

# BILLY ROWE'S Note Book

FRIENDS ROMANS COUNTRYMEN.

LAS VEGAS, NEVADA---Just about every-  
male-body who knew him then, crowded into  
Caesars Palace, which has been described as  
the most magnificent neo-Greco-Roman edifice  
in our land, to pay tribute to that immortal  
heavyweight, Joe Louis. A beautiful emotional  
event, it jammed memories into the heart like  
some unforgettable song stuffing its tune into  
the ears. It was Ed Sullivan who perhaps best  
set the tone of the evening by bringing back  
to memory the column he wrote in June of '41  
after Louis had cooled Billy Conn in the 13th  
round.

"On the nites Joe Louis defends his heavy-  
weight championship, his fists become mega-  
phones and microphones of his race, because  
Joe never is an individual but rather a vivid  
testimonial to all the sorrows, joys, fears,  
hopes, and melody of an entire race. He's a  
compound of every little cabin in the Southland,  
every tenement or apartment in the Harlems  
of the North, the memory of every injustice  
practiced upon his people and the memory  
of every triumph. He is the woof and web of  
every dream dreamed by black children.

"When Joe Louis loses his title, there will  
be no damaging repercussions in the Harlems  
of our country, because they know that Joe  
Louis has been treated with admirable fairness.  
They've heard whites cheer him just as loudly  
as his own race has cheered him.

"So, when Joe Louis is dethroned, he can  
step down in the full knowledge that he's brought  
blacks and whites closer together than ever  
they were brought before!"

In honoring the immortal heavyweight here  
the truth of that prediction was borne out.  
For several bright hours "it was Camelot"  
--for one shining tribute the races of mankind  
became one --- the human race. Gregory  
Peck put it best when he said, "We are in the  
presence of greatness."

The stars were there in abundance and each  
did their thing. Song writer Sammy Cahn wrote  
special words to songs like "Old Black Magic"  
for Tony Martin and Loren Green to sing. Emcee  
Joey Bishop paid his respect in a light and  
serious vein, introducing such greats as Anthony  
Quinn, Andy Williams, George Kirby, Don Rick-  
les, Andy Griffin, Joe Williams, Johnny Mathias,  
Jack Carter, Paul Anker, Bill Cosby, Saddler  
& Young, Ray Robinson, Max Schmeling, Ricardo  
Mantaban, Jimmy Durante, Lou Nova, Billy  
Conn, Ed Sullivan and Norm Crosby among  
others.

To watch this all-star tribute were friends of  
the "Champ" from all over the country. Among  
them were folks who had helped him create-  
the memories that were so heart warming at  
his Testimonial.

From Los Angeles there were Leonard Reed,  
Marcus Haynes, Don Newcombe, Willie Davis,  
Jim Brown, and Chester Washington. Even some  
girls came in from L. A. to be near and become  
a part of the gambling orgy which goes on there  
for days. Among them were Opal Brown, Sandy  
Jackson, Delores Sims and Cora King.

Comm. Buddy Cowan and Dr. David Jones re-  
presented New Jersey and fell right in with the  
big N. Y. contingent. Among them were; Kiah  
Sayles, Robert Stephney, Steve Baker, Dom San-  
tora, Mannie Seamon, Roland Baker and Mar-  
shall Miles from Buffalo.

Herman and Calvin Roberts came out of Chi-  
cago. So did Charlie Glenn, Ernest Collins, Geo-  
rge Jones and Carl Nelson. From the Motor  
City came Freddie Guinyard, Dave Clark, Buddy  
Rose, Dr. Bob Bennett, Sunny Wilson, "Casa-  
blanca" and Dr. Haley Bell. Baltimore sent  
Willie Adams and Benny King to mingle with  
the folks we know who are very much a part  
of the Joe Louis Legend. The only off note of  
the entire wonderful tribute was that the spon-  
soring Committee failed to introduce those  
among this group who were so much a part and  
parcel of the Joe Louis Surge.

P.S.---Sen. Edmond Muskie is stepping up  
his campaign to woo blacks for 1972---Mrs.  
Muskie will meet with our first lady Coretta  
King and Mayor Charles Evers in separate  
meetings next week. STAYLOOSE!

## A NEW STAR RISES ON THE LAS VEGAS SCENE



A new refreshing face and sound came to the  
Las Vegas scene Wednesday night at the Riviera  
that face and that sound was Jimmy Randolph  
a star zooming higher and higher.

"Just call me Mister," says singer Jimmy  
Randolph. This, despite the fact he has legitimate  
claim to the title "Sir."

Randolph was recently knighted by the govern-  
ment of Liberia for his services to that country,  
but he makes no attempt to capitalize on this  
distinctive honor.

The handsome young singer relies on his  
vibrant baritone voice and dramatic song  
stylings that have thrilled audiences in Austria,  
Sweden, France and Australia. "He bubbles over  
with music," wrote one reviewer in Sydney.  
A critic in Vienna observed that the emotion  
Randolph generates "really reaches across the  
footlights to dominate the stage."

This high praise from overseas echoes the  
raves Randolph has garnered in this country for  
concert, club, and New York stage appearances.  
His performances as "Crown" in the opera  
"Porgy and Bess," and as "Husky Miller" in  
"Carmen Jones" have been universally ac-  
claimed.

Randolph's engagement at the famed Riviera  
marks a dramatic highlight in his career and  
a new exciting direction for his music. He  
sings a rock tune with the same conviction as  
he does a smokey blues ballad. And he has an  
exceptional gift for the country-western style  
that's so prominent now in pop and folk music  
circles.

For his investiture as a knight in Washington,  
D. C. Jimmy composed a song, "Liberia,"  
and sang it at the ceremonies. The ambassador  
of Liberia was so impressed that he has recom-  
mended that his government make the song its  
national anthem.

Randolph discovered he loved something else:  
the stage. When he heard the New York State  
Opera was auditioning for "Porgy and Bess"  
he walked in and told them he could do the  
best "Crown" ever done. "I'd never been on  
the stage before, never acted the first thing, but  
I must have acted enough to convince the com-  
pany," he laughs. "I was hired on the spot."

Since then, Randolph has played the musical  
on stages all over the world, including the famed  
Vienna Opera.

It's safe to conclude that audiences at the Ri-  
viera will join the legions of fans Jimmy Randolph  
has won all over the world.

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