

Ligon Hosts State Drama Festival This Weekend



LIGON PERFORMERS SHOWN AS THEY PRESENTED PRIZE-WINNING PLAYS — Left to right: Rachel Sanders, Mildred Campbell, Mary Harris, Cornetta Blakley and Gregory Sledge. Second photo, left to right: Gregory Sledge, Mildred Campbell and Cornetta Blakley. (See story).



TO PERFORM IN WILMINGTON'S AZALEA FESTIVAL PARADE — The C. F. Pope High School Band, of Burgaw, which is currently appearing in many of the outstanding activities in South Eastern North Carolina, is composed of students from the 4th grade through Senior High School. The group will appear in the Azalea Festival Parade at Wilmington. Mrs.

Mary R. Thompson, graduate of Elizabeth City State College, further study at A&T College and plans to receive the M. A. degree from North Carolina College, Durham, is directress of the Majorettes, and Charles D. Wooten, graduate of A&T College, B. S. degree, and M. A. New York University, is band director. C. C. Smith is principal.

Talented Shirley Verrett, Soprano, Gives Top Concert

ATLANTA (ANP)—The greatness of Shirley Verrett, internationally famous mezzo soprano, was at its peak last week when she sang what one critic described as a "near perfect" concert at Clark college here.

At the conclusion, the enthusiastic audience, with whom Miss Verrett was "in communication" throughout with her singing gave

her a tremendous ovation. So superb was Shirley's performance that critic Richard Williams of the Atlanta Constitution newspaper was moved to remark: "Miss Verrett displayed her dazzling mezzo soprano to an enthusiastic audience... Her rich voice is a tangible, electric thing, drawing the listener into the composer's very meaning and emotions."

So preoccupied was William with praising Miss Verrett that he was forced to report, as an afterthought that the Atlanta Symphony had also performed here on the same stage.

Singer Sam Cooke Hailed As Humanitarian; Aided 8-Year-Old Polio Victim

DETROIT (ANP)—Singer Sam Cooke was being cheered loudly here last week, but it was not due to his singing.

Detroiters were singing Cooke's praise because of his kindness to an eight-year-old polio victim named Cheryl McQueen.

When Cooke was in Detroit recently as part of a 15-state tour, he read in the Detroit Courier that Cheryl was desperately in need of a wheelchair. He immediately wrote and sent a check covering the cost

of the chair to Edward Robertson, a Courier photographer.

Now the girl is happy and both she and her mother have expressed their thanks publicly to the singer. Cheryl asked the newspaper to "thank the man for the nice chair."

Transportation in early days between North Carolina and the West was hindered by the Blue Ridge barrier—highest mountain chain in the eastern United States.

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Gossip Of The Movie Lots

BY CALLA SCRIVNER

ALL NEGRO FILM PLACED ON "ELIGIBLE" LIST FOR ACADEMY AWARDS

HOLLYWOOD (ANP)—Living Between Two Worlds, the all-Negro film which is currently playing at the Midway Theatre in Los Angeles was included in the recent reminder list of outstanding productions eligible for Academy Awards.

The Horace Jackson film, produced by Empire Films, tells the story of a young man torn between two decisions. Jackson plays the role of the tormented young man. The film was directed by Bobby Johnson, assisted by Ivan Dixon, and also stars Maye Henderson and Anita Foris.

Other films in which Negroes played prominent roles and which were included on the list of almost 300 films were "Captain Newman, M.D.," "The Cardinal," "Captain Simbad," "The Balcony," "Come Back, Africa," "Drums of Africa," "4 For Texas," "From La Basse," "The L-Shaped Room," "Papa's Delicate Condition" and "Shock Corridor."

Distinguished Negro actor Brock Peters, presently co-starring in Mexico on the "Major Dundee" location at the village of Chupadero, suffered a sprained hand and dislocated shoulder when he was thrown by a jacksaw.

In the scene, Brock was riding a recalcitrant flop-eared, mule named "Laura Lee, on the set at the time.

Incidentally, Brock, who gave a brilliant performance in Columbia's "L-Shaped Room," portraying Aesop, leader of a Negro volunteer group.

The location set at Chupadero has been filming several weeks. Chupadero, with a foggy past that might go as far back as 200 years—no one really knows—was a natural setting for "Dundee's" raggedy town of El Alamo in 1864. Little had to be changed for scenes wherein Aesop Charles Dundee, a U. S. major takes possession of the French innkeeper's house. They were Maximilian's red-suited boys at the time.

Sidney Fottler, who has also been nominated for the best actor's award, has been added to

THE WEEK IN RECORDS

BY ALBERT ANDERSON

JAZZ SPOTLIGHT ON ERNESTINE ANDERSON

CHICAGO (ANP)—Talented Ernestine Anderson takes over the jazz spotlight of our column this week with her first LP on the Sue label; a platter full of delightful songs and fine orchestral background music.

So delightful is Miss Anderson's disc, that it nosed out Johnny Hammond Smith's latest wailing "Backwards Means Live." "One Never Knows," "You Deserve the Best," "If I Love Again," "Keep an Eye on Love," "Quiet Nights," "You're Not the Guy for Me," "Will I Find My Love Today?" and "One Heartache Ago."

The title of this LP, to my mind, doesn't apply, but the performance by Miss Anderson is in her best tradition. . . In fact, I am glad that she didn't go off beat, as the title suggests. . . There's nothing new here about either Ernestine's style of singing or her warm, engaging voice. . . She simply wraps her sensuous voice around a number of lovely tunes, arranged by Keys, with highly gratifying results.

I particularly like the way she caresses the ballad "Will I Find My Love . . ." which seems to be a throw back to the old evergreen, "Will I Ever Find the Girl of My Dream," of past years. . . Adding to and aiding Miss Anderson's performance is the fine background music. It is therefore regrettable that writer Sydney Shaw failed to identify the instrumentalists in his liner notes on the back of the album's jacket. . . A BIG ENTRY BY ERNESTINE.

"MR. WONDERFUL"—Riverside LP (466) featuring the Johnny Smith quintet. Personnel: Smith, organ; Benny Williams, trumpet; Houston Person, tenor saxophone; Eddie McFadden, guitar; Leo Stevens, drums. Tunes: "Blues for De-De," "Mr. Wonderful," "Cyra," "Lambert's Lodge," "Love Letters," "Blues on Sunday," "Departure," "Opus 3"

As to be expected, Smith is the driving force of this session, although he gets a big assist from the others, notably Williams and Person. . . The energetic Smith (he is fast with both hands and feet) lights up six tunes in this fare, reaching his zenith on the title tunes, and his melodious peak on the beautiful ballad, "Cyra." He also plays "Love Letters" in a sentimental vein, but takes off again on "Departure," all of which proves Smith's versatility as an artist. . . I PREDICT THIS ONE WILL MOVE ACROSS THE SALES MATT FOR SMITH AND THE RIVERSIDE COMPANY.

"OUTSTANDING JAZZ COMPOSITIONS OF THE 20TH CENTURY"—Columbia LP (CBL 31). Compositions: "Jazz Suite for Brass," by J. J. Johnson; "Three Little Feelings," by John Lewis; "Pharaoh," by Jimmy Giuffrè; "All About Rosie," by George Russell; "Sounds of May," by Tee Macero; "Avakian's Brazilian," by Bob Prince; "Swinging Gostberd Blues," by Teddy Charles; "Revelations (1st Movement)," by Charlie Mingus; "Suspensions," by Giuffrè; "On Green Mountains," by Milton Babbitt; "Transformation," by Gunther Schuller.

the growing list of stars who will appear on the 36th Annual Awards Presentation of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences, April 13.

He joins a cast which to date includes Sammy Davis, Jr., Gregory Peck, Edward G. Robinson, Donna Reed, Jack Lemmon, Rock Hudson, Debbie Reynolds, Ed Begley and Patty Duke. All will appear in person as presenters except Lemmon and Davis. Lemmon will be master of ceremonies, and Davis will be featured in a special musical segment.

Top Plays Planned By 20 Schools

BY RICHMOND STEWART

The J. W. Ligon High School will be the site for the top-ranking high school plays in the state, March 13-14, when the North Carolina High School Drama Association holds its annual state festival finals in the school's auditorium.

C. C. Lipscomb, teacher of English and dramatics at Ligon, stated that 23 schools, from all over the state, who receive top ratings in their respective district competitions, will present their plays in an effort to gain state honors.

Each play will consist of one act and must be completed within 35 minutes. Eleven schools will present their productions on Friday, beginning at 9:30 A. M. The two days will be divided into three sessions. The afternoon program begins at 1:30 and the evening session at 6:30.

The curtain rises Friday morning with Hillside High of Durham at Training School of Smithfield at 10:15 and G. G. White High School of Powellsville at 11:00.

The afternoon sessions begin with Central High of Gatesville at 1:30, Lincoln High of Bessemer City at 2:15; Henderson Institute of Henderson at 3:00 and Newbold High from Lincolnton at 3:45.

The evening session has Booker T. Washington of Rocky Mount at 6:30; Morningside of Statesville at 7:15; Springfield of Lucama at 8:00 and West Charlotte High at 8:45.

Darden High of Wilson starts the action Saturday morning at 9:30. They are followed by North Warren of Wise at 10:15, Bethel Union at 11:00 and Dillard from Goldsboro at 11:30.

D. F. Walker High from Edenton gives the opening performance for the afternoon session beginning at 1:30. It is followed by Central High of Whiteville at 2:15, Brawley of Scotland Neck at 3:00 and E. E. Smith from Fayetteville at 3:45.

The final performance is by Unity High of Statesville, Stephens-Lee High of Asheville, and the J. L. Ligon actors at 8:00 P. M. Awards will be presented for stage production and acting ability with some of the top plays being presented over certain television stations in the state.

Fine Arts Week Held At F. S. C.

FAYETTEVILLE—The Area of Fine Arts at Fayetteville State College is observing the Annual Fine Arts Week from March 8 through March 14th. Featured during the week will be a variety of entertaining and cultural programs. All of the activities are designed to promote a greater appreciation for the efforts and accomplishments that are being achieved in the Arts.

Further, it is highly desirable that an atmosphere will be created for increasing the cultural outlook and curiosity of persons attending the perfor-

manee. We hope that these weeks of activities all of us will be stimulated to use our leisure for some form of creative expression.

The program will be opened to all interested persons, on and away from the campus, and admission will be free.

A formal student recital will be held on Sunday, March 8th. The movie "Rhapsody in Blue" will be shown Monday evening. The National Players will present "Taming of the Shrew" Tuesday evening at 8:00 P. M. A skit—Art Around the World—will be presented Wednesday as an assembly program. The Winston-Salem State College Choir will be presented Thursday evening.

An art exhibit by the students of the Art Department will be on display in the Chesnut Library throughout the week.

At J. S. Dorton Arena Here:

Mary Wells, Rufus Thomas And Chuck Jackson Among Stars Appearing On "Moms" Show Friday

Mary Wells, Martha & The Vandellas, Solomon Burke, Chuck Jackson and Rufus Thomas will co-star in the Jackie "Moms" Mabley Show at the J. S. Dorton Arena on Friday night March 13th. Show time 8:15 P. M. Other outstanding artists to appear in person include Jackie "Moms" Mabley herself, Tommy Tucker and Leo Price and his magnificent recording Orchestra.

Miss Wells, a highly successful Motown recording artist, is a veritable picture of a fairy-dream come true. Although she is today one of the top young singers on the pop scene, she never had any early intentions of trying to become a top recording personality.

It all started in the recording studios of Motown Record Corporation in Detroit. The firm has regular Friday afternoon auditioning sessions. It consists of an open-house session, where students from the city's schools are invited in to listen to recording sessions or to hear songs that have been recorded and are awaiting release.

The students are invited to pass on the merits of the recording. It

was on one of these afternoons that Mary Wells visited the studio and told-president Berry Gordy, Jr. she had a song she wanted him to test for one of his singers. Berry told her to hum it, while he played it on the piano. Mary hummed, and then started singing her song. And that's when it happened.

Gordy liked not only the song, but also the singer. And from that day on Mary Wells, who sang her song, "Bye, Bye, Baby," has been clicking ever since.

Mary has appeared on the nationally televised Dick Clark Show, and has more than a hundred fan clubs around the nation. Her latest hit recording "What's Easy For Two Is Hard For One" is among the top tunes throughout the country. Other hits by Miss Wells include "You Beat Me To The Punch," "The One Who Really Loves You," "Strange Love," "I Don't Want To Take A Chance," "Two Lovers" and "Laughing Boy."

This will be Jackie "Moms" Mabley's first in person appearance in Raleigh. She has been seen in more than fifteen motion pictures with all-Negro casts during the past thirty (30) years. It has been only in the

past five years that her great recordings has caught fire. Today they are among the best sellers. "Moms" latest album "Moms" Mabley Out On A Limb has sold like hot cakes. Other albums by "Moms" include "Moms Mabley at Gatorva Conference," "Moms Mabley at Gatorva Conference" and "Moms Mabley at The Playboys Club."

Friday, March 13th is the only date of this Big-Show-Package in eastern North Carolina. Doors will open at 7 P. M. with the show set to hit at 8:15 sharp. Reserved seat admission tickets are now on sale at The Record Shop and Hamlin Drug in Raleigh, Kemp's in Chapel Hill and Walgreen Drug in Durham.

March 29: Belafonte To Take Over Segment Of Sullivan Show

NEW YORK (ANP)—Harry Belafonte whose rare television appearances have always elicited enthusiastic critical response, will make a special appearance on "The Ed Sullivan Show" Sunday, March 29th.

Belafonte will take over the show's own producer, Phil Stein, who heads Belafonte Enterprises.

The last Sullivan show appearance for the international song star was in April of 1962. Belafonte will offer a full repertoire of songs, ranging from American folk songs to



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Starring JOHN DEREK
—Plus—
"VAMPIRE BALLERINA"
HELENE REMY

LUCKY'S LUCK RUNS OUT

CHICAGO (ANP)—William J. Thompson, 44-year-old "juice man" or collector for loan sharks used to be proud of his nickname "Mr. Lucky." It was his tallness, or good luck charm. Last week, however, Thompson's tallness let him down. In July court, he was given a 30 day sentence in Bridewell for aggravated assault. One of his clients, Mrs. Olla Mae Griffin, 30, told the court that Thompson had threatened to kill her and her seven children because she failed to come up with a weekly interest payment of 20 percent of a \$45 loan.

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