

THE DAWN OF TOMORROW

Famed U.S. Folksinger Dies

New York — Folksinger Josh White, whose sophisticated renditions of rural blues found favour in urban cabarets, died Friday while undergoing heart surgery. He was 61.

White was one of the first folksingers to appear in nightclubs. His repertoire ranged

from blues to ballads, work songs to spirituals—all delivered in a smooth baritone voice.

In cabarets or in concert, he invariably performed seated on a stool with his foot propped up on one of the rungs and his shirts open at the chest. He often smoked between numbers, placing the lighted cigarette behind the ear while he played.

His best known songs included One Meatball, The Ballad of John Henry, Jim Crow Train, Strange Fruit and Hard Time Blues.

Folksinger Harry Belafonte, appearing in Las Vegas, said when informed of White's death:

"I can't tell you how sad I am. I spent many, many hours with him in the years of my early development. He had a profound influence on my style. At the time I came along he was the only popular black folksinger and through his artistry exposed America to a wealth of material about the life and the conditions of black people that had not been sung by any other artist."

White was born in Greenville, S.C., the son of a Baptist minister. His mother named him Joshua in the hope that he would become a preacher.

"Fraid I've disappointed her," White once said. "Preachers have to know an awful lot. I never got beyond the sixth grade."

He was seven years old when he helped a blind Negro singer home and the singer subsequently asked Josh's mother if the boy could take him to Florida for the winter.

"My mother believed that to lead the blind would be doing God's work," White explained. "But to a kid — well, it promised fun, adventure and no regular school day in and day out. And I'd always been crazy about music."

The early travels were not all that much fun, he recalled.

"Roaming the roads, never certain where I'd sleep, and almost always hungry. I heard plenty of bad talk, too, and at first I was too young

to understand it. But the music — the songs and the guitar, somehow they made up for everything."

Because his mother objected to blues singing, White used the pseudonym Pinewood Tom when he first sang the blues. Later, he travelled the country as the Singing Christian.

With his Chain Gang Album at the start of the Second World War he became famous.

"For years I'd been haunted by certain songs that Georgia chain - gang prisoners sang in low, frightened voices when their guards walked down the road a ways, out of hearing," White once explained. "I wanted to try to set them down."

His fame brought him engagements at such New York clubs as Cafe Society and the Blue Angel and he reached the height of his popularity in the 1940's.

In North Hollywood, Calif., jazz expert Leonard Feather said of White: "He was one of the first folksingers to really bring that primitive idiom to the attention of the white public . . . to broaden the scope of the music and bring it out of the ghetto and into the class nightclubs."

In later years White toured the college concert circuit, often performing with his son, Josh White Jr., and daughter Mrs. Beverly Saunders.

White, who lived in New York City, had been inactive for the last three years with

a heart ailment. He died at North Shore Hospital in the Long Island community of Manhasset.

In addition to Josh Jr., and Beverly, he is survived by his widow, Carol and three other daughters; Bunny, Carolyn and Judy.

Funeral arrangements were incomplete.

Dawn of Tomorrow

Published in the interests of and for the Advancement of the Colored people of Canada.

C. E. HOWSON—

Telephone GL-1-0522
95 Glenwood Ave., London

J. F. Jenkins
Advertising Manager

Subscription Rates

One Year	\$2.00
Six Months	1.25
Three Months	.75
Single Copy	.05

The Dawn of Tomorrow
Publishing Co.

DIGNITY and REVERENCE
FOR EVERY FUNERAL



Needham
FUNERAL SERVICE

"The Memorial
Chapel"

520 Dundas Street
434-9141

STAN REID

Hotel London News Stand

LONDON — ONTARIO

EALING PHARMACY LIMITED

873 Hamilton Rd. at East

451-3590

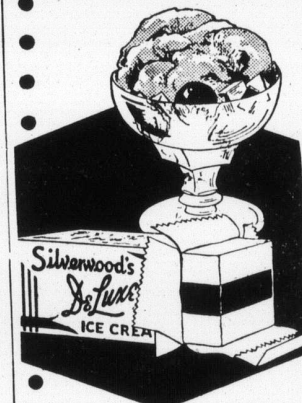
We Deliver

451-3590



EARNED \$2 MILLION IN RING — Kid Gavilan, former welterweight boxing champion, who earned \$2 million in the ring, right, said Tuesday he had accepted a \$5,000-a-year job as a youth director with the Tampa Model Cities' program. Here, he looks over a prospectus with Louis Jones, his new boss.

EAT
ICE - CREAM
EVERY DAY
A
DIFFERENT
WAY



NEVER MIND the Season . . . any day . . . any time is Silverwood's DeLuxe Ice Cream time. Buy the monthly special or Family Bulk Pack . . . the economical dessert.

PHONE 432-6321

Silverwood's
dairy products

OVER 100 YEARS

1858 — 1969

McCormick's
YEARS OF PROGRESS

Assure you that the McCormick's Biscuits and Candies you purchase are the best obtainable.

Buy Them . . . Enjoy a Treat

McCormick's
LIMITED

LONDON — CANADA