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STAGE AND SCREEN — MUSIC AND DRAMA

SONG HIT SKYROCKETS ANDY KIRK TO FAME

"UNTIL REAL THING COMES ALONG" PUTS KIRK IN LIGHTS

CHICAGO, Oct. 1—(For ANP)—For several years on the verge of breaking into the genuine big time, Andy Kirk and his Twelve Clouds of Joy seem at last well on the road to international fame. They made the popular song hit "Until the Real Thing Comes Along" and this hit has proved equal value by making Andy Kirk.

People in the mid-West, notably Kansas, Oklahomans, Missourians and Nebraskans could have told you all along that Andy Kirk had one of the best bands in the world. But the rest of the country and Gotham in particular, the East, has a habit of making such claims with the proverbial grain of salt.

It was six years ago that this band hopped up in New York with a Brunswick recording contract signed them by a scout who had heard their swinging at the Kansas City dance hall. They waxed several sides that scampered [illegible]. They got Gotham asleep, for a change, when the Irving Mills crowd also grabbed them up a [illegible] deal for all concerned.

Back to the mid-west, they played and played and played. They got [illegible] and then long engagements at some popular dancing hall which they diversified out on sight-seeing tours, master minds. Then, this outfit came back rediscovered the Clouds of Joy and they returned to New York with a big contract. They cut great platter after platter, making the most of the numbers original compositions.

Big now found, however, that [illegible] enough songs for his [illegible]. Back in Kansas City, was a [illegible] named Lawrence E. Fee, who once played with Andy years ago. Freeman wrote tunes he didn't think as much of. Kirk liked it in his song bag, [illegible] about it. Not many years ago he ran across the script played it for Andy. It was "Until the Real Thing Comes Along."

As the Twelve Clouds went east, Andy wrote back to Freeman for the arrangement of his song to help fill the band's repertoire.

It came immediately, but there were no words. That was remedied when the song writing team of Sam Coslow and Sam Chaplein, Kirk's pianist, completed composition. Lots of gold and today many a dime is spent for the waxing in the juke joints, phonographs, radio took it [illegible] other bands began playing it. This time has enjoyed a top rank for several weeks now on the Hit Parade. Andy is famous. Woman will start receiving roy-

"Chick" Carter and Lads May Broadcast

CINCINNATI, O., Oct. 1.—Clarence (Chick) Carter and his Hoosier lads are now playing an engagement at the Cotton Club. On October 4, the boys will play a one-night stand in Hamilton, Ohio, and then to Richmond, Ind., on the 5th. Negotiations are underway and the boys may soon be heard over a coast-to-coast network.

altice Oct. 15, and has written two more numbers to be recorded by the Twelve Clouds this fall titled, "17th" and "You've Got Me in a Swing."

Most of the Kirk arrangements are made by Mary Lou Williams, the only woman pianist now working in a first-class swing band, who succeeds Alex Hill. Miss Williams is already being classed by some critics as the greatest women jam pianist in the world. For proof, they point to such piano solos on wax as "Night Life," "Clean Pickin'," and "Swingin' for Joy." This most attractive girl combines a Hines-like touch with her own originality.

The personnel of Andy Kirk and his Twelve Clouds of Joy, as we have it, is John Harrington, alto sax and clarinet; Richard Wilson, tenor sax; John Williams, alto sax; Andy Kirk, baritone sax and director; Harry Lawson, first trumpet; Paul King, second trumpet; Earl Thompson, third trumpet; Theodore Donnelly, trombone; Mary Lou Williams, piano; Ted Brinson, guitar; Booker Collins, bass; Ben Thigpen, drums-vocals, and Pha Terrell, vocals.

Swing music authorities credit the band with having an even more terrific impact in real life than on records. Paleface enthusiasts say it has "more of the indelible stamp of the primitive in its playing than any other colored orchestra in existence, not excluding Duke Ellington and Cab Calloway."

Andy Kirk and his band will bear watching. They have the stuff, and it is fervently hoped they make the best of the prestige afforded by their success with "Until the Real Thing Comes Along."

LEONARD REED WISHES HIS FOE WELL

Leonard Reed, tall, handsome producer of the Club Plantation, Detroit, shown wishing Sunnie Wilson, manager of the Chocolate Bar, the best of luck in his quest for the title "Mayor of Paradise Valley." Reed is also in the race. Pictured, left to right, are: Jean Calloway, renowned orchestra leader; Leonard Reed; John Phillips, new singing sensation; Sunnie Wilson, Gaby Rogers, promising young arranger, and Rea Moore.—Russ Cowans photo.

Theatrical 'Pros' Insist They Be Used On Theatre Projects

Representatives from Theatre Group Demand Recognition on WPA Plays—Want Parts Filled by Capable Actors.

NEW YORK CITY, Oct. 1.—Representatives from the Theatrical Association of New York, including J. Homer Tutt, Leigh Whipper, Will Conway, Jr., William DeMont Evans and Richard Campbell appeared last week at the New York Urban League protesting the employment of non-professional people in the WPA Theatre projects.

Airing their grievances to the Rev. Owen Johnson of the E. R. R.; Lemuel Foster, representative of the Public Administrator on Negro Affairs and James H. Hubert, executive secretary of the New Urban League, the members of the Colored Actors and Performers Association, he accorded the same recognition as extended other organizations in an advisory capacity.

A thorough investigation of the Negro theatre and other theatrical projects was suggested by the committee, which also pointed out that such a move would meet with the full approval of the artists of the theatre and the general public.

A further request was for those in authority to give a full and comprehensive definition of what is designated as "theatrical background."

Publicity Lacking

"It is accepted generally," the committee spokesman said, "that so far as 'theatrical background' is concerned, that no actor or actress must have appeared in a speaking part, played the role more than once or acted as understudy and appeared in some role more than once in a certain area, taking in a large section of greater New York.

"The present action of the approved theatrical projection really explains the noticeable lack of enthusiasm on the part of local Negro newspapers when the theatre project first opened in Harlem," the speaker pointed out.

Charging that men were accepted as newspapermen who had no actual experience in writing, the committee demanded that this method of "publicity" should no be dispensed with. The committee was promised the support of the Urban League by Mr. Hubert.

FATHER HINES TO PLAY FLA. COLLEGE

TALLAHASSEE, Fla., Oct. 1—Earl (Father) Hines turns from the dance halls where his is sweet music has been accompanying the shuffle of his Southern admirers for the past few months to the college atmosphere to play a concert program for the Florida A. & M. College, Saturday, October 3.

Texans Await Invasion Of Carolina Cotton Pickers

PENSACOLA, Fla., Oct. 1.—Wesley Jones, sepia America's sensational maestro who is proving the rags with the Carolina Cotton Pickers, has been breaking records throughout the South, and closed out several dances by big name bands recently. Jones is tops, according to big band leaders, who have seen him in front of the Cotton Pickers orchestra.

The Carolina Cotton Pickers made a name for themselves last year while playing on a tour through Texas and other States, where they engaged in a battle of music with Don Albert, who, at that time, was the best in the South, and had just returned from the East where he had been breaking records; later taking on Carl Mike Thompson and Ruth Ellington's band.

The band won the hearts of music lovers in Texas where Wesley Jones was a riot. The band encountered bad luck while on their tour. One of their busses burned while in route to play an engagement, another one turned over and was a complete loss and rain and bad weather caused them to have to return home in Charleston, S. C. But, the boys, with a heart like Joe Louis, after a little rest, enlarged their unit and hit the comeback trail, and are now headed for California (Hollywood) to work in a few pictures, make a few records and steal the air waves of America, according to their sponsors.

In one years' time, according to their booking agent, they will be one of the best box office attractions in America. Nothing is being left undone and they are headed for the top. The band is now known as the Southern Kings of Jazz and Wesley Jones, the "Cab Calloway of the South." The Carolina Cotton Pickers will play their first dance in Houston within 16 months. Friday, October 9, from 9 p. m. until 1 a. m. for Dee Mangum and Preston Mayes, Jr., at the Pilgrim Auditorium. They expect to have the largest attendance of any attraction in the past year. They will also play in Galveston, Thursday, October 8, at the Golf View Pavilion.

The Cotton Pickers are working out of the offices of Preston Mayes, Jr., 1716 Saulnier street, Houston, Tex., and contact from California to Maine can be made through this office.

EVA JESSYE TO PRESENT CHORUS

COLUMBIA, S. C., Oct. 1. — Eva Jessye, noted choral conductor, formerly of the cast of "Hallelujah," "Porgy and Bess," and other great plays, will present her chorus from Claflin College, Orangeburg, S. C., where she is instructor, October 9, in "The Four Saints in Three Acts." Miss Jessye is rated as one of the world's outstanding musicians.

FISK SINGERS TO BROADCAST

NASHVILLE, Tenn., Oct. 1.—The Jubilee Day program, honoring the 65th anniversary of the Fisk Jubilee Singers, will be broadcast over radio station WSM at 10:30 p. m. October 5. The original band of 11 singers are credited with raising funds sufficient to keep open the doors of the university more than a half century ago.

Pale, Peaches and Duke are at the Paramount Theatre.

TED LEWIS, JR. AT THE KIT KAT

NEW YORK CITY, Oct. 1.—Last Wednesday evening marked the opening of the new full revue at Jules Podell's Kit-Kat Club. Ted Lewis, Jr., heads the new show, assisted by such headline performers as the Pope Sisters, the Harmonettes, Jack and Rudy, a tap-dancing team; Kenneth and LaRoy, juvenile dance team, and Dorothy Ballard, songstress. Jerry Dansey, who sings in the Sophie Tucker manner; Dorothy Rhodes, mistress of ceremonies, and the music by Bobby Hargraves and his Park Avenoeers.

Lunceford's Band To Make Pictures

To Halt New England and Mid-West Tour for Warner Brothers' "Short."

NEW YORK CITY, Oct. 1.—Jimmie Lunceford and his orchestra will soon be seen in pictures. According to an announcement made by Harold F. Oxley, manager of the orchestra, the boys will appear in a Warner Brothers' short, which they will make during the week of October 9th.

This summer has been the greatest in the career of Lunceford as a musician. His orchestra on the last road tour grossed more in attendance and receipts than at any other time since the orchestra was organized. Lunceford has one of the greatest aggregations ever to assemble with each man in the orchestra known as an "ace" musician. Much credit for the success is due also to the singers in the group, both the soloists and the glee club, the latter in many ways surpassing the great Fred Waring Glee Club.

In New England

During the week of October 2nd, the band will appear in the New England States, than the intermission from October 9 to 15 for the movie short. They follow with engagements in Lansing, Grand Rapids and Detroit, Mich., then to the Buckeye State touching Toledo and Akron. On October 13 they play an engagement in Brownsville, Pa.

On the 22nd of October, they appear in Pittsburgh, then to Chillicothe, Valley Dale and Castle Farms, which takes them to the week of November 13 when they appear at the Royal theatre in Baltimore. During the following week they will appear at the Howard theatre, in Washington and then to Philadelphia for a week's engagement beginning November 27.

Willie Bias's band band, with Buddy Rogers, is at the Nixon Grand Theatre in Philadelphia. Don Redmond and band with a revue are at the Keith Theatre, Troy, N. Y.

Think he is about this small. In fact he is funny! Won't you join me in a laugh? Thanks. P. S. I will give you his name and the address of his night club so you will know where to stay away from, unless the starts thinking American.

* * *

"DEAR DANCE LOVERS: How would you like to see our best bands crushed at will? How would you like to see them at the complete mercy of those Negroes who "front" (promote) dances for white racketeers who stand in the background and collect your money? Dear readers, I am writing about this again in order to point out the danger of such control. Most colored bands are booked through white agencies. That is all right in many cases. (Special praise goes to Harold Oxley, Jimmie Lunceford's manager, for his fairness.) But, dear dance lovers, you must NOT let the hands of the booking agencies and the colored "front" promoters reach out and control colored papers. Because of the unfairness of fake colored dance promoters, don't you think it your duty to expose them? Sure, I agree.

* * *

PASSING THOUGHTS: Jimmie Lunceford, America's No. 1 band,

HARVEY, ETHEL CLICK AT ANN MONTGOMERY

BUFFALO, N. Y., Oct. 1.—Harvey and Ethel, sensational boy and girl tapsters often referred to as the "Sepia Sweethearts of Dance," are currently filling their fourth consecutive, record-breaking week, here at Ann Montgomery's Little Harlem Cafe.

DUKE ELLINGTON TO GREENVILLE

GREENVILLE, S. C., Oct. 1.—Duke Ellington and his orchestra will play a dance engagement at Textile Hall, the largest and most spacious hall in the city, on October 14. This will mark the Duke's initial appearance here.

"Down Beat" Says Sunset Royals Best Band To Hit N. Y. In Months

Says they are Graced by a Superb Rhythm Section—Their Tricks Kept Blase Harlemites in Uproar.

CINCINNATI, O., Oct. 1.—The Sunset Royal Entertainers orchestra, a bunch of lads from West Palm Beach, Fla., have been going "like a house afire," during the past few months. Coming here to open the new Cotton Club September 19 and 20, this "crew of dusky" hands "sold out" to boxing.

Since its opening the Cotton Club has grown to be ranked among the finest night spots in this country, and is the pride of the management of Leonard Harper, owner of the city.

Thus the Sunset Royals appeared in New York recently, they attracted and held the attention. Although one editor of the "Down Beat," a national theatrical magazine, criticized the instruments used by the boys, he gave them the highest praise in his Sept. issue, saying of the band, "having the following to say, . . . The best band to hit New York in months is a group from West Palm Beach, Fla., the Sunset Royal Entertainers. They are graced by a superb rhythm section, one of the heavy guitar players, a trombone and a tenor, as well as another which had the audience in an uproar last night. This band has one of those leaders in a sweet, the trucking number, the hot pianist, and a fellow playing with the band with his back. The band has more ingenuity than your local band. We hope they stick around for some time to come. It is a shame that the band [illegible] Fond records here [illegible] Decca."

Headed East

The boys are expected East again, in September, 21 they were in Akron, Ohio; then to Springfield, Ohio; then to Springfield, Ill., Hamilton, Ohio; Columbus, Ohio; Akron, Ohio, McDonald, Pa., September 25 and 26 respectively. Monday, the 28th, they played Brownsville, Pa., then to Altoona Tuesday night, and into Harrisburg, Wednesday. They swing into Frederick, Md., tonight and then into New York, where they will have engagements in New York City before they open a tour of several weeks' duration in Eastern theatres. This latter tour starts about October 15, according to Bill Meara, manager, who books the band exclusively from his New York apartment at 261 Seventh Avenue.

VENDOME CAFE PLANNING BIG RE-OPENING

BUFFALO N. Y., Oct. 1 — The Vendome Cafe will reopen sometimes this week, it was announced late last week by Bill Clore, owner of the popular black and tan spot. It is not known at this writing just who will produce the shows or who will be featured in the premier production although several of the more talented acts of note have been contacted as possible choices. There too, is a question about the band. Jimmy Hughes's orchestra was reported to be slated for the spot but other bookings are believed to have eliminated that angle.

Praise and Criticism

By PORTER ROBERTS

WHITE MEN WHO OWN so-called Negro theatres are writing to Hollywood film companies suggesting that Negroes be used more in picture casts. They are also asking that pictures having Negroes in them be advertised more in the Negro press. I admit colored people need all the jobs they can get, but I can't see why anybody can expect intelligent colored people to go to shows and about "hoorah" for pictures with Negroes in them when said pictures are packed with insults, ridicule and vicious propaganda aimed at colored people. If Hollywood starts to advertise in the Negro press, Hollywood will, of course, expect to "muzzle" Negro writers who criticize their "Negroes are-inferior" propaganda.

* * *

HOLLYWOOD MIGHT as well know now that it cannot control Negro writers, for the most successful branch of the Negro press is run by intelligent Negroes who know the value of the freedom of the press. Colored people deserve some "straight" roles in pictures, yeah, minus the insults. Hollywood can continue to rave about the "cold shoulder" most colored people give their pictures with Negroes in them, unless Hollywood wakes up to the fact that this is NOT 1835. I hate insults, don't you?

* * *

DEAR READERS: Don't you think it a good idea for famous colored artists to concentrate on having colored understudies take their places after they have retired or lost public favor? Wait a moment while I tell you this: HE was first noticed the first time. HE went from city to city saying it. And the other night HE referred to Fred Astaire as "the greatest dancer of all time." HE is done other than Bill (Bojangles) Robinson! The Constitution of the United States guarantees the freedom of speech. So I am sorry to say that I believe Bill was paid to say that! Now, dear intelligent artists, if you are going to give up your title of being the best in your field, give it up to some colored person, for white people have already robbed us of everything but our skin, don't y' know?

* * *

A PAGE OUT OF HITLER'S BOOK: He is a colored man. He owns a night club. He has a floor show. A colored columnist said it wasn't so but. The colored night club owner got angry and wrote the columnist's editor asking that the columnist be deprived of the freedom of thought and press at the same time. Sure, I think he got the idea that reading about HITLER. He thinks he is a "big shot." But I think he is about this small. In fact he is funny! Won't you join me in a laugh? Thanks. P. S. I will give you his name and the address of his night club so you will know where to stay away from, unless the starts thinking American.

"Uncle Tom" Makes His Cabin Ready For Gay Old Broadway

By BILLY ROWE

NEW YORK CITY, Oct. 1. — As this is being written, George Abbott, a true man of the theatre, who is actor, author, director and producer, is making extensive plans to bring back to life Uncle Tom in his most robust form, which will enable him to display the strength and team to combat Simon Legree at the Fifty-first Street Theatre late this month.

"Sweet River" is the title, which may be any jostling about "Sweet River." He plans this one as a serious play with serious trappings; it has been enriched with a careful hand. Five hundred actors have been interviewed in the hopes of finding authenticity. Every detail will be realistic.

Uncle Tom will suffer, so will Eliza. There will be no slaves with voices, and there will be honest drama. Mr. Abbott has seen to that. He has written a straight away play from all available data. He has had research workers busy for more than a year and has given much of his own time in the endeavor for truth.

He has tossed aside the disconnected versions once popular in America for a connected drama. Actually it is a story of feuding between two families, Legree made the mistake of not staying on his side of the high-board fence. So did Eliza's husband. So do most of us in real life.

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for a summer cooling system in the chosen theatre out of the question.

In the roles there will be no deception. Colored actors will play colored parts. Little Eva will be a little girl and Simon Legree will be every inch a Legree. No burned cork will be used. A Topsy who "growed" in Harlem and not on the East side is a trick to be employed that the late Howard Thurston didn't attempt.

Mr. Abbott hopes that there will not be any jostling about "Sweet River." He plans this one as a serious play with serious trappings; it has been enriched with a careful hand. Five hundred actors have been interviewed in the hopes of finding authenticity. Every de-

moves into Chicago's famous Grand Terrace in a few days. Get your radios fixed ! . . . I would like to see Andy Kirk, Count Basie, Erskine Hawkins, or Don Albert move into the Roseland Ballroom, instead of Claude Hopkins. Sure, they have better bands . . . Midge Williams (she is the colored lady who can sing in several languages, including Japanese) broadcast via the Canadian networks Friday; it was very good. How that girl can sing! Hey; Midge, spirituals kinda let you down, don't y' know? . . . His full name is Lawrence E. Freeman. He wrote the music of that great song hit, "Until the Real Thing Comes Along." White boys wrote the words; the Decca Record Company called them in to do the words (and Andy Razaf was solicited, too). Mr. Freeman lives at 3520 Tracy street, Kansas City, Mo. . . . Sure, Mr. Freeman has a royalty contract . . . I think you were great at the Cotton Club opening night, Cab Calloway. Your "straight" singing was impressive. Some of the songs were good, too. I wish colored men wrote them, though . . . A Like to hear from young Eddie Heywood . . . And Graham W. Jackson, two of the best piano players I have ever heard. Joe Louis fights again October 9 . . . Sure, his managers know he can't think Joe's IRON! Have