

Melody Maker

3^d INCORPORATING "RHYTHM"

EVERY THURSDAY Vol. XIX No. 543

B.B.C. LIFTS BAN ON "PAPER DOLL" SONG

A COUPLE of weeks ago (issue dated December 4) we slammed the B.B.C. "Slush" Committee for banning a harmless American hit-song called "Paper Doll."

ON TUESDAY OF THIS WEEK (14TH), THE PUBLISHERS OF THE SONG—THE PETER MAURICE MUSIC CO., LTD.—WERE OFFICIALLY INFORMED BY THE B.B.C. THAT THE BAN HAD BEEN LIFTED.

Well, we're always ready to approve when anybody has sufficient courage to admit himself wrong, and so—taking a modest bow for our part in the proceedings—we merely record the fact that the B.B.C. has changed its mind and climbed down.

And that ends that little episode.

STANLEY BLACK—BANDLEADER

THE name of Stanley Black as pianist and arranger stands already in high esteem throughout the profession and among the more discerning listening public. And the news that he has now formed his own band and has already a number of broadcasts lined up is sure to arouse the keenest interest.

Unfortunately for Home listeners, these airings are at the moment confined to overseas wavelengths. On Sunday next (19th) he will be on the Palestine half-hour, and on the two following Tuesdays (21st and 28th) he plays for the Gibraltar programme.

An ambitious aggregation comprising five brass, five-saxes, six violins, and four rhythm, under the title of Stanley Black and his Orchestra, they are exclusively featuring Stanley Black arrangements, opening with the appropriate signature tune, "Black Magic."

Stanley is confining himself to arranging and conducting, but will be heard in featured piano-solo numbers.

Eventually he intends to arrange solely for this outfit of hand-picked musicians, laying especial emphasis upon the strings and covering a wide range from Gershwin selections to out-and-out swing.

With all this it seems a pity that listeners at home should be for the moment deprived of hearing the band, but it is to be hoped that some enterprising radio producer will quickly become aware of their potentialities and give them the wider public they undoubtedly merit.

CHRISTMAS arrangements at the Feldman Club (100, Oxford Street, W.) are as follows:

There is no meeting on Saturday, December 25. There will be the usual meeting on Sunday (December 26) and also a bumper special meeting on the Bank Holiday (Monday, December 27).

Besides usual live band, star attraction next Saturday (18th) will be famous tenor saxist George Evans.

VAN PHILLIPS ALL SET WITH 'SOMETHING FOR THE FANS'

DRUM notability Jackie Greenwood, who recently left Joe Loss' Band after being with the outfit for 16 years, has already made plans to join up with Van Phillips in the new all-star pit orchestra which he will be fronting in the Cole Porter show "Something for the Boys," featuring glamorous Ambrose star Evelyn Dall, which opens at the King's Theatre, Glasgow, on December 22.

Jackie, whose main reason for parting from Loss was because he felt he could not stand the strain of any further touring, now finds not only that he will shortly be on the road again but that he will, after all, as for several years past, be spending the Christmas season in Glasgow.

STAR BAND

However, after its Northern opening, and a stay in Glasgow of about a month, the show will come to London for a long run.

Rehearsals for next Wednesday's Glasgow opening are this week, in full swing in London.

Besides Jackie Greenwood, the 24-piece pit orchestra to be used in Glasgow will include seven other well-known London musicians.

They are Tommy Bonny (late Henry Hall (1st alto sax); Micky Deane (1st tenor sax); Sam Sharp (1st trumpet); Tommy Anderson (2nd trumpet); Bert Boatwright (trombone); Theodore Gutter (1st violin); and Joyce Cochran (piano).

There will also be a five-piece band used on the stage, in addition to the pit orchestra.

In the midst of all his rehearsing and arranging, Van Phillips also had to make all preparations for, and put over, his "Palestine Half-Hour" broadcast last Sunday (December 12).

This airing was reckoned a big success, and Van will again be appearing in the series directly he returns to Town.

FELIX MENDELSSOHN wishes to contact electric-guitar players; also accordionist—good reader. Write him at 31, Haymarket, London, W.1.

"DADDY OF THE BLUES" GRAVELY INJURED

"MELODY MAKER" READERS WILL BE DEEPLY SORRY TO LEARN THAT A SERIOUS ACCIDENT HAS BEFALLEN W. C. HANDY, THE FAMOUS "DADDY OF THE BLUES," AND OUR LATEST INFORMATION FROM NEW YORK IS THAT HE IS LYING IN HOSPITAL IN A CRITICAL CONDITION.

Seventy-year-old Handy (composer of such jazz classics as "Memphis Blues," "St. Louis Blues," "Beale Street Blues," "Yellow Dog Blues" and dozens of others, and pioneer of Negro folk music) fell from a subway (underground) platform while waiting for a train.

Apparently on his way home, the aged composer lost his balance and fell across the track, striking his head against the rails.

Handy was removed to Harlem Hospital, and placed on the danger list, his injury being diagnosed as a fracture of the skull.

OUR XMAS NUMBER

IN order to give you plenty of time to digest your "Melody Maker" over Christmas, this paper will be on sale a day earlier next week.

Or, to put it in Basic English, you will be able to buy the "M.M." on Wednesday (December 22) instead of the usual Thursday.

MURRAY'S DIXIE LINE-UP

INTERESTING Dixieland Band engaged (as announced in last week's "M.M.") to start at Murray's Club on December 20 is now busily rehearsing, all ready to show the London West End something fresh in dance bands.

Leader is famous tenor-saxist Alfie Kahn, now about to be released from R.A.F., following on his dreadful experiences when, as we reported earlier this year, his plane was forced down in the sea following a raid on enemy territory.

Six noted musicians—supporting Alf will be Sid Taylor (clarinet); Lou Nussbaum (bass); Reg Manus (piano); Billy Duffy (drums); Harry Roach (trombone); and Alec Cave (trumpet).

Band, presented by Phil Green, has been got together for him by well-known Ciro's drummer Johnny Marks.

U.S. RECORD WAR: CAPITOL O.K. VICTOR N.G.

SINCE the news that American Decca and the American Federation of Musicians have come to terms in the recording war, comes the additional information that Capitol Records have also fallen into line, and now have the O.K. to start waxing again.

Capitol—newest U.S. recording company, owned by Johnny Mercer, Glenn E. Wallichs, and B. G. de Sylva, and located in Hollywood—have signed up Benny Carter and his bunch; Eddie Miller's Dixieland group; and Stan Kenton and his Band.

Among the first few platters they ever issued were Johnny Mercer's "Strip Polka" and Freddy Slack's "Cow-Cow Boogie"—two terrific sellers that put this firm right on the map.

W.L.B. APPEAL

On the Victor front, the situation is no nearer a settlement, and the Victor Recording Company has appealed to the War Labour Board to arbitrate. The matter is now in the course of negotiation in New York.

In a statement made by Mr. J. W. Murray, General Manager of Victor Records, he said that the company is unwilling to pay money direct to the Union for the benefit of unemployed musicians as demanded by Petrillo.

"It had been hoped," he says, "that before this time we would have been able to settle the differences with the A.F.M., but the Union remained adamant in demands which we cannot accept."

Mr. Murray's statement also adds that the situation is complicated by the fact that one record company (Decca) has signed a contract which contains "other provisions unacceptable to us."

IVY BENSON sincerely thanks all the vocalists who have written in to her, and now announces that the vacancy for a singer to succeed Georgina has been filled.

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COLLECTORS' CORNER by BILL ELLIOTT & REX HARRIS

DENNIS UMPLEBY, of the Royal Signals, sends us an interesting letter from Burma and unfolds rather a good idea. He says his jazz at the moment is non-existent when it comes to hearing any, and this gives him time to think about it all the more, so he has picked out some of the rising stars of jazz who he thinks will be the swing idols of the future...

- ALVIS, HAYES. Coloured Bass. Played with Duke Ellington, Blue Rhythm Band, Earl Hines, Jabbo Smith, Charlie Johnson. "Mangle" - Ellington and Orchestra. Bruns. 02096 "Cotton" - Ellington and Orchestra. Bruns. 02080 "Peelin' Gay." - Blue Rhythm Band. Bruns. 01742 "Jazz Cocktail." - Blue Rhythm Band. Bruns. 02077 "Overnism." - Earl Hines and Orchestra. Bruns. 01559 "Maple Leaf Rag." - Earl Hines and Orchestra. Bruns. 01999

John A. Robinson wants a little help on the Venuti-Lang all-star line-ups, which he understands have been recently upset by Langston White. The evidence is pretty conclusive to Messrs. White and Venables that it was not Schuit, Tarto and N. Marshall, but Gil Bowers, Harry Goodman and Ray Bauduc on piano, bass and drums respectively, together with Venuti, Ch. Teagarden, Jack T. By, Goodman, and Eddie Lang. This information has been carefully checked and rechecked, and we think that it can be accepted as such.

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