

BILLY ROWE'S NOTEBOOK

ASSAULT AGAINST FACTS.

Any similarity of "Ring of Passion" to the two ring encounters of Joe Louis and Max Schmeling was purely coincidental. The NBC-TV premiere movie of the immortal heavy-weight's double bout, against the then Nazi superman, as contender and defense of boxing's most coveted title, was an assault against historic facts. Its reel footage was more propaganda than proper genre. Supposedly a personal story of two fighters caught up in the emotional surge of a world headed to war, it stumbled into a foxhole of deception as it offered a camouflaged picture of one of the most important phases of Joe Louis' fite life. In his attempt to give credibility to the effects of racism on black minds, author Larry Forrester made the immortal heavyweight into a heroic "Uncle Tom." One who could not dig or understand the hopes and aspirations of his people, and "mistered" white folks all thru the script. Grasp this line: - "I ain't gonna be the real champion until I beat Mr. Schmeling." Joe didn't even 'mister' John Roxborough, Julian Black or Mike Jacobs, and they were his most respected friends, men who had master-minded his domination of boxing's heavyweight class. Another incredulous scene had several Nazi dressed American rushing into a Joe Louis training scene to spew out epithets and amble out with their heads intact. If that had ever really happened both Freddy Guinyard, Joe's companion and secy, and Freddy Wilson, ex-fighter and Joe's driver would have still been doing 'hard time' for what they did then. Even Chester Washington, who was on the scene much more than Paul Gallico or Damon Runyon, would have thrown in fist.

The fault with "Ring of Passion." was not with the accomplished thespians who tried to make each role come alive. Bernie Casey, the make believe Joe Louis, Stephen Macht, the '78 version of the '36-'38 Max Schmeling were good with what they were given. So were the other characters, Denise Nicholas as Marva, Beah Richards, Lilly Brooks, Percy Rodrigues, who was missed cast as Roxborough and Mel Stewart as Julian Black as was Al Lewis as Mike Jacobs. However they did the best they could with the unreal dialogue they had to reel together. Watching it I wondered how the immortal champ himself, Joe Louis, felt there in a Houston hospital where he has mended enough to move from bed to wheel chair, and is looking forward to returning home to Las Vegas within a couple of weeks.

WRITE ON THE RUN: -- There's more facts than fiction to NBC-TV's "Big Event" movie, "Law Man Without a Gun," scheduled for a mid-March eye-level presentation. Louis Gossett Jr. and Mary Alice are co-starred in this fact-based movie for teevee about Tom Gilmore. 10-yrs ago he made history when elected the first black sheriff of Tyler County, Ala . . . The weather isn't everything that's sickening, but some of my best friends are just sick like Dave Means who's undergoing test in St. Luke's hospital which Emmett Dismuke to home recuperate from a hernia op. However goodie two shoes, both Ruth Allen King and Marie Rhone are home after a pill factory seige, and Carolyn Stevenson too . . . They headed for B'way new version of "Alice in Wonderland" has decided to come to the boards with a mixed, instead of an all black cast, and thensforth be known just as "Alice," Vinnette Carroll is one of the writers and the producers of the B'way hit, "Annie," are putting it on. That's heavy . . . Drs Stan Godsey, Connie Jenkins, Nat Branch, Ed Allen and Marcus Moore got back from the dental conv. in the West Indies just in time to dig their houses out of N'York's record snow fall . . . Though "Roots" is still a growing saga, ABC's "Roots One Yr. Later," didn't shake the rating needless. Nuffie Calloway, Queen of the King of hi-de-ho, will be honored Feb-end as "Woman of the Year" by the Gamma Xi Zeta Chapter, Zeta Phi Beta Sorority . . . Detective Calvin Allen has put his papers in and will join former PD brass Glenville Alveranga's security staff for the Hosp. Corp. of N.Y. . . .

Talk about police circlces is that Chief Eddie Waith who gave up his top ranking post with N'York's Finest to become Commissioner of the Virgin Islands' may become top aid to Charles Grunevelt, the new top V.I. cop. The weather is bloody awful here and Eddie does have a home in the Island . . . Goldie Day's planned second winter trip to her Miami manse was knocked for a loop by the blizzard. Roby Cooper, Dee Williams and Eva Desverney were her disappointed invited guests . . . Fred Astaire, who got himself an upcoming NBC flick, "A Family Upside Down," lifted some write hands the other interview time. When asked about his teevee viewing habits he informed that Soul Train tops his eye list. He said that show "gets me going, and some times, for a few laughs, I'll get up and dance along with them." See ya never know . . . Just so NBC won't hog this act, CBS has got a reel laugh provoker in "Baby I'm Back," starring Demond Wilson, Sanford's ex-son, with lovely Denise Nicholas as the lady sought after, it's eye-appealing also. However for our kind of household NBC had the eye-magnet on Sunday with "The Million Dollar Dixie Deliverance." It starred Brock Peters and some wonderful white kids whose role put the kibosh racism for one brief beautiful moment during the war between the states in the "Wonderful World of Disney. That's where I'm jetting off to golf for a wk.

It was a one nite only stand for habitants of the W'Chester Dinner Theatre who got an eye and ear full when that spot presented "The Great Blackway" to celebrate the non-white contribution to B'way. It was a vibrant evening of music and dance, created and performed by a group of the bright street's greatest talent. Benny Ashburn did not take the no frills route to London with his new femme trio, nor is he cheating on the long line keeping in touch with the Commodores, his no.-1 chart riders who're waxing more sounds in LA . . . Alma Wright has filled that huge silver first prize bowl, won on a bridge cruise of 5-Islands, with bubbling pride . . . Holiday grandmamas, Sis Dabney and Ethel Sissle are just as proud displaying pics of the new daughter and son. --- STAY LOOSE.

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EEOC

As of December 1, 1977, the USA EEOC Office established a new procedure to handle complaints of job discrimination. The process calls for individual investigation of each complaint. The National EEOC has a direct relationship with the Nevada Equal Rights Commission in the handling of cases of discrimination. This workshop is designed to explain the philosophy and operation of EEOC, the investigation process, the rights of employees, the responsibilities of employers, major laws and court decisions in employment discrimination and an up-date on the Nevada Hotel Consent Decree.

This will be the first such workshop presented by a Federal Agency in the Black Community. All questions regarding employment discrimination will be answered including information from the Department of Health, Education and Welfare and the Department of Labor.

Register today as workshop space is limited.

YOUR MONEY'S WORTH

by Sidney Margolius

ITEMIZE DEDUCTIONS?

MORE TAXPAYERS NOW WILL TAKE STANDARD DEDUCTIONS SINCE THE MAXIMUMS HAVE BEEN INCREASED FOR 1977 RETURNS. BUT IF YOU STILL ITEMIZE DEDUCTIONS, REMEMBER TO INCLUDE CONTRIBUTIONS (NON-CASH ONES TOO); QUALIFIED MEDICAL EXPENSES; INTEREST AND FINANCE CHARGES PAID ON DEBTS; OTHER TAXES YOU PAY; QUALIFIED CASUALTY AND THEFT LOSSES; JOB RELATED COSTS INCLUDING UNION DUES, SAFETY CLOTHING, DISTINCTIVE WORK UNIFORMS, TOOLS, TECHNICAL BOOKS, COSTS OF JOB HUNTING IN THE SAME VOCATION OR TRADE.



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FILM SERIES

The Reel Thing Children's Film Series expands this month providing feature films twice a month in several new locations.

Scheduled for Saturday, February 18th at 11 a.m. at the Decatur Library, 720 S. Decatur and at 3 p.m. at the West Las Vegas Library, 1402 N "D" Street, is the adventure story The Time Machine. Travel at warp speed into the year 802,701 and see what the future could be like!

Other Reel Thing features include Walt Disney's "Three Caballeros", "One Million Years, B.C.", "Where the Red Fern Grows" and "Tom Thumb". Scheduled the first and third Saturdays of each month, the Reel Thing films are presented free to the public at participating Clark County Libraries.