Future finally looks bright for young Lester Williams

By J. ERNN ALLEN

Lester Williams is a happy young man.

He has friends; a job which he likes — though it doesn't pay much—and he is going to get married at the end of this month.

None of this would be particularly unusual for many young men, but for Mr. Williams, his happiness is little short of a miracle.

• • •

ONLY A COUPLE of years ago, he had completely written himself off as a member of society and was resigned to spending the rest of his life locked up in a cell.

In his own words: "I didn't care whether I came back out into civilization or not."

That was at the Patuxent Institute for Defective Delinquents, where he had been sent because officials at the Maryland State reformatory thought he was too much of a problem for them to handle.

This week, in a Community Action Agency Center whose director helped him find his present job, the 25-year-old former incorrigible delinquent told the AFRO the story of how one man's faith in him helped him "get back."

HIS TROUBLE started when his family and settled in East Baltimore.

"I was having trouble with my eyes, and in school they would call me 'black, cross-eyed and countrified', and I would fight them every time they said that.

"As I grew up, I won more fights than I lost, and I got a reputation, and then I had to fight.

"I was living in Southeast Baltimore, and if you got a reputation there, you've got to maintain it or get off the streets. I didn't want to get off the streets.

"It got so I was fighting just about every day. I would get in a fight quick, and I was so fast when I was fighting, they called me 'Lightning.' I liked to have a reputation."

• • •

"LIGHTNING" WILLIAMS never got past the 7th grade at School No. 451, and when he was 16 he was sent to the Maryland State Reformatory for six years for purse snatching and breaking into stores. Life at the reformatory began pretty much as life outside had ended, Mr. Williams recalled.

"I thought I was tough, but there were the toughest of the tough in jail. Whenever there was someone else with a reputation, I was looking for a fight."

• • •

IN ADDITION, there was a new problem.

"I was extremely prejudiced, and I had never associated with white people before. I believed that all white people were bad, and I didn't trust any of them."

What with fighting to keep his reputation, and hating white boys for racial reasons, he spent about two years — off and on—of his time in the reformatory locked up in a cell by himself.

• • •

IN 1962, officials had had enough and sent him to Patuxent, the dead end for delinquents in Maryland.

He hadn't been there long again, and this time he was locked up in isolation indefinitely.

He spent 18 straight months in a cell, being let out for exercise once every two or three days, and it was during this period that his attitude began to change — mainly through the efforts of Dr. Giovanni Croce, the psychiatrist, who took over his case.

• • •

MR. WILLIAMS said patience and faith in the man all others — and even himself — had given up on were the qualities that finally enabled Dr. Croce to "break through the shield."

"For three months, he kept trying to talk to me, even though I wouldn't speak to him at all.

"He was extremely nice, and would give me cigarettes, books to read, paper to write paints because he knew I liked to paint. He gave me anything I wanted, just like a father.

• • •

"AFTER A WHILE I found myself talking to him without realizing it. I would call out to him when he was walking by, and ask him something, and we would start to talk.

"We talked about the way I felt about the lockup, and he gave me the inside tip on what to do to get out, how I had to be on good behavior, and do well in group therapy.

"In the private sessions, we talked about my family, and how the trouble started. After a while I got to like him, and I wasn't so pent up and mistrustful of everybody.

"He showed me it is good to talk out your problems instead of bottling them up inside, and I got along fine.

"I get angry sometimes, but it's ordinary. It's not something that I'm afraid of, that will cause me to do the things I did in the past.

"I had the feeling that he only thing I needed was a rescue job. I have a home, friends, and a girl I want to marry. Now I have a job."

• • •

AS MR. WILLIAMS left the center to go to work after the interview, he turned to the staff members and said, "If you all don't come to my wedding, I'm not going to speak to you."

But it wasn't fight talk. There, was a big, confident smile on his face.

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Two flee honor jail in Raleigh

RALEIGH, N.C. (UPI) — Two felons climbed a fence and escaped from an honor grade prison unit Tuesday night.

A prison department stolen goods spokesman identified the escapees as Morris L. Harris, 30, of Chapel Hill, and Wilbur Ladson, 27, of Winston-Salem.

Harris was serving a life sentence for first degree burglary. Ladson was serving 4-5 years for storebreaking, larceny, and receiving

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WANTADS

TO PLACE YOUR CLASSIFIED AD THE MAGIC TELEPHONE NUMBER IS MU. 5-6015

Father's Day Tributes

ALLEN — A Father's Day Tribute in memory of our father, ALBERT J., who passed away December 20, 1961.
The Prayer we'll make on Father's Day
Is that God will give you, too
Still more and more of all the joys
We had, dear dad, because of you.
DEVOTED CHILDREN

BOOKER — A Father's Day Tribute in memory of my husband, HARVEY H., who passed away March 13, 1966:
Lovingly treasured
How I miss your presence here
Home and world for those you cherish
Have darkened since your passing dear.
LOVING WIFE—LESSIE.

BOOKER — A Father's Day Tribute in memory of our father, HARVEY H., who passed away March 13, 1966:
Since we lost dear father
days
You were our pal and friend
We always knew you were someone
On whom we could depend
Someone to count on for advice
And loving praise as well.
We hope you will hear our Father-er's Day wish
Rest in peace and farewell.
Dad, you sure were swell.
LOVING CHILDREN
ELEANORA, ROBERT, BERNARD and JEAN.

BRUNSON — A Father's Day Tribute in memory of our father, SPENCER L., SR., who passed away June 18, 1955:
Our kind and loving father,
We think of you today,
And recall the happy hours,
Ere the day you passed away.
Never shall your memory fade
And although we miss you so,
We are waiting till we also
Leave this world of strife and woe.
ELLEN, BRENDA and SPENCER, JR.

BURGESS — A Father's Day Tribute to father and grandfather, WILEY, who passed away July 19, 1962:
Father thou wast mild and lovely
Gentle as the summer breeze
Pleasant as the air of evening
When it floats among the trees.
Peaceful be thy silent slumber,
Peaceful in the grave so low
Thou no more will join our number
You no more our songs shall know
Yet again we hope to meet thee
When the day of life is fled
Then in Heaven with joy to greet thee
Where no farewell tear is shed.
DEVOTED CHILDREN and GRANDCHILDREN

CARR — A Father's Day Tribute in memory of our father, GEORGE A., who passed away November 5, 1950:
Every day is Father's Day
For surely, Father dear
You know of the deep love and affection
We hold for you from year to year.
LOVING CHILDREN
LEROY, MARION, EDITH, JAMES and GEORGE.

CLAIBORNE — A Father's Day Tribute in memory of our husband and father, RICHARD, who passed away March 29, 1965:
Loving husband, faithful father,
How we miss your presence here
Home and world for those you cherish
Have darkened since your passing dear.
LOVING WIFE and CHILDREN

CLAYTON — A Father's Day Tribute in memory of our father, ISAIAH, who passed away February 2, 1961:
Gone is the face we loved so dear
Silent is the voice we loved to hear.
Too far away for sight or speech
But not too far for thought to reach.
Sweet to remember him who once was here.
And so, though absent, is just as dear.
DAUGHTERS,
LEANNA SANDERS,
MARY FRAZIER, VERNICE JONES, RUTH CLAYTON.
SONS — RICHARD and PAUL CLAYTON

GRIFFIN — A Father's Day Tribute in memory of our father, ELIJAH, who passed away January 13, 1966:
We always think of Father
Whenever things go wrong.
There's something in his memory
That helps to make me strong.
Oh, what a different world we'd have
If everyone could be
Just a little more like father,
The one God gave to me!
LOVING CHILDREN — MARGARET and NETTIE

HOLLAND — A Father's Day Tribute in memory of our father WALTER McELREE, who passed away July 22, 1965:
The memory of our father, oh, it cometh everywhere
It abideth in the darkness, and it floateth on the air,
It clings to us, it talks to us, through the livelong day
It meets us in our daily task, our household work or play.
That blessed, blessed memory, that dear familiar tone
As her spirit watches still, and communeth with her own.
DEVOTED CHILDREN — RUSSELL, ALLIENE, DOROTHY, CHARLES, ROSIE, SARA, AGNES and DORIS.

JACKSON — A Father's Day Tribute in memory of my husband, LEROY T., SR., who passed away January 13, 1965:
Gone is the face I loved so dear
Silent is the voice I loved to hear
Too far away for sight or speech
But not too far for thought to reach.
Sweet to remember him who once was here;
And who, though absent, is just as dear.
LOVING WIFE—EVA JACKSON

JACKSON — A Father's Day Tribute in memory of our father, LEROY T., SR., who passed away January 13, 1965:
Every day is Father's Day
For surely, Father dear,
You know of the keep love and affection,
We hold for you from year to year.
HIS CHILDREN — LEROY, JR. and DORIS

JOHNSON — A Father's Day Tribute in memory of my husband and my father, BERNIE W., who passed away July 24, 1965:
Gone is the face we loved so dear
Silent is the voice we loved to hear
Too far away for sight or speech
But not too far for thought to reach.
Sweet to remember him who once was here.
And who, though absent, is just as dear.
WIFE — MARY
and DAUGHTER — LORENE

MACKEL — A Father's Day Tribute in memory of our husband and father, LORENZO, who passed away September 27, 1964:
Loving husband, a father,
How we miss your presence here
Home and world for those you cherish
Have darkened since your passing dear.
WIFE — MARY
DAUGHTER — DELORES

WILLIAMS — A Father's Day Tribute in memory of my husband and our father, WALTER, who passed away March 9, 1962:
Loving husband, faithful father,
How we miss your presence here
Home and world for those you cherish.
Have darkened since your passing dear.
WIFE — MARY WILLIAMS and CHILDREN.

MARCUS — A Father's Day Tribute in memory of our husband and father, DAVID, who passed away April 11, 1956:
Remembering you on Father's Day
Our father, we loved so,
Remembering those happy days
We spent going to and fro.
If we could have you back once more
To be with us on Father's Day
Our father, we would cherish them
Till the end of our live-long days.
LOVING WIFE — ERNESTINE and CHILDREN

PEAY — A Father's Day Tribute in memory of my husband and our father, THOMAS, who passed away February 15, 1963:
I always think of father
Whenever things go wrong
There's something in his memory
That helps to make me strong.
Oh, what a different world we'd have
If everyone could be
Just a little more like father,
The one God gave to me!
WIFE — MAGGIE PEAY and CHILDREN.

ROY, SR. — A Father's Day Tribute to the memory of our father, CLARENCE E., who passed away April 15, 1950:
Remembering you on Father's Day
Our father, we loved so,
Remembering those happy days
We spent going to and fro.
If we could have you back once more
To be with us on Father's Day
Our father, we would cherish them
Till the end of our live-long days.
SONS AND DAUGHTERS.

SMITH — A Father's Day Tribute to our father and father-in-law, WILLIAM J. SMITH, who passed away January 20, 1943:
We do not forget you, nor do we intend.
We think of you often, and will to the end.
Gone and forgotten by some you may be
But dear to our memory you will ever be.
ALBERT J. and SARAH B. SMITH.

SNOWDEN — A Father's Day Tribute to the memory of our father, WILLIAM R. SNOWDEN, who passed away April 8, 1966:
We do not need a special day.
To bring you to our mind
The days we do not think of you
Are very hard to find.
If all this world were ours to give,
We'd give it, yes and more
To see the face of our dear father
On this Father's Day more.
LOVING SONS MAURICE and RICHARD.

SOMERVILLE — A Father's Day Tribute to the memory of my husband and our father, THOMAS SOMERVILLE, who passed away December 31, 1956:
When the evening shades are fallen
And we are sitting all alone,
In our hearts there comes a longing
If you only could come home.
Oh, what we would give to do so
To our grave so far away.
Where we laid you, dearest husband and father.
Five years ago today.
WIFE — MARY SOMMERVILLE and CHILDREN.

TRUSTY — A tribute of love to the memory of my dearest husband, CLIFFORD, who passed away October 1, 1963:
Sleep on dear father.
It has been long years.
Since you left my heart
Filled with sadness and tears
You was a heart that was lonesome and gay
Scattering sunshine all along the way.
We know how I loved you,
And yes love you yet.
Some day we will look for you from me,
I cannot forget.
DEVOTED SON — LAWRENCE SMITH

WALLACE — A Father's Day Tribute in memory of our father, JAMES E. SR., who passed away May 24, 1964:
Somewhere above this troubled world
Beyond all grief and care,
Our father rests in Heavenly peace.
God grant some day we'll meet him there.
CHILDREN — LUCILLE ANDERSON, EUNICE WATERS, JAMES WALLACE, JR., LESTER WALLACE, HELEN MACHALL and GRANDCHILDREN

WASHINGTON — A Father's Day Tribute in memory of my father and my husband, ISAIAH, who passed away February 14, 1964:
He hangeth from his dear cross
His child and his wife
Whom he willingly toiled for
And loved as his life.
DEVOTED DAUGHTER — ETHEL and WIFE—LILLIAN.

GEORGE L. WILLIAMS
Remembering you on Father's Day
Our father, we loved so,
Remembering those happy days
We spent going to and fro.
If we could have you back once more,
To be with us on Father's Day
Our father, we would cherish them
Till the end of our live—long—days.
WIFE AND CHILDREN.

WILLIAMS — A Father's Day Tribute to the memory of our father, JOHN WILLIAMS, who passed away January 8, 1966:
We always think of Father
Whenever things go wrong,
There's something in his memory
That helps to make us strong.
Oh, what a different world we'd have
If everyone could be
Just a little more like father,
The one God gave to us!
WILBERT—RUTH—LENNIE — CALVIN ROSEMARY — BARBARA — CAROLYN — BRENDA.

WILLIAMS — A Father's Day Tribute in memory of my father, WALTER, who passed away March 6, 1962:
Every day is Father's Day
For surely, Father dear,
You know of the deep love and affection
We hold for you from year to year
SON—LOUIS WILLIAMS.

Acknowledgements

MRS. PEARL L. PENNINGTON
1918 Madison Street
Wishes to express sincere appreciation to everyone who was so thoughtful and kind during my illness. Thanks for your good wishes and prayers; I am fully recovered. "MAY GOD BLESS YOU AND YOURS ALWAYS."

Death Notices

JONES — On June 15, 1966, CORA ROY (Nee — Medley) of 1318 East Madison Street, beloved wife of the late Joshua J. Moody, loving and devoted mother of Melvin G. Roy. Also survived by one Brother, American Roy and other relatives. Friends may view the remains at Johns Funeral Home, 1302 - 1304 North Central Avenue (Funeral on Saturday) at noon from Christ Methodist Church, Chase and Washington Streets. Interment — Mount Auburn Cemetery. Family will receive friends on Friday from 5 to 10 p.m. No viewing after services.

In Memoriams

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The family of the late THOMAS BOYD, wishes to express its gratitude to the many friends, neighbors, the Reverend Tover, the choir of Mount Calvery Stat Baptist Church and all organizations for their expressions of sympathy at home and at the church, and for the beautiful floral tributes during its recent bereavement. Also gratitude for the splendid services of Morticians Morton and Dyett.
THE BOYD FAMILY

GREEN — In loyal memory of my loved ones, who passed to the Great Beyond:
Mother — JENNIE A. — June 21, 1938
Father — JOHN C. — January 17, 1948
Sister — RUTH V. — June, 19, 1938
Do not ask me if I miss you
There is such a vacant place.
Oh! I think I hear your footsteps,
And see your smiling faces.
Days of sadness still come over me,
Tears in silence often flow.
Memory keeps you ever near me,
Though you left me many years ago.
LOVING AND DEVOTED DAUGHTER and SISTER — JANET GREEN SPENCE.

JEFFERSON — In loving memory of our husband, father and grandfather, JAMES, who passed away June 19, 1965:
No one knows how much we miss you,
No one knows the bitter pain
We have suffered, since we lost you.
Life has never been the same.
In our hearts your memory lingers
Sweetly, tender, fond and true.
There is not a day, dear loved one,
That we do not think of you.
WIFE, CHILDREN and GRANDCHILDREN

JEFFERSON — In loving memory of our dear mother and our grandmother, JANE E., who passed away June 15, 1950:
As years roll on and days go by,
Loving memories never die.
In our hearts a memory is kept,
Of one we will never forget.
DAUGHTER — VONZELLA J. FORD and GRANDCHILDREN

JOHNSON — In loving memory of my husband and our brother, OLIVER N., who passed away June 17, 1964:
Nothing but memories as we journey on.
Longing for a smile from a loved one gone.
None knows the depths of our deep regret,
But we remember and will never forget.
LOVING WIFE — GERALDINE
SISTER — ALICE
BROTHERS — AMBROSE, STANLEY, REUBEN

Mr. and Mrs. Charles McDowell and family wish to express their gratitude to friends, neighbors and organizations for floral designs, comfort given and sympathy expressed in every way during their recent bereavement at the passing of their loved one, GREGORY L. McDOWELL. Special thanks to the Mortician for his service and assistance.
THE McDOWELL FAMILY

MORTON — In loving memory of my wife and our mother, LILLIE A., who passed away June 18, 1965:
I remember you dear, while there's life in my heart.
And tho' God in His wisdom has torn us apart;
In your home up in Heaven you must know that I'm true
To the love and esteem that was only for you.
And I pray, that when life for me comes to an end,
I will meet you in Heaven, my own dearest friend.
My friend and my sweetheart, my one dearest love,
God keep you and guard you in Heaven above.
LOVING HUSBAND — THOMAS MORTON, SR. and SONS

PARKER — In loving memory of my wife, ADA E. PARKER, who passed away June 20, 1961:
Loving and kind in all her ways,
Upright and just to the end of her days.
Sincere and true, in her heart and mind,
Beautiful memories she left behind.
Husband — PERCY PARKER

TATE — In loving memory of my beloved husband, and our dear father, JAMES W., who passed away June 20, 1962:
A light is from our household gone
A voice we loved is stilled,
A place is vacant in our home,
Which never can be filled.
Some may think you are forgotten,
Though on earth you are no more,
But in memory you are with us,
As you always were before.
LOVING WIFE and CHILDREN

WHIRLEY — In loving memory of my dear wife, MARY B. WHIRLEY, who passed away June 14, 1964:
Today my heart is heavy,
My thoughts are all of thee
Oh, how I miss you, MARY dear,
None but God in Heaven can see.
Some say times heals an aching heart,
But, no, it isn't true.
For two long years have passed, dear,
And my heart still aches for you.
HUSBAND — JOHN WHIRLEY.

WILKERSON — In loving memory of our beloved wife, mother and grandmother, JESSIE GRAY WILKERSON, who departed this life June 18, 1957:
We miss you now, our hearts are sore
As time goes by, we miss you more;
Your loving place, your gentle face.
No one can fill your vacant place.
HUSBAND — McKINLEY WILKERSON
DAUGHTER and SON-IN-LAW — EUNICE and HEZEKIAH JAMES
GRANDCHILDREN — MARTIN, JAMES and JEROME WILLIAMSON.

WILSON — In loving memory of our son, ROBERT GARRETT, who passed away June 21, 1964:
Some day time will heal the heart,
But, no it isn't true.
For one long year has passed
And our hearts still ache for you.
THE WILSON FAMILY

In Memoriams

WILSON — In loving memory of our sister, FANNIE, who passed away June 18, 1964:
Sunshine passes, shadows fall,
Leave some memory to all.
And though the years be many or few
They are filled with remembrance dear of you.
LOVING SISTER and BROTHERS

Card of Thanks

MARY FRANCES BROWN
We wish to thank our many friends for the kindness shown during the passing of our beloved wife, June 4, 1966. Special thanks to Father Joe Crosby and St. Katherine's Episcopal Church, Rev. Marion C. Bascom and the following organizations: The Guide Memorial Church — Ladies Guild, Circle 34, Climbing Ivy, Pleasant Board, Parsonage Aid, Women's Christian Fellowship, Credit Union, Education Committee, Rev. and Mrs. E. A. Jones and the many friends of Bethel Baptist Church, Rev. Austin of Saint Andrews Methodist Church. We will long remember the devotion of the members and the staff of the Bureau of Public Health Nursing who ministered faithfully to their stricken co-worker and the devotion of Mrs. Thelma Byrd, R.N. who regularly attended Mrs. Brown though not a member of the Department of Public Health Nursing.
In Gratitude,
ROY C. BROWN
ROY C. BROWN, II
ARTHUR and CHRISTINE SHARPS
DOROTHY B. BROOKS

CARRIA CORBIN
Our heartfelt thanks to all who extended comforting sympathy and help in our recent sorrow. For the beautiful service, floral offerings and other kindness, we are deeply grateful.
THE FAMILY.

CROWDER — The family of the late JODIE CROWDER wishes to express its gratitude to the many friends, neighbors, the Rev. John F. Crummedy, the choir of Sweet Hope Baptist Church and all organizations for their expressions of sympathy at home and at the church, and for the beautiful floral tributes during its recent bereavement. Also gratitude for the splendid services of Mortician Wainwright.
THE CROWDER FAMILY.

BRICE FISHER
Our heartfelt thanks to all who extended comforting sympathy and help in our recent sorrow. For the beautiful service, floral offerings and other kindness, we are deeply grateful.
THE FISHER FAMILY.

The family of late MR. BENNIE HATCHER, wishes to express their appreciation for the use of cards, cars, telegrams and all other kindness extended to them during their recent bereavement. Special thanks to the Morton and Dyett Funeral Home for their efficient and courteous service.
WIDOW, MRS. ELLA HATCHER and FAMILY
MRS. E. RUTH JAMES, DAUGHTER

GEORGE C. JEFFERSON
To those who expressed their sympathy in so many beautiful and practical ways during our recent bereavement, we extend our heartfelt thanks.
THE JEFFERSON FAMILY.

BERNARD JOHNS
We wish to thank our neighbors, friends and relatives for their acts of love, expressions of sympathy and flowers during the recent loss of our beloved brother.
THE JOHNS FAMILY

VERNON KEMP MARTIN
Thanks to our relatives, friends, neighbors and Morician Herbert Norton for expressions of sympathy and assistance during our recent bereavement at the passing of our husband and father. Also for the beautiful flowers and use of cars. "We cannot, Lord, The purpose see, But all is well that's done by Thee."
THE MARTIN FAMILY

JEANNETTE MOORE
We wish to thank our friends and neighbors for their every act of sympathy and respect shown during the illness and death of our son and daughter. Also for the beautiful flowers.
THE JULIUS and MOORE FAMILIES

LILLIAN PIERCE
Words cannot adequately express our deep appreciation for the many kind and sympathetic acts that came to us at the time of our recent bereavement.
MRS. PEARL WATERS and FAMILY

WATKINS — The family of the late ADA C. WATKINS wishes to express its gratitude to the Rev. Sidney Daniels, associate minister, Rev. Grant of St. John's A.M.E. Church and the Pastor and members of Mt. Zion A.M.E. Church. Also the many friends, neighbors and organizations for the floral designs, cards, telegrams and other expressions of sympathy and comfort given during this recent bereavement. Special thanks to Morticians Morton and Dyett for their splendid service.
CHARLES E. WELLS and LILLIAN JONES.

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