

# BILLIE ROWE'S NOTEBOOK

## SCOOP THE DOPE.

**N'YORK CITY** --- Wherever you are, Betty Granger Reid, it would be to your bank'able interest to get in touch. The late Gworge Schuyler, one of the country's great author-reporter-columnist, who dies at 86 in N'York Hospital, left you a bundle. The estate is also looking for the bro. of the late Mrs. Schuyler whose will earmarked 300 Gs for him . . . Speaking of bundle, it has been revealed that being a "pen pal" of the late Elvis Presley is paying off big for songwriter Otis Blackwell. The B'klyn-born black composer wrote or co-wrote some of Elvis the Pelvis super numbers: "All Shook Up," "Retrun to Sender" and "Don't Be Cruel." They are among the tunes bringing in the heavy dough in the wake of the sook-up death of the Memphis song stylist. Otis, whose interview revealed that he had never met Elvis, is not stranger to the rock idiom. His "Searching," was a biggie for "The Coasters," "Hey Little Girl" went gold for Dee Clark and "Handy Man" did the thing for Jimmy Jones and is breaking out the second time around in a James Taylor groove. These are just some of the more than 1000 songs he has composed so it's small wonder that he now wants to fill his onw stage spotlight in a continuing effort to stay hotter than the iron he used during slack time and he had to resort to pants-pressing.

Bobby Schiffman, who inherited the Apollo Theatre, is talking deal with Charles Huggins, Melba Moore's spouse. Charlie owns several cocktail lounges in Manhattan and Westchester. His idea is to make over the once magnetic vaudeville house and establish a full entertainment complex on the site . . . The rumor is that Bill Hudgins, among the founders, and first prexy of the Freedom National Bank, is supposedly losing interest in that supper club he's a partner in . . . Rev. Dr. Wyatt Tee Walker and his flock are back from Mexico and looking forward to a trek to Israel come March '78. His West 116th St. church is one of Harlem's biggest and has the best choir in the city . . . The EEOC stand of the Hon. Colston "Choke" Lewis, former Commish of that Fed. Agency, will be lauded by the lads and gals who have listed him as a pal down thru many 356'ers. Cong'man Parrin Mitchel sits in the honorary chair with Dr. Edwin Sexton, "Face" Wiggins, Dr. William Rumsey and Judge William S. Thompson among members of the Friend's Committee. Sept. 21 is the date and the Capitol Hilton is the place and hi'noon is the time . . . Speaking of ti

and hi'noon is the time . . . Speaking time-wise none has been set, but young lovely Jennifer Brooker has said yes to the marriage proposal of Howard Wynn.

The '78 tennis tournament of champions will be played over the courts of the Louis Armstrong Stadium, not the Singer Bowl whose name was changed to honor the immortal tumpeteer so long ago that hose who made the announcement had forgotten the switch . . . When you're on the Chgo scene treat your palate at Gaja's Cafe, the famed spor for cheeses, fine wines and fondues . . . The Chgo-Daily Defender has defunked its Washington Bureau so the very capable Askia Muhammad is accepting job offers . . . The attractive Annette Freeman who worked for the Boro-prexy of the Bronx, taught school and was an executive in a Fed. Gov. grant program, has nixed it all to enter Howard U. in search of a law degree. "The Moore The Merrier" could be the tune most hummed by G. McFadden and John Whitehead, of Gamble & Huff, the Philly sound hi'riders, who have produced the latest Melba Moore was wonder.

The Ethel Waters we knew was as sharp as th cutting edge of a Wilkinson sword. She possessed a talent that was just as well honed. Plus a smile that was shiny enough to light up the darkest recesses of a theatre be it in the honky tonk of the ghetto or the staid stages of the B'way of the world. She was quite a lady and some kind of a woman. The legends about her are many and evenly divided, depending on the teller, between

pleasant and unpleasant. However, her position in the history of the theatre is assured. She was among those earlier pioneers who hacked out a path for democracy to march across the footlights and blacks to enter the Hall of Fame of incadescent glare. A write on Ethel Waters is pute theatre for her life was filled with its drama, pathos, and humor.

**PHILLY WHITEWASH** --- A whitewash and a brushoff by Philadelphia Mayor Frank L. Rizzo failed to dampen the spirit of "Let's Clean Up The Ghetto" campaign in the City of (Un)Brotherly Love. Hizzoner objected to a line in a song: "You can no longer depend on the man downtown." So he wouldn't endorse a drive to hire 100 people to truck the trash out of lots and streets and erase graffiti from the walls, all part of \$250,000 cash contribs raised by the sponsors, Philadelphia International Records and CBS Records to stage Block parties, parades, free concerts et al. The Rizzo razzed that line from a song in the PIR single and album titled "let's Clean Up," etc. Rizzo also was madder'n hell because endorsing the drive meant acknowledgement that the city needed cleaning. He added that "ghetto" is a mental condition - lack of education and direction -- which, he said, first needs cleaning up. So the sponsors said the hell with Rizzo and got the desired proclamation instead from Gov. Milton Shapp. The album, 200,000 already cash registered, contains songs by Lou Rawls, Billy Paul, Teddy Pendergrass, Archie Bell & The Drells, Harold Melvin & The Blue Notes, Three Degrees and the Intruders . . . STAY LOOSE.



Meno Vardas Gilford of Tulsa, Oklahoma, will serve as 1977-78 poster child for the National Association for Sickle Cell Disease, Inc. (NASCD), according to Executive Director, Dorothee H. Boswell.

The eight-year-old third-grader will make public appearances on behalf of the association to call national attention to the life-threatening disease whose debilitating effects are highest among blacks although it is found the world over.

The formal announcement of Master Gilford as the National Scikle Cell Poster Child will be made at a dinner salute to jazz great, Count Basie, a fund-raising event by the National Association for Sickle Cell Disease and its Los Angeles chapter, the Sickle Cell Research Foundation.

At the dinner tribute, which will be held on Wednesday, September 21 at the Beverly Wilshire Hotel, Count Basie will receive the National Association's Award of Distinction for his countless philanthropic and hmanitarian efforts and his prodound influence on American music.

The event, which annually attracts top show business entertainers as performers and guests, is open to the public and is regarded as an entertainment highlight of the year. Previous recipients have been Ella Fitzgerald and Ray Charles. Basie's orchestra will provide music.

Ms. Boswell pointed out that the Gilford youngster was selected from among fifteen nominees from across the country by a volunteer committe chaired by actress Bernadette Stannis and including attorney William L. White, Mrs. White (Barbara) and Dr. Mary Torres.

Young Gilford in friendly, bright and outgoing, delights in games and is especially fond of miniature automobiles. He is one of eight children, six of whom have escaped the hereditary disease. He was sponsored by the Sickle Cell Disease Research Foundation, the Tulsa, Oklahoma NASCD chapter.

Entertainers Sidney Poidter, Dionne Warwick, and Diahann Carrol will serve as Honorary Co-Chairperson of National Scikle Cell Month, which is September, according to Dorothee H. Boswell, Executive Director of the National Association for Sickle Cell Disease (NASCD).

20th of September thru October 25, 1977.  
Registration fee is \$10.00 which will be paid to the Board of Regents.

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## NEDCO

The Nevada Economic Development Company and the Small Business Administration have enjoined with the Business Department of Clark County Community College through the Division of Business Services to present a six weeks business course to strengthen current business procedures and instruct new techniques of operation for the small businessman. The course will utilize professionals from the communities business and professional sectors. The courses will cover business plans, financing, bookkeeping, accounting, recordkeeping, inventory techniques, legal structures and their comparative tax advantages, how to best utilize your advertising dollars, personal management, insurance and pension funds. Bob Bailey, Director of NEDCO and Bob Garrett, Director, SBA District Office, along with Clark County Community College have designed this course in the belief that the subject matter focuses attention on those most pertinent areas of management and technical assistance needed by the average small business entrepreneur in our area. The course will start on the

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