



BILL LANE from HOLLYWOOD

Eubie Blake was in town briefly, visiting friends, one of whom the bed-ridden Andy Razaf, a composer pal of long-standing. Blake, who composed many songs with Razaf, won fame for his part with Noble Sissle in taking "Shuffle Along" to Broadway, years ago.

Blake is now 86, and is the second oldest member of ASCAP, the music writers' collection fraternity. He's topped only by Rudolph Friml, who is 90.

Joe and Martha and the baby makes three. Joe Louis and his wife Martha visited Las Vegas, enjoying the clean desert air, after that sudden heart flutter and after they had done wide travel in setting up their Joe Louis food-dispensing corporation. With them was their 19-month-old youngster, called Joe-Joe by Joe's spouse Martha, who is a top lawyer and a Reagan staffer.

George Kirby opened to hilarious greetings at Caesars Palace in Vegas, on a jumping show which is headed by pet Petula Clark. A plane-load of us newsmen took in the opener.

Over in NYC they're getting ready to stage "Pajama Game" in living black, with Nipsey Russell, Gerri Granger and Paula Kelly. And don't tell me Paula Kelly is not ALL natural in that current full-color layout in Playboy! Nothing hidden! And that's a lot! The jet beauties of Playboy's Detroit facility are pretty, too.

James Brown had to escape from the Forum stage here the other night when thousands of fans broke from their seats and tried to mob him. Afterwards, in a party at a Beverly Hills hotel, a San Francisco lassie said something to him, mean, and Brown told her to take off her wavy wig and wear natural, or to that effect. The "effect" was too much for the woman's spouse. He rocked little Brown's jaw, and ran. Brown leaped from a Balcony and caught him, but others stopped the brawl. Apologies, and the party went on.

Singer Aretha Franklin saying the rest she's been taking at Ford hospital in Detroit "was just what the doctor ordered, and I finally got around to heeding it."

Cassius Clay, who's been blazing around town with pretty brown toast Andrea Fleming, and saying "My! My!" to cute blond Sue Ross of the Della show, was at the star-loaded pre-rye of "The Learning Tree," and told me: "If only I can do as good in court as Dr. Spock there'll be a lot of scared prize fighters around." Asked why he is now in training,

(See BILL LANE, page 11)

Simpson Here On Thursday

O. J. Simpson, who won practically every football honor for an offensive back during the 1968 gridiron season will be the guest speaker on Thursday at the regular Sport-ayers Club luncheon, (24).

The luncheon will be at the Ice Palace and will begin at 12 noon.

Simpson, former grid star at the University of Southern California and winner of the Heisman Trophy, still has not signed to play pro football this season.



Leontyne Price, soprano, and Seiji Ozawa, conductor, are scheduled to combine their respective talents and personalities for a special performance with the San Francisco Symphony in February.

WARWICK HERE JULY 30

Dionne Warwick will open in the Sand's Copa Room, July 30th, for a three week sitting for her Vegas debut. She is currently in the just released motion picture "Slaves". And is the new singer on the horizon who fills many dimensions.

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