



WALTER BURRELL

Hollywood Happenings

When 13-year-old Sherrill Luke was at Universal Studios some years ago appearing as a child actor-dancer in "Mr. Big" and "Top Man," he had no idea he'd be returning to that studio as a grown man--in an entirely different capacity.

However, the now adult Mr. Luke has come back to Universal as one of its most brilliant legal minds in the studio's extensive law department, having given up his partnership in the legal firm of Mathews & Luke.

A NATIVE Californian, Sherrill attended Los Angeles High School, received a B.A. degree from the University of California at Los Angeles and a masters degree from the University of California at Berkeley. He joins an ever increasing number of Negroes snaring good-paying, behind-the-scenes jobs in the movie industry.

Luke became interested in the position when he was told of an opening by another Negro who had applied for a job in the same department. Luke wrote a letter of inquiry, making the fact that he was a Negro quite clear, and was hired after a subsequent interview.

Though his job is an interesting one, it's also highly intricate. For every actor, writer, producer, composer, etc., involved in the making of a motion picture or television film is signed to a contract and it's Sherrill's job to compose and document such agreements.

Terms and stipulations are usually agreed upon verbally in the casting offices, though this is done in a purely skeleton-like form. Sherrill's responsibility involves spelling the contract out in specific, legal terms, which averages about nine pages of technical jargon.

HE THEN negotiates with the lawyer, manager or agent who represents the particular artist, makes sure both the studio and the artist are satisfied; and urges the artist to sign the contract. He is specifically responsible for the popular "Dragnet" series and handles the contracts for both of the show's stars, Jack Webb and Harry Morgan.

Sherrill's father, the late Mordecai Luke, was a teacher in Minden, Louisiana, before moving to Los Angeles. His mother, the former Venye Richards of New Orleans, is also a teacher from a family of six children--five of whom are also teachers. In addition, Sherrill's wife, Anne, is a teacher in the Los Angeles area.

"Needless to say," quips Luke, "one of the first decisions I ever made was not to be a teacher. We already had enough in the family to start our own school."

ANOTHER addition to the Universal staff is Jim Harris, who has become the first Negro to be assistant personnel director for a major studio in Hollywood.

A Californian since the age of five (he was born in Forest City, Arkansas), Jim is responsible for interviewing and selecting personnel for the various crafts involved in movie making, such as painters, plasterers, carpenters, electricians, etc.

Jim, a graduate of L.A.'s Jefferson High and Los Angeles City College, came to the studio first as supervisor for the mailroom, a position which he still holds in addition to his other duties.

Men like Sherrill Luke and Jim Harris serve as examples for young Negroes throughout the country and are living proof that perseverance and education certainly do pay off. Both have been frequent speakers at local predominately Negro schools urging teens to stay in school.

QUICK SCREEN SCENES: the talk of Hollywood these days is young RONNIE ECKSTINE,

PARTICIPANTS IN CAREER DAY PROGRAM



Sponsors and consultants of the Prometheus Circle--Youth Work Committee of the NAACP co-sponsored "Career Day" Program held at Doolittle Recreation Center Saturday pictured here are (seated, from left) Mrs. Gloria Brown, Assistant to Doolittle Recreation Center Director Joe Haynes; Haynes, George Mapes of AEC Personnel office, Robert Cooper, NYC coordinator... Standing, from left: Joe Neal, Compliance Office, REECO; Cranford Crawford, Chairman of NAACP Youth Work Committee; Deputy District Attorney Addelmar D. Guy, Floyd Plymouth, Prometheus Circle Prexy; Edward Gound, YOC State Employment Service; and H. P. Fitzgerald, Jo Mackey Elementary School Principal.

The Program, reported by sponsors as "relatively successful" offered views of participating consultants on job opportunities for minorities in each consultant's individual field with specific information on training programs offered and qualifications required.

President Johnson Pleas For Manpower Program-Too

WASHINGTON, D. C.--President Johnson proposed to the U.S. Congress a manpower program to provide jobs for about two million unemployed. He said the two million potential workers include Negroes, Mexican-Americans, older workers, and "others barred from jobs by other people's prejudices."

In his 1966 report, which reflected the President's, the Secretary of Labor's, and the Nation's commitment to a "positive" manpower policy, the President said the program's goal is "to guarantee to every man an opportunity to unlock his own potential, to earn the satisfaction of standing on his own two feet....in short, to offer every citizen a sure sense of his own usefulness."

The President said the nation must:

--"Bridge the gap between education and work" by better relating schooling to manpower programs.

--Concentrate efforts in various ways, including "special assistance to our most disadvantaged citizens" through a \$135 million special manpower program.

--Make military service a path to productive careers" by making available a maximum of in-service training and educational opportunities to increase chances for employment in civilian life.

The President urged the Congress to AMEND UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE laws TO PROVIDE TRAINING, guidance or other services in conjunction with extended benefits TO THE LONG-TERM UNEMPLOYED.

He also urged the congress to provide \$20 million for a special census of 3 million Amer-

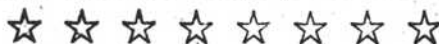
ican households to find answers to some "fundamental" problems, including what obstacles the unemployed must overcome to find and hold a job.

In a letter transmitting his manpower report to the President, Secretary of LABOR W. WILLARD WIRTZ SAID THE IMPORTANCE OF PRIVATE INDUSTRY'S COOPERATION IN opening up jobs IS OF "CRUCIAL" IMPORTANCE in all future manpower program efforts.

MR. WIRTZ also SAID THAT wide EVALUATION OF HIRING PRACTICES MUST BE MADE TO ELIMINATE UNNECESSARY or "ARTIFICIAL" educational REQUIREMENTS and pre-employment tests DESIGNED TO BAR EMPLOYMENT; and that consideration should be given to the "redesign of jobs" to facilitate employment of the less skilled or handicapped.

"Heartening" is the word the President used to describe progress made in manpower programs during the past two years. He pointed to "victories" in Neighborhood Youth Corps centers, Job Corps camps, and in thousands of training projects under the Manpower Development and Training Act.

"That progress," the President pointed out, "is often measured not by what happened but by what has been avoided--such as the high school dropout whose name might have been recorded on a police blotter, but was not because he learned a skill and got a good job" or the "father of five who might have waited in line for his relief check, but did not because he was trained and went on to steady employment."



son of famous singer Billy Eckstine. Unlike the sons and daughters of other noted show business personalities, Ronnie isn't simply riding on his father's name. The handsome, green-eyed young actor snared a role in MGM's new film, "The Love-In," and showed he's a darn good actor. The word is that he's already been signed for another role... MITTIE LAURENCE, sexy actress-singer who scored heavily as Mrs. Frederick Douglass in a "Profiles In Courage" segment, is really knocking them over in Viet Nam. She'll return to the states on June 1... Tan actor JOEL FLUELLEN received a talking Myna bird as a gift from producer Michael Wilding and his actress-wife, Margaret Leighton. The only trouble was that the bird spoke with a British accent. Joel is trying hard to give him a southern drawl and already has him eating collard greens.

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