COVE

poses with Santa Claus in Mondawmin Shopping Mall.

Photo By C. K. Taylor

Holiday Train Garden held in the Sun Life Insurance Building at Maryland Public TV tinues at the Convention Center Mall,

... whistles ... chugging and smoking hometown stars and starlets to a coal engines ... all signal the return of Hollywood Spectacular showcasing film another season of the old-fashioned clips, show tunes and Southern Califoranimated holiday train garden at nia cuisine, thanks to Shaivitz the Fur-Maryland Public Television.

miniature buildings, tunnels, a pond of all to a hand clapping, foot stomping, live fish and four 0 and 027 guage work- finger - licking good time with the Criting trains has entertained thousands of | ton Hollow String Band and the Crabvisitors, young and old, since 1981. town Cloggers at the Convention Center

panded and will operate in one of the Pabst Beer. The jazzy sounds of the TV studios where both night and day George Owens Dixieland Quintet and lighting will provide more realism to the | traditional Creole delicacies are

weekends, 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. until Jan. 9. vention Center, Pratt Street lobby, spon-Maryland Public Television is located sored by Provident Bank of Maryland.



Avenue, Baltimore.

The weekly entertainment leisure guide for the greater Baltimore and Washington areas. Published by the AFRO-AMERICAN NEWSPAPERS group.

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New Year's Eve Americana

NEW YEAR'S EVE AMERICANA will feature five parties in the lobbies of three downtown buildings from 9 p.m. to 11:30 p.m. Each indoor party will salute a different region of the U.S.A. and will be followed by a fabulous fireworks fete at the Inner Harbor.

This year, City celebrants are invited on a holiday tour which includes stops in Hawaii, Hollywood, West Virginia, New Orleans and the Wild West and offers an opportunity to sample the sweets and entertainment of each

An authentic Hawaiian Luau complete with tropical treats and hula music provided by the Luau Serenaders will be lobby, courtesy of Bambergers. NEW YEAR'S EVE AMERICANA con-

mezzanine level, where all the glitter Flashing railroad crossing guard lights and dazzle of tinsel town awaits niture People. A real downhome Ap-The 200-square foor display of palachian Hoe-Down beckons one and This year the exhibit has been ex- Mall lobby, brought to Baltimore by guaranteed to delight merry revelers at It will operate from 1 p.m. to 9 p.m. a New Orleans Mardi Gras of the Conon Bonita Avenue north of Gwynnbrook | The good times continue at the Convention Center's Hall D, where the Mountain Laurel Band whoops it up at a Country Western Jamboree fit for all urban cowboys, presented by the Maryland State Lottery.

At 11:30 p.m., the Americana parties will close so visitors can join Baltimore's biggest New year's Eve blast ever at the Inner Harbor.

The \$5 ticket will admit one to all five holiday celebrations and entitles each participant to a choice of up to five desserts or beverages at the various parties. Advance tickets are available at all Shaivitz The Furniture People locations, all Provident Bank of Maryland branches, The Baltimore Office of Promotion and Tourism and the Top of the World, World Trade Center. Tickets will also be available the evening of the

event at each location. New Year's Americana extends to the Inner Harbor with the Big Band sounds of Bing Miller's Orchestra and spectacular sights of fireworks by Zambelli. Warm up to the music of Bing's 18-piece orchestra as they bring in the New Year beginning at 9:30 p.m. at the Science Center ceremonial steps. Everyone is invited to enjoy the fun as the City celebrates the arrival of 1984 with a

1100 shell salute. For more information about Baltimore's New Year's Eve Americana and the fireworks, display call (301) 837-INFO (4636.)

Ethel Ennis at Maryland inn.

December 21-24 and December Main St., Laurel, 792-7499. 28-January 1 to ignite Annapolis' famous "MY THREE ANGELS"—Comedy two week engagement will be the Theatre. 1111 Park Ave. 523-1000. Children's Matinee at 4:00 p.m. on "SCROOGE"—Musical version of "A course, Ethel's now famous New Year's Towsontown Musical Dinner Theatre,

The Stage

"ANNIE"—Musical Tuesday to Sunday through Dec. 31. Buffet precedes each performance. Burn Brae Dinner Theatre, Route 29 at Blackburn Road, Burtonsville, 792-0290.

"ANNIE"-Musical Through Dec. 31. Buffet precedes each performance. Limestone Musical Dinner Theatre, Beaver Dam Road, Cockeysville,

"BEETHOVEN'S TENTH"-Peter Usinov's London comedy. Through Dec. 31. Morris A. Mechanic Theatre, Hopkins Plaza, 625-1400.

"THE DRUNKARD :: - Byrd-Ryanhart production. Saturdays, 9:30 p.m. Peabody Bookshoppe Saloon, 913 N. Charles St. 235-0181.

"THE MOUSETRAP"-By Agatha Christie. Thursday to Sunday through The lovely Miss Ethel Ennis returns to the jan. 15. Buffet precedes each perfor-Maryland Inn's King of France Tavern mance. Petrucci's Dinner Theatre, 312

Christmas spirit and carry the torch in- Through Jan. 1. Buffet precedes each to the brave New Year. Highlighting this performance. Bolton Hill Dinner

Christmas Eve, a special Christmas Show Christmas Carol," through Dec. 23. Bufat 9:00 p.m. Christmas Eve night and, of fet precedes each performance. 7800 York Road. 321-6595.

Herbie Hancock—'Future Shock'

Hancock, riding high on the success a special 1983 extended-remix of the of his electrifying album FUTURE Hancock classic, "Chameleon." Also SHOCK and the smash singles available is a new video of "Autodrive," "Rockit" and "Autodrive," will take it created by the team of Kevin Godley to the stage on a cross-country tour on and Lol Creme. Their imaginative direc-Monday and New York Tuesday.

another outstanding band especially for Video" and "Best Art Direction." this tour. In addition to Herbie on keyboards and synthesizers, the newly- Christmas is mixed named "Rockit Band" includes another impressive lineup of players: Grand Mixer D. St., the turntable wizard whose bag for Mrs. Garrett scratching' effects helped propel "Rockit" onto the international charts; vocalist Bernard Fowler, on leave from the New York City Beech Boys; drummer J.T. Lewis, whose past credits include Teddy Pendergrass and Material; bassist Wayne Brathwait, who has worked with diverse artists from Japan's David Sylvian to Angela Bofill; Jeff Bova, of the Nona Hendryx group, on keyboards; and drummer/percussionist Anton Fier, a past member of such vanguard new music bonds as Pere Ubu, the Feelies, and the Lounge Lizards.

In November, a second 12-inch single was released, "Autodrive," taken from

Columbia recording artist Herbie the FUTURE SHOCK album, coupled with the East Coast, then moving West and tion and production of "Rockit" brought to Europe in January. They were in D.C. that video heavy MTV play and two awards at Billboard magazine's Fifth In-In the tradition of Headhunters and ternational Video Music Conference V.S.O.P., Hancock has assembled yet earlier this month—"Best Innovative

As Christmas vacation approaches for the girls and Mrs. Garrett it appears that some of their plans will definitely go awry, in "The Christmas Show," on the NBC-TV comedy series "The Facts of Life" Wednesday, Dec. 21 (9-9:30 p.m. NYT). This program will be closedcaptioned for hearing-impaired viewers.

Blair wants to take a ski vacation in Colorado, but feels she may be leaving her triends behind. Jo and Blair have a fight when the latter tries to help her get

Friday Plus, December 23, 1983

Brook Benton Beautiful Memories of Christnus

By Ida Peters

Brook Benton, an internationa recognized talent as performer, recording artist and composer was i Baltimore last weekend for various media appearances for his upcomin New Year's Eve Cabaret party at the Famous Ballroom. He will be bringin his own combo and share the bill with Lady Rebecca and the Unique Herman

Brook Benton has 17 gold records starting in 1959 with his recording of "It's Just A Matter of Time". His writing credits include "Looking Back" (a gold record for Nat King Cole in 1958) and "A Lover's Question" (Clyde McPhatter, gold, 1958). He also wrote "May I" recorded by Johnny Mathis and "Don't You Think It's Time" recorded by Elvis

His most famous gold hits include "Endlessly," "Rainy Night in Georgia," And, if you have a long memory his recordings with Dinah Washington "Baby You've Got What It Takes" and "A Rockin' Good Way" was a forerunner of today's hits by Diana Ross and Lionel

At this time of year, the Entertainment Office at the AFRO home office in Baltimore is a beehive of activity because of our Mrs. Santa program which provides food baskets and coupons to feed more than 2,000 .

When Brook Benton arrived last Saturday, various volunteers were bringing in clothes and food. Clyde Rucker with the Howard County Cub Scouts immediately asked where had Benton been the last few years and called out, as if by rote some of his most famous

Other questions were "Have you lost weight?" "Have you had a heart attack?" "I heard you were studying to be a minister?"

The AFRO asked Brook, why he was in Baltimore and how come he would be giving a landmark concert at the Famous

Seems that Maxine Smith Belton, a promoter of For The Love of Music, a native Baltimorean is married to Clinzo Belton of South Carolina... Benton's home town friend.

And, Brook Benton's new album... his first in many years was recorded in Charlotte, N.C.

This new album "Beautiful Memories of Christmas" is a natural as a best bets this year. "Beautiful Memories" the ti-

tle tune is destined to be another Nat King Cole type hit. Outstanding are "Christmas Makes the Town" and "I Wish Everyday Could Be Like

This Brook Benton LP has everything, horns and strings arranged by Duke Hall; a back ground vocals group of eight and the Thomas Moore Children's Chorus and Glenda Cook's Children's

Benton started out in the music field as a young man, as a gospel quartet and demo singer. He did demos for Nat King



Benton with promoter Maxine



Musical conductor Mainor Ramse and his wife, singer Baheeja travel



BROOK BENTON in an exclusive AFRO interview talks about what happened to him at the Royal Theatre and the Club Harlem in Atlantic City. (Watch for it next week).

Cole, Ruth Brown, Laverne Baker and years he has been studying to be an Clyde McPhatter.

As to questions on his health. He says jokingly that he has had several heart attacks but he has never been hospitalized or diagnosed as having a year he had been performing in Europe heart problem. The rumour may have and producing his album. started because after working 30 A Virgo, he has just completed the timinutes some years ago he had dizzy tle tune for Fred Williamson's new and fainting spells. He says he was movie "The Big Score". The tune is a "drinking too much and it all was nervous and mental".

He got over it by Yoga and deep breathing. Benton says "everybody was California but has not opened in born with a mission" so in the last few Baltimore, yet.

evangelist, he was brought up in the AME Epheses Church in Lugoff, S.C.

Yes, he says, he has lost some weight. He has lost 15 pounds. Early this

swinging "Glow Love". Film stars Nancy Wilson and was made in Chicago. Film has opened in New York, and