Baltimore Afro American

JUNE 28, 1975 28

Woman suffers from rat bites, claims landlord ignores violations

An East Baltimore resident has been bitten twice by rats. She is ill. Her health is declining.

Here is her story.

"When I rented this house, there was no water and no meter. When the man put the meter in and I put the bulb in, I saw all these rat holes."

That is only one of 27 housing violations later discovered by the Health Dept.

The landlord agreed that he would pay for repairs and he would reimburse her.

"I asked him to fix everything. He said, in front of me and my mother, he would."

Through she complained fervently, help was slow coming. While sick in bed, she said she talked personally with the landlord.

She states, "He asked for the rent. I said, "Yes, I have your rent. Are you going to fix the rat holes? He said, h—no, I'm tired of this s—."

He continued to curse and rant.

Some repairs were made, but only after the lady was bitten twice by rats.

After calling City Councilman Clarence Du Burns' office, some workers came to gas the holes in the yard. This had little affect. She continued to call the Health Department which later sent a worker.

"He told me, you better stop complaining because he's (the landlord) going to make you move."

The worker also told her to fix the rat holes by stuffing them with glass. The lady and her children tried this method, but the rats continue to invade the house and yard in broad daylight.

Overall, the house is dilapidated, but the tenants' recent complaints have brought threats.

MORE THAN 10 rat holes were in the backyard when the tenant moved in. Some were stuffed with glass, but the rats only dug new tunnels. This AFRO photo by Cynthia Grandison shows where rats have made holes.

Rent control bill, a rip-off?

By Willie Egyir

Four days after its passage, the rent control law continues to be a bone of contention. City Housing Commissioner Robert Embry thinks it does not help the poor while State Del. Troy Brailey hails it as the protector of the "little people."

The politically hot bill was passed into law at the City Council meeting last Monday night. It replaces the state rent control law on July 1. The bill which now awaits Mayor Schaefer's signature, places a mandatory 6 per cent ceiling on rent increases on existing rental units in Baltimore.

It also allows pass-throughs to tenants of increased utility rates, property taxes and security costs and capital improvements.

A hot debate which preceded the passage of the bill saw those for and against arguing the merits and demerits of the measure.

Proponents contended it was the only means to save tenants from landlord hawks while opponents argued it was not all encompassing and leaves out nearly 60 per cent of the city's tenants. It is a rip-off, they state. The bill passed 14-4 after council members voted by voice to defeat a motion to table it indefinitely.

Giving a three-point reason for his lack of support for the bill, Mr. Embry said it includes less than half of rentals in the city and applies only to apartment houses. Majority of persons don't live in apartment houses.

The commissioner said the bill does not cover subsidized housing like the Uplands and landlords can pass through to tenants costs of increased utilities.

"What the city needs is low income houses for the poor," Mr. Embry said, adding that more pressure must be exerted on the federal government to restore housing funds cut by the Nixon Administration.

Countering the views of the commissioner, Mr. Brailey hailed the council for the passage of the bill. "Regardless of what anyone says, this bill will help the little people."

Del. Brailey who spearheaded the fight to continue rent control for Baltimoreans said he was elated that the council saw it fit to pass the measure for another year.

According to him, without rent control bill, tenants will be at the mercy of landlords, charging what they deem fit.

In the last General Assembly session, Mr. Brailey introduced a bill to extend the present rent control at five per cent but the bill did not pass.

Stating he will re-introduce the bill in the next General Assembly, the outspoken lawmaker said he will also seek a measure to prevent landlords from evicting tenants without cause.

June named Food Stamp month in Md.

Two hundred and eighty-five religious, labor and civic leaders from throughout the state of Maryland have signed proclamations declaring June as Food Stamp Month.

They "affirm the right of all people to eat the proper amounts and quality of food necessary to maintain a healthy life." They urge that effort be made to correct the tragic situation that only about 50 per cent of eligible Marylanders participate in the Food Stamp program, despite the current economic crisis.

Food Stamp Month which is being coordinated by the Maryland Food Stamp Coalition is an organized effort to publicize the value of the Food Stamp program to people such as the elderly, the unemployed and the low or fixed income residents of Maryland who might not know they are eligible.

Lady, age 100, is member of family of long livers

By Cynthia Grandison

"All my family lived long, my grandmother lived to be 90-years old, my mother was only 75 when she died, my father was only 80 and I am the oldest of all my family," said Mrs. Annie Christy who is a century old.

She never thought she'd reach 100, partly because of an early childhood sickness that impaired her ability to walk.

"And the doctor told me I wouldn't live but 2 days and he's been gone 75 years . . . you never can tell."

Born 10 a.m. June 16, 1875, she was one of seven children who lived 1328 N. Mount St. This frail, but spirited woman now resides in Dukeland Nursing and Convalescent Home.

Her sister, Mrs. Sarah Chambers, 92, is also in the nursing home.

Mrs. Christy devoted 26 years of her life to domestic service. Cooking three meals a day everyday and taking care of the children was her life.

"I stayed in the white people's house night and day. . .I worked Sunday and all. I didn't have much time to do anything. . .sucks, Annie Christy worked HARD," she exclaimed with a quick twist of her head.

Three of her 100 years were spent happily married to John Isaac Christy. She married at the age of 50 and said, "I had to pick someone who was going to do something besides myself."

This remarkable woman had a quick mind, only wears glasses when she sews, bathes and dresses her self and refuses to use a cane, unless she's good and ready for it.

Vegetarianism is nothing new to Mrs. Christy. She has abstained for most of her life, except for an occasional country sausage. The reason: never cared for it.

Neither diet nor miracle portion sustained this woman's life. She attributes it to treating people right, "if you treat people right you get along," she continued. "Its been too fast a world. If they hadn't been so fast they would be here like me."

"Treat people with respect and you'll live long," was Mrs. Christy's advice.

She remembered how her sister was "lazy" and "bad" saying, "The children's parents would always be up in my mother's face."

Mrs. Chambers retaliated, "The children used to fight me and I had to fight back. . .I wasn't going to let them kill me."

Their entire family (The Browns) used to attend the Mt. Zion United Methodist Church where Mrs. Christy was an active member for over 50 years.

Of the many rememberances, of Baltimore she recounted, "I remember when they didn't have no buses. . .I used to sit with the horses, (that drew the carriages)."

"I never went to high school. . .I was working. . .what I got I picked up. . .when I used to go to church. I used to come home and know that text. . .I sat around and read. . .I could tell them (her family) somethings they didn't even know."

Unbelieveable as it may sound, Mrs. Christy has been at the nursing home 2 years. Before then, she and her sister lived in a 10 room house and took care of themselves.

ONE CENTURY—Mrs. Annie Christy celebrated her 100th birthday June 16. "I prepared myself (for death) a long time ago," she said. In this AFRO photo by Cynthia Grandison, Mrs. Juanita Mills, R.N., talks with Mrs. Christy, the oldest resident at Dukeland Nursing and Convalescent Home.

Costly Medicaid errors to be rectified

New Medicaid rules aimed at finding and reducing eligibility errors that cost taxpayers an estimated $600 million annually have been issued in final form by HEW Secretary Caspar W. Weinberger.

Recent studies by HEW and the General Accounting Office indicated that the ineligibility rate for Medicaid (medical assistance for the needy) may be as high as 20 per cent among that portion of recipients who receive medical services at little or no cost but do not also receive welfare cash payments.

Major eligibility problems noted by the department include lack of verification of a patient's resources, the automatic renewal of a patient's eligibility without rechecking his circumstances and billing for services when Medicaid eligibility of the patient has never been determined.

Under the final regulations, HEW requires states to review the eligibility of Medicaid recipients who do not receive public assistance cash payments (the medically needy and others determined eligible for medical assistance by state or local agencies).

To do this, states must review a scientifically determined sample of paid claims and check eligibility of the recipients. They also must determine amounts expended in error and the reasons for such errors. Plans to reduce those errors must be prepared and put into effect.

The initial sampling period is set for July 1 through Sept. 30, with the sample to be drawn from approximately seven million of the 25 million persons estimated to be in the Medicaid program. Thereafter, states will report error fundings for each six-month period.

Medicaid (like public assistance) is financed by federal, state and sometimes local tax funds. It is administered by the states in accordance with federal regulations and guidelines. The estimated total budget for Medicaid for fiscal year 1976 is $13.5 billion, 55 per cent of which is the federal share.

"Medicaid Eligibility Quality Control is the latest in a series of actions to improve State-Federal Medicaid operations," Secretary Winberger said.

"The department already is operating an intensive Quality Control effort to reduce errors in eligibility and payments in the nation's largest cash assistance program — Aid to Families with Dependent Children. We expect similar success will result from this new effort for Medicaid."

States were informed about HEW's intention to initiate Medicaid eligibility review activities in October, 1974. The intervening time has been used to field test the proposed system in cooperation with state agencies in California, Illinois, Maryland and New York. The regulations were proposed March 13 and comments received during the following 30 days were considered before the final issuance today.

SOON TO SAIL at Sandy Point is Larry Woodson's craft which he built at Calvert Education Center where he is finishing 3 years of study and assistancy to Mr. McBride, instructor. In this AFRO staff photo by Cynthia Grandison, Larry puts on finishing touches.

2 charged in sailor's murder

Police have charged two men with the murder of a 23-year-old Puerto Rican coast guard whose battered body was found in the 1400 block Lancaster St. Sunday morning.

Homicide investigators state Ricky Hull from San Juan, a machinist's mate, was apparently partying on the Block when the early morning incident happened.

Charged are Walter F. Fisher 3rd, 30, of Hickory Ave. and Neil M. Haddaway, 34, 6700 block Averial Rd. Police are expecting more arrests in the murder, the motive of which is said to have been robbery.

Police state Mr. Haddaway was also charged with illegal possession of a handgun he allegedly carried when arrested at 2 a.m. Tuesday.

Beaten child, 11 in fair condition

Lawrence Roberts, 11, has been confined to University Hospital since June 14, after being hit in the head with a cane by a white man.

Police report, William H. Ohl Jr., 38, of the 1000 block Boyd St., is being held at City Jail under $13,000 bail.

Ohl is charged with assault with intent to murder. Police state after the youth was hit in the head, Ohl stated "That is one n—— I got rid of. I will have to get rid of a couple more."

According to police, Lawrence was riding his bike with Kevin Salley, 11, who is white, in the 1100 block Boyd St. Police state Kevin reported a white man was sitting on the steps on Boyd St. and called them over to his house.

Kevin told the police he rode over to the man but Lawrence stayed with his bike. Police quote witnesses as saying the white man went over to Lawrence, hit him in the right temple and knocked him off his bicycle.

Lawrence was taken to University Hospital where he had surgery for a blood clot in the brain.

$457,550 HEW grant for schools

The Department of Health, Education and Welfare, Office of Education has awarded a $457,550 grant to the Baltimore City Public Schools for the Follow Through Local Project.

The purpose of this project is to sustain and augment in the early primary grades the gains that children from low-income families make in Headstart and other quality preschool programs.

Follow Through provides special programs of instruction as well as health, nutrition and other education related services. Active participation of parents is stressed.

The United States Office of Education Project officer for this project is Lorraine Behula. The grantee's project director is Elaine Nolan. The grant supports this project through June 30, 1976, afterwhich USOE will reconsider further support for Project Follow Through.

Tonisha Michelle to set sail soon

Larry Woodson is proud father of a beautiful, red and white baby girl about 12 feet long named, "Tonisha Michelle."

Yes, we're pulling your leg. "Tonisha Michelle" is a boat which took Mr. Woodson, 27-year-old woodwork student at Calvert Community Center, about two and a half months to construct.

He and his real daughters Tonisha, 2; Michelle, 1; son Larius, 4, and wife, Voncile, plan to launch the boat at Sandy Point.

"There's a certain amount of satisfaction in constructing a project, to look at it and see that you made it yourself," said Larry.

"I've made most of my furniture at home," he said, "I would really like to get into it fulltime . . ."

His interest was sparked while in the service and he now refinishes furniture apart from school and home responsibilities.

Mr. Woodson will finish the course next month and hopes to open a business of his own in the future. — C.D.

MARINE PRIVATE FIRST CLASS DONALD CALDWELL, son of Mrs. Elizabeth Caldwell of Presbury St., has been promoted to his present rank while serving with Force Troops, Fleet Marine Force Atlantic at the Marine Corps Base, Camp Lejeune, N.C. A 1974 graduate of Carver High School, he joined the Marine Corps in October 1974.

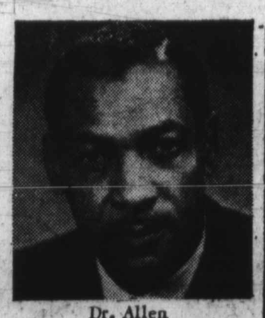
Dr. Allen's honor banquet June 28

The week long activities honoring Dr. Aris T. Allen for his many contributions to the community end tomorrow (Saturday) with a banquet at the Annapolis Hilton Hotel.

Both regular and special patron tickets are available for the banquet and reception by calling Dale Baxter in Baltimore, 437-1627 or Mrs. Joan Grayson in Annapolis at 269-0435.

The activities are being sponsored by a committee of interested citizens throughout the state of Maryland and the Washington D.C. area. The group's primary objective is to highlight the many contributions which the renown black medic and legislator has made to the city of Annapolis, the state and the nation.

Participating are local churchmen, physicians, businessmen, educators and the general public.



Dr. Allen

City trashball program goes into second year

The Baltimore City Trashball Program, attested one of the best in the nation, is to be conducted for the second time this year.

Beginning July 7 through Sept. 21, this year's program conducted by City Bureau of Recreation will be sponsored by McDonald's Inc. at the cost of $3,000.

At its meeting Wednesday the City Board of Estimates approved depositing the corporation's contribution into the bureau's account. When it begins on Monday, July 7, the program will be marked initially with local contests that terminate with city-wide championships at the City Fair to be held Sunday, Sept. 21.

In other areas, the Board approved abrogation of a contract between City Department of Recreation and Parks and the Comets, a professional soccer team.

Requesting the release from the contract, the team said it could not afford to pay the rental with the crowds it was drawing at its matches. The team now plays at Towson State College.

If You Have A Vacant Room To Rent Near Morgan State College, Call this Number Now— 893-3217 ask for the HOUSING OFFICE

Visit the Kitchen S-T-R-E-T-C-H-E-R-S . . . MODERN KITCHENS
WOODLAWN SHOWROOM 6716 Whitestone Road 944-7800
TOWSON SHOWROOM 25 E. Chesapeake Ave. 823-3187
Waste King Universal The stainless steel dishwasher

NEW MOTEL CO. Nice air conditioned rms. & TV. $8.50 or $9 plus tax. One bed for 2 people. 4601 E. MONUMENT ST. EA. 7-5900

THE NEW VERY UNIQUE DRAKE MOTEL FORMERLY THE TERMINAL MOTEL
NORTHPOINT RD & PULASKI HWY
DAY RATES MON-THURS. $7.49
EVENING RATES—$12.84 and $14.98
MIRRORED CEILINGS
SHAG CARPETING COLOR T.V.
DON'T MAKE A MISTAKE GO TO THE DRAKE

B.E. & H TRANSPORTATION SERVICE
King Dominion Trips Every Weekend plus Other Charters and Tours
752-5267—542-1331
323-5578—675-2495