

# Theatricals Music Features

## Harlem Sketches

(By SID THOMPSON for ANP)

New York, Dec. 23—We have received numerous letters from out of town folks who want to know if New York celebrities are kinky. We are glad to say that when one finds to know celebrities, one will find them just the same kind of people they will find in their own neighborhood at home. They have the same faults and good features. Intimate contact with them reveals they are anxious to make friends as any other person. Usually one will find them going out of their way to be gracious, for so fickle is public fancy they would hardly take a chance of offending. While they must "pose" and not be quite themselves when out in public view when met at home they are exactly like the people you play bridge with and visit. Approach them while on tour of your section and if you are lucky enough to get an invitation to one of their homes or quarters in the hotels, please go for you will not regret it.

**THUMBNAILED SKETCHES OF HARLEMITE:** James H. Hubert, executive director, New York Urban League. Born in Georgia, son of 12 children. Attended grammar school in white Plains, high school in Atlanta, college at Morehouse, league in 1910. Made a survey of Read of the founding of Urban crime among Negroes in Atlanta and used findings as theme of commencement address. Taught school in 1911. Given a fellowship in social service by the Urban League in 1912. Entered same year at Columbia in the New York school of Social Work. Did Community work among Negroes and Indians of Massachusetts for three years. Organized and enrolled the first member of Urban League in Brooklyn where he was head for three years. Came to New York in 1918, organizing Urban League here. It was incorporated in 1920 while still in its one room office on Seventh avenue. Under protests by board of directors, bought present buildings on 136th street and began to expand league work. Secured from Harry Hopkins a budget of \$10,000 for Negro health work and caused an immediate drop in infant mortality among Negroes. New York's colored population now has the lowest infant mortality rate of any city in the country.

He is the proudest of the fact he was instrumental in establishing the first rural school for Negroes in Georgia. Started in a log cabin, it now is one of the finest schools in that section of Georgia. He is married, has two boys and one daughter. His hobbies are bridge playing, fishing and gardening. He has quite an extensive flower and vegetable garden in Queens where he lives. Says he is making the Urban League his life work. Is known to every person of consequence in the country thru the fine work done by the league.

**HARLEMANIA**—Prominent debutante who answered ad for Kit Kat Klub, spot for a society singer

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from Harlem, said she would apply for the job if her name was not used in the papers. And publicity buildup was what the Klub wanted—Harlem is benefited or over-run with various "benefits" during this season. We wonder how many are legitimate—Harlem Labor union, which has done much good in obtaining jobs here, is under fire of white labor unions. As usual Negroes "affiliated" with these white unions are taking up the cudgel in behalf of the white brother. When will we get together. So many crazy people are seen daily on the streets of Harlem, no one pays any attention to them. Not even the police—Landlords are still charging enormous prices for rent and fighting all housing propositions which would make lower rents.

**YE NITE LIFER IN HARLEM:**—Charming Enid Raphael, star of many legitimate productions, has been secured as feminine lead in "Policy Kings", music comedy travesty on numbers racket in Harlem. It will be presented at the Nera Bayes Theatre Monday evening, Dec. 26.—Duke Ellington, Ivy Anderson and an all star stage show occupy the boards at Brooklyn's Strand Theater beginning Dec. 11. William Simmen's drama, "Peterhouse Bill," a sociological study was presented at the YWCA Little Theater Thursday night.—"Androcles and the Lion" will be presented at the LaFayette theatre beginning Dec. 19, as a WPA offering. Many noted names in the cast, Andy Kirk and his orchestra played the Savoy ballroom last Sunday. The Utopia Club's benefit for their children's home at the Renaissance Casino Sunday was well attended. Galaxy of stars on hand to aid. Talented string and wind instrument players are wanted for the Negro Symphony orchestra now being formed in New York, Cab Calloway and his gang, Whitey Lindy Hoppers and others headline a flashy stage show at Loews State Theater in Times Square. Bill Robinson opened in Philly this week. Duke Ellington will play for the YMCA at City College on Jan. 3.

Winkin', Blinkin' and Nod will go the air sometime this month. They Auditions were held at Kit Kat are current in Brooklyn this week. Klub this past Wednesday for a society colored girl singer. Results have not been announced yet. Presentation of "In Abraham's Bosom" depicting the Negro's post-civil War struggle for education, was an outstanding event in Brooklyn last week. The Harlem Highlanders, a new orchestra aggregation, are current at Kellys Stable in the downtown section. Delores Williams, a new singing star, warbling at the Hotel St. George, Brooklyn, wows them when she chirps, "Can't Help Loving that Man."

**WITH THE CABARETS**—THE Elks Rendezvous is one of the most modern and modernistic cabarets in Harlem. Always a good floor show presented. Now counted among the "big four" of Harlem. **SMALL'S PARADISE** is outstanding with its new revue. That "no cover charge" sign is responsible for the increase in Harlemite patrons. Baby Goins and Miller Worthington, ace Harlemites, are going to town at the SKY CLUB. Ovie Alston started at the Apollo theatre Dec. 16. He has been play-

ing at the downtown Roseland ballroom, one of the largest and finest in the city. **THE MANDALAY BAR and GRILL**, owned and operated by Lillian B. Manley is a rendezvous of many stage and musical celebrities. Special arrangements are now being made at the **PLANTATION** to care for the increased holiday business expected there. The floor show continues to be the best in Harlem. The **CAVALCADE** celebrated its first anniversary last week in putting on one of the finest and largest floor shows seen in Harlem for a long time. **THE NEW CAPITOL CABARET** it not only noted for its splendid floor show but for the number of pretty Spanish girls who go there nightly. **HARLEM HOLLYWOOD** and its continuous entertainment attracts large crowds every afternoon and night. New bartender here who knows his mixing.

Items for this column and questions on Harlem are invited. Address all communications to Sid Thompson, 129 W. 122nd Street N. Y. City. Always enclosing stamps for a reply.

## RATING THE RECORDS

By FRANK MARSHALL for ANP

Give Records for Christmas

If you haven't yet decided what to give those friends you are positive will remember your Christmas day, why not take a tip from this column and rush to the nearest record store? (Naturally this doesn't count if your friends have no record players.) Nobody has too many discs, nor can anybody of average means be expected to keep up with each new release. Records make good, inexpensive and greatly appreciated gifts, and while you're at it, buy a few for yourself.

There are many special Christmas numbers available. Decca, for instance, has Bing Crosby singing **SILENT NIGHT** coupled with **O COME ALL YE FAITHFUL**; Kenny Baker's voice on **O HOLY NIGHT** coupled with **O LITTLE TOWN OF BETHLEHEM**; Frances Langford has waxed **SILENT NIGHT** and **ADESTE FIDLES**, while on the lighter side of the Riley-Farley orchestra has **JINGLE BELLS FOR SANTA CLAUS IS COMING TO TOWN** and the Men About Town has a novelty offering of Christmas **PARTY** on both sides and Christmas Day, another two sider, to mention only a few of the holiday discs. The good thing about them is that they never go out of fashion and will be just as up to date in 1958 as they are in 1938.

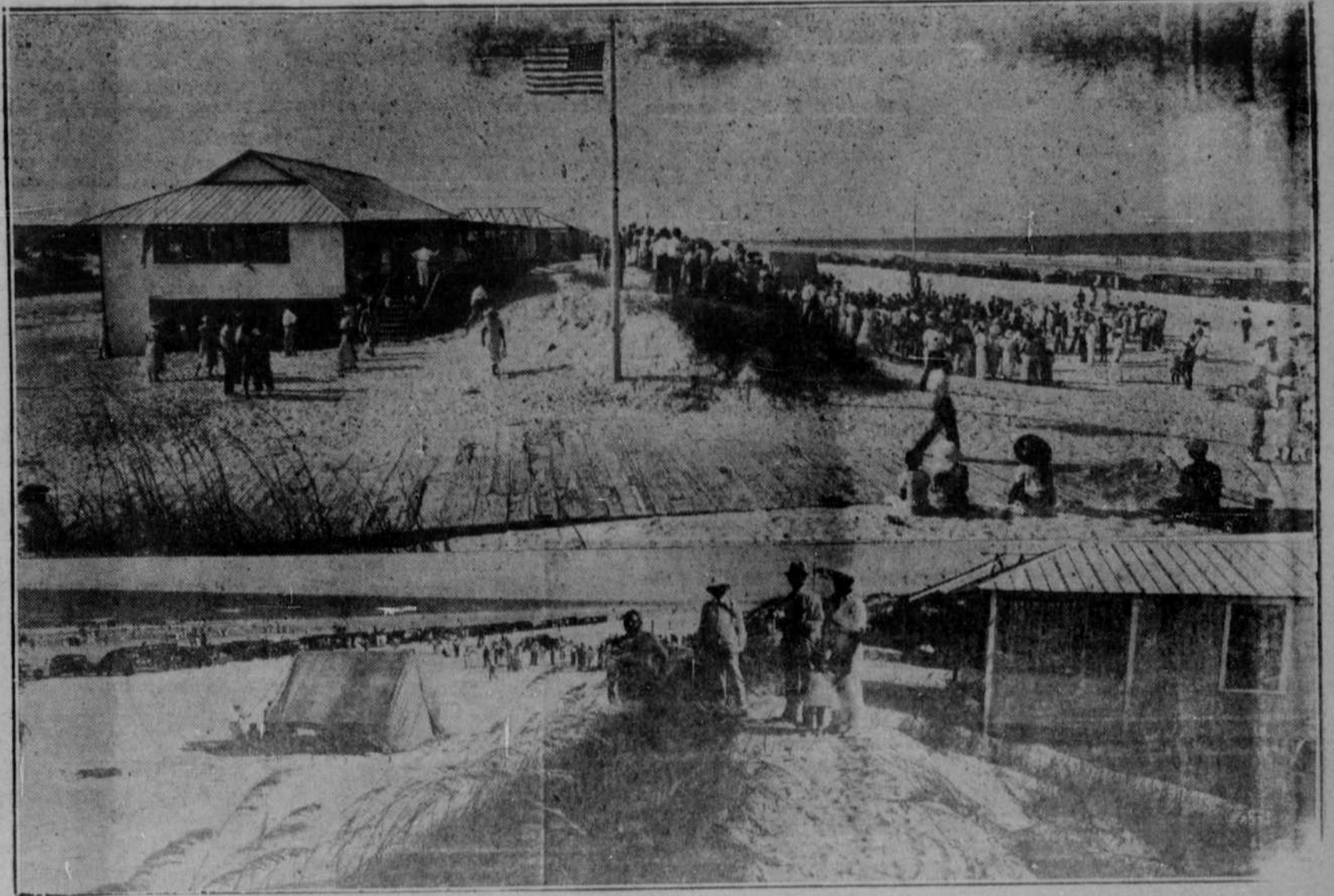
Do They Prefer LATEST HITS

If your friends take pride in keeping abreast of the latest popular tunes, in smooth and sweet vein instead of hot, take your choice of these discs that are just finding their way into the stores:

**LOVELAND IN THE WINTER-TIME** plus, **I HAD TO DO IT**, by Horace Heidt on Brunswick 8273. The first is a waltz and the second side is a new number written by Andy Razaf and Fats Waller. Very smooth. **KINDA LONESOME** and **I GO FOR THAT**, by Al Donahue and his orchestra on Vocalion 4524. Both are from "St. Louis Louis Blues." The new film featuring Maxine Sullivan, **I CAN'T SAY IT TOO MANY TIMES** plus the **JITTEREROO** by Phil Lang's band on Brunswick 8276. The first is smooth and the second is somewhat torrid **THEY SAY AND YOUR EYES ARE BIGGER THAN YOUR HEART**, by George Hall's band with vocals by Dolly Dawn, on Vocalion 4523. Very smooth.

Lawrence Welk with his Champagne Music has also cut **LOVELAND IN THE SUMMERTIME** and **PIED PIPER OF HAMLIN TOWN** on Vocalion 4525. The latter side is coupled with **PLEASE COME OUT OF YOUR DREAM** on Brunswick 8275 by Seger Ellis and his choir of Brass. I prefer the Ellis treatment of Pied Piper, **JUST LIKE THAT** and **JUST AN ORDINARY MOON** are two more smoothies by Johnny Long's band on Vocalion 4526.

## 'American Beach' Controlled by Negroes



More than 20 acres situated on the Atlantic ocean, 45 minutes from Jacksonville, Fla., comprise American beach, the largest strip of ocean front owned and controlled

by Negroes anywhere along the Atlantic Seaboard.

Executive and employees of The Afro-American Life Insurance Co., provide this ideal watering place

For Jitterbugs and 'Gators Most of the aforementioned discs will bore your friends if they're honest-to-goodness jitterbugs or alligators. In that case, give 'em **DEEP IN A DREAM** and **HURRY HOME**, two popular tunes with that terrific Bob Crosby treatment on Decca 2151, or grab up **WAIT UNTIL MY HEART FINDS OUT** plus **LIGHTLY AND POLITELY** by Gene Krupa on Brunswick 8274. Krupa doesn't get off on the skins but the record has a strong Goodman flavor. Probably the Jimmy Mundy influence, **LIGHTLY AND POLITELY** and **JEEPERS CREEPERS** are on Vocalion 4527 by Fred Feibel quartet. The record has its good spots. An electric organ is the backbone of the quartet.

If you want one of the oldest waxings heard is some time when you get **THE THING** and **GETTIN' IN THE GROOVE** by Al Cooper's Savoy Sultans on Decca 7525. This Harlem band has style and rhythm akin to Lunceford's. There's a bass solo taken violin style on the first side which increases the querness. Remember **AUNT HAGAR'S BLUES** by W. C. Handy? It's combined with **I'M COMIN' VIRGINIA** on Decca 2145 by Paul Whiteman's Swing Wing featuring the great Jack Teagarden with the Modernaires. Interesting arrangements plus grand trombone, with the latter side intended more for listening than dancing.

**OH, LADY BE GOOD**, and **OH YOU BEAUTIFUL DOLL**, by Bob Wills and his Texas Playboys, on Vocalion 4525. Swell in spots but they ought to shoot the vocalist on the second side, **AVALON** and **AIN'T MISBEHAVIN'** by Joe Daniels, Hot Shots on Decca 2184. Good rhythm and treatment, with capable drum solos by the leader. How'd you like some sizzling stlye by Harry Roy's orchestra. Ovie Alston and his Whispering Trumpet from Harlem town have a couple of good Vocalion swingers released lately. They're **WALKING THE DOG** and **HOME COOKING MAMA**.

**FOR INTERESTED INTIMATES** All the record companies have what they call "race lists" featuring blues and numbers with risque lyrics. They used to be frowned upon, but it's a mark of "sophistication" nowadays to listen to them.

Topping them all is that opus **DON'T YOU MAKE ME HIGH** by Blue Lu Barker on Decca 7506. Believe it or not, this is one of the biggest sellers ever produced by Decca company. The other side is **HE CAUGHT THAT BANJO**, an old fashioned blues. Or did you know it had another side? A gentleman known only as Bill Bill

has waxed **GOOD TIME TONIGHT** and **HELL AIN'T BUT A MILE AND A QUARTER** on Vocalion 4532. It goes good with highballs and beer.

**"MIKADO" SETS RECORD**

Chicago, Dec. 23 (ANP)—Producer Harry Minton and his all-Negro "Mikado" cast are the possessors this week of a unique record.

Federal Theatre's amusing, highly seasoned production has enjoyed the longest run of any single Gilbert and Sullivan operetta since 1908 when a revival of the same piece chalked up a lengthy run in London.

"The Mikado" is now playing to its 11th week of packed house at the Great Northern, and there is every indication that it will continue after the fashion of the Ten-nyson's brook.

Federal Theatre's version of the Gilbert and Sullivan masterpiece is highly spiced. As first produced in 1885, the Mikado was laid in Japan and sounded like London. The current attraction at the Great Northern is laid in a Pacific island and sounds like Harlem. A jitterbug encore to the popular "Flowers that Bloom in the Spring" number has stopped the show every night since its first opened Sept. 25.

A recent survey of a Wednesday night Mikado revealed that fully five per cent of those in attendance had seen the production before. "The Negro 'Mikado' one member of the audience said: "is new every time you see it."

**FOUR MUSICAL ORGANIZATIONS TO PARTICIPATE IN 12TH ANNUAL CHRISTMAS CONCERT**

Atlanta, Ga., December 16—On Friday evening, December 16, four musical organizations of Atlanta university, Morehouse College, and Spelman College, assisted by three soloists, will take part in the 12th annual Christmas Carol Concert sponsored by these institutions. Under the direction of Kemper Harrell and his assistants Willis Laurence James and Mrs. Noamah Williams Maise, the carolers are getting ready for a program that promises to be one of the best that has been offered since these concerts were inaugurated eleven years ago.

The concert will be held in Sisters chapel on the campus of Spelman College, and will include in addition to the many traditional carols and old favorites, carols with unusual arrangements from foreign lands and Negro Christmas spirituals.

through cooperation and vision. With an adequate water system, electrically lighted streets, modern homes and summer cottages, American Beach is expected to fill

## Bill Robinson Stages Season's Biggest Benefit for Actors' Guild

New York, Dec. 17—The first annual benefit for the Negro Actors' Guild, staged under the personal direction of Bill Robinson at the Forty-sixth Street Theatre last Sunday night proved not only one of the greatest shows of the season but also to be another testimonial to the popularity of Harlem's most outstanding personality, Bill himself. Out of Robinson's best boasts is that he has played more benefits than any other living star, and last week some of the organizations whom he had aided had an opportunity to show their appreciation and did.

The theatre was crowded, with the orchestra seats selling at \$5 and \$10 each. In addition, Mr. Robinson announced that he had received something like \$8050 in cash and checks from interested members of the profession.

That Robinson's friends are legion was attested by the fact that a Catholic priest came all the way from Buffalo to show his interest in the cause. He was Father Clement Buckley, who in a few well chosen remarks asked his audience largely white not to forget to peak out in behalf of the most persecuted minority group in the world, the Negro, in their demands for justice.

The show itself opened with The Roxyettes, and was climaxed with a solo by Miss Marian Anderson, now the world's leading concert artist. Between these acts for three and a half hours, some of the biggest names on Broadway became animate across the footlights and kept the crowd enthralled with their entertainment, despite the length of the program.

Actually appearing on the bill were: Eddie Cantor, Cappy Barriert and His Harmonica Rascals, Milton Berle, Fats Waller, Billy Gaxton and Victor Moore, Sophie Tucker, Harry Herschfield, Father John McNormick, and Rabbi Bernard Bernstein, Ben Bernie, Louis Armstrong, Ted Friend, Hall Johnson's Choir, Henry Youngman, Dave Apollo, the

a long felt want and mark another epoch in the history of racial development. (ANP PHOTO)

Radio City Ballet, Mark Plant, Nancy Healy, (niece of Dan Healy, the master of ceremonies,) Benny Fields, Duke Ellington, Ethel Waters, Cab Calloway and the Cotton Club revue, which included the Barry Brothers, W. C. Handy, the Nicholas Brothers and the Cotton Club Chorus.

Elmer A. Carter, editor of Opportunity and a member of the Unemployment Insurance Appeals Board, thanked the performers and audience for their support of the Negro Actors' Guild in their initial benefit, and told of some of the objectives of that organization. Remarks of thanks were also made by Miss Fredi Washington, executive secretary of the Guild, and by Bill Robinson, who also entertained and introduced a group of children—the Philly Hillbillies and a six year old girl whom he had trained to dance. Another amazing child star, a three year old white girl, did some amazing feats of memory.

Among the distinguished audience were many notables in the theatrical and civic life of New York, including Gene Buck, president of the Association of Composers and Authors; Commissioner Edward P. Mulrooney of the State department of Corrections, and many others.

## Opportunity Managing Editor Is Proud Papa

New York, Dec. 16 (C)—To Mr. and Mrs. Edward H. Lawson, jr. last Sunday was born a baby daughter, it was announced Monday. Mr. Lawson is the youthful managing editor of Opportunity Magazine, 1133 Broadway.

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