

Entertainment

BILLIE ROWE'S NOTEBOOK

FOR THINKING OUT LOUD

BOLTON, MASS. — A quiet place like this stimulates thinking and affords one the opportunity to retrace the steps of life and try to mentally fill-in some of the pot holes created by neglect and forgetfulness. Though it's an unpardonable sin in the life of a columnist, it is an everyday occurrence. For several issues now I have wanted to record the passing of a veteran show personality, Julia Sanchez, who lived out her span in Asbury, N.J. I never had the pleasure, but her sister, Elvira Davis, Sammy's Mom, is an old and dear friend. I am also guilty of not mentioning the

passing of Harry Mills, of the famed Mills Brothers vocal group, who was 88 when he paid his final promise to our creator the last Monday in June. For many years we were very tight with the bros. John, Herbert and David. The quartet was one of the first to crack the ice and break through the prejudice curtain which guarded the big time from all but a few talented Afro-Americans.

When they came on the scene, back in the late 20s, you could count the non-white super stars, Ethel Waters, Bill Robinson, Cab Calloway, Duke Ellington, Paul Robeson,

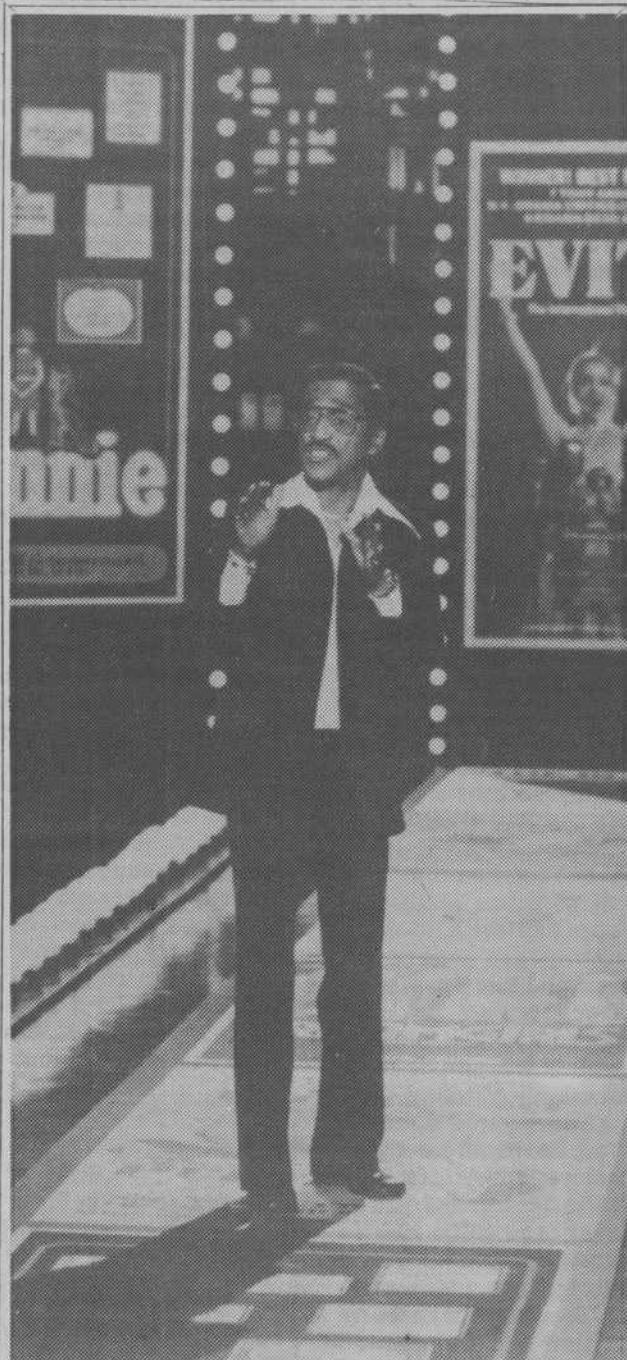


W.C. Handy, Earl Hines, Fletcher Henderson without using up both hands. Performers like Ada Ward, Adelaide Hall, Avon Long, Fred Washington, Buck & Bubbles, Marion Anderson, Katherine Dunham, Rex Ingram and Canada Lee were all shooting for stardom, but missing the bulls-eye because the wrong folks were placing the targets on the range. When John died in '36, John Mills, Sr. stepped in and the group never missed a beat. It recorded almost 3000 songs and more of them were hits than can be recorded here. They, collectively and individually, gave this scribe many a paragraph to fill interesting space for readers' eyes and a friendship to cherish ... The final summons also went unrecorded for Marlon Blake, the 86'old spouse of 99-yr'old pianist-composer Eubie Blake. She cashed her living in like the snap of a finger, a heart attack at home. There were no side effects or hurting pains for her to wish that she was dead, or wonder had God forsaken her. During the b'day bash for Lena Horne a rumor circulated thru the Roseland that Eubie himself had

died and it wasn't discovered until the next day that it was just a rumor. Married to Eubie for 37-yrs, it was Marlon who babied him through to his present longevity.

NEWSLINE — Could Rudy Langlals' fast trip to the city of make believe to confer with Sidney Poitier have anything to do with Ross ("Harold Smith") Fields? The former University track star is appealing a 10yrs. hard time conviction that he and others did the Wells Fargo Bank in for some \$21 million ... Motown Records has added a Latin music division with Art Brambila in the boss-seat. The dept will function under a new label, Motown Latino, with big buck support for merchandising and advertising ... Libby Clark, food editor, Los Angeles Sentinel, gave the Apple a visit and liked what she eyed. She took enough time out from fun and games with a take care of biz visit to General Foods to keep abreast of kitchen doings ... Wondah what happened to all those photos shot by that army of lens persons, still and TV, at the Lena Horne birthday bash. They socked her

See ROWE, Page 15



SINGING SAMMY! Sammy Davis lends his magnificent talent to that of a magnificent cast celebrating the American musical when the "Texaco Star Theater . . . Opening Night" airs Saturday, Sept. 11, 8:30-10 p.m. (ET) on NBC-TV. Davis teams up with Carol Burnett in a medley of the country's favorite songs from its favorite musicals. These include songs from "Porgy and Bess," "South Pacific," "Oklahoma," "Guys and Dolls," and many more, including "A Chorus Line" and "Annie." The cast reads like a who's who of showbusiness: Debbie Allen, Steve Allen, the cast of "Annie," Ken Berry, Carol Burnett, the cast of "A Chorus Line," Sammy Davis, Jr., Pam Dawber, Placido Domingo, Zsa Zsa Gabor, Robert Guillaume, Ann Jillian, Ethel Merman, Joe Namath, Donald O'Connor, Bernadette Peters, Charles Nelson Reilly, John Schneider and Loretta Swit.

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