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—Heroic cop cleared

(Continued from page 1)

chief of detectives; Inspector George J. Murphy and Clayton Dietrich, assistant attorney general.

Detective Watkins was represented by Morris Lee Kaplan, attorney.

It was disclosed during the hearing that Detective Watkins has received eight meritorious commendations and six letters of commendation since he joined the force in January, 1951.

Testifying on behalf of the accused officer were a number of his superiors who praised his police work.

It was testified that Detective Watkins received infomation from the Laurens St. area which aided the department to clear up a number of serious felonies, including two homicides.

• • •

WHEN COMMISSIONER Hepbron asked Captain Mintiens what kind of officer Detective Watkins was, the detective chief said:

"I would have to rate him, sir, as a very capable police officer. His ability to obtain information is as good or superior to any officer I have down there."

When the commissioner posed the same question to Sgt. J. Hiram Butler, the veteran officer replied, "He is one of the finest policemen that I have ever worked with."

In his own defense, Detective Watkins told the commissioner: "Long before I came into the department I'd wanted to be a policeman. And I've tried to be a good policeman."

In disclosing the officer's record, Commissioner Hepbron said Detective Watkins had never been before him previously for disciplinary action, adding as he smiled that "you lost your badge one time and had to pay $1.50 for a new one."

• • •

DETECTIVE WATKINS was suspended on Oct. 30 by Captain Mintiens.

This action followed a gambling raid on Oct. 18 of the Laurens St. address in which 10 persons were either charged with gambling or maintaining a gambling establishment.

Located on the premises were the lunchroom, operated by Mrs. Watkins, a poolroom and a small rear room used as a club room, according to testimony. The card foom was allegedly in the club room.

Det. Lt. Harry G. Walsh testified he led the raid on the establishment after having an officer join a poker game there the night before.

• • •

CAPTAIN MINTIENS said he questioned Detective Watkins about 1128 Laurens St. and the officer frankly admitted that his wife operated a snack counter in the building.

The captain related that Detective Watkins said he never witnessed any gambling in the club room.

According to testimony the lunch counter is located at the front of the 120 feet structure, while the club room is located in the extreme rear the pool room takes up the greater portion of the building.

Mrs. Watkins testified she opened the lunch counter a year ago in the name of a friend, identified as Elizabeth Smith.

Both Mrs. Watkins and her husband said the small earnings from the establishment—approximately $30 a week—were used to help support their four children, ages, 4, 10, 11 and 12.

Under questioning by Commissioner Hepbron, Mrs. Watkins admitted she used joint funds to go into business.

• • •

AMONG THE other witnesses called on behalf of Detective Watkins were:

Mrs. Nellie Harris, night manager of the lunch counter; Mrs. Beulah DeGrafenreid, day counter girl; Morlon Sugar, who operates a food market in the 1100 block Laurens, and officers who had worked with Detective Watkins or received valuable information from him.

Among these officers were Lt. Herbert Pritchett, Sgt. William Hamilton, Lt. Lawrence Cooper, Lt. George Klemmick and Officer Leroy Moody.

Detective Watkins, a native Baltimorean and a veteran of World War II and the Korean conflict, grew up in the Laurens St. area.

He testified that because he was known by many people in the area he was able to obtain tips on crimes which other officers were unable to get.

This pipeline, according to Lieutenant Klemmick, head of the homicide squad, led to the arrest and conviction of two youths for first-degree murder last year, and the speedy arrest of a suspect in a pending murder case.

Lieutenant Cooper said similar information from Detective Watkins was "the crack in the wall" which led to the breakup of the Shotgun Bandits, four young men currently serving a total of 320 years for a series of terrorizing armed holdups.

DETECTIVE JAMES H. WATKINS
Heroic officer cleared, praised by Commissioner

—Leaps to death

(Continued from page 1)

morgue.

A motorist who happened to be driving across the bridge told police that Haskins waved "so long" as he hurtled toward the eastbound tracks of the B and O Railroad.

• • •

THE INJURED man was taken to the Maryland General Hospital where he was pronounced dead at 8:30 p.m.

The Medical Examiner's Office reported death was caused by crushing injuries of the spine and pelvis.

The dead man was an Army veteran who served three years in North Africa.

An alert Northwestern District officer, Sgt. Joseph N. Szczepansk, aided in the identification of the body by tracing laundry marks in his clothes.

Positive identification was made late Wednesday by Mr. Haskins's sister, Mrs. Ruth Carter of the 1400 block Mosher St.

She told police he had recently been released from the Crownsville State Hospital. Records at the hospital show he was commited there on August 26, and was discharged this past October 2, after undergoing treatment for acute psychosis.

• • •

ACCORDING TO Mrs. Haskins, her son had lived alone in his four - room Lexington St., apartment for more than ten years.

Mrs. Haskins said that upon learning of his death she was "almost scared to death."

"I didn't think that anything was wrong with him. I saw him last Sunday. He came over to eat breakfast with us, and was as happy as could be.

"He had been in Crownsville five weeks but we didn't know exactly what was wrong with him.

"He was injured while in the Army and his wounds sometimes bothered him."

• • •

MRS. HASKINS explained that most of her son's teeth were knocked out while overseas, and that his feet gave him trouble to the extent that he had to visit the Veterans Hospital once a month for treatment.

"I can't understand it. He never acted like a person that was off.

"I'm really having my share of trouble. My son, Clayton, died from a heart attack in New York just six weeks ago," the worried mother explained.

• • •

MRS. HASKINS is a member of the Stewards Board at St. John AME Church on Carrollton Ave.

Funeral services for her son have been set for Monday at a funeral home in the 500 block of W. Biddle St.

Other survivors are his father, Waller Haskins; three sisters, Mrs. Esther Thomas of Wagoner, Okla.; Miss Thelma Haskins of New York, and Mrs. Carter; and two brothers, Walter Haskins of Baltimore, and Jerome Haskins of Philadelphia.

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THANKSGIVING DAY

All display (block-type) ad for the Friday, Nov. 29th issue should be in this office before 4:30 p.m. Tuesday, November 26th. . . and, all classified reader (per word) ads should be in this office before 12 noon on Wednesday, November 27th.

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Wilkins on rights unit

The new members of the President's Commission on Civil Rights are:

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Robert Story, president of Southern Methodist University; and Theodore Hesburgh, president of Notre Dame University.

J. ERNEST WILKINS

YMCA, the NAACP, the Council of Church, Religious Education of Maryland and Delaware, a member of the Baltimore Youth Commission and many other civic organizations.

The Rev. Payne was married in 1920, but his first wife died following the birth of their son Arthur J. Payne Jr. in 1931. The son died suddenly on Sept. 21, 1957.

Mr. Payne is married to the former Miss Odell Watkins, a city teacher. They celebrate their 24th wedding anniversary this year.

—Rev. Payne

(Continued from page 1)

pastored Enon Baptist, one of the largest churches in the city for 35 years.

He has been a member of the Council of Churches board for many years. He is also a member of the Community Chest, the Department of Christian Relations, chairman of the Adoption of Bbies Committee of the Department of Welfare and a board member of the Lafayette Community Center.

Born in Baltimore on Nov. 23, 1894, the Rev. Mr. Payne was graduated from the Maryland Academy of Virginia Union University, Richmond; Morgan State College and did special work at Union Theological Seminary. He later received a master's degree from New York University.

He has pastored in four churches, and has served as assistant paster of Abyssian Baptist Church in New York under the late Dr. Adam C. Powell Sr. (1920-1923).

• • •

FOR SIX years the Rev. Mr. Payne was president of the United Baptist State Convention of Maryland and vice president of the National Baptist Convention, Inc.

He is a member of the National Council of Churches of Christ in America; a board member of the Baltimore Urban League, a member of the

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