WHEN YOU FINISH READING YOUR AFRO PASS IT ALONG TO A FRIEND

PROPOSAL WON'T ALTER 4th DISTRICT

Cops probe charges by woman

COMPLAINANT in the case of three officers who entered her home illegally three weeks ago is Mrs. Ramona Dorcas of the 3200 block Carlisle Ave. is being handled by Insp. Frank A. Deems of the first inspection district, and Capt. Edwin E. Taylor of the Northwestern District.

An investigation into charges that three police officers invaded the privacy of a pharmacist and were discourteous when asked to leave her home is in progress.

The investigation of charges filed by Mrs. Ramona Dorcas of the 3200 block Carlisle Ave. is being handled by Insp. Frank A. Deems of the first inspection district, and Capt. Edwin E. Taylor of the Northwestern District.

At a meeting with Police Commissioner Bernard J. Schmidt last week, Mrs. Dorcas and the Baltimore branch NAACP were promised that a "thorough investigation" would be made.

The meeting was held primarily to discuss police brutality in the police department and violation of constitutional rights.

Mrs. Dorcas, who is also a bio-chemist at City Hospitals, testified that a sergeant and two patrolmen shoved their way into her home at 4 a.m. on Dec. 1, looking for a man in a non-support case.

The person the Northwestern District officers were seeking did not reside at the Dorcas home.

Dorcas of the 3200 block Carlisle Ave. Mrs. Dorcas is a bio-chemist and a pharmacist.

GOP plan would add two districts

The city's Fourth and Sixth Councilmanic Districts would remain intact, according to a new redistricting plan revealed this week by Samuel Hopkins, chairman of the City Republican Committee.

Two new districts would be added to the present six by splitting the existing Third and Fifth Districts.

The First and Second Districts would be enlarged, with both taking southern portions of the now existing Third District.

Each of the eight districts would be entitled to three City Council seats.

The Third and Fifth Districts, both with a population of over 100,000, now have four Council seats each. The others have three.

The GOP plan will be placed on next year's November election ballot by petition, for voters' approval or rejection, if the City Council fails to develop a more equitable proposal of its own, Mr. Hopkins said.

Mrs. Patterson first in AFRO's $270 contest

"In these days of integration, what is the justification for a colored newspaper?

"Aren't you segregating yourself?"

These were the questions posed to AFRO employees in a company-wide contest this month.

The $100 winner was Mrs. Lula Jones Garrett Patterson, woman's editor. Her winning entry was No. 711.

Second and third places were won by Lloyd Mcdonald, proof reader, and Elson Higginbotham, assistant advertising director. Their entries were numbered 70 and 341.

Each person used a number instead of his name in order to remain anonymous.

* * *

OTHERS IN THE first fifteen, $10 award winners, were:

4th - Sam Lacy, Sports Editor

5th - Chuck Stone, Editor, Washington AFRO

6th - Mrs. Mae Dyson, dispatch department supervisor;

7th - Mrs. Mary Page, bookeeping department clerk;

8th - James D. Williams, assistant managing editor;

9th - Nicholas Sistrun, Philadelphia advertising salesman;

10th - Clarence Johnson, advertising salesman;

11th - Elsworth Wilson, mailing department foreman;

12th - Miss Ruth Jenkins, Editor, Richmond AFRO;

13th - Robert M. Rea, Circulation salesman;

14th - Ernest L. Vandiver, Baltimore, mailer;

15th - John H. Murphy, III acting president.

Ninety-one essays were submitted to the judges.

Baltimore Notebook

By MAX JOHNSON

Comes time now for this column to join the spirit of this holiday season — and issue open Yuletide greetings to some people we all know.

While comments and queries accompanying these greetings are voiced in the brotherly love aura of the season — don't let that be misleading.

I've got as much brotherly love as the next fellow—but, honestly, these greetings are actually a vehicle for the comments and queries.

So — we get right to the business at hand, with these greetings to:

* * *

GOV. J. M'LLAID TAWES — Now that you have announced for a second term, AFRO readers are curious about your coming campaign.

You haven't appointed a colored judge to the city's Supreme Bench — as you promised during your past campaign.

You have been — and still are — under fire for your handling of the public accommodations row in the state.

These readers also recall colored citizens have lost some previous gains under your administration.

How do you propose to lure the votes of Maryland's colored citizens this time?

Merry Christmas, Governor!

* * *

GENERAL ASSEMBLY MEMBERS — When you convene for your 30-day session on Feb. 7, you will be faced with one or more public accommodations bills for passage.

Have those events of the past few months now convinced you that Maryland can no longer afford to be without this just human rights legislation?

Clear-thinking citizens who would like to see this state move further into the progressive column certainly hope so.

Happy holidays, ladies and gentlemen!

* * *

MAYOR J. HAROLD GRADY — If this has been a bit of a rough year in some respects, you can at least rightly claim that you have been a "Mayor of all the people."

In addition to making many representative appointments to city agencies from all segments of the city's population — you have led the way in an open job-opportunity policy by integrating your own staff.

All of this has brought a happy glow to the hearts of many fair-minded citizens.

So — the top of the season's greetings to you, Mayor Grady!

* * *

PHILIP H. GOODMAN, City Council president — We all know what you wanted for Christmas, don't we?

But — There is that favorable situation shaping up for the primary on your behalf in the Fifth District, isn't it?

Merry Christmas, Phil!

CITY COUNCILMEN — What with so much else happening here lately, you didn't get as much oratorical mileage attention out of trimming the city's next year's budget as you expected, did you?

Season's greetings, gentlemen!

FOURTH DISTRICT DEMOCRATIC ORGANIZATION — Why not join in the spirit of the season, and extend a brotherly love hand to that other independent political group in your area, the New Frontier Democratic Clubs?

May this holiday season be a happy one for you!

* * *

NEW FRONTIER DEMOCRATIC CLUBS — Why not join in the spirit of the season, and extend a brotherly love hand to that other independent political group in your area, the Fourth District Democratic Organization?

Happy holidays!

* * *

AFRO READERS — Merry Christmas, friends!

The bills won't come in until next month.

Home repair loans eased in Harlem Pk.

Financing of required repairs, but still remains a hard home improvements in the area in some whose incomes barely meet their necessities.

Harlem Park Neighborhood Improvement Association has been eased considerably for property owners, Edgar M. Ewing, assistant director, renewal operations, Baltimore Urban Renewal and Housing Agency, gave this picture this week of the latest developments in that urban renewal area.

Mr. Ewing stated that "other devices are being sought," to aid those whose incomes hamper the required improvements.

He said 35 building and loan associations in Baltimore have pledged a credit pool of $3,500,000 to assist property owners to be loaned under conventional and new FHA terms.

MR. EWING explained that under Section 220 of the Housing Act of 1961, a property is entitled to a long term FHA mortgage equivalent to its present value, plus the cost of its rehabilitation. Good credit is a requisite.

Of the 2,000 homes in the area, 1,605 have been inspected, he said, and 272 homes have been rehabilitated as required.

However, 139 property owners have been sent to court for failing to meet necessary repairs and correct violations.

Mr. Ewing stated that 72 "hardship" cases, involving families of advanced years who were unable to make required repairs, and handicapped persons, have been discovered in the area.

"There will not be the requirements for hardship cases to be sent to Housing Court," Mr. Ewing told the AFRO. "The agency (BURHA) will use all its means to help these families remain in their homes."

ATLANTA — Transfer of Mahlon T. Furgerson, director of the Urban League's Southern Field Division here, to the NYC headquarters office was announced last week by Whitney M. Young Jr., executive director of the national organization. Mr. Furgerson will serve as an associate director.

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CHRISTMAS preparations for needy families in Druid Hill Police District got off to a start Wednesday when these volunteers arrived with a truck load of baskets at the Western station house at Riggs Ave. and Mount St. Western was also prepared to give its annual Christmas gift to 2,000 youngsters. In addition to food, clothing and toys will be distributed.

A FAMILY AFFAIR, the trimming of this tree, as specified by father, Charles Edward Gilmore, local architect, who insists, however hectic the event might turn out to be, everyone should assume a duty in the task. A few broken balls and nibbled candy canes never reached the tree. Joining Mr. Gilmore were his wife, the former Gloria D. Robinson, Baltimore elementary school teacher; their four children, Beverly Alicia, 5 months; Natilie, 3; Gine, 2; and Charles Edward Jr., 1.

Harford school board will transfer pupils

The Harford County Board of Education has reversed an earlier position and agreed to admit Thomas and Kenneth Moorehead, 15-year-old twins, to transfer to the integrated Aberdeen High School in February.

Mrs. Margaret Johns, 430 Law St., Aberdeen, advised the NAACP that her sons were rejected because of certain tests that are given colored children only.

Mrs. Juanita Mitchell, NAACP lawyer, appealed to the State Board of Education and a hearing was set for January 4.

The Johns children attend the Harvre de Grace Consilidated School.

Bandits get $930 from tavern owner

A tavern owner threw her money into the hands of two hold - up men Monday and ran, police have reported.

Mrs. Mary B. Whirley, owner of a tavern in the 2200 block Pennsylvania Ave., reported that two men walked away with $838 in cash and $400 in checks when she threw the money into her car.

* * *

ACCORDING TO Western District Police, Mrs. Whirley was enroute to the bank and was carrying the money in two bags when the men approached her near her home in the 2300 block Harlem Ave.

After the woman tossed the money into the car and ran to the home of a neighbor, the two men picked up the bags and walked away.

Mrs. Whirley said the men neither spoke nor made any move to harm her.

Nigeria to receive $225 million in aid

WASHINGTON (NNPA) — The Government announced Tuesday that it intended to aid the development of Nigeria over the next five years with a grant of $225 million.

This decision follows two visits of a special U.S. economic mission to the African federation, which found that the country is able to absorb this assistance while maintaining social justice.

The State Department said the funds will be subject to the will of Congress, and to subsequent mutual agreement on specific programs which meet overall U.S. approval. Some $5 million is expected to be made available before June 30 of next year.

Free Tanganyikans gain US loan offer

DAR ES SALAAM, Tanganyika — Tanganyika, the first East African territory to win indepehdence, was offered another $10 million by the United States, a few hours after Julius K. Nyerere, 39, took office as Prime Minister.

In another development, the new government on the same day forwarded its application for admission to the United Nations to acting Secretary-General U Thant.

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BLUE STREAK EDITION

Baltimore Afro-American

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SPRING GROVE HOSPITAL INTEGRATED BY 'MISTAKE'

State admits it erred in jailing an innocent man

Do the slow-grinding wheels of justice protect the innocent as well as punish the guilty?

Can a man, accused of a crime, and who already has a criminal record, go before the bar of justice confident he doesn't have two strikes against him?

In most cases, perhaps, the answer is yes.

But Edward J. Higgins, now counting minutes behind the bars at the House of Correction, has grave doubts.

Those doubts are not without reason.

For 340 days the 22-year-old East Baltimore resident has been protesting his innocence—from behind these same bars, where he was put for a crime he never committed.

* * *

PAUL C. WOLMAN, director, State Department of Parole and Probation, agreed to Higgins' release after Governor Tawes ordered it Friday.

Higgins was released today (Friday). Higgins was sentenced Jan. 24. Gov. Tawes signed the pardon Dec. 27 and Higgins walked to freedom at 3 p.m. today.

For Higgins, the climax to the 11 - month nightmare came Tuesday in Criminal Court when Judge Joseph L. Carter convicted two men of the crime he supposedly had committed.

Last January in the same court and before the same judge, Higgins was found guilty of the same offense.

He was identified by an eye witness.

Despite his plea of innocence, Judge Carter found Higgins and George Stinson, 24, first block N. Dunham St., guilty. Higgins said he was baby-sitting for his sister at the time he was supposed to have pulled the hold up.

A third man involved in the $374 robbery of the rug and grocery store at 1436 E. Preston was never found and the innocent man and his alleged accomplice were carried off to prison.

But that didn't stop Edward from proclaiming his innocence, which was echoed by his family.

* * *

BY USED letters, word of mouth and every means at

(Continued on Page 2)

MISS RUTH HEATH
Believed brother

4 sisters had faith

Four sisters who believed in their brother's innocence, saw his 10-year sentence for robbery wiped out this week, when he got a full pardon from Governor Tawes.

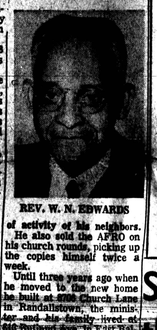
Edward Higgins Jr., 22, was found innocent of any part in a three-man hold-up last January of a store in the 1400 block Pratt St., after he languished, locked up

(Continued on Page 2)

INSIDE THIS WEEK

- FREEDOM FIGHTERS wrote "The Cristfield Story" ..... Page 2
- AND A financial report on the festival of music and donations ..... Page 12
- A FULL PAGE of pictures on Mrs. Santa's project and the AFRO-Regent Theatre party ..... Page 13
- POLICE probe mystery death ..... Page 24

Rev. Edwards dies on eve of birthday



REV. W. N. EDWARDS

The Rev. William Nathaniel Edwards died Thursday afternoon at his home in Randallstown.

He would have been 78 years old on New Year's Day.

An AME minister in the Baltimore area for 61 years, the Rev. Mr. Edwards was known for his regular visits to hospitals and institutions to comfort patients who had lost their loved ones.

At the time of his death, he was minister of the Randallstown circuit, which included Union Bethel AME in Randallstown; Mount Pleasant in Owings Mills; and Campfield in Howardsville.

* * *

ALTHOUGH he had been ailing for nearly a year, the Rev. Mr. Edwards kept up his pastoral duties until eight weeks ago.

Death was due to hardening of the arteries.

The William March Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements, which were not complete at press time. However, he will be buried in the cemetery adjoining the Randallstown church.

A native of North Carolina, the Rev. Mr. Edwards came to Baltimore 61 years ago, shortly after he finished Shaw University.

It was not long after he arrived in Baltimore that he paid a visit to the AFRO office to meet this newspaper's founder, the late John H. Murphy Sr.

Afterwards he visited the AFRO office weekly.

* * *

"I COULDN'T be without my AFRO," he said in a recent interview. "I guess I'm one of your oldest readers. I've been one nearly 60 years."

In recent years, the Rev. Mr. Edwards kept the AFRO office weekly informed of items about the sick whom he visited and contributed news of activity of his neighbors.

He also sold the AFRO on his church rounds, picking up the copies himself twice a week.

Until three years ago when he moved to the new home he built at 4700 Church Lane in Randallstown, the minister and his family lived at 848 Dukeland Ave. in East Baltimore.

* * *

HE WAS an active supporter of the NAACP; belonged to both the YM and YWCA, was active in the AME preachers' meeting and regularly attended its weekly sessions.

He was also a member of the Interdenominational Ministerial Alliance.

He belonged to the Joseph L. H. Smith Lodge of Prince Hall Masons, to the Hiram Consistory, the Elks, the Nazarites, and the Odd Fellows.

His wife, Mrs. Edna Myers Edwards, survives.

Four daughters by his first marriage to the late Mrs. Katie Edwards also survive.

They are Mrs. Rosie Ossie Stokes, Detroit; Mrs. Mildred Green, Detroit; Mrs. Alma Scott and Mrs. Annie Brown, both of Norfolk. There are also 5 grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

A New Mother Is Going To Win $100

It's that time of the year again, when the AFRO looks for the first baby born in the New Year.

. . . This year, just as before, we'll pay $100 to the mother of the first baby of 1962 whose birth is reported to the AFRO City Desk. . . . Call CE. 5-5415 or WI. 5-2522 to report the first baby you know who is born after 12 midnight on Dec. 31. . . . A $5 prize will also be awarded to the person who is the first to let us know of the first birth. . . .

The youngster shown on the right was the winner of the AFRO's $100 prize for the first baby of 1958. He is Rufus Ingram, son of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Ingram, 2136 W. North Ave. He will be four on Jan. 1, 1962. . . . We are publishing some additional pictures of our New Year's babies through the years. If you'd like to meet them, turn to page 12.

'We aren't ready'-say officials

Spring Grove State Hospital in Catonsville was temporarily integrated Wednesday.

But when hospital officials discovered that the fair-skinned patient assigned to "Cottage Three" was other than white — colored as a matter of fact — a neat bit of back-tracking and buck-passing resulted in his transferral to Crownsville State Hospital.

Mrs. R. Y. told the AFRO that a hospital spokesman told her that "we aren't ready to integrate yet."

* * *

THE COMPLAINANT said a secretary at the hospital explained to her that the hospital's all-white clientele had to be "orientated to accept colored people."

Her husband, a 43-year-old World War II veteran had been sent to the institution by the Veterans Administration when he went to them for treatment for alcoholism.

"He decided he needed help. He just couldn't stop drinking," she said.

* * *

MRS. R. Y. related the following story to the AFRO:

She accompanied her husband to the Veterans Administration Center in Perry Point, Md., last Friday afternoon when he applied for hospitalization.

The social worker with whom she conferred said that her husband's condition did not warrent hospitalization and suggested that he gain

(Continued on Page 3)

ENJOY
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Some laughter, some tears— that was 1961 in Baltimore

By ELIZABETH OLIVER

What was 1961 like.

The report that follows tells the story.

JANUARY

As the old year, 1961 arrived in Baltimore, the city was blanketed in an 18-day old, 14.1 inch snow. Two days before New Years Day, an additional 4 inches fell and the town grew weary of snow.

The weatherman had posted show and cold bulletins for nearly three weeks. Traffic and transit workmen, on 24 - hour shifts, found Mother Nature too much to conquer. Slow traffic and late buses harassed travelers.

Meanwhile in the news front, the North Carolina Mutual Insurance Co. named Rufus Hackett to succeed John Berry who retired as manager of the East Baltimore District of the firm.

Mr. Berry retired on Jan. 1. He had organized the East Baltimore district in 1936.

A TOTAL of 12 sit-inners were tried in Criminal Court under the Trespass Act after demonstrations at Hoopers Restaurant, Charles and Fayette Sts.

The first of 1961's Fridays-the-13's arrived on Jan. 13 to find Baltimoreans alergic to the Old Fashioned omens of the day as ones of "Bad Luck."

The George St. Housing Project, of four 14 - story, four 3 - story and 16 2-story apartment buildings adopted in connection with the Mount Royal - Fremont Project 1.

Below freezing temperatures and more snow marked with racial discrimination.

* * *

ONE PERSON was killed and four injured at an explosion at the Leidy Chemical Co.

The body of a 36 - year old school teacher, Miss Annie Littleton, was found in Leakin Park on Jan. 11.

Dr. Monroe Gregory, well-known Washington resident and Annapolis physician was slain by a Washington government worker who also killed his wife.

The NAACP accused BURHA of encouraging racial discrimination and rejected the preference policy adopted in connection with the Mount Royal - Fremont Project 1.

(Continued on Page 2)

There's Nothing Quite So 'Blue' As The Day After Christmas

"'Twas the day after Christmas
And all through my head
Everything was a-stirring
O-o-oh I wish I were dead. . ."

"Post - Christmas Blues" is the title of the above gem and it should be a hit if this writer ever gets around to finishing it.

Even for those who did not partake of the wrong Christmas spirits, the day after Christmas was a little bit bluesy. And the difference was best noted in downtown Baltimore.

Here the window displays and Christmas decorations were coming down, tired clerks were trying on less glittering smiles, and prices on suddenly expandable commodities were sliced.

* * *

IN A Howard St. Five and Dime store, a clerk was walking around the store sticking "reduced to" signs in the counters, followed by another clerk with a pencil and pad, who noted the exact reduction on the signs.

Christmas cards are down 50 per cent. Beautiful Christmas decorations, candles in all shapes and images, followed likewise.

You could have counted the number of people in the store without trying too hard — it was relatively speaking, almost empty.

"Most of them are exchanging gifts," a sales clerk volunteered. "Either they don't fit, or they're the wrong color, or something."

The smooth notes of a Christmas carol sounded a bit forlorn, sort of like taps blown for the deceased soldier while his body is still missing.

* * *

INFANT MOBS were congested at several counters.

At one counter, articles slightly damaged in the pre - Christmas rush were going for 37 cents apiece regardless of previously marked prices. The offerings ran the gamut from chipped glassware, pictures with discolored frames, desk calendars for 1961, dismembered statuettes and other nicked knick-knacks.

"We have about four more crates upstairs," a storewatker said. "It'll be all gone in a couple of hours."

* * *

IN ONE of the city's largest department stores, clerks stood around looking bored.

"I'm dead tired . . . we're had it," a pretty pretty young Miss exclaimed.

"My floorwalker said he thinks retail merchants should get together and declare a holiday the day after Christmas . . . it would give a chance to get back on our feet. One day just isn't enough," she said wistfully.

A dark - eyed seven-year-old had the toy department all to himself.

He was having a ball choo choo and chug chuging vocally while pushing an electric train through a labyrinth of tracks, tunnels, and freight yards. The display, once running merrily under its own steam with blinking lights and clanging bells, lay dormant.

* * *

"BUT THE FUNNY thing about it is that not too many things have gone down," said a well - dressed lady who appeared to be about 40.

"The Christmas decorations and perishable toys, yes, but not toys like these," she said indicating the children's animal alphabet book through which she had been leafing.

AFTER CHRISTMAS DAY IS OVER, COME SCENES LIKE THIS ONE.

AT FRANKLIN and Eutaw Sts., traffic Patrolman Horace Shelton, took time out to comment on the relative scarcity of pedestrians and motorists.

"It's a relief — makes my job a lot easier," he said.

Pvt. Shelton said people are more polite this time of year, both before and after Christmas.

"Last week they were wishing me a "Merry Christmas." Now they're asking me "how was my Christmas" and so forth.

"And they don't seem to be as bitter when you catch them wrong," he added.

He opined that he had no idea how long this departure from the norm would last, since this was his first Christmas as a traffic patrolman.

* * *

ON THE opposite corner, 12 year-old Steven Scott, of 1223-Division St., was waiting outside a hardware store for a buddy. He was astride what was apparently a brand-new bike.

"It's what I asked for and it's what I got," he said happily. "It was a good Christmas."—FRANK HUNT.