

Bob Johnson

What's happening!

MUSICAL RESURRECTION... I don't mean to drop names but my English teacher always told me to get the reader's attention immediately. Matt Freeman and the Beacon Club are real attention getters. But more of them later.

We are living in a time when Charlotte jazz devotees are constantly griping about the lack of clubs where their favorite music can be heard. I know it well because I'm one of the constant complainers.

Jazz dens as some clubs are labeled in other cities are more conducive to getting the rapport flowing between the players and the listeners than any concert hall will ever be. One such place here is The Drawing Room on Kings Dr., where the Bill Hanna Quartet plays nightly.



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Located on Beatties Ford Road, however, just west of Interstate 85 is the Beacon Club. A tall slender, gregarious, benevolent devil named Jack "Chicken" Benson is always there to stoke you with a quip and a smile. Jack and his partner, who also ranks among the best dressed, Luther Caldwell, took an old fast food establishment and converted it into an elegant nightclub.

All of which brings us back to Matt Freeman or, more specifically, Matt Freeman and The Beacon Club. Freeman has done a succession of fine things for the music scene in Charlotte. Outstanding among his many attributes is his ability to communicate deeply and directly with his audience. Perhaps this positive quality is the cumulative effect of all his best traits. Whatever it is, he can ignite his listeners to a level of healthy excitement. The applause that greeted the finish of a John Coltrane tune "Equinox", played during the final set last Sunday night by the Matt Freeman Quartet, was not made by a jive audience. These people, though small in number, were genuinely pleased and they let the group know it.

The Matt Freeman Quartet boasts Fred Windham, bass guitarist, pianist, vocalist, composer and arranger. Fred has played with various road bands including Grady Siegles' Touch. He produced, arranged, composed and recorded original material in Atlanta, Georgia; composed music for a movie score and is currently playing with Maurice Williams and the Zodiacs.

David Brakefield - drummer and vocalist has performed with various road groups including Grady Siegles' Touch. A staff musician at Arthur Smith's Studio, he is currently playing with Maurice Williams and the Zodiacs.

For the last few years Van Sacks has shown his range and versatility as a guitarist and has complemented and graced many groups such as Silver and Wood, Don Thompson, Maurice Williams and the Zodiacs, along with The Jerry Lambert Trio. Van has also done extensive studio work.

The guest artist for the Quartet's session last Sunday night at the Beacon was Lonzel Fleming. Lonzel has played with the Matt Freeman Trio, Betty Wright and Clarence Carter. Lonzell plays with certain identifiable traits that make for a kind of simmering, musical magma that can be likened to a hot, subterranean, volcanic magma that moves along melting and forcing aside rocks, edging toward an eventual eruption. And, like the energy of steam which is the major causative agent in volcanic eruptions, Fleming's music cooks with the power of imprisoned gases just released following a period of quiet.

This brings us to the leader of this group of talented musicians, Matt Freeman. Matt plays trumpet, keyboards, sings, composes and arranges. He is a music educator who's played with 100 Percent Pure Poison, John Rogers Expression, Art Blakey, Jr., B. B. King, Jr., Pigmear Markham, Breaking Point, Magnificents, Pervis Lee, and Bill Hanna. When asked about his musical goals. Brother Freeman said, "I'm going as far as my emotions, intellect and experience will allow me.

Sunday night, December 9, a honeymoon was enjoyed after the marriage of the Matt Freeman Quartet to the Beacon Club. Sunday's honeymoon performance was enjoyed by Sheila Kirk, Elaine Ashcraft, John Howser, Russell Proctor, Gene "Killer" Blakeney, Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Simms and Charlotte Gordon, to name a few.

Every Sunday night from 8:30 p.m. to 12:30 a.m., you are invited to the honeymoon cottage, the Beacon Club, to take part in a musical ceremony that I hope was made in heaven.



PROMOTION - Barbara G. Pettice is all smiles as Colonel William T. Bundy, Jr. pins on her new Technical Sergeant insignia. (NCANG Photo)

New Executive Director

Barbara Pettice Receives

N.C. Commendation Medal

SPECIAL TO THE POST Technical Sergeant Barbara G. Pettice, daughter of Mrs. Mary W. Plummer of 2664 Cloverhill Lane, has been awarded the North Carolina Commendation Medal. Sgt. Pettice is a member of the Headquarters staff, N. C. Air National Guard, assigned at Douglas Municipal Airport.

The Commendation Medal, the third highest honor awarded by the N. C. National Guard, was presented to Sgt. Pettice for "meritorious service during the period of May 1, 1978 to April 30, 1979."

The meritorious service is backed by an outstanding recruitment year for the AIR Guard, of which Sgt. Pettice was the first woman recruiter and remains the only female in a highly competitive career field. Her specialty takes her across the state to high schools and other educational institutions; wherever there is a potential Air Guard prospect.

Sgt. Pettice entered the NCANG in February, 1978 after serving with the Army Reserve as a Clinical Specialist and Traffic Analyst. Her professionalism has paid off - in April of this year Sgt. Pettice was promoted to the rank of Sgt.

The Charlotte native is a graduate of West Charlotte High School and has degrees from Central Piedmont Community College and Community of the Air Force, in education and nursing.

Sgt. Pettice enjoys involvement in community and civic affairs. She is a member of the Pisgah Temple, 228 Elks, where she has served as Financial Secretary. She is also a member of Mount Moriah Primitive Baptist Church where she teaches Sunday School and is President of the Young Choir. Other activities include the Missionary Circle and her voice is among those of the Greater Charlotte Community Choral. Sgt. Pettice still maintains her membership in the Charlotte Nurses Guild.

When the Air Guard re-

J.C. Smith YWCA

Receives Old

Christmas Custom

The 37-member Johnson C. Smith YWCA recently revived an old Christmas custom of outdoor caroling. The group strolled along Beatties Ford Road and the J.C.S.U. campus spreading Christmas cheer through holiday music.

They were served refreshments after stopping at the home of Dr. Greenfield, president of the University.

This women's organization also sponsored a Christmas clothing drive for the Trade Street YWCA and Youth Services Bureau.

cruiter has spare time, she enjoys playing tennis and singing with her two children. Sgt. Pettice lives on Short Hills Drive in Char-

lotte with daughter, Vanessa, who attends CPCC, and son Everett, a junior at Olympic High School.

Little Things That Will Put Sparkle In Marriage

"There are many little things you can do around your home to make your marriage sparkle," says prominent marriage counselor and sex therapist, Dr. Rebecca Liswood.

"The most important is to make it a warm and pleasant place to be in because this is where you and your partner spend most of your time together," the New York physician emphasized.

Make your greeting count. A wife, for example, should stop whatever she's doing long enough to give her husband a warm greeting when he comes through the door. And the husband, should let his wife know he's glad to be home. A smile and compliment will work wonders.

Take care of your appearance. A husband and wife should try to look neat and attractive when they're home together. For example, if a woman constantly sees her husband unshaven and in soiled clothes, this is the image she will have of him later when they go to bed. A wife should wear some makeup for her husband, and both should avoid wearing unattractive clothes.

Look appealing for bed. A wife should wear a pretty nightgown and a mild scent. A husband might splash on a little after-shave lotion.

Spend time together and share some activities. Go dancing, for example. Play table tennis or just take a walk with your mate. Doing little things together that you enjoy creates a stimulus for better sexual interaction.

Break the routine. Do something special and exciting at home once in a while. Serve dinner to the

children early occasionally so that you and your mate can dine alone. A little wine, some candlelight and music will make dinner warm and intimate.

Do something nice for your mate. Bring home a little gift or just a card. Write your mate a warm message telling how much he or she is appreciated.

Be considerate. A husband, for example shouldn't leave half-filled cups of coffee around the house for his wife to pick up.

MATADOR LOUNGE

2412 Beatties Ford Rd.
399-9107

(FEATURES)

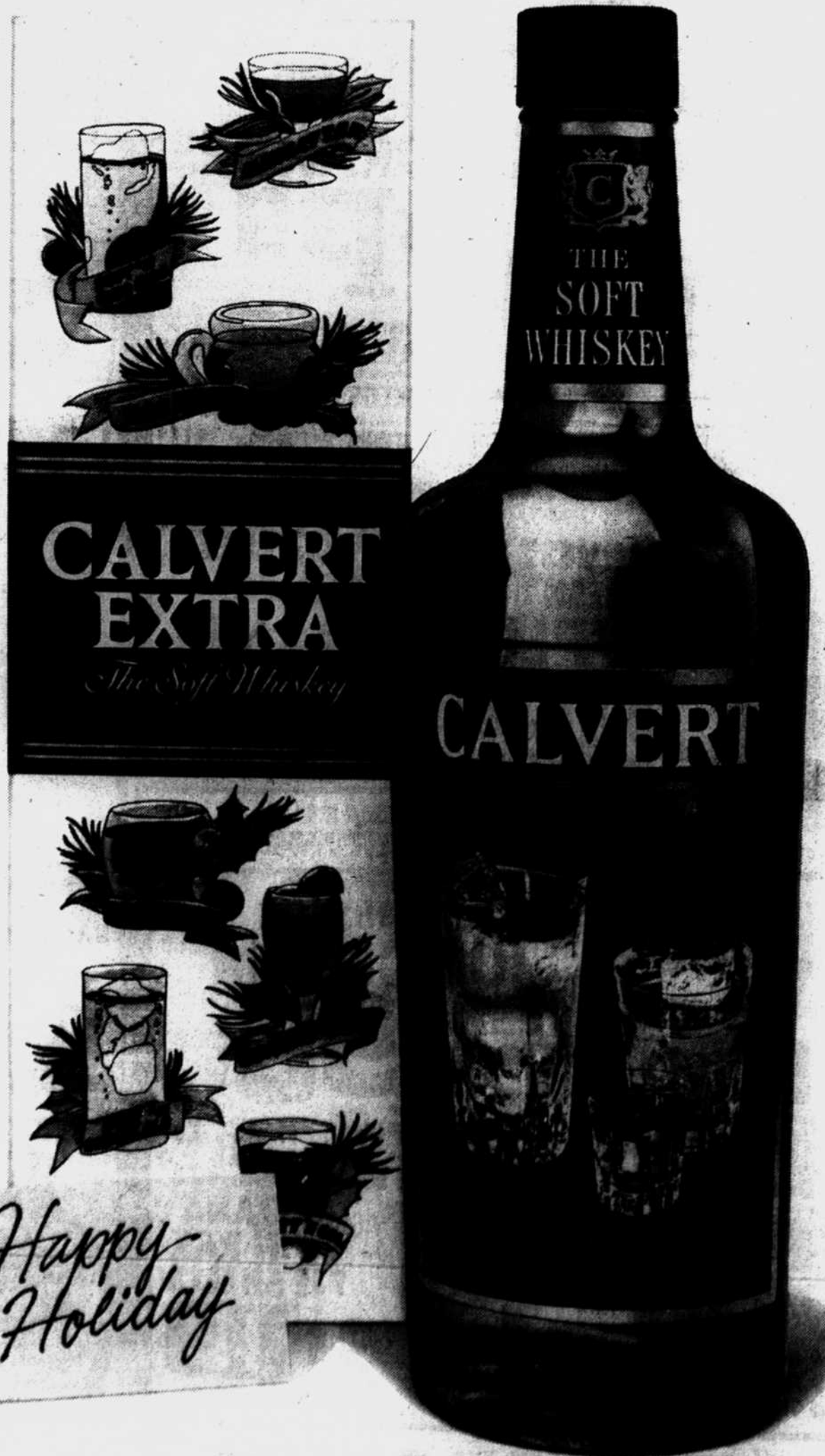
HAPPY HOUR Monday - Friday

6 - 8 P.M.

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