

Entertainment

BILLIE ROWE'S NOTEBOOK

Don Newcombe' "Spitter Amazed Willie Mays"

BRIAR CLIFF, N.Y. — In the twilight of his brilliant baseball career Don Newcombe revealed that he oft-imes resorted to the "Spit-ball." With the encroachment of age he used this mound banned pitch to strike out Willie Mays and other long ball knockers of the league. A celebrity leader of a four-some playing in the annual "Say Hey Willie Mays" foundation golf tournament, the Don exuded happiness in his

marital bliss. Looking in the pink, he appeared ready to toss an inning or few without relief. Continued on the payroll of the L.A. Dodgers' front office, he is also on the mound for the federal government in a national drive to strike out dope addiction. His contract in this capacity expires this year. However there's no better person in the bullpen so Uncle had better keep the Don pitching for him. When put in a proper

thought perspective racism, illiteracy, frustrated ambitions, coupled with countless other dead ends are the un-cozy bedfellows of dope addiction. These should be among the main targets of the declared war against this scourge of humanity.

IT'S NEWS: — That nary an Afro-American seems to be listed on the 2½ pages of sixty Single Engagement Leader/Employers of Local 802. AFM-AFL-CIO Collective Bargaining Agreement between Single Engagement Club Date Employers manual 4/15/87 thru 4/14/90 . . . William Byrd, the energetic exec. director of the 131 St. Block Ass'n, could finally

afford the coin dropped to announce that the group is in line for State funds to set up its Central Harlem substance abuse program in motion. Stateside entrepreneurs are sleeping less trying to come to grips with the news that Eugene Jackson and John Johnson had a head to header recently in Paris. The wonder is what international dealy they may have pulled to the front burner . . . Naomi Gay, who added glamour to the Cotton club back when, put on the big pots and cooked up a stew of nat'l and international palatable cuisine. The hot pots and door to door guests were combined to celebrate the b'day of daughter June and her return from a vacation in Hawaii. The Dizzy Gillespies remembered and sent appropriate Hallmarks. Zeke Gordon was rewarded with kisses reserved for a good Samaritan when he loaned Leslie Gaskin his wheels. She locked the keys in hers and had to hit the hi'way to N'Rochelle to retrieve the extras. Edna Mae Holly Robinson was really on the scene, aweing time with her perpetual look of youth. She's breathing easier having at last completed the book on her years with the original Sugar Ray Robinson.

MARQUEE LINES: — Whoopie Goldberg said she gave MGM producers of "Fatal Beauty" her ugly girl price to replace Cher in the lead role. She asked for, and will get, \$2.25 million to emote opposite Sam Elliot . . . Whitney Houston, Bruce Springsteen and Madonna will combine voices on a Xmas album. Proceeds will benefit the Eunice Kennedy Shriver founded Special Olympics. Gordon Parks, the total genius, is a finalist to receive a development and research grant for a five part classical ballet based on the life of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Parks is one of fourteen on the funding list of the Corporation for Public B'casting . . . A Gregory Hines one hour tap dance special is also among the finalists for funding. He will star in this one hour Salute to the Masters who created the tap art form like Bill Robinson, John W. Bubbles, Honi Coles and Bill Bailey among others . . . With all its problems, Vinnette Carroll has reasons to be happy in Fla. Taking a writer's liberty with one of

her upscheduled plays, "She's laughing though she isn't being tickled." After almost 10-yrs attempting to establish a multi-racial theatre in the Miami-Fort Lauderdale area fate and a \$100,000 state grant have fulfilled the dream . . . Freda Adams was the lucky one when with Evelyn Holt and Dorothy Divins she joined the Atlantic City slot machine queens. The ladies may just change their habits if as planned the hotels change the quarter cash giveaway to tokens that are only good in the slots.

THE NEWS ROWE: — Would you believe Hollywood is talking big screen treatment for "Fences," the August Wilson triple award winning B'-way hit, but without James Earl Jones who made it all happen. If they do they may end up with a picket fence . . . The beaches of Bangkok must surpass lovely. On a side trip from China to Israel and Paris Jim Cuffe and his lovely, Rayna ended there in the sand for a short stopover and had trouble leaving the scene. The Cuffe clan is

slated for ancestral honors in Chgo this month . . . "Mandela," the HBO flick, is an insight into the world's most dramatic human struggle. Starring Danny Glover in the same role and Emmy Award winning actress Alfre Woodard as the wife who "married a struggle, not a man," all advance words are that the film bares the soul of South Africa's anti-apartheid movement. In short "Mandela" captures the evolution of the political struggle of native Africans to exercise their birthrights as a means of eliminating the wrongs inflicted on their native land by invaders who refuse to acknowledge them. Check your TeeVee listing for date and time. This is one you would not want to miss . . . Central State University's Metro chapter chocked a week full of activities in celebration of the institute's 100-b'day. With the annual Whitney M. Young Memorial gridiron classic on the town it was like old home wk. for loads of students. . . STAY LOOSE . . . Billy Rowe is a syndicated columnist.

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SAX APPEAL — George Butts, who currently performs nightly (except Wednesdays) in the Atrium Lounge of the Tropicana Resort and Casino, keeps the crowds shouting for more of his musical magic.