

BILLIE ROWE'S NOTEBOOK

No Raps Against Rapper's "Family Affair '86"

ATLANTA, Ga.--In the Recording and Radio music whirl "Jack (Gibson) The Rapper" is a legend. In this environment he is the publisher of the nat'l Mellow Yellow, the only Afro-American related trade record-radio newsletter. His prose is unique and his power is reflected and respected. In many quarters his opinions are oftentimes the catalyst for change. Just a wk'end ago, near August end, he celebrated the 10th anniversary of "Jack The Rapper's Family Affair" in what he has affectionately dubbed "Martin's Town." By way of explanation for the unhepped, that's Atlanta. The city that was scared into history by General William Tecumseh Sherman's burning trek to the sea. And in our time the immortal Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s freedom seekers march for justice and equality. And first Ma Maynard Jackson, and now Mayor Andrew Young's examples of how democracy was designed to work.

"Family Affair '86" was an extraordinary event. It was a magnate for more than a thousand Recording and

Radio craft members from every major city in the nation. Stars and star makers, including more than ninety-percent of the dominant Afro-American executives who are laced through so termed Black Radio/Black Music. There were many happenings to chewup the allotted four days. Like seminars about related recording and radio moves to keep abreast of changing times and new demands and the future of Afro-Americans in all phases of both industries. Then there were the ever present cocktail receptions, the Mello Yello luncheon and the optional black-tie original 13-Awards dinner show which ran into the morning. Then there were entertainers for days, even the Sunday service was more music than preaching, but good. However, "The Rapper's" finale for his four days event was typical. It was the "fairytale wedding" of Martha Thomas, MCA Records and A & M Records' Keith Frye. Their vows were exchanged in a double ring ceremony in a flowers-bedecked balloon covered ceiling of a ballroom filled with the solo sounds of

Tramine plus the mixed aroma of a sumptuous buffet luncheon. Next write around will tell you some of the folks we encountered other than Ed Castleberry, Ed Fizer and Sparkie Martin, who's gungho about his new wax deal for the Main Ingredient.

WRITE NEWS:--Mayor Sharpe James', Newark's new Chief Executive, first power play got cutoff at the legal pass. His court bid to have former Mayor Kenneth Gibson's appointment of Ralph McNeal to the board of commissioners of the Newark Housing Authority ruled invalid was tossed out. McNeal is pres. of North Street Capitol Corp., A venture Capital investment subsidiary of Gen. Foods...Minister Farrakhan's crews were very visible on the convention routes seeking distributors for his new "Clean N' Fresh products Backed by Power." They were touting five body conditioners at "The Rapper's Family Affair '86."...The EDGES Group has got a lineup for its 14th annual luncheon Oct. 15th you wouldn't believe possible. How about Lena Horne for starters, plus three more black busters whose names will appear here in due time. Aubrey C. Lewis, corporate veep, F.W. Woolworth, is luncheon chair-person...You can wager the folks are back when their greeting cards hit the mahogany. By the time Pelah Cobbs' "Aloha" number was in from Hawaii, she had packed her duffle and was off for the Virgin Islands...Lee, Ina and Diane Archer was giving out personal interviews to American mag. when theirs to say "Achtung" arrived from Berlin, where they went with Herb Wright to celebrate the golden anniversary of Jesse Owens' golden Olympic feat...Felicia Bentine has skipped the Carl Byoir P.R. firm for an upgraded position, ass't P.R. mgr. at WOR-TV, the 9-button press on your set...The City Hall tribute to Dave Winfield a Monday ago could not have happened to a nicer person at a better time

in his career.

ATLANTA TIPS:--Julian Bond is expected to win the very close race for Congress. Talk is that his once close buddy John Lewis has turned nasty and is name calling. They say he won a run-off with the white vote, but with Bond getting two to one from the Black community, the run off is his. They say the White folks won't go back to the polls for that encounter...The belief is also that Martin Luther King 111 will most likely beat his Republican challenger for a seat on the Fulton Bd of Commissioners...The Commodores will hit Africa on their 5-nation tour in October, but will not set foot in South Africa. However, they will perform in Kenya, Swaziland's 20th Independence Music Festival in Mbabane and give two concerts in Maseru, the capital of Lesotho.

WRITE WORTHY:--Topping the agenda of Tuskegee Airmen Inc., 15th annual confab in Fla. was, what they termed, "A long-overdue tribute to the nation's Black newspapers, the NAACP, the Nat'l Urban League, and others in the vanguard of the battle that shot down the color barrier in military aviation."...30-Harlem kids are just waiting to become of age to become policy-holders of the United Mutual Life Insurance Co. As is his annual custom Arthur White, United's Prexy/CEO, gave them hard to come-by tickets for the '86 U.S. Tennis Open held at the Louis Armstrong Stadium...Lovely Lonette McKee is having the time of her career emoting as the legendary Billie Holiday. This, her second time to do so, is in the lead role of the Lonie Robertson play, "Lady Day" Andre Ernot directed the opus, which started a run at the Westside Arts Theatre on the far-side of W. 43rd. St...If you're missing Ray Charles' face places, he's down Rio de Janeiro way for the second edition of the free jazz festival in San Paulo and Rio. Stanley Jordan, Wynton Marsallis and the Dirty Dozen Brass Band are among those making with the clean

"The Black Valentino"

Lorenzo Tucker Dies

By Dick Campbell

Lorenzo Tucker, pioneer movie actor of the twenties and thirties in the Oscar Michaux Black Films of that

Tucker was known as "The Black Valentino" during the same period when Rudolph Valentino was the rage of Hollywood. He made more than fifteen films and short pictures under Black film producer, Oscar Michaux, whose films were nothing like the Hollywood versions of Black people. Michaux wrote, produced and directed his own films which dealt with real life versions of Black life.

Tucker also appeared on Broadway in a number of productions, on one occasion with the late Mae West, in her production of "The Constant Sinner" in 1931. The story goes that when the show played Washington, D.C., a scene in which Tucker was to kiss Mae West was ordered cut. Instead, Ms. West closed the show.

Tucker was married four times. Three of his former wives are deceased, and his current wife, Paulina Segura of the Philippines, survives him. They lived at 1737 N. Las Palmas Avenue, Hollywood, California 90028.

Services took place on Friday, August 22, in Los Angeles.



era, died Tuesday, August 19th, in Hollywood, California, where he had lived for the past five years. He was 80.

March of Dimes to Conduct Henderson Hold Up

The March of Dimes will conduct the Henderson Hold Up on September 23-24, 1986 at Morrill Park in Henderson.

Local businessmen and celebrities will be held up for one hour while they try to

sounds...Lookout Record world. For the first time in "can music" history, cassette sales have surpassed that of disks in England...Jeanne Wright, prexy, and the other slate of elected officers, the Metro. Chapter of Media Women, were sworn into positions by Manhattan Boro/Prexy David Dinkins. The ladies of means took their oath of office in the Black Fashion Museum, founder by Lois Alexander...Zakia Records made a big noise about its acquisition of the Main Ingredient and their reunion. If your folks didn't chat with you about the birds and the bees, you could find it shocking to ear an eyevue of Whoopi Goldberg's/B'way show on Home Box. Some of her language could add words to a sailor's dictionary...STAY LOOSE... BILLY ROWE is a syndicated columnist.

raise the bail set by a kangaroo court, for the benefit of the March of Dimes Birth Defects Foundation.

Friends, neighbors, co-workers, club members and family members will arrange to have members of the Henderson community held-up for one hour, all in fun!

If you would like to hold someone up for one hour on Tuesday or Wednesday please call the March of Dimes office at 734-1232.

Community School Registration Begins Sept. 2

The Robison Community School will be taking registration for its Fall session of classes and activities. Registration begins September 2 and continues through September 12, 1986. Registration times are 3:00 to 9:00 p.m. Monday thru Friday at the community school, 825 Marion Drive. Classes include CPR, Karate, Women's Self-Defense, Judo, Tennis, Gymnastics, Aerobics, Cheerleading, Ballet and Country/Western Dance. For further information and a class brochure, please call 459-0201.

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