

# ENTERTAINMENT

## BILLY ROWE'S Note Book

**TALEBEARING**—Sammy Davis, Jr., rumored switching from NBC-TV to the CBS tubes after his 5 year exclusive expires with that network, has just inked a multi-million \$ ten-yr pact with Harrah's covering Reno and Lake Tahoe. This is perhaps the longest term contract ever issued in the history of show biz. Al Fann seems on the inside track to win out in the run for the role of John Ware in R.J. deJong's for reel story of a runaway slave who became a successful Texas rancher. Sam Goldwyn, Jr., is digesting the screen play with thoughts of bringing it to the sliver under the title "Big John". Howard Roberts has set a deal to add the sounds of the Symphony of the New World String Quartet to his "Sunday at 4", the series being done in various churches. Amazing thing about Jackie Moms Mabley's first screen starring venture, "Amazing Grace", is that despite the critics stomp-down, it's a box-office smash. The flick, which also stars Slappy White, looked like it cost about 2G's make, did more than 150G's worth of biz on the first run rounds...The Nielson checkers rates "Sanford & Son" and "Chico & the Man" the best one-two eye-catchers in teevee land. The fun feast duo have swamped the ratings with a 50-48 percent share of the tube watchers. The Lee Archers are back from Russia with glowing tales about the fun and time they spent in the Soviet Union.

Radio City Music Hall has nixed its planned closed-circuit showing of the George Foreman-Muhammad Ali fite from Zaire. The auto accident the champ had ran up a hi-blood rate among the folks who suffered through the eye-cutting incident. However the Waldorf-Astoria has stayed loose on the whole deal and will still do the closed telecast of the event. The posh spot will sell space in its main ballroom for \$45 and \$75 per patron offering an open bar and a view of the fite for the cheaper ducets and a roastbeef dinner for those in the hi-range...Godfrey Cambridge plans time out from his anti-drug drive for a go-back to show biz, his first and more lucrative love. He's currently checking his write hand to punch out an original screenplay which George Barrie will produce. Its long tentative title is "The Correct Law and Order of Salt and Pepper"...Westchester Premiere Theatre, which she opened last yr., has offered Diana Ross a fat \$250,000 guarantee for a return fling now or whenever the Mills Bros will shift marquees after their fling at the Flamingo Hotel. Their next time around will be at the Riviera...For the first time in its nearly 5-yr's of existence, Independence House, a voluntary residence for young ex-offenders emerging from the New York correctional system opened its doors for a dinner with the press and distinguished members of New York's business, justice and governmental communities.

The occasion was marked by the presentation of Independence House of an unprecedented grant of \$29,000 from the Riverside Church's Fund for Social Justice, and a matching grant of \$30,000 from the International Telephone and Telegraph Corporation...Christopher F. Edley, executive director of the United Negro College Fund, was elected a director of C.I.T. Financial Corp. of New York, a multiline financial-services concern...Former Federal Reserve Board Commissioner Andrew F. Brimmer continues to pile up directorships. He's now been elected to the board of trustees of the Ford Foundation, for a 6-yr term...In Virginia, Gov. Mills Godwin announced the appointment of James Edwards Sheffield as a judge of the Richmond Circuit Court, making him the first black circuit court judge since Reconstruction...Former Mercer University (Ga.) basketball star Jack Scott has been sentenced to 5-yr's in prison at Macon, Ga., for drug offenses. Scott, however, will still be able to play

this season with the Harlem Globetrotters and must return to jail at the completion of the season. He was fined \$750...Dancer Peg Leg Bates will express his thanks to many of the groups who visit his country club in the summer by launching a tour of cities, taking his show with him and doing charity benefits for the clubs... One hundred members of the Morgan State College Choir, under the direction of Nathan Carter, will leave this month on a two-week tour of Europe, including appearances in Finland, Leningrad, Copenhagen and London...O.C. Smith is at the Playboy Club in Baltimore...Freda Payne has launched a concert tour of the United Kingdom and Germany...Al Hibbler and Maria Cole are at Mister Kelly's in Chicago...Hazel Scott is at the Downbeat in NYC...Tony Orlando and Dawn open at the Waldorf-Astoria in Nov., the same month that Lena Horne and Tony Bennett will be at Broadway's Minisk Theater.

Black producer Bill Alexander, whose \$4.5 mil production of "The Klansman" opens next month with Lee Marvin and Richard Burton, has teamed up again with Burton and Terence Young the director to make "Jackpot". Co-starring will be Robert Mitchum and Charlotte Rampling, who is starred with Dick Bogarde in "The Night Porter", the movie drama that just opened in NYC. Alexander's troupe will start shooting in Rome and Nice for a couple of weeks with the next 6-wks to be in Hollywood.

AUDELCO will present their 2nd Annual recognition awards in Nov. This year the Board will present Special Awards to Mr. Douglas Turner for the Negro Ensemble Company and The Billie Holiday Theatre, a subsidiary of Bedford-Stuyvesant Restoration Corporation.

--STAY LOOSE.

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