



The Swinger

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THE NEW YORK JAZZ QUARTET, the fervid foursome which during the first year of its existence has been warming the cockles of not only Manhattan, but throughout the east, will join HJS and appreciative friends on Monday evening, December 8th. The personnel (in case you don't already know) comprises Roland Hanna (no stranger to HJS, nor to jazz-piano buffs from Australia to Zealand); Frank Wess, late of the Basie band reed section (remember his "Flute Juice" and "Swingin' Shepherd Blues"?); Bassist Victor Gaskin and Drummer Sonny Brown, both winners of upper ratings in the "Dean Beat" coming stars poll of '75. With the quartet will be Blues Singer Mel Dancy, who is making waves in vocal waters. Again the date: Monday (not Sunday), December 8th. And the place, as usual: Tobacco Valley Inn, Windsor (Bloomfield Avenue exit, Route 305, off I-91).

HARTFORD TALENT was heard at its best at the first HJS meeting in November. (Details of the Cliff Jordan concert late in November will appear in your next "Swinger".) The talent was Paul Brown's Trio Plus Two, plus also sweet singer Laura Arbuckle. Together, they provided HJS a delightful evening. Paul was his usual inventive self on his bass; Curlee Glover struggled manfully with a bad piano (HJS now has one of its own); Mike Duquette gave rousing support at the batterie; Saxists Norman Gage and Gil Nelson complemented each other admirably. Memorable were compositions by members of the group, particularly Curlee Glover's "El Toro" and Gil Nelson's "Gil's Tune." Alto Saxist Norm Gage deserves a gold star.

THE DELIGHTFUL HOME of Anne and Jim Crawford on North Beacon Street was the scene of an informal get-together, get-acquainted party for HJS membership in mid-November. Members of the Board of Directors recited the Society's past and pictured its hoped-for future. Questions and answers flew, the punch flowed, Bozie Braithwaite entertained, and everybody was grateful to the Crawfords for their hospitality.

CRUMPLED NOTES from a back pocket: The Hartford Symphony begins its 1976 season with "Two Generations of Brubeck" as guests on January 24th (with the guests, it is hoped, eschewing the funny hats, burlesque pants and sweat shirts they affected during their HJS concert last March)... Back in 1952, Gene Rodgers, honorary HJS member, cut a Norman Granz record entitled, "Jazz Comes to the Astor," a copy of which is being offered in



a mail auction at a minimum bid of \$15.00. (Gene recently finished an engagement at the Corner House in Farmington, which is no Hotel Astor, but isn't a barrel-house either.)...Arnold Dean of WTIC will present the second of two broadcasts concerning Paul Whiteman, with interviews of the curators of the Whiteman collection at Williams College, at 9 PM, Monday, December 8th ...HJS, whose piano-playing guests have long been subjected to atrocious instruments, has bought a piano of its own, to be used only at HJS events... Huon Donaldson, a manager of the new Sheraton-Hartford, came to the USA from his London hometown, expecting every alleyway to ring with the sounds of the True & the Righteous, only to discover that there's less jazz in America than he heard overseas. (No hero, Huon, is a hero to his valet.)

MORE OF THE CRUMPLED: A killer of a concert is scheduled for Friday, December 12th at Springfield Symphony Hall, the attractions being Roland Kirk and the Vibration Society, with the McCoy Tyner Quintet. Tickets are available at the Belmont Record Shop, the University of Hartford and Integrity in Music in Wethersfield. (Promoters of the show, in deference to HJS, changed the date from December 8th so as not to conflict with the HJS New York Jazz Quartet of that night.)...Speaking of the Belmont Shop (this is no adv.) the place has the largest and best stock in the area of old & new, from Oliver, Moten, Armstrong to MJQ, Herman, Ellington, Ornette Coleman.)...Two new additions to the Jazz Library: "Chasin' the Trane," by J. C. Thomas, the "story of John Coltrane (a shallow, murky biography of that titan of tenor) and Ralph J. Gleason's "Celebrating the Duke, Louis, Bessie, Bird et al," (with new insights into the Duke, Louis and a better perception of Coltrane's music in seven pages than there is in the 252 pages of the Thomas book)...The S.S. Rotterdam sails for Bermuda and Nassau on a seven-day cruise with Woody Herman's band, Stan Getz' quintet, Sarah Vaughn and others on Saturday, December 13th (fares range from \$250 to \$380)...The Smithsonian Institute is producing excellent jazz collections, the latest being rarities by King Oliver, Louis, Eubie Blake and others. (The Smithsonian "Collection of Classic Jazz" album -- \$24.00 -- is the best anthology ever assembled.)

WELCOME these new members: John Blumenfeld...Mr. and Mrs. J. Albert Brocco...Jan French...Jonathan Gottlieb...Robert Impelluso...Richard L. Lanzano...Brian K. Pasco...Daniel T. Ricci...Carol Scavotto.

DUES ARE DUE. Unless dues are paid by January 1st, the discount allowed dues-paid members for admission to concerts must be revoked. Sorry, but that's the law.

"IF HE CAN STAND to leave me, I can stand to see him go." (Old Refrain)