

***** ENTERTAINMENT *****

***** BILLY ROWE *****

SAN FRANCISCO, CA.--A jet hop to the Golden Gate is the best time to let your memory dodge dates on a backwards toboggan slide on the slope of time. Were this the same hour in 1961, this scribe would be hard riding on the Garden State p'kway burning gas and rubber enroute to Atlantic City. That was the trip 14-yrs ago when Larry Steele was unveiling another of his "Smart Affairs Revue" to the usual gay and gorgeous audience huddled with "Pops" William Harlem Club, which gave meaning and magnetism to Kentucky Ave. If you have enjoyed as many summers, and cuddled against as many wintery blasts as this fella you are aware of what this memory is forged, and lived you have. For those who are on the down-side of thirty, Larry Steele was the "Black Ziegfeld" of this time in the spotlight sphere. On this date in '61 he was celebrating 15-yrs of a "Smart Affairs" with show biz. Then, Atlantic City, the then playground of America, and the Harlem Club, rare because it was Black owned, were his oysters. His opening and seasonal romance with the city of surf and sand, attracted folks from all directions of the Eastern Seaboard and those from the near and far reaches of the West who came to spread their grease on the fodder feeders that were running at Monmouth race track. Though another generation of play girls and pay boys filled the ringside pews for his fifteenth prancing, the enthusiasm was the same. Time had only added to the emollient quality of his revue, his dancing and show girls. Their cool effervescence so preserved it could still stir the emotions of any man of any generation. As for Larry himself, his years in the spotlight had so nourished his eminence before the incandescent he was an important magnet to A.C. as the Steel Pier or the "Miss America" beauty pageant.

How well do I remember, away up here between layers of cumulus white and heavenly blue, the happy 'livers' and generous spenders who graced the front pews to applaud every note and step. As distance and those yesteryears pass in review my recall stands at attention, though my heart bow in reverence before this chance to mind-peep into the than when all were young. To say that those were the days would be unfair to the present crop of go-about people who enjoy the 'rock,' the 'roll' and the soul of this discoteque-age. They however were born too late to meet and know Woggie Harris, Gershom Meyers, Teddy Horne, Jimmy Richardson, "Black Frank," John Levy, "Big" Bill Williams, "White-Top", Chink Cunningham, Levert "Machine Gun" Kelly, Harold "Killer" Johnson, Roger Simpkins, Bill Nunn, Sr., Johnny Dancer, Johnny Walker, and Bob Bennett. Also Julian Black, Jack Saunders, Freddie Guinyard, Major Robinson, "Red Randolph, Austin Norris, Leo Altman, Joe Steele, Bubber Fields, Nelson Sykes, Marshall Miles, Bill Cohen and Mannie Carfield who were among the flush spenders which kept the champagne set in fun and funds for most of them were the gay time spenders. Certainly there were girls, for without dolls there would be no guys. Wish I could remember the many queens who passed the spotlighted way because of Larry's "Smart Affairs" to strut across the footlights and added a glitter

Tony Orlando and Dawn at Riviera

If it's a hot new act making its Las Vegas debut, chances are the Riviera's got em! Tony Orlando and Dawn made their widely-heralded bow as headliners in the Riv's famed Versailles Theatre last Thursday -- the second major attraction to debut there in less than three months.

The Orlando show shattered all box office records at the Sahara Tahoe a fortnight ago. Tony, Joyce Wilson and Telma Hopkins come to Las Vegas following a smash season on CBS television and several million seller records. Requests for reservations to their Riviera show are the largest since Liza Minnelli made her Riv bow five years ago. Rodney Dangerfield, the hilarious "no respect" comic rounds out the bill.

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to dim lights and a heart-beat to soft music. There were lookers like Hortense Allen, Paulette Easley, Billie Graves, Hortense Bye, Nina Lopez, Flick Montgomery, Helen Penn, Charlotte Smith, Carol Carter and Lola Falana. Plus lovlies like Freda Payne, Barbara McNair and Dimita Jo who toiled in Larry's vineyard. There is no sound like, "Fasten your seatbelts," to snap one back into the realization that you can fly only into tomorrow as yesterday is gone into time.

WRITE NOW--If rumors can be believed, lovely Margarite Mays, Willie's ex., is headed for the W. Coast where she will take the vows with Johnny Sewell, the wee known playboy during the Joe Louis era...Most of the legal set was unaware that Judge Bob Mangum married a lady name Unk a Sardee ago... Evelyn Harding Holtis in from the U.S. Virgin Islands and none of her pals are guessing who's coming to dinner. The effervescence one is spreading her charm as she continues her hubby's hunt for a Stateside abode for a return to the main land...The story is that Dick Gidron and Ken Sherwood have requested "out" as sponsors of "The Eve. of Elegance." Vasal Thomas, founding papa of the event finally got the smarts, after several rain spoiled affairs, and added a "rain date."..Kelly Green and White are the colors your eyes will collect when Sammy Davis, Jr.'s Greatest Hartford Open hit the links Aug. 13-17...The Nat'l Black Police Ass'n has selected a trio of themes for its 5-day confab Oct '75 in Boston; "Black Community, Black Police and Black Crime. James Hargrove, NYPD will chair the conference and it is expected to attract Black officers from throughout the nation...That lovely J.P. Scott, now answering to her maiden name, Janitt Pattillo, has turned to the stage with a role in "Jasper" which she calls a hit musical...Stevie Wonder told Dr. Carlton Goodlett, who got him to perform for the NNPA's Frisco convention, to be sure that the \$25. Gold Circle tickets were the idea of the org. The prize capturing delineator hates to have his fans charged too much.

Truman Capote slapped and patted Billie Holiday in his latest book....Chuck Stone's "Black Paper", published in the Black Collegian mag., admonishes, "Politics: Participate or Perish." I was wondering when somebody was going to call it "A Black Paper."..The Black Collegian is worth reading as written in are all kinds of goodies... "Raisin," the hit '74 prize winning musical, has given up on an extra matinee performance on B'way and has turned to doing its thing Thursday Eve. Virginia Capers, its award winning star, is the latest being talked about to play a screen version of Bessie Smith, the late legendary blues

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super...Actors' Equity, which did no big thing for the immortal Paul Robeson when he was fanning the flame of freedom, before it became popular, has created an award in his name. Ruby Dee and Ossie Davis received the first one..New Horizons Rehab. Center has Ray Charles set for a fund-raising evening of fun at the Monticello Raceway comes July. Humans Rights Commish, N'York City, Eleanor Holmes Norton has shook' up a lot of folks with her lawyer like attack on what she terms, "Behind Closed Doors: Discrimination by Private Clubs. She said that the just released report is a 'compendium of action to end country club bias...STAY LOOSE

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