TONITE, DEC. 20

Grand Opening

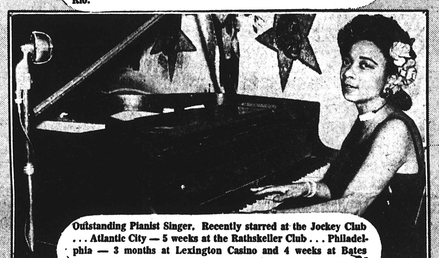
"THE FINEST MUSICAL BAR SOUTH OF N. Y. C."

NEVER A DULL MOMENT AT...

THE HARLEMAIRES

Unique song stylists. Recently featured at the Cashah in Washington, and returned for a long engagement by popular demand. Has been featured at Baltimore's 21 Club and the downtown Club Rio.

LUCILLE JAMES



Outstanding Pianist Singer. Recently starred at the Jockey Club . . . Atlantic City — 5 weeks at the Rathskeller Club . . . Philadelphia — 3 months at Lexington Casino and 4 weeks at Bates Musical Bar . . . Philadelphia — 4 weeks at Roman Grill . . . Reading, Pa. — 6 weeks at Paradise Club, Albany, N.Y.

JIMMY SEYMOUR TRIO

Versatile vocal and Instrumental, Harmony, Comedy and Jive Trio. Recently featured 3 months at The Rainbow Club . . . Wildwood, N.J. — 6 months at Cadillac Tavern and 4 months at Atlantic Grill . . . Philadelphia, Pa. — 2 summer seasons at LaJune's Lounge . . . Atlantic City, N.J.

NOW BALTIMORE HAS SOMETHING!

Yes, Something Different.... the finest Musical Bar and Cocktail Lounge South of N. Y. C.!

For weeks carpenters and painters have been working away. What they have done to the old Club Astoria is just short of a miracle!

Here is a modern creation of the best designers we could employ. It's brand new and ultra-modern, from the rich peach and blue glass front—with its indirect lighting—to the distinctively different bar! In subdued light—creating an atmosphere of intimate seclusiveness—we have located our luxurious elevated lounge. Swank, is the word to describe its deep-cushioned comfortableness!

We have provided a spacious entrance foyer, complete with mirrored walls and a scientifically designed checkroom for efficient and fast operation.

A word to the ladies . . . we have included a beautifully decorated powder room, with tile walls, entrancingly furnished and complete with shadow-free fluorescent lighted mirrors and deep comfortable chairs and chaise lounges. Atop the grand bar, will preside the best small-unit talent we can hire . . . bar none! Our opening attractions including "The Harlemaires," "Lucille James" and "The Jimmy Seymour Trio" is a typical example of the fine entertainment you will find at The ASTORIA.

DOORS OPEN FRI., DEC. 20 AT 6 P. M.

We cordially invite the Public in search of Something Different to pay us a visit!

NO COVER · NO MINIMUM · NO TAX

The Astoria MUSICAL BAR

1309—11 EDMONDSON AVENUE


# U. S. Mum on Status of Lynch Probe


The Price of the AFRO Is 10 Cents Tuesdays & Fridays

BALTIMORE AFRO-AMERICAN

Eighth Year, No. 20 | Contents of This Newspaper Copyrighted 1946 by The AFRO-AMERICAN Company | BALTIMORE, MD., DECEMBER 28, 1946 | Entered in the Postoffice at Baltimore, Md. as Second-Class Matter, under Act of March 3, 1879 | 24 PAGES


# 3 Holiday Slayings

## Trip No 'Honeymoon'

### Feared for Life on 1000-Mile Journey

Wife Charges Estranged Husband Made Her Take Trips Under Threat of Death

WASHINGTON

A bizarre story of how she was forced to accompany her estranged husband, under threats of death, on a tour of New York, Boston and Chicago was related by Mrs. Hazel E. Shepherd, 643 Third St., N.E., in her suit for limited divorce from King Shepherd, 692 Fourth St., N.E.

In her suit, Mrs. Shepherd declares that her husband visited her in Philadelphia on Nov. 29, cut her with a butcher knife and compelled her to accompany him to New York at the point of a weapon.

He allegedly threatened to kill her unless she went with him to Boston and Chicago. The wife states that in fear of her life she agreed, if he would bring her back to her home in Washington. Upon reaching here, Shepherd is reported to have gone elsewhere. Joseph C. Waddy is attorney for Mrs. Shepherd.

**Accuses Veteran**

Complaining that her husband, Willie Mitchell, 809 R St., N.W., a former soldier, earns $45 a week, but refuses to contribute toward her support, Mrs. C. Mae Mitchell, 1408 Sixth St., N.W., last week, filed suit for an absolute divorce on grounds of desertion.

Mrs. Mitchell states through her

(Continued on Page 2, Col. 1)

### Bishop Unable to Present Facts

New Police Brutality Discovered by Group

Bishop Alexander P. Shaw, Methodist prelate, announced Thursday, that because of many pressing duties, he must decline the NAACP proposal that he carry new evidence of police brutality before the grand jury.

The bishop was requested by NAACP officials to present to the jury new evidence recently uncovered in the police gun slaying Sept. 15 of Elijah Bailey, 64, long a member of the Addison Chapel, Western District, was expected.

Bishop Shaw told the AFRO that undertaking any presentation to the grand jury was a full time job which he felt he would be unable to do thoroughly because of many other immediate duties.

**To Seek Another Minister**

Informed of this, Addison V. Pinkney, NAACP executive secretary, said immediate steps would be taken to obtain the services of some other minister, since it was felt a citizen of such character would be suitable for the task.

Mr. Bailey was the fourth among five victims of police bullets since May.

Officers involved in each slaying have been acquitted, although two Carroll Park police, Russell Lambdin and Milton O. Storm, his sergeant, were sentenced to 18 months for filing a false report about the fatal shooting of Isaac Jackson on May 30.

**Re-opened Case**

The grand jury, at the insistence of the NAACP, reopened but later dismissed the case of Robert Bundley who was killed May 19 by Patrolman Walter J. Weber of Southern District.

The NAACP sought to prove that Bundley was shot in the back instead of the chest as claimed by the officer, and for this purpose, the body was exhumed and an autopsy performed.

### Fire Leaves Family of 4 Destitute

Fire, which destroyed all the household articles and clothing of Mr. and Mrs. Eugene Lauderdale, and their two small children last Saturday evening at 643 W. Mulberry St., has left them facing a cold holiday season.

The fire originated in a house next door and burned through the roof of the Lauderdale home, destroying everything in their two-room third-floor apartment before firemen could extinguish the blaze.

**Gets No Assistance**

Mrs. Lauderdale, who is expecting another child, was home at the time, but was able only to grab her two daughters, Lillian, 2, and Eugenia, 1, and dash outside, before the roof crashed in.

Members of the family are sharing rooms at present with another family and have no clothing other than that they are wearing.

Mr. Lauderdale is an employee of the city. He was at work the day that they had received no help since the fire and are consequently in dire need.

### Dad Goes 'Flukey'; Slays Wife, Son

Strange Gunplay Mars Holiday Celebration

The holiday celebration of a Clendenin St. family was checked off this morning (Friday) with the double slayings of the mother and her 14-year-old son by the father who calmly explained to police "I just went flukey."

Summoned to 1108 Clendenin St. by Wilbert Jones, 39-year-old chauffeur, police found his wife, Georgia, 34, shot through the head and stomach, and the son, Theodore, lying across the bed in the adjoining room with a bullet through his head. Both were in nightclothes.

Wilkens, after telling police, "I just went flukey and killed my wife and son," turned over an empty .38 caliber German automatic, and was taken to Northern police station by the homicide squad for questioning.

The man met Officers John M. Marcus and Albert Sandy at the door of his home, and admitted that he had summoned them after the double shootings.

### 80 Volunteer Blood for Youth

Some 80 persons responded to a plea in Friday's AFRO for blood for 15-year-old William E. Brooks of 706 N. Carey St., to whom continuous transfusions were being given at Johns Hopkins Hospital.

Mrs. Rose Brooks, mother of the youth, said he has shown continual improvement and was able to chat with members of the family who visited him at the hospital on Christmas.

**Hospitalized a Month**

Young Brooks was admitted to Hopkins Hospital on Nov. 21, when he had a portion of his left lung removed, and suffered a relapse on Dec. 13, which necessitated the transfusions. Donors made replacements in the institution's blood bank.

Mrs. Banks, in a letter to the AFRO, expressed her thanks to the USO, YMCA, Briscoe Vocational School, members of Ames Methodist Church, and all persons who responded to her plea.

New Bishop Presides in Baltimore

Mrs. Pauline Bond greets Bishop George W. Baber at Bethel AME Church on Monday, after he presided over a meeting of ministers of the Baltimore Conference. This was his first appearance in Baltimore since he took over the duties formerly held by Bishop Monroe H. Davis, who was suspended by the General Conference.

### Bishop Baber's Address Revitalizes Conference

New Prelate Pledged Unqualified Support of Baltimore AME Pastors in Resolution

Following an encouraging 25-minute address by their new prelate, Bishop George W. Baber, members of the Baltimore Conference of the AME Church, took a new lease on life, Monday, and predicted a revival of religion throughout the connection in this area.

Approximately 300 ministers and laymen attended the special session in Bethel Church, Druid Hill Ave. and Lanvale St., called by the bishop recently assigned to this area.

**Succeeds Bishop Davis**

Bishop Baber succeeds Bishop Monroe H. Davis, suspended by the General Conference in Little Rock, Ark. Bishop Baber formerly presided over the Fourth District, embracing Arkansas.

Presenting himself as "Brother Baber, just a humble minister," the bishop assured the ministers of a new day, promising them just consideration in all matters without official prejudice or favoritism.

"I am not here as a detective, nor do I need a Gestapo system to spy for me. Under me every man will be judged on his merits and respected according to his work. This conference will be run free of politics as there is too much politics in the church now," he declared.

A healthy round of applause sounded throughout the auditorium when Bishop Baber asserted, "We are all free people. None of us are slaves. You may be friendly with any bishop you desire without fear of being penalized."

Continuing, he stated, "My theory is that we should operate as one big family with no big folks and no small ones."

Commenting lightly on the General Conference uproar, the former Detroit minister opined, "The AME Church is too sacred to permit anyone to break it up. When things got out of hand, we called a General Conference and if necessary, we will call another."

Prior to the address, the Rev. C. Baker Pearle, pastor of Payne Memorial AME Church, presented a resolution pledging the new bishop the unqualified support of the Baltimore Conference, which was adopted by the body.

The document stated that the conference had gone on record as submitting unreservedly to the decisions of the extra session of the General Conference.

It disavowed any official connection with any action to deter or retard the proceedings of the special session.

After the bishop had finished, several of the ministers personally pledged their support to the new administration.

**Spingarn Candidate**

Before the meeting was closed, the conference went on record to suggest that the national office of the NAACP consider Bishop W. A. Ransom as a candidate for the Spingarn Award.

It was pointed out that Bishop Ransom has been an active member of the NAACP, as was Bishop Baber, who headed the Detroit branch.

### No Action Seen in Harris Gas Case

The theory that the Anne Arundel County grand jury will not take action in the case of Louis Harris, House of Correction inmate believed to have been gassed to death, was advanced this morning (Friday) by State's Attorney Marvin C. Anderson.

Mr. Anderson based his assumption upon the fact that the grand jury has been in possession since September of evidence offered by the NAACP to show that 21-year-old Harris died from gas, and not heart failure as claimed by a county medical examiner.

"Since it has not issued a formal statement relative to the evidence, and since it has adjourned until the January term, I can only assume that the grand jury will not act upon the Harris case and has dismissed it," Mr. Anderson said.

He pointed out that the jury is not bound by law to inform him as to whether it has dismissed a case.

The NAACP obtained permission to exhume Harris's body after his death on July 21, when letters smuggled from the prison declared that the youth had been gassed by guards when he complained of being ill.

Prison officials admitted that a 22 calibre tear gas shell was used to "quiet him."

An autopsy performed by Dr. Robert S. Jason, professor in pathology at Howard University, revealed that Harris was suffering from a kidney ailment, and that his body did contain evidence of gas.

### Here's One the Mob Didn't Get

Bond (Toby) Haynes, 54, who went berserk in the Murfreesboro, Tenn., jail last week following his arrest for questioning in connection with a series of thefts. During the hour-long siege which followed his jail break, six persons were wounded including a policeman who died. Haynes, himself, was slightly wounded in the exchange of fire. Police recaptured and whisked him to Nashville jail for safekeeping after a mob of several hundred gathered. The quick action of the police kept this incident from swelling the lynch toll which has climbed to 20 during the past year.

## LATE NEWS FLASHES

**Avenue Strike Leads to Police Court**

The three-week-old strike that crippled the pre-holiday business of two Pennsylvania Avenue stores worked its way into the Northwestern police station, this morning (Friday).

Arnold Kurland, white, 20, son of the proprietor of the J. J. Brill Five and Ten Cent Store, 1803 Pennsylvania Avenue, was charged with attempting to run down one of the striking girls with an auto.

The clerk, Mrs. Ella Roberts, of 508 Robert St., said the incident occurred at Pennsylvania Avenue and Robert St. Monday evening.

Magistrate Edward Garmatz dismissed the charge prin-

(Continued on Page 2, Col. 4)

## Returned Vet Shot After Shopping Tour

Second Victim Stabbed to Death; Third Man Killed With Own Revolver

Three slayings, one of a war veteran who had just completed a last minute shopping trip for his young daughter, marred an otherwise-peaceful Christmas holiday.

The victims were Furman Gant, 28, of 2504 Druid Hill Ave.; James Purcell, 33, of 1212 Argyle Ave.; and William Shoffner, 41, of 26 N. Spring St.

Gant was the veteran slain on Christmas Eve in the rear bedroom of a small apartment at 2111 Pennsylvania Ave., where his wife, Mrs. Mary Gant, was temporarily making her home.

**Just Bought Toys**

Mrs. Gant said she and her husband had just come home with a christmas tree and some toys for their three-year-old daughter, Kathlene, when the tragedy occurred.

Gant, she said, excused himself to go to the bathroom and hadn't been out of the room long, when a single shot rang out and she heard him drop to the floor.

Theodore Johnson, 39, radio repairman of 2509 Francis St., ran through the apartment and down the front stairs, Mrs. Gant said, explaining that he had been repairing their small radio in the room where the shooting took place. A search was begun immediately for the radio repairman.

**Was Overseas Veteran**

Gant, a stevedore, was pronounced dead at Provident Hospital. A bullet had been sent crashing through his head, causing instant death.

The victim spent two and a half years in the Army, most of that period being in the Pacific Theater. Since his discharge as a sergeant, last February, he had been working as a longshoreman.

Military rites will be held in the Kelson Funeral Home Saturday morning, followed by interment in the Baltimore National Cemetery. His mother and father, Mr. and Mrs. Franco Gant, wife and daughter, survive.

**Grudge Second Motive**

A personal grudge held since last New Year's was said to have motivated the slaying of Purcell by James H. Simpson, 30, also of the Argyle Ave. address, Christ. was afternoon.

Police said the feud was brought to a head Wednesday, when the two exchanged heated words and began fighting in their home.

Purcell, it was said, ran from the house, chased by Simpson, who overtook the former a few doors away and jabbed him several times about the face and shoulder with a knife.

**Suspect Held**

Purcell was found lying in a pool of blood and rushed to Provident Hospital, where he was pronounced dead. Simpson was arrested in his home and is held for a hearing, the date of which is to be set by the State's attorney's office.

The body of the dead man was claimed by a friend, Miss Elizabeth Williams, also of the Argyle Ave. house. Surviving the victim is a mother, Mrs. Isabelle Purcell.

(Continued on Page 2, Col. 4)

### Druggist Slays Sweetheart, Self

Shoots White Blond After Bitter Quarrel

CHESTER, Pa.—The illicit love affair of a prominent pharmacist was climaxed tragically, last week, when he slew his sweetheart and then took his own life in the rear room of Miller's Pharmacy, Third and Edwards Sts.

The slain woman, a comely white blonde, was Miss Ann Louise Brantley, 37, native of Georgia, while the suicide victim was William P. Harris, estranged from his wife.

The woman's body, clothed in a nightgown and bathrobe, with a bullet wound in the chest, was found by police lying a pool of blood on the prescription room floor.

The body of Harris, slouched in a corner with a revolver clutched in his hand, was found several feet away. His right temple and stomach had been pierced by bullets.

According to neighbors, the couple had resided in an apartment above the drug store for the last five years and were thought to be married until last summer.

**Divorce Suit Filed**

It was then that Mrs. Odessa Hale Harris, wife of the pharmacist, filed suit for divorce from Harris, alleging desertion. However, she continued to live at an apartment next door, at 1703 W. Third St.

Police quoted Miss Madeline Bid-

(Continued on Page 2, Col. 3)

### Grand Jury Data in Ga.

Being Held by FBI for Future Use

SEARCH KEPT UP

No Local Police Appear Guilty

WASHINGTON

Although the grand jury in Georgia, last week, failed to indict any of the lynchers in the Monroe Massacre, the Justice Department has refused to release any of the data collected against the suspects, the AFRO learned this week.

Inquiry at the Justice Department, Civil Rights Division, disclosed that all information about the lynchers gathered by the FBI is in the Georgia divisional headquarters.

It has not been transmitted to Washington, according to Fred G. Folson, assistant to Turner L. Smith, head of the Civil Rights branch.

**Investigation Still Open**

However, the AFRO was assured by Mr. Folson that the Federal agency has not washed its hands of the case, despite the failure to return indictments.

Reasons given for failing to indict any of the suspects, whose activities on the day of the mass murders, was unearthed by G-Men was that no peace officer was involved in the crime, and as a result the suspect could not be involved, under existing statutes governing violations of civil rights.

"Regardless of whether civil rights were involved or not," the AFRO inquired "are murderers and conspirators to go free because the civil rights issue was not raised?"

**Don't Know Guilty**

To this, Mr. Folson replied, that the government cannot indict anybody "until you know who the guilty persons are."

He continued that no official statement can be forthcoming from the Washington Civil Rights Division until they have an official report from the Georgia FBI.

### the week

Kids and Their Toys

Happy New Year

By VINCENT TUBBS

The kids have their toys now. Santa seems to have been quite generous this year. Skates, scooters, bicycles, coaster wagons, dolls, cars, trains, skates, tricycles, skates and more skates.

There are skates everywhere and the dentists really have some headaches.

*No grownup should begrudge a child the thing that gives him the most enjoyment, but if this qualified writer was inclined to begrudge him anything it would be the skates.*

**Watch Those Skaters**

It simply doesn't seem fair to either the child or the motorist that the few smoothly paved thoroughfares the city affords should be the scenes of such cagey maneuvering for possession.

**The kids pick the asphalt surfaced streets because they're better for skating, and the motorists do the same because they're easier on tires.**

The motorists jockey for possession because it has been fairly well understood in other weeks that streets are for autos, and the kids struggle for ownership because they feel this is their week.

*It is to be hoped that nothing more serious than this good, clean contest for rights of eminent domain results from the voluminous sales of skates this Christmas, but motorists are to be reminded that the weight of the problem rests on them.*

Watch the corners. Watch the amateur skater who wobbles along. Watch beyond those parked cars. Watch out. The streets are loaded. When behind the wheel, be sure you're not loaded. Take a look, there're skaters everywhere. Be careful.

**Letter From Thomsen**

The morning post brings a treatise from the Board of School Commissioners.

We are informed that we were in error when our editorial columns cried recently that 2½ acres

(Continued on Page 23 col. 4)

## Senate Committee Prepares Incriminating Bilbo Report

WASHINGTON

Although it will make no recommendations, the Senate War Investigating Sub-committee report on Senator Bilbo's relations with war contractors will be tough, a member of the committee said on Thursday.

The statement will cite evidence of Bilbo's connections with Mike Morrisey, A. B. Friend, F. T. Newton and others, and will emphasize the contentions of Senator Ferguson (Rep., Mich.) that donations were solicited from them.

**Some Won't Sign**

In the steps of the report announcement, came the rumor that there is strong doubt as to whether some Democratic members of the committee will sign or sanction the sub-committee report.

At the same time Senator Taft (Rep., Ohio) of the Senate Republican Steering Committee called a meeting for today (Friday) to discuss whether to try to bar Bilbo

(Continued on Page 2, Col. 1)

### Here's Jo Baker's 36-Room Castle

This is Josephine Baker's 36-room castle near Castelnaud-Fayrac in Dordogne, France, called Chateau des Milandes where the American-born music hall star is convalescing from a serious illness. This show place contains several immense fireplaces, anyone of which, reports state, will hold 20 standing men without head room to spare.