BIGGEST BECAUSE IT'S THE BEST!

'You've got a bad record'

THEY CAME TO MOURN — These are some of the approximately 100 persons in the Elroy Wilson Funeral Home, 2004 Orleans St., last week, for the funeral of Carl Smith, the 7-year-old cancer victim. His illness left his family with a hospital bill of $2,000 which the father, William T. Smith, has been attempting to pay off at the rate of $5 a week. With six in his family to support, Mr. Smith does not know whether he will ever get the bill paid and has appealed to readers for help for which he would be "very grateful."

"There were two, other fellows with him but he wouldn't tell us who they were."

Officer James Watkins was citing the case of Herbert Wilson, 27-year-old huckster, given seven years imprisonment Wednesday when he pleaded guilty to a cahrge of strong-arm robbery on New Years Day.

"You've got a bad record," Judge John Tucker told the man before ordering him to the Penitentiary.

ACCORDING TO Officer Watkins, Mr. Wilson and two others accosted Linton Dawson, 200 block E. Federal St., at Bradley St. and Fremont Ave., and took a watch and $89.50.

The defendant, however, denied in court that he got any of the money in the yoking.

The officer related that Mr. Wilson gave the watch to a man living in the 1000 block Pennsylvania Ave. to pawn it for him.

When the man went to the pawn shop on Jan. 3 with the stolen watch he was picked up by Sgt. J. Hiram Butler and Officers Watkins and Lloyd Johnson.

Joseph Kouts, assistant State's attorney, told the court that Mr. Wilson has the following record:

Two years in 1947 for bastardy; One year in 1950 for burglary, and three years in 1953 for robbery.

One year later Wes Hall in jail

One year ago handsome and well-dressed Wesley (Wes) Hall, 27, 1100 block E. Preston St., walked the streets as a free man.

Today, one year later, he is behind the walls of the Maryland Penitentiary serving a sentence of five years for a narcotics law violation.

Hall's trouble with the law started in January of last year when in the space of two days, two men died from overdoses of narcotics, according to the Medical Examiner.

One was Norman Young, 29, 2025 Druid Hill Ave., and the other was Edward Brady, 29, 2910 Round Rd., Cherry Hill.

THEIR DEATHS set off a search for the source of supply and police concentrated their attention on Hall. He was arrested in a movie in the 2100 block Pennsylvania Ave., and given a hearing at Northwestern Police Court.

"While death" was the way that narcotics officers described the powder that Hall had allegedly sold and this name stuck to the case.

At his hearing, offi cers testified:

"We went to the corner of Pennsylvania Ave. and North where we understood Hall was to make a sale.

"We later learned that the buy was to be made at the movie so we went there.

"We saw Hall drop an envelope by his seat and then move into another seat. We arrested him and seized the envelope which contained heroin. An analysis showed that the heroin was 40 percent, strong enough to kill a man."

THE OFFICERS later explained that heroin is usually cut down to a strength of two per cent with milk sugar and users become accustomed to this dosage and can not tolerate anything stronger.

That was a year ago and now Wes Hall is in the penitentiary, more to come.

A letter came in memory of Carl

"A letter came in this morning and it had $10 in it from the Lincoln Meat Market at 647 W. Lexington St."

Speaking on Thursday was Mrs. Louise Smith, 2104 Greenmount Ave., and her subject was the contributions she has received from readers to help in the payment of the $2,000 hospital bill of her son, Carl Bradley Smith.

The seven year old youngster died Jan. 13 of cancer of the stomach, but not before his story and his gallant fight for life had attracted the sympathy, gifts and prayers of scores of AFRO readers.

PHYSICIANS DOUBTED that Carl could live until Christmas but he did. He asked for Christmas cards and readers sent over 800 as well as gifts and money. His illness was such that he required extensive treatment, a long hospitalization period, hence the size of the bill.

"The hospital (Johns Hopkins) has not been pushing us for the payment of the bill and they told us that we could pay it at $5 a week, but we would like to pay it as soon as possible because otherwise it looks like we will never get it paid," said Mrs. Smith.

THE FATHER, William T. Smith, works as a chauffeur and has a family of six to support. With his modest salary and so much responsibility he finds it difficult to make ends meet and he says:

"I will be grateful for any help I can receive."

It has been suggested that interested persons might set up a fund to help with the bill or else contribute blood to the hospital's bank to replace the more than $500 worth of the precious fluid given to Carl.

'Please don't take my pocketbook'

"I said, 'please don't take my pocketbook; if you don't take it I'll give you $5.'"

This testimony by Mrs. Mamie Hines, 912 WarnerSt., was not enough to convince an all-male jury in Criminal Court Tuesday that a 25-year-old man was guilty of a purse-snatching.

James C. McIntosh, 600 block S. Greene St., a slender young man with a deformed right hand, was acquitted after the jury in the court of Judge S. Ralph Warnken deliberated little more than an hour.

MRS. HINES identified Mr. McIntosh as the young man who accosted her in an alley on Dec. 7 and snatched her purse containing about $60 as several other men looked on.

The victim said she was going to her parked automobile when the young man grabbed her from behind.

"I asked him to please don't do that," Mrs. Hines testified, "and he said, 'I want your pocketbook.'"

She said she offered to give the young man money if he would not take her purse because "I had my personal papers and about $60 I saved for Christmas in there."

Mr. McIntosh, known to some South Baltimoreans as "Betsy's Boy," emphatically denied taking Mrs. Hines' pocketbook.

TWO OF the men testifying as State's witnesses told the court they heard Mrs. Hines scream and observed Mr. McIntosh running from the scene. They were Alonzo Bell, 710 W. Fayette St., and Clarence (Pete) Lowndes, 1632 W. Fayette, who said he was an old friend of Mrs. Hines.

However, in disputing this testimony, Mr. McIntosh said he felt the pair fingered him because he would not loan them additional money in a crap game in the alley that night.

Aliens here must report addresses before end of month

Donald T. Williams, District Director of the Immigration and Naturalization Service, says this is the last week in which aliens in Maryland can comply with the Federal law requiring that they report their address to the Government.

The Immigration official urged all aliens who have not yet complied to go as soon as possible to the nearest post office or Immigration Service office to file the report. Parents or guardians must file the report for alien children under 14 years of age, or those incompetent, or under custodial care.

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NAACP MEMBERSHIP MEETING
TUESDAY, JAN. 29th — 8 P.M. at
NAACP Office — 402 Dolphin St.
SPECIAL FEATURE—Tape of Jackie Robinson's Speech
REV. W. H. BORDERS, Pastor of Wheatt St. Baptist Church of Atlanta, Ga. Active in Bus Church of Atlanta, Ga. Active in Bus Desegregation Campaign in Atlanta
NAACP MASS MEETING
Sharp St. Memorial Methodist Church
Dolphin and Biddle Streets
MRS. LILLIE M. JACKSON, Pres. DR. CHARLES E. WATTS, Treas. BOWEN N. JACKSON, Exc. Sec. MRS. ELAINE FIELDS, Org. Dir.
REV. H. O. GRAHAM, Vice Pres. DR. W. O. SWINTON, Leader
REV. JENNEY McDONALD, Chairman, Publicity Committee
DR. CARL MURPHY, Chairman, Legal Redress Committee

'That was all she wrote'

"When I turned around that was all she wrote."

Omega Geodson, 41, testifying in Youth Court Wednesday, gave this candid description of how he and his buddy, Cornelius A., Edwards, 1900 block Edmondson Ave., were yoked by three youths on Dec.

Convicted and given three years each for the Afro-Patch robberies were John A. Banks, 25, 300 block N. Gilmor St., Robert (Big Time) Sullivan, 17, 1400 block Parrish St., and William Washington Jr., 17, 1000 block N. Calhoun st.

The yoking took place at Gilmor and Lafayette Sts.

MR. GOODSON said that he and Mr. Edwards were walking down the street, loaded with suitcases. Before he knew what happened, he related, he was knocked unconscious.

"We were walking along when three boys walked up and wanted a match," explained Mr. Edwards. "I set my suitcase down youths suggested that they get and give it to them."

Mr. Edwards said one of a drink and he told the boy "I don't have any money."

"I picked up the suitcase and started walking down the street and they knocked me down," he continued. "They took my pocketbook. I had $2."

SGT. John T. Dunn, Northwestern District, testified that he arrested Sullivan in a poolroom in the 1500 block W. Lafayette St. on Dec. 3 and the youth gave information leading to the apprehension of the others.

The defendants gave statements to police admitting participation in the yokings, it was testified.

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Yule burglar imprisoned

"They were doing some late Christmas shopping."

Thomas Nugent, assistant State's attorney, on Tuesday was referring to two men on trial in Youth Court in connection with the Dec. 25 burglary of the Army Surplus Store, 907 Pennsylvania Ave.

James C. Young, 23, 110 block W. Franklin St., was found guilty of burglary by Chief Judge Emory H. Niles and sentenced to three years in the House of Correction.

Woodrow McCutchron, 24, 600 block George St., was found guilty of receiving stolen goods and given a 18-month term.

According to Mr. Nugent, Young gave police a statement following his arrest on Dec. 30 in which he admitted the burglary and implicated McCutchron. The prosecutor said a quantity of jackets, shirts and cigarettes lighters were taken.

$50 IS THE TOTAL set aside each week for News Tips and News Photos. For News Tips, call: MU. 5-6015, 4014,1812 or 1813. If no answer, call LA. 3-2811. Bring your News Photos to the City Desk.

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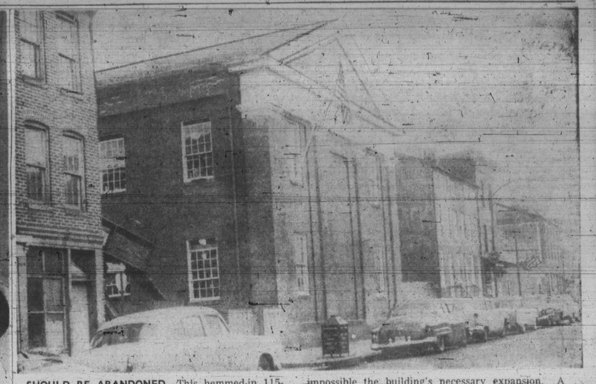
IN A CLASSROOM — Vice-principal John Wood examines the Christmas ornaments made by the school's youngest group during the Christmas season. Behind the boys is a large wood-and-coal stove, one of which is to be found in each of the nine classrooms.



SHOULD BE ABANDONED—This hemmed-in 115-year-old structure is Public School 131 on Druid Hill Ave., where apartment house and a tavern-cafe make impossible the building's necessary expansion. A survey team recommended the school's abandonment in 1921.

115-year-old school throwback to past

By S. F. YETTE

Almost 200 families are enrolled at Elementary School 131, a 115-year-old structure on Druid Hill near Biddle street, reputed to be the oldest school building in Baltimore City.

The building was erected in 1841, and since that time has become hemmed in by apartment houses, a tavern-cafe, and the busy thoroughfare that is Druid Hill Ave.

A survey of the school's facilities in 1881 showed that the building covered 4761 square feet, and rested on a plat of ground whose total area was 7500 square feet.

Those 75 by 100 demensions have not changed in 115 years. The remaining 2739 square feet must accommodate a playing area, a small clearance between the building and the public sidewalk, and an adequate area to facilitate the storage of coal in the basement.

A WOODEN gate and fence cut off the premises from the public along the Druid Hill sidewalk, and the same fence marks the lower boundary of the small, 2-out-door basketball court that is the recreation center.

The main playing area of the court is about 18 feet wide and about four times that in length. There are three basketball goals in the playing area.

Alongside the playing area is a rickety stairway, the mate to another on the west side of the brick building. They normally would be used as fire escapes only, but they serve as exits and entrances to this building which has no front or rear doors.

In 1881, the school was identified as Public School No. 1. It was 40 years old then, and had an assessed valuation of $15,000.

At that time, a City board of commissioners issued a statement following a survey of the school's facilities.

The commissioners stated that the school needed renovating, and should be better supplied with desks, blackboards, etc.

IN 1881, the city school board was paying ground rent of $150 per year for the school which would indicate that the city owned the building but not the ground.

The city no longer pays ground rent on the building, a fact that suggests that purchase of the land has been made.

In 1900, the school became known as the Colored Male Primary School No. 4. In 1902, it became Public School 116.

A Strayer report on Baltimore city schools in 1920-21 indicated that the school at that time should have been abandoned.

The report stated:

"This very old structure should be abandoned as soon as possible. No money should be spent in putting it in a state of repair.

The site is totally inadequate, with only 2.1 square feet per pupil.

"Artificial light is lacking, the natural light is largely from the rear of the room, the rooms are very congested and the situation presents a very unfortunate housing spectacle."

Consistent with the 1921 recommendation, Dr. Lorne Woollatt, head of the city's school records and statistics, this week told the AFRO that no renovation of the school is likely since the plan is to put up new buildings and let the old ones like No. 131 go out of existence.

He declined, however, to estimate just when the school building program would allow for the far overdue abandonment of Public School 131.

He further stated that current building specifications sets no "right" amount of space per pupil in a school. The present object is to limit each classroom to 35 pupils, he said.

A 1951 survey by the Federal Government found the facilities at 131 "unsatisfactory" and stated that the present site could not be enlarged.

John Wood, present vice-principal in charge of the school, said that because of the general overcrowded school situation throughout the city he does not foresee a change in the near future, despite the "not-too-desirable" present location.

Inside the building itself are nine neatly-kept classrooms, a small, but clean restroom for the boys downstairs, a ladies' restroom upstairs, a playroom, a nurse's suite equipped with a sick-bed and first-aid supplies, and custodian's quarters.

In each of the classrooms is a large, shiny, wood-and-coal stove surrounded by half a dozen coal scuttles brimming with fuel.

"IT'S A back-breaking chore for the janitors to keep all of these buckets filled," Mr. Wood said, shaking his head.

"The stoves are a health hazard," Mr. Wood said, explaining that "two or three" of his nine teachers had become "nauseated" and had to stay away from their work during the month before Christmas.

Mr. Wood said he expected to get gas furnaces installed in the school to replace the large wood-and-coal stoves.

He said that he also hopes to have new "egg-crate" lighting replace the old-fashioned "bowl type" lights now found, six to a room, at the school.

WHETHER THE school gets immediate improvements on the present structure, or whether no changes are made as indicated by Dr. Woollatt, the fact is obvious that there is not adequate space for expansion to accomodate the 197 pupils regularly enrolled at the school.

The out-dated facilities leave no alternative to the necessity for new equipment.

Dr. Woollatt said that the time in which the outmoded building could be replaced by a new one depends largely on the progress to be made in the current urban renewal program in which the Federal Government provides matching funds for school construction.

This is the fist of 2 articles

Democratic Viewpoint

By ROBERT WATTS

Now that the legislature is in session we should turn our attention to this body and the happenings in Annapolis for the next month and one half.

You have all been reading about the civil rights bills introduced by Senator Harry A. Cole, Republican 4th District.

In order for these bills to have any chance at all there must be Democratic support.

One of the bills in particular will have no chance at all unless the City Senators support it.

This bill deals with discrimination in hotels, and is limited to Baltimore City.

We all realize that Baltimore is the only big league city where the hotels will not house all members of the visiting team. During the last campaign many Democratic leaders refused to go into the Emerson Hotel because of that Hotel's policy.

I certainly we Democrats should use whatever techniques we have to see that these bills are supported.

DURING THIS session we should as often as possible attend the sessions to show our interest and to chide those, whom we supported that we are interested in seeing what they are doing.

It is one thing to support a man when he is running for office, and another to follow his every move after he is elected.

Politicians make all sorts of promises when campaigning, but if they look out in the audience and see men and women, who they know attend the legislative halls, then they will know that they must live up to their promises.

WHILE THINKING about the legislature, we can't overlook our lone Democratic representative, the Honorable Truly Hatchett.

I had a long talk with Mr. Hatchett with respect to what was going on in Annapolis, and he gave me the low down on many issues, that will face the House of Delegates in the next week.

He also felt that more of us should be seen around the legislative halls.

He told me that the Governor's budget did not contain any funds to improve the roads and to provide a parking lot for Coppin State Teachers College.

COPPIN HAD requested $75,000. The State Planning Board cut it out altogether and Truly went to work.

He called on the Governor and as a result the sum of $30,000 was restored to the budget.

In another situation General Milton Reckord, Adjutant General of Maryland, requested 6 acres or less of Coppin's land for a motor unit for the Guard unit on Edmondson Avenue.

Last Wednesday morning the General appeared before the Ways and Means Committee of the House and the Senate Finance Committee in joint session.

The Board of Public Works and the Legislative Council approved the request.

Mr. Hatchett wrote to every member of the House and of the Senate making an appeal to them to disapprove it. The request was disapproved and General Reckord and the Board of Public Works were notified.

THIS IS just a small example of the value of having someone on the scene to protect the interest of the colored voters in this community.

Remember most of all that both houses are weighty with Democrats and so it is necessary for us to insist that the proper bills are supported.

Each of us can play a part in this respect if its no more than a letter or two to your representative.

COMING EVENTS

JANUARY 26

Thirteenth annual luncheon meeting of the Women's City wide Committee for Delinquency Prevention at the Eastside Office Building, 1118 T. Monument St., 1 p.m.

Baltimore chapter of Committee on Racial Equality (CORE) stages a workshop at the Madison Ave. YWCA, 8:30 p.m. Subject will be technique of non-violent action.

JANUARY 27

CORE sponsors a workshop on non-violent action at Fellowship House, 21 W. Preston St. 2:30 p.m.

Annual Young People's Day, Madison Avenue Presbyterian Church. Speaker, Dr. John T. Williams, president, Maryland State College. Special music by Boys Choir of Carver Vocational High School.

The 94th observance of the Emancipation Proclamation in the House of Delegates chambers at the state capital in Annapolis. The Rev. Harrison J. Bryant is the speaker. Time is 3 p.m. Sponsored by the Gay Bonnet Civic Club.

The Blind Association of Baltimore is a concert at the Community Building of Fairfield Homes, 1400 Baltic St., 3:30 p.m.

JANUARY 30

Turner Station YMCA's father and son and mother and daughter dinner at 6 p.m. Judge P. Everette Lane and Oriole star Bob Boyd will be the guest speakers.

FEBRUARY 1

Baltimore Symphony Orchestra plays in the auditorium of the Booker T. Washington Junior High School, Madison and Lanvale, at 8:30 p.m. Sponsored by Coppin State Teachers College.

FEBRUARY 2

Children and grown up both will probably love this. "Folk Songs of the British Isles," as sung by Sarah Stafford Cecil. At the Baltimore Museum of Art, 10:45 a.m.

FEBRUARY 6

Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt, first lady of the world, will be the guest of honor as the local chapter of ADA holds its ninth annual Roosevelt Day Dinner at the Blue Crest.

FEBRUARY 13

Dr. John Hope Franklin will be the speaker at the assembly period of Coppin State Teachers College.

FEBRUARY 15

University of Buffalo professor H. Lee Smith will speak at Towson State Teachers College at 3 p.m. Topic will be "The Teaching of Modern Languages." No admission.

FEBRUARY 21

Eastside Community Singers in recital at Christ Methodist Church, Chase and Washington Sts., 8 p.m.

MARCH 3

The 13th annual Blue Ribbon Tea at Dunbar High School at 4 p.m. The Eastside Community Singers will appear.

The Seven Turners in second concert of the year at Emmanuel Christian Church, Lanvale and Carrollton Ave., 6 p.m.

MARCH 19

TV star and journalist Alistair Cooke will be the speaker at Towson State Teachers College at 8:15 p.m. He speaks on "Reporting America to Britain." No admission.

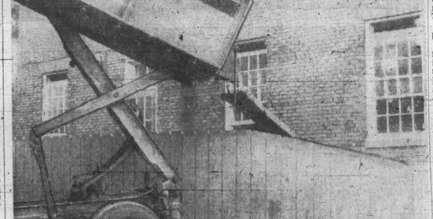
Senators ask third U.S. judge

A bill to provide for the appointment of an additional Federal District Judge for Maryland was introduced last week by United States Senators John Marshall Butler and J. Glenn Beall (Republicans-Maryland).

The Maryland Senators in a joint statement concerning this measure commented:

"It is essential that the heavy case loads now imposed upon our two Federal district judges in Maryland be eased by the appointment of a third judge.

"Despite the dedicated service of our present Federal Judges in Maryland, the heavy dockets in our Federal Court requires the appointment of an addition judge without delay."



FILLING COAL BIN — A coal truck dumps coal into the coal bin at PS 131 where each classroom is equipped with a large wood-and-coal stove.

The school bells still ring for retired William Carter

"School work doesn't get out of your blood so very easily. I can hear the bell when it rings and I feel like an old fire horse that has retired but still wants to go to the fire."

A faraway look came to the eyes of William H. Carter when he spoke of the old days on Tuesday afternoon, and it was almost as if he was not really in the living room of his home at 1908 Division St. but back in the familiar brick building that is the John Hurst Elementary School No. 120 at Pennsylvania Ave. and Robert St.

For almost 30 years Mr. Carter was the custodian at that school and even now when he speaks of 120 it seems that he walks once again down the freshly cleaned hallways, looking into classrooms where children play and study where once their parents played and studied.

"A MAN short in stature but long on kindness and sympathy, Mr. Carter was and is still known to several generations that attended the school as the man who always had a smile for them and time to listen to their problems and try to help.

In June, 1953, Mr. Carter retired from the system, not because he had to but because as he says:

"I saw a number of men break down under the load and I didn't want that to happen to me. I wanted to stop while I still had some work left in me."

A man who admits with a grin "I like to work," Mr. Carter has kept busy in his retirement with a position at a local country club and his step is every bit as chipper as it was, say 20 years ago.

SHARING Mr. Carter's retirement is his wife, Mrs. Bertina Carter, who has been at his side for 48 years.

The Carters celebrated this anniversary on Jan. 19 amid the congratulations from their seven children, 22 grandchildren, and 3 great grandchildren.

Asked for the ingredients that have made their marriage a success, Mrs. Carter said:

"I've got a good husband and I just don't pay any attention to any arguments."

This brought from her husband this observation:

"Just show me the married couple that hasn't had an argument, or perhaps I should say a misunderstanding. But the pleasure comes in making up."

GETTING BACK to the subject of what made their marriage such a lasting one, Mr. Carter said:

"I've always had responsibility so I know the value of making a home a happy one. With a family you have to take care of them; that's all you can do. After all a man's family is his treasure."

Both natives of Maryland, the Carters met, fittingly enough, in a church.

"It was at Franklin and Pine Sts.," recalls Mr. Carter, "and it was at Epworth League reunions, which were like present day bazaars, you could mail letters so I sent her a note."

As matters turned out that note was the start of their romance and after four years of courtship the marriage took place on Jan. 18, 1909.

DURING THE early years of their marriage Mr. Carter worked as a bellhop in several downtown hotels but then World War One came along. The father of four children Mr. Carter didn't have to go into service but he had to get an essential job and that sent him to the waterfront.

After six months he returned to hotel work but then along came prohibition and Mr. Carter decided it was time to seek other fields.

"Thing those days you couldn't make money unless you sold liquor and I didn't want to be dishonest so I got out and went into the school system."

IT WAS in 1925 that Mr. Carter embarked on his new career.

One of his first assignments was at the school now known as Elementary School No. 87 at Mt. Holly and Alto Rd. When Mr. Carter went there the school board was using a farmhouse for a school and the place was known as "Webb's Farm."

"Then I got wind that 120 was to be turned into a colored school and I asked to go there," remembers Mr. Carter.

Sure enough his request was granted and it was at 120 that Mr. Carter was to round out his career. During this time he lived, as he still does, in the immediate area of the school.

ASKED WHAT was his most prized moment of all these years, Mr. Carter thought and then he answered:

"There were many of these but I'd say my most pleasant moments were spent in helping little children when they entered school. They needed a friend and I tried my best to help them as much as I could."

In his years at the school, Mr. Carter served under several principals.

He lists them in this order: William Proctor, Charles Jones, Henry Ebb, Miss Esther Baskerville, Mrs. Gracie Hazzard, Miss Florence E. Gloster, and Mrs. Missouri Wright.

"I liked them all," said Mr. Carter in response to the unstated but obvious question, "and I liked all the faculty as well."

MR. AND MRS. Carter are both long time members of Ames AME Church and he belongs to the Masons, Tuscan lodge and the Detroit Savings Club.

Their children are Clarence, employed in the AFRO's advertising department; Mrs. Eleanor B. Keys, housewife; Miss Selma I. Carter; William E., construction employee; Charles E., employed by a local country club; Mrs. Lillian Wilson, teacher at School No. 160; Ira, BTC motorman.

While Mr. Carter can't see the school from his living room he is quite aware that it is there whenever the bell rings or the children walk by his window.

"I miss it all," he says in all sincerity.

And the children remember him too, and when they pass its always:

"Hello, Mr. Carter."

They haven't forgotten.

48 YEARS TOGETHER — That's the record of Mr. and Mrs. William H. Carter, who celebrated this anniversary on Jan. 18. Mr. Carter, who retired in 1955 as custodian at the John Hurst School No. 120, credits the success of their marriage to "responsibility." Says Mrs. Carter when it comes to giving credit, "I had a good husband."