



The Swinger

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STOMPING SHOES will be optional dress for the meeting scheduled for Sunday evening, April 4. Norm Macklin's Trio, darlings of the North End, will be with us. Also that special favorite, Gene Rodgers...and probably others. The place, as usual: Jonathan Temple, 700 Blue Hills Avenue.

THE CHALLENGE to "Stump the Experts" at the March meeting was accepted by HJS members with enthusiasm. So expert were the experts (John Birchard, Ralph Sturges, Art Fine, George Malcolm-Smith) that prizes actually had to be given away. (Would you have known that Weyman Carver played flute in a Chick Webb record of the 'thirties, or that Rudy Wiedoft in the 'twenties recorded with the Original Dixieland Band, or did you, for that matter, ever hear of Weyman Carver or Rudy Wiedoft? The experts had.) Speaking of prizes, there is no justice in door prizes. The last person to walk in the door got the lucky number and took away the five-record album, "The Story of Jazz." He was Cliff Gunn, whose watch fob is a rabbit's foot.

WHAT'S GOING ON HERE? Governor Dempsey's temporary Commission of the Arts, appointed to suggest the Nutmeg State's participation in the National Foundation of the Arts and Humanities (to be financed by federal funds, i.e., your tax money) has submitted its report -- neatly printed in a booklet with cover in two colors. It contains suggestions for the promotion of opera, symphony, oratorio, chamber music and every other kind of music of European origin. There is not a single mention of American jazz -- this country's one original, native contribution to the musical arts. Ray Cassarino -- splendid musician, excellent teacher and an articulate advocate of jazz music -- would like to know just how this could have happened. He wonders particularly in view of the fact that, when he and a group of local jazzmen conducted demonstration classes in Greater Hartford schools, their presentation proved the most popular and most effectual phase of a program sponsored by the Hartford Symphony Association. These demonstrations of the history of jazz opened juvenile ears -- dulled by rock 'n' roll and hootenanny noises -- to an American art form admired and enjoyed throughout the world. Odd, isn't it, that when American jazzmen (Armstrong, Ellington, Basie, Gillespie, Goodman, Tony Scott) appear in countries overseas (including even communist Russia), they are greeted by enthusiastic throngs -- yet, when a commission of Connecticut citizens submits a report on music to their governor, the word jazz isn't even mentioned. What, indeed, goes on here?

GENUINE JAZZ packed De Lisa's on Wethersfield Avenue Monday evening, March 22, when John Birchard and Mike Lawless brought Toshiko and Charlie Mariano to town for the first of their Monday night jazz sessions to replace the memorable Heublein shows. More than

twenty HJS members joined hundreds of jazz lovers who jammed the place to hear an HJS favorite, Toshiko, and her talented husband. It was a good feeling for everybody present -- especially John and Mike, who now have the confidence to bring the best of the nation's jazzmen to Hartford.

THE TOWN IS JUMPING. Cutty Cutshall's admirers heard him at the Hofbrau Sunday evening, March 21, and other jazzmen are booked for forthcoming Sunday afternoons and evenings...Gene Rodgers is at La Scala at Bishop's Corner, West Hartford, for a month... Merle Doucette and his trio are at the Camelot in West Hartford.

NEW MEMBERS: Donald Brown, Jerry Muller, John D. Carroll, Herb Wheeldon, Bernard LeWitt and Dave Waid (the last from, of all places, Milwaukee, Wisconsin).

GRATITUDE has been expressed to HJS by Mr. and Mrs. French (Sofia and Eddie), to whom HJS offered a floral token of sympathy following the tragic death of their eldest son: "Your kindness at this time is more deeply appreciated than any word of thanks could express -- The French Family."

CLOSER ASSOCIATION between HJS and Local 400, AFM will come from proposed meetings between the HJS Council and a committee of the Union to discuss certain plans.

RANDOM SHOTS: Mr. and Mrs. John J. MacKay recently returned from Hollywood, where they visited Dave, then completing an engagement in the Gourmet Room at Hotel Disneyland. (Dave and another Hartford musician, Emil Richards (Radoccio) see much of each other. Emil, vibrist, is engaged in studio work and is present in many Frank Sinatra records)...Jerry Gordon deserves praise for his recent broadcast tribute to Charlie Parker on the tenth anniversary of Bird's death, when he transmitted three hours of Parker music in a Sunday edition of his "Gordon and All that Jazz" from WINF. (The show is on Monday through Friday, 10:30-12 M, and Sundays, 8:30 - 12 M.)... In Waterbury, Cliff Gunn, Count Stedwell and Bob Coles may be heard at Lil's Cocktail Lounge, Grand Street...Norm Macklin, Chuck Uzanis and Joe Collins may be heard at Al's Music Bar, Albany Avenue... Recommended: "Tonight," by the Clark Terry - Bob Brookmeyer Quintet (Paul Schmanska); Bola Sete's "Tour de Force" (Ken Krupa); Cal Tjader's "Shades of Jade" (Ray Cassarino).

LUCY MARSTERS is to blame for this: A small girl-child inquired of her mother, "Mommy, what is fornication?" The mother asked, "Where did you ever hear such a word?" The little one's answer: "At the wedding reception, I heard one lady say to another, "Fornication like this, wouldn't you think they'd serve champagne?"