were being held for James T. Smith Shearon, 21, of 129 N. Dallas St.**

Mr. Shearon was reportedly stabbed in the chest following a dispute over drinks in a bar. He died soon after he was admitted to Mercy Hospital last Thursday.

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**WALTER CURTIS,** 20, of the 700 block N. Spring St., was charged with homicide in connection with his death on Friday in Central Police Court, and was ordered held without bail pending a hearing to be set by the state's attorney's office.

The accused man is a janitor in a television sales firm.

**Police said Curtis was implicated in the fatal stabbing after a statement was taken from the dying men.**

Witnesses said Shearon staggered for more than 35 feet before he collapsed.

Police recovered a black handled pocket knife at the scene.

Services were conducted at a Caroline St. funeral home.

Mr. Curtis is survived by a sister, Miss Vernell Shearon; mother, Mrs. Gabriel Shearon; two sons, James, 4 and Maurice, 2; wife, Mrs. Geraldine Shearon; and father, James Smith.

## 9 Police killings in Balto. area in 9 months

**APRIL 19, 1956** — Robert McLain, 14-year-old Dunbar High School student of 404 E. Chase St., shot while running away from a stolen car at Madison and Fallsway by Officer Donald E. Mitchell of the Central District. Magistrate Meyer Cardin exonerated the policeman.

**JUNE 25, 1956**—Harry Boyd Jr., 27, 1417 N. Broadway, shot in the back by Northeastern Patrolman Charles Fennell, who arrived on scene after a street fight. Magistrate Meyer Cardin ruled the officer acted in line of duty and the killing was justified.

**JULY 7, 1956**—Robert O. Harper, 34, 1614 Barclay St., shot in leg and bled to death following shooting by Southwestern Patrolman Walter Mina Jr., who told superiors he was breaking up a disorderly crowd. Officer Mina was exonerated of the killing by Magistrate Meyer Cardin, who ruled he acted in line of duty.

**AUGUST 15, 1956** — Frank J. Williams, 24, was shot and killed by Sgt. Albert Heck as a suspect in two holdups and the non-fatal shooting of a tailor shop proprietor. Sgt. Heck was exonerated of the killing in Central Police Court by Magistrate Meyer Cardin.

**SEPTEMBER 19, 1956**—Donald Jackson, 23, 971 Ellicott Dr., shot in the arm and chest by Southeastern Patrolman Benjamin Leddin. Ledden said he shot the man "in defense of my life," in the unit block Gilmor St. Patrolman Ledden was exonerated of the slaying by Magistrate Cardin.

**OCTOBER 15, 1956** — Benjamin Brown, 14-year-old patient at Rosewood Training School, shot and killed by Northwest Patrolman Marshall V. Brewer with rifle he "didn't know was loaded." Magistrate Meyer Cardin dismissed the shooting charge after State's Attorney John Weiss said the State could not make out a homicide or manslaughter case against the officer who said the shooting was an accident.

**NOVEMBER 7, 1956**—James H. Duggan Jr., 28, white city sanitary department worker, killed by a policeman answering cries for help. Central District Patrolman Joseph Bosse was exonerated by Magistrate Meyer Cardin.

**NOVEMBER 24, 1956** — Clarence Wilkerson, 39, 1304 Harlem Ave., shot and killed by a Baltimore County Policeman while getting out of a car as ordered. Officer Louis DeManns was charged with homicide by State's Attorney Frank Hewell. On Monday, Dec., 10, a Baltimore County jury failed to indict officer DeManns. He was returned to the force with no official punishment.

**JANUARY 21, 1957** — James Kenneth Robbins, 17, 1800 block Jackson St., was shot and killed after a robbery assault. Southern District Patrolman Melvin Kearns said as he fired a warning shot, he slipped on the ice. A bullet struck the youth in the back of the head. Patrolman Kearns was exonerated by Magistrate Meyer Cardin who declared that the shooting had occurred in the line of duty and was accidental.

**ELSWORTH LAWSON,** 10, points to the spot where his three-year-old brother, Calvin, was struck and killed by an auto on Easter Sunday afternoon. Mrs. Lillian Pressley (white blouse), the grandmother, stands in the doorway of the dead child's home at 1317 Whatcoat St.

## Girl 12, testifies against salesman

"He told me I was small for my age and then he kissed me.

"I was afraid and couldn't do anything."

**That was the testimony a 12-year-old girl gave in Catonsville Police Court Wednesday night when she charged a blond clothing salesman with assault.**

Nathan I. Schreck, 35, of the 3800 block Park Hgts. Ave., pleaded not guilty to kissing the beribboned school girl at her Shipley St. home three weeks ago.

Continuation of the case was extended to May 15 by Magistrate J. Lee Smith after the accused man's attorney asked the court to hear the testimony of two patrolmen who took a statement from Mr. Schreck.

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**THE 7TH GRADE** pupil testified that the salesman kissed her when he came to her home to collect a bill.

The young girl said that when she told her mother about the assault, her father, a school guard, asked the salesman to return to their home while he called the police.

**The girl's mother, father and grandmother stated that Mr. Schreck begged them not to have him arrested and stated, "I will do anything if you will not call the police."**

Her father testified that the two officers who came to their house heard the man admit, "I kissed her because I like all kids."

The following day the teenagers' parents took out a summons for Mr Schreck and later a warrant for his arrest.

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**UPSET BECAUSE** the hearing was postponed, the girl's father told the court that he intended to take the case to the grand jury.

He was told by Magistarte Smith: "Let's get one thing straight.

"There will be no black and white justice here. I intend to give everyone a fair chance.

"I want that to be understood by everyone in this court room."

## Easter auto victim is buried

Three-year-old Calvin Lawson, killed by an auto on Easter Sunday afternoon within a few feet of his home at 1317 Whatcoat St., was buried Thursday.

**Funeral services were held at the Kelson Funeral Home, 1348 N. Calhoun St.**

The Rev. James L. Moore of Sharon Baptist Church, officiated. Burial was in Mount Olivet Cemetery.

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**POLICE,** meanwhile, have charged a neighbor, George B. Lancaster, 38, of 1360 Whatcoat St., with manslaughter and reckless driving in connection with the fatality.

**Mr. Lancaster is under $1,000 bail. His trial has been set for June 5.**

The dead child's aunt, Mrs. Louise Jackson 1320 Whatcoat St., witnessed the accident. She said the auto struck the child with such force that the body did a complete somersault in the air.

No explanation was given as to how the child happened to be in the street, other than that he might have been following some older children.

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**THIS BLOCK** of Whatcoat St. has narrow sidewalks. The street allows passage of two autos. Traffic is one way south.

The dead child was the youngest of six children in the family of Mr. and Mrs. Edward Lawson. Others range in age from five to 10 years. The oldest are twin boys.

Neither Mr. Lawson nor his wife witnessed the accident. They were entertaining some members of their family at the time.

## East Baltimore child killed by truck in front of her home

"I saw her sitting on the steps . . . I turned for a moment, and when I looked again the truck was hitting her . . . I remember screaming, 'Oh, Jesus, Deborah is dead!' "

**This eyewitness account of the death on Wednesday afternoon of a three-year-old girl, struck and killed by a truck on the street in front of her home, was given the AFRO by her grandmother, Mrs. Hester Jenkins of 1839 Aisquith St.**

The dead child is Deborah Purvis of 1839 Aisquith St. She is one of three children of Mr. and Mrs. James Purvis.

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**LITTLE DEBORAH'S** death marks the second such killing of a young child by a motor vehicle within a four-day period.

**Three-year-old Calvin Lawson of 1317 Whatcoat St., was struck and killed by an auto on Easter Sunday afternoon, on the street within a few feet of his front steps.**

Mrs. Annie Lou Purvis, the girl's mother, said she had just entered the house with her six-week-old baby boy and five-year-old son, when the fatal accident occurred.

"I haven't been long out of the hospital," she explained. "I had just come back from the clinic with the children. I went in the house to lay the baby down. Tommy, my son, followed me and Deborah stopped at the door.

"All of a sudden, I heard mother scream. I ran to the door and looked. Deborah was lying out there in the street. Just a puddle of blood!"

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**THIS SECTOR** of Aisquith St. is a wide thoroughfare that carries considerable traffic. No cars were parked near the scene at the time of the accident, Mrs. Jenkins said.

The death spot, marked by investigating police and a pool of blood, is about four feet beyond a sidewalk, and is almost directly in front of the house where the child lived.

The Purvis family has lived in their present home about a year.

Neither Mrs. Purvis nor Mrs. Jenkins could offer an explanation as to why the child would want to wander off the wide sidewalk into the street.

She was not playing with a ball and no other children were about at the time, they said.

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**HOWEVER,** Mrs. Jenkins, the grandmother, did offer this observation:

"I am still wondering why she did it. You know, she just walked out into the street twice last Sunday in all that traffic. Each time, I was the one who saw her and ran to get her.

"I was the one who saw her again this time. But I saw her too late."

Mr. Purvis was not home at the time of the accident.

Police have charged James E. Hepburn, 21, 1150 E. North Ave., with manslaughter in connection with the little girl's death.

He is under $1,000 bail. Trial date has not been set.

Mr. Hepburn, police said, was driving a truck, owned by the Greenwood's Garage, Inc., of the same North Ave. address.

This garage location is a short distance from the dead child's home.

I VOTE, DO YOU?

REGISTER TODAY SURE

Go to the Supervisor of Elections Office, southeast corner of Fayette and Gay Sts., 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday; Saturday, 9 to 12.

*Show your voting card in your church on Sunday.*

## 37 new firemen assigned

Thirty-seven new firemen were graduated from the Fire Department Training School, Thursday afternoon and given their assignments.

The graduating class included John F. Murray, who was assigned to Truck Co. No. 2, Paca St. near Fayette; Sherman J. Queen, Truck Co. No. 21, Pontiac Ave. and Fifth St., Brooklyn; and Donald G. Stevenson, Hose Co. No. 5, Caroline St. near Gough.

Also Walter A. Dyson, who was assigned to Engine Co. No. 19, North Ave. and Bond St.; Ronald H. Brown, Hose Co. No. 1, Gay St. near Baltimore; William P. White, Truck C. No. 3, Ann St. near Gough; and William M. Tubbs, Engine Co. No. 57, Pennington Ave. and Filbert St.

Others assigned were Haywood Musgrove, Truck Co. No. 1, Gay St. near Baltimore; Willie L. Gibson, Engine Co. No. 25, McCulloh and Gold Sts.; James W. Rhone, Truck Co. No. 7, Greenmount Ave. near 32nd St.; Calvin Johnson, Engine Co. No. 7, Eutaw St. and Druid Hill Ave.;

Also, Charles L. Graham, Engine Co. No. 23 at Saratoga St. near Howard; Charles G. McCoy, Truck Co. No. 21, Pontiac Ave. and Manuel R. Henderson, Hose Co. No. 2, Lombard St., near Howard.

## New voters sign books in drive

"The campaign has already obtained between 500 and 1,000 voters."

**This was the essence of the report that came this week from the Rev. John L. Tilley on the progress of the drive to obtain 100,000 registered voters in the city.**

The minister, who is directing the drive, said that on the strength of the cards turned over to an NAACP receptionist stationed at the Supervisor of Elections' office in the People's Court Building, Gay and Fayette Sts., at least 50 people are registering every day.

**THE RECEPTIONIST** has been assigned the post, the Rev. Mr. Tilley said, to assist new voters with directions and to provide any information they request.

The campaign is being spearheaded by churches of various denominations.

**Many of the ministers have appointed register and vote committees; and, in a number of the churches, it has become the custom to display voting cards on Sunday.**

In addition, door to door campaigns are being conducted by volunteers.

The Supervisor of Elections' office is opened 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday and on Saturday from 9 to 12.

**INSIDE DATA** — Attorney Juanita Jackson Mitchell, director, and Charles Michaels, coordinator, shown instructing the Register and Vote Committee of the Simmons Memorial Baptist Church as they began the door canvass in the 30th precinct of the 15th Ward. Shown, L to R; Mr. Michaels, Mrs. Burnette Brooks, Mrs. Mary Brooks, the Rev. Burnette Brooks, pastor, Mrs. M. G. Rush, Mrs. Mary Madden and Attorney Mitchell.

$50 is the total set aside each week for News Tips and News Photos. For News Tips, call MU. 5-6015, 6016, 1812 and 1813. If no answer, call LA. 3-3024. Bring your News and Photos to the City Desk.

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