

# Lagniappe

## Dorothy Lamour Gets Writeup in Variety

By THOMAS GRIFFIN

OUR TOWN'S Dorothy Lamour, who just closed her road tour of almost a year in "Hello, Dolly," last Sunday, Bastille Day, in Lambertville, N. J., after a five-week engagement in St. John Terrell's Music Circus, rated a long, two-column feature story in Variety, the show-biz bible, for her prowess.

The article, by Hobe Morrison, tells of several amusing incidents encountered by Miss Lamour during her one-nighters and split-weeks up, down, and across the U.S., plus one treasured experience of a performance in Austin last January with President and Mrs. Johnson in the audience.



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"It was a great thrill," as Dottie told it, "at the end of the performance to see the whole audience standing up and applauding, with the President leading them."

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IT WAS an unusual occasion in other ways, too, Miss Lamour recalled. "We had a message that the President would attend that night, and needed six seats, but we weren't supposed to tell anyone. We had a terrible time getting the tickets, for the house was sold out, but my contract says I am entitled to six house seats a night, so the boxoffice just had to 'unsell' them. Then we had to get passes for standing room for 36 Secret Service men—also without telling whom they were for.

"One funny thing happened during the intermission. Mr. Johnson's grandson was sick, and was running high fever, so he was worried about him. He wanted to call home and check on the child's condition, and he walked into the manager's office to use the phone.

"The company manager, Boris Bernardi, was sitting at a desk, making out the payroll for the show, and he didn't see the President come in. He was smoking a cigar and counting piles of money and, without looking up, he said, 'You can't come in here. You'll have to find a pay phone.'

"Mr. Johnson explained, 'I think it will be all right, I'm the President of the United States, and I'd like to use this phone, if you don't mind.' Bernardi looked up, recognized Mr. Johnson and let out a gasp. His cigar fell out of his mouth, the money scattered on the floor, and he apologized and hurried out of the office."

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WHAT NOW for the locally-born star? She plans to relax for a while before her next project—finding a house in Hollywood and another in the Baltimore vicinity. She and her

husband, Bill Howard, intend to divide their time between the two places hereafter. They recently sold the Baltimore home they occupied for many years.

Now that her two sons are raised and she's conquered the stage after a long absence from acting, Dottie sums up:

"This tour has been exhausting but it's given me confidence, and enabled me to play all sorts of places before all kinds of audiences. I think I've made new friends and have a new public, in addition to the people who remember me with the sarong in the Bing Crosby and Bob Hope pictures. I wouldn't want to do such a tour again, but I wouldn't have missed it for anything."

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POTPOURRI—Anna Kron, who's advanced to the duplicate bridge circuit, tells of a recent visit to Memphis where a couple of Orleanians, Nancy Alpaugh and Paul Munafa, won the mixed-pairs title . . . Kay Brocato is airborne with pride; her fashionable West Bank boutique, in antique decor, has been rated by Vogue as one of ten unique shops in the U.S. . . . Ex-newsman Ed Cocke is doing a book on the monuments of New Orleans, appropriately titled: "Monumental New Orleans." . . . Three resourceful States-Item reporters—Rosemary James, Jack Dempsey and David Snyder—are given credit in the current issue The New Yorker for first breaking the news of Jim Garrison's investigation of the Kennedy assassination; the article is quite analytical and long.

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HITHER AND YON—Miki and Joe Fein, Court of Two Sisters prop, packing duds for a San Juan holiday in the Caribe-Hilton. . . . Gwen Denoux buttonholing all who'll listen that her Loyola sorority chapter of Tri Sigma was named outstanding in the nation among the social group. . . . Adele and Bernard Levy bidding friends to cocktails at the Fontainebleau, Sunday, which happens to be his 80th birthday. . . . Susie Strauss, livewire publicist for the Fairmont corporation, in town "shooting" the extensive remodeling job under way at the Roosevelt for a new brochure extolling the hotel.

SHOW BIZ—Songbird Margaret Whiting, who scored here in the Blue room in the spring, is tonight's guest star at the "Pops," complete with her musical conductor Herb Mesick. . . . Opening night of "Oliver," July 26, at Gallery Circle will be a cocktail-black tie gala. . . . Al Hirt will open his club at 1 p.m. July 30 so he and his band can entertain 400 underprivileged children of the Youth Opportunity Program; Al's obliging Vice President Hubert Humphrey in this good cause.