

Entertainment



Billy Rowe's Notebook

SOME FELLA, THIS MAN DUBBED "HOSS"

HARLEM, NY:—This fella, Joseph Steele, a man dubbed "hoss", was quite a guy. The memorial service marking his September 28, 1990, passing filled the pews of the historic Abyssinian Baptist Church. In his own time "Hoss" was an integral part of the legend and magnetism of Harlem. It was then the world class entertainment center of the rich, the famous and the crowned heads from throughout the world. Chivalrous, and at times as gal-

lant as one should be, still, at times, there was a daredevil daring that gave the impression that he was what he wasn't. Nevertheless, in his and our time, this fella called "Hoss" rode to glory as a part of the Harlem heritage. Though he served his community in various capacities, only a few of its people were aware of his grand range of activities in its behalf. It was news to a large number that he was a pioneer basketball athlete. Or

that he was captain of the famous New York original Collegiate, a team with a 102 game winning streak record in 1928. This feat alone placed the team on the polished floors of Madison Square Garden and was the first "Colored" team so honored. Upon retiring, "Hoss" devoted his time to encouraging young athletes and was accepted as a friend and advisor for members of the craft. A staunch patron of Harlem's Block Associations he is credited with neutralizing the hostility in many a teenager whom otherwise would have become targets of the rogues of the streets. At this junction he became interested in politics and hooked up with the late Harlem political leader Jim Pemberton. At the same time he became a stock holder in the Joe Louis Punch soda company. It, of course, was short lived. About the same time he became a licensed real estate salesman, but he abandoned that profession when he received an offer from the immortal Congressman Adam Clayton Powell, Jr., which

he could not refuse. He was appointed one of his Congressional aides. It was a position he held until the mighty one was forced out of his Congressional seat. A member of the Bob Douglass Basketball Hall of Fame this man called "Hoss" rode the service to his community in everlasting glory. Among those who witnessed it in pride the other week were Thelma, his wife of 62 years., a son Joseph Jr., and two grand daughters, Joann and Malinda Steele.

THEY REMEMBERED:

—Through speeches the Rev. Calvin Butts, Rev. Robert Royal, William Byrd, Hon. Percy Sutton, Donald Washington, Dr. Charles Walberg, Robert McCullough and Joe Steele, Jr., gave remembrances of the life of the deceased. Mable Collins, Dr. Jewel Thompson, and Willie May Lewis were the musical backdrops. Attending friends out of the past were: Hon. Joe Galiber, Evelyn Cunningham Brown, "Sylvester" Leo & Theresa Banfield, Teddy Butler, Sonny Bostic, Lloyd Williams, Honi & Marion Coles, Tennie & Mary Garner, Sam Brisbane, Abraham "Sparrow" Cowings, Frankie Richards, Fannie Pennington and Betty Jackson. Also paying respects were Ralleggh Bell, Johnnie Isaacs, Red Phillips, Calude Phillips, Jimmy Booker, Gwen Carter and Samuel Bea,

head of Community Board 12 in the Bronx. Many former basketball mates, among them: Floyd Lane, Ed Warner, Lou Badger, Tee Dantzler, Ed Greenridge, Randy Sandy and Willie Wynn surely would have been there, but he was hit by a car the week before and was in St. Clare's Hosp. with a broken collarbone, Rm. 423. And, of course, this corner's "Isadorable"...

WHAT NOW:—There is a story making the rounds that there is growing dismay over the findings that in many of his scholarly papers, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., may have lifted words and ideas from other sources without giving proper credit. The discovery was allegedly made by Calyton Carson, a Stanford Univ. historian who is leading the Martin Luther King, Jr. Paper Project in order to produce a multi-volume collection. According to the Wall Street Journal, this has many researchers questioning the immortal peace maker's ethics, or whether the late Morehouse College grad. even knew the proper procedure. However, some have laid the bulk of their blame on Dr. King's professors who should have noticed the supposed oversights and said something. "Their assumption was they were training someone to go teach in a predominantly Black college in the South," says Penny Russell,

who worked for five years as administrator and associate editor of the project. "were they setting up different standards...Sax man Buddy Tate has healed well from his auto accident. Although he walks with a cane he was blowing strong sweet sounds during his Village Vanguard's gig. The audience was mostly Japanese.

REEL BIZ:—Recognizable film faces and names to look for in various movies during the '91/92 big screen season are: Larry Fishburn, Forest Whitaker, Whoopie Goldberg, Lou Gossett, Richard Pryor, Vanessa Williams, Ossie Davis, Ruby Dee, Samuel Jackson, Denzel Washington, Charles Dutton and Loretta Devine. However only Fishburn, Gossett, Pryor, Snipes and Washington are in first or second lead positions...R&B legends John Lee Hooker, Ike & Tina Turner, LaVern Baker, the Impressions, Wilson Pickett and the late Jimmy Reed will all be inducted into the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame on Jan. 16th. If folks are not educated, they will believe that R&B is a sub-division of Rock & Roll and forget that the truth of the matter is that Rock & Roll was a marketing tool used to induce rhythm hungry whites to purchase tunes originally recorded by African-Americans, but covered by whites. Since they couldn't market it under race music, as they did Black artists, hence the name Rock & Roll was developed...Peg Leg Bates was looking 40 years younger at a tap concert in New Jersey... "South African Now," the public B'Cast System's news show, may be on its last leg. Beantown's WGBH, PBS' flagship station, has given the show its walking papers and KCET in L.A. has done the same, however, protest of local politicians, community groups, viewers and members of KCET's board of directors forced them to reinstate the program. Rory O'Connor, president of Globalvision, the show producer, said money, not politics, is more of a problem. the Committee On Media Integrity, (COMINT), claimed victory in the L.A. situation as they had lobbied for a show about South Africa from the other side. TV execs say that since the So. African govt. has relaxed press restrictions, it's easier for the traditional news sources to operate....STAY LOOSE...Billy Rowe is a syndicated columnist.



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