



# The Swinger

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EARL "FATHA" HINES was the sudden and unscheduled guest of the Society Sunday the 14th. The opportunity to bring The Great Man to Hartford arose suddenly (thanks to HJS friend, Oliver Jackson, the Fatha's drummer) and the Council seized it, even though it allowed only five days to notify members and insert a few newspaper ads. Those who attended won't forget the experience, for the Fatha, besides being a colossus of the keyboard, is a canny showman and an engaging personality. With him were Oliver, of course (who would have believed a drum solo would be music?); Budd Johnson, the old Grand Terrace tenor and soprano saxist; and Bill Pemberton, who uses (extremely well) an electrically amplified bass. A wonderful evening. If you are one of those who missed it, repress that urge to jump out of The Travelers Tower. Consider the guys who'd have to clean up the mess.

THE SEVENTH ANNUAL JAZZ CRUISE down the beautiful Connecticut to Long Island Sound is scheduled for Sunday, September 8th (the Sunday after Labor Day). Enclosed is a flyer giving some of the details. Note that Junior Mance has been signed as one of the bands. Much work is entailed in organizing this event, and HJS committees are hard at it. The success of the venture depends most of all, however, on the sale of tickets. In that, everybody can help -- should help -- must help. Look at it this way: If each member sells only four tickets, 490 cruisers will be aboard. Your assistance is urgently needed, so talk the cruise, sell the cruise. It has become, deservedly, one of the big events of the season in Greater Hartford. The headline the morning-after in "The Courant" last year said: "Jazz And Boating Combine For Perfect Afternoon." The story said: "Combine the people, the beauty of the river and two fine musical groups, and you're in for a Sunday afternoon and evening that will be hard to forget."

A BOOMING CRESCENDO was sounded by Illinois Jacquet's quartet to end the scheduled HJS '67-68 season. The group set a precedent: it got a standing ovation lasting several minutes. And deserved it. What happened is one of the joys of jazz -- the sight of audience and performers in happy rapport. Illinois is better than ever. Milt Buckner is a compulsive comedian as well as an excellent musician. Alan Dawson is one of the better young drummers to have shown up in recent years. Russell Jacquet, shy and unpretentious, fills in competently. Highlights: the old favorites, "Flying High," "Black Velvet," "Porto Rico," "Jumping at the Woodside," "Buckner's Boogie" and some almost incredible ballads on the bassoon by Illinois.

THE NEW HJS PRESIDENT, Curtis Gamble, was welcomed to his office by 32 members Friday evening, June 21 with a dinner at Manero's. A guest of the Society at the dinner was Columbia recording star, Roberta Peck, who afterward, in the cocktail lounge, treated members to her superior talent, accompanied by Spider Martin's Quartet.

AN INVITATION has been extended all HJS members by the Left Bank Jazz Society of Baltimore to attend its three-day festival, "Jazz Runs at Laurel." The dates are August 2-3-4 and the place will be the Laurel Race Track between Baltimore and Washington. Featured will be the bands of Woody Herman and Mel Lewis, Thad Jones, and groups headed by Thelonious Monk, Coleman Hawkins, Cannon Ball Adderly, Herbie Mann, Roy Eldridge, Joe Newman, Jimmy Smith, Freddie Hubbard and Art Farmer-Jimmy Heath. Admission to all HJS members is free, and a party has been arranged for HJS, Jazz Interactions of New York City, Philadelphia's Jazz at Home Club and other jazz groups. For info, call 242-6886.

THE CRT CONCERTS are presenting five-star talent. An example was the one featuring Clark Terry's Newport Festival Band (with Emery Smith's Quintet and Roberta Peck as vocalist), which comprised an almost incredible personnel, to wit: Zoot Sims, Jimmy Owens, Jimmy Cleveland, Bobby Donovan, Wayne Andre, Joe Benjamin, Russ Freeman, Lou Toboco, Frank Becker, et al. Few budgets could afford such names. (Incidentally, Channel 24 taped and telecast the entire two-hour show the Wednesday afterward.)

ITS CONTRIBUTIONS TO JAZZ deserve praise for Channel 24, the Educational TV station. On June 20th and 21st it broadcast the HJS-University of Hartford jazz worship service, "Bless You," with Rev. John G. Gensel and Howard McGhee's band. The second half of that evening's presentation, devoted to jazz classics by McGhee's band, was also taped by Channel 24 and will be televised in August or September... Meanwhile, the station is transmitting tapes of the summer concerts being produced by the Community Renewal Team (CRT). All may be heard at 9 PM, Wednesday: Donald Byrd Quintet and Spider Martin's Quartet (July 17), Freddie Hubbard's Jazz Communicators and Ray Cassarino's Octet (July 24), Horace Silver Quintet and Jimmy Argiro's Octet (July 31).

THERE'S AN EMPTY HANGER in the closet since you took the shirt off my back.  
(Old Refrain)