

5 PAGES OF LIGHT ENTERTAINMENT

***** Edited by Mollie Ellis *****

★ ● Jimmy Logan is taking his own Scottish show to America in September, playing one night including the Carnegie Hall.

★ ● Tex Whiteford and his music with Dinah Fletcher at the Hammond organ provide the musical accompaniment for the Dave Mitchell Circus at Waverley Market, Edinburgh, for the winter season.

★ ● Artists clowning their way through Christmas in Paris with Circus Bouh-lione, visited the local children's hospital on Christmas morning to wish them a happy Christmas. The artists are Frankie Fossett & Co., Will Norman, Duke Dupree, Wally Bell, Little Johnny Kane and Pierre Picton and Derek Cooke (the Russell's Clowns.)

★ ● Whilst they are over there, Picton & Cooke's act appeared on English BBC Television, in Billy Smart's Children's Circus programme on January 1.

★ ● On January 21 Frankie Vaughan will be making an appeal on B.B.C. television for the National Association of Boys' Clubs.

★ ● Acker Bilk's clarinet was stolen from his dressing room at Cambridge and his favourite waistcoat was taken at Hereford.

★ ● Former revue, and now cabaret artist, Linda Masters has left an interesting job as commere at a Regent Street Fashion Salon to appear in her third pantomime, as Fairy Godmother in "Cinderella" at Gloucester and Barnstaple. Last year she was the Queen in Harold Fielding's "Cinderella", and before that understudied Shani Wallis as "Aladdin".

★ ● Anne Shelton will appear in Israel cabaret after her pantomime.

★ ● Fresh from an eight day tour of Switzerland, Acker Bilk and his Paramount Jazz Band appeared at the Town Hall, Middlesbrough. Among those who attended were the Stoke City football team and Stanley Matthews, Colin Smith on the trumpet and Roy James, banjo, were outstanding. The bearded bowler hatted Bilk was in superb form on the clarinet. Numbers played included the band's latest hit "Creole Jazz". Background for the front-line players was provided by Ronald McKay (drums and cymbals), Stanley Grieg (piano) and Ernest Price (double bass). Jonathan Mortimer played the trombone.

★ ● When the men at "The Star and Garter" Home for Disabled Sailors, Fishers and Airmen" had a party on Boxing Day afternoon an entertainment was presented by E. Donald Grant with artists from the Thames Valley Revue Club. Those who appeared were Fred Johnson, comedian, Kay Cullern, popular vocalist, Martin Fisher and Linda Goodchild with their accordions, Ted Fox, two dancers, Ann Bowen and Susan Tozer, and Rae Stanley, pianist. Guest artists were Janice and George Harper with Bob Holmes at the piano.

★ ● Charlie Chester's son Peter was married on December 27 to Jacqueline Baxter, his childhood sweetheart.

★ ● Gatt Neilson, a member of The Three Kims, an acrobatic act in the "Puss in Boots" pantomime at the Bradford Alhambra, had an operation in the Bradford Infirmary last Thursday after an accident to his foot during the performance the previous day.

★ ● Bobby Rich again playing Principal Boy for Barry Wood's "Robin Hood" at Stockton on Tees. In the summer he goes to Pontings at Barton Hall, Torquay.

★ ● Ken Jones, pianist, arranger, composer, has taken over the musical director's job from Tommy Sanderson in the popular Sunday morning radio show "Easy Beat". Busy as a recording star, a backing artist to soloists as well as a performer in his own right with his rhythmic combination, he finds time to personally chat to customers at his new gramophone record establishment in Walsford which Matt Monro officially opened a few months ago.

Southampton Gaumont Under Shadow of Closure

Treat for Children's Hospital

ON the Tuesday prior to Christmas, George Raymonde, Vice-Chairman of the Birmingham Branch Variety Artists' Federation, and Executive Committee member, presented a huge Christmas Tree laden with presents, together with 4 large playpens, and 3 dolls' prams with dolls, to Gerrards Hospital for Children, Birmingham. The gifts were received on behalf of the Hospital Management Committee and patients by H. Winwood, House Governor of the

Hospital. The gifts were made possible by the efforts of The Brookhill Social Club, Birmingham, and their organising secretary, C. Barnbrook. The presentations were made at a social evening at The Brookhill Hotel, Birmingham, and artists who appeared included Callagher and Jones (Vocal Entertainers), Billy Basic (Pianist), Albert Basic (Pianist). Also present was Jack Delaney, Branch Secretary, V.A.F.

FOLLOWING the closure and demolition of the Southampton Grand 18 months ago, the nearby 2,500-seater Southampton Gaumont brought in a policy of alternating live shows with film presentation to become the only theatre remaining in the town

which pre-war boasted five such theatres.

Now currently playing a six-week season of Tom Arnold's ice presentation of "Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs", the Gaumont, one of the largest theatres in the provinces, is under the shadow of closure and

conversion to a dance hall to accommodate 1,750 dancers and a 14-lane ten-pin bowling alley.

The Rank Organisation at this stage state they are "investigating the possibility of converting the Gaumont" and it is understood that the Gaumont is included in the Rank Organisation scheme to

open a large number of ten-pin bowling alleys and dance halls in the country. The Gaumont was originally built as a theatre and opened as the Empire, and pre-war was a No. 1 provincial date for major musical productions.

Work has already commenced on a 24-lane bowling centre at the Southampton Stadium—a £200,000 joint venture by the Rank Organisation and Southern Television Ltd., to be known on completion as the "Southampton Bowl".

To New Zealand

SHEILA BUXTON finishes her TV series, "The Singing Years", in mid-March and straight away goes to New Zealand to open on March 24 in Auckland in a big show for a six-week season. She flies back to star in Bernard Delfont's summer show on the North Pier, Blackpool, for 16 weeks.

Own Series

STEVE BENBOW, the folk singer, has signed for his own series on Scottish TV. He goes up on January 11 to record the first four editions. They are to take the form of educational series devoted to uses of the guitar and to demonstrate various styles. On January 9 he is due to appear in Wales.

Dig that Coach

AMONG the hold-ups in the snow was the Alan Eidsdon Band, which helped to dig its digi coach out of a drift on the M1. Hub caps from the wheels were used instead of spades.



Car Accident

HYLDA BAKER, who was admitted to the London Clinic last week, to undergo treatment for injuries she received when she was knocked down by a car in the Charing Cross Road, London, on Christmas Eve, is making a good recovery. Hylda's accident prevented her from starring in ABC TV's "Our House" last Saturday, but she hopes to resume work on the popular TV series within a few days. The tiny Farnworth-born comedienne was badly bruised and suffering from shock when she was admitted to the hospital. "I seem to be unlucky at holiday-times," said Hylda. "But I never thought I would be one of the statistics on the Christmas road accident list."

What will the New Year bring for this 52-year-old comedienne who has been in show business since she was 10 years old? "I am hoping to star in more TV plays since she made her successful debut in BBC-TV's "Where The Difference Begins" on December 15. The comedienne will also be seen in several more editions of ABC TV's "Our House".

Celebration

MIKE COTTON and his Band celebrated his selection as "most promising trad jazz band of 1962" by ABC TV Crystal Ball by walking home from Woolwich when their coach broke down in the snow.

Ike Hatch

SINGER Isaac Flower Hatch, who made his usual nightly appearance at the Starlite Room in Mayfair, London, on Christmas Eve, was found dead on Boxing Day at his flat at Lancaster Terrace, Paddington.

He was lying fully clothed on the floor. There was no suspicion of foul play.

Mark Simmons, manager of the Starlite Room, said Mr. Hatch was "Ike" Hatch, the coloured singer who came to England from New York in 1925. He was a member of the world-famous Kentucky Minstrels.

Mr. Hatch had been appearing almost nightly for the past five years at the Starlite Room. He last appeared there on Christmas Eve.

Said Mr. Simmons, "He had not been very well lately. He had been complaining of pains in his back. He must have been in his seventies."

"He was a lovely, old coloured gentleman and was well loved and respected by everybody who knew him. He didn't have a wrong word for anyone."

Dan Leno, Jr.

DAN LENO, Jr., son of the famous comedian, died in the King's College Hospital, London, on Tuesday.

He carried on his father's tradition as a popular pantomime Dane and for many years produced his own shows.

Max Bygraves, who was the best man at the wedding of his drummer Martin Aston, and "Beat the Clock" hostess Laurette Stephens, gives the happy bride a big hug after the service at the Caxton Hall, Westminster, London.

Gala Opening for Circus

THE gala opening of Billy Smart's circus at the Queen's Hall, Leeds, on December 21, arranged by the Variety Club of Great Britain in aid of Youth Ventures Ltd., raised over £2,000 and had an audience in this vast hall of almost 5,000.

Among the many distinguished guests were civic dignitaries from Leeds, Bradford, York, Rotherham, Doncaster, and Scarborough, and the Lord Mayors of Leeds and Bradford (Ald. P. A. Woodward and Councillor B. W. Berry respectively) were among six brave volunteers to allowed Birma, the 34-ton 20-year-old elephant, to walk over them.

The other volunteers were Billy Butlin, Lord Stotham, Sir Richard Graham, the High Sheriff of Yorkshire, and A. J. Paterson, the Chief Constable of Leeds.

Pat Aza Answers

Q. Did you see any reindeer over Christmas?
A. No, dear, not a drop.

What a year this has been!

Trip to Moscow... flight with Gagarin... down to earth with Mumps... car crash in Regent Street... Pat Aza's gags... James Hartley's taunts... Peter Hepple's quips... Mollie Ellis expecting me to be in two places at once, etc.

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Greetings to the following Artists for 1962

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ZARADEA — International Mind Reader — 18 months solid work in North-East England. (Thanks to Walter Wilson, Esq., Newcastle.)

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