Drug trade drops in Baltimore area

Narcotics squad moves to destroy drug racket

Local and Federal narcotics agents have put such a sizeable crimp in Baltimore's illegal drug trade that narcoeics users are finding it difficult to obtain enough dope to become full fledged addicts.

This is the opinion of Lt. Joseph Carroll, head of the local narcotics squad, who has played a major role in reducing the drug traffic to a point where he no longer considers it a major problem in Baltimore.

Drugs are still seeping into Baltimore from Washington but in such small quantities that a user cannot buy more than a few capsulites at a time.

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THIS MEANS the user cannot obtain enough of the drugs to reach the point where he has a habit and goes through actual physical torture if he cannot get the drug, according to Lieutenant Carroll.

"When the narcotics squad was organized in 1951 we arrested a number of addicts who became violently ill when they couldn't get drugs. This happens very seldom now, which means that users aren't getting enough junk to become addicts."

Credit for this state of affairs is given by Lieutenant Carroll to the work of narcotic agents and local laws which make it possible to send a person to jail on a drug conviction for up to 20 years.

MAXIMUM TERMS for narcotics convictions are a $1,000 fine and five years for the first offense; $2,000 fine and ten years for the second offense, and $3,000 fine and 20 years for the third offense.

The law is so worded that it can be applied to not only peddlers but also persons found with narcotics in their possession.

Since the first of the year the law has been used to send away three men described as "major peddlers" and a number of lesser peddlers and users for long prison terms.

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THE HEAVY PRISON terms are believed by Lieutenant Carroll to have discouraged any person seeking an easy dollar from entering the drug racket.

"The other day a man from Texas with a suitcase holding almost 40 pounds of marijuana was caught by out-of-town police. He had a map with a circle drawn around Baltimore. When police asked him about the circle he told them it was to remind him to stay away from Baltimore which was 'hot'," Lieutenant Carroll said.

Another trend also noted by Lieutenant Carroll in the past six months has been a drop in the number of colored persons arrested on narcotics charges.

During recent years more colored persons have been nabbed on dope charges than white, but the six months figures for 1954 show 45 white arrestes and 33 colored.

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HEROIN STILL stands at the top of the list of drugs in use. The manufacture and use of the drug is banned in this country and the heroin used here is shipped in illegally from the Near and Far East, where it is made from the opium plant.

The drug is administered by heating it into a liquid and then shooting the liquid into the body Users fall into two categories. The "skin poppers," who shoot the "H" into their flesh and the "mainliners" who insert the drug into their main veins.

The "main line" system allows the drug to take a quick and more potent effect than the skin method.

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AS BALTIMORE has no facilities for the treatment of drug addicts, most of those caught are sent to the Public Health Hospital in Lexington, Ky., the principal curing spot for addicts in the country.

Among addicts, Lexington is known as "The County Club," and the hospital's records are filled with the names sent back time and time again for a "cure."

A number of narcotics experts believe it is almost impossible for a confirmed addict to ever be cured, and this sentiment is echoed by Lieutenant Carrol who said:

"I would say that only about one per cent of theaddicts are ever taken off the stuff."

THE IMPRESSIVE record chalked up by the narcotics squad in recent months has not blinded Lieutenant Carroll to the fact that the vigilance is needed to keep the drug racket under control.

"I would be less than honest if I said that no drugs are reaching Baltimore, but we have cut down the traffic and we intend to keep cutting it down. It is a vicious racket and one addict or peddler is one too many."

Lieutenant Carroll has been a member of the police force for 13 years. He was promoted to his present grade last December. His squad comprises nine officers.

Pupils from 147 tour AFRO plant

Twenty pupils from the 6A and 6B grades at School No. 147 visited the offices of the AFRO on Wednesday accompanied by their teacher, Mr. Jessie L. Green.

Those conducted in a tour of the AFRO plant were Edward Davis, Vivian Dabney, Lillie Mae Andrews, Carolyn Jefferson, Sonda Chambers, Eliza Mae McCullough, Henry Johnson, Tyrone Elder, Claretta Holloway and Howard Graham.

Also Carl Venable, Blanche Holman, Alice Williams, Dorothy Pack, Dorothy Thomas, Edith Brown, Ada Brown, Delores McClain, Luther James and George Kerson.

ADDICTS' NEMESIS—Top man in Baltimore's Narcotics Squad is Lt. Joseph Carroll. In the background is a case containing an assortment of opium pipes, needles for heroin injections, marijuana cigarettes and other items, confiscated by the squad in its drive on dope users.

Bride seeks groom she married in Aug.

Facts dispute man's claim he's famous Tenn. prisoner

A 41-year-old household worker who married an ex-convict whom she believed gained fame while he was in the Tennessee State Penitentiary is now seeking her missing bridegroom.

He disappeared suddenly after little over a month of married bliss.

But Mrs. Bonnie Delk Riley wants her husband back—even though she's now fairly certain he's not the man he passed himself off to be.

The missing husband is a gent who identified himself around Baltimore as Robert Riley, 39, and one of the famous Prisonaires, a quartet of inmates in the Tennessee State Penitentiary who gained fame through their singing both inside and outside the prison.

But, according to Warden James E. Edwards of the Tennessee prison, the Robert Riley of Prisonaire Fame and the man who wrote "Walking In The Rain" is still confined to that institution.

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THE MISSING Robert Riley evidently not only fooled his new bride; he also fooled a local businessman and a popular show business personality who aided him when he first appeared in this city in July.

At that time he identified himself as Robert Riley, the song writer and member of the quarter. He said he had been in prison since he was 16 years old, had just received a parole and presented papers to that effect.

The man also said he stopped off in Baltimore because his funds ran out on his way to Boston and a job entertaining.

Both the local businessman and the show business personality combined their efforts to obtain the man a job, clothes and a room at the YMCA.

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THEN SUDDENLY he disappeared. He worked on a construction job obtained for him only one day.

In the meantime, however, the present Mrs. Riley, then Mrs. Boonie Delk had heard the man's story over a local disk jockey's show.

Having briefly met the Prisonaires last August while on a visit to her hometown in Nashville, Tenn., she contacted Bal-Baltimore's Robert Riley at the YMCA.

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SHE SAYS the man came to see her and began courting her. On Aug. 8, Mrs. Delk, a divorcee, and the man who said he was Robert Riley were married at Mt. Olivet Free Will Baptist Church by the Rev. Leo K. Ceaser.

went to work for a Mr. G. L. Stencil at the Wayside Inn in Wayside, Md.

On Sept. 16, Mr. Riley, with

On August 13, the couple went to work for a Mrs. G. L. Stencil at the Wayside Inn in Wayside, Md.

the couple's pay check for 137 said he was going into Bel Air to get the check cashed. Mr. Stencil drove him into town early that morning and let him off at the bank there.

Later Riley called his wife to tell her he would be home around 11:30 a.m. He didn't show up, however. He hasn't been seen since.

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"I FIGURED he was somebody from home and trying to get himself straightened out," Mrs. Riley now moans.

"But now that I think of it, a lot of things he said don't jell. I only met the group briefly in Tennessee and couldn't remember what they looked like.

"He knew so much about Chicago. He was always talking about going there. Said something about getting a job at the Persian Lounge or the De Lisa."

"He also said he knew my brother and my former pastor in Nashville.

"Wherever he is," continued Mrs. Riley, "I want to see him."

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MRS. RILEY also says that HER EMPLOYER IS WIG TN her employer is willing to take her missing husband back on his job.

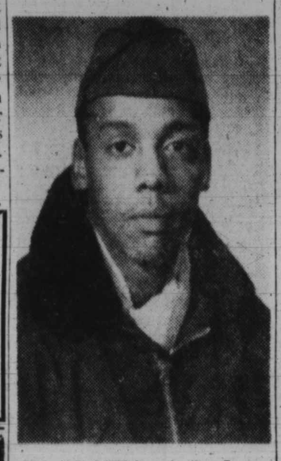
"He's causing me a lot of worry," she admitted.

Meanwhile, the 41-year-old bride has also contacted Warden Edwards and has been assured the man her husband said he was is still in the Tennessee State Penitentiary.

So where's the Robert Riley who descended on Baltimore? Nobody knows.

VISITS SISTER

RALEIGH, N.C. — Mrs. Ida Reid recently visited Washington, accompanied by her son, Joe Reid. She also visited Pittsburgh, Pa., and Detroit as the guest of Mrs. Kitty Bugess, her sister formerly of this city.



IN ALASKA—A/3c Ivan W. Scott, former Morgan State College and son of Mrs. Lelia Scott of 2742 Baker St., is now in service in Alaska. He attended the Medical Field Service School at Fort Sam Houston, Texas.

MRS. BONNIE RILEY
Seeks husband

ROBERT RILEY
Just who is he?

Convicted for robbing Dixon office

One of two men accused of the $246 robbery of the William B. Dixon insurance office was convicted in Criminal Court on Tuesday.

He is James L. Butler, 34, of the 600 block Pitcher St. who has an extensive prison record.

In the Dixon case sentence was suspended pending a motion for a new trial.

Miss Charlotte Murray, office manager, who told police that two men staged the robbery on Aug. 3 was uncertain in her identification of Butler.

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HE WAS POSITIVELY identified however by ten - year - old Arthur Harrod who returned to the office during the holdup after going on an errand.

Judge Joseph R. Byrnes said that in finding Butler guilty, he was considering mostly, the man's confession to police.

His attorney, Joseph R. Rosenthal, sought to keep the confession out of the record on Butler's contention that it was obtained by force.

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HE SAID that police abused him and guided his hand in signing the confession. Records showed that Butler had received hospital treatment and a police department picture was produced showing injuries to Butler's eye after his arrest.

Mr. Rosenthal was successful in winning an acquital for Butler in a seconpd case involving the attempted robbery of a filling station during which the bandit fired three shots at his victim.

This was based on faulty identification.

Daylight Saving Time to end 2 a.m. Sunday

Remember that hour of sleep lost at the beginning of summer when all clocks were turned back? You can regain it Sunday starting at 2 a.m.

At that time daylight Saving time will end and Eastern Standard Time will take over.

Dr. Forte defended by 5 attorneys

On the plea of a battery of five attorneys, Judge Michael J. Manley granted a postponement Friday morning in the arraignment of Dr. A. U. Forte, 62, in eight illegal operations.

Solomon Liss, one of the defense attorneys, told the court they had only received the last indictment against the well-known physical therapist a few days ago and had not had time to determine what plea would be made.

Dr. Forte also faces two additional charges of unlawful practice of medicine.

Also facing trial is Dr. Forte's receptionist, Mrs. Ernestine Thomas, 31, of the 2500 block W. Mosher St., who is accused in two of the cases.

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LISTED AS defense attorneys are Charles Cohen, Solomon Liss, Joseph Rosenthal, Robert B. Watts and E. I. Ulman.

The case is expected to be tried in Criminal Court within the next two weeks.

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