MINISTER KEPT BUSY — The Rev.W. L. Clayton, pastor, Macedonia Baptist church, was kept busy on Christmas Eve. Here, he hurries home after visits to a shopping center, a tailor shop and hospital where he helped cheer the patients.

TOOK HOLIDAY JOY TO THE AGED—Members of Girl Scout Troop No. 520 serenaded residents of the Methodist Church-sponsored N. M. Carroll Home for Aged, 822 N. Carrollton ave., during the holiday season. Mrs. Grace Burkett is leader of the group. Left to right are Bernina Williams, Laura Ricks, Merle Jewett, Quanta Smith, Charlotte Whitehead, Diana Harden, Nettie Harris, Joyce Jones, Roslyn Smith, Marcia Tyson, Ruth Turner, Sandra Blount, Linda Scott, Carol Spencer, Carolyn Jessup, Lisa Shipley.

BACKED BY EXPERIENCE — A veteran pharmacist of 45 years, Dr. Benjamin A. Green, 68, of 2521 McCulloh st. fills a prescription at his drug store, McCulloh and Laurens sts. He works an average of 12 hours a day, filling approximately 20 new prescriptions daily and filling many for chronically ill patients needing medication. He is a widower.

AFRO FOTONEWS

About Baltimore

January 2, 1954

Afro-American.

ROOKIE OF THE YEAR—James (Junior) Gilliam, the Brooklyn Dodgers' second baseman, looks over Christmas gifts and congratulatory messages which he received upon being selected "rookie of the year" in the National League. In the Cherry Hill community, the Gilliams, including four-year-old son, James Jr., live at 611 Cherrycrest rd., Apt. F.

RED PRISON WAS NEVER LIKE THIS—Cpl. Robert C. Stell who gained worldwide fame last April as the first POW released by the Reds, after 28 months in a Communist prison camp enjoys his first Christmas home with his mother, Mrs. Lulu Stell, in their Cherry Hill home at 2926 Carver rd. Discharged from the army a month ago, Stell plans to enter college in February.

THE CONTINENTAL TOUCH — The jaunty beret worn by Emory Bruce, 33, of 1739 McCulloh st., is an import from France. Mr. Bruce, who operates a carry-out shop, prefers berets to hats and has a large collection of them. His classy chapeaux always attract a lot of attention.

NEW LAW OFFICE — U. Theodore Hayes, attorney, and his secretary, Mrs. Frances Smith, look over the morning's mail in his new office at 1519 Pennsylvania ave. Practicing since 1942, he's a graduate of Morgan and Howard U. law school.

PAINT-UP TIME—A coat of paint is being applied to the outside window frame by Miss Marian Dowell who lives with her mother, Mrs. Ida Dowell, at 1544 N. Carey st. Miss Dowell enjoys wielding a paint brush and the holiday appearance of the home paid tribute to her effort.

TIRE NEEDS FIXING—Flat tires are the business of H. Stewart, 1931 McCulloh st. who is employed by the R. C. Tire company. He estimates that it takes about five minutes to repair a flat tire. A new tire lasts between 12,000 and 15,000 miles, front tires being subject to the greatest wear.

1953 Was Eventful Year For Baltimore, Md.

Baltimore's top stories for 1953

All members of editorial staff agree on market fire

By JESSE H. WALKER
Editor, Baltimore AFRO

What do I consider the ten top stories occurring in Baltimore and vicinity during 1953?

Not necessarily in the order of their importance, they would be the following:

Mr. Walker

1. The release of Cpl. Robert Stell as the first POW from Baltimore and the subsequent return of other Marylanders from Communist prison camps.
2. The appointment, training and integration of colored firemen into the Baltimore Fire Department.
3. The first indictment of a policeman for violation of a citizen's civil rights as an Annapolis patrolman was indicted here by the federal grand jury.
4. The Lafayette market fire.
5. The new policy of the Lyric Theatre in permitting Miss Marian Anderson to sing here next year.

The Friday Slaying

6. The bizarre slaying of Mrs. Emily Friday, the popular barmaid.
7. The riots at Crownsville.
8. The debunking of the story told by a white singer who claimed that a huge colored man had attempted to attack her in Druid Hill Park.
9. The running stories on the outdoor swimming pool situation in Baltimore which resulted in an NAACP suit filed in federal court.
10. The Robert Terry case and the alleged crime wave it inspired.

IKE DIXON
Died in 1953

First firemen named in 1953

For the first time in the history of the city, ten colored men were appointed to begin 35 days basic training as firemen in Baltimore in October, 1953.

The ten appointees included:

Charles L. Scott, 1820 E. Lafayette ave.

George C. W. McKnight Jr., 5806 apt.—A Han ct.

Louis Hamden, 2507 Harlem ave.

Charles T. Miller, 2009 Westwood ave.

Cicero Baldwin, 616 Stockton st

Lee D. Babb, 1043 N. Broadway

Earl C. Jones, 1612 Harlem ave.

Lindsay Washington jr., 728 Dolphin st.

Roy Parker, 3312 Auchentoroly terr.

Ernest H. Barnes, 3437 Round ave.

Emily Friday case near top

Barmaid's slaying remains mystery

By JAMES D. WILLIAMS

The old year produced a bumper crop of outstanding news stories, but the 10 listed below represent what I consider the really top-stories of 1953.

Mrs. Williams

The Emily Friday murder case. Here are all the elements of a classical detective story. A popular and well known person mysteriously slain, the police baffled, and no solution in sight. The alleged escape attempt of Tunnel Joe Holmes. Rarely has any person captured the public imagination as Tunnel Joe Holmes has done, and almost everything this man does makes news.

Market Fire

Lafayette market fire. For many years old Lafayette market stood as one of this city's landmarks. It was an ugly structure but it was as much a part of Baltimore as the white steps. Its destruction symbolized the end of an era.

The return of Cpl. Robert Stell. As the first Baltimore prisoner of war to be released by the Communists, Corporal Stell came home to a tumultuous welcome and to find that through the kindness of strangers, his family had a new home, proving once again that people do have hearts.

The arrest and trial of Robert Terry. The murder of a librarian touched off one of the greatest manhunts in the history of Baltimore. It came to an end with the capture of 17-year-old Robert Terry, his trial, conviction and the imposition of a life sentence.

The Jones Case

The paternity case against the Rev. Arthur Jones. A young choir singer charged that the minister was the father of her baby. He answered her charge with a denial, thus touching off one of the most sensational cases to hit the town last year.

The Crownsville riot. The mental hospital at Crownsville had long been under fire and the 1953 riot in which a great deal of property damage was done, helped launch an investigation into conditions at the institution.

Sandy Point Park

The Sandy Point Park issue. Ordered to admit colored bathers to the publicly owned white beach at Sandy Point, the state closed down Sandy Point and opened an intensive effort to equalize the facilities at the colored beach. The facilities were later declared equal, and segregation continued.

The first 10 colored men admitted to the fire department. A long standing policy against the admittance of colored men to the fire department came to an end in 1953, marking another milestone in human relations in Baltimore.

The explosion of the story by a blonde singer that she had been attacked by a colored man. When the blonde first made her charge that she had been attacked, some segments of the press made a major issue out of it, but the story was later proved to be manufactured of falsehoods.

LAFAYETTE MARKET FIRE—This graphic photo was shot by AFRO photographer I. Henry Phillips at 4 a. m. on May 4, the morning a 12-alarm, $2,000,000 fire levelled Baltimore's Lafayette Market and a two-block area. Photo was made at height of blaze which was one of most spectacular in the city since famed Baltimore Fire of 1904.

CARPENTIER VS. HEMINGWAY:

$7,500 slander suit ranks on Jenkins' list

By RUTH JENKINS
City Editor, Baltimore AFRO

Certainly not the most important story of the year, but certainly one which attracted the intense interest of AME church men throughout the nation was the Federal court case in which the Rev. M. C. Carpentier won a $7,500 slander suit against Bishop L. H. Hemingway.

The court Miss Jenkins was packed with church dignitaries, clergymen, church officers and supporters during the two-day trial during which the Rev. Mr. Carpentier testified that Bishop Hemingway reflected on his character as a trustworthy minister in a public statement at a conference meeting.

On March 27, 1953, the bishop filed a motion for a new trial of the case, but on May 1, this motion was denied. Since then, the court records show, the judgment has been paid and the case is now closed.

In my opinion, the 10 Baltimore news stories which held most readership appeal in 1953 were as follows:

1. Lafayette market fire.
2. Terry (crime wave) murder case.
3. Cpl. Robert Stell (and other POW's) return home.
4. Austin Scarlett's going to prison.
5. Tunnel Joe Holmes' second escape try.
6. Murder of Emily Friday.
7. Rev. M. C. Carpentier's winning $7,500 slander suit from AME Bishop L. H. Hemingway.
8. Sandy Point state park case.
9. Mergenthaler school board hearings.
10. Lott Glover hanging.

JOYOUS 1953 SCENE — This photo of Pfc. Roosevelt A. Lunn of 1044 W. Fayette st., Baltimore, greeting his mother, Mrs. Theola Lunn, was duplicated in many homes throughout the country in 1953 as freed POWs arrived home from Communist prison camps. Pfc. Lunn spent almost 30 months as a prisoner.

Returning POWs made list of every reporter

By SHIRLEY KYLE

There are several dark clouds in my list of the top 10 stories for 1953, but gleaming through are some streaks of silver lining:

Miss Kyle

In January the city was sent into hysteria by the sudden announcement through the daily papers that we were having a crime wave. Out of that grew the holdup murder of Mrs. Lenore Naylor, librarian.

Arrested and later convicted and sentenced to life was 17-year-old Robert L. Terry.

Crime Wave

A few weeks later, in February, the daily papers gradually withdew their "crime wave" statement, when a blond singer, Mrs. Estelle (Chris) Allen, lied to police that she had been stabbed by a colored man, near the scene of the Naylor murder.

Then, in the same month, came the Crownsville riot when inmates, confined in the criminally insane building No. C, started an uproar which brought out Anne Arundel county, local and state police.

In March, Northwest Baltimoreans began to worry about their personal safety as the district police started making unprecedented searches of persons in the bars and taverns without warrants.

Police Brutality

During this turmoil there was the police brutality case of Mrs. Bernice Wilkens, the young mother who was dragged from her home in her bedclothing, torn by Sgt. James Dunn of the Northwestern district.

The sergeant had charged her with disorderly conduct because she had refused to give her name. The case was dismissed at Pine st. police court.

In May, 500 Northwest families were forced to leave their homes when the historic Lafayette market was completely destroyed by fire. Thanks to the Red Cross, these people were were placed in other homes and the stall owners are now looking forward to a modern, brick building with parking facilities.

POW Returns

Later in the month, the hopes of several parents were brightened when Cpl. Robert Stell, 20-year-old soldier, was the first prisoner of war released by Communists in Korea.

This started off a chain reaction which caused a joyful reunion of several families during the summer months.

By August, however, our eyes turned to new tragedies when two youngsters were drowned in excavation holes. Placing the blame on the fact that Baltimore has provided only one swimming pool for its colored citizens and six pools for the white persons, the NAACP filed suit in the U.S. District Court, declaring the segregation unconstitutional.

Segregated Unit

Later in the month, we were faced with another racial issue when the state asked the 231st Transportation Truck Outfit of the Maryland National Guard to join a segregated Army unit.

This group, which maintained a honorable war record while serving with the Integrated U.S. Army in Korea, was the first from the state to enter the conflict.

In September, Maryland carried out the first death sentence under the McKeldin administration. Lott Glover, convicted of a holdup murder, was hanged.

Firemen Appointed

By November, colored Baltimoreans found a new employment field opened to them, through the efforts of the Urban League, as 10 firemen were appointed to begin 35-day basic training.

And in December, members of the Citizens Democratic Club lit a lamp in politics by proposing a new councilmanic district in the city, to the mayor, insuring representation in future council elections.

Several councilmen have already stated their approval of the plan. Though there are still some technicalities to be ironed out in the proposal, Baltimoreans can expect some action when the council reconvenes next year.

Miracle boy suit ranked

Among top stories on Mangrum list

By HERB MANGRUM

My 10 top stories for 1953 include:

Mr. Mangrum

Lafayette Market Fire

In May of this year the two million dollar fire at Lafayette Market forced 500 persons from their homes and leveled a two block area between Pennsylvania and Fremont aves.

Said to be the greatest conflagration since the "Great Baltimore Fire," the incident resulted in the loss of 12 buildings in addition to the market itself. Thirty other structures were damaged.

Although the area was insured for $80,000...the marketmen and local businessmen banded together to map plans for a new and up-to-date market. Within the first four hours of the fire the Red Cross provided aid for 37 people.

Return Of The POWs

In August eight Baltimore county families were notified that their relatives would be among the first POW's to return home.

Four months prior to the announcement, a Baltimore GI gained fame when he became the first POW to arrive at Freedom Village in Korea. Cpl. Robert Stell was met and congratulated by General Mark Clark.

In August, however, these eight Baltimore men were released:

Pvt. Roosevelt Lunn, Cpl. William Cheatham, Pfc. Albert Threat, Pfc. Ferdinand Sedgwick, Pvt. Clarence Matthews, Cpl. Walter Keene, Sgt. Robert L. Wyatt, and Cpl. James Davis.

Robert L. Terry Case

By far the criminal case that attracted the most attention in the city last January was the 75 cents robbery and slaying of Mrs. Eleanor Naylor.

Sentenced to life in prison, 17-year-old Robert L. Terry of Brooklyn, N.Y. found himself involved in what many termed a "wanton slaying."

The ex-vocational school student who came to Baltimore shortly after Christmas looking for work, was charged with stabbing the Pratt librarian to death while she was en route to a concert at the Lyric Theatre.

"Miracle Boy" Award

In one of the biggest court settlements in years, a 16-year-old Glen Burnie youth, Beverly Gaither, was granted a $95,000 personal injury award.

Knocked from his bicycle in 1951 by a truck, the youth was unconscious for four weeks and at one time had a temperature of 106.

At least $7,500 of the total amount was granted to the boy's father for loss of his son's services.

Within 15 hours after the court ruling, the Gaither family were hounded by two banks, loan associations, and a contractor who wanted them to invest in a housing project.

Crownsville Benefit

For the benefit of 2,465 patients at Crownsville, the AFRO and the Regent Theatre sponsored the movie premiere of "Cry The Beloved Country," which starred Sidney Poitier and the late Canada Lee.

The event netted 10 21-inch television sets for the patients. A total of 7,000 people attended the week-long presentation.

"Tunnel" Joe Holmes

On the eve of July 4, 41-year-old "Tunnel" Joe Holmes made the headlines in another so-called escape attempt from the Maryland State pen.

Plans of the ingenious "engineer" were foiled when prison officials staged a sudden shakedown. In Holmes' cell they found improvised knives, hacksaw blades, and a number of keys.

Sentenced to 40 years for armed robbery, burglary, and jail breaking, Holmes gained national prominence when he dug a 70 feet tunnel from his cell to the outer wall of the prison.

Maryland National Guard

The existence of the segregated Maryland National Guard came to the attention of the nation when 130 men lost their status as guardsmen.

While waiting for the state to provide adequate training facilities the men lost an estimated four to six thousand dollars in drill pay.

The unit, a trucking outfit, was the first Maryland National Guard outfit to serve in Korea.

Sandy Point Park

The on again, off again Sandy Point Beach case came to the forefront last July when the court declared that segregated facilities at the state park were equal.

On July 4 the park was closed down to everyone after it was first declared that the two beaches there were unequal. At least $66,300 worth of work was done on the East Beach.

The Rev. Jones and Singer

On the domestic side of the news a South Baltimore minister created a stir when a teenage choir singer accused him of being the father of her two-month-old child.

At first willing to submit to a blood test, the minister retracted his statement and asserted that he would not submit to the test.

The teen ager's lawyer pointed out that "the blood test will serve as God's instrument."

In August of '53, the Northwestern district police came in for criticism when a 21-year-old Provident Hospital nurse, Miss Betty L. Evans, claimed she was arrested at her home and held 30 hours without reason.

Taken from her home in the 1600 block Vincent ct., at 3 a.m. in the morning, the young woman claimed that her apartment was searched without a warrant.

Narcotics squad officers were looking for the young woman's brother at the time.

WENT TO JAIL—Austine Scarlett, convicted numbers banker, went to jail during 1953 to begin serving his 7-year sentence for conspiracy. Since he entered prison, U.S. justice department has filed a detainer on him charging he entered country illegally.

There were some prominent deaths

E. B. Rea, Milton Calloway
Ike Dixon among those gone

Among the prominent Baltimoreans who died during 1953 were the following:

Ike Dixon, orchestra leader and night club owner.

Bishop M. H. Davis, AME prelate.

Dr. William H. Lemmel, liberal school superintendent.

Mrs. Minnie Lewis, official of Mutual Benefit Society.

Mrs. Blanche Dixon, veteran beautician.

E. B. Rea, AFRO theatrical editor.

L. Ellsworth Toomey, dancing master.

Prof. Milton Calloway, retired Morgan science teacher.

Jefferson Davis, International Longshoreman union leader.

Johnny Christian, Elk and orchestra leader.

Ernest H. Hays, choirmaster, former acting director of music, Hampton Institute.

Swimming pool fight makes list

By BUDDY LONESOME

My top 10 stories for 1953 were:

Mr. Lonesome

LAFAYETTE MARKET FIRE—The greatest conflagration to hit Northwest Baltimore in a decade leveled the historic old market and completely gutted homes in the two city blocks parallel to it.

Some good came out of it, however, for the rainbacked old building which formerly housed the market is to be replaced by a modern, brick building, with attendant parking facilities.

CROWNSVILLE RIOT — The Crownsville riot occurred just at the time when the institution was under fire because of the numerous escapes. Inmates on the third floor of the maximum security building turned into a howling mob that stoutly resisted frantic attempts of Anne Arundel county, local and state police to restore order for more than four hours.

A legislative probe was the results in which part of the blame for the riot was ascribed to brutal attendants working at the mental institution.

CPL. STELL'S RETURN — Baltimore, often referred to as a city league city lately, really made headlines all over the world when Cpl. Robert Stell, 20-year-old soldier, was the first prisoner of war released by the Communists in Korea.

SINGER TOLD A LIE—Right in the midst of a halcyon "crime wave," a blonde nightclub singer made headlines in the daily papers with the lie that a "big dark man" had attacked her in Druid Hill Park.

After an intensive investigation by Northern District police led by Captain Thomas Dunn, however, it was officially determined that the girl told a lie. When police confronted her with certain facts they had learned, she broke down and confessed.

NATIONAL GUARD DISPUTE—The 231st Transportation Truck Outfit fought notably in Korea, in an integrated Army, and amassed many honors and unit citations. On their return, however, the soldiers who were the first to carry Maryland's colors into the Korean struggle, were asked to join a segregated Army unit. The implications here are astounding in view of the fine war record of the 231st while serving with our integrated United States Army.

SWIMMING POOL SEGREGATION — The local swimming pools refused to open doors to all the citizens despite pleas of the NAACP and other civic organizations.

When these efforts failed, the NAACP instituted a suit in the U.S. District Court asking that an injunction be issued declaring the segregation unconstitutional. Baltimore has six outdoor swimming pools for white persons and one for its colored citizens.

SANDY POINT CLOSED—What looked like a great victory for the colored population occurred when Judge W. Calvin Chesnut ruled that facilities at the state-owned Sandy Point park were definitely not equal. The jurist ordered the state to stop the discrimination immediately.

Maryland could either open wide that part of the park referred to as South Beach, and reserved for whites, to all citizens, have staggered days, or close the entire park.

The latter course was taken and hurry-up construction on the jim-crow East Beach was completed.

TUNNEL JOE ESCAPE TRY —Tunnel Joe, the redoubtable Maryland penitentiary prisoner who tunneled through the thick walls of the Penitentiary to escape, in 1951, always makes news.

He captured the nation's fancy by his engineering feat.

In June of this year Tunnel Joe tried again but was stopped before reaching the outside.

THE CRIME WAVE — The crime wave which hit Baltimore in January and February had the whole city on the verge of hysteria.

Colonel Ober, police commissioner, tried to restore the public's calm with a release stating that the number of crimes committed only seemed higher because of a new record system.

This didn't satisfy the public appetite, however, and after several robberies, the Northwestern district police made wholesale raids in which several persons were picked up for "investigation," but later released.

$95,000 DAMAGE AWARD — Beverly Gaither, 16-year-old Glen Burnie youth, was awarded $95,000 by a Baltimore Circuit court.

He was injured when knocked off his bike by a department store truck. Beverly was in a coma, with 105 degree temperature for 100 hours.

The trial lasted a week and veteran attorneys attested called it one of the biggest damage awards in the court's history.

SEPARATE AND NOT EQUAL—Shown at top is Druid Hill park swimming pool at Clifton Park reserved solely for white citizens. At bottom is photo of area designated as site for the new Cherry Hill swimming pool, which has been in the planning stage for at least three years but still isn't completed. After repeated pleas to city officials asking entrance all citizens to the local outdoor pools had failed, the NAACP filed suit in U.S. District Court, in September 1953, asking that the pools be opened. The plaintiffs in the suit, which is a request for a permanent injunction are Charles Isaacs, Paul J. Cockrell, Marion Banfield, Jamie Livingston, Marvin Livingston and Robert Williams. They based their specific complaint on a trip made to Clifton Park in an attempt to gain entrance to the swimming pool. All were refused admission with the exception of one of the plaintiffs, who is white.

A FAMILY AFFAIR—Al Hunter of 1218 N. Stricker st., handyman for a local real estate dealer, was given the job of fixing the steps on this house at 1824 Division st. He was soon joined by his wife, Eleanor, who pitched in with a helping hand. They have three children.