# dies broke and alone

By Ida Peters

Oldtimers this week mourning the death, June 19 in Chicago of Larry Steele, the brilliant producer of the "Smart Affairs Revenue" which was the smart cafe society at the famed Club Harlem in Atlantic City for more than 25 years.

The Larry Steele extravaganza always carried a star - studded array of stars and furthered the Billy Eckstine, Slappy White, Billy Daniels, Sarah Vaughn, Cab Calloway and Damita Jo. The bill, in his hey - day, featured Peg Leg Bates, Olivette Miller, Flournoy Miller's daughter on the harp, the Four Tunes, the Earls and Jimmy Tyler's fine band.

Reports from Chicago say that Steele, who was 67, had not been the same since his wife, Nano, passed eight years ago. He was found unconscious by e died of coronary failure, broke

Tunes, Butterbeans and Marian Bruce, George The Fontaine Brothers Wilson, The Four ongaroos, Steele's 12 Beige seauts and Jimmy Tyler's 12 iece Band.

Steele started his career as a andleader in 1934 and in 1969 when he celebrated his 23rd year at Club Harlem in Atlantic City he had two editions of "Smart Affairs," one in Atlantic City and one at Eden Roc Hotel in Miami

the Atlantic City D C., Baltimore, Philly and

AFRO files recall an opening night at the Club Harlem in 1952 as against a backdrop of soft amber and blue lights, the 12 dancing beige beauts whirled to the rhythmic beat and the tall, polished Larry Steele introduced

Men of all ages sat forward and women gazed in envy and across the bar \$100 bills changed hands.

And that's the way it was when Larry Steele put on a show.



HE DAZZLED THEM - Larry Steele, (R), was famed for his "Smart Affairs" revues at Atlantic City's Club

Harlem which featured glamourous chorus girls like Flick Montgomery shown at (R). AFRO file photos.

Have a safe 4th, drive carefully!

#### Baltimore American WE ARE NOW IN OUR 88TH YEAR

88th Year No. 94

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BALTIMORE, MD. JULY 5, 1980

LATE CITY EDITION

35 CENTS

## Housing protesters anger Council

## 33 inmates honored for work with blind

By Jim Morris If things work out for Antonio Carter, he will have to serve only four more years of his life sentence

And when he gets out, he hopes to find a job doing what he does at the Maryland Penitentiary — making books for the blind.

for murder before being released

Carter and 33 other inmates were honored Tuesday for their work in the Baltimore Braille Association, a non - profit prison corporation that prints and binds braille books for the Library of Congress.

Gov. Harry Hughes designated the day in the inmates honor, while proclamations honoring the group from the United States and Maryland Senate and from Baltimore Mayor William Donald

The documents described the "benefits to society" and the "terrific work" produced by the inmates.

Schaeler were read.

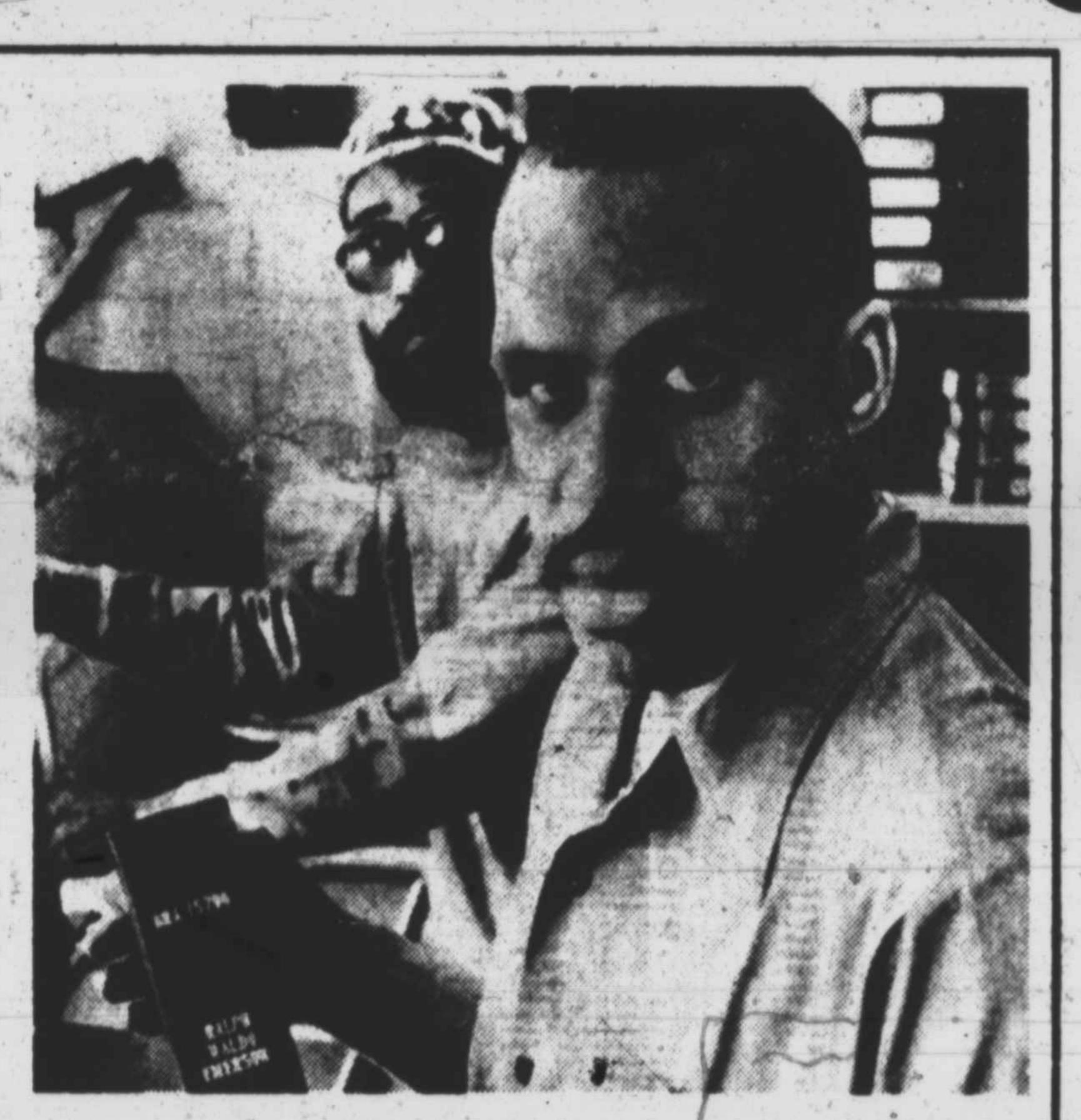
But what the braille printshop means to inmates like Carter is another chance.

Donald Blackwell, another inmate, last October. In the first month, inmates reproduced 34 different books. Last month, they took 231 separate titles and made 658 copies - a total of 57,275 pages.

The Library of Congress sends the original braille pages to the prison, which copies them, binds them and ships them to different groups serving the blind. The titles range from poetry to current

"Sometimes the books that come in here are better than the ones in the (prison) library," Carter said. The inmates' latest project was a brochure describing the merits of Harborplace, the city's new shopping mall at the Inner Harbor that opens this week.

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PENITENTIARY PRINTERS - Wayne Waddell (R) and Maurice Samuels, both inmates at the Maryland State Penitentiary hold up a book of poems that they just finished binding on July 1. A group of inmates known as the Baltimore Braille Association are being honored for their work in producing braille books.

#### By Ann Sagi

AFRO Staff Writer Strident housing activists protesting a subsidy program disrupted the Monday, June 30 City Council meeting with shouted comments which angered some of the legislators.

Some 30 activists sat quietly in the gallery of Council chambers until the meeting neared the end of business when they erupted with shouts and jeers at Council members.

Protestors have attended several recent meetings and expressed their support of rent control and opposition to the Areawide Housing Opportunity Program, AHOP, which allows low-income tenants to relocate to suburban counties if no public housing is available in the city.

The program has been assailed by local critics as a racist plan to disperse black families to allow whites to return to the city and diffuse voting strength. After Council President Walter

Orlinsky asked nouncements from the districts, the protestors began shouting. "We want an investigation into AHOP. We want a meeting July 15. Hey Orlinsky, I want an an-

swer NOW!" a woman shouted.

"You're a chump, Orlinsky, you fat boy!" a man yelled. Orlinsky tried to gavel the group quiet but they ignored it and his order for silence. He told police to clear the balcony.

But the protestors remained, Continued on page 2

## Charge white 'front' got black firm's \$\$

State Transportation Secretary Neil Goldschmidt said Tuesday \$18 million of a \$21 million contract for concrete iur the Fort McHenry Tunnel was supposed to go to a minority - owned firm, but actually went to a white firm.

In a letter to Rep. Parren Mitchell, D - Md., Goldschmidt said the firm that received the contract may have violated federal guidelines. He said J William Parker and sons, minority - owned firm that received the contract, may have been a front for a white - owned firm the Arundel Corp.

Mitchell said the federal funding for the Fort McHenry Tunnel could be jeopardized. Ninety percent of the tunnel's cost being paid by the federal government.

The Department of Transportation requires that 15 percent of all of its substantial contracts be set aside for mincrity businesses.

This issue was raised by Mitchell with the Board of Estimates because he says "it was clear" that the Department of Transporation's goal was not being

"Despite my objections, the board finalized action and it was accepted that minority business participation would, be approximately 11 percent not 15 percent," said Mitchell.

In recent correspondence from the transportation secretary it was revealed that minority businesses may not even be getting 11 percent of the business but rather only approximately seven percent which is less than one half of the requirement, according to Mitchell.

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#### High court upholds minority contracts

The Supreme Court Wednesday upheld Congress' use of its spending power to create programs remedy discrimination against minorities.

The 6 - 3 ruling was on a case challenging a 1977 law setting aside 10 percent of federal public works moneys for minority contractors. Rep. Parren Mitchell, D - Md.,

speaking on the Supreme Court's

decision on minority contracts,

"This decision was of enormous significance for black economic development. I am, of course, elated that the court has upheld the constitutionality of my amendment. Had we gotten an adverse decision, I am reasonably sure that there would have been concerted or immediate attack against all other government affirmative action programs for

minority economic develop-

In one majority opinion, Chief Justice Warren Burger said the law does not violate the Constitution and Congress has power to authorize such spending.

"Congress, after due consideration perceived a pressing need to move forward with new approaches in an continuing effort to achieve the goal of equality of

economic opportunity," Burger

"In this effort, Congress has necessary latitude to try new techniques such as the limited use of racial and ethnic criteria to accomplish remedial objectives, especially so in programs where voluntary cooperation with remedial measures is induced by

(Continued on Page 18)

#### Injured AFRO staffer improving

#### Sunday storm effects still linger

The city zoo in Druid Hill Park, where nearly 5,000 persons were spending the afternoon on, June 29 when the storm hit has reported \$50,000 in damages.

The total cost of damage done in other areas of the city has not been determined. Thunderstorms and along with a tornado that descended Sunday around 4:15 p.m. also injured 35 people in the

Patricia Taylor, 28-year-old AFRO-



Ms. Patricia Taylor

The thunderstorm toppled hundreds of trees, damaged homes and cars and killed several storks

and vultures at the zoo. Baltimore Gas and Electric spokesman John Metzger said 17,000 homes in the city and five nearby counties were without power all day Monday. The storm damaged more utility equipment

Metzger stated more than 500 repair personnel had to cut down. toppled trees with chain saws, tear down live wires and dig holes for new poles and bring in additional

A 15-story crane worth \$2 milli

## Richard Pryor Jr. says dad's spirits 'good'

LOS ANGELES - Doctors prepared Tuesday, July 1 to try a second time to make successful skin grafts on scorche portions of Richard Pryor's skin that did not accept grafts in his first surgery

The surgery was expected to last about one hour. Pryor's 18-year-old son, Richard Jr., and other relatives said this week that the comedian

has received many "Get Well" wishes from fans all over the "All the cards he's getting help him a lot," Pryor Jr. said. Doctors at Sherman Oaks Community Hospital said skin will be taken from Pryor's thighs

30 percent of the grafts that did "There isn't one area that needs attention, it's a little bit from all over," said Gary Swaye, hospital

and calves and applied to the 25 or

Pryor, 39, remained in serious and stable condition

tained the fire began when a glass of rum ignited...



"GET WELL"WISHES - The 18 - year - old son of burned comment Richard Pryor, Richard Pryor Jr. (L) and Denise Pryor, a relative. through the mail that came into the Sherman Oaks Community Hospit Los Angeles addressed to the comedian. "He's in really good spirits." Richard Jr. said. "He gets cards every day from all over the world and usually read some of them to him "