

Hines Says Gangs Ruled Band 'Biz'

Buddy Johnson Outfit Packs 'em In; Over 6000 Fill Birmingham Hall



BIRMINGHAM
That Buddy Johnson, the youthful creator of "Walk 'Em and Rhythm," is the undisputed "King of The One-Night Circuit" was proven beyond the shadow of a doubt last week as Buddy, his blockbusting band and vocalists Arthur Prysock and Ella Johnson packed 5200 persons into Atlanta's Memorial Auditorium and then went on to Birmingham to set a new attendance mark at the Municipal Auditorium with a record-breaking turnout of 6600 persons.

Not since the peak years of the war-time boom has any name band demonstrated such magnetic box office appeal as has Buddy on his current Southern tour, and the tremendous popularity of his recently released Decca record of "Did You See Jackie Robinson Hit That Ball?" has helped him reap a golden harvest of box office dollars throughout the Southland.

During his brief stay in Birmingham, Buddy was interviewed by popular disc-jockey Bob Umbach of the "Atomic Boogie Session" on Station WJLD and related the story behind his writing of his hit song, "Did You See Jackie Robinson Hit That Ball?"

Buddy told Umbach and the audience that one afternoon he had attended a baseball game between the Brooklyn Dodgers and New York Giants, which Jackie won for the Dodgers practically single-handed by stealing home to tie the score and hitting a home run to provide the winning margin. As the crowd filed out of the ball park, Buddy overheard an exuberant Brooklyn fan gleefully exclaim, "Boy, did you see Jackie Robinson hit that ball!" During his subway ride home, that exclamation kept running through Buddy's mind. By the time he had reached home, he already had the song half written. He completed it that same night, wrote the arrangement for his band and two days later cut his record for Decca.

maestro and recognized kingpin of the alto sax, is contemplating something new under the musical sun — a sixteen piece saxophone symphony orchestra for appearances in concert halls.

Bostic's idea calls for twelve saxophones (alto, baritone and tenor) to be supplemented by a piano, guitar, bass fiddle and drums for rhythm.

It is the feeling of the ace musician, who is appearing at the Regal theatre here, that there has been no idea yet to fully exploit the immense range and potentiality of the saxophone. This band would amend that oversight.

Several top flight saxists have been sounded out by Bostic and have shown an interest in co-operating with the novel experiment.

Ink Spots Sail For England; Leader To Join Group Later

NEW YORK
The Ink Spots sailed Thursday midnight aboard the majestic Queen Elizabeth on a return trip to England—but did we say all? No, one was left. The top spot, Bill Kenny, was left waving at the pier.

He must wind up imperative business, then hop a plane to London, arriving just in time for their date at the Palladium. The three who sailed, funster Billy Bowen, Charlie Fuqua (of the original act)

and Herb Kenny, Bill's younger brother — planned a gala celebration — vacation during the five day cruise. They'll enjoy breakfast in bed and dancing on the terrace before the Elizabeth docks in London — all while Billy, in the heat of 97 degrees, races around New York winding up affairs for their 3 months trip, dashes for a nonstop plane to London and arrives as his colleagues, well rested, are practically ready to do their first show! There's no business like showbusiness!

First Mid-Summer Musical To Feature Stars In Kansas City

KANSAS CITY
Sunday night, August 21st, is slated as a red letter day in the popular music history of this Missouri metropolis. That is the day on which enterprising entrepreneur Francis Spencer inaugurates the first in what is planned as an annual series of midsummer music festivals. It is Spencer's aim to each year present KC music lovers with a gala show, featuring the top music attractions of the day.

Headlining the 1949 inaugural will be Roy Brown's orchestra, the nation's number one blues

delineators; Earl Bostic's sensational recording and novelty unit, unquestioned stomp kings of the day; Wini Brown, luscious chanteuse, and Herb Lance, newest balladeer of romantic torch songs and prince charming of the juke boxes.

Anticipating a record turnout of fans, Spencer is presenting his extravaganza in the spacious Municipal Auditorium. All signs point to spectacular session of syncopation that will point up the normal lull in mid-summer activities hereabouts.

Browsing With Brower

(Continued from Page Two)

be the age of cheap exhibitionism. . . . Give the Durham Mayor a big hand in the selection of two Negroes, Dr. Elder and Mr. Stewart, on his Durham Community Redevelopment Commission. Democracy is more than the mechanics of government. It is a way of life. . . . The same goes for his appointments of H. M. Michaux and Dr. Albert Turner to the Sub-Standard Housing Committee of this city. . . . Congrats to Mrs. Otelia Connor and others who will take their pen in hand and champion the cause of the inarticulate with reference to sub-standard housing. . . . Let's all pause once a day to say a word of kindness to each other.

VISITORS TO DURHAM

Some seek the sea shore, others seek the mountains, while others seek Durham. Mrs. Nell Hunter and her friends have been "hostifying" her house guest, Mrs. Sadie Ingram of D. C. The guest said that she was not socializing and came only to rest. But, Durham would not let her rest. Mesdames Ethel Hill, B. A. J. Whitted, and Mollie Lee held forth for the D. C. fan.

Jimmie and Eleanor Guilford from Bean Town graced the city this past week-end. They are college friends (Howard University days) of Mrs. Owen Cooke and Mrs. Florita Russell. Mrs. Cooke put extra pounds on the "Bawstonians."

Southall Bass and Fran slipped in town, but not without our knowledge. The Rivers accorded the honors to these Norfolkians.

Mrs. Lillie Eunice Boulware is vacationing with sisters; Miss T. Shepard and Mrs. B. Kerr.

ECHOES FROM THE NORFOLK GUARDSMEN

The Norfolk Guardsmen were really at their best the week-end past. Echoes from that section tell me that Mrs. Owen Cooke, Mrs. Florita Russell, the Alex Riveras, and Mr. and Mrs. Williams (Nurse Zimmerman) of Durham were on the scene to enjoy the beach party and dance. Guardsmen and their friends from up and down the East Coast were there. The West Coast didn't send any men but it sent the feminine pulchritude to add to the pleasure of the Eastern men. The gay group milled around in the sand from one grill to the other eating and drinking until dawn. As usual, the Mike Spillers and the Victor Ashes held open house in grand style. The Saturday night Sabloner (formal summer dance) featured a floor show and the Guardsmen are real proud of their added attraction.

The fee for writing this column is for Attorney Brower to enter a suit, free of cost, on my personal behalf against King Sol for his merciless rays during the past three days. — HELEN G. EDMONDS.

Earl 'Fatha' Hines Tells Ebony Every Name Race Star Controlled By Mobs

CHICAGO
Naming the notorious Capone brothers, Al, Ralph and Mitzi, as gangsters who ruled Chicago entertainers and orchestras, Earl Hines charges in September EBONY that "Every big name Negro in the show world was at one time or another involved with the syndicate. As rulers of the New York show scene, Hines says in EBONY that Owen Madden, George 'Big Frenchy' DeMange and the fabulous Jack 'Legs' Diamond, ran the Cotton Club stars just as the Capones bossed stellar names of the Chicago's Grand Terrace.



In the feature he wrote for EBONY entitled "How Gangsters Ran The Band Business," "Fatha" says:

"Now that the FBI has smashed the gangs and many of the top public enemies are dead, it is now possible to tell the story of how these racketeers once practically ran the band business. And how their successors still throttle jazz with their iron-headed rule of all bookings."

"There's not a single big name in the show world," Mr. Hines continues, "important folks like Lena Horne, Duke Ellington, Cab Calloway, Billy Eckstine and Louis Armstrong, who haven't had to work indirectly with the syndicate." The story says:

"It's been a good fifteen years since the last prohibition racketeers dropped out of the night club business, but the smell lingers on. The smell is the booking agents whose control of every choice date from coast to coast is a hang-over from the days when gangsters used night clubs as a front for their rackets.

"To often I have seen entertainers and band leaders fall prey to the whims of the syndicates," Hines adds and concludes:

"Tired of dealing with the syndicates, I gave up as a band leader in 1948 and joined Louis Armstrong's all-star combo. I am not running away, but just getting needed strength to place jazz back into the hands of musicians who deserve to get the fruit of the business.

Boogie, Be-Bop Fight Looms; Davis vs. Milt

NEW YORK

The relative merits of "boogie woogie" and "be-bop" will get

a good workout in a "Battle Of Music" road tour that is being set by band booker Billy Shaw of the Shaw Artists Corp., which will pit the exciting new band of pianist Milt Buckner against trumpet ace Miles Davis' all-star "hop" combo in dance halls and theaters throughout the country.

Both Buckner and Davis are top ranking exponents of their particular brands of music. Buckner having proved his "boogie woogie" ability during his seven years as featured pianist of Lionel Hampton's band while Davis is one of the brightest stars on the "hop" horizon.

While waiting for their tour to get underway early in the fall, both leaders are currently bolstering their respective followings. Buckner with his MGM waxing of "Milt's Boogie" and Davis via his new Capitol platter of "Boplicity."

Sarah Vaughan, Illinois Jacquet To Combine Talents For Week At Penn. Niter

Illinois Jacquet, the renowned "Dynamo Of The Saxophone," and the incomparable Sarah Vaughan, the "Girl With The Magic Voice," who have combined to establish so many attendance records in previous night club, theater and concert appearances, will team up once again for a week's engagement on stage of the Quaker City's Earle Theater, starting Friday, August 26, which should be a cinch to topple all previous box office marks.

A special added attraction on the Jacquet-Vaughan bill at the Earle will be the famous "Jump King Of Swing," Count Basie and his orchestra, and it will be recalled that Jacquet first soared to fame three years ago as a featured saxophonist with the Basie crew.

Jacquet and Miss Vaughan shattered the attendance mark set by Billy Eckstine in their co-starring engagement at the New York niter, Bop City, earlier this summer and established many box office records that still stand on their memorable cross-country concert tour last fall. They have also proved their potent drawing power at such theaters as the Regal in Chicago, the Howard in Washington, the Royal in Baltimore, and the Paradise in Detroit. In their last appearance in Detroit, police riot squads had to be called out to quell the record-breaking crowds that swarmed to the theater.

Both Jacquet and Miss Vaughan are planning fall concert tours and there is a very strong possibility they will team up for another swing through the concert hall circuit especially in view of the fact that Miss Vaug-

"Deep Rivers" Leave London For Isles Tour

LONDON, ENGLAND

The Deep River Boys, who are scoring a resounding triumph in their current engagement at the famed London Palladium, are building up an even greater following for themselves throughout the British Empire in doing a new series of programs via the British Broadcasting Corporation.

During their first week at the Palladium, the "Deeps" were invited to make a guest appearance on the popular musical variety show of England's No. 1 maestro, Bert Ambrose, and promptly won themselves a permanent spot on BBC to last for the duration of their stay here. As the result of their tremendous success at the Palladium, the "Deeps" now have more offers of bookings in England than they can possibly accept before they return to New York in November to fulfill an engagement on stage of the Paramount Theatre on Broadway.

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CHICAGO

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