LAS VEGAS VOICE PAGE O BILLIE ROWE'S NOTEBOOK

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WRITE TO THE POINT. NEW YORK CITY --- The auto accident death of Robert DeLeon was the best kept tragedy ever. The not too broadly b'casted radio report was tipped to some and then the news hit the "jungle drums," but when the newscast was not repeated on teevee or in the columns of the dailies, the report went silent and disbelief happily took over. But it was short lived for it was finally confirmed by the Am'News and the ample funeral Jet cove-rage. The delayed action was a double hurt to his friends here. However the "doom'dayers are quick with the rumors to add to the deep sorrow which lovely Diahann Carroll must now suffer in the face of the lost of her third husband which is more final than the lost of her number one and two . . . A black-white production team is said to be looking for space on B'way to chance a revival of "Saratoga Trunk" starring Lena Horne, the loveliest and most talented grandmother in the world. This was a several time flick which exhibited such heavy stars as Clark Gable and Ava Gardner in one and Ingrid Bergman and Gary Cooper. Those with super memories should recall that when the flick was made with Ava in the femme lead a howl was heard from B'way to H'wood when La Horne was denied the role of the lovely Creole babe who sparked the New Orlean's saga. Ofield Dukes is back in his DeeCee quarters

after a trip to Africa to coordinate an Alex Haley return to Gambia to get on with a sequal to "Roots Leading a contingency of his three bros, producer David Wolper and certain press members, the David wolper and certain press members, the much discussed author searched for a location on which to build a memorial mosque before visit-ing several other African sites . . Friends of Lucille Armstrong, the original "Brown Sugar," when she was on the eye-line of the famed Cotton Club, and being courted by the immortal Louie, are saddened by her latest sorrow. Janet Wilson Dhippe, her sister and last remaining relative are saddened by her latest sorrow. Janet wilson Phipps, her sister, and last remaining relative, passed. Joe Lousi long-lined with the quip; "It's a good thing NBC-TV had to cancel the "Emmy" telecast because of an inner-Organizational squabble. With "Roots" getting 35-nominations, "and a 'show' bet to run away with about 30-of'em,

it would have looked like a one-show, show for sure . . . Ruth Bowen is in Africa setting up theatrical dates while the King Empire seems to be tumbling. Behind her Queen's Agency debacle and Feb. '77 bankruptcy declaration she must be crying: ''Why Mel? . . Lovely Carol Cass, her unusual talent has been denied too long, is headed for spotlight time at the Playboy inN' York and N' Jersey . . . H'cum the Pulitzer Prize peo-ple continued to ignore the Black Press, even with Black judges in the voting?

ple continued to ignore the Black Press, even with Black judges in the voting? MISS'CASTING----Is just what a large percen-tage of those who have made "The Wiz" into a major B'way hit feels that it would be should anyone but Stephannie Mills be cast to top'line the flick version of The Wiz with Soul . . . It had to happen so the producers have recognized, and so billed, Ursuline Kairson as top star of "Bubbling Brown." The effervescent performer took over for Vivian Reid who made her mark on stardom in the 'Marsha' role, and the applause never stopped. In fact some nite, we're told, it's louder . . Barbara Carr has done some staff shifting under the Atlantic label. Now Nikki McGee is tour publicist and Bob Kaus who held that title is tour publicist and Bob Kaus who held that title has the new one of staff writer. Don't know who has been 'kicked' where . . . The world's funniest tee-bopper, Flip Wilson wasted neary a minute iest tee-bopper, Flip Wilson wasted neary a minute coming in off the green and singing Kenny Rankin for the spring-summer "Flip Wilson Show" tour. Especially after Kenny's Avery Fisher Hall sell-out . . After almost 4-yrs a 4-voiced group, the Impressions have tunned back to the trio-format, the way they were for neigh on to 15-yrs. So with Nate Evans gone, it's Sam Gooden, Fred Cash and Reggie Torian, making the Impressions now. Remember when Curtis Mayfield was with the group and excited everybody with his hi-tenor back in the '60's? WBICHT WHO21 1 1A goodly number of black

WRIGHT WHO?! ! !A goodly number of black cogs in the Republican Nat's Committee wheel are now rolling over with joy over the \$250Gs contract their party gave to Wright-McNeill and Associates. Some are saying who they and that Billy Rowe's continued on page 5

NEWS

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