

MME. "BRICKTOP", TOAST OF THE CONTINENT, HOSTS HOLLYWOOD... With Black-Eyed Peas And Champagne

"Bricktop", acclaimed by the international set as the "hostess with the mostest", introduces herself and soul food to movieland at the Beverly Hilton in Beverly Hills, California... The sparkling occasion which took place Jan-

uary 14 was attended by close, personal friends, many of whom are theatrical luminaries and jet set personalities.

In Hollywood, negotiations are under way to

do "The Bricktop Story", the Cinderella story of a little country girl from West Virginia who became the confidante of European Royalty and world-wide nobility for more than four decades.



Mrs. Chas. West, actor Dan Duryea, and Bricktop have broad smiles for the cameraman, who it must be assumed, was the VOICE's own Dr. West who it is known for a fact was at the party but who failed to "show" in any pictures.



Dottie and "Brick" again with another much traveled buddy, San Diego's popular "Doll" Grant, and Gwen Weekes Rahner (right), another Las Vegan invited to the exclusive event.



Our favorite "barflies", Doll and Maisie pose with sepia beauty Toy Sewell (center) wife of oillionaire Johnny Sewell.



Interesting trio shown as bartender serves a guest is "Doll" and "Maisie" (as Dottie is called by intimates) again - this time where every gal wants to be - Alongside Ben, "Run For Your Life" Gazarra... Reporter-photog Doc confided "He damn near did have to run for his life--the broads pestered him to death with Maisie leading the pack of she-wolves."



Hostess Bricktop obliges photog again - this time with the also, much traveled Lucky McDowell as Doll Grant beams at them.

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Segregated Mardi Gras Events Hit By Navy

NEW ORLEANS - (NPI)--A Navy communication has described the Mardi Gras balls as segregated events. It stated many of the officers of ships visiting the Port of New Orleans for the Mardi Gras were invited to the different social functions being staged but that officers of Negro, Jewish and Italian descent were ignored and by-passed.

Mayor Victor H. Schiro disclaimed city responsibility for invitations to any Carnival events. The balls, and parties and those invited were the responsibility of private clubs and individuals.

New Orleans has been a racially discriminating city for years and Jews were not permitted to belong to the famous Boston Club, so they say. One person said the top club of the city, the New Orleans Country Club, only permitted Jews to join when the club was next door to insolvency for lack of people with sufficient funds to patronize the club.

No action pertaining to prohibiting the men to attend the socially and racially segregated parties and balls by the armed service has been made public.

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Gwendolyn Brooks Named Illinois' Poet Laureate

SPRINGFIELD, Ill. - (NPI)--Pulitzer-prize-winning poet-author Gwendolyn Brooks has been named Illinois' poet laureate.

The Chicago resident, appointed to the honorary position by Gov. Otto Kerner, succeeds the late Carl Sandburg as the state's poet laureate.

Miss Brooks, who in private life is Mrs. Henry Blakely, mother of two grown children, has written a novel, "Maud Martha," and several volumes of poetry: "A Street in Bronzeville," "The Bean Eaters," "Selected Poems," and "Annie Allen." She was named one of 10 Women of the Year in 1945, and won a Pulitzer Prize in 1950 for "Annie Allen," a ballad about Chicago Negro life.

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