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MERRY CHRISTMAS TO ALL

Mrs. Santa Cheers 950 Families

READERS' HOPES FOR CHRISTMAS
(Back Page)

Baltimore Afro-American

RHODES SCHOLAR TELLS HOW HE WON
(Back Page)

79th Year, No. 38
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FOURTH CHRISTMAS WITHOUT HIM

POW's Family Still Awaits Word

HELPING HANDS — Shown as they began delivery of 250 baskets of food for the AFRO's Mrs. Santa. Mrs. Santa's helpers, all National Guardsmen, are left to right M/Sgt. Lloyd Scott, Pvt. Charles Lloyd, SFC Thomas Holsey and Sgt. Eldridge Jones.

Mrs. Santa helpers have 35 kids of their own

The AFRO's Mrs. Santa's helpers have 35 children of their own.

Mrs. Santa's helpers, four National Guardsmen who have volunteered to deliver the AFRO's Christmas baskets to 250 Baltimore families, will make Christmas a merry one for 1,250 children as well as for their own 35.

"We feel like it's our contribution," said M—Sgt. Lloyd Scott, 4700 Old York Rd. This is his tenth year delivering AFRO baskets.

"We get all types of reactions," he recalled. "Usually the adults don't even expect us because many of the children write the letters."

M/Sgt. Scott and Mrs. Santa's other helpers are sometimes greeted by people waiting.

"Some are even looking out the window for the truck."

The four National Guardsmen are using two-two and a half ton federal trucks this year. Use of the trucks was authorized by the State Adjutant-General.

Tuesday, when they began loading the baskets, filled with fruits and vegetables, turkeys and all the trimmings, there was a steady downpour of rain.

They all agreed that no matter what the weather, they intended to get the job done by Christmas Eve.

This is also the tenth year Sgt. Eldridge Jones, 811 McKim St., and SFC Thomas Holsey, 5200 Elmer Ave., have helped Mrs. Santa provide for needy families during Christmas.

This is the third Christmas for Pvt. Charles Lloyd, who decided to help after talking to the others about their good deeds.

After they finish helping Mrs. Santa, Christmas Eve, the four will hurry home to help Santa for their own 35 children.

MSgt. Scott and his wife, Mrs. Effie Scott, have 15 children. They are: Mrs. Natalie Jones, Ronald, 21-year-old Navy x-ray technician at Bethesda; Lloyd, Jr., 20, and Anthony, 19, both National Guardsmen stationed with their father in Company C 103rd Engineer Battalion, at the Melvin H. Cade Armory; Melvin, 16; Michael 13; Valarie, 12; Geraldine, 11; Richard, 10; Shirley, 8; Rochelle 7; James, 6; and Sandra 5. They have a six-year-old grandson, Timothy Jones.

* * *

Pvt. Lloyd, is stationed at the Fifth Regiment Armory, State Headquarters Detachment, and has been in the National Guard five years.

He is married to Mrs. Jeannette Lloyd, and they have 11 children: Anthony 16; Charlayne, 14; Charles, 3rd, 12; Veronica, 11; Edward, 10; Albert, 9; Richard, 8; Geneva, 6; Robert, 5; Viola, 4, and Francis, 22.

Sgt. Jones is also at the Fifth Regiment Armory and has been in 21 years.

He and his wife, Mrs. Shirley Jones, have 6 children: Tyrone, 17; Everett, 16; Secola, 14; Palmer, 12; Eldrice, 13 and Cynthia, 11.

SFC Holsey is stationed at the Fifth Regiment Armory and has been a National Guardsman nine years. He and his wife, Mrs. Beverly Holsey, a nurse at Church Home Hospital, have three children: Palma, 8; Thomas, 8, and Sean, 4.

$9,839

Over 900 families get cheer

By MRS. SANTA

Dear AFRO readers: A total of $9,893.05 was on hand when I stopped counting at AFRO presstime.

I have spent all of the cash readers have contributed so far to my fund. Other monies, still coming in, will be used to continue my giving this holiday season.

Thanks to your generosity, the Md. National Guard started out Tuesday morning with baskets full of food and goodies.

They delivered baskets to all 250 families.

While my National Guard helpers were doing this, Mrs. Santa was busy mailing gift certificates to hundreds of other families, enabling them to purchase toys, food, clothing in time for Christmas.

Plus, Mrs. Santa and other helpers have been on the telephone supplying names and addresses of needy families which had been listed by number on my page. Some 200 families from my files were adopted by generous AFRO readers.

With the 200 families adopted, the 500 who received my $10 gift certificates and the 250 who received my $15 food baskets, Mrs. Santa was able to provide some cheer for at least 950 families.

* * *

There are likely some families who were overlooked or whom persons failed to adopt after they agreed to, so if you have not yet given to Mrs. Santa it is not too late.

Simply address your check or money order to me, care of AFRO Charities Inc., P.O. Box 1857, Baltimore, Md., 21203.

Or, you may bring your cash or check to me here at the AFRO office, 628 N. Eutaw St.

Mrs. Santa is very, very

(Continued on Page 7

CHRISTMAS JOY — The Randers, family of S/Sgt. Donald Rander, display holiday smiles even though this is their fourth Christmas without Daddy. He is a Vietnam prisoner of war. Although they haven't heard from him since 1968, his wife, Mrs. Andrea Rander, and their daughters, Lysa, 10, and Donna Page, 4, remain hopeful and decorate for the holidays with him in mind.

Christmas is special for the Rogers family

CAROLYN K. ERWIN

Traditionally, Christmas has been reserved for the celebration of the birth of Christ. However, when the relatives of Mrs. Mary E. Rogers of 630 Carrollton Ave., get together on Christmas Day theirs is a celebration of much more.

Christmas is extra special for Mrs. Rogers and family because her birthday, her anniversary, her mother's anniversary, and the birthdays of two of her cousins, all fall on that day.

It all started when Mrs. Rogers' mother, Mrs. Charlotte Montague, got married 50 years ago on Christmas Day. The Montagues had three children, all of whom were born on holidays.

* * *

The oldest child, Clarence, was born on New Year's Day. The next child, Mary, was born on Christmas and the youngest child, Dorit was born on Thanksgiving.

Fourteen years ago, when Mrs. Rogers decided to marry guess what day she chose ... right, December 25th. "My mother was married on Christmas and I was born on Christmas, so I figured it was a good day." To complete the picture, Mrs. Rogers was also ordained as a missionary on Christmas Day in 1959.

She has two cousins, Miss Rosie Tabb and Lee Woodfork, who will also be celebrating their birthdays.

* * *

Mrs. Rogers is the wife of the Rev. Robert A. Rogers, pastor of the United Temple of God, located in the 1000 blk. W. Baltimore St. They have three daughters, Mrs. Cornelia Johnson, Miss Lydia Rogers and Mrs. May B. Rogers; and one son, James Rogers.

This Christmas will be no less festive than all the others, Mrs. Rogers says:

"We're planning to go to my stepdaughter's house for Christmas dinner and a few surprises after."

All in all, Mrs. Rogers says that she is expecting nearly 100 relatives including grandchildren, grand parents, in-laws, brothers, sisters, cousins, and others to attend the affair.

Having all these events occurring on the same day can be a problem, but Mrs. Rogers admits that there are advantages too:

"When they give out the presents, I usually get one for Christmas, one for my birthday, and one for my anniversary."

There's one other advantage too, Mrs. Rogers, I'll bet Mr. Rogers has no trouble remembering at least three of those special days that other husbands often forget.

POW kin pray for his return

By BRENDA WRIGHT

Christmas for the Rander family of Turner Station will include a gift-wrapped box and memories of a Vietnam prisoner of war.

"We always place a gift-wrapped box under the tree symbolizing all we would like to give him," Mrs. Andrea Rander, wife of S/Sgt. Donald J. Rander, told the AFRO.

This is the fourth Christmas Mrs. Rander and their two daughters, Lysa, 10, and Donna Page, 4, will celebrate alone.

S/Sgt. Rander, who began his tour of duty in Vietnam in 1967, was captured and taken prisoner in February, 1968.

"At first we were told that he was missing in action but in March, 1968, they told us he was definitely a prisoner," Mrs. Rander recalled.

That was the last definite word she has had about him. Since that time she and her daughters have written letters and sent packages, all of which have gone unacknowledged.

* * *

In October, 1969, Mrs. Rander, as a member of the National League of Families of American Prisoners of Southeast Asia, traveled to Paris hoping she would learn the location of her husband's prison and his condition.

She returned from the nine-day trip disappointed knowing no more than she had when she boarded the Paris-bound plane.

She and others in the information seeking group tried to talk to Mme. Nguyen Thiyen, then head of the Viet Cong delegation in Paris, but were constantly told she was too "busy."

The letters and medical

(Continued on Page 2)

Chuckle

ALARM CLOCK. A small device used to wake up people who have no children.

GET EXTRA CASH

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Christmas Eve 1939 marriage ends in divorce

The James Sanderses of Baltimore were wed in a religious ceremony on Christmas Eve, 1939.

Early this month the 31-year marriage ended in divorce when Judge J. Gilbert Prendergast signed a decree in favor of the husband, a Gas and Electric employee.

Mrs. Sanders of Elizabethtown, N.C., did not contest the court action brought by her husband.

According to Mr. Sanders' testimony before Circuit Court Master Edward A. Smith, he and his wife were separated in 1946 when "she grabbed up the baby and left."

'Death Comes Every Year About This Time'

"Seems like death comes every year about this time," Mrs. Karen Davis told the AFRO after learning that her 15-year-old brother-in-law Ronald Davis had died of injuries received in an auto accident last Saturday.

Mrs. Davis, in quiet, sad tones, related a tragic tale of a family of 13 which has been reduced, by one each year, during the Christmas season since 1967.

"In 1967," she said, "the paternal grandmother died, the following year, '68, Willard Davis, the father died.

"Then," she continued, "in 1969 Robert Davis who was 26 died in a plane crash on his way to Vietnam from Korea. He was buried on the 24th, the same day Ronald will be buried."

Death for Ronald came while he was riding in the front seat of a 1965 Chevrolet with a friend traveling east on Oakland Mills Rd. in Columbia City when, at the intersection of Thunderhill Rd., a Ford Falcon being driven by 16-year-old Terrence J. Holden ran a stop sign and collided with Ronald's car.

* * *

According to Mrs. Davis "Ronald was on his way home from Slayton House in Columbia." She described Slayton House as a place where teens gather.

She explained, "he was going to change clothes before going out for the evening when the accident occurred."

Mrs. Davis was at their home on Route 32 in Jessup, Md. when the Howard County police came to inform her of the accident.

"They told us Ronald had been in an accident," she recalled, "but didn't say that he was dead. When we got to the hospital the doctor said he was alive but his injuries were such that if he lived he would have been a vegetable."

Ronald died just before noon Sunday.

The young man attended the Appleton Methodist Church and was a 9th grade student at Appleton High School.

Funeral services were held Thursday 11 a.m. at the Locust Methodist Church in Simpsonville, Md. Burial is in the church's cemetery.

The Snowden Funeral Home, Rockville, Md. was in charge.

Ronald Davis is survived by his mother, Mrs. Marjorie Davis; his brothers Raymond, 22; William, 19; Melvin, 18; Sterling, 17; Elmer, 14 and Larry, 11.

His sisters: Mildred, 20 and Shiela 10.

Two other persons were injured in the accident but both were treated and released from St. Agnes Hospital. The driver of the other car, Terrence Holden, has been charged with auto manslaughter.