

Harlem Agog Over First World Premiere; 'Rochester' To Be Seen In Stellar Role

NBC To Broadcast Affair Over Chain

NEW YORK CITY—(SNS)—"Hollywood Goes to Harlem" is the slogan adopted by Paramount for the first world premiere of a motion picture ever held in Harlem, done only as the Hollywood experts can do it, for the formal unveiling of "Buck Benny Rides Again", the Jack Benny starring vehicle in which Eddie (Rochester) Anderson and Theresa Harris play important featured roles.

Another Star



Hattie McDaniel's sensational success has caused the rise of other colored performers, the latest of which is Mildred Cover shown here with Claire Trevor in a dramatic moment in the new picture, "Dark Command". Clinton Rosemond is also featured.

The Harlem world premiere of the Benny-Anderson film is scheduled for Loew's Victoria Theatre on Tuesday night, April 23, one day prior to the regular opening at New York Paramount Theatre, Times Square, where it is booked for a four week run.

TO HAVE ALL TRIMMINGS
While plans for Harlem's first world premiere are still in the formative state, it seems certain that Paramount intends to stage the precedent-shattering affair as the most pretentious film opening seen in New York in years.

Present plans call for a premiere staged with all of Hollywood's familiar trimmings; the same as done for every important flicker opening at Grauman's Chinese Theatre, including high-wattage street flood lamps, grinding news-reel cameras, a special coast-to-coast lobby broadcast of arrival of celebrities from the theatrical, screen, radio, music, newspaper, sports, political and social worlds, in addition to the personal appearance of Eddie (Rochester) Anderson and possibly others who appeared in the film including Jack Benny, Phil Harris, Andy Devine.

At the conclusion of the world premiere at the Victoria, Rochester will be the guest of honor at a monster testimonial reception to be held at the world famous Savoy Ballroom on Lenox Avenue, the festivities tentatively scheduled for a special events two-hour coast-to-coast broadcast. Present plans call for every performer of note, now in the New York vicinity, to appear before the NBC microphones.

TO ARRIVE APRIL 18

The inimitable Rochester is scheduled to arrive in Harlem from Hollywood on Thursday morning, April 18, detouring at the 125th Street station, where he will be officially greeted by a welcoming committee of celebrities, and presented with a floral horseshoe by Miss Cissy Bowe, selected "Miss Harlem—1940" in a recent Savoy Ballroom contest.

Rochester will parade from the station, through West 125th Street on his famous black horse, escorted by the welcoming committee officially representing newspapers, lodges, fraternities and others in Harlem's civic, industrial and social life.

A special police guard of honor will patrol the route, terminating at the Hotel Theresa, where Rochester will reside as a guest during his New York sojourn.

"Lena Rivers" By Lane Dramatists Proves To Be Hit

JACKSON, Tenn.—In an effort to create a new interest in dramatics in this section LENA RIVERS, a drama based upon the successful novel, LENA RIVERS by Mark J. Holmes, was presented by the Lane College Dramatics Club to a capacity audience at the Rosenwald School in Trenton, Tenn.

The play was taken to Trenton at the request of school officials there who witnessed its highly successful presentation at Lane a month ago. Considerable interest has been aroused in many parts of the state since the second performance at Trenton when members of the cast more masterfully acted their roles.

To satisfy demands of the public the play is scheduled to go on tour soon, it will be presented in Memphis and Humboldt and from time to time in other localities as the requests come in.

Footlight Flickers

NEW YORK—Columbia Honors La Dunham! THAT SPRIGHTLY AND...lovely. Chicago, lassie, Katherine Dunham who has taken local dance devotees by storm was logically honored by Columbia university last week. Her Windsor theatre engagement was made the center of attraction on the "School Bulletin Board", and her name became "Campus Topic" throughout the week.

WHAT A LITTLE INGENUITY WILL DO

That Ole Prescription "hard work and foresight" usually associated with grandmother's day, is still a right smart formula were thinking. There's the case in question of BARDU ALI. To some he looks and appears to be of Hindu or Arabian stock...to us he appears to be nothing more than a nice looking "brownie" from the floor areas of "Ole Man Mississippi" (say Georgia or Alabama... maybe Virginia)...The never still tongues of those who know more about other folks' affairs than they do their own, have loudly claimed he was kicked out of the ELLA FITZGERALD organization. Even if such were the case, obviously these folk are not aware of the fact that a kick in the pants can often mean...a kick upstairs.

Bardu's musical outfit was warmly received at the APOLLO THEATRE and the young bandman is unfrank in his gratitude to... FRANK SCHIFFMAN for a chance to get back into the musical dough-ram-me. Long hours working with musicians hanging loose around this big town, has resulted in Ali's getting together a outfit that threatens to crowd some of the better bands...right off the news columns.

WHAT THEATRE FOLK TALK ABOUT

BUXOM BOXHOLDER IN AN

"ASIDE"...It's a d-n shame the way these owners and producers grab up these poor and talented colored kids roaming the streets like the "wolf children" of Russia, for what is commonly known as "coffee and cake money. Why, down in my section (74th street-Central Park West) you dish out 75c to see a show that positively is putrid by comparison, and my brother (book-keeping agent) tells me some of those "Hammondies" get as much as \$250 per week while these kids do FIVE SHOWS go in for backstage insults (purely speculative here, I suppose); and rotten dressing room accommodations...a white bum wouldn't stand for in a thousand years. Yeah...yer right, Honey. That's the way it is and I guess when these trouper run into the South, it must be pure hell for them. Never mind about carrying the subject into a foreign country (meaning the South)...let's not run away from facts right here in New York. Gosh, I would give a lot to see something done for these great colored performers...but who the heck can you get to listen to you...all they think of is exploitation. They dance and starve to death, while the bosses clip coupons and buy yachts."

P. S. Scene: Apollo theatre. Speaker: a luscious blonde whom we've spotted in the house weekly for the past two years or more.

"SUGAR HILL" (apartment booking office) "You know Jack, I mix my politics with my nightclub singing, maybe that's why you were able to get 'So and So to hand out three week's work. The leader put the finger on him and he thought his 'protection fix' warranted kicking in with a gesture of some sort. Down at the club everyone's wondering just how that GAYLORD PERCY FOSTER-DANNY BURROWS asset charge

NEWS OF THE THEATRES

Back To The Baton For Him



With the closing of "Mamba's Daughters" in which he held the role of villain, Willie Bryant, one of Harlem's most popular emcees, will return to his first love, directing an orchestra, it was learned.

Museum Of Swing Is Latest In The Savoy

NEW YORK CITY.—Peeling that its walls which have encompassed so much swing, both sweet and hot, since it was opened fourteen years ago, the Savoy Ballroom management has gathered monuments and pictures of the rhythm craze in one place to establish a Museum of Swing.

The interesting collection contains pictures of the stars who created swing, and all the past and present bandleaders who are its advocates.

will strike the voters living in the 10th district???? Personally, I think ALL HOODLUMS (big or smalltime) should be run out of political wigwags and my 'sweety' pie has warned me to keep my nose clean while soaking in all these ambitions...club ladies have to sell...now I wonder just what could he mean????

"PEGLEG" BATES...one of the finest dancers of the day, may shortly be the recipient of a doctorate from the same upstate institution of learning which so honored PAUL ROBESON. Most of us whine and cry with all of our limbs. "Peg" goes out and makes you believe nature only intended that we should have one prop...gaining thousands of friends, the meanwhile...it must be an art passed on down by the ancients, eh what????

There are old song covers, records, and instruments which have long ago outgrown their usefulness, and even the drums of the late Chick Webb. Admission is free to the song and dance loving public from noon to midnight daily.

Columbia Leads In 'Mixed' Recordings

NEW YORK CITY.—Columbia Recording company, which is the only one to date to venture into the field of mixed white and colored records has two new ones to offer a public which is daily becoming more conscious of these sensations in the world of canned music.

The first of the wackings is one by the Benny Goodman Sextet with Count Basie at the piano, titled "Gone With 'What' Wind?", with "Till Tom Special" on the reverse side.

Both tunes are originals, credit going to Basie and Goodman for "Wind", and Lionel Hampton and Goodman doing the penwork for "Special". All of the superb solos are turned in by Benny himself, the Count, Charlie Christian, and Lionel Hampton, with the rest of the sextet only in the picture as background.



A REPORTER AT LARGE...

There seems to be something to the chatter that is going the rounds, to wit: Colonel Herbert Fauntleroy Julian outdid the Allies. The Black Eagle went to the Finns' rescue, Julian's friends contend, "Better late than never"...The Savoy Ballroom management which vied with the Golden Gate Ballroom owners recently took over the latter. It runs true to form. That is, one Jewish gentleman will never see the other fall by the wayside. The Golden Gate was down but, not on the way out. But, definitely!...Stepin Fetchit, alleged bad boy of radio, stage and...screen, has been given two weeks to answer charges that he conducted himself "otherwise than a loyal true member of Equity." While these charges have not been revealed, the late star of the now-folded-musical, "Three After Three" will have to answer...or else...Harlem now has a Consumers' Journal, among other things. It's also has the New York Independent, So? When you speak of N. Y.'s Black Belt also list these two amongst its newspapers...

But—what you don't know is that Harlemites read more copies of the Caucasian Papers than the two mentioned, doubled and redoubled. AHA, according to the editors and publishers of the Journal and Independent News, the N. Y. Amsterdam News and the N. Y. Age don't count. Is zat so-o-o-o? Maybe they think not. Surely they

Luncheon Is Now On Columbia Discs

NEW YORK, (TYP)—Starting in April, Jimmie Lunceford switches front Vocalion to Columbia labels. This is another sign in a series of events indicating that the Lunceford band, ever rising in name-band popularity, will go far and high in the music-makers' world.

The first Columbia release of Jimmie Lunceford's band will be a light, swing version of Beethoven's fascinating "Sonata Pathetique" backed by "I Wanna Hear Swing Songs".

Thomas Brookins Home From Europe

CHICAGO—(SNS)—Back home in Chicago after a long and sensational series of European concert and recital appearances is Thomas J. Brookins, noted young Negro tenor.

The tall, handsome singer, who won fame years ago as a star basketball player at Chicago's Wendell Phillips High School, left from Belgium when war threatened and was eighteen days crossing the Atlantic on an American freighter.

Brookins has won the laudation of famed European, as well as American music masters who have heard him sing. While abroad he appeared in several British movies and shorts and made phonograph records.

THOSE WILD RADIO RAVES

and Saturday 1:30 a.m., Ambassador Hotel, L. A.
Christopher Columbus, WNEF, 1250k, Monday and Friday, 11:30 p.m., Elks Rendezvous, NYC, Tuesday, 10:15 a.m. Vocal quartet, additional schedule.
Erskine Hawkins, NBC Blue Mon. Wednesday 12:30 a.m. Savoy, New York.
Bob Howard, WEA, 690k, New York, Wednesday 7:45 p.m. pianist and vocalist.
Roy Johnson's "Happy Pals", WRVA, 1110k, Monday 11:15 p.m., Roseland Ballroom.
John Kirby, CBS, Sunday, 5:30 p.m. Also Maxine Sullivan, songs, Maurice Rocco and Three Bits of Rhythm, WCFL 970k, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, 12:15 a.m. Saturday 12:30 a.m. Capitol Lounge.
Rockin' In Rhythm, WHIP, 1480k Tuesday, Thursday, 2:05 p.m. Saturday, 2:15 p.m., recordings. Show is emceed by Eddie Honesty from Hammond, Ind.
Stuff Smith, WMCA, 570k, Monday, Friday, 11:15 p.m., Hickory House, New York.
Artie Stark WIND, Gary, Ind., Chicago nightly except Sunday, 12:45 a.m. Sunday, 11:45 p.m. Wabash, Chicago.
Art Tatum, famed pianist, MBS, Thursday 9 p.m., California Melodrama program.
Vagabonds, NBC Blue, except east, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday, 10:15 a.m. Vocal quartet, additional schedule.
Golden Gate Jubilee Singers, CBS Heavy scattered schedule.
Major Bowes Amateur Hour, CBS Thursday, 9 p.m.
Bronzeville Hour, WHIP, 1480k Hammond, Ind., Sunday, 5:45 p.m. Chicago Bee Weekly Radio Forum WHIP, 1480k, Hammond, Ind., Tuesday, 2:15 p.m. Guest Speakers, Colored Hour, KTSW, Emporia, Kansas, Sunday 9:30 p.m.
Echoes of New York, WEA, 660k Tuesday, 7:30 p.m. Guests.
Hazel Chatman, the Emporia Songbird, KTSW, Emporia, Kansas, Thursday, 6:30 p.m.
First Church of Deliverance,

WIND, 550k, Sunday 12 midnite to 1 a.m. Chicago.
Fisk Jubilee Singers, choir, NBC Blue, Sunday, 7:30 p.m. From Nashville through station WSM.
Golden Gate Jubilee Singers, CBS Heavy scattered schedule.
Golden Hour, WCKQ, Memphis, Tenn., Sunday, 8:30 p.m. Centenary M. E. Church.
Going South, spirituals and ballads, CBS, south only Sunday 5 p.m.
Hattie Noel, character actress, NBC Red, Thursday, 9:30 p.m. Rudy Vallee's program.
Pursuit of Happiness, CBS, Sunday, 4:30 p.m. Guests.
Sheep and Goats Revue, MBS, Wednesday 8 p.m. Richard Huey, M. C.
Southernaires, Vocal quartet, NBC Blue, Sunday, 11:30 a.m., Wednesday, Thursday 12:15 p.m., Friday 11:30 a.m. West Coast rebroadcast 2 p.m.
We, the people, CBS, Tuesday, 9 p.m. West Coast, Rebroadcast 12 midnite.
Wings Over Jordan, Sunday 9:30 a.m.
Virginia Union University Church, DRCQ, Richmond, Va., Sunday, 4:45 p.m. Under direction of Mrs. Aiden Windham Davis, Emporia from Colburn Hall.

He Will Get Reception



A monster testimonial reception has been planned for Eddie (Rochester) Anderson at the famous Savoy Ballroom on April 23, following a world premiere of "Buck Benny Rides Again", the film in which he is co-starred with Jack Benny. The picture is scheduled to open at Harlem's Loew's Victoria theatre amid a network broadcast and all the trimmings of a colorful premiere, which incidentally will be Harlem's first.

Noble Sissle Ends His Book Manuscript

NEW YORK—(ANP)—Noble Sissle, orchestra director who for more than a year has held forth in the Billy Rose "Diamond Horseshoe" on 46th street at Broadway, announces the completion of his manuscript for his book which he has been preparing for more than three years.

The book will be in the nature of his experiences in America and Europe during the World war, on the stage and as director of his band. The book will be illustrated with exclusive photographs, and will go to the publishers immediately.

Sissle received the final decree for his divorce from his former wife, Harriet Sissle, February 10,

of this year. Following his New York stay, the well known director will make an extended road tour, which will include Hollywood.

Asked about his rumored marriage to the charming Ethel Watkins of the Cotton Club, a native of Miami, Fla., and once voted the most beautiful girl in Miami, Sissle said: "You know, I am very busy now, and we are planning some very big things for the Negro Actors' guild, before I go on the road."

Sissle and Blake, Miller and "Bill" Vodery, also have in preparation a new show the music of which, and the story, promise to excel the glories of "Shuffle Along".

Rating the Records

(By FRANK MARSHALL DAVIS For ANP)

A trip of Haiti on wax is offered by General Records in their special album of four discs entitled "YOUNG SONGS OF HAITI, and drummed by the 10 Damballa Wedo singers under the direction of Harold Coulander, an authority on this neighboring island. It takes only a casual first listening to this collection to discern the close affinity between Haitian and African music. However, the former as exemplified in this album lacks the kick of the recent Victor collection recorded in Africa by Mrs. Boulton. While there is plenty of rhythmic pattern, it lacks the variety of the original on the Dark Continent. Nevertheless, the General album should be studied every person interested in various music forms.

Some scorching stuff this week in the hot jazz field. Duke Ellington makes his Victor debut with JACK THE BEAR, a medium tempo stomp, and MORNING GLORY, a moody composition. On both sides he demonstrates the full strength of his peerless aggregation, with the sensational Jimmy Blanton showing off his bass technique. A powerful start, this pairing... A small group from the Duke's band, led by Barney Bigard on clarinet, rumps through LOST IN TWO FLATS and EARLY MORNING for Vocalion. This is strong, jitter rhythm guaranteed to set the sphinx a-jumping... Also with plenty of pop is Harry James' totally individual creation of HODGE PODGE on Varsity. The "bug" should fall for this and hard. Coupled is CARNIVAL OF VENICE, beginning in waltz tempo and ending as a fox trot, which caters to the leader's trumpet exhibitionism.

Breaking through on the Decca label is Henry Wells, former Kirk and Lunceford trombonist, who specializes in sweet music with a glee club backing his vocals on BACK IN YOUR OWN BACK YARD and AMONG MY SOUVENIRS. For sugar lovers... Anita Louise, the Hollywood beauty, has an album of four harp solos for Royal, accompanied by cello and violin. Titles are STAR DUST and CHANSON SANS PARLONS. Under direction of Mrs. Aiden Windham Davis, Emporia from Colburn Hall.

Here's a Benny Goodman Sextet platter with a kick like a Louis fight. With Count Basie on the ivories, this group drives through GONE WITH "WHAT" WIND and TILL TOM SPECIAL, with everybody in top form. Be sure to grab this... Willie "The Lion" Smith leads a pickup band through two General discs but not nearly so effectively as does Jelly Roll. The Smith titles are PEACE ON YOU and NOODLIN'; WONTCHA DO IT TO ME and RUSHIN', with "Noodlin'" the best of them all. Sidney de Paris and Bernard Addison are in the unit... Ambrose has a slow and lovely Decca in BLUE ROMANCE, but the reverse, HEAR MY SONG, VIOLETTA, doesn't altogether click... Retired completely, the French Quintet quietly goes about the business of playing ORIENTAL SHUFFLE and ARE YOU IN THE MOOD? on Victor with Reinhardt and Grappelly brilliant as