

BILLY ROWE'S NOTEBOOK

Big band king Count Basie tuned out the White House Salute to the 25th. anny of the "Jazz Festival" because George Wein expected him to ante up his own jet fare. Money disagreement also kept him from adding to the sound making in Cannes, France . . . However astute Commish Ersa Poston, in Paris for a Civil Service Commission Confab, made the bash after her duties were done for Uncle Sam . . . Black Enterprise publisher Earl Graves, who put Rolls to rubber several tune-ups ago, just recently went down to sea in his newly purchased yact . . . Racheal Robinson, widow of baseball's Hall of Fame door opener, is in the 'buyer's box' hoping to take a swing at purchasing the Rockefeller Apts. This was the first "project" built in Harlem and once boasted of great neighbors like the late Bill Robinson and other affluent Harlem dwellers . . . The YM has selected Roy Campanella to fill the salute spotlight of its second annual dinner in Sept. The Hon. Clifford Alexander, the historic Secy of the Army, highlighted the initial affair about the same time in '77.

The clannishness of some members of the H'wood NAACP's Branch almost sabotaged its annual Image Awards. The skulduggery started when the National Office took over the '78 affair. Al Dunmore, who spearheaded the nat'l thrust, has threatened to urge Ben Hooks, the org's head bias hunter, to move the '79 event to N'York City . . . Percy Sutton, happier now that he's, and richer too, out of the Manhattan's Boro-Pres. office, was the biggest hit of the Official N.Y. Bd. of Trade Delegation to China just a post card or so ago. He was the WLIB-WBLS rep . . . Jim Cuffie, the black with the biggest holdings in Atlantic City, successfully put together a monied package and saved WUSS Radio for black ownership. It is the prime property the station owns is what "Mr. Charlie" really wanted. It runs for acres along Absecon, A.C.'s major access blvd . . . Two upscheduled weddings are the talk of the senior set with groups ignoring what their mothers told 'em; "if you can't say something nice about a person, don't say anything."

Wondah what is the next stage for lovely and talented Christian Cooper? Her new act "Christian & The Lions," was uniquely introduced by Hal Jackson, William B. Williams, who didn't make the eye-filler at the St. Regis, and Rocky Graziano who did and was the most enthusiastic member of the cheering section. The lady has got a style, great pipes, and a body that could make a preacher stash his Bible. On her black is beautiful so all that blue eye stuff and wet red lipstick ain't necessary. I'm not sure that her singing and dancing mates, Paul Binotto, Bobby Clay Ferguson and Ray Patterson are either . . . That party at LaFarfalle, marking the day Grace Jones was spanked, was "Amazing." In fact it was sumptuous and weird which has the same meaning as bizarre . . . The biggest and loudest 'guess who' in national social circles is about an internationally known biz tycoon who may have to refuse a presidential appointment because he has gone and fathered a baby by the wrong lady.

The Hon. Andrew Young was the biggest backstage attraction after that sellout Aretha Franklin Carnegie concert. The U.S. Amb. to the UN was surrounded by a million bucks worth of talent and admiration; Patti LaBelle, Stephanie Mills, Aretha and Dionne Warwick . . . Lee Elder made enough golf headlines in Milwaukee to insure a big gallery during the soon to tee-off Sammy Davis, Jr.'s Greater Hartford Open. Lee almost won the tournament once, but was putted out in sudden death by Lee Trevino . . . Ever hear of the Yeast Bay Brewers? Or the Maltose Falcons? Or the San Andreas Malts? They are among the Home Brew Beer Clubs representing hundreds of Californians who brew their own for personal imbibing, but not for sale. Well they're having a problem with the U.S. Treasury which has charged them with operating illegally. "Ridiculous!" Screamed Sen. Cranston (D.,Ca) saying that this is "Beer-ocracy at its worst." . . . Keyboard virtuoso Herbie Hancock has turned vocalist and CBS-wax works think that it's something to shout about. However it's said that he will not don the

sparkle suits, the space glasses or any of the other funky frills of Bootsy Collins. Understand he will not attempt to compete with Marvin Gaye, Stevie Wonder, or Smokey Robinson for the crooner of the yr award, but the dude is making with the vocals on four out of 5-tunes from his new album.

Accident mending permitting, love vocalist Nancy Wilson will frontlight the Duke Ellington orchestra to open the 65th annual confab of the Nat'l Dental Ass'n in DeeCee the final Sunday in the month. The concert will be preceded by a cocktail party at Kennedy Center and followed by an "afterglow" session and dinner dance to the music of Wild Bill Davis. Dr. Walter R. Tucker is president of NDA which represents over 3000 black dentists across the nation . . . As soon as they exit the Capitol city the Nat'l Medical Ass'n, representing some 8000 black physicians, will move in for its 83rd annual convention. Dr. Charles C. Bookert is NMA prexy . . . Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett, former prexy of the NNPA, and new head of the Nat'l United Black Fund, and organization of National org. presidents, has forged a Peace Plan that has been accepted by 38-nations . . . Raymond St. James has been appointed West Coast regional R&B promotion mgr by Atlantic Records. He nixed a number of varied jobs with radio and in the promotional field to take the job . . . Some astute praise agent just pointed out to this corner that Bobbie Humphrey is the only successful female jazz-pop flautist working today. Said she won awards galore from '75 thru '77 and has played with such giants as Stevie Wonder, Dizzy Gillespie, Herbie Mann, the late Duke Ellington, Cannonball Adderly and Sly Stone among others. A little research on our part found nothing to dispute this claim . . . But we did find enough evidence that the critics were adjectively kind to "Eubie" in Philly, and is the reason the new musical, based on the music of Eubie Blake, has expanded its fling thru July. It was orginally set for a run from June 17th thru July two.--- STAY LOOSE.

New Officers for ACLU

The American Civil Liberties Union of Nevada elected new officers at a meeting of its state board in Las Vegas last week. Taking over from ELMER RUSCO as State President is long-time Las Vegas attorney and former North Las Municipal Judge Dean Breeze. Richard Siegel, Professor of Political Science at the University of Nevada, Reno, was elected Vice-President, and the position of Secretary-Treasurer will be filled by Patricia Cellini of Las Vegas.

When asked how he perceives the role of ACLU in Nevada Breeze stated that the organization was founded over 50 years ago to defend the constitutional rights of all individuals; "The idea of individual liberties has long been a frontier Nevada tradition, and that tradition must be preserved."


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