Manhattans, Temptations Philippe, Honi & Jay

By Ida Peters

The Manhattans, the Columbia recording stars who have delighted audiences all over the world and most recently in Germany with their hits "I Kinda Miss You" and "It feel So Good" are headlining a day-long festival at Nixon's Farm on Route 40 this Sunday.

William Jones the promoter has put up huge candy-stripped Festival Tent shelter around the stage for the concert on the grass and arranged for buses to leave from Mondawmin.

The beauty pageant is being directed by Mrs. Ruth Ann Brooks and the AFRO's Janice Stewart. WWIN's Curtis Anderson and Diamond Jim Sears from WEBB are judges.

Natural Gas and The Finess will entertain as will some of B-More's outstanding night club talent including Fabulous Friends Plus Ones Rhonda Melvin of Gatsby's Bunch, Mickey and Shirley Fields, Ruby Glover, Earline Reid and Vernon Webb, Tiny Tim, Smokey Robinson, James and Carlos Johnson.

The Mighty Temptations, Melvin Franklin, Richard Street, Glenn Leonard, Otis Williams and Ralph they have gone Louis Price, even though they have gone through some personnel changes, are still packing them in and are at Shady Grove Music Theatre in Rockville, Md. this weekend.

Their special guests star is Philippe Wynn, formerly of the Spinners and now out on his own. If you missed him with Al Breen you can catch him with The Temps.

He was not hurt in any accident but two of his musicians, Don Juan Martin, drummer and Harold Fisher, bassist were, which made him miss the Painters Mills date.

In a telephone interview with Phillippe he says he has been in New York and Detroit readying his new album "Starting All Over."

He'll be singing this new tune at Shady Grove. It's not always fun Taking a chance/ When you've always won.

Close friends and family / Might call you a fool But they don't always know / It's something you've got to do.

His new song continues. With God on my side/ Starting all over is more than a dream/ Growing is worth more than material things.

Right on Phillippe! He'll also be singing "Mighty Love" and "Sadie".

Honi and Jay Flash Riley have taken over the leads of "Bubbling Brown Sugar" at the Mechanic Theatre.

Coles is a veteran performer of the stage, vaudeville, television and concert world. A native of Philadelphia, he performed for two years on Broadway in the hit "Gentlemen Prefer Blondes" and then toured with the show nationally for another year.

In New York he has performed in concert at Carnegie Hall and Town Hall while cross the United States he has played every major theatre with such greats as Cab Calloway, Count Basie, Duke Ellington, Billy Eckstine, Louis Armstrong and Buddy Rich. He has performed in leading houses throughout Europe and has performed in such stock productions as Kiss Me Kate, "Girl Crazy," and "Melody Fair."

He has taught at Yale, Duke, and New Paltz and was production manager of the Apollo Theatre.

Jay Flash Riley is a consummate performer who, in the 1930's and 1940's, played at such fashionable clubs as the Kit Kat, Leon and Eddie's, the Blue Angel, Small's Paradise and the International Casino.

He made his Broadway debut in Orson Welles' Native Son" and later appeared in "Carmen Jones," "On the Town," "Finian's Rainbow," "Peter Pan" and in "Porgy and Bess," and "South Pacific at City Center. His most recent Broadway appearance was in "The Wiz." He created the role of the Governor General in Genet's "The Blacks."

* * *

A benefit July 31 at Center Stage featuring Ethel Ennis is for former director of TNT Maris Ross who is destitute and needs help. She was instrumental in helping disadvantaged children receive an education.

Rock Hudson is starring as King Arthur in Lerner and Loewe's romantic and lavish musical comedy at Painters Mill Music Fair through Sunday, July 17.

The Kool Jazz Festival will be at the Capital Center Aug 5-6 with such artists as Rufus, Chaka Khan, Tavares, Joe Tex, Natalie Cole, Teddy Pendergrass, and Roy Ayers.

Jermaine Jackson Motown star has been set as a special attraction on Hal Jackson's Talented Teens International television special to be taped July 30 at the Longhorn Theatre in Los Angeles, July 30.

The Miss Black America Pageant will be colorcast live on NBC network Friday, Sept. 9. Twanna Kilgore is the reigning Miss Black America. Regional contests are now underway to select the contestants.

Honi Coles has role of Mr. Sage in "Bubbling Brown Sugar." Avon Long has returned to the Broadway Company.

The Manhattans at Nixon's Farm

Capitol Ballet at Dunbar High

The Capitol Ballet of Washington will be performing at the Dunbar Performing Arts Center at Orleans Central Avenue this Sunday, July 17 at 2:30 p.m. The performance will be offered free to the public by the Cultural Arts Project.

The program will include classical, modern and jazz pieces staring with "Flair For Movement" choreographed by Doris W. Jones to tht music of Gustov Hilst's "The Perfect Fool". The lead dancers will be Sandra Fortune and Leroy Cowan.

Ms. Fortune herself, has just returned from an arduous international competion in Russia where she made it through the third level towards qualifying for the world famous Kirov School of the Ballet in Leningrad.

"Enony Concerto" Pas de Deux with music of the same by Igor Strapinsky was also choreographtd by Ms. Jones and danced by Mr. Cowan and Ms. Fortune.

Hinton Battle who has just returned from dancing in "The Wiz" on Broadway and is about to join the Chicago Bellet as a featured dancer, has choreographed a jazz piece entitled "Hinty" which he dances with Shirley Brown.

Sandra Fortune and Hinton Battle will dance together in "Tarentella Pas de Deux" by Gottschalk and the program will be rounded out with "Dance of Six" with choreography by Joyce Trisler and music by Antinio Vivaldi.

For more information, please call 276-4646. Cultural Arts Project is sponsored by the Urban Services Agency.

Rock Hudson is King Arthur in "Camelot" at Painters Mill.

The Temptations at Shady Grove in Rockville this weekend.

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Hollywood party draws celebrities

BEVERLY HILLS, June 29 — The elegance, excitement and glamour of Hollywood in the 1930's returned for a few hours at the gala "Cocktails for Two" party at Greystone.

More than 500 invited guests, including motion picture, television and recording stars and business leaders, were treated to a nostalgic extravaganza by Isidore A. Bicker, chairman of the board of Schenley Industries.

The lush courtyards of the famous 18-acre mansion were transformed into the 1930's style that made Hollywood parties legends four decades ago. From the entrance to the former Doheny estate, where a Pierce Arrow, Cadillac Limousine Convertible and other automobiles owned by the affluent society of the 30's were parked, to the red carpet the guests found at the top of the sweeping driveway, the tone of the evening was pure elegance.

Freddie Martin and his 16-piece Orchestra and Bob Crosby and the Bobcats reminisced with Cocktails for Two," "Million Dollar Baby," "Sweet Georgia Brown' and I've Got the World on a String," while the guests danced on a black-and-white checked dance floor. A foyer in the main house was also tuned into a piano bar, where celebrity guests joined in on Did You Ever See A Dream Walking," "Life is Just a bowl of Cherries," and other "top thirty" favorites.

Beneath the delicately-lighted trees and the fast-paced chaser lights were lavish food tables. One 80-foot round table surrounded a beautiful courtyard fountain, and featured huge ice carvings with lobster, Shrimp and other seafood treats, plus pheasant, prime rib and many other gourmet delights.

Jean Harlow, Carole Lombard and Groucho Marx were seen gliding across the dance floor — or at least it seemed that way to many people who had to look twice. Actually, these celebrity look-alikes" — Schenley sponsored last last week — were just one of the extra touches added for the Cocktails for Two" extravaganza.

Guests were given the option of wearing thirties-style attire or black tie, and many chose the colorful costumes of four decades ago. Even the butlers wore black tuxedos with wingled collars, and the waitresses wore typical 1930's dresses with Jean Harlow wigs.

Raymond St. Jacques and friends

LaVar Burton with Winter Chatman

Vonetta McGee and Lou Gossett

The Floaters are flying

By Frederick I. Douglass

By Frederick I. Douglass

Suddenly the airwaves are being dominated by a Detroit-based group known as the Floaters who are flying sky high with a twelve minute tune entitled "Float On" which is taking the nation by storm. Prior to cutting their debut album "The Floaters," the group was relatively unknown outside of the Detroit area. They had toured parts of the United States as a warmup group for other attractions and went to the Bahamas with the Detroit Emeralds, but they were truly unknowns without a record. Then came their album with the phenomenal track "Float On" and everything began to change for the young men.

Who are the Floaters? who are turning the music Who are these brothers who are turning the music business upside down with their incredible sound They are Ralph Mitchell, the group's lead singer; Charles Clark, first tenor; Paul Mitchell, baritone; and Larry Cunningham, second tenor and choreographer. Together, they are a powerhouse of talent that generates excitement and celebration of life.

The Fliattrs debut album is the hottest thing ever to be released on the ABC Records label and is making the group the biggest selling new artists in the company's history. Within the first two weeks of the album's release there were orders for more than 20,000 copies of the LP in Detroit and Cleveland Suddenly orders began pouring in from New York, Chicago and other parts of the country and within a month from the release of the Floaters' album, sales had reached more than a quarter of a million. That's a lot of records to sell in a highly competitive market, especially when times are so hard and money is so scarce.

Now every black oriented radio station in the nation is spinning the Floaters' platter day and night, all twelve minutes of it. I understand that ABC records is editing the song for a shorter single release. However, I have talked to a few of my friends who spin discs on the radio and they say that even if a single comes out, they will continue to play the long album version because that's what the listerners want to hear.

In my opinion, you would be investing your hard earned ducats more wisely if you spend it on the group's album instead of buying the single. The album contains super heavy tunes like "You Don't Have To Say You Love Me" which is a classic of black music and a jam named "I'm So Glad You Took My Time" which has beaucoup Top-40 potential. Plus, the album has the original version "Float On" which is right on time for the summer parties and late night trysts with your favorite lady. The Floaters will have you floating all through the summer and well into the fall months with their highly original vocal acrobatics.

Bill Lane in Hollywood

ALTHOUGH SINGER Aretha Franklin swears she does not want to make Los Angeles her home, she imaged like a true citizen the other day when on the city's City Hall steps she sang "The Impossible Dream" at the inauguration services observing the beginning of Tom Bradley's second term as mayor of the City of The Angels.

But one of the most talked-about singers of the day was singer Thelma Houston, who starred at the cabaret ball held as a night-capper" for the inaugural celebration. She shook up the crowds at the city's World Trade Center.

KENNEY BURRELL opening a jazz concert set at the Hong Kong Bar, jazz-oriented side room at the Century Plaza hotel here — Marilyn McCoo and Billy Davis opening a packed house set July7) at the Universial Amphitheatre, doing their current songhit, "Your Love."

FRANKIE Gay, singing brother of Marvin Gaye, was talking about some singers and music act that are famous around the world "yet you seldom here anything about them. They're famous, and nobody knows them." He was speaking of a singing group called The Rumaways. The singers are currently in Los Angeles for press talks. But they have made two recent albums that have gone Gold in Japan, a country where all of their concerts are sold out. Two of their albums have made Gold status in Australia, and their recording are selling like crazy in Europe, where they are just lining up a tour. A new album of theirs, on Polydor, will be confined to sales only in Japan, a country where many albums are now being done, what with their expert recording and graphic-arts methods.

* * *

A REPORT on sneak prevues held for Richard Pryor's first starring movie, "Greased Lightning," makes it look like the film based on the life of black racing ace Wendell Scott—will be a runaway hit. It has its world premire July 15 in Atlanta, hometowns of Mayor Maynard Jackson and legislator Julian Bond, both of whom are in the movie.

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Light Street Branch: Puzzles and games, 1 p.m.

Central Library, Wheeler Auditorium: Films—"Five on Treasure Island," "The Booboo Monster Enters a Beauty Contest," "The Fable of He and She," and "A Boy and a Boa," 2 p.m.

Fells Point Center: Films — "The Red Balloon," "Pancho," and "Brats," 3 p.m. and 7 p.m.

Tues., July 19

Canton Center: Films — "Cheetah," "The Red Balloon," and "The Wonderful Lollipop Rooster," 10:30 a.m.

Gardenville Branch: Films — "The Marble" and "Caterpillar," 2 p.m.

Light Street Branch: Sunrise film, 2 p.m.

Morrell Park Center: Films — "Harold's Fairy Tale" and "The Red Balloon," 3 p.m.

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