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Fire leaves family homeless, destitute

By Roman Hankewycz

A single alarm fire left a Southwest Baltimore family with barely more than the clothes on their backs as it swept through the 3-story home of Mr. and Mrs. Elvis Burnes, 1200 block W. Lombard St., Thursday morning.

One firefighter injured by flying glass during the blaze was treated at University Hospital and released.

"My son Mark woke me up," said Mrs. Carolyn Burns.

"I went to the front room and found our floor fan smoking. Then I went to the bathroom to get some water to put it out, but by the time I got back to the door, the room was in a blaze.

"I sent Mark out through the downstairs front door, while I went in to get my daughter, Anna. While I was getting her out of bed, I heard the TV explode.

"We escaped through the back of the house," Mrs. Williams said.

* * *

While all of this was happening, Mr. Williams was at his job a furniture store in the 1100 block of W. Baltimore St., just a few blocks away.

He arrived on the scene only to find all of the family's possessions destroyed except for a living room sofa and some clothes that were drying on a line in the yard.

The family has no place to go and did not know where they would spend the night.

The AFRO contacted the Red Cross and was informed by Miss Angela Parker that they would contact the family to provide food, clothing and shelter.

Anyone who wishes to contribute may call the Burns family through Richard Osborn New and Used Furniture Store at 727-1689. There will be someone to answer the calls from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

WEST BALTIMORE FIRE VICTIMS — Elvis Burns, 1229 W. Lombard St. stands before what is left of his home destroyed by fire Thursday morning. Shown (left panel), is a neighbor, Miss Georgia Eaton, 1225 W. Lombard St., holding the Burns' youngest child, Anna, 1, while the rest of the family was busy surveying damage to their personal belongings. One firefighter was injured in the blaze.

(AFRO staff photo by Roman Hankewycz)

COMMUNITY TO WAIT AND SEE

U.S. asked to defer Courthouse probe

Encouraged by initial actions and positions taken by Supreme Bench Chief Judge Anselm Sodaro, and others, the black community has withdrawn its requests for immediate federal intervention to end longstanding discrimination in the Baltimore City courthouse.

Deep-rooted concern about racial discrimination in the courthouse, obvious in hiring and promotions, and feared in judicial determinations, galvanized community reaction to the fresh charges as no other recent issue had done.

Supreme Bench Judge Joseph C. Howard rekindled the old fight against courthouse injustices in June when he dramatically charged the Supreme Bench with presiding over "a bastion of discrimination based on race and sex."

Judge Howard had strong involvement of black organizations and institutions, as well as individual leaders, in putting together figures that detail the extent of courthouse discrimination and in calls and visits to state and federal officials to demand corrective actions.

* * *

There also is broadbased community support for the good-faith move to give Chief Judge Sodaro and others an opportunity to make meaningful improvements without federal intervention.

The decision to await the outcome of non-federal efforts to improve the courthouse situation stopped, or at least delayed indefinitely, proposed federal court litigation aimed at forcing an end to job discrimination in the courthouse.

Shortly after he was made chief judge on August 29, succeeding Judge Dulany Foster who retired, Judge Sodaro made precedent and named three of the Bench's four black judges to important posts.

* * *

Judge Howard himself was made chief presiding jurist for the 12 Criminal Courts. He was also named chairman of the Criminal Court committee.

In addition, he named Judge Robert B. Watts to the Bench's four-member personnel committee which recommends appointment and hiring; and Judge Harry A. Cole as equity court judge (Circuit Court) succeeding Judge Howard. Further, he appointed Judge Cole chairman of the committee to study the Howard report and make recommendations.

* * *

At his swearing in on Sept. 11, Judge Sodaro asserted the fair employment and fair distribution of courthouse jobs issues were "major" and "sensitife probelm which must be "no longer swept under the rug."

Serving on the Cole committee are Judges Marshall A. Levin, Robert L. Karwacki, Shirley B. Jones and Basil A. Thomas.

Other members of the 22-member Supreme Bench, which has one vacancy, are John R. Hargrove, the fourth black member; and Mary Arabian, Meyer M. Cardin, Charles D. Harris, J. Harold Grady, Albert L. Sklar, James A. Perrott, Robert I.H. Hammerman, Solomon Liss, David Ross, Paul A. Dorf, and James W. Murphy.

* * *

Among groups involved in the courthouse fight have been the Interdenominational Ministerial Alliance; the Metropolitan Committee, a non-partisan organization of 100 black leaders the Urban Affairs Department at Morgan State University, black lawyers, social and fraternal bodies.

In a city approximately 53 per cent black, figures show that 83 per cent of courthouse jobs are held by whites and that they pocket 84 per cent of the $7 million payroll there.

Maryland's two U.S. Senators, Charles McC Mathias and J. Glenn Beall, along with Reps. Parren J. Mitchell and Paul S. Sarbanes, now have been

(Continued on Page 23)

1976 Arts Calendar is ready

With the new year just a little over three months away, the publishers of the Baltimore Black Arts Calendar are prepared for 1976 with the new edition in full color.

Designed just for Baltimore by the producer, Father Henry J. Offer, St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church rector, the unique calendar features history, works of art and poetry by Baltimoreans.

Father Offer said at the Sunday prevue, the calendar may be the only one with a religious flavor.

The theme is "Authentic art is the communication of God's Truth, Beauty and Goodness, Man to Man."

On sale in a clear plastic container, the calender retails for $2 and in quantities of 50, for $1 each.

"Fifty gifts for 50 persons at $1 each," is a good idea, Father Offer states along with Willie Birch, both of whom own the copyright.

Orders may be sent to them at Baltimore Balck Arts Calendar, 1976: 1501 E. Oliver St., Baltimore 21213 — Phone 727-3103.

* * *

The Sunday premier was held at the Art Works Studio, 620 N. Eutaw St., with all artists, poets, and contributorx in the receiving line.

Among them were Mrs. Mary Carter Smith, Latchman Persaud, Jason Woolford, Mohammed Saide Bey, Joyce Scott, Harry Jowser, Eugene Coles, Janice P. Cromwell, David Murray, Cynthia Baskerville, Willie Burch, Thomas Stockett, Van Donald Woodson, Jessica Lockler, Henry Phillips, Charles Fox III, Willie Birch, Lloyd Marcus.

Calvin Green and Father Offer were managers and St.Francis Xavier Church, publisher.

Investors who aided publication are Vernon R. Bailey Funeral Home, Beacon Press, East Baltimore Community Organization, East Baltimore Medical Plan, Equitable Trust Bank, Funeral Directors and Morticians Assoc. of Md., Locks Funeral Home and the March Funeral Home.

Lack of funds ends Quarter Way House Sept. 30

Provident Quarter Way House, a 14-day treatment center for alcoholic males, will shut down Sept. 30 because of lack of federal funds.

The center, located in the rectory of St. Gregory's Catholic Church, 1611 Baker St., takes alcoholic males straight from the emergency ward of Provident Hospital and houses them for a two-week recovery period.

After the 30th, patients in the community will have no place to go.

"I am very much disenchanted at what has happened," says Mrs. Mabel Marshall, program director at the house.

Mrs. Marshall has tried since June to keep the program going.

"I submitted the proposal in December, 1974," she said.

"I received a notice in May stating there are no funds and to begin to phase out the program."

* * *

During that time Mrs. Marshall has again submitted the proposal but without success.

She says they are now attempting to get state funding through Title 20. Title 20 is an agreement between the state Alcoholism Control Division and the Department of Human Resources for money covering the running of quarter way houses for alcoholics.

* * *

The house has been operating for five years and was given to them by the priests of the St. Gregory Catholic Church parish house because they felt a need for such a house.

The Quarter Way House will celebrate its fifth anniversary two days before it is forced to close.

The project is funded by Urban Services and the money is distributed through the Provident Hospital.

Mrs. Marshall gets a budget of $141,000 and is forced to operate from that.

Since June Mrs. Marshall has been forced to cutback on personnel as well as the hours of the remaining house staff.

* * *

One member is William Buppins, the house manager. After the 30th he will have no place to go.

Mr. Buppins, who has been through the program, lives on the premises.

He is unemployed and draws a check.

He has no idea what he's going to do but he worries more about the other patients.

He believes that the House is better than the state hospital because it is right in the community. They don't have far to go from the emergency ward and the patients are allowed visitors.

* * *

Mr. Buppins says all the other agencies are full so the patients that want to come here can't and there is no other place.

Mrs. Marshall told the AFRO the hospital administration said they might absorb the 15-member staff at the house but she has not heard anything further.

But William Hankins, on the staff of Provident Hospital, says this is not possible.

Mr. Hankins told the AFRO that with the type of work the staff members have to do, there would be no place for them.

* * *

Mr. Hankins expressed optimism at being able to get an interim grant from the state through Title 20. He stated that it would be the first of next week before he will have a positive answer.

According to Mr. Hankins the Provident Quarter Way House has been very successfu in its five-year operation.

He said it will be tragic if the house close down because there is no program in the northwest section of the city for alcoholic males.

Another person fighting to save Provident Quarter Way House is Linwood Ivey of the Urban Services.

Mr. Ivey tole the AFRO that while they were waiting for the announcement to close down the notice of the cut off of funds came as a complete surprise.

"They said there was something wrong with our application," said Mr. Ivey, noting he had tried to find out why the sudden cut off of funds.

Mr. Ivey points out the cutting off of funds or alcoholics is nationwide trend and it is for that reason that he expected the house to be shut down.

What he says he can not understand is the HEW regional office in Rockville gives no reason why.

"We've gotten good evaluation over the years," he said. He believes the alcoholic in the country is being written off.

* * *

Mr. Ivey says he has written letters and sent telegrams begging for a meeting to find out the reason behind the closing of the house.

He states that if he doesn't receive an answer soon he is going to Rockville to find out why.

* * *

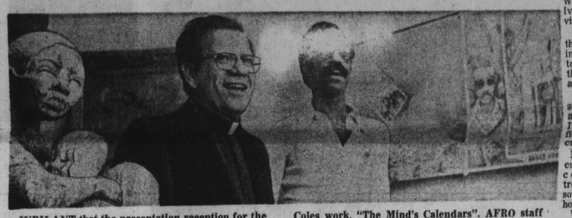
Mrs. Marshall is also upset at the closing of the house. She hopes the counselors on her staff have been looking for jobs. She, too, has been looking for a job.

Mrs. Marshall points out that their money just might make it until the end of the month.

She said that the patients already living in the house are about ready to leave and they are taking on no others.

* * *

The Provident Quarter Way House has received support from all over the city none in the form of money. Without the money trey need to operate, Provident Quarter Way House like most of the other alcoholic halfway houses throughout the country will drift into oblivion.



JUBILANT that the presentation reception for the Baltimore Black Arts Calendar was such a success, Father Henry Offer, rector of St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church, the originator and artist, Eugene Coles are shown standing in front of Mr. Coles work, "The Mind's Calendars". AFRO staff photographer, Roman Hankewycz, took the photo at the exhibit at the Arts Works Studio, 620 N. Eutaw St.

You do not have to be on welfare for food stamps

A citizen does not have to be on welfare to receive food stamps.

Herbert Locklear, chief of the food stamp eligibility division, told the AFRO food stamps are available to low income families, the unemployed, persons with high medical expenses and persons who receive social security or welfare checks as their only source of income.

The program was created to help a low income households maintain or improve the level of nutrition.

To be eligible for food stamps, a person's monthly net income must fall within the guidelines set by the office.

The head of the household must go to the Social Services office to fill out necessary forms.

He must bring proof of his income before filling out the forms.

* * *

According to Mr. Locklear, the office takes about two weeks to check the applicant out before he knows if he is eligible.

In an attempt to further reach the community, the program has established an outreach group whose job is to make more citizens aware of the program.

The outreach group will have a booth at the City Fair.

Gone WW protest staged

The Baltimore Young Workers Liberation League picketed the Reisterstown Plaza Theatre's Tuesday showing of "Gone With The Wind."

A spokesman said the league picketed the theatre for showing the film because it feels the film was "racist" and should not be included in the Bicentennial program for the coming year.

The league also blasted CBS, NBC and a chain of local theatres for placing "Gone With The Wind" on their "Bicentennial Schedule."

The claim is the film is not worthy of the Bicentennial title because of its "racist" content.

In addition, the film is a story of the Civil War and not of the Revolutionary War.

Harold Wolin, the spokesman, told the AFRO the film has subtle racism and glorifies the white slave owners in the South.

Th league also believes the film is pro-Confederate, showing the South as the victim of the war and not as the instigator.

Another league member, recalled on scene in the film he says is racist.

The scene showed the conflict between field slaves and house slaves on the plantation and how the house slaves were treated in a much kinder manner.

BRITISH IMPORTS FEATURED

Stewarts reflects new trend in attitude, fashions

The Baltimore Stewart's Department Stores formally opened a season of fashions, art, crafts and other merchandise with accent on imports from Great Britain.

The interracial gathering at the York Rd. store witnessed the appearance of the Stewart national president, Charles Heller, British Ambassador Sir Peter Ramsbotham and the 20th Laird of Traquair, Peter Maxwell Stuart of Scotland.

* * *

The reception reflected the recent accent the British government now places on stronger measures to wipe out race discrimination in housing, schools and clubs.

* * *

The most far-reaching efforts since 1965 stiffen laws to wipe out prejudice are in a white paper released in London last week which asserts the time has come for fair and equal treatment for all persons in the Isles.

Stewart's downtown store with large black patronage, is headquarters for the Baltimore area.

Petured are the most provocative imports from the London, Scotland and other designers, artists, and craftsmen.

* * *

Stewart's President Heller told the AFRO the store appreciates its patronage regardless of color.

Noteworthy was the presence of Stewart's buyer of six years, Mrs. Doris Dunston and store model, Miss Wenda Welch, who showed British fashions during the Sunday style show.

Including toys, household items, furnishings and everything for the home, British Imports on sale cover works of art, jewelry and china. EMO

STEWART'S BEAUTEOUS MODEL, Miss Wenda Welch (from left) in Panel 1 photo by Norma Spencer, is shown with Mrs. Clarence Blount, Stewart's Buyer Mrs. Doris Dunston and Senator Blount. Panel 2 — Presiding at the Sunday reception at the York Rd. store was Stewart's new president, Charles Heller. With him are British Ambassador to the U.S., Sir Peter Ramsboatham and Lady Ramsboatham (Photo by Roman Hankewycz). Sen. and Mrs. Blount were invited guests at the closed affair which also witnessed the appearance of British Consul Peter Maxwell Stuart, the 20th Laird of Traquair, a resident of Scotland.

SEP 20 1975