



FORMER BIGTIME TAP DANCER IS GUEST PASTOR

MONTCLAIR, N. J. (AP)—Bill Bailey, the man who pushed Bill Robinson for first place as the world's best tap dancer was presented to the congregation of Trinity Temple last Sunday as "the man who came from Broadway to Christ."

The converted dancer still, even while practicing finds time for his simple feet and the contagious rhythm which made him a star. He duly marked time steadily increasing the pace to a contagious gait which spread throughout the congregation.

One writer remarked: "Bill Bailey's best, coupled with the rhythmic hand-clapping of an audience, is more solid than the audience, is more solid than anything ever dreamed up by Louis Armstrong, Count Basie, and Lucy Millender."

Bill told the rafter congregation: "I used to work for the devil and he paid me a salary — a good salary. Now I work for a new boss and he showers me with blessings."

NCAA ADMITS SMITH COLLEGE

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. (AP)—Philander Smith College last week was elected to membership in the National Collegiate Athletic Association, the governing body of sports for most of the major colleges and universities of the nation.

Dr. M. LaFayette Harris, president of Philander Smith, made the announcement after receiving a letter from Walter Evans, executive secretary of the NCAA.

This action places the school's athletic program at a much higher level than it has held in the past. It also adds another honor to Philander Smith which has been accepted in other organizations as follows:

Fully accredited by North Central Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools, rated class "A" by the American Medical Association, rated class "A" by the University Senate, membership in the American Council on Education and membership in the Association of American Colleges.

BEARS PREP FOR OPENER WITH HAMPTON INST.

BY J. W. WALLACE

The Shaw Bears, making reversals for an early start against the University of Lincoln University "Lions" found they were no exception to the problem of pre-season absences on the first day of practice here since a number of important Lion stalwarts have not as yet returned to the fold.

With a small turnout of only thirty men, the straying members have become serious problems since the opening game with St. Paul's tech is only a fortnight away. Summer employment is the chief reason for most AWOL's, it was stated.

Anyhow, who doubts that St. Aug's Horses will make a tragic mistake this year? The Skins are operating quietly. Hardly an official word has come from their jump across town from the Bears. But the Horses are reported to be working up a stampede which St. Augustine's supporters hope will engulf the Bears for the first time in many years.

The learning of new plays has begun and indications are that the Lions will employ a system based almost entirely upon speed and deception, with a lighter smaller team than last year's, and a fast backfield. Also on the agenda this week is the learning of a new approach to the old T formation.

Irving "Moon" Mondchein, head coach of the Lion gridiron, basketball and track athletes, will supervise the backfield with Assistant Coaches Embry C. Bowie and Robert N. Gardner handling the line men.

Among the outstanding veterans who have returned so far are Bob Smith, T formation quarterback, who did most of the kicking, and although he was a freshman last year, provided the steady influence in the "new backfield." He is a graduate of Jersey Shore High School, where he was stellar all-round athlete.

Back in the fold also is Captain Frank McRae, one of the Flying Dutchmen of Lebanon Valley, Annville, on November 5.

Come the time to hire new veterans and Mr. Danzy made careful scrutiny of the background and the references of the several applicants. Then turning to one he said:

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TIGERS AND GRAYS TO MEET IN SERIES FOR CHAMPIONSHIP

The scrappy Raleigh North Carolina Tigers and the powerful Washington Homestead Grays will meet for the 1949 Negro American Association Championship. League officials announced the pairing recently at the close of the regular season play. The series will be four out of seven games and is set to begin on September 16th.

Sites for the game will be announced later. Only the September 16th site at Washington, D. C. is definitely set.

GOSSIP OF THE MOVIE LOTS

BY HARRY LEVETTE

HOLLYWOOD, Calif. (AP)—Movie crowds and musical directors from the various studios got a first hand look at a million dollars worth of Negro talent during the recent meeting of the National Association of Negro Musicians.

This marked the first time that many of them ever saw or heard solo artists in a wide and varied range of musical interpretation and expression. They also met the legendary W. S. Hardy, William Grant Elmore and other composers.

The convention caused Albert McNeil quite a bit of bustle because he had to fit between the rehearsal of his 26 voice McNell chorus for "Cantin' Jones." He also found time to audition Julie Carrasco, the singing secretary who wants a concert or stage career.

Pete Horne might attracted more people than expected for the big musical at Hollywood Bowl despite his absence because of a previous engagement in Whistler, Canada.

It was Negro Artists night instead, and the audience cheered the early season doubts of Shotton.

Mrs. Willa Mae Armstrong, wife of ex-champion Henry Armstrong, is enjoying her vacation at her home in San Antonio, Texas — accompanied by her mother, Mrs. W. L. Strathaird, and daughter Lanetta, who made stops in several cities on her route. The trip-champs family is well known to those of us who have spent most of our adult life in the modern world's largest Negro community will be found in the October issue of Ebony magazine.

Thanks to advance envoys we can talk about Edwin Smalls, the man we call "Mr. Charlie," his career, his rise from a poor porter to become a son of wealth and great political influence.

GEORGE RAFT, MARTHA RAYE, HARRY RICHMAN

For genuineness in a case we all suffer from in every writing style, George Raft, Martha Raye, Harry Richman, who made history at Smalls' some skyrockets to the top of the heap in other places as well as Hollywood. You'll hear words about singer Harry Richman sitting at a piano-side table in the West 138th Street bistro and throwing \$100 bills to entertainers after a performance that pleased him.

In the words of MC Joanne McDonald, "this was the most fabulous thing that has ever been seen at Smalls'." Martha Raye, she of the wide-smile and madcap singing gave her first night club performance (1935) in Smalls after begging Mabel Godey-Wiley, Mrs. Wiley, to let her do it. She was given a chance to sing at the famous Ziegfeld Follies for the legend of "Follies Review."

Although he has lost \$100,000 in checks and ready cash, Ed Smalls still possesses a "very good dollar" which is just another way of saying he is wealthy. Bert Williams, an entertainer who drew a weekly paycheck of \$5,000 from Smalls' night club (almost eighty) during the lush '20s, Dorothy Lamour, sweet movie star, always visited Smalls during her New York visits. John Barrymore brought many parties to the Paradise as did Harry Richman, Sophie Tucker, George Raft, and mobster, "Dutch" Schultz.

Also famous badman like Tom Duryea, Benny Goodman, Glenn Miller, Jack Teagarden and Charlie Barnett to mention some of the top white musical units took the long journey to watch the show passel young men dancing on until 9 and 10 the following morning. The Susie-Q was born at Smalls' Tops Miller, the singer-trumpeter, introduced the dance in 1938 when starring in one of the club's shows. It swept the country like wildfire.

Born in Charleston, S. C., Mr.

A. Sheene and faithful young fellow with the strength of a Mack truck and much more than his share of hard common sense and mother wit, Mr. Danzy made friends by his honesty and plain speaking known in a second that his loyalty to Mr. Harris was equal to that of soldiers for his flag.

Year after year as we wrote hundreds of stories about Harry's Corner, the meeting place of the foremost sportmen in Harlem as well as celebrities in clubs, theatres, and society world we would stop to chat with "White" as everybody called him. No one seemed to inquire about the last part of his family name which of course is Danzy.

The expression, "Tried by error," has become much more than that in the Horatio Alger story of Willie Danzy. I say Mr. Harris has had a few misgivings — many of them well known in Harlem's business circles. Little did anyone, least of all William Curtis Danzy, think that the owner of this \$500 investment would reach out and promote "Old Faithful" (that is my name for him) to this responsible post. We are tickled pink to write a story like this for it is just what should happen when ability and stewardship merit such recognition. So, it's hats off to Percy Harris' new manager and may you enjoy many years of gainful employment serving as well in your new post as you did in your former one.

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