Former Crownsville patient sounds touching plea for help

Dear AFRO:

I wrote to the AFRO-AMERICAN Newspaper before, when I was a patient at Crownsville State Hospital.

Seeing how beautifully you handled the request that I made to your readers, for material necessities for my then fellow inmates, and knowing the interest and love that our people have for those less fortunate and the knowledge that they as a people can rise to higher than the least of these, I write again to you on behalf of those whom I left behind at the hospital, and those, who having no immunity to this particular form of ill health, would be future patients.

I remained there as a patient for about seven weeks, and shall never forget the needs of the people there, as human beings, as longing hopeful souls, not as so many inmates left to be forgotten.

I read last Sunday's paper about the needs of the patients at Spring Grove State Hospital and the other institutions. The paper stated that the greatest need at Crownsville was one of personnel.

It is agreed that this is a great need but there are other needs and greater needs.

* * *

THERE IS ALSO a need at Crownsville for additional buildings. One in particular that I can specify, visualize, is a building properly equipped and staffed as a Chapel, a recreational area and a school.

These are vital necessities. The proper atmosphere for the above mentioned makes for better reception of whatever is offered.

Now about the personnel shortage, why are applicants refused who seek employment there? Are there not enough funds appropriated for properly staffing the institution?

Why?

To whom do we appeal as interested citizens, mothers, fathers, wives, husbands, sisters, brothers, uncles, aunts, cousins, nieces, nephews, grandparents and priests. (I could have said relatives but this word is too impersonal).

Trusting that you, the public did take care of their material wants and needs, now, these same people have another greater need.

Remember, now we are body and soul, with the bodily needs partially and temporarily satisfied.

What about the most important part of these 2,300 men, their souls, their spiritual needs.

ON THE PREMISES, to my knowledge, there is one kind, energetic Methodist minister, Rev. Mack. (Rev. S. J. Mack).

To him is entrusted the care of these souls, and I assure you that he is certainly doing his bit to bring what teaching and consolation he can to as many as he can, and to those receptive to what he has to offer.

Please, let me hurry on to state, that there are other ministers who give of their time and services voluntarily to help bring peace of mind to the patients.

There are also many groups of organizations who volunteer their services, and bring cheer and encouragement to many of the patients.

They are not enough.

Where are the families and friends, where are their ministers and priests.

Oh, I know, you visit when you can or sometimes when there's nothing else to do. They need you more than words can express.

I had been there not too many days, when, still a bit disturbed, I reasoned that I had no one in the world, and let my thoughts be known.

The nurse couldn't make me believe otherwise, after all I was among strangers, though kind and helpful, who were not a part of my life.

I HAD BEEN WEARING state clothes, which are drab and different, had seen and heard the other lonely patients eagerly waiting a letter or a visitor, and seen the constant change of shift of personnel.

Couldn't this state of mind have become reality for me had not my family cared, and visited me not less than three times per week?

And had not I maintained the fact that my God was real and was all that I needed?

I had written to the nearest priest, as I thought, in Jessups, Md., asking him to come tend his sheep. He answered by saying, when he had time, (which he apparently didn't!) he would visit me, and that a priest from St. Mary's Church in Annapolis was chaplain there at Crownsville.

Well, the closest that I ever came to seeing a priest was when I heard that one from St. Francis Xavier here in Baltimore had been to visit someone from his parrish, and had left before I arrived from my job (part of my treatment as a domestic).

* * *

WHAT ABOUT the patients who have been there 7 months, 7 years, 20 years and longer? Their illnesses may differ, but their line of thought at one time or another has been the same. What answer did they receive? Who is concerned about them? Who is concerned about their souls.

They need their people.

Are you one of them?

They need their ministers and priests.

Are you one of them?

They have souls to be saved. Won't you help them obtain the means needed for this purpose?

Please go to them, there are many not even affiliated with any church, some who think this business of religion is only a beautiful story. Go there, prove to them by teaching the commandments without reserve, that God is real.

Follow through with them, when they are released; don't forget them.

They may be important for the salvation of your own soul.

Take it from here.

MISS D. C.

3 injured on icy sidewalks

Three persons were treated at Provident Hospital for injuries sustained in falls on slippery pavements.

The hazardous walking condition developed early this week when the streets were coated with ice during a cold spell.

Injured were Wilmer Russell, 16, 1600 block Pennsylvania Ave. who was treated for head injuries.

Mrs. Willie Mae Walker, 35, 2900 block Rosedale St. was also fell and hurt her head.

W. Stanley Orlando, N.C., suffered a slight concussion as a result of his fall and was admitted to the hospital.

Grocer held in $2500 bail

Riley Hooks, 55, 1800 block Madison Ave. has been held in $2,500 bail for grand jury on a numbers charge.

At a hearing in Northwestern Wednesday before Magistrate Linwood G. Kuger, the defendant pleaded not guilty.

Mr. Hooks, who owns a grocery store in the 400 block McMechen St., was arrested around noon Wednesday at his store by Sgt. A. Bowen and officers James Sanders and George Barry of the Rackets Division, it was reported.

'10:45 burglary' suspect goes on trial Monday

The Criminal Court trial of Joseph Walker Gibson Jr., 19, 900 block Bennett Pl., accused in the "10:45 Burglary" case has been set for Monday before Judge Joseph R. Byrnes, according to Edward F. Borgerding, assistant state's attorney.

George H. Rosedom, recently resigned assistant state's attorney, has been appointed by the court to represent him.

Gibson faces 15 charges of home burglaries throughout Baltimore involving the theft of more than $1,500 in household articles and jewelry.

Sixth grade pupil is suspended from school

A 12-year-old boy, a sixth grade pupil at Elementray School 137, Francis St. and Clifton Ave., has been suspended from school pending a study of his case by the Division of Special Services of the Department of Education.

According to Dr. John Fischer, the youngster butted a woman teacher with his head.

On Friday, Dr. Fischer told the AFRO,

"The child was playing with a chain or a piece of a chain or something little and was asked to put it away.

"It was disturbing the class. The teacher reached to take it. The child has some unfortunate behavior tendencies.

"The children grabbed him and his shirt was torn."

Dr. Fischer added, "We followed it up through the principal and the parent."

Beall gets post

Washington — Senator J. Glenn Beall, of Maryland, has accepted an appointment to the Senate Armed Services Committee as a new assignment while retaining his membership on the Banking and Currency and District of Columbia Committees.

Commenting on his new post with the Armed Services Committee, which is one of the most powerful committees in the Congress, Senator Beall said:

"Believing as I always have in a defense system second to none, I welcome my new job and pledge to do my best in it to serve the welfare of our great Nation."

Crusader chalks up a victory

A 37-year-old former Army officer who has been crusading against colored citizens being designated "Negro," found he has met with some success in his campaign.

Ralph Winfred Finney, 1405 Lorman Ct., said this week that he had just been issued his new drivers license and instead of "white" or "colored" being listed under racial designation, he is listed as a member of the "human" race.

Some time ago Mr. Finney was drawing up a court bill, the purpose of which would be to have members of his family designated "Americans" rather than "Negroes."

AFRO CORRESPONDENTS OFF TO CARIBBEAN—Correspondents of the AFRO-AMERICAN were among a group of goodwill tourists who left National Airport Monday evening for a lookse at the Dominican Republic. In the group are AFRO Managing Editor Art Carter, extreme right, and Pearlie Cox Harrison whose "Pearlie's Prattle" is a must to Washington socialites. Others in the group are Cliff Cabell, photographer; William Alexander, tour conductor; Earnest Goodman, Mr. and Mrs. Clifford Mack; Mrs. Harrison, Mrs. Alice Dunnigan, Roy Garvin, Mr. and Mrs. Edward Arnold Hugo Warren and Mr. Carter. Reports on the tour will appear in early editions of the paper. AFRO editor Cliff Mackay is already in Cuba covering the aftermath of the revolution.

Supreme Court admits Mrs. Juanita Mitchell

After the approval of the United States Supreme Court, the admission of Mrs. Juanita Jackson Mitchell to practice before that court, became final yesterday (Thursday) in a formal ceremony.

In the 12 a.m. ceremony before the court, George E. C. Hayes, commissioner of District Utilities, in Washington, D.C. moved the court's decision to admit the popular Baltimore attorney.

Before being admitted to practice before the court, attorneys must have practiced at least five years in their home courts and have sterling characters.

* * *

BORN IN Hot Springs, Ark., Mrs. Mitchell was educated in Baltimore public schools.

Graduated from Douglass High School in 1927, she attended the University of Pennsylvania when the color line prevented her study at Johns Hopkins University.

She was graduated cum laude from University of Pennsylvania with B.S. in education in 1931. Mrs. Mitchell also received a Master of Arts in Sociology from that school in 1933.

She attended Law School at the University of Maryland where she received a B.S. in law on her graduation in June, 1956.

While attending that school, she became the first colored student to be elected to the editorial board of the Maryland Law Review in 1948.

Married to Clarence M. Mitchell Jr., who is director of the Washington Bureau of NAACP, Mrs. Mitchell is also the mother of four sons.

She has taught in Baltimore high schools and was special assistant to Walter White and National Youth Director for the NAACP in New York City, 1935-36.

* * *

AS A RESULT of her directing a march on Maryland's Capitol with 2,000 citizens, in 1942, Maryland appointed an Interracial Commission, a new police commissioner. The state also uniformed and appointed more colored policemen and began the investigation of police brutalities after the Citizens' March.

Mrs. Mitchell was director of the first City-wide Register and Vote campaign which put 31,000 new voters on the books in 1942.

She also served as director with the late John Tilley (chairman) in the recent NAACP Register and Vote Campaign which put over 36,000 new voters on the books in 1958.

In addition, Mrs. Mitchell served as counsel in Maryland recreation suits before the Supreme Court, eliminating segregation in Municipal and state beaches and swimming pools (1953).

Also in school segregation suits in Baltimore City (1953), Harford and St. Mary's Counties. (1957).

MRS. JUANITA MITCHELL

The school segregation suits ended with Maryland's being the first southern state to integrate after the 1954 Supreme Court decision.

The daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Keiffer Jackson (Lillie M.), Mrs. Mitchell is founder and president of the City-Wide Young Peoples' Forum 1931-34, founder of NAACP Youth Movement, 1935-38.

She was vice president of National Council of Methodist Youth, 1933-35; secretary of Legal Redress Committee of the Baltimore branch of NAACP and the Maryland Conference of NAACP Branches.

Her mother, Mrs. Lillie M. Jackson, is president of Baltimore's NAACP.

MRS. MITCHELL'S other activities include membership in the following:

Council of Churches, Baltimore Urban League, Women's Bar Association, F.E.W. Harper Temple, I.B.P.O.E.W. YWCA, Monumental Bar Association, Board of Trustees for Morgan State College Christian Center;

Former chairman of Legal Committee for National Council of Negro Women, American Jurisprudence.

Zoning Bd. rejects shop, 2-family home

The Board of Municipal and Zoning Appeals on Tuesday disapproved requests to locate a beauty parlor at 200 N. Fulton Ave., and to house two families at 9 N. Ellamont St.

Among the cases scheduled to be heard the coming Tuesday are:

Requests to house three families at 2111 and 2114 Allendale Rd.; two families at 2338 Boarman Ave., and at 15 S. Rosedale St. and to construct a store at 101 N. Gold St.

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Educational Psychology	Introduction to Philosophy
Admin. of American Public	Introduction to Logic
School System	Political Science—
English—Reading and Writing	American State Government
Geography—Regional Geography	Psychology—General Psychology
of North America	Mental Hygiene
Health Educ.—Healthful Living	Science—Biol. Science and
History—	Human Adjustment
History of Civilization, I	Sociology—Social Pathology

SPRING CALENDAR
Registration: Feb. 4, 5, 6— Wed., Thurs., Fri., Holmes Hall, Room 100, —6-8 P.M.

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50th Anniversary, Sunday, February 15
3:00 P.M. At Sharp St. Methodist Church
Dolphin and Eutaw Sts.
Guest speaker, Dr. E. FRANKLIN JACKSON
pastor of John Wesley A.M.E. Zion Church, Washington, D.C. also president of the Washington Branch of NAACP
"Remember NAACP In Your Will"
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The AFRO goes visiting with Charles A. Proctor...retired

By WILLIAM SLATER

This week the AFRO visited Charles A. Proctor, 61, a retired post office clerk who now lives at 2539 Madison Ave., as the second stop in its series on the lives of persons who have retired.

Mr. Proctor who retired Dec. 31, 1957, served in the postal system for 40 years.

Born in Baltimore March 25, 1896, he is a member of one of the oldest families in the city.

Three generations of Proctors have resided in the city of Baltimore.

* * *

MR. PROCTOR attended and graduated from the public schools in Baltimore and then attended Coppin Normal College (as it was called then) for a semester.

After a slight exposure to practice teaching, Mr. Proctor decided that it was the wrong profession and decided to enter the post office in 1917.

His postal career was interrupted later in 1917 when the United States entered World War I.

He served in the Ordinance Department of the Army until late 1918.

After his Army obligation, he returned to the post office where he was placed in the mailing division and stayed until his retirement.

A senior mailing clerk when he retired, he has been in that division longer than any other employee in the Baltimore department.

He entertained the AFRO last week in the living room of his beautiful well decorated home.

Dressed in a grey suit with matching tie and black shoes, the youthful-looking Mr. Proctor spoke.

"The post office is a wonderful place to work. There are so many benefits and opportunities for a young man."

Asked why decided to retire, he replied:

"After 40 years, I thought it was time to come and enjoy life while I am still young.

"Some people stay in so long until they are too old to enjoy their retirement when they finally do decided to come out.

"I wanted to get out while I was still active."

WHEN ASKED what plans did he make when he decided to retire, he answered.

"Well, I've always wanted to travel and I've been doing quite a bit of it since my retirement."

Mr. Proctor says that he is usually busy practically every weekend.

"Last summer I went to California and I also spent part of the summer in Atlantic City.

"I would like eventually to go to Cuba. I may be able to do this summer."

Mr. Proctor says that he does not have many other hobbies, however, he likes to paint and do general handy work around his home.

"I try to keep my home as nice as possible."

Showing the front porch that had been freshly painted, he said:

"I did this only this morning. I get pleasure from doing things like this."

* * *

AN AVID sports lover, Mr. Proctor says that he is very interested in football.

"That's my game. I've never played it, but I love it.

"I **follow the Colts,"** he added.

One of the city's most eligible bachelors, Mr. Proctor spends a considerable amount of time with the ladies.

When asked about marriage, he stated:

"Well, I'd rather not talk about that just now."

He has never been married. He says that he has not yet felt the urge to return to the post office.

"I feel that 40 years of work is enough for any one man. I have no intention of going back.

"I don't think I ever will have to. I manage pretty well on my retirement check."

* * *

WHEN ASKED was there anything that he remembered best during his many years at the post office, he replied:

"Most of all, I remember the day when I retired.

"The postmaster came in and everyone stopped work to shake my hand.

"The fellows gave an 8-mm movie projector as a going away present.

"I even received letters from the Postmaster General in Washington.

"At that moment, I was sorry I was leaving."

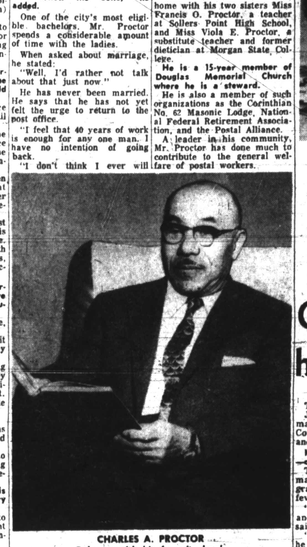
* * *

MR. PROCTOR lives at his home with his two sisters Miss Francis O. Proctor a teacher at Solters Point High School, and Miss Viola E. Proctor, a substitute teacher and former dietician at Morgan State College.

He is a 15-year member of Douglas Memorial Church where he is a steward.

He is also a member of such organizations as the Corinthian No. 62 Masonic Lodge, National Federal Retirement Association, and the Postal Alliance.

A leader in his community, Mr. Proctor has done much to contribute to the general welfare of postal workers.



CHARLES A. PROCTOR ...
Relaxes with his favorite book

231st Battalion will have new armory all its own

To the glorious history of the 231st Truck Transportation Battalion is about to be added another chapter.

The battalion is scheduled to move into its own armory which will be built from the ground up.

The new $360,667 building will be located at the corner of Braddish Ave. and Winchester St., midway between North and Edmondson Aves., and just west of Bentalou St.

Currently the battalion is being housed in the Richmond Armory where it moved in Dec. 1957 from the Edmondson Ave. Armory on Edmondson near Bentalou St.

SCHEDULED TO be completed within a year's time, the building will give the outfit its first permanent home.

The new armory has been needed by the outfit for several years, but previous plans for its construction all fizzled and foundered in the face of a series of difficulties, some economic and some coming from the community itself.

Once it appeared almost certain that the armory would be built on the grounds of Coppin State Teachers College, but opposition developed and the plan was junked.

However, all this is in the background and the Battalion, a unit of the Maryland National Guard, can look forward to having a home of its own.

The new armory will be a one-story building with administrative offices, large drill floor, rifle range, class rooms, and maintenance shop.

The front will face Winchester St. which will be beautifully landscaped with a parking area on the west side. The rear of the building will have a large storage area for vehicles of this unit.

The new armory will bring to its neighborhood a civic center for social and recreational activities.

Its spacious lawns, parking area and building will lend much color to this once barren lot.

* * *

THE 231ST is the outgrowth of a small organization formed in Baltimore on Feb. 21, 1879. It is was initially designated the Monumental City Guards. Two years later the general of the State Militia made a recommendation that the unit be made a part of the Maryland State Militia and on Feb. 26, 1882, the company became the First Separate Company of the Maryland National Guard.

Since that time the outfit has seen service in the Spanish-American War, World War One, World War Two and the Korean Police Action.

On its return from Korea the battalion was reorganized and now consists of a headquarters and headquarters company and three transportation companies (light truck)—147th Trans. Co., 165th Trans. Co., and 726th Trans. Co.

The present strength of the battalion is 20 officers, four warrant officers and 211 enlisted men.

The battalion has just been authorized to recruit an additional 50 enlisted men.

* * *

IT IS anticipated that an additional quota of 100 men will be authorized prior to occupancy of the new armory which is designed to accommodate 500 officers and enlisted men.

The majority of the officers and non-commissioned officers are World War II and Korean veterans.

Most of the officers as well as some of the key enlisted personnel hold professional positions in the community.

All personnel are closely screened by aptitude tests, character references and general military potential before being selected as a member of the organization.

The battalion has invited all service veterans and young men 18½ years of age to make application at the Richmond Market Armory if they are interested in becoming a member of this organization.

The Armory is open from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m on week days.

* * *

LT. COL. WILLIAM BRADY (retired) was original commander of 231st Trans Bn when it was activated on 1 April 1947.

Since that time this unit's officers represent alumni of such institutions as Hampton Institute, Howard University, Morgan State College, University of Maryland, Johns Hopkins University, Loyola College;

Also Morehouse, Virginia State College, Bishop College, Lincoln University, Bowie State State Teachers College, Coppin State Teachers College, New York University, Columbia University, Tillotson College, Boston College, Pond College, Western Reserve College, Storer College.

Also recent graduates of such army service schools as Army Transportation School, Adjutant General's School and Army Ordnance School.

Its present staff consists of LL Col. Vernon F. Greene, commander; Maj. Lester C. Hudgins, executive officer; Maj. Melvin H. Cade, plans and training officer; Capt. George M. Brooks, assistant plans and training officer; Capt. Hollis W. Posey, supply officer;

CWO Joseph B. Locklear, assistant supply officer; Capt. Simon A. Porter, maintenance officer; Capt. Joseph B. Bracy, adjutant; Capt. Jesse P. Peaker, personnel officer; Lt. Thomas Briscoe, commander of Hqts. Company; Capt. John E. Leath, 147th Trans Co.; Capt. Lorenzo Felder, 165th Trans Co.; Capt. William A. Harris, 726th Trans Co.

Other assigned officers are: Lts. Cosco A. Williams, James Smith, Benjamin Randall; CWO Wilbert Armstead, Lts. Walter A. Hairston, Charles G. Gaskins, Clifton T. Johnson, Herman Sydnor, James A. Williams, Joseph H. Mills Sr.; CWO Earl W. Jackson;

MSgts. Clinton Nichols Sr., Battalion Sergeant Major; Oscar S. Harley, Charles R. Owens, Lloyd R. Scott, and Sfc. Edward N. Watties.

* * *

BEHIND THE SCENES there is a corps whose activities and operations help mold the policies, plans, training procedures, and care of equipment and personnel.

This corps represents the permanent duty personnel assigned this unit and is supervised by Capt. Jesse P. Peaker, personnel officer, administrative assistant.

Other members of the staff MSgt. Clinton Nichols, AST Sg. Co.; M/Sgt. Oscar S. Harley, AST 147th Trans Co.; M/Sgt. Charles R. Owens, AST 165th Trans Co.; Sfc. William E. Durant, AST 726th Trans Co. M/Sgt. William L. Brown, chief shop foreman; Sfc. Willie Horne, wheeled vehicle mechanic; Sgt. William R. Bland and Sgt. Theophilius Morris, caretakers.

Major Howard T. Clouse and M/Sgt. James R. Dalton are assigned by Regular Army as advisors.

During the past five years since reactivation, this unit has sent to Army service schools and trained 85 per cent of its present personnel.

Approximately six persons are now on active duty training for a period of six months under the Selective Service Training Act.

Several officers are attending various army service schools, and others are scheduled to undergo the same training in the near future.

Previous to the Korean Campaign, this unit boasted of the most efficient and highly trained NCO personnel in the transportation field.

The result of which was verified by the fact that 75 per cent of the NCO personnel remained on active duty and are still serving in various parts of the world.

This is viewed as a tribute to Col. Greene and his staff who selected and trained those individuals.

A NEW ARMORY—This is an artist's conception of the future home of the 231st Truck Transportation Battalion. The armory is to be built at Braddish Ave. and Winchester St. at a cost of $360,667. Currently the unit is being housed in the Richmond Armory.

LET'S STOP POLIO — Little Thurman Speight, 3483 Chessell Ct., was struck by paralytic polio in 1958. This shows the fight against polio isn't over. Your help is still needed and you will have your chance to give it Wednesday (Jan. 28) when mothers stage their March on Polio (7-9 p.m.): Leave a light burning on your porch or in your front window to let these mothers know you want to give them your dimes to help the fight. Without dimes, the fight is lost. This year, the March of Dimes fund is being expanded to begin the attack against other crippliers—arthritis and birth defects. Give all you can.

Give your dimes to help little Thurman

By SHEILA SHIELDS

This can happen to anyone. Just three months ago Thurman Speight, 4, 3483 Chessell Court, was a normal, active and healthy youngster.

He had had two polio shots—one in 1956, another in 1957.

Then, in Oct. 1958, little Thurman came home from his grandmother's house with a fever.

"I checked him, as usual, and gave him a couple aspirin," said his father, Aaron Speight.

"Three or four hours later, he was still sick. I called the doctor who told me he was still sick. I called the doctor who told me he was still sick. I called the doctor who told me he was 'stopped up' (presumably with cold)," his father added.

* * *

"AFTER THAT— the next day Thurman complained about his neck hurting and he had gotten to the point where he began to act nervous," Mr. Speight added.

"He got up to go into the bathroom once and he staggered when he walked. A half hour later, he said he couldn't use his left arm.

"That's when my wife (Mrs. Audrey Speight) took him to the hospital," he said.

At the hospital, the father recalled, Thurman was given a needle and sent home. Doctors also warned the parents to bring him back the next day if he did not respond to the needle.

That next day, doctors at the hospital didn't tell his parents what was wrong with Thurman immediately.

"They said there was a slight possibility he had slight case polio. Later that day, they concluded that he had it," Mr. Speight said.

His wife said her son had been given the first two polio shots properly spaced but she delayed the last because the first and second had made little Thurman so ill, she imagined the third would do the same.

* * *

FROM THE hospital, little Thurman was taken to Kernan Hospital where he has been since October.

Little Thurman's story is proof that the fight against polio is still on.

Had it not been for the Polio Foundation, Thurman and his family may have suffered more from the effect of disease.

They would have been much sadder if their son could not have gotten the treatment he needed.

Invalid since an automobile accident in 1956 which injured his spine, Mr. Speight cannot work. He is a World War II veteran.

The Speights also have another son, Alvin, 3.

Your dimes have helped pay pensive medical treatment have helped Thurman and his parents fight their private battle against polio.

Since he has been at the hospital, Mr. Speight says the Foundation has given Thurman special therapy and other treatment that his family could not have afforded otherwise.

* * *

"THEY TAKE CARE of everything," his father said.

"But we do take him clothes and little things like that," he added.

"He was home for Christmas. Thurman can actually move two fingers on his left hand now.

"When he left home, he couldn't move any of them," said Mr. Speight.

Without the Polio Foundation, how would your dimes have reached little Thurman?

How could medical research advance so doctors can give Thurman and other children like him the treatment they need?

Now, as much as ever, the Polio Foundation needs your dimes.

This year, they are expanding their program to include an attack against arthritis and birth defects.

The Mothers' March on Polio Wednesday from 7 to 9 p.m. will climax the campaign for 1959.

Leave a light burning on your porch or in your front window to let the mothers know you want to help.

Help the polio Foundation drive polio out of our future.

How a family of eight lives on a budget of $175 a month

When a local agency sponsored a luncheon for City officials and fed their guests sardines, collard greens and white potatoes to show the average meal of a Welfare family, they weren't kidding a bit.

Nor were they exaggerating.

* * *

MRS. JONES —that's what we'll call her — is a good mother who would like to see her children eat all of the time.

However, on the $175 monthly check her family of seven children receives from the Welfare, the best they can do is eat most of the time.

To make sure her seven children eat even most of the time, Mrs. Jones must take advantage of every short-cut she knows to stretch food money in her budget.

"I do my marketing as soon as I get the check," she said.

"I watch for sales and try to buy enough food to last the month.

* * *

"MOST OF the time, if I catch a sale, I'll buy cut up chickens, ground meat, the meat loaf, scrappel, lots of eggs, hominy grits, corn meal, a half gallon jar of apple butter, margarine, lima beans, black eye peas, and chocolate to use with dried milk," she said.

Other things Mrs. Jones will buy include—macaroni, cabbage, grapefruit, oranges, soap, tooth paste, beef for beef stew.

"When I make a lot of corn bread, and things like that, I can usually make the money almost last," she added.

"Sometimes, I can get by on $60 to $65 a month food money," she said.

* * *

ON MONDAY, when the AFRO visited Mrs. Jones and her seven children, tyey were at supper.

Their meal for this day was chicken stew made with the backs of chickens, bread, mashy potatoes, and rice pudding made with skim milk.

At that time, Mrs. Jones said there was enough for two more in the kitchen. She said her oldest son had yet to eat.

On better days, she added, there is sometimes enough for the children to have two helpings.

* * *

IN ADDITION to money for food, Mrs. Jones pays $12 rent a week and $7.50 for oil.

Many times, the oil runs out after the money is gone and there are cold days for Mrs. Jones and her seven children.

A little more than three years ago, the Jones family was better-off.

They couldn't afford too many luxuries — like many people — but Mr. Jones was making enough money to support the six children then had then.

Before the last child was born three years ago, Mr. Jones left the family.

Since then, his deserted wife and the seven children have lived mainly on the kindnesses of relatives.

Mrs. Jones has furniture in the small home because friends have given it to her when they moved or decided to brea up a home.

She still need a mattress for the boys' bed, sheets, blankets, undershirts and socks for the children.

* * *

THE CHILDREN were dressed warmly on Monday. Relatives and friends gave the things to them at Christmas time.

"There is a lady in a shop where I go who will put a lot of things in a box for the children and sell it to me for $3 or $4.

"Lots of times, when I get the check, I'll go to the Good-will store and pick up some little things for them," she says.

These are the things Mrs. Jones has to do with $175 a month. For seven children and herself, she must buy food, pay rent, oil, clothes, shoes, etc.

Still a young, attractive woman, the matron very seldom, if ever, has money for a lipstick or a pair of stockings.

"I have one pair of stockings. I don't go out during the week because of the children.

"I just wear the stockings on Sunday when I go to church, so one pair will last me a long time," she says.

"Friends and relatives gave me lotions and little things like that for Christmas. I'll make those last as long as I can," she added.

Money for a trip to the beauty parlor is out of the question for Mrs. Jones and her little girls as the mother does what needs to be done herself.

* * *

THE JONESES are extremely fortunate for a Welfare family.

Mrs. Jones is a good manager of money and can therefore get more out of her small allowance than many other Welfare families can.

The assistance she gets from others makes life much easier — but not easy — for her and her seven children.

Although they have more than other Welfare families where there are just as many children, Mrs. Jones says $20 more would ease her relieve — her financial strain.

If it is not easy for Mrs. Jones and her seven children, then what about the families who must live on only Welfare assistance?

Not all Welfare families are able to manage their money as well as Mrs. Jones.

These are the ones who know more hungry days than the Joneses: they have more cold days than the Joneses:

These are the ones who know the agency wasn't kidding when they offered their guests a meagre luncheon.

The luncheon guests didn't eat it, incidentally.

The State and City Departments of Public Welfare are asking the State Legislature for an increased budget for 1960.

At present, the City Department is operating on a budget of $18,554,876.

One - fifth of this money, $3,121,065, comes from the City. The Federal and State Governments will supply four-fifths — $13,433,591.

* * *

ACCORDING TO this budget, the maximum allowance for a family of six is $227.50 a month.

Few of these families can qualify for this maximum.

Dr. Richard Lazarus, head of the City Department of Welfare, says they recognize the need of these families for an increase, and the department has appealed to the State Welfare Board to ask for an increase in the coming budget.

The State Department, also recognizing the need for increase, and has planned to appeal to the Ways and Means Committee of the House of Delegates and the Finance Committee of the Senate not to cut the budget.

Without the increase the Governor will be able to include for an increase in his supplementary budget.

Sometimes, she says, there may be enough for the children to have two helpings. They buy day-old bread from the bakery, but most of the time, to save money, Mrs. Jones makes bread for the family's seven children.

CHICKEN BACK STEW, lots of potatoes, bread, rice pudding made with skim milk is an average meal for the Joneses. At the time of the AFRO visit, Mrs. Jones said there was enough for two more in the kitchen—she and an older son yet to eat.

COMING EVENTS

JAN. 23

Arena Players present skit at Druid Hill Ave. "Y," 8 p.m.

JAN. 24

Card party sponsored by M. J. Naylor Chapter, Morgan State College Alumni Association, benefitting scholarship fund, Morgan College Refectory 8 p.m.

Physical Fitness Clinic at Druid Hill Ave. "Y," 2 p.m.

JAN. 25

The 21 Charity and Savings Club is planning an anniversary service at Mt. Olive Christian Church, Pennsylvania and Fulton Aves., at 8 p.m.

Physical Fitness Clinic at Druid Hill Ave. "Y", 2 p.m.

Father-Son, Mother-Daughter swing, same building, 8 p.m.

Miss Edna Carmichael, lyric soprano, presented in recital by Parsonage Circle of Sharp St. Memorial Methodist Church, Mark Fax, accompanist, 5 p.m.

Baltimore Fellowship 20th anniversary dinner at Sheraton Belvedere, Dr. Benjamin Fine, Pulitzer Prize Winner and educator, guest speaker, 6 p.m.

Installation service of C. S. Brown Foreign Missionary Society of Maryland Baptist Church, Monroe and Franklin Sts. The Rev. Howard O. Jones, associate evangelist with Billy Graham team, of Cleveland, Ohio, guest speaker, 11 a.m. and 7:30 p.m.

Socialist Study Group of Baltimore discussion on "Economic Causes of Racial Discrimination," 1:30 p.m. at 2728 Reistertown Rd., third floor.

Annual worship service of Funeral Directors and Morticians Association of Md., 11 a.m., Union Memorial Methodist Church, Harlem and Warwick Aves.

Dr. Richard Hart, head of the Literature Department of Enoch Pratt Library, guest speaker for Baltimore Ethical Society, 1617 N. Charles St., 11 a.m. His topic will be "An American Abroad."

JAN. 26

Electors' Assembly of the Baltimore YWCA features action fiction skit before business meeting at Central Branch Bldg., 128 W. Franklin St.

JAN. 26-FEB. 15

"Phrygian Art from the City of Midas," opening at Walters Art Gallery with Ilse Excellency Seyfullah Kain, the Turkish Ambassador to the United States, Dr. Rodney S. Young, of the University of Pennsylvania and the Honorable Thomas B. Finan, secretary of the State of Maryland, as guests, 9:30 p.m.

JAN. 27

Baltimore chapter of Hunter College Alumni Association to hear Robert Lloyd disc