IF YOU ASK ME

By Bettye Moss

Smile orchids

Smile-of-the-week orchids to **Mrs. Michael Anthony Blackwell, Sr., (Kimmerla).** She gave birth to first infant born in Baltimore's University Hospital on New Year's Day.

Michael Anthony, Jr., weighed in at 5:40 a.m., tipped the scales at 5 lbs., 1 oz. Also happy about infant's arrival is older brother, **Ronell,** 5, and Baltimore area grands Milford and Phyllis Blackwell.

Proud new dad is security employee. Family resides on Hollins St., in South Baltimore.

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Smile orchards to **Debbie (Doright) Wright** who has lots of smiles in her voice. She's the young Department of Juvenile Services employee we spied in a shopping mall last week. We remember her as a counselor at the old YMCA Camp King's Landing.

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Orchids to Morgan U. president, **Dr. Earl Richardson.** He and Mrs. Richardson **(Sheila),** opened their College Ave. residence, dined faculty, board members and special friends at a Yule celebration.

In the crowd — board of regent member, **Mrs. Enolia P. McMillan,** the NAACP exec, who has been ailing, is much improved.

More Smiles

More orchids to Dukeland Nursing Center staff and employees. Dukeland Administrator Michael Sabo led in saluting employees who have given loving service during the years when the center held an awards presentation recently.

Orchids to **Edelle Marcus,** 22 years on the job; **Bertha Foy,** 21 years; **Martha Thompson** and **Carlene Williams,** 19 years; **Betty Mitchell** and **Annette Crawley,** 18; **Robert Roy,** 17; **Sandra Brown,** 16; **Paula Stridiron** and **Hazel Fletcher,** 15; **Beulah Wallace,** 14; **Lillie Jenerette,** 12;

Also **Alma Manuel** and **Rosalind Gilyard,** 11 years; **Charlie Galvin,** 9; **Michael Parks** and **Sonsiray,** 8 years; **Herman Gross,** 7; **Mary Holmes,** 6, and **Valerie Vinson** and **Edith Wright,** 5 years.

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More smile orchids to **Jessica Johnson,** the fourth grade-teacher at Henson Elementary School, who lends her melodious voice to the choir at Freewill Baptist Church, where she is president of the usher board and secretary of the trustee board.

We shared a table at the New Year's Eve gala given by Delta Sigma Theta Baltimore Alumnae chapter at the Forum.

Mrs. Johnson was attractive in grey sequins.

She and hubby, Robert L. Johnson, the Frontier leader and retired Social Security researcher, were among beautiful couples at the event.

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Also there looking good **good Mr. and Mrs. Pinkney Howell,** (Sara), whose children hosted 50th anniversary celebration for them at the Forum on Christmas Day. Beautiful!

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It's a joy to hear a cheerful voice when you call a public office like the city health department and get **Mrs. Rita Cox,** a 21-year city employee who has lots of sunshine in her voice. She's a member of St. Anne's Catholic Church.

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Special hellos to city sanitation worker **Jerome Slowe,** who has an extra special manner that helps make others have a happy day. We watched him at work collecting large bundles of Christmas packaging on Tuesday in the Ashburton section.

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Did someone's smile make your day? Share the name with this column, Let If You Ask Me salute them. Write Smiles, If You Ask Md., Baltimore Afro-American, 628 N. Eutaw St., Baltimore, Md., 21201 and smile, please.

NEWLYWEDS — Mr. and Mrs. Clarence F. Gross exchanged wedding vows recently.

Wedding vows

Two of our town's good neighbors, whom many admire as kind, thoughtful individuals, exchanged wedding vows during the holiday season **Clarence F. Gross,** the businessman, and **Ann Bruce White,** the psychiatric nurse.

The **Rev. Marion C. Bascom,** minister of Douglas Memorial Church, officiated at the quiet double ring ceremony in th church sanctuary on Dec. 17. Sole witnesses were the bridegroom's former sister-in-law, **Edna Alston,** the beautician, and her daughter, **Gwen Alston** of N.Y.

The bride wore a two-piece blue woolen suit with matching accessories. The couple is now at home on Springdale Ave. in northwest Baltimore.

The new Mrs. Gross, 50, is the daughter of the late **John** and **Mary Bruce** of Ellicott City. She is a graduate of St. Frances Academy in Baltimore and the Community College of Baltimore where she earned a degree in health nursing, is employed as a psychiatric private duty nurse administering to terminally ill patients.

She is a divorcee for 24 years, has two sons, **Bernard N. White, Jr., 27, and John I. White,** 25, both of Baltimore.

—

Mr. Gross, known to inmates as "Sonny" is 67, a native Baltimorean, son of the late Eleanor and Clarence F. Gross, Sr., is a graduate of Douglass High School and Morgan State College (now University), where he earned a business administration degree. He is founder and president of Springdale Construction Co., a 17-year-old firm noted for construction of commercial facilities in Baltimore, D.C. and V.

Mr. Gross is a member of Chi Psi Sigma, the business fraternity, and serves on the board of CEBO, (Council for Equal Business Opportunity), the Advance Federal Savings and Loan Association, the State Vocational Council and the Governor's Commission on Construction.

His first wife was the late **Kathryn Gross,** city school principal.

Holiday fare

It was the 48th annual fare when members of the Templars-the popular men's club-hosted their Christmas party at the Forum on Dec. 27. These gentlemen have a reputation for making guests feel extra special, not only when you first join them, but all through the evening, they make sure their guests are comfortable and have everything they desire. It's an art they perform well.

Evening featured dinner (prime rib or flounder with crab meat) and dancing to the music of Vernon Wolst's Big Blues Band. President of the group is **Allan T. Moore, Jr.,** the MTA Employees' Credit Union exec.

His wife, **Maxine,** was lovely in black lace and taffeta.

More looking good couples spied in the crowd-the **Charles Pettuses** (he's the first black president of MTA Employees Local 1300); and the **Alphonso Scarboroughs,** (Marian), he's the retired MTA Credit union board member.

Also looking elegant-in black cocktail-length jersey-decorated with sequins, matching shoes and bag-**Phyllis T. Anderson,** guest, escorted by friend, **Dr. Homer E. Favor.**

Also a picture in black-with glitter, **Gladys Daniels** wife of member, Samuel T. Daniels.

Other members: **Glascoe Baker, Solomon Baylor, William Bowie, Percy Bradby, Daniel Brewington, Earl Britt, John Carter, John Datcher, James Goodwin, Harold Henderson, Samuel Hicks, Warren L. Hobbs, David Jenkins, Cecil Johnston, Herman Lee, Robert Payne, Myles Robinson, David Scott, Nathaniel Trader, Lester Wallace, Robert Watts Robert White and David Young.**

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Mondawmin Mall Cared and Shared

By Coral Nicholas

For three years the Security Officers of Mondawmin Mall has been Mrs. Santa's helpers in their own little way. Lieutenants Vivian Logan and Walter Holloway headed this campaign to help needy families of Baltimore have a Thanksgiving and Christmas holiday.

On Sunday, November 13, 1988 they hosted a Gospel Concert in center-court in the mall. Various churches were invited to participate. The True Tabernacle Apostolic Church and the Maryland Temple Choir, amongst others, answered their cry.

The only admission fee to the public was one or more can goods. The goods were then used on the following Sunday as the employees of Mondawmin prepared for a Pre-Thanksgiving Dinner on November 20, 1988 at WOK Restaurant on the second level metro-plaza section of the mall.

The WOK is closed on Sundays, however Mr. Lee found it in his heart to allow these good people to use his facilities to host his grand dinner. Churches, shelters and families of the Mrs. Santa Campaign were invited to enjoy a homecooked pre-holiday meal prepared by the Security Officers and Housekeepers.

The left-over goods were then used for food baskets for Christmas. Christmas Eve these same employees went out and delivered food and gifts to families all around the Baltimore Metropolitan area.

One child asked for a puppy and on December 23, 1988, Lieutenant Logan calledWEBB and asked and received a puppy from a generous listener, Mr. Burt Cooper.

Mrs. Marion Frieson, Mall Manager, and Sonja Sanders, Public Relations, also pitched in at the end by going out and purchasing dolls to fit the orders that were called upon their employees. "Mrs. Frieson's motto is 'team' work and as we work on this project on our own personal time, we could hear her voice telling us, the way to achieve is through teamwork." says Lieutenant Holloway. Officer Yvonne McCormick, Housekeeping Supervisor, Kreem Bey and Officer Walter Chandler, who played Santa, are commended for helping make this project a great success.

We applaud the employees of Mondawmin Mall for sharing and caring.

Above are members of the True Tabernacle Church Choir whom participated at the Gospel Concert, Center-court Mondawmin Mall on Sunday, November 13, 1988 to help raise can goods for the Mall project of Caring and Sharing.

Last Minute Contributions

Ms. Mamie Moore, manicurist, and Judith Lee, stylist, of Alleen's Hair Focus, 3616 Marriots Lane, Baltimore, 21207, took time out to bring new gift wrapped toys for boys and girls to Mrs. Santa. Ms. Esther Weaver and Ms. Bernice Robinson also donated $10.00 each to allow Mrs. Santa to come closer to her goal. We thank all of you for reaching into your hearts.

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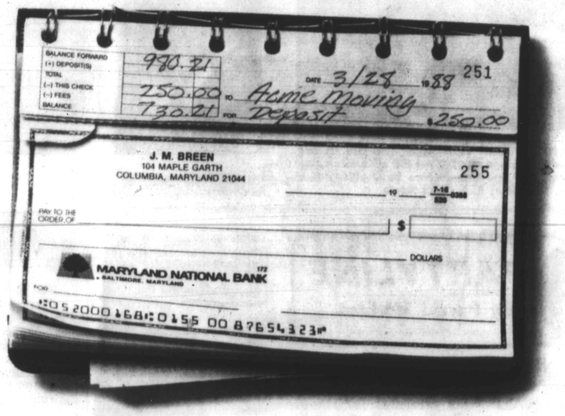

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