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

—5 fire victims

(Continued from Page 1)

had taken place at the Eutaw Place apartment.

His first stop was the Maryland General Hospital where he identified four badly burned bodies as those of his children.

The grim list read like this:

Larry, 10; Gwendolyn, 8; Leon, 3, and Evangeline, 2.

Then the father went to Provident Hospital to visit his wife, and two of his other children, Clifford, 7, and Anthony, 15 months.

The oldest child, Jacqueline, 13, was visiting with a friend at the time of the fire.

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AT THE hospital, Mr. Hicks learned his wife knew the four children were dead, and the fifth one, Brenda, 6, was still missing.

Meanwhile, firemen at the scene of the fire, brought the blaze under control, and began the task of combing the debris to find Brenda.

They did — she had suffocated.

Like her brothers and sisters, she was carried down the rear fire escape to avoid the eyes of hundreds of spectators who lined the street outside the building.

Her body was taken to Provident, where her father was called downstairs from the mother's bedside to make the identification.

Stunned into speechlessness at the sight of his fifth child, Mr. Hicks stumbled from the hospital's emergency room and sank down on a stool. A doctor gave him a sedative and he arose shakily to his feet.

Almost like a blind man, he moved slowly down the hospital corridor and out of the front door into the darkness.

His steps were slow.

He stopped for a moment under a street light and drew a long painful breath.

"I don't know whether there is any insurance to bury them . . . I've got to find a place for the others when they get out . . . Oh God, how did it happen?"

He said his wife was badly shaken, and could not tell him what had happened.

With this, he moved into the darkness, on his way to his oldest daughter, the only child who escaped without harm.

• • •

THE FIRE was a six alarmer and drew 28 pieces of fire fighting equipment.

The fire gutted 1609 and caused extensive damage to 1607 and 1611.

A number of houses in the area had to be evacuated and as late as 2 a.m., this morning, a number of the families had not been able to re-enter their homes.

Fire - fighting equipment was scattered around the block with most of it concentrated in front, where giant spotlights bathed the building in a garish light.

Firemen said that the fire blazed so intensely that it made the stairway impossible.

It was 11:30 p.m., by the time firemen were able to enter the building to bring out the bodies.

The bodies of the children were found against a wall as if they had huddled there to escape the flames.

There was so much confusion about who was in the building and who was out, that one mother searched frantically for her children, unaware that they were being led past her by a policeman.

• • •

ONE OF THE first persons to spot the fire was Balter Barnes of 1611 Eutaw place, who was on his way home when he saw smoke billowing from 1609.

"The panes were breaking in the windows and I saw a ball of fire jump out," he said.

Another resident of 1611, Mrs. Martha Grimes, said she became aware of the fire when she smelled smoke in her apartment.

Seeing the hallway full of smoke Mrs. Grimes left the building with her children.

Once outside, she said she looked up at 1609 and saw a woman at the window on the third floor and a child on the roof.

Mrs. Grimes said that firemen took the woman down from the third floor, but that she lost track of the child.

Another resident of 1611 who escaped was Mrs. Phyllis Payron.

Scene of the worst fire tragedy to hit Northwest Baltimore in the memory of oldtimers was one of eerie confusion when reporters arrived.

Flood lights, played on mountains of debris, a network of hoses and gutted buildings, intermingled with numbed, grief-stricken, and homeless survivors, frantically searching for loved ones.

Debris tumbled from the massive structures as firemen, perched on flaming roofs, and swaying ladders, heroically battled the flames.

Deputy Fire Chief John Ege, commanded the six-alarm operation.

Also suffering heavy damage were 1607 and 1611.

Norman Carroll and wife, Mrs. Lavania Carroll, who lived on the fourth floor of the building at 1611 said when they tried to flee the burning building by way of the fire escape, they found the door locked.

They struggled through a dense cloud of smoke which blanketed the stairs, nearly suffocating in the process, the couple said.

The Carrolls scarcely made their way to safety before the cloud of smoke burst into flames, they said.

Garland Poole, his wife and three children, also said they fought their way through dense smoke and intense heat to safety.

Mr. Poole said he had dozed off to sleep shortly after 9:30 while watching television. His wife, Mrs. Virginia Poole, sounded the alarm when she smelled smoke, he said.

Running to the window, Mr. Poole said he saw billows of smoke engulfing the apartment.

"I tried to raise the window but couldn't get it opened, so my wife and I grabbed the children and pulled them down the stairs.

Mrs. Poole, preparing for bed when the fire struck, was unable to get any clothing before fleeing for her life.

Only a man's top coat thrown around her shielded her from the chilly after midnight air. Their children, Ginger, 8; Garland B. Jr., 5, and Jefferson, 18 months, were being kept by friends while the couple watched helplessly, as firemen battled the flames.

"We have lost everything," the 33-year-old unemployed construction worker said quietly, as if talking to himself.

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MRS. MAGGIE THOMAS, who lived with her two children on the first floor of 1607, said she had just finished eating dinner after coming home from work.

"I smelled smoke and then heard Balter Barnes, a passer-by, knocking on the door, yelling 'the house is on fire.' I grabbed the children and ran out the door. Smoke was so thick we had to feel our way out. We almost choked to death."

A dog, who answers to the name of Sergeant, was credited with saving another family from certain death in the apartment building where the Hicks family was nearly wiped out.

Mrs. Mary Craig and three children managed to escape just seconds before the building burst into flames.

The mother and her children, two boys and one girl, were getting ready to go to bed when Sergeant began barking, Rufus Robinson, 2009 Linden Ave., a friend, reported.

"When she opened the door, smoke poured in. Mrs. Craig rounded up the children and ran out the door, just steps ahead of flames which chased them to the steps," Mr. Robinson said.

Other survivors of 1609, center of the flaming destruction, could not be located as they wandered among the hundreds of the curious, firemen, policemen and other dazed victims.

Robert Essman, director of disaster services for the Red Cross, was on the scene at 11:30.

"We checked out the situation and found that no survivors needed shelter because they had been taken in by friends and relatives. The agency is stil standing by, he added.

Capt. John Magruther, chief of the Fire Investigation Bureau, said four "good arson suspects" are being held in connection with the Eutaw Pl. fire.

He said investigators expect to pin the blame on those responsible within a few days.

THIS IS WHERE THEY DIED—The address of this home is 1609 Eutaw Place and on Thursday night it served as a funeral pyre for five children. They were trapped in the fourth-floor front apartment. Photo by Werner Jordan.

WASHINGTON — Secretary of State Dean Rusk last week appointed President Benjamin E. Mays of Morehouse College, Atlanta, to a two-year term as a member of the U.S. Commission of UNESCO.

Six firemen honored by Fire Board

Firefighter Jasper L. Nesbit of Truck Company No. 16 was one of six firemen awarded commendations recently by the Board of Fire Commissioners.

Firefighter Nesbit, Lt. George L. Bailey and Firefighter Jacob Welland were cited for exemplary conduct displayed in rescuing three occupants of a building whose escape had been cut off by fire and smoke.

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LIEUTENANT PAUL A. SROKA and Firefighter Joseph H. Gamber of Truck Company No. 3 were commended for rescuing a child from a third - floor building.

Mouth-to-mouth respiration was rendered to the child until the arrival of an ambulance.

Firefighter Marshall T. Longworth of Turck Company No. 26 was commended for exemplary conduct displayed while off duty.

He rendered first aid by the mouth-to-mouth method of artificial respiration to a new born infant.

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

—Grand jury

(Continued from Page 1)

candidates, but as matters now stand, the candidates are the official representatives of the party.

Since they are the only candidates, they are certain to win the primary election and will oppose the Democratic winners in the November general election.

Samuel Hopkins, Republican chairman, turned the matter over to the city Board of Supervisors of Elections.

Thomas D'Alesandro 3rd, president of the Elections Board, later turned all information his office had on the situation over to Saul A. Harris, state's attorney for investigation of possible election law violations.

Mr. Harris picked the chief of his investigation bureau, Lt. Vincent D. Gavin, to investigate for violations.

The jury summonses were issued at the end of the preliminary investigation.

Ordered to testify before the investigative body were 12 persons, including two city officials.

Henry J. Ripperberger, chief clerk, Circuit Court, and E. Paul Mason, chief clerk, Board of Supervisors of Elections, were the officials who gave testimony.

AMONG OTHERS testifying were two housewives, one porter, two drydock workers, one laborer, one secretary, and one milk dairy engineer — all candidates for offices from the Fourth District.

They were:

Raleigh Jones, 2309 Orem Ave., employed at a chemical firm, candidate for State Senate.

House of Delegates candidates testify included:

Mrs. Dorothy Austin, 1423 Druid Hill Ave., housewife.

Mrs. Prodgell Green, 3510 Woodbrook Ave., a widow with six children.

Thomas Jefferson, 1423 Druid Hill Ave., drydock worker, and brother of Mrs. Austin.

Joseph Drumwright, 1711 Gwynns Falls Pkwy., drydock worker.

King Hoss, 3454 Reisterstown Rd.

The jury also took testimony from Miss Brenda Satterfield, 2012 Ullman Ave., secretary at Radio Station WCBM. Miss Satterfield is the only candidate who has been registered as a Republican party chairman.

Glen W. Hilbert, 2024 Ridgehill Ave., employed at a local dairy, rounded out the list of candidates appearing.

• • •

ATTORNEY LOUIS H. FRIED, who represented Mr. Hilbert and leveled a verbal blast at Mr. Harris, was also called.

Harry Korsover, 3101 Wolcott Ave., answered his summons, but his connection with the candidates was not determined.

The session opened at 1 p.m. when Mr. Harris was closeted with the jury for three minutes.

When he left the jury room, Mr. Harris made this statement:

"I'm a candidate for office and in the interest of fairness, I feel I should not represent the state."

He named Mrs. Lucy Ann Garvy and John W. Sause, assistants, to aid the panel's probe.

Mr. Harris, candidate to succeed himself, was followed by Mr. Mason, who remained in the jury room for 12 minutes.

He was followed by Mr. Ripperberger, who left after three minutes.

• • •

THE CLERK then called Ernest Young, attorney, at 1:31 p.m. He testified for 20 minutes, before coming out. However, he was ordered to remain at the courthouse pending further calls.

And while Mr. Hilbert was before the panel, Mr. Young was also asked to come in. He was there less than a minute.

Mrs. Green was closeted with the panel from 1:53 until 2:11.

She was followed by Jefferson, who came out at 2:27. From 2:27 to 2:37 King Ross testified, followed by Harry Korsover, who emerged from the hearing at 2:44.

After releasing Hilbert at 3:15, Mr. Sause came to the door and called for Mr. Fried.

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WHEN MR. FRIED could not be located temporarily, the assistant prosecutor asked for Mrs. Austin, who finished at 3:36.

After the attorney was found, the questioning moved rapidly, and Messrs. Jones Drumwright and Miss Satterfield had all testified by 4:17 when the panel ended the session.

Several statements were issued by those interested in the outcome of the probe following the query.

Among statements were those issued by Mr. Young, and Mr. Hilbert.

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MR. YOUNG SAID:

"I am primarily concerned about the rights and privileges of these Republican candidates who have filed for public office. I feel that their constitutional right to do so should be paramount to any inference or suspicion, that they are involved in some plot to overthrow the Republican hiearchy of the city.

"It seems and that the protests of the few Republican leaders should go so far as to subject these candidates to the embarrassment and inconvenience of having to appear before this group, under some threat of possible criminal action, because of their desire to run for public office."

Mr. Hilbert said:

"The state's attorney, Saul A. Harris, is conducting a political inquisition to further his own campaign for re-election.

"Calling me before the Grand Jury and advising the newspapers that he would appear before the Grand Jury and direct the questioning indicates, in my opinion, that Saul A. Harris, the state's attorney, has formed political alliance with Samuel Hopkins, the Chairman of the Republican City Committee to gain support for himself."

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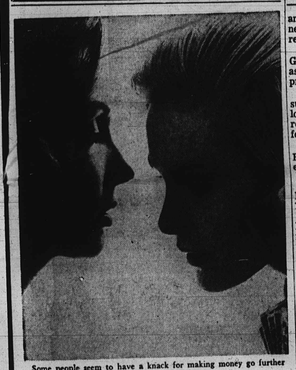

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—Stark

(Continued from Page 1)

restaurant controversy.

During the heat of the war on segregated restaurants by demonstrators, Governor Tawes said publicly "African diplomats should stop at eating places which serve them.

Calling this a "ridiculous statement," Mr. Stark retorted:

"Why doesn't the governor station a state trooper at the state line and give diplomats lunch boxes?"

EVEN THOUGH he carried the fight for passage of the legislation, presumably for the administration, Mr. Starks said, he knew that politics and principle would inevitably clash.

"I went as far as I could go when it was necessary to trade provisions of the bill for support. But it got to the point where I couldn't go any further without destroying the bill. I refused to move."

Mr. Stark said he could have assured passage of the measure if he had agreed to exempt all places serving alcoholic beverages.

Such a bill would have added a new insult to colored citizens, he delared.

"It would have put them in the ridiculous position of the American Indian — 'you can't drink the white man's fire water,' is what it boils down to."

Is he bitter at the outcome?

"No. If I had to do it again I would do the same thing.

"I was hurt at first when the machine dropped me, but now I'm glad it happened.

"Now I feel free. I can speak freely. I'm refreshed."

The lawmaker said he has had several offers to join other machines but has refused.

"In politics you must straddle fences on some issues sometimes. But a man must find himself.

"Either you are going to play it safe on all matters and end up being a hack, a nothing, or you are going to live by your convictions.

"I have chosen the latter and I'm glad I did."

MAN AGAINST MACHINE — Alexander Stark, legislator, lawyer, and rebel with a cause, is caught recording messages for his secretary. This ritual is part of his long and busy day.

—High court

(Continued from Page 1)

tion to the court.

• • •

THE DEFENDANTS are Virgil A. Wood, William W. Roberts, Bates Hudson Ford, Essie E. Gordon, William G. Roberts, Ralph Reavis, James A. Tucker, John E. Crawford, Elijah J. Regulus and Lankford E. Hankins.

They took part in a sit-in demonstration on Feb. 13, 1961, at Patterson Drug Co. in Lynchburg. William F. Patterson, the operator, declined to serve them because of their race and asked them to leave.

They refused and were placed under arrest by Capt. W. E. Gilliam of the Lynchburg Police Department.

In their appeal to the high tribunal, the defendants asserted that they were denied equal protection of the laws because:

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1. **THE RACE** of each potential juror was marked on the jury list from which their jury was selected.

2. They were refused the right to question prospective jurors concerning their affiliation with organizations practicing or promoting racial hatred.

3. Their trial was held in a segregated courtroom.

4. The trial judge "demonstrated his bias by repeatedly and unwarrantedly" rebuking their defense counsel and twice holding him in contempt as a result of his "diligent but courageous" attempt to protect their rights.

'We intend to run our own affairs in Fourth'

"If the people of the Fourth and Fifth districts let the bosses get away with this shameful conspiracy they will have no one to blame but themselves."

Thus spoke Mrs. Verda Welcome, a candidate for the State Senate, in launching her campaign before a crowded house at the Fourth District Democratic Organization headquarters Monday night.

Pulling no punches, Mrs. Welcome charged that "boss rule" had not only "stacked the cards" against outspoken opponents of the political machine in the Fourth District, but had "robbed the people of the Fifth District" of any choice in the matter whatsoever.

• • •

"IN THE Fourth District, the bosses after stacking the cards in favor of their handpicked candidate — the Democratic primary have boldly slammed the door in the face of any effective Republican opposition in the general election," she said.

"They're telling you in so many words you'll take our candidate or nothing. the voters be damned.

"But unlike the hog-tied people in the Fifth District, we in the Fourth don't have to take him. We do have a voice and a choice.

"I am confident the bosses will hear this voice speak in deafening tones on May 15. And it will say we're tired of political bosses who are not interested in the welfare and problems of the people of this district. It will say we have the majority of the votes and we intend to run our own affairs."

• • •

TWO FOURTH District candidates for the House of Delegates, Leonard Kerpelman and Clarence Mitchell III, also appealed for support in the forthcoming primary.

William Murphy, seeking Democratic nomination to the House of Delegates from the Sixth District, said the "Della - Wyatt machine's unanimous vote against the public accommodations bill in the legislature has assured my election. With your help I'll win."

Linwood Koger Jr., chairman of the Fourth District Democratic Organization, who presided, announced an intensified registration campaign, which would take advantage of neighborhood registration being conducted by the Supervisor of Elections.

Refreshments were served.—MACKAY

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