8 steps to freedom

HORACE SPRIGGS leaves the Maryland Penitentiary with his wife and attorney, Milton Allen.

A free man, but . . .

Number 954 Forrest St., is the address of the Maryland Penitentiary.

There are eight steps at the front entrance.

Horace Spriggs walked down these eight steps on the morning of Saturday, Oct. 8, 1960, a free man.

Many prisoners leave the penitentiary the same way after they have completed their terms, but in the case of Horace Spriggs circumstances were unusual.

He entered the penitentiary via the back entrance on Aug. 18, 1957, convicted in a $280 holdup, and was escorted to a cell to serve a nine-year term.

He was released this month after 1,145 days because his pleas of innocence proved to be true. He was not guilty.

What had not been for the faith of his mother-in-law, the work of his attorney and a police sergeant, Horace Spriggs would still be in the penitentiary.

What of the future for a man who is unlawfully deprived of his freedom?

In the case of Horace Spriggs, he comes out of confinement minus a job. He was earning $60 a week as a truck driver three years ago, would probably be making more now.

What of the damage to his health, his emotions, his ability to live among his fellowmen?

These are elements hard to evaluate in dollars and cents.

Certainly, there must be some attempt to compensate Mr. Spriggs. His attorney has already indicated he will appeal to the conscience of the State Legislature to set a suitable monetary award.

But for the present, Mr. Spriggs would feel more kindly to the city in which he grew up if he could find a job.

It has been 14 days since he walked down the eight steps at 954 Forrest St., a free man, but he is not actually free.

He has no job which would enable him to support his family and free his mind of the worry and discontent which must come to a man already deprived of:

3 Christmases, 3 New Years Eves, 3 Easters, 3 Fourth of Julys, 3 Thanksgivings, 3 birthdays of each of his two children, 4 of his wife's birthdays, 4 of his own birthdays, 6 elections in which he could have voted, 156 Sundays at church;

And, 1,145 evenings by the fireside at home, 2,380 days of fatherly guidance for his children, plus, picnics, ball games, theatre, reunions, last rites for kin and friends, civic and community participation, none of which can be replaced.

He was the best

Our Paul Richards has been named "manager of the year" in the American League. We think deservedly so.

No other manager among the 15 holding major league jobs, could have produced the kind of baseball that was played by the Orioles in Baltimore last summer.

Cookie Lavagetto of the Washington Senators, and Casey Stengel of the New York Yankees, finished second and third, respectively, in the balloting to determine the season's most successful pilot. Neither is to be compared to Richards.

Lavagetto had a fine year in Washington. He brought the Senators from last place in 1959, to fifth this year. Richards brought the Birds from sixth to second. How can it be questioned who did the better job?

Stengel won the pennant with a Yankee team admittedly superior to the fledgling assortment under Richards at Memorial Stadium. No special honors are in order for the man who wins with the best.

All summer long, there were those who criticized various Richards' moves. These second guessers will be joined by third guessers in the winter months to come.

But, if this is an indication that our man was not a good manager, then there is none to be found. For every man who has led every big league club in every year since baseball was founded, has had his share of critics.

There were times in May, and times in July, and times in September that we may, have condemned certain Richards' stratagems. But in October, in retrospect, he was the best.

Baltimore ~~Afro~~-American

4 OCTOBER 22, 1960

"We are Americans and as Americans we would speak to America."
Frederick Douglass

FOUNDED IN 1892
By John H. Murphy Sr.—1840-1922
Published every Tuesday and Saturday by the AFRO-AMERICAN Publishing Co., Inc.

Probe needed

Under the ordinance setting up the Baltimore City Equal Employment Opportunities Commission, the agency has the right to make investigations on its own initiative.

The law states:

"Whenever it (the EEOC) has reason to believe that any person has been engaged in any unfair employment practice, the Commission may issue a complaint."

Such a complaint is followed by an investigation, and if no satisfactory agreement can be reached, the complaint can be set for a hearing and subsequent action.

The Commission knows, both from articles appearing in the AFRO and from its own knowledge, that a pattern of racial discrimination appears to exist in the Baltimore City Police Department.

When Police Commissioner James M. Hepbron denies there is racial discrimination in the department, some of his arguments are implausible.

But they are altogether implausible when you consider that no colored officer has risen above the rank of sergeant; that 29 of 33 divisions are lily white, and that except for token integration, the Police Department is set up on a segregated basis.

It would then appear that the EEOC is morally bound to issue a complaint and set in motion the machinery to correct these inequalities.

There might, however, be some reluctance on the part of EEOC because of the two-headed character of the Department.

The Police Commissioner is appointed by, and is responsible to, the Governor. This was done to keep politics out of the office.

Despite this, it is clear that the Department belongs to the city. Members of the Department are paid by the city, serve the city and are referred to as members of the BALTIMORE CITY POLICE DEPARTMENT.

Certainly the Police Department is a city agency and hence a highly fitting subject for an investigation by another city agency.

There might be some reluctance on the part of the EEOC to investigate another city agency.

It should be remembered that the EEOC was created for the purpose of investigating this type of complaint and it should not have the slightest reluctance to probe the affairs of any city department.

The bigger the department, the more important it is to investigate charges of racial discrimination.

The EEOC is operating with only a one man staff, too small for its important work.

The EEOC needs more personnel, so that matters such as the Police Department can be gone into immediately.

But regardless of the size of the staff, the investigation of the Police Department by EEOC should start at once.

LETTERS

Our Readers Say

OPINION

Readers are invited to submit letters to the AFRO for publication. All letters must be signed but signatures will be omitted if requested. Letters should be no more than 300 words in length. Address them "Our Readers Say," AFRO-AMERICAN, 628 N. Eutaw St., Baltimore 1, Md.

Who'll help voters?

Dear AFRO:

With thousands of new registered voters' names on the books, I am deeply concerned as to who and how they are going to be taught to use the voting machine? Many of them have never seen a voting machine.

Two years ago Womanpower conducted a City-wide mobile voting machine instruction which proved most successful to new voters.

This being the most important Presidential election since the Civil War, each new voter needs training on the voting machine in order to vote intelligently.

The candidates need our votes. What is being done? Is the Board of Supervisors of Elections supplying the voting machines for this public new voters' training? Time is short.

(Mrs.) PAULINE BLANCHARD
15th Ward, 28th Precinct,
4th District

For Kennedy

Dear AFRO:

Recent efforts to get the neutral nations of Africa to be friendly to our cause need not have been necessary, if foresight had been used in prior years.

Senator Kennedy in June and October of 1959 and since then, has been proposing aid to African nations in many ways, including training of their students in our universities.

This would have set the stage for further understanding and appreciation of what our nation was trying to do for these undeveloped areas.

We would not now be courting these nations so uncertainly, had this administration done planning in this field.

Comparing the records of the two candidates running for the office of President, it is obvious that Senator Kennedy's foresight will be helpful in cementing a more friendly relation between these countries and ourselves if he is elected President.

Those familiar with these undeveloped areas know of their respect for Chester Bowles, Adlai Stevenson and Averill Harriman, who will work with President Kennedy in correcting this situation.

Mr. Kennedy, who has visited 50 countries and is chairman of the Africa Subcommittee in the U.S. Senate, will certainly utilize his knowledge to better America's relations with our sister nations.

SAM SCHATS

John W. Woodhous

John Wesley Woodhous was an AME minister's son who found it hard to make a choice between the ministry and the classroom.

He selected the latter course in 1898 after his graduation from the Old Colored High School, and he never regretted it.

He liked young people. He liked teaching. When he retired from the Baltimore schools in 1939, Mr. Woodhous could look back on 42 years as teacher and principal.

His associates admired him for his ability to organize and discipline. The children whose lives he touched loved him for the respect he showed them, and the pride he inspired in them about their history.

When he became ill a year ago, former pupils and associates recalled "Johnnie" Woodhous' kindness and inspirational talks. One pupil remembered, "he never had to use a big stick, you listened to him and respected him."

Mr. Woodhous earned this kind of respect in Waters AME Church where he was a trustee and member for 60 years; in the Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity where he established the Baltimore chapter; and on the YMCA, Cheltenham boards, and in the dozens of other community endeavors where he served.

His death last week at the age of 83 ends a cycle. He was the last of that great band of early Baltimore educators — the dedicated teachers and principals, who took the second hand, jim crow schools and worked miracles.

Mr. Woodhous is in great company today.

He has joined men like Joseph Lockerman, John N. Cotton, Heber Wharton, William Anderson, William H. McAbee, George B. Murphy, Henry Browne, George Owens, Harry Pratt, Mason Hawkins, Elmer Henderson, William Proctor, Will Murray, Milton Gross, George Biddle, William H. Lee;

And, ladies like Louise Palm, Edith Cooper, Frances L. Murphy, Ella Browne, Mary E. Rodman, Fannie Barbour and Estelle Langley Arnold.

There must be a happy reunion up there.

THE AFRO'S CREDO

A newspaper succeeds because its management believes in itself, in God and in the present generation. It must always ask itself—

Whether it has kept the faith with the common people.

Whether it has no other goal except to see that their liberties are preserved and their future assured.

Whether it is fighting to get rid of slums, to provide jobs for everybody.

Whether it stays out of politics except to expose corruption and condemn injustices, race prejudice or compromise.

JOHN H. MURPHY, SR., 1920

SIGHTSEEING

By JAMES D. WILLIAMS

One of the rapidly mushrooming occupations of the postwar era is the designing of album covers for long playing records.

Before this somewhat revolting development, album covers were just something to keep dirt off the records. They contained the names of the selections inside, and that was about all.

Time, however, as time must do, marched on, and under the frantic lash of competition, record manufacturers embarked on an all-out campaign to outdo their rivals in the publication of striking albums.

They quickly learned that having a simple picture on the cover, wasn't going to cut the cookie, as it were.

So they took off into the land of the weird and the off-beat, and the resulting products have added a new hobby to American lore—collecting lurid record covers.

* * *

THE RECORD manufacturers probably figure that if a cover can't catch the eye of a prospective customer, he won't buy the record, no matter if it happens to be the Angel (Gabriel) teamed up with Louie Armstrong on "When the Saints Go Marching In."

From some of the fantastic covers I have seen, I would say some of the manufacturers spend more time in worrying about the appearance of the cover, than they do about the music inside.

The music may be lousy, but boy the cover sure looks good.

Quite naturally, the record makers were not long in discovering the basic secret of American advertising—nothing sells like **sex.**

* * *

BE IT toothpaste, automobiles, or a burial lot . . . if you can introduce sex into the sales pitch, you can sell ice boxes in Alaska.

Having discovered the sales virtue of sex, the record makers haven't wasted any time in utilizing it. . . . One of their favorite gimmicks is to throw the picture of a smoldering beauty on a record cover, paint a come-hither look in her eyes, and surround her with some lush tropical foliage.

The theme of the picture may be a million miles away from the theme of the music . . . but who cares when there's such a handsome cover to be had for a mere $2.98 . . . plus sales tax.

* * *

I CAN JUST imagine a high level conference at one of these recording firms, when the man in charge of the albums is summoned to the office of the head man.

Head Man — Joe, have you lost your cotton picking mind?

Joe — I don't understand you, number one.

Head Man — This album cover you designed for the Wearysome Foursome. It stinks. . . . Here you have a picture of soldiers charging up some old hill.

Joe—But chief, the album contains songs from the Civil War period, like "Battle Hymn of the Republic" and Camping on the Old Tent Ground." Those soldiers are charging up a hill at Gettysburg.

HM — Gettysburg, Smettysburg, get some sex in it, or you're through.

* * *

POOR JOE goes out. Three hours later, he's back. He hands the head man a new cover.

Head Man — That's pretty good Joe. You've got this nice looking gal, draped in a negligee lounging on this chaise longue.

Joe — Yeah chief, and you'll notice, I've got her smoking one of those crazy oriental water pipes and she's surrounded by purple curtains, now ain't that sex?

Head Man — (Impressed) Joe, I'm proud of you. . . . I don't know when I've seen a cover that is so sexy and has so little to do with the music inside. It's sensational.

Joe — (Modestly) — Ah chief, it wasn't nothing.

Head Man — I know, but think how many copies of it will be sold. . . . You keep on like this young man, and one day you might end up being president of this company.

And conversations such as this make me know why we hear so much bad music . . . Everybody is busy producing album covers.

IF YOU Ask Me

By B. M. Phillips

People, places, things

Crownsville State Hospital Women's Auxiliary, headed by Mrs. Janet Woolridge, walked off with a silver bowl award, one of two prizes given auxiliaries for volunteer work.

Crownsville was honored for having the largest increase in auxiliary membership. Spring Grove Auxiliary received the other award for outstanding service.

Presentations were made Thursday at the reception and luncheon given by the Council of Women's Auxiliaries of the Md. State Mental Hospitals, at the Sheraton-Belvedere.

Mrs. Millard Tawes ably represented the Governor and praised the women for their "generous contribution of your time and effort to the relief of the unfortunate victims of mental illnesses."

And, she said: "We owe a debt of profound gratitude to the men and women who have volunteered their services for the betterment of the patients in the hospitals, and after they have been discharged."

* * *

There were words of wisdom from Dr. Isadore Tuerk, mental hygiene commissioner, who expressed "heartfelt gratitude" to the women for helping to make it possible for patients to return to the community; David L. B. Fringer, director of employment service in the Employment Security, who described work of educating the community to hire handicapped, and said, "not what you've lost that counts, but what you have left."

Dr. Julian Reed, public health chairman, Jr. Association of Commerce, urged the volunteers to "Continue to work to bring about better mental health; continue to visit patients; it is the best therapy. A visit from family or friends can make the difference between a life of depression and anxiety to a wholesome, happy one."

And, Mrs. Louise Simmons, director of rehabilitation at Rosewood, who told of the program at her training school which is training patients and paving the way for better community living.

* * *

Memorable quote: Mrs. Helen Janne, program chairman: "I am sure there must be a special place in heaven for volunteers."

Seied in audience: Mrs. Simon Carter, corresponding secretary of the council; Mrs. Roy Hamilton, director of volunteer services at Crownsville; and the following Crownsville auxiliary workers: Mesdames Spencer Dobson, Margaret Brown, Margaret Diggs, Essie Sutton, Catherine Torrence.

And, Mrs. James T. Walker, Rosewood; Mrs. Elizabeth Thaxton, Winchester Improvement Assoc., and Samuel Althoff, assistant Crownsville superintendent.

Pleasant person met: Dr. William H. Warthen, deputy superintendent and health officer for Baltimore County.

He has pleasant memories of 1925 when he lived and worked in Baltimore. He recalled it was the late Dr. George B. Murphy, then principal of School No. 112, who helped him establish a well-baby clinic in his school.

* * *

Baltimorean making good abroad: In Tripoli, Libya, 1/st Lt. James Timothy Boddie Jr., Jet Pilot, was promoted to the rank of Captain on Oct. 6.

A regular Air Force Officer, Capt. Boddie received his commission through AFROTC, Howard University (B.S.) 1954. He is the son of Rev. Dr. J. Timothy Boddie, minister of the New Shiloh Baptist Church and Mrs. Boddie.

* * *

Just bubbling over with joy is Veronica Tyler Hawkins, who was graduated from Peabody in June, is now living in New York with her new husband (Charles).

She has won a tremendous scholarship to Juilliard School of Music where she is studying voice and opera theatre.

Isn't that just grand!

MRS. HAWKINS MR. HENRY MRS. WATSON MISS SHEPPARD

Send greetings

Take time to remember someone else, and you'll forget your own problems. You'll be blessed too.

Just two days left to mail greetings (Oct. 23) to Mrs. Laurie Parker, the retired government worker at 2313 Riggs Ave.

If you have not yet sent cards, use telegrams to felicitate Mrs. J. Howard Payne (Marie) at 1536 McCulloh St. Her birthday's today (Oct. 21).

More October birthdays: Mrs. Viola Wells, 1842 Druid Hill (Oct. 21); Mrs. Vashti Jude, 2207 Whittier (17th); Charles M. Blake, 2418 McCulloh (21st); Mrs. Annie K. Thomas, 1675 W. North Ave. (22nd).

Special hellos to the Alvin Watsons (she's the former Anita Harris, daughter of the senior Drs. and Mrs. Bernard Harris).

Their identical twin daughters due in January, were born prematurely, did not live.

Mrs. Watson is a city teacher. Mr. Watson is a Morgan accountant. Their address: — 1207 N. Caroline St.

Best wishes to Mrs. Sarah Boston who is confined to Mercy Hospital. She is warden of St. Mary's Guild at St. James Church.

* * *

Continue to say a prayer for Miss Emma Sheppard, retired Myersdale, Pa. nurse, who remains critically ill in Johns Hopkins Hospital.

She was brought here by ambulance, from a Pennsylvania hospital. Her brother, Theodore, a Myersdale barber; a sister, Mrs. Maggie Hurst, retired D.C. teacher; and another sister, Miss Kate Sheppard, retired Baltimore teacher, are at her bedside.

They're staying at the home of Mrs. Catherine Mayo.

* * *

Sympathy cards to the family of Mrs. Susan Carter, 3314 Gwynns Falls Parkway.

She died on Oct. 14, the day before she would have celebrated her 100th birthday.

Mrs. Carter's death follows by one year that of her son, James (Jimmy) Carter, longtime Morgan State College secretary and assistant to the president.

About this and that

Special guest of Gov. Tawes' reception set for the State House in Annapolis on Sunday will be Clifton W. Henry, Morgan State College junior.

The reception will honor John Montgomery, Md. State Chairman for United Nations Week which begins Sunday.

* * *

Mr. Henry recently returned from abroad. He was one of six U.S. delegates at the International Student Movement for the UN in Sweden, and a delegate to the World Federation of UN Associations in Poland.

Mr. Henry, 21, is the son of the Rev. and Mrs. J. Wayman Henry. His dad pastors Allen AME Church.

William M. Rawlings, supervisor of adult education, was in Denver, Col., for the annual conference of Adult Education Association U.S.A.

* * *

Important reminder from the NAACP membership office: "Your NAACP is only as strong as you make it. Call today at 1234 Druid Hill Ave. to renew your membership!

"Minimum membership is just $2. That's a small amount to finance the fight for freedom!"

ERNEST SENIOR

SENIOR AND MUMBY

PRESENT

WILLIAM MUMBY

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'59 VOLKS WAGON
Heater and sun roof

'59 RENAULT DAUPHINE
Heater and white walls

'56 CHEVROLET
2-door, heater

'55 DODGE HARDTOP, CORONET
Radio, heater, auto. trans.

'59 CHEVROLET BELAIR
Radio, heater, power glide

'58 DODGE CORONET
4-door sedan, radio, heater, auto. trans., power steering

'57 PLYMOUTH CUSTOM WAGON
4-door, heater

'55 FORD CONVERTIBLE SUNLINER
Auto. trans., radio, heater

'57 PONTIAC CHIEFTON
2-door, radio, heater, auto. trans.

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