# —Man who played games

(FROM PAGE ONE)

he was confined for 27 months.

"All these years, I have been pleading with judges, lawyers, policemen, doctors and social workers for help for Toni."

Somehow, Toni as Vega is popularly known, got into trouble. Mrs. Holton, surrounded by her daughters and sons in their home Wednesday told the AFRO: "They have put a gun to my head on several occasions, forcing me to tell where Toni was. Some even paid children to come to my house to see if Toni was home."

On one occasion, Mrs. Holton stated she had to sell her television set, give out all her children's food money to pay a man who threatened to blow out their house because Toni owed him $200.

Once in 1972 when the family lived in the 1300 block N. Carey St., Vega, the mother related, was lured into a vacant building, bound hand and foot and tortured with cigar and cigarette ends and beaten with a hammer. His mother stated he carried the scars from that confrontation to his grave.

There were several occasions, said Mrs. Holton, when Vega came home looking like he had been in a gang fight with gun and knife wounds all over.

Like one time when Vega and others were caught allegedly riding in a stolen car.

The mother said Vega was shot in the face when police claimed Vega tried to attack him.

"Toni was never sick," a relative told the AFRO. He was always on his feet and refused to take medication for a mild pain. They state he was constantly on his guard against "a whole lot of people who hated him" and wanted him dead.

But last Sunday was simply not a day for the quick-witted young man. Things began to crack the previous day when a woman, identified only as Pinkey appeared at Mrs. Holton's door forcing her way in to see Vega. Refused entrance, Pinkey departed 30 minutes afterwards to return to Vega's cousin's house Sunday with more sinister plans.

That Sunday, Mrs. Holton said she left Vega in the house to go to the movies. While away Vega reportedly received a call shortly before 8 p.m. from a cousin asking Vega to meet Pinkey in the cousin's 1500 block Pressman St. home.

When Vega arrived it was reported he and Pinkey went to the kitchen and talked for a while. The two later joined a man in a waiting Cadillac and drive off. That was the last time Vega was seen alive, relatives stated.

The rest of the story as contained is police reports showed Vega was pronounced dead in the 4500 block Old Frederick Rd., where he was found. He was without identification and was wearing a short length black jacket, a white multi-colored shirt, brown pants and white tennis shoes. There were no papers on him and his identity was known through finger prints.

Arrested and charged in Vega's death is 27-year-old Howard Carter.

"I know Toni would never have gone in that car if he didn't know and trust those he was going out with. A lot of people wanted him dead and he was always alert.

"He always told me any day he would be dead and somehow he knew he was going to die that day. He even tried to arrange for his funeral."

But not many people at his funeral today (Friday) would see the remains of Vega, because as Mrs. Holton put it, "I don't want him messed up any longer. I won't let anybody view the body."

In addition to his mother, Vega is survived by three brothers, Anthony, Lamont, and Terry Holton; three sisters, Miss Eve Townsend, and Misses Nina and Fran Holt ..... a daughter, Nicol Vega.

ANTONIO STANLEY VEGA

# Ex-official of SBA jailed for bribery

PHILADELPHIA — A former Philadelphia regional director of the Small Business Administration was sentenced to a year and a day in prison on his conviction for bribery, conspiracy and tax evasion.

Russell Hamilton Jr., who headed the five-state region for the SBA from 1970 to 1973, had been cited by several black groups.

His sentence was imposed by U.S. District Judge John P. Fullam, who ordered Hamilton placed on four years' probation following his jail term.

Hamilton, 50, of the 600 block of Hendren St., in Roxborough, was convicted by a federal jury on Aug. 19 on charges of taking kickbacks from local businessmen to obtain SBA loans.

Joseph Clark, 64, of the 1500 block of Kingsley Drive in Warminister, who was deputy director under Hamilton (he is now retired), was fined $10,000 and placed on five years' probation.

He was convicted on the same charges as Hamilton.

Judge Fullman said he thought a jail term was appropriate for Hamilton but not for Clark because of his and his wife's poor health.

The jury cleared a third man in the scheme. He is Philadelphia lawyer Henry Sklar, 65, a member of an SBA advisory committee in 1972.

Sklar lives in Cherry Hill, N.J.

Assistant U.S. Attorney John P. Penrose, who prosecuted the case, said he was "pleased we got a jail sentence in a white-collar case."

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# —Christmas gobbles up

(FROM PAGE ONE)

Thanksgiving Day except churches and department stores.

The Lexington Mall will echo the sounds of Christmas throughout the holiday season when carrollers of all ages fill the mall with the Spirit of Christmas Crossroads '76.

Baltimore school children will entertain shoppers and area visitors weekdays at noon during the month-long celebration planned from Nov. 30 to Dec. 24.

One of the many school choirs and musical groups highlighting the season is the Tilghman Elementary School No. 13 costumed in red and green choir robes handmade by their parents.

Ninety students from the kindergarden and second grade classes will be performing Monday, Dec. 6 at 6:45 p.m. in a special evening concert and again Thursday, Dec. 9 at noon.

Baltimoreans can expect the most exciting, entertaining and spirited holiday season ever as the Lexington Mall comes alive with Christmas Crossroads '76.

The fourth annual Mayor's Christmas Parade will kick-off at the intersection of Falls Road and Cold Spring Lane and wind through the streets of Hampden Saturday, Dec. 4, at 10 a.m.

The 1976 edition of the ever-popular Christmas Parade will feature approximately 75 participating units.

Mayor William Donald Schaefer, along with prominent dignitaries and local TV and radio personalities, will be on hand to view U.S. Military bands and colors guards, giant balloons, elaborate floats and award-winning high school marching bands.

The children will not want to miss the Santa Claus float, the enormous Santa Claus balloon, and of course, Santa him el

The Mayor's Christmas Parade is sponsored by the city of Baltimore and the Progressive Business Men's Association of Hampden.

# —Natalie Cole

(FROM PAGE ONE)

good but performed very well."

Amid such triumph, her admirers undoubtedly harkened back to the good ol' days of such smash hits as "Respect," "Natural Woman," "Chain of Fools" and "Do-right Woman — Do-right Man."

In those days, Aretha could do no wrong.

AFRO has no evidence that Miss Franklin's less-than-inspired, Baltimore performance was the outgrowth of anything other than what her brother had said. Nor is there any immediate indication of whether Miss Franklin is likely to step up, or curtail her personal appearance schedule.

Ms. Ruth Bowen, who recently left the New York-based Queen Booking Corp., a talent agency that features many of the nation's biggest black stars, during a top-level shakeup reportedly still handles Miss Franklin's engagements.

She was not immediately available for comment. Neither could the singer's almost equally famous father, the Rev. C. L. Franklin, be reached.

A West Coast source — while not alluding to Miss Franklin's recent East Coast engagement — did note last week that things have not been going exactly as "Soul Sister No. 1" would like.

For one thing, according to the source, she had hoped to land the lead role in the forthcoming "Bessie Smith Story." She didn't: Thelma Houston was given the part.

The source added that Miss Franklin still wants badly to make a film and is aware that while she still has not, Gladys Knight — another Soul songstress who debuted about the same time as Miss Franklin has made a film.

(Miss Knight stars in the recently released "Pipe Dreams.")

It also is known that right about now, Miss Franklin could use a big hit. Her success of last summer ("Something He Can Feel," from her album "Sparkle") was her first big winner in quite some time.

But it was not to be confused with the gravy years of 1967-70, when anything by Aretha that was not gold didn't miss by much.

HELP THE NAACP
THE FIGHT FOR FREEDOM NEEDS MORE FREEDOM FIGHTERS

HE'S HELPING—Dr. Ralph Howard, physician and civic worker, pays his $500 life membership to Ms. Michele Bland, coordinator of the Baltimore NAACP membership drive now on. You, too, can join the fight for freedom by joining the NAACP.

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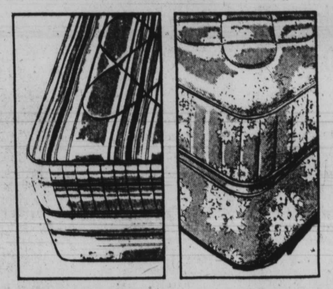

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THEY PUT $6,000 MORE IN ADVANCE FEDERAL

LOCAL 1923 ADDS $6,000—Social Security workers who are members of the American Federation Government Employees (AFGE), Local 1923 invested $6,000 more in their savings account at Advance Federal last week. Joseph A. Bush, Advance's first vice president, center, accepts the deposit from left to right, Mrs. Barbara Huff, the union's 2nd vice president; Mrs. Betty J. Brown, assistant chief steward; Joseph Rosenberg, president; Mrs. Helen Tucker, 1st vice president; Mrs. Sandy Jones, vice president at large; and Mrs. Sonia Allen, chief steward. Dr. W. O. Bryson Jr., is president of Advance, the only black-owned federally insured savings and loan association of Baltimore.

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ADVANCE FEDERAL-A SAFE PLACE TO SAVE



# Anti-ripoff advice given holiday shoppers

PHILADELPHIA — The Police Department will distribute "Shoppers' Security Tips" at various center-city locations November 26 as the annual Christmas shopping season gets underway.

The red, white and green leaflets will be given out to pedestrians by member of the Police Community Relations Bureau. The leaflets contain the "Ten Commandments for Shopper Security" as suggested by the police department.

• • •

The shopper "Ten Commandments" are:

1. Keep cash to a minimum. Use charge plates and checks when possible.
2. Know what you are carrying in your handbag in order to identify it if lost.
3. Don't open your purse in crowds, never display money carelessly and always have exact carfare available.
4. Never allow your purse to dangle loosely on your arm.
5. Hold purse close to body with hand over a clasp.
6. Never lay your handbag down on a counter.
7. Men should carry wallets in their inside coat pockets or side trouser pockets.
8. Beware of jostlers in street crowd or crowded public vehicles.
9. Don't withdraw large sums of money from the bank while en route to shop.
10. Beware of "kind" strangers offering to carry packages or open doors and others who "find" money or packages and offer to share them with you.

# Broadcaster admits press role in news

EUGENE, Ore. — Even a broadcasting executive says you need to read to get the news.

People who get most of their news from radio and television are poorly informed and should also read a newspaper, says Jim Salisbury, president of the Radio and Television News Directors Association.

Salisbury, who also is news and special projects director for radio station KXL in Portland, Ore., made the statement Wednesday in a speech to the 71st annual conference of the Oregon Association of Counties.

Citing surveys showing 60 per cent of the people in the U.S. receive the bulk of their news from radio or television, Salisbury said, "This means we are woefully ill-informed — under informed."

He said people should learn more about the content of the news by reading their newspapers regularly.

Salisbury conceded there is more bias and slanting of news coverage in broadcasting than in newspapers

"We have some bad apples in news reporting just the same as any other profession." But he added most often charges of bias and slanting of news "is in the eye of the beholder."

Salisbury said the roles of news reporters and publicly elected officials are not too far apart.

In the aftermath of the Watergate episode, the Vietnam War and other recent American crises, Salisbury said, "We of the press must present a means of increasing the faith in our institutions." (UPI)

# Bias charged against 3 La. bars

WASHINGTON — The Department of Justice has filed suits charging the owners and operators of three bars in Morgan City, La. with refusing to serve black persons on the premises.

Three public accommodations suits were filed in U.S. District Court in Shreveport.

Named as defendants in separate suits were:

Herbert A. Hixenbaugh, owner, and Eddie Gleir, operator, of Andy's Lounge, Clifford J. Dressel, owner and operator of T-John's Lounge; and Lester Giordano, president, and Gerald Daigle, vice president, Lester's Lounge, Inc.

The suits asked for court orders enjoining the defendants from refusing to admit and serve blacks on the same basis as whites and requiring them to post notices stating that they will serve all persons without regard to race or color.

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Delight to groups of carolers

...and storybook characters enchanting Saturday strollers

The stores have special treats on the Saturdays before Christmas:

DECEMBER 4
11 a.m. Professor Kool at Stewarts
Noon Professor Kool at Brager-Gutman
1 p.m. Miss Sally and Do Bee from Romper Room at The Hecht Co.
2 p.m. The Towson Marionettes at Hochschild's
3 p.m. Kevin Clash and Puppets at Hutzler's

DECEMBER 11
11 a.m. Babes in Toyland from the Baltimore Actors Theatre at the Hecht Co.
Noon Miss Sally and Do Bee from Romper Room at Hochschild's
1 p.m. The Towson Marionettes at Brager-Gutman
2 p.m. Kevin Clash and Puppets at Stewarts
3 p.m. Professor Kool at Hutzler's

DECEMBER 18
11 a.m. The Towson Marionettes at Hutzler's
Noon Miss Sally and Do Bee from Romper Room at Stewarts
1 p.m. Kevin Clash and Puppets at Brager-Gutman
2 p.m. Professor Kool at the Hecht Co.,
3 p.m. Professor Kool at Hochschild's

Santa will be in the mall on Saturday too From 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

100,000 twinkling lights will glisten in the mall and snowflakes and banners will abound up and down Howard St.

Intersection of Howard & Lexington Streets will be closed to motor traffic from 11 to 3 Saturdays until Christmas

27 NOV 27