

American Dance Festival Thrills New Yorkers

New York, (ANP)—This city was treated to a genuinely festive entertainment in African fashion



Monday night when the recently formed African Academy of Arts presented "An African Dance festival at Carnegie hall, and heard Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt call for understanding among the peoples of the world if we are to have lasting peace.

Gertrude Little's Hut

2006 North 24th St. JA-9312

19 44



Merry Christmas to All Our Friends and Customers

C. H. HALL, Express 1206 North 24th St. JA. 8585 City



and A Happier New Year!

WOMAN'S AUXILIARY, to Roosevelt Post No. 30, American Legion.

Monday night when the recently formed African Academy of Arts presented "An African Dance festival at Carnegie hall, and heard Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt call for understanding among the peoples of the world if we are to have lasting peace.

It was indeed a sympathetic audience that nearly filled the large auditorium to witness the initial public attempt on the part of the academy to create a wider interest in Africa through the medium of cultural exhibition.

Appearing along with the First Lady as a sponsor of the festival was Mrs. Mary McLeod Bethune, president, National Council of Negro Women. She too spoke briefly.

Beside Asadatu Dafora who staged and was featured in the unusual production, Pearl Primus, rapidly developing interpretative dancer currently headlined at downtown Cafe Society, was the only professional on the program.

The themes of the dances were those of the love ritual. They were developed to tell of the young man visiting the maiden village, selecting his bride-to-be, and of the acceptance of the offer of marriage both by the girl and her mother. Miss Primus, as a visit-

or the village, makes her first appearance and does a typical African dance which she took her repertoire. The insistence of the audience brought her back with a dance that carried more of the Caribbean flavor, but evidence of its derivation were to be noted.

The rhythms were handled by a group of seven drummers. Mrs. Roosevelt, for whom a box of honor had been reserved, was presented to the audience during the intermission. Mr. Mbadive, himself an African prince, made the presentation. She concurred in the remarks of Mr. Mbadive that "the world is growing smaller" and declared that "for that reason, one of the most important things today is that we must learn about our neighbors."

She cited the prejudices that have grown through ignorance of Africa. Speaking generally, the First Lady said that "some of us have allowed ourselves to build up within us prejudices. Prejudices are really nothing but ignorance."

She concluded saying that "all men should be able to work together and only when that day comes can we hope for a better world."

Mrs. Bethune also addressed the audience. Another African, Prince Akiki Nyabongo of Uganda, graduate of Howard university, Yale and Oxford, spoke briefly. Gifts were presented to Mrs. Roosevelt and Mrs. Bethune.

Launch SS James Weldon Johnson

U. S. Maritime Commission One of the most talented of American Negroes was honored Sunday, December 12th, when the Liberty ship SS James Weldon Johnson, was launched at the Wilmington (Calif.) yards of the California Shipbuilding Corporation. It was the 301st Calship built for the U. S. Maritime Commission and the seventh of a series that the Commission has named for outstanding Negro Americans.

Mrs. Charlotte A. Bass, editor of The California Eagle, of Los Angeles, christened the vessel, and her secretary, Miss Bernice Cook, served as maid of honor.

Joe Louis to Go Overseas

Washington, (ANP)—Champion Joe Louis, now a Sergeant in the U. S. army, will visit overseas camps in various theatres of operations, as soon as he has ended his exhibition tour of army posts in this country, around Jan. 20th, announced the war department Friday.

Louis and his assistants are scheduled for 21 appearances between now and the completion of his U. S. tour which will take him to camps in Mississippi, Alabama, Georgia, Florida, South Carolina and North Carolina.

To date the group, traveling under direction of the army special services division, has visited more than 70 army installations in every section of the United States except the southeast. Ac-

ording to the war department, at the end of the tour more than 630,000 soldiers will have seen the exhibitions with an average attendance of 7,000 at each appearance.

His assistants are Sgt. James Edgar, Cpl. Walker Smith (Sugar Ray Robinson), Pvt. George Wilson (Jackie Wilson), Cpl. Bob Smith and Cpl. Robert J. Payne, trainer.

Duke Ellington Completely Sells Out Carnegie hall

New York, (ANP)—Duke Ellington and his orchestra gave a markedly enjoyable concert at Carnegie hall Saturday night and as one might expect attracted a sold-out house that amply proved its devotion to the organization by humbly waiting past the hour for the concert to begin.

A typical Ellington concert can be summed up principally by referring one to a group of recordings and radio movie arrangements by the band. One recalls choruses of popular hits and "blues" gorgeously harmonized and elaborated with introductions, interludes and codetti, each featuring one or more reed and brass soloists (last night a violin for a change!). However there was an added aspect to this concert because of the presence of "living music." The tone of each player, almost without exception, was so beautiful and the precision of the band as a whole was something almost uncanny. There is no such thing in this country as a Negro symphony orchestra, but the playing that fell upon our ears last night, especially from the brass, would convince the most hesitant that such a proposition, physically at least, is more than possible.

Mr. Ellington acted as his own "omeo" and "made" and made comparatively few changes in the program, enabling us to follow

Happy Day



Even Santa Claus is smiling at the general hilarity occasioned by his visit to a naval training station. The recruits in front of the barracks may be many miles from home, but they're still celebrating Christmas with as much enthusiasm as ever.

THREE SONS IN SERVICES AND ONE EXPECTED TO GO ANY DAY



Charles Britt



Ernest H. Britt, Sr.



Samuel E. Britt



Ernest H. Britt, Jr.

One in the Army, One in the Navy, One in the Marines

Mr. and Mrs. Ernest H. Britt, 2525 Blondo Street, are the proud parents of three sons in the Service. Charles Britt the Navy, Staff Sergeant Samuel Britt in the Army in England, Sidney Britt a Marine somewhere in New Zealand and Ernest H. Britt, Jr., expecting a call any day, Miss Ora Lee Britt is in Governmental Services as a Secretary in Chicago, Ill. Mr. Ernest H. Britt and Mrs. Alice Britt were school mates in their childhood days in Little Rock, Ark. After their marriage in Little Rock, Ark., they came to Nebraska and made Omaha their home. They are now proud parents of five children, all graduates of Omaha High School. Mr. Britt is a successful business man. For years he has been in the ice and coal business, of late he bought the Green Lantern Cafe at 2116 No. 24th St., of which he now operates, giving a round the clock; night and day service. If you need coal, call Britt's Coal Co. If you need ice, call Britt's Ice Co. If you need a palatable meal call at Britt's Green Lantern Cafe, where you get home cooked meals and service with a smile.



Syney J. Britt

"Sentimental Lady."

The program concluded with Ellington's "Trumpet in Spades" which reminded us of the old time cornet solo with variations associated with summer brass band concerts. And we cannot refrain from mentioning Rex Stewart's trumpet exhibition in not only tonal range from a pedal tone (bass B flat) to a treble E flat. The final number proved to be Mercer Ellington's "Things Ain't What They Used to Be."

We are not ashamed to admit that we went to this concert with the anticipation of being greatly bored. Swing music exhorts physical motion and there is no provision, you know, for jitterbugging in Carnegie. But we came away, make no mistake, utterly refreshed. May Ellington's band set an example for other bands to follow.

SEASON'S GREETINGS!

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A MERRY XMAS &



1944 Greetings

An old adage assures us that "silence is golden," but on the Eve of New Year's, we can hardly agree. We believe this is the time to speak up and tell you how much we have appreciated your patronage during the past year, and to wish you good luck in 1944.

RITZ REPAIR SHOP & SHINING PARLOR Shoe Repair Shop, — your work done while you wait. 2012 North 24th St.



Bleak December! 'Tis passing strange that this month which furnishes the least light out of doors, should furnish the most light within. It's the Spirit of Christmas, and the Merriest of Christmas to you!



We remember, and will always remember, your kindness and loyalty to us through this and other years. We wish you and yours for 1944 the best of everything.

Where you get your hot biscuits cooked to order Plate lunches served from 11:30 to 8 p. m. — Popular Prices — RAYBON CAFE 2114 North 24th St. JA-3543 1810 North 24th St. AT-5072

Houstons Grocery

2114 North 24th St. JA-3543



WE set up a fast pace for service in 1943, but "you ain't seen nothin' yet." Just watch us step up our service in 1944! Come in and see us. And, say, folks, Happy New Year to all.

RIALTO DRESS SHOP

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HOLIDAY CHEER

It's about time for us to wake up and thank our many friends and customers for their valued patronage during 1943. We cannot tell you how much we appreciate your kindness. May your Christmas be very, very happy.

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With this glowing background to remind us, we are ready to speak our piece. It is a very simple one. . . . the same as last year and the year before: Thank you one and all for your kindness to us, and. . . .



Merry Christmas!

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14th & Dodge OMAHA

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To all our old friends and acquaintances, and also to the many fine new ones we have made during 1943, we send sincere Christmas greetings and the wish that the holidays will be as happy as possible.

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With A Full Line of Fresh, Dry Picked Poultry for your Christmas dinner.

—30TH AND 'R' STREET—