

# Mills Brothers

....like ol' man river they just keep on rollin'

by Joe Cross

When the Mills Brothers made their latest appearance at the Riviera, it sure was apparent that a showroom certainly is no place for those people. Why not a showroom? Because you can't get up and jitterbug in a showroom, that's why. It's close to cruel and inhuman punishment to make fans just SIT there when the Mills Brothers are onstage. That's dancin' music good old -

fashioned hold your partner close dancing music. Showrooms are for the likes of Bob Newhart, who shared the starring bill with the three brothers during their recent appearance in the big Versailles Theatre. Sure, the tuxes fit snugger and what's left of the hair is mostly grey. Individually, the voices may have lost some of their power but together, well, it's the same sound that has been thrilling dancers and lovers for



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Songs like "The Whole Town's Talking About The Jones Boys," "Yellow Bird," "You're Nobody 'Til Somebody Loves You," (which, they noted, "was given to us

he said he wouldn't tell anyone the year they came out with their first recording but admitted it was 1928 when they first recorded "this one — and you know what? I'll bet you know it."

It was "Bye, Bye Blackbird." And you know what? — it's just like Harry said — the audience certainly did remember.

Age doesn't mean much with a group like the Mills Brothers. The younger people in the audience were a tappin' and a singing, along with everyone else — which goes to show that not only are the Mills Brothers known to all age groups but the music they've introduced to the world has lasted ...and lasted ...and lasted.

over — WELL over — 50 years now. They were onstage long enough to just scratch the surface of the scores of hits they introduced — then sat back with a smile as recording artist after recording artist came out with them, with different beats and for different eras.

by the late Russ Morgan"), "Paper Doll" which, when the audience was invited, became a sing-along tune, as did many others during the evening; "Cab Driver," "You Always Hurt The One You Love," and on and on. Harry Mills, who does the talking between songs, chuckled when

"A lot of people think we're nine years older 'n baseball," Harry remarked just before they went into the finale and after recalling that when they started, there were four brothers — the eldest, John Mills, Junior who was the bass and played guitar died several years ago. He added, "this is our 56th consecutive year.

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Maybe the reason the Mills Brothers remain popular with younger people today is the fact that, in an era where everyone is striving to be laid back and mellow, they've found a group of three guys who really come across that way.

Newhart followed and his humor fit well into that audience. So did his "production show" tribute to the age of the musical ending, too.

That ending, though, while it came close, didn't have quite the pizzaz that he probably hopes for. But it is such a radical departure from the Newhart image that it sent the folks home happy.

The show completed its run at the Riviera last night.