

Ebony Etchings

Warren Lanier

the world's greatest or-
str being Jimmy Smith
currently in Europe on a
Concert Tour, while
es are being made for
to play a series of
in Mexico follow-
his return to the states.
his return are getting
ormors are getting
nger about Gamble &
and their Philadelphia
national label parting
pany with Columbia
ords ... Ditto the
ys ...
s going to be another
better than the other
for Norman Connors
s about to put finishing
es on his latest Arista
ords album that he's
recording here on the
st coast.

ollywood gossip mer-
ts are trying their best
ake people believe that
licated columnist Val
ntine and Linda Hop-
are a hot news item,
the truth is they're
best of friends and
ighbors. On the other
of the love n' happi-
coin — it isn't the
e as it used to be
reen Freda Payne and
other half Greg Abbott.
you're wondering
ever happened to Cin-

dy Birdsong (a former Su-
preme), she's now holding
down a regular 9 to 5 gig
with the same record com-
she used to record for,
which is very indicative of
the changing times in the
record biz for blacks.

Under the direction of
her new manager Marty
Feldman, vocalist Maxine
Weldon is now looking at
new heights and horizons
with her career. She will
be opening at the Playboy
Club in Angeltown Febru-
ary (5), and following this
engagement, she'll alter-
nate as the opening act for
Sammy Davis Jr. and Bill
Cosby.

Add to the growing list of
hot recording acts to per-
form at the Second Annual
Rhythm and Blues Awards
being taped for a 90-minute
ABC-TV Special at the Bon-
aventure Hotel February
(15), Linda Clifford and
Chic. They'll join the Bar
Kays, Rose Royce, Evelyn
"Champaign" King, Star-
gard, and The Floaters to
perform live in-between the
presentations of awards to
the outstanding Rhythm
and Blues artists being
awarded in the taping of
this 90-minute TV Special.

Special.
Ron O'Neal and Shelia
Frazier have been paired
again in the motion picture
"The Hitter," that's due
for national release in
March. Needless to say,
both Ron and Shelia turn in
a dynamite performance in
the flick, however, it's
Adolph Caesar who'll be
blowing your mind in his
role as Nathan. "The
Hitter" is a Kaleidoscope
Films Ltd., and Adgo Pro-
duction, and thank God
we've got another black
film on the market ... one
you've gotta' see.

Rev. Cleophus Robinson
will get a real Hollywood
turn out for his birthday
celebration that'll be com-
ing off March(17). The
festivities will also honor
his 30-year career as a
gospel recording artist, and
introduce his new Savoy
Gospel album to all the
stars and celebrities that
will be in attendance.

Barry White and Richard
Pryor have teamed up to do
a benefit concert at the
Shrine Auditorium for
Angeltowns Brotherhood
Crusade February(17)..and
that's Hollywood.



James Earl Jones ...

James Earl Jones (left) as Alex Haley interviews Al Freeman, Jr. as Malcolm X in the concluding episode of "Roots: the Next Generations," on ABC Sunday, Feb. 25.

George Black Subject Of Show

Urban Arts of the Arts Council, Inc., will sponsor a reception and exhibit honoring Mr. George Henry Black, the artistic brickmaker who celebrated his 102nd birthday February 15, 1979. This reception and exhibit will be held Sunday, March 11 at the Arts Council Arena from 3:00 until 5:00 p.m.

The idea for this project originated with Mrs. Dorothy Graham-Wheeler, Urban Arts Director, whose life long friendship with the Black family led her to share the need for community recognition of Mr. Black.

On March 11 there will be a photographic exhibit by Susan Mullally Weil which includes pictures taken recently of Mr. Black, members of his family, and the places associated with his childhood in Randolph County in the nineteenth century.

Also on exhibit will be documents related to his life, including the 1880 census listing "George H." as a member of the George Black and Ann Chavis Black family at age one, and the list of slaves owned by Dr. Thomas Black, which includes Mr. Black's remarkable grandmother, Brena. Also available will be a historical essay of Mr. Black written by Emily Herring Wilson and published by Urban Arts, which tells both the early history of Mr. Black's family and recent events, such as his trip in 1971 to South America.

Mangrove In Concert

REENSBORO — Chuck
Mangione and The Chuck
Mangione Quartet will be
performing Sunday, March
4 at the Greensboro Audi-
um.
Mangione's formal intro-
duction to music began
when he started taking
piano lessons at age eight.
Mangione's parents have
been an important influ-
ence in his music. His
mother, Bellavia, is dedi-
cated to his parents. By the
time Chuck reached high
school, he was studying
piano and music theory
at the Preparatory Depart-
ment of the Eastman School
of Music and was starting
to play professionally.
As Mangione began to
perform with the Eastman Jazz
ensemble in 1968, he
started to think about a
career. His quartet got its
start in 1969 by playing in a
Greensboro singles bar.
Chuck, for the first time,
played piano as well as

flugelhorn at perfor-
mances. The summer of
1972 found the quartet with
an invitation to the Mon-
treux International Jazz
Festival followed by 3
weeks of nightly concerts at
Ronnie Scott's, a presti-
gious London jazz spot. The
quartet returned from Eu-
rope and immediately re-
leased Alive in 1972. Alive
was the second solo effort
by the quartet.

The year 1973 produced
another live album-Land of
Make-Believe — this time
with a jazz ensemble and
the Hamilton Philharmonic
Orchestra. The album re-
ceived Grammy nomina-
tions for Best Big Band
Performance and Best In-
strumental Arrangement
Accompanying a Vocalist
(for the title cut). Chuck's
first network television ap-
pearance came about as a
result of this album. In
December 1974, Merv Grif-
fin asked Chuck to appear

on his show. The show was
a first in the history of the
Griffin Show. For Mangi-
one conducted and played
the entire version of "Land
of Make Believe" — 12
minutes of uninterrupted
music.

Early in 1975, Chuck
released his first A&M al-
bum, Chase The Clouds
Away. Two 1975 Grammy
nominations went to this
album. The title cut was
played as background mu-
sic during the telecasts of
the 1976 Olympic Games.

With the release of
Chuck's album, Main
Squeeze, in 1976, the stage
was set for a broad scope of
personal television appear-
ances including multiple
guest spots on The Tonight
Show, The Mike Douglas
Show, The Merv Griffin
Show, and Don Kirschner's
Rock Concert. Chuck play-
ed at the Sugar Bowl half-
time ceremonies on New
Year's Day 1977.



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