NO WORD YET — Three Christmases have passed since the family of S/Sgt. Donald Rander, (inset) believed to be a Vietnam prisoner, has heard from him. Mrs. Rander (Andrea), a Baltimore hospital secretary, shown here with their two children, Lysa, 11; and Donna, 5. Mrs. Rander told the AFRO this week the children sent their father the usual Yule cards and cosmetics as well as new photos of themselves. She added, 'Every time I hear a newscast about some prisoners released I get excited and think there is good news for us, but we haven't heard anything." Formerly residents of Turner Station, the Randers now live in Owin's Mills, will spend the weekend with relatives in N.Y.

Drug abusers offered alternative from jail

The turning point in the high incidence of drug-associated crime may soon be reached according to Health and Mental Hygiene Secretary, Dr. Neil Solomon, as he inaugurated the beginning of a Civil Commitment Program sponsored by the Department's Drug Abuse Administration.

Dr. Solomon said, "We now have the tools for an active campaign to salvage lives, and we are working with the Maryland judiciary in obtaining those patients who will benefit from the Program."

Heading the project, under the overall direction of Philip Greene, Drug Abuse Administration Director, is Charles Brown whose offices are located at 21 West 25th Street, Baltimore.

Maryland law authorizes the Drug Abuse Administration to take custody of drug addicts ordered into its care by the Supreme Bench of Baltimore City, or the Circuit Court of any county in Maryland.

While basically a service to the courts, the program is also open to persons who, believing themselves to be addicts, voluntarily commit themselves to its care, or are committed by a third person such as a relative or physician.

"Because the Program provides individualized treatment and yet is compulsory," Mr. Greene said, "it should provide persons afflicted with drug abuse an excellent setting in which to combat their addiction while learning to live and work in society."

Mr. Brown stated that the purpose of the operation is to provide a constructive alternative to incarceration and to effect the rehabilitation of drug addicts by making available to them a variety of services together with opportunities for self-help.

The Program will offer individual counseling, individual and group therapy, job training and placement, family counseling, medical assistance, and the opportunities for continuing education.

Delegates plan flood control bills

Delegates Frank C. Robey Jr. and Gerald J. Curran announced today that they are in the process of developing a package of legislation designed to alleviate and prevent future damage caused by flooding as experienced during the summer of 1971.

Mr. Robey pointed out that as a result of obvious deficiency of the storm drainage systems in Baltimore city and county, city property owners and the City of Baltimore itself suffered considerable financial loss.

He further indicated numerous citizens and community organizations within the northeast section of the city have indicated their desire to muster the needed community support to assure the success of the enactment of meaningful legislation to solve the flooding problem.

After a meeting in October with officials of the Department of Public Works, it was felt that a twenty million dollar bond issue for the construction of new and improvement of existing storm drainage facilities would go a long way to alleviate the situation. This bill has been prefiled under the sponsorship of Delegates Robey and Curran for presentation to the 1972 legislative session.

It is felt that in order to effectively control flooding and sediment transport, stream bank erosion, and storm drainage management, a state regulatory agency or a metropolitan authority must be established since Baltimore City and the surrounding metropolitan counties cannot effectively manage the problems in isolation of each other.

Another avenue being explored by Delegates Curran and Robey is the feasibility of requiring performance bonding of all future construction to assure recovery by future damaged property owners both within the city and the county caused in part by destruction of the natural flood plains.

WHEN SIMMONS MEMORIAL BAPTIST CHURCH members gave a testimonial reception for three deacons, Friday evening, the honorees and their wives were, from left: Mr. and Mrs. Willie F. Booker, Mr. and Mrs. Robert A. Lee and Mr. and Mrs. Morris Johnson. At far right is the Rev. Willard L. Clayton, minister of Macedonia Baptist Church, a guest.

MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE which arranged the testimonial to Simmons Baptist Church deacons, held at the Ambassador Hall, Friday evening, were (l-r) Mesdames Blanche Toogood, Clara Smith and Mary Alexander.

LEND-A-HELPING HAND club members recently celebrated the coming Christmas holidays with a dinner party at the home of Mrs. Julia A. Brooks. From (l-r) are Mesdames Bertha Winston, Marie Taylor, Mazie Wilson, Julia A. Brooks (standings). Second row (l-r) Miss Elaine Taylor, Mesdames Katherine Green and Mary L. Brown.

WHEN THE FRONTIERS INTERNATIONAL, Baltimore chapter, held its Christmas party. Saturday evening, among guests were Mr. and Mrs. James Brown, left; and Mr. and Mrs. Warren Sheffey.

BEST BUYS:

Storage important for holiday sweets

By VIRGINIA McLUCKIE
food economist

Sweets for the traditional season are usually family favorites in the form of special cookies, cakes and candies that are prepared well in advance. Storage for the cakes and cookies is very important. Cool cookies and bars thoroughly before storing in a container with a tight fitting cover. Use a metal or plastic container for this purpose.

If crisp cookies soften in storage it is possible to recrisp them by heating on a cookie sheet for about five minutes at 300 degrees F. To keep soft cookies and bars moist put an apple cut in half in their storage container. Fresh coconut is one of the foods we enjoy using during the holidays for cakes, garnishes and for ice cream snowballs. Fresh coconut sours very quickly at room temperature so keep it in the refrigerator or freeze it until ready for use. Store your fresh coconut cake in the refrigerator.

• • •

The choice of beverages for the holiday are many but none as popular as punch made from fruit juices or a dairy drink such as eggnog. When you make fruit punch remember pineapple juice should be combined only witheyellow or orange colored juices. With cherry or grape or other red juices the pineapple juice may cause the punch to turn an off color brown. The popular cranberry juice gives a nice red festive color for a punch or on-the-rocks juice drink.

There are many ways to use prepared dairy eggnog drink. It may be served hot and spiced or combined with fruit juices. If you make your own eggnog, use Grade AA or Grade A eggs for their high quality and delicate flavor.

Shop at the dairy case for cheeses to serve with crackers or to make into special spreads, dips or cheese balls. Cheese keeps well and may be purchased well in advance of their use. The convenience of prepared dips will save you time for serving in a hurry. Cottage cheese and sour cream are both excellent for salads and spreads to avoid always serving so many sweets.

• • •

Fresh fruits are festive and can be used at meals in salads and for desserts. Fruit is an ideal snack food. Wedges of apples and pears can be used as dippers with a cheese dip. Make selections from juice or navel oranges, tangelos, tangerines, grapefruit, cranberries, Red or Golden fairly smooth. Beat in onion, garlic salt, worcestershire sauce and lemon juice. Gently fold in sour Delicious apples, table grapes and winter pears.

• • •

Three Way Dip is made with two cups cottage cheese, one cup (4 oz.) crumbled Bluecheese, two Tablespoons Chopped green onion, one-fourth teaspoon garlic salt, one teaspoon Worcestershire sauce, two Tablespoons lemon juice, and one cup dairy sour cream.

In small mixing bowl beat together cottage cheese and Blue cheese at highest speed of mixer well blended.

Frontiers host at Christmas party

A Christmas party, given by the Frontiers International Club, Inc., was held at Brice's Hill Top Inn last Saturday evening.

Amidst green, gold and red tinsel, members (they're all gents), wives and friends enjoyed Christmas chat and dinner at their annual Christmas celebration.

Dr. T. Andre Pitts, president of the Baltimore chapter, explained that presently, Baltimore Frontiers (there are chapters throughout the United States and the Carribean) are working closely with the male prisoners at Jessup, to prepare them for life outside of the prison.

They find housing and jobs for the me, and give counsel to men with difficult problems. In addition to the Jessup project, the Frontiers work closely within the Urban League, NAACP, YMCA, the Annie Mae Hunter Home for the Blind and they maintain a scholarship fund.

The club was organized in 1936 in Columbus, Ohio. The Baltimore Chapter was organized in 1941. Nimrod Allen was the founder.

After dinner, club members presented their ladies with Christmas favors.

Among members in the Baltimore club are:

Congressman Parren J. Mitchell (D, 7th), Armstead Jenkins, Lester Norris, Arlington Phillips, James E. Nix, Franklin Parker, Andrew Booth Johnson, Parlett Moore, the Rev. Howard Cornish, Robert Johnson, Earl Koger,

Dale Lee, Franklin Fulton, Vernon Sheffey, John Trip, Charles E. Jones, George Carroll, Roosevelt Nixon, Samuel Marlowe, W. Lindsay Pitts, Eugene Prettyman, Allen Burt,

Leslie Gundy, Roland Wheaton, Ralph Holmes, Pinkney Howell, Charles Tucker and Milton Branch.

• • •

Guests included Messrs. and Mesdames Rufus Tucker, Roland Wheatley, Edward Nottingham and Wayland Bell, Franklin Parker, Warren T. Hobbs; Dr. and Mrs. Simon Carter.

Mesdames Lester Norris, Vernon Sheffey (Dr. Ruth T.), Franklin Parker (Beatrice), Howard Cornish (Althea), Parlett Moore (Thelma), Milton Branch (Bernice), George Carroll (Sevilla), Samuel Marlowe (Lillian), Eugene Prettyman (Buena), Ethel Davis, Mildred Johnson,

Sallie Fletcher, G. Eunice Cooper, Ralph Holmes, Philadelphia, Pa., Helen Blackwell, Chicago and Earl Koger (Dorothy).

Seated at Dr. Pitts' table were Mr. and Mrs. Charles Sanders, Mesdames Andre Pitts, Alberta DeShields, Sarah Gwaltney and Miss Helen Wright; Romie Meyers and Charles Fletcher.

Government Girls luncheon hostesses

The GGOGS (Government girls on the go) a group originating from Social Security Administration Woodlawn, held their 12th annual luncheon at the "Barn" last Friday afternoon.

A crackling fire in the fireplace, soft lights, quiet music, laughter and conversation in the Chesapeake Room of the restaurant added to the festive luncheon meeting.

Giving a brief history of the founding of GGOGS, Mrs. Mamie Jones, one of the founders of the club, said, "Our very first luncheon meeting at the Garrison Lounge in 1959, with three friends from Woolawn who wanted to do something special to usher in the Christmas holidays. Each year our cirle of friends grew a little larger until now, where today we have 54 members."

For the occasion the speaker wore a chic black dress designed with long sleeves, and with it a full coat of yellow, gold and brown print.

Founders of the group are Mesdames Mamie Jones, Hazel Woods and Sarah Gross. This year's chairman was Mrs. Barbara LaBoo, co-chairman was Mrs. Paulie Turner.

• • •

Along with guests from Woodlawn Administration were those from other branches of social security.

Guests participated in Christmas caroling, the "GOOGS' Song" (written by Mrs. Jones), a "Do Your Own Thing Fashion Show" and Mrs. Verna Day, Arena Player, gave a reading, "Black Mother, Bernadette."

Mrs. Laboo wearing a melon colored crepe short sleeve dress, and Mrs. Turner, wearing a kelly greend dress, trimmed in blue with an Edwardian-cut collar, gave each guest a decorative red corsage.

After the luncheon, guests were invited to Brice's Hill Top Inn for more fun and frolic.

• • •

Guest were:

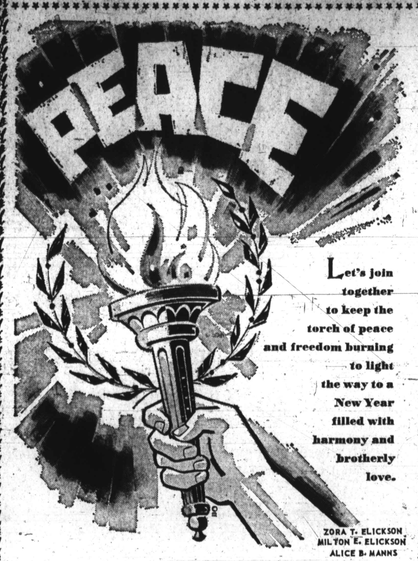
Mesdames Henrietta Bailey, Peggy Evans, Veda Wainwright, Audrey Heard, Marcelene Holloway, Virginia Young, Myra G. Mason, Louise Simmons, Marin Counts Thirza Thompson, Carolyn Smith, Rose Bunton, April Cox;

Jacqueline Knight, Gloria Day, Doris McKinley, Jean Wise, Blanche Wade, Saundra Washington, Barbara LaBoo, Betty Hubbard, Jenael Tolson, Phyllis Reeves, Sarah Penner, Pauline Turner, Barbara Knight.

Lee Fitzgerald, Claudette Allen, Yvonne Gleen, Angie Hill, Verna Day, Vera Martin, Mary Winston, Joan Sterling, Hazel Woods, Gwendolyn Ross, Bernice Haynes, Minnie Christian, Joyce Rawlings, Joyce Jones, Eileen Manning, Mamie Jones, Mary Jones, Eloise Stevenson, Sylvia Jenkins, Ernestine M. Harris on, Miriam Burrough, Nora Muldrow and Barbara Turner.

Misses Elsie Halberstadt, Shirley Hanks, Rachel Briley, Mignon DeValle-Diaz and Paula M. Brooks. Special guest was Arthur Johnson.

merry Christmas



Let's join together to keep the torch of peace and freedom burning to light the way to a New Year filled with harmony and brotherly love.

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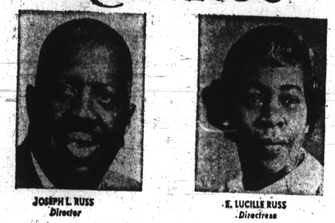

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In the happy spirit of the holiday, when peace settles as gently as freshly fallen snow, we pause and count our many blessings. Numbered high among them is your cherished patronage and good will.
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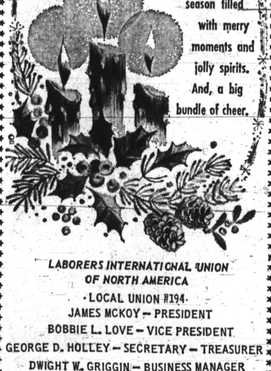

Best wishes for a Christmas season filled with merry moments and jolly spirits. And, a big bundle of cheer.

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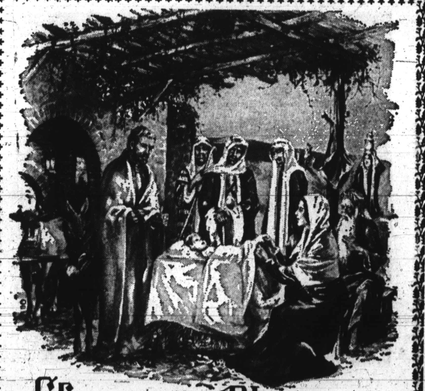

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