

# DR. LEMMEL, SCHOOL HEAD, DIES AT 56

## Is Stricken While Addressing Hearing At State Senate

Dr. William H. Lemmel, superintendent of Baltimore schools, was stricken fatally early yesterday afternoon while addressing a State Senate committee in behalf of new teacher-pay schedules.

Dr. Lemmel, 56 years old and in seemingly robust health, collapsed within two minutes after he began his remarks at the lectern of the reading clerk's desk in the Senate chamber in Annapolis.

The educator, talking to about 200 listeners, had told of his pleasure at being present at "this love feast" and of his advocacy of proposed teachers' pay increases, when he hesitated, gripped the sides of the lectern and said:

"I do not think I can go on."

Taken To Hospital

Persons closest to the clerk's desk, realizing something was wrong, rushed to support Dr. Lemmel's limp figure as it slumped over the lectern. The stricken man was carried first into the Senate lounge and taken later to the Anne Arundel General Hospital.

There Dr. Sherrill A. Adams pronounced him dead. The cause of death was not immediately announced.

News of the death brought cancellation of the Senate Finance Committee hearing and of a special session of the School Board scheduled in Baltimore later in the afternoon. Mayor D'Alesandro ordered that flags on all public buildings be flown at half staff at least until after funeral services.

Funeral services for Dr. Lemmel will be conducted by the Rev. Dr. T. Guthrie Spears at Brown Memorial Church on Monday at 10 A.M. From this afternoon until Sunday at 10 P.M. his body will lie in state at a funeral establishment at North and Pennsylvania avenues.

In the early afternoon, both

## Doctors On Trail Of Eternal Youth

San Antonio, Texas, Jan. 29 (AP). Medical science is on the trail of the secret of eternal youth, a pathologist told the seventeenth annual International Medical Assembly today.

Dr. James R. Ash, Bethesda (Md.) pathologist, said people grow old because of changes in the ultra-microscopic fibers which bind their body cells together. A method of controlling these changes would mean eternal youth and life spans



DR. WILLIAM H. LEMMEL

School head dead after collapse at legislative hearing.

## Thousands Of Baltimoreans See Total Eclipse Of Moon

Astronomers who solved the mystery did not lessen the magic of the total eclipse of the moon observed by thousands of Baltimoreans through the early hours of last night.

The superstitious terror which once caused mortals to whisper of "blood on the moon" has disappeared with scientific understanding, but the eerie fascination of the spectacle in the skies is undimmed.

That abiding preoccupation with celestial phenomena was apparent before dusk yesterday at the Maryland Academy of Sciences in the Enoch Pratt Free Library.

Before the skies were dark enough to make the eclipse dramatically visible, men, women and children began to gather to observe what happened and to learn why it happened.

500 Watch At Library

Before the academy closed at 10 P.M., at least 500 persons had seen and heard, watching through three telescopes and many sets of binoculars from the library rooftop and listening to explanations from Paul S. Watson, curator of astronomy.

The sky-watchers saw the moon already largely obscured by the shadow of the earth when the lunar planet first could be observed low on the eastern horizon a few minutes after 5 P.M.

By 6:05, the reddish-bronze tint which inspired the "blood on the moon" expression of an earlier age covered most of the surface of the moon, and the eclipse was complete.

The planet, while wholly within the shadow of the earth, did not

old silvery self—slipped out of the shadow in the form of a crescent.

Momentarily the crescent grew until just before 10 o'clock the full moon in all its unveiled majesty was riding high in the heavens.

The show was over until January 18 of next year, when scientists have announced a repeat performance.

## GROCERY STORE THIEF FINED \$50

If John Holland had only been the eighteenth man caught stealing from a grocery this week, he might have got off free. As it was, he was given a fine of \$50 and costs by Magistrate E. Everett Lane in Northwestern Police Court yesterday.

A food market in the 2100 block Fulton avenue has been suffering from an epidemic of pilfering which, the manager said, "has been rising to a crescendo in recent weeks."

The manager declared war on the thieves and hired a detective, Charles Toor, to hunt them out. In one week, he caught eighteen. Still the pilfering went on, and the manager decided to have the next thief arrested. No. 19 was Holland, a 60-year-old Negro of the 2600 block Francis street. He was charged with stealing candy and meat valued at \$1.03.

"If you had only been the eighteenth . . ." said the magistrate. "But it's unlucky nineteen for you and so you are being made an

## TEACHERS' PAY MINIMUMS TO BE BOOSTED

### No Opposition To Proposal Is Raised At Joint Hearing

By CHARLES G. WHITEFORD  
(Annapolis Bureau of The Sun)  
Annapolis, Jan. 29.—The State will raise its minimum salary guarantees for schoolteachers.

That became apparent today during a joint Senate-House hearing on legislation to carry out recommendations of the Green Commission.

There was no opposition to the proposal at the hearing, which was recessed abruptly when Dr. William H. Lemmel collapsed while testifying and was subsequently pronounced dead at Anne Arundel General Hospital.

The Governor was already on record as favoring the compromise plan to increase State minimums. So was the Legislative Council, the between-sessions standing committee of the Legislature.

Actions At Hearing

During the hearing today:

Dr. Thomas G. Pullen, Jr., said the bill was evolved by the Green Commission on a "definitely fair set of principles."

State Treasurer Hooper S. Miles termed it "a very sound approach to resolving the vexatious question of the division of the responsibility (for schoolteachers' pay) between the State and its subdivisions."

State Comptroller J. Millard Tapes termed the proposal "the step we need to take."

Joseph A. Hunter, president of the Maryland Congress of Parents and Teachers, said his 85,000-member group favored it.

There were other indorsements in the same vein.

Most Favor It

But what is more important, the overwhelming number of the legislators questioned about it said they were heartily in favor of the bill.

There was no one in the State House today who was not perfectly sure that, at this point, at least, the bill will definitely pass with a minimum of opposition.

For once, there was just about complete unanimity on a question that had stirred up great controversy in the last two legislative sessions.

The Green Commission—named for its chairman, Harry J. Green, Baltimore attorney (who was referred to consistently as "Dr. Green" at the hearing)—was appointed last year after the Governor's veto of a salary-increase proposal.

Provisions Of Bills

After months of study it came up with the bill, which provides: Minimum scale raises up to \$300 a year. The scales, as of next September, would start at \$2,500, and the next year the floor would be \$2,800. Teachers automatically would get State-guaranteed increments of \$100 for each of their first two years and \$200 for each of the next eight.

The present State minimums start at \$2,200, with sixteen annual increments of \$100 each.

## MURDERER, 24, IN DEATH HOUSE FOR 15 MONTHS

### McKeldin Not Yet Decided Whether Holdup Slayer Will Be Hanged

For fifteen months Sylvester W. Madison, a 24-year-old Negro, has been confined to the death block at the Maryland Penitentiary, yet no one knows today whether Madison will die or survive.

That decision rests with one man, Governor McKeldin, who, up to now, has not made up his mind.

Madison was sentenced to be hanged on October 24, 1951, after being found guilty of the holdup-slaying of Selig Gerstein, 30-year-old grocer slain in his Fremont avenue grocery store on April 27, 1951.

Up To Governor

Since last April, after the lower courts sentence was sustained by the Court of Appeals, it has been up to Governor McKeldin either to commute the death sentence or set a date of execution.

Yesterday the Governor said he has not taken positive action in the case because the "final file" only recently reached his Annapolis office and he wants "to give it my full attention."

Thomas J. Kenney, Baltimore attorney who has acted as a court-appointed attorney for Madison, said that he had forwarded a petition for commutation of the death sentence to the Governor "toward the end of last month."

"Agreed Not To Act"

"I have been delayed in filing the petition," Mr. Kenney stated "but I have not thought there was much urgency involved for the Governor agreed not to take action without reviewing our petition."

Sol Gerstein, whose father was slain by Madison, complained yesterday that Governor McKeldin had told him six or seven months ago that Madison would not be hanged.

Mr. Gerstein quoted the Governor as stating "I do not believe in capital punishment."

"Had Not Studied Transcript"

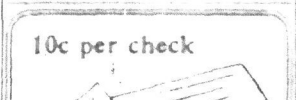
Last night Governor McKeldin said he recalled Gerstein's visit and had "been shocked because he came down to ask me to hang a man."

"I don't like to hang people. I'm no hanger, but I do intend to do my duty," the Governor added.

"I did not tell Gerstein I would not let him hang for I had not studied the transcript. It depends on the facts in the case as to what the decision will be and, if they don't justify my intervening then I'll sign the warrant," Governor McKeldin declared.

The Governor then explained

(Continued on Page 17, Column 2)



WNEY  
D WINS

# DR. LEMMEL DIES AT 56

nd Partner  
Tourney

## Stricken While Addressing Hearing At State Senate

an. 29 (P)—  
ough as ex-  
posed matches  
ational Four-  
ent at the

(Continued from Page 30) -  
houses of the General Assembly  
adjourned the day's sessions out of  
respect for Dr. Lemmel.

mons Polly  
xas. and Bea  
n. Ala. de-  
Glick. Balti-  
mson. Phila-

Baltimore's public-school system  
had been under the administration  
of Dr. Lemmel since July, 1946,  
when he was invited here to suc-  
ceed the late Dr. David E. Weglein,  
who had reached retirement age.

n Win  
eland, Ohio.  
on. Helena,  
en Hampton,  
and Ellen  
in 20 holes.

Already an educator and admin-  
istrator of national stature, Dr.  
Lemmel stepped into leadership of  
the Baltimore public-school system  
at a time when the urgency of post-  
war elementary-school problems  
was becoming increasingly ap-  
parent.

McMillen, Mil-  
Garner, Mid-  
Frances Rich-  
Mary Sargent,  
1.

**Contagious Confidence**  
A relatively young man who  
seemed still to reflect the fresh-  
ness and vigor of his youth on a  
Missouri farm and his early man-  
hood in mid-Western communities,  
he undertook the task with con-  
tagious confidence.

ington, Ky.,  
Lake Worth,  
1. Odum and  
Jr., both of

Aware of obstacles but sure they  
could be overcome, Dr. Lemmel  
communicated his optimism to  
members of his staff and to the  
teaching personnel, one of his  
major contributions having been  
the development of high morale  
throughout the system.

Thomasville,  
owney, Balti-  
tason, Ridge-  
Frank Fuller,

He was determined to steer  
Baltimore schools clear of internal  
or external politics, but at the same  
time went to great pains to foster  
democratic processes and to in-  
tegrate the schools with community  
life.

Sacramento,  
rby, Atlanta,  
rbe De Cozen,  
atherine Fox

Dr. Lemmel liked to talk with  
his colleagues of the "ever-widen-  
ing democratic circles," beginning  
with his own staff but spreading to  
take in principals, teachers, parents  
and community agencies.

bridans  
xington, Ky.,  
ve, Toledo,  
nnie Colby,  
Charles Hart-

**Welcomed Ideas**  
He welcomed ideas from any  
level within the system, offering  
respect as well as tolerance for  
opinions with which he personally  
differed.

Menominee,  
inger, Tiffin,  
Martin, St.  
Mary Riley,  
nd 1.

Under his leadership the doors  
of the schools were more and more  
opened to community life, with spe-  
cial encouragement given to par-  
ent-teacher groups.

had the best  
Ellen Geary  
on the eight-  
re recovered  
sank a 4-foot  
n sank a 3-  
tieth hole to

Dr. Lemmel tackled the prob-  
lems of overcrowded schools and  
inadequate facilities with firmness

on the front  
the turn.  
4-foot putt  
with Rowland

# Governor, Mayor, Educators Pay Tributes To Dr. Lemmel

The sudden death of Dr. William H. Lemmel, superintendent of Baltimore public schools, yesterday brought tributes to his accomplishments from Governor McKeldin, Mayor D'Alessandro, Roszel C. Thomsen, president of the School Board, and Hans Froelicher, Jr., headmaster of Park School.

warmly liked and respected by everyone who knew him.

From his office in Annapolis, Governor McKeldin said: "I am shocked and saddened by the sudden death of William H. Lemmel. It was perhaps natural that a man of his enthusiastic devotion to duty should thus come to the end of his career while officially advocating that which he considered good for the people he served.

"Through his untimely passing, we in the city government have lost a valued colleague and a personal friend. As a mark of respect, flags of all city buildings, including the schools, shall be flown at half-staff."

His passing, however, in the prime years of life, leaves a big void in the Baltimore city school system and in the educational life of Maryland.

Mr. Thomsen, who was president of the School Board when Dr. Lemmel was invited here, underscored the superintendent's effectiveness in "awakening the city of Baltimore to the need for smaller classes and more adequate buildings."

**"Will Be Missed"**  
"Indeed, his wise counsel and assistance will be missed in various places in the nation.

"He encouraged the organization of the Co-ordinating Council of the Parent-Teacher Associations, with resulting enrichment of the school program," Mr. Thomsen said.

"I am proud that Dr. Lemmel came to the public schools of Baltimore during my tenure as Mayor. His administration of the schools was most successful and most of the advancement progress of which we boast are results of his foresightedness and initiative.

"In the field of teacher relationships, Dr. Lemmel did much to raise morale and to promote joint planning for a well-rounded program through representation from all levels of the staff and personnel."

"It will not be easy to fill his place. Members of his family have my deep sympathy in the time of their grief. There will, I am sure, be consolation for them in the knowledge of the great and lasting good which he accomplished. Generations of children yet unborn may be thankful that Bill Lemmel lived and worked among us."

Temporarily, Dr. John H. Fischer, deputy superintendent of schools, will be acting head of the system, it was announced.

**Mayor's Tribute**  
Mayor D'Alessandro, who was in Charlottesville, Va., when he received news of Dr. Lemmel's death, sent this word:

**Froelicher Comments**  
Hans Froelicher, Jr., headmaster of Park School, said last night: "Dr. Lemmel was so much more than friendly and that much more he will be missed. When William Lemmel came to Baltimore he found an intelligent school system which needed buildings and salaries which only the electorate can give, and one thing more which only the superintendent can give.

"The sudden death of Dr. Lemmel comes as a terrible shock to Baltimore and especially to its thousands of schoolchildren and their parents, who have suffered a very great loss.

"Salaries and buildings are coming in their deliberate and calculated fashion. The superintendent's gift came at once. It was a man's act of faith in his colleagues.

"Tremendous strides have been made in the development of our public-school system under Dr. Lemmel's direction and he was hard at work on plans for the future.

"His faith was an invitation to all our teachers to take part in the making of plans and programs for the schools, and it was in effect a release of the latent creative abilities of all teachers and of their willingness to take responsibility.

"But he was not only an outstanding educator and able administrator. As a person he was

"William Lemmel was greatly successful in setting free the best in his colleagues so that children might have the best in spirit, in method, and in objective.

"Because of the strength which his faith made possible in teachers, a memory of him will stay in Baltimore."

King of New Haven, Mo. herself

WADSWORTH

### Welcomed Ideas

He welcomed ideas from any level within the system, offering respect as well as tolerance for opinions with which he personally differed.

Under his leadership the doors of the schools were more and more opened to community life, with special encouragement given to parent-teacher groups.

Dr. Lemmel tackled the problems of overcrowded schools and inadequate facilities with firmness but without heroics, insisting that steadfast purpose and awakened public consciousness could solve them all.

Nationally recognized as an administrator, he was tirelessly concerned with the educative process, exploring teaching techniques and curriculum changes as they developed.

### Gave Consideration

With the inherent common sense of a Missouri farm boy, he gave prudent consideration to the more advanced concepts of education without at any time taking on the complexion of the faddest or adopting an extreme course.

"He wanted to be sure we were doing the best thing," an intimate associate said, "without regard to whether it bore the label of traditionalism or of progressive education."

His ability to delegate authority and to encourage the initiative of others within the system was regarded as one of Dr. Lemmel's greatest assets as an administrator and leader. He had a great faith in the goodness and the creative powers of other people, his colleagues, recalled and because of this was able to develop the human resources to their fullest.

### Born in Missouri

William Hugo Lemmel was born in the village of Hope, Mo., on November 15, 1896. His father, the late John T. Lemmel was a native of France; his mother, Emma Ulrich Lemmel, was of Swiss descent.

The boy, one of nine children, got his first schooling in the "little red schoolhouse" in the foothills of the Ozarks, at the same time helping with the milking, the corn husking and other farm chores.

Because there was no high school at Hope, young Bill Lemmel at sixteen went away to school at Missouri State Teachers College at Cape Girardeau, where he met the girl he later was to marry.

From Cape Girardeau, the youth went on to take B.A. and Master of Education degrees at the University of Iowa in 1922 and 1928. It was not until 1940, several years after the start of his own career in education, that he received his doctor's degree at Teachers' College, Columbia University.

During the intervening years, the young educator had been building up experience in school administration and supervision in a succession of relatively small towns, in Missouri, Iowa and Michigan. As early as 1917 he had married Miss Pansy

Baltimore, and especially to its thousands of schoolchildren and their parents, who have suffered a very great loss.

"Tremendous strides have been made in the development of our public-school system under Dr. Lemmel's direction and he was hard at work on plans for the future.

"But he was not only an outstanding educator and able administrator. As a person he was

King, of New Haven, Mo., herself a teacher.

His first teaching was in the village of Ellsimore, Mo., with a population of 400. He was 19 years old at the time and conducted two high school classes.

From that time onward his work was of a supervisory nature, his next assignment being superintendent of schools at Birmingham, Iowa.

### Came From Delaware

During the four years immediately preceding his coming to Baltimore, Dr. Lemmel was superintendent of schools in Wilmington, Del., where he had received both civic and educational honors. For outstanding service in "fortifying democracy" he had received tribute as Wilmington's first citizen in 1946.

He was a member of the board of the American Council on Education, an active leader in the American Association of School Administrators and a member of other professional organizations.

Dr. Lemmel was the author of several texts on school administration, a frequent lecturer and a contributor to a number of educational periodicals.

### Enjoyed Fishing

Although absorbed in his work in the schools and his leadership in other civic activities, Dr. Lemmel took time out occasionally to enjoy his major hobby—fishing.

He and Mrs. Lemmel had a summer home on Kent Island, and the educator spent as much time as he could spare in fishing from his motorboat in the bay or in Chester river.

In Baltimore, Dr. and Mrs. Lemmel made their home in the Ambassador apartments. Their only son is Charles R. Lemmel, director of safety education in the public schools of Dover, Del. There is one grandchild.

### 'Great Books' Subject Of Notre Dame Lecture

"Great Books of the Western World" is the title of the last Sister Mary Melita Memorial lecture, which will be delivered at 11 A.M. today in the auditorium of Le Clerc Hall, Notre Dame of Maryland.

The lecturer will be the Rev. Harold C. Gardiner, S.J., literary editor of the Catholic weekly *American* and editor of the first four volumes of "The Great Books: A Christian Appraisal."

release of the latent creative abilities of all teachers and of their willingness to take responsibility.

"William Lemmel was greatly successful in setting free the best in his colleagues so that children might have the best in spirit, in method, and in objective.

"Because of the strength which his faith made possible in teachers, a memory of him will stay in Baltimore."

## HOPKINS OFFERS 'FIRST FENDER' BILL

### Would Give Accident Claims First Lien On Car

BY JOHN VAN CAMP

(Continued from Page 30)

an uninsured car involved in an accident a "first plank" and it could be seized to pay off judgments against the driver.

### Compulsory Insurance Proposal

The Hopkins bill, also signed by Delegate Thomas F. Dempsey (D., Baltimore Third), chairman of the Judiciary Committee, is the third introduced in this session to put the clamps on financially irresponsible drivers.

Delegate Albert L. Sklar and Maurice J. Soypher, of the Baltimore fourth, have a bill in to set up a compulsory insurance system.

### Force Fuller Insurance

Delegate William S. James (D., Harford) has introduced a measure that would set up an unsatisfied claim and judgment fund to reimburse persons involved in accidents with drivers who are not insured and have no financial resources.

Some of the members of the House have questioned the effectiveness of Delegate Hopkins's bill, but he believes it will provide protection, particularly in the case of financed cars.

Mr. Hopkins said many auto companies carry only enough insurance to cover the financed vehicle itself and do not insure to cover victims of accidents the car may be involved in.

### Fund From Car Tax

The "first fender" principle, he said, would force fuller insurance coverage by making accident claims against a car involved in an accident a first lien against the vehicle.

The compulsory insurance bill would enact into law a measure existing in only one other state, Massachusetts. It has been criticized on the grounds that it is hard and expensive to enforce.



Benjamin W. Lemke and beloved mother of Elsie Wollin, Bernard Lemke and Catherine Sealover.

Funeral from her late residence, 416 North Linwood avenue, on Saturday, January 31, at 10 A.M. Interment in Schwartz's Cemetery. 31

**LEMMEL.**—Suddenly on January 29, 1953, **DR. WILLIAM H. LEMMEL**, beloved husband of Pansy King Lemmel, of the Ambassador Apartments. Friends may call at William J. Tickner & Sons, North and Pennsylvania avenues, until 10 P.M. Sunday.

Funeral services will be held in Brown Memorial Church, Park and Lafayette avenues, on Monday, February 2, at 10 A.M.

**LEVIN.**—On January 29, 1953, **ELLIS**, beloved son of the late Abraham and Thressa Levin.

Services at the Jack Lewis Home, 2100-02 Eutaw place, on Friday, precisely at 1 P. M. Interment in Oheb Sholom Cemetery. [Kindly omit flowers.] 30e

**LEWIS.**—On January 28, 1953, **CHARLES**, beloved son of 2648 Beech avenue, beloved

## William H. Lemmel

Those who follow closely the affairs of the school system will be grieved by the sudden death of Dr. William H. Lemmel, its superintendent since 1946. It seems but yesterday that he came to Baltimore to take charge of a system which, though admirable in so many ways, had reached a kind of dead center. So far as any of us knew, he had many years of useful work ahead of him. *The Sun* did not fully share his philosophy of education, and said so from time to time. But his untimely death throws into relief the great and valuable contributions which he made to our school system.

To begin with, he took over at a time when a big program of physical expansion was needed—and nonexistent. There were no plans, there were no sites. Dr. Lemmel had the training and the capacity to build, and to build well, and at the same time to keep one eye on the future so far as physical plant is concerned.

Dr. Lemmel had a talent, too, for taking the problems and the objectives of our schools to the public. There is no doubt that the citizens of Baltimore, in their role as parents, are more familiar with the school system, and identify themselves with it more fully, than at any time in the past. Dr. Lemmel believed, with something amounting to passion, in the importance of "selling" the school system to the people, day in and day out. He threw himself into this task with the zeal of a man whose whole life was wrapped up in education.

As an administrator, Dr. Lemmel built as well in the realm of personnel as he did in physical plant. He instituted a high degree of decentralization within the school system—something that was badly needed. And nowhere was his unselfish devotion to education so well demonstrated as in the care which he took to build up a strong "second line" in the school administration. There is no better testimony to this than the fact that his sudden death will not disturb the smooth functioning of the system.

Dr. Lemmel represented the best of the new professionalism in education. But more important than that, he was a humane, high-minded and dedicated man.