# NEWS GATHERED ON THE PENINSULA

In default of a $100 fine, William White, one of Bel Air's oldest negro residents, on Tuesday was committed to jail by Magistrate Stanley S. Spencer for failure to have a hook-up of his property with the Bel Air sewerage system completed. At the same time Jim Robinson, colored, agreed to vacate his property until the required hook-up is made.

The case against White was one of considerable duration in which the patience of town officials was exhausted after the defendant ignored warnings and failed to reply to any correspondence.

Governor O'Conor will set an execution date for Alvin Kenton and Thomas L. Sanchez, sentenced to death by hanging today after conviction for beating an 80-year-old man and attacking his 83-year-old wife.

Circuit Court Judge Owen Knotts, passing sentence, termed the crime "almost without parallel in the history of our State."

The pair were convicted last week of entering the home of Mr. and Mrs. Peter Aiken, at Templeville, robbing and beating the husband, and then attacking Mrs. Aiken.

Judge Knotts directed the Queen Anne's county Sheriff to take Kenton and Sanchez to the Penitentiary at Baltimore.

"One of you men received the hospitality of this couple while working on the roads recently. Then you invaded the sanctity of their home by forcing an entrance," the judge declared."

"I know of nothing worse than your depravity on this occasion."

Mrs. Aiken identified them as the assailants who broke into their home at Templeville the night of September 8. She and other State witnesses identified as belonging to her husband a knife found the next day in a room occupied by the defendants. She also identified a watch, revolver and a flashlight she said she saw in her assailants' possesion, and later found in the defendant's room.

Aiken, still suffering from injuries received in the attack, attended the trial in a wheel chair. The courtroom was crowded during the two days' trial, highlighted by Mrs. Aiken's testimony in which she described how their assailants forced their way into the home, held a pistol against her husband's side and thrice pulled the trigger. It failed to discharge.

Judge W. Calvin Chesnut, in the Federal District Court, yesterday took a hand in the tug-of-war concerning the site of the Denton Postoffice and settled the proposed building firmly on the Courthouse green.

His opinion dismissed the petition of certain residents of the Caroline county seat who sought to restrain the Government from building a $125,000 postoffice on what they called "the most beautiful village green in Maryland."

The ruling affirmed the contention of C. Ross McKenrick, Assistant United States Attorney, that the Government, in case of need, can condemn and acquire land already dedicated to public use. This legal point, described by Mr. McKenrick as "a vital decision," had not appeared previously before Judge Chesnut, the jurist said.

"The right of the Government," Judge Chesnut declared, "to take property within its borders is a very part of sovereignty itself—existing from the beginning.

"I feel obliged to conclude that the Government does havbe the right to condemn the lot here in controversy."

Under a foreclosure decree handed down by the United States District Court, three vessels of a once fine fleet of bay boats, two of which were operated until three months ago by the Baltimore, Crisfield and Onancock Line, were sold yesterday at auction.

The Reconstruction Finance Corporation bought in two of the freighters, the Eastern Shore and the Lexington, while the Union Shipbuilding Company, of Fairfield, purchased the freighter PPiankatank for scrapping.

Included in the group was the B. S. Ford which for many years was the principal means of transportation between this section and Baltimore.

Forestry officials and timber growers of the Lower section of the Eastern Shore, where the yellow pine tracts have yielded millions of dollars to the industry are much concerned over the reports that disease due to southern pine beetle is killing virgin tracts of forests.

Morris E. Ward, Crisfield oysterman, was fined $100 and costs last week for possesion of an excess number of oysters beneath the legal size.

The case, tried in People's Court before Magistrate E. Sheldon Jones, was the first of its kind on the Eastern Shore.

George D. White and Virgil P. Roberts, oyster inspectors for Nanticoke and Tyaskin ,arrested Ward following inspection of the cargo of his tonging boat at Tyaskin.

Judge Jones cited the law which prohibits the taking of undersize oysters in an amount greater than 8 per cent of the total catch.

Random sample bushels of oyster catches are measurerd by the inspectors to determine the percentage of undersized oysters and, in the past, the practice has been to force redumping of the entire load on the beds if it is found to be illegal.

Representatives of the governing bodies of Aberdeen, Bel Air and Havre de Grace appeared before the Board of County Commissioners and requested that the three incorporated towns be given a share of the state gasoline tax money allocated to the county, after the retirement of $100,000 of road bonds for 1940. Major Robert H. Archer, Counsel for Bel Air, outlined the basis for the request for the towns in connection with the new act, which came into effect October 1, 1939.

It is estimated that $50,000 will be available to the county in 1940 after the payment of the bonds. The amounts requested by the Boards as based on the population of the towns in comparison with the county population as a whole, would mean payment of approximately $6,000 to Havre de Grace, $2,500 to Bel Air and $2,000 to Aberdeen.

According to persistent rumors the Chrysler Motor Company, of Detroit, Mich., has been quietly buying up, in small lots, 1,000 acres of land near Stemmers Run in Harford County for the purpose of erecting a large automobile assembly plant.

It was also understood that several individuals were buying the land. Other than a vague statement that they were buying for "a large corporation" they would not commit themselves.

Congressman David J. Ward announces that the President has approved an allotment by the Work Projects Administration of $23,313 to various counties in Maryland, including Talbot and Wicomico on the Eastern Shore, to improve and reconstruct State Police Sub-Station buildings and improve surrounding ground. The other counties included are: Allegany, Baltimore, Charles, Harford and Howard.

The Maryland State Police are sponsors of the project.

# SAFETY FLAGS FOR COUNTY WORK IN SAFETY EFFORTS

Annapolis, November 28—In connection with the campaign of the Maryland Traffic Safety Committee, now entering its third month, to reduce the toll of traffic fatalities in the State, and as a further incentive for continuing cooperation, Governor O'Conor has announced that Safety Flags would be awarded the Counties showing the best traffic improvement for the year beginning October 1, last.

The Governor, himself, will donate one of the flags. Others will be given by W. Lee Elgin, Commissioner of Motor Vehicles; Ezra B. Whitman, Chairman of the State Roads Commission; Colonel Beverly Ober, Superintendent of State Police, and Dr. Albert S. Cook, State Superintendent of Schools. Generally, the idea is that the flags will be awarded at formal services, to be preserved in the respective County Court Houses as a continual reminder of the necessity of greater care in driving.

# AUTO TAGS TO BE WHITE ON GREEN

Letters on the 1940 automobile license tags are following the fashion of the Baltimore belle and will be thinner and easier on the eyes, Commissioner of Motor Vehicles, W. Lee Elgin has announced.

"We've streamlined the numbers on the tag," Mr. Elgin said, "but we haven't changed the size of the tag. The numerals will be much more attractive, too."

Instead of the white and green colored tags of the last two years, Maryland motorists will have white letters on a dark blue background when the time comes to put their new tags on in April, Mr. Elgin said.

The new colors were selected by the late Walter R. Rudy, who preceded Mr. Elgin as Motor Vehicle Commissioner, but they suit Mr. Elgin "just fine."

# STILL POND

The Official Board of the Still Pond Methodist Church held their meeting at the parsonage with our pastor, Rev. C. E. Davis in charge of the meeting.

Mrs. F. B. Harper was guest several days this week of her sister, Mr. and Mrs. B. F. Vandegrift near Wilmington.

The Woman's Foreign Missionary Society will hold their regular monthly meeting at the home of Mrs. Edward Dittman Thursday, Dec. 14 at 2 p. m.

Mrs. Robert Wamsley and Miss Lucille Fellows spent the past week end in Philadelphia.

Mr. and Mrs. Bayard Vandegrift, of near Wilmington, spent Sunday with Mr. and Mrs. F. B. Harper.

The Ladies Aid held their regular monthly meeting at the home of Mrs. Maxwell Meeks.

Mr. Gale Rasin, of Wilmnigton, Delaware, visited with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. H. M. Rasin, Sunday.

Mr. O. S. Grant with a four piece string orchestra from a radio studio in Wilmington were the entertainers at the Annual Coin Card Social, which was held in the Church School room Friday evening, Mr. Grant delighted his hearers with songs. While Mr. H. M. Rasin, was tops, as always, with his audiance with his reciations; at a late hour refreshments were served. The social was sponsored by members of the Ladies Aid Society.

The P. T. A. held their monthly meeting at the school house Thursday evening, Mrs. Harper, president, opened the meeting with singing and prayer. Dr. Lee gave a short talk after which plans were made to hold a Christmas entertainment.

Mrs. Boulden and Pearl Coleman with Mr. and Mrs. J. R. King and daughter, Dorothy Jean, visited Mr. and Mrs. Fred Copper and Mrs. Atwell, near Newark, Del., Sunday.

Those on our birthday list this week, Mrs. Frank Meeks and Mr. F. B. Harper, Jr.

Mr. and Mrs. B. R. Fellows entertained last Thursday to a family dinner, Mr. and Mrs. Richard Fellows, of Bettertoin Mrs. Robert Wamsley and Bobby. Mr. and Mrs. Edw. Fellows and daughter, Betty Jean, of Millington, Miss Lucille Fellows and Rodger Fellows.

Mr. and Mrs. Frank Meeks entertained as Sunday guests her sister, Mr. and Mrs. Carl Price, of Middletown, Delaware and Mr. and Mrs. Layton, Mahoney, of Wilmington.

Mr. Henry Davis, of Delaware, spent Saturday at his farm "The Elmwood".

Mr. and Mrs. Oliver Nicholson and boys Edw. and Joh nof Betterton, spent Sunday with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. LeSage.

**Biggest Building**

The biggest building in Europe is the Palace of Justice at Brussels. It covers an area 12 per cent greater than that of St. Peter's at Rome.

**Trees and Lightning**

Any kind of a tree is likely to be struck by lightning. The greatest number struck in a locality will be the dominant species. The likelihood of a tree's being struck by lightning is increased: (a) If it is taller than surrounding trees; (b) if it is isolated, (c) if it is on high ground; (d) if it is well (deeply) rooted; (e) if it is the best conductor at the moment of the flash—that is, if temporary conditions, such as being wet by rain, transform it for the time from a poor conductor to a good one.

**Fertilizer Science Improves**

Knowledge of the soil is becoming an increasingly exact science, says a bulletin by the Middle West Soil Improvement committee. Today it is possible to test a given soil in a few minutes and learn what its fertilizer needs may be. Not only in soil testing, but in the entire field of fertilizer use, agronomists of state colleges and experiment stations as well as county agents are co-operating to give farmers up-to-the-minute information on the most suitable types of plant food to use.

**"FLOSSY FRILLS" GIVES ADVICE TO LOVELORN**

**Sixth of a series of full-page sketches revealing the glamorous adventures of peppy, pert Flossy. Reproduced in COLOR. Look for this feature.**

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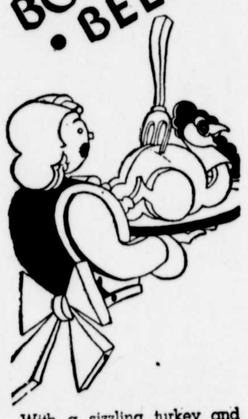

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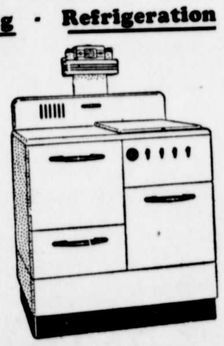

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