Gets 18 Years For Monroe St. Bathroom Murder

'She got up, I stabbed her,' hubby

"I stabbed her. I don't know how many times.

"I went to my wife's house to see if I could take my child downtown the next day to buy her a coat. She said that she didn't want my daughter with me."

"She shoved me out of the kitchen and I hit her. She rushed toward me, and I hit her again and knocked her down.

"When she got up again and rushed toward me, I pulled the knife from my pocket and stabbed her."

"I wiped the blood from the knife and my hand on a bath towel. I left her lying in the bathroom where she had fallen."

* * *

WITH THIS testimony of Reuben Jackson, the March 7, Monroe St. "bathroom murder" case was being concluded in Criminal Court Thursday. The victim was his estranged wife, Mrs. Mira Jackson, 26.

Mrs. Jackson's body was found in the bathroom of her second-floor apartment at 1655 N. Monroe St., by her sister, Mrs. Rasby.

Jackson, 34, said that he stabbed her with a steak-knife he had in his pocket.

"I don't understand why you would have a knife like that in your pocket," commented Judge Joseph Carter of the Criminal Court.

* * *

"THE LINE between first and second degree murder is very narrow," the judge continued.

"The state has not proven you guilty of first degree murder so I find you guilty of second degree murder and sentence you to 18 years in the Maryland Penitentiary."

Two or three of Jackson's female relatives, gathered in the courtroom for the trial, burst into sobs and hurriedly left the courtroom on hearing the sentence.

For the most part, he had sagged in his seat on the bench facing the judge.

He wore a pink shirt, dark blue trousers, black shoes, a green, Army - type field jacket and a striped tie. His speech was halting but clear.

With frequent pauses to draw long, shuddering breaths, and with a visible effort toward self control, he told how the trouble started.

* * *

"I WAS raised in North and South Carolina where I went to the ninth grade in school. I have lived in Baltimore since 1941.

"My wife and I were married in October of 1951. We have one daughter, five years old. We separated in January, 1955.

"I was living in a room in the 2300 block W. North Ave. I worked at Bethlehem Steel in Sparrows Point.

* * *

"ABOUT 5:30, the evening of March 7, I left home to go to a restaurant for dinner. I didn't know the knife was in my pocket.

"I didn't think of going to my wife's place until I was in the restaurant eating. Then I decided to go ask her if I could take my kid downtown to buy her a coat.

"She said that there was no point in me starting to see the kid now because she was going to send her down to Virginia when school was out and she was going to leave town herself.

"When she pushed me out of the kitchen, I hit her...

"That's how the fight started."

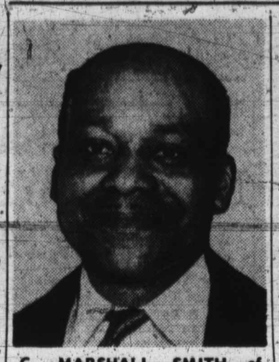
* * *

SGT. JOHN SPIGHT of the Northwestern District testified that when the police reached the apartment, blood was gushing from the nose and mouth of the victim although rigor mortis had set in.

"At first there were no wounds visible," he said.

"But when the ambulance men moved the body, it revealed the stab wounds and we saw that it was not...

Your news tips are worth money. The AFRO has $25 to give each week to alert readers wh ophone in tips on newsworthy happenings.



C. MARSHALL SMITH of Catonsville, a civilian employee in the Ft. Meade Post Quartermaster Office, has been graduated from the Work Simplification Course. Ideas submitted by the graduating class resulted in savings of $29,000.

Housewife in lucky picture

Mrs. Sarah Bonner, 702 W. Mosher St. collected her $5 on Wednsday for being the AFRO Lucky Picture winner.

Mrs. Bonner's head was circled in a picture showing her leaving the Goldenberg Department Store with an armful of bargains.

She is married to Weldon Bonner and they have three girls and two boys ranging in ages from 11 to 2 years.

A housewife, she likes to sew and makes most of her children's clothes. She has been in Baltimore 13 years but is a native of Rocky Mount, N.C.

There is a lucky picture in each edition of the AFRO. Look for it. It may bring you $5.

'Lost everything but our lives'

"For awhile I thought we wouldn't come out alive.

"The house shook like it was in an earthquake and we prayed. We lost everything but our lives."

That's what Mr. and Mrs. George and Serena Haynesworth had to say about an explosion which wrecked their home at 539 W. Conway St., and killed one of their eight children early Tuesday morning.

Buried under a ton of debris, Celestine Haynesworth, 5, was killed instantly when the second floor rear bedroom of her home collapsed.

* * *

IN THE ROOM with her at the time were: Rubin, 15; John, 10; Joyce Ann, 8; and James, 7.

Loretta, 6 months, Vera, 4; and George Larry, 2, were sleeping in the second floor front bedroom with their parents. All were treated for superficial injuries at University Hospital.

Funeral services for the dead girl will be held on Sunday at the Lively Funeral Home, 661 W. Barre St.

Mr. Haynesworth was treated for a lacerated wrist. His wife was treated for multiple bruises and shock.

The entire family wee released from the hospital Tuesday afternoon.

* * *

THROUGH THE Red Cross they were given a place to stay overnight. Wednesday morning arrangements were made for them to move into a three-bedroom apartment at 1010 Shellbanks Rd., in Cherry Hill.

Although given clothing and some articles of furnitute, the family is still in need of additional furnishings and bed clothing.

The entire neighborhood was rocked by the early morning blast which occurred around 5:30 a.m. There was no fire.

Hundreds of persons crowded into the street adjacent to the Baltimore - Washington Expressway, as firemen dug for more than an hour to rescue the family.

* * *

POLICE REPORTED that the cause of the explosion was undetermineed.

The blast blew out all of the front windows, front and rear doors, rear wall and roof.

Firemen described it as a miracle that none of the others were killed.

Fifteen-year-old Rubin, oldest of the seven surviving Haynesworth children is a pupil at Harvey Johnson Junior High School No. 106.

He told the AFRO: "I was the last one out. I was in bed and had turned over to say something when I heard a loud noise and started falling.

* * *

"WHEN I landed, I thought that I was on the second floor but I was on the first.

"I was scared but I called to the others. Everyone answered but Celestine.

"I tried to move and couldn't. There was a pole across my left leg and another across my right shoulder.

"When firemen arrived I told them how to cut through to me."

* * *

A NEIGHBOR, Mrs. Wilma Bell of 537 said the explosiion sounded like an airplane had struck the house.

Mrs. Lillie Powell, a tenant in the same apartment building said the crash sounded like the explosion of a bomb.

The Haynesworth home, owned by Jack Patrushansky was located only three doors away from an attached apartment building which was condemnded by the Health Department in November.

A notice on the door of the building stated: "Order to vacate by Commissioner of Health because premises unfit for human habitation and dangerous to life and health by reason of repair and of defects in the drainage, plumbing, light and construction."

'All we have . . .' and a mother smiled thanks

"This is all we have." Miss Michele Douglas, a seventh grade pupil at School No. 106 smiled as she presented Mrs. Serena Haynesworth the sum of $25.68 in small bills and change Thursday afternoon.

Still dazed, Mrs. Haynesworth whose five-year-old daughter, Celestine, was killed and four of her other children injured Tuesday morning, when an explosion rocked their home, smilled her thanks.

The money had been raised for the stricken family by Miss Douglass and other residents of the South Baltimore community.

THEY PRAYED—While trapped under the wreckage of their home at 539 W. Conway St., Baltimore, which was demolished by an explosion Tuesday, the family of Mr. and Mrs. George and Serena Haynesworth prayed. The Red Cross found a new home for them in Cherry Hill. The mother is holding Lorett, 6 months; at her left is Joyce Ann, 8; James, 7; Vera, 4; George Larry, 2; Rubin, 15; and John, 10. Their eighth child, Celestine, was killed in the explosion.

Not guilty in 'illegal search' case

"Because the search warrant did not specifically name her, the state will not contest the plea of Mrs. Florine Washington of 'not guilty' to a charge of lottery."

"We had received complaints of lottery at the home of Earl L. Scott in the 1600 block N. Fulton Ave. We placed the house under surveillance on April 12, 13, 14 and 15.

"On April 16, we felt we had enough evidence of lottery and secured a warrant to search the premises.

* * *

SGT. JOHN SPIGHT, of the Northwestern District was testifying Thursday in the lottery case against Earl L. Scott and Mrs. Florine E. Washington.

Scott was found guilty and sentenced to the House of Correction and fined $1,000 and costs. Criminal Court Judge Joseph Carter pronounced the sentence.

Mrs. Washington's attorney, Jacques Leeds, entered a "not guilty" plea in her behalf. The state refused to contest the plea because police illegally searched her pocketbook.

* * *

"WHEN WE entered the house," Sgt. Spight said, "we found Scott seated in the dining room. Before him on the table were lottery slips with 637 numbers listed, $24 in bills and $3.77 in coin.

"In the kitchen, we found another slip listing 46 numbers, a lottery tape and a syndicate card.

"All told, we found six slips, listing 638 plays amounting to $114.49.

* * *

"WHEN MRS. WASHINGTON entered the house as we were searching, we showed her the warrant. She surrendered her purse and in it we found one lottery slip listing six numbers plays."

When Mrs. Washington heard that she would not have to stand trial, her previously tense, drawn face relaxed into smiles.

She was tastefully dressed in a simple dark suit accented by costume jewelry.

* * *

MR. SCOTT's attorney pleaded that his client had been unable to work since January. He said that a heart condition prohibited him from working.

"He just sort of drifted into his household expenses and doctor bills," the lawyer said.

Judge Joseph Carter said:

"He certainly knew what our policy was concerning lottery when he 'drifted' back.

"He went into it with his eyes open. He took the chance.

"I can't stop him from taking a chance but there's nothing I can do for him."

Ministers object to night club permit

"Give this tavern a night club permit and we will be forced to change the hours of our church services."

That's what one of three ministers who obejcted to the issuance of an entertainment permit for a tavern in the 1700 block Madison Ave., told the Board of Liquor Commissioners Thursday.

The Rev. W. H. Taylor, pastor of Emmanuel Christian Church which is adjacent to the premises owned by Melvin Macklin declared: "The way it is now our church is greatly disturbed.

"Only a wall separates our church from that of the bar and sometimes we have to preach loud to drown out the noise from the other side."

* * *

IN ADDITION to the night club license, Mr. Macklin asked the Board to transfer a Class "D" beer, wine and liquor permit owned by John T. Brady from 1518 Rutter St. to his establishment.

The applicant now holds a beer and wine permit for the Madison Ave. premises.

Protests were filed by the NAACP., the Northwest Residential Protective Association, Payne Memorial AME Church, Emmanuel and Berea Temple, Seventh-day Adventist Church.

Ind addition a petition bearing the signatures of 422 protestants was given to the Liquor Board.

Thirty-five protestants were present at the hearing. They were represented by Mrs. Juanita Jackson Mitchell, attorney.

A total of 18 persons spoke in favor of the application. None were property owners.

Among others who testified against Mr. Macklin were: The Rev. William P. Mitchell, the Rev. W. A. Thompson, George Cummins, Mrs. Lillie M. Jackson, Mrs. Florence Snowden, and the Rev. Edward E. Lickman.

One officer freed, second gets two years in tavern shooting

"I am a little confused about how the whole thing happened in view of the injuries inflicted.

"My inclination would be to hold you both for such unwarranted action, but I don't think I can do that because the state has not proved you guilty beyond a reasonable doubt.

"You are entitled to the benefit of the doubt..

"The fortunate part about it is there was nobody else in the place, and there wasn't somebody killed.

"I regretfully have to find you both not guilty of assault."

* * *

WITH THESE words Criminal Court Judge Joseph Carter dismissed charges of assault to murder against Northwestern Police Officer Stanley Brown and Special Officer Will Nettles. They were charged in connection with a February shooting in a South Baltkmore tavern.

For carrying a pistol without a permit, however, Judge Carter sentenced Mr. Nettles to two years in the House of Correction.

Judge Carter added as he sentenced Mr. Nettles:

"This thing might not have happened if Nettes had not had a gun. It takes two to make a fight."

* * *

NEITHER OF the accused officers took the stand in his own defense.

Officer Brown was dressed in a neat blue suit and seemed composed.

Mr. Nettles however, appeared to be nervous as the trial progressed. He and Officer Brown sat within ten feet of each other on the courtroom's front bench, but neither glanced in the other's direction during the two-hour trial.

* * *

"IT JUST ISN'T fair," complained Mr. Nettles, a tall porly, balding man, as he was led out of the courtroom to jail.

Officer Brown left the courtroom in company with his companion on the evening in question—Miss Ernestine Griffin, a costmetics saleswoman.

She beamed when he said of the verdict,

"I am so happy."

* * *

THE CASE started early on the morning of February 20 in a bar in the 100 block Hamburg St.

Both the officers involved and a third man, the barowner were wounded by gunfire.

The bar owner Jerome Friedlander, testified that the argument started as Nettles was closing the bar at about 1:30 a.m. Feb. 20.

* * *

HE TESTIFIED that Nettles had drawn his pistol and had put it away when Officer Brown off duty and in plainclothes started toward the door.

He said that Officer Brown drew his pistol and the two men wrestled. He said he was struck in the arm and side from a bullet fired by Officer Brown.

He added that the bullet first struck Mr. Nettles on top of the head and glanced off the bar.

He said he did not know if another shot was fired.

Officer Brown was also shot. The bullet lodged in his neck next to the spinal column.

* * *

HOWEVER, Officer Phillip Sperlein, who was in the store adjoining the tavern, gave another version.

He said he heard a shot before he entered the tavern, and saw Officer Brown fire the shot which hit Nettles and Friendlander.

Only one bullet was fired from each man's gun, he testified.

Officer Brown surrendered his weapon immediately when ordered; it was not until some time later, he testified, that he learned that Mr. Nettles also had a gun and took it from him.

* * *

HE SAID that Officer Brown identified himself as a policeman when they were at the callbox to summon the police cruiser.

Miss Griffin testified she had advised Nettles that her companion was a policeman.

* * *

OFFICER SPERLEIN told the court that at the time of the incident, Nettles's commission as a special officer had expired.

Under city law, special officers like Nettles are not permitted to carry guns. City policemen like Brown are required to carry theirs at all times.

Officer Brown, who has been on the police force since 1953, still has to face a police department hearing.

His commanding officer, Capt. Millard Horton, had commended him as an exemplary officer.

He was represented in court by E. Everett Lane attorney, Mr. Nettles was represented by Harry Kaplan.

Shot 4 times with 1 bullet

"One bullett made four holes in my legs. I'm lucky to be alive."

That's the story an innocent bystander who happened to be in a crowded bar when someone fired a pistol had to tell Sunday in Southwestern Police Court

Leon Brooks of 3 N. Amity St., said he was standing near the juke box at a bar in the 900 block W. Baltimore St., when a bullet entered his right leg above the ankle, continuing through the left leg, glanced off a wall and re-entered both legs.

* * *

IN CONNECTION with the shooting Read S. Byrd, 31, of the 100 block N. Amity St., was ordered held in bail of $2,800.

He was charged with shooting Mr. Brooks, disorderly conduct, carrying a deadly weapon, discharging a firearm, creating a disturbance and striking the bartender, Bernard Bolden of the 2500 block W. Fairmount Ave., with a chair

Mr. Bolden testified that Byrd started "shooting up the place" with a foreign make pistol when he was asked to leave for creating a disturbance.

Some lucky reader's picture is circled in each week's edition of the AFRO. That circled picture is worth $5 to the subject if he brigns a copy of it to the AFRO office at 628 N. Eutaw St., before the next edition is printed. Read your AFRO, it pays.

Engineer cleared in death of boy on railroad tracks

"The court finds that there has been no negligence."

With this announcement Chief Magistrate Meyer M. Cardin, presiding in Homicide Court Tuesday afternoon, cleared a a railroad engineer of the death of 14-year-old George F. Roberts Jr.

George and his dog, Teddy, were struck and killed by a Washington - bound Pennsylvanie Railroad passenger train April 4 on an overpass in the 1000 block Patterson Park Ave. near Chase and Eager Sts.

The engineer is Francis J. McCarthy, 50, of 121 E. Emerson Ave., Rahway, N.J.

* * *

GEORGE, SON of Mr and Mrs. George Franklin Roberts of 2247 E. Chase, was dead on arrival at Johns Hopkins Hospital. His body was dragged 50 feet before it was thrown clear by the speeding train.

Magistrate Cardin's ruling came after hearing testimony from one witness, Patrolman John Maxwell, who read exerpts from a statement taken from George's 11-year-old classmate, Melvin Mitchell of 1200 N. McElderry Ct.

George was walking part-way home with Melvin when the tragic accident occurred.

"As we reached the Pennsylvania train tracks Teddy ran across," the officer quoted Melvin as saying. "George saw this and tried to catch the dog. I tried to stop George but I was afraid and ran to his house and told his mother what happened."

* * *

"WERE THERE any (railroad) guards at the scene of the accident?" J. Robert Brown assistant State's attorney, asked Officer Maxwell.

"Not at the point of the accident," Officer Maxwell answered. "It was at an overpass."

Officer Maxwell related that Mr. McCarthy, the engineer, said he was unaware of the accident until contacted by police.

Clemency sought for Mrs. Rowlett

A committee of Washington and Baltimore residents has been formed to seek clemency for Mrs. Carrie M. Rowlette, who was convicted on a narcotics charge in criminal court last month.

Mrs. Rowlette, a former clerk, church and civic worker, was sentenced to not more than five years in the State Reformatory for Women after a police informer testified that he purchased three capsules of heroin from her with marked money.

The committee, headed by David W. Board, chancellor of Northwestern College, Inc., Washington has been granted a hearing at 10:30 a.m. May 8 for discussion of the case by Governor McKeldin.

Dog-bite victim's death still under investigation

"They haven't reached a cause of death. It will be a few weeks yet."

A spokesman in the medical examiners offices were explaining Wednesday that a cause of death in the case of Mrs. Ruth Mapp, 35, who resided at 1104 Myrtle Ave., was still pending.

Mrs. Mapp died under mysterious circumstances at her home April 16.

* * *

A PATHOLOGICAL study is still being made by the medical examiners office, the AFRO was told.

Mrs. Ellen Payne, Mrs. Mapp's grandmother, said on March 29 her granddaughter was bitten by a dog and 23 stitches were required to close a wound on her chin.

"It might have been the dog bite that caused her death, but I don't think so," Mrs. Payne said.

The grandmother related that Mrs. Mapp took a series of rabies shots at City Hospital for five days after being bitten.

* * *

POLICE REPORTED the dog was held for observation 10 days and the rabies test was negative.

Mrs. Payne stated her granddaughter complained of headaches after being bitten by the dog.

Missing girl found; returned unharmed

A 14-year-old girl reported missing Wednesday night was located by police and returned to her home, the mother, Mrs. Mabel Smith of the 500 block Arlington Ave., told the AFRO Thursday afternoon.

Mrs. Smith reportd her daughter, Mabel, missing to Northwestern District police when she failed to return home from school Wednesday night, officers reported.

The mother said her daughter stayed with friends and was brought home unharmed. Mrs. Smith related the child had never remained away from home without her permission before.

539 W. CONWAY—Pointing to what's left of the home of Mr. and Mrs. George Haynesworth, after it was destroyed by an explosion Tuesday morning, Jimmie Mazon shows where the roof of the 2½ story building caved in trapping the family of ten. The cause of the blast which claimed the life of a 5-year-old girl has not been determined.

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