

# The Lowdown

By ROLLO S. VEST

## On a Theatrical Tour—With Your Humble Columnist

DETROIT, Mich., Dec. 12—I think I'm blessed with about the most unique distinction one could hope for . . . I am awakened by a different person every morning. This morning, after a few brief hours of slumber, one of Uncle

Sam's men (special delivery boy) played a tattoo on my door bell until I answered it to find a message from Earl J. Morris, Chicago's gift to journalism, one of The Courier's ace men.

### A DEFINITE ANSWER

When Duke Ellington brings his boys into Paradise Valley, Sunday, Dec. 22, I am going to get Hayes Alvis into a corner and hold him until he gives me the real "lowdown" on his recent "name the fiddle contest," which I sponsored for him . . . then I shall give it to you. Ethel Nelms of the team Harvey-Ethel, sends me singing "If I Had a Million Dollars." John Lewis, former track star and a member of the 1928 Olympics that was held in Amsterdam, Holland, is touring the Canadian states with a singing group giving recitals. Samuel Stevens, the rhythm dancer from Mt. Clemmens, Mich., was in town last week. He is working at the Club Lido there . . . The only sepiian in the show and a feather-weight professional fighter on the side, Dainty Dorothy Derrick is having a ball in the Windy City. Elsie Roxborough has submitted a manuscript to one of her plays to a New York concern for approval. She is the niece of John Roxborough, Joe Louis' guiding light. Lorraine West, who used to serve beer and wine at the old Harlem Cave, is letting her personality shine over the counter at the Yellow Dog Smoke Shop.

### MINNEAPOLISCENES

Mack Swain, former Chicago maestro, is in the cooler as the result of his taking 70 bucks to get a big shot night club owner to get his trumpet from the man with three balls. Swain used to be popular around the Sunset. David and Goliath, who used to put shows in the Castle theatre, here, are slaying them at the South Side Night Club. Received your "hello," Mildred Green and ditto. A new Elmer Turner, she is the girl who toured with Cab Calloway's unit a few years back, has been discovered. She is reputed to be tops and her name is Frankie Wycke. She is appearing at the Matthew's Club along with Raymond Randoff, Paul

Oden, Selah Tulsom, Evelyn Miller and Shuffle McDonald. Ethel Cross is em ceeling at the Apex Club. Mattie Carr and Helen Watson should contact Shuffle McDonald at once. 614 7th Avenue, Minneapolis, Minn. Now for a bit of Cleveland (O.) dirt or what have you. The Three Wee Bits of Rhythm are at the Elite Club and if either of them sees this they should get in touch with this writer immediately. The Chocolate Drops are in the Cedar Gardens and although I haven't forgotten them, they seem to have forgotten me. Wille George Patterson, a Detroit boy, is doing very well as master of ceremonies at the Douglass Club, there, and reminds me that Annastein Hayes and Nina May McKinney are also working there. Annastein was featured not so far back with Noble Sissle in Leon and Eddies in New York . . . She is solid murder. Nina May McKinney is a female impersonator and one of the best I've seen . . . contact me Nina! Turner and Burrelle are still at the Cedar Gardens as is Hardtime Burton and Baby Hines, Carmen Newsome, the band leader, might find it a good investment to waste a three-cent stamp on me. J. Hecht or U. S. Dearing might take time out to write me at their earliest convenience. Ted Lewis is on a two weeks' tour of Massachusetts with Fletcher Henderson's band. This is the same fellow for whom I predicted such a brilliant future about eight or nine months ago. Following their tour, they will return to New York's famous Roxeland ballroom where they will be aired several times weekly. Watch for them and let me know what you think of the lad.

McCain and Ross, the lovely boy and girl team that does the Caribbeas, rumbaz and the other mel-jowgent dances, are quitting Boston to take a spot in New York and may follow their engagement in the apple with a booking at the Plantation in Detroit's Paradise Valley. Ken and Ben of the Three Little Habits are the latest to lay claim to a bit of the "Truckin'"

fame. They are supposed to have brought it here in 1934. Whether they did or not, I am unable to say as I haven't had chance to check up on the leads they gave me but the nearest I can come to tracing "truckin'" is back to the late Sam "Bilbo" Russell who is reputed to have originated the dance some 8 or 9 years ago. Henry Matthews can be reached at the Norwood hotel. Kirk Lewis (he's the bartender at the Frogs Club) drinks milk out of a whiskey glass. . . . I guess it's by force of habit. Annie Clarie Owen is the latest entry into the local newspaper ranks. She pens copy for the Tribune and is the official scribe for the Ellitiorian Business Girl's Club. Connie's Inn Revue which played the RKO Downtown theatre here last week, doesn't come near approaching his last edition of Hot Chocolates . . . it flopped terribly here. Rudolph Hines of the Three Novels (the boys who obviously don't think much of publicity) is a real ladies' man. Everywhere I go I hear the name Rudolph . . . It'll be too bad if all of his feminine admirers catch up with him at once. William Roach's advice to all musicians is not to accept a job from their brother unless they receive a deposit. He bases his theory on his recent dealings with the Monte Carlo Dancing Studios. The December issue of the Show Down should be out this week. I would like very much to hear from Nicodemus and Ralph Brown although I owe the latter a letter.