

Melody Maker

3^d INCORPORATING "RHYTHM"

WEEK ENDING AUGUST 4, 1945

"JIVER" HUTCHINSON AND BAND FOR INDIA

GREAT NEWS FOR ALL FORCES SERVING IN THE EASTERN THEATRES OF WAR IS CONTAINED IN THE FACT THAT LESLIE ("JIVER") HUTCHINSON AND HIS FAMOUS ALL-STAR BAND ARE GOING TO VISIT INDIA—NOT AT SOME FAR DISTANT DATE—BUT VERY SHORTLY.

The boys have, in fact, been undertaking the necessary medical examinations this current week, and they will be leaving these shores early in October, on a protracted trip that will keep them away from this country until the New Year.

In the course of their tour they will be playing to thousands and thousands of troops in battle-fronts where, up to now, entertainment has been all too sparse.

In a sense, this visit by the Hutchinson Band is a culmination of all the fine work done by E.N.S.A. during this war in sending dance bands to the Forces, because, from the swing fans' angle, "Jiver's" is the most exciting outfit which has so far been formed in this country.

Forces serving in the India Command can certainly feel that, even if they have so far been starved of dance music, the very finest that is available is coming their way now that it is at last becoming possible for large dance bands to make the long journey out to these far distant places.

There is no disputing the fact that the Hutchinson Band, featuring its grand aggregation of stars and soloists, is a heaven-sent gift to all jivers, with its famous "cornermen," Dave Wilkins, Bertie King, Yorke de Sousa, Clinton Maxwell, etc. to say nothing of the fine solid trumpet of Leslie himself.

Leslie and his boys, in voluntarily sacrificing some first-class engagements to spend their winter months in this grand job of National Service, are making a fine gesture; and a big hand should be accorded also to the Band's Manager, Don Wilson, who, enthusiastic for the idea, worked very hard to bring the trip to fruition.

Don has also been booking plenty of dates for the Band's remaining weeks in this country, and fans will be glad to know that the outfit has four broadcasts in August—on August 8 and August 14, plus two airings later in the month from the Court Royal Hotel, Southampton.

Next Sunday, the Band plays a concert at the Commodore, Ryde (I.O.W.), after which it travels to Brighton for two weeks' playing for dancing at the Dome, "residence" at Southampton. The boys go on from there to a week at the Plaza, Derby, to be followed by a strenuous week of one-night stands.

Femme singer with Leslie nowadays is attractive Frances Smith.

GEORGE ELRICK AS "BUTTONS" IN PANTO

FOR each of the past five years a noted impresario has tried to induce maestro George Elrick to forsake his band for a few weeks at Christmas-time and play a particular part in a pantomime.

George has always "fought shy" of this in previous years, but this time has decided to take the chance.

Thus Christmas week, 1945, will see the smiling ex-dance band drummer-cum-vocalist, now leader of a most successful touring band, playing Buttons in the Elkan Simons production of "Cinderella" at the Pyramid Theatre (Odeon), Sale, near Manchester.

Apart from the fact that his name will add considerably to the pulling power of the bill, he is a happy choice for this particular part—his impish sense of humour and delightful stage presence being just the type of character one always associates with the effervescent "Buttons."

The show plays Manchester for four weeks, and then goes on to the Odeon Theatre at South Shields for a similar period.

In order that his boys will not suffer from his decision, George has also arranged for his band to play in the pit for the full run of the show, after which his present plans are to continue his tour of Variety dates with his band.

Police Raid Closes "Nuthouse"

A POLICE raid closed the "Nuthouse" niterie last Saturday night (July 28) and, as a result, Carlo Kraemer and his excellent band—with Carlo (drums); Ronnie Chamberlain (alto and sop. saxes); Bert Howard (bass); Jimmy Edwards (cornet); Ernie Mansfield (tenor), etc. (see reviews of their record in last week's "M.M.")—and themselves temporarily dispersed.

"Nuthouse" has become a tradition of late, as the one place in the West End where musicians could "have a bash," and members of both Glenn Miller's and Sam Donohue's bands regularly sat in with the Kraemer Band during their sojourn in London.

Among West End jivers, the "Nuthouse" will be sadly missed. The "Blue Lagoon" niterie was also raided and closed last week.

FAREWELL TO THE GLENN MILLER BAND!

THE FINAL CHAPTER IN ONE OF THE REALLY GREAT STORIES OF ANGLo-AMERICAN CO-OPERATION IN DANCE MUSIC WAS WRITTEN LAST WEEK, WHEN THE MEMBERS OF MAJOR GLENN MILLER'S AMERICAN BAND OF THE A.E.F. SAILED FROM LE HAVRE ON THEIR RETURN JOURNEY TO THE STATES.

Coming to England over a year ago, this terrific aggregation of star American musical talent, under Major—then Captain—Glenn Miller, at once electrified all who listened to their brilliant programmes of dance music on the A.E.F. wavelength—both those of the complete band and those of the various subsections of it—whilst even more glowing were the reports on the band made by the fortunate ones who, apart from Service people, were able to penetrate the almost sacred portals of the Queensberry Club and hear the outfit "in the flesh."

The fact that such great stars as Mel Powell, Ray McKinley, and the others were actually in London created a great sensation over here, and when the American boys began to get around and mix a bit with some of the London dance-band men, revealing themselves both as completely charming and anxious to talk "sion," the cementing of the Anglo-American entente cordiale was complete.

MILLER TRAGEDY

Great regret was felt when the course of official duties sent the band across to Paris just before Christmas, 1944; and this regret turned to almost world-wide alarm with the dramatic announcement—just at the festive season—that the great American leader had disappeared without trace when flying over the Channel.

The mystery of Glenn Miller's disappearance—dance music's biggest tragedy of recent years—has never been cleared up officially, although practically all knowledgeable people assume that the Major was killed in a flying accident on the day he set off for the Continent, no official statement on the matter has ever been issued by the U.S. Army.

After a triumphal season of several months' troop concerts in Paris, the Miller boys more recently completed a tour through Germany before setting sail on their long-delayed journey home. How famous arranger Jerry Gray took over Major Miller's baton, and the success he made as conductor, is now a matter of history.

Now it's all over. On July 28, we heard for the last time on the A.E.F. programme the strains of "Moonlight Serenade," followed by some of the well-tried specialties of the Glenn Miller Band, including that superb Jerry Gray arrangement of Hoagy Carmichael's "Stardust," which we first heard the band play at their Plaza Cinema concert in London on July 14, 1944.

Last Saturday we also said "Good-bye" to 24-year-old "swoon" singer Johnny Desmond; and all of us who have any love of swing at heart felt a real wave of nostalgia as the programme was rounded off by Ray McKinley beating it out on the drums in that terrific arrangement of "The Avon Chorus."

Now the boys are on their way home, and a great epoch in our dance music has ended. The visit of the Miller Band, however, will never be forgotten here. Both as an inspiration to our own musicians and as a means of cementing a warm and lasting friendship, the visit of the American boys to these shores has become a treasured memory with us all.

WINSTONE WITHOUT WORDS!

AFTER many critical remarks in the past concerning the unsuitability of dance band announcements, it is interesting to see that this Saturday (August 4) at 2.45 p.m. (Home Service) the B.B.C. is trying a new method of presentation for dance music.

This is a programme by Eric Winstone and his Orchestra, titled "Without Another Word," and, apart from the opening announcement, the music will be uninterrupted for the next 45 minutes.

Although there has been the "Music While You Work" series in the past, this programme should not be confused, as Eric will be featuring his full orchestra, complete with all vocalists, including Alan Kane, Julio Dawn, Hazel Bray and the Modernaires; and the string section from his large orchestra will be used to link up the different numbers by playing the modulations from tune to tune.

It will be interesting to see whether the public will really miss the facetious back-chat between numbers that has marred so many good programmes in the past, or whether it will prove that, after all, the music is the thing.

His second programme on the same lines follows in six days' time, on Friday, August 10, at 4.10 p.m.

FERRIE'S BAND IN CAR-SMASH

WHILST returning from a U.S.O. camp show near Cheltenham last Monday night (30th), several members of Miff Ferrie's Band, the "Ferry-men," were involved in an alarming motor accident, resulting in several of the players being taken to hospital.

Among them were Harry Morton (trumpet); Hugh Macfarlane (drums); and Jimmy Henney (piano). Although all were treated for abrasions, cuts and severe shock, only Harry Morton was detained.

The other boys, Miff Ferrie tells us, had a really marvelous escape, for the crash was so severe that Miff and others, who were travelling in a separate vehicle, fairly had to dig the injured musicians out of the wreckage of their car, smashed up when it was involved in a collision with another vehicle in the darkness.

THE "M.M." joins, with his many friends in offering our deepest sympathy to drummer Sid Hieger on the sudden death of his father. Now doing a good job out in India with Arthur Mounsey and his R.A.F. Quintette, Sid wishes to thank all kind friends who have written to him, and whose letters he has not yet had any opportunity of answering.

CHAPPELL'S present

THEIR BIG LINE-UP OF HIT SONGS

DON'T FENCE ME IN

WE'LL GATHER LILACS

SATURDAY NIGHT

ROBIN HOOD

I WISH I KNEW

THE MORE I SEE YOU

50, NEW BOND STREET, LONDON, W.1

(MAYFAIR 7600)

GIG-LEADER IS NEW M.P.

Hugh Hinshelwood's Scottish Notes

AS expected, we were not long in hearing once again from Dick Denny, who finished up recently at the New Pavillion, Rochesay. Dick has fixed up a job for Mecca, playing for the next month or so at the holiday camp in Filey, Yorkshire.

The line-up, fourteen-piece, was not completely fixed at the time of writing. When this job ends, Dick may take over another resident palas' stance for Mecca. Details later.

There will be at least one M.P. in the new House of Commons who should be able to discourse learnedly on our "business" should the need ever arise. William Hannan has been elected in the Labour interest for the Maryhill Division of Glasgow, the folk knowing him ure-war as leader of a gig outfit. He kept his hand in at the game right up to his release from Civil Defence duties not so long ago.

Joe Loss and his Band are at Edinburgh this current week, most of the boys being quite pleased to return to the comparative peace of the Variety bill. One of Joe's "Band of the Week" dates was not broadcast owing to a technical hitch prior to the start of the show, but the programme was recorded instead.

Looking up old friends in Glasgow was also man Bertie King, playing with Leslie Hutchinson at Barrowland, where patrons were definitely appreciative. Bertie is no stranger to Green's and other Glasgow haunts, and certainly found this a lucky town during his stay, as on the last day we met him he had just pulled off a nice little double on the flat!

The M.U. has spread its wings further in Scotland, a new branch having been opened at Kirkcaldy; secretary, Mr. I. L. Miller, 423, High Street.

RITA GOES FREE-LANCE

RITA WILLIAMS, popular girl vocalist who originally came into prominence with Billy Merrin, since when she has been heard on the air innumerable times with many of the leading bands, is shortly to make a big change in her professional life.

For nearly two years Rita has been permanently attached to the B.B.C., singing in many different programmes. On August 25, however, she will cease to be a "regular," and is to commence a career of free-lancing, which should bring her back more regularly into the type of dance-band programme which she likes and is suited for above all else.

Leaving Bill Merrin and going into factory work early in the war years, Rita worked very hard in industry until taking up her free-lancing with the B.B.C.—also an exacting one—so that she has well earned the great broadening of her professional horizon which opens out in a few weeks' time.

Plymouth (Milehouse).—Winter reopening for J.C.S. and Swing Concerts Sun., Aug. 26, Embassy Ballroom, 7.30, and each Sun. New members, please contact H. W. Cude, 31, Sturdee Rd., Plymouth.

WRIGHT HITS

THE SENSATIONAL WALTZ SUCCESS—

S.O. { THE LAST WALTZ OF THE EVENING

3/- { Backed with WHAT COULD BE SWEETER THAN DANCING

THE AMERICAN "BEST SELLER"

S.O. { SWEETHEART OF ALL MY DREAMS

3/- { Backed with (YOU CROSSED YOUR FINGERS

ORCHESTRATIONS OF OLD FAVOURITE HITS—3/6 EACH

STAR DUST • SWEET LORRAINE • SHINE
SOPHISTICATED LADY • SUNNY SIDE OF THE STREET
MEMORIES OF YOU • NOBODY'S SWEETHEART, Etc.

LAWRENCE WRIGHT

MUSIC COMPANY LTD.

JOHNNY DENIS COLLAPSES: ALL DATES CANCELLED

BAD luck has befallen noted band-leader Johnny Denis, who collapsed after returning to London from a recent Sunday concert at Cardiff, and has been ordered by his doctor to cancel all his immediate plans. Johnny is suffering from yellow jaundice, plus an internal ulcer. He is also being troubled by varicose veins.

Johnny was appearing with his Swingtette at the Ardwick Hippodrome, Manchester, July 16 week, when he became violently sick, and attended a Manchester hospital. He was very ill throughout the week, suffering from a painful ulcer, but pluckily carried on, not missing a performance. On the following Sunday he travelled to Cardiff for a concert, but on his return to London his condition became worse, and it was then that Johnny was ordered to cancel his immediate bookings and take a lengthy rest.

This resulted in a series of complications, as Johnny's manager, Maurice I. Kinn, was on holiday at Weston at the time, but dashed back to London immediately to find alternative bands to undertake Johnny's commitments.

PALS TO THE RESCUE

At Weston, where Johnny was due to commence last Friday, his place was taken by Tommy Hunt and his Orchestra, who sportingly filled the breach at a late hour. At the Dome, Brighton, last Monday, where Johnny was due to open for a week, Nat Allen and his Orchestra, who were at Brighton the previous week, agreed to carry on for a further week, thus coming to the rescue at a critical moment.

At the Plaza Ballroom, Derby, next week, where the band was appearing, with Denny Dennis as a guest artist, Sam Ramsden has sportingly agreed to engage Denny Dennis as a guest artist with his own resident band for the week.

A number of Sunday concerts have had to be cancelled, in addition to stage dates at the Theatre Royal, Barnsley, and the Palace Theatre, Newcastle, but Johnny is hoping to be well enough to fulfil a week at Bognor with his band later this month, although it will not be until September that he will be able to make an appearance which entails any lengthy travelling.

At the moment, Johnny is in bed acting under strict instructions from his doctor pending removal to a nursing home, but his many fans can have the opportunity of listening to a programme which he recorded with Sandy Macpherson at the theatre organ and which is relayed on the Light Programme at 5.30 p.m. on Friday, August 10. Later in the month the band has a "Music While You Work" broadcast, which Johnny is hoping will mark the commencement of his activities.

Throughout the war Johnny has been working as a draughtsman in a factory, and his illness came just as he was about to commence a string of excellent bookings which would have carried him until 1946.

LONDON PIANIST IN YARMOUTH RESCUE DRAMA

LONDON pianist Bert Winter was the principal figure in a heroic rescue drama at Yarmouth recently, at which resort Bert is playing as a member of Harry Roy's "Tiger-Ragamuffins."

Bert Winter, with two other members of the band, saxists Roy Taylor and Maurice Brown, were strolling on the newly opened beach between the Britannia Pier and the Jetty, when they heard cries for help coming from underneath the pier.

Rushing down to the water's edge, they found that a little girl had been swept away by the current. Bert Winter immediately threw off some of his clothes and plunged in. After a stiff swim against the current, he reached the child and held on to her.

In the meanwhile, Roy Taylor and Maurice Brown had rushed on to the pier and lowered a rope ladder which they found there—but Bert Winter was by then too exhausted to climb up with the child, and his two friends were not able to draw up the dead weight of both rescuer and child.

The action of a passing soldier in also dashing into the sea brought the drama to a close, for he was able to bring the child ashore, leaving Bert Winter to struggle back to land by himself—to find that the child, her mother, her friend and the soldier had all disappeared without even waiting to thank him for his strenuous efforts.

Bert also found, in other respects, that the way of the would-be rescuer is a hard one, since the sea water ruined his watch, whilst he was also badly cut about by strands of barbed wire remaining under the pier.

These boys, by the way, are playing at the Winter Gardens, Bullroom at Wellington Pier, and their band, presented by Harry Roy, is being led by well-known London drummer Harry Landau, who, recovered at last from a very trying illness following his war service in the R.A.F., has come back into the limelight with a bang by taking on this Yarmouth leadership.

With Harry leading at drums, rest of the boys are: Maurice Brown, Frank Barker and Roy Taylor (trumps); Harry Phillips (trumpet); Ben Wright (bass and vocals); Bert Winter (piano and accordion); and Tom Rosser (piano).

New Rumba Band

A NEW rumba band, the "Rhumberos," has taken over at the London Slavia Club, where it commenced last Monday week (July 23). Leader is well-known pianist Patrick Gibbs, who will be remembered as previous man with the excellent and modern close-harmony quartette, the "Peanut Vendors," of radio and Variety fame.

With Patrick Gibbs are Monty Tyreo (clarinet and saxophone); Bill Godfrey (trumpet and flute); Fitz Stanford (drums); Brylo Ford (bass); and George Richards (maracas and vocals).

BROWN FOR WHITE

DUNCAN WHYTE and his Band will not be heard at the Astoria Dance Hall, Charing Cross Road, during August Bank Holiday week, as Duncan and the boys are taking a short rest.

During the week Duncan is reorganising his outfit, and in particular he is looking out for a really good lead alto player. Already he has added to his outfit Reg Dyson, the young tenor stylist, who starts with the band on August 26.

Meanwhile, Johnny Brown and his Band will deputise for Duncan Whyte's outfit at the Astoria for the week commencing August 6.

Johnny Brown, who will be remembered as winner, with his band, of the "M.M." South of the Thames Dance Band Contest in 1943, subsequently turned pro, and led his band at the Stratham Locomo, London. Until recently, when he started some film sessions, he has been out of the business through illness.

As we go to press we learn that Johnny is urgently in need of a first trumpet for the Astoria date, where he will have a nine-piece band. He may be contacted at Hayes (Midx.) 395.

CALL SHEET

(Week commencing August 6)

Nat ALLEN and Orchestra.
Empire, Hackney.
George ELRICK and Band.
One-night Stands, Leeds.
Gloria GAYE and Band.
Empire, Clatham.
Adelaide HALL.
Empire, Leeds.
Leslie ("Jiver") HUTCHINSON and Band.
Dome, Brighton.
Jack JACKSON and Band.
New Theatre Cardiff.
Joe LOSS and Band.
Palace, Blackpool.
Felix MENDELSSOHN and Hawaiian Serenaders.
Empire, Sheffield.
Freddy MIRFIELD and Band.
Hippodrome, Aldershot.
Ronnie MUNRO and Orchestra.
The Big Top, York.
Harry PARRY and Orchestra.
Palace, East Ham.
Oscar RABIN and Band.
Green's Playhouse, Glasgow.
Monte REY.
Palace, Manchester.
Harry ROY and Band.
Hippodrome, Brighton.
Anne SHELTON.
New Theatre, Manchester.
Jack SIMPSON and Sextette.
Tivoli, Aberdeen.
TROISE and his Mandollers.
Garrick, Southport.
Maurice WINNICK and Orchestra.
Empire, Glasgow.
Eric WINSTONE and Orchestra.
Empire, Chiswick.

F. D. & H. CONCERT TO BE AIRED

THE Francis, Day and Hunter 1915 Dance Band Festival at the London Coliseum on August 26 will be heard by listeners all over the world. Half an hour of the proceedings— from 4.30 to 5 p.m.—will be broadcast on the B.B.C. Light Programme for this country, and simultaneously on the General Forces Programme on short wave for the entertainment of our troops in every theatre of war.

As the concert is also being recorded by O.R.S. (Overseas Recorded Broadcasting Service) for transmission on records from local stations wherever British troops are to be found, this means that a world-wide coverage of the concert has now been arranged.

Not much time remains to get your ticket for this super event, to which the leading bands and artists in this country are giving their services in aid of the R.A.F. Benevolent Fund, and application is advisable at once.

Full details are in the F.D. and H advertisement on page 7.

DOWN IN THE FORREST

BILLY FORREST and his Band, well known in and all around Birmingham, are now in the middle of a successful two months' season at the King's Hall Ballroom, Herne Bay. This engagement was preceded by a grand fortnight at the Pavillion, Exmouth.

At the close of the Herne Bay engagement, Billy will be going on for a week's booking at the State Theatre, Grantham.

With Billy himself leading and acting as the efficient compere, rest of the outfit comprises Jack Groom, Jack Reisman and Les Brood (trumps); Ronnie Heasman and Johnny Sharman (brass); Les Freedman (piano); Jack Randall (bass); and Dick Thorpe (drums and vocals).

AL FELD, fiddler-leader of his own swingtette at Sherry's Dance Hall, Brighton, finds himself through illness needing a good first alto player's services as soon as possible. Alfoists who want a comfortable job by the sea, apply direct to Al Feld, c/o Sherry's.

In his swingtette Al, by the way, is featuring Leslie Fierstone, bright young percussionist brother of the famous George.

BIX ON A "JAZZMEN" DISC

EDGAR JACKSON'S
Record Reviews

VIC LEWIS AND JACK PARNELL'S JAZZMEN

***Prince of Wails (Schoebel) (Parlophone CE11361).
***Singin' The Blues (Conrad, Robinson) (Parlophone CE11360).
(Parlophone R2075-5s. 41d.)
Lewis (gitar) and Parnell (drums), with Derek Hawkins (clar), Ronnie Chamberlain (soprano, alto), Billy Riddick (tp.), "Lad" Busby (tmb.), Dick Katz (pno.), Bert Howard (bass). Recorded March 19, 1945.

THIS is one of the last platters, if not the last, we shall be hearing by the Vic Lewis-Jack Parnell Jazzmen, with Jack Parnell or as constituted above.

As most of you know, drummer Parnell recently severed his connection with the combo to join Ted Heath's Band.

As a result, the outfit is now under the sole direction of guitarist Vic Lewis, and already he has completely reorganised it.

Billy Riddick and Bert Howard remain. So does Ronnie Chamberlain, but as Derek Hawkins has left, Ronnie will now be heard on clarinet, soprano and alto.

The rest are all newcomers to the band.

Jimmy Skidmore comes in on tenor, and Frank Osborne on trombone. Kea Thorne takes over Dick Katz's chair on piano, and is also responsible for all the arranging.

IN PLACE OF PARNELL

Taking Parnell's place is Harry Singer, a drummer well known in London's niteric band circles, who has distinct leanings to the Dave Tough Dixieland school. He should be particularly useful because henceforth the band is to be out-and-out Dixieland, with no "ifs" or "buts."

I know what I am talking about, because I have already heard the tests of the first session which Vic Lewis has just done with his new Jazzmen line-up, and they are Dixieland in the most uncompromising sense of the word.

Also they are about the best Dixieland jazz that has ever been turned out this side, and are likely to create a sensation when issued, but for the moment we must forget them to revert to the two sides which are in the current (August) Parlophone supplement.

As will be noted from the personnel, for this session the Jazzmen induced Wally Moody to allow them to augment with a trombone—played by "Lad" Busby.

Just how good young Busby can be you can hear from his solo in "Singin' the Blues." It's as good as

they come. Chisholm at his best could not have done much better.

On the same side Billy Riddick plays a note-for-note replica of Bix's chorus in the original Trumbauer classic record of this piece (Parlophone R1838).

If I have to say that Billy still has some way to go to achieve Bix's glorious tone and the verve which gave such a character to everything Bix ever did, he has only himself to blame for forcing an inescapable comparison by copying instead of being original. But that is the worst comment I have to make on Mr. Riddick, who otherwise has done a very nice job.

BUSBY'S HIGHSPOINT

In fact, all round this is a pleasant if not always exactly inspired record.

Busby's chorus may be the high spot but there is a nice spot by the lately much-improved Dick Katz; and if the first ensemble chorus (tantalisingly savouring of the Trumbauer record) isn't the most exciting thing that ever happened, at least it is tasteful.

More exhilarating, however, is the faster "Prince of Wails."

Busby's chorus is nothing like so good as his efforts on the other side. But there are good solos by Derek Hawkins on clarinet, Ronnie Chamberlain on soprano, and Riddick; Dick Katz is even better than he is on the coupling; and the collective improvisations with which the side opens and closes are more than just good enough to get by.

CONTEST FIXTURES

LONDON AREA

Saturday next week, August 11.—Kodak Hill, WEALDSTONE (Middx.) (2.30 to 6 p.m.). The 1945 London Counties Championship.

Organiser: Mr. Syd Thompson, Kodak Recreation Society, Kodak Hill, Headstone Drive, Wealdstone, Middx.

PROVINCES

SOUTHAMPTON.—To-morrow, Friday, August 3, at the Guildhall (6.30-11 p.m.). The 1945 East Hamshire Championship.

House Band: Freddie Mirfield and his Orchestra.

Organiser: Mr. Phillip Moss-Vernon, 17, Gloucester Mansions, Cambridge Circus, London, W.C.2. ('Phone: Temple Bar 914.)

NEW BRIGHTON.—Friday next week, August 10, at the Tower Ballroom (7 to 11.45 p.m.). The 1945 Wirral Championship.

Organiser: Mr. Lewis Buckley, 28, Carr Lane, Birkdale, Southport, Lancs ('Phone: Almsdale 78238.)

WESTON-SUPER-MARE.—Tuesday, August 14, at the Pavilion (8 p.m. to midnight). The 1945 Somersetshire Championship.

Organiser: Mr. Phillip Moss-Vernon, 17, Gloucester Mansions, Cambridge Circus, London, W.C.2. ('Phone: Temple Bar 914.)

LINCOLN.—Friday, August 17, at the Drill Hall (8 p.m. to midnight). The 1945 Lincolnshire Championship.

Organiser: Mr. Len Marshall, "Arcadia," Hallam Grove, Lincoln. ('Phone: Lincoln 8362.)

COVENTRY.—Thursday, August 23, at Neale's Ballroom (7.30 p.m. to midnight). The 1945 Warwickshire Championship.

Organiser: Mr. Arthur Kimbrell, 38, Rugby Road, Hinckley, Leics. ('Phone: Hinckley 563.)

LLANELLY.—Friday, August 24, at the Ritz Ballroom (7 to 11 p.m.). The 1945 West Wales Championship.

Organiser: Mr. Lewis Buckley, 28, Carr Lane, Birkdale, Southport, Lancs. ('Phone: Almsdale 78238.)

HOLYWELL (Wales).—Monday, August 27, at the Assembly Hall (7.30 to 11.45 p.m.). The 1945 North Wales Championship.

Organiser: Mr. Lewis Buckley, 28, Carr Lane, Birkdale, Southport, Lancs. ('Phone: Almsdale 78238.)

LONG EATON.—Thursday, August 30, at the Rialto Ballroom (8 p.m. to midnight). The 1945 Trent Valley Championship.

Organiser: Mr. Basil A. Halliday, 82, Willthorpe Road, Long Eaton, Notts. ('Phones: Long Eaton 243 and 597.)

MANCHESTER.—Friday, August 31, at the Lovenshulme Palais de Danse

(Please turn to page 6)

NORTHERN NEWS NOTES

By JERRY DAWSON

CALLED in at the Tivoli Theatre, New Brighton, last week to say

hello to George Erlick, who was playing the week there, and heard the sensational news of his entry into the ranks of panto stars this coming Christmas (see story on page 1).

George's current stage offering is a very satisfying show without being anything in the way of a sensation. Solid, commercial, and, above all, entertaining, with vocals capably handled.

The band is quite adequate, and boasts one or two good soloists, but perhaps the outstanding feature of the show is the excellent quality of the arrangements—mostly by the band's pianist—the accompaniments to the vocal spots being grand examples of musical imagination.

* * *

In company with George and his good lady, I afterwards went along to the Tower Ballroom to see the finals of the amateur dancing championships for the magnificent Tower Silver Cup.

A crowded house raised a terrific enthusiasm for the event, which finished in a riot of partisanship—in particular from the defeated competitors—who were the loudest in their exhortations to their conquerors to put all they had into the final stages.

Mr. Evans, managing director of the company, entertained as lavishly as ever, and a good time was had by all, whilst there was nothing but praise for the grand work of the resident band—the "Tower Rhythmics," directed by Bert Vales—who contrived to play a tempo "strict" enough to satisfy all the discriminating dancers present.

* * *

Had a long letter recently from Bury-born Reg Warburton, who some months ago resigned his position as pianist with the Stanley Black outfit to accompany Paula Green on her E.N.S.A. tour of Palforce and the Far East.

Reg met a number of Northerners during his drift around, amongst them saxist Norman Heap, who is with a band in Calcutta, and—to quote Reg's own words—"as usual doing himself well and planning to 'carve up' India after the war!"

Also in India, at a rest camp to which they had just returned from Burma, was the 2nd Division Band-Sergt. Frank Tebb, who was for so long on trombone with Freddy Platt at Rochdale.

* * *

The next port of call was Bagdad, where Reg bumped into another trombonist—Bill Matthews, whose wife is the George Erlick (again) vocalist Connie O'Neil.

Whilst in Ceylon, Reg played several times aboard a ship which boasted a very fine concert party led by a Lieut. Tom McManners, whilst in the same spot he stayed at the same "digs" as old-timer and ex-Hyltonian Harry Robbins, who has been in that part of the world for 3½ years now, and is still knocking 'em cold.

Also in Bagdad, by the way, Reg and Paula were very well looked after by another of the old Hylton brigade, Johnny Raitz, who is second in command for E.N.S.A. out there.

As do all artists who return from these theatres of war, both Reg and Paula stress the urgent need of the boys out there for more and more top-class entertainment—not in the towns and cities, but on the isolated airfields and camps that abound there. I am sure that Mr. Basil Dean will be delighted to hear from anyone who would care to make the trip—the reception will be worth it.

* * *

Since the early days of the war, one of the most popular Service bands around the North-West—and further afield, too—has been the Dance Orchestra of Technical Training Command Band "A," directed by Cpl. Jack Goddard.

Unfortunately, three months or so ago the parent band was disbanded and the members of the dance outfit were posted willy-nilly to various units, which is a pity as this band was certainly well able to hold its own in the best company and was well worthy of a much better break than it actually got.

Jack Goddard—the noted Midlands altoist—is now in Scotland with Coastal Command Band, whilst Bill Griffiths (tenor), Alf Sharkey and Sol Peters (trumpets), and Syd Flood (trombone) are with Bomber Command outfit.

Al Craig (drums), Harold Beesley (saxo), and Jack Thirlwall (trombone) are with the R.A.F. Regiment, and have recently returned from a brief trip to Norway. The rest of the boys—the band was, of course, known as the R.A.F. "Tomahawks"—are with Flying Training Command Band, and include saxists Gordon Lewin and Joe Jager, and arranger Alf Ralston.

Jack Goddard is filling in a lot of his spare time arranging for the "big timers," and a number of his efforts have been broadcast recently by Oscar Rabin and by George Erlick (yes, again!).

Geraldoites Fraternise at Coventry

THE Coventry Branch of the M.U. held their first open social evening on July 24, and were fortunate in having members of Geraldo's Orchestra available. These boys are noted for their ready response to fraternal M.U. invitations whilst on tour.

Following a speech by Ivor Mairants, who made reference to the remarkable progress of the branch since its formation some nine months ago, the Geraldo boys gave an exhilarating half-hour jam session, showing their acknowledged capabilities in some old favourites.

President Reg Laight voiced the warm thanks of all the Coventry members to the distinguished visitors for their attendance and entertainment.

F. & D.'s TERRIFIC HITS!

LAURA

YOU MAKE ME DREAM TOO MUCH

THERE GOES THAT SONG AGAIN

WE'LL BE WALKING TOGETHER

I'M CONFESSIN'

DREAMER, DREAMER! (Waltz)

Double-Sided Orchestration as above 3/2 Each
FRANCIS, DAY & HUNTER LIMITED
138/140, CHARING CROSS ROAD, LONDON, W.C.2. Phone: TEMple Bar 9351.

The Great Philosophy
Song of 1945

I'M HAPPY IN RAGS

(Arr. by DAVE FOSTER)

America's Latest
Comedy Chorus Hit!

THE COWS IN THE MEADOW DON'T MOO ANY MORE

(Arr. by JIMMY LALLY)

ASCHERBERG'S

16, Mortimer St., London, W.1
MUS. 3562

BRON'S - HARTLEY'S



Band, as practically all others just now, has its little musical weaknesses, which hit the critic in the eye, but which the public probably doesn't notice at all.

Outstanding in this outfit is that fine old-timer of the bass, Arthur Galkin, whose good company in the rhythm section includes the modernistic Glasgow drummer Danny Craigie. Earning a very big hand vocally is Kay Harding, improved so much nowadays as to have become one of the country's outstanding croonettes.

Also singing is Dorothy Ginton (Mrs. Danny Craigie to you). In good voice, and looking a picture. Trombonist Gwyn Evans also warbles at times, to make the vocal duo (plus also J. J. no jay at the vocal stuff) into a quartette.

DENMARK, probably the latest European country of the present time, is not short of bands, but the bands are short of music. Sheet music is

BRAND'S ESSENCE

LAST Saturday evening (July 28) we said farewell to the Allied Expeditionary Forces Programme, unquestionably the most successful broadcasting feature the war has given people in this country.

On August 1 (June 9, 1944), it went on the air for seventeen hours a day for fourteen months, bringing good cheer, sick production and bright entertainment to the troops on the Continent and to the many enthusiastic "cave-droppers" here at home.

Created to do a job, it has now done that job very well indeed, and so it has gone off the air, with the same girl's voice as that which brought it into being—that of announcerette Margaret Hubble.

To pay tribute to the many friends we have made through this special evening would take up more space than we have available, but we would like to extend our thanks for pleasant listening to George Monaghan, Dick Dudley, Johnny Kerr, Jerry Gray, Ray McKinley, Johnny Desmond and the

orchestra, on the American side: Captain Bob Farnon, Paul Carpenter, Jerry Wilmet and Lieut. Charman Sanson, of the Canadians, and our own George MacLachlaine, Ronnie Waldman, for their invaluable contributions to the programme.

The A.E.F.P. really put George MacLachlaine on top, and he seized his opportunity with both hands. A most talented and versatile musician—he plays nearly every instrument in the orchestra, as well as arranging and vocalising—he was content before the war to play saxophone and sing. Now, he is really fitted for bandleader stardom, and we wish him luck in the future.

It is good to know, anyway, that the British band of the A.E.F.P. will not be lost to the world. A member of the Army Radio Orchestra, it will continue to broadcast on the Light Programme.

BY the way, if your radio set can be short-wave you will still be able to hear some of the programmes you enjoyed so much on the American Forces Network (6,000 megacycles in the 49-metre band).

Major Robert Light, Programme Supervisor of the A.F.N., has kindly sent us programme details of the station, and I see that Johnny Mercer's Music Shop comes on every day from 8.15 a.m. to 12.5 p.m., "Duff's Record" at 5.1 p.m., and "Midnight in Paris" at 12.15 a.m. nightly.

And there's plenty more good stuff every day from 8.15 a.m., when the station opens, to 2.5 a.m., when it closes.

STROLLING in the far-off lands of Golders Green, London, last week, I dropped in at the Photographic Salon, 84, Golders Green Road, and to my surprise found the genial boss to be old-timer in the dance-bandleading world Alf Van Straten (writes Ken Fraser).

He tells me his doctor has given him orders to throw up the strenuous work of danceland and take a more restful job.

I spent some two hours with the former maestro talking over the various habits of the profession and the raking up many memories of other friends well known in the business. Alf, as many will remember, was of a family of three brothers, one of which was the manager to Selmer's, and the other a pianist in Australia.

It was 22 years ago that Alf entered the business, and he has done many hundreds of broadcasts, being one of the first to play on the old 2L and Savoy Hill programmes.

Among the famous resident jobs he has had with his own band have been Soso's (now the Bristol Grill), Quaglin's Hotel, and the Pica-dilly Hotel.

the first time going over with Leonard Feather and other well-known personalities in the business. Since the war he has done many troop concerts and charity shows, and on one day of the "Battle of Britain" he and the band were on duty at a Pilot Command station on the coast and played for seven hours without respite for the pilots as they came in to refuel.

Now, except for a few one-night stands, Alf is sticking to the photography profession, and tells me his staff specialise in child studies. He will welcome any old friends in the business who may be passing, and would care to drop in.

IT is surprising how many otherwise excellent musicians do not "bask" in the course of a playing career of more than 20 years (writes Stanley Nelson). I have played with many musicians whose technique left nothing to be desired from the point of view of ordinary band work, but who could not play from memory or "bask" even the simplest of the old tunes.

It followed, almost invariably, that they knew nothing of harmony either. Even the single-line instrument player must have some working knowledge of chords since "hot" playing consists of chords and scale passages based on the melody and harmony in neat rhythmic phrases, with passing and auxiliary notes intervening.

Just how tastefully this is done induces the player. There has been a tendency in the past to believe that playing "hot" is some sort of heaven-sent gift. I have never believed it, and neither has Vic Fimer, whose valuable little book, "Busking Around Melodies" (published by Vic Fimer's Music Advice Bureau, 94a, Stapleton Road, London, S.W.17, price 2s. 6d.) I have read with very great interest.

One of the most experienced men in the public eye preceded me as technical adviser to readers of the "M.M." and he has a theoretical background possessed by few dance musicians. In his book he takes the Pentatonic scale as the basis of the world's folk music and from this basis takes the student through the fundamentals of busking. Of course, I would remind Vic that the form of Pentatonic Scale he uses is not the one recommended in folk music, but the use here of the Added Sixth chord plus the 2nd type is justifiable.

There is no doubt the record will be welcomed by local collectors, for it makes a much-needed addition to the Armstrong sets at a time when Louis releases have become things of a stonishing rarity.

As for the Sleepy John: that was long ago made famous by Wilder Hobson in his list of study records in "American Jazz Music," and jazz lovers have waited expectantly these few years past for its release. In view of the daily pleas we receive for granted, its success can be taken for granted.

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(a) The Society has been getting suggestions for future issues which often include Dods, Mortons and G.M.V. labels. Since the E.M.I. concern is not at present co-operating with the B.H.R.S. in its venture, it must be stressed that no sides can be released by the Okeh sides and there are other catalogues, or portions of them, which are likewise beyond their reach. This applies almost without exception to the private labels which have no British agents.

(b) While Harry Sarton, of Decca-Brunswick Records, is doing all in his power to meet the Society's requirements, there are many members not in this country, including, of course, those from new sessions which from time to time produce something of interest to jazz-lovers. Harry Sarton has ordered a number of these, but it must be pointed out that war conditions and shipping priorities still prevail, and there is inevitably a strict quota to be observed and delays to be suffered.

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COLLECTORS' CORNER

by REX HARRIS and MAX JONES

B.H.R.S. COMMITTEE MEETING ON Saturday July 21, the British Hot Record Society's committee met for the second time, in London. Its next two issues were selected, and readers will be pleased to learn that Erskine Tate's "Static Strut"/"Stomp Off" will appear in Brunswick's September list, and that Sleepy John Estes' "Drop Down Mama"/"Married Woman's Blues" will be issued the following month.

The Tate disc features, of course, a whole lot of grand Louis trumpet and offie Weatherford piano. It has just been issued in the States in Brunswick's Collectors' Series (see below) as we noted here in "C.C." June 9. At that time Ralph Venables commented: "It should have been your second B.H.R.S. issue here," which inclines us to believe that Ralph has the gift of prophetic vision in addition to his other numerous accomplishments.

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There should have been a ceremonial arch of saxes, trumpets, trombones, accordions, etc., at this wedding or the smiling bridegroom—and who wouldn't smile, with such a charming bride?—is doyer of the London musical instrument business, Ben Davis, Managing Director of Selmer's. We took this picture last Monday (July 30) after his wedding, at Marylebone Register Office, to Mile. Marie-Jeanne Gremaud.

The name may sound French to you, but you'll hear Ben call her his "little Swiss Miss," and we found that she comes from Gruyere, in Switzerland (now where have we heard that name before?).

The happy couple first met some years ago; late brought them together again in Paris recently—and Marylebone Register Office, at noon, was the result.

All the musical world, plus its wife, met the happy couple at a reception at Gunter's, in Park Lane, on the evening of the wedding, and congratulations will be extended to Mr. and Mrs. Davis from the whole profession.

arc confident that there is a market for real jazz on record. Already, the response to Morton's "Pearls" has been sufficient confirmation of that.

D. Keith Ward writes from High Wycombe that he has no complaints to make about the collection it is the only way we can get good jazz discs issued, but I feel that the B.H.R.S. should now be opened to the jazz loving public. While appreciating that it cannot function fully in war time, I believe if it were opened to the public even Wally Moody, of E.M.I., would co-operate in the releasing of such things as Huddle Ledbetter and Armstrong's "Muskrat Rumble."

"Don't consider this a mean about the B.H.R.S., because I think the Society one of the best things concerning jazz to have happened in this country for quite a time."

Ernest Bailey recommends the work of such modern singers as Georgia White and Bea Booze to the Society; any asks whether a Ma Rainey side or two can be found. Bumble Bee Slim is another blues singer he admires, and one whose records are definitely available to local Brunswick. While admitting the greatness of Oliver and Morton, he advises the Society not to overlook other artists of whose work we have no examples in the English lists.

Numerous Corner readers complain of Edgar Jackson's criticism of the recent Oliver release in "M.M." of June 30, pointing out that in 1923 recordings are obviously less satisfactory than it is to-day. Fraser St. Claire, for example, suggests that a little more "Imagination" than Edgar employed in listening is necessary to catch a genuine note and to understand and thus appreciate.

F. D. Mann simply writes: "Please tackle E. J. on his very poor review of the Oliver issue. Surely you have contrary opinions to his? We shall, and we have!"

RECORD NEWS Roy Jenkins, of Tredegar, writes with some really hot news. He's just had word that George Avakian has found 28 more unissued sides by Louis in the Columbia files, including the dictaphone sides made for Melrose in 1927. We wonder what the titles are.

The Louis album, No. B-1016, is out on Brunswick, and comprises "Wild Man" and "Melancholy"—80059; "Georgia Bo Bo" and "Drop That Sack"—/60; "Static Strut" and "Stomp Off"—/61; and the Red Okeh sides, "Bables", "Tea and Blues"/"Santa Claus Blues" on /62.

At Decca's Los Angeles studios last March, Bill Colburn recorded the Ory Creole Band with Joe Darmon on drums. Titles were "High Society," "Muskrat," "All The Girls Like The Way I Walk," and a new Creole song with vocal by Ory.

J. W. Humphris, 16, Grimwade Crescent, S.E.15, has Oliver's "Stop Cravin'" and Duke's "Tiger Rag," highest bidder. Wants Glen Millers, including commercials. Has 1000 old orchestras in good condition free to first Services unit band to write for them.

As it is, the Society is called upon to select items of value to jazz collectors which it hopes and believes will sufficiently well to ensure the continuance of the scheme.

The B.H.R.S. was formed to cater for the tastes of collectors rather than for those of the general mass of jazz lovers." At the same time, we

MELODY MAKER
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 Editor: RAY SONIN Telephone: TEMple Bar 1525
 Advertisement Manager: F. S. PALMER (TEMple Bar 2468)

U.S. Jive Jottings

THE Tommy Dorsey Band is the latest of the swing outfits to go in for mixed brass sections. In this case the new man is Charlie Shavers, trumpet player of John Kirby Sextet fame. Despite all the rumours to the contrary, Buddy Rich was still on drums for "T. D." when he opened at Los Angeles last month. The band has recently taken over a lot of Sunday airtime with shows at 1.30 p.m., and from 5.30-6 p.m. Both are broadcast over the N.B.C. network.

Speaking of broadcasts, there is a lot of swing coming over the short wave-length from America for those who can get it. To begin with, there is a regular programme from Wayne (WCBX 19.64 m. and WCBM 16.32 m.) called "The Duke is on the Air," which is aired at 15.30 hours B.S.T. A typical example of the stuff played is "Bluc Tokyo," "Passion Flower," "Air-Conditioned Jungle" (which sounds like a borrow from Henry Miller's new book about America), "Everything for You," and "The Carnegie Blues."

Of general interest, maybe, is the news that the A.F.N. comes in more strongly on 49.3 m. 6.08 m/c/s. than on medium wave—at any rate in the Midlands. And another station which gives out U.S. programmes during the evenings is Algiers on 24.75 m. 12.12 m/c/s., and on 260 m.

The latest news from the recording front is that trombonist Floyd O'Brien is to have a coupling under his own name issued on Jump label. . . . Joe Sullivan has lately cut eight sides for Capitol—all magnificent—and Red Nichols has had another session for the same company. Incidentally, I hear that Red intends coming here with Ray Noble and Bill Harty (that is to say, in the same party), but no date has yet been made known. . . . The Charlie LaVere Capitol session, referred to some weeks back, has now taken place, but with disappointing results. . . . Trumpeter Bobby Hackett has cut some sides for the Melrose people which I guess are semi-private, and some more for well-known Chicago collector John Steiner, which I'm told are private, too, although John has his own record label.

Jazz Magazine named "The Record Changer" had the best crack last month. Commenting on the habit, prevalent among big-name leaders lately, of using substitute instrumentalists to play while they talk around, the "Changer" instances the "Esquire" concert where Duke hardly played piano, so busy was he explaining the significance of the music. Krupa also used a sub. in order to rest up for the really big solos. Says this "Changer" columnist:—

Now if Kid Ory can just get a good trombone player to sit in for him while he is out tending to the red beans and rice, everything will be perfect!"

A reader sends details of the Carnegie Hall concert featuring Lionel Hampton's orchestra, about which most of the U.S. trade magazines raved. For this date the band comprised: Trumpets, Al Killian, Joe Morris, Wendell Culley, Lamar Wright, and Dave Page; trombones, John Morris, Andrew Penn, Abdul Hamid, and Al Hayes; alto saxes, Herb Fields, Gus Evans; tenors, Arnette Cobb, Jay Peters; baritone sax, Charlie Fowkes. Rhythm section consisted of Fred Radcliffe (drums), Milton Buckner (piano), Will Mackel (guitar), and Charles Harris and Teddy Sinclair, on basses.

Vocals were looked after by Dinah Washington and Rubie Blakely, while Lionel featured himself on vibes, drums and piano. Eddie South (violin) was a guest star. Tunes played included "Loose Wig," "Star Dust," "I Know That You Know," "Central Avenue Break-down," a blues and spiritual, "Eamp's Boogie-Woogie," "Jive Boogie," "Body and Soul," "Evil Gal Blues," and "Blow Top Blues," featuring Dinah Washington, "Lady Be Good," "Where and When," and "Carnegie Special."

A string group under Eddie South played "Flying Home" and "Barry's Idea," the latter suggesting an expedient compliment to "Deuce" Barry Ulanov, of "Metronome" fame.

Dave ("Holiday for Strings") Ross has been discharged on medical grounds from the U.S. Army.

Benny Carter, veteran alto trumpeter, clarinet-arranger, is to take his crew to the famous Plantation Club some time during the month. He is due to follow Lunceford's outfit, which has been in attendance at the club for some weeks. Lunceford has "borrowed" indefinitely from Carter tenor-sax man Bumps Myers, bringing the Lunceford sax team up to a fine standard—Joe Thomas (tenor), Jock Cartuthers (baritone), and Omer Simon and Kurt Bird (altos and clarinets).

This column recently noted that Josh White had broken into drama; at the same time Josh was holding a spot in "Blue Holiday," which closed after seven performances. But the failure didn't harm Joshua financially—he just took his guitar over to Café Society Uptown and began plucking at the same salary!

1945 NORTH-EAST LONDON CHAMPIONSHIP,
Monday, July 23, 1945, at
The Town Hall, Stoke Newington

PRACTICALLY all forms of entertainment in Town have been feeling the effects of Londoners' determination to take advantage of the fine weather.

It is, therefore, hardly surprising that the attendance at the 1945 North-East London Championship, presented on Monday, July 23, at the Town Hall, Stoke Newington, by Lyn Morgan and Charlie Cooper, in association with Sid Beames, was somewhat noticeably down on last year.

Also, last-minute scratchings, due to call-ups and other unforeseen emergencies, reduced the original entry list of six bands to four.

However, contests, even when they are small, are seldom dull. The competitive spirit usually manages to create its own enthusiasm, and didn't fail to do so on this occasion.

Also, it had an unannounced attraction to back it up—piano wizardous Norman Stenfalt, who, after judging with Ted Heath, Vic Lewis and Edgar Jackson, joined up with some of the men from Jack Oliver's 12-piece "house" band in an impromptu swing session which brought forth a terrific ovation.

DETAILS

Adjudicators: Ted Heath, Vic Lewis, Norman Stenfalt, Edgar Jackson.

Winners: **TEDDY WISE AND THE MODERNAIRES** (accordion, clarinet, vibraphone, piano, guitar, bass, drums, vocalist). 58, Brentwood Place, Golders Green, London, N.W.11. Individualists' awards for Accordion (John Gerson), Clarinet (Peter Goodman), Bass (Bernard Plumtree), Drums (Teddy Wise), Vocalist (Harry Gee). Hon. mention for Vibraphone (Lannie Rees), Piano (Gordon Rice), Guitar (Bernie Greenstein).

Second: **THE FIVE JUST MEN** (clarinet, tenor, trumpet, piano, bass, drums). All coms.: Jack Oliver, 49, Melgund Road, London, N.5.

Individualists' awards for Tenor (Sid Dowell), Trumpet (Harry Pitch), Piano (George Rattee). Hon. mention for Bass (Lew Berger). Special prize for best "small" band.

The Rhythm Ramblers, from Wood Green, were placed third, and secured the Individualist's award for Alto (Leonard Franks, Jun.).

1945 EAST MIDLANDS CHAMPIONSHIP
Wednesday, July 25, 1945, at
The Town Hall, Loughborough.

AS in London, entertainment in the industrial towns in the provinces is experiencing its difficulties. Many people are away on holiday. Others, still in their war-time employment, are finding their pay packets smaller now that overtime has practically ceased. Yet others are temporarily out of a job pending their change-over from war- to peace-time employment.

In spite of all this, the 1945 East Midlands Championship, presented on Wednesday, July 25, by Arthur Kimbrell, at the Town Hall, Loughborough, attracted a gathering of over 500—more than double the present average

CONTEST RESULTS

EDITOR'S NOTE

AFTER giving a second-to-none critical service to contesting bands throughout the war, we have at last had to concede defeat!

A very heavy contesting season and a hopelessly small paper ration do not work out together, and from now on Judges' Reports of the winning and second bands in each contest will have to be omitted.

These will continue to be written in the same expert analytical detail as before, and copies will be sent to the first and second bands concerned, and will also be available to all those interested if they will send a stamped and addressed envelope to the Contest Department (Reports), "Melody Maker," 93, Long Acre, London, W.C.2.

In the case of the Area Finals and, of course, the "All Britain," the Judges' Reports will be published as heretofore.—R. S.

Wednesday-night attendance at the hall, despite a higher than usual admission.

Also the entry list was most satisfactory. Not only were ten bands listed in the programme, but they all managed to make the date.

The general standard was not very high, and weakish opposition enabled some lucky wins among the individualists.

But the customers entered fully into the spirit of the contest, and were in the mood to give Johnnie Marks, who had been judging with Edgar Jackson, an enthusiastic reception when he joined up with Harry Prince's orchestra "house" band of the evening, to "have a bash."

DETAILS

Adjudicators: Johnnie Marks, Edgar Jackson.

Winners: **JOE KEY AND HIS ARCADIAN** (two saxes, trumpet, piano, bass, drums). Ashbury Cottage, Chelmarsh, Bridgnorth, Salop.

Individualists' awards for Tenor (Victor Wilkes), Trumpet (Joe Key). Hon. mention for Alto (Norman Jenkins). Special prize for best "small" band.

Second: **GEORGE ALLAN AND HIS MELODY BOYS** (three saxes, accordion, piano, drums). All coms.: W. L. Warner, 123, Bradgate Road, Anstey, Leics. (Phone: Kirby Muxlog 118.)

Individualists' awards for Accordion (George Allan), Piano (Clifford Smart).

The Blue Ramblers, from Kirkby-in-Ashfield, and Rand Draper and his Collegians, from Stretton, nr. Burton-on-Trent, tied for third place.

The Ramblers won the Individualists' awards for Bass (Alfred Baldwin) and Drums (Arthur Davenport); Draper's Collegians won the Individualists' awards for Alto and Clarinet (Victor Davies).

1945 NORFOLK CHAMPIONSHIP
Friday, July 27, 1945, at
The Lido Ballroom, Norwich

AN advance survey of the district revealed that it was anything but notable for the number of bands it contained, and the 1945 Norfolk Championship, presented last Friday (27th) at the Lido Ballroom, Norwich, by Len Marshall, was arranged partly so that the county could not complain that it had been left out of the "M.M." contesting scheme and partly because a number of Service bands stationed in Norwich had stated that they would like to enter a contest.

But a few days before the event, these Service bands either broke up or were moved from the district, and this reduced the entry list to three local civilian bands and one enterprising combination which came nearly 100 miles from Grantham.

Another unforeseen contingency was that a large number of American troops stationed near the ballroom, which is some little distance from the centre of the town, had recently left the area and the R.A.F. boys who are expected to take over their camp had not yet arrived.

Thus in securing four entries and an attendance of just on 400, organiser Len Marshall, who wishes to offer his most grateful thanks to the Lido's manager, Bert Gaby, for all the work he put in to get the contest going, may be said to have achieved something approaching a triumph in the face of adversity.

DETAILS

Adjudicators: Johnnie Marks, Edgar Jackson.

Winners: **THE SWING QUINTETTE** (alto, tenor, trumpet, piano, drums). All coms.: Frank Campling, 232, Queens Road, Norwich.

Individualists' awards for Alto (Frank Campling), Tenor (James Burrell), Drums (Jack Arnup). Special cup for best "small" bands.

Second: **TONY HOWARD AND HIS BAND** (alto, clarinet, accordion, piano, bass, drums). "Queverhurst," 28, St. William's Way, Thorpe, Norwich. (Phone: Norwich 23488.)

Individualists' awards for Clarinet (Ivan Toole), Piano (Bob Howard), Bass (Len Jeffries).

The Aveling-Barford Invicta Dance Orchestra, from Grantham, secured third place and the Individualists' awards for Trumpet (Aubrey Le Hair) and Trombone (Percy H. Clark).

CONTEST FIXTURES

(Continued from page 3)

(7.30 p.m. to midnight). The 1945 Northern Counties Championship.

Organiser: Mr. Lewis Buckley, 28, Carr Lane, Birkdale, Southport, Lancs. (Phone: Ainsdale 7828.)

Rules and Entry Forms for all the above now available from their respective organisers.

AREA FINALS

North Britain (Western Section).—Sunday, September 8, 2 p.m., at the Empress Ballroom, Winter Gardens, Blackpool. Before a seated audience.

South Britain (Eastern Section).—Tuesday, September 11, 7.30 p.m., at the Hammersmith Palais de Danse, London.

Mid-Britain.—Friday, September 14, 7 p.m., at the De Montfort Hall, Leicester.

South Britain (Western Section).—Tuesday, September 18, 7.30 p.m., at the Hammersmith Palais de Danse, London.

Greater London.—Tuesday, September 25, 7.30 p.m., at the Hammersmith Palais de Danse, London.

North Britain (Eastern Section).—Sunday, September 30, 2 p.m., at the City Hall, Sheffield. Before a seated audience.

1945 "ALL BRITAIN" FINAL
Sunday, October 14, 2 p.m., at the King's Hall, Belle Vue, Manchester. Before a seated audience.

SWING BAND CHAMPIONSHIP
(Open to all bands which have not won a swing-band championship this season.)

Thursday, September 6.—Town Hall, Wembley, Middx. (7.30 to 11.30 p.m.). The 1945 Greater London Swing Band Championship.

Rules and Entry Forms now available from the organiser, Mr. R. W. Davies Taylor, Entertainments Officer, Town Hall, Wembley, Middx. (Phone: Arnold 1212.)

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