

VOL. 22. No. 681. AUGUST 10, 1946. EVERY THURSDAY. THREEPENCE.

Melody Maker

INCORPORATING "RHYTHM"

POLL RESULTS NEXT WEEK
 The thousands and thousands of votes cast in the record "Melody Maker" 1946 Dance Band Poll are now being finally computed and the detailed results will appear in our next issue.

JAY WILBUR LEAVES FOR NEW ZEALAND

Will Probably Settle "Down Under"

CONTINENTAL CONTROVERSY

M.U. Statement as Sommerfield Leaves for Nice

THE interest of musicians everywhere in the current "Continental controversy" reaches new heights this week with the news that Edward Sommerfield and Felix King and their Orchestra left yesterday (7th) to open for a season at the Palais de la Méditerranée, Nice, with apparently no difficulties in fixing their permits or in making all plans and arrangements for every stage of their visit.

Readers will need no reminding that this development follows the news, reported only last week, that Maurice Winnick and his Orchestra had not been issued with the necessary permits to enable them to open at the Casino, Deauville, for the month of August, and that this whole enterprise had had to be abandoned, with consequent heavy financial loss to Maurice, and the jeopardising of all his current plans.

VIGOROUS M.U. ACTION

It has also been reported that the authorities in Belgium, at least, are definitely banning any further appearances by English bands.

In the midst of evidence pointing to mounting confusion in the whole situation, it is encouraging to know that our own Musicians' Union is taking the most vigorous steps possible, and working hard for a gradual but satisfactory smoothing out of all the difficulties appertaining to English bands visiting the Continent and Continental outfits making reciprocal visits here.

Mr. F. Dambman, General Secretary of the Musicians' Union, in a special statement to the *Melody Maker*, said: "We are now well into the initial stages of negotiations which, it is hoped, will smooth the whole matter out, and make possible from time to time a reciprocal exchange of orchestras and bands between Britain and other countries."

"When these negotiations are complete, it is hoped that the U.S.A., Canada, France, Belgium, Holland, Denmark and, in fact, all Continental countries will have been included in this reciprocal scheme."

Mr. Dambman continued: "A good deal has been said to suggest that the reason for permission not having been granted to Maurice Winnick to work in France was to a great extent due to the French leader, Ray Ventura, being apparently debarred from carrying out certain dates on his recent visit to this country."

"I should like to state very emphatically that the Musicians' Union were not responsible for any restrictive action against M. Ventura to stop him from playing his dates as originally specified."

"When the exchanges of orchestras take place," said Mr. Dambman, "the Union would require such exchanges to be made between orchestras containing the same number of men; of the same type; with comparative rates of pay; and the whole negotiation to be carried out with the full approval of both Unions concerned."

Meanwhile, Edward Sommerfield and Felix King and their Orchestra, who were specially selected to open the Palais de la Méditerranée, Nice, on August 9, left London on Wednesday morning (7th) for France.

The orchestra has been engaged to play for dancing at the night club which is part of the Nice Casino, and the contract guarantees five weeks with options on further weeks' services.

Asked by the *Melody Maker* about permits for the Sommerfield-King orchestra, Edward Sommerfield reiterated that they had been advised by the club directors that their permits were in order, and informed us that first-class return tickets and full transport expenses had been provided. It will be remembered that when war broke out, Edward Sommerfield and Felix King were directing a band in Italy with such success that they were fully booked until well into 1942. Prospective engagements included a tour embracing the famous Copa Cabana in Rio de Janeiro, and an appearance at the proposed Rome exhibition of 1942.

Now, Edward and Felix are again working for the same continental management, and are naturally gratified at having been invited, after this lapse of time, to resume the work they left off at the outbreak of war.

THE PERSONNEL

The following personnel accompanies Edward Sommerfield and Felix King to Nice: Danny Deans (cpt.); Denis Beard, Sid Hall, Bobby Ray Micky Amstell and Len Conley (treeds); Harry Phillips (vln.); Harry Fields (pno.); Ken Lyon (bass); Harry Thorne (gtr.); Al Craig (drms.).

Featured vocalist is Sommerfield's contracted artist, Billie Campbell, whom the leaders predict an overwhelming success overseas. Felix King's Carmen Cavallero-style piano playing—around which the orchestra is built—should also score heavily with continental audiences.

Negotiations for the Nice engagement were originated by Sommerfield and King and finalised by Gino Arbib of Anglo-American Artists, Ltd.

During the absence of the principals, the business of Sommerfield Orchestras is being handled by their manager, Peter Colbert, who can be contacted at 59, Tankerville Road, Streatham; telephone: Pollards 1836.

PAUL FENOULHET IN HOSPITAL

THE many friends and fans of Paul Fenoulhet, dehornar director of the Skyroockets Dance Orchestra, will be sorry to learn that he entered hospital on Monday (5th) for an operation to be performed the following day.

As we go to press the *Melody Maker* learns that complete success attended the operation, but Paul will not be allowed to resume his Palladium baton for another four weeks.

Wielding the stick during his absence is first violinist Lou Whitson. Letters to Paul during his convalescence will be forwarded from the Palladium, Argyll Street, W.

In the meanwhile an interesting change in the Skyroockets' line-up brings in trumpet-player Ronnie Priest, late Hatchett's, Gerald, etc.—who replaces Danny Deans. Danny has gone abroad with Edward Sommerfield.

LESS THAN 24 HOURS AFTER DOING HIS FAREWELL BROADCAST LAST TUESDAY, VETERAN BANDLEADER JAY WILBUR SETS OFF THIS MORNING (THURSDAY, AUGUST 8) ON THE BIGGEST AND MOST SPECULATIVE VENTURE OF HIS LONG AND CHEQUERED CAREER, SAILING FOR NEW ZEALAND, PROBABLY TO SETTLE DOWN THERE.

The chief reason for his trip is an important musical assignment for Bousey and Hawkes, for whom Jay formed and has been conducting with great success a 36-piece concert orchestra, on the radio and on records.

These duties, however, will not interfere with his personal plans for the building up of a large straight orchestra, with a view to using it for commercial broadcasting in New Zealand. Jay (photo inset) has received some promising correspondence from the radio network showing great enthusiasm for his services.

Interviewed by the *Melody Maker* on the eve of his departure, Jay had these interesting comments to make on his decision to emigrate:

"During the war I met many New Zealanders and became so impressed by their pleasant nature and warmth of hospitality that I decided I would have no hesitation in visiting their beautiful and progressive country should the occasion ever arise.

"Now that it has, I am delighted to go and I know that I shall find myself among a people who will be friendly and encouraging."

"I understand that there are enormous possibilities for musical advance in New Zealand, plenty of openings for it. I shall spend my first six months looking around and sizing everything up ready to launch an orchestra consisting of New Zealand musicians.

"Before I leave England I want, through the *Melody Maker*, to say good-bye to all my old friends who

have done so much to help me in the past and to whom I unfortunately have not had time to say cheerio in person. I am grateful and shall be ever indebted to all these grand folk and if any of them want to write to me, a letter sent to Bousey and Hawkes, 295, Regent Street, London, W.1, will be forwarded, as I cannot at present give my address, or indeed, tell to which town I shall be going."

Jay and his wife are due to arrive in New Zealand about the middle of September. No successor has yet been selected by B. and H. as conductor of their concert orchestra.

Jay Wilbur, born in Birmingham, rose from a choir-boy to be a pianist and vocalist on the halls, afterwards becoming a cinema pianist and pit-orchestra leader.

From the earliest days of jazz, Jay seized upon it as a living, went to America to study orchestration and returned as a member—musician and arranger—of the famed London Band, which succeeded Paul Whiteman at the London Hippodrome.

As time went on he led his own band at various venues in London and abroad, eventually applying himself to the medium of gramophone recording and becoming musical director of Crystalite and Decca, for whom he worked for some 14 years, terminating about three years ago when he turned to orchestral work.

A regular broadcaster, he gained a terrific reputation through his long association with the famous "Hi-Cantel" series, and afterwards fronted his own dance band on a nation-wide variety tour.

Everyone who knows Jay will realise that we are losing a most competent musician and conductor, and a charming, conscientious man. The *Melody Maker* wishes him the utmost luck and prosperity in his new home.



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Favillon, Bath.
Teddy FOSTER and Band.
One-Night Stands, Midlands.
Morton FRASER and his Harmonica
Rascals.
Hippodrome, Aston.
Gloria GAYE and Band.
Empire, Wood Green.
Carroll GIBBONS.
Shakespeare, Liverpool.
Harry GOLD and Pieces of Eight.
Seburn Hall, Sunderland.
Nat GONELLA and his Georgians.
Green's Playhouse, Glasgow.
Adelaide HALL.
Empire, Liverpool.
Gerry HOEY and Band.
Savoy, Scunthorpe.
Jack JACKSON and Band.
Hippodrome, Lewisham.
Felix MENDELSSOHN and his Hawaiian
Seraders.
Palace, Blackpool.
Syd MILLWARD and his NITWITS.
Broadcasting.
Fred MIRFIELD and Band.
Theatre Royal, Rochdale.
Ronnie MUNRO.
New, Cardiff.
Oscar RABIN and Band.
Eldorado Ballroom, Leith.
Mable REY.
Hippodrome, Lewisham.
Harry ROY and Band.
Hippodrome, Golders Green.
Charles SHADWELL and Orchestra.
Garrick, Southport.
Reeb SILVER and Marion Day.
Grand, Derby.
Billy THORBURN.
Pier Pavilion, Colwyn Bay.
TROISE and his Mandollers.
Palace, East Ham.

Jimmy Phillips Off to Continent

LEAVING England to-day (Thursday) on yet another Continental tour on behalf of the publishing firms of the Peter Maurice Music Co., Ltd., and Leeds Music, Ltd., is much-travelled Jimmy Phillips.

This time he expects to be away three weeks and will visit France, Switzerland, Italy and Spain. This will be his third Continental tour this year, in the early part of which he has also visited the States.

Just before his departure Jimmy Phillips told the MELODY MAKER: "Throughout the Continent, from the Scandinavian countries, through Belgium and Holland, and down to the Mediterranean, there is a big demand for British and American numbers. The music-publishing business can no longer be operated solely from London; one must make oneself thoroughly conversant with conditions and requirements on the spot. I shall not only be contacting the various subsidiary companies of P.M. and Leeds, but also meeting star bandleaders to learn from them the specialised requirements of the dancing public in each country."

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Martin Hayes' Lansdowne Break with 11-Piece

EXPERIENCED London saxophonist-leader Martin Hayes gets one of his biggest breaks next month when, on September 5, he reopens the Berkeley Street Lansdowne Restaurant with his own 11-piece band.

Changes in the lay-out of rooms at this famous resort consequent upon new plans for the post-war period mean that Martin and his Band will be playing in the original Restaurant—closed during the war—which is now in the course of being redecorated in all its former glory.

Taking over at the Lansdowne from Ben Edwards and his Band, Martin Hayes will be leading an outfit consisting of five saxes (one of them vocalising, and one doubling harp), two trumpets and four rhythm. Various other "doubles," including the featuring of flutes, will give Martin an opportunity of turning his outfit also into a rumba band for a portion of each evening.

Noted from his associations with many West End resorts, Martin has played at the Savoy, Berkeley, and Mayfair Hotels, etc. His last job was with his own outfit at the Windermere Club, and during his run there he also took his special rumba outfit to the Lansdowne each night to play opposite Ben Edwards' Band.

FAREWELL TO CAMARATA

AFTER approximately a year's sojourn in this country, where he has been engaged on the musical score and routines for the Wesley Ruggles Technicolor film "London Town," ace U.S. arranger and ex-Goodman-Dorsey-Barnet trumpet stylist Salvador "Toots" Camarata left for America last Wednesday (7th).

Choosing the then newly risen bandleader Ted Heath to assist him in selecting musicians for "London Town," Camarata picked such top-ranking instrumentalists as Harry Rohe and Leslie Carew (tms.), Johnny Gray (tenor sax), Harry Smith (alto sax), Jimmy Watson (tp.), and Jack Parnell (dms.) to form the nucleus of the studio orchestra.

Since the completion of "London Town"—due for its West End premiere at the Leicester Square Theatre, W.O.2 on August 30—"Toots" Camarata has been supervising recordings at Decca of all the "London Town" hit tunes, and has also conducted studio groups accompanying vocaliste Beryl Davis, who, of course, has a key-spot in the film.

Back in the States, Camarata will concentrate on commercial radio. He has, in fact, already been approached by Ford Motors to handle all their musical programmes.

Leonard Feather Brings You THE LATEST NEW YORK SWING NEWS

THE death of Joe "Tricky Sam" Nanton in Los Angeles on July 20 (reported in the "M.M." last week) saddened Jazz fans everywhere. Tricky had suffered a stroke last November and was out of the band for several months, partially paralysed.

He returned to the band, a couple of months ago, but was still unable to play very much, as a result of which Duke continued to keep three other trombones (Claude Jones, Wilbur de Paris and Lawrence Brown). The last time I saw Tricky he was playing an early morning broadcast when the band was passing through town.

Tricky had been with the Ellington band for two decades, and was one of the few who did not seek outside work on record dates and jam sessions, never even making a record session under his own name.

Another death last week was that of Nick Rongetti, proprietor of Nick's. Nick, a former medical student who turned jazz pianist and restaurateur, had played host to many of the country's best-known jazz personalities as owner of the Greenwich Village steak house, which generally adhered to a Dixieland jazz policy, but at other times featured the music of Benny Carter's Band, the Spirits of Rhythm and the King Cole Trio.

Nick liked to play himself during intermissions, generally as one of a team of three pianists seated at small upright pianos ranged across the floor. He played Zex Confrey stuff, roughly, and his favourite tunes were such things as "Twelfth Street Rag."

The biggest excitement in town this week was caused by the opening of Count Basie's Band at the Aquarium. The noisy Seventh Avenue spot, where you can stand at the bar and get a drink plus a close-up of the band for 60 cents, was jammed to the last inch.

ALL THE ELITE

Seated at the booths and tables were such fellow-bandleaders as Buddy Rich, Dick Stabile and Elliott Lawrence, swing critics such as John Hammond, Mike Levin and George Frazier, arrangers like Jimmy Mundy and Buster Harding, and numerous Basie alumni who had dropped in to see their former boss—Buck Clayton, Earl Warren, Helen Humes and Pearl Bailey, among others.

The band sounded remarkably good, with a great brass team really rocking, sparked by the trumpet contributions of Joe Newman and Harry Edison. Illinois Jacquet's sensational tenor work still kills the crowd; sometimes he plays well, other times just commercially. It is still not certain whether he will leave the band to join Norman Granz's next concert unit.

Buddy Tate's tenor was, as ever, consistently good, and Rudy Rutherford, although heard all too seldom, is one of Basie's aces. With Jo Jones back in the rhythm section after his year in the Army, and Jimmy Rushing and Ann Moore both filling the vocal spots admirably, Basie's various agents, managers and bookers, who teemed in the audience, had reason to be proud.

Tommy Dorsey and his Band have taken over as summer replacement for the Fred Allen show Sunday nights over NBC. Tommy will be guest bandleaders directing the T.D. crew in their own style.

Millon Gabler, recording director for Decca Records and owner of Commodore Records, has bought out General Records. Among the masters that Gabler acquired are the Jelly Roll Morton sides that were issued several years ago, with Jelly Roll explaining about the blues, etc.

Louis Armstrong opened at the Band Box in Chicago, following Lionel Hampton. Louis' band features Velma Middleton on vocals. Count Basie follows Louis.

When Dizzy Gillespie's big new band opened at the Apollo Theatre in Harlem recently, some of his friends from 52nd Street were there to give The Diz a send-off. Among those who sat in were Stuff Smith, Tiny Grimes, Buster Bailey, Trummie Young and Slam Stewart.

Duke Ellington gave a concert at the Shrine Auditorium, Los Angeles, on August 7. The Shrine, seating 6,700 people, is the largest auditorium in L.A.

Harold Baker, now out of the army, is back with the trumpet section,

which also includes Ray Nance, Taft Jordan, Cal Anderson, Shelton Hemphill and Francis Williams.

A major change in the saxes is the replacement of Toby Hardwick, one of Duke's veterans, with Russ Procop, formerly with John Kirby. The rest of the sax section is filled out with Johnny Hodges, Jimmy Hamilton, Al Sears and Harry Carney—a perfect line-up. Trombones are Lawrence Brown, Wilbur de Paris and Claude Jones. Rhythm section consists of Duke on piano, Sonny Greer on drums, Freddy Guy, guitar, and Oscar Pettiford, bass. Kay Davis and Al Hibler handle vocals, assisted by Maribon Cox. Duke presented his "Translucency" on the coast for the first time in its entirety.

Joe Bushkin replaced Mel Powell as pianist with Benny Goodman. Mel recently married stage and screen star Martha Scott. Gene Sedric, former Fats Waller tenor man, has a five-piece unit in Greenwich Village.

Lou Simmonds Airing

THREE days after his opening at the Burlington Hotel, Bournemouth, on August 16, Lou Simmonds will get his first airing over Western Regional from this hotel.

At present deciding on the personnel for his eight-piece, Lou informs the MELODY MAKER that he has vacancies for reliable men, and may be contacted either at his office, 178, Old Christchurch Road, Bournemouth, or by phone at Bournemouth 261.

Buzz Trueman Out

AFTER three and a half years in the Royal Marines, youthful trumpet star Ivan "Buzz" Trueman has just been demobilised, and when he has had a short holiday is anxious to resume playing in the West End.

With Edmundo Ros before he joined up, Ivan has been in charge of the popular "Marineers" Dance Orchestra since he has been in uniform, and has been playing to the Forces both on the Continent and also as far away as Hongkong.

During the few days in which he has been back, Ivan has been offered several jobs in Town, and has also been given an opportunity to go out with a band of his own.

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JANE IS "FUNNY THAT WAY"

EDGAR JACKSON'S Record Reviews

BENNY GOODMAN SEXTET

****Rachel's Dream (Goodman) (Am. Columbia CO34030) (Recorded October, 1944)

**She's Funny That Way (Moret, Whiting) (V by Jane Harvey) (Am. Columbia CO34265) (Recorded January, 1945)

(Parlophone R3008—3s. 11d.) Goodman (clart.) with Red Norvo (vibres); Teddy Wilson (pno.); Mike Bryan (gtr.); "Slam" Stewart (bass); Morey Feld (dms.).

BENNY takes "Funny That Way" at such a slow, languorous tempo that, although the side plays for not far short of three minutes, it manages to get in only a chorus and a half.

Not that this would matter if anything happened in the time, but it doesn't.

Taking the first half chorus, Benny plays gracefully enough, and is adequately accompanied by Teddy Wilson and Red Norvo playing tied chords. But it is all rather uninspired and uninspiring.

So is Jane Harvey's vocal which follows. Obviously she must have something somewhere or she would not (presumably) have been chosen by anyone who knows as much as our Mr. Goodman.

FOR BENNY'S DAUGHTER

But, whatever it is, it isn't made any the better by the young lady's habit of swelling her notes after she has started them—a device which may be all right in straight music, but only sounds rather corny when applied to the swing mode—and, all round, whoever selected this side for the Parlophone Rhythm-Style Series must have been either asleep or "doney."

However, in "Rachel's Dream" the Sextet gets back to that superlative standard it set in "Shine" (Parlophone R3002) and "I Got Rhythm" (R3007), both issued within the last couple of months.

The piece is named after Benny's daughter Rachel.

Features of the performance are the perfect way in which Benny and Red work together in harmony; a fine Teddy Wilson chorus; "Slam"

Stewart's bass solo (no bowing tricks this time, just honest-to-goodness pizzicato); Norvo's grand vibres solo; and some of the best fast tempo clarinet that Benny has put on a record lately.

Now may we please have "Just One Of Those Things," which is one of the best, or perhaps the best, of the eight sides in the album from which Parlophone have been taking the Goodman recordings they have lately been releasing with such conspicuous success?



NAT TEMPLE AND HIS CLUB ROYAL ORCHESTRA

***Burma Road (Nat Temple, Ray Terry) (Eng. Decca DR9342)

***Nattering Around (Nat Temple) (Eng. Decca DR9343) (Decca F8611—3s. 1d.)

Temple (clart.) with Benny Greenwood (tenor); Freddy Clayton (tot.); Jock Bain (tmb.); Reg. Leonard, Charlie Katz, Sid Sax, George Hurley (vibs.); Dava Bellman (viola); Jack Temple (cello); Matt Heft (pno.); George Elliott (gtr.); Tommy Bromley (bass); Maurice Burman (dms.). Recorded April 23, 1945.

FOR the benefit of the uninformed, Nat Temple, before the war, was one of the pillars on which the Geraldo ork was built. During the war he served in the Forces, and is now awaiting demob.

He made these records with a pick-up band while he was in the Army.

Burma Road is so titled in memory of his service in India. Although the piece is good enough of its kind, and the band, with such soloists as Benny Greenwood and the still insufficiently acclaimed Jock Bain, plays a good deal better than averagely well, descriptive tunes such as these always sound to me a trifle synthetic as swing.

Anyway, I much prefer "Nattering Around."

This is a swing clarinet solo, and not only enables the band, with Matt Heft, Tommy Bromley, Maurice Burman and George Elliott featured in solo spots, to give a good account of itself, but also allows Nat to show that his swing style is almost as good as his technique—which is saying plenty.

Don't let the fact that Nat uses strings in the combo put you off. Like Artie Shaw, he knows when and how to use them—which means not too much.



Elrick, Rabin and Whyte vocalist and cabaret artist, Joy Conway, is now on a three months' tour of Germany. With the 30 Corps Dance Orchestra, led by her trombonist husband Rio Kennedy, she is airing all this week over BFN, and is also starring in the Army Welfare revue, "Sitting on a Star."

CORNISH JOY FOR GRIEFF

KEN GRIEFF, West End trumpet star, who took his own band to the Tremorvah Hall, Truro, Cornwall, at the beginning of the season, reports good business there, and progress in several directions, the most important of which is a broadcast on Western Regional (to-morrow, Friday, 10.15-10.45 p.m.).

Airing will feature some new-style arrangements by the Grieff Band's altoist, ex-Perry stylist Derek Neville; it will also spotlight the piano of Monty Warlock.

Second big step forward made by Ken Grieff since he has been in Cornwall was the breaking down of an old tradition when for the first time in history, dancing took place on a Sunday—to the music of the Grieff Band—on a recent week-end at the "Jolly Smuggler" Café on the boating lake at Newquay. The café has now started a regular series of Sunday night "hops" at all of which Ken and the Band are featured.

Besides Ken himself (late Stanley Black, Harry Roy, etc.), leading on trumpet, Derek Neville on alto and baritone, and Monty Warlock at piano, the band includes Ted White (late Billy Tennent), tenor; Art Learner (late Nat Gonella), bass; and Don Kellest (late Ronnie Munro), drums.

WEST END, late London Fire Force Dance Orchestra trumpet player Paddy Marlow, wishes to let all his friends know that he may now be contacted at Harrow 4475.

STONE'S TRUMPET CAPTURE

BECAUSE alto and clarinet star Joe Crossman is in Monte Carlo with Ambrose it should not be assumed that he has left Lew Stone. His trip, which he has made for the benefit of his health, came about due to a friendly arrangement between Lew Stone and Ambrose, which provides for Joe to rejoin Lew when Ambrose returns from the Mediterranean later in August.

When Lew returns to the Embassy on Monday week after a fortnight's holiday, he will have the services of Ambrose's 1st alto, Harry Smith, until Joe Crossman is available.

Lew has made a big trumpet capture in Lynn Whiteley, who takes the place of Sid Holmes, who has had to leave Lew owing to ill-health. Lynn Whiteley is described by Lew as a phenomenal player. Entering the profession shortly before the war he started making his mark, but went into the R.A.F. where he became a Pathfinder pilot.

Brought down over his target and narrowly escaping death, he was made prisoner, and while in Germany played in a dance band at a neighbouring P. of W. camp, where his style was recognised as being exceptional.

Apart from his all too few dance-band airings these days Lew provides the music for radio shows "Here's Wishing You Well Again" and "Music Box."

IVY WANTS BASSIST

AN opportunity for a good modern-style girl bassist, with a penchant for travel, is offered with Ivy Benson and her Girls' Band when they return from their Continental tour in September.

The job is to start on September 30, and Ivy may be contacted through her London address, 20, New Cavendish Street, W.1.

Continuing her amazingly successful Scandinavian tour, Ivy informs the MELODY MAKER that all that she has heard of Norse hospitality is fully borne out by the reception she and her girls have been shown.

"My drummer, Paula Pyke, has been presented with a smashing new drum kit and both my guitarists have been offered new guitars. That's what I call hospitality!"

On her return to England for a spell, Ivy will be presenting her Girls on the Moss and Stoll circuits.

Evans-Weir Switch

TENOR sax Don Rendell has left George Evans to join Frank Weir, and George has engaged Johnny Roberts, who has been with Jack Jackson. For one week while awaiting the arrival of Johnny Roberts George was able to use ex-Frank Weir tenor Jimmy Staples, who kept things going splendidly. George follows his recent fine broadcasts with a session on the Light Programme on August 22, and has airings for overseas booked for August 13 and 27 and September 10 and 24.

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1,000 BANDS ON RECORDS

NOT the least interesting feature of the just-published new (1946) edition of "Swing Music," the H.M.V. Personnel Booklet compiled by Edgar Jackson, is the insight it gives into the terrific number of bands, composers, lyric writers and individual musicians and singers who have been engaged in producing your jazz and swing music recordings during the past twenty-odd years.

The booklet shows that nearly 1,000 different bands, musicians and vocalists have been engaged recording the 734 different compositions which comprise the more than 1,000 sides issued in the various H.M.V. jazz and swing series and albums, quite apart from the many other bands, etc., responsible for the jazz and swing platters made by the many other concerns which are, or have been, in the recording business.

The main difference between this new and previous editions of the booklet is that it is brought up to date by the addition of all records issued in the H.M.V. Swing Series during 1944 and 1945, though we have noted also quite a few corrections.

By the time you are reading this, the booklet should be obtainable from all H.M.V. record stockists, and the fact that it has grown from 71 to 83 pages is not the only feature which makes it both cheap at its price of 2s. 6d. and an indispensable addition to the libraries of all jazz and swing music enthusiasts.

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Jerry Dawson's NORTHERN NEWS

CURRENTLY with the Ceres Harper Band at the Spa Royal Hall, Bridlington, noted Oldham pianist, Rex Hilton will be heard in the Northern piano feature, "Flippant Fingers," on Saturday (24th), when he will be playing from the Leeds studios. "Olde Tyme Dance Music" is still popular on the Northern "air," and Aug. 15 sees Mrs. Will Hamer doing still another of these stints, whilst a week later (22nd) Teddy Marks and his Band, from the Casino Ballroom, Southport, will be heard for the first time.

Reorganised for its winter season at the Lido Ballroom, Ashton Old Road, Manchester, Percy Pease and his Band are looking forward to a further "air" date in the near future—which will be their first from this venue. Playing tenor and fiddle, Percy fronts the following boys: Frank McIntosh (piano); Walt Russon (drums); Harold Barnes (bass); Jimmy Edwards and Johnny Sheridan (altos); "Sonny" Swann (tenor); Phil Moss and Johnny Fostick (trumpets); Frank Gamble (trombone); and vocalist John Moran, who recently did a solo spot in the Northern radio feature, "Curtain Up."

Shortly returning to the Forces, from which he was demobbed a few months ago with the rank of Major, saxist Tommy Ensbury, currently with Ken Green and his Band at the Carltons Ballroom, Rochdale, has evidently had enough of "Clivy Street." Tommy served throughout the war years with the R.A.S.C., and hopes to be reinstated with his own unit.

Welcome Home—to noted Sheffield musicians Art Wells, Jack Green and Dick Dalton all of whom are now busy re-establishing themselves.

The Hawaiian Swinglet, led by Norman Moutrey, is proving a great attraction at the Bewick Hall, Gateshead. With Norman leading on Hawaiian guitar are: Fred Hittle (Spanish guitar); Johnnie Osborne (piano); Bill Gibson (bass); and Jack Hendry (drums). Vocals are handled by "Wahene Noi."

Also doing well in the Gateshead district are Jerry Reynolds and his Band, Personnel, with leader Jerry on drums; Al Tucker (piano); Al Cahons and George Turner (saxes); and Syd, Hutchinson (trumpet).

Was at the Palace Theatre, Blackpool, a couple of weeks ago for the "Northern Music Hall" airing, which headlined the Five Strangs (vocal quartet with piano accompaniment), Judy Shirley, and that master of complexity, Professor Maxie Bacon. Judy, although in no way related to dance band singing these days—is still a grand little artist and has developed a fine single act since she parted from the Sam Browne double act several months ago.

Max Bacon, too—despite a spell of bad health recently—has a grand act, finishing with a drum spot, which, whilst perhaps a little corny by modern "jam" standards, shows that at least he has lost none of his colossal technique.

GONELLA SCORES AT GLASGOW

Hugh Hinshelwood's Scottish Notes

WHATEVER Nat Gonella's popularity among the band-bookers, there is little doubt as to the affection of his fans, judging from the reception accorded the trumpet man at Green's Glasgow, where he is doing a month's season. Nat's arrangements provide that degree of excitement which is definitely necessary nowadays, and if a mild criticism be offered (which applies to all visiting bands) it is that the accent on brass renders a few of the tutti chords rather Hiroshima-like. In the line-up is featured a young man who is rapidly getting places, Roy Plumer on guitar being one of the finds of this present epoch. Roy's solos are immaculate, and he can take his place among the high-ups without further delay. On vocals is Glasgow girl Helen Mack, whom most of us have seen growing up since her entry into the business as quite a wee lassie. Scots boys include Jimmy Kerr, tenor, and recently signed Alec Herd, a swell alto who was stationed in the RAF near Glasgow during the war and was a member of Ronnie Munro's Scottish Variety Orchestra line-up. For radio listeners there is the news that Nat will be featured as guest artist in a programme to be broadcast on Wednesday, August 14, at 9.30. This evening Variety show entitled "Gordon Galetics" and sponsored by Scots comedian Harry Gordon.

For once in a while we get a news item from Paisley, where at the Premier Palais George Neil and his Band have settled down nicely. With the band here we find Bill Cosgrave, who has played in various parts of these isles, and is on trumpet and doing plenty arranging for his present lot.

Jimmy Goude, who started band-leading and dance-promoting last winter in his native Lanarkshire, went further afield the other day, taking a band to Cupar on the East Coast for a short season. The success of the venture may mean a repeat by Jimmy next year on a more pretentious scale. Closing five weeks of Glasgow's open-air dancing will be played by Donald Millar and his Band, Donald has done spells of this work in previous years, and is also well known for his appearances at corporation parks concerts.

Chalmers Wood tells me that following Nat Gonella's month at Green's there will be visits from Oscar Rabin, Fritz Mendelssohn, Teddy Foster and Joe Loss.

Contest Fixtures

THIS WEEK BOURNEMOUTH.—To-morrow, Friday, August 9, at the Town Hall (7.30 to midnight).—The 1946 West Hampshire Dance Band Championship. Organiser: Mr. Phillip Moss-Vernon, 17, Gloucester Mansions, Cambridge Circus, London, W.C.2. (Phone: TEMPLE Bar 9140).

NEW BRIGHTON.—To-morrow, Friday, August 9, at the Tower Ballroom (7 to 11.45 p.m.).—The 1946 West Hampshire "Mirral" Championship. Organiser: Mr. Lewis Buckley, 28, Carr Lane, Birkdale, Southport, Lancs. (Phone: Ainsdale 78238).

NEXT WEEK HARTLEPOOL.—Friday, August 16, at the Borough Hall (7 p.m. to 1 a.m.).—The 1946 Durham County Championship. Organiser (for the Hartlepool Corporation): Mr. W. M. Marshall, Entertainments Office, Borough Buildings, Hartlepool, Co. Durham. (Phones: Hartlepool 6190, 6197).

FIRST ANNOUNCEMENT WIGAN.—Sunday, September 8, at the Blitz Cinema (6.30 to 9 p.m.).—The 1046 West Lancashire Championship. Organiser: Mr. Lewis Buckley, 28, Carr Lane, Birkdale, Southport, Lancs. (Phone: Amsdale 78238).

Reforming his "Alvanos" Band on his discharge from the RAO, where he led the Concert and Dance Orchestra for six years, Leeds leader Johannes Addlestone has been contracted to play in the Bradford parks throughout this week and also at the Leeds Summer Pavilions for the rest of the month. Johnnie also has a solo airing at 6.35 p.m. on August 17 from Leeds in the "Flippant Fingers" series. Before the war he ran the Mortimer Dance Salon in Leeds for five years, and gigged around Yorkshire. Most of his originals have rejoined him, and for the week in Bradford he is featuring a coloured singer from London named Neville London-Williams.

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