



WALTER BURRELL

Hollywood Happenings

THE ONLY ONE.

A few short years ago this was an oft-dropped phrase as black person after black person broke into previously all-white areas of employment.

Today, that "only one" has at least grown to "a few" or "several" in most areas of our environment, but if you were to call to mind the number of black women in continuing co-starring roles in television series, you'd still have to answer: "Only one. Nichelle Nichols."

Ironically, the series which Nichelle co-stars, "Star Trek," is filmed at Desilu Studios, where more black actors work in continuing roles than at any other studio (Greg Morris in "Mission: Impossible"; Bill Cosby in "I Spy"; etc.), but she is the only woman.

However, one thing is certain, and we found it out when the lovely actress visited her old-time friend, James Garner, on the set of his latest movie, Universal's "The Jolly Pink Jungle." Nichelle may be the "only one," but she's actually three women in disguise.

She's an authentic triple-threat performing artist. A brilliant dancer, an excellent singer--be it ballad, blues or rock--Nichelle has also demonstrated her ability as an actress by being twice nominated for the Sara Siddon Award as the Best Actress of the Year.

THE FIRST nomination came for her portrayal of Hazel Sharp in "Kicks And Co.," in which she co-starred with Burgess Meredith; the second for her stirring performance in the hit play, "The Blacks."

As a singer, she's been equally as impressive. She recently performed on a day and a half-long Job-A-Thon sponsored by a Los Angeles television station to procure jobs for unemployed minority group people.

She sang 19 songs in as many hours--without stopping. The response was so overwhelming she has cut a new album, to be released this month.

But singing isn't at all a newly-acquired talent. Nichelle was a vocalist with both the Duke Ellington and Lionel Hampton bands and traveled throughout the U.S., Canada and Europe with them.

IN NEW YORK, she starred at the famed Blue Angel and the Playboy Club, taking time between the two bistros to serve as standby to the lead in the Broadway musical, "No Strings." Her first two single record releases were "Know What I Mean" and "Why Don't You Do Right?" for the Epic label.

Harry Lipton, her agent, was also Marilyn Monroe's agent and he declares emphatically that Nichelle "is the most exciting talent I've handled since Marilyn." He nick-named Marilyn "M.M.," now calls Nichelle "N.N."

And Lipton isn't the only one who thinks highly of the comely actress. She receives a weekly avalanche of fan mail from every sector of the country. Proposals of marriage aren't uncommon.

She speaks regularly at schools throughout the Southern California area, giving lectures on dress, cosmetics and other subjects of interest to young people. She also works with Operation Headstart and was recently cited by the Mothers of Watts for service rendered in that area.

THOUGH SHE admires and encourages the vibrantly enthusiastic young people she comes in contact with, she's also quick to have them give credit to the older citizens of the community.

"It's easy to cry 'Uncle Tom' and 'conservative' at our elders," she notes, "but what we tend to forget all too quickly is that they've come as far as their time and circumstances and environment have allowed them. We're only going forward on a road they've managed to set the course for, whether we care to admit it or not.

Both In Select Company Tony Bennett Headlines New Caesars Palace Show



SOCIAL CALL--Nichelle Nichols takes time from her co-starring role on TV's "Star Trek" to visit long-time friend James Garner on the set of his latest movie, "The Jolly Pink Jungle."

Continuing its policy of offering star-studded entertainment for the discriminating palate of its royal guests, Caesars Palace announces the return engagement of master balladeer Tony Bennett who opens a two-week engagement in the Circus Maximus Room Thursday, October 19.

The Harry Belafonte Show which closes Saturday night after enjoying nightly SRO crowds will be followed by a four-day special, limited engagement of comedian Woody Allen and the Xavier Cugat Show starring Charo (Oct. 15-18).

Singer Tony Bennett performed to capacity audiences in the 1,000-seat theatre-restaurant when he appeared in the Palace last year and his multitudinous gallery of fans will be treated to a "new look" in night club shows when the internationally acclaimed singer headlines the upcoming presentation which will also feature comedian Henny Youngman and the world famed dance team of Brascia and Tybee. The Bennett Show will continue through November 1.

Nero's Nook continues to be the mecca for Nina Simone fans who flock nightly to the popular Palace Lounge to enjoy the diversified entertainment of Simone, Paul Gilbert, The Jets, and Scott Smith who all are currently appearing there.

Still delighting audiences with its unbridled hilarity is the "Bottoms Up" afternoon revue which can be seen at the Palace through November 9.

AND OCTOBER 27 is the date long awaited--The return of the incomparable Checkmates, Ltd. to Nero's Nook.

Spotlight On Local Anti-Poverty Programs

(Editor's note: Mrs. Dorothy King is not only an observant reader of the VOICE, she is a curious one. Noting that a series of articles on local Anti-Poverty Programs initiated several months ago had been discontinued, she made inquiries. Concerned to learn that the editor just simply had not had the time to follow through on the community service, she generously volunteered to lend her time and efforts to bring an informative report to those whom knowledge of the various programs and their operations would be welcome and beneficial. We are happy to present the first of Mrs. King's reports.)

Cry From The Wilderness

by Dorothy King

AT LONG LAST, the cry for help from the nation's needy and deprived was heard and answered by the passage of the Anti-Poverty Bill in Congress. And here in Clark County, the answer to the cry is furnished by the dedicated efforts of the Neighborhood Council Service Workers.

The Neighborhood Councils, grass roots component of the poverty program, serve community residents by seeking out those in need in each Council's assigned area (Council districts are defined by school zones) and upon ascertaining the nature of the need or problem, directing those who need help to the proper agency.

Members of the various councils are all volunteer workers with an organizational structure of elected officers and one paid service worker for each council. In the course of their rounds, they not only offer every personal assistance and comfort to those they find in need, they immediately report the family's (or individual's) plight to sources where aid can be obtained. They are in possession of all information necessary to provide answers to questions of those who do not know where to turn--Where to go for training? Where to get food? Where to get a job? Where to get clothing? Where to get medical aid? These are the questions that council workers provide accurate answers. They are cast in the role of fairy godmother, godfather as the case may be. They provide transportation to the agencies whose services cover the given situation. They answer the call from groups or organizations who need help in transporting youngsters on a day of recreation.

THE MOTTO of the Neighborhood Council is "To Help--Help--Help!" Project Director of

(See KING, page 16)

Famed Violinist Dies

MUNICH, Germany - (NPI)--Hezekiah (Stuff) Smith, 58, the man credited with innovations that helped popularize the jazz violin, was buried here last week after his death following a prolonged illness.

A native of Portsmouth, Ohio, who lived in Copenhagen since 1965, Smith came to Munich to fill concert and television engagements.

Wallace Platform "By Any Other Name" Smells

ROANOKE, Va. - (NPI)--In his latest bid and "new party" campaign for the Presidency, ex-Gov. George C. Wallace is stressing the issue of "states' rights," and trying hard to play down the "segregation" issue with which he has become synonymous.

At a press conference held in Virginia Polytechnic Institute, Wallace stated "I'm not running on segregation--if I run, I'm running on states' rights." Yet, he admits he would continue to "welcome the support" of the Ku Klux Klan.

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"And this goes for the black actors of yesterday, too. It's an 'in' thing these days to poke fun at guys like Step 'N Fetchit, Mantan Moreland and Kingfish. But what more could they possibly have done in their circumstances?"

"Instead of being ashamed of them or laughing at them, we should recognize the fact that if given the chance, these men would have been as truly great as Berle or Hope or any others lucky enough to have been born in different situations--and skins."

Nichelle, born and reared in Chicago and educated in Los Angeles and New York, is obviously one to practice what she so loudly preaches. She's more than living up to her capacity and nightclub and TV audiences are the better for it.