Black tie event opens 'Tambourines to Glory'

Arena Theater at 406 Orchard St. will initiate its 19th season with Langston Hughes' folk fable "Tambourines to Glory," tonight at 8:30.

Told with the humor, insight and compassion of Harlem black folk, "Tambourines" is a musical meladrama of good and evil, saint and churchman, a black fable.

Premier performance at $100 per person was Thursday evening.

Each member of the Arena Theater audience contributed $100 for refurbishing the playhouse, and for building workshops for theater classes. The affair was black tie.

"Tambourines," the first of five productions this season, will also be presented Saturday and Sunday nights at 7:30.

This production will run for four consecutive weekends.

Mary Carter Smith, actress, writer and folksinger, will star in "Tambourines." Sam Wilson is "Tambourines'" director.

Tickets can be reserved by calling Irv Turner at 367-3136 or Camilla Sherrard at 523-6245. Tickets are $3 and $1.50 for students.

Completing this year's season at the Arena Theater will be: in November, William Helman's "Children's Hour"; in January, four short black plays by LeRoi Jones, Ed Bullins and Douglas Turner Ward; in March, Agitha Christie's "Mouse Trap" and in April, Ed Bullins' "In New England Winter."

Providing musical accompaniment for "Tambourines" are Audrey White on piano, Vic Myrick on guitar.

The production staff includes: Kit Carpenter and Patt Wilson, lights; William Eldridge, stage manager; Earle Burton, assistant director; Milton and Brent Hayney, set design and stage hands; and Toni Sharp and Percy Thomas, costumes.

REHEARSING FOR "TAMBOURINES TO GLORY" opening night at the Arena Theatre are (top row, L-R) Dorothy Howard, Celestine Reed, Carlene Dixon, Toni Sherp, Warren Dorsey and Montarrio Purdy; (middle row) Marie Bailey, Barbara Mealy, Claudette Allen and Essie Richardson; (bottom row) Ed Heath, Mike Newton, Robert Russell and Verna Day. The musical features Barbara Mealy, currently appearing in Channel 67's "Our Street" series; Mary Carter Smith, folk singer; along with signer Earl Burton, and veteran arena Players; Verna Day, Marie Bailey, Julius Wilson and Ed Heath. Music is under the direction of Victor Myrick. The gospel musical is by Sam Wilson, founder of the group.

Baltimore And All That Jazz

ARCHIE MANGRAM JR.

Well, summer is just about over. Most people have returned from their vacations and school has begun. During the summer there were numerous opportunities to hear some excellent jazz, and for free!

There were the concerts that they held on the Plaza, downtown. These were the noon concerts. The Jimmy Wells Trio was the initial group. There were many other groups, even a dixieland band, if that was your bag.

Then there was the 'Showmobile' sponsored by Operation Champ, with Arnold Sterling as its Program Director, which spotlighted a variety of musical forms; jazz included. So it should have been a musically rewarding summer.

* * *

Oh, I almost forgot! Lenny's and Biddy's had cooking sessions all through the summer. And though the weather was hot, the jazz ran from sizzling hot to very cool.

With fall just around the corner The Left Bank Jazz Society is lining up a lot of excellent groups for their concerts. The Ahad Jamal trio will come this Sunday to the Famous Ballroom.

The Coppin State Jazz Society has plans to bring quite a few of the top jazz artists to that institution of higher learning.

President James Lindsey of the Coppin State Jazz Society has informed me that his organization received a grant, and that he intends to use it to get the best jazz talent available.

I have no other choice but to believe him because the very first concert, slated for Saturday, September 25th will feature none other than Les McCann.

Les is the jazz pianist that communicates that earthy, churchy, soulful 'down home' feeling in everything that he plays.

* * *

Some musicians are not really appreciated until later they are no longer with us. There are probably many factors that contribute to this well known phenomenon. For example, I had never heard a Billie Holiday record until I was in college.

In the particular geographic locations where I was raised, they just didn't play any of her records. Even when I heard her it wasn't under the best of conditions because the record was of the old 78 RPM variety and lasted only three minutes.

Later I was to hear more and longer recordings by Billie, but by this time she was dead. I would love to have heard her in person but such was was not my fate.

I did get a change, however, to hear a young lady last Sunday at the Famous Ballroom who, in my opinion, has captured the very essence of Lady Day's style. Her name is Etta Jones.

* * *

Don't get me wrong. Etta is not a carbon copy of the famed Miss Holiday. She has traveled the same road musically, borrowed the essence, and synthesized it into her own thing.

And though the crowd was on the smallish size she tugged at the heart and soul of the audience with her lustful, sensual vocal offerings. The audience reacted, as all audiences react, when they are the recipient of the Fruits of such an immense talent.

My only regret is that as much talent as Etta possesses, she does not get anywhere near the recognition that she deserves. One could grow quite a long beard waiting to hear her records on any of the local stations.

Our fervant hope is that one day, hopefully in the not too distant future, an artist such as Etta will get the recognition and financial rewards that she so justly deserves.

Sharing the program with Ella last Sunday was the Cedar Walton Quartet with Cedar on Piano; Herbie Lewis, Bass; Sonny Red, alto, tenor and flute; Billy Higgins, Drums. The quartet swung throughout the entire afternoon.

Rural schools hire 'castoffs?'

WASHINGTON (UPI) — Robert M. Isenberg, an official of the American Association of School Administrators, says rual school children are suffering because school districts in those areas can not afford to hire good teachers.

"... Rural school boards for more than three decades have been employing the cast-offs, the misfits, and the provisionally certified, along with an occasional gem," he told a congressional hearing.

Unfortunately . . . some rural boards have been inclined to demonstrate concern for the taxpayers by selecting bargains strictly on the basis of pice . . ."

$340,300 received for Cylburn

Governor Marvin Mandel has announced the City of Baltimore will receive State and Federal grants totaling $680,600.00 for the expansion of Cylburn Park.

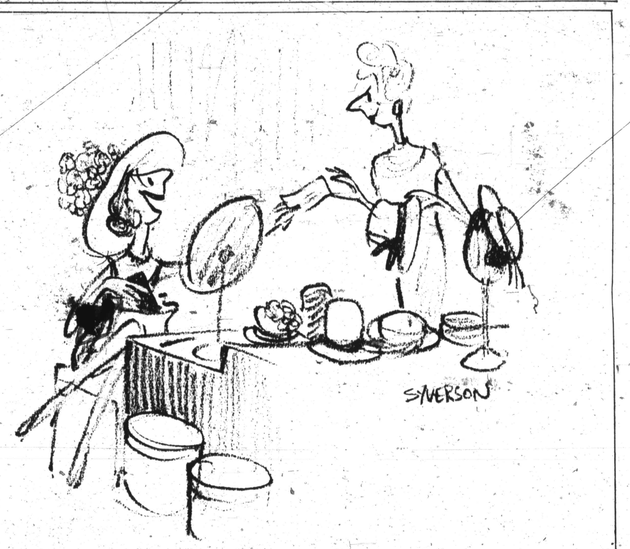
The State funds, $340,300.00 representing 50 per cent of the cost of acquiring 57.8 acres of land adjacent to the existing 174 acre park, will come from Maryland's Program' Open Space, while one-half of the cost of the project will be funded from the Land and Water Conservation Fund.

The Federal Land and Water Conservation Fund and Maryland's Program Open Space are administered by the Department of Forests and Parks.

The approval of the Cylburn Park project by the Bureau of Outdoor Recreation brings the total funds obligated in the Northeast Region to 100 million dollars since the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act was enacted by the United States Congress in 1965.

The Northeast Region, consisting of the twelve northeastern states and the District of Columbia, is the first region in the nation to reach the 100 million dollar obligation plateau in providing assistance to the muncpal, county and state governments to acquire and develop public outdoor recreation lands and facilities.

Governor Mandel said that the State of Maryland has received $10,774,778 from the Land and Water Conservation Fund since 1965.



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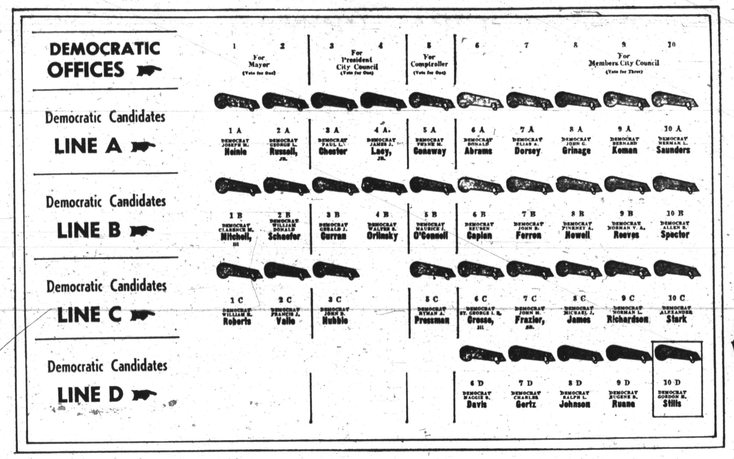

Pull the Lever for STILLS First-

Then Vote for the other Candidates.

Pull the Last Lever First-

Then Vote for the other Candidates.

Baltimoreans who care about the quality of life in this city recognize the importance of Tuesday's Election. Despite all that is wrong with the "system" we have the opportunity next week to effect meaningful change.

The candidacy of Gordon H. Stills for City Council presents a viable alternative to the Voters who live in the 5th District. With your vote, Mr. Stills will bring to the Council the vitality and determination of a freshman legislator, and the strong commitment of a 5th District resident, businessman and school teacher, Register your desire to live a better Baltimore by casting your vote for GORDON H. STILLS.

People often begin Voting in the upper-left hand corner of the voting booth. This is not necessary. Voters of the 5th District can assure that GORDON H. STILLS will be elected to the City Council by pulling the Last Lever First, Lever Number 10-D. Mr. Stills is the last of 20 candidates for City Council. Unless you Pull his lever First, well .... Just Remember START WITH STILLS.

GORDON H. Stills

FOR CITY COUNCIL

5th District DEMOCRAT

AUTHORITY: FLEMING JAMES, TREASURER