

HOLLYWOOD

THE SOUL SIDE

by Walter Burrell

Hollywood people are talking about: The fact that Gary, Indiana, mayor RICHARD G. HATCHER is joining JIM BROWN's Negro Industrial and Economic Union (NIEU) in gratitude for its sending HARRY BELAFONTE into Gary to help with Hatcher's campaign. CARL STOKES, Cleveland's mayor, is also a member of the NIEU.

CHARLES EVERS, Miss. Field Secretary for the NAACP, was honored last week at a testimonial in Hollywood. Over 700 people paid \$25 a plate at the dinner hosted by "Mission: Impossible" star GREG MORRIS. Entertainment was offered by BILLY DANIELS and CARMEN McRAE. Scores of personalities were present including BARRY SULLIVAN, Mrs. GREGORY PECK, Mrs. MARIA COLE, NANCY WILSON and "Star Trek" star LEONARD NIMOY.

The United States Information Agency has announced plans to film EARTHA KITT's dance classes in the Watts section of L.A. Despite the actress-singer's bouts with ill health, she has maintained the classes, which are free to deserving youngsters.

EDWARD G. ROBINSON and HARRY BELAFONTE are winding up a deal for the two of them to star in a new film titled "Angel Levine." The popular singer also has a four-year deal to perform at Caesar's Palace in Las Vegas.

The SUPREMES' MARY WILSON and UCLA Bruin basketball star MIKE WARREN have been seen making music together around Hollywood these days. It appears that the MARY WILSON-RONNIE ECKSTINE combination is over.

KING HUSSEIN of Jordan has requested that crooner BILLY ECKSTINE (Ronnie's dad) perform a command performance later this month. (This is one show that Jewish SAMMY DAVIS definitely won't be asked to do!)

And speaking of Sammy, JACK BENNY reminded him the other day that Davis promised he'd work for Benny for \$700 after the comedian helped the WILL MASTIN TRIO early in their career. "I'll do it if I promised, but my uncle and my father aren't with me anymore," said Sammy. "Well then, forget it," snapped Jack.

CYD CHARISSE, who attended the President's dinner for the King and Queen of Nepal, sat at LBJ's table with MARION ANDERSON. She reports that most of the President's chatter was happy talk over the way Congress approved his appointment of THURGOOD MARSHALL as the first Negro Supreme Court Justice.

The most popular TV show in Lagos, Nigeria, is "Mission: Impossible," according to FEMI ASEKIN, TV service controller of programs. He operates channel 10, built by NBC five years ago and now owned by the Nigerian government. It's interesting to note that only six minutes an hour are allotted to commercials and they're placed at the beginning and the end of each show.

SHERILL LUKE, Negro lawyer with Universal Studios who was UCLA's first black student body president some years ago, has taken a 15-month leave of absence from the studio to tackle politics at the side of mayor LINDSEY of New York.

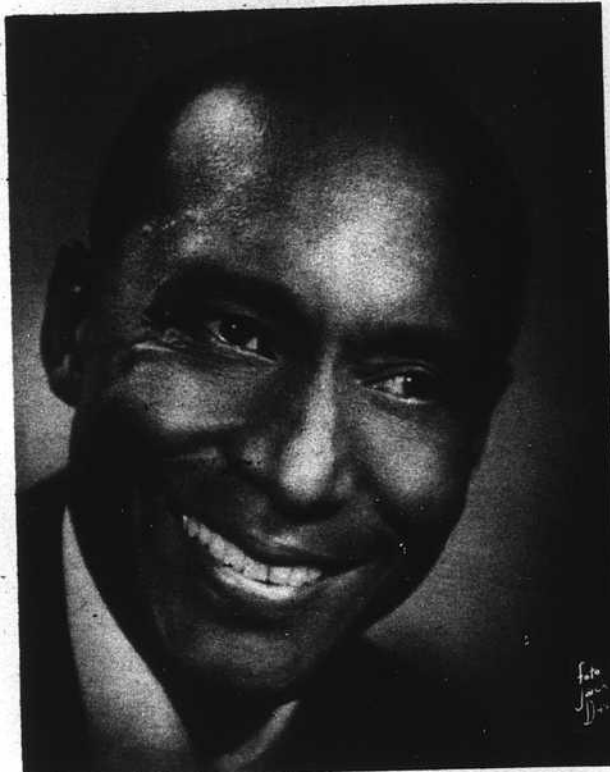
Negro actress CICELY TYSON and jazz virtuoso MILES DAVIS will wed in March when the great trumpeter's divorce from dancer FRANCES TAYLOR is final. Davis recently visited Cicely in Selma, Ala., where she is acting in "The Heart Is A Lonely Hunter."

Songstress DIAHANN CARROLL takes baths by splashing around in milk and says it does wonders for body tone. If her devastating beauty is any indication, no one would dare argue with her.

It appears that the deciding powers at Universal Studios have realized they won't have to go outside the studio to get a leading lady for SIDNEY POITIER in his forthcoming movie, "The Lost Man," after seeing their own Negro contract actress, ENA HARTMAN, in the "I Can't Hear You Scream" episode of "The Outsider" TV series.

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Hometown Revisited By Actor



NAPOLÉON WHITING is one of the show business "pros" or whom it is often said among insiders "They've paid their dues"--an accolade among show folks. Whiting, known far and wide to friends and fans as "Nappy", is one of those fortunate (and few) performers who have run the whole gamut of the theatrical world and who presently enjoy a successful career in the business there is no other business like--and the only one he knows. In photo right, Nappy is pictured in make-up for his role of "Silas" in the television series "Big Valley". A native of St. Louis, Whiting recently visited his home town where he was given the proverbial "local boy makes good" welcome. Chick Finney of the Advertising and PR firm of the same name (associated with the St. Louis Argus newspaper) reports that visit.

By Chick Finney

ST. LOUIS MO.--Negro Actors have advanced rapidly in the movie industry since he (Whiting) made his debut in Hollywood in the mid '30's, St. Louis' own Napoleon Whiting declared during his recent visit here.

Brock Peters, Sidney Poitier and Jimmy Brown are only a few of the tan artists who have made achievement in the cinematic field, Whiting noted, adding that Brown's first movie appearance in "The Dirty Dozen" film received creditable recognition and evoked predictions of a bright future for the former professional football star.

"To Sir With Love" and "The Heat of the Night", two of Poitier's latest film productions, are "Oscar" potentials, Napoleon said.

The St. Louis born Napoleon Whiting has carved an enviable niche for himself in the film capital. His sustaining role as the butler "Silas" in the "Big Valley" TV series is the bread and butter of the versatile actor's career, presently, but does not prohibit him from accepting other television and movie roles. From all indications, the 1967-68 season is a big year for him in television productions.

"Nappy", as he is known to his friends and fans, has appeared in over 3500 motion pictures in more than 25 years on the Hollywood scene.

HE LISTS as "tops" among the many hit

films in which he has played "Too Hot To Handle" starring the late Clark Gable and Myrna Loy; "Giant" with Elizabeth Taylor and Rock Hudson; "Imitation of Life" which starred Lana Turner and won an Academy nomination for Negro actress Juanita Moore in a supporting role; and "Come and Get It" with the late Edward Arnold and Ann Harding.

In reminiscing over the early days of his theatrical career when he was a "regular" at the old Booker T. Washington Theatre, here in St. Louis, "Nappy" said that even then he was ever conscious that the pathway to fulfillment of his childhood dream to become a "champion" was continuous hard work. Whiting said he always strove to give his best performance in the various stages of his career as song and dance man, comedian, and serious actor.

HIS FIRST visit home for many years was most pleasurable and enjoyable, said Whiting, who was houseguest of relatives Mr. and Mrs. Ollie Franklin, 4140 Washington Blvd. Meeting new and old acquaintances were the sparkling moments, Nappy added, noting that he especially enjoyed his visit to the beautiful Union Memorial Methodist Church where the Rev. John N. Doggett, Jr., is pastor. Rev. Doggett is a brother of famed jazz organist and band-leader Bill Doggett.

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