

ENTERTAINMENT

# HAPPENINGS

ENTERTAINMENT

**Grassroots News, N.W.** - Downtown Portland is about to undergo a major cultural development with the proposed renovation of the Paramount Theatre. The dependent variable that will kick off the chain of events which will lead to the construction of a Arts Center, is a \$19 million dollar bond issue to be decided by the voters March 31.

The City will become the new owners and the Oregon Symphony will receive top priority. For the Black community, the question ought to be posed whether the Arts Center will open up new outlets for local and national Black arts.

Representing the City is Commissioner Mildred Schwab, who said in a telephone interview that entertainment outlets in Portland turns away as



## The Paramount: The proposed renovation

By Lanita Duke

many as they take in, therefore, the need for such a center, which could accommodate the West Coast tours, is great. When Stevie Wonder made his West Coast tour, he had to by-pass Portland because the Paramount was booked for a Trailblazer game. Since the Paramount is the only outlet that has been and could be used to house these acts, advanced booking usually bumps the night date that the group could perform and places them on a Wednesday or Sunday night. Commissioner Schwab says that the new Arts Center could accommodate these acts and indicated that the management would be responsive to outside promoters.

One of the main outside promoters is Chad Debnam, who has promoted such concerts as *Kool & The Gang*, *Kurtis Blow*, *Cameo*, and *Pleasure* concerts at the Paramount. If the Paramount management decides to sell to the City and if voters approve the Bond Measure, the Paramount Theatre will be taken off the list as a site to hold such concerts. Chad feels that this will make the promotion of R&B concerts more difficult by causing the management of the groups to pick a location where the overhead or advance would become more expensive.

Another reason why there is so little entertainment brought in for Portland's Black community, is due to few Black groups being considered "big" enough like *Earth, Wind & Fire*, and *The Commodores*, to sell out the theatre. "This year we have the emergence of the *Gap Band*, *Con-Funk-Shun*, *L.T.D.*, *Slave*, and others who can come in and sell out the Paramount.

The main factor involved is the actual musical contribution that different groups make today, in the popular music category. Black acts are 40% of the charts, which is the reason why more Black groups came to Portland last year since they had hit records, Chad explained.

In response to a question about Portland's location, Chad said, "The location has a lot to do with it. Portland is 700 miles from the Bay area which is the next outlet for R&B, and as a City, it's basically isolated. Other factors include the lack of a Black radio station and the main problem is that Black people don't come out and support Black acts. This makes it hard for a promoter like myself to invest in Portland as a concert market."

The reality of isolation becomes real as our children are allowed to grow up with a narrow perspective of the world. By the nature of things, we are quarantined from our own culture; allowed to view but not participate. A great deal of the fault is our own as we allow internationally known artists who stop in Portland, to perform in front of an all-white audience. If the way is paved for the renovation of the Paramount, it's up to us to stand up and break the chains of isolation.

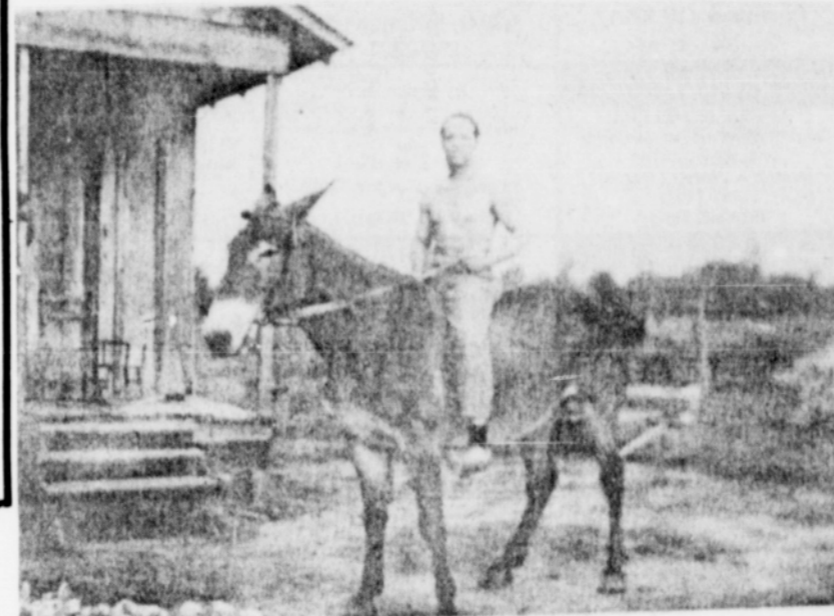


Sonny Stitt and Red Holloway will appear at Jazz de Opus, Sunday, February 15th - 5:00 p.m., \$6.50 and 9:00 p.m. - \$6.50.

## FROM SHACK TO SUCCESS

Edward (Sonny) Stitt is the ultimate horn player who plays a variety of instruments; tenor, alto, and baritone saxophones. Born in Boston, Mass., 2/2/24, he began playing the piano at age seven, and moved on to clarinet and alto saxophone. At an early age, he became a disciple of Charlie Parker, whom he heard on records of J. McShann bank and in person in 1943. Some of his earlier jobs included Newark, Detroit and a tour with Tiny Bradshaw band.

From 1945 to 1946, he rose to prominence while playing with Dizzy



His music has brought Red a long way from that shack in Arkansas. Instead of a mule, he now rides the waves of success.

Gillespie. He was inactive until 1949, when he led a band for two years jointly with Gene Ammons. He then worked with his own combo, as well as toured with Norman Granz, visiting Britain with JATP in 1958 and 1959, playing tenor and alto sax.

He rejoined Gillespie's combo for three months early in 1959. Having the distinction of being one of the first and most successful bop alto men after Charlie Parker, (who greatly admired him) Stitt has shown great individuality and tremendous life and drive, especially on tenor.

## HAPPENINGS

**Black History:** Come and celebrate a Human Relations Month (Black History) program with us: Biographies, poetry and music, "Profiles Of The Black Woman," February 21, 1981 at 4:30 P.M., Sharon SDA Church, 5209 NE 22nd Sumner Street, Portland, Oregon.

## SWEETHEART DANCE

On February 14, 1981 there will be a Sweetheart Dance from 9:00 P.M.-1:30 A.M., at the Galleria Mall, 912 S.W. Morrison. The dance will be a benefit for the Miss Black Portland Pageant, which is the local competition for the Miss Black America Pageant. Everyone is invited to come out and dance your heart out. Tickets are \$3.00 and may be purchased at the door. Meet and greet the beautiful contestants.

## A TOUCH OF NEW ORLEANS BOURBON STREET

1530 N.E. Grand Ave.  
Portland, Oregon 97212  
287-8723

### Breakfast Special

2 Eggs, Ham or Bacon,  
Hash Brown's & Toast

\$2.50

7 am to 10 am



### Happy Hours

7 am to 10 am  
5 pm to 7 pm

Well Drinks - \$1.00

### RESTAURANT MEAL HOURS

Monday - Friday:

Breakfast - 7 to 10 AM  
Lunch - 11 to 2 PM  
Dinner - 5 to 10 PM



SATURDAY

Short Order - 3 to 5 PM  
Dinner - 5 to 10 PM

### SUNDAY

Chablis Brunch - 10 to 4 PM  
With Live Entertainment 1 to 4 PM

### COCKTAIL LOUNGE HOURS

Monday - Friday: 7 AM to 2:30 AM

Saturday: 11 AM to 2:30 AM

SUNDAY: 11 AM to 2:30 AM

ENTERTAINMENT: Friday and Saturday 9-2

entertainment: Friday and Saturday 9-2

## ROCKERS: A benefit

Thursday, February 19, the Clinton Street Theatre is presenting a benefit for the *Portland Black Repertory Theatre* with the showing of two important films reflecting Black struggles in different parts of the world; "Rockers," a joyous Jamaican film with a sinuous reggae soundtrack, and "The Chant of Jimmy Blacksmith," a powerhouse drama from the Australian outback.

"Rockers" shows at 6:45 and 10:45 p.m. "The Chant of Jimmy Blacksmith" shows at 8:25 p.m. Tickets are \$1.50. Proceeds will benefit the *Portland Black Repertory Theatre*, a company of local Black actors and actresses that has previously produced such popular, controversial and educational plays as Ntozake Shange's "For Colored Girls Who Have Considered Suicide When The Rainbow Is Enuff" and the original musical "Red Beans & Rice."

The Portland Black Repertory Theatre's spring season will open April 24 at the Cannon Beach Coastal Theatre with "Fingerpoppin," another original musical by Rosemary Allen.

jazz de opus  
PRESENTS



SONNY STITT  
and  
RED HOLLOWAY

SUNDAY, Feb. 15th

5:00 P.M. \$6.50

9:00 P.M. \$6.50

Advance Tickets now being sold at:  
JAZZ DE OPUS 33 n.w. 2nd ave  
FREDERICK & NELSON'S TICKET PLACE downtown  
MUSIC MILLENNIUM 3158 e burnside

Like  
Mt. St.  
Helens!



Let your Birthday or  
Anniversary Party be a blast

Call:

Geneva's

282-6363

Ask for Paul

I have to say it. Don't give all your  
money back to the man downtown.

"ROCKERS" is another Jamaican movie with the sparkle of "THE HARDER THEY COME"... "ROCKERS" is in many respects the better of the two... funny, off-beat players and a sinuous reggae score."

- Janet Maslin, N.Y. Times

"The hippest and most joyous soundtrack to grace a film in years. The music becomes liberation incarnate."

- Seth Cagin, Soho News

ROCKERS

It sings!

A film by  
THEODOROS BAFALOUKOS  
Starring LEROY HORSEMOUTH WALLACE  
A Rockers Film Corporation Production  
A New Yorker Release - 1980

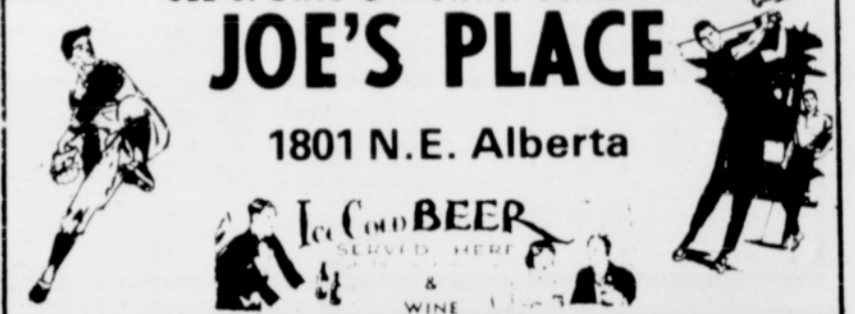
ROCKERS: Feb. 19  
6:45 and 10:45



SEE SPORTS ON GIANT SCREEN T.V.

JOE'S PLACE

1801 N.E. Alberta



Crispus Attucks  
Phillis Wheatley  
Sojourner Truth  
Frederick Douglass  
Harriet Tubman  
Dr. John Rock  
Elijah McCoy  
Booker T. Washington  
George Washington Carver  
Mary McLeod Bethune

Scott Joplin  
Norbert Rillieux  
Ida B. Wells  
Mme. C. J. Walker  
Dr. Charles Drew  
A. Phillip Randolph  
Marian Anderson  
Jackie Robinson  
Ralph Bunche  
Eubie Blake

They had

# Courage, Strength & Vision!



Tracing the many achievements of Black America, Jayne Kennedy, Charley Pride and a host of black celebrities reveal

## Chapters in Black American History

Daily one-minute chapters throughout February

KPTV 12