# Baltimore Afro American

WE ARE IN OUR 84th YEAR — LATE CITY EDITION

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# Fire kills Jordan children

COMPLETELY DESTROYED in the before dawn fire, the gutted home of former Corrections Commissioner James Jordan on Chesterfield Rd. in Crownsville, is shown in this photo by News American Photographer Paul T. Whyte.

JAMES JORDAN
tries to save his children

FELICIA GAIL JORDAN
dies at 8 years

CHRISTOPHER CLAY JORDAN
dies at 6 years

"We have never had a tragedy like this in our family. I was out of town attending a meeting in Atlanta when I received the call.

"We are not sure if he (the father, James Jordan) can attend the funeral."

Jasper Clay Jr. made the above statement to the AFRO with a quiver in his voice as he spoke of the two alarm fire which took the lives of the two children of Mrs. James (Bernice) Jordan Jan. 14 around 6 a.m. at their Chesterfield Rd. home in Crownsville. Mr. Jordan was formerly Maryland Commissioner of Corrections.

DEAD ARE: Christopher Clay Jordan, 6, and Felicia Gail Jordan, 8.

The family will receive friends tonight (Friday) from 7 to 8 p.m. at St. Philips Episcopal Church in Annapolis on Bestgate Rd. Funeral services will be held 11 a.m. Saturday at the church.

Jordan, 51, retired because of his health after a 1975 heart attack. He and his wife managed to escape the blazing home after being awaken by smoke.

At AFRO presstime, Mr. Clay, brother of Mrs. Jordan stated, "The doctors are not sure if he (James Jordan) will be able to attend the funeral because of his heart."

Jordan was taken to Anne Arundel General Hospital and treated for smoke inhalation, cuts and burns.

Due to previously suffering two heart attacks, he was transferred to Church Home and Hospital and was listed in "satisfactory condition" at AFRO presstime.

Mrs. Jordan was treated for shock and released from Anne Arundel General Hospital. She is now staying with relatives in Columbia.

Ill health forced Jordan to step down as the state's first Commissioner of Corrections last March. Jordan as the first of his race as commissioner held the position since May 1970.

During an interview with the AFRO in 1975, Jordan stated, "I am limited to what I can do with this heart problem."

ELECTRICAL FIRE

Fire officials state the cause of the fire was "believed to be an electrical fire started in the basement."

A spokesman for the Anne Arundel County Fire Department revealed, "When we arrived on the scene, the fire was beyond control. The second alarm was sounded 6:25 a.m.

"The floor of the children's second floor bedrooms caved in and their bodies still in their beds, fell through to the living room."

Deputy Fire Chief Robert W. Griffith believes the

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## Ex-prison head is hospitalized

## King breakfast attracts 1,050

"One thing that Dr. King left on record and tried to teach and I think we are learning is that when you make it don't forget where you came from.

"Not only must we not forget who we are or where we came from but what I want to say to the black citizens of Baltimore, you can raise all the devil you want about white racism but until black folk really get together, there will be some dark and difficult days ahead."

The words from Benjamin L. Hooks, commissioner of the Federal Communications Commission, speaking at the YMCA's Martin Luther King Memorial breakfast, Thursday morning, brought thunderous applause from a standing room only crowd.

The integrated guests, who gathered as early at 6:30 a.m. for the 7:30 a.m. event were well rewarded.

Hooks, a former Memphis judge and a Baptist minister, gave a fire and brimstone speech in which he admonished both black and white citizens to live up to Dr. King's dream.

The 39 minute talk which was interrupted 13 times by applause was much like a minister preaching to his congregation as the monologue ranged from respect for black women to a criticism and failure of TV and news media presenting a true picture of black America; to whether black citizens should celebrate the Bicentennial; to the subject of Dr. King and the change, he brought to this country.

A highlight was the appearance of the Morgan University Choir with Dr. Nathan Carter, director.

Their special rendition of "I Had A Dream", arranged by Dr. Carter, moved the audience so much it sparked handclapping tears to some guests eyes, cheers from others and a standing ovation from the group.

Noteworthy was a tape of the actual Dr. King speech which set the mood for the the song.

Several spirituals were sung by Instant Harmony Quartet, Sweet Adelines, Inc. of Dundalk.

The memorial breakfast was sponsored by the Baltimore Area YMCA. General chairman of the sponsoring committee was Supreme Bench Judge Robert B. Watts and with the coordinator, A. Paul Moss, associate general executive of the YMCA of which Richard M. Kelly is executive.

HONORED GUESTS — Federal Communications Commissioner and Mrs. Benjamin L. Hooks were saluted at a reception Wednesday at the home of Mr. and Mrs. A. Paul Moss.

(AFRO staff photo by Bonny Phillips)

Co-sponsor were members of the Camp King's Landing Women's Service Club headed by Mrs. Gwen Clark and the Jeffery Fund.

Hooks was introduced by J. Sydney King, director of Community Services for

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## Mandel's men say judgeship not confirmed

Informed sources in Annapolis deny responsibility for the Thursday morning rumors that "Milton Allen's appointment to the Supreme Bench of Baltimore is in the bag."

A spokesman in the governor's press office told the AFRO, "There has been no appointment yet. The governor, we know, is anxious to fill the vacancy on the court but as yet he has made no announcement."

In recent weeks support has mounted for the former state's attorney to be appointed as only the fifth black juror on the 22-member bench.

Black jurors already seated on the city's highest court are Judges Robert C. Watts, John R. Hargrove, Harry Cole and Joseph C. Howard.

Most supporters for Allen's appointment cite the recent tradition, established by several governors including Mandel who have given judgeships to former state's attorneys.

Chief Judge Anselm Sodaro, William J. O'Donnell and Charles R. Moylan are three former state's attorneys now seated on the Supreme Bench and confirming the tradition.

POSIES, PRAISES AND APPLAUSE came to and from this trio. Commissioner and Mrs. Pomerleau and his attorney and close friend, George L. Russell Jr.

AFRO staff photo by Roman Hankey

NEVER BEFORE IN 200 YEARS HISTORY

## Slave church gets highest U.S. honor

The Orchard Street Church built before the Civil War by slaves, received more than blessings of a snowfall Sunday.

In the presence of an unprecedented number of national, state and local officials, the building constructed in 1837 received the highest federal honor, certification on the US Register of Historic places.

The occasion marked the first in 200 years history of black citizens and opened the Bicentennial year for all Baltimore.

The church, noted nationally for its tunnel, was a part of the Underground Railroad in the freedom movement led by Harriett Tubman and Frederick Douglass.

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Federal recognition guarantees permanent preservation of the structure and eligibility for U.S. grants.

The city structure, the oldest built by black persons, is designated as a

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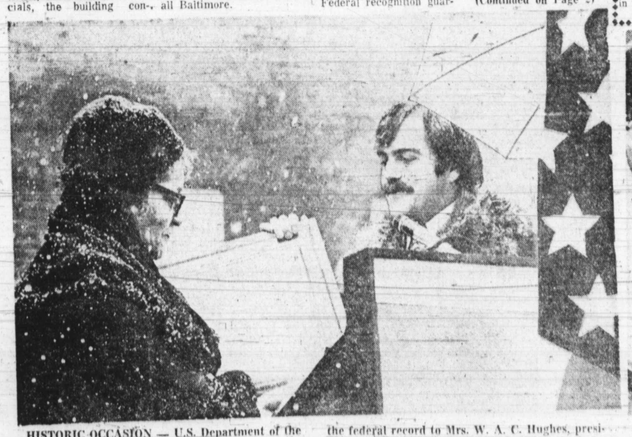

HISTORIC OCCASION — U.S. Department of the Interior Keeper of the Register of Historic Places Charles Herrington presents the certification of the federal record to Mrs. W. A. C. Hughes, president of the church's preservation group.

(AFRO staff photo by Roman Hankey)

## Pacesetters in history

Two hundred years ago today, the Continental Congress accepted George Washington's reverse proposal and allowed free black men to enlist in the Revolutionary Army. It was recorded that over 50,000 black men fought in the Revolutionary War.

ON BEHALF OF SLAVES and freedmen who built the church in 1837, Mrs. Mary Carter Smith and the two youngsters, Adrian and Allison Coursey accept the highest national citation from Mrs. Hughes.

## 1,000 salute Pomerleau despite Senate report

By Elizabeth M. Oliver

The Maryland Senate Committee report released Wednesday charged Baltimore Police Commissioner Pomerleau and his Inspectional Services Division with abusing the law by use of electronic surveillance on political figures and private citizens.

Nevertheless, on the same day, Pomerleau as chief of one of the nation's most highly praised law enforcement agencies, received standing ovations from the more than 1,000 persons present at the Advertising Club's annual luncheon.

The crowd of some of the state's and city's most respected citizens, cheered as he received the Man of the Year Award.

Presenting the cherished citation was Pomerleau's attorney, former Supreme Bench Judge George L.

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## Parents seek daughter, 14

The 14-year-old daughter of Raymond and Paige Alsup, 2300 block Winchester St., has been reported missing since early Monday.

The teenager, who reportedly has not been to class at Calverton Heights Jr. High School since November, gave her parents no indication she was unhappy or planning to leave.

The distraught father told the AFRO, "My wife and I left for work Monday morning thinking that she was going to school. When I got home her clothes and toothbrush were missing and no one seems to have any idea of where she went or why."

Police are distributing a photo of the teenager whose 14th birthday was Jan. 15.

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