—Neighbors

Continued from page 1

bus because of the blizzard, would have been a horrifying experience, if it was not for the residents of the 2403 and 2508 block of McCulloh Street.

On Friday, Feb. 11, three No. five busses going north on McCulloh Street were snow bound in 23 inches of snow because of the blizzard of '83.

With the assistance of the three bus drivers, the 25 passengers were transferred to one bus.

"Bad circumstances bring out the good in people," said Mrs. David Sheplan of the 6900 block Fieldcrest Road who was a passenger on the bus.

Residents of McCulloh Street got a chance on Feb. 11 and 12 to put their real community concern to a test.

"We had no idea there were passengers on the bus until one of my neighbors called me Saturday morning and told me 25 people had spent the night on the bus," said Mrs. Nel Sheridan president of the neighborhood club.

Prior to learning about the citizens on the bus, the drivers had provided their passengers with coffee and cake. Mrs. Sheplan, a passenger said, "The bus drivers tried to make us as comfortable as possible."

Early Saturday morning residents of McCulloh Street immediately started calling each other and preparing food and beverages for the passengers.

Jefferey Evans of the 2400 block of McCulloh St., opened his home to the passengers for the use of his telephone and bathroom. He also served them coffee and cheese sandwiches.

While some passengers were in Evans' home, other neighbors were busy cooking homemade chicken rice soup, homemade chili, fruit, cake, cookies, hot coffee, tea and punch.

"We should not have to wait for something like this to happen

Another resident said the McCulloh Street neighborhood is like to help each other," said Mrs. Sheridan.

Another resident said the McCulloh Street neighborhood is like "one big family." She said, "We have always looked out for each other and keep a check on each other's home.

"Joyce Thornton, a resident of McCulloh Street for more than 40 years told the AFRO, "Our neighbors are super people. We tried to make those passengers stay as comfortable as possible. Tough times never last but tough people do."

Mrs. Biederman said the three bus drivers, Mr. Cradle, Mr. Himmel and Mr. Wilkes were "excellent morale boosters."

Around 6 p.m. Saturday evening, the Department of Transportation managed to send transportation for the passengers.

Mrs. Bernice Smith, a resident of McCulloh Street for 59 years said, "If anything ever happens on McCulloh Street we always look out for each other.

She said she could smell the fumes from the bus Friday night but had no idea until Saturday morning that there were 25 citizens on the bus.

Mrs. Sheplan said there is no way to thank all of the residents of McCulloh Street but I think the goodness and kindness should be told."

—Bojangles

Continued from page 1

in the October 11, 1930 AFRO - AMERICAN Newspapers.

Though his injury was not serious, "Bo" was indeed a hero and his act of heroism only served to further endear him in the hearts and memories of many. That article appears in its entirety below, reprinted for Black History Month. "Bojangles" Shot Bill Robinson, Chasing Thief, is Shot by Mistake.

Famous Tap Dancer Went to Aid of Woman Who Was Robbed.

PITTSBURGH — Bill Robinson, the one and only "Bojangles", was shot by mistake by a policeman when he attempted to aid a white woman whose purse had been snatched by a boy early Sunday. Robinson was taken to Mercy Hospital suffering from a wound of the left arm, which was found not serious.

Bill and the "Brown Buddies" company that had played the Nixon last week, closed here on Saturday night, and Bill was leaving the hotel Sunday morning to take a taxi to the Pennsylvania Station when he heard the screams of a woman who pointed after a fleeing youth with her purse in his hand.

"Bo" dropped his bags and started in pursuit shouting for the youth to stop and when he failed to heed, Bill drew his treasured gold plated revolver presented him by the New York City police department, and fired into the air.

Officer Fires

Officer Michael Horan, white, who had learned of the purse snatching and was looking for the thief, heard the shots and took up the pursuit. He also shouted and fired his gun into the air, but failed to attract the attention of Robinson who continued to pursue the culprit. Not knowing that Bill was after the thief, Horan fired at Robinson.

Robinson dropped and Horan continued after the purse snatcher who escaped. "Bo" was rushed to Mercy Hospital where he gave his address as 247 W. 49th Street, New York City, and his age as 54. Horan and Lieut. Gross of Center Avenue police station visited Bill at the hospital and expressed regrets at the mistake.

Robinson declared he had no ill feelings toward the officer and complimented Horan for his alertness in taking up the case. "Bo" was allowed to leave for his New York opening Monday.

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City awaken to downtown blaze

By Martin Evans
AFRO Staff Writer

A spectacular predawn fire lit up the downtown sky with flames that danced more than 200 feet into the air, engulfing the old Hochchild-Kohn department store Thursday morning.

The blaze out of control for more than three hours, sending soar sheets of flame and billowing bursts of black smoke skyward and snarling the morning's rush hour traffic.

By 6.33 a.m. 10 alarms had been rung, drawing 250 men and 80 pieces of equipment to battle the blaze.

It was almost 9 a.m. before the blaze was brought under control, and firefighters continued to pour water on pockets of flame into the afternoon.

Fire officials said the the blaze was under investigation and arson is suspected.

The building complex, which consisted of the old Hochchild-Kohn store and the Atreum, a multi-million dollar office and retail complex which was under restorative construction at the corner of Howard St. and the Lexington Mall.

Fire Captain Patrick Flynn said the blaze was well advanced by the time the first trucks arrived on the scene, at about 5:55 a.m., and for a while firefighters fought a losing battle to contain the shooting flames.

By 7:15 a.m., with concern mounting that the blaze would spread to surrounding buildings, a safety spotter noticed the building's south wall had begun to sag ominously, and the fire-eaters were ordered to retreat.

But with a wrenching sound of twisting girders the south wall gave way, spilling a tons-heavy avalanche of brick, mortar, steel and glass onto the men and equipment below.

A hook and ladder truck was damaged and several men were hurt, one seriously enough to require hospitalization for back injuries.

Mayor Schaefer, who appeared at the scene, said he was optimistic the Atreum project would be continued.

But the complex, which figured in the city's plans to encourage retail and other businesses to remain in Baltimore, was almost completely destroyed by the blaze.

The complex's developer, David Murdock was unavailable to comment on the possibility of continuing plans.

The mayor's deputy press secretary, John Barker said the complex was to have been "a very important part of the revitalization of the Howard St.

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AFRO stockholders elect new chairman

John J. (Jake) Oliver Jr. was elected chairman of the Board of Directors of the AFRO - AMERICAN Newspapers at the annual stockholders meeting Feb. 14.

The former publisher of the Baltimore AFRO now becomes head of the AFRO chain of newspapers founded in 1892 by his great grandfather, John H. Murphy Sr. The largest chain of newspapers printed for a predominately black readership, the AFRO is now in its 91st year with offices in Baltimore, Washington, Richmond, VA, and Newark, N.J.

Young Oliver is a graduate of Fisk University and received a Juris Doctor degree from Columbia University School of Law. Prior to coming to the AFRO in May, 1982, he was a vice - president and general consel of the General Electric Communications Company in Fort Wayne, Ind.

He is great grandson of the late Mrs. Rose Murphy Oliver, one of the original board members in 1923 and Dr. Joseph P. Oliver of Brazil, Ind.

The person whom young Oliver succeeds as board chairman is John H. Murphy III who had held that post since 1974.

Mr. Murphy III, son of the late Daniel Murphy and grandson of Founder Murphy, was elected president Feb. 14 to succeed the retiring elder Mr. Oliver.

Noteworthy is the fact that the elder Mr. Oliver began at the AFRO as an apprentice in 1934 and became a trustee. He is now rounding out 48 ½ years of continuous employment. He and his wife, Mrs. Sallye Oliver, hold residences in Baltimore, Cape May, NJ and Indianapolis, IN.

New members of the AFRO board named Feb. 14 are Dr. Irving S. Hammer, Daniel Henson. Mrs. Madeline W. Murphy, Ronald Powell, George A. Lottier and Dr. Hilbert Stanley.

Mr. Powell, Mrs. Murphy and Mr. Lottier, now returning to the board, were former members.

Other board members are Mrs. Frances Draper, Mrs. Mae E. Dyson, Walter T. Dyson, Frederick A. Howard, Dr. William V. Lockwood, Mrs. Arnetta. M. Lottier.

Mrs. Louise G. Murphy, J. Oliver Sr., John H. Murphy III, John J. Oliver Jr., Mrs. Elizabeth M. Moss, Mrs. Madeline M. Rabb, Dr. Oakley H. Saunders and Kenneth O. Wilson. E.M.O.

AFRO EXECUTIVES — At a Monday, Feb. 14, AFRO stockholders' meeting John J. Oliver Jr., left, formerly the vice-chairman of the AFRO - AMERICAN Newspapers and publisher of the Baltimore AFRO (AFRO photo by P. A. Greene) - AMERICAN was named chairman of the board. John H. Murphy III, former chairman was named president of the board and John J. Oliver Sr., seated, former president was named president emeritus.

FBI agent pushes bureau's drive for blacks, women

There are no black women agents working in the Baltimore office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

Special Agent Andrew S. Manning told the AFRO, "We are trying to get blacks."

The starting salary for an FBI agent while in 14 weeks of training is $22,307. After completing training courses, the salary is $27,907.

In order to become an agent, you must have a bachelor's degree and be between 23 and 35-years-old.

Agent Charles E. Harrison has been an agent with the FBI for 11 years. Born in Turner Station the 36-year-old Morgan State University graduate, says being an FBI agent is an "exciting job."

He said you must be ready to meet people at any given time. Harrison, who is now earning more than $40,000 a year has been on assignments as at agent at the White House, worked as an undercover agent and has traveled extensively.

He is now working in the administrative program of the Baltimore office as an FBI agent. He said you must be available for assignments anywhere in the bureau's jurisdiction.

In order to be an agent, you must be in excellent physical condition with no defects which would interfere in firearms use, raids or offensive tactics.

FBI AGENT CHARLES HARRISON has been employed with the FBI for 11 years. He is now assigned as an agent with the Baltimore office.

City Blue Chip-in goal —2,000 summer jobs

Mayor Schaefer met on Feb. 16 with a group of business, civic and voluntary organization leaders to discuss the Blue Chip in summer jobs for 1983.

Together with campaign Chairman George McGowan, president of the Baltimore Gas and Electric Company, Mayor Schaefer set this year's goal at 2,000 new summer jobs for low-income Baltimore youth.

When George McGowan volunteered to chair Blue Chip-in Summer Jobs 1983, he agreed that we should double our efforts from last year", the mayor said.

"With everyone chipping in, I know we will meet our goal because we all get something in return for our investment." said the mayor.

In his remarks, the mayor lauded the success of last year's summer job program. "Together we exceeded our 1,000 job goal. Together we proved that the entire Baltimore community is committed to our city's youth the labor force of tomorrow. Together we forged the beginnings of a new partnership which shows our city cares," he said.

According to George McGowan, "Blue Chip-in summer jobs 1983 is a true working partnership one that depends on the combined efforts of business, voluntary organizations, churches and synagogues, city employees and concerned citizens."

Working with McGowan will be William Clark of Hooper, Kiefer and Cornell law firm, who will chair the charities, foundations and hospital subcommittee; Richard Kelly, acting executive director of Maryland Churches United, chairing the religious organization sub committee and Doris Johnson, executive director of the Coldstream Homestead Montebello Community Association, who will chair the community organizations subcommittee.

Mayor Schaefer said that contributions and pledges for over 200 jobs have already been received. "The proud, hard working kids who will get these jobs come from homes where in many instances they are the breadwinners. The money they earn will help support their families, put food on the table, and help them buy the clothes and supplies they need to go back to school next fall," the mayor said.

Businesses, organizations and concerned citizens interested in chipping in money and jobs to Blue Chip-in summer jobs 1983 should call 396-1211.

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