Atlanta's mother's warning proves prophetic

UPI Photo

TUNNEL TO BANK VAULT — A workman clears dirt from a tunnel discovered Jan. 29, leading from the basement of a vacant building to the vault of a C & S branch bank in downtown Macon, Ga. The 265-foot tunnel ended at the vault. Apparently the tunnellers had not attempted to enter the vault yet.

ATLANTA (UPI) — Mary Pue warned her son that a killer was going to get him if he wasn't careful but she never dreamed he would become the 17th victim in a string of baffling slayings and disappearances that have terrorized Atlanta's black community for 18 months.

Police added the name of Terry Pue, 15, to the list of black children who have been slain in the past year and a half. Since July 1979, 14 children have been found dead and three are still missing. All have been black and all but two have been boys.

Pue's body was found Jan. 23 about 40 miles from his West Atlanta home, lying beside Sigman Road, a frequently traveled street in Rockdale County about 25 miles east of the city.

"I told him one time that the killer was going to get him and choke him because he liked to stay out so late," said an unbelieving Mrs. Pue.

"I just said it. I never dreamed that it would happen. They killed my boy."

Police said young Pue was strangled.

In a few of the 14 cases, the cause of death remains undetermined, while the other children were either asphyxiated, strangled or stabbed.

The youngster, who had six brothers and four sisters, was last seen Jan. 21. He was never reported missing.

"I thought he was at Pam's (one of the teenager's sisters)," Mrs. Pue said. "He always goes over there to shoot basketball and to see his friend Bo.

"When I saw news reports and heard that the boy had scars on his knee, it made me suspicious and I called police."

Neighbors remembered that the youth's leg was in a cast when he first moved to the public housing complex with his family two months ago. They said he was often seen shooting basketball with friends and sometimes alone.

Although Pue's body was found far from the southwest and southern sections of Atlanta apparently favored by those responsible for the deaths and disappearances, the youngster lived and was last seen in the same area where 13-year-old Clifford Jones was found strangled Aug. 21.

Police believe more than one person is responsible for the slayings and disappearances, but they have been unable to crack the case.

Another search, the 18th weekend effort has been conducted in Atlanta's southwest section, where the skeletons of victims were found two weeks ago, but nothing significant was found by the estimated 350 volunteers.

Man helping woman is shot

PHILADELPHIA — A West Philadelphia man attempting to help a woman whom two young men were trying to rob Tuesday night was hit with a blast from a shotgun and seriously wounded.

Police gave this account:

About 10 p.m., two young men accosted Lisa Huber, 23, as she was approaching the front door of El Vista Apartments, at 4550 Osage Ave., where she lived.

When the two men confronted her and demanded money, she screamed and rang several doorbells, one of which alerted Richard Menella, 23, who was in his apartment.

He rushed to the door and was shot when he opened it.

He was struck with pellets in the hands, arms, chest and face, and was listed in guarded condition at Graduate Hospital.

The two men escaped.

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$2 million awarded in job bias case

A Federal judge in Pensacola, Fla. has approved an agreement awarding over $2 million in back wages to black civilian workers at Eglin Air Force base, ending a discrimination case initiated by the NAACP.

In addition to the $2 million back pay award, the settlement requires the U.S. Air Force base at Eglin to hire an additional 100 black workers for their civilian labor force and promote 25 current employees.

NAACP General Counsel Thomas Atkins pointed out that another provision in the settlement includes a training program designed to identify low-level employees who demonstrate the potential for moving into middle management positions. He said 10 percent of the high level job vacancies over the next 7-10 years would be reserved for this program.

Accused in Miami riots denies beating charge

MIAMI (UPI) — One of four defendants charged with beating to death three whites during the Liberty City riots last May told a Circuit Court jury he was only a distant spectator.

Lawrence Capers, 24, the eldest of the four black defendants, said as the defense began presenting its case that he witnessed the beating from the balcony of his home.

Capers is charged with first-degree murder in the deaths of Benny Siggers, 21, and Robert Owens and Charles Barrera, both 15. Also on trial are his brother Leonard, 20, and Patrick Moore and Samuel Lightsey Jr., both 16.

Eventually, 18 people died in the orgy of killing, burning and looting triggered by the all-white jury's acquittal of four white policemen in the 1979 beating death of black insurance man Arthur McDuffie.

Lawrence Capers testified he was not at a supermarket parking lot where the three white motorists were dragged from their car and beaten to death on the night of May 17, when the Liberty City riots erupted.

He said he watched the beatings from the balcony of his family's apartment in an adjacent building.

Capers said a tape-recorded statement he gave to police just prior to his arrest — which was played to jurors Jan. 29 — referred to a previous beating incident several hours earlier in which two men were also dragged from a vehicle by a mob of blacks.

In that statement, Capers admitted he was present when the beatings occurred but denied taking part in them.

Capers' mother and sister followed him to the witness stand and supported his testimony.

Earl Butz: Off-color joker

Earl Butz

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (UPI) — Former U.S. Agriculture Secretary Earl Butz, who lost his job in 1976 because of a derogatory off-color joke about blacks, is still voicing the same type of humor.

But last week his target wasn't blacks but homosexuals and Poles.

In a speech to the California Tomato Growers Association, Butz spinned a yarn about the "gay man" who walked into a hotel in San Francisco and told the registrar:

"If you can guess my weight, I'll go to bed with you."

"The registrar said, '1,800 pounds.'"

"The gay man said, 'That's close enough.'"

Butz also told about a speech he made in the Midwest where he asked a predominantly Polish audience if he could tell a Polish joke.

"I was told to go ahead, no one would understand it anyway," he said.

Butz, dean emeritus of agriculture at Purdue University, makes more than 200 speaking appearances a year before farm, business and civic groups throughout the nation. He also serves as a consultant to business organizations.

Photos by Courtney

ALPHA WIVES PRAYER BREAKFAST — Attending the Prayer Breakfast of D.C. Alpha Wives was Mayor Marion Barry who autographs program for Alpha Wives Oatrice Gilliam. Seated from L - R were Nadine Robinson, Lucille Burnett and Dehlia Benjamin visiting from St. Thomas, U.S. Virgin Island. Members of the head table included (from L - R) Elmer Moore, president, Mu Lambda Chapter, Alpha Phi Alphas; Michael Barenbaum, executive director, Jewish Community Center of Greater Washington; Rev. Robert Pruitt, Metropolitan AME Church and Mrs. Elaine Jenkins, founder, Alpha Wives of D.C.

virginia social whirl

RICHMOND

Mrs. John Howlette (Link Faye) provided a warmth that was contagious as she greeted members of the Richmond Chapter of Links Inc. in her home at the first club meeting of the year.

President Rizpah Welch presided over the business meeting and gave special thanks to the national trends and service committee for the holiday party given for the residents at the Afro-American Nursing Home, (complete with gifts and goodies) and to Link Janet Ballard who hosted the international dinner. Other business included a discussion of plans for community projects to be held during 1981. After which, a scrumptuous dinner was served by the hostess.

Links sharing in the activities of the evening were Irma Browne, Thelma Hawkins, Sandy Williams, Eunice Wilder, Frances Hayes, Violet Winston, Janet Ballard, Faith Norrell, Julia Thornton, McEva Bowser, Dianne Marsh, LeMoyne Savage, Wendolyn Johnson, Katherine Reid, Laura Bright and Georgia Williams.

Others were Links Pearl Wood, Louise Carter, Mildred Tynes, Evelyn Kindle, Ruth Gayles, Dorothy Chambers, Joyce Melton, Elizabeth Nobrey-Hopkins, Muruja Jones and Pamela Royal.

The first meeting of the year for The Richmond Chapter of the Moles was held at the residence of Williana Cole, who was a charming hostess.

Upon entering, soft strains of music filled the atmosphere and New Year's greetings were heard around the room.

It was time for cocktails which were in order on a cold winter night. High spirits prevailed during this period of fun and relaxation. A delicious menu was enjoyed at this time.

The business meeting followed, presided over by the president, Martha Pressley. When the meeting ended, members remained to exchange ideas and rehash happenings that have covered the past 30 years the Richmond chapter has been organized.

The presence of Mole Dorothy Yancey of the New York Chapter enhanced the occasion.

Moles enjoying the evening were Goldie Breaux, Ruby Bryant, Emma Davidson, Bettie Marie Dixon, Edna Hale, Glenyce Lewis, Evelyn Page, Helen Parker, Mary Payne, Madeline Peters, Bette Jo Swann, Annie Williams, Gulnare Williams and Zemoria Wood.

The Deckette Pinochle Club held its first meeting of the year at the home of Mrs. Gwendolyn Mills of North Ave. recently.

After a delicious dinner served by the gracious hostess, seven rounds of pinochle were played with first prize going to Mrs. Lillian W. Slackhouse, second prize to Mrs. Alease Payne and the booby prize to Mrs. Catherine Ready.

Other members present were Mesdames Rosalie Adams, Mae Eley, Fannie Johnson and Mrs. Susie Ware.

THE QUEEN'S COURT — Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Alpha Omega Chapter is sponsoring its annual Mardi Gras Ball at the Washington Hilton and these ladies are getting ready for the selection of the queen for the Ball. From L - R are Misses Daphne Harris, Bowie College, Dawn Johnson, Bowie; Gail Bulls, Howard University, Alveda Veney, Bowie and Nicole Crawford, Howard University. One of them will reign as "Queen".

Mabs' Diary

WASHINGTON

BACK TO NORMAL: Recently, members of a committee from the Washington, D.C. Chapter of The Drifters, Inc. spent two hours for orientation at the Howard University Hospital preparatory to working as volunteers at the hospital.

The organization has adopted two units in the facility as an ongoing project. Each member has agreed to spend time during the year helping the nursing staff by making the patients more comfortable and happy. Drifters found that some patients have been hospitalized more than 100 days; that a few have no relatives, or someone to care and nowhere to go when released.

Dr. Alicia Hastings, a Howard University staff member who is a member of The Drifters, encouraged the group to volunteer. Bobbi Denson, president; Evelyn Gunn, vice president; Ethel D. Lee, Connie Mattison, Mary Jo Joseph, past national and local president were those who attended the orientation session.

Verbal orchids to The Drifters for their obvious concern and compassion for those in need. The DIARY is always asking its readers to remember the sick and shut-ins who are confined at home and in public facilities. Other projects in which The Drifters are involved in include the Christmas Store, the "Miss Wheel Chair, D.C., and the scholarship program.

Friends of Walter T. Ray Jr., who is retiring from Budweiser after 22 years, is into poetry. Ray tells me that it has always been a dream of his to publish a book of poetry and that this dream is finally becoming a reality. Ask him about the one, titled "Weddin' Melody" which this writer thinks is great. The guy really has poetic talent!

BLACK HISTORY MONTH coming up: Plans for the 1981 Black History Month observance (February) in Dee Cee were completed recently by the Association for the Study of Afro-American Life and History Committee, headed by Mrs. Ernestine Lyon. The theme of the observance is Black History: Role Model for Youth. Shallie M. Bey Jr., superintendent of the U.S. Mint in Philadelphia will be the keynote speaker at a kickoff luncheon, to be held on Feb. 1, 1:30 p.m. at the Capitol Hilton Hotel. A schedule of all Black History-Month activities will be announced later.

The first planning meeting for the 4th annual Nathaniel Stinson Career Awareness Fair sponsored by the Prometheans was held recently at the Simpson-Hamline Methodist Church. The Prometheans, an organization composed of WWII veterans, was founded at Howard University in 1943. It has developed an "Adopt-A-School" program designed to aid parents and school officials in keeping youth to prepare for future job opportunities. John G. Plummer, a U.S. Labor Department official, is president of the D.C. Chapter of Prometheans and Earl Gaynard, National Aeronautical and Space Administration Equal Employment Officer, is national coordinator.

The Prometheans are seeking business, trade and professional groups to sponsor career information booths and - or serve as "role models" for inner-city youth in order to motivate them to remain in school or in training programs. Interested persons may contact The DIARY, a consultant for the program; or, from the Promethean Adopt-A-School Program, Suite 503, 1201 16th St., N.W., D.C. 20036, (833-4262).

According to Ella Walker, Vern Means and other members of the Washington Urban League Guild, all roads lead to Penn National Race Course for a Sunday of relaxation, April 5. Hear tell there is going to be whole heaps of fun going and coming and that the eating after you get there will be out of this world. How much you feed the horses is your business.

Greetings from Dee Cee's own Lois Alexander (Lane) from Jerusalem. She and her retired Colonel husband visited Cairo, Egypt and the Holy Land.

Tomorrow night we will all go to The Mardi Gras — the Omega Mardi Gras, that is, which is going to be held in the International Ballroom of the Washington Hilton Hotel, complete with hundreds of others who will be (better be) dressed in either costume or black tie. According to the chairman, Henry Wesley, if you "ain't" properly dressed you "ain't" gonna get in. As is customary, the main features of the evening will be the judging of the costumes and the crowning of "Miss Mardi Gras", plus the dancing to the music of Bobby Feider's band. Carnival starts at 9 p.m. and lasts until 2 a.m.

Margaretta Tutson writes that she and her husband, Inspector Bernard Tutson, began their Christmas Holidays with the annual Beethoven Birthday Gala at the Calvert Gallery. They journeyed to New York to visit with Bernard's brother and topped it all with a two weeks' Caribbean cruise on the SS Oceanic where during the trip, they won first prize for the most original costume at a masquerade ball.

The Capital Press Club held its first meeting of 1981 in the boardroom of the National Association of Broadcasters. The business agenda included the announcement of the 1981 program schedule; review of the 1980 activities; and, the 1981 committee assignments.

Guest speaker was FCC Commissioner Tyrone Brown whose last day with the Commission is tomorrow (Jan. 30). He will join the Washington law firm of Steptoe and Johnson. Brown spoke on the progress, status and future of blacks and other minorities in the telecommunications industr...

The Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution and the Director of The Anacostia Museum have extended an invitation for the public to meet Anna J. Cooper: A Voice from the South, on Sunday afternoon, Feb. 1 at the Anacostia Museum, 2405 Martin Luther King Jr. Ave., S.E.

Tim Neal's postcard from Tampa, Fla. merely said: "Hello, doing fine, let the good times roll!" The Metropolitan Women's Democratic Club of Dee Cee will host its annual new members reception on Sunday, Feb. 22 from 6 to 9 p.m. at the Capital Yacht Club.

Don't forget to remember the sick and shut-ins. Send flowers, fruit, candy, magazines, pay a visit, make a call; but, best of all, send the latest edition of the Washington AFRO-AMERICAN newspaper for their reading pleasure.

Black Caucus on line places life of Redistricting

By Denise Warner

The all-Democratic Congressional Black Caucus faces a fight for its political life and the survival of full black strength during the 1980s in the 97th Congress.

At least half of the Caucus' members are threatened with consolidation or elimination of their districts when the constitutionally mandated apportionment of U.S. House seats begins in the state legislatures.

An additional 4 million people than the U.S. Census Bureau anticipated are included in the total population count that will be used to determine how many seats each state gets. This, in addition to extensive population shifts away from the "snowbelt" northeastern states makes it vital for the lines to be redrawn for all 435 House seats. A Supreme Court "one man, one vote" rule requires Congressional districts be "as equal in population as practicable."

Vincent Barraba, director of the Bureau says as many as 16 seats will go to the "sunbelt" states in the south and southwest.

But release of the official 1980 census figures has been delayed by a legal "battle of numbers" between the Bureau and several northern cities. The Bureau has appealed a federal court decision which would force it to adjust the figures for an admitted undercount of blacks and Latinos in these cities.

"The small percentage of undercount" will not cause "a radical under-representation of minorities," says Jeb Carney, executive director of GOPAC, a Republican political action committee.

But preliminary figures show six of the 10 districts with the most significant population losses are represented by blacks. The district with the highest loss is that of Representative Robert Garcia (D-New York) from the Hispanic south Bronx.

"I would bet on Shirley Chisholm, Charles Rangel and Robert Garcia," said Garcia, who is confident about the security of black and minority representation in New York. The most recent figures, however, show New York state losing four seats that will probably come from the New York City area.

One black representative not as sure as Garcia is William Clay (D-Missouri). "It may be mathematically impossible to draw a black district in Missouri," noted Clay. The 24 percent population loss from his district makes it one of the most vulnerable Caucus seats.

"I don't think we can find an area with a 350,000 concentration of blacks and it will be even more difficult if we lose a seat," says Clay.

The average population for Congressional districts after reapportionment is estimated between 500,000 and 600,000 people.

Clay thinks the Caucus must play its key role in southern states where there has generally been no black representation since Reconstruction, but where black populations are nearly 50 percent of the state totals in Mississippi, Alabama, Georgia and North Carolina.

If so, they would avoid being at direct odds with conservatives and Republicans who are concentrating their attention on Florida, California, Texas, Pennsylvania and New York, according to John T. Dolan, National Conservative Political Action Committee (NCPAC) chair and Barry Berringer, a legal counsel to the Republican National Committee.

"We should not let them draw districts to distribute black population evenly. It would dilute voting strength," warns Clay. It could also "seriously impact on our ability to preserve what representation we have."

After the 1970 census, the boundaries of Chicago, Ill. were crossed nine times in drawing district lines. Three Caucus members, Cardiss Collins, Harold Washington and Gus Savage represent parts of the Chicago area and Illinois is expected to lose two seats this time around.

A similar situation exists for Louis Stokes (D-Ohio) because no state may lose two seats and Stokes' district has had the highest population loss in the state.

In addition, Republicans who just gained control of the state senate are bound to become a significant factor in how lines are drawn. They will try to design plans which will aid the party's efforts to gain majority control of the U.S. House in the 1982 elections.

"We will try to draw lines that are fair to Republicans," Berringer said.

"We will be looking at it from a party standpoint," insists Berringer. "There is nothing we can do about any impact from population loss."

But Berringer says the Republicans will "keep in mind" the possible impact on minority representation "in trying to increase our appeal to blacks."

According to one of his aides, D.C. delegate Walter Fauntroy, who was recently elected the chair of the Black Caucus, has "convened a task force on redistricting and reapportionment, as part of the voter participation - network development braintrust, to campaign aggressively to impact the redistricting and reapportionment process to protect the vital interests of black Americans."

UPI Photo

NEW BOUNDARIES — Lawmakers around the nation this year will redraw boundaries of congressional and legislative districts on the basis of data from the 1980 census. The process is reapportionment — or remapping or redistricting — and it varies from state to state.

FEB