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Ke Ke

The Maryland Council of Churches has urged Christians in Maryland to join in prayer with those around the world during the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, Jan. 18 - 24.

The theme of the observance is "Behold, I make all things new."

B.B.Determined To Reach Poor

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School school n get ee books in ltimoreltimoretin som states par- ls musts musheir chi lren's books. r a per a pent wi 6 children, oks aroks ared thei means.

Under Under resident's program, cle Saicle Said help he poor who ke lesake less$2,000 year to buy school books, buildings for pre-school, elementary, high or university education.

Programs for summer schools, remedial courses for slow learners, laboratories, auditoriums, libraries and theatres, public assistance, research and school expansions are urged by President Johnson with such clamness as to provide a shock to the layman.

* * *

WE HAVE BEEN so busy providing for children with high intelligence that we have neglected the special needs of the dropouts.

He tells us in advance that we need to give more schooling to the poor and the disadvantaged. And unless we d, wwe sustain neither our growth, our freedom, nor our democracy.

Our first objective is to see that Congress passes the President's bill and then to see that the money designed for the poor actually reaches them.

Whose Dialect?

A newsa newse from loward Uni- sity teraity teut Prof sor Charles Hurst Hurst course designed to l studel studeremovi "Negro dic- ect." ect."

Speech speech ons and mannerisms s como como cert n areas in ich peelch pee.

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et theset thei withou being seen. he seche sec the country from which they come may be determined by their twang, their intonations, or their drawl.

It's impossible to tell a man's color by his speech.

Incidentally, President Johnson is losing his Texas drawl. Much of it may well have disappeared before his inauguration.

"My Fair Lady," based on a play by George Bernard Shaw, is built on the thesis that a woman who uses the language of the street, can quickly be taught to use the cultivated speech of a lady.

esterday And Today

ong hong b people learned to ite on jte on pr read they carved ir storir stor stone. irst to irst to anyth g were the ican Ican bn Egy cholarlcholarte Du ney Foster, ting asting asan tea er of near- 6,000 6,000 said, children no ger obger obr parer :" nd 2,00nd 2,00 ago th Judge quot- Socral Socral Greek as saying uldren uldren ad man s . . . dis- pect tipect thrents and are r to tir to tachers.

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A dauA daus a see et cause of sleeplessness to her father,

"And his concern for her robs him of his rest;

"In her youth, for fear she will pass her prime,

"And when she is married, for fear she will be hated;

"When she is a girl, for fear she will be profaned,

"And be with child in her father's house;

"When she has a husband, for fear she will transgress;

"And when she is married, for fear she will be childless.

"Keep a close watch over a headstrong daughter,

"For fear she will fill your enemies with malignant joy,

"And make you the talk of the town and notorious among the people,

"And disgrace you before the multitude."

The Old Reliable

n the nn the n all the ublic protest that the NAACP withdraw its request I resent resenover pe ce invading for an injunction to let it die quietly. vate hvate hold sear ing citizens Periodically, our city police department, acting under orders, breaks out into a rash of unlawful searches, seizures and violations of the right of privacy.

If the police are right, they should have no objection to a judicial determination of their activities.

If they are wrong, they must be compelled to stay within bounds.

It is not important that the NAACP's request for an injunction be heard and decided on its merits.

r. King At Hopkins

peakinpeakinlopkins Tuesday, Dr. rtin Lrtin LKing r arked that people peoplesissippi do not say end them then of you choice, but nb it. nb it.

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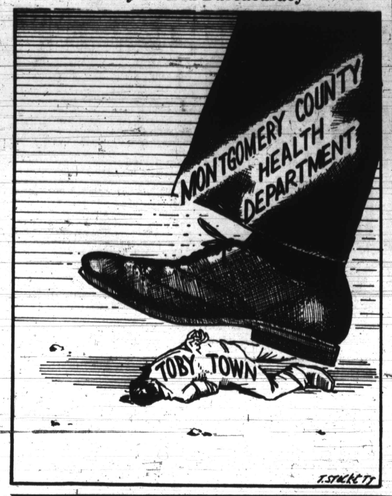
Heavy Footed Bureaucracy



Our Readers Say:

Write Your Congressman

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

Dear AFRO:

Perhaps it will interest a good number of AFRO readers that Baltimore Congressmen Samuel Freidel, Edward Garmatz, and George Fallon voted to seat the regular Mississippi representatives in Congress despite the Fairness Resolution introduced by Rep. William Ryan of New York which would have barred both delegations from being seated until the challenge has been resolved.

(Maryland representatives Sickles, Long and Mathias voted in support of the Freedom Democrats.)

Having had the honor of working in Mississippi last summer as a volunteer and having played a small part in the formation of the Freedom Party I know that its challenge in Congress deserves as much support as the rest of the nation can give it.

Mrs. Fannie Lou Hamer, Mrs. Annie Devine and Mrs. Victoria Gray, the three challengers from the Freedom party represent not only 1000 poor Mississippians (and some Whites) who have become active in the Freedom Party, but also those who are too frightened to participate, or who live in areas of the State as yet too dangerous for any meaningful any meaningful FDP organizational work.

Although Reps. Freidel, Garmatz and Fallon voted against the Freedom Party on Jan. 4, they have a chance to reconsider their position and to vote for the Freedom Party.

After investigation by the House Committee on Elections, the entire House will decide by vote whether to seat the regulars for the duration of this Congress, or to take a major step forward toward democracy in Mississippi and seat the Freedom Party representatives.

I urge AFRO readers to write to these three Congressmen and ask them to support the Freedom Democratic Party from Mississippi.

GRENVILLE B. WHITMAN,
Chairman,
Baltimore Friends of SNCC

The Veney Case

Dear AFRO:

I have been following the articles which Sterling Paige and Wilbur Pinder, have been writing concerning the Veney family. I have also been reading all the other papers.

If I didn't know better, I would readily think that this was the first time a police officer was killed in this city.

Taking the life of a human being, I think, is the worst thing another human being can do. Whether it be a police officer or civilian, the police would want justice. However, I believe the public wants the Veney brothers, not the Veney family.

In all appearances the Veney family is about the only one, that I can think of, that has been subjected to the type of treatment that they have received since this grave injustice occurred.

It seems as if the Veney family has been stripped of all rights that the rest of us citizens have under the Constitution of the United States and the Bill of Rights.

Never before have I seen any crime handled in the manner this one has been, but of course if all that has happened is condoned, we can expect more of the same in the future.

SPENCER HOLT

An Inmate's View

Dear AFRO:

I am writing this letter with hopes that I can enlighten the public to a few things from an inmate's view. These judges sentence a man to these places to try to rehabilitate them, not make them more bitter toward life and anything they come in contact with.

Here at Poplar Hill Correctional Camp, it is not the case. They should have named it Poplar Hill Slave Camp. Here you have to be contented with drunken guards.

We have had men sent to the hole just because a guard ate his personal food and he resented it. Here we are fed a diet of deer and TV dinners that are discarded by food packing houses.

Some of it is so bad that it has changed colors.

The colored are the only ones they think are capable of doing this ball work, while the white inmates sit in offices and drink coffee with these guards, except for a few Uncle Toms.

They go to these guards' homes and do what their wives should be doing. Here any farmer can get men to do any kind of work and the money is paid to the guards, not the state.

Their cars are kept running with state gas, tires and parts. Plus the inmates do the repairs while the state truck which we ride on often doesn't have the best brakes, lights nor tires.

These are some of the things we have to be content with in order to come home to our families and what you may call society.

INMATES OF THE
Poplar Hill Camp
Quantico, Md.

Article On History

Daer AFRO:

I profoundly regret that I have not written to you before regarding your Roger Nissly's splendid report on my unit, "The Negro in American History."

Unfortunately, I did not see the edition of the paper containing my unit until this week. A former student of mine saw your article and forwarded it to me.

Your article revealed deep insight Moreover, the article graphically and reportorial skill of a high level. and forcefully elucidated the main threads of my unit.

The Baltimore AFRO-AMERICAN is indeed fortunate to have a reporter of Mr. Nissly's ability and acumen on its staff.

Thank you for your interest and effort relative to my unit. Needless to add, the article performed a most valuable service to this community.

SAMUEL L. BANKS

Deeply Concerned

Dear AFRO:

Please read and print this. I want everybody to know my true feelings about the Veney brothers case. I don't know the first thing about these boys, but I find myself deeply concerned.

The brothers have committed a crime, this we all know. But the way the police are handling this thing is disgusting. There wasn't this much racket when the former President Kennedy was killed.

If they were my brothers, I wouldn't want them to surrender because they will be beat to death before they're given a chance to stand trial.

The way the police force is carrying on, if they're spotted they will be shot on sight. If they had any thoughts of surrendering, the police department is the reason they keep running, for they know they are doomed.

* * *

AT FIRST, I thought to myself that justice would take its course, but the way things have been going lately I don't believe there's any justice in the city of Baltimore

God knows these boys' parents and sisters have been through enough, and yet they keep haunting and torturing them, even friends and neighbors. This is ridiculous because common sense would tell anyone not to go to their relatives' house to hide out, knowing they're posted 24 hours a day.

The police today are so persistent, it's a wonder more of them aren't killed in line of so-called duty. Why with this kicking in doors, etc., it just takes one frightened person to shoot and kill another and he would be protecting himself.

Let's look back at the incident when Mrs. Hattie Carroll was caned to death at the Emerson Hotel. I doubt if two policemen moved in on that case, yet the whole police force is after two boys and constantly threatening an entire colored community.

I have one last thing to say and this is to the Veney brothers, even though my doors might be crashed in tonight.

Maybe if you get picked up in another state you'll have a better chance.

FAUSTINA RAWLINGS

Thanks For Basket

Dear AFRO:

I am writing this letter to thank you for what you did for me and my children in the past year of 1964.

I want to thank you for the Christmas basket and the tickets for the children to go to the Met movie. So I hope each of you a Happy New Year and again many, many thanks to all of you.

EDITH BUTLER

The Woes Of Winter

It's rardly surprising that the rate of acute respiratory diseases (ailments of the breathing system) rises in the winter. Windy gusts, cold and stormy weather cause many people whose resistance is low to "catch cold."

And people are apt to be lavish about sharing with others the coughs and colds they "catch."

By the time discomfort (or good sense) makes you stay home with your coughs and sneezes, you may well have pased out generous samples of germs to others with whom you've been in contact.

* * *

THERE IS no cure for the common cold, but there are sensible precautions to observe, and there are ways to alleviate distress. Bed rest is desirable; if there is a fever, it's a "must." In any case, plenty of rest will help. A large amount of fluids are a good idea.

The use of a vaporizer to restore moisture to the air in your room (winter heating often dries the air) will provide some comfort.

Why should you "baby" a cold when you don't really feel that sick?

For several good reasons. A public-spirited one is to keep the infection to yourself until it has run its course. A sensibly selfish one is to keep your minor infecton from jumping its tracks and becoming something more serious.

Complications—like bronchitis or pneumonia—can result from a neglected illness of the breathing apparatus that didn't seem serious in itself.

* * *

CALL THE DOCTOR if your temperature is above normal, or if your throat is painful or your chest hurts.

If a cough develops and hangs on after symptoms of cold have cleared up, it may mean that you have a more serious respiratory disease. (An informative leaflet, "Chronic Cough and Shortness of Breath — The Facts," has been published by the National Tuberculosis Association and is available free from your local Christmas seal association.)

Finally about colds: Don't medicate yourself — get your doctor's okay for using products offered for relief of pain or reduction of congestion.

Do keep warm, and don't return to the world of the active until you can be a member in good standing.

Pin-Point

Jury Does Fairly Creditable Job

By GEORGE W. COLLINS

Perhaps it's due to our built-in reservations about grand juries, gained through bitter past experiences, that we are inclined to agree with Criminal Court Judge Dulany Foster, who, this week, admonished the current panel to stick to the business of indicting criminals and lay off special investigations.

Judge Foster, who is sitting in Part I of Criminal Court this term, says grand juries are "not equipped" to conduct the many probes it has found itself involved in of late.

* * *

IF WE READ past performance charts correctly, the jurist's position is well founded. On numerous occasions the jury has labored mightily on matters a bit beyond the range of criminality and brought forth nothing.

Past panels have looked into charges of hanky-panky at the Board of Supervisors of Elections. To date nothing, beyond the endless recommendation that employees be put under the merit system, has been forthcoming.

Every politician who finds this a sure-fire vehicle to get "notice," has been dong the same for years.

The record of the inquisitory bodies' investigations into questionable conduct of various city agency personnel — particularly the Police Department — have all resulted in naught.

This, however, is understandable. In addition to historical ties that bind the jury to the various agencies, the average panel is made up of persons with little or no savvy of the machinery that makes the city go.

For the most part each 21-member panel is guided by a minority of five or six persons, who, because of their positions in the community, carry what is often mistaken as power and influence.

A vast majority of the panelists who, in the main, are far removed from the tumult and shouting of the cement jungle, are content to play follow the leader.

So while supporting Judge Foster's contention, we would go a step further and recommend that future juries include more technicians — sociologists, criminologists, psychiatrists, lawyers, penologists, architects, engineers, teachers, and the like.

Otherwise, it amounts to perpetuating folly to have laymen investigating charges of faulty school constructions, political shenanigans, and codes of behavior of public officials.

* * *

ODDLY ENOUGH, this stand against the traditional formation of grand juries is taken on the heels of what can pass as a creditable performance of the January Term panel, which ended its sessions last week.

It was easily the busiest jury that has come along in a great while.

On the minus side, the panel fell in the old trap of its predecessors by damning the Supreme Court and shedding crocodile tears for policemen.

And of course, the unchained melody of a new courthouse, city jail, dirty bars and taverns, stricter control of liquor inspectors was sung with equal fervor by the retiring panel as it has been for ages.

* * *

ON THE positive side, however, the retiring jury ventured into waters heretofore shunned by past panels.

A hard look and equally hard recommendations invovled the eternal problem of illegitimacy.

The Welfare Committee, under the chairmanship of Mrs. Caroline S. Cochran, made an honest attempt to get at the root of the problem by recommending:

1. The State Department of Welfare should be supported in its effort to set up a pilot project for the counseling and studying of young unmarried mothers, as recommended by the Advisory Council of Child Welfare.

2. Educational opportunities should be provided for unmarried mothers of school age both during and after pregnancy.

3. Family planning information and assistance should be made available to all mothers on Welfare.

4. The Baltimore City Health department should assume this service.

* * *

THE COMMITTEE on narcotic addicts, rabitual alcoholics, and repeated sex offenders reached a conclusion that is so obvious it's difficult to imagine how other panels could have overlooked it so long.

The retiring jurors concluded that these people are sick. We not only heartily endorse this finding, but also support the recommendation that they be treated as such in as much as incarceration only aggravates the problem.

And the suggestion to take the "profit for the few" out of the lottery racket by legalizing it must rank as a forward-looking approach. The incredible degree of corruption, payoffs, double and triple-crossing, stoolpigeoning, and framing, now going on in the racket is enough to make the city hang its head in shame.

It is indeed time that somebody does something about it.

Also ranking high on the list of plus achievements was the creation of an honest-to-God Grand Jurors Association.

Particularly is this gratifying here because its forerunner is nothing more than a segregated, do-nothing, social club amounting to an albatross around the city's neck.

Perhaps we can now look forward to some follow-up on recommendations to correct some of the ills uncovered by jurors during their term of service.

The old group is too busy watching the color of potential members to do anything constructive.

* * *

TO THE extent that grand juries can be effective — and that is debatable — the January panel, under the chairmanship of Purl E. Ansel, was a fairly good one.

With the hopeful addition of a few more technicians to future panels they could become a vital force for good in the community.

★OPINIONS AND COMMENTS★

Police raid—a true story

What is a police raid like? A college student who was among those gathered for an after-basketball game party on Friday evening, tells it in his own words: —

Every one was jubilant after the exciting Morgan basketball victory over Howard — even the Howard fans appreciated the fast - breaking style of ball displayed by the local quintet which downed the D. C. team 95-75, on Friday.

After the game, it is customary for different fraternal groups to entertain the visiting guests to the Monumental City at a private party.

It will be a long while before some of these guests will forget their Baltimore reception.

The party was really just getting underway a little after 11 p.m., and most of the guests had just arrived, when I looked up into the face of one of "Baltimore's Finest".

His big blue coat, brass buttons and hat on head were in sharp contrast to the sports attire worn by the fellows and young women at the party.

How he or the other three or four policemen got into the party, I don't know.

The first remark I remember him making was, "If any teenagers are in here drinking, we're gonna arrest all uh yu."

Neither his English nor his bearing did much for the image of the symbol of law and order I had been taught to respect.

* * *

But I must admit they did frighten me. Although I was not a teenager and had not been drinking, I am sure some of the college students were teenagers and some could have been drinking.

However, in my non - legalistic mind, I couldn't understand at a private party how this was any of his business.

At this point, there was general confusion. Kids were getting coats, policemen were talking to the hosts and as I passed the front door that was guarded by another policeman, I noticed the "paddy wagon" parked in front of the house.

Never having had an experience of this type with the law I could only imagine calling my father to get me out of jail — a harrowing thought.

As I went back through the house into one of the bedrooms that could only be opened by the one door knob that was used for three other doors, I noticed the crowd seemed to be thinning out.

I presumed some of the guests had already been hauled into the waiting patrol wagon.

One of the hosts then advised me and my escort that the under - 21 guests were being "underground railroaded" via the bedroom window to safety. So being the Harriet Tubman type I continued to assist in the exodus while the gendarmerie banged on the bedroom door.

* * *

We told them we couldn't find the door knob.

When the window was closed and the curtain that had fallen on the floor, was kicked under the bed, we "located" the door knob and opened it.

By this time when I looked around I was just about the only girl left in the party.

The policeman who was "guarding" the front door was now at the curb by the "paddy wagon", talking with one our hosts.

So my escort and I made our exit via the front door and through a muddy backyard and finally to our car.

Really for more reasons than one I'll be glad when they capture the Veney brothers.

Political Notebook

Tawes' Assembly

By MAX JOHNSON

Mayor McKeldin has, on the face of it, quite artfully placed before the city's delegation to the Gneral Assembly bold proposals for the quick needs of Baltimore.

The Assembly opens its 70-day session with a lawfully required, but brief, meeting Wednesday, Inaugural Day—and then gets down to business after Gov. Tawes' state of the state address on Thursday.

The governor, on old hand at assessing these things, predicts this will be one of the liveliest sessions in recent years.

Scheduled are such top controversial matters as open housing, congressional redistricting, reapportionment—and sorely needed financial aid for Baltimore.

* * *

TO WHAT extent the McKeldin proposals will be successful — nobody knows at the moment.

More readily known, however, is that Gov. Tawes will have full control of this Assembly — as in the past.

Those things the governor wants —the governor is sure to get.

This has been quite forceably demonstrated from the 1961 session when he established the city's Municipal Court over strenuous objections by the Baltimore delegation—to his push through last year of his now rescinded one cent income tax hike.

Nobody wanted that tax bite — except the governor.

* * *

NOW, THERE arises the question —what forceful legislation does Gov. Tawes want this time?

His state of the state message Thursday is expected to spell out his own program.

But—largely unanswered afterwards is quite certain to be the matter of Baltimore's financial plight.

The governor, basically a county man with county leanings, has consistently exhibited a marked coldness toward Baltimore's problems.

He did so when the new Judge J. Harold Grady was the city's Democratic mayor in his own party — there're no indications he will change this attitude with the Republicans' Mayor McKeldin.

* * *

THE MAYOR, fully aware of this, hopes to clear his skirts, so to speak, with his beneficial city proposals, anyway—as he did with his rejected tax proposal to the all Democratic City Council.

And like the Council—the city's General Assembly delegation of six senators and 39 house members is also all Democratic.

The extent to which they really push (not ostensibly so) the McKeldin proposals will depend largely on the governor's wishes.

After all—this will again be his General Assembly session.

Whatever the outcome for the city, though, the McKeldin stock is sure to rise—for gains with the gains and also with the losses for his presentation.

"I sought their aid to halt the rise in the property tax rate," he can tell his constituents while laying foundation for another campaign, "but look what your Democratic representatives did. They ignored us."

* * *

THERE STANDS one brightening ray of hope for some desired legislation — perhaps contrary to the Tawes wishes.

All of these Assembly members must run for reelection next year—to stay in office beyond that period.

The governor, prohibited by statute from seeking a third term, is on his way out—and so is his regime of the Old Guard, according to early indications.

This reminder of the fast-approaching elections might spur some otherwise reluctant Assembly members to band together for the welfare of their constituents who demand certain matters — despite the Tawes stand.

Only strong and constant reminders of the coming elections are going to get anything of desirable substance out of Annapolis at this Assembly session—unless the governor wants them.

If you doubt this—just wait and see.

Labor-Business

What's Wanted?

By STERLING A. PAIGE

The best settlement in the history of the International Longshoremen's Assn. (AFL-CIO) went out the window last week - end despite the jubilance of union officials who praised the New York contract.

Labor's first big surprise of the year came with the rejection of the new contract by members of the New York ILA.

During the bargaining sessions, negotiators for the New York Shippers Association gave in point after point, until a contract was finally drawn giving the dock workers the best agreement in the history of the union.

Union leaders hailed the pact triumphantly as being "way out" — urged membership to hastily ratify the agreement before the strike deadline.

When membership went into session and rejected the contract, even union officials were forced to ask:

"What do they want and where do we go from here?"

Likewise, employers are saying the union has gotten all there is to be given—there is nothing more.

* * *

THE NEGATIVE votes of 766 members of the New York group has caused a walkout affecting some 60,000 dockers along the East and Gulf Coasts. Add to this figure, the number of truckers, trainmen and others who are unable to carry on without the longshore operations and this adds up to a huge number of temporary jobless.

Baltimore alone has an estimated 4,000 affected by the shutdown which is costing the local port around $500,000 a day.

Where it will end is not clear at this time.

ILA negotiators were successful in obtaining for the New Yorkers a guarantee of 1,600 hours per year, amounting to some $5,200. In addition, paid vacations were upped from two weeks to a third week; three more holidays per year were added.

Over a four-year period wages were upped by 80 cents an hour. Some of this amount will be added to health and welfare plans with the remainder going to in - pocket salary. Ultimate raise over the four years will amount to 36 cents per hour, or an increase of $2.88 per 8 - hour day.

Pensions will increase from $100 to $175 per month.

* * *

ILA CHIEF, Thomas W. Gleason, feels that possibly the members did not realize the benefits to be derived from the new contract. With this in mind, he has plans for returning the contract to N.Y. membership for another vote.

Shippers' representatives are asking that time be allowed during which the membership would be completely informed as to the advantages of the agreement before going back for another vote.

It is hardly conceivable that men who are so interested in their jobs and additional advantages can vote on so vital a question without knowing what it is all about.

In other ports, including Baltimore, dockers were on the verge of signing new agreements before the Jan. 11 deadline. With the N.Y. walkout notice, negotiations ended from Maine to Texas.

Shippers cite the futility of going on with negotiations since the N.Y. Port walkout would still mean a coast - wide shutdown.

* * *

MEANWHILE, RUMBLINGS are heard in Baltimore and other ports where dockers are forced to strike in the face of what seemed to be sure settlement.

ILA policy is: "All ports have a contract or no port has one."

Baltimore workers had just returned to jobs after a recent "wildcat strike" which hit during the holiday season. With their expectation of signing the new local agreement Monday, plans were upset by the N.Y. rejection.

* * *

THE NATIONAL Labor Relations Board upheld the recommendations of Regional Director John A. Penello that the AFL-CIO Laundry and Dry Cleaning International Union be certified to represent workers at two local laundries.

Despite majority workers' votes to accept unionizing, the company had with injecting racisms into the union campaign.

Following the Regional Board's rejection of employers' contention, attorneys for Archer Laundry filed exceptions to the recommendations, charged civil rights organizations.

These exceptions have now been rejected by the full board, leaving employers with no additional recourse, except through the courts.

* * *

ABOUT BUSINESS — James Crockett, North Ave., realtor, has been named to the board of directors of the Real Estate Board of Greater Baltimore. He will serve as director for a one - year term.

SUNDAY WILL mark open house for the new Professional Building in Turner Station. The building is operated by Joe Thomas Jr., president of Securities, Inc., and will house the Securities, Inc. offices. Also there are medical and dental offices, law offices, insurance, and on the main floor, a pharmacy.

The Professional Building is located at 107 Main St. Open House will be held from 2 - 6 p.m.

If YOU Ask ME

BY BETTYE M. MOSS

People, places, things

Glad - you're feeling better cards to Dr. Saul M. Perdue, who is a-bed at University Hospital, (Tenth Floor, Room 108).

He's been hospitalized since a Friday ago when he collapsed while attending the 50th anniversary banquet for Dr. Louis Johnson at Holiday Inn.

Dr. Perdue, former Carver High principal, was recently named executive assistant in the Department of Education's business division.

Also confined for the past ten days —Mrs. Bea Wright, one of our town's lovelier matrons. Cheer to her at 2001 Bryant Ave.

And, do remember a senior citizen who remains ill—Mrs. Mason A. Hawkins (Margaret), long a civic leader in our town. Her address: 2403 Albion Ave.

Sunshine to Carl Norwood, the florist. He's been in Green Bay, Va., at the bedside of his mother, Mrs. Evelyn Norwood, who suffered a heart attack.

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AFRO visitor — Mrs. Eva Jessye, the famed singer and choral director, now on the Md. State College faculty.

She recalled happy days (in the 1920s when she was this newspaper's proofreader, social editor and reporter working under the late city editor, William N. Jones.

Do you remember?

More about people, things

Quick change: During the holidays, the Rev. Mr. and Mrs. Julius Carroll (Gladys), were in Baltimore to visit relatives.

They were elated over their new home in Suitland, Md. They had moved in, in November.

On Sunday, the Rev. Mr. Carroll announced his new appointment to his congregation (Randall Memorial Methodist in D. C.).

He left Tuesday by jet for Liberia where he becomes minister of Cape Palmas Church, 220 miles southeast of Monrovia. President Tubman is a member.

The Rev. Mr. Carroll returns to D. C. on Feb. 7 to wind up his affairs.

Mrs. Carroll, a government employee, will join him in Africa before too long

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This reminds me to mention that the Rev. Richard H. Johnson and the Rev. Edward G. Carroll are sure to be among the new district superintendents when the Methodists hold their historic uniting conference June 9 - 13 at American University in D.C.

The all - colored Washington Annual Conference will be abolished, and all Methodist churches in this area will become part of the Baltimore Conference, established on jurisdictional lines.

District superintendents will get 11 to 13 thousand a year under the new program.

Word is that all ten district superintendents (four colored), will have assignments which will put them in the 10 -12 thousand - dollar class, when the new setup is finalized. Say you read it here first.

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Birthday items: Jan. 16 cards for Dr. Albert Laforest, the affable physician.

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Dr. Carl Murphy, chairman of the AFRO-AMERICAN board of directors, will light 76 candles on Jan. 17.

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Ready birthday cards now for a good neighbor, Joseph (Joe) Felton. His is Jan. 22.

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Belated: Still not too late to send happy birthday hellos in the direction of John McNair. It was Jan. 12.

He's the interior decorator of 907 N. Appleton.

Many know him and his wife, Hannah, as the parents of six (5 girls and a boy.).

One daughter, Mrs. William E. Brown (Hannah), should likewise get birthday greetings this month. (Jan. 23 is her day) Her address: 819 N. Appleton.

Wedding anniversary cards (Jan. 17) for the John H. Murphys Jr. (Marie) on Jan. 17. Couple your hellos for him with get - well wishes, and for her with birthday candles.

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Orchids to the Hob Nobs Charity and Savings Club.

Members gave a New Year's Eve Charity Ball and their guests helped them collect food and canned goods for the Anna Mae Hunter Home for the Blind.

Johnnie Bland is president of the club. Members: Ernest A. Shields, James Hoover, James Chambers, Arthur Wall, James Mosley and Daniel Williams.

Treat in store tonight (Friday): — A talent program presented by the Myra Grand Chapter, Order Eastern Star at the Willard W. Allen Temple, 8 p.m.

Music, readings and modern dance will be featured.

Star attraction: Charlene Moore, a D.C. music teacher, and the chapter's first princess matron.

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Memorable words: The Rev. Perry M. Tilman, pastor, Trinity AME Church, speaking at funeral services for Mrs. Cecil Gloster (Florence): "She left an afterglow of hope and faith . . . and in the tradition of her mother, (Mrs. Minnie L. Gaines), for whom our Sunshine Circle is named, she spread sunshine wherever she went . . "

And, the Rev. W. P. Mitchell, former pastor of Trinity: "I will never forget the words of encouragement she gave me when I was pastor. . ."

Lovely too, the musical tributes by Mrs. Marie Fraser.

And, wasn't the large crowd which filled Law Funeral Home impressive!

Also visiting us: Otto McClarrin, the public relations exec, who lives in D. C., with his wife and two youngsters.

Mrs. Mc is the former Justine Morsell of Baltimore, she teaches in D. C. schools. Youngsters are Vaughn Otto, 18; and Lynn, 13.

By the Way, Mr. McClarrin recently buried his mother in Philadelphia.

She was Mrs. Geneva McClarrin Daniels, wife of Arthur Daniels, and an accomplished seamstress.

She was a native of Greenwood, S. C. Funeral was at Mt. Zion Methodist Church in Philly on Dec. 5.

P.S. — The McClarrins will be among hosts at the Inaugural Ball at the Armory next week.

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Baltimore's own Dr. Lillie M. Jackson, her daughter Mrs. Juanita Mitchell and her daughter-in-law, Mrs. Clarence Mitchell 3rd, will be among those in attendance at the Jan. 18 reception for Distinguished Ladies at the National Gallery of Art in D.C.

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Early birds are members of the Solamente Nas Club.

They are taking bookings now for vacation tours to Miami and Nassau next August.

Mrs. Inez Johnson and Mrs. Jeannette Spriggs are handling details.

★PEOPLE, PLACES, THINGS★

New citizen: It's a girl for the Vernon Sheffeys, 3309 Leighton Ave.

Many know Mrs. Sheffey as Dr. Ruthe Turner Sheffey, the Morgan assistant professor of English, and Mr. Sheffey as the field supervisor for the state department of public welfare.

Baby weighed a hefty 7 pounds, 11½ ounces when she arrived Dec. 26 at Hopkins Hospital.

She's been named Renata Gabrielle. Oldest child, Ilona, 8, is pleased at her new baby doll."

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It's twins for Mr. and Mrs. Alexander Spence. (Violet), of N. Milton Ave.

They arrived at Hopkins Hospital on January 7, have been named Carletha and Carlos.

Mr. Spence is a machine operator at the Western Electric Company. There are three other Spence Children, Lawrence, 12; Lynda, 6 and David 4.

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82nd birthday candle Today (Friday, Jan. 15) for Mrs. Ellen (Muzzy) Mason, 319 N. Calhoun St.

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Cuff note: Out in Columbus, Ohio, Robert C. Blackburn, 44, former deputy bailiff of the Dayton Municipal Court, made news.

He was sworn in as state senator to replace Sen. John C. Smith (D.), who resigned to become county commissioner.

Mr. Blackburn was the selection Baltimoreans would be interested because the new senator is a Morgan grad. Classmates remember him as 'Groovy.'

Prayers of the week

Our Heavenly Father, teach us to live without strain.

We confess that many of the things we worry about never happen.

Teach us to take our days one at a time, knowing that each day brings us so much to do and to enjoy that we can not use all of it.

Fill our hearts with faith and hope and love. Permit us to stand before Thee now, knowing Thou hast given us strength and endurance for whatever tasks Thou has given to us.

Amen.

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Oh Lord, help us not to be in a hurry to get on without Thee.

We pray that we shall take Thee into account in all that we think and say and do, so that we may come daily into Thy presence with boldness, and Thou will not be ashamed of us.

Nor let us be impatient but having prayed, wait for Thy answer. Amen.

Mainstream

Mr. B., Etc.

By RALPH MATTHEWS, JR.

Whoever went upside Billy Eckstine's head and torso with blackjacks last week neither loved music nor respected history.

Billy Eckstine, as youngsters who might have caught him for the first time on Ed Sullivan's show Sunday discovered, is the fountainhead from which most younger singers have sprung.

What must be further appreciated about Eckstine, aside from his robust singing style, is the enormous amount of musical talent he has worked with, helped and promoted over the years.

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AN ORCHESTRA headed by Eckstine in the Forties was the first modern jazz band and its members read like a who's who of American music.

It is not properly understood that Eckstine, then the teen-agers' idol, was not only a singer but a serious musician. Not the best trumpeter Mr. B. nevertheless had an enthusiasm for musicianship few singers being supreme egotists, ever muster.

"Stine" could have made it as a single long before he got out of the band business but his reluctance to do so is understandable.

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MUSICOLOGISTS are agreed there was never a band like Eckstine's before or since. What a group it was!

It included trumpeters Dizzy Gillespie, Fats Navarro and Benny Harris.

Charlie Parker was its first alto saxophonist.

Gene Ammons and Dexter Gordon were the tenorists.

Jay Jay Johnson was featured trombonist.

John Lewis, of Modern Jazz Quartet fame, was pianist and principal arranger (with Gillespie).

And who substituted for Fats Navarro as second trumpeter? Miles Davis, that's who. Miles was then a high school senior when the Eckstine unit found him (or he them) in St. Louis.

I learned a great deal about the Eckstine contribution to modern music from the late baritone saxophonist Leo Parker (Mad Lad) who was the baby of the orchestra, having joined Mr. B's group when he was 17 years old.

I learned for example that Max Roach, the premier drummer, had joined the group during one of Blakey's absences but headed back to New York immediately when he learned that the band was booked for a Southern tour.

Even then, the militant Max was not about to put up with any jim crow.

"We all starved together," was something Leo Parker said often about the years with Mr. B. "But there was so much music going on it didn't matter."

Most of the stories about Charlie Parker were true. Yes. He was on drugs then and would fall asleep on the bandstand. It was Leo's duty to try and keep "Bird" awake during a performance.

"Bird would nod out," said the Lad, "and I would nudge him when it came time for his solo and he would snap out of it and stand up and play something so fantastic it stunned you."

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THEN THERE were those Southern tours. Leo said the band bus would roll through Dixie and pull up in some small town for a dance.

They used tobacco warehouses as dance halls. They would remove all the bundles of leaves and then they would drive about 20 cars up on all sides of this barn and turn on the car lights.

"The light shining through the wood siding would be the only light for the dance. We often read our music by car headlights."

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ECKSTINE'S crew grew quite tough on these Dixie tours.

"We'd be playing some swinging music," recalled Leo, "and on the dance floor some sharecropper would stab another right in the middle of a tune and they'd just drag the wounded cat off the floor and keep right on dancing."

White Southerners from miles around would also turn out to hear the band. According to Leo Parker, some warehouses and dance halls in the Carolinas had balcony or loft arrangements where the whites sat up high "while the colored partied down below."

Leo was inclined to dramatics but his most hair-raising incident in the Eckstine, Southern tours was when they arrived in a Deep Dixie town and were greeted by the sheriff who said in friendly fashion: "Welcome boys, hope y'all play real good tonight. The dance lets out at midnight and any one of you I see on the street after 12:30 I am gonna shoot straight through the head."

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THAT NIGHT, America's greatest musicians played with one eye on their music charts and the other on the clock.

"We hit the last note at midnight," Eckstine's baritone player said. "Stine collected the bread and we were on the highway five minutes later. Max Roach knew what he was doing when he refused this tour."

Like I said whoever slugged Stine had no respect for our history — they were hitting one of the men who gave his all for our music at a time (less than 20 years ago) when a colored musician's life was not worth a plugged nickel.