

Melody Maker

3^d INCORPORATING "RHYTHM"

EVERY THURSDAY Vol. XX No. 572

HARRY ROY OPENS HIS OWN NITERIE

SINCE Harry Roy took his courageous stand against the B.B.C., refusing to broadcast until conditions inside the Corporation enabled dance bands to do themselves justice, he appears to have been out of the news. Within the limitations imposed by illness, however—Harry has been a sick man ever since he returned from his Middle East tour last March—he has actually been very fully occupied. The fruits of some of Harry's recent labours became apparent last Thursday (June 29) with the opening of the new and sumptuously appointed Milroy Club, at 41-44, Stratton Street, Mayfair.

NOT ONLY IS HARRY ROY THE LEADING FIGURE BEHIND THE SCENES IN THIS AMBITIOUS NEW PROJECT; HE IS ALSO, OF COURSE, THE MILROY'S MUSICAL KING-PIN, PRESENTING NOT ONLY HIS OWN DANCE OUTFIT, WHICH HE LEADS HIMSELF, BUT ALSO A SPECIAL AND SEPARATE RUMBA BAND. ALTOGETHER, THE CLUB GIVES EMPLOYMENT TO OVER TWENTY FIRST-CLASS MUSICIANS.

Situated in the heart of Mayfair, the Milroy not only boasts the very last word in decor and lighting but is air-conditioned in the most modern way. The building in which it stands is an extremely substantial one of steel and concrete.

MANY OF OLD BAND

Many of the old Harry Roy stalwarts are to be found in the 11-piece band which Harry is leading at the Milroy. Personnel includes Hearne Lewis (piano); Maurice Sterndale (violin); Les Farrell (bass and vocalist); Johnny Rollands (drums); Tommy Anderson and Tommy Spring (trumpets); Hamish Christie and Charley Moore (trombones); John Swinton, Joe Arbitter and Jock Lowe (saxophones, etc.); and with nightingale Marjorie Kingsley to complete the bunch.

Large rumba band is led by Roberto Inglez, well known in Town for his association with Edmundo Ros, for whom he played piano for a very long spell. Vocalist in this outfit is Santiago Lopez, who was with Ros, and later with Francisco Conde at the Potomac and Princes'.

TENORMAN RETURNS

LONDON tenor-saxist and arranger "Spike" Hornett, who was with the late Teddy Joyce, and afterwards with Johnny Claes, etc., has recently been discharged on medical grounds after three years' military service. "Spike" is now in London, and is anxious to take up the threads of the business—in both a playing and an arranging capacity—again.

CONGRATULATIONS are in order this week for well-known London saxophonist-arranger Wally Stott. It's a boy—and both Mrs. Stott and son are doing fine.

RODERICK LEAVES PARRY-DANNY DEANS TAKES OVER

ANOTHER change is scheduled this week in the Harry Parry Sextet. This one concerns trumpet stylist Stan Roderick, who, after a most successful six months with Parry, has decided to give up the rigours of a touring life, and is returning to his home town of Aberdeen for a few weeks' rest.

Ever since his discharge from the Army, on medical grounds, after some extremely trying experiences at Dunkirk, etc., Stan has been very far from fit. His many fans will wish him the best of luck in future undertakings.

Replacing Stan Roderick in the Parry Sextet is that up-and-coming Scottish trumpeter from Glasgow, Danny Deans, who joins the outfit next Monday (10th) at the Empire, Inverness.

Danny has played in many of the leading jobs in London's West End, and is a stylist who is becoming popular with the fans.

Burman Didn't Leave Geraldo After All!

LAST week famous drummer Maurice Burman gave out the news that he was leaving Geraldo. This week Maurice has given out the news that he is not.

There is no great mystery behind this sudden change of plan. It is merely that the obvious happened.

When Maurice gave in his notice, Geraldo naturally asked him to think it over. Good drummers do not grow on treetops—especially in these days. While Maurice was doing the thinking, unbeknown to him a deputation from the band went to Geraldo and asked him to do his best to get Maurice to reconsider his decision.

"We don't like all these changes," said the boys. "It's bad enough when they have to happen through call-ups and other unavoidable causes."

Meanwhile, Maurice was still thinking, and the tribute of the boys to his popularity and ability was all that was necessary to tip the scales.

Maurice is not leaving Geraldo after all.

DEATH OF CHICK HENDERSON

ONCE again the war has hit the entertainment profession and cut short the career of yet another young celebrity. THIS TIME (AS BRIEFLY ANNOUNCED LAST WEEK) IT IS OUR VERY SAD DUTY TO RECORD THE PASSING OF FAMOUS EX-JOE LOSS VOCALIST CHICK HENDERSON (SUB-LIEUTENANT HENDERSON ROWNTREE, R.N.), WHOSE TRAGIC DEATH, WHILE ON ACTIVE SERVICE, OCCURRED LAST WEEK. THE INTERMENT TOOK PLACE LAST THURSDAY (28TH) AT PORTSMOUTH.

Chick Henderson, who was born in South Shields and was in his early thirties, occupied a unique position in the musical world, built up largely through his long association with Joe Loss, with whose band he appeared for over nine years.

Not only was Chick one of the finest and most popular of all the battery of vocalists who have appeared with the Loss Band up and down the country, but through his records and broadcasts he made friends and admirers all over the world.

Quite recently, as a star featured artist, he had carried out a series of exceptionally successful solo broadcasts on the Canadian networks.

Chick, who was a qualified marine engineer, left Loss to join the Navy in 1941. Zealous attention to his duties had resulted in his promotion to Sub-Lieutenant shortly before his tragic death.



CHICK HENDERSON

Mrs. Loss, for the boys still left in my Band who had the pleasure of working with Chick; and for Miss Foxburgh, stage manager Bill Tracy, and all members of my staff, who will always remember him.

Chick leaves a wife and a baby daughter, to whom we join with the whole profession and with his friends all over the world in expressing our very deepest sympathy.

EXTENSIVE TRAVELS

During the course of his Naval duties he travelled all over the world—went to South Africa, Russia and Canada, among many other places—and it was whilst ashore on special duties in Canada for a short time that he was able to carry out the broadcasts referred to above.

It is ironical indeed that Chick Henderson should have survived two terrible occasions when his ship was torpedoed on the high seas, only to meet his death so much nearer home.

Chick Henderson did one thing in his career that few singers have ever done before—he built a world-wide reputation literally on his performance of one song.

Those who have studied his career with Joe Loss's Band will need no telling that the song was "Begin The Beguine," and Chick's record of it is still one of the best-selling British records in recent years.

He will always be associated with this lovely song.

Joe Loss said to the "M.M."—"In the tragic death of Chick Henderson the profession loses a really great artist, and I lose a personal friend whose talents and whose companionship I shall never forget. He was not only a grand and conscientious singer, but a man of great personal charm and gentleness. We shall always mourn him deeply; this goes for me, for

VAN PHILLIPS TO CONDUCT NEW MUSICAL

WHEN the new production, "Hi,"—starring Cyril Fletcher, Phyllis Monkman, Betty Astell, etc.—goes on tour, starting July 10 at Southsea, musical director will be famous West End conductor-arranger Van Phillips.

During the few weeks that the show will be in the Provinces Van Phillips will tour with him several well-known West End musicians, most of whom were with him in the "Something for the Boys" show at the London Coliseum.

This bunch of musicians for the tour includes Sammy Sharp (trumpet); Jackie Greenwood (drums); Tom Bonney (1st sax); Sid Bliss (violin, leader); Harry Holt (piano); Sheila Field (harp), etc.

The new production may reach the West End about the middle of August, but no theatre is as yet specified and no final plans made.

Secretary Wanted

OWING to unforeseen circumstances, the Harry Parry office urgently needs a good shorthand-typist, either male or female. The position is a permanency, and carries excellent prospects for the right person. Apply to Suite 22, 27, Old Bond Street, London, W.1.

THE NOEL GAY MUSIC Co. LTD.
PRESENT
BRITAIN'S BIGGEST SONG HITS
WE DON'T KNOW WHERE WE'RE GOING
UNTIL WE'RE THERE
S.O. 3/- Backed with S.O. 3/-
JOURNEYS END
IN LOVERS MEETING
I'M SENDING MY BLESSINGS
NOEL GAY MUSIC Co. Ltd. ORCH. CLUB TERMS:
24, DENMARK STREET, 24 No. 24/-
CHANCERY CROSS ROAD, LONDON, W.C.2. JOIN NOW
TEMPLE BAR 3941-5

BRAND'S ESSENCE DANCE BAND GOSSIP

TROUBLE with this job of recording the doings of so many of our professional lads overseas...

Writes John C. Blair:— I feel that I must drop a line and let you know of yet another E.A.P. quintette...

These boys are led by RONNIE AUSTIN (late Alan Holmes), who was at the Mayberry, Edinburgh...

Last, but not least, is GEN HARGRAVE, who holds this grand Five together with some solid drumming...

Finally, the boys would like to be remembered to their friends at home, and, in particular, best wishes from Ronnie to George Brennan...

THE poor "M.M." critics in war-time. Sheer lack of staff makes it impossible for us to attend all the "first nights" that occur in town...

On this occasion, however, an amateur critic of considerable promise has come to the rescue. He is P/O A. BOOKMAN...

"Maybe I expected too much from Mr. Miller, but oh, Dave (I hope he doesn't mind me calling him Dave), some of your material was a trifle thin."

"However, the Band did very well with the stuff they had to deal with. Indeed, DIANE RABIN in particular gave a polished performance all the way through the show."

"Then came JERRY MASTERS with his rendering of 'I Heard You Cried Last Night'."

"To make up for this, however, the Band really got cracking with the one and only 'Chloe' a la Spike Jones..."

"Did you have to end that way, Dave? This type of song is more up to date than the rest of the show..."

"I don't know where Mr. Miller intends going! Good as his band is, if he is to have a really meteoric rise to fame and success on the Variety stage he will have to improve his material before he gets there."

THE D.R.H. Jazz Society, as it is called is specifically for the fans and devotees with the appreciation of "hot" music, but also forms one of the largest social clubs in the district...



Famous London "M.M." contest organisers Lyn Morgan (left) and Charles Cooper go through the "M.M." files to recapture the thrill of the many London contests they organised before the war...

was among the first British troops to land in Sicily, and later in Italy, and had a pretty hot time.

CHARLIE was back in England on leave with the Africa Star and Clasp proudly adorning his uniform; but Lyn is the lucky one.

WRITING from Bradford, J. KENNETH HALROYD hands me two surprising (and true) anecdotes.

TO add to the troubles, the car had almost reached London when Johnny Denis realised that in the excitement at Luton he had left his Hawaiian guitar and its amplifier at the hotel.

THE picture above is an historic one in the annals of MELODY MAKER contests.

LOU PREGAR wishes to get in touch immediately with saxist Eddie Condon. If Eddie reads this, will he please contact Lou right away...

DISSERTATION ON JACK PAYNE by "DETECTOR"

I HOPE that by now you have all read and digested Jack Payne's reply to his critics.

Before the war Mr. Payne's band had become Jack Payne and Peggy Cochrane doing a double Variety act, and I can see that that indicates a terrific public clamour for Jack Payne with his orchestra (and artistes)."

But there are others whose greater understanding of these various kinds of music seems to have led them to think that it would be better for any-

one to be master of one than Jack of all. But that remark will surely be considered irrelevant by Mr. Payne, because unless he has read his article he is satisfied that his band plays all the kinds of music it attempts equally well.

There are lots of artistes who never seem to get mentioned in this column, and the sparseness is usually given to me often letters asking how the intelligentsia of the jazz world rate them.



Here is the latest dressing-room snapshot of clarinet Maestro Carl Barrantau, with his popular nightingale Marie Cooper. Call of National Service means that Mae will leave Carl's Band for a time; she is shortly going over to E.N.S.A.

U.S. JIVE JOTTINGS

ONE writer, Thomas Griselle, of Hollywood, sent a half-dozen songs to a firm he suspected-of song-sharking.

As a result of Frank Sinatra's walk-out on the RKO studios during the last shooting period of his next picture...

Hoagy Carmichael makes his debut as an actor in Warners' "To Have and to Hold" enacting the rôle of a songwriter...

Spike Jones, whose "City Slickers" recently completed a stint in a forthcoming Paramount picture, "Bring On the Girls"...

Anita O'Day was slated to join Stan Kenton recently, replacing Dolly Mitchell. Anita, a good Jazz stylist, left Gene Krupa last year...

Young Pat Flowers, protégé of the late Fats Waller, is moving into the limelight. The pianist has been booked into the Ruban Bleu, cutting an album of hit records...

EDGAR JACKSON'S RECORD REVIEWS

RAYMOND (dms.). Recorded March 3, 1944. BEST part of "Jazz Me Blues" is Ken Oldham's solo.

MUCH of the side is arranged for the ensemble, and here the band falls rather badly. The playing is pretty wooden and the phrasing cut and dried almost to the point of corniness.

PARRY (clar.), with Derek Neville (alto, baritone); Ken Oldham (tenor); Stan Rodriciek (tpt.); Yorke do Sousa (pno.); Sam Molinaux (bass); Syd

A GEM FROM PAPA HINES

EARL HINES AND HIS ORCHESTRA... Indiana (Macdonald, Hanley) (Am. Blue Bird OA038255).

CONTEST FIXTURES

LIVERPOOL.—Tomorrow, Friday, July 7, at the Grafton Rooms (7-11 p.m.).

Cardiff.—Friday, July 21, at the City Hall (7-11 p.m.).

London.—Friday, July 28, at the County Assembly Rooms (8 p.m.-midnight).

Accrington.—Friday, August 18, at the Majestic Ballroom (8 p.m.-1 a.m.).

