-Cotton Club

(Continued from page 10)

News of the opening of a new nightclub in New York sent her back to the club circuit and a job in the chorus of Connie's Inn, a hot spot

located that lasted exactly a year at 48th Street and Broadway. It was there that the Cotton Club opened a second establishment in 1936.

The Interal Revenue Service would eventually close down both establishments by the early 1940's.

Dare to be Mon

17 mg. "ter". 1.3 mg. mcetine av. per cigarette by FTC method.

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An ad in the New York Amsterdam News caught her attention thanks to a tip from a friend who had read that a Hollywood director was looking for people who had worked at the Cotton Club to assist on a new film project about the legendary club.

A call to a friend associated with the project landed her a consultation role on the film for which, she says, she recieved absolutely no pay.

The "Cotton Club" movie starring Gregory Hines and Lonetta McGee debuted in 1984 to lukewarm audience and critic response.

"It was a good movie but it wasn't true to the way The Cotton Club really was. It was more of a gangster movie," she now concludes.

Still, the movie caused a resurgence of interest in the club and the period, sparking one black artist, Jerri Palmer, to conceive and direct a new musical revue "Shades of Harlem," which premiered on the campus of Rhode Island's Brown University.

Beginning with the late 1920's and arriving on the stage of The Cotton Club, "Shades of Harlem" takes the audience on an odyssey through time and music winding up in New York during the 1980's.

Rounding out the show's cast is none other than a spry and dynamic seventy-three-yearold wonder in motion, Juanita Boisseau Ramseur, who has toured the United States and Europe with the rest of the "Shades of Harlem" company for the past year. She even finds time to teach dance to senior citizens at New York's Kennedy Center.

"Age is not a number, it's only a factor. I'll keep on dancing as long as I'm able... till 100 (laughing) and as long as my husband will love me and take care of me."



Striking a pose, is charus-line dencer looked during her Cotton Club days.

LOCKOUT All letters should be addressed to Jason, DAWN

Magazine, 628 N. Eutaw St., Baltimore, Md. 21201. All questions are welcome, but while Jason cannot provide individual answers, questions of general interest will be used in this column.

Q. I attend Murray Wright High School and am in the 10th Grade. I am 16 and want to start a fan club for Freda Payne. This is something I've wanted to do for a long time. How do I get started?

SPENCER WHITELOW

A. Write Freda Payne's management company, Creative Attractions, 3125 Cadillac Tower, Detroit, Mich, 48226.

Q. I saw two young men hugging and kissing Dionne Warwick during ceremonies honor-credit. ing her when she got a star on the famed Hollywood Walk of Fame. What are their names and who was their father?

BARBARA JONES

A. The two young men are David Leland Elliott and Damon William Elliott, sons of David) Elliott. He was a musician (drums, Chorus formed the cast and the chorus. vocals), bandleader who discovered Dionne in Newark, N.J. He was born in Q. I saw "The Cosby Show" with Mario Van peared in such movies as "Coffy", 1973 more often on the show? and "Superdude", 1975. On TV, he appeared "Bridget Loves Bernie", 1972-73; "That's My Mamma", 1974; "Ironside",

Q. Is Kareem Abdul-Jabbar of the Los Angeles Lakers married? How many children does he have?

C.M. Baltimore, Md.

A. Kareem Abdul-Jabbar is not married but lived for several years with Cheryl Pistono, mother of his son, Amir, 5. He also has three children by his Muslim ex-

Q. Where is Oprah Winfrey from originally before she got that plus role "The Color Purple"? How old is she and where can I write to her?

A. Oprah was born in Nashville, Tenn.

and raised by her grandmother in Mississippi; her mother, Vernita Lee in Milwaukee and her father, Vernon Winfrey a barber and Nashville city councilman. She is 31 and attended Tennesse State University. She makes around \$250,000 a year. Write her Ms. Oprah Winfrey, WLS-TV, Chicago, III.

Q. Please settle an argument for us. Who was the first Sportin' Life in the 1935 production of "Porgy and Bess"? People are giving Avan Long, Cab Calloway and Sammy Davis Jr.

> **GEORGIA CONRAD** New York, N.Y.

A. John Bubbles (John William Sublett) who teamed with Ford Lee Washington (1909-53) of the vaudeville team of Buck and Bubbles was the first Sportin' Life. **Bubbles was teamed with Anne Brown of** Baltimore as Bess and Todd Duncan of Dionne Warwick and the late Bill (William Washington as Porgy. The Eva Jessye

Baltimore, Md. and died a couple of years Peebles and I really liked him and would like ago of a massive heart attack. He ap- to form a fan club for him. Will he be seen

> LANETTE WAYNS La Mott, Pa.

A. We are sure you will see more of Mario 1974 "Police Story", 1975 and "Rookies". Van Peebles if you write "The Cosby

Show" and tell them how much you like him. Get your friends to write and maybe you'll see him again.

Q. In a recent Dawn Magazine you ran a picture of Womack and Womack and their three children. I would like to know if this is the Bobby Womack that was married to Sam Cooke's

> M.C. FIELDS Los Angeles, Calif.

A. Womack and Womack are a husband and wife team. Linda Womack is Sam Cooke's daughter. Womack is the brother of Bobby Womack.

Q. Please tell me more about the guy that proposed to Phylicia Ayers-Allen over national TV Thanksgiving Day during the game between the New York Jets and Detroit Lions? I thought both of them were already married.

ELIZABETH NORMAN

A. Ahmad Rushad, 36, a former all-pro for the Minnesota Vikings is a sportscaster on NBC's NFL '85 and proposed to Phylicia Ayers-Allen, Bill Cosby's TV wife on "The Cosby Show" before an estimated 40 million people watching the football game Thanksgiving on TV. Yes, she has been married before. She was married to a New York dentist and to former Village People lead singer, Victor Willis. She has a 12-year-old son William. Rashed has also been married and has three children ages



Freda Payne



Oprah Winfrey



Phylicia Ayers-Allen