

Entertainment



ARTIST OF THE WEEK

By Lady Essence

About two years ago, Gene Van Buren had all the things one usually associates with success—money, a nice home, etc. However, he was still not content, because his ultimate pursuit was to sing.

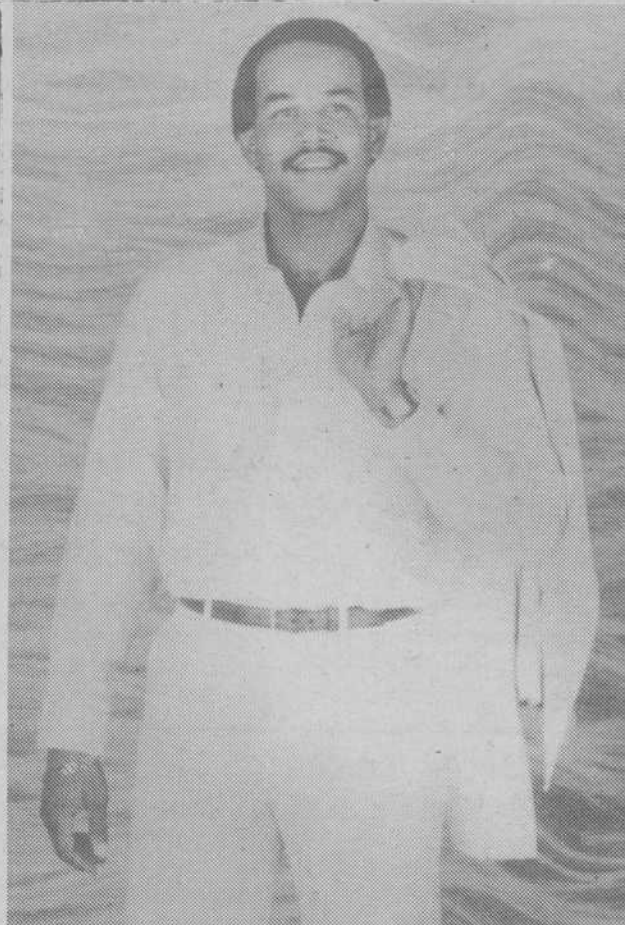
He sang in church choirs as a child and the 75 year old aunt who raised him would allow nothing more than spiritual or gospel music in her home. Gene grew up into what he says, without regret, was a very "square person", one of the few young people around who can tell you what it's like to cut wood and shovel coal to feed the stove.

Where did the urge to sing come from? Heaven only knows, but one thing for sure was that by the time he finished a five-year hitch in the service of the U.S. Military and a subsequent year traveling the country, the urge was there and it was strong. Gene wanted to act and to sing and almost eight years ago, that desire brought him to Hollywood.

Unfortunately, Hollywood's bus benches are overrun with thousands of starry-eyed hopefuls. After a year and a half of trying, Gene gave up his dream of being an entertainer. Experiencing the disappointment of being turned down after an audition and then having to return to a one room motel and call it home, dictated a new reality for him.

That led Gene out of the entertainment business and ultimately he made himself employed in the areas of real estate and office equipment and supplies; but, he did continue to follow up on his singing career in his spare time.

Although he's a low-key sort by nature, the music is strong in Gene Van Buren. Gene is an amiable talker but he leaves you with the notion that he'd rather sing than talk anyway. Which is perfectly all right when you're singing like he is.



GENE VAN BUREN

In 1983, Gene released his first LP entitled *What's Your Pleasure*. He wrote it, produced it, and also does background vocals and plays piano on this album. He says ballads are his forte and thus, *Pleasure* sports some of the most gorgeous and seductive romance music you could ever imagine. There's music on the album that will take you to the dance floor, too, but even that is delivered in the cool, unhurried style that is sure to become Gene's trademark.

In a label that's as star-studded as the Motown family, it takes a special kind of artist to elicit the response that he got from them after sending them a demo tape that he prepared at home on a four-track recording machine.

It's already been established that Gene Van Buren's got the music in him; he gave up an entire lifestyle for that music and this time, there's no turning back. Gene Van Buren is here to stay.

Basie's "75th" On Channel 10 June 7



Bill "Count" Basie returned to Kansas City with his famous orchestra to celebrate his 75th birthday at a diamond jubilee concert at the Uptown Theater. Recorded on location, this 30-minute performance program includes musical segments from that concert as well as a special interview of Basie by Billy Taylor. This second program in the 4-part jazz series, *SWINGIN' THE BLUES*,

will be aired at 10:30 p.m. on June 7 by Channel 10.

Born in Red Bank, New Jersey, Basie has always considered Kansas City his musical home - He arrived in the late 20s with the Blue Devils band. It evolved into the Bennie Moten band, that evolved into the Count Basie Orchestra, which was headquartered at the Reno Club. It was there that Basie was nicknamed the "Count".

DELTA SIGMA THETA TO HOLD "GREEK PICNIC"

The public is cordially invited to join the Las Vegas Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., for the 2nd Annual "Greek Picnic", Saturday, June 4th, at Lyon's Park, Las Vegas Blvd., and Washington Streets, beginning at 12:00 noon.

Bring your own basket. Soft drinks will be furnished by Delta Sigma Theta.

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TAVARES

CASBAR RECORDING STARS - It's Saturday Night Fever reborn in the Casbar Theatre of the Sahara Hotel and Casino with recording artists Tavares starring in two shows nightly, Tuesday through Sunday, with all of their big hits, including "More Than A Woman" and "A Penny For Your Thoughts." Don't miss one of the hottest acts in the music business at 10 p.m. and 12 midnight in the Casbar.