

# Theatricals Music Features

## ON THE AIR

(By Sallye Bell for ANP)

It's good to know I'm getting some support from you readers on the Fitch's Band Wagon program. For the benefit of those who don't keep up with this column, I asked the readers to write to the Fitch company suggesting that they feature a colored orchestra on their program. I was beginning to wonder if any of you were going to do anything about it, when the letter began pouring in.

Here's a copy of a letter Miss Ruby Cecelia Wise of Galesburg, Ill., sent to the Fitch company in care of the local radio station through which she hears their program:

"Gentlemen:  
"Being a constant user of your Fitch dandruff removing hair shampoo, I think it is very good. I also listen to your Fitch's Band Wagon program every Sunday evening, at 6:30 o'clock, CST., and I enjoy it very much.

"I have heard a number of orchestras, but would appreciate it very much and hope you will find it convenient to feature some of our outstanding colored orchestras in the near future. Duke Ellington is my first choice and Count Basie and Earl Hines second. And there are any number of others that I am sure you listeners as a whole would appreciate hearing.

"We would feel more justified in using your product if some of our talent is recognized. Thanking you in advance, I am

(Signed) "Ruby Cecelia Wise".  
Let that be a good letter? There must be hundreds more of you who use Fitch's shampoo and listen to the program who would like to hear your favorite colored orchestra. Get busy right now and tell them about it, and send me a copy of your letter. Don't delay! Do it now!

Thanks to Ruby Goodwin of Fullerton, Calif., we're in on the first broadcast of "Southern Serenade," sponsored by the Negro Pageant Movement over station KEHE each Tuesday evening. Guest on the initial broadcast was Hattie McDaniel, who recently completed a role in "It's a Wonderful Life" at Hal Roach Studios in Culver City. Rev. Clayton D. Russell, pastor of the Independent Church of Christ, was the guest speaker. The program is under the direction of Ruby Elzy, who is appearing in the Hall Johnson smash hit "Run Little Chillun" which his in its 26th week at the Mayan theatre. Miss Elzy won prominence when she sang the role "Serenade" in "Porgy and Bess."

Others who will contribute regularly to the novel presentation are a group of singers under the direction of Mrs. A. C. Bilbrew, Ruby Lloyd, organist, and Robert V. Edwards, pianist.

Those of you on the West Coast who can dial in on this program, be certain to let them know in black and white that you're listening and enjoying it. There's nothink like letting people know.

Did you hear "Americans at Work" last Tuesday night when three porters on trains running to Canada were interviewed? I did, and I was pleased with the way the men responded to the interviewer's questions. They were very intelligent and straightforward.

Did you hear "This is New York" last Sunday night? It took us for a round of New York's hot spots and night clubs and last but not least we wound up at the famous door, where Fats Waller was getting off in his usual style. Fletcher Henderson and his orchestra opened at Chicago's Grand Terrace with Jean Bardy and Ted Smith as vocalist. Maxine Sullivan has concluded a very successful engagement at the Colony Club.

Well, readers, are there any omissions or corrections? If so, send them in pronto. If not, the meeting stands adjourned. See you next week. So long.

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## RATING THE RECORDS

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By Frank Marshall Davis for ANP

Getting E.C. and Low Down

Each record company has what is called a list of "race records" which includes items not indexed in general catalogs. Most of the Negro blues and risqué ditties are found under this classification, although it is a known fact that a large proportion of these sales are to sophisticated whites. These discs substitute what I call "beer and highball music." Although considered far beneath the dignity of our diety Duskymericans, some of these blues are as definite a contribution to world music as the folk songs of the Russians, Poles or any other European people.

One of the best of the current crop of "race records" is THAT MADE HIM MAD by Elzie L. Barker on Decca 7538. This singer has one of the dirtiest, laziest and most effective voices anywhere, and the number will bring belly laughs to anyone who appreciates our racial humor. The coupling is NEW ORLEANS BLUES, a typical indigo chant. Lonnie Johnson has a pair of mournful blues numbers on Decca 7373 named LAPLEGGED DRUNG A-GAIN and BLUE GHOST BLUES. Sneff users come in for a bit of advice from Kid Prince Moore on Decca 7539. The title is TALKIN' 'BOUT THE SNUFF and THAT'S LOVIN' ME. Moore plays real blues guitar.

Patrick Norman got a million dollars worth of publicity through her recording with Eddy Duchin of "Ol' Man Mose" which has since been banned in many places because of her use of a certain off-color word. Merline Johnson, known as "The Yas Yas Girl" goes Miss Norman one better on Vocalion 04545 with the same number. If you like this sort of thing, better grab the disc now before the lid's clamped on. Coupled with Ol' Man Mose is WHISKEY FOOL, a rhythmic-packed lament over the prospect of being derived of alcohol.

IN OLD COALS WILL KINDLE, Bill Gaither sings the kind of authentic blues seldom heard nowadays. He picks a mean guitar with Honey Hill helping on the piano. The coupling is "IT'S GRIEVING ME and the record is Decca 7542. Elnd Boy Fuller spills an earful to his mistreatin' mama in YOU'RE LAUGHING NOW and FLYIN' AIRPLANE BLUES, with guitar and harmonica on the reverse. A gal called PEE WEE PEE WEE is described as "the nicest gal in town you sure can mess around." Ollie Shepard on Decca 7541. The other side is AT YOUR MERCY.

Hot Wax Works  
Buster Bailey, for many years a top flight clarinetist while playing with Fletcher Henderson and others, gives the black stick a good workout with his recording band in LIGHT UP and MAN WITH A HORN GOES BERSERK on Vocalion 4564. The second side produces some of the fastest clarinet playing ever heard on wax. The tune owes a lot to "Tiger Rag," incidentally. In ALEXANDER'S SWINGIN' on Vocalion 4562, Al Donahue lets go with some solid swing of an Ellingtonish flavor. The coupling is the novelty TATTOOED LADY. Bobby Hackett, successor to Bix Beiderbecke, blows a mean trumpet in A GHOST O FA CHANCE and DOIN' THE NEW LOW DOWN on Vocalion 4565. Featuring a choir of brass, Seger Ellis gives hot treatment to A ROOM WITH A VIEW and YOUR EYES ARE BIGGER THAN YOUR HEART on Brunswick 8290.

Willie (The Lion) Smith, Teddy Bunn, and O'Neil Spencer combine with Milt Herth, the electric organist, to dish up JUMP JUMP'S HERE for the jitterbugs. The same boys, minus Bunn, back it with GOBLINS IN THE STEEPLE on Decca 2227 UNDECIDER, one of the late numbers, get swell treatment from Red Norvo on Brunswick 8288. The other side is THANKS FOR EVERYTHING.

Matty Malneck has ultra-modern arrangements of ST. LOUIS BLUES and HUMORESQUE on Decca 2188. They make fine listening, LIZA and OH, LADY BE GOOD have treatment that's a bit different on Decca 2223 by Paul Whiteman's swinging strings. Sweet and Novelty Discs

Like the UNBRELLA MAN? Lawrence Welk's champagne music is utterly sympathetic to that and I FELL UP TO HEAVEN on Vocalion 4561. Eddie Duchin and his reverse piano have a sweet time in SEPTEMBER SONG and IT NEVER WAS YOU on Brunswick 8281.

PUSSY, PUSSY, PUSSY, is an oddity by the Light Crust Doughboys that recently stopped the coin machine show in Chicago. The reverse is GIN MILL BLUES and the record is Vocalion 04560. Carl "Deacon" Moore has a pair of novelties in A OMAN GETS TIRED and NOBODY KNOWS WHERE SHE'S GON on Decca 2188. ALL ALONE and I USED TO LOVE YOU are another pair of novelty numbers on Vocalion 04567 by Frank Novak and his Rootin', Tootin' Boys.

Bob Crosby's Album

Bob Crosby has one of the finest white bands in the business. His sincere and expert renditions of the blues and boogie-woogie numbers have led him to Decca records, just as his Dixieland (or original New Orleans Negro) style has made him a favorite among whites. And now, for those who want representative examples of Crosby's music, Decca has released 12 titles in Album No. 32 entitled "The Bob Crosby Showcase."

Six sides are by the full orchestra. These include his theme song SUMMERTIME from "Porgy and Bess"; I'M FREE featuring Billy Butterfield's trumpet; MY INSPIRATION with clarinet by Irving Fazola; I'M PRAYIN' HUMBLY, SWINGIN' AT THE SUGAR BOWL with Nappy Lamare singing on HONKY TONK TRAIN with Bob Zurke banging out marvelous piano. The last number, written by Meade "Lux" Lewis is a companion piece to "Yancey Special."

The seven Bob Cats cut up on LOOPIN' THE LOOP, SPEAK TO ME OF LOVE and THE BIG BASS VIOL, the latter two with Marion Mann singing, and four of the Bob Cats beat out I HEAR YOU TALKING and CALL ME A TAXI. The final title is THE BIG NOISE FROM WINNETKA with just Bob Haggart on string bass and Ray Bauduc on drums, plus incidental whistling. And if you don't think that odd duo can make fascinating noise you've a treat waiting. It's terrific!

This is good, solid meaty jazz and the kind that doesn't date. You'll find yourself playing these pieces over and over. But if you don't believe you can afford the whole album at one, that's all right. Each disc may be obtained separately.

Swinging On Down

John Kirby and his Onyx Club Boys swing UNDECIDED and FROM A FLAT TO C Decca 2216 with Pianist Billy Kyle, Clarinetist Buster Bailey and Bassist Kirby doing fine work. THE WAIL OF THE SCROMPH and CHOO-CHOO are on Vocalion 4552 by Sedric and his Honey Bears. The first is a slow blues and the second a novelty written by Waller, Razaf and Sedric. Teddy Wilson's piano and Billie Holiday's voice feature two popular tunes. LET'S DREAM IN THE MOONLIGHT and YOU'RE SO DESIRABLE on Brunswick 8283 Gene Krupa beats the tom-toms with his band on BOLERO AT THE SAVOY and MURDY PURDY on Brunswick 8284. Jimmy Mundy helped write both numbers. Fred Flebel's organ-led quartet puts pep into THIS CAN'T BE LOVE and YOUR EYES ARE BIGGER THAN YOUR HEART on Vocalion 4553 Re-issued on Vocalion 4336 is Artie Shaw's waxing of COPENHAGEN and MY BLUE HEAVEN. Joe Marsala, the white clarinetist who would like to play regularly beside Henry "Red" Allen has his strange HOT STRING BEANS coupled with MIGHTY LIKE THE BLUES on Vocalion

## Sunday Music Club

In keeping with the policy of the Sunday Music Club, to study and present at various times, our local talent; last Sunday evening little Miss Juanita Hanger and Mr. Worthington Williams were presented in the interpretation of the Sonata. The current study of the club, Miss Hanger pianist, and a pupil of Mrs. Alice Wilson, proved the outstanding ability of this well known instructor as she deftly portrayed the Gavotte and Minuete arranged by Bach and transcribed by John Thomson. She shows the making of an artist, and her presentation were enthusiastically received by the members of the club and their guests.

With vocals predominating—Ella Fitzgerald, accompanied by her Savoy Eight, puts a world of feeling into WOE IS ME and STRICTLY FROM DIXIE on Decca 2202. There's only one Ella! Mildred Bailey's THEY SAY and I GO FOR THAT has made me throw away all other recordings of these numbers. Ella's Vocalion 4548 and Red Norvo's x-iphone is plenty evident. Another recording is IT DON'T MEAN A THING and MINNIE THE MOONSHINER WEDDING DAY by the Boswell Sisters with the Dorsey Brothers' orchestra on Vocalion 4546. Too bad the bals aren't around today waxing more like this. Remember Patricia Norman and her disc of "Ol' Man Mose" made with Eddy Duchin's band? It became a sensation after it was pointed out that her pronunciation of certain of the lyrics was acceptable. Anyway, capitalizing on this fame, she has waxed PLUCKIN' ON A GOLDEN HARP which tells what happened when Ol' Man Mose went to Heaven, coupled with an unbelievably fine arrangement of FLOW GENTLY SWEET AFTON on Vocalion 4547. In Sweeter Vein

Ginny Simms, the canary with Kay Kyser, has her own orchestra on Vocalion. The titles are: PLEASE COME OUT OF YOUR DREAM AND GET OUT OF TOWN, two current hits. Splendid vocalizing. PAVANNE and BRIC-A-BRAC are two ultra-modern sides cut by Phil Lang's band on Brunswick 8286. You have to hear 'em to believe 'em. Ray Herbeck's boys in the best sweet tradition play SEPTEMBER SONG and IT NEVER WAS YOU on Vocalion 4551.

time you must have had the night before. Always remember that and cheer up. GEORGE, six mo' pitchers of ice water, son. After all the best club for a married man is an armchair in front of a big fireplace at home.

## 'CHARLIE' SPEARS 'EM UP FOR ANP WAY DOWN SOUTH

Hey—Rogers, Cummer Boy. If you stand in the middle of Main St., in St. Williams, S. C., and yell or shout for "Rogers" every one of the over 130 inhabitants of the village may turn out.

They are all named Rogers and practically all are descended from "Uncle" Billy and "Aunt" Mary Rogers, who died sometime ago at a ripe old age after seeing their family run into the fourth generation.

A Strange Will  
A strange will has been made by Dr. Mayo Tolman, a State Health Department official of Greenville, S. C. Some years ago Dr. Tolman was the victim of an unusual skull fracture from which he was not expected to recover. His case aroused unusual interest in medical circles, so he felt that science might be furthered by a study of his skull and has willed his head to the Harvard school of Medicine.

MARRIED MEN who are allowed one night out a week with the boys, are like old horses turned into a pasture. They want to cut up, let go and kick their heels. And they usually wind up with a fuzzy mouth, parched throat, and splitting headache the next morning. But the worse you feel the next morning the jollier

## COLORED ACTORS IN FOUR OF YEAR'S BEST TEN PICTURE

Hollywood, Jan. 21 (ANP)—Although no colored stars were listed among the top flight luminaries of the year 1938, colored actors were featured in four of accredited best films of the year. In "Old Chicago," Madam Sul-Tu Wan, famous 65 year old dramatic actress, played the important part of "Battle." This was one of 20th Century Fox's greatest spectacles. In "Jezebel," made by Warner's First National, starring Bette Davis, Theresa Harris and Lew Payton, both had important parts, while over 150 other colored players had bits or played in atmospheric roles.

"You Can't Take It With You" by Columbia completed bringing Lillian "Billie" Yarbo into the limelight as a screen comedienne and Eddie Anderson the fame that has begun two years ago in "The Music Goes Round," both at Columbia Studio. In MGM's "Test Pilot," starring Clark Gable, Myrna Loy, and Spencer Tracy, a number of colored players served in bits and atmosphere, including the widely known comedian Sam McDaniel.



FLORIZE BRAZLEY, senior at Dillard university. New Orleans, who was awarded the Erta Moten Musical scholarship by the Alpha Kappa Alpha sorority last week. The \$150 scholarship was established by Erta Moten to assist students of outstanding promise in completing their undergraduate work in music and was awarded on the recommendation of Frederick Hall, director of music at Dillard, under whose supervision Miss Brazley has worked.

Miss Brazley, a candidate for the bachelor of arts degree in June with a major in music is a mezzo soprano and has appeared as soloist with the University chorus on numerous occasions.

MARRIED WOMEN usually get along fairly well with their husband's old time pals, but if you want to make a married woman really hate you 'out and you out, just whisper to her at the formal dance the boys give once or twice a year. "Your old man does not seem at ease in his frock tail coat."

TO END A QUARREL with the Little Woman don't try to convince her that she was wrong just send her a little present or two and shut up.

LOVERS are silly, and a newly married pair are a pain in the neck. But an old white-haired couple still in love with each other is the most beautiful sight in the world.

IN A SMALL SOUTHERN COLLEGE all the students are admitted to football games for two bits each. And they can really go to town on the college yell, which is "Git Dat Quarterback."

DOWN IN FLORIDA the prisoner at the bar in a court trial the other day was asked by the judge, "Have you a lawyer to represent you?" The lad raised his right hand high above his head and pointing straight to the heavens, said in a voice filled with emotion, "By the Holy Evangels of Almighty God I am innocent and Jesus Christ is my lawyer." "Very well, son," replied the judge, "I'll just appoint Mr. Williams over there associate counsel."

## LISTEN TO THIS

By HOBART T. MITCHELL

From Egypt principally came the supply of Negro slaves for ancient Greece. These were prized for their color, were kept near the persons and were considered slaves of luxury.

Ulysses was the offspring of a master living with a female slave. And he gratefully acknowledged that his father honored him equally with his legitimate sons. Though free, a man in Ulysses's positions depended more upon the will and power of the father than any fixed rights. Hence, Tecmessa appealed to Ajax in behalf of her son, the issue of such consanguinity, in the event of his dying during "the son's tender years, lest she "should eat the bread of slavery with her son,"

German  
The master's power by a German proverb, which has been preserved: He is mine—I can boil him or roast him.

English  
Sir John Hawkins has the distinction of being the first English Captain of a slave ship about the year 1562. His first cargo landed in Hispaniola, yielded a rich return in the tropical production with which his ships of the reigning sovereign Elizabeth, and in subsequent expeditions of this heartless manstealer, she was a partner and protector.

Romans  
To protect the master, the Roman law was very stringent, and provided that where the master was found murdered in his house, and no discovery of the perpetrator, all the domestic slaves should be put to death. But the law was not enforced in all cases.

The wife of a Roman, upon her marriage, received a confidential slave. He belonged to her, the master having no control over him. He frequently had the confidence of the wife more than her husband. He took charge of the paraphernalia of the wife. For her footmen and cooiers the wife preferred always the Negroes; and one reason given was because of the contrast of the skin and the silver plate suspended upon the breast, upon which was inscribed the name and title of the mistress.

Portugal  
In 1442, some Moors had been captured by the Portuguese proposed to purchase their liberty by a ransom of Negro slaves.

Prince Henry of Portugal instructed Gonsalvez to accept the ransom, for whatever Negroes he could get, "he would gain souls" because they might be converted to the faith, which could not be managed with the Moors. Ten Negroes was obtained; around this nucleus, thus commenced, either from true or pretended religious zeal, was gathered that immense trade, for which Spain, Portugal and England for centuries contended and which has since been branded as piracy by almost every civilized nation in the world.

The success of the first expedition, encouraged the Portuguese, and they sent out, in successive years, numerous expeditions, each with instructions "to convert to the faith." This and discovery, were the paramount objects with the early Portuguese expeditions. The slaves, obtained by them were in exchange for merchandise with slave dealers; until the discovery and colonization of America, there were no market for the slaves sufficient to excite the covetousness and other passions of men.

Spain  
The mention made of Negroes carried to the New World, we find in the instructions given by the Spanish court to Ovando, in the year 1501 by which Negro slaves "born in the power of Christians were allowed to be sent to the Indies. Herra says "This was that of Cardinal Tortosa (this project)."

This cardinal afterwards occupied the Holy See as Adrian V, 1495 to 1523.

In 1510 and 1511, we find frequent mention of Negro slaves sent by the mother country although the numbers did not increase very fast up to the death of Ferdinand, in 1516.

Any information concerning this column or the facts stated therein, write in care of this newspaper enclosing a self addressed envelope.

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