-Blaze

(FROM PAGE ONE)

down the steps and as he got downstairs, all of the lights in the house went out. There was nothing but smoke and flames coming from the room. It knocked Harry down.

He couldn't get to the girl. They must have been smoking, the mattress was so burned up. I got so nervous that I had to scream," she said.

According to Mrs. Knight she has lived in the house for about 15 years. "And nothing has happened like this before," she said.

Miss Davis, according to Mrs. Knight, was visiting her nephew.

"She got here about eight o'clock. We knew her well. She would come down about once a week.

Fowkes, worked at a carwash and had been living with his aunt since he was 18 years, according to Mrs. Knight.

In addition to his mother and aunt, Mr. Fowkes is survived by two sisters, Mrs. Willie Mae Towler of Baltimore and Miss Mary Louise Fitzgerald and a brother, Wiliam Eugene Fitzgerald of Blackstone.

Also immediate survivors are his widow, from whom he was separated, Mrs. Lois Fowkes, three children Lola, 16; Shena, 13, and Raymond, 19, all of Newark, N.J.

Burial will be in Blackstone after funeral services at Bethel Baptist Church there. The body will be taken down by Hearse The Samuel T. Redd Funeral Home is handling arrangements.

"It is a surprise and a shock. We didn't expect no funeral," Mrs. Knight concluded.

* * *

At presstime, the mother of Miss Davis, Mrs. Ann Davis said, "I'm really too upset to say anything, call me another time."

The funeral will be Monday night from the Donald Glover Funeral Home.

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—Carter names Harris

(FROM PAGE ONE)

dians as well as English and Scottish settlers, among her ancestors.

The daughter of a railroad waiter, she is a former Ambassador to Luxembourg and dean of the Howard University Law School. She now is a prominent Washington attorney.

Still a human rights champion, Mrs. Harris works and speaks out strongly on behalf of blacks, women and other minority groups. Her husband, William Beasley Harris, is an attorney with the Federal Maritime Commission.

Born May 31, 1924 in the corn-belt town of Mattoon, Ill. and graduated from high school in Chicago, she had a choice of five college scholarship offers.

She chose Howard U., where she established a distinguished academic record, finishing No. 1 at both Howard and George Washington Law School, also in Washington.

Today she has 30 honorary degrees.

* * *

Mrs. Harris has long been a political activist. At Howard, she became vice chairman of the student chapter of the NAACP, and was among students in one of the earliest sit-ins in a white restaurant in Washington's then-black section. (D.C.'s restaurants were desegregated in 1953.)

Mrs. Harris first joined the government in 1969 as a Justice Department attorney, but left the department a year later to become associated dean of students and lecturer in law at Howard.

In July, 1963, President Kennedy appointed her co-chairman, with Mrs. Mildred McAlee Horton, of the National Women's Committee for Civil Rights.

A staunch Democrat, Mrs. Harris seconded the nomination of President Johnson at the Democratic Convention in Atlantic City in 1964 and subsequently canvassed actively in his behalf. He named her ambassador in 1965.

In 1972, Mrs. Harris was chairman of the credentials committee for the Democratic National Convention.

-Mrs. Santa

(FROM PAGE ONE)

Education Area, Mrs. Alice Pinderhughes, superintendent; $125, from Beta Omega Epsilon Fraternity.

The Garwyn Medical Center who sent clothes and $150; The Kelly Family, $150.; the D.C.-Md. Regional Chapter of the Booker T. Washington Assoc., $100; The Ten Plus Club, $100.; Mr. and Mrs. Levi Shields, Bluewater Seafood, $100.; and the American Friends Service Committee, $50.

Also special thanks to the Maryland Food Committee. Mrs. Edna DeCoursey Johnson for a boost at the last minute of $500.

To all AFRO readers...those of you who cared and shared...thank you for taking the time to help needy families at Christmas.

Mandel lawyers reply to prosecution appeal

(UPI) — Defense lawyers in the political corruption trial of Gov. Marvin Mandel and four associates said Tuesday the prosecution's schedule for a retrial is "unrealistic."

The papers filed with the clerk of the U.S. district court were defense answers to the government's request for a prompt retrial.

The mail fraud and racketeering trial of Mandel, W. Dale Hess, William A. Rodgers, Harry W. Rodgers III and Ernest N. Cory Jr. ended in a mistrial Dec. 7 after 13 weeks of proceedings because reports of attempted jury tampering reached some of the jurors.

Defense attorneys said the schedule was "unrealistic" because many of the witnesses for both sides are members of the Maryland General Assembly, which will be in session from Jan. 12 until April 11, 1977. "In scheduling the retrial of this case, the court should be sensitive to the needs of the state," the attorneys wrote.

They also questioned whether the mistrial resulted from Governmental action which would make a retrial "impermissible under the constitution" based on the fifth amendment's double jeopardy clause.

The extensive publicity which resulted after the court documents were unsealed "pollu[illegible] the atmosphere with news stories, which continue unabated to this day, in which only the most prejudicial and inadmissible material is highlighted," the lawyers said.

"The present case should not be scheduled for retrial, therefore, until there is some determination that the air has cleared and that there exists a reasonable likelihood that a fair trial can be had by all of the defendants in this district," the statement said.

—Player slain

(FROM PAGE ONE)

County prosecutor Thomas J. Shusted. She was held pending a hearing in Gloucester Township Municipal Court and possible action by a grand jury.

A county investigator who lives in the Cherrywood Apartment Complex and was the first at the scene said the Gay's ground-floor apartment showed signs of a struggle, including overturned furniture and large blood stains in the foyer and the steps.

The couple had a history of family arguments, according to Shusted. "There have been problems in the past, of course, but how aggravated they were isn't known," the prosecutor said.

Gloucester Township Police Chief Sethe Stichler said Mrs. Gay had filed charges of assault and battery against her husband this year but later withdrew the charges.

But members of the Eagles organization and a manager at the apartment complex said they knew of no domestic problems between the two.

"He always seemed to be with his family," said a spokesman for the Eagles, who first signed the Fayetteville, (N.C.) State graduate during training camp last year.

Gay, who played for the Oakland Raiders, San Diego Chargers and New York Jets since first being drafted in 1973, gained a starting position on the Eagles, who were 4-10 during the past season.

Informed of the incident, Eagles coach Dick Vermiel said:

"Blenda was a hard-working guy who was very much respected among the squad. He was a very warm person. He gave a lot. It's just a shock."

Vermiel said Gay was "not an all-pro lineman, but he gave us all the talent he had. That is probably a greater mark of character than anything else."

* * *

Eagles spokesman Jim Gallagher said: "He was a beautiful guy. He was a good guy.

"We had a Christmas party a week ago and his wife and little daughter, who is 3, were there and he (Gay) was enjoying himself.

"He was a nice fellow, a nice pleasant guy in the locker room. He always seemed in a jovial mood. We're all shocked around here," Gallagher said.

-Nomination

(FROM PAGE ONE)

sional Black Caucus will lead a no-holds-barred fight against the Senate confirmation of Judge Bell."

Clarence M. Mitchell Jr., Rep. Mitchell's brother and head of the NAACP Washington's office, termed Bell's nomination "a very unfortunate negative development."

NAACP Board Chairman Margaret Bush Wilson told Carter, by way of telegram, that Bell's appointment would be "keenly resented by those of us deeply involved in the civil rights movement and concerned about the role of the court in securing and protecting the rights of black Americans."

According to Rep. Mitchell, the caucus sent Carter a telegram emphasizing "the growing feeling of uneasiness and concern across the nation and the development of some frustration . . ."

Bloomberg hails postal workers

Despite a heavy holiday mail volume, the Baltimore Post Office will be clear of Christmas mail by Friday, Dec. 24, according to Postmaster Warren M. Bloomberg.

"I want to commend the 6,000 employees of the Baltimore Post Office for an extraordinary job of processing and delivering the avalanche of Christmas mail with dispatch and efficiency," Postmaster Bloomberg said.

"The general public also helped to provide an efficient Christmas mail operation by using ZIP Codes and mailing in accordance with a series of suggested mailing dates announced earlier this year.

—Yule gift

(FROM PAGE ONE)

DEL. ARTHUR G. MURPHY SR. was released from the hospital Dec. 19 after having surgery. Del. Murphy said he feels much better and has another eight weeks to recuperate.

at Morgan and played first string tackle for the football team.

"That's my reason for giving the money to the athletic department," he stated proudly.

After he was graduated from Morgan in 1964, Hite worked for a time as an administrative assistant for IBM.

From there he worked for Joseph P. Seagrams Bottling Company in Dundalk and Easkay Quality Meats Company as a quality control specialist before going to CIBA.

As CIBA's certified medical representative, Hite is responsible for the sale of pharmaceuticals to hospitals, doctors and other medical organizations.

Hite is married to Mrs. Caroline Hite, coordinator for the state geriatrics programs. He has one daughter, Sharon, who attends Rosa Park Catholic School.

CHEYNEY, Pa. — Walter Allen, professor of sociology at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, was a recent guest lecturer in the department of urban studies, Cheyney State College (Pa.).

Dr. Allen, a graduate of Beloit College and the University of Chicago, spoke to the Urban Studies Quantitative Methods classes on "Applying Quantitative Methods to Urban Problems."

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$100,000 CERTIFICATE was purchased at Advance Federal Savings and Loan Association by Provident Hospital. Advance president, Dr. W. O. Bryson Jr., center; is pictured with Dennis A. Gowie, right, executive director of Provident, and Charles A. Tildon, left, a member of Advance Federal's Advisory Board, who arranged the transaction. Provident's Mr. Gowie explained the deposit is a part of the hospital's board of trustees' program to support black-owned enterprises. Advance is the only black-owned federal savings and loan association in the state of Maryland, with two offices in Baltimore City.

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For All We Know

By Elizabeth M. Oliver
City Editor

CHRISTMAS IS ALMOST HERE. Before I go to Hawaii to see my grandbabies, I always look back to one Yuletide I'll never forget.

IT WAS LONG AGO

I was in the market getting a turkey for my kids who were with me in Baltimore while their father was in Vietnam. It was Christmas Eve.

Suddenly a woman nearby the counter said look, there's a small child nearby naked.

It was cold and snowing and after dark.

THE CHILD, a little boy, said his mother at home had nothing. He was begging for "anything" for his mother.

He had on only a small coat, too small, and shoes and short summer pants.

We followed him home back of the market on Lexington Street. There in tears and with no light except from the street was the mother. A tiny baby was in a cardboard box.

I gave her the turkey I had and told her I'd be back with more.

I RETURNED to the AFRO office although my daughter and grandbabies were waiting breathlessly at home.

WE CALLED Vernon Stricklin, a Gas and Electric vice-president. While we ran around getting food, clothes and a crib for that little baby in the box, he got his men out to turn on the gas and lights at the little boy's mother's house on Lexington Street.

WHEN WE GOT THROUGH getting Christmas for that forsaken family it was nearly dawn.

When I got home, my grandbabies were asleep and my daughter was still working on the tree and putting tricycles together. I told her what had happened to the turkey and to me that I was soooo late.

We decided we'd have chicken and dressing Christmas Day and be thankful.

PS — Actually, it was the best Christmas we ever had. We drove to the Lexington Street house later Christmas Day. The happiness there was more than words can ever tell.

ANDREW YOUNG'S PRESENT of the UN ambassadorship from Jimmy Carter is one not another person of our race wants but he can handle it.

He'll have to defend the U.S. policies against Africa and Rhodesia chrome sore hanky-panky and all the rotten things the United States does abroad.

It won't be easy.

Having been on the front line when black citizens were fighting for first class citizenship in the South a few years back, the 44-year-old Georgia congressman is conditioned and he'll carry the ball.

JIMMY CARTER has his cross to bear too, what with the press and unknown enemies in hiding around the corner just waiting for him to make a mistake.

CHRISTMAS PARADE in Lynchburg, S.C. was led by (shhhsh!) U.S. Senator J. Strom Thurmond and black Mayor Clifton Jefferson. A black man was at the wheel of the car and Strom, one of the loudest segregationists in the past, waving to lines of black citizens.

CONGRESSMAN BARBARA JORDAN of Texas, they say, has refused everything Jimmy Carter offered her much to the disgust of black citizens (if it's true). Somebody quoted her as saying she wanted to be president and what's left isn't good enough.

JOKINGLY, the same people said, "What does she want? Maybe to be the first black woman on the moon?"

REALLY INDEPENDENT, Miss Jordan is said to have been adored by President Johnson who saw her through Harvard Law School. He predicted she would be the first woman U.S. president or vice president. She could be, one of these days.

ANDREW YOUNG'S SEAT in the Georgia Legislature has them "fighting in the streets" so to speak over who will be named to take his place. Word is Julian Bond, Rev. Ralph Abernathy and Mrs. Martin Luther King and a white gentleman, all want or have been mentioned. Word is Mrs. Corretta King MUST get it or things will be fowled up something awful. We shall see. Any bets, anyone? Politics is a tricky game but interesting.

ORCHARD STREET CHURCH, stays in the news. Thursday night, cited as one of Baltimore's Best was Jerry Schushko, the horticulturist for the city of Baltimore, who twice has decorated the old slave church for celebrations.

In addition, Ernest Baines received an award.

Ernest was the one who found the 1877 newspaper clipping which gives the most authentic account of the founding of Orchard Street Church and the funeral story of the first pastor and founder, Truman Pratt. Ernest also helped decorate the church.

THE ORCHARD STREET CHURCH GIFT SHOP is almost complete. Happy is the chairman, Mrs. Cheesie Brailey, who has been waiting since the Feb. 11, 1976 National Register of Historic Places ceremonies. It was then she planned the shop. Meantime, she has had waiting in the wings over 150 plates with the church photo and history, to stock the shop. Photos for the post cards in full color were taken by Werner Jordan and the bill for the printing paid by Norman Brailey.

A YEAR LATE, the Gift Shop will open in the spring with plates, post cards, Memorial Bricks and many other historic items. Mrs. Brailey's corps of volunteers hopes to keep the shop open seven days a week. The time will be announced.

POPPING UP AGAIN, the Orchard Church came in the news with the dedication Friday of a painting of Harriet Tubman at the Fulton Elementary School which is soon to bear the name of the Moses of Her People.

(Continue on Page 20)

The new school, almost finished, is to be named the Harriet Tubman Elementary School, at Harlem and Monroe.

Harriet Tubman's relatives were there.

HARRIET TUBMAN made several trips to take slaves to freedom on the Underground Railroad and used the tunnel in the Orchard Church.

Her relatives, members of the church, reported their memories of her in an AFRO story in the March, 1976 Bicentennial edition.

FLASHBACK — Whoever gets nominated by Carter for a cabinet post or whatever else, can be

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