WHEN YOU FINISH READING YOUR AFRO, PASS IT ALONG TO A FRIEND.

Lady Lola Du Conge tells how she became dancer

By GAREY REYNOLDS

In the world of entertainment there are elastic misses who go under various names — exotic dancers, strippers, the hump and grind set, and the contortionists.

Little is known about the private lives of these girls who, as a rule, are paid less than those in legitimate theatre, travel more, and probably work just as hard.

One such performer is "Lady Lola Du Conge," who calls herself an exotic dancer, with an Afro-Cuban flavor, and a little Indian thrown in for good measure.

The Indian she inherited from her grandmother, an exotic dancer known as "Princess Lola du Conge", who came from Sabre, India. Du Conge translated means "the jewel."

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THE LADY whose real name is Miss Aurra Humes, is 28 and comes from Panama City, Panama, and is appearing nightly at Chick's Lounge, Baltimore and Green Sts.

Starting from $10 a week in her native Panama City, she climbed to top billings in show bars throughout the country, bring as high as $350 a week.

Where she got her start, her bumps along the way, and where she is today, are told in the following questions put to her on Wednesday night and the answers she gave.

• • •

Q. — WHERE DID you get your start in this business?

A. — I began singing Calyso and Spanish songs when I was 14 years old, in Panama City at the Spanish Ballet Room.

Q. — What did your parents think about what you were doing?

A.— They didn't know that I was doing it. I would sneak out the back of the house and go to my oldest sister's house, Myra, who would take me to the cafe. They would not let me in by myself.

Q. — How did they find out what you were doing?

A. — My father was working two blocks from where I was singing. Someone told him. I was singing in the cafe. He didn't belive them and came to see me. He just stood there and shook his head.

He said he was not gonna whip me, but he wanted an explanation.

I promised I would not do this anymore.

• • •

Q. — WAS THIS THE END of your singing and dancing career?

A. — No, I stopped for three years. I got married and had three children. My husband was a sailor from New Orleans.

Q. — How did you get started again?

A. — My husband and I won a dance contest at the Due Drop In Club in New Orleans, and the owner asked me if I had ever danced professionally.

I told him that I had not, professionally.

He hired me right there. A French stripper, Darline O'Day, helped me get together a costume. It was two pair of panites and a bra with rhinestones. I did Afro-Cuban dancing and singing. I was the star of the show and I had only one costume.

Q. — Where did you go from there?

A. — The Howard Lewis Troop was touring in New Orleans, then. Mr. Lewis saw my act and hired me for twice the money I was in the world of entertainment there are elastic misses who go under various names — exotic dancers, strippers, the hump and grind set, and the contortionists.

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Where she got her start, her bumps along the way, and where she is today, are told in the following questions put to her on Wednesday night and the answers she gave.

• • •

Q. — Where did you get your first big break?

A.— I left Dallas to go to Houston and work with Earl Bostic. I was then making $90 a week.

Q. — Then where did you go?

A. — Went to Chicago and auditioned for a show at the Club De Lisa. I got the part for two months, doing Afro-Cuban dances. Then I went out to Detroit at the Flame Show Bar for three weeks.

I came back to Chicago and to the Moulin Rouge for eight months. That was my top salary then. I was making $350 a week.

Q. — What are you making now?

A. — $175 a week.

Q. — Where else have you appeared?

A. — After I left the Moulin Rouge, a man who owned a club in Atlanta, Ga. gave me a plane ticket to fly there and appear in his club. I went from there to Los Angeles and to what they call Strip City.

Q. — What were you doing for an act?

A. — I was doing the Parisian, the African Mating Dance, and the dance of the Princess.

Q. — Have you ever done any stripping?

A. — Yes, I do stripping, but I do all around dancing too. I like all kinds of dancing.

Q. — Where do you get the material for some of your dances.?

A. — I create all my acts myself. I get them from stories I was told by my grandmother.

• • •

Q. — Would you want your daughter to do what you do?

A. — Yes, providing she has the same attitude that I have. She must have faith in herself and have a mind of her own.

Q. — What about your children and your husband?

A. — My husband and I are divorced. My three children are visiting him in New Orleans now.

Q. — What of your love life now?

A. — Thees may shock you, but I just got married today. I was in New York yesterday to see about a booking. I called up a saxophone player I know for ten years. His name is Johnny Parker.

He asked me when we are going to get married. I tell him the next time I come to New York, I marry you.

Then he takes me to the airport, and when I am about to get on the plane he asked me again, when are we going to get married. I ask him where can we get married now.

He tells the pilot to hold the plane. He buys a ticket and flies with me to Baltimore. We go to Virginia and are married today.

Q. — Have you ever been overseas?

A. — Yes, but I was very small then. I have a chance to go to Australia, but they only want to give me $500 a week and I want more. I still can go if I want.

Q. — What is your ambition in this business?

A. — I would like to become a master of my work. I would like to get the correct finesse. I hate to see everything looking mechanical. I must tell a story. I won't do the dance unless it tells a story.

Q. — How much do you rehearse?

A. — I rehearse an hour a day with my hands. I rehearse mentally all the time. I can rehearse so mentally that I bust out in sweat.

Q. — How do you like the United States?

A. — I like it very well. But they are not individuals here as much as they should be.

• • •

Q. — What do you think of the racial problem in this country?

A. — I have run into it in thees country because some people would invite me over to their place and I would get special treatment. We would sit down, and everyone would look at us, and he would have to tell them that he is having a special affair.

Q. — What about your country's racial problem?

A. — The only place that the problem is at is the Canal Zone where the white man is.

I lived in Cuba when I was younger, but they never had that problem.

Q. — Do you have any hobbies?

A. — Yes, I do all my beading, I love working with beads.

I am also about to graduate from practical nursing in September. I have been taking a course by mail order from Chicago. All I need to do is pass my test in September.

I have ambition to do acting some day. Someday, I hope to write a book about what a rough experience I have had in the business.

I also like to cook, and I love seafood. I was raised on seafood.

LADY LOLA DU CONGE prepares to do one of her own dance creations, "The Dance of the Princess."

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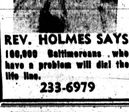

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We're here and it's kinda swinging knowing you're there.

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With the exception of minor changes here and there the gaylife tide is sliding down the usual channels.

• • •

PERHAPS the biggest shakeup, setwise, involved Chick's and Carnival Lounges. For more moons than the Crawlers can remember, Mickey Fields and his wailing trio backdropped Flink Johnson, the mainstay at Chick's.

However, a couple of brights back, Mickey, heading up his own set, moved into the Carnival. And the Crawlers want to tella that's where it's at.

"Meantime, Flink, the fabulous, is backgrounded by his own orchestra heading up a package including Baby Seals, the funny man and a bevy of torrid twisters, standard procedure at Chick's.

NORTH END Lounge reshuffled its showmen. Making up the New Gary Bartz Quartet are Rubin, real wild 88 man; Roland, D.C. bassist of note, on the cat guts; and Miles Davis' former skin ace, Pinkney, on drums. And do they whale? Does Castro wear a beard?

Sammy Jaye, everybody's favorite d.j., informs us that Thursday is the nite at Dotson's. With Sammy at mikeside, and the Three Stars Organ Trio on deck, the "farmhouse" will glide down under and make like torrid with its "Latin American Nite." So grab your sombrero and get set for the fiesta.

Carr's Beach main man, Algernon A. Prestwidge, told Crawlers recently this report niece did not get a break from the weatherman until July 15.

They have been saying something ever since.

But this weekend it's gotta be A-OK. Saturday, Bobby Mitchell, the hottest thing on the scene, holds forth. He's backed by the fabulous five Miller Sisters and holdovers Ruby Johnson and Bobby Parker's rocking band.

Come the Sabbath, the lid should blow. The all-star blowout, headed by the incredible Jackie Wilson, will see to that.

Crawlers have found who put "q" in bar-b-que. It was Pop of the Oakland Park Country Club. During the old - fashioned family picnic last seven, a whole gang of moms, pops and the kiddies had one whale of a feast.

They played games, ate, played games, ate and played . . . don't intend to sound like a broken record, but that's the way it wuz.

With that palatial layout and fabulous food, it could not have been otherwise. And was that Joe Allen trio saying something!

• • •

YOU HAVE been told time and again that Kleeco is the most relaxed spot in town, and that's no stage joke.

When Crawlers and friends dropped in on Walt, Jerri and Gretta the other dusk, in no time flat the place took on the appearance of a library.

The whole house made small talk while glancing the latest happenings and sipping a tall, cool one. It's that kind of spot . . . easygoing.

Maceo's Lounge has suspended weekend entertainment for the nonce. Instead informal parties and jazz sessions will move into the spotlight.

Mr. Music Man, Squeeze Box, himself, will be anchor man for the Monday sets while Waverly Edmondson will get the spotlight Thursday.

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THERE'S a solid romance between Phil's Joe Rubin and the Jazz Trio Plus One, they just can't let each other go. And there's good reason, patrons won't let 'em, and Crawlers don't blame 'em.

The same is true of a lot of other fun spots. Just look: Ruby Glover and Red Fox, Cornell Muldrow and Lucky Number, Earl Omaro and Knotty Pine, Big Ray Adams and the spot . . . They have all been swinging for lots of moons and there's no indication that they won't for many more. Why not? They all know where it's at.

Nice having Club Bali join the Crawlers for the stroll around town. It's always fairer weather when swinging cats and kittens get together. Ditto for Rally Club. Be digging you all on the NIGHTWATCH.

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WHEN YOU FINISH READING YOUR AFRO, PASS IT ALONG TO A FRIEND.

Off The Beaten Path —

BY ELIZABETH M. OLIVER

By Elizabeth M. Oliver

August, is the air a vapor bath, the children birthday, the certain begin to fall, and the weather breaks with a cool, refreshing breeze, the birds, crickets, and cicadas serve a concert, the fireflies dance, the moon is romantic, the stars seem nearer, the fireflies flash, where they went, where the cicadas family from a year to year we remember the old days, we your grandfather's name.

IN THE NEWS: LIFE, DEATH AND SIGNS OF WAR

On Wednesday, Mrs. Jane Foreman, Catonsville's incredible citizen who loved children so well she served as foster mother to 25 youngsters in 25 years, was laid to rest in Western Star Cemetery, in a green, quiet place.

I knew Mrs. Foreman when I lived in Catonsville on Rich Ave., a nearby neighbor.

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HERE IS A portrait of Mrs. Foreman who had a kindness as large and plain as a prairie wind.

Her love for little children embraced all of them, the lonely ones, the less attractive ones, the orphans, the forsaken. She listened to each whisper, each sigh at night, covered them up, handed them a "drink a water".

By day, each meal was a sensational event, with good things for each child, something nearest his heart's delight. Of eternal importance was each one's dress, his hair, his comfort.

Added to each life was something amusing, healthful recreation, something beautiful — a buttercup from the field, a dish of fresh strawberries, a new dress for a doll — all from the thoughtfulness of Mrs. Foreman.

She did a thousand things in one day, for neighbors, for friends, for the 16 blind people at the blind home in Baltimore, for the children under her wing—everything with a certain standard of excellence.

And then, by and by, God caught her eye. But, people like Aunt Jane do not die. They live on and help.

• • •

THE MASONIC Lodge of Sorrow was said for Matson Bass, East Baltimore's barber of 44 years, on Monday night at midnight.

I wrote one of my first feature stories for the AFRO on Mr. Bass who was an excellent example of an unsophisticated citizen moving among his neighbors with greatness.

Mr. Bass was golden to the core, a rare personality who managed to give something inspirational to everyone who sat in his barber chair or passed his door.

He was the idol of his children, all adults, and especially his daughter, Mrs. Bernice Stewart (Kitty) who spent every moment with him as he lay dying at Johns Hopkins Hospital last week.

Mr. Bass and his jovial wife, found the fullness of life, the beauty many rarely know, right there in their community on East Chase St. — and they passed it on to others.

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ON SUNDAY, Reginald Robinson, a Cortez Peters graduate, and a leader of the Baltimore Civic Interest Group, left by train for a little town in Mississippi to join other courageous youngsters in a voter drive.

I talked with Reggie, as we call him, and asked him "aren't you scared?" His reply held all the deadly calm he and his comrades have used in the miraculous, freedom-giving student demonstrations these past 36 months. He said: "We will register our people to vote."

• • •

THE REV. K. L. BUFORD, pastor of Butler Chapel AME Zion Church, Tuskegee, Ala., was the guest speaker at Pennsylvania Avenue AME Zion Church Sunday.

The distinguished minister also visited the AFRO along with his wife and son, and local pastor, the Rev. Clinton Coleman and his wife.

The Rev. Mr. Buford is famed as one of the courageous leaders in the Tuskegee boycott. He serves as vice - president of the Tuskegee Civic Association, the group which has registered 300 new voters in the past three months.

The Rev. Mr. Coleman has a congregation of devoted members. On Sunday more than 500 persons were present.

Mrs. Sarah Bundy, wife of Attorney James Bundy is director of the young people's choir. The male chorus is one of the finest in the city.

• • •

SIGNS OF WAR appeared in Baltimore last week, easing up on the city over night.

Young people are anxious. Home on furlough, Sgt. Elmer (Buddy) German of the Air Corps Intelligence, Morgan State College ROTC member, Ralph Berry, just returned from Indiantown Gap and Michael Johns, member of the paratroopers club, all in their early 20's, find the prospect of war exciting, they say.

A convoy of Army trucks, jeeps and heavy vehicles took 11 minutes to pass the downtown courthouse last Friday. It attracted the attention and patriotic spirit of all who stood and watched and then went away, talking about war.

• • •

AUGUST HAS been an important month in all wars since 1184 BC when the Trojan War is said to have begun in late summer. Ninevah was destroyed by the Babylonians in late summer of 612 BC; King Darius's Persian Army landed at Marathon to march on Athens in what would be about the month of August, 490 BC.

The first Crusade began in August, 1096; The American Revolution and War of Independence opened major battles on August 16, 1776; Germany declared War against Russia, Aug. 1, 1914; Japan surrendered to the Allies on Aug. 14, 1945.

The atomic bomb was dropped on Hiroshima on Aug. 6, 1945. Allied armies entered Paris, Aug. 25, 1944.

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AN ODENTON, MD. resident, Mrs. Hannah Thomas, celebrated her 97th birthday last month. She has seen four wars in her lifetime.

On her natal day, Mrs. Thomas was surprised with a gala cook-out and enjoyed it all since she is quite active, does her own housework and cares for her garden in the summer. In winter, she resides in the city with the Mark Powells in Windsor Court Apartments.

Present for the 97th birthday occasion were Mr. and Mrs. Powell, Mr. and Mrs. James Powell, Mrs. Julia Grayson, Ruth Green, Francis Powell, Beatrice Epps all of Baltimore.

• • •

CALVIN DESHIELDS, 928 Veronica Ave., Cherry Hill, for 12 years an employee of a Reisterstown Rd. cleaning establishment, is credited with helping to rescue three women trapped in the recent explosion.

He says he is still in a state of shock after nearly 40 days. Two of the women died of burns.

• • •

OLD ST. MARY'S Church on Orchard St. is being sold. The congregation moved to Walbrook two years ago.

• • •

THE REV. WILLIAM PAYNE, pastor of the Baptist Church at Franklin and Monroe, is renovating the adjacent property to expand the church.

• • •

MRS WILLIAM CHATMAN, the mortician's wife, has her license to practice in his profession.

• • •

THE REV. EDWARD G. CARROLL is among ministers enrolled at a two-week seminar at the University of Maryland.

• • •

YOUNG woodcarver, Henry Aaron, 2009 E. Oliver St., is busy receiving congratulations for his creative hobby told in a recent AFRO feature.

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RETURNING FROM a 15-day trip to Jamaica Sunday are Mrs. Odessa Howard, Misses Jesse Richardson, Evelyn Brooks and Shirley Scott, all of Baltimore.

They made the journey by plane, were along with 21 ladies from Philadelphia.

• • •

A TOTAL OF 33 Zeta Phi Beta sorority members will be off to Bermuda this weekend.

BRACED FOR a lively time during the 5 - day conclave are many of the Baltimore members of the Omega Psi Phi fraternity who wager the fraternity's fabulous events will leave $1 million behind in D.C.

Balls, dances, banquets, parties and cocktailers are all formal except the closing dance. Scheduled are such high priced bands as Duke Ellington and Count Basie.

The Baltimore brothers inform us that "nothing yet has surpassed this convention."

• • •

HARVEY TISDALE and Miss Annie Brown were among those receiving the low numbers of marriage licenses granted after the total reached 99,000. They got license No. 13.

• • •

RESIDENTS OF the 600 block Rosedale St. have asked the city authorities to fence - in the area around that 30 - foot drop - off which descends to Ellicott Driveway.

Marked as a hazzard, there is nothing to prevent a car going over the top.

• • •

BUS JOHNSON'S little son was injured when he fell from a bus last week, is improving at home after being treated at University Hospital.

• • •

AUGUST 25 AT 7 in the evening is the time for the wedding which will unite Mrs. Ray P. Tabb with Gorham Scott in marriage.

Mrs. Tabb is the popular English and social studies teacher at School 131. Mr. Scott is a teacher at the Maryland Children's Center.

The event is scheduled to take place at the home of the bride-to-be's sister - in law Mrs. Annabelle Jackson 3520 White Chapel Rd.

• • •

WEDDINGS ARE a part of the duties of a minister, the Rev. Willard Clayton informs us. His manner of performing the task is especially beautiful since he has an impressive speaking voice.

Sinclair Lewis, the author, lists the duties of a minister in his Elmer Gantry, and thinks the visits a pastor makes to his parishioners' homes to 20 to 30 minutes.

Here are the duties:

Grasp opportunities to be of service during sickness, sorrow, marriages.

Guard conversation, use a pleasing manner, laugh and use only one funny story but not scandal or criticism of others.

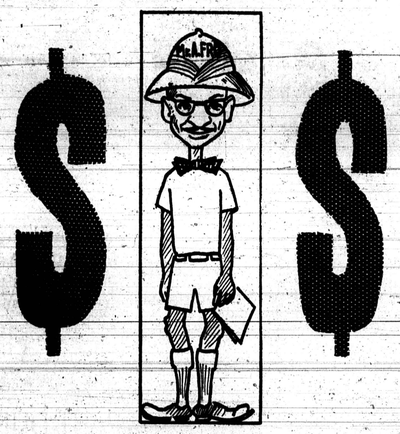
Ask family if they would like for you to pray, but, do not insist.

Be cordial to hired help.

Ask jokingly why the husband is not often in church.

CIVIC INTEREST GROUP members at a picnic held at the Patapsco State Park by the Baltimore Cosocks. The social club also plans a fund-raising benefit on behalf of the CIG. Meanwhile the Catonsville CIG unit is picketing in the Edmondson Village and negotiating with segregated places in the area. At the same time the Baltimore CIG continues to picket at the Snow White Grill chain and is negotiating with other restaurants which refuse to serve colored persons.

MR. A. FRO
IS BACK AND
GIVING AWAY
MONEY
EACH WEEK



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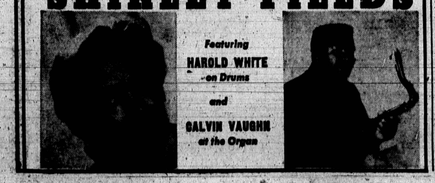

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NIGHTS

How can Negro women prevent uterine CANCER?
Why are cases of uterine cancer nearly twice as high among Negro women as in the general population? What can Negro women do to prevent this alarming rise in a crippling, often fatal disease? Read, "Uterine Cancer Can Be Cured," in the August NEGRO DIGEST.

Will U. S. Atty. Gen. Kennedy enforce CIVIL RIGHTS?
The Attorney General of the United States speaks his mind on the subject of civil rights. Will there be new meaning and force behind the laws on the books? Read his important statement in the August NEGRO DIGEST.

WE MUST WINS JOBS, TOO
How Philadelphia boycott "thought" jobs for NEGROES!
400 ministers want the Sun Oil Company to employ 24 Negroes. $7,000 a week in sales to Negroes is being lost. What is the future of company boycotts? Read, "The Boycott That Bought Jobs," in the August NEGRO DIGEST.

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RALLY CLUB
Forest and Ensor Streets
presents
Music by
SWINDELL'S BAND
Monday, Wednesday and Thursday.
Friday, Saturday and Sunday
Music by
THE CORVETTS
Music from 9 P.M. to 2 A.M.

Frank Reddish presents
The Newest, Hottest
Musical Group in Town!
The
3 STARS
ORGAN
TRIO

12 Minutes from your House

SHUTTERBUG GROUP
Presents
MISS BALTIMORE BATHING BEAUTY CONTEST
SAT., AUG. 19th – 2 P.M. (Judging 6 P.M.)
AT THE
AQUA POOL COUNTRY CLUB
★ Fashions by PAULINE BROOKS SALON
★ Music by JIMMY SMITH
★ Swimming in the OLYMPIC POOL
For Subscriptions Contact the Following Clubs:
THE GOSSOCKS — THE AVALONS
THE REGENTS — THE UNIQUE GENTS
THE TRANSIT YONKERS — THE EL DORADOS
THE MASTER BEAUTICIANS — THE AQUA POOL COUNTRY CLUB
SHUTTERBUG GROUP — 2112 W. NORN AVENUE
DIRECTIONS: Edmondson Ave. to Route 40 — 4 miles pass Rockwood Forest to Marriott Rd. Turn right, 4 miles to club.