—Couple fights for land

Continued from page 1

Despite that meeting, however, the search continued to be a prolonged one. Tyler, who at that time was still employed at the United Steel and Metal Company, had a conversation with Percy Elder, now a minister in Baltimore, about the matter.

"He had talked to me before, in 1976 when his mother died," Rev. Elder said in his testimony.

"He said that a lawyer was working on getting the deed to the land, and had been working on it ever since his mother died.

In 1979, he had another conversation with Rev. Elder, who was an investigator at the same company. That meeting was precipitated by the need of Tyler to get his driver's license renewed. While Rev. Elder was trying to help with the license, he asked how the matter of the land and the title was going.

"He told me that it was still going on and that he thought it was taking a mighty long time. He asked me to call Mr. Reese," Rev. Elder said.

When Rev. Elder talked to Reese, with Tyler sitting in his office and the minister repeating everything Reese said to him out loud so that Tyler could hear, he learned that Reese was making plans to sell the land.

"Mr. Reese told me he had an offer to sell the land," Rev. Elder testified.

"I said to him, I said, Mr. Reese, you gonna sell the land without Mr. Tyler's permission?" to which Reese reportedly answered, "I don't need his permission."

Rev. Elder then testified that he asked Reese if he wanted to talk to Tyler, who was still sitting in his office, and Reese indicated that he did not need to talk to him.

Neither Reese or his attorney objected to the testimony offered by Rev. Elder.

The case has revealed that despite the fact that Reese is maintaining that he constantly advised the Tylers of what he was doing, through letters, meetings and phone conversations, the Tylers did not know all that was happening concerning their land, nor did they understand legal points.

In his testimony, Reese said that upon observing Tyler, he decided that he was not a sophisticated client, that he was not a wealthy man, and that he was probably not well educated.

"I assumed that he might not be able to read and write," Reese said under oath.

But despite his observations, Reese said he sent the Tylers contracts, as well as notices of meetings he wanted to have with the couple, through the mail.

Reese then said he assumed the couple could read because whenever the letters indicated a meeting, the Tylers would show up. And despite what he said under oath, he told this reporter in later conversation that the letters were not of a technical nature, such as contracts, but were only about meetings and such things as hearing dates.

Mrs. Tyler, who has a fifth grade education, testified that they got many letters but that she did not understand a lot of them and would have to call Reese's office for explanations.

"I could read some of the letters," Mrs. Tyler testified, "but I couldn't understand all those big legal words.

"Sometimes they'd explain what the letters said and sometimes they wouldn't," Mrs. Tyler said defiantly. When she was told the letter indicated a meeting, they would show up at Reese's office.

When Tyler learned through his friend Percy Elder that Reese had intentions of selling the land, the couple made arrangements to see the lawyer to find out what was going on.

"I wanted to know how come they could sell the land when we hadn't even gotten the title thing straightened out," said Mrs. Tyler on the stand.

Despite an exhaustive cross-examination by Daniel Scherr, attorney for Adams, Mrs. Tyler never admitted that either she or her husband said they wanted to sell their land. They did visit Reese's office in the spring of 1979 to discuss a letter he had written them telling them he had "an offer for the land."

"I didn't know what he meant by offer," Mrs. Tyler said flatly. "All I wanted to know about was the title."

"Why, then did you go to see Mr. Reese," Scherr asked. Weren't you curious about Mr. Reese's statement that he had an offer for the land?"

"No, we didn't go there to discuss no sale of the land. The only reason we went was to find out about the title."

It could have been that her husband talked to Mr. Reese about selling the land, Mrs. Tyler testified, "but I didn't hear him talk about selling the land to nobody."

When asked if her husband had ever talked about selling the land to her, she again answered flatly, "no."

The trial reached a dramatic high when attorneys for Adams made a motion to the court that the testimony of Mr. Tyler, which also supported the claims that the couple never intended to sell nor consent to Reese to sell the land, be struck from the record, on the basis that he was incompetent.

Tyler, suffering from cataracts and what appears to be Parkinson's disease, is slow to answer and sometimes gives the indication that he does not know what is going on. On that basis, Adams' lawyers moved to strike his testimony.

But Adams and his lawyers have tried to maintain and establish that despite the insistance by Tyler and his wife that neither of them wanted to sell the land, Mr. Tyler in fact did give such a consent that "he knew exactly what he was doing."

Judge Bruce Williams, who ruled in the back-tax case against former Vice President Spiro Agnew recently, refused to strike Tyler's testimony, however.

Adams, when questioned on why he was fighting so hard for the land, explained that he wanted it to build a solar house.

He said that he thought the case was unfortunate, but that he believed the Tylers did want to sell the land and that, as a result of the case, they were going to come out much worse than they would have if they had let the matter rest.

According to Howard County assessment figures, comparable acreage is valued at about $75,000.

There has not yet been a decision on the case, which is expected to go into early next week.

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—'Pride' poster

Continued from page 1

LaVerne says she concentrated on the colors of Baltimore—gold and black, and liked the idea of a ship coming in. Apparently, someone else did, too.

But the victory was part and parcel of what LaVerne Ashford is all about. One of six children, she is one of three children in the family to have sickle cell anemia, not the trait, but the disease, which causes painful episodes called "crises."

Despite the fact that she had had the disease since childhood, she really did not begin to have problems until she was 18 years old.

A modelling student at the Barbizon School, she had but one week before graduation to look forward to. She didn't feel well, and she knew something was probably very wrong, but she kept on, until, a couple of days after graduation, she completely collapsed.

She found out that she had double pneumonia in addition to being in a sickle cell crisis. A couple of years later, she was told she had Hodgkins Disease, a type of cancer which affects primarily the lumph glands.

"My illness has had a lot to do with where I am now," she says. "I always said, when I was in the hospital all those times, that when I got through all the illness, through these particular stages of my life, I would put 100 percent into whatever I did afterwards. I came close to death too many times..."

Her illnesses convinced her that she had to set some firm goals, like graduating from co[illegible] and using her t[illegible] the best she co[illegible] She originally wa[illegible] to enroll in a fine arts curriculum at the Maryland Institute, concentrating on fashion design, but, finding out courses she needed were not available, she opted for graphics instead.

"I just like to prove," she said, "that disabled people CAN achieve." The last statement is said enthusiastically, first raised, however gently.

She gained her strength in part from her parents, to whom she affectionately refers as Moena and Floyd. Her mother has sickle cell anemia and her father has the trait (although he'd never admit it,) she is ready, rather, to begin the next step of her journey. She is about to begin a mural on the wall behind the pulpit of her church, Good Tidings Baptist Church. That, she says, will be the biggest challenge yet of her life. And, much farther down the road, she would like to create a magazine of black art. It is a dream that she works at constantly, in preparation.

And while she is not preparing, working on her dreams, she relaxes. (I try to hide my excitement about things so I won't lose the strength I have," she smiles.) She loves to observe people and their actions, and going to the Ritz or the Gatsby helps her remember who she is and that there is more to life than art.

There is life itself.

MSU graduate

Duffie art at Lafayette Square

[illegible] inald [illegible] display [illegible] ay 2, [illegible] in the [illegible] allery of [illegible] Square [illegible] Center, [illegible] enue and [illegible] in Bolton [illegible] rks the first [illegible] bit for Mr. [illegible] Baltimore [illegible] Duffie is a [illegible] te of Morgan State College and the Community College of Baltimore where he studied commercial art. His display will be multi-media including oil painting, water color and photography.

The gallery is open to the public free of charge daily between noon and 7 p.m. Artists interested in exhibiting may contact Miss Kay Perkins, administrator, 366-8800.

The gallery was installed to provide exposure for artists and to add to the quality of life for residents of the nursing center. The June exhibit will feature the works of Ms. Cindy Wright, of Great Mills, Maryland, a quadriplegic artist and the 1979 Miss Wheelchair Maryland.

Readying for fun

The 13th Annual Fashion Show and Luncheon of the Washington Section of the National Council of Negro Women will take place at the Washington Hilton Hotel on May 17th. Marion H. Jackson is president.

More fun is contemplated at the June 27th Fifth Annual Monte Carlo Night of the Black Adults of Action Section of NCNW, headed by Shirley Peterson. It will be held at the Sheraton National Hotel in Arlington. NIKKI.

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By the way...

By Joe Black

Poverty has been described as a psychological process that spells the death of hope and the decay of spirit. It is a pattern of hopelessness and helplessness. And this mental anguish was not alleviated when former California Governor Ronald Reagan was elected to head this government "of the people, by the people, and for the people."

However, there are many Black Americans who don't believe that statement. And they are spending a great deal of their time lamenting the fact that a Republican is President because he will be for big business and against the Black, the poor and the needy. If anyone had listened to Reagan's campaign speeches it would not be a surprise that the President is planning to reduce domestic programs such as welfare, food stamps etc. That act in itself does not mean that President Reagan is a racist, or insensitive. We must not forget that the welfare system was created to provide temporary aid for those who have fallen on hard times. But today, too many Americans are looking upon welfare as a way of life. They are allowing a welfare check to deprive them of their pride and dignity by destroying their desire to use their minds, bodies and work to support their families.

It is my suggestion that we not judge President Reagan by his plan to cut a total of $3.587 billion dollars from food stamps, ADC, Medicaid and subsidized housing rentals. His budget cuts will still enable him to spend nearly the same amount of money as President Carter in each of those programs. And there won't be a reduction at all for those who qualify as being genuinely in need.

I remind you that the mass of Black voters did not support President Franklin D. Roosevelt in 1932 because he did not support a civil rights platform. But during his first term in office he enacted the W.P.A., N.R.A., and other programs that were designed to assist the needy. As a result, Black people helped him to win a 2nd, 3rd and 4th term as President of this nation.

They say that lightning won't strike twice in the same place; but just maybe a change will take place in the White House once again.

Joe Black
Vice President
The Greyhound Corporation

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Anti-Klan laws expected out of Mitchell rally

By Portia E. Badham
AFRO Staff Writer

George Wise, a Northeast Baltiore resident lives in fear. He and his family have been the victims of alleged Klan-hate activities during the past two years.

The Wise's home in the 4000 block Shamrock Ave. has been bombarded with eggs, windows and doors broken and had a cross burned on the lawn.

Those night time activities have stopped. But the Wise's still remain in fear.

Wise's story was one of several given during hearings held April 25 by Rep. Parren Mitchell, D-Md. on Klan-hate group activities.

The congressman held the day-long hearings in efforts to gather testimony and information that can be used when his legislation is presented before a House subcommittee.

"It is my objective to seek to have the Klan classified as a terrorist organization by the federal government," said Mitchell.

"We must start with the premise that the Ku Klux Klan is a terrorist group by its statements, actions and report of its future activities," he said.

One of Mitchell's two bills will be patterned after the legislation passed by the 1981 General Assembly which states that it is now a felony instead of a misdemeanor to burn or a cross or other religious symbols on private property.

The one-year sentence has been increased to three years with a $5,000 fine and the person convicted stands to lose his right to vote.

The other bill will be modeled after a bill in the Georgia legislature which would make it illegal to teach or demonstrate to any person the use, application or fabrication of any firearm, explosive or incendiary device.

Dr. Emmett Burns, regional director of the NAACP and one of several civil rights leaders who testified, recommended that the FBI reinstitute its counter - intelligence program to infiltrate the Klan the way it did in the '60s.

Police set 'Law Day'

Law Day-Expo 81, the police department's second annual salute to citizens of Baltimore is set for May 1 and 2 at the South Shore of the Inner Harbor.

The two day exhibit will feature more than 50 displays of law enforcement equipment and technology from the police department and local, state and federal agencies from throughout the area.

Opening ceremonies will be 12:00 today (Friday) and the exhibits will be open until 8 p.m. and on Saturday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Thousands of visitors are expected to attend one of the largest displays of law enforcement equipment, people and technology in the United States.

Participants in the two day extravaganza will be handing out literature, presenting demonstrations of equipment and answering questions about their particular areas of expertise.

Among the more popular attractions this year will be regularly scheduled demonstrations by K-9 units and the police department's mounted unit which will be held in the northeast corner of Rash Field.

At the south side of Rash Field visitors will be able to take a close look at helicopters used by law enforcement agencies. These copters range from very small ones used for observation purposes to large jet engine models used for life saving med-evac missions.

Displays prepared by the police department will feature displays and exhibits provided by the Mayor's Coordinating Council on Criminal Justice, the American Legion, International Police Association, Mass Transit Administration, Baltimore County Police Department, Baltimore County Sheriff's Department, Fire Prevention Bureau, the Fraternal Order of Police, Lodge 3, 149th Explosive Ordnance Disposal Detachment, FBI, Internal Revenue Service.

Md. Transportation Authority must hire women

The Maryland Transportation Authority reached an agreement with the Justice Department this week requiring the Authority to hire women for 15 percent of its toll facility police jobs.

The Authority, which oversees the State Department of Transportation and the Toll Facilities Administration, is also required to pay up to $221,000 to 34 women who were refused jobs.

The agreement was filed in U.S. District Court in Baltimore, and settles an employment discrimination suit filed at the same time.

Gerard Sunderland, an assistant attorney general with the Transportation Authority, negotiated the settlement and recommended the Authority to accept it.

"On the relative merits of the suit, potentially the damages could have been much greater," Sunderland said.

The Department did not knowingly discriminate against hiring women, he said.

The lawsuit charged the Authority discriminated against women in hiring officers for the toll facilities police force. It said that as of May, 1980, there were five women on a force of 171 officers.

Named in the suit was the Transportation Authority, the State Personnel Department, and Transportation Secretary James J. O'Donnell.

Under the agreement, the authority will be required to hire women for 25 percent of police vacancies each year until women make up 15 percent of the police force.

Sunderland said the Transportation Authority abolished its height and weight requirements in September, 1979. An unvalidated" agility test for applicants was ended in the spring of 1980, he said.

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