PETER MAURICE -

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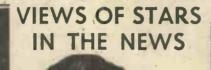
Jack Jackson

introduces hits on

DECCA-GROUP RECORDS

See pages 8 and 9 inside







ABOVE: A toast to Ted Heath from the boys of his orchestra celebrates his winning the NME Large Band Poll for the third successive year. TOP LEFT: Here is a new picture of the one and only Johnnie Ray, who has sustained an injury to his foot. He is seen at a New York film premiere, accompanied by his former wife, Marilyn Morrison. Johnnie's foot is healing well, you'll be glad to know. BELOW: From the film, "Seven Brides For Seven Brothers," Columbia brings you five stars for five boh! To the accompaniment of Ray Martin (extreme right) and his orchestra, four vocal celebrities have waxed two numbers from the film. They are (1, to r.) Ray Burns Ruby Murray, Ronnie Harris and Diana Decker. The two sides this celebrated quintet recorded were "Spring, Spring, Spring," and "Goln' Courtin'." The session 'ook place in London last Sunday.



Here is glamorous songstress Eve Bos-well, as she appears in the "Humpty Dumpty" pantomime at the Dudley
Hippodrome. On left are two famous
Americans — Frank
Sinatra and his
musical director,
Axel Stordhal.

*



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SUNDAY
6 p.m. Geraldo's Music Shop; 6.15
The Ovaltineys' Concert Party; 6.30
Primo Scala; 6.45 Frankie Laine; 7
Songs For The Million; 7.30 Sunday
Sing-Song; 7.45 Winifred Atwell Show;
8 Vera Lynn; 8.30 Take Your Pick;
9 Melody Caravan; 9.15 Curt Massey
and Martha Tilton; 9.30 Ted Heath;
10 Time For A Song; 10.30 Bing Sings;
10.45 The Eddie Calvert Show; 11 Top
Twenty, Midnight: Close down.

MONDAY

MONDAY
6 p.m. Monday Requests; 7 Spread
Your Wings; 7.15 Dan Dare; 7.30
Smash Hits; 8 Strike It Rich; 8.30
Your Mother's Birthday; 9 Hollywood
Calling; 9.15 Anything Goes; 9.30
Perry Mason; 9.45 Scrapbook Of Song,
10 Jack Jackson; 10.30 Records At
Random; 10.45 Italian Music And Song;
11.00 Programme Announcements;
11.5 Frank And Ernest; 11.30 The
World Of Fomorrow, Midnight: Closedown.

TUESDAY
6 p.m. Tuesday's Requests; 7.15 Dan
Dane; 7.30 Penguin Parade; 7.45 Guess
The Name; 8 Double Your Money; 8.30
Frank Chacksfield; 9 Treble Chance;
9.15 Curt Massey and Martha Tilton;
9.30 Perry Mason; 9.45 Friends And
Neighbours; 10 Question Mark; 10,15
Joe Loss; 10.30 Musical Express;
11 Revival Time; 11.30 Oral Roberts.
Midnight; Close down.

Midnight: Close down.

WEDNESDAY
6 p.m. Wednesday's Requests; 7
Accordion Time; 7.15 Dan Dare; 7.30 Family Album; 7.45 Socces
Survey; 8.00 People Are Funny; 6.30 Carroll Levis And His Discoveries; 9 Doris Day; 9.15 The
Deep River Boys; 9.30 Perry Mason; 9.45 Curt Massey and Martha Tilton; 10 Dreamtime; 10.15 Showtime; 10.30
Rhythm Round World; 10.45 Record
Show; 11 Back To The Bible; 11.30
Swing Session, Midnight: Close down.
THURSDAY

THURSDAY
6 p.m. Thursday's Requests; 7 Billy's
Banjo Band; 7.15 Dan Dare; 7.30
Penguin Parade; 7.45 Edmundo Ros;
8 Beat The Band; 8.30 Lucky People;
9 Songs Of Summer; 9.15 Ray Martin;
9.30 Perry Mason; 9.45 Friends And
Neighbours; 10 Teddy Johnson; 10.30
Evening Star; 10.45 Mario Lanza; 11
Old-Fashloned Revival Hour. Midnight:
Close down.

FRIDAY

Devening Star; 10.45 Mario Lanza; 11
Old-Fashioned Revival Hour. Midnight:
Close down.

PRIDAY
6 p.m. Friday Requests; 7 Butlin's
Beaver Club; 7.15 Dan Dare; 7.30
Sling Song Time; 7.45 Details to be
announced; S Shilling A Second; 8.30
Was There Something; 9 Scrapbook
Of Song; 9.15 Max Bygraves; 9.30
Perry Mason; 9.45 Your Future With
Eugene; 10 Dreamtime; 10.15 Details
To Be Announced; 10.30 Old Acquaintance; 10.45 Harry Gold; 11 The Voice
Of Prophecy; 11.30 Romance On
Records. Midnight; Close down.

SATURDAY
6 p.m. Saturday Requests; 7 Amateur
Football; 7.15 Records at Random;
7.45 Hello Young Lovers; 8 Irish
Requests; 8.30 What's My Line; 9
Scottish Requests; 9.30 Country Fair;
10 Listen With Philips; 10.30 Those
Were The Hits; 10.45 Italian Music

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WATERY GRAVE DEPARTMENT We knew it would happen. We knew we were tempting fate when we printed Margaret Downey's letter

we printed Margaret Downey's letter last week in which she vowed to throw herself in the Thames if Johnnie Ray doesn't come back to Britain in April.

"In reply to the threat that Miss Downey makes . . " writes Mr. F. Easterbrook, of 109, Hele Road, St. Marychurch, Torquay, Devon, "may I suggest that she carries out her threat? And that Messrs. Ray, Mitchell, Laine, Martino, Whitfield and the entire staff of your paper accompany her?"

A friendly soul, our Mr. Easterbrook!

But then a Mr. L. W. O'Neill, of 3, West Market Street, Newport, Mon., likes us rather more than the last-named correspondent. He says "I should like to congratulate all the NME staff for turning out such a grand paper, and thanks for your 'All-Star Annual.'

On the Margaret Downey question, Mr. O'Neill says he is "horrified by

Mr. O'Neill says he is "horrified by the approach which she takes to enthusiasm"

enthusiasm"

He goes on: "There is a great difference bet ween an ordinary enthusiastic fan and a hysterical girl. All I can say is that I think Mr. Ray would be better off if he does not return to England next April. His reputation would be far safer if such fans were non-existent."

Miss Mary Willatts, too, from 17, Orchard Road, Dagenham, thinks that Margaret should have another think about Johnnie's motives in staying in films.

think about Johnnie's motives in staying in films.

"Johnnie is a great success now in Hollywood," she points out.

"Surely any great fan of his would be pleased that he is doing so well in a new field of entertainment, and not mind that he has had to delay his visit here for a while?

"Surely she should be pleased that Hollywood now wants him, and didn't quietly drop him after his first film. Because, let's face facts, some of his popularity as a crooner will, in years to come, probably be lost. . but if he can establish himself as an actor he will continue his great success for a much longer time. 2).30 great success for a much longer time.

11 Look at Frank Sinatra!"

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get his autograph."

"While appearing in Hull, Guy let at least 100 fans into the hotel and sat signing autographs for half an hour," Leah Bayley, of Herbert Terrace, Hull, tells us, "I never got in myself, but do not dislike him just because of that—oh no! He's my idol and always will be."

"I think Guy Mitchell is just

my idol and always will be."

"I think Guy Mitchell is just wonderful," writes Margaret Gill, of Close Park, Ballymacaston, Co. Down. "I am just longing to see him again" This is a sentiment fully agreed with by Iris Barton, and Rita Dalton of Windermere Road, Langley Estate, Middleton, Manchester, while Iran Holden of War-Langley Estate, Middleton, Man-chester, while Joan Holden of War-rington, has written again to say once again that Guy, far from being big-beaded, is "one of the nicest people I have ever had the pleasure of meet-

Other fervent Guy Mitchell supporters include Pauline Hartwell, of Walham Green, S.W.6, and Frances Hinton, of Nutfield Road, Cricklewood, N.W.12.

And with that batch of letters I'm of said we'll have to close the Mitchell

afraid we'll have to close the Mitchell correspondence file for the time

TUNES FOR TED?

TUNES FOR TED?

A couple of weeks ago we had a bit of a kerfuffle over "Peanut Vendor," and whether Ted Heath had recorded it or not. It transpired that he hadn't, and there, for the time being, the matter rested.

Now Mr. William Todkill writes from Nacton Road, Ipswich, to suggest that Ted now records "Peanut Vendor," and names the Eddie Blair feature "Sweet Georgia Brown" as a worth-while backing.

There must be several other num-

Ferrystone Place, Undercliffe Street, Bradford.

"Who on earth does Ethel Armstrong think she is?" asks Miss M. Heath, but the other name groups—Troman, of Waterfall Lane, Old Hill, and we'd be interested to hear sugstaffs. "She's just jealous because gested couplings from readers. Only she wasn't one of the lucky ones to get his autograph."

"While appearing in Hull Guy

and we'd be interested to hear suggested couplings from readers. Only one coupling per reader please, and preferably on postcards.

Who knows, it might put a few ideas into the heads of the various recording executives and bandleaders concerned?

HORN BELT BOOGIE

After printing Nigel Burlinson's plea recently for Columbia to issue Mitch Miller's "Horn Belt Boogie," I've just been glancing through a catalogue, and find that it has been released on Columbia SCM 5037 (45 rpm), together with Guy Mitchell's Black-Eyed Susie."

Sorry, Columbia!

TWO FINE PEOPLE

"I was truly touched to read of the fine gesture paid by Frankie Laine to David Whitfield at the Royal Variety Performance ('Is It Really True?') by David Whitfield, NME, 31/12/54" writes Derek Perri-ton, of Woodvale Terrace, Laun-ceston

ceston.

"This just goes to show what fine people they both are both on and off the stage, and I should like through 'Talking Points' to bring this to the attention of the fans of both artists.

"By the way, record companies (Decca, in this case), how about a record of Dickie Valentine's imitations?"

THANKS TO THE PRESIDENT

THANKS TO THE PRESIDENT
A testimonial to the wisdom of joining a fan club comes from Miss Hilda Brownson, of Burtree Road, West Derby, Liverpool, 14.
"I would like to thank the president of Frankie Vaughan's Fan Club, Mrs. P. Cotton, of Warrington, for giving me the wonderful chance of meeting my heart-throb Frankie.
"I never thought my wish would

AFN HIGHLIGHTS

344, 271, 547 METRES

SUNDAY
A.M. 7 Sunday Circus; 9.05 Front
And Centre; 9.30 Symphonette; 10.30 Carson.

WEDNESDAY
A.M. As for Monday, except 8 Jack
Carson.

Music By Mantovani; 11.05 Melody
Go Round.

MONDAY
A.M. 5.05 Hillbilly Gasthaus; 6.15
Today's The Day; 6.30 Tips And Tunes;
7.05 Forward March; 7.15 Curt Massey;
8 Chartie McCarthy; 8.25 Julius La
Rosa; 8.45 7th Army Presents; 9.05
Merely Music; 10 Meet Millie; 10.30
Noon Request Show; 11.55 Les Paul.
P.M. 12 Martin Block; 12.30 Strictly
From Dixle; 1 Outpost Concert; 2.05
Stickbuddy Jamboree; 2.30 Bud's
Bandwaggon; 3 Howard Barlow Presents; 5 Bob Crosby; 6 Music In The
Air; 7 News World; 7.30 Artur
Godfrey; 8.30 Bing Crosby; 9 The
Air; 7 News World; 7.30 Artur
Godfrey; 8.30 Bing Crosby; 9 The
Air; 7.05 Paul Whiteman Varieties;
Whistier; 9.45 Blues For Monday;
Request Show; 11.05 Late Request
Show.

TIESHAY

A.M. As for Monday, except 8
Goucho Marx.

P.M. 12 Martin Block; 3 Hollywood
6 Music In The Air; 7.05 Late Request
Show; 11.05 Late Request
Frankfurt; 9 FBI In
10.05 Nugelito Vaidez; 10.30 Late
Request Show; 11.05 Late Request
Show.

SATURDAY

TUESDAY

A.M. As for Monday, except 8 Bing
Crosby.

P.M. 12 Martin Block; 12.30 Little
Matinee; 1 Outpost Concert; 2.05
Stickbuddy Jamboree; 2.30 Bud's
Bandwaggon; 3 Metropolitans Auditions; 4 Requests; 5 Perry Como; 6
Music In The Air; 7.05 Jack Carson; 0pry; 7.30 Record Parade Of Hits; 8.30 Enchanted Hour; 10.15 Skinny
Ennis & Orch.; 10.30 Late Request
Show; 11.05 Late Request Show.

And Centre; 9.30 Symphonette; 10.30
Sunday Syncopation.

P.M. 12.30 Hawaii Calis; 2.05 Highway of Melody; 3.30 Serenade in Blue;
4.00 Frank Sinatra; 4.30 Request
4.00 Frank Sinatra; 4.30 Request
Form Dixie; 1 Operas of The World;
2.05 Stickbuddy Jamboree; 2.30 Bud's
Bandwaggon; 3 American Music Hail;
4.00 Frank Grank Grank; 5.30
My Friend Irma; 6 Hail of Fame; 6.30
My Friend Irma; 6 Hail of Fame; 6.30
All-star Parade Of Bands; 7.05 Ozzie sleeve; 7.30 Groucho Marx; 9.45 Mosic
And Harriet; 7.30 Inheritance; 8
Music By Mantovani; 11.05 Melody
Go Round.

SATURDAY

come true; before I joined the fan club, I tried very hard, stood for hours outside stage-doors, and always went away with Frankie's autograph, thrilled with the smile he gave as he favourite singer, Donald Peers (one could not meet a more charming could not meet a more charming

signed it.
"But I'd never met him properly. "But I'd never met him properly. So please don't give in easily; when you're in the Frankie Vaughan fan club and you have a President like Mrs. Cotton, your turn will come, just like mine did."

*

J. Greenhill, of 22, Halifax Road, Leeds, has words of praise for the Sid Phillips band. "The only British band that is not 'led by the nose' by some American band or other," he says, "is Sid Phillips. He, alone, has created a style that is unmistakeable anywhere

-and what a grand relief that is!

"When you hear our big bands... you've heard the same effects from every other big band... and there's not an original idea among the lot. Phillips is, in my opinion, Britain's best!"

THE JOHNNY PAUL TRIO

"May I, through NME, express my surprise after reading in 'Gossip' recently that the Johnny Paul Trio are talking of breaking up."

This letter comes from Miss Valerie Griffiths, of 18, Studfield Crescent, Wisewood, Sheffield, 6.

"In my opinion, they excel any vocal group, and their version of 'A Baby Cried' is outstanding, but I have not been able to obtain a record of this; could you tell me whether they have, in fact, made a recording of it?

"Besides having talent as a harmonious trio, they are fascinating to watch, and put true feeling into their work. It is a pleasure to see and

work. It is a pleasure to see and hear them, so do please, NME, tell us more about the Johnny Paul Trio."

Well Valerie, we're pleased to tell you that the Trio hasn't yet broken

up. They've been appearing in Variety in Stockton all this week, and prospects seem a little brighter. They haven't made any commercial records here, Valerie, though one or two companies did express interest at one time. interest at one time.

favourite singer, Donald Peers (one could not meet a more charming personality).

"How about asking Donald to wite an article for us, on his recent Australian tour? And there's one other thing. A few weeks ago, we had a very nice young singer in Norwich named Keith Warwick; I'd like to see an article about him in the NME, too."

* *

When someone writes to us with the forthright question, "What is the public taste coming to?" we always sit up and take notice.

This week, Bob Merry, of 4, Storey Road, Highgate, London, N 6, starts his letter with these words, and goes on to say:

"Ever since the war, the taste in 'popular' songs has declined. So much so that we now get vocal groups singing about little, romantic-minded toothbrushes and 'Mama' dolls Male crooners just have to wiggle their hips or sing a semi-religious song and they are acclaimed. Girls just have to have a laugh in their voice or sing in an almost sensuous manner, and fame is almost sensuous manner, and fame is

almost sensuous manner, and fame is theirs.

"It would be all right if the popular' songs of to-day made sense. But, alas, they are meaningless and music-less. Not so the songs of Kern, Gershwin, Cole Porter and Vincent Youmans. I would be very happy if songs of the latter calibre were forthcoming; until they are, I hope bands will feature as many evergreens as they can in their programmes."

Do other readers agree with Bob's strong views on present-day songs? And have any publishers any comments to make on the subject?

*

COUP DE GRACE
With this extract from a letter from Ann Bristow, of 62, Stamford Street, Blackfriars, London, S.E.1, we'll end the column for this week. I'm not at all sure that we shouldn't end the column for all time, in view of Ann's penetrating observations!

"As a matter of interest," she

RONNIE RONALDE

"I must write and say how much I agree with Joyce Gardham about Ronnie Ronalde (NME 31/12/54), today are 'unspoiled modest, whom I have had the pleasure of sincerely grateful to their fans, and seeing, but not meeting," writes still the same ordinary guys they Jennifer Potter, of Earlham Road, were ten years ago'?"

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PEARL CARR

DAVID FRANCIS BAYswater 1829

* MIKE * STEVANS Rep.: A. JAMES. BIS GEORGE SHEARING was born in Battersea, London, on August 13, 1920. He began studying piano-playing at the age of five. After his student days at Linden Lodge School for the Blind, George toured Britain in the mid-'thirties with a unique band, composed entirely of sightless musicians and led by Claude Banupton.

In 1939 he made his first solo recording for Decca, "Blue Boogle with drunnmer (now Esquire Records chief) Carlo Krahmer. He was then a boogle-woogle specialist.

with drummer (now Esquire Records chief) Carlo Krahmer. He was then a boogie-woogie specialist.

During the war, George worked for a long period at Hatchetts in Piccadilly with the famous French violinist, Stephane Grappelly. He continued recording for Decca, gradually evolving a more modernistic style which can be heard on his sextet waxings of "Riff Up Them Stairs," etc.

A period with Frank Weir, during which time he mostly played accordion, led Shearing to his first visit to America in 1947. He returned to Britain shortly afterwards, but was in the States again the following year—this time to stay.

The George Shearing Quintet, as we now know it, was first formed purely as a recording unit. But so successful were its first sides ("Life With Feather," "Moon Over Miami," etc., released here by Vogue) that George decided to organise the group on a permanent basis.

Several personnel changes have taken place over the years, but

The great British Pianist, now

famous all over the world, tells you all about his forthcoming visit to this country

America. Now, as the time and the inevitable have vowed that we'll be in Hatchett's in London on May 1st next.

It's there that we met, and it's there we want to be to celebrate our 14th wedding anniversary. I have to stem a flood of sentiment to keep these reflections on a reasonably academic level, for the thought of going home stirs me with so many memories of warm friendships and happy times.

I look forward to recapturing many of them during my vacation home-coming.

The term "vacation" should answer one obvious question about my plans: I will not be making any scheduled playing appearances during my visit.

A European tour for the quintet is being planned for the near future, but even then union regulations will prevent any concerts in left it was necessity.

I felt it was necessity to the universe, I'll go back to battersea and start all over again as a plumber.

I continue to hear just as much suprior jazz coming from other aritists in Britain. To name just a few: Eric Delaney, Ronnie Scott, Johnny Dankworth, Jack Parnell, Norman Stenfalt, Norman Burns and P. Norman Stenfalt, Norman Burns and P. Norman Stenfalt, Norman Burns and P. Norman Stenfalt, Norman Burns and Johnst Century Barker stand out in my mind. If that seems to be a short-sighted time to spend absorbing the latest activity in jazz either here or in England.

Experiment

The universe, I'll go back to suprior and start all over again as a plumber.

I continue to hear just as much suprior jazz coming from other aritists in Britain. To name just a few: Eric Delaney, Ronnie Scott, Johnny Dankworth, Jack Parnell, Norman Stenfalt, Norman Burns and It that seems to be a short-sighted time to spend absorbing the latest activity in jazz either here or in England.

Experiment

Ralph Sharpo, one of my ex-pupils, so over here now and doing an outstanding job. That applies to almost over young who has ventured to cross against the common standing job. That applies to almost over young who has ventured to cross against the common standing job. That appli

Ambition

When the union raises the ban, you can bet we'll be first in line to make a tour of the country. That's been a very personal ambition of mine ever since coming to the United States.

The years haven't left me totally out of touch with British jazz. There is an increasingly healthy respect for English music and musicians in the American recording field—and that condition has resulted in a steady exchange of records across the Atlantic.

In addition, hundreds of former friends and colleagues have stopped by to visit me in U.S. clubs while they were vacationing or making business trips to America. Naturally, it's been no substitute for walking the streets of London and personally experiencing what's happening, and that's why

I felt it was necessary to make a trip to the U.S., which rightfully claims to be the birthplace of jazz as we know it. Most English musicians of integrity concede the U.S. to be superior in its overall jazz achievements.

An exclusive article specially written for the NME

'40's I arranged for Ted and also for Frank Weir. If those weren't two of the most swinging, musicianly bands in the universe, I'll go back to Battersea and start all over again as a

Ralph Sharon, one of my ex-pupils, is over here now and doing an outstanding job. That applies to almost everyone who has ventured to cross the ocean and test his British training against the competition of U.S.-schooled musicians.

There is no real comparison, as I look back, between England and America. They both offer such distinctively individual attractions, that any analysis would be punctuated with personal tastes.

This is an immense and overwhelmingly diversified nation—yet the most vivid personal impression I have had takes me back to Cornwall on a summer afternoon, with the sea surging against the rocks and a soft breeze reminding me that peace and serenity are not confined to music.

Trixie and I spent our first holiday together in Cornwall and Devonshire, and we are definitely including it on our vacation itinerary.

and we are definitely including it on our vacation itinerary.

Musically, my ambitions continue to be many and varied. The quintet is enjoying remarkable success on its cross-country tours, but I can never be satisfied with a status quo.

We are experimenting now with Afro-Cuban innovations, and I'm delighted with the results. We have added another instrumentalist, a splendid musician named Armando Perazza, who plays bongos and conga drums with great facility and imagination. delighted with the results. We have added another instrumentalist, a splendid musician named Armando Perazza, who plays bongos and conga drums with great facility and imagination.

Recently we recorded four sides

Leaving the Northern Variety Orchestra on January 13 is bassist Wally Charnock. His place will be taken by Harry Firth-Archer, from the George Roberts Band at the Carlton Ballroom, Rochdale.

with a highly professional group called The Ray Charles Singers, and I anticipate doing more in that realm because of the added dimension it gives the quintet.

Accordion

I am shortly going back to the accordion — no surprise to most of you who remember me as much for performing on that instrument as the piano, but which I haven't touched since my first few months in the U.S.

since my first few months in the U.S. I am also writing popular songs with increasing fervour, and eventually I'd like to concentrate in that field.

None of my dreams could be nearer reality than returning home. The three Shearings — Trixie, Wendy and I — are awaiting our visit with equal excitement.

Dad, who is 81, is living at Walworth, South London, and four of my brothers and sisters are still in the city, too, so it'll be a grand homecoming. Until then, my warmest regards to all of you.

SCOTT ADDS FOR GREEN'S

THE Ronnie Scott Orchestra will be augmented by three outstanding brass stars for its fortnight's season at Green's Ballroom, Glasgow, commencing on Monday (10th)

room, Glasgow, commencing on Monday (10th).

The temporary additions to Ronnie's line-up are Jimmy Watson and Jimmie Deuchar (trumpets) and Eddie Harvey (trombone).

Following their Green's season the Scott group will appear at Aberdeen (January 23), Perth (24th), Dundee (25th), Aberdeen (26th), Greenock (27th), Falkirk (28th) and Kirkcaldy (29th).

NVO BASS CHANGE



* * * * * * MALCOLM MITCHELL IS COMING TO YOUR TOWN: FIRST DATES! Feb. 25 NOTTINGHAM BEDWORTH DERBY Mar. 4 **PRESTON** DARLINGTON BRADFORD 6 HULL 10 11 SCUNTHORPE 12 LOWESTOFT LEICESTER 13 MARCH 20

LONDON DEBUT

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* * * * * *

HAPPY NEW YEAR FOR JERRY ALLEN TRIC

THE New Year has started with TV's bang for the Jerry Allen The boys will have had eight broadcasts and one TV appearance between January 3 and February 12.

VARIETY

In addition, they are going into Variety with Lita Roza for the two weeks commencing January 17. The first week is at the Gaumont, Worcester; the second at the Metropolitan, Edgware Road.

The air dates lined up by Jerry Inger and the Trio started with "Midday Music-Hall" on January 3, and continue with a MWYW session favou (10th), "Club Piccadilly" (15th), page.

"At the Hammond Organ" (23rd),
"Club Piccadilly" (29th), "At the
Hammond Organ" (30th), and
"Club Piccadilly" again on February 5 and February 12.
What is worrying the

what is worrying the boys at present is how they are to get from the Benny Hill Show at Lime Grove Studios, Shepherd's Bush, to the Paris Cinema, where "Club Piccadilly" goes on the air a bare half hour after the TV show finishes.

With Jerry Allen on Hammond organ, the other boys are Ken Ingerfield (bass), Lionel Rubin (drums), and Alan Grahame (vibes). Their latest Decca record is very favourably reviewed on the facing page.



THAT MAN suggestion of ineptitude would come from the fans.

Jazz records reviewed HUMPHREY LYTTELTON

get down to the there are one or two oddments coun left over from the Old Year which require some attention. I have already given notice that I am going to deal harshly with the new Earl Bostic LP, issued on Parlophone (PMD 1016).

Before I do so, let me forestall one practically inevitable line of counter-criticism. It has become a counter-criticism. It has become a tedious habit for readers with some particular pet to exclaim, whenever that pet is adversely criticised, that the reviewer is not fitted to comment on him. I am quite confident that, were I to write a column-long eulogy of Earl Bostic and all his works, no

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ADDRESS ...

This time, I have taken the trouble to check my conclusions against those of my "modernist" colleague Mike Butcher and of altosaxophonist Bruce Turner. And on the subject of Bostic, I find we are of one mind.

the subject of Bostic, I find we are of one mind.

This LP consists of four "Flamingo-type" mid-tempo pieces—" Moonglow," "For You," "You Go To My Head" and "The Hour Of Parting"; two up-tempo bouncers—" Linger Awhile" and "Ain't Misbehavin"; a Bostic mood-piece with choral backing—" Velvet Sunset"; and a sax-speciality piece—" Smoke Gets In Your Eyes." It's this last track which really gives the game away, for it's played without any of the tricks and stunts with which Bostic simulates a bogus

with which Bostic simulates a bogus
"hot" sound
In its nakedness, Earl Bostic's tone

In its nakedness, Earl Bostic's tone belongs to the dance-band or concert orchestra Sweet, over-lush and with a horrid sentimental vibrato, it falls into that category of exhibition saxplaying in which the late Freddy Gardiner excelled. And I say this without any disrespect to Freddy Gardiner, who did it very, very much better.

SCHMALTZY

In the rooty numbers, this schmaltzy tone remains, but disguised beneath an overlay of yodels, rasps and corny double-fingering.

These tricks of the trade were common currency among rhythm and blues excited how before the kids

These tricks of the trade were common currency among rhythm and blues saxists long before the kids discovered Bostic, but no one has ever used them with such lavish disregard for taste. True, the music swings, but in a grinding, monotonous way which none but a moron could relish after the first hearing. When I think of the notoriety which Earl Bostic has achieved on the strength of a handful of raucous clichés, and stack it against the attention paid to Benny Carter, Pete Brown, Johnny Hodges, Charlie Holmes—yes, Charlie Parker, too—I boggle. Still, it's no use boggling. All I ask is that you should recognise that Bostic, along with many other transient freaks in the entertainment world, is one of the lucky ones who has hit on a moneyspinning "gimmick" and is now busy flogging it to death. If this LP collection doesn't hammer that home, then you have no ears in your head—if, indeed, you have a head.

On Good Time Jazz, there is an

head.
On Good Time Jazz, there is an Extended play record by Kid Ory's Band, consisting of titles already issued on 78's and recorded at one of those shocking great Dixieland jubilations which they hold on the West Coast.

West Coast.

Titles are "Ory's Boogie," "St.
Louis Blues" and "Blues For
Jimmy," another instalment in Ory's
perennial tribute to his old colleague, Jimmy Noone, For some unaccountable reason, this number
appeared on 78 as "Blues For
Home"

SHOE-LEATHER VOICE

Kid Ory's announcements, which the EP customers gets thrown in for extra measure, are almost worth the price of the disc.

His casual introductions come through in a voice as ripe and wrinkled as old shoe-leather—and just as near the ground.

The music is concert stuff, with Teddy Buckner unrestrained and the rhythm fluctuating somewhat in the excitement There's nothing here to compare with the great hi-fi LP issued last year, and strangely enough there's less "atmosphere." The audience is remote in the great amphitheatre, and the applause comes rippling through like tiny breakers on a calm evening.

Experience of American mammoth audience are reserved has given me and

Experience of American mammoth audiences on record has given me an impression of the transatlantic jazz fan almost as sinister as that which I have of the disciples of Earl Bostic. The only solo which is applauded on "Blues For Jimmy"—and none, let's face it, is very startling—is an out-of-tune growl solo by Teddy Buckner which ends

Our record-reviewer, Geoffrey Everitt, mixes with the best people —as this picture taken at a New Year party shows! He is on the right next to Alma Cogan, with Ronnie Harris and Alma's sister completing the group.

with a ribald horselaugh hardly in keeping with the "de mortuis" character of the performance.

"Kay Cee Jazz," featuring Bennie Moten and his Kansas City Orchestra, is issued on HMV DLP 1057. This is the early Moten group, recorded in 1926-8, and bearing no obvious family likeness to the Kansas City music which graced the Swing Era ten years later.

Here is a singer who believes that the lyric of a song is just as important as the melody, and it is true to say that no singer today can interpret a lyric as well as Frankie.

He is master of the slow lilting love song and of the song with a beat; in fact, he is the master.

On this disc, you can hear "Lover." "It's Only A Paper Moon." "My Rlue Heaven" "It

KANSAS CITY JAZZ

KANSAS CITY JAZZ

I would like to have the space left to discuss the evolution of K-C jazz, but I must content myself with saying that this music differs very little from the sort of big band jazz which King Oliver and Clarence Williams were playing elsewhere.

The band varies in size between ten and eleven, and the orchestration is broadly speaking based on muted trumpets over saxes and freemoving trombone, with piano, banjo, tuba, and drums in the rhythm. The soloists are adequate, without adding anything startling to what we expect in this sort of music.

Moon," "My Blue Heaven," It All Depends On You," "Should I," The Continental" and "When You"re Smiling."

These wonderful, evergreen melodies give so much scope to a singer with wonderful phrasing and a feeling for all types of rhythms. The orchestra is conducted by George Siravo on seven of the eight sides while Hugo Winterhalter waves the baton on "It All Depends On You." This, sir, is my kind of music.

The band rocks along nicely in many of the numbers, and altogether the sound is a happy one for big band music of that period.

many of the numbers, and altogether the sound is a happy one for big band music of that period.

* * * * * *

During the general hurly-burly of Christmas time, I missed a letter in the correspondence column from my good friend Ernest Borneman. In terms marked by their civility (other dissentients, please note) her crossed swords with me over the question of Chicago style.

Since I have often referred in this column to letters far less worthy of serious consideration, it is important that I should asknowledge his criticism here. I hope to return to the fray when a suitable occasion arises.

MARION MARLOWE "Whither Thou Goest"

"Kiss Me Once" (Philips PB.352)

ARION MARLOWE is certainly not the greatest singer of deal of warmth and charm and is most suitable to the sentimental type of song.

As "Kiss Me Once" falls into this category, it is obvious that she is recording the right songs, and I like the orchestral backing which is instance of the day but her voice has a good deal of warmth and charm and is most suitable to the sentimental type of song.

As "Kiss Me Once" (the day, but her voice has a good deal of warmth and charm and is most suitable to the sentimental type of song.

As "Kiss Me Once" (the day, but her voice has a good deal of warmth and charm and is recording the right songs, and I like the orchestral backing which is just about the most tasteful I have heard for ages.

It is so simple and yet so effective arises.

THIS IS

Popular records reviewed by famous Radio Luxembourg disc-jockey GEOFFREY EVERITT

"Sing And Dance With Frank Sinatra"

Parts 1 & 2 Philips (BBR, 8003) (Long Playing)

ONCE and for all Frank Sinatra ONCE and for all Frank Sinatra has killed the age-old saying "They never come back," for today he stands at the top of the ladder and he has won his way back only by sheer ability and a voice of distinction.

Here is a singer who believes that the luvic of a song is just as

He is master of the slow lilting love song and of the song with a beat; in fact, he is the master.

On this disc, you can hear "Lover." "It's Only A Paper Moon," "My Blue Heaven," "It All Depends On You," "You Do Something To Me." "Should I," "The Continental" and "When You're Smiling."

and the guitarist almost has a solo spot. Perhaps this side is mainly for the male record buyers and it's a pushover for all lonely lovers. "Whither Thou Goest" is a song

with a great lyric and although the idea is not a new one, it has a touching sentiment.

I sincerely hope I shall hear many more records by Marion Mar-lowe, for she has a quality that is somewhat different.

RUSTY DRAPER "The Magic Circle"
"Muskrat Ramble" (Mercury MB.3165)

MANY years ago, that great trombone-player Kid Ory penned "Muskrat Ramble" and in recent months it has come to the fore as a vocal item although it had

fore as a vocal item although it had become accepted as a jazz classic. Rusty Draper has a nice backing with a good beat, yet his voice just lacks the spark of personality that is so necessary on this song; nevertheless, his performance is well above average.

"The Magic Circle" is a novelty type song but it has little to suggest that we shall hear a great deal of it in the near future.

Sometimes I wonder just why Record Companies cover this kind of material, but we must remember that it is easy to pick out a hit when it is already installed in the Hit Parade. Parade.

This is an interesting record but not a great one.

LOU MONTE "In My Dreams"
"When I Hold You In My Arms"

(H.M.V. B.10794) MANY may remember that some months back, Lou Monte recorded a song called "One Moment More" and although it had the makings of a hit, something went wrong and it just never bannened

went wrong and it just never happened
This time he offers two titles backed by the wonderful Hugo Winterhalter Orchestra, and I'm afraid he is somewhat overshadowed on "In My Dreams" by a most beautiful accompaniment.
At times, Lou phrases rather like Eddie Fisher especially when he is in full voice, but on "When I Hold

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MY KIND

You In My Arms" he has a distinctive style, and this Spanish-sounding melody is most catchy. It's the sort of thing that you want to listen to more than once, and the chances are that you will if you can find time for one listen.

Take my advice and don't miss this side, for it's first-class in every respect.

DEAN MARTIN
"Let Me Go, Lover"
"The Naughty Lady Of Shady
Lane"

(Capitol CL.14226)

(Capitol CL.14226)

The lazy, relaxed voice of Dean Martin is most suited to these contrasting titles and on "Let Me Go, Lover" he receives wonderful assistance from a first-class choir. For once, though, we do not hear the haunting alto saxophone of musical director Dick Stabile.

This is a song that should go a long way and I shall watch its progress with a good deal of interest.

progress with a good deal of interest.

"The Naughty Lady Of Shady Lane" is attracting more than a little attention, which goes to prove that the well-behaved young lady of today does not stand a chance!

This melody is made to measure for Dean and he makes the most of it. The backing is rhythmic and simple, and we discover at the end of the record that the only trouble with this naughty lady is that she's only nine days old.

This is a record with two good sides and. I think, two hit songs.

TOMMY ROGERS AND HIS
BALLROOM ORCHESTRA
(directed by Harry Gold)
"If I Had You"
"At The Jazz Band Ball" (Parlophone F.2543)

THIS is really strict tempo dance music with a difference and I am prepared to go on record as saying that after many years of absolute supremacy, Mr. Victor Silvester has got a most serious challenge to contend with.



Here are some really great jazz tunes arranged for dancing and played in a manner that attracts attention from musicians and dancers alike

played in a manner that attracts attention from musicians and dancers alike.

It is lively, musical and, what is so important, it is played with a beat. What a pleasure it will be to dance to a real beat and enjoy the music at the same time!

The experience of Harry Gold has certainly never been used to greater advantage and dare I suggest that this is really the way that most dancers like their Dixieland music? Keep it commercial and the business Keep it commercial and the business will flow in.

This record has started something,

and at last we are on the right road.

JERRY ALLEN AND HIS TRIO "S'Posin" "When I Needed You Most" (Decca F.10428)

(Decca F.10428)

THIS is a noise I like and my New Year prediction is that Jerry Alken and his Trio will establish themselves without a great deal of difficulty in 1955.

They play their music in such a manner that it appeals to listeners of all ages and when they set about the old favourite "S'Posin" the joint really starts jumping.

I like my commercial music dressed up a little and therefore I give credit to a leader with ideas. The Allentones sing the vocal in a modern but acceptable style.

"When I Needed You Most" is exciting and I must remark on the excellent quality of the recording. I have never heard the organ recorded as well as this before, and the engineers can take a good deal of the credit for a wonderful record. Remember the name Jerry Allen! Remember the name Jerry Allen!

> MILDRED BAILEY
> "The Rocking Chair Lady"
> Parts 1 & 2
> (Brunswick LA.8692) (Long Playing)

ALTHOUGH it is just over three years ago since a serious heartattack took Mildred Bailey from our midst, her songs live as a monument to a fine singer of the old school.

25 years ago she joined the great Paul Whiteman Band when Bing Crosby was one of the famous "Rhythm Boys" and it is said that Bing has often stated that she greatly influenced his early singing

greatly influenced his early singing style.

On this disc she is heard with the Delta Rhythm Boys on "Georgia On My Mind," "Everything Depends On You" and "It's So Peaceful In The Country," while she goes solo on "Rockin' Chair," "Sometimes I'm Happy," "More Than You Know," "All Too Soon" and "Lover Come Back To Me." On two of the sides you can hear some great guitar-playing by Dave

Barbour with Herman Chittison at

Barbour with Herman Chittison at the piano.

Many will say that Mildred Bailey was a musicians' singer, but I must remind you that she had several very big hit records during the height of her popularity.

Of the eight sides, my personal favourites are "Rockin' Chair" and "Lover Come Back To Me."

"JIMMY DURANTE IN PERSON" Parts 1 & 2 (MGM D.102) (Long Playing)

(MGM D.102)

(Long Playing)

THIS is not a new issue, but nevertheless it is a Long-Playing record that should be brought to your notice, for many of the titles are little known on this side of the Atlantic.

Jimmy Durante is a supreme artist and also a very good composer of his own material. No fewer than seven of the songs on this record bear his name, as follows:—"I'll Do The Strutaway," "Fugitive From Esquire," "Chidabee-ch-ch," "The Day I Read A Book," "I'm The Guy Who Found The Lost Chord," "It's My Nose's Birthday" and "The State Of Arkansas."

On all these sides, the orchestra is directed by Roy Bargy and the accompaniments are both musical and bright.

This is a real party record for it has an amazing spirit and atmosphere and the great artistry of Jimmy Durante is evident right from the word go. If you're a Durante fan, pop out and buy MGM D.102.

A galaxy of modern jazz stars appears at a special Sunday show at St. Andrew's Hall, Glasgow, on January 23. Featured are Bill McGuffie, the Tony Kinsey Trio, the Don Rendell Sextet, the Ken Moule Seven, and Dave Shand and his Music.

They are believed to be the only full-time Latin American all-ladies' orchestra in Britain.

THE SOUTHLANDERS, coloured close-harmony quartet from Jamaica, successfully made their West

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2 LET'S HAVE ANOTHER PARTY Winifred Atwell (Philips) 3 MAMBO ITALIANO

3 MAMBO ITALIANO
Rosemary Clooney (Philips)
4 NO ONE BUT YOU
BULLY Eckstine (MGM)

6 I STILL BELIEVE Rounie Hilton (HMV)

7 HEARTBEAT
Buby Murray (Columbia)

Last This Week



No wonder Dickie Valentine looks happy! This week he has not only won the male vocalists' section of the NME Poll—for the third year running—but also, for the first time ever, a Valentine recording, on Decca, "Finger of Suspicion," is top of the best-sellers list. In our picture he's talking to his oungest fan, a five-year-old Scots lassie from Edinburgh.

ROUND AND ABOUT

r it Year's Eve, go into Variety for a nos-week at the Granada, East Ham, of commencing January 31.
The girls are also undertaking a ante series of one-nighters, including dates at Boston (January 15) and Wisbech (January 29).
They are believed to be the only at full-time Latin American all-ladies or orchestra in Britain.

THE SOUTHLANDERS, coloured

FLIZABETH LIPTON and her End cabaret début last Monday at Cubanettes, who played their the Embassy Club. The boys recently first public dance engagement at London's Regent Palace on New appearance in Rome.

TUTURE name band bookings at Coventry Hippodrome have now been completed into early March.
The Squadronaires appear there on Sunday, followed in succeeding weeks by Johnny Dankworth, Vic Lewis, Sid Phillips, Ronnie Scott and Johnnie Gray (both on February 6), Joe Loss, Eric Delancy, Harry Gold and Ted Heath (March 6).

THE Fleet Street Jazz Club continues to gather strength.
Starting 1955 with a membership
of more than 350, it will, as from
next week, be running two weekly sessions, on Mondays and Fridays

The sessions are held at the Royal Scottish Corporation premises in Fetter Lane, where the club moved, owing to its expansion, from its first premises at the Albion, Ludgate

VERA LYNN

THE "Babes In The Wood" pantomime now touring three Granada theatres in Greater London is an outstandingly good seasonable production, moving throughout with pace and attack not normally associated with this redicional form of anteriorment traditional form of entertainment.

traditional form of entertainment.
Seen at the Granada, Sutton,
Surrey, this week, this aspect of the
show is the most striking. Hat
Monty, who leads the comedy as
Simple Simon, recently announced
his decision to go "dumb" when all
his present commitments are completed, and in future to work only
as a musical clown. Many of his
appearances in this show come into
this category, and they are of high
quality.

APPFALING

APPEALING

APPEALING
Comedienne Sally Barnes plays the dame role in an appealing manner and puppeteer Rene Strange is Principal Boy, but tends to the herself down to the microphone more than is essential and natural. Audrey Smith. Principal Girl, has charm and grace in all she does.

Star is Vera Lynn, deliberately left until last in this review because she plays no role in the pantomime whatsoever. She is presented, near the end, in a variety act that makes no concessions at all to traditions. She was very warmly received on herentry and went straight into "Tonight's The Night."

The rest of the act was mainly

The rest of the act was mainly drawn from her recordings, "Little Things," "There Must Be A Reason," and her latest hit "My Son, My Son," together with reprises of some of her earlier successes, "We'll Meet Again" and "Aut Weidersehn."

Vera Lynn is usually regarded as an intense ballad singer. That is the style that brought her early fame and later record hits. But her faster, "beat" numbers were just as appealingly projected to balance a fine singing act.

She was accompanied at the piano by Barry Gray; Bobby Howell conducted the pit orchestra and Neville Meale was at the organ.

owing to its expansion, from its first premises at the Albion, Ludgate Circus.

Clarinet star Sid Phillips will be the guest at the Club meeting today (Friday).

The pantomime is at the Granada, Woolwich, next week, and basically, the same show moves on to the Finsbury Park Empire the following week, with Joan Regan as guest star, (Friday).

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12 11 THERE MUST BE A REASON
(Campbell Connelly) 2s. 9 MR. SANDMAN
 Dickie Valentine (Decca)
 10 SHAKE, RATTLE AND ROLL
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13 12 NO ONE BUT YOU (Robbins) 28.

Bill Haley (Brunswick)

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(Macmelodies) 2s.

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(Macmelodies) 2s.

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11 16 MY SON, MY SON (Kassner) 2s.

11 MY SON, MY SON (Kassner) 2s.

Alma Cogni (FEAV)

14 MY SON, MY SON
Vera Lynn, Frank Weir (Decca)

14 MR. SANDMAN
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16 THIS OLE HOUSE

16 THIS OLE HOUSE

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Four Aces (Brunswick)

16 THIS OLE HOUSE
Rosemary Clooney (Philips)

17 ROCK AROUND THE CLOCK
Bill Haley (Brunswick)

18 COUNT YOUR BLESSINGS
Bing Crosby (Brunswick)

19 RAIN, BAIN, BAIN

20 VENI, VIDI, VICI
Ronnie Hilton (HMV) — 24 WHITE CHRISTMAS (Berlin) 2s.





3 7 Teach Me Tonight

Week
1 1 Mr. Sandman
Chordettes 10
2 2 Let Me Go, Lover Joan Weber 12
6 3 Naughty Lady of Shady Lane
Ames Brothers 14 12 Shake, Rattle And Roll
Bit Halay

4 4 This Ole House Rosemary Clooney
7 5 Count Your Blessings
Eddie Fisher
15 14 Dim, Dim The Lights Bill Haley
6 6 I Need You Now Eddie Fisher
15 14 Dim, Dim The Lights Bill Haley
Charms

BEST SELLING SHEET MUSIC (U.S.)

Last This Week

Last This

Week

1 1 Mr. Sandman

1 2 Count Your Blessings

3 4 This Ole House

4 3 Let Me Go Lover

10 5 Naughty Lady Of Shady Lane

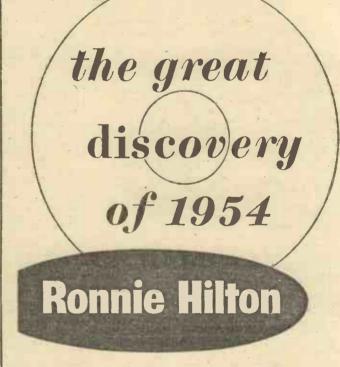
5 6 Teach Me Tonight

6 7 White Christmae

7 8 I Need You Now 8 9 If I Give My Heart To You 9 10 Rudolph The Rod-Nosed Reindeer 11 11 Papa Loves Mambo

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A shafts of wisdom have penetrated even the opaque portals of Broadcasting House that the Corporation is to give Britons a Festival of Dance Music on a

scale never attempted before.

In the adjoining columns, you will read the details of this revolutionary enterprise. That it has been forced on a still somewhat recalcitrant BBC by sheer pressure of public opinion there can be no doubt; it is, indeed, a tribute to British artists and British indeed, a tribute to British artists and British musicianship that the overwhelming success of the BBC's own Show Band has been the one factor, above all others, which has "sparked off" this great accumulation of dance band talent.

Preliminary discussions on the great BBC project took place last Monday when Mr. Kenneth Adam, Head of the Light Programme, and Mr. Jim Davidson, Assistant Head of Variety (Music), revealed to the Press their extensive plans for this belated full-scale recognition of the insatiable public demand for music in the rhythmic idiom.

the insatiable public definate to the idiom.

Mr. Adam referred firstly to the BBC's memorable Festival of Light Music in Coronation Year, and said he felt that, with the present spirit of renaissance in the dance band world, the time was ripe for a similar gesture towards purely rhythmic music. "If the Dance Music Festival is the success anticipated, it will undoubtedly become an annual event," he told the assembled press-

men.

Mr. Adam went on to say that he was slowly learning more about our type of music. "And the more I learn," he admitted, "the more interested I become."

Some idea of the currently fantastic demand for radio dance music was indicated when, later in the discussions, it was revealed that listening figures for the BBC Show Band had risen by something like three hundred per cent!

EVER-GROWING APPRECIATION

Jim Davidson took over from Kenneth Adam to give Jim Davidson took over from Kenneth Adam to give the crowded roomful of pressmen a more comprehensive and "technical" exposition of the BBC's plans for the Festival. The title he explained, has not been finalised, and the description "Dance Music Festival" might only be a temporary one.

In a long and interesting statement, Mr. Davidson discussed the leading present-day dance bands, the fact that they created an enormous one-night stand public all over the country, and the ever-growing appreciation of good

they created an enormous one-night stand public all over the country, and the ever-growing appreciation of good dance music by the masses everywhere — constantly brought to the attention of the BBC moguls by the astonishing success of their own Show Band.

Jim Davidson spoke proudly of the world star potential represented by such young British artists as Dickie Valentine, Lita Roza and Eddie Calvert. "We have some fine girl musicians, too," Jim emphasised, praising the work of Ivy Benson and saying that in Gracie Cole we had "a potential world figure on the trumpet."

That the concerts, and their attendant broadcasts, will feature Ted Heath—described by Jim Davidson as "The ultimate in one-night' stand box-office appeal "—goes without saying. They will also feature many other bands and musicians; in this connection the NME feels that the list is still woefully incomplete, and in particular, that several great specialists in the ultra-modern idiom have so far been ignored.

However, be that as it may, the BBC's gesture is one on the right lines, and one not without its possibilities

However, be that as it may, the BBC's gesture is one on the right lines, and one not without its possibilities of education as well as entertainment.

Let us now hope that the BBC will extend its benign hand to the radio dance-band fan who wants to hear his favourite bands at times when he can listen and enjoy them. A Festival in the heart of London is one thing; a more appreciative attitude to the nationwide fraternity of loyal Oliver Twists who take their pittance of rhythmic porridge and ask for more—now that really would be something!

SUNDAY'S CONCERTS ON WAX

DECCA will be recording the two jazz concerts to be held by the National Jazz Federation at the Royal Festival Hall this Sunday.

This follows the same company's waxing of the NJF
"Festival of Jazz" held at the same venue last October.
These latter discs have now been scheduled for February

Sunday's concerts, billed under the heading "Jazz Scene 1955," will comprise a traditional jazz show in the afternoon (3 p.m.) and an evening session for modernists (7.30 p.m.).

Featured attractions at the traditional show include the

Alex Welsh Dixielanders with George Melly; the Chris Barber Jazz Band with Irish blues singer Ottilie Patterson (making her London debut), and two Northern groups, the Zenith Six (from Manchester) and the Merseyssippi Jazz Band (from Liverpool).

The modern presentation will feature the Vic Lewis Orchestra, the Kirchins Orchestra, the Tommy Whittle Quintet and the "In Town" Jazz Unit.

Decca have the option to record all NJF presentations, and their "Festival of Jazz" releases will take the form of two twelve-inch LP's.

STAPLETON SIGNS FOR TWO BIG BAND FILMS

It's Danny Kaye or Rosemary Clooney for London

AS revealed in the NME dated November 19, negotiations are taking place for appearances here by U.S. comedian and singing star Danny Kaye, which are believed to be for a six weeks'

singing star Danny Kaye, which are believed to be for a six weeks' tour in May and early June of this year.

If, however, this plan does not materialise, it is considered almost certain that screen and recording star Rosemary Clooney will come instead, and will probably be booked at the London Palladium for the first two weeks in June.

Rosemary was expected here in 1954 for some Variety dates, but cancelled the visit for the time being when it was announced that a happy event was pending.

It will be remembered that Miss Clooney did come here early last year with her husband, Hollywood actor José Ferrer. Although the visit was almost one hundred per cent, social, she did carry out some recording for Philips. Rosemary has recently had a very big hit with "This Ole House," while her "Mambo Italiano" is No. 3 in the British list of Best-Selling Records.

DEATH OF NORTHERN ORGANIST-BANDLEADER

THE NME deeply regrets to announce the passing of Allan Young, well-known sax-organist and leader of the "Organtones," who collapsed and died at his hotel last Saturday a few hours before he was due to appear at the Empress Theatre, Glasgow.

The NME understands that a post-mortem was to be held; results of this had not reached us at

press time.

The tragic news was brought to the theatre by a police officer before the first house began, where-upon the dead man's partners, Newall and Larry Davis, hurriedly re-arranged musical and comedy routines to allow the pro-

comedy routines to allow the programme to proceed without the audience knowing of the tragedy. The show carried on—but the cast's New Year party, arranged to follow the final curtain, was cancelled.

Allan Young—his real name was Allan Mottershead—was born at Preston, Lancashire, in 1914. He made his bandstand debut as clarinetist with James Hartley's Revellers soon after leaving school, and in 1932 joined Larry Brennan's Blackpool band as featured saxist and vocalist. vôcalist.

He stayed in Blackpool with the Tower and Winter Gardens Companies until 1939, when he enlisted in the RAF.

CAREER

On demobilisation, Allan toured as MD of the revue "Contact," Returning to Blackpool for a lengthy engagement with Joe Kirkham's band at the Tower, he then decided to strike out on his own, and left to form the Organtones.

In 1951 he established a variety agency at Blackpool, but the following year received an offer to stage his electric organ act on the halls.

electric organ act on the halls.

He rapidly attained top billing status, and had worked continuously ever since, both on the halls, at Squires Gate Holiday Camp, U.S. camps and in Al Read's Blackpool summer show.

summer show.

The dozens of dance musicians and theatrical artists who have known and worked with Allan, have been profoundly shocked by his tragic death at the early age of forty. Allen leaves a widow, Renee, and a seven-year-old son, Derek, to whom we extend our deepest sympathy.

TV arranger Donald Gray; variety star Freddie Sales, and newest Columbia recording star Ronnie Hilton. are appearing with Hal Graham and his Orchestra, from the Rialto Ballroom, Liverpool, when they broadcast in Eric Miller's production of "Let's Have a Party" on January 20.

Singer Dorothy Dries and guitarist Peter Sensier (Dorita and Pepe), are currently enjoying a month's cabaret at London's "La Ronde."

PRESENTATIONS

12 HOLLAND VILLAS RD., KENSINGTON." W.14 **BAYswater** 7808

BOYD FOR *ABERBACH*

FRANKLYN BOYD, publisher and radio singer who, for the past two years has been on the exploitation side of Victoria Music,

goes over to the Aberbach Music Publishing Company on Jan. 17. This move is occasioned by the departure of Roy Berry for another important position, believed to be still within the Campbell, Connelly domain.

still within the Campbell, Connelly domain.
Franklyn Boyd gets this big break after being in publishing for a total of only two years. As a singer he appeared with Oscar Rabin, Teddy Foster, Eric Winstone, Paul Fenoulhet, Kathleen Stobart, etc., and he has "guested" with many star bands on the air.

THE New Year brings news not only of the BBC's full-hearted recognition of the great attractions of dance music, but also of ambitious plans which are being made by the leading film companies to make dance bands and dance band leaders their stars in 1955.

The most exciting opportunity for a British dance band on the screen goes to Cyril Stapleton and his Orchestra. Plans are already far advanced for Cyril and his entire complement of musicians to make two films in the new medium of CinemaScope, and in the full fidelity of Stereophonic Sound.

their producer will be experienced Michael Carreras, who has been responsible for the "Life with the Lyons" screenings. Each film will be of half-an-hour's duration.

Shooting begins early next month, and one if not both of the "shorts" will be released at the end of April. Cyril Stapleton discussed this great new venture with the NME on new ventus Wednesday.

OPPORTUNITY

"Why I feel this to be such a wonderful opportunity," he said, "is because a dance band is at last being given a film all to itself in this country. I feel that the chance for an orchestra to be featured on its own and not just used as an unseen accompaniment to some feeble story—is something to be seized with both

hands.
"No complete film of more than that exclu-

"No complete film of more than twelve minutes' duration that exclusively concerns a dance orchestra and its players and singers has ever been made in this country before."

Cyril is already hard at work on the selection of his programmes for the films. There will be no comedy routines and no contributions from outside artists. At least one jazz

1.O.M. SUMMER BANDS

THE first official announcement has now been received from the Isle of Man confirming that the Squadronaires, Phil Moss, and Morris Mack, will all three be returning to the Island for the 1955 summer season.

EDDIE POLA HERE

U. S. songwriter, Eddie Pola, is in London on a mission connected with commercial TV. Older readers will remember Eddie's "Twisted Tunes" BBC series when

The productions, in colour, are being screened by the well-known Exclusive Film Company, and their producer will be experienced Michael Correct the screen and their producer will be experienced the screen and their producer will be experienced to the screen and their producer will be experienced to the screen and their producer will be experienced to the screen and their producer will be experienced to the screen and the screen are screen as the screen as the screen are screen as the screen are screen as the screen as the screen are screen as the screen as the screen as the screen as the screen are screen as the screen as the screen are s

Meanwhile, here are two important meanwhile, here are two important news snippets from the Show Band camp. Singer Joan Regan guests today (Friday), and famous arranger Reg Owen will be contributing some scores to the Show Band as soon as he is able to resume full-time writing again.

FREE SEATS

THE BBC are offering a num-ber of free tickets for jazz shows on the Overseas pro-Overseas pro-are being preshows on shows on the Overseas programmes which are being prerecorded at the Playhouse the Playhouse of the Playhou

Those who require tickets should write to Tickets Unit, the BBC, Broadcasting House, London, W.1. The recordings start at 9.30 p.m.

The Malcolm Mitchell Band isn't formed yet — but it already has recording dates

THE new Malcolm Mitchell Band, though it has not yet blown a note even in a rehearsal room—and despite the fact that most of its line-up has not yet been revealed—has been signed to wax four titles for Decca on January 26!

This unique break means that Malcolm and his boys will already have at least one coupling on the market by the time they make their public debut as a unit at the Astoria, Nottingham, on February 25.

Ironically enough, however, while releasing this important news the NME is still not able to reveal any more names of the musicians to be featured in Malcolm's already much-discussed personnel.

ARRANGERS

But this is not the case in regard to the band's arrangers. Malcolm announces this week that those responsible for his scores will be Jimmy Watson (who is the only instrumentalist in the band definitely announced so far, and who will also be Malcolm's first trumpet) plus Ronnie Roullier, Stan Foster, Bill With the Watson (who is the only instrumentalist in the band definitely announced so far, and who will also be Malcolm's first trumpet) plus Ronnie Roullier, Stan Foster, Bill With the Watson (who is the only instrumentalist in the band definitely announced so far, and who will also be Malcolm announces this week that those responsible for his scores will be Jimmy Watson (who is the only instrumentalist in the band definitely announced so far, and who will also be Malcolm announces this week that those responsible for his scores will be Jimmy Watson (who is the only instrumentalist in the band definitely announced so far, and who will also be Malcolm announces this week that those responsible for his scores will be Jimmy Watson (who is the only instrumentalist in the band definitely announced so far, and who will also be Malcolm announces this week that those responsible for his scores will be Jimmy Watson (who is the only instrumentalist in the band definitely announced so far, and who will also be Malcolm announces this week that those responsible for his scores will be Jimmy Watson (who is the only instrumentalist in the band definitely announced so far, and who will also be Malcolm announces this week that those responsible for his scores will be Jimmy Watson (who is the only instrumentalist in the band definitely announced so far, and who will also be Malcolm's first trumpet) plus Ronnie Roullier, Stan Foster, Bill watson (who is the only instrumentalist in the band definitely announced so far, and who will also be Malcolm's first trumpet) plus Ronnie Roullier, Stan Foster, Bill watson (who is the only instrumentalist in the band definitely announced so far, and who will also be Malcolm's first trumpet) p

GUY MITCHELL COLLAPSES WITH FOOD POISONING

AMERICAN singing star Guy Mitchell collapsed with food poisoning in Los Angeles last Monday.

He was boarding a plane at the International Airport there to fly to New York for important recording sessions and a night club appearance sessions and a night club appearance after spending the Christmas holiday period with his family at his California ranch, resting, following his long British tour.

After collapsing, Guy was rushed to hospital, where it was first thought that he would have to spend at least a week.

It is now hoped, however, that he

It is now hoped, however, that he will be fit enough to resume his normal activities well within that

FOSTER FORMING 21

CROMBIE MAKES OFFER TO STAR CANADIAN TRUMPET

EXCITING news concerning the up-and-coming Tony Crombie Band is that Herbie Spanier, one Canada's most outstanding modernistic trumpeters, has occur
made an offer by Tony to come to
London as permanent replacement for Dizzy Reece with the
group—and that he will most

tion will be known as Teddy
Foster and his New Music,

the reported that many leading modernistic trumpeters, has been

leaves a widow, Renee, and a seven-year-old son, Derek, to whom we extend our deepest sympathy.

The Three Reeds, Canadian harmonica team, return for the third time to the BBC's Commonwealth programme "How D'You Do?" on January 11.

The Three Reeds, Canadian harmonica team, return for the third time to the BBC's Commonwealth programme "How D'You Do?" on January 11.

"You can imagine how thrilled we all are at this, for Herbie Spanier of the same wides are the content of the same will have their first opportunity of hearing it at the Orchid Ball-room, Purley, two days later.

Geraldo soloist, Leslie "Jiver"
Hutchinson is to be featured next
Thursday (13th) as first guest artist
in a new series of "Celebrity Nights"
at the New Vaudeville Club, 146,
Charing Cross Road, London.

ORCHESTRA

"MY aim is to lead the best as well as the biggest touring band in Britain!" With these ambitious but sincere words batoneer and former trumpet star Teddy Foster announced the launching of the new, twenty-one-piece band—with nine brass—which he will be fronting as from January 30 (as exclusively forecast in the NME).

Teddy's present line-up will cease to exist after its broadcast on January 22. He will then completely rebuild his outfit with instrumentation

terms by Woody Herman and his trumpet star, Al Porcino, during their visit to Europe last year—and Miles Davis has also called him 'the greatest'."

A further Crombie personnel change, this one already a fait accompli, brings in baritonist Pete Randall in place of Lennie Dawes.
Tony and his boys make their first Scottish tour—one of fifteen days duration—commencing February 20.
The option on their Decca recording contract has been taken up, and by next month they will have seven titles on sale.

BOOKINGS

Further bookings already announced include the Music Hall, Strewsbury (February 4); De Montfort Hall, Leicester (5th); Grand Theatre, Southampton (6th); Tower Ballroom, Birmingham (10th); Scottish tour—one of fifteen days duration—commencing February 20.
The option on their Decca recording the option on their Decca recording the option of the project with the NME, Teddy said: "I do not want the fans to think that, just because this is a big band, it will be unduly loud. I am striving for a polished noise and am concentrating on the quality, not the quantity, of sound produced."

He was at Covent Garden Opera House for Mecca with an outfit which include eight brass, in 1944. He then opened London's Lyceum Ballroom for Mecca in 1946 still carrying the eight brass team. Never before, however, has he led a band as large as that which he is now about to launch.

NEW SINGING GROUP

NEW singing group has been A NEW singing group has occur formed by four of the members of the George Mitchell Singers who accompanied Guy Mitchell through the whole of his British

As long ago as 1929 he was leading an outfit at Tony's in Birmingham. Then came spells in the Eilly Cotton, Ambrose and Jack Payne brass teams before he reverted to being a maestro in his own right. public debut during Guy's last per-formance in this country at Dudley Hippodrome on December 13. Guy was so impressed that he went out of his way to bring them to the notice of the NME. The Lucky Stars, who are working on the lines of a modern-sounding barber-shop quartet, comprise Fred Lucas, Don Keyes, Doug. Blakeley and Val Hayward.

P

Some of the latest L

TED HEATH and his music

Dig deep; Asia minor F 10425

LITA ROZA

Make yourself comfortable; Let me go, lover! F 10431

DICKIE VALENTINE

A blossom fell; I want you all to myself F 10430

THE KIRCHIN BAND

Minor mambo; Mother goose jumps F 10434



Now the Poll is over . . .

STAR ATTRACTIONS FIXED OR GREAT POLLWINNERS'

Saxist-leader Frank Weir dons a space-suit as a preliminary to recording the theme from the gripping radio series, "Journey Into Space," which Van Phillips (seated) has composed. Van conducts the orchestra for the series, and his theme is now being number of the series, and his theme is now being pub-lished by Peter Maurice chief, Jimmy Phillips (standing, left).

promoting Festival of Dance Music

THE BBC IS TO LAUNCH ITS OWN FESTIVAL OF DANCE
MUSIC! THE CREAM OF THE COUNTRY'S ORCHESTRAS
AND SINGERS, AND SEVERAL OF ITS LEADING COMPERES,
WILL BE GATHERED AT THE ROYAL ALBERT HALL UNDER
THE AEGIS OF THE CORPORATION FOR THREE CONCERTS
DEVOTED NOT ONLY TO THE FEATURING OF BRITISH
DANCE BANDS BUT ALSO TO THE HIGHLIGHTING OF
EVERY FACET OF PRESENT-DAY DANCE MUSIC.

A considerable part of each production will be broadcast on the
Light Programme. The concerts take place on Monday evenings
February 28, March 14 and March 28.

The dance bands selected to
take part up to now are Ted Heath
and his Music. Cyril Stapleton

KIRCHINS

KIRCHINS

A considerable part of each production will be broadcast on the
beginning of next month.

Jill will take the place of singercomedienne Joan Turner, who is expected to leave the show for a few
months, returning in June.

As reported in last week's issue,

The dance bands selected to take part up to now are Ted Heath and his Music. Cyril Stapleton and the BBC Show Band, the Ray Ellington Quartet, and the orchestras of Johnny Dankworth, Jack Parnell, Ken Mackintosh, Joe Loss and the Squadronaires. Star musicians taking part as soloists will include Kenny Baker (who may or may not have his outfit with him), Eric Delaney, Ronnie Scott (to both of whom the same remark applies), Bill McGuffie, Sid Phillips. Frank Weir, Freddy Randall, Eddie Calvert and Harold Smart.

Smart

TALENT

TALENT
The vocalists already chosen read as follows: Dickie Valentine, Lita Roza, Alma Cogan, Marion Williams and Frankie Vaughan.

Among the vocal groups to be heard will be the Stargazers and the Show Band Singers. Likely inclusions among the compères are Edmundo Ros, Jack Jackson, Paul Carpenter and Rikki Fulton.

The BBC stresses that this preliminary selection of talent is by no means a final list. Other bands and artists will doubtless be added and decisions will be made later as to whether bandleaders Ronnie Scott, Eric Delaney and Kenny Baker will be appearing with or without their orchestras.

Discussions are also taking place as to the pressibility of a full Latin.

BREAK FOR

U.S. Record price changes mean 78's are on way out

AT least three major American record companies—RCA Victor, Columbia and MGM—have announced startling retail price changes which may well have widespread repercussions in this country before long. Other labels will almost certainly follow suit.

The following revised charges have already been put into effect for virtually all discs released by the companies in question. These

before long. Other labels will almost certainly follow suit.

The following revised charges have appearing with or without their orchestras.

Discussions are also taking place as to the possibility of a full Latin-American contingent and the charce of including one or two ultra-modernists as other features of the programmes.

Although it is already known that the Ted Heath aggregation will be taking part in the first concert, other specific programme details for each presentation have not yet been announced "The main consideration" the BBC assures us "is to make certain on each occasion of a balanced programme."

WELL - KNOWN conductorarranger Robert Farnon is to be featured with his Orchestra in an ambitious light music programme to be televised on January 17.

before long. Other labels will almost certainly follow suit.

The following revised charges have already been put into effects by the companies in question. These quotations apply to classical and lazz as well as purely popular items:

Ten-inch records (78 r.p.m.)—89c. (65, 6d.); Seven-inch Extended play records—\$1.49 (10s, 6d.); Ten-inch Long Play (LP) records—\$2.98 (£1 ls, 6d.); Twelve-inch LP records are now making considerable shadow, there is still no price incords are now making considerable shadow, there is still no price incords are now making considerable shadow, there is still no price incords are now making considerable shadow, there is still no price incords are now making considerable shadow, there is still no price incords are now making considerable shadow, there is still no price incords are now making considerable shadow, there is still no price incords are n

1-3 Brixton Road, London, S.W.9

IAURICE CHEVALIER

Theme from 'Journey into Space';

serenade to an empty room F 10435

rize of gold; When you're in love F 10432

RANK WEIR and his saxophone

Mon p'tit moustique;

IOAN REGAN

Deux amoureux sur un banc F 10429

The Decca Record Company Limited

CONCERT

from NME readers in our nation-wide poll, are being lined-up for the great Pollwinners' Concert at the Royal Albert Hall, on Sunday afternoon, February 13 (commencing at 2 p.m.).

This will be the third NME annual concert, and the great galaxy of

stars booked to appear assures a thrill-packed event.

Voting in the poll was extremely heavy, and the results were not completed until late on Wednesday of this week, not leaving sufficient time to make contact with all the artists whom we contemplate pre-senting at the concert. However, we are able to reveal the major attractions which have definitely been secured.

The great concert will be headed by Ted Heath and his Music, includ-ing the full Heath battery of instru-mental stars and vocalists. The other bands definitely appearing will be Johnny Dankworth and his Orchestra, with featured vocalists; Eric Delaney and his Orchestra, and small band section winners, Ronnie Scott and his Orchestra.

KIRCHINS
ROBBED
TWO band jackets and a pair of evening trousers were stolen from the Kirchin band coach last week.
The theft was not discovered until the band arrived at the Floral Hall, Southport, for a dance- on New Year's Eve. So far efforts to trace the thief have not been successful, Further ill-luck hit the band later the same night when co-leader drummer Basil Kirchin broke his bass dum head and the following night the same thing happened again. The Kirchin Band gels its second national airing tomorrow (Saturday).

The total control of the service of the same airing tomorrow (Saturday).

The total control of the service of the show as later and since been extensively engaged in cabaret and variety work.

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The total control of the show as later advised to rest for the remainder of the week, and Jill John the programme. However, when Jill joins the shaw the concert, and in next work is summer and has since been extensively engaged in cabaret and variety work.

The total control of the show as later advised to the show as later and variety work.

The total control of the show as later advised to the show as later advised to rest for the remainder of the week, and Jill John the programme. However, when Jill joins the shaw the concert, and in next work is successful.

The Kirchin Band gels its second act.

Jill left the Geraldo Orchesta last summer and has since been extensively engaged in cabaret and variety work.

who will be taking part in this sensational show.

A feature of the concert, as in
previous years, will be the presentation to all winning bandleaders,
singers and instrumentalists, of
special awards and certificates. A
star of international repute will be
presenting the awards, but we are
keeping this name a secret for the
time being.

Last year, we would remind

Last year, we would remind readers, the presentations were made by Capitol recording star, Nat "King" Cole.

TICKETS

Since our first announcement regarding the concert last week, the applications for tickets have been enormous. However, due to an unnouncement of these people to 'take the plunge'."

IN BRITAIN

In Pritain, where 45 and 33½ r.p.m.

Therefords are now making considerable headway, there is still no price incentive to make the non-specialist record buyer invest heavily in LP's, EP's and other non-78 r.p.m.

Since our first announcement regarding the concert last week, the applications for tickets have been enormous. However, due to an unnormous. However, due to an unnormous delay, the tickets when unnormous delay, the tickets when unnormous delay, the tickets and unnormous delay, the tickets and unnormous delay, the tickets when unnormous delay, the tickets and unnormous delay, the tickets and unnormous delay, the tickets and unnormous d Since our first announcement re-

completing the coupon at the bottom of this page. Remember, applications are being treated in strict rotation; a speedy request for your tickets automatically assures you of the best available seats in the price category you require.

Our two previous Annual Poll-winners' Concerts were completely sold-out several weeks prior to the event, so avoid disappointment by completing the coupon NOW. This will guarantee you tickets for the greatest jazz and dance music event of the year!

CONRAD KNOWLES, Teddy Foster baritone player for the past two and a half years, leaves the band and the profession next Saturday (15th) to join his father-in-law's engineering business in Manchester.

The Waldron Sisters, who have just completed a six weeks' engage-ment at Churchill's Club, have been rebooked for another season at the same venue from next Monday (10th).

Singer Don Peters has been engaged for a further thirteen programmes in the "Ted Ray, Time" series which ensures that he will now be with the show until the end of April. He is also booked to appear on TV's "It's a Great Life" on January 22.

SURPRISE visitors to Europe are famous recording duo Les Paul and Mary Ford, who are at present touring the Continent.

They have already been to Madrid and Paris, and this week are travelling around Germany, where Les is looking for new ideas in recording conjurgent. 'JIGSAW' FIERSTONE GEORGE FIERSTONE and his Orchestra get a fine break on January 15, when they feature in equipment.

January 15, when they feature in the children's TV production, "Jigsaw."

George will be fronting Eric Darby (piano), Dave Goldberg (guitar), Freddy Clayton (trumpet), Arthur Bennett (bass) and Harry Kayne (vocals).

Geuitary (vocals), equipment.

Next week they go on to Amsterdam and Rome, but there seems little likelihood of their dropping in on London during their travels.

Les and Mary were interviewed in person over AFN on Wednesday night (3rd) and disclosed that they have so far sold over fifteen million records.

Terrific U.S. reaction to Ted Heath airings

PED HEATH'S New Year's Eve American broadcast was received

RAY MARTIN, the renowned Columbia recording director, orchestra leader and composer, has been honoured with an invitation to visit Copenhagen, where he will be guest conductor for the 45-

will be guest conductor for the 45piece Danish State Orchestra.
The visit for which Ray has been
granted leave by the Directors of
EMI, takes place next week. Ray will
leave this Sunday, flying in the turbojet Viscount aircraft to Copenhagen.
While there he will be highlighted
in two forty-five minute broadcasts
of programmes very similar to those
which he features with his own
orchestra on the BBC at home.

RAY MARTIN

OFF TO

COPENHAGEN

COPENHAGEN

This is the gist of a cable received from Nat Hentoff on press day.

Nat says: "The Heath programme was a decided success. The radio officials here were impressed with the entire presentation, and also with the BBC's engineering of the broadcast. Ted's record sales will undoubtedly benefit in the States as the result of fit in the States as the result of favourable listener reaction.

"Many Americans were previously unaware that music like this could be heard on the BBC. A spokesman of the NBC network (which relayed the Heath Christmas and New York and New York (1988) layed the Heath Christmas and New Year airings in America) declares that, for the first time, audiences over here realise there is jazz in England, and a band of top modern quality equalling the best in the U.S."

To conclude his report, Hentoff confirms that the NBC is considering approaching the BBC for a regular weekly half-hour band show.

SWING SESSION

SWING SESSION

**BACKROOM BOY'*

DOUGLAS AIRING

JOHNNY DOUGLAS, well-known arranger of the Robbins Company and "back-room boy" of innumerable recording accompaniments, will shortly have his own light orchestra on the air.

The date is February 3; the programme "In The Still Of The Night."

Johnny plans to make his broadcasting début with an unusual group comprising four trombones, five strings, woodwind and rhythm. His singer is Franklyn Boyd.

In a statement to the NME, Johnny said: "What I aim at is not so much a 'different' sound as a 'recognisable' sound. My music will be sweet with a beat."

Where records are concerned, Johnny has been responsible for Decca and Capitol accompaniments to Lita Roza, Dickie Valentine, Joan Regan, Al Martino, Suzi Miller, etc.

**SWING SESSION

Further news from the Ted Heath camp is that Decca will be recorded in g the 107th London Palladium Swing Session on January 23, following the international success of Ted's previous concert LP's.

The date is February 3; the programme "In The Still Of The Night."

Johnny plans to make his broadcasting début with an unusual group comprising four trombones, five strings, woodwind and rhythm. His singer is Franklyn Boyd.

In a statement to the NME, Johnny said: "What I aim at is not so much a 'different' sound as a 'recognisable' sound. My music will be sweet with a beat."

Where records are concerned, Johnny has been responsible for Decca and Capitol accompaniments to Lita Roza, Dickie Valentine, Joan Regan, Al Martino, Suzi Miller, etc.

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RESULTS NIE D

	LANGE DAND	
1	TED HEATH AND HIS MUSIC	1149
2	Johnny Dankworth and his Orchestra	6191
3	Eric Delaney and his Orchestra	3211
4	Jack Parnell and his Orchestra	311
5	Ken Mackintosh and his Orchestra	2950
6	Cyril Stapleton and the Show Band	238:
7	Joe Loss and his Orchestra	1965
8	Oscar Rabin and his Orchestra	144
9	Vic Lewis and his Orchestra	144
10		
11	Geraldo and his Orchestra	94
12	The Squadronaires Orchestra	93
13		36
14	Teddy Foster and his Orchestra	31
15	Stanley Black and his Orchestra	29
16		22
17		219
18		
19		14
20		
00	***************************************	

I ADGE DAND

MALE VOCALIST

1	DICKIE VALENTINE	9.
2		4
3	David Whitfield	3
4	Ronnie Hilton	
5	Frankie Vaughan	
6	Ray Burns	
6	Frank Holder	
8	Bobbie Britton	
9		
10		
10	David Hughes	
12	2 Howard Jones	
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14		
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16	6 Derrick Francis	
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23		
24		
25	Ray Ellington	
-		

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TED HEATH and his Music have once again been voted the top big band in Britain, in the NME's 1955 Poll. Heading the small band section is the fine Ronnie Scott Orchestra, while top of the male and female vocalists sections, by a large margin, are Dickie Valentine and Lita Roza respectively. Musician of the year is Eric Delaney.

These are the main highlights of

In our news pages you can read full details of all the artists who will be appearing at our great Poll-winners' Concert at the Royal Albert Hall on Sunday, February 13, together with detailed instructions on them to apply for tickets for this how to apply for tickets for this mammoth event. Last year's concert was sold out two months in advance, and immediate application for tickets is therefore recommended

Surprise

Perhaps the most outstanding victory in the poll is that of Ted Heath bassist Johnny Hawksworth, who polled more than ten times as many votes as his nearest rival. This is achievement indeed.

1888

Surprise of the year is the deposition of Ronnie Scott from the Musician of the Year chair, which he has held for the past two years, in favour of drummer Eric Delaney.

This is a fine tribute to Eric's courage and determination in the face of the many difficulties which barred his path to forming his own orchestra, not the least of which was a nasty accident necessitating the amputation of a complete finger joint from his left hand. amputation of a com joint from his left hand.

Another big surprise is that, for the first time in any Poll conducted in Britain during the past ten years, the position of top drummer is not held by Jack Parnell. Honours this year, by a clear margin, go to Ronnie Verrell, of the Ted Heath Orchestra, with Eric Delaney just behind him. Parnell only gets third spot this year. Another big surprise is that. For the first time in any Poll conducted in Britain during the past ten years, the position of top drummer is not held by Jack Parnell. Honours this year, by a clear margin, go to Ronnie Verrell, of the Ted Heath Orchestra, with Eric Delaney just behind him. Parnell only gets third spot this year.

Ronnie Scott has had to vacate his position at the top of the tenor sax section, too—Tommy Whittle has a clear lead over Ronnie here. As expected, Johnny Dankworth retains considerable interest. The news that he has once again won the arrangers section will certainly be a great encouragement to Reg Owen, now recovering from the serious motor accident which he had some while ago, and this honour will doubtedly help his prestige considerable interest. The news that he has once again won the arrangers section will certainly be a great encouragement to Reg Owen, now recovering from the serious motor accident which he had some while ago, and this honour will doubtedly help his prestige considerable interest.

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The news that he has once again won the arrangers section will certainly be a great encouragement to Reg Owen, now recovering from the serious motor accident which he had some while ago, and this honour will doubtedly help his prestige considerable interest.

These are the main highlights of the results of our annual Poll. For the last three weeks our tellers have been burning the midnight oil to get out the complete tables of results, which you will find on these pages.

In our news pages you can read full details of all the artists who will be appearing at our great Poll-winners' Concert at the Royal Albert Hall on Sunday, February 13, together with detailed instructions on

obtrusively into eighth spot.

Joan Regan and Alma Cogan,



TED HEATH Top Large Band

RONNIE SCOTT Top Small Band

both low-placed in last year's poll, have sprung into second and third places respectively in this section, after the voting had swung pendulum-like between them through-

pendulum-like between them through-out the three weeks that the coupons were being received.

The Stargazers walked away with the vocal group section. This will surprise few people, but the remark-able success of the Coronets, who comfortably beat the Keynotes out of second position, will, undoubtedly, cause considerable interest.

The news that the has once again

SMALL BAND

1	RONNIE SCOTT AND HIS ORCHESTRA	6897
2	Ray Ellington Quartet	4409
3	The Ken Moule Seven	4001
4	The Tony Kinsey Trio	3223
5	Sid Phillips and his Band	1729
6	The Tommy Whittle Quintet	1539
7	Freddy Randall and his Band	1301
8	The Tony Crombie Orchestra	1234
9	Humphrey Lyttelton and his Band	1143
0	The Don Rendell Band	1057
ĭ	Harry Gold and his Pieces of Eight	971
2	Norman Burns Quintet	873
3	Dave Shand and his Band	793
4	Joe Daniels and his Band	759
5	The Kenny Baker Quartet	593
16	The Jerry Allen Trip	586
17	Carl Barriteau and his Band	
18	The Vic Ash Quartet	539
9	Johnnie Gray and his Band of the Day	319
20	Chris Barber and his Band	227
	Citis barber and this band	

FEMALE VOCALIST

1	LITA_ROZA	7360
2	Joan Regan	4642
3	Alma Cogan	4196
4	Cleo Laine	2687
5	Kathy Lloyd	2380
6	Rose Brennan	1759
7	Marion Williams	1617
ģ	Ruby Murray	1240
9	Eve Boswell	1044
Ó	Vera Lynn	926
ĭ	Betty Miller	784
2	Billie Anthony	766
3	Jill Day	698
4	Patti Lewis	- 613
5	Annie Ross	605
6	Pearl Carr	577
7	Petula Clark	498
8	Patti Forbes	496
9	Marion Ryan	391
0		367
1	Lorrae Desmond	331
2	Alma Warren	292
3	Anne Shelton	275
24	Jean Campbell	272
	Diana Coupland	
2.5	Marion Davis	271
		-

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MUSICIAN YEAR

1	ERIC DELANEY	2058
2	Johnny Dankworth	1552
2	Eddie Calvert	850
4	Ted Heath	691
4	Ronnie Scott	618
5	Frank Weir	608
7	Jack Parnell	374
8.		360
9	Don Lusher	339
	Bill McGuffie	
10	Ken Mackintosh	335
11	Ken Moule	310
12	Winifred Atwell	26.
13	Basil Kirchin	25
13	Johnny Hawksworth	254
15	Don Rendell	24
16	Tommy Whittle	23:
16	Mantovani	233
18	Tony Crombie	220
19	Cyril Stapleton	20:
20	Kenny Baker	18
21	Tony Kinsey	17
22	Wally Stott	15
23	Victor Feldman	14:
24	Jimmie Deuchar	14
25	Ronnie Verreil	10
43	Rolling Actient	10











DIANO

	PIANO	
1	BILL McGUFFIE	198
2	Dill Jones	86
3	Winifred Atwell	77
4	Frank Horrox	42
5	Ralph Dollimore	32
6	Derek Smith	24
7	Johnnie Patrick	22
8	Ken Moule	22
9	Syd Lucas	19
10	Arthur Greenslade	17
~~	·····	~~
	TOLIANDET	

IKUMPEI KENNY BAKER 1467 Eddie Calvert
Bobbie Pratt

_		
1	STARGAZERS	10288
2	Coronets	3926
- 3	Keynotes	3725
4	Beverley Sisters	1539
	Sapphires	1312
6	Johnston Bros	1304
7	Kordites	1270
8	Hedley Ward Trio	716
9	Tanner Sisters	
10	Mackpies	344
~~	~~~~	~~~
100		200

Some of the newcomers to Pollwinning honours are shown above.
Left to right: Harry Klein (top
baritone-saxist); Li:a Roza (a new
picture of the top girl vocalist for the
third year running); Cliff Adams,
cader of the Stargazers, the top vocal
group; Vic Ash (top clarinet) and
Victor Feldman (top in the vibraphone section).

FROMBONE

ı	KOMBOI	AF
	DON LUSHER	2952
	Keith Christie	605
}	Ken Wray	439
	Mac Minshull	267
	Laddie Busby	267
, -	George Chisholm	137
	Maurice Pratt	129
	Harry Roche	122
	Don Clarke	120
)	Bill Geldard	. 96



The NME's newly-elected Musician of the Year had a very p.easant surprise recently when the entire personnel of the Eric Delaney band clubbed together to buy Eric a silver tankard as a Christmas present. Engraved with the names of every member of the orchestra, the gift was presented to Eric on the band coach en route to Leicester on the Sunday after Christmas — but the presentation was re-staged the following day at a BBC studio to enable our photographer to get this picture. Eric certainly has every reason to feel pieased with himself.

VIRRAPHONE

	HUIMI HOI	
1	VICTOR FELDMAN	2446
2	Bill Le Sage	
3	Roy Marsh	
4	Martin Slavin	
5	Tommy Pollard	. 24

5 Eddie Blair 5 Eddie Blair 66 6 Humphrey Lyttelton 7 Albert Hall 7 8 Bert Courtley 7 9 Freddy Randall 7 10 Reg Arnold

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TO-SAX

VALENTINE

	-	14.100/1/	-
-1	ı	Johnny DANKWORTH	158
- 2	,	Ken Mackintosh	5
- 3		Joe Harriott	28
4	ļ.	Les Gilbert	20
- 1	5	Derek Humble	13
6	5	Frank Weir	12
-	7	Dave Shand	12
- 8	3	Frank Gillespie	12
9)	Brian Hayden	- 10
10)	Roy Willox	1
~	~	······	~~



JOHNNY HAWKSWORTH

JOHNNY DANKWORTH

RASS

	DASS	E
1	Johnny HAWKSWORTH 4055	£
2	Joe Muddel 403	Į
3	Lennie Bush 257	B
4	Sammy Stokes 252	ł
5	Eric Dawson 241 Arthur Watts 238	F
67		Š
7	Jack Seymour 187	
8	Joe Quinlan 165	
9		
0	Micky Ashman 68	



Mes UFFIE

ARINET

VIC ASH	228
	215
Henry Mackenzie	83
Carl Barriteau	76
David Ede	48
Frank Weir	31
Wally Fawkes	21
Alan Beaver	18
Nat Temple	-11
Keith Bird	9
~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~	~~

## BARITONE-SAX

1	HARRY KLEIN	2315
2	George Hunter	541
3	Benny Green	398
4	Alex Leslie	209
5	Ronnie Ross	154
6	Jimmy Simmonds	124
7	George Robinson	122
8	Roy Bull	120
9	Lennie Dawes	119
10	Harry Gold	115
-	~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~	

Among the artists taking part in Jack Payne's "Say It With Music" programme on January 13, are the Ray Ellington Quartet, Max Jaffa and Jimmy Young, with Ted Heath and his Music as guest band Petula Clark is in "Midday Music Hall" on January 10 The King Brothers make their seventh TV appearance on January 22,

# ARRANGER

	41/1/WIAOF	
1	REG OWEN	149
1 2 3	Johnny Dankworth	58
		4.
4	Wally Stott	3.
5	David Ede	1.
6	Johnny Keating	112
7	Bob Sharples	- 1
8	Ray Martin Eric Jupp	1
9	Eric Jupp	
0	Les Vinall	

# TENOR-SAX

		YA
1	TOMMY WHITTLE	125
2	Ronnie Scott	115
2	Don Rendell	73.
4	Jimmy Skidmore	43
4 5	Norman Hunt	38
6	Tubby Haves	22
7	Art Ellefson	14
8	Gray Allard	14
9	Alan Beaver	12
10	Roy Sidwell	11
_		
-		-

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Left to right: Bert Weedon (guitar); Ronnie Verrell Whittle (tenor-sax). For each of them, it is their first NME Poll success.

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# Carmen' comes to town Reviewed by PIP WEDGE



Harry Belafonte and Dorothy Dandridge, stars of "Carmen Jones," in a scene from the film, which is reviewed here.

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If you liked the American Negroo opera "Porgy And Bess," then you should certainly lose no time in getting along to the Odeon, Marble Arch, where a new Cinemascope film, "Carmen and Jones," opened yesterday (Thursday).

Patterning the story on Bizet's opera, "Carmen," though transplanting the scene from Spain to America, with prizefighters substituted for bullfighters and parachuse packing factories, Oscar Hammerstein II has written a book and lyrics which, for quality, equal anything he has previously penned, and Bizet's stir-your stimulation of the story of the property of the prop factories, Oscar Hammerstein II has written a book and lyrics which, for quality, equal anything he has previously penned, and Bizet's stirring music is done full justice in both adaptation and orchestration for the new medium.

SINGING DUBBED

The leading parts of Joe and Carmen are brilliantly acted by Harry Belafonte and Dorothy Dandridge, though, in view of the fact that the state of the

The leading parts of Joe and Carmen are brilliantly acted by Harry Belafonte and Dorothy Dandridge, though, in view of the fact that both have excellent singing voices, it is rather surprising that their songs have been dubbed by Le Vern Hutcherson (who was here with the "Porgy And Bess" company) and Marilynn Horne respectively.

Pearl Bailey plays a comparatively minor role, but makes the most of one solo number and her part in a quintet. Her acting sparkles with character, too.

Olga James, as Cindy Lou, and Marvin Hayes, whose voice is heard

character, too.

Olga James, as Cindy Lou, and Marvin Hayes, whose voice is heard singing the role of Husky, the boxer, both have fine, true voices, and a spirited chorus in the finest "Porgy" traditions is heard often if not often enough.

The main difference in the structure of "Carmen Jones," by comparison with the opera on which it is based, is that between songs in the film there is normal, spoken dialogue, as opposed to the sung recitatif" passages which are a part of straight opera. This point may induce reluctant patrons to change their minds and go after all. Bob Vernon, and himself, in his

# NORTHERN NEWS ... by Ron Drake

Four weeks ago, Eileen left the band; on Christmas Eve she returned to the stand and asked if she could sing a number.

LEAVING Derek Sinclair's resident band at Leeds Locarno next week-end is pianist Harold Hymans. He is to resume his studies and take his final exam in chemistry.

leading trumpeter-vocalist Derek Andrews; Don Mackintosh (accordion and reeds); Don Yorke (sax); Jeff Todd (drums) and Les Watterson (bass).

NEW vocal team currently causing favourable comment in the north is the Jones Boys.

Johnny Harrison and Ron Robson— are from Doncaster; the fourth, and remaining member of the group is Northampton boy Bernard Burgess.

They are appearing at Huddersfield Theatre Royal in "Jack And Jill," and have been featured at a number of Lancashire ballrooms before comedian Dan Sherry signed them for the pantomime season.

bandleader George Roberts readily agreed to her request, but was quite unprepared for the announcement which followed her song.

Eileen, and her ex-colleague in the vocal department, Vivian, broke the news that they had just become engaged.

TEAVING.

Barrowland Ballroom's Gaybirds bandleader Billy McGregor, has formed a six-piece Dixieland outfit which plays at private functions.

* * chemistry.

Derek, who has yet to sign a replacement for Harold, is currently

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Truman at the White House, "Sparkle" | "Tanglefoot" | "Song "Tone Parallel" could easily Without Words" | "Awfully Busy" (Capitol KPL.101)

many roughnesses, gives a warming impression of nine musicians who want to play together, and are having one heck of a ball in doing so. Promoters of "all-star" sessions, please note!

Truman at the White House, "Tone Parallel" could easily have turned out to be an inartistic, pretentious work.

Actually it is nothing of the sort. Duke rose smarily to the occasion and produced a masterpiece. Of all his full-scale compositions this has the greatest, most concentrated in the compositions of the greatest of the great

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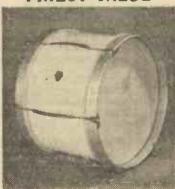
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mearby Southend to top the bill in a charity concert in aid of their flood relief fund.

The cake was taken back to the hospital and shared among the patients, doctors and nurses.

NOT-SO-MERRY CHRISTMAS—In the December 24 NME we printed details of some of the stars' Christmas plans; included were singer Hmmy Young's plans for spending the Yuletide season at his home town in Gloucestershire with his family, with singing in the local church choir and all thas ort of thing.

Now we've just heard what Jimmy really did after all. His wife Sally (ex-vocalist Sally Douglas) was taken ill just before Christmas, and had ostay in bed—so Jimmy went all domestic, and took over all the household chores. He was housemaid, cook, nurse and messenger boy all rolled into one, and Christmas glinner consisted of bacon and eggs!

"Sally is much better now," says Jimmy, "and anyway, it's only another 300-odd days to Christmas" "WINDOW - WASHER WE L L-WISHER—Ronnie Harris, one-time window-cleaner whose recent in the studio and had very little time for rehearsal since there were some of the star of the studio and had very little time for rehearsal since there were some difficult acts to get sorted out on the studio and had very little time for rehearsal since there were some difficult acts to get sorted out on the west did not appear, and could, the help of her arranger, worked far seen in the thick snow in Denmark great help in such circumstances, is not yet allowed to work and could, the studio and had very little time for rehearsal since there were some difficult acts to get sorted out on the forgramme. Nor could Virginia was unable to remove them. And why should he want to remove them? P.O. BOX 46

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# GOSSIP



About to leave Tilbury for her six months' tour of Australia, last Wednesday, Winifred Atwell presented to the local hospital a cake in the shape of a piano made by a fan. The story is told on this page.

very last minute and had to be rehearsed just before the programme took the floor.

Despite all this, Virginia Somers was an outstanding success and must have made a host of new friends by her personality, singing and exquisite piano-playing. Her final boogie number was really excellent, and some enterprising recording company should certainly develop that aspect of Virginia's talents. There's gold in them thar fingers!

NME concert promotions.

Last week Don made his professional debut with the Jack Newman Orchestra; Jack was so impressed with Don's act that he is thinking of with the band.

Donald specialises in impressions but judging by his daily performances at the NME offices he also has great possibilities as a comedian. And with an agent for a brother, he 'shouldn't have to worry about bookings . . . I

BRIGHT FOR BLACK - NME junior newshound Donald Black seems to have caught the stage bug from his brother Michael, himself well-known as compere of all the big

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Danse, Peterborough; Sunday; Carlton
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BOURNE PLUGGER - lan Ralfini, 17-year-old son of bandleader Jan, is doing a good job these days in the exploitation department of Bourne Music where, under the wing of Joe Henderson, he is getting plenty of plugs for the new hit. "Somebody."

"Somebody."
Incidentally, younger readers may not know that lan's father, Jan Ralfini, once had an alto-saxophone player in his band who went on to gain quite an amount of fame in other spheres. His name? Tommy Trinder.

JUDO JAZZISTS — Two well-known brass men — trombonist Laddle Busby and trumpeter Freddy Clayton—have recently attained their white belts in the art of judo, and both were high in their praise of the

both were high in their praise of the great help and instruction they had received from Sydney Lipton trumpeter, Sid Holmes.

Sid, who himself has just reached the rank of green belt and is rapidly becoming a formidable judo expert, hopes by dint of very hard work, to attain the coveted black belt, thereby becoming the first dance musician to hold such an honour.

Knowing how enthusiastic Sid is, I do not think that it will be long before he achieves this ambition.

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musical sphere is composer Eric ("Mr. Callaghan") Spear, and when he gets tough throwing people around, it is not (to use the title of his latest composition) a "Family Joke." Another famous judo expert in the usical sphere is composer Eric

BUSY CHORDS — The popular two-boy, two-girl vocal group, the Four-In-A-Chord are right now in the middle of one of their busiest weeks since their formation three

weeks since their formation three years ago.

After a Mid-Day Music Hall broadcast last Monday (3rd), they flew to Rome to appear on television last night (Thursday). They are flying back this week-end for another Mid-Day Music Hall on Monday, and on January 15 will be heard in the first of the new Benny Hill programmes.

The group can be heard on Embassy Records. 

when playing between the goalposts during a game of football.

George, who hails from Scotland, was, at one time, a professional goal-keeper and "kept" for Stirling in many of their big games against Scotland's leading clubs.

It was only the risk of injury that influenced George to give up the game professionally but he still enjoys a game with the boys, so if anybody wants a "keeper" give George a ring.

*



Seen toasting success to BBC producer Robin Scutt (4th from left), who has now transferred to the Television Service, are (l. to r.) producer John Foreman, Laurie Gold, Humphrey Lyttelton, Ronnie Aldrica, Freddy Randall, Beryl Bryden and Mark White. Robin Scutt has been responsible for all BBC Overseas jazz shows.

ROYAL FESTIVAL HALL General Manager: T. E. BEAN SUNDAY, JANUARY 23rd, 1955

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