

BILLY ROWE'S Note Book

WRITE ON PEOPLE---This could be veteran golfer Charlie Sifford's final swing around the PGA tee circuit. For a time, through much confrontation and commentary, Charlie was the only black pro allowed to belt that white ball across the expansive green of some of the posh country clubs of the nation. Then in the spring of his life he was only able to enter certain tournaments in special selected cities. Golfdom's Black Pioneer, he was the first of the brothers to win a major golf tournament, the Greater Hartford Open, and that was several years before it became "The Sammy Davis, Jr. GHO." However the rules of the Masters were different then and his victory did not give him the right to traverse its plush acreage from tee to green. There must be some honor lurking in the heart of some sports fans for this man who took it all to open the "Jackie Robinson Trail" along the professional golf circuit for the bro who for so long was relegated to the caddy shack...Dick Gidron, the only "us" in the east with an Authorized Cadillac Dealer's set of papers, will be honored by the organization of Christians and Jews next month. Lieut. General Daniel "Chappie" James, has closed up his DeeCee quarters to take up living on a new assignment base in the midwest. He has just been handed the Distinguished Service Medal by Pres Jerry Ford as a thank "you" for a job well done as the Deputy Secretary of Defense...The Hon. Betty Granger Reid is on Mayor Frank Garito's list for an appointment to one of his commissions in New Rochelle where she recently bought a manse.

Strangers visiting and leaving Gary, Indiana, are not sure that historic Mayor Richard Hatcher is the "sure" in he used to be. Mayor Walter Washington, the current appointed chief executive of DeeCee, has called in Al Lockhart and a few other professionals to bolster his run to become the first elected to that office under home rule. Cliff Alexander, who was a 40-percent runner-up in his bid to take over the top chair at City Hall, has narrowed the percentage gap...Eddie Waith and Artie Hill, who were New York's top black cops, in that order, are now partners in a successful protective agency. Artie also holds a good piece of a black owned hotel in the Virgin Islands...Dr. Wyatt Tee Walker is working out the last credits towards his Ph.D, and is also wondering how close he is to becoming Manhattan BeePee Percy Sutton's designee to follow in his limousine...Judge Wm. Booth almost declared a "bench holiday" when he learned that the American Comm. on Africa was successful in its protest drive to have the South African gendarmes barred from the "Police Olympics" in San Fran. The invite, which had already been issued to the SAP, was withdrawn...Aretha "Lady Soul" Franklin has finally accepted the bid to take part in "Zaire '74," swing festival which precedes the George Forman-Muhammad Ali title bout in Kinshasa, the capitol city. James Brown, B.B. King and the Spinners are the other stars contracted to appear, thus far, in the new 100,000 seat du Mai Stadium. Imported talent will cost the promoters close to a half-mil. much of that will go for transportation and lodging. Some of the big ofay superstars have volunteered to do the gig. Allegedly, among this group are The Grand Funk Railroad, 3-Dog Nite, Elton John and Erick Clapton. However, though the Bro. and Sis. are all for the "Papa-land," they want to be looted for the journey and job. "Hair," which raised some eye-lashes when its performers dropped their clothes on B'way, brought down the roof of the Shaftesbury Thea. in London. After almost 2,000 performances there, the opus was forced to move to another location when the ceiling collapsed...Jazz Mag. is importing Count Basie and Oscar Petersen for a mid-Sept. two show chore at Salle Pleyel in Paris. Behind the Honorary Doctorate of Music degree Count just received from the Philly Musical Academy, he will intro as Dr. Count Basie. 35,000 fans cheered as he was praised by Prez Joseph Castaldo for his con-

tribution to the sharps and flats art..Kiah Sayles' pals are concerned about his latest trip to the hosp. where he celebrated his 56th b'day... The N.Y. Yankees and the "Raisin" producer and cast have got a thing going. Off nite, the cast took in the game, with star Virginia Capers tossing out the ball and voicing the National Anthem. Son on its nite off, the ball club filled the 46th St. Theatre to eye-hear the doings of the Tony winning musical...Veteran Josephine Baker is out of retirement again. She is doing a show in Monte Carlo with her heart set on taking it to Paris where in her beautiful youth she gained fame and fortune to say nothing of accolades from kings and queens...Erroll Garner a tremendous hit as guest soloist with the National Sym. Ork. at the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts...Pearl Bailey will desert her kitchen comes Oct. for 30days of entertainment in the posh dining rooms of the Fairmont Hotel chains...The deal which Pickwick International has made with Motown will make certain tunes by some of the Detroit-Calif. wax works' big stars cheaper by the dozen in the U.S. and Canada...The American Song Festival at Saratoga Springs, N.Y., will have a replay for national eye'in by the ABC-TV net. The Pointer Sisters, Etta James and the Rev. James Cleveland will do their thing along with a number of the finalists...Pals of Sonny Carson are saying that Paramount is playing games with the flick, "The Education of Sonny Carson." It's out of the box-office money and is being yanked in some locations...Warner Brothers has a role for Godfrey Cambridge in "Whiffs."...A 50-count indictment has been handed down in New Jersey against the promoters of the highly touted Roberto Clemente memorial album. According to the charges the promoters pocketed 185 G's of the proceeds... STAY LOOSE

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