

# BILLY ROWE'S Note Book

(With Jesse H. Walker substituting for Billy, who's out of the country.)

MOVIEWISE NOTES—Our spy in L. Angeles, where the Motown-produced film, "Lady Sings The Blues" has been shooting for the past three weeks, reports that Diana Ross is "absolutely fantastic" in the starring role of the late Billie Holiday. There had been doubts that this 100-lb. girl could bring off Billie with sufficient heart, etc., but 'tis said she's pulling it off. And with 43 wardrobe changes, that's a help.

Diana's backed in her main Billie Holiday numbers by Harry "Sweets" Edison, John Collins, and Red Callender and we understand Scatman Crothers has a role in the film that the very clever Barry Gordy is backing. Jay Weston did the screen-play and Sidney Furre is directing. The last three week's shooting will be done in Paris.

Playing Billie's hubby, Louis McKay, in the film is a young man who right now is probably the hottest Black actor in the world. And that's Billy Dee Williams, the young man who played the part of football star Gayle Sayers in the tee-vee block-buster, "Brain's Song," which was such a hit it's now being released in movie houses thru-out the country. A lotta folks across the country were asking "Who is Billy Dee Williams?" following the tremendous success and critical acclaim of the teevee drama. Well, we remember Billy Dee from his N'York days, when he appeared on B'way in such shows as "The Cool World," "Slow Dance on the Killing Ground," and his film debut with Paul Muni in "The Last Angry Man."

SINGER BEULAH BRYANT returned from her USO European tour just before Xmas. She says many of "our boys," especially those stationed in the Mediterranean area are subjected to "all types of harrassment." She hopes to return to Southeast Asia on her next tour.

FUNNIEST HOLIDAY SIGHT—A Harlem Santa Claus standing outside Freedom Nat'l Bank, picking him up and asking Pee Wee Marquette what he'd like for Xmas. "A box of good cigars and a good-looking broad," was the over-40 Pee Wee's reply.

TV OR NOT TV—A German TV network screened a documentary recently on the plight of some 20,000 children there who were fathered and allegedly forgotten by American Black soliders. It's our thought that some U. S. network or independent syndicate should pick up this teledocumentary and give it U. S. exposure. Some could be worthwhile for a looksee at kids in Korea and Vietnam where same problem reportedly is growing.

THINGS AND THINGS—Minisink House's Gladys Thorne and her Sheryl-Ann are happy over the little African sister adopted through the Save the Children Federation and plan to visit Africa in a year or two to visit her... Blossom Call, of the Office of Detention has transferred from the Office of Probation to the Dept. of Social Service to institute programs of nonsecure detention, foster homes, and group homes... That fabulous N'York City social club, the fellas, has announced their next May trip as an "Antiqua Weekend Thing," May 26-29. Their Las Vegas jaunt last year was a swinger.

FLOYD MCKISSICK, ex-CORE chairman, reports his "Scul City" project is "moving along" in North Carolina, but says people should stop asking him how many buildings he already has up. "It's not a housing project, it's a city we're building," Floyd points out... Two new members of General Foods Family: Herb Kemp, Jr., Morgan State grad to product manager of Jell-O Division, and Oris Turner, formerly account exec. with BBD&O, now assistant product manager of Post Cereal Division.

TALENT CORNER—Aretha Franklin does her first dramatic role on "Room 222" on ABC on Jan. 14. She's also on the Flip Wilson Show on Jan. 20... Some local talent at local showplaces: Nat Davis, engaging pianist, playing nightly at Selbra Hayes' new Midway Lounge on Amsterdam Ave. and 124th St., backed by Skinny Burgar

## Lorne Greene Cited



Lisa Davidson of NBC-TV's Public Affairs presents a plaque of appreciation to Lorne Greene from the U. S. Department of Labor.

Cited for his consistent and "unselfish contribution" to public service, the internationally-known star of the "Bonanza" television series narrated "Lamps in the Workplace," a film explaining the rights of employees and employers responsibilities under provisions of Federal employment laws administered by Employment Standards Administration.

All cases depicted in the documentary-styled drama are real and emphasize problems of low-income workers involving minimum wages, overtime pay, wage garnishment, age discrimination and child labor.

The film is slated for multipurpose use before local groups, schools and colleges, television and motion picture audiences. Loan copies will be made available through local Labor Department Offices.

on bass and Sandy Hewitt, vocalist... Reggie Moore, a pianist worthy of your listening, now at Wells Musical Lounge on Seventh Ave., where Stella Marrs is waiting again.

NOSTALGIA CORNER—Top tap dancers (remember them?) as rated by Honi Coles of the Apollo Theatre and once a member of the dance team of "Coles and Atkins" and Harold Cromer of "Stump and Stumpy." Best—John Buffles; Cleanest—Bill "Bojangles" Robinson; Best turner and handsomest—Duke Miller; Best ever lived—Chuck Greene of "Chuck and Chuckles." Best to follow Bill Robinson—Bo Jenkins, Derby Wilson and Bill Bailey. Any challenges?

## The Jackson 5 Play Santa To 700 Needy Youngsters

HOLLYWOOD, DEC. 28--The Jackson 5, Motown's youngest and most successful superstar group, played Santa Claus to more than 700 underprivileged youngsters who attended a Children's Christmas Party given by Motown Record Corporation last Thursday.

Motown executives and employees omitted having their annual Employee Christmas Party in favor of making the holiday season happier for those less fortunate and needy by having a Children's Christmas Party at the Pacific Town Club.

Mary Wilson, of The Supremes, led the youngsters in singing carols and playing games, before the arrival of the Jackson 5 dressed in Santa Claus costumes.

Commenting on the gala affair, Miss Wilson said, "I found it difficult to decide whether the youngsters got a bigger kick out of seeing their idols or whether the J-5 were more delighted about distributing more than 700 bags of gifts and records to the enthusiastic children. But it is certain that a good time was had by all who attended, especially me."

Among the 700 invited youngsters who attended the party were representatives from the Mafundi Institute, the Frederick Douglass Headstart Center, the Faustina Home for Girls, Harambee, the SCLC, the Urban League Headstart Center and other community organizations.

Just two weeks ago, the Jackson 5 entertained more than 400 blind youngsters at a live performance hosted by the Southern California Foundation for the Junior Blind.

On Jan. 12, they will again show their concern for community involvement by headlining at the First Annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Birthday Commemoration Concert in Atlanta.

## REGISTER TO VOTE

**Breakfast Anytime**  
 2 Eggs (any style)  
 Choice Of  
 Ham  
 Bacon  
 Sausage  
 and Toast

**49¢**

**Lady Luck**  
 CASINO & SALOON  
 DOWNTOWN 3rd. and OGDEN

**IT'S FREE**  
**Tuesday**  
**COORS DRAFT BEER**  
**AND HOT DOGS**  
 2 p.m. to 10 p.m.

**11:15 P.M. BINGO**  
 Half-Price Cards Plus  
 One 'T' Game for  
 Winner's Choice of:  
**\$200.00 IN GROCERIES**  
**COLOR TV or MINK STOLE**

But Come Early  
 9 p.m.  
 6 Extra \$50.00 Games  
 Semi-Party Cards Sold  
 Total of 18 Games  
 Always \$25,000 Keno

**Silver Nugget**  
**2140**  
**LAS VEGAS BLVD. NORTH**  
**NORTH LAS VEGAS**

**EL RIO CLUB**  
**GAMBLING CASINO**  
 "Friendly Atmosphere"

**Liquor - Beer - Wine**

**IT'S A** **KENO**  
 \* "21"  
 \* NATURAL  
 \* CRAPS  
 \* SLOTS

30¢  
 Minimum Any  
 Individual Ticket

1905 "H" ST. at DOOLITTLE