

Melody Maker

3^d INCORPORATING
"RHYTHM"

WEEK ENDING JANUARY 6, 1945

THE MYSTERY OF GLENN MILLER

THESE ARE THE LATEST NEWS OF MAJOR GLENN MILLER, WHO, AS WE ANNOUNCED IN LAST WEEK'S ISSUE, DISAPPEARED WHILE ON HIS WAY TO PARIS BY AIR ON DECEMBER 15, AND HAS BEEN OFFICIALLY REPORTED MISSING.

Dance music circles all over the world have been buzzing with conjecture, and his legion of friends and admirers hope that, even at this eleventh hour, good news will come through of his whereabouts.

We are officially informed, however, that there is still a complete lack of any information that could in any way cast daylight upon the mysterious fate of Major Miller, whose disappearance on this comparatively short flight across the Channel is one of the strangest occurrences that the MELODY MAKER has ever had to report.

Before Major Miller's Band left for France it pre-recorded material for six weeks of broadcasting, under the Major's baton. This is being heard on the A.E.F. Programme according to schedule.

At the moment the band is continuing its concerts to the Allied troops on the Continent under the leadership of ace-arranger Sergeant Jerry Gray, and there is a possibility that the band may be brought back to England to record further programmes for the air before going on its travels again.

Whether the band will return to America or continue under its present leadership in the European sphere of operations has not at the moment been decided.



MAJOR GLENN MILLER

BARRITEAU SEASON AT SOTON

CARL BARRITEAU and his Band, who have been enjoying a very long spell of touring with Variety and one-night stands, have now gone into one month's resident engagement at the Court Royal Hotel, Southampton, where they commenced on January 1.

For this, his first resident engagement playing for dancing in a long while, Carl Barriteau is using his full-sized stage combination.

On January 9, the clarinet maestro comes to the microphone as a solo artist in the "Workers' Playtime" programme.

A new tenor man who has already gained many supporters among the discriminating has joined Carl Barriteau in the person of Chris Curtis, who comes to the band fresh from an eighteen months' season with Lew Stone.

A stylish player, Chris, who has already been acclaimed by the London swing world, should not be in the sort of surroundings that suit him down to the ground.

Little Leader for Harry

THE profession will hasten to join us in congratulating London Astoria maestro Harry Leader, whose New Year "gift" took the form of a baby son.

Both Mrs. Leader and the embryo baton-wielder are doing well, and the nearest addition to the Leaders is to be named Andrew.

LOU PREAGER COLLAPSES AFTER LAUNCHING NEW WEST END THEATRE-NITERIE

AS we close for press, we learn that popular bandleader Lou Preager has been taken to the London Clinic, following a complete nervous breakdown.

His illness comes at an unfortunate time, for he had just musically launched the highly unusual experiment on Boxing Day of reopening a long-closed West End theatre as London's latest bottle-party.

Venue is the old Royalty Theatre in Dean St., Soho, which has been closed for seven years. Now the interior of this historic place of entertainment, which must be mellowed by the ghosts of famous stage figures of the past, has been very ingeniously and most attractively converted into a smart night club, and Lou Preager presents, and at times has been presiding over with his baton, the lively seven-piece dance band installed.

Conversion of the theatre into the "Royalty" niterie has been carried out by covering-in the gallery and circle, making the dance floor amid the stalls, and housing the band in the front part of the stage, the back part being curtained off.

Effect is extremely novel, apart from the obvious drawback that the band, being separated from the dance floor by the width of the former orchestra pit, seems too far from the dancers to produce that atmosphere of intimacy usual in night resorts.

STYLISH MUSIC

However, any such small drawbacks are nullified by the liveliness of the band. Presided over, at such times as Lou Preager is absent, by Hammersmith clarinet stalwart and stylist Jack Carter, and containing several more of the Hammersmith boys, the outfit goes in for a very bright and modern style.

Jack Carter's first-class clarinet playing is supported by Harry Finch (trumpet); Dennis Cracknell (tenor sax); Don Pearsall (alto sax); Charles Shepherd (piano); Dave Clifton (drums); and Keith Lewis (bass).

Featured vocalist with the outfit is broadcasting and Hammersmith favourite Edna Kaye.

Sharing the honours at the "Royalty" is the seven-piece rumba band of piano-vocal notability Stanley Carter. Coming along from the Slavia Club to the "Royalty" in the late evenings, this outfit plays some lively sessions, and succeeds in imparting a tremendous amount of atmosphere.

Lou Preager returned home in the early morning of January 2, following a hectic day of rehearsal and broadcasting, succeeded by an appearance at the new niterie. He had been ill for days, and had had a doctor called almost constantly at his side during the hectic day's work on Monday. On reaching home he collapsed completely, and the doctor being called to the house, was ordered straight to hospital.

In addition to nervous exhaustion, Lou is suffering from severe internal trouble. He has been ordered several weeks of complete rest.

All our readers will wish him a speedy return to good health.

Name Band

DEREK HAWKINS Policy at H'smith

TO inaugurate the New Year, Hammersmith Polals has embarked on a "big band" policy, which has commenced this current week by the introduction of Harry Parry and his Radio Sextet, who were heard broadcasting from the Palais-together with Lou Preager and his Band, and a cabaret which included the one and only Anne Shelton, with Pat Dodd at the piano—on January 1.

The policy will continue next week with the introduction of Phil Green and his Band; and the week after—commencing Monday (15th)—Felix Mendelssohn and his Hawaiian Dance Orchestra will be the Palais' guest stars.

All these bands will be playing the full week, at all sessions, and there will thus be three bands regularly playing at the Palais during these guest appearances, since Lou Preager's Band, and Sid Simone's Dance Band, will also officiate.

M.D. Lou Preager, in conjunction with the management, fixed the above functions, and others are on the way.

DEREK HAWKINS TURNS PRO

DEREK HAWKINS, probably the best-known British semi-pro, instrumentalist, has turned professional.

He came into the limelight with a bang in May, 1942, when his own five-piece Swingtete won the "M.M." All-Surrey Championship at Wimbledon.

Among the Judges on that occasion was trombone-ace Ted Heath, who was so amazed by the genius of this 23-year-old alto and clarinet player that he brought him to the attention of Gerald, who at once had him featured as a solo attraction in a big swing concert at the Stoll Theatre, London, later in the same month.

Derek's brilliant playing was a sensation, and since that time he has been inundated with offers by all the best-known London leaders to join their bands.

A young man of great principles, far more concerned with enjoying the music he plays than making money out of it, he resisted these offers, and has continued his South London semi-pro work, occasionally doing a job for Ted Heath, Nat Allen and Frank Weir.

ORIGINAL JAZZMAN

Recently he was with the Vic Lewis-Jack Parnell Jazzmen, and was one of the original members of this outfit.

Now he has decided to take advantage of the interesting work that is piling up for him. Last Monday he stepped in at a moment's notice to take over the alto chair in Harry Parry's Sextette for their New Year broadcast from the Hammersmith Palais, and he is now getting ready to take up the jobs that he has been offered in London.

We are always glad to give a send-off to a deserving musician, so leaders interested in this news should contact Derek at Shepherd's Bush 2971.

Miff Ferrie Robbed

DURING the early evening of Friday, December 29, thieves broke into Miff Ferrie's flat and turned the place inside out, making off with Miff's trombone as well as a great deal of other valuable property.

The stolen instrument is an Olds trombone, lightweight model with small-medium bore, in gold lacquer finish. It has a special case edged with brass, with red plush interior.

Any reader having information about such an instrument is asked to communicate with the local police or with Miff Ferrie.

CHAPPELL'S

COME OUT COME OUT
WHEREVER YOU ARE

and
As Long As There's Music

WHERE THE
BLUE BEGINS
MY WISH

AND
Both from George Black's London Hippodrome Production "JENNY JONES"

50, NEW BOND STREET, LONDON, W.1

