—Blind widow

(FROM PAGE ONE)

clothing nor in the apartment.

The bedroom where Mrs. Powell was found showed no signs of struggle. Police report no evidence of forced entry.

Relatives state "Tessy" had traveled as a singer and dancer in small shows, always liked people and was friendly with many persons.

They surmised she knew the person admitted inside her door about 2:30 a.m.

A daughter, Mrs. Vivian Gant Powell, told the AFRO although her mother neither smoked nor drank "anything but water," a beer can and cigarettes were found.

Medical Examiner, Dr. Isidore Mihalikis's autopsy reports show strangulation was done by "something" around the neck.

Police reports say a portion of a belt was found nearby the bed where Mrs. Powell's body was sprawled across a corner end. She was partially disrobed.

All day Sunday Homicide detectives talked with the dozens of neighbors who knew Mrs. Powell and were horrified by "the meanest thing anyone in the world could do here at Christmas time."

On Wednesday about 1130 a.m. on information received, Homicide Dets. Herman Ingram and Howard Peacock arrested and charged Reginal Leonard Stanley, 45, 200 block St. Paul St. with the strangulation murder.

The suspect was taken into custody on his job as an attendant at Spring Grove State Hospital. Police records show Stanley had been hired after he was paroled in October from the Penitentiary where he had served 13 years of a 20-year sentence for assault and robbery.

Police report the suspect had been a visitor in the widow's apartment several times in the past.

The Rev. Mr. Wood presided at the Thursday 11 a.m. funeral services at Providence Church where Mrs. Powell had been a member, coming almost every day. This Christmas will mark the first time her seat has been empty in almost 30 years.

She is buried in Mt. Auburn Cemetery near her husband who died 15 years ago.

Mrs. Powell was born Dec. 5, 1905, one of the 13 children of the late Rev. James and Mrs. Mary Jones of Anne Arundel County. She came to Baltimore at the age of 13 and was married at an early age to Mr. Gant, the ventriloquist, piano player, magician and traveling actor. They were divorced before his death.

Mrs. Powell became blind at the birth of her only child, Vivian.

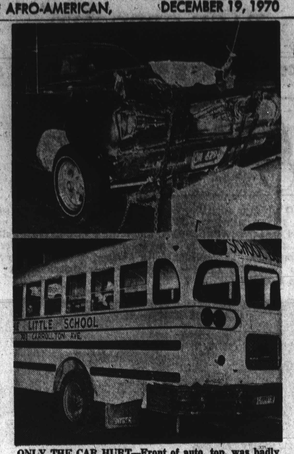
At Providence she became involved with most church organizations and although blind did what she called "missionary work," visiting other sick and afflicted persons every day.

In later years she went to the St. James Center for the Aged, a School for the Blind to learn Braille, and the Senior Citizens Center.

In addition to her daughter, surviving are a brother; grandaughter, Mrs. Deborah Johnson a C and P Telephone Co. employee; two grandsons, Ernest Fortune Jr., Baltimore; Sgt. Edward Perkins, a career serviceman now residing in Saigon, Vietnam; a great grandson Joseph Perkins, Saigon; great granddaughter, Malisa Fortune; niece, Mrs. Virginia Pinchback, Baltimore and more than 30 other nieces and nephews.

DECEMBER 18

The Baltimore City Public Schools lunch program will be examined as part of a documentary, "Food For Thought," on WJZ-TV, Channel 13, today, from 9 to 9:30 p.m. This documentary will give the citizens of Baltimore an opportunity to better understand the scope and function of the School Lunch Program.



ONLY THE CAR HURT—Front of auto, top, was badly damaged, but Little Scrool bus and its passengers were unhurt when two vehicles collided at intersection at Carey and Lanvale Sts. on Monday about 5 p.m. (AFRO Staff Photos by I. Henry Phillips).

'I dare you to shoot me'

Police claim that 19-year-old Jesse Lewis Jones died in his third floor bedroom of his mother's home in the 1500 block E. Biddle St. shortly after 7 p.m. Wednesday because he "dared" a 22-year-old friend to shoot him.

Homicide Det. Charles Brugeman states that investigation of the incident reveals that young Jones made the bold proposal to the friend while they were whiling the rainy evening away.

Quoting a statement from the victim's 15-year-old brother, Alvin Jones, also in the room, Dt. Brugeman revealed the now deceased youth said, "Go ahead. You haven't got the nerve. I dare you."

Det. Grugeman in continuing to quote the eyewitness said, "And so, the friend picked up a bottle of wine, took a drink, loaded the shotgun and put it to Jesse's stomach.

"They were in the doorway of the bedroom, just talking, no argument, no trouble, just friendly talk.

"The 22-gauge single barrel gun flew Jones into the hallway and just missed toppling him down the staircase."

• • •

Det. Brugeman inserted at this point the pathos of the tragedy, "right here at Christmas time."

He stated, "The boy's mother, Mrs. Florine Jones, was home and it's a hard thing for her to lose a son at Christmas time.

"She said she thought the shot she heard might have hurt some of her other small children in the house. She ran up the steps and at the top saw her son bleeding and just laying there.

"She was so upset we decided not to ask her anything.

"It was sad. Their Christmas decorations were ready to be put up. Cards had already been placed on the mantel.

"The house is nice and neat and they were getting ready for a happy holiday and here a thing like this happens. A mother loses a son because of a thing like this."

• • •

Det. Brugeman quoted the mother as saying when she ran up the steps someone ran down the steps past her and out the door.

Det. Brugeman reports that on Thursday shortly after 12 noon a 22-year-old youth, Ray Wesley Robinson, 2100 block Mt. Royal Terrace, surrendered to police at Homicide Headquarters.

Young Robinson was charged with the murder Thursday afternoon.

Det. Brugeman stated when interviewed, that Ray Wesley Robinson Sr., a construction worker and father of the accused youth, went into a state of shock and kept on expressing amazement that such an incident could possibly have occurred.

The deceased youth was 5 ft., 10 in. tall and weighed 160 pounds. Young Robinson, the friend, of slightly smaller build, is 5 ft. 10 and weighs 147 pounds.

Det. Brugeman said the fifth of wine bottle was partially full when found in the neat bedroom and there was no sign of use of narcotics nor fracas or tussle. — EMO

• • •

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—Frank Conway

(FROM PAGE ONE)

the children.

He stated, "They have a good home with her."

Mrs. Conaway, member of a prominent Baltimore family, is active in social and community affairs. Her grandfather was founder of New Metropolitan Baptist Church.

Mrs. Conaway was elected 1965 queen of the Eastern Home Office of the Prudential Insurance Co., the firm for which her husband sold over $1 million in policies from 1964 to 1965.

Mr. Conaway, a Douglass High grad, 1951 and Morgan State College, 1960 graduated, is a former U.S. Army sergeant, Baltimore bus driver, public welfare case worker and Booker T. Washington Junior High School teacher.

He operated a tavern from 1962 to 1964, is a Prince Hall Mason, and Elks Monumental Lodge member and belongs to the Chesapeake Club and Gentlemen, Inc.

He was an unsuccessful, (1966) candidate for the post of clerk of the Court of Common Pleas.

—Fire brass

(FROM PAGE ONE)

James Lacy said.

Questions on the validity of the Civil Service exams which firefighters take were first raised by Fire Board Commissioner, the Rev. Marion C. Bascom, who conducted a test of 73 firefighter trainees under the guidance of the Department of Education.

Of the 73 men who were at that time training at the Fire School only three were black and the Rev. Mr. Bascom announced "that something is wrong with a system which systematically eliminates men of equal intelligence but of different color."

The committee of firefighters. Mr. Echols said, "will try to determine just what it is about the current tests that colors its validity and make recommendations which would bring it into the proper focus."

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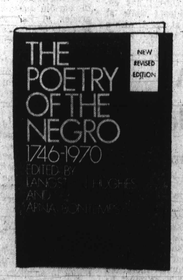

Miss Smith, a native Baltimorean, will be happy to autograph your copy of the new edition of THE POETRY OF THE NEGRO: 1746-1970 which includes some of her works. "The Poetry of the Negro," ed. by Langston Hughes and Arna Bontemps is the most comprehensive, illuminating and valuable collection of Afro-American talent published to date. You'll want to add it to your library. 8.95

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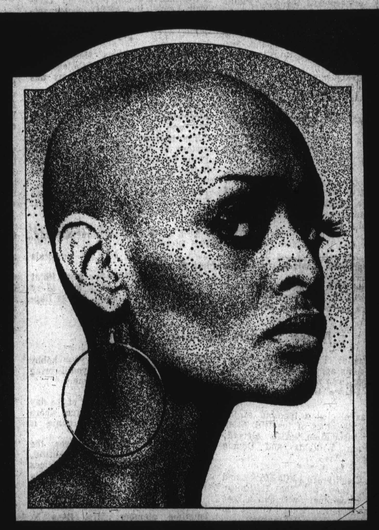

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CORRECTION

The debate in City Council on armed guards in public junior and senior high schools, described in the Tuesday edition of the AFRO, came about not by the introduction of an ordinance, but by the submission of a memorandum requesting study on such action to Councilman Alexander Stark's D. 5th, Committee on Education.

The memorandum was from William D. Schaefer, president of City Council, in which he cited his presence at a meeting of a parent-teacher meeting as the inspiration for writing it.

Watch TJD's committee to redistrict the city

Councilman Robert Marshall (D.4th) said today, "I hope that black citizens would pay less attention at this moment to who will be the next mayor, and focus their concern on the Blue Ribbon Committee to be appointed by Mayor D'Alesandro in the very near future to redistrict the city of Baltimore.

The constitution says that after each census, the possibility of redistricting should be studied to maintain equal population in all six districts.

Councilman Marshall added: "If the Blue Ribbon Committee's plan is unacceptable, the City Council, as a whole, will draw up a plan of its own.

"Regardless who draws the plan, we can expect that efforts will be made to change the boundaries of the second, fourth, and fifth districts to dilute the political strength of the black community.

"We could not only lose the chance to increase the liberal thinkers in the Council in the 1971 elections, but could also lose the gains that have already been made.

Councilman Marshall urges that emphasis be placed in proper sequence, and that the action of this committee be closely followed.

• • •

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ONE-ALARM FIRE at School 59, 2702 Keyworth Ave., caused 800 students to be evacuated Monday morning. At right, four students investigate the cause of the fire alarm — a trash-can which was accidentally ignited. No injuries were reported.

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RIGHT Long sleeve high-rise pointed collar tunic with pants, of ribbed, textured 100% acetate. Navy, grey, butterscotch. 7-15 and 8-16.

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