

WSA Praises Morale Of Merchant Seamen

WASHINGTON—The discipline and morale maintained by American merchant seamen, whose ranks include more than 10,000 Negro maritime workers during the war, were commended in a report by the War Shipping Administration's Committee on Crew Disciplinary Matters made public this week after two years of study and observation.

The committee said that it had found no indications of broad conflicts of interests between officers and seamen. Only three-tenths of one per cent of misconduct cases reported concerned economic questions and disputes arising out of collective bargaining matters, and there have been no strikes of merchant seamen since Pearl Harbor, the committee reported.

Principal source of difficulties on shipboard are "clashes of personalities, individual intransigence, incompetence and negligence," the committee stated. A breakdown of misconduct cases reported to WSA shows absence without leave and failure to join ship constitute the most frequent causes.

The committee found that the traditional means of enforcing discipline in the Merchant Marine, that is, fines deducted from the offender's pay based upon entries in the ship's log, had not proved entirely satisfactory, but it pointed out that these methods had been supplemented since February 1943 by the Merchant Marine Hearing Units of the United States Coast Guard. The procedures adopted by these units, the report states, provided a more effective deterrent against disciplinary infractions that forfeitures of wages or even fines or imprisonment in criminal prosecutions.

The WSA Committee on Crew Disciplinary Matters was created January 11, 1943, by Vice Admiral Emory S. Land, USN, Retired, determine the policy of the WSA War Shipping Administrator, to with respect to discipline on vessels under its control. It is composed of one representative each from the Ship Operations, Maritime Labor Relations and Legal Divisions of WSA.

Moe Gale Signs "Taps" Miller

One of the newest and most popular of the young crop of bandleaders "Taps" Miller, composer of a number of hit tunes "Hole Tight," "Wham," and "Hot Dog" to name a few, last week signed a management contract with Moe Gale. Miller's Band whammed 'em at the Apollo Theatre last week, incidently.

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Arts and Crafts Serve GI's Through Red Cross

NICE—It was rather a strange picture, one you wouldn't expect to see on the Riviera now that it has been turned into a soldier-playground.

Any other day it would have seemed pleasant and interesting, with couples milling around the dance floor of the GI restee-hotel, the once-fashionable Hotel Ruhl of Nice. Girls with corsages and GI's scrubbed and burnished were moving to the tea-dance rhythm of the orchestra.

But there, just back of the dance floor, in plain view in an alcove that used to be the swank bar, you could see a dozen or so soldiers in deep concentration. They seemed oblivious to the poise and gaiety. Several were bending over drawing boards, a couple were using easels, others were working at tables: weaving, carving, modeling and tooling various materials.

Around them hovered four instructors—all French—all looking very much the way a French artist is "supposed" to look. The painter was tall and wispy with a Van Dyke beard and a curled gray mustache. The setching teacher wore a smock and a beret. The healthy-looking, bright-eyed girl in a colorful pinafore was the sculptor. The place was filled with workers, all concentrating as though there weren't a dance going on five yards away.

The expansion was simple. It was the American Red Cross craft studio in the Ruhl Hotel.

The moving spirit behind this workshop is American Red Cross Negro worker Amy Booth of St. Louis, Missouri. Attractive Mrs. Booth is the wife of Army Captain Arthur H. Booth, a former chemist who is now a chemical warfare officer serving in New Guinea. Before the war the Booths made their home on Hickory Street in St. Louis, where Mrs. Booth taught school and worked on the Parks and Playground Program of the Y.W.C.A. In her spare time she was a Girl Scout leader, and interested herself in ballet dancing and music. Captain and Mrs. Booth are graduates of Lincoln University in Jefferson City, Missouri, where they met.

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Buddy's Orchestra Lauded by Columnist

Buddy Johnson, creator of the popular lullaby, "Baby Don't You Cry" and other Decca hits is currently appearing on a limited tour.

Buddy Johnson made a meteoric rise in a number of Broadway hot spots, an extensive tour of European capitals and with the acclaim of eminent music critics, et al.

At Barney Gallant's in New York City, where Buddy and His Band completed a long engagement, crowds were turned away nightly and only the pressure of advance booking compelled him to end his popular run there. It was while playing at this well-known night-spot that Louis Sobol, popular columnist of the New York Journal-American, along with the Hearst Newspapers, was a guest one evening. Sobol's popular and widely-read column had this to say a few days later:

"... We ran across a new star in the making, "Velocity" Johnson. He wrung melodies, new and old out of a tiny battered piano. His playing will make you weep with ecstatic appreciation."

Buddy is popular pianist and he plays and sings his big hit numbers, "That's The Stuff You Gotta Watch" and "Baby, Don't You Cry" along with other favorites which he has originated and recorded for Decca, such as: "Please, Mr. Johnson," "Stop Pretending" and "Let's Beat Out Some Love." These were the tunes that skyrocketed him to fame.

Hiram Johnson, Buddy's brother, by the way, is one of the nation's leading promoters. He has successfully booked "name bands"

in every key city along the Atlantic coastline. On Labor Day, Hiram has secured Camden, New Jersey's Convention Hall for a dance de luxe with, of course, Buddy Johnson's Orchestra as the attraction.

P. S. Now that is the stuff you really gotta watch!

"Ann Brown Desires To Sing for All", Mr. Bilbo!

By Ted Yates
Staff Correspondent

NEW YORK (IPS) Anne Brown the beautiful and talented concert star who has appeared in a series of American Negro Music Festivals in Chicago, St. Louis and Detroit (in spite of the fact that she was the victim of what many term Hollywood's "smear campaign" on Race stars) is booked solid for a series of concerts in the United States and Canada up to and through the winter season of 1946. Miss Brown has informed her manager Albert Morini in New York that she is especially anxious to appear at colleges and institutions in various sections of the country to exclusive Negro audiences because often music lovers are denied that privilege when Jim Crow laws are in existence.

Community groups interested in presenting one of the stars of "Porgy and Bess" musical opera for a worthy cause would do well to contact Mr. Morini at his office: 119 Wset 57th St., New York, N. Y.

The fact that the erstwhile star of "Porgy and Bess" and the film "Rhapsody in Blue", the epic on George Gershwin's life in which film make-up men in the cinema capital smudged up Miss Brown's good-looks, wants to play the solid South' is a slap-in-the-face to Senator Bilbo who has been shooting his mouth off in a very un-American manner.

Urge Negro Housing Under H-2 Program

WASHINGTON — Negro families, along with other families living under over-congested housing conditions, may gain some measure of relief by taking advantage of H-2 housing priorities recently programmed in various localities throughout the nation for housing development through private finance to relieve shortages incident to war congestion, Dr. B. T. McGraw, housing analyst in the administrator's office of the National Housing Agency, pointed out this week.

In some localities where it appeared that the units could be quickly constructed, a portion of the priorities programmed has been specifically reserved to accommodate Negroes. In all other localities, the entire H-2 quota of private priorities programmed are open to any eligible applicant without regard to race, in-migration status, or war employment.

As the applications filed for priorities in each locality are being considered by the Federal Housing Administration in the order of receipt, Dr. McGraw pointed out that private builders who are prepared to construct homes for rent or sale to Negroes as well as individual Negroes and other minorities who are financially prepared and wish to build a home at this time, should file application at once before all H-2 housing priorities have been taken up in their locality.

The Deep River Boys, one of America's favorite quartettes, after appearing on the American Negro Musical Festival program with Lionel Hampton's Orchestra and Anne Brown, the popular singing star of concert, screen, stage and radio, are booked for a tour of theatres.

Eddie Vinson, the popular blues singer with Cootie Williams Orchestra, will debut with his own ork early in October under Gale, Inc. management.

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