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MISCELLANEOUS: MONARKS—Permanent London Address. Letters redirected. Confidential. 5/- p.a. Write BGM(MONS), W.C.1.

I HAVE been taken to task by two or three of my readers for my remarks in a recent issue about buskers and busking. A Northerner points out that the word is used in the North to describe those who play in the streets, whether or not they play by ear.

Accordion Times Edited by J. J. BLACK

Now I quite naturally have no desire to antagonise those who are able, so I am told, to make a very useful income simply by exercising their musical talents at the street corners. But since this same reader states that these players fall into two categories, those who think they can play and those who know they can't, I think the point is answered.

This is an appropriate moment to mention that even the street player—or perhaps I should say especially the street player—can derive a very definite advantage from making a proper study of his instrument. Besides increasing his interest and pleasure in playing the instrument, it will undoubtedly increase his earning power.

I remember an occasion—before the war—when I was walking along the promenade of a well-known South Coast town with a friend, who happened to be a first-rate accordionist, when we came across a "busker" (both senses of the word), who was literally murdering each of the very few simple tunes which comprised his repertoire.

It is strange as the recently-opened Manchester Films Studio. As you ride towards Belle Vue on Manchester's ubiquitous 53 bus route you may not notice a moderately-sized grey stone church which you pass between Wilmshaw Road and Birchfields Road in Rusholme; yet it is here that the country's latest studios have been established.

Still "TOPS" amongst Guitars. We have received our quota of the world famous "GRAFFIGNO" electric guitar. Put PUNCH & PRESTIGE into your performance—order one today.

The Portsmouth Accordion Club is also making very steady progress along the right lines. Learners classes have now been started and prizes are awarded to those who make the best progress. It is hoped that the star band from this Club, under the capable direction of Cyril Rice, will before long be presenting a show in London.

It was sorry to hear that the recital which was to have been given by Toralf Tollefsen at Kingston was unavoidably cancelled. The amateur symphony orchestra was to have been conducted by A. A. Gregory, arranger of the Pietro Deiro Concerto, which Tollefsen was to have played, but owing to the sudden death of his mother he did not feel able to go ahead with the concert.

His programme will include "March of the Dwarfs," "Carnival of Venice," "Serenata Sevilliana" and Liszt's Hungarian Rhapsody No. 2. Kenny tells me that he is playing the summer season with Alex Finlay's Show at Dunoon.

I've tried me darndest to effect a swap over between Mogens Klilde, of the Palladium, Copenhagen, and some of our boys, and although the Danish end is all for it, I have failed utterly to interest any of our British circuits. Mogens had arranged to vacate his job for the duration of my tour, but I could arrange for him over here, and as many of our lads as possible were to have gone for two-week guest spots over there during that time.

At the last meeting of the Association of Theatre Organists Mr. Hutchison, Manager of the Ambassador Cinema, Hendon, addressed the meeting on the pertinent subject of the theatre organ from the manager's point of view. Interesting points Mr. Hutchison made were: Organs

READERS listening to "Round the Halls" broadcast from Glasgow Empire will agree with me, I am sure, that the playing of the Overture by Erik Ogdén and his orchestra was the highlight of the evening. They featured a very fine sax section, which included three known dance men, namely, Danny McCormack, Bob Bain and Solly Banks.

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IN THE NORTH by Billy Butler

FEW film studios can be as strange as the recently-opened Manchester Films Studio. As you ride towards Belle Vue on Manchester's ubiquitous 53 bus route you may not notice a moderately-sized grey stone church which you pass between Wilmshaw Road and Birchfields Road in Rusholme; yet it is here that the country's latest studios have been established.

This is due to the enterprise of Mr. Blakeney, the man who gave George Formby his first chance in films. Although he is not very well known to the patrons of the West End cinema, Mr. Blakeney is an important figure in the film world. His unpretentious pictures, which depend mainly upon North Country humour for their appeal, have long been in great demand at the suburban and rural picture houses of the North.

Further film news comes from Jimmie Moss, of Stoke-on-Trent, whose band has been chosen for a feature spot in Terry Bishop's latest production, "The Five Towns." Jimmie's "Regionaires" are well qualified for this break, since they have for some time enjoyed one of the finest gig connections in the Potteries. Incidentally, I was much impressed by the card they sent me. Printed by a photographic process, it forms one of the best publicity aids I have seen for a long time.

Before the war Roy Brace was well known as the manager of the Carlton Ballroom, Rochdale. Since leaving the Services he has branched out as a ballroom owner, and has installed a stylish seven-piece at the Plaza Ballroom, Bury. His players are: Tommy Sanderson (piano/lead), Frank Devine (sax/clarinet), Frank Ikin (sax/violin), Fred Hefferan (tenor/clarinet), Chuck Whewell (trumpet), Ken Hart (bass) and Freddy Ashworth (drums). We wish Roy good luck in his new venture.

AT THE CONSOLE with ROBIN RICHMOND

COR—stone the crows and fillet the fish, this 'ere indifference to any scheme we may put up from time to time to the powers that be is getting a bit sad. Why can't the high-ups in this country be a bit more enterprising—and at least if they do turn down a scheme, why don't they give a cut and dried reason, instead of always mucking about and stalling in a vague sort of way.

I've tried me darndest to effect a swap over between Mogens Klilde, of the Palladium, Copenhagen, and some of our boys, and although the Danish end is all for it, I have failed utterly to interest any of our British circuits. Mogens had arranged to vacate his job for the duration of my tour, but I could arrange for him over here, and as many of our lads as possible were to have gone for two-week guest spots over there during that time.

The John Compton Organ Company had two of their popular instruments on show at the British Industries Fair, Olympia, and the great interest shown by all and sundry who come to the stand is further proof that the public, both British and overseas, is still very much alive to the charm of the organ. I spent a very interesting afternoon on the stand, and I was frankly amazed at the constant stream of enquiries and at the crowds that collected whenever the organ was played.

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