

Record News And Reviews

Another happy pair of sides by Erskine Hawkins leads a string of rhythmic contagion to this month's record released list from RCA Victor. The 20th Century Gabriel, with the catchy "Let's Have Fun Tonight" and the boogie "Good Dip," illustrates anew the potent ability of creating a solid hit of music-making. With a full-throated vocal by Ace Harris, supported by young chorus from the side men, "Let's Have Fun Tonight" has a catchy and irresistible beat which peppers the lively lyrics. Erskine's trumpet gets the spotlight with persuasive solos in most effective Hawkins style. "Good Dip," strictly instrumental, has a speedy tempo spiced with red hot guitar and piano passages. Erskine's at his best on these two scorching sides, and to those his fans...

There is some mighty rousing blues shouting when Joe Williams cuts a record. He lends his power and ready blues talents to a pair of original tunes, "Somebody's Been Wearying" and "Vitamin A." Williams has the soulful, bluesy voice in an old and early method of delivery which accentuates a tantalizing, tapping rhythm. He makes the most out of his original tunes on these players, lending them a distinctive personal touch with a contagious quality. Strong support from a guitar, piano, and horn section features Williams' earthy selections.

Tommy Dorsey and His Orchestra have an infectious new tune which they give a rhythmic lift accented by his sprightly tempo in "The Late to Party." RCA Victor 20-1773, a rousing spirit that lends it its beautiful to a typically smooth Ten Dec treatment. The arrangement features a solid bluesy bass plus a sincere vocal by Stuart Foster and The Sentimentalists. Featuring in real revival fashion Chickie's skin work by Buddy Rich. On this disc and extra special lift.

"Play me some blues now," Tampa Red on his latest RCA Victor Bluebird (34-0740) release, is the highly original blues singer who really rips the keyboard with a boogie rhythm on "Mercy Mama." It's a low-down mood this time he creates and the earthy atmosphere is aided by some sassy guitar, piano and drum work. "Better Get My Gal Alone" by a faster tempo has a breezy, informal style that builds up to an ingratiating rhythm. Insinuating twangs on the guitar blend with a rocky blues beat on the keyboard. It's a smooth drive, difficult to resist and Tampa is at his best on this selection.

Here's another hot disc from Arthur "Big Boy" Crudup, who can deliver rugged blues with the best. He leads his vocal talents this time to "Rock Disposition" and "Keep Your Arms Around Me" for RCA Victor Bluebirds (34-0738). In a fast, unorthodox manner, the way that has won for him a very special acclaim. He delivers the tune with a tricky beat and a driving rhythm with a steady support from the guitar and piano. "Big Boy" sings in a solid style that packs a rhythmic wallop on his best disc.

Billy Eckstine Victim Of Practical Joke

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. — Traveling by bus on a road tour through Florida, singing maestro Billy Eckstine was the victim of a practical joke, which he believes was perpetrated by one of his own band members. Eckstine was spotted along the highway and through various towns. Billy and his musicians noticed many an unbelieving look and Columbia should decide not to list directed the bus with a sign that read "I must go down with my ship!" Billy and the bus driver stepped outside. There on the bumper of the bus was a sign which read, "Billy Eckstine And His Orchestra" but "Girl Scouts!"

Maestro Eckstine is still studying the identity of the culprit who switched the marquet signs.

Lunceford's Tune

NEW YORK — Iremela Lunceford has just received word from the Belgian government that a recording he made several years ago of one of his original jazz arrangements, titled "Belgian Stamp," is being revived in that country and has been scheduled to new popularity since the war's end.

It was just before the Nazi occupation of Belgium that Lunceford wrote the jazz special with the result that it was never given much opportunity to be played in his country to which it was dedicated. However, Jimmy's "Belgian Stamp" is now being recorded a tremendous play in that liberated European land.

A high-ranking official of the Belgian government has communicated with maestro Lunceford requesting his cooperation in making 100,000 copies of his recording of "Belgian Stamp" available for sale in that country.

An odd twist to this situation is the fact that Jimmy recorded "Belgian Stamp" for Columbia, but now he is again contracted to Decca. He recently played to the arrangement on Decca to the event that will be the disc.

Such allocations by the Belgian government of 100,000 copies of this recording will exhibit a rating can be maintained at current levels.

HAZEL SCOTT CANCELS TOUR ALL-NEGRO WAC BAND DISBANDED

NEW YORK — Hazel Scott recently canceled her husband Conrad's tour of the U.S. and Canada. She was going to have a baby. The wife of Cole Searcy, star of stage, screen and radio, also announced that she was canceling her tour of the United States and Canada. She had been scheduled to appear in a concert at the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel in New York City on Jan. 10. She had also been scheduled to appear in a concert at the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel in New York City on Jan. 10. She had also been scheduled to appear in a concert at the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel in New York City on Jan. 10.

Des Moines, Ia. (ANP) — The 40th Army Service Forces band, Negro band, stationed at Fort Des Moines since its origin in September, 1943, was disbanded Dec. 14. The only all-Negro men's military band in the country, it was in popular demand for its appearance and was a mainstay on the post for parades and ceremonies.

By the time the unit disbanded, it had recorded several cuts and discs. However, none could take the place of "Fluffy," a white, only-half-dog toy Spitz, the band's original mascot who was so thoroughly an Army dog that she used to be the subject of attention during St. Louis military inspections.

Buddy Johnson To Swing Through The West On One Nighters

INDIANAPOLIS, Ind. — After a record-breaking tour below the Mason-Dixon line, Buddy Johnson and his "Walk 'Em Rhythm" orchestra have temporarily taken leave of the southern in favor of a swing to the middle-west during January. Buddy took off his midwestern stand at Sunset Terrace, Indianapolis, and will be making appearances in key cities of Indiana, Kentucky, Ohio, Illinois, Missouri and Arkansas before the end of the month.

Early in February the young Carolina Keyboard Ace and his bandmen will return to the southland for a brief series of one-nighters. They will trek to the west coast via a swing through the lower-state of Texas.

Shortly after arriving on the coast, it is expected that the Johnson aggregation will play location dates at the Club Plantation and Triplanon Ballroom in Los Angeles during the Spring.

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WE NAME FOR '45: STARS WHO SHONE BRIGHTLY ALL YEAR ROUND

BY DOLORES CALVIN

NEW YORK CITY (CNS) — If it's true that youth is taking over the field, then all credit is due to 15-year old Jerry Scott who made history this year by appearing as a singing star in MGM's "Thrill of a Romance" opposite Vera-Eliza Johnson. Esther Williams and Lauritz Melchior. Jerry's voice, matured for his age, won plaudits for his versions of "Please Don't Say No" and "Be Careful." His scene in the picture was one to be proud of when the whole cast, including Melchior and Tommy Dorsey's band stopped to gaze at the "boy wonder." Later this year another child star stepped out in Hollywood, Savannah joined the Lincoln Hotel engagements, plus a Strand Theatre date and returns to the Lincoln in February.

Also in the limelight this year was the comedy team of Carter and Moreland, both of the movies; Kitty Murray, Rochester's protegee and glamour girl who makes a good first-time movie, and a good Broadway production.

In the news constantly because she figures in the Powell divorce case, Hazel Scott settled it by marrying Adam Powell. Here has been a busy year. She was a principal in the Gertrude film "Rhapsody in Blue," she left Carnegie Hall concert and started what she likes to call a "tolerance tour" — playing boogie wogie and the classics as only La Scott can.

On the radio, we had a star to blossom out who had been with Jack Benny a while. She is petite Butterfly McQueen who is addressed as Miss McQueen over Danny Kaye's weekly air show. With her spunky voice, which is not racially typed, Butterfly continues to give a good dramatic act wherever she goes.

On the go twelve months out of the year was Louis Jordan. Two engagements at the Paramount Theatre (a record); 3 months at the Grand Central Palace in New York; four in Hollywood, two all-colored made in New York; the second to be "held over" at the Apollo; he still found time to make numerous broadcasts for Chesterfield and the Kate Smith Hour. Louis recorded for his fans "Mon. Day," "Salt Pork," "Caldonia" and two numbers with Bing Crosby.

A man who deserves a great deal of credit for continuing through set-backs and discouragements to come up again this year as one of the greatest trumpet players of the nation is Benny Carter. After feuding with the Trocadero in Hollywood, Benny changed managers and ever got a complete new band, singer and all. But while out there, he wrote a Capitol recorded tune "Malibu," which seemingly has "taken" the music world.

The rest of the lineup includes a new find, Pearl Bailey, who sang her way up through appearing at

STARS OF '45 — Butterfly McQueen blazes in a new type of role on Danny Kaye's weekly radio show. Jerry Scott was featured in "Thrill of a Romance." Hazel Scott began her concert tour; Benny Carter introduced his "Malibu"; King Cole Trio surpassed predictions; Lena Horne gave up "St. Louis Woman" and Louis Jordan reached higher brackets. — (Calvin's News Service)

an increasingly large number of short lyrics.

Most of these lyrics fit tunes that are of the 16 bar variety and all you have to do to get an idea what a 16 bar song is like is to listen to "It's Been a Long, Long Time," "Chickery Chick," and "That Feeling in the Moonlight." Billboard says it polled the songs getting 20 plugs on the radio and no less than seven were in 16 bar form.

Cole Porter and the long-haired boys are great on the experimental in popular songs such as 64 bar affairs.

But J. C. Johnson, whose "Travelin'" won him wide honors as an ASCAP composer, made the national hit parade a decade or so ago with a ditty called "Believe It Beloved," which the late Fats Waller, his writing partner, introduced via recordings. J. C. Johnson's "Believe It Beloved" was a 16 bar song.

If the song can be told in eight bars, it stands as much of a chance of being a hit as "Black Magic," or a 32-bar standard such as "Ain't She Sweet."

The shorter length now open to all gives the arrangers a big break and orchestras got a kick out of playings which are of the 16 bar variety since they give the band a better chance to play more tunes on air shows and also to the writing angle of the arranging business.

Every war is the result of centuries of male mistakes. World War II was partly the result of a lot of masculine mistakes by a bunch of egypt old males after World War I.

Some day there may have to be a terrific worldwide revolution of women — who will take their great station over from their knees and spank them like bad little boys — and end war.

LIONEL HAMPTON CROWNED "KING"!

LIONEL HAMPTON AND HIS ORCHESTRA, with vocalists Dinah Washington and Madeline Green, has been crowned "The No. 1 Box Office Champion" and "King" of 1945's bandleaders on the record of his stellar performance by the Independent Press Service. The poll eliminated all runners-up, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6. Count Basie, Woody Herman, Louis Jordan, Gene Krupa and Louis Prima. This definitely was a popular poll. The bands selected were named because of their appeal at the box office.

New York Showfronts

BY DON DE LEIGURIO

HIT SONGS CAN BE WRITTEN IN 18 BARS

New York — They're making it easier for songwriters, both pro and amateur. Time was when you had to write 32 bars, no more and no less, to make your tune eligible for consideration by a publisher or a band, or a singer. Nowadays, they've changed things so that it's a whole lot simpler. Instead of 32 you can now write 'em in 11 and 24 bars. In fact, you can take many liberties that you'd never have dreamed possible two years ago.

Back into your file goes "Tilltown Tillie" and with it goes also all of your most probabilities, your ambition for songwriting. You are now haunted by a specter of 32 bars or None at All. You are not an accomplished musician and you aren't familiar with all this technical business about 8, 16, 24, and 32 bars.

All you know is that you have a tune that you like and one that your friends like and it sounds good.

Whether it is 18 or 20 bars, you know you have something original and good to listen to.

Now that the man has told you it is too short, you don't know what to do because inspiration doesn't always come in 32 bars. Tin Pan Alley is setting the trend today, and according to Billboard, its writers are turning out

ERKINE HAWKINS

FRIDAY NITE JAN. 4

For Colored! RALEIGH Memorial Auditorium

SALE in presents The 20th Century Gabriel ERKINE HAWKINS

BRATOR OF JAZZ AND RHYTHM BLUE-IRD RECORDS

A NEW ORCHESTRA featuring Dolores BROWN

RCE HARRIS AND JIMMY MITCHELL