

BILLY ROWE'S NOTEBOOK

A ROVING ROWE.

Jet jumping from N'York to N'Oleas, to Orlando, to DeeCee and back to Disney World for the nerve settling "Bon-Adventure Eastern Airlines Golf & Tennis Tournament at Walt Disney World, is in no way conducive to writing a column. However the words must go on so roving Rowe's ever-ready write-hand-pal, Major Robinson, will keep you on an eye-level with the happenings.

WRITE HERE:—The perfect musical marriage is about to happen again now that singers Roberta Flack and Donny Hathaway will make another album. Their first several years ago was a million seller and won raves . . . And least we forget, the pleasant young lady who hands you your hat and coat in the Cotton Club is none other than actor Sidney Poiter's daughter, who, is a struggling young actress and might change her last name to prove she can succeed because she's talented, not because she's Did's offspring . . . When Benny Ashburn, manager of the Commodores, bought Helen Douglas' Englewood, N. J. home for \$75,000, he gave an interior decorator \$150,000 to restyle it and buy European furniture . . . Friends of former socialite and writer Betty Reid Granger in Los Angeles report she's landed a newspaper job, so stop those rumors that she's flat-busted and needing handouts . . . Simo Doe, the Atlantic record executive, is suing the Concorde ailing, claiming they lost her jewel case with \$5,000 worth of gems inside . . . Are those wedding bells about to ring for Priscilla Boyles, aide to Brooklyn Boro President Howard Golden?

SEE-SAW 'ROUND TOWN—Now that his hour TV variety show is a thing of the past, comedian Redd Foxx is working on a half hour comedy series for next season that will probably have him in the role of an oldtime con man . . . **UPTOWN & DOWNTOWN:** If you can afford the tariff, \$20 just to sit down, the newly opened Cotton Club on the end of West 125th Street to see Carmen McRae isn't a bad deal . . . Hont Coles, producer of shows, says rumors of discrimination among black and white patrons there are all wrong, as I could see on my visit there . . . now downtown, Sonny Bostic masterminds the kitchen at the black-owned Jewel's restaurant at 69th Street and First Avenue. With famed Sonny Bostic overseeing the culinary arts, it has become the "in" spot already . . . When gambling opens in Atlantic City soon, several black businessmen will be on the scene with "good time houses" and masage parlors for the weary . . . To go along with our Pryor knowledge we learned that Richard Pryor and his wife Deb are in the California divorce courts, one has to laugh at the words he told Ebony magazine in an interview last year, "we're going to be very happy and together for a long time." . . . Friends of retired Four Star General Chappie James are finding it hard to believe that he has not received a \$100,000 a year salary offer from a defense contractor or airline firm. It happened to others with less experience. Maybe he's got too much color.

Old trumpet players never die if the crowds at Jimmy Ryan's 52nd Street Jazz Club are any indication . . . The attraction is Roy Eldredge, the master of the high C's, who's blowing as much as he did when he was the main star with Gene Krupa's band . . . Single women looking for rich men have only to subscribe to Joan Brooks in Mt. Vernon, N. Y. She has setup a computer dating service that matches po' husband hunting gals with men of means. Check this. If she lands one herself, she says "she'll give up the business". Can you relate to that . . . One time grocery clerk union official Joe Overton is now the owner of two supermarkets . . . Got \$100,000 laying around and want to invest in a business . . . laying around and want to invest in a business? . . . Then see Joe Wells, he wants to sell his well-known chicken and waffle palace.

Partially paralyzed Jet magazine advertising salesman Frankie Bizzell had so many visitors at Rusk Memorial Hospital, where he's undergoing therapy, that they installed a guard outside his suite . . . Bill Statom

gave up the Vice Presidency of CPI record firm and rumors have him joining RCA records in that same capacity . . . Jesse Jackson is going back to college as a guest lecturer at UCLA. ---You can take Barbara Walters and the rest of those nice TV lady broadcasters. Our choice for Numero Uno, is Carol Jenkins with her charming smooth self on Channel 4 . . . Billy Rowe would vote for two other telly tans . . . It's hard to decide what's selling singer Millie Jackson's new Spring record album, the product or her sexy picture on the cover . . . What BIG DEAL is ex-Manhattan Borough President Percy Sutton making with Atlantic Records? Does it involve record distribution in Africa? . . .

Is everything o-kay in the Detroit household of singer Gladys Knight and her hubby? Friends are spreading rumors that her next hit tune will be "sung" in front of a divorce court judge . . . In the "hot off the presses" category for Atlantic is Montana's startling "Dance Fantasy." It's baaad . . . Montana's debut album is set for release later this month and contains music produced, arranged and largely written by Salsoul Orchestra creator/leader Vince Montana . . . Several new albums from R&B artists have been released, including the new album from Blue Magic, "Message from the Magic," plus the label debut of singer/writer/producer Prince Phillip Mitchell (who has written songs for the likes of Ben E. King, AWB, Norman Connors, Percy Sledge, Candi Staton, Bobby Womack and many others), "Make It Good." Also due shortly is Atlantic's sixth album from The Average White Band (AWB), "Warmer Communications." AWB, of course, has always experienced both pop and R&B success . . . Word on Harlem's Sugar Hill is that the lady friend has stopped sending those checks to the widow.

President Carter, according to his White House aides, was so impressed with Earth Kitt, that he plans to invite her back to entertain her back to entertain at a future State dinner . . . The White House briefing of Black Publishers, Editors, and News organizations went off in the write direction last Thursday. Those invited spent 1/2 hr. with the President and got their pictures taken with the chief executives individually . . . If you're wondering who those tough looking men are that are always seen around UN Ambassador Andy Young, they are his body guards . . . You'd be surprised to know who's become the "MR. BIG" of the Harlem narcotic racket now that Nickey Barnes is behind bars. Want a hint?? Well, he's clean-cut, in business and mixes with the right folks . . . Think about it . . . and STAY LOOSE.

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BLACK EVENTS QUIZ

1) What lessons regarding power might be culled or learned from South Africa's handling of the Stephen Biko death inquest?

What do you feel that private groups and independent nations should do in response to this crass affront to the "opinions of mankind"??

2) Why do both the white South Africans and the white Rhodesians seem to be so innervated or unrealistic in their assessment of stark realities around them? Is this a reflection of fear? Arrogance? Indifference? Cruelty?

3) Why, in your opinion, has the "divide and conquer" approach to colonialist control been so effective? Do you feel that it will continue to be for long? In either case, why?

4) The Bakke school admissions case has raised issues which will continue to be with us. One of these is a continued American strain

toward belief in a "higher law" or in "respect for conscience." For example, if blacks feel they are treated unfairly, they will tend to disobey the "unfair laws."

To what extent do you feel that the Bakke case may heighten this trend regardless of one's sense of who won?

5) Joan Little is a complicated figure. How do you assess her personality and her continuously tragic circumstances? What lessons should we all learn from her plight?

6) Both Senator Percy and Senator Humphrey are part of a notable list of senatorial friends of black Americans. You may write, if you wish, to "The National Current Black Events Quiz," PH C, 416 Central Park West, New York, N.Y. 10025, and share your list of "Best Friends of Blacks in the U.S. Senate," together with your reasons why. Your comments would be appreciated.