Man shot in Avenue store theft , another surrenders

One suspect was shot and another surrendered when police responded to a silent alarm and foiled a holdup attempt at a Pennsylvania Ave. furniture store last Tuesday afternoon.

Police report show Kevin Wilson, 21, 800 block Brooks Lane, was treated for a gunshot wound at the Provident Hospital and released to authorities. He and Curtis Banks, 16, also a resident of Brooks Lane, have been charged with the attempted robbery.

Holdup police told the AFRO the two were also charged in connection with three other armed robberies: a $4,700 robbery at Blum's Inc. in the 1300 block W. North Ave. on Dec. 26, and two grocery store holdups on Dec. 19 and 21.

Police records reveal the suspects face a total of 47 robbery and hand gun violations.

Almost $800 in cash and numerous rings and watches removed from store employees in last Wednesday's robbery, was recovered by police.

On Wednesday incident eye witnesses told the AFRO two young men walked into the Marvel Cash and Credit Company in the 2600 block Pennsylvania Ave. at 3:20 p.m.

The young bandits, both of whom were armed, rounded up the owner and seven employees, removing their rings, watches, and cash.

When they forced the owner and another employee to open the safe the employee set off a silent alarm which brought two patrolmen to the scene.

Police state one of the thieves hid in a rear store room while the other, with a gun in hand, tried to walk past the store workers and the policemen.

Calling to the man to halt, police said one of the officers fired at the bandit as he attempted to flee the building. Police said the second suspect was called to give himself up and, he came marching out from the rear of the building with his hands up.

COULDN'T MAKE IT — One of two robbers who boldly held up the Marvel Cash and Credit Company last Tuesday afternoon was shot and wounded and the other captured. In the top panel two unidentified police officers guard the Pennsylvania Ave. store while the bottom panel shows the blood of the gun victim splashed all over the wall and the ground where he fell.

AUTO DEFECTS:

Douglass bill seeks inspection

Del. John W. Douglass, chairman of the Joint Budget and Audit Committee, said Wednesday he will again submit legislation during the 1976 Session to require annual inspection of all autos.

Douglass said that studies by State Police of 159 vechicles involved in fatal accidents in Maryland over the past few years indicated that over 62 per cent of them had safety defects that were either contributory or causitive to those fatal accidents.

The predominance of defects found were:

Safety Defect: Tires, 51 per cent; brakes, 28 per cent; steering, 8 per cent; wheels, 7 per cent; exhaust leaks, miscellaneous, 6 per cent.

"This data provides irrefutable proof and justification for implementing a system of periodic motor vehicle inspections in Maryland."

Futher, Douglass indicated State Police experience under present laws provides clear evidence that a State appointed inspection system can be operated with virtually no abuse.

Douglass explained that his measure establishing a state appointed system has the support of the Highway Users Federation, the Maryland Independent Automobile Association, the Maryland State Police, the Maryland Automobile Club (AAA).

Murder, other crimes on the decline in Baltimore

Fewer persons were killed in Baltimore City in 1975 than in 1974. Police Department figures show 259 homicides in the past year as against 293 in the year before.

Of those killed in 1974, 222 as compared to only 169 in 1975 were blacks. These statistics reflect the overall drop by 5.9 per cent in crime in the nation's sixth largest city.

According to the same figures there has been a significant decrease in murder since 1971 when homicide hit astronomical figures. Statistics show 323 slayings in 1971, 330 in 1972 and only 280 in 1973.

Accounting for the decrease, Sgt. Mike Bass of Police Department Information division, told the AFRO a lot of factors have contributed. These include stricter gun control laws, enactment of the death penally, and mandatory sentence for violation of gun laws.

Police also credit the drop to programs emphasizing placement of manpower in high crime areas, more effective patrols and quicker apprehensions.

He said the recent Operation PASS (People Against Senseless Shootings), in which 13,765 guns were bought by the department also helped cut down on crime.

Police Department figures for the first nine months of 1975 showed that violent crimes dropped in five of seven other major index crime categories.

The biggest drop was in burglary and breaking and entering with 11,984 incidents reported during the first nine months of 1975, compared with 13,920 during the same period in 1974.

In addition, motor vehicle thefts dropped from 6,736 to 5,704. Forcible rape and robbery also showed declines.

In the two categories which registered increases, the rise was slight. Aggravated assault rose from 4,832 in 1974 to 4,951 in 1975 while larceny increased by eight cases to a total of 22,708.

West Baltimore mother, 18 guilty in child abuse case

Mrs. Ruby Boston, 18, mother of two children last Wednesday pleaded guilty in Criminal Court to child abuse.

Judge Paul Dorf accepted the plea and stated he would impose sentence Feb. 9 after the mother receives psychiatric treatment.

Judge Dorf also ordered a pre-sentence report on Mrs. Boston, of the 1800 block McCulloh St.

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Assistant State's Attorney Leslie Stein told the court, "Mrs. Boston took her six-week-old son Randolph Boston to University Hospital last Aug. 16, because he continued to cry and could not move his right arm."

Court records reveal Dr. Lindsey Grossman examined the baby and discovered his right arm was swollen and bruises also found on his legs.

Mr. Stein told the court Dr. Grossman asked the mother what happened to the child and the mother is quoted as saying, "The baby received the bruises while he was in his crib."

Court records show Dr. Grossman called the police went to Mrs. Boston's home, where they found her 13-month-old son had similar scars on his body.

According to Mr. Stein Randolph Boston Jr., was examined at University Hospital and doctors reported his left arm and right thigh bone injured.

Dr. Grossman is quoted as telling the assistant State's attorney, "As Randolph grows older, his left leg will become shorter because of his injured thigh and he will walk with a limp."

FATHER CHARGED

Randolph Sr., 23, of McCulloh St. is confined to City Jail awaiting trial. His wife, Mrs. Boston showed no emotions when she pleaded guilty and was taken back to city jail. The children are now with foster parents.

UN vote on Zionism deplored

The Baltimore branch of the NAACP has deplored the recent resolution adopted by the United Nations equating Zionism with race bias.

The association said it is "appalled by the recent resolution by the world organization because the organization recognizes Zionism as part of the fight against racism."

Stating it has worked for 66 years to end racism in American society, a release issued by the organization pledged to fight racial discrimination in the United States and wherever it appears.

"The Baltimore branch, together with 135 national civil rights, labor, religious and civic groups, rejects this resolution equating Zionism with race discrimination," the release added.

American Friends sponsor war resistance conference

The American Friends Service Committee will sponsor a war resistance conference Saturday, Jan. 10, at the Church of the Redeemer, located at 5603 N. Charles St.

The conference will examine the various aspects of war resistance with the help of competent and experienced guest lecturers.

Participants will have the opportunity to attend the following workshops:

1. The Theological Challenge for War Resistance
2. The Legal and Political Implications of Recognizing the War Resister
3. The Nature of the Vietnam War: the conditions which made it possible. Are they with us today?
4. The Resistance: past, present and future.

During a lunch of Jasagna, salad and fruit, participants will discuss the Selective Service System's March 31 registration date for all 18-year-old men.

A release issued by the Committee reads:

"It is important to remember that we have not healed the division which besets this country as a result of the Vietnam War. Hun- Vietnam.

alienated from this country because they refused to participate in our illegal, immoral and imperialistic enterprise in Indochina.

"These men, their families and friends are seeking an amnesty which will reunite them and which will help this country take an honest look at our involvements in light of Viet Nam.

"We would be sorely amiss If we would continue to close our eyes to the true nature of our involvements abroad and to the attempts to repress resisters here at home," the group stated.

The Committee said the March 31 Selective Service Registration presented to all Americans a reminder of how U.S. involvement could affect Americans.

"The refusal of the Selective Service System to accept a conscientious objector's claim demands that we closely examine our faith in our political leaders.

"Can we allow it to take presidence over a belief in a higher moral law? The day when men and women will "sign up" without resisting or conscientiously examining the morality of their actions might soon be upon us unless we take steps to prevent its coming," the release stated.

HERION IN DEAD BODIES

Charles L. Fields pleads innocent in smuggling case

(UPI) — An Army sergeant linked to a man said by prosecutors to be involved in a longstanding plot to ship heroin into the United States in the bodies of American Vietnam war dead, pleaded innocent Monday to heroin smuggling charges.

Sgt. Charles L. Fields, 24, entered the plea before U.S. District Judge Joseph H. Young, who tentatively scheduled March 8 as the trial date.

Fields, of Little Rock, Ark., was to be tried along with another Army sergeant, Larry V. Brown, 26, of Fayetteville, N.C., who pleaded innocent to the charge last Friday.

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Both were indicted by a Baltimore federal grand jury while they were stationed at an Army establishment at Kaiserlautern. The two sergeants are accused of one count each of conspiracy to import heroin into the United States from West Germany.

Brown was being held on $100,000 bond while Fields was held on $75,000 bond.

Still to be arraigned in the case is civilian James Wilkins, 51, formerly of Philadelphia and now a resident of Kaiserlautern. Prosecutors said Wilkins was the contact for a heroin smuggling operation, including the alleged plot to ship heroin in the cadavers of slain American servicemen.

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Assistant U.S. Attorney Andrew Radding said "Wilkins admitted in undercover taped conversations being involved in the cadaver case. We suspect Brown of participating in the smuggling in Vietnam with Wilkins."

In 1973, a civilian named Thomas E. Southerland, 37, of North Carolina, was charged with conspiracy to smuggle heroin into the United States from Thailand by stuffing the drug into the bodies of dead American soldiers.

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Through a series of legal maneuvers, the introduction of the evidence involving the use of the cadavers was disallowed at Southerland's trial. He was convicted of impersonating an American Army sergeant and sentenced to prison.

Radding said Wilkins has been taken into custody of United States officials in West Germany.

Prosecutors have said Wilkins allegedly used a bar he owns in Kaiserlautern as the contact point to send illegal materials, including heroin, to the United States by use of the Army post office.

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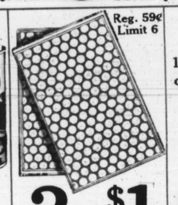

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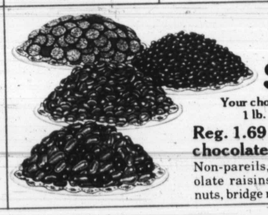

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