MOTHER AND CHILD, done in redwood by David Murray, noted Baltimore sculptor. (For more on the artist see inside).

Christmas—A Many-Splendored Thing

No matter how small or humble, every Christmas tree is beautiful. Hang on all sorts of things of every color and a work of art results. The Spirit of Christmas waves a magic wand over all.

It began with the miracle of the birth of Jesus which has been the wonder of all men on earth for generations upon generation. Yet still more wondrous is the conception of life as He lived it.

Almost 2,000 years ago, three men, one of them a black man, were journeying from Bethlehem when the radiance of a star came to them from afar, lighting their way to the humble manger where lay the infant Jesus, most blessed of all babes.

Over Him bowed the Virgin Mary, starry-eyed, awed by her Gift. Mary, holy Mother of Jesus.

A simple carpenter by trade, Jesus became by inspiration, the sublime philosopher, by practice, the great teacher, and in truth, the noble sufferer. In every era do we have great men and so, in every age, is greatness the inspiration to teach the truth.

MANY WISE MEN

Christmas dawns again and again and still the Star of Bethlehem casts its mighty beams of light over all the world. Many have been the wise men who have followed it as a vision which may reveal to them His teachings.

There are always men who will follow but may we hope for more leaders who will carry His word — who like Him — are inspired to teach the truth.

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Baltimore Afro-American

65,216 FAMILIES READ THE AFRO LAST WEEK — Founded Aug. 13, 1892

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LATE CITY EDITION

82nd Year, No. 38 — BALTIMORE, MD., DECEMBER 22 and 25, 1973 — 20 CENTS ONE YEAR $9.00

Thieves On $500,000 Shopping Spree?

Army captain may get over $100,000 back pay

By Elizabeth M. Oliver

Retired Capt. Robert Sewell, Hughesville, Md., was Master Sgt. Sewell until the other day, after years pressing his case, the Pentagon finally found he is entitled to that higher rank.

The U.S. Army Board For Corrections of Military Records has dug up his records. According to Harry T. Curtis, supervisor and Privilege Permit officer, I.D. Section, "They show he is a captain."

Mr. Curtis told the AFRO Capt. Sewell is owed back pay and status for privileges including commissary, theatre, PX and medical treatment for himself and family at Walter Reed Hospital.

Capt. Sewell states that his personal records show he should get (not now but sometime in the future) about $100,000.

* * *

Mr. Curtis told the AFRO that the amount has to be figured in order to include overseas duty, the 100 per cent disability and funds as a retired disabled captain.

Capt. Sewell was first carried as a discharged, disabled master sergeant.

He went into the Army in 1947 and says he unknowingly was commissioned captain on the battlefield in 1952.

He states that he was in a prison camp in Korea 18 months and nine days and was wounded by a bomb on Pork Chop Hill in Korea in 1951.

* * *

After remaining in a hospital many months, physicians restored certain portions of his face in what has come to be known as "a miracle of plastic surgery."

The AFRO has recorded various stages of his fight over the past 10 years and "adopted" his family.

* * *

Mr. Curtis told the AFRO probably many servicemen have been overlooked as to rank and other matters because "records have been fouled up."

However, he said Capt. Sewell persisted, fighting through his congressmen

(Continued on Page A-2)

RETIRED CAPTAIN AND MRS. ROBERT SEWELL and sons, Robert Lee Sewell, who will be 3 years April 8 and Robert Austin Sewell, who will be 2 years July 19. This photo was taken December 20, 1972 in the AFRO offices, when the youngsters were 2 years and six months old.

FBI still looking for cash stolen from airport bank

By Willie Egyir

The AFRO has had calls lately asking what happened to the $500,000 taken Sept. 26 from the Baltimore-Washington International (Friendship) Airport Maryland National Bank.

According to the local Federal Bureau of Investigation, the half-million cash stolen by thieves in the daring daylight robbery has never been recovered.

Could it be that some person in the group of bandits is by now having a Christmas shopping spree with the loot of unmarked money? Almost 90 days have gone by.

However, with the Yuletime shopping at all time high, the FBI has intensified its investigation.

When the AFRO contacted local FBI Chief Thomas Farrow to ask if by now they have any clue to the missing money or identity of the bandits, he said:

"We've not released anything on that case for a month. We have nothing to update what we already have given out. But we hope to release something in a week."

Until now only one suspect has been arrested in the early morning robbery. The FBI says no money was recovered from the suspect identified as James H. Wells, 24.

According to FBI he is being held in federal jail in lieu of $500,000 bond while search for the other suspect in the two-man daring robbery continues.

The wanted suspect is described as about 5 ft. 10 in. tall and in his mid-20's.

Meanwhile, Mr. Farrow announces the Maryland National Bank has offered an

(Continued on Page A-2)

Mrs. Santa needs you

The AFRO's Mrs. Santa has helped more than 600 families have a good Christmas dinner but she still has more than 500 families on file. Her fund is still $5,000 short.

The Maryland National Guard will deliver over 300 baskets all day Saturday. Clubs and organizations who have adopted families have already visited homes they selected.

You may still help Mrs. Santa by calling right now 728-8200 and select one of the cases listed inside or bring your check or money order to Mrs. Santa, AFRO-AMERICAN Newspapers, 628 N. Eutaw St.

* * *

The AFRO will be open Saturday, 9 a.m. to 12 noon, on Monday, Christmas Eve from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.

* * *

Late contributions are:

Barber Shop Owner's, Herman L. Saunders, $20
W. N. Sutton, $12
Electa Chapter No. 8; OES, $10
Anon, $10
Judge B. Clark, $10
Thelma Murray, $5
J. M. Coles, $3

NOTICE

The Advertising Department of

THE AFRO-AMERICAN WILL BE CLOSED TUESDAY, DEC. 25th CHRISTMAS DAY

All display (block type) ads for our next paper Friday, Dec. 28th should be in this office before 4 P.M., Wed. Dec. 26th.

All classified (per word) ads should be in this office before 10 a.m. Thursday, December 27th.

Phone 728-2400 or 728-8200

Dockers refuse to unload 15,000 tons ore

Maryland Delegate Kenneth Webster was on the docks at 6:30 a.m. Wednesday and personally noted that Baltimore Longshoremen refused to unload the "Yellow Star" ship which had just arrived.

The ship of the Ogden Marine Co., New York, was at the Curtis Bay Ore Pier.

Port Captain Pat Keenan brought to the phone by Del. Webster, told the AFRO the ship was carrying 15,000 tons of illegal chrome ore from Portugese East Africa. He said it was waiting to be unloaded and the cargo was due to go to the Ramsey Scarlett Co.

However longshoremen also brought to the phone by Del. Webster, told the AFRO, "We're taking orders from the union. The union says the ship can not be discharged with ILA labor."

Del. Webster then went to the 1104 Hull St. headquarters of the ILA Local 333 and on the phone again said, "That cargo will not be unloaded by our longshoremen."

The "big hand," well deserved goes to both Webster and the longshoremen who just a few days before refused to unload the "African Sun" ship carrying slave-mined chrome ore into the Baltimore harbor from Rhodesia.

Countless citizens in Baltimore, elected officials including Congressman Parren J. Mitchell, other U.S. lawmakers and labor organizations have laid the blame at President Nixon's feet.

They say he has neither morally nor legally backed the United Nations' objections to the ore coming into the U.S.

Africans mining the ore work under horrendous conditions and receive less than $35 a month pay.

2 new police sergeants

Marcellus Boles 29 1105 Walnut Ave. and Ronald B. Collins, 28, 1239 Linworth Ave. were promoted to sergeants in ceremonies at Police Headquarters. Thursday.

Sgt. Collins attended Moregan State College a year after high school. In the Marines for five years he was honorably discharged in 1968. He is married with one child.

* * *

Sgt. Boles is a graduate of the Community College of Baltimore. He went into the Marine Corps in 1964 and was honorably discharged in 1967. Since joining the force, he has received four official commendations including one commendatory letter. He is single.

Mr. Washington's 105th Christmas

By Roman Hankewycz

When I met him, I couldn't believe he was 105 years old. Samuel Washington greeted this reporter with a kick, just to show how frisky he is.

"I'm going to be 105 Christmas Day, and I'm still going strong," said a man who barely looked to be in his 70's.

"I feel pretty good, and I can still dance. Just about every morning, I get up and walk from my house here on Eden St., to Patterson Park, about a mile," he said.

The now retired plumber continued, "I race with other men in the neighborhood, some as young as 30, and I can still beat them too."

Living with his wife Mrs. Preston Washington, 73, and never having had any children, Washington was placed into retirement when he had an operation. After that the doctor told him "not to lift a thing."

* * *

His father died before his birth, and his mother died three weeks after. Therefore Washington was reared by his great-great-great-grand parents, both of whom also lived over 100 years

Mr. Washington states, "Things were different back then. If you'd buy a 5 cents glass of beer, there would be food such as pigs feet, hogs head, and even soup, all free, just for buying that one glass of beer.

"Children would do what they were told but now, they rot before they ripe

"Also back then, everybody would respect everybody else. Black or white, people used to live together, and they would love each other. But no more, it's changed, you can see it. Some people care about color, but not me.

"I'd give anyone a place to sleep."

Mr. Washington was sincere although he himself lives in a small shanty.

Mr. Washington then told the secret of his long life.

"It's all in the way you live," he revealed, stating that the trouble with people today, is that they misuse themselves with "dope" and other "wrong" things. "I feel that I've been doing most things right, so God is letting me stay."

* * *

When asked how he will spend his Chirstmas birth-

(Continued on Page A-2)

105 CHRISTMAS DAY — Samuel Washington was photographed by AFRO staff photographer Roman Hankewycz as he and his wife, Mrs. Preston Washington sat in their living room this week, recalling years gone by. For other Christmas Day birthdays see inside this issue.

Inside Story

- MR. PETTITT WINS discrimination suit against the U.S., sets pace for all government employees
- BOYFRIEND SLAIN after he snatches red wig from matron's head
- STATE LOTTERY has no black top winners of the Dec. 18 Millionaire's Party
- FUEL CUTBACKS extend school Christmas Holiday until Jan. 7, 197
- MRS. CATO ANDERSON taught in public school here nearly 50 years
- MONDAWMIN SANTA CLAUS, Edward Mus greets all the children
- MORE FOOD STAMPS due for all citizens qualified by January 1
- SANTA, PLEASE, bring our mommy back home to us—a plea from a missing matron's children
- COMMUNITY LEADERS honored at City Hall ceremonies
- HOME FOR CHRISTMAS —matron who changed lottery ticket is set free for the holidays
- AFRO'S MRS. SANTA has more families listed for your adoption
- BLACK MADONNAS and Baltimoreans born Christmas Day, all good holiday reading

Seasons Greetings

St. Michaels Catholic Church in December, 1973 snow
(AFRO staff photo by Roman Hankewycz)

Christmas Wish

May you, wherever you are in this golden hour, know joy. May your heartfire be surrounded with those near and dear to you; the happiness of your children re-echo the gladness heaven sends forth in this time of the Miracle of Bethlehem.

May the faith the humble shepherds found in the starlit stable be yours in fullest measure; the exultation of Mary and Joseph light your heart with the glow of divine love.—Loretta Bauer Buckley, (Christmas Ideals).