

Georgie Wood Recording ...



WOOD BY WORDLEY

THIS IS MUSIC HALL

IF there were any reservations about my attitude towards "The Stage" awards for club acts of the year last Thursday's performance at the Bailey Organisation's club Latino in South Shields turned me into an enthusiastic advocate of the scheme. It did not seem possible that club acts could make good music hall. But they did!

The North-east area programme produced by Terry Cantor is reported in this issue by Colin Hutchinson. He was one of the panel I was privileged to "chair." The others were Mortimer Bennitt at one time chairman of the Little Theatre Guild of Great Britain. He knows you know — on his recommendation I urge my "fellow Georgies" to see the Newcastle Playhouse "Aladdin" pantomime during the forthcoming festive season.

Tony Boyd, a young man with "variety veins." (Was I surprised when compeer Cantor told the audience that "Personality Kid Boyd" is the son of the late Cissie Williams, the most famous "booker" since the late Eddie Darling — the Keith Albee man who introduced many all English bills at the Palace, New York); Roy Smith — Tyneside's most popular pub-keeper — who regard Mr. and Mrs. Smith as a sort of younger edition of Jack and Annie Walker — and remember Roy as the big lad of the "Five Smith Brothers, one of the grandest singing groups ever heard in variety.

Reg Swinson, M.B.E. general secretary of the Variety Artists Benevolent Fund. During my years as hon. chairman of the Variety Artists Federation, Mr. Swinson was the secretary. It was then I was first able to assess his unique natural gift as an organiser. He has worked wholeheartedly on all the awards productions which have provided him with plenty of scope for his abilities. Next Monday he will "Walk with the Queen" — nor lose the common touch. Then he will deal with the crowd for the club awards final — and keep his virtue.

Walter Williamson. General manager of Tyne-Tees Television. He sat on my left during the judging and transmitted his Tyne-Tees appreciative radiation of the acts to me. Terence Wynn — great personal friend of mine. He is a former executive Tyne-Tees Television Executive Producers and National Chairman of the Catholic Writers Guild.

That's a pretty good panel and it is interesting to note that in the marks we gave to the acts we were almost unanimous.

B.B.C.

Bravol Ball Club and thanks to B.B.C.-North who interviewed me prior to the Awards Show. The B.B.C. TV questions were asked by Michael Rod, a superb interviewer. After this enjoyable encounter I went to the South Shields Latino Club from Broadcasting House in Newcastle-upon-Tyne (I knew it when it was a maternity hospital — and it's still delivering).

WHAT IT'S ALL ABOUT



Albert Stevenson (left) of the BBC with London Week-End's Clifford Castle at Bournemouth. Both have one and in view to spot and groom major talent — The Stage Awards provide them with just that opportunity.

EXCELLENTLY STAGED—
SUPERBLY HOSTED

— The Tyne Tees Show

Report on the Tyne Tees Area Production 'Stage' Club Acts of the Year, from Colin Hutchinson.

Posters outside the Club Latino, South Shields herald the near future arrival of International stars TINY TIM and BOB MONKHOUSE, but even these household names will be hard pushed to surpass the electric atmosphere which gripped the club last Thursday night for the "Stage" Club Acts of the Year Tyne Tees Area edition. And what better venue for this glittering North East night for the Latino is the headquarters of the Bailey Organisation Europe's largest nightclub empire. The club was packed to capacity and there must have been some sore throats and hands with cheering and clapping for the applause and shouts for more would have made the biggest star feel proud.

Husband and wife duo STEVE JACKSON and SUNNY BROWN from Barnsley got the show off to a storming start with a well presented vocal harmony spot. Then came 5ft. 4in. comedian WALLY HARPER, the undoubted big success of the evening. His rapid fire gags had the audience begging for a breather to massage aching sides. Wally who originates from Manchester had made a 700 mile round trip from South Wales specially for the show. His finale — real show stopper — of over 20 non-stop impressions while singing Tom Jones' "Green, Green Grass of Home" was a comedy classic.

Tyne Tees Television high ranking executive Walter Williamson must have summed up the feelings of the audience when he said to me "one of the best comedians I have seen in years."

It had to be a strong act to achieve the near impossible following Wally Harper and to their praiseworthy credit country and western pair WUMP AND WERBLE rose to the occasion splendidly. Batting on home ground Bailey/SAS singer STUART GASTON, tall, slim and immaculately dressed with looks not unlike Scott Walker gave a very polished and professional performance and for me the highlight of his act — and one of the plums of the night — was his tremendous rendering of "My Way" and to show he is not just a vocalist Stuart split his spot with a guitar solo.

Next came that funny pair BARRAS AND WEST who proved they are not just talented comedians with some fine close harmony singing and the first half was brought to a thunderous applause close by LORI AND THE WELLS BROS, who oozed with personality, poise, pace and professionalism. Lori, a striking, tall blonde rounded off their slickly presented act with a rousing Roaring Twenties routine. 31 year-old uke

playing comedian STEVE BRYAN from Stockport who has just finished a summer season in Blackpool with Harry Worth, opened the final part of the show, with some most original and punchy patter that had the crowd whispering he's destined for stardom, and to further delight the audience he wound up by playing and singing George Formby's "Leaning on a Lamppost."

Johnny Hammond, who comes from the North East, unfortunately had to cry off at the last minute because of illness but while his non-appearance was a disappointment, the crowd couldn't complain about replacement pretty Dublin lassie TRACEY KELLY clad in sparkling mini-dress. This pleasant voiced youngster switched swiftly from the roof raising "Danny Boy" to pops with the ease and poise of a veteran. "Mr. Trumpet Man" ROGER DAVIDSON won many new admirers with his top note blowing and drum playing interlude and soprano KAY HALL delighted with a selection from the "Sound of Music."

Swansea born comedian NOEL TALBOT took over the closing spot and this proved a masterly stroke by producer/compeer TERRY CANTOR, for Noel was in such devastating form that it is hard to imagine anyone following his hilarious camp style act that had the crowd rocking in their seats and shouts for more choir erupting at the end.

Certainly a night to remember. A 21-hour spectacular that contained something for everyone; excellently staged by Terry Cantor and superbly hosted by the Bailey Organisation. I can't wait for next year's production!

THE GALA
BILL

In alphabetical order

BARRIE BROS
COLIN CROMPTON
DICKIE & DOTTIE
DUGGIE BROWN
GUY HOLLOWAY & PAT
LEE LESLIE
LESTER & SMART
LORI & THE WELLS
BROS.
MIGHTY ATOM & ROY
RAPHAEL LAMAS
ROY AND LYNN
SHEP'S BANJO BOYS
SYD FRANCIS
WALLY HARPER
Compere:
DUGGIE CLARK
PALACE MANCHESTER
DECEMBER 1

man W. Forman: Chairman; Sam Bell: Bournemouth Entertainments Manager; G. A. Bourn: Bournemouth Round Table; Stan Sowden: Bournemouth Echo; Cliff Castle: London Week-End Television, Light Entertainment Casting Director; Albert Stevenson: B.B.C. Television Producer; Vic Duncan: Hon. Chairman, Variety Artists' Benevolent Fund.

The chosen artists: Lee Leslie, Robert Knight, Duggie Brown, Colin Fleming and Barbara, The Winter Mixtures, Bobbie Kimber.

Tyne-Tees area: The Panel: Georgie Wood, Chairman of the Panel, The Stage columnist; Colin Hutchinson: The Stage columnist; Reginald Birks: Director, Sunderland Empire Theatre; Terence Wynn: Former Executive Producer, Tyne Tees Television; Stanley Henry (Director, Bailey Organisation Ltd.; Mortimer Bennitt: Former Chairman of Little Theatre Guild of Gt. Britain; Michael Warner: Humberside Executive of Yorkshire Television; Malcolm Morris: Tyne Tees Television; Walter Williamson: Tyne Tees Television; Serge Ganjou: Hon. Treasurer, Variety Artists' Benevolent Fund.

The chosen artists: Wally Harper, Noel Talbot, Steve Bryan, Lori and The Wells Bros., Tracy Kelly, Roger Davidson,

SOUTHERN
COUNTIESLIGHT
ENTERTAINMENT

The Mayor of Bournemouth, COUNCILLOR DAVID BECKETT, went on Stage at the Winter Gardens, Bournemouth to congratulate the fourteen Club acts who appeared in this area show, and said he hoped that he would shortly see many of them either in a Theatre or on TV. There were some 700 persons there to hear these plaudits after the show, which was produced by TERRY CANTOR.

The programme got off to a clever opening by Compeer EDDIE SWANN, who did impressions of stars who might have been chosen to compeer, and sang a song he recently recorded, with first class accompaniment from DON REEVE, MIKE DAVIES and BRIAN MURCELL who played for all the artists. First spot to Brother and Sister act from Weymouth, RAY AND SHIRLEY, was lively, then clever mime from BRYAN GODFREY, typical Yorkshire comedy styling from DUGGIE BROWN followed by the contrast of Continental Yodeller HANS. Comedy burlesque from FRANÇOIS and YVETTE, then an impact performance by LEE LESLIE, the experience of BOBBIE KIMBER and promising youngsters WINTER MIXTURES closed the first half.

Juggling Uni Cyclist, COLIN FLEMING from Cambridge opened the second half followed by Welsh Tenor, Phil Perry who chose songs with Spanish and Italian words that possibly hindered his charming voice. The very polished ROBERT KNIGHT drew lots of applause, then the STERLING'S adagio, SANDY LANE'S Yorkshire Reelish and finally a colourful dancing and singing LOS SALEROSOS.

Particular thanks were accorded to Eddie Swann for keeping the show going smoothly, and it was particularly heartening to observe that so many agents attended with a good deal of booking going on back stage after the show.



The panel in session at the Winter Gardens. L to R: Sam Bell, Vic Duncan, G. A. Bourn, Albert Stevenson, Alderman W. Forman and Stan Sowden.

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HOW THEY VOTED

Yorkshire Area: The Panel: James Towler: Chairman; Ron Boyle: Show Business Columnist, Daily Express; Peter Casson: Chairman of Cabaret Clubs Federation; "Oakwell" (Roger Holmes): Senior Columnist, South Yorkshire Clubmen's Guide; Ronald Wilkinson: Television and Theatre Critic, Yorkshire Evening Post; Vic Duncan: Chairman, Variety Artists' Benevolent Fund; Reg Swinson, M.B.E.: General Secretary, Variety Artists' Benevolent Fund.

The artists they chose: Dickie and Dottie, Barrie Bros., Benny Yorke, Astor, Sparkie & Me, Eve Britton, Richard Fox.
Midlands: The Panel: John Smith: The Bailey Organisation (Chairman); Mike Bowen: B.B.C. Midlands; Joe Ward: Top Rank Executive Suite; Fred Norris: Birmingham Post & Mail; Arthur Parbury: Leicester Club Columnist; Richard Maddock: B.B.C. Midlands T.V.; Reg Swinson, M.B.E.

The chosen artists: Mighty Atom and Roy, Lee Clark, Frank Towers, The Maydels, Norman Brenner, Roy & Lynn, Stromboli and Silvia.
Manchester/Merseyside: The Panel: Eric Dobell (Chairman): The

Cloughton Variety Club, Cloughton, Grampol; James Casey: Head of B.B.C. Radio Entertainment, B.B.C., Piccadilly, Manchester; Tim H. Tillison: General Manager, The Palace Theatre, Manchester; Des Flanagan: The Manchester Tent, Variety Club of Great Britain, Publicist; Billy "Uke" Scott: Theatrical Agent; Derek Johns: Theatrical Agent; Jack Barnes: Secretary, The North-West Manchester Concert Secretaries' Association.

The chosen artists: Syd Francis, Colin Crompton, The Amazing Margos, Les Bluesettes, Shep's Banjo Boys; Michele & Myles, Blackpool/Scotland: The Panel: James Hartley: Chairman; Barney Colahan: B.B.C. Television Producer; Jess Yates: Yorkshire Television Producer; John Stevenson: Daily Mail, Northern Edition; Geoff Lawrence: B.B.C. Producer; Norman Teal: Top Rank; Canon C. E. Young: Rector of Liverpool; Serge Ganjou, Hon. Treasurer, Variety Artists' Benevolent Fund.

The chosen artists: Guy Holloway and Pat, Zarazda, Lester & Smart, Raphael Lamas, Beverly Randall, Johnny More.
London/South: The Panel: Alder-

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