# —He'd rather die

[redacted]

women, Mrs. Mae Hall, Dec. 9, 1968; Mrs. Lottie Knight, Dec. 14, 1958 and Mrs. Pearl Wees, April 14, 1959.

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Strong, 6 ft. 2 in. and weighing 195 pounds, is described as a heavy drinker, a chronic nail-biter and an unemployed body and fender man at the time of the death of the cab driver was a "self supporting pool player."

Repeats before the court quote "nigger" saying, "I didn't do it. But I don't want to be for life. I'd rather be dead than go to the Pen."

Medical reports show the cab driver was shot at close range in the head, left ear and left side of the neck at 10 p.m. Oct. 20, 1969 while Strong was a passenger in the cab.

The incident occurred at the intersection of Lawina and Wakefield Rd. when Strong tried to rob the driver.

Reports also show the bullets went clear through the victim's body.

Testimony indicated that he was slain while begging the gunman to "TAKE THE MONEY, PLEASE DON'T KILL ME."

Testimony from a relative seated in the cab with Strong revealed that Strong laughed and told other relatives that he had slain another cab driver the night before.

Strong is yet to be tried for the other cab driver's death.

Testimony also disclosed that Strong had told relatives he had committed 13 previous murders.

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The first degree murder verdict was handed down on Oct. 23, 1969, by a jury headed by a foreman and with nine other women and two men as members of the panel.

The jurors barred no provision for mercy.

After Judge Carter imposed the supreme penalty sentence Wednesday, morning he stated, "What else can be done? I have to do what the law requires."

He also pointed to certain facts in the pre-sentence report which revealed the defendant "has little regard for others and is a dangerous man with poor relationships to society."

The identity of the murderer of the cab-driver remained a mystery for nearly a month.

Strong was arrested on a traffic charge on Nov. 19, 1969, 19 days after the shooting.

Tips from relatives and friends led to the indictment by Grand Jury.

During the 4-day trial Oct. 23-27, 1969, two first cousins testified.

Also revealing damaging facts was a woman who was present at a gambling "skin game" session when Strong said he had murdered another cab driver the night before Brown was killed.

The jury handed down decision on Oct. 27, 1969 and wad followed by a denial of a new trial by Judge Carter on Nov. 11, 1969.

• • •

Noteworthy is the fact that Judge Carter told the AFRO, "He will probably go to the gas chamber. I myself do not agree with death as punishment. But the jury did not recommend life sentence or mercy. The law must be followed."

The Baltimore Grand Jury began the drive to abolish hanging in Maryland in January, 1955 and a bill was passed by the Legislature for the gas chamber to go into effect on June 1, 1956.

For 50 years, hanging were conducted in county jails in Maryland and were surrounded by brutal and barbaric circumstances.

A riot broke out at the 1909 jailyard hanging of Isaac Winder who was convicted of killing a colgate keeper on Dulaney Valley Road.

A crowd broke through a high board fence around the yard in time to see Winder, on the scaffold, suddenly give battle to six policemen for several minutes.

The trap sprung but not before Winder managed to get a hand up under the noose. It took about five minutes for the prisoner to die.

Following the incident, the Penitentiary in Baltimore was made the legal scene of all hangs.

However, even then there were some instances when the knotted rope failed to break the neck of the prisoner and many scenes of horror resulted.

Maryland selected the gas chamber in preference to "frying" or executing by the electric chair. After a committee studeid the use of "The Chair" in other states, the gas chamber was found to be "less brutal and quicker."

It takes less than a minute for a person to lapse into unconsciousness after the pill is dropped into the pan of acid at the bottom of the gas chamber chair and the puff of gas arises.

Penitentiary authorities say the lethal gas goes directly into the nervous system and cut off all pain.

The gruesome preparation of the prisoner for the electric chair is also eliminated.

Prison authorities nationwide feel that the death penalty, regardless of method, does not serve as a deterrent for crime.

Utah, among the eight states who retain hanging, has shooting or hanging as the legal death penalty.

# U.S. bonds sales drop 14 months

WASHINGTON (UPI) — Savings bond redemptions exceeded sales by $122 million last month, the 14th straight month of net decline, the Treasury Department said Wednesday.

January was the first full month after President Nixon signed a law boosting savings bond interest rate from 4.25 to 5 per cent, but net withdrawals increased sharply from $26 million in December.

Cash sales of Series E and H Bonds and Freedom Shares totaled $407 million last month while redemptions totaled $529 million.

Sales last topped redemptions in November, 1968. Since that time, a net of $859 million has been withdrawn from bond holdings.

A total of $52.11 billion worth of bonds was outstanding Jan. 31. This was $81 million less than on Dec. 31 and $11 million less than on Jan. 31, 1969. The decline in outstanding value was less than net withdrawals because of credit of $41 million in interest.

# —Trade Fair

[redacted]

awards to outstanding black businessmen. There will be special awards for the best-decorated booths.

In addition to the sponsoring businesses, other booth holders are:

Mister Backer's Beauty Salons, King Contractors and Lee's Pallet and Wood Specialty Co., Mondawmin Photo, Photos By Snowden, Southern Life Insurance Co., G and M Oil Co., Marshall W. Jones Funeral Home, Roger's Of Mondawmin Inc., The Henry James Co., Central Dodge, Northwestern Investigating Bureau, Advance Federal Savings and Loan Assoc., Belvedere Studio and Camera Shop.

Also Werner L. Jordan Flying School, James Crockett Inc. Realtors, Fuller Cosmetic Distributors, Public Services Electric Co., N and W. Concrete Floor Co., Harlem Park Ethical Pharmacy, Hilton Court Pharmacy, Unified Licensed Beverage Assoc., Taylor's House of Flowers, and Ron Ron Peri Employment Agency Inc.

Rogers Beauty Supply Co., Impact Photo Industries, City Wide Driving School, WEBB Radio, Stanley Home Products, Department of Housing and Community Development, Construction Technical Services Inc.;

Morgan State College, Unistar International, Pauline Brooks Inc., Huston Woods Voc. School, Carver Voc School.

—NEW STORY—

Add in: Testimonial Feb. 12 for Dr. Jackson — 18 Pt.

Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall will be among the head table guests at the salute at which 1,000 guests are expected.

Main speaker will be AME Zion Bishop Stephen G. Spottswood, chairman of the national NAACP board.

Dr. Jackson will be 81 next June.

Justice Marshall began his legal career with the local NAACP under Dr. Jackson's leadership. He was one of the attorneys in the early education desegregation case. Murray of the University of Md. law school, which paved the way for later desegregation successes.

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H/K Young Baltimoreans, All Stores

HE'LL BE BACK.— Robert D. H. Harvey, left, chairman of the board of Maryland National Bank, presents a parting gift to E. Thomas Williams Jr., branch officer and manager of the bank's Mondawmin office. Mr. Williams is taking a two year leave of absence from the bank to accept a special assignment with the Urban Affairs Committee of the American Bankers Association in Washington.

MILLER BATES, left, of the ticket committee, and John H. Murphy, III, president of the Afro-American Newspapers, honorary chairman, said this week that tickets for the Carl Murphy Memorial Concert on March 15, featuring Veronica Tyler, are in high command. Box seats have been sold out. Available are orchestra seats, which with box seats are in the black tie circle, and orchestra and balcony seats, ranging in price from $6 to $2, may be obtained at Saint James Episcopal Church office, 810 Arlington Ave.

# Mrs. Luvenia Rogers, 64, dies after long illness

Funeral services for Mrs. Luvenia Rogers were held Wednesday at the Unity Methodist Church.

Mrs. Rogers, 65, died Jan. 31 at the Baltimore City Hospitals after a long illness.

A native of Ronboro, N.C., she had made her home in Baltimore since 1937.

She was a member of the Unity Methodist Church and sang on the choir. A spokesman for the family recalled she likes to travel and last year she cancelled a trip to Canada because she was not feeling well.

• • •

She was married to Paul Rogers who survives her.

She is also survived by four brothers, living Outlaw, William and James Outlaw and Hiseman Outlaw and one daughter-in-law, Mrs. Cordelia Outlaw.

Burial was in Arlington Memorial Park.

# The Ralph Murrays

FROM PAGE 1

10 and then to Oct. 1 and then postponed indefinitely.

In 1969 Master Garvey said the Nov. 18 hearing moved to Nov. 25 and when no on appeared was set for Dec. 16. After lawyers entered a postponement the case was re-scheduled for Feb. 3.

The latest entries on file from Mr. Murray are subpoenas for his wife's income tax statements, her records of payment and registration on a 1969 English car, and receipts for rents paid at her residence in a 3300 block Hilton St. apartment.

Murray also asked that her employment records at the Department of Social Service be brought in from the department and from Central Payroll.

Mrs. Murray asked that her husband's employment and income records be brought in from the TV station and for records of a Superior Court case of the Department of Mental Hygiene VS Ralph and Carolyn Murray.

The plaintiff's witnesses are listed as Mrs. Eleanor Peels, 2800 block Parkwood; Mrs. Thomasina Mixon, 4100 block Alton Rd.; Miss Yvonne Allen, 3500 block Powhatan; Douglass Williams, 3400 block Edgewood Rd. and Mrs. Edna Rice 2900 Conroy Ct., Parkville, Md.

# Abramson blasts TJD

AFRO BUREAU

ANNAPOLIS — Del. Murry Abramson, (D. 4th Balto.) took the House floor Thursday to blast Baltimore's Mayor Thomas J. D'Alesandro III and his financial attitude towards that city's police department.

Mr. Abramson, chairman of the city delegation was incensed over the Mayor's opposition to Police Commissioner Donald Pomerleau's request for 200 extra policemen.

Mr. Abramson pointed out that in the past three years the state had granted Baltimore Police Department $1 million.

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He said that during that period, the Mayor had issued $20 million of that sum for the police department and put the rest in general funds.

"If he had used the money as it should have been used," Mr. Abramson said, "the crime rate in Baltimore would be much lower, although it has dropped considerably."

Mr. Abramson did not say so directly but indicated that there is considerable concern among the lawmakers in the city delegation about lowering still further the crime rate.

# —Explosion

FROM PAGE 1

tim's car.

series of incidents which some observers, say may indicate that rival Mafia clans are at war. However, the police department stated that there was nothing to show that the incident was Mafia linked, but that the possibility had not been ruled out.

No arrests have been made in connection with the explosion, according to public information officer, Roberts Wells, but he said that a 38-year-old man was arrested after a shotgun and narcotics were found in his auto.

The defendent, identified as William H. Perrera, of the 3100 block Clifmont Ave., is repodted to have asked the police to search his car for posible explosives shortly after Morris was injured. When the police checked, the shotgun, along with some pills were discovered. Perrera is a friend of Morris.

Morris, who is estranged from his wife, is currently under intensive care at Mercy Hospital.

# —Lagos frees 30

FROM PAGE 1

mity toward the former secessionist regime and those involved in its activities," the statement said.

Another group of 28 Roman Catholic priests has also been transferred from the Ibo Heartland to Port Harcourt. Hiweyen, a government spokesman refused to confirm the priests were in Port Harcourt or whether they would face trial.

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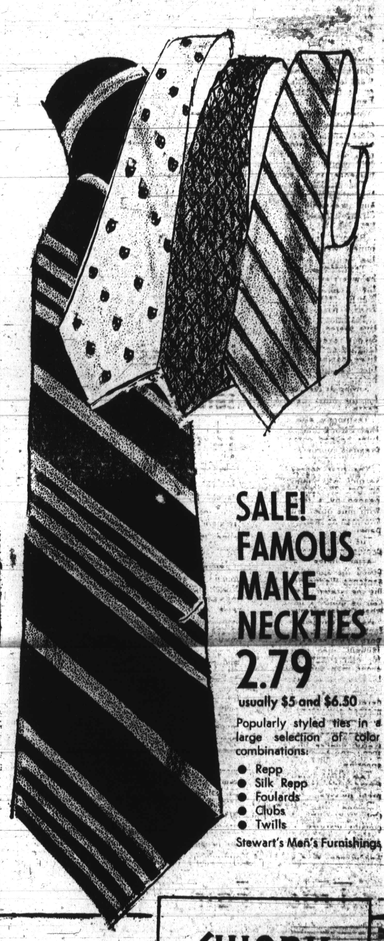

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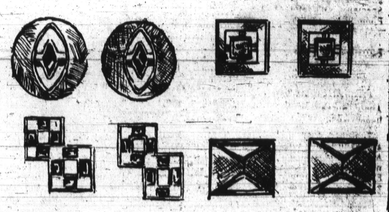

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