

BILLIE ROWE'S NOTEBOOK

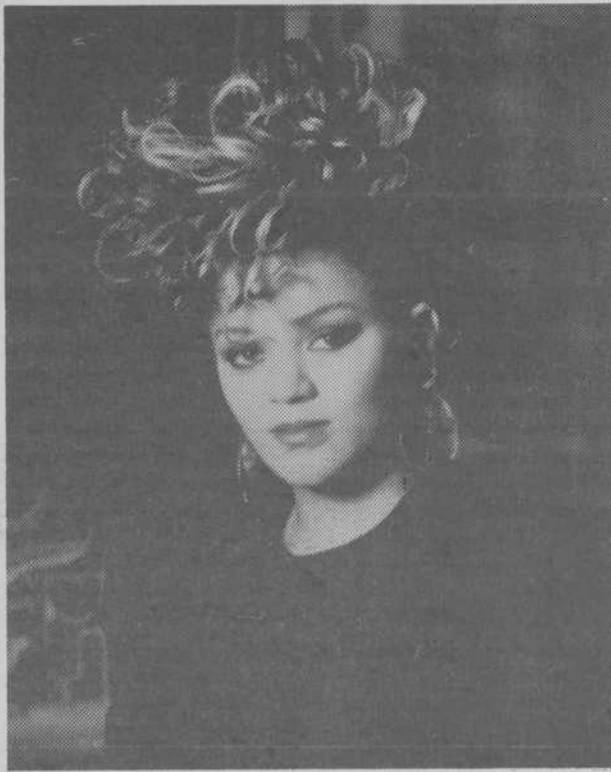
SO LONG AND FAREWELL TO OLD FRIENDS

N'YORK CITY:—The memorial service for Osborne "Buddy" Walker was a heartwarming gathering of old friends. They filled all the pews of St Peters Church in the core of teh "Big Apple." There was nary a dry eye in the place when his nephew, Kent Drake sang "My Mirror," composed by the deceased. "My Funny Valentine" and "My Buddy." Comm. Billie Holiday presided. Roberta McClain ended the program in a heartwarming manner for the Scalawags. Among the long time see were Joe "Horse" Steele, Teenie and Mae Garner, Ruby Dallas Young, Marjorie Rochester, Chris Connor, Edna Chisholm, Muriel Kellogg, GOrdon Parks, Tommy Day, Mildred Laster, Jane Day and this corner's favorite Evelyns, Holt and Cunningham. A Buddy Walker Scholarship Fund has been established as a continuing memorial to the deceased's dedication to young "wind instrument" players. The Harlem School of the Arts, where Buddy taught, will administer it. . . . Another sadness this early into '88 was the passing of my favorite coin dropper, Beulah Bryant. She suffered a fatal heart attack as a patient in the Byrd S. Coler Hosp. It took another coin dropper several days after her Feb. 4th funeral in Jersey to inform this corner. The former performer is survived by her son, Otis Bryant, Jr., a sister, Bessie Mayers of San Francisco and two grandchildren also in California.

GOSSIPY LINES:—What is this talk that astute filmmaker Spike Lee is not responsive to requests from his former classmates, nor others from historic Black Colleges which seek his aid or the opportunity to award his success. . . . Don't ask this one if the Associated Black Charities has hired a white praise agent firm. . . . The W'chester Black Women's Political Caucus selected Mayor Carrie Saxon-Perry of Hartford, Conn. to honor during Albany's Black and Puerto Rican Legislative annual wk'end. . . . On the suburban scene the Foundation of the W'chester Clubmen got County Exec. Andrew O'Rourke to proclaim a "Gordon Parks Day" to mark the conferring on him an honorary membership.

The org's annual bread breaking will be held in the Manhattanville College environs honoring the all-around genius. . . . My household was that pleased eyeing/earing Bever-Leigh Banfield co-starring as "Gina Westland" on TeeVee's hit series, "L'A Law." She's Leo & Theresa Banfield's daughter. . . . We are not at all proud of Joe Louis Barrow II. The 20 yrs old adopted son of the immortal heavyweight is on the wrong side of the law after pleading guilty to falsely claiming that his adopted brother, Anthony Dixon Louis was kidnapped and the asking ransom was \$250,000. The claim made to the FBI could bring him six yrs in jail and a fine of \$250,000. . . . It is too bad that "The Man Who Cook" has hit the front burner to become a steaming issue. The hope is that the Children's Art Center, whose needs inspired the happening as a fund raiser will not be the one burned. Their benefit, "Gourmet Gents," has been scheduled for April at the International House. . . . Stan Scott will be the next corporate executive to make entrepreneur's headlines. The only 'sorry' regret is that it will be N'York's Isot and New Orleans' gain.

NEWS BREAK:—Billy Daniels called on some of that "Old Black Magic" and is on the mend list after cardiac surgery. . . . "Buck Clayton's Jazz World" is on the book shelves. Nancy Miller Elliott enhanced the paragraphs of the legendary trumpeteer "write" back into 75 tuneful years. . . . Mrs. Edgar Bronfman, Jr. chairs the 15th, annual Nat'l League's posh plaza party. An influent committee includes Senator Daniel Mohnihan, Bryant Gumbel's lady, Robert Flack, Valerie Simpson and Amb. John Loeb, Jr. The black tie feast is ticketed at \$300 per seat and there will be no room to stand. . . . The Neilsen counters informed that 108,000,000 sets of eyes watched Doug Williams and his Redskins lasso the Broncos like they were tame and lame during Super Bowl XXII. . . . Praise agent Lem Wells has nominated him to receive the Urban League's '88 Whitney Young Award. When a Grambling star he did play in that mighty man's memorial classic. . . . Marita Rogers



Stacy Lattisaw

hosted a bridal shower for her sister, Marian, attracted a host of her late parents, Raymond and Marion, friends to their posh Eastside apt overlooking the East River. . . . It had to happen. Telecom Entertainment has bought the rights from those close to the N.Y. racial turmoil. Natch they plan to keep the wounds bleeding with a two hour movie for TeeVee. The opus will be based on the Jack Newfield Village Voice article "Making the cae for murder."

POTPOURRI:—James Weldon Johnson makes an impressive figure on a 22-cents commemorative postage stamp. It has been called to my attention that a few bars of his composition, "Lift ev'ry voice and sing," five words of the lyrics, and two bars of its melody are missing. Guess you can squeeze only so much on a postage stamp. . . . Presidential candidate, Veep George Bush, has announced his intentions to donate half of the proceeds generated by his autobio, "Looking Forward," to the United Negro College Fund. . . . Armed by the "public access concept of the FCC and a clause in the city charter agreement, the KKK is knocking at the doors of Cinncy's cable co., seeking equal time to spread its hate doctrine. . . . Martha G.laser, long time mgr of the late Erroll Garner, put the best words together discussing "The Erroll Garner Collection II." "The music and playing of Erroll Garner have remained vital and ever-present since he first came on the scene in the 1940's. His infectious wit, dazzling speed, bubbling energy and joyous goodwill have inspired and influenced musicians

and fans throughout the world." . . . Speaking for herself a grown up Stacy Lattisaw calls "Personal Attention," her second album for Motown, the best she has ever done. . . . Two film oldies, Don Ameche adn Ralph Bellamy will add acting experience to Eddie Murphy's upscheduled flick. . . . "60 Minutes" Ed Bradley has been tapped to guest-speak at Philly's Spectrum's initial Scholastic Forum comes March. . . . The Dance Theatre of Harlem has a March date at the Kennedy Center. Alvin Ailey Dance Theatre follows in May to grace the same stage. . . . Billy Dee Williams, Lynne Thigpen, Roscoe Orman, Byron Keith Minns and Vince Williams have taken nothing from this August Wilson Pulitzer Prize winning top dramatic hit "Fences," which captured B'way last season. It is produced by Carole Shorenstein and directed by that Yale genius of the footlight, Lloyd Richards. . . . STAY LOOSE. . . . BILLY ROWE IS A SYNDICATED COLUMNIST.

LAWS

From Page 8

when his twelve-year-old daughter Michele sings background on the exquisite ballad, "Still." Says Ronnie, "I loved having my daughter sing. It was exciting for both of us."

Before you get unduly alarmed, rest assured that the signature Laws sax sound abounds on *All Day Rhythm*. Tunes like "Smokehouse," "Nite Life," and "Homedance" all display Ronnie's imprimatur as one

BLUES ELDERS HONORED IN CHICAGO

CHICAGO, Illinois, February 12, 1988—In celebration of Black History Month, Chicago blues elders were saluted by Kraft, Inc. and DuSable Museum of African American History at the Chicago Blues Legacy Awards held recently in Chicago at DuSable Museum.

James "Jimmy" Walker, and Theresa Needham who showcased the blues in Chicago for over 30 years at the legendary Theresa's Lounge.

The audience at the awards ceremony also was treated to a performance by blues guitarist Shines and an impromptu jam session by



Blues guitarist Johnny Shines (left) received an award from Eric Strobel, president of the Grocery Products Group for Kraft. The program kicked off "Blues Live, Blues Film," an eight-week series of vintage film and live blues performances also sponsored by Kraft.

Eleven blues artists who have significantly contributed to the Chicago blues tradition received awards from Eric Strobel, president of the Grocery Products Group for Kraft. Honored blues artists include: David "Honeyboy" Edwards, John "Homesick" James" Williamson, Floyd Jones, Emery "Detroit Jr." Williams Jr., Joe Willie "Pinetop" Perkins, Johnny Shines, Albert "Sunnyland Slim" Luandrew, Otis "Smokey" Smothers, Cora "Koko Taylor" Walton,

several of the honorees. The program kicked off "Blues Live, Blues Film," an eight-week series of vintage film and live blues performances also sponsored by Kraft.

and Debra are both professional singers. Growing up in Houston, Ronnie was encouraged to find his own musical voice. He first picked up the sax at age 12 and began lessons shortly thereafter. In high school he befriended future members of the Crusaders, and together they dreamed of musical careers.

After college, Ronnie moved to L.A. where he got his first big break, becoming a member of Earth, Wind & Fire, an association that lasted a year-and-a-half. To this day, Ronnie remains friends with the band, and former EWF group member Larry Dunn co-produced Ronnie's 1986 Columbia debut LP, *Mirror Town*.

Ronnie's dream of becoming a solo artist was realized with the release of *Pressure Sensitive* in 1976. He was hailed as a pioneer in the field of fusion, and over the

See LAWS, Page 13