

Talent Crosses Racial Barriers

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## AFTER DARK:

# Talent Crosses Racial Barriers

By **TONY ZOPPI**

Night Club Editor of The News

HOUSTON, Texas—One of the most democratic elements of our society is show business, which wrote its peace with civil rights the day Americans became entertainment conscious.

It explains why a Pearl Bailey can win a thunderous acceptance from a mink-draped audience here at the Cork Club, or the reason a Duke Ellington is expected to attract a huge audience in Dallas next Saturday. It also simplifies a Sinatra's reason for turning down a \$25,000 concert date in order to perform free of charge for the NAACP.

Talent is the common denominator—a harsh rule of the thumb which separates the pros from the juveniles regardless of race, color or creed.

To be honest, there was some apprehension when Glenn McCarthy announced the Pearl Bailey booking at the height of the civil rights upheavals in Harlem and Philadelphia, Pa., and-or Mississippi.

But anyone who knows Peralie Mae was aware of the fact that she could charm the Klu Klux Klan if they judged her on her talent. The first-night crowd at the Cork did exactly that, and her opening was triumphant.

**ELLINGTON, WHO** has scheduled a 1-nighter at State Fair Music Hall Saturday night, is a brilliant composer, musician and conductor. He and George Gershwin are the most respected writers of modern American music.

The Duke is one of those rare individuals who can jot down "It Don't Mean A Thing If It Ain't Got That Swing," then create something as flawless as his "Queen Elizabeth Suite."

His "Mood Indigo," "Sophisticated Lady" and "A Train" have become modern classics.

No one stopped to consider his pigmentation when Duke introduced "Hot and Bothered" and

"Night Creature" at Carnegie Hall.

Tickets for the Ellington show may be obtained at Dallas Theater League offices in the Lee Park Building. The Pearl Bailey date is being sponsored by H.&H. Productins at 109 Continental.

**SHAMROCK HILTON** Hotel here, which shuttered its International Club for the summer, re-opens next week with Anita Bryant as headliner. She will be followed by John Gary, the up and coming baritone who played his first singing date at Bali Hai in Dallas about a year ago.

Herkie Styles is the attraction at Tidelands Club and he is repeating the success he enjoyed at King's Club a few months back.

Continental Houston Hotel's popular French Quarter club offers the singing talents of lovely Sherry Stevens and she is attracting excellent crowds.

Another popular feature at the Quarter is the music of the Don Cannon band, one of the most popular and versatile on the Houston late scene. He reminds one of the Ernie Johnson group at Cabana Hotel.

**BACK AT THE RANCH:** Murray Arnold's abbreviated stay at Cipango was a record breaker. He packed the place to overflowing on five consecutive nights . . . In Nero's Nook, the Lou Styles group, which features lovely Toni Sandoval, closes its engagement this Monday night. There are definite plans afoot for a return later

in the year . . . Gringos, the Watusi capital of the Southwest, had to refuse admission to more than 100 prospective customers Saturday night. The popular boite has been enjoying fantastic success in the brief time it has operated out in Oak Lawn. Jesse Lopez and his combo deserve a large share of the credit for it's quick acceptance . . . Bachelor Club and the Town Club, in the heart of the downtown area, are undergoing a face lifting which will be completed in time for the American Legion convention and

the fast-approaching Texas-Oklahoma weekend . . . Dig the noon-day floor shows at Montmartre Club. Owner Jimmy Vouras features an hour-long strip parade along with the filet mignon . . . Herb McDonald, the Sahara veep, caught Stuart's show at Cabana Saturday night and wanted to sign him for Vegas. But he was exactly two weeks too late. Enzo signed with the Flamingo just before he opened in Dallas. Funny thing, he's been trying to crack Vegas for years and all of a sudden he winds up with two offers.