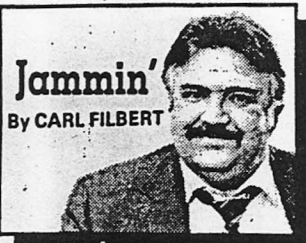


Walk Down Memory Lane takes you to the Stage Door Taylor is just one of many

's time to take a walk down Mem-
Lane.
tep outside the Indian Room
entrance of the Hotel Niaga-
and look across the street. Your
s focus on a side street named
Place. Positioned amidst the
ture of fire escapes and brick
e is a neon sign with the words
ge Door Lounge glowing in the
ance.
his little bit of real estate seems
e removed from Manhattan's Vil-
e and planted firmly at the back
r of the old Cataract Theater and
United Office Building. For a
f moment you feel a sense of an
history and the music it rep-
nted.
e lonely sound of Harry James'
mpet echoes across the pavement.
ou enter the Stage Door Lounge
realize the music is seeping from
ithful Seeberg 500 Jukebox. The
li-colored musical monster im-
diately grabs your attention. Then
see the 1,000 black and white



Jammin'
By CARL FILBERT

a conversation on.
He tells you how the tiny tavern
has served as host to many celeb-
rities and near-greats. Names like
Louis Belson (Pearl Bailey's hus-
band) Buddy Rich, Tony Bennett,
Louis Prima and Paonessa's favor-
ite, Stan Kenton, would regularly
stop by when they were in the area.
Paonessa recalls that Stan Kenton
was perhaps the nicest man he had
ever met.
In a phone call to Kenton's Buffalo
hotel room, Paonessa invited Kenton
to visit his bar. Kenton surprised
Paonessa later that afternoon with a
quick visit and gave his promise to
return after his band's gig at Crystal
Beach.
Paonessa recalls he and his regu-
lars waited patiently for Kenton to
arrive and things were looking dis-
mal as it got later and later. Finally
someone shouted, "Stan's here!" and
a busload of thirsty musicians
crammed into the tiny bar. Paonessa
was so thrilled that Kenton came

that he insisted on carrying the band
leader into the bar piggy-back style.
Paonessa chuckles as he remembers
what a funny sight it was — Kenton
was so tall and Paonessa was so
short.
And so it was in 1968, when I was 20
years younger.
The Stage Door Lounge has been
gone for some time and so are many
of its famous and not-so-famous pa-
trons. But Tony Paonessa's mem-
ories live on and the 1,000-plus black
and white photos still exist.
And Stage Door Tone is still willing
to share his memories with anyone
who wants to hear them.
Stan Kenton made a great impres-
sion on Stage Door Tone and that im-
pression has lasted all these years. I
think some of Kenton's legacy must
have been left behind with Paonessa
because he's one of the nicest guys
I've ever met.
Carl Filbert is a Niagara Falls na-
tive who regularly performs in the
groups Filbert and Volkman and
Slam. If you have a question or com-
ment for him, write in care of the Ni-
agara Gazette, 310 Niagara St.,
Niagara Falls, N.Y. 14303.

one of many
• Continued from 1
Perhaps these idealistic words will
inspire some less-experienced mu-
sicians to practice a little harder on
the guitar tonight. But the fact re-
mains that Niagara Falls artists are
used to having the doors of opportu-
nity closed to them. Many of them
leave the area to seek their fortunes,
while others sadly give up their artistic
dreams and seek careers in other
fields. Now, as our city begins to
awaken from its self-inflicted cultu-
ral coma, it is turning to big names
and big projects in an effort to speed
up its recovery. Unfortunately, local
artists are still being left out of the
picture.
Maxwell Taylor is getting his
chance at success because a group of
Canadian artists is willing to culti-
vate culture in its own back yard. We
are fortunate to have such good
neighbors.

Tony Ventresca is a Niagara Falls-
based free-lance writer.

HEY

IT'S VIDEO FACTORY'S AMAZING
WEEKEND SPECIAL!!

RENT ANY MOVIE
ON SATURDAY AND
KEEP IT TILL MONDAY!
THOUSANDS OF GREAT FILMS
TO CHOOSE FROM!
MORE NEW RELEASES!!
SEE FOR YOURSELF!!

GET A 50¢ COUPON
IF YOU RETURN YOUR
FILM BY 4 O'CLOCK
ON SUNDAY!



MATT DREADLOCK

Video Factory

NIAGARA FALLS LITARY & NIAG. FALLS BLVD. Pine Plaza
283-2831

NORTH TONAWANDA 343 MEADOW AVENUE
Next to Fay's Drugs
693-1693

Fri. & Sat. 10-Mid.
Sun.-Thurs. 10-10

MasterCard
VISA

• DANCING
• FUN
• FOOD
• PHONES

Table to Table Telephones
The Fun Way to
Meet New Friends!

The Bakery
Niagara & 30th Sts
282-9498

THE
Tree House
19th St. & Ferry Ave.

OPEN 4 P.M.
FRI. & SAT.

LET'S KEEP ROCKIN'
With Our D.J.
JERRY TRUNZO

BANQUET & PRIVATE PARTY
FACILITIES AVAILABLE

COUPON

LILY LANGTRY'S
6261 Transit Road
E. Amherst, New York 14051
688-4746 For Reservations

Easter Buffet
GOURMET COOKING
TURN OF THE
CENTURY ATMOSPHERE

\$200 OFF SERVING 1-9 P.M.

Each Coupon Valid For
Up To 8 People In Party

COUPON

MISS BLACK VELVET
MODEL SEARCH
TUESDAY, APRIL 5TH
10:00 PM

Misty's

All interested contestants apply Misty's Lounge
General Public Welcome

DRINK SPECIALS
PRIZES
(Formerly Winery Lounge)

RAMADA INN - NIAGARA
401 BUFFALO AVE. • 285-2541