

BILLY ROWE'S Note Book

THEY ARE THE BRAVE

MIAMI, FLA. - Publishing a newspaper is far from a laughing matter, so I tip my heart to the men of the National Newspaper Publisher Association here for their 32nd. Annual Convention. For many years they have given life and style to the printed words. In my book they are the brave, these men and women who have withstood the resentment of the racist, his hostility, his frustration, in the face of change, and his need of finding an excuse for his meanness as he attempts to stem the deterioration of a crumbling status quo.

The anguished cry of their editorials have built bridges over which generations of our people have crossed over chasms of hate and misunderstanding in a flight to freedom. Though that human right is still far in the distance, of some other tomorrow, we can see the light at the end of the tunnel.

These ladies and gentlemen, of the fourth estate, have come through much to this '72 meeting place in Miami to plot the way towards new horizons of freedom for Black Americans so that white Americans will really be free of the lies of democracy. For 32 years the NNPA has been bringing alive the hopes and aspirations of its Black brothers and sisters. This is an important convention for the publishers of the so-called Black newspapers. From here into the future they must broaden their scope in the never ceasing "write hand" thrust for equality. The theme of all this doing seems to be "Up From Slavery, Down to Business." Judging by what is going on, they will jet away from here determined to attack the forces of racism on all sides of the color spectrum -- crime in the streets -- poor education -- the lack of equal job opportunities -- the dirth of Black political leadership among our elected officials, coupled with the failure of the establishment to allow Blacks to have a say in their own destiny will be their prime priority from this headline forward.

Among those in attendance are the lovelies like Ms. Lenora Carter, Houston Forward Times; Ophelia DeVore Mitchell, who runs one of the nation's four Black dailies, The Columbus Times; ada C. Franklin, Kansas City Call; Francis Murphy Henderson, Afro-American; Marjorie B. Parham, Cincinnati Herald; and Eloise Banks, Arizona Tribune. The male giants of the power press caught in focus were John Procope, Amsterdam News; John H. Sengstacke, of many papers and the Chicago Daily Defender; Chester Washington, Wave Publications, L.A.; Ken Drew, n'York Voice; Eustace Gay, Phila. Tribune; Howard B. Woods, St. Louis Sentinel; Tom Berkeley, Post Group, San Francisco; Longworth M. Quinn, Michigan Chronicle; Frank Stanley, Louisville Defender; R. L. Milton, Fort Worth Mind; and so many folks I will have to record next writing time. Garth Reeves, publisher of the Miami Times, proved to be an able host.

DOT, DASHES, AND FLASHES - It took a house burglary for me to discover that lovely Liz & talented Gordon Parks have separate addresses. She was robbed, while asleep, in her White Plains manse the other night... N' York Committee for Amnesty & Legalization of Numbers are sparing no dollars to push their campaign, 16-G's were spent for Ella Fitzgerald, Count Basie, & Tito Puente to entertain at the Americana Hotel last week. Wonder how much that velvet invitation cost?

N'York gendarme Det. Calvin Allen didn't find out that his son had gone off and gotten married until he received the "We Were Married" invite from Sterlington, La. Speaking of marriage, a few of the kids we knew as babies did it over the weekend, beautiful Jo-Ann Walker Miriam's kid, and Jan Hudgins, Bill & Myrt's exciting girl, are now Mrs. Adding more to the feeling of years, Virginia and Bunny's little girl Jennifer Brooker is old enough to enter Fisher College in Boston next term. George & Shirley Rhoad's talented Eggie has just graduated from N'York's school for artist children. If that don't make me realize the years nothing will...Rose Morgan and Atty. Louie Saunders, her latest husband, are closer than twelve o'

B.B. KING Wins Downbeat's Critic Poll

B. B. King, ABC/Dunhill Records Grammy award winner, has been awarded Downbeat Magazine's 20th Annual Critics Poll for the Number One Blues and Rhythm & Blues Performer of 1972 it was announced.

"You've Got A Friend - - Roberta Flack" A PBS Special

When singer Roberta Flack returned recently to her hometown of Washington, D. C., the city honored its native daughter-turned superstar with "Roberta Flack Day -- A Day of Human Kindness."

The events of this special day will be featured on a Public Broadcasting Service special "You've Got A Friend -- Roberta Flack," an incisive portrait of the singer Monday, July 3, at 8 p.m. on TV-10.

Miss Flack will narrate the program which traces her city's welcome celebration beginning with a breakfast at the Kennedy Center with family, friends and civic leaders. At a gala banquet, she was named Downbeat magazine's "Female Performer of the Year" and presented with her first gold record for her album, "Quiet Fire."

The singer also paid a nostalgic visit to Mr. Henry's, the small nightclub where she began her career. Mayor Walter Washington presented Miss Flack the key to the city.

Along the way, the singer offers her personal observations on the Washington scene of today and reflects on the city she knew as a child. Her own direct, honest insights reveal much about Roberta Flack the person and the performer.

The festivities ended with a free Sunday afternoon concert for 30,000 Washingtonians who crowded the slopes of the Washington monument grounds to hear "our Roberta."

clock. He seems to be her perennial escort and they made the Oak Bluff scene for Jo-Ann's wedding. Speaking of that splicing, Sonny Bostic's gift to the bride was doing his reception thing.

Thelma Randolph has deserted the divorcee ranks and now answers to the name of Mrs. Arthur Saunders, they were spliced in Los Angeles and are honeymooning in Las Vegas. That's a switch! The reception produced by L' Tanya Griffin at Malabu Beach won't soon be forgotten either...The Black Academy of Arts & Letters pulled out all the stops for its benefit showing of "Shaft's Big Score" on B'way. Ms. Percy Sutton, Clarence Jones, and Howard Samuels were honorary chairmen of the event...With the success of Miss Black Teenage America for New York State 1972 behind them, the effervescent Modeen Broughton & Rose Brown have opened a publicity office on Broadway...The invitations are out for the July celebration of the tenth anniversary of Mr. & Mrs. Sam "The Man" & Eleanor Taylor...STAY LOOSE.

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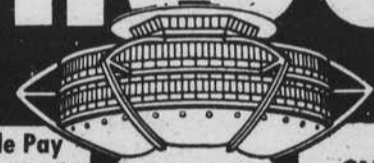


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