

MOVIES AND AMUSEMENTS

LET'S SWING IT!



(Released by Western Newspaper Union.)

SAMUEL GOLDWYN has a sure-thing combination in **Bette Davis** and Director **William Wyler**, who've just done "The Little Foxes" for him. They were responsible for "Jezebel," which won the second Academy Award for Bette, though a lot of people thought she'd given better performances in other pictures. They also did "The Letter," a hit film.

Bette is working now in "The Man Who Came to Dinner," and likes it because it's legitimate comedy; the comedy she did with **James Cagney**, "The Bride Came C. O. D.," wasn't so much to her liking, because it was slapstick stuff.

And **RKO**, which releases "The Little Foxes," may have a sure thing on its hands in **Terry Frost**. He is the last of the three men who played "Killer Heels" in the stage version of "The Last Mile." Producer **Bert Gilroy** picked him for a part in Tim Holt's "Cyclone on Horseback," in which Frost will make his film debut after a wait of 11 years.

It's on again, off again with **John Garfield** and **Warner Brothers**. As previously reported here, he refused to do "New Orleans Blues," was suspended, and **Richard Whorf**, the very talented actor who appeared so often on the stage with **Lunt and Fontanne**, replaced him. Garfield was assigned to "Bridges Are Built at Night," and all seemed well. But it wasn't, and now he's been suspended again, and again who-



John Garfield

"One remembers the superb band that **Benny Goodman** had back in the year 1938. This band caused almost as much of a sensation as did Roosevelt's meeting with Mr. Churchill! One of the things that made the Goodman band what it was, was the excellent arranging of **Fletcher Henderson**. No one will doubt that statement. To me the arrangement of a song is all important. Therefore, from my way of looking, the arranger is the most important member of any swing band.

Not so long ago **Fletcher Henderson** went out on his own, organized a swing band, and began to write even better arrangements than those he had written for **Benny Goodman**. Just such an arrangement swings off of his latest Columbia release (38289).

"We Go Well Together" is the catchy tune. You might correctly say that the piece rocks. It does! You might also say that the arrangement is rigid, for it is. In this record one senses that the members of Henderson's band are getting a kick out of playing. This fact, I believe, helps to make the record a good one. **Helen Young** handles the clever lyrics skillfully, and **Fletcher** has a neat piano solo towards the end of the record. Reverse the record and you have "A Pixie From Dixie".

Interesting in a low-down-rhythm-sort-of-a-way. Henderson's record is the record of the week!

I asked genial **Max Sues**, proprietor of the popular record shop, what band sold the most records. Mr. Sues answered immediately with a definiteness that could not be mistaken: "Why, **Tommy Dorsey** is by far the favorite!" . . . With that thought in mind I listened to **T. Dorsey's** latest release, **Victor 27461**, or, "Kiss The Boys Goodbye" and, "I'll Never Let A Day Pass By." I preferred "Kiss The Boys Goodbye" (from Paramount picture of the same name). Why? Oh, I don't know exactly except that I kinda like the way **Connie Haines** sings, the way the band swings, and the catchiness of this tune.

Reverse the record and **Frank Sinatra** sings, "I'll Never, etc." and **Tommy Dorsey** earns his pictorial, "The Sentimental Gentleman of Swing". A danceable record. Record number 2 for the week.

Jimmie Lunceford (he's a Phi Beta Kappa incidentally) blares forth in "Siesta At The Fiesta" (Decca: DLA 2450). Entirely instrumental from the powerful drum break at the beginning to the climactic note at the end. Weir saxes, screaming trumpets, excellent arranging are in the record. This

Lunceford is GOOD!

Woody Herman on Decca 49311 comes through in his latest release, "Love Me A Little Little." Vocal by **Muriel Lane**. A good tune. An interesting arrangement topped by a powerful brass section. On the other side **Woody Herman** sings, "Prisoner of Love."

Notes at random: The other night I heard a new band, a **Stanley Clump (?)** from California. Listen for him! . . . Supposedly **Benny Goodman** is smashing all of the smashed records at the **Panther Room** . . . Thank you for your comments. I'd like more—many more . . . How would you like some band like **Glenn Miller**, **Jim** or **Tommy Dorsey**, or **Benny Goodman** to play nightly at **Moraine-on-the-Lake**? . . . Well, maybe, someday!

Red Skelton has already arrived at the top, if reports of what preview audiences thought of "Whistling in the Dark" are a prophesy. Seems he's going to give **Bob Hope** a run for **Hope's** laurels, and make all of us laugh our heads off while so doing.

W. N. S.

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It looks as if **September 15** would be **Oscar Welles** day in Hollywood. On that date he inaugurates his new variety broadcasts as star, producer, director and author with the **Mercury** players, and also starts the cameras grinding on his next **RKO** picture, "The Magnificent Ambersons." Between times he'll probably do card tricks; he's just mastered seven new ones.

A strict Sikh in religion, he is not at all narrow. Once in London he visited a Salvation Army station in the Limehouse district. "My faith," he said to the Salvationists, "is not yours. But truth is a jewel of many facets."

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