



SINGER SALUTED - Actor-singer Lucia Hawkins (left) signs program for A&T students Miss Betty J. Harris of Oxford, and Donnie Moore of Thomasville, following Miss Hawkins' appearance in the University's luceum series last week.



AMONG THE GREATS - "Oh Yeahhh," was Louis Armstrong's comment when he received the first copy of his new biography from Bill Parbs, merchandising manager, Childrens Press, Inc., Chicago. "Satch" joins such other luminaries as President John F. Kennedy, Leonard Bernstein, Babe Ruth, Gen. Douglas MacArthur, and industrialist Henry Ford in the initial publishing phase of the 20-book "People of Destiny" biographical series. Each is available in bookstores with the entire series available to school and libraries on a subscription basis. (NPI PHOTO)

AMONG THE STARS

with **LEE IVORY**

Singer Johnny Nash is my friend. Perhaps this is why Among the Stars is such a difficult thing to write this week. I love him as a buddy and I love him as an entertainer. But I just can't seem to understand, though, would make a completely brand new world. Maybe it isn't meant for me to understand.

Picture this, if you will: The stage is gaily lit and the announcer has just finished introducing "one of the finest young singers in America today, ladies and gentlemen, Johnny Nash."

The lights dim and a handsome young singer--dressed to the teeth effortlessly glides on stage and, just as effortlessly, goes into his first song.

You wonder, as I did back in 1963, where has this guy been? You have never seen anything quite like him. He has the presence of stage that comes with only years of performing experience; he has a charm that makes you listen raptly to what he is singing. He is a professional in every sense of the word.

Midway through his act, the band leaves the stage and this guy who reminds you of a talented teenager picks up a handy guitar. He sings such things as "Scarlet Ribbons" or, an original composition, "Cream Puff," and you find yourself really knowing how it feels to be entertained.

And you begin to understand what Arthur Godfrey saw in this kid from a golf course in Houston, Texas. You begin to understand why he was chosen for starring roles in motion pictures like "Key Witness" and "Take A Giant Step." Instinctively, you love this performer because he is truly fantastic and gifted and warm and human.

You run right out and buy all of his albums. You start talking to your friends about him and you write reams and reams Johnny Nash... Johnny Nash."

Then, one day, you hear the most beautiful album in the world, "Composer's Choice." And you know right away that here is the guy who should be singing love songs to teenagers and young people in love.

Then, you hear your singer--your fantastic singer--in a different bag. He's a pro, so you can understand his trying to

cover all fields. But, then, he stops singing the beatific for the "big beat;" he sings rock and roll, and nobody is listening to what he is trying to say. And you just don't understand. You sadly shake your head because you just don't understand.

See you Among the Stars.

Mixed Song Duo New York Hit

NEW YORK CITY - Even story books read by children in public and Sunday Schools never had subjects that have aroused the attention of record buyers as much as the new Atlantic record team of Judy Clay and Billy Vera.

Most record firms shy away from tunes with social message, preferring to avoid the headaches they present. But in "Story Book Children" by the duo of Clay and Vera, the words are timely and carry a message that talks of harmony between the races and asks the question of "why can't people exist together as children often read about in picture books."

To the two singers it doesn't matter at all that one is Negro, Judy Clay, and her male vocal partner is white, Billy Vera.

"I've never given it a thought," said Vera. "Some people may frown on our being linked together vocally, but that's just their hard luck."

His sentiments were echoed by Miss Clay, former gospel singer, who's been lifting her voice in song for the past twenty years. A one-time member of the Drinkard Singers of gospel fame, she's been singing pop for the past three years.

Born in Riverside, Calif., as William McCord, Vera has worked with many groups but cut out recently as a single to seek his fame and fortune. He wrote their first hit tune as a result of his concern for equal rights and opportunities for all people.

It was by chance that he was teamed up with Judy. At Atlantic, Vice President Jerry Wexler, who's been credited for the revival of Aretha Franklin, the hottest female vocalist today, chose Judy when she

Entertainment HUES and CRIES

By Negro Press International TRAMMIST PASSES

CHICAGO - A few hours before he was to perform with the Ray Charles band at the Auditorium Theatre, Frederick "Keg" Johnson, 59, was found dead, apparently of a heart attack, in his Pick Congress hotel room. Johnson, whose failure to show up for rehearsal with the Charles' group led to the discovery of his body, had played with such name jazz bands as Duke Ellington's, Louis Armstrong, Cab Calloway, Fletcher Henderson, Lucky Millinder and Benny Carter during the late 1930s.

SENDS 'EM

WESTBURY, N. Y. - Comedian Nipsey Russell, famed for his ability to think fast on his feet with "ad lib" jokes, showed why he is regarded as one of the nation's top comedians as he captivated a throng at the Westbury Music Fair last week. The effervescent Russell was featured performer on the Bobby Darin Show.

KNOXVILLE, Tenn. - Ida Prather Cox, 78, of Cedartown, Ga., a popular blues singer during the "Roaring 20s," lost a three-year bout to cancer last week. Mrs. Cox, who had survived a stroke in 1945, helped popularized the song "Put Your Arms Around Me, Honey," and performed with such jazz luminaries as King Oliver, Jelly Roll Morton, Louis Armstrong and Lionel Hampton, during her long career.

'SLOW DANCE ON KILLING GROUND' TO HAVE MIDWEST PREMIERE

CHICAGO - "Slow Dance on the Killing Ground," a play written by William Hanley, and directed by Dick Gaffield, will have its Midwest premiere at the Hull House Theatre in the Parkway Community House, Friday, Nov. 24.

The performing group at Parkway is known as the "Skyloft Players," named after the once famous theatrical group associated with the original Parkway Community House in the 1940s.

"Slow Dance..." examines the lives endured by three widely diverse individuals brought together in a grimy, half-lit store and soda fountain in a factory section of Brooklyn--a refuge for Louis D. James, Sr., 77, a pioneer musician well known and respected in Louisiana jazz circles. James, who played the violin, clarinet, saxophone and bass in New Orleans jazz bands since 1915, launched his musical career by playing a comb and tissue paper imitating a cornet, while rubbing his heel on the floor to stimulate a bass.

The play originally was produced off-Broadway with great success during the 1964-65 season. Hanley's first full length play, it received high praise from audiences and critics alike as an art form. Hanley himself was also praised for his great insight and ability as a playwright.

Theatre activities of the Hull House Association was supervised by Robert Sickinger. The association is one of the most active institutions in the city providing training and opportunities for advancement for young people interested in the theatre.

SAM COOKE'S MOTHER DIES

CHICAGO - Funeral services for Mrs. Annie Mae Cooke, mother of the late, famous rock

wandered into his office one day while he was contemplating a female partner for Vera on his first record session for the company.

They both hit it off from the start. Already they're working on another joint wax session, plus the fact that they'll soon be kicking off a nation-wide personal appearance tour at the Apollo theater. And with the sure acceptance they're due to get from the tough, but fair-minded Apollo audience, the words that they sing should become more than a reality for them.

THEATRICALS
The World Of Entertainment

Tells The Story Of How A Record Is Made

Thus the "groove" in which a record will be placed, stylistic "groove," that is, must be decided before the arranger takes pen in hand to write for the musicians.

The arranger - after preliminary discussion -- is then given the green light to use his inherent talent to come up with a unique and unusual interpretation of the originally-written song that will, quite hopefully, enhanced record sales.

PART III
The melody has been written, the lyrics have been added, and the artist and repertoire director of Chess Records -- Billy Davis -- has chosen an arranger based upon the style of the song and the artist who will sing it.

In this case, however, the "artist" is four girls; four lovely and talented young ladies known professionally as The Vashonettes.

Separately, though, they are known as Yvonne Maury, the lead singer, Sonya Marlene Frank, Ernestine "Ernie" Williams and Bobbie Bester. And they're outta sight!

The Vashonettes have long been noted around Chicago for their fantastic dancing ability and they have studied at the Sammy Dyer School of the Theatre under the very dynamic Shirley Hall.

This series might have been written about The Dells, The Radiants, Little Milton (the "New King of the Blues") or Holly Maxwell had it not been for one of the guiding credos of the Sammy Dyer facility, Miss Hall, who is as articulate as she is talented, stated:

"The school's tradition is not only to turn out good dancers, but to encourage innate abilities in our students. Therefore, The Vashonettes -- who are superb dancers -- were encouraged to sing."

'n' roll singer Sam Cooke, were held at Christ Cathedral Temple last week, following her death in Cook County hospital after a long illness. A native of Shaw, Miss. Mrs. Cooke came to live in Chicago in 1934 and with her husband, the Rev. C. S. Cooke, now 70, reared eight children, including Sam. All sang in church choirs, but only Sam and another son, L. C., became professional singers.

MAKEBA SCORES

NEW YORK - Famed South African - born songstress Miriam Makeba teamed with entertainer Mongo Santamaria last week to score a big hit in a pre-Thanksgiving Day show at Carnegie Hall. Miss Makeba, famed for her "click" singing of African songs, featured many of her favorite tunes.

REQUIEM FOR PIONEER

NEW ORLEANS - Solemn requiem mass was offered at St. Joan of Arch Catholic church last week for Louis D. James, Sr., 77, a pioneer musician well known and respected in Louisiana jazz circles. James, who played the violin, clarinet, saxophone and bass in New Orleans jazz bands since 1915, launched his musical career by playing a comb and tissue paper imitating a cornet, while rubbing his heel on the floor to stimulate a bass.

(To be continued next week)

And, baby, they can. It has been rumored that they sound and act like a female group of the magnitude of the Temptations. And that, being complimentary, is saying quite a mouthful.

The Vashonettes, as dancers, have worked professionally with such show business giants as Sammy Davis, Jr., Count Basie, Brook Benton, Roy Hamilton, the late Dinah Washington and Duke Ellington. And, of course, they are not as ancient as their history makes them seem. They are all in their early twenties and they are all cute enough to take home to meet your parents when you know Mom and Dad have gone out for the evening!

At any rate, the song is "Love," and the A&R man is Billy Davis, and the producer is Leonard Caston, former member of The Radiants, who is now one of the brightest young men in the business, Leonard not only sings, but plays seven different instruments and writes songs in his spare time.

Together, Billy and Leonard select the band and take them through several rehearsals before cutting what is called a band track.

Using the "four-track" taping system, an engineer is able to record several different instruments on three of the tracks while leaving one track open for the over-dubbing of voices.

An example of this would be to have rhythm instruments (piano, guitar, drums and ball all recorded on Track No. 1; saxophones and other horns recorded on Track No. 2; and, on Track No. 3, any other instruments or special sound effects -- like hand clapping, crowd noises, etc. Strings are usually recorded on this "third track" so to speak.

The recording engineer is charged with a proper "mix" of voices and instruments and it facilitates matters greatly if he has some degree of control over separate segments of the completed recording. He can, by lowering or raising volume levels, keep the lead singer from being "drowned out" by overly loud accompaniment.

A good percentage of the records on the market today appear to missed this vital phase of the operation!

Many times, band tracks are cut on entertainers while they are touring the country. Since Billy Davis knows the idiosyncrasies of his artists and the keys in which they sing, he often finds a tune for them to record, has it arranged for them in their particular musical key, and then commissions the band to cut the tracks without the artist having ever heard the song.

A dub, or vinyl disc recording is made of the band track and this is milled - along with the lyrics -- to the entertainers who, in his or her leisure time, practices the song until he "feels" it and is ready for "over-dubbing," or adding his voice to the completed tapes. When this stage is reached, the artist schedules studio time to coincide with his free time on the road, flies into Chicago and adds his voice to the space left on Track No. 4.

The engineer, along with the producer and A&R man, goes into the studio for the purpose of mixing and properly balancing all of the ingredients of the record they hope will be a hit.

VIVIAN AYERS
Barber-Scotia Grad In Concert

CONCORD - Barber-Scotia College will present Miss Vivian Ayers, poet and dramatic reader, in recital Friday, Nov. 17, at 8 p. m. in the College Chapel. Developing the topic, "Young Americans in the Arts," Miss Ayers will give her interpretation of what is art, what is new, and what is American. A special feature of the evening will be dramatic reading of her own poetry.

Miss Ayers, a native of Chester, and a graduate of Barber-Scotia College, is editor and publisher of Adept Quarterly. She is a member of the Fondren Library Staff of Rice University and presently is coordinator of Volunteers for Houston-

Harris County with the O.E.O. Program. The Adept Quarterly marks a new era in publishing. Notable for its design, subject matter, art presentation, and for the equality and fearlessness of its writings, it has been subscribed to by a majority of university libraries in the United States. The journal is internationally staffed.

Vivian Ayers gained a Pulitzer Award nomination for her first book of poems, "Spice of Dawns," in 1954. Since then she has completed three poetic dramas - "Hawk" in 1956, "Bow Boly" in 1962, and "The Act" in 1965 which remains unpublished.

James V. Baker wrote in a critique of the "Hawk" that Miss Ayers uses the device of a flight or a journey to make possible an objective view of "people" or to engage in a critique of humanity... It says to the bold and seasoned reader: Ascend to the spiritus' stratosphere. Endure an expansion of being.

Isabel Sanford Enters Movies After Stage

Although Isabel Sanford has been in Los Angeles, for seven years, and in numerous plays, Columbia Pictures' "Guess Who's Coming To Dinner," marks her motion picture debut in a key role incorporating both comedy and drama.

"Guess Who's Coming To Dinner," is a Stanley Kramer Production, starring three Academy Award-winners, Spencer Tracy, Sidney Poitier, and Katharine Hepburn, and introduces Katherine Houghton.

A native New Yorker, Miss Sanford established her reputation on the Broadway stage, and it was her performance in "Amen Corner," seen by Stanley Kramer, that resulted in her getting the part in his new motion picture, without having a screen test or reading.

The effort which Miss Sanford handles her part and her scenes with Poitier, and Miss Houghton who sparks the action of "Guess Who's Coming To Dinner" when she arrives home with the announcement for Tracy and Hepburn that she is going to marry Poitier, will result in moviegoers agreeing with Kramer that Miss Sanford could not have made a more effective motion picture debut.

In the Technicolor production, filmed on location in San Francisco and Hollywood, and in which Roy Glenn and Beach Richards have key roles as Poitier's parents, Miss Sanford delivers some of the funniest lines.

Miss Sanford was born in New York City, August 29, and educated in that city's public schools, at P.S. 81 and Evander Childs High. With a natural bent for words, she was always outstanding in English and Drama, and was the "star" of every commencement exercise from the 5th grade through the 9th. Encouraged by her teachers, she enrolled with the American Negro Theatre, where she worked with Harry Belafonte and then joined a small repertory theatre in New York.



VIVIAN AYERS



TAKING FIVE - On the set of Stanley Kramer's Columbia Pictures release, "Guess Who's Coming To Dinner," Sidney Poitier points out some activity to Miss Isabel Sanford, who makes her motion picture debut in the Technicolor production filmed on location in San Francisco and Hollywood. Miss Sanford, who earned her reputation on the stage, delivers some of the funniest lines in the picture in scenes with Poitier. Poitier co-stars with Spencer Tracy and Katharine Hepburn, whose daughter, played by Katherine Houghton, tells them she plans to marry Poitier. Miss Sanford earned her important role based on stage ability seen by Kramer without a screening test or reading.

LINCOLN
RALEIGH, N. C.
STARTS SUNDAY, NOV. 26

BLOOD DRINKERS
Starring AMELIA FUENTES
plus
2nd Feature
FALSE SHAME

STARTS THURS., NOV. 29

IN THE HEAT OF THE NIGHT
Starring SIDNEY POITIER
plus
FINDERS KEEPERS
plus
CLIFF PRICHARD



HARVEY AND THE 7 SOUNDS - One of the most outstanding line-ups of rock 'n' roll and rhythm and blues stars will be at Dorton Arena in Raleigh on Monday, Nov. 27th, at 8:30 p. m., for a big show and dance. Headlining this great show and dance will be the sensational Wilson Pickett. Also on the show will be Harvey and the 7 Sounds, Carla Thomas, Mickey Murray, Laura Lee, The Staple Singers, The Esquires, and special added attractions, The Box Tops, who will be singing, "The Letter" and "Neon Rainbow." Tickets are on sale at Thiem's Record Shop and The Record Bar in Raleigh, Durham and Chapel Hill. Harvey and the 7 Sounds is a new and exciting group from Chicago that is causing quite a storm in the music industry with their latest release, "Get Down." The group is made up of Harvey Scales, lead singer; Al Vance, bass; Billy Stonehall, drums; Randy Jacobs, lead guitar; Mannie Smith, trumpet; Melvin Taylor, tenor sax; and Ben Perty, battonne sax.

Drive Safely

DORTON ARENA Mon., Nov. 27th
N. C. STATE FAIRGROUNDS - RALEIGH, 8:30 P.M.
Sweet Bob's Anniversary SHOW and DANCE

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WILSON PICKETT
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"BABY" - "KNOCK ON WOOD"

STAPLE SINGERS
"FOR WHAT IT'S WORTH"

LAURA LEE "DIRTY MAN"
MICKEY MURRAY "SHOUT SAKALABA"

THE ESQUIRES "GET ON UP"
HARVEY AND THE 7 SOUNDS "7 SOUNDS"

THE EXCITERS "BIG SHOW BAND"

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