

# BILLY ROWE'S Note Book

WASHINGTON, D.C.--The hi-and-the-mighty of varied backgrounds and many cultures rubbed and bent elbows in tribute to Simeon Booker the deserving veteran of the 4th-Estate. The caliber of the guests and the sincerity of the speakers further enshrined the impact this daring gent of the press has made in the 25-yr he has been recording the events and happenings of our times...Fred O'Neal, prez of the 4-A's, the conglomerate theatrical union, is displeased about the displacement of the astute Barbara Watson as administrator of the State Dept's Bureau of Security and Consumer Affairs. He has asked Roy Wilkins, and other civil rights leaders, to aid him in a frontal assault on the administration...The final wk. in April will be wedding time for Mary Wilson and Pedro Ferrer in Las Vegas. She is the last original of the wax-hot Supremes. Pedro musical background and road manages the group...Irving C. Miller, whose imagination and write-hand talent gave Black show biz a meaning away back then, is seriously ill in Frances Delafield Hosp.

Ossie Davis is spending his off time in Nigeria trying to work out a film distribution deal thruout free Africa. He's producing and directing a flick in the father land...A bill has been introduced in the California Legislature that would outlaw "Black Exploitation" flicks in the state. Reps Leon Ralph and Bill Greene are the authors. If it is allowed to pass, every politician should hang his head in From any point of view it appears as the first step towards artistic slavery...Authur Mitchell's Dance Theatre of Harlem is the subject of an indepth feature in the current issue of Mainliner, the mag. to be read in the 'Friendly Sky' of United Air Lines. "The Ambassadors of 152nd St.," as they are called, will debut on B'way at the ANTA theatre mid-month and then step-off for Mexico and Europe. On this round the choreography genius of Geoffery Holder, Talley Beatty, Walter Raines and Milko Sporenblek will be spotlighted...The Pointer Sisters have added May 30th to dates they will remember. T'is then they will bow in the posh Empire Room of the Waldorf. Ray Charles is set for the same date on the April calendar.

At press time Dul  
At press time Duke Ellington was back in the hosp... Whitman Mayor, who walked into a brighter spotlight when Red Foxx was missing from "Sanford & Son's" junkyard, was jettied to N'York for a round on publicity...Rosetta LeNoir's AMAS Repertory Theatre will hi' lite "An Evening of Sissle & Blake" for 3-wk-ends this month. These two veterans of the marquee world did their B'way thing back yonder with "Chocolate Dandies," "Shuffle Along" and composed tunes which have since become standards ...Erroll Garner is listed to concertize at Salle Pleyel in Paris comes mid-may...Personable Walter E. Washington, the last appointed Mayor of DeeCee, received a standing ovation when he lionized Simeon Booker during his Capitol Press Club testimonial. He sounded very much in the race to become the first Black Mayor of the nation's 'first city'...Henry Allen, an 8-yr. vet and veepee of Atlantic Record, has been made director of R&B Product for that wax works. In his new post he will be in charge of the on and off tallow activities of all suw  
ivities of all such talent and the acquisition of new master. This is another big step on his way up from the stock room job he acquired in '53.

Stan Scott, special Ass't to the Prez. is enroute to West Africa. His assignment, to look into the drought crisis in the Sahelian region which is threatening the lives of 10-million people...Dr. Gloria E. A. Toote, ass't secy HUD E/O, and Mrs. 'Dooley' Dixon, spouse of the commander of the Fort Dix General Hosp., came back for Moscow with that Russian virus. Evelyn Cunningham, of the Gov's staff, who was with them, stayed out of harm's way

## JACKSON 5 OPENS AT MGM-GRAND



The Jackson Five will receive keys to the city when they make their Las Vegas debut at the MGM Grand Hotel. The sensational teen-aged supergroup opens a two week stint in the hotel's plush 1,200 seat Celebrity Room Wednesday, April 10.

Mayor Oran Gragson and Delores Straughter, Miss Black Extravaganza 1974, will make the presentation of the special award to members of the group opening night. Keys will be presented to Michael, Marlon, Jermaine, Tito and Jackie Jackson, as well as the newest member of the group, 11-year-old Randy Jackson.

Mayor Gragson indicated the Jackson Five was the first group to be so honored during his long tenure as mayor of the city.

The Jackson Five is one of the most phenomenal groups to ever appear on the U.S. music scene. The Motown recording stars have already sold over 25 million records.

Co-headlining in the Celebrity Room with the Jackson Five will be master-mimic Frank Gorshin.

...Vic Miles, brought in to co-anchor and report the news for CBS-TV on a one yr contract, has been renewed for 3-more with a sizeable pay hike...Art Fletcher, ex-Ass't Secy of Labor and current exec. with the Nat. Repub. Committee, lost his son...The death of Yock Bryant is mourned by pals form coast to coast...Gloria Simmons, secy public affairs, and Barbara Cummings, receptionists, are living ads for Avon products. No wonder security guard Bob Howard keeps his eyes on the wolf pack visiting the co's futuristic new bldg in N'York...Rick Bowen, Queen-B of the QBC Agency has taken over the American booking of the fabulous Josephine Baker...It's a lad for the Phillipe Wynnes. He's the lead singer with the Spinners...The wedding of Esco Cromer, leader of the Black Heat group, and DeeCee socialite Karen Jackson was an eye-poppin' event. The couple made the church on horse-back dressed in blue jeans with a wedding party to match...STAY LOOSE.

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## Uggams at Flamingo

Leslie Uggams opened at the Flamingo Hilton Thursday night supported by comedian Charlie Callas.

Leslie added new dimensions to her already top drawer singing act--she has added a dancing routine, coached by that well known dancer Marie Bryant.

## Performing Arts Workshop

The Performing Arts Workshop is now forming bands. To participate you must have some experience in music. The bands will be under the direction of Calvin "Eagle Eye" Shields. The bands will play at concerts including Super Concert '74 and go on tours to different cities.

The bands will learn such things as reading and writing music, sound projection, contract negotiation, etc., things necessary to know to become professional musicians.

Those persons interested with some experience, should contact Troy Mason, Program Director, at the Performing Arts Workshop, 330 W. Washington (Westside School) or call 648-5743.

## BOOKER ENLISTS IN AIR FORCE

Marvin W. Booker, Jr. recently enlisted in the Air Force Delayed Enlistment Program. He is scheduled to enter the Air Force on active duty July 23, 1974, at which time he will attend a six week orientation course at Lackland Air Force Base, San Antonio, Texas.

Upon completion of this basic training, he will receive Technical Training in the General field.

Marvin is the son of Mrs. Olivia B. Beard. He is currently attending Rancho High School, Las Vegas, Nevada.

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