

Entertainment

BILLIE ROWE'S NOTEBOOK

A SAD TIME TO RECALL THE GOOD TIMES

For those whose memory has been blurred by time, and others who were not privileged to have known her, this listening post will disclose a few personal observations about Thelma Randolph Saunders who last week was entrenched into the bosom of mother earth. She had reached feminine maturity when we first met and was married to Luther "Red" Randolph, the then flamboyant saloon keeper. Since then they have divorced and have happily remarried. He is still, and her spouse, Arthur Saunders, passed away sometime ago to add to the later tragedies of her life. But that's another story. Thelma, and all her ilk, flourished in the days of wine and roses. She possessed life during a time of great expectation. Perhaps during the ebb and flow of a modern Harlem renaissance.

The sounds of Duke

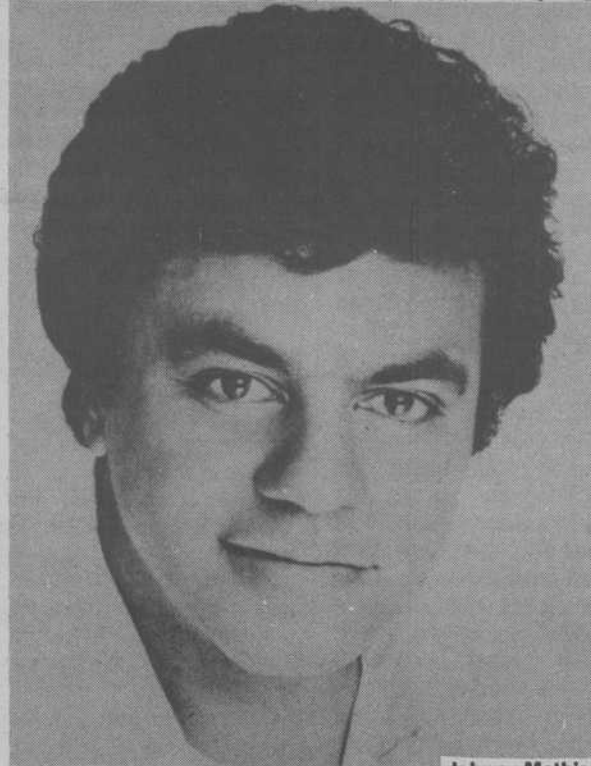
Ellington, Cab Calloway, Louie Armstrong, Count Basie, Teddy Hill, Louis Jordan, Don Redman, the Mills Bros., The Ink Spots, Billy Eckstine, Orlando Roberson and Billy Daniels along with Chick Webb and Jimmy Lunceford were all over the place. Happy feet were gliding across the polished floor of the Savoy Ballroom and the Lafayette Theatre, after years of being recognized as the flag ship of Afro-american vaudeville, was struggling to stave off the stiff competition of the Apollo Theatre. It was also the surge of the immortal Adam Clayton Powell, Jr. The time of Joe Louis, Ray Robinson, Henry Armstrong, Jackie Robinson and Roy Campanella. Also the emergence of Hulan Jack as N'York's initial Afro-Boro-President . . . STAY LOOSE . . . Billy Rowe is a syndicated columnist.

Johnny Mathis headlines at Caesars from November 13 through 25

Las Vegas, Nev -- Johnny Mathis returns to the spotlight in the Caesars Palace Circus Maximus Showroom Nov. 13-25. He headlines a double bill with comedienne Jeannine Burnier.

Originally set for only a one week engagement, Mathis agreed to stay an extra week when country singer Willie Nelson injured his back and had to cancel his appearance.

Mathis, whose singing career spans nearly three decades, continues to prove his durability as a performer by singing his early smash hits, including "Wonderful, Wonderful," "Chances Are," "It's Not for Me To Say" and "The Twelfth of Never," as well as some of his newer hits. His latest album, "Right From the Heart," combines Johnny's uptempo sound of the '80s in dance tunes like "Love Shock," "Touch By Touch" and "Falling in Love" with his trademark ballad style in "Just One Touch" and "I Need You."



Johnny Mathis

In spite of her years of television and on tour with Mathis, Jeannine Burnier still thinks of herself as primarily a housewife and mother who just happen to make her living in comedy. She was featured as the resident housewife on "The John Davidson Show" and, being a housewife and mother, she keeps her suede gloves on while pointing the finger of Household and Family Knowledge at audiences who are always delighted to see her.

On stage at Caesars' Palace, Mathis and Burnier will perform nightly cocktail shows at 10 p.m. The showroom is dark Nov. 19. For reservations phone the Caesars Palace Circus Maximus Showroom at 702/731-7333 or 800/445-4544 (outside Nevada, within the U.S.)

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