

# HOLLYWOOD

## THE SOUL SIDE

by Walter Burrell

Hollywood people are talking about: The fact that JIM BROWN's upcoming film for MGM titled "The Split" may be the first movie in which a Negro leading man plays an anti-hero. The plot calls for Brown to lead a gang which pulls a million-dollar robbery -- which he gets away with. Film is based on Richard Stark's novel titled "The Seventh" and shooting begins Jan. 15.

Sen. EDWARD BROOKE of Mass., was recently visited by producers of "The Boston Strangler," movie scheduled to begin production soon. The producers want Sen. Brooke to portray himself in the film, since he was attorney general at the time the slayings occurred.

The inimitable PEARL BAILEY scintillated on CBS-TV's Ed Sullivan Show Dec. 10, while SIDNEY POITIER is talking about doing a sequel to "In The Heat of the Night" to be set in Philadelphia. Currently in New York filming "For Love of Ivy," Poitier is upset because someone is parading around Los Angeles posing as his "younger brother."

He has reason to be upset, since he doesn't have a younger brother. He has two older ones -- one in the Bahamas, the other in Miami.

During his recent stay in Los Angeles, RICHARD BURTON asked RAYMOND ST. JACQUES, teamed with Burton and ELIZABETH TAYLOR as the mean Haitian police chief in "The Comedians," to play a role in an upcoming movie-biography of Simon Bolivar in which Burton will play the title role.

Burton also told St. Jacques he hopes to help get an Oscar nomination as Best Supporting Actor for St. Jacques' "Comedians" role. As a parting gift, Burton gave Raymond pictures of Liz and himself.

St. Jacques, who was in the process of filming "The Comedians" with the Burtons when Liz won her Oscar for "Who's Afraid of Virginia Wolfe?" and Burton lost to PAUL SCHOFIELD ("Mah For All Seasons"), denies rumors that Burton was unhappy over his loss. Says Ray: "He took it right in his stride and was never upset."

PEARL BAILEY managed to get BOB HOPE on stage for a little dancing and general clowning around at a recent "Hello Dolly" curtain call.

Production began last week on 20th Century-Fox's "Mama's Man" TV pilot for NBC-TV starring DIAHANN CARROLL, but only after a major change was made. The story deals with a registered nurse raising a young son by herself.

The script originally called for a boy about six years old, but Diahann reportedly felt a child that age would make her appear older than she desired, so a three-year-old had to be found.

Look for young actor RONNIE ECKSTINE, son of crooner BILLY ECKSTINE, to co-star in a new series titled "U.S." and airing sometime next year. The Screen Gems series is centered around the U.S. in the 21st century. With all this good luck (he recently finished a role in "The Love-In") it's no wonder he lives on a street in Hollywood appropriately named Primrose Lane.

A few weeks ago, when things were apparently serene in the SAMMY DAVIS-MAI BRITT household, Sammy invited some of his pals up for a weekend of fun at his Las Vegas opening. Mai was to be there too. But then, on the eve of the party, Sammy got the word that Mai was leaving him, but it was too late to call it off because guests had already started arriving.

DEAN MARTIN offered to sub for him, but Sammy would have none of it. Her performed his heart out for a packed audience including PETER LAWFORD, GREG MORRIS, LANA TURNER, TONY CURTIS and SHIRLEY JONES.



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### NAACP Board Election

NEW YORK - (NPI)--NAACP branches across the nation are balloting on candidates for the national board of directors.

Ballots must be returned to the national office by Dec. 31.

Nominees for board positions are Dr. W. Montague Cobb, Washington; Atty. Earl B. Dickerson, Chicago; Dr. Aaron Henry, Clarksdale, Miss.; Dr. Lillie Jackson, Baltimore; W. W. Law, Savannah, Ga.; and Atty. William R. Ming, Chicago.

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### SHORT SHOW NOTES

BARBARA McNAIR TO VIET NAM

NEW FILM FOR POITIER

Sidney Poitier and director James Clavell, whose "To Sir, With Love" will probably make over \$12 million dollars in this country alone, will team up again for the film version of "Carry Me Back To Morningside Heights."

PAIR ON JONATHAN WINTERS SHOW

Singer Barbara McNair and Ivan Dixon of the "Hogan's Heroes" TV series have been signed to appear as guests on the new "Jonathan Winters Show" which airs on CBS-TV Dec. 27.

U.S. MOVIES BANNED IN KENYA?

LONDON -- U.S. movies will be banned in the African nation of Kenya, according to reports reaching here, unless a dispute between Kenya officials and the Motion Picture Export Assoc. is worked out by Jan. 1.

At issue is a government order that Kenya distribution be handled by the recently set up Kenya Film Corp., a government agency.

The MPEA has balked at the order since the new agency doesn't have the dollar funds to make the customary deposit as advance on royalties. The result is an impasse, since the government will not yield. Reports reaching London say packages of new films are piling up at Nairobi Airport because customs officials are refusing import licenses.

ELLA VISITS CAROL BURNETT

Ella Fitzgerald and Sid Caesar will guest star on "The Carol Burnett Show" on CBS-TV, Dec. 25 at 10:00 p.m.

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