Gateway to Gayway

FACTS: The terrible showing made by Mr. and Mrs. Nite Liter on New Year's eve at SMITH HOTEL led Melvin Deaner to announce that the lounge would close definitely, permanently and forever.

POSSIBILITIES: The streamlined ex-waitress of the COMEDY CLUB and Mable Smith of GAMBY'S loom as the best bets among the canaries for 1946. The comedy's vocalist is built to wear tops, has a winsome smile and plenty of what it takes.

IT LOOKS BAD: Since the sepia "John Laws" quit the stroll our boys are continuously being snapped up on minor's charges. But what strikes me as being as darn funny is that only colored owners get the hook.

First to Be Crucified

TOLD BY LITTLE WILLIE: "The Big Three, La Vinness Amedee, Valentini sent for me and complimented me for my clean and orderly establishment and suggested that I get with the other boys to bring about needed improvements, which I did. I was, however, the first proprietor ordered closed."

MELODIANS: The Dukes of Rhythm, GAMBY'S Lounge attraction, are still tops for my moola. Mack Crockett has developed a music combo that is more than just a jam group.

He has sent such top swingsters on their way as Charlie (Bam) Harris, now with Hamp; Dennis (Sax) Brooks to Kirk; Barr (the drummer) Mitchell to Sullana, and Jordan and numerous others.

Improvements Needed

Calvin Wilson and his COMEDY CLUB combo can do better and with Ike's aid and augmented by the Staple Sisters, could go places.

Jimmy Adams, the frantic drummer, who graduated from the Kentucky Kentucky Kentucky to Cootie Williams; Jimmy Humes, tenor saxer, and Theo Burrell, piano, are all pulling with their leader, who plays trumpet and piano and proves a capable arranger. Less glamour-chasing and more concentration on his duty and he is made.

This year we should see the Sophisticates of Swing, under Stan East, featured in a rendezvous in which they will have a partnership as well as drawing salaries.

Through the Years

Bea Lemons, Sue, the Queen—Club Orleans, Sidney Stewart, Reba—the Ubangi; Mex, Mason, Walter—the VILMA; Helen Lynn, the Avenue, will continue to give good service.

The new front and other additions to the OLDE MILL is evidence of Carroll Lawson's efforts to give the naborhood an attractive rendezvous properly operated and staffed.

QUIETER SIDE: DIAMOND SUBWAY, SONNY'S, ED'S Lounge, WONDERLAND, LITTLE WILLIE'S and SUGAR HILL TAVERN.

Orleans on Upbeat

YET TO COME: A bigger and better CLUB ORLEANS is the making with the same regal entertainment policy prevailing. To all of you things that squawked for more space, the gang here says this is IT.

Appreciation for his good nature and the will to be more than just a boss is due to Lou Goldman, CLUB HARLEM prop., who is giving Corner Bullock the run of way to carry on. Bus Green is very prompt, which is more than I can say for some of the other musicians.

UBANGITES can rest assured that Johnny will dish it out as long as you can take it. "Hop" Omeelia is now at the COTTON CLUB. Danny Brown's Aristocrats of Rhythm play a Thursday night at the Ubangi, appears nitely at the former Schloss Club, and are the Sunday matinee feature of the JOLLY SPOT.

I want at see the MANHATTAN swing to the fore and become one of the stroll's top amusement places. Happy Jack, the merry man em cee, holding his own. That proposed banquet to Eggie Harry by the Bartenders' and Waitresses' Social Club is a reality.

Too Much for the Avenue

The AVENUE romped and stomped 'til daylight on the eve and the gang was so beat there was no New Year's Day matinee.

Claudia McNeil in "Class" Spot

NEW YORK — Village Corners nightery in lower Manhattan has thrown open its doors with an entertainment policy of top "name" acts.

The new show which bowed into the spot, was headlined by the singing rage of the New York nightclub circuit, Claudia McNeil. In support was interpretive dancer, Princess Nyoka, East Indian charmer, Bobby Evans, former maestay of the Army's famous "This Is Fort Dix" radio show and dancing emcee, Allen Jackson's band furnish the music.

The spacious parking lot at the SPOT reopened and has reestablished fine food, service, quality drinks and good entertainment.

Sammie Hall threw open the doors of the YORKSHIRE'S Blue Room on the eve and held sway until morning. The terrific response means a permanent Blue Room in the near future with music and entertainment.

Our Calling Lisa

Lloyd Randolph, hotel prop., confined to Provident. Cortland Brown, juke box king, and Dot (Mrs. Vilma) Wilson also listed here. Bobbie Boyd, the quiver artist, and Florine Jones, trumpeter, in town for the holidays.

Roland Johnson, versatile split artist, doing a few days at Gamby's while on furlough from the Air Corps, to which he will return and incidentally—re-enlist. Thedy, one of the stroll's better known Beau Brummels, returns and is greeting and being greeted by the gang.

For a bigger and better year—G.D.T.

Singing "Find" of Year

MABLE SMITH, who blues and sweet singer, who came up from Raleigh, N.C., to make good in Baltimore night life circles, can be rated one of the singing "finds" of the year. She's a "discovery" of William B. Dixon, 1533 Pennsylvania Ave., who's directing her destiny.

QUARTET SINGS CAROLS

RICHMOND.—The Washington Park Quartet, directed by Miss Mary V. Robinson, sang carols and folk songs Christmas morning in Westbrook Auditorium.

Marian Anderson Observes 10th Year in Concert Field

NEW YORK—Marian Anderson, contralto, observed her 10th year in the concert field here on Sunday with her appearance in Carnegie Hall before a sellout crowd, singing the same program as ten years ago upon her triumphal return from Europe.

The program, scheduled earlier in the month, had to be postponed until Sunday night because the singer suffered an attack of bronchitis.

Her Sunday night program was sung in German and Italian except the final group of spirituals.

The opening group by Handel was followed by one of Schubert and the aria, Oden Fatale, from Verdi's opera, "Don Carlos."

Two Groups in Second Half

The second half of the program consisted of two groups, one Finnish, with numbers by Kilpinen and Sibelius sung in German, and the spirituals: "Oh Freedom Oh Freedom," "Lord, I Can't Stay Away," "Crucifixion" and "My Soul's Been Anchored in the Lord."

During the program Miss Anderson sang as encores Schubert's "Der Musensohn" and Dvorak's "Songs My Mother Taught Me," and more spirituals after the end of the printed list.

Franz Rupp, her accompanist for many years, was at the piano

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ARTISTRY JUMPS — Stan Kenton
LET IT SNOW, LET IT SNOW — Connie Boswell
HOLIDAY — Ella Mae Morse
SYMPHONY — Jo Stafford
DON'T WORRY 'BOUT THAT MULE — Tommy Dorsey
YOU'VE GOT ME — Blues Women
MISSISSIPPI MUD — Martha Raeve
BEAUTIFUL LOVE
I CAN'T BEGIN TO TELL YOU
BELLS OF ST. MARY'S — Bing Crosby
TALK OF THE TOWN
LITTLE JAZZ BOOGIE
STRANGER IN TOWN — Charlie Spivak
IT'S A GRAND NIGHT FOR SINGING — Dick Haymes
SUSPICIOUS BLUES — Helen Humes
I MANAGED THE LOCK ON THE DOOR — Nunez Les Davis
IN THE MIDDLE OF MAY — Fred Fisher
SUNDAY, MONDAY — Clyde McCoy
I'M ALWAYS CHASING RAINBOWS — Ted Martin
BUBBA, BUBBA, BUBBA — Perry Como
TELL YOU WHAT I'M GONNA DO — Duke Ellington
A KISS GOODNIGHT
IT'S ONLY A PAPER MOON — Ella Fitzgerald
CAMPTOWN RACES — Johnny Mercer
AT THE END OF A LANE — Tommy Dorsey
CHICKERY CHICK — Sammy Kaye
I'LL BE SEEING YOU FOR YOU
PLEASANT DREAMS — Red Cape
HAMP'S BOOGIE — Lionel Hampton
SUMMIT RIDGE DRIVE — Artie Shaw
LOVES COME BACK TO ME
FINE AND MELLOW — Billie Holiday
I'LL BE SEEING YOU
GET STUMP — Pete Johnson
HOUSE OF JOY — Cootie Williams
I'M GOING TO GETTING GREENER — Rhythm Aces
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BEFORE THIS TIME ANOTHER YEAR — Golden Gate Quintet
DOWN TO EARTH CHRISTMAS — Georgia Peach
I CAN SEE EVERBODY'S MOTHER BUT MINE — Selah Jubilee Quartet
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BAD TALE BOOGIE — Erskin Butterfield
CONFESSIN' THE BLUES
WHEN I'VE BEEN DRINKING — Jay McShann
DITTY-BAG JUMP
I'LL GIVE YOU A BREAKDOWN — Rffe Smith
JUST GIVE ME A MAN — Gerald Wilson
SYNTHETIC JOE
FAT MAN'S BOOGIE — Pete Brown
MOOD TO BE STEWED
HOP—SKIP—JUMP
JINGLE BELLS
SLAMBORIE — Slam Stewart
GLISS ME AGAIN
I'LL BE A FOOL FOR LOVE
COTTAGE FOR SALE
LAST NIGHT — Billy Eckstine
AFTER YOU'RE GONE
JOCKEY BLUES — Jesse Richmond
GREEN GIN — Cab 'n' Jammers
MITZY — Ernie Andrews
THE BLUES CAN JUMP — Earl Jones
UPTOWN BOOGIE — Pete Bloom
GO HOME — Illinois Jacquet
BE BOP
DRIFTING BLUES — Dizzy Gillespie
BLUES AT SUNRISE
BUBBA-BUBBA-BUBBA — Johnny Moore and 3 Blazers
MY MELANCHOLY BABY — Jonah Jones
AVALON
EQUIT NALAD — Don Byas
GIPSY BOOGIE
THE MOOD OF A CHANCE — Ace Harris
SOFT WINDS — Charlie Ventura
BOYD'S NEST — Art Tatum
MARCH OF THE BOYDS
BLUE PRELUDE — Boyd Raeburn
SWINGING ON CENTRAL — Charlie Shavers and Buddy Rich
MOVING AROUND
PROFOUNDLY BLUE — Oral Garner Trio
FAT MAN'S BACK — Ed Hall All Stars
I GOT RHYTHM — The Quakes
HE-MAN — Benny Goodman Sextette
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BEAN STEAKING — Charlie Shavers
ESQUIRE BLUES
HOP MOP — Coleman Hawkins
YOU'RE DRIVING ME CRAZY — Charlie Shavers-Keynoters
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DESTINATION K. C. — Count Basie
LESTER LEAPS AGAIN — Lester Young
JO-JO

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THAT'S WHAT HAPPENED TO ME — Robin Tarrant
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SOMEBODY'S BEEN WORRYING — Joe Williams
KEEP YOUR ARMS AROUND ME — "Big Boy" Crudup
SOMEBODY STOLE THE GOOD THING YOU GOT TO WATCH — Blanche Harris
ON THE DOOR — Roosevelt Sykes
HIGH PRICE BLUES — Lou Willer
BE KIND TO YOUR WOMAN — Savannah Churchill
I CAN'T GET ENOUGH OF YOU
DADDY, DADDY — Willie Bryant
AROUND THE CLOCK — Jimmy Rushing
WHY DID YOU DO THAT TO ME? — Pinetop Sparks Bill
DEEPEST BLUE — Memphis Slim
BACK DOOR — Sonny Boy Williamson
MR. JACKSON'S HOUSE — Washboard Sam
S. K. BLUES — Lil Green
ROCK ME, MAMA — Joe Turner and Pete Johnson
FISH FOR SUPPER — Big Boy Crudup
BIG "B" BLUES — Sax "Tabs" Poore
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Pennsylvania Avenue

By E. B. REA

The old year lies behind us
Let not its failures blind us
To triumphs still worth winning;
A new year is beginning.
—PETER RABBIT.

The grimmest reminder on the Avenue during the holiday was the "Stormy Weather" picture display on the Diane Theater marque.

The most pleasant "pass out," that of the famed controversial delicatessen on the upper Stroll where discrimination was a heavy issue. A new name and new policy at the same old stand which "the stuff you gotta watch."

The Joe Louis-Ralph Cooper-Luis Russell show plays Washington on the 20th, but'll pass up Baltimore. However, the Bill (bojangles) Robinson show drops in on the 14th with Ada Brown and the Four Knights in the cast. I've been told there'll be no "favorite" seats at the Baltimore Garden that night.

Several of the night clubs were thrown off balance New Year's night when some of the musicians, entertainers and regular employees failed to show up for duty.

Beverages (hard and soft) flowed like water as celebrators watched the eclipse of the old year by the new. They lightened the spirit of many, but not one femme caught wending her way down the Avenue.

The further she walked the heavier her load became. It made rubber of her legs which kept her bouncing from one side of the sidewalk to the other 'TILL the pavement jumped up and smacked her on the forehead. Then it was "silent night," but not "holy."

Sgt. Alfred Johnson, former Sooman at Club Harlem, is back in circulation after a three-year stretch in the Army. Also plans to take up bowling where he left off when "snatched" by Uncle Sam.

Partying at the Casino were Thelma Johnson, Ellese Powell, Ethel Lee, Beechie Jackson, Sis Jackson, Louise King, Beatrice Morgan, Steward's Mate George Patten, Bainbridge; Eddie Wong, Winona Smith, Betty Adams, Dorothy Davenport.

Bertha (Queen) Terry, mate of Frank (the King) of 408 Dolphin St., waitress at Club Orsines, will drink to her birthday with friends at the Orleans on the 13th. Mel Clark, hotel proprietor, and his new bride now dwelling at 1021 Fulton Ave.

The Lawrence Bundys of 1510 School St., both employed at the new Club Barbecue, celebrated their sixth wedding anniversary on Christmas Day.

Chester Robinson of 609 Paca St., took Mrs. Robinson and Mr. and Mrs. Harry Whitlow to Gamby's on New Year's night to drink a toast to his birthday.

Also celebrating (a take-off on the marital bark) were Pvt. and Mrs. Alphonso Harris. He of 90 Downing St., Brooklyn, N.Y. She the former Audrea Jones of 503 McDowell St., Roanoke, Va., who tied the knot New Year's Day in D.C.

Back on the Avenue and fraternalizing with old friends is Leon Chan, who formerly conducted a laundry in the 1100 block of Madison Ave. He was discharged from the Navy on Dec. 28.

Death struck a disconsolate chord on Wednesday with the announcement of the demise of Charles Harry Epps of 3218 Denmore Ave., at Johns Hopkins Hospital, following a brief illness of double pneumonia.

The remains are at Kelson's funeral home. Interment will be at Blacksione, Va., on Sunday.

It was a shock, too, to hundreds of Northwest Baltimoreans, as well as the swell fellows who frequent the Vilma, where Epps was regarded a prince among them—and that covers Charles Epps, who was a prince among good fellows.

This is the true story of a dimflammer who was made a sucker at his own game. Follow the explanation.

He walked into the Casino on Wednesday night and called for a 60-cent drink. He gave the cashier a $10 bill and received $9.60 in change.

He suddenly discovered that he had 40 cents in change in his pocket, adding it to his $9.60 he still had $10.

Deciding that he didn't want to deprive the cashier of his change, he put the $5 bill in his pocket and told the cashier to give him a $5 bill for the change.

The cashier handed him the bill while the dim-flammer stood there holding it in a deep study.

He told the cashier, "you can still keep your change, just give me a $10 bill for this" (which was the cashier's $5 and his $5).

Had the transaction gone through, with $15 instead of the $10 he came in with.

However, he went out $5 loser.

The cashier immediately solved the trick. He took the $10 in change as if to give "Mr. Slickver" a solid $10 piece. But, instead, the cashier told him about his whiskered trick, kept the "slicker's" $5 and told him to go and bring an officer to get his $5 back.

The "dam" artist rushed out of the door—but he hadn't come back up to last night (Thursday).

That's not the end of the story. Not more than 15 minutes later he tried the same trick at Park's Drug Store on the corner of the same block. But the clerk didn't fall for it.

But, that's not the end of the story. All within 20 minutes he snared a storekeeper just across the street from the Casino and made the $5 back he lost at the Casino.

That's the end of the story—except—better keep your eyes on the money-changers. Didn't Christ chase them out of the temple?

Sgt. Henry Trout, Avenue MP, got his rating Christmas Day. And it's gratifying to see him and Pfc. Robert Grandy cruising up and down the Avenue in an MP's patrol car. Thanks to the Third Service Command.

Oliver Travers and Dot Kelly, both vocalists, open tonight (Friday) at Gamby's, 7-4 Elisha Scott of 1808 Brunt St., just discharged after four years Army service; Mrs. Scott and Ada Brown, 528 McMechen St., celebrating at the Ubangi.

Watch for improvements at the Spot and the Avenue, where on Wednesday night Walter Carter, of 1118 Mulberry St.; Carrie Farmer, 400 Argyle Ave., and William Kent, 639 Franklin St., won talent prizes in that order. The grand finals come up in about two weeks.

That's all for now—except—some of the night club waitresses are hitting the bottle too heavily; some of the customers are too uncouth to patrons, some of the nighteries need to use more elbow grease on their drinking glasses and more scrubbing and disinfectants in their lavatories.

Then, the proprietors won't have to go home to use sanitary facilities.

The old year lies behind us
Let not our failures blind us
To triumphs still worth winning;
A new year is beginning.
—PETER RABBIT.

Holiday Sensations in D.C.

Ray Nance (center) and his quartet are unparalleled as they entertain capacity crowds nightly at the Cashah. He was formerly the violin, trumpet and funster ace artist of Duke Ellington's band. They are, left to right, Bill De Arango, Taylor Ragland, and Ted Smith.—Photo by Riley.

Request Program Asked of Girls' Choir

The Girls Choir of East Baltimore, Edward Stancil, director, which gave a concert Sunday at the USO, was invited to give a repeat performance the second Sunday in February.

Soloists are Misses Pearl Wallace, Palestine Orange, Gwendolyn Scott, Odessa Scott and Gloria Turner. Miss Delores Brown is pianist. The choir has made the 1946 project the entertainment of service men and shut-ins.

Elk Charity Unit Has Holiday Presentations

The charity unit of the W. Sampson Brooks Elks Temple, under the direction of Mrs. Marjorie Bond, took clothes, candy and nuts to the children at Henryton Tuberculosis Sanitarium, last week.

The group which went through the wards singing Christmas carols was composed of Mesdames Florence Snowden, Catherine Harris, Ella Ellery, Mary Stevenson, and Mable Nicholas.

Mansfield Gives Toledo Recital

TOLEDO, Ohio. — Emanuel Mansfield, tenor, gave a recital here recently in the auditorium of the Macomber High School, sponsored by the Toledo Hospital Nurses' Alumni Association.

He gave a diversified program of works from Handel, Schubert, Tiersot and James. He sang "Smiling Through" in memory of the late John McCormick.

Following the recital, a reception was held at the home of Mr. and Mrs. A. M. Harner, while, after which he left by plane for his home in Washington to spend the holidays with his family before going on a tour of the South.

Joe Webb's Orchestra Slated for Mercantile

PHILADELPHIA — Joe Webb and his orchestra, with Decca Recording Maye Belle, will play Jan. 11 at a dance in Mercantile Hall, given by the marching club of the Chris J. Perry Lodge of Elks.

MEET YOUR FRIENDS AT THE VILMA
Penna. Ave. at Baker St.
Good Food, Choice Wines, Liquors, Beer. Mixed Drinks by Experts.
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The Cotton Club
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Music and Entertainment every Nite
starring the "Queen of the Blues"
☆ PEACHES RANKIN
Baltimore's Favorite Entertainer
— PLUS —
DANNY BROWN
His Clarinet and his
"ARISTOCRATS OF RHYTHM"
FEATURING
TEN-FOOT HINES, Dynamic Drummer
GENE JOHNSON, At the Ivories
HOT-LIPS REED, The Man with the Horn
NO TAX AT ANY TIME
A Complete Line of Package Goods at Our Bar
THE COTTON CLUB
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"THE HOUSE OF FUN"
CLUB HARLEM
711 N. SPRING STREET NEAR MONUMENT
UNDER THE MANAGEMENT OF CORNELL BULLOCK, FORMERLY OF VILMA TAVERN
BY POPULAR DEMAND
"CLOTHES LINE NIGHT" EVERY MONDAY
PICK YOUR CLOTHES OFF THE CLOTHES LINE ★ DIRECT FROM CLUB RIVIER, St. Louis, Mo.
BILL SWINDELL and His ORCHESTRA
BILL SWINDELL (Sax.) BUS GREEN (Drums)
MELVIN SPEARS (Piano) WILLIAM FOSTER (Bass)
NO COVER • NO MINIMUM • NO 20% TAX
MATINEE (STARTS 4:30) SUNDAYS
GENE ROLES, FRED COX, Floor Managers
STREET CARS - BUSSES No. 6-15-19-21 and Q
IT'S ALWAYS WARM, COZY AND COMFORTABLE AT CLUB HARLEM

Duke Gives Concert of Own Compositions

PHILADELPHIA—(NNPA) — Duke Ellington presented a concert of his own compositions before a near capacity audience at the Academy of Music New Year's night.

With the Duke was a 15-piece orchestra that has been heralded as the finest in its field. It was at peak form New Year's night.

High spots of the concert was the presentation of excerpts from Ellington's more serious compositions, "Black, Brown and Beige," and "Perfume."

History of Colored America

The former is a 50-minute production intended to express a tone parallel to the history of colored America. It is a pretentious work, but particularly distinguished for its discreet portions, any one of which would be well remembered by itself.

"Perfume," Ellington explained, is a series of four movements, each of which describes in music "the character a woman seems to take on when wearing certain perfumes." Two of these movements, "Naivete," and "Sophistication," were played.

The latter movement featured a trumpet solo by William Anderson, a newcomer here, but master of one of the hottest brass instruments on the current swing circuit. The best of them can move over and make room for Anderson.

Others Heard

Joya Sherill sang the interpolations in the "Blues" movement of "Black, Brown and Beige," and Kay Davis, who has been a member of the Ellington musical contourage for some time, sang the vocal obligato to "Creole Love Call," with a quartet consisting of Lawrence Brown, trombone; Taft Jordon, trumpet; Jimmie Hamilton, clarinet, and Harry Carney, baritone saxophone.

Sonny Greer, who was on the drums, and Oscar Pettiford, on the bass, were among those who distinguished themselves during the evening.

BAND ROUTES

LUCKY MILLINDER
Jan. 3—Apollo Theatre, NYC; 11-17—Washington, D.C.

ERSKINE HAWKINS
Jan. 3—Wilkes Barre, Pa.; 5—Baltimore; 6—Charlotte, N.C.; 8—Kingsport, Tenn.; 9—Kimball, W. Va.; 10—Kinston, N.C.; 8—Wilmington, Del.; 11—Greensboro, N.C.

BUDDY JOHNSON
Jan. 3—Laurenburg, N.C.; 8—Durham; 4—Petersburg, Va.; 6—Indianapolis, Ind.; 7—Lexington, Ky.; 13—Dayton, O.

JOE LOUIS TOUR
Jan. 3—Houston, Tex.; 4—Galveston; 5—New Orleans, La.; 7—Montgomery, Ala.; 10—Macon, Ga.; 11—Columbia, S.C.; 12—Savannah, Ga.

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