Grand jury group restricts members

"We have a dinner before each meeting and we don't want to mix the women and the colored people at the table. You know they have to sit down together.

"As far as I am concerned, I can't see any time within the near future that a colored member will be allowed to join the organization where all members are white persons who have served on the grand jury.

These are the opinions of William Powell, 300 block Southway, who for 38 years has served as secretary of the Grand Jurors Association of Baltimore City.

• • •

AS SECRETARY OF the association, Powell passes on all applications for membership, and in his opinion, these are the reasons no colored person has ever been accepted into the organization.

Any property owner in Baltimore can serve on the grand jury.

The Grand Jurors Association functions in an unofficial capacity as it seeks to carry out recommendations proposed by the city's various grand juries.

It is regarded as a relatively important body and just recently it held a dinner to which it invited such state and city officials as Police Commissioner James M. Hepburn, Miss Esther Lazarus, director of public welfare; Thomas J. S. Waxter, State director of public welfare, and Meyer Levin, secretary of the Jewish Big Brother League.

• • •

EARL KOGER served on a recent grand jury and at the end of his duties, the insurance man reports that every member of the grand jury was asked to join the association, that is everyone except Mr. Koger, who was the lone colored juror.

The other jurors received application blanks, but not Mr. Koger. Since membership is by "invitation only," according to Mr. Powell, a man has to receive an application blank.

Once the application blank is completed, Mr. Powell passes on it, then it moves to the executive committee and then to the membership committee.

At present the association has over 350 members, by Mr. Powell's count, but not one of them is colored.

• • •

WHEN MR. Koger discovered that he had been ignored, he wrote a letter to the Supreme Bench protesting the actions of the association.

To date, Mr. Koger has received no answer, but he had indicated that he plans further action against the Grand Jurors Association.

• • •

MR. KOGER declared, "I feel that men of prominence, such as the mayor and governor, should not even attend such affairs given by the grand jury association.

"In doing so, they countenance the bigotry in this organization which gets its members from the grand juries. The discrimination reflects on the ability of the grand jury to arrive at decisions fairly where race prejudice is involved.

"If a grand juror is too good to associate with colored persons, he is a prejudiced man and endangers the ability of a jury to return an impartial verdict."

COUGHS Due To COLDS

If you have wheezing and your chest feels raw, get a bottle of ROBINSON'S EXPECTORANT. It loosens the Phlegm and takes away that chilly achy feeling, fortified with a money back guarantee at ROBINSON'S CUT RATE DRUG STORE, 2139 Pennsylvania Ave.

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Says neighbor assaulted her

Left minus his shoes

An amorous suitor who kicked down the door of a woman's apartment and dragged her down a flight of steps to his own apartment, was sentenced to 60 days in Jail Monday at the Northwestern Police Court.

Joseph E. Harris, 22, 1000 block Lanvale St., was the man drawing the sentence on a charge of assault brought by Mrs. Carole Granger of the same address.

Mrs. Granger said she and Harris had been drinking on Saturday and that when they reached the apartment house she went to her own rooms and changed her clothes.

A few seconds later, Mrs. Granger said, a knock came at her door and it was Harris.

"I TOLD him my husband wasn't home but he didn't want my husband and then he kicked the door down and dragged me down the steps into his apartment."

Mrs. Granger said that she struggled against the amorous advances of Harris and that her screams attracted her husband, who in turn kicked in Harris' door. Harris left the apartment minus his shoes, she said.

Harris admitted that Mrs. Granger had been in his apartment but insisted that she came because she wanted to come." He explained that the reason he left the apartment in such a rush was because he thought it was his own wife at the door.

Mrs. Granger also exhibited a black eye which she said she received from Harris.

Thief steals bus trip money

On her way to a meeting of the Franklin Drill Commanders on Tuesday night, Mrs. Minnie Crafton, 600 block N. Carey St., became the victim of a purse snatcher who left her with the warning;

"You better not call the law."

Mrs. Crafton told police that she was standing at Lanvale and Carey Sts., waiting for a trolley, when the unidentified man grabbed her purse and fled.

She said the purse contained almost $50 which represented the money realized on a recent bus trip sponsored by the Franklin Drill Commanders.

Mrs. Crafton was on her way to a meeting of the group at Odd Fellows Hall, Lanvale and McCulloh Sts., to turn in the money.

She'd like to get pocketbook back

Mrs. Mary Williams of 524 Oxford St. would deeply appreciate it if the person who found her pocketbook last Monday would return it to her.

Mrs. Williams dropped her purse as she was getting off a No. 23 bus at Woodbrook and Fulton Aves.

A black pocketbook, she said it contained $4 in bills, plus some cash, a wrist watch and some private papers.

Youths trap theft suspect

Followed him several blocks

Two youngsters with the technique of experienced detectives have been cited by police in the capture to a man believed to be implicated in three recent purse snatchings.

The two 11-year-old boys reportedly told police that on Sunday night they saw Lawrence Penson, 22, 1100 block Pennsylvania Ave., snatch the purse of Mrs. Lavinia Brown, 1106 block W. Mulberry St., and knock her to the ground near her home.

In the best tradition of Sherlock Holmes or Dick Tracy, the boys followed the man for several blocks until they saw Officer John Uhler of the Northwestern District, and told him what had happened.

• • •

THE OFFICER arrested Penson and police said that Mrs. Brown identified him as the purse snatcher.

In rapid order, police said that Mrs. Dorothy Forst, 2300 block Booth St., and Mrs. Thelma Taylor, 4200 block Ivanhoe Ave., also identified the suspect as the man who had snatched their purses.

Mrs. Brown lost $16, Mrs. Torst lost $80, and Mrs. Taylor lost $10.50, police said.

On Tuesday, Penson appeared in Southwestern Police Court and was ordered held in $5,000 bail for the grand jury by Magistrate Howard Aaron.

Announcing . . . MARY MERVIS
Delicatessen-Salads
Located in
New Lexington Market
Just Inside Eutaw St.

Jealously slaying tip week's winner

The person who called the AFRO about a jealous husband killing his wife in Salisbury is this week's top $5 winner in the AFRO's News Tip Contest.

A second prize of $3 will go to the tipster who called about the family of eight safely fleeing a fire on Hanover St.

A $3 third prize will go to the person who first called about police trapping some boys in a stolen auto.

• • •

OTHER AWARDS of $1 each will go to the persons who first called in the following tips:

Boy on bike hit by car, fire at Druid Hill and Oxford Sts., two-car collision at Mulberry and Carey Sts., wagon hit by car, truck turns over, three escape injury when car turns over at Monroe and Saratoga, children injured in accident at Broadway and Oliver St., accident at Madison and Lafayette Aves.

Truck runs into parked car, two cars in collision at Milton and Biddle St., accidents at Lanvale and Carey Sts., Gough and Eden Sts. and in the 1500 block W. Saratoga St.

• • •

THE AFRO has a total of $25 to pay out each week to alert readers who call in news tips. Anything you see happening that is newsworthy is worth money. Simply pick up the phone and call MUlberry 5-0033. Ask for the City Desk and tell the person who answers:

"I've got a news tip!"

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Parttime minister kills wife who was leaving him

SALISBURY, Md. — The 10-year-old marriage of a parttime minister ended here violently Wednesday morning when Roy Samuel Ennis blew half his wife's head off with a single shotgun blast.

"I couldn't stand it any longer," Police Chief William Chatham quoted Ennis as saying after he surrendered to police.

The shooting, the chief said, was a result of Mrs. Ada E. Ennis, threatening to leave her husband and to take their 27-month-old daughter with her.

Ennis told police that he and his wife had an argument around 7 a.m. Wednesday.

"This was nothing new," he was quoted as saying.

• • •

WHEN HIS wife started up the stairway in their home at 346 Delaware Ave., Ennis said he picked up a 16-gauge shotgun and fired.

After the shooting Ennis walked next door to the home of a neighbor, the Rev. John Hurt, a Methodist minister and asked him to call the police.

Ennis, 42, was employed as a handyman in a local furniture store. He is now held in the Wicomico County Jail charged with murder. Chief Chatham said State's Attorney Hamilton P. Fox will set a date for a hearing.

The Ennis' daughter is now being taken care of by relatives of the slain wife, the chief said.

Automobile theft charged to youth

"The man gave me 75 cents to drive it around the corner. I didn't know that it was stolen."

Police testified Monday in Southwestern Police Court that this was the story Charles Baldwin, 16, 2500 block Fairmount Ave., gave them when he was picked up in a stolen car.

Before Magistrate Howard Aaron, the boy repeated the same story as he was held in $1,500 bail for the grand jury.

It was also testified that the boy had in his possession two pieces of tin foil which can be used to start a car without a key. Baldwin said the same man who gave him the 75 cents to drive the car around the corner, also gave him the tin foil.

Accident victim critically ill

There has been no improvement in the condition of a 32-year-old man who was struck by an automobile and dragged six blocks last week.

Doctors at St. Joseph's Hospital reported Thursday that the condition of Walter Lockett of the 1600 block Ellsworth St., is "about the same as it was on the day he was admitted."

James W. Faulcon, 27, 1600 block N. Fulton Ave., was charged with assaulting and striking the pedestrian when he stepped off a curb in the 1300 block N. Bond St.

Faulcon was charged with failing to stop after an accident, failing to give aid, reckless driving and with putting out his lights to avoid identification.

His bail was set at $6,500 on the assault charge and $4,000 on the traffic charges.

Trash barrels appear in service stations

Help is coming to the litter-laden motorist! Service Station operators in the Bel Air area were the first to cooperate with the Governor's Committee to Keep Maryland Beautiful by placing Travel Trash Barrels on the station's premises.

Similar barrels are now appearing at Service Stations throughout the State.

Pardon us while we change our dress

Gentle Philip Morris puts on a bright new modern package

FOREVER IMPROVING, Philip Morris has brought you gentler tobaccos, advanced quality controls, the Snap-Open pack.

Now comes a bright new red, white and gold package—graceful to look at, bold and offer. It's right in keeping with modern taste in design . . . just as the cigarettes within are right in tune with the modern taste for gentleness.

For a short time, you'll be seeing Philip Morris in both the new package and the familiar brown.

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WEATHER
Friday, some cloudiness but mostly sunny and warm, with a high of 70. Saturday, scattered showers and mild. Sunday, clear and colder.

Baltimore Afro-American

Prayer for today
"Eternal Father, in changing and troubled days we pray for hearts and consciences big enough and spirits strong enough to match the overmastering time in which we live and serve."

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Crooms Predicted He'd Die On Gallows

'I'm Not His Father'

Brand of whisky was important

See picture on inside page 27

Spry at 72, bald-headed Robert H. Williams, 805 Greenmount Ave., will spend the rest of his life in the Maryland Penitentiary.

Williams, a construction worker, dressed neatly in a black suit and burnt-orange sport shirt, today was right back in a prison cell for the second time for killing the woman he loved best.

• • •

HE SPENT the 15 years, 1926 to '41 in Sing Sing, N.Y., for slaying his second wife.

• • •

LAST AUGUST 12 on the dreadful night of Hurricane Connie, he quarreled with Mrs. Mary Jane Curtis, a great-grandmother of 55, he had been courting for five years.

He accused her of flirting with a younger man.

The ancient Romeo quarreled with the great-grandmother, 17 years his junior, felled her with the butt of a revolver, fired two shots into her head while she lay prostrate, and then wounded William (Heads) Inman, 22, a neighbor who came to her aid.

• • •

THE SHOT passed through Mr. Inman's cheek, and lodged in his neck, so that he may be permanently disabled.

He was incoherent on the stand in Criminal Court, Thursday, couldn't speak above a whisper and could only point at the slayer and whisper "he's the man."

Police Sgt. Joseph Walsh testified Inman staggered from the murder house into the street and fell face down in the foot-deep water of the hurricane rains.

"He would have drowned if I hadn't picked him up."

Inman spent 29 days in St. Joseph Hospital.

• • •

THE MURDER occurred at 9:30 p.m., great-grandmother Curtis was pronounced dead 31 minutes later in Johns Hopkins Hospital.

Williams went home, told his daughter Rosa, 45, "I have done it now, I'll sit down and wait for the law to come."

Police picked up the revolver from a dresser and placed him under arrest.

• • •

HIS DEFENSE was that he had been drinking a good grade of whiskey and somebody brought in an inferior brand.

He had no character witnesses.

An autopsy failed to uncover evidence that the great-grandmother had been drinking.

Judge John T. Tucker said he believed Williams was jealous because he thought "Mrs. Curtis was interested in a younger man while he was paying the fare."

"He is guilty of murder in the first degree. I sentence him to life imprisonment and 10 years for intent to murder Inman, to run concurrently."

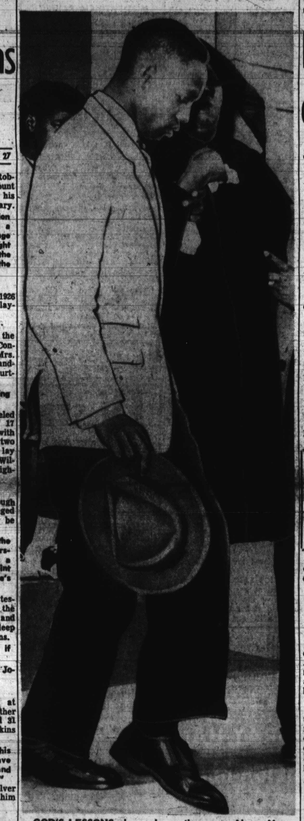
Williams was led away. His face showed no emotion.

• • •

HE WAS defended by Linwood Koger Jr., court-appointed counsel. James W. Murphy and Norman Pulski, assistant state's attorneys, prosecuted.

Relatives said that Mrs. Curtis was the mother of seven daughters and five sons, all living. Also surviving are 17 grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

'God's lessons are hard'



GOD'S LESSONS also make mothers cry. Above Mrs. Lena Jackson and son, Joseph, leaving Saunders Funeral Home Wednesday.

"Sometimes God's lessons are hard when we won't learn any other way."

Pastor Paul J. Harris of Brown Memorial Baptist Church stood beside the gray casket in which lay the body of Ronald King, who had met death four days before in a hail of bullets from policemen's guns.

Before he was shot down on the front steps of a Lanvale St. home which he had been caught burglarizing, King had fatally wounded a Northwestern district policeman with the officer's own service revolver.

• • •

NO MENTION of the deceased or his manner of death was made by the Rev. Mr. Harris who delivered the brief funeral sermon, but the scant two dozen persons in the Sanders Funeral Home chapel were painfully aware of the circumstances.

A handful of neighbors and loyal friends arrived ahead of the family and took seats behind the first two rows of chairs.

Five children, not yet in their teens, tiptoed in and looked into the casket. Two took seats. Then went out again.

• • •

AS THE THREE limousines rolled up with the members of

(Continued on Page 2)

Sugar Ray bankrupt; owes 60 G

NEW YORK—Sugar Ray Robinson's $127,000 business property on Seventh Ave., Harlem, is in the hands of a Wall Street receiver.

Greenwich Savings Bank foreclosed on a $60,000 mortgage on which the boxer still owes $40,305. He had agreed to pay $450 a month.

The once rich boxer also owed $3,343 for city taxes, $371 water taxes, and $867 for water rent.

• • •

THE TOTAL value of the property is $127,000 in five parcels, 2072-80 Seventh Ave. near 123rd Street and includes Ray's Grille, bar, barbershop, restaurant, cleaning establishment, and beauty parlor.

Since forced sale of the property would end in a loss, the receiver was instructed to collect all rents and profits.

Suit was filed by the bank against Sugar Ray's Realty Corporation and Robin Crest Realty Corp.

The boxer expected to recoup his losses from the purse to be received from his fight with Bobo Olsen this week. It was postponed due to an injury to Robinson's leg.

A gate was open—so a baby died

"The back gate was open, so our little boy wandered off and died under a truck."

"I didn't know anything about it until they called me at work, but Harry left the back yard where he used to play and wandered off with some other tots in the neighborhood."

The father, Paul Gray, a bakery salesman of 2833 Remington Ave., had taken the day off to make the funeral arrangements and was struggling with the cuff buttons on a white shirt.

• • •

"I'M SORRY," he said "but there's nobody here but me right now. His mother and Lucille are over at my father-in-law's. Both of them took it pretty hard. We had to send Lucille to the hospital where they gave her a needle to quiet her down.

"My wife and I were at work, and Lucille, she's the oldest girl, 17, and the boy went over to their grandfather's at 201 W. 29th St.

"While they were there," the father said, "Harry went out into the backyard to play. But the gate had been left open and he wandered out into the street with the other tots."

• • •

THE LITTLE BOY was struck at 28th and Fox Sts., by a truck driven by Joseph Sands, 22, of 7305 Kavanaugh Rd., Dundalk.

The wheel passed over his head and he was reported dead on arrival at Union Memorial Hospital.

"The neighbors came and told Lucille about it, and she took it pretty hard, the poor kid. I haven't seen the truck driver yet I don't even know his name — the police have that — but I drive a truck too."

"We are going to have the funeral here at the house at 2 o'clock Saturday. The Rev. George Crawley Jr., my wife's pastor, will be in charge."

"IF PEDRO CROOMS were my son I'd love him and scurry around to get help to save his neck," said Solomon (Mr. Boots) Crooms, Edgemere tavern keeper shown above with lifelong friend, Gus Swann.

Crooms predicted he'd hang

"When a son has no love for his mother and hates his father . . . . . .

"A person like that will end up in the chair or maybe hanging . . ."

So wrote Peter Single, alias Pedro Finley Crooms, to Solomon "Mr. Boots" Crooms just four years ago.

• • •

THE LETTER was written from Dannemora Prison, N.Y., to which Crooms was returned for violation of his parole after a gun battle with Solomon (Mr. Boots" Crooms.

Crooms' letter dated April 9, 1951, a bitter document, made the above prediction which may come true.

His prediction that he would never return to prison again proved false. He is now in the Towson jail charged with the murder of John Irvin (Top) Adams.

• • •

THE LETTER written "Mr. Boots" is one of several he has preserved.

Crooms' letters to "Mr. Boots" addressed him as "Dear Solomon" and contained veiled threats which led him to preserve them.

Here is one of the letters:

Name: Mr. Solomon Crooms
Street and No. 2512½ Sycamore Ave.
City: Sparrows Point 11; State: Maryland
Box B
Dannemora, N.Y.
Date: April 9, 1951

Dear Solomon:

Since the time of my release is soon approaching, I thought I'd write you a few lines in reference to my future plans.

In the past twenty-one months of my incarceration, I've given serious contemplation to many nefarious ideas — malicious intent towards society.

But now that my time is approaching the date of my release I find myself thinking more constructively — I realize now that I want something different for once in my life.

The average person outside is inclined to believe that, "the longer a man stays in prison the better," but believe me this isn't so.

• • •

AFTER A man spends so many years of his life behind bars, prison life no longer affects him, because he becomes callous—indifferent.

When a man becomes acclimated to prison routine, only then is where he might become criminal minded — there are many men who, after entering

(Continued on Page 2)

Suspect in Adams case not my son, says Crooms

"The Adams murder suspect is not my son," according to Solomon (Mr. Boots) Crooms, 62 World War I veteran and tavern owner at Edgemere, Md.

"Please tell everybody I'm not his father," the man said as he puffed on his cigar and adjusted the suspenders over the top of his union suit and brushed ashes off his blue pants.

"If he was my son I'd love him. I'd be around scurrying to get good lawyers to save his neck," said "Mr. Boots."

The chain cigar-smoking man held in Towson jail for the nylon stocking murder of John Irvin (Top) Adams gave his name to police as Pedro Finley Crooms.

• • •

AT SPARROWS Point where he worked in a car plant, he was listed as Peter Watkins.

At Dannemora Prison in New York where he was sentenced to 14 years for armed robbery, the murder suspect gave his name as Peter Single.

In Edgemere, neighbors said he was known as Peter Reese.

• • •

THE BOOTS' 2nd wife was Mrs. Josephine Single. They had one child, a girl who is now dead.

They married in 1914 and separated a year or two later and he did not see her again for 30 years. He went to France with the 351st Field Artillery Band in which he played the E flat tuba.

When he came back he went to work at Bethlehem Steel Works. He secured a divorce in Baltimore County Circuit Court in 1924.

• • •

"MR. BOOTS" said:

"I never saw the lad who claims to be my son, until he was 27, released on parole from prison in the 1940's and came to live with his mother who had returned to Edgemere.

"I told him that I wasn't his father. We had a disagreement over money. I was warned he intended to kill me.

"A gun battle ensued in the back yard of my home at 2512 Sycamore Ave. He fired one shot

(Continued on Page 2)

$30,000-year Doby traded to Chi Sox

"Larry had an idea that he was going to be traded. I was more surprised than he," said Mrs. Helen Doby, wife of Larry, Thursday.

"I liked Cleveland. People were nice to us. That is just baseball!"

Doby goes to the Chicago White Sox in exchange for Chico Carrasquel, a shortstop, and Jim Busby, an outfielder.

• • •

MRS. DOBY, reached in Paterson, N.J., Thursday, said that her husband was barnstorming in Texas, with a team including Don Newcombe and Willie Mays.

"He didn't appear too down the news," Mrs. Doby said, "when I talked to him last night. In fact, he was very calm about it."

• • •

DOBY ONLY remarked:

"The Cleveland organization was good to me. I enjoyed my association with the club. I hope that I will be useful to the Chicago White Sox."

• • •

MANAGER MARTY Marion of White Sox welcomed Doby to the fold, with the observation:

"Doby will make us tougher offensively and we'll be just as strong defensively."

• • •

THE ABSENCE of surprise by Doby over the trade might stem from reports over the past two winters that he was on Hank

(Continued on Page 2)

Hi Court decision due November 7th

Washington - Baltimore cases involving the right of colored persons to use public swimming pools and beaches at Fort Smallwood and Sandy Point is on the U.S. Supreme Court conference agenda.

A decision is expected on November 7.

The high court is expected to agree with the 4th Circuit Court of Appeals that its May 17th decision on public schools applies also to recreation.

Mrs. Bradley here Sunday

Mrs. Mamie Bradley, mother of Mississippi lynch victim Emmett Till who says "When I can find the time I'll cry," will tell her story 8 p.m. Sunday, at the Bethel AME Church, Druid Hill Ave. and Lanvale St.

The Baltimore Branch of the NAACP is bringing Mrs. Bradley to Baltimore.

Her son, Emmett, 14, was murdered and his body thrown in a river in Mississippi, after he was accused of whistling at a white woman. Two white men who admitted kidnapping the boy were tried by a Mississippi

(Continued on Page 2)

They Picked Up $9,500 Each

CAPT. LOURENE MARTIN from Eden, Md., Army Nurse, daughter of AFRO's Ideal Mother, and Tom O'Reilly, right, 26-year-old gas meter reader from Minooka, N.Y., wound up their four weeks of teamwork by winning, jointly, a total of $19,000 on the CBS Television "Name That Tune," Tuesday at 7:30 p.m. They gave correct titles to four of the five tunes played by Sgt. Eugene List (who incidentally was in the studio audience) at a recital for Truman, Churchill and Stalin at the Potsdam Conference. (Tchaikovsky's Piano Concerto. Paderewski's Minuet in G, Grieg's Concerto No. 1 and Beethoven's Moonlight Sonata). They failed to remain in the contest which next week could have netted them a maximum prize of $25,000.