

THE PLATTERS TAKE A CHANCE IN SOUTH AFRICA

With an understandable apprehension THE PLATTERS traveled to the troubled continent, as the first black act to be granted full sanction by the South African Government, to appear in Johannesburg, Durban, East London, Port Elizabeth, and Capetown for interracial audiences.

Originator/composer Buck Ram and Jean Bennett, Manager and THE PLATTERS arrived in Johannesburg on May 6th to be greeted by representatives of several leading newspapers, who honored THE PLATTERS with many front page pictures in color. Only 30 minutes after their arrival, with scarcely enough time to check into the hotel, everyone rushed to a pool-side reception where a television interview was taped and individual interviews were given by various members of THE PLATTERS and Buck Ram.

THE PLATTERS broke Liberace's record, it was the first time the Colosseum, in Johannesburg, had been sold out since 1971. And, on opening night in Durban, 800 people were turned away. One enthusiastic girl, in Capetown, grabbed Monroe Powell, THE PLATTERS lead tenor, just as he was singing "Oh, Yes, I'm The Great Pretender", and kept hugging him throughout the song. It seems, fans are alike all over the world!

The Mayor of Capetown, Ted Mauberger, invited THE PLATTERS to have tea in his parlor, which the group considers one of the highlights of their 5 week tour.

The people spoke candidly about their problems and felt progress was being made for the better. The South African mores are much too complex to be changed overnight. Judging from the streets and shops it would seem U.S. reports of strict racial segregation are greatly exaggerated as blacks and whites mingled freely. The prejudices are not simply white against black, but also, black against black. The "shade of one's skin" predetermines if a black will be served in certain restaurants. This situation is changing as one sees many business establishments advertising "multi-racial" in their front windows.

Monroe Powell, "the skeptic", thought he would stay in his room, when not performing, during their South African tour, but once at ease, he spent so much time dancing at the Raffles Disco Clubs, the other PLATTERS began to call him "JOHN RAVOLTA".

THE PLATTERS bravely tried ostrich steak and elephant biltog (dried meat like our beef jerky), along with the standard variety of Italian, Chinese, Greek, Indian, and "American type" foods, served throughout South Africa. A "Braai" (which is somewhat like our American Barbecue) was given by Tru-tone Records, in Johannesburg, for THE PLATTERS, in honor of their newly released "Reborn" L.P. In Capetown, Promoter, Ronnie Quibell, also gave an enormous "Braai" for THE PLATTERS, Dobie Gray, and Pip Friedman, at his home, giving the group a chance to see the real behind the scenes view of South African home life. Sausages, steaks and chicken were their entrees plus a special dish Jimmie Carter would probably love, a "grits-like" food covered with a tasty gravy.

South African television leaves something to be desired, when compared to ours. Running from 6 p.m. till 11 p.m., their programs have a predominantly intellectual format (discussions and culture). If you missed "Kojack", "Little House On The Prairie", or some of our other American series then you'll love seeing reruns in South Africa! On Saturday, their television covers the soccer matches and the game of "Bowls" (Italian in origin, it is played with weighted white balls, rolled on a lawn, at a stationary ball).

A highlight, of THE PLATTERS trip, a photographic safari, in Krugersdorp Wild Game Reserve, afforded a close-up view of lions and other wild animals, while in the protection of their tour bus. One ostrich, however, decided to investigate the group. Sticking his head through the window, the curious ostrich, got a "birds-eye" view of THE PLATTERS!

THE PLATTERS enjoy traveling around the world as "Unofficial Good Will Ambassadors" to cement friendships and create a good image Americans abroad. THE PLATTERS are proud to be Americans and agree, there is no place

like the United States.

The Maxim Hotel (across from the MGM, on Flamingo Road) will be ringing with THE PLATTERS music starting July 4th for 3 weeks, 2 shows nightly - 7 & 11 P.M. - Friday and Saturday - 9 & 11 P.M. and 1 A.M. in the Allegro Lounge.

**July 4
'Fun In The Sun'**

Boating, camping, swimming and traveling are all part of the traditional Fourth of July 'fun in the sun', but they also can be deadly if you're careless, warns the Insurance Information Institute.

The National Safety Council predicts that between 650 and 750 persons will be killed in traffic accidents over the Fourth of July weekend and another 28,000 to 32,000 persons will be injured.

Last year, during the same period, 574 persons were killed in traffic accidents and 27,000 were injured. Another 143 persons were drowned. Carelessness undoubtedly was a factor in many of these accidents.

The institute urges motorists to observe the following safety suggestions:

- Drive during daylight hours whenever possible.
- Drive according to road and weather conditions.
- Do not exceed the 55-mile-per-hour speed limit.
- Do not drink alcoholic beverages before driving.
- Do not drive when you are tired or sleepy.
- Make a complete safety check of all vehicles BEFORE starting on any trip.
- Use seat belts at all times

Boaters and swimmers are advised to:

- Be sure life preservers and fire extinguishers are on the boat.
- Check weather conditions before going out and take a portable radio to make frequent checks if you plan to be out for a long period of time.
- Inform someone what time you plan to go out and what time you plan to return.
- Never dive into a pool or other body of water unless someone else is present.

The Institute advises persons who plan to go camping or cook out in the backyard never to use liquid fire starter on a smoldering fire or plug electric appliances near a pool or body of water.

According to the National Safety Council, excessive speed and fatigue are proven factors in a large percentage of both fatal and non-fatal traffic accidents. Unsafe vehicles are another factor in many accidents.

A complete safety check of the ignition system, the exhaust system, tires, brakes, front and rear lights, hood latches, wheel alignment and the windshield wipers is important.

Safety checks should also be made of any equipment that is to be towed to make sure it is properly attached and that it is visible to other vehicles, especially from behind. By observing these simple safety suggestions and making sure all vehicles are safe, vacationers can increase their odds for having a safe, fun-filled holiday.

WHITE
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sident in the 41-year history of the Judicial organization.

He attacked critics who claim that the nation's juvenile justice system has failed. "For 10 years, I have been presiding judge of the oldest juvenile court in the world. The Cook County (Ill) juvenile court was founded on the philosophy of individualized rehabilitation and treatment for each child. I challenge anyone to show that adult courts which strive to make the punishment fit the crime are more successful than juvenile courts," White said.

"We know that the juvenile justice system works, and we will not permit critics to impose on processes for children the outmoded punishment concepts which have been tried and which have failed in the adult system," he concluded.

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New Director Mental Retardation Services

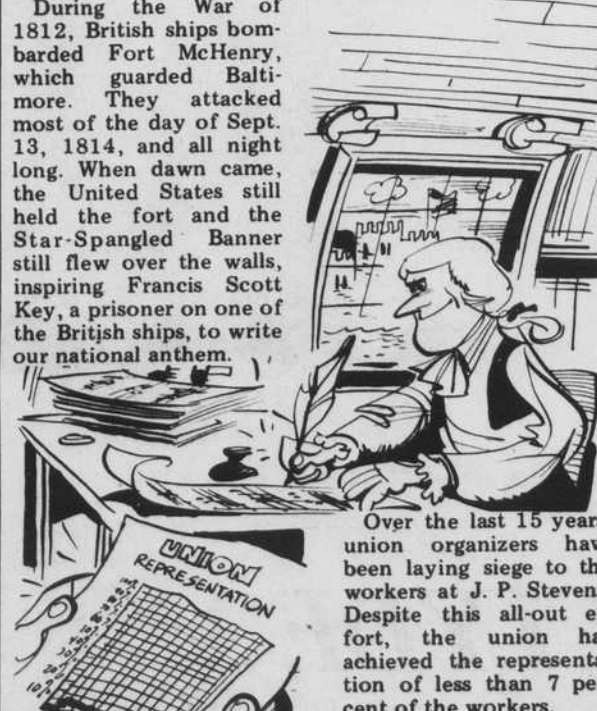
Dr. Ray Holmes of Reno will become Southern Regional Director for Mental Retardation Services in Las Vegas sometime in August, Mike Melner, director of the Department of Human Resources, announced today.

Holmes will replace Dr. Bernard Salzberg who is resigning to accept a position in California in August.


The new director, who is 33, received his bachelor, master and doctoral degrees from the University of Pittsburg in Pennsylvania where he majored in special education, sociology and political science.

FANCY THAT!

During the War of 1812, British ships bombarded Fort McHenry, which guarded Baltimore. They attacked most of the day of Sept. 13, 1814, and all night long. When dawn came, the United States still held the fort and the Star-Spangled Banner still flew over the walls, inspiring Francis Scott Key, a prisoner on one of the British ships, to write our national anthem.



Over the last 15 years, union organizers have been laying siege to the workers at J. P. Stevens. Despite this all-out effort, the union has achieved the representation of less than 7 percent of the workers.



The ancient Greek city-state of Athens besieged and attacked the city of Syracuse, in southeast Sicily between 415 and 413 B. C. Despite all their efforts, the democracy of Syracuse held.