—Warden sued

(FROM PAGE ONE)

lawyer Michael Millemann said he is optimistic that their suit will be upheld. Legal Aid lawyers have spent several months getting this case together, lining up witnesses and confirming evidence, he said.

The 19-page complaint includes detailed descriptions of actions of the Jail Board, wardens and officers which the lawyers deem unlawful or immoral. It is charged that the jail's security quarters are used to impose punishment on inmates for "innocuous or even constitutionally protected behavior."

It points out that many of City Jail's residents are not convicted criminals, being detained only because of lack of money to post bail. It also calls for less restrictive visitation rights between lawyers and their clients, better medical attention and hygiene facilities, and more rehabilitative programs for inmates, among other things.

First hearings in this case are expected to begin in mid-June, according to Millemann, who, along with Stephen Sachs, Joseph Matera, Luther West and Stanley Bass, will represent the inmates in court proceedings.

Another issue coming into the public eye in connection with the jail, is the make-up of the mayor-appointed Jail Board, which now has two vacancies.

Del. Brailey and others look on that fact as a chance for Mayor D'Alesandro to improve the representation of the black community by appointing two blacks.

Brailey has said that he will make suggestions to the mayor of qualified people for the job. There is now one black, Dr. Bernard Harris, on the board.

Although the vacancies have existed for some time, the mayor is expected to fill both slots before leaving office in December.

In the interim more fundamental changes may be wrought by the success of the sort of action now pending, in the federal and superior courts, particularly of a sort that would benifit the jail's inmates, by clarifying their rights and protecting them from arbitrary or illegal acts on the part of jail officials.

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Eugene Holland guilty of drug possession

Eugene David Holland, 31, 1100 block Gilmor St., was found guilty Thursday by a Criminal Court jury of possessing heroin with intent to distribute the illegal drug on Aug. 18, 1970.

Judge Charles D. Harris withheld sentence pending a decision on appeal which may come from defense attorney Donald Daneman.

Arresting STOP Squad Sgt. William Stanley, Officers Roger Nolan, Charles Babb and Norman Parker describe Holland as "a lieutenant of the big narcotics dealer."

When he was apprehended in the 1200 block Gilmor St. about 5 p.m. on Aug. 18, 1970, the officers state that he had 200 capsules of heroin in two manila envelops in a brown paper bag.

—Green quilt

(FROM PAGE ONE)

dence he appeared to be dead.

"Not long afterwards, we knew there was no chance of bringing him back to life, so we notified the morgue."

The Medical Examiner's Office reports Threet sustained just one knife wound of the chest "that went right into his heart." The time of death is set at 5:25 p.m. May 18. The autopsy reveals old scars on both arms from dope injections.

Police report the incident occurred during a crap game outside on the corner of Leadenhall and Hamburg Sts. in South Baltimore.

* * *

Further indicating a mystery was in the making was the fact that police found no identification on the body when it arrived at the hospital.

However, while police were "scratching their heads" at the hospital, two witnesses, a 47-year-old white man and a 36-year-old white woman arrived and revealed they had seen the incident and noted that the 1970 car had extensive damage to the rear and was a "fast back."

Also, while the police were still at the hospital, Mrs. Javonee Threet, 22, wife of the deceased man, arrived and said she had been notified anonymously that her husband had been stabbed and was at South Baltimore General.

* * *

Mrs. Gertrude Threet Winstead, mother of the victim, who also came to the hospital, helped the wife identify Mr. Threet who is also known, they said, as "Alonzo Winstead" since his stepfather's name is Winstead.

Mrs. Winstead told police that a young man known as "Chew" had come to the house to say that her son had been hurt and was in South Baltimore General.

Police state further information came to them from "secret sources" that "Chew," a known narcotics peddler, has a "fast back" 1970 car with extensive rear damage.

* * *

Police said "Chew" is known to frequent the Pimlico area and the Leadenhall-South Baltimore area where the slaying occurred.

Homicide Dets. Howard Peacock and Herman Ingram are the investigating officers.

Relatives told the AFRO that Mr. Threet was born June 8, 1945 in Arcadia, Fla. and his father is deceased.

Funeral services are scheduled for 12 noon today (Friday) with burial in Carver Memorial Cemetery.

In addition to his wife and mother, surviving are two children, a boy, 7 and a girl, 2, and several sisters and brothers.

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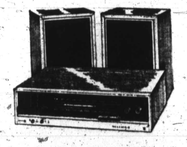

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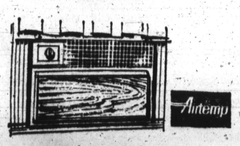

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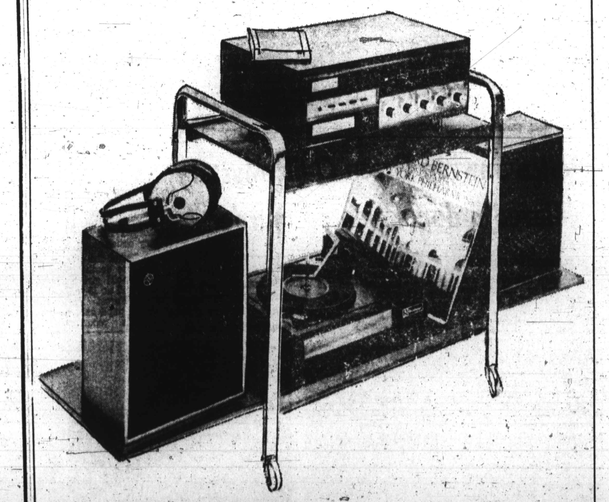

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'FLY THE AMERICAN WAY' — This is the slogan of American Airlines which hired AFRO secretary and church reporter, Miss Pam Widgeon, below, as hostess. AFRO photos by Ben Phillips were made early Saturday morning as Miss Widgeon embarked for Ft. Worth, Texas where she will undergo six weeks training before being assigned to a flight. She is the daughter of Mrs. Irma Widgeon and a product of Baltimore public schools.

Amerson, top deputy acquited

By JIM McGREGOR

OPELIKA, Ala. (UPI) — Macon County Sheriff Lucius Amerson and his deputy were cleared Wednesday by an all-white jury of violating the civil rights of a prisoner.

Sheriff Amerson and Richard Coleman Jr. stood trail on charges of beating and kicking Wilbert Dean Harris, who opened fire last August while being booked in the Macon County jail on a drunk driving charge.

"I just want to go back home now and do my job, which is a difficult one," Amerson said after hearing the verdict, rendered after an hour and five minutes of deliberation.

Amerson praised defense and government attorneys for their fair presentation of the case and said it was his aim to "treat all the people with respect and dignity."

Coleman likewise thanked attorneys for a "fine job" and said he, too, would continue as a law officer.

* * *

U. S. Attorney Ira Dement told the jury during final arguments he had prosecuted and won a conviction against Lee County Sheriff Paul Ragsdale, a white man, on charges similar to those against Amerson and Coleman.

"How can I not prosecute Amerson when I prosecuted and convicted Paul Ragsdale" Dement asked.

One of Amerson's attorneys, State Rep. Fred Gray, accused Dement of introducing racism into the trial.

U. S. District Judge Robert Varner cautioned both sides that the issue of racism had no place in the proceedings.

In his final argument, Dement charged if Tuskegee city policemen had not intervened in the incident at the county jail "there would have been a killing by those keystone cops in the sheriff's department."

Assistant U. S. Atty. Broward Segrest said the evidence showed Amerson and Coleman imposed "summary punishment" on Harris.

Amerson, 37, was charged with beating Harris with a pistol and Coleman, 27, with kicking the prisoner.

"It was illegal and uncalled for," Segrest said. "Amerson attempted to become judge, juror and executioner at the same time."

Baxley, who worked with defense lawyers, apologized for occasional disagreements with government attorneys and said a conviction would have set a dangerous precedent.

"I'm sorry, but I was personally involved in this case," Baxley, a white, said. "My feelings were strong.

"If you convict him you might as well disarm every law enforcement officer around here," Baxley told the court.

Gray said had Amerson wanted to impose "summary punishment" on Harris he had ample opportunity to shoot him.

"Mr. Harris is a tricky man to be alive," Gray said. "If he had shot up a jail in any other county in Alabama, he would have been dead."

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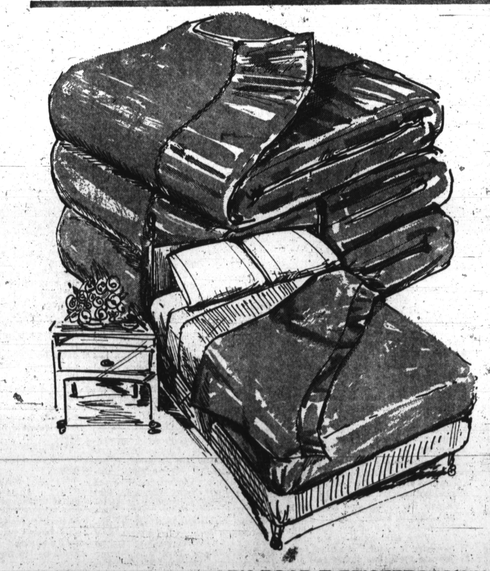

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