

New Cat Club Admission Charges and NYSDS Membership Dues Start Jan. 1

As of January 1, 1990, admission to the Savoy Sunday Big Band Dances at the Cat Club will be as follows: **\$10 regular admission, \$6 for Swing Dance Society Members, \$4 for Seniors.**

Also, as of January 1, there will be three ways to be a member of the New York Swing Dance Society:

MEMBER: \$35 a year, this includes member's admission of \$6 at door of Cat Club, free admission to

Practice sessions, subscription to FOOTNOTES, and yearly membership party.

CONTRIBUTING MEMBER: \$50 a year, all of the above plus your name listed in FOOTNOTES.

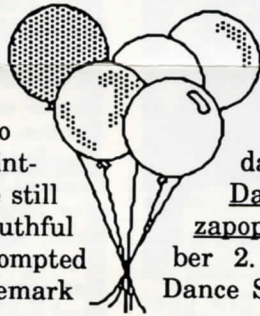
SUSTAINING MEMBER: \$100 a year, all of the above, plus free NYSDS T - Shirt and one complimentary admission to the Cat Club for member and a guest. Membership in the NYSDS is tax deductible.

Norma Miller Birthday Salute December 3 at the Cat Club

Anyone familiar with Norma Miller's monologue is aware that when she speaks about her age, she likes to refer to herself as being in "the bottom of the ninth." But anyone who knows her is also acquainted with the fact that she still plays the game with youthful enthusiasm--which prompted 20-20's Bob Brown to remark

that maybe she was only in the seventh-inning stretch.

The truth is that Norma--the only member of Whitey's Lindy Hoppers who never left show business, and a dancer in such films as Day at the Races and Hellzapoppin'--turns 70 on December 2. The New York Swing Dance Society will celebrate the



event on Sunday, December 3, as part of our regular Sunday night dance at the Cat Club. The band will be Ray Abrams, and performers will include the Norma Miller Dancers, the Jiving Lindy Hoppers (who are flying in from London) and the Big Apple Lindy Hoppers. Ernie Smith will show some "Classic Norma" shorts, and many of the other surviving Lindy Hoppers will be present.

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Williams, Willamae Ricker and Snookie Beasley--and they were billed as "The Eight Original Apple Dancers"; programs described them as "The World's Fastest Dancers." They left in the beginning of the summer, going up to Montreal and straight across the Canadian border to Vancouver. That took four and a



Eunice Callen and Billy Ricker in 1939 at the Apollo Theatre

half days, and Eunice--away from home for the first time--cried every night. From Vancouver, the group caught a boat to Hawaii and the South Pacific. Eunice never saw the tutor, and Frankie left her alone until the time she got wildly drunk in a Honolulu bar shaped like a huge coconut, and lost her pocketbook and passport; thereafter, he kept a careful eye on her. Eunice's distinctive move was an ability to twist down all the way to the floor, which she would do to the cheers of the audience, her partner Billy Ricker, and the other Lindy Hoppers. She also had a beautiful soprano voice, and was chosen by the tour promoters to sing "A-Tisket, A-Tasket" as a solo; Frankie choreographed a routine for the Lindy Hoppers to perform as accompaniment. The group finally returned in July of 1939.

By now, Whitey was spending a lot of time at a place he owned in Oswego. Eunice, however, continued to dance at the Savoy, and trained some younger dancers, including Pepsi Bethel, for the Harvest Moon Ball. "Oh, she was fabulous," says Pepsi. "I had grown up in Greensboro, North Carolina, and my swing-out was completely different. When I took second place, I offered to give her the prize--that's how grateful I felt to her." After the Lindy Hoppers broke up in 1943, Eunice continued to land gigs here and there through her connections. In

1949, however, she quit dancing to seek a steady job. She finally wound up at a Department of Health office in the Bronx, from which she recently retired.

In 1950, she learned that Whitey had died. Services were held at a Harlem funeral home, and were attended by many of Harlem's most famous musicians and dancers. Eunice joined up with her old friends Lucille, Connie, and Mary for the occasion. Afterwards, they retired to their former stomping grounds, the Brittwood Bar and Lillian Johnson. "It was sad," Eunice says, "but we got the chance to reminisce about the dancing and the shows and the club at 101 West 140th Street. We said what we had to say, and made our peace with Whitey."

FOOTNOTES

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Editor: Gabrielle Winkel

Senior Writer: Robert P. Crease

Production Editor: Stewart Newfeld

Staff: Duncan Maginnis, Cynthia Millman, Rebecca Reitz, Trilby Schreiber, Kerry B. Stevens.

Illustrations: Carl Winkel

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