



The Swinger

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DAVE McKENNA will be the guest of HJS on Sunday evening, January 10. (Note that date: it's the second, rather than the first Sunday of the month.) The hour: 8 o'clock, as usual. The place: Jonathan Temple, 700 Blue Hills Avenue.

One of the best, though least touted, of jazz pianists, Dave McKenna has played with the Herman herd (1950-51), the bands of Charlie Ventura, Bobby Hackett, the Zoot Sims-Al Cohn group and the Gene Krupa Trio. John S. Wilson in his "Collector's Jazz" says of Dave's playing, "edgy, charging...crisp...delightful effervescence...rollicks along (with a mediocre group) like an undaunted horse in blinders." In short, you'll like him. With him will be Ernie Wilson, bass. Joe Porcaro will serve at the drums.

THE AL LEPAK CONCERT JAZZ BAND performed beautifully, as always, at the concert presented at Trinity College November 30th under the sponsorship of HJS (through the public-spirited generosity of Local 400, American Federation of Musicians). Incidentally, this fine band is being heard every other Sunday afternoon at the Hofbrau on Asylum Street. It deserves an audience.

ROAMING HARTFORDITES include: Dave MacKay, now at Disneyland with his trio...Bruce Martin (with Don Mast on bass), at Nassau in the Bahamas...Ronnie McClure, having left Maynard Ferguson's band, is with Flutist Herbie Mann at the Village Gate in Greenwich Village. (The Mann group will be heard in a Carnegie Hall concert next week.)

MUSIC ABOUT TOWN: The Downstairs Coffee House, 321 Trumbull Street, is having truly worth-while sessions on Sunday afternoons. Musicians include Eddie Davis, Bobby Johnson, Paul Brown, Charlie Scott, Kitty Kathryn and anybody else who drops by...Southington Inn, at junction of Routes 10 and 85 (the place is changing its name appropriately to the 10-85 Club) has Joe Morand's Quartet on weekends. (Personnel: Morand, trumpet; Charlie Scott, piano; Cliff Gunn, bass; Milt Hayes, drums.) ... Norm Macklin is at Al's Music Bar on Albany Avenue... Joseph's on the Berlin Turnpike has the Nat Forrest Trio.

ODDMENTS: Gene Rodgers, close friend of HJS, will be at the Encore, Mount Snow, Westover, Vermont, all winter...Booker Erwin, another good HJS friend, is now in Spain, having toured Sweden and France...New members of HJS: Merritt Oslund and Kenneth Krupa... How about a mardi gras dance the day before Ash Wednesday? It's being considered.

