25,000 needy children look to Santa Claus Anonymous

Machinery to bring 25,000 needy children a toy or clothing for Christmas was set in motion Tuesday.

This ambitious goal was set by sponsors of Santa Claus Anonymous - the Junior League of Baltimore and the Junior Association of Commerce at their kick - off luncheon.

To guarantee that every one of the children — between the ages of one and 13 years and all on Department of Public Welfare rolls — gets a $3 certificate, $75,000 will have to be raise.

Mary B. Tracy and Gene Edwards, public relations representatives, said the certificates will be limited to toys and clothing only.

Last year, according to SCA officials, 20,000 certificates were redeemed and the number of needy children has jumped 5,000 since then.

• • •

SANTA CLAUS Anonymous was founded in 1934, by the Junior Association of Commerce and revived in 1947.

It was then known as the Christmas Party for needy children and Mayor Theodore R. McKeldin, before serving two terms as governor and returning to City Hall, passed out gifts.

Since named Santa Claus Anonymous, one of the projects staunchiest supporters today is Mayor McKeldin.

SCA representatives said not one cent of donations to the fund will be spent for anything but needy children.

To assure this, they held a Santa Claus Anonymous Ball earlier this month at the Blue Crest North. Proceeds from that affair will be used to defray the expense of conducting the campaign.

This frees all funds for needy children, they emphasized.

JIM MUTCHELLER, former Baltimore Colt star and now insurance executive, was guest speaker and comptroller Hyman A. Pressman — as he was expected to do — recited a typical "Pressman Poem," to suit the occasion.

Posters on transit buses and cabs, a float in the Toytown Parade and 25,000 individual solicitations letters and 3,000 letters appealing for funds will be mailed this month, in an effort to arouse interest in and support for the effort. Gift certificates will be mailed in two groups — Dec. 14 and 23.

Mayor McKeldin will issue Nov. 30, a "Santa Claus Anonymous Week' proclamation and campaign offices will be opened at 22 Light St.

All citizens who are interested in underprivileged children having a "Merry Christmas" are asked to send in their donations.

Stanley Mazer to speak

"Minority Problems and the City" will be discussed by Stanley Mazer, special assistant to Mayor Theodore McKeldin, on Dec. 16, 10 a.m. in Holmes Hall at Morgan State College.

Mr. Mazer's talk is one of a series of events in connection with the Book - of - the - Month Program of the College, which has as its theme this year "Focus on the Social Dilemmas".

Other December events are the film, "The Cool World, 1 p.m. at 7:30 p.m., Dec. 1, Murphy Auditorium, and a debate, "Intercollegiate society of Individualists vs. Dissent' on "Right vs. Left: Minorities and the Role of Government," 2 p.m., Dec. 8, Holmes Hall.

3 suspects indicted for murder

Three suspects in the Nov. 12 murder of a funeral home watchman, were indicted Tuesday by the Baltimore Grand Jury and will be arraigned in Criminal Court next week.

They are:

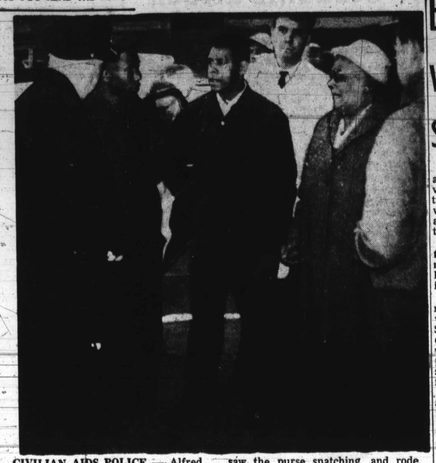
Marshall G. Martin, 18, 700 block Fairmount Ave.

James Robinson, 17, 700 block W. Mosher St.

Robert B. Parker, 24, 1000 block W. Lexington.

They have been accused of murdering Morton J. Sullivan, 51, who was shot six times while standing on the steps of the Williams Funeral Home in the 300 block N. Schroeder St. He lived in an apartment above the establishment.

Police said Mr. Sullivan surprised the trio while they were in the act of burglarizing the building.



CIVILIAN AIDS POLICE — Alfred Mason, 2700 block Eliott Dr., is shown here holding a 16-year-old pursesnatcher, after he captured the youth Saturday afternoon. Mr. Mason reported he had been alerted by the cries of the victim, Mrs. Florence F. Gray, 468 Mance Ct. (second from right). Patrolman Charles J. Hannan, Central District, stated he had been picked up by another civilian who saw the purse snatching, and rode around in the man's car, looking for the suspect, to no avail. He said when they returned to the scene of the incident, Linden Ave. and Dolphin St., Mr. Mason was holding the youth, Walter Green Jr., 16, 1200 block Argyle Ave. The boy was later sentenced to a jail term in Central Municipal Court.

Baby, man wounded in shootings

A seven-month-old infant and a 50-year-old man were victims Wednesday night of two accidental shootings which occurred only minutes apart in different sections of the city.

According to Western District police the infant was admitted, to Franklin Square Hospital with a bullet wound in his stomach.

The infant's 18-year-old mother, Mrs. Brenda Edwards, 1700 block W. Vine St., told police her son, Bradon, was lying on the bed, when her 13-year-old brother picked up a .32 cal. revolver she kept on the night table for protection.

She stated the gun accidentally went off and struck the infant.

Mrs. Edwards said the gun was always placed on the night table when her husband was out.

• • •

THE OTHER shooting occurred 55 minutes earlier in the 2000 block Eutaw Pl.

Central District police reported they were called to the house by a 31-year-old housewife who said she accidentally wounded her husband during a scuffle over the possession of the revolver.

The victim, Alton G. Parson, 50, was found lying in the second floor hall leading to the couple's apartment bleeding from wounds of the head and left eye.

He was taken to Provident Hospital but was later transferred to University Hospital for treatment.

Police said the woman was taken into custody and will be charged with the shooting today (Friday).

The baby died Thursday night.

Driftwood artist gives nature most of the credit

By WILBUR L. PINDER

"There's nothing new about driftwood and its natural artistic beauty. I've been an admirer and a collector for years. The only thing new is rising awareness of the public."

Horace Miller, proprietor, collector and design creator of the Wonderful World of Driftwood, 1901 Franklin St., spoke with conviction and admiration.

"When I was a boy I gave my parents headaches. Every curiout piece of wood I saw I brought home," Mr. Miller told the AFRO.

Surrounding us as he talked were many artistic driftwood designs which he had created ranging from small wall pieces to large Japanese Cherry Blossom trees (which he quickly pointed out were not for sale.

"I use them for driftwood weddings and displays," he said.

And what is a driftwood wedding?

"You see these two pieces here?" he said, pointing out two large pieces of wood. "They form the arch under which the bride and bridegroom pass on their way to and from the alter.

"At a driftwood wedding the color of the blossoms on the tree matches the color of the gowns worn by the bridesmaids. In addition to the arch are many other driftwood designs placed around the church or hall where the wedding is performed.

"Ah sir, if you have never seen a driftwood wedding, you have missed a most beautiful sight."

WHERE DID this art originate?

"The driftwood art is the art of nature itself, as is truly all things. For example, a bolt of lightning strikes down a tree. For years it will lie on the ground or float in water. Insects will eat into it as food or make the fallen wood their home," he said.

"Wind, rain, snow, the elements of nature will warp it into curiously artistic forms.

"Years upon years may pass, and then, my boy, one day a fellow like me sees this piece of wood lying on a beach or in a seldom used field and he says to himself, "Oh, how beautiful this is!" Then he picks it up and takes it home."

• • •

"NOW WHAT do you think the collector of this seemingly dead old wood does with his findings? He stops the process.

"I mean...he holds still the artistic hands of nature. In other words, this fellow takes from the wood the insects and the worms. He removes the wood from the elements which through the

(Continued on Page 16)

BOOTH-BED SNOOZE—AFRO candid camera caught this unidentified man as he stole a snooze in a Hello-Box this week. Feet, unable to be accommodated, fail to identify sleeper. If you are his friend—when he sees this picture he will tell you who it is. Another case of private use of public phone booths - rent free.

Students attack problems experts haven't solved

High school biology is not the same these days — instead of keeping their noses buried in books, and listening to lectures, students are spending hours working on projects expert researchers and biologists have suggested but haven't solved.

One such outline for a project which has attracted hundreds of students from across the country was submitted to "Research Problems in Biology, Investigation for Students" by Dr. Norvell W. Hunter, of Morgan State College.

This book, composed of 100 outlines for a variety of investigations for secondary biology students has been prepared by the (BSCS) American Institute of Biological Science Curriculum Study and is used in high schools across the country.

Dr. Hunter has high school students working on this unsolved problem — "The Effects of Certain Tranquilizers on the Cardiac Cycle of the Frog Heart (Rana Piplens)."

• • •

WHY A FROG? Dr. Hunter explains that "Some of

(Continued on Page 31)

Ward cites top salesmen for Sellathon

Montgomery Ward, Monroe St., recently announced that two of its salesmen sold a total of $20,000 worth of merchandise during their September 60 - hour Sellathon.

Cited were Richard Bauer, a salesman of less than two months, sold $13,000 in appliances, and Ralph Johnson, sold $7,000 worth of laundry equipment.

The Sellathon, which started 10 years ago, kept the store open from 8 a.m. to midnight, during the three-day period.

In competition with other local Montgomery Ward outlets, the Monroe St. Store lead the Sellathon with an all - time high, 147 percent, increase in sales.

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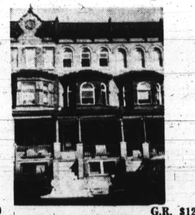
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21 ARRESTED IN MISS. SLAYING OF TRIO
(STORY IN COLUMN 6)

An ultimatum from the City (SEE PAGE 5)

Baltimore Afro-American

2 high schools have fire scares (STORY BACK PAGE)

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Ousted Crownsville Chief Airs His Views

By STERLING A. PAIGE

"When I came to Crownsville seven years ago, I staked everything I had on doing a job there. Only two people congratulated me. All my friends thought I should have my head examined."

With that simple introduction Dr. Charles S. Ward, ousted superintendent of Crownsville State Hospital, began a two - hour stint of questions and answers Tuesday night on John Sterling's radio show, "Conversation."

Before the night was over Dr. Ward's thousands of supporters had even more questions about his unexplained ouster from his $20,000 - a - year post at the state's only mental institution with meaningful high - level staff integration.

Dr. Isadore Tuerk, commissioner of mental hygiene, has gone to court in an effort to have Dr. Ward thrown out of the hospital mansion but still has not answered the suit questioning the legality of his ouster.

"Dr. Tuerk also has refused to detail reasons for the ouster for the press.

• • •

WHEN asked by one listener the reasons for his being fired, the psychiatrist returned:

"I think the public knows about as much as I do."

He stated that in a personal discussion with Dr. Tuerk only his driving record came under criticism.

Also asked why he was fighting to keep his job, Dr. Ward answered: "I hesitate to walk off under a shadow and have my many friends feel I let them down."

Q. — "Do you think you used good judgement in piling up all those traffic violations and even driving without a license?

A — It seems now it was bad judgement. I have been driving 37 years and have never had an accident.

that you are mulatto. Is

Q — There has been a rumor this true?

A — I have no colored blood as far as I know.

Q — Were you ever in a mental hospital for treatment?

A — I was a volunteer patient in a mental hospital in

—See Dr. Ward talks, Page 2

BUNNY MARGO turns on the charm as she urges support of the AFRO Mrs. Santa project after reading some of the letters from needy persons. Margo will be one of the Bunnies on duty at Playboy Club night of Dec. 15 when AFRO Charities, Inc. will play host to more than 100 special guests who will help hundreds of underprivileged children while having a gala night themselves.

Mother Of 7 Fire Victims:

'LIVING NIGHTMARE'

ANNETTE, 6 TIMOTHY, 7 DARLENE, 8 VIVIAN, 13

FOUR OF THE SEVEN SMITH CHILDREN KILLED IN FIRE

MOTHER AND FOUR SURVIVORS — Mrs. Marian Smith, mother of seven children who perished in a fire Tuesday morning, is shown with her four surviving children. Left to right, Cynthia, 11; Antonio, 15; Mrs. Smith; Andrea, 14 and Kennard Jr., 16. (AFRO Staff photo by Paige)

KENNARD A. SMITH, 38, her husband, and another 50 - year - old man, Arthur Johnson, of the 1000 block S. Hanover St., have been indicted by the grand jury on seven counts of murder and one of arson.

Johnson had been in police custody since Tuesday night. He was indicted Thursday. Police charged he was at the scene and assisted in setting the fire.

Last rites for the seven children, Vivian, 13; Darlene, 8; Timothy, 7; Annette, 6; Antonio, 15; Cynthia, 11; Andrea, 14 and Kennard Jr., 16, will be held Saturday.

Arrangements for Saturday's mass funeral pressed on her mind as she talked to the AFRO for an exclusive story on what has been for her a personal tragedy of an unparalleled terror.

Talking quietly, sometimes even at the point of tears, Mrs. Smith was obviously feeling the terrible strain of knowing her estranged husband has been charged with setting the fire in which their children died.

• • •

Arthur Johnson of the 1000 block Hanover St.

And police confirmed that Smith on Thursday tried to break out of the City Jail.

The grand jury returned the indictments after hearing testimony from several witnesses, including the accused man's son, Antonio, 15, who with two sisters and an older brother managed to flee from the flaming house.

The youth had told reporters earlier he had been

—See Victim's, Page 22

City tax fight

McKeldin Vs D'Alesandro

The license tax proposed by Mayor Theodore R. McKeldin, as a means of meeting next year's municipal budget, has stirred considerable controversy in the City Council and throughout the city.

Numerous pros and cons are being advanced on the proposal, while it now lays dormant awaiting City Council approval or rejection.

One of the more vocal objectors to the tax is Thomas D'Alesandro 3rd, president of the Council and Board of Estimates.

The AFRO, in the interest of its readers, submitted the same questions to both Mayor McKeldin and Mr. D'Alesandro, for a more clearly defined position of their opposing views on the tax.

Here are the questions, and the pro and con answers of both city officials.

1. Why do you favor, or oppose, the license tax?

McKELDIN

1. I favor the license tax because it is fair and reasonable, and because it is the only sound alternative to either a substantial increase in the property tax rate, or to dangerous reductions in the administration's recommended spending, with the latter choices being bad for the city.

All other suggested alternatives are either too little, too late or unfair to the taxpayers of Baltimore.

D'ALESANDRO

1. A — Opposed, because I question the city's right to impose such a tax when we do not at this time have the power to invoke an income tax, and the earnings tax is the most aggravated form of income tax.

B — It is a one percent tax against the gross earnings of an individual, which means it does not now take into consideration any deductions for dependents, medical expenses, etc. granted by the regular income tax.

C — It is supposed to relieve the home owners of their tax burden. In most instances it is the home owner who is gainfully employed, so he will be paying a larger sum in taxation.

D — It will discourage business and industry from coming into our city and curtail the expansion of already existing business.

2. What are its strong, or weak, points?

McKELDIN

2. The strongest points of the license tax are its broad applicability, affecting as it does every wage earner and business in the city, thus assuring that no single segment of our community will have to bear an unequal and unfair bur-

—See City tax fight, Page 20

Mass rites scheduled

By WILBUR L. PINDER

"It's been like a living nightmare."

Still near shock three days after losing seven of her eleven children, this is how life looked to Mrs. Marian Smith on Thursday.

Arrangements for Saturday's mass funeral pressed on her mind as she talked to the AFRO for an exclusive story on what has been for her a personal tragedy of an unparalleled terror.

Talking quietly, sometimes even at the point of tears, Mrs. Smith was obviously feeling the terrible strain of knowing her estranged husband has been charged with setting the fire in which their children died.

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Johnson had been in police custody since Tuesday night. He was indicted Thursday. Police charged he was at the scene and assisted in setting the fire.

Last rites for the seven children, Vivian, 13; Dar-

—See Mom sobs, Page 22

Mrs. Santa

Party

An exciting evening is in store for a limited number of special boosters who want to help the AFRO's Mrs. Santa make Christmas a bit more happy for hundreds of underprivileged and have themselves a night of fun doing it.

The party will go on in the Penthouse of the Playboy Club, 28 Light St., from 6 to 9 p.m., Dec. 15.

It's a by-invitation-only affair but Mrs. Santa has only so many of them—Sorry it's that way — and they are available on a reservation basis for the first takers at just $15 each.

• • •

FOR THAT tax-deductible sum, guests of Mrs. Santa for the evening will enjoy a first-class Playboy show, have a steak dinner and cocktails and meet all the bunnies.

Reservations may be made now so that the Playboy Club key you'll need for the night can be gotten right away. It's a rush affair and when the first comers are served, that will just be that. Don't

—See Playboy, Page 2

Letters

These two families are typical of those who have written to the AFRO's Mrs. Santa to help make Christmas a little brighter for them and their children.

(Other deserving families listed in this issue on Page 22.)

Family A has spent the winter so far without gas, electricity or heat. Mrs. A, who is 41, is striving to care for nine children and two grandchildren.

Her husband is sick and unable to work.

During the bitter cold Tuesday and Wednesday, the family received some sticks of wood with which to take the chill off the house. "All the children are down with colds," their mother sadly explains.

• • •

THE HOUSE is dim. Lacking gas for cooking, the mother, young-looking despite her hardships, must arrange to use neighbors' stoves to cook whatever she can, whenever they let her.

The small amount of money she receives at the beginning of each month will not stretch far enough to buy shoes, clothing, food and heat for the family.

"It's getting cold now and the children need new shoes to replace their tennis shoes," Mrs. A says.

• • •

She recounts that the oldest boy, age 16, has quit school "because he can't go there barefoot" and has been looking for work, "but nobody will hire a 16-year-old."

• • •

"The two older children, who go to junior high school, often don't have enough mon-

—See Mrs. Santa, Page 23

$25 gone, $25 to go

"I feel beautiful and fine. This close to Christmas."

These pre-holiday high spirits were voiced Tuesday by a charming Department of Education secretary, Mrs. Leiya Blackwell, 2612 Allendale Rd.

There was good reason for gay feeling. Her shopping kitty has just been boosted by $25 from the AFRO's Lucky Sticker Game

She was Tuesday's winner because the Lucky Number - 9065 - was firmly fixed on the rear window of her car and taking no chances on missing the 4:30 p.m. Wednesday deadline, Mrs. Blackwell stopped by the AFRO enroute home from work Tuesday.

The mother of four children - ages 9 to 19 - she happy secretary said the win-

—See Men, women, Page 22

Victims' father has other trouble

Kennard A. Smith, the father of seven children who perished Tuesday when fire guttered their home, was indicted Wednesday by the grand jury for arson and murder, after a Municipal Court hearing was waived by State's Attorney Charles E. Moylan Jr.

Thursday the jury also indicted a 50-year-old man also with murder and arson. He was at the scene, police said at the time of the blaze.

The man was identified as

NAB 21 IN MISS.

Sheriff is among those FBI nabs

MERIDIAN, Miss. (UPI) —Federal agents early today (Friday) swept into several Mississippi towns to make arrests in connection with the slaying of three civil rights workers last summer. A Mississippi sheriff and his deputy were among those picked up.

At least 19 arrests were anticipated. Sixteen persons had been taken into custody

—See Arrest 21, Page 2

PARTY FOR CHILDREN SET FOR MET THEATRE

Mrs. Santa's annual theatre party for children will be held as usual on Christmas Eve morning this year at the Met Theatre.

Mayor okays change in his earnings tax

A graduated scale amendment to Mayor Theodore R. McKeldin's proposed earnings tax is being presented today (Friday) to the City Council's Budget and Finance Committee.

The amendment is being presented by Frank X. Gallagher, Council vice president, with the legal clearance of Joseph Allen, city solicitor, and full support of the mayor.

Here is what it provides:

1. Persons earning $1,200 or less, including those

—See Mayor okays, Page 22

Policy challenge faces GOP state confab here

By Max Johnson
AFRO Political Analyst

The Republican State Central Committee of Maryland faces the challenge here Saturday of determining what will be its state-wide course in the months to come preceding the 1966 elections.

It is challenging action because there is high dissension in the party, split wide open by the recent Goldwater campaign.

Newton I. Steers Jr., GOP state chairman, is

—See State Confab, Page 22

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Congo's Tshombe Hit By Leaders

NEW YORK (NPI) — Six of the most influential U.S. colored leaders have urged President Johnson to withdraw American support from Congo Premier Moise Tshombe.

The statement was signed by James Farmer, CORE; Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., Southern Christian Leadership Conference; A. Philip Randolph, Negro American Labor Council; Roy Wilkins, NAACP; Whitney M. Young Jr., National Urban League; and Dorothy I. Height, National Council of Negro Women.

The group, which held an American Negro Leadership Conference on Africa recently, sent identical letters to the President and to Secretary of State Dean Rusk, which stated:

"Mercenaries and other external forces, including those of the U.S., should disengage themselves from all military commitments until aid can be given in the context of the requests from the government of the Congo."

The colored leaders added that the Tshombe regime is held in disrepute throughout most of independent Africa.

• • •

MEANWHILE, the Organization of African Unity's Congo Conciliation Commission has called for an emergency meeting of all African heads of state to discuss the problem.

The African leaders also issued a statement "strongly" condemning the U.S., Belgium and Britain for the air - drop rescue of white hostages from Congolese rebels, said to be financed by Red China.

At the United Nations, African delegates were exploring the possibility of seeking a Security Council meeting to deal with the issue.

So far, no answer has been received from either the White House or the State Department on the request of the American Negro Leadership Conference on Africa.

While the group "deplored" the massacre of white hostages by the Congo rebels, it held that bloodshed might have been averted if different policies had been followed.

"The present hostilities constitute an immediate threat not only to the Congo, but to world peace," the leaders noted. "This (present) policy can do nothing more than compromise the position of the U.S. in independent Africa.

"We urge that the U.S. government support all reasonable initiatives by the OAU, in cooperation with the UN, to stop the fighting," the leaders added.

$50

That's right, the AFRO City Desk has a total of fifty dollars ($50) each week for news tips. Have you one? Call AFRO City Desk, Mulberry 5-0015 and say 'I have a news tip.' After 8 p.m., call LA. 3-3024. YOU might be a Winner.