Shooting Sequel to Theatre Slaying

10 Cents

BALTIMORE AFRO AMERICAN

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BILBO ON SKIDS

INSIDE THIS WEEK

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New Year's Eve Order Saves 3 Youngsters Slated to Hang

Boy, 15, Companions Held Too Young

Attempt to Aid Sister, Mother Fatal to Man; Births Compensate

On New Year's Eve, three youths sat in the death house of the Maryland Penitentiary, dreading the arrival of 1947 which was certain to bringa noose for each of their necks.

Yet today, those boys face life again because as a New Year's gift, Governor Herbert R. O'Conor, in one of his last official acts, commuted their sentence of hanging of life imprisonment.

Snatched back from the shadow of the gallows were 15-year-old Willie G. Taylor; Raymond Washington, 16; and Charles W. Ross, 20, all of whom were convicted in Prince Georges County of criminal attack, and sentenced to die.

Of Taylor, the Governor said, "I cannot bring myself to sign the death warrant of a 15-year-old child."

He explained that a careful check into the facts and circumstances of the cases against the other two, and consideration of their ages justified commutation of sentences.

Rescue Attempt Fatal

Death was not so easily foiled in the Northeastern part of the city, where the first slaying of the year went on record late last night (Thursday) with the throat slashing of Willie Evans, 28, of 1419 E. Fayette St.

The man was going to the aid of his mother and sister who were being beaten on the street, when an unidentified assailant in the crowd cut his throat.

Meanwhile, after a chase in which Patrolman Anthony Filipiah of Northeastern district shot him in the left foot, Joseph Anderson, 29, of 1113 Watson St., was arrested and charged with striking the officer, and holding Watson while he was stabbed.

Still being sought is Samuel Mans, 22, of 20 N. Spring St., the man said to have been beating Evans's mother, Mrs. Helen Evans, and sister, Mrs. Charlotte Martin, both of the Spring Street address.

Births Overbalance in Death

Yet life fought back to maintain the status quo, and sent the long-legged bird to town with ten babies whose first howls mingled with the whistles and horns heralding the New Year.

First on the scene was a girl, who weighed in one minute after midnight, Tuesday, at 5 pounds and 4 ounces, in the maternity ward of University Hospital, where Mrs. Lillie McLean of 763 W. Mulberry St., awaited her with open arms.

The others included 5 girls and four boys.

Revelry at Minimum

On the fun and frolic fronts, would-be revelers refused to be tempted by the "no advance in prices" nitery signs, and evidently spent the snowy night at home by the fireside.

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Girl Baby First to Reach City in '47

"Stork business" was booming in Baltimore on New Year's Day with nine babies born in local hospitals, the first, a girl, weighing 5 pounds, 4 ounces, at 12:01, to Mrs. Lillie McLean of 763 W. Mulberry St., at University Hospital.

At Provident Hospital there were four births, beginning at 2 a.m., when Mrs. Dora Foster of 1705 Llewellyn Ave. became the mother of a boy.

At 10 a.m., a boy was born to Mrs. Beatrice Dowdy of 421 Burrway St., Turners Station; at 2 p.m., to Mrs. Cordelia Underwood of 409 Since St., Turners Station; and 7:18 p.m., a girl, to Mrs. Delma Roberts, 1309 W. Mulberry St.

2 Boys at John Hopkins

Two boys were born at Johns Hopkins Hospital, one at 4:45 p.m., to Mrs. Chase of Mechanicsville, St. Marys County, Md.; the other at 12:05 p.m. to Mrs. Eugene Keaton of 443 E. Lanvale St.

At City Hospitals, a girl was born at 1:03 a.m., to Mrs. Rosetta Rowlett of 902 Aisquith St., and a boy a 11:45 a.m., to Mrs. Ernestine Myers of 235 N. Carlton St.

'47 Version of Lady in White

These four youngsters took advantage of the New Year's Day snowfall to make their own version of a snow lady. Left to right are Leonora Watts of 508 Gold St.; Jimmie Howard of 504 Robert St.; Shirley Smith, 1622 W. Lanvale St., and Jimmie's sister, Lillie. Fun in the snow is a child's winter delight.

GOP's United on Ouster

Southern Democrats Set for Filibuster

MANY CHARGES

Miss. Solon Makes Last-Minute Plea

BULLETIN

WASHINGTON

Early mid-afternoon Friday, the Senate was debating on a resolution offered by Sen. Glen H. Taylor (Dem., Idaho) that Senator Bilbo be forced to step aside until the whole matter of his connection with war contractors and the conduct of his re-election campaign can be examined by the Senate.

The resolution, reportedly presented before Sen. Homer Ferguson (Rep., Mich.) could offer his, asked further that Bilbo be prevented from taking the oath of office until the Congress could rule on his fitness.

Before Congress convened, a committee from the Civil Liberties League from Chicago placed on the desk of each Senator a printed record on Bilbo.

WASHINGTON

Plans to bar Senator Bilbo at the door of the Senate were adopted unanimously at the Republican conference here on Thursday.

At the same time, Southern Democratic Senators, admitting that the GOP group has garnered enough votes to effect the move, planned to meet before the 80th Congress convened at noon today (Friday) to block such action.

Delay in Seating Seen

Under the GOP plan, Bilbo, the first newly elected or re-elected Senator to be called, would be prevented from taking his oath of office until his right to the seat has been decided permanently.

If the Southern Democrats decide upon "extended debate," as Senators Ellender of Louisiana and Maybank of South Carolina have indicated, it is believed that the seating of the entire Senate might be delayed.

An adjournment, it was stated, would be in order to enable the Congress to hear President Truman's "State of the Union" address on Monday.

Earlier, on New Year's Day,

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Theatre Victim's Son Shot New Year's Eve

Affray Believed Sequel to Unsolved Harlem Shooting; Revenge Sought

Two months after the unsolved slaying of his mother who was shot fatally in the Harlem Theatre, Edward Watkins was shot on the street about 11 p.m. New Year's Eve in what police believe was a sequel affray.

The mother, Mrs. Janie Thomas, 42, was shot mysteriously Aug. 21 while attending a movie. She lay critically ill in the Franklin Square Hospital for two months until her death Oct. 25. Her assassin has not yet been found.

Reports are that since his mother's death, Watkins, 23, had been acting queerly, sometimes expressing the idea of seeking revenge.

2 Brothers Involved

Two brothers are involved in the shooting of Watkins, who is awaiting an operation at the hospital where his mother died. The shooting occurred in the 200 block of N. Mount St., a short distance from his home at 308 N. Mount St.

According to police, the younger of the two brothers, Lloyd Baynor, 24, of 253 Bruce St., had a misunderstanding with Watkins shortly before the shooting when they met at Bruce and Lexington Sts.

Family Enters the Affray

Going home, Baynor reported the incident to his mother and oldest brother, James, 31. The brothers and their mother, Mrs.

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Lane Sworn In as New Governor

Legislature Expected to Consider 200 Bills

B-U-L-L-E-T-I-N

Members of the W. Preston Lane Jr., party who saw him sworn in as Governor of Maryland at noon today (Friday) included Harry A. Barbour of Hagerstown, butler in the Lane home for 18 years.

In a 3-minute address to the General Assembly after taking the oath, Governor Lane expressed a hope for "co-operation and mutual understanding between us."

ANNAPOLIS—Having elected W. Preston Lane Jr. as the new Governor of Maryland to succeed Herbert R. O'Conor, the General Assembly recessed at noon today (Friday) to attend the swear-

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the week

Headline Power

BTC Gets A Letter

By VINCENT TUBBS

News breaks during the early days of our New Year give credence to what was something of a local takeoff on the headlines of Tuesday's AFRO.

At the top of the page, lots of people seem to have noticed, this journal wished everybody a Happy New Year. It was also noted and commented upon that the headline stated quite soberly and piously: "Drink Kills Nine."

Some fellows around town have asked if the combined headlines were a subtle warning, and reporters checking on New Year's Eve occurrences are thinking maybe they did have their effect, since violence was at a minimum when 1947 bounded out of the blue into the waiting world.

BTC Gets A Letter

The "arrogant and contemptuous" attitude of the Baltimore Transit Company's Operator 1773 on Car 2627 on the night of Dec. 29, is being called to the company's attention.

The barbaric behavior of the conductor occurred when several

(Continued on Page 8, Col. 5)

Group to Ask City Funds for Interracial Center

Discrimination of Maryland Institute to Bring Appeal for Baltimore Art Center

Refusal of Maryland Institute to provide training for colored students, even through it is supported by city and State appropriations, will result in an appeal to Mayor McKeldin on Monday for city funds to strengthen the Baltimore Art Center, which practices no discrimination.

Presenting the case to Mayor McKeldin with the hope that he takes the proposal before the Board of Estimates, will be Fred Weisgal, attorney, supported by representatives of the NAACP and the Union for Democratic Action.

For the past 50 years, the Maryland Institute has operated from funds, partly supplied by taxpayers, and given by the city and State. In 1944, it received $26,000 of local money, and $16,500 from the State.

Yet, through its reserved right to choose the students who are recommended by the City Council for free scholarships, the institute has discriminated against persons who are not white, the group will charge.

Draws Student Lines

The Baltimore Art Center, on the other hand, was organized a few years ago, and operated upon private contributions. It provides art training for students regardless of race, but, officials there point out, it needs money.

The mayor will also be asked to make funds available to the center through his emergency fund, if, since the 1947 budget is approved, it is too late to receive an appropriation through the Board of Estimates.

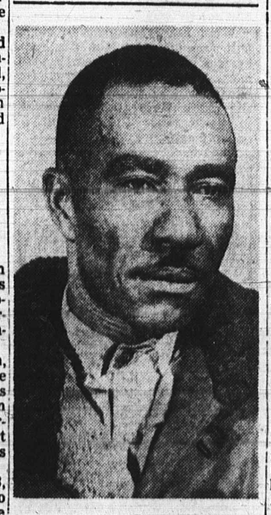
FLASH!

Atlantic City, N. J.—Mme. Sara Spencer Washington was taken to a hospital critically ill this afternoon after 4 p.m.

Ship Rigger Gets $5,000 Bequest

Service which James Blackstock gave for nine years with a New York ship cleaning company paid rich dividends this week, with the arrival of a check for $5,000, sent to him as one of the sharers in the will of the concern's president.

Completely surprised at his good fortune, Mr. Blackstock said, "Just call me a good luck boy, but don't think I am going to stop work. This money goes right into the bank, and I am going right



JAMES BLACKSTOCK

on working."

Helped Build Business

A ship rigger, residing at 1405 W. Lanvale St., Mr. Blackstock came to Baltimore nine years ago,

(Continued on Page 8, Col. 4)

AFRO '46 HONOR ROLL SUGGESTIONS SOUGHT

Send your candidate's name and reasons for selecting him or her to the AFRO Honor Roll Editor, 628 N. Eutaw St., Baltimore, 1, not later than Jan. 8.

Stepson of Man, Slain Year, Held

More than a year after William Knight, 45, was found slain in his home at 422 Laurens St., his stepson, Raymond Knight, 25, was arrested and, on Tuesday held without bail as the suspect.

The younger Knight, a seaman, was nabbed by members of the homicide squad and FBI, when his ship docked after a European voyage. He will be given a hearing in Northwestern police court on a date to be set by the State's attorney's office.

Early on the morning of Nov. 13, 1945, police were summoned to the Laurens St. house to find the body of the elder Knight lying, face downward, in a pool of blood. He had been shot three times in the chest.

Other occupants told police that immediately after the shots rang out, they heard a woman scream and a male voice say, "come on lets get out of here." This was followed by the sounds of two persons running from the building.

Suspected from Outset

Suspected from the outset, the younger Knight, living under the alias of Raymond Quander, evaded

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Appointment to Government Posts, School Openings, '46 Highlights

Marked Progress in Interracial Relations Gives Rise to Hope for Amity During 1947

The year 1946 was marked by numerous appointments of Baltimoreans to municipal posts, the opening of two schools, and marked progress in interracial relations.

Outstanding events follow:

January

Jacob Epstein, white, retired president of the Baltimore Bargain Wholesale Corporation, willed $20,000 to the Baltimore Community Fund, with the stipulation that only $5,000 could be used for colored participants.

The Baltimore Institute of Musical Arts, Dr. J. Leslie Jones, president, announced the purchase of the $40,000 property at 811 W. Lanvale St., site of radio station WCAO.

Mrs. Agnes Williams was named superintendent of nurses at Provident Hospital, replacing Mrs. Geneva M. Bryant, who resigned.

AFRO Gives $2,000 to Y

Contributions totaling $11,841, including $2,000 from the AFRO-AMERICAN Co., were given the special gifts committee of the Druid Hill Branch YMCA.

Pauli Murray, formerly of Baltimore, and a graduate of the Howard University Law School, was appointed a deputy attorney general in the Sacremento, Calif., Department of Justice.

Mrs. Muriel Johnson of Virginia was named superintendent of the Maryland Training School for Girls.

The Rev. Arthur J. Payne, pastor of Enon Baptist Church, was re-elected district commissioner of the Monumental District of Boy Scouts.

BHA Appointments Made

Cleveland R. Bealmear resigned as chairman of the Baltimore Housing Authority; while Furman L. Templeton and Dr. Don Frank Fenn were named t the HAB, replacing Dr. George B. Murphy and Albert Fletcher.

Mrs. Lilian Lottier was named chairman of the management committee of the YMCA, succeeding Miss Emma E. Bright.

A. Jack Thomas, musician, directed the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra in his own composition, during a Douglass High School conceret.

February

Carl Murphy, president of the AFRO-AMERICAN Co., was among nine persons appointed by Governor O'Conor to the newly-formed Commission on Higher Education.

Children to Gain Camp

A children's camp, operated by St. Vincent de Paul Society at Rolling and Frederick Rds., was slated to be turned over to children other than white.

Resolutions approving improvements at Washington Junior High School No. 130 and Carver Vocational School, at a cost of $12,500, were made by the School Board.

T. Wallis Lansey, manager of Druid Laundry, was named to the advisory council of the Unemployment Compensation Board.

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LEVI JACKSON

The Magnificent

Colored men of Harvard for the first time last year left the stadium elated after the Harvard-Yale game, even though Harvard was defeated.

Levi Jackson was magnificent. When he left the game a couple of minutes before the end of the game the whole Yale side stood up and cheered.

Read the colorful inside story of one of the greatest football stars Yale has ever had.

IN YOUR AFRO

Next Week

Fires, Drownings, Violence Claim Lives of 79 Baltimoreans During '46

Oil Stove Explosions Add to Grim Reaper's Toll; 3 Murder-Suicides Stun Community

By PEYTON GRAY

The Grim Reaper claimed the lives of 79 Baltimoreans during 1946 through slayings, fatal fires, drownings and suicides according to the AFRO news files.

A breakdown of these figures reveals that 48 persons were slain, 5 the victims of police guns; 11 burned to death; 10 drowned in nearby waters and 5 were reported to have taken their own lives.

Three Murder-Suicides

Outstanding among these incidents were the three murder-suicides, one in which a popular war veteran killed his attractive wife, then plunged a military trench knife into his own heart.

The veteran was Joseph Wynn, 34, of 1106 N. Stricker St., who fatally stabbed his estranged wife, Mrs. Katherine Smith Wynn, in her home at 916 Arlington Ave. in June.

Two months later, Kelly Britt, 44, slew his wife, Mrs. Mary Arrington Britt, in the bathroom of their home at 818 McKean Ave., then took his own life.

In October, police found the body of Mrs. Alice Mark, 70, in a gas-filled room in her home at 213 Spring St. The unconscious form of her husband, Enoch, lay nearby.

Police said that if the man, also 70, had not died two days later he would have been charged with murder.

Four Cases Noted

Four slayings were regarded as being particularly noteworthy and included:

The death of Mrs. Edna Jenkins, 21, of 625 N. Mount St., choked by a blind man, Ernest Harris, 32, of the 1600 block of McCulloh St.;

The death in October of Mrs. Janie F. Thomas, 42, of 308 N. Mount St., who succumbed to injuries received when she was mysteriously shot while in the Harlem Theater two months before;

The slaying of Eddie Mason, 39, of 1119 Briscoe St., whose shotgun riddled body was found on the Old Annapolis Road., near the Ferndale Police Station in November.

The most shocking case was the slaying last week of Mrs. Georgia Wilkins, 31, and her son, Theodore, 14, in the bedrooms of their home at 1108 Clendenin St. Willie Wilkins, 36, the husband and father, is being held.

Most of the fatal fires were attributed to exploding oil stoves. The victims ranged in age from infants to a woman 88.

A chronological listing of the events according to months follows:

January

Mrs. Edna Brown, 24, of 402 N. Pearl St., slain while sitting in an auto at Edmondson Ave. and Gilmor St. Mrs. Bertha Harrison, 24, of 840 W. Fayette St., given 15 years as the slayer.

Reuben Jennings of 1654 Delano Ct., given 15 years for slaying Miss Bernice Seaberry, 26, while the latter dozed in a chair in his home.

Robert Whithead, 16, of 210 N. Carey St., shot by John M. Taylor, 21, who was given 15 years. Clarence Neal, 28, of 121 N. Bond St., was accused of fatally shooting Miss Maezell McClain, 28, of 28 N. Caroline St.

February

Clarence Miles, 19, of 127 Chapel St., held in the shooting of John Chisholm, 32, of 217 Montford Ave.; James R. Smith, 46, of 417 Forrest St., slain allegedly by Nathaniel Wiggins, 38, of 708 N. Spring St.;

Preston J. Alexander, 31, of 913 N. Stricker St., given 12 years for the slaying of Miss Bernice Smith, 21, of 561 Mosher St.;

William Floyd, 16, of 1139 Brewer St., and Edward Robinson, also 16, of 1124 Brewer St., arrested in connection with the slaying of Bruce Fleming, 35, of 516 Oxford St.;

Betty Doris Singleton, 3, burned to death when an oil stove exploded in her home at 1617 Argyle Ave.

March

Howard Shird, 28, of 1529 Lexington St., charged with fatally shooting James Artis, 37, of 1527 W. Lexington St.; Mrs. Annie Bush, 88, burned to death in her home at 407 N. Vincent St.;

(Continued on Page 8, Col. 4)

Gas Victim's Case Probed by Police

Northwestern district police began investigating the apparent suicide attempt of Miss Mabel Geraldine Luby, 18, who was found unconscious over the open burners of a gas range in her home at 907 N. Fulton Ave., last Monday.

James Williams, who occupies a third-floor apartment in the house, told police that upon returning home from work that evening he smelled gas coming from the kitchen.

Three Burners Open

Entering the room, he said, he found the young woman slumped over the range and gas pouring from the three open burners. After placing her on the floor and opening the windows, Williams phoned police.

Miss Luby was taken to Provident Hospital and held for observation after being revived. The motive was undetermined.

TOP BILLING FOR THE NEW YEAR

In the theatre, sports world, politics or any daily activity, top billing is reserved for the No. 1 hits—the best there is. Pee Wee knows this and has already given the AFRO top billing on his 1947 list because he has found his favorite newspaper a hit 52 weeks in the year. You can follow in Pee Wee's footsteps with the AFRO twice a week, Tuesday and Friday. Just call the **AFRO Circulation Department**

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