

RIALTO ROUNDUP

Knuth Band Firmly Holds Bronze Post

By Glenn C. Pullen

Norman Knuth's Starlighters are again illuminating the Bronze Room with Technicolor rhythms. Their return suddenly made many dancers realize they have allowed their cha-cha steps or modern fox-trotting technique to become a bit rusty during the summer.

Several rival bandleaders tried to steal the coveted Sheraton-Cleveland post from Knuth. They were quickly and politely turned down by Robert F. Brydle, the hotel's general manager.

So sold is Brydle on this versatile orchestra's cheerfully easy, danceable style, which also seems to enchant his dining clientele, that he awarded Norman another contract for a third winter season.

Unlike some other band leaders I could mention, Knuth always manages to keep the same expert musicians in his neatly balanced quintet year after year.

Joe Sarace, who formerly toured in big league crews, is now happy to beat his drums and vibrate steadily with the Starlighters. Between his guitar and double-bass playing John DePalma sings now and then.

Ernie Bacon nearly puts on a one-man show of novelties, doubling on sax, clarinet, flute, trumpet, guitar and violin.

Leader Doubles, Too

Norman also triples on brass, drawing rich sounds from electric organ, piano and accordion with good showmanship. His boys indulge in some corn-shucking novelties but they are amusing contrasts to his smarter dance arrangements.

Later this season the Bronze Room may periodically feature Broadway and recording guest-stars imported by Brydle. His current pet project is the hotel's new Bunch of Grapes Room which opened last week.

Done in paneled early American decor, the room can be described as one of the town's handsomest cocktail lounges. Ethel Smith, appointed manager, sets the fashion for her waitresses by also wearing early colonial gowns.

Ryan at Riviera

The return of Eddie Ryan's excellent trio to Bob Leesburg's downtown Riviera Restaurant last week also puts the autumn season in higher gear.

Chuck Diamondoff and Bob McKee are still backing the pianist Ryan, who added an electric organ to his accomplishments. Oozing affability as usual, Singer shifts from violin to saxophone and drums without any breaks in chatting with friends passing by.

Tony Azallone works a mellow accordion and piano, which he sometimes shares with Joe Bonasso, a celeste specialist. Tony Carmen acts as bassist in the restful, likeable group which recently was a popular fixture on the S.S. Aquarama.

Downstairs in the Zephyr's Chez Smoochie you can generally find Bill Gordon dispensing nonsense or groaning about his early morning broadcasts. A few doors away Hamish Menzies holds court at his old hang-out, the Encore Room. No

Kay, George and Jan Padewski are talking about a vacation to Mexico, to recuperate, from a six week engagement at the Zephyr Room.

Zephyr Hires Singer
This intimate supper club in the Heights is getting into dancing form again with the persuasive aid of Johnny Singer's orchestra. Oozing affability as usual, Singer shifts from violin to saxophone and drums without any breaks in chatting with friends passing by.

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matter what song and piano numbers you request, the rogue with a brogue comes through, even if he has to do some fancy improvising.

The Tunesmen are also ingenious musical improvisers along more robustly amusing lines at Hotel Tudor Arms.

Dixieland standards sound exciting in their hands although they nearly blow you out of the Empress Room with "Bill Bailey" and a no less turbulent "Up a Lazy River."

Drumming Danny Bridges is the team's funnyman whose brassy witticisms always have a droll air of spontaneity. Chuck Miller on piano ivories and Herb Zampini, clarinetist, join Bridges in vocal harmony with the same zestfulness they inject into razzmatazz Dixie tunes.

Jennifer Recommended

Over at Hotel Alcazar a young lady named Jennifer Marshall offers ballads of a more polished, intimate order. This charmer owns an eloquent, distinctively torchy voice that grows spellbinding in lovely tuneshow arias.

Her talents reached the ears of Frank Sennes, former Clevelander, who booked her for his Moulin Rouge in Hollywood Before that Miss Marshall may sing at Houston's Shamrock as the first stop on another Hilton Hotel tour.

Putting the accent on Magyar melodies, Al D'Lacy's orchestra has been drawing Cleveland's Hungarian colony leaders among others to the Statler. This ensemble also does Latin-American tunes with continental flourishes.

A new revue dubbed "Manhattan Follies" blooms at the Alpine Village tomorrow. Larry Wilde, a comedian from Chicago's Chez Paree, will be fortified by a new line of Lindsay-Sapphire dancers. And if you wondered what happened to the Ink Spots, they are touring to the Alpine Oct. 32.

Honor Billie Burke

HOLLYWOOD, Calif. (AP)—Despite his legendary gruffness, director John Ford has a touch of the gallant in him. When Billie Burke reported for work in "Captain Buffalo," he invited the whole cast to a special screening. The purpose was to see an acting achievement: Miss Burke's key sequence in "Bill of Divorcement," her first talking film. The veteran actress was deeply touched.



SHIRLEY ROSS is the new vocalist with Al D'Lacy's Orchestra which has had its engagement extended at the Statler Hilton's Terrace Room. Miss Ross, who recently appeared at Denver's Chez Paree and with Jonathan Winters at Philadelphia's Celebrity Room, sings jazz as well as Latin-American numbers.



"PILLOW TALK" starring Doris Day and Rock Hudson, will have its midwestern premiere Friday when it opens at the Hippodrome Theater. There are six song numbers in the film and Hudson does his first screen vocalizing. Tony Randall, Thelma Ritter, Marcel Dalio and Julia Meade head the supporting cast. Here Doris and Rock do a bit of talking divorced from pillows.

Hollywood Futures

Buster Keaton plays a lion tamer in the "The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn" . . . Fred MacMurray is taking the role which the late Paul Douglas was to have had in "The Apartment" which starts filming next month . . . Van Johnson's next picture, "The Enemy General", is being prepared for overseas filming with studio bosses heading for Rome and Paris seeking a location.

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