

Entertainment

BILLIE ROWE'S NOTEBOOK

"ROYAL" EVENT MEMORIALIZED SUGAR RAY IN STYLE.

HARLEM, U.S. — No member of Sugar Ray Robinson's generation will ever forget this dandy of the squared circles. His boxing skills and day in community involvement was of unmatched quality. He added a sweetness to the lives of all of us in his root territory. The community and an array of outsiders said goodbye to him a Sunday ago in the environment from which he launched his crusade for immortality in the season of his youth. In reality the tribute was a "Royal" celebration. It revived days of our youth even if only in memory, a light hearted Harlem of another time with its sorrows submerged by the happiness of the moment as high praise colored the ugliness of dank places created by abandoned houses, uncollected garbage, littered streets and dogs in growling competition with the homeless for food. Other folks, mainly residents, acted their best and dressed in their best "Sunday go to meeting" togs. The Copasetics were even resplendent in their black ties and tuxes. Little girls toyed with little dressed up boys who perhaps had been informed that Sugar Ray, core magnet of this celebration of his life, was always "clean" and sharp as a straight edged razor and this was his day so let not a child or an adult soil it.

"Write at this junction this scribe recruited Luther "Red" Randolph to paragraph a "write" down as to how it all came about. The next words will be his to the very end.

"The champ's memorial was strictly a community affair. Rev. Robert Royal, of St. Paul's Baptist Church, was the brain father of the idea. Appointed chairperson, he accepted along with Fannye Pierre, the drafted keeper of the funds, which were none. The good Rev. dropped coins on Vivian Brown, Tondelayo, "Horse" Steele, Mike Headley, Herb Wright, who in turn dialed this guest scribe, Paul Chapman, Raliegth Bell, Ed Miller, Coley Wallace, Chester Trumbo, Honi Coles, Juliette Coleman. The first meeting attracted six members to a round table at 22 West in mid-April. That gave the body six wks to come up with an agenda and inform the proper people. However, each week the numbers grew. So we moved from 22-West round table to larger quarters in its Zodiac Room. The committee kept getting larger and larger. The Rev. Dr. Grissom became concerned, so he opened his Salem Methodist Church, from which Sugar Ray launched his crusade to glory through the Salem Church boxing club. With no cash to guide the desire for a lasting tribute to Sugar Ray, it was heart-warming to receive the necessary financial support of the business community to fulfill the grandiose "Royal" plan. The street banners, an official day in Ray's name and a medal marker affixed to the spot his famous bar and grill stood in the heyday of his and Harlem's glory. Let the word go out that generous donors made all the proper moves. Paul Chapman, Chester Trumbo, Janet David, Calvin Copeland, The Two Sisters, Juliette Coleman, James Jones, Benta's, Vivian Smalls, Al Howard, Neil Lawrence and the Weldon family, who donated the stone that will mark the area, Sugar Ray's Corner, which has been so designated by a bill put through the legal avenues by Councilman Hilton Clark. The Boro/Prez, David Dinkins, who should be mayor,

declared the period Ray Robinson Day and Pres Bush dispatched greetings through Ed Miller, who pulled his jacket. Billy Rowe, who has generously loaned me this space, made one of his inimitable speeches behind words from Roger Simon, Elaine Parker for Council prexy Andrew Stein. Rev. Dino Woodward, Honi Coles, Rev Grissom and the Rev. Royal, the spirit of the occasion, added word pictures of a gone but unforgettable human being, of whom BR wrote, "added sweetness to all of the lives of those who were fortunate to have known him in victory and seldom defeat."...THANKS FOR THE SPACE, OLD BUDDY, AND STAY LOOSE."

DID YOU KNOW: That the '88-'89 Broadway season, which began Monday, May 30, 1988, and ended Sunday, May 28, 1989, set a new box-office record for the second consecutive year with \$262-million in ticket sales, up 4 % from \$253-million last season. Percent of total capacity rose a notch to 77% from 76%. Broadway attendance continued to be strong with 8.0-million tickets sold. Over the last three seasons, attendance had been 8.1-million, 7.0-million and 6.6-million, respectively. There were a total of 1,097 playing weeks, compared with 1,116, 1,038 and 1,145 the three prior seasons. The average paid admission was \$33.90, up 6% from \$31.10 last season, which in turn increased 4% from \$29.86 the prior year. Most of this season's increase was attributable to the large number of musicals playing to virtual capacity at full-price, rather than to actual increases in the ticket price. Box-office receipts for Broadway touring shows in the United States and Canada soared to a new record of \$255-million, a 14% increase from \$223-million last season. (The prior record was \$250-million, set in 1981-82.) There

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1989 BUDWEISER SUPERFEST CELEBRATES TEN YEARS OF MUSIC WITH PREMIERE STARS

ST. LOUIS -- Guy, New Edition and Patti LaBelle are just a few of the nation's hottest rhythm and blues artists scheduled to perform in the 10th anniversary of the Budweiser Superfest, a sizzling 14-city tour that was launched June 14 at RFK Stadium in Washington, D.C.

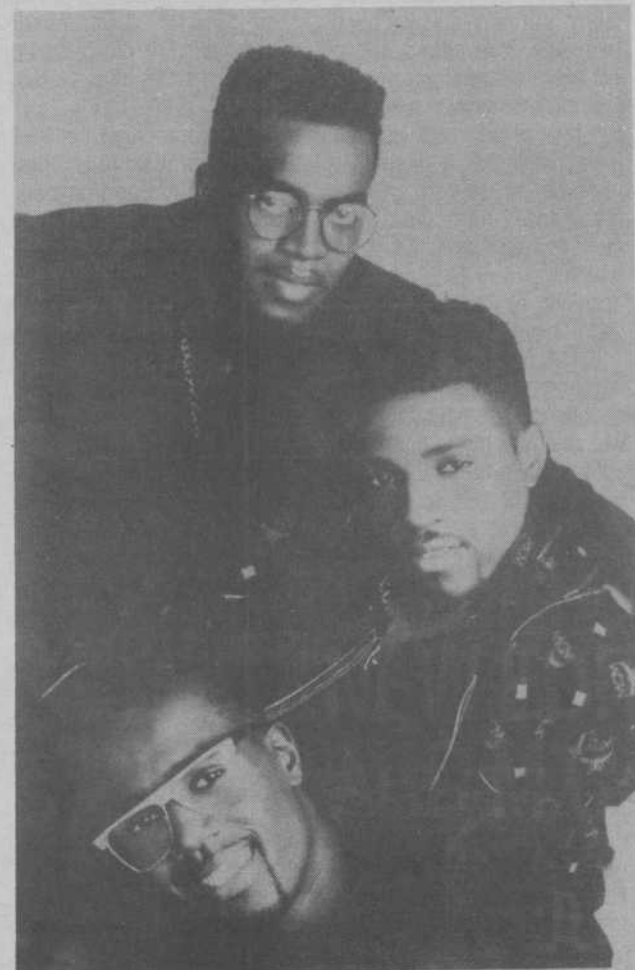
Other artists scheduled to appear on the tour include Bobby Brown, Karyn White, Kool Moe Dee, LeVert, M.C. Hammer, Stephanie Mills, The O'Jays, The Whispers, Midnight Star and Rob Base & DJ E-Z Rock.

Since the first Superfest was held in 1980 -- when it played only two cities -- the concert has grown to become the largest rhythm and blues event of its kind in the United States, and this year will include five major stadium events.

Once again, the 1989 Budweiser Superfest will feature a revolving stage, which permits one group to break down or set up while another is performing, thus reducing "down time" between acts.

"The Budweiser Superfest has grown from just a couple of dates to a national tour that hundreds of thousands

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Guy

DAMIEN HALL
AARON HALL

TEDDY RILEY