New York Showfronts

BY DON DE LEIGHBUD

EARL HINES' LATEST BAND MAY BE GREATEST

NEW YORK — "His latest band is his greatest, critics say of Earl Hines, currently appearing here in and around New York. Hines is one of the amazing exceptions in show business how Hines has stayed persistently and consistently at the top rung in swing and jazz music over the years and still keeps young and modern ideas in the forefront of what he does. There have been many band leaders who have sprunk up on all sides and who have withered and died as time marches on, but Father Hines goes on forever. There have been many great bands to perform under the baton of Hines since those days in early 1930 when he first came to Chicago from Pittsburgh seeking fame and fortune on Chicago's southside. The bands that Hines conducted at Chicago's Grand Terrace have come and gone, having left their mark on jazz and swing music. Of recent years there was a lull that Hines, after all these years of leadership, was dropping out and would soon become a mere name to conjure with. However, Fate, jumped right back with his recent recordings of "Boogie Woogie on the St. Louis Blues" to sky rocket his stock to new heights and he enhance his financial value at the box office.

HAD 'EM OUT IN AISLES

From that return to unquestioned leadership Hines built carefully an organization that contained the Billy Varieties, a girl and three male singers — all members of the band except the girl, Madeline Greene, and the highly popular Billy Eckstine. This was the outfit that had them standing in the aisles from coast to coast a couple of seasons back but which was broken up when Madeline Greene got married to a member of the band and retired from the microphone and later when Billy Eckstein decided to go for himself with his own band and took Sara Vaughn, who replaced Madeline Greene, with him.

Hines' showmanship came to the fore in this emergency when he immediately started a large hullabaloo over the various versions of swing versus sweet music and with the announcement that his band henceforth would be of the sweet variety. He scored the city for girl musicians and added eight of them to his band, including a bass player, a drummer, a harpist, violinist, and guitarist. He further built the idea by organizing the Blue Bonnets, four girls who harmonized on the order of the Andrew Sisters but without the Andrew Sisters results.

TOOK OFF SOME OF HEAT

"This," explained Hines, "served to take some of the heat off me which came about when Billy Eckstine quit. I had to do something or drop out of sight. You see, the band was covered up by Eckstein. People came only to hear Billy sing and me play the piano. However, with the girls I was able to get into the public limelight insofar as publicity was concerned and to stay there until I could rebuild my band the way I wanted it. The outfit I have now competes, I think, with any of the current bands in the top bracket and we intend to remain in the top bracket."

Critics, who caught the Hines outfit during its week's run at the Apollo Theatre, remarked on the unusual set-up in which Hines presented a band that has twelve distinct soloists among it fine young musicians. There were two tenor sax men, one alto sax, the drummer, bass player, trombonist, three trumpet men, the guitar player, Hines and a trombone player who doubled on the piano, who were observed performing brilliantly in the solo spots that Hines' music is interspered with.

HAS MANY FINE ACTS

In addition, the Hines band also contained a number of fine acts that are easily tops over many now with the various rival bands. There was Essex Scott, a replica of Arthur Lee (Georgia Boy) Simpkins, an alumnus of Hines', who sang such numbers as "Danny Boy" and "I Walk Along" like nobody's business. There were four handsome young boys with well conked heads and gay, up-to-date uniforms who Hines calls The Four Mellow Tones, who stampede audiences whenever they appear, and there was dainty, delicate, good-looking, little Janie Moses from an old Philadelphia society family, who, in a few months, can be expected to develop into a worthwhile vocalist. Crowning all these singers, Hines has a fit rival of Billy Eckstine, if not one who can surpass him in some respects, in Arthur Walker, an extraordinary trumpet player with a rich baritone voice, singing the numbers that Eckstine would normally be expected to sing, plus some low-down blues Walker, I learned, was picked up in Los Angeles begging for a job from any of the big bands that were coming through there until Hines heard him and snapped him up on a signed contract at once. The Four Mellow Tones are California products too as is Essex Scott.

Harold Nicholas, who is currently appearing in the Columbia production "California Blues" starring Kay Kyser, Ann Miller and Victor Moore.

HERMIT SCOTT IS AN ACE

In the combo is Hermit Scott who is as fine a tenor sax man as any contemporary musician. Scott plays tenor in the best accepted Coleman Hawkins style and can be depended upon to rock a house. He belongs in the class of Lionel Hampton's Arnett Cobb, Count Basie's erstwhile Lee Young and other great tenor players.

George "Scoops" Carey, the alto clarinet player, is the "straw" boss of the band and is the oldest member of the outfit left. He is a Chicagoan and plays great riffs on his instrument that helps to make the Hines' music of today flow so smoothly and with such terrific jump.

Hines, right now, is set to become the first Negro major band to go overseas to entertain the soldiers in the European Theatre of operations. Negotiations are now under way with the USO to bring this about. Meanwhile, Hines is revealed as one of the most race conscious band leaders we have. It left to him, Hines would have Negro ownership in all phases of the band business. He believes in Negroes employing Negroes and Negroes giving Negroes a chance as he does in his own way with the various members of his organization.

EARL HINES OWNS HIS BAND

Hines is one of the two bands we have today — Jimmy Lunceford is the other — who can say he owns his own band. It might be remembered that many of the big names we see in the headlines and in the moons on salary to white agents and bookers and conceivably can be fired on a moment's notice. This is not so in the case of Hines who has succeeded in adding a pre-control of his organization except for the bookings which are handled by the William Morris office. Hines, it is believed, would book himself if he had the time to do so.

With all these things, Hines still remain the top jazz piano player of them all and the creator of a distinct style in vogue in popular music. He taught Teddy Wilson, Tommy Dorsey's Jess Stacey, Joe Sullivan, and Whitey Burghead, and influenced considerably the playing of Art Tatum and Alec Templeton, the top blind piano thumpers. The list of kids who crashed through to fame through the efforts of Hines who gave them their first break would be long and distinguished if gone completely into here. However, suffice it to say that it was Hinse who gave Herb Jeffries, later Duke Ellington's great singer, his first break. Arthur Lee Simpkins, who has made movies, Katherine Perry, Ida James, Billy Eckstein, Sara Vaughn, Madeline Greene, Walter Fuller, and the dance team of Son and Sonny, all got their start up the ladder to public acclaim through the benevolence of Earl "Father" Hines.

Hines says that if something happened to this band, he will get another that will be greater than ever, but doesn't expect anything to happen to it because the boys would rather play for him than anyone else.

I'VE BEEN AROUND New York

By Ted Yates

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Judy Carol's A Pin-Up Dish, Yeah Man!— But, Give Me Anne Gwynne And Don't Fence Me In

Some of the boys on the block were discussing pin-up favorites. Nearly every show girl of note was mentioned. "Judy Carol's a pin-up dish," said one feller. He means it, too. "What I'd give to have her at home waiting for me every night," he concluded. "And what Lucky Millinder would give you were he to find Judy in your company is something else again," came the retort proper.

... From the Neck Up

The boys repaired for hours and Grady Curtis, the bartender at Slim's, continued to pour drinks. One of the mugs, who was continuously bumming cigarettes (and a popular brand, too!) mentioned something about Judy Carol having gained weight since the band returned to sunny California. "Well, what in the hell has that got to do with her being or not being a pin-up favorite?" Ralph Burns horned in. Now this guy Burns, who drinks nothing but Haig & Haig Scotch knows something about dames. "Well," Jerry, another of the mixocologists put in, "if this chick Judy's gotten kinda heavy around her you-know-what, the boys in Service won't like it." Of course, I insisted, "Like what?" And Jerry countered with, "They just won't like having her picture around."

Doc Wheeler who recently returned from doing USO shows had told us about the boys in Khaki he had met on his tour. Doc insists that the pin-up favorites are taken from nearly every walk of life. "You'd take one too every time you took a walk," Burns quipped.

Judy Carol

Doc Wheeler

I remembered that marvelous Marva Louis had been selected by her manager Bill Graham as a favorite possessing plenty of sock entertainment and wondered if it was true that her hubby Sgt. Joe Louis was really in earnest about divorcing her. So I ups, "What about Marva Louis? Do any of you fellows think she's a good choice for a pin-up favorite?" And a yokel, in passing, ejaculated: "Is he kidding? That's the stuff you got to watch!"

Lena Horne, Dolores Brown, Jean Parks, Hazel Scott, Edna Mae Harris, Alberta Pryme and a half dozen others were given mention. Alberta headlines a USO unit touring the states.

I noticed that about ten elbow-benders had assembled about us. Of course I gave Curtiss the wink which meant that he was to take it slow in pouring them damned drinks. My bill was now two dollars and my allotment was but three dollars and I was thinking about walking home. Not while Hawkins was blowing up a breeze outside.

Willie Bryant

Alberta Pryme

Willie Bryant had returned from Washington, D. C., and I thought it a good thing to contact him—if it was possible—and find out who he thought was the No. 1 Pin-Up favorite. I telephoned the Hotel Theresa. Earl Gough said he had been there at the bar and left. He had been at the Palm Cafe, too, according to Ralph Bastone. The Braddock's bossman hadn't seen him though. Willie had just left Small's. I learned after spending twenty cents. I now had eighty cents in my kick, so to hell with Bryant and the pin-ups too.

I know one thing. Although I'm dizzy from the neck up, this pin-up business is slotta bunk. Here are a dozen or more jodies arguing about GI favorites. Where do we get off with that stuff? They are supposed to be for the boys in the armed forces, anyway. Alberta Hunter dropped me a card (about time) to say that she'd been selected as the pin-up choice for some battalion "somewhere along the Burma Road." Miss Hunter is heading a USO unit and I think that was a fine thing for her to be chosen as a "queen" and, I mean that's a good deal. Still, all of them dames might be a hevy dish with the GI guys—but, give me Anne Gwynne, the Universal movie star, and don't fence me in!

Anne Gwynne

And, Remember Ted Said: Frank Humphries and his Orchestra are now on tour. Humphries will rise to the top for he has the goods.

"Hot Lips" Page is another bandleader who is doing good in the sticks.

I guess by now you've patched things up with your friends who failed to give you a Xmas present? Good deal!

COUNT BASIE CLICKS, EVEN IN GERMANY

NEW YORK — They're playing Count Basie's "One O'Clock Jump" in Germany where a few weeks ago was still heard the Horst Wessel song — the Nazi national anthem.

But the first song played on conquered German soil by an American Army Band was the Count's own Harlem anthem! Basie's song had Hitler on the Jump!

The Count hearing that news while breaking all records at the Earle Theatre in Philadelphia thought that it was his greatest honor in a month which saw him win the Esquire Magazine Silver award.

Get a Walter Winchel orchid for his Blues by Basie' album.

Receive word that the only song played by the combined Major Glenn Miller Army band and the ex-Artie Shaw Navy band in a special jam session was the Basie One O'Clock Jump."

Read where Dorthy Kilgallen, famous B'way columnist called his Columbia album "frantic and tops in the town."

Have a jitterbug jump from the second balcony to the orchestra in New York's Apollo Theatre because "Count's playing took me right out of this world!"

This past month was a wonderful high spot in the Count's career which began as a norganist in a Red Bank New Jersey church and continued thru his early days as a founder of the Kansas City Jazz reputation.

The Count wept tears of joy to think that the Basie trade mark song — "the Jump" was the beginning of Hitler's funeral march — a fitting end for the man who preached racial hatred and spilled blood thru out the world.

The songwriters are aware of the "Basie Boom" — for the novelty song of the year "Tabby the Cat" has a line in the lyric reading "And because she calls Count Basie pally-all the kittens throw their mittens down!"

The Count who opens at the Lincoln Hotel, New York for 2 weeks on December 18, was voted Mr. Juke Box of 1944 because his records draw in the most nickels. Even the waiters at the Lincoln cheer the Count's reign — he draws in their best tipping customers.

This year the Count seems to be King!

Record News And Reviews

RECORD REVIEWS: At Duke Ellington's recent Carnegie Hall concert in New York he introduced his latest four ballads by saying that these are the tunes upon which we are staking everything for 1945. The four ballads are "Don't You Know I Care," "I Didn't Know About You," "I'm Beginning to See The Light" and "I Ain't Got Nothin' But The Blues. These four tunes, for our money, make up a dark good stake!

Victor apparently agrees for they have released four Ellington sides since the disc ban was lifted and each of these tunes is represented on the discs. This the tunes are excellent is taken for granted; that Duke's band is in top form and solid as a rock can also be taken for granted. Both are true, of course, but the new vocal department of Duke's band deserves added comment as an entirely new element in Ellingtonia.

Joya Sherrill, lovely young Detroit girl who was with Duke once before, singing on both "I Didn't Know About You," and "I'm Beginning To See The Light." Joya's vocals are sparking and sincere. They are melodic and meaningful in their presentation. The gal is definitely a hit ballad singer. Al Hibbler sings on "Don't You Know I Care" and "I Ain't Got Nothin' But The Blues" in a booming baritone which throbs with expression. His work, too, on the more moody ballads is impressive. Still a third vocal lelement is Kay Davis, the gal woh does the impressive obbligato over Hibbiers voice on "I Ain't Got Nothin' But The Blues."

One of the greatest tunes on the Harlem Hit Parade is a ballad-blues number, "I Wonder." Written by a Negro soldier stationed in California for his wife in Chicago, the tune has caught on like mad. Bluebird releases the tune this month by Roosevelt Sykes, a Chicago pianist-singer, who plays a torrid moody blues piano. A fixture inthe Chicago area and well known as a Jazz great, Sykes proves his ability on this disc, working with electric guitar and piano. The platermate is a subtle rhythm song composed by Sykes, "Mellow Queen." Both sides of the wax are excellent work of their kind and both display well the wares of Roosevelt Sykes.

Phil Moore, "Shoo Shoo, Baby" composer, is the latest addition to Victor's pep record artist list. First side on Phil's initial Victor record is "Together," a pop ballad sung by Fifty-Second street's sensational Billy Daniels and arranged by Phil for the instrumental capers of the Four.

Plattermate for "Together" is Phil's latest hit tune, "I'm Gonna See My Baby," sung by Phil and the boys in the band. Group is composed of Remo Palmierie, guitarist who won the 1945 Esquire poll, Eddie Gibbs ,also guitar, Doles Dickens, bass and Wally Bishop, drums. Phil plays piano and sings the solo on this jump side.

Lovely Lena Horne proves that her voice is as beautiful as she is on her latest Victor, a coupling of Duke Ellington's "I Didn't Know About You" and "One For My Baby." Lena is accompanied on this disc by her arranger and accompanist, jazzdom's great Horace Henderson, brother to Fletcher and a great pianist and arranger in his own right.

Striking a good jazz mood, Horace and the band weave an excellent background for the torchy chanting of Miss Horne. It is coincidence that we should review Lena's latest Victor right along with Phil Moore's new record for that same company. Phil preceded Horace Henderson as Lena' arranger and accompanist and it was from his experience working with Lena on the MGM lots in Hollywood that Phil wrote "Shoo Shoo, Baby" the song which skyrocketed him to fame.

OTHER GOOD SWING: Artie Shaw has disced "Ac-Cent-Tchu-Ate The Positive" and "Jumpin' On The Merry Go Round" on a good Victor palter. Dig also his laatest, "Lady Day' and "Let's Take The Long Way Home." Tommy Dorsey groved a wax on Sy Oliver's "Opus No. 1" which is a killer. Bluebird is justly proud of the fine new Hal McIntyre band. Hal, a former Glenn Miller saxophonist, has he on his own for about three years now and is beginning to hit pay dirt as a topnotcher. Don't miss his original jump song, "Peter, Peter, Pumpkin Eater."

SWING HEADLINES: Duke Ellington on the coast for that Esquire jazz concert. Jeni LeGon, also Mrs Phil Moore, in Hollywood on a vacation but has been offered film roles which may detain her there for a while. She was the star of the Broadway hit "Early to Bed."

A WEEKLY WELCOME . . . C. P. Saunders, USO Mobile Service Unit representative, brings magazines to men on bivouac somewhere in Louisiana. The weekly visit of the big olive-drab truck, which also carries motion pictures, is often the only source of diversion offered men such as these on lonely outpost duty.

Mid-Night Man In Chicago

THE LOWDOWN ON THE SHOWDOWN

BY TED WATSON

CHICAGO — (CNS) — Query: Is the DuSable Lounge for sale? That goes for the grill, too. A large mid-eastern newspaper, colored of course, pulled a boner by featuring a white correspondent on its front pages instead of its many Negro war writers. That hapened on the past week. Taxicab drivers, both white and colored, are catching "it" in this town at this writing. Fourteen were nabbed in the recent drive.

Danny Barkley has been seen more recently, sipping drinks with Roma Jackson, after saxing hours with Cab Calloway's band. Joe Williams, who crooned songs with Lionel Hampton's band for a spell, according to Sam Klaman of the Cincinnati Record Company, will be featured on two sides ,namely "Around the Clock Blues" and "Dogs and Cats." These recordings will be available this month.

James Ewing, who married Benny Mason's daughter, has been honeymooning it in Chicago night spots. Winnie Jeffrys walking "baby" the dog, as the band plays. At a recent Joe Jefferson party, Alton Davis, who was connected with the pub. department of "Wings Over Jordan," with a dish of black eyes and hughead in his hands as Felix Kirkpatrick tells of his many experiences with the 92nd over Italy.

MINUTE MAKE-UPS:

Al Monroe of the Chicago Defender has retuned from New York City where he covered the Ink Spots case. A feature will follow. Los Angeles Pitts-Courier's Herman Hill, recently in Chicago, suffered at the hands of footpads who relieved him of 110 bucks, his expense money and railroad fare back home.

It is alleged that Metz P. Lochard is the Charlie Cherokee of the Chicago Defender. I wonder?

Personalitels: Frances Drummond of this town, most obliging. Lil Smith of Charlie's Chicken Shack, the most proficient waitress of the present season and who must be tabbed for additional honors on the year's round-up of "Stars of Mid-Night." Danny Ride, former member of the roller-top team, Danny and Eddie, has been seen recently in the night scene. Luther Hill's army address is APO No. 322.

Tiny Patton's five piece band is being plugged by Sadie Carmichael, a newspaperwoman of this city. She claims this band is tops. Helen Evans Davis formerly of the Nuts Club, is in town and looking good, being escorted too, by the one and only Marsall Bynum. Berry Brothers are in South America by now, after wowing no end at Mike DeLisa's cafe on the southwest side of town.

ON THE BOTTOM

Don't know who Paul Hardison is, but Andy Ford of Louise Armstrong's band is supposed to marry Dorothy Philpott. Tab Smith and his outfit are currently at Cafe de Society and Trevor Bacon is on vocals. Harold Burton is in from Bloomington and seeing the spots. Ella Fitzgerald spotted at DuSable Lounge and sipping Scotch julips. Nat Pulin sends "hellos" to Gladys Bentley of New York City.

Pepper Taylor of Danville, Ill., was a recent visitor in the Chicago nighteries. The Macombo Club folded shortly after New Year's opening and that threw Ella Fitzgerald out of a Chicago engagement. It is reported that Sally Rand will re-open the spot, but nothing has been said about colored talent in its shows Eddie Heywood and Lil Green are current at the Downtown theatre.

Erskine Hawkins and his band are on the Regal stage as is Effie Smith, Dod Dodson, Jimmie Mitchell and Crackshot and Vivian. Seaman Ozzie (football) Simmons squiring the schoolmarm, Marie McFarland at a local restaurant Rose Katherine Dunham and her show are due in Chicago on the 22 of this month at the Studebaker and that's the LOWDOWN ON THE SHOWDOWN.

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W. M. COOPER APPOINTED TO SAFETY COMMITTEE

HAMPTON INSTITUTE, Va. — William M. Cooper, director of the division of summer and extension study at Hampton Institute, has been appointed a member of the Home Safety Educational Program Committee of the National Safety Council, R. L. Forney, general secretary, has announced.

Mr. Cooper is scheduled to attend a meeting of the committee on Thursday, January 18, at the Biltmore Hotel in New York City.

Miss Rhapsody 'Breaks It Up' In Detroit

NEW YORK CITY (CNS) — Latest singing star at the swank Negro-owned Three Sixes in Detroit, is dynamic Miss Rhapsody, inimitable delineator of blues. Miss Rhapsody arrived in Detroit Monday morning and that nihgt when she made her first appearance, she broke up the place. But it's an old Rhapsody custom to stop the show cold.

On the same bill with Bennie Carter and the King Cole Trio at Kelley's Stables in New York, she was featured singer and gained for herself recognition as a number one in her field. That was two years ago. Now Rhapsody, whose real name is Viola Welles, is preparing for a tour of southern states. She has several new recordings to her credit for Savory: Hey Lawdy Mama, My Lucky Day, Sugar and Groovin' The Blues.

Of her current sucess in Detroit, her manager, Bill Graham, says "Rhapsody just took up the show and put it in her pocket!"

NAVAJO INDIANS ON WARPATH

TES NOS PAS, Arizona (CNS) — Navajo Indians are on the warpath along the Mexican border. The uprising began last week when, without warning, a band of Tes Nos Pas and kidnapped mine supervisor Rudy Sweifel, his wife and Ray Palmer, ranger rider. Posses pursued the band but the rebels fled into the mountains. Warrents for several men have been sworn out.

NEGRO READER INTEREST STUDY REVEW IN N. U. PUBLICATION

Evanston, Illinois—Full page summary and discussion of a recent scientific studya nd analysis, Reader Attitudes Toward the Negro Press, by Conielo C. Young publicity director, National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, appears in the January issue of Northwestern University's publication, The Medillion. The original artirle of Miss Young, was published in the Journalism Quarterly, University of Minnesota monthly for journalistic research, and is the only one of its kind.

LIONEL HAMPTON TO COACH GIANTS

NEW YORK CITY (CNS) — Ace bandleader Lionel Hampton has been hired to coach the New York Giants. It seems that the technique Hampton employs as vibraharpist is very helpful to a ball player.

Army Continues To Recruit For Women's Army Corps

ATLANTA, Ga. — The Army will continue to recruit for the Women's Army Corps in 1945, the War Department announced today. The WAC recruiting program will emphasize the enlistment of qualified women urgently needed for duty in Army hospitals and of those possessing specialized skills in several vital categories necessary to maintain the WAC at the level required for over-all Army efficiency.

Because of increasingly high casualty lists and the return of thousand medical and surgical technicians to the United States every month, together with a critical shortage of Army nurses, there is an urgent continuing need for several thousand medical and surgical technicians in Army hospitals. This need is acute and must be filled. Women enlisted in the WAC for this duty will receive specialized training designed to fit them as enlisted technicians and are assured duty in Army hospital wards aiding in the care of sick, injured and wounded soldiers.

Other enlisted technicians needed by the Army Medical Department include pharmacists, laboratory technicians, denatl technicians, and psychiatric social workers.

There is also a continuing demand for Wacs possesing specialized skills including clerical workers, typists, stenographers, tabulating machine operators, radio operators, control tower operators, parachute riggers, and cryptographers. In these categories the need is for skills rather than for large numbers. Qualified recruits may request and receive, at the time of enlistment, assignment to the Army Air Forces, the Army Ground Forces, or the Army Service Forces after completion of basic training.

The Wac recruiting service will be geared to meet those procurement objectives. While the number of recruiting personnel will be reduced and facilities will be consolidated for increased operating efficiency in the light of reduced enlistment quotas WAC recruiting will continue on a national basis.

MARIETTA CANTY IN "LAKE PLACID SERENADE" REPUBLIC'S VERA HRUBA RALSTON STARRER

TED YATES PUBLICATIONS

Vera Hruba Ralston, lovely star of "Lake Placid Serenade," compares superstitions with Marietta Canty in this scene from the elaborate ice spectacle which features Eugene Pallette, Vera Vague, Robert Livingston, and the music of Ray Noble and Orchestra and Harry Owens and his Royal Hawaiians.

SEEIN' STARS With Dolores Calvin

NEW YORK CITY (CNS) — THEATRE. A new play is in town, "Trio," written by a man and his wife, Howard and Dorothy Baker. It's about the younger generation. Its authors are interesting people. They know and appreciate the Negro theatre. Mr. Baker has written "Little Orpheus for an all-colored cast which is yet unproduced. It introduces jazz musicians to the Orpheus myth. Mrs. Baker wrote "Young Man With A Horn," a hit of recent years. Like "Little Orpheus", it too almost made the stage! She spent two years with experts re-writing it for the stage. Louis Armstrong had charge of the music. Charles McArthur (husband of Helen Hayes), Chester Erskine, Jed Harris, Guthre McClintic, Vinton Meeley and Burgess Meredith were adding knowledge and experience. But it never made it; 3 opening dates were missed. And, the Bakers from Porterville, California, hope their "Trio" will be accepted by critical Broadway audiences.

MARY LOU WILLIAMS is the Hazel Scott of Cafe Society Downtown as Ida James, Phil Moore's new band and Cliff Jackson turn out the goods. Basil Spears, back from Washington's Bengasi Club, goes into the Blue Grass in Cleveland January 20th. A young Negro girl, who had never been to Carnegie Hall, would have paid $2.40 to hear Marian Anderson — only the house was sold out. I, was Anderson's third of the season. Ida James, in addition to her Cafe Society duties, appears in Olsen and Johnson's "Laffing Room Only" on Broadway nightly.

MISS RHAPSODY, ballad and blues singer, has begun a 2 weeks engagement at the Three Sixes, opens at the Apollo in February, then heads for a south and southwest tour of one nighters. Louis Armstrong, Zanzibar's "added attraction," will record a comical war tune "I Got There Atlantic Charter Blues," which he's been singing nightly at the Club. Louis also chants "Is You Is" in Jordan style for the patrons. Lionel Hampton's Flying Home" a riot at the Strand. Bill Robinson wants a bookmakers benefit Bill Bailey with old jokes and new steps (or vice versa?) wowing at the Capital with Tommy Dorsey's band.

HAZEL SCOTT, one night, played Bach-to-Scott in a strapless evening bown, diamond bracelets, etc. A great pianist, Arthur Rubinstein, was in her audience. Amazed, he discussed her with a friend who assured the famed Polish pianist he knew he would be impressed with Hazel's boogie style but didn't expect him to go for her Bach. To this, Rubinstein replied, "Bach? Oh, it isn't her Bach, it's her front." Billboard magazine, in their 1944 roundup, voted Ben Carter and Manton Moreland as outstanding Negro comedians of the year. Their new radio show is "Wander Inn." Paul Robeson has, reportedly, lectured on Jim Crow to his Kansas City audience who came to view "Othello." Robeson lectured before in Kansas City on the familiar subject when on a concert tour.

INK SPOTS have settled out of court. Latest reports say Gale manages them for next four years. "The Searching Wind" with Mercedes Gilbert, going through its last week on Broadway. Louis Armstrong takes the plane to New Orleans next week for Esquire Magazine's re-christening celebration of Basin Street. His trumpet, of course, goes too? At the Mademoiselle Magazine dinner, Hilda Simms, who received a "Woman of the Year" award, lost her purse. In it was $111, some was to go for a new coat. It was later returned with a ticket in it. In a few days, Hilda got a check from Mademoiselle for $111 (they let her keep the nickel). Hilda is "Anna Lucasta's" leading lady.

BILL ROBINSON at the Zanzibar, seems to pick out celebrities even with dim lights. This week, he found Ole Olson of Olsen and Johnson almost at the servant's entrance. In spotlighting the actor, Olsen spoke up "Here I am, You can reach me by radar! Louis Armstrong says "soon rations will be rationed." "Decision," the democratic play of last season, will be made into a movie. We wonder how the Negro question will be treated — in the same fine way portrayed on the stage, or "dressed up" a bit for Southern patronage benefit. And it will be interesting to note who replaces Georgia Burke in her "telling-off" role and whether the lynching will be omitted for something less morbid. Eyes are on Hollywood for their treatment of "Decision," if done right, will start the ball rolling for films that mean something to the race.

INDIGESTION
may affect the Heart
One trapped in the stomach by gas may act like a half-trapped on the heart at the left side of digestive gastric gas and sour, sweet, sour Mentholyptus Tablets to get rid fast. No laxatives nor soda, at drug stores. Medicines known for acid indigestion. If the first DOSE doesn't prove this acts better, return tube to us and receive FULL Money Back. 50c

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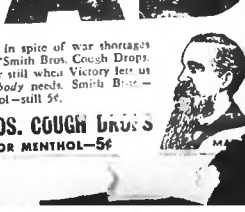
GLAD

We're glad that in spite of war shortages you can still get Smith Bros. Cough Drops. We'll be gladder still when Victory lets us make all *everybody* needs. Smith Bros — Black or Menthol—still 5¢.
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