To Scatman, it's all in a day

By Bob Williams

From all appearances, Scatman Crothers appears to be a very happy man. He's been around a long time he'll tell you, playing parts in this movie and that, appearing on television from time to time. It's been a good life, an "honest way to make a living."

And that's about it.

"I like to work," he says simply. "I don't prefer one medium over another. They're all okay. As long as I'm working, that's all that counts."

There's a brief, uncertain pause.

Well, Scatman, have you always liked the movies?

"Don't much care, one way or the other".

But didn't you used to act all by yourself or watch every movie you could so that you could learn your craft?

"Nope. I don't go to the movies much."

Again, an uncertain pause lingers between artist and interviewer. Finally, an outburst:

"Well, how can you be an actor and not even be interested in the movies?"

Some people would shake their heads and say that Scatman never had the breaks that other performers have had, but he would quickly disagree. He's been happy, and he still is. He began his performing career with a small band in Akron, Ohio and preferred to stay in the midwest despite the fact that "that band could have been the biggest thing since..." But the other members of the band didn't want to go to New York—the thing to do, supposedly. And so Scatman, satisifed with the sounds and talent around him, stayed in the midwest.

"Oh, how, I played in New York. I played the Apollo and couple of the other big places. But there wasn't any need for me to get all hung up in New York".

He proceeds to beat on the table with his fingers, drumming out a "tune" he made up for Clint Eastwood and another for the people of Boise, Idaho.

"Yeah, I saw 'The Shining' after it was all done. It was okay with me...No. I didn't ask Stanley Kubrick why he had me killed off in the last scene. It was his movie."

Scatman, come on, what do you like to do?

"I like music, all kinds of music. I like to make up tunes..." Again, the beating on the table.

"Are you always so happy?"

He stops his movement for a second and throws a puzzled look across the table.

"Yes," he says finally.

He is beginning to be a bit more interested in his surroundings by this point.

"Hey," he says, "you can ask me anything you want." And he drops his voice, very serious.

"Look," he says, "there's nothing to this movie stuff. We're no better than anybody else. It's work, that's all, it's an honest living.

"It makes me mad that some people get so caught up in their own importance just because they've been lucky enough to make a few pictures. Do you know some of them won't even sign autographs? And don't they know that those people who want autographs are the people that made them?

"I used to bus dishes and wait on tables. I've done a lot of things, I'll tell you that. And I'm not too proud to do it again."

He stops and plays with a blue deck cap he has with him. Smiling, he reaches over and places it on this interviewers head and continues his story.

"I was born Benjamin Sherman Crothers 68 years ago. B.S. Crothers," he says, pausing and laughing easily.

"Sure, I'm married! Been married 43 years and have a daughter 31 years old. I tell you. I'm normal."

By this time he's walking back and forth, complaining about the "arthur-tis" in his knee.

"I did a pretty good job of falling dead in "The Shining", didn't I? Nicholson (Jack) asked me if could fall, and I said sure...but I didn't know I'd have to fall so many times! I must have rehearsed that fall 25 times! By the time I was finished I had to go to a chiropractor."

He's ready to go now. But he stops and looks back.

"You can ask me anything you want," he says. "I mean it."

And then he's gone. Sixty-eight years of self contentment bounds down the steps, ready for the next stop. It's a strange feeling that he has left behind...but it's okay, Mr. B.S. Crothers.

We will meet again.

Scatman Crothers, as Halloran in Stanley Kubrick's latest film, "The Shining," takes an ill-fated drive to a resort hotel. The movie is now playing at area theaters.

Bill Lane in Hollywood

Hollywood is still trying to recover from the shock of the Richard Pryor accident. The young comic had just finished filming his star role in the movie "Family Dreams," directed by Sidney Poitier, and Mel Brooks had another movie ready for him.

Meanwhile, the young fellow from the singing family, and who was injured in a recent auto accident, reportedly moved from the family manse in with the Italian beauty, some years his senior, whom he'd told friends he plans to marry.

"The Blues Brothers" soundtrack album on Atlantic is a powerful collection of music and songs, featuring Aretha Franklin, James Brown and Ray Charles, and the blues duo of "singers", Dan Aykroyd and John Belushi.

The ABC-TV movie "Don't Look Back," based on the life of the homespun pitching genius Satchel Paige, got a setback when the producer Stanley Rubin up and fired director George C. Scott and assistant director Charlie Washburn on filming location down in Hattiesburg, Miss. It shook up Chi Bears star Walter Payton, also in the movie, who's from Mississippi too. Lou Gossett plays Paige in the film. Washburn said Paige, now 73, is not being consulted regularly on the story of his life, "as he should be." The Rubin film is set to be aired on network TV in Oct., during the World Series.

Bennie Ashburn, manager of the Commodores, and Solar Records prexy Dick Griffey, who is also head of the Black Concert Promoters, told this writer that they had amicably settled their riffle over Jerry Weintraub's selection to head the new 96-city tour of the Commodores. And that's concert promos. Other regional promoters will also be included, said Ashburn.

The new John Davidson TV series started out fast—signing numerous Motown artists for openers, along with Nancy Wilson, Peaches and Herb, Chaka Khan and Barry White. Nancy Wilson says she'll soon be announcing her Big tennis tourney.

The show should be called "Shake Your Booty," for there's so much of it going on in the happy South African musical "Ipi-Tombi" now on stage at the Hartford in Hollywood. It's beguiling but betraying, for the pretty songs and many monologues heard by the audience come not from the lips of the performers onstage, and not from a pit orchestra, but from pre-recorded tapes played over the loudspeaker system. The artists merely lip-sync.

SINGER CHERYL LYNN (C), one of music's rising young stars points to the award she won at this year's Third Annual Rhythm 'n' Blues Awards. Ms. Lynne is joined by singer-guitarist Rick James (L) and actor Lawrence Hilton-Jacobs.

Barry White

Nancy Wilson

Chaka Khan

—Park Heights

Continued from page 1

The next six months will bring continued planning and implemenlation, Berkowitz said, which includes identifying potential employees and creating a job bank through existing Manpower offices in the area.

Target date for completion is 1985.

The Park Heights community is also receiving a $60,000 federal grant to promote economic development, according to U.S. Sen. Paul Sarbanes.

The funds will be channeled to PHDC and will be used to encourage existing business to remain and attract new outlets capable to creating jobs, Sarbanes said.

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What's Happening

By Bettye Moss, substituting for Ida Peters who is on vacation

A large group of fathers and sons turned out for the annual father-son breakfast at 7 a.m. on Sunday at the Cherry Hill Community Presbyterian Church.

Benson Haros a member of the Presbyterian Men and breakfast committee, presided. He was pleased that all four of his sons were in attendance.

Other program participants: Abraham Martin, chaplain, who gave the invocation; William Beal, who welcomed the early risers, Westmoreland, who introduced special guests;

Also, Carlton Simmons, who gave the history and purpose of the annual event which has been sponsored for over 20 years by the Presbyterian Men who sponsor the church's Boy Scouts and support other civic and community endeavors.

District Court Judge James Bundy introduced the speaker, YMCA executive-emeritus, A. Paul Moss. Awards were presented by James McCrea. George Harrod chaired the breakfast. The Rev. William Hunt is pastor.

Young people performed during the entertainment segment of the event.

Father of the Year

Another Sunday father's day program attracted a large crowd to Grace United Presbyterian Church. Honoree here was Dr. Lonnie Greene, who has been hospitalized, but is up and out.

There were tears of joy and applause when it was announced he had been selected as the church's man of the year 1980. The Rev. Williams Peters is pastor.

Also during this service, special commendation was given members of the church who graduated this season. Among them, Virginia Moore, M.A. from Hopkins; Joyce Brown, M.S., George Washington U., Thomasine Kirkland, M.S. Morgan U.

Back from China

James Griffin, the former school board member, is back from a study tour of China. He left on May 18, with a group of physical therapists, representing the American Physical Therapy Association.

The three - week trip took them to Manila, the People's Republic of China and Hong Kong.

He reports that the dialogue and exchange of information between U.S. physical therapists and those in Manila, China and Hong Kong, was enlightening.

Cuff Note: The Griffins are getting to be world travellers. Jim and wife, Cardrienne initially

They returned to West Africa in August of 1979 with their four children, Cheryl, Debbie, Jewel and Malcolm for a three — week visit. They visited Dakar, Freetown, Monrovia, and Abidjan on the Ivory Coast. At the time they were representing The Henry McNeil Turner Society of Bethel AME Church.

AME's Meeting...

Speaking of the AME Church, reminds the writer that there is great excitment in New Orleans this week, where the quadrennial conference of the denomination is in session. Hundreds are there from all over the U.S. and abroad.

A large contingent of Baltimore area residents is in attendance to witness election and reassignment of bishops, set policies and establish budgets and other pertinent business for the next four years.

Sympathy

E. Alonzo Moore, well-known Baltimore businessman, and co-owner with his wife, Sue, of the Plaza Manor Nursing Home in Glen Burnie, died on Tuesday evening at Md. General. Rites are Sunday evening at the Redd Funeral Home.

Many may recall when he ran the Scarlett Country Club in Westminster and also a popular restaurant on McCulloh.

Esther Lazarus

The poor and disadvantaged had a friend in Easther Lazarus, a pioneer social activist in our Baltimore town. Her death this week at the age of 80, brings memories of her active years when she dared to take the bull by the horn to speak for dignity for people who were forced on welfare.

The Baltimore Marketing Association holds its gala semi-formal disco at the Kittamaqundi Room of the Rouse Company Building in Columbia, June 21 at 8:30 p.m. Music is by Flight 306 formerly Tomorrow's Promise.

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Weekend TV Watching

By Vanessa Johnson

Friday

Dinah & Friends: From New York guests are Anthony Perkins, Stephanie Mills, Mia Farrow and others. 4:00-5:30 p.m.-Ch. 4.

— —

Tenspeed and Brown Shoe: E.L. and Lionel are determined to find out if a random killing by a mental patient was, in fact, the work of a hired gun. Starring Ben Vereen. 10:00-11:00 p.m. Ch. 13.

— —

Rev. Ike Success Show: Rev. Ike is joined by guests including James Cleveland and Linda Hopkins in a program focusing on success and prosperity. 10:00-11:00 p.m.-Ch. 20.

— —

Midnight Special: Host Eddie Rabbitt is joined by Jermaine Jackson, Teena Marie and others. 1:00-2:30 a.m.-Ch. 11.

Saturday

Fat Albert: A story about a bully who terrorizes the neighborhood. Hosted by Bill Cosby. 11:30-12:00 p.m.-Ch. 2.

— —

Soul Train: A salute to Barry White is featured. Songs: "Sheet Music" and "I Believe in Music". 12:30-1:30 p.m.-Ch. 11.

— —

In Search of...: A visit with an African tribe that may have been the recipient of lore from outer space. 4:00-4:30 p.m.-Ch. 20.

— —

Greater Baltimore Baffle: Panelists include WJZ-TV's "Evening Magazine" tipster J.C. Greene. 7:00-7:30 p.m.-Ch. 13.

— —

Rebel Slave: Accompanying their master to the Battle of Gettysburg, two young slaves must choose between running for freedom or returning for freedom or returning to their home and families. Starring Sidney Smith and Kevin Smith. 7:30-8:00 p.m.-Ch. 11.

— —

U.S. Olympic Trials, Boxing: Although they won't travel to Moscow, the 11 winners of tonight's bouts in Atlanta will gain entry into a select circle whose past members include Floyd Patterson (1952), Muhammad Ali (1960), Joe Frazier (1964), Ray Leonard, (1976) and many more. Pre-competition favorites included Marvis Frazier, Joe's son, the 1980 AAU heavyweight champion. 8:00-11:00 p.m.-Ch. 11.

— —

Don Kirshner's Rock Concert: Music by Rufus and Chaka Khan, comedy by Jimmie Walker. 2:00-3:30 a.m.-Ch. 4.

Carl Rowan

Sunday

Tony Brown's Journal: A profile of astronaut Frederick Gregory, who is a member of NASA's space-shuttle crew. 1:00-1:30 p.m.-Ch. 4.

— —

Greatest Sports Legends: A tribute to Henry Aaron, who hit more home runs (755) than any other player in major - league history. 3:00-3:30 p.m. -Ch. 7.

— —

Movie: "Romeo and Juliet", Shakespeare's timeless love story, about Verona's star-crossed lovers. 9:00-12:00 a.m.-Ch. 13.

The Jefferson: Louise and Florence bicker as George prepares to entertain guests from the Scoial Register. Starring Isabel Sanford and Marla Gibbs. 9:30 - 10:00 p.m. - Ch. 2.

Richie Haven: a rare breed

To say that Richie Havens knows how to reach his audience is putting it mildly.

Ih fact, Haven's gift of relating common experience to his listeners was perhaps the most conspicuous feature at his concert Tuesday evening at the Inner Harbor.

There is a certain electricity about Havens' delivery that transcends any barriers that might be present in any particular musical form. Whether he sang blues, folk songs or funky rock, there was a communication between audience and artist that was never lost.

Havens has said that his music changes with the times, and his selections Tuesday played that quality up quite a bit. He seems to like to concentrate most on folk songs — those songs that can reach the souls of listeners, anyway. But he also sang with just as much fervor and skill, the blues, some reggae, and more up-beat, current songs.

What makes Havens so special is not only his communication with his audiences, but the way in which he has preened his voice to blend with his own specialized sound on the guitar. Far from the trend of many artists of the times, Havens does not attempt to substitute either his voice or his instrument as the star of his concern, but instead chooses to keep them carefully aligned, so that the mixture and blend becomes soothing and even comforting to the ear. It is a rare phenomenon.

The Inner Harbor concert showed, once again, that Havens is an artist who cannot be neatly classified, but instead chooses to carefully weave his way into and through the threads of peoples' hearts and experiences.

To him, that's the only way music can be valid.

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