



HOLLYWOOD BEAT

BY BILL LANE

DIANA ROSS got nothing but praises for her smash opening at the Now Grove the other night. The house was jammed, and Diana's multiple change of attire thrilled the ladies, and the whole place liked it when she sang a few bars with young Michael Jackson, of the Jackson 5, the record-breaking youngsters who'll headline the giant Salute To Joe Louis show at Cobo Hall in Detroit Aug. 12. Miss Ross called attention to the Louis Concert from the stage, and what many newswriters and deejays are asking across the nation today--"Send Joe a Dollar."

In a great singular way, a dollar will help The Alltime Champ. Any and everybody can send a dollar to Joe Louis, care of The Bank of The Commonwealth, Detroit, Michigan.

Longtime newsman Chet Washington's question to President Nixon at the Century Plaza the other day was getting repercussions nationally all week. Nixon's reply that he wouldn't send Federal men to "police" school integration in the South, unless "asked" by the white governments of the individual states, brought varied responses, and "thanks" from J. Strom Thurmond, the fellow I'm surprised did not write a treatise on "Separatism" for the current blockbuster Ebony Magazine about whither goest us now.

SHORTIES: Quincy Jones' A&M recording of "Bridge Over Troubled Water" with Valerie Simpson singing is a great one. Stu Gardner, who's played organ for Rosey Grier, Aretha and Bill Cosby, now with his rockin' trio at Sherry's on The Strip. The new Holiday Inn in Hollywood is tops, with a revolving lounge on the 23rd floor overlooking all Hollywood and Beverly Hills. Paulene Myers portrayal of three centuries of Black America tops on NET. Make 'em show it again. It's titled, "Where's The Back of The Merry-Go-Round?". Mediaris, running into radio trouble getting its Orson Welles album, "The Begatting of The President," played. The firm is coming out next with black artist Joe Morton's recording of "Jesus And The Redheaded Woman."

RENE HALL writing music for "Laughter In Hell," shooting in Turkey...Ike Jones saying "I told you so" since the late Inger Stevens' brother, Carl O. Stensland, vouched in court that Jones and Miss Stevens were truly married. Benny Payne still getting big applause playing piano and offering vocal aid to Billy Daniels' songs at the Hong Kong. Now they're gonna have Al Freeman, Jr., portray Bobby Seale in courtroom rehash, a British Broadcasting Company production for TV. It'll be shown all over Europe. U. S. stations still shaky on signing up to show it. Wonder what "God Bless The Child" songwriter Art Herzog will say when he learns Jay Weston now has switched from Gloria Foster to Diana Ross to play Billie Holiday in that big movie he keeps on saying he'll film someday?. Neil Simon said asking Godfrey Cambridge to star in an all-black version of "The Last of The Red Hot Lovers". They're gonna premiere Judy Pace's new movie, "Up In the Cellar," in Las Cruces, New Mexico, the place where Earl Grant had the fatal auto accident. Sayings go that the late author Louis Lomax was readying an expose piece about the gvt. the same gvt trying to prosecute him for income tax things.

DELORES HALL was so great on her recent Smothers Bros. TV taping she's now being offered more and more. Wayne Cochran mulling a TV special, along with his pretty Sheer Delights. The L. A. cast of "Hair" played Locke High school in Watts, for Festival revelers. KHJ readying "The Motown Story" should be a big thing. Roberta Flack and Les McCann joined troupes of performers playing the Watts Festival. Godfrey Cambridge opens here in October, onstage, in "The Man Who Came to Dinner"... The movie industry moved Monday into its second phase of programs having to do with training minority members in moviemaking, with \$100-a-week pay, health, welfare and pension fund benefits, while work-training for two years, five eight-hour days each week. Connie Stevens, now making the Sands hot in

Vegas, says she feels her sheer nightie in "The Grissom Gang" is far sexier than going bare-bottom in the pic. Huh?

BOB JONES headed to Detroit to shape up a Procter & Gamble promotion with Frank Seymour & Associates. The Beverly Hills-Hollywood NAACP moved into new offices at 250 North Canon Drive, in Beverly Hills. Sammy Davis had to go to bed. Exhaustion. A&M Records set up a Wes Montgomery scholarship fund. Maria Cole Devore had a birthday.


One of the most enterprising writers I ever met was the late author Louis Lomax. Whenever I saw him he always said, "I'm working on monster one now." Lomax was one black newspaperman who would not self-impose upon himself ghetto-thinking. If he had a story about a big-shot white person, he'd find some publication interested in printing it. That's how I first met him. Years ago when I walked into a New York magazine editor's office to pick up a check for a story the editor was screaming fits---at Louis Lomax. Seems the editor had

only two days before bought a big expose story from Lomax about Faubus allegedly attending a Communist school, and the story had come out with big red headlines that day in the black weekly, the New York Amsterdam News, under the byline of Louis Lomax. Next time I saw him it was in Pasadena. A scoop: he was getting married. Then he phoned me he was going on TV with his own show, which turned out to be a mighty big "first" for Los Angeles, and Lomax.

One day he phoned for me to come to the studio. He told me he was going to North Vietnam to interview Ho Chi Minh. He didn't get to see Ho, but Lomax wrote a terribly prophetic book about what came to be a shocking international disclosure later, the conflict in Cambodia and Thailand. His NANA Syndicate stories in national dailies later about a coming worldwide black revolution were prophetic, too. Lomax was the first writer to re-trace paths of reputed powers behind the killing of Martin Luther King.

There was not another black newsman like Louis Lomax whose "30" was written on a lonely highway in the same New Mexico where Earl Grant died under similar circumstances.

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