

Theatricals Music Features

Nation's Great To Sponsor Actors' Guild Show

RATING THE RECORDS

(By FRANK MARSHALL DAVIS for ANP)

Now that public interest, stimulated by reasonably priced radio-phonograph combinations, is drifting back toward recordings, this column leaps into existence in the hope that it will be an aid in deciding just what discs are worth an investment, rating the records, to appear occasionally, it intended to keep you informed on current platters.

It's no secret that dusky musicians make a large percentage of records and draw nice cash from these waxings. Only on discs can many of our artists be heard, for just a slight percentage get radio time, and only a comparatively small number of people can hear them in person. Therefore, if you want the offerings of such stars as Duke Ellington, Louis Armstrong, the Mills Brothers and scores more, you have to depend on records.

However, this column will not deal exclusively with waxings by the brother, nor will it include all but hot jazz despite the writer's keen interest in swing music. Any disc which seems of general interest will be treated in a fashion intended to let the reader know what it's all about and conclude whether he ought to go to the music store and buy one or ignore it completely. But in case of doubt, you can always hear the platter and decide for yourself!

SIDNEY "POPS" BECHET. One excellent thing about records is the opportunity they give to hear the wizardry of Sidney "Pops" Bechet, the daddy of clarinetists. Aided by a small hot group from Noble Sissle's orchestra, Bechet in two numbers Blackstick and When the Sun Sets Down South, gets off some solid swing guaranteed to please the jitterbugs. Both are originals, the first by Bechet and the second by Bechet and Brooks.

The Down South number, a slow fox trot of Ellingtonish flavor, is the better side. And if you're tired of listening to the clarinet mannerisms of Benny Goodman, you will be doubly appreciative of the powerful and sincere New Orleans style of Bechet, one of the world's three greatest on his instrument. The record is Decca, 2129.

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BING & BOB CROSBY Teamed. When Bing Crosby was in Chicago a few weeks ago, he took time out to cut a few sides with his brother, Bob Crosby, the band leader, My Reverie, the currently popular number based on a Claude Debussy composition, and Old Folks are on the sides of a highly pleasing disc made at that time.

Neither side is swing, but they show off Bing and Bob to fine advantage. Old Folks is a humorous but sympathetic portrayal in song of an old character in a small town. If you like the Crosbys, you should have this. It's on Decca 2123.

BLUES PLUS TEAGARDEN. Remember the piece, Down Hearted Blues, made in the early 1920's by Lovie Austin and Alberta Hunter? It's revived by Teddy Grace, assisted by a mixed orchestra which includes Jack Teagarden on trombone, Billy Kyle on piano and O'Neil Spencer on drums. Teddy is a good singer, but his liphorn work and barrel house solo of Teagarden's plenty to insure the number's success.

The other side is Monday Morning, current hit by the same artists likewise well performed. It's on Decca, 2128.

IF YOU LIKE PREACHING. The Rev. J. C. Burnett, assisted by his congregation, has waxed After-while Some Sweet Day and Jonah in the Belly of the Whale, for those who want records of good old fashioned sermons in the manner made famous by the Rev. J. M. Gates. There's plenty of moanin' and shouting, with old time camp meeting singing featuring the first side. Decca, 7524.

Calvin's Digest

—By FLOYD J. CALVIN—
Forward with Blount

The insurance business among Negroes has a new official pilot, L. C. Blount, vice president and secretary of the Great Lakes Mutual Insurance Company of Detroit. As president of the National Negro Insurance Association, which represents twenty millions of savings and protection of the Negro public which has been entrusted to Negro management and safekeeping, Mr. Blount holds one of the most responsible positions in Negro life.

The election of Mr. Blount at Cleveland last June was a gesture in the right direction. It pushed a step further the policy of the leaders of the insurance fraternity to elevate responsible and progressive executives, whether they represent the larger companies or not. The records show that Mr. Blount's company was organized only eleven years ago but that it has made a fine record in a section where Negroes insurance management is still in its primary stage—in the extreme northern part of our country.

The Detroit Negro has achieved much; he has produced a State Senator, and he gave to the country the second heavyweight champion

of the race, and the brains of discovery and management along with the champion. It is fitting, then, that a business leader should come from Detroit and it is our hope that the administration of President Blount will leave the insurance business well ahead of where he took up. We feel confident the Great Lakes Mutual will continue to grow and prosper.

Literary Protection
At the tragic death of James Weldon Johnson, a name—Gene, Buck—not so familiar to the Negro public appeared as the one who delivered the funeral oration. Gene Buck is president of the American Society of Composers, Authors, and Publishers, with offices in the RKO Building, Radio City, New York.

On further inquiry it is found that the American Society is a powerful organization devoted to the protection of the rights of the creators of American music, and the promotion of the interest of the creators of that music. Several Negro musicians are members of this organization, including W. C. Handy, Harry T. Burleigh, Eubie Blake, Will Marion Cook and others.

An interesting thing about this organization is this: Negroes sometimes wonder where and when the real integration of their own people into the main stream of American life will begin. Here is a place. This organization publicizes the achievements of its members in both the white and colored press, many more white papers receiving and publishing its stories than colored. But the same stories are sent to all papers Negro musicians are treated on par with other members are treated alike. We say three cheers for this policy because the Negro is a basic part of the program and he goes where apologies or special treatment.

A Poet Continues
The new booklet of poems by Frank Marshall Davis of Chicago "Through Sepia Eyes," published by the Black Cat Press, with decorations by William Fleming, marks Mr. Davis, a working journalist, as one who continues to see beyond the horizon of the reportorial hack. In his heart there is something more than turning the routine task. Life to Mr. Davis is a song; and though bitter at times he nevertheless sings about it. We are happy that a newspaper man find this type of solace from his depressing labors, rather than seeking relaxation in more debilitating outlets.

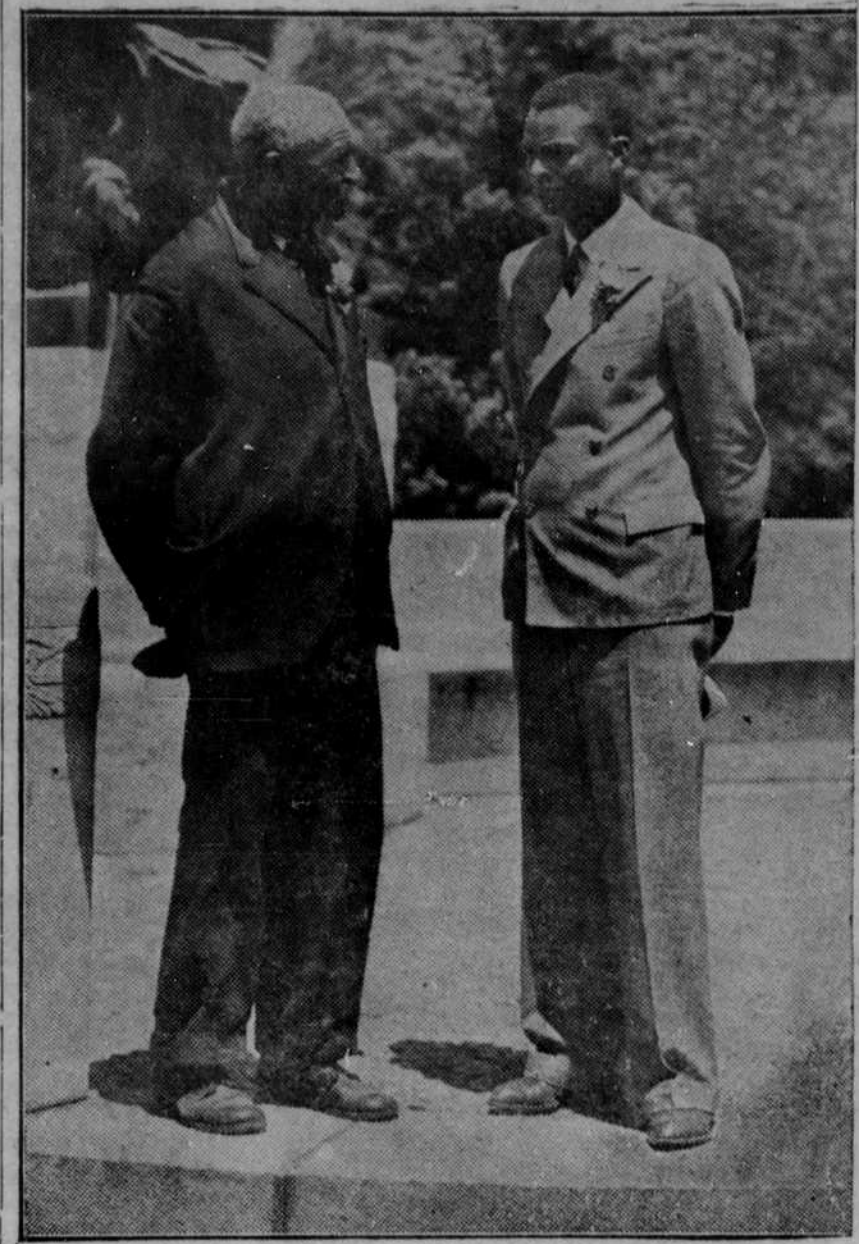
Visitors Spend Thanksgiving at Hot Springs

Hot Springs, Ark., Dec. 3 (ANP)—Although the height of the Hot Springs season does not begin until February, Pythian Bath house headquarters at America's watering spa is well filled with visitors, many of them well known in public life.

Bishop Noah W. Williams, prelate of the AME church, Rev. F. Madison Reid, pastor St. Louis's fashionable St. Paul church; John H. Claybrook, wealthy Arkansas planter, and Mrs. Claybrook; Edward M. Sneed, recently elected county commissioner in Cook County, Chicago; Harry Willis, the pugilist, Mrs. Willis; Miss Etta Moten and her accompanist, Miss Margaret Bonds, Chicago's premier pianist; Claude A. Barnett of Chicago; Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Shirley, Lawder, Wyo.; Mrs. Mattie F. Powell, New York City, Mr. and Mrs. "Brother" Powell, Fort Smith, Mr. and Mrs. R. W. Gain, Decatur, Ill.; Mr. and Mrs. Leon H. Stewart, Decatur, Mrs. Clara E. Christopher, Cleveland, and Mrs. Annie Coleman, St. Louis are among recent guests.

"It is remarkable," said Dr. H. H. Phipps, manager of the Pythian Bath house "how many people are beginning to realize that Hot Springs is really an all-year-round resort."

TRAIL BLAZERS A GREAT SCIENTIST



By CARL CARTER
(Features Staff, Crusaders News)

WHILE the Civil War raged and men of color fused their fire with that of white fighters for democracy, a son was born of slave parents in the State of Missouri, a black son and slave of Southern soil who was to become its undisputed master and America's honored luminary in the orbit of international science.

Less than seven weeks old and suffering from whooping cough, he was stolen from the plantation together with his mother, by Night Riders. Moses Carver, master of the plantation, sent out a "rescue party" which redeemed him from the slave thieves for a run-down race horse valued at \$300.

His ambition for learning caused him to part with the Carvers when he was ten years old, to attend a little log-cabin school at Neosho eight miles. While attending school he did odd jobs at neighboring farms, using empty horse barns for a sleeping place.

Dr. Carver next hitch-hiked on a mule team to Kansas, where he attended Portseott High School. There he stayed for seven years, during which time he also operated a laundry, accumulating sufficient money to enter Simpson College in Iowa. From Simpson College he entered Iowa State College where he took his B. S. and M. S. in 1894 and was appointed to the faculty two years later.

FOR MANY years the scientific experiments and achievements of Dr. Carver went unheralded, but when soil erosion in the South held the threat of a grave national problem he was suddenly swept to the front-page of scores of the nation's newspapers.

Dr. Carver held that the constant and "careless" growth of cotton was chiefly responsible for pauperization of the land. He advised the planting of crops in rotation. "Plough up your cotton and plant peanuts," he recommended, for his experiments had indicated that the peanut "put vitality in the soil."

But the farmers were loath to heed his advice; they questioned the feasibility of any action. Only after Dr. Carver had successfully cultivated 19 acres of barren land were they prevailed upon to rotate their cotton crops with the planting of peanuts.

And then another serious problem developed. Thousands of

bushels of peanuts were harvested for which there was no market, the nut being chiefly used as food for pigs.

Feeling ran high among the farm communities. Ill-timely farmers in an alarming degree of unanimity felt that Dr. Carver was personally responsible for their plight. Faced with this problem, Dr. Carver retired to his laboratory to work indefatigably at discovering new uses for the lowly peanut.

TO DATE, Dr. Carver has created more than 220 products from the peanut. Other products from the potato, from clay and from cotton add up to over 440 discoveries. Because of the discoveries of this wizard of agriculture, huge industries have sprung up in the South; the wheels of the peanut industry alone turn to the tune of \$80,000,000 a year.

Among the numerous by-products of the peanuts are: butter, lard, milk, shaving cream, linoleum, cheese Instant Coffee, face-powder soap rope matting arle, grease, mixed pickles, washing-powder, chocolate, flour, Scotch butter, meal, wafers, relishes, shampoo-lotion printers' ink, etc.

From the potato he extracted starch of a much better grade than any other on the market and the production of which is much cheaper, flour meal, library glue, coconut, ginger, inks vinegar shoe blacking; coffee dyes, candles rubber, molasses, sugar etc.

From wood-shavings he made syntheti marble. From glass he has created a material for making furniture. Dr. Carver extracted from cotton for reinforcing asphalt, making it as serviceable as steel; the formula for this was turned over to the State of Alabama.

FOR THE last four years Dr. Carver has been experimenting with peanut oil as a cure for infantile paralysis. "It has been given out," he said "that I have found a cure for infantile paralysis; I have not, but it looks hopeful. I have used it on 250 persons, and it has never failed so far as I can find out."

The honorary degree of Doctor of Science was conferred upon him June, 1928, by the State College of Iowa. Dr. Carver is a winner of the Spingarn medal and a member of the Royal Society of Arts of Great Britain.

HENRY A. WALLACE, Secre-

WHO WROTE IT?

"Shine On Harvest Moon"
Oh, shine on, shine on



MANY of the American song-writers of this era began their careers as interpreters of song, as singing waiters or vaudeville artists. The composer of "Shine On Harvest Moon," native of Philadelphia, began as a blackface artist. He wrote his own songs and patter, and developed both talents until the fateful day when with Nora Bayes he sang his most famous song in the Ziegfeld Follies. The ovation to the song rather than to the male singer sent him over the borderline from acting to song-writing. He wrote a London revue, whose premier was marked by a Zeppelin raid. Our composer then went back to America, trouped with a vaudeville skit, married his pianist and made a series of short films in Hollywood in the pre-double feature days.

The early song hit was picked up recently by a little orchestra in Texas, where Ruth Etting heard it and gave it added lustre in later renditions, and so, after twenty years the song again became a hit.

During the years the composer wrote many other numbers, including "Smarty," "Good Evening Caroline," the lyrics to "Take Me Out To The Ball Game"—enough to earn him membership in the American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers.

His name is Jack Norworth.
(Music Features & Photo Syndicate)

WITH THE NEGRO ATHLETES

World's champion Renaissance Big Five strengthened by the addition of Bill "Pop" Gates, 1937 Metropolitan schoolboy sensation and Clarence "Puggy" Bell, former "Y" Seniors captain... Ed Williams, NYU fullback out of game for two weeks with an ankle injury, will positively play in the Fordham game.

If John Henry Lewns drops his \$300,000 suit against the N. Y. Boxing Commission, it will be grounds for suspicion that it is done in exchange for the Commission's approval of the proposed shot at Joe Louis title... Bernie Jefferson, Northwestern's triple threat, constructs model trains for relaxation... Joe Jouis will back the Detroit Bombers, a pro basketball team.

Despite participation of Sidat-Singh in games with Maryland and Duke, and Ed Williams against North Carolina, plenty Negro stars

Brilliant Array of Stage Stars to Entertain at Negro Actors Guild Show on Sunday, December 11th

New York—Under the inspired direction of Bill Robinson, honorary president, more than one hundred of America's foremost stage stars have enrolled to entertain at the first annual benefit show to be given by the Negro Actors Guild at the 46th St. Theatre on Sunday evening December 11th. The money raised will go to establish a permanent fund to help the sick and needy of the profession.

A partial list of those who will entertain includes: Noel Coward, Beatrice Lillie, Eddie Cantor, William Gaxton, Victor Moore, Sophie Tucker, Ben Bernie, the Radio City Music Hall Rockettes, Leonidoff's Radio City Ballet, Paul Ash, Eddie Garr, James Barton, Lou Holtz, J. C. Flippen, Hal LeRoy, Dave Rubinoff, Benny Goodman, Ethel Waters, Benny Fields, Cab Calloway, Nicholas Brothers and the Cotton Club Girls, James J. Walker, former Mayor of New York, and Lou Gehrig, crack Yankee first baseman, will also appear for this charitable fund.

Organized less than a year ago, the Negro Actors Guild already has almost six hundred members. It is expected the present drive to raise money will increase the membership to 1,000 by the first of the year.

The officers of the Guild are: President, Noble Sissle, 1st vice-president, Ethel Waters; vice president, Marion Anderson, Duke Ellington, Louis Armstrong, Abbie Mitchell, Edna Thomas, Frank Wilson, Paul Robeson, J. Rosamond Johnson; treasurer, W. C. Handy; assistant treasurer, Robert B. Braddicks; Recording Secretary, Muriel Rahn; executive director & secretary, Fredi Washington, Cab Calloway is chairman of the executive board. On the advisory committee are Robert S. Abbot, Claude A. Barnett, Bruce Barton, Mrs. Mary McLeod Bethune, Bing Crosby, Vinton Freedley, Joseph A. Gavagan, Eugene Kinckle Jones, Emmet J. Scott, Justice Charles E. Toney, Senator Robert F. Wagner, and J. Finley Wilson.

of Northern universities did not play in games with Southern schools. Roland Bernard and Chester Smith, Boston U. guard and end, did not get into the game with Tampa University.

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