City Hall shooting marked 'the year of the guns' for 1976

None of his dreams ever came true

(Here is the reprint of the story of the City Hall shooting in April, 1976. The accused man's side of the story gives a clue to why it all happened.)

By Pam Widgeon

By now, the story of Charles Anthony Hopkins and the tragic shooting at City Hall in Baltimore has circled the globe.

Everyone has heard that City Councilman Dominic Leone was slain and several persons were injured by gunfire Tuesday, April 13.

But few persons know the accused 35 - year - old man, himself riddled by bullets and critical in the hospital, was a man who had dreams of a store of his own and a home.

To learn the true stiry, that none of his dreams ever came true, I went to the 1842 Rutland Ave. location of a store Charles Anthony Hopkins operated only a few days.

According to relatives, this was one of the dreams that faded, the most precious dream.

Having been on the scene at City Hall when the shooting was going on, I could not help but wonder if fading dreams and failing in everything, can tear a man's mind apart.

STORE CLOSED

When I arrived at the store they said Charles Anthony Hopkins wanted so much to own, the shelves were empty.

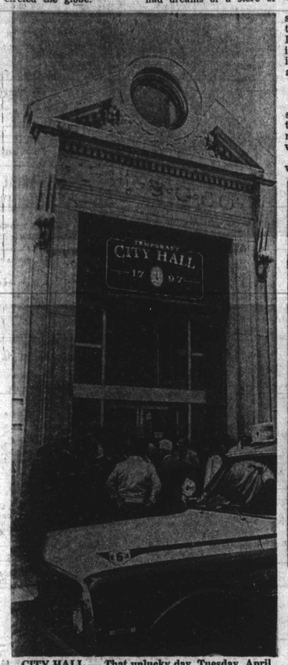
Relatives and friends were packing sodas, candy and other items he had planned to sell, in their cars. Then they drove away.

This was a sorrow-filled scene.

His brother, Edgar Hopkins, took down the orange and yellow sign which said "Open" and placed a gray lock on the black iron gratings that covered the door, his own store for the neighborhood children. His dream never came true because his bubble suddenly burst.

"He went to City Hall to ask for help because he had been evicted from his apartment and was fighting a one-man battle trying not to lose his store.

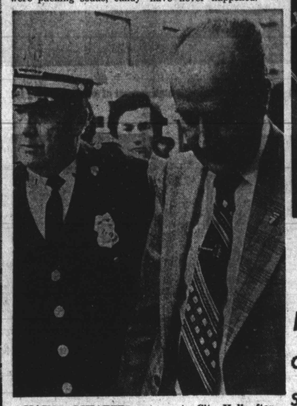
"If they had only listened and stopped giving him the run-around, this would have never happened."



CITY HALL — That unlucky day, Tuesday, April 13

(AFRO staff photo by Roman Hankewycz)

CITY HALL SHOOTING — Perhaps the most tragic event in Baltimore history since the great fire of 1904 was the April 1976 shooting spree at the temporary City Hall. During that incident, a city councilman was killed and several other persons injured including the suspect in the shooting Charles Hopkins, seen here being wheeled out to a waiting ambulance.



MAYOR SCHAEFER returns to City Hall after hearing on the shoolings there.

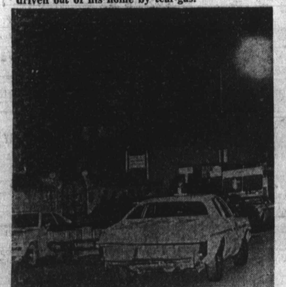
Snipers caused police to bring all their guns as shown in dramatic on the spot photos by Roman Hankewycz

(AFRO staff photo by Roman Hankewycz)

LOADING UP — Members of Baltimore City Police Department's Quick Response Team load up their shotguns and M-16 rifles to deal with a sniper who was barricaded in his E. 43rd St. home. No one was injured during this incident, but another sniper was shot dead just a few hours earlier in the 500 block of S. Anne St. The week before police officer was killed and several others injured including one civilian in another sniping.

(AFRO staff photo by Roman Hankewycz)

RUSHING IN to a sniper scene are QRT members ready for action. In recent day in Baltimore, there have been several sniper shootings, including one where one police officer was killed, several others, including a civilian, were wounded. In another sniping incident, a suspect was killed when he refused to lay down his weapon after driven out of his home by tear-gas.



SNIPER SCENE—One of the many during 1976.

(AFRO staff photo by Roman Hankewycz)

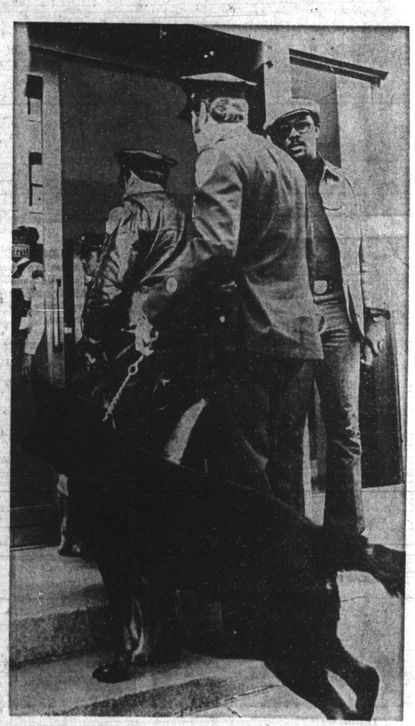
QUICK RESPONSE TEAM (QRT) responds to one of several sniping incidents that occurred in Baltimore last spring. QRT members, appearing to be geared for combat,, are armed with high-powered automatic rifles, shotguns, carbines, tear-gas guns, bullet-proof vests, and other armament.

Road deaths could fill small town

If all of the people who have died this year in Virginia Traffic accidents were alive today, they could populate a small town.

The Highway Safety Division said Monday traffic fatalities for the year have reached the 1,000 mark for the 13th consecutive year.

The deaths of a Buckingham County couple over the holiday weekend brought the toll to 1,000, 21 less than last year.



(AFRO staff photo by Roman Hankewycz)

POLICE SEARCH CITY HALL with K-9 dogs, and armed with shotguns and bullet-proof vests after a city councilman was slain and four other persons injured after a shooting melee Tuesday afternoon.

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DEATH NOTICE

STEWART — On January 2, 1977, MARION MILLER of New York City. Formerly of Baltimore, Maryland. Dear mother of Gilbert R. Dennis of Washington, D.C., fond grandmother of Gary and Dennis of Baltimore, Maryland. Also survived by two sisters, Mrs. Elizabeth Greer of Baltimore, Maryland and Mrs. Edna Brown of Annapolis, Maryland and other relatives and friends. Services to be held at the Benta Funeral Home Inc. 624-30 St. Nicholas Avenue, New York, N.Y., Friday, January 7, 1977 at 1 p.m. Continued services at Arlington S. Phillips Funeral Home Inc. 1721p27 North Monroe Street at Westwood Avenue. Saturday, January 8, at 11 a.m. Cremation in Westview Memorial Park.

BAYLIS — On January 5, 1977, LETTIE G. of 1347 Ward Street, beloved wife of Mr. Fred Baylis. She is also survived by one son, Isaac H. Baylis; 1 daughter, Mrs. Princess Brown, 4 grandchildren, 2 great-grandchildren, one niece, cousins, one son-in-law, Mr. Joseph Brown and other relatives. Friends may call at the Herbert E. Nutter Funeral Home, 3035 W. North Avenue on Friday after 12 noon until 3 p.m. when Mrs. Baylis will lie in state at Ebenezer AME Church, Monument and Hanover Streets from 4 p.m. until 8 p.m. and on Saturday from 9 to 10 a.m. when services will be held. Interment — Arbutus Memorial Park. Family will receive friends at the above church on Friday, 7 to 8 p.m.

IN MEMORIAM

BAILEY — In memory of my dear husband, our father, grandfather and father-in-law, FAIRFIELD BAILEY, who passed away January 8, 1972:
Five years have gone by with a pain in our hearts, and not one single day have we spoke of you not. We think of you too much, but what can we do: loving you so much, there's nothing else to do. We'll love you always, but God loves you too. Wish we had known, He was coming for you. He took you so suddenly, there was nothing we could do. God had a plan and we'll follow it through. We'll wait on the Lord and we know that its true. He will send for us someday and we'll be there with you.
Loving Wife,
LENA A. BAILEY
Daughter,
LENA BAILEY GAITHER
Grandson,
FAIRFIELD BAILEY GAITHER
Granddaughter,
LENA LANITA GAITHER
Son-in-law,
WILLIAM GAITHER, JR.

BLACKWELL — In loving memory of our dear loved one HENRY BLACKWELL, who passed away December 13, 1970:
Just when you began to know
And loving each other you left me.
Oh how you're missed.
You were so kind, so thoughtful
So gentle and so dear.
Your smile so magnifying
Oh how we loved you and miss you.
Your loving Wife,
EULA BLACKWELL
Your faithful Daughter,
ROSE KELLY

DUKES — A Tribute of love in the memory of my son and our brother TOMMIE DUKES, who was taken from us January 9, 1976:
Your memory is always with us
We missed you so much
This Christmas.
For as longas life last
We shall remember you
Loving
MOTHER & BROTHERS

FLEMMINGS — In loving memory of my devoted husband ROBERT E. FLEMMINGS, who departed this life January 4, 1976:
God saw the road was getting rough
The Hills were hard to climb
Heavenly closed his loving eyes
And whispered peace be thine.
His weary hours, his days of pain
His weary nights are passed
His ever patient worn out frame
Has found sweet rest at last.
Devoted Wife,
MRS. ANNIE L. FLEMMINGS

FLEMMING — In loving memory of our devoted brother-in-law, ROBERT E. FLEMMINGS, who departed this life January 4, 1976:
The depth of sorrow,
We cannot tell,
Of the loss of one
We loved so well
And while he sleeps a peaceful sleep
His memory we shall always keep.
Sisters-in-law
Brothers-in-law
JOHN & GENEVA PARKER
R/ ISE SMITH

GILBERT — In loving memory of our dear one, HARRY L. JR., who passed away January 1, 1974:
His memory is as dear today
As in the hour he passed away,
May he sleep in heavenly peace
By the grace of God until we meet again.
So be it.
Your loving Sister,
GENESTA G. LANE
and Brother,
GEORGE D. GILBERT

IN MEMORIAM

HALL — In memory of my best friend, STANLEY NELSON HALL, who passed away January 5, 1973:
Life can give no greater treasure
Then a friendship warm and true
And no words can ever measure
All the friendship felt for you.
NEAL MINTER

HINES — In loving memory of our dear loved one FREDDIE D. HINES, who passed away January 5, 1975:
I have lost my soul's companion
A life linked with my own
And day by day I miss him more
As I walk through life alone
LOVING WIFE
And FAMILY

HUNT — In loving memory of my dear husband, EMANUEL LEE HUNT, who passed away January 9, 1972:
Though now I walk thru life alone,
The path we once together trod.
I walk with eager happy steps
For each leads nearer you and God.
Devoted Wife,
ELIZABETH HUNT

SAMPLE — In loving memory of lovedone EZRA F. SAMPLE, who passed away January 6, 1959:
God saw the road was getting rough.
The hills were hard to climb
He gently closed his loving eyes
And whispered peace be thine.
Loving wife,
MAE

WHITE — In loving memory of our loved one CORNELIUS WHITE, who passed away January 6, 1974:
Three years have passed since that sad day
When the one we loved was called away,
God took him home — It was His will;
Within our hearts he liveth still.
Loving WIFE
and SONS

MURPHY — In loving remembrance of our dear sister and aunt, VIRGINIA, who passed away in January, 1938:
In the book of life there are memories
Of the happiest moments we've known,
And recorded in love is the blessing
Of a wonderful sister, our own.
You are gone, but the treasure you left us,
Is truly a value untold;
A life filled with deeds of kindness
And beauty of heart and soul.
THE FAMILY

BIRTHDAY TRIB.

MOORE — A Birthday Tribute to the memory of our mother and grandmother, DORIS ANITA MOORE, on her birthday, January 5th, who passed away December 16, 1971:
Mother dear it's been six years
Since God took you away,
But your birthday holds sweet memories in our hearts,
Of the good times we spent together.
Loving Children—
DORETHA,
CASSANDRA,
STERLING,
BRENDA and
GRANDCHILDREN.

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51 Mannakee St.
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Must have a good knowledge of the principles and techniques of social welfare work; knowledge of community and family service resources; ability to make judgements; ability to coordinate group activities; and ability to write reports and communicate effectively with residents. Applicants must also possess valid Maryland Driver's License and have full-time use of an automobile. Some night and week-end work is expected.

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To work in School of Mental Health Studies. Will type grant proposals, letters, annual reports, student evaluation, lectures; transcribe from shorthand and stenorette; general office procedures.

High School; related experience; typing 60 wpm, shorthand, transcribing, a knowledge of office procedures. Hours are 8:00 to 4:30, 5 days week. Salary is $4.53 per hour and benefits are paid in full. If interested and qualified, apply 9:00 to 2:00 p.m.; located on Number 8 and 12 bus lines.

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