Thinking Out Loud

By RALPH MATTHEWS

Well, the big shinding is over. The President has been officially sworn into office in a blaze of pomp and circumstance.

The flags and bunting are coming, down, the fifes and kettle-drums have been returned to their cases.

The ballrooms of the big hotels are being waxed anew to remove the scuff marks of thousands of dancing feet.

* * *

THE UNION carpenters are going heartlessly about the task of dismantling the grandstand along the avenue and putting the city back to right.

The politicos of high and low estate have pack their carpetbags and returned to their respective localities to brew up new schemes to keep the voters pacified just enough to perpetuate themselves in office, or stir up mischief to throw the incumbent rascals out.

And after a wild weekend of high jinx, hoopla and pagentry, our city of robot has returned to its labors, trying to solve the insoluble problem of stretching their paychecks from one pay day to another.

* * *

THERE IS something amazing about the Washington mentality.

One social agency official told me that a big corporation whose board is undoubtedly manned by well-heeled Republicans, thought they were making a magnanimous gesture by donating a block of grandstand tickets along the avenue to be distributed among the poor.

After calling up hundreds of his dependents, offering them an opportunity to carry their children to the great show, he was still loaded with tickets when the great day arrived.

Most of them thought he had blown his top, thinking they would drag themselves way down on Pennsylvania Avenue just to look at the President of the United States.

I saw this same thing reflected the other day when the President made his journey from the White House over to Capitol Hill to address the joint session of Congress and deliver his State of the Union Message.

A motorcade of sleek-black, imposing - looking limousines roared along the Avenue behind an escort of several score policemen on motorcycles.

A pedestrian noting the words "press" on my camerabag, stopped to inquire what the commotion was all about.

"The Presicent is coming," I advised him.

"Oh!" he said, disinterestedly and turned on his heel and hurried on his way—never stopping to look back.

* * *

NOW I CAN understand this reaction to some extent. Things which are too close often lose their importance.

I have been in Hollywood when the stranger gapes with wonder as some movie star comes along, replete with black glasses, which are supposed to hide her identity, but in reality are affected to attract attention.

The visitor is all eyes and marks this down as a red-letter day, but the natives pay her no mind because to them movie stars are a dime a dozen.

I have been an unofficial participant in these inaugural affairs ever since I stood on the Avenue with an old-fashioned news camera and snapped away at Herbert Hoover as he rode in state with his predecessor Calvin Coolidge.

In those days, trying to get pictures was a much tougher job than it is today, although then we were not bogged down with an avalanche of bridges or entangled in red tape.

At that time flash bulbs had not come into general use. A photographer depended only on his ability to focus and left the rest to the sun.

Fortunately that day it started to rain shortly after the parade started, bringing a quick end to my day's work. The rains kept up throughout the Hoover Administration and he was finally washed out of office.

* * *

REPORTING WAS not great problem because it was fairly certain that beyond an occasional contingent of unmistakable colored troops, there would be little else to write about so far as the weekly press was concerned.

We had no Fedora - draped White House aides like E. Frederic Morrow, or a colored governor of the Virgin Islands riding in the parade, looking as important as the President himself.

Except for a hoedown up on U St., which permitted the colored constituents to besport themselves in formal attire, they had no more to do with the inauguration than if it had been held in Timbuktu.

* * *

IT WAS Franklin D. Roosevelt who changed all this.

I recall what a great commotion it created when he broke all precedents and invited his old classmate at Harvard, the late Dr. G. David Houston, principal of Armstrong High School, to be his guest at the White House reception.

It was such a departure from the norm that all the papers published full length pictures of the 200-pound educator bedecked in high silk hat en route to the party.

This was such world shaking news that a controversy raged over whether he would be the first to break bread in the White House since Booker T. Washington ate there with Theodore Roosevelt back around 1904.

* * *

THE DEBATE raged over whether Booker T. actually ate a full meal or just shared a sandwich at Teddy's desk while trying to work out some solution to the race problem, which they evidently never found.

It was, however, Mrs. Franklin Roosevelt who upset the traditional apple cart when she opened the doors to Mrs. Mary Bethuna and her followers and hundreds of ladies of color devoured slews of food all over the place.

On the basis of this spade work, the idea that the Presidency was the property of all of us, became fairly well accepted.

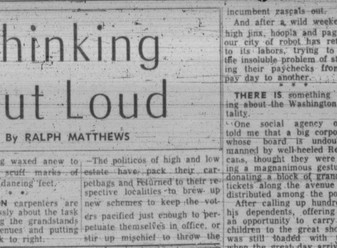
As a result, colored folk were seen doing the Mambo at all of the official balls and partaking of the viande at all of the receptions this week.

* * *

WHILE THE Republicans are claiming credit for all these changes, I doubt seriously that the present happy state of affairs would have come into being in one fell swoop had we not been previously blessed with the courage of the couple from Hyde Park.

The Roosevelts waged the suffering up process which made all this possible.

THERE'S A LUCKY picture in this and every edition of the AFRO. Look for it. If your head is circled, you can collect $5 cash by calling at the AFRO City Desk before the next edition is out.



SARAH VAUGHAN, one of the many stars with King Cole, Count Basie, Lionel Tampton, The Clovers in "Basin Street Revue" giant filmusical now playing through next Thursday, Jan. 31 at the Royal. Second feature is "Storm Over The Nile."

JOCK MAHONEY, who was a stunt man before he became an actor, takes a flying leap at Lobe Bradford in this scene from "Showdown at Abilene," Universal-International outdoor drama in Technicolor, now playing at the Harlem Theatre.

College enrollment shows upward swing

WASHINGTON

Enrollment in institutions of higher learning increased 2.3 per cent over 1955 in the Washington area during last fall, according to a report from the Department of Health, Education and Welfare.

HEW's figures show that the total enrollment in 1955 was 36,188 as compared to 37,084 in 1956. Students who entered college for the first time in the area in 1956 numbered 8,237 while new enrollees in 1956 totaled 5,497, an increase of five per cent.

JOSEPH W. CHRISTIAN

New Yorker establishes sales agency

NEW YORK — Joseph W. Christian, who has had extensive experience in various phases of marketing, advertising, public relations and sales, has established a marketing consultant agency.

The new firm, known as J. W. Christian, Marketing Consultants, has offices at 55 W. 42nd St.

* * *

IN ANNOUNCING the new company, Mr. Christian said it is available for planning and execution of assignments in the sales promotion, merchandising and market research.

He added special emphasis will be placed on the expanding colored markets. Prior to organizing the new firm, he was a national sales executive for Seagrm Distillers.

Blind singers set for Fairfield Homes

The Blind Association, under the sponsorship of the Pantry Club of Fairfield Homes, will give a benefit vocal concert on Sunday, Jan. 27, at 3:30 p.m. in the Community Building of Fairfield Homes, 1400 Baltic Court.

Officers of the Pantry Club are:

Mesdames Doris Blagmond, president; Rose Brown, vice-president; Mary Moore, secretary; Sara Harrod, treasurer.

Other members are Mesdames Dorothy Leeson, Joella Sanford, Patsy Hamlet, Charlotte Green, Doris Miller.

The Blind Association, organized in 1943 by Miss Anna M. Hunter, encourages persons who have lost their sight to develop other abilities and talents to the fullest. It was from people with singing ability that the concert performers were recruited.

HARLEM NOW PLAYING

THERE IN THE DIRT WAS THE GUN JIM TRASK SWORE HE WOULD NEVER USE!

But this was the showdown! He could pick it up and fight .. or run like the coward they called him — and only the man he loved would know the reason for the choice he made!

Showdown at Abilene

Filmed by Technicolor

STARING Jock MAHONEY · Martha HYER · Lyle BETTGER

The Lure . . That Triggered The Big House Break!

and 2nd BIG HIT!

BEHIND THE HIGH WALL

The Kid Who Wanted To Smash Out Of A Crooked Frame!

The untold story of the BIG-HOUSE PRISON BREAK!

TOM TULLY SYLVIA SIDNEY

REGENT — Now Playing

Three Violent People

CORY hard as a man had to be in the raw Southwest!

THE PRIZE he won was a woman who had finally caught up with her!

CINCH the younger brother. A rebel who hated the life they led together!

Violent LOVE! Violent HATE! Violent CONFLICTS!

A giant of a man against a woman who wouldn't be man's real!

CHARLTON HESTON · ANNE BAXTER GILBERT ROLAND · TOM TRYON

Also GEORGE BRENT in "MAN BAIT"

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CAGNEY SHOOTS IT OUT WITH BOGART IN THE BLOODIEST FEUD OF THE WEST!!

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FRI.-SAT.-SUN. JAN. 25-26-27

JOHN WAYNE in "THE CONQUEROR"

ALSO RANDOLPH SCOTT in "RAGE AT DAWN"

MON.-TUES. JAN. 28-29

ROBERT MITCHUM in "THE LUSTY MEN"

ALSO JOHN PAYNE in "TENNESSEE PARTNERS"

Adah K. Jenkins' MOMENTS MUSICAL

Mrs. Teda Sibrs, of Capetown, South Africa, spoke at the Music Department of Morgan State College and gave a demonstration of recordings last week.

Mrs. Seers and her husband are traveling on a Carnegie Foundation grant as exchange professors visiting American and English schools.

Mrs. Seers' particular interest is in the dance and drama with related music and art.

She is one of the founders of the African Theatrical Company of Capetown, which aims to preserve the best of the African tradition in music and dance and apply it to moderan dance techniques.

PHOTOGRAPHS OF the dancers were exhibited as the records were played. The participants in the African Theatrical Company are members of the Zulu and other tribes who have left their veldt homes and settled in and about the city.

Both men and women engage in the dances and songs, with spontaneous harmonizing of melodies.

Mrs. Seers stressed the importance of singing which comes as easily as breath to many African villagers. Altho a number of the folk songs use the African scale pattern, later ones show an influence of Western music.

The Capetown company is attempting to coordinate the dances and music, both vocal and instrumental, into an operatic form.

Mrs. Seers was introduced by Dr. R. Hayes Strider, head of the music department at Morgan.

* * *

THE SPANISH CLUB at Morgan State College sponsored an organ recital last Wednesday evening, with the Rev. Julius Carroll, associate pastor of Sharp Street Methodist Church.

Maurice Dorsey is president of the group and Isamae Wilks, secretary.

Inadvertently, the name of Margaret Buddin was omitted from the listing of contralto soloists who sang an ensemble rendition of "Jesu Bambino" at the First Unitarian Church at their Sunday night concert last month.

* * *

THE METROPOLITAN Baptist Youth Fellowship is presenting Veronica Tyler in a full length formal concert Sunday afternoon at 4 o'clock at the church, McCulloh and Mosher Streets.

Miss Tyler, who is studying for her bachelor of music degree at Peabody Conservatory, will be accompanied by Blanche Fautex, of the faculty. The singer is a voice student of Joseph Victor Laderoute at Peabody.

The program, which is an ambitious one, will include arias from the Bach St. Matthew "Passion" and "Magnificent," and three from "The Messiah."

Her operatic arias programmed are from Mozart's "Idomeneo" and from the Massanet "Manon."

The familiar "Alleluia" from the Motet "Exultate Jubilate" (Mozart) and "Incarnatus Est" from one of the same composer's masses complete the classic part of the program.

There will be two groups of art song, one from Franz Schubert and anther by Gabriel Faure'.

The program will be completed with prititualsgongs by Mrs. Beach and the contemporary writer, Hageman.

CALENDAR: Sunday, Jan. 27th at 8 p.m. at Mt. Vernon place Methodist Church, the Mt. Vernon Oratorio Society, an interdenominational interracial group will present "Dona Nobis Pacem" (Give to us Thy Peace) by Ralph Vaughn-Williams, conducted by Wilmer Hayden Welsh, organist and choir director of the church.

Bruce Bennet will be the organist, with Elaine Scott, soprano and Glen Hagensen, baritone soloists. Mrs. John C. Schaake, is president of the Oratorio Society.

Wednesday, Jan. 30 at 8 p.m. at Mt. Vernon Place Methodist Church, the second concert in the Chamber Music Series, with Hugh O'Meagher, harpischordist as soloist. Mr. O'Meagher is a member of the Peabody Conservatory faculty and also co-director and organist of the First Unitarian Choir.

* * *

HE HAS appeared in concerts at the National Museum, in Washington and was in the capital last week where he was invited to play at the inauguration concert at the National Museum. Earlier in the season he appeared on a concert tour in England and on the Continent.

Wednesday, Jan. 30 at 8 p.m. at Morning Star Baptist Church, W. Lanvale St. near Carrollton Ave. third Student Recital this season by Master Class students from the Schwarz Studios of Musical Arts, 21 W. Preston St. and 2320 Reisterstown Road. Appearing will be Mary Fowlkes, Hlawahn Watkins, Gladys Davis and Jean Turpin, organists; Julia Hawkins, soprano, Dorothy Lee-Davis, contralto. The Herman Schwarz Choral Society is programmed also.

A reception will follow the recital.

Friday, Feb. 1 at 8:30 p.m. in the auditorium of Booker Washington Junior High School, Madison Ave. near Lanvale St. the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra, Remo Bolognini, guest conductor.

The concert is sponsored by the Assembly and Special Programs Committee of Coppin State Teachers College. There is no charge for Admit Cards which may be obtained at the College, 2500 W. North Ave. or by calling LA 3-111.

Sat. Feb. 9 at 11 a.m. in auditorium of Baltimore Museum an opera recital in the Young Musicians Series, with Shirlee Emmons, soprano and William McGrath, tenor presenting in English the playful opera "The Secret of Suzanne" by Wolf-Ferrari.

ADAH K. JENKINS

MONOLOGIST AT MORGAN—Carolyn Hill Stewart, nationally known actress, is shown as she portrays Salome during a guest appearance at Morgan State College last week. Mrs. Stewart was presented as a feature of the weekly assembly series.

Show Bill

APOLLO — Now playing George Sanders in "DEATH OF A SCOUNDREL," also Guy Madison in "TIMBER COUNTRY TROUBLE."

BRIDGE — Sun. Mon. Tues. Spencer Tracy in "THE MOUNTAIN," also Dennis Morgan in "URANIUM BOOM."

CARVER — Now playing John Wayne in "THE CONQUEROR," also Randolph Scott in "RAGE AT DAWN."

DUNBAR — Now playing Fess Parker in "WESTWARD HO, THE WAGONS," also Robert Wagner in "THE MOUNTAIN."

HARLEM — Now playing Jock Mahoney in "SHOWDOWN AT ABILENE."

LENOX — Sun. Mon. Tues. Spencer Tracy in "THE MOUNTAIN," also Anthony Quinn in "MAN FROM DEL RIO."

LINCOLN — Sun. Mon. Tues. "NEW MEXICO," also Tab Hunter in "THE BURNING HILLS."

MET — Now playing "THE JACKIE ROBINSON STORY" also James Arness in "GUN THE MAN DOWN."

NEW ALBERT — Now playing James Cagney, Humphrey Bogart in "THE OKLAHOMA KID."

PARK — Sun. Mon. Tues. Richard Egan in "TENSION AT TABLE ROCK," also Dale Robertson in "DAKOTA INCIDENT."

REGENT — Now playing Charlton Heston in "THREE VIOLENT PEOPLE."

ROOSEVELT — Sun. Mon. Tues. Spencer Tracy in "THE MOUNTAIN," also Charlton Heston in "THE SAVAGE." Sun. Mon. Tues. Linda Darnell in "DAKOTA INCIDENT" also "ZANZABUKA."

WALBROOK — Fri. Sat. Dale Robertson in "DAKOTA INCIDENT" also "ZANZABUKA." Sun. Mon. Elvis Presley in "LOVE ME TENDER" also Rod Cameron in "YAQUI DRUMS."

Harlem shows 'Range Rider'

If there were ever any doubt that Jock Mahoney, former stuntman and erstwhile "Range Rider" of television would make the grade as a movie star, the last vestige of such a doubt should be eradicated by his performance in "Show-down at Abilene," the Universal-International outdoor drama in Technicolor which is now playing at the Harlem Theatre with Mahoney, Martha Hyer and Lyle Bettger in the starring roles.

Playing Mahoney's loyal sweet-heart in the new film is blonde Martha Hyer. This serenely beautiful actress demonstrates anew that she is ready for inclusion in the very top echelon of feminine film stars, a fact that was recognized by U-I after the finish of "Showdown at Abilene," by its casting of Martha opposite Rock Hudson in "Battle Hymn," one of the most important pictures that will come from that studio within the next year.

Lyle Bettger is a villain in "Showdown at Abilene," and he gives to the role the high degree of professional skill for which he has long been known.

'Three Violent People' at Regent

A web of dramatic, interwoven stories: the tale of a strange marriage and its bitter conflicts, the fierce rivalry between a hate - driven rebel and his steel-willed brother; the savage war between a Texas cattle baron and the ruthless carpetbaggers of the Southwest frontier's Provisional Government — Barrymount's "Three Violent People," which is now playing at the Regent Theatre, is as explosive as its title. Action-filled and told with a grand sweep, it is a moving film of a turbulent period.

A brilliant cast enacts the Technicolor outdoor drama. Starring are Charlton Heston, Anne Baxter and Gilbert Roland co-starring, Tom Tryon, Forrest Tucker and Bruce Bennett. Elaine Stritch is featured. Barton MacLane and actor-songwriter Ross Bagdasarian head the supporting cast.

In one of his most colorful characterizations, Gilbert Roland plays Heston's top hand and the father of five stalwart sons. Caught in the middle, he finds his loyalties sorely tested by the fury and wildness of the family, but it is he and his sons who finally decide the outcome in the film's tension-packed climax.

The younger brother is well played by Tom Tryon, a strikingly handsome and brawny young man, while Heston and Miss Baxter are top in a pair of intensely dramatic roles.

Bogart in 'Oklahoma Kid' with Cagney at New Albert

With James Cagney scoring what everybody concedes to be his greatest success in his Academy Award winning "Yankee Doodle Dandy" and Humphrey Bogart skyrocketing to top flight in "Casablanca" and "Action in the North Atlantic," The New Albert Theatre has decided to re-issue "The Oklahoma Kid" which co-stars both these popular players. The picture is now playing.

James Cagney plays the role of a dashing young outlaw, a young Robin Hood who steals from the rich and gives to the poor. He leads a happy-go-lucky existence until he is informed of the death of his father at the hands of a vicious gang headed by Whip McCord (Humphrey Bogart), a notorious gambler.

Miss Rosemary Lane and Donald Crisp are featured in the film's tension-packed climax.

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+Also Added Attraction Saturday. Chapter 6 of Serial "ENEMIES OF THE UNIVERSE," Starring COMMANDO CODY.

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CHILDREN (UNDER 12) 15c AT ALL TIMES

LINDA DARNELL · DALE ROBERTSON JOHN LUND "DAKOTA INCIDENT"

ALSO "ZANZABUKA" (IN TRUCOLOR)

Wed.-Thurs.-Fri.-Sat. Double Feature Jan. 30-Feb. 2

CHILDREN (UNDER 12) 15c AT ALL TIMES

JOHN EAGER · CYNTHIA PATRICK "THE MOLE PEOPLE"

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Douglass pupils enjoy monologue

By DAISY WILSON

Two English classes from Douglass High School, 11B-15 and 11B-5, attended the recent monologue presented by Carolyn Hill Stewart at Hurt Gymnasium at Morgan State College.

Viewing the presentation we Daisy Wilson, Patricia Gayles, Esther Merritt, Nathaniel Gay, Augustu Padgett, Arthur Pierce, Louise Green, Richard Diggs, Frank Chester, Lorraine Blake, Barbara Owens, Constance Harris, Aleathea Branch, Ellis Dawson, Sarah Smith, Shirley Showes, Veinice Thornton, David Jones, Clarie Byrd, Ann Smith, Yvonne Harring, Gloria Chester, Harold Hart, Shelia Chapman, Adelaide Wilton, Joyce Pefford, Dorothy Bennett, Charles Coons.

Mrs. Mae Allen sponsored the trip.