

Movie Lot Gossip

BY HARRY LEVETTE

HOLLYWOOD (ANP) — Your "Dear Hearts and Gentle People" had to scribble this column in pencil because the old typewriter went on the bum right at press time.

Movie offers are looming for Sarah Vaughn. On her closing night at the Club Oasis, George Jessel of Twentieth Century-Fox, George Stoll of MGM, and Jonie Tapps of Columbia, all were ringersiders. They applauded regularly.

From Club Oasis, Sarah moved into the Million Dollar theater. Herb Jeffries is here with the vaudeville show at the Paramount theater.

Male bit and supporting players have been working in the mountains every night on location for "King Solomon's Mines." MGM film shot mainly in Africa.

Included in the lineup of supporting players in "Union Station" starring William Holden are Ivan H. Browning, James Davis, Milton Shockey, George W. Ross, Chester Johnson, James Adamson, Jay Loft Lynn, Robert Lewis, and Abby Johnson. It's a Paramount film.

The Murray Square dancers will be featured in a movie shortly. Includes dancers Katherine Hampton, Benjamin Allen, Marie Murray, Nathaniel Jackson, Rosetta Gibson, Dave Sanders, and Cora and Freddie McCasker.

A word more about the Lena Horne-Billy Eckstine Miscue.

Local splash seems to have come from Lovella Parsons column, and others grabbed the apparently juicy morsel and banneted it.

Hollywood AFL Film council has worked out a plan to get 25 percent discount from established prices for treatment at the William E. Branch clinic. Darryl F. Zanuck of Twentieth Century-Fox, producer of "Pinky," recently received Redbook's silver award for his con-

tribution to movie production during 1949. First award went to studio rather than single picture.

Louise Beavers has another tear-jerking role in Twentieth Century-Fox's "My Blue Heaven." She became famous as a crying star in "Imitation of Life."

Hollywood is fighting back at congressional attempts to censure the movie industry. In a public statement the Motion Picture Association of America pointed out the Hollywood has its own censorship program, and needs no government licensing.

LET'S TALK ABOUT THE ACADEMY AWARD

Unfortunately this is being written before yours truly and his girl "Friday," Essie Mae Seabron of Joliet, Ill., go to the glittering glamorous Academy award ceremonies at the Pantages theater at Hollywood and Vine.

Miss Seabron is lovely in her silver fox and pink orchid. Also added to the select list of correspondents invited is Chester Washington of the Courier. He visited Arch Reeves of Producers association three weeks ago and was approved.

Among the glittering stars who will be present will be Ethel Waters, candidate for supporting actress award. Will tell you all about who was and was not there next week.

Added features to this year's celebration include an 850 seat bleachers being constructed for fans outside the Pantages theater. From there fans will view the glittering glamor of the evening. First come first served will be the policy observed—no admission. A special public address system will operate to let the crowd know who's who as the stars enter the theater.



CHARMING PERSONALITY—Margaret Simms, former musical comedy star of "Liza," "Hot Chocolates," "Chocolate Kiddies" etc., returned to Harlem last week for a brief business visit, after four years absence. Miss Simms is director and Business Manager of Irvin C. Miller's "Brownskin Models" now on tour in the Deep South. Margaret will be remembered when she sang "Ain't Misbehavin'" hit tune of the musical show "Hot Chocolate" back in 1928. —Photo Courtesy Floyd Snelson.

CHORAL CLUB GIVES RECITAL

The Choral Club of St. Augustine's College was presented in concert in the auditorium of State College, Fayetteville, under the auspices of the Men's Club of St. Joseph's Episcopal Church Sunday evening, March 19. The Rev. Charles M. Johnson, a 1937 graduate of St. Augustine's and a former member himself of the Choral Club, is rector of the Church.

The chorus was directed by Mrs. Romaine Simmons Lambert, of the college music faculty. Accompanists were Malvina Demby, Cornelia Perry, Alma Roberson and Cecil Sharpe, student in the music department. Miss Demby was featured as piano soloist, with Mary Perry, soprano and Albert Henry, bass-baritone. Also featured was the women's double trio, consisting of Mary Perry, Nancy Pethel, Eloise Bowser, Malvina Demby, Gloria Backs and Jerilyn Terry.

The performance was for the benefit of St. Joseph's Church.

WHITE WAY SET FOR JACKIE'S FILM

NEW YORK (ANP) — "The Jackie Robinson Story" will have its premiere showing May 16 at the Aster Theater in the heart of Broadway's gay "White Way." Indications point to a new box office record for the theater, scene of many major attractions.

The picture, which tells the story of major league baseball's first tan player differs from a similar great baseball picture, "The Babe Ruth Story," in the fact that the star of the picture acts his own life's happenings.

The Brooklyn Dodgers will be home from their first swing of the circuit to meet the St. Louis Cardinals when the picture begins, and it is expected that Owner Branch Rickey, Jackie Robinson and all others of the famous "Bums," will be guests of honor opening night. Much fanfare is promised and a five-borough, city-wide promotional campaign exceeding any of recent years is planned.

In addition to Robinson, other stars in the case of the Eagle Lion

feature include Minor Watson as Branch Rickey, Ruby Dee, star of "Anna Lucasta," as Mrs. Jackie Robinson, Louise Beaver as the star's mother, Richard Lane and Ben Lacey, Alfred E. Green, who directed "The Jolson Story," is director.



Nite Life In New York

By ALVIN MOSES

JAM SESSION TIME

NEW YORK (ANP) — If you read the signs outside the building that houses Joe Wells' Music Bar and Restaurant on Seventh Avenue and 132nd Street, you will note two significant things Arthur E. Paris, Jr. is manning things and "Blue Monday" will be hereafter transformed into "Jump and Jive Monday" with an unbroken series of torrid jam sessions. These sessions are well known to the older set of Harlem but the kids just out of college and business schools will find it a welcome adjunct to these trying days that call for hard play moments. Weekly we will list the entertainers and are sorry a deadline rush prevents our so doing here and now. At the Wells' bar one still finds that man about town, a fellow liked by boys and girls through the length of our part of the Manhattan scenery. "Pods" Hollingsworth was there when Joe Wells said to us, "It's your place, help me to cater to your wishes. That was some five years or so ago, and "Pods" will be of invaluable aid to my friend and Real Estate buddy, Artie Paris.

IMPORTANT LETTER STUFF

Dear Al Moses: Didn't Freda DeKnight, recently in town, hang out with Geraldyn Diamond-Major? Billy Rowe, Izzy Smith-Rowe, Edgar Rouzeau, Joe Grey, and yourself during the days when you edited "The Tatler"? What does she do now? May I have her address? Louise Clifton, New York.

(A) Personable Freda DeKnight was very much around the "Interstate Tatler" office 20 years ago. She now holds the position of food editor for Ebony magazine's test kitchen. I suggest you write to her in care of the magazine.

Dear Mr. Moses:

I've never had the pleasure to know Casey Shorts of the Willrose Art and Musical club, Inc. Musicians headquarters of Local 802, N.Y.C. But from your recent articles which I clipped from the "Indianapolis Recorder" for my scrapbook, he must be a fine sort of a man. I liked the way in which you lauded the unselfish as well as charitable part in the "Casey Testimonial" played by his associates and employers. Whenever I come to your town I will drop into the popular musicians club and if you are available, please introduce me to Kleber Willis, Herbert Tavor, Julius Byrd, O. Green, Mr. Shorts and the gang. Enjoy your writings on the theatre and sports and link your work with the best on the daily staffs, Russell Sinclair, Powhatan Club, Elkhart, Ind.

Dear Al:

Who are a few of the leading Negro musicians in demand throughout the country? C. H. L., Newark, N. J.

(A) Art Tatum, piano; Charlie (Yardbird) Parker, alto; Coleman Hawkins, Illinois Jacquet, tenor; Oscar Pettiford, bass; Dizzy Gillespie, Louis Armstrong and Roy Eldridge, trumpets.

PEARL PAILEY told Daily News reporters that mere "relaxing" is the secret of her stage (singing) success. Well, Pearly-Girlie, we know a lot of people who just relax and relax but they get no real class and ability help that "relax" part. Would a light touch of "laxing" diet a wee bit, ay?

BILLIE HOLLIDAY is not only "Lady Day" but "Destiny's Child". She wins one lawsuit against a former agent only to tighten her girdle for another charge involving

much in your corner Billie that we secretly pray you'll beat this rap, also CURLEY HAMNER of the Lionel Hampton band was made to feel like a visiting potentate the a \$3,000 expense claim. —We are so other night at party (anniversary) thrown for him at the new look Baby Grand, 319 W. 125th street.

THE EASTER SHOW finale at N. Y.'s great Paramount Theatre will find top singer BILLY ECKSTINE riding out to his hometown, Pittsburgh, for his first appearance there since he left 12 years ago. That SISA MAE MCKINNEY baby (come June or July) will be something to look at if he or she takes after its exotic looking mother. One time back in the years at the Apollo Theatre in Harlemtown, a white journalist (Herald-Tribune) leaned over and asked us if Miss McKinney wasn't from some such spot as Bali or Pago Pago? We replied that she was proud to answer to plain "Brown skinned American" so he could add the family tree up anyway he wanted to.

MAIDS PLAY DIGETS

WASHINGTON (ANP) — Last week snooping detectives roaming around the Hotel 2400 out on exclusive 16th Street, Northwest, listened to voices in a basement room they were passing. "I want to put a quarter on that number," the vice squad policeman heard a woman's voice say.

Opening the door they found it was the maid's rest quarters. There were about 20 maids off duty for lunch who were gathered there. Three of them were seated at a table and writing down bets while number slips lay nearby. The three, Bessie T. West, Edna F. Hunter and Bety J. Witcher were arrested and freed in \$1500 bond for appearance in Municipal court.

DELAWARE STATE HAS NEW HEAD

DOVER, Del. (ANP) — A new president has been appointed to Delaware State college, for the past year a political football in relation to administration. The new head is Dr. Oscar J. Chapman, professor of education at Morgan State college in Baltimore.

This appointment climaxed the fight between the Republican administration that took over in Delaware last year and the former president, Dr. Howard D. Gregg, who resigned last September reportedly under pressure from the administration.

The former president is now with another college teaching. While at Delaware State Dr. Gregg suffered through several investigations under the GOP, and although cleared, he was forced to resign. His wife is still a member of the faculty and lives in Dover.

The new president, formerly of Stockton, Md., was director of student personnel at Morgan.

During this period Delaware State has deteriorated to the extent that it is not recognized even by the board of regents—probably because he board wanted to force Dr. Gregg out.

Not long ago this reporter visited the campus of Delaware State and what he saw was not good. At this land grant school, coeds are being housed with girls from the high school which is also a part of the college.

The buildings on the campus all are in need of repairs. With the new president taking over the board of regents may reinstate the school once more.

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Rating The Records

RATIN THE RECORDS OF INTEREST TO DISC FANS

Columbia and Victor, two of the Big Four in the recording industry who have fostered within the past two years their own revolutionary changes in platter making, have so successfully established their individual projects that they find a need for a listing of all discs which they have pressed under the 33 1/3 and 45 rpm systems respectively and 45 rpm systems respectively.

Last month, both companies issued a completely revised catalogue listing of all records released since the inception of the two systems. Columbia's catalogue is an 84-page affair, fully cross referenced, while Victor's listing takes up 64 pages.

In the Columbia catalogue are listed all of its masterworks, popular, children's folk music and in-tourch April, 1950, as well as all international LP records released available seven in, CH LP discs. One section contains a suggestion for starting an LP Library, made up of three basic collections. There is also information about the new model 103 Player attachment included.

In the Columbia catalogue are announced a new record-cutting technique which is designed to produce a cleaner groove with greatly reduced loss of high frequencies. The technique, known as the Thermal Engraving Process, utilizes a revolutionary heated stylus which performs the double function of permitting quietness of cut and reducing high frequency loss.

TO ZITHER OR NOT

The Irving Fields Trio join the ranks of top-flight groups to do THE THIRD MAN THEME, from the Selznick-Korda film release "The Third Man." The Fields' interpretation, with zither and all, differs from other recordings in that the piano passage is jazzed up in sections. Mate is Fields' version of Von Suppe's "Poet and Peasant Overture," which comes out as POET AND PEASANT RUMBA-TURE (Victor). The Ray McKinley idea of THE THIRD MAN THEME is something different a gain. Minus the zithers, the tune is given the "swing treatment" and full band sound. Mate is the novelty romantic ballad, I DON'T WANNA BE KISSED, chirped by Dale Nunnally, a newcomer (Victor).

While on the subject of novelty, there's the Tony Martin-Fran War-

ren duo on DARN IT BABY — THAT'S LOVE and the calypso with Henri Rene officiating at the styled THAT WE IS ME AND YOU rhythm counter (Victor).

Songs about Texas nearly always run with the best of tunes. Put Dennis Day with his famed Irish tenor in the vocal spot on THERE'S AN X IN THE MIDDLE OF TEXAS and the result is a good biscuit. Mate is Dennis' droll tale of THE HORSE TOLD ME, with imitations ala Jerry Colonna, Ronald Coleman and Jimmy Durante thrown in. Henri Rene again conducts the music (Victor).

The Fontana Sisters' try at I'D VE BAKED A CAKE is backgrounded by the Dixieland best associates. The backing, in true whipped up by Mitchell Ayres and Dixieland fashion, is MISSISSIPPI MUD (Victor).

WINTERS SCORES IN NCC CONCERT

DURHAM, N. C. — Baritone Lawrence Winters, who received Broadway's critical acclaim after a commendable performance in "Call Me Mister" in 1946, merited additional plaudits following his well-received recital at North Carolina College's B. N. Duke Auditorium here last Monday night.

Mr. Winters further established his claim to the glowing praise which has characterized his brief career as a concert singer by ably demonstrating a command of technical skills, rewardingly complemented by a magnetic yet gracious stage presence.

From a group of Handel favorites, the former New York City Center Opera Company soloist offered Arias of Porcella from "Muzio Scevola," Recitative and Aria, Orario Mal Fa from "Zerxes," and "Love That's True Will Live Forever."

Two Schubert numbers, "Der Lindenbaum" and "Aufenthalt" — the later, particularly — drew hearty applause from the audience. Richard Strauss' "Trauer Durch Die Dammung" and "Zueignung" completed repertorial compositions by the Austrian and German composers.

An enthusiastic reception of the Toreador song from the opera, "Carmen," preceded Mr. Winters' presentation of a group of light se-