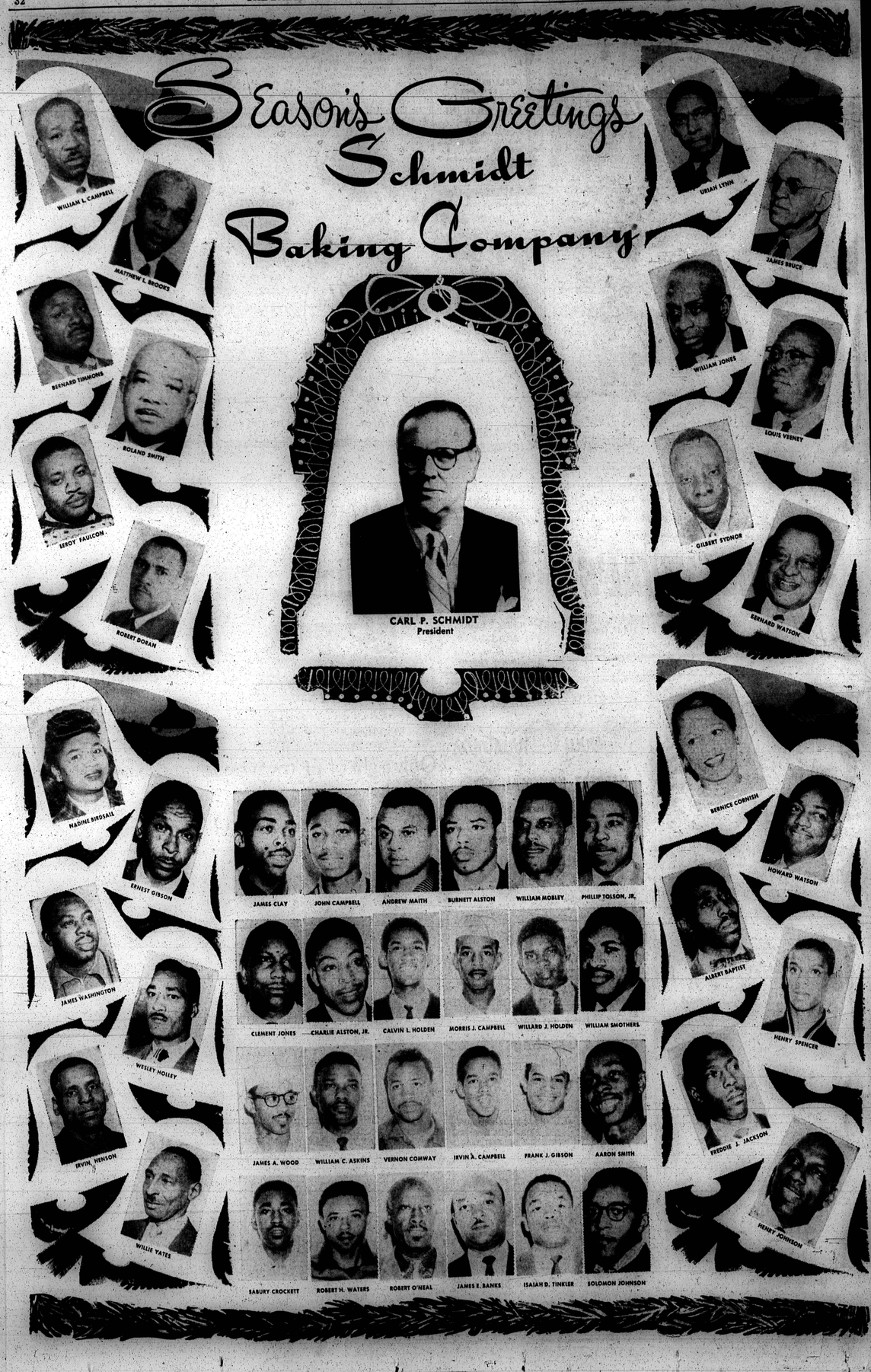

New School Site Vacant 3½ Years

Construction date not set

By MAX JOHNSON

"It was an advance site acquisition. Colored people were buying in the area, and in order not to have to force them to move later, we acquired the property.

"At the time the site was placed in the Master Plan, no colored had bought on the site.

"But by the time we got around to having the properties appraised, I believe three had bought there."

William E. Lehr, assistant superintendent, Baltimore Public School Facilities, was speaking Thursday, explaining why a school site on Carlisle Ave. has remained vacant since it was acquired in 1957, three and a half years ago.

* * *

MR. LEHR had this to say further about the site:

(Continued on Page 2)

VACANT AFTER 3½ YEARS — Area residents are complaining this vacant school site, acquired in 1957 by the School Board, is a neighborhood eyesore in a sector where homes are in the $15,000 class. The site is bounded by Carlisle, Bateman Aves., Hilton and Denison Sts.

BLUE STREAK EDITION

Baltimore Afro-American

69th Year, No. 46 | Copyrighted 1960 by AFRO-AMERICAN Co. for all material previously printed in the current National Edition. | BALTIMORE, MD., DECEMBER 31, 1960 | ★★★★★★★ | 24 PAGES | 15 CENTS

CASE OF THE BLACK CAT

'Let Me Kill You'

Will omit race on birth records

By BILL SLATER

Beginning Jan. 1, 1962, the race and color designations on Baltimore City's birth certificates will be removed, if the State Board of Health approves proposals made by city officials.

This fact came to light Wednesday as the AFRO sought to learn why the city continues to list race on the certificates.

Sidney Norton, director of the Bureau of Vital Statistics, Dr. Matthew Tayback, assistant Commissioner of Health for Baltimore City, confirmed that they and Dr. Huntington Williams, Commissioner of Health, had met several months ago and decided to submit the proposal to the State Board.

While race will disappear from the certificate themselves, Mr. Norton told the AFRO that the Health Department would continue to keep racial designations in a confidential file to be used "for medical purposes only."

Mr. Norton said the action would have come sooner, but the birth certificates for 1961 have already been printed, and cannot be changed.

* * *

THE AFRO'S inquiry to the health officials came after New York City dropped race tags for birth certificates.

The New York commission dropped their race listings effective Jan. 1, 1961 after numerous protests that race information could be used for discriminatory purposes.

By adopting the new policy, New York claims to be the first city in the nation to take such steps.

"The designations will be removed from the certificate, and the confidential information

(Continued on Page 2)

John Berry to retire on Jan. 1

John Berry, 2038 Druid Hill Ave., outstanding civic, community and church worker, retires from his post at the North Carolina Mutual Insurance Co. on Jan. 1 after 36 years service.

Mr. Berry is manager of the East Baltimore District which he organized in 1938.

Prior to 1936, he was special ordinary agent and then assistant manager.

Mr. Berry plans to continue his relationships with the company as an agent "at leisure," looking after both old and new clients, he states.

* * *

A LIFELONG member of the Grace Presbyterian

(Continued on Page 2)

Elks Auxiliary head dies in New York

STATEN ISLAND, N.Y. — Death came to Mrs. Nettie Carter Jackson, dynamic head of the Grand Temple of Daughter Elks, here, Tuesday morning.

Mrs. Jackson, who had been ill since May, died at her home, 35 Thompkins Pl., at 5:15 a.m.

Funeral services have been

(See Photo on Page 2)

scheduled for Saturday and will be held in the Armory at 11 a.m.

Mrs. Jackson became a daughter Elk in 1923 and rose through the ranks to become Grand Daughter Ruler of the organization. She made her bid for national office in 1940, when she ran for, and was elected to, the office of gate keeper in the Grand Temple.

* * *

AT THE time of the death of the late Mrs. Elizabeth Gordon, grand daughter ruler, Mrs. Jackson, then vice daughter ruler, completed the former's unexpired term of 10

(Continued on Page 2)

HAPPY IS THE HOMEMAKER WHO KNOWS

the way to get extra cash to meet those extra expenses. An AFRO classified Ad will sell unneeded items quickly and inexpensively.

JUST CALL MU. 5-6015

INSIDE

- THREE INTERESTING and informative articles. Show removal is big business in Baltimore; Kerosene stoves can be dangerous. Ten commandments for drivers ..... Feature Page 13
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POLICE COLOR LINE?

Two Park cops grounded by city

By HERB MANGRUM

The question of what would happen to two colored motorcycle officers once the Park Police merged with the city Police Department has been answered.

They have been assigned to the districts as foot patrolmen.

Effective at 12:01 A.M., Sunday, Patrolman Joseph James will start pounding a beat in the Northern District.

Patrolman Charles J. Richardson Jr., will do the same in the Western District.

Both men were assigned to motorcycle duty in April of 1956 following six months of training in the Park Police Department's motorcycle class.

* * *

PATROLMAN JAMES, a veteran of the Korean War, joined the Park Police force in 1948.

Patrolman Richardson joined the Department in 1955.

There has never been a colored traffic officer in the city Police Department.

With James and Richardson out of the picture, it means there will be no colored motorcycle officers in Baltimore in the near future.

* * *

AT A recent conference with NAACP officials, a police inspector said no colored officer had ever asked to be transferred to Traffic Division.

That is the official view.

In private conversations, colored officers have indicated that applying for such a transfer would produce nothing.

Despite official assurances that the men of the Park Police would be utilized to best advantage, Baltimore City has lost more than two experienced motorcycle officers.

Not even the white motor-

(Continued on Page 2)

Says $50,000 needed to defeat filibuster

WASHINGTON

"It must be proven to Congress that there is compelling national sentiment for a rules change now — not a change eventually or in the next session, or in six months but as soon as the Senate convenes on Jan. 3."

For this reason, Sen. Kenneth B. Keating, R., N.Y., is calling for thousands of letters, telephone calls, personal visits and other communications with Congressmen by their constituents.

No amount of effort by any Senator or group of Senators will be successful, he said, "unless an informed public convinces the Senate leadership on both sides of the aisle that reform at this time is a necessity."

The Senator made his statement in addressing the luncheon meeting of the one-day "Conference on Majority Rule in Congress" at the Mayflower Hotel here.

The conference was sponsored by a number of nation-

(Continued on Page 2)

The weather

The Weather Man sees no snow for today (Friday) nor Saturday.

Today's temperature should not change too much from Thursday's when a high of 34 was predicted. Today will be cloudy with some sunshine.

Saturday will be fair and colder.

HAVE YOU JUST MOVED?

IF SO, CALL THE AFRO FOR HOME DELIVERY SERVICE

Call MU. 5-6016

$50 is the total set aside each week for News Tips and News Photos. For News Tips, call MU. 5-6015, 6019, 1812 and 1813. If no answer, call WI. 5-2522. Bring your Photos to the City Desk.

SCENE OF THE CRIME — This novel was part of the setting of a murder, undetected for seven days. Police have arrested a suspect.

Victim bound, gagged

By HERB MANGRUM and GEORGE COLLINS

A corpse, bound and gagged...a whining black cat...and a mystery novel titled: "Let Me Kill You Sweetheart."

These items, hidden behind a padlocked door in a run-down, cold-water flat for seven days, presented police with a murder mystery, this week.

Police entered "The Black Cat Case" at 1 p.m. Thursday when homicide squad investigators answered a call to the 1000 block E. Fayette St.

They found the body of Mrs. Viola Epps, 50, on a bed in the littered and freezing-cold second floor front room.

* * *

THE VICTIM lay face-down, hands tied behind her back with a green scarf drawn tight about her mouth and face.

Dr. W. Bradley King, medical examiner, pronounced Mrs. Epps dead at 2:55 p.m. He said the cause of death was strangulation and exposure.

The woman was fully clothed and wore an overcoat.

However, undergarments were missing and Dr. King said there was evidence of criminal assault.

First officer to arrive on the scene was Patrolman John Lingner of the Central District.

Officer Lingner said he was called to the house by William (Willie) Homes, 48, same address, rear apart-

(Continued on Page 2)

Appeals Court delays ruling in Tenn. 'Tent City' case

SOMERVILLE, Tenn.—The Sixth District Circuit Court, sitting at Cincinnati, Thursday, delayed a decision following a hearing on the eviction of about 700 sharecroppers from Haywood and Fayette county (Tennessee) farms.

The court heard the case Thursday. The government contends the sharecroppers were evicted because they registered to vote. The landowners deny the charge, claiming the sharecroppers were no longer needed on their now mechanized farm.

Many of the sharecroppers have moved into this area, forming a "tent city."

* * *

NIGHTRIDERS STAGED a hit-and-run attack on Thursday and shot one man in the arm.

Early B. Williams, who heads one of the eight families living in the tent settlement, was shot in the fleshy part of the arm. He was rushed by automobile to Memphis for treatment.

Sheriff C. E. Pattat could not be reached at the time.

(Continued on Page 3)

SPECIAL NOTICE

The Business, Circulation and Advertising Departments of the BALTIMORE AFRO-AMERICAN will be closed on Monday, Jan. 2, because of New Year's holiday. The offices will reopen Tuesday. The AFRO-AMERICAN wishes all a HAPPY NEW YEAR.

Missing doctor returns after six-week absence

WASHINGTON

Dr. Thomas C. (Tim) Dent, whose unexplained disappearance from the District on November 15, touched off a family and police search, has returned to the city, it was learned this week.

The 41-year-old physician came home on December 24 in time to spend Christmas Day with his family.

His wife, Mrs. Grace Dent, in disclosing Dr. Dent's movements since the November date, stated:

"He left the city suffering from nervous exhaustion and a mild heart attack. He was driven to Albany, N.Y., by Dr. Clotele Bowen and admitted to a hospital there.

"Later he was released from the hospital to the care of Dr. John L. S. Holloman, New York, who brought him home on Christmas Eve."

* * *

MRS. DENT said her husband is still under doctor's care but is convalescing at their home at 4114 Arkansas Ave. NW, where he is "doing nicely."

She revealed that Dr. Dent plans to resume his practice at 308 M St., NW, on Jan. 3. During his absence, patients are being treated by the office medical staff.

Asked why his family was not notified of Dr. Dent's whereabouts earlier, Mrs. Dent replied, "I don't know. I suppose under the circumstances, my husband just

(Continued on Page 3)

AFRO offers $100 to 1st baby of '61

The first baby born in Baltimore City in 1961 is going to start life with $100, if his birth is reported to the AFRO City Desk.

Annually, the Baltimore AFRO awards $100 to the first baby of the New Year and 1961 will be no exception.

As soon as you learn of the birth of a baby on Jan. 1, call one of the AFRO's Newstips numbers.

These numbers are Mulberry 5-6015, Lafayette 3-3024, Wilkens 5-2522, and Center 3-5415. If one number does not answer, try another.

The times listed on hospital records will be accepted as official.

The person who reports the first birth will also receive a newstip award.