

Alston Backed To Head Laurel Training School

Welfare Board Also
Asks Thorne Choice
For Blue Plains

Dr. James S. Alston, acting superintendent of the District Training School for Feeble-Minded at Laurel, Md., has been recommended by the Board of Public Welfare to succeed the late Dr. James Lewald as superintendent of the school.

Dr. Lewald died in Maryland University Hospital in Baltimore, February 3 of a heart ailment.

The board yesterday unanimously voted to recommend to the Commissioners that Dr. Alston be appointed.

The board also voted to recommend to the Commissioners that W. Herbert Thorne, assistant superintendent of the Home for the Aged and Infirm at Blue Plains, be named superintendent in place of Otto Cass, who has resigned, effective Monday, because of illness.

At Laurel Since 1946.
Dr. Alston was born in Milwaukee in 1913 and was graduated from the Marquette University Medical School. He has been associated with the school at Laurel since 1946, coming here from the Butler Hospital at Providence, R. I. He and his wife and three children live on the grounds.

Mr. Cass has been superintendent of the Blue Plains home since 1941, when he transferred from the office of general superintendent of Public Assistance of the Board of Public Welfare. He was associated with the Public Works Administration and the Red Cross before coming to the Welfare Board.

Mr. Thorne has been associated with the home since 1928, when he came there as chief clerk. He has been assistant superintendent since 1942.

Aid Requests Continue.
The board heard reports that, for the first time since before the war, there has been an increasing number of requests for assistance. There were 239 requests for aid for the week ended February 14, compared with 220 requests for the week ended February 7; there were 169 for the week ended January 31 and 204 for the week ended January 24. Last year the number of weekly requests for aid remained under 140.

The increase was attributed to growing unemployment, not so much among the persons actually seeking assistance, but among relatives, who are no longer able to assist them.

The unemployment situation also is responsible for an increase in the amount of money paid for aid to dependent children. The payments made in January were \$133,349, as against \$130,465 in December, and \$91,061 in January, 1948. The number of persons receiving aid to dependent children increased from 4,932 in January, 1948, to 6,541 in January, 1949.

New Act Clears Way For GAO Building

President Truman yesterday signed a measure raising the limit of cost for the new General Accounting Office from \$22,850,000 to \$25,400,000, permitting the Federal Works Agency to make a prompt contract to build the structure.

The FWA shortly after the signing, awarded a contract to John McShain, Inc., Philadelphia contractor, for \$21,635,500 for the long-delayed building to be erected at Fifth and G streets N.W.

The contractor immediately began preparations for testing the subsoil at the site to determine the best type of piles to be used in the foundations.

Authority to raise the limit of cost for the building was necessary, due to rising construction costs. This measure passed the Senate February 8 and was passed by the House February 21.

The McShain firm was the low bidder when bids were opened recently. The contract does not include escalators and elevators, as contracts for these will be awarded later, officials explained.

Excavation for the foundation of the building, which will cover almost a city block, was delayed by the war and the need for additional funds. The General Accounting Office now is scattered in a number of buildings over the city.

Baltimore Holds Woman Linked With New York Theft

By the Associated Press
BALTIMORE, Feb. 26.—Detectives are holding for investigation a woman who surrendered jewelry which she said had been given to her by Jack Garin, charged in New York with burglary.

Baltimore authorities notified New York police last night that the woman said the 40-year-old Garin was her "boy friend" and that she expressed fear the jewelry had been stolen.

The message described a watch and seven rings yielded by the woman and quoted her as saying she had pawned several other articles in Baltimore and had given the tickets to Garin.

Her identity was withheld. Garin was arrested in New York Wednesday and charged with a \$10,000 burglary of the Melbrooke Jewel Co.



ALL IN A DAY'S WORK—E. E. Sauerbrey, assistant director of the Botanic Gardens, begins work on a watering job which would take one man two days to complete. The huge azalea display, on exhibit for the next two weeks, contains about 3,000 plants, which must be watered every two days.

Legislation for Special Sesqui Buildings Here Goes to D. C. Group

Legislation to permit the erection of special buildings for Washington's Sesquicentennial celebration next year now is pending before the Senate District Committee.

Carter T. Barron, executive vice chairman of the National Capital Sesquicentennial Commission, yesterday sent a letter to Senator McClellan, Democrat, of Tennessee, President Pro Tempore of the Senate, embodying this program. Mr. Barron explained the Budget Bureau director soon will submit a request for the necessary funds. Mr. Barron enclosed a proposed joint resolution to carry out the purposes of the commission. The measure was referred to the Senate District Committee for action.

A similar legislative proposal was sent to Speaker Rayburn for introduction in the House. Senator McClellan and Speaker Rayburn are ex officio members of the commission, which is headed by President Truman as Chief Executive.

Exhibit Space Sought.
Mr. Barron pointed out the proposed legislation would authorize "such sums as may be necessary." The commission has considered tentative plans either to erect temporary buildings near the Washington Monument or to re-plant existing Federal structures there to provide exhibit space.

It also wants a modernized outdoor theater near the Monument in which to present a pageant.

Congress set up the commission on July 18, 1947. Since then, the group, composed of three Senators, three Representatives and six District residents, has been at work mapping out a program.

Edward Boykin, the commission's director, has offices in the District Building.

Mr. Barron's letter pointed out the commission has now approved definite plans, based on American and the "history of free government in America." He declared "Freedom will be the theme of the Sesquicentennial."

Would Set Admission Charges.
The proposed joint resolution would authorize the commission to allocate space in the buildings to States and other groups for their exhibits and would empower it to accept contributions from any source and fix charges for admission to exhibits, plays and dramatic productions. Such revenue would be turned into the Federal Treasury and credited against the commission's expenses.

Any permanent building erected by the commission would be turned over to some appropriate Federal agency, subject to approval of the National Capital Park and Planning Commission.

The resolution also would authorize the mint to strike a special medal for sale to the public during the celebration, from April 15, 1950, through November.

Frederick Douglass Lauded At Anniversary Service

Annual birthday services honoring Frederick Douglass, famed Negro abolitionist orator, were held last night at the Metropolitan Church, 1518 M street N.W.

Dr. Nannie Burroughs, founder and president of the National Trade Union of Women and Girls and president of the National Baptist Women's Convention, told the group, "Frederick Douglass is the finest symbol of what man can become in a democracy through their own initiative, efforts and desire."

The observance was sponsored by the Frederick Douglass Committee of the Washington and Vicinity Federation of Women's Clubs and the National Association of Colored Women.

Alexandria Stamp Bill Signed
President Truman signed into law yesterday a bill for issuance of a stamp to observe the 200th anniversary of the founding of Alexandria.

Rich Hues of 3,000 Azaleas On Display at Botanic Gardens

The Botanic Gardens "annual azalea show is open today, with all the lavish display that has become traditional for these exhibits.

The flowers will remain on view for the next two weeks. The show opened yesterday.

Azaleas of white, cream, rose, pink, light pink, lavender pink, orange and soft lavender are arranged in lush banks around the walls of the display rooms.

No new varieties are being shown this year, but the arrangements include such old-standbys as Bobbink, Mrs. Roosevelt, President Roosevelt, Rosa Bonheur, Othello, Christmas Star, Lillian Gish, Hexe, Orange Prince, Snowbank and many others.

Tree Type Displayed.
The President Roosevelt azalea, a lively rose color with large ruffled petals, sometimes semidouble, is an outstanding example of the bush variety.

One of the most eye-catching flowers of the exhibit is the tree type, which usually has a stem 1 or 2 feet high and isn't considered full grown until it is about 15 years old.

This type is made by budding or grafting any variety to the stem of a strong plant about two or three years old. The result is a small tree, usually 3 feet or more in height, covered with thick blossoms of any color.

An outstanding example of this type in the show is the "weber" variety, a delicate shell pink in color and resembling a tree of roses.

Setting up the show, which includes about 3,000 plants in tubs and pots, was no easy task for Albert Depilla, supervisor of the building; E. E. Sauerbrey, assistant director; and L. A. Desayes, his assistant.

Of Hothouse Variety.
It took the men a whole day to arrange the numerous pots of azaleas in just one wing of the display. It takes eight hours every two days to keep the plants watered.

All the flowers are of the hothouse variety, grown in the Botanic Gardens. They will bloom for about two weeks when it is expected their more hearty outdoor brothers will be ready to show.

The azaleas, ranging in age from 1 to 20 years, will be on display from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. weekdays and Sunday and from 9 a.m. to noon Saturdays for the next two weeks.

The Botanic Gardens are located at First and Canal streets S.W.

Tennis Permits Halted Subcommittees Vote Until Board Weighs To Apply Sales Tax to Nonsegregation Plea Gas and Electric Bills

The Recreation Department has decided not to issue permits for use of the tennis courts in five Federally controlled park areas until the Recreation Board has a chance to take up the Interior Department's request for "non-segregation" on them.

This was revealed late yesterday in a letter from Harry S. Wender, chairman of the board, to Interior Secretary Krug. The letter was in response to Mr. Krug's written request Thursday that the 18 tennis courts in question be designated "open units" instead of "white units" and "colored units."

Mr. Wender told the Interior Secretary his request would be placed before the board at its regular March 8 meeting. Mr. Krug also asked Mr. Wender to submit to his office copies of all the permits issued by the board for all its activities.

Sixteen of the courts involved are at the Anacostia, Garfield, Montrose and Rock Creek Park centers, now listed for whites, and the two for colored are at the Francis Recreation Center.

Mr. Krug's letter also asked that all permits issued by the Recreation Board be placed on unassigned Federal parkland be on a "first come, first served" basis.

Although the permits issued for tennis playing now designate certain courts for either white or colored use, Mr. Christiansen said no attempt is made to enforce segregation on the Federal-area courts. Segregation, however, is practiced on a number of courts which the Recreation Board considers District property.

Recreation Department officials pointed out that there are few requests for tennis permits at this time of year. The courts open at present are hard-surfaced. Any one can play on them now. Later in the season, when the clay courts are put in shape, permits are needed to play.

Asbury Methodists
To Hear J. E. Wilkins
Asbury Methodist Church will celebrate Laymen's Day Sunday at 9:30 and 11 a.m. The guest speaker for both services is Attorney J. Ernest Wilkins of Chicago, who holds the Phi Beta Kappa Key from the University of Illinois and also is the first Negro selected to the Judicial Council of the Methodist Church at its last General Conference in Boston. His subject is "I Am a Methodist."

Bills to Transfer County Planning Due for Action

Montgomery Backers
And Commission Aides
Heard at Annapolis

By J. B. Zatman
Star Staff Correspondent

ANNAPOLIS, Feb. 26.—The House Ways and Means Committee is expected to act early next week on four bills which would transfer many of the functions of the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission to the Montgomery County Council.

The measures would transfer building and electrical inspection and all planning functions in Montgomery County, other than those dealing with parks, from the commission to the council.

Spokesmen for the commission, the council and the all-Republican Montgomery delegation argued for two hours before the committee yesterday over the effect of the proposed legislation.

Claims by supporters of the bills that they would result in county-wide zoning and planning under locally elected officials were met with the contention from commission representatives that the measures would "destroy planning in the Maryland-Washington regional district."

Lee Criticizes Setup.
Frederic P. Lee, council president, started the debate by charging that under the present setup, "we are second-class citizens."

"He pointed out a Statewide law gives all counties except Montgomery planning authority. And, until six years ago, he added, building and electrical inspections were under elected officials in the county."

Chairman Leroy Humphrey asked whether the same condition existed in his home county of Prince Georges.

"Yes," replied Mr. Lee. "You're just as bad off as we, but you seem to like it."

Emphasizing the commission's authority to purchase and develop park lands in Montgomery and Prince Georges Counties with the aid of Federal funds would be undisturbed by the bills, Mr. Lee said. "It is a mean picture I bring to you when I say laws have been on the books 20 years but we can't enforce them because the machinery exists in the planning commission over which we have no authority."

Wants Problems Separated.
In response to another question by Mr. Humphrey, Mr. Lee said bi-county agencies are necessary for bi-county problems, but he insisted that building and electrical inspection and planning for Montgomery County is a Montgomery problem and should be "divorced from Prince Georges County."

A much different viewpoint was expressed by J. Bond Smith, attorney to the commission, who denied the present law discriminates against Montgomery and Prince Georges Counties.

Warning Is Issued.
"These bills," he warned, "would destroy planning in the Maryland-Washington regional district completely and irreversibly because they would repeal the Maryland-Washington Regional District Act."

"You can't take away half your planning district and still have a planning area. These bills are vicious in their effect."

Mr. Smith argued that the entire planning area in the two counties must be treated as a unit in conjunction with planning by the National Capital Park and Planning Commission.

"County lines are unimportant in such an area," he maintained. To support his stand, he quoted excerpts from an editorial appearing in the February 15 issue of The Washington Star opposing the bills.

Also opposing the bill were E. Brooke Lee, vice chairman of the commission, and its chairman, Irwin I. Main.

Attack Suspect Held Here Pending Extradition

Don Jackson Blair, 39, today was ordered held in District Jail without bond pending an extradition hearing in District Court within 30 days in connection with charges that he raped a 73-year-old woman in Cumberland, Md., on February 4.

Detective Richard E. Williams of the fugitive squad told Judge Walter Casey in Municipal Court that Blair had said he did not want to return to Cumberland, where Miss Ann Adams, caretaker of the Volunteers of America Home, was attacked.

Blair was arrested Thursday after he walked into the office of Lt. Col. Walter O. Urey, head of the Volunteers of America, at 924 New York avenue N.W. and asked for a job as a cook. Col. Urey recognized him from a picture of the suspect sent to him by Cumberland police.

Man's Condition Critical After 4 Die of 'Smoke'

Robert Odell Anderson, 35, colored, 900 block M street N.W., was in critical condition today at Gallinger Hospital as a result of drinking "smoke," an alcohol fuel, hospital authorities reported.

Four colored persons have died in the last two days after drinking the substance. Several others are in hospitals.

Interacial Service

Dr. Mordecai Johnson, president of Howard University, will speak at 4 p.m. Sunday at an inter-racial worship service in honor of Brotherhood Week at Calvary Baptist Church. The service is sponsored by the Interchurch Fellowship of Washington.

Dr. Clarence W. Cranford, pastor of the church, will preside and the Fellowship Choir, under the direction of Temple Dunn, will furnish music.



SYMPHONY GIVES TO SYMPHONY—Howard Mitchell (right), associate conductor of the National Symphony, receives a gift of \$25.13 for the symphony fund drive from Chester J. Petranek, conductor of the Montgomery County Symphony Orchestra. The money, contributed by the county orchestra's players, was presented at the Mayflower Hotel yesterday.—Star Staff Photo.

Maryland Bill Seeks To Restrict Courts' Power Over Press

By a Staff Correspondent of The Star

ANNAPOLIS, Feb. 26.—A bill to prohibit Maryland judges from adopting any rule to "limit or abridge freedom of the press" is before the General Assembly.

It was introduced in the Senate yesterday by Senator P. G. Stromberg, Democrat, of Howard County, owner of a chain of county newspapers.

The measure stems from Rule 904 of the Baltimore Supreme Bench, which restricts the publication of news concerning an accused after his arrest.

Three radio stations and a commentator were convicted of contempt recently under the rule. They were cited for broadcasts on the arrest of Eugene H. James, charged with the murder of 11-year-old Marsha Brill in Baltimore. James later was convicted and sentenced to be hanged.

The Court of Appeals Rules Committee has been considering Statewide extension of the Baltimore rule.

Senator Stromberg said he and a committee of the Maryland Press Association had drafted the bill.

According to the preamble, "any attempt to abridge the liberty of the press should be entirely within the control of the voters of the State and its duly elected General Assembly."

Both the House and Senate held routine sessions before recessing for the week end.

Approval was given a resolution sponsored by the Montgomery delegation requesting the Governor and the Motor Vehicles Department to study the feasibility of placing a slogan on automobile license tags to advertise the State.

They suggested the following slogans: "The Free State," "The Old Line State" or "America in Miniature."

Earlier, a group of Maryland physicians appeared before the House Public Health and Welfare Committee to oppose a bill which would add physical therapy to the subjects on which chiropractors are examined.

Dr. Huntington Williams, Baltimore health commissioner, charged the measure would "put chiropractors right into the practice of medicine."

On the other hand, Wayne F. Crider, Hagerstown, representing the Maryland Chiropractic Association, insisted the bill would merely "make our law specific and definite."

Meanwhile, Dr. Thomas G. Pullen, Jr., State school superintendent, criticized the "procedure recommended" in the Oberlin-Spaulding bill but said he favored its "spirit and intent."

He singled out for attack the measure's provision for a special assistant attorney general to investigate subversive activities.

Truman's Policy Leads To War, Libby Charges

President Truman's foreign policy is not a peace policy but rather one leading the world toward war, Frederick J. Libby, executive secretary of the National Council for the Prevention of War, declared today. He added that "if war does come it will be a 30-year war."

Mr. Libby spoke at a meeting of the Institute of International Relations being held at Howard University under the auspices of the American Friends Service Committee. The institute opened last night and will close tonight with an address by Dr. A. C. Chakravarty, English professor at Calcutta University, who is teaching this year at Howard University.

The institute was scheduled to hear an address this afternoon by Lewis Hoskins, formerly dean of the faculty at Pacific College on "On Both Sides of China's Political Frontier." Discussion groups will follow Mr. Hoskins' talk.

Mr. Libby asserted that President Truman's foreign policy was being run by the Army and big business.

"Such interests have created a fear of Russia in this country which is utterly unjustified on the basis of the facts," Mr. Libby charged.

Max Lerner, author and former editor of The Nation, last night told the institute that President Truman's election was proof that the common people still had a voice in running the Government.

Art Brown to Speak

Art Brown of the executive staff of the United States Chamber of Commerce, will speak at the 11 a.m. service tomorrow in Walker Chapel, Methodist Church, at 4102 North Glebe road, Arlington. Mr. Brown will talk on "A Layman's Faith."

CAB Takes Steps To Put Airlines On Profit Side

Tighter Operations
Ordered; Airmail
Costs Are Probed

By the Associated Press

The Civil Aeronautics Board has disclosed a sweeping program for "the complete return of the air transport industry to a sound and profitable condition."

Noting that of 16 trunk line carriers, only eight showed a profit last year, the board issued a series of orders aimed at sharply tightening future operations.

Among other things, it called for an investigation of airmail costs—which the Government helps foot—even as it gave seven lines nearly \$8,000,000 in back mail pay.

An additional \$6,000,000 will be split by American, United and Trans-World air lines as the result of CAB's decision to make up mail losses caused by the grounding of faulty DC-6 and Constellation transports in the past two years.

Financial Probe Ordered.
In its 18-page statement of policy last night, the board also ordered an investigation to find out why it is that of the "big four" airlines—American, Eastern, United and Trans-World—only Eastern has been a consistent profit-maker since the war.

The Reconstruction Finance Corp. might be asked to lend some financial help, if that seems indicated, the board said.

It said, too, that it wants more facts to help it decide whether Western Airlines, which operates on the West Coast, and Northeast Airlines, which flies mostly in New England, should be broken up in the public interest.

The first action of that kind now is pending against National Airlines, which operates along the Atlantic and Gulf coasts.

As a move toward cutting costs, the board said it will look into the question of requiring the major lines to share more of their ground facilities, such as weather reporting, loading and unloading planes and ticket offices.

New Studies Scheduled.
It also scheduled new studies on some of the most heavily traveled routes in the Nation, particularly between Washington and Chicago and New York and Detroit.

The board said it will announce a decision next month on its three-year investigation into whether air freight rates should be based on the value of shipments and other considerations, as is done in rail rates.

The possibility of transcontinental air coach service—without free meals and other frills—will be taken up at a hearing, the CAB said. At the same time it proposed a close study of the whole question of free meals in flight, which has been a common practice since the industry's birth.

The eight lines which made a profit last year are Braniff, Chicago & Southern, Continental, Delta, Eastern, Colonial, Eastern and Capital.

Extra mail payments were announced for American (\$233,000), United (\$2,902,000), TWA (\$2,748,000), Northwest (\$1,134,000), National (\$337,000), Northeast (\$305,000), and Challenger (\$149,000).

New and higher rates were fixed for Northwest, National, Northeast and Challenger airlines effective last January 1.

Sons Discover Body Of Mother in Well

The body of Mrs. Anna P. Salzer, 49, was found this morning at the bottom of a 40-foot well in the backyard of her home at Lincoln, in Fairfax County, Va.

Detective Sgt. Joseph Howard said an autopsy would be performed today to determine the cause of death. Police said there was no evidence of foul play.

Mrs. Salzer's body was discovered by her two sons, Richard, 25, and Frank, 28. Mrs. Salzer was a widow, and her son, Frank lived with her. Richard, who lives in Washington, came to visit his mother this morning, police said.

Police said the two sons noticed a trap door in the well had been removed and they saw their mother's body inside.

The body was removed by the Penn Daw Rescue Squad.

Worker in Falls Church Rescued After Cave-In

A pipefitter was rescued from a ditch 17 feet deep after a cave-in today at Graham road and Tyler avenue, Falls Church.

The man, James Carter, colored, of the 1100 block of Fifty-seventh avenue N.E., was pulled from the ditch by fellow workers within a few minutes after the dirt covered him. He was taken to Arlington Hospital by the Fairfax Rescue Squad with a possible fractured leg.

40-Hour Work Week Ordered by McNair For County Employees

Office hours of salaried employees of Montgomery County will be increased Tuesday from 32½ to 40 a week by order of Acting County Manager Irving G. McNair.

By terms of the memorandum issued yesterday, all county employees except police and members of road crews will work from 8:15 a.m. until 5 p.m. with 45 minutes off for lunch. Heretofore the hours were 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. with a full hour for lunch.