# Melody Maker

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THREEPENCE

LARRY CLINTON'S LATEST SENSATION

THE

3/2 per Set, post free. LAWRENCE WRIGHT MUSIC COMPANY LTD. Wright House, Denmark Street, London, W.C.2

# DEPROBESION MOURNS

Ken Johnson Killed In Blitz: Ace Tenor Dies: M. Poulsen a Victim: Dancemen Injured

> HE NAZI MURDER RAIDS ON CIVILIANS IN LONDON HAVE CAUSED THE DANCE BAND PROFESSION TO SUFFER SOME GRIEVOUS BLOWS, AND IT IS THE MOURNFUL TASK OF THE 'MELODY MAKER' THIS WEEK TO THE PASSING OF SOME FAMOUS FIGURES IN THE BUSINESS WHO HAVE FALLEN VICTIMS TO ENEMY ACTION.

First and foremost is Ken Johnson, leader of his West Indian Orchestra, and one of the most progressive disciples of modern swing'in this country.

British Guiana, to study medicine at Edinburgh University, but forsook a successful career to lead a band which,

successful career to lead a band which, after many ups and downs, became known as one of the smartest swing outfits in the West End.

His appellation of "Snakehips" was derived from his undoubted genius as a dancer, and he had a real flair for rhythm which had brought his band up to a peak of perfection.

Apart from his bandleading activities, however, Ken Johnson was one of the nicest men it was possible to fill.

The blitz is also having caused serious it will be impossible to fill. ON THURSDAY, MARCH 20, THE DANCE MUSIC PROFESSION WILL LOSE ONE OF THE BIGGEST NAMES IN THE BUSINESS WHEN SYDNEY LIPTON LEAVES TO JOIN THE ROYAL CORPS OF SIGNALS.

twill be impossible to fill.

The funeral took place yesterday (Thursday) at Golders Green Crematorium, and a full report will be published next week, at the same time as an appreciation of Ken Johnson as a bandleader and a man by his closest friend, Leon Cassel-Gerard.

## M. POULSEN

Another victim of the blitz is Martinus Poulsen, a name that may not mean much to the "fan" element of "Melody Maker" readers, but a man who was responsible for giving a lead to the highly paid big-nameband policy in the West End resorts.

He was concerned with the management of the Café de Paris, the Café Anglais, the Embassy Club, and the London Casino, and inaugurated a policy of paying the highest money for biggest names to entertain his clientèle.

This included dance bands, and Ambrose, Jack Harris, Lew Stone, Harry Roy and other name bands have and

all worked for him at high figures.
Forty-seven years of age, Mr. Poulsen was a naturalised Dane who had worked his way up from the poorest beginnings until, before the war, it had been estimated that he controlled £300,000 worth of entertainment.

A far-seeing man, full of initiative and business acumen, his death removes

Only twenty-nine years of age, Ken from the West End sphere one to whom came over from his native Georgetown, musicians will always be grateful, and one who did a great deal to better their

Nor is our sad tale yet complete, for a Nazi bomb has also claimed Dave Williams, regarded by the discerning as in the very forefront of British tenor-sax players.

Dave, a coloured boy, was well known around the West End, and had played for leading bands. Our deep sympathy goes to his relatives.

#### INJURIES

The blitz is also responsible for having caused serious injuries to a

Joe Deniz, the well-known guitar player, is in hospital with a compound fracture of the foot; and Carl Barriteau, the coloured sax star, is another casualty.

Carl has had his hand badly hurt, and has also sustained a sprained foot, but it is good news to learn that his fingers are usable and that he will be

fingers are usable and that he will be



KEN ("SNAKEHIPS") JOHNSON, the first famous bandleader to be claimed by the blitz.

known as a pianist around the West End, is in hospital with severe cuts about the head and eyes and the final figure in this melauchely story is that of Tommy Bromley, the noted bass player, whose injuries comprise a frac-tured leg tured leg.

### RECITAL SWITCH

Tommy, who plays bass in Harry Parry's Rhythm Club Sextet, was due on Monday of this week to have broad-cast a recital of bass players on records. Owing to his injury, his place was taken by ex-Poste Parisien and Radio Normandy compère-producer ble to play again.

York de Sousa, for many years well Lewis and his Band.

# FORESYTHE'S NEW OPUS-" DODGING FATIGUE"!

For so long associated with the Grosvenor House, his band will remain there under the direction of pianist Billy Munn, who has been with him for a number of years.

His thousands of rection of the control of the cont

His thousands of radio, stage and record fans will wish him every success in his new rôle, and look forward to

the time when they will again be able to "leave the music to Sydney Lipton."

DAVE WILLIAMS, famous West End tenor-star, who has died as the result of enemy action,

REGINALD FORESYTHE, now back at the 400 Club with his band, has duly attested for the R.A.F. and is awaiting his calling-up

He does not expect to do much band work in the Service, and is actually looking forward to completing a ballet on which he has been engaged for some months.

Reggie also tells us that his piano concerto which he has worked at fitfully for a long period is now taking final

shape.

The fact that he passed A1 in his confirms his longmedical, says Reggie, confirms his long-held opinion that night club work cannot be so detrimental to the health after all!

# TABOR FOR MURRAY'S

FTER a most successful season at A FTER a most successful season at the Rougemont Hotel, Exeter, Al Tabor opens with his band at Murray's Club on Monday next, March 17.

Al is one of the most experienced leaders in the business, but after more than twenty years of bandleading, he features a strikingly up-to-date style which will undoubtedly please the customers at Murray's.

# Big Chance for Trombonist

THERE is an excellent chance for a trombonist who can play in modern style to join Sid Phillips's Quintette at Le Suivi, one of the most fashionable bottle parties in London.

Rex Owen, who has been playing tenor in the band, is leaving, and Sid is anxious to add a trombone to the ensemble to give it the authentic Dixieland flavour.
Slip-horn players who think they

could fit in with this top-class aggregation should get in touch with Sid Phillips, c/o this office.

# SONG THAT HAUNTS YOU

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SONG OF THE PRAIRIE) DANCE SET 2/-.

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# GERALDO TOPS **EMPIRE** REOPENING

FTER a period of six months' compulsory closing, Finsbury Park Empire opened again this week with a great "top" in Geraldo and his full broadcasting band.

After the numerous appearances of

this combination on the radio recently, the vociferous welcome of the audience was understandable, but Geraldo relied in the main on the musical excellence of the ensemble rather than comedy to

of the ensemble rather than comedy to put over the presentation.

Chief comedy prop of the show is Jackie Hunter, and he proves without any doubt that he is an act in himself. Despite the comparative fatuity of his Seven Beers With The Wrong Woman number, his facial expressions suggest that he would be a useful recruit to films, and his burlesques of various types of singer, with whom we are inflicted all too often, genuinely reaches the inspired. the inspired.

#### EXCELLENT BRASS

For the musician the act is full of good things, particularly Alfie Noakes' muted trumpet chorus in Only For Ever, the excellence of the brass throughout, the three-piano version of the Strauss evergreen Voices Of Spring, the blended saxes, and particularly some lovely tenor obbligati by George Evans and the solid but neatly unob-

trusive rhythm section.

Geraldo himself takes part in the Strauss number, and shows that arpeggi can still remain within the capabilities

of even bandleaders.

Vocally, the act is lavishly provided, and full marks go to Dorothy Carless both for looks and singing, and to Len

Camber for his rather charming youthfulness and artless singing.

George Evans and Jackie Hunter neatly aid and abet, and if Geraldo himself seems a little static in the show at times, his dignity, really impressive appearance, and obvious complete command of the band add greatly to its attractiveness.

The boys themselves wear green mess jackets and ordinary dress trousers, and the presentation as a whole is most pleasing. It must be said that, considering that the whole show was rehearsed for the first time the night It must be said that, con-

before opening, its slickness is notable.
Other dates are being arranged for
the band, we understand, for variety in London

# FORCES' LETTER-BOX

Forces! This is your own special corner of the Melony Maker. Whether you want news of old pals, orchestrations, instruments, records or just to send greetings to other members of the Forces, write here. Here is where all readers will look to hear from you. Keep your communications as short as possible, and address' them to: Forces' Letter-Box, Thir Melody Maker, 93, Long Acre, W.C.2. No charge.

Cunner G. Baty, R.A., wants five or six folding stands for travelling purposes, and also any old-time orchestrations, such as The Naughty Waltz, Blaze Away, etc.—in fact, any numbers that can be spared to help the band get under way.

Ace-clarinettist bandleader Syd Millward, now statloned somewhere in East Yorkshire, finds himself with his complete 15-piece library, but no musicians to play it. He is keen to form a Garrison Orchestra and asks neighbouring Service musicians to contact him, or for musicians lable to an early call-up to get in touch with a view to joining his Battery. Write to him c/o the Metody Maker.

W.O. P. E. Gunn, who is M.D. of an R.A.F. unit 12-piece dance band, would like to contact a good trombone player, preferably one whose services are not being made use of. Plenty of dances, concerts and gigs. Write, with particulars of number, rank, name, etc., c/o Forces' Letter-Box.

Pte. R. A. Macintosh, of the R.A.P.C., writes that he is keen to become a regular member of his unit's dance and Playing Spanish guitar, he has been able to borrow one occasionally, but this is becoming increasingly difficult, and he asks whether any philanthropic reader has one he could spare to enable him to sit in regularly with the boys.

Mr. R. Dover, of Gillingham, Kent, has at his disposal a pumber of guitar

thropic reader has one he could spare to enable him to sit in regularly with the boys.

Mr. R. Dover, of Gillingham, Kent, has at his disposal a number of guitar and violin strings, and is wondering if any member of H.M. Porces could make use of them. He will send them gratis if they will co-operate by paying carriage. Write to him, c/o this column. First come, first served.

Sgt. Jimmy Cotton, R.A., and all members of the Donaford Swing Band, send heartiest congratulations to A/Capt. Henry Nicholks, R.E., on his promotion. His successor in the band, Bert Arnold, late of Brian Lawrance's Lansdowne House Sextette, etc., sends his good wishes to all his friends in the profession. Egt. Cotton is annicous to obtain news of his ex-guitariet, L/Cpl. Bob Raddon, R.A.O.C., last heard of "Somewhere in the North." He adds that if any leaders have spare swing S.O. parts, they would be very greatly appreciated.

Stockton Record and Instrumental Club.—Despite reduction of members due to the callup, this Club still manages to produce a quartette consisting of alto, trumpet, piano and drums, and has been holding occasional meetings to keep members together. The last was on March 12 at the Co-operative Hall Employees, Recreation Club Room, Atkinson Street, Stockton. All interested should write, F. L. Kane, 68, Buchanan Street, Stockton.

L. Morley, late of the 144 Rhythm Club and now on Government work near Portsmouth, would welcome letters from the Kingsbury Club members. He also wants news of drummer Willie Wilson 'from the same Club, whose address he has lost.

# IT'S A WELLING GRAND HALL-IF YOU CAN GET IN!

STAN ATKINS and his Band celebrate twelve months' residence at the Embassy Rooms, Welling Kent, to-day (Friday) with a special birthday dance, at which well-known broadcast-Kent,

dance, at which well-known broadcasting stars are expected to appear.

It was very much hoped to hold this dance in the £20,000 Grand Hall, which was requisitioned by the Bexley Borough Council last November, and was ordered to be released by the authorities in January this year.

However, despite representations by the Ministry of Labour the Ministry of

the Ministry of Labour, the Ministry of Home Security, and the Ministry of Health, this hall is not yet available, and Stan and his Boys continue playing in the smaller hall.

Stan is taking this occasion to express his appreciation to a grand bunch of boys who have stuck with him throughout the blitz, sleeping on the premises, and carrying on despite a number of narrow escapes from bombs which have fallen close at hand, and on one occasion sending fragments crashing through the roof.

# RABIN BREAKS RECORDS

OSCAR RABIN and the Romany Band have just established new records at the Playhouse, Glasgow, and patrons of this hall are bitterly disappointed that this record-breaking unit remains only a fortnight in the city.
The Glasgow Evening Times says:

"Oscar Rabin, had he been given the opportunity afforded to Joe Loss, would have created a new record for visiting bands. As it is, the Romany Band attracted the biggest crowd for any one night when, last Saturday, the management were obliged to close the doors after the hall was packed to capacity. During the second week of their stay, figures of admission were steadily rising."

Beryl Davis. the band's attractive croonette, celebrates her seventeenth birthday on March 16 by singing with th Romany Band, when they are the band of the week at the B.B.C.

# Leader Wants Trumpet

HARRY LEADER, still, leading his band with terrific success at the Hammersmith Palais—which, despite all rumours, did not suffer in London's recent blitz—badly wants a trumpet player, and will welcome enquiries at the Palais. He has already fixed a nignist

Don't Forget

THE "MELODY MAKER" ALL-LANCS 1941 DANCE BAND CHAMPIONSHIP

on FRIDAY, MARCH 28,

at the CARLTON BALLROOM, ROCHDALE, LANCS

Entry forms from:

Lew Buckley, 107, Broadway, Royton, Oldham, Lancs. (MAIn, Oldham, 1431)

Dancing 8 p.m. to 1 a.m. Licence Applied For.

Freddy Platt and His Orchestra.

"M.M." Bannerette of Honour, Diplomas, and other handsome prizes for winning bands and best soloists.

# SOUTHPORT "SHOWMAN"

ONE of the very few "local paper" journalists to write regularly on dance bands and dance music before the war was "Showman" of the Southport Visiter.

He is now Leading Aircraftman George L. Hindley, having volunteered for the R.A.F. in January, 1940, and on Saturday last he was married to Miss Doreen B. Edleston, of South-

In pre-war days he was well known in Southport and district dancebanding

His writings proved to be the fore-runner of the local Dance Band Association, he had met and written about most of the "big timers," and is one of the few journalists who has twice visited the Radio Luxembourg Studios in the Grand Duchy itself

# M.U. Ball in Bedford

CELEBRITY Ball in aid of the A CELEBRITY Dan in Sunday Benevolent Fund is to be held at the Corn Bedford on Tuesday, Exchange, Bedford, on Tuesday, March 18.

Dancing from 8 p.m. to 1 a.m. will take place to Phil Cardew and his full "Band Wagon" Orchestra. Bernard Monshin has promised to appear, and vocalist Peggy MacCormick will also appear if other engagements permit.

Tickets, which cost five shillings, can be obtained from either Messrs. Fraser's or Messrs. Murdoch's in Bedford, or from Reg Knight, Musicians' Social and Benevolent Council, 27, Rupert Street, W.C.

# MEN WANTED

JACK LEONARDI, JACK LEONARDI, well-known broadcaster, resident at Bobby's Restaurant, Bournemouth, is looking for an accordionist and a drummer for his orchestra.

for his orchestra.

The engagement is to start on March
24, and he wants musicians able to play
both straight and dance music. He
would not object to lady musicians,
and would, in fact, prefer them.

Both Emilio and Peter Valerio were,
accordion protégès of Leonardi's, and
with a steady flow of B.B.C. dates
ahead of him, this position should offer
plenty of attraction to the right of attraction to the right plenty musicians

Musicians are also needed for the newly opened Auberge de France Restaurant, Piccadilly, W.1.

Here dancing in the Continental style, especially to appeal to the thousands of foreign soldiers now in this country, is being planned by M. André, who is seeking a pianist, preferably able to double accordion, and two violinists, if possible doubling sax and clarinet.

These should be qualified to dispense the type of Continental dance music preferred by this specialised clientele, and should communicate with M. André at the Winston Hotel, 1, Jermyn Street, W.1.

# DOWN EV'RY STREET THE LATEST FLANAGAN & ALLEN HIT!

GOOD MORNING! SERGEANT MAJOR THE COMEDY RIOT!

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THE LATEST ARMY FAVOURITE!

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CENTURY DRAWING ROOM GOOD-NIGHT AGAIN WHEN THE BLACK-BIRD SAYS BYE-BYE

# BRITISH JAZZ MAKES THE

# EDGAR **JACKSON**

Reviews the New Swing Records

RADIO RHYTHM CLUB SEXTET.

\*\*I've Found A New Baby (Palmer, Williams) (CE.10672) (Recorded January 28, 1941).

\*\*\*Black Eyes (Ferraris) (CE.10673) (Recorded January 28, 1941).

(Parlophone R.2786—3s. 8d.)

Harry Parry (clar.-director) with George Shearing (piano, celeste); Roy Marsh (vibraphone); Joe Deniz (gtar.); Tom Bromley (bass); Ben Edwards (drums).

HE long and the short of this disc is that it proves, and for the first time, without the necessity of any qualifying ifs or buts, that British boys can hold their own with the Americans when it comes to getting the real thing disc is that it proves, and for

in improvised jazz on to the wax.

This remark is first and foremost a tribute to Harry Parry and his

tribute to Harry Parry and his satelites.

But if one takes the long view, it is a good deal more than that.

It means that what has for years been a fetish—the fetish that British jazz inherently lacks something—has been laid by the heels, and I doubt if anything could be more calculated to put new heart into home-produced jazz and herald the new era for it which may well result. The first thing to be said about both

new era for it which may well result. The first thing to be said about both sides is that they reflect so convincingly the right outlook on jazz, as regards the work of both the band as a whole and its musicians individually. This is jazz played by people who not only have the right ideas, but know how to express them in the jazz language, and if the ideas are not always amazingly original, at least they sound spontaneous. spontaneous.

#### SHEARING STARS

Perhaps this remark applies most pertinently to Black Eyes, the presenta-tion of which seems to have been in-spired to some extent by Artie Shaw's record. Nevertheless, it can be said of this side that Parry plays fine clarinet,

this side that Parry plays fine clarinet, that Marsh's vibraphone is the nearest thing to Hampton's that local talent has produced, and that Ben Edwards is the only one I have heard of our drummers who can play jungle tomtoms with the real jungle swing.

But perhaps the star of this side, and the coupling, is George Shearing.

Previously inclined to be too busy and not too steady in his tempi. George is now playing a simple, relaxed style that is not only more lucid and tasteful, but seems to have provided him with a much finer

lucid and tasteful, but seems to have provided him with a much finer means of saying the by no means negligible things he has to say.

Parlophone have issued this disc in their "Rhythm-Style" Series, thereby according to Harry Parry and his Sextet the honour of being the first British artistes to appear in it during the ten years it has been in existence. All I have to say is that this record deserves the honoir. But a precedent has been created which may well become dangerous if followed up without great care and discrimination.



LOUIS ARMSTRONG AND HIS ORCHESTRA.

\*\*Hep Cats' Ball (Palmer, Armstrong, Robinson) (V.) (Am. Decca 67321) (Recorded March 14, 1940).

"Lazy 'Sippi Steamer (Armstrong, Selman, Russell) (V.) (Am. Decca 67325) (Recorded March 14, 1940).

(Decca F.7700—2s. 5½d.)
Armstrong (tpt., vocalist) with Rupert Cole, Charles Holmes (altos); Joe Garland, Bing Madison (tenors); Shelton Hemphill, Bernard Flood, Henry "Red Allen (tpts.); Wilbur de Paris, George Washington, Jay C. Higginbotham (trmbs.); Luis Russell (pno.); Lee S. Blair (gtar.); George "Pop" Foster (bass); Sidney Catlett (drums).



Bob Crosby (in a hep cat suit, and how!) lends an evidently pleased ear to the solo efforts of bassist Bob Haggart and drummer Ray Bauduc in a scene from RKO-Radio's new film "Let's Make Music."

A CCORDING to Cab Calloway's position in 12-bar blues form consists of alternate solos and riff passages by knows all the answers, understands the

The only real Hep Cat on the side is Louis, whose singing and trumpet playing are still unique in their way, even though the rest of the record is not much more than a reasonable competent band playing a quite "commercial" arrangement of a quite ordinary

Much the same may be said of the nostalgic Lazy 'Sippi Steamer, in which again Louis has to struggle against a rather dull arrangement and a band which presents nothing outstanding.



COUNT BASIE AND HIS ORCHESTRA.

\*\*\*The World Is Mad-Parts I and II

"The World Is Mad—Parts I and II
(Basie) (Am. OKeh WCO. 3255
and WCO: 3256) (Recorded
approx. September, 1940).
(Parlophone R.2784—3s. 8d.)
Basie (piano) with Earl Warren, Jack
Washington (altos); Lester Young,
Buddy Tate (tenors); Buck Clayton, Ed.
Lewis, Al Killian, Harry Edison (tpts.);
Victor Dickerson, Dicky Wells, Dan
Minor (trmbs.); Fred Green (gtar.);
Walter Page (bass); Joe Jones (drms).

TN stating the obvious Mr. Basie has

In stating the obvious, Mr. Basie has displayed a quite unnecessary modesty by failing to add that he is not included in the accusation.

This double-sided

This double-sided swing opus is very far from being mad. In fact, it is one of the best records the band has turned out for some time.

The first side of this fast tempo com-

# BING SINES TO BRITAIN

AFTER all these years, the No. 1 Crooner of the business, Bing Crosby, is actually to sing in a British radio programme.

But it will be on records specially made by Bing in Hollywood, together with dialogue which will be fitted to that of B.B.C. producer Douglas Moodie, and the whole aired as an actual broad-cast of Crosby singing and talking.

These recordings have been made unaccompanied, and music will be added here by Louis Levy's orchestra playing in a B.B.C. studio. This airing is to be the first of a series called "Picture Reporter." in which a number of Hollywood stars will be featured, and the Crosby date is March 28.

Bing's usual fee for a broadcast is round about £1,200 in America, but he will do this one in Britain for nothing. This is Bing's contribution to the nation's war effort, and is the sort of gesture that one expects from a man whose reputation as a gentleman is as ace-high as it is as a crooner.

the ensemble.

The solos, notably by Basie (note Walter Page's swell bass behind), the sax men and the trombone, are all good, and while rather muzzy reproduction has not helped the clarity of the ensemble parts, it may fairly be said that they are reasonably free from the over-arranging that has made some of, wax.

GRADE

Basie's offerings seem unnecessarily

Basie and various of the sax players, as well as drummer Joe Jones and bassist Walter Page, are again heard in solos on Side II, but the ensemble takes what may be said to be the lion's share of this side.

The famous Basie rhythm section is very much in evidence, but this time has nothing on the rest of the band, which plays with well-known Basie-an vigour and scintillating lift music that is not only jazz in the true sense of the word, but has a sparkle and enthusiasm that even this sprightly outfit does not always achieve.



## ANDREWS SISTERS.

"Down Argentine Way")
(Jararaca, Paiva, Stillman,
Torre) (Am. Decca DLA.2041) (Recorded July 7, 1940).

\*\*Johnny Peddler (Brown, Almeida, (Recorded August 3, 1940).
(Brunswick 03104—3s. 8d.)
Acc. by Vic Schoen and his Orchestra.

INCONSEQUENT tunes haven't given the girls much scope to offer more than their usual bright and breezy performances.

But you've still got to hand it to them for being the best vocal trio on the

F & D'S ORCHESTRAL CLUB

JOHNNY PEDDLER (I GOT

I GIVE YOU MY HEART 'OO,OO, WHEN I AM IN YOUR ARMS

YOU SAY THE SWEETEST

SIERRA SUE THE JOHNSON RAG THE LITTLE BOY WHO NEVER TOLD A LIE

DOWN BY THE O-HI-O I'M NOBODY'S BABY ... IF TEARS COULD BRING YOU BACK

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Please enrol me as a subscriber to your Orchestral Journal for which I enclose & The arrangement I require is DANCE BAND COMBINATION (S.O.) 181-, ORCH.-PIANO and ACCORDION GUIDE 6/-, TRIO (P.C. and any other two parts, 12/-, Mark with X combination required.

# THE GREATEST SOLOS IN JAZZ

# MORE ABOUT CASPER REARDON

ON the very day upon which my article—"Young Man With A Harp"—appeared ("M.M.," March 1), I received a letter from Casper Reardon himself. Numerous interesting points are raised by Reardon, and, in order to complete the data given in my article. will quote a brief résumé of what he

Taking the various sessions in order,

## DRUM-DOPE-29

MANY a time you may wish you had a timp handy—no, not to throw at the bandleader, but because there was some parti-cular part of a tune that simply cried out for one.

But timps are not to be found in the equipment of the gigging drummer. But a couple of do-at-a-pinch substitutes always are.

These are the bass drum, and the large tom-tom. The snare

the large tom-tom. The snare drum isn't really suitable, being at too high a tension.

But the bass drum will do—if rolled on with soft sticks and undamped. This last is important; a soft-stick roll on a heavily damped bass drum sounds like someone kicking the caller door. someone kicking the cellar door.
The heads must be fairly boomy

one of these snap on and off dampers it is fairly simple, or even if you're using the duster method of damping.

But if you've got all sorts of bits and nicess pressing on the head it

and pieces pressing on the head it is well-nigh impossible.

The other way is the tom-tom, and this must be fairly large (say, not less than 10 in.), fairly deep

and not too tight.

Don't use snare drum sticks for this, Get a couple of medium-hard timp sticks, or felt marimba beaters. Anything that hasn't got the "tap" of the snare drum

Roll in the approved timpani style—that is, with the backs of the hands up—both of them—and the sticks held between the thumb and forefinger first joint.

A timpani effect is very useful or rallentando finishes, or "dramatic" openings, or anything that the bandboys call "orches-tral."

# "Connoisseur"

Casper has been able to add the fol-

lowing facts:

September 18, 1934: The Teagarden session, to the personnel of which should be added Art Miller (bass) and

Herb Quigley (drums).

January 15, 1936: The Bob Terry session (for Champion).

April 23, 1936: The first Liberty

session (L.193)—personnel composed of a contingent from Lud Gluskin's

September 19, 1936: The second Liberty session (L.199)—personnel com-prising Fairchild and Carroll's

Orchestra. May 18, May 18, 1937: The Mills session (Master 133)—personnel as stated.

#### HIS ORCHS.

June 10, 1937.—The third Liberty session (L.218)—personnel as follows: Henry Wade and Jim Lytell (clarinets), Tony Tortommas (trumpet), Mack Shopnick (bass), and Herb Quigley (drums).

February 5, 1940: The 10-in. Schirmer

April 12, 1940: The 12-in. Schirmer session—personnel as stated.

Reardon adds that he has at various times been a member of the Casa Loma Orchestra, Jack Denny's Orchestra, Richard Himber's Orchestra, and Paul

Whiteman's Orchestra.
This last fact is interesting, in view

This last fact is interesting, in view of what I said recently regarding the appearance of Reardon, Goodman and Tatum on the Junk Man session (in my reply to Wareing's Venuti problem).

In actual fact, then, Reardon was quite entitled to figure on this date, and it leaves only Tatum and Goodman with whom we have to deal. The former is easily disposed of, for it now appears that he was not present after all (due to contract difficulties), whilst all (due to contract difficulties), whilst the fact that Goodman played on this session was never officially admitted by

Brunswick at the time.

Had they done so, no doubt Paul
Whiteman would have brandished his contract at them in considerable wrath!

Reardon concludes with the wel-come news that he has just recorded four more 12-in. sides for Schirmer, so we may look forward to some more interesting work by our Young Man With A Harp.

# Graeme Butcher Makes His **Choice and Asks the Experts**

WAS recently listening to a short-wave programme by a band that I did not recognise, when the trumpet player tore off a pretty mean

solo, and, as I listened, I wondered

who the player was.

This led me to think of the many "hot" trumpet solos I had heard, and I wondered which solo was generally agreed to be the best ever—one solo for each instrument. for each instrument.

I have since reviewed the situation

again and again, and found how diffi-cult it was to choose between the many

solos which have ever been played.

For instance, let's have a look at the trumpet solos which might be in the running for the title of "Best 'hot trumpet solo ever."

First of all came the many "hot" ones by Louis Armstrong—including West End Blues and Ain't Misbehavin' Then comes the immortal Bix Beiderbecke (and/or Andy Secrest!)

with such titles as Jazz Me Blues, Royal Garden Blues, and Singin' The Blues.

Bunny Berigan must be considered, as must the "Young Bix"—Bobby Hackett —who did some fine work on Leonard Feather's All Star Band session.

#### BRASS

From the Ellington contingent we must keep in mind Rex Stewart and Cootie Williams. "Smack" Henderson's trumpet man—the late Tommy Ladnier—must be considered, and also such men as Henry Allen, Jnr., Muggsy Spanier, Harry James, and Charlie Shavers.

Shavers.

At the head of the list of trombone players we find grand old-timer Jimmy Harrison, who did such fine work in Henderson's Fidgety Feet.

Then we cannot leave out Jay C. Higginbotham, Fred Robinson, Miff Mole, Tommy Dorsey, and Jack Teagarden; nor must one forget such men as Glenn Miller and Dicky Wells—and, of course, "Mike's" sore point, Lawrence Brown

There is a great difficulty in deciding between the boys on the alto list—Benny Carter, Willie Smith, Johnny Hodges, and old-timer Frankie

Trumbauer.

In fact, the whole job is going to be mighty hard.

Benny Carter should, I think, appear in the runners for the tenor sax title. Coleman Hawkins is also an obvious runner—though where to find his best

work is almost beyond me! Choo Berry is, perhaps, "Bean's" greatest rival—remember his fine work during the second American "Jam Session" relay?

The Count Basie aggregation provides two very good men—Lester Young and the late Hershel Evans—both very good with Basie's Orchestra. I think, also, Frenchman Alex Combelle is good enough for this list, which is completed by Bud Freeman, Art Rollini, and "Babe" Rusin.

"Babe" Rusin.
Please don't write in and say why
have I not included So-and-So, as I am
not going to be given a whole "M.M."
issue to fill!

Now here are a few clarinet players in the running

The First of Two Articles

First. grand the Sidney timers. Jimmy Noone, Bailey, and Johnny Dodds, all of whom have a very fine chance.

Don Murray—remember his grand stuff on Bix's Jazz Me Blues?—and Barney Bigard are good bets; and to fill up the list we have Benny Goodman, Artie Shaw, and Joe Marsala.
"Duke" Ellington heads the list for

pianists with such favourites as Swampy

Pianists with such favourites as Swampy River and Black Beauty.

To keep with the aristocracy we add "Earl" Hines and "Count" Basie. More coloured pianists in the running are the Wilsons—Teddy and Garland—Thomas "Fats" Waller, Freddy Johnson, and the boogie-woogie trio Meade Lux Lewis, Pete Johnson and Albert Ammons. Ammons.

Gin Mill Blues puts Joe Sullivan on the list, and he is accompanied, in the white part, by Jess Stacy, Arthur Schutt and Frank Signorelli.

#### VIOLINS

Fiddlers are equally divided in colour. Eddie South and "Stuff" Smith lead the coloured ranks, and they are opposed by Joe Venuti and Stephane Grappelly for whites.

Carl Kress, Django Reinhardt, and the late Eddie Lang and Dick McDonough are all in the running for guitar honours, and they are accompanied by Lonnie Johnson.

"Pops" Bechet should have little difficulty in taking the soprano sax title. After great deliberation I finally decided that, in my humble opinion, the following are the top "hot" solos in jazz:—

(Parlo R 2281) in "Apple Violin: Joe Venuti in "Apple Blossoms" (Parlo R 647)
Guitar: Eddie Lang in "Freeze 'n Melt" (Parlo R 448)
Having made my list, I decided to inquire what a couple of experts had to say on the subject, and next week I shall reprint two very interesting letters that I received from M. Hugues Panassie and Eric Ballard.

(To be continued)

## MELODY MAKER

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## BAY ECHO OF SERENADE S.O: 2/6

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# LEONARD FEATHER takes you round the Hotbeds of American Jazz, and introduces you to the famous

# SOCIETY CAFE

Town until you get to Sheridan Square in Green-wich Village. Just across the street, nestled away at an intersection of two of the little winding streets, you find Café Society, the place that gave Boogie-Woogie to New York. York.

Down one flight of stairs, the music greets you robustly as you join the throng of Society folks,

you join the throng of Society folks, theatrical notabilities and the others who make up the Café's generously assorted audience.

If the band is playing, and you get your kicks for a set or two, then wait around until ten o'clock, or midnight or 2 a.m., to catch one of the three floor shows. And what shows! No other spot in the city has ever offered such a brilliant succession of first-class coloured swing soloists, bands and acts. acts

acts.
For Café Society, right from the start, was a unique venture. Its story goes back to autumn, 1938, and the central figure is a dapper, pleasant-mannered guy named Barney Josephson, whose success as proprietor of this downtown haunt enabled him a few months ago to open a second Café uplown, catering to the exclusive Park Avenue set.

#### LAMPOON

Too many of New York's night club owners seem to be, and act like, tough guys, ex-waiters, gangsters and boot-leggers. Barney Josephson is so much of a gentleman and an honest business man that its hardly seems possible he man that it hardly seems possible he is the fellow in sharge here until he

is the fellow in harge here until he tells you his story.
Formerly a shoe merchant in New Jersey, he spent many of his spare evenings in New York inspecting the entertainment in a variety of night resorts. Finding something lacking in all of them, he eventually came to the logical conclusion that the only thing to do was start a place of his own.
The original idea of Café Society was to lampoon the real "Café Society" set, the folks who make news in the gossip columns. Ironically, the club later became popular with the very folks who were being satirised.
In October, 1938, Josephson was introduced to John Hammond, who, he was

In October, 1938, Josephson was introduced to John Hammond, who, he was told, would be able to help find him some talent for his music and shows. John and he became firm friends, and the Hammond influence has been the most decisive factor in guiding Café Society's policy along the lines of genuine swing music.

"I'll take care of the band for you," said John, and proceeded to help get together a combination under the direction of Frankie Newton. Billie Holiday, who was having her troubles in the Artie Shaw Band, left Shaw to open at the Café as principal solo artist.

Mead Lux Lewis and Albert Ammons.

Mead Lux Lewis and Albert Ammons, newly teamed up as boogie-woogie piano duettists, and Jack Guilford, a

CAFE SOCIETY DISCS

FRANKIE NEWTON'S CAFE SOCIETY
ORCHESTRA
(Amer. Vocalion)
Jitters—Jam Fever.
Tab's Blues—Frankle's Jump.
The Vamp—Paratle! Fitths.
JOE SULLIVAN'S CAFE SOCIETY
ORCHESTRA
(Vocalion, OKeh)

"I Can't Give You Anything but Love—
Lady Be Good.
"Low Down Dirty Shame—Solitude.
Pom Pom—I Cover the Waterfront.
I've Got a Crush on You—Coquette.
PETE JOHNSON'S ORCHESTRA
(Vocalion)
"Cherry Red—Baby Look At You.
Solos. Duets. Trios by PETE JOHNSON. ALBERT AMMONS, MEAD LUX.
LEWIS on English Parlophone; Solo
Art; Blue Note. IDA COX with RED
ALLEN'S ORCH. Amer. Vocalion;
SISTER THARPE, Decca-Brunswick; JAMES
P. JOHNSON. Parlophone; TEDDY
WILSON'S ORCHESTRA and EDDIE
GATE QUARTET, Bluebird.
("Peaturing Joe Turner.)

OU take the subway down-town until you get to Sheridan Square in Green-Sheridan Square in Green-

Society opened its doors on December 28, 1938.

At that time, boogie-woogie was almost an unknown quantity in New York. Hammond had given it a good start by placing Lux and Ammons in the concert at Carnegie Hall, that Christmas, entitled "From Spirituals to Swing." But to almost everyone's amazement, the new trend in jazz caught on like wildfire.

Eliot Paul, famous American novelist, was so fascinated by the style that he went home and practised it for six months.

#### CLASSICAL BOOGIE!

As a result, on a special session one evening the Café patrons saw the astonishing spectacle of the bearded author of Life and Death of a Spanish Town glued to the keyboard in a more than passable impression of a Kansas City boogie solo!

Through a friend of Josephson's who showed him the original pages. Strange

City boogie solo!

Through a friend of Josephson's who showed him the original poem, Strange Fruit was set to music for Billie Holiday and became her biggest hit. One way and another, the Café made news every day—and made records, too, for the popularity of the stars in this show resulted in many a wax date, Billie's on Vocalion and Commodore, Newton's on Vocalion, and the boogie men on a variety of labels. (See list.)

That was a successful year with Frankie Newton, Tab Smith and Kenneth Holion on reeds, Sonny White at the piano. Johnny Williams' bass and Eddie Dougherty's drums helped to put the music in the right groove.

Late in 1939 a change of band was at last undertaken when Joe Sullivan went in with what was later admitted to be a mediocre all-white combination. Joe Marsala's group played as alternating band for a couple of weeks. Then Sullivan got rid of all the ofay musicians except Danny Polo and scored a decisive hit with the mixed aggregation.

At this time, too, began the rise to

aggregation.

At this time, too, began the rise to fame of the biggest star ever developed by Café Society—and, oddly enough, she was found not by John Hammond, but

by Josephson himself.

This was Hazel Scott, a slim and comely graduate of the Juilliard school of music, who sang the blues in a way that had the audiences screaming for more, then sat down at the piano and took chorus after chorus of individually styled solos. styled solos.

#### STAR MUSICIANS

Hazel, who was born in Trinidad and still remains a British subject, was an instantaneous hit. Society folks lionised her. No matter who else was in the show, if she happened to be away ill one evening, dozens of patrons would turn away rather than go in and see the show without her in it. Hazel made her first records with the Sextet of the Rhythm Club of London (HM.V.), and more recently did an album of piano solos for Decca featuring her extraordinary transcriptions of the classics. After Sullivan left last summer, veteran pianist James P. Johnson filled in with a smail group until Teddy Wilson brought along his elegant little jam band, featuring Bill Coleman, Jimmy Hamilton, Yank Porter, Al Hall and Benny Morton. By November the new uptown Café Society was ready and the Wilson bunch moved up there while Sullivan came back with a new but inferior coloured personnel.

Then, two or three months ago, came the band that topped them all—Red Allen's sextet, with Higginbotham on trombone, Ed Hall on clarinet, the sensational Kenneth Kersey at the piano, Jimmy Hoskinson drums and Billy Taylor on bass. Josephson, Hammond and all the patrons seem to be agreed that Allen's is the finest little band ever to have played at either of the Cafés, and their forthcoming discs, made here for OKeh, should prove it to you too.

With Wilson's and Eddie South's Hazel, who was born in Trinidad and

One of the striking murals at the Cafe Society, New York.

groups-uptown (plus Ammons and Pete Johnson, Hazel, the Golden Gate Quartet) and Allen downtown (plus Mead Lux, Art Tatum, Sister Rosetta Tharpe and Willie Bryant) the Cafés have a sum total of talent that would be hard to beat.

be hard to beat.

The vocal acts introduced in the village branch deserve a word to themselves. The Golden Gate boys, whose rhythmic way of singing spirituals gave jaded New Yorkers something new and fascinating, have been honoured in every way; singing at an inauguration dance for President Roosevelt; contributing to the weekly broadcast of John Kirby and Maxine Sullivan; recording for Bluebird.

for Bluebird.

Sister Tharpe, the "swinging evan-gelist," whose recordings came out on English Brunswick, has a way of beating at her guitar and selling her smiling personality that ties the audiences up in knots. Big Joe Turner, who was teamed up with Pete Johnson for a while at the Café, contributed some memorable evenings with his blues shouting

#### COMIC BRYANT

Then there was Big Bill, the down-to-Then there was Big Bill, the down-to-earth blues singer from Arkansas, who's featured on the Vocalion Race lists; Sonny Terry, the blind harmonica player and blues moaner; Joshua White and his Carolinians, whose work songs and chain gang laments bid fair to eclipse even the Golden Gaters' work.

Right now both the Cafes are doing pretty steady business. Downtown Willie Bryant, who has everyone almost hysterical with laughter—even Josephson, who hears him night after night—has turned out to be the wittiest and most gifted master.

humoured fun at the uptown Café.

humoured' fun at the uptown Cafe. (Only the rich people go there. B'you think they're happy with all that money? You're damn right, they are!")

Like most of the successful spots, Cafe' Society has a liberal budget for its entertainment. Josephson spent \$43,000 (over £10,000) for music and artists during his first year, and now reckons it costs him \$900 a week for the downtown branch alone.

Always generous in his treatment

Always generous in his treatment of musicians, he pays everyone in Allen's Band more than the Union's minimum scale of \$40 per week; both Red and Higginbotham get double scale. The artists also get far more than the \$40 minimum.

The room holds, 220 people, and at the tables you pay a \$1.50 minimum—but patrons standing at the bar alongside the floor can watch the whole show and spend only 40c. for a beer. Uptown the capacity is 300, the musicians scale \$50, and customers spend considerably more. more.

The list of notabilities who have The list of notabilities who have made Café Society their hang-out covers a remarkable range. Franklin Roosevelt, Jr., is a frequent visitor and a great fan of Hazel's; one evening he even brought along his mother, the President's wife. Film comedian Lionel Stander, a great boogie-woogie addict, is a habitue of both branches; Charlie Chaplin, Paul Robeson and scores of other eminent folks have been seen at the newer Café. It's a comforting feeling to know that

retty steady business. Downtown Willie Bryant, who has everyone almost hysterical with laughter—even Josephson, who hears him night after night—has turned out to be the wittiest and most gifted master of ceremonies of them all.

'His bandleading days way behind him, he undoubtedly has a brilliant future in his new capacity. Willie's favourite theme is to poke good
Highland blush have been seen at the newer Café. It's a comforting feeling to know that so many artists who, not so many years ago, were struggling to make a living, have found in the Café a place where they can make the kind of music they like to an audience that really enjoys it, and for a salary that keeps poverty far out of sight. In fact, to sum up the whole history of Café Society in one terse comment—Whoever said that swing music isn't commercial?

# SIX BEST SELLERS "DOWN ARGENTINE WAY."

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....M.M. 15/3/41



"Pocket Venus" of Great Britain in 1939 was Dorothy Neal now in great demand as a vocalist with Hull bands whilst awaiting a West End break.

T'S not often than NORMAN from the Wellington Club, despite many offers that have come his way since he started leading his four-piece there before the often than NORMAN s seen away from the

But on Friday week he left the band in charge of his drummer, Walt Henry, and set off for a hospital ball in East Grinstead with several boys who had

Grinstead with several boys who had worked with him before.

It wasn't long before they began to suspect that their driver was something of a novice. After he had lost the way no fewer than seven times in the black-out, this suspicion was somewhat strengthened; and it was confirmed beyond doubt when he suddenly drove them into the back of a stationary lorry, smashing windscreen, driving mirror and headlamps!

Luckily no one was hurt, and though

Luckily no one was hurt, and though they arrived forty-five minutes late, their bright programme soon had the 350 impatient dancers in a high good humour.

Despite this, Norman accepted Holborn Stretcher Party.

another offer last Sunday when he travelled to an R.A.F. fighter station to LONDON, who has done a lot in the

# BRAND'S

compère and appear in a cabaret pre-sented by Pilot Officer Walter Wisher, the manager of the Wellington Club, who was determined to give his brother officers something they had never had before.

I should think he succeeded in this, for Norman arrived surrounded by a bevy of beauty—the one man (and a bachelor at that!) in a show comprised of veil dancer Marqueez; André, the Cuban dancer; and Virginia Dawn and Jeanne D'Arcy, whose pulchritude has recently graced this page (or page 2, or page 9, or page 13—I never know where I am these days from one week to another) to another).

My spies tell me that BOB ROSE, still "trooping" for Gwen Farrar, was recently married in Chelsea to DIANA LONSDALE, whom you probably saw dancing in such shows as "This'll Make You Whistle." You Whistle."
He can still play....

One night early last September, whilst the blitz was roaring over London, a young man sat on an Underground platform reading a book on opera. A girl sitting next to him glanced over his shoulder and wistfully murmured: "Gee! Couldn't we just the with some music down here."

The young man raised his head, looked around at the restless shelterers. "You're right." he said, "I'll give them a song." And he stood up and sang the

Toreador song from Carmen.

He thereby became the first shelter singer. Now, under that name, he is known all under London. Pioneer of shelter entertainment, organiser of innumerable hidden-talent contests, concerts, etc., he has since devoted every other night to cheering up thousands who would otherwise face nights of incurality beredem incredible boredom.

accepted when he station for the station for t Every other night—because all her nights BERNARD HEN

way of coaching this fair-haired youngster—to such good effect that last week he was starring at the Troxy Cinema in Stepney.

With a repertoire that extends from opera to jazz, and with an audience that already reaches thousands, this lad only needs the breaks to find himself on top of the ladder—though this still wouldn't stop him popping down to keep faith with all his subterrangen to keep faith with all his subterranean

For twenty years pianist KURT FLANDRAK has been a swing music fan. His collection of swing records numbered no fewer than 3,241. And though the mere possession of so many does not mean much in itself, his claim to know as much as anyone about swing music can be confirmed by such connoisseurs as Hugues Panassie and Charles Delaunay.

And for further proof, look at his past record!

past record!

In 1927, in Vienna, he was playing with Eddie South; in 1934, at the Esplanade Hotel in Prague, he coperated with Garland Wilson on two pianos, and for a short time with Nina McKinney; in 1936 he successfully undertook a two-piano tour of Czechoslovakia and Poland with Joe Turner; in 1938 he went to France and became a member of the Hot Club de France. a member of the Hot Club de France, and played in the "Boeuf sur le Toit," again with Garland Wilson and Una Mae Carlisle.

Mae Carlisle.

During his stay in France he worked occasionally with Herman Chittison, with whom he had previously been associated in Budapest, and often accompanied Alberta Hunter.

He worked with Fletcher Allen in "Villa d'Est," and occasionally with Bill Coleman, Valaida Snow, Alex Combelle, Philippe Brun, etc., etc.

In the summer of 1938 he went with the Georges Johnson Ensemble to St.

the Georges Johnson Ensemble to St. Tropez, in the South of France, where in 1939 he succeeded in obtaining, as a Jewish refugee, a permit to travel to England, where he arrived in March.

Now he is without music, friends or records. All the latter he had to leave behind in Vienna; his friends are all in the States; and he, since he was born thirty-four years ago in Berlin, has been in an internment camp for over a year.

What this means to a devotee of swing—and one whose life has been so closely associated with its star exponents—readers can readily imagine. He asks whether anyone has a few back issues of Melody Maker or Rhythm to help him pass away "these tedious hours," and keep him in touch with the misic to which he has devoted with the music to which he has devoted his life.

We'll be very glad to pass on copies.



THE HIT OF THE MONTH!

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Block Letters

LAWRENCE WRIGHT MUSIC COMPANY, LTD. Wright House, Denmark Street, London, W.C.2. Well-known East London dance pro-

Well-known East London dance promoter, and leader of the Kings of Rhythm, DAVID MARKS has now joined the R.A., together with his pianist. REG MARTIN.

Up to the time of his call-up Dave was packing them in at the Aspland Hall, Hackney, and, despite the blitz, many had to be turned away at each dance. However, Dave has not forsaken the dance business, as the band and dances are being carried on under the leadership of first alto player STAN BEST. STAN BEST.

Meanwhile, Dave is looking forward to his marriage very shortly to Miss Betty Pollock, who is also well known in the dance business, and daughter of stage star Rosa Costa.

Members of the emporarily suspe No. 1 Rhythm Club, and jazz enthusi-asts generally, will tune in on March 28 to hear secretary REX HARRIS make his debut on the air with a half-hour programme that should thrill the fans

For his subject in Radio Rhythm Club at 6.45 that night will be Pee-Wee Russell, described by Rex as "the clarinettist with the whiskey intonation"!

Most of the records he will use have never before been heard in this country—and with whiskey the price it is these days, listeners should certainly get their money's worth. . . .

# FNEWS ESSENCE



# TAKING HIS NUMBER!

A Numerical Interview with CHRIS HAYES, ex-"M.M." News Sleuth, now a Gunner in the > Royal Artillery

This month sees the birth of a new project of the ever-resourceful Musicians' Social and Benevolent Council—Opus 1 of "Jamboree."

"Yes," says secretary REG. KNIGHT; "another Jamboree! A different association of the name, perhaps, but more the say the says that the same task."

or less fulfilling the same task."

For this Jamboree is in the form of an eight-page magazine edited by Reg. and designed—as is, in part, the annual Jazz Jamboree—to gain contact with new friends and a better understanding of old ones.

Through its pages the Musicians' Union hopes to bring its many now scattered members, whether on the high seas or abroad, in the wilds of country or in some strange town, into closer contact with each other and

their peace time occupation.

It should certainly succeed in this if the first issue is any criterion. M.U. news, verse, competitions, articles (in this issue one by ALAN KANE), cod

advertisements and cartoons—surely all image of Winston Churchill—cigar, top this will come as a godsend to the lads hat, grim smile and all! deprived of instruments and friendly contacts during these troublous times. And they themselves are encouraged

to help the project along with their own contributions.

I'm sure they'll join with me in saying, "Good work, Reg.! And hurry up with Opus 2!"

It seems that both HARRY PACK-HAM and myself were misled regarding the R.A.P.C. Band, with which RITA WOOLLEY, whose photo you evening. saw here last week, is featuring.

The ten-piece is under the direction of CHARLIE WARD, and not Reggie Attewell, who plays drums and vibra-phone and vocalises.

And so that we can get the whole

thing straight once and for all, here's the complete line-up:

Charlie Ward (piano and leader), who started gigging at 14, and formerly led the New Harlem Club Band of S.E. led the New Harlem Club Band of S.E. London; Frank Ray (bass and piano), who has had years of experience in concert work; Reg Attewell, formerly a pupil of Max Abrams; Ronnie Arthur first alto, clarinet and baritone), who has been ten years in the game; Jack Gavin (second alto and clarinet), a S.E. London boy; Justin Gilligan (tenor, clarinet and arrangements), who formerly worked on the P. and O. boats; Charlie Knoll and Sam Wilhelm boats; Charlie Knoll and Sam Wilhelm obats; Charne Khon and Sain whitem (first and second altos), both straight musicians who soon adapted them-selves to dance music; Tom Robinson (third violin and vocals), the swing man of the string section; and Ken Hornsey, who produces the detach-ment's concerts, and who has an excellent voice-for all that he is a staff

sergeant!
Well, the Well, that's that. A useful personnel. as you can see—and Rita Woolley is their croonette.

B.B.C. band of this week is BILLY COTTON'S, which is a pity in a way, because thousands will be temporarily denied the surprise I had last week at

Shepherd's Bush Empire.
Half way through the show the boys tackle a comedy version of Quarter-master's Stores, during which "Hitler," "Goering," and "Goebbels" complain of the ersatz rations. Billy Cotton stands quietly in the background, apparently chatting with vocalist ERIC BREEZE.

The transformation was amazing in its effect, and got the biggest round of applause of the evening.

Altogether it's a grand show these boys are putting over, and I wonder how many out of the two crowded houses I saw realised that, for all their clowning and the precision of their playing, these lads had been at the recording studies from nine that morning with shortly before the wice of the ing until shortly before the rise of the

Colourful personality now featured in Felix Mendelssohn's Hawaiian Serenaders' stage and broadcast shows

is twenty-one-year-old vocalist-guitarist

ALFRED KEALOHA-LIFE.

His history is as unusual as his name,
for he gave his first public concert in

Switzerland at the age of eleven, first broadcast the now famous Hawaiian war-chant, *Ta-hu-wa-hu-wa-i-a*, with Jack Hylton in 1938, was officer in charge of the Birmingham Chamber of Commerce B.I.F. Foreign Information Bureau from 1938 to 1939, played with his Hawaiian Quartet at the Littorio Embassy Club for the Italian Ambassador in 1938, and, as a result of his Continental travels, can speak no fewer than twelve languages fluently.

With parents equally musical—his grandfather first sang for Queen Victoria in .1870, and his mother first sang and played at the Albert Hall for Queen Alexandra in 1912—Alfred possesses thirty-five different instruments, and has insured his hands for £2,000.

And if you don't believe me, you can ask him yourselves while he's at Bentall's, Kingston, where the Serenaders are appearing for two weeks starting on Monday next (17th).

May heaven bless you! Thanks to you, fixed up oke.—Bram.

Behind these heartfelt phrases, telegraphed to the Melody Maker last week, lies a story that is becoming increasingly common in these days of musician-shortage.

On tour as M.D. of a big new stage show, BRAM MARTIN found his men all being called up, and was ultimately left with only four boys.

of the ersatz rations. Billy Cotton stands quietly in the background, apparently chatting with vocalist ERIC BREEZE.

Suddenly he turns and puts the "enemy" to flight, looking the very stands of the ersatz rations. Billy Cotton left with only four boys. Situated as he was in Sunderland, his only hope was the "M.M." Frantically he rang us through, beseeching us to find him musicians. Frantically we searched our files for available men,

With interest at fever heat among the many would-be Betty Grables who line up this week before B.B.C. producer Douglas Moodie, who is conducting auditions for the radio version of "Tin Pan Alley," 20th Century-Fox film, here is a picture of Canadian film star Carla Lehmann who is tipped for the role.

wired them to 'phone Bram, wired Bram to expect their calls. A few proved successful. But gaps remained.

Desperately urgent now, wires and phone calls left our offices, to our Manchester office, to our Glasgow correspondent, to representatives up and down the country, reaching out to the scattered members of the profession who might suit Bram.

At last came the telegram quoted above. The "M.M." service had not failed. And to Bram we say: "Glad to have helped."

But musicians would help us and the bandles does in their would keep us in

bandleaders if they would keep us in-formed as to their whereabouts and activities.

Mr. Brand learns: That the brilliant violinist-arranger who married PAT HYDE a short time ago (as mentioned on last week's page) is that noted young old-timer PETER RUSH, at present leading his own combination at the New Theatre Ballroom, Amesbury,

Congratulations, Peter and Pat!

# When did you join the Editorial Staff of the "M.M." as Office Boy? 1932 How many years later were you promoted Paparter? When did you join the Editorial Staff of the "M.M." as Office Boy? How many years later were you promoted Reporter? About how many stories have you written for "The Melody Maker"? When did your "Chatter" first appear? While a Reporter, how many pencils did you habitually carry in your pocket? How many rude remarks were cast at your Green Pork-Pie Hat? How many Fan Clubs were you an Honorary Member of? How many other periodicals have you written for? When did American tunesmith, Bernice Petkere, write a song for you? When did you deputise for three weeks as News Editor of the "M.M."? When did you deputise for three weeks as News Editor of the "M.M."? What was your total number of innings at cricket? What was your best bowling analysis? 1932 1934 1935 1936 1937 1937 1937 1937 1937 1937 1937 What was your total number of innings at cricket? What was your best bowling analysis? How tall are you? How much do you weigh? What size do you take in boots? What was your number in the War Reserve Police? For how many months did you serve as a "Bobby"? When were you called-up for Military Service? How many hours later were you taken to a Military Hospital How many weeks were you detained? What is your Army number? How many times have you appeared on an Army charge? How many pieces of brass do you have to clean every day? How many tins of boot polish do your Army boots cost you a week? How many studs are fitted to these fairy hoofers?

# CLASSICS OF JAZZ by Bill Elliott

No. 16—"The Blues" (Parts 1 and 2).—Artie Shaw and his New Music (Vocalion S124)

FOR many years the blues have been regarded as the music of the coloured

Quite rightly so, because in their simple elemental style they have a depth of feeling that comes only from suffering, and the Negro has known enough of that if we look

back to the old slave days.

It follows, then, that the best records of the blues have always been made by coloured bands and singers, but occa-sionally a white band gets into the groove and produces one out of the hat, and this record is a grand example.

## NO GRUMBLES

A lot of people have objections to a number running to both sides of a record, and I must confess I have grumbled no one could possibly grumble at Shaw's attempt; in fact. you are sorry when it's all

over.

It opens with a short intro by piano and drums, who set the tempo that remains rock-steady all through.

In passing, let me pay high tribute to Burness and Leeman, whose work in the rhythm section all through shows a high degree of shows a high degree of imagination.

Trumpet takes the first

Personnel: John Best, Malcolm Crain, Tom Di Carlo (trumpets); Harry Rogers, George Arus (trom-bones); Artie Shaw (clarinet); Tony Pastor, Fred Petry (tenors); Les Robinson, Art Masters (altos); Les Burness (piano); Al Avola (guitar); Ben Ginsberg (bass) and Cliff Leeman (drums).

chorus, lovely phrasing and nice tone; a good solo that is, however, bettered by the tenor who follows. Tony Pastor is a swell player who is at his very best in slow numbers, and he honks out the blues here in fine style.

The brass riff a chorus next

(the favourite old blues riff), assisted by Burness on piano, who then takes two glorious piano choruses interrupted only by a short few bars from clarinet (please turn record

The trombone then has his say, and George Arus proves exponent. Lovely lowdown play-

ing worth of Higgy at his best—what more can I say?

Some more brass riffing follows, to make a perfect entrance for Shaw on clarinet, and what a lead-in and what clarinet! Very quiet and delicate, but with deep sin-

cerity that the blues demand.

I have always thought highly of Artie Shaw as a clarinet player, and he has never let me down. He may have crazy ideas

from time to time and turn out some lousy records with bands ranging from 10 to 50 players, but, however bad the rest of the bunch may be, the clarinet still soars out above them, always in the groove.

So listen to him playing the blues here for the rest of the record, with the exception of the coda adequately handled by piano and drums.

With a little space left, I should like to take the opportunity of writing something in self-defence, as I am being plagued by hundreds of people who write to me because they cannot get some of the records I recommend both in this series and "Tops."

#### LOOK OUT!

I am fully aware that some have American numbers, but I stated one week that they ohtained extra trouble was taken-and that only means reading the "M.M." small ads. carefully each week.

I am also aware that some are cut out of catalogue, but it should occur to all intelligent people that if you want a thing you create a demand for it, and sooner or later that demand is met.

Have I made myself clear?
Watch the "M.M." carefully for the next six weeks you'll get what I mean.



A Sensational New Idea! THE ORIGINAL MANUSCRIPT SERIES. BEAT ME DADDY (eight to a bar) SOUTHERN FRIED OVERNIGHT HOP
Same arrangement as Red Nichols' Record,
WEDNESDAY NIGHT HOP Original Andy Kirk arrangement MISSOURI SCRAMBLER Original Will Osborne arrangement
Price 3/6 per set, 3/10 post free.

P.M. HOT HITS! IN THE MOOD

Between 18th and 19th on Chestnut Street IDA (Sweet as Apple Cider) (New Vic Schoen Smash Arrangement!) Ray Noble's Comanche War Dance DOGGIN' AROUND TEXAS SHUFFLE TIME OUT TOPSY WOODCHOPPERS' BALL BLUES UPSTAIRS and DOWNSTAIRS CASBAH BLUES CHICO'S LOVE SONG FOR DANCERS ONLY THE CONGA . CHEROKEE DIXIELAND ONE-STEP

Price 2/9 per set, 2/11 post free,



F it had not been for the blue-and-gold of a Naval officer's and-gold uniform, it might never have happened.

For months, as an unwilling clerk in his father's office on the Stock Exchange, FELIX MENDELSSOHN dreamt day-dreams of success in show business, until at last the magnificence of a sallor friend's shore-going regalia lured him to exchange his office stool for a life afloat.

Like Fred Astaire however, he soon

for a life afloat.

Like Fred Astaire, however, he soon found that the sea is not all it's made out to be, and after a brief but exciting career, which included steering the ship twenty miles off her course, he returned to dry land with his old ambitions still firmly fixed in his head. Strangely enough, on her next voyage the ship in which he had been serving went down, but Felix, gaining stage experience in melodrama at the old Elephant and Castle Theatre, moved in the opposite direction with astonishing rapidity.

astonishing rapidity.

Descendant of both the famous composer and Richard Warner, the noted theatrical agent, "Spring Song" soon turned to "Swing Song," however, and

turned to "Swing Song," however, and he became assistant manager at the Carlton Dance Hall in Tottenham Court Road, W.

There he received nightly inoculations of the jazz virus until, getting the job of publicity manager to Harry Roy, he found himself well and truly in the band business for keeps.

With the brain of a born organiser and the keen imagination of a showman, he soon found that the profession was an oyster that yielded up its pearls one by one to his capable and adaptable personality.

# F & D's GUARANTEED BARGAINS

ACCORDIONS. HOHNER CARMEN II. 34/2/24. Blue Nag. 10 Gns. SIVORI. 120/3/41. Coupler. Powerful tone 18 Gns. REOSA. 80/3/34. Flush coupler. Pre-war

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HOHNER MODEL 1055. 120'4"41

DRUMS. PREMIER. Bass Drum. 28 x 18. Black. Perfect
APEX. Glitter Gold Snare Drum. Chrom.
fittings
VIC O'BRIEN. Silver Glitter and Chrom.
Snare Drum. Internal damper 6 Gns.
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As above, 12-inch
BEVERLY. Dual Snare. Chrom. Foot pedal
release 80 11 Gns.

GUITARS. GIBSON L4. The most popular Guitar made by Gibson ...

All instruments guaranteed. Complete in Lined Cases, with all Accessories. Your instrument taken in Part Exchange.

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for Drums, Accordions, Saxophones, Trumpets, Etc. IT WILL PAY YOU TO OBTAIN OUR PRICE. Write, Phone, Call.

FRANCIS, DAY & HUNTER, Ltd., 138/140, Charing Cross Rd., W.C.2. Phone: Temple Bar 9351.

# Personalities in Paragraph

Handling the publicity of well-known stage and screen stars, he was responsible for the Press attention given to such events as the Harry Roy and Joe Loss weddings, Epstein's "Adam," and the News Chronicle Fund for supplying wireless sets to hospitals.

Interspersed with his activities in the drive

wireless sets to hospitals.

Interspersed with his activities in the music world, which already included features on six commercial radio programmes, recording with Decca, and airings with the B.B.C., he occasionally took time off from work to indulge in such playful gestures as appearing in a wrestling match with a gentleman bearing the intriguing name of "Black Butcher" Johnson.

The first round resulted in Felix making a sudden and painful departure from the ring six times in succession,

making a sudden and painful departure from the ring six times in succession, but despite such obvious discouragement he still managed to last a full twenty-seven minutes before being declared beaten, returning with head bloody but unbowed to his office to make sure none of his newspaper friends missed the story.

Now in the Life Guards, and attached to the Infantry Household Cavalry he

to the Infantry Household Cavalry, he still plans, with the help of Leon Cassel-Gerard, to carry on his multifarious activities, and I have no doubt that his outstanding organising abilities will not be allowed to go unnoticed in his new surroundings.

Does the title Infantry Household Cavalry make Felix pedestrian or equestrian? One thing is troubling me, however

Come, now, let's get organised. . . .

\* \* \*

Telephone call from friend Harold Woolfenden, "Woolfe" to you, the familiar personality in the Instrument Department at Messrs. Francis, Day and Hunters in Charing Cross Road, led to my presence last week at an impromptu swing recital given by two guifar-playing coursins named SVN and guitar-playing cousins named SYD and TED BISSEX.

Walking into the shop on the previous day, the purchase of a sixpenny plectrum had apparently been followed

plectrum had apparently been followed by the suggestion that they should try it out on one of the £70 Gibson'Super instruments in the window.

The result was somewhat surprising. Carpenters by trade, these two lads, with no professional experience to their credit' whatsoever, proceeded to produce a quantity of six-string jive that soon brought them an audience consisting of Ron Peachey, Syd Jacobsen, and several other front-rank pick wielders who happened to be present.

A time and place was arranged where

A time and place was arranged where I could hear them for myself, and I must confess that they certainly lived up to their suddenly acquired reputaup to their suddenly acquired reputation. Their technique, both in chordwork and single-string playing, is
extraordinary, and together they
would make a substantial addition to
any leader's beat section.

Both boys told me how anxious they
were to get into the profession full time,
and that they would consider any offer
reaching them at their address. 47.

reaching them at their address, 47,

overhill Road, Dulwich.
Chiselling, however, not being confined to the carpentry trade, I advise them both to go slow until they learn the ropes of the music business.
Afterwards I have no doubt that, as before, everything in their chosen profession will be Oke.

fession will be Oke. . . .

\*

Well-known Glasgow accordionist
ROBERT McWATT enlists this week in
famous Highland regiment, where he
has high hopes of joining the band.
Seems that the feat of having to
learn the bagpipes has had no
derogatory effect upon his ambition.
Knowing hothing about them, he still
insists that, after 120 bass buttons, a
little wind and a few lengths of piping
should possess no difficulties.
Must be the old clan spirit coming up
again.

again. St. George for England, St. Pancras

for Scotland. . . .

\*

Played recently at a concert for con valescent soldiers at the famous country home of an American millionaire, now generously loaned by the owner for use as a hospital for the

Two blasts on the horn of the car bringing us from the station, and they swung silently apart to allow us through.

In flippant mood, Grace asked the driver what would happen if the "Open Sesame" failed to have the desired effect, only to be assured that such a catastrophe could never occur.

It seemed a pity he was so definite, because on the homeward journey, after several minutes of frenzied hooting he had to climb down in more

after several minutes of frenzied hooting, he had to climb down in more senses than one, to laboriously pull them apart by hand.

Apparently the hidden master of the electric button was still back at the house flourishing an autograph-book in the hope of obtaining our signatures before our departure. . . .

\* \*

A rose by any other name might still possess its own peculiar horticultural merits, but when the rechristening process is applied to composers of popular songs it appears to be a horse of a different kettle of fish.

Sincere, therefore, are my apologies to PHILIP THOMAS, talented collaborator with Fred Speed, for giving him the new and entirely erroneous appellation of Philip Brown when writing on his activities in a past issue. Part author of the new Lennox hit, Deep In The Heart Of The Country, Fred has just had a second number accepted by the same publishers titled Till The End Of The Journey.

A few more successes like that, and both their names will be too well known for anyone to make a mistake.

\* \* \*

Reminds me of the time I reassured a friend of mine during an air raid by remarking that if the bomb hadn't got his name on it he needn't worry. "That's just the trouble," he replied. "I used to be a bookmaker. During the last five years I've had hundreds of different names."

Recent statement by my distinguished contemporary "Mike" to the effect that the best jazz is to be found in palais and popular dance halls throughout the country aroused vehement denial from Panama-born trumpet player JACK HAMILTON, now playing at the Hammersmith Palais with Robin Richmond and his Band Band.

Palais with Robin Richmond and his Band.

Having more sense than to rush into places usually avoided by the more intelligent type of angel, I have no intention of taking sides on the question, but must admit I was definitely interested to hear such controversial opinions expressed by one of the very musicians to whom credit has been given for the production of jazz in its purest form.

Jack, who has played in the past with Louis Armstrong, Frank Lodwig, Paul Whiteman's Virginians, and many other famous American bands, before coming to England, states definitely that any chance of achieving good swing in such surroundings is circumscribed at birth by the tempo restrictions invariably connected with dancing establishments.

Personally, if there's going to be an argument about it, you can include me out.

Candid cartoon portrait of self in this week's page is work of a talented young artist musician "DIXIE" STEED, who is drawing increased business these days to the Red Lion Hotel, Hounslow, with his smart swingy little trio.

Dixie, whose skill at sketching is equalled only by his technique with the

equalled only by his technique with the sticks, has rapidly made a fine reputation for himself since the day he started in the business with a borrowed drum kit and lots of ambition.

With offers of outside engagements coming in at every session, I should not be surprised if he soon finds that the baton, if not the sword, is, after all, mightier than the pen

duration.
Star of the bill was Miss GRACE mightier than the pen.

## DANCE BAND DON'TS-No. 20

DON'T FORGET THE " HAIR-

PINS."

If you're not an old-timer, it's probable that you won't know what "hairpins" are — musical hairpins, that is.

It is an old professional pit musician's term for crescendo and decrescendo marks—which may, by some stretch of the imagination, be said to look like a pair of hairpins end to end.

hairpins end to end.

Light and shade are really the essence of any orchestral or band work. This has been said before work. This has been said again a and it'll probably be said again a thousand times; and it still won't be enough.

Many a time has an otherwise

Many a time has an otherwise good band sounded dull and monotonous because it didn't bother about light and shade.

If you want to know what difference it makes, try reading out this article without punctuation, expression or phrasing—just a dull monotone all the way. Even if you have a fine speaking voice.

if you have a fine speaking voice, it will sound awful.

Bear in mind that that is what your band sounds like if you don't put in the hairpins.

Paste that in your hats, boys. It's the first rule of successful contesting—or any other kind of playing.

TRUMPET TIPS-H AVING dealt with the three kinds of hats, here are some hints on how to use them.

The home-made (i.e., sized) bowler calls for a certain amount

of skill.

or skill.

The trumpet is gripped just behind the bell by the crook of the left hand thumb and fore-finger; the forefinger is placed under the brim of the hat, the other three fingers placed above the brim

the brim.
In this way the bowler is held In this way the bowler is held in a line with the instrument and the sound goes across the opening not into it. If you play into it, it will make the instrument sound flat.

The soft felt is just hung on the bell, the edge of the latter through the slit described last week. In this case you do play

week. In this case you do play into the hat, but, because it is porous, it doesn't make the sound flat.

The metal bowler on stand is played into, but at an angle rather than straight into it.

The only time it is permissible to play straight into the metal or real bowler is for the oo-wa oo-wa effect, such as that in Ellington's It Don't Mean A Thing when It Don't Mean A Thing, when a slight flattening would help the

slight flattening would help the desired effect.

In this case the bowler is held firmly by the brim (or edge, in the case of the metal one), and brought right over the bell.

Always take care, however, not to let the rim of the trumpet

actually touch the hat.

# ACCORDION PUBLICATIONS

6 ORIGINAL TANGOS 7 ORIGINAL HAWAITAN SOLOS 1/3 7 ORIGINAL WALTZES ... 1/6 PIANO ACCORDION SOLOS 1/3 (containing 9 World-wide Successes)

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HOW TO MASTER THE BASS SIDE THE PIANO-ACCORDION By T. W. THURBAN

DAREWSKI MUSIC PUBLISHING CO.
9-10, NEW COMPTON STREET, LONDON, W.C.2
TEMPLE BAR 6428

Detector' reporting on War Time Radio says FORCES WAVELENGTH GREAT IMPROVEMEN

ETTER from "M.M." reader George Lambe, in support of vour critic's campaign for critic's campaign Better War Time Radio, published in this column on February 1 last:

Is it essential for the B.B.C. to send out some of its foreign language

send out some of its foreign language bulletins on wavelengths used for the Home Service, and others on wavelengths used for the "Forces".

Couldn't it send them all out on the one wavelength, and so save us at home the trouble of continually having to retune our sets?

Within a month the B.B.C. intro-duced a scheme which is an even greater improvement than Mr.

Lambe's suggestion.

The "Forces" programme, previously on the old Welsh Regional wavelength of 373 m., is now being transmitted on the old London Regional wavelength of 342 m.

In consequence, the 373-m. spot is now the European service wavelength, and takes over the foreign news bulletins and other foreign language broadcasts for which time had hitherto to be found in the "Home" and "Forces" programmes, thus leaving the 342-m. transmissions entirely free for programmes designed for the enter-tainment, of the Forces and other tainment of the Forces and other home listeners.

#### RECEPTION

In this way, not only do we home isteners get an extra hour and a half of programmes in our own language daily, but the 1 p.m., 6 p.m. and 9 p.m. English news broadcasts may now be heard on the "Forces" as well as the "Home" wavelengths.

Yet another innovation is the switch-

ing of the short-wave transmission of the "Forces" programme from 41.49 m. to 42.46 m.

Considerable interference often made reception on 41.49 m. very poor. On 42.46 m. it seems to be very much better—a point which is a great boon to those who have been finding it impossible to receive in their districts the medium-wave transmission of the Forces" programme at night when a

"Forces" programme at night when a blitz is on.
Incidentally, the change of the medium-wave "Forces" transmission from 373 m. to 342 m. seems to have made reception during a night blitz better in some districts. But it is possible that a consequent deterioration may have resulted in other areas; so while the improvement in the shortwhile the improvement in the short-wave reception may not be a great advantage to Jack Spratt, it is quite likely that it will be of considerable benefit to his wife, if you get me.

I should be interested to hear from readers exactly how these changes have affected them in their districts.

"HI-GANG!" with Jay Wilbur's Band and the Greene Sisters, not to mention Vic Oliver and Ben Lyon, reached its forty-second regular weekly airing last Sunday, thus creating a record among B.B.C. musical

productions. The feature will continue at least until May 18.

The third airing in the "OPERA TO JAZZ" Series will take place in the "Forces" programme on Tuesday, "Forces" programme on Tuesday, March 25.

It will be played by a sextet consisting of Reg Leopold and Sydney Sax (violins), Wynford Reynolds (viola), Sid Bright (piano), Ivor Mairants (guitar), Jack Collier (bass).

# -"MIKE"

# JUSICAL INTER - MARRIAGE

WILL still resist the temptation to start the old familiar written v. improvised jazz controversy again—at least for the time being; there is something left over from last week which needs further dis-

while the level of taste of average jazz has gone up through the years, owing to what we can call a form of musical intermarriage which has taken place between straight and hot dance music, I still doubt whether the number of people who now appreciate the best in jazz has increased.

We need not disagree on the first fact: that the average listener to jazz is getting a better class of average music than his predecessor of ten years ago. The most hammy popular songs are treated to the decoration which we led times. old-timers may be pardoned if we associate with "hot" jazz.

Introductions, bridge passages, accom-

paniments, codas, even the phrasing of the original statement of the theme are nowadays "swung." deliberately and

How this method — once so "advanced" and unpopular—should have come to be adopted as the common standard of commercial dance music is something of a mystery to me.

#### DOING A HITLER

It is a mystery, that is, until one members how "swing" became remembers how "swing" became popular without any audible warning of approach.

approach.

After public, Big Business Band-leaders and the gramophone companies having for years said that there was "nothing in" hot jazz except for a few slightly crazy enthusiasts, these three hitherto unsympathetic factions suddenly did a Hitler on us, and signed a pact with the Bolsheviks.

Certainly the music which suddenly

Certainly, the music which suddenly and so inconsistently became popular was not of the same high standard which had formerly been the pet aversion of public, bandleaders and gramophone companies, but it bore enough superficial resemblance to make the volte-face no less astounding and

unexpected.

I suppose we would have to look through the files of the national daily papers and of some of the American journals to discover exactly when the term "swing" was first generally used. Our own files would not help us much, I fear, for we had always championed "hot" music anyway, and as a general policy did not rechristen jazz until long after the general public had made "swing" a vogue phrase.

Perhaps our earliest use of the word might be found in the despatches of John Hammond about eight years ago;

John Hammond about eight years ago; and then only as a noun.

We said little more than that so-and-so played "with a swing;" and it was not for a long while that "swing" was used as an adjective, a substantive, and finally as a verb, though it was as a verb that the word was first heard from the stands of Harlem

#### DUKE'S KIND OF JAZZ

I have always carefully used the word in inverted commas. This is not just perversity or preciousness on my part; it is because I do not feel it is for any-body but the listener and critic to

body but the listener and critic to decide whether a certain record is played with a swing.

To play with a swing is a virtue, and it has always struck me that to label one's latest opus as "swing music" is lacking in modesty. It is as though a composer were to entitle a composition "Good Music." It is asking for trouble, if it fails to live up to its title.

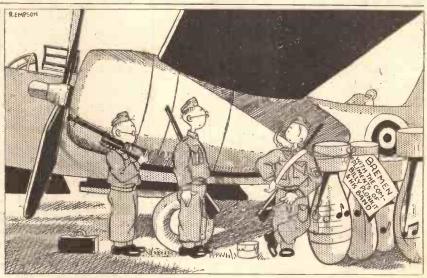
But it is too late to do anything about

But it is too late to do anything about "swing" now, of course.

As far as I remember there was no "swing" this time in 1933. Duke Ellington had yet to land in this country, and when he did, three months later the law Press was still envirous to later, the lay Press was still anxious to

get a definition from him of "hot

Whether they got it or not, I forget. Probably not, for Duke, like most artists, was notoriously unable to



BILLY PLONKIT (on Home Guard duty at the aerodrome): "I've written out a signature tune for these things, fellers—the first eight bars of Got A Feeling I'm Falling'!"

to the general public, and remained so for some time afterwards.

The first signs of the "swing" vogue I believe to have started in the winter inevitably got music of poorer quality of 1933-34, with the sudden rise from the obscurity of "hot" jazz of Benny This is not intended as a condemnation

Goodman. Why it should have been Benny Goodman rather than anybody else I have never been quite able to fathom. Still less have I understood what strange whim of public fancy it was that suddenly noticed the name "Benny Goodman" on a record in 1933 when it had been on labels year's before just for the asking.

#### FASHIONABLE GOODMAN

However, there it was; Benny Good-man became fashionable. Anything he did was lapped up indiscriminately by this new "swing" fanatic public. The extraordinary thing about it all was that there was absolutely nothing in this sort of music which had not been available to the public in the form of gramophone records. But no—the "new" music had to be called something different.

caught on as a new expression of something or other than the whole business became a free for all.

No sooner had the idea of "swing"

demanded mass-production, and with the introduction of mass-production

The public could not get enough; it

This is not intended as a condemna-tion of Benny Goodman, by the way; I am merely trying to trace the history of "swing" and its influence on the commercial jazz of to-day. But we'll come to that later.

# Girls, Here's Your Chance

TRUMPET-PLAYER Arthur Forrest, well-known South London bandleader and dance promoter, and pioneer of the Government's Keep-Fit League's open-air dancing, is urgently requiring lady musicians for an immediate longcontract tour.

He needs a pianist, doubling accordion, and vocalising if possible; a tenor saxist, preferably able to double clarinet; and a girl vocalist.

Auditions are being held all tomorrow (Saturday), and applicants should telephone him at once at LIBerty 1528.

# AFLEUR

ALL BANDS BROADCASTING

# IPE (WANNA PIECE OF PIE)

and in the Press

THE BAD HUMOR MAN (from KAY KYSER'S PICTURE) MISS JOHNSON PHONED AGAIN TO-DAY

GREAT STANDARDS ALWAYS IN REQUEST, 3/- EACH

TUXEDO JUNCTION THE SWING HIT SIX LESSONS from

MADAME LA ZONGA

SONG OF INDIA

DORSEY arr. 4/-

OVER THE WAVES BOB CROSBY arr.

"BATTLE DRESS" MEDLEY

Rhythm Classics—arranged by DON BOWDEN Containing-SOLITUDE, MOONGLOW, CARAVAN, FOOLISH THINGS ORCHESTRATIONS 3

Two Great Waltz Medleys

ANCLIFFE IN THE BALLROOM arranged by DON BOWDEN

LINCKE IN THE BALLROOM ORCHESTRATION 3/-

Theatreland March SIGNATURE TUNE OF RADIO FEATURE THEATRELAND ORCHESTRATION 3/-

EXTEMPORISE FLUENTLY WITH THE HELP OF

50 Hot Alto Sax Licks — Benny Carter 50 Hot Clarinet Licks — Benny Goodman 50 Hot Tenor Sax Licks— Eddie Miller 50 Hot Trumpet Licks—Ziggie Elman

150 Progressive Drum Rhythms - Ray Baudac

Next airing by Sgt. Jimmy Miller and his R.A.F. DANCE ORCHESTRA will be on Saturday, March 22.

Artists, was notoriously unable to explain what he was up to. But however that may be, I am certain that Duke's kind of jazz was still a curiosity BOOSEY & HAWKES, Ltd.

BOOSEY & HAWKES, Ltd.

# GLASGOW GOSSIP

# By Hugh Hinshelwood

in the Army Service Corps. hopes to call on, 'phone, or otherwise contact quite a few friends down in the Midlands when he gets the chance.

Before leaving the Locarno Bob gave his opinion, shared by more than a few, that Bobby Hogg had the smartest five-piecer he had heard on the "circuit" for quite a while, and certainly Bobby is popular with the patrons, judging by the way Mecca have kept him at the Locarno for what will shortly be two

years, non-stop.

By the time this appears Ivy Benson will be leading the "opposition" band, but more of this anon.

Mention must be made of the hard luck which has dogged John Mc-Cormack, pianistic son of the well-known Glasgow musical family, and who was until some time ago a regular

who was until some time ago a regular member of Bobby Hogg's outfit.

John had to lay off with an attack of pleurisy, and just when everything seemed set for his return to work some complication set in, with the result that an operation was necessary.

It may be some time before John returns to the piano chair, and in the meantime he is naturally bored stiff by his enforced lay off.

As mentioned before, dance hand

As mentioned before, dance band line-ups are like the map of Europe these days. Eddie Cromer did not, after all, start with George Elrick at Dennistoun, and the sax section was completed by Charlie Lamb, who originally intended to fill in till Eddie Cromer was due to start.

MANAGER Bob Gray, of the Glasgow Locarno, is now ex-manager, and may now be found down Yorkshire way Primrose Orrock, the Scots girl who was down South in big time not so long ago. Now, Primrose is anxious to fix up something in the palais or similar line, but as her dad is averse to her travel-ling too far afield, Scottish band leaders only need apply.

#### DUNFERMLINE

This is the lassie who got two or three hundred offers to "fix up" when she was singing with Syd Millward's band, but, of course, these offers had to do with a different kind of job (matri-

monial, to be precise!).
Glasgow drummer Eddie Riley, who has just joined the band at Dunfermline, says business is enormous, the folks of the, "Lang Toon" having taken the promotion to their hearts.

The band is supplied by Pete Low, and has a few Glasgow boys in the lineup, notably Alec McPhail, trumpet, and Bert Falconer, tenor, while trombonist Max McConnell had a spell with Alec Freer at the Plaza.

The Saturday dances at the Glasgow University Union have always been gig plums, and successive bandleaders have been careful to keep the job among the best players. Man in charge just now is planist Ray Smith, who, as well as play-ing these regular affairs, has quite a

big connection among 'Varsity boys, Ronnie Munro, with the Scottish Variety Orchestra, will be on the air again on March 21, in a programme of "straight" dance music. This will be broadcast on both the Home and Forces wavelengths.

# Rhythm Club News

Rhythm Chub, Doug Mead presented a recital entitled "Contrasts in Jazz." Jack Surridge and his String Quartet provided a short session in addition to the usual Jam Session, supervised by Alan Mead (piano), and featuring Len Wood (tenor and clarinet); Johnny Rouse (trumpet): Charlie Weedon (cornet); Les Robinson (guitar); Jack Surridge (bass); and Tom O'Callaghan (drums). Our best wishes go to Johnny Rouse, one of the founders of the club, who leaves to become a pilot in the R.A.F. Owing to increased support, meetings will in future be held every Sunday at 3 p.m. at the Mayfair Café. 96. Oránbrook Road, Híord. The next will include Alan Mead's recital on Teddy Wilson, a record auction, a riddle-rhythm competition, and two Jam Sessions.

No. 152. At the March 2 meeting of the High Wycombe Rhythm Club, Peter Natley gave a recital on Benny Goodman, which was followed by Jam Sessions by the Club Quintet. featuring Ron Puanit (violin); Maurice Goodearl (guitar): and a combination comprising George Oliver (tenor, clarinet); Les Wilson (bartionel: Ron Meachen (piano); Ron Scott Dow and Ron Turner (guitars); and Norman Hill (bass). At the March 16 meeting at the "While Hart." the secretary will give a recital on "The Blues." and guest artist will be swing violinist Jimmy Cummins.

No. 154. At last Sunday's meeting of the Hornchurch Rhythm Club, a Jam Session was given by the usual club outfit, including Art Hines and Len Pounds (saxes); Gordon Jefs and Alf Tennyeon (accordions); and Len Orampton (drums). Next week's meeting will, as usual, be at Ringswood Café (next to L.P.T.B. garage). Hornchurch Rod, at 3.30 p.m., and will include another Jam Session. All swing fans cordially invited.

No. 158. The March 8 meeting of the Staines Rhythm Club included a recital by Miss Joy Bonner on Muggsy Spanier, and a recital of Jazz Classics by the secretary, A club band has been formed, and any instrumentalists will be welcome. The next meeting takes place on March 15 at 7.30 p.m.

No. 159. Unable as yet to locate a suitable clubro

No. 160. The next meeting of the Southern Rhythm Club will take place on March 18 at

the Beehive Hotel, Footscray Road, New Eltham, when the election of the Chairman and Committee will take place, followed by a recital of swing records. All communications to the Secretary, Fred Carroll, 106, Blanmerle Road, New, Elthand Road, New Eltham.

No. 162. The first meeting of the Sheldon and Yardley District Rhythm Club was held on March 6 at Limooln Hall, Lincoln Road, Olton. It is hoped to continue the club every week, but more members are needed, and all interested should write or call on M. Troop. 277, Lyndon Road, Sheldon, Birmingham, 26; or telephone SHE 2175 or AST 3504.

# NEW GIRLS' BAND

COMMENCING operations on Monday last, Tony and her Girls are now playing at the Ritz Ballroom, Manchester, in succession to Ivy Benson's Band, which has moved on to the Locarno, Glasgow.

Tony is Tony Heaton-Parker, who has played drums with Ivy Benson for a long time, and only relinquished her job in order to form her own band a long-cherished ambition.

She is still playing drums, and the rest of her girls are: Marjorie Houser (piano); Agnes Marshall (bass); Eileen Sloane, Kitty Byrne and Pat Sloane (saxes); May Earnshaw (accordion); and Puth Harrison (trombone and and Ruth Harrison (trombone and vocals).

The girls were naturally nervous on their opening session, but the band obviously has the makings of a useful outfit once everyone settles down.

The tenor player, Pat Sloane, in particular, has a strong and confident tone, appears to be quite a good reader, and has a fair hot style.

The rhythm section, too, is very classy.

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# Melody Maker

MAR. 15, 1941

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# Your Diary for 1941—

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# **JERRY DAWSON'S** NORTHERN GOSSIP

PAYING his first visit to the Manchester area for several months, Joe Loss played a concert last Sunday at the Odeon Theatre to the usual packed house.

Unfortunately, owing to his being ill, trumpeter Stan Stanton was not able to appear with the band, and thus the brass section was one short, but the show was nevertheless satisfying, as

This was the first time Joe's new vocalist, Bette Roberts, had played Manchester with the band, but, of course, the rest of the vocal section— Monte Rey, Paula Green and Bob Arden—are old and tried favourites.

Playing Sheffield this current week, the band returns to Lancashire on Sunday next to play a concert at .Oldham.

From Waliasey comes a plea for assistance in the furthering of the swing cause from Eddie Bedford, whose Darktown Strutters were a well-known local outfit in pre-war days.

Eddie is intent on proving to the local

inhabitants that swing is not the low and vulgar thing that their petty Victorian minds tell them it is, and, with this end in view, is anxious to stage a

concert of swing music in the town.

Says Eddie: "In order to carry out this venture I need the co-operation of at least a dozen fans who are willing to take up the challenge for swing. The qualifications required are: (a) They must be good swing musicians, and (b) they must be prepared to play for the love of swing and not for the fee they will receive out of the proceeds of the concert."

would anyone interested write to Eddie Bedford, 13, Ivor Road, Wallasey, Cheshire, for details of rehearsals, fee, date, etc.

If any profit is made from the show, it will be devoted to the Victoria Central Hospital, Wallasey.

\* Apropos last week's announcement of the forthcoming Melody Maker contest which is to be held at Rochdale on Friday, March 28, 1941, organiser Lew Buckley is to be commended for his spirit and enterprise in taking such a gamble in these times.

With the current boom in dancing

these days, the Contest should be a foregone success from an attendance point of view, but I am naturally keen that it be equally successful from the "Contest" angle, and with this in mind I would like to appeal to all of you bandleaders who are within reach of Rochdale to enter for this show.

Quite a number of semi-pro-bands in

Quite a number of semi-pro. bands in the north have been given a certain amount of publicity in this column from time to time, and now is their chance to do something to help in

Come on, you chaps—send for your entry forms. (See box on page 2.)

Bumped into bassist Steve Atkinson Bumped into bassist Steve Atkinson last week—home on leave from his R.A.F. duties. Steve is thoroughly enjoying his new life, and is having a grand time with the seven-piece camp outfit which he leads.

In charge of entertainments at his station is fixed over the leads.

station is friend Ossie Noble, the well-known showman-drummer, and another star who frequently appears with the band at concerts, etc., is the ex-Ambrose and Jack Joseph Concerts, etc., is the ex-Ambrose and Jack Jackson vocalist Jack Cooper.

Incidentally, Steve—whose home is in the East Lancs district—is very enthusiastic about a couple of bands which he has heard whilst on leave. One is that at the Imperial Ballroom at Nelson, and the other. Harry Haworth's Band at the Astoria Ballroom, Rawtenstall.

A surprise visitor to Middleton-near Manchester—last week was Richard Valery, who is now in the R.A.F., and who brought along the Station band to play at the Middleton Baths Ballroom

play at the Middleton Baths Ballroom at a dance in aid of the local Mayor's Crippled Children's Fund Although it does not contain any star names, the band proved to be quite a useful outfit. The combination is three saxes, three brass, four rhythm, and two fiddles, with Richard conducting, and its performance was quite up to the standard of their recent bread to the standard of their recent broad-cast, which in turn was rather better than that of the average camp broadcast.

The lead alto played some quite good clarinet, full of confidence, and another I liked was the lead trumpet—a very strong lead indeed, with a good technique and an idea of style. \*

During the next couple of weeks or so, most of the cinemas in the Manchester district will open with films on Sundays. This will be a smack in the eye for several of the bands around, who have been making quite a good thing out of Sunday concerts in these cinemas.

I understand that some of the theatres will continue to present live shows, and it is my opinion that this will be in the best interests of all concerned, as it will mean fewer but probably better concerts.

Of recent weeks it has become quite a scramble for bands for these Sunday shows, with the result that some of the promoters have been compelled to book more or less scratch bands, with the consequent lowering of entertainment values.

The public have been quick to discover this, and I know one or two places which, in consequence, have not done particularly good business. Those cinemas which do remain open for concerts will now have a much wider range of bands and artists to choose from of bands and artists to choose from

By now manager Bob Gray, of the Locarno Balkroom at Glasgow, will be a driver in the R.A.S.C. and his place has been taken by "Mac" Macdonald, who thus moves back to his homeland from the Ritz at Manchester. Mac travelled up to Glasgow yesterday (Thursday) to take over the reins, and the terrific business they are doing there at the moment will keep him out of mischief at least!

Another surprise to me the other day was a letter from Tommy Heaney, who for some months now has been acting as "M.M." newsgatherer in the north. Tommy volunteered recently for the R.A.F., and upon appearing for attestation was instructed to remain, instead of being sent back upon the usual deferred service.

Although his name may not be known to readers, Tommy has done some good work for the paper, and has been responsible for several of the "Taking His Number" features. \*

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