VOL. 23 No. 715

APRIL 19, 1947

THREEPENCE

The American "Invasion" Is On!

LENA HORNE IS DU

Count Basie in Line for European

by some of the most famous figures in America's vast entertainment industry is well and truly on. In the cearhead of the forces to come over here will be famous freen and dance band vocal star Lena Horne; the sensational vocal team, the Andrews Sisters; Count Basie with is Band; and Canada's number one band, Mart Kenny in this "Western Gentlemen."

The Melody Maker is able explusively to announce that, prodicing a certain technicality is country will be decided by present comed out—which it should be in the course of the next few days—Lena Horne will arrive in this moment, but is definitely lined

"has been invited to give a Command Performance at Bucking—ham Palace"!) stresses that the Musicians' Union in England will not permit the booking of American bands in this country, but states that advance preparations have been made for Basie's "first appearance on foreign soil after more than a decade of musical triumphs in America."

Currently the band is engaged on a theatre tour of the eastern States, and is booked for a four-week club date in Chicago in May.

Already in this country is harentertainment industry is well and truly on. In the spearhead of the forces to come over here will be famous spearhead of the forces to come over here will be famous screen and dance band vocal star Lena Horne; the sensational vocal team, the Andrews Sisters; Count Basie with his Band; and Canada's number one band, Mart Kenny and his "Western Gentlemen."

The Millody Maker is able exclusively to announce that, providing a certain technicality is ironed out—which it should be in the course of the next few days—Lena Horne will arrive in this country in the middle of July for a ten weeks' tour a ten weeks' tour a ten weeks' tour theatres.

Born in New York in 1919.
Lena Horne first worked as a night lub entertainer, and later appeared as a vocal st with Noble Sissle. Charlie Barnet and Duke Ellington. She achieved local fame as a series of variety appearances. The position as regards Count Basie is not too clear at the moment, although it is freely rumoured that he and the band will be visiting Europe in the very near future.

In view of the stir caused by the European appearances of the Don Redman Band—no longer and practical first of the same show.

She appeared with Cab Calloway's band in the film "Stormy Weather." in "Two Giris and a Salior" with the Harry James band, and in "Thousands Cheer." "Broadway Rhythm," and "Ziegfelf Follies."

For her tour of this country, Lena will be accompanied by the Sand, and in "Thousands Cheer." "Broadway Rhythm," and "Ziegfelf Follies."

For her tour of this country, Lena will be accompanied by the sunday and the film enter the salic to state that, despite on the country half she countries that Basie to state that, chespite she countries that Basie to state that, chespite she countries that Basie to state that chespite she countries that Basie to state that, chespite she countries that Basie to state that, chespite she countries that Basie to state that, chespite she countries that Basie to state that the countries that Basie to screen and dance band vocal star Lena Horne; the sensa-

May.

Already in this country is harmonica virtuoso Larry Adler, who at 2.20 p.m. on Friday last arrived at London Airport complete with two hundred harmonicas, in a Pan-American Airways "Constellation."

Here for his first playing appearance in eight years, Larry is engaged on a fortnight's concert tour arranged by impresario

returns to London for a grand debut at the Royal Albert Hall on Saturday (19th). Subsequent dates will take place at the Odeon, Golders Green (20th); the Caird Hall, Dundee (21st); the St. Andrew's Hall, Glassow (22nd); the Usher Hall, Edinburgh (23rd); and the City Hall, Newcastle (24th). On Sunday (27th) he will make yet another concert appearance at the Royal Albert Hall.

A feature of all these concerts—and one that may well surprise some 300,000 British fans who remember him mainly for his swing interpretations—is that Larry is now primarily concentrating on classical works.

Recent films featuring Larry were "Music for Millions" and "Birds and Bees."

Larry Adler

In Churchills

for/him to continue working until

This coming week-end, the MELODY MAKER understands that both Ronnie Scott (tenor); and Tony Cremble (drame), will be letting the bard. These two cruies are planning to take a letting to America, if conditions

Whether the two remaining members of the outnt—Jack Fallon (bass) and Pete Chilver (guitar) will continue working with the band is not known at present, since Jack Jackson told us as we closed for press that he was not then in a position to make any statement about new personnel or any further possible changes in his band.

MOSS KAYE IN

HOSPITAL

0

Reshuffle

4 6 m. each day.

Ros and Grappelly in New 90 Minute Air-Series

The currently popular BBC policy of introducing contrasting bands in special programmes gets its biggest fillip on Wednesday, May 7, when a new ninety-minute programme, featuring three well-known orchestras, takes the air.

Under the title of "Music All the Way," the broadcast will feature the Latin American rhythm of Edmundo Ros and his twelve-piece orchestra; the popular classical music of the Queer's Hail Light Orchestra (conducted by Sidney Torch); and the inimitable drawing-room swing of Stephane Grappelly and his Quintette, with Denny Dennis singing.

It will come on the Light Programme from noon to 1.30 pm. for a series, and when full broadcasting is restored it is hoped to take the programme en bloc to a later and better hatening time.

Apart from this interesting series, Edmundo Rou is very may with other broadcasts. This donate form the light of the series of the National Sunday Fasting to making a periodal tracker. Fedmundo Rou is very may with other founded at the broad classification of the series of the first broadcast from a period at the first broadcast from a negative of the first broadcast from a negative from Churchitis. Jack Jackson and his Band will also be featured in that forty-five-minute airing.

Skyrrockots

Heath-Herman-AFF In the The AFF In Jamboree

Tie-Up

SEEKING for something extra the Special to feature in his programme for the Jazz Jamboree at the State, Eliburn, on Sunday week (27th), Ted Heath hit on the enterprising idea of contacting wood-hoppers Ball."

Ted's agent, Leslie Macdonnell, of Poster's Agency, at once set the Transatlantic cables huzzing. Back came a message with the wood-hoppers Ball."

Ted's agent, Leslie Macdonnell, of Poster's Agency, at once set the Transatlantic cables huzzing. Back came a message with the wood-hoppers Ball."

To make featured on Way to the first broadcast from a negative of the Wood-hoppers and the willing offer of his arrangements of "Northwest Passage." "Appl. Honey" and "Court Father's Moustache State Passage." "Appl. Honey" and "Court

Skyrockets Get Around

FROM May 4, London and provincial fans will have the opportunity of hearing Paul Fenoulinet's Skyrockets at a series of Sunday concerts.

These take the famous London Palladium show band to the Empire Hackney (4th); the Empire Kin der (11th); the Saville Thoatte Verilisth; the Pier Pacifion, bout (25th); and the White Rock, Paul Radio acness Can Hastings (12 ne 15).

Radio acness Can Hasting (12 ne 15).

Realings (13 ne 15).

Radio acness Can Hasting (13 ne 15).

Meanwhile, Jazz Jamberee Rock, Paul Meanwhile, Jazz Jamberee Rockets on April 27.

Meanwhile, Jazz Jamberee Rockets at the presented by the Skyrockets at the presented by the Skyrockets at the Kilburn State on Sunday, April 27.

A snag the inquiries lailed by the copy of the record in this is a 17. The idea looked the a mist a until April 8, when Derek faraday, of Star Sound Studies, 'phoned disc-jockey Raip' Modatt at the AFN proadcastics station. Munich, Moffatt bullingly as sed to play the record in his programme that some thant so that Star could retected it over here.

Listeners to Munich will have heart that Moffatt did his part in the tyle—giving a brief explana-

BAD break for famous Stanley Black tenorman Mossy Kaye finds him this week in hospital for a nasal operation. He will be away from the band for ten days or a fortnight, during which time his chair will be capably occupied by Billy Amstell. Mossy is in the private wing of the Royal National Nose. Throat and Ear Hospital in Gray's Inn Road. London, where he would be delighted if friends would write him, whilst those in Town may look in for a chat at any reasonable time. We join his many admirers in wishing Mossy the speediest possible recovery.

Felix Gives Up Television

is band is engaged our of the eastern booked for a fourite in Chicago in this country is haris larry Adler, who friday last arrived port complete with harmonicas, in a Airways "Conis first playing appearance in eight years, Larry is engaged on a fortnight's concert tour arranged by impresario Harold Fleiding. Aiready, during the current week, he has played to packed audiences at Blackpool. Sheffield and Bristol. Tonight (Thursday) he is billed to appear at the King's Hall, Belle Vue, Manchestew.

Prom there he andon for a grand Royal Albert Hall 18th). Subsequent ake place at the cris Green (20th):

With these words, wolf!" With these words, fellx Mendelssohn, leader of the Hawaiian Serenaders Band, told the Mislody Makke on Tuesday that he has made his peace with the powerful GTC theatre group, whose anti-television edict he defied last June.

It will be remembered that he took up the cudgels on behalf of the profession when he refused to cancel a television date, despite an ultimatum from GTC.

Immediately all his dates were cancelled with this nation-wide corporation, which owns the leading music-halls throughout the country, and Felix, full of enthusiasm for a cause in which he strongly believed, readjusted working in independent theatres and on one-night stands.

He now announces that he is returning to work for GTC, and will play his first date for them at the Alhambra, Bradford, in the week commencing May 19, accepting, in so doing, their ban-on-television clause.

Telephoning from Glasgow, where he is currently playing Green's Playhouse Ballroom, Felix told the Mislody Makker. "Whilst I would have liked to continue the fight, I could have liked to continue the fight.

(Please turn to page 8)

PREAGER

PROVINCIAL fans who have not hitherto seen Hammersmith Palais mainstay Lou Preager can watch out for a series of personal appearances by this famous leader when, on Sunday (20th) he and his fifteen-piecer, commence a four weeks tour of one-night stands.

tour of one-night stands.

The bookings, which have been negotiated by Lou's band agent brother Alf, will take the band to the following venues:—

South Parade Pier, Southsea (20th); Winter Gardens, Ventnor, LO.W. (21st); Guildhall, Southampton (22nd); Leas Cliff Hall, Folkestone (23rd); Baths, Dulwich (24th); Winter Gardens, Margate (25th); and the Pavilion Bath (25th).

On Sunday, April 27, Lou will, of

Pavilion, Bath (28th).

On Sunday, April 27, Lou will, of course, return for his appearance at the 1947 Jazz Jamboree, then, the same evening, he will again travel to Bath for a concert at the Pavilion.

Subsequent dates take place at the Plaza Ballroom, Derby (28th); Victoria Ballroom, No t t in g h a m (29th); Empress Ballroom, Wigan

Baltroom, Wigan
(29th); Empress
Baltroom, Wigan
(30th); Corn Exchange, Bedford
(May 1); Town Hall, Cheltenham
(2nd); Winter Gardens, Westonsuper-Mare (3rd); Odeon, Cardiff
(4th); a dance at Cardiff (5th); Floral
Hall, Bouthport (6th); Bpa. Scarborough (7th); Galety Ballroom,
Grimsby (8th); Victoria Hall, Hallfax (9th); Pavilion, Buxton (19th);
then an afternoon concert at the De
Montfort Hall, Leicester (11th), with
an evening appearance at the
Trentham Gardens, Stoke-on-Trent.
Following these extensive onenighters, Lou will make a week's
tour of the South-West, which commences at Exeter.

A special feature of the band's
appearances will be the spotlighting of Lou's new twenty-year-old,
titian - haired vocalist Eileen
Orchard, who made her debut at
Hammersmith Palais on Easter
Monday.

Until Lou Preager returns to

Monday.
Until Lou Preager returns to
the Hammersmith Palais on
May 18, his position there will be (Please turn to page 8)



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Glimax of the Hammersmith Palais "Write-a-Tune" Contest (pictured on the facing page) was reached last Saturday night (12th) when the winner, Miss Jennie Parker (left), of Auckland, Co. Durham, joined film star Margaret Lockwood and vocalist Paul Rich in singing her £500 winning song, "You Went Away and Left Me."

In white and black tonalin, number 8600, its loss has been reported to the Liverpool police; but anyone having information to offer should contact the nearest

offer should contact the nearest police station without delay, or the Blue Rockets office, 23, Albemarle Street (Regent 0512).

Rocket dates for the immediate future are: Salutation Hotel, Perth (16th); Douglas Hotel, Aberdeen (18th and 19th); Baths Hall, Grimsby (22nd); Saltburn (23rd).

HIS many friends in Town will be sorry to learn that bassist Harry Gensen is at present in hospital recuperating after an operation. He expects to be out and about again in a few days' time.

Previously with Harry Gold and his Pieces of Eight. Harry Henson is nowadays free-lancing, tackling both dance and straight work. His new phone number when he returns to circulation is Gladstone 8378.

GORDON BEESON, well-known musical instrument doctor, now has a new address, having moved from his Torrens Street premises. Gordon is located at 245, Pentonville Toad. London, N.1 (near King's Cross)—telephone: Terminus 6124—where he will be pleased to see old and new customers.

BANDLEADER Jack Olivere, booked by promoter Jim Heyworth for a aummer season appearance at the Tremorvah Ballroom. Truro, from May 24, urgently requires a trumpet player and two alto saxists. Interested musicians should contact Jack Olivere at 49, Melgund Road, London. N5 (NORth 2351).

B LUE Rockets saxophonist Vic Straight came back to the stand after an interval at the Grafton Rooms, Liverpool, on Tuesday (8th), to find his Brilhart mouthplece had been stolen. In white and black tonalin, number 8600, its loss has been reported to the Liverpool police; but anyone having information to offer should contact the nearest

ON Sunday next (April 20), Sydney and Bernard Bloom Productions present another feast of swing at the Empire Theatre, Hackney.

Heading an interesting and varied bill will be Harry Parry and his Sextet, with Jean Bradbury, Josephine Barry and Pat O'Regan; Denny Dennis, with Steve Race at the plano; Carol Calores and her Sisters (the musical act); and impressionist Rex Eaton.

Eaten.
This will be an evening show commencing at 7 p.m.

OPENINO tonight (Thursday) at the Victoria Palace, London, in the new Jack Hylton show, "Together Again," the Radio Revellers have been given special stage setting, with lift and special microphone, for their famous "Desert Island Discs" comedy presentation. presentation.

presentation.

Their record of "Open the Door.
Richard," scheduled for release on
May 3, will now be issued under the
Columbia label instead of Parlophone,
as originally announced.
Next alring from the Revellers will
be in "Happidrome" on April 27

1 * A BSENT from the profession for the past six months. Horms Clarks returned to face the microphone again as vocalist with Jack Coles and his Music Masters in "Band Parade" on March 31. She will be regularly singing with this band.

Reason for her absence has been Christine Lynn, Norma's newly born, who was christened at Priory Church, Worksop, last Sunday (13th).

ROUND THE HALLS WITH THE "M.M."

Heath Stage-Show Fine for Fans But Only Fair for Family

THE best way to describe Ted Heath's Variety offering in London this week is to embellish (with due apologies) the words of a once-famous figure of history and proclaim: "It is magnificent—but it is not music-hall."

That just about sums things up. If you are one of the legion of fans making a mecca of Finsbury Park Empire, then you will almost certainly be overjoyed at what Ted, with his great band of cornermen and stars, weak.

The best way to describe Ted in any delight the kids at fan concerts, this was real Variety, and his "Heythis week, at the novel, nor tuneful enough for the theatre audience, and didn't mean a thing. It's a shame, too, about Paul Carbeater, that young man who is so wersatile, voluble, good-looking, and other theatre audience, that young man who is so wersatile, voluble, good-looking, and this was real Variety, and his "Heythis week, at the heatre audience, and didn't mean a thing. This week, at the cheatre audience, and didn't mean a thing. It's a shame, too, about Paul Carbeater, that young man who is so wersatile, voluble, good-looking, and costing personality. He competed in through dance interpretable true, whilst the material for his true, whilst

That just about sums things up.
If you are one of the legion of fans
making a mecca of Finsbury Park
Empire, then you will almost certainly
be overjoyed at what Ted, with his
great band of cornermen and stars,
has to offer you.

great band of cornermen and stars, has to offer you.

On the other hand, if you are one of music-hall's regular staid and elderly patrons, then you've had it, and Ted Heath's Music—with its superlative but at times strident brass, and its continuous accent on swing—is not the music for you.

Heaven forbid, however, that this should be construed in any way as a suggestion that Ted, after building up the greatest swing band outside America, should suddenly try to assume the mantle of one of the "down-to-earth," corny and commercial stage-bandleaders of which this country already has far too many.

mercial stage-bandleaders of which this country already has far too many.

On the music-hall stage, as elsewhere, Ted Heath remains magnificen'ly Ted Heath remains magnificen'ly Ted Heath and you either like him or you don't. Pans will thank fed for not pandering too much to commercial interests; for not listening too seriously to those perfectly sincere and knowledgeable well-wishers who, in his dressing-room on the first night, were saying: "Of course, you'll never make any money out of it the way it is, old boy, but if you were to sacrifice this, that and the other, you could still build up a sensational commercial show."

In a packed second house on Monday last the band's reception wasn't exactly overwhelming, except from the noisy and sometimes overdemonstrative "pockets" of youthful fans.

The band opened with their sensa-

demonstrative "pockets" of youthful fans.

The band opened with their sensational "Bells of St. Mary's "arrangement, and closed with the showy but only very superficially exciting "Two O'Clock Jump." Between the two came all sorts of offerings, from Kenny Eaker—in slightly less than his usual brilliant form—playing "Dark Eyes," and Jack Parnell with an electrifyingly good drum solo in "Not Bo Quiet, Please," right down to a fine rendering of the superb Alan Bristow arrangement of Debussy's "Clair de Lune," featuring prame ace Morman Stenfalt in a new and tasteful rôle.

tasteful rôle.
Only trouble about the last offering, it was too long. Only possible trouble with Jack Parnell—about whose marvellous drumming I could eulogise for ever—is that, whilst his vocalisms

CALL SHEET

(Week commencing April 21)

Ivy BENSON and Girls' Band.
Palace. Leicester.
Blanche COLEMAN and Girls' Band.
One-night Stands, North.
Billy COTTON and Band.
Palace, Chelsea.

Palace, Chelsea,
Leslis DOUGLAS and Band.
One-night Stands, London and
Midlands.

Serenaders. Green's Playhouse Ballroom,

Glasgow,
Sid MILLWARD and Nitwits
Empire, Middlesbrough.
Woolf PHILLIPS and Band
Scaburn Hall, Sunderland.
Oscar RABIN and Band.
One-night Stands, London.
Charles SHADWELL and Orchestra.

Grand, Derby.

Anne SHELTON.
Empire, Newcasile.
Squadronaires.
Hippodrome, Birmingham.

Rey FOX and Band.

weak.
Still, it remained a great stage-band show, which was all the more surprising when it is considered that the planning of the whole thing is fundamentally wrong. The right numbers were played, in the wrong order, the show built up to no kind of climax at all, and Ted Heath displayed throughout—almost defiantly. I thought—his completely amateur status in the matter of planning for Variety, as opposed to his recognised genius for catering for all those whose first and only consideration is for brilliantly played swing.—J. M.



Listeners to lest Saturday's "Jazz Club" (12th) enjoyed an unusual noise when Dennis Rose (above), trumpet niayer with Johnny Swinfen at Hammersmith Palais, gusetad on the broadcast, and went to Town in great style on his tener sor.

Roy FOX and Band.
Empire, Oldham.
Gloria GAYE and Girls' Band.
Empire, New Cross.
Stephane GRAPPELLY and George
SHEARING.
Palace, East Ham.
Henry HALL and Band.
Empress, Brixton.
Felix MENDELESOHN and Hawaiian

THIS week, at the Empire, Shepherd's Bush, bandleaderess try Beasson is presenting a versatile—if too ambitious—show repicte with swing, dance, straight, and vocal specialities. The girls even sing as a choir.

The band salls most smoothly through dance interpretations; only when venturing into swing does it tend to get into deep water. For example, its rendition of Krupa's "Drummin' Man," while giving percussionists Paula Pyke and Joan Heisen an opportunity to display both charm and talent, bore unfavourable comparison with Gene's own version. However, the brass section, particularly soloist Gene's Cole, gave a creditable, if breathless, performance. The band's stab at Harry James was perhaps a trifle mortifying.

Highspots of the show were the comedy version of "Open the Door, Richard," and the debut of fourteen-year-old songstress Anne Beverley, Anne, who has switched from school to stage, should prove a valuable adjunct to what, generally speaking, is an entertaining show.

Eric Winstone

NOW appearing at the Empire,
Chiswick Eric Winstone and his
band are presenting a programme of
varied appeal—both from the viewpoint of the jivesters and Joe Public,
Vibes expert Roy Marsh is given full
rein in "Running Wild," and is ably
backed by the drumming of featured
vocalist Alan Kane and the stylish
improvisation of tenor saxist Jerry
Bowman.

improvisation of tenor saxist Jerry Bowman.

The band's strong point is the reed section, but the brass team, lacking a full complement of instruments, is somewhat thin in tone.

Nevertheless, the whole band plays with considerable attack, and rides along on a steady, rhythmical beat.

Owing, possibly, to a too-intimate approach to the mike, Julis Bawm did not feature her voice to the best advantage. Specifically, in "Tess's Torch Song,"—which should be sung subtly—she tended to blast.

High spets of the show were undoubtedly Alan Kane's guying of sobsinger Al Joison, and the Musical Quiz, when members of the audience were asked to guess the signature tunes of leading bands.

A commendable feature throughout was Eric's own nonchalant, but decidedly humorous, announcing.

HILSDEN GIVES UP LEADING HIS friends all over the world

the breadesst, and went to Town in great style on his tener oor.

A BOON FOR SAXISTS

TWO well-known musicians have turned inventors. They are noted saxist Ralph Willson. It is concluded his third long run at Sherry's, Brighton, on April 4. Les, who has wandered far and off or some years leader at Grosvenor House, and bassist Albert Torrance, of Sidney Lipton's Band, and they have intended to sherry to lead and the sax pophone players.

Costing only 4s. 6d., it is called the "Bact"—a name derived from the initials of the reed instruments for which it can be used—baritone, alto, clarinet and tenor.

Designed by practising musicians for practising musicians, the implement takes up less room, in your pocket than a small cigarette lighter, and is already being used by such stars of the profession as E. O. Pogson, Joe Crossman, Harry Hunter (of Stanley Black's Orchestral), and the sax sections of Carroll Gibbons' Band at the Dorchester, etc.

We have tested the "Bact," and cordially recommend it to our saxophone-playing readers.

HIB friends all over the world will be very sorry to hear that, owing to ill-health, globe-trotting planist-leader Les Hillsden had to give up bandleading, and concluded his third long run at Sherry's, Brighton, on April 4. Les, who has wandered far and wide as a planist and a bandleader, visiting dozens of countries, appearing oxers of countr

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HITS AND PIECES

TIN PAN ALLEY'S getting ready for its own Test Match, the Eng-land v. America pop song duel. With land v. America pop song duel. With a better-than-average batch of potentials, there's going to be a battle royal during the next few months. The Alley boys handling the corny stuff will have to scheme plenty to fight the stiff opposition, but I've a hunch that a cluster of home-grown ditties will be strong challengers for the top frame positions.

will be strong challengers for the top frame positions.

"Anniversary Song," "Old Lamplighter," and "Stars will Remember" again barred the way to "Richard" taking place money, and it doesn't look like the knock-snock guy will make the Number One spot after all. "Zipa Dec Doo Dah" came back after short vacation, and now really shaping like a hit.

Welcome visitor to my office was Raiph Sylvester, late Jack Payne vocalist. Told me all Ireland is clamouring for the Joe Loss Band, and, by the way, Joe broke his own fourteen-year-old record at the South Parade Pier, Southsea, the other week.

Parade Pier, Southsea, the other week.

Shock Dept.!—Well-known Mayfair maestro who hadn't broadcast any of a certain publisher's hit tunes for the past two years 'phoned for orchestration of a current favourite, and was flaobergasted when told he'd been taken off the free list. Collie Knox and your scribe, Sammy pinned the same rave on arranger man Bob Sharples in last Thursday's "Mail" and "M.M." I swear it wasn't "hxed.". I've a strong yen for "Sweetheart, You're Like My Favourite Song," which Hall Stone tried to sing in "Music Hall.". Maybe if a few more artists and producers would follow the lead of Geng Growley's sensational plug for British songwriters on John Sharman's package last Saturday night, our own Irving Berlins and Cole Porters would become universally famous too.

Pat On the Back Dept.!—To Elton

orters would become universally amous too.

PAT ON THE BACK DEFT.!—To Elton los. Sonny Cox and Mickey Michaels or a smart job on new framer "High- los on the fire on the los on new framer "High- los on new framer "You Went Away and Left Me." " famous too.

Pat On the Back Dept.!—To Elton
Bos, Sonny Cox and Mickey Michaels
for a smart job on new framer "HiJig-a-Jig." . . . Scotland's football
fans showed no respect for "Britain's
Top Tunes" last week-end. "I
Belong to Glasgow" was the only
one featured on their Hit Parade.
. . I'm telling you that "How are
Things in Glocca Morra?" will sweep!
Here's a real corker cooked up by

by SAMMY QUAVER

I've more to come, and I'll ret it, don't worry." "Gonna sue me?" asked the pub. "I don't have to," replied tunesmith; "I married your bookkeeper two weeks ago, and I know what's due." some Broadway yarn-spinners: When a Yank songwriter was presented with a royalty statement and cheque, he told publisher: "I don't want that. know what's due."

Here, There and Everywhere!

Freddle Bamberger looking for a big closing number. How's about it, Desmond O'Connor?. "It's the Beginning of the End" coming up fast, and should soon make the frame. Leslie Douglas's "Richard" disker getting heck of a ride over AFN, a terrific prestige boost for the popular singing maestro. . Maurice Winnick from Ciro's, Carroll Gibbons and Roberto Inglez from the SayJy, and Syuney Linton from Grosvenor House will bring touch of old-time class to inte-night listening, and remember I told you the big names would gradually creep back for the weekly shut-tye sessions.

ANNIVERSARY SONG ... C. and C. APRIL SHOWERS ... Chappell BON'T FAIL IN LOVE ... Bradbury-Wood FIVE MINITES MORE ... Morris GO HAME ... Yale ... Yale ... Yale ... Yale ... How L'TKY YOU ARE ... Kessner OPEN THE DOOR, RICHARD ... Leeds RICKETY RICKSHAW MAN ... Southern SENTIMENTAL REASONS PETER MAURICE THE OLD LAMPAGHTER ... Dash THE STARS WILL REMEMBER ... Peldman TO EACH HIS OWN ... Victoria

TO EACH HIS OWN Peldman

*WHEN CHINA BOY METS CHINA

GIRL Macmelodies

ZIP-A-DEE-DOO-DAH Sun Music · Newcomer to France.

U.S. HIT PARADE

Betty Dale made boffo ether comeback, and really swung on down in
"The Jars Club." No truth in
rumour that Jack Simpson has applied
to MCC to rehearse his band at
Lord's this summer. Bet Stanley
Matthews was singing "I'm a Little
on the Lonely Side" out on the right
wing at Wembiev. Pardon me.
Mr. Editor, but "The Little Old Mill"
is teeing off on "Itma" tonight
(Thursday). Printer's error last
week. Wonder how many bandleaders have asked Teddy Holmes for
"Oklohoma" tickets. Strange
that none of the contact fellers have
thought of plugging "United Dairies."
The milk-round boys can really sell thought of plugging "United Dairles.

The milk-round boys can really sell pops, and they sing and whistle the right tune too! . What's gonna happen when a bandleader who's 'ust lost a broadcast through the fuel cuts gets an 8 a.m. letter asking him to feature "Oh, What a Beautiful Morning"? . . In my opinion, the £560 Hammersmith song winner, "You Went Away and Left Me." is not another "Cruising Down the River." . . .

1. ANNIVERSARY SONG (1-1-1-2-2-5).
2. HOW ARE THINGS IN GLOCCA
MORRA? (2-2-5-9).
3. MANAGUA NICARAGUA (2-2-2-2-8-

Britain's Top Tunes (In alphabetical order)

HERE is the list of the ten most popular songs in America during week ended April 12, as assessed by the weekly nation-wide ballot conducted by the American Tobacco Co., and broadcast in their "Your Hit Parade" programme over the CBS network:—

THAT'S THE BEGINNING OF THE END THAT LITTLE DREAM СНОО СНОО

CH' BOOGIE

GOT NOWHERE from "CROSS MY DEART"

VICTORIA MUSIC PUBLISHING CO. LTD. 14, St. George Street, Hanover Square, W.1. (Mayfair 7600.)

The Story in Pictures of the

"WRITE-A-TUNE" CONTEST



AFTER eighteen weeks on the air, the second Hammersmith Palais "Write-a-Tune" Contest ended on Saturday evening last (12th) in a blaze of glory, with the presentation by Margaret Lockwood of the first-prize cheque for £500 to seventeen-year-old factory worker Jennie Parker, of St. Helens, Auckland, Co. Durham, for her waltz, "You Went Away and Left Me."

No fewer than \$6,015 manuscripts were received throughout the course of the contest from British songwriters, and after all of these had been carefully vetted by expert judging committees, 72 selected numbers were broadcast by Lou Preager and his Orchestra from the Palais for listeners to vote their favourites.

the Palais for listeners to vote their favourites.

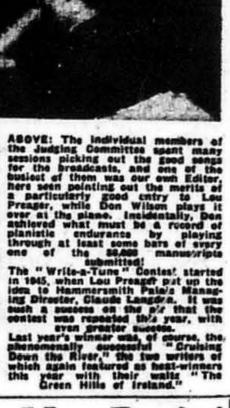
In the final voting, Jennie
Parker's song won the first prize
of £500: "Oh, Oh, Maria!", a
quick waltz by Frank Harper and
Charles Borchert, of Newport,
Mon, won £125 as runner-up; and
third prize of £75 went to Robert
this figure swe

Addis, of South Elmsall, Yorks, for his novelty foxtrot, "The Punch and Judy Man."

Four thousand listeners voted the first week of the contest, but this figure swelled steadily until, a week before the final, over 19,000 postcards were received, and altogether 129,156 listeners voted in the initial stages of the contest. This figure, however, was far transcended by the voting for the six final songs, for the colosal total of 708,000 postcards was received from listeners. On this page we present exclusive Marcor Maker pictures taken by our own cameraman, Jack Marshall, which show the various stages of a contest which has done a great deal to encourage British songwriters, and in which the standard of entries submitted throughout was extraordinarily high.



uniusky ones! Here are some of thousands and thousands of rais songs being returned to their we



ABOYE: Broadcasting the "Write-A-Tune" Contest from Hammersmit Palais. Les Prenger waits to bring in the band, while Ray Rich melies is announcement. Throughout the source of the Contest, the music published took a great interest in the sough broadcast, and bought several of the from their amateur writers. Box and Gox are publishing the winning sea while Strauss-Miller Music have bought the second and third prize winners—"Oh, Oh, Maria" and "The Punch-and-Judy Man."

ABOVE: Here you see the dudging Committee in session selecting the heat of the entries for Les Proager's breadcasts. Judges and interested entesters seen above are (1, to r., frest rew): Bon Wilson, Christopher Stone and Ray Senin (Editor of the "Melecty Maker"). At back (1, to "Bisecy Maker"). At back (1, to (general manager, Hammersmith Palais), Harry Sarton (resording manager of Deca) and Lou Proager.



ABOVE: A section of the office staff which checked and entered the song entries and the listeners' votes. They worked throughout the night on several occasions during the final week, when the staggering figure of 760,000 posteards had to be sorted out!

Those Were the Days, Mr. Basie!

This takes us from rather gushing to subdued, economical music, and we find our Mr. Basic

music, and we find our Mr. Basic at his always acceptable and (for all his outward simplicity) ingenious best.

"High Tide" is another riff effort, but, although more recently recorded, neither so effectively arranged nor so well played. Except for fair to middlin' tenor, trombone and trumpet solos, and a better contribution from Rudy Rutherford's clarinet, it is mostly muted trumpet and clarinet figures not helped by the rather cheap hand-clapping which goes on behind.

does not have to allow a first chick" is American slang for girl to tumble to the nauseating, sexy second meaning which is the obvious intention of the lyric of "Too Young to Fry."

As regards the performances, to offset the usual phony idea of boogie-woogie, "Choo Choo" has a quite good alto solo, "Chick's" has good alto and guitar solos, and both sides show Louis Jordan as a singer with style and personality. But neither record is a fair indication of what the Tympany Five can do musically.

GOUNT BASIE AND MIS ORCHESTRA

***over e a i h er Merchant (Basie,
Mundy) (Am. Columbia 19785)
Recorded approx. November,
1941).

***othigh Tide (Shert Kiek) (Basie,
Green, Rutherford) (Am.
Columbia 192238-3s. 14id.)

1595.—Braie (pno.) with Presten
(Love, George Tate, Hilmels Jacquet et Jacquet et Hilmels Jacquet et Jacquet et Hilmels Jacquet et Jacquet et Jacquet et Hilmels Jacquet et Jacq

which the riff motif is carried on in the accompaniments.

Then comes a change of mood which is at once an original and effective presentation. The Count comes in to give us three plano choruses over the usual walking bass in the accompaniment.

This takes us from rather Coording supervisor Milton Gabler. Yet all they managed to produce is little more than a copy of Lionel Hampton's "Hamp's Boogie."

Regarding the coupling, one does not have to know that "chick" is American slang for girl to tumble to the nauseating.

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BACK PERSONNELS

WOODY HERMAN AND HIS ORCHESTRA—" Linger In My Arms A Little Longer, Baby " (Parlophone R2017) (Reviewed "M.M." for 2/11/1946).

Herman (clart) with Joe "Filp" Phillips, John La Porta, Sam Marowitz. Mickey Folus, Sam Rubinwitch (reeds); Pete Condolf, Saul "Sonny" Berman, Milion Rogers (Ragensky), Irving Markowitz, Conti Grasso (tpts); Ralph Pfifiner. Ed Riefer, Bill Harris (tmbs); James Rowles (pno); Bill Bauer (gtr); "Chubby "Jackson (bass); Don Lamend (dms), Recorded April 14, 1946.

BENNY GOODMAN AND HIS ORCHESTRA—"On The Alamo" (Parlophone Blake, John Best (tpts); Lou McGarity, More Condon Recorded April 14, 1946.

BENNY GOODMAN AND HIS ORCHESTRA—"On The Alamo" (Parlophone Recorded April 14, 1946.

BENNY GOODMAN AND HIS ORCHESTRA—"On The Alamo" (Parlophone Recorded Recorde

BENNY GOODMAN AND HIS ORCHESTRA—"On The Alamo" (Parlophone R3018) (Reviewed "M.M." for 9'11/1946).

Goodman (clart) with Stanley Getz, Bill Shine, Geraid Santino, Daniel Bank, Howard Gilbertson (reeds); John Best, Bernie Privin, Emanuel Klein, Habert Shroff (tpts); Hoyt H. Bohannon, Robert L. "Lou" McGarity, Earle Le Fave (tmbs); Mel Fowell (pno); Michael Bryan May 14, 1946.

Mel Powell (pno); Mike Bryan (gtr); Barney Spieler (bass); Louis Bellson (dms). Vocalist: Benny Goodman. Recorded May 14, 1946.

(Parlophone E11453) (Reviewed "M.M."
for 1/2/1947).
Goodman (clart) with Bill Shine,
Howard W. Gilbertson, Daniel Bank,
Cliften Strickland, John Prager (reeds):
Bernard Privin, Nat Karebier, James
Blake, John Best (tpt5); Lou McGarity,
Robert Cutshall (tmbs); Addison Collins
(French horn); Johnny White (vibes);
Mel Powell (pno); Mike Bryan (gtr);
Barney Spieler (bass); Louis Belbson
(dms). Vocalist; Benny Goodman, Recorded May 14, 1946.



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* * * THE STARS OF SWING AND IAZZ

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things, it has to rely for success

ARTIE SHAW

and his Orchestra No. 13-Let's Walk: No. 14-The Glider - R 3027

ZEP MEISSNER DIXIELAND BAND

No. 15-Leavin' Town; No. 16 -New Orleans Masquerade R 3028

THE STARS TURN ON

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Bigger!

T is with great pleasure that we are able to present to you this week a bigger Melopy Maker, equal in size to a four-page daily newspaper.

We nope you will find the new size easier to read, and you will see that we are now able to devote more space to catering for every aspect of dance music, including minority interests, and in presenting even more of the news of the profession as accurately and soberly as we have always done.

In fact, we hope you will agree that we are not only maintaining but surpassing, the standard which for 21 years has enabled us to lead the field in British dance band journalism.

We feel that this is an opportunity to apologise to the thousands of people who are anxious to read the Melopy Maker but cannot buy it anywhere. The truth of the matter is that our circulation is now double that which we had at any time before the war, and has gone up by leaps and bounds during the past few years.

As we are only allowed a fixed quota of paper by the Paper Controller, it is impossible to satisfy the demands for the MELOPY MAKER every week and that is why you never see it on the bookstalls; it is either sold on the day it comes out or it is reserved for customers who have ordered it.

We nope it will one day be possible to open our subscription list again, but at the moment we sell every copy that we print, and we apologise to disappointed would-be subscribers, and to

newsagents clamouring for more copies.

When the paper position improves we will, of course, satisfy all the demands, and we thank you, our readers, for your loyal support and your friendliness throughout the years.

In putting us in the proud position of having a circulation much larger than that ever before attained in the history of British dance band journalism, you have shown your approval of our fairminded policy on all subjects concerning the dance band profession, and your interest in our features and our coverage of

We shall continue to do our best to deserve your support.

British

OUR story on the front page this week reveals commendable Woody Herman orchestrations to play at the forthcoming Jazz

Since the Jazz Jamboree is a shop-window for British bands, we hope that Ted will not lose sight of the fact that it should also be used as a shop-window for the best British arrangements.

used as a shop-window for the best British arrangements.

And while we are on the subject of home-grown products, we would like to congratulate warmly the songwriters whose entries for the Hammersmith Palais "Write-a-Tune" Contest set a high standard which conclusively proves that even the amateurs of this country can write good songs.

Since the public were the judges, and the British public is motoriously corny, it is no surprise that the winning song was a "tear-jerker" waltz, but we who judged the entries know that there were many excellent songs of a very high standard which would have been a credit to professional writers.

Which remark leads us smoothly to news of the newly formed Songwriters Guild; of Great Britain, which is really organising British tunesmiths into a fighting body able to protect their own interests. It is to be hoped that the leading songwriters, of the callibre of Noel Coward A. P. Herbert, etc.; will join to give it the prestige it deserves. Already Ivor Novello is a member—which is a grand start.



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Guts and Emotional Intensity-

WHAT is the secret of Stan these are which has included taking first honours in the "Metronome" poil and second place in "Down keynotes 6

nimself.

Oertainly the band's enthusiasm and tremendous vitality at all times may have had something to do with it; but, more than that, the success it has attained is not a little due to the untiring efforts of Stan Kenton himself.

No Ballyhoo

Though he had been playing plano and arranging from the early 'thirties, and had been a key man in both Gus Arnheim and Everett Hoadand's bands, nobody had ever heard of Stan Kenton until 1941. Even then it was confined to Californian musicians and enthusiasts, for Kenton scorned the ballyhoo and adjective-bound publicity that sky-rockets a new hand for a brief while only.

"No building-up to an awful let-down for me," declared Kenton at that time; for he was determined to get places on musicial merit only.

All the summer of 1941 the Kenton crew played the "Bendezvous" in Balkno, and many well-known musicians dropped in to bear what was adjudged to be the hottest band playing on the West Coast.

Decca signed them up, and a New York "Roseland" engagement followed. But the Decca increased them up, and a New York "Roseland" engagement followed. But the Decca signed them up, and a nemt followed. But the Decca records, four meediocre sides of which were issued over here on Brunswick, were so unrepresentative of the band that even Kenton himself said: "I wonder if it really is our band?" The "Roseland" job, which should have been a triumph, turned out a dismal failure.

"I'll go back to playing redight piano in a salocen if my style of music isn't accepted by the contract with the band since the early 'Torties, Vido Musso, for instance, who quit to lead his own outfit, has returned to the fold: whilst vocalist June of music isn't accepted by the contract with the band since the early 'Torties, Vido Musso, for instance, who quit to lead his own outfit, has returned to the fold: whilst vocalist June of music isn't accepted by the contract while the contract with the band since the early 'Torties, Vido Musso, for instance, who quit to lead his own outfit, has returned to the fold: whilst vocalist June of music isn't accepted by the contract which is the fold: whilst vocalist June of music isn't accepted by the contract with the band is not play the fold from now of the propagation. The band trekked back west and stored

STAN KENTON

public," Kenton told a "Down Beat" reporter.

However, in spite of the band's setbacks, Kenton did not carry out his threat; but he did have to make some concessions. No longer could he rely entirely on his own slick arrangements of original material; popular ballads had to be included from now on, and good-looking vocalists added. The band trekked back west and started all over again. The Kenton phænix started to rise again when, late in 1943, he signed an exclusive contract with the enterprise of the started to respond to the cord company. In

top femme singing honours in both polls, declared that she would have to be thrown out to

leave.

Other outstanding instrumentalists include twenty-year-old Buddy Childers, whose solo work is also to be heard with pick-up groups on various small labels; Bob Cooper, only a year older, whose tenor playing has been favourably compared with that of Lucky Thompson and Don Byas; and Danish-born Kai Winding, who takes most of the solo trombone in the band.

The rhythm section is considerably helped by the bass playing of Eddie Safranski and the solid drumming of Shelly Manne; while Kenton himself continues to occupy the piano chair, in addition to composing and sharing the arranging with Pete Rugulo. leave. Other

Personal Points: Benny Lee



Born in Glasgow, August, 1916, moved to Leeds with family and sang in school choir. At fourteen became tailor's assistant but quit this to join acrobatic songand-dance act at salary of 15s. a week. Returned to tailoring and work as a semi-pro drummer and actor in Glasgow. Attracted attention of Johany Class while singing at impromptu bachelor night, party, came to London and began broadcasting and recording with Claes and many other namebands. Has featured as an actor in many radio productions and starred as soloist in such programmes as "Top Ten." "Music from the Movies." "It's A Pleasure," "Showbeat of the Air," etc., as well as featuring with aimost every name dance almost every name dance band in the country. Now has his own recording con-tract with Decca, and star-ring in "Navy Mixture."

Favourite Musicians: Benny Goodman and Phil Harris.
Favourite Singers: Frank Sinatra and Billie Holiday.
Favourite Records: Anything by Benny Goodman and "Strange Fruit." by Billie Holiday.
Favourite Composers: Debussy and Duke Ellington.
Favourite Bands: Duke Ellington, Jimmy Dorsey and Ted Heath.
Favourite Food: Anything Chinese.
Hobby: Music.

TACTLESS TOPICS by Claude Bampton ANY OLD IRON?

THINK I am right in assuming that most of you did not have the great pleasure of knowing the late Barry Mill. He was a planist who chose to live his life in his own way, and he preferred the intimacy of night-clubs to the glare and blare of big bands, are lamps, limelight and publicity.

One of these days I would like to tell you more of flarry, but for now just take it that he was a claimst in a million, modest, shie lovable and brilliant; it is semething more than a pity that he did not level have the seence of big bands, and, thus, never out-of-date; always admired and respected, always the essence of good taste and planistic impeccability.

And his playing invariably a joy to those who knew him, was also to me at any rate, a constant source of amazement because the piano he played was one calculated to test the strendth of a navvy, the keyboard strendth of a navvy to the keyboard strendth of a navvy the was the strendth of a navvy the was the strendth of a navvy the was the strendth of a navvy the strendth of a navvy the keyboard strendth of a navvy the strendth of a navvy the keyboard strendth of a navvy the keyboard the strendth of a navvy the

whose massed came, smalled from black passcakes made by contemporaries and
predecessors.

His music was hand-made, free
from exapperation, extravagance,
extremes of style, free from cliches
and quotations lifted budily and
woven into patterns of his own; never
did he sound snything like anyone
other than himsell and, thus, never
could it be said that he was stylish
in the fashiomable sense.

In the ordinary way, if one is unfashiotable because one sounds like
oneself instead of how the critical
dictators of fashiom shielt that one
should sound, one gets acruibed of
the list as being comy beyond the
pale, not to be mentioned in the
illustrious presence of the enlightened
ones who know all shoul it.

One of the greatest compliments,
then, that can be paid to Barry Mill
is that if you mention his name to
an out-and-out dyed-in-the-wed (or
would it be in-the-tier?) swing-man
you get something of the surprise of
your life, althor I have long since
become used to it, when they say:

"Oh! Wonderful ... what a musician he was!"

And, of course, he certainly was;
never fashionable, but always
eminently stylish; mever up-to-date

Emotional Jazz

The band features, once more, many originals, biggest favourites being perhaps "Eager Beaver," "Artistry in Boogie," "Opus in Pastels." and "Slow Motion." This type of material explains, to some extent, what Kenton means by emotional big-band lazz; for he believes that though his band should play with its hair down, it should never sacrifice musical and technical ability for the sake of frenzy and effect.

The Kenton crew lately entered the, new Avodon Ballroom in Los Angeles at a reputed weekly figure of \$6,500. Meanwhile, Capitol Records announce a weekly Kenton release, one side of which will be a jazz instrumental featuring the individual talent of the band in progressive, unorthodox arrangements; while the other will take care of sales to the general public.

Hard work, musical ability and the leader's own personality and determination have brought about this success story and have fustly earned Stan Kenton's "Artistry in Rhythm" top place for 1947. Peter Tanner

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Letters

Wanted-Kid Krupa

Wanted—Kid Krupa

I HAVE just read your story concerning the Jam Jamboree of 1947 and am quite amazed, and disappointed, to find for the second year in ancession the omission of one of Britain's finest musicians and certainly one-of Britain's finest drummers—Victor Feldman!

When I first introduced hims to the dance band public in 1941, the Jamboree officials were only the happy to have victor on the bill. For several years after that, the Jamboree fams raved about Victor and his drumming.

Then suddenly they were cut off from his youthful penius. Why? Victor has proved, by his inclusion in the "Ficcation of the grown of the first penius. Why? Victor has proved, by his inclusion in the "Ficcation of the first penius. The suddenly they were cut off from his youthful penius. Why? Victor has proved, by his fullution in the "Ficcation of the first penius. Why? Victor has proved that the West End star, victor Feldman, is not invited to take part in the State, Kilburn, Jamboree.

What is the reason? You can't say he isn't good enough. Victor has never been better. Surely at his tender age he ham't offended the officials. That's impossible. So I'll finish off this letter with a friendly thy to the Jamboree promoters—put Victor Feldman in your show as you have done in the past, and add to its life, quality and novelty.

He was solid when I discovered him: he's twice as sol'd to-day.

Mapleton Hetel.

Ficcadilly, W.L.

Mapleton Hotel. Piccadilly, W.L.

Jam on It?

MUST we be robbed of the Art Thompson quartet in the forthcoming Jass Jamboree and be offered as compensation the Lou Preager Orchestra?

Surely he has little place in this "shop window" of British Jass? He has attained considerable success as a dance band, but the Jass Jamboree audience will be listening for the finer points of orchestration and for swing rather than perfect dancing tempo. I think too, that Buddy Peatherstonhaugh's excellent sextet should be included in the concert.

Devenport.

Harris-Fox

THE attitude of the MU and the DBDA towards Jack Harris is quite understandable, although it is scarcely consistent with that ahown towards Roy Pox. If the above organisations wish to discriminate between these two men they should plainly state their reasons.

I can see no justification for a state of affairs which allows Mr. Pox to remain in this country while Mr. Harris is prevented from joining him. In my opinion, the MU and the DBDA would be doing musicians in general a favour if they applied their rules to both parties concerned.

TONY LYTTON.

Paddington, W.2.

Paddington, W.2.

No Name Jive

WOULDN'T it be a great improvement in broadcast practice if the names of bandsmen, or at least the soloists, were announced on all dance band airings?

Rarely do we get more than the name of leader and vocalists to-day, although there are many like me interested in learning the identity of the musicians in the famous orchestras.

tras.

For thousands of fans the radio is the only means of learning about the bands of know from personal experience how difficult, it is to obtain, a copy of your paper), and it is unfortunate that these keen listeners should so seldom get the chance of inding out to whom they are listening.

Elland. Yorkshire.

S.A. and the M.U.

MAY I bring to your notice that the Martiple on the possibility of British dance musicians securing employment in Bouth Africa is completely misleading?

I must point out that the standard of musicianship, in Johannesburg at any rate, compares favourably with the best in "Town." Also, I'd like to stress the fact that there are only six jobs in the whole of Johannesburg for dance musicians, and there are naturally quite a number unemployed. The MU here is definitely not accepting any more overseas players. I have been trying for the last four months to gain admittance and have not yet succeeded!

HARRY SHERMAN (Guitarist).

Johannesburg, S. Africa.

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GERALDO FIXES LOMBARD AND BAND FOR 'MAURETANIA'



BAND

PARADERS

Vocalists with Howard will be Bette Roberts and Johnny Green.

The following week (28th) will be an all-girl "Band Parade," featuring tvy Benson's Cirls' Band and El Mario's Ramba Cirls, a very bright idea on the part of the BBC.

Southampton

BEN DUDLEY OUT EAST

WRITING to the MELODY MAKER, well-known trum-

peter, Ben Dudley, who is at pre-sent out East for CSE, with his pianist-vocalist wife, Peggy Daw-

son, and his drummer, Douglas Cassells tells us that he had the pleasure of travelling to Singapore in the S.S. "Empress of Australia," with famous planist-orchestrator, Bert Read, who was on his way to join Radio Malaya.

Ben, Peggy and Douglas broadcast twice directly they got to Singapore which is rapidly recovering from the dire effects of the Japanese occupa-tion, although Ben says the cost of living is excessively high.

He heard several good bands out there, notably one at the Raffles Hotel, led by Joe Speciman, who re-cently returned to Singapore after working in England with his old friend, Monia Liter.

But the rave outfit, Ben says, is the Prince's Sextet, led by Charles Georgino a six-piece, composed of young Philipino musicians, all about

17 years of age, some still at school. Playing intricate arrangements on

alto, two electric guitars, bass, piano doubling vibes, and drums a la John Kirby, these lads are amazingly

Ben now takes his trio to Kuala Lumpur, Penang and Heng Kong in the CSE show, which is called "Out and About."

Kirby.

ampton.

Rehearsing for their interacting trips about the S.S. "Mauretanta," the new Paul Lombard outfit is enapped by the "Melody Maker." (L. to r.): George Letham (trumpet); B. Raine Young (bess); Stanley Fraser (drums and vibes); Paul himself (reeds), and Max Harris (piano

SAXIST-LEADER Paul Lembard, who came into prominence during the war at the Lansdowne Restaurant, and who, after his Army service, took his own band of English musicians out to Belrut, makes headlines again this week with the news of another globe-trotting enterprise, on the first stages of which he is about

to embark.
Under the segis of Geraldo,
Paul Lombard has been booked to
lead his own quintet of picked
dance musicians aboard the
Cunard White Star liner "Mauretania.

Geraldo is also supplying this famous liner with a straight quartet, as part of several new undertakings which the famous leader will handle.

Paul Lombard (tenor sax,

Paul Lombard (tenor sax, clarry and vocals) leads an interesting combination whose well-known members include ex-Maurice Winick drummer and vibraphone ace Stanley Fraser; George Letham, trumpeter brother of Ted Heath brassman Harry Letham, and recently out of the RAP; Max Harris (pianist and arranger, late Ronnie Munro, and recently out of the Royal and recently out of the Royal Artillery); and D. Raine-Young (late of George Evans' Orchestra),

Paul Lombard and the boys with him are scheduled for an interesting time, since the "Mauretanis" will first of all do two trips to New York from Liverpool, and later will sail to New York from Southampton for the rest of the summer.

Later on, she will be the first great post-war cruising ship, and in the coming winter she will go to New York, and from there run cruises to the West Indies and other luxurious parts.

Gerrard and Stardusters in **Norwich Moves**

ON June I, sax-clarinet leader Harry Gerrard, musical mainstay of the Samson and Her-cules Ballroom, Norwich, takes

mainstay of the Samson and Hercules Ballroom, Norwich, takes his 14-piecer to the Pavilion. Rothesay, where he will appear for a four-months' season under the segis of Geraldo.

In Harry's absence, the stand at the "Samson" will be held from June 3 until September 22 by the up-and-coming "Stardustera."

They will play Tuesday to Saturday only at Norwich, thus leaving them free each Monday night and each Sunday for concerts, etc.

This coming Priday (18th) the Stardusters will be at Battersea Town Hall, followed by a concert at Wariey on Sunday. On Thursday (24th) they have a "Music While You Work" airing, then travel to Bradford (25th), and back to London for the "Jazz Jamboree" (27th). Next month they are due to appear at Bognor (9th), Weston-super-Mare (16th), Seaburn Hall, Sunderland (12th to 17th), and the Pier, Cleethorpes (18th to 31st).

Harry Gerrard is very much looking forward to his Scottish sojourn, and hopes to take most of his present personnel with him.

Harry leads: Jimmy Phillips (2x-Carl Barritsau and Joe Loss), hen Chapman, Pat Bateson (2x-Harry Parry), Bert Galey (reeds); Bill Howie, Percy Bellin, Fred Dinning (ex-Mat Gonella) (tpts); Nick Nichols, Frank Fielding (ex-Lew Stone) (tmbs); Bill Weeds (pno); Tommy Wilson (ex-Ken Johnson) (drms); Jack Thaxton (bass); and Joan Austin (ex-Harry Parry) (vels.).

The band has already broadcast.

CLASSICS from the CLUBS.

CIONTINUING our selection of good
CONTINUING our selection of good titles from the 6's, here is the
second instalment of numbers you
might like to remember;-
Small Hotel Ab
Smake Gets In Your Eyes Eb
Smoke Rings Db
So Blue C
Saftly As In A Morning Sunrise Dmi
ACCORDED LABORATED STREET, SPECIAL PROPERTY AND ACCOUNT.
Somebody Stole My Gal Eb
Someday Sweetheart F
Some Of These Days Emi
Someone To Watch Over Me G
Sometimes I'm Happy
Song Of Songs C
Song Of The Island V
Song Of The Wanderer Eb
Sonny Boy Eb
Sophisticated Lady Ab
Squatty-ree Bb
Squeeze Me V

Squeeze Me
Stardest
Personal Choice: Famous coloured
runtarist Lauderse Catem, 'gounder of
the original Carribean Trio, chooses
Ellington's "Solitude" as being a
number of great attraction and one
which is unusually apt in the relation
of its music to its title.

- Carlo Krahmer

Sunday This

ship.

South-East London has been chosen to is unch this recruiting drive, and a meeting has been arranged for Sunday next (20th) at 12 noon at Woolwich Labour Institute, when the speakers will include the organiser and members of the London District Committee. NEXT Monday's "Band Parade" (21st) will be in the nature of an RAP reunion, with Howard Lucraft contrasting his music with that of his old RAP-friend and colleague Leslie Douglas and his Orchestra.

idea on the part of the BBC.

Incidentally, last Monday's show (14th) was an excellent one indeed. The Squadronairia, augmented for the occasion by guitarist Bert Wesdon, and Geraldo trumpet star Derek Abbott, put over a fine show. Outstanding in their effort were two "home - grown" arrangements—Rossie Aldrich's "Annivervary Song" and an equally brilliant piece of scoring by George Grandom in "That's the Beginning of the End."

The other half of the "Parade", was the Rabin Sishmone group—a very happy choice. Blande Terry Deven added a ligt to her reputation with an outstandingly good version of The Old Lampilghter," whilst Tess Henry's version of an old sea shanty. "Captain Pipper," dalighted the studio, audience—and us. Giff Townshond telar.) and George Chiefsholm (trom.) from the "Squads" will play in next Sat rday's (19th). "Jam Club" along with Rag. Bare (tener): Billy Params (piano). Pets Chilver (gnit.): Jack Failes (base): Ray Ellington (drums): plus a trumpet and vocalist pat chosen as we Ro to press and secretary and host, Billy Munn and Harry Parry.

MU Meeting

WITH Central London almost 100 per cent. organised, the London Branch of the Musicians' Union, with organiser Alex C. Mitchell as its spearhead, is going all out to comb Greater London in an attempt to add to its 5,000 fully paid-up membership.

RABIN'S NEW WAX LABEL

ATEST capture for the Parlo-phone label, by enterprising EMI Chief, Walter Moody, is Oscar

Oscar and his band, with Harry Davis, whom fans have previously heard on Rex and Decca records, etc., will in future wax exclusively for Pario, and will be carrying out their first session under the new regime on May 6, which will mark the beginning of a long-term contract.

under the new regime on May 6, which will mark the beginning of a long-term contract.

The first record issues are scheduled for June, and on them Oscar will attempt to cater for both fan and "lay" public. Recorded on this first session will be "Moonlight Serenade," specially dedicated to the late Gienn Miller, whose boys personally presented the Miller arrangement to Rabin when Oscar's Band was playing to the Forces in 1945, on their ENSA trip to the Continent. Featured with the band on these newest recordings will be cornermen Jackie Bonser (clarinet): Ken Maskintesh (alto); Don Rendell (tenor); Bobby ("Bix") Benstead (trumpet), and latest Rabin drum discovery Frank King. Two new boys have recently Joined the band in the persons of George Taylor (trumpet), who replaces Ernie Watton and Norman Fantham (barilone sax), who replaces Frank Dowie.

The Rabin Band alrs on April 18 (6 p.m. Light), on the 29th at 6.15 p.m. On April 28 they appear for two weeks as special guests at the Cricklewood Dance Hall, London.

Easter Sunday was a big occasion in the career of the Rabin outfit, since on that day it made its 50th visit to Cardiff and broke all records at the Capitol by playing to over 4,000 people there.

Hot Club 3-Band Jazz Concert

Institute, when the speakers will include the organizer and members of the London District Committee.

To give the proceedings a truly musical flavour, Harry Gohl and his "Pieces of Eight" will be there to warm up the meeting.

With a national membership of more than 20,000, the Union is making rapid strides these days, and it behoves all musicianspro and semi-pro.—to avail themselves of the benefits of membership.

All London musicians not yet in the Union should make an effort to attend this very important meeting.

One of a London's most successful his "Hawaiism Knighta," which as its name implies, specialises in South Sea music.

Five of the boys are featured least name implies, specialises in South Sea music.

Five of the boys are featured regularly with a F. Sharpes's Honolufu Hawaiisms on their side broadcasts, and the "Knights" have a truly authentic style.

Vic leads his boys: do guilar; the others being: Vis Jeredan (guilar): Feis Webb (Hawaiisn guilar): Peter Clarks (bass). Seri Terry (plano); Chas. Pilgrim (drums), and vocalist June Seett.

Seett.

Jazz Concert

On Saturday, April 19, the London ambitious venture so far—a three-band land can—a three-band land can—a three-band land can—a three-band land his stand from the E.S. Essex Rhythm Club.

Randall's is, of course, the interest-ing Diric-style combination lately formed by this young ex-Mirrisel from the E.S. Essex Rhythm Club.

Randall's is, of course, the interest-ing Diric-style combination lately formed by this young ex-Mirrisel for ing Diric-style combination lately formed by this young ex-Mirrisel for ing Diric-style combination lately formed by this young ex-Mirrisel for ing Diric-style combination lately formed by this young ex-Mirrisel for ing Diric-style combination lately formed by this young ex-Mirrisel for ing Diric-style combination lately formed by this young ex-Mirrisel for ing Diric-style combination lately formed by this young ex-Mirrisel for ing Diric-style combination lately formed by this young ex-Mirrisel for ing Diric-styl

COUNT BASIE

Swing Stapleton at Orchestra Band parts available of the great SWEET-SWING enthusiasts in Hampshire will have their first opportunity of hearing famous Fischer's Restaurant leader Cyril Stapleton's Orchestra when on Sunday new (20th) COUNT . BASIE

Numbers. 4/- per set. when, on Sunday next (20th). Send for from 3 to 5 p.m., it appears at a concert at the Guildhall, South-

list.

ampton.

Dinah Kaye and Dick James, both of whom have broadcast many times with Cyril's band from Pischer's, will be the featured vocalists, plus Peggy Sarjest, Additional attractions will be the singing of French-Canadian recording artist Jean Cavall, the personal appearance of ex-Hiue Rockets pianist Romais Selby, and the accordion playing of Ted Osborne. Ted is a "discovery" of Gerry Wilmett's who will act throughout as compere. (MAYFAIR 7600)

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and his Orchestra in "Navy Mixture."

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talso Clar. or Tenor1. Price 1/6

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YY384). 2447. "Tiger Rag" (?). 2—, "Blue Hoosier Blues "/" Felix

by Rex Harris and

COLLECTORS

VIT another local agency for American just records and trans-scriptions has been acranged. Walter R. Heaghan writes that he is sole representative for Boris Rese jubose vinylite presents; and can make available to English enthusiasts a variety of transcriptions at a price yet to be able to English enthinisatis a variety of transcriptions at a price yet to be fixed, but in the region of St. a copy. Benides these transcriptions, he is handling the permanent vinylite pressings of 30 sides by such fine just bands as the M.O. Benidelands, Sam Margan's Sand, Original Tuxode, King Oliver, and so on More will be released later. These records, which Walter clasms are of fine quality, are to cost about Al each, but the figure will imclude chary and postage.

His list is too long to print here at present, but he invites readers to make inquiries about what is available.

C. AND E. CUSTOMS

C. AND E. CUSTOMS

The subject of Customs duty on records has often been raised in these columns, and we have bemoaned inconsistencies on the part of Customs officers of which we have had personal experience. Now reader B. C. Barbar comes to the rescue with some figures obtained as a result of correspondence with that dread inscitution known as H.M. Cristoms and Excise. He writes:—

'I have found that the official taxes on records entering this country are based on the supposed market value and wholesale price of the dises if sold as brand-new unplayed recervision the open market here. The C. and E. advise me that that is the current Evolish price and wholesale price.

"Worked out in hard cash, one should pay, per record: Duty, 25 per cent. of retail price purchase tax. 22) per cent. of wholesale-price-plusduty. Generally, for 16-in. discs, this is 25 per cent. of 2s. 11/d. (1s.) plus P.T. as here (Sid.), plus P.T. on duty of is. (4d.): i.e., is, plus 6(d. plus 4d. equals 2s. 2jd. Similarly, for 13-in. resords (pood old Blue Note) the total should be 2s. 6d. or 2s. 6d.

'We thank reader Barber for what is no doods as incid an emplanation as it is possible to come by from official sources. It still isn't quite there to us how American releases have a wholesale price in England or how the officials arrive at their market value. And we don't entirely follow the list step with the 12-in. records. However, this letter will help towards a final solution of the Customs enigma.

WHAT READERS SAY

"From time to time there have been Corner discussions on the identity of the trumpet-player on Charley Straight's 'Holors Prayer' and 'Deep Henderson' on Br. 3224. I have had thus disc a while, and suggest that a comparison of the trumpet work on it with that on Art Lundry's 'Who'll Be The One? SHAY Who'll Be The One? Lundry's 'Who'll Be The One?'
(HMV B5361) will show identical style
and phrasing. What comments?"

ORIGINAL CAPITOL GRK.

Surrey collector. Ken Sowner, writes us about the Original Capital Orchestra, who recorded for Zonophone about 1923-24 and about whom little is known. Ken gives a list of the titles they made for Zonophone, with such details as he knows, and adds some interesting comments.

Here they are:

2155. "Applessure"/" I Wish I
Could Shimmy " (?).

2399. "Cat's Whiskers"/"Why Worry Blues" (YY2732 and YY3733). 2411. "House of David Blues"

2— "Chicago" (?).
In my opinion, the clarinet solo in low register on "House of David" is a worthy effort and savours of Be Faut. The alto saxophonist on all the sides is very poor and reminds one of a milk-and-water Benny Kreuger. To my amassment, "Tiger Rag" is an exact copy of the Friars Society recarding. Solo for solo! (Incidentally, the clarinet solo is most capably dealt with.)

There seems to be a lack of trom-

ally, the clarinet solo is most capably dealt with.)

There seems to be a lack of trombone on all the above recordings except "Blue Hoosier Blues." on which side there is a very blatant but quite good trombonist. On "Why Warry Blues" we are treated to a very pleasant piano solo which is much resuluiscent of the dack Liax efforts on Parlophone. Banjo well to the fore on all sides, and a very strident lead frumpet that seems to inspire the ending ensembles.

All these Zonophones are labelled "American Orchestra," but the master numbers are English; therefore, it is at once obvious that a visiting American orchestra must have been responsible. I am inclined to suspect the Goorgians, though the trumpet doesn't resemble Guarante in the least. The trombone could be Ray Stilwell, or possibly Ben Pichering, but I'd like to know exactly, if anyone can tell me, Are you listening. Jim Moynaham?

MAMIE'S BLUES

MAMIE'S BLUES

Hosfer should grumble about English publications being unreliable when it comes to presentation of factal in the course of an obituary notice of Massic Smith, one of the Cornerites (doing a little hack work for the News Dept. here) made reference to Okeh and Columbia as companies for whom Mamie had recorded. The information—let's face it—came from Down Best, illustrious periodical to which Hoefer contributes his regular feature, and as the Beat carried a kind of Johnny-on-the-soot report of Mamie's demise we assumed the basic facts would be correctly laid out. Our assumption was strengthened by our assumption was strengthened by the knowledge that Mamie Smith—who looks from all the reference books like a one-label recardist—had in fact made a few sides for at least one other label. What more natural than

that the harassed newshawk should take the Beat's word for it that Columbia was that label? And what confidence could have been more mis-

Max Jones

CORNER

But we can leave it to those keepers of discographical propriety, dense Davis and Gray Clarke, to ciarify the issue and add some interesting observations on the circumstances attending the release of Mamie's first records.

FOUR SCORE OKEHS By John Davis and Gray Clarks

By John Davis and Gray Clarks

Your obtinary states: "Mamie waxed scores of sides for Okeh and Columbia," We agree that the number of titles she cut for Okeh certainly did run into scores (approximately four score), but we have falled to find a single Columbia. As we have a Mamie Smith discography in active preparation, we have for some time past been looking into her recording activities and, apart from Okeh, we have traced her appearance on labels as famous as Victor and as obscure as Ajax. Our files on the Columbia race series (13090-D and 14000-D) are 100 per cent. complete, and on the ordinary commercial series (1-D) they are almost complete. But Mamie's name appears not once, What, then, are these Columbias which apparently are to be classed with her Okehs in contributing to her earning "a permanent place in jazz history "?

Again, it is said that her first records "were issued as the Okeh Company's answer to Sophie Tucker."

Now this implies that not only was Sophie Tucker recording elsewhere at the same time, but also that, had it not been for Sophie Tucker, there might have been no records by Mamie Smith. The truth of the matter is that, although Sophie Tucker was certainly going strong at the time the first Mamie Smith records came out (circa, 1920). Sophie did not, in fact, record (as far as we can trace) until about four of five years later and her recording debut was then on the Okeh label.

about four of five years later and her recording debut was then on the Okeh label.

The noint we wish to make is that Okeh (the General Phonograph Corporation), showing considerable discernment were the first to launch a coloured "iazz" singer in a big way, and that they did this on their own initiative and not because they were driven to it by extraneous competition. The event is of great importance in the history of the grammophone record, as it marked the beginning of the "race" epoch. It is essential therefore that the facts should be straight.

"M.M." DANCE BAND CONTEST NEWS Scottish Contests Commencing

SCOTLAND is to have its greatestever dance band contesting season this year.
County or District Championships have already been arranged at Faikirk. Kirkenidy and Aberdeen for the end of May (see Fixtures List below), and Mr. William Dolan, o' the Chahmers Wood organisation, who are handling the programme, informs us that it is practically certain that he will fix up at least another three contests for later in the season.

will be the Yorkshire North Riding Championship at the Riding Championship at

are given in connection with other details of the events in the Fixtures List.

who are handling the programme, informs us that it is practically certain that he will fix up at least another three contests for later in the season.

This means that Scotland will have also an Area Final to itself—to be held an September, probably in Glaszow, to decide which of the Scotlish bands shall have the honour of representing the country at the great 1947 "All-Britain" Final to be held in October.

That Scotlish bands have a chance at least equal to that of all others of winning this year's "All-Britain" is proved by the fact that last year's "All-Britain" was won by a Glaszow combination—the Scotl Henderson Quintetts.

Scotlish hands wishing to take part in any of the May championships

Scottish hands wishing to take part in any of the May championships already scheduled should write immediately for Entry Forms and full particulars to the respective organisers whose names and addresses are given in connection with other details of the events in the Fixtures be used for any other purpose.

FOLLOWING the first of this season's special Sunday contests. due to take place next Sunday (20th) at 2 p.m. at the Philharmonic Hall. Liverpool, with Vic Lewis and his full Harry Baker. It should have read Harry Baker, and we apologise for Sand as an added feature attraction.

CONTEST FIXTURES

LONDON AREA

WATFORD —Thursday next, April 24
(7.39 to midnight), at the Town Hall.—
The 1947 Hertfordshire Championship, iEntry list fail.) Organisers: The Malour Maren Greater London Area Contest Organisers' Committee. All comms. The General Secretary (Mr. Bill Wal'er), 12th. Brition Road. London, S.W.9.
("Phone: Brition 4941.)
HELLENGDON (Midds.).—Whit Monday, May 18 (2.10 to 5.20 p.m.), at Court Brive Park, Long Lane.—The 1947 Middlesex Championship. Organisers: The British Legion, North Hillingdon Branch. All comms.: The Organising Secretary, S. Buriegh Road, Hillingdon, Unbridge, Middx.

PROVINCES

NORTHAMPTON.—To-night, Thursday, April 17 (7.30 p.m. to midnight), at Franklin's Gardens.—The 1947 North-amptonshire Championship, (Entry list full.) O.ganisers: Musicians' Union

fail.) O.ganisers: Musicians' Union (Northampton Branch) (Secretary, Mr. Art Lewis), 21, Stimpson Avenue, Northampson, 21, Stimpson Avenue, Northampson, To-merrow, Friday, April 13 (7.33 p.m. to midnight), at the Asioria Ballroom, Roundhay Road,—The 1947 Central Verhahire Championship, (Entry list full.) Organiser: Mr. Lewis Buckley, 28, Carr Lane, Birkdale, Southport, Lanca, (Phone: Ainsdale 78238.)

(Phone: Ainsdale 72233.)
LIVERPOOL.—This Sunday, April 20
(2.38-5.30 p.m.), at the Philharmenic Hall, before a seated audience.—The 1947
Laneashire Coast Championship, (Entry Bat full.) Organiser: Mr. Lewis Brokley (See Leeds, above.)

Brickley (See Leeds, above.)

Brochmark — Friday, next week, April 25 (7.30 to 11.30 p.m.), at the Cariton Ballyoom. — The 1947 Central Lancashire Championship. (Entry list full.) Organiser: Mr. Levis Buckley. (See Leeda.)

NOTTINGHAM. — Friday, May 2 (7 p.m. to 12.30 a.m.), at the Gesyfriars' Hall.—
The 1947 Nattlinghamshire Championship. (Entry list full.) Organiser: Mr. Arthur Kimbrell. 38. Rugby Road. Hinckley. (Entry list full.) Organiser: Mr. Arthur Kimbrell. 38. Rugby Road. Hinckley. (Phone: The 1947 Fast of Scotland Championship. Organiser: Mr. Arthur Kimbrell. 38. Rugby Road. Hinckley. (Phone: Priday, May 30 (8 p.m. to 13.0 a.m.), at the Beach Ballroom.—The 1947 North-East Scotland Championship. Organiser: Mr. Reginald A. Gammams, Championship. Organiser: Mr. Eric Wakeneld, 87. Chapel Lanc, Bands, High

Wy combe, Bucks, ('Phone: High Wycombe 64.)

YORK.—Sunday, May 4 (7 to 10 p.m.), at the Rialto Cinema, before a seated audience.—The 1947 Yerkshire North Riding Championship. Organiser: Mr. Lewis Buckley. (See Leeds.)

BOLTON.—Turesday, May 6 (7 p.m. to midnight), at the Palais de Danse.—The 1947 East Lancashire Championship. (Entry list full.) Organiser: Mr. Lewis Buckley. (See Leeds.)

STOKE-ON-TRENT.—Thursday, May 8 (Note new times: 8 p.m. to 1 a.m.), at the King's Hall.—The 1947 "Potteries" Championship. Organiser: Mr. Arthur Kimbrell. (See Nottingham.)

LONG EATON (Notis).—Wednesday, May 14 (8 p.m. to 1 a.m.), at the Rialto Ballroom, —The 1947 Trent Valley Championship. Organiser: Mr. Basil A. Halliday, Midland Ballrooms, Ltd., Oxford Street, Long Eaton. Notis. ('Phone: Day Long Eaton 494; night, Long Eaton 597.)

NORWICH.—Tucsday, May 20 (8 p.m. to 1 m.), at the 3 m.) at the 3 m. to 1 the 5 m.

NORWICH.—Tucaday, May 28 (8 p.m. to 1 a.m.) at the Samson and Hercules Ballroom.—The 1947 Norfolk Championship. Organiser: Mr. Harry Gerrard, Samson and Hercules Ballroom, Norwich. (Phone: Norwich 21541.)

(Phone: Norwich 21541.)

HINCKLEY (Leics).—Friday, May 13
(7.30 to midnight), at the St. George's

Railroom.—The 1947 Leicestershire Championship. Organiser; Mr. Arthur Kimbrell. (See Nottingham.)

SCOTLAND (Arranged by Chalmers Wood)

FALKIRK (Stirlingshire) .- Wednesday,

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Staff Representative JERRY DAWSON

Jerry Dawson's GOSSIP

GOOD indeed is the news announced on this page that in addition to the "Band of the Week" programme. Northern dance bands are shortly to have a regular weekly "Palais" spot, and that fifteen minutes each week is also to be given to small groups with something different to offer. It now remains for the leaders and musicians concerned to justify the victory which has been won for them There should be no such thing as a "provincial broadcast"—broadcasts should be good by only the best standards. Some recent broadcasts from the North have not been particularly spicy, and it behoves all concerned—leaders, musicians, EBC production and engineering staffs—to aim for as high a standard as possible. The answer lies in co-operation, ingenuity and hard work at rehearsals, as well as on transmission. The chance is there—let northern dance bands create their own listening public by sheer ability.

THERE are a number of summer tooks.

let northern dance bands create their own listening public by sheer ability.

THERE are a number of summer jobs going for double-handed musicians, particularly saxes doubling violin. Will anybody interested please contact me at once c/o Manchester office? . . Congratulations to Low Fraser, drummer with Larry Kelly at Newton Heath Palais, who on Wednesday last (16th) married vocaliste June Groves in Manchester . also to drummer Harry Nughes, who marries vocaliste May Saunders on Saturday (19th). They will both spend the summer with Norman Gollins at Prestatyn. Ex-Edinburgh leader Lew Lewis dropped off at Manchester last week en route for London . . Ken therwood and his Band now playing Saturday nights at Co-op. Hall, Darwen. . . With Hal Graham at the Rialto Ballroom, Liverpool, and for whom they do quite a lot of arranging. Jack Stokes (tpt.) and bassist Ted Radley would like to offer special arrangements to any bandleaders who would care to avail themselves of this service. . . . Les Mareden and his players were accepted as members at the April 6 meeting of the Preston branch of the MU . . . Would Billy Porter (tpt.) Isle of Bute, please contact drummer Tom Wilson, with Harry Gerrare's Band. Samson and Hercales Ballroom, Norwich? . The sophisticated swing of accomplished Reg. Conrey and his "Westenders" (a smart little outfit) maintains an increasing popularity with patrons of Nottingham's Odeon Café Ballroom .

EDDIE SHAW busy at Belfast Plata and presents band at the Grand Central Hotel led by Jackie White. Ex-Mantovani tenor Paddy Lynch lead the relief band at the Plata. . At the Orpheus, Bill Adams leads an eight-piece, whilst Beb Robinson is at the Floral Hall Other busy bands in Ireland are those of Phil Martagh, Jianny Masson, Neal Kearns, and Ted Johnson

MORE AIR TIME FOR DANCE BANDS

THE biggest single step forward in the progress of Northern dance music is contained in the exclusive announcement that the BBC's North of England Region is shortly to introduce two further

BBC's North of England Region is shortly to introduce dance band programmes on a regular weekly basis.

On April 25 the Fat Regan Quartet will play the first of a series of quarter-hour programmes (10.15 to 10.30 p.m.) which will be devoted to small swing or novelty outfits. Jack Heccormick pianist Chas. Hencey will play the second of these programmes (May 2) with his Sextet, whilst Ken Frith's Quartet and Eric Kersham's "Rhythmic Guitars" are lined up for future dates.

On June 2. "Band of the Week"

for future dates.

On June 2, "Band of the Week"
will transfer from Friday to Monday
(6.30 to 7 p.m.), whilst the following
Friday (June 6) will see the first of a
new weekly series of programmes
devoted to palais bands playing on
their "home stand." These palais
programmes will be on the air at the
peak listening hour of 8 to 8.30 p.m.
This will mean a complete reshulle
of the "Band of the Week" rota as
several of the bands featured in this
spot will obviously transfer to the
palais programme. It is expected
that the rota system will apply to
both this and the small-band programme.

both this and the small-band programme.

Northern leaders and musicians one a debt of gratitude to BBC Northern Variety Chief. Bowker Andrews, who has fought tooth and nail to bring about this happy state of affairs.

Another interesting programme for Northern listeners commences on Thursday, May 8, when, in place of the weekly "Stay at Home " series, Richard Valery and his Concert Orchestra will play a half hour of light popular music from 7 to 7 300 p.m

LEICESTER.

CURRENTLY gigging around Leices-ter and district with consider-able success is Reg. Stakes and his Orchestra. Ooming to Leicester in pre-war days as a member of Syd Deam's band, Reg married a Leicester girl.

Forming his own band in the early days of the war. Reg soon found the shortage of brass players a most unsatisfactory situation, and finally decided to build up a more or less saxophone hand. Under normal circumstances he features five saxophones ome trumpet and three rhythm, and is assisted in this by Harry Mather. Chill Morrell, Barnard Bott and Fred Cockhell (saxes); Bill Hipwell (tot.); and George Pumberton, Den Bates and Coc. Henson (rhythm). Roy Sharman is featured vocalist. When not conducting. Reg fills in with equal facility on saxes, 'cello or bass

MAKING a determined bid for top status amongst Potteries bands.
Reg. Bassett, after soending most of his twelve years in the business leading from drums, is now to front his outfit.
Young Don Rateliffe comes in on drums, while Reg. has captured two new trumpet men for his brass section. They are Mill Hobson, formerly with Lew Stone, Oscar Rahin and George Elrick, and Rahph Burns, who has appeared with Lew Stone and lack Jackson.

CARTOON by Betts



"There you go. playing American arrangements again. What about one of our own swing specials?"

News from

Round the

Country

El Mario's Girls

UNDER the segis of Midlands impresario Arthur Kimbrell, next week will find El Mario's Rumba Giris playing one-night stands—probably the first out-and-out rumba band to

the first out-and-out rumbs band to do so.

The week opens on Monday (21st) at the Town Hall, Burton-on-Trent, followed on succeeding nights with dates at St. George's Ballroom, Hinckley: Rialto Ballroom, Long Eaton; the Town Hall, Longton; the Arden Ballroom, Bedworth; and concluding with an appearance at the Riverside Gardens, Belper, near Derby, on Saturday, April 26.

During the same week, Arthur Kimbrell will also present Ted Heath and his Music in a return visit to the Kings Hall, Stoke-on-Trent on Thursday (25th), whilst on the following night (26th) he offers Leicester fans no less an attraction than Victor Silvester and his Ballroom Orchestra at the De Montfort Hall.

SAX STOLEN

STILL another luckless musician has suffered at the hands of musical-instrument thieves who realise the value of these hard-to-get commodities. He is Roy Postgate, whose Martin alto was recently stolen from the Cameo Ballroom, Carlisle.

The instrument is numbered 108496, and has the name "Roy Postgate" inscribed on the bell.

Anyone who may be offered a Martin alto should look for these identifying marks.

Few bandleaders can compete with Nesta Bennett's remarkable 26 years' record. Nesta began her career as a professional pianist at the King's Hall Cinema. Then, for five years, she took up palais work.

As a quartette leader at Boots' Cafe for nine years, she attained unstinted popularity.

Her current trio for select dinner parties includes Dorothy Grooks (violin); Janet Higgs ('cello); and Nesta Bennett (piano).

Her dance-band personnel comprises eight players, including Archie Jones and Gordon Bennett (altos, clar.); Mac Lane (tenor); Jim Gubbin and Bernie Jones (tpts.); Pryce Jones (bass); Frank Beesley (drums); and Nesta Bennett leading from piano.

BIRMINGHAM.

Several years ago a few swing enthusiasts at a Hallfax college formed a small band which they named the "Collegians." Since that time the band has grown into a stylish twelve-piece orchestra and to-day is one of the most popular gig bands playing around the district. In recent Melory Maker contests they have gained one or two "seconds." and hope soon to pull off the major prize.

Directed by bassist Fred Haigh, the personnel comprises: Gordon Whiteley, Tony Matthews, Harry Shaw and Rodney Whiteley (saxes, etc.): Donald Woodhead (also a member of the famous Black Dyke Band). Ernie Baldwin and "Carrots" Bairstow (trumpets): Tommy Casson (trombone): "Junior" Styles (plano): Tod Smith (guitar): Billy Moore (drums).

Nesta Bennett leading from piano.

BIRMINGHAM.

CURRENTLY at the Grand Casino

Currently at the Rex Ballroom. Cambridge.

Band. who created something of a record at the Rex Ballroom. Cambridge.

Where they opened in 1936 for a one-week engagement and stayed for T years.

During his sojourn at Cambridge.

Sammy gave her first resident job to vocal star Doreen Villiers (1939), and a year later engaged a youthful drummer whom he taught to read music—the name Jack Parnell.

Leading his band on alto. Sammy has with him at Birmingham Bill Lewis and Denis Jones (saxes): All Hodgson (tpt.); Bill Mack (trombone); Reg. Holmes (bass); Bill Brown (plano); and Doug. Lester (drums).

NORTHERN

BLACKBURN born, and one of the North's most popular vocalists, a h o broadcasts regularly with the Eddle McGarry in "Band of the Week" (North Regional), H as had lots of offers from the Big City, but prefers to stay now bandleading at the Plaza Ball-

The name— at the Plaza Ball-LILIAN TOWERS. room, Bury, Lancs.

Silvester for Big Trentham

Charity Ball
ONE of Victor Silvester's first dates
when he goes on tour will be at
Trentham Gardens Baliroom, Stokeon-Trent, where he will play for a
grand Charity Ball in aid of the Stoke
Police Widows' and Orphans' Benevolent Fund on May 15.

Hon. organisers are Special Sgts.
Pusteria and Kimberiey, who have
rapidly snapped up one of broadcasting's most popular bands. The
organisers are also running an Open
Amateur Waltz Competition, which
will be judged by maestro Silvester
himself.

The directors of the Ballroom have

himself.

The directors of the Ballroom have kindly put all facilities at the disposal of the police for what should be one of the season's most attractive affairs.

In support will be the Reg. Bassett Orchestra, which already commands a large local following. Midlands fans requiring tickets (10s. 6d. each) can obtain same from R. J. Pusterla, The Mount, Trentham Road, Trentham, Staffs. Dancing will be from 8 p.m. until 1 a.m.

SCOTLAND

SCUILAND

SOME news from the Louis Freeman office—this Glasgow MD will have a band at Stonehaven, in the east of Scotland, this summer, in addition to his other dates, which include a repeat of last year's Tom Arnold Ice Show fixing at Brighton. The maestro himself will air on Scottish Regional at 6.30 p.m. on April 21, when he will play his favourite gramophone records.

At Green's Playhouse, where Felix Mendelssohn and his Band are appearing currently, there has been a change in the resident band, Jimmy Glichrist (trumpet) leaving after a long stay. Place has been taken by Maurice Deans, of the well-known family.

SMEFFIELD.

Tony kinsella, one-time Bertini saxist. is now doing big business in Sheffield Clubland with a musical act. partnered by his talented and charming wife Ostene.

Jerry Arnott is closing down his gig business to go abroad.

Bernard Taylor still packing them in at the City Hall; smooth and suave Jackie Bates doing ditto and likewise at the Cutler's Hall.

Hal Baker has big summer plansvery hush-hush at the moment.

Ivy Benson bassist Chapelle, sistered local bandleading Walter, was in Town recently to see her folks.

Hinshellwood.

Hinshellwood.

Hinshellwood.

Blow the rest. PREFER

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Lew Wavis 134, CHARING CROSS ROAD, W.C.2

or Everything Musica

Swingtette and renearsing like mad for contests. Incidentally, Alan, or, as the fans know him, "Aldo," has just become a proud father. In great vocal form with Hai Graham at the Rialto Ballroom, Liverpool. is the Vernon's Pools glamour girl, Diane Forde. Diane has been in the forefront of local femme singers for a long time, and was with the Earl Scott outfit for a spell. Don't remember? ... well, she was then known as Doreen Rainsford! Top suburban band is still, as it has been for the last ten years (with only the Tom Hughes outfit as a serious competitor). In the hands of Bob Melander, who has been resident at the King's Hall, since its opening some twelve or fourteen years ago. Bob has back with him now the most sought-after young trumpet man on Merseyside, Tommy McDonald. *MENDELSSOHN*

(Continued from page 1) proved to be a lone battle. I had hoped that the profession would have backed me up, but such has not proved to be the case.

backed me up, but such has not proved to be the case.

"It is not an easy job to keep an expensive band like mine working consistently under these conditions (I carry round in all a company of 30), and although I am booked solidly for the rest of this year, I have to look to the future.

"I like television, and I think my band is ideally suited to the medium, but I shall have to await until the rest of the profession is in a position to accept both stage and television engagements."

A new departure for Felix will be the entry of the band into pantomime next Christmas. Opening on December 25 at the Hippodrome. Chatham, they will appear in "Robinson Crusoe"—the members of the outfit taking individual parts in the show, as well as playing.

LOU PREAGER

(Continued from page 1)

filled by Ronnie Pleydell's tenpiece band from the Ballerina Restaurant, Bournemouth, which will be playing opposite Johnny Swinfen's very popular "Ambas-

sadors."

Alto and clarinet player Ronnie Pleydell, formerly with the famous Skyrockets, will be leading George Oidfield (tenor and vocals, ex-Syd Phillips); Billy Wells, Ernie Lockett (reeds); Ron Horler (tpt.); Frank Oshorna (tmb.); Frank Harlow (pno.); Frank Dounison (bass); and Jeff Whestone (dms.).

At the time of going to press, another trumpet has yet to be fixed.

MERSEYSIDE.

A LTO, violin, and what-have-you and back home from Germany, where he did any amount of bandleading, with an airing each week.

George is now fixed up with "M.M." contestants Alan Alderson and his Swingtette and rehearsing like mad for contests. Incidentally, Alan, or, as the fans know him, "Aldo," has

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Piano Acc., Soberano, 120-bass, coupler
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Alto Bar., Hawkes, artist mod., silver-plaird.
Bass Drum, Jedson, Elelb, perfect condition
Trumpet, Martin Imperial, gold lacquered
Piano Acc., Alvari, 36-bass, modern design.
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Alto Sar., Baszini, simple system, repadded.
Piano Acc., Toscanelli, 170-bass, 2-roice Alto SAI., Ranking M. Piano Acc., Toscanelli, 120-bass, 3-voice
E b Clarinet, B. & H., Boehm 19t., low pitch
Bb Clarinet, Hawkee, Albert system, H.P. 243
Alto Sax., Eucesber, art. mod., S.P.L.P. 243
Guitar, Columbia, 'cello built, pro. model
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