Judge Lane, Magistrate Watts Now On The Bench

Appointees sworn in to office Wed.

"I am completely overwhelmed. This is the greatest day of my life."

An overflow crowd Wednesday in Peoples Court heard Judge E. Everett Lane make this simple declaration following his commission by Governor McKeldin. Earlier on the same day, Robert Watts was sworn in as traffic court magistrate, replacing Judge Lane.

Judge Lane was sworn in by James F. Carney, Supreme Court clerk. He was presented by H. Paul Rome, president of the Bar Association.

Following the actual swearing in ceremony, Judge Lane took his seat beside his fellow Peoples Court judges: Chief Judge Allan W. Rhynhart, and Associate Judges William T. Tippett Jr. and Joseph T. Parr.

Judge Lane, who spoke following remarks by Governor McKeldin, expressed gratitude to the Bar Association of Baltimore and to the governor.

* * *

SPEAKING SINCERELY and pointedly, Judge Lane said: "It is my understanding that when my name came up (before the Bar Association), there was not one dissenting vote.

"I hope always to justify the great confidence the governor has in me. My associates are not strangers to me. I have known them for years."

He then said that when, following the news of his appointment, he had gone to see Judge Rhynhart who had smiled and after welcoming him said: "The name's Allan and you are Everett."

"What could be more heart-warming?" Judge Lane asked and looking at the more than 100 friends and well - wishers, who filled the courtroom overflowing into the hallway, and who had come to see E. Everett Lane take his place on the Peoples Court Bench of Baltimore City, Judge Lane concluded:

"This is a great day for me and I shall never forget it."

* * *

JUDGE RHYNHART gave Mrs. Kathryne Lane, "the signal honor of robing her husband."

Judge Rhynhart called on the governor to speak. From the flower bedecked rostrum, Governor McKeldin made the attentive audience smile when when he said:

"This is the first time in my six years as governor, any judge has called on me to speak in court."

Maryland's chief executive continued: "We are very proud of the record of the judges of the Peoples Court, where most people see what justice is.

"There is a great responsibility on this court," Governor McKeldin continued and looking about him said: "I congratulate these fine judges."

* * *

PAUSING BRIEFLY, Governor McKeldin continued: "I am so happy, it was my privilege and honor to appoint Judge Lane. I appointed him as I appoint all people not because of race or creed, but because they are qualified."

Governor McKeldin then said that when he found Judge Lane's name on the list recommended by the Bar Association, "there was no doubt about whom I would appoint."

Concluding his brief speech, Gov. McKeldin asserted: "I am very proud that these judges received him so graciously.

"He is a man of ability, integrity and a man with an understanding heart, something that is very important to a judge. He is a man who will render justice with charity."

* * *

A FEW HOURS earlier at 2:30 p.m. in Room 455 of the Court House, Robert B. Watts was officially sworn in as a Traffic Court magistrate replacing Judge Lane.

Magistrate Watts was also sworn in by the Superior Court clerk, Mr. Carney.

Among those attending the ceremony were his wife, Mrs. Jacquelyne Watts, two - year-old Jacquelyn; and Rodney, 11. Seventeen - year - old Robert Jr., was in school.

Also witnessing the ceremony were: Mrs. Lucille Gibson, Magistrate Watts' sister; Creston 'Doc' Woingust, H. Russell Frisby, U. Theodore Hayes, Donald Murray, Maurice Seigel, W. Emerson Brown and Milton Allen.

George Russell and George H. Rosedom were also present. Following the swearing in of both Magistrate Watts and Judge Lane, each signed the Test Book; a book that must be signed by all public officials

* * *

MAGISTRATE WATTS' appointment, by Gov. McKeldin, to complete the unexpired term of Judge Lane, is for two years, dating from the first Monday in May, 1955. In May, 1957, Magistrate Watts will be eligible for reappointment.

Judge Lane's appointment as Associate Judge of the Peoples Court, enables him to serve until the next general election in November, 1958, at which time, he will be eligible for re-election by the people of Baltimore City.

* * *

STATE SENATOR Harry A. Cole (R-4th), who recommended both Magistrate Watts and Judge Lane, was unable to be present at the swearing in ceremonies. He was busy at the Legislature in Annapolis.

On his first day in Traffic Court, Thursday morning, Magistrate Watts, among other cases listened to that of John J. Johnson, 29, 1100 Barclay St.

Mr. Johnson was sentenced to 60 days in jail and meted fines totaling $106.50 for operating without a license and operating without lights.

He had been arrested early Thursday at Fulton Ave. and Lorman St.

* * *

JUDGE LANE said that he "enjoyed very much indeed" his first day at his new post in which he heard 33 contract cases, six torts cases, three of which involved auto accidents.

On the contract cases, 18 had been settled before trial, three were continued until a later date, and the balance of them were tried.

The most interesting case of the day, he said, was one in which he ruled out negligence in a case in which motorist had done $190 worth of damage to another car to avoid striking a little girl who had darted into the path of his car.

Judge Lane said the he much preferred his present post to the former one of traffic court magistrate.

"My traffic court experience is helpful in handling auto accident cases," he said. But he added that "there is no comparison" as to preference.

"I am thoroughly going to enjoy my new position," he said.

"I DO"—That was the reply Judge E. Everett Lane gave Wednesday when Supreme Court clerk, James F. Carney, in swearing him in, asked if he would do his best to uphold the Constitution of the United States in his new office as Associate Judge of Peoples Court. Following this, Mr. Carney read the commission signed by Gov. McKeldin.

A GREAT DAY—Magistrate Robert B. (Bob) Watts, Gov. McKeldin and Judge E. Everett Lane shake hands following swearing in ceremonies Wednesday. "This is a great day for me," Judge Lane commented. Gov. McKeldin appointed both men. Magistrate Watts will complete the unexpired term of Judge Lane as a Traffic Court magistrate. Judge Lane's appointment will expire in November, 1958, at which time, he will be eligible for election by the voters. Both men were recommended by State Senator Harry Cole.

Curtis Freeman gets 5 years in mail thefts

"He said that he'd been in and out of prison so much that he couldn't keep a job. . . He said there's nothing else he can do."

Martin Ferris, assistant United States attorney, was referring to a 53-year-old man sentenced to five years in prison Wednesday by Judge Roszel C. Thomsen for mail thefts.

The defendant, Curtis Freeman, 600 block N. Carey St., received the sentence after pleading guilty to two counts of obtaining government checks by fraud and deception and one count of uttering a forged check.

* * *

ACCORDING TO Mr. Ferris, the defendant has previously served a total of 15 years in prison for postal violations.

Mr. Freeman told the court that because of his record he has a difficult time holding a job.

The defendant faced 15 charges of postal law violations, but 12 of them were stetted by the prosecutor after Mr. Freeman entered guilty pleas on three of them.

Mr. Freeman, known to postal inspectors because of his record, was picked up for questioning on Dec. 11 and later charged with the series of crimes.

His arrest followed a series of complaints from the Lafayette Square area concerning mail thefts, Mr. Ferris said.

$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. 3-2811 or RI. 4-0508. Bring your News Photos to the City Desk.

Crash victim is recovering

"He wasn't as seriously injured as first believed and the doctors have indicated that he can return to duty Friday (today)."

The Public Information Office at Ft. Meade was the source of this statement on Thursday and the person being talked about was Spec. 3rd Cl. James L. Trice, 27, Columbia, Tenn.

Specialist Trice is one of the two soldiers who escaped death when a late model Mercury spun a horrifying 55 feet early Monday morning bringing death to Sgt. Edward Collins, 27, and Sgt. H. E. Wilson.

THE ACCIDENT occurred just 1,500 feet from the entrance to Ft. Meade as the soldiers were reportedly hurrying back to camp in time to make 5 a.m. reveille. The accident was at 4:55 a.m.

The other passenger in the car was Pvt. Chriton E. Lewis Jr., who suffered only a few minor scratches as he threw himself under the dashboard when someone yelled "this is it" just before the crash.

State Police said the car had spun off the road into a ditch, traveled 55 feet, struck a telephone pole and broke it in half, turned end over end two times and landed on its roof.

The force of the impact crushed the top of the hardtop model completely in.

Sgt. Collins' next of kin was listed as his mother, Mrs. Mabel Collins Wingard, 2229 Hurst St., Columbia, S.C.

Sgt. Wilson is survived by his wife, Mrs. Lillian Wilson of Roxbury, Mass., and his mother, Mrs. Irene Wilson of Verbena, S.C.

The bodies of the soldiers were returned to their respective homes for burial. The Arlington S. Phillips Funeral Home handled local arrangements.

All of the soldiers involved in the accident were attached to the Second Armored Cavalry Division.

DEATH RIDES HERE—This is the late-model hard top convertible in which two soldiers died early Monday morning as they were returning to Ft. Meade with the hope that they would reach the post before reveille sounded. The accident occurred a scant 1,500 feet from the entrance of the camp. The force of the crash completely flattened the top of the car as evidenced by the picture above. Dead in the crash were Sgt. Edward Collins, 27, Gilbert, S.C., and Sgt. H. E. Wilson, 27, Verbena, Ala. Another soldier, Spec. 3rd C. James L. Trice, 27, Columbia, Tenn., was seriously injured. Pvt. Clinton Lewis was but slightly injured.

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 suspended by Capt. Joseph A. Mahrer and released on a writ by Judge James K. Cullen.

Mrs. Cordelia Johnson's funeral held Thursday

JERSEY CITY — Funeral services for Mrs. Cordelia Greene Johnson, 69, were held Thursday, 2 p.m., at the Church of the Incarnation (Episcopal) where she was a vestryman and president of the guild.

Survivors are: her husband, Albert; two sisters, Mrs. Dora Bertha Biddle, St. Albans, N.Y., a stepdaughter, Mrs. Vivian Richardson, Brooklyn, N.Y.

(See our Editorial, Page 11)

Also three nieces Mesdames Elsie Y. Day, Jersey City, Leona Hutchinson Bayonne and Mildred Frazier, New York City; a nephew, Charles Bowser, Elkton, Md.

* * *

MRS. JOHNSON died Saturday morning at her home, 258-A Fairmount Ave.

She was convalescing after a recent operation for cancer at Medical Center.

A woman of boundless energy and strong will power, she disregarded her physician's advice to attend the annual breakfast for polio held in Newark, January 13, sponsored by the Modern Beauticians Association of New Jersey, of which she was founder - president.

Ex-Morgan dean to be publisher

Father Leonard C. Anderson, who has resigned as dean of men at Morgan State College effective Feb. 1, plans to enter the publishing business, he told the AFRO this week. "The corporation is in the process of being formed. We will have an announcement at a later date," he said.

An Episcopal minister, Father Anderson formerly served as curate of St. James P. E. Church and as rector of St. Matthew P. E. Church.

Off January 14, he resigned as pastor of St. Matthew "because of the press of his duties at Morgan," in the words of a church official.

Father Anderson is an Illinois native, reared in Atlantic City, N.J. In 1938, he was graduated from Morgan State College and studied at General Theological Seminary, Seabury-Western Seminary in Chicago and Loyola University, Chicago.

His resignation from St. Matthews was announced by the Rt. Rev. Noble Powell, Episcopal bishop, Maryland diocese.

Call on 'reveille soldiers' wins top Newstip award

A Newstip this week resulted in a front page streamer-story in Tuesday's edition—it concerned the death of two Ft. Meade soldiers who died "trying to make reveille."

The tipster who called in this information received the top award of $5. Other Newstips which paid off and their amounts are:

The patrolman who was dragged three blocks by a cab, $3.50; the elevation in rank of a Baltimore County policeman, $3; The death in Philadelphia of Gloria Lockerman's sister, $2.50.

Also: The death of Mrs. Cordelia Greene Johnson, $2; the burning of Oakland Park Tavern in Randallstown, $1.50; and the death of tavern owner Phil Brilliant, $1.50.

TIPS WHICH receive checks for $1 apiece are: Accident at Madison and McMechen St.; two different calls on the four Dundalk children in need;

Also a woman hit by a car at Caroline and Federal Sts.

This week and every week, a total of $25 is set aside for alert Newstippers who telephone their news in to the AFRO City Desk. Another $25 is set aside for News Photos.

To get a News Photo check, all you have to do is have your camera with you when something happens — take a picture of it and bring it in to the City Desk. Last week, one photo bug was awarded $7.50 for his quick shutter work.

Newstips numbers to call are: MU. 5-6015, 6016, 1812 and 1813. If no answer, call LA. 3-2811.

'No change' noted for Dr. Butler

Dr. W. Berkley Butler was reported as "doing about the same. No change one way or the other," at the National Insitute of Health, Bathesda, Md., at press time.

Dr. Butler has been ailing for almost four months, first at his home, 2033 Druid Hill Ave., and later at Johns Hopkins Hospital.

He is chief of obstretics and past president of the medicall staff at Provident.

DR. BUTLER is 59 years old. He is a graduate of the University of Michigan Medical School and interned at the Kansas City General Hospital. He has been a practicing physician in Baltimore since 1924.

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