



The Swinger

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BOOKER ERVIN and his quartet will open the new HJS season this Sunday evening (September 15). An old favorite of the Society, this will be Booker's first appearance on the Nutmeg scene since his long sojourn abroad -- France, Spain and the Scandinavian countries. His last appearance before the Society was four years ago with the group he and Randy Weston organized for their historic tour of Africa. Leonard Feather has said of Booker: "Forceful and persuasive modern tenor." And Ira Gitler has said: "A rugged individualist with an honest, forthright approach that is basic, but explorative." So pamper yourself. Be at Terferes Hall, 159 Blue Hills Avenue at 8 o'clock, Sunday, September 15.

"RIVERBOAT JAZZ CRUISE MUSICAL MASTERPIECE" said the headline in "The Courant" the day after the 7th annual HJS river party. The weather, the music, the scenery, the people -- all combined to make it one of the best. The day-long music was provided by the great Junior Mance and his trio and Spider Martin's local quintet. Singers on board who contributed were Al Wilson, Kitty Kathryn and Bessye Proffitt. Noted guests who came for the ride were Frank Foster, Jerome Richardson and Gene Rodgers. The success of the cruise was the result of a great deal of work by a number of HJS members. The Society owes them many thanks, and they are entitled to congratulate one another. Special note is deserved by Morgan St. Germain of Station WCCC for his promotional activity and by Dick Taylor, who set up the amplifying system on board. Outstanding ticket salesmen were Art Fine, Curtis Gamble, Logan Garrett, Sammy Johnson, Al Mell, Howard Preason, Bessye Proffitt and Dick Taylor.

THE SECOND ANNUAL Conference of Eastern Jazz Societies is in the planning stage. Those who attended the first one (they comprised a busload from Hartford to New York City) would not miss another. It was one of the most memorable events of HJS history. Thus far concerned with the conference are Jazz Interactions of New York City, the Jazz at Home Club of Philadelphia, and your own Society. "The Swinger" will announce details of the forthcoming conference as they jell.

"DOWN BEAT" has become increasingly aware of HJS activities. The current issue describes the annual cruise and rehearses the Society's activities of the past year.

GENE RODGERS, an HJS favorite, is in town. He's playing at the Camelot, formerly Hugo's, on Farmington Avenue, West Hartford Center.

ON THE AIR: John Birchard's jazz show may be heard each Saturday evening 10 to 11 on Station WTIC (FM)...George Kirk's show may be heard every weekday evening from 7:30 to 8:30 on the University of Hartford station, WWUH (FM)...Channel 24, Educational Television, is transmitting the 1968 Monterey Festival concerts in its "NET Festival" series. (Watch the program listings in the papers).

IT HAD TO HAPPEN sooner or later. It will begin with the next meeting: Admission for members: \$1.50, an increase of 50 cents. As you may have suspected, such attractions as "Fatha" Hines, Illinois Jacquet's band, Frank Foster's, Jim Hall, Jaki Byard, Willie "The Lion" Smith and others who have played recently for the Society did not do so for nothing. Musicians must eat, too.

NEWS OF YOUSE: Little Joe and Robbie Stevenson now have a home of their own. The address is Sharon Street, which will ring with happy noise from Joe's LP's...Sammy Johnson, ex-prexy of HJS has been made manager of the body shop of Kemp Pontiac in Newington...Harry Lichtenbaum was reunited with an old friend when he vacationed at the Concord in the Catskills. The friend: Erskine Hawkins, whose band still plays "Tuxedo Junction," "Cherry" and "Bear Mash Blues"...The sympathy of Society members is offered Jan Appelof, whose father died early this month...HJS member Joan Mowery used to be -- guess what -- "The Champagne Lady" of the Lawrence Welk Orchestra...Engaged to be married: HJS members Pat Swiatek and Dan Thorstenson. (This outfit is beginning to resemble a matrimonial bureau.)

HORACE SILVER will be a feature of the annual Bristol Chrysanthemum Festival. On Friday evening, October 11 his quintet, along with the classical pianist, Samuel Dillworth-Leslie, will be heard at St. Paul's High School in Bristol.

WELCOME these new members: Gary Blanchard...Elisabeth Barnicot...William J. Callahan...Henry P. Carville...Alfred Cicero...Barry M. Cooper...Patricia Duff...Lyndon McFarlane...Douglas Larson...Frederick J. Nigri...Helen Parker...June and Randolph Poindexter...Roger W. Watkins...J. Roy and Maxine M. Williams.

"EASY RIDER, where'd you spend last night? Your shoes ain't buttoned and your pants a sight." (Old Refrain)