

Cast Guests At NAACP Luncheon

NEW YORK — Leading members Armand d'Ussau, conceived the cast of "Deep Are The Roots," play while they were in the army. Broadway hit on the race problem, and what they hoped it would achieve guests of the NAACP Legal fund what they considered to be America's most pleasing post-war production. Also present were one of the authors, James Gow, and the producers, George Heller and Standings. A total of \$2,430 was collected from the guests for support of the NAACP legal fund.



A MERRY CHRISTMAS TO ALL

We bring you out good wishes for a happy holiday.

Carolina Hardware Co.

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For an old fashioned



For an old fashioned
**AMERICAN
CHRISTMAS**

We know no better wish than
*this. May you enjoy Christmas
to its fullest.*

Roscoe-Griffin



Let's Make it an Old Fashioned

CHRISTMAS

Bring out all the tinsel and tree trimmings! Sing out the gayest of Carols! Have Christmas in your heart and share it with everyone you know!

Heilig & Meyers



DUKE ELLINGTON

Duke Ellington And Band To Appear At Hampton

HAMPTON INSTITUTE, Va. — Sponsored by the local committee for the United Negro College Fund, a concert by Duke Ellington and his famous orchestra will highlight the first week of the new year at Hampton Institute, it has been announced at the college. The Duke, whose critics have placed among foremost modern composers, will present a full-length concert program in Olden Hall on the evening of January 3, for the benefit of the United Negro College Fund, Inc., of which Hampton Institute is a member.

The event will be the initial step in the local committee's drive for the 1946 Fund campaign. Hailed by Constant Lambert, Percy Grainger, and Leopold Stokowski as one of the most original and significant figures in contemporary music, Duke Ellington will come to Hampton Institute directly from Carnegie Hall in New York City, where he is scheduled to play his fourth concert since 1943. He has played similar concerts at the Philharmonic in Los Angeles, the Civic Opera House in Chicago, and a host of other famous halls.

Devotees of the Duke are aware that in addition to his prowess as a leading member of Tin Pan Alley, he is also the creator of a number of serious compositions for the concert stage. Such works as "Black, Brown and Beige" and the more recent "Perfume Suite" and "Blue-topia" are today recognized as symphonic jazz at its best.

Featured soloists on the Duke's program at Hampton Institute will be: Johnny Hodges, Rex Stewart, Lawrence Brown, Al Hibbler, J. J. Sherrill, and Kay Davis.

During his appearance on the stage of the R. to N. Y. in Milwaukee last year, Ellington played a record (The Count swears he didn't do it himself). Ann stepped up to the jukebox and started vocalizing to the recorded music. Basic was impressed with her voice and invited her to visit him at the theater for an audition.

At that time the female vocalist with the Basic band was filled by Maxine Johnson, as the best of someone put a nickel in the jukebox and played a record (The Count swears he didn't do it himself). Ann stepped up to the jukebox and started vocalizing to the recorded music. Basic was impressed with her voice and invited her to visit him at the theater for an audition.

Basic thinks the Milwaukee Miss has a lot on the ball, and predicts that "Jivin' Joe Jackson," when he recently introduced to theater audiences, will skyrocket her among the top rank band vocalists in no time at all. The new Columbia release is backed by "Queer Street," one of the Count's latest jump specials.

Luneford and Eckstine To Play Battle of Music

NEW YORK — The musical aggregations of Jimmy Luneford and Billy Eckstine, two of America's

most famous vocalists, will play a "Battle of Music" at the Brooklyn Branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

Luneford and Eckstine To Play Battle of Music

NEW YORK — The musical aggregations of Jimmy Luneford and Billy Eckstine, two of America's foremost vocal band attractions, will ring in the new year of 1946 by "battling" each other both musically and at the box office.

On New Year's Eve the two great bands have been booked for separate dance engagements at locations less than five miles apart, the "Luneford Express" at the Armory in Orange, N. J., and the handsome singing maestro and his bandmen at the Graham Auditorium in Newark.

Luneford and Eckstine will hold forth on opposite bandstands Saturday night, January 5, at the 13th Regimental Armory in Brooklyn to vote for supremacy in a "Battle of Music" sponsored by the Brooklyn Branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

The Brooklyn Armory affair, which will bring the Luneford and Eckstine bands together for the first time, is expected to draw the largest crowd of dancers ever attracted to any musical event in that famous New York borough.

Buddy Johnson Plays For College Prom

CLEMSON, S. C. — Buddy Johnson, the young Carolina Keyboard Ace, who has been registering a solid click on his current tour of the Southland, saw his musical stock and prestige rise considerably as a result of the reaction to the Johnson band in its first college prom date at Clemson College here.

Buddy's appearance at Clemson, one of the oldest and best-known schools in the south, was a last-minute booking for college dance. His current southern tour had already gotten underway. A white name band the school had booked to play the affair was forced to cancel out because of a transportation problem, and it just so happened that an open date on Buddy's schedule coincided perfectly with the date of the Clemson prom, thus affording the "Walk 'Em Rhythm" maestro the opportunity to demonstrate his musical wares before college dancers for the first time.

The Johnson aggregation will again swing out for collegiate dancers Christmas Eve at State Teachers College, Montgomery, Ala.

Morton Featuring J. C. Heard At Cafe Society

J. C. Heard, sensational drummer now being featured by Benny Morton at Cafe Society Downtown in New York's leading Greenwich Village nightclub, heard just left Cal Callaway's band and Benny's smooth society sextette now includes Jimmy Benson on piano, Billy Taylor, bass, Prince Robinson, clarinet, and Dick Vance on trumpet. Arrangements are supplied by Vance and his arrangement of "Couldn't Get In" is still the toast of the smart and clever dinner show at this spot.

Nitelife In New York

BY ALVIN MOSES

NEW YORK (AP) — The question this has puzzled white and colored cabaret lovers of this city for some time now can at least be answered by me.

The owner of "The Voice" must not be confused in anyway with Frank Sinatra by music lovers living outside of New York. Currently he is being barred on the Murrans Nigh club show, a handsome, fair-skinned baritone whose real name is Mortie S. Tonato.

Sonlike the handle of an Italian nobleman, now doesn't it reveal?

NAT'VE OF WEST VIRGINIA

Tonato first saw the light of day some 32 years ago in the famous coal mine state of West Virginia. Finished came the ladder of the Bessie Coleman Conservatory of Music, and 12 months at Ohio State university rounded his musical as well as educational background. Death took his mother and dad away from him at an early age forcing him to work his way up the ladder of fame without parental guidance.

An Omega fraternity member as well as active in glee clubs and H. Y. organizations, Tonato never stopped singing during the span that bridges boyhood and manhood. In his 21, Don Albert, a well-known orchestra leader, secured him to be featured vocalist of his topnotch band playing out of San Antonio, Tex. This was the break of his life for the lad whom teen-age girls and grownup ladies literally swoon about when he opens his golden pipes, and give out in song. He remained with the Don Albert musical aggregation for five long years.

JOINED HAWKINS' ORK IN N. Y.

Across the musical firmament flashed a band destined to hit the high spots in the hearts of millions of Americans of all colors. Its leader was Erskine Hawkins, sometime later to become known as the "20th Century Gabriel" and trumpet rival of incomparable Louis Armstrong.

His band, the "Bama State Collegians," was playing at the swank Uprour house, 51st Street and B'way in this city. Well, the "Haw" and one Mortie Tonato got into a sort of musical football huddle and out of this "T" formation came the news that Hawkins had signed a new vocalist. The figure five seems to have played a mighty important part in the young life of this singing sensation of the 1945 season, for again he sang five years with Erskine Hawkins even as he had with Don Albert.

THE VOICE OF HIS UNCLE CALLS

Came the treachery of Pearl Har-

bor December 7, 1941, and not long after that Uncle Sam reached out and gave Tonato a suit of khaki and a gun to march among other things. From 1942 thru most of 1943, the voice that had thrilled countless thousands the nation over did nothing beside count military figures like 1-2-3 and 3, master wolf calls to pretty chicks, and hum the hubba-hubba hubba ditties every soldier boy knows by heart. There were sad, you desperate moment for this bronzed he man baritone after the part he played in four major battles for his Uncle. These battle scenes had names (Pacific theater of action) like Bougainville, Saipan, Hollandia and Kariwald Island (we may have pronounced it spelled this one incorrectly).

Wounded in the indescribably fierce fighting around Saipan, To-

nato was hospitalized for eight months in New Guinea. For a long time he despaired of ever singing again. With that courage born of determination which admits no failure as long as life lasts, Mortie started driving a huge trailer-truck. After hours he would steal away to small clubs in New Jersey and sing a bit.

FRIENDS ENCOURAGED HIM TO STICK

In a short while his confidence returned as old his strength after a frightful battle and hospital experiences. Admirers persuaded him to pursue the career which now pays off in such handsome dividends. Finally, he was booked for an engagement at his present stand, Mur-

When that emcee par-excellence "Doc" Wheeler brings "The Voice" on with display of oratory work of a Judge Hastie at his recent best — he's not kidding a pound,

folks. The Voice, whom you know as Mortie S. Tonato (for the first time, tears the joint apart board by board when he digs in on "If I Loved You," song hit of the Broadway success "Carousel," an Oscar Hammerstein, Richard Rogers presentation. When the booming voice of this truly amazing singer reaches your ears in the well known opening lines: . . .

"If I love you
Time and again I would try to say
All I want you to know."

Please hasten to your seat for his offering — is a treat you'll wish to recall in your memory book (even as I do — as long as we live. As a dawn patrol reporter to an artist who figures to set hearts as well as musical forest fires throughout the 1941 season, I can only wish that Hollywood hears of you, Mortie, ere another season rolls around.



Greetings for a Happy Holiday

Ring out Christmas bells — ring out the merriest Christmas ever to one and all.

Sanders Motor Company

Sales FORD Service

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THE VOICE OF HIS UNCLE CALLS

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Hang the holly high in every window! Trim the tree and place the mistletoe

where it will bring the most cheer to everyone. For this is the Christmas season

and our hearts are lighter than they were a Christmas ago.

To our many friends we say, "you've been wonderfully patient — and we wish

you a wonderful Yuletide!"

Eckerd's Drug Store