WHAT'S HAPPENING

BY IDA M. PETERS

The former Wilson's Restaurant at North and Penna. is being re-opened by a new company, Penway, Inc. headed by Gary Reynolds, president; Frank Robinson, vice-president.

Bookings are now being accepted. An extensive renovation program is being started.

NICE PEOPLE

Music at the First Annual Walter P. Carter Awards benefit given by the Eyewatchers Assoc. was by Sounds Inc. at Mondawmin Mall, last Saturday.

They had depth and each of the performers could qualify as an expert. They are inmates of the Maryland House of Correction at Jessup.

Nice person, Freida Coleman, a Social Worker for Family and Children's Society is a member of Sounds Inc. Advisory Board. Her group meets at Jessup each week and makes contacts for outside engagements.

Proudly enjoying the music was Warden Ralph Williams and Assistant Warden, Marcellus Moore and their wives.

* * *

5th DIMENSION

Now considered one of the finest vocal groups in the country, the 5th Dimension is booked for the Civic Center, Sunday, March 19th at 8 p.m.

Now about the individuals:

Although born in New Jersey, Marilyn McCoo, is really a product of Los Angeles where she was brought up as the daughter of a prominent physician. According to her father, Marilyn could sing even before she could talk, and as a child determined that show business would be her life's work.

THE ARENA PLAYERS will present "The Mousetrap" weekends at the Arena Playhouse, 406 Orchard St., tonight through March 24. From left to right: William Eldridge, Loraine Brown, Bonnie Randolph, Peter Allen, Harvey Denmark, G. Scott, John Feathers and Mary West Miller, seated.

Her first real taste of it came at the age of 15 where she made her television debut on Spotlight on Young, a local Los Angeles program. She entered UCLA as a major in Theatre Arts but, strangely enough, switched over to Business Administration in which she graduated with a Bachelor of Arts degree.

At the age of 19, Marilyn won the "Miss Bronze Grand Talent Award," as well as the Miss Congeniality award in the same contest. Marilyn had a great deal going for her. Being a college graduate and a classic beauty, these elements brought her to the pages of the top glamour magazines. Her unusually rich voice has a four octave range which contributes a great deal to the quality of The 5th Dimension.

BILLY DAVIS JR.

Billy is the most volatile member of the group. He is impetuous, humorous and optimistic, and a never failing pick-me-up when the spirits of the other members fail. Born in St. Louis, Missouri, Billy worked at a number of odd jobs until he saved enough money to open his own cocktail lounge which he planned to use as an entertainment workshop. He experimented with vocal groups and developed a knack for staging and sound.

Billy found that singing was his greatest interest, and he formed his own rock group called The Emeralds. After a number of night club engagements and recording dates with a small label, the group switched to gospel music, and changed their name to The Saint Gospel Singers.

Billy's search for his right niche ended when he became one of The 5th Dimension group, where he also found the love of his life in his marriage to Marilyn.

* * *

MORGAN ALUMNI

The Baltimore Chapter of The Morgan State College Alumni Association is sponsoring its 2nd annual fashion show on Sunday, March 12, 1972, at the Le Fontaine Bleu, 3120 Erdman Avenue, (near Belair Road), for the benefit of the scholarship fund.

An evening of the latest fashions will be presented by Pauline Brooks. Cocktails start at 6 p.m., dinner at 7:30 p.m. Mrs. Beverly Reid is chairman of the fashion show committee.

The chapter also invites you to join them in an evening at the races on April 20th, at Charles Town, W. Va. Contact alumni office for further information.

Morganites in the Baltimore area are also extended an invitation to join the Baltimore Chapter. The chapter meets once a month, the Morgan style, on March 12th.

THEATRE PROJECT

EIDAPUS the Future King, a ritual of mythic renewal, will open at the Theatre Project, 45 West Preston Street, on Thursday, March 16.

Colin Heath is designing and directing the production. He developed the concepts in EIDAPUS over the past eight years. The Oedipus myth is enacted as a play within a play as a community prepares its future king for rule.

In addition to using the Sophocles tragedy as text, the play makes unique use of masks and ten foot puppet costumes. Mime sequences and new vocal techniques are an integral part of the production, as are the musical instruments made by Hugh Robbins from found objects.

EIDAPUS will play every Wednesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday through April 1. There is no admission charge. Curtain time is 8:30 p.m. For further information, call 539-3090.

* * *

"AIN'T GOT NO TEETH"

"The Best in Black Theatre," a series of productions depicting the black experience, continues with the presentation of two one-act plays on the Little Theatre stage at Morgan State College's Murphy Fine Arts Center.

Both productions, according to Harmon Watson, associate director of the Ira Aldridge Players, will open on Thursday, and run a Sunday matinee performance on March 12. They will also be staged the following week, beginning with a March 16 performance and continuing through March 19.

The plays — "Ain't Got No Teeth," a new one-acter by Marion K. Corprew, and "El Hajj Malik," by N. R. Davidson — are directed by Adrienne Britt, who is best known in the Baltimore area as the hostess of "Black is . . ." on Channal 67. A graduate of Howard University and Catholic University, where she earned the Master of Fine Arts Degree, she has worked with several local theatre groups. She is also a former instructor at Morgan.

"Ain't Got No Teeth" made its premiere performance last night. Corprew, who wrote this production, is the executive producer for urban affairs at WMPB-TV.

All productions, Watson said, will begin at 7:30 p.m. except the Sunday matinee performances which start at 3:30 p.m.

These two outstanding one-act productions are being sponsored by the Nu Phi cast of Alpha Psi Omega and the Ira Aldridge Players, the third in a series of "The Best in Black Theatre."

"OVERS"

Corner Theatre, 891 N. Howard St. continues "Powah" Thursdays, Fridays, Saturdays through March 25th.

* * *

"Cinderella," Sergei Prokofiev's Ballet Film, will be presented by Young Audiences, Inc. at Shriver Hall on the Hopkins campus, Sunday, March 26th at 2 and 4 p.m.

* * *

Morgan State College Music Dept. and the Maryland Symphonette will present Young Artists of Tomorrow, directed by Angelo Gatto, Sunday, March 19th at 8 p.m., Murphy Auditorium.

The Morgan State Jazz Ensemble, directed by Calvin Lampley will also perform.

in "An Unpleasant Evening with H. L. Mencken" at Ford's Theatre in D.C.

* * *

The long-awaited Broadway musical hit, "Promises, Promises," will play a limited 2 week engagement at the Morris A. Mechanic Theatre in Baltimore, opening Monday, March 13 thru Saturday, March 25. Monday thru Thursday evenings commence at 8 p.m., Friday and Saturday evenings at 8:30 p.m., and the Wednesday and Saturday matinees have a 2 p.m. curtain. "Promises, Promises" recently concluded a three year run in New York.

Based on the Oscar-winning film, "The Apartment," "Promises, Promises" was born of an idea by producer David Merrick to create a musical out of the story of a little smudge of an insurance clerk in a mammoth corporation who rises to the rank of junior executive by lending his small apartment to philandering senior execs.

SILAS WHITE is a plague victim in the new production "Eidapus The Future King." Based on Sophocles' Greek tragedy, the play features masks, nine and ton-foot tall puppet costumes. Show opens Thursday, March 16 at Theatre Project, 45 W. Preston St.

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LAST 5 DAYS!

EMPLOYEES CAFETERIA — This modern dining area with its panoramic view of Baltimore Harbor will accommodate 550 employees. Shown enjoying their lunch in the new cafeteria are left to right: Mrs. Muriel Gwynn, Alonzo Lamont and Warren Gwynn.

The AFRO visits the new $25 million Post Office

By PAM WIDGEON

If you have been in the downtown area recently and have wondered what the large building is at Fayette and Colvin St., it is the new Post Office.

This $25,000,000 postal facility spans an entire block.

Its six-story office tower houses public service sections and administrative offices as well as a cafeteria which can accomodate 500 people at a time.

Fixed equipment estimated the cost $5,000,000 includes parcel-sorting systems, sack-sorting machine and conveyor system, letter-sorting machines, zip mail translator, edger-stackers and facer-cancelors affixed to a floor area about the size of 16 football fields.

There are 36 cameras and 25 monitors used to observe the operation of the mechanized conveyor systems.

The cameras strategically located will enable the persons monitoring the systems, the opportunity to immediately recognize, isolate and correct any mechanical or other defect which may impeded the overall operation.

The AFRO recently had a chance to go on a tour, talk to some of the employees and see the latest models of mailhandling equipment.

Miss Herline O. Jackson, a receptionist who will greet you as you enter the main entrance stated "I like the new office, it has new facilities and is very convenient. I am very happy here."

Miss Bernadette Morgan, employed with the post office for six years, is an operator of the LSM/ZMT machine, letter sorter machine-zip mail translate. She told the AFRO "There is a lot of walking to do in the large building and I like my new job.

Operators of this machine which is a new one for the Baltimore post office are able to sort 60 letters a minute according to the zip code.

There are four letter sorting machines and each is capable of processing 36,000 letters per hour. Four parcel sorting machines each capable of processing 1,800 parcels per hour.

Daily 35,000 parcels are delivered on 154 parcel post routes.

Total pieces handled annually by the Baltimore post office is estimated at 1,210,854,000 of which 816,000,000 are originating pieces.

If you are interested in taking your group or class on an educational, exciting and interesting tour, I suggest you make plans soon to visit our new spacious postoffice.

In 1947, the average person would receive six letters a year. In 1971, each individual received 425.

Collections are made daily from 3,521 mail boxes and 130 public building mail chutes.

* * *

There are 2,023 postal carriers effect delivery to 447,459 families totaling 1,558,893 customers and 34,183 business on 7,588 streets and steadily increasing.

EXTERIOR OF NEW POST OFFICE—The new six story post office is located at Fayette and Colvin St., it opened around the first of November and spans an entire block.

"Save the Children" opens in Columbia

COLUMBIA — On Saturday, March 11 the curtain will rise for the premier performance of an original musical production, "Save the Children," written and directed by Columbia resident, Mrs. Ruteena Blake.

The opening will take place in Slayton House in the Village of Wild Lake. The Saturday evening performance, however, is closed to the public with admission by invitation only.

On Sunday, the show will officially open with a performance for the public at 8:30 p.m. Tickets are $4 and may be purchased at the door or may be reserved by calling 730-6075.

"The musical, which traces the plight of innercity children, trapped deep within the black ghetto, is a realistic portrayal of that which does exist," says Mrs. Blake.

The play focuses on the lives of two young children and tells of their problems.

The show is given added flair by the appearance of the well-known Baltimore group, Frankie and the Spindells, who, according to Mrs. Blake, "have faithfully worked arranging the music and rehearsing with the cast".

Another added attraction within the show is the creative dance routines choreographed by Travis Winkey.

The play contains all the necessary elements to make the show realistic and alive to the viewer.

Members of the cast include: Princeton NcClure, Queen Esther Hill, Janie Gibbs, Cassandra Tuggle, Janet Brown, Mansie Gibbs, Doris Tuggle, Herman Winkey, Rae Ross and Brenda Sharpe.

Also, Darryl Bowles, 9, and Kurt Blake, 6 are both making their acting debut.

Miss Katie Grove is the musical director. Mrs. Mary Reinhardt and Mrs. Alfreda Bowles are co-producers for the show.

NEW MACHINES—Shown are operators operating the LSM/ZMT Letter sorter machine zip mail translator (LSM/ZMT). These are new to the post office. Each operator can key 60 letters a minute according to the zip codes.

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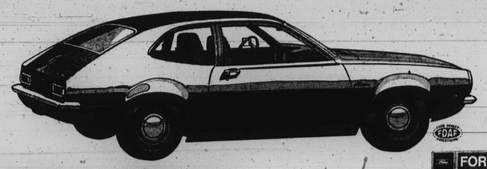

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