

# JOHNSON BAND IN WRECK BUT KEEPS DATE

## NITELIFE IN N. Y.

BY ALVIN MOSES

BY PARABLE, PRECEPT AND EXAMPLE, Bill (Bojangles) Robinson captures the American imagination as do only the Walter Winchells, Sister Kennys, Joe Maggios, Jackie Robinsons and others in their known stature. Surrounded by some 25 eager admirers, "Uncle B." as Shirley Temple lovingly calls him, held court with the near Percy Harris' Corner, 132nd Street and 7th Avenue in "Deepest Harlem."

Our conversation ran from heart throbbing incidents within the profession Bill has lived with since early boyhood (Theatre and nightclubs) to his reception by President Franklin Delano Roosevelt, Harry S. Truman, Dan Topping, of the N. Y. Yankees empire; Toots Siler, renowned restaurateur, neighbors of his in his paternal California home, and the folk Bill would like to know and understand most — composers, like you and me.

**NEEDS ONLY HIS HEALTH**  
Wearing dark glasses and representing in a summer ensemble of gray trousers and brown jacket, the great dancer said:

"I'm 71 years old Alvin, and I ask God to restore me once more to the health that has enabled me to dance up and down stairs thru more years than you are old."

I glanced at the man I'd known intimately since 1922 and to myself said: "... Bill, you are not 71 years old... that many years young. Then as I scanned closely the drawn features of the world's greatest tap-dancer exponent, I saw only too clearly the results of his recent operation and hospitalization.

**AN INCIDENT**  
Someone in the crowd asked "Bojangles" about the slams he received at the hands of Negro writers and sidewalk-orators of his race when on Jackie Robinson's Day some seasons back Bill said: "I never thought I'd live to see Ty Cobb in technicolor, but I have for Jackie Robinson is that man."

Turning to me the actor-dancer said:  
"As a top newspaper man Al you undoubtedly saw the N. Y. Times of last week in which the self-same remark was made in a piece that praised Robby to the skies. If I could only understand my own people, or at least some of them Al, I would die happy."

"There was the occasion when I told a joke about a youthful Albataman. Following this yarn, writer-commentator Joe Bostie, flayed me to a-fare-thee well."

Questioned about his picture-making experiences in Hollywood, Robinson recalled a "Pittsburgh Courier's" Billy Rowe, sent the studios, turning to me Bojangles said: "... Remind me to tell you about that one a little later. I think I first met Rowe when he was a fledgling at the "Tattler" back in 1928, the year you became Editor."

Being invited to be with President Truman on an occasion that was so secret only the Secret Service were on the inside of arrangements, remains a "red letter day" in Bill Robinson's life. He preferred not to talk on this memorable incident any more than to trace its outline as we've tried to do.

**JUDGE GOLDSTEIN — ADMIRER**  
I told Bill about a letter we cherish, received from Judge Jonah Goldstein, of "Grand Street Boys" fame. It seems the prominent Jurist was vacationing at a New Hampshire resort when he came upon an article I'd written for a magazine titled: "Evis of Juvenile Delinquency." When I finished Bojangles said gleefully with a sardonic smile of his oldtime dash and sparkle:

"Gee Al I'm glad you mentioned that. I am to be the recipient of some sort of award, and Judge Goldstein will present same. I want you to be on the dias with me along with other city officials and notables."  
With a final plug for ETHEL WATERS and the superb role she plays in the picture "Pinky," a word or two about his brainchild, NEGRO ACTORS GUILD, the min-

ble-footed daddy of tap dancers turned his face to a white-hot sun that sizzled in the 90's. The mall audience simply looked at him while one member exclaimed: "He could teach a lot of educated asses how to Bray in more languages than Paul Robeson speaks and I'm told that counts up to eight."

**ROBIN HOOD DELL AND — THE "DUKE"**

Robin Hood Dell, beautiful spot in Fatmount Park, Philadelphia, still thrills Mrs. Rosa Moses (my mother) and Mrs. Gladys Carleton of Philly, my baby sis; — It all goes back to the night of July 25 when Duke Ellington, ork, incomparable Sarah Vaughn, and the Robin Hood Dell Symphony appeared in a concert of varied musical works. They were among the 12,000 who had and oh-oo-ed to the genius and stage mannerism of Ellington, a craftsman whose position on the musical podium is international and deathless. Miss Vaughn, singing "Sometimes I Feel Like A Motherless Child," "As You Desire Me," and other memorable numbers took so many bows we lost count on "The Lords Prayer."



**ACHIEVES LIFETIME AIM — "MR.B." or Lilly Eckstine as he is better known to the less fervent platter cats, recently achieved what he declared to be his lifetime ambition, the winning of the METRONOME poll as the most popular vocalist.**

## JACQUET WAXES NEW PLATTER

Illinois Jacquet, whose RCA Victor platter of "Black Velvet" is spinning merrily in the jukeboxes and on disc-jockey programs as one of the nation's biggest record hits, has come forth with still another new RCA release, coupling two frantic instrumentals, "Big Feet" and "B-Yot."

Jacquet's exciting sax work is highlighted on both sides of his new release, which is in sharp contrast to the melodic rhythmic pattern he set forth in the very smooth flowing "Black Velvet."

The renowned "Dynamo Of The Saxophone" is set to wax four new sides for RCA Victor before he departs on an extended road tour late this month.

## BUCKNER AND DAVIS TO BATTLE

The relative merits of "boogie woogie" and "be-bop" will get a good workout in a "Battle Of Music" road tour, which will pit the exciting new band of pianist Milt Buckner against trumpet ace Miles Davis all-star "beb" combo in dance halls and theaters throughout the country.

Both Buckner and Davis are top ranking exponents of their particular brands of music. Buckner

## LET'S LISTEN

WITH MILDRED HOUSER JOVINE

### AMOS 'N' ANDY

Although producers of the coming "Amos 'n' Andy" television production via CBS have been searching for weeks, they still have not picked out a suitable cast. Charles Correll and Freeman Gosden have fixed the idea of doing a blackface act for the two characters they made famous two decades ago. Not only would such a program pose the problem of learning the scripts by heart, but it would ruin their act of using their voices for several characters.

During the past year on the radio they have added more and more Negroes to the cast to take on live roles in the comedy show. Among these stars have been Warren Coleman who played one of the programs most important characters, the Kingfish; Eddie Green, Lou Lubin, and Ernestine Wade.

However, these few radio players are not enough to cover the needs of a live television show. Auditions for rolls in the video presentation are being held both in New York and Los Angeles. In New York 75 have been tried out but no one has been given a part.

With less than two months to go before the program hits the TV screens, a cast will have to be selected and soon. Names of featured players should be revealed very soon.

### FIRST SEPIA TV SHOW

Indianapolis and the state of Indiana had their first all-Negro television show recently when the musical show, "Sepia," was presented on station WFBI-TV. This program will be aired weekly on Friday nights.

This also is the first live musical show originating at this outlet. Featured in the first week's program were Mopps Marshall, Vance Smith, Billy Scott, Dorothy Simmons, Carl Perkins, Flo Guyva trio, Chuck Jones, and Ronella Saunders. **NEW YORKERS HEAR NATION'S FIRST NEGRO MR. AND MRS. PROGRAM**

Every Sunday afternoon at 2:30 p. m. New Yorkers tune their radios to station WHB1 at 1280 kilocycles to hear "Mr. and Mrs. Uptown New York."

This program is the first of its kind in the nation to feature a Negro couple. It attracts not only Negro listeners, but whites as well, not only dialers from New York, but from Connecticut, New Jersey and Long Island, also.

Who are Mr. and Mrs. Uptown New York? In real life they are Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Calloway. They operate the Peerless Advertising agency on W. 125th Street. This couple writes the show, and reviews the numerous guest stars. The Calloways transcribe and program each week. They began to operate on station WHB1 because it had a large Negro listening audience for its religious and various other programs.

They screen sponsors who now hail from some of the better Harlem business centers. Their program is now the station's No. 1 feature.

## STANDINGS

NEGRO AMERICAN LEAGUE STANDINGS		
EASTERN DIVISION		
	W	L
New York	2	1
Baltimore	5	6
Indianapolis	10	7
Philadelphia	2	3
Louisville	1	12
WESTERN DIVISION		
	W	L
Kansas City	12	7
Birmingham	3	5
Chicago	5	5
Houston	5	5
Memphis	10	15

having proved his "boogiewoogie" ability during his seven years as featured pianist of Lionel Hampton's band while Davis is one of the brightest stars on the "beb" horizon.

While waiting for their tour to get underway early in the fall, both leaders are currently bolstering their respective followings. Buckner with his MGM waxing of "Milt's Boogie" and Davis via his new Capitol platter "Bohlicity."

**SUBSCRIBE TODAY!!**



**PLAYS RALEIGH — Cootie Stark** and his orchestra will share the stage of the Raleigh Memorial Auditorium with Charles Brown and his orchestra, Monday night, 15th of August. Cootie and Brown have promised us that the joint will jump on this night. Brown will be at his best and his blues singing will really make Monday a "True Monday."

## Rating Hot Records

BY J. H. RANDALL FOR A.P.

**DUSIN' THE EGGS** — With Exclusive, Charles Brown, with Johnny Moore's 3 Blazers crys a mournful lull on E & O BLUES. An item, penned jointly by Baxter, the Moores and Brown, paired to the blues plant I HATE MYSELF. Strictly instrumental as an item sold BLUES AT DAWN by Eddie Hayes and his Stardusters. Columbia sees up the top corner this week with items by the Les Brown, Gene Krupa, and Elliot Lawrence crews. Les Brown, currently the rage for his top-notch offerings whips out a dirty called BE-BOP SPOKEN HERE, the bebop being spoken and sung by Stumpy Brown with assist from the Four Hits and Miss Paired is a swing excursion, on a medium honed tempo of PUT SOMETHING IN THE POT BOY, with Hutch Stone carrying the lyrics and the ensemble giving out with a full-bodied treatment. Drummer Gene Krupa get away nicely on their respective sides. There's T-Bone Walker with his titular Blues is T-Bone's best, and he shows it on the side called LONG LOST LOVER, a shuffle-rhythmed Les Brown, Tommie, with shuffling piano rhythm, lays down a rugged sound on COME ON IF YOU'RE COMING AND PAIR A CHANT WITH ENSEMBLE ASSIST, WHEN THINGS GO WRONG WITH YOU.

Also Victor is Eddie "Sugarman" Penigar with two of his own compositions EASY BABY AND LOST AND BLUE. Eddie's unique, stylized heard on "Blue" as it echoes blues while on "Baby" it's a bit like Annie Laurie, who takes the vocal on a booney, shuffle-timed beat.



**WINNING TO HAWAII — King Cole** is allergic to plane flights, but he and his quartet will take to the air when they leave the states to fill a week's engagement in Honolulu starting August 25. They will do four concerts at the auditorium and two club dates during the island stay, for which buyers have agreed to pay \$4,000 plus expenses. Watch those lets 477!!

## CROWD WAITS SEVERAL HOURS FOR BUDDY

**GREENSBORO** — That Buddy Johnson has a mighty loyal fan following in the neck of the woods was clearly demonstrated when a crowd of almost 2,000 persons waited until several minutes after midnight at the Sports Arena in this city for the arrival of Buddy, his flockbusting band and vocalists Arthur Prysock and Ella Johnson, who were delayed by a race accident while en route to their dance date.

More than two thousand persons had paid their admissions to the Sports Arena when the announcement was made at 10 P. M. that the Johnson band had been delayed but would definitely arrive to play a full four-hour session. The crowd let out a collective groan, which prompted the promoter of the dance to announce that all persons not wishing to wait for the start of the dance could stop at the box office for refunds of their admissions. The crowd showed its loyalty to the "Walk 'Em Rhythm" maestro when only seven persons stepped up for refunds while the remainder of the audience determined to stick it out until the arrival of the Johnson crew.

During the long wait for the Johnson band, popular disc-jockey Red Muro of Station WCOG's "Night Owl Club" took to the bandstand of the Sports Arena and kept the ever-increasing crowd entertained by playing Buddy's Decca recordings on a hurriedly improvised set of turntables.

Buddy and his band, whose journey to Greensboro was interrupted when their bus was forced into a ditch by a swerving truck, were accorded a rousing ovation when they arrived at the Sports Arena a few minutes after midnight. They immediately set up and went into action, playing until 5 A. M. while a greatly relieved and happy dance promoter tabulated 2871 paid admissions in the box office.

## ELLABELL DAVIS SINGS IN STADIUM

**BY CARL R. DITON**  
**NEW YORK CITY (A.P.)** — With the elimination this year of the annual Gershwin "Porgy and Bess" program at the Philharmonic, Lewishohn stadium concerts, customer Negro artists will not be heard. It remained, however, for Ellabelle Davis, soprano, recently returned from European triumphs to fill that void last Monday night. Miss Davis sang principally two operatic arias: "Ritena Vancitor" from Verdi's "Aida" and "Casta Diva" from Bellini's "Norma."

The orchestra under the able direction of Ernest Kurtz, offered Bizet's Symphony in C major, a first stadium performance of Villa-Lobos' Symphonic Poem "Urururu" and Cerdic's Overture to "Vespri Siciliani."

A more appropriate choice of a Negro artist could hardly have been made for Ellabelle Davis.

## Down Melody Lane

**KING COLE BEING GIVEN AWAY**  
King Cole and his Quartet (they have added a bonzo player) are the third prize in Down Melody Lane, "What's the Word" contest. Charlie Korbet and his band are offered as second and third prizes.

The quartet will be delivered to the hotelroom of the third prize winner, anywhere within the continental United States, and will play free for one evening. However, the winners of the contest will not be permitted to charge admission to whatever affair they utilize the free music, unless all proceeds are donated to a recognized charity.

**ANOTHER CONTEST**  
There are also certain gentlemen at Raleigh who are engaged in another musical contest. The only big difference is that they prize music, not from musical instruments, but from pool balls.



**CAVE RECITAL — Etta Moten**, internationally known mezzo-soprano gave a recital on Sunday evening, August 7, at the vesper hours at 7:00 p. m. Miss Moten has been a member of the Creative Arts and Musical Institute summer faculty teaching courses in vocal pedagogy.

Blessed with a glorious voice, Etta Moten has been singing since she was a child. Her talent for the concert stage and the theatre was discovered during her student days at the University of Kansas. Her subsequent career has led her to New York and to Broadway where she has appeared in musical comedies and dramatic productions. She has sung over the radio in New York, Chicago, San Francisco, and Hollywood. She introduced the Carole song in the motion picture "Flying Down to Rio" which led to a triumphant tour of those countries. She played the part of "Bess" in the revival of Gershwin's "Porgy and Bess" and toured the United States and Canada.

Stands at the very top of Negro singers for beauty of voice and emotional utterance. After the singing of H. T. Burleigh's "NoBODY KNOWS DE TROUBLE I'VE SEEN" and Hall Johnson's "Honor Honor," she won a well-deserved ovation in appreciation of which she bestowed many encores.

**EXPECTING**  
Mr. and Mrs. Nat (King) Cole are expecting. The Coles have also adopted a little girl.

**ADDITION**  
Singer Lou Elliott has joined the Duke Ellington band on rhythm vocals. She formerly sang with Benny Carter.

**BASE AT CITY**  
Count Basie and his crew opened at Pop City last Thursday. He and his band are scheduled to depart from the night club Wednesday, August 24.

**"LUSH LIFE"**  
The current hit of King Cole is more than ten years old according to its author, Billy Stravhorn. He penned it in 1936 when he was a drug clerk at Pennfield Drug Store in Pittsburgh.

"It's a song most persons have to listen to twice before they understand it, and then lots of them don't know what it's about," says Billy.

**SARAH TAKES NEEDED REST**  
Sarah Vaughan, who is currently enjoying a well-earned vacation until her opening, August 26, on stage of the Earle Theater in Philadelphia, will set out on an extended concert tour immediately following her engagement at the Paramount Theater, which is scheduled to get underway the first or second week in October.

Tentative plans for Miss Vaughan's coming tour call for concerts in approximately 25 key cities as far west as St. Louis. She will be backed by an orchestra conducted by her husband, trumpeter George Treadwell, who two years ago had set aside his horn and baton to devote his full energies to guiding Sarah's career.

Just before starting her three-week vacation on August 1, the incomparable singing star took to the Columbia recording studios to wax four new sides for that label.

**IN PERSON... THE DRIFTING BLUES MAN**

**Hear Charles Sing and Play:**

- "DRIFTING BLUES"
- "TROUBLE BLUES"
- "GET YOURSELF ANOTHER FOOL"
- "GLORIA"
- "TRAVELIN' BLUES"
- "LONG TIME"
- "NEW ORLEANS BLUES"

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RALEIGH, NORTH CAROLINA

SUNDAY AND MONDAY,  
AUGUST 14-15

John Wayne, Harry Carey, Jr.  
IN  
Three Godfathers  
COLOR CARTOON  
NEWS OF THE DAY

TUESDAY, AUGUST 16

Humphrey Bogart, Lauren Bacall  
IN  
DARK PASSAGE  
COMEDY SUBJECT  
WORLD OF NEWS

WEDNESDAY & THURSDAY,  
AUGUST 17-18

Alan Ladd, William Bendix  
IN  
CALCUTTA  
(Brought Back by Popular Request!)

ALSO FIRST THRILLING CHAPTER "JUNIOR G-MEN" ODDITY SUBJECT MOVIE TONE NEWS

FRIDAY & SATURDAY,  
AUGUST 19-20

DOUBLE FEATURE!  
DON RED BARRY  
IN  
THE TULSA KID  
AND  
Don Castle, Richard Gaines  
IN  
The Invisible Wall  
ALSO FIRST CHAPTER JACK ARMSTRONG