

Jimmy Liggins Reports . . .



ENTERTAINERS 421 Broadband Drive Charlotte North Carolina

Opus VII Band Had To Change Name— Now Moving On Up

"The Opus VII Band name came up three times this week in long distance telephone calls," says Liggins, chief executive of the D.N.B.R.D. and Black Gold Music Program, and in the conversation Liggins learned that the Opus VII Band was once called the Superiors and it was conflicting in name ownership.

Opus VII is touring North Carolina and is due in Wilmington for a two night stand very soon. The band owners say this is one of the most polished groups on the road today. "I understand they have out a record. I wish they would send me a copy or that their promotion man

would get on the ball, and get the recording playing in this area. I want the fans to see them," says Liggins. "but I want them to be ready to receive them. You can't come into Durham without advance notice. Well, I wouldn't say 'can't' but the good group might lay an egg to an empty house.

Clarence Carter Still Has Drawing Power In Music Field

Clarence Carter, a blind guitar man and vocalist that sounds like a preacher still has a good following after many years out there on the road. Clarence who got going out of Montgomery, Alabama, later set up a booking office out of Atlanta and the rumor says Liggins. "Is that Clarence' money finances several records and black artists in the south." Clarence Carter came into the Club Baby Grand under

criticism by the promoter's that he won't draw crowds. But Clarence fooled everyone. The fans turned out a bad weather night to hear him. They paid five dollars at the door with no complaints Clarence went through his list of records that made him a drawing card from "Sixty Minute Man" to "Slip Away" to the delight of the fans that stood around the band stand to watch and cheer this great musician on.

was happy for him," says Liggins, "that he can still do it. In this fast modern world these people are real quick to count you out."

Catfish And Carew
Jim "Catfish" Hunter of the New York Yankees thinks Minnesota's Rod Carew is the AL's toughest "out." "He has a magic wand. I remember one time I struck him out and Thurman Munson jumped out from behind the plate and was running up and down the field laughing," Hunter says.

Trussel Band Great In Action; Little Drawing Power At BG

Trussel, a dynamite band with enough equipment to supply two bands, came into Club Baby Grand, where the big names on the club circuit come to show their wares. "They just haven't been promoted high enough as yet to turn this crowd that comes to Club Baby Grand," commented Jimmy Liggins, chief executive of the D.N.B.R.D. program. They did it at the college and other night clubs but Durham's Club Baby Grand is something else. "Now they will need a strong record" says Liggins. "Then they will get to come in on a big show, but it's hard to pay the kind of money this group ask, when they don't draw the crowd. I wouldn't say it's the groups fault, they have everything going for them. But that drawing power is in the name."

says Liggins. "And this comes from showing before big crowds on other top billing shows and making records. This is what the D.N.B.R.D. and Black Gold Music Program is all about, to assist in the sales of black talent and black music. Then new bands and talent can make a right presentation."

ENTERTAINMENT

DAZZLING DIANA ROSS AT CAESARS PALACE

LAS VEGAS - Diana Ross, the dazzling, definitive superstar of films, recordings, concerts and cabaret, headlines at Caesars Palace, Las Vegas, through Wednesday, May 19.

The engagement marks Diana's first United States appearance since the conclusion of her recent smash European tour which climaxed at the New Victoria Theatre that had all of London at her feet.

The European and British press were unanimous in their praise, exclaiming that they had never anticipated so lavish a production with such effective theatrical staging and costuming.

With a Diana Ross performance no one knows what to expect. Just when you begin to anticipate, Diana comes up with the startling and the sensational.

The production that she brings to Caesars Palace is a blockbuster, a tour de force, a delight on the eyes, ears and imagination.

The material is totally new from top to bottom and was conceived and staged by Joe Layton.

The Ross performance is a logistical wonder of costume changes, lighting, staging and presentation. There is an all-stops-out recreation of the Diana Ross legend from Motown to The Supremes to "Lady Sings The Blues" to "Mahogany," a kaleidoscopic look at Diana's career through the force and power of her music.

The last four weeks of her career featured a pair of extraordinary highlights. Marking a first for the Academy Award presentations, Diana appeared live from Amsterdam singing the Oscar-nominated song from her smash "Mahogany" film, "Do You Know Where Your're Going To?"

On April 3 in Paris she was awarded a "Caesar," the French Oscar equivalent, from the French Academy of Cinema Arts & Techniques for her "continuing excellence, contributions and impact on the motion picture screen." Ingrid Bergman was also the recipient of a prestigious "Caesar" award.

Diana Ross' growth as a performer and star has been phenomenal. One European reviewer wrote, "She is a superstar in a true sense. Her performance is flawless. With all that, you come away feeling there is an untapped portion ready to explode. When that happens, the world had better watch out."

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TRUSSEL



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Chick Willis Still Can't Reach The Golden Circle

"Chick Willis is one of the best blues guitar men around," says Liggins. Liggins first met the Atlanta, Georgia man in Oklahoma City, while there on a business deal setting up a record distribution house. "I was invited to a Club to hear Chick Willis and Harmonica Fats. They put on a show that was out of sight. I was so impressed" says Liggins.

From that meeting a friendship was established between the two that has lasted over the years. Liggins made arrangements to book Chick in Houston, Texas, he came out with a big record "Stoop Down Baby", but he can't seem to stay in the limelight as other blues singers such as B. B. King, Lowell Fulson, Freddie King, Albert King and the late Howling Wolf. Chick is as good as any of these artist says Liggins who knows them all. "I was listening to Chick's recording of 'Things I Use to Do'. It has all the flavor that makes blues records sell. But no big major label has picked him up. After the

Icebergs
Icebergs in the North Atlantic draw attention because they are hazards to shipping. But some Antarctic icebergs have been estimated to be as large as the state of Delaware.

Iron Gate Dam
The Iron Gate Dam, built jointly by Romania and Yugoslavia, produces more power than any other hydroelectric installation in Europe outside the Soviet Union.



CHICK WILLIS
break off with the label out of Michigan. I talked to that owner soon after the break up, and I believe that if Chick had stayed with that company, he would have the gold ring. But who knows. I hope Chick Willis gets what he is after in the music business."

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- 5 L. A. CATCHER - KISSA MARY
- 6 TEAR THE ROOF OFF THE SUCKER - THE 7 C B Y HIDE LANE - 5 BTH, W/ 4
- 7 GEEZ UP AND TOWERS - SILVER CONFESSION
- 8 FIRST LAY - JOHNNIE TAYLOR
- 9 HAPPY MUSIC - BLACKTURNS

ALBUM

- 1 THE BROTHERS JORDON
- 2 BROTHER T BROTHER
- 3 TRUSSER FEATURING CH'S A KIN
- 4 MISTY BLUE - ROBERTY MOORE
- 5 COUNTRY GIRL - AN' BLES WILL'Y PAINT

on chart

- 1 LET ME SAY I LOVE YOU - POINBY
- 2 DANA WELLS - HALL & OATNS
- 3 LETS TAKE A WALK - ILLY PAUL
- 4 MOVIN ON - DRANS CONSTRUCTION
- 5 TURNING POINT - STEPHEN DAVIS
- 6 NIGHTY HIGH - FORTY CLAYS OF JOY
- 7 GRATEFUL - MARY JAMES
- 8 PART DOWN - WILLIE HUDON
- 9 I GOT OVER LOVE - MARVIN HARRIS
- 10 I WANT YOU - MARVIN DATT

NEW RELEASES

- 1 IF YOU ARE MY WOMAN - GIBCO JACKSON
- 2 MISTERY TRAIL - KISSA MARY
- 3 THE LAST LAUGH - L. E. FIELDS
- 4 I GOT OVER LOVE - MARVIN HARRIS
- 5 I WANT YOU - MARVIN DATT
- 6 I WANT YOU - MARVIN DATT
- 7 I WANT YOU - MARVIN DATT
- 8 I WANT YOU - MARVIN DATT
- 9 I WANT YOU - MARVIN DATT
- 10 I WANT YOU - MARVIN DATT

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