

Music as Written

Columbia-Collier's Tie-In on Dixie . . .

In a tie-in with Collier's magazine, Columbia Records last week waxed four Dixie sides with George Wettling and a crew of top jazzmen. A Collier's story will be accompanied by a color photo of the session and an abstract painting of the same scene by Wettling. Two of the tunes, untitled originals, will be given titles tying in with the mag, which proposes to promote them. Deal and session were made by Columbia's George Avakian.

Stearns Treks to Coast For "Sonny" Promosh . . .

Julie Stearns, Broadcast Music, Inc., professional manager, left Monday (12) for a cross-country junket to the Coast. He will attend a cocktail party at Macy's, Kansas City, for area deejays on Tuesday (13) and another in Macy's, San Francisco, on Thursday (15), both promotions for BMI's "Sonny the Bunny" tune. Stearns will proceed to Los Angeles to set up a film deal for the "Sonny" character.

Bloom-Schwartz End Partnership . . .

Ben Bloom is sole owner of Ben Bloom Music. His partner, Abe Schwartz, left after a divvy of copyrights. Schwartz's son, Gene, has set up his own pubbery. Schwartz is placing his share of the copyright there. Bloom continues operations, currently working on "With These Hands."

Burris Inks Exclusive King Recording Pact . . .

Neal Burris, hillbilly singer on WLW and WLW-T, Cincinnati, has been signed to an exclusive recording pact by Sydney Nathan, president of King Records,

Inc. Burris, who will cut his first session for King before March 15, is featured singer on WLW's "Midwestern Hayride," has a twice-a-week 15-minute program of his own on the station, and sings and emcees on WLW-T's "TV Rangers," Mondays thru Fridays.

Dunn-East To Huddle On Cap Merchandising . . .

Lloyd Dunn, head of Capitol's merchandising department, left Sunday (11) for a week at the diskery's New York office. While there, he will review Cap's forthcoming merchandising drive with the diskery's Eastern reps. He will join Hal Cook, Cap's sales promotional head, in repping the label at the music operators conclave in Chicago the following week.

MPCE To Sponsor "Brooklyn" Benefit . . .

Music Publishers Contact Employees has a tentative pension plan which they will ask the music publishers to look over. The contact union has set a benefit theater party for May 18 for "A Tree Grows in Brooklyn," proceeds to go to the relief arm of the organization. Bob Miller, MPCE prexy, returned from the Coast recently with more than \$5,000 worth of ads for the union journal.

New York

Les Brown and his ork heads East for three weeks of one-nighters while Bob Hope is on his European tour. The Brown swing, due for April, may be cut short if arrangements can be completed for the ork to join Hope in Europe.

Henry Busse's ork has been set for the Biltmore Hotel, Los Angeles, for eight weeks starting the first week of May. Russ Morgan heading East to make a two-week engagement at the Capitol Theater beginning March 29. Shep Fields, playing his first Chicago date in nine years, took out \$306 in overage money during his first week in the Edgewater Beach Hotel. He opened March 2 on a deal calling for \$3,000 per week plus a split of cover money over 3,000 covers.

Benny Goodman back in town to stay for several months. Confirming the story in last week's Billboard, Decca Records' board of directors voted an increase of five cents to its regular quarterly dividends. Payoff was 17½ cents per share to the holders of 776,000 outstanding shares.

Bryna Schwartz, of the RCA Victor flack staff, and Ed Lawson, flack for Ralph Flanagan and Buddy Morrow, have set the date for July. Howie Richmond leaves for Europe the end of April to set up branches in France and England. BMI is reviving "Because of You," the Arthur Hammerstein-Dudley Wilkerson ballad. Tune has been set in "I Was An American Spy," Allied Artists flick. Comic Harvey Stone will wax two routines for MGM Records: "Here We Go Again" and "Bills, Bills, Bills."

A boy, Jeffrey, to Carl and Terry Sigman at Doctor's Hospital Sunday (4). Pubber Juggy Gayles is making a two-week deejay junket thru the East for "I Won't Cry Anymore" and "Between Two Trees." Partner Jack Gale will return to the Coast on Juggy's return. Ella Fitzgerald will guest on NBC's "The Big Show" Sunday (18). Mrs. Leo Israel, wife of the kidtune writer, underwent surgery last week. Pubber Herbert Marks is convalescing from an operation. Paul Weston, Columbia recording orkster, is due in New York Tuesday (13) for a series of conferences with Prexy Jim Conklin and a. and r. topper Mitch Miller.

Chicago

Dick Lapalm, who was associated with Fran Jackson in her Coast publicity office, is opening his own office here. He will handle the Gastel accounts, as well as Woody Herman and Charlie Barnet. Ralph Marterie, Mercury orkster, returned to Chicago and his post at ABC studios as staff trumpeter, following 10 days in Hollywood promoting his disks. Jimmy Featherstone has received his release from GAC. He may go with McConkey. McConkey put its first band into the Karzas ballrooms, with Leo

Pieper opening for a month at the Trianon June 3.

National Ballroom Operators' Association is again putting into motion a program to get congressional assistance in eliminating ballrooms from the 20 per cent cabaret tax classification. The Jordonaires, gospel singing group at WSM, Nashville, have inked with the William Morris office. McConkey Artists has put Jackie Cain and Roy Kral, the jazz duo, on WBKB, TV outlet, for a 30-minute, once-per-week sustainer beginning in mid-April. Bob Christ, op of the Casino, Quincy, Ill., is using the Bob Burke ork for a month, starting March 25. He'll use one name band one-nighter during that time, with Harry James set for April 16. Charlie Stubbs, op of the Avalon Ballroom, Niles, Mich., died recently. Mercury Records has set up a supplementary premium plan for record distributor salesmen whereby these men will accrue merchandise prizes same as those offered previously to record store clerks, for self. Mercury disks.

Marjorie Slightam, Hammond organist, recently signed to an exclusive Music Corporation of America paper, opens at the Regis Hotel, Omaha, after a lengthy stay at the Phillips Hotel, Kansas City, Mo.

Philadelphia

Dave Appell Trio becomes a foursome for its stand at Big Bill's in adding drummer man Jerry Gilgor to the unit. King Cole Trio continues the name parade this week at the Club Harlem, with Chubby's, Collingswood, N. J., inking in Mel Torme for the end of the month. Three Strads and a Harp make for a new local unit bowing at the CR Club, with Louis DeSio, Gene Casireu and Bob Kaye, the Fiddlers Three, plus Tony Bove at the harp.

Hollywood

Barbershop Quartet Society slated for an April date at the Shrine Auditorium. Eddie LeBaron and ork signed for a bit in the Monogram musical, "Casa Manana." Coast-to-coast saturation of Columbia Records' dealer outlets is just one phase of the promotion tie-up between diskery and Warner Bros. Campaign is in conjunction with WB's flicker, "Lullaby of Broadway," Doris Day-Gene Nelson starrer. Disk jockey exploitation will be used to plug Miss Day's waxing of the title tune.

John Hall P.M. For J. Dorsey

NEW YORK, March 10.—John Hall, longtime manager with Jimmy Dorsey, has taken over the personal management responsibilities of the orkster. Hall will replace Janet Tremaine, who severed her affiliation with Dorsey a couple of weeks ago.

Meanwhile Dorsey landed a couple of plum location jobs on the West Coast this week. He will work the Fairmont Hotel, San Francisco for four weeks beginning May 8 and will follow that with another four-stanza stay at the Palladium Ballroom, Hollywood, starting June 12.

Philly AFM Co-Op To Up Employment

PHILADELPHIA, March 10.—A service in co-operation with the Pennsylvania State Employment Service has been set up by Local 77, American Federation of Musicians, to secure employment for musicians out of work. The public relations office of the AFM, headed by Roger Kortland, is acting as a branch for the State employment service. All job opportunities from the 12 district offices of the State service are available to union members.

Kortland pointed out that many musicians have avocations which make them available for work in other than their chosen profession. It is expected that more than 100 unemployed musicians will soon be placed in jobs thru this plan.

SAILS FURLED

Decca Finds Gob's Song Is by Berlin

NEW YORK, March 10.—Grace Hayes, former vaude headliner and now operator of the Red Rooster restaurant in Los Angeles, overheard a song warbled by a sailor who wandered into her spot, liked it, and got her house pianist to transcribe a copy. She forwarded the tune, *I'm On My Way Home*, to her son, Peter Lind Hayes, who took it to Dave Kapp, veepee in charge of recording at Decca, where Hayes records. Kapp liked the song and Hayes recorded it. When confronted with the problem of composer credits on the label, Kapp decided to use Grace Hayes's name until the song was claimed. Kapp's theory was that "some poor guy will eventually turn up, Decca will pay him his royalties, turn over the song to a publisher, and everybody will be happy."

Last week the situation was resolved. The writer turned up. Turned out to be a fellow named Irving Berlin.

Low-Price LP Label Set by H. Lubinsky

NEW YORK, March 10.—The third low-priced classical LP diskery is expected to enter the market within the next two months. Newest entry is Regent Records, labelmate of Herman Lubinsky's Savoy Records. According to Lubinsky, he will release both regular and low-priced long-playing disks in 10 and 12-inch sizes, with most of the material in both lines recorded in Europe.

Regent has been experimenting with classical disks for some time now. Label has two platters, a Bach sonata and a Paganini quartet, now on the market, at regular LP prices. New line will be priced at \$2 for the 10-inchers and \$3 for the 12's. Both series will be issued in hard covers, and the label will attempt to sign name artists. Distribution will be thru regular channels at regular discounts.

Peacock in Gear For Nat'l Operation

NEW YORK, March 10.—Peacock Records, Houston r. and b. indie, is gearing for production and distribution on a national basis. Irv Marcus, the diskery's sales manager, has been making a swing thru the East and the Midwest, setting up distribution and pressing facilities. He has arranged a tie-in with an indie presser in New York, and is discussing a like deal with an indie presser in Chicago. The plan is to expedite production and distribution by sending masters to several central points for pressing and shipping.

Marcus also added several new distributors—Binkley in Jacksonville, Fla.; F & F in Charlotte, N. C.; Tempo in New York and Gotham in Philadelphia. The label has been currently hot with a religious, the Blind Boys' *Our Father*, and a blues, Gatemouth Brown's *She Walked Right In*.

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