Seven Slugs Snuff Out Life of Wealthy Dr. Thomas

'Friend' of Victim Nabbed as Suspect

Refusal of Money Reason Given Police for Cold-Blooded Killing

By JAMES M. REID

DETROIT—Last Saturday evening seven slugs from a blazing revolver snuffed out the life of one of the scions of Detroit's wealthy Thomas clan.

He was Dr. Joseph T. Thomas, Jr., 48-year-old medical practitioner, who was shot down in cold blood as he sat at a desk in his office at 4161 Chene Street, writing a letter.

Charles R. Jackson, 53, of 434 E. Alexandrine, was arrested at the scene of the crime by hastily summoned police.

They said Jackson made a statement to them admitting that he shot Dr. Thomas because the latter refused to give him money.

The physician was felled by the bullets which riddled his body with nine holes.

The weapon used was a .38 calibre special revolver which shoots six times.

After emptying his gun into the prostrate form of Dr. Thomas, the suspect calmly reloaded and began firing again, police said.

The only eye witness to the slaying was Miss Carrie Chapman, 54, of 4171 Chene St., nurse and office assistant to Dr. Thomas.

She made a statement to police that Mr. Jackson had been bothering her employer for money for quite some time.

She said that when she came into the office, the physician was writing a letter of recommendation for Jackson to return to his job at the U.S. Rubber Company plant on Monday.

While busily engaged in writing the letter, Jackson is said to have asked for money again, to which the doctor replied, "Don't bother me."

Thereupon, the nurse stated, Jackson whipped out his gun and began shooting.

There was no fight or struggle of any kind, Miss Chapman added.

Wild Rumors Circulate

Shortly after the slaying, rumors and speculations went like wildfire throughout Detroit. Everywhere people gathered they were asking the question: Why?"

Dr. Jackson was a patient of Dr. Thomas; and his wife, also a patient of the physician, died a few years ago.

$10,000 Loan Alleged

It was alleged in Jackson's statement that he loaned Dr. Thomas $10,000 and had only been repaid $500, and that they had been close friends for 21 years.

There is much speculation as to why a man who lived in a poor section of the city should have had occasion to loan a physician, one of the wealthiest men in town, such a large sum of money.

Thomases' Holdings Rich

The Thomases of 511 Arden Park, are reputed to be millionaires.

They own and operate three hospitals in Detroit and have extensive real estate holdings throughout the city and many business connections.

They own and operate the Edythe K. Thomas Hospital, the Bethesda Hospital and the Haynes Memorial Hospital.

All have "played a prominent part in medical practice, with Dr. Joseph Thomas Jr., a TB specialist and medical director of Bethesda, who has practiced for 19 years in the Motor City.

Prior to that time he practiced in Cleveland, Ohio, opening offices shortly after finishing from Meharry Medical College. He was a native of Birmingham, Ala.

Survivors Listed

He is survived by a wife, Rebecca; a son, Joe, 23, a student at Wayne University; a daughter Helen, 20, a student at Western Michigan University; and another son, Maceo, 16, a high school pupil.

He is also survived by:

A father, Dr. Joseph Thomas Sr., a retired physician; an uncle, Dr. Alfred Thomas Sr.; a cousin Dr. Alfred Thomas Jr., who two years ago married the very prominent Philadelphia socialite widow Marian Turner Stubbs.

A brother, Mareo Thomas, member of the internationally famous dance team of Chilton and Thomas; and a cousin, Samuel H. Thomas.

Tentative arrangements were for the funeral rites for Dr. Thomas to be held on Wednesday at the St. Matthew Episcopal Church with interment at Elmwood Cemetery in a family plot.

Earns 30-Year Service Emblem

Otho J. Murphy of 5727 Wyalusing Ave., an engineering aide in the Philadelphia Naval Base, was one of 20 civilian employees who received 30-year-service pins from Rear Admiral Roscoe E. Schuirmann, USN Commandant of the 4th Naval District, last week.

Charge Cleric, 51, With Kicking Cop

A 51-year-old East Baltimore pastor and radio evangelist was released in $350 bail Tuesday morning when arraigned on charges of kicking a police officer and disorderly conduct.

The cleric, the Rev. Walter Stokes, pastor of Zion Church in the 1600 block Ashland Ave., will be given a hearing in Northwestern police court at 9 a.m. on March 9. The case was postponed by Magistrate Fitzpatrick because the injured officer, Patrolman James E. Smith, was unable to appear as a witness.

In Music Store

The Rev. Mr. Stokes was arrested in a music store in the 1300 block Pennsylvania Ave., Monday afternoon. On the way to the station house, according to Patrolman Smith, the man resisted and the officer was kicked in the groin.

Another officer aided Smith in completing the arrest, then Smith was taken to Mercy Hospital where to make a phone call and the officer came in and arrested him, the Rev. Mr. Stokes told the broadcasts over a local radio station AFRO that he went into the store on Sunday afternoon.

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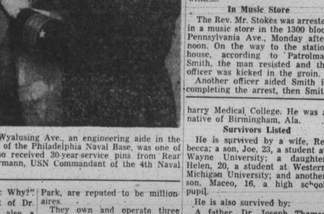

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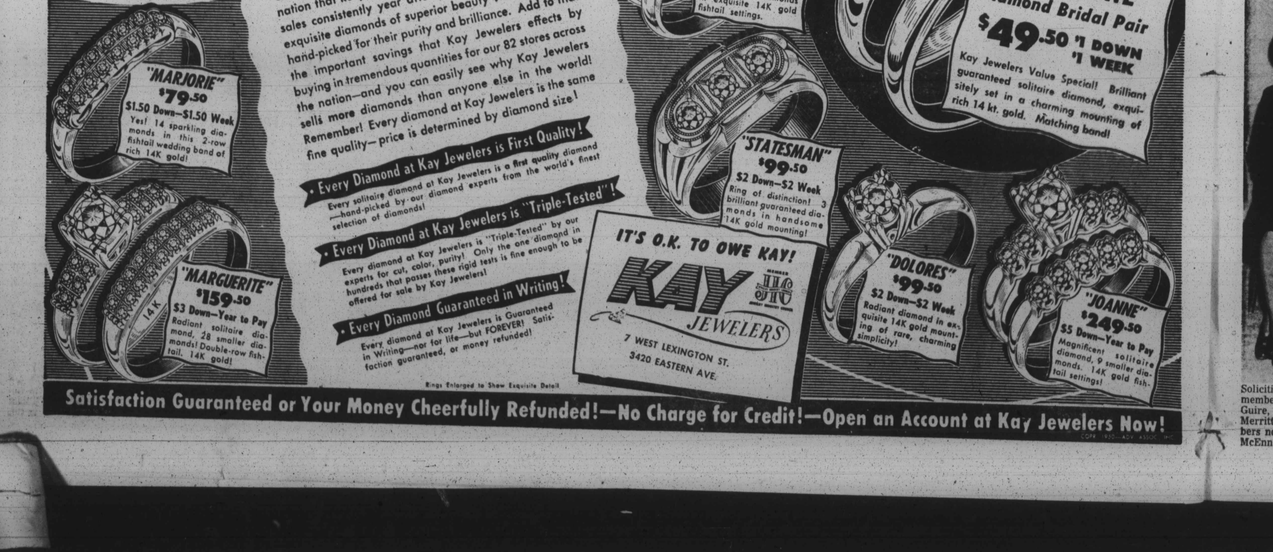

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Red Cross Goal Set at $7,500

Dr. R. J. Hill Selected Chairman of District 5

District 5 of the 1950 Red Cross Fund drive will hold its first report meeting at 8 p.m., Thursday, at 1714 Park Ave., according to Dr. Robert J. Hill, chairman.

With a goal of $7,500, this contingent is emphasizing the local services of the agency in soliciting funds.

A Red Cross film will be shown at the Thursday meeting.

A speakers bureau is being organized to carry the Red Cross appeal before churches and other organizations.

4 Other Chairmen

The present organization of District 5 also includes Mrs. Victorine Adams and Dr. Bernard Harris as vice-chairmen; Dr. Willard W. Allen and Mrs. Vivian Alleyne, honorary chairman and vice-chairman, respectively.

Group chairmen are:

Trade and Industry — Mrs. Ruby Thomas, chairman; Miss Dorethea Robinson, Mesdames Mary Hunter and Ruth Bell, co-chairmen;

Special Gifts — Mrs. Blanche Day, chairman;

Professional — Dr. Bernard Harris, chairman, medical division; Dr. James White, chairman, dental division; W. Emerson Brown Jr., chairman, legal division;

Fraternal Men — Robert Croxton;

Neighborhood Solicitation — Mrs. Pauline Blanchard, chairman; Mrs. Frances Stafford, co-chairman;

Schools — Elmer A. Henderson.

Women Solicitors

Soliciting Red Cross funds from the women's fraternal groups will be:

Misses and Mesdames Elizabeth McLaren, Gwendolyn Tripp, Ida Cummings, Pearl Brown, Ruth Willis, Daisy B. Jones, Clara Overton, Florence Snowden, Fannie Gilles, Isaiah Scott, Alma Ringgold, Gladys Milbourne, Elois Parker, Augusta Chissell and Catherine Mayo.

Ministers have been asked to act as chairmen and appoint five co-chairmen in their respective churches to collect funds.

Other report meetings will be held on Mar. 15, 22 and 29.

Insurance Head Frontiers Speaker

"The fight for first-class citizenship must be undergirded with financial security," M. C. Clark, Cleveland insurance man, said at the Frontiers Club's luncheon meeting on Tuesday.

"Stop wasting time talking and fighting and do something that will count. Pool your resources for your own social and economic emancipation," he urged.

"We must pull ourselves up by our own bootstraps and do the things other groups have done to earn their first-class citizenship," he concluded.

Cited for Religious Work

Mr. Clark was introduced by W. Emerson Brown Sr., as a former president of the National Negro Insurance Association former deputy insurance commissioner of Ohio; and president of the Dunbar Mutual Life Insurance Co. of Cleveland.

Early this year Mr. Clark was one of the Cleveland laymen cited nationally for his humane service.

Among the guest at the meeting were AME Bishop A. J. Allen Sr., father of A. J. Allen Jr., who was honored by the club, last week, as the retiring executive secretary of the Urban League; and James Downs, local business man.

$50 Donated to Red Cross

Following an appeal by Mrs. Isabelle Clark, director of District 5 of the Red Cross Drive, members of the Frontiers Club individually contributed $50.

Charles Fletcher, principal of the Soilers Pt. High School, was admitted as a new member.

Rebuffed Patient, Off Accident Ward

A "hot-headed" resident physician of Maryland General Hospital who refused to treat a woman because of her color has been severely reprimanded and taken off the accident ward, Steward B. Crawford, hospital superintendent, revealed Wednesday.

The incident was called to Mr. Crawford's attention by Mrs. Lalie M. Jackson, local NAACP president.

The superintendent declared that he called in his staff heads, restated the policy of the hospital and reprimanded the physician responsible for the incident.

Had Fallen Off Streetcar

Mrs. Martha P. Williams of 518 Sanford Place was injured Monday when she fell off a street car. She was taken to the hospital by a police officer who also tried to see to it that she was treated.

Two lawyers for the NAACP, W. Emerson Brown and Robert B. Watts, wrote strong letters of protest urging the hospital head to see to it that the incident does not occur again.

Joseph Neal Renamed to Compensation Group

Joseph Neal, CIO organizer in steel, was renamed by Governor Lane last week to the Commission to Study Revision of the Workmen's Compensation Laws of Maryland.

All other members of the commission are white. It is headed by Emanual Gorfine, chairman of the State Industrial Accident Commission. Mr. Neal was named to the group some two years ago. He has been reappointed twice.

MRS. JULIUS WHITE ATTENDS CONFERENCE ON HOUSING

Mrs. Julius S. White, chairman of the YWCA public affairs committee, attended the Middle Income Housing Conference held Feb. 23 and 24 in Washington.

Unit Discusses Site for Carver

Gwynn Falls Named in Case of Alternate

If there is to be any change in the site for Carver Vocational School, it should involve use of the site in Gwynn's Falls Park, the Baltimore NAACP held this week.

Learning of rising sentiment in the City Council favoring the site of St. Mary's seminary over that at Bentalou and Presstman Sts. selected by the school board, Mrs. Lillie M. Jackson, NAACP president, declared:

"We are opposed to changing the site unless it means use of the area in Gwynn's Falls that we suggested in the first place."

The Gwynn Falls site embraces some 20 acres, and the area used by the Oriole Gun Club off Frederick Rd. behind Mt. Vernon Cemetery. The Bentalou-Presstman site is 11½ acres.

Mrs. Jackson added "No school should be constructed in that slum area of St. Mary's St." She said the NAACP would notify proper city officials of its feeling in the school matter.

Meanwhile, the ordinance authorizing the city to acquire property for the school in the Bentalou-Presstman area has been referred to the City Planning Commission by way of the City Council and the Board of Estimates.

Swamped with protests to the Bentalou site from surrounding white residents in their district, Fifth District councilmen have indicated that they would prefer the St. Mary's site for several reasons.

Favorable Reasons Given

They point out that construction of a vocational school in that area would pave the way for slum clearance, property acquisition for the expressway, and better health and sanitary conditions.

Further, they say, that the Bentalou-Presstman Sts. site would not be a central location for pupils who would have to travel there from all sections of the city.

Such would not be the case, they added, if the site involved construction of a high school which serves more on a community basis.

Full argument on the question is expected when the ordinance comes back to the Council and is placed in a committee for study.

The school board, however, has announced its intention to construct the school on the site selected, and plans have been drawn. Estimated costs, including the building, site acquisition, architectural costs and other expenses is between four and four-and-a-half million dollars.

Their Singing Thrilled 2,000 Baltimoreans

When the Women Club of Douglas Memorial Community Church presented the Mariners, stars of Arthur Godfrey's show, Sunday, over 2,000 persons turned out to hear the quartet. Shown looking over the program with Mrs. Ruth B. Murray, president of the club; are James O. Lewis, Thomas Lockard, Lee Erwin, pianist; Nathaniel Dickerson and Martin Karl.

Work Permits Available to School Youths

Through the school-work coordination program of the Department of Education's Vocational Division, boys and girls between the ages of 14 and 16 are available for jobs.

They may work as messengers, porters, delivery boys and girls, soda fountain helpers, or other similar jobs. Special work permits are given them through the co-operation of the Department of Labor and Industry.

Under this program the child works during school hours for two weeks, then he returns to school for his regular class-room lessons.

This program has been in effect since 1943. Many boys and girls from the occupational and shop center classes are performing satisfactorily in stores throughout the city.

Additional information may be obtained by calling Walker A. Shields, co-ordinator, BElmont 6300, Extension 2.

Robert Hill New Red Cross District Head

Dr. Robert J. Hill, district chairman of the Red Cross; receives a certificate from Harry F. Ogden, chairman of the Baltimore chapter, Dr. Hill, who has been district chairman for the past three years. On extreme left is Harper Clark, chairman for the 1950 Red Cross campaign. John Rich, former Red Cross field director, is on the extreme right.

RC Outfit Cites Service to Community

Visiting veterans at Perry Point Hospital and maintaining a beauty shop at Crownsville State Hospital are among the Volunteer services given by the Baltimore Red Cross chapter which is now conducting a drive for funds.

Eight Gray Ladies visit Perry Point every Monday morning throughout the year. Six canteeners follow on Monday nights, with refreshments. Both groups entertain regularly at Crownsville as well as at Fort Meade.

During the past year, 25 members of the Master Beauticians beauty shop at Crownsville.

Other Services Rendered

Some 28 classes in home nursing in seven different schools have been conducted by the Baltimore chapter; and Red Cross social workers have ministered to 6,324 individual cases.

The first aid classes, from which 727 persons were graduated, and water safety courses and nutrition classes are among the other services listed.

W. F. McMechen Honored on Leaving School Board

Marking the retirement of George W. F. McMechen on Thursday, the Board of School Commissioners presented him with a silver plate.

Twelve inches in diameter, the plate was inscribed: "To George W. F. McMechen in token of our respect and appreciation." It also bears the names of the board members with whom he worked.

In making the presentation, Rozel C. Thomsen, board president, lauded Mr. McMechen for his spirit of citizenship and his ability "which we have all come to respect."

In response, Mr. McMechen spoke of his pleasure in working with "the good board."

The successor to the first colored School Board commissioner was then introduced. His term officially began on March 1. Mr. McMechen, a Republican appointee, was named to the board in 1944, for a six-year term.

Carver Site Hearing Set

The board set 3 p.m. on next Thursday, for a hearing requested by Warren Buckler, Fifth District City Councilman, who favors an alternate site for the proposed new Carver Vocational High School.

Mr. Buckler and other Fifth District Councilmen have indicated a preference for the St. Mary Seminary site. The board has already set machinery in motion to acquire property in the Presstman-Bentalou St. area for the new building.

Dr. William H. Lemmel, superintendent of public instruction, told the board that through its president, Raleigh Dean, the Parent-Teacher Association of School No. 159 in Cherry Hill had sought a conference.

Concerned with Overcrowding

He said the group was concerned with overcrowding in the school where some 26 classes are on part-time schedules and one class housed in a recently erected portable building.

William E. Lehr, director of school facilities, told the board that the group had been allowed to view the architect's drawings for the new school and had expressed satisfaction at the progress being made.

The board approved the retirement of Miss Sadie E. Chase, teacher at School No. 121; and Mrs. Florence Wright, teacher at Druid Junior High School No. 137; and noted with the regret, the death of Miss Annie Mae Lunn of School No. 140.

Patched-Up Men Patch Up Quarrel

Patched-up both in their quarrel and their injured parts, two men, dent, lauded Mr. McMechen for his spirit of citizenship and his ability "which we have all come to respect."

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Assembly Ignores Plea, Adjourns

ANNAPOLIS—Despite a plea from a Baltimore group that the 30-day budget session be extended "until Maryland's unemployed and needy are cared for," the General Assembly adjourned on schedule Thursday.

In a telegram signed by 25 Baltimoreans, Wednesday, Governor Lane was urged to hold the legislators in session until additional funds are provided for the State Welfare Department.

The wire said in part:

"Maryland is fifth from the bottom for the whole nation in provision for needy persons, but highest in tuberculosis. Eviction and starvations are basic causes of crime waves, and are more deadly than 'smog'."

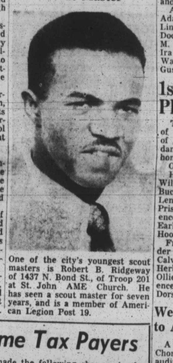
Supported Earlier Demands

The telegram, sent in support of earlier demands made by the Council for Jobs and Relief, was signed by the following:

The Revs. Howard M. Amos, J. R. Butler, W. L. Clayton, T. Gillison, M. W. Mobley, E. T. Jordan, Joseph L. Wilkins, Alfred Holt, E. W. White, Dennis Barrow, J. Franklin Bryan, Greene Harris and I. C. Reddie.

Also Dr. J. E. T. Camper, Mrs. Adah K. Jenkins, I. Duke Avnet, Linwood G. Koger, Mrs. Margaret Dockins, Rabbi R. Polikoff, Rabbi M. R. Charrick, Dr. Frank Sykes, Ira Dvorin, Dr. Alexander J. Walker, Samuel Schmerler and Gus Leblanc.

Scout Master



One of the city's youngest scout masters is Robert B. Ridgeway of 1437 N. Bond St., of Troop 201 at St. John AME Church. He has seen a scout master for seven years, and is a member of American Legion Post 19.

1st Cabaret Dance Planned by Elks

The entertainment committee of the Monumental Lodge—No. 3, of Elks, will hold its first cabaret dance on March 12, at the Elk home, 1528 Madison Ave.

On the committee are Howard R. Mason, chairman; William Ellis, Harbart Downs, Buck Barnes, John Smith, William Lender, Nelson Clifford, Robert Prisco, Johnny Christian, Lawrence Jones, Vermont Williams, Earl Smith, Henry Taylor, Willis Hooker.

Frederick McPhearson, Alexander Henry, Teddy Stewart, Jr., Calvin P. Rico, Howard Gross, Herbert Keller, Samuel Dutton, Ollie Thomas, Jack Smith, William Lawrence R. Dorsey and Charles E. Dorsey.

Webb Choral Society to Appear in Concert

A concert by the Chick Webb Choral Society will be held in the auditorium of Washington Junior High School at 9 p.m. on Wednesday under the sponsorship of the evening school's Student Council.

The singing group is directed by Mrs. Margaret Armstrong and Samuel Wilson.

Open to the public, the concert will conclude a series of activities held in connection with the council's attendance drive.

P-TA of School 112 to Hear Dr. Lemmel

Dr. William H. Lemmel, superintendent of public instruction, will speak before the Parent-Teacher Association of Alexander School No. 112 at 8 p.m. on Thursday.

George L. Jude is P-TA president, Mrs. E. Romaine Jones, principal.

South Baltimore Notes

The Modern Mannequins met last Thursday at the home of Mrs. Catherine Cooper, 546 Conway St., and elected officers for 1950. Chosen were:

Mesdames Thelma Gamby, president; Catherine Cooper, secretary; Hilda Simms, treasurer; Goldie Cunningham, business manager; Carter, chaplain and Juanita sergeant-at-arms.

A new member, Mrs. Gurnee Brown of 2912 Spellman Rd., was welcomed. Other members of the group are Mesdames Marjorie Washington, Emma Bush, Mary Watson and Willie Coglin.

To Worship in Mount Winans

The Rev. Charles V. Smith and gospel choir of Chew Methodist Church, South River, will worship Sunday at the Mary Chew Methodist Church in Mount Winans. Charles Harris is sponsor of the program and the Rev. C. G. Coleman, pastor of the host church.

Mr. and Mrs. Harrison James of 2503 Morgan St. observed their 31st wedding anniversary recently at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Earl Johnson, 2649 Huron St.

Southside Personality

This week's personality choice is Mrs. Sarah J. Bundy of 2704

MRS. SARAH BUNDY

Claffin Ct., Cherry Hill, wife of James Bundy attorney.

Active in civic affairs, Mrs. Bundy is a member of the YWCA board of managers; music director of the Cherry Hill Methodist Church, vice-president of School 159 P-TA, and a den mother of Cub Scout Pack 262.

A music teacher, Mrs. Bundy has one son, Raymond, 100 years old.

Men's Day to Be Marked

The Modern Mannequins of Cherry Hill and the Revere Copper Workmen's Club will be guests, Sunday, at the annual Men's Day program at Star of Bethlehem AME Church in Mt Winans.

Furman L. Templeton, AFRO personnel manager, will be guest speaker. G. W. Hill is chairman of the program committee; William Polk, secretary, and the Rev. W. R. Chew, pastor.

The Peerless Glee Club and John Cook, soloist, were featured last Sunday in a Men's Day program, at Mt. Winans Methodist Church. Miss Shirley Levi, pianist, was accompanist. Cornelius Levi Jr. was chairman of the program, during which over $500 was raised.

The Rev. C. C. Coleman is pastor of the church.

Substation Carriers Organize

Carrier boys of AFRO Substation No. 13, 703 S. Fremont Ave., met last Tuesday and named their organization the Television AFRO Saving Club.

Members include Ellis Mason, George Howard, Charles Powell, Michael Stewart, Debroy Cooper, Roland Stewart, Leon Hill, Turner Williams, Jerome McCleod, Edward Barnes and Marie Littles.

School Coal Piles Seen High Enough

Although the conservation of heat has been urged, local schools have coal stock piles which should carry them safely through the heating season.

A spokesman from the business office of the Department of Education said that coal companies with which its contracts have promised to make additional deliveries when necessary.

Conservation Measures Taken

Principals received a circular from the Department of Education on Thursday urging that custodial staffs use the best firing methods and not overheat the building.

Windows are to be opened only for the necessary ventilation, hot water is to be conserved in the shower rooms; and heat is to be shut off in unused areas of the building.

YMCA Team Working in Day Village

Soliciting memberships from 500 Day-Village families in the current Turner Station YMCA membership drive is the team shown above. Left to right, seated, are Mesdames Mary McGuire, Clarrissa Dunston, Miss Barbara Burke, Mrs. Gladys Finney. Standing are Eugene Merritt, Mesdames Harriet Hanscome and Grace Burke, Anthony Hanscome. Team members not shown include Mesdames Mae Cooper, Vivian Greene, Marie Johnson, Washington McEnnis and Elizabeth Randall.

Pupils Learn of Three Citizenship Qualities

"Neighborliness, humility and wisdom are three qualities "of good American citizens," said William M. Rawlings as guest speaker at the History Week program of Lockerman School No. 100.

Speaking recently at Mt. Hebron Baptist Church, Mr. Rawlings said that leaders of any group must be willing to share their knowledge and to inspire others to leadership.

The program was sponsored by the Parent Teacher Association of the school. Music was by the Grace Girls Choir directed by Mrs. Mercedes Douglass.

Presiding was Mrs. Rosie Holley, P-TA president. William H. Proctor, principal of the school, introduced Mr. Rawlings who is supervisor of adult education. Invocation was by the Rev. James H. Matthews.

Bayard Rustin to Talk at Morgan Assembly

The Assembly Committee of Morgan State College will present Bayard Rustin, field secretary, Fellowship of Reconciliation, in a lecture in the Christian Center at 1 p.m. on Tuesday.

His subject is "The Hydrogen Bomb — Security or Insecurity."

To State Income Tax Payers

The State Legislature has made the following changes in the Maryland Income Tax Law which are applicable to returns to be filed for the year 1949:

1. Credit for each dependent has been increased to $600. If the dependent is 65 years of age, an additional credit of $600 is allowed.
2. An additional personal exemption of $1000 is allowed the taxpayer if he has attained the age of 65 years and additional $1000 if his spouse has attained the age of 65 years.
3. The Optional Method of Computation can now be used when not more than $500 is to be reported as Dividends, Interest and Annuities. This later change does not effect the computation under the regular method.

No Revised Forms Will Be Issued. The Changes Can Be Given Full and Proper Effect in the Forms Already Distributed.

Supplemental Instructions have been prepared showing how these changes can be effected, and they are available at Banks, Court Houses and other Public places, or a copy can be obtained by contacting this office.

COMPTROLLER OF THE TREASURY
STATE OF MARYLAND
Income Tax Division
34 HOPKINS PLACE, BALTIMORE 1, MD.

Award to Membership Drive Winner

Mrs. Carrington L. Davis, left, and Mrs. Ethel J. Day, co-chairmen of the Membership Enrollment Month at the Madison Avenue Branch of the YWCA presents award to Mrs. William A. Jones, right, for bringing in 98 members. Mrs. Jones was the individual bringing in the highest number of members during the month.