

Entertainment

BILLIE ROWE'S NOTEBOOK

Dottie & Buck West's Will To Living

N'YORK CITY — In mid July Dorothy Seamon West, the former Larry Steele chorus line center piece was the focus of a memorial service in that gambler's paradise men hewed out of a western desert and dubbed it Las Vegas. The happening resuscitated a headful of memories of this multi-dimensional human being. Historic facts of how she and her husband, the late Dr. Buck West, Nevada's first Black doctor, shared a life time commitment to establish a bastion against the bigotry of Las Vegas. In those early days of the dice capitol

read-back: So I quote: "Life at best is a terminal condition, so what matters most is how life is lived. Our Dottie's was the epitome of life fulfilled. This wonderful and radiant sunshine girl,



Dorothy West

with her great intellect and mind like a steel trap, was a joy to her family, her friends, her community and all who were blessed to have known her because she exuded the joy of living. A long time ago Buck and Dottie made the decision to will their bodies to medical science. The following is the philosophy which led to that decision. Their friends believed it governed their living.

WILL OF LIFE— "At a certain moment a doctor will determine that my brain has ceased to function and that, for all intents and purposes, my life has stopped. . .

When this happens, do not attempt to install artificial life into my body by the use of machine. And do not call this my 'deathbed.' Call it my 'bed of life,' and let my body be taken from it to help others lead fuller lives. . .

Give my sight to a man who never has seen a sunrise, a baby's face or love in the eyes of a woman. . . Give my heart to a person whose own heart has caused nothing but endless days of pain. . . Give my kidneys to one who depends on a machine to exist from week to week. . .

Take my bones, every muscle, every fiber and nerve in my body and find a way to make a crippled child walk. . . Explore every corner of my brain. Take my cells, if necessary, and let them grow so that someday a speechless boy will shout at the crack of a bat, and a deaf girl will hear the sound of rain against her window. . . If you must bury something, let it be my faults, my



Dr. Charles West

"colored" could work the strip, but could not gamble in the casinos, sleep or eat in its fancy hotels. So Buck and Dottie built accommodations befitting Count Basie, who had early on talked them into moving from Detroit to Vegas, Duke Ellington, who loved everybody madly, Dinah Washington, Sarah Vaughan and other Afro-American show figures whose talents were magnets to the hi-rollers who dropped the big bucks in the "sindens" as the late Adam Powell once referred to gambling and booze halls.

The fact that Dottie has ceased to sparkle within the broad circle of her friends has created a void. However the sharp sadness of the happening is dulled by the knowledge of how she lived, and how she passed the baton of that life at the end of the race. Alice Key, a long and loyal pal was "write" about her in a letter to me. Her words were seemingly recorded by the heart as they stimulated the deepest recesses of the soul on a

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New Program At the Planetarium

The multi-media experience "In the Deep Shadows of Space" opens at the Planetarium on July 30. The program peers into the darkest corners of space, exploring the universe not by studying light, but by poking into the shadows. "In the Deep Shadows of Space" discusses such varied topics as eclipses, nebulae and black holes. It explores the fundamental question of why the night sky is dark.

Performances of "Deep Shadows" are on Wednesday through Saturday at 3:30, 6:30 and 8 p.m. General admission is \$2. A discount is available for children, students, seniors, military and the handicapped with the presentation of appropriate ID. Reservations are recommended for groups of 10 or more (call 643-6060, ext. 326, weekdays from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.). Reservations will be held until ten (10) minutes prior to show time. All performances begin on time and there is no late seating. On clear evenings, a telescope will be available for viewing after the 8 p.m. performance. Current targets for the telescope include Venus, Saturn and Mars. The moon is also viewed when available.

The Planetarium is located at Clark County Community College in North Las Vegas at 3200 E. Cheyenne Avenue. From I-15, take Cheyenne Avenue east about one mile to the College. The

Big Band Music Celebrates Dance With Ballroom Boogie!

The great sounds of big band music will be dazzling ballroom dancers Sunday, August 3, when "Ballroom Boogie" begins upstairs at the Palace Station from 4 to 8 p.m.

As the home of big band music, the Palace Station has designed a program for dance lovers that will bring back memories of the Glenn Miller/Tommy Dorsey era of music. Featuring the fabulous Keith Hall Orchestra, whose great reputation for fine music has long been established in the Las Vegas area, there will be four hours of music, fun, antics, prizes and dance contests.

Master of ceremonies for this event will be entertainer Veva Foote, formerly of the "Lettermen" and the Riviera's "Search for Gold." Known as one of the most entertaining hosts in the business, Veva stated, "Ballroom Boogie has the chemistry that made ballroom dancing such a success years ago, great live big band music, prizes galore, some fun ballroom exhibitions from some of Las Vegas' best dancers, and people circulating throughout the evening to make sure everyone has a good time. We're giving this event the personal touch that

Planetarium is just inside the south entrance to the building. Use the parking lot closest to Cheyenne Avenue.

will leave the audiences waiting for the next one."

In addition to all of the fine music, the Palace Station will be giving away an abundance of great prizes including a trip for two to San Francisco, dinners at the Palace Station, "sing like a star" passes to the new PAR-O-DICE Recording Studios of America and much, much more. All you have to do is buy a ticket to "Ballroom Boogie" and you have a chance to win.

Admission to Ballroom Boogie is \$6.50 per person, and if the audience responds to this exciting dance program, the Palace Station may consider making this a regular event.

If you're into ballroom dancing, put Sunday, August 3, on your calendar, and come on down to the Palace Station for "Ballroom Boogie" with the fabulous Keith Hall Orchestra from 4 to 8 p.m.

**Don't Drink
and Drive**

Ella Fitzgerald hospitalized

NIAGARA FALLS, N.Y. — Singer Ella Fitzgerald was listed in fair condition Sunday after being admitted to a hospital suffering from congestive heart failure, a hospital official said.



Miss Fitzgerald, 68, was taken to Niagara Falls Medical Center after becoming ill Sunday morning in her hotel room, said hospital spokeswoman Annie Chapman.

A hospital official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said Miss Fitzgerald was diagnosed as having congestive heart failure and was expected to spend several days in the hospital.

Congestive heart failure occurs when the heart has been weakened and can no longer pump blood properly.

She was released from the hospital yesterday in good condition.

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