

Band Leaders Mobilize Against Discrimination



Nitelife In N. Y.

BY ALYN MOSES

NEW YORK (AP)—The name of HENRIETTA LOVELACE M. LANE has appeared in the column the past month and her concert on February 18 has been called a "must listen to" by this column. Henrietta is well known in musical and church circles, her work with the young choir of Concord Avenue Baptist Church, having made the news headlines from time to time. She has a great voice and a vibrant personality. The concert was for the benefit of the RED SHIELD NEIGHBORHOOD CENTER (Salvation Army) of which WALTER BOARF, is director.

ARTHUR LEE SIMPKINS, Latin Quarter entertainer, called by many fine critics "America's best," has reached the crest of the waves with the announcement of HAL ROACH MOVIE STUDIO that Lee has been signed for a musical film.

N. Y. Daily News columnist was first to break this news which has made notorious Harlem thrill to it. Simpkins needed only a flicker-volt to put him in the forefront of contemporary singers now that he has gained fame which has made him like a comet in the night sky.

TOWN HALLS are not necessarily a spot like the Garden Gate ballroom or Manhattan eateries. I've always contended that they originate in your barber shops, beauty parlors, tea rooms, even taverns and restaurants like Louis and Ray Robinson's.

Well, in a town hall party over at St. Nicholas Avenue and 127th Street operated by three swell fellows, Willie Lawther, James Newby, and Bob DeKie, we hear these things:

"Thank God for Americans like the aged widow of Civil War Gen. LONGSTREET. Her speech made before the GEORGIA STATE LEGISLATURE, Feb. 6, raised 15 million Negro Americans feel that even in the darkest south brave white liberals are not afraid to speak out against social inequities, racial hatred and Jim Crowism."

It will be recalled that Max Longstreet asked the lawmakers to do away with white supremacy by getting white men to vote in the primaries.

PAUL ROBESON, outstaged by the brilliant INK SPOTS in a RUSSIAN (of all things) popularity poll, leaves his commentator neither hot nor cold if American "reactionaries" gather in my neighborhood.

CITIZEN ROBESON will live in American literary and dramatic circles as one of the most gifted individuals of his day and generation. Long after the Ink Spots have joined the limbo of stalling quarters of a given period.

CUTIE FERKINS, one drummer who for years has called Canada his home, is in New York at this writing. One of the most popular musicians we know anything about, watch for our "Sketch in bronze" on the lad we met back in our high school days some 30

PICKET LINE WITHDRAWN FOR MURIEL RAHN

Kansas City, Mo.—The NAACP picket line around the Kansas City Music Hall took a holiday last week. It was Lincoln's birthday, incidentally, but that was not the reason. It was because Muriel Rahn, noted concert star, was scheduled to sing there.

For the past several months the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, Kansas City Branch, has been protesting the Jim Crow policy of the Music Hall management, which requires all Negroes to sit in the balcony. (Some Kansas City theatres for Negroes entirely). But in the case of Miss Rahn, who is headed by Negro management, a firm stand was taken by the local promoters and the artist against the Music Hall policy, and Miss Rahn's side won.

ACCIDENT DELAYS VA. CONCERT

Richmond, Va. (NNPA)—The concert engagement which an accident kept Cab Calloway and his orchestra from keeping at the Music here February 7 will be held February 7. It was announced last Thursday.

On their way to Richmond to fill the engagement, an accident prevented them from arriving there in time for the concert. Substitute entertainment was provided until it was determined that Cab and his orchestra would not arrive in time to give their scheduled concert. The new date was set before the crowd left and ticket holders were told to retain their stalls for the later date.

Disappointed himself over failure to keep the engagement, Calloway has promised the show of his life. Appearing with him will be Jonah Jones and Milton Hinton, Esquire's All-Americans, and the Cab Jivers.

LIFTS COLOR BAR IN BALTIMORE THEATRE

NEW YORK — Negroes sat in the orchestra and the first balcony of the Maryland Theatre in Baltimore for the first time in that city at the Lincoln's Birthday performance of "Flag in Horn" as the result of a tradition-shattering victory aim by the NAACP against the rigid discriminatory practice followed by all theaters in the South of relegating Negroes to inferior seats in the second-balcony.

Notified by the Baltimore branch of the Association that Negroes were not seeking equal treatment in the purchase of tickets for the play, the NAACP national office took the matter up with the American League for a Free Palestine, sponsorship the production, who instructed the theater's management to drop their color bars or face unfavorable publicity on the anniversary of the birthday of The Great Emancipator, Abraham Lincoln.

FREE TICKETS FOR BLIND HIT RACIAL SNAG

WASHINGTON (ANP)—A denial was made last week to charges that race prejudice limited the number of free tickets for blind persons to the Philadelphia InScale Opera company's production in Constitution hall.

Prize in the concert, the opera company offered free tickets to blind persons here as well as to persons who volunteered to escort them to the opera. Application began to pour in, then the offer was suddenly withdrawn. Mrs. Parker Dove, chairman of the opera company's Washington committee, explained that the withdrawal was made because the company could not spare enough tickets to cover all applications.

But F. S. Huffy, executive vice president of the Columbia Polytechnic Institute for the Blind, Inc., through which the blind applied for tickets, said "the application of more colored than white persons" was responsible for the withdrawal of the offer. Mrs. Dove denied the charge.

Miss Cora Fison, Huffy's secretary, said she contacted Mrs. Dove when the problem of distributing the tickets became apparent. The number of tickets set aside for the blind and their escorts was not revealed by Mrs. Dove or Miss Fison.



BUDDY JOHNSON TO PLAY IN THE CAPITAL CITY

RALEIGH — Buddy Johnson, who brings his rapidly rising young "Week-End Rhythm" orchestra to Raleigh on February 25 is one of the most versatile talents in the business.

Musso Johnson, an ace keyboard stylist, fronts his 17-piece band. Appreciation from the piano and is responsible for the majority of the band's dramatic arrangements. They too, Buddy is a noted composer with more than a hundred tunes to his credit. As further proof of his versatility, he manages to find time to sing out a few rhythm vocals.

One of the Johnson band's biggest features is the vocalizing of his sister, Buddy's sister, Ella. She has been with the band since it was organized two years ago and her vocal of "That's the Stuff You Gotta Watch" is responsible for the fact that this particular Johnson recording has sold more than 30,000 copies. Ella also scores beautifully on the band's discs of "Phoebe, M. Johnson" and "When My Men Come Home."

Baritone Arthur Prysock, banjo player of the band. The spotlight falls upon some outstanding instrumentalists within the Johnson orchestra, among them, tenor saxophonist David Van Dyke, clarinetist Willie Nelson and Duke Bolton, guitarist Jerome Davis and drummer man Teddy Stewart.

SHAW BROADCASTS TO CONTINUE

RALEIGH — Station WPTF will continue its collegiate concert series of broadcasts with three concerts at the Shaw University Chapel School, under the direction of Miss Mildred A. Thompson Friday, February 20 and March 11 at 10:45 p. m.

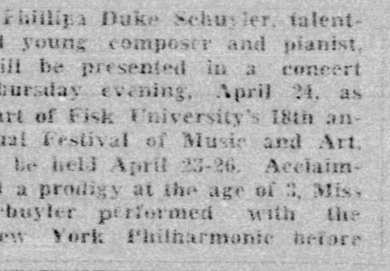
The Shaw society broadcasts will originate from the WPTF studios.

MAKES FIRST APPEARANCE

DETROIT, Mich. (Special)—The Detroit de Portes Choral Ensemble, comprising fifty five Negro youths of the Sacred Heart parish here, made their first public appearance today when they presented a variety program at the first quarterly meeting of the Catholic Interracial Council.

On a play written by Sam Corson, and under the direction of Joseph Quintillo, Frederick O'Neal, or Anita Lincoln, James played the part of Frederick Douglass.

THE NEW
Royal
Friday and Saturday
Buster Crabbe—in
"PRAIRIE RUSTLERS"
Also
George Houston—in
"THE LONE RIDER IN GHOST TOWN"
Sunday and Monday
Jimmy Wakely
"TRAIL TO MEXICO"
Tuesday and Wednesday
Sidney Toler—in
"RED DRAGON"
Also
Dusty Fletcher—in
"OPEN THE DOOR RICHARD"
Thursday
Edward C. Robinson—in
"THE STRANGER"



Phillipa Duke Schuyler, talented young composer and pianist, will be presented in a concert Thursday evening, April 24, at that of Fisk University's 18th annual Festival of Music and Art, to be held April 23-26. Acclaimed a prodigy at the age of 3, Miss Schuyler performed with the New York Philharmonic here

12,000 people last year. Hailed by TIME magazine as "the brightest young composer in the United States," she has written over 100 piano and orchestral compositions, some of which have been played by the Boston, New York, Chicago, Detroit and San Francisco symphony orchestras.

No Limit To Ability Of Colored Actors Says Herald Producer

NEW YORK — A new era of opportunity for Negro actors is only just around the corner, according to Jack Goldberg, producer of Herald Pictures, Inc., whose initial production, "BOY! WHAT A GIRL!" is a role ready for release.

"Until now," Mr. Goldberg points out, "the Negro actor has been largely of the character variety with the few stars of them being the few. Now, Herald Pictures is going to advance that and a good beginning will be made in 'BOY! WHAT A GIRL!'. I think that we have definitely in the new day there are no limitations to the type of role that Negro actors can completely play."

"The sheer variety of characterizations in this show," Mr. Goldberg added, "proves our point. It is exciting, it is a fine straight picture, it is excellent, and as a wealthy designer from Paris, Warren Patterson is human and sympathetic as well as extremely funny as Donaldson, the nebbishy leading man."

Lincoln

RALEIGH, NORTH CAROLINA
SUN.-MON.-TUES.
FEB. 22 - 24 - 25
BOB HOPE
JOAN CAULFIELD
PATRICK KNOWLES

BEAUCAIRE "MONSIEUR"

WED. - THURS.
FEB. 26 - 27
ALAN LANE
VERONICA LAKE
LAIRD CRIGAR

"THIS GUN FOR HIRE"

FRI. - SAT.
FEB. 28 - MAR. 1
DOUBLE FEATURE
WILD BILL ELLIOTT—in
"GREAT STAGE"
"COACH ROBBERY"

—Also—
NOAR BEERY, JR.
LOIS COLLIER
FALL KELLY

"THE CAT CREEPS"

Also Chapter II
"LOST CITY OF THE JUNGLE"

"NEW WORLD A-COMING" HONORS "ABE" LINCOLN

NEW YORK (ANP)—In honor of the birthday of Abraham Lincoln and also in celebration of its third anniversary of pioneering in the presentation of racial themes on the air, "New World A-Coming" presented a radio play about the Great Emancipator here last Thursday.

"New World A-Coming" was created in 1944 to dramatize the lives of men and events affecting minority life as a public service feature of radio station WABC. Since then it has become a permanent feature of the station's program and has paved the way for frank discussion of racial and religious problems on the major networks.

The Lincoln birthday offering was entitled "His Truth is March-



BUDDY JOHNSON

RALEIGH MEMORIAL AUDITORIUM
TUES FEB. 25 NITE
9 P. M. to 1 A. M.
BUDDY JOHNSON
His Piano and His Orchestra
Featuring—ELLA JOHNSON
EXTRA—MISS FINE BROWN FRAME CONTEST

America's Top Flight Maestros Endorse Program

Washington, D. C.—(NNPA)—America's top flight band leaders have endorsed a program to mobilize band leaders to drive against race discrimination. The program has been initiated by Norman Granz, producer of Jazz at the Philharmonic, it was disclosed last Tuesday.

Mr. Granz revealed that he has written letters to thirty leading band leaders pointing out to them that thirty-six of the nation's top playwrights and members of Actors' Equity have spoken out against race bias in theatres and playhouses and he asked them to sign a pledge in all of their future contracts to the effect that they will not play to segregated audiences. The Philharmonic, a mixed aggregation has been working under such a clause since its organization in 1911.

Among the band leaders to whom he wrote were: Gene Krupa, Cab Calloway, Woody Herman, Artie Shaw, Bob Crosby, Alvino Ray, Lionel Hampton, Sam Donner, Eddie Heywood, Ray McKinley, Billy Eckstine, Boyd Scharn, Hal McIntyre, Eliot Lawrence, Sonny Kaye, Louis Prima, Harry James, Jimmy Dorsey, Count Basie, Charlie Barnett, Freddy Martin, Tommy Dorsey, Stan Kenton, Benny Goodman, Duke Ellington, Esquire Hawkins, Vaughn Monroe and King Cole.

Mr. Granz, whose band played the Howard Theater here last week and that responses received from the band leaders indicate "strong interest" in fighting discrimination.

King Cole of the popular King Cole Trio noted that he had immediately constructed his manager, Sam, to insert the non-discrimination clause in all of his contracts. "We shall cooperate 100 per cent," Cole stated.

Miss Shirley G. Evans, executive of the concert, said, "Artistic talent and the support of Tommy Dor-

sey's band last TD and his boy "Are in complete accord with you in your endeavor to eliminate racial discrimination."

Other band leaders pledging support to Mr. Granz's idea were Charlie Barnett, Bailey Hick and Coleman Hawkins.

The pledge which Mr. Granz is seeking all band leaders to write into their contracts reads:

"It is the essence of this agreement that there is to be no segregation of white people from Negroes. In the event of any violation of either of these provisions by you, the management of the hall or anyone else, Mr. Granz may be understood as refusing to give his consent in which case you will forfeit one-half of the contract price to him."

Granz said that where Jim is a pianist, supporters of his plan would work for at least a guarantee of equal facilities for all groups and cooperate with groups both from within and outside the field of entertainment to defeat such statutes.

OXFORD — The Angier B. Duke School, Colored Orphanage, Oxford, closed its Negro History Week activities with a program in the U. P. Chatham Building at 9 A. M. Friday, February 14.

A brief sketch of the activities of Negroes since Emancipation was given by A. R. Howell, instructor. The sketch was rendered by the school choir club, and a choral recital of Negro poems was presented.

This program culminated a week of special emphasis and study of the life and activities of Negroes in various fields.

NOW PLAYING! Love, Laughs and Music!
"LOVE LAUGHS AT ANDY HARDY"
—with—
MICKY ROONEY—LEWIS STONE—LINA ROMAY
BONITA GRANVILLE—FAY HOLDEN
SUN — MON — TUE
BUD ABBOTT
LOU COSTELLO
—with—
"Time Of Their Lives"
WED — THUR — FRI — SAT
ROMANCE AS GLORIOUS AS IT'S
MATCHLESS SETTING!
"CALIFORNIA"
—with—
Ray Milland — Barbara Stanwyck
BARRY FITZGERALD
CHILDREN UNDER 12 5c
Ambassador ADMISSION 21c Plus Tax

DRAMATIC DIRECTORS FOR HIGH SCHOOLS OUTLINE ACTIVITIES



Carol Brice, called by Serge Koussvitzky the "greatest living contralto," sang at a dinner February 14, in New York's Hotel Pennsylvania honoring Doctor Charles S. Johnson, president of Fisk University. The Fisk Jubilee Singers, this year celebrating their 75th anniversary, and Roland Hayes, famous tenor, entertained at the dinner which was attended by several hundred prominent educators, businessmen, and professional people.

RALEIGH — At a recent business meeting of the Dramatic Directors of the North Carolina High Schools, which was held at the Shaw University campus, work was done on revising the constitution so as to assure maximum participation of schools in North Carolina.

After setting up plans for festival officers were elected. They are: Miss Elizabeth Schooke of West Charlotte High School, president; Mrs. M. D. Williams of Raleigh, vice president; Miss Almina J. Kennedy of Cooper High School, Recording Secretary; Mrs. E. C. Thomas, Dramatic Director at Shaw University, Executive Secretary; and H. J. Johnson of Washington High School, Raleigh, Treasurer.

Since that date each district has held its meeting and set dates for the preliminary festivals. They are as follows:

Rocky Mount District, Mrs. Mable Lenthorn, chairman, March 7-8; Booker T. Washington School, Fayetteville District, Mrs. C. H. McLeod, chairman, March 14-15; E. E. Smith High School, Greensboro District, Mrs. B. J. Wells, chairman, March 1 at Dudley High School.

Charlotte District, Mr. C. L. Hoke, chairman, March 7-8 at West Charlotte High School.

Ashville District, Mrs. A. P. Toliver, chairman, March 13-14, at Stephens Lee High School.

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