

STEM OK WITH HOLDOVERS

Roxy, Para Pace Street; Strand Drops as Capitol, MH Hold Firm

NEW YORK.—Altho every house but the State has holdovers, grosses are holding firm. The street's activity is distinguished by the super takes being chalked up at the Paramount and Roxy theaters, while the Capitol and Music Hall continue with healthy business.

The Roxy (5,835 seats; \$50,067 house average), with the second week of Jimmy Dorsey's ork and *Crash Dive*, is

ing for a staggering \$100,000 for the opener. Layout has two more weeks to go.

The Paramount (3,367 seats; \$55,487 house average), now in the third week of Harry James and *China*, is similarly scoring robust grosses. Take is figured around \$83,000 after clicking with \$95,000 for the second session and a tremendous \$105,000 in the opener.

The Capitol (4,620 seats) now has the second week of Jimmy Durante, Sonny Dunham and Martha Eggerth, and *Presenting Lily Mars*, and is headed for a nice \$52,000 after chalking up \$62,000 in the initial rubber.

The Strand (2,758 seats; \$39,364 house average) is looked upon to hit around \$32,000 for the fifth week of Jan Savitt's ork, Ethel Waters and *Edge of Darkness* after knocking off \$36,000. Business dropped tremendously in the early part of the week, but recovered after the week-end. Prior takes were \$51,500, \$47,000 and \$54,500.

The Music Hall (6,220 seats; \$94,402 house average) is heading for a smart \$90,000 with the fourth week of *Flight For Freedom* after knocking off \$105,000, \$100,000, \$115,000 and \$110,000.

Loey's State (3,327 seats; \$22,856 house average) opened Thursday with Joan Edwards and Gus Van along with *Happy-Go-Lucky* and is expecting around \$22,000. Last week, with Fats Waller, Howard and Shelton along with *Slightly Dangerous*, bit off \$28,000.

Spivak Ork 28G At Philly Earle; Powell Fares Okay

PHILADELPHIA.—Earle Theater (seating capacity, 3,000; house average, \$18,000), with Charlie Spivak's orchestra on tap, chalked up a tuneless \$28,000 for week ended Thursday (6). Two test blackouts Thursday kept the maestro from nearing the expected 30 grand mark. Dorothy Keller and Carr Brothers, with the Stardusters out of the band, rounded out bill. *Chatterbox* on screen. New bill opened Friday (7) aims at hitting close to Spivak's figure, with Charlie Barnet, the band draw. Opening was big despite the heat. Condos Brothers and Tim Herbert added. Pic, *Night Plane From Chungking*.

Fay's Theater (seating capacity, 2,200; house average, \$6,000) fared well with okay attraction in Teddy Powell's band for week ended Thursday (6). With Billie Holiday on the assist, week added up to neat \$8,800. *Tahita Honey* on screen. New bill opened Friday (7), with Cootie Williams the band draw, got off to a nice start and figures on topping \$8,000 handily. Keaton and Armfield, the Three Blue Blades and Joe Arena added. *After Midnight With Boston Blackie* on screen.

headed for around \$87,000 after account-

Elman 14G, Jones 95C in Baltimore

BALTIMORE.—Dave Elman and his *Hobby Lobby* radio revue, which headlined stage bill at Hippodrome Theater week ended May 5, grossed an excellent \$14,200. Hobbyists included Glenn Camp and piano-playing dog; a talking bird, Shirley Wayne, Ken Whitmer, Frances Abella, Marcella Hendricks, Marion Bellet and the English Brothers, with Jane Frazee extra added. Pic, *Flight for Freedom*, a holdover.

Allan Jones, singing screen star, headlined bill at Maryland Theater week ended May 6, grossing remarkably good \$9,500. Also on bill, Cynda Glenn, Joe Rio, Four Queens and Kay and Karol. Pic, *He's My Guy*.

T. Dorsey Shatters Minneapolis High; Tilt Evening Price

MINNEAPOLIS.—Tommy Dorsey and his orchestra set an all-time record gross at the Mort H. Singer Orpheum (3,000 seats) for week ended May 6, attracting \$30,000.

Crowds were so heavy that the box office closed early on three nights.

Effective with the Dorsey engagement, Orpheum upped its nightly stagemore tariff from 55 cents to 65 cents, which attributed in some degree to the all-time record gross. Pix was *Powers Girl*.

Horace Heidt, who established the previous all-time high gross for the Orpheum with \$24,500 back in 1938, will have first crack at the new Dorsey record when Heidt and Frankie Carle bring their show in here Friday (14).

Shirley Deane 4G

ROCKFORD, ILL.—Palace Theater here grossed a good \$4,000 for its three-day vaude date ended May 2, featuring Shirley Deane, former movie starlet. Pic was *City Without Men*. House is operated by the Rockford Theater Corporation and managed by Willard Van Meter.

23G for Latin Show

SAN FRANCISCO.—Senor Brazillo's South American *Follies* grossed \$23,000 at the Golden Gate (2,850 seats) here week ended Wednesday (5). On the screen was Walt Disney's *Saludos Amigos*.

Connee Boswell Big 22G in Chi; Adler, McIntyre Open Slow

CHICAGO.—The holdover of *Happy-Go-Lucky* at the Chicago Theater for a second week, April 30-May 6, combined with the draw of Connee Boswell gave the Oriental a fine \$22,000 week ended Thursday (6). Connee worked under the handicap of a heavy cold all week, but missed only the last two shows, not enough to do any harm. Joe Venuti and band plus Dick Buckley, locally known comic, and Betty Jane Smith, tapper, were co-features of this \$6,500 package show. Screen had Jinx Falkenburg in *She Has What It Takes*.

Chicago (4,000 seats; \$40,000 house average) nose-dived to \$31,000 for its second week of *Happy-Go-Lucky* and a presentation show featuring Raul and Eva Rayes, Gene Sheldon and the Oxford Boys. A strep throat forced Mickey King out after the first show and she was replaced by Rolly and Verna Pickert. Unless the picture is of an unusually strong nature, it seldom holds up well a second week in this combo house.

Week of May 7, Oriental opened slow with Hal McIntyre and band, plus Larry Adler (band is a first timer in Chicago, and Adler is a first timer in this house). On screen, Lupe Velez in *Redhead From Manhattan*. Chicago started okay with *Edge of Darkness* and vaude show co-featuring Georgie Tapps and Cross and Dunn.

WLW Jambo Sock \$14,307 in Dayton

DAYTON, O.—Two extra weeks of vaude at the RKO-Colonial Theater here got away to a big start, with WLW's Boone County Jamboree, piloted by Bill McCluskey, grossing a saffiger \$14,306.72 for week ended Thursday (6), a way-above-the-average take for the house and the best the Boone County outfit has pulled in its three seasonal visits here.

Despite an all-day rain, the hillbilly unit pulled \$3,591.68 on Sunday in six shows, a new all-time one-day high for the house. Record was made despite the fact that 30 minutes was given over to President Roosevelt's radio chat Sunday night, causing many standees to demand a refund. Final night's business was hampered by a county-wide blackout.

Second week of extra vaude is given over to Count Basie's ork, opening Friday (7).

"Scandals" \$15,750 in L.A.

LOS ANGELES.—George White's *Scandals* turned in a fair \$15,750 at the Orpheum for seven days ended Tuesday (4). House (2,200 seats) averages \$7,500 at 65 cents tops. Pic, *Murder in Times Square*.

Freeze Food, Drink Prices in Eight Southeast States

NEW ORLEANS, May 8.—Prices of meals, special orders and drinks in all niteries and other eating and drinking places in eight Southeastern States were frozen this week at top charges sold during the week April 4-10, the regional office of the OPA announced.

States included Mississippi, Alabama, North and South Carolina, Florida, Tennessee, Virginia and Georgia. Wines and all other alcoholic drinks are included in the order except for exemption of "bona fide" private clubs.

The ruling specifically stated "that proprietors of eating places may not discontinue meals now being offered if by so doing customers would actually have to pay more for the same food than they did during the base period of April 4-10." The order marks the first time the OPA authorities have controlled the price of alcoholic mixed drinks. Operators may continue collecting separately any taxes they collected during the base period.

MAGIC

By BILL SACHS

BOB NELSON (Korda RaMayne) opened Friday (7) at B. F. Keith's Theater, Indianapolis, to headline the vaude proceedings with his mental and midnight spook turns. On May 4 Nelson was interviewed over Station WBNS, Columbus, O., by Johnny Jones, columnist, on *The Columbus Dispatch*, on the latter's personalities air program for Columbia Pictures. Nelson was introduced as "the nation's big magic manufacturing man." . . . JOHN SNYDER JR., the Cincinnati magic maker, and his wife, Bess, departed Saturday (8) for their summer home at Fox Lake, Wis., where they will remain until fall. . . . JACK HANDY, the Lynchburg (Va.) necromancer, is being mentioned as the next national president of the Society of American Magicians, which holds its annual conclave soon. . . . BEN B. GEORGE, sales manager for Procter & Gamble in Cincinnati, is the new president of the Queen City Mystics No. 11, SAM, Cincinnati, succeeding Rudy Lenzer, who moves into the secretary's post, replacing Ronald Haynes, who entered the army May 1. . . . CARLTON KING and Dorothy opened last Wednesday (5) at Jimmy Brink's Lookout House, Covington, Ky., for a two-weeker with their magic and gags. . . . HAROLD M. LAUGHON, manager and assistant of the Judith Johnson mental act, has been inducted into the army and is stationed with Btry. C, 558th C. A. Bn. (AA) at Camp Davis, N. C. He will be joined there soon by his wife (Judith Johnson) and the two will put in their spare moments entertaining the soldiers. . . . WILFRID DU BOIS is lending his magical talents to Harry Howard's *Bomb*. (See *MAGIC* on page 27)

Halifax Opens Spot For Men in Uniform

HALIFAX, N. S., May 8.—Formidable competition for civilian night spots which appeal to men in uniform has been launched by the Navy League of Canada, which has converted the local Forum rink into a giant nitery. For the opening, and occasionally in the future, the spot will be open to civilians. A dance floor has been laid for 1,200 dancers.

Plans call for use of local dance bands two or three nights weekly, and with importation of a name band at least once a month. Floorshows will also be offered on dance nights.

The Forum was used during the past winter and early spring for hockey and skating. It is part of the Halifax fair plant and under control and ownership of the dominion government the past three years. The conversion of the rink into a huge dancery is aimed at improving morale among the men and women of the army, navy, air force and merchant marine.

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