

# NEW YORK SOCIETY

By BESSYE J. BEARDEN

## ART CENTER'S ANNUAL BEAUX ARTS BAL THE SEASON'S MOST COLORFUL AFFAIR

NEW YORK.—Well we finally got around to the much discussed and anxiously awaited Beaux Arts Bal, which lived up to the reputation it established last year as being the season's gayest and most colorful affair. This, the second annual costume ball of the Citizens Sponsoring committee for a permanent Art Center in Harlem, was given on Friday evening at the Savoy ballroom. While the larger portion of the proceeds from what was a tremendously successful affair are to be set aside for the Art center fund, the committee also decided, in keeping with the present war efforts, to contribute a part of the money derived from the ball to the Harlem Center for Active Service Men and the Allied War Relief fund.

While the crowd, perhaps, was not as large as it was last season, the Beaux Arts ball still remained the season's most brilliant affair and the large number of men in uniform present added the usual military note to the occasion. We are sure that everyone who was there had an evening of sparkling fun, for the costumes, while not plentiful, were interesting and amusing; the music for dancing was swell and the refreshments were apparently happily sufficient.

Added to all of the other things which went to make an unusually delightful and pleasant evening was the grand entertainment of a few of the best known celebrities of the stage and radio, including Paul Draper, whose ballet tap dance creation to "Blue in the Night" was marvelous, and he was, of course, accompanied by his Negro pianist, the talented young Calvin Jackson; Avon Long, Broadway's biggest discovery of the season as Sportin' Life in the revival of "Porgy and Bess," did a soft-shoe tap number; Josh White contributed a bit of his excellent entertainment with his plaintive voice and guitar, and the Brown Sisters took over with their fine harmony where Mr. Draper left off with "Blues in the Night." Handsome Bobby Evans was the clever master of ceremonies.

Two prizes were awarded to the persons wearing the most outstanding costumes. The first prize of a \$50 Defense Bond, was won by Von Vonnice, who wore an unusually unique cloyn outfit, with a wonderful facial make up; and the second prize of a \$25 Defense Bond, went to Natalie Long, whose Turkish harem girl dress did much for her striking beauty. The costume committee of judges included Muriel Draper, Fannie (Mrs. Bill) Robinson (she was as beautiful as ever as a Spanish peasant girl), Stewart Cheney, the noted stage designer, Herbert Andrews and Louise Jefferson.

Beautiful, handsome, spectacular, gorgeous, guady and many more of the dictionary's other most descriptive adjectives would be required to describe the costumes worn by the members of the committee and a number of the guests. Philandre Thomas, who was last year's Beaux Arts ball first prize winner of a trip to the West Indies, was elegantly dressed as an officer of some musical comedy military regiment; Grace (Mrs. Jay) Clifford looked lovely in a unique and amusing bunny costume, and had a great deal of fun distributing candy Easter eggs to her friends from the basket she carried; Bruce Howard's grand beauty was shown off to its best advantage in a colorful South American costume; Mollie (Mrs. Henry Lee) Moon (as chairman of the program committee) was handsomely gowned as Queen Elizabeth; Sara Writ Dunston (she's the committee's efficient treasurer) was another Turkish harem girl; beautiful Altonel Hines Matthews was a rodeo girl in an all-white cow girl outfit; John Anderson was a handsome Algerian guard; charming and attractive lovely Fannie (Mrs. Joseph) Melville, looking more like Lily Pons than ever, was a South American with a magnificent straw head dress; Henrietta Lovelace McLane was again Aunt Jemima; Eunice Hunton (Mrs. Lisle) Carter in all-white lace was a Spanish senorita; and the numerous other South Americans, Spanish belles and peasant girls included Ivy Jackman, Gladys Stoner, Alta (Mrs. Aaron) Douglas, Eva Sharpe, Billy (Mrs. Sy) Oliver, Rae Olley Dudley, Beryl Edelen, Albertine Edmonson, Viola Phoenix, Ollie Porter, Carrie Hamer and Lorraine McDowall.

Among the many other persons with whom we chatted or caught a glimpse of at the ball were Mr. and Mrs. Robert M. Jackson (he's the noted portrait painter), Estelle (Mrs. Hubert) McDowall, Virginia Girvin, Edward G. Perry, the recently married Gordon Robertses, Anna and Samuel Dilworth, the Roi Ottleys, Miss J. Clarice Brooks, Georgia Burke, Dr. Marshall Ross, Harold Jackman, Henry McDowall, Jerome Jackson, Joseph Melville, Dr. Alain Locke (up from Washington for the occasion), Mrs. James S. Watson, Barbara Watson, Nella Larsen, Shirley Melville, Harry Roberson, Jimmie Daniels, Kenneth McPherson, vivacious Nora Holt, who undoubtedly didn't like living in Washington and has returned to her beloved New York; Ivy Madden, Cora Illidge and James Egert Allen.

Also the Kenneth Brights, James C. Boozer, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Dallas, James Allen (he's the noted photographer), Mrs. Avon Long, Millie and Robert (Bobby) Dorsey, Edward R. Dudley, Jr., William Anthony Hill, Carroll Boyd, Gus Simons, Eddie Coleman, Edward Matthews, Louis Sharpe, Bertha DesVerney, Edith Dodson, Dr. Lisle Carter, Jay Clifford, Irving Hamer, Mrs. Phyllis Oliver, Mr. and Mrs. Andy Razaf, J. C. Johnson, Dr. and Mrs. Douglas Speaks, the Kenneth Spencers, Johnson, Mr. and Mrs. Roy Wilkins, Walter Varney, Terry Carter, Harold Brown, Bernice Carter, Henry Lee Moon, McCleary

Stinnette, Dan Burley, Gwendolyn Bennett and Richard Crosscup (they are Mr. and Mrs.), the Charles Keenes (he's the director of the present Harlem Community Art center), John Clarke, Josh Lee, Wilhelmina Adams, Ellis Wilson and Philip Quiny.

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### The Joseph Melvilles Now Have a Junlor

We recently learned that Fannie and Joseph Melville, of 211 West 129th street, are the happy and proud parents of a baby son, Joseph Melville, Jr., who is now a few months old, since he came as the most adored present his parents received for Christmas of last year. Junior's parents are among the handsomest and youngest couples of the young married set, with his mother being the former Frances Moore and his father one of our best known grocery merchants. His paternal grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. Henry Melville of this city.

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### Rev. F. A. Cullen Seriously Ill

During the past week many folk in the community have been quite concerned about the serious illness of the Rev. F. A. Cullen, noted pastor and founder of the great Salem Methodist church, who was stricken following the morning church service on Sunday of last week. He remained at his residence in the church's parsonage, at 2190 Seventh avenue, until Monday, when he was removed to St. Luke's hospital.

Aside from being one of our foremost clergymen, Rev. Cullen is also the father of one of our famous poets, Countee Cullen. We offer our prayers and best wishes for Rev. Cullen's speedy recovery, and at the same time of writing this we were happy to learn that he has returned to his home.

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### Executive Secretary On Mid-Western Tour

Lester Granger, executive secretary of the National Urban League, left town last week for a tour of the midwest. As the chairman of the Citizens Sponsoring committee for a permanent Art center in Harlem, Mr. Granger's presence at the Beaux Arts ball was also greatly missed this year.

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### Benefit Dane to Aid the Southern Negro Youth Congress

For the good of the cause your presence will be needed at the Victory benefit dance to aid the Southern Negro Congress at the Royal Windsor ballroom (it's at Sixty-sixth street and Broadway) on Saturday evening, March 21. Earl Hines and his orchestra will be the featured attraction, while entertainment will be provided by Madeline Brown, Billy Eckstein and a large number of other noted artists of the stage, screen and radio. Willie Bryant will also be on hand as master of ceremonies.

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### Adelaide DeFrantz Is Honored by Her Club

One of our most attractive and popular debutantes, Adelaide DeFrantz, was honored with a surprise birthday party by the members of her club, the "What Good Are We," on Monday evening. Aiding the club members in their little scheme to carry off the affair in the best surprise party manner was Bob Mangum, who did his bit by taking the charming Adelaide to the theatre. When they returned to her home, at 219 West 139th street, those present greeted Adelaide in the darkened drawing room with cries of "Happy Birthday" and "Surprise."

Those who were there to make it a pleasantly jolly evening for the delighted guest of honor included Natalie King, Jean and Shirley Coleman, Anita Wilson, Elaine Mounson, Fritzie McGill, Pearl Wallace, Norma (Peggy) Harper, Birdie and Gloria Cotton, Ruth Lane, Doris Foster, Elizabeth Bowser and Doris Scott.

Also Billy Foster, Mark Rivers, Malcolm Davis, Ocie (Tiger) Jordan, Frankie Williams, Carroll Hudnell, Freddie Blackwell, William Smith, Vernon Dingle, Robert Mangum, James Watson, Jr., Howard Payne and Mr. and Mrs. Howard Dammond.