



BILL LANE
from
HOLLYWOOD

GERALDINE JONES is now a mighty popular name, if not a popular girl; for, you see, she does not really exist. She is the high-nasal female feminine voice used by comic Flip Wilson when he talks about music by Ray Charles, et al.

The other night he used the voice when portraying (in mini skirt yet!) an airline stewardess named Geraldine Jones who bounced complainant Jonathan Winters from a plane, in flight. It was one TV show viewers of all colors found truly delightful. No wonder the network is talking to Flip and Screen Gems about a regular Flip Wilson show.

The Leslie Uggams show, however, appeared to have gotten a rather mixed reaction, not fully for nor fully against. But most people we talked to, and listened to, said they felt the show bent over backwards trying to give Miss Uggams "color." In fact, during several of the scenes, and especially the family scenes, Miss Uggams seemed to be merely incidental, or an intruder, to the show. Johnny Brown, Lincoln Kilpatrick and Lillian Heyman, real pros, were a bit too heavy for the spritely Miss Uggams. And one got to wondering why the family emphasis when the show was crowded with guest stars popping out from everywhere, and the family going into a living room vaudeville act at the drop of a piano note. Maybe the producers themselves do not know what kind of show they want Miss Uggams to have--or maybe they need some real heavy black writers.

Talking of black writers, Walter Burrell, publicity man at Universal Studios, dropped us a note listing the black publicity men now doing work for films. There is Joe Hartsfield, former Seattle news man, who is now with CBS and handling publicity for the Leslie Uggams show. Then there are Walter Burrell with Universal, Warren Baxter and Kathy Fearn Banks with NBC; Gail Cottman with United Artists; Quentin Laine Burton and Vincent Tubbs with Cinema Center; Jake McKinney with Columbia-Screen Gems; Ozzie Brown with Formosa Productions in New York; Fred Kwan with ABC Radio; A.S. "Doc" Young, Press; Ed Mosley, NBC; Frank Rodriguez, 20th Century-Fox; Duke Williams and Robert Sye, independents. Rodriguez is Mexican and Kwan is Chinese. All of them are members of the Publicists' Guild.

DELLA REESE now busy catching up on those promotional dates around the U.S. she had to give up when she suddenly started having severe back pains...The film "De Sade" makes all the other movies they're saying are too sexy look like something out of Mother Goose...Isaac Hayes, "minister of soul," wrote the current Lou Rawls hit, "Your Good Thing"... John Copage, father of Marc, the titillating tot of "Julia," says 'tain't true he plans to wed that Atlanta TV beauty, Zernona Clayton, widow of the late "Big Ed" Clayton, newsman super...Mexico authorities say the Feds are not really trying to stop dope from crossing into the U.S., since scores of hippies are also reportedly being turned back when seeking to enter Tijuana and Mexicali. Also, recall about a month ago there was a big howl, and denial from Washington, when news leaked out that U.S. servicemen were being forbidden to go into Mexico from San Diego. Too much money being spent by Americans "over there"???? Recall, too, that LBJ tried to get Americans to cease travel abroad--to keep U.S. dollars in the US.

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JOHNNY BROWN, one of the principal performers in the "Leslie Uggams Show", CBS' replacement of the old weekly Smothers Brothers show, has versatility that encompasses all of the performing arts: singing, comedy, dancing, acting, plays the drums and is a prolific lyricist. In addition, he was a prize fighter, played semi-pro football and worked as a baker. As Lamar, Leslie's "Sugar Hill" brother, he is an unemployed, undiscovered star and performer who is waiting for his big chance. He appeared with Sammy Davis in "Golden Boy" and has appeared with Sidney Pottier in "The Lost Man". He is fast becoming one of the highly touted young performers around today.

Good Morning, Judge, Miss



NEW JUDGE: With sign on courtroom wall proclaiming "In God We Trust," Atty. Willie Whiting, first Negro woman prosecutor in U.S. attorney's office in Northern Illinois, is sworn in as a Chicago magistrate by Chief Cook County Circuit Judge John Boyle.

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