'I think this will be a shock, but I have to tell you'

"James, I think this will be a shock to you, but I have to tell you before some one else tells you.

"I am going to have a baby and I think the best way out for us is a divorce."

The letter, above, introduced testimony in Circuit Court No. 2 by James E. Leach, of 2739 Ellicott Driveway, ended his marriage to Mrs. Marie Leach of 2533 Hollins St., this week.

"I know I did wrong," continued the letter. I tried to be true, but it just didn't work out. Darling, I love you and no matter what happens I will always care," wrote Mrs. Leach.

Mr. Leach testified that he and Mrs. Leach were married in Raleigh, N.C. on Oct. 9, 1954.

They are parents of two children, a three - year - old daughter and a son, two.

He told the Court that he would rather that his wife not have his children, in as much as he did not think she is a fit person to rear them. He said however, that he cannot care for them now.

The Court has left the custody of the children open to further action.

The father is a service career man, and is now stationed at Fort Sill, Okla. and is on orders to go to Germany, he said.

He had been in Korea for more than a year when the third child was born to Mrs. Leach, he said.

Parting of the Fords gets approval in court

Robert Ford of 213 Carroll St. lost his suit for divorce and a decree was granted his wife, Mrs. Gloria Ford on a cross-bill in Circuit Court, No. 2, Friday.

Mr. Ford had charged that his wife deserted him.

Mrs. Ford, however, testified that she was the one deserted. She asked for and received support of $10 per week for the support of their six children, and a $100 fee for her attorney, Harry A. Cole. The children were given into her custody.

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"WE JUST decided to call it quits," said Richard Thomas of 1647 W. North Ave., in his bid for divorce from Mrs. Amelia Thomas.

He won the divorce on grounds of voluntary separation. Married on June 28, 1929, they separated in the fall of the same year, he said.

Mrs. Thomas lives at 1014 N. Washington St., according to the husband.

—'Never knew what hit him'

(Continued from page 1)

teeth stuck through his face.

His life was taken in one short minute by a careless, criminal driver of an automobile, who had not the character nor the courage to stay on the scene.

One of the spectators at the recent Safety Session, Paul E. Bikker, director of the Maryland Traffic Safety Council, said: "I had just stepped out of my door when I heard this awful screeching of tires and this thud. My, what a mess. With the way some people drive today, it is not even safe to walk on the sidewalks."

AT LUTHERAN HOSPITAL where Mr. Griffin's body was taken, nurses and the ambulance drivers said it was the worst they had ever seen.

Summoned from their place of employment to identify their co - worker were Rogers Beaufort, 23 N. Morley St., and Harold Horton, 2645 W. North Ave.

Said Mr. Beaufort, "It's a great shock. I just can't believe it. He was such a fine person, quiet, worked every day to take care of his mother. He was not married."

Commented Mr. Horton, "Oh, My God, this is awful." The hit - and run car driver was not apprehended at AFRO - presstime. It was found abandoned on Elgin Avenue near Rosedale Street.

MEANTIME, funeral services for Mr. Griffin were held from a Schroeder St. funeral home on Wednesday afternoon.

And this accident prompted Paul E. Bikker, director of the Maryland Traffic Safety Council to demand more stringent penalties for hit - run and speeding drivers.

Writing Del. Edgar Silver (D., 5th Balto.) and Sen. Frank Raisin, (D. Kent Co.), chairman of House and Senate Motor Vehicle Committees, Mr. Burke said, "Hit and run is worse, in a way, than kidnaping.

"Laws have helped to suppress kidnaping and to reduce this type of crime. Stricter laws could do the same for hit-run cases."

Arthur Newman, manager of the Monroe Upholstering Company praised Mr. Griffin as "one of the best workers we had, never missed a day; quiet, nice, congenial. We will certainly miss him." His parents, Ella and Walter Griffin, will miss him, too. He was their only child and their sole support.

Driver held in Griffin auto death

Four days after he had been released by police who questioned him in connection with a fatal hit and run accident, Irvin Lee Wilson, 33, 2900 block Belmont Ave., was arrested Wednesday and formal charges placed against him.

Victim in the accident was Harold Griffin, 54, 1000 block W. Franklin St., who was struck by a vehicle that ran up on the sidewalk in the 2300 block W. Franklin St., Saturday morning.

Later that same day, police said Mr. Wilson reported his car as stolen and he was placed under arrest when they compared the description of the missing car with that of the vehicle that had struck Mr. Griffin.

Mr. Wilson was later released and police did not locate the car until Tuesday at Rosedale and Elgin Sts. They reported that there was physical evidence that the auto had been involved in an accident.

On Wednesday Mr. Wilson was picked up and charged with manslaughter by automobile, speeding, reckless driving, failure to identify himself after an accident, failure to give aid and falsely reporting his car stolen.

He was released in $1,000 bail to await a further hearing.

• • •

ON WEDNESDAY at a funeral home on Schroeder St., family and friends gathered for the last rites of Mr. Griffin.

Among the 15 relatives attending were his mother, Mrs. Ella Griffin Battle; three aunts, Mrs. Lean Coby, Detroit, Mrs. Carrie Polk, Lusby, Md., and Mrs. Ella Barney, Baltimore; two uncles, Paul Coby and Leonard Griffin both of Baltimore; and several cousins including Mrs. Thelma Gray, Mrs. Constance Banks, and Milton Baker.

Six fellow employees were among the 45 friends who came to pay their respects.

The Rev. William E. Butler told the mourners:

"We are not like those who have no hope, look up, and your redemption draws nigh.

"Man, who God created out of the dust of the earth and blew breath into his nostrils, He taught to reason.

"We know that the (Griffin) is free from the turmoils of the world in God."

Eight cars, two floral sprays and 30 mourners followed Mr. Griffin to his final resting place in Mt. Auburn Cemetery.

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