

BILLIE ROWE'S NOTEBOOK

WASHINGTON, D.C.

— The relentless pursuit of the Black Press, The Pittsburgh Courier, The Chicago Defender, The Am'News, The Norfolk Journal and Guide and some other print media in the late 30s thru the 40s, promulgated a new beginning in the U.S. Air Force which has finally sparked a prouder recognition of "Black Wings." At last, total history has seen fit to salute the warriors, and the men and women before them, whose courage and daring led a people beyond the borders which separated blacks from whites in a world yet to come to grips with bias. In a tasteful and factual manner the National Air and Space Museum of the Smithsonian Institute dedicated a space to exhibit the exploits of those persons, who in peace and war, had soared beyond the grandeur of the tallest mountains on man-made wings.

The exhibit, "Black Wings: — The American Black in Aviation," is divided into two parts. Part one, "Head-

winds," deals with Eugene Bullard and Bessie Coleman. They were the first black Americans to receive pilot's licenses. However, because of discrimination they were forced to obtain their flight training in France.

Bullard (1864-1961) was in the infantry of the French Foreign Legion at the start of WWI. He transferred to the Lafayette Flying Corps in 1917. The French awarded him 15 medals, including the medal of honor, for his services in two World Wars. Ms. Coleman (1893-1926), who was the first black pilot licensed in the U.S., became a stunt pilot. During her short career she inspired many young blacks to enter aviation. She was killed in an aircraft accident in 1926. By 1931 Chicago had become the center of black aviation. This was the year the Challenger Air Pilot's Ass'n started promoting aviation in the black community. In 1933 when the group was barred from opening at estab-

lished airports in the Chicago-area, it opened one in Robbins, Ill., a black township.

As early as 1929 Los Angeles vied with the windy City for Black aviation honors. Out there a group of flight enthusiasts organized the Bessie Coleman Aero Club to promote aviation in the black community. An all-black air show it sponsored on Labor Day, 1931, the first such in the country, attracted some 15,000 spectators. However, it topped itself in 1932 when the club sponsored the transcontinental flight of James H. Banning and Thomas C. Allen. They used an Alexander Eagle Rock Airplane that cost \$400 and the "Flying Hobos," as they called themselves, had a \$100 expense kitty. The flight from L.A. to N.Y. took 41 hrs. and 27 mins. They were the first blacks to fly coast to coast.

1939 was the start-up of a government funded civilian pilot training program. It offered blacks an opportunity to secure flight training, but on a segregated basis. Programs were offered at Tuskegee, Howard University

and other predominantly black schools. Therefore, though segregation persisted, there were 102 licensed black pilots, a tenfold increase in one decade. This was an active and visible way to put to rest the once widely-held notion in the aviation community that "blacks lacked the aptitude to fly." Now, nobody can deny that Black Americans have failed to demonstrate a keen interest in participating in civil and military aviation. Part two of this high flying story will appear in our next write around so keep your eyes on base. In the meantime the exhibit opened on eye-level at the Air and Space Museum Sept. 23rd.

BATTLELINES — The Los Angeles Human Relations Commission, and that City's major industry, film making, screen and tube, is in a devil of a tussle over insufficient representation of discernible ethnic minorities for the film and TV industries. Warren L. Steinberg, the Commish's Prexy, said that the main goal of the

body is "full and equal participation in the affairs of this community for all people." However, CBS has charged the commission with infringing upon its First Amendment guarantees. That leaves us to wondering where in those rights are the ones to discriminate because of race, creed, etc.? It's high time somebody does something about the moguls of the City and Make Believe who continue to act like America isn't a nation of different races, and faces and faith which gives it its distinction and strength. Jessie Mae Beavers, chairperson of the Commish's affirmative action sub-com., is the daughter of the late Louise Beavers of screen fame. She would have made it much bigger than she did were there no bias barriers before her talent because she was black... Lensman Gordon Anderson may go to the marketplace with game created by the late Godfrey Cambridge and given to him. "50 Easy Steps to The White House" by the comic, is allegedly "for

discriminating people of all races," and was masterminded in '68.

Rita "PeeWee" Davis, Sr., Sammy Davis, Jr.'s stepmother, answered that final call the other day. It left all of those who were privileged to have known her saddened by this loss. She was good people who spent her coming and going among friends and foes without words of rancor. Her personality was always on the sunny side of the street and was known to many, while her anger was a total stranger. The way the world turns, the state of affairs in which it is in, it is perhaps best that good people like "pee-wee" leave it in its turmoil... STAY LOOSE... Billy Rowe is a syndicated columnist.

**REGISTER
TO
VOTE
NOW**

JACK THE RAPPER

RADIO, RECORDS & RAP/TELLIN' IT LIKE IT TIS' IS

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THE LIST
THIS WEEK LAST WEEK

SEPTEMBER 29, 1982

ZOOPEP
The Rapper Sez:

★ 1	1	YOU DROPPED THE BOMB ON ME-GAP BAND-TOTAL EXP-TE-8203
2	3	THE MESSAGE-GRANDMASTER FLASH-SUGARHILL-SH-584
3	2	DANCE FLOOR-ZAPP-WARNER BROS-7-29961
4	4	JUMP TO IT-ARETHA FRANKLIN-ARISTA-AS0699
5	7	LOVE COME DOWN-EVELYN KING-RCA-JH-13273
6	5	LET ME TICKLE YOUR FANCY-JERMAIN-MOTOWN-1628MF
7	8	BIG FUN-KOOL & THE GANG-DELITE-DE622
8	9	777-9311-THE TIME-WARNER BROS-7-29952
9	10	RIBBON IN THE SKY-STEVIE WONDER-TAMLA-1639TF
10	6	LOVE IS IN CONTROL-DONNA SUMMER-GEFFEN-GHS-2005
11	11	SO FINE-HOWARD JOHNSON-A & M-465
12	14	HARD TO GET-RICK JAMES-GORDY-1634
★ 13	16	DO SOMETHING-GOODIE-TOTAL EXPERIENCE-TE-8202
★ 14	19	CHANGE-BARRY WHITE-UNLIMITED GOLD-CBS-ZS502956
15	15	IT'S NOT ME YOU LOVE-CLIFF DAWSON-BOARDWALK-NBS-017
★ 16	23	IMAGINATION-B. B. & Q. BAND-CAPITOL-5118
★ 17	22	WHO'S STICKIN' IT-SUNRIZE-BOARDWALK-NB-11151-7
★ 18	29	PACK JAM-THE JONZUN CREW-TOMMY BOY-TB826
19	20	HOT SPOT-MIDNIGHT STAR-SOLAR-48021
★ 20	34	IF THIS WORLD-C. LYNN/L. VANDROSS-COLUMBIA



Club Rouge

Moulin Rouge Hotel

900 West Bonanza Road

Las Vegas, Nevada

October 12, 1982

Two Big Shows

ROGER

featuring

"ZAPP"

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Tickets: \$10.50 in advance

\$11.50 at the door

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Odyssey Records	Club Rouge
5 p.m. - 10 p.m. nightly	24 hours daily