SAM LACY

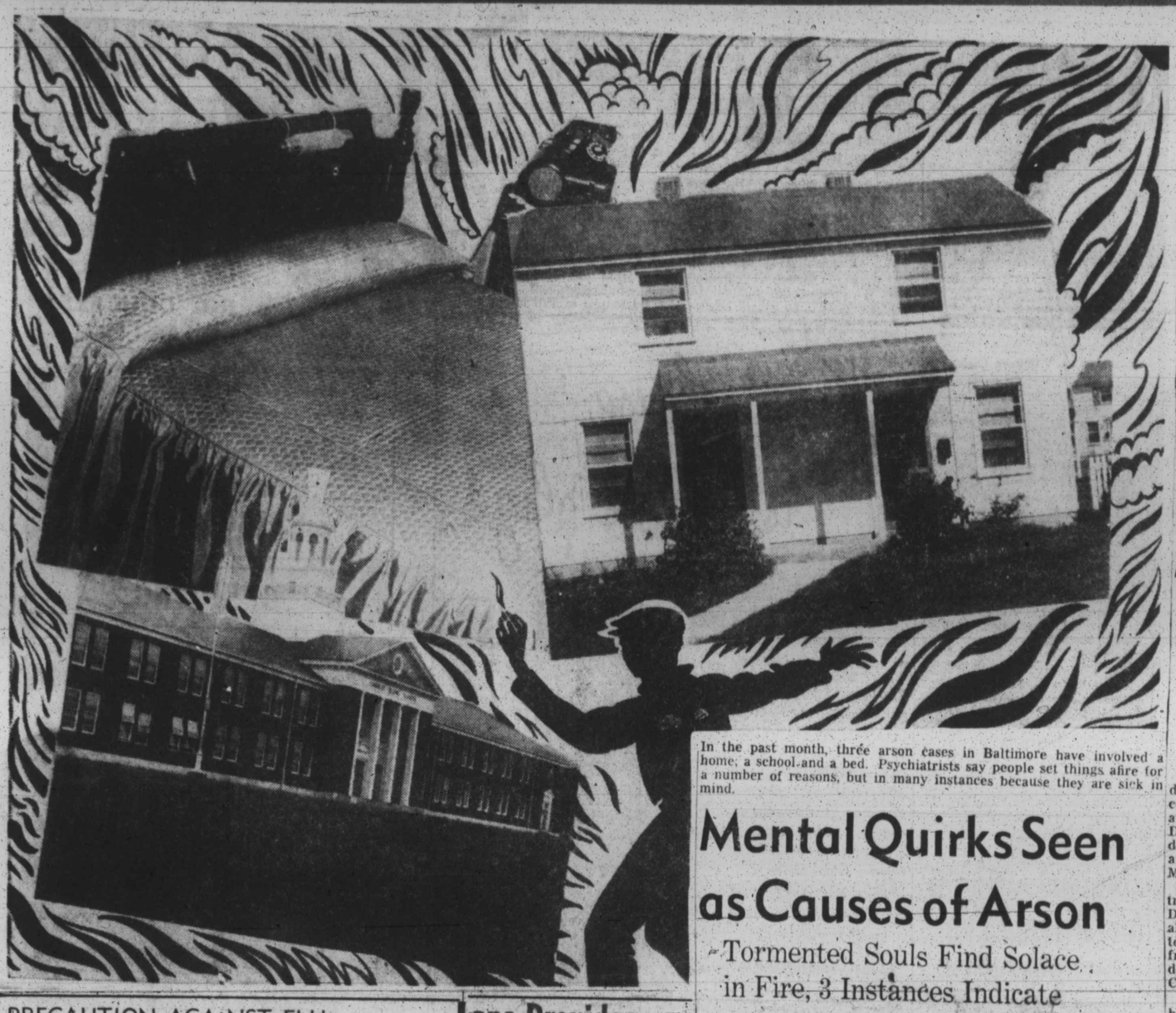
First Report From Dodgertown

Veteran AFRO Sports Writer Sam Lacy is With the Bums in Their Training Camp at Vero Beach, Fla.

Mixed Students Ask Equality

32 Pages

What Devil Prompts A Person to Set A Fire?



In the past month, three arson cases in Baltimore have involved a home, a school and a bed. Psychiatrists say people set things afire for a number of reasons, but in many instances because they are sick in mind.

BALTIMORE AFRO AMERICAN

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58th Year, No. 60 BALTIMORE, MD., MARCH 4, 1950 10c IN BALTO.; 12c ELSEWHERE

Coal Gas Kills 3, 2 Others Survive

Mental Quirks Seen as Causes of Arson

Tormented Souls Find Solace in Fire, 3 Instances Indicate

By MAE MEDDERS

What inner devil drives people to commit arson? What dreadful secret crouches within the flaming arms of fire, reaching out to attract, hold and fascinate its victims?

Answers to these questions require a good look into the workings of the human mind. Within two months, Baltimore's courts have seen three strong examples of arson at its best.

There was the 50-year-old woman who tried to kill herself by setting a pile of clothing afire; the 27-year-old woman who set the bed afire when her boy friend brought home a rival; and the 15-year-old boy found crouched behind the stove in a burned-out school building.

Motives Different, Alike

Three motives — suicide, jealousy and rebellion — led these three people to seek solace in ranging flames. Yet, beneath their differences, the motives are quite alike.

All speak of an inner drive to "get even" or to "beat" the

(Continued on Page 2, Column 5)

Area Students Ask Equality

Mason-Dixon Region Colleges Represented

RAP DUAL SCHOOLS

Mixed Affairs Urged on All Institutions

WASHINGTON

A strong stand against racial discrimination and segregation in colleges was taken, last week end, at the First Congress of the Mason-Dixon Region of the National Students Association, held Saturday and Sunday at the University of Maryland, in College Park, Md.

The region comprises the District of Columbia, Maryland and Delaware. Some 100 delegates and alternates of over ten colleges attended, including three students from Howard University and a delegation from Maryland State College, Princess Anne.

The delegates went on record as being "opposed to discriminatory practices and segregated educational institutions within the region," and urged individual student government groups to take action on their respective campuses to end such segregation and discrimination in higher education.

Exchange Activities Urged

They also suggested measures to combat misunderstandings about other groups, such as having speakers of different races talk on non-racial topics and sponsoring student exchanges in the field of athletics, drama and other activities.

The representatives from How-

(Continued on Page 2, Column 1)

Defective Damper Blamed for Tragedy

Man Who Twice Recovered Sought Fresh Air but Did Not Detect Fumes

Carbon monoxide poisoning, Wednesday, killed three members of the five-person household at 1030 N. Payson St., leaving two men to tell the tale of the lethal fumes which swept through the house.

Ironically, one member of the household, without realizing what was wrong, had gone outside twice for fresh air, but returned inside unaware of the danger.

The dead are:

MRS. JANIE LAYTON, 49;

MRS. DOROTHY LEE, 47; and

GEORGE ADKINS, 50.

Survivors, who were treated at Provident Hospital, are Robert Layton, 48; husband of one of the victims; and Willard Ayers, 21, brother of the other woman, died.

Automatic Damper Fails

The tragedy reportedly occurred when the automatic damper on the hot-air furnace went "on the blink."

Bewildered, eyes watery, breathing in short but loud gasps, Robert Layton lay on the hospital table, refusing to believe the words he had just heard: "Your wife is dead."

At least 20 minutes had passed since the policeman had broken the sad news; and the 48-year-old construction worker still lay speechless, staring at the wall.

Then in quiet, almost inaudible tones, Mr. Layton began to talk. "I don't know what happened," he muttered.

"I woke up about 9 o'clock this morning (Wednesday); and I felt strange. I tried to get up; but my body felt funny; I couldn't move. I tried to call out, but I couldn't.

His voiced faintingly died down. Bystanders could hardly hear him. He would not say a thing about his wife's death.

Wife Tried to Escape

His wife, Mrs. Jannie Layton, had died a few hours earlier; a victim of carbon monoxide poisoning.

Northwestern police had found her lying on the floor in her bedroom, her nightclothes still on, indicating she had fallen while trying to escape the fumes that seeped through the house.

In the adjoining room of the hospital, George Adkins, his whole body quivering, lay on the table as doctors applied oxygen in a battle to save his life. Conscious, but speechless, he died 22 hours later.

Mrs. Dorothy Lee, who was also felled by the poisonous gas, was found dead in a hallway on the second floor, fully clothed. A spot of blood indicated her reactions to the lethal fumes.

Premonition of Disaster

Willard Ayers, the other resident able to tell the tale, report-

(Continued on Page 10, Column 1)

PRECAUTION AGAINST FLU:

Campanella Removed to Camp Hospital

By SAM LACY
AFRO Sports Editor

DODGERTOWN, VERO BEACH, Fla.—Roy Campanella was removed to the hospital at the Brooklyn Dodgers training camp here today (Friday), with a temperature of 101 degrees.

Campanella, who dropped six pounds in the first day of training drills on Wednesday, first complained of feeling bad Thursday morning, and was ordered to bed following the morning practice session.

The Dodgers' trainer, Harold Wendler, later told Manager Burt Shotton to remove him to the hospital.

Precautionary Measure

Wendler said he put the stellar catcher in the hospital as a precautionary measure. Campy's illness is not regarded as serious, but there has been an epidemic of influenza in the State this spring, and the club officials are taking no chances of their ace backstop's being slowed down a long seige of illness.

Moreover, Campanella was room-

(Continued on Page 4, Column 3)

Emerson Looking for 'Private Eye'

Needs Huggins Badly to Prosecute Case

Calling all cars—calling all cars.

Anybody knowing the whereabouts of Lee Huggins, contact Captain Alexander Emerson. The big vice squad chief has exactly one week in which to find his missing "private detective" and produce him in court.

Huggins failed to show up for a case in Criminal Court Wednesday. He also forgot to show up for another case at Criminal Court two weeks ago. As a matter of fact, Huggins has not been heard from since the AFRO snapped his picture on Feb. 12. The picture was later published.

Has Gathered 'Evidence'

Informed by James Price, prosecutor, that Huggins, "most important witness in the case," was not there Thursday, Judge Michael Manley granted Captain Emerson the one-week limit to produce the civilian.

Unemployed, Huggins within recent months has worked with the vice squad by slipping into places suspected of violating liquor laws and gathering "evidence" for the captain's raids.

Objecting to a postponement of the most recent case, H. Mortimer Kremer, attorney for three Cricket Club officials allegedly involved in the sale of beer to Huggins, declared to Judge Manley: "He didn't show up before, he may not show up next week."

Judge Manley said he remembered reading that Huggins may be operating now on the Eastern Shore. He added, however, that the State's request for a postponement, was reasonable.

Emerson Says He'll Be There

"I'd do the same for you," he reminded counsel, Mr. Kremer beplied, "I wouldn't object at all if

(Continued on Page 2, Column 4)

The Weather

March winds will continue to whip about in typical fury, but will slow down a trifle today (Friday), forecasters say.

The outlook for the week end is fair and cold, with a possibility of more snow flurries and temperatures ranging from 15 to 20 degrees.

Lane Provides $4 Millions for New Buildings

Governor Lane's budget passed by the legislature Thursday carried $4,862,731 for new buildings in six colored institutions.

The figures are as follows:

New Buildings Authorized by Legislature

Morgan	$2,111,370
Princess Anne	865,000
Bowie	800,000
Henryton	711,300
Md. Training School for Girls	11,000
Cheltenham	363,561
Total	$4,862,731

The Governor told the AFRO he was gratified that the money was made available.

He said he had the problem of wanting to do much more because so much had been neglected. However, he had to keep the State on an even keel.

Appropriations have jumped he said enormously, private hospitals from $500,000 to 2 million. State hospitals doubled. Education from 9 to 29 millions.

The legislature approved construction of the following capital improvements to be financed by

(Continued on Page 2, Column 4)

Mrs. Henderson's Funeral Recorded

50-Minute Rites Planned by Her Son

Dignity and simplicity marked the funeral services Wednesday, for Mrs. Eliza S. Henderson. The service was planned by, and recorded for her son, Elmer A. Henderson, who is a patient at Marine Hospital.

Assistant superintendent of schools, Mr. Henderson has been ill since December.

The Rev. I. M. Gray, pastor of St. John AME Church, officiated at the 50-minute service held at

(Continued on Page 7, Column 3)

DOUGLASS LOSES HEAD CUSTODIAN:

Charles T. Gilles, 70, Retires After 25 Yrs.

By LOUISE K. HINES

It was typical of Charles T. Gillles to spend 15 hours working on his last day as head custodian of Douglass High School.

He sibned in on Tuesday at 7 a.m. as usual.

By 11:40 p.m., he had completed checking. Everything was in order. As the door clicked shut behind him, it marked the end of 25 years and 52 days of service in the building at Carey, Calhoun and Baker Sts.

From Wheatley School No. 110, Mr. Gilles was transferred to Douglass on Jan. 7, 1925. Then the building was being equipped to receive pupils the following September. He was soon made head custodian.

Awe Inspiring to Freshmen

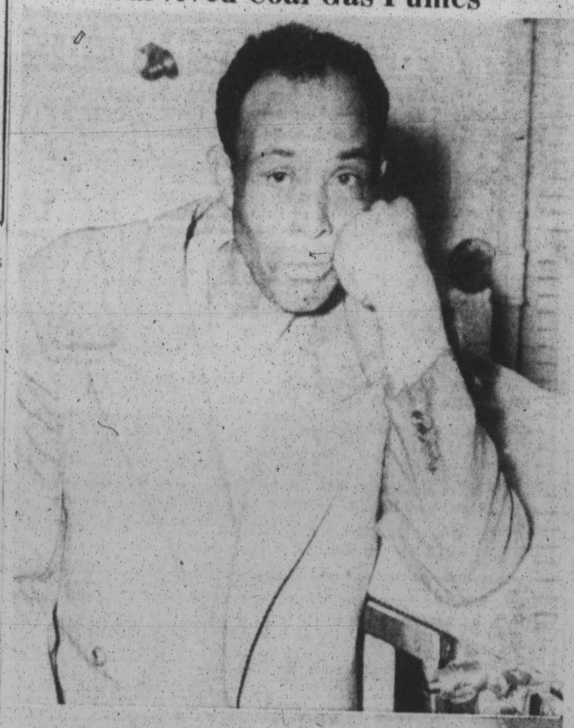
Timid freshmen have traditionally stood in awe of his imposing height — six feet two. He had but to boom, "Let's go," and the legs of the hall loiterers were set in motion.

"Douglass is a building where something is always going on," Mr. Gilles reflected, on his last day at work.

Upon his shoulders through the years has rested the responsibility

(Continued on Page 2, Column 2)

Survived Coal Gas Fumes



When coal gas fumes swept through his house at 1030 Payson St., Wednesday, Robert Layton, 48, was found lying helpless on the bed by policemen. His wife and two other persons died of the poisonous gas. The household pet, too (lower photo), was knocked out when this picture was taken. He has since been revived.

Douglass Loses a 'Sign of the Times'

Retiring Tuesday after 25 years as head custodian of Douglass High School, Charles T. Gilles removes from his office door the sign that has hung there since the building was opened in 1925. Mr. Gilles has served a total of 28 years in the Department of Education.

Morning Star Selects Rev. Wicks

The Rev. Nathaniel H. Wicks, 49, acting pastor of Morning Star Baptist Church, on Wednesday was elected permanent pastor of the church by the unanimous vote of 900 members who had been called in special session.

In his new capacity, he will preach his first sermon on Sunday. James Merritt, chairman of the church deacon board, said installation services will be held in June.

The Rev. Mr. Wicks has served as acting pastor of the church at 1063 W. Fayette St., since the sud-

(Continued on Page 6, Column 3)

Native Appointed Governor of V.I.

WASHINGTON

President Truman, on Tuesday, named a white native of the Virgin Islands, Morris de Castro, to succeed Federal Judge William H. Hastie as Governor.

The Senate is expected to confirm the appointment.

The Virgin Islands Legislative Assembly sent the White House a cablegram, soon after Mr. Hastie was slated for the Federal Bench, urging de Castro's appointment.

The new Governor-designate has been acting governor since Judge Hastie's departure, and served as his secretary during his tenure as Governor.

Walter White, executive secretary of the NAACP, now on leave, was prominently mentioned as Hastie's successor. He announced recently that he had refused the post when it was proffered by President Truman.

Senate to Probe Ban on Plumbers

A resolution calling upon the State Board of Plumbing Commissioners to explain evidences of discrimination against colored plumbers was introduced in the State Senate too late for action at this legislative session.

The State Legislature adjourned on Thursday, but Sen. Harry T. Phoebus, who introduced the resolution the day before, declared to the AFRO: "Something has got to be done to correct this unjust thing."

The Republican Senator from

(Continued on Page 2, Column 3)

Coming Events

Friday

Fashion show by the Westminster Fellowship at Grace Presbyterian Church, Dolphin and Eting Sts. — 8 p.m.

Telecast by grade three of Coppin Demonstration School No. 132 over WAAM-TV — 7 p.m.

Worship services of Ebenezer AME Church at the New Eastern Methodist Church, E. Hoffman and Eden Sts. — 8 p.m.

Saturday

Rehearsal of the Little Folks Theatre at its workshop, 1318 W. North Ave. — 10:30 a.m.

Sunday

Worship services at the Morgan

(Continued on Page 12, Column 4)