

# REALM OF REELS

By Bill Veale

I have heard many people ask why they can't get the sound of motion pictures as they play on a disk as the film goes through the projector.

In the early days of motion picture exhibition, older people will remember the organ music which accompanied the action in the film that was shown. However, later years the advent of sound was introduced in the motion picture industry. It was at this period when the sound motion picture was born.

Regarding sound, there is no record played as the picture is seen on the screen. The reproduction of sound emanates from a sound track, which is found on the film, beside the frame of the picture. The strip of film which carries the sound are in two sizes: the 16mm. film, of smaller width, and the 35mm. or professional size, used for theaters or large auditoriums.

Sixteen millimeter films were very useful in World War II, and especially overseas where training films, and commercial films were shown. The 16mm film and projector was convenient, because G. I.'s saw first, second and third run pictures aboard ships, in tents, or in other places having electrical outlets where groups might assemble.

The same production, filmed on the professional (35mm) strip was also filmed on the 16mm strip. Oft times, world premieres of famed Hollywood productions were filmed on 16mm, and sent to G.I.'s home, and abroad to be shown before the public saw them. The sound, on both 16 and 35

mm. films is recorded on a track which runs along side the film. This sound is reproduced as the sound track passes between an exciter lamp and photoelectric cell, which transfers sound waves into sound waves.

Sometimes, a person hears a sudden, distorted noise when a motion picture performance is being shown. If he notices the screen closely, he will note that a splice has been made.

A splice is a method by which a film is mended in case of a breakage, or if the pieces which the projector is making up his program. This splice is the overlapping of a piece of film over another, which has been securely cemented. However, the sound track has been broken, and that abrupt noise is the result. In many instances, this is unnoticed by the audience.

Sometimes, you may notice that the volume of sound is increased or decreased. In many instances this effect is accounted for by the variations of sound by the performers, or music scores by famed conductors together when the picture was being made at the studios. Some projectionists have to lower and raise the sound in certain films from their sound controls in the projection booth. These films have sound tracks which may be either too low, too high, or between the two. As irritating as it may be to the audience, it is equally as irritating to the projectionist who has to hear it out by adjusting his sound knobs when he could be engaged in other activities concerning his show.

These factors concerning motion



**A TRIO OF POPULAR FAVORITES** — Sarah Vaughn and Duke Ellington, currently scoring a smashing success at Broadway's Paramount Theater, take time out backstage to admire another popular favorite — some NAACP Christmas seals, of which they are the first purchasers in the 1950 drive. Sarah and

Duke give smiling approval to the attractive red and white seals which may be purchased from the national office of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, 26 West 40th Street, New York 18, New York, or from locale branches of the Association. Seals are one dollar per hundred.



RUTH BROWN

**CHAMPS CHOICE** — Vivacious Ruth Brown, chanteuse currently on tour with the Willis Jackson Orchestra (she was a sensation in Atlanta, Ga., over the week end) has a great big man as her lover now. He is heavy-weight champion Ezzard Charles.

was heard in musical background and in the chorale written by Fredrick Klenschberger of the Music faculty.

In the opening sequence Helena Valtean, sophomore of New Orleans, was seen as Mary Nazareth, "the gentlest woman of them all." Following, Gwen Jones, freshman at Cincinnati, Ohio, appeared as Joan of Lorraine at the stake before a six-judge tribunal including Hobart Jarrett, Walter Brown, Henry Holder, and Oliver Harper of the Bennett faculty, and Milton Martin, and Roy Eubanks, A. and T. Students.

Before she is burned as a witch, Joan's Voices speak to her, declaring that her work will be furnished and show her visions of other women who will carry on the fight against the forces of evil, ignorance and inhumanity.

As Queen Isabella of Spain, Harriet Goodson, senior of Clayton, N. C., commissioned Columbus, James Woodie, freshman, Belmont, N. J., to sail east in search of new lands in the sequence entitled, "The Country at the Edge of the World." Oceola Walden, senior of

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## "Constellation Of Women" Is Success At Bennett

**GREENSBORO** — Vividly depicting episodes in the lives of heroines of the centuries, Owen Dodson's "Constellation of Women," an original nine-sequence pageant, had a successful premiere at Bennett College last week. Performances were given the evenings of October 30 and 31, and November 1.

Written and directed for Bennett's Quarter-Centennial Celebration by Dodson Howard University playwright and poet, the drama was warmly received each night by full audiences of students, staff, and visitors attending the five-day Celebration Conference.

Narrated by Clarence Coles, a junior at A. and T. College, the pageant employed verse, music, dance, and unusual lighting in capturing varying moods and atmospheres of the several periods. Sixteen Bennett young women and 11 men from A. and T. appeared as "provers" dancing the sequences. Crowd and "people" effects were achieved through use of a 3-voice speech choir. The college chorus

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picture exhibition are presented daily among movie goers who are confronted by the many whys, and hows about various technicalities unknown by them.

From the organ music, accompanying the silent film in the days of old, to the sound track on the present day film, being "in another thing. The question today is "will theaters have TV or not." Although a few companies in Hollywood have stated that they will not use TV, it is questionable whether or not the final answer will be "yes," or "no."



**CELEBRITIES HAVE A PARTY:** Enjoying their mutually effervescent personalities are five radio, television and movie stars as they appear on the Faye Emerson TV show. Most rabid movie fans know them, but they are (left to right): Kitty Carlisle, Duke Ellington, Joan Blondell, Billy Gilbert, and Faye Emerson.

## Waters Honored

**BY CLADYS P. GRAHAM**  
**NEW YORK (AP)** — Hundreds of New York's distinguished citizens, representing every section of the business, professional, and civic life, gathered last week to pay tribute to one of America's most beloved artists, Miss Ethel Waters, last week.

The occasion was a huge banquet given by the New York branch of the National Association of Negro Business and Professional Women's Clubs Inc., at the Park Sheraton Hotel.

This outstanding group of business and professional women, who has made awards to such outstanding women as Miss Fannie Beck, Madry Chung Kai Chen, Bachman Holt, Mrs. Anna Malone, Mrs. Marie Stappers and Mrs. Ruth Whaley, selected Miss Waters, star of the current Broadway hit, "The Member of the Wedding," as recipient of the Sojourner Truth award for 1950.

Miss Jennie Lou Smith, in presenting the award to Miss

Waters, said, "It is fitting that Miss Waters be given this special Sojourner Truth award. These two great women who have played such major roles in American history—Sojourner Truth in early history and Miss Waters in our current life, symbolize the great strength of the Negro woman."

The list of "Who's Who" attending this event is far too long to list here, but among those who have stood side-by-side with Ethel Waters through the years, were W. C. Handy, father of the Blues; Nettie Sissle, president of the Negro Actors Guild, Inc.; Carl Van Vechten, Mr. and Mrs. Fletcher Henderson, Miss Irene Brown, Reginald Beane, Langston Hughes, Miss Gerri Major, Miss Margaret Bonds, Miss Vivienne French, Dorothy McLintic, co-author of Miss Waters' life story, "His Eyes on the Sparrow," and Father Sam Curran.

Miss Etta Moten was guest of honor for the occasion.

## Robeson's Rants Drowned Out By Chicago Parties

**CHICAGO (AP)** — Sayer FBI Robeson, campaigning on a south-side street center for Progressive Party candidate, Sam Parks, had a rough time of it at the hands of the Republicans, Democrats and the fire department here last week.

Approximately 5,000 persons were gathered at the intersection of 34th and Cottage Grove to hear sound units by the three political parties at the perennial oratory of Edgar G. Brown, chairman of the National Negro Council, extolling

the merits of the candidates of their choice.

The Progressive crew were there first, and the rival parties sought to break it up by drowning out the sound of Robeson's voice. While this was going on, three fire engines rushed through the crowd, parked for a little and rushed on again.

Said Parks, who is running for congress from the first district: "They must be afraid to let people hear what we have to say."