

**Black Movies, TV News Briefs**

# Blacks Join \$150 Million Cable-TV Systems Venture

by Jesse H. Walker  
Special To The Post

Two black New York-based radio broadcasters have joined forces in a \$150 million cable-TV systems venture planned for Queens County, N.Y. The Inner Unity Cable TV Systems, Inc., a joint venture of the Inner City Broadcasting Corp., headed by Percy Sutton, and the Unity Broadcasting Network (National Black Network), headed by Eugene D. Jackson, and the CanWest Communications Corp. of Canada, have filed with the NYC Board of Estimate as Queens Inner Unity Cable Systems, Inc. for the franchise to provide cable TV to the Borough of Queens, a franchise actively sought by Warner Amex, Orthovision, Inc., Cablevision and Gotham Cable Co.

That Broadway-Western Ball, honoring Sheriff Cal "The Lone Shooter" Ramsey, to be held Sunday, Sept. 21 at the Bond International Casino will benefit OIC New York and the Holcombe Rucker Community Basketball League. The Rustlers, or Committee for the Ball, includes Alfred "Butch" Beard, Melvin "Boostsie" Dunn, Norman "Pony Express" Ewbanks, Raleigh "The Mighty Eub" Eubanks, Roger "Django" Gibbs, Carl "Spider" Lockhart, Jim "The Indian" Lytle, Earl "The Pearl Monroe, Willie "The Big W" Reed, and Everald "Shrimp" Walsh. Attire for the \$40 ticket affair is "buttons and bows" and ten-gallon hats.

"Dear Pen Pal," a special feature of "Big Blue Marble," has finally matched its two millionth pen pal. Most pen pal requests come from the U.S., but Trinidad is second, with 58,346 requests, followed by West Malaysia (46,231) Jamaica (43,712), and Greece (39,188).

Allan McMillan, the 80-year old veteran columnist who was honored Sept. 4 by a bunch of NYC friends, is a native of Valdosta, Ga. and a former semi-pro baseball player. He got his start in journalism in Chicago with the Baltimore Afro-American, writing a column called "Chicago By Day and By Night." He says he was the first black writer to interview Al Capone.

Some members of the Boys Choir of Harlem sang the National Anthem at the Grambling-Morgan State Annual Football Classic, and Con Edison made sure that other choir members and chaperones got tickets for the game which helped co-sponsor along with The New York Yankees in association with the New York Urban League. The game was Saturday night, Sept. 13.

Ms. Irene Reid, the Real Queen of Soul Singers, will be returning by popular demand to the New Small's Paradise on a limited engagement Sept. 12-13 and 19-20.

Caught recently keeping everyone happy at Showman Cafe on

West 125th Street was a group including Morris Nitchell on organ, Arthur Grant on sax and Leon Lawrence on drums.

NBC-TV has tentatively set the airing of the controversial mini-series, "Beulah Land" for Oct. 7, 8 and 9, and the Hollywood Chapter of the NAACP is still against the show after seeing previews. On the other hand, a black Harvard prof. claims it's alright. And a brutal syndicated article on the new minority censorship of movies, TV films, etc., was really rough when it declared that black actors on "Beulah Land" did not become critical of its depiction of the treatment of slaves during the Civil War until they had completed their roles and been paid.


After 13 years in the tiny Marks Playhouse on Second Avenue, the Negro Ensemble Company is moving to larger quarters, at

Theater Four on West 55th Street, between 9th and 10th Avenues, where its news season will begin Sept. 30. Theatre Four has 299 seats, compared to only 145 at St. Marks. But NEC hopes eventually to have its own theatre at some midtown site in a 500-700-seat theatre.

Tap dance enthusiasts should get their fill when a festival of tap classes, performances and conversations is held at the Village Gate, Oct. 13-18. Called "By Word of Foot: Twelve Tap Masters Pass on Their Tradition," it will feature John Bubbles, Honi Coles, Charles "Cookie" Cook, Leslie "Bubba" Gaines, Ernest "Brownie" Brown, Buster Brown, Albert Gibson, Leon Collins and Chuck Green. Sessions will meet daily between 10 a.m. and 5 p.m. with Bubbles appearing at 4 p.m. in "Cocktails with John Bubbles."

Will Reggie Jackson answer "Mr. October" comes out next spring? Billy Martin's charges in the latter's book, "No. 1," when Reggie's

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