

ENTERTAINMENT

HAPPENINGS

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THEY EVEN LIKE THE EASY OPENING CAN - John Hannah of the New England Patriots, left, kibitzes with Lee Roy Selmon of the Tampa Bay Buccaneers at Los Angeles announcement that Hannah was voted the NFL's offensive player of the year and Selmon the defensive player of the year. The award is made annually by Budweiser beer in cooperation with the NFL Players Association. Recipients are voted on by their fellow NFL players. Hannah has been voted the top offensive lineman distinction for three consecutive years; it was Selmon's first selection.



NEW SERIES REGULAR -- Last fall, Ruth Brown joined the regular cast of NBC-TV's "Hello, Larry" in the role of Leona, a neighbor of the Alders, Wednesdays (9:30-10 p.m. NYT).

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World's best ventriloquist - comedian to appear at Civic Auditorium soon.

Willie Tyler is America's foremost ventriloquist-comedian. He regularly works in Las Vegas, Reno and Lake Tahoe with such names as Sammy Davis Jr., Ann-margaret, and John Davidson. Willie appears on national talk shows including the Tonight Show and the Mike Douglas Show. Willie is also an actor and has recently worked in Hal Ashby's smash hit film, "Coming Home" starring Jane Fonda and Jon Voight. Willie and Lester have also donated their time to the California State Parks System, and they made Lester Jr. a ranger.

Willie has currently worked with Andy Williams in Reno and Tony Bennett and Bobby Vinton in both concerts and on T.V. Willie also recently completed a special guest star appearance on "The Jeffersons" for the 1978 fall season. He is an accomplished composer and performs his original songs in his night club act and on T.V. He lives in Los Angeles where he spends most of his spare time working on his music. Willie hopes to be ready soon to record an album containing he and Lester's comedy plus their singing.

Willie Tyler started working on the art of ventriloquism at the age of ten. His first ventriloquist's figure (as it is properly called) was made from a doll discarded by Willie's sister. He cut out the area around the mouth with a saw, attached



Willie Tyler with Lester appearing in concert with Leona Horne at the Civic Auditorium. Show time is 7:00 p.m. & 10:00 p.m., June 11th, 1980.

a hinge and a rubber band, and Willie was "in business." Willie performed in school shows and amateur contests held in the Detroit area where Willie grew up. His father worked for the Ford Motor Company while his mother raised Willie, his six brothers and three sisters.

After graduating high school, Willie went into the Air Force where he entertained in special services. About this time Lester was born. After the Air Force, Willie worked in local clubs in and around the Detroit area. He was signed by a local record company who put him with other "unknowns" such as "Little" Stevie Wonder, Gladys Knight and the Pips, the Four Tops, The Spinners, etc. From these appearances he got an audition for the Merv Griffin Show. Willie and Lester flew to New York and after the audition was asked by the producers to stay and do the show that night. This was the "break" Willie was waiting for.

The Merv Griffin Show was Willie's first national T.V. appearance. The producers of the Flip Wilson Show were watching that night and signed him up for several guest spots. From these appearances came a regular spot on Rowan and Martin's Laugh-in. From the notoriety attained on Laugh-in came the Lola Falana Special, the Mike Douglas Show and the Tonight Show.

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Phyllis Hyman was one of the many well-wishers who greeted Sylvester backstage after his two SRO concerts last month at New York's Felt Forum.

Sylvester's show-stoper was his performance of the ballad "You Are My Friend," which is his latest Fantasy single.

Due to popular demand, Sylvester will return to New York for a six-show engagement at the Apollo Theater, April 17-20.

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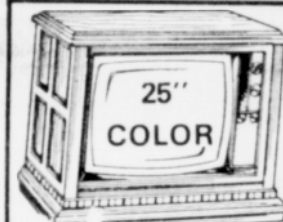
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