Holiday Tragedies Reach New Mark

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Review of 1945 News Highlights in Baltimore.

AFRO Readers Aid Fire Victims.

Railroad Porters Tell Why Better Service Is Lacking.

Death Total Mounts to 12

Unidentified Couple Among 6 Fire Victims

FOUR SLAIN

2 Shacks Destroyed; Charred Bodies Found

The toll of sudden and tragic deaths in the Baltimore area during the holiday period mounted to 12 as a fire of undetermined origin burned beyond recognition an unidentified couple in a Laurens Street shack early Wednesday.

Records revealed that six deaths, all in Baltimore, were chalked up to fatal fires, four persons were slain, one crushed to death under a falling brick wall and the last case, that of an elderly man who died suddenly.

Fire Victims

Fire victims were: Robert Henrahan, 63, of 530 Hubbard Alley; Joseph Mannah, 40, of 1420 N. Eden St., Mrs. Alice Matthews, 37, of 641 N. Central Ave., and James Boyde, 25, of 425 W. Biddle St. and the unidentified couple.

Those slain were: Mrs. Mary Mareno, 28, 1120 E. Lexington St., Wilson Parker, 27, of Edgewater;

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Boy Takes New Year Honors, First in '46

A six-pound baby boy, son of Mr. and Mrs. Earl Tarter of 2317 McCulloh St., who weighed in at 5:10 New Year's morning at Provident Hospital, topped the day's quota of five.

Others born at same hospital were girls, one at 6:10 a.m. to Mrs. Dorothy Lancaster, and another at 6:30 to Mrs. Maggie Deadwyler.

At City Hospitals, a girl was born to Mrs. Lottie Locker of 4654 Falls Rd., and at University Hospital, a girl to Mrs. Mollie Smith.

Crisis Faced in Liberia

8 From D.C. Injured in Seaboard Wreck

Silver Meteor Derailed in S.C.; W.Va. Mother and Daughter Die

BLANEY, S.C.—Eight Washingtonians were injured in the wreck occasioned when the Seaboard Air Line's East Coast Silver Meteor was partially derailed near here about 5 a.m. on Jan. 2, killing two persons.

Those killed were Mrs. Helen E. Wilson, 22, of Williamsburg, W.Va., and her four-month-old daughter Beverly. Alonzo Wilson, the husband, who was taking his family to Florida to live, was one of more the than 20 person, chiefly colored, who were injured.

Crushed Behind Engine

The mother and her daughter, it was reported, were crushed between two seats of a baggage car directly behind the locomotive.

That most of the casulties were colored is attributed to the fact that it was the traditional jim-crow coach, half passenger and half baggage, which suffered the greatest damage. This coach is always placed behind the locomotive.

Two of the Washingtonians were seriously injured and were treated at a hospital in nearby Camden. They were Nathaniel Jackson of 1837 California St., a waiter, and Charles E. Norman of 2914 Georgia Ave., N.W., a cook.

The others from Washington who were among the injured were: E. F. Thomas, 69½ R St., N.W., dining car chef; Kenneth Wright, 517 18th St., N.E.; William Walker, 607 Kenyon St.; Aaron H. Lassiter, 230 Florida Ave., N.W.; Erasthmus Reese, 315 T St., N.W., and Luther Smith, 155 Randolph Pl., N.W.

Others injured included five persons from New York who were held in the hospital at Columbia. They were James Smith, 1925 Seventh Ave.; Emma Smith, same address; A. W. Davis Jr., 503 W. 148th St.; J. D. Morrison, 562 W. 148th St., and James Smith, 109

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First on the List of Baltimore's 1946 Babies

Although the stork got off to a late start New Year's Day, he left full measure in this six-pound boy, son of Mr. and Mrs. Earl Tarter. Holding him is Mrs. Agnes Williams, assistant superintendent of nurses at Baltimore's Provident Hospital.

15 Nominated for AFRO Honor Roll

Fifteen names have been submitted for the 1945 AFRO honor roll of outstanding citizens which will appear on Jan. 12 for the sixth year.

Deadline for submitting names was Friday.

The Honor Roll will include persons who have made outstanding achievements and humble workers who have done a job well enough to merit public attention.

Ministers, social workers, business and professional persons and men and women and parents of outstanding children will also be included.

Cheltenham Hit by Grand Jury

7 Recommendations Made for School

DISCIPLINE LAX

Removal of Mental Defectives Urged

Branding conditions at the Cheltenham School for Boys generally deplorable, the soon-to-retire September term grand jury this week submitted to Criminal Court Judge Herman Moser a report listing seven recommendations for bettering the situation

The recommendations, signed by the seven members of the grand jury sub-committee, of which Edward N. Wilson, Morgan College registrar, is a member, follow:

Better Sanitary Conditions

1. That the sanitary conditions of the buildings and grounds be improved;
2. That a more scientific classification and separation of the inmates be inaugurated;
3. That qualified employees with sufficient specialized training, proper attitudes and common sense be employed;

Want Mental Defectives Moved

4. That mental defectives be re-

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American Troops Put on "Trouble Alert"

Tense Situation Develops When U.S. Puts Economic Squeeze on Nation

MONROVIA, Liberia—(Exclusive)—A situation so tense that colored American troops have been alerted by their commander, Col. William E. G. Graham, to stand guard,

EXTRA

has developed here as the result of what Liberians contend is economic pressure being applied on their republic by American interests.

First indication of impending trouble developed last Sunday when Liberian workers went out on strike against the Raymond Concrete Pile Company, which is building the huge naval base at Monrovia. Native workers, angered because the company had insisted on flying Brazilian skilled workmen here, rather than hire skilled colored Americans, demanded a minimum $1 a day scale.

Radio for Soldiers

Officials of the company alarmed at the militancy of the native workers, radioed Robert Field to Col. Graham, who immediately or

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the week

Sick of Hangings Baltimore New Year

By PEYTON GRAY

The opponents of capital punishment now have another convert and potential staunch supporter in the person of the writer.

The hanging, my seventh, covered a few nights ago, thoroughly convinced me I have been entirely wrong and far from base on the question of capital punishment for first degree murderers and convicted suspected rapists.

Taught to Kill

During the past almost four years, I learned to adeptly use a rifle, pistol and small machine gun—not to harm, lame or cripple, but to kill, to take life.

On several occasions while facing Nazi-men in France and Germany I was compelled to employ my knowledge of that means of defense. That was one side of the picture—justifiable killing organized and trained.

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Army Blamed in Carrier Jim Crow

(AFRO National Bureau)

WASHINGTON

Blame for barring 123 colored soldiers from the aircraft carrier USS Croatan at LeHavre, France, was placed at the door of the Army segregation policy Thursday by an official Navy statement.

Naval Secretary James W. Forrestal, two weeks ago as the result of the Croatan incident, issued a directive which was radioed to all ships at sea, reaffirming the Navy's "no discrimination" policy.

The statement issued Thursday read:

"When the Army officer-in-charge of the Passenger Branch, Troop Movements Division, at LeHavre informed one of the junior officers of the Croatan that loading plans had been changed so that 123 colored troops would

(Continued on Page 2, Col. 3)

Former Baltimorean Among Applicants for Glen Burnie Post

Three persons, including Miss Mildred Goldsborough of Bronx, N.Y., a former Baltimorean, took the State examination last week for the position of superintendent at the Maryland Training School for Girls at Glen Burnie.

Others were Miss Thelma Hargrove of Philadelphia, and Miss Muriel Johnson of Portsmouth, Va.

The position has been vacant since the resignation of Mrs. Sadye P. George last July and Mrs. Mary Spellman, assistant superintendent, has been acting head of the school.

Site for Cheltenham Bought in Cherry Hill

A 122½-acre site purchased in the Cherry Hill area at a cost of $45,000 will be the new location for the Cheltenham Training School for Boys, it was announced this week.

The 100-acre Ingleside site in Catonsville, on which Governor O'Conor in October had ordered condemnation proceedings to begin, was later abandoned after some 2,000 white residents protested the location of the school there.

The present buildings in Brandywine, Md., will be turned over to the State Board of Mental Hygiene. Plans call for the separation of the mentally defective boys from those who are merely disciplinary cases, housing the latter in the new buildings.

1945 Improvements

Improvements made at the school in 1945 during the administration of Royal A. B. Crump, who resigned in October, included renovation to cottages and the dining hall, the replacement of detention cells with shower and sanitary facilities and the construction of an $80,000 faculty apartment house.

The new site, bounded by Hollins Ferry and the old Annapolis Roads, between Mt. Winans and Cherry Hill, was purchased from the Whitaker Iron Company of Wheeling, W.Va.

Aditions Made to Staff

Plans for the new building and construction are expected to be under way in the near future, according to Thomas B. Sprague, president of the board.

Hiawatha R. Harris, acting superintendent of the school, said that names of four new persons recently added to the staff will be announced next week.

Job Bias Charged at Security Board

The local NAACP is investigating complaints of J. Edgar Stanley, Social Security Board worker, that he was refused a job reclassification although he was hired as a laborer and called upon to do clerical work.

Mr. Stanley, who lives at 1022 E. Monument St. and is a former school teacher, says that he has offered his resignation after having been denied the opportunity to take a promotional exam.

Rating Lowered

He charges that, although his efficiency rating was "very good" with the laborer's classification, his supervisors have rated him "poor" since he applied for a transfer or promotion.

Moreover, he points out, he has been unable to obtain a favorable recommendation from his supervisors in connection with his resignation.

School Appointments, Court Victories Held Highlights of 1945 in Baltimore

The appointment of an assistant school superintendent and two school principals, increased grants for Cheltenham Training School and Morgan State College and victories in two major court cases are highlights in the 1946 review of Baltimore events.

The summary below contains some of the major events which, directly or indirectly, affected the lives of Baltimore's residents as a whole.

JANUARY

Alexander J. Allen, executive secretary of the Baltimore Urban League, declined a post on the Housing Authority to replace Dr. George B. Murphy, whose term expired in November.

The National Labor Board was asked to enforce compliance with a United States Circuit Court of Appeals ruling and cease recognition of the Point Breeze Employees' Association of the Western Electric Company employees.

A bid of $82,000 was approved for the faculty house at the Cheltenham Training School in Brandywine, Md.

Day Village, a 500-unit privately owned housing project, was opened in Turners Station.

The Rev. A. J. Payne, pastor of Enon Baptist Church, was re-elected chairman of the Boy Scout Monumental District for the tenth consecutive term

James Hill, member of the International Union of Mine, Mill and Smelter Workers, was appointed news editor of that organization's paper.

Mrs. Betty M. Phillips, first colored woman war correspondent, arrived from Europe.

Walter T. Dixon and Father Cedric E. Mills were appointed to the Governor's Commission on Problems Affecting the Colored Population, replacing James Drury and Linwood Koger, who resigned.

Elmer W. Henderson, FEPC regional director, filed suit against the Interstate Commerce Commission for dismissing his charge of discrimination against the Southern Railway System.

The General Vocational School No. 451, Druid Hill Ave. near Lanvale St., was named for Joseph C. Briscoe, first principal of the Carver Vocational School.

FEBRUARY

The old Vorwaerts Turverein Building at 732 W. Lexington St. was opened as a recreation center with Mrs. Virginia Briscoe as director.

Governor O'Conor and Mayor McKeldin made public their endorsement of legislation to repeal the Maryland jim-crow transportation law.

Saul M. Perdue, former personnel officer of the Glenn L. Martin Aircraft Company, was

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Bias Denied at Plant on Strike

The Comfort Spring Corporation where 233 workers have been on strike for six weeks informed the AFRO, this week, that it does not make any distinction in the hiring of employees because of color.

The statement was made as a reply to the story "Comfort Spring Incites Race Riot, Mayor Told," which appeared in Friday's paper.

The story stated that a committee of strikers and CIO officials told the mayor that the management of the plant at Bethel St. and Fairmount Ave. had hired all white strike breakers since the former workers, 218 of them colored, walked out after a wage disagreement.

It was revealed that more than 20 colored persons were hired since the strike but were apparently scared away by the pickets. "There are over a dozen colored employees in the plant and we will put to work any competent person regardless of color," an official said.

AFRO Asked to Judge

The company said: "If we should reject any colored applicant, the company will leave it to you to designate anyone to determine whether any other standard other than ability and competence determined such rejection."

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Clements Nixon Named to Recreation Dept. Staff

The appointment of Clements Nixon, former Army lieutenant, as senior recreation leader with the Department of Public Recreation, was announced this week by Leonard J. Wheatley, supervisor.

Mr. Nixon is temporarily assigned to the Harlem Square and Dunbar recreation centers.

Centers Reopen

The department's weekly dance program at Taylor School No. 122 was resumed Thursday and will continue weekly from 8 to 11 p.m. A similar program will reopen tonight (Friday) at the Douglass Homes Recreation Center at the same hours.

Women's sewing classes will be held at the McCulloh Homes from 7 to 10 p.m. Tuesdays and Wednesdays at the McCulloh and Douglass Homes. The instruction is offered to all women interested in plain sewing and dressmaking.

Tap, folk, and interpretative dancing are being featured at the Somerset Homes recreation centers where Mrs. Clarice B. Patterson, leader-in-charge, is assisted by Mrs. Sarah Dotson.

CLEMENTS NIXON

15-Month-Old Youngster Tips Scales at 65 Pounds

To the residents of Mount Winans, the local counterpart of Joe Louis, heavyweight champ, is none other than George Ronald Jackson, a bouncing 15-month-older, who tips the scales at a mere 65 pounds.

GEORGE R. JACKSON

Normal weight for a 15-month-old baby is 20 to 25 pounds, according to a local physician.

With a typical fat person's jovial manner, "Baby" George is given to singing, his own version of talking, and some attempts at tripping a (s) light (?) fantastic toe.

Says his mother, Mrs. Myrtle Jackson of 2617 Puget St., "George is so heavy he can hardly move out of his own tracks."

Weighed 10 Pounds at Birth

George weighed 10 pounds at birth, but at six months had gone up to 19 and at one year was 54 pounds of active boy.

Both Mrs. Jackson and her husband, George, are of average size, and cannot account for the startling weight of their offspring who now wears a size six suit and size eight shoes.

A favorite of neighbors, George's living room is filled with toys from folks who just had to give "Joe Louis" something for Christmas.

There's no doubt about it, George faces a "big" future.

Where Laurens Street Fire Claimed Lives of Two

Shown is debris at 1508 Laurens St., Baltimore, where fire from an explosion snuffed out the lives of a temporarily unidentified couple and critically burned their host, James Hicks, 70. Two one-story frame dwellings were completely destroyed and a third, a barber shop, the mirror of which is shown, was razed. (See Story on Page 6. Other Photo on Page 8.)

Truman Scores Salons for Inaction on FEPC

WASHINGTON.

In a radio address last night, sharply criticizing Congress for inaction on post-war domestic legislation, President Truman took to task those Congressmen who have caused the bill for a permanent Fair Employment Practice Committee to be held in committee.

"On several occasions," he said, "I have asked that the Congress outlaw by permanent statute un-American discrimination in employment. A small handful of Congressmen in the Rules Committee of the House have prevented this legislation from reaching a vote by Congress."

Turners Station Will Get $80,000 Picture Theatre in February

An $80,000 moving picture theatre with a seating capacity of 1,000 wil be opened about Feb. 1 in Turners Station by Dr. Joseph Thomas, founder of the housing project there.

Robert Lee, former seamon, who took a special course in theatre management at New York University, will manage the new steel, fireproof, air-conditioned movie house.

"The theatre will be operated with the most modern equipment, including an indirect lighting system," Dr. Thomas stated.

3 Men, Woman Die Suddenly; Violence Suspected in 1 Case

Sudden death claimed the lives of three men, one of them a resident of Baltimore County, whose body showed marks of violence, and an elderly woman, police officials reported on Wednesday.

On New Year's morning, county police found the frozen body of a man identified as Arthur Martin, 42, on Stevenson Road and Hillen Lane. Marks of violence were on the head and body, they reported.

It was said that the man's shoes and one of the two pairs of pants he was wearing were found in the bushes about 75 yards from the body on the opposite side of the road.

Body Found in Shack

Late Wednesday, police found the dead body of Edward Owens, 41, address unknown, in a shack in the woods in the 1900 block of Russell St. The body was taken to the morgue while an attempt was made to locate relatives.

On Thursday the AFRO was asked to aid in locating relatives of Mrs. Elizabeth Smith, age unknown, who died suddenly in her home at 1137 Parrish St. After being pronounced dead at Provident Hospital, she was taken to the city morgue.

The fourth sudden death was that of Henry Custer Sr., 75, who was found dead in his home at 628 George St. by his son, Henry, Jr. The aged man was pronounced dead by Dr. John R. Coasey and the body removed to the morgue.