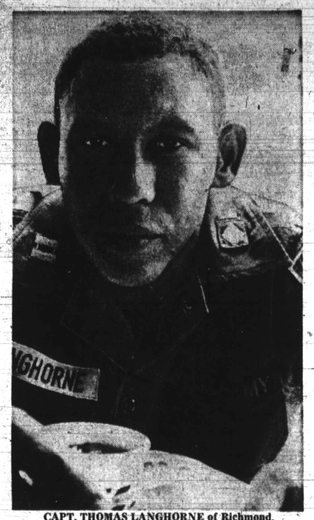
AFRO'S MIKE DAVIS SEES OUR MEN IN VIETNAM

PFC. VELDON PARHAM, 22-year-old Baltimorean photographed in Tan Son Khut. Told Afro's Davis 'I'm doing fine.'

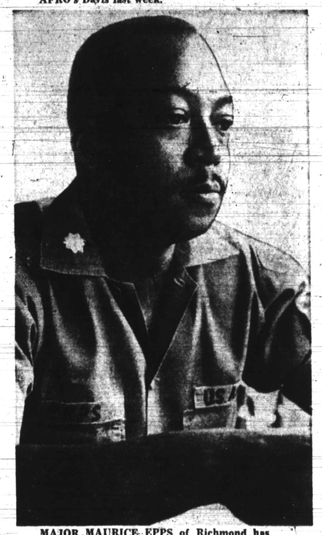
MILITARY POLICEMAN Johnnie Thomas of Detroit attracted attention of AFRO Correspondent Mike Davis in South Vietnam. He is a picture in his helmet with his .45 by his side.



CAPT. THOMAS LANGHORNE of Richmond, Va., in Vietnam for ten months, plans to make Army a career. 'I am doing fine,' he told the AFRO's Davis last week.

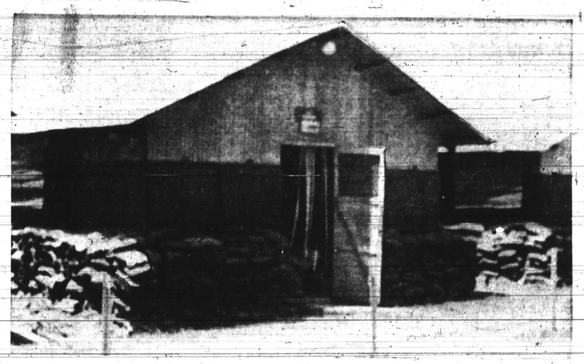
PVT. Clarence Frazier, St. Petersburg, Fla., is attached to 98th Transportation Detachment in Vietnam.

MERCY MISSION—Medical air evacuation chopper whirls in to Tan Son Khut with wounded who are transported to Third Field Army Hospital. Inset, AFRO's Mike Davis, Vietnam correspondent who took photos on this page.



MAJOR MAURICE EPPS of Richmond has 14 years in Army to his credit, has been on duty in Vietnam five months. The 35-year-old officer hopes to be home soon.

AIRMAN 2/c Benjamin Caspers of Charleston, S.C., was taking a breather from action when the AFRO spied him.



HIT SAND — Sand-bagged building like this in Tan Son Nhut, South Vietnam, are hit daily by enemy fire, reports AFRO's Davis.

ALL AFRO PHOTOS ON THIS PAGE BY MIKE DAVIS

SGT. BILLY IVIE of Detroit, typical of thousands of youngsters serving in Vietnam.

D. C. OFFICERS — Sgts Ellious Lee, 30; Maurice Dorsey, 26; and Emanuel Griffith, 35, all of Washington. They told AFRO's Davis servicemen in Vietnam need more entertainment from the states. Youngster is Vietnamese.

SP/5 JOSEPH SCOTT, Suffork, Va. photographed on Vietnam air strip. He's a 1961 graduate of Morgan State College.

ALTHEA ON GOLF: 'DIFFICULT, DEVILISH'

By SAM LACY

In the mind of the youngster in school, D's represent something frightful. . . He thinks only in terms of being deficient in a given subject and, therefore, ripe for flunking. . . Althea Gibson Darben has her own interpretation of the world of D's, and her collection is wrapped up lock, stock and barrel in golf. . . According to the former world tennis queen, golf is a game that is difficult, demanding, disciplinary, devilish and divine.

SAM LACY

Actually, Althea doesn't use the entire lot of adjectives put down here, but her reaction to the game covers them all. . . It is A to Z's exercise of the writer's license to interpret that leads to borrowing from Mrs. Darben's vocabulary. . . For example, she calls the game "great" instead of saying "divine," but her tremendous enthusiasm for golf might easily be translated into any word running the gamut between dejection and delirium.

"This," says Althea, "is a great game. . . Jackie Robinson told me years ago that golf is unlike anything he had ever played. . . He warned me that if ever I decide to try it, all the other games would suffer in comparison. . . Jackie was right, and just about every other athlete I know feels the same way about it."

Unlike tennis

There was the time when tennis was Mrs. Darben's whole life. . . as Althea Gibson, the proverbial tomboy from Harlem, she literally went to bed at night and awoke in the morning with a racquet tucked to her breast. . . What is it about one that has brought about the change in her attitude toward the other?

"The two games are about as different as football and checkers," says today's tourning lady golf professional. . . Tennis is a game of anticipation, golf is a game of concentration. . . In tennis, your work at perfecting your strokes to have them ready when you are called upon to use one or another of them. . . When you go into a match, much of your success depends upon your ability to outguess your opponent. . . You try to anticipate where he is going to attempt to pass you or throw you off balance, then you make every effort to figure in advance where he plans to protect the court on your return volley. . . Strategy, based on the anticipated moves of the other player, and the ability to execute the stroke that suits the occasion, combine to make a tennis winner.

"Golf isn't anything like tennis. . . nor, for that matter, is it like any other sport. . . It is the only game of major popularity that you can play in which it makes no difference what your opponent does, he cannot prevent you from executing. . . There's no pitcher trying to keep you from hitting the ball, nobody to catch it on the fly to frustrate you. . . There's no big end to tackle you to prevent your advance of the ball, nobody to kick it out of your reach. . . There's no guard or backcourt man to try to take your ball away from you and give it to someone else. . . And there's no goaltender with a lot of padding to jump in front of your ball as it heads toward the hole.

Wind up cussing

"Golf is a game in which you play against yourself, and yourself alone. . . That is why so much emphasis is laid on the importance of concentration. . . You learn the feel of your clubs and how to use them in situations calling for complete control. . . And learning these things takes long hours of demanding effort, and a sort of discipline that enables you to shut out the whole world. . . .

"It is really a game that can be described as difficult and demanding and one that requires rigid discipline. . . It can be truly devilish at times, when you study a given shot, bend over your ball and swing, and it does none of the things you intended, or thought it would do. . . That's when you stand up and try to explain to yourself that you didn't keep your eye on the ball, you lifted your shoulders too quickly, you turned your body too fast, or your did one of the countless number of things you shouldn't do.

"But the explanations are meaningless. . . you wind up cussing yourself anyway."

Pattern of pro

Althea was in Baltimore last weekend, competing in the $30,000 Lady Carling Golf tournament at the rugged Pine Ridge Course. . . She was five strokes off the leader, former women's National Open champion Carol Mann, after the opening round. . . This is one of nine stops the New Jersey housewife will make during the tournament circuit.

In playing the major golf wheel, pros follow a set pattern. . . Instead of permitting themselves to be concerned with the progress of other contestants they fix their minds on "matching the course". . . For the benefit of the uninformed, all golf courses have predetermined pars. . . These "pars" are based on a judgment of how many strokes should be required to negotiate the hold from the tee-off to the final putt into the cup. . . The length of the hole is the major factor considered as to whether or not a player should need three, four of five strokes to get the ball down. . . There are times, however, when obstructing trees, intervening lakes or streams and other natural hazards, are calculated to make play more difficult.

By adding these various "pars," a total is reached that represents "par" for the 18-hole course. . . Sometimes the course "par" is 70, sometimes 72, etc.

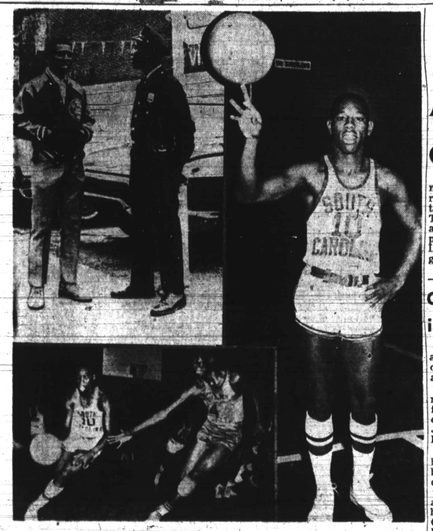
Any size, sex, age

So, when a pro seeks to "match the course," the idea is to play the 18 holes and make the "par" figure a maximum target. . . If one "matches the course," it will require superior golf to beat him. . . That is why he commences play with a minimum of concern over the performances of other players in the field.

As the tournament progresses, of course, the pro becomes conscious of what the others are doing, then sets about "beating the course," as the saying goes. . . He who beats it best, beats the competition.

People I know have recommended many things in their search for a form of recreation that is both relaxing. . . and challenging. . . Fishing, billiards, swimming, wadding . . . I've tried them all. . . For any size, sex or age, there's nothing like golf," Mrs. Darben says.

A to Z



PHILLY PHENOM — South Carolina State's Bobby Lewis, doing a neat ball-balancing trick, night, tabbed by Southern sportswriters as possibly the greatest court star in collegiate ranks, is currently participating in an international BB tourney in Madrid, Spain. The former Philadelphia John Bartram High star, a hot pro prospect, in the bottom photo (1), No. 10, displays the dazzling type of action that sparked SCS to the 1966 SIAC conference title. Upper left, Lewis chats with a friend, Philadelphia Patrolman Ronald Reese, a few days before leaving for Madrid. Reese is an alumnus of Winston-Salem State Teachers.

Biggest 'little' man in basketball poised on doorsteps of the pros

By BOB QUEEN
(AFRO Staff Correspondent)

PHILADELPHIA, Pa. — Back in 1955, the Marian Anderson Center Pee Wee basketball team, between halves of a Philadelphia Warriors pro game at Convention Hall, lost a game to the Greenwich Center Pee Wee's but the pro fans took a decided fancy to the littlest Pee Wee of the Anderson team and his court savvy.

In 1966, a decade later, the pee wee among other pee wees was still the "littlest" player and sparkplug of the South Carolina State Southern Intercollegiate Athletic Conference champions and currently a member of the U.S. AAU basketball team competing in an international tourney in Barcelona, Spain.

He is Bobby Lewis, 21-year-old former Philadelphia John Bartram High star, in that year of '55, he cut his basketball teething rings under the guidance of Pee Wee Coach Matt Kearney.

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IT WAS Kearney who inspired him and set him off on a basketball-dedicated course, and Bobby states, and as of now it was a course that has him situated as a hot pro prospect. Said Westlevan Coach Bob Strong during the 1966 NCAA tourney held at North Carolina College: "He plays like Bob Cousy — he's one of the best you'll ever see with the cute stuff."

It may be that he has the same first name as one of basketball's greatest little men in the last quarter century, by season of late — but it just happened to be the name selected for the youngest of two brothers and three sisters by his parents, Christopher and Catherine Lewis of 911 S. 19th St., Philadelphia.

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THE "CUTE STUFF" referred to by coach Strong, is a deftness in ball-handling that has been the earmarks of a handfull of basketball players, most current example, the Philly 76ers' Wally Jones.

Fans in collegiate circles a few years ago recall the ball-handling abilities of Lincoln University's Ernie Jones, a Trenton High School product now teaching in Elizabeth, N.J. And of course, there is the never-to-be-forgotten Cousy.

The kind of play executed by Bobby Lewis is not to be construed as the "showy" stuff, but rather a natural flexibility and far above average reflexes. A Philly sportswriter simply explained it this way after a Quaker City high school tournament:

"Besides passing that is fantastic, Lewis is a noted ball-stealer and possessor of electric reflexes."

In the Barcelona tourney, Lewis plays with an American team, all of whose members are under six-feet — a concession in deference to the teams from Poland, France, Brazil and other nations that look upon the coterie of American super tall stars as an advantage.

He is playing under one of the masters of the U.S. collegiate coaches, John B. McClendon, former coach at Kentucky and Tennessee State, North Carolina College and Hampton Institute, and currently at Cleveland State University.

Lewis's play between the Warriors' half-time as a pee wee, was just his first atmospheric brush with athletic greatness — for at age 12, about four years later, as one of the Christian St. YMCA achievement award winners, his certificate was handed to him by the Baltimore Colts' Lenny Moore.

Later Lewis was destined to power the Christian St. Y to a city championship under the late Chea Buchanan.

Also at this early age, collecting awards and titles became a habit — and not all basketball. He was one of 12 Christian St. branch youths receiving the Red Triangle Award — this one placed on a beaming little Bobby, by the Phillies pitcher, Robin Roberts.

Bobby's trophy and award collection got off to an early start with such citations as the Philadelphia Urban League good citizenship award and several presentations of awards for table tennis — checkers, and the Marian Anderson Center, sports award.

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FOR THOSE who use statistics as guidelines to performance, the figures surrounding Lewis are extremely formidable considering the tall company he encounters in today's basketball competition.

Averaging 14 points per game at South Carolina State, and a 12.1 average in assists Lewis drew a more emphatic note from Coach Edward Martin whose opinions took on a globe-girdling tone: "He is the best back court man in the world."

Although SC finished 4th in the NCAA mideast-So-Central tourney in 1966, Lewis was named an all-tourney player, with Walker Heard, of Ogle. Corpe; Roger Cordell and Cam Smith, Kentucky Wesleyan and George Tinsly, S.C. State.

SCS had qualified for the NAA tourney by knocking off all its SIAC opponents, at which time, Mr. Lewis from John Bartram High, etc., was named "most valuable player."

ALBANY, Ga. — Bruce H. Forte, Jr., an associate professor of biology at Albany State College, recently received a Master of Teaching Degree in biological science at Brown University.

Ashford All-Star Game Umpire

Assignment in '67 classic another first

ANAHEIM, Cal. — Emmet Ashford, to whom history making is nothing new, established a precedent here Tuesday afternoon when he appeared as one of the umpires assigned to the Major League All-Star baseball game.

The 49-year-old sophomore arbiter was assigned by Commissioner William Eckert to handle one of the four-line positions in the six-man crew working the midsummer inter-league classic.

Emmett was one of three American League officials selected. The others who worked the game were Ed Runge and Lou Dimuro. From the National League, were Frank Secory, Ken Burkhart and Chris Pelekoudas.

ASHFORD, WAS brought up from the Pacific Coast League in 1965, where he had been an umpire for twelve years and umpire-in-chief for the last three of those 12. He was also the first colored umpire in this league. During his final season he was assistant to the league's president, Dewey Soriano.

An all-round athlete in high school in his native Los Angeles and at Chapman College, where he played second base and center field, Ashford played semi-pro ball but never made it in organized baseball as a player.

FOLLOWING HIS graduation from college in 1942 as a journalism major, Ashford went to work as a postal clerk in Los Angeles working in the payroll and finance department. He served in the Navy from 1944 to 1946.

By the time he left the postal service in 1952 to become an umpire in the Arizona-Texas League, he had the responsibility of making up the payroll for 10,000 post office employees in Los Angeles.

Later that year he was named an umpire in the Southwest International League, movinng the next year to the Western International. He joined the Pacific Coast League's umpiring staff in 1954.

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ASHFORD'S LIFE has been a series of "firsts." He was the first to serve as the president of Jefferson High School in Los Angeles and the first to edit a high school paper in that city. He was also the first of his race to be a cashier in a neighborhood supermarket, and when he started out as an umpire, he was the first to hold that job in baseball.

His American League career has been hailed by players and managers alike Emmett and his wife Margaret, who is a reservation clerk for American Air Lines, live in Los Angeles.

EMMETT ASHFORD

Colts sign 3, one is Bubba's brother

The Baltimore Colts have announced the signing of two draft choices and a free agent, all of them colored.

The draftees are third-round pick Norman Davis, from Grambling College and eighth round choice Cornelius Johnson from Virginia Union. Both are guards.

Signed as a free agent was halfback Willie Ray Smith, brother of the Colts' first draft choice, Bubba Smith.

Smith played at Iowa State and Kansas. Last year, he had a trial with the Kansas City Chiefs of the American Football League, but injuries sidelined him in training camp.

Yanks' Bill Robinson suffers hamstring pull

ANAHEIM, Calif. (UPI) — The New York Yankees have announced that rookie outfielder Bill Robinson has been sent back to New York for treatment after suffering a pulled hamstring in a game against the California Angels.

A Yankee spokesman is expected to be out for two weeks.

Cepeda's big bat takes over lead

NEW YORK (UPI) — Orlando Cepeda, the hard-hitting first baseman of the St. Louis Cardinals, banged out 14 hits in 32 at bats last week to take over the National League batting leadership.

The muscular Cepeda, who tops the major leagues in this with 102, boosted his average 10 points to .358 with his torrid spree and surpassed Roberto Clemente of the Pittsburgh Pirates, in the battle for the coveted batting crown.

Clemente raised his average two points from last week and was second with .352.

HANK AARON of the Atlanta Braves, continued to set the pace in home runs with 21, followed by Houston's Jimmy Wynn with 20.

Wynn continued as the runs batted in leader with 63, six more than Aaron.

MEANWHILE, IN in the American League, Harmon Killebrew of the Minnesota Twins, passed the Orioles' injured Frank Robinson in the runs batted in department and now leads in two of the triple crown categories.

Killebrew drove in four runs during the week to increase his season output of 61, and move two ahead of Robinson, who has been sidelined for 11 games with a concussion. The 'Twins' first baseman also leads the league in home runs with 22.

DESPITE HIS idleness, Robinson has kept his grip on the batting leadership with a .337 average. Al Kaline, who is also currently sidelined, remains second with .328 and Minnesota Rookie Rod Carew and Carl Yastrzemski of the Boston Red Sox, were tied for third with .313.

DAYTONA BEACH, Fla. — Second Lieutenant Noble V. Barney, a 1965 graduate of Bethune-Cookman College, has completed training at Keesler AFB, Mississippi as a Air Force electronic computer maintenance officer and is being assigned to McWith Chord AFB, Kash.

Baltimore fishing party clicks after slow start

On Wednesday, July 5, a group of Isaac Walton enthusiasts left Indian River Yacht Basin, Delaware, on route 40 miles out into the Atlantic Ocean in a quest of bluefish, in and around the Delta light ship. The party took out on board the "Fish Hawk," a new twin screw with automatic pilot, and ship-to-shore telephones; and under owner and captain, Frank Badur.

OTHERS IN the crew were Dr. W. R. Dicketson, Attorney Benjamin Brown, Edgar Whittaker and Arthur Reid of Washington, D.C.

Between 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. navy a fish was caught. But, between 1:15 and 4:15, the crew managed to boat 350 pan size blues.

The group is arranging with the captain, on its next trip to go 60 miles out into the ocean where they hope to find blues averaging from 8 to 12 pounds.

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