MD. LEGISLATURE OPENS FOR 1977
(See Photo Page)

Baltimore Afro-American

WINTER ISLAND OF TRANQUILITY
(See Inside)

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Bus stop rape trial opens Monday

Victims will testify in court

JOHN W. SIMMS
on trial Jan. 17

Several rape victims are scheduled to testify at the trial which opens Monday for John W. Simms, 27, a former state prison guard.

A jury will hear the case in Criminal Court Part Four with Judge David Ross presiding.

Simms, of the 4200 block W. Rogers Ave., had been employed as a Maryland Penitentiary guard since 1972.

He is charged with numerous rapes police claim occurred in Northwest Baltimore in 1976; two murders and an attempted murder.

He has been confined to City Jail without bail since he was arrested in August 1976.

His arrest followed almost a year of police investigation on what they termed a hunt of the "Northwest Busstop Rapist".

Simms was arrested at his home after a rape victim saw him driving a car last August. The woman noted the license plate number and contacted police.

Police described their lead to the arrest of Simms as a "lucky break". Police had both male and female officers as decoys in unsuccessful effort to trap the suspect.

Police report Simms was positively identified by eight other rape victims when he appeared in a lineup last August.

FIRST ASSAULT

The first woman was sexually assaulted in October 1975 while waiting for a bus in Northwest Baltimore.

Simms has been charged with the murder of Miss Sandra Michelle Morrison and Mrs. Sharon Taylor Tynes.

He allegedly killed Miss

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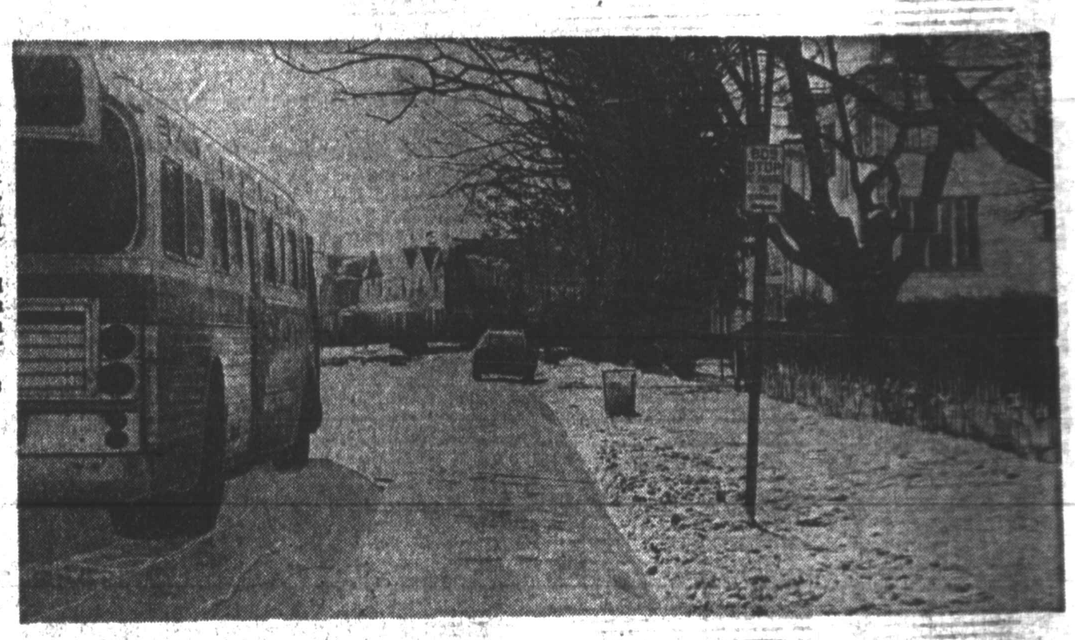
MISS SANDRA M. MORRISON
victim

MRS. SHARON TAYLOR TYNES
victim



NO. 19 BUS STOP at the corner of Garrison Blvd. and Ridgewood Ave. was the scene of the 4:55 a.m. June 29, 1975 tragedy which left Mrs. Sharon Tynes a murder victim.

Old slave church reaches another historic milestone

Orchard Street Church, the building constructed by slaves reached another milestone this week in the appointment of an architectural historian.

Elroy Quinroe is the official named by Carroll Greene Jr., head of the Maryland State Commission on Afro American History and Culture.

Quinroe, described as one of the most highly qualified and "one of the few in his profession in the nation", is at work now at the church.

The church is designated as a museum. Constructed in 1837, it is closed to the public while restoration is in progress.

Jan. 11, the day Quinroe began duties, marked the first anniversary of the Orchard Church as being listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Snow blanketed that 2 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 11, 1976 occasion when Mrs. W. A. Hughes Jr., president of the Committee for the Pre-

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SELECTED on basis of high qualifications as an architectural historian for Orchard Street Church is Elroy Quinroe now a staff member of the Maryland Commission on Afro-American History and Culture.

CARROLL GREENE JR.
Commission head

Historian appointed by Greene

Carroll Greene Jr., acting director of the Maryland Commission on Afro History and Culture made the announcement of the state's appointment of Elroy Quinroe Jan. 11 to Orchard Street Church.

Mr. Greene, trained at the Smithsonian Institution in Washington and a distinguished historian, is the only black person to head a Maryland commission.

AAHC is the only such commission in the nation.

A member of the AFRO Honor Roll, he received the newspaper's highest honor in 1975 for his efforts in saving historic Annapolis' Mt. Moriah Church.

Green's official announcement of the Quinroe appointment is as follows:

Elroy Quinroe has recently been appointed to the position of archi-

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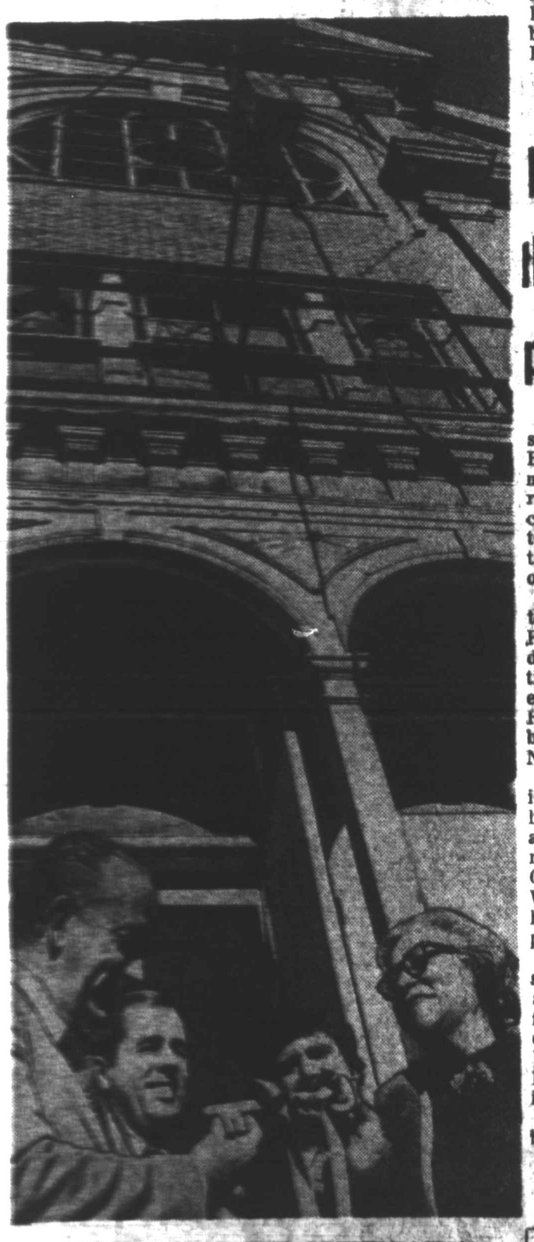

COMMITTEE FOR THE PRESERVATION of Orchard Street Church through its president Mrs. W. A. C. Hughes, received keys to the church in August, 1975 from Mayor William Donald Schaefer, Housing Commissioner Robert C. Embry and City Council President Walter Orlinsky.

City MLK holiday proposal

Today, Friday, Jan. 15 marks the Maryland state holiday which honors Dr. Martin Luther King. Born that day, 1929. Dr. King would have been 48 years old if the assassination of April 4, 1968 had not cut him down.

Today, an effort has been announced revealing the city of Baltimore is making effort through the City Council to establish Jan. 15 as a city holiday.

COUNCIL BILL NO. 13

Del. Troy Brailey is chairman of the Ad Hoc Committee for the establishment of the holiday in Baltimore.

He states:

"In an effort to pay tribute to Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., City Councilmembers Victorine Q. Adams and Michael B. Mitchell, at the request of Woman Power, Inc. and various other groups, have sponsored City Council Bill No. 13. The purpose of the bill is to raise Dr. King's birthday, Jan. 15, to the status of an official city government holiday.

Dr. King was a great American of whom it can be truly said that he represented the finest humanitarian instincts of all mankind — Christians, Jews, blacks, whites, Indians, Polish people, Italians, Chi-

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Money order theft laid to pastor's son

Sherman Woodrow Dobson, 23-year-old son of the Baltimore family of prominent ministers, was recently arrested and charged with false pretense, after he allegedly tried to cash stolen money orders worth $800.

Police report Dobson, of the 3600 block Ellamont Rd. was dressed as a bus driver and used false identification when he bought electronic goods from the Radio Shack in the 6400 block Reisterstown Rd., on Nov. 22, 1976.

An employee at the store is quoted as telling the police he sold a walkie talkie and police scanner to a man named Frederick C. Gilkes of the 3800 block Wabash Ave., who claimed he worked with the Metropolitan Transit Authority.

Several days after the sale was made, the manager of the store was notified that the $200 travelers express money order had been stolen from the Pride Food store on July 3, 1976 in Hartford, Connecticut.

According to police, 173 blank travelers express

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Enter
AFRO'S
Sarah Vaughn
Contest
(See Amusement Page)

Maryland lawmakers open session

MARYLAND GENERAL ASSEMBLY at 12:13 p.m. a few minutes after the 1977 opening (if the clock on the wall is right), was indeed quiet. In AFRO staff photo by Roman Hankewycz, there is no one on the platform and members were chatting in their seats. Gallery spectators just sat and waited. (See general assembly photo page inside today)

Carter's man hit on all sides

U.S. SENATE SCENE as photographed Wednesday by J.D. Howard. Right-center is Senator Charles McC. Mathias.

GRIFFIN BELL, the Carter appointee for U.S. attorney general

Griffin Bell says he has 'no regrets'

WASHINGTON — Attorney general-designate Griffin Bell has apologized for several actions he made in his past but said he had "no regrets" over helping a segregationist Georgia governor during the 1950s, but top civil rights leaders said that action made him unfit for office.

Thursday black leaders who would defend President-elect Carter's nominee, a former federal judge, waited their turn to speak before the Senate Judiciary Committee that had grilled Bell for three days.

Among supporting witnesses scheduled for the third day of Bell's confirmation hearings was Roy Innis, director of the Congress of Racial Equality.

But additional witnesses from other civil rights groups opposing Bell were

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CLARENCE MITCHELL JR. speaks out on behalf of the NAACP

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