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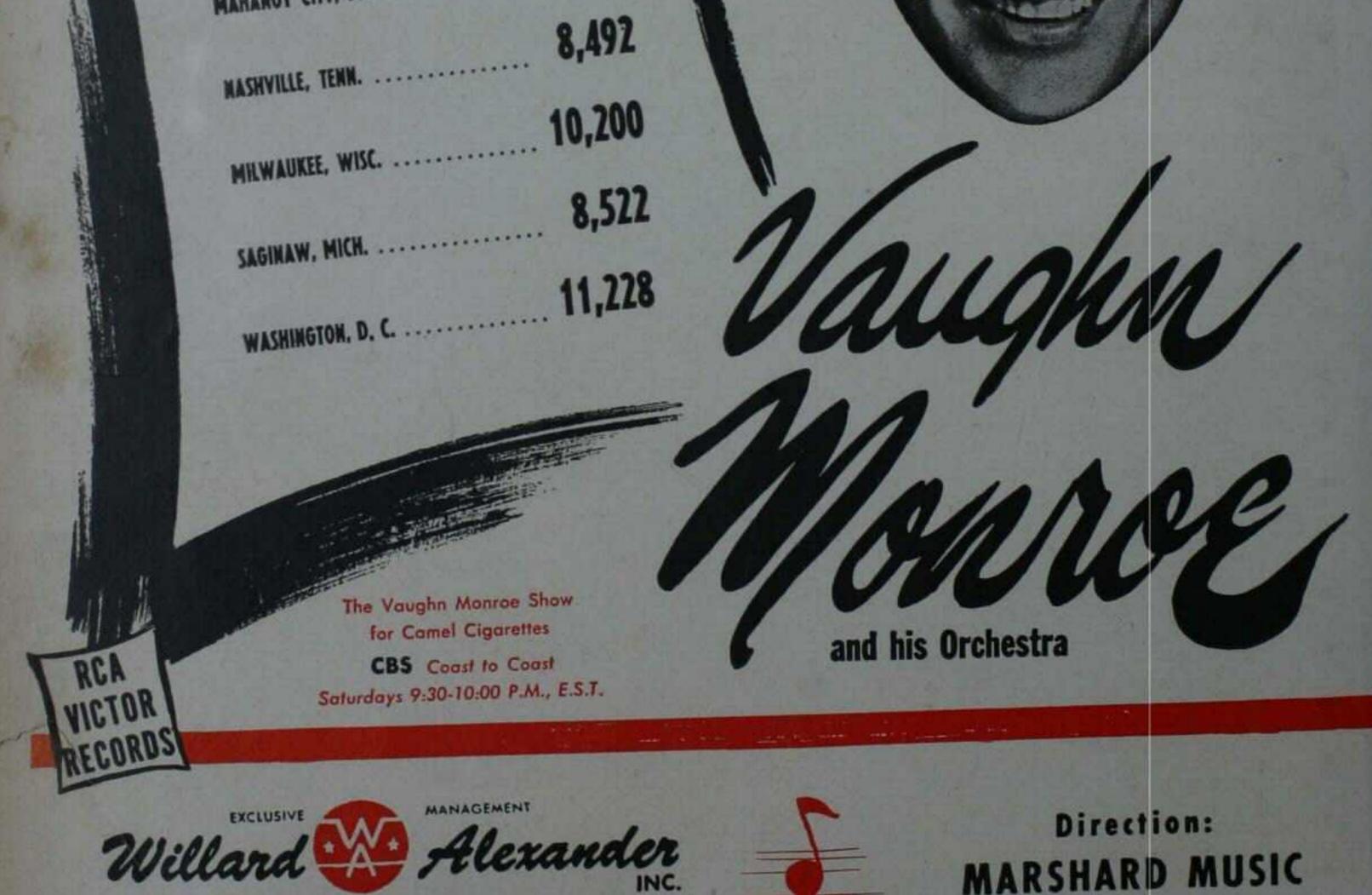
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### BillBoard •

# : Personal Appearances supplement

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### Running a Successful Night Club

The industry's top operators outline their formulae: A definite policy, customer relations, live exploitation and advertising, careful selection and grooming of talent are factors . . . not to mention working 7 days a week, unless you're in Philadelphia.

"LOVER'S in clover," people say, which includes sending gifts to our secret of my success I usually reply celebrities. that I'm just lucky. Actually, it took me 20 years to gain the know-how of running a night club.

Ciro's is one of the most highly publicized firms in the world, receiving to a company only if there is a good more space in newspaper and magazine columns and more mentions on for publicity, we leave very little to radio and television shows than almost any other. It is a natural for publicity. The name has become synonymous with Hollywood glamour and intrigue-and also fights. Over Green was to open at Ciro's, it was \$1,000,000 a year is spent on it.

a year on publicity and advertising. Los Angeles. He is always a good We take all the space we can get in bet for publicity because of his habit Los Angeles newspaper ads, and ad- of wearing a Greek toga. I threw vertise as well in the trade papers, a big dinner for Duncan at the open-Approximately \$25,000 a year is spent ing during which he posed with Mitzi on advertising, \$15,000 on publicity Green. The combination of the two-

and when they ask me for the regular patrons, movie stars and other

#### A Good Story

In publicizing Ciro's we consider I bought Ciro's in 1942. Today, the viewpoint of the newspaper man who is interested in giving free space story there. Altho Ciro's is a natural chance, taking advantage of every worthwhile situation. Particularly we try to create interest in each new opening. For example, when Mitzi learned that Raymond Duncan, Isa-We spend approximately \$125,000 dora Duncan's brother, had come to and \$85,000 on special exploitation- the child star who has made good, and

Ciro's actually runs in the red...but, oh, those five sidelines!

H. D. HOVER

H. D. Hover, Owner-Operator, Ciro's, Hollywood



... he draws the music mob.

... the Cirocse love him.

... a Lewis impersonation clicked.

. . . for him a swimming party.

from not-up-to-standard ..... to one-of-the-greatest.



Kay Thompson and the Four Williams Brothers ... they busted all records.

the front pages the next day.

Included in our \$85,000 budget for special exploitation are such gifts as lipsticks to both men and women patrons (the men like to give the gifts to their fem friends), fountain pens and cigarette lighters. Any regular patron of Ciro's is apt to receive such gifts in his mail. For each new attraction, I throw a big party at my home for over 200 people-namely motion picture celebrities and the press. For Harry Richman, for instance, I gave a swimming party.

#### New Decor Every 18 Months

My formula for satisfactory customer relations is simple: Give the patron the best of everything that money and prestige can buy. To make sure that customers will want to come to would attract always in mind. As a Ciro's, we endeavor to provide the finest entertainment we can get, the of the most exclusive night clubs in best food and two orchestras. strive to create the most pleasant possible surroundings for our customers. I have the room redecorated approximately once every 18 months.

Altho most of the patrons are my friends, I work on the theory that they come to enjoy themselves, not to see me. I believe that any time the owner of a night club thinks that people come merely because they like him, or want to see him, he makes a mistake. There should be a certain friendly aloofness on the part of the night club operator. If a fellow comes

Isadora's toga-garbed brother-made in with his girl and wants you to sit an irresistible picture for the news- at his table, sit there for a few papers. The picture and story hit minutes - but don't plant yourself there for the evening.

> Patrons want the best you can give them in entertainment, food and atmosphere. Cur budget for shows and music runs from \$3,500 to \$8,000 per week.

#### A Definite Policy

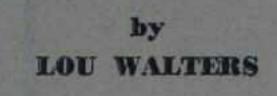
I believe that every night club should have a definite policy and a special type of clientele to which it caters. Without such a policy you're sunk. The night club operator must decide whether he wants a large or a small room, a floor show, or just music, and so on. I decided on a small, intimate room and two floor shows an evening. We select our entertainment with the clientele it result. Ciro's has developed into one We the country.

> We base our records on gross business. One crchestra leader with a national reputation is a man whom I shall never again sign for Ciro's because he draws in the chili bowl crowd which doesn't spend much per person. In addition, I have learned long ago that the graciousness of a performer has as much to do with his success at a night club as his talent. This particular orchestra leader wouldn't smile at the audience, (See Running a Night Club, page 50)

Serve better food than any restaurant in town . . . pick out the best headwaiter, captains and waiters . . . . serve nothing except the best "branded" liquors . . . . . . cater to every whim of your customers . . . . . . . . give everyone a ringside table. even on Saturday nights . . . . pay five times as much as you can afford for a show . . . . be sure that it is as good or better than any show in any theater in town . . . . . hire the two best orchestras you can get . . . . . . . . redecorate every year . . . . pay strict attention to every detail . . . . . . . . . . . . come in early and stay late work seven days a week (unless you're in Philadelphia-and then spend Sunday in New York visiting night clubs, trying to find acts that you can use) . . . . . .

spend three times as much for advertising as you can afford never charge a cover charge . . . . take the minimum charge off for every steady customer in order to keep his good will . . . . . take the minimum charge off for every new customer in order to generate his good will . . . . . charge less for your dinner than the same dinner would cost at Childs . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . Then if there's a war on, you should do business, and make enough money to stay in business for a year or so after the war ends . . . . . . . . or until your money runs out . . . or until there's another war . . . never worry about your club. Always watch what Miami is doing. If your competitor offers an act \$2,000, offer the act \$3,000. If the other guy's offer is raised to \$4,000, you up it to \$5,000. If he raises again to \$7,500, don't be scared, Offer him \$20,000. That's to learn your competition they can't monkey with you. . . . . . . . . . . . . .

Lou Walters, headman at the Latin Quarter, says it's as easy as can be. And that thing in his cheek is his tongue.





Properly showcasing unique talent is the firm and fixed policy at the Blue Angel.

#### **HERBERT JACOBY**

attracted by one name, but by a well- angle and the line of girls, is good balanced production.

#### Comedy Wanted

The greatest demand is for comedy, and comedians are the most difficult to find. I have always tried to present people who are funny without being vulgar. Some of the acts which country by some of the outstanding I have discovered have made people singers. These groups accompanied laugh most are the Bernards, who singers such as Evelyn Knight and were the first to compose an entirely Joan Nichols when they got their

music, good singing and good rhythm. Here I would like to mention two groups which have worked for me, the Herman Chittison and Ellis Larkin trios. They have been called the best accompanists in the

IKE in any other business, the most important requirement for a successful operation in a night club is policy-knowing what you want to do, what clientele you plan to aim for, and what to give them that they are anxious to find.

Failure to establish a set policy, or



to continue to maintain it, is a great mistake. There is a public for good food, one for good music and dancing and one for good talent. These groups are not always the same and a successful policy must specialize in one.

In my case I decided to try, to the best of my ability, to present talent. That required the atmosphere of a smart, relatively quiet room with good service combined with a planned is personal and individual and that creative mimicry, timed to other peo- first break with me. Another artist production of the actual show, including timing, staging and accompaniment.

#### Well-Balanced Production

Some of Jacoby's Blue Angel "Discoveries"-

Left to right, Alice Pearce, Pearl Bailey, Florence Desmond and the Bernard Brothers

you cannot please everyone. How- ples' records, and Paula Laurence and who should be mentioned is Pearl ever, if you present some talent ac- Alice Pearce, both with new zany Bailey, who has combined music and cording to your standards, and you characters and ideas. Along with comedy in a rare and effective manlike it well enough to gamble on it, it these I would like to mention Flor- ner. is easy to convince a portion of the ence Desmond as one of the most To select an artist for a night club public and so you acquire your own distinguished comediennes, unique in with the qualities and unique caparequires a personal taste or flair following. This following comes be- the art of imitation. which cannot be acquired. It is im- cause it knows it will find an in-

If I can consistently find talent bilities of those I have mentioned, After comedy the most important I have no fears about continued portant to remember that your taste teresting display of talent; it is not item, if you decide to omit the sex profitable business at the Blue Angel.

Leon & Eddie's. They tell me that with the fickle public this is some kind of a miracle. Doors have opened and closed around us with such rapidity it is hard to keep track many have graduated real stars from of who's who,

After all these years our mailing list embraces every corner of the globe and every address was given to us personally. I feel that the people who have made our place a "must" like our spot because of the friendly atmosphere and the homey touch we try to give it. I think that in the course of some eyenings I walk a good 15 miles shaking hands and greeting old friends and new, and that's how I feel about my customers . . . they are my friends.

#### Square the Beefs

We try to correct any complaints that may arise before the customer

WE ARE starting our 20th year at fied. I insist on the finest of food. moderately priced, expertly prepared and served, and our tables are plenty large enough to eat on.

> change my shows every four weeks. I like fresh new acts and here, including Jackie Miles, Jan Murray, Jackie Gleason, Donald Richards, Lee Sullivan, Archie Robbins, Joey Adams, Iris Adrian, Marie Mc-Donald and many others. I have no business gimmicks outside of our 8 by 10-foot television screen on which we show major sporting events. The customers love it and incidentally so do I, as it gives me a chance to keep up on sports and attend to business, too. Our Sunday night celebrity parties have been going on for 15 years and we have a wonderful time. The public has never tired of these nights and they are a tradition with us.

#### Mostly 20-Year Men

100,000 songs and 15 miles a night is part of Leon & Eddie's story. Maybe it's trite but who can argue with 20 years.

#### 122 EDDIE DAVIS



waiters and captains have memorized think that in these past 20 years I leaves so that he is completely satis- me since the place opened, and the terest in our patrons as I have. I sing 100,000 more.

faces and names from all over the must have sung over 100,000 songs Most of my staff have been with world and have the same friendly in- and the way I feel right now I could

### A Decade of Band and Singer Toppers with America's College Kids

As determined in the annual poll of colleges conducted by The Billboard.



Bing Crosby



Jo Stafford







Tommy Dorsey

Hal McIntyre

Dinah Shore

Benny Goodman

Art Mooney





Frank Sinatra

YEAR	FAVORITE BANDS	MOST PROMISING	FAVORITE MALE	FAVORITE FEMALE
1938	Benny Goodman Tommy Dorsey Hal Kemp			
1939	Artie Shaw Kay Kyser Tommy Dorsey		Bing Crosby Jack Leonard Kenny Baker	Bea Wain Ella Fitzgerald Ginny Simms
1940	Glenn Miller Kay Kyser Tommy Dorsey		Ray Eberle Jack Leonard Bob Eberly	Bopnie Baker Ginny Simms Ella Fitzgerald
1941	Glenn Miller Tommy Dorsey Kay Kyser	Vaughn Monroe Will Bradley- Charlie Spivak Bobby Byrne	Frank Sinatra Ray Eberle Bob Eberly	Ginny Simms Helen O'Conne Helen Forrest
1942	Glenn Miller Tommy Dorsey Harry James	Hal McIntyre- Claude Thornhill Vaughn Monroe Charlie Spivak	Ray Eberle Frank Sinatra Bob Eberly	Helen O'Conne Marion Hutton Ginny Simms
1943	Harry James Tommy Dorsey Glenn Miller	Hal McIntyre Stan Kenton Vaughn Monroe	Frank Sinatra Bob Eberly Ray Eberle	Helen Forrest Helen O'Conne Peggy Lee
1944		No Poll	No Poll	No Poll
1945	Tommy Dorsey Harry James	- Sian Kenton Hal McIntyre	Bing Crosby Frank Sinatra	Dinah Shore Jo Stafford



Harry James



Artie Shaw



Ginny Simms



Perry Como



Vaughn Monroe



.

Helen Forrest



Ray Eberle



Claude Thornhill



Will Bradley

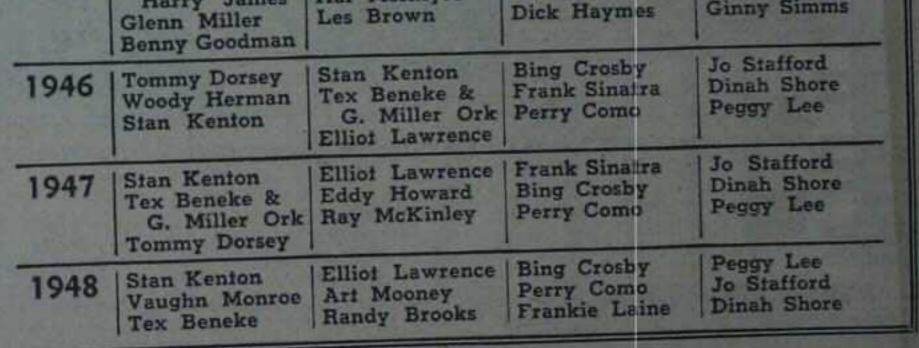


Randy Brooks





Kay Kyser





Frankie Laine

Eddy Howard







Bob Eberly

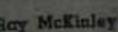
Lenny Baker

Tex Beneks



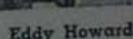


Marion Hutton



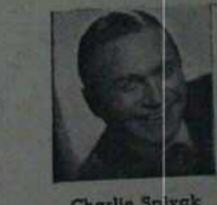
April 24, 1948

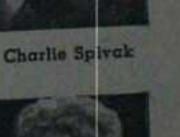
Jack Leonard





Elliot Lawrence







Boy McKinley

# rum laude

with a repeat performance in their Sophomore Year!

Billboard **10th Annual College Poll** BANDS All-Around Favorite Most Promising Newer 2. Vaughn Monroe .....1,133 3. Tex Beneke ..... 873 1. Elliot Lawrence ..... 4. Tommy Dorsey ..... 720 2. Art Mooney .... 5. Harry James ..... 594 3. Randy Brooks ..... 6. Guy Lombardo ..... 143 4: Eddy Howard ..... 7. Elliot Lawrence 5. Skitch Henderson ..... 378 8. Eddy Howard ..... 6. Ray McKinley ..... 7. Claude Thornhill ..... 9. Claude Thornhill ..... 10. Les Brown .... Anthons: 292 240 Lawrence Does Sweet 2. Elliot Lawrence 3. Tex Beneke .... **Repeat as Most** Swing . Stan Kenton . 303 **PromisingOrk Mooney Grabs Place Money** NEW YORK, March 27 .- For the second straight year, Elliot Lawrence's crew emerges as the campus choice for the most promising newer ork title, according to The Billboard's 10th Annual College Poll results. Tabulation shows the youthful 88-er far in front of Art Mooney, Randy Brooks, Eddy Howard and Skitch Henderson, who round out the first Lawrence's repeat comes as no surprise considering the predominance of

# Eliot Lawrence and his Orchestra

We're extremely grateful to the collegions who helped make our 2nd birthday such a memorable one.

Our many, many thanks to those who voted us overwhelmingly tops in the Most Promising Newer Bands Division, and boosted us to 2nd place in the Sweet Bands Division.

We've thoroughly enjoyed the privilege of playing in person for the students of more than eighty colleges during the past two years... and look forward to playing for them many more times in the years to come.

Personal Management STAN LEE BROZA RKO Bidg. • Rockefeller Center New York 20, N. Y. Press Relations GEORGE B. EVANS



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THOMAS G. ROCKWELL, President NEW YORK + CHICAGO + HOLLYWOOD + CINCINNATI + LONDON

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AT THE FLYING "W" DONNA BELLA

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# King of Modern-Western Swing

SPADE COOLEY

and his great entertaining band

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HERMAN

Personal Management: ABE TURCHEN

Establishing new house records on his first NATIONAL TOUR

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# Continental Artists Corporation

BEVERLY WILSHIRE HOTEL BEVERLY HILLS, CALIF. 131 WEST 52ND ST. NEW YORK 19, N. Y. Click Concerts

### ... and How They Get That Way

Pop concerts featuring straight names, jazz artists, folk and race stars have all made money for promoters, bookers and talent in recent years. But there are good solid reasons why they do.

the pop field (name bands, acts, that the jock lends plenty of vocifer- but it often depends on the stated ballading. singers) concerts achieved such wide- ous support via the radio waves for whim and requirement of "promospread fame this year as compared the concert promotion. Fact that An- ters." with past seasons that a lot of "ex- derson has been "coming out" valiperts" formed dangerous opinions; dates (business-wise) his practice of dangerous because of the over- going into "partnership" with jocks. generalization. There seems to be no doubt that popular concerts are in may not care to pattern their busiever-growing vogue and are paying ness after Anderson's jockey tie-in off with ever-greater success, but set-up. But the important lesson to there are barriers and qualifications learn is that the local jockey can be that the promoter and performer all important in concert planning and must familiarize himself with before staging. The wise concert promoter deciding to junk the ballroom circuit better look to his jocks as friends, if and head for any and all concert halls not partners. in sight.

new; for years the bigger metropoli in the nation have housed pop attractions on the concert stage frequently with good results. Today various phenomena explain the increased tempo of the concert trend. At the same time these phenomena are selfexplanatory "proceed with caution" signposts for the one-night promoter. No. 1 phenomenom seems to be the disk jockey. In the East impresario Ernie Anderson has wisely pulsed the exact exploitation potential of the disk jockey as related to the concert stage and has brought the jockeys into business with himself. Anderson has a good record of concert tour promotions behind him, mostly in the jazz field. In New York he has been presiding over Town Hall and Carnegie Hall (at the former usually in association with platter spinner Freddie Robbins); he's booked the Illinois Jacquet-Ella Fitzgerald package concert thru Hartford, Detroit, Philadelin turn, usually acts as emsee for plementing of ordinary dance bands etc., may be death on jazz attractions

2

- 20

1

On an out-and-out basis promoters

The most significant "new look" Concerts, of course, are nothing about pop concerts, of course, is their' widespread reach into the name-band brackets.

#### Name Clicks

Name bands playing concerts are usually surprisingly successful when compared with those trodding the routine one-nighter dance lanes. But wait a minute, Mr. Promoter-don't junk your ballroom and grab for a tent with chairs-there's more to it than meets the eye. Certainly Spike Jones has been a tremendous grosser (better than 8G in every one of 24 cities and as much as 14G and 15G in concert dates at Minneapolis and Worcester). Yeah, Vaughn Monroe can boff out 7 to 10G on a concert tour; soon Sammy Kaye goes out on concert tour (five concerts in three days) teamed with Milton Berle, but let's get a few practical points names are non-contenders. Newly straight. "entertainment formula." Jones, Mon- opportunities in the personal-appearphia, Boston, Washington and Cleve- roe, etc., only prove that large doses ance belt. There's no surprise when land. This tour ran at \$1,500 guar- of stage production will spice the established hillbilly-Western names antee (\$500 to Ella and the remainder concert box office. Spike has a 14- such as Ernest Tubb and Eddy Arnto the ork, while Jacquet worked act Musical Depreciation Revue; Mon- old, or the race stars, including Louis at 50 per cent over the gross and Fitz- roe is loaded with production rou- Jordan, King Cole, Three Players, gerald 20 per cent over the gross), tines on top of his own vocal appeal; draw packed concert houses, but the Meanwhile Anderson took out money when Kaye goes out, not only will promoter can also cull thru the Nellie at virtually every concert stop. Lo- Berle be the comedy kid as always, Lutchers, Julia Lees, Tex Williams cally he sold out the Stan Kenton but look for Sammy to lead out with and Cowboy Copas or Sarah house at Carnegie Hall (prices scaled his "So You Want To Lead a Band," Vaughans. Frequently in given areas as high of \$4.80); at Town Hall he's his poetry readings and his clownings the disks of these artists provide the loaded up weekly concerts with with a Latin-American dancer and greatest exploitation builders any lower scaled ducats but enough to go bongo beater. So stop and reconsider concert could require. Territorial reover the top. His personal abilities before striking out as a concert im- quirements for concerts are extensive as a promoter may be important- presario. Ordinary band bookings and go hand in hand with record-sale grant that he knows exploitation and without previously considered special characteristics; yet, surprising as it advertising gimmicks and uses them characteristics may not bind. People may seem, some territories are miswell. But his conceded practice of who sit thru one or two hours of understood by local concert propromoting in conjunction with disk solid band entertaining are definitely moters. In New York a concentrated jockeys probably holds the key to his more caustic and critical than ordi- hot and modern jazz following can best results. Anderson's normal ar- nary terps who will suffer thru rou- fill up concert halls for attractions rangement is to give the hottest disk time music (up to a point) to satisfy spaced out at not-too-saturating injockey in each town where one of the objective of dancing with the tervals; in other large metropolises his concerts is being staged, a small gal friend and getting in a few drinks the same, but some of your Midwest piece of the percentage. The jock, or vittles to boot. Packaging (sup- sites apart from Detroit, Cleveland,

on a thing called "concerts." In this is important, you can be sure micks") may be an agency function, comedy or Vaughn Monroe's sweet

#### 60-Day Top

Apart from the aesthetic values, there are solid business fundamentals for the performer and promoter to understand about concerts. Concerts currently are estimated as offering no better than 60 days a year for any given ork or act. This 60-day figure is one with considerable "gate milking" involved and may be presumed to apply only to No. 1 bands, vocal and act attractions. While it has no immediate bearing on the promoter (new concert promotions can be developed) it does point up the available talent problem. If large enough quarters can be found to house enough people to bring in enough money to pay the price of top talent, the question still remains: Will location of concert halls fit into the agency or performer's itinerary. As

T'S about time for a few calm words the given concert. In addition, and with stage acts, singers or "gim- but are set-ups for Spike Jones's

#### **Big Town Corn**

The hillbilly field follows its local favorites around just as closey, too. In the Nashville area the Grand Ole Opry stars boom Tennessee concert promotions; in New York hillbilly jamborees lately have been surprisingly successful due to the influence of only one or two local disk jockeys who corner the big city's corn belt.

Interspersed thru all the concert promoting the one factor which remains within the province of the prospective promoter to measure falls under the heading of the old axiom: Records make the attraction. Whatever the field-jazz, hillbilly, name band-so long as it's not pure comedy or cafe stuff, the platter popularity of an attraction offers one good clue to the possibilities of concert success. As the concert-packaging trend continues, and more and more comics, dance teams, etc., are thrown in on the traveling bill with orks, the promoter can evaluate a musical attraction's record power, compute the vaude-nitery quotients of affiliated acts independently and still come up with a pretty good index for local concert planning.

the concert field broadens out (if it broadens out) the problem may efface itself and the promoter may find it simpler to catch on to a Jones, Monroe or Kaye passing thru; meanwhile there are lesser names to consider.

#### Folk and Racers

Today, in terms of concert promotion, what is a lesser name? In the specialized recording fields (which can provide ideal concert names when properly examined) the big pop arrived race and hillbilly record art-The important consideration is the ists, for example, offer enterprising



# Continuing to set the pace as the

Musical Combination

# Capitol Records Now Sweeping the Nation "NATURE BOY"

Johnny

King Cole Thio

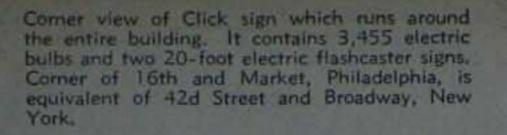
# CARLOS GASTEL

Direction

Nat.

Irving

GENERAL ARTISTS CORPORATION



# Name Bands and Smart Promotion CLICK

### FRANK PALUMBO

If Philadelphia's Click doesn't do the most intelligent, aggressive job of promotion in the nitery field, it will certainly do until a more intelligent, aggressive promotion job turns up. Here, the well-liked, well-known Mr. Palumbo tells the whole story.



RADIANT KID on top of the juke box is the winner of a home-conditioned juke box won at a monthly Click's Tune Party, run by disk jockeys, left to right, Ed Hirst, Stu Wayne and Joe Grady. At right, Frank Palumbo and Tony Pastor, guest star, watch the kids yell approval,

of the exits at the Click, here in they were "clipped." Philadelphia, into which our patrons drop some secret wish as they leave. admission charge at the Click, never I read these wishes carefully for they often reflect the public's opinion of our place more clearly than any other thing to eat or drink and see some medium.

The wish I remember best among the hundreds I've read was one written by a young customer on what was apparently her first visit to the Click. It said, "I wish to come back here again soon." That wish, in eight words, really tells the whole story of the Click. When we opened the place September 7, 1946, we knew it would be no easy job to get Philadelphians behind the project, and then spread its name somewhat to the rest of the country. The citizenry here demand a lot of value for their money. We knew that from operating four other entertainment places here.

#### **Past** Experience

So, we put into the Click the lessons we learned from years of supplying entertainment. We remembered their gripes and complaints, the Click rolling with Louis Prima's

W/E HAVE a Wishing Well at one their long memory of places where

There is no cover or minimum or was, and never will be. We tried to make it easy for a person to get somefirst - class entertainment without going home broke. The average person in Philadelphia had to be impressed with the fact that he could enter the Click without having to pay any charges at the door, without having to tip everybody from the headwaiter on down to the kitchen boy in order to get a seat, without fear of being shown to a back row seat unless he "gets it up"; without all the other phony practices that are so prevalent in the night club business.

We had to sell a bill of goods to Philadelphians that permitted them to buy as little as they wanted to at the bar, or as much as they wanted to within reason, leave when they wanted to, and see a full bill of entertainment,

With our policy set up, we started



A scene from the contest to pick Miss Press Photographer of Philadelphia, an annual contest by the lensmen of Philly papers, held at the Click there March 14, 1948, All-round co-operation on this one is excellent; entries are numerous, and results gratifying.

a line-up that included practically all that here in Philly we're wide awake which announced their coming en- mosphere. the top names in the band business, and enjoying the music of so-an-so gagement. We utilize the revolving stage idea, and his band." And you should hear with an alternating band on the sec- the customers here applaud as we go ahead of a band's engagement at the ond stage, so that there is never any on the air! lag in entertainment.

bar runs twice the length of the in the world with a real bar." room, on two levels, capable of seating some 500 people, and of serving some 1,800 at one time. Two other circular bars, one to the front, and on each side of the bandstand, boost the total footage of the bar in the Click to 590 feet

#### **Remote** Shots

We realized early the value of radio as a medium for advertising the music from the Click and installed lines

New field of television opened another promotion outlet for Click. Here Desi Amaz awards a \$1,000 coat to the winner of the Miss Television of Philadelphia contest, September, 1947. To date, 295 appearances and television plugs have been made with band leaders and Click stage itself,

One phase of band promotion is selling records of the band at Click, usually for benefit of some charity. Here Stan Kenton and Juke Christy are shown looking at Showtime magazine award made to Stan at Click, as they get ready to sell their records between sets. It's solid and profitable publicity.

orchestra, and have followed it with let's show them across the country ers before they opened at the Click, pletely altering the night club at-

Click, as far as promotion is con-We use regular radio station equip- cerned. Printed matter, releases, advertising, disk jockey plugs and lobby displays are prepared early in order started, consists of a full column ad, using a Ben Day or reverse plate, and usually placed on the outside column of the entertainment page. We keep it clean, telling the message simply as possible. For instance, with Cugat, we used about six words in the whole graphs of such guest stars as Frank column: "Click-opening October 6- Sinatra, Vic Damone, Vaughn Mon-Xavier Cugat," A picture of Cugat, roe, Charles Coburn, Leo Carillo and or of any other artist we advertise is many others. And we've found out always placed in the ad, with the that a happy teen-ager is a wonderhead outlined in white.

#### 112.000 Lines of Ads

At the party the kids dance to the We try to work about three weeks music of the records played in a juke box on the stage and then cast their votes. All the record distributors in the area compete in this promotion to have the kids select their tune, and once it is picked, the Phonograph Operators' Association places that tune with a title strip in the No. 1 position on about 80 per cent of the 5,200 juke boxes in the area.

This promotion has gained more attention than perhaps any other because the kids go home full of cokes, pretzels, candy, with pictures of their favorite band leaders, and the autoful advertisement.

#### Gal Appeal Shows

Fashion shows, beauty contests and Since September, 1946, we have even a breakfast show for women all tion details that go unannounced, but We didn't believe the usual promo- are important. There are a thousand

The bandstand is placed in relation ment at the Click, and we try to make to the room so that no customer is our shows look and sound as nearly over 70 feet from the band, and can perfect as we can. I think it was Ben to give the band plenty of attention see the stage perfectly with as many Gross, radio editor of The New York weeks before it opens. Our newsas 2,700 people in the place. Directly Daily News who said, after visiting paper advertising, ever since the Click in front of the bandstand a 373-foot the Click, "It's the only radio station

#### **Commercial** Originations

Since September, 1946, we originated on four networks, a total of 1,495 air shows from the Click, including programs like the Vaughn Monroe show, the Chesterfield Supper Club last summer with Tex Beneke, and the Old Gold program with Xavier Cugat. All these radio broadcasts going out over the country, with Philadelphia as the key, helped from each of the networks, NBC, CBS, sell the Click all the more to the

ABC and Mutual. Between 20 and Philadelphia public itself. 26 remotes a week originate on our stage over these lines to all over the country. Philadelphia is not a radio show center like New York, and many value they once had in band promo- combined circulation is 1,846,000. of the people here had never seen tion. But coupled with disk jockey broadcasts before. So we built our and juke box promotion, radio be- tion gimmicks would go over too well and one things that go into the progoes something like this: "We're going in person. And we've used some 800 bar, with Cookie Nook signs and regu- "I wish to come back here again coast to coast over the network, so transcribed messages from band lead- lar soda fountain equipment com- soon."

#### Jocks and Jukes

advertised 32 different bands for a have helped promote the Click to the total of 112,000 lines of space in three Philadelphia public, and in turn to Remotes, we know, do not have the metropolitan newspapers whose daily the country. There are many promo-

ordinary remotes into small-scale pro- came our most powerful medium. in Philadelphia so we had to get up motion of any business. The attitude ductions, and they started to draw Philadelphia has 26 disk jockeys, with some promotions that weren't routine of the waiters and employees, the new customers. Soon mail began to a total of 41 different record shows, for night spots or band locations. The courtesy of the doormen, the general come in from other States and the on 7 stations. In the past 19 months, Click Tune-of-the-Month-Party is a feeling of friendliness in a place, these patron here sensed they were be- our bandleaders, vocalists and band monthly gathering of some 2,000 teen- are all things that have been stressed coming part of a center of attraction. members have made 1,220 separate agers who come in on a Saturday at the Click. And continuing ob-We start every remote from the personal appearances on these shows, morning to pick their favorite juke jective is simple: It's to get more Click with a warm-up by the an- They've also made 655 transcriptions box tune for the coming month. The people to write and to think the way nouncer to the audience here which for use on shows they couldn't attend place is converted into a huge milk that young girl did when she said

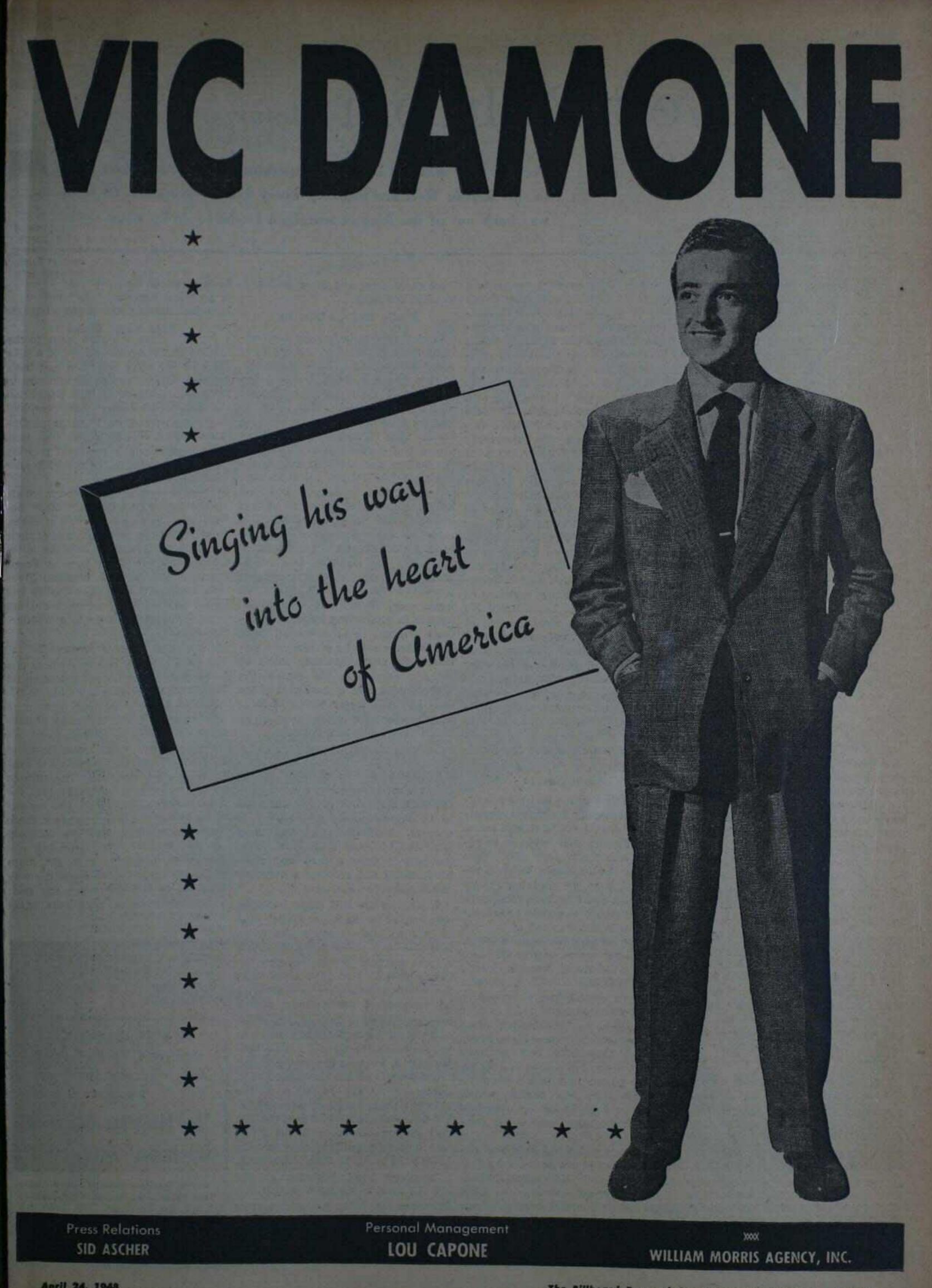


Altho Philadelphia can never compare with New York for guest star appearances, when they are in Philly they usually wind up at the Click. Here Bob Hope and Jerry Colonna clown with Tommy Tucker's band.

high school and college papers are invited to attend and interview the bands at the Click. Here Vaughn Monroe and the band play for a coast-to-coast hookup while some of the editors watch.

Philadelphia to lead fratemity paddle as Johnny Long obliges.

the band at Click with his part of his initiation chores.



# The Midwest Ballroom Picture

Paced by the Midwest Ballroom Operators' Association, dancery mogula in the Middle West are utilizing every known gimmick to fight their way back out of the longest sustained business slump since depression.

slump since the latter days of the de- program, emphasizing two-beat, livepression, dancery owners and inde- ly tempo music, Devine, who has givpendent promoters are a bit more en over his important Saturday nights optimistic in their outlook because to the oldsters, reports that he is makthey have already weathered out ing enough moo on the promotion to such a depression situation in the fly in out-of-town units, such as '30's and because they are now able Frank Yankovics' Cleveland ork, to cling to their own organization, the Midwest Ballroom Operators' Association (MBOA) as a bulwark.

some major improvements for dance band buyers, such as the revocation of the Form B contract clause, which Webster, who has been a prominent made the orchestra leader responsible territory band booker and leader as for payment of social security and well as personal manager and is now unemployment stipends to the feds, operating Woodcliff Ballroom, Spenit has assisted most as an agency to cer, Ia., has increased his old-time disseminate necessary advice and in- dancing pull by setting up a "picnic formation among its approximately intermission" gimmick that is bring-175 members. Previous to the or- ing dancers from within a radius of ganization eight years ago ops were 100 miles. Webster has allowed his forced to meet changes in business by dancers to bring a picnic basket of monthly confidential business paper, correlates individual problems and makes it possible for ops to learn more easily thru the experience of cohorts in the same field.

facing their biggest sustained biz local crew, playing a regular dance working out okay. which waxes for Columbia. In addition, Devine is using an 11-piece oldtime band and has also used other While the MBOA has contributed out-of-town waxing crews, such as Lawrence Duchow (Victor) and Rudy Pochar (Mercury-Rondo). Ralph themselves, while now the MBOA, lunch to the dance, with the ballroom thru its annual meetings and its serving free coffee. Webster allows payees to use his booths as tables for their lunch layout. The Aragon and Trianon, Chicago danceries operated by Bill Karzas, have hiked their midweek night takes considerably with an over-30 dance, with regular orks playing more waltzes and old stand-

#### Radio Brings 'Em In

More than ever before ops are finding radio a good bet in moving their talent merchandise. Alice McMahon, ing that they get less work per month of the Indiana Roof, Indianapolis, out of Midwest ops than they did two has worked out a co-operative deal years ago. Ops have found generally with a local disk jockey who does com- the major-office booked bands are not mercial time for her and plugs her as conversant with their clientel's bands with records on his other wants and don't seem to take the shows and does air interviews with same interest in doing a good job. the leaders and vocalists during the Gamble, which they are forced to week. Ralph Webster has a 15-min- take on a heavy guarantee and a ute show five times per week on percentage, is forcing ops to cut down KIDC, Spencer, Ia., where he utilizes on the number of name band dates. live old-time music Mondays, with Ops, too, want more showmanship recorded music and news of forth- from bands, something which tercoming attractions the remainder of ritory orks are emphasizing, and the week. In addition, this small- which ballroom tycoons are finding town station does sustaining remotes is a passing thing with the top names. from the Woodcliff Ballroom on week ends. Many ops have found best possible personal service to patrouble in persuading local radio sta- trons when they are in the ballrooms. tions to grant them sustaining time, Spearheaded by a talk by Alice Mcbut Webster said he pitched the sta- Mahon at the 1947 MBOA convention, tion to the angle that they would be ops have been working more to put doing a service to the community, across the need for top-notch service Webster also does a good deal of the in every department from checkannouncing, a factor which he finds rooms to the dancery's concessions. helps immeasurably in warming up his patrons to the new dancery.

WHILE Midwest ballroom ops are has confined his over-30 dances to a local radio band and the gimmick is have made it impossible for leaders keep their nine or ten sidemen.

#### Less Name Dates

Big and semi-name bands are find-A major concern of operators is

#### Membership Drive

At present, the MBOA is prepping for a strong membership campaign, feeling that issues such as the ASCAP and BMI music licensing programs and federal amusement taxation, demand concerted co-operation from as many representative ops in the field as possible. In order to engender stronger co-operation, the MBOA just finished its first board of directors' meeting in Chicago. At this meeting, it was planned to hold a series of regional meetings, at which problems, typical of that particular area alone, could be more fully discussed. It is planned to make these section meetings and board of directors' confabs at more regular intervals, not only to stimulate interest, but also to facilitate passage of important news from member to member.

#### **Old-Timer** Revival

As a result of their depression exall their promotional media to meet shift jail for stags and other gimthe present gross decline. A major micks. aid in perking sagging box-office receipts has been the stronger empha- pecially those in the sticks and a few past year. Will Wittig, of the Pla- there are large transient Southern present time, is the most competitive Mor, Kansas City, Mo., and George migrations, use hillbilly and Western in years, as there are more good Devine, Million Dollar Ballroom, Mil- bands occasionally, Jimmy Hix, ful with these off-night dances, aimed St. Joseph, Mo., has been working territory orks, too, have held up at the older dancers. While Wittig one night per week with a Western pretty well, because high living costs

#### **College** Stunts

ards.

Ops are finding too that the youngsters go in heavily for nights specially created for them. In college towns ops are finding that catering to sororities and frats pays off. Vern Byers, of the Rainbow, Denver, reports that they are readying Friday nights with plans to have the bands play the chapter songs, select a princeand-princess evening, and at the end of the season pick the campus faves, who will get a free trip to Gotham. At the Turnpike, Lincoln, Neb., George Dinsdale selects a campus group each week, which is invited to dance free that week.

In addition, ops are finding other night promotions, such as Hard Time, costumed Gay '90's and a freewomen's night, are paying off. Ralph Webster reports that he has run very successful leap year parties, which periences, Midwest ops are prepping have been highlighted by a make-

While many Midwest danceries, es-

#### Free Birthday Ducat

direct mail advertising a good payoff, with a number of methods used to obtain addresses and names of dancers. Most successful thus far is the "free birthday ducat," in which the dancer signs a card and gives his birthday and receives a free pair of admissions on that day.

While ops are still using traveling orks booked by the major agency part of the time, business has settled down to the pre-war policy generally where it's the territory bands that pay the steady gravy. Ops have found that the territory bands are still the best bet because of the economy of the booking (orks run from \$125 to \$350) and the fact that these bands are in the sector constantly and have a better chance to recognize and evaluate the demands of the dancers at each particular stand. Majority of the orks are booked thru Howard White, Vic Schroeder or Serl Hutton, Omaha, and Jimmy Barnette, Sioux Falls, whose combined stables hold approximately 25 bands at the present time.

Territory band business, at the were in the pre-war days. Prices for

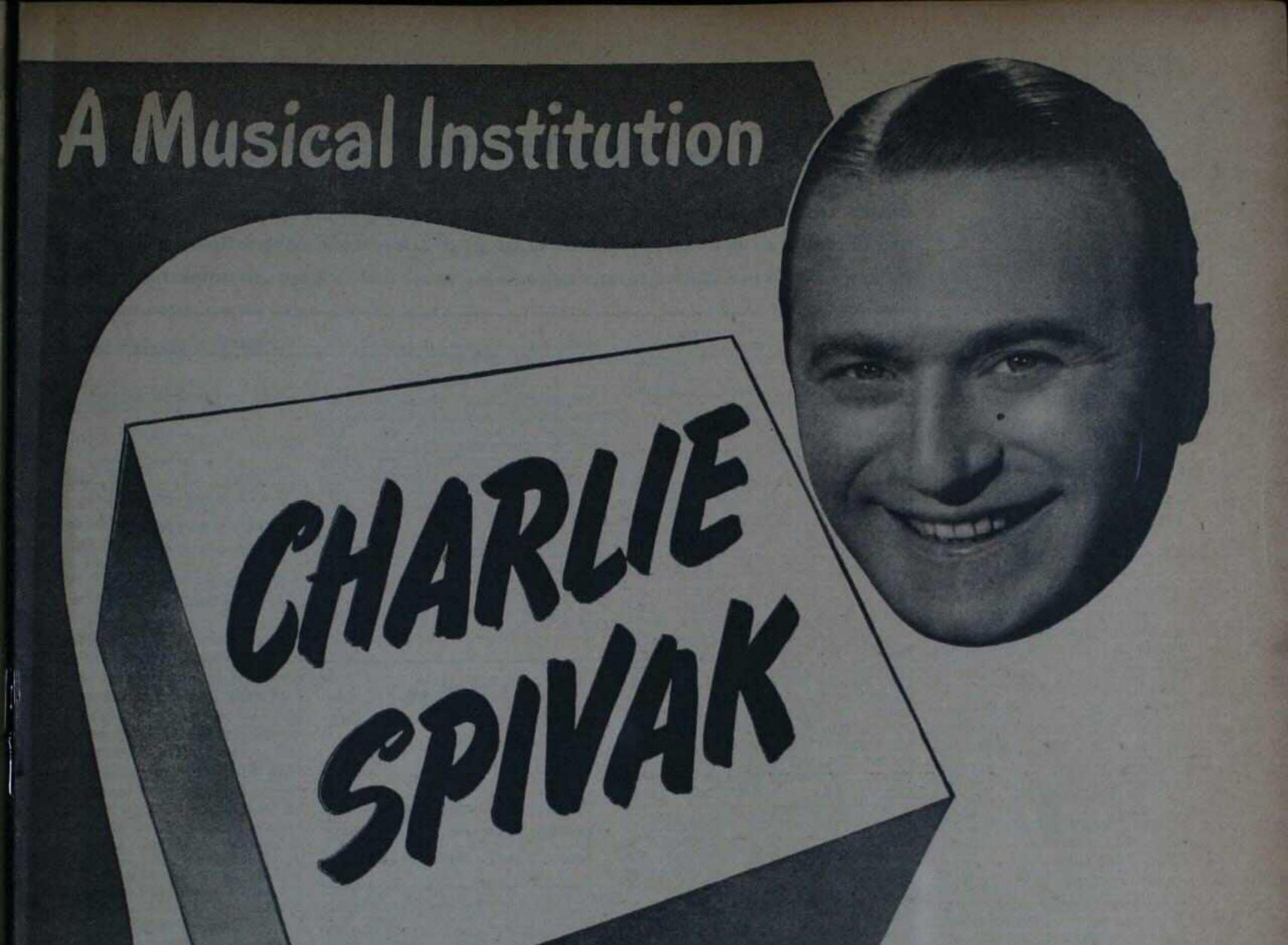
Altho MBOA members and ops still outside the org's folds are still hindered by bad business conditions, their general outlook on the future is Ballroom owners are finding the good. Most feel that the org should put on a Let's Dance Week to promote dancing, as opposed to the vigorous promotion jobs put on by competitive industries such as bowling. Ops feel that some revisions must be made soon in the matter of semi and name band prices, especially a lowering of the guarantee and a hike in the percentage or vice versa. Feeling on part of ops now is that the booking offices and fronters will have to share the chance angle. Feeling is that the patronage is bound to come up again, if and when the national income readjusts itself to fit the individual pocketbook.

> A LIVE Organization Dedicated To Furthering and Improving the Dance Business

### The Midwest Ballroom **Operators'** Association

If you operate a ballroom, the MBOA of value to you. For further can be information write today:

Midwest Ballroom Operations' Assn. c/o Larry Ceer, Laramar Ballroom Fort Dodge, la.



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# Booker Tips to Band Buyers

Smart use of mailing lists; standard and new exploitation gimmicks; tie-ups with record dealers and disk jockeys; refurbishing of grimy locations; more thoughtful talent buying are all contributing factors to a successful operation. In tough times they're "musts."

#### PHHI. BROWN

One-Nighter Department, William Morris Agency, Neto York:

"If a name band isn't drawing, maybe a package deal is the answer."

Phil Brown, of the William Morris Agency one-nighter department in New York, maintains that with onenighter business conditions in bad that of the patron attending a dance, buy." shape, the promoter must exercise a little ingenuity in buying talent and in running his operation. In buying, the promoter should try to get the most for the least. In other words, if a name band doesn't pull the the Seattle promoter, to keep the growds, the operator should look price down," Miller said, "As a result, crowds, the operator should look around for something that may help strengthen the ork's appeal. "It was with this in mind," says Brown, "that William Morris has been experimenting with one-night package deals built artist like Francis Craig."

Many promoters, according to the WM booker, could help themselves considerably if they polished up their ballrooms to create a more appealing "Many places," says atmosphere. Brown, "just haven't got the type of atmosphere that makes the customers come back for more." Operators who depend on bands moters. for a living should have a regular night operation - every Monday or every other Wednesday, for example; this to implant in the customer's mind that there will always be a name band dance on that particular night. The operator should also attempt to properly exploit his dances thru advertising, disk jockey ties, full use of a thoro mailing list, giveaways and miscellaneous ideas. "I have one recommendation" offers Brown, "for a not-too-commonly used idea which may prove effective in some locations: Operators may run free community dancing classes as box-office incentive. In addition, the promoters might run Saturday afternoon dancing classes for teen-agers, thus getting the potential future customers warmed up to the ballroom at an early age."

Feople still come out for the attrac- tertainment budgets. tions when they get a bargain, he The days when a promoter said. could charge \$2.50 at the gate for a band that was getting \$750 have passed. Promoters, he feels, are realizing that today prices are gradually being readjusted to fit existing biz conditions. One-night dance dates are considerably different from concerts. Stan Kenton, he pointed out, is getting a \$3.60 top for a concert. This is because the public is used to paying a little more for a concert, and the frame of mind of the concertgoer and general psychological apsproach is considerably different from

As an example of the advantages of keeping the admission down to a reasonable figure, Miller mentioned Tex Beneke's two-day stand at the Seattle Armory last February.

"We got together with Ellis Coder, Coder charged only \$1.50 at the gate, and during Beneke's Friday-Saturday stay he drew approximately \$11,000 at the box office."

Miller stressed the importance of around an orchestra and a recording proper publicity and promotion that ful. Among the more important, he feels, are record shop and department store personal appearances, which should be arranged by the promoters in advance of the band's arrival in town. With strong promotion and level prices, Miller feels one-night biz still holds profits for the pro-

ing power of the band on the stand, together the strings of lowered en-

#### More Ballyhoo

"Primarily, the promoter today must resort to the age-old art of ballyhoo. Call it any name you choose-advertising, promotion, exploitation-but in the long run still comes out ballyhoo. Noise, commotion and stunts coupled with new ideas and resourcefulness are what the promoter needs,

"It's the promoter's job to convince the customer that he is being offered the opportunity to get in on the greatest entertainment buy of the day -week after week. The customers will buy if the promoters make them

#### HAL HOWARD

One-Nighter Department, Music Corporation of America,

Hollymood:

"Don't just cut admission prices. Let the customers know you're cutting them."

Not enough one-nighter promoters have discovered that their best bet

#### HOWARD SINNOTT

One-Nighter Department, General Artists Corporation, New York:

"Operators should make greater use of advance ticket sales on spot bookings. It creates word-of-month advertising and serves as insurance for the date."

Howard Sinnott, of the New York office, General Artists Corporation, one-nighter department, tells buyers:

"Essentially, the success of a onenight operation depends in good part on the regularity of promotion. A promoter who has one particular day each week set aside for name band dances has a better chance of creating an attendance habit among his cus-Thus, he builds a steady tomers. following to a far greater degree than the sporadic operator who hopes to lure them in every time he gats his hands on a reasonably good name band.

#### HENRY MILLER

#### One-Nighter Department, General Artists Corporation, Hollywood :

"Promoters should arrange band leader personal appearances at record shops and department stores before the band gets in town . . .....

tion, feels that admission prices the talent, particularly to meet comshould be kept in line with the draw- petition and at the same time keep

#### BILLY SHAW

#### Executive Vice-President

#### The Gale Agency,

#### New York:

#### "Promoters don't have the good old Barnum touch any more."

Billy Shaw, executive vice-president, Gale Agency, New York, opines: "One of the major causes for the decline of the dance business is the loss by promoters of the good old Barnum touch. They just aren't doing a good job of selling the merchandise they have to offer the public. They aren't creating any real demand by whetting the appetite of the prospective customers.

"Promotion is an art just as is any other vocation. During the war when the public's pocket was bulging with money and people actually were searching for places to spend it, promoters had little more to do than get a hall, a date, an attraction-any attraction-open the box office and then stand back while the customers flowed in. Those days are gone. Today a promoter not only has to have an attraction with something Henry Miller, Coast one-nighter special on the ball but he must use booker for General Artists' Corpora- super salesmanship to complement

in promotion and advertising is in direct mail, according to Hal Howard, Coast one-nighter booker for Music Corporation of America (MCA). Howard contends that promoters paign. This too can help to create should build up a strong mailing list in each area they operate. Then, when it comes time to announce the arrival of the next band, the promoter is sure of reaching a potential dance-minded segment of a town's population via direct mail.

Simplest and surest way of getting a live mailing list, according to Howard, is by using the standard door-prize gimmick. Promoter offers a prize for which competing patrons must sign a card with their names and addresses. These cards automatically make available to promoters the names and addresses of people who are definitely interested in dancing and who have proven their interest by attending the dance where they filled out the card.

As an example of the advantages of direct mail, Howard pointed to an intermountain territory city (he didn't want to mention the name) where two ballrooms compete for that town's dancing biz. Both promoters playing comparable bands, one dancery outdraws the other by about 90 per cent, thanks to his use of direct mail.

Another sure-fire gimmick, according to Howard, are tie-ins with the local record distributor who handles the batoner's disks. Promoters are wise to exchange record shop window displays for a disk display in the ballroom lobby plugging the dealer or distrib who handles the leader's plat-According to Howard, one ters. method of promoting interest in a band soon to arrive is for the promoter to work a deal with one of the larger concerns in town. He gives as an example one promoter who set up a "dedication" tie-up with Bank (See HAL HOWARD on page 50)

#### Direct Mail a Must

"Regular operators should develop a thoro direct mail advertising cam-(See HOWARD SINNOTT, page 50)

#### MIDWEST BOOKERS SUGGEST:

"A return to some type of group dancing." "Ops would do well to associate closely with any community enterprise." "More advertising money for weekly territory band dates." "Ops should study demand of their clientele." "Bring down admission prices."

Territory band bookers, who dea more closely with the Midwest dance promoters (because they mus keep their bands working five I seven hights per week in that par ticular territory) than do the maje office (me-night skedders, had mor comment for improvement in ball operation than their big-cit room cohorts

The territory ork skedders fe generally that ballroom ops mu start it general program to revis interest in dancing. Jimmy Barnet Sioux Falls, S. D., band booker, sus gested a return to some old or per haps new type of group dancing order to provide for more mixing an new friendships in terperies, recommended that a group, such Midwest Ballroom Operator the Association, make a pitch to som national dancing teachers' group that the campaign might be work (See MIDWEST BOOKERS, page :

# The Promoter Lays It on the Line

High ork prices and guarantees; rising costs of operation; wedge booking; fronters' indifference all seen as contributing to promoters' current woes

#### LABRY CDER

President. Midwest Ballroom Operators' Association and operator of Laramar Ballroom and Expo Park. Fort Dodge, Ia .:

#### "Each one-night date today may make or break an operafor .... " /

Larry Geer, prexy of the Midwest Ballroom Operators' Association and op of the Laramar Ballroom and Expo Park, Fort Dodge, Ia., and the Alhambra Ballroom, Twin Lakes, Ia., urged fronters, their personal manaters and bookers to realize the urgent situation confronting all in the onenight biz. Geer pointed out that each one-night date today may make or break an operator and that all in-As prexy of MBOA, Geer receives (See LARRY GEER on page 49)

#### **IRVING SCHWARTZ**

One-Nighter promoter, Sacramento, Calif .:

lar policy to make room for the name. Location ops, playing the names on the single night, face a decreased gate on the preceding and succeeding nights and also break the normal dance night of regular patrons, who change to the night of the visiting name ork. The name band will cost the op anywhere from three to seven (See Alice McManon on page 49)

#### CHARIJE SHRIBMAN

New England promoter and operator of the Symphony and State ballrooms, Boston:

#### "Bands and agencies must knock down prices on onenighters . . ."

Charlie Shribman, New England volved realize the critical conditions. promoter and operator of the Symphony and State ballrooms in Boston, says: "There's only one way the bands and agencies can help promoters. They've got to knock the one-night prices down. I know that in many cases it's tough to cut prices and in others it's impractical to clip the nut. Band leaders shouldn't lose dough but at the same time they shouldn't keep their prices at such a level that they leave the promoter vulnerable in the event of a poor turnout.

#### L. A. Promoterless

The one-nighter business in the Los Angeles area has been virtually left without a regularly operating one-nighter promoter. Marty Landau, formerly the outstanding local one-nighter promoter, has forsaken the regular dance field and is devoting his time and efforts to staging folk and Western events. A. B. Banford, also a former one-nighter promoter in these parts, has also left the dance field. Business has been so bad that even the regularly operating ballrooms have pulled in their horns.

p.m.'s seem too distant from their properties, he said.

pay more attention to what's going on in front of the bandstand than to what their bands are doing. At present, the younger dancers especially mer is thru paying high living and want to feel that they are getting special attention, and even a smile from the touring name sells the guy 100 per cent to a ballroom crowd.

Prices must come down on bands, Devine said. His operating costs are climbing and he is unable, except on the very top names, to ask a ducat hike. Devine urged that guarantees as well as percentages drop considerably so that ticket prices may be cut in proportion.

tips to visiting orkmen. Too many in the field for the past 11 years, says:

"I believe bands are getting too much money in the face of high prices Devine recommended that orksters and living expenses. Salaries in the South are far below what they are in the East and West and consequently by the time the average dance custo-(See Ralph Weinberg on page 48)

#### JOE BARRY

Co-owner, Ritz Ballroom, Bridgeport, Conn.:

"It's a far cry from the days when the agency used to sell us a bona fide band leader -without a band-who would work a date with a pick-up outfit. We're fully satisfied.

"Booking agencies ought to stop sending out age-old material on the bands . . . and often they even send that too late."

If the one-nighter biz is to survive, bands must lower their guarantees and percentage splits, their leaders must make a greater effort to entertain the crowds, and bookers and personal managers must pay more attention to publicity, promotion and exploitation of the bands. This is the opinion of Irving Schwartz, who with his partner Steve George, has been active thruout the Sacramento area in promoting, one-nighter dance dates, Schwartz maintains that band guarantees will have to be lopped 25 per (See Irving Schwartz on page 48)

#### ALICE MCMAHON

#### Operator, Indiana Roof, Indianapolis:

"With the government getting 20 cents of every admission dollar and the bands asking 50 or 60 per cent privilege, which means 40 cents to 48 cents more out of the remaining 80 cents, there is very little left for the operator ...."

for they must break into their regu- that he's able to pass some valuable

#### All Costs Up

"The promoter's got his headaches trying to keep the nut down without having to worry more about getting his bands at fair prices. Local newspaper advertising rates have doubled and tripled in the past year or two. Auditorium rents and labor costs are way up. A wise promoter has to play it close to the vest to come out a little ahead these days. Otherwise two or three consecutive bad dates can put a guy out of business or force him to revert to local bands.

"With the promoter's business at a low point and with overhead way up, he finds it tough to knock his own admission price down unless this in turn is compromised by band price cuts. High admission prices have been one solid reason for the letdown in one-nighter business.

#### GEORGE DEVINE

**Operator** of

Million Dollar Ballroom, Milwaukee:

"Personal managers would do well to stick closer to their bands and sound out the dancing public at the various spots . . ."

George Devine, op of the Million-Dollar Ballroom, Milwaukee, opines Alice McMahon, operator of the that personal managers would do well Indiana Roof, Indianapolis, four- to stick closer to their chattels, travelhight-per-week location dancery, ing with them occasionally and stressed the emphasis which orksters sounding out the dancing public at should place on one-nighters in a various spots to see what the band location. Actually, location ops, she lacks. Devine, a Beer City dance pointed out, are sacrificing more than promoter since the '30s, says he has the one-night operator when working built up his business thru close cona name band on the single date basis, tact with his clientele and has found

#### WALTER STUTZ

One-Nighter promoter, San Diego, Calif .:

"Bookers are faced with the job of supplying name bands that will draw to the 'slump' territories - the territories that need 'em most-if the one-nighter business is to survive . . ."

Walter Stutz, San Diego and Southern California promoter, finds bookers faced with a "tremendous task," that of keeping the "slump territories" alive with top-name attrac- that of years ago when the agency tions until the present low ebb of business passes. Stutz feels present low box-office conditions at the danceries can be pinned partially to the fact that during the war people were forced to resort almost exclusively to indoor recreation. Now that they have been freed from travel restrictions, many are making up for lost time, going on trips and, in general, enjoying outdoor recreations. This, coupled with general unsettled (See WALTER STUTZ on page 49)

#### RALPH WEINBERG

#### One-Nighter promoter. Southern territory:

"As a rule the advance man is some punk who knows nothing about publicizing a band. A good man would he an asset but they must be hard to find."

Ralph Weinberg, one-nighter promoter of both white and colored attractions thru the South, a top figure (See ANDY SHFETS on page 48)

Joe Barry, co-owner of the Ritz Ballroom, Bridgeport, Conn., a veteran in the dance promotion business for 38 years, evidently is content with his relations with orks and their representatives. He says: "I have been fully satisfied with our dealings with the booking agencies and the attractions which have played in our ballroom. The agencies have been trying to sell us worth-while attractions and have been pleasant to deal with. The agents don't try to cut one another's throat or double cross one another in their dealings.

"Today's business is a far cry from (See JOE BARRY on page 48)

#### ANDY SHEETS

One-Nighter promoter, Oakland, Calif .:

"Band guarantees should be brought down to \$1,000 and there should be a substantial decreases in percentages. The tab should generally be no more than \$1.25 . . . "

Admissions will have to be lowered if promoters are to pack the halls for one-nighter dances, but this can come only after band guarantees are lowered, according to Andy Sheets, Oakland and Northern California promoter. "Guarantees are just as high if not higher than during the war," Sheets said, "but the wartime business is gone." A greater volume of biz could be realized if admissions were lowered, but this isn't possible

# Box-Office Barometer

#### of Top Music Attractions by Territories

#### NEW ENGLAND

POS.	ARTIST	POINTS
1.	ART MOONEY	422
2.	PEGGY LEE	417
8.	GRACIE FIELDS	397
4.	BING CROSBY	208
5.	VAUGHN MONROE	139
8.	LARRY GREEN	138
7.	PERRY COMO	115
8.	ARTHUR GODFREY	
8.	FRANK YANKOVIC	76
10.	FRANKIE CARLE	71
	BUDDY CLARK	
12.	FRANCIS CRAIG	63
13.	RUSS MORGAN-MILT HERTH	57
14.	FRANKIE LAINE	
15.	KEN GRIFFIN	
16.	WOODY HERMAN	
17.	GUY LOMBARDO	35
18.	MILLS BROS.	
19.	SAMMY KAYE	31
20.	FERKO STRING BAND	27
21.	BUDDY CLARK-RAY NOBLE	25
21.	DICK HAYMES	25
23.		
24.	C. SPIVAK	
25.	V. HORTON AND HIS POLKA DEBS	21
26.	MILLS BROS	18

#### MID-ATLANTIC

(New York, New Jersey, Penna.)

POS.	ARTIST POINTS
1.	PEGGY LEE
2.	BING CROSBY
3.	ART MOONEY
4.	PERRY COMO
Б.	VAUGHN MONROE 306
6.	GRACIE FIELDS 287
7.	DICK HAYMES 260
8.	ARTHUR GODFREY 233
9.	FRANCIS CRAIG 191
the second second	

#### \*

DETAIL record sales have often proved to It be a sure-fire barometer to the boxoffice potency of a music attraction. The Billboard therefore has evaluated its Best Selling Retail Records Charts on a territorial basis (broken down as below), and by giving point values for each time a record by an artist appears in the chart. Tabulation covers the weeks of March 13, 20, 27 and April 3 and 10. Obviously some of the leading attractions (Bing Crosby, for example) are not available for personal appearance dates. Others, equally obviously are, and bookers will find the territorial standing of such artists in this barometer a pretty fair indication to what they may expect these attractions to do at the box office.

#### SOUTH

(Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana, Kentucky, Tennessee, Florida)

\*

POS.	ARTIST	POINTS.
1.	BING CROSBY	472
2.	PEGGY LEE	427
3.	ART MOONEY	310
4.	FRANCIS CRAIG	173
5.	VAUGHN MONROE	114
6.	MARGARET WHITING	113
7.	ARTHUR GODFREY	111
8.	RUSS MORGAN-MILT HERTH	95
9.	PERRY COMO	85
10.	LARRY GREEN	74
	GRACIE FIELDS	
	FREDDY MARTIN	
13.	FRANKIE CARLE	59
2.00	THREE SUNS	and the second second second second
15.	ALVINO REY	57
16.	WOODY HERMAN	
17.	JULIA LEE	47
18.	EDDY HOWARD	46
19.	BUDDY CLARK	
20.	CHARLIE SPIVAK	35
	GUY LOMBARDO	
22.	TEX BENEKE	
22.	BUDDY CLARK-RAY NOBLE	
24.	FRANKIE LAINE	28
	DINAH SHORE	
28.	FRANK SINATRA	25
27.	DICK HAYMES	
	VIC DAMONE	
	LOUIS PRIMA	
29.	JO STAFFORD	

#### SOUTH CENTRAL

(Missouri, Arkansas, Oklahoma, Texas, Nebraska, Kansas)

POS.	ARTIST		POINTS
1.	PEGGY LEE		782
2.	BING CROSBY		627
3.	ART MOONEY		497
4.	FRANKIE CARLE		
δ.	RUSS MORGAN-MILT HE	BTH	283
8.	MARGARET WHITING .		
7.	FRANCIS CRAIG		
8.	LARRY GREEN	********	225
8.	ARTHUR GODFREY		194
10.	EDDY HOWARD		170
11.	CHARLIE SPIVAK		
12.	VAUGHN MONROE		
13.	GRACIE FIELDS		
14.	and the second se		
15.	ALVINO REY	********	119
16.	SAMMY KAYE		113
17.		*********	
18.	FREDDY MARTIN		85
19.	PERRY COMO		71
20,	TEX BENEKE		06
21.	GUY LOMBARDO		65
22.	WOODY HERMAN		50
23.	FRANKIE LAINE		54
24.	JIM AND SANDRA STEE	LE	50
25.	DICK HAYMES		48
26.	TINY HILL		41
27.	This is a state of		
28.	NELLIE LUTCHER		37
29.	FRANK SINATRA		
30.	VIC DAMONE		
		*********	

#### MOUNTAIN

(Arizon	a, Nevad	a.,	New	Mexico;	Colorado,
Idaho, M Utah)	Montana,	IV.	& S.	Dakota,	Wyoming,

POS.	ARTIST	POINTS
1.	PEGGY LEE .	
2.	BING CROSBY	
3.	ART MOONEY	165

17.8	FIRITORIA STRATE INCOMENTATION OF A STRATEGY S
10.	LOUIS PRIMA
11.	FRANKIE CARLE 165
12.	RUSS MORGAN-MILT HERTH 144
13.	MARGARET WHITING
14.	FRANKIE LAINE 131
15.	KEN GRIFFIN 130
18.	SAMMY KAYE 127
17.	LARRY GREEN 108
18.	FREDDY MARTIN
19.	V. HORTEN AND HIS POLKA DEBS 82
20.	EDDY HOWARD 83
21.	TEX BENEKE 79
22.	UPTOWN STRING BAND TO
23.	BUDDY CLARK 67
24.	WOODY HERMAN 65
25.	ANDREWS SISTERS 59
25.	FERKO STRING BAND
27.	THREE SUNS
28.	GUY LOMBARDO 55
29.	ROSETTA HOWARD 53
29.	JO STAFFORD 53

#### SOUTHEAST

(Virginia, District of Columbia, Maryland, Del., N. & S. Carolina, Ga., W. Va.)

POS.	ARTIST	POINTS
1.	BING CROSBY	500
2.	PEGGY LEE	499
3.	ART MOONEY	408
4.	GRACIE FIELDS	271
5.	FRANCIS CRAIG	201
8.	ARTHUR GODFREY	144
7.	PERRY COMO	
B.	RUSS MORGAN	
9.	VAUGHN MONROE	128
10.	MARGARET WHITING	107
22.	FRANKIE CARLE	
12.	SAMMY KAVE	64
13.	FREDDY MARTIN	60
13.	NELLIE LUTCHER	60
15.	DICK HAYMES	
15.	UPTOWN STRING BAND	
17.	JO STAFFORD	
18.	FERKO STRING BAND	
19.	LONNIE JOHNSON	
20.	GUY LOMBARDO	
21.	BUDDY CLARK	
21.	WOODY HERMAN	
21.	FRANKIE LAINE	
24.	TEX BENEKE	
25.	CHARLIE SPIVAK	
26.	PAUL WILLIAMS	
27.	JULIA LEE	
28.	EDDY HOWARD	23
29.	BUDDY CLARK-RAY NOBLE	22
29.	BULL MODSE JACKSON	
28.	T. TEX TYLOR	22

#### N. CENTRAL

(Ohio, Michigan, Indiana, Illinois, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Iowa)

POS.	ARTIST	POINTS
1.	PEGGY LEE	
2.	BING CROSBY	
3.	ART MOONEY	
4.	FRANCIS CRAIG	
5.	GRACIE FIELDS	579
6.	FRANKIE CARLE	491
7.	ARTHUR GODFREY	478
8.	PERRY COMO	
9.	FRANKIE LAINE	346
10.	EDDY HOWARD	337
11.	KEN GRIFFIN	
12.	RUSS MORGAN	
13.	MARGARET WHITING	293
14.	FREDDY MARTIN	287
15.	VAUGHN MONROE	224
10.	LARRY GREEN	217
17.	WOODY HERMAN	
18.	BUDDY CLARK	
19.	ROSETTA HOWARD	
20.	TEX BENEKE	
21.	DICK HAYMES	
22.	UPTOWN STRING BAND	
23.	OUV LONGARDO	
24.	SAMMY KAYE	
25.	THREE BUNS	********* 178
26.	ALVINO REY	AAAAAAA TTE
27.	MILLS BROS	107
90	NELLIE LUTCHER	
29.	FERKO STRING BAND.	
30.	CHARLIE SPIVAK	

4.	EDDY HOWARD	95
<b>D</b> .	FRANKIE CARLE	92
θ.	FRANCIS CRAIG	90
7.	LARRY GREEN	73
8.	SAMMY KAYE	69
9.	THREE SUNS	58
10.	CHARLIE SPIVAK	47
11.	RUSS MORGAN-MILT HERTH	46
12.	MARGARET WHITING	43
13.	VAUGHN MONROE	41
14.	ARTHUR GODFREY	36
15.	BUDDY CLARK	33
18.	ALVINO REY	31
17.	FREDDY MARTIN	29
18.	GUY LOMBARDO	25
19.	GRACIE FIELDS	24
20.	PERRY COMO	21
20.	WODDY HERNIAN	21
22.	HARMONICATS	16
23.	JO STAFFORD	15
24.	DICK HAYMES	13
	FERKO STRING BAND	12
25.	FRANKIE LAINE	11
28.	DINAN SHOPI	10

#### WEST COAST

(Washington, California, Oregon)

POS.	ARTIST	PO	INTS
1.	PEGOY LEE		529
2.	BING CROSBY		481
3.	ART MOONEY		404
4.	GRACIE FIEL	35	214
Б.	RUSS MORGA	MILT HERTH	180
8.	FRANCIS CRA	10	
7.	FRANKIE CAL	ILE	
8.	the second se		
8.	VAUGHN MON	ROE	83
10.	WOODY HERN	AN	88
11.	MARGARET W	HITING	
12.	ARTHUR GODI	REY	76
13.	FREDDY MAR	TIN	
14.		D	
15.	FRANKIE LA	NE	49
16.	M. MORROW		40
17.	JO STAFFORD	********************	36
18.	PERRY COMO	**********************	35
19.	THREE SUNS	************************	91
20.	TEX BENEKE		
21.	SAMMY KAYE		27
22.	ALVINO REY		20
23.	DINNING SIST	ERS	23
24.	A DATE OF THE REAL PROPERTY OF		20
25.	LES PAUL		1.9
26.	STAN KENTON		17
27.	CHARLIE SPI	IAK	16
28.	FRANK SINAT	RA	15
28.			13
30.	BUDDY CLARK	-RAY NOBLE	12



	the line of the li		The Heat's Ont
PERSONAL APPEARANCES	HIT TUNES	RADIO	RECORDS
MADISON SQUARE GARDEN, New York City ACADEMY OF MUSIC, Philadelphia BOSTON OPERA HOUSE, Boston CHICAGO THEATRE, Chicago COLLEGE INN, SHERMAN HOTEL, Chicago ORIENTAL THEATRE, Chicago K CURRENTLY HEADLINING 2 WEEKS STATE-LAKE THEATRE CHICAGO * BREAKING MIDWESTERN BOX-OFFICE RECORDS FOR ONE NIGHTERS	HUT SUT SONG HI NEIGHBOR BY-U BY-O (Louisiana Lullaby) CYNTHIA'S IN LOVE HOW SOON X Latest Hawaiian Smash Novelty Hitt THE HUKILAU SONG (Lombardo Music)	CUEST APPEARANCES 2 times SPIKE JONES SPOTLIGHT REVUE for Coca-Cola * appearing soon on JO STAFFORD SHOW FOR CHESTERFIELD	CYNTHIA'S IN LOVE HOW SOON ALL DRESSED UP WITH A BROKEN HEART M Man His Latest Smash Hit HIS NEWEST TOWER RECORD TOWER NO. 1436
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# Comic's Eye-View

### of the Guys Who Run the Clubs

Bones Remer didn't want no Mexicans yelling around his joint . . . The deal Tom McGinty missed . . . And other impressions of impresarios



#### by PETER LIND HAVES

OUR FIRST date this past season was the Cal-Neva Lodge at Lake Tahoe. Boss man was Bones Remer. Now I wouldn't say that Bones was a road company of Brian Donlevy—no, I wouldn't. I might say, tho, that he was a No. 5 company of Wallace Berry—rough, gruff and tough. Freud would classify his emotional struggle as a constant thwarting of an earnest desire to destroy musicians by beating them to death with comedians. Bones had booked us in with the newly organized and highly

competent orchestra known as Miguelito Valdez. Opening night, mid brassy fanfare, Miguelito suddenly relinquished his baton to his first fiddle player, latched on to his famous conga drum and, with eyes bulging, shouted something that sounded like "Ba ba lu ah eh. . . ." Immediately after the show Bones sent for the fiddle player and asked the name of the kid with the drum. The fiddle player was astonished, and awkwardly replied: "Why, Mr. Remer, that's Miguelito Valdez!" Bones thought a moment, then said: "Well, tell him to cut it out. I don't want no Mexicans yelling in my joint!" With his fishing rod in one hand, and holding up his shorts with the other, Danny Davis booked many a comic into Kitty's Airliner . . . The ex-nitery boss did all right

#### by JOEY ADAMS

I WAS always very timid and shy when I met a night club or theater boss. If I didn't like the billing or dressing room or spot in the show I was afraid to approach the owner to complain. Then Tony Canzoneri joined me and later six-foot four-inch Mark Plant. Now I get what I want by just a sarcastic look. Especially when the boys are behind me.

Naturally we never have any trouble. What owner would complain to Tony or Mark? If it's bad they blame the audience and

apologize for their club or theater. I'm the only comedian with a bodyguard for my talent.



The night club boss who stands out in my or Nicky Blair or Fritzl and Jacobson, but a Danny Davis, former owner of Kitty Davis's in Miami Beach, Fla.

#### "B" Dialog

After Tahoe we folded our jokes and silently slipped away to an outpost called Cleveland (after the Indians, I imagine). If you follow the headlines you know what happened to us there. A lot of disappointed actors descended upon us with Gene Autry guns, phantom masks and B picture dialog. They made off with quite a haul, too. That was principally because the boss, a great man named Tom McGinty, was away at the time. I tremble at the thought of what might have happened had they made their melodramatic entrance while that two-fisted Irishman was on the premises. I think Tommy would have made money on the deal.

From Cleveland we played the Blackstone Hotel in Chicago. We still get flowers at every opening from the two charming people who made our stay such a pleasant one, Evelyn Nelson and George Fox Jr. All this even after Kay Thompson and the Williams Brothers broke our record for the room.

#### Fahrenheit and Payers

Next came the Club Charles in Baltimore, Md. An M.D. is what I needed in Baltimore. Closing night the boss, Tom Shaw, gave me a set of golf clubs and my wife a set of luggage. My temperature at the time was 104. Which is more than I can say for the number of people in the audience. Tom Shaw was just great.

Next came the Copa and the man I love to work for, Jack Entratter. We almost went into the gas station business. He to rest his aching feet, me to soothe my nervous nerves. Following the Copa came the Beachcomber in Miami. Ned Schuyler was the boss. We liked him but didn't see much of him. As soon as it was established that Sophie, Carl Ravazza, Mary and myself would do business, he rejoined the social whirl which kept him in a lonely place with a good rumba band.

Next came New Orleans, which is my wife's home town (Miss New Orleans of 1867). Phil Castel was the boss there and a wonderful guy. He was having trouble with his eyes that week and couldn't "see" much of us,

#### Even a Cadillac

Now we are in St. Louis, at the Chase. Harold Kopler has been very nice and even offered to get me a Cadillac for seven thousand dollars. From here we go to Cincinnati for Barney Glatt. Haven't met him yet but in the language of Phil Silvers I will probably be "Glatt to see ya." Of course, if you want to discuss the four years I worked for my mother Oh, the new owner, Michel Rosenberg (famous Jewish actor) is a great guy and a wonderful host. Instead of a round of drinks he sends his friends a round of Kishke—but the real character is Davis.

#### Calling B. S.

Danny is famous for the notes he sends his stars. He tries to change everybody's act, and sends them notations often when they are on stage. Maxie Rosenbloom and Maxie Baer were so annoyed with him (not because they couldn't read) for bothering them constantly, they went to B. S. Pully to get lines strong enough to insult Davis.

Leo Fuld had a unit called Fun for Your Money. For six weeks they broke every record at the Davis club. The seventh week business dropped off. Danny called Leo into his office and screamed: "You got a great show, get it the hell out of my room."

Danny considers himself a great producer—a sort of night club Ziegfeld. He once called all his musicians and entertainers together and after a lengthy lecture on show business said: "Okay now. Synchronize your watches. We attack at 2 a.m. for the last show."

#### The Paperweight

Tony Canzoneri, Maxie Rosenbloom, Max Ba er and Mark Plant were sitting in the lobby when an irate customer, half the size of Danny, slapped him in the kisser. Davis warned him but the guy time. "Don't do that," threatened the 240-pound fighters to beat you up." What Danny doesn't know, until he reads this here, is that the "fighters" put the little guy up hit Davis without going to jail.

Most entertainers have learned to dismiss Davis as a madman. Almost every comic has worked for him one time or another. And usually at Danny's terms. He would call you from Miami during the coldest day in New York and say: "I'm here sitting in front of my house with a fishing rod in one hand and holding my shorts up with you come on down? It's 86 in the shade here. You can stay in my guest house."

That always made the comic weaken. Danny wasn't kidding about the temperature. But the guest house often cost you about \$20 a day. Ob, don't get me wrong. I love Danny Davis. Especially since he is an exnight club boss.

at the Grace Hayes Lodge, that's another matter. I knew I couldn't get, fired, but I also knew I couldn't quit. My mother was a pretty good boss at that. We had a remarkable deal worked out. Fifty-two weeks a year, no salary and meals at half price. Where else could I get a deal like that? Never mind.



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April 24, 1948

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PICTURES "Smooth Sailing"-Paramount "The Big Clock"-Paramount

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P10

#### PICTURES

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Page 24 The Billboard Personal Appearances Supplement

# Booking Major Convention Shows

ABNER J. GRESHLER

Hundreds of thousands of dollars are spent by industry for talent at conventions, trade shows, etc. Here's an outline of the problems faced by a leading booker and producer of this type of show.

THE show business outlook for conventions, trade shows and club dates today is, in general, good. Some of our largest conventions and trade shows are being held this April, May, June and July-many for the first time since the war began. During the war years these conventions and trade shows were greatly curtailed because of travel difficulties, shortages of products, etc.

National conventions of trade associations usually last four days and consist of breakfasts, luncheons, cocktail parties, banquets, etc., where conventioneers are to be continually entertained. It is usual to have an important speaker scheduled for luncheons and dinners. An entertaining musical trio or a fine magic act may be used for cocktail parties and afternoon meetings in various nights and each will try to outdo the suites in the convention headquarters hotel. This is a very important social aspect of the convention, for it is here that the manufacturer will invite everyone to come in to get acquainted with his sales executives and products and enjoy a drink or a executives and their wives are to be Many times, while an afternoon snack.

feature a fashion show. We have even staged a circus for the youngsters attending conventions. If there are to be exhibits, we furnish models, for the talents of artists such as Germusic, lighting effects, etc., for the various clients.

The entertainment highlight of the convention is at the evening banquets, where shows are put on for the entertainment of the delegates and their wives. Sponsors usually vie with each other for the privilege of producing these shows, and at times it is customary to have as many as 20 sponsors share the expense of a show for the privilege of having their name mentioned in a program. held in hotels where facilities for Or three different companies may sponsor shows on three consecutive others in producing a bigger and better show.

In preparing programs for these banquet shows we are very careful

The ladies' luncheon will usually politan Opera stars such as Jan ballroom, we have had to rehearse Peerce or Robert Merrill, artists such as Dinah Shore, Hildegarde or Mary Rave and Naldi. An audience composed mainly of salesmen might call trude Niesen or Rosaria and Antonio. In shows we have staged in the past we have used, on various occasions, such stars as Tommy Dorsey, Henry Busse, Ted Lewis, Xavier Cugat, Benny Goodman, Milton Berle, Eddie Cantor, Judy Canova, Jackie Miles, Mitzi Green, Dean Martin and Jerry Lewis, Hazel Scott, Henny Youngand a host of others.

staging a show are nil. In such hotels an organization. Each show, too, rewe have to build stages, bring in lighting and sound equipment, backdrops and curtains, to overcome the many handicaps. Only recently at a hotel in Chicago, when we asked for dressing rooms, I was asked to select the types of artists that will whether I wanted the \$6 or \$8 per best suit our audience. If business day rooms for my acts to dress in. entertained we may give them Metro- meeting is being held in the main

shows in a small side room, crowding, as many as 35 musicians and entertainers into a room not large enough to comfortably accommodate 10 people.

Inasmuch as we have staged shows for conventions held in all parts of the country, we have, at times, found difficulty in securing the type of acts we want in that particular territory. In that case we have had to fly complete package shows in from New York or Hollywood or Chicago for the man, Maurice Rocco, Peter Donald night and then fly them back again.

Each show we produce during a Many times the conventions are convention is different. We have never repeated the same shows for ceives individual attention. From the first telephone call telling us the date. the place and the budget for a convention, until the last guest has left we are at work to help make the convention a success. In that way we have been able to work for our clients on their conventions year after year. wherever their convention is to be held.

#### Yank Acts Abroad

Despite unsettled world conditions, despite England's tough struggle to get into the black, American acts are finding a live market and extremely receptive audiences in Great Britain. Here's a flock of Yank performers cutting up a couple of crumpets in London. Left to right, standing: Lynn Allen, Judd McMichael and Roy Chamberlain (arranger for the Merry Macs). Sitting and kneeling, left to right: Marjorie McMichael, Ted McMichael, Irene Manning, Harry Green, Chic Johnson and Ole Olsen. Making like a Jeeves is, of course, Danny Kaye, who fractured box-office records all around the tight little isle.

#### **Review of the**

AGVA Situation

Confusion and chaos has been the order of the day ever since Shelvey went on "sick leave." Here is a step-by-step review of the complex American Guild of Variety Artists situation.

THE END RESULT of the conflict of the internal battle within the American Guild of Variety Artists (AGVA) may be an actors' union in which the members will have a voice. Battles in AGVA are nothing new. Ever since there was an actors' union somebody seemed to pop up and get control. The present situation, therefore has ample historic precedent.

Matt Shelvey was appointed by the Associated Actors and Artistes of America (Four A's) in 1943 to run AGVA as national director until the union paid off its debt to the Four A's, and had a national convention. When that occured the union would receive its full autonomy and a national director would be elected by the new board, which the members, thru elected delegates, would choose.

in some cases where an area was entitled to four delegates, the meeting brought forward only four nominations. This picture was repeated all over the country with few exceptions. The question of local against national control also cropped up, with Jack Irving, Chicago; Dick Jones, Philly, and one or two others demanding local autonomy.

#### Shelvey's Sick Leave

The Four A's had in the meantime received numerous petitions from AGVA members demanding it look into the AGVA picture. In late November, 1947 the Four A's called in Shelvey and demanded to see the minutes of the meetings. It discovered what it said were discrepancies and asked for explanations. A series of meetings followed and on the morning of November 20, Shelvey

dination and disruption. Shelvey replied by setting up national offices of the actors' union in Philadelphia. He hired Arthur W. A. Cowan as the AGVA, and the Four A's countered union attorney, firing Jonas Silvertone and Mort Rosenthal, who had been AGVA lawyers up to then.

#### Actors, Ops in Middle

The Four A's disregarded this move but discovered that there was considerable division of opinion among it found that some of Shelvey's people AGVA reps and members, Latter were meanwhile hopelessly confused by the two unions, both of which demanded dues. Cafe ops who had been accustomed to putting up cash bonds were equally confused. With both sides demanding bonds ops refused to pay either side.

The Four A's countered Shelvey's moves with a request to members

Shelvey, charging him with insubor- Tentative date for his trial was set for early April.

> Legal big shots now entered the picture. Shelvey hired Morris L. Ernst to fight his discharge from by hiring Samuel R. Rosenman, former advisor to the late President Roosevelt.

> The first legal fracas was staged in a Philly Court, with both sides charging the other with dictatorship methods. Case is still pending.

During the Four A's investigation had signed loyalty pledges to Shelvey and were to resign if he did. There were wheels within wheels, with portions taking on a comic opera tinge. As Shelvey people moved into one area, the Four A's rep followed. Offices were raided. Locks were changed. Reps changed sides with amazing speed.

More Meetings

In fairness to Shelvey it must be admitted that during his reign, 1943-1947, AGVA managed to pay off the debt to the parent org. It also won increased minimums for members and improved general working conditions. It has been charged that the method of dues collection smacked of coercion but by and large the union prospered.

The Four A's, which agreed to give AGVA back its autonomy after all debts were paid and a legally constituted convention was held, seemed happy. At least it followed a policy of laissez faire until something happened early last December.

#### The Tiff Begins

At that time Shelvey was in the midst of getting the convention organized and was in constant huddles with the Four A's. There were some violent differences about the constitution, rumblings of which reached the membership. Shelvey, it seemed, wanted the right to hire, fire and set compensations. This, the Four A's said, would make him a dictator and objected.

had some queer results. For example, December 1 the Four A's discharged tradited and is out on \$5,000 bail. vention the air should clear.

asked for and was granted sick leave for four weeks. He also asked to be relieved of all duties for that period.

The Four A's appointed its own committee to run AGVA during Shelvey's absence. It consisted of Hy Faine, chairman, head of American Guild of Musical Artists (AGMA); Florence Marston, Screen Actors' Guild (SAG); Ray Cook, Chorus Equity; Dewey Barto, AGVA; A. Frank Reel, American Federation of Radio Artists (AFRA); George Heller, AFRA, and Angus Duncan, Equity.

At this point the committee claimed that when it went over to Shelvey's AGVA office they discovered "missing records and general confusion." It also claimed that AGVA personnel was moving records out. To stop this the committee changed the locks on the doors and began an intensive investigation of Shelvey's administration.

#### **Battle Is Joined**

During this four-week sick-leave period it developed that Shelvey, instead of being confined to a sick bed, At the same time it became evident was making hurried trips around the that the various meetings held by country conferring with AGVA reps AGVA members thruout the country and sending communiques to memfor the purpose of nominating dele- bers and cafe and theater ops telling gates to the forthcoming convention them to disregard the Four A's. On

that they pay no dues at all, or pay direct to the New York office. Dues muscle stuff was going on both Shelcollections promptly dropped, partic- vey and the Four A's announced new ularly in cities outside of New York. meetings preparatory to new con-The Four A's, however, got to the ventions. From reports received from ops thru the help of the Artists Rep- the field the Shelvey meetings were resentative Association (ARA) of either not held or just forgotten. The which the biggest talent agencies in Four A meetings, on the other hand, the country are members. ARA, thru were fairly well attended and slates its membership, warned all cafe ops for delegates to the convention began that no acts could move out of New coming in. York unless cash bonds were deposited with the Four A's. With the smoothly. At least four people are Miami season beginning the ops ca- alleged to have cropped up seeking pitulated to the Four A's.

vey's records the Four A's claimed aspirants were Dewey Barto, Henry it discovered evidences of rigging the Dunn, Jack Irving and Dave Fox. convention and further charged that Each has so far denied any personal had Shelvey's plan gone thru he ambition. would have had a job for life as sole ruler of AGVA. It also claims to have uncovered some peculiar dealings regarding the welfare fund management which led to other developments.

The Hotel Grady, Atlanta, filed charges with Fulton County charging Matt Shelvey and Arthur Kaye with fraud and coercion. Kaye was Southeastern AGVA rep for Shelvey. Hotel charged that both men had taken a total of \$20,000 from it as a waiver to permit the hotel to run matinees and that the money was not delivered to AGVA's welfare fund as it was supposed to have been. On January 30 both Shelvey and Kaye were in- branches. dicted.

ted to \$5,000 bail. Shelvey was at the May convention to be held in picked up in Philadelphia and ex- New York. And following the con-

While all this legal palaver and

But even this wasn't running too Shelvey's job thru the control of During its investigations of Shel- delegates. Among those named as

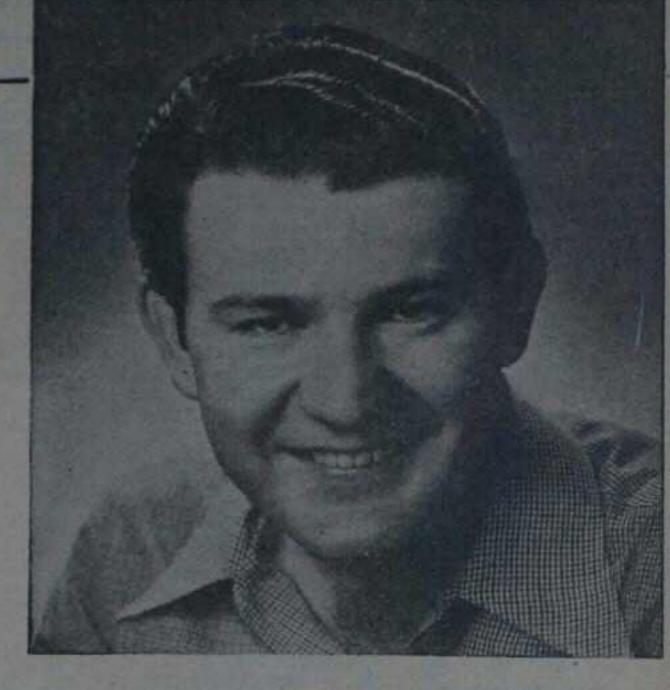
#### Nat'l vs. Local Voting

Ballots have since been mailed out and AGVA members in good standing have lists of candidates from which to choose. Major quarrel now is the method of voting. While delegates are nominated locally, voting will be on a national basis. Some AGVA members oppose this. They claim that voting as well as nominating should be local. Four A's say that migratory nature of the business makes national voting more practical. Insiders, however, say that Four A's fear that on a local voting plan Shelveyites would move in and that would soon control local agents

Whichever side is right will be de-Kaye surrendered and was admit- termined by the AGVA membership



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#### IOWA

#### BOONE

Spring Lake Park Robert McBirnle, owner Ben B. Wiley Jr., mgr. DAVENPORT Mississippi Valley Amusement Part H. A. Getert, mgr. DES MOINES Riverview Park Bobert A. Reinhardt, mgr. FORT DODGE Exposition Park

#### MASSACHUSETTS

AGAWAM (near Springfield) Riverside Park Edward J. Carroll, owner-mgr. AUBURNDALE Norumbers Park Norumbega Park Co., owners Roy Gill, mgr. DARTMOUTH Lincoln Park John Collins, owner-mgr. HOLYOKE Mountain Park Louis D. Pellissier, mgr. LUNENBURG Whalom Park Harold D. Gilmore, mgr. MENDON Lake Nipmue Park Florence J. Pyne, mgr. NANTASKET BEACH Paragon Park Lawrence M. Stone, mgr. REVERE (BOSTON) Revere Beach Business Men's Association J. Victor Shayeb, secy. WRENTHAM Lake Pearl Park E. R. Enegren, owner-mgr.

#### MICHICAN

BAY CITY Wenona Beach Park O. D. Colbert, mgr. BENTON HARBOR House of David Park Chic Bell, mgr. DETROIT (ST. CLAIRE SHORES) Jefferson Beach Park Harry Stahl, supt. Eastwood Park Henry Wagner and May B. Hernet, owners Henry Wagner, mgr. Tashmoo Park at St. Clair Flats Arlington R. Fleming, mgr. FLINT Flint Park Dr. L. H. Firestone, gen. mgr. LANSING Lake Lansing Park Roger E. Haney and sons, owners

#### LINCOLN Capitol Beach Hoyt R. Hawks, owner-mgr. OMAHA Peony Park Joseph Malec, mgr.

#### NEW HAMPSHIRE

LOCHMERE Gardner's Grove Mollie Copeland Lambert, owner J. Copeland, mgr. MANCHESTER. Pine Island Park Barney J. Williams, mgr. NEW JERSEY BURLINCITON Sylvan Lake Park Ed Ruth, owner-mgr. LAKE HOPATCONG Bertrand Island Park Louis Hraus, mgr. PALISADE Palisades Amusement Park Jack and Irving Resenthal, owner-ingr. SEASIDE HEIGHTS Seaside Heights Casino, Linus R. Giltert, owner-mgr. NEW YORK ANGOLA Lalle's Amusement Park Michael T. Guzzetta, mgr. CANANDAIGUA Roseland Park William W. Muar, owner-ingr. CUBA Olivectest Park Wm. Husmusson, owner-mgr. GENESEO Long Point Park Mrs. H. W. Berry, owner C. F. Johnston, mgr. JAMESTOWN Celoron Park Harry A. Illions, owner-mgr. LOON LAKE, COHOCTON Palace Amusement Park Nick Galbo, owner-mgr. NIAGARA FALLS Midway Beach Park Joseph F. Paness, owner-mgr. PERRY (near Batavia) Silver Lake Park Silver Lake Amusement Co., owners John Skironski, mgr. RICHFUILD SPRINGS Canadarago Park Joe Magee, mgr. WILLIA MSVILLE Glen Park Harry Altman, mgr. YOUNG STOWN Lakewood Park C. H. Tothill, mur. NORTH CAROLINA ATLANTIC BEACH Atlantic Beach, Inc. A. B. Cooper, owner Newman Willin, mgr. OHIO AKRON Summit Beach Park Frank Raful, mgr. BUCKEVE LAKE Buckeye Lake Park John J. Carlin St., owner A. M. Brown, mgr. BUCYRUS Seccalum Park R. A. Jolly, mgr. CANTON Meyers Lake Park Carl 14. Sinclair, mgr. CELINA Edgewater Park Mrs. C. M. Myers, owner Theo V. Temple, mgr. CHIPPEWA LAKE Chippewa Lake Park Parker Beach, owner-mgr. CINCIN NATI Coney Island Edward L. Schott, mgr. CLEVELAND Clevel and Zoological Park Owned by city Fletcher A. Reynolds, dir. Puritas Springs Park James Gooding, mgr. COSHOCTON Coshorton Lake Park E. Rice, mgr. James DAYTON Lakeside Park Lakeside Park Co., owners Gerald Niermann, mgr.

#### Savin Rock Park

Frederick E. Levere, mgr. NEW LONDON Ocean Beach Park Meredith Lee, supt.

#### ROCEVILLE

Sandy Beach Park George D. Bokis, owner-mgr.

#### DELAWARE

NEW CASTLE Deemers Beach Park Shorty Fincher, mgr. PORT PENN Augustine Beach Park Thomas Texis, owner

Martin Stapleton, mgr.

#### FLORIDA

JACKSONVILLE BEACH Boardwalk H. M. Shelley, pres. MIAME

#### P. B. A. Happyland Park Police Benevolent Association, owners J. L. Logan, mgr. PENSACOLA Pensacola Beach S. Mosts, mgr. Gulf Beach Amusement Park Ellis & Richardson, owners Fred R. Rainey, mgr.

TAMPA Sulphur Springs Park Gordon C. Hunt, mgr.

#### GEORGIA

MACON Lakeside Park Irving Scott, mgr. BAVANNAH Barbee's Pavilion and Park, Tale of Rope Will M. Barbee, owner-mgr.

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AURORA Exposition Park Orville P. Fox, owner-mar. CONGERVILLE Machinaw Dells Park David J. Prevost, owner-mgr.

Armstrong Realty Co., owners Jay Longstaff, mgr. RUTHVEN Grand View Park Ross Hancock, owner-mgr. Electric Park J. K. Maple, owner-mgr. STORM LAKE Lakeside Amusement Park J. L. Figi, mgr. WATERLOO Electric Park

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#### KANSAS

BONNER SPRINGS Lakewood Park T. D. Wilard, owner-mgr.

#### KENTUCKY

LEXINGTON

Joyland Park R. R. Renfrew, mgr. LOUISVILLE

#### Fontaine Ferry Park John F. Singhiser, mgr.

#### LOUISIANA

#### NEW ORLEANS

Audubon Park Owned by city George Douglas, mur.

#### MAINE

OLD ORCHARD BEACH Old Orchard Pier, Whiteway John W. and W. L. Duffy, mgrs. UPPER GLOUCESTER Royal River Park Howard L. Small, mgr.

#### MARYLAND

#### BALTIMORE

Gwynn Oak Park Arthur B. Price, owner Edward R. Price, mgr. Liberty Park Harry A. Hale, owner C. C. Hulsey, mgr. MIDDLE RIVER Cape May Beach Cape May Beach Corp., owners E. V. Shivers, mgr.

SAINT JOSEPH Silver Beach Amusement Park Drake Family, owners H. J. Terrill, mgr.

UTICA Utica Amusement Park Myron Brown, mgr.

#### MINNESOTA

EXCELSIOR Excelsior Amusement Park Fret W. Pearce & Co., owners Fred W. Chapp and J. P. Colihan, mgrs. FAIRMONT Interlaken Park Al Menke, mgr. LYND Lyndwood Park Dave Lamphere, owner-mgr.

#### MISSOURI

KANSAS CITY Pairyland Park Marion Brancato, owner Harry Duncan, mgr. ST. JOSEPH Lake Contrary Amusement Park L. F. Ingersoll, owner-mgr. ST. LOUIS Forest Park Highlands A. W. Ketchum, mgr.

#### MONTANA

MILES CITY Leon Park Amusements D. P. Leon, mgr.

#### NEBRASKA

CRETE Tuxedo Park P. J. Kobes, mgr. HASTINGS Lib's Park Lib Phillips, owner-ingr.

PENDLAY Riverside Park Owned by city J. M. Malloy, mgr. GENOA Porest Park C. J. Dihoff, owner-mgr. LAKE MILTON Craig Beach Park Chat. H. Rennels, mgr. MUNTOR-ON-THE-LARE Menter Beach Park MIDDLETOWN Leffourdsville Lake Don Datey, mgr. NEW FHILADELPHIA Tuncora Park Owned by city Harold E. Meese, mgr. RUSSELLS POINT Sandy Beach Park Indian Lake Amusement Co., owners Lou Bruno, mgr. Russells Point Boardwalk French L. Wilgus, owner Jack Stone, mgr. LANDUSEY Cedar Point-on-Lake Erie G. A. Boeckling Co., owners Edw. A. Smith, mgr. URBANA. Lakewood Beach Park Conrad and Wingard, owners Dave Conrad, mgr. TERMILION Crystal Beach Park J. L. Blanchat, owner-mgr. FOUNGSTOWN Idora Park M. A. Rindin, mgr. EANESVILLE. Mexahala Park Tim Nolan, owner-mgr. OKLAHOMA TULSA Crystal City Amusement Park John C. Mullins, owner OREGON PORTLAND Juntzen Beach R. W. Owsley, mgr. PENNSYLVANIA

G. H. Yergey and G. T. McGrady, owners W. A. Pannepäcker, mgr. PITTSBUHOH Kennywood Park A. B. McSwigan, pres. Carl E. Henninger, mgr. West View Park George M. Harton, mgr. READING Carsonia Park Joseph Bigg, mgr. SCRANTON (Moonic) Rocky Gien Park Banj. Sterling Jr., mgr. SOMERTON (Philadelphia) Somerton Springs Park Vernon D. Platt, mgr. SUNBURY Rolling Green Park H. M. Spangler, owner-mgr. UNIONTOWN Shady Grove Park Milke Cabot, mur. WILKES-BARRE Sans Souci Park Hanover Am. Co., owners Mrs. Nellie Barr, mgr. RHODE ISLAND EAST PROVIDENCE Crescent Park John T. Clare, mgr. WARWICK NECK Rocky Point Park J. Trillo, mgr. SOUTH CAROLINA CHARLESTON Riverside Beach Park for Negroes. E. A. Hamilton, mgr. TENNESSEE COLUMBIA Mid-State Fair Park George L. Buchnau, mgr. ENOXVILLE Chilhowee Park Owned by city H. Mack Franse TEXAS CISCO Lake Cisco Amusement Co. Bill Berry, mgr. DALLAS Vickery Amusement, Park T. R. Hickman, owner-mgr. Casino Park George T. Smith, mgr. FORT ARTHUR Pleasure Pier T. J. Gillespie, mgr. UTAH BALT LAKE CITY Sunset Beach Ira Dern, owner Black Rock Resort Elmer K. Aagaard, mgr. Lagoon Resort

H. J. Heffner, mgr. ALLENTOWN Central Park Grarge Joseph, mgr. Dorney Park R. L. Plarr, mgr. BARNESVILLE Lakesidé Park J. Tomat, mgr. BELLEPONTE Hedin Park A. F. Hockman, owner-mgr. BRICKERVILLE Tall Timbers Park J. Himmelberger, mgr. CANNONSBURG Willow Beach Park Dominick Falconi, owner CHALFONT Forest Park Richard P. Lunne, owner CONNEAUT LAKE Conneaut Lake Park W. J. Tarr, gen. mgr. LWOOD CITY Rocky Point Park Ray Daellenbach; hus. ingr. TRIE Waldameer Beach Park P. W. A. Moeller, owner T. C. Foley, mgr. HALIFAR Tourist Park H. Lusk, mgr. HANOVER Porest Park A. Karst, mgr. HEGING Dell Lake Park Harman C. Otto, owner HERSHEY Hershey Park J. B. Sollenberger, mgr. Bhady Grove Park Michael Cabot, mgr. LEWISTOWN Eishacoquillas Park Harry Pisher, owner-migr. MAHANOY CITY MAHANOY CITY Lakewood Park Richard Guinan, mgr. NEW CASTLE Cascade Park Owned by city C. C. Coulthard, mgr. PARHESBURG Paraseburg Amusement Park J. W. Talley Jr., owner Russell P. Pyott, mgr. PINE GROVE Twin Grove Park Twin Grove Park

ALCOLA (Office in Hawthorn)

American Legion Park

wm. M. Armstrong, mgr. VIRGINIA

R. S. Kimball, mgr.

Saltair Beach

BUCKROE BEACH Buckroe Beach Resort P. V. Stieffen, mgr. NORFOLK Ocean View Park Albert Miller, mgr. ROANOEE Lakeside Park H. L. Roberts, owner-mgr. VIRGINIA BEACH Casino Park Frank D. Shean, mgr. Seaside Park Jack L. Greenspoon, mgr.

#### WASHINGTON

SPOKANE Natatorhim Park Louis and Lloyd Vogel, owners-mgrs. YARIMA White City Amusement Park Harry B. Chipman, ingr.

#### WEST VIRGINIA

CHESTER Rock Springs Park R. L. Hand, owner-mgr. HUNTINGTON Camden Park J. J. Malloy and William Mudd Jr., mgrs. WISCONSIN

APPLETON Waverly Beach Howard Campbell, owner-mgr. BELOIT Waverly Beach S. L. Cashman, owner-mgr. GREEN BAY Bay Beach Park Owned by city Sylvester Esler, mgr. MILWAUKEE State Fair Park State Fair Park, Inc., owners C. S. Rose, mgr. RACINE Beachland Park Reg. Freeman, owner-mgr.

#### CANADA

CRYSTAL BEACH, ONT. Crystal Beach Park P. L. Hall, gen. mgr. HAMILTON, ONT. La Salle Park Owned by city MONTREAL QUE Belmont Park Rex D. Billings, mgr. PORT STANLEY, ONT. Port Stanley Park Owned by city Albert A. Marek, mgr. WINNIPEG BEACH, MAN. Winnipeg Beach Amusements, Ltd., owners A. B. Fiett, mgr.



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# Who's Who at the Box Office

#### THE ALLAN SISTERS

TWO curvaceous blondes, the Allan with intriguing voices that run the is significant, since the mile-high gamut of melody from humorous city is Barclay's home town. Bespecialty numbers to straight war- fore coming to Hollywood, he hanbling of the semi-classics, standards dled musical direction on KLZ, Denand pops. After several years of ver, for three years, and played sumradio work in Chicago and the East, mer location dates at Cosmopolitan the sister team decided to go into the Hotel. He was recently featured in personal appearance field after a Martin Block's MGM musical short series of successful club-date appear- of Freddy Martin's ork in action. ances, which were sandwiched in be- Booked by Music Corporation of tween its daily radio stints.

The Sisters, Vi and Velma, have Carson Harris, worked spots such as the Oriental Theater, Helsing's and the Blackhawk, Chicago; Tic-Toc, Milwaukee; Frolics, Omaha: Bowery, Detroit, and Curley's, Minneapolis, the past year.

Managed by the Louis Cohan Agency, Chicago.

#### BARCLAY ALLEN

AFTER a year as featured planist with Freddy Martin's Cocoanut Grove ork, 29-year-old Barclay Allen organized his own 12-piece ork in February of this year. First date landed by the new crew was at Ciro's swank Hollywood nitery, where the ork is currently drawing favorable in May.

During 1946 and 1947, Allen held the small son, Alan, is "Trickle," musical director's chair at KLAC, others. With his Rhythm Four, he and booked by Harry Romm.

cut 10 sides for Van-Es, small indie label during that time.

Allen's return to Denver in Sisters, match their appearance May at the helm of his own crew America. Personally managed by

#### DAVE BARRY

A NOTHER graduate of the old Ma-A jor Bowes amateur hour show, Dave Barry played his first professional date at New York's old Palace Theater in April, 1935. From there, he toured with a Major Bowes vaude unit for six years, handling emsee chores and a featured comedy slot. Stints with orks followed, during which he was featured on vaude tours with Glen Gray, Harry James, Jimmy Dorsey and Charlie Barnet,

Following discharge from the army, Dave came to Hollywood and landed notices all around. On the horizon at Billy's Gray's Band Box, a small, is a recording deal with a major disk-, intimate and popular bistro. His ery about set, and a road tour which droll humor and smart impersonastarts at Denver's Elitch's Gardens tions scored immediately with the Band Box crowd, and he was held The Allen piano stylings, spot- over for months. It was here that lighted on many Martin diskings last his work attracted attention of radio year, brought the youthful maestro and film execs, bringing the lad into national prominence rapidly. plenty of radio guest shots and finally Before joining Martin, however, Bar- a permanent berth on the Jimmy clay had amassed a healthy back- Durante-Rexall show. Barry plays ground by fronting smaller combos. the "Mr. Ripple" character while his In addition to radio, Barry has Hollywood indie, where he developed landed several pic stints, and will his Rhythm Four which eventually soon start work on a new film for became the nucleus of his present Columbia. He finished a nitery run crew. Between KLAC chores, he early this month at Palm Springs's doubled on radio shows, handling lush Palm House, where he drew sevivories with Kay Kyser's ork, among eral holdovers. Personally managed

#### KING COLE TRIO

IN 1936, a musical comedy called Shuffle Along folded in Los Angeles, leaving a 17-year-old plano player stranded. The 88-er, Nat (King) Cole, landed a job at a small Los Angeles club, the Swanee Inn, which barely kept the wolf from the door. It was here that King Cole formed his now famous group, with Oscar Moore on guitar and Wesley Prince on bass.

Group was strictly instrumental at first until one night when Nat sang Sweet Lorraine at the insistence of a customer. Reaction good, the Cole vocalizing immediately became a standard part of the act. From Swanee Inn, the trio moved to several smaller Vine Street clubs, then



decided to try their luck in New York. All they got was a trial run at Kelly's Stable on 52d Street and a headache when the army drafted Wesley Prince. Back in Hollywood with a new bassist, Johnny Miller, they started over, slowly building a following.

At this point, shrewd Carlos Gastel stepped in as personal manager, got the trio a contract with the then new Capitol Record outfit, and things began to happen. First off, the lads landed a sock disk seller in Straighten Up and Fly Right which established them well enough to get movie bids. Boys did a series of musical shorts, then won a featured role in the Breakfast in. Hollywood pic.

Since then, the King Cole Trio has climbed upward, earning top dough on personals, radio, and from records. Now 10 years old, the Cole trio still includes Johnny Miller and newcomer Irving Ashby, who replaced Oscar Moore early last fall. Their musical stylings are unique, original and highly listenable. Their Capitol diskings continue to rank high on the best seller lists, and they've won a flock of popularity polls both in the trade and fan groups. Cole trio has been a frequent tenant on The Billboard popularity charts.

Off the stands the trio are serious minded boys, contributing their time and energy to working for the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. Their integrity and talent have won them universal respect.

Booked by General Artists Corporation. Managed by Carlos Gastel.

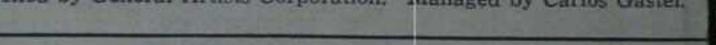
#### HADDA BROOKS

TWO and a half years ago, a small Hollywood indie diskery was just starting in biz. The firm, Modern Records, signed as one of its first artists a relatively unknown gal, Hadda Brooks. Event proved lucky for all concerned for today Miss Brooks has become the "Queen of the Boogie" and grown in popularity until the gal tops sales of all Modern artists.

Hadda's first disk click was Polonaise Boogie which was released simultaneously with the pic, Song To Remember. Modern followed this hit with six sides of modernized boogies. Later, That's My Desire and Don't Take Your Love From Me also scored.

The Brooks gal was already set as a piano stylist when she took to vocalizing during a vaude stint at Los Angeles's Million-Dollar Theater in 1946. Success was immediate, setting the pattern for her future vocal-piano sides. Vaude and personal appearance stints, coupled with solid record releases followed, bringing her income and box-office draw up steadily. She has completed one pic at Eagle-Lion Studios and is skedded for other film roles when she returns to Hollywood from her present personal appearance tour,

Miss Brooks's record mentors, Jules and Saul Bihari, of Modern, point to her popularity on personal appearance tours as proof that gal's peak fame is still to come. During a recent personal stint in Washington, fans clamoring to catch the act were so thick outside the theater box-office that police were needed to keep order. Managed by Phil Bloom Agency.



#### BELLE-TONES

THE BELLE-TONES are three attractive chicks who first played together with USO Camp Shows overseas. Their work as musicians was so well received that on returning to the States they decided to form a cocktail unit. The girls, tho in no way related -in fact, come from three different sections of the country-have blended their musical abilities as well as their vocal talents into an outstanding girl trio.

Their past engagements include Doc's, Baltimore; B & W Club, in sician to begin with, having attended Pennsylvania; Domes, Chicago; Blue Duke University on a music scholar-Mirror, Washington; Orchid Lounge, Springfield, Ill.; Glass Hat, Shreve- Duke, led to an offer to join Johnny port, La., and many others.

cellent vocals and musicianship make Long, Bobby Sherwood and Boyd this an outstanding unit where the Raeburn crews as featured planist. finest is desired.

delphia.

#### BOB AND EVELYN

BOB and Evelyn's whirlwind roller skate turn not only wins plenty of palm-whacking from onlookers but the act enhances the interior of any night club or theater, for it works on an elevated table with its own radium light equipment to highlight its costumes. Working at a race-track pace, this roller skate duo keeps up a hectic pitch while executing a series of whirls, spins and lifts that keep the dezvous Ballroom during Easter excited gasps whispering thru an week. Records for Modern Records audience.

at the Plantation Club, Moline, Ill.; Booked by General Artists Corporathe Stork Club, Council Bluffs, Ia.; tion.

Tony's Venetian Room, Des Moines the Latin Quarter, Newport, Ky., with the warmer months confined to appearances with the Barnes-Carruth ers' fair troupes. Managed by the Louis Cohan Agency, Chicago.

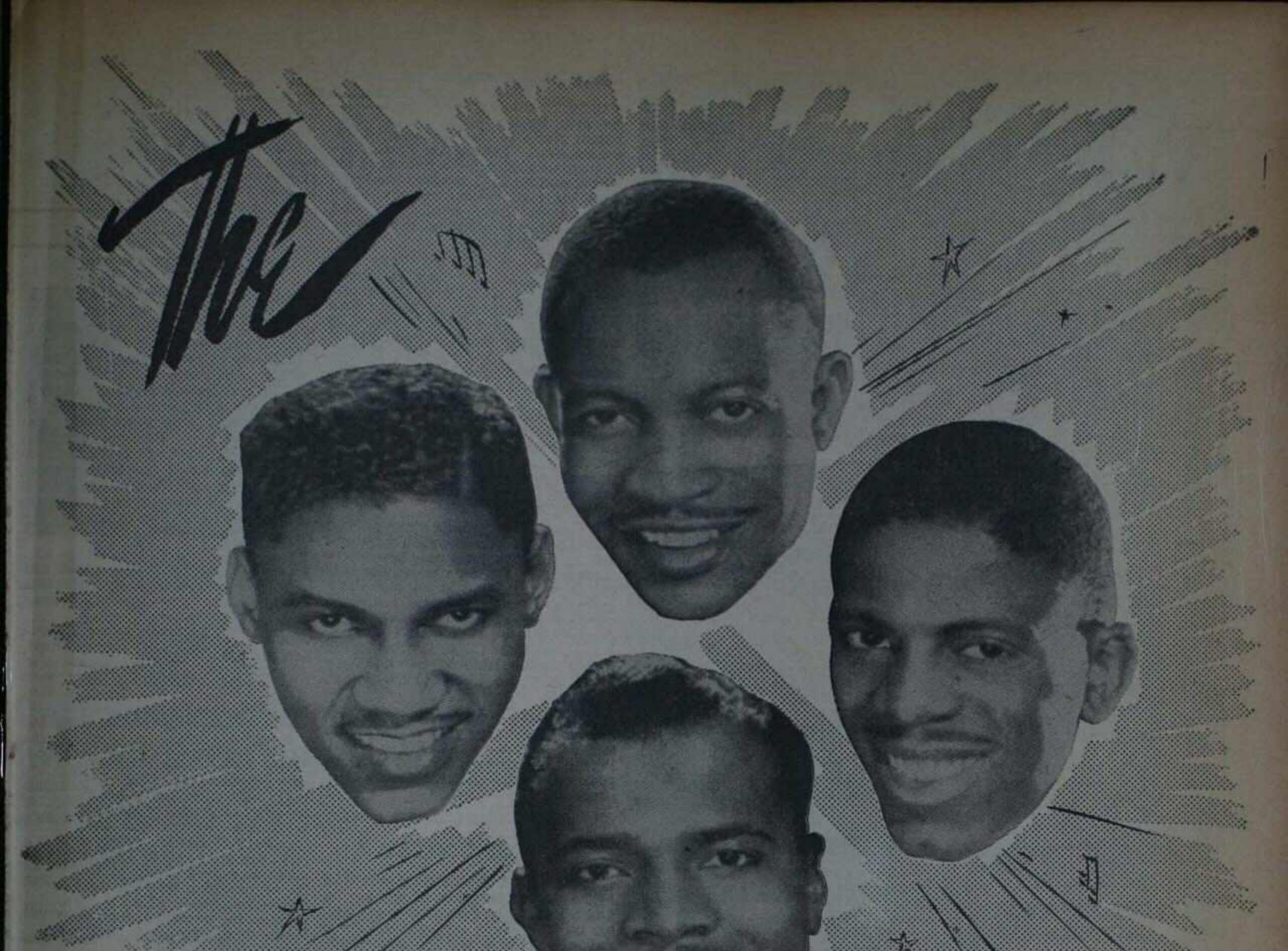
#### IKE CARPENTER

NLY 23 years old and fronting his own ork since the summer o 1946, Ike Carpenter has made a solid impression on both trade and fan groups with his smart musical stylings. Ike is a thoroly grounded muship. His first ork, started while a (Scat) Davis in New York. Later, Unique comedy combined with ex- Carpenter played with the Johnny

He organized his present 11-man Managed by Allan Rupert, Phila- ork a year ago this month, playing first date at Tommy Dorsey's Casine Gardens at Ocean Park, Calif. From there, the crew moved to Horace Heidt's Trianon Ballroom, playing five return engagements within year for a new house record. A musical director for the Hoosier Hot Shots vaude revue, the fronter toured the Pacific Northwest with marked Success.

Last fall the lad shared the stage with Frankie Laine when the crooner played a record-breaking stint at Los Million Dollar Theater. Angeles's More recently, Carpenter set new opening-night figure at Balboa's Renand Standard Transcriptions. Per-During the winter, they appeared sonally managed by Hal Gordon





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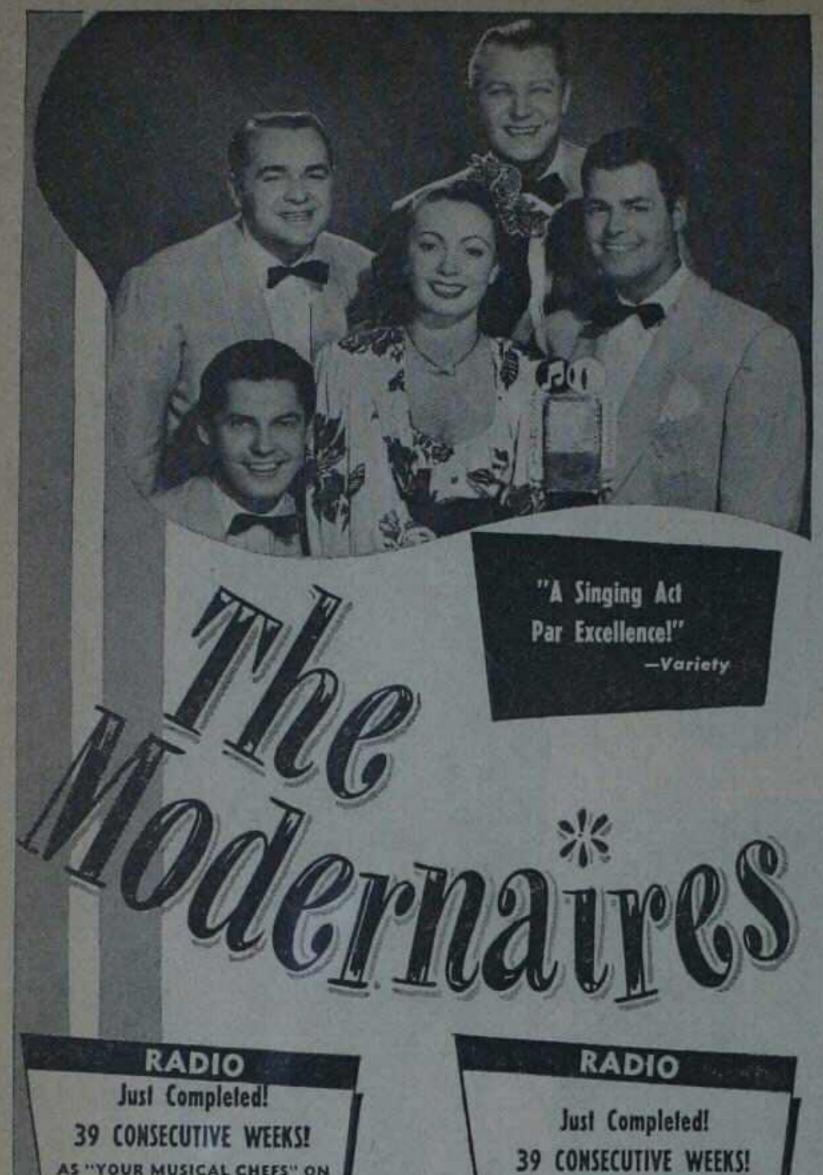


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The Elliboard Personal Appearances Supplement Page 31

April 24, 1948

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#### PAGE CAVANAUGH TRIO wiched in between one-nighters and

CREDIT musically minded G.I.'s with having boosted the Cavanaugh group to the top rungs of the combo field. During the war, Cavanaugh first attracted attention of his Best song hit to date is his Shame, fellow soldiers at Camp Kohler, Calif., Shame on You. He has been featured with his smart piano stylings. The in over 15 films. Booked by Continarmy brass hats caught on and ordered Page to cut some V-disks for overseas distribution.

Page teamed with Al Viola and Alan Burns, also soldiers, to launch the combo in Hollywood, doing offduty shows and benefits. After a tour of overseas duty entertaining the troops, the lads were discharged from service, Personal Manager Bullets Durgom quickly signed the group, and within a matter of weeks, Page and his boys were creating much favorable comment with the patrons of Hollywood's swank Trocadero, Ciro's and the Bocage Room. Frank Sinatra caught the act and immediately signed the trio to appear with him at Waldorf Astoria Hotel.

From then on it was clear sailing, with an RCA Victor record pact and a series of lush personals handed to the boys. In between times, the lads did okay with film stints and radio guest shots, being featured last summer on the Jack Parr show over NBC. During their current road tour they scored at the Click, Philadelphia; Raleigh Room, Hotel Warwick in New York, and the Forest Park Hotel, St. Louis.

Best selling disks for Victor to date include The Three Bears, All of Me and the current Ok-l, Baby, Dok-l. Personally managed by Bullets Durgom; booked by General Artists Corporation.

#### SPADE COOLEY

CPADE COOLEY admits that in 1939 D he had "one suit of clothes, a fiddle and three cents," but in 1947, his income was in six figures. For a guy who, in 1940, worked as a standin for Roy Rogers, Cooley's present success is no small acomplishment. Between the lean years and today, caught the ear of jazz master Benny Spade literally fiddled his way to the top, working first as a sideman with local Western orks, and later organizing his own Western swing crew in 1942. Spade comes from a musical family and began dabbling with the ork biz as far back as 1934, working with small crews for as little as \$15 a week. From here, he graduated to a berth with the famed Riders of the Purple Sage and later the job with Roy Rogers. in 1942, he was hired for a stint at been featured on American Broad-Foreman Phillips's Venice, Calif., ball- casting Company's Stars in the Afterroom where he stayed for 72 solid noon program originating in Hollyweeks. At the end of that date, his wood. Booked by General Artists rep had been made and a series of Corporation. Personally managed by motion pic stints followed, sand- Bullets Durgom.

other personal appearances. RCA Victor was not long in signing Spade to a long-term record deal.

When Spade isn't fronting his ork. he takes a good try at song writing. ental Artists.

#### KATHLEEN DENNIS

THIS siren of song has won her title as the "Colleen of Song" after critics, operators and patrons had thrown accolades her way for her completely original delivery of lyrics, ranging from the standards to the latest novelties and pops. A dazzling red-head, Miss Dennis enhances her song delivery with a wardrobe that would startle a Parisian designer. The youthful chirp deserves her solo billing because of the originality of the Wedgewood Room of New York's her delivery, and the fact that all her numbers are worked to special arrangements done by some of the country's leading scorers.

> Miss Dennis worked the winter season in the Florida resort sector and has also worked such spots as the Silver Frolics, Chicago; the Prevue, New Orleans, and the Tic-Toc, Milwaukee. Managed by the Louis Cohan Agency, Chicago.

#### ERNIE FILICE OUARTET

DEFORE the war, Ernie Filice was D attracting favorable comment from such toppers as Bing Crosby and Duke Ellington, who heard Ernie's unusual accordion stylings while the lad was a member of a group called the Four Sharps. After discharge from the air corps in 1945, Ernie decided to take a crack at Hollywood. He organized a quartet, developed a home-made mute which was designed to filter the accordion tone and eliminate tinny qualities, and went to work. Before long, the Felice stylings Goodman. The result, Goodman added Felice to his Capitol Records combo. Felice, meanwhile, continued to work with his own group, finally attracting attention from Capitol execs who saw in the combo something different and salable. Capitol thereupon signed the quartet to a long-term pact, permitting Ernie to continue working as a member of the Goodman sextet when not cutting his own disks. Ernie recently appeared in Paramount's The Big Clock as a musical When he organized his own ork short feature. In radio, the group has

AS "YOUR MUSICAL CHEFS" ON "DOUBLE OR NOTHING" WITH WALTER O'KEEFE CBS-COAST TO COAST

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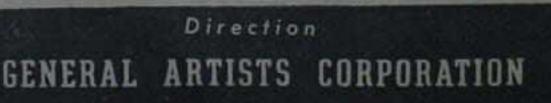
CBS-COAST TO COAST THE SHORTER PORTER There are few good vocal groups appearing in night clubs around the country, but whatever their number. the Modernaires and Paula Kelly are the best of the lot. As a thrush, Miss Kelly seems to be completely aware of what good showmanship means to an act, and the Modernaires with their top-notch treatment of pop tunes are right up there with her all the way. The quinter demonstrates a bright, wide-eyed vitality which they scatter as generously as rice at a wedding. All of their tunes show careful preparation. The first is as good as the last. We're certain that when you see them you'll wish, as you watch them leave the floor. that they would stay on for just one more number, regardless of how many they do.

BOB CROSBY'S "CLUB 15"

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Personal Management: THOMAS P. SHEILS



#### VIC DAMONE

THE 20-year-old swoon stylist of Mercury Records, Vic Damone, has come a long way in the three years since the time of his ushering days at the New York Paramount Theater. Damone was picked up by manager Lou Capone and in rapidfire fashion Capone built up Da Moan on local sustaining air shots. These sustainers grew into a commercial airer for Pet Milk, and about the same time the warbler landed a Mercury waxing contract. His first platter, I Have But One Heart, established Damone almost immediately in the bobby-sox brigade. Back to the Paramount he came, but this time like a conqueror, being the feature attraction in a



stage presentation. Damone followed this with a well-received run at the Commodore Hotel in New York.

The young warbler's personal management reins are held by Capone. Bookings are made thru the William Morris office.

#### AL GAYLE

BEST indication of maestro Al Gayle's continuing popularity is the fact that he is currently going strong after four years at the Rendezvous Room of the swank Biltmore Hotel in Los Angeles, where he reigns over the music at the town's only daytime nitery. Stability being a sought-after commodity in this unsettled period, Gayle's long-term stint is worth a second glance.

A personable, likeable guy, Al fronts the crew and works hard, doubling on accordion, celeste, and handling vocals to boot. His sweet, ensy-to-listen-to ork tone, danceable beat, and smooth vocalizing are responsible for much of the room's repeat business.

Before landing his present berth, the Gayle ork rated attention at such swank spots as Hollywood's Trocadero and Ciro's, Lake Tahoe's Cal-Neva Lodge, and top West Coast ballrooms. He has recorded for both Aladdin and Tech Art, and aired over NEC.

#### HARMONICA DONS

THIS versatile trio was formed recently by three talented harmonica. virtuosos, Gordon Mitchell on chord; Jean Jones, who plays lead, and Joe Curtale on bass. All three were for several years with Borrah Minevitch's Harmonica Rascals,

Their performance is outstanding in the range of material and control of rhythm. They play everything from boogie to the most difficult and spectacular classics. The Dons are heard regularly on the air over radio station CKLW, Detroit, and have also appeared on television over that city's station WWJ-TV. They are currently play- as gasps of amazement. ing the famed Bowery Cafe, Detroit, after a sensational opening at the long string of professional engagenew Irv Jaffee's Cocktail Lounge.

#### THE HARMONICATS

ERRY MURAD'S Harmonicats, whose platter of Peg o' My Heart topped the record field in 1947, have found 1948 even a busier year, for the click disk has made them a heavily demanded attraction in every medium of the personal appearance field. Currently in their third stay at the Chase Hotel, St. Louis, they have worked stays at the College Inn of the Hotel Sherman, the Oriental Theater and Helsing's, Chicago; the Roxy Theater, New York; the Flamingo, Las Vegas, Nev.; the Hippodrome, Baltimore, most of which were repeat stays.

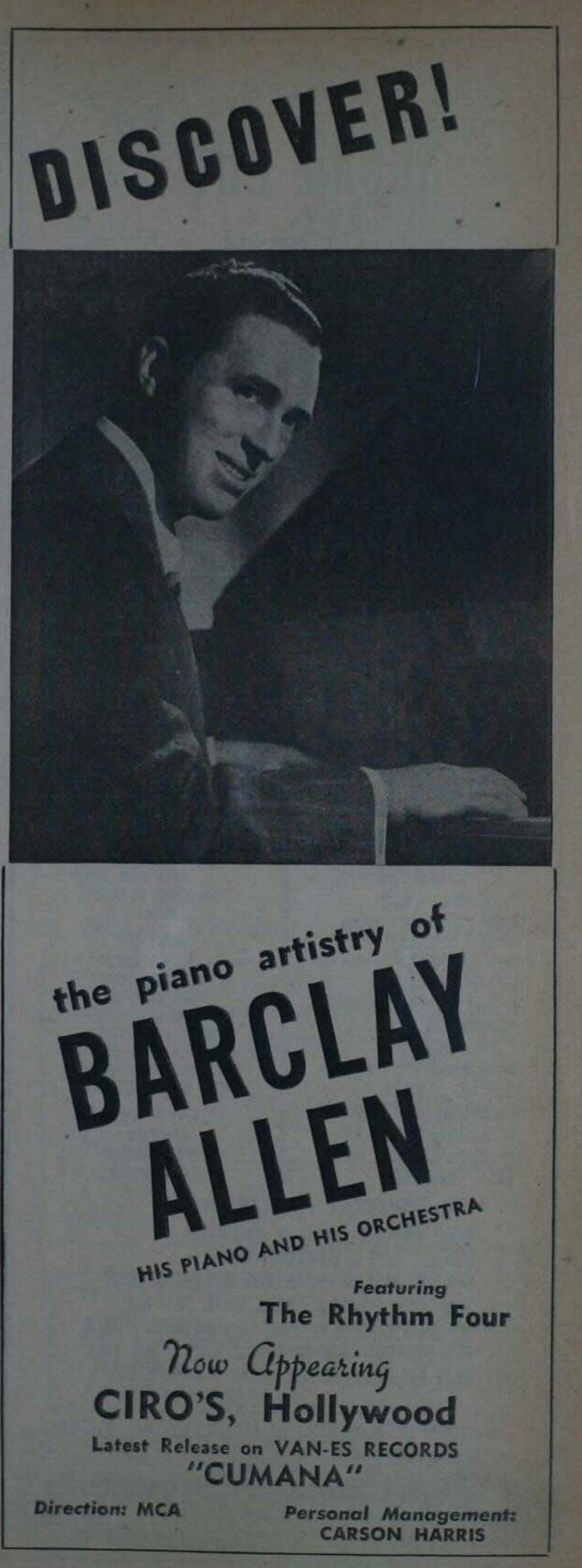
In addition, they've worked outdoor events such as the Illinois and All-Iowa State fairs, and will shortly go on a series of one-night dates in ballrooms following three such recent Midwest dates which proved them an attraction so strong that they could work to a regular dancing crowd.

They worked radio shows such as the Vaughn Monroe and Spike Jones airers during the past six months, and will start a nationwide tour of disk jockey theater dates. Their Universal platters are top-demand items in the nation's juke boxes, over retail counters and on disk jockey shows.

Managed by Mutual Entertainment Agency, Chicago.

#### HEALEY AND MACK

HEALY AND MACK have found wide acceptance, both with indoor and outdoor operators, because of the originality of their portable bar work. Working on a piece of equipment that approximates some of the qualities of horizontal bar, trapeze and swinging ring work, this fem and male pair offers a variety of muscle work that's good for chuckles as well



Personally managed by Murray Sabin, of Detroit.

During the war, the duo left their ments to work on USO, and only recently returned to the professional roster. The act packs a double sock,

#### LIONEL HAMPTON

IONEL HAMPTON sticks to the trends, Always noted for fronting a powerhouse, commercial jazz aggregation, the Hamp went sweet last year when sweet was the thing. At the same time the jazz trends were turning toward be-bop, so the Hamp has added some boppers to his library. All the new stuff and Flying Home, too, pulls in the crowds wherever the Hamp goes, whether it be on onenighters, the nation's top theaters, locations or concert halls. And when they're in, the Hamp is sure to break it up either with musicianship or with showmanship.

Hampton's success is noted in reviewing a list of the spots and theaters he's

played in the past year with every noted ballroom and vaude house in the country being included in his itinerary. He holds many a house record, including one at the New York Strand Theater.

The orkster, who earned his initial fame via his vibes chores with Benny Goodman in the late '30's, recently branched out into the movie and radio fields. He will soon be seen along with B. G., Danny Kaye, and several other top music biz names in the Samuel Goldwyn production of That's Life. Radio-wise, the Hamp's ork is featured in the Mutual Broadcasting System's U.S. Treasury show, By Popular Demand, every Saturday.

And to top it off the Hamp's Decca records remain among the big sellers in the Neuro field, with the orkster having racked up several biggies in I Want To Be Loved, Gone Again and Red Top in the past Year.

Managed by Associated Booking Corporation, New York.



# Frank "SUGAR CHILE" Robinson 60 Lbs. of Box-Office Dynamite



because both members are able to vorite that he decided to stay in the work equally well in serious and music business instead of becoming comedy tricks. They are set on a a professional man. Since that time, string of big fair dates for the sum- Hudson's aggregation has been honmer and will return to theater and ored as top favorite among the Connitery work in the fall.

Managed by the Louis Cohan Agency, Chicago.

#### WOODY HERMAN

IN 1947 Woody Herman disbanded his ork, announced he was thru fronting a band, and said he would henceforth work as a single. He was not long in proving that even without an ork behind him, Herman was a sock entertainer. His single records with Columbia scored at the sales counters, and his summer radio show for Electric Companies of America proved he could sell over the air as well. This year, however, Woody once again picked up his baton, dusted off old arrangements, added a few new ones, and took to the road, fronting a band acclaimed by tradesters as the best in Woody's 12 years of continual ork work.

Today's Herman Herd is a far cry from the ork which Woody organized in 1937 when Isham Jones retired and Herman inherited the best of the Jones sidemen. During the years, the Herman instrumental stylings, clever arrangements, and unique vocal work have mellowed, earning the fronter a permanent niche in swing's hall of fame. Today, The Old Woodchopper is in demand record, that's showbiz news and that's for pix, radio and records, and does what Red Ingle did last year when he right well at ballroom box-offices waxed Tim-tayshun, aided and abetthruout the country.

ference of Southern Schools, official organization of the below the Mason-Dixon Line schools.

Hudson, too, has hit with the general public, having worked spots like the Kavakos Club, Washington; Cavalier Beach Club, Virginia Beach; the Roosevelt Hotel, New Orleans; Flagler Gardens, Miami; Roseland Ballroom, New York; the Hippodrome, Baltimore, and the St. Charles Theater, New Orleans, during the past year.

The band features its four trombone choir, working to a background of five sattes, a styling which has proven individual and worthy enough to attract dancers and listeners everywhere. Vocals are handled by the good-looking blond fronter and a The band features a girls' trio. wealth of entertainment, making it a good bet for floorshows and vaude. stops. The Hudson music also is heard via Langworth e. t.'s and Bullet Managed by the William Records. Morris Agency, with Allsbrook-Pumphrey Agency, Richmond, the Southern representative.

#### **RED INGLE**

WHEN a new ork leader scores an overnight sensation with his first ted by one gal vocalist who works Woody has been featured in half under the name of Jo Stafford. What

ENGAGEMENTS THEATERS DOWNTOWN-DETROIT REGAL-CHICAGO ADAMS-NEWARK STATE-HARTFORD CHICAGO-CHICAGO MILLION DOLLAR-LOS ANGELES LINCOLN-LOS ANGELES T & D-OAKLAND ORPHEUM-SAN DIEGO ORIENTAL-CHICAGO PARAMOUNT-PORTLAND, ORE. ORPHEUM-SEATTLE, WASH. ORPHEUM-SPOKANE, WASH. ROYAL-BALTIMORE

MOVIE "NO LEAVE, NO LOVE" M-G-M RADIO "WE, THE PEOPLE" "JACK SMITH SHOW" "HALL OF FAME" "ALL STAR NEGRO SHOW" "KRAFT MUSIC HALL" "COLLEGE OF MUSICAL KNOWLEDGE" "KING COLE TRIO SHOW FOR WILD ROOT HAIR TONIC" NEWS REELS PARAMOUNT FOX-MOVIETONE ALL AMERICAN

#### SPECIAL APPEARANCES:

**Before PRESIDENT TRUMAN in WASHINGTON** With BOB HOPE at CLEVELAND ARENA With RITZ BROS. at PHILADELPHIA ACADEMY OF MUSIC With TOMMY DORSEY at DALLAS, TEXAS, STATE FAIR With PAUL ROBESON at AMERICAN NEGRO MUSIC FESTIVAL LUCIUS BOOMER-WALDORF-ASTORIA HOTEL at NEW YORK NAT'L AUTOMOBILE DEALERS' ASSOC. at ATLANTIC CITY

#### MANAGEMENT COUNSEL

SIDNEY J. KARBEL & HERBERT M. EIGES DETROIT, MICH. 3605 BARLUM TOWER DIRECTION MUSIC CORPORATION OF AMERICA

**BEVERLY HILLS** CLEVELAND NEW YORK CHICAGO DALLAS DETROIT LONDON

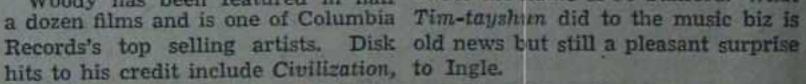
Records's top selling artists. Disk old news but still a pleasant surprise hits to his credit include Civilization, to Ingle. Ivy and the older Caldonia and Tallahassee. In March of this year, the of playing and touring with the na-Herd invaded New York's Carnegie tion's top bands of yesterday. Ingle Hall to score in a swing concert. in his more serious moments can do Highlight of the event was Ebony all right by himself on the fiddle, Concerto, especially written for the piano, sax and clarinet, as well as Herman ork by famed composer Igor arrange music. This he did first with Stravinsky. Booked and managed the old-time Jean Goldkette ork, by Continental Artists, Inc.

#### DEAN HUDSON

at the University of Florida, where the Natural Seven. his campus band became such a fa-

#### FRANKIE LAINE

COME hard plugging and one platter success transformed Frankie Laine from just another singer to a top showbiz artist. Laine kicked Cleveland, Detroit and New York around as a warbler but nothing much happened. Then came the army, after which Laine worked his way to the West Coast where he cut some sides with the Atlas diskery. At the same time he did four sides with Mercury. One of the Mercury sides was That's My Desire, which sent Laine's stock sky high. Since that, Frankie's Mercury pressings have been consistent top sellers. His waxing of the oldie, Shine, was his most recent



Behind this meteoric rise are years playing alongside a jazz great, Bix Beiderbecke. In 1929 he joined Maury Sherman's ork, and in 1931 moved to the Ted Weems band where he stayed for 10 years. Spike Jones snagged him in 1944 and Ingle was a DEAN HUDSON, the orkster with key man in the Jones ork until he the fullback build, got his start quit in 1947 to organize own crew.

Ingle cuts for Capitol, having fol-



to attract the public's coin. On the basis of Desire, Lane launched a series of top theater dates including the Paramount in New York, and nitery dates, including the Harem in New York. Personal managers are Gabbe, Lutz and Heller. Booked by General Artists Corporation.

lowed up his Tim-tayshun success lib funster, working with foils Nortional studios. Managed and booked by Mel Shauer agency.

#### THE INTERLUDES

combined to form a team of extraordinary talent and personality. Lucas, who was clicking with audi-Don, an excellent musician, formerly had his eyes on opera work. Terry, the feminine half of the unit, is a former student of Arlene Smith, and touring the country-and the worldis a top-notch vocal stylist.

its repertoire includes everything toe Through the Tulips, My Blue from light classics to smart risque Heaven and Bye, Bye, Blackbird, numbers and comedy.

Their past engagements include pop favorites. Calvert's, Cleveland; Otto's and the Schuyler House, Albany, N. Y.; Airport Inn, Troy, N. Y.; Lou's, Philadelphia, and many others,

Managed by Allan Rupert, Philadelphia,

#### THE MARY KAYE TRIO

FORMERLY billed as the Mary Kailhue Trio, this enthusiastic, deal with the Hucksters label. youthful threesome has changed name was mentioned.

top lounges in the country and is and he made his way to the top via readying for vaude, night club and the vocal route. television appearances. Trio has already worked a series of video shows in New York, where its animation won the plaudits of viewers and THESE three boys from Baltimore press critics. The group stands out because of careful production put into each number, Besides a wealth of musical effects, from original combinations of guitar, accordion and string bass or piano, it offers harmony vocals that are original and would do credit to any harmony combo in the business. Major asset is the comedy trio show. manages to insert in its work, with accordionist Frankie Ross, a top ad

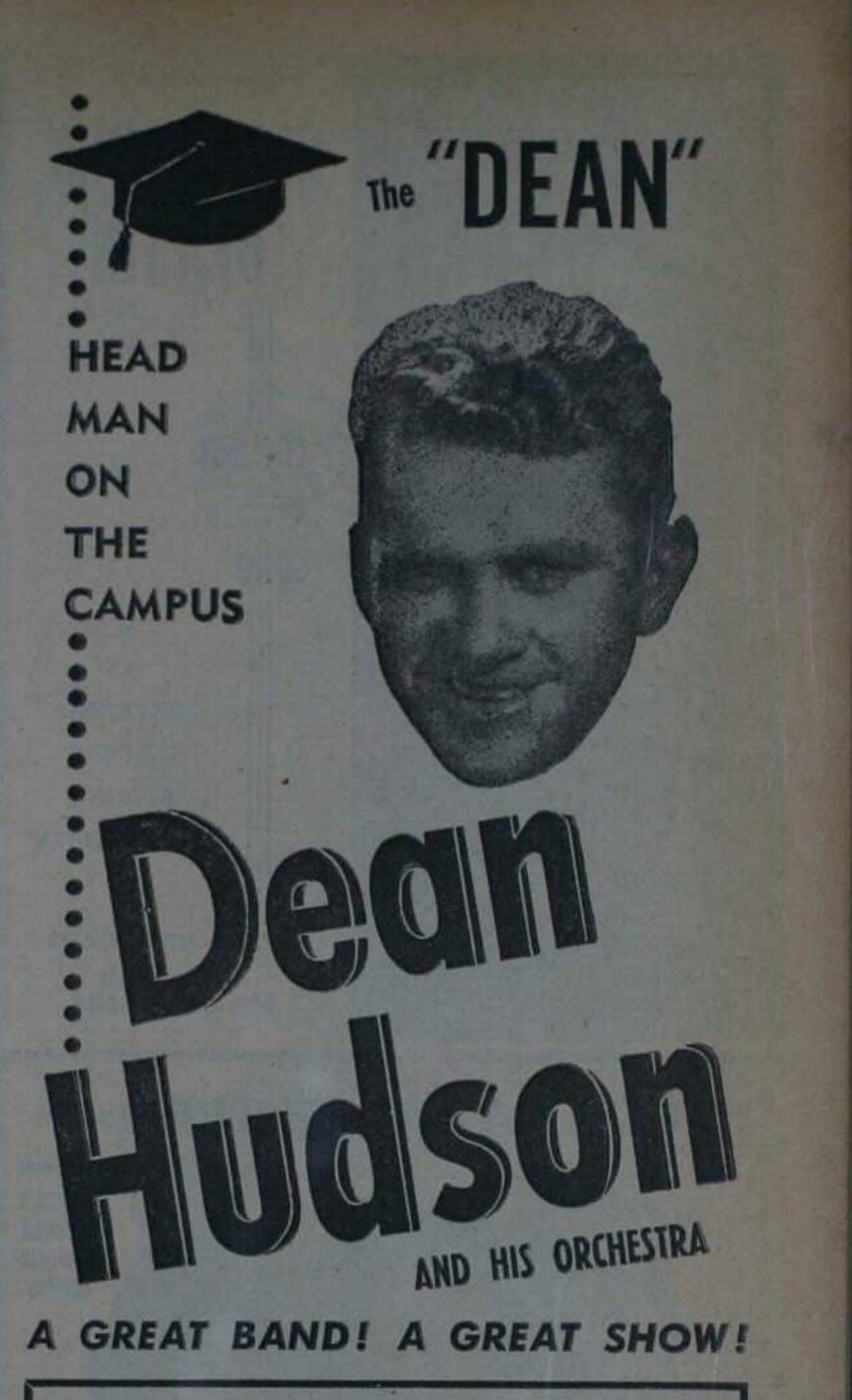
with Them Durn Fool Things and man and Mary Kanihue. Threesome Cigareets, Whusky and Wild, Wild has also done filmlets for Panoram, Women. His motion ple credits in- been waxed by Keystone Transcripclude stints at Universal-Interna- tion Service and waxed an album and a series of singles for Apollo Records

#### NICK LUCAS

FERRY MOREL and Don Luisi have FEW present day faves can match the long showbiz record of Nick ences when many of today's top music figures were still learning the three R's. Since 1924, Nick has been with his guitar and vocal stylings. The team is unique, inasmuch as He first introed tunes such as Tipeach destined to become all-time

In the mid-'30's, Lucas toured the world, working at London's famed Kit Kat Klub, then on to a vaude tour in Australia. Back home, he worked in films and two Broadway shows. Radio credits include a 39week run on the Ford show and a series of guest shots. Lucas has been waxed by Diamond and Trilon Records and more recently signed a new

Oddly enough, Lucas's . singing its misleading moniker because of which brought him most acclaim, mispronunciations during airshots was accidently discovered. Origand because the public expected a inally a guitarist, he took to singing deluge of Hawaiian music when the just to give his act a different twist. Once song style was set, however, Headed for top theater and video his guitar work, which ranks on a work, trio has worked some of the par with the best, took a back seat,



#### THE METRONOMES

have enjoyed a meteoric rise in the

cocktail field. Their first engagement was the Lord Baltimore Hotel in Baltimore, going from there to the Blue Mirror in Washington and other smart lounges. It was during their engagement at the Castle in Riverside, N. J., that they auditioned and were chosen for the Arthur Godfrey

The trio is comprised of Bill Rossi, (See Who's Who on page 38)

#### ELLIOT LAWRENCE

"MOST Promising Newcomer" in the '47 and '48 Billboard college polls, as well as No. 2 sweet band in the latter, and also acclaimed favorite in the last BB disk jockey survey is young pianist-maestro Elliot Lawrence. At 23, Lawrence is probably the youngest of the top-flight orksters, but by no means is a newcomer to the business. The Philadelphian made his bow as a performer at the tender age of three on the WCAU Children's Hour show, and at 11 was fronting his own kiddie crew which played for local parties and dances.

In high school and the University of Pennsylvania, Lawrence continued with

his band as well as his musical studies. His work in the college's Mask and Wig productions marked him as an up-and-comer.

After his campus days, Elliot returned to WCAU as musical director. CBS network airings attracted considerable attention and in the summer of '46 the Lawrence ork made its big time debut at the Cafe Rouge of the Hotel Pennsylvania. Then followed two years of solid theater, college, hotel and dance hall bookings from coast-tocoast and a flock of consistent selling Columbia disks. Elliot's personal manager is Stan Lee Broza. Booked by General Artists Corporation.

#### THE "PROM" FAVORITE AT:

ALABAMA AUBURN BROWN CATHOLIC U. CITADEL CLEMSON DARTMOUTH DAVIDSON DUKE EMORY FLORIDA FURMAN GEORGE WASHINGTON GEORGETOWN GEORGIA GEORGIA TECH.

HAMPDEN-SYDNEY IOWA JOHNS HOPKINS KENTUCKY L. S. U. MARYLAND MERCER MIAMI MINNESOTA M. I. T. N. Y. U. NORTH CAROLINA N. C. STATE OHIO STATE PURDUE RANDOLPH-MACON

SEWANEE SOUTH CAROLINA SYRACUSE TEMPLE TENNESSEE TEXAS TULANE VANDERBILT VIRGINIA V. M. L V. P. L. WAKE FOREST WASHINGTON & LEE WEST VIRGINIA WILLIAM & MARY YALE





Page 36 The Billboard Personal Appearances Supplement

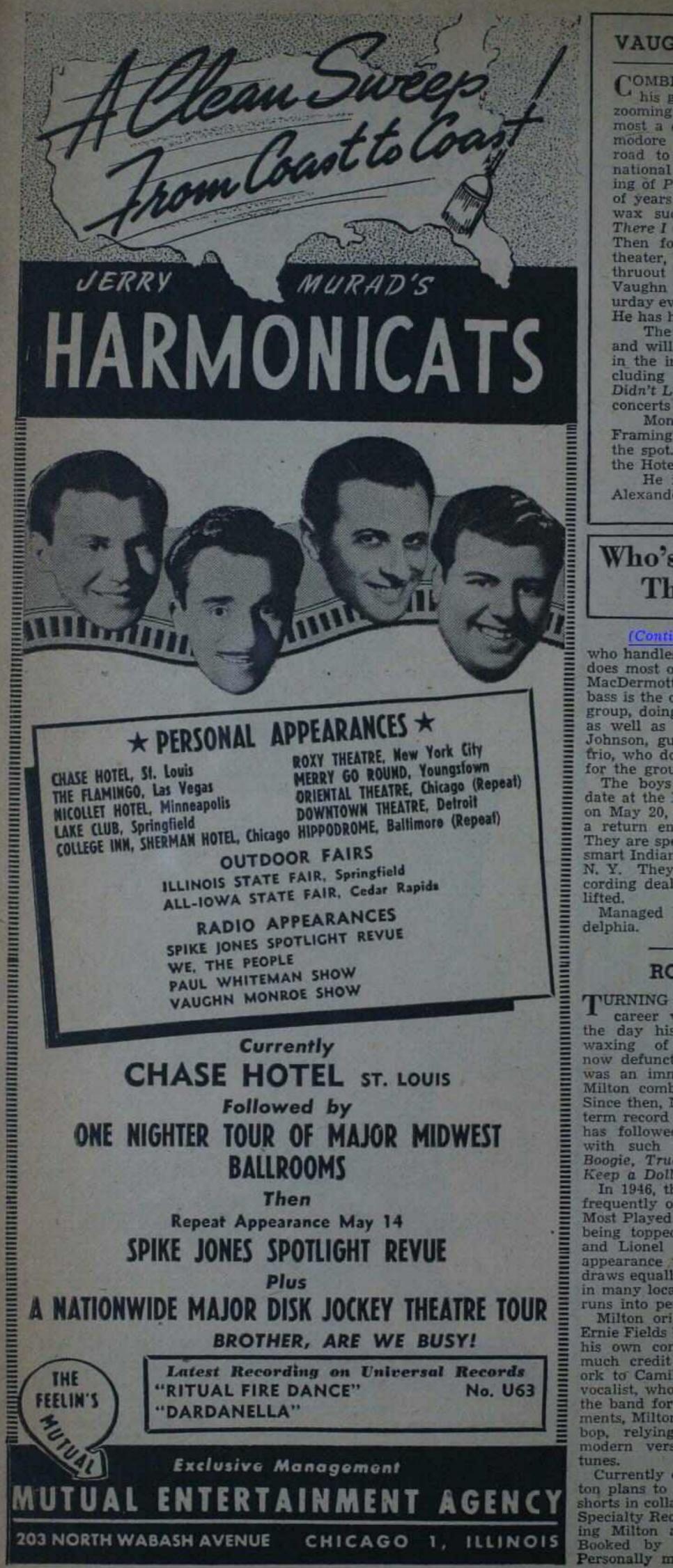
# ALLAN SISTERS

VI and VILMA Headliners With Their Harmony

# "YOUTH ON A SPREE" ROBERTA AND MACK The New Look IN COMEDY ACROBATICS

A RIOT OF MIRTH AND MUSCLE





#### VAUGHN MONROE

COMBINING his big bary voice with his good looks, Vaughn Monroe came zooming out of Boston with his ork almost a decade ago into the Hotel Commodore and the beginning of a golden road to success. He initially attracted national attention with his Bluebird waxing of Pagliacci but had to wait a couple of years before he had his first big-time wax success on the Victor label with There I Go and There, I've Said It Again. Then followed engagements at the top theater, location and one-nighter spots thruout the country at top money. And Vaughn landed the Camel cigarette Saturday eve airer which he still holds down.

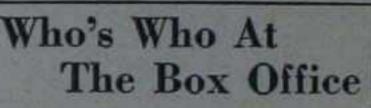


He has had one movie, Meet the People, for MGM.

The 1947-'48 period probably has been the orkster's biggest year and will probably establish him as one of the leading money makers in the industry. He had four successive smash Victor waxings, including Ballerina, which sold 1,500,000 copies; How Soon, Wish I Didn't Love You So and You Do. He did a string of highly successful concerts in March and April of '48, his first venture in this field.

Monroe owns a half interest in a nitery, the Meadows, which is in Framingham, Mass. He usually makes an appearance once a year at the spot. In addition, Vaughn has become an annual fall regular at the Hotel Commodore, New York.

He is managed by Jack Marshard and is booked thru Willard Alexander.



#### (Continued from page 35)

who handles the vibes and piano and does most of the scat vocals; Gordon MacDermott, who besides playing bass is the outstanding vocalist of the group, doing most of the solo vocals, as well as vocal mimicry, and Ray Johnson, guitarist and leader of the trio, who does most of the arranging for the group.

The boys play their first theater date at the Hippodrome in Baltimore on May 20, following which they do The SWEETEST a return engagement at the Castle. They are spending the summer at the smart Indian Kettles on Lake George, N. Y. They have been set for a recording deal when and if the ban is Managed by Allan Rupert, Phila-

#### THE MODERNAIRES with PAULA KELLY

**DURING** the past few months, the Modernaires have been bicycling between two network commercial airshows (Club Fifteen and Double or Nothing), a successful nine-week run at Slapsy Maxie's, smart Hollywood nitery, and the usual pre-Petrillo ban recording hassle. This behind them, the group is currently on a personal

LITTLE BAND

in the Land

CHENK:

Featuring

BEITE CARLE

VOCALIST

Attracting the "SUGAR" currently

CLUB

ROYALE

SAVANNAH, GEORGIA

DIRECTION:

DAVE BRUMITT AGENCY

745 Alabama Street

and His Orchestra

Frankie

Bristol, Tenn.

#### **ROY MILTON**

TURNING point in Roy Milton's career was December 24, 1945. the day his group cut its famous waxing of RM Blues for the now defunct Juke Box label. Song was an immediate hit and put the Milton combo into the money class. Since then, Milton has signed a longterm record deal with Specialty, and has followed up his first wax hit with such top sellers as Milton's Boogie, True Blues, Thrill Me and Keep a Dollar in Your Pocket.

In 1946, the Milton sides appeared frequently on The Billboard's list of Most Played Juke Box Race Records, @ being topped only by Louis Jordan and Lionel Hampton. On personal appearance tours, the Milton combo draws equally as much loot as Jordan in many locations, and nearly always runs into percentage.

Milton originally started with the Ernie Fields band in 1934, and formed his own combo in 1938. He gives much credit for the success of the ork to Camille Howard, his pianistvocalist, who has been featured with the band for years. In his arrangements, Milton avoids out-and-out bebop, relying instead on intricate, modern versions of race and pop

Currently on a personal tour, Milton plans to produce a series of film shorts in collaboration with Art Rupe, Specialty Records topper, and featuring Milton and His Solid Senders. Booked by Reg Marshall Agency. Personally managed by Ben Waller.

appearance junket, squeezing in radio shots wherever possible.

Since group was organized in 1936, Modernaires have stacked up a neat rack of radio, film and record credits. Before joining Glenn Miller's ork in 1940, the group (then minus a fem singer) had worked with Charlie ately put in a bid for its services Barnet, Fred Waring, Paul Whiteman and Ray Noble. It was during the two-year association with Miller that the present group was developed. When lads left Miller to go on their own in 1942, Paula Kelly permanently joined the outfit.

a dozen air shows, including Joan Davis, Chesterfield Supper Club, Kate Smith, the old Camel Show, and Kraft Music Hall. Their Columbia Records are top faves with the juke boxes and disk jockeys. Latest releases include The Whistler, Thoughtless and a new album called Memories in Tempo, Past hits with the Glenn Miller ork included Chattanooga Choo Choo, Moonlight Cocktails and Kalamazoo. Among film credits are 21 tional and featured roles in Sun Val-Ley Serenade and Orchestra Wives.

son, Ralph Brewster, Johnny Drake, Fran Scott and Miss Kelly (Mrs. Hal sonally managed by Tom Sheils, favorite. Booked by General Artists Corp.

#### THE NELSON SISTERS

THE NELSON SISTERS, a pair of lithe and attractive aerialists, booked an enviable series of engagements for the past 12 months, including holdover stops at such spots as the Lookout House, Covington, Ky .; the Netherland Plaza Hotel, Cincinnati; the Continental Club, Chesapeake, O.; the Oriental Theater and the Edgewater Beach Hotel, Chicago, Working on a portable trapeze, the sister team does a series of original ring and bar feats that bring welldeserved mitts wherever it has played. Working in smart bra and pantie costumes, the twosome does eight minutes of fast solo and duo hanging tricks that bring all the thrill and glamour of a circus aerial troupe into a night club or theater. In addition, they are a standard name in the outdoor show business. Managed by the Louis Cohan Agency, Chicago.

#### PAMELA AND LOUISE

CINCE returning to the States after several years of USO experience, work of this blond knockabout comedy team has been confined to Eastern theaters, whose ops immediwhen they learned the girls were back from the soldier circuit.

After working together for years, this enthusiastic pair of acro-tumblers has developed a smoothness and a comedy timing that puts across with pewsitters from eight to 80. They awe audiences with their bag of comedy tricks, ranging from full Group has been featured on nearly flips to hokeyed-up two-man stands. As contrast, they include some excellent straight muscle work that rings the bell every time. Managed by the Louis Cohan Agency, Chicago.

#### THE PARK AVENUE JESTERS

A N ESTABLISHED favorite with Eastern lounge operators, the short features for Universal-Interna- Park Avenue Jesters this year made their first trip to the Midwest and scored heavily in some of the top ter-Group is composed of Hal Dickin- ritory lounges as well as Chicago bistros. This male foursome is a standout because of the heavy Dickinson). All members of the comedy it can provide lounge paquintet are polished musicians, hence trons. While it is capable of workthe Modernaires score all their own ing up top straight instrumentals, arrangements. Modernaire Hal Dick- with its blend of sax, doubling clary, inson is also a tune cleffer, having piano doubling accordion, guitar and penned The Whistler, Jog Along and drums, it's the mirth-quaking special-Coffee Five, Doughnuts Five. Per- ties that make it a show lounge

> The material is mostly original, showing the boys off as a vaude attraction built to the demands of lounge patrons. The showmanship and animation, coupled with a number of costume changes, and plenty of props and gimmicks, make it an eye-catcher as well as ear catcher. The vocals, from solo to four-way harmony, are a pleasant contrast to the comedy when patrons request a melodic standard or pop. Allen Rupert, Philadelphia, is the Eastern rep, while Mutual Entertainment Agency, Chicago, is Midwest rep.

# WANTED

#21502 (6 day attendance-Balboa)

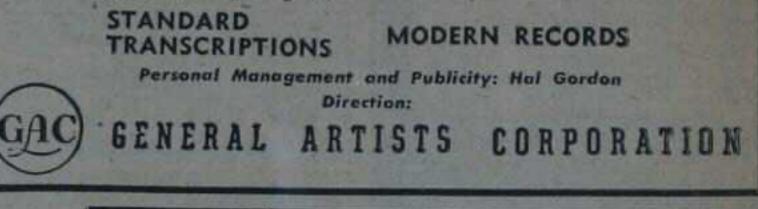
# Ike Carpenter

and His Orchestra

THIS MAN IS WANTED by all operators (theater, ballroom, hotel, juke box and everyone else in show business who is anxious to make money).

THIS MAN HAS A RECORD . . . broke all attendance records at Horace Heidt's Trianon, the Balboa Beach Rendezvous Ballroom and the Million-Dollar Theater . . . with Frankie Laine.

THIS MAN OPERATES REPEATEDLY at Casino Gardens, Los Angeles; Trianon Ballroom, Los Angeles; Avodon Ballroom, Los Angeles, and is expected at Balboa Beach Ballroom for 4 weeks, commencing May 31.



We Extend

#### PAUL AND PAULETTE TRIO

FVERY factor that makes for a topnotch act has gone into the production of the Paul and Paulette Trio. For years a well-known duo, Paul and Paulette last summer added Jimmy Garner, national AAU trampoline champ, to the act. The threesome offers a variety of comedy and

#### ART MOONEY

THIS has been a fabulous year for Art Mooney and his ork. From "left field," so to speak, came his MGM platter of Four Leaf Clover, an oldie dressed up with banjos and community vocal, and overnight the Mooney crew became a sizzling property. The disk sold some 1,200,000 copies for MGM and marked the return of the almost forgotten banjo to national prominence. For Mooney, it led to a series of top theater bookings, including the Roxy in New York; hotel dates, including the ork's skedded opening of the Cascades Roof of the Biltmore on June 1, and a flock of one-nighter bookings. And just to show it wasn't a one-shot item,

Mooney's Clover follow-up, Baby Face, zoomed to popularity.

Mooney was trying to find the formula for some time before Clover happened. Further proof that he has finally arrived was evidenced in his being chosen runner-up in the Most Promising Newer Ork category of The Billboard's '48 college poll, while his Clover platter emerged as the campus kids' fourth favorite disk, Mooney's personal manager is Joe Galkin and Associated Booking arranges his bookings.

Our Thanks And Gratitude To Those In Show Business Who Have Helped Make The PARAMOUNT...

Broadway's Leading 2-for-1 Show House

ROBERT M. WEITMAN Managing-Director

### Meet THE MAN WITH A MILLION FRIENDS

serious feats on the "suspended mattress" that classifies as a show in itself.

In both costuming and routining the act has a fine continuity that makes for top attention from both outdoor and indoor audiences everywhere, Paulette, a striking, statuesque redhead, is a top technician on the trampoline and can equal most of the tricks of her male contemporaries. Diminutive Jimmy handles the toughest of the technical spins and whirls in mid-air, while Paul doubles in comedy and serious stunts.

They've recently worked the State-Lake and Oriental theaters, Chicago; Chez Ami, Buffalo; Chase Hotel, St. Louis, and Edgewater Beach Hotel, Chicago. They are scheduled to do a steady string of outdoor dates across the country this summer.

Managed by the Louis Cohan Agency, Chicago.

#### ALICE PEARCE-MARK LAWRENCE

LICE PEARCE'S strange act, first caught at the Blue Angel, New York, didn't start off with a bang even if Miss Pearce's family is in the banking business and she's of the Sutton Place set and has a high-toned education. She's had her share of knocking around and calling on agents ". . . none of whom ever did anything but collect commissions on jobs I got myself," she said,

Miss Pearce broke into showbiz with a routine cooked up between her and Mark Lawrence in 1943. Gal was visiting Princeton (where Lawrence was an undergrad) as part of her training for her B.A. degree at Sarah Lawrence College.

Out of this she got her first break with Leonard Silliman's New Faces of 1943. It was there that Herbert Jacoby, op of the Blue Angel, caught her.

The war took Lawrence away and the gal went on as a single, nothing much happening. She had a bit in On the Town and when that closed she was out of a job. Lawrence came out of the navy in 1945 as a lieutenant and went to work with Miss Pearce on an act. They broke it in the same year at the Satire Room of the Fensgate Hotel, Boston, where Jacoby looked at it. He made suggestions; they worked on them, and in April, 1947. the team opened for him at his Blue and comedy tricks. They also work Angel. The rest is history.

#### THE RAVENS

THE RAVENS, today one of the top harmony quartets in the biz, attained that prominence in less than two years. Organized in the spring of 1946, the quartet socked in its debut at the Club Baron in Harlem and shortly afterward shot into national recognition with its first National recording, an unusual arrangement of Old Man River. Following this click disk with things like Write Me a Letter, Summertime and Honey insured the rapid growth of this vocal four's future.

The hit waxings blazed a path of bookings for the foursome with the group having already tucked away work at



some of the major niteries and vaude houses in the country. The Rayens already have clicked in their initial Broadway showing at the Strand Theater.

The group is composed of James (Rickey) Ricks, leader and bass; Waren Suttles, bary; Maithe Marshall, first tenor, and Leonard Puzey, Jersey City, N. J., second tenor. Quartet is booked by Universal Attractions under the aegis of Ben Bart.

Lawrence, got \$75 at the Satire Room. tumbling is a big mitt-puller, for they For their first date at the Blue Angel they got about \$300. Today they're still manage to instill an air of regetting about 10 times their Boston salary and killing the carriage trade feats. nightly.

Pearce is also in Look, Ma, I'm Dancing. Next summer she expects to go into George Nichols' Small Wonder.

Gal is getting the usual romancing from percenters, but after her experience with agents she's decided to remain unsigned until some rep comes up with something more than promises. In the meantime she's being FRANKIE (SUGAR CHILE) handled by Herbert Jacoby, her personal manager.

#### ROBERTA AND MACK

THIS pair of knockabout comics has developed a "new look," not only

work at an extremely fast pace and laxation and ease in their toughest

In the past year, they've received Besides working in the club, Miss billing at such spots as the Plantation, Nashville; the Latin Quarter, Newport, Ky., and the Trocadero, Henderson, Ky., as well as outstanding outdoor dates on the Barnes-Carruthers Circuit. Managed by the Louis Cohan Agency, Chicago,

# ROBINSON

PRANK (Sugar Chile) Robinson brought the child-prodigy business to boogie woogie in October, 1945. Since then box-office figures have tumbled-the 43-inch 51-pound

"a perennial

favorite"

says The Billboard





\* GUEST STAR

**★** GUEST STAR

NBC-May 15.

Carnegie Hall Concert-April 25.

Grand Ole Opry, Coast to Coast

#### JACK OWENS

DESPITE the fact that How Soon's popularity peak passed some six months ago, the impact of the Jack Owens-penned-and-sung hit is evidenced by the hefty record sales and personal appearance pull of the Don McNeill Breakfast Club balladeer.

Because of the spotlight centering on his tune spinning on the Tower label platter, Owens recently made the first Chicago Petrillo-ban-period waxing with his cutting of Hukilau and I'll Weave a Lei of Stars for the Dick Bradley diskery. with backing by a chorus, harmonicas and ukelele. Both tunes, written during a February Honolulu vacation by Owens,

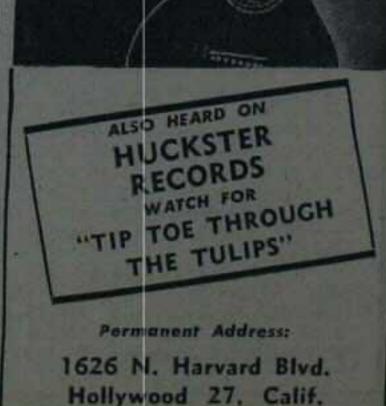
received such a big mail response on his McNeill AEC web airer that Bradley decided to cut out the pairing despite the ban, utilizing non-AFM instruments as backing.

The photogenic young crooner is also slated for a big build-up via television some time this year when American Broadcasting Company debuts its Chicago television outlet, WENR-TV. Despite a radio schedule which keeps him within easy reach of WENR's microphones, Owens manages to do much week-end out-of-town and local club date work, and is currently in the middle of a two-week run at the State-Lake Theater, where he gets the headliner's dressing room. Besides being a personable showman and singer, Owens is a prolific cleffer, having manuscripted ditties such as the Hut-Sut Song; Hi, Neighbor, and Cunthia's in Love in addition to most of the tunes he has grooved for Tower.

Owens is handled for personal appearances by Al Borde, of Central Booking Office, Chicago, and for radio by Lou Irwin.

in the presentation of a slapstack turn, filled with tumbling and acrobatics, but also in its costuming. The act catches on when the duo comes out as a single elongated individual, only to have the tall, satin-gowned gal break in two, revealing a male understander, after which they go into their varied repertoire of straight a comedy drunk opening that pulls The team, Alice Pearce-Mark plenty of chuckles. Their straight





tot seemed from obscurity to the Drummer Smith Howard on the vobirgest brackets in showbiz on the cals. The entire Oriental Theater strength of his unusual personality stage production picture has been and 10 fingers that don't work unless improved greatly, with the Sands they go eight-to-the-bar. Dusky band cutting an excellent show, little Sugar Chile was too young to backing as well as figuring in the enter an amateur contest at the Mich- show prominently with pertinent igan Theater, Detroit, in the fall of overtures and specialties. Booked by '45, so maestro Frankie Carle will- the William Morris Agency. ingly consented to let him entertain for the audience as a neophyte professional. Headlines followed and so did Hollywood, with Sugar Chile landing a spot in a Van Johnson MGM flicker. Then came a White House correspondents' dinner party invite and guest air shots on The Jack Smith Show; We, the People; Paul Whiteman's Hall of Fame, Kraft Music Hall, Kay Kyser's Kollege of Murical Knowledge and the King Cole these bands Schenk appeared in the Show. Sugar Chile also set out on a record-breaking tour of the country's outstanding theaters, including the Chicago Theater, Chicago; Downtown records and played on every major Theater, Detroit; Million Dollar Theater, Los Angeles; Adams Theater, Newark, N. J.; Paramount, Portland. Ore.; Orpheum, Seattle, and Orpheum, Spokane, among others. Now it is difficult to figure when the little fellow will be able to take a rest. Sugar Chile's natural-born acting talent with his facility at making with once again gone out on his own into the fingers and elbows across the the baton-waxing field. Schenk feakeyboard a la Chico Marx should tures Bette Carle on vocals and as keep the tot star in heavy demand bassist with his ork. Bette formerly for some time to come. He has been worked with the Herb Miller and guided by management-counsel Sid- Dick Rankin orks. ney J. Karbel and Herbert M. Eiges, with bookings by Music Corporation of America.

#### FRANKIE SCHENK

FRANKIE SCHENK moved into the

leading ranks after lengthy experience with the bands of Herb Miller, Johnnie (Scat) Davis, Tiny Hill and Anson Weeks. In his time with top spots in the nation, waxed with them on Victor, Decca and Mercury network. He is a crack pianist-arranger.

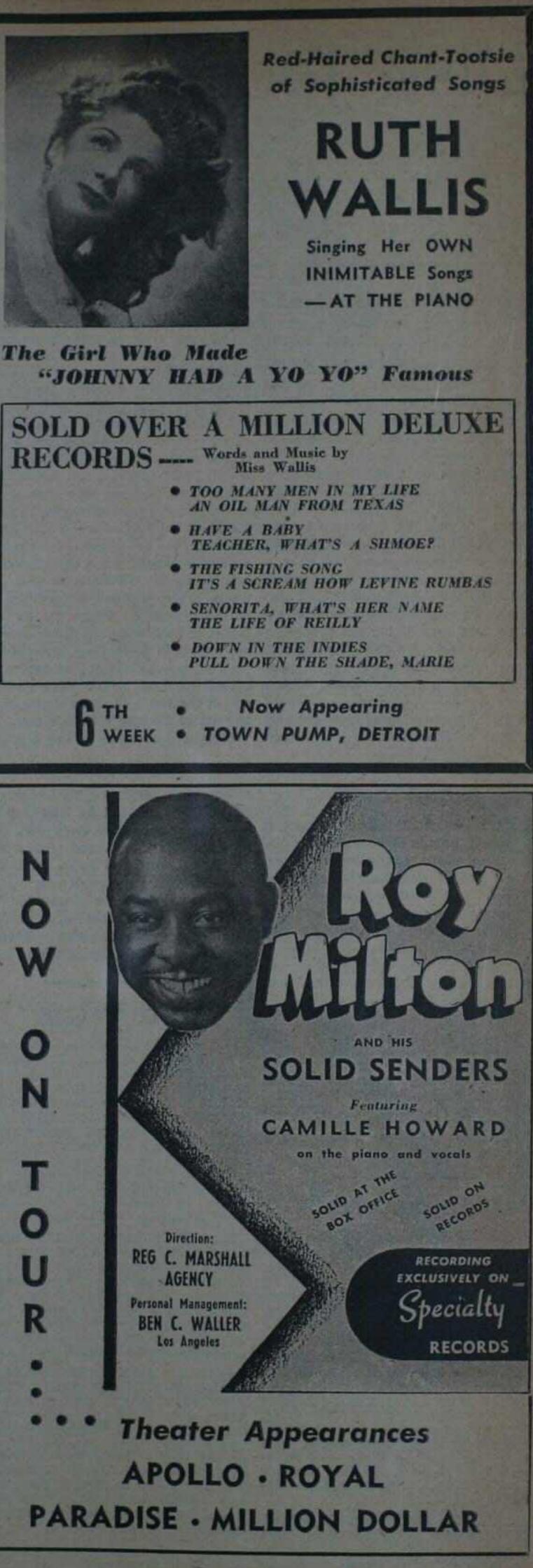
Schenk hails from Lima, O., where he once operated his own ballroom, booking agency and ork. From there he moved into the sideman slots with the above named bands and now has

#### CARL SCHREIBER

#### CARL SANDS

ONG a hotel band batoneer, Carl Sands readily adapted his work find a remedy in Carl Schreiber's to a theater audience when he took music, for this over-six-foot batoneer over the Oriental Theater, Chicago, is himself a ballroom op since late in house band five months ago. A fine 1946. Schreiber, long a name in the arranger and pianist as well as a Midwest, bought a piece of the Byrd sincere emsee and stick-waver, Sands Ballroom, Chicago, and is currently caught on immediately with the Ori- working several nights per week as ental's patrons with his casual su- house band in the dancery. As a pervision of the stage shows. duction, Sands played such hostelries as the Pump Room of the Ambassador East, Chicago; the Broadmoor Hotel, Colorado Springs; the Hotel Touraine, Boston; the Carlton Hotel, Washington, and the Baker Hotel, Dallas. the Master platter label and works Still a youngster as stage band leaders frequent engagements at prominent go, Sands has ingratiated himself with the regular Oriental patrons to the extent that many of the teen-agers in the audience have started fan musical crew, the Schreiber crew is clubs for him.

**NANCE** band buyers who are griped at fronters who do not play to ballroom crowds or don't seem to realize ballroom ops' problems will



piece stage band, which features Chicago.

ballroom op, Schreiber is cognizant Previous to going into theater pro- of the terpery op's problems and as a result, good reports on his band are increasing, for as a promoter he has had more of a chance to study the public's demands.

In addition, Schreiber is heard on collegiate dates and municipal affairs, as well as out-of-town ballroom dates. Besides being a well-rounded loaded with showmanship. Managed Sands is currently fronting a 14- by Personalized Orchestra Service,

#### CHARLIE SPIVAK

CURRENTLY holding forth at Hollywood's Palladium, the West Coast's top location spot, Charlie Spivak continues to keep turnstiles humming. Coupled with success on personal appearances, Spivak's recent RCA Victor album, Kreisler Favorites, has drawn much critical praise from fellow musicians and clicked at the sales stalls,

Charlie has long been billed as "The Man Who Plays the Sweetest Trumpet in the World," having been featured in such all-time favorite orks as the old Paul Specht, Ben Pollack, Dorsey Bros.' band, and Ray Noble. When he gave up "working for the other guy" he took to free

lancing, becoming the highest paid trumpeter in radio up until that time. With the help of the late Glenn Miller, Spivak kicked off his own crew at Glen Island Casino, where he was an immediate success.

Subsequently, Spivak went to New York's Hotel Pennsylvania where he broke records previously set by Glenn Miller and Jimmy Dorsey. A future date at Hotel Commodore brought the same healthly reaction.

In addition to diskings for Victor, Spivak has been featured in 20th Century-Fox's Pin Up Girl and Follow the Boys, made at Universal-International. Top record sellers this past year included -And Mimi, Now Is the Hour and the Kreisler album. Booked by William Morris. Personally managed by Louis Zito.



# Disk Jockeys as Nitery-Theater Attractions

The platter spinners are not only solid draws themselves, but the plugging they give shows in which they participate assures good business and enhances the audience - appeal of the acts working with them. Here's the story of a couple of highly significant Chi experiments.

Chicago, have helped hike revenue in both the cafe and theater field locally. Ernest Byfield, prexy of the Sherman Hotel, Loop hostelry, gave the platter pilot experiment its first workout in

Eddie Hubbard, ABC Club, WIND; field found that the recording artist first week topped Esther Williams's d. j. co-operation with vets at a local Dave Garroway, WMAQ, and Linn would work at a "reasonable" salary \$44,000 mark, set during an eight-day VA hospital, and record auctions, with Burton, free-lancer, as emsees for the the first time in, but when he noticed run and a previous high since the the stage d. j.'s acting as auctioneers, room's Disk Jockey Revues, Byfield his success, immediately demanded B & K house reopened in January. in Loop department stores. found that he obtained not only a a hefty increase. Lack of moderately Ed Seguin, with B & K's flack de- It is understood that Nate Platt, well-known personality to intro acts priced, fairly well-known disk at- partment for 20 years, said the news- State-Lake house booker, intends to and weld the show together, but also tractions also was due to the dropping paper and radio plugging equalled pick up options for future use of the plugs from the d. j. then appearing Inn is still utilizing a number of recas emsee, who boosted the College ord artists in each show, Byfield has Inn via his regular air shows. Impact inserted up-and-coming variety acts, of this plugging is evidenced by the especially those which have worked fact that the d. j. emsee not only one of the radio amateur shows, such plugged his own appearance, but also as Arthur Godfrey's CBS netter. utilized a larger number of platters

TWO disk jockey gimmicks, both in- by the recording artists who were years in the theater field locally had plenty of free space to devote to ended here March 25 when a two- planted plugs. In addition, Seguin Gimmick was utilized successfully weeker State-Lake show, featuring said that utilizing the local d. j. talent for five months, with the three Garroway, Simon, Burton and Hub- made it possible for him to set up a above-named jocks working a period bard, plus Ella Fitzgerald, Lee studied flack campaign, something of about seven weeks each. According Monti's Tu-Tones, Herbie Fields's which is impossible for vaude houses to Byfield, the experiment petered sextet and Mel Torme, all record which use ordinarily traveling talent out when booking offices were unable names, racked up a record \$45,000 that gets into town a day ahead at the hotel's 500-seat College Inn, to supply a well-balanced slate of gross for its first seven days and an the most. Seguin also worked up a record names at the \$4,000 budget at amazing \$33,500 take for the final number of gimmicks, which got big Utilizing such platter spielers as which Byfield wished to operate. By- week, which was Holy Week. The daily attention, such as his special

> anything he can remember. Working four jockeys as stage talent, around under the handicap of the current the end of May, when he has several printers' strike, which has made it strong platter names coming in. Platt doubly difficult to get free plugs be- said the local line-up made it poscause of increased make-up problems, sible for him to work out a better Seguin said that the d. j. show got production in the show than usual, almost as much flackery as the Jack because talent was available for re-

Biggest promotion in the last two Benny show of 1947, when papers hearsals a week before the show.

#### IONE TOPIC

CUPPLE-BODIED Ione Topic, a

Group was organized in Hollywood when Tyler decided to settle on the Coast after a stint in the army. Beyoung, blonde newcomer to vaude fore the war Tex toured with a Major Bowes unit, did radio shots and dabbled with smaller Western orks. He now works as a single for the most part, and shortly hopes to close deal for his first film stint. Booked by Federal Artists Corporation.

#### TEX WILLIAMS

REFORE Tex Williams cut his fa- icana etchings of That's What I Like mous etching of Smoke, Smoke, About the West, Never Trust a Wo-Smoke That Cigarette for Capitol, he man, Artistry in Western Swing and was already established as a top an album of polkas are among top Western band vocalist and performer. sellers in the tune field. Making his pro bow at the age of 13 over radio Station WJBL, Decatur, Ill., Tex toured the country with Western orks, including Spade Cooley, the Colorado Hillbillies, and the Rhythm Rangers.

big dough class and open the way for successful vaude tours, location dates and guest shots. His Capitol Amer-

In addition to work in film short

subjects produced at Universal-Inter-

national, Tex has taken a crack at

tune cleffing, with a ditty tagged

What It Means To Be Blue getting

and night clubs, is fast rising to the top among contortionist specialty dancers. A talented tumbler and ballet acro terper as well, Miss Topic has a well-rounded turn that fits into any revue. A contortionist since a youngster, Miss Topic exhibits an ease and grace in her work that has drawn raves from operators everywhere.

During the past year she has worked such spots as the Stork Club, Council Bluffs, Ia.; Tic-Toc, Milwaukee; Plantation, Nashville; Latin Quarter, Newport, Ky.; Trocadero, Henderson, Ky., and is set for a full season of summer outdoor dates.

Managed by the Louis Cohan Agency, Chicago.

### "T." TEXAS TYLER

AS THIS is written, Tyler's latest 4-Star waxing, Deck of Cards, shows promise of being a sleeper disk hit. Tune has caught on in the West and is rolling east with typical Tyler gusto. As for Tyler, he, too, is rolling on, gaining in popularity with each new record release.

Since singing with 4-Star in 1945. "T." Texas has scored with his Remember Me, So Round, So Firm, So Fully Packed and such self-named as T. Texas Blues, and Tex Tyler Ride. A performer of varied talents, Tex is a highly respected tune cleffer, with such ditties as You Were Only Teasing Me, No Regrets, and Fair Weather Baby, popular with folk tune devotees.

Boys was Tex's boost to folk fame. manager.

#### RUTH WALLIS

RUTH WALLIS was born and raised in New York. She learned all the idiosyncrasies of human nature which are bound to come to the surface in a big city like New York. She first appeared professionally with name bands, and her womanly intuition quickly discovered that the run-of-the-mill musical material being supplied by publishers did not fit her personality. So with her typewriter in hand, there followed a rapid succession of new songs.

Ruth Wallis has the peculiar talent of being able to hold a humorous mirror to the seamy side of life and, when expressed in her sophisticated style, the weaknesses of human nature assume a humorous aspect. Her amusing and brilliant songs have brought tolerant and sympathetic laughter into the lives of millions.

Patrons of leading night clubs such as Hollywood Bar of Music, Hollywood; Satire Room, Boston; Raleigh Room, New York, and Blackamoor Room, Miami, have applauded her vociferously. Her records, led by Johnny Had a Yo Yo, have sold over a million copies on De Luxe Records. She is married to Hy Pastman, former manager of the Latin Quarter in Fronting the Oklahoma Melody Boston, who acts as her personal

good reaction. Managed by Mel It took Smoke to put him in the Shauer Agency.

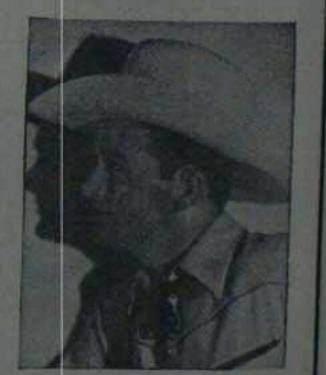
#### JIMMY WAKELY

RECOGNIZED as one of the top Western artists, folk tunesmith Jimmy Wakely mixed ballads and bullets by dividing his time between motion picture work and recordings. Jimmy has been starred in nearly a dozen Monogram films and is featured on Capitol Records's Americana label. He is also a tune cleffer of top ability, having penned such tunes as Star-Spangled Banner Waving Somewhere, You Can't Break the Chains of Love, and I'll Never Let You Go, among others in the Western folk tune field.

Jimmy's first break came in 1940 when Gene Autry caught his act over an Oklahoma City radio station. Autry signed

him for the Melody Ranch Show over CBS, on which Jimmy was featured for two years. Later Jimmy came to Hollywood, organized the Jimmy Wakely Trio and played rodeos, fairs and theater dates. Act came to the attention of Galveston, Tex., theater owner Phil Isley (father of film star Jennifer Jones) who recommended Wakely to Monogram Studios. After that the way was easy,

Before joining the Capitol Records stable, Wakely cut for Decca. His first releases for Capitol were Somebody's Rose and Everyone Knew It But Me, both proving juke box hits. He has also appeared in films for Universal and Columbia pix, and is currently shooting at Monogram. No Hollywood cowboy, Wakely wis born in Arkansas and raised in Oklahoma ranch country. He is an avid horse fancier and rider. Booked by Irving Yates. Personally managed by Pete Martinez.

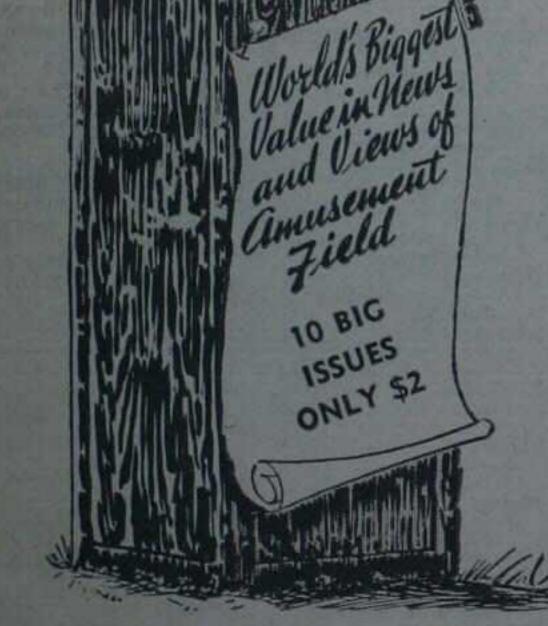


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THE "GREATEST SHOW" ON EARTH ... ALL UNDER ONE COVER\_FIRST\_COMPLETE\_BEST.

CHOWNA A NICHIDIT



## SHOWMANSHIP!

Only real showmen, and those who can appreciate real showmanship when they see it, know how much the outdoor amusement business means to the indoor and how the two of them are inseparably linked together. It is in the outdoor field that showmen are both born and made, and it is there that the red blood of showmanship flows and the true pulse of showmanship beats.

Barnum ran a circus and conducted the concert tours of Jenny Lind. B. F. Keith and E. F. Albee came up from the circus. So did Wallace Beery, Joe E. Brown. Thousands of performers appear with circuses and carnivals and at parks and fairs during the summer and in vaudeville, theaters and radio during the winter. Hundreds of advance agents, staff executives, musicians and other help follow the outdoor amusements in summer and hold down theater and radio jobs in winter.

The big majority of showfolk are interested in both outdoor and indoor amusement activities—and The Billboard's circulation proves it.

George H. Cushing, Radio Department, Automobile Manufacturers' Association, writes:

"I like The Billboard for its Radio and Television departments. In my business, receiving a compact report of the highlights of events in those fields is important. Incidentally, anybody that reads The Billboard regularly and doesn't get a kick out of the other departments certainly needs the imagination toned up."

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#### (Continued from page 24)=

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#### IRVING SCHWARTZ (Continued from page 17)

cent of their present level and that the percentage split over guarantees will have to go on a 50-50 basis instead of today's regularly accepted 60-40.

mately 80 per cent of batoners on a with one-minute transcriptions for one-nighter swing show little desire use as radio spots to advertise bands' to go out of their way to entertain appearances. Managers, he feels, the crowd. "Many of them are like should show greater effort in lining dead fish on the stand," Schwartz up personal appearances at local recsays, "never bothering to turn on the ord shops and on disk jockey shows. personality or pay attention to the patrons." Schwartz criticized the "just another job" attitude on the part of the maestri, and pointed out that this hurts a leader's following in that particular area as well as resulting in a general ill-effect on other dances to be held at that spot in the future.

"The day when a leader can just stand up there and beat out the music is past," Schwartz adds. "Customers today want to be entertained and get their money's worth. Those who aren't may not come back next time."

Schwartz points out, of course, that not all batoners are guilty of this, and sang high the praises of Tex that it doesn't pay to stay in the busi-Beneke and Stan Kenton as examples ness." of co-operative maestri who have recently played his dates. (Beneke tees brought down to \$1,000 and a played the Stockton Civic Auditorium, substantial decrease in percentages. grossing more than \$4,000, and the If the promoter feels he has a chance

Auditorium drew a \$5,600 box- to attract more patrons, Sheets main- started out in the field. Some attrac-

all-out in aiding in publicizing a one- over \$1.25. He said he will charge help. Firstly, as a rule, the advance nighter, Schwartz feels. He criticized \$1.80 admission for the Guy Lom- man is some punk who knows nothing booking agencies who supply age-old bardo dances he is running in Oak- about publicizing a band. His stay material on their bands, "and sometimes even this comes too late to be used effectively," Schwartz said. He According to Schwartz, approxi- feels bookers should supply promoters box-office in the past, he feels the ad- the proper contacts or to do any of us

> ANDY SHEETS (Continued from page 17) until guarantees are decreased, this promoter feels.

Here's how Sheets figures it:

"If I charge \$1.50 admission to a dance, after taking taxes off, the boxoffice keeps \$1.25. If the dance attracts 2,000 people - which is a healthy turnout in these parts today -that means that after paying a \$1,500 guarantee and splitting 60-40 I get to keep \$500. However, out of this money I have to pay for advertising, rental on the hall and my help. There's so little left for the promoter

Sheets wants to see band guaranconcert Schwartz promoted with at making a buck, he'll be willing to available in pictures, mats and news- know what was paid and what was

tains. He thinks that with rare ex- tions have used advance publicity Managers and bookers should go ceptions the gate tab should not be men, but frankly, this is not much land on May'll and at San Jose, May in a town is from two to three hours 13. However, since Lombardo has and then he is on his way to the next proven to be so strong at this area's mission won't be prohibitive.

Generally, Sheets placed most of the blame on the band leaders themselves, stating: "I think the personal managers and bookers are doing all they can. The trouble is that many of the band leaders are too independent these days,"

#### RALPH WEINBERG (Continued from page 17)

high rental costs there is little left for amusements.

"We have been getting big admis- used to sell us a bona fide band leader sion prices in all of our promotion -without a band-who would work towns but would like to reduce these a date with a pick-up outfit. Today prices in order to increase attendance. I know when we buy a band we get We are unable to do this since we still the same band that is used on records must pay high guarantees for bands. and on its location work. Colored attractions have reduced their guarantees considerably but the of the bands which play in our ballprices on white orchestras continue room. It is from these records which close to wartime levels.

help us considerably if they made date in the Ritz, that we maintain some effort to change their promotion a price list. The agencies only in aids. There has been very little extremely rare cases attempt to make change in gimmicks in the past 11 changes over previous engagement years. The same format has been prices because they know that we Kenton at the Sacramento Memorial go out on a limb and cut admissions paper publicity ideas ever since I made."

any good. A good advance publicity man would be an asset but they must be hard to find.

"A good advance man should contact not only local disk jockeys but also the juke box distributors in a town he covers. But most advance men pass the juke box operators by. In this writer's opinion the juke box gives a band or any song number its greatest boost."

#### JOE BARRY C 19370 50

"The Ritz keeps a daily card index list guaranties, percentage money, "The attraction and agency could etc., made by each orchestra on its

#### WALTER STUDZ

(Continued from page 17) big conditions, is responsible for band canceled out, leaving the op keeping patrons at a minimum at with \$200 worth of bills that will many one-nighter dance dates, Stutz never mean a dime in the ballroom contends.

Areas hit by the slump should be hypoed at this time with top name bands, Stutz believes. This, he explains, would be a sort of artificial respiration for the band biz and will serve to stimulate interest in dancing. However, Stutz finds booking agents and band managers have followed an opposite course. Those areas hit particularly hard by the slump find they cannot get the top box-office drawing names. Instead they are offered lesser lights in the band biz, as well as territorial orks or newly formed bands that hold little, if any, boxoffice appeal.

"Bookers keep their top name bands where the clover is green and by-pass those areas where the slump has set in," Stutz says. "If this is permitted to continue, we are dead. Agents should bend all efforts to bring the top drawing bands to the territories where they are needed in order to give the industry a badly needed hypo. Keep those bands in the off-territories, especially when they've been hit by a slump in business.

Stutz feels that the day is here for batomers to replace their high-salaried sidemen with men working for reasonable pay. This, he feels, would allow leaders to ask less in playing one-nighters and thereby "leave a dollar for the promoter." As it stands now, Stutz said, the big names take off the box-office cream and "let the promoters suffer," According to him, this is a situation which must be solved without delay if the onenighter biz is to remain.

#### LARRY GEER

(Continued from page 17)

into from all over the territory, indicating that business is really in the doldrums.

Leaders should pay extra attention to doing a good job on the stand, especially playing to the payees. The erratic length of intermissions is discouraging ops, Geer said, and leaders should marshal their sidemen more diligently and see that they adhere to the intermission policy set by the ballroom owner. He encouraged band leaders to get the feel of dancing communities; that they try to find exactly what each ballroom's clientele go for by watching during early-evening sets to see what numbers draw crowds to the floor and from the hardwoods. Fronters should also acclimate their music to the particular qualities of the danc- dance will assist a fronter in doing ery's p.a. system.

media, only to have a wire inform him a week before the date that the till

#### Wedge-Booking Evil

Wedge-booking has started again, according to MBOA members' reports, Geer said. In such cases, ops are asked to buy a band which they don't want in order to get a crew that will click at their dancery. In such instances, Geer said the unwanted band, which has to be used, loses money which even the established favorite fails to make up during these days of declining takes. Often bookers utilize the threat that they will play the band with a competitor if an op doesn't take their pitch. Geer pointed out that usually if one op in a territory can't buy a band, it won't do well with a competitor in the same area. More attention must be given to the preparation of contracts, for a band is inked. only to have such factors as playing time for the band changed because "of an error on the part of a secretary who typed in four instead of threeand-a-half hours' playing time."

#### ALICE MCMAHON

#### (Continued from page 17)

times what the location band costs per evening and the promotion job on such a date ups the ad budget considerably. The promotion budget for the succeeding night is also hiked. to make up for the dancers, who broke their normal habit to make the name dance.

#### Too Good, No Good

If the name ork is a big pull, the crowd may be so big that dancers do not get a good chance to hit the maple and do not get the service which they usually associate with the ballroom when location bands are playing. Name orks, she said, must realize that, while they have heavy payrolls, the ballroom op's burden of city and State taxes, insurance, advertising, loss of business on preceding and succeeding nights, and a payroll that increases because of personnel necessary to handle the heavier crowds, make it more difficult for the op to break even. With the government getting 20 cents out of every admission dollar for taxes, and the bands asking a 50 or 60 per cent privilege, which means 40 to 48 cents out of the remaining 80 cents, the op has little profit left. Fronters must learn the particular what type of music drives terpers musical tastes of each ballroom's clientele, she asserted, and a few minutes with an operator before the a better job. If there's a reason an orkster cannot adhere to the dancery's policy, an explanation will make the op realize that his patrons are not being fluffed. Miss McMahon also pointed out the danger of over-long intermissions, which are in violation of union contracts. She asked cooperation from leaders in letting her know what ops can expect in the way of personal visits to local disk jockeys, such as Paul Roberts, WFBM, Indianapolis platter pilot, who has worked 100 per cent in putting the roof dance bands over.



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#### \$1,500 Personal Salary

Some leaders must drop prices, Geer said. Recently a leader told an op that he must continue to demand his high guarantee and percentage because of a weekly \$8,500 nut for the band. When the op asked the leader to break down this high figure, the leader said he included \$1,500 for personal salary plus such overhead items as salary of a valet, secretary, manager, property man and band boy.

Geer said that he has received beefs from ops over some booking offices which fail to return completed contracts to the op, making it impossible for the op to complete. promotional arrangements for the date, Ops realize that bookers are sometimes hung up in trying to route orgs, but Geer said that an op should have four weeks in advance to really do a job in securing radio time, newspaper space and distributing records of incoming bands to the better patrons. Reports have come to Geer of contracts being held in skedding offices for a month before a date, while the op buys window cards, newspaper ads and other promotional and recent web airings.

#### Booking Office Co-Op

Bookers must discontinue to sell concert and show bands as dance attractions, Miss McMahon maintained. When a band is sold, booking offices should follow thru with informative and well-written press manuals, Booking offices should furnish promotional media at reasonable prices. She pointed out that one Omaha territory band booker sells attractive window cards at a nickel, while major agencies ask a dime for the same material. Press books should carry complete info about the band's records.



MARK LAWRENCE and ALICE PEARCE

## RUNNING SUCCESSFUL NIGHT CLUB

= (Continued from page 4)

would rarely lead the orchestra but ever, five main sources for revespent most of his time dancing.

blon and Joe E. Lewis, who draw in leasing the room to motion picture the most money per patron; Duke studios for night club scenes and to Ellington, who attracts such names radio broadcasting companies for in the music world as Dick Haymes, special broadcasts, and (5) concerts. Margaret Whiting and Johnny Mer- Last year I presented Jose Iturbi, cer: Carmen Cavallaro, who always among others. Naturally, we respect plays with the band and is always the five sidelines which bring in most glad to play request numbers, and of our revenue. One gimmick we've Desi Arnaz, who has a host of friends latched on to which has helped prohere and a strong following. Peggy mote our sidelines is a social secre-Lee proved to be a good draw.

#### The Hot Miss Thompson

You might be interested to know who drew the most money at Ciro's. Due to the fact that we lump our night club grosses with the liquor sales and catering, it is difficult to be specific. But we do know that the three toppers to date are Kay Thompson, with the Williams Brothers: Carmen Cavallaro, and Danny Kaye. Among others on top at Ciro's are Mitzi Green, Joe E. Lewis, Dorothy Shay, Duke Ellington, Katherine Dunham, Jerry Lester and Veloz and Yolanda. Kay Thompson and the Williams Brothers broke more records than anyone else at Ciro's.

In general, comics do well. However, we insist on entertainment that out to renew interest in dancing and is not off-color. For two years I refused to have Jerry Lester on my bill because his material wasn't quite up to our standards. He cleaned it up, came to Ciro's and made a great hosts and should take a general inhit here this season. I think that he terest in familiarizing themselves is thrice as funny as ever before. In with their clientele. Serl Hutton, of fact, I think he will soon be recog- National Orchestra Service, Omaha, nized as one of the greatest comedians advised that ballroom ops would do promotions. of our time. Altho a great performer well to associate closely with any naturally prefers to choose his own community enterprise and attempt to material, he will, if reasonable, listen have as many civic and school functo suggestions on what bits to add or tions as possible held in their danc- cording to Lang Thompson, of Assocut. For instance, Mitzi Green was eries. not completely sold on the idea of doing a takeoff on Joe E. Lewis every tory band bookers felt that in some night. But when I pointed out that he instances the entire budget is spent was very well known and liked by on promoting name attractions, while mish in proportion with the guarantee our patrons, who would appreciate ops cut down almost completely for this particular bit, she included it and the territory orks. Too many ops, it has become a favorite here.

nue: (1) Catering, (2) retail liquor. We prefer attractions like Jean Sa- (3) studio parties given on sets, (4) tary who advises those interested in how to conduct a party in their own homes. This is an individualized service for which there is no charge. Ciro's operates a little differently from most other clubs. We pay no rent since I own the building; the land and all the property is free and clear of mortgage; we have no laundry bills because we own and operate our own laundry; we carbonate our own water; we make our own ice; we own a shop where we upholster our furnishings and keep them in constant repair, and we pay no executive salaries.

#### MIDWEST BOOKERS (Continued from page 16)

help both groups.

#### **Ops** Are Hosts

Ballroom ops must realize they are

they aver, are sticking all their money Ciro's itself-the it is one of the in the name-band promotion and are operates in the red. We have, how- weekly territory band dates, which

are so much more economical and if promoted correctly might mean a regular, neat income.

Ballroom interiors and exteriors mean a great deal, and ops should spend more time and dough in seeing that their spots are a showplace in the community. Vic Schroeder, Omaha territory skedder, pointed out the lack of adequate p.-a. systems and poor acoustics discourage fronters and offer little good music to dancers.

Schroeder also emphasized proper relations between the op and the fronter, encouraging ops to give instructions to leaders well in advance. of the opening time; treat musicians courteously, obtain some kind of service from ballroom help for musickers between sets and have pianos tuned to standard pitch. Schroeder also pointed out that it is a good practice for ballroom ops to open their danceries at 6 p.m. so that a band arriving early can have a chance to set up and clean up before eating preparatory to going onto the job.

#### Study Demand

All territory skedders insisted that ops study their crowds for band demands so that bookers could supply them with the type of band they wish. Barnett said he had run into ops who run regular popularity polls by having dancers sign give-away cards on which they also name their top favorites.

Nev Wagner, of the William Morris Chicago office, said that he has been securing good reports on his suggestion to ops who buy show-type dance bands and work a combination concert-dance. Utilizing a one-hour show and three-hour dance, ops are able to get the older music fans and the younger dance fans in for the name

Ops who scale their admish ducats according to the price of the attraction are enjoying heftier grosses, acciated Booking's Chi outlet. Thomp-On the advertising situation, terri-, son said that with dough as short as it is patrons are pulled by the drop in coin. Ops are fluctuating the adon the band with some success in certain areas, he said.

# The next time you hear voices - LISTEN!

IT MAY BE your conscience speaking.

It may be saying: "Save some of that money, mister. Your future depends on it!!"

most famous in America-actually just getting by with their regular

and the Wonderful **ORIENTAL THEATRE** ORCHESTRA A Theatre CHICAGO

#### HAL HOWARD (Continued from page 16)

of America. Promoter dedicated the one-night dance date to Bank of America employees. These were given tickets at a reduced rate, which meant that the promoter was assured of a substantial turnout coming from that organization.

According to Howard, admission prices are on the down grade but promoters and dancery ops take it for granted that the public knows about their lopping of prices. He mentioned one promoter who heads his newspaper advertising with, "Now, name bands at sensible prices." By driving home the fact that prices are down, it will result in more customers who can now afford to go and are willing to spread the good news to their friends.

## HOWARD SINNOTT (Continued from page 16)

some sort of intimacy between the operator and the ticket buyer. The promoter should make use of promotion gimmicks - giveaways, door prizes, disk jockey tie-ins, etc. To top it off the promoter should spend time and money in keeping his ballroom in attractive shape. Some ballrooms today are in bad need of redecoration, refurnishing, repainting, etc. Keeping the ballroom attractive helps to create the environment which would draw customers instead of drive them away.

"Another suggestion is that operators make greater use of advance ticket sales on spot bookings. This serves a two-fold purpose. Primarily, advance sale should cause word-ofmouth talk about the dance around town. Secondly, it serves as some insurance for the operator's date."

Listen closely next time. Those are words of wisdom. Your future-and that of your family-does depend on the money you put aside in savings.

If you can hear that voice speaking clearly, do this:

Start now on the road to automatic saving by signing up on your company's Payroll Savings Plan for the purchase of U.S. Savings Bonds.

There's no better, no surer way to save money. Surer because it's automatic . . . better because it pays you back four dollars for every three you invest.

Do it now. If you can't join the Payroll Savings Plan, tell your banker to enroll you in the Bond-A-Month Plan that enables you to purchase a bond a month through your checking account.

Remember-better save than sorryl

Automatic saving is sure saving U.S. Savings Bonds



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XXX

#### "Sing Bing", "Lee's for Me" ( **Collegian Chant; in Place:** THE BILLBOARD'S Como, Laine; Stafford, Shore 10th Annual College Poll Sinatra Slip Shows, Lund Fades; Monroe, Christy Pop In SINGERS slot to fifth place behind Crosby, Perry Como, Frankie Laine and Vaughn All-Around Favorite Monroe. Combination of bad publicity for Sinatra and a long stretch with-(Male) out a sock record (his last tiggie was Mam'selle over a year ago and that .982 bowed to the Art Lund version for impact) took its toll in this year's poll. 1. Bing Crosby .... But Como's disk success remained at high level with one smash hit to his credit (When You Were Sweet Sixteen paired with Chi Baba, Chi Baba) 3. Frankie Laine .... and several peak-sale platters to boot. Laine pulled up from seventh slot last 4. Vaughn Monroe ..... year to No. 3 this year on the strength of his Mercury success since That's .270 5. Frank Sinatra . My Desire; the singer even now boasts 122 a hit in his version of Shine. 6. Mel Torme Craig "Near You," Monroe "Ballerina" and Laine "Desire" Campus Wax Faves Iturbi, Rubinstein Longhair Laurels-Khachaturian Boom NEW YORK March 27 .- The cam- NEW YORK, March 27 .- Perennial pus lads and lassies' selection of their favorites of the American classical

favorite popular records of the past billing among the college le year apparently reflects the choice of listeners, with plann tion an a . hole, according to londing the way.

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