For All We Know

by Elizabeth M. Oliver

Optimist Club search is on for Oratorical Contest entries

LLOYD FRANCIS
president

Lloyd Francis, president of the Lafayette Square Optimist Club has announced a citywide search for entries in the organization's 1983 - 84 Oratorical Contest.

The event is restricted to students of Junior High and below. Entries must be received by Jan. 15, 1983. Youngsters who wish to become contestants may call Mr. Francis for entry blanks at 728-4815.

Rewarding prizes are offered plus a $1,000 scholarship and trip to the contest finals at Ocean City for winners and parents.

The following advisors may be reached for information:

Mrs. Lizette A.F. Davis, 728-3997;

Mrs. Fornelle Drake - 664-4659

Mrs. Bertha M. Nixon - 945-3250

Mrs. Ruth Saulesbury - 383-9613

Mrs. Laura McK. Randolph - 383-6011

Mrs. Ethel Wise - 669-5686

Mrs. Betty M. Shelton - 789-9396

Mrs. Christine Fenderson -669-7441

Each of the above educators and professional persons has been chosen to aid in coaching and preparation of the applicants for the contest.

Optimist Club members are noted nationwide for strong character and willingness to serve others for health, happiness and prosperity.

With branches in nearly every city in the nation, the roster includes leaders in business, industry, the clergy, national and public officials.

President Francis urges boys and girls in public and private schools to enter the Oratorical Contest which also includes contestants throughout Maryland.

CHRISTINE F. DAVIS

FORNELL DRAKE

LAURA RANDOLPH

LIZETTE F. DAVIS

BERTHA NIXON

ETHEL WISE

RUTH SAULESBURY

This is Damascus, Syria where our man Lt. Robert Goodman is prisoner of war

Where St. Paul was converted

By Elizabeth M. Oliver

Conflicts along the Lebanon-Syria area have continued before and since the time of St. Paul the Apostle who is known in world literature as "The man who had seen the Lord".

Paul's vision of the risen Christ occurred on the road to Damascus (I Corinthians 9) and his Biblical letters in Thessalonians, Corinthians, Philippians, Galatians and Romans describe the religious wars and his persecution because of his belief.

Beruit, Lebanon and Damascus, Syria are mentioned prominently. Both nations come into prominence in the news in 1983 where a bitter war is raging. Most of all, the present news concerns the two US Naval airmen shot down Dec. 4 while flying over Syria positions in Eastern Lebanon and Southern Syria.

Lt. Mary Adam Lange, US Naval Academy 1979 graduate was killed.

Captured by Syrians and now held as a prisoner of war in Damascus is Lt. Robert O. Goodman, Portsmouth, N.H., the son of an Air Force command pilot and June 7, 1978 U.S. Naval Academy, Annapolis, graduate.

Goodman, born Nov. 30, 1956, went to the Academy July 8, 1974 "because he loved flying and wanted to become a pilot," Academy records show.

He is reported to have parachuted from his burning Navy jet. Speaking in Damascus, Syrian Defense Minister Lt. Gen. Mustapha Tlas stated that Lt. Goodman will be held there "until the war is over and American troops leave Lebanon."

The Naval planes were shot down during an American air strike on Syrian targets East of Damascus. Reports broadcast over Damascus radio say that Syria warned the United States against continued flying over Syrian-controlled areas of Lebanon and that it is considered as "war" between the U.S. and Syria.

Because of fear that harm may come to Lt. Goodman while in captivity, the Pentagon, the State Department and Naval Academy authorities refused to reveal to the AFRO any conditions of Lt. Goodman's captivity or possible time of release.

In travelling with other U.S. newspaper editors in Lebanon and Syria, this AFRO reporter found these Middle East countries described in the Scriptures to be same in some respect as in revelations by St. Paul nearly 2,000 years ago.

The road which St. Paul walked on his way to Damascus is still travelled by believers who have followed the Apostle in his Biblical letters. The spot where he became converted has been located through research of the world's most eminent historians. St. Paul's Church on a street in the city of Damascus still stands and is visited by thousands of Pilgrims especially during the Holy seasons of Christmas and Easter.

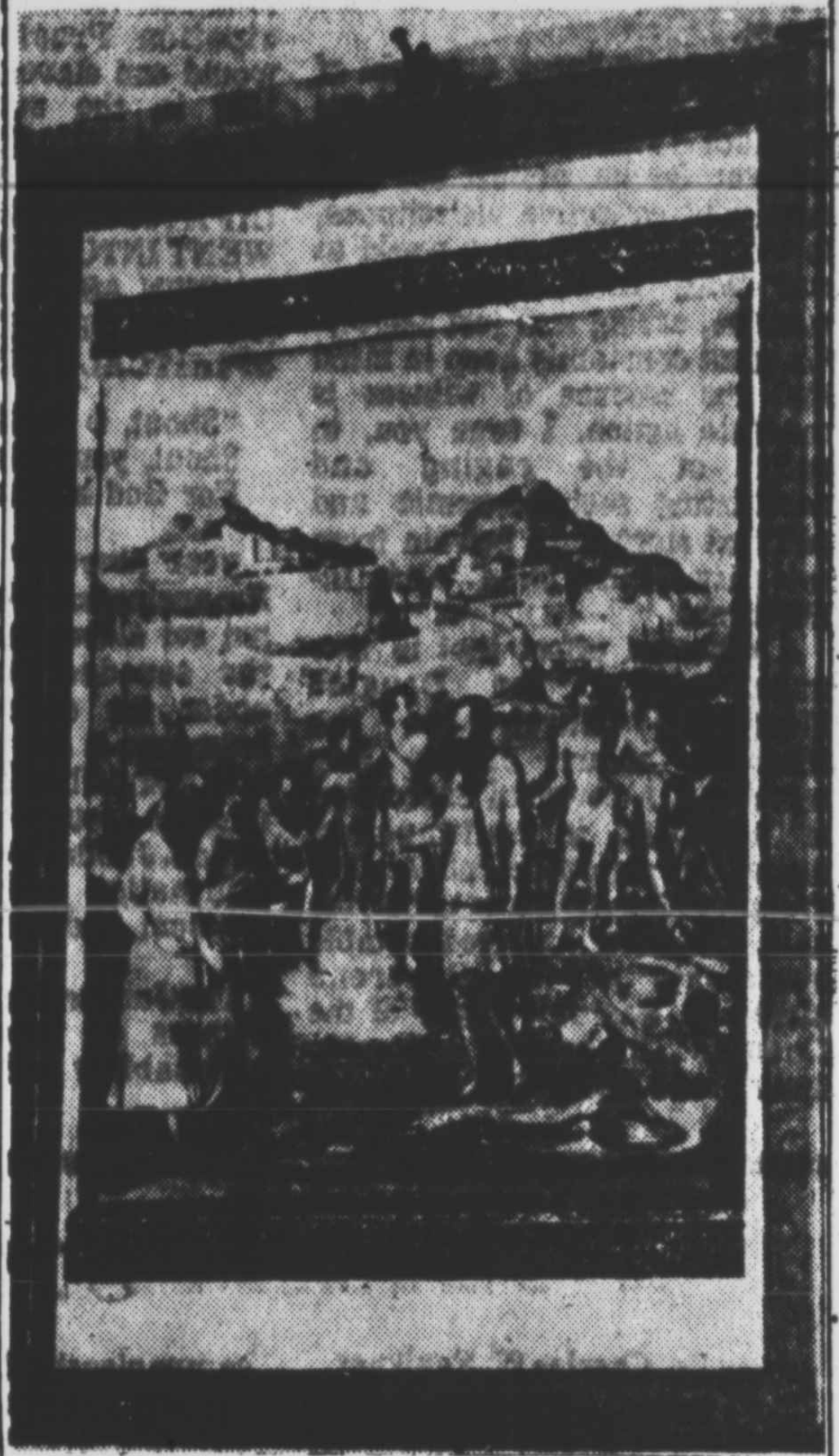
Naval Academy Grad

LT. GOODMAN
Naval Academy photo

Naval Academy records in Annapolis show Lt. Robert O. Goodman Jr., now a prisoner of war in Syria, was born Nov. 30, 1956 in San Juan, entered the Academy July, 1974 after high school in Portsmouth, NH, because he loved flying and wanted to be a pilot. His father was a command pilot in the Air Force.

He was graduated from the Academy June 7, 1978 in Operations Analysis. Petty Officer Ellen Galligher in Navy Academy Public Affairs said further information is withheld "lest it may put a strain on him in captivity." EMO.

PEOPLE TODAY hold to ancient customs, walk the same roads and narrow streets as did the followers of Christ. (OLIVER PHOTO)

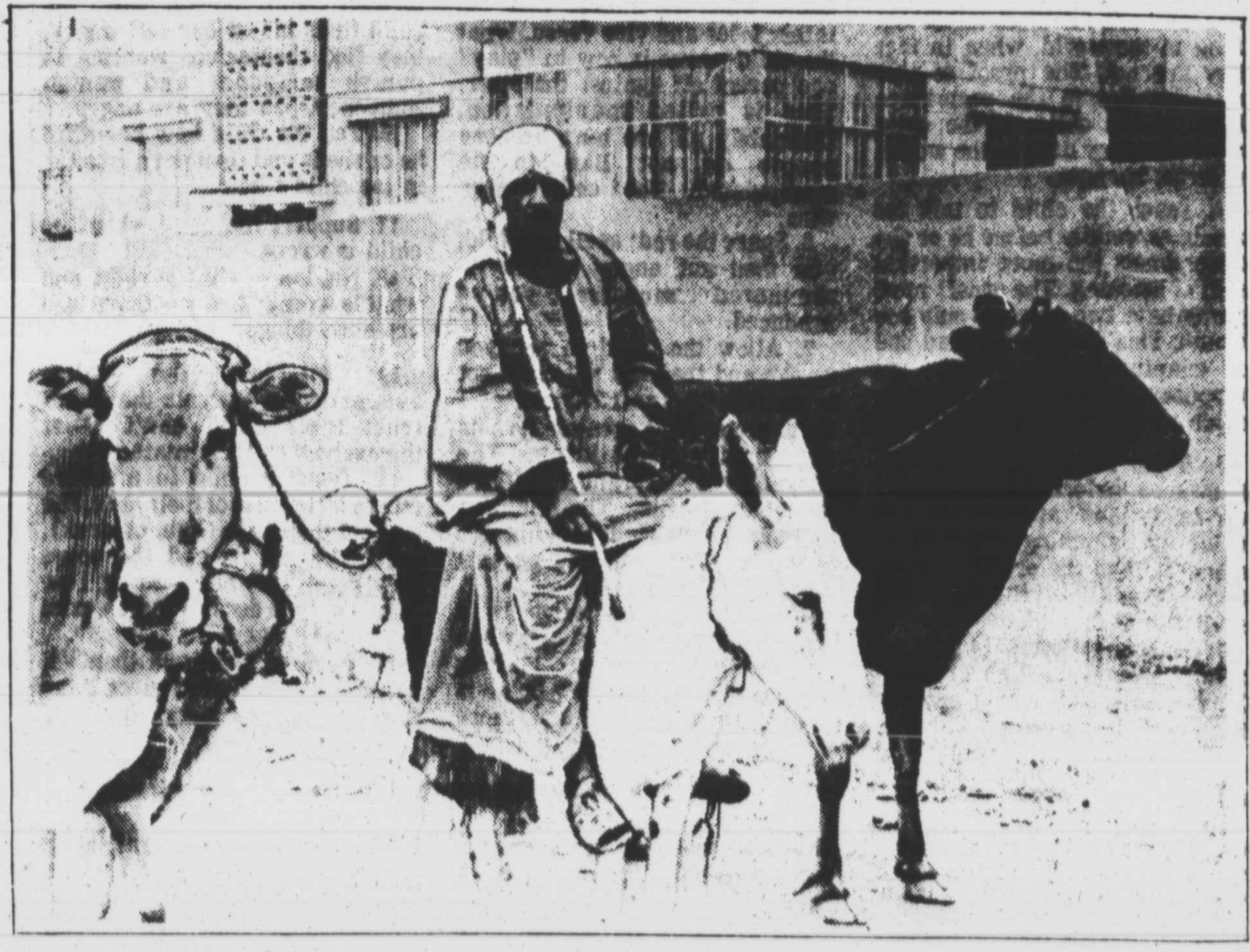


ST. PAUL IN CHAINS, the painting that hangs on the wall in the church where the Apostle hid from his enemies. (OLIVER PHOTO)

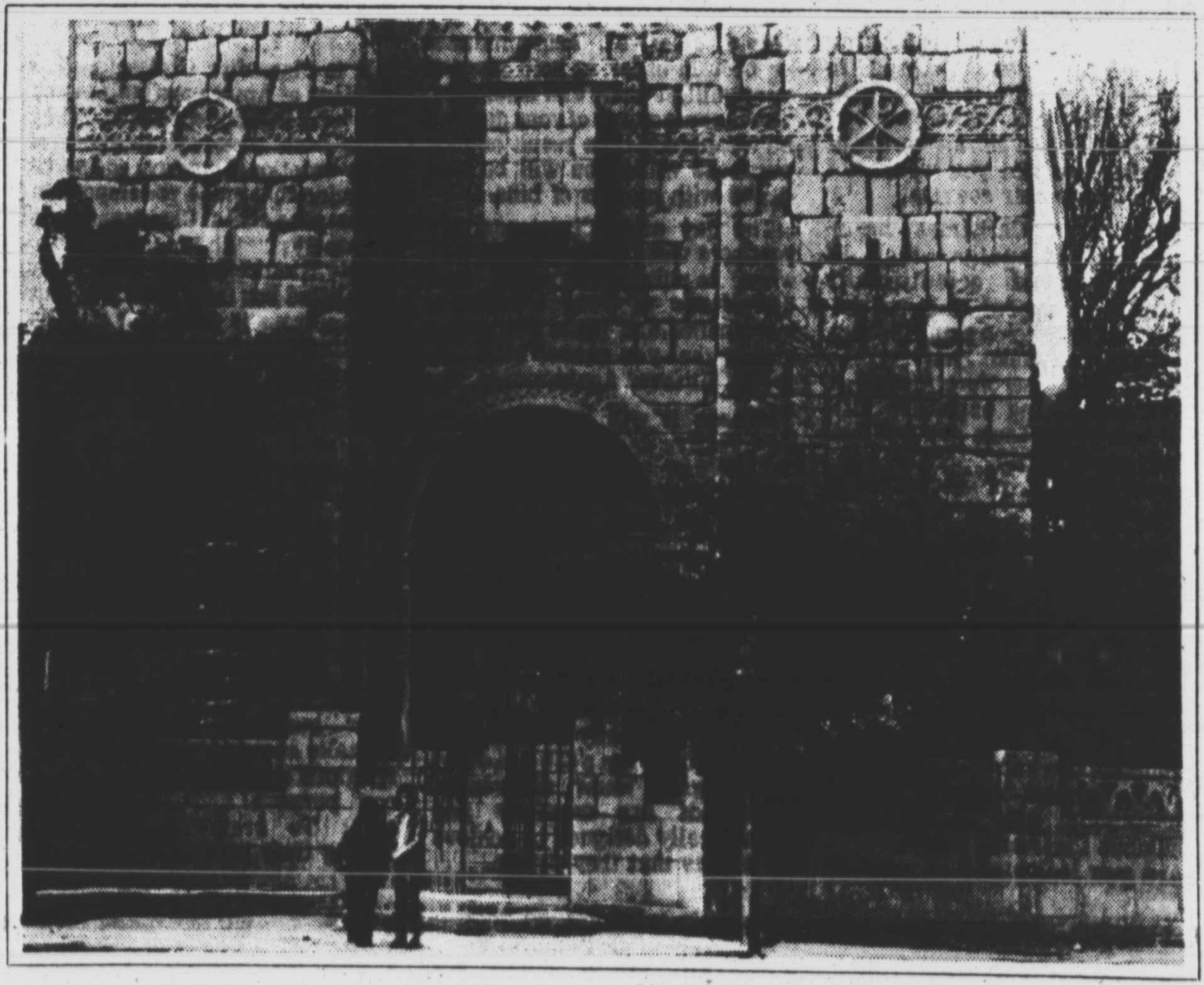
NOTICE

Douglas Memorial Church, Madison and Lafayette, Handcrafters Christmas Bazaar is Saturday, Dec. 10, 12 noon-5 p.m. in the Parlor with many handmade gifts for sale. Food will be sold 1 to 4 p.m. Verdeen W. Schmoke and Adriana Ward, chairpersons.

Baltimore County Branch of the NAACP is supporting the AFRO-AMERICAN Newspapers in its efforts to expand its distribution in Baltimore County.



A WANDERER, he travels the roads of the Holy Land with all of his possessions. (OLIVER PHOTO)



ST. PAUL'S CHURCH, as it is now known, is the same building located in Damascus where St. Paul hid from his enemies and was let down from a window in a basket to escape. (State Department Photo)

THE AFRO WAS THERE on a month-long fact-finding tour of the Middle East and walked with other editors on the road to Damascas where the bitter war is now staged. — State Department photo

Credits

Photos filmed in Damascus, Syria were processed by Glasco Ryales.

The Pentagon News Desk, Navy Public Affairs; U.S. State Department; White House Public Affairs, Press Office; State Senator Clarence M. Mitchell's Press Secretary, Louise Jones Johnson; Petty Officer Ellen Galligher, U.S. Naval Academy Public Affairs Office, Annapolis, contributed to the above article.

Coming Next Week

REAL LIVE LITTLE KING JESUS, played by Michael Falcon Jr., age 5 months with Joseph (Jimmy Leager, Pentacist Baptist Church) and Mary, Mrs. Sheila King Falcon, the baby's real mother, member of St. Paul Baptist. Coming next week complete with photos and story of "The Best Christmas Play Ever."

Don't Forget NAACP Jan. 1

All Maryland NAACP branches are participating in the Freedom-Emancipation Day services at Enon Baptist Church, Baltimore.

Rev. Marion Bascom is chairman of the gigantic rally which is set for noon, Jan. 1, New Years Day. Effort is being made to get U.S. Presidential Candidate Rev. Jesse Jackson as the speaker for the occasion which has as its purpose, "a day of remembering days of slavery from whence we came and our glorious heritage."

The famed Morgan Choir under Dr. Nathan Carter director, will provide stirring music

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—Parren Mitchell

Continued from page 1

Clarence Mitchell, Jr. and nephews; Michael Mitchell and Clarence Mitchell III also were present.

Mitchell was interrupted by applause several times. Clapping in unison, supporters shouted "Run Parren, run, with Parren, win."

Mitchell backers expressed relief with his decisioon to seek reelection. His departure from politics would leave a power vacuum and invite a political "bloodbath" as individuals fought over the right to fill his seat, they said.

"I think Parren Mitchell provides cement to the Baltimore black community during a very chaotic period," Irby said.

"I think it couldn't be any other way. His not running would have been a tragedy for the black community," Rev. Dobson said.

Mitchell acknowledged fears of a power struggle was one of his considerations which led to his decision.

"I must admit that one of my considerations is that I was aware of at least 15 people who intended to run," Mitchell said.

"I don't think our community can afford to be divided and attack each other and still have the strength to do what needs to be done," Mitchell said.

A Baltimore attorney, A. Dwight Petit already has stated his intention to challenge for Mitchell's seat. Mitchell, who supported Petit's 1978 bid for State's Attorney acknowledged Petit's challenge, but dismissed him as inexperienced in elective politics.

Backers also feared that the black community would be dealt a tremendous blow by the loss of one of the most powerful black leaders in Congress.

Mitchell is credited as an effective advocate of black concerns in Washington. His chairmanship of the House Small Business Subcommittee is seen as a key position which allows him to influence legislation impacting minority business.

Last year Mitchell pushed through an amendment to the Surface Transportation Act of 1982 which created a 10 percent set aside for minority contractors.

Mitchell also is credited as a strong Baltimore advocate. "If Baltimore has benefitted from federal involvement over the years, Parren is responsible," said Daniel Henson, a businessman.

Mitchell won his Seventh District seat in 1970, beating former Congressman Samuel L. Friedel in a hotly contested race. Allegations that voter fraud cost Friedel the election were not substantiated.

Mitchell has been returned to office in each election since, gaining in popularity.

—Federal grand jury

Continued from page 1

that were due under the terms of Liberty approximately $36,500 the exact amount being unknown to the grand jury at this time, for hours they knew had not been worked.

"It was further a part of the conspiracy that the defendants, by causing these false sign-in sheets to be submitted to the GSA, avoided the payment of approximately $69,700 in penalties the contracts.

Moyer is charged with one count of conspiracy to defraud the United States, three counts of filing false claims against the United States and three counts of mail fraud.

The indictment states the conspiract happened during the period from April 1980 through June 1982.

Brunt is charged with conspiracy to defraud the United States and three counts each of filing false claims and mail fraud. Houston is charged with conspiracy to defraud the United States and two counts each of filing false claims and mail fraud.

The case was investigated by agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. The indictment was presented to the grand jury by Assistant U. S. Attorney Robert B. Green.

FAMILY REUNION ASSOC.

Carroll Holland and the affair will be coordinated by Ms. Ellen Stokes. Other members of the organization are: from Baltimore — Dora Adams, Mildred Baily, Geraldine Morris, Osborne Williams, Dennis Adams, Shirley Contee, Charles Young, Estelle Boykins, Daniel Williams, Garland Williams, Louis Williams, Jr., Regina Bowley, and Derrick Dent — Youth Representative.

Out-of-town members are: Louise Hunter and Carol Sydney - New York; Clarence and Donald Williams - California; Albert Williams, Maxine Harcum, and Annie Mae Harris, New Jersey; Beatrice Adams, Washington, D.C.; Henrietta Robinson, Philadelphia - Senior Representative.

—Mondawmin merchants

Continued from page 1

dawmin singled out; why was the report heavily slanted toward finding negative things; why were statements taken out of context; and why such a damaging report was done at the beginning of the Christmas shopping season.

"I'm president of the merchants' association and I found out about the series through hearsay. It would seem that if they wanted to do a fair story about Mondawmin Mall they would talk to me," said Charles Blake, director of community relations for the BG&E office in Mondawmin.

"I've been here since '79 and I've seen great improvement. No environment is crime free because of the climate of this society but the security is good here. Mall security only takes seconds to respond. I haven't experienced any major problems inside the mall or on the parking lot," Blake added.

The main complaint expressed by the merchants, according to the association president, is that of unsavory characters standing near store entrances. These persons discourage customers from entering the stores according to some owners. Defining who is unsavory has not been done to the satisfaction of the association president.

One of the merchants interviewed on camera accused the TV station of biased reporting . . "What the reporter from Channel 2 did was a hatchet job not any kind of fair assessment," said Stan Scipio manager of Circus World, a toy store in the mall. "When the reporter approached me he said he heard that the area had a lot of problems and he wanted to help. This was his approach when he asked about security here."

When Scipio first came to Mondawmin he heard a lot of horror stories." The security here is adequate. You never have enough. I've worked at malls in other areas that had much more crime than Mondawmin

"The police regularly patrol the inside and outside of the mall. If you think they don't park in one of the spaces reserved for handicapped persons and see how fast you'll get a ticket."

During the interview with Scipio, the reporter made a reference to Scipio's wife being mugged. "My wife was not mugged and I never said she was. She put her pocketbook down while she was shopping in one of the stores and someone sneaked off with it. She never saw who did it and there was no physical contact. I wouldn't call that a mugging. An incident like that could happen anywhere."

Scipio further commented, "The mall must not be too dangerous because I'm seeing an increasing number of white customers coming into the mall.

"Also, none of the merchants I know carry a gun and I've never gotten into a physical confrontation with a patron. Like I said, they did a hatchet job and at the worst possible time in the shopping year."

"The biggest problem we have in Mondawmin is with unsupervised kids," said Marolyn Parrott, manager of the Yogurt Tree. "A lot of parents let their children wander around the mall while they are shopping. Sometimes these kids try to take a brownie or do something else mischievious. Sometimes school kids come here after school and do mischievious things. I haven't had any real problems. I've worked here longer than I have at any of the other stores. I feel safe here."

Mrs. Parrott added, "No parking lot is safe but when I go to my car at 10:30 at night, a security guard makes sure I'm okay. It's no worse here than in any other mall but people think it's trouble because it's a mall in a black neighborhood. Mondawmin has come a long way since the days when I went to Douglass."

Frederick O'Neal is a proprietor of two businesses in Mondawmin and a 22-year tenant. "We've never had anything hit this community so hard as that series on TV. It did not represent the views of the majority of the merchants. Most of them were angry when they saw it. I've been here 22 years and I've never seen a smear like this one."

O'Neal insists that Mondawmin gets a raw deal from the media in general. "For some reason, crimes committed two or three miles away are referred to as in the Mondawmin area. People are just jealous of this mall and the progress it has made."

He cites the subway station on the mall parking lot, the improvements made on the interior and exterior of the building and the new MTA facility as evidence that Mondawmin is on the move and prospering.

"Why did they call the report Crime in Mondawmin? Why didn't they call it Crime in Shopping Malls. I'm here 12 hours a day and I don't see anything here that doesn't happen at Westview or Golden Ring Mall. People are jealous of Mondawmin because the merchants here have weathered the storms of time and millions of dollars and new customers coming to this mall."

Ralph Hughes is a delegate to the state legislature representing the Mondawmin area and the chairman of the TRANSPAC group which held the meeting with Channel 2. "This area around the mall is becoming revitalized and residents are working hard to make sure that it keeps the residential character. This TV report perpetuated the stigma on the black community," said Hughes.

All charges dropped against jail guards

State's Attorney Kurt Schmoke said Wednesday he was dropping drug charges against five of six City Jail guards arrested near the prison.

But Schmoke said he would press possession with intent to distribute charges against guard Lt. Clifford L. Weems.

City District Judge Paul A. Smith Jr., ruled Monday that police did not have sufficient probable cause when they searched a van in which the guards were sitting, the night of the arrest.

Attorney William H. Murphy Jr., represented Kenneth Dent, one of the City Jail guards. Murphy said Judge Smith heard two days of motions and the evidence against his client and the other guards was suppressed.

Schmoke said he would prosecute Weems because the guard was indicted on intent to distribute narcotics charges, and the six guards who were arrested Nov. 4 just outside the prison were sitting in Weem's van.

The State's Attorney noted a substantial quantity of marijuana and cocaine was seized when the van was searched.

He conceded the state would have to litigate the effect of the district court's ruling, but noted "given the quantity of drugs involved it is in the public interest to fully litigate all outstanding legal issues."

Schmoke also said he sent City Jail Warden Paul Davis a letter urging administrative charges against the guards.

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The Silk Opera Hat—elegance both dashing & understated. HATS IN THE BELFRY, 1st Fl., Pratt St. Pavilion.

Classic buttonless cardigan in warm Icelandic wool & mohair. [illegible], 1st Fl., Pratt St. Pavilion.

Art Deco pewter trinket box $59 & 18" sterling silver rope chain $38 at HARBOR SILVER & GOLD, 1st Fl., Pratt St. Pavilion.

Full cut lead crystal amythest perfume bottle $60 for oils, colognes, & toilet water available at CRABTREE & EVELYN, 1st Fl., Pratt St. Pavilion.

Customize your cosmetic options with a suede pencil case & your choice of pencils $15 from THE POWDER ROOM, 1st Fl., Pratt St. Pavilion.

The Rolex Quartz Submariner Oyster Perpetual in stainless steel $825 at EDWARD ARTHUR JEWELERS, 2nd Fl., Pratt St. Pavilion.

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