

BILLY ROWE'S NOTEBOOK

WE WERE WRIGHT

N'YORK CITY -- Last September we wrote this right -- "FCComish Ben Hooks is being guesstimated as the next exec. dir. of the NAACP." It happened last week just as predicted. A scoop is the most treasured souvenir of the working press and when the NAACP hooked Ben, we were first by a full 5-wks. We're not chuckling, but just proud that our pipeliners are not pipedreamers. The Hon. Ben is a tough act to follow, as the first black member of the FCComish or on the speaker's podium. Though he is a good and logical choice to take over Roy Wilkins' NAACP exec. dir. chair, Pres-elect Jimmy Carter may find it harder to fill the FCC space he vacated to take this dedicated position. From this eye-level, Fred O'Neal would be a boss choice. The veteran actor, who made history as the first black elected prexy of Actor's Equity, is the current chief exec. of the 4 A's and a veep of the AFL-CIO. He has more smarts about the total industry than anyone yet appointed to the FCC with an awareness of the issues that would allow him to attack them without being abrasive or playing a "Tom's" role. Blacks close to the Pres-elect should pull his coat about Fred. This is one sure way of blowing away the smog of racial pollution which is obscuring a clear vision of media democracy. Comm. Hooks made some meaningful moves during his highly verbal tenure to unhook the performers of bias off the stage of the electronic media. His legacy to the Commission demanded that what he had the guts to start will not stop with his leaving. The legato of his achievements is the sound of hope which has risen in an industry which too long has denied blacks their rightful place in its spot-

light.

CHITS FOR CHATS -- Sports Hall O'Famer Jesse Owens, just honored by his peers in the "Big Apple," returns month's end to receive an honorary degree from Wagner U...Jimmy & Evelyn Holt are set to bolt to the Virgin Islands after a near financial disaster. As luck dictated, a new buyer for their V.I. house turned up shortly after the original taker reneged the day they had put the binder cash into a 2-yr lease of a Manhattan apt...Bahama rumors have Prime Minister L.O. Pindling on both Sidney Poitier and Muhammad Ali's cool side. In fact, the flick super is said to have sold, or put for sale, the dream house he built in the heart of Nassau and that "The Greatest" has changed his mind about a big biz deal he was gonna set in that tropical place. In the meantime, Maurice Moore, an ex-member of Parliament of the black nation, is in the U.S. seeking backing to acquire a Chrysler and Hertz Rent-a-Car franchise for the Bahamas. The law was passed several years ago, that natives would have to own the controlling interest in such enterprises, will become effective with the New Year.

Don't talk to Ruby Johnson about "Mr. Clean" or any of those cleaning agents. The other home-sprucing-up-time a nasty spill broke her wrist, hand and shoulder. You should hear Frances Mitchell's views on Rev. Clennon King, the "Sky Pilot" who would become a member of Pres-elect Carter's church. He's her cousin, but it's no small wonder he didn't stop by to visit her when he was in "The Apple" for a round of teevee interviews the other week..Bulah Bryant, the ample entertainer whose heart is as big, is sprouting happiness about the Prexy's elec-

tion, Cong'man Andy Young is family and Offield Dukes a long time pal. She will do a month of Fridays at the Monoco Lounge in Bklyn before taking another tour of USO camps... In Westchester the Jimmy Butts Trio, with Joanne Norris, has taken a stand at Sergio's...Annette Morton Freeman is wondering what "went" with the lawyer who was handling her divorce. She claims he absconded with the answer, and some up-front cash of a number of his clients.

Preston Lambert, the long time Bklyn civic leader, is heading the N'York chapter of ICBO headquarters in Manhattan. Rev. Wyatt Tee Walter and Lee Archer are among the new folks joining that board...All the winners of the Hal Jackson Talented Teens International, Inc. state finals will spend a week in Hollywood...The new Negro Almanac is a master price reference work on "The Afro-American." The third revised edition is not only massive but also magnificent.. "Babe" Wallas of "Guys and Dolls" has hired Allan McMillan as a praise agent and is writing his autobiography...

Lola Falana just might make it down to the Virgin Islands, since "The Liberation of L.B. Jones" (in which she starred) is one of the entries.. The election cut into the B'way grosses but not enough to worry investors. However, "Guys and Dolls" showed an increase as did "The Wiz"...STAY LOOSE



BAR-KAYS

There has been a lot of talk the past couple of years about the explosion of black groups like the Ohio Players, EW&F, and Rufus whose writing and musical talents are such that outside talent is seldom used. But one of the first, if not the first, was the Bar-Kays, now an eight-piece band, who through the years has paid its dues several times over.

The Bar-Kays, led then and now by James Alexander, originally started out as the house band for Stax Records in the mid-1960's as well as the back-up group for Otis Redding. Now Stax artists presented some pretty stiff competition, and the Bar-Kays got the gig just by outplaying everybody else. They also made records on their own, getting a Top 5 soul hit with "Soul Finger" back in 1967. Most of that original band, however, died in the plane crash that took Otis Redding's life in 1967. Alexander is the only person who survived the crash.

About a year after the accident the group reformed and in addition to recording their own records, the Bar-Kays served as the instrumentalists for Isaac Hayes, the Staple Singers, Albert King, Carla Thomas, and others, some of whom refused to record unless the Bar-Kays

were there. Incidentally, it was the Bar-Kays who helped Hayes on his two most successful albums, "Hot Buttered Soul" and "Shaft."

It's the musical qualities that made the Bar-Kays so appealing to other artists that now earmarks the group as a potential monster attraction on their own.

In recent years the group has been hampered by contractual red tape but, with those problems gone, they signed with the Mercury label of Phonogram, Inc., which has released the Bar-Kays first album in three years, "Too Hot To Stop."

Today, the Bar-Kays are composed of Larry "D" Dodson, lead vocal and harmonica; James "Knuck" Alexander, bass guitar; Michael "Buckboard" Beard, drums and percussion; Winston "Winnie" Stewart, electric piano, organ, clavient, and various synthesizers; "Lucious" Loyd Smith, acoustic and electric guitars; Charles "Scoop" Allen, trumpet, guitar, and percussion; Harvey "Joe" Henderson, tenor saxophone, flute, and percussion; and Frank "Capt. Disaster" Thompson, trombone, bass trumpet, and percussion.

Join Ray Willis and Maria Donoso for a look at what minorities are doing in Southern Nevada.

Along with special local and nationally known guests, they make this an interesting and informative half-hour

Sat. 4:30 PM Sun. 7:00AM

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