

Weekender Entertainment



'Emergency' at the Wellington

Tonight the Wellington will be presenting **The Emergency Band**. Also every Sunday is movie night featuring some of today's top movies and complimentary popcorn. This Sunday watch *Return of the Living Dead* and *White Nights*. Televised sports will be shown on the Wellington's 10-foot screen.

What's On

Donna Cox 294-2200



Deer Park Inn

Theatre in the Park (Deer Park Inn on Hwy 47 north of Stouffville) is presenting **Hits of the Blitz**, a musical review of World War II. It stars Vic Cummings, Peter Glen, Rummy Bishop, Deano Seward and Coralie Allan. Call 640-6060 for reservations. Dinner is at 6:30 p.m. and the show is at 8:30 p.m. The show runs every Thursday, Friday and Saturday evening with matinees on Wednesdays.

Following the show the House Band will be playing a selection of music from big bands to modern.

O'Toole's

Every Tuesday night is Team Nite. Wear your team sweater and receive a complimentary gift.

Footloose

Tonight is the Beach Pak Giveaway at Footloose (on Highway 7 in Markham). There will be two chances to win everything you need for the beach.

Tuesday night is Teams Sport Nite. Come in with your team wearing your jersey and win a prize.

Reservations are recommended for the weekends.

Dirty Bert's

Located in the lower level of Fernando's on Main St., Markham, Dirty Bert's is presenting **Lynk**, a Scorpions tribute band, Saturday night.

Fernando's

Fernando's is presenting **Live From the Big Apple**, a musical look at Broadway both the street and its theatres, for its summer run at the Main St. Markham restaurant. The show features the talent of Barbara Moore, Gerry Farrell, Rick Naylor and Robert Yeretch.

Shows are Friday and Saturday night. Dinner is from 7 to 9 p.m. and curtain time is 9:15 p.m. The price is \$22.95 per per-

son for dinner and show. For reservations call 294-6523.

Nag's Head

Tonight the Nag's Head will be presenting **Goddo**. There will be a \$4 cover charge. Also every Sunday night is **Teen Nite** at the Nag's Head from 7 to 9 p.m. It will feature contests and prizes.

Cotton Club

Every Monday through Saturday night listen to the **New Music by Meester** at the Cotton Club (on Highway 48, south of 14th Avenue).

Hobby Horse Arms

Tom Baker, the former musical director of the **Second City Revue**, will perform every Saturday night at the **Hobby Horse Arms** (on Main St., Uxbridge).

The piano soloist plays from a collection of pub songs and will also play requests. Showtime is

8:30 p.m. and there is no cover charge.

The Duchess of Markham

Every Sunday the Duchess will be featuring **Ken Newfield** and **Jane Harvey** in the Sunday night jam session. All amateurs are welcome. The Duchess is on Main St., Markham.

Fletcher's Restaurant

Tonight Fletcher's Restaurant in Ballantrae (Hwy 48 south of Aurora sideroad) will be featuring music by their D.J.

Ristorante

The Old Town Hall (on Main St. Markham) Italian restaurant will be featuring the guitar playing of **Pino**; Thursday through Saturday.

Brodie's

This Thursday through Sunday Brodie's (on Hwy 7, Union-

ville) will be featuring the music of **Jim Bell**. There is no cover.

Lindner's Dining

Tonight **James Rae** will be playing Lindner's (on Main St., Markham).

Melba's

Dine to the guitar sounds of **Paul Brooks** every Thursday through Saturday at Melba's on Washington St., Markham. Reservations are recommended.

Old Village

Tonight **Rick Washbrook** will be playing in the Village Pub of this Main St., Markham restaurant. Also watch televised sports on the Village Pub's big screen.

Tapps

Every night dance to some of today's top hits provided by **Tapps' D.J.** at this Finch and Tapscott Ave. restaurant.

Brougham Jamboree

Today and tomorrow the Brougham County Jamboree features over 20 Canadian country bands at Brougham (Hwy 7 east of Markham). Some of the performers included in the lineup are **Terry Sumsion**, **Myrna Lori** and **Jack Bailey**. There will be two stages with non-stop entertainment Saturday and Sunday.

Hits of the Blitz is entertaining

By **DON ATANASOFF**

The scene is set. Wartime London during World War II. Bombs are heard exploding in the streets. The faint wail of air-raid sirens is heard in the background. Britain is under attack.

A voice breaks the silence. It's the gravel-toned Prime Minister **Winston Churchill** telling a radio audience: "This is Britain's finest hour."

All of a sudden there are lights, applause, and the announcement: "The Canadian Armed Forces Network is on the air, featuring the **Hits of the Blitz**."

Hits of the Blitz is a long-running musical revue that has made the rounds of various dinner theatres in the Toronto area for many years now. Its current home, until the end of August, is the Theatre in the Park, at the Deer Park Inn in Stouffville.

While its theme is best suited for people over 50, who would recall the music, humor and kinship of the times, baby-boomers might also get a kick out of taking a peek at the times their parents endured.

While the show is far from perfect, it does have enough good moments, especially in the second half, to make it a fine evening of entertainment.

The setting is a wartime radio studio with the patrons at the theatre providing a live

audience. The cast includes **Peter Glen**, **Rummy Bishop**, **Deano Seward**, **Peggy Mahon** and **Vic Cummings**. However, Cummings is not available for the matinee performances and in his place is **Barry Nesbitt**.

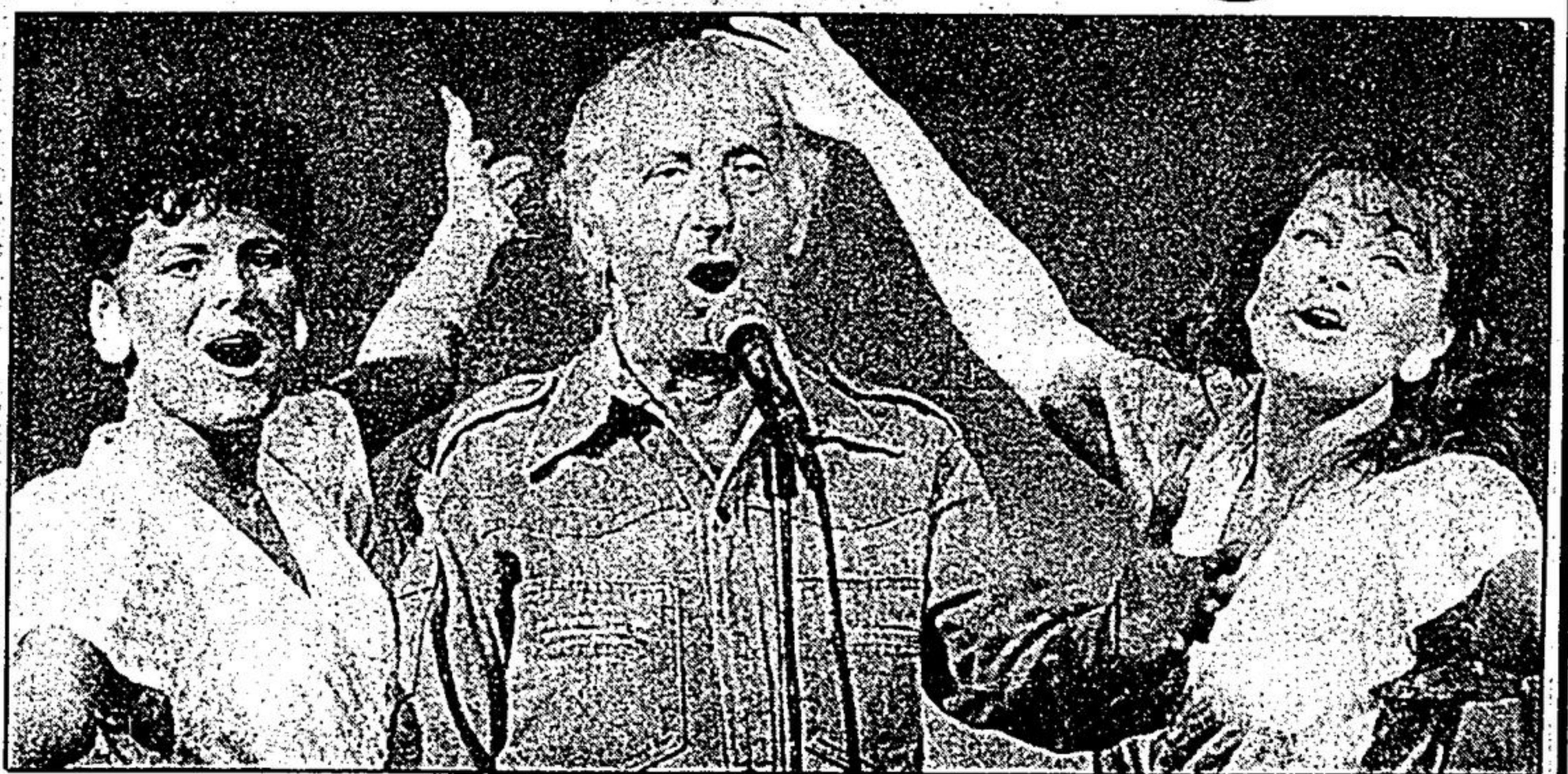
Nesbitt did the matinee performance witnessed by this reporter and unfortunately it was only his second time through the show.

While he made a few obvious mistakes, his work was adequate considering the fact he hasn't had time to rehearse. Nesbitt acts as the emcee, setting the stage for the various skits, monologues and musical numbers that make up the two-hour show.

The show can really be broken down into two main areas — the singing of **Glen**, **Seward** and **Mahon**, and the comedy of **Rummy Bishop**.

Glen has a magnificent voice, with a touch of brogue thrown in for good measure. A Scotsman, he lends an air of authenticity to this British-oriented production. He's at his best on numbers like *With A Song In My Heart*. On the singalong numbers such as *I've Got Six-Pence* he had many of the large crowd of seniors participating.

Late in the show, **Bishop** did a **Jimmy Durante** sequence that would have made the late entertainer proud. **Bishop**, in his own way, brought **Durante**



Deano Seward (left), **Rummy Bishop** and **Peggy Mahon** help recreate the atmosphere of wartime in the musical revue *Hits From the Blitz* currently

playing at Theatre in the Park at the Deer Park Inn in Stouffville.

— **Sjoerd Witteveen**

back to life with a brilliant rendition of *As Time Goes By*. He then concluded with a **Durante** trademark, "Goodnight Mrs. Callabash, wherever you are."

At times, especially in the opening act, the pace seems slow and could use some more energy. The singalong portion could also be expanded so that the audience could become more wrapped up in the show. The second act was much

stronger, perhaps because the songs were more easily recognizable. However, the ending is weak and does not build to any sort of crescendo. It starts and ends in too much of a hurry.

All in all, *Hits of the Blitz*, is a well-orchestrated two hours of entertainment. The adding of period commercials to the script like the old **Ted Davey** and **People's Credit Jewelers** jingles added to the time

frame the revue attempts to recreate.

Hits of the Blitz will be at the Theatre in the Park until the end of August. There are matinees every Wednesday and performances Friday and Saturday evenings. Prices including lunch and show are \$14.95 for the matinee and \$24.95 for a dinner and show on the weekends. Special group rates are available. For more information call 640-6060.