CHRISTMAS GUIDE 1985

Twilah Scarborough

TWILAH SAYS. . .

By Twilah Scarborough

Christmas on Myrtle Avenue

In the house on Myrtle Avenue there was Christmas, joy, love, celebrating and sharing. Before the big day arrived, each one of the brothers and sisters had chores to do and duties to perform.

The house on Myrtle Avenue was three stories high. Plenty of old fashion bedrooms for the Mallory family. The Mallorys came in big bunches and I might add a very big family. The head of the household was Papa and Momma.

Papa Mallory worked as a elevator operator, the first black operator at Baltimore Federal Bank downtown. Papa Mallory not only operated the elevator but after the Bank closed he worked as a maintenance man and did odd jobs for the white employees there. Papa at that particular time had no choice.

He had to maintain and support his large family and his grandchildren who came to visit for a while but the visit extended over another year and at that time the mothers of some of the grandchildren were at work and that was another story. Papa Mallory and Momma Mallory were firm and strict and never condoned idle talk or idle behavior.

Yes, Papa said, you go to work and bring some money into the house. Give it to Momma and help to take care of the food, clothing and coal bill.

As you can easily see who ran the house on good old Myrtle Avenue. Preparation before Christmas meant being a team. We had almost what you call an assembly line going. It took us 3 months of totally preparing for Christmas.

The Mallory gang, youngsters [illegible] and adults had it all [illegible] by Papa being the [illegible] that he brought home [illegible] one or a brown paper [illegible] and [illegible] Mr. Mallory [illegible] very own grandfather and I had to obey him and do as he said. I was under his roof and that was that.

October was the beginning of Christmas cleaning, taking each floor of the house and preparing for Christmas like we all had guests coming. Of course a guest was coming, none other than Santa Claus and he is coming down our chimney. From the third floor and down all the windows were washed and cleaned and shades were put up and had measured to be sure they were all even at the windows. All of this was done from the third floor down to the first floor.

All the shades and curtains had to be even. On the third floor in the hall were wooden hinged curtain stretchers, handmade. When momma and all of us girls finished washing the laced curtains and starched the curtains we would take them and place them on the hinged curtain stretcher so that the laced curtains could dry out. Believe me, the curtains would be stiff and looking good. Now the stretcher had imbedded it in stick pins all around the block structure.

The stretcher would take up the entire third floor hall wall. Each room that consisted of a window and believe me there were many, we had to do all the windows, including the little bathroom window. The front of the house, especially the windows had to look good, it was a must and a very big chore.

Getting halfway through October and on towards November, we had lay - away place for toys, gifts and clothing etc. There was a lot of gift buying and gift giving. But, practical Momma Mallory would have the pleasure of making her list of ingredients for her popular and famous fruit cakes and home - made vanilla cookies and ginger cookies. The cookies were always made from scratch and rolled with a rolling pin.

A cookie cutter was used. Momma ordered all her ingredients from a store that used to be on the corner of Charles and Mulberry Streets called Harper's McCraws. It was a huge store that carried all kinds of domestic foods as well as spices, nuts, and fruit. You name it, he had it. It was a store to suit all tastes for all ages.

The door to the store was opened to all at that time. You were treated royally and courteously. Momma Mallory ordered the same thing every year. Chopped nuts and fruit for the fruit cake and ingredients for the cookies. The hard part for us girls was waiting for momma to finish measuring the ingredients and all the contents for the fruit cake.

We each had to have a big apron that tied in the back and clean hands. We each took turns to stir and mix the ingredients for the fruit cakes. The cakes were placed in what was known then as huge crock pots. Momma would take some of Papa's hidden brandy from the cellar steps and pour some over the cakes. Cheese cloth was placed over them, afterwards flannel cloth was placed on top of the cheese cloth and put away until Christmas. You could smell the good old aroma all over the house. The cookies were rolled and cut by hand and placed on shelves in the pantry.

We had home-made wine, made from the grapes from our grape vine we had in our backyard. That was prepared and placed on shelves in the cellar. Our candies for our stockings was purchased from Narro Candy store that used to be on

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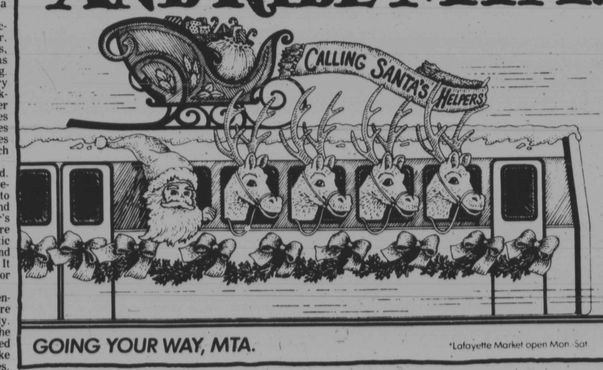

Metro open Sunday, December 22nd, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; and every Saturday, 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.

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CHRISTMAS GUIDE 1985

New NAACP executive has big job load for next year

By Elizabeth M. Oliver

The new head of the Baltimore Branch NAACP is a well known city of Baltimore official and longtime member of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, the branch that used to be the largest in the nation.

His name is George N. Buntin, Jr., who will leave the Housing Department of the City as head of public housing and go on the job at the NAACP 25th Street Headquarters on Jan. 6, 1986 at a salary of $22,000.

Mr. Buntin has a heavy job in that the National Branch of the NAACP is moving the headquarters to Baltimore this spring.

In addition, the National Convention of the NAACP, the world's largest freedom and civil rights organization, is meeting in Baltimore the last week in June and every day up to the day before July 4, 1986.

Expected to come into Baltimore for the convention are notables and leaders in the civil rights field and the NAACP plus elected officials from the U.S. Congress to all Black U.S. Mayors.

For that occasion all the hotels in Baltimore and the surrounding counties will be filled with 10,000 persons. It will be an auspicious occasion to combine the convention and the new National NAACP Headquarters opening.

Therefore, Buntin says he will not only have to re-staff the local branch office but also coordinate the Baltimore host chapter's activities and plans with the National NAACP which is headed by Mr. Benjamin L. Hooks now in New York.

The Baltimore branch is short-staffed and has depended upon the NAACP president and local NAACP President Enolia McMillan for "just about everything." Mrs. McMillan, a 50-year member of the NAACP, and a retired school principal succeeded the great civil rights leader and former president

GEORGE N. BUNTIN, JR., heads local NAACP.

(when the NAACP reached the top in the nation) Dr. Lillie M. Jackson.

An unpaid and tireless worker, Mrs. McMillan says she welcomes the appearance of Mr. Buntin on the scene during the coming season which will be the most eventful in NAACP history since Dr. Jackson and Dr. Carl Murphy of the AFRO revived the chapter in 1935.

Well equipped to take over the helm in January, Mr. Hinton leaves his post as manager of the Rehabilitated Housing Division of the local Housing Authority after a year employment.

He is a B.S. graduate of the Urban Planning School of Urban Affairs, Morgan State University, class of 1976 and has held many executive posts in local government and private businesses.

As to the NAACP, he is no stranger. He has held several posts including chairman of the Membership Committee and member of the board.

Mr. Buntin was selected as NAACP executive director Monday, Dec. 16 when the Search Committee chaired by Mrs. Hilda Ford voted on a field of 21 applicants. He succeeds Mrs. Barbara Cooper who was retired three months ago.

Mr. Buntin and his wife, Gail Tate Buntin have a son, George Oliver Buntin, age 11 months. They reside on East Eager Street and are members of the St. Paul Community Baptist Church, Rev. Gregory Perkins, pastor, Federal and Wolfe Streets.

Buntin proudly boasts he is a member of the church's board of trustees and adds "don't forget, I was formerly a third vice-president of the NAACP."

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