—Baby found

(Continued from Page 1)

while awaiting trial, and the two remaining children in custody of the Welfare Department, the plan went into effect.

An officer from each shift was to check the now - unoccupied house until further notice!

Just a chance - but one you had to take. Something just might turn up.

"A break will come," one officer said last week. "I am sure the mother knows where the baby is and I don't believe anybody kidnaped that child."

"When we find it, it won't be alive," another put in.

SOMETHING did turn up and it turned out that both policemen were right.

It was Tuesday morning - 10:30. Patrolman Wayne McKenna, 18 months on the force, checked 1359 N. Stricker.

Detecting a foul odor, he followed it to a second floor room. Opening the door, the stench grew stonger.

There against the rear wall leaned a green cushion, the kind you find on a sofa or living room chair.

A puddle had formed on the floor at the cushion.

McKenna drew a knife and slit the fabric at the seam. Even before he did that, he knew this was it.

Pulling back the fabric he was a tiny head, some teeth.

It was time to call in and report his discovery. The truth was out.

Baby Fentress apparently, never had left home.

Again Western District police swarmed into the Stricker St. house. This time not to search but to see. To write reports. To investigate the cause of death and determine who is responsible.

WINDOWS WERE thrown open wide, but still the stench of death and decay was heavy.

Back at the scene was a small roster from the Western District: Lt. Williams, Sgt. Schisler, Officers McKenna, Carter, Corbin, Chase, Samples, and others.

Coming in from the Homicide Squad were Sgts. Bater and Lewis.

All were amazed that such a seat cushion could hold the body of a 17 - month - old child.

There was no tell - tale bulge showing on the cushion as it lay on the floor. But all around there was the tell - tale smell.

Men hardened to death in all forms walked to the open windows for fresh air but their eyes remained on the green cushion.

Dr. Werner Spitz, assistant medical eaminer, arived as officers and morgue attendants stood by.

Someone produced a knife and the doctor, in a professional manner, severed the stitches at the seams and laid back the fabric.

There, between the springs, and the padding, was the body of Fentress Evans, badly decomposed and nude.

HER KNEES were against her chest, her head bent at an unnatural angle and around the little neck was a piece of rag.

Like a necktie.

At 11:25 a.m. Dr. Spitz announced the baby dead. Just a formality.

A few minutes later he said the cause of death appeared to be strangulation. This was a job for Homicide.

Crime lab photographers went to work, taking pictures from all angles. The body was still in between the springs.

The Homicide sergeants, Bater and Lewis, started asking questions and making notes.

Suddenly everyone was busy. The report of an abduction of the baby had to be nullified. The missing baby report had to be cancelled.

New reports had to be made; details of the finding filled in.

THEN ANOTHER search would have to begin - for the one responsible for the baby's death.

As a group of little children swarmed from a nearby elementary school for their lunch period, many stopped outside the house to watch curiously and excitedly. They knew something was going; many knew about the missing baby..

And as they watched, the child's body was taken out in the green cushion.

The attendants from the Medical Examiner's office brought the cushion downstairs and placed it in the morgue wagon.

The eagerly watching crowd must have wondered why they brought out only this object with no body, obvious. They didn't know.

Back upstairs, the green living room chair and the sofa were still up - turned where searching police had scrutinized them from the bottom less than two weeks ago.

WHO WOULD have expected to find the body of a 17 - month-old child stuffed into so small a cushion? Especially one that was completely sewed up all around and showed no bulges?

The clever watch - and - wait plan had paid off and now there was another job to be done.

Within an hour, Sgt. Whyte appeared at Juvenile Court to secure a writ for the release of Miss Cecilia Evans, the baby's mother, from City Jail.

Armed with this writ, the veteran policewoman brought the mother to the Western District police station for further interrogation.

This was the 22 - year - old mother of three children: the oldest, 3, the youngest, 6 months; the mother who had told police she had gone to a nearby store and returned in about 20 minutes to find Fentress missing.

The mother had helped police search the house for her missing child, turned one of the living room chairs upside down after removing the cushion, then looked among the springs futilely.

An anonymous call is what led Sgt. White and Policewoman Summers to the Evans home in the beginning. The call said a child was being mistreated.

Police now say the child is a murder victim.

QUESTIONING of the unmarried mother and welfare client continued for one hour —two hours — three.

As police gathered in the Riggs Ave. and Mount St. station house for roll call before going out on the four-to - midnight shift, an officer who had worked on the case came downstairs to the captain's office.

Capt. Dennis Mello, head of the district, went upstairs with the officer. The time was 4 p.m.

A short while later, Capt. Mello returned to his office and told waiting newsmen: "We'll have a statement for you soon."

Then began a beehive of activity among the investigating officers. Corbin, McKenna, Carter, and the homicide men were busy with police forms.

The scene of activity was the office of the policewomen. Sgt. Whyte in charge. Through the closed door came the sound of a typewriter clacking away.

Downstairs again came Officer Howard Corbin and Wayne McKenna - this time for arrest registers. A sign that someone was going to be charged.

Sometime after 5 p.m. the announcement came: "Miss Evans, mother of the dead baby, Fentress, has given a statement and will be charged with homicide."

Capt. Mello said "We worked a plan, it paid off. Officer McKenna did a splendid job. Everyone stayed here after their shift to wrap this thing up.

"That's the kind of men we have here in the Western District. You find me some better ones in this city - if you can."

SHORTLY after 7 p.m. the police involved in the case emerged from the building, tired but relieved.

Sgt. Whyte, showing her fatigue, escorted Mrs. Evans to a police car, along with Officer Corbin.

The accused mother would be taken to headquarters for fingerprinting and photos. She would spend the night in a cell at the Pine St. station.

Wednesday she was taken before Judge Robert B. Watts where she was ordered held without bail for action of the grand jury.

The charge: homicide by strangling her daughter.

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Criminal Court

Violation of Auto Law — Lewis K. Swint, guilty, fined $25 and costs Same, guilty, fined $50 and costs; Same, not guilty; Nathaniel Stevenson, (9 cases), appeals withdrawn; Same not guilty confessed by State Same, not guilty.

• • •

Lottery — Douglas W. Smallwood, guilty, fined $500 and costs; Theodore W. Edwards, guilty 2nd count, fined $500 and costs.

• • •

Attempted Burglary — McClelland Hollowat, guilty 4th and 5th counts, 18 months in Maryland Correctional Institution for Men, in each case, to run consecutively, sentences suspended and probation for 3 years.

• • •

Unauthorized Use — Lawrence Fountaine, Jr., guilty, 1 year in House of Correction.

• • •

Disorderly Conduct — Wilbert Rezier, appeal dismissed. John Haugh Jr., guilty, 60 days in jail, sentence suspended to pay costs and upon condition.

• • •

Assault — Nathaniel Martin, bail forfeited.

• • •

Violation of Probation — Nathaniel E. Butler, probation revoked.

• • •

Violation of Auto Law — Richard J. Carozza, probation before verdict for 1 year to pay costs.

• • •

Conspiracy — Guido Iozzi, Jr., (3 cases), request for change in venue granted.

• • •

Soliciting — Guido Iozzi, Jr. (3 cases), request for change in venue granted.

• • •

Shoplifting — William DeLeatch, plea of nolo contendere, 15 days in jail and fined $50 and costs, to run consecutively.

• • •

Assault to Murder — Arnell L. Mason, guilty 2nd count, 2 years in House of Correcton, sentence suspended and probation for 2 years to pay costs; Joe Hampton, guilty 2nd count, 1 year in House of Correction, sentence suspended and probation for 1 year to pay costs.

• • •

Non - Support — Eddie B. Pride, plea of guilty, 18 months in House of Correction; Melvin R. Scott, and Robert R. Darby, plea of guilty, as to each, probation to pay $18 a week, as to each; Cleveland L. Lewis and James R. Williams, plea of guilty, as to each, probation to pay $12 a week, as to each; Joseph A. Ferrare, plea of guilty, probation to pay $30 a week; John J. Rau, plea of guilty, probation to pay $20 a week; Joseph E. Zilenski, plea of guilty, probation to pay $24 a week Kenneth C. Coffey, plea of guilty, probation to pay $25 a week; John S. Colbert, probation before verdict to pay $20 a week; Delma Aylor, probation before verdict to pay $14 a week.

• • •

Bastardy — Kay P. Griffin, and Curtis Oliver, plea of guilty as to each, probation to pay $5 a week, as to each; Clarence L. Christian, (2 cases), plea of guilty, probation to pay $6 in each case; Charles Nichols, plea of guilty, probation to pay $10 a week.

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Three AKAs buy $500 memberships

Three sorors of Epsilon Omega Chapter of the Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority have secured life memberships in conjunction with the organization's national NAACP project, it was announced this week.

They are, Mesdames Lillian Murpny, Flossie Dedmond and Flozeila Clark. The subscriptions, made during the local NAACP chapter's 20th annual membership drive, now underway, entitles each of the sorors to two guest tickets to the Freedom Dinner to be held Friday, Nov. 19 at the Sheraton Belvedere Hotel.

The sorority, under direction of its executive committee member, Mrs. Clark, is also paying on its second $500 life membership. Working with Mrs. Clark in soliciting NAACP memberships throughout the city have been Mesdames Ruth Davis, Esther Laforest, James Laforest and also Raymond Puryear.

CANDIDATES, both successful and unsuccessful, for offices in the Student Council at Harvey Johnson Junior High School are pictured after completion of the school - wide election. 25 Those who ran from me of three parties — the Federalists, the Populists and the Progressives — included (from left): Stephen Myles; Verge Harper; Willard Witherspoon; Mary Green; Veronica Imes, who was elected secretary; Williamette Lucky; Mattie Nelson; Charles Rhodes; Gresser Ferrell; Carlton Walker the new president; Marilyn Sewell, elected treasurer; Kenneth Witherspoon and Ronald Summerville, the new vice president.

Rights leader to address Enon confab

Dr. Anna Arnold Hedgeman, New York, radio personality with station WRVR and coordinator of special events for the Commission on Religion and Race (CORR), will be the keynote speaker at the Enon Baptist Church's Woman's Day conclave Sunday, Nov. 14 at 11 a.m.

Dr. Hedgeman has served as associate editor to the New York Age; as executive director of the commission for fair employment practices under New York Mayor Wagner; as exchange leader to India for the State Department; and was the first woman recipient of the honorary doctor of humane letters degree from Hamlin University, her alma mater.

The native Iowan resides in New York with her husband Merritt Hedgeman, concert folk - music artist.

DR. HEDGEMAN

African group urges student union bldg.

ACCRA, Ghana (NNPA) — The Organization of African Unity last week adopted a resolution urging the British Government to suspend the 1961 Constitution of Rhodesia and to take "all measures necessary, including the use of armed forces, to take over the administration of the territory.

President William V. S. Tubman, of Liberia, read the resolution at a working session devoted to Rhodesia in his capacity as chairman.

Methodist Men's banquet held at Union Memorial

More than 160 guests attended the Methodist Men's Fall Banquet at Union Memorial Methodist Church last Friday. The event held in the social hall of the church at Harlem and Warwick Aves.

The purpose of the gala affair was to share the inspiring experiences of the four delegates who attended the Purdue University, Lafayette, Ind. July assembly of 6,000 Methodist Men from across the nation. Delegates were the Rev. N. B. Carrington, Union pastor; Nathaniel Copeland, Joseph Dorsey and Collins Shepherd.

Following a film account of the convention, the guest speaker, Charles Fletcher, Sollers Point High School principal, talked on the value of stewardship and responsibility involved. Joseph Dorsey showed slide photos taken on Purdue campus.

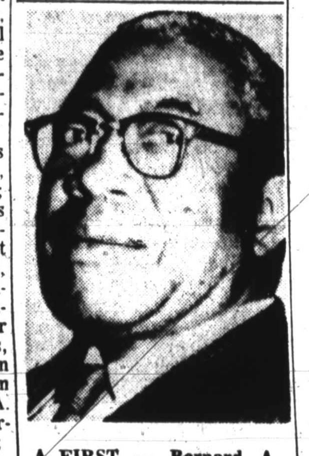
The Revs. and Mesdames Carrington; James Wooten, R. C. Williams, E. D. Hall;

Messers. and Mesdames John J. Oliver, Edward Hardy, Jacob Green, Everett Batte, William Kirkwood, Harry McCree, Joseph Goldman, Prince Walker, Nathaniel Copeland, Lester Jones, Lawrence Williams, Norman Hudgins, Herman Jews, Arthur Wilson, Siamon Merritt, Brown Pinkney, A. Harrison West, Tongue, Barnett Lynch, Brown Pinkney;

Also, Mesdames Frances German, William Johnson, Alice Tongue, Geraldine T. Scott, Hershel Williams, Harriett Tildon, Dorothy Berry, Pearl Maith, Margaret Williamson, Lavada Hobson, Ely Lofton, Mineva Gross, Maggie Gross, Gloria Bond, Nora Miller, Margaret Luttrell. Maryland Williams, Ernestine Hawkins, Dolly Fields, Angeline Byrd, Rose M. Divers, Frances Mondoweney, Florence Woods, Mary Cain, Emily Standford,

And, Mesdames Annie McCaskill, Alice Wright, Ethel Saunders, Ida Manokey, Audrey Smith, Bessie F. Scott, Goldie Davage, Cynthia Brown, Dawn V. Pope, Velvet Harris, Iva Sterling, Helen G. Thompson, Carolyn Butts, Thelma White; Misses M. Smith, Donna Berry, Vesta Copeland, Helen G. Thompson, Carolyn Butts, Lorraine Myers;

Messers, Collins Shepherd, William Johnson, Edward Luttrell, Rudolph Banks, Frank Barnes, John Everett, Leonard Thompson, Cephas Johnson, Andrew Prettyman, Jerry Carter, Charles Smith Jr., Wilford Griffin, Joseph Oliver and family, Theodore Kess, Lawrence Dorsey, E. Morton, Charles Fletcher, Michael Shepherd, George D. Gilbert, Michael Sisco, Philip Alcorn William Thompson, Robert Griner Jr., William France, Herbert Stanford, A. Harrison West, George Wright, J. Walter Smith, Reginald Kirkland, Jesse K. Wilson, Norman Smith, Charles Cain, Roland Davage.



A FIRST — Bernard A. Smith, a 26-year-employee of the Baltimore City Health Department, was recently promoted to superintendent of the department's buildings. He is a member of St. Cecilia's Catholic Church, where he belongs to the Holy Name Society.

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