



BILL LANE
from
HOLLYWOOD

HOLLYWOOD--Actor Bob Culp, after many months as star with Bill Cosby on television's "I Spy" series, is now heavily and happily in independent TV production.

His first big sale, a hard-news documentary program, is titled "Operation Breadbasket," an incisive look into poverty and rights deprivation. ABC-TV will air the Culp documentary July 7 nationwide.

Culp is a close friend of the Rev. Andrew Young, of SCLC, and once told a national audience on the Joey Bishop Show that the Rev. Young "is my pastor, my friend and my counselor."

Reports are that ABC also has an option on a series of six formats by Culp. These include personal, close-up views of top stars, like Marlon Brando's views on U.S. Indians, Nancy Wilson and Bill Cosby's views on "dropout" problems of youth, and Harry Belafonte's views on unions, guilds and apprentice programs as affecting minorities.

CULP describes "Operation Breadbasket" as "a constructive, nonviolent and logical answer to the problem of the ghetto." His production firm is named the Ahdad Foundation -- Artists Helping The American Black Community. Officers include Sidney Poitier and Bill Cosby.

SHOW TOPICS

Clarence Cooper, author of "The Scene" and five other books before he wrote "The Farm," talked of Detroit and NYC when he arrived in Hollywood to do the screenplay on "The Farm," which is being filmed by an indie studio.

Frank Dandridge, ex-Life photog, doing still photo work on "The Liberation of Lord Byron Jones," which stars Lee J. Cobb, Roscoe Lee Browne, Lola Falana and Yaphet Kotto.

Sid McCoy, ex-Chi deejay, now a full-fledged movie star, appearing in a dozen movies and TV films and making TV commercials... Letta, the S. African singer, joined Cannonball Adderley for his Century Plaza date here... Nancy Wilson back from Japan and looking good... Della Reese nixed a score of club dates so she could tape her upcoming TV variety series... Lou Rawls and Atty. Jim Tolbert now doing many show bookings in the Far East for highly sought black show talent... Sammy Davis mended from 10 hours dental surgery, and mended from 10 hours dental surgery, and denying he's that way with blonde "Mod Squad" actress Peggy Lipton, and sez he knows nothing about Sidney Poitier's being in love with actress Joanna Shimkus. Anyway, W-7 shelved Sammy's pic, "Yes, I Can."

The Council on Interracial Books For Children, at 9 E. 40th St., NYC, is looking for books on children, and will give \$500 prizes to authors of acceptable books.

THE BIG Look in movies today is not the nude ofay damsels, but the ladies of color. Barbara McNair started it, and now Dionne Warwick in "Slaves" ditto. Pic's not much, but Miss Dee--Wow!... Lillian Randolph's back in films, on TV, as Bill Cosby's mom on his Fall series for NBC... Oscar Brown, Jr., now Big Time Buck White in the Oakland version. Oscar penned music and lyrics for the play... Mahalia Jackson, touring Europe, not due back 'til last of June... Al Abrams becoming worldwide promo man for Stax Records in Memphis... No, not the Miss America contest, but Miss Universe, and Gail ("Mannix") Fisher was in Miami to judge the "Miss U.S.A." in the vying... Hollywood's interracial song couple, Hedge and Donna, set for summer's Belafonte tour, thanks to Jim Goodrich's story about them in Jet... Woweel! Marilyn McCoo and Billy Davis of the 5th Dimension set to wed in July, and her sidekick Florence LaRue will say "I do" to their manager Marc Gordon same time, same place.

Lou Peterson, who's been working on the Nat Turner script, now set to screenplay Bill Hule's "Three Lives For Mississippi." And comic Irwin Watson joins fellow mirth man

JACKIE DE SHANNON-BRENTON WOOD



ICE PALACE MAY 30th

Jackie DeShannon, the first girl singer selected by the Beatles to travel with them on tour, will co-headline the Ice Palace Memorial Day dance with Brenton Wood, May 30th.

Imperial Records signed Jackie when she was only 12-years old. Her recordings have earned her four nominations from the National Academy of Recording Arts and Sciences, and she has sold into the millions.

Brent is considered by many as the new heavyweight who can, and will, fill the shoes of Sam Cooke, Jessie Belvin and Otis Redding. At this point only James Brown, Lou Rawls (plus ac-

ceptance) seems to separate him from that goal.

Jackie DeShannon loves everything in life that is natural or unaffected. She is inspired by beautiful things and transfers this energy to her work. She projects whether in films, Broadway, television or records.

Brenton Wood is making a solid impact with dee jays and record buyers.

When these two swingers meet on the stage of The Las Vegas Ice Palace on Memorial night, starting at 8 PM, some sounds which never before have originated here may fill the evening breeze.

Godfrey Cambridge in cast of "Cotton Comes To Harlem." Jackie "Moms" Mabley said "How can Paramount have Harry Dolan write a script for 'Mom's House' without me?" It'll be an all-black comedy series for CBS-TV next year, and Moms will be in there somewhere, you can bet... Dede Young will be Bill Cosby's sister-in-law in his upcoming show... A. S. (Doc) Young left 20th's TV publicity staff after two weeks... Singer Thelma Houston, the S.F. Bimbo star, making a new "Sunshine" album for Dunhill... Pearl Bailey set for Las Vegas, again... And TV grimacer Wm. Buckley bought three radio stations aimed at a black audience, in New Orleans, Memphis and Houston.

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