

Entertainment

BILLIE ROWE'S NOTEBOOK

\$20,000 THANKS FOR JOBS WELL DONE

BROOKLYN, N.Y.:—In the 18th century Captain Paul Cuffe, son of an exslave and father of ten, became an exception to the rule of his time, a millionaire. A merchant mariner and owner of ships he opened trade lanes between Africa, the United States, Great Britain and other European countries. He later became the "father" of the Liberian movement and its subsequent assimilation with that nation. Before his time slaves were the major imports of the white dominated civilized world. James Cuffe is a direct descendant of this heroic seaman who made it when the land of the free was the bastion of slavery. Though a landlubber he has followed the path of his distinguished foreparent. A world class entrepreneur, at

home and abroad, his land holdings are extensive from Atlantic City to Africa. Last week he gathered friends to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the Plaza North Motor Inn, one of his several holdings in this Borough. In the spirit of the times and the success of the venture, he rewarded the loyalties and dedications of some employees and the retirement of others. In simple terms, when it was done the bottom line was \$20,000 in cash and expenses paid vacations for jobs well done. On the retirement list were Mary James, Ozell Morgon, Mary Lett, Ruby Senior, James O'Brian and Sarge Trawick. Also singled out for their years of dedicated honesty and loyalty were Jean and Hazel Williams, Bertha Madison, Francis Cheng, Carol Jaentshkie, Virginia Kinslo

and Barbara Tarry who will have wrapped-up 25 yrs. in early '89. FLora McLaren, general manager and comptroller, and Mrs. Renya Cuffe made the presentations.

NEWS & VIEWS:—Michael Jackson is having a devil of a battle with an acute upper respiratory infection. It forced him to knock out several sold-out dates. Our W'Coast coin depositor informed the dates may not be rescheduled until late in '89. The throat ailment has those close to the spotlight phenom close to panic... Grambling students are racing to new academic goals beyond the uprights. The proud announcement is that its dominant Black student body has moved from a low 10% of its students passing Louisiana's teachers-certification exams in '70 to almost 100 percent now!... The Harlem Globetrotters are going to literally be slam dunking in your bedroom. Fries Home Video is preparing "Harlem Globe-

trotters' 6-Decades of Magic," to fit that desire. Lou Gossett will host to call the shots... Though the pews were packed, forcing standing room only, this scribe was disappointed that too many who should have been were not at Barney Josephson's memorial services... After 25 yrs it's really no gamble. However Napoleon Holmes, just re-elected N'Rochelle Branch NAACP prexy, and his spouse are polishing their silver ann'y in Las Vegas... Cab Calloway arranged his tour of Japan for just 5 days to insure a return home in time for his annual Christmas birthday party. He will be 81 looking and acting not a day beyond fifty.

NEW NOTES:—Stan Scott, America's latest beer baron, imported his closest pals to N'Orleans over the Thanksgiving holiday to eye his recently acquired Miller suds franchise... The pride is in the Eric Eller household. The Bank of N'York has added assistant vice prez, loan dept., to his name plate... If you needed coat pulling as to what holidays are near check the mail for the announcement of the Comus annual formal and Lena Rogers and Patrick's invite to their annual "Hangover" head corrector... Pepsi and Arby's eatery have teamed to present Baseball Hall of Fame legend Hank Aaron in a series of TV-Radio commercials. The Feb. '89 campaign is pegged to raise dollars for the Big Brothers and Sisters of America... Theatreworks/USA has posted a help wanted sign to fill a multi-racial cast for a presentation of "Freedom Train." Harriet Tubman who made history on the underground railroad is the center figure of this dramatic saga. It's set to tour Jan./May '89.

MARQUEE LINES:—It's quite a break for the so dubbed "inner cities." "Ma Rainey's Black Bottom" has been repackaged for an 8-month 50-cities tour of those areas. The drama is out of the genius of award winning playwright August Wilson whose "Fences," two seasons ago captured the big trio, The Pulitzer Prize, the Tony and the Drama Desk awards. For its run on B'way "Black Bottom" came close during "Tony" evaluations time, but missed the call notwithstanding that Theresa Mer-



RICHARD GROOVE HOLMES

Once in awhile, someone exceptional will appear to perform for a very informed audience. That someone is one of the best jazz organists in the world, RICHARD GROOVE HOLMES.

The lines are long at the Four Queens Showroom, and there is an uneasy quiet in the arena. ALAN GRANT enters Center Stage and makes the introduction: "Ladies and Gentlemen, Richard Groove Holmes."

A large figure appears, sits down at the Hammond B-3 Organ. The drums and guitar are primed like quarter horses at the starting gate, then the entire room is embellished with a driving forceful blues sound.

Groove Holmes is perhaps

the organist with the best bass lines in the world. He has perfected the pedal stops, coupled with the draw bar settings to enhance the richness of the B-3 organ sound.

It was once stated, "The sound is in the WOOD," but Richard Groove Holmes is an exception to that rule. One tune that comes to mind is the now classical arrangement of "Misty." The introduction to the tune is free formed, and fluidly transcends into a nice upbeat groove. This concert puts the spectator into a hypnotic state. Overall, it was a well received show full of standards, blues and funk.

In a minute...
... Gene Redden ...

GEORGE HOLMES' INK SPOTS AT FOUR QUEENS'

George Holmes' Ink Spots will be performing in the French Quarter at the fabulous Four Queens Hotel & Casino Dec. 13 through 25. It is memorable history that when their loving tune, "If I Didn't Care" became an instant hit in 1938, the Ink Spots were gaining fame and fortune throughout the country and abroad. Wherever they appeared, the Ink Spots won over and delighted their receptive audiences.

Dedicated to preserving the wonderful songs of the Ink Spots and continuing their inimitable sound, Holmes, leader and bass player, has spent the greater part of his life capturing audiences.

Join them in the French Quarter at the fabulous Four Queens Hotel & Casino. Performance times are 9:00 p.m. and 11:00 p.m. with special shows on Friday and Saturday at 12:30 a.m.

For more information phone 385-4011.

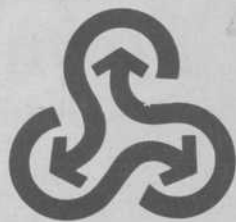
Henry LeTang, Fayard Nicholas and Frankie Manning... STAY LOOSE... Billy Rowe is a syndicated columnist.

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