



WALTER BURRELL

Hollywood Happenings

Once upon a time--in 1943, to be exact--an enthusiastic 19-year-old welder went out and bought a shiny new electric guitar, an amplifier, a year's supply of guitar picks and extra strings, and drove his Indianapolis neighbors to distraction as he set out to teach himself to play.

Little did Wes Montgomery know that he'd not only master the instrument, but go on to become the king of the jazz guitar.

However, behind the genius audiences thrill to in nightclubs and concert halls lie the straight-forward simplicity and the warm personality of a self-taught and self-made man, as this writer discovered recently when I talked with Wes at his Hollywood apartment. On a lazy Calif. afternoon he revealed an insight into the man behind the guitar and the footlights.

"I was 19, had just gotten married and was working as a welder in Indianapolis when I decided to buy a guitar," recalls Wes. "I'd always admired the sounds it made and I figured it wouldn't be too hard to learn to play it. Besides, I had several friends who picked away at it.

"What did my wife think of the idea? Well, to say the least, she didn't quite approve--and she liked it less as time wore on. But I figured this way: I wanted the guitar for my own amusement; to relax with when I came home after work. When I thought I'd gotten my money's worth for the day, I simply put it in the corner.

"AS IT turned out, my friends were too busy to teach me any techniques and I didn't really want to impose on them anyway. Besides, I never had any intentions of becoming big time or famous. All I had to do was look at the competition and realize that. No, I had no thoughts of becoming a professional.

"So I just went into the back room and started plucking and twanging away. Naturally, at first the sounds were something less than melodic to everyone else, although I was proud as a peacock. However, my neighbors didn't share my enthusiasm and emphasized their displeasure by calling the police--more than once. In fact, my wife complained as loudly as anyone else.

"ONE NIGHT when my wife made her usual trip to the door of the back room where I had all my equipment, she stood on the other side of the door and said in no uncertain terms for me to quiet down. Instead of turning down the volume on the amplifier, I just put down the pick and strummed the guitar with my thumb. She said that was great and I've used my thumb ever since."

How does he react to being the receiver of such a great gift?

"Gift? No. It isn't that at all. A gift is something handed to you. I had to work hard to be a guitarist. My hands cramped, my thumb got swollen, my shoulder ached and I had countless splitting headaches as I ploughed my way wearily through untold hours of trial and error--mostly error."

Wes' hit-and-miss learning technique was due to the fact that he has never learned to read music--not one note. He has memorized virtually every chord and key he's played and explains that his ear is what guides him through a song or instrumental number.

"No one can teach you how to play," notes Wes. "They can only teach you the technical and mechanical aspects. Then you have to wind up un-learning all their Berkeley School of Music (in Boston) instructions. This produces inhibitions because you respect what you've been taught and it's hard to go against that.

"Strictly musical education can actually hamper your innate musical freedom. On the

(See WES, page 10)

SILHOUETTES VISIT JAMES BROWN



ARTIST WITH FANS--Members of the local Silhouettes Club were guests of ebullient James Brown at his closing show at the Flamingo Hotel recently... Following Brown's performance, club members had individual pictures made with star and the group picture where he is flanked by club secretary Frankie J. Davis, left, and president Carlean Burks, on his right. Seated is Della M. Mitchell... Other members shown from left are Irma Burks, Lula Scrambler, Mary Lee Munerlyn, Betty Donohue, Florine Tatum, and Addine Sewell (rear right).

DISCOURSE ON MUSIC

MUSIC--FOR LOVE and PEACE of MIND
By Henry Wells

IF I ONLY had words at my command to make you, dear reader, understand the great peace and tranquility which flows through me when I hear beautiful sounds, if would give me a great deal of satisfaction. This is why I chose the above title for this little discourse on Music. I certainly can't be the only person who feels this way about the Music he or she loves.

I'd better say right now that these thoughts on my favorite subject are sincerely intended to appeal to the young people. They love their favorite sounds and rhythms so deeply until they are the best writers and composers of the sounds they love. The term "young people" certainly includes people of all ages, who think young.

You youngsters from, say fourteen, fifteen year of age and upwards, have created a live, vital, and joyful kind of Music which has changed the complexion of the vast and profitable world of Music. Today the whole world sings your songs and dances to your rhythms. I have access to authoritative statistics which state that over seventy-five per cent of electrically-wired American homes have record players. I am astounded to learn that the over-all sales of musical instruments, accessories, and printed Music has passed \$650,000,000 per year!

IF MUSIC is loved and enjoyed to this extent (in America alone) it surely is a great source of peace for many people around this troubled world. Peace begets Love and understanding.

I thoroughly enjoyed the exciting Checkmates, Ltd., at a strip hotel recently. It may seem a bit odd to you--but as I looked all about that Lounge, observing the thunderous applause and standing ovation given these excellent performers, I couldn't help thinking, here are deliriously happy people of all races and creeds--happy together--at least for a moment.

I really don't need to elaborate any further.

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CUSTODIAN - CITY OF NORTH LAS VEGAS - Salary Range \$381. - \$510. Education and experience equivalent to completion of eighth grade. Willing to work nights and weekends. Perform custodian work and related duties. Applications will be accepted through August 30, 1967. For further information, contact Personnel Director, 2200 Civic Center Drive, North Las Vegas.

Female

P.A.B.X. OPERATOR - CITY OF NORTH LAS VEGAS - Salary Range \$346. - \$463. 30 day residence requirement in Clark County. Employment Standards: Combination of experience and training substantially equivalent to one (1) year of clerical experience, including the operation of a private branch exchange, and high school graduate. Experience in dealing with the public. Must have pleasing voice and clear enunciation and ability to give clear explanations and to use proper grammar. Applications will be taken through August 30, 1967. For further information contact Personnel Director, 2200 Civic Center Drive, North Las Vegas.

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