Weekend holdups take two lives

Three persons died last weekend in two armed hold-ups and a domestic shooting, all in West Baltimore.

The victims:

Herman J. Roberts, 22, 2700 block Edmondson Ave.

Morris Sitzamer, 54, 2300 block Northmont Rd.

Mrs. Cora M. Watkins, 43, 600 block N. Fulton St.

In a fourth incident, homicide detectives are awaiting the results of an autopsy in the "possible accidental death" of 37-year-old Walter J. Hall, 600 block N. Ashburton St., whose body was found Sunday afternoon in Jones Falls, near E. Baltimore St. and Fallsway.

Western District police say Herman Roberts was cut down during an unsuccessful holdup attempt Saturday night at a cut rate store in the 1600 block W. Lanvale.

Phillip R. Weiner, 63, owner of the store, told investigators that he fired "five or six times" at a man who drew a pistol and announced, "This is a stick-up, give me all the money."

The intended victim said he set off a burgler alarm as he stood before his cash register filling a paper bag with miney, then pulled a .38 calibre revolver from his belt and fired as the would-be robber turned and ran.

Police arrived shortly after the 11:15 p.m. incident to find the fatally-wounded man lying inside the store near the entrance.

The 22-year-old shooting victim was pronounced dead at Franklin Square Hospitall at 11:35 p.m.

Police say the dead man was wearng a blue uniform coat belonging to his brother, who is an employee of a private security agency. The slain man was also wearing his brother's badge, police said.

Funeral services will be held in Fayetteville, N.C.

Morris Sitzafer, a grocer widely known in the Fayette-Amity St. area, died from a holdup-man's bullet Saturday night as his wife looked on helplessly.

When Western police arrived at about 5:45 p.m., the wounded man was slumped unconscious behind a meat counter in the rear of the store, supported by his wife Olga.

The victim was dead at Franklin Square Hospital at 6:50 p.m. He had been struck in the chest by one shot.

The suspect, a 19-year-old man sought by police, fired two shots and then fled on foot without taking anything, witnesses told investigators.

The victim was buried Monday in the Chizuk Amunlo Cemetery on Rogers Ave., following 11 a.m. services.

Busy Western police arrested a 53-year-old man early Sunday for the shooting death of Mrs. Cora M. Watkins.

Responding officers found the victim in the kitchen of her Fulton Ave. residence, bleeding from a wound in the upper abdomen.

The woman was pronounced dead on the scene by ambulance attendants at about 12:40 a.m.

Found on a neargy table was a .32 calibre revolver, in which there were two empty catridges, police said.

Funeral arrangements for the slain woman are incomplete.

STRANGERS NO MORE — Volunteer tutors, from Baltimore Life, are showing that attention on a nearly one-to-one basis bears fruit with youngsters from West Baltimore. At one of the weekly sessions, (first picture) Miss Catherine Stones (center) tutors Carolyn Thomas (left) and Denise Thomas (right). In second picture Miss Shirley Fantasie works with Wayne Patterson and Linda Goodman.

Sanitation workers killed in truck-train accident

Two sanitation workers were killed late Saturday afternoon when a commercial garbage truck was sliced in half by a Baltimore and Ohio train near the Rosedale dump in Baltimore County.

The victims were identified by county accident investigators as Robert M. Johnson, 17, 400 block E. 22nd St., and Benjamin Crawford, 32, 3800 block Boarman Ave.

The men were employed by Robb Tyler, Inc.—Crawford as a driver and young Johnson as his helper.

The accident occurred at 6:28 p.m., police said, and the victims were pronounced dead at Johns Hopkins Hospital at 6:53 p.m.

Co-workers who were on the scene after the tragedy said that the cab of the truck was severed from the body, and that the victims were found some distance along the tracks from the wreckage.

Baltimore County police say they do not know at what speed the train was traveling at the time of impact.

Mr. Crawford was a "talented artist" who "loved his artwork very much," his wife, Mrs. Gloria Crawford said yesterday. "He did quite a few paintings and portraits around Baltimore City."

"His heart was in his artwork," she said, "but he never got a chance to make a career of it."

Mrs. Crawford said before they were married her husband had won a scholarship to an art institute, but the scholarship was withdrawn when it was learned he was not white.

Mr. Crawford was also employed by Friends Psychiatric Research, where his wife works as a supervisor for the mentally retarded.

He is survived by his wife and six children, Camille, Deborah, Sherry, Cindy, Marc and Marie.

His body will rest at Melson's funeral home from 7 to 9 p.m. Wednesday. The funeral will be held at Shiloh Baptist Church at 1 p.m. Wednesday.

The family of young Johnson, said Monday that the youth had been working at the job for only two weeks.

Mrs. Ruth Johnson, his mother, related that the accident victim had previously worked in the USO at 1 Charles Center, but had left the position there for more pay.

The youth had earned $80 weekly, his mother said. He was trying to save money to contribute to the family's Christmas holiday before entering the Army in January, relatives stated.

Mrs. Johnson said that heither her son's employer nor the railroad had contacted her in any manner to extend sympathy, as of Monday.

The youth was formerly enrolled in Job Corps and attended Booker T. Wash-

(Continued on Page 25)

Model Cites plan ready for action

Model Cities director Edgar M. Ewing unveiled plans for the Model Cities neighborhoods along with the price tag for the project which has been computed at $10,549,000.

The plan, which will be detailed in a 600-page volume to be released tomorrow (Wednesday), has to meet with city council approval before it goes to the Department of Housing and Urban Development which will fund the project after approval.

Stressing that neighborhood citizens had a voice in planning the Model Cities program and specifying what programs they wanted, Mr. Ewing said that "representatives of all departments of city government worked closely with neighborhood representatives in devising a plan which will enable us to revitalize the inner city and become a model for the cities of the nation."

The final plan has to be approved by the Board of Estimates at a public hearing that will probably be held December 18.

The Model Cities plan includes programs in health, education, housing, recreation, manpower, economic development, sanitation

(Continued on Page 25)

Fire kills 1 man, hurts 3

A machinist was killed yesterday morning and three other men severely burned as fire swept quickly through the Central Products Cirporation's factory in the 1600 block of Braddish St. He has been identified as George Harms, 600 block S. Bruce St.

The fire was reportedly caused when a newly-installed machine, used for the application of highly flammable acetone and other chemical compounds in the manufacture of brake shoes, explided in a rear room of the one-story brick building.

According to witnesses, the fire spread wildly through the other rooms of

(Continued on Page 25)

Volunteer tutors prove barriers can be broken

By ADAM KLINE

"We were strangers when we went into that neighborhood — but now those kids just wait for us every Monday night. They're as anxious to see us as we are to see them."

Mrs. Catherine Sparks, an attractive young woman who heads the Personnel Department at the Baltimore Life Insurance Co., told the AFRO enthusiastically about the extra hours that she and 14 of her fellow employees spend each week tutoring children from the George Murphy Homes development.

Each Monday, "Miss Kitty" and her crew of typists, clerks and stenographers leave work at 4:30 to go to nearby St. Pius Church on Schroeder St., where Father Mulligan has opened his office and other rooms as classrooms for their tutoring program.

There, they are greeted joyfully by their 44 students, children from the George St. area who have come for their weekly reading lessons.

Engaged in the program since September of last year, the young ladies of Baltimore Life Insurance have won the reocgnition of the governor, the state legislature, Mayor D'Alesandro and the Federal Government's Office of Economic Opportunity.

But more important than all that, Mrs. Sparks feels, is the new enthusiasm of 44 children who want so much to learn to read.

It was in September of 1967 that Mrs. Sparks received a phone call from two VISTA volunteers at the Murphy Homes. They wanted to know if some company employees would help them start an after-school teaching project to improve the reading ability — and the learning ability — of the children in the West Baltimore neighborhood.

They had made a list of major companies in downtown Baltimore that have large numbers of employees who might want to help and got response from the first they called.

Mrs. Sparks instantly said "yes" to the proposal and within a week rounded up 30 of her fellow workers who were interested in the project.

"When we started off," she recalls, "none of us had any experience in teaching, and we were a little anxious about it.

"So we talked with the Sisters of Notre Dame, who have a tutoring program for adults in the same development.

"Then we met with Milton Dugger, the principal of George St. Elementary School, and he gave us some very useful advice about what books to use, and how to teach reading.

"With money donated by our company the assistant principal purchased the books for us.

"It was a real rush, like having a psychology course in two hours, but it was worth it — the way those kids responded to us was better than we ever expected. And that's the most important thing."

The volunteers and their young pupils began to meet regularly in the St. Pius V. Church School, at the corner of Edmondson Ave. and Fremont St.

In the spring of this year, however, Provident Hospital bought the school building, which they plan to use as a clinic.

At the church's invitation the project then moved down the street to its present location at the church itself.

During the summer months, excursions to Druid Hill Park and the

(Continued on Page 23)

Harry G. Bragg, 80, son of AFRO co-founder, dies

BALTIMORE

"He was attacked by three thugs on St. Nicholas Ave., last August, right in broad daylight, nobody came, to his defense, he had been ailing ever since then, but he didn't want anyone to worry about him, "he kept telling us he was all right."

Mrs. Frank Sorrell (Nellie) of Baltimore, was talking about her brother, Harry Graham Bragg, 80, who suffered a fatal stroke on Friday at his home in New York.

Mr. Bragg, a prominent lawyer, was for a number of years assistant attorney general for New York State, and at one time was chief waiver clerk in the Tax Division.

* * *

He was the son of the Rev. George F. Bragg Jr. and Mrs. Bragg. His father was for 49 years rector of St. James Episcopal Church, Baltimore.

The Rev. Mr. Bragg was co-founder of the AFRO-AMERICAN Newspapers, along with the Rev. William Alexander and John H. Murphy Sr.

It was Dr. Bragg's church paper, "The Leader," which merged with the AFRO. Dr. Bragg was the first editorial writer.

* * *

Funeral services for Mr. Bragg will be held Wednesday 11 a.m. at St. Luke's Episcopal Church, Convent Ave., New York City.

Mr. Bragg was educated in the Baltimore schools. He was graduated from Douglass High School in the Class of 1907.

Among classmates were the late Dr. Carl Murphy, publisher of the AFRO-AMERICAN; and Dr. James H. N. Waring of Philadelphia, whose father was principal at the time.

He earned degrees at Lincoln University, Cornell and New York University. He was a member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity.

Like other members of the family he grew up in St. James Church, was altar boy, and acolyte.

For a brief period he studied for the ministry, but changed his mind and turned to the law.

HARRY G. BRAGG
Son of AFRO co-founder dead at 80

His wife was the former Lillian Hughes, member of an old Baltimore family. She died in September 1949.

In addition to his sister, Mrs. Sorrell, he is survied by a son, Harry G. Bragg Jr., New York; granddaughter, Susan Bragg, New York; and a brother, Arthur Bragg, Baltimore.

The Marcus Jackson Funeral Home, 132nd and 8th Ave., was in charge of arrangements.

Cars, dolls (exceptional ones) dominate Christmas toy sales

By LULA SHEFFEY

Most toy store managers agree that the fastest selling toys this Yuletide Season are the "Hot Wheels" and the "Talking Barbie Doll."

The "Hot Wheels" is a little two-inch-long mechanical drag race car which can be purchased in a set or as a single.

Since Santa isn't due for another 18 days, and many stores are already out of stock of this item, it is safe to assume that some young boys are going to have to share their "wheels" with dad.

The most fashionable and desirable doll for many girls or teenagers is the "Talking Barbie Doll."

The Barbie doll made her appearance several years ago, and since her birth she has been made to bend her limbs, later to walk and now to talk.

These are some of the things she can say to her mistress: "Let's have a costume party. I have a date tonight. I love being a fashion model. Would you like to go shopping? Stacy and I are having a tea."

Other top moving toys are: Tippie Tumble Doll; the Susie Homemaker toys; Tippie-Toe Doll; TOCI, a toy building set that moves when completed and Spirograph.

According to James Ewing, manager of the Rogers Toy Barn located in Mondawmin Mall, Spirograph is a unique toy. It is the most imaginative, creative toy and can be used year round, he says.

The Christmas shopping season is usually a happy time, what with the hustle and bustle of huge numbers of shoppers loaded with gifts who seem to exchange smiles with each other more than at any other time of the year. But there are drawbacks, one being costly — shoplifters.

Patrick W. Monnanom, operations manager of The Hecht Company, explained the problem:

"Shoplifting is always an unbelievable problem, especially at Christmastime. We have added more security guards and have stressed staff awareness of shoplifters."

Some of the stores feel that they cannot complain too much about shoplifting, because of their own internal pilferage.

The merchants' losses usually are covered by a slight rise in prices.

"It just makes you sick," said Richard Stein, manager at Hochschild Kohn downtown.

Primarily the stealing is done by professionals who are usually "junkies," he said, adding:

"We continue to add to our security force and they continue to steal."

Stewart's downtown store manager, Mrs. Dawn DeMaggio, feels that more plainclothes policemen and policewomen should be assigned to the stores, as has been the custom in previous years.

Harold Nitzburg, sales promotion manager, gave a "no comment" when approached on the shoplifting problem.

Managers generally agreed that the late date for Thanksgiving this year, allowing fewer shopping days between that holiday and Christmas, may affect the total sales volume.

But they are still optimistic. "It is too early to know," one said.

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'Goodcake' Gamby was popular entertainer

One of Baltimore's most popular and respected residents, Richard Nebiett Gamby, died Friday night at the age of 51.

Known to his many friends and admirers as "Goodcake," a nickname given him during his early childhood in East Baltimore, Mr. Gamby" first gained prominence during the 1940's and 1950's while working as a "master if ceremonies" at the Avenue Club and the Club Ubangi on Pennsylvania Ave.

More recently, Mr. Gamby had been employed as a bartender and singer at the Sphinx Club, also on Pennsylvania Ave.

It was as a singer that popular recognition came

(Continued on Page 25)

"MISS P.D.A.O." SEARCH — Chairmen of a holiday cabaret sponsored by the People's Democratic Action Organization (headed by Sen. Clarence M. Mitchell 3rd) map strategy for the "Miss P.D.A.O." Contest which will highlight the Dec. 28 affair at the Steelworkers Union Hall, 540 Dundalk Ave. Winner of the contest, confined to applicants 21 to 31, will receive an expense-paid weekend in New York along with other prizes. From left are Ronald Strickland, cabaret chairman; Mrs. Ophelia Bell, contest chairman; and Andrew (Billy) Johnson co-chairman.

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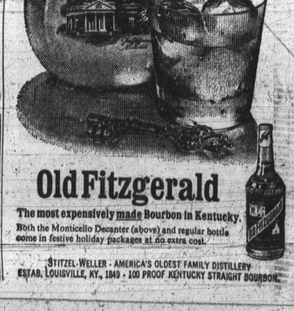

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Council Passes 'Pool Parlor' Bill; Veto Looms (BELOW COLUMN 7)

Dr. King's Last Story (See Story on Page 18)

Baltimore Afro-American

Nixon's Choice Voting Record (See Story on Page 11)

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Morgan Student In Dope Raid

FIRE ABOVE AND BELOW—Seven families, including 43 people, were driven into sub-freezing weather Monday morning when fire struck seven row houses in the 2900 block Springhill Ave. Miraculously, residents and firemen escaped injury from the blaze which went to five alarms before it was brought under control.

Suspect in trio nabbed in sales to dope agents

Police Narcotics Squad agents, acting on information supplied by the Maryland State Police Intelligence Unit, arrested three men over the weekend, including a Morgan College student.

They have been identified as:

Thomas L. Weldon, 3400 block Fairview Ave., a student at Morgan State College;

Harry M. Valentine, 23, of the 4000 block Edgewood Rd., a former Morgan student now unemployed; and

Harry James "Jake" Allen, 26, of the 1200 block N. Calvert St.

Mr. Weldon and Mr. Valentine were arrested when, according to narcotics agents, the latter attempted to sell 120 capsules of suspected heroin to an undercover agent at a pre-arranged meeting place near the corner of Hilton St. and Liberty Heights Ave.

Police charged that Mr. Valentine, after exchanging a few words with the agent, walked to a point near the intersection where Mr. Weldon was standing, took the suspected drugs from him, and brought them to the agent.

A thorough search of Mr. Valentine's Edgewood Rd. apartment after the arrest revealed a quantity of suspected marijuana and a variety of pipes, police say.

Both men were charged with possession and sale of

(Continued on Page 15)

Medic's son surrenders in cargo theft

G. Franklin Phillips, Jr., 26, the son of a prominent physician, surrendered to Western District Police Monday afternoon after learning that he had been accused in the theft of a truck containing 54 record players and four color television sets.

The truck and its contents, reported missing from a West Baltimore warehouse and radio-TV equipment store, were recovered shortly afterwards with the cooperation of the accused man.

Young Phillips, who resides with his parents in the 1500 block of North Bentalou St., was charged with larceny after trust, a felony.

At a hearing before Judge Joseph G. Finnerty, Sr., bail was set at $1,500, pending Grand Jury action.

Mr. Phillips was represented at the hearing by Legal Aid attorney William Carruth.

No date has been set for a presentation of the case to the Grand Jury.

Daniels, Gibson to school board

By ROGER NISSLY

For the first time in history four members of the minority race will sit on the nine-member Baltimore City Board of School Commissioners.

Though somewhat under 50 per cent of the overall population of the city, nonwhites are in the majority in the school system, composing about two-thirds of the student population.

The precedent-setting makeup of the School Board was announced over the weekend by Mayor Thomas D'Alesandro III, who added two more members of the black community to the two already on

(Continued on Page 8)

LARRY S. GIBSON

SAMUEL T. DANIELS

City wary of flu bug

A flea and a fly flew into the flue.

Said the fly to the flea: "Let us fly."

Said the flea to the fly: "Let us flee."

So the flea and the fly flew out of the flue...

—Anonymous

Those funny jagged charts that Health Department officials watch so nervously may have been pointing slightly upward in recent weeks, but not enough for the word "epidemic" to be officially used.

"The spread of influenza in Maryland has not yet reached epidemic proportions," reports Dr. Harold Mellin, Epidemic Intelligence Service Officer attached to the Maryland Department of Health. "Not yet."

The Department of Health has been keeping a close watch on the reports

(Continued on Page 8)

Wind-blown fire leaves 43 homeless on holiday eve

A raging five-alarm fire, blown from house to house by high winds, destroyed four homes and severely damaged three others in the 2900 block of Springhill Ave. Monday morning.

It left 43 persons homeless. No injuries were reported in the blaze.

The fire, first reported at 10:20 a.m., started in the first floor rear bedroom of Mrs. Courine Lynn at 2916 Springhill Ave., according to Fire Department investigators.

At this time, Mrs. Lynn was at school where her son Willie, 5, attends kindergarten classes.

Alone in the home were Mrs. Lynn's mother, Mrs. Martha Davis, and her other child, Elvira, 2.

Fire officials report that the blaze was blown eastward by the prevailing wind, and spread along the wooden rear porches of the attached row houses.

The wind was also responsible for the spread of the fire to the tar roof, which provided another path for the blaze.

Only an alley between number 2906 and 2904 prevented the fire from damaging three more single-family residences and a grocery store, firemen said.

Responding to the alarms were a total of 32 pieces of equipment, including two extra hook-and-ladder trucks, and a complement of 130 men.

According to Red Cross officials, most of the 43 persons left homeless by the fire will be lodged temporarily with relatives while they seek more permanent quarters.

The Red Cross will contact as many of the victims as possible before the Christmas holidays to establish their needs for food and clothing, and to render emergency aid, officials told the AFRO.

Emergency Red Cross headquarters, set up in the home of Mrs. Dorothy Jones at 2901 Springhill Ave., across the street from the fire scene, served as a temporary shelter for many of the homeless, most of whom were women and children.

Mrs. Jones, busy serving hot coffee and glasses of

(Continued on Page 8)

Tight race in contest

A tight race is developing for the leading positions in the AFRO's Favorite Minister Contest.

The Rev. W. P. Mitchell, Payne Memorial A.M.E. Church, holds first place which he regained Friday with 362,800 votes.

Just a few ballots behind is the Rev. Lewis Conway, First Mt. Pleasant Baptist Church, with 357,900 votes.

Also over the 300,000-vote mark is the Rev. Seawood Blackstone, of Crowdenville A.M.E. Church.

(Continued on Page 2)

Time running out for Mrs. Santa

"The need is great. It is much greater than funds on hand to buy food baskets.

"Time is running out. Will you help me bring a little joy to destitute families at Christmas?"

That is the plaintive plea of Mrs. Santa who still needs funds to buy as many food baskets for hungry families as possible.

Time is of the essence because Mrs. Santa and her chief transportation helper, Sgt. Lloyd Scott of the Maryland National Guard are completing plans to deliver food baskets.

Sgt. Scott and his crew will begin picking up food baskets at area markets Saturday so they will be delivered in time for Christmas, a week from tomorrow.

Jet Food, Pantry Pride, and Big Super Markets are cooperating with Mrs. Santa and are packing generous baskets which promise a welcome relief from drab meals the poor must en-

(Continued on Page 23)

TJD seen killing 'Pool Parlor' bill

The controversial pool rooms ordinance, passed by the City Council Monday evening after a floor fight, faces a veto by Mayor Thomas J. D'Alesandro 3rd.

An aide to the mayor revealed this all but certain action, adding that the measure would probably be allowed to die on the mayor's desk.

The Council, following some heated exchanges, approved the ordinance by an 11-7 vote.

It extends the hours of pool rooms with five or more tables from 1 to 2 a.m., and lowers the age from 18 to 16 for youths permitted on such premises.

* * *

In passing the measure, the Council by the same vote beat down a motion by Councilman Emerson R. Julian (4th D.), which would have held it on the third reading file until the

(Continued on Page 7)

Coppin answers demands; boycott will continue

"We have taken 20 definite steps to meet the demands of the Student Body at Coppin State College," said Dr. Parlett Moore, president of the college at a mass meeting in the Student's Union Hall on Monday.

Most of these demands won't be met until during the budget years from 1969-70 and 1970, according to Dr. Moore, because of a lack of funds.

* * *

Some of the approved demands are as follows:

"The present registrar will remain in her position until the end of the semester. She has already handed in her resignation."

"We have approved the placement of four additional security guards." The demand was for eight guards.

"We have approved the demand for four students, to be selected by the Student Government, to be an still another bit of history.

That's when the city will register an unprecedented high of three non-white associate judges of the Baltimore Supreme Bench.

The first precedent was established in 1966 when now City Solicitor George L. Russell Jr. became the first member of his race to serve on the city's highest court.

He was succeeded by Judge Harry A. Cole when he (Mr. Russell) became the first member of his race to be appointed City Solicitor for Baltimore.

Today Judge Cole will be joined by Judges Joseph C. Howard and Robert B.

(Continued on Page 15)

Howard, Watts making court history today

Room 400 in the Courthouse will be the scene noon today (Tuesday) of

The Advertising Department will be CLOSED CHRISTMAS DAY DEC. 25, 1968
All classified ads (reader type) will have to be in this office by Monday, December 23, 1968—10:00 a.m. The deadline for Friday, December 27, 1968 is Thursday, December 26, 1968 before 10:00 a.m.

JUDGE JOSEPH HOWARD

JUDGE ROBERT B. WATTS

Decision due today in Medicaid frauds

Charles E. Moylan Jr., state's attorney, is to be presented a preliminary report this morning (Tuesday, by investigators into the Medicaid frauds involving "tens of thousands of dollars."

This report is to form a determination of a course of action toward possible prosecutions.

Mr. Moylan told the AFRO Monday the investigators are expected to suggest one of the following:

1. Inform him they have enough evidence to go to the Grand Jury and obtain indictments;

2. Or ask for more time to continue their investigations to determine if indictments and punitive actions are possible.

Mr. Moylan said he had not read the bulky, 250-page report sent him last week by Francis B. Burch, attorney general, and would likely follow the suggestions of the investigators.

He identified these as Howard S. Cardin, chief of the Trial Division, and Joseph Kiel, both of his office, and Edgar Lentz, former FBI agent on Mr. Burch's staff.

* * *

The public has been given little information so far about the alleged Medicaid frauds, and those

(Continued on Page 8)

Jim Brown changes plea, await fate

SANTA MONICA, Calif. (UPI) — Former football great-turned-actor Jim Brown will be sentenced Jan. 13 on his plea of no contest to charges of resisting arrest last June when a 22-year-old model was found lying semi-conscious outside his apartment.

The former Cleveland Browns fullback had been scheduled to go on trial Monday, but appeared in court Friday to enter the plea before Superior Court Judge Mario Clinco.

The plea cannot be used against him in a civil ac-

(Continued on Page 6)

JIMMY BROWN