CHRISTMAS EVE ON

## Pennsylvania Avenue

By E. B. REA

*It was a few hours before Christmas*
*And all through the house,*
*Not a creature was stirring—*
*Unless it was the pantry mouse.*

Mama, papa and the rest of the household, including little junior and little sister in swaddling clothes, made the avenue resemble a giant ant colony—meandering in here, out to over there, wherever the pasture looked the greenest, or the lights the brightest—stopping momentarily to gab with an acquaintance—and then hurry on.

The most crowded spots to sell the least proved to be the liquor stores. The most common expression heard from would-be booze purchasers was "damn!"

You couldn't nudge a drop out of liquor dealers unless you represented a garbage man. The more lime or red mud one had on his clothes, the more likely he was to get his pint or fifth. The dealer would reach under the counter—come up with a bag. You lay down a 10 or a 20 and let him do the deducting—no questions asked, no complaints made.

**Neither Too Old, Nor . . .**

Soldiers and sailors were on the hunt for women companions. They had no trouble making their purchases. It was the only time the popular ditty, "They're Either Too Young or Too Old," was paraphrased to "Neither Too Young Nor Too Old."

Like Shakespeare's description of man in the baby stage, men, women, soldiers, sailors, who gurgled too much beer, liquor or canned heat didn't pick their spots to spew and puke. Street, trolley, theatre, night club, alley—it made no difference.

Night clubs and taverns did a rushing business as few customers lingered, they grabbed their "shot" on the fly. Alien cafe operators sold out everything but the favorite cat. One guy swore he found a rat claw in a bowl of yockamein.

**Disorder was the rule of the avenue.** Two drunks staged a fist fight in the shadows of the Northwestern police station. A tavern operator gave six sailors the "heave ho" sign at one time. A matron ran across hubby dining some "pig meat" at a well-known spot and proceeded to dish out some choice cuss words, topped off by a couple of resounding smacks on the kisser.

Stacks of Christmas trees on every corner priced from 2 bucks to 10. Christmas morning found most of them still there—Santa just dumped his wares on the floor.

**$26.80 for Turkeys**

Turkey hunters shared equally as badly as booze hounds. One poultry dealer took orders for 100 of the birds—he received only seven. A longshoreman walked into an Avenue market and called for three. He planked down a half-century note, the register winked $26.80. He walked away with a broad grin. Turkeys didn't roost too high for him.

Caught several newly coined or brushed-up phrases such as:

"Greg joints," where the cheapest kind of liquor is sold at top prices.

"Bucket of Blood," a spot where switch-blade parties are frequently held.

"GI bunghole," a soldier who doesn't know when he has drunk enough.

"Jigger skirts," women who hang around bars drumming drinks with: "Ain't I a sweetie somewhere belo', baby?"

"Buggies for Business," bootleg taxi cabs.

"Whack and skin joint," a barber shop where they go through the motions of cutting hair and shaving, leaving one looking like Grandpa had used his horse shears and paring knife.

"Gin and gas drivers," tipsy, speeding drivers with tanks of black market gasoline.

Most common street expression: "I'm gonna blow my tops this Christmas—things ain't gonna be so hot nex' year."

So chronicled some of the antics Christmas Eve on Pennsylvania Avenue.


SAY "Make Mine GREEN SPRING VALLEY CLUB" when the occasion demands the best for real enjoyment

The straight whiskies in Green Spring Valley Club are 5-years or more old.

Your choice of Green Spring Valley Club or Green Spring Valley Rye. Both are 5-year-old straight whiskies.

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CLOSED ALL DAY AND NIGHT EVERY TUESDAY
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WACON WHEEL

HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL!

Entertainment by BEATRICE BARNES, "Direct from Philly" Ann White
Jimmy Clarke, M. C.
Music by Sophisticates of Swing Best Band in Town
MATINEES Every Sunday and Wednesday
Closed Tuesdays Until Further Notice
1638 Pennsylvania Ave. LOUVON MILLARD, Prop.



Southern Styled Meals . . . ARE SERVED FROM 10 A. M. TO 12 P. M. AT THE TUESDAYS FROM 5 P. M. TO 12 P. M.

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413 McMECHEN STREET

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SUNDAY SPECIALS
10:00 A. M.-1:00 P. M. KIDNEY STEW and WAFFLES . . . . . 40c
2:00 P. M.-12:00 P. M. FRIED CHICKEN, 2 VEGS., HOT ROLLS . . . . . 80c

All Desserts Are Home Cooked

LOUIS TABB, Prop.



FOR THAT QUIET DRINK AMONGST FRIENDS—

OLDE MILL

604 N. FREMONT AVE.

COMPLETE MENU



NOW! At Your Dealer's!

Overbrook's PREMIUM Old Fashioned EGG NOG

Ready to Serve!

The Overbrook Co., Inc. Baltimore, Md.


## Now Playing the Lenox Screen

The artist catches Don Ameche and Gene Tierney in a romantic moment in "Heaven Can Wait," sparkling new Lubitsch production now at the Lenox Theatre.

## Stars of Harlem's Sea Drama

Randolph Scott and Ella Raines, who appear in romantic roles in Howard Hawks' gripping drama of the sea, "Corvette K-225," opening Sunday at the Harlem.

## Concert Nets 13000 Smokes for Soldiers

Patrons of the AFRO Smokes for Soldier concert, held at Sharp Street Methodist Church on December 3, made it possible for soldiers overseas to receive thirteen cases of cigarettes, or 13,000 smokes.

This was announced by Elson W. Higgenbotham, campaign chairman, Thursday, in a report of the concert expenditures.

**Singing Groups Appear**

Participants in the concert were the Elite Choir, the Martha Murphy Singers, and the Baltimore Singers, all under the direction of Gerald B. Wilson.

In the report, Mr. Higgenbotham listed receipts as $359, less $29.87 for government tax.

The AFRO-AMERICAN Newspapers paid expenses of the concert and donated money to the participants. The amount totaled $120.

## Dorothy Maynor Hi Concert Canceled

NEW YORK.— Dorothy Maynor, soprano, canceled her Town Hall recital scheduled for Wednesday night, because of laryngitis. The concert will be given on Saturday, March 25, 1944.

## Hampton Scores in Return to Apollo Theatre

By CLARENCE M. LONG, JR.

NEW YORK. — Lionel Hampton, with his enlarged, seventeen-piece band, scored another hit before a capacity audience Christmas Day at the world-famed Apollo Theatre in Harlem.

Displaying the versatility which skyrocketed him to fame with the Benny Goodman aggregation, Hamp ran his musical gamut on piano, drums, and vibraharp, then threw in a vocal for good measure.

**Bass Fiddle Duet**

An added attraction was built around Oscar Pettiford, former bass fiddle player with Charlie Barnet, who participated in a duet with the regular bull fiddler.

Sharing the spotlight with the "Handy Man of Swing" was Ruble Blakey, vocalist, who drew auty applause with renditions of "I'll Be Home for Christmas" and "White Christmas."

Dinah Washington, the "Things Ain't What They Used to Be" girl, triumphed with the singing of the sensational hit, "Do Nothing Till You Hear from Me."

## Speaker Says Rail Bias Retards War

CHICAGO—(ANP)—In an NBC broadcast Sunday, A. L. Foster, executive secretary of the Urban League, declared that railroads and workers conspiring to remove colored persons from the industry are retarding the war effort.

Mr. Foster and Earl B. Dickerson, former president of the FEPC, signed a telegram urging President Roosevelt to force railroads to comply with Executive Order 8802 to end such "sabotage."

## New Year's Prices

New Year's Eve prices for drinks, meals or special food items in night clubs, hotels, and other eating and drinking establishments in Maryland, must not be higher than those of last New Year's Eve, the State OPA announced this week.

## Concords and Discords

By W. LLEWELLYN WILSON

Greeting the new year, 1944, we face another opportunity to develop another worthwhile program of inspiring music.

Much of the music of today smacks of the spirit of war. The popular tunes are the theme songs filled with the grimness of the period.

Many of our best musicians of the younger generation are now busy in army camps, preparing to do their bit to bring to a conclusion as quickly as possible this bloody war, which I earnestly hope will convince conceited racial groups all over the earth that there is no such thing as a master race.

**Germany Not Alone**

It is quite unfortunate that Germany, the home of a group of people which have developed some of the world's best music, should become the first victims of such a silly idea. But we Americans should look well within our own gates to keep our citizens from developing the same idea about certain minority groups here.

Music is doing much to bring about a better appreciation of French and Russian music. Before the present war developed in world-wide proportions, American critics of vocal and instrumental music, for the most part, saw little but cacophony and exotic rhythm in the compositions of those other than music masters of German extraction.

But with Germany under the Nazi regime, Americans are developing a taste for the music of other European peoples.

**Bach, Beethoven, Brahms**

Bach, Beethoven and Brahms still stand unsurpassed as exponents of Occidental musical composition, that is to musicians whose musical education is based on Western European tradition.

**For, be it remembered, for many years it was considered that no musical education could be complete with a period of study in some German music center, under German masters.**

In fact, so strong was the belief in German music teachers here in America that to boast that one had a German teacher immediately gave one a mark of musical distinction.

Among our own group, many earnest pupils became the victims of German charlatans, whose only qualifications as German musicians were that they knew the names of the keyboard of a piano, the notes on the C and F clefs, and that they spoke broken English very badly with a decided German accent.

**Not an Indictment**

This is not be considered an indictment of the many excellently trained German music teachers, who were willing to teach any worthy pupil, regardless of his race, caged or color. Many of our best known colored musicians in America were once pupils of the German immigrant of yesterday.

**Fortunately, musicians and music lovers of today do not let the foul deeds and the strange idealogies of the Hitler-dominated German world of today blind their eyes or close their ears to the fine contribution Germans and German-Americans have made to the development of music in America.**

I sincerely hope that in post-war planning there may be made some provision for music to help in bringing about a better understanding among all the people of the earth and that the year of 1944 may see that day.

**Orchids for Morgan**

Morgan State College, for a number of years, has been doing a significant work in the field of music education here. Its music department has trained a number of musicians who are now engaged throughout the country in the field of public school music education.

Most of the music teachers now engaged in public schools in Baltimore have received at least a part of their professional or academic training at Morgan State College.

Violet S. Banks and Frances B. Hill, two of the teachers in the music department, have done an excellent piece of work with limited resources at their disposal.

They work without any fanfare. They have produced a number of high grade music projects which have included many successful operas and operettas that have been a credit to Morgan and to the community in general.

Baltimore and Maryland are justly proud of the music department at Morgan and much of the credit should go to Violet S. Banks and Frances B. Hill.


A NAME TO REMEMBER

Remember Embros—It's a name to wine to remember because it may be the difference between just getting a wine and getting a wine selected in accordance with 107 year wine tradition.

Embros WINES

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'ROUND THE CORNER FROM PENNA. STATION

BIG HOLIDAY JAMBOREE

★ STARRING ★

MARION ELAINE MILLER JOHNSON "Your old favorite"

"Delightful song impressions"

CORNELIUS UNKLES

"BLIND SENSATION"—Singing "I GOT THOSE RATION BLUES"

★ ★ Plus ★ ★

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BARON SEYDELL AND THE BARONS

Featuring ELAINE CARROLL, "The sensation of the Ivories"

Skies & Bill At the Bar

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Don't Miss Our Greatest New Year's Eve Party

— WE STILL HAVE A FEW CHOICE LOCATIONS OPEN. PHONE MU 8771.

GALA MATINEE New Year's Day, 4 P. M. Until ?



CLUB HARLEM

714-16-18 N. SPRING STREET—nr. Monument

The House of Fun Presents
★ Henry Mitchell Baltimore's Favorite Singing M. C.
★ Orgie Kimball Singing her sweetest songs
★ Peaches Rankin Shoes as you like them
★ The Four Dukes The big LITTLE band
MONDAY—Clothesline Night
WEDNESDAY—Amateur Night
MATINEE SUNDAY

We still have Popular Brands of liquors. Our mixed drinks are perfectly concected. A trial will convince you.



KNOTTY PINE CLUB

900-02 PARK AVE. MORRIS and CATHERINE GOLDMAN, Props.

THE CELEBRITIES' RENDEZVOUS

Wishes Everyone A HAPPY NEW YEAR

Entertainment Nightly Featuring

★ HAPPY JACK ★ "RAGS"

with ● ELSIE COLEMAN ● BERTHA JONES

MUSIC BY Simpkins' Swing Serenaders

TWO FLOOR SHOWS NIGHTLY

MATINEES SUNDAY 6:00 P. M. TILL . . .



CAMDY'S

1502 PENNSYLVANIA AVE.

ENTERTAINMENT NIGHTLY—FEATURING BILLIE HAYES

Formerly with Jimmie Lunceford—singing her two latest Recordings: "Man Shortage Blues" & "I Can't Get Enough"

with DOT KELLY — DICK GRAY

MUSIC BY Mack Crockett & the Dukes of Rhythm

JOE CAMPBER, Maitre d'affaires

MATINEES SUNDAY

THE FINEST IN FOOD AND DRINKS

SIZZLING STEAKS OUR SPECIALTY

SPECIAL BREAKFAST 9:00 A. M. to 11:00 A. M.

BUSINESS MEN'S PLATE LUNCHEON 12 NOON TO 2:30 P. M.

Dinner 5:00 P. M. TILL . . . (CLOSED EVERY WEDNESDAY)

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RADIO REPAIRS LEWY SOUND and MOVE SERVICE 853 N. EUTAW ST. at BIDDLE Sales and Service Open Evenings LEX. 7616



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● Good Food, Choice Wines, Liquors, Beer, Mixed Drinks by Experts.

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Choice ● LIQUORS ● WINES ● BEER ● FOOD

Cheerful yet quiet. MRS. VIOLA WISE Prop.



TILLIE'S HI-DE-HO

Lombard and Bond Streets

DAY BREAK, JR. Two Floor Shows Nightly Friday, Saturday, Sunday Featuring Josh Morris, Top Dancer Miss Mary Baker, Ballad Singer Miss Elizabeth Thompson Torch Singer FRANCIS WILLIAMS DAY BREAK and M. C. Comedian Stage Show THOMAS BARNES AND HIS ORCHESTRA Three Kings and a Queen FRIDAY, SATURDAY, SUNDAY Bartenders: JAMES THOMAS LEWIS IRAM Bar Maid: ELIZABETH HARDY ETHEL HALL, Bouncer Charles Herman Fisher, Floor Manager

Come See and Hear Our Panorama and Automatic Hostess TILLIE DELICE, Prop.



BEER WINE LIQUOR

You will meet all your friends at the beautiful

The Gateway to the Gay Way

SUGAR HILL TAVERN

BEER - WINES - LIQUORS

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SAVOY

East Baltimore's Coziest Rendezvous CLOSED EVERY WEDNESDAY 1600 E. MONUMENT ST.


## Airmen Pay for Loss with Rides

CAMP STEWART, Ga. — Camp Stewart's all-colored Post basketball team last week listed the Flyers of Turner Field as their first victim, defeating the Flyers, 65-31, in a game played at Albany.

Stars of the contest for the Stewart five were Hoss Peerman and Glamour Fitts. Peerman tallied 13 points and Fitts made 11. Cpl. Turkey Smith, former North Carolina State star was top man for the Airmen with 14 points.

As a prize for beating the Airmen, the boys on the Stewart squad were treated to rides in the famous B-25 bombers by the Turner Field pilots.

## Hi-Y Cagers Whip Buckaneers, 56-7

WASHINGTON

The Hi-Y basketball team defeated the Junior Buccaneers, 56-7, at the YWCA, last Friday night.

## GATEWAY To The Gayway

By KNIGHT KLUBBER

ADIOS 1943. SALUTOS 1944. And now that you prepare your usual resolutions we hope that you include the purchase of War Bonds, a real contribution to mankind, fuller co-operation for a brighter future and careful spending to keep down inflation—G.D.T.

Our G.I. Pals: Marion Wheeler, pianist, dropped in on leave for Christmas. Acknowledging greetings from Pvt. Donald Fields, trumpeter, now stationed at Fort Benjamin, Harrison, Ind. Ditto the delovely Jennie Byrd, drummer of the Play Girls' ork, now stationed at Fort Bennings, Ga. Just received word that Tiny Dent, former mixologist at Gamby's, and hubby of Susie-Q, has arrived at a port of embarkation.

**Stanford East and his boys are due a big hand for the job they are doing at the WAGON WHEEL, and may 1944 be a banner year for this hot combo of swing. Betcha they'll get their biggest break yet in a few weeks.**

**The musical-photo box here is quite a sensation and is heartily enjoyed by dawn patrolers waiting to get a seat upstairs.**

VILMA, through which doors pass some of the most beautiful girls that frequent nite life, offers the finest service and choicest drinks. Help continues to stick—a sure sign of good management and co-operation.

CLUB ORLEANS: Two floors of hilarious gayety and hot music featuring the tongue, racy lyricals of Detroit Red and George Craft with songs on the sweet side by Naomi Davis, Betty Cobb and Luther Toye. Be sure and make your reservations early, as space is limited.

**Greetings from Ben**

From Ben of the Savoy to all of you comes a cheerio "Happy New Year and many thanks for your past patronage." This is one spot that is still able to meet your demands: liquor, champagne and fine wines.

Daybreak and his gang of funsters continue to enliven things at TILLIE's emporium of "drink and be merry."

**No special matinees were scheduled for KNOTTY PINE during the holidays. Ailing entertainers fighting colds put in a fine, rellicking revusical and the orchestra seems greatly improved.**

The crowd raved over the new pianist at Schisler's CONGA ROOM. She is a bit of a sweetand pigeon that tickles a wicked 88. Marion Miller, one of the nifty canaries, is in and received a royal welcome. Elaine Johnson, a torch chirper, continues to score with her ditties, while Baron Seydell has the music really under control. Be here early for a New Year's Eve table, or better yet, make your reservation by phone.

Henry Mitchell Tops

Henry Mitchell is to be considered at the top when I speak of em cees. He is doing a commendable job at CLUB HARLEM.

The proprietors also are due credit for the way they greet the patrons.

Orgie and Peaches are offering the songs you like, but it was Mitchell who introduced "Ration Blues" and stole a scoop.

Duke and his orchestra, augmented by Ellis Lamb on sax and clarinet and featuring "Tan Foot," sensational hide whipper, are coming on.

**The OLDE MILL has Carroll Lawson and some of the charmingest and most congenial bits of revitude dishing it out every night. The atmosphere here is very homey and cozy.**

IN THE MAILS: Stella Young, a riot in Cleveland. Freddy Robinson doing his act in Hanover, Pa. Alverta (Zenia) Snowden tabin, bows in Newport News, Va. Greetings from Good Cabs Gang, former em cee, now in G.I. garb, and his family.

THE DIAMOND SUBWAY, temporarily, is confining all activities to its greatly enlarged and adorated upstairs clubroom. It is really tops in modernistic designing and is really getting a big play. The entire exterior has been laid out in fine style.

**Fast and Delightful**

For a quick pick-up and refreshing time, be on in on any gate at SUGAR HILL TAVERN. The quiet atmosphere of SONNY'S is not without its appeal.

FINAL BARS: Mrs. Brent, the grandmother of Bernie Jones, KNOTTY PINE vocalist.

For a real hot time, dig the GAY NINETIES, from whence come the smooth rhythms of King Oliver's orchestra on a complete floor show, featuring the comic antics of Rastus Murray, ace laugh producer. Fifi Wray has a way all her own for dishing out blue numbers. Cliff Morris is an ideal emcee. The Charms are a foursome of steppers that possess glamour and feet made for dancing.

**Proprietor Lloyal Randolph makes this one a MUST and a first visit brings you back for more. Just off the path of bright lights it adds a bit of Broadway to our fine town.**

GAMBY's will continue to offer the best entertainment features and the sweetest music members obtainable. Three cheers for Walter Rouse, who heads a swell jernt and for his aides who work so hard to make GAMBY's the rendezvous of the Strolls Mack Crockett's Dukes of Rhythm and gorgeous Dot Kelly march on to fame as time rolls by.

FLASH! Baby Peaches, who at one time was an added starter in many local niteries, has been with a bit of comic dancing, exposing a goodly portion of her shapely "gams" in the interim. A hard worker and good entertainer, she is taking the Caverns by storm.

Worthy of mention, too, at the Caverns is the Cuban dance team of Rodo and Zello.

Something strikingly different from what we usually see in local clubs, this team offers the Cuban fire dance, said to be a near-ritual dance of the Cuban natives held annually whether it rains or shines.

As much fire as the male half of this team ate the other night, I am glad that this dance is confined to Cuba.

**The Ladies' "Swoon Kid"**

Billy Eckstein, the ladies' "swoon kid," needs no introduction. All this crooner has to do is walk out on the floor and fondle the mike and all ladies present, including the matronly daughters at a corner table, sigh discernably with adoration before he even sings a note.

His voice has always been good, but girls swear that since he has had his tonsils removed (something that I dare say most men did not know), he is unsurpassed.

I am inclined to believe that there is little room for argument, but for his own good, I hope Billy does not have his adenoids removed. If he should, he would have to barricade himself as a protection against the ladies before he would be able to sing.

**Hudgins Still Going Strong**

Still going strong, but not exactly bounded by the ladies, is everyone's friend, Johnny Hudgins.

Presenting the antics that took him to the top of the comedian's list and to the major countries on the European Continent, Johnny is rapidly becoming the best loved personality at Club Bali.

Devoted to his audience and pleasant at all times to his fans, he refuses to adopt the aloofness to the public that characterizes so many successful and near-successful show folk of the day.

Home for Christmas for the first time in years (his home is Baltimore), Johnny was pleased as a kid with his first bike and proudly mentioned the names of those who recognized him when he strolled down the avenue.


LOOK!! A SPECIAL ATTRACTION!!

CABARET DANCE

Given by THE SOCIAL PROMOTERS

Featuring A QUIZ PROGRAM

YOU ANSWER THE QUESTION! WE PAY THE CASH!

— Double or Nothing —

Each contestant will be asked two questions. It's yours until the $45.00 question is answered.

"CHUCK" RICHARDS, Quiz Master

FRIDAY, JANUARY 7, 9 P.M. 'til..

ELKS' BALLROOM 1528 MADISON AVE.

MUSIC BY PRESTON DUNCAN

Refreshments on Sale Admission (tax included) 65c



HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL!

COMEDY CLUB

1414 PENNSYLVANIA AVE., BALTIMORE, MD.

—PRESENTS—

MARY DIXON EMERSON SYLVESTER GENEVA HOWARD

Music by CALVIN WILSON and his ORCHESTRA

CONTINUOUS ENTERTAINMENT 9:00 to 2:00

MATINEES SUNDAYS — 3:30 P.M. Till . . .

OLLIE WISE, Manager IKE DIXON, Proprietor

CLOSED EVERY Wednesday TILL FURTHER NOTICE

CONGO FLOOR SHOW — 12:00 O'CLOCK EVERY NIGHT



TO OUR FRIENDS EVERYWHERE A HAPPY and VICTORIOUS NEW YEAR FROM 1944's SINGING SENSATION

MARVA LOUIS

(Mrs. Joe Louis)

APPEARING IN YOUR CITY SOON

LILLIAN FITZGERALD Glamorous Singing Comedienne Currently Starring New Cotton Club, N. Y.

EARL (Father) HINES On Tour Middle West Theatres and Clubs.

LOVI LANE Exotic Dancer Now at New Cotton Club, N. Y.

Personal Management Wm. B. Graham, 270 St. Nicholas Ave., New York 27, N.Y.

BUY WAR BONDS — TODAY AND EVERY DAY


## To Play New Albert

AL COOPER, leader of the Savoy Sultans Orchestra, who brings his aggregation to the New Albert Auditorium on Saturday night for a dance engagement. The orchestra is fast becoming one of the top units in the music field, and follows Cab Calloway and Jimmie Lunceford into the house of name orchestras.

AWOL for several weeks, her pater reports. Anyone knowing of her whereabouts, notify this columnist or Mrs. Violet Whyte.

The CLUB MANHATTAN will roll out the barrel of fun every Tuesday afternoon as usual after those jump session matinees that proved so extra delightful during the past.

Reservations early, Mary Dixon's return to the famous COMEDY CLUB. Meanwhile, the spot is kept jumping with torrid, tuneful melodies by Calvin Wilson's orchestra which seems to be getting more on the mellow side nitely. He is a versatile chap although he confines most of his talent to cutting capers on the trumpet.

Geneva Howard, song and dance lassie, and dapper em cee, Emerson Sylvester, handle the lyrics.

If business increases any more at the ALHAMBRA, Jay Cee will have to erect rubber walls. From 5 p.m. until curfew it is a problem to get through the crowd and reach the bar. Here you can find people from all walks of life and all points of the compass, indicating that the name, J. C. Bailey, has traveled far and wide and with it tales of what a fine host this gentleman is.

FROM BROADWAY: 'Tis rumored the famous Cotton Club, which originated in Harlem, will be housed in the passe Famous Door and that Ethel Waters, currently appearing at the Royal Theatre here, has invested heavily in the venture.

So long. I'll see you next year.

## Featured in Broadway Play

Canada Lee and Wini Johnson, one-time reported wife of Lincoln (Steps Fetchit) Perry, are the stars of the new Broadway play, "South Pacific," opening this week. The cast is mixed.

## Spotting Capital Nite Spots

By KNIGHT

WASHINGTON

On New Year's Eve, as the hands of the clock move slowly toward mid-night in its endless march of time, hundreds of night club addicts will be seated in their favorite after-dark spot with horns and other noise makers poised, prepared to herald the the new-born year of 1944.

Upon its arrival, bedlam will break loose. Poised noise makers will come to life, handshaking and back-slapping will prevail and some singer will be leading the assembled bodies in the off key but loud vocalizing of Auld Lang Syne.

This will continue until the wee hours of the morning when patrons and entertainers, hoarse and weary from the night's celebration, trudge their unsteady way homeward.

**There for Your Pleasure**

On the stage of each club there will appear a lively retinue of paid and guest performers, intent on giving their best and hoping to receive only your attention and your applause.

There are several acts that need have no fears about receiving the previously mentioned items, but among them are the two Drew's, Allen and Hotcha (not related), and Washington's own, Billy Eckstein.

Some of you may remember Allen Drew as the M.C. who opened at Club Bali last March and made such a hit with local fans.

Currently, he is appearing at Stardust Inn, displaying his quick wit, endless line of chatter and side-splitting pokes that would do justice to Bob Hope, though some of Drew's pokes could not come over the air waves.

Despite that, however, he is undoubtedly one of the best and cleverest M.C.'s in the business today.

**Hotcha at the Caverns**

The other Drew, Hotcha, currently at the Caverns, is a comedienne and mimic who is aptly named. Breezing into town from a successful run at the Ubangi club in New York, she adequately displays the talent and crowd-pleasing personality that caused her to be held over on Broadway for such a long time.

Burlesquesing such songs as "Old Man River" and other folk tunes, she intersperses her vocals with a bit of comic dancing, exposing a goodly portion of her shapely "gams" in the interim. A hard worker and good entertainer, she is taking the Caverns by storm.

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**The Ladies' "Swoon Kid"**

Billy Eckstein, the ladies' "swoon kid," needs no introduction. All this crooner has to do is walk out on the floor and fondle the mike and all ladies present, including the matronly daughters at a corner table, sigh discernably with adoration before he even sings a note.

His voice has always been good, but girls swear that since he has had his tonsils removed (something that I dare say most men did not know), he is unsurpassed.

I am inclined to believe that there is little room for argument, but for his own good, I hope Billy does not have his adenoids removed. If he should, he would have to barricade himself as a protection against the ladies before he would be able to sing.

**Hudgins Still Going Strong**

Still going strong, but not exactly bounded by the ladies, is everyone's friend, Johnny Hudgins.

Presenting the antics that took him to the top of the comedian's list and to the major countries on the European Continent, Johnny is rapidly becoming the best loved personality at Club Bali.

Devoted to his audience and pleasant at all times to his fans, he refuses to adopt the aloofness to the public that characterizes so many successful and near-successful show folk of the day.

Home for Christmas for the first time in years (his home is Baltimore), Johnny was pleased as a kid with his first bike and proudly mentioned the names of those who recognized him when he strolled down the avenue.



## Music Makers

By KURTIE HURTTE

Well, here it is, the last column of 1943, and the time to make new resolutions for the new year, but, as I told my good friend, "Pete," I'll continue to write on the same old page instead of turning over to a new leaf.

This past year brought many things to gladden the hearts of the music lovers of this city, and with the New Year, there is the promise of many more really exciting things for us in the concert line, for I am told that a new series of concerts will begin in January with the sponsoring group promising to bring our own Anne Brown here for the final concert in this series.

**The year 1943 also brought into being another type of musical entertainment which swept the town like fire: The massed quartets in contest. I have purposely refrained from commenting upon this type of entertainment for fear that my bit of wordage upon the subject might get me in hot water, for I know it likes or dislikes this type of group-singing and expresses his taste with passion!**

I pause for a moment out of respect for these fine musical artists who crossed the bar, which I rejoice in the fact that 1943 brought to light many new artists whose work shows great promise.

It is with deep humility that I acknowledge the fact that the dean of Baltimore musicians, Llewellyn Wilson, placed my name on his Honor Roll of Musicians. The best of luck to you, sir, and may your years be long upon this earth!

To all of my readers (both of them!) I wish a very victorious New Year, and to all of you swell guys in the service I say "thumbs up, may God bless you, and hurry and get this war over with!"


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