

WILL PRESENT COMEDY AT ST. AUGUSTINE

Nitlife In New York

BY ALVIN MOSES

NEW YORK—(ANP)—LENA HORNE, gracious lady of stage and screen beloved by all with whom she comes in contact, is the recipient of congratulations from intimate friends for receiving a new MGM contract at a much higher figure. We just can't have too many talented "good will ambassadors" in the increasingly undemocratic times of Lena Horne's stature.

The world of the theatre, nightclubs and athletes still mourns the passing of EDDIE BROWN, one of New York's best basketball stars three decades or more ago. In the near future we expect to do a story on Eddie who was also popular as a political and socialite.

Following our weekly custom, we selected this letter as best of the past month. "Dear Alvin:

While I am still a youngster, I recall very vividly the talks I've had with my sister, Mrs. Hannah Sylvester Clarke, nationally known nightclub and theatrical singer, about a nascent-comedy star known as Florence Mills. I feel that the page which performs as "Little Blackbird" wrote should be a part of our swiftly-moving civilization and know you share in such opinion with me.

I circulate in a group of some 20 or more American kids not yet in their 30's who wish to read some of the highlights as well as the date of her passing. Please give us a sketch on this great character when time permits and once again, thanks a lot.

BENNETT SYLVESTER

We are still trying to reconcile the story that makes Florence Mills' career interesting to patrons of the theatre. So until we do, Mr. Sylvester, these few facts should prove interesting to you and your friends.

As a Kette circuit musical comedy headliner, the dainty wife of dancer U. S. Thompson earned \$3,500 per week. One of the highest salaries paid a colored entertainer since the days of the immortal Bert Williams. Born in Washington, the offspring of parents who never knew what real comforts of life amounted to, Florence Mills was the first as well as the greatest of the many "Blackbirds" of Lew Leslie's shows.

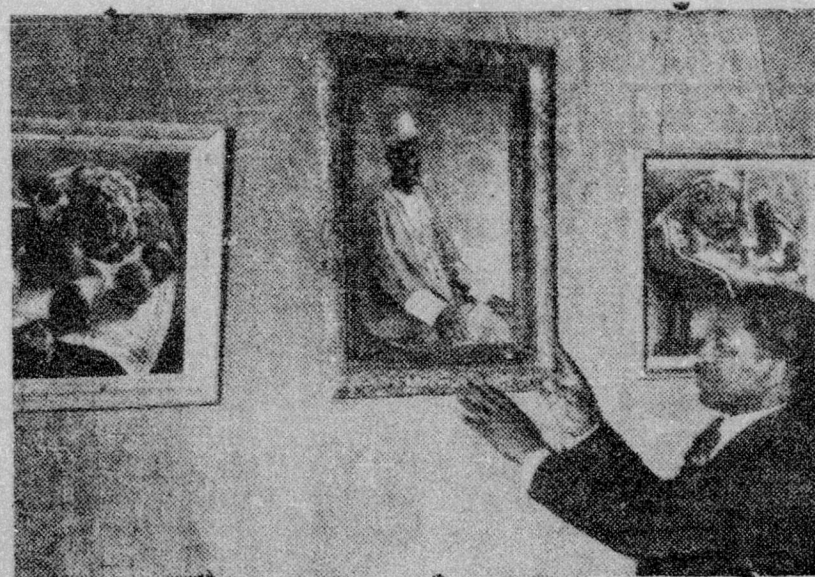
Twenty-one years ago she was stricken with an attack of appendicitis at the height of her stage stardom. In exactly a fortnight following a rush-appendectomy she died (Nov. 1, 1927) shocking stage lovers of two continents by the suddenness of these events. Her funeral, held in a church in Harlem, attracted more mourners than do figures high in the governmental affairs of our nation. As she lay in state in a rich plush-lined coffin on West 137th street and 7th Ave., ugly rumors circulated in both the colored weekly papers and the white dailies and tabloids as to the true cause of the passing of this talented yet pathetic foot-light figure. It was thought that some poison or otherwise foreign substance had mysteriously entered the blood stream of "Lil Blackbird."

The rumors were later branded as false and unfounded, the Bronx Daily News, a paper with major white support and patronage carried a screed in this connection which read, POISON-RUMOR-ABSURD. Among the countless thousands of white and colored mourners who milled around the streets as the cortege passed given points, scores fainted dead away many of them personal admirers of Miss Mills who was widely loved.

The church was inadequate for the press of the throng who fought to get a close view of things. The police commissioner assigned 150 patrolmen to guard against accidents. At certain points they made a human chain (hand to hand). More than 100 cars formed the funeral cortege and 200 floral pieces, many of them as tall as the elf-like darling of the stage, followed in separate cars.

She was the toast of Paris, London, Berlin, (before Hitler), New York and other key American cities. It was predicted, and how right these prophets were, that a half century or more would pass before the equal of FLORENCE MILLS would grace the American stage. She was indeed one of musical comedy's greatest queens.

Stages One Man Show



Aaron Douglas, one of America's foremost contemporary artists, adjusts one of his portraits at his one-man show of 27 paintings that were an exhibition last week at Fisk University where he heads the art department. Mr. Douglas' exhibit was accepted and later canceled by two of Nashville's leading cultural centers but when finally displayed at Fisk University was impartially acclaimed by critics. Ruth Campbell of the Nashville Tennessean (daily) declared that it had been "some time since art lovers in Nashville had been treated to a show as outstanding as Douglas' and lamented the fact that because of transportation difficulties many citizens would be denied an "impressive showing of paintings that merit unprejudiced recognition."

Rubinoff Acclaimed In A. & T. College Concert

GREENSBORO — Continuing to add to his laurels, David Rubinoff brought his \$100,000 Stradivarius, a wealth of showmanship and an abundance of artistic ability, to A. & T. College last week to thrill 1,900 students who filled Harris Auditorium for the renowned violinist's first recital at the College.

Rubinoff appeared at the college as a special Lyceum presentation. The performance, was one of nine the indefatigable artist played in the one day he was in Greensboro.

GLEE CLUB ON ANNUAL TOUR

The 40-voice Williston High School Choral Club will make its annual tour beginning April 7. Their opening engagement will be under the auspices of the Trustee Aid Club of the First AMEZ Church, of Brooklyn, New York, Friday, April 9.

The Glee Club appeared there in 1947 with a successful program which made possible the return engagement. On April 10 a coast-to-coast hook-up over the Mutual Broadcasting System, originating in New York Studios, WOR from 2:30 until 3:00 p. m.

On the night of April 12, they will appear in concert at the Beinec Aids Church. Following this engagement in New York, the group has contemplated temporary engagements in Bordentown, New Jersey, with a stop at Lincoln University in Pennsylvania.

The Director of this group, Mr. James Thompson Jr., has enjoyed several years of successful direction and has received plaudits from music critics in this and other areas.

Refuses "Mammy" Role

NEW ORLEANS (ANP) — A well known local contralto, Mrs. Juliette Chesterfield Kemp, refused to appear in a "mammy" costume including a red bandanna to sing at the recent "Fete de Chapeau" at New Orleans' exclusive Roosevelt hotel, it was revealed here last week.

White promoters were astounded at the fact that a Negro would refuse to sing in the "grand ballroom" of this famous hotel where Negroes must go in through the service entrances. She said she would be glad to sing there but not in the dress of a "mammy."

Help Select Pepsi-Cola Fellowship Winners



To Be Seen At St. Aug.



TO BE SEEN AT ST. AUG
The two Victorian ladies at their afternoon tea are Miss Lisabeth Blake and Miss Jennelle Gregg of the cast of Touring Players, Inc., production of Os-

car Wilde's "The Importance of Being Earnest," to be presented on Friday evening, April 2 at 8 o'clock in Taylor Hall, St. Augustine's College.

IN SEMINAR



John Wesley Work, professor of music theory at Fisk University, who will appear in a seminar "Folk Music" during the 15th annual Festival of Music and Art on May 1. Participating in the discussion with Work will be Charles Seeger, chief of music division, Pan-American Union, and G. Wallace Woodworth, director of Harvard University Glee Club.

TAN TOPICS

By CHARLES ALLEN



"She Doesn't Know The Meaning Of Love, In Fact, She Doesn't Know The Meaning Of Anything!"

GI TID BITS

By JOSEPH F. ALBRIGHT
For ANP
The Parable Of The Gorgeous WAC

Once there was a gorgeous WAC whose beauty score was about .001 short of an UNBELIEVABLE VISION. Venus in her prime days, would have been nothing but a DIM GLOW beside this glamorous addition to the armed forces. If a face could be a fortune, she could have qualified as the **SOLE OWNER** of the U. S. Bureau of Engraving.

Her shape was something every woman tries for, but only a mighty few of the HECTIC HESTERS ever get. When she came walking down the street, she was the cynosure for every living soul, the **FRUSTRATED FRILLS** registering everything from envy to awe, and the **WISHEFUL WOLVES** from interest up. Her **SALIENT POINTS** remained as discernibly as a phosphorus flame in a **MOONLESS SKY** regardless as to what, at the moment, might be the uniform covering her **FULGENT FRAME**.

Upon one occasion she appeared in a GI show all decked out in a flimsy formal evening gown, exposing **GENEROUS QUANTITIES** of her molasses taffy skin, and the program came to an **UNCEREMONIOUS STOP**. It took every MP in camp to quell the riot. Four officers and nine enlisted men had to be shagged away to the psychopathic ward, incoherently mumbling something about life not being fair.

To say that she had just "mowed" would be an **ALL-TIME LOW** in understatement—she really possessed the **COMPLETE WORKS** and doubt me not, either. But despite all the **DAZZLING ADORATION** paid her, she played it cool and remained very friendly with her outfit. She could afford to be patsy-walsy, because any other tootsie offered her a bout as much competition as a small town dressmaker does to Adrian. It was never necessary for her to put on an act to get **RAPT** attention from the customers—she was just naturally the whole show, anyway, from the overture to the finale.

So imagine what a shock the entire camp received when, with

everything in trousers to choose from, she was observed constantly in the company of a certain private whose masculine charm wouldn't have caused a **FAMINE ATTENTION**. He seemed to be a nice guy, but just being "nice" never has rung any wedding bells with a **LOUD TOLL**, if you catch on.

The shock generated into a **VIOLENT STORM** of puzzled discussion when the beautiful **TREASURE TROVE** announced that she had decided to take on the **SIMPLE SOLDIER** for better or for worse. (But as to how coming home to **NIGHTLY COMPANIONSHIP** with such a she could worsen a man's **LIFE SPAN**, dependent sayeth not.)

"I don't understand what you can possibly see in him," a member of her unit said one day (meow, meow) just before the wedding.

"And I hope you will never find out," was the sweet reply (meow, meow, right back).

MORAL: LOVE IS A MESS, ISN'T IT?

OCS HONOR GRAD

FORT RILEY, Kans. (ANP) — At a special graduation parade, Candidate Howard F. Robinson of Columbus, O., was presented as an honor graduate of officer candidate school No. 1 at Camp Forsyth, last week. Candidate Robinson was commissioned a second lieutenant in the military police. He was one of four OCS students in the

New York Bill Barring Bias In College Passes Both Houses; Dewey's Signature Is Certain

ALBANY, N. Y. (WDL) — A campaign by the New York State Committee for Equality in Education for legislation barring racial discrimination by colleges in New York State ended successfully when both houses passed the Quinn-Gillette bill. Signature by Governor Thomas E. Dewey is virtually certain.

Jimmie Bus Patrons Get Maximum Sentence

HILLSBORO (WDL) — Sentences of 30 days on the road, the maximum under North Carolina Jimmies law, were imposed by Chester County Superior Court Judge W. Morris on four Negroes and whites arrested last April at Chapel Hill for violating the jim crow seating pattern aboard a Trailway bus.

They were released on \$150 bail each pending appeal to the State Supreme Court. Sentence was imposed after an all-white jury, which deliberated 20 minutes, handed down guilty verdicts, thus upholding the lower court in Chapel Hill. They were Joe Felnet, southern field secretary of the Workers Defense League, Bayard Rustin, Igal Roodenko, and Andrew Johnson, who were defended by attorneys of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, who charged that the conviction were illegal because the men held interstate tickets and the U. S. Supreme Court has outlawed jim crow seating on interstate buses.

Scout Court

The Raleigh Wake County Boy Scout Court of Honor will be held on Thursday, April 29, at the Martin Street Baptist Church at 8:00 P. M. when a special message will be brought to the Scouts, Scouters and friends of Scouting by Walter F. Anderson, Director of the State Bureau of Investigation.

In addition to the above plans will be outlined in connection with the Boy Scout Summer Camp for this area which will open Sunday, June 27th.

Royal

Friday and Saturday, April 2-3
CHARLES STARKETT — IN
"THE LONE HAND TEXAN"
— Also —
GERALD MOHR — IN
"THE LONE WOLF OF MEXICO"

Sunday and Monday, April 4-5
EDDIE DEAN — IN
"WEST TO GLORY"

Tues., Wed., Thurs., April 6-7-8
EDWARD G. ROBINSON — IN
"THE RED HOUSE"

— Also —
RICHARD DIX — IN
"The Thirteenth Hour"

N. Y. CAST WILL PRESENT PLAY AT ST. AUGUSTINE'S

Touring Players, Inc., a New York cast which will tour over 60 cities and universities this spring, will present "The Importance of Being Earnest" Friday evening, 8 p. m. in Taylor Hall on the St. Augustine's Campus.

The company has had a wide variety of experience, touring occupied Territory in Germany and Australia, playing for civilian audiences in England, France, Belgium, and Denmark, touring America on the west coast and through the middle west.

Miss Lisabeth Blake the star of the Importance of Being Earnest, began her career in California where she appeared on the major networks in dramatic programs. While she was working in radio, she appeared with Charles Coburn in "The Yellow Jacket," and with Charles Laughton in "The Lady Next Door." Guthrie McClintic, Katherine Cornell's husband-director chose Miss Blake to play the lead in a production of "Winter at Biarritz." France. Later, Richard Whorf, who has seen her performance, asked her to play the lead in "Richard III," which toured Europe.

The other young actress is Miss Gregg from the west coast. Miss Gregg has appeared with Allyn Joselyn in "Boy Meets Girl" with Keenan Wynn in "Twentieth Century," and toured with Fred Stone's "You Can't Take It With You." This is Miss Gregg's first tour with this company, but her performance indicates that it will not be her last.

Mr. Wilde's comedy of manners at the turn of the century, with its elegant young men and epigrammatic young women, and its satire biting society's back-sides is so well known as to need no further elucidation here. Using ornate sets, the Touring Players have produced a remarkably lucid and well-spoken "Earnest." Costumes of the period are charming; the new look is much sought by our ladies in this, the twentieth century, was, at the fin de siècle, the only look. Mr. Wilde's epigrams, his nicely turned phrases, and his utterly cutting retorts are completely enjoyable, and have seldom gained better performances than at the hands of this professional company.

Deny Hill Resignation

NEW YORK (ANP) — An official of the American Negro theatre discredited rumors circulating around here last week that Abram Hill for eight years executive director of ANP, had resigned his post. He disclosed that Mr. Hill was on leave.

ANT is currently working on a presentation of "The Washington Years" in April it will present the play "Sojourner Truth," by Katharine Garrison Chapin. It will be directed by Osceola Archer and presented in the YMHA April 29-31.

Lincoln

RALEIGH, NORTH CAROLINA

SUNDAY AND MONDAY, APRIL 4-5

BING CROSBY, BOB HOPE
DOROTHY LAMOUR
"ROAD TO RIO"

TUESDAY, April 6

Bela Lugosi, George Zucco
"SCARED TO DEATH"

WEDNESDAY & THURSDAY, April 7-8

"Stairway To Heaven"
DAVID NIVEN
And on the Same Program

"OPEN THE DOOR"
RICHARD
DUSTY FLETCHER
CHAPTER 2
"SON OF THE GUARDSMAN"

FRIDAY AND SATURDAY, April 9-10

ROBERT MITCHUM
"WEST OF PECOS"

LEE TRACY
BETRAYAL FROM
"THE EAST"

CHAPTER 5

"FEDERAL OPERATOR 55"