LID CLAMPED ON NUMBERS

THE AFRO-AMERICAN

45th Year, No. 14. BALTIMORE, MD., JANUARY 4, 1936 Prices: 6 CENTS IN CITY 7 CENTS IN STATE AND D.C.

Barons Call Sudden Halt in Digit Game

Fear of Probe Causes Layoff in Accepting Bets.

PROTECTION FOR RACKET CHARGED

Some "Writers" Still Making Rounds.

F-L-A-S-H!

Accused of conduct unbecoming an officer during the hearing of a lottery case at the Northeastern police station, Sergt. Nereus W. Gunther, white, will be given a hearing today (Friday) before Gen. Charles D. Gaither, white police commissioner.

Running to cover in the face of a threat of judicial investigation this week, several leaders of the numbers racket in Baltimore have ceased to accept bets.

A probe, which is believed to have been started by Judge Albert S. J. Owens, white, of the criminal court, is shaping up, and numbers men are taking no more bets in regulation style.

A few runners are still collecting, but many of these are doing so at their own risks. If numbers played should hit, it would be impossible for most players to collect, it is reported.

Estimates Vary

The exact time of the layoff is not known, but estimates give it from ten days to a month for duration.

According to the estimates of the persons behind the investigation, the numbers racket involves approximately $5,000,000 a year.

The probe has been brewing for some time, it was indicated this week, because policemen have repeatedly arrested storekeepers and other persons involved in the racket on a minor scale.

Fines Differ

Fines imposed on these persons range from $25 and costs to $50 on an average. It is usual that whenever the fine is imposed, it

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16-Day School Holiday Will End Sunday

Sunday will terminate for Baltimore public school teachers, a sixteen-day Christmas holiday which began on December 21, and exceeded that of 1934 by three days.

Sessions begin at 9 o'clock Monday and there will be no other holidays in the school system until the regular Easter celebration, inasmuch as one of the usual holiday's, George Washington's birthday, will fall on Saturday this year.

Many Pedagogs Travel

For many of the teachers, the period was devoted entirely to rest, with occasional social affairs to break the monotony. For others, there was travel, especially to the various sorority and fraternity conventions which occurred this year in sections of the far South and Southwest.

A goodly share of the holiday weddings occurred among the pedagogues who were enabled by the holidays, to include their honeymoon jaunts in their plans.

LOCAL MEN IN BUS CRASH

Newsies Spend New Year's Day as Guests of the Afro-American

Here are the boys and girls who serve the AFRO twice weekly in Baltimore. On New Year's Day they were treated to a turkey dinner at the Alpha Cafeteria and movies in the afternoon. Standing in front is George B. Murphy, Sr., vice-president of the AFRO; and Reuben Jiggetts, manager of the cafeteria. At the extreme left in the second row is K. C. Smith, circulation manager.

Baltimoreans Escape Death as Bus Skids

Wm. N. Jones Edw. S. Lewis

JOHNSTOWN, Penna. — When a special Greyhound bus skidded off the glassy road, plunged through a steel guard cable, and came to a stop with the front end resting over a mountain ledge leading to a creek below, thirty-three persons, including three Baltimoreans, narrowly escaped death at 7:30 p.m., Thursday.

The Baltimore travelers were: Edward S. Lewis, secretary of the Baltimore Urban League; William N. Jones, of the AFRO-AMERICAN; and Elmer Henderson, Jr., son of a school principal, all of whom were uninjured.

The occupants of the vehicle were all delegates to the National Conference Against War and Fascism, meeting in Cleveland.

Levels Guard Post

In its wild plunge toward the creek ledge, the bus toppled over a guard post also. Although crashing through one cable, another prevented the bus from taking what may have been a fatal dip.

Twenty-nine of the passengers were white. One was slightly bruised, while the other riders escaped with a jolting. The bus was righted, a survey of damages made, and the delegates proceeded to Cleveland without further event.

Misery Trails as BERC Cuts Aid to 4,000

Four thousand persons found themselves in the "no-man's land," created by the disclaiming of responsibility of their economic plight by both the Works Progress Administration and the Baltimore Emergency Relief Commission, when the latter cut them off relief rolls, Tuesday.

Besides these 4,000 cut off BERC rolls, it is estimated that 4,448 persons in the counties were cut from the rolls on Saturday and not given WPA jobs. How to care for these persons until the employables can be placed on WPA projects and draw pay checks is one of the chief concerns of officials.

Only Notices, No Checks

Hundreds of families have already felt the pinch of not receiving the weekly checks they were

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231 AFRO Newsies Eat and Talk Turkey at Annual Yule Treat

Eggie, Skinny, Bill, and Hen were feted in grand style at the AFRO-AMERICAN dinner for newspaper boys in the Alpha Cafeteria on New Year's Day.

The foregoing names were among the many that were called back and forth during the day as busy mouths that led to hungry stomachs kept open house for liberal portions of turkey, sauer kraut, mashed potatoes, bread, cocoa and sweet potato pie.

George B. Murphy, Sr., representing the board of directors of the AFRO, pointed out that there was nothing charitable about the serving, to which 325 boys were invited, and 231 attended, but rather it was an evidence of the company's appreciation of work done.

Smith Gives Talk

John H. Murphy, Jr., another member of the board, was present Representing the circulation department was K. C. Smith, writer of the column "Smith and His Buddies," who delivered a pep talk.

Following the dinner—which was graced by a group of newspaper girls who were the special guests of little Frances Murphy, daughter of the president of the AFRO—the "Council of Newspaper Boy Captains had a meeting.

Appetites Satisfied, They Loosen Belts and Discuss 100,000 Circulation, Before Adjourning to Royal Theatre Movie as Guests of the AFRO.

At this meeting the sentiment was strongly in favor of harder work in 1936 than in 1935. With belts loosened to make room for waistlines genially expanded by the dinner, the members vowed to make the circulation figure hit 100,000 during 1936.

Fifty by Feburary

The first step in this direction will take the form of fifty new boys by Feburary 1. Every one of the newcomers will be a star salesman, according to Mr. Smith.

Later in the afternoon all of the newspaper boys, and the girls, went to the Royal Theater where they saw the picture, "Escape From Devil's Island."

Those present were:

William Queen, Jerry Meredith, Donald Abney, Philip Harris, William Mosley, John Smith, Louis Williams, Isham Williams, Clayton James, Bernard Boyd, Garland Taylor, Luther Grafton;

Lloyd Grafton, Edward Hood, Elisha Scott, Ralph Finny, John Noll, Edward Dutton, Paul Bruce, Clarence Colman;

George L. Smallwood, Grant Braxton, William Ward, Edward Rodgers, Joseph Forest, Robert Demison, Jr., Robert Talbert, Ray Taylor, William Wells, Russell Squirrell, Ernest Banison, Willie Annie Williams, John Bailey, John C. Minnis;

Leroy Jenkins, Laurence Parker, Charles Richard, Howard Thomas, Edward Samuels, Robert Henton, Berkley Carter, Clifton Early, Clarence Hall, Roland Nicholson, Harry Randall;

Joseph Carter, John Edward Carpenter, Von Colbert, Joseph Spriggs, Wilbert Early, Elmer Brown, Charles Collins, William Thompson, Linwood Johnson;

Walter Moan, Joseph Simms, John Rich, Hugh Thomas, Thomas Gunn, Thomas Mitchell, William Harris, John Douglass, Edward Coles, Samuel Owens, William Gaither, Charles Williams, Detroit

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Man Killed When He Steps on Stranger's Foot

Because he accidentally stepped on the foot of a customer in a saloon in the 1400 block of East Monument Street, Saturday, Paul Green, 21, was stabbed to death.

Police of the Northeastern district are looking for George (Country) Hudson, of the 1600 block of Jefferson Street, and indicate that he will be charged with the murder of the victim when arrested.

Witnesses in the tavern report that Green entered the place shortly after 1 a.m., and put a nickel in an automatic phonograph.

Excuse Not Accepted

As the victim stepped back, witnesses say, he trod on Hudson's foot. Although Green asked to be excused, it is reported, Hudson became angry and struck the victim. The blow was followed by a knife thrust in Green's chest.

In the excitement, Hudson made his escape while Green was placed in a taxicab and rushed to Johns Hopkins Hospital, where he was treated by Dr. Wendell Sharpe, white. A few minutes later the victim died.

Green lived at 1435 Monument Street, and was buried in St. Marys County on Tuesday.

Cadet Davis and Fiancee Register at D. C. Hotel

F-L-A-S-H

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Benjamin Davis, Jr., West Point cadet, in Washington for the holidays, scrawled "Cadet Benj. O. Davis, Jr.," across the Whitelaw Hotel register, and underneath entered the name of his fiancee, Miss Agatha J. Scott, of New Haven, Connecticut.

Relatives here seemed not to know he is engaged. His uncle, Ernest Dixon, of 1711 Eleventh Street, Northwest, laughed at the suggestion that his nephew might be married.

"He can't marry for another year anyway—not unless he wants to leave school," he declared.

Grandma Meets Bride-to-Be

Further up Eleventh Street, at 1830, Mrs. Henrietta Davis, the boy's paternal grandmother, said that the cadet had brought Miss Scott to see her, but could not understand why he had registered at the hotel.

"He told me that he was stopping with some friends of his and that she was stopping at the Whitelaw—but I know just as much about it as you do. I don't know whether he is engaged or not—I never saw the young lady before in my life."

The couple registered Thursday afternoon, and checked out Saturday afternoon — paying "Dutch treat" for their respective rooms.

DePriest May "Come Back"

OSCAR DePRIEST,

who was defeated in the landside which swept Republicans out of many offices in 1934. He will seek to regain his seat in Congress from the first district, to renew his fight on jim crow in the Capitol lunch room. The former Congressman has been endorsed by G.O.P. committeemen in several first district wards.

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Show Goes on, Wedding Comes Later

When the curtain fell last week on "Porgy and Bess" at the Alvin Theatre in New York, the audience was treated to a real wedding scene. The principals in this show were John Garth and Miss June Tillman, both of Kansas City, Mo. The ceremony was performed on the stage by the Rev. A. Clayton Powell, Jr., assistant pastor of Abyssinian Baptist Church.

Let's Stop to Think

(AN EDITORIAL)

The infant 1936, born at midnight on Tuesday in the midst of all that clatter, is a right ruddy and husky specimen, and if all goes well should become a credit to old Father Time.

But we should be careful that this lad shall not be allowed to fall into the hands of reckless or scheming nursemaids, as so many of his brothers have done.

In this period of hopefulness for his future, however, we ought to consider methods of improving our own status as the infant matures.

We've got to face the fact that this is a day of corporations, mergers, and combinations. Emphasis is being placed upon group action, with the ruling passion being the almighty dollar. Prejudice and tradition have forced the group into a common merger and combination, but it has failed to merge or combine its forces for common advancement.

What is needed now is the putting into practice the thing which has been preached, talked, and written about for many years — co-operation.

Take Baltimore, with its 142,000 colored citizens, spending approximately $1,000,000 per month for groceries alone, much of it with neighborhood stores. Of this sum only the smallest skimption stays with the group in the way of employment and ownership.

In Baltimore we have 216 Protestant churches selling futures in Heaven on Sunday and less than ten grocery stores selling bacon and bread from Monday morning through Saturday night.

We have around 3,000 boys and girls in high schools. Will we be able to offer jobs to 100 of them after school?

In short, we are living the old individual, the every-man-for-himself existence, while others are forming combinations and co-operative organizations. Let's wash our faces with the cold reality of the present and wake up the new group-ism which is spreading over these materialistic United States. Let's stop singing the "hard times" ditty and begin helping ourselves by marshaling and using the money we have to our best advantage.

Look around you and count the colored persons employed in the places where you spend your money. If you don't see any, or only a few in the most menial posts, then the fault is in you and your neighbor.

New Year Bride

MRS. DELORES C. TILLERY, former Morgan College student, who was married to Albert Tillery, Newark social worker, Wednesday.

Woman Starts New Year Using Hatchet on Man

As other Baltimoreans were celebrating their New Year, Wednesday morning, Miss Mary Miller, 28, of the 1500 block of E. Fayette Street, was on her way to the Northeastern police station on a charge of striking Isaac Armstrong of Sparrows Point, with a hatchet.

According to police, the woman hit Armstrong in her home during an altercation. Both of them were charged with disturbing the peace and Miss Miller was also charged with assault.

Armstrong, whose injuries were not serious, was fined $10 and costs while the woman was fined $10 and costs on the disturbing the peace charge, and $25 and costs on the assault charge.

Wrong Start

William Walker, 33, of the 1300 block of St. James Street, started his New Year off wrong by taking an automobile battery, according to Northeastern district police. He was held for the action of the grand jury.

The New Year had a good meaning for Paul Jackson, of the 900 block of Shuter Street.

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Man Even Took Her Canary, Says Woman

A charge that he took everything from her home, including a canary, was lodged against George Sommers, 42, of the 1400 block of E. Monument Street by Miss Maggie Green of the 1600 block of N. Dallas Street, Saturday.

At the Northeastern police station, Sommers, who surrendered to Sgt. John R. Stien, white, when he learned that a warrant had been secured for his arrest, was committed for the action of the grand jury.

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