Harry Mills of the Mills Brothers

By Ida Peters

Harry Mills, whose performing career with the famous Mills Brothers spanned 57 years and 2,246 records, died Monday, June 28 at his home in Los Angeles. He was 68.

Originally a quartet, the remaining brothers are Herbert, 69; and Donald 65. John Jr. died in 1936 and John Sr. joined his sons until his death in 1968 at the age of 85.

The Mills Brothers last performed together in Atlantic City, N.J. in September, 1981 and two weeks later Harry underwent surgery for the removal of a tumor.

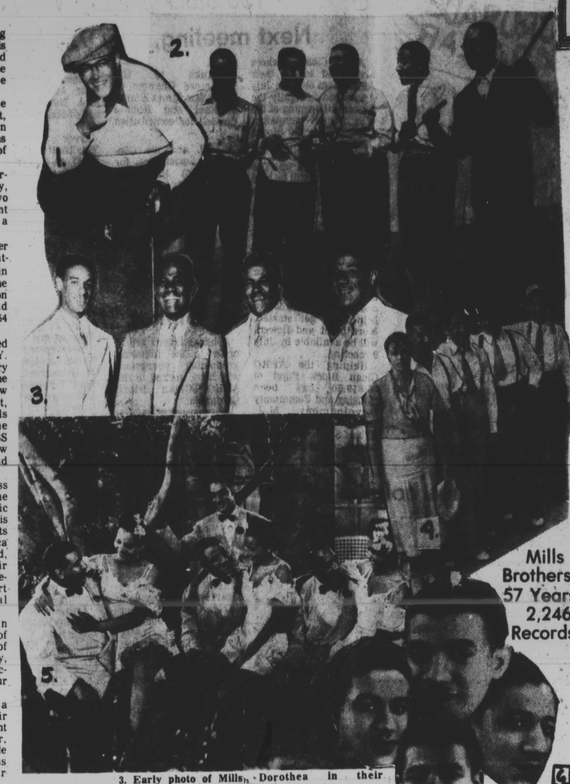
In 1978, Harry collapsed after suffering an apparent heart attack during a performance in Melbourne, Australia and the other brothers, Herbert and Don said it was the first time they had to cancel a performance in 54 years.

In August, 1981 they appeared at the Westbury Music Fair, N.Y. with Helen O'Connell and Harry James. They were known in the trade as the longest running show business act. Also, in August, 1981, the three jazzy Mills Brothers appeared with the Boston Pops Orchestra on PBS singing their famous hits "Glow Worm", "Paper Doll" and "Those Were the Days".

The Mills Brothers flawless vocal blending survived the changing tastes in popular music and their universal appeal is attested by return engagements in leading night spots in America and abroad including England, Europe and the Far East. Their music is described as tight, toe-tapping melodies, four-part harmonies and instrumental imitations.

The Mills Brothers began singing in their hometown of Piqua, Ohio. In 1925, at the ages of 10,12,13 and 15 (Donald, Harry, Herbert and John Jr. respectively) were first billed as "Four Boys and a Kazoo".

The Mills Brothers came from a musical background, both of their parents having performed in light opera. Their father, a barber, taught them to sing but their style of imitating jazz instruments was something they developed on their own.



1. 1955 — Harry Mills was a golfing fan. Here he played in the Los Angeles Open won by Gene Littler. Top black contestant was Charles Sifford.

2. 1940 — Baltimore's Sam Stewart, Donald, Harry and Herbert Mills with C. Street in Philadelphia tournament.

3. Early photo of Mills Brothers with Bill Bojangles Robinson as the great tap dancer, second from left.

4. 1933 — Four Mills Brothers with sister Dorothea in their hometown.

5. Astor Pictures presents "Ebony Parade" with the Mills Brothers and the Zanzibeauts in the 1940s.

6. Early 1940s publicity photo when group was quartet before the death of John Jr. in 1936.

Harry Mills in a 1981 interview explained that their style of instrumental mimicking, best exemplified in its version of "Basin Street Blues" was developed because of a mistake in those early years.

"Dad let us listen on the radio to bands from New York and Cincinnati", he said, "and that's how we wanted to sound, like a band.

"So we got hold of these little tin horns, kazoos they call them, and we tried to imitate the sound of horns with the sounds of these kazoos. We'd sing a chorus and then we'd hold up the horns to our mouths and imitate the sounds in four-part harmony. It went over real good and we were asked to entertain all around town.

"Then finally I lost my Kazoo on stage one night and the sound came out of my hand like a trumpet sound. That's the story of the Mills Brothers. We threw away those kazoos and started imitating different horns with just our throats and voices, we could do any kind of horn, pretty near.

"There was a seven-piece band that used to play in our hometown at a club called the Roof Garden," Harry Mills said. "They used to play this little fast tune that didn't have words, and we found out it was called "Tiger Rag". That's how we got the idea of trying to sound like a band. We took the song home and started playing with it and finally got some words- A'Hold that tiger, Let that tiger go'. After that, we sang it everywhere we went, passing the hat. When we got a little bigger, we recorded it in Indianapolis. But nothing came of it until we went to New York and re-recorded it for Brunswick Records. Then pow, it hit like a ton of bricks"

In the early 1930's, the Mills Brothers were well-known radio stars who sang commericals for Procter & Gamble on one of the first CBS network shows. After "Tiger Rag", they had a series of hits on Brunswick Records that included "You're Nobody's Sweetheart Now", "Sweet Sue", "Lazy Bones", "Old Rockin' Chair" and "Bye-Bye Blackbird". In 1936, Brunswick was bought by Decca, with whom the Mills Brothers recorded for the next 24 years.

The group faced a crisis in 1936 with the death of the oldest brother, John Jr., who sang bass and played the guitar. "We were so broken up, we wanted to get out of show business, but our mother talked us out of it", Mr. Mills said.

"So, very halfheartedly, we started auditioning bass singers. Then one day our dad announced he was taking over. Since he had sung bass in his own barber-shop quartet and had listened to how John Jr. had imitated a tuba, he fit in perfectly."

In 1943, Johnny Black's novelty ode to the pinup, "Paper Doll", became the quartet's biggest record, launching a string of top-10 hits that continued into the 1950's. As is often the case with novelties, the song's success was as unexpected as it was instantaneous. Recorded in 15 minutes, it had been picked by Donald Mills as the B-side of "I'll be Around."

"Paper Doll" was followed by "You Always Hurt the One You Love", in 1944. Other songs to reach the top 10 included "Till Then", "I Wish", "Across the Alley From the Alamo", "I Love You So Much It Hurts", "Someday (You'll Want Me to Want You)", "Daddy's Little Girl" and "Nevertheless."

In 1952, the group began recording with band arrangements, mostly by the arrange-conductor Sy Oliver. "Glow Worm", their biggest hit with a band, rose to No. 2 on the pop charts. After the 1950's, the hits didn't come so regularly, but "Cab Driver", on their third label, Dot, reached the top 25 in 1968. Since leaving Dot a decade ago they've recorded an album of country tunes for Ranwood, an independent label.

The Mills Brothers also appeared in several movies including "The Big Broadcast", 1932; "Twenty Million Sweethearts", 1934; "Broadway Gondolier", 1935; "Chatterbox", 1943; "Ebony Parade", 1947 and "When You're Smiling", 1950.

After they became a trio Harry Mills sang baritone and Donald and Herbert, first and second tenor. A bass guitar filled in the fourth voice, thus keeping their sound as distinctive and familiar as it was 57 years ago.

SHOWTIME

CINEMA SEEN

GREASE II More of the same. A new set of motorcycle boys and their "chicks groove through Rydell High in 1961 to the sound of catchy pop tunes. The plot is sketchy and the characters are simple, but there's plenty of teenage fantasy to keep it bright.

HANKY PANKY Gene Wilder gets hopelessly framed for murder and helplessly entangled in a top secret caper, Gilda Radner basically tries to play it straight, and falls flat. A mildly involving chase flick and a moderately entertaining comedy.

HUMONGOUS Another tedious killer-on-the-loose picture with lots of running around in the dark. Attractive photography, but no suspense.

POLTERGEIST Steven Spielberg has created another classic. A modern surburban family is terrified by the presence of spirits in their house. Clever writing, lots of humor, dazzling effects and a few chills make this an audience grabber. Not recommended for youngsters. A Best Bet

STAR TREK THE WRATH OF KHAN Fans of the TV show should find this one more to their liking. The whole gang's here with an involving story, good character development and solid (but not overbearing) special effects. Basically big screen, big budget television.

ROCKY III This episode in the continuing saga of "The Italian Stallion" is simillar in story and style to the first two. Stallone teams up with Apollo Creed (his opponent in the last one) to meet a new challenge. Just like the first ones; involving and fun.

DEAD MEN DON'T WEAR PLAID A spoof on 40's murder mysteries that includes Steve Martin interacting with over a dozen stars in clips from classic flicks. Its a clever concept, just not a very funny one. Martin is occasionally zany, but not a lot of laffs here.

CONAN THE BARBARIAN An epic adventure and a grand tale. Champion body-builder Arnold Swarzennegger plays the savage hulk who's out to revenge the evil dope by James Earl Jones. There's action and spectale, but it never thrills the way an epic should.

PORKY'S Like "American Graffiti" with a dirty mind. A gang of his school chums search for sex and pull pranks on each other. What may be hilarious to younger audiences is only cute and predicatable to mature folks.

ON GOLDEN POND One of the most popular pictures this year and not the mushy story you might expect. Although the subjects are old age, death and family conflicts, the writing is funny and the performances charming. Laugh a lot and cry a little. A Best Bet.

Have fun outdoors...

Or visit the Zoo...

At the movies

Henry Thomas pursues sounds in "E. T. The Extra-Terrestrial."

Geoffrey Holder stars as Punjab in "Annie."

Paul Winfield stars as Captain Clark Terrell in "Star Trek: The Wrath of Khan."

You can go downtown free...

Harborplace Birthday Party

July 2 (Friday)

11:45 a.m. Join Mayor Schaefer when he cuts the giant Harborplace Birthday Cake.
12:30 p.m. Connecticut Valley Youth Wind Ensemble - 85 talented youngsters.
4 p.m. U.S. Army Field Band Volunteers - music from the 30s.
7 p.m. The Annapolis Brass & Norwegian Brass Quintets in concert.
8 p.m. Pier 6 Concert Pavilion - Ben Vereen with Baltimore Symphony.

July 3 (Saturday)

1 p.m. Allo & his Giant Puppets.
2-4 p.m. Co-sponsored by Boordy Vineyards. Wine tasting at the Market Bar, Bun Penny.
2:30 p.m. Mighty Invaders Jamaican Band.
4 p.m. Sing-along with Phillips ragtime Band.
6:30 p.m. U.S. Marine Band in Concert.
8 p.m. Pier 6 Concert Pavilion - Miss Peggy Lee with Baltimore Symphony.

July 4 (Sunday)

9:30 a.m. Sunday Service on the Constellation.
11:30 a.m. Narod-Balkan Dance Group
Noon Balloon launch by China Closet from the balcony of the Pratt Street Pavilion. Drawing for Gift Certificates in celebration of 200,000th customer.
1 p.m. Henrico Warriors Marching Band.
4 p.m. E & P Productions, American Music
6 p.m. Welsh Barlton w-concert harpist.
7 p.m. German Folk Dancers.
8 p.m. 12 piece Brass Band.
9:30 p.m. FIREWORKS

July 5 (Monday)

RAINDATE FOR FIREWORKS
1 p.m. Baltimore Scottish Country Dancers.
1:45 p.m. Hellenic Golden Coins
3 p.m. Ethnic Fashion Show sponsored by Europa Imports
4 p.m. Charles Street Chamber Orchestra.

Mighty Invaders-July 4

Mighty Invaders, top group in area, has a message of love and strength which turns turmoil and conflict into temporary beauty.

The Mighty Invaders play high-energy, authentic "Roots-Rock-Reggae". Originally from Jamaica, the Mighty Invaders have been recognized by local critics as the number one band for the Baltimore-Washington area. They play at Harborplace July 4.

Since then, the Mighty Invaders have released a single ("Loving In Your Heart" B-W "Got To Be Strong", I-Vasion 1001), and have extended their playing area from Portland, Maine to Athens, Ga.

The band is now preparing their debut LP. The Mighty Invaders have over two albums worth of originals to choose from.

Reggae fills a void in todays music scene. The music combines melodic dance rhythms with lyrics that convey urgent messages for today. The Mighty Invader's foundation is strictly "Roots - Rock-Reggae." However, they have developed a unique style of their own. Led by drummer Colly Hendricks, the band steps up the tempo of their songs to send their dancing audiences into orbit.

The Mighty Invaders have served as back-up band for such reggae stars as Horace Andy, Leroy Smart, Carl Dawkins, and Wayne Jarrett. They have also appeared as supporting act for such notables as Dennis Brown, Buring Spear, and Chico Freeman.

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2. We Want Miles — Miles Davis
3. Breakin' Away — Al Jarreau
4. Mystical Adventures — Jean-Luc Ponty
5. Telecommunication — Azymuth
6. Gap Band IV — The Gap Band
7. Keep It Live — Dazz Band
8. Street Opera — Ashford & Simpson

R & B Singles

1. Early in the Morning — The Gap Band
2. Let It Whip — Dazz Band
3. Dance With Me — Rick James
4. We Go A Long Way Back — Bodyshine
5. Do I Do — Stevie Wonder

Spiritual Albums

1. Higher Plane — Al Green
2. When All God's Children Get Together — Rev. Keith Pringle
3. Lord, You Keep On Proving Yourself to Me — Florida Mass Choir
4. Is My Living in Vain — Clark Sisters
5. Lord, From the Depths of My Heart — James Cleveland & The Washington, D.C. Chapter

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Parks & Outdoor Places

Baltimore Zoo & Children's Zoo, Druid Hill Park. Open 365 days a year, the Zoo is home to more than 1,000 animals. Situated in the 140 - acre Druid Hill Park, the Zoo features a reptile house. Kodiak Bear Palace and a Childrens' Zoo with farm animals and playground equipment. Daily, 10-4:30. Admission Charge. Call 889-9444.

Carroll Park, Monroe Street and Washington Boulevard. The graceful Mount Clare Mansion (See No. 72) forms the nucleus of Carroll Park. A golf course, tennis courts, and athletic fields can also be found there.

Charles Center-Center Plaza, Charles and Fayette Streets. This striking oval plaza with overhead promenades provides ample room to stroll or watch the world pass by. One Charles Center, designed by Ludwig Mies van der Rohe, borders the plaza.

Clifton Park, Harford Road and St. Lo Drive. This park was originally the estate of Johns Hopkins. A running and biking track, tennis courts, athletic fields and a challenging public golf course are located there.

Conservatory, Druid Hill Park, Baltimore's horticultural "home", this graceful period building boasts beautiful flowerings year-round. Daily 11-4. Free.

Cylburn Park, 4915 Greenspring Avenue. A zealously preserved stretch of nature, the 176-acre park features trails through forests, a myriad of varieties of well-labeled plant life and the City's testing garden. Cylburn Mansion, a nature museum located on the grounds is open Monday-Friday, 7:30-3:30 Free.

Druid Hill Park, Druid Park Lake Drive. Developed during the mid-19th century, Druid Hill Park houses a large zoo, park pavilions, athletic fields, lakes, tennis courts and picnic groves. The 600 acres offer fine examples of early park architecture and winding roads passing through forests and beautiful stream valleys.

Evergreen House, 4545 N. Charles Street. This beautiful mid-19th century mansion located amid lush grounds houses numerous art treasures. The first floor may be toured daily from 2-4:30. On the second Tuesday of every month the tour includes the entire mansion and is open from 10-4:30. Free.

Federal Hill, Warren Avenue and Key Highway. The park, named for the celebration following the ratification of the U.S. Constitution, offers one of the best views of the Inner Harbor and central city. During the Civil War, cannons perched atop the hill deterred outbreaks and on observation tower signaled incoming ships' arrivals to the City.

Forest Park Golf Course, 2900 Hillsdale & Forest Park Avenue. Weekdays. Weekends and holidays. Call 448-0300.

Freedom Park, Lloyd and Watson Streets. A memorial to all ethnic groups who have suffered oppression at the hands of others.

Gwynns Falls and Leakin Parks, Gwynns Falls & Dukeland Avenue. This park system has grown over the past one hundred years to become one of the nation's largest "natural parks" within a city's limits. Several historic mansions provide centers for meetings and various recreational facilities. Adjacent to the Gwynns Falls Stream running throughout the parks are virgin forests and an abundance of fields and wildlife.

Recreation Centers open

The Baltimore City Department of Parks and Recreation's more than 120 recreation centers with programs for children, old folks and folks in between.

Working under the motto of "Do More With Less", center hours will vary according to staff. Centers will open at 10 a.m., but may close at 6, 8 or 10 p.m. Call 396-5575 for information.

About 50 of the centers will offer senior citizens programs. Call 396-5640 for details. Seniors can also participate in a camp program from August 16-27 at Fort Holabird.

Day camps will be held at the Towanda and Ella Bailey recreation centers.

Swimming programs will be held at two high school pools, Francis M. Woods and Patterson. The pools will be open from 9:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. Monday through Friday, and will be in operation through August 6. Call 396-5639 for information.

There are also 16 walk-to-pools, so called because there are no facilities for changing clothes, so people must come in their swimming suits. The walk-to-pools will be open through August 22. Hours are noon to 8 p.m. Monday through Saturday and 1 to 7 p.m. Sundays. Call 396-5639.

The city also provides 19 wading pools, also open through August 22. Hours are noon to 8 p.m. weekdays and 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday and Sunday. Call 396-5639.

Municipal pools are Riverside, Clifton, Cherry Hill, Roosevelt, Druid Hill and Patterson. Hours are noon to 8 p.m. daily, and the pools will remain open through August 28.

There are five municipal golf courses: Pine Ridge on Dulaney Valley road in Lutherville (252-9837), Mount Pleasant at 6001 Hillen Rd. (444-9660), Clifton Park at 2920 Harford Rd. (366-8311), Forest Park at 2900 Hillsdale Rd. (448-0300) and Carroll Park at 2100 Washington Blvd. (752-9150).

Special programs include the summer lunch program and Baltimore Summer Corps, a youth employment program.

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Aug. 14 - 21st:
Orlando & Disney World (6 days)
Bus transportation, hotels, 2 unlimited passbooks to Disney World, transfers to Disney World, all taxes and tips $265.00

Sept. 4 - 6th:
See Niagara Falls & tour Toronto. Bus transportation, sightseeing tour of Niagara Falls & Toronto, hotel, all taxes and tips $145.00

Dec. 4 - 5th:
2 Day trip to New York City. Bus transportation, hotel, Christmas show at Radio City Music Hall $70.00

Dec. 4 - 9th
2 Day trip to New York City. Same as above with dinner at Mamma Leone's Restaurant $88.00

Dec. 10 - 12th:
3 Day New York City. Bus transportation, hotel, general admission to Christmas show at Radio City Music Hall, all taxes and tips $112.00

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Happy Birthday, Lena!

IDA PETERS

Lena Horne, who epitomized beauty, talent and grace over four decades since she began her career at 16 at the famous Cotton Club in Harlem . . . closed out her one - woman show "Lena Horne: The Lady and Music" at the Neaderlander Theatre, June 30th on her 65th birthday.

The show goes on the road starting July 4 and if you are quick, you can catch her in D.C. at Wolf Trap.

Surrounded by family, friends at the Neaderlander, her show ended with thunderous applause and a flower strewn stage.

Biggest concert on the Eastern Seaboard will be Diana Ross' Fourth of July show at the Meadowlands, N.J. with Miles Davis and Frankie Beverly and Maze as opening acts.

Diana is just back from her first European tour since 1977 where she said she toured to keep in touch with a whole new generation of her fans. Her U.S. tour will be her first since 1979 and she hopes to touch all major cities and a lot in between before the tour ends in December, 1982.

As predicted in this column last Friday, when the 73rd Annual Convention of the NAACP met in Boston they voted on a nation-wide boycott of pre-selected movies which lack any black participation. Led by the Beverly Hills-Hollywood Branches, other California branches joined in the fight to get more work for blacks behind and before the camera.

Lena celebrated her 65th Birthday.

Diana Ross has big July 4 concert with Miles Davis.

Mrs. Marion Blake received a dozen roses for giving "Euble all those wonderful years" in Baltimore in 1982.

The Cameo, War and One-Way Concert scheduled for July 1 at the Baltimore Civic Center has been cancelled. The Civic Center would not comment on the reason for cancellation but this reporter feels that lack of advertising and promotion is the reason for poor ticket sales. The AFRO received first notice of the concert two days before July 1 with press information mailed June 25 from Orchid P.R. firm in Hollywood, Calif.

Choice of a Thursday, July 1 date at the 12,000 seat Baltimore Civic Center was unfortunate. A Thursday date before a big-four-day holiday is usually a kiss-of-death. Also, in a depressed market like Baltimore, money is hard to come by just before a big-weekend ... especially before monthly pay-checks and welfare checks are due.

Sad news this week is the death, Saturday, June 26 of Marion Blake, 86, beloved wife for 37 years of Baltimore's famed composer- pianist Eubie Blake, 99.

He gave her flowers when she was living and when she came to Baltimore credited her with his success since their marriage in 1945.

She was his manager, constant companion on his many travels around the United States and abroad. A former dancer and Broadway performer she possessed a keen business mind. Many of us in Baltimore who have worked and talked with her on her numerous trips will sorely miss her. The Baltimore Jazz Festival in the Inner Harbor opening on August 13 at Pier 6 is dedicated to the 99-year-old Eubie Blake.

In the AFRO photo in this column, taken by Vanessa, she is shown receiving roses from Mayor Schaefer.

The musical "Eubie" at the Arena Playhouse has been extended and will play at Coppin State College July 16-18.

TV Watching

By Vanessa Johnson

Friday

Here's To Your Health: A program on cancer lists causes, reveals warning signals and clarifies misconceptions. 6:00-6:30 p.m. Ch. 22 & 67.

Sha Na Na: Guest is Robert Guillaume of "Benson" fame. 7:00-7:30 p.m. Ch. 45.

Baseball: The Orioles vs the Detroit Tigers. 7:30-10:30 p.m. Ch. 2.

Benson: Benson discovers that Clayton is his landlord and sues him for building repairs. Starring Robert Guillaume. 8:00-8:30 p.m. Ch. 13.

Chicago Story: Gillard's niece runs away to Chicago and into the hands of a vicious pimp. Starring Richard Lawson. 8:30-10:00 p.m. Ch. 4.

Merv Griffin: Guests include singer-actress Paula Kelly. 9:00-10:00 p.m. Ch. 5.

Movie: "The Oklahoma City Outs", a factory worker tries to organize a women's football team. Starring Lynn Moody. 9:00-11:00 p.m. Ch. 13.

NAACP Convention Summary: From Boston: a recap of the NAACP's 73rd annual national convention (June 28-July 21. 10:00-11:00 p.m. Ch. 22 & 67.

Sha Na Na: Guests is singer-dancer Lola Falana, who sings "Rescue Me". 10:30-11:00 p.m. Ch. 20.

Saturday Night: Guest is singer Betty Carter. 11:00-12:00 a.m. Ch. 20.

CBS News Sunday Morning: A look back at the Negro baseball leagues. 10:00-11:30 a.m. Ch. 9.

Kids Are People Too: Guests include dancer-actor Gregory Hines. 10:30-11:30 a.m. Ch. 13.

Nova: "Aging: The Methuselah Syndrome", studies the causes of aging and efforts to increase the human life span. 8:00-9:00 p.m. Ch. 22 & 67.

The Jeffersons: George spots Helen lunching with a stranger and wants Tom to know his wife is having an affair. Starring Sherman Hemsley. 9:30-10:00 p.m. Ch. 11.

Trooper John, M.D.: Riverside's childhood nanny now in the confidence game, tries to convince him that her accomplice is his real mother. Starring Brian Mitchell and Madge Sinclair. 10:00-11:00 p.m. Ch. 11.

Capitol Fourth with the National Symphony: Guest Pearl Bailey joins Matisiav Rostropovich and the National Symphony in a 1981 Independence Day concert on the Capitol lawn in Washington, D.C. 10:00-11:30 p.m. Ch. 22 & 67.

Movie: "The Liberation of L.B. Jones", racial tensions and an explosive divorce case in Tennessee. Starring Roscoe Lee Browne and Lola Falana. 11:30-1:30 a.m. Ch. 5.

Saturday

Weekend Special: "The Trouble With Miss Switch", is that she's a good witch facing banishment unless she comes up with a bright new idea in witchcraft. Part 1 of a two part cartoon. 12:00-12:30 p.m. Ch. 13.

Sugar Ray Leonard's Golden Gloves: Pennsylvania vs St. Louis in a series of bouts taped Dec. 11, 1981 in Des Moines, Iowa. 2:00-3:00 p.m. Ch. 13.

Solid Gold: Performances by Ray Parker Jr. The Gap Band and many others. 6:30-7:30 p.m. Ch. 20.

Baseball: The Orioles play the Detroit Tigers. 7:30-10:30 p.m. Ch. 2.

Today's FBI: Mideast expatriates are being assassinated by a mercenary hired by their homeland. Starring Harold Sylvester. 8:00-9:00 p.m. Ch. 13.

Sunday

Movie: "Man and Boy", family oriented story of besieged homesteaders in post-Civil War Arizona. Starring Bill Cosby. 9:00-10:30 a.m. Ch. 13.

Besides being a terrific school teacher, Miss Switch also has a few other super talents — such as piloting a broomstick with her best pupils as passengers — in "The Trouble With Miss Switch," a whimsical two-part tale on the ABC Television Network's "ABC Weekend Specials" series airing Saturday, July 3 and 10.

Night Scene Seen

BOB MATTHEWS

Was chatting with Tom Hurley, of the late, lamented Hurley's Hair Hut, and Tom seems to have bounced back remarkably from the setback of not having his lease renewed.

As he put it, "I now have a business with no location." But he is still one of the top organists around, and there seems to be no lack of gigs.

He'll head up the jazz jam at the Sportsmen's Lounge this Saturday evening, and will be the weekend attraction beginning 9. For this weekend, Groove Holmes will still be in place, along with drummer Bobby Ward.

The Closet continues to roll along with top-name jazz musicians, with Sonny Stitt on tap for this weekend. Haven't been able to pin down who will be in the rhythm section, but having Sonny is enough.

Caught Sonny up at the Central Pa. Jazz Festival last week, and can report he was blowing mightily, and has really left the sauce alone.

The Soul Shack is presenting a new and different act this weekend with a group called Mainstream as the featured performers.

This is a group of Peabody students and alumni — 7 pieces in all — who are reputed to really get down and jam. Haven't heard them yet — but will.

The Julian Barrister is presenting the Leon Hawthorne group this weekend, which includes Ronnie Dawson on drums. This is the same group which had been backing up Bill Harris.

Bill, incidently, will play a gig at Blues Alley Monday night over in D.C. This weekend, however, Ron Carter and guitarist Jim Hall.

Starting Tuesday, Charles Earland and Jimm Ponder will be the featured artists through Sunday night, July 11.

If you are searching for something to do tonight, there is a gree jazz concert at the Memorial Apartments series, on the lawn behind 301 McMechen Street in Bolton Hill.

Featured tonight is the Just Bones jazz ensemble, which we guess means that trombones will be the instrumentation. Special guest artist is vocalist Brenda Alford. Starts at 7 p.m., and instructions say to bring a blanket or a chair.

Don't know who is playing the Billie Holliday Room at Gatsby's this weekend—still waiting for a callback—but we do know that Monday there will be a special thing called Charm City Roots.

The musicians participating include Freddie Thaxton, piano; Donald Bailey, bass; Mousie Johnson, trumpet, William Goffigan, drums, and Mickey Fields, tenor sax.

Woodstock Lounge over on Park Hgts Ave. has a Rosa Pryor production on tap tonight (Fri.) It goes on from 4 until 8 p.m., and will feature Lady Rebecca and Bobby Ward.

Dropped into Hats this past Tuesday night to catch the same group, and they have really got it all together.

Happy to note that Mack is back in business after the disastrous fire at his club, Mack's C'est Bon over on Reisterstown Rd.

Plan to stop in there this week to let Night Sceners know just how things are. Do know that they still have the top jazz juke box in the city.