

#4

Bill Robinson

Sixty-one year old Bill Robinson, nimble, rich, and known as the world's greatest tap dancer has scaled the heights never before reached by any Negro performer.

About the greatest thing that can be said about Bill Robinson that hasn't already been said is that he is as human as the man on the corner and colored through and through. Bill makes no attempt to play up to little guys and they hate his guts; at the same time, he goes over the top with the biggies.

Believe it or not, Bo is not very popular with colored performers. They claim he wants to be the big shot all the time, at work or play. If Bill can't have his way, there won't be any show or play. If it's a game, he changes the rules to suit Bill Robinson.

All his lesser associates must be regular "yes men" that is if they like their jobs and it is upon them that the famous Bill Robinson tempest vents the full fury of his wrath.

A born showman, Bill can go before an audience ripping mad ~~and~~ stop the show cold, give several encores with a grin so broad on his face that even the most evil of wags will break out into a smile then proceed to go backstage and cuss out everybody from the stagehands to the orchestra.

Bill's dancing is no longer work to him but as much a natural function as eating and sleeping. If he couldn't dance for money, he'd dance for nothing. This is proven by the number of benefits he has played.

Bill enjoys publicity and of the reams of copy written about him many of the incidents are exaggerated but he doesn't mind.

#5

He likes to be fussed over and often gives the impression that if his reputation dosen't awe you, his money will.

He is dead serious about anything he goes about. Once while playing a game of pocket billiards (he's quite an expert at it) a spectator nudged him just as he was about to make a difficult shot. The spectator almost got shot instead.

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The dancer, Bill Robinson, is with the man on the street one of Harlem's best known, if not most popular residents. Often referred to as the "Mayor of Harlem," he is, unlike the few other celebrated Negro artists of the theatre and concert stage not quite so exclusive, since he is often seen visiting with friends in the spots along the Avenue. With Mrs. Robinson, he lives in one of the handsomest decorated apartments in the Dunbar Residents whenever they are in New York, while in Los Angeles they also have an unusually fine home which was designed by the noted Negro architect, Paul Williams.