

20 Schools Compete In State Drama Ass'n Festival



Nite Life In N. Y.

BY ALVIN MOSES

NEW YORK (ANP) — Sitting in JOE WELLS, 7th avenue in 132nd Street, where the "friendly atmosphere" is ever present, we chatted last week with businessman Roger Jackson of Grand Rapids, Mich., and an unnamed lady who we've met on other occasions in Brooklyn's gay spot. Quite natch, the subject ran to Joe Louis' retirement — it runs that way in all of the spots we dropped in including Johnny Walker's after hours, havin' Bowmans, Ed Small's, Jimmy Chickens, Shack, Lucky Roberts, and other ports-of-call on the Dawn Patrol highway.

Said the well-known man from Michigan, a long time friend and admirer of Louis: "No better man could a fighter make, at the end of the road than did our brown bomber, Mr. Bilety Ezzard Charles would have loved him. I spite Charles' prior showing the other evening against Joe Maxim. While I am not a bell-and-traveler boxing addict, I did my share of the sport during my undergraduate days at Grinnell College." Wells said the firm he has been with 21 years has handled numerous accounts of Louis' new associates, Arthur Witz and James D. Norris. Then he pointed out lovely SONJA HENIE is co-owner of the tremendous Center Theater, New York City, with these two business tycoons and she is far from a poor girl.

All in all, Joe Louis might be called uneducated by many who have finished courses and earned degrees in the better schools of the nation but he's acute when it comes to lining up people like Mr. Miller, Roxborough, Black, Gibson and now Norris, Witz and Sonja Henie as business pros and associates.

FAN MAIL DEPARTMENT: Q. Dear Al Moses, I am anxious to hear for a few of the best records about three years ago. Also, do you recall the name of the corporation that produced a lot of his work and the name of Jordan's manager? — Ruben Swiden, Milwaukee, Wis.

A. Jordan and his "Tympany Five" recorded such Decca releases as "Beware," "Boyz me," "Cold Stone Dead in the Market," "Recover-

Movie Lot Gossip

BY HARRY LEVETTE

HOLLYWOOD, Calif. (ANP) — Preview of the week is "The Green Promise," at the little theater inside the Ambassador hotel. This is a pic about 4-H clubs that young citizens and parents of all races should see when it is released.

Red Cross singer and movie actress Hazel Jones and I were never surprised as we were when we saw the new RKO feature, "The Green Promise" as startling, its lesson powerful and poignant.

Written by M. N. F. Collins and directed by William D. Russell, it tells the story of a Kansas farmer and his family. It features Margaret Chapman, Robert Paige, Walter Brennan and others.

This was another slow week for repia motion picture players, but with several new pictures scheduled, business should be better soon.

To Al Monroe of Chicago Defender and Dave (Windy City) Chatter Clark it is mighty hard to find you easterners when you drop into town. Looked everywhere for you to give you the "keys to the city." Heard you found pass keys, good enough!

It's reported that Shelton Brooks Jr., son of the song composer, was arrested along with a Chinese café man for singing obscene songs in a night spot.

Big church scandal being held under strained covers. A deacon and pastor reported to have misused several thousand of dollars — both side 1948 Cadillac.

Naomi Hunter, while wife of singer Rudy Hunter, found guilty of possession of marijuana, given 90 days; she's a night club photographer.

Eric Johnson collected head of Motion Picture Producers' Association, Juano Hernandez and MGM company of "Stanovis in the Dust" head for Oxford, Miss., for filming of lynch movie.

LITTLE KNOWN FACTS ABOUT WELL-KNOWN PERSONS

During the filming of "Cabin in the Sky" Lena Horne fell and chipped an ankle bone in the sequence with Rochester. The ankle broke when Rochester threw her over his shoulder. He carried her in his arms to the sound stage hospital.

Joel Fluellen once suffered a broken leg during the filming of a movie. In "White Thousands Cheer" Fluellen in a tight scene was sup-

MATTHEWS TO BE ON SHAW U.'S ANNUAL CONCERT

Shaw University's annual faculty concert, an entertainment arranged and presented by the staff of the institution this year will feature Edward Matthews, baritone. The concert is to be presented Friday night, April 1, at 8:15 o'clock in Greenleaf Auditorium.

Heading the faculty committee directing preparation for the concert is Miss Celestina E. Dawson. The committee on ticket sales is headed by Carl E. DeVane. Faculty sponsors are limited to a total of about 300 patrons for whom seats will be reserved until 8 o'clock.

Matthews, whose talent and vocal skills were first recognized by Richard Hayes, is considered one of the most versatile artists in America today. For seven years he was a featured member of Major Bowes' "Harmony Hour," and for four years sang on Germaine's "Party and Deck" operas often appearing in the roll of operas. He has made three successful concert tours in Mexico, Central and South America.

The singer, who was born in Ossining, N. Y., is a graduate of Fisk University and a former member of the famous Fisk Jubilee Singers. Until Broadway, the stage, and radio had him away, he was Director of Music at Fisk. The New York Post characterizes Matthews as owner of "a large rich, ringing voice of true baritone timbre."

N. Y. HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS HEAR OPERATIC TENOR

NEW YORK (ANP) — Laurence Williams, tenor soloist with the Detroit Civic Light Opera, gave a concert during the afternoon sessions of the Forum for High School Music recently. His concert included works by Judd Mader, Handel, D. D. and Robert Taylor.

A product of Capital University, Columbus, Ohio, Williams began his singing career at an early age as a choir boy in the pastorate of his father, a Methodist minister. His musical education was sharpened under private tutors in Columbus, New York and Detroit.

He has appeared in concerts and operas in Washington, St. Louis, Columbus, Little Rock and other eastern and midwestern cities. He won first place in the Belle Island auditions, Detroit, in 1944 and appeared as soloist with the Detroit Symphony Summer concert in 1947. He also was soloist at the 1945 convention of the National Association of Negro Musicians, Inc., of which he is a board member. His accompanist for the Forum concert was George Reeves.

TOLERANCE FILM BEING SHOT BY UNITED ARTISTS

HOLLYWOOD (ANP) — A new film based on the anti-prejudice of Negroes theme is slated to be released by United Artists. It was released here last week. The movie, currently in the middle of a 20-day production schedule, is titled "Home of the Brave."

It is being filmed by the Screenplays, Inc., a relatively young company, which purchased screen rights to "Home of the Brave" from the white race. It is currently being made in the east.

Twentieth Century-Fox is making screen adaptations of the Cyd Ricketts Sumner's novel "Qualities" under a title of "Pinky" and a Lester Samuels' book "No Way Out." "Pinky" deals with the problems of an almost-white Negro nurse; and "Out" tells the story of a Negro interné. Ethel Waters has been signed to play the part of grandmother in "Pinky."

William Faulkner's "Intruder in the Dust," a tale of an attempted lynching of a Negro in the south, was purchased last summer by MGM. The screen adaptation goes into production on location in Mississippi, with Juano Hernandez, a Puerto Rican, signed to play the part of the near lynching victim.

Of the 2,283,654 veterans on the VA disability compensation and pension rolls on January 1, 1949, a total of 1,656,323 served in World War II.

To Be or Not to Bop

NEW MUSIC TREND IS PUZZLE FOR WILCOX

Tommy Dorsey's recent unqualified blast at Be-Bop, the music that defies definition, even from its high priest, Dizzy Gillespie and Benny Goodman's conviction of be-bop, has touched off some highly charged discussions among musicians.

And if you once thought bopping was a subject dear only to the plaid-jacketed jazzmen in the park, you are amazed to discover intelligent and curious veterans of commercial jazz treat bop with respect.

"It's because," says Eddie Wilcox, no bopper himself, when interviewed recently at the famed Savoy Ballroom, New York, by Sid Smith, noted radio columnist at the N. Y. Daily News. "I remember when the late Jimmie Lunceford and myself had organized a band at Fiske University which we dedicated to a new kind of music—sweet swing.

Jazzmen said we were nuts, but we made "Rhythm in Our Bones" and rode the popularity crest for over 20 years. Be-Bop will spread like wildfire," predicts Wilcox, "only if arranged following the example of a Chubby Jackson, give it the same commercial twist that the Lunceford band gave to swing."

Wilcox makes even more sense when you talk to the radio network music men who, after all, play a major part in shaping the musical taste of the nation. They say, "Before Be-Bop can get out over the airwaves, it's got to get out of the writer class where it is." They said the same about jazz played by only the hop culture twenty years ago.

Be-Bop they feel is still music, not just a fad, but they are not yet ready for the general public. Radio, with its exception of a few disc jockeys, would be receptive to Be-Bop until the public can sing their whistle. Until then, the boppers will continue to whistle in the dark.

Following his current assignment at the Savoy, Eddie Wilcox will take his orchestra on an extensive tour of the country playing college and service men engagements featuring the all-time great tunes which made the original Lunceford band the most popular in the history of jazz. Wilcox will include two or three be-bop tunes which may help answer his question "To Be-Bop or Not To Be-Bop."

JOHNSON RECORDS A BE-BOP NUMBER

NEW YORK — Baddy Johnson, the youthful pianist-musician, whose distinctive "Walk 'Em Rhythm" has made him one of the top names in the name band field, makes his bid for the added support of the "be-bop" crowd with his new disc of "Pullman," a brand new "bop" special that was penned by Johnson and his bandmen, Steve Pullman and Willis Nelson, with Pullman also helping in with a "bop" vocal chorus.

Famed for such sweet ballads as "I Wonder Where Our Love Has Gone" and "Servus Me Right," and such blockbusting jive epics as "Let's Do It" and "I Don't Care Who Knows," Baddy's matter of "Pullman" marks his initial excursion into the realm of "bop," which indicates that "bop" is definitely here to stay. On the flipside, Baddy presents the romantic voice of his older brother Arthur, who in a brand new ballad hit from his own prolific pen, titled "Someone So Sweet As You."

Checks continue to be hotbed at record rate. The 809 million produced in January exceeded hat-trick in January, 1948, by 34 per cent.



Take It Easy, Friend. Don't Drop Your Ashes On Others



MILLER TRIO IS GREAT ON ROAD

GASTONIA, N. C. — On his first wire across the country since his recording of "Bewildered" clicked with the music buying public, Red Miller is finding the reception accorded him better than expected.

With his trio Miller is playing one-nighters with the Savoy Sultans band who alternated with him on the bandstand.

When his disc clicked a few months ago it catapulted Miller into the spotlight. Promoters began contacting him to appear in their towns and after conferring with his booking agent, Ralph Cooper, Miller set out on a tour with his unit.

Coming at a time when other bands are experiencing poor box-office reaction on the roads, Miller's power to draw full houses where others fail to draw 200 people is the subject of much comment. The band will conclude their one-nighters in five weeks and play theatres and night clubs.

William Jones And Willie B. Cox Take Top Honors At N. C. Drama Festival

The fourth annual Festival of the North Carolina High School Drama Association was held at Shaw University Friday and Saturday.

Twenty-one set plays from as many high schools in North Carolina were presented in the Grand Auditorium during the two period. The productions were the winning plays in drama contests held in four districts throughout the state.

The curtain fell on the final play well after midnight Saturday, but a capacity audience was still on hand faithfully awaiting the opinion of the critic judge.

This year's analysis and comments were given by Miss Constance Johnson, Head of the Department of Drama at Bennett College. Miss Johnson praised the work done by the high school dramatists and pointed out areas in which improvement could be made.

The critic judge was introduced by Mrs. Edith H. Thomas, Raleigh, executive secretary of the Drama group, acting for Miss Elizabeth Schmoke of Charlotte, a graduate who had been called away.

Awards were presented to the outstanding actor and actress in keeping with an annual custom of the Shaw Players. Herbert Ellis, President of the Shaw Players, made the presentations.

The award for the best actor went to William Jones of Dudley High, Greensboro; and for the best actress went to Willie B. Cox of Rocky Mount. Maggare, nominations were given to each of the twenty participating schools. Honorable mention went to Gertrude Lytes, Dudley High, Greensboro; Lena Mills, West Charlotte High, Patricia Carson, Allen High, Asheville; and Bobbie Baker, Carver High, Mt. Olive.

North Carolina High Schools represented and their entries were: Booker T. Washington, Rocky Mount; "Heritage of Wimpole Street," Mrs. M. E. Lehardt, Director; Mary Potter High, Oxford; "Lost Victory," Mrs. E. J. McGhee, Mrs. L. S. Brennan, and Mrs. A. M. Gillespie, Directors; Morningside High, Statesville; "The Seversd Cord," Miss Mary E. Caldwell, Director; Orange County Training School, Chapel Hill; "Drama in the

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- MEMPHIS SLIM
March 18-21, Dayton, Ohio
SAVOY SULTANS
March 17, Richmond, N. C.
March 18, Loudoun, Va.
March 19, Buckley, W. Va.

BEALE ST. WELCOMES BACK MEMPHIS SLIM

MEMPHIS, Tenn. — When Memphis Slim played the Palace Theatre his week all the oldtimers that knew him at the barefoot archery of Beale Street, who sang and played the blues for premier, were applauding the local boy who made good.

Returning here for the first time since he left a decade ago to make good in the entertainment field, slim was really in his glory as he sat at the piano and thumped the blues the way he used to at house rent parties here. And the ovation that greeted him at the first show brought tears to his eyes as he bowed in acknowledgment.

Shedding the bill with Sonny Thompson and his band, Memphis Slim and his House Rockers are currently on a tour of one-nighters throughout the South. Not since the late Bessie Smith, in the opinion of blues authorities, has there been such a chapter of the blues.

Lincoln

RALEIGH, NORTH CAROLINA

SUNDAY AND MONDAY
MARCH 20-21

ROD CAMERON
GEORGE MONTGOMERY

IN
BELLE STARR'S DAUGHTER
COLOR CARTOON
MOVIE-TONE NEWS

TUESDAY, MARCH 22

BOB STEELE, LON CHANEY

IN
OF MICE AND MEN
ODDITY REEL
NEWS OF THE WORLD

WEDNESDAY & THURSDAY
MARCH 23-24

Betty Grable, Cesar Romero

IN
That Lady In Ermine
Sports Reel — News Events

FRIDAY AND SATURDAY
MARCH 25-26

DOUBLE FEATURE!!!
ALLAN "ROCKY" LANE
IN
HOMESTEADERS OF PARADISE VALLEY
AND
JOHNNY WEISSMULLER
BRENDA JOYCE
IN
Farzan & the Amazons
ALSO CHAPTER 4
THE CRIMSON GHOST