Hilda Simms honored by Hampton alumni group

HAMPTON, Va.—Hilda Simms, noted actress and in recent months a radio commentator in New York, was honored Saturday by the Alumni Association of Hampton Institute, where she once taught classes in both radio and drama.

The presentation of the award to Miss Simms for "Outstanding Achievement in the Fields of Radio and the Dramatic Arts," was made by Sherman A. Harmon, former president of the Philadelphia Alumni chapter at the Philadelphia "Met" Opera House.

A concert by the Hampton Institute Choir followed the presentation.

MISS SIMMS, a native of Minneapolis, attended the University of Minnesota and then went on to Hamnton Institute in Virginia (from which she holds a degree) as a teaching fellow.

Her first Broadway appearance, the title role in "Anna Lucasta," made her an overnight star. She appeared in over 2,000 performances of the play in New York and in London. She co-starred in the film, "The Joe Louis Story" and appeared in "The Black Widow."

HILDA SIMMS

Lawrence Winters festival soloist

NEW YORK—Lawrence Winters, baritone of the New York City Center Opera, last week, was featured soloist along with the chorus of Teachers' College, Columbia University. The occasion was the opening of the WNYC Festival Concert.

This is the 16th annual WNYC American Festival. Other colored artists who appeared on the radio concert in live broadcasts included:

Margaret Tynes, Sylvia Anderson, Eugene Brice, Jonathan Brice and the Edna Gay Chorus.

2 PRINCIPLES—Featured in Arena Players' production of "All My Sons," now at the Arena Playhouse, 1908 Warwick Ave. are George Barrick (Joe Keller) and Verna Day (Kate Keller). Mr. Barrack teaches art at the Cherry Hill Junior High School. Miss Day is a Social Security Board clerk.

"On to Rome," is the war-cry of Attila, the Hun, as he leads his barbarian hordes against the civilized world. Jack Palance, seen here as the Hun king, is co-starred with Jeff Chandler, Ludmilla Tcherina and Rita Gam in Universal-International's Technicolor Cinemascope "Sign of The Pagan," which is now playing at the Harlem Theatre.

'White Feather' Regent feature

The romantic beauty of "Ramona," the exciting suspense in "Apache," the warmth and understanding of the poignant characters in "Broken Arrow," the dramatic impact of "Broken Lance" —these are the basic ingredients that make "White Feather" among the best Indian stories ever filmed. Photographed in CinemaScope and Technicolor, this Panoramic production bowed into the Regent Theatre last night.

Not only is this a great story, but "White Feather" also boasts an exciting cast headed by Robert Wagner, John Lund, Debra Pagent, and Jeffrey Hunter. Director of Photography Lucien Ballard set up the CinemaScope cameras in a remote, but spectacular part of Central Mexico, and has captured scenes that could only be recorded in their true beauty by the CinemaScope lens. Add to this some of the most lavish colors of Technicolor and the result is an experience seldom seen on the motion picture screen.

"White Feather" takes its place among the more important classic dramas inspired by the Indian's fight for survival against the onrush of the fortune-hunting, empire-building white men.

NAACP HILL ON LABOR SURVEY

NEW YORK — Herbert Hill, NAACP labor relations assistant, is touring the Deep South for the purpose of conducting surveys of colored employment in Atlanta; Eldorado and Little Rock, Ark.; Greensboro, N.C., and Chattanooga, Tenn.

Ham and egg show set March 10-11

FORT VALLEY, Ga. — Plans for the Fort Valley annual ham and egg show are about complete and prospects are for one of the biggest shows in the history of the events.

R. T. Church, county agent, said last week that participation likely will be as great or greater than in last year's show that saw more than 175 farmers, farm women and 4-H Club members exhibit 800 pieces of meat and 200 dozen of quality eggs.

The show this year will be held March 10-11 at the Fort Valley State College. Issuing a special invitation for everyone to attend, Mr. Church said he hoped the crowd will surpass the 1954 attendance of approximately 2,500.

HARLEM Now Playing

AGAINST THE UNLEASHED FURY OF ATTILA THE HUN... STANDS THE SWORD OF A WARRIOR AND THE LOVE OF A WOMAN!

and against the lusts of his pagan ravagers stands the faith of a people and the courage of a civilization!

CinemaScope

SIGN OF THE PAGAN

THE STORY OF ATTILA THE HUN

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'Sign of Pagan' at the Harlem

There is no more spectacular event in the chronicles of the early Christian era than the onslaught of Attila's Huns against the Roman Empire. And it is unlikely that the screen can better capture the spectacle, the Technicolor splendor and thundering excitement of this mighty sweep of history than does Universal-International's Cinemascope production of "Sign of The Pagan," which is now playing at the Harlem Theatre.

Starring Jeff Chandler, Jack Palance, the exotic continental beauty, Ludmilla Tcherina, and Rita Gam, "Sign of the Pagan" captures all the flaming excitement of the current novel by Roger Fuller.

A drama high in content of human emotion, the story of a centurion's valiant effort to halt the barbarian tidal wave before it engulfs the separated segments of the Empire at Rome and at Constantinople is inspiring.

Chandler is the heroic centurion who appeals first to the corrupt Theodosius who rules at Constantinople to stop appeasing Attila and then to the weak Valentinian at Rome to take a stand against the Hun King.

His only allies are the hamstrung General Paulinus (Jeff Morrow) and the scandal-ridden Fulcheria (Ludmilla Teherina), both virtual prisoners of Theodosius.

Theatrically YOURS...

By LARRY DOUGLAS

NEW YORK (GLOBAL)—Paul Williams and his big band clicking on the current big Rhythm and Blues Show. Williams' band is now being sought to play a top New York hotel. Nat Cole scored two weeks ago on the Colgate Comedy Hour. . . Eartha Kitt's play "Mrs. Patterson," closing the end of this month. A short run. We call it Eartha's play because the critics and audiences alike agree that Miss Kitt is the whole show.

Bill Doggett is the man responsible for bringing the Hammond Organ into the popular realm in today's modern music, both on records and in person. He stole the show in Pittsburgh two weeks ago, playing to an overflow crowd. He is slated for the West Coast the first part of May. Meanwhile he will play Waishuaje in Atlanta, Ga., April 17 through April 24.

Harry Belafonte is clicking at New York's Copa. He has been signed by Paul Gregory for a leading role in the film version of Eugene O'Neil's "The Emperor Jones."

Tom Edwards, disk jockey of station WERE in Cleveland, O., says, "The kids are burning my ears past couple of days, those who are home after exams. I refuse to play R-B tunes on my show. Housewives are with me and prefer the more sedate tunes I play.

"Biggest records in town are Earth Angel, Ko Ko Mo and Rock Love. I'm not having any, thank you." Cash Box (the music trade paper) answered by saying: "Tom, it's the kids burning your ears who are the record buying public."

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ALSO THE BIG STORY OF THE DECADE "OPERATION MANHUNT"

Concert to feature work of William Grant Still

Music by the noted American composer, William Grant Still, will be included in a program of contemporary music being presented at the Peabody Conservatory of Music on Monday, Feb. 21, at 8:30 p.m.

The program, arranged and presented by faculty member Louis Cheslock, himself a composer, is one of three unique contemporary events scheduled for the Baltimore school this year.

Still's "Suite for Violin and Piano" will be the featured work, performed by violinist Ronald Knudsen and Gene Akers, pianist.

THE SUITE was inspired by several paintings and works of sculpture created by noted colored artists, and is being performed by the Cleveland Orchestra, and other similar ensembles.

The concert, as with others of this series, is open to the public. It will be held in North Hall at 1 E. Mt. Vernon Pl.

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PLUS

Dan Clark in "PORT OF HELL"

TUES.-WEDS. (Washington's Birthday) FEB. 22-23

Rod Cameron in "SOUTHWEST PASSAGE"

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"PORT OF HELL"

— ALSO —

"LOOPHOLE" BARRY SULLIVAN DOROTHY MALONE

ADDED CARTOON

WED.-THURS. FEB. 23-24

JOEL McCREA in "BLACK HORSE CANYON"

— ALSO —

"PLAYGIRL" SHELLEY WINTERS BARRY SULLIVAN

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SUN.-MON. FEB. 20-21

JOHN IRELAND JOANNE DRU IN COLOR

"SOUTHWEST PASSAGE"

— ALSO —

"SNOW CREATURE" PAUL LANGTON

PLUS CARTOONS

TUES.-WED. FEB. 22-23

GLEN FORD in IN TECHNICOLOR

"THE MAN FROM THE ALAMO"

— ALSO —

"ABBOTT & COSTELLO GO TO MARS" BUD ABBOTT LOU COSTELLO

PLUS CARTOONS

THURS.-FRI. FEB. 24-25

RICHARD CARLSON "IT CAME FROM OUTER SPACE" WITH

"STATION WEST" DICK POWELL

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ROD CAMERON & JOANNE DRU in

"SOUTHWEST PASSAGE"

ALSO

LOUIS HAYWOOD in

"The Saint's Girl Friday"

THURS.-FRI. FEB. 24-25

REX HARRISON & VIRGINIA MAYO in

"King Richard and the Crusaders"

(In Cinemascope)

ALSO

JOSE FERRER & MERLE OBERON in

"DEEP IN MY HEART"

SATURDAY FEBRUARY 26

MARGARET SHERIDAN & KENNETH TOBEY in

"THE THING"

ALSO

DICK POWELL & JANE GREER in

"STATION WEST"

Chapt. 4 Ghost Riders of The West

3 Color Cartoons

"THE BLACK KNIGHT" TO THE RESCUE! Alan Ladd saves co-star Patricia Medina from Saracen torture in this scene from "The Black Knight," in Technicolor at the Royal. Second attraction stars Vincent Price in "The Mad Magician."

Theatrical Whirl

RUTH BROWN

HERB JEFFRIES

The persistent reader who persists in writing the Whirl and persisting that "You people should write something about the death of Johnny Ace" . . . and persisting in not signing his or her name, should have been equally persistent about reading the AFRO when the incident occurred . . . The AFRO of January 5 carried a story to the effect that the popular singer took his own life on Christmas night, playing "Russian Roulette" . . . **Johnny Alexander**, which was his real name, shot and killed himself back stage at the Houston (Texas) City auditorium while 3,000 fans were still applauding his rendition of "Yes Baby" . . . Placing a cartridge in a .22 calibre pistol, he put the gun to the head of a girl friend and pulled the trigger in spite of her protests . . . he then laughingly placed the gun against his own right temple and repeated the trigger pulling . . . This time, the gun fired and he was dead.

While on the subject of mail, the column would like to reply to the inquiry of one Herman Nicholson, of Louisburg, N.C. . . . The information about song writing might be obtained by addressing Billy Ward in care of his New York office, 51 Madison Ave. . . . Earl Bostic and his band made one-night stops last week at the Charleston (S.C.) Country Club (Wednesday) and at University of North Carolina (Thursday) . . . enthusiastically received at both places . . . Herb Jeffries opened a week at Washington's (D.C.) Patio on Valentine's Day . . . Herbie Boy goes into the Elegante in Brooklyn on the 24th.

Because disc jockeys are having a lot of difficulty with the title, **Nat King Cole's** "Darling Je Vous Aime Beaucoup" isn't getting the buildup it deserves . . . Only thing that has saved the King's latest hit record is "The Sand and the Sea," on the other side . . . Nat reportedly likes the flip as well as, if not better than, "The Sand, etc." and was at first puzzled by dealer statements that it wasn't in demand as expected . . . It was then that the revelation was made . . . Deejays shun the flip because the French trips 'em . . . Gotham's seldom publicized *Le* Reuben Bleu is rocking with the reception being given **Georgia (My-My) Carr** . . . **T-Bone Walker**, dissatisfied with his former connection, last week signed a contract to record for Atlantic . . . Speaking of Atlantic, the company recently featured a brand new group, the **Cardinals**, in some sides that will bear watching . . . **Cardinals**, by the way, are a Baltimore aggregation.

Reports are that Princess Margaret once more let the royal robes sag when a Calypso band serenaded her on one of her West Indian tour stops . . . According to the source, the sister to the British Queen "shouted with glee" when the tan Calypso artists banged out a welcome on a collection of garbage can lids, oil drums and automobile parts . . . The death of Ford (Buck) Washington, reported here last week, wrote "finis" to the acknowledged pioneer team of a long line of singing and dancing doubles . . . Buck and Bubbles had been a top act at every theatre of importance in the land for 25 years, and their performances were the target of imitators for 24 of those 25, but none of the pretenders ever reached the stature of the original.

Eartha Kitt, whose illness last week caused considerable alarm in the family of the "Mrs. Patterson" broadway show, was planning to quit Gotham late this month anyway . . . Eartha is looking forward to a nationwide tour . . . **Harry Belafonte**, fresh from his "Carmen Jones" triumph opposite Dorothy Dandridge, is finishing up a three-week stand at New York's Copa . . . Along with his regular guitarist, **Millard Thomas**, Belafonte has five extra musicians, including popular drummer, **Osie Johnson** . . . **Ruth Brown's** "Bye Bye Young Men" is gradually moving into a class with her 1954 best-seller record, "Mama" . . . Incidentally, that one could have been a genuine omen . . . Ruth became a mama t'other week . . . a bouncing boy.

Lurline Hunter was such a hit in Chicago's Intimate Cloister Room that she's back for an unscheduled return . . . the talented new thrush joined Sylvia Sims as of Sunday a.m. . . . Erroll Garner reclaimed his spot at the Embers Club in New York, after a layoff due to a hand injury . . . Teddy Wilson filled in for him at the ivories during the absence . . . Erroll, by the way, did a bit of subbing himself last Sunday when he took the place of the touring Lecluse Little Symphony on a St. Louis television program . . . Billy Eckstine, who hasn't been getting the attention to which he's accustomed, has come up with a good one with his recording of "Life of the Party."

Ella Fitzgerald and "Jazz at the Philharmonic" are scheduled for the Theatre des Champs Elysees (Paris) this Saturday and Sunday . . . **Wild Bill Davis**, who has just signed a two-year contract for Las Vegas' Moulin Rouge, scored last week at Hollywood's Tiffany Club . . . His "Wonderful Smith" from "This Is the Army" and "Crazy Chris Columbus" were stoppers—SAM LACY.

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SUN.-MON.-TUES.-WED. FEB. 20-21-22-23

Audie Murphy in "DESTRY"

— ALSO —

Debra Paget in "PRINCESS OF THE NILE"

THURS.-FRI.-SAT. FEB. 24-25-26

JAMES STEWART in

"THE GLENN MILLER STORY"

— ALSO —

Allan Lane in "CORPUS CHRISTI BANDITS"

Hill heads N.C. music teachers

James Thompson elected secretary

DURHAM, N.C. — Samuel W. Hill, director of the choir at North Carolina College and recently elected president of the North Carolina Music Teachers' Association, will preside at the association's annual festival of music at the college April 29.

Other officers, in addition to Mr Hill, named at a recent meeting at North Carolina College, were:

James Thompson, supervisor of music, Wilmington, secretary; Miss Ruth Morrison, director of music at Dudley High School, Greensboro, recording secretary, and Mrs. Vina Webb, principal, Sedalia High School, financial secretary-treasurer.

* * *

PRINCIPAL C. L. BLAKE of West Charlotte High School was appointed to membership on the executive committee and Miss Ruth H. Gillum, professor of piano at North Carolina College, was reelected chairman of the piano division.

The North Carolina Music Teachers' Association was organized several years ago by Miss Teresa Claggett, director of music at Hillside High School. One of the highlights of the April 29 festival will be the presentation of choruses which received ratings of one, and two, in the district elimination contests.

Folk songs, dances highlight program

Folk songs and folk dances from many nation will be the centers of attraction on Wednesday, Feb. 23, when the Seventh Concert of the Natins is presented at 8:15 p.m. in the Polytechnic Institute Auditorium, North Ave. and Calvert St.

The concert will be presented by the Nationality Council of Maryland under the cosponsorship of the National Conference of Christian and Jews and the United Nations Association.

Among the nations to be featured are the China, Greece, Norway, Poland, Finland, Czechoslovakia, and Italy.

CONCERT SET

The Colored Blind Association will present a concert on Sunday at 3:30 p.m. at the Gethsemane Baptist Church, Francis and Retreat Sts., the Rev. Oliver Page, pastor. At 8 p.m. the group will present another concert at the Mt. Zion Baptist Church, 32nd and Barclay Sts.

Rating the Records

By J. HENRY RANDALL for ANP

LUCIA AND LILY PONS

From Columbia Masterworks' Association productions comes an outstanding performance of Gaetane Donizetti's opera "Lucia Di Lammermoor," the 10th such in a series of the discery's ventures into the Met's productions.

The recording of the opera, in three acts and contained on two 12-inch Lp discs, while suffused with Met members and quality, turns out to be something of a personal triumph for coloratura Lily Pons.

* * *

MISS PONS, celebrated for this role more than for any other in her operatic repertoire, has sung "Lucia" more than 200 times since her Met and American debut in 1931. That "Lucia" has always had a rather close connection with her, is stated in an introduction to the album, "How I Feel About Lucia." In this foreword, she says she finds in the role "a second indentity."

And we might add, her essay proves her to be as nearly proficient a critic as she is a singer.

Without doubt, she is at her best on this opera and the etching of the "Mad Scene" is one of the most exciting and artistically satisfying on records. Musical purists may be interested to know that Miss Pons does the aria in F, rather than in the original E-flat.

Richard Tucker, who plays Lucia's lover, Edgardo, is in excellent voice and the two set high standards—so high in fact, that the spuuorting cast doesn't al-

Kinston club takes in 4 new members

KINSTON, N.C.—The Kinston Bridge Club met with Mrs. A. S. Hubbard at her home, 811 Macon St., recently. Mrs. M. N. Leitao, president, presided over a brief business session.

The club president welcomed Mesdames E. E. Berry, M. N. Best, V. C. Miller and V. M. Payton as new members. Purposes and plans of the club were explained by Mesdames A. G. Moore, M. N. Leitao and S. L. Flanagan.

At the conclusion of play, bridge scores were tabulated and first prize was awarded to Mrs. A. G. Moore; second prize to Mrs. L. P. Mitchell, and the consolation trophy was given to Mrs. Esther W. Tyson. Mesdames Mary G. Williams and Leila P. Mitchell were recipients of birthday tokens.

'Miss Urban League' to be picked at ball

WHITE PLAINS, N. Y.—The crowning of Miss Urban League of Westchester County will be one of the principal features at the Matinee dance to be held at the Savoy Ballroom, New York City, March 20, under the auspieces of the Urban League Guild. Leading the number of contestants at the recent report meeting was Miss Bettye Neal of Elmsford. Miss Neal, who is treasurer of the guild, is one of the 46 contestants who will vie for the honors at the affair.

Downingtown gets new music director

PHILADELPHIA

For the second year in succession Mrs. Christine C. Webster of West Chester has been called upon in a pinch-hitter's role at Downingtown Industrial School.

Last year, just before the Christmas recess, Mrs. Webster responded to an emergency call and took over direction of the school's musical organizations. She remained as a part-time employee until June.

Mantan Moreland on Eliot talent program

WASHINGTON — Mantan Moreland, veteran star of stage, screen, and radio, will be on hand Feb. 21, to crown the most popular boy and girl at Eliot Junior High School.

The presentation of the winners of a recent popularity poll will climax the Teen Talent Show to be presented on that night under the sponsorship of the Eliot Mothers' Club.

Contestants in the talent show have been selected from teen-age candidates attending public throughout the city.

THE JUDGES on this occasion will be Miss Alma Montgomery Blackmon, well known soloist; Cliff Holland, popular D.C. disc jockey; and Bob McEwen, m.c. of the television show, "Capital Caravan."

John Brandy, WUST'S "Lord Fauntleroy," will be master of ceremonies of the talent show which will be held 7 p.m. in the sponsorship of the Eliot junior and senior high school auditorium.

POEMS PUBLISHED

ATLANTA—"Poems for the Day," a collection of verse by Harrison E. Lee, has just been published by Comet Press. The author, who was born in Talladega, Alabama, currently lives in Fort Gaines, Ga., where he is principal of the A. Speight High School.

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ALAN LADD The Black Knight co-starring PATRICIA MEDINA

Spectacle as thousands storm the battlements!

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