—'My son didn't . . .'

(Continued from Page 1)

over on Lafayette near Hope St.

• • •

MRS. JARVIS ADDED: "Daniel is my first child by my first marriage. His father is dead. His name was Daniel Kier. We're from Roanoke, Va.

"No, we came here to Baltimore 16 years ago. I'm married again now, my husband is Sidney Jarvis. This is his son."

As we talked, a bright-eyed four-year-old came to look at me write.

"My name is Charles Jarvis," he said. "You spell is C-H-A-R-L-E-S. Charles. And J-A-R-V-I-S. Here, let me write it for you. . . I want to write my name. . ."

His mother explained: "He was four years old on April 3. When he was born in University Hospital, my heart stopped beating for five minutes. The doctors thought I had died. They had to take the baby.

"I've always been sickly. I'm not able to work. . .I'm under the doctor's care—Dr. Woolridge, the younger one, is my doctor. . .

"I've got low blood pressure, and I just got out the hospital—Provident—I had an abscess in my rectum. . .everything has happened to me, and now this."

• • •

THE MOTHER CRIED softly as she said of her accused son: —"He was laid off from his job Thursday—they ran out of work. He told me he was going out and try and pick up some. So, he came to me and said he was going to try and pick up some work such as tending lawns.

• • •

"I said, well, if you can do it, son on. That will be a help. Because I had had my husband down—that's the baby's father for some support—down to domestic court — he's on probation — that's right.

"I haven't got the money yet but the judge gave me $25—yes—a week.—I was in court yesterday.

"Daniel would give me money for food, cab fare and the doctor's — and sometimes things would be so bad when he finished he wouldn't even have a penny left.

"BUT HE WAS just so good... to me the little baby too. Plenty of times he told me, 'Mama, don't hurt, don't hurt...don't worry...' and he never missed the rent (paying the rent)...you know it's high rent out in these places...he never missed the rent. . .

"I mean he was a good, hard worker. He usually made about $50 a week. Sometimes with overtimes he made $72. One week there he made $80. When he'd come home, he would be so tired.

"But he was helping me. Sometimes he wouldn't have a penny when Monday morning come. He'd have to borrow money for carefare.

He'd go down to Watty Court to my second mother's and borrow money from her husband."

• • •

QUESTIONED as to whether her son ever went to the movies or sought other recreation, Mrs. Jarvis said: "Sometimes he went to the movies on Saturday. He'd come and tell me, I'd say all right honey. I couldn't say no because after all he worked for his living.

"Yes, he talked to girls. One of his little friends went home . . . back to N.C. Her father took her away from here about eight weeks ago. Naturally, I guessed he missed her. . .Mary was her name, but he never discussed it.

"He had very little to say unless you said something to him."

Asked to comment on the report that sex books were found in her son's room, she said: "I don't know anything about any books. I haven't seen any. I only read the Bible.

(EDITOR'S NOTE: The family's three-room apartment has one bedroom, a den or sitting room, a kitchen and bath. In the one bedroom are two beds.)

"No, I don't know anything about the police finding any keys in our toilet. Yes, I was asleep when they came. I didn't go following them in the bathroom. I'm nervous, I just stick to my room. . .I'm not well Anybody will tell you that. . .

• • •

"I FEEL SORRY . . .for the family involved. . . that's all I can tell you. . ." Mrs. Jarvis added as her voice broke.

She sobbed when asked what she would say to her son if she could visit him in jail: "I want him to pray. . .that's right . . .you understand, pray. . .put his trust in the Lord.

"His parole officer was very nice. . .would come to see him and see me. . .he could tell how sick I was and all. . .Oh Jesus!

"And he was a nice boy when he was small, too. He went to School 112. I remember his teachers always said how nice Daniel was. Everybody calls him Daniel. Miss Russell was one of his teachers, and a grey-haired lady named Miss Wright.

"He got good reports cards all the time, never had a bit of trouble with him in school. He never was in fights and all like that, like some boys.

• • •

"TROUBLE BEFORE? Well, a little when he was 12 year old, but it was nothing bad. He just got in with some big boys. 16 and 18—we went down to Miss Whyte—Violet Whyte—she talked to them, and let them go home.

"The night watchman at the laundry back in Pazrish St., had called up—they were over in the warehouse, or garage back there. He followed behind those 18-year-old boys. . ."

"Trouble back in 1954? Well, I don't know—I was at church. I can't tell you what happened.

"When I knew anything, they came at churc hand got me—the police came.

"Yes, I went to jail to see him. My uncle carried me to see him, but after I went the first time they had carried him up in the other side of Baltimore."

• • •

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ACCUSED—Carl Daniel Kier, 21, of 2923 Westwood Ave., accompanied by Dectective Sgt. Ross Gagliano is shown as he was taken from police headquarters to the county jail in Towson Wednesday afternoon.

They're sick too...

By B. M. PHILLIPS

Human beings are alike in many respects — that is normal human beings.

Most of us thrill when triplets, such as the Pugh and Mack triplets featured in this issue, mark their first birthday. Triplets appear only once in 50,000 births, so they are still an oddity.

Many of us thrill with happiness at weddings or at the end of a contest or race.

Most of us shudder when we hear of or see an auto, train or airplane crash in which lives are lost.

When we read of such crashes where persons involved escape uninjured, we likewise heave a sigh of relief.

And, most of us are shocked when there is a brutal murder or killing such as the murder-drowning of Helen Delores Johnson whose body was found in the Potomac River.

• • •

THOSE OF US who were repulsed by the brutal killing of Helen Johnson, colored, were just as upset two days later when the body believed to be that of Elizabeth Fellers, white, was fished from the same waters.

In other words — a vast majority of human beings—have the same reactions to given situations — they cry with happiness — sob in sorrow.

These are human reactions, and they are common to normal people, no matter what their color, race or religion.

• • •

THERE IS a small minority of human beings—some of them live in Baltimore—who do not follow the pattern. They get pleasure out of other's sadness. They never glory in another's triumphs.

When a colored person kills a white person, they immediately inject the race issue into it.

They do not think in terms of a law violation, but rather that a colored person or all colored persons are responsible.

Some of these people have kept the AFRO switchboard busy this week asking such questions as "now, print that," or "let's see you demand equal rights now that this has happened . . ." etc.

The 'this' to which they refer is Baltimore's most recent brutal murder — that of well-to-do Mrs. Myrtle Bopst who was found beaten to death in her Charles St. Ave. home.

A 21-year-old parolee, colored, has been charged with the killing.

• • •

MOST OF US abhor this crime. Most of us pray the guilty party will be brought to justice swiftly.

And, most of us sympathize with the Bopst family. We feel with them that this is an awful tragedy for which the guilty party should be punished.

And, just as strongly, most of us sympathize with the family of the accused person. We sorrow with them, because if he is guilty as charged they lived with a sick person.

Anyone who commits such a brutal crime is sick in mind and body.

• • •

BUT, WE DO not forget, that just as sick in mind and body are those racists among us who would blame all colored people for a single person's crime or who would dare ask this newspaper where it stands on the matter of brutal murder.

Most normal people abhor murder and other vicious crimes, whether they be committed by white, colored, Jew or Gentile.

And those racists who would accuse colored people or this newspaper's editors of having any other feelings or motives are as sick or sicker than the murderers or rapists or robbers.

The majority of us—irrespective of race—are law abiding and feel no sympathy or remorse for those who violate the laws.

Neighbor

"Oh, my goodness . . . he and his mother roomed right here in my house from October to March . . . he seemed to be a quiet person, and he always looked after his mother . . . she was sorta sickly . . ."

This was the reaction of Mrs. Mardie McPherson, 2723 Westwood Ave., when she was advised by the AFRO that Kier had been arrested as a suspect in the brutal Charles St. Ave. murder.

Mrs. McPherson said that Kier rented a second floor middle room for $5 a week.

"He never talked much. He used to come in from work—his mother said he did fireball painting somewhere.

He was recommended by Deacon Brown of Mt. Zion Church of God in Christ of which his mother is a member and where Mrs. McPherson attends.

• • •

"HE WAS A neat person" Mrs. McPherson recalled, adding, "He liked children. Sometimes when he came in, he would play with my baby—I have five children from 15 months old to eight years. He was very fond of my baby.

"No, he never acted funny or anything . . . he just seemed to be a quiet fellow. He had a phone put in after he moved here. When he left, they moved across the street, I think."

—Landlady

(Continued from Page 1)

would be to themselves.

"I usually don't take children in my apartments, but her youngest son, he's Carl's stepbrother, seemed to be son nice, so I rented to them for $18 a week.

"I was in bed Tuesday night when the doorbell rang, and when I got to the door it was the police. They said they were looking for Carl. It was about 1:30 a.m.

"I told the police I had no Carl there—there was a Carl on the third floor, but I didn't want any noise in my house because my husband had just had a stroke on the first floor, and my brother-in-law was sick with a stroke on the second floor.

• • •

"THEY CAME on in, and went up there—he was in the bed. All night long they were in and out, up and down the steps.

"They tore that apartment apart. They wouldn't tell me anything. I went up there. It was a wreck. Everything had been torn apart.

They had even taken the toilet down. I was there when one of the officers said they had found two keys in the toilet (police were seeking a set of keys stolen from the murdered woman's home.)

"When I saw that mess in the bathroom, I told them, 'all the damage you do, you straighten up.' They did pretty well, but it was a mess.

• • •

"IT WAS 9:30 this morning when they left here—they had taken him out right after they came here," Mrs. Smith said, adding:

"I've been here five years, and I've rented my apartment before, but I have never had any excitement like this.

"I still can't believe it. It must be a frameup. Maybe somebody paid him to take the rap figuring he needed the money since he was out of work.

"I'm so sorry for that woman . . . and for his mother. He was really a nice child . . . always worked hard—looked after his mother . . . and stayed home at night looking at television.

• • •

"HIS MOTHER was here just a month ago. She went down-town. Her nerves are bad. She had a fit when she heard it. I told her, 'get yourself together. You've done your best with your child.'

"I still can't believe it . . . he was such a nice, quiet child. . . Maybe somebody has made a mistake and picked up the wrong party. I certainly hope so.

"He was such a nice, quiet boy. . ."

MRS. MARY E. SMITH
Accused youth's landlady

—Parole Dept.

(Continued from Page 1)

he was up there, he was not in any difficulty with the prison authorities. He did not have any tickets (demerits) nor did he lose any time for infraction of the rules.

• • •

"THE ONE THING that was important in connection with his case was that when he was considered for parole, he had a good job to go to.

"The man and the company that employed him before he went to the reformatory wrote and said we will be glad to give this man a job.

"When he came out, he went to work the next day, at the paint company.

• • •

"JUST TODAY, the head of that company that employed him, called of his own volition. He said, 'I should like to tell you that I felt that this man was a good risk and was glad to employ him.

"During the time he worked for me, he was an excellent employee.'

"Of course, I don't understand what happened—he was under the supervision of one of our better parole officers—they had good relations.

• • •

HE REPORTED fairly regularly. In March this year, Kier got into some little difficulty with another employee and they were both let out.

"The head of the company told me that he felt Kier was not too much at fault. In fact, he assumed him that if he couldn't get a job someplace else, he could come back there and be rehired.

"However, the next day he went out and got a job with a fertilizer company. He worked for that company until last Friday when he was laid off on a seasonal lay-off.

• • •

"ON MONDAY, the day before the tragedy, he came and reported to his parole officer who told him that if he thought he could get a job on his own to go ahead but if he couldn't, to come back Friday.

"I don't know what we could have done in the way of supervision. Here it was Monday of this week that our parole officer talked to him.

"He never had one bit of trouble with him during the whole time.

• • •

"SOMETHING WENT wrong . . . I don't know.

"We don't have any machinery that will let us look into the hearts and minds of men and women and tell us what they're going to do.

"We did the best we could with this man and I have no apologies. Of course, I do feel heart-sick when I think of what happened to that poor woman and her family."

—Police

(Continued from Page 1)

day at 2 p.m.

Earlier reports that the parolee was charged with rape have not been substantiated by police.

FOLLOWING a physical examination at county police headquarters Wednesday, Kier was committed to the county jail on a warrant issued by Committing Magistrate Thomas Hughes.

At the jail, he was placed in Cell No. 11 which was once occupied by Pedro Finley Crooms who was convicted in connection with the death of John (Top) Adams last year.

Taylor, Moore top bishopric candidates

Taylor—Moore top No. 7

NEW ORLEANS — The Revs. Prince Taylor and Noah Moore, North Carolina and Philadelphia-Delaware Conferences respectively, are reportedly making a two-way race for the one Central Jurisdiction bishopric post.

A possible dark horse candidate for the Methodist election post is believed to be the Rev. M. Lafayette Harris, president of Philander Smith College, Little Rock, Ark. Elections are being held on Dillard University campus.

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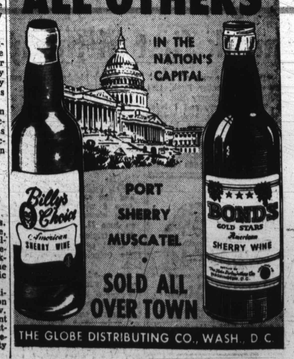

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