



As friends of the writer (and the many acquaintances who have had the great privilege to know her) will attest, I am one of fortune's favored children; one blessed with a truly wonderful mother. Ever since maturity occasioned the realization that every woman who has a child is not necessarily a mother, I have never ceased to thank HIM from whom all blessings flow, for this most precious of all blessings.

Reason for today's "Mother's Day" tribute to Mrs. Louise Key of Riverside, California results from Sunday's weekly telephone visit with Mom who said that she was feeling fine except that "my legs are a little stiff, naturally." Asked why "naturally," she exploded "from all that marching in the Wallace demonstration, Friday."

Mom will be 78 Christmas. Perhaps this little anecdote will give you some indication of why my most valued gift at every Yuletide is my Mom.

ON THE demonstration, she expressed great gratification at the number of demonstrators and that the numbers of whites nearly matched that of Negroes. She was particularly proud of the organizational excellence of the demonstration staged by the Riverside Chapter of the NAACP and was unstinting in her praise of Chapter President, George Williams.

While we are on the unpleasant subject of the self-styled "First Gentleman of Alabama", it should be noted that citizens of Las Vegas deserve kudos for declining to afford the presidential aspirant an audience here--a step in the right direction toward making our town "The Best City Of Them All" in reality.

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NEWSPAPER reports of Saturday's "Solutions Conference" indicate I missed excellent speeches made by William Caples and James Farmer (a four-day bout with the flu prevented my attending), but my real regret at having missed the event is having missed hearing Curt Moody. In my opinion, Moody, Executive Secretary, So. California Community Relations Conference, is a supremely rare individual with total commitment to the struggle for human rights. His presence at the Conference should have been an inspiration to those who really care, limited in number as they probably were.

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RATHER interesting the UPI release from Carson City that the Nevada Personnel Department is making a survey to determine how many Negroes hold state jobs. According to the story, Personnel Administrator James Whittenberg stated that job applications do not carry any racial identification and that "The question and criticism have been raised by minority group leaders, particularly in Las Vegas, that the State isn't doing its share of hiring."

Although we have statistics of numbers of Negroes employed by the State, City, and County, we will welcome the results of the state's own survey. It might be worth mentioning that it isn't necessary to see the statistics on Clark County's employment of Negroes to know that County Commissioners would do well to investigate minority employment in the County. Just walk into a County office and look around you--on any day, clear or cloudy.

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ON AND OFF STAGE

Checked with Bob Bailey to see if he had taped his "On the Town with Bob Bailey" telecast of last Sunday after hearing such laudatory comments from viewers and laments from those who missed it. Sorry, folks, the answer was 'no'.

First segment of the show was a highly interesting and informative interview with articulate and knowledgeable James Farmer. Remainder of the show presented the talents of a group of captivating youngsters. Bob and Ann's eight-year-old heir, Johnny, was a magnificently poised M.C. and moderator. The kids were just

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great in song, dance, and the panel-type interview in which Johnny's baby sister, six-year-old Kim, proved conclusively her predilection for a theatrical career.

BOB BAILEY, incidentally, is heads and shoulders over other locals in the "interviewer" department. This can be attributed, no doubt, to the advantage that is his by virtue of being a performer himself. Personally, I am constantly filled with admiration for celebrities who are victims of the inadequacies of some TV "personalities" who conduct in-person interviews with artists appearing here. Most recent that comes to mind is the poise and assurance displayed by lovely Barbara McNair in such a telecast where the bumbling interviewer's questions bordered on the pure asinine.

By the way, singer McNair disclosed that she will go to Vietnam with the Bob Hope show when the indefatigable comedian makes his annual Yuletide tour to entertain Uncle Sam's fighting men. Barbara has long been a favorite of this writer who has followed the singer's career from the very early stages... She has the great talent for presenting every number (no matter what type) as though it were the only song she would render on the program... AND you have never heard "The Hammer Song" until you've heard Barbara McNair belt it out. Several years ago, at a closed circuit TV Benefit show for the NAACP which offered the talents of an array of top artists including the likes of Sammy Davis, Jr., Lena Horne, and Harry Belafonte, Barbara McNair stole the show with her presentation of "The Hammer Song". Catch her with Johnny Carson at the Sahara thru Nov. 13.

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IF I RULED THE WORLD--I'd issue an edict that everybody in it must read the Las Vegas Sun's Judy Edsall. She's some kind of writer. Her columns are thoughtful, provocative, and challenging... Also a holiday would be proclaimed in every city on the date of a Duke Ellington opening. He opens at the Flamingo Hotel's Driftwood Lounge Nov. 23 which happens to be a holiday, and fittingly enough, Thanksgiving. You Joe Delaney fans tell the personable Joe he is not the only Ellington fan who plans to make it every night of the Ellington band's limited one-week engagement.

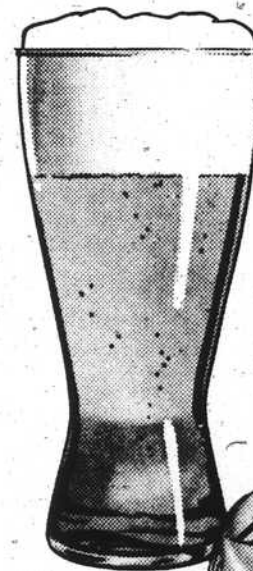
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