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BILLIE ROWE'S NOTEBOOK

NYORK CITY: The accomplishments of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People is more than a matter of pride to this scribe. The fathers of the nation perhaps never believed that the utterance, "All men are created equal!" would ever become a point of argument. The founders of the NAACP are everlasting witnesses that it has. The waste and tragedy of a large segment of Americans, held in the vise-like grip of prejudice, would have been catastrophic without its ardent intercessory action. The valor of those who went beyond the political rhetoric and took on the monumental task of attempting to bring all of our citizens into the mainstream of life and economy, where really the brave. They gave all right thinking Americans a new sense of self confidence and an awareness of the great amount of work yet to be done. Through the mandate of law, our cultural and economic progress, in comparison to the dark lynch years leading into the early 19th century, has been on an upward track. This Afro-American member of the human race has achieved international distinction in a wide range of social, political, civic, religious and artistic arenas. The group's earning power has expanded beyond the \$175 billion mark. And America can take pride in its legal achievements:

Abolition of lynching . . . Supreme Court Decision May 17, '54 Ending Constitutional Segregation . . . Enactment of a series of Laws by Congress Banning Discrimination in Public Accommodations, Employment, Education, Administration of Justice and Housing . . . Restoration of Voting Rights to Southern Blacks . . . Affirmation of

the Rights of Blacks to serve on juries . . . Destruction on the despicable color bar in the Armed Forces of United States of America . . . Outlawing of Racial Discrimination in the Sale, Rental or Occupancy of Housing . . . Expansion of Black enrollment in Organized Labor . . . Organization of Black Entrepreneurs, particularly in the construction industry . . . Increasing Integration of Public Education . . . Recognition of Blacks' Political Power . . . Better training and enlarged horizon for Black youth.

The NAACP has been directly responsible for many of these gains and in a large measure contributed to the successful conclusion of all of them. The battle is far from over, but it is pausing time to tip the lid to those who have fought the silent revolution and died in the trenches. The gains have been significant, not just for Afro-Americans, but the nation totally which was founded on the paradox — the eligibility of the FREE.



Lena Horne

WRITE ON PEOPLE: The yr's end the lovely Lena Horne will add color to the 7th annual Kennedy Center Honors Dec. 2nd. Rounding out the annual event will be Danny Kaye, Gian Carlo Menotti, Arthur Miller and Isaac Stern. Selected for their distinguished artistic achievements and contributions to American culture, the honorees will be saluted at both the Kennedy Center and the White House . . . Many of the nation's Black Mayors are expected to join an international gathering

of heads of state for a round table confab in Liberia in mid-Dec. . . . The St. Louis Sentinel has snagged Ossie Davis to give the after dinner words for its annual "Yes I Can" event. Inspired by the



Ossie Davis

Sammy Davis, Jr.'s book of the same title, it salutes Afro-American achievers in St. Louis and is that city's most successful attention getter . . . "Shades of Harlem," set for a run at the Village Gate, is one of the few musicals which lean on the music of great Black composers like Duke Ellington, Fats Waller, Noble Sissle, and Eubie Blake. It's a down right dirty shame that there are not more of the works of these greats earing our way through the radio, the tube and the B'way stage. Somebody should produce a TV or radio salute to the one great American culture which happened to have been created by Afro-Americans . . . Al Freeman, Jr., going into his 15th yr as Capt. Ed Hall of the soap, "One Life to Live," must be doing okay. He's such a great fan of super soccer star Pele he paid the Esposito Foundation \$300 for a soccer ball with his autograph on it.

THE WRITE FOLKS: Gil Noble and spouse Jean will raise the bubbly in celebration of their 25th wed'anniversary in their Jamaica, W.I. retreat. Only daughter Leslie will share the reminiscing as the other four will be on work time. However, Cousin Dorothy Divins and her daughter the lawyer, Dana Divins Chippey will share the glow . . . A shilling dropper informed us that the FBI quietly arrested several Jesse Jackson stalkers during the Dem's doings in San

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