



BILL LANE from HOLLYWOOD

ANOTHER 'FIRST' can be chalked up. This one on TV. Marl Young, who has been for the past ten years a pianist and arranger for "Here's Lucy," has been named musical director of the show for the balance of the season. Young, who was the personal choice of Lucille Ball herself, replaces Wilbur Hatch who died recently.

KATY COLLEEN O'HARA was a happy girl when she presented James Brown the USO and Armed Forces Distinguished Service Award onstage at the International Hotel. It was an award for the massive cheer carried to Viet Nam by James Brown on his USO tour of the South Pacific. "Soul Brother Number One is now USO Man Number One!" Katy told the beaming Mr. Dynamite whose International show is shaking up Las Vegas.

Attending the Brown opener were Della Reese and L.A. attorney Frank Evans, together. Also there were James "Casa Blanca" Stanford and Dr. Bob Bennett of Detroit, and movie star Jim Brown along with actor Fred Williamson.

DIANA ROSS was sensational, too, in her last show with The Supremes, at the Frontier. With a big band augmented with dozens of violins, the girls did their thing mightily, with Miss Ross taking off on several solos sans Cindy and Mary and getting standing applause.

The fellows were ablaze at the beauty of a slender dark-toast lassie, Martha Washington, who models some sharp attire for milady in the International dining rooms for diners from all over the USA, with white Southerners, surprisingly, casting most of the spoken praise and even applause.

Leslie Uggams has signed Earl Brown as musical conductor and arranger for her new nightclub act which she opens at the Americana Hotel in NYC Feb. 10. Brown is also choral director for the Andy Williams TV show.

ERNIE FREEMAN arranging four sides for Don Ho...Chips Moman in Memphis arranging a new A&M album for Sonny Charles of The Checkmates, Ltd...Richard Williams, actor-singer, signed as a regular for ABC-TV's "Love, American Style"...They had trouble editing out all those "Black Power" salutes raised by black fighting men in the backgrounds of those movie scenes filmed when the Bob Hope troupe was in Viet Nam...Jimmy Jones being set for big things at Capitol Records... Flip Wilson taped six TV "guest" shows before leaving to open at the Latin Casino in Philly... Earl Grant left for a Tokyo date...Ernie Freeman just arranged a set of new songs for singer Mel Carter...Nancy Wilson reading another "222" script...Singer Jesse Davis departed Hogie's in Beverly Hills for six weeks singing at That Man's in Palm Springs...Forrest (Chico) Hamilton getting his Watts 103rd St. Rhythm Band set for their own TV special... Della Reese saying she's gonna tape a whole TV show with Charles Aznavour...Dick Bass and Frank McRae of the L.A. Rams doing "Julia" shows.

TED WHITE, out on \$1,000 bond in that Detroit shooting of Charles Cooke, the late Sam's brother, told this column: "All Aretha Franklin needs is a real good manager who can keep her impressed with her great value as a singing artist, and with a healthy self-respect that makes her know each day that she is her own most valuable friend, or foe.

"I entered that house with my own key. Aretha and I own it. I just simply tried to put a bunch of freeloaders out of my own home."

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TAKING CARE OF BUSINESS -- The Louis Chachere Trio are poised and ready to go into their thing as soon as Louis gives the downbeat. They are appearing at the Cosmo Lounge and are, from left, Louis Chachere, Bob Countryman, Dwight Foster. Ebony, a guest artist, is at the bongos. E. Lyles, with mike in hand and standing by Louis is the owner.

Every day, says the March of Dimes, 700 babies are born with defects in the United States.

Every year, according to the March of Dimes, 250,000 babies are born in the United States with significant defects.

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