

LIGHT ENTERTAINMENT

● Billy Moore, the yodelling accordionist, last week announced his engagement to Miss Ena Pinfold, who is the grand-daughter of the late Chris Richards the eccentric comedian and dancer, and Emily Frantz, one of the members of the Frantz family of acrobats. They will be married on September 17, and will be honeymooning in Majorca for two weeks. Billy and Ena met each other at the British Music Hall Society, both being keen 'old-time' enthusiasts.

● The first Gala Night in 1966 at the Hollywood Country Club, at Benfleet, in Essex, is tonight (24th). It features Colin Robins and Anjie Dean, with the Norman Coker Quartet.

● Pat Hatton & Peggy, who in the past have been very successful presenting their novelty magical act in cabarets on the Cunard ships, have now been booked by Canadian Pacific for six trans-Atlantic crossings to Montreal, aboard the Empress of England and Empress of Canada.

● Faust the magician, who is presenting "Find the Lady" at Hastings this week, claims that this trick, invented by AMAC and featured by the late Cecil Lyle, is as baffling as ever. Next week and the week after at Bristol and Weston-super-Mare he will present in addition to this trick, their well-known Devil's Bar act.

● Owing to continued ill health, Jessie Mack has reluctantly decided to relinquish the office of secretary of the L.C.P.A. Her place is being filled by Conway Lester.

● Billy Wells, Stan Van and Johnny Lancaster are lined for the season of "Olde Tyme Music Hall" at Jersey's Rainbow Room, opening May 28.

● Victor Seaforth and Johnny and Suma Lamonte (Mrs. Victor Seaforth) were all on the same bill together at the Pavilion, Glasgow, last week. This is the first time they have all worked together since Victor met Suma for the first time in the late Norman Evans show.

● One of the undoubted stars of the London pub circuit, Lennie Peters at last makes his West End debut in his current week at the Celebrity.

● Mavis Lane is appearing in Variety at the South Parade Pier, Southsea, on Whit Sunday where David Hughes is topping the bill.

● Dave Allan and the King Brothers join Frank Ifield for his Whit Saturday and Whit Monday one-nighters at Bournemouth's Winter Gardens.

● Martineau, accordionist with the Continental touch, is now resident at the Concorde Restaurant in Leicester Place.

● Kenneth Earle and Malcolm Vaughan have now taken up seasonal residence at Jersey, playing "Excitement" at the Watersplash and doubling at Pontin's Holiday Village.

● George Hildrew, a member of the Scarborough Corporation Entertainments Department, has been appointed manager of the Floral Hall at the resort. For the past year he has been manager of The Spa. At the Floral Hall, Mr. Hildrew (at one time a professional singer-pianist-compère under the name, George Hill) succeeds Leslie Cullen, an official of Scarborough Corporation Entertainments Department, who has taken over the managership of the New, Southend.

CULTURE CULTURES
IN CLUBLANDMUSIC HALL
MISCELLANY

TO some May 21 was Rugby Cup Final Day, to others it was the day of the Big Fight, but to the theatrical profession it was B for Brinsworth Day, and all roads led to Twickenham.

Not only was there all the fun of the fair in the spacious grounds, but Music Hall held sway in the Grand Marquee, while in the house proper the British Music Hall Society held their now famous exhibition.

As the new boy on the Executive Committee of the VABF I felt quite a touch of proprietorship as I listened to the admiring remarks concerning this model home, Michael Radford, himself a resident of Twickenham, had not realised that wonderful work that Arthur Scott and Betty Foster do for our beloved profession.

BIG NAMES

That there were many of the big names present was due in some measure to Leslie Macdonnell who threw away the worries of office for the day to show his personal interest.

I can only say that it is a great pity that Brinsworth was not in being in the pre-1907 period, and stars like George Leybourne would not have had to die in poverty, a sentiment echoed by the Queen of Brinsworth herself, Flo Hastings, whose name figured on all the bills in the 90's.

STERLING WORK

DAN STANLEY has been telling me of the sterling work done by the London Concert Proprietors Association who have negotiated with the Greater London Council to have entertainment in many parks, some especially for the afternoon so that old people don't have to be out after dark. Mr. Stanley himself presents Concert Party, and like our old friend Sybil Marsh, is a fund of reminiscence.

Despite the fact that he now lives in Wivelcombe, Somerset, our President Don Ross still continues his activities in town, and has laid on some first class talent for our monthly meetings.

COLLECTING FILMS

Chairman Ray Mackender is contacting collectors of early films with a Music Hall content for future presentation.

Meanwhile, I can be reached at 1 King Henry Street, N.16. Please keep in touch.

ELLIS ASHTON

SANDFORD GOUDIE—owner of La Strada Clubs in South Shields and Sunderland—has released exclusively to THE STAGE some details of his plans for the summer.

In conjunction with Billingham (County Durham) Arts Council, he is bringing over The Roque Nublo, a national company from the Canary Islands consisting of nine dancers and nine musicians. They will be appearing in Billingham week commencing August 21 and at La Strada's the following seven nights.

On the previous Friday and Saturday, Mr. Goudie will also be presenting a team of dancers—in national costume—from the Austrian Tyrol.

Asserts La Strada's enterprising owner: "I think this is the first time that any night club has made a bona fide attempt to provide festival entertainment in such an environment. Apart from the cultural entertainment value, I feel that the national dresses alone will provide quite a spectacle."

MAX AN EASY HIT

Reports Gordon Irving

MAX is back! That's what the posters say outside Glasgow Alhambra. His 1966 performance for Stewart Cruikshank in a glittery, colourful "Five-Past Eight" is the usual easy Bygraves, spinning odd little stories, singing happy choruses, and making everyone feel as if they're at a party on the floor of Dick Hurran's Starlight Room.

Personally, I could have done with a little less of Max's gagging with guitarist Jimmy Jacques, amusing though it was, and a bit more of Bygraves in his own full-length spot. But the Londoner who has the combined attraction of Kaye, Chevalier and—yes, even Lauder in a way—wins easily to send audiences out telling all their friends to go along.

MORE PLUMS

The other good points in a bright revue are the wonderful colours of the St. John Koper costumes, the Tod Kingman decor, the Tiller Girls' precision (routines by Barbara Aitken), and an excellent Gerald O'Connell orchestra batoned by Erik Odon. Malcolm Goddard merits much praise for the choreography.

IMAGINATION

Dick Hurran's imaginative touches reveal this dapper showman in surprises and in using cinematic touches to add lavishness to the production. His internationally-flavoured company includes the wonderful Bal Caron Trio in adagio work that has the customers applauding with enthusiasm, Bob Williams with his very lazily disobedient dog that flops to the great appeal of the audience, and the Take Five singing group from Australia. Lynn Kennington is a

singer with a fine voice. The Town Criers add their vocal support throughout.

BACK TO STANDARD

A winter sports scene and a "Guicly Nights" first-half finale are scenes I really liked in a "Five-Past Eight" that returns to standard, and—be it whispered—doesn't use a featured Scot in the layout at all. Reg Allen and his team built the excellent scenery. As Dick Hurran said in his curtain speech, the show merits the description given it by New York "Variety" as being one of the ten best shows in the world.

It deserves to be publicised as a tourist attraction in Scotland equal to the splendour of the Edinburgh Tattoo: why, even Max dons the kilt at one point for a Harry Lauder number which he ought to be adorning further with one of the late Sir Harry's real curly sticks.



Lynn Kennington

THE ORIGINAL OLD COCK LINNET



A BACK-STAGE visitor to "London Laughs" at the Palladium this week was Marie Lloyd, Jnr. (left).

She called to congratulate Thora Hird on her rendering of Marie Lloyd's famous music hall success, "My Old Man Said Follow the Van".

When she heard that Thora was singing the number, Marie Jnr. sent Thora the original prop cage used by Marie as a good luck token.

★ LESLIE ADAMS

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would like to thank Paul
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lochry Festival Theatre,
Perthshire, Scotland, for
his support. I shall wear it
always.

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ON THE TILES



Episode Six, a bright, young combination who have
played a season of cabaret at London's Establishment
and will be appearing at one of London's top night spots
later in the summer. Meanwhile, they are making an
appearance tonight at London's newest club, "Tiles".

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