

BILLY ROWE

WRITE FROM A LETTER---"Your Atlantic City piece brought back memories to Bob and me when we spent time there with the Larry Steele troupe at Club Harlem. We haven't been east since going into the real estate, cabaret and whiskey store business here in Las Vegas in 55. It hasn't been bad with Bob dabbling in politics to even become a commissioner. And there have been many changes since those earlier days. Joe Louis, who was the first of "us" to venture into the hotel-casino biz, fronting the Moulin Rouge when it opened as the Black spot on the opposite track side of the fabled strip, is still the biggest handshaking attraction, for white and black, at Caesars posh Palace in the heart of the strip. Wilson Pickett is the must see and hear lounge magnet of the Hilton, which like every major dice palace here, is happy to get top Black attractions at any price when available. Las Vegas is home for Redd Foxx, Joe Williams, whose home backs into a par-3-hole of the LV Country Club, and a few other Black supers whose talents have expressed them out of the ghetto. Remember Martha Weaver, the ex-chorus cutie and widow of Louis Jordan; she's now Pearl Bailey's traveling companion and is making some mid-western and eastern stops with Pearl Mae doing the summer places heading her version of "Hello Dolly" You can tell the fellas to stop making 'book' on oillionaire Johnny Sewell since her extravow was that this is her last alter trip. You can also inform the Brown Twins, Hilda and Vivian, that since they are selling cars, instead of booze bar-side, that we will hold onto old rubber until we come east and replace it with one of theirs. If you come to Vegas, bring money as all the celebrated dice palaces along the strip, and everywhere, have Black dudes and dames dealing the cards, spinning the wheels and shaking the cubes. Nothing but the heat and the dust is like it was in the earlier days when you first came here with Nat King Cole and had to eat in a closed room of the Thunderbird and live across the tracks in a Black owned desert motel. Thanks for keeping us in touch with the rest of the world thru your Note Book that's never loose." ANN and BOB BAILEY.

WRITE ON---The Ben Wright adv. seminar was allegedly cancelled in Atlanta when Vernon Jordan, the personable nat'l exec. director of the Urban League, told those corporate exec's who asked, "that it was not a part of the NUL convention's agenda."..Buddy Rich told promoter Don Hughes to stick it when he offered a government expense paid vacation to Ben Brown, but no work permit to this one Black member of his ork. A check with the South African Information Service uncovered the fact that the government has no restrictions against mixed groups performing in that segregated land... Total acceptance by most of the 3000 delegates attending Delta's convention in Seattle of "Count Down at Kusini, should ease the way for a distribution deal for the flick. Ruby Dee, Greg Morris and Ossie Davis, who also directed and whose co. produced it, are starred. Largely financed by the Deltas, it had its problems getting to the "can" and locking-in a major distribution deal, but now Columbia Pic. is close to inking those all important papers. Another feature of the Sorors confab, "Roses and Revolution," is a waxed story of the Black woman in poetry and song. The Delta produced record features Lena Horne, Roberta Flack and Nikki Giovanni.

Stax Records, which hit the jukes like WOW, out of Memphis a few yrs ago, is reportedly seeking some oil cash to slip out of a financial bind. The Black owned tallow factory is allegedly harassed by creditors and losing talent by the tons...Herb Douglas, who stepped out of the chair of "The Black Sports Hall of Fame," is setting a new agenda for that idea under the banner of "The International Black Sports Hall of Fame."..Concert pro. Myrna Williams hit the jet way to the coast to firm up matters with Stevie Wonder to head the entertainment portion of Arthur Ashe's 100G's tennis tourney in Kingston, Jamaica in Oct. Jackie Hayes is the local drumbeater... CBS-TV is lensing a profile of Ruth Bowen, the Queen-B of QBC, B'way's top Black superstar agency ... Ruth Hardaway has 'kicked' her old ways and is plotting a theatrical comeback. To quote charming Selbra Hayes, "There's nothing shaking around her and Redd Foxx's friendship but the trees."..However lovely Barbara Jacquet is more secretive about the fella in her sight... He couldn't pick just one of the 6-lovelies Black Beauty sent him, so Sammy Davis Jr. added all half-a-dozen of them to sell'out W'chester Premier Thea. blockbusting show. He may use some of them on his talk' telecast which has been renewed for a new season...The Newport Jazz Festival is moving back to its original sounding ground, Newport, R.I. Miles Davis, Maynard Ferguson, Stan Getz, Buddy Rich and Ahmad Jamal will make with the sounds and restauratuer Frank Amando will produce the Aug-end event... An auto accident enroute to the hospital in Gary added to the seriousness of Julian Cannonball Adderley's stroke. His was the same kind of illness which twice hospitalized Quincy Jones. Jesse Owens, the immortal Olympic star, was confined to a Cleveland Hosp. for minor surgery when this was written...The Staple Singers have melted their tallow agreement with Stax and joined the wax clan of Warner Bros...Chet Baker and Sarah Vaughan are doing their talented thing in Laren, Holland for the Netherlands B' casting Foundation and Belgian Radio and Teevee... That lovely song stylist Freda Payne is also in Europe to fling her talent around spotlighted places...The Spinners latest Atlantic LP, "Pick of the Litter," is considered a dogone ear-acceptable bit of wax works ...Three military service review boards will be set up in Frisco this fall to reconsider cases of W' coast veterans who have received less than honorable discharges.---STAY LOOSE.

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