

# BILLY ROWE'S NOTEBOOK

## NEWS - FOLKS DO MAKE NEWS

Brought fame through the musical exploits of the immortal W.C. Handy, and infamy by the assassination of the imperishable Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., within its borders, this city assumes the responsibility for the good, and cast out thoughts, if not memories, of the bad. It's even difficult to find any recorded facts that it was "The Father of the Blues" who composed a song, "Mr. Crump," in 1909, which is credited with electing E.H. "Boss" Crump mayor to make Memphis really "His". Would you believe that he ran on an antiprostitution, clean up the town platform. He stayed on to establish one of the strongest political machines to ever allegedly corrupt a city. His rule endured enough generations to leave an indelible mark across the political horizon of the city.

The blues of shrinking advertising lineage and dropping circulation was dispelled in this hard by the Mississippi River city, where the blues was born, by one of the most productive Mid-Winter Workshops in the history of the National Newspaper Publishers Ass'n. Programmed by John Procope, Am'News publisher and first veep of the organization, and hosted by Robert A. Sengstacke, publisher of the Tri-State Defender, and son of John H. Sengstacke, founder of and current president of NNPA and head of the still growing Sengstacke chain of Defender newspapers. About 100 - publishers and their invited guests stayed on the case from the President's Reception, hosted by Seagram's Steve Lockett and Carnation's Ed. Atkinson, Wed'day thru Sat'day. The speakers ranged through two Senators, Republican's Hon. Howard H. Baker and the Democrat's Hon. James R. Sasser. Between them were two Mayors, the Hon. Wyeth Chandler of the city of Memphis and Hon. William Morris, County Mayor. Then there were others who helped the org. about its business like Harper Brewer, Pre. pro-tem, Tenn. State Senate, Malcolm F. Mallette, Dir. of the American Press Institute, Aaron Henry who heads both the NAACP and the Dem. Party of Miss., Daniel Orr, pres. of the International Circulation Manager Ass'n, Lee Archer, Gen. Foods, Norman Powell, veep/sales director API, William Hunter, Gen. Motors, Dr. Sonja Stone, Director Southern Black Press Institute, Daisy Voigt, public affairs director EEOC, Mark Henderson, The White House Press, Mrs. Frances M. Hassle, Ass't veep Universal Life and Dr. Lionel C. Barrow, Dean School/Communication, Howard U.

FUN & FANCY: --- Natch it wasn't all work and no 'play' to make it a dull conference. So there were those who found their way to Beale Street and Blues Alley. Lucia Robinson, Am' News adv. director had to make a 3AM jet so she let Jimmy Hicks, Jom Hurt and some of the more adventuresome publishers escort her to Blues Alley. This duel purpose spot is one of the few keeping Beale St. lighted. It spouts blues downstairs and pure jaza above. Its patrons are heavily white who mix well with the tourist blacks who find it appealing. Doris Saunders, who left the top chair at Hohnson's book publishing division, for the same at Jackson State College, took the disco route in the posh Hyatt Regency, the site of the confab, to prove that a professor of journalism can still shake awhile. She was aided, if not "Bettered" by lovely Jane Woods, publisher of the St. Loo Sentinel. This scribe and Lee Archer took Jane and Doris to dinner and got lost both ways with the professor calling the map shots. Returning to the hotel would you believe that she ended us up in Arkansas, across the Mississippi bridge. If you think that's a funny ask Major Robinson about the cautious Vernise Smith, Atlantic Records Memphis rep. Maj., the national consultant for that wax works "Alexander Graham Bell" her for a meeting, but having never met the fella, she long-lined N'York to check him out. After visiting the home of Dr. Vasco and Maxine Smith, he, John and Ernesta Procope spent most of the jet back home time in eave city about the Smith's manse, and that they have never seen anything like their indoor swimming pool, "It's the badest yet!" Coming from the Procoptes, who have and indoor pool of water, that's saying something.

BEAU GESTE: --- Charming Carole DuBose, the Dept. Of Trans. had her away from home

b'day blues dispelled when the gang came to the rescue with a disco-champagne party that ran thru the wee hours. Among the check picker-uppers were Lee Archer, Ophelia DeVore Mitchell, who's that close to becoming a grandmother again, Jane Woods, Mark Henderson, Doris Saunders, and Chris Bennett. The poker players missed Jimmy Booker and Andy Hatcher, so this scribe and Al Dunmore spent the off hrs listening to Herman Smith talk about Africa. Get him to tell you h'cum he took a 3-hr. safari into the jungle in search of a female witch doctor. He could probably learn more from Jeanette Kelso, Memphis most famously rich widow whose long time romance with a very well known singer is still in tune. They say she's seventy, but by her looks "one never knows do on?" . . . That's all they serve despite you get on at breakfast time, and off after lunch . . . Meanwhile back at the home base I should tell you that the guests at Gwen Douglas' after N'Year's disco, chitterlings and champagne party, consumed 100-pounds of the stuff, and it took a lot of washing down . . . Nestly has a new quick chocolate flavor drink out called "Spook Group." Wondah if it's on the menu at Sambo's? . . . If you're wondering about the whereabouts of Al Green he's a minister with his own church in Memphis . . . Roy W. Stevens, prexy, Hiram Walker Inc. stood the NNPA membership up and applauding with his address. It was a commitment to, and an endorsement of, the black press and the market it represents . . . Fritz Pollard, the immortal football player, and the first black to play in the Rose Bowl when he carried the pigskin for Brown U., will reach a healthy 85 comes Feb. . . . HANG IN THERE.

### Handicapped Get Benefits

Nevada's handicapped residents will get numerous benefits from the Rehabilitation Amendments in Public Law 95-602, passed by Congress shortly before its 1978 adjournment, Del Frost, administrator of the State Rehabilitation Division, announced today.

Immediately after passage of the new legislation, Frost and his staff initiated action to insure maximum benefits for the Division's clients.

Mervin J. Flander, chief of the Division's Bureau of Services to the Blind, was appointed by the U.S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare to be vice chairman of the task force that will assist in writing new federal regulations through which the amendments and their various programs will be administered. Frost said the appointment of Flander, who is also the president of the National Council of State Agencies for the Blind, will give Nevada "an unprecedented opportunity to correct any weakness in the current regulations as well as to develop new ones.

Through the new amendments, the federal money for the Division's vocational rehabilitation program will be increased, allowing the State to save \$1 million. Frost said his agency was instrumental in getting the Federal Allotment changed to help states with small populations.

In addition to continuing all the current aspects of the vocational rehabilitation programs, the amendments provide for new service programs which will have major beneficial impact on Nevada's handicapped. Special grants will be available to Indian tribes in the State to provide new rehabilitation services in addition to existing services, Frost said. The Division will work with Indian organizations in developing these new services.

The Division's information and referral program for all handicapped persons will be enlarged. Federal grants will be used for expansion of comprehensive rehabilitation centers, special demonstration projects for the severely disabled, and community service pilot programs.

Frost said that Congress is expected to fund comprehensive living and employment services. This will bring the Division approximately \$200,000 to develop and operate programs to enable the severely disabled to cope more independently with their enviro

In the past the Division has emphasized

services designed specifically to secure and retain employment for the disabled. In addition to continuing these services, the new amendments will allow the Division to enlarge its independent living programs to include the severely disabled persons who were not previously eligible.

Some of the new services will probably cover psychological and psychotherapeutic counseling and related programs, job placement, special housing modification, transportation, attendant care, physical rehabilitation, therapeutic treatment, prosthesis and other appliances, health maintenance and recreations. Another new feature will be services for children of preschool age, child development and care and related programs and development of language and communication skills.

Existing services and needs of Nevada Communities will be studied by Frost and his staff in developing a State Plan for Comprehensive Services. Frost emphasized that Nevada's handicapped residents as well as current service providers will be consulted in the development of this Plan. The Plan will be aimed at achieving the most effective and efficient ways of providing comprehensive services within the monetary limitations, and its design and implementation will rely heavily on the cooperation and input of consumers and private and public agencies.

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