

# Niteline In N. Y.

BY ALVIN MOSES

NEW YORK (ANP) — THE CLUB BARON inside story centers around a run in with building inspectors which can't be healed for love or money; the "angles" whom Barrone had interested in the cinema-theatre have moved their belongings out lock, stock and barrel; LOUIS JORDAN and his band are more popular with APOLLO THEATRE crowds than before his martial virtues reached the headlines — good luck to you, Louie; ... Surprising the box-office records established by Lou Jordan at Miami, the THREE ELAZERS are set to open at Frank Schiffman's 125th Street playhouse come next Friday nite.

JAMES NEWBY, publisher of Amateur Song magazine, is the recipient of much praise from lenders in various walks of life for his May-June combination issue due to newsprint difficulties. Mr. Newby is angling for a press of his own and when the deal is consummated, you'll read it right here in your favorite column-space. BILL POTTER (Baby Grand cafe) and BILL GARRETT (Jock's Music Room) are two of the best-liked tavern managers in this section of the country in my humble estimation. BILL CHASE, back to the writing wars again, is turning out the high-powered impressions that make his space a reading must on our "dawn patrol" ... TOWN HALL can take a bow for being selected as the setting for the recent "Salute to Negro War Veterans" with inimitable WILLIE BRYANT acting as emcee.

MEET THE — GOLDEN GIRL  
BACK IN NOVEMBER 1945 an unknown entertainer sat patiently in FRITZ POLLARD'S Sun Tan studios in upper Harlem in answer to a call for chorus line talent. A petite, oriental-looking number, she answered to the name of "Ginger" LaPorte, native-born NEW YORKER reared but one block from Times Square. Eleven other damsels answered the Pollard notice and ironically enough, they were destined to become chorus partners and lasting friends in the hectic months that were to follow. NEVER TOOK A LESSON

This pert, starry-eyed dancer who looks no older than 19 with or without glamour-effects was given the job by Pollard, ex-football immortal, and nightclubbers first saw her perform in the chorus line at CLUB SUDAN, formerly operated as the Cotton Club.

I remember a few of the chorines who graced that first Club Sudan line when I went to cover same on opening nite. In addition to the sprightly interpretive dancer "Ginger," whom I elect to call the "Golden Girl" in this story, there were Shirley and Gertie Johnson, sister and sister-in-law respectively of WINNIE JOHNSON, pretty ex-wife of Stepin Fetchit of movie fame; Ann Cosmo, Edith Young, Gladys Goodard, "Espenanza," Billie Grace Joan King, Estella Murzio and one or two more whose names I no longer recall.

There was the Golden Girl, out there dancing like a Rock-etite with never a dancing teacher of the Kate Durham or Hank LeTang brilliance to show her her way around in the tricky routines that made Club Sudan floor shows chick. Night after night for six months Ginger danced her way into the hearts of Harlemites and white visitors from midtown and the Green-Wich Village section of the gay Metropolis.

Her next port of call was the Seaview Beach Hotel, Virginia Beach, still in the chorus, still clearing off the day when her original and creative ideas would grind out routines that would put her act in the foremost colored and white niteries in the country. She worked in the chorus at Club 400, Buckroe Beach, Va., and Club TWA, Newport News, Va., up

to August 1946. Then it was back to New York, city of her birth for a well earned rest. Satisfied that she was ready to launch her own career with her own act, Golden Girl opened at Chicago's RITZ LOUNGE, the latter part of August, '46. There she worked with ALLEN BREW doing whatever came to her clever mind; no worked-out routines, no suggested ideas of any sort, just the home-grown creations that mark everythings about this human dynamo of the dance floor. The house literally went wild for her performance, no one in the audience ever dreaming that Ginger's act was entirely UNREHEARSED, and 100 per cent original. With the month of June 1947, in our midst, "Ginger" is back with her friends, admirers and lovers once after 12 months work at different amusement spots. Aside from the Ritz lounge she played at Crystal Cabins, Washington; the Ace Club, Lodi, N. J.; Chicken Shack, Schenectady, N. Y.; Club St. Michael, Montreal, Can.; Coliseum Club, Plantation Club, St. Louis and a five-day stay at Club Baron, New York.

DESIGNER, PAINTER, ATHLETE  
For years she has ridden horses expertly, swims like a water-grip, never misses the chance to roller skate, and takes in all reasonable sports when time permits. She designs her own costumes, creates the hair styles that are the envy of people of all races wherever she travels, is a painter far better than average ability (portraits) and is an interior decorator — out of this world. A free lance, she is under no exclusive agent or management, and has done most of her own booking independently.

LIONEL HAMPTON'S BAND NAMED "MOST POPULAR"  
New York (NNPA) — A vote of leading theatrical editors shows the Lionel Hampton Band is the "most popular" on the road today. Hamp's band has withstood the test of a post-war recession. Instead of being curtailed or broken up, it has become so many of the war time success bands, the Hampton band is acclaimed as being one of the greatest in musicianship and showmanship.

## Lucky Millinder Starts National Talent Hunt

Baltimore, Md. — The Lucky Millinder 1947 National Talent Discovery Quest started auspiciously Saturday, June 7th, when the New Jersey State Finals, held at Walt Dream Arena, Atlantic City, N. J., attracted an entry list of 67 talented amateur singers, instrumentalists, vocal and musical troups, representing 31 Garden State cities, competed for fame, fortune and a possible professional career in show-business. The near-capacity audience thrilled to the blues and Dixie harmony singing of The Duke Trio of Carteret, N. J., who walked off with top singing honors. The spirituals and folk singing contest saw a close battle waged between six evenly matched groups, before the judges awarded the decision to the Singing Star Quartet of Newark. Both winners are eligible to appear in the Grand Finals, to be held in Hollywood, Atlanta, Chicago or New York, competing with winning representatives from 37 other states.

Millinder and his orchestra, featuring Arniezon Allen, "Bull-rose" Jackson and the nation's new singing sensation Paul Brockmeade will continue their 78 city cross-country tour with appearances scheduled for Lynchburg, Va., June 12, Petersburg, Va., June 13,

## CLIMBED STAIRWAY TO STARDOM



When this picture was taken The Melody Masters were singing their latest Apollo recording, "Subway Cutie." Riding high among recording artists their Apollo contract has gained for the Melody Masters consistent record hits. From the sensational "Wig Blue," "My Baby," and "Don't Ever Mind Them" to their latest novelty tune "Subway Cutie" the Melody Masters have climbed the stairway to stardom.

On last Thursday the quintet (pictured above) moved into the Cafe Zanzibar in New York, following the famous Mills Brothers. At the time when the boys temporarily "halted" their climb, contracts were being inked at the Gale Agency for a series of stellar appearances beginning with the Broadway nite club booking.

Meet the Melody Masters: Beginning at the top is James Watson, the Baltimore lad who is noted for his early start in the musical world. Next to Watson is Danny Owens, lead tenor. Formerly a member of the Southern Sons and solo vocalist with the Coleman Brothers, Danny, they would have you believe, is the Beau Brummel of the group. (Well, he's handsome-and-then-some, girls!) To the left and rear of Danny is Cliff Givens who was the "original" bass to take the place of the late Orville (Hoppy) Jones with the celebrated Ink Spots. An erstwhile member of the Southern Sons, Coleman Brothers and the Golden Gate Quartet, Cliff possesses plenty of sparkle and a brilliant deep bass voice. In front of Givens is the young man with the comedy touch—the personality boy himself—Simon "Pico" Payne. Then there's the arranger for the quintet, Eric Miller, who was formerly with the Lionel Hampton, and Count Basie Orchestras.

### IT DIDN'T WORK

By WARREN E. ALLEN  
The Selah Jubilee Singers and the Dixie Humming Birds are still having their battles of songs throughout North Carolina. Sunday night, June 8th, they sang to a crowd of more than 700 people in Wilson at Community Center. Monday night, June 9th, they were found punching it out in Durham at the Amory. At both occasions the Selah boys were found knocking all the home runs with their smooth singing. The "yet religion and about stuff" would work for the Birds. It could have been that the "sisters" didn't turn out or was it too hot for shouting?

Friday night, June 13th, these two quartets will have another battle in Waverton at Green's Hall. There'll be some hard hitting on the unlucky night. Just what quarter will knock the home run depends on the traveling of the black cat. Study your audience's face. Humming Birds: If you don't it may not work again.

Washington Alumni Chapter of Kappas are having their twenty-second annual outing at Cotton (Maryland) June 21-22. W. Henry (Maryland) Green, eastern provincial policeman — he's a medic — is chairman of the arrangement committee.

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### RATING HOT RECORDS

BY OTTO MACK

For the NNPA News Service  
FLATTER CHATTER: Columbia will release an album of DUKE ELLINGTON and his orchestra on June 15. All of the records are being made from old masters, recorded in the thirties, which have never been pressed.

COUNT BASIE and his band were accorded the signal honor of being chosen to perform at the most impressive mass induction of Navy and Marine Corps reservists in the history of Naval service, which took place on May 24 in the Palestra of the University of Pennsylvania. Over 11,000 ex-servicemen and their guests danced to the Basie beat following the services.

Columbia's album of "Finian's Rainbow" smash Broadway musical has just been released. Ziggy Elman and Charles Shavers top the list of musicians in Tommy Dorsey's new band.

Speaking of Tommy Dorsey, RCA Victor has just released the "Dorsey Concerto," a 12-inch disc taken from the film production "The Fabulous Dorseys." Providing a superb showcase for the individual talents of these famous musical fathers, the "concerto" is presented exactly as featured in the movie. Backed by a full symphony orchestra under the baton of Louis Forbes, the Dorseys demonstrate all

one jazz feeling which has brought them world-wide fame.

RECOMMENDED FOR PROSPECTIVE JUNE BRIDES who expect to get married without the benefit of organ music: the 12-inch Columbia recording of Wagner's "Lohengrin" (Bridal Chorus) with Mendelssohn's "Midsummer Night's Dream" (Wedding March) on the reverse (just released). The two pieces of wedding music, played by Fred Fiebel at the New York Paramount Organ, are both glowing marches—well played.

RECOMMENDED DISCS: The Page Savannah Trio's interpretation of "Walkin' My Baby Back Home" and "Heart Breakin'" (Victor). The Earl Hines re-issue of "Boogie Woogie on the St. Louis Blues" with "Jelly Jelly" on the flipover (Gines No. 19 was on the reverse side of the original release years ago) (Victor). T-Bone Walker with Les Hite and his orchestra doing "T-Bone Blues" and "Jimmy's Blues" (Blue-note).

Harry James' "You'll Never Know" (Columbia). Elliott Lawrence's "Sympathy" (Columbia). Tommy Dorsey's "Bingo, Bingo, Beppo" (Victor). The Metropolitan All Stars with Frank Sinatra on "Sweet Lorraine" with "Nat Meets June," featuring Nat "King" Cole and June Christy on the flipover.



The superb solo rendition of Cootie Williams on "I Can't Get Started" (Majestic) and Willie Smith's great solo sax solos in the "Willie Smith Album" (Keynote). Record fans will recall that for several months Ted Weems' unique interpretation of "Heartaches" (Decca) was the talk of the town. Well, maestro Harry James has issued the same number... and it's something to write home about. Whether a fan selects the Weems or James disc depends on individual taste. Both are well worth listening to. However, if rhythm is your business, the James interpretation will probably rate your raves.

A few days ago a group of BILLIE HOLLIDAY fans got together with your reviewer to discuss the Holiday case and the singing ability of the gifted vocalist.

Ten Holliday records were played for the purpose of determining which of the singer's recordings touched the heartstrings of the majority of the fans present. The Winner, Billie's interpretation of "Travin' Light" with Paul Whiteman's orchestra (Capitol) in which she sings under the name of "Lady Day."

Record fans who raved about Elliott Lawrence's "Sympathy" will like his "They Can't Convince Me" with "Let's Put Our Dreams Together" on the flipover. These are two dreamy ballads in the unorthodox Lawrence manner. The first idea from the movie "Down to Earth" features a beautiful arrangement with an English horn, two clarinets and a bassoon. Jack Ham-tri does the vocal.

CLASSICS: Of unusual musical

interest in Columbia's new recording of Igor Stravinsky's most recent Symphony in Three Movements. Stravinsky wrote this symphony in 1945 in Hollywood, and dedicated the work to the New York Philharmonic-Symphony Orchestra in appreciation of his twenty-year association with the organization.

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## Lincoln

RALEIGH, NORTH CAROLINA

SUN. & MON. JUNE 15 - 16

Robert Montgomery  
Audrey Totter  
Lloyd Nolan

### "LADY IN THE LAKE"

TUESDAY JUNE 17

Victor Jory  
Patricia Blake

### "UNKNOWN GUEST"

WED. & THUR. JUNE 18-19

Abbott & Costello

### "THE TIME OF THEIR LIVES"

Chapter 5  
"MONSTER AND THE APE"

FRI. & SAT. JUNE 20-21

Wild Bill Elliott - In

### "PHANTOM OF THE PLAINS"

and  
Louis Armstrong

### "SWING PARADE OF 1946"

Chapter 1  
"MYSTERIOUS MR. M."

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A NEW REALM OF EXCITEMENT AND SUSPENSE!  
**JAMES CAGNEY**  
IN  
**"13 RUE MADELEINE"**  
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ANNABELLA - RICHARD CONTE - FRANK LATIMORE

Starts Saturday!

A Heart Warming Love Story!  
A love affair that couldn't have happened to a more fascinating collection of people!  
**Don De Fore**  
**Ann Harding**

CHARLES-RUGGLES - VICTOR MOORE - GALE STORM  
IN  
**"IT HAPPENED ON 5TH AVENUE"**

— STARTS WEDNESDAY —  
SPENCER TRACY - KATHERINE HEPBURN  
ROBERT WALKER - MELVIN DOUGLAS  
IN  
**"The Sea of Grass"**

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**AMBASSADOR**  
COOL



Key "Little Jazz" Eldridge takes his orchestra to Rocky Mount, Monday night, June 16, for the annual June German dance where he will share honors with the International Sweethearts of Rhythm during the all-night dancing in the South's largest ballroom — a converted tobacco warehouse. The third attraction will be Dusty Fletcher, the man who made the hit "Open the Door, Richard."

CELEBRATED PIANIST TO STUDY IN PARIS  
NEW YORK (ANP) — George Walker, celebrated Washington, D. C., pianist, revealed here last week, during his Town Hall concert, that he plans to sail for Paris on June 21 to study repertoire with Robert Casadesu, the distinguished French pianist at the American Arts school in Fontainebleau. Walker will return sometime in September, he said, for several scheduled concerts.

MOREHOUSE GRADUATE '71  
ATLANTA, Ga. — Fifty-one Bachelor of Arts and 20 Bachelor of Science degrees were awarded at the 80th annual commencement of Morehouse College here last Tuesday.

North Carolina graduates who were awarded degrees are: Filton Chadiah Bradley, Winston-Salem; Walter Edward Ricks, Jr., of Kings Mountain and Andrew Isaac Terrell of Winston-Salem.  
Eloise Vaughn, McKinney of Charlotte and Inogene Herbert Turner of Winston-Salem were awarded the Bachelor of Arts degree at the Spelman College commencement Wednesday.

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With Best Entertainment Yet  
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**ROY ELDRIDGE**  
And His Orchestra  
and  
**INTERNATIONAL SWEETHEARTS OF RHYTHM**  
PLUS  
**"DUSTY" FLETCHER**  
DOING HIS NUMBER  
"OPEN THE DOOR, RICHARD"  
**MONDAY, JUNE 16**  
Plauter's Warehouse No. 2., Rocky Mount, N. C.