

New York Showfronts

BY DON DE LEIGHBUD

DO YOU WANT TO WRITE A SONG?

NEW YORK — So you want to write a song? Who doesn't? Songwriting is the secret ambition of countless people including presidents of the United States, governors, cooks, barmen, housewives and even preachers. Some break through with a hit but usually a hit is 100 to 1 shot, and the majority of songwriters wind up near the wishing well, hoping against hope that someday, somewhere, a song will be sung by millions and their name listed along with the Irving Berlin's, Cole Porters, Duke Ellingtons, and Razzafis and others whose names are institutions in Tin Pan Alley.

I don't propose to state that I have any formula for creating hit songwriters overnight. Neither do I have any secret formula that will put you in the big time class in songwriting. If I had, I would probably write the song myself and take the necessary steps to get my name up in the bright lights and not waste time living to get you there.

However, there are certain hard and fast rules that apply to one who writes a song and how to market it. Judging from the tremendous response, I must have said something that struck, so here I am again. Suppose you were idling around your piano—that is if you play such an instrument, or for a matter, whistle, play a melody that has popped into your head. You snap your finger and say "Gosh, I've got a good song here. It might be a hit."

You, providing you have musical background, grab some manuscript paper and rapidly put down the musical notation or lead copy of your tune. Then you write in the words then rush to someone else who plays the piano or some instrument, and have them play it over for you. If you are not able to do your own notations, you get your friend who has a musical background and education to do it for you. Whatever the case, the result is usually the same. You finally get a more or less neat manuscript of your brainchild.

Now, what are you going to do with it? You have got to sell it, otherwise it is no good unless you are one of those who like to collect things for your own personal enjoyment, and songs are written and composed to share with others.

Suppose you have written a blues tune, you know, one of those "Hey Lawdy Mama" things. Nine times out of ten it will be in the so-called Negro idiom and consequently it will be limited to a certain market. Your eye is on ASCAP and your thoughts on a whole lot of money in royalties. You frantically rush down to the nearest publisher and play your tune for him to hear. He will turn it down without question in most cases. In rare instances, if you are a professional writer or one who has been identified with music, he will give you a contract for your words and tune with absolutely no intention of putting such a number out in saleable form.

Then what have you got? Your tune on the shelf of the publisher with no chance of getting it off and you still haven't got any money for your work. You go to a band rehearsal or over to the home of a friend who has been singing or perhaps playing with an orchestra and start talking about your tune. If he or she is interested and wants to hear it, you play it and they like it and make a promise that they are going to get their band in on the thing with the idea of making a record of it.

Into your face comes a glow and you walk around on clouds and at long last something you wrote is going to be recorded by one of the top bands and sung by one of the

outstanding swing or ballad or blues chippers. The band leader takes the song and arranges it so as to conform with the requirements of the singer, goes down to Decca, Victor, Okky, Columbia, Continental, Deluxe, or any of the many new companies that have sprung upon the scene during these war years and make a sensational recording of "Tin Town Lizzie Blues." Your troubles have just begun.

Remember, you who look the song to in the beginning? Well, if you look at your contract, you will see that he has priority in any disposal of it in regard to money transactions. He still has no intention of putting it out in sheet music form or any other form of orchestration or other printed matter for sale in the music shops throughout the country. You have done the biggest part of the work in assuring him added income, for when you went to the band leader and the singer and got the song recorded you cut the publisher in on some "ravy" he had nothing to do with the making.

Here's how it works. The record company usually sends all royalties derived from the sale of the record directly to your house by the mailman every quarter. Whether it's two cents or two hundred or two thousand dollars, the process never varies. But you signed a contract with the publisher. The tune belongs to him, not to you, so the record company sends your royalties check to the publisher. He takes out a big chunk of the money and puts it in his pocket and sends you what he wants you to have. Still he hasn't done one thing to earn his keep aside from sticking a letter opener into the envelope and subtracting the publisher's check from the record company and taking one of his envelopes and mailing you what is left.

I would advise all the tyro composers and song writers to leave publishers alone on blues and jump tunes that are strictly instrumental. There is nothing they can do for you unless they have a great change of heart, and few today seem to have such a change of heart. Instead, if your song is recorded, sign only the contract from the recording company which is standard in most instances. If the song makes \$5,000 in royalties, the \$5,000 is yours. If it makes two cents, the two cents is yours and you don't have any dead weight to carry along with you.

GWENDOLYN BROOKS

Gwendolyn Brooks was born in June, 1917, in Topeka, Kansas and lives in Chicago. She graduated from Englewood High School in 1934 and from Wilson Junior College in June, 1936. In September, 1936 she married L. Blakely. She has had poetry published in numerous magazines and is at work on a novel.

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William Rose Benet writes "A Street in Bronzeville" by Gwendolyn Brooks is the work of a remarkable young poet. Her "Ballad of Time" is a masterpiece of poetry. Her book throughout has dramatic vigor and unusual expressive power. Miss Brooks is as original, as dynamic as Langston Hughes. She is a talented individual.

Richard Wright has written of Miss Brooks' work: "She is a real poet. There is no self-pity here, no striving for effects. She takes hold of reality as it is and renders it faithfully. She easily catches the pathos of pretty details; the impact of the wounded; the tiny accidents that plague the lives of desperately poor, and the problem of color prejudice."

Delious Crouch of Garner in Wake County marketed about \$150 worth of okra per acre from 13 acres to the crop during the first 3 weeks of July, says Assistant County Agent Bruce Butler.

"Next Door" By TED SHEARER



"My easy ain't mean to look at — but to her I'm Eisenhower. MacArthur, Patton and Clark all in one."

USO COFFEE IN TRANSIT



Returning servicemen from the European Theater are coffeeing on route makes them feel at home. USO Lounges, operated by Travelers Aid Association and financed through the National War Fund, now utilize the services of 23,000 volunteers. There are more than 1,200 Negro volunteers serving in USO Lounges in 19 cities in 12 different states. NATIONAL WAR FUND PHOTO FROM OWI

SEEN' STARS WITH DOLORES CALVIN

NEW YORK (CNS) — Erskine

Hawkins Pens New Piece. Following up "Tuxedo Junction" and "Tippin' In," Erskine Hawkins, the Strand's mighty maestro, is working hard on a new piece, different from the rest. It is music to the novel, "Black Boy" by Richard Wright. Erskine has told reporters that he hopes to record his interpretation of "Black Boy" very soon. Flo Hawkins, his wife, is acting as a sort of liaison on the score.

CHARLIE BARNET did a courageous thing out west in Seattle, Washington when a Whidby Island Naval Lieutenant asked him, quite confidentially, when mess call was sounded, "What are you going to do with the niggers?" (The niggers? Peanuts Holland, a prominent member of the Barnet crew, Charlie coolly answered "Well, show us where the niggers eat and we, the members of the band, will eat with the niggers.") The story was exposed when S. T. McCants, editor and owner of the Northwest Herald, interviewed Charlie at the Civic Auditorium. There, 5,000 white and colored Barnet fans enjoyed a band that feeds democracy.

MANTAN MORELAND with Ben Carter and their dry humor, consisting of unfinished sentences, have appeared in more than 100 films within the past five years, singly and as a team in their own right. "The two are on the Andy Bill Graham due back from the coast this week. Marv Louts is waiting for an indefinite time. Newsman George Brown of Pittsburgh did a good job for Ferguson Brothers, Indianapolis bookers. According to Brown, the Darlings of Rhythm are one of America's No. 1 all girl swing outfits. They have just finished an engagement at the Plantation Club in Hollywood.

MABEL FAIRBANKS, who postponed her date at the Apollo because she couldn't get the ice in skate on, will be billed again when the Apollo re-opens the second week of September. Headlines Magazine (August), in order of Times, did a page and a half interview on Louis Jordan, a fan's favorite musical comedian in which he tells how it all began. The band leader, incidentally, sports a new print pajama top. Bathrobe set given him by Lucky Millinder of the Duke Ellington program, one is colored. She is Elaine Jones, the tympianist of the group and the only girl of the three.

ERSKINE HAWKINS at the Broadway Strand plays his own famous "Tippin' In" plus "Caldonia," a tune Louis Jordan popularized. When Jordan was on theatre tour, he played his "Caldonia" plus Erskine's "Tippin' In." Erskine celebrated his birthday at the Strand with full honors after leaving the Hotel Lincoln ballroom. Louie celebrated his when at the Paramount Theatre in July. The New York Post's Anti-Intolerance Bureau is arranging that popular Billie Holiday's Bobbi Gardner, prominent music figure of Boston, is planning another Festival for the Fall.

MARY LOU WILLIAMS now has her own radio program on which she plays fine boogie-woogie. She and other stars entertained for the Yugoslav Relief. Todd Dunham's concert at Lewiston Stadium this week with new Latin American folk songs that he learned in native countries, promises to be exciting. Macy's Department Store will be featuring famous band leaders in their store, a promotion plan for Macy's. First will be Gene Krupa. They intend to include Negro masters too.

MASK AND DESMOND, a white dance duo who just completed a 3 week run at the Paramount Theatre, claim they learned a great deal from Negroes. Desmond picked up his boogie wogie from some of our greatest artists. He does it well. He made it a part of their act to have him "take over" at the piano. Both caught dance steps from sepia artists. Astor Pictures has completed "Caldonia" with Louis Jordan public consumption. The song is their theme number.

Theatre folk are congratulating writer of the three page Richard Huey story in July News-Magazine. Huey is in the Broadway production of "E. O. Ross." The writer of the story incidentally, 1 years truly. At the NMPA meeting at Hotel Theresa where meager salaries outlined the Miss C. and new Child Play in Chicago.

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Dots And Dashes

BY BILL CHANDLER

HOLLYWOOD, Calif. — Fayard of the Nicholas Brothers is the one who they went for the male lead opposite Lena Horne in "St. Louis Woman," the stage musical written by Arna Bontemps which is supposed to open in New York just before Christmas. This Joan Lorring, who walks off with second honors to the Betty Davis picture, "The Corn Is Green," quite a gal born in Hong Kong, her presence in Hollywood is strictly an accident. She and her mother, after leaving the Orient stepped in the film city where Douglas Fairbanks Sr. put her under contract. After he died, she went to Merle, later going to Warner's. Her father remained in Hong Kong and is a prisoner of the Nips. She speaks a variety of dialects and languages. She's 18 years old. And despite her role of an over-sexed brat in "The Corn Is Green," she's never had a date. Chester Himes had finished his book "If He Hollers Let Him Go" and has been commissioned to do another by Doubleday and the publishers. Chester quit the Coast for the more healthy writing atmosphere (for him) of New York, and by the time this is printed, wife Jean will have resigned her job with the USO and will have pointed him. Here's one they're telling with a straight face: The rocking chairs featured in the hilarious comedy, "Christmas in Connecticut," starring Barbara Stanwyck and Dennis Morgan, were obtained from second hand stores in Pasadena. Long families as the home of retired, or "rocking-chair" millionaires. It seems as though the former owners have sold their sitting pieces and hies themselves off to war factories.

Colman Hawkins was followed into Shepp's cocktail room (downstairs by King Perry. This said that though Criseman is one of the world's finest saxophonists, he wasn't half as good on his horn as he was at "intermission." "Pride of the Marines," which stars John Garfield and Eleanor Parker, has in it one of the most outspoken scenes on a star problems affecting servicemen, yet to seem from the screen. Among other things it takes a healthy shot at race prejudice: Vivian Dandridge is now at Billy Berg's as featured warbler with Eddie Heywood's group.

Humphrey Bogart, among film technicians, is known as "the clicker" because of the smacking noise he makes after a screen kiss. Considering some of the fine chicks he's kissed, who would blame him? La Hattaway, one of the stormiest of show business petrels, states that in Chicago, Deke Watson of the Brown Tots came on so strong with his "Tom" routine she had to leave the theatre. Incidentally, La Hattaway follows Marvyn to Shepp's. For his excellent performance of the role of George Gershwin in "Rhapsody in Blue," Robert Alda draws the lead opposite Ida Lupino in "The Man I Love," a musical which will feature songs by Jerome Kern. The Hollywood Four Blazes are holding forth at the Streets of Parish. Patients at the Vaughan General Hospital, Miss. Ill. have formed an Andrea Kline fan club. They call her "Fever Treatment." And what should be considered one kind of a marathon record is the fact that Jean Parker, emcee and comedienne has been at the Pal Tabarin for 6 years! Herbie Jeffries is making some records with Artie Shaw's band, which should just about wrap it up.

The satyr in Greek mythology were spirits—half-man and half-beast.

New Teentimer Look

NEW YORK (CNS) — The same day he was to appear for rehearsal of the new stage play "Carib Song," musical story of Trinidad, Avon Long, musical comedy star of "Porgy and Bess" and "Memphis Bound" was attacked in front of his home at 11 Manhattan Avenue by an unknown assailant. He was immediately taken to Harlem Hospital where his condition was described as "critical." Police were still trying, at press-time, to track down the holdup man who took nothing from Mr. Long but left him with several deep cuts on his face and hands which will require plastic surgery before he can play in "Carib Song" or any other show.

Gretechen Long, his wife, reached at their home, 351 West 114th St. in one was allowed to visit him in the hospital and that she couldn't understand why anyone would want to harm her husband. After the attack, he told her he shouldn't have fought back before he fell unconscious. The Longs have three small children.

Avon Long was to be featured star with William Frankel, who was a recent Perry of the Gershwin musical in the new "Carib Song." The cast includes Mer edes Gilbert and Harriet Jackson. Katherine Dunham is the star and will stake the photograph. Her dancers, all back from their two year tour with "Tropical Revue" will assist her in the new Broadway production. After a half week in New Haven, the company will do three weeks at the Shubert Theatre in Boston before coming to town.

STAN KENTON DISCOVERS WHAT A MANHATTAN DEB READS. NEW YORK (CNS) — Special. During the last two days of a three week engagement at the Paramount Theatre in Times Square, one of the largest state houses in the country, Stan Kenton, white band leader, discovered what Ann Henry, a modern dancer, reads while waiting to go on the floor. Ann is one of the Manhattan Debs who, besides their routine number, dances to the finale of "Caldonia."

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Casual simplicity keynotes this all-pleated teentimer skirt dress in a latex fabric, designed by Grace Norman. A mighty midget wallet can be slipped on the belt as shown here by use of the key chain attached to wallet which is one of the features of this new wallet. Ready for any teentime occasion, the mighty midget, which is a 6 in 1 wallet, has a place for everything, eliminating a handbag. This dress and accessory portrays the new teentimer look of casual simplicity.

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TAN TOPICS

By CHARLES ALLEN



When all the boys are promised to marry come home that'll be my post-war problem.

Ernie Pyle Monument



THE SHIMA—A permanent monument which, according to C. P. Reynolds, president of Monument Builders of America, will stand as a memorial through the ages, has been unveiled in honor of War Correspondent Ernie Pyle on Leima. Men of the 77th Division of the Infantry, U.S. Tenth Army, took time out to erect monument on exact spot where Pyle was killed by enemy machine gun fire.

MUSICAL COMEDY STAR SERIOUSLY INJURED

BY DOLORES CALVIN

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—1240 KC—

Features... Good Music Morning—Noon and Night

MORNINGS	
TEMPUS FUIGT	7:00 to 9:00
MAIL BAG	11:00
NOONS	
QUEEN FOR A DAY	2:30
SUPERMAN	5:15
HOUSE OF MYSTERY	8:00
TOM MIX	8:00
NITES	
FULTON LEWIS	7:00
NEWS OF RALEIGH	7:15
GABRIEL HEATER	9:00

Yep.... You'll Agree THERE'S GOOD LISTENIN' Morning—Noon—Night ON WRAL YOUR LOCAL STATION Member Tobacco Network