

B'WAY HOUSES PACK 'EM IN

J. Dorsey and James Cause Juve Stampede; Capitol, MH Clicking

NEW YORK.—The Stern is really jumping, as the Paramount and Roxy lure hordes of jitterbugs, while the more sedate elements compete for standing room in other houses. The Music Hall and Strand continue to pack them in, while the Capitol, with a new bill, looks as tho it will get its share of the big business.

The Paramount (3,664 seats; \$55,487 house average), in the second week of Harry James's ork and *China*, is still doing top business and is heading for a staggering \$97,000. First week grossed \$105,000. This figure was exceeded only by the New Year's week.

The Roxy (5,835 seats; \$50,067 house average) opened Wednesday (28) with Jimmy Dorsey and film, *Crash Dive*, and the first week's take is heading for around \$95,000 or better. House is limiting itself to five shows weekdays and six on week-ends. Last week, the fifth session of *Hello, Frisco, Hello* and Tommy Tucker's ork and Victor Berge, replacing four weeks of Chico Marx and the Modernaires, did a solid \$60,000. Prior takes were \$54,000, \$60,000, \$75,000 and \$82,000.

The Capitol (4,620 seats) opened Thursday with Sonny Dunham, Jimmy Durante, Marta Eggerth, along with *Presenting Lily Mars*, seems to be heading for a fine \$65,000. Last week, the second of Ozzie Nelson, Harriet Hilliard, Jackie Miles and *Hangmen Also Die*, would up with \$50,000, while opener took \$53,000.

The Strand (2,758 seats; \$39,364 house average) is heading for \$47,000 for the fourth week of Jan Savitt's ork, Ethel Waters and *Edge of Darkness*. Previous weeks did \$51,500, \$47,000 and \$54,500.

The Music Hall (6,200 seats; \$94,402 house average), now in the third week of *Flight for Freedom* and stagershow

with the Easter spectacle, is heading for a fat \$100,000, while the second week knocked off \$115,000. Bill opened to \$110,000.

Loew's State (3,327 seats; \$22,856 house average) is heading for an okay \$26,000 for bill with Fats Waller, Howard and Shelton and *Slightly Dangerous* on screen. Last week, with Benny Rubin, Adrian Rollin and *Reunion in France*, scored a nice \$28,000.

Hutton Film, King Sisters Chi Hit; "Bombshells" 22G

CHICAGO.—Easter Week was blessed by the weatherman and the theaters profited accordingly.

Chicago (4,000 seats; \$4,000 house average) started big with *Happy-Go-Lucky* (Paramount) and presentation show featuring the King Sisters week of April 23 and finished with a good \$42,000. Picture is holding with revamped stage bill, but the same girl numbers and Oxford Boys stay on. Next acts are Raul and Eva Reyes, Gene Sheldon, and Mickey King. Unusual draw of film is surprising, and the word in the trade is that Betty Hutton, co-featured in the picture with Mary Martin and Dick Powell, is beginning to show her box-office potentialities.

Oriental (3,200 seats; \$30,000 house average) had a healthy \$22,000 week, ended April 29, with another run of Harry Howard's *Bombshells of 1943*, featuring new headliners: Smith and Dale and Sybil Bowan. It's the title and girly sales angle that brought them in. Screen had second-run showing of *Journey for Margaret*. House had a fair opening Friday (30), with Connee Boswell, her first appearance in this temple, co-featured with Joe Venuti's band. Film, Jinx Falkenburg in *She Has What It Takes*.

Spitalny, Basie Socko in Philly

PHILADELPHIA.—Building biz during the week, Phil Spitalny and his all-girl band piled up a hefty \$25,000 for week ended Thursday (29) at the Earle Theater (seating capacity, 3,000; house average, \$18,000). Spitalny carried it all, with Beatrice Howell and Patricia Brewster added to the band soloists. *Hit Parade of 1943* on screen.

New bill opened Friday (30), with Charlie Spivak in the spotlight, got off to a terrific start. A royal holiday for the band fans, Spivak should top \$30,000 handily. Dorothy Keller and the Carr Brothers added, with *Chatterbox* the screen filler.

Fay's Theater (seating capacity, 2,200; house average, \$6,000), with Count Basie on tap, piled up a top-heavy \$10,200 for week ended April 29. Thelma Carpenter and James Rushing, of the band, and Apus and Estrelletta and the La Conga Dancers rounded out the marquee. *Power of the Press* on screen.

New bill opened Friday (30) offers up a paleface band attraction in Teddy Powell, who has just closed a three weeks' stretch at the Met Ballroom in town. With Billie Holiday supporting, show got away nicely and figures on doing \$8,800. *Tahiti Honey* on screen.

Bowes Okay in LA

LOS ANGELES.—With a blackout cutting into the Sunday night business, Major Bowes's Prize Winners of 1943 ran up a \$17,000 gross at the Orpheum Theater here for the week ended Tuesday (27). In the face of the alert and good weather, gross was considered good. Pic, *Let's Have Fun*. House seats 2,200 at 65 cents tops. Average, \$7,500.

Chico Marx Grosses 22G at RKO-Boston

BOSTON.—A hot box-office combination of stagershow and films drew a hefty \$38,000 to the RKO-Boston (3,200 seats, prices 44c-99c) for the week ended April 21.

Jane Frazee, Paul Winick and Edna Mae, Stepin Fetchit, the Borrah Minevitch Harmonica Rascals and Sonny Dunham's band were balanced with the Abbott and Costello shenanigans, *It Ain't Hay*. With only four shows daily, part of Holy Week to consider and fairly tough weather, this was a big showing.

It Ain't Hay held over a second week, while the Chico Marx band unit filled the stage spot (April 22 to 28). Six shows daily to a gross of \$22,000.

Balto Hipp \$18,300; Maryland Hefty 77C

BALTIMORE.—Hippodrome Theater grossed a splendid \$18,300 week ended April 28, with stage bill headlined by Jack Marshall and including the Radio Aces, Howard-Paysee Dancers, the Bertay Sisters and Leonard Gaultier's Bricklayers. Pic, *Flight for Freedom*.

Maryland Theater grossed a good \$7,700 for week ended April 29, with stage bill headlined by Borrah Minevitch's Harmonica Rascals, with Johnny Puleo. Added attraction was Dolly Dawn. Others were Elaine Seidler's Park Avenue Debutantes, Roberts Circus and Bill Ames. Pic, *Tahiti Honey*.

Providence Big

PROVIDENCE.—Good Friday proved no different from any other Friday in past three months at the Met, with a bill headed by Ina Ray Hutton's ork, with Jane Frazee, Three Diamond Brothers and Charles Carrer as supporting acts. Big Saturday and Easter Sunday business brought gross for week-end to \$10,000.

Fay's likewise had a better-than-normal Holy Week, hitting \$6,700 for seven days ended April 22, with six-act bill and *Margin for Error* on screen.

San Fran \$25,300

SAN FRANCISCO.—First stagershow in nine weeks without a name band grossed a neat \$25,300 at the Golden Gate (2,850 seats) for week ended Wednesday (28). On the bill were Wally Brown, Dave Apollon, Three Rockets, Roy Riggs, and Harbers and Dale.

McIntyre to Play Para, AFM Rules

NEW YORK, May 1.—American Federation of Musicians settled the issue as to who will accompany the Andrews Sisters at the Paramount. The union ruled that Hal McIntyre's contract to play the house be honored.

Dispute grew out of the fact that the Andrews Sisters put in a request to have Mitchell Ayres's ork on the same bill, as that outfit was more familiar with their work since they had been touring together for some time.

The matter was then thrown in the AFM's lap who came out with the ruling. It has not yet been determined whether McIntyre will play the entire run of the Andrews Sisters. The girls go in with the Bing Crosby pic, *Dixie*, which is calculated to run six weeks.

The decision in favor of McIntyre makes things easier for the Paramount booking office, as it will have fulfilled an existing contract. By playing Ayres they would have to make room for McIntyre at a later date. The Paramount has a full schedule of bands lined up sufficient to last until February.

MAGIC

By BILL SACHS

PAUL ROSINI is back at the Brown Hotel, Louisville, for another of his frequent visits there. He put in much of the past week cutting up jackpots with maestro Richard Himber, whose band was the derby feature at Club Madrid in the Falls City. Himber is no mean conjurer himself. . . . G. RAY AND JUDY TERRELL are still busy with their magic on the USO Camp Shows' unit, currently showing for the sailor lads in the Charleston (S. C.) area. Others in the troupe are Abe Sher, comedian; Brucetta, contortionist, and Elsie Hartley, accordionist. One of the sheets put out by the navy lads down that way recently described their unit as "the best one yet." . . . GALL-GALL, after an extended theater tour with Billy Rose's *Diamond Horseshoe Revue*, has taken his bafflers into Jack Lynch's Walton Roof, Philadelphia. . . . JOHNNIE TAY is currently showing off his magical prowess at the Smart Spot, Haddonfield, N. J. . . . WILL COSBY, known professionally as Desmond the Magician, has joined the announcing staff of Station KWIL, Albany, Ore. He is doubling with his magic at service clubs and army camps in that vicinity. . . . 'THEY'RE TELLING' the one about the magician who got home the other day and was met at the door by his wife. "Take a card," she told him. And he did. It was an induction notice from his draft board. . . . DURING AN ENGAGEMENT at City Auditorium, Wichita, Kan., April 17 King and Hazel Felton were visited by members of the Wizards of Wichita, including D. Forrest Kuhns, president; Milton Strout, vice-president; A. P. Covals, secretary, and D. J. W. Cooper, treasurer. Also in the gathering were Dick Kent, magus, and Mysterious Weldon and wife. . . . "CURLY" WARD, now Pvt. David E. Ward, Station Hospital, Ward 21, Fort Dix, N. Y., sends out an S O S for magicians and entertainers working that territory. He says they can do a good turn by showing the hospital there for the members of the armed forces who have just returned from foreign service. He says the lads are desperately in need of entertainment. Those able to make the date are urged to contact Private Ward.

MEMBERS OF the Los Angeles Society of Magicians attended Dante's show at the Troupers' Theater, Hollywood, April 15. After the performance the magi gathered backstage for a visit with Dante, who gave an interesting talk on his start in magic. Later the photogs got in their licks. The powwow with Dante marked another big day for the LASM, which for the last 25 years has been entertaining visiting magicians, starting with Kellar, Houdini, Nicola, Blackstone, Chris Charlton and following with most of the vaude magi who have appeared in Los Angeles since 1917. . . . TOMMY WOO, West Coast Chinese magician, is now Pvt. Tom G. Woo, 291st Inf. Anti-Tank Co., Fort Leonard Wood, Mo. He's also associated with the Special Service Office there, putting on occasional shows for his trooper pals. Woo, in the army three weeks, describes himself as the first magician at that camp. Apparently he hasn't heard of C. Thomas Magrum, who has been there and giving shows for the boys for many months now. . . . LIEUT. LEE ALLEN ESTES, the Safety First Magician of the Kentucky State Highway Patrol, has just concluded a week in Ashland, Ky., where he showed to some 5,000 kiddies and adults in a series of performances. . . . ARNOLD FURST hopped last week from Chicago to New York, from whence he departs for overseas duty with a USO Camps Shows unit. . . . DETROIT IBM members are staging a show at the Hungarian Reformed Church there May 9. . . . MAL B. LIPPINCOTT, who closed his magic (See MAGIC on page 26)

T. Dorsey Hits 25G In Omaha, All-Time High; April Biz OK

OMAHA.—Tommy Dorsey with \$25,000 for a week's stand hit an all-time high at the Orpheum (3,000 seats) ended April 29. Wednesday night Dorsey broadcast his network program from the stage. Featured acts with the Dorsey crew included the Colstons, and Bob Whaling and Yvette. Pic, *It Comes Up Love*.

Biz was considerably better in April than March, according to Bill Miskell, Orpheum manager. Four bills tallied an estimated \$66,700.

Bombshells of 1943, March 26 week bill, took in only \$13,500 despite good weather. Lawrence Welk and His Champagne Music closed the week of April 15 with \$14,700. He was expected to do better, but got a bad break when half the town turned out to fight the swollen floodwaters of the raging Missouri. Edgar Kennedy, "slow-burn" comic of the films, had a featured spot.

Backed by nice weather Veloz and Yolanda played week of April 22 to a neat \$15,200. Supporting acts were Jerry Shelton, Caprino Sisters, Four Sidneys, and Evans and Nash.

WLW Billies \$8,995 3 Days in Columbus

COLUMBUS, O.—Magnetism of hill-billy shows as box-office bait was clearly demonstrated at the RKO-Palace Theater here last week when WLW's Boone County Jamboree, piloted by Bill McCluskey, head of the station's talent division, pulled a terrific \$8,995 Tuesday thru Thursday (27-29), with four shows daily.

Featured were Cinda Ann, a Jamboree newcomer, and Grandpappy Doolittle (Toby Nevius). Show opened Friday (30) at B. F. Keith's Theater, Dayton, O., for a week.

HYPNOTISTS

Please contact me by mail. I am anxious for personal consultation. BOX 415, care Billboard, 1564 Broadway, New York City.