Local cops host 1,000 at Christmas parties

GETTING READY to play Santa Claus to nearly 1,000 senior citizens and city youngsters before Christmas arrives are members of the Police Department Community Relations Section shown above under guidance of the chief, Major Herbert F. Armstrong (left) stuffing the stockings with goodies.

The Police Department's Community Relations Section has an annual duty, the preparation for a service it never fails to perform - playing Santa Clause to nearly 800 youngsters and serving dinner and entertaiment for over 200 senior citizens.

Christmas 1978 is no different and this week found Major Hervert F. Armstrong, head of the division, and all employees filling stockings and arranging for the guests to have a good time.

The Senior Citizens Dinner Party was held Dec. 21 at Police Headquarters, 601 E. Fayette St., from 4 to 6 p.m.

Sgt. Marian Crawford and Mrs. Clarice Lav Brooks, the Community Relations specialists, chaired the entertainment committee. The theme was "Christmas with an International Flair."

All kinds of treats and gifts were given through the aid of the Women's Civic League, the Maryland National Guard Company C, 58th Battalion and George Larkin, representative of Ginos Restaurants.

The Headquarters cafeteria was the scene of the Yule banquet as over 250 senior citizens feasted and then watched the show and dancers symbolizing customs of other nations on the stage in the fifth floor auditorium.

However, Christmas actually comes for over 700 youngsters on Saturday, Dec. 23 with the Annual Police Children's Christmas Party at the Cade Armory (the old Winchester Armory).

This is the traditional party the young people have looked forward to year after year.

They will arrive at 11 a.m. from all around town to enjoy five hours feasting and being entertained thanks to the Police Community Relations division's working around the clock all week to get ready.

Dewar's "White Label" to all, and to all a good Scotch.

Teen Talk:

Western juniors swing at ring dance

By Marsha Young

(Editor's note: Marsha Young is a 16 - year - old junior at Western Senior High School. She is currently a student intern at the AFRO-AMERICAN.)

Realizing that the teenagers of today will be the leaders of tomorrow, the AFRO wanted to tell the black community what type of lifestyle teenagers have outside of their own homes.

Teenagers are a new generation with new opinions, different interests and different ways of doing things. Our world is different. Every week a different lifestyle will be explored.

TQEENAGER OF THE WEEK WILL ALSO BE PRESENTED.

So, let's look at the teen scene by exploring Junior Week at Western High School.

Junior week at Western is the junior's own version of graduation week for the seniors. Events included school color day, pin-button mascot day, tee shirt-shaker day, junior day and the ring dance.

The ring day was the highlight of the week. It's something like a senior prom for Western juniors who have just received their school rings. This year it was held in Western's cafeteria.

Music was provided by the Majestics Band, flamboyantly dressed in red and white candy cane suits.

Seen on the dance floor were popular Western juniors Denise Chambers, Jill Carter, Robin Johnson, Desiree Humphries, Shelley Hawkins and Caren Craig.

Also, Tamara McAuther, Ivy Anderson, Crystal and Carla Chissel, Alison Lane, Michelle Williams, Lana Dandridge, Karen Winder, Elaine Ross, Alison Davis, Cheryl Kurry, Julie Hall, Cindy Gordon, Tanya Parker, Lynn Murphy, and Sarletta Pinkett.

Their dates included: Clifton Morton, Rodney Fernell, Larry Mickle, James Stewart, Paul Boone, Kevin Johnson, Keith Balckwell, Jay Stewart and Derick Hurt.

Under a decorated arch, the oung men turned their date's school rigbs, then kissed. Turning theschool ring has been a long-standing tradition at Western High School for many years.

When the juniors first receive their rings, it is turned by a freshmen, sophomore, junior and then a senior. This is for good luck in all future endeavors.

This year the juniors' rings were turned 80 times to signify the year of their graduation.

The junior class motto is "The Class of 80: Proud and bold, hails the Colors Black and Gold." The mascot is a Panda Bear.

Teen of the week

The teenager for the week is 16-year-old Alison Lane.

The daughter of Mr. and Mrs. James Lane, Miss Lane is a junior at Western High School and was chosen because of an academic grade point average of 90 and her dedication to her church, school and various committees.

A popular person, Miss Lane has participated in talent shows, speech competitions and various civic responsibilities. She is a member of the Maryland State Department of Education Student Records committee, which examines statewide student records; the Balitmore City Council of Youth and more recently Western's student senate.

She prepared for these posts by participating in the Maryland Leadership workshop, which shows students how to be more comfortable talking in front of groups.

A woman's libber, freedom fighter and lawyer at heart, Miss Lane spends her spare time writing poetry short stories and plays. She could be another Coretta Scott King.

"I'm in the process of writing a play similar to "Colored Girls," she said. Drama helps me to concentrate and appreciate the little things in life."

In addition, you might even see her at a disco doing the freak.

What are teens interested in? True, there are maybe you're a gossip. Are you an outstanding student? You might be the teen of the week.

Today's world is the teen scene. If you have suggestions, news or events happening in and around your high school, public or private, send the information to: The Teen Scene, Baltimore AFRO-AMERICAN Newspapers, 628 N. Eutaw St., Baltimore, Md. 21201.

Merry Christmas, Happy Kwanza, Happy Hanukkah and a joyous New Year.

Happy Holiday

NO MONEY DOWN
CREDIT NO PROBLEM
Just Ask
ROMIE
ARCHWAY FORD
945-3600 298-4694

★★★

★★★

★★★

Mrs. Santa Needs Your Help Today

★★★

★★★

★★★

Gas use increases despite shortages

Motorists in Maryland apparently are driving with little concern about possible gasoline shortages this winter.

State Comptroller Louis L. Goldstein said that gasoline consumption in Maryland during October amounted to 173,861,747 gallons — a 4 percent boost over the comparable figure for October 1977.

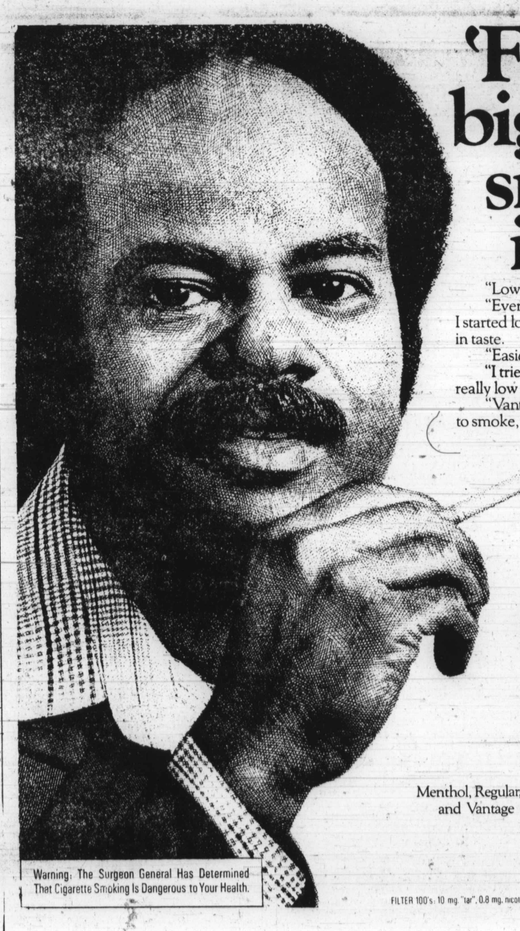
The comptroller's office said it is continuing to monitor supplies of gasoline around the state in an attempt to predict any potential shortages. It said gasolipe consumption, which normally falls off after Labor Day, has remained high following a summer of record gas consumption.

Goldstein said motor fuel tax revenues, which include revenue from the sale of diesel fuel and the motor carrier tax paid by trucking companies, totaled nearly $87 million for the first five months of Fiscal Year 1979, amounting to a 4.76 percent increase over the FY 1978 figure.

On another matter, Goldstein said state income tax revenue over the first four months of FY 979 is running nearly 10 percent ahead of the same period last year.

His office said nearly $548 million was collected over the four - month period, compared to about $501 million received a year ago.

ATTENTION
Church, Bus Co. and Organization
Save $1500
1978 ROYAL SPORTSMAN
15 passenger van. Captain seats, double air conditioner and heater. Uses regular gas. Many other options included.
Call Mr. Seymour — 655-6000
LARRY'S DODGE
9043 Liberty Road


'For me, a big issue in smoking is taste.'

"Low tar is one thing, but taste is still a big issue.

"Ever since the stories started about high tar, I started looking for a low-tar cigarette that was high in taste.

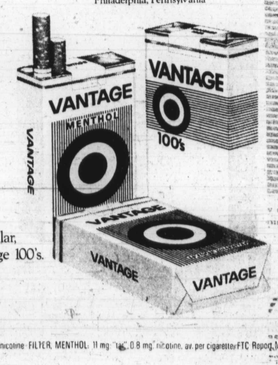
"Easier said than done.

"I tried a lot of low tars. And what they were really low in was taste. Then I tried Vantage.

"Vantage has all the taste of the cigarette I used to smoke, with about half the tar.

"With my old high tar brand I always smoked for taste. Now with low-tar Vantage, I still do."

Alex Harris
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania



Menthol, Regular, and Vantage 100's.

Warning: The Surgeon General Has Determined That Cigarette Smoking Is Dangerous to Your Health.

FILTER 100's: 10 mg. "tar", 0.8 mg. nicotine. FILTER MENTHOL: 11 mg. "tar", 0.8 mg. nicotine, av. per cigarette, FTC Report MAY '78

THE LIVING CHURCH

Harambee at Bethel

Bringing back the true idea of Christmas

There was fun, fellowship and gift buying on Dec. 9 when members of the Mortgage Committee of Bethel A.M.E. Church, Druid Hill Avenue and Lanvale Street sponsored a mini harambee.

Due to the church being under phases of renovation, the harambee was held at the Masonic Temple on Eutaw Place. This was the second year the Mortgage Committee sponsored a harambee with Mrs. Mary Robinson as chairperson.

The celebration grew out of a recent discovery of talented members of Bethel and friends in the community. The harambee was specifically designed to bring people back to the church and the true idea of Christmas.

At the harambee, there was no hustle and bustle and no standing in line. There was a personalized service and a feeling of warmth in the atmosphere.

Featured at the harambee were handmade jewelry, knitted garments, books by black artists, leather goods, and also scarves and jewelry from MaRan Sarita's Boutique in Randallstown and many other items.

Speaking of the harambee, Mrs. Robinson stated, "The harambee is the place for people who are creative and often are not noticed.

You really missed a treat—good food and great bargains at Bethel's harambee. Plans will be made soon for an even larger harambee in 1979.

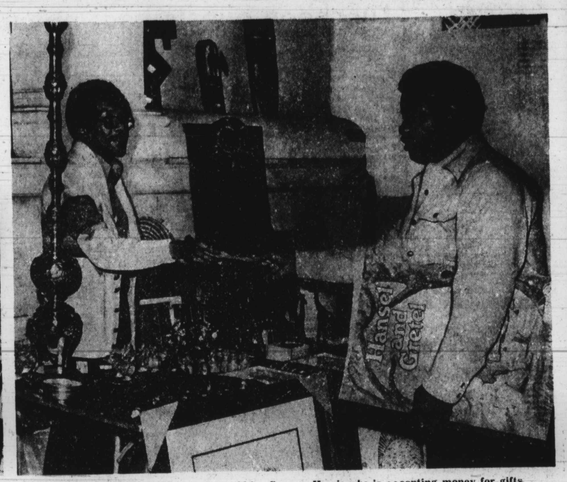
Members of the Mortgage Committee are Julia Ball, Nathaniel Brown, Herman Carter, Charlotte Clemens, Robert Dashields, Charles Flemings, Leonard Habersham, Bernice Hayner, Edith P. Hill.

Also, Patricia Holtaciaw, Eugene Johnson, Lorraine King, Alohos McCullough, Elizabeth M. Moss, A. Paul Moss, Mary Moore Murray, Hennie Page, Dorothy Parker, Norma Parker, Charles C. Robinson.

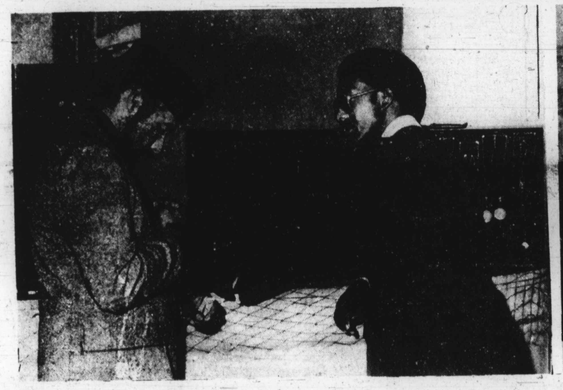
Also, Herbert Singleton, Joseph Smith, Percival C. Smith, Ruth Travis, Joan L. Wharton and Ophra Winfrey. The Rev. John Bryant is pastor.

Other committee members are Lillian Jones, Carolyn Holmes, Mary Hill, Lorraine Hamilton, Lois Gilliam, Verna Brogden, Laura Brice, Marjorie Banks, Marian Flood, Phyllis Nelson, Dorothy Lousy, Dorothea Terry, Ernestine Press, Shirley Potter.

FAMILY AFFAIR — Mr. and Mrs. Elwood L. Conwell and daughter were among the many families doing their Christmas shopping at the annual harambee sponsored by the Mortgage Committee of Bethel A.M.E.



HANDMADE AFRICAN art items were sold by Gregory Harris who is accepting money for gifts from Ray Spriggs.



JEWELRY was one of the most popular items on sale at the mini harambee. The Rev. John Bryant (left) pastor of Bethel AME Church, is shown trying to help Rasheed select a piece of African jewelry.

AFRO photo by Robin McGinty

AFRO photo by Robin McGinty

BIBLES were also on sale at the harambee. The harambee was specifically designed to bring people back to the church and to demonstrate the true idea of Christmas. Mrs. Mary Robinson, chairman of the affair, is shown with the Rev. Roy.

The meaning of Christmas

Christmas is celebrated in all countries as the birthday of Jesus Christ. People take part in religious ceremonies, observing the season of: "Peace on earth, good will to men."

Many exchange gifts and decorate their homes with holly, mistletoe and Christmas trees. Most Christians observe the holiday on Dec. 24.

The word Christmas comes from the early English phrase Christes Masse, which means Christ's Mass. The Christmas story comes from the Bible. It tells how the three wise men and the shepherds followed the star of Bethlehem to the stable where Jesus was born.

Each year, thousands of Christians make a pilgrimage to Bethlehem at Christmas time. A silver star in the great cathedral in the village bears an inscription that says, "Here, of the Virgin Mary, Jesus Christ was Born."

The custom of exchanging Christmas gifts began in memory of the gifts that the shepherds and the wise men brought to the Christ child. In some countries, children believe that the wise men or the Christ child bring their gifts. Perhaps the most joyous symbol of Christmas giftgiving is Santa Claus.

Minister speaks out

A Christmas message

By Rev. Walter S. Thomas

We live in an era when little attention is given to matters of an ultimate nature. Some things are just not important to many thousands who walk Baltimore's streets and who live in this monumental city. Yet, this dilemma is not confined to the City of Baltimore; in fact, its appearance is seen across the length and breadth of our nation and our world.

One such event which is worthy of our deepest reflection and our most earnest consideration is Christmas, the birthday of Jesus Christ. This day has often been viewed simply as a holiday. It is a day when employers allow their workers to sleep late and be with their families. It is a day for which business concerns seek to fan the flames of commercialism and entice everyone to buy the biggest and most expensive gifts. It is a day when loved ones journey from distant places to share in fellowship with families and friends. To many, Christmas is simply a "holiday" and a time for "Christmas cheer."

As Christians, we believe that in contrast to the world's understanding of Christmas, there stands a deep and abiding love for the one who was born on that day. We do not deny the commercialism; instead, we go one step further to say the real meaning of Christmas is found in Jesus Christ.

God signaled a new beginning in his relationship with mankind. He had spoken to man first through the beauty and the excellency of his creation. Yet, man still continued to stray from the place to which he had been guided by God. The eternal called for prophet after prophet to speak to his people and to tell them to mend their ways. Men listened for a season and then returned to the darkness which the words of the prophets had sought to dispel.

The Bible records that "in the fullness of time, God sent His Son" to be his final method of reclaiming and redirecting our lives. The birth of Jesus is then God coming down and living with man, and living for man.

Christmas marks the beginning of a journey that would eventually culminate on Calvary. There is no sin in buying presents; yet, there is a sin in overlooking the greatest gift given to mankind ?Jesus. "For God so loved the world that he gave His only begotten Son that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish but have everlasting life."

When Christ reclaims the center of our attention during this holiday season, we will find that the spirit of real giving comes alive in our hearts. We will understand how precious it is to have life that has been given meaning by the person and presence of Jesus Christ. This is the real meaning of the event we re - enact every year. God comes again in our human situation crowning us with His love and calling us to new dimensions of living.

We are blessed to have one more opportunity to reflect upon what our God is doing in our midst. Let us use this time wisely and take the time to give God the praise.

Metro church briefs

The annual watch night services will be held Dec. 31 at Garrison Boulevard United Methodist Church, 2504 Garrison Blvd. The Rev. Roscoe C. Williams is pastor.

Other churches that will be participating in the 10 p.m. services are Mount Zion and St. James. The Rev. Zacarias Cardoso will be preaching and the Reverends Kelly Jackson and Roscoe E. Williams will also take part in the services. Norman Hudgins is lay leader.

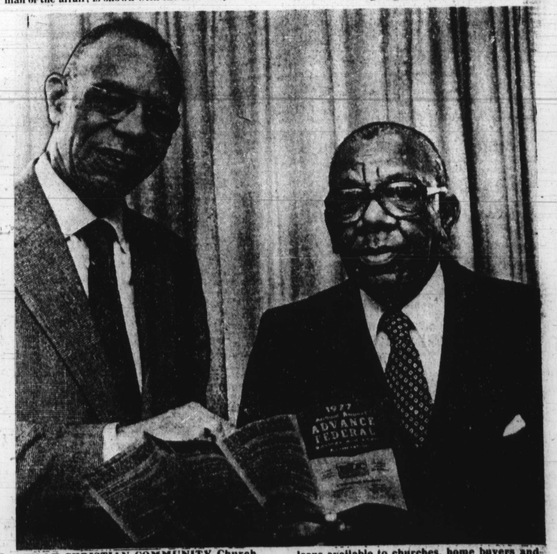
The Organ and Piano committee of Simmons Memorial Baptist Church, Pennsylvania Avenue and Cumberland Street will present the Baltimore Fellowship Choir in a recital on Dec. 24, 3:30 p.m. at the church. Carter Robinson is chairman, Ms. Mary Alexander is secretary and the Rev. Dr. William King is pastor.

The Senior Missionary Society of Faith Baptist Church, 833 Bond St., will hold its second winter wonderland banquet at LaFontaine Bleu on Erdman Ave., Dec. 27, 7 p.m.

Dr. Wepianomah W. Carter of New Shiloh Baptist Church is the speaker. Mrs. Mildred Williams is chairman, Mrs. Bessie Mason, president; Mrs. Frances Carter, co - chairman and the Rev. Dr. Walter E. Paige is pastor.

Heritage United Church of Christ Senior Choir will present a Christmas concert on Dec. 24, 7 p.m. at the church, 3106 Liberty Heights Ave., The Rev. Wendell Phillips is pastor.

"Oh Holy Night" a story in word and song, will be presented at the Ray of Hope Baptist Church, Harford Road and Parkside Drive on Dec. 24, 3 p.m. The Rev. Charles M. Franklin is pastor.



SHILOH CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY Church minister, the Rev. George Baynard, right, recently deposited $10,000 in Advance Federal Savings and Loan on behalf of his church. Advance president, W. O. Bryson Jr., left says deposits like this enable Advance to make more loans available to churches, home buyers and businesses in the community. So far in 1978, Advance has made nearly $5 million in mortgage loans. Its total assets as of this month exceed $22 million.