#### BEHIND THE SCENES By HARRY LEVETTE

Theatrical Editor

HOW IN the dickens I ever happened to lose such over a week ago describing the finest party ever tendered show folk is a deep dark mystery to me. and very aggravating but after searching high and low I am going to tell about it from memory as well were visiting Mrs. George Brill Young and this

May Johnson, pretty, clever dancer for a long time at the Cotton Club, and Ruth Givens, talented singer, were the honor guests at this "party of parties" during their recent visit to San Diego. They were visiting Mrs. Georgia Brll Young and this crowning event of the pleasant time she showed them was a luxurious five course dinner. There are dinners and dinners, but Bill Zimmerman, retired broker, a friend of Mrs. Young, enhanced the pleasure of the affair by slipping a five dollar bill under each of the twelve plates at the dinnertable, and a twenty dollar bill under the plate of the hostess. Surely the ancient Roman Caesar who believed in big parties, never did more for his guests than that. Besides this, Mrs. Young had a quart of old Mumm's Extra Dry Champagne at each place, and of course the finest foods that the San Diego markets affords. The girls were also entertained by Mrs. Bennie Davis, at her home, 318 13th street. Mrs. Davis is also proprietress of the Rice Inn at Oklahoma City.

"ARTISTS AND Models" did such a land office Business at the Paramount theatre last week following its opening Thursday, that it had to be held over and will run another week or more. One of the principal reasons for its drawing power is its big Harlem sequence featuring Louis Armstrong, seventy-eight colored dancers, and Martha Raye in brown make-up. Of course there's Ida Lupino, Richard Arlen, Gail Patrick and other stars besides scores of beautiful girls and gorgeous settings, but with all the colored patrons and a large percentage of the whites, it's that rollicking carefree swing of the song' hits and the dancing of Louis' silver trumpet notes that brings them out.

FLOYD RAY packed them into the Orpheum all last week also, as he and his fifteen Harlem Dictators bowed into big time. "Marie", "Puddin'head Jones," "Evenin' Sun Goes Down", the old favorite, "Red Sails in the Sunset" and a new arrangement of "Trees" were some of the most loudly applauded numbers. The Three Rhythm Rockets,

and Ivy. Vern and Von, classy singing trio, added

greatly to the show put on by the band.

#### AROUND THE NITE CLUBS

The Harlem Nite club way out at Watts has changed its name to the New Manhattan Country club. Roy Clark's swing band is making the music.

... The Wave Club down at Long Beach has Anita Brown who scored in a number of pictures with the late Will Rogers. She is pleasing the crowds

Lorenza Flennoy's band formerly of the Club Alabam, are now at the Tip Top Inn at San Diego. The principals include: Connie Harris, The Three Hi-Hatters, Ruth Givens, Ernestine Ford. In the chorus are Era Walker, Avanella Harris, Irma Washington and Gladys "Duck" Jackson, The Four Hot Shots, are doing just too fine at the College Inn which has a big crowd nightly although it is next door to the Paris Inn. There also are Margurite Jones, Baby Fisher, and "Bus Boy".

Floor shows at George Ramsey's Creole Palace in San Diego are drawing better and better with the racing crowd always winding up the day at the Caliente Races by a night at the Palace. Headed by the long time favorite Octavia Sumler, there also are Billie Mitchell, Tommy and Dorthy Kyle, Heien Meadows, Calvin Jones, Willie Jackson, Cliff Ritchie, Norvell Reese, Ellen Edmonds, Sadie Carter, and Marceita Gault, Hazel Reese, talented Los Angeles dancer who was formerly producer at the Ubangi in Seattle, was recently offered a posltion in the same capacity at the Creole Palace. Al Ramsey who commutes to Los Angeles as if it were a suburb of San Diego reports good business at is learned that he and George will build a mammoth hotel at Central Avenue at 52nd, but will keep their San Diego holdings.

### NEW YORKERS GIVE

"BIG APPLE" A BIG HAND

In New York the "Big Apple", -- 1937 version of the Virginia Reel, Susie-Q, the Lindy Hop, Truckin' and other assorted steps--was given a big hand last week when it was danced for the first time at the Rainbow Grill, a night club on the 65th floor of a downtown skyscraper, according to dispatches.

To the strains of "Christopher Columbus," a Gershwin's best-loved melodies, number of professional dancing instructors who which, it is hoped, will remain had just learned the South Carolina dance impor- as a permanent musical testimontation demonstrated the "Big Apple" on the dance floor, and when they had finished, their efforts were Ellington's selection for this task greeted by prolonged applause and calls for an is most appropriate, for there encore. When the music started again, all the was always a mutual admiration diners joined in an effort to master the new dance ers. Although this feeling existcraze. The "Big Apple" has taken Broadway by ed through the years, their only

#### NEW WPA PLAY FOR HARLEM

"Horse Play", a new WPA Negro Theatre Pro- Duke Ellington's orchestra won duction, is scheduled for an early opening in New York at the Lafayette Theatre, according to an announcement from the hearquarters of the Theatre Gershwin melodies.

#### NOBLE SISSLE BREAKS ICE AT **EXCLUSIVE ST. LOUIS CLUB**

Noble Sissle and his orchestra became the first when the Duke Ellington bandscolored band to play at the exclusive Meadowbrook country club in St. Louis this week when they opened there for a two week's engagement.

Featured with Sissle are Billy Banks and Edna Harris, singers, and the Noble Sissle Swingsters Savoy Eight Ella Fitzgerald pipes composed of Sidney Bechet, soprano saxaphone; indigo for "All Over Nothing At Jimmy Jones, bass violin; Jimmy Miller, guitar, All and Deep in the Heart of the South", garnering glory for and Wilber Kirk, drums.



# LeGon Captures Swank Trocadero Crowd ACTRESS COMPARES in Guest Performance Show

If you fail to read THE CALIFORNIA EAGLE you

an important document as an article I wrote CANSEUSE IN 1ST APPEARANCE SINCE RETURN TO HOLLYWOOD FILMS



The Le Gor of a year ago stepping it off lightly with Bill Robinson in "Hooray for Love".



STARDOM AFTER 17 YEARS

CLINTON ROSEMOND, veteran actor, whose performance in the sensational new Deep South anti-lynching film, "They Won't Forget", produced by Warner Brothers, has skyrocketed him to stardom. He appeared on the stage and in films for 17-years. Director Mervyn LeRoy said after "They Won't Forget" was finished that he had never seen "a greater Negro actor".

## Bobby Breen Sings in 'Make a Wish' at Pantages and RKO-Hillstreet

Bobby Breen sings his way into the hearts of Los Angeles in his hotel Yesmar. From business circles here it the golden-voiced star's latest film, "Make A Wish", now playing Eddie Cantor's starring vehicle at both the Pantages Hollywood and RKO-Hillstreet theatres.

The young star is superbly

supported by a cast headed by

Basil Rathbone, Marion Claire,

Henry Armetta, Ralph Forbes,

Leon Errol and Donald Meek.

The music for "Make A Wish"

sung hy Breen, Miss Claire, noted

radio song-hird, and the famous

St. Luke's Choristers, was especi-

ally written for the film by Os-

car Strauss, great Viennese com-

of both his mother and himself

come true. The film is considered

young Breen's outstanding screen

# **RECORDS OF** THE WEEK

The most interesting wax item of the week comes from the Master studios, where it is reported that Duke Ellington and his orchestra have been assigned to record an album of the late Gep. ial to the famous composer. The studio heads point out that

personal contact came in 1929 the master showman. Florenz Zeigfeld, produced 'Show Girl'. In this Gershwin show considerable notice from the New York press for its instrumental interpretation of the

The actual recording session, which, it is promised, will include several of Gershwin's hithertofore unwaxed piano preludes, has been set for late September men will have returned to New York from their present crosscountry tour.

ELLA GOES INDIGO

With her Chick Webb-provided the Decca label with her high-

spot lowdown blusing. Billie Holiday, sans Teddy Wilson, pops up this week on Vo-calion and with Count Basie's aces cutting advantageously filters her pipes Harlemese for "Me, Myself, and I" and "Without

Your Love". And once again it's Wilson pianology that highlights as Ted-dy stormbows with Holiday

In her first personal appearance since returning Likes Work was starred in C. B. Coch- HOLLYWOOD, Aug. stopped the show as Suning with the Negro film producing company, now managed by Ralph Coopmanaged by Ralph Coopma

which is said to be one of the most novel "sing bands" yet to ad in "Parasia With B. W. T. Goes Into most novel "sing bands" yet to ed in "Bargains With Bullets", a hit the West coast.

Earl Dancer "discovered" her and rushed her onto the stage Manhattan" from his Tempo Club to try her wares before the movie critics, the girl topped all previous predictions that she would eventually bring a new class to screen They not only remembered her-and two years is a long time to try the memory of whimsical Hollywood-they acclaimed her return with genuine enthusiasm. She was encored four times, asked to make a speech followed by requests for her famous "Judie" that first endeared her to filmland and sent studios hurrying to sign her for RKO and M-G-M before she had submitted to a screen test.

It was a great night for Manager Earl Dancer, Jeni's

All of Dancer's hopes for Jeni did not materialize last year. Her part in "Hooray for Love" was changed to the advantage of Bill Robinson, a bigger name, a more seasoned player, and certainly a difficult problem for any newcomer in the same line.

But both the experienced Mr. Dancer, who found Ethel Waters her career, and the eager girl. continued working and perfecting her art, despite the first set-back in their hopes for her Glad She Hasn't Got Star Fever

tunate thing that could have happened to me when I got m had breaks early, for now I know where to improve. I have not caught the "star fever", and, thanks to Earl, we've been training over a year, creating new steps, and I feel more like making a definite try for a screen career than if it had been thrust into my lap without any effort or experience on my part, as it was in the beginning", the pretty little dancer said this week.

So pleased with her offering at the Troc was the president of the studio executives' whes, that LeGon was invited to give a performance on their Orphans benefit all-star program. "Jeni could never be better

than she was at the Troc Sunday night", Dancer said. William Morris, her agent, was thrilled. Nat Perrin, of Columbia said he wanted her for Buddy de Sylva's 'Young Man's Fancy', and Mack Gordon, Fox, is considering her for the Winchell-Berne musical. She has just finished a part in for Fox, "Ali Baba Goes To

#### SOUTH NEEDS MORE NEGRO LAWYERS

NEW YORK, Aug. 27, (ANP) "One of the greatest needs is for more trained Negro lawyers in the South" declared Attorney Hugh Thompson, of Durham, N. C.; in a statement here last week. Mr. Thompson said that the law offered to the Negro a greater opportunity for service than Bobby Breen has an ideal role any other profession, and that as a lonely youngster whose more young men should choose golden voice makes the wishes law as a career.

"Make A Wish" is" Flight from Glory," gripping romance of the skies, with Chester Morris, Whitney Bourne, Onslow Stevens and Sharing screen honors with Van Heflin topping the cast.

# Starting Wednesday, September 1st at Tivoli Theatre



Wallace Beery and Warner Baxter in "Slave Ship" Same". Backup has the solo bles-syou-my-children ratings to dy stormannes with Holiday amsters of the ork riding high drummer Jonathan Jones and warbling "I'll Never Be The for "I Found a New Baby", with reedman Buster Bailey.

# RACE COMPANY

FREDERICK CLARK

signed and cast in a picture

without a screen test, this week

went into production of "Blos-

soms On Broadway", at B. P.

Clarke is cast in the role of

'gentleman's gentleman', oppo-

English born, his first picture,

site Edward Arnold in the musi-

made within the year, released

only a few months ago, brought

a new type of colored movie to

the screen with the accent on

farce being made more in the

"irony" of a Negro speaking per-

fect Oxford English than the

drooling, drawling, shiftless

character that has been so long

Clarke, a riot of fun even in

his most serious moments, seems

the best natural the screen has

brought forth from colored per-

formers in a long time. The success of his work in the Ma-

rion Davies-Robert Montgomery

opus gained for him a contract

with Schulberg in June which

of the production, September 15.

fortune, Clarke explains his

entrance into movies in this

manner: "It appears that some-

thing Hollywood has suspect-

ed for a long time is now con-

firmed. Servants, perfectly polished, may be relied upon

to reflect on the leading play-

er's luster and brilliance that

bably find a turning away

from the unpleasant types of

characters and, instead of be-

ing entertained by deformities,

the public will learn to laugh

far less sadistically, at quirks

in our performance that sup-

motion picture company. If it

succeeds, the competition will

make Hollywood perk up and

to make with the next venture,'

ply actual humor.

Consequently, we shall pro-

unpolished servants do not.

Quite amazed at his new

seems likely to run the length

ill-attached to the Negro ser-

Schulberg's studios.

cal satire.

A Natural

# By FAY M. JACKSON Theresa Harris from London where she With Negro Films

ran's famous revue, "Fol- 27. (By Fay M. Jackson) low the Sun", Jeni LeGon for ANP) \_\_" like worker, because in the picture Forming a musical I have the chance of wearbackground for the amaz- ing clothes," said Theresa Bennie Carter's Planta- means a beautiful wardrobe that Fred Clarke is usually denied colored wo-

gangster film essayed by the Million Dollar Productions comhad seen LeGon in her first per-formance, over two years ago at formance, over two years ago, at Ralph Cooper, prior to their mothe Wilshire Ebell theatre, when tion picture production of "Dark

Not many years ago the actress was considered "tops" among the sepia film players. She played three successive hits with Berbara Stanwyck and Joan Blondell in one year. She has lost none of her talent but the breaks in Hollywood films seem to have deserted her. She has turned to the all-Negro company as an outlet.

"A person of any standing professionally takes a long chance with his reputation in joining pioneer companies," the actress stated. "Naturally facilities are limited. We cannot secure the very best directors. Good players are few. But the opportunity of playing in roles otherwise denied one in white pictures is a great relief to the aspiring Ne-gro motion picture artist."

Asked if she thought the company had a future, the girl said: has as much of a future as any other film company, if adverse publicity and an impatient nublic do not kill it. I believe Mr. Cooper is sincere in his efforts. He is certainly hard-work-

ing.
"We have tolerated so many rotand aided materially in shaping ten pictures made in Hollywood by the Jews and whites, I do not see why our own people cannot be tolerant in the pioneering stages of this company

"All of the players are memhers of the Screen Actors Guild. "I think it was the most for- Our wages are satisfactory but, in many technical matters, we are still struggling.

"I never felt the chance to rise above the role of maid in Hollywood movies. My color was against me any way you looked at it. The fact that I was not 'hot' stamped me either as an uppity 'Negress' or relegated me to the eternat role of stooge or servant, I can sing but so can hundreds the development of an all-Negro of other girls. My ambitions are to be an actress. Holly-

wood had no parts for me. "There will be criticism on the produce hetter films with Ne-Uplifters Club, an organization of type of pictures this company is gross in more of a variety of producing now. It may seem roles. And, in the meantime, that we are duplicating what has many more top-notch actors now already been done in these unemployed will be cast in roles gangster themes. There is no commensurate with their real other story material. I am cer- abilities as actors. If it fails, we tain they would accept it if of-shall know what improvements fered by our own writers.

"We have nothing to lose in Miss Harris concluded,

**ADams** 

Tivoli Theatre

# **EVERY WEDNESDAY \$\$** Play "PICK & WIN" Cash Prizes

THURS., FRI., and SAT. PAUL ROBESON

AUGUST 26, 27 and 28

AUGUŜT 29, 30, 31

Saunders Of The River"

SUNDAY, MONDAY, TUESDAY

CLAUDETTE COLBERT "I Met Him In Paris"

PLUS CARTOON SERIAL and NEWS Saturday Matinee—FREE—"4 Pairs of Skates"



THE JONES FAMILY

"BIG BUSINESS"

STARTING WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 1st



#### Candid Camera Shots of HOLLYWOODLAND P. FAV M JACUSON

STUDIO CORRESPONDENT

(For the Associated Negro Press) HOLLYWOOD, Aug. 27-Talent and beauty are reaping a rich harvest in Hollywood in this fall, richest since Adolph Zukor and those other pioneers founded the film industry.

Foreign stars, Little Theatre unknowns, summer stock players, dancing girls and boys, college students and night club entertainers are being rushed by talent scouts like campus freshmen on pledge day, and contracts are being offered as freely as badges at a camp meeting.

#### PENNIES FROM HEAVEN

PAUL WHITE, juvenile wonder, claim of Bennie Carter, actor-agent, working out of Chudnow's Agency, has just been SIGNED by Universal . . . at a NICE weekly salary for many weeks to come

WARNERS who introduced the idea of English-speaking Negro butlers in FREDERICK CLARKE, (see "Ever Since Eve") are reported to be angling again for his return from Schulberg's. And THIS one is funnier OFF the screen than he is, so far, ON the screen. If they ever let him do his Frederick Clarke, who seems dialogue as he talks to you and me, the Gallery to be the most sensational movie Gods will be rolling over in orchestra aisles. "find" since Jeni LeGon astonished movie critics by being

EARL DANCER says TWO studios are angling for JENI LEGON and she'll be positive "colored class" (as W.W. reported this week) when you see her new routine in "Ali Baba Goes To Town".

CLINTON ROSEMOND is sure to land a juicy contract for his characterizations of the old preach-

HATTIE McDANIELS shares pictures with radio, finishes up this week at Warner's in a comic.

And, altogether, if they save some of these pennies from heaven, it does seem that this will be a very gay and bountiful CHRISTMAS.

Goldwyn announces that Hollywood's Chinese actors, most of them extras, contributed over \$400 to their wounded compatriots overseas.

HOW MUCH did L. A.'s Ethiops give to the wounded Abyssinians? WHO are the leaders of the Scottsboro Defense Fund?

HARRY LEVETTE, press agent for the Million Dollar Pictures says positively the new allcolored film, "Bargain with Bullets" will be ready for release this week. Harry's preview announcement was a bit premature, that is, the REAL PRE-VIEW has not been held, so draw, in your swords, critics, you'll all be invited to see the first run.

LOUISE BEAVERS brings great hopé to the company because of her great box office pull . . . and SHE has been signed for the next opus.

I heard that a 'leader' of Central Avenue ecreen guild actors had tried and is still trying to organize a COLORED BRANCH of the guild: And Why Tomake a soft spot for numself at the expense of journ ramal self respect. Guilds and Unions are exceeded to eliminate PREMINIONS. minate PREJUDICES and DISCRIMINATIONS and if you know any crows who want to set you off apart from the sest of motion picture workers, come up and see me some time and I'll tell you

Future African natives will be glad to know that whenever possible, the movie makers will avoid shaving the heads of actors. It is an expensive luxury whch few budget-observing drectors care to encourage.

Rgardless of whether the actors is a one-scene performer, shaving his head calls for a flat salary guarantee -- a minimum of two week's work.

But there are times when this costly luxury can't be avoided and such a time occurred during the production of Samuel Goldwyn's "The Adventures of Marco Polo," starring Gary Cooper.

The script of this story called for a young Chinese lad with a round shaven spot atop his head and the casting department brought in Eugene Hoo. aged nine, the Freddie Bartholomew of the Chinese section of Los Angeles.

Young Hoo who works in but one scene lasting ten seconds, was dismissed 30 minutes after he arrived at the stage with a check for two weeks' work in his jeans.

It was easy money, apparently, but there is some sense in this demand for additional compensation when large quantities of hair are removed. An actor, in such shape, has difficulty getting other roles and in addition suffers embarrassment when seen in public places.

Prominent actors and stars refuse to shave their heads unless they are guaranteed sufficient work to tide them over the period between baldness and a full growth of hair.

#### HOLLYWOODITIS

One of the perplexing problems constantly confronting film producers is that mysterious malady. Hollywooditis. The more humane of the movie moguls realize countless potentially good truck drivers, bookkeepers, lawyers and salesmen have been ruined by that common affliction and they do their best to spare the cinematically hopeless from exposure.

It is not always easy. Big pictures require large numbers of atmosphere players. And once a man has faced a camera, even from the anonymous obscurity of a mob scene, he is invariably bitten by the bug and forthwith considers himself an actor, unsuited for more prosaic occupations.

The situation has been kept in hand to a great extent by the regulated restriction of the extra ranks to those professionals who for some time have made atmosphere work their principal means of livelihood. It's harder these days to get registered as a bona fide extra than it is to break into the featured player class.

> STENOGRAPHY Gregg Shorthand

Touch Typing NOREEN FORNEY rivate Instruction
Vernon CE--20527