

HIS MAJESTY, KING OF THE '88 KEYS'



PAT FLOWERS, the king of the ivories who five times a week (at 7:45-8:00 p.m.) broadcasts nightly over N. Y. radio station WNEW. Appearing frequently at the Stage Door Canteen and at various camp shows, Flowers was photographed by our staff photographer as he "ganged-up" on the keys with his BachtoBoogie rhythms. The way this boy studies the piano as he trips the fantastic is something—look at him, he's got something! A protégé of the immortal Fats, Flowers is making rapid strides.

New York Showfronts

BY DON DE LEIGHBUD

Ten years ago a composer who had already distinguished himself by writing symphonies and ballets, confided to some of his close friends that his one ambition was to write the music for a libretto by Langston Hughes and have it produced at the Academy of Music in Philadelphia. Although a decade has passed, he may yet see his dream come true, for it is quite likely that William Grant Still's Opera, "Troubled Island," scheduled to open in New York early next year, will reach the Academy during the tour of the United States which will follow the New York engagement.

When Mr. Still expressed this ambition, he was in Chicago for the presentation of his Ballet, "La Gri-blesue," at the Civic Opera House. Kathryn Adams, then hardly known outside the Windy City, was the ballerina. Even then she was a star, and her South Parkway studio was the mecca for the sophisticated and hip vivants of the town. Mr. Still hailed her as one of the greatest interpretative dancers of the century.

Since that time, William Grant Still has added new stars to his already brilliant diadem, one of the brightest having been achieved when he received international attention by winning first prize for writing the theme melody for the New York World's Fair, 1939-1940.

Now if everything goes well, the boy from Woodville, Miss., who received his education at Wilberforce University, Oberlin and New England Conservatories can expect within the next year to place the biggest diamond in his jeweled crown. The City Center of New York is set to produce "Troubled Island," a libretto by Langston Hughes, music by Still, and to be directed by the great Leopold Stokowski.

Newbold Morris, president of the New York City Council, believes the production will cost \$45,000. The action centers around Jean Desalines, a slave, who became emperor of Haiti, June 16, 1904. As one of the leaders of the revolt of the Haitian bondsmen against the overlords and the armies of Napoleon, Desalines himself achieved power. He created a new land where all black men are free, but bound by illiteracy and limited vision, Desalines—through his rise and fall—marks a tragic milestone in the history of human freedom.

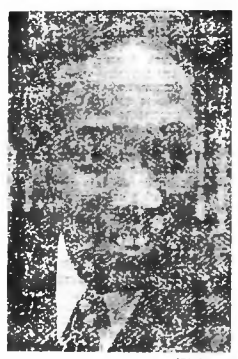
His aged father, Mael, points the way to the ultimate goal of men's hopes when he said he dreams of a world where all men of all races will be free.

Desalines' personal tragedy, as portrayed in the love theme of the opera, is again man's role in the ambition and love at the part-

a New Race" are classics in addition to the symphonies, he has written three Operas besides "Troubled Island." They are "Blue Steel," "A Bayou Legend," and "A Southern Interlude."

Mr. Still's range appears to have no bounds. An example of his versatility is shown in the writing of two chorales, "Plain Chant for America" and "They Lynched him to a Tree." Words for both of these were written by Katherine Garrison Chapin in private life, the wife of former Attorney General Francis Biddle.

What Mr. Still will do following the success of his newest effort is difficult to prophesy, but it is reasonably certain that he will continue to use his deft pen and his musical heart in soothing the "sav- age breast."



Reginald Brune, who is currently appearing on Broadway in the new dramatic hit, "Foxhole in the Parlor."

Ruth Morrison Says She 'Lives For Music'



RUTH MORRISON

NEW YORK, N. Y. (CNS) — Ruth Morrison, S. C. star, decided early that music would be her profession. Since New York is the center of music culture, it was New York she came and sang with the Chorus Northern Chorus group and appeared in several legitimate plays.

Her real luck came when she married her sister in Oakland, Fla. There she sang before a group and the manager of the voice school, Mr. Mather-Smith, was five years older. Brought up in

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SEEIN' STARS

WITH DOLORES CALVIN

NEW YORK (CNS) — COMPOSER SPEAKS OUT While the re-vamping of all sorts of dramas for Negroes to be passed up, William Grant Still, famed American composer now in Hollywood has this to say: "I expect to see them convert Wagner's 'Rheingold' into just such a 'Negro' play and instead of having the Rhine Maidens, they'll have three colored laundresses at the Harlem River. That will probably be the theistic next leading attraction. If they can do it to Gilbert and Sullivan ('Memphis Bound') and to Bizet ('Carmen Jones') why not Wagner?"

CANTINFLAS, Mexico's greatest comedian and idol recently signed a contract with RKO to make movies here. He arrived greeted with usual Hollywood fanfare. He was kissed by Hollywood beauties and the rest of it. But at the studio, Cantinflas found scenarists had their own ideas of what Mexico was like (as Hollywood has their own ideas of what Negro life is like) and he re-sisted. The Mexican broke his contract and walked out. We wish Negro players in their small way, would follow suit.

RICHARD RUEY who sings an amazing song in "Blower Girl" tells us he's coined the word "triple-grip" which means three times solid. Dick is awaiting the arrival of a brother he has never seen — anxiously. The Manhattan Deb, of the Downtown Theatre in Detroit, has a three day vacation before coming to Time Square's Paramount Theatre to be featured with Louis Jordan. When Marian Anderson met General Eisenhower during the ceremonies at City Hall, she was excited. The almost blind Mr. Eisenhower, General of the South African (he's eating War Bread, which isn't like white bread at all. Even their writing paper is rationed by a Controller. Conditions have been this way since 1941. Norman Brice, State Department of Agriculture in town with Newscaps' bond officer from D. C. Lucille Kent. Her three day rest at Newport expense, was recorded in papers. In the August issue, "Blower Girl" is a former star of "Blower Girl" and "Memphis Bound" married this week in Corona where he lives. The 564 (phone) — did Rollo Vest discover Sheila Guy or didn't Rollo Vest discover Sheila Guy? She's the new star of "Memphis Bound."

FAIRBANKS, INC. COMING ALONG

NEW YORK (CNS) — It was announced this week that the only Negro professional skater, Mabel Fairbanks, is to be incorporated under the name "Mabel Fairbanks and Her Ice Mates." Mabel, who is coming along well, Wally Hunter, her coach, expects business to boom shortly as friends are lined up in a sort of "union" to protect themselves as well as the profession against "exploiters" out to make money off Negro talent.

Meanwhile, all interested skaters over the country should write Mr. Hunter at P. O. Box 23, Station I, New York City. He is most anxious to sign up as many skaters as possible.

W. J. Loughton, Beaufort County farmer, gives a grazing crop of rye grass and crimson clover credit for saving one-third of the total feed required by his hogs during the winter.

Negro Sextet 'In The Groove' For Eisenhower And Zhukov

By Carl Levin in the New York Herald Tribune

FRANKFURT, AM MAIN, Germany — The wine, the liquors, the fillet-mignon, the petit-fours and everything else which General Dwight D. Eisenhower served at his headquarters here today for Soviet Marshal George K. Zhukov went over well, but it took a Negro sextet from the United States to put the party in the groove.

The generals who for so long had measured their actions by artillery barrages, bombardments and troop movements, beat time to the use of "The Three Rascals," from Chicago and three Negro vocalists from New York.

The three Chicagoans and their feminine associates were just what the supreme commander ordered. In the books they are listed as "USO Troupe 556" but today they were booked as "The Rhythm Carnival" and they really got swinging with the brass.

ALBERTA HUNTER, of 133 West 138th Street, New York, one of the original blues singers and composer of "Downhearted Blues" put her

wonderful!

"But oh, how nerve wracking!" put in Miss Gandy, who used to be a vocalist with Cab Calloway's orchestra.

Miss Hunter, however, who has played opposite Paul Robeson at the Drury Lane, in London, and who, before the war, played the Casino de Paris, in Paris, and appeared in "Mambo's Daughters" and other Broadway shows, took it all in stride.

She was sorry that her group did not know any Russian music so that they could accompany her.

"If I only knew about this before hand I could have given Zuhky and Vishinsky something they would recognize," she said.

Eisenhower apparently knew what he was doing when he passed up a list of great theatrical names now on the Continent to select the sextet headed by Miss Hunter. For the jam session at S. H. A. E. F. way a war experience his Russian guests are not likely to forget.

They shuffled out of the dining room to the tune of "Roll Out the Barrel" and they were still swinging in the late afternoon.

ENID RAPHAEL IN COMEBACK

NEW YORK (IPS) — Having already appeared with the Stage Door Canteen in several presentations at the various auditoriums and playhouses about town in the production, "Skin Deep," and last week at the Finch Theatre with an all-star mixed cast in "Contact Unlimited," Enid Raphael will have appeared on Broadway with such name stars as Basil Rathbone and Allison Skipworth along with others who have joined the ranks of Miss Mae McKinnis, Edith Wilson and Adele Brown has come out of retirement.

Miss Raphael has taken an active part in Red Cross Hospital shows, a hostess at Stage Door Canteen, she will next be seen in revival of the play "Persian" sponsored by the Stage for Action company.

"Next Door"

By TED SHEARER



"Honey — I mean Captain — just a two hour pass, please."

COUNT BASIE SIGNS NEW VOCALIST

CULVER CITY, Calif. — Count Basie's signing of Cora Ann Moore for the featured female vocalist spot with his orchestra a few weeks ago should provide a good deal of inspiration to many an unknown singer. It wasn't long ago that Miss Moore was just an unknown in her home town of Milwaukee, an shade from the jump from complete obscurity to her present position with the nation's leading musical aggregation without a single stop in between.

A couple of months ago while the Basie band was playing an engagement in Milwaukee, the Count happened to drop into a local cafe. He wasn't there long when his attention was arrested by a young girl who was standing by the cafe's juke-box and vocalizing with such recording tone was played. Basie was impressed—much so, in fact, that he took the girl's name for future reference. Last month he needed a vocalist and promptly wired that same "juke box songstress" to come to New York to join his band.

The songstress of course was none other than Cora Ann Moore. The Basie orchestra opened a four week engagement at the famed Casa Manana niter in Culver City on July 5, and is broadcasting several network work-

LOUIS RUSSELL'S BAND IN WRECK

INDIANAPOLIS (IPS) — Louis Russell's Orchestra on a USO tour between filling packages for the Big "3" Unit (Savannah Churchill, Marva Louis and "Deek" Tatum) and His Brown Dots make up the package which is currently playing at the Regal Theatre in Chicago.

The injured member of the musical aggregation was rushed to City Hospital. The band which plays at New York has just completed an engagement at the Club Plantation in St. Louis and was heading for Dayton, Ohio. Bus driver Eugene Johnson, of St. Louis, could give deputy sheriffs an explanation for swerving off the road.

OTHELLO TWO SHOW

NEW YORK (IPS) — USO Camp Shows hadn't relieve any anxiety in the minds of the troupe going overseas in the joint "Othello-Charley's Aunt" unit, headed by Paul Robeson, Joe Fower and Uta Hagen, would be returned here after a tour of fourteen weeks. The unit, which has brought about the withdrawal of Philip Huston from the company, Huston had cancelled two summer stock engagements to make the trip.

CONSTANCE MOORE, TITO GUIZAR STAR IN REPUBLIC'S "MEXICANA"



One of the production highlights of Republic's current 10th Anniversary celebration is "Mexicana," an elaborate musical now in work at the Studio. Produced and directed by Alfred Santell, it co-stars Constance Moore and Tito Guizar, and boasts a musical score by Washington, D. C. composer, Gabriel Ruiz, with lyrics by Ned Washington. Here, Walter Scharf, head of the Studio's Music Department, directs Guizar and Miss Moore in one of the numbers of the company's new musical auditorium for sound recording and dubbing.

ECKSTINE'S BAND New Unit Starts Nationwide Tour In Raleigh

TAMPA, Florida — Singing maestro Billy Eckstine and his skyrocketing young jump band are now swinging through Florida on the aggregation's current whirlwind tour of the south. The Eckstine crew plays Drew Field in Tampa, Saturday, July 7, for the Army Air Forces, the Harlem Square Club in Miami on Sunday the 8th, and the Two Spot Club in Jacksonville on Monday the 9th.

Next on Billy's route will be several dates in Georgia and Alabama. The handsome singing maestro and his barnstorming bandmen, who are setting new travel records as well as box office marks on this tour, will also swing through Tenn., Ark., La. and Texas on one-night stands this month before beginning the trek back east early in August.

UNIONS FIX RADIOS FOR GIGS

CHICAGO, Ill. — Bids for serenading soldiers at Garden of Eatin' General Hospital here were put in tip-top condition by Junior Red Cross members in their Lyons Township High School shop class.

TAB SMITH IS REALLY 'GREAT'

NEW YORK (IPS) — Tab Smith is one of the greatest saxophone players in America today. Tab has been "great" for some time.

He was featured with Lucky Millinder's Orchestra at one time and his popularity exceeded the Millinder circle and Tab went on his own.

Making his debut at a popularly frequented New York niter ten years ago Smith and His Saxophone stayed at that "hot spot" for eighteen months after the gala opening night. The owner refused to let the band go although several new "juke" contracts bubbled up in the meantime. It wasn't until the place changed hands and was shut down for repairs that Tab Smith, His Saxophone and His Orchestra left.

The initial road tour of the band was a complete success until Fate took a hand. A fatal auto accident took from the band and America as well Trevor Bacon who was killed instantly in one of the automobiles carrying the musical aggregation from one dance date to another on a southern jaunt. Bacon's death came as a shock to the orchestral world and his passing was felt by his buddies in the band. A series of dates that would have taken the ark across country had to be cancelled.

IN PERSON!

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LOVEY LANE

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MON., JULY 9

9 P. M.

NEW YORK (IPS) — Secretary Walter White will make a radio report of his four months tour of the Pacific, investigating the treatment of Negro soldiers, Saturday, July 7th, 3:30-3:45 P. M. (ETW) over the Columbia Broadcasting System. He will speak from WKRC, the CBS station in Cincinnati, Ohio.

The report of Mr. White's first trip to the European theater of war in 1944 as a New York Post and correspondent is told in his book "A Rime Wind," now in fourth printing.