


Music

SEPTEMBER 1956

VIEWS



'The Best
Things in
Life
are Free'

Music Views

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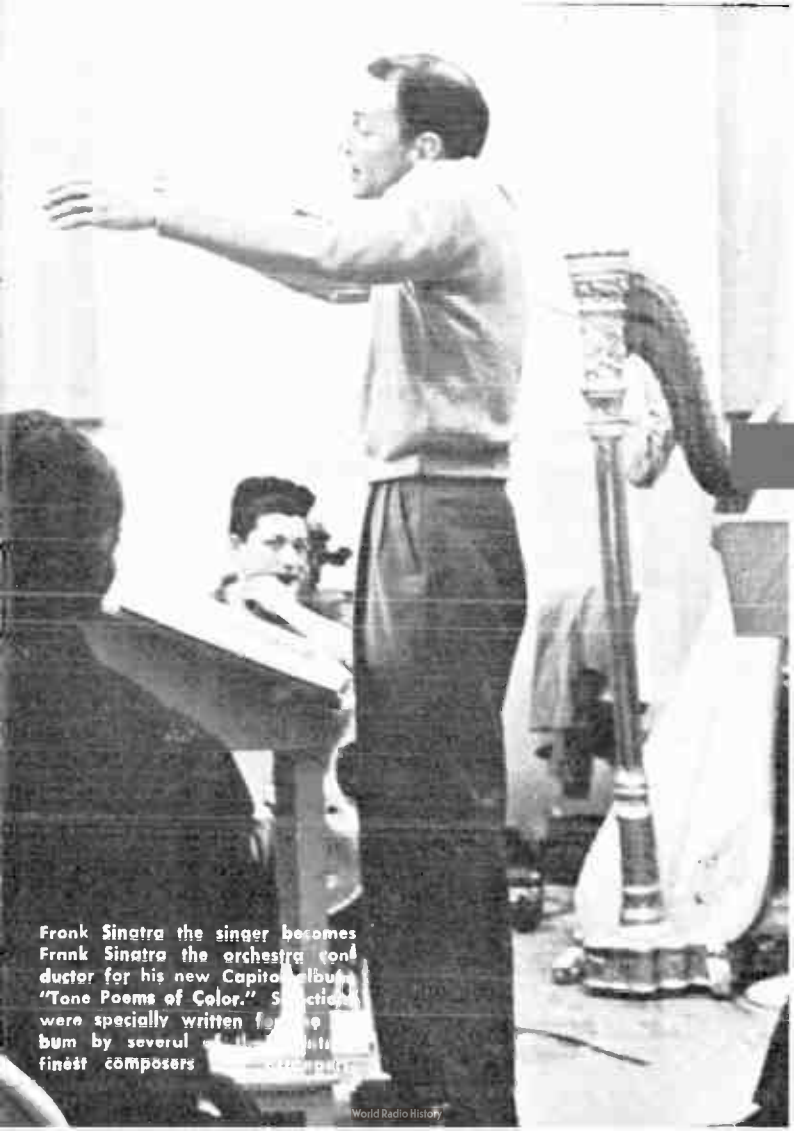
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THE COVER

It is no more than fitting that Capitol should put out the album, "The Best Things In Life Are Free," since the 20th Century-Fox film of that name deals with the life of the late B. G. "Buddy" De Sylva and his song-writing cohorts. De Sylva was one of the founders of Capitol Records. Gordon MacRae, who portrays De Sylva in the film, does the vocal honors for the album, as he's been doing for years under the Capitol banner. So you see, it's all in the family. For further information about this sparkling musical and its wonderfully nostalgic tunes, see pages 5, 6 and 7 of this issue.



When Julia Adams isn't relaxing on a chaise lounge or acting in pictures like Universal-International's "Away All Boats," she spends her time on the high C's with a vocal coach. She wants to sing in musicals.



Frank Sinatra the singer becomes Frank Sinatra the orchestra conductor for his new Capitol album "Tone Poems of Color." Selections were specially written for the album by several of the country's finest composers



Roxanne Arlen plays the part of a gunsel's girl friend in new 20th Century-Fox musical, "The Best Things In Life Are Free." That's enough to make a guy turn crook.



Reunited after three years, the Andrews Sisters cavort with Wally Borg in recent ABC-Radio broadcast. They'll record on Capitol.

TRAVEL BY EAR

Capitol has broadened the horizons of its stay-at-home tour of the globe via new additions to the "Capitol of the World" album series. Added to the hear-the-world set are "Autumn In Rome (Pino Calvi's Piano)," "Honeymoon In Rio," "I Remember Paris (Vicky Autier)," "Music of the Austrian Alps," "Rainy Night in London (Ray Martin's Piccadilly Strings)," "South American Songs (Luchito Gatica)," and "The Voice of Ireland (Ruby Murray)."

'The Best Things
in Life are Free'





THE NEW 20th Century-Fox musical, "The Best Things in Life Are Free," is a tuneful story of the trials, tribulations and triumphs of the extremely successful songwriting team, De Sylva, Brown and Henderson. With Gordon MacRae as Buddy De Sylva, Ernest Borgnine as Lew Brown, Dan Dailey as Ray Henderson and Sheree North as Kitty Kane, the story weaves its way through such hit songs as "Button Up Your Overcoat," "Lucky Day," "Lucky In Love," "It All Depends On You," "Good News," "Black Bottom," "You're the Cream In My Coffee," "One More Time," "The Birth of the Blues" and many more.

From the very formation of the team in 1924, they are beset by the personality differences of the three men. De Sylva is the extremely ambitious extrovert with expensive tastes, Brown a hot-headed youngster with speakeasy

habits and underworld friends, and Henderson a shy, modest individual who often finds himself in the role of mediator.

The team is successful right from the start. In 1926 they have three hit musicals on Broadway, "Good News," "Follow Through" and "Scandals of 1926." Then one of Lew's underworld "friends," Manny Costain, is allowed to back their new show, "Flying High." When Costain's girl friend is thrown out of the show for lack of talent, a fight ensues. The boys are threatened, but Lew is assured protection by an out-of-town gang leader. Costain is later killed, but Lew's friends assure him they were not responsible.

SOMETIME later, at De Sylva's insistence, the team makes its way to Hollywood to write a movie musical, "Sunny Side Up." De Sylva's romance with Kitty Kane cannot stand the strain of



(Cont.) — "Best Things"

his self-centered drive, so she stays in New York. The success of the picture convinces Buddy that he should become a movie producer. Since Brown and Henderson do not concur with his feelings, they return to New York and write a new musical without De Sylva. Although the show starts shakily, a little help and encouragement from De Sylva gets it off the ground and convinces the boys they can make it on their own.

The picture ends as Buddy watches Kitty finish her song, "The Best Things In Life Are Free," and insists that "That's My Girl."

The tunes from the picture have been recorded on Capitol by Gordon MacRae in the album "The Best Things In Life Are Free."

MUSIC ON WHEELS

Now you can hear music even while traveling on a train. Several railroad lines, including Union Pacific, have installed music via Muzak's travel service. Think of breezing along on the Rock Island line while a loudspeaker blared to notes of "On the Atchison, Topeka and the Santa Fe."



"That Certain Feeling" could easily be brought on by Valerie Allen who appears in Paramount's musical of that name, starring Bob Hope.

Presenting

GORDON JENKINS

The recent signing of composer-arranger-conductor Gordon Jenkins to a Capitol Recording contract marks the completion of some sort of cycle in his life. Jenkins was one of the first artists to record on the label shortly after its inception in 1942. In fact, they were his first commercial recordings. Fourteen years and many hits later he's back "home" and can soon be heard on new Capitol releases.

The son of a musical family, Gordon was born May 12, 1910, in Webster Groves, Missouri. His father was an organist and his older brother a pianist and songwriter. When he was fourteen he won a ukelele contest sponsored by Cliff "Ukelele Ike" Edwards. For awhile he played piano and arranged for various bands around St. Louis, leaving to travel to New York with the orchestra of Isham Jones.

In 1936, having left Jones to free-lance three years previously, Gordon was called by Vincente Minnelli to become musical director of the Broadway show, "The Show Is On." The show, starring Bea Lillie and Bert Lahr, was a hit. After



the show had opened successfully, Jenkins resigned because he heard that one can play golf all year 'round in California.

Since golf balls are singularly undigestible, Gordon also had to scramble around looking for work in the land of sunshine. After some lean periods, he finally landed at Paramount Pictures and also took on a radio show, "Men With Wings." From then on the road was less rocky. He became West Coast musical director of NBC, then resigned again to free-lance.

The 1940's found Gordon very active, both as a composer and musical director. In addition to the forementioned work at Capitol, he directed

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the music for many radio shows, including Dinah Shore, Bob Burns, Al Johnson and Dick Haymes. In 1949 he became musical director for Decca Records and produced many hits under their banner. During that same year he composed the well known composition, "Manhattan Tower."

In 1955 he returned to NBC as a conductor and producer and has been connected with many of the "spectaculars" originating from the West Coast. He is currently preparing a production of his "Manhattan Tower" to be seen on TV this fall.

Jenkins' many successful musical compositions include, "P. S. I Love You," "Blue Prelude," "When a Woman Loves a Man," "San Fernando Valley," "Ev'ry Time," "Tzena Tzena Tzena," "Manhattan Tower," "Seven Dreams" and many others.

He is married to singer Beverly Mahr and has four children. His hobbies are golf, photography and wood-working, each of which he attacks with considerable zeal.



Margaret Whiting's new Capitol release is "True Love," a beautiful ballad by Cole Porter from score of MGM musical, "High Society."



"Velvet Carpet" is the highly descriptive title of George Shearing's new Capitol album which features the pianist with string backing.



Jack Costanza gets carried away during recording of his upcoming Zephyr Records album which carries title, "Mr. Bongo Has Brass."

JOE SENT ME

When their parents banned the playing of Elvis Presley records, a group of Ottawa teenagers went to more trouble than a floating crap game in order to listen to the disks. A local gendarme heard musical noises issuing from a boarded-up building and flushed some twenty teenagers who were sneaking a listen in the style of a rock 'n' roll speakeasy. The kids were allowed to escape and the cop even helped one of the girls retrieve her disks.



"Man! This platter REALLY made me flip!"

● WORDS ABOUT JAZZ

S. I. Hayakawa, San Francisco State College instructor who teaches about words, is now also lecturing on music. A noted semanticist, Hayakawa is conducting a "jazz seminar" which blends psychology, semantics and musical history, broadcast over KPFA, Berkeley, Calif. He learned to play the blues on piano as a result of his friendship with the late Jimmy Yancey .



Lonnie Sattin's newest on Capitol, "What Time Does the Sun Go Down," is off to a good start. Flip is new ballad, "My Broken Dreams."



Roberta Haynes turned singer during recent European tour, performing in a French nightclub. Also, she acted in several motion pix.



Now on the Capitol label, Wanda Jackson is already established as one of the nation's top country singers. First Cap wax is titled "I Gotta Know," new novelty tune.



Andy Griffith brings his own special version of "Standing on the Corner" to Capitol wax, coupled with "No Time For Sergeants." Griffith recently made big hit in "Sergeants" on Broadway stage.

DISCREPANCY

A music loving-type of guy
Came up with this complaint:
"Although my records are
Hi-Fi,

"Some voices on them ain't."

—*bolof*

● TV TAKES STOCK

A "repertory stock company" of musical, comic and dramatic talent is being formed for NBC by Jess Oppenheimer, producer-writer of the "I Love Lucy" show. The show, "A Company of Players," will develop a permanent cast of 10 to 12 performers, all required to undertake a wide variety of roles. The hour-long show will hold to no strict format and is an attempt to overcome two of TV's major problems — over-exposure of performers and insufficient writers.



Billy May turns rocky roller for his newest on Capitol titled, appropriately enough, "The Beat." Flip is title music from new Pine-Thomas-Shane pic, "Nightmare."



Dean Martin and Jerry Lewis duet and sing solos on new Capitol EP album of tunes from their latest Paramount motion pic, "Pardners."



Paula Kelly and the Modernaires cut up during their recent appearance at the Coconut Grove in Los Angeles. They record for Decca.



GORDON MacRAE

star of the
20th Century Fox Picture

THE BEST THINGS IN LIFE ARE FREE

sings the film's great
songs in a big, bright
new album—including:

*The Birth of the Blues, Black Bottom,
Button Up Your Overcoat, You're the Cream in My Coffee,
Sonny Boy, and The Best Things in Life are Free.* **T-765**

NEW CAPITOL



CUBAN FIRE!

Stan Kenton

Authentic Afro-Cuban
rhythms and North-
American jazz combined
as never before! Music
by Johnny Richards,
Cuban drums, and the
dynamic Kenton band!

T-731



GUY LOMBARDO IN HI-FI

Now, in sparkling hi-fi!
"The Sweetest Nocturne, The
Side of Heaven, The
Royal Gallop" perform
an outstanding group of
their favorite Lombardo
hits.

W-738



VELVET CARPET

George Shearing

For the first time, here's
the great Shearing Quintet
with strings. The cele-
brated Shearing style
and rich string choir
make this a highly listen-
able treat.

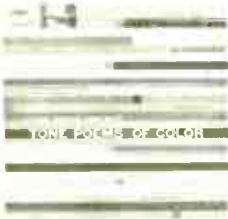
T-720



DANCE TO THE DANDY!

ALL THE AMBITIOUS & TALENTED young men who have graced the Benoni, Woody Herman, Harry James, Stan Kenton, and other dance bands are pleased to bring you a deluxe new album featuring album selections in stereo with a whole lot more of dancing pleasure!

W-731



TONE POEMS OF COLOR

Frank Sinatra

Sinatra skillfully conducts a 56-piece orchestra in 12 original selections, each inspired by a distinctive color, and written by such well-known popular composers as Gordon Jenkins, Nelson Riddle, and Elmer Bernstein.

W-735



THE MITTY MILL & MORE!

Duke Ellington

Here's a new thing to hear! The all-star Ellington band!

Including songs and solos and key pieces that include "Mitty," "Rock,"

"Aunt Sam," "Daddy Brown," and "Hard Midnight Backstairs!"

and 10 more! W-729

W-729



JACKPOT!

Woody Herman

From whistling, mood-in-jazz by Woody's swinging eight-piece group. On hand are such Hermaniads as Dick Collins, Cy Tomp, Richie Kamuca, and Chuck Flores.

T-728



FRESHMEN FAVORITES

The Four Freshmen

Collected in this new album: hits like *Day by Day*, *Charmaine*, and *Graduation Day* that have made the fabulous Freshmen one of today's top vocal groups.

T-743



GYPSY!

The Holloman Band
Symphonic Gypsy
cond. by Carmen Dillon

Flashing exotic, swirling rhythms—Here in Full Dimensional Sound is all the fire and passion of family Gypsy music. The Duke Ellington and Harry Strohm.

F-8342

vamp till ready



IF YOU should happen to be walking in the vicinity of Tin Pan Alley's Brill Building, in New York, be sure to wear a steel helmet and carry an umbrella. The purpose of these is to ward off the bodies of composers who might take the easy way out by throwing themselves from an upper story window. The suicidal tendencies are brought about by the news that songwriters (ever a sensitive lot) are in danger of being replaced . . . by a machine!

This appalling evidence of technological unemployment through automation was unveiled recently on an ABC television show, "Adventure Tomorrow," which demonstrated an electronic brain capable of writing 1000 melodies per hour, varying the songs 10 billion ways. (Comedian-songwriter Steve Allen once won a \$50 bet from singer Frankie Laine by writing 50 songs per day for seven days — quite an accomplishment for a mere human).

The digital computer, known as "Datatron," was developed by Dr. Martin L. Klein, a mathematician with a musical background. Dr. Klein substituted numbers for notes and equations for rhythm patterns. The machine was then "educated" to conform with certain rules of songwriting. Patterns of numbers representing musical notes are tested against the machine's education to see that they conform to the rules of good melody writing. If a poor tune pops up, Datatron throws it away and selects another pattern. If the melody is good, the machine just types out the notes in an easily read code. Dr. Klein claims that Datatron can be set up to write four-part chorals and complete orchestrations.

SINCE the machine does not rhyme moon, spoon and June, the lyricists are not in immediate danger of losing their source of income. Jack Owens, a songsmith of some note, penned a lyric to one of the machine's ditties titled, appropriately enough,

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"Pushbutton Bertha." Owens has not revealed how long it took him to write the lyric but Datatron did its share of the work in approximately four and one-half seconds. As written by Datatron, the opening measures of "Bertha" look like this:

/D/E* F" G/ A B C :/ D** A/ E* F" G/ etc.

Although there is obviously reason for alarm among the songwriting fraternity, the general public can find at least one source of satisfaction in this startling new development: Datatron selects and composes only "good" melodies . . . the human-type composer occasionally writes a bad one.



Continuing his string of hits, Les Baxter's newest, "Concerto and Theme From Foreign Intrigue," is taking off. Flip. "Melodia Loca" is a traditional Chilean melody.



Pretty and talented Carole Bennett makes her second appearance on Cap with lovely ballad, "I Was Your Only Love." Flipside is novelty tune, "The Little Magician."



Haley is really riding
the wave. His new single
"The Proud Ones"
is wide open. In addition,
he has a new EP album in which he
covers four themes from Frank
Capra's picture, "Jenny Concho."

● SEN. DIGS DIZ LEAST

Senator Allen J. Ellender has turned music critic . . . at least on the subject of modern jazz. In a recent broadcast to his New Orleans constituents, the Senator made mention of the State Department's overseas cultural program and described the music of Dizzy Gillespie as "noise, pure noise." Objecting to the use of Government funds in sending the Gillespie band on a recent overseas good-will tour, Ellender insisted, "Anybody listening to it (Dizzy's music) will be convinced we are barbarians."

Other jazz men did not fare so badly in the Senator's critical analysis. He announced, "I like great jazz myself, like the music of Benny Goodman. I'd even include Louis Armstrong and his New Orleans Jazz . . . though some New Orleans musicians have become a little exaggerated."

Ellender heard Gillespie's orchestra at a recent dinner of the White House Correspondents Association.

● B. G. TO TOUR

Although Benny Goodman has temporarily disbanded his ork for the balance of the summer, an extended tour is planned for this fall. Goodman recently turned down offers to appear with the Minneapolis and San Francisco symphonies.



Pretty Gloria Winters began singing professionally at the age of eleven. Since then she has sung and acted in Radio, TV, musical comedy and many motion pictures.



Harry Belafonte receives cultural award from Westlake College of music, during recent engagement at Greek Theatre in Los Angeles.



Famous harmonica virtuoso Larry Adler makes his Capitol debut with two tunes imported from France, "Le Rififi" and "La Soupe a la Grimace." Both sides have been hits in France for several months.



Stan Kenton makes another auspicious arrival on the album scene with his newest, "Cuban Fire!" His "City of Glass" and "This Modern World" are now on one LP disk.

● 'LUNE' GOES POP

Debussy's composition "Clair de Lune," has a lyric at last. Penned by Mitchell Parish, the new title is "Moonlight Love." Parish also wrote the lyric to the evergreen, "Stardust."

All previous attempts to make a popular version of the tune had been turned down by the publisher and the estate of the composer, Claude Debussy. Since the original copyrights are approaching expiration, the addition of the lyric provides the copyright owners with protection for the next 56 years. Debussy composed the work in 1890, but a later orchestration kept the copyright alive until the present date.

KID GLEASON

Jackie Gleason and Rocky Marciano are in training together. The retired heavy-weight champ is supervising training arrangements to get Gleason in shape for his upcoming bout with the TV cameras this fall. Gleason hopes to peel off 60 pounds working out at a spot near Kingston, Mass. They will not be sparring partners.



The Mello-larks, who were discovered by Betty Hutton, recently completed nitory stint with Phil Silvers at Riviera in Las Vegas.



Pretty Kathy Lloyd makes her second appearance on Capitol with a brand new tune, "The West Point Dress Parade," b/w "The Wind Up."



In Paramount's "Partners," Dean Martin and Jerry Lewis provide the music and comedy while Miss Jackie Loughery provides—oh, you know!



Woody Herman rounds up his Third Herd again for his swinging new album on Capitol wax, "Jackpot!"

● WEBB MAY CATCH PEG

Peggy Lee, who won an Academy Award nomination for her role in Jack Webb's production "Pete Kelly's Blues," may be working with Webb again on TV if current plans materialize. Webb and Miss Lee have been discussing possibility of a TV series to be produced by Webb and starring the singer. NBC-TV is said to be interested.



A slow plane from Hawaii just brought in this picture of the Four Freshmen receiving honorary degrees from the University of Hawaii. It was really quite appropriate. After all, they did have a hit recording by the title of "Graduation Day" (which they sang to the senior class). Those boys are lucky. Most freshmen have to wait about three more years to graduate. At center is a Hawaiian disk jockey, Tom Moffat.

VOTE NOTES

Music hath power to get votes . . . or so it would appear from the goings-on down Texas way. Both Texas W. Lee O'Daniel and Ralph Yarborough are using the services of hillbilly bands in their campaigns for the governorship of the state.

Several years ago O'Daniel, formerly a flour salesman, used a hillbilly outfit to help him become Governor and later United States Senator.

With so much at stake, heaven help the musician who plays a sour note.



Although relatively new in the wax field, The Cues have already racked up impressive disk sales. Newest is "Crackerjack," a bright new rhythm tune, b/w "The Girl I Love."



"Tennessee" Ernie Ford's newest disk, "Call Me Darlin'," is beginning to show on the hit charts already. Flip's "Rock, Roll Boogie."



Johnny Dankworth's new Cap disk, "Experiments With Mice," presents "Three Blind Mice" as Billy May, Glenn Miller, Benny Goodman, Eric Delaney, Gerry Mulligan, Sauter & Finegan and Stan Kenton might perform it. Disk is a hit in Britain.



June Christy, whose album "Something Cool" has remained on best selling lists for many months, is now heard on a new one which promises to do equally well. Appropriately, "The Misty Miss Christy."

● WAX SHOOTS PAR

If you wish to improve your golf you can just about have your pick of the top pros as teachers . . . via recordings. Latest golf name to give lessons on wax is Cary Middlecoff, 1956 U. S. Open Golf champ, on Mercury Records. Other pros are available on various indie labels.

● WEEMS DROPS BATON

Long-time bandleader Ted Weems has put down his baton and picked up a microphone. The orkmaster has become a disk jockey on station WHHM in Memphis, Tennessee.

OUR SONG

The "letters, we got letters" segment of Perry Como's NBC-TV show has inspired some interesting song requests according to NBC's publicity department. Here are samples:

"Dear Perry, will you please sing my favorite song — 'A Cup of Coffee, a Sandwich and You and You and You' . . . Zsa Zsa Gabor."

"My favorite song is 'Dollars from Heaven' . . . Jack Benny."

"Please sing 'Has Anybody Here Seen Kelly' . . . Prince Rainier."

"Please sing 'Hot Diggity Dog' . . . Lassie."



One of Britain's top bandleaders, Ron Goodwin makes U. S. debut on Capitol with "Song of the High Seas" and "Guadalcanal March."



Pearl Bailey does a polite jig at the news that her record, "Solid Gold Cadillac," is selling well.

● MCCOY IN SHORTS

Walt Disney has signed band-leader Clyde McCoy to do a series of three musical short films.



Coleen Gray was a band vocalist before Hollywood decreed she'd no longer have to sing for her supper. She stars in pic "Los Vegas Shakedown," from Allied Artists.



With only two men making a huge variety of sounds, newest wax by the Jumping Jocks, "Toki-Roll Toki-Rock," stirs a lot of excitement. Flip is old standard, "Valencio."

\$1.98 PROFIT

If current trend in song titles continues, disk jockeys may find themselves independently wealthy. The publisher of the tune "The President On the Dollar," sent each deejay a dollar bill, as did the publisher of the Mills Brothers' disk, "98 Cents." (Jocks were allowed to keep the two cents change). Wasn't there a song around called "\$64,000 Question?"

● SPARROW TWEETS

"Sparrow," Trinidad's top calypso singer, will be heard as a nightclub singer in Columbia's upcoming pic, "Fire Down Below." The calypso chanter is well known in this country via his recordings.

● SINGER GOES STRAIGHT

Singer-dancer Betty Garrett gets her first crack at a straight dramatic role in an upcoming Columbia picture, "The Missing Witness." Miss Garrett, whose previous screen appearances have been strictly musical, has a leading part in the film adapted from a *Cosmopolitan Magazine* thriller.



Jane Withers and husband Ken Errair congratulate each other. Ken, formerly one of the Four Freshmen, has been signed by Capitol. Jane recently completed role in "Giant."



Kay Thompson & Audrey Hepburn rehearse their song-and-dance number in Paramount's musical, "Funny Face," also starring Fred Astaire.



Jane Froman's new Capitol album is titled after the guiding principle of her heroic life, "Faith."



Another newcomer to Capitol, Barbara Lyon, has for her first disk release, "Puppy Love" and "Don't Ring-a da Bell." She's daughter of Bebe Daniels and Ben Lyon.



Jean Fenn starred recently with Cyril Pritchard in NBC-TV version of "Rosalinda," a Los Angeles and San Francisco Civic Light Opera Association Production in color.

● ABNER GOES N. Y.

Li'l Abner, Daisy Mae, Mammy and Pappy Yokum and the rest of the inhabitants of Dogpatch will come to musical life on Broadway this fall. The Al Capp comic page characters have been made into a musical play with score provided by Johnny Mercer and Gene De Paul.

MASHERS BEWARE!

In the parlance of the music business, Steve Allen recently "flipped" over the performance of the guests on his NBC-TV "Tonight" show. He fell "head over heels" for the abilities of Portuguese singer Rosaria Mereles. Miss Mereles, who stands 4' 11" tall and weighs ninety-one pounds, literally "flipped" Allen "head over heels" and flat on his back five times, during an exhibition of one of her other talents . . . jiu jitsu. Although Rosaria is scheduled to make several more appearances on the show, Allen says it's because he likes her singing. He insists that he's not afraid of her.

● HILDY'S BACK

Hildegard has dipped her gloved hands back into the recording business after eight years by waxing an album on the Seeco label. Last company to record the chanteuse was Decca.

● PARIS REVISITED

Maurice Chevalier is scheduled to take U.S. viewers on a guided tour of Paris this fall. NBC-TV's "The Maurice Chevalier Story of Paris" is currently being filmed in Paris, presenting the city as Chevalier knows it.



Movie choreographer Elle' Johnson is currently hitting the bistro boards with an act featuring herself, Bruce Bain and David Hebel.

● ASTHMA FUND FORMED

The Frank Sinatra Asthma Research fund has been formed by a group of showbusiness personalities, with Sammy Davis Jr. appointed as temporary chairman. The fund will be administered through the Jewish National Home for Asthmatic Children where Davis is a board member.

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In addition to sharing the spotlight with Nat "King" Cole on the click disk, "That's All There Is To That," The Four Knights have a new one of their own, "Don't Depend On Me." Tune is a rhythm ballad delivered as only they can. Flip is brand new up-tempo ditty, "You're a Honey."