

Music

JANUARY • 1954

VIEWS

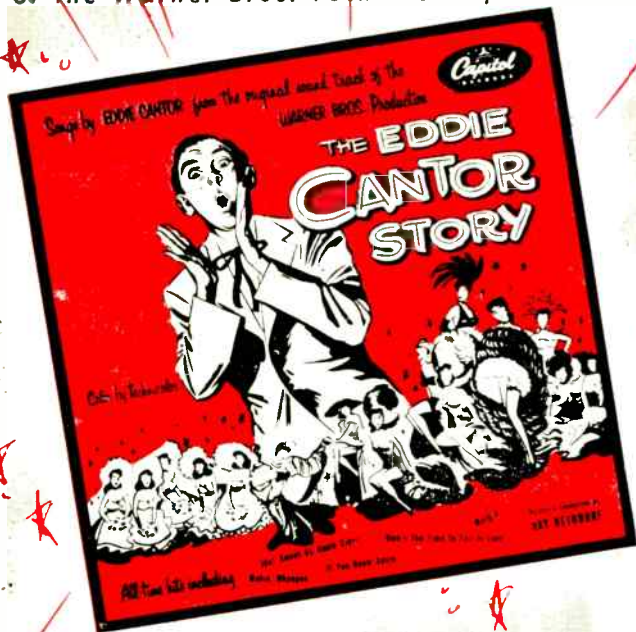


LAS VEGAS TOP TALENT SPOT!

HACKETT, COLLINS AND FAYE THUNDERBIRDING

(see page 6)

FROM THE ORIGINAL SOUND TRACK
of the Warner Bros. Technicolor production



EDDIE CANTOR sings 15 great songs
an exciting musical portrait of his life and
times, including such all-time hits as:

- Margie
- Ida
- Bye, Bye Blackbird
- If You Knew Susie
- Makin' Whoopee
- Now's the Time to Fall in Love
- One Hour With You

Here's a joyful, tuneful album you'll
want to hear again and again and again!



Album No. L-467 on Long Play • FBF-467 on 45 Extended Play

Music Views

Jan., 1954 Vol. XII, No. 1

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GORDON R. FRASER Publisher

Published Monthly By

CAPITOL PUBLICATIONS, INC.

Sunset and Vine, Hollywood 28, Calif.

Printed in U.S.A.

Subscription \$1.00 per year.

On this month's cover we have three people who meet there for the first time. The gentleman at left is Mr. Robert Hackett, the famous trumpet blower. In the middle is the Pundit of the Purple Grotto, Mr. Al J. B. Collins, the famous disk unwinder. The lady, of course, is Miss Frances Faye, one great singer. They're appearing together in Las Vegas, and there's so much about that on Page 6 we urge you to summon the butler and have a couple pages turned.

on the stand

RAY ANTHONY

Bridgeport, Conn.	13 Dec.
McKeesport, Pa.	17 Dec.
Meadville, Pa.	18 Dec.
Dayton, Ohio	20 Dec.
Bay City, Mich.	28 Dec.
Saginaw, Mich.	29 Dec.
Detroit, Mich.	31 Dec.
Youngstown, Ohio	1 Jan.
Cleveland, Ohio	3 Jan.
Grandville, Ohio	9 Jan.

FOUR FRESHMEN

Detroit, Mich.	15 - 20 Dec.
Muncie, Ind.	8 Jan.
Las Vegas, Nevada	20 Jan.

DOROTHY SHAY

Palm Springs, Calif.	8 - 28 Jan.
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YMA SUMAC

Seattle, Wash.	16 Jan.
Portland, Ore.	17 Jan.
Eugene, Ore.	18 Jan.
Corvallis, Ore.	19 Jan.
Fresno, Calif.	21 Jan.

STAN KENTON

Gary, Ind.	19 Dec.
Chicago, Ill.	24 Dec. - 6 Jan.
St. Paul, Minn.	8 - 9 Jan.
Austin, Minn.	10 Jan.
Iowa City, Ia.	12 Jan.
Indianapolis, Ind.	13 Jan.
Springfield, Ill.	14 Jan.
Kansas City, Mo.	16 Jan.
Tulsa, Okla.	21 Jan.

AL MARTINO

Philadelphia, Pa.	24 - 30 Dec.
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LES BAXTER

Denver, Colo.	31 Dec.
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MARTIN AND LEWIS

New York, N.Y.	21 Jan. - 10 Feb.
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PEE-WEE HUNT

Montreal, Canada	17 - 23 Dec.
Detroit, Mich.	25 Jan. - 11 Feb.

CHUCK MILLER

Windsor, Ontario	7 - 20 Dec.
Detroit, Mich.	21 Dec. - 2 Jan.

across the



Victor's Homer & Jethro relax at the Thunderbird, Las Vegas, but dancer Tanya Garside is all tense. The duo's latest is "My Upper Plate," a Christmas record. Well?



A \$30-a-week band singer until a few weeks ago, newcomer Jill Corey is smiling over her first Columbia record, "Minneapolis." She's now on Dave Garroway's TV show.



Milwaukee DJ Jim O'Hara skidoos it up in the winner of a jalopy contest staged to promote Joe "Fingers" Carr's "Collegiate," big hit on O'Hara's Station WOKY program.



Pee Wee Hunt, Leo Kaminski, Andy Bartha (l to r) work out one of Pee Wee's famous stop-time hits at a Capitol recording session. Newest is oldie, "Mama's Gone, Goodbye."

country



Drummer Alvin Stoller and his wife Mary discuss his two-word vocal on "Dixieland Band" with Billy May, who recorded same for Capitol. Mrs. S. isn't on the record, darn it.



They keep asking for more of THOSE pictures of Monica Lewis, so again — Capitol's Glamor Queen. Lovely Monica is brightening up the Label with "Don't Say Goodbye."



Robert Cummings, set to make his singing debut in Warner's "Lucky Me" with Doris Day, takes daughter Sharon for a dip in the family pool. Hey, dig that crazy bikini!



Night club thrush Helen Traubel squeezes quite comfortably into an MG along with Jack Schatz of Chicago's Chez Paree. Her quarrel with the Met made news in 1953.

Las Vegas—A New Broadway

IMPIRESSARIO prospectors struck a rich new vein of talent in Las Vegas, Nevada, in 1953. And the seven big Las Vegas hotel-casino-night clubs are out to exploit the mother lode—which includes a bonanza of recording talent—to the limit in 1954.

This is the year the desert oasis expects to become the nation's new Broadway.

Seeking new names for year's end—New Year, Producer Hal Braudis of Hotel Thunderbird wrapped up Al "Jazzbo" Collins, Frances Faye, and Bobby Hackett (see cover) in an entertainment package right off the record. All three wax separately for Capitol. Early next year the Thunderbird will book in the Sauter-Finnegan RCA Victor orchestra.

THE westward trek of top wax and club talent will continue at the two newest hotels, Sahara and Sands. The Sahara kicks off the year with Marlene Dietrich, has the Ames Brothers booked, and is holding open contracts for Peggy Lee, Georgia Gibbs and Bob Crosby. Producer Jack Entratter will stage the "Ziegfeld Follies" in 1954 at the Sands, along with Phil Silvers in a tabloid "Top Banana." Lena Horne hits off the Sands New Year, exits

for Ezio Pinza, Red Buttons, Frank Sinatra and Billy Eckstine.

Nat "King" Cole headlines the New Year's show at El Rancho Vegas, where Producer Tom Douglas has designed a theatre-restaurant to replace El Rancho's dining room. The 1954 callboard lists Harry James, Guy Lombardo, Dorothy Lamour, Artie Shaw, Billy Daniels and Gordon MacRae. Signed at Hotel Last Frontier for the first few months of 1954 are Xavier Cugat and the Dorsey Brothers.

THE Flamingo parted with a million dollars, inside and out, for its 1953 expansion program. Along with lavish improvement in decor, the hotel is preparing a top talent list for the coming year, beginning with Tony Martin.

Wilbur Clark's Desert Inn, one of the first to offer large-scale production packages, rings in 1954 with "Minsky's Follies"—and Jimmy Durante, Frankie Laine, Carmen Miranda and Patti Page also will play the Inn in 1954.

Show business waited a long time before following Mr. Greeley's advice. But this year it's definitely on the move to establish a Gay White Way of the West.

—Bill Willard.

MAKIN' WHOOPEE — AND HISTORY!

Eddie Cantor himself has forgotten how many songs he helped to popularize, but over twenty of them are in the new album, "The Eddie Cantor Story," from the sound track of Warner's biopic.

While with "Ziegfeld's Follies" he introduced such great hits as "Ida Sweet as Apple Cider."

Billed as the "Apostle of Pep," he and banjo did "If You Knew Suzie."



Jimmy Durante played piano for one of Eddie's first solo jobs.



Eddie and another pal, late Al Jolson, reminisced on past song hits.

Cantor introduced the world to another singer named Eddie Fisher.

Cantor and Ida shared forty years of music history—and whoopee!



Ann Whitfield and Jeanine Rose are the daughters (for TV only) of Phil Harris and Alice Faye. Real-life daughters of the duo sit at home and watch their TV selves.



One of recordom's prettiest singers takes a playback calmly in Capitol's Hollywood Studios. It's June Hutton hearing "For the First Time" for the fourth or fifth time. She liked it!

ANCHOR MAN

When an act says "will travel" these days, they may mean around the world. One hundred and fifty cruise ships booked acts this winter to the tune of \$75,000. Singers, dance teams and novelties, about a thousand of them, will entertain the passengers. Performers are paid from \$60 to \$85 per week, plus room, board and tips. Dancers come off best in the deal, since they give dancing lessons in addition to performing.

● TOP HILLBILLIES

A Down Beat Magazine poll of 500 country and western disk jockeys has named Eddy Arnold, Kitty Wells, Pee Wee King, Homer & Jethro, and the Carlisles the outstanding hillbilly personalities of 1953. Hank Williams' "Your Cheatin' Heart" polled out as the most-played record of the year and "Crying in the Chapel" was named the best country and western tune of 1953. The tribute to Williams was considered unusual in that he died almost a year ago.

SOME TIPS ON A HI-FI LIBRARY

SO YOU got a hi-fi phonograph for Christmas or are buying one in 1954. The next step is finding records that do justice to your equipment and your tastes.

Obviously, the most important thing is to buy the records you enjoy. If you like popular music but don't go in for longhair, forget the classics. Recording companies have made great strides recently in sound engineering, and many popular recordings have the qualities necessary for high-fidelity results. The recordings of Les Paul and Mary Ford are excellent examples.

Listen to "pop" records on your dealer's hi-fi phonograph.

IF YOUR tastes lean toward more "serious" music, the job of finding Hi-Fi recordings is a little easier. Most of the recording companies have a name or symbol—Full Dimensional Sound, Orthophonic, etc.—which they use to designate their best engineering efforts. The choice of selections depends on individual taste—and a wide variety is available under various designations.

A great many fine old record-

ings are now obsolete by Hi-Fi standards, but shouldn't be thrown away. Even these records will sound better on hi-fi equipment. Several recording companies are now engaged in re-recording for hi-fi sets material which has been in their library for years.

SINCE hi-fi enthusiasm boils down to interest in faithfulness of sound reproduction, care of the records in your hi-fi library is important. To reduce warping, records should be stored upright in a rack or shelf. Care should be taken to keep records free of dust. Dirt and fingerprints can be removed by wiping gently with a soft cloth, slightly dampened, but the grooves should not be touched by the hands. Replace worn needles immediately, since worn or chipped needles will cut into the record grooves. Records should be returned to the jacket immediately after playing.

As soon as you have acquired the equipment and records, you are ready to bring some of the world's finest music, classical and popular, right into your living room. Low taste or high, you're in with Hi-Fi!—*Bill Olofson.*

LES PAUL, FRED WARING ON TELEVISION IN 1939



The guitar man in the lower right is Les Paul. The bandleader is Fred Waring, the place New York, the time 1939. The occasion is a television broadcast. Les, who was with Waring five years, believes this is the first TV appearance by any band. Note camera, the blurred shape at left.

Les says he joined Waring after failing to get an interview with Paul Whiteman when he went to New York in 1938 as guitar man in a trio called "The Ozark Apple Knockers." When the trio found themselves in an elevator with Waring, they began to play, and Waring asked for a more formal audition.

● NEW HIT IN ITALY

A song which was written by a Frenchman and popularized in the U.S. has become the first foreign tune to acquire hit status in Italy for many years. "Song from Moulin Rouge" is currently sweeping Italy with no less than 20 different recorded versions on the market. Italian lyric was written by Alberto Cavalier, well known as a musical comedy writer.

● MY MAN GODFREY

Arthur Godfrey's course of instruction in the fine art of humility has provided a lot of grist for the songwriting mills. "Dear Mr. Godfrey" was written and recorded by Ruth Wallis on the Monarch label; Front Page Records has "Humility;" Spin Records released "That's Humility," and Tin Pan Alley Music is pushing "You Say that I've Changed."

● HYMNS BY HERS

Four well known musical and movie personalities have cut an album of hymns to be released by Coral Records. The sides were waxed independently by Jane Russell, Connie Haines, Della Russell and Beryl Davis. All four of the ladies are active in Hollywood church organizations.

● INTO THE ACT

Champion golfers Babe Didrickson Zaharias and Betty Dodd made a switch from golf balls to corn-balls by waxing four hill-billy sides for Mercury Records. Miss Dodd sings and Miss Didrickson plays harmonica on the session. Sides have been described as "par for the course."

● SONG OF THE DOVE

While Israelites and Arabs glared at each other across the Israeli-Jordan border, singer Virginia Davis had the distinction of singing "peace" songs to both sides. Miss Davis, daughter of bandleader Meyer Davis, recently broadcast a concert from one side of the border on one night, then from the other side on the next. She also performed concerts in Egypt before returning to the U. S.



There are obvious reasons for running Gale Robbins' picture, but we're running it because she's a top singer. This gal is sounding good in night clubs and movies.

A FEW HIGHS AND LOWS OF 1953

JANUARY: *Anthony's* Bunny Hop practically a course in schools and colleges. . . *Clooney* and *Dietrich* cut a record. . . FEBRUARY: Down Beat names *Kenton* "favorite band". . . *Kay's* big one — "Side by Side". . . MARCH: *Stafford's* two hits — "You Belong to Me" and a new baby. . . *Hutton* bounced back to Capitol. . . The Met was televised. . . APRIL: *Sauter-Finnegan* went on the road-road. . . *Rosalind* made New York a "Wonderful Town". . . MAY: MGM sued *Lanza*. . . *Damone* a civilian. . . "Gomen Nasai" a hit. . . *Woody* turned 15 — as a bandleader. . . *Gloria* attracted a bellboy's attention. . . JUNE: *Fisher* a civilian. . . "Can-Can" big on Broadway. . . *Les & Mary* cut "Vaya Con Dios" and "Johnny". . . *Sandor Szabo* recorded "Tek Me In You Homs". . . JULY: *Martin & Lewis* got critical in London. . . AUGUST: *Pee Wee* said "Oh!". . . RCA signed the *Ames* — "You," "You," "You" and "You". . . MGM unsued *Lanza*. . . *Nat* hospitalized. . . SEPTEMBER: *McHugh* turned 30 — as a songwriter. . . Horrible Records folded. . . New movie: "So This Is Kathryn Grayson". . . *Mercer* went on TV. . . *Mickey Mouse* turned 25 — honest. . . OCTOBER: *Dragnet*. . . New movie: "From Here to *Sinatra*". . . *Dragnet*. . . "Juke Box Jury" went network. . . *Dragnet*. . . *Haymes* alienated the govment. . . *Anthonymet*. . . *Frebergnet*. . . NOVEMBER: *Godfrey* Went Too Far. . . *Billy May* wandered home. . . 33 Ascapers sued BMI. . . DECEMBER: *Joni* snigger in success than the hyphens in M-G-M. . . *Rudolph* sold his 14,500,000th red nose. . . *Anthony's* Bunny Hop practically a course in schools and colleges. #

● AUSSIES GET 45'S

Australia got its first 45 r.p.m. records late in 1953 as the Australian Record Co. began to issue standards and classics under the Capitol label.

● ANOTHER LANGUAGE

"Der Bingle" becomes "Le Bing" for a new Decca album of French songs. The groaner cut most of the tunes for the package while in France for his Paramount pic, "Little Boy Lost."

the Fingers of **JOE FINGERS CARR**

Although his records may give the impression that Joe "Fingers" Carr has a minimum of eight digits on each hand, here is visual proof that the famous Carr stylings are accomplished with the usual number of five each. These photographs were taken during the recording of hit "Istanbul" & "Maple Leaf Rag."

Pix at right would indicate that nickname "Fingers" is well earned. During solo on "Maple Leaf," "Fingers'" fingers finger keys faster — faster — faster.



"Fingers" gets himself into the mood. Recent new album titled "Joe 'Fingers' Carr and His Ragtime Band" is doing well on record counters.

The Lutes of Long Ago

CROSSING the Atlantic advances one's watch five hours, but in England the traveler can turn it back 100 years with a visit to Haslemere, Surrey, where the Dolmetsch family make and sell exact replicas of such 16th and 17th century instruments as the lute and the clavichord.

The work was begun by Arnold Dolmetsch in 1889 when he became interested in 16th and 17th century music as a living art and not as museum subject.

Dolmetsch's desire to revive old music was coupled with a conviction that it should be played on the instruments for which it was written. Unable to find enough old instruments to satisfy him, he began to make them himself.

Encouraged by William Morris, W. B. Yeats and George Bernard Shaw, Dolmetsch founded the Haslemere Festival in 1925. Here, in annual concerts, music three and four hundred years old is played on the instruments for which it was composed.

Concert and workshop are now under the direction of Carl Dolmetsch, son of the founder. His wife and four children play four instruments each. Carl is an expert maker of and performer on the English recorder—an early flute.

WAX GODS

Once it was the movie stars who were the favorite entertainers of the masses. The stage-struck kids aimed at Hollywood. But now the top-singers of popular songs, in person and on records, have become the most envied and most ubiquitous performers in show business. (For these hysterical, record-collecting, autograph-hunting bobby sox-ers who are screeching, "It's a vicious lie!" I hasten to explain that ubiquitous is not a naughty word, you noisy little darlings. It means "existing everywhere at the same time.")

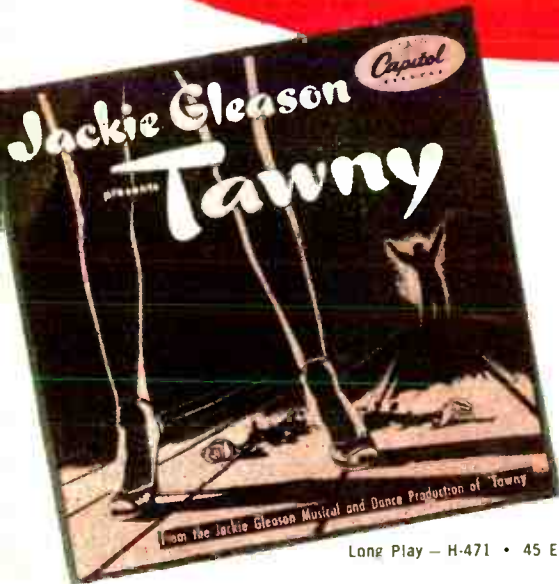
—Jerome Beatty,
American Magazine.

Today the Dolmetsch shop produces the instruments for which Bach and Purcell wrote: harpsichords, clavichords, virginals (early keyboard instruments), and lutes, viols, harps and rebecs (early stringed instruments).

All the craftsmen in the workshops play the instruments they make, and this happy alliance between musicianship and craftsmanship endows the Dolmetsch establishment and its products with a character they feel is unique.—*Barbara Singer*

ADVANCE NOTICE!

Romantic New Albums!



TAWNY

JACKIE GLEASON

conducts the thrilling ballet music made famous on his television show!

Long Play — H-471 • 45 Extended Play — EBF-471

3 great Gleason albums already released:

MUSIC FOR LOVERS ONLY

Long Play — H-352 • 45 Extended Play — EBF-352

LOVER'S RHAPSODY

Long Play — H-366 • 45 Extended Play — EAP-1-366 — Lover's Rhapsody
EAP 2-366 — Songs from Lover's Rhapsody

MUSIC TO MAKE YOU MISTY

Long Play — H-455 • 45 Extended Play — EBF-455

Music for Lovers Only and Music To Make You Misty
are available on a single 12" Long Play coupling — P-475



THREE SAILORS AND A GIRL

— Gordon MacRae and Jane Powell

Long Play — L-485
45 Extended Play — EBF-485



SONGS FOR YOUNG LOVERS

— Frank Sinatra
Long Play — H-488
45 Extended Play — EBF-488



I REMEMBER GLENN MILLER

— Ray Anthony
Long Play — L-476
45 Extended Play — EBF-476



... and two more in the delightful **BACKGROUND MUSIC** series:



SONGS FOR HARMONIZING

Long Play — H-472
45 Extended Play — EBF-472



SWEET AND SENTIMENTAL

Long Play — H-473
45 Extended Play — EBF-473

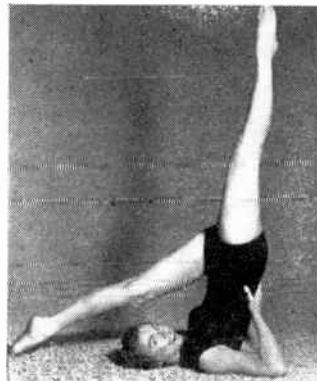
EVENING WITH ELLA!



Here is a practical demonstration of the Morse technique (often known as the Morse code) which has been producing hit recordings for nigh on to eleven years. Ella Mae Morse is seen here giving the treatment to her new record, "Taint What You Do, It's The Way Cha Do It." Whatever way she does it, it'll be the right way.



The "Way Cha Do It" is to swing, just as Ella Mae always does. The movements vary but the quality doesn't. At the extreme left, Ella Mae discusses the flip-side, "It Ain't Necessarily So," with Capitol's Cavanaugh and Gilmore.



Allyn McLerie is usually cast in musical roles—and you know how restless they are. So she has to limber up for her part in a new pitcher, a big Warner Bros. chiller.

● 'TOO COMMERCIAL'

There's more interest in so-called longhair music than the music business likes to think, says Capitol's Roger Wagner, summing up his chorale's recent tour of England with the comment: "We're too commercial here."

"As a result, we overlook the fact that 'commercial' merely is another word for public acceptance," Wagner told Variety. "And the public would accent the longhair music if given a chance to try it."



Kay Starr demonstrates her prowess in things culinary by preparing one of her specialties. She also makes a specialty of hit disks, most recent of which is "Changing Partners."

MOVING

Arriving in Hollywood for her Mocambo date, Eartha Kitt was accompanied by a secretary, an accompanist, 22 original gowns, 33 pairs of shoes, 29 song arrangements, a trunkful of lingerie, and a cat named Finnegan. Variety commented, in a story headlined "Kitt and Kaboodle:" "The transfer company rubbed its hands gleefully and murmured 'C'est si bon.'"

PIONEER

Songwriter Byron Gay, whose "Oh!" broke so big this summer and is still riding the hit lists as 1953 wanes, died two days before Christmas in 1945.

Composer of such tunes as "Horses, Horses," "Four or Five Times," Gay started writing songs while a midshipman at Annapolis in the early 1900's.

In fact one of his Annapolis musical comedies, "Funny Moon," produced several popular hits. After leaving the naval academy, Gay pioneered in writing "The Vamp," one of the first known efforts at composed jazz.

"A Buddy's Dream," sung by the Madame Schuman Heinck, during World War I, was another of Gay's hits.

Ironically, "Oh!" never became a big success until eight years after Gay's death. Now it may earn as much as \$100,000 for his estate.

Gay helped organize ASCAP in 1922. One of the curious aspects of his life was another bit of pioneering. He accompanied Byrd to the South Pole as seaman and musician.



Expressions like this could bring disbarment from the Mutual Admiration Society to Stan Freberg and Daws Butler. His "C'est Si Bon" is Freberg's holiday bestseller.



Marlene Dietrich and her daughter, Maria Rivas, celebrate Grandmother Dietrich's birthday. Marlene still sings occasionally on her CBS Radio adventure series, "Time For Love."

YOU GOTTA WATCH THAT FINE PRINT



Piano player Ukie Sherin of Hollywood, Calif., and other capitals of practical joking, wound up on the business end of one of 1953's funniest contract wrangles when he signed up with Spade Cooley to work 13 weeks in the "M Room" of the Santa Monica Ballroom. It turned out to be the washroom, and Cooley, bitten by Sherin gags in the past, insisted on enforcing the contract. Ukie is on the right, next to the paper towels. On the left is Cooley, who can leave any time.

● THE WATER'S FINE

Walden Records, a small diskery releasing classical platters, apparently welcomes the competition afforded by the bigger labels. On the album cover of a collection of Aaron Copland selections, the company invites the listeners to try other Copland compositions cut by Columbia, RCA Victor, Mercury and Decca.

● SONG OF SIXPENCE

European peasants no longer think the streets of New York are paved with gold, but European entertainers seem to think every U. S. nightclub has a silver lining, says international booking agent Dick Henry, of New York. Acts suitable for import to American clubs and theaters are asking prohibitive prices, misled by reports of fabulous salaries being paid U.S. acts in Europe.

Hip Europeans. Cool To All That's Crazy

America's frenzied jazz fan, shrieking at a trumpet's high note and going into advanced hysteria over a drum solo, is considered old-fashioned in Europe.

His European contemporary will sit through a Gerry Mulligan or a Stan Kenton concert with the quiet, thoughtful appreciation his parents might afford Beethoven. He might even be following the concert with a score.

Bob Weiss, Capitol Records European representative and source of the above, has studied the jazz fan in Scandinavia, Iberia, Holland, Germany and France. Of Stan Kenton's concerts in these countries, Weiss reported to Bob Musel of United Press:

"When Stan tapped for the down beat, the shuffling of feet and the clearing of throats died away as it does in a symphony hall.

"The vast majority of the audience were listening intently and I even saw some with musical scores they had gotten from somewhere, following the music.

"This, I swear, I never have seen before!"

LONG-DISTANCE CALL



Bob Osgood, ace square dance caller featured on Capitol records, returns to the U.S. this month after two weeks of teaching the natives of the Dutch West Indies how to hoe it down. Interest in square dancing in the islands is so intense, Osgood reports, that natives have been doing it to local mamba rhythms. Osgood taught square-dance calling to groups of 300 colonists and natives while visiting Aruba, D.W.I., at the request and expense of a local fan.

● PA'S DRAW FIRE

Recording artists are temporarily out of luck in Pittsburgh under an American Guild of Variety Artists (AGVA) ban on live radio interviews by disk jockeys where an audience is present.



Eileen Barton, who once "baked a cake" which sold a million copies, is also doing very well with a new biscuit she cooked up. Blouse she wears was inspired by disk, "Toys."



Tennessee Ernie Ford and Mrs. Ford receive the customary leis on arrival in Honolulu, the first leg of a two-week personal appearance tour of military bases in Pacific.



Jane Froman receives advance copy of new fan magazine "TV Song Stars" from its editor, Joyce Bruno. Miss Froman made the magazine's first issue, with other Capitol artists.

● HIT RECORD: S.R.O.

Television producers are learning what the movies learned. A hit record can popularize a show. The case in point is "Dragnet." Shortly after Ray Anthony's "Dragnet" and Stan Freberg's "St. George and the Dragonet" began clicking, the ratings of the Jack Webb TV series began climbing. It wasn't long before it had replaced "Lucy" as the country's top rated TV show. This marks the first time a TV rating has been visibly affected by a disclick.



● STILL CRAZY, DAD!

Old bandleaders don't even seem to fade away. It's now over a decade since Tommy Dorsey, Benny Goodman, Artie Shaw and Glenn Miller swung their way to the top of the music business, and all are still going strong — in person or via their recordings. The Dorsey's are prepping a new recording firm of their own; Benny Goodman, whose records are staples in the jazz field, has signed with Capitol; Artie Shaw, active with nightclub engagements, is dickering with several recording companies; RCA Victor sold out its entire 86,000 "limited edition" of the Glenn Miller transcriptions in two weeks, and Ray Anthony is out on Capitol with an album, "I Remember Glenn Miller."



Vikki Carol spoke six words on a Bruce Weil record, and next thing she knew was signed as a singer by Barbour. Weil disk was "God Bless Us All," so let that be a lesson.

OH HAPPY O'DAY



More singers come from Oklahoma than oil wells come from Texas. One of the former is Yvonne O'Day, now a Capitol hillbilly artist. Extremely popular on Oklahoma City TV, Yvonne, teamed with one or another of her four sisters, has been entertaining as long as she can remember. Her first release, "Snowflakes," is thawing out a large section of the populace.

● HERE'S THE PITCH

Vocalists who have been straining for the top of their range may have to settle for a half-step lower. 'A' above middle 'C' has been standardized at 440 cycles per second in all countries.

● HI-FI HERE TO STAY

The hi-fi boom in classics is not just a crash of cymbals which vibrates briefly and fades away, says Henry L. Gage, sales-promotion head of Westminster Records.

By early this year there will be 2,000,000 hi-fi sets in use, he observes.

Gage also prophesies that small recording outfits will fall by the way-side due to their lack of hi-fi equipment and that records will no longer sell by the artist's name only.

"Quality and care in recording will be foremost in importance," he says, "talent will be discovered and brought to fame through records."

In the past, most classical artists have achieved acclaim via opera or the concert stage, then moved on to records.

1942

A footnote to recorded history:

The first large order received for Ella Mae Morse's first big hit was addressed to "The Cow Cow Boogie Record Co., Hollywood, Calif." It was correctly delivered by the postoffice to Capitol.



Rhonda Fleming impressed Mike Gannon of Bridgeport, Conn., so he sat down and wrote song titled appropriately, "Rhonda." Ah yes!



Stan Kenton gives sneak preview of new arrangement to Jack Melick at party in N. Y.'s Birdland. Melick co-authored Japanese hit, "Gomen Nasai," while overseas with Army.

SOB STORY

*My wife's a softy when it
comes
To sentimental tunes,
The lullaby the singer hums,
The sticky kind he croons.*

*The lump comes quickly to
her throat.*

*The tears flow down her
cheek.*

*She throbs inside at every
note.*

Her self-control is weak.

*She weeps with all-consuming
grief*

*For every homeless doggy.
And asks to use my handker-
chief—*

Which is, however, soggy.

—Richard Armour

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● CRITICS WERE KIND

Japanese "hipsters" dig imported jazz much more than the homegrown variety, if a recent Tokyo jazz concert is any indication. Although imported jazz records sell fairly well in Japan, reaction to a concert held by local jazz men was luke-warm. In contrast to the wildly emotional reception to jazz concerts in this country and Europe, the Japanese attendees were restrained and only polite in their applause.

Emotions 'Hi-Fied' In 'Passions' Album

Just how unusual she is as an artist is demonstrated by Capitol's BasSheva, in a new, wordless album with a flock of song titles Tin Pan Alley wouldn't touch with a ten-foot plugger — for example, "Despair," "Hate," "Lust," "Terror" and "Joy."

The unique album, produced for the nation's new hi-fi fans — and any of the old ones that want to come along — is a musical catalogue of the passions, a sort of calendar of emotional extremes titled — "The Passions"

Pop bandleader Les Baxter composed, arranged and conducted the selections in an attempt to present a vocal interpretation of such passions as "Jealousy" and "Ecstasy" with classical precision, but simply enough to appeal to pop music fans.

BasSheva, a diminutive eastern singer with as fine a set of notes as you'll find, found the job of executing the songs a serious, rigorous task, since they had no lyrics. "I learned to play my voice like an instrument," she says.



Seventeen-year-old Joan O'Brien, featured songstress on the CBS-TV "Bob Crosby Show," is decked out for the express purpose of wishing Happy New Year to everyone.



Pat Morrissey, well known as nitery performer, takes the wax jump with Decca disk, "You're the Greatest," and "Baby, It Must Be Love." She's now playing the plushier plusheries.

IRISH TAMALE



Billed as "The Irish Senorita." Betty Reilly is a fiery performer, known to night club nomads all over the country. A talented comic and song stylist, she grew up in Mexico and speaks both Spanish and Portuguese. She's out on a Capitol release, "Magdalena" and "Brazilian Baion," two Brazilian songs done in Portuguese with Les Baxter. Betty was once Mrs. Charlie Barnett.

● 'KING' TO 'EMPEROR'

Nat "King" Cole has been signed to play the title role in the film version of "Emperor Jones," to be produced by Burgess Meredith and associates in New York and Cuba this coming year.



Maestro Dick Stabile table hops at Ciro's to visit with Ella Logan and escort, Larry Freed. Stabile backgrounds Dean Martin's smash, "That's Amore" — "The Right One."



Beauty and talent are a tough combination to beat, and both are well represented in the person of Connie Russell. New Disk: "That's What a Rainy Day Is For."



Anne Morree, pianist-singer, made a successful shift from nighteries to wax on four sides for Crystalet Records. Included are "Two Loves Have I" and "I'm Making Believe."



Georgie Jessel plants a fatherly buss on the cheek of his daughter, Jerilynn, while attending the Hollywood premiere of MGM's "The Robe." Jessel's now on ABC-TV.

KNOW YOUR MUSIC

We know "Auld Lang Syne" as coming from the pen of Robert Burns; but this is not only untrue — it has been denied by Burns himself. There is not the slightest doubt that Burns polished and improved the words and made the song more singable and consistent. There is no doubt that he wrote it down in a rough state from the lips of an old minstrel as he avowedly took down many other songs. "Auld Lang Syne" was a phrase in use in early times and can be

traced to the Elizabethan Era. One version of the song may be found in James Watson's collection of Scottish Songs published in 1711, and attributed to Sir Robert Ayton of Kincaldie, 1570-1638. The words underwent a metamorphosis — first, by Allan Ramsay, then others, and finally by Burns, who contributed words and music of more than 60 songs "begged, borrowed or stolen," as he jocularly declares, from Johnson's "Musical Museum."—Sylvan Breyn.

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MGM Records hopes for a repeat of Joni James' fabulous success with newcomer Betty Madigan. Her first record release is "I Just Love You" coupled with "You're Thoughtless."



Marilyn Erskine and Merv Griffin conduct their own private "session" at Warner Bros. She is in "The Story of Eddie Cantor," while he did "Murders in the Rue Morgue."

● PATTERNS ON WAX

Ever hear a tortoise call his mate? A lion meow? Or a 23-year-old secretary's heart beat?

These and other sounds that make up the life around us have been recorded by Folkways Records in an unusual item called "Sound Patterns."

The heartbeat number, reliable sources report, comes out sounding like a very unusual rhumba.

Another bit on this sound-kaleidoscope is the chirping of a cricket with an airplane motor revving up in the background.



The George Montgomerys and daughter "Missy" enjoy a brief vacation in Palm Springs before Mama (sometimes known as Dinoh Shore) goes back to NBC job.



George Shearing presents Nat "King" Cole with trophy awarded by Pittsburg Courier. Cole received trophy for the 7th consecutive time during his N. Y. concert.



Shelley Winters and mate, Vittorio Gassman (l), receive table tennis instruction from comic Jackie Kannon during Miss Winters' debut at Las Vegas' redecorated Flamingo.



Here's the man responsible for turning 1953 into the "dum-de-dum-dum" year. It's Walter Schumann, composer of the "Draget" theme. We just wanted you to get the facts.

PRIMER

People who can't remember how to spell Tschai-kowsky may get some help from this formula—if they can remember the formula. It's band-leader Matt Shoemaker's way of remembering: "T" with an "s" on a "chair" without an "r" and "kow" with a "sky." Matt is still working on Rim-sky-Korsakov.

● SINATRA IS 'KING'

Frank Sinatra of Capitol Records has been elected "King of the Baritones" in a contest conducted by the American Forces Network.

NEW MOON

A new moon is coming over the mountain for Kate Smith. She's signed with Capitol and preparing to put on wax some of the family-preserve wholesomeness that characterizes her song work. A native of Greenville, Va., Kate is 44, and has been a success since she went to New York at the age of 17 and landed a part in a Broadway musical.



She's got one of the biggest hearts in show business and has scored one of its biggest hits.

● THE DOG DIGS JAZZ

The current revival of interest in jazz music has prompted RCA Victor to set up a jazz A & R department. Presently lined up to wax for it are Buddy Morrow, Ralph Flanagan and the Sauter-Finegan orchestras and Barbara Carroll and Shorty Rogers, new Victor contractees.

● IT'S DRILL AND SWAY

Bandleader Sammy Kaye has struck oil. Federal Court in Wichita has awarded him half interest in a huge Kansas claim tapped by several drillers and land brokers. Kaye sued the group, charging they made use of his own confidential geological information in claiming the field.

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Everybody else has moved on to New Year's, but Yogi Yorgesson is still clinging to Christmas, for some reason — namely Jane Easton. No wonder Yogi says "I Yust Go Nuts at Christmas." In real life Yogi is Harry Stewart, but who cares for real life when making records leads to all this?