City crime rate down in 3 years

By Willie Egyir

But for a brief scare which sent Baltimoreans shivering with cold fear followed by a couple of "executions" by the invisible Black October, 1973 can easily be chalked on the wall as one of Baltimore's safest and peaceful years.

For the first time since 1970, the crime index dropped 11.8 per cent compared with the previous year. Murder, the most serious crime yet the commonest, failed to hit the usual 300 mark.

Last year police recorded 330 homicides as compared with 270 this year. Burglary, the city's second notorious crime, dropped 2,200 less of last year's 13,735.

GEORGE EVANS, 38, *July 18 Black October victim?*

JOSEPH PERRY, 31 *slain in front of black Lorman St.*

BLACK OCTOBER

However, these figures may belie the fear and anxiety Baltimoreans experienced in the Black October scare.

First hint of the mysterious organization was dropped with the inexplicable "execution" of 27-year-old Calvin W. McGuire Jr., 5300 block Northwood Dr., a Woodlawn Social Security worker slain shortly after midnight May 12 in a yard in the rear of 5509 block Gwynn Oak Ave.

The writings on the wall then began to have meanings.

Hitherto, not many people bothered about slogans on the walls like: "A N— who pushes dope is a cracker." "Selling dope is an act of treason, the penalty is death." "Death to dope pushers!" and "Black October is watching."

Black October, then as it is today, was described as a group of Vietnam veterans dedicated to the elimination of drug and drug pushers in the black community.

DEL. SCOTT

But the fear induced by threats of assassination by Black October began to have its impact when on Friday, July 13 at about 1:30 a.m. Maryland House of Delegates member James A. (Turk) Scott Jr., 47, was slain in the underground garage of his plush Sutton Place apartment by bullets fired from two weapons, a 12 gauge shotgun and a .22 caliber revolver.

Black October pamphlets were found near the body of the law maker who had then been indicted to stand trial in August in a federal charge of attempting to smuggle $1 million worth of heroin from New York to Baltimore metropolitan area.

Anonymous calls to individuals and newspapers followed this murder threatening citizens suspected of dope dealings with death. The group gave a list of dope peddlers to be killed and when.

DOBSON NOT GUILTY

Sherman W. Dobson, 20, 3000 block Eamont Rd., son of the Rev. Harold Dobson, well-known Baptist minister, charged in Scott's death has since been found not guilty.

The group also claimed responsibility for the July 16 slaying of George Evans, 38, on a lawn in front of his 4915 Chalgrove Ave. home. Police said Black October leaflets were found on the lawn where his body lay riddled with bullets. No arrest is made in that case.

LONNIE SPRUILL

Other popular slayings in the year include the death of Lonnie Spruill and a group of slayings known as the electric cord murders.

Police report Lonnie Spruill Sr., 56, 3413 Fairview Ave., was slain at the General Motors plant in the 609 block Holabird Ave. where he was a custodian 20 years.

The incident came shortly after 1 p.m. and police state within ten minutes a suspect, Ernest Marshall, 52, 4900 block Goodnow Ave., surrendered himself was charged with the murder.

ELECTRIC CORD MURDERS

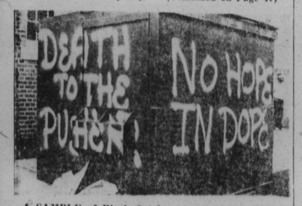
George Edward Chandler, 25, was charged and later convicted in the murder of his wife, Mrs. Diana Rosalyn Chandler, 22, in what became known as the first of the electric murders March 14.

Police said Mrs. Chandler was found in the nude on her bed in her third floor 5200 block Frankford Ave. apartment at 6:25 a.m. An electric cord was cut from a TV set and knotted around her neck. Police reveal she was stabbed, the steak knife protruding from her chest.

Her death was third in four days that week, and police report, electric cord featured in each. Two days later (March 16) 15-year-old Miss Gladys Brown was found tortured to death with fire. Her hands and feet were fastened with an electric cord to her neck. No arrest has been made in her death.

The third electric cord

(Continued on Page 17)



A SAMPLE of Black October slogans on walls in the city warning and threatening dope peddlers with execution.

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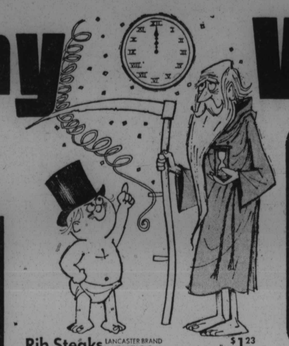

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Rib Steaks LANCASTER BRAND 2-INCH CUT ..... lb. $1.23
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Morrell Canned Hams 3-lb. can $4.79
Canned Picnics CUDDAHY ..... 3-lb. can $3.89
Jubilee Hams OSCAR MAYER BONELESS ..... lb. $2.39
Gwaltney Hams BONED 'N' TENDER COMPLETELY BONELESS lb. $2.19
Center Cut Pork Chops ... lb. $1.39
Fancy Spareribs 3-5 LB. AVG. FROZEN ..... lb. 89¢
Sauerkraut DOUBLE "H" BRAND ..... pkg. 39¢
Farmdale Sliced Bologna 1-lb. pkg. $1.09
Beef Franks LANCASTER BRAND ..... 1-lb. pkg. $1.19
Big 8 Franks GWALTNEY ..... 1-lb. pkg. $1.29
Claussen Pickles ..... 1-qt. jar 89¢
Luncheon Meats LANCASTER BRAND 5-VARIETIES ..... 6-oz. pkg. 49¢
Manor Hill Salads POTATO, MACARONI OR COLE SLAW 15-oz. cup 39¢
Fancy Shrimp 36-42 COUNT ..... 2-lb. pkg. $5.49
Peeled AND DEVEINED Shrimp..... 1-lb. pkg. $1.79

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Pepper Loaf ..... ½-lb. 79¢
Chicken Roll ESSKAY..... ½-lb. 89¢
Beef Bologna ECKRICH..... ½-lb. 69¢
Boiled Ham ..... ½-lb. 89¢
Fresh Salad POTATO, MACARONI OR COLE SLAW ..... lb. 39¢

IN OUR PRODUCE DEPARTMENT!

Fresh Black Eyed Peas ... 11-oz. pkg. 49¢
New Green Cabbage ... lb. 12¢
Red Delicious Apples ...3-lb. bag 79¢

Prices Effective Thru Monday, Dec. 31, 1973.
Quantity Rights Reserved.

SUPER SAVINGS IN EVERY DEPARTMENT!

Jeno's Pizzas SNACK TRAY FROZEN ..... 1-lb. 9-oz. pkg. 95¢
Ideal Lemonade... 6-oz. can 12¢ 6-oz. can 19¢
Orange Juice IDEAL FROZEN ..... 5 6-oz. cans $1
Broccoli Spears OR REG. OR FRENCH CUT GREEN BEANS OR BIRDS EYE 3 pkgs. $1
French Fries FARMDALE CRINKLE CUT ..... 2-lb. pkg. 49¢
Pound Cake SARA LEE FROZEN ..... 11.3-oz. pkg. 88¢

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Tip Top Punch FLORIDA CITRUS ..... ½-gal. jug 57¢
Soft Margarine PARKAY ..... 1-lb. pkg. 59¢
Soft Margarine MRS. FILBERT'S .. 3 8-oz. mugs $1
Kraft Chip Dip ONION & GARLIC ..... 8-oz. pkg. 39¢
Sealtest Sour Cream.... 1-pt. cup 75¢
Holiday Egg Nog SEALTEST ..... ½-gal. can $1.39
Ice Cream FARMDALE BRAND ALL FLAVORS ..... ½-gal. can 79¢

Acme Pretzels TWINS OR STICKS ..... 3 9-oz. pkgs. $1
Brownie Mix DUNCAN HINES ..... 1-lb. 7-oz. pkg. 69¢
Black Eyed Peas HANOVER ..... 15-oz. can 21¢
Orange Juice IDEAL SWEETENED OR UNSWEETENED ... 1-qt. 16-oz. can 49¢
Bartender Mixes ALL VARIETIES ... 7½-oz. pkg. 79¢
Ideal Peanuts ROASTED ..... 8-oz. jar 59¢
Nabisco Crackers ELEVEN SNACK VARIETIES ..... pkg. 49¢

HOLIDAY BAKERY BUYS!

English Muffins VIRGINIA LEE ..... pkg. of 12 65¢
Fresh Rye Bread PLAIN .... 2 1-lb. loaves 75¢
Fresh Pan Rolls ..... 3 pkgs. of 12 $1
Party Rye Bread H&S ..... 8-oz. loaf 33¢
Fruited Babka ..... 2-lb. pkg. $1.39

FARMDALE-MANZANILLA STUFFED OLIVES SUPER SAVING PRICE! 5½-oz. jar 49¢

IN HANDY CANISTER SCHULTZ PRETZELS SAVE 30¢ ON A 1¼ lb pkg. 69¢

HOLIDAY FAVORITE ACME POTATO CHIPS SUPER SAVING PRICE! 19-oz. container only 89¢

ALL DELICIOUS FLAVORS BALA CLUB SODAS SUPER SAVING PRICE! 4 qt. 32-oz. btls. 79¢

DELICIOUS NATURAL SLICED SWISS CHEESE SUPER SAVING PRICE! 8-oz. pkg. 69¢

SNACK & PARTY FAVORITE ROMAN PIZZAS SUPER SAVING PRICE 1-lb. 11-oz. pkg. at 10 $1.09

10¢ OFF LABEL ON FAMOUS PEPSODENT TOOTHPASTE SUPER SAVING PRICE 5-oz. tube only 59¢

20¢ OFF LABEL ON HEAD & SHOULDERS 4-OZ. TUBE OR 7-OZ. LOTION $1.19

SUPER SAVING BAKERY BUY! BARBECUE ROLLS HOLIDAY PARTY FAVORITE 3 pkgs. of 8 $1

SAVE 50¢ WITH THIS COUPON (MFG-6) ON YOUR PURCHASE OF A 10-OZ. JAR OF INSTANT MAXWELL HOUSE. Limit one per family, please. Offer expires December 31, 1973.

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2801 FOSTER AVE. 9 A.M.-4 P.M.
401 FT. SMALLWOOD RD. 9 A.M.-4 P.M.
2905 HAMILTON AVE. 10 A.M.-5 P.M.
RT. 40 & ST. JOHN'S LANE 10 A.M.-5 P.M.
540 TAYLOR AVE., ANNAPOLIS 10 A.M.-6 P.M.

RITTER GREEN TOMATO RELISH ..... 12-oz. jar 41¢
WISHBONE ITALIAN SALAD DRESSING ... 8-oz. btl. 41¢
KITTY SALMON CAT FOOD ..... 6-oz. can 17¢
O&C POTATO STICKS ..... 7-oz. can 45¢

Maxwell House Coffee REGULAR, DRIP OR ELECTRA PERK 1-lb. can $1.15

SAVE 13¢ WITH THIS COUPON (MFG-6) ON YOUR PURCHASE OF A 3-LB., 12-OZ. PKG. OF CLOROX DRY BLEACH. Limit one per family, please. Offer expires December 31, 1973.

SAVE 17¢ WITH THIS COUPON (MFG-6) ON YOUR PURCHASE OF TWO (2) 1-LB., 5-OZ. CANS OF AJAX CLEANSER. Limit one per family, please. Offer expires December 31, 1973.

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SUNSHINE HI-HO CRACKERS ..... 1-lb. pkg. 53
SUNSHINE VANILLA WAFERS ..... 11-oz. pkg. 45

FREEZE-DRIED Taster's Choice Coffee.. 4-oz. jar $1.29
SOOTHING VASELINE Intensive Care Lotion.. 10-oz. btl. 79¢
ALL FLAVORS Mighty Dog Food ..... 6½-oz. can 22¢

FREEZE-DRIED COFFEE TASTER'S CHOICE SUPER SAVING PRICE! 8-oz. jar $2.09

FLAVORFUL COFFEE INSTANT NESCAFE SUPER SAVING PRICE! 10-oz. jar $1.89

Grant of $6,500 goes to Lower Park Hgts.

The Lower Park Heights Coordinating Council held its last monthly meeting of the year Thursday at the Keyworth Library, 2610 Keyworth Ave.

Featured speakers were Melvin Moore, director of Mental Health Services, Baltimore Health Department and Mrs. Barbara Elder, chief of Day Care Division, Department of Social Services.

Mr. Moore discussed the adolescent/family mental health clinic that will begin operation in January at 3901 Park Heights Ave. He presented a check of $6,500 to the council.

This grant was secured from the Thomas Wilson Fund to enable the Lower Park Heights Coordinating Council to purchase the property that it uses as a community Center (3901 Park Heights Ave.).

Mrs. Barbara Elder discussed staffing difficulties that exist at the Lower Park Heights Community Child Development Center.

There was a Christmas party after the speakers' presentations. Mrs. Thelma Williams is president of the council.

Lower Pk. Hgts. Yule party

The Lower Park Heights Businessmen's Association will sponsor a Christmas party for youth residing in the Lower Park Heights area on Friday Dec. 28.

The party will be divided into two sessions: 3-5 p.m. for ages 7-12; and 6-9 p.m. for ages 12-16.

Free entry forms can be obtained at the Lower Park Heights Coordinating Council, 3901 Park Heights Ave. the Lower Park Heights Community Child Development Center, 2621 Oswego Ave. or at the stores of participating businesses (Robinson's Liquors, Preakness Lounge, Al Laws Insurance Co., Earl's Tavern, C'est Bon Lounge, and Wood's Cleaner's).

—City Crime

(Continued from Page 16)

murder involved a double murder of two men in a home in the 600 block Whitelock St. Police said James Williams, 42, 1700 block E. 25th St. and Belford George Elsey, 38, 1600 block N. Bentalou St., each with a gunshot in the chest, were found by police at 3:45 p.m., after police were called by a neighbor.

Police said Elsey's throat had been cut and a telephone cord was wrapped around his neck. Police are still looking for suspects.

BASKERVILLE INNOCENT

In the celebrated "Rolling Pin Murder Case," involving the death of special education teacher, John M. Kraynak, 34, found slain in his 1200 block N. Calvert St. home, a fellow school teacher was charged. However, Mr. Baskerville was declared innocent by a jury.

In another bizzare suicide-murder of the year, police state Leslie Johns Wood Jr., 30, 800 block E. 22nd St., fired a volley of bullets into the body of a 42-year-old Department of Social Services worker and her 16-year-old daughter and then killed himself.

Police report Mrs. Mary Yolando Powell, 1900 block Kelly Ave., who was shot three times in the head at 8:19 a.m. April 1 d'ed later at the Sinai Hospital.

Police state the tragic incident at the matron's second floor apartment also witnessed the man shooting Miss Joy Benay Powell, 16, a Western High School student who has since recovered.

JOE PERRY

Other murders in the city are: Joseph Perry, 31, 1400 block N. Mount St., killed in a "fight over a girl" in front of a bar in the 1800 block Lorman St. in January.

Michael J. Braxton, 21, son of Officer William H. Braxton, slain by a police officer March 20 in what police alleged was a "running gun battle" with the police by a group of young men during a raid of an apartment in the 2800 block W. North Ave.

Police report Robert Byrd, 56, 2300 block W. Lanvale St., was slain in what they believe was an apparent holdup attempt in the intersection of N. Gilmore and Baker St. July 17.

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Oscar Mayer—1 lb. pkg. Sliced Bacon .. $1.69

Sliced To Order Cooked Salami ½ lb. 85¢

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Snow Shite Mushrooms ..... lb. 89¢

Sundays & Monday Only—Jubilee Mince Pie 1 lb., 6 oz. pkg. 79¢

Best For Salad Cherry Tomatoes pt. 49¢

Jubilee—15 oz. pkg. Holiday Fruit Stollen ..... 79¢

Save Salad Mix ..... 8 oz. pkg. 29¢

Spree—7 oz. Cold Cups .... 100 in pkg. 75¢

Save Cole Slaw ..... 8 oz. pkg. 29¢

Styro—9 pz. Hot Cups ..... 51 in pkg. 49¢

Plump Purple Egg Plant ..... lb. 29¢

Topco 9" White Paper Plates ..... 150 in pkg. 99¢

California Fig Snax ..... 12 oz. pkg. 39¢

Detergent Dash 3 lb. 1 oz. box 85¢

Liquid Ivory 12 oz. btl. 32¢

Liquid Joy 12 oz. btl. .. 32¢