—Cop kills wife

(Continued From Page 1)

police came: "They swarmed in both doors and shoved him around. He told them to stop. He wasn't going to run away."

* * *

THREE CAB DRIVERS and a service station attendant said they saw part of the tragedy. The gas station attendant, William Jackson Jr., 900 block Second St., NE, said he saw the accused police officer's car block the taxi driven by his wife. When the explosion of four shots was heard Jackson ran to the scene a half block away, he said. He found Johnson dying outside the cab.

Jackson shouted to a passing taxi to get the license number of the suspect's car leaving the scene.

Bishop Bruce, 200 block Warren St., NE, a part-time cab driver, testified he heard Jackson shout.

He said he noted the suspect's tag numbers. They were AS-63-39 the witness said. Another cab driver, Abraham Rorie, 1200 block Irving St., NE, stated that he heard someone shout, "Call the police." He notified his cab dispatcher to call the police.

* * *

WILLIAM McCLOUGH, unit block Myrtle St., NE, testified that he was walking near the vicinity and heard the sounds of four shots, but did not see anyone with a gun. Physicians testifying were Charles D. Towns, Casualty Hospital ambulance doctor, who pronounced Mrs. Harrison dead and Dr. A. Legaspi, a Casualty Hospital doctor, who said he treated Johnson at the hospital.

Dr. Legaspi said Johnson told him before he died that Officer Harrison shot him.

* * *

THE FIRST POLICE officer to arrive on the scene, according to inquest testimony, was Pvt. Donald Maglothin of Precinct One. The officer said that witnesses on the scene gave him Harrison's licenses number and described the car as a green Chevrolet.

The officer said that he went to Mrs. Haywood's home where he found Harrison in the bedroom. Officer Maglothin said police recovered the service revolver which contained four empty shells and two unfired cartridges.

Sgt. Lionel Coutre of the homicide squad, who investigated the case, gave the following account of the events leading to the shooting.

Friday night Harrison accompanied his wife on her trips in the cab until midnight.

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FIGURES IN TRAGEDY — Some of key figures whose lives were affected by the twin slaying of Mrs. Lenora Harrison, 34, 2800 block Fifth St., NE, and James B. Johnson Jr., 29. Mrs. Harrison's children, who cried hysterically at inquest Monday which held their father, Officer Matthew Harrison in the slayings, are from left: Gwendolyn, 8; Barbara Jean, 15; Patricia, 13; Matthew Jr., 12, and Ella, 8. Not shown is Anthony, 6. Left inset shows Mrs. Lucille Haywood, 800 block Fourth St., NW, the children's grandmother, and in right foreground is William F. Jackson, 900 block Second St., NE, gas station attendant witness who called police.

'He was a good man,' say kin and friends of Pvt. Harrison

WASHINGTON

"He was a good man."

That five-word statement appears to sum up the attitude of relatives and friends toward Pvt. Matthew Harrison.

Officer Harrison is being held for grand jury action in the deaths of his wife, Lenora, and James (Billy) Johnson, her 29-year-old taxicab companion.

The slayings left the Harrisons' six children motherless and their father in jail. The officer insisted, after allegedly confessing that he shot the pair, that he loved his family, his children and his wife.

"I didn't mean to do it," the park policeman sobbed at the inquest Monday.

Harrison, five years younger than his wife, is described by relatives and fellow workers as a soft spoken man who says little.

"HE WAS MY youngest and best child. All I had to do was call and he would come at any time," said heartbroken Mrs. Lucille Haywood, mother of the defendant.

Private Harrison lived with his wife and family in their six-room house at 2806 Fifth St., NE. He remained very close to his mother and stepfather, George Haywood, who live at 815 Fourth St., NW.

It was at his parents' home that he called police after the Saturday morning tragedy.

* * *

GWENDOLYN HARRISON, 11, daughter of the couple, said her father was with her mother practically all day, Friday, before the tragedy.

The park policeman did not drink, smoke or use profanity, said officers who worked with him every day. He also had a part-time job as a safe driving instructor for a private school.

"If anyone was an examplary police officer it was him," said Cpl. Willie Mason of the Park Police. "I would have bet my pay check he would never be involved in anything like this."

THE OFFICER said every day he hacked at all hours.

"Her husband brought her here about six weeks ago to refill the cab. She said she had driven before. We gave her 110. He was always with her. They seemed like a devoted couple," Mr. Fish said.

Pvt. Harrison shows great emotion viewing wife's body

Pvt. Matthew Harrison was taken from the District jail to the Hall Brothers Funeral Home at 10 a.m. Thursday to view the body of his wife who died of bullet wounds from the park policeman's gun. A deputy U.S. marshal accompanied him.

Officials at the funeral home said Pvt. Harrison broke down and began crying as he viewed the body. He remained only a few minutes.

The Rev. Murden Appling, who preached Mrs. Harrison's funeral, said the visit was arranged after he talked with the park policeman in jail.

* * *

member of the department, from the chief on down, is willing to appear as a character witness for the charged policeman.

Friends and relatives said Private Harrison never disable officer of the law to suddenly go beserk and end up charged in the homicide of his wife and another man?

The story that Private Harrison reportedly tells is that he discussed his domestic difficulties, although it was apparent "something was wrong."

"He always appeared to be in a financial strain," said one of the officers.

* * *

ASKED WHY Private Harrison didn't divorce his wife and leave after she failed to stop an alleged illicit affair, workers close to the defendant said. "He wasn't that kind of a man.

"He wanted to keep his family together. And there was one other consideration. He knew it was difficult to take care of one home, let alone supporting another.

"A lot of men are in a position like that," the officer said. "I've been around Matthew all my life. He was something like me," says L. B. Foman, an uncle of the accused officer. "A man can take so much up to a point and then he just blows up. I had that situation myself once," the uncle said.

WHAT WERE the circumstances that caused this person-

control. He said he was trying to halt a six-year romance between his wife and the other victim.

Police said the officer stated that for the past six years he had known about his wife's relationship with James (Billy) Johnson. He had repeatedly spoken to them about it, police said.

The last time he reportedly talked with Mr. Johnson about his wife before the tragedy was Easter Sunday.

The officer saw them together early Saturday morning leaving 9 Patterson St., NE. He said he didn't know who was with his wife at first but knew it was a man in the front seat.

The defendant told police he followed the cab around until they reached First and K Sts., NE, where he recognized Mr. Johnson. He told his wife to pull over to the curb he wanted to talk with her.

* * *

MRS. HARRISON is reported to have steered her cab away. However, her husband caught the taxi in his car and forced it to the curb. He got out to approach her and Mr. Johnson.

"You're crazy," Mrs. Harrison is reported to have told her husband as he approached.

Private Harrison told police he retreated to his car and took his gun from the seat. He approached the couple again, firing two bullets into his wife.

Police said Private Harrison stated he fired two more into Mr. Johnson as he approached him with his hands in his pocket. A coroner's report showed that the dead man had four bullets, two of which were in the back.

Witnesses at the coroner's inquest expressed sympathy most for his six children. "They will suffer most from this," spectators kept repeating. "We wish something could be done for them," were words heard over and over again.

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Relatives, associates reluctant to talk about Mrs. Harrison

WASHINGTON

Friends, relatives and associates of Mrs. Lenora Harrison had little to say about her when queried by an AFRO reporter this week.

For the most part, they maintained a solemn air of silence about the 34-year-old woman's activities.

* * *

THE MOTHER of six children, she was found unconscious in her taxicab about 4 a.m., Saturday with a bullet wound in her chest and left arm. She was pronounced dead on the scene at 1st and K Sts., NE.

Her companion in the taxi, James (Billy) Johnson of 21 P St., NE, was found critically wounded less than ten feet away. He died two hours later at Casualty Hospital, with four bullet wounds.

Mrs. Harrison's husband, Pvt. Matthew Harrison, 29, a veteran of five years on the U.S. Park Police force, on Monday was ordered held for the grand jury after a coroner's inquest on the slayings.

WHAT WERE the circumstances that led to the double tragedy? No one wants to say.

The six children are reticent about their mother.

Whenever they venture any remark reproving eyes and hands from the family of Private Harrison stop them.

Gwendolyn, 11-year-old daughter of the Harrisons, said her mother drove her taxicab all day Friday, the day before the tragedy.

She said her father was off duty on Thursday and Friday of last week, and rode with her mother most of the time.

"Usually Mama would stop driving whenever Daddy came home from work," the child said.

"Barbara Jean would take care of us whenever she was away. Sometimes I would stay home from school whenever we didn't have any shoes to wear," the child further stated.

* * *

GWENDOLYN SAID she last remembered her mother asking her dad to give the children money to attend a fair at school Friday night. The three oldest girls attend Taft Junior High School.

They are: Barbara Jean, 15; Gwendolyn and Patricia, 13, Matthew Jr., 12, and Ella, 8, attend the Slowe Noyes Elementary School. A younger child, Anthony, 6, is out of school at present because of ill health.

The Harrisons lost two other children early in their marriage. The couple began their courtship while students at Armstrong Technical High School. They were both in their teens when they married.

The children sobbed openly at the inquest over the distraught figure of their arrested father.

* * *

THE TWO PEOPLE who have expressed the most sympathy over the death of Mrs. Harrison are Leroy Upchurch, her brother, and Mrs. Lucille Haywood, the mother of the man who is charged with killing her.

"I loved her like a daughter. She was always good to me," said Private Harrison's mother openly.

"She was all right," said Mr. Upchurch simply.

* * *

OTHER SURVIVORS of the dead woman are her parents, Mr. and Mrs. James Upchurch of Raleigh, N.C.; two sisters, Mrs. Mae Coleman, who described herself as the lady of the house at the Patterson St. address, also denied testimony that Mrs. Harrison had visited her to play cards.

"We don't allow any card playing and drinking in here. Lenora had other friends in the block which she visited," Mrs. Coleman stated.

* * *

THREE OTHER women drivers at the inquest Monday were reluctant to express any opinion about her death.

All denied knowing of any affair between Mrs. Harrison and Johnson.

At the Imperial taxi headquarters, Third and M Sts., NE, E. C. Fish, manager of the firm, described Mrs. Harrison as a reli-

SLAIN IN LOVE TRIANGLE—Mrs. Lenora Harrison, 34, who was fatally shot Saturday, as she sat in a car with James B. Johnson, 29. Police charged her husband, Pvt. Matthew Harrison, with homicide.

Mrs. Jencie Walker and Mrs. Carrie McDonald, and a brother, David Henry Upchurch of Raleigh.

They could not be reached for comment early this week. All members of the family except the senior Mr. Upchurch were scheduled to attend the slain woman's funeral Thursday.

Mrs. Ella Mae Smith of Number 9 Patterson St., NE, described herself as a dear friend of Mrs. Harrison. The Patterson St. address is where Private Harrison told police he saw his wife emerging with Mr. Johnson just before the fatal shooting.

* * *

MRS. SMITH denied testimony that Mrs. Harrison had come to her home the Friday night before the slaying with Johnson.

"Lenora used to drop by here all the time to see me. Billy came here to see his two nieces. His brother married my sister who died several years ago," Mrs. Smith said.

* * *

ON THE MORNING of the double shooting, Mrs. Smith stated, Mrs. Harrison arrived at her home about 12 midnight.

"I met her at the door after I got off from work," Mrs. Smith continued. She denied that Mr. Johnson came with Mrs. Harrison.

"He came in later," she said.

Eye witnesses tells of double shootings

WASHINGTON

William F. Jackson 29, gas station attendant, told the AFRO how he disregarded his own safety and ran to the scene where Mrs. Lenore Harrison and her companion, James B. Johnson, were fatally shot early Saturday morning.

"I wasn't afraid at all," Mr. Jackson said. "I've seen death before — one time as many as six bodies mangled in a traffic accident.

"The shooting didn't upset me."

HE SAID HE was filling a customer's gas tank at the station located near First and K Sts., when the tragedy occurred.

"I saw a car pull in front of a taxi - cab and block it," he said. "I couldn't see who was driving either car at first."

* * *

FOUR SHOTS rang out, Mr. Jackson said, and he saw a man leap into a car, and drive away.

"I started running toward the moving car," the attendant stated "but it was too late. The driver made a U turn and I saw his face. I'll never forget it.

"There was another taxi waiting at a red light signal, I yelled to the driver, 'get that man's license number!' The taxi driver followed the man who I learned later was a policeman, and got the number.

"Meanwhile, I ran to the car where the shooting had occurred.

"I saw a man slumped in the street, right outside the back door of the car.

"I asked him how he felt. He said he didn't feel so good.

Mr. Jackson said he called police at a police call box, and came back to the scene.

* * *

LOOKING into the car, he saw for the first time, the woman slumped over the steering wheel.

"I didn't know she was in there," he said. "I thought the man outside the car had been the driver."

* * *

HE SAID a crowd gathered quickly. Mrs. Harrison was pronounced dead on the scene by a Casualty Hospital ambulance physician. Mr. Johnson died at the Hospital two hours later.

Mr. Jackson said he later saw Pvt. Matthew Harrison who was arrested in the shooting at police headquarters.

"I recognized him as the man I saw drive away after the shots."

Children faint at service

- 6,000 view policeman's wife's body
- Bodies of pair in twin killing at Arlington

WASHINGTON

Following separate funerals during which members of their families collapsed from grief, Mrs. Leonra Harrison, 34, and James B. Johnson, 29, were buried at Arlington Cemetery, Thursday afternoon.

They were victims of a double shooting Saturday morning in which Mrs. Harrison's husband, Park Policeman Matthew Harrison, 36, is being held for the grand jury.

Their graves are about a quarter-of a mile apart in adjoining sections in Arlington Cemetery.

* * *

TWO OF Mrs. Harrison's six children fainted while taking a final look at their mother during services at Hall Brothers Funeral Home.

Barbara Jean, 15, was given smelling salts but Matthew Jr., 12, had to be taken outside to be revived.

The other children were consoled by nurses and relatives in the funeral home.

* * *

AT. MT. AIRY Baptist Church, Johnson's mother, Mrs. Lena Johnson, broke down as she viewed her son's body for the last time.

"My baby, my baby," the weeping mother sobbed.

A nurse administered to her while other members of the slain man's family showed their grief with silent tears.

About 40 persons attended Johnson's funeral, Mrs. Ginger Johnson, his estranged wife, was present but showed little emotion. Once she was seen dabbing her eyes with her handkerchief.

* * *

THE REV. JOHN H. KENNEY, acting pastor of the church, officiated at the rites. His theme was "Lord thou has been our dwelling place in all generations." He made no reference to the manner in which Johnson came to his death.

Later, the Rev. W. C. Davis came in and sang a solo.

An unidentified man, apparently an Army buddy of te dead man, took a position in front of the flag-draped casket twice during the 40-minute service. He placed his hand over his heart and then wiped his eyes with a handkerchief.

The deceased was the only son of Mr. and Mrs. James B. Johnson Sr., 1500 block Independence Ave., SE. The father was stern and rigid during the funeral. Two sisters, Mrs. Helen Shavis, and Mrs. Maise Carter, and a daughter, Beatrice, also survive.

Mrs. Letitia Quick, a neighbor of the dead man, read a paper at the service expressing the esteem in which he was held by those who knew him. He was an Armstrong High School graduate.

* * *

AT THE HALL Funeral Home approximately 50 persons attended services for Mrs. Harrison. About 10 of these were relatives, including her mother, Mrs. Ella Upchurch of Raleigh, N.C.; Mrs. Harrison's children, six brothgrs and sisters and the mother of her husband, Mrs. Lucille Haywood.

Another 300 persons crowded the street outside the funeral home during the one-and-a-half hour service. The crowd inside and out began to shout and shed tears openly when the children and parents began crying over the body of the slain woman.

Previously, it was estimated about 6,000 persons had visited the funeral home to view Mrs. Harrisons' body.

* * *

THE REV. MURDEN APPLING of Southern Baptist Church conducted the services. He said several of the Harrison's children were members of his church and their father and mother attended services there.

"I am not here to preach for the dead. She has already preached her funeral," the minister declared, adding, "I am here to talk to the living."

He took his text from Revelation 7:17: "And God shall wipe away all tears."

The minister concluded by saying, "I recommend God to you children. He will be a mother and father to you. Don't worry about whose right—just make sure you live right."

A procession of 75 cars followed the body to Arlington. Spectators from the crowd commandeered taxis to join the procession.

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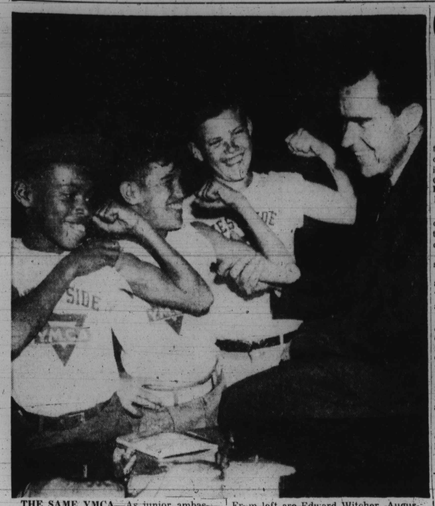

THE SAME YMCA—As junior ambassadors of goodwill, Friday these young fellows called on Vice President Nixon in Washington and presented him with a letter by George Washington condemning racial and religious prejudice. The Vice President felt their muscles. From left are Edward Witcher, Augustine Rodriguez and Timothy McAuliffe. In New York, everybody joins the same YMCA. Baltimore has not yet ordered integration of children in the YMCA or Boy Scouts.

Test Liquor Board's ruling on colored-white taverns

The Liquor Board's racial ban on taverns and nightclubs in Baltimore is expected to be put to a test next week in Baltimore City Court.

At that time, Judge Michael Manley will decide the constitutionality of the board's ruling that white and colored patrons can't be served at the same time in bars, nightclubs and taverns.

The decision will be made in connection with an appeal filed by a tavern proprietor who was refused the permit to transfer his liquor license from white to colored on Feb. 24.

* * *

THE APPEAL, filed by George W. DeAngelis, 200 block Paca St., through his attorney, Fred Ginsberg, holds that the board does not have the right to determine who is to be served in the various liquor establishments.

To help guide Judge Manley in making his decision, Baltimore NAACP lawyers have filed a "friend-of-the-court" brief.

Based on the recent decision of the Fourth Circuit U.S. Court of Appeals, outlawing segregation in all recreation places, the brief points out that the board's policy is unconstitutional.

The brief says in part:

"The need to preserve the public peace cannot be used to justify deprivation of an individual's constitutional rights."

Quoting Justice Holmes in the case of Nixon' vs. Herndon, the NAACP attorneys point out:

"States may do a lot of classifying that it is difficult to believe rational, but there are limits, and it is too clear for extended argument that color cannot be made on the basis of a statutory classification."

* * *

FROM THE beach cases of Dawson and Lonesome, the lawyers cite the court's ruling that:

"It is obvious that racial segregation can no longer be sustained as a proper exercise of the police power of the state."

Attorneys working on the legal move are Tucker Dearing, Linwood Koger, Robert Watts and Sen. Harry Cole.

Pending before the board, at present, is a brief, filed by Mr. Watts and Senator Cole, which holds that the board as an administrative agency has no right to establish such a policy without the authority of the state legislature.

* * *

THIS BRIEF was filed in behalf of the Pennsylvania Ave. nightclubs which were forced to close their doors to white patrons due to the policy.

While it is a known fact that everyone wants the ban dropped certain informants report that the board would prefer the court to make the move.

According to others, it appears that the Liquor Board is afraid of facing harsh criticisms from residents in the new areas where license transfers have been refused, should it withdraw its policy.

It is felt that complete integration in all nightclubs and taverns in the city would enrage these residents who in the past have been able to depend upon the policy to keep the liquor businesses in the areas technically "closed."

HOWEVER, SOME persons contend that while the homeowners have benefitted from discrimination, they should be mature enough to accept desegregation without protest.

The feeling is that integration need not prevent these residents from continuing their protests against neighborhood taverns and bars.

Downtown, there is constant objections by several groups who have been barred from Pennsylvania Ave. nightclubs because of the board's policy.

Capitol hero resting well

William Belcher has second attack

WASHINGTON

William H. Belcher, hero of the shooting attack on the House of Representatives last March, is still resting comfortably in George Washington University Hospital a member of his family said Tuesday.

Mr. Belcher, 65-year old House doorman, suffered a heart attack last Wednesday while on duty on Capitol Hill. He has been confined to the hospital ever since that date.

Mr. Belcher is credited with aiding in the capture o one of the four Puerto Rican nationalists who wounded four congressmen March 1. The nationalists shot at representatives in the House Chamber.

Mr. Belcher scuffled with one of the gunman, holding him long enough to be captured by police. The doorman also suffered a heart attack at this time.

He was taken to George Washington Hospital where he remained for over a week before returning to duty. Mr. Belcher has been employed on the hill since 1937 when he was appointed a policeman.

He was one of the first three colored House doormen appointed by the Eisenhower administration in 1952.

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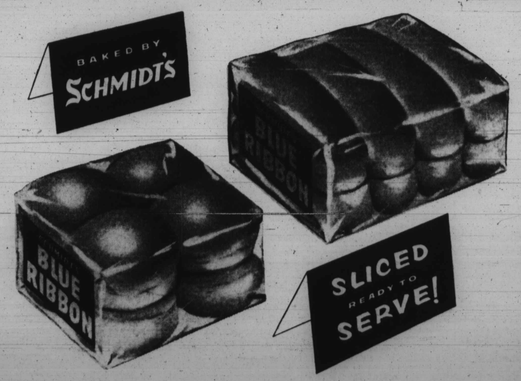
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