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Date: Tue, 06 Mar 2007 14:10:55 -0500  
To: johng@mdsa.net  
From: Christine Alvey <christia@mdsa.net>  
Subject: Afro-American newspaper project  
Cc: emilyo@mdsa.net  
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Research goals:

✓ Research and chart the publication history of the Afro-American newspaper. (I started a chart but some information on it may not be correct. I was just beginning to make sense of it, but didn't have time to check what seemed to be the case from the few sources that I consulted.) I think that we agreed that the Afro's Archives in Baltimore was a good place to start researching.

Here's the link to the Afro's own short online history: <http://www.afro.com/aboutus.htm>

✓ Keep a bibliography of sources consulted, which should include where the source was found, i.e., what library, archives, etc.

✓ Find out what institutions (libraries, archives, the Afro itself, etc.) have the paper, and give a detailed accounting of their holdings, including editions and formats (microfilm, original hardcopy, photocopy, etc.)

I can help you interpret online catalog record entries, which are notoriously incomplete, incorrect, and confusing. Let me know when you plan to go to the Afro's Archives so that we can meet after that, i.e., before you go to any college libraries.

Do you need an Archives laptop for this work?

I'll drop off the file to you.

By the way, we have Sam Lacy's book:

**Lacy, Sam with Moses J. Newson**

Fighting for Fairness: The Life Story of Hall of Fame Sportswriter Sam Lacy

Tidewater Publishers, Centreville, MD, 1998

Call no.: 1450

Accession no.: L29708

Location: 12-4-3

Subject: African-Americans - Maryland - Biography; Discrimination in sports - United States - History

Library no.: 12529

**Farrar, Hayward**

Baltimore Afro-American 1892 - 1950

Greenwood Press, Westport, CT, 1998

Call no.: 1050 N7

Accession no.: L29699

Location: mezzanine

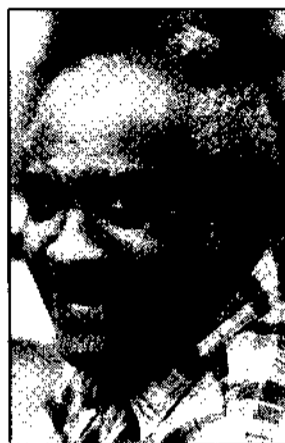
Subject: Newspapers - Maryland; African-American press - Maryland - Baltimore; Newspapers  
- Maryland - Baltimore  
Library no.: 12525

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ONLINE To view death notices, visit [baltimoresun.com/obit](http://baltimoresun.com/obit)

# Thomas Stockett

[Age 82] The longtime illustrator and political cartoonist for the Afro-American newspaper was also a noted portraitist.



"His drawings still resonate, and his legacy will live on because of his art," said state Sen. Catherine E. Pugh.

BY FREDERICK N. RASMUSSEN  
(SUN REPORTER)

**T**HOMAS STOCKETT, WHOSE career as an illustrator and political cartoonist at the *Afro-American* newspaper spanned more than half a century, died Wednesday of a heart attack at Maryland General Hospital. He was 82.

Mr. Stockett, who lived in the Sutton Place Apartments, was en route to work at the *Afro-American*'s editorial offices, where he had worked for 53 years, when stricken.

"When he told a story with his artwork, he told it completely, and for the last 50 years, he captured all the important moments," said *Afro* publisher John "Jake" Oliver.

"You could look at one of Tommy's cartoons, and you knew what he was saying. You didn't have to read a 400-word editorial to know what it was about. He made it seem easy," said Mr. Oliver, who described Mr. Stockett as a man with an "international reputation" who was "quiet and painfully bashful."

Through the years, Mr. Stockett's work garnered him many awards from the Maryland-Delaware-D.C. Press Association and the National Newspaper Publishers Association.

"He owned the NNPA," Mr. Oliver said.

"He cared greatly about his work and made sure that his art spoke to whatever the editorial page was proclaiming that week. He was an exacting, calm and a peacefully sweet man," said the Rev. Dorothy S. Boulware, editor of the *Afro-American*. "He told stories and wasn't afraid to go up against the establishment."

Mr. Stockett worked from a cramped office filled with file cabinets containing originals of his work and piles of old newspapers. Colleagues estimated that during his career, he drew more than 7,000 cartoons.

"He worked in pen and ink — no computer — on an old drafting table," Ms. Boulware said.

Mr. Stockett was to be honored next week in Annapolis, where he was to receive Black History Month honors from the state Senate, said Baltimore Sen. Catherine E. Pugh.

"Tuesday's ceremony will still go on," Senator Pugh said yesterday.

"For the last 50 years, he has recorded what has happened to our community and the important moments in the city and state for African-Americans," she said. "His drawings still resonate, and his legacy will live on because of his art."

Senator Pugh added: "His cartoons were not just cartoons. They were messages that asked us to examine our thoughts. They were about social and political issues and asked us to find out what was best for our community."

Mr. Stockett was born and raised in Baltimore. He was diagnosed with polio when he was 2 years old, and doctors gave him only two years to live. His recovery left him partially paralyzed on his right side. Later in life, he lost sight in one eye.

"His right leg and hand never fully developed, and he drew and painted with only his left hand," said C. Allen Board, a Brooklyn artist and longtime friend. "When he was a young boy, his mother would leave a pencil and a piece of paper for him, which was a hint to draw pictures."

Mr. Stockett's interest began when he was 4, and he was painting by the time he was a teenager. He studied at Carver Vocational-Technical High School and later went to work for a Baltimore sign company designing and painting billboards for local movie theaters.

It was his boss at the sign company that helped Mr. Stockett land a job at the *Afro* in 1954.

An *Afro-American* news release announcing his death said Mr. Stockett "consistently poked fun at segregation and showed its inconsistency with American ideals of freedom and democracy." The statement added that he used "his drawings to illustrate an editorial point and help readers envision a particular topic from a black perspective."

"When he did editorial drawings, he did them with ease and made the subject matter come alive. He was thorough, took his time, and was one of the most wonderful cartoonists alive," said Frances L. Murphy, former publisher of the Washington *Afro* and author of the "If You Ask Me" column.

Mr. Stockett was also a talented portraitist who worked in other media, including oils, watercolors and acrylics. He painted all of the portraits that hang in the *Afro*'s board room.

Mr. Stockett was well known in the art world and participated in many shows, where his work earned many awards.

"He loved talking to people and showing his art," said Gary Kachadourian, visual arts coordinator for the Baltimore Office of Promotion & the Arts. "It could be the hottest day, and he'd be out there talking to people."

His wife of 40 years, the former Helen Weeden, died in 1988.

Services for Mr. Stockett will be held at noon Monday at the March Funeral Home, 1101 E. North Ave.

afro-American 1892 - 1899 (Nat. ed.)  
merged w the Ledger to form  
afro-American ledger 1900 - 1915 (Nat. ed.)  
continued by  
afro-American 1915 - (Nat. ed.)

Balto Late City Edition began when?

Harris says no copies of the first issue  
(Aug. 13, 1892) exist  
Copies of the front page of the next edition  
(Aug 20) do exist

Jan. 1, 1900 it was announced that the  
Ledger would merge w the Afro-American  
The result was the Afro-American ledger  
1915 merger, originally the ledger publisher, left  
the afro-American ledger

In the 1900s the afro-American opened news  
bureaus in Washington, Philadelphia &  
New York. (Previously, the paper was  
simply mailed to those cities to increase  
its circulation.)

Between 1930 & 1940 the Newspaper's circulation  
more than doubled because of the Murphy  
family's courageous decision to expand the  
newspaper's operations to cities & towns  
the Eastern Seaboard

1931 Philadelphia Afro-American  
1934 Washington

1938 purchase of the Richmond "Planet"  
which became the Richmond Afro-American  
and Planet

1-5-2007

Meeting w Ed + Emily re afro-American  
Call Karen Robertson - smooth waters,  
apologize

Let her know that we don't need to  
borrow the film of the afro containing  
the 1958 Commencement at which Dr. King

June 7,  
receives an honorary degree true?

King gave an off the cuff speech, which  
was reported in the afro

Was there an audio tape, a film, or any  
other info. relating to that commencement?

Does Morgan have original (hardcopy) of  
the afro? Do they want to deposit it here  
for good care?

In the bibliographic enterprise concentrate  
first on the period 1948-1963 \*  
then on the period 1915 - roughly 1930  
& finally on the entirety

Farrar cont

all the out-of-town afro's were versions  
of the national edition, localized for each  
city in which they were located.

Editorial policy remained firmly in the  
hands of the home office

and each had its own editor, reporters,  
circulation managers, + advertising sales  
reps

The out of town papers were printed in Balto  
By 1950, the afro had  
11 editions distributed in

- Balto
- Richmond
- Newark
- New York
- New England
- + nationwide