

## Pitt Bookers Are Organized

Form association to combat unethical practices—  
J. N. McGrath Jr. is pres.

PITTSBURGH, Aug. 1.—Making an earnest effort for the first time in several years to fight "curbstone booking" and other unethical practices injurious to the legitimate booker, leading agents here formed the Entertainment Managers' Association of Pittsburgh at an organization meeting held at the William Penn Hotel Thursday evening. Only registered or licensed bookers were invited to attend. Larry Kenneth acted as temporary chairman.

The following officers were elected: James N. McGrath Jr., president; Larry Kenneth, secretary-treasurer; Clair McLaughlin, of the Liberty Vaudeville Contracting Company, first vice-president; Steve Forrest, second vice-president, and Jack Bowman, Jack Dailey and Eleanor Savage, members of the executive board.

Eighteen bookers attended the opening meeting and enlisted in the organization. Five others notified their intentions of joining, but previous engagements kept them from attending.

The by-laws will be shaped at the next meeting set for August 13. Copies of by-laws in effect by the Philadelphia and Chicago bookers' organizations will be thoroughly studied.

Kenneth stated to *The Billboard* that the primary purpose of the newly formed organization is to fight "curbstone bookers" and shape legislation that will benefit the trade. An attempt will be made to file a bill with the legislative session in Harrisburg to permit girl entertainers 18 years of age or over to work in night spots after 9 p.m. The present child labor law prohibits late night working hours for girls under 21. Edward B. McDonough, director of the Child Labor Law office here, previously stated to *The Billboard* that the department will endeavor to co-operate with any organization demanding an amendment to the current age limit bill. He feels certain that such a measure will pass both the House and Senate.

Both the local and Philadelphia organizations will work hand in hand in shaping State-wide legislative measures to be filed in Harrisburg.

Another important topic soon to be tackled by the bookers' association will be the booker's license which, at present, is required of only those agents who do a fee-charging business. Leading agents here point out that no one is against the license provided the State can furnish the legitimate agent ample protection from the chiseling bookers.

## Saratoga Springs Resorts Catering to Race Crowds

ALBANY, N. Y., Aug. 1.—With the opening of the racing season at Saratoga Springs this week, the night spots are now in full swing for the season.

At Riley's Lake House an excellent program is offered by Cross and Dunn, Irene Beasley, Jeane Landis, David and Dorothy Fitzgibbons and Vimele in conjunction with Herb Gordon's Orchestra.

At Arrowhead Inn—Don Bestor and his orchestra and Neil Buckley, Sheila Barrett and Maurice and Cordoba are entertaining large crowds nightly.

Sophie Tucker and her Leonard Keller Orchestra, assisted by Ted Shapiro and featuring Peter Higgins and Taggart and Palmer, are the drawing cards at the Piping Rock resort.

A good bill is being presented at the Meadow Brook, with a star cast and the Meadow Brook Orchestra.

## Names for Arcadia, Philly

PHILADELPHIA, Aug. 1.—Arcadia International House, swank eatery-nitery spot, resumes its name-band policy August 3, with Larry Funk coming in for a limited engagement. Arcadia is the only local club that bought names and with the possibility of a cabaret-theater entering the night-life picture here policy will be continued this fall with a vengeance.

## Mills Artists' Bookings; Plan Three New Units

NEW YORK, Aug. 1.—Current bookings of Mills Artists find Cab Calloway and his orchestra booked solid until his opening September 15 at the new Cotton Club, on Broadway, New York. Dates, in addition to the Stanley and Apollo theaters, Pittsburgh and New York, call for a series of dance dates until a few days before the night spot opening.

Duke Ellington, who just recorded *Exposition Swing*, a new number he wrote for the Cleveland expo, leaves the Palace, Cleveland, for a dance tour that will bring him into Texas. Ina Ray Hutton will also play dance dates to Texas, opening at the Streets of Paris show August 4, swinging back on dance bookings to New York, where the band will take a two-week vacation. Hudson-De Lange Band is going big in New England and is back in that territory on another return booking. Bob Grayson opens August 17 at the Lookout House, Covington, Ky.

Mills is also planning to build about three units this fall for theater dates. One will be a comedy affair with the Frank and Milt Britton bands, another will be built around the Hutton Band and the third is tentatively set for Milton Berle, unless a picture date interferes.

## Walker Stages Show

NEW YORK, Aug. 1.—Harry Walker has spotted a complete show into the Broadway Room club here. Opened last week and has Roy Wood's Band, Peggy Rich, Irene Mauseth, Jeane Vickers, Mary Lee King, Betty Arnold, Jack Brown, Bobbie Barnett and a chorus line. Stan Bally staged the dances and Posamonde-Lorraine supplied the costumes.

# Night Club Reviews

## Empire Room, Chicago

Only the finest of floor shows would fit into the dignified atmosphere of this beautiful dining room of the Palmer House. Consistently good shows have been the rule here and the current bill is no exception. It sparkles with rich talent and variety to which is added the dance novelties of Ozzie Nelson's swell orchestra.

The show opened with the Abbott Girls, a divine dancing dozen, who did a routine that was acrobatic in nature to give the bill a good start. Senor Wincos, last seen here with Dave Apollon's unit, is a unique and clever artist who mixes his ventriloquy with the juggling and spinning of plates. His presentation is different and he got much comedy out of his dialog with the hand puppet. Drew nice applause.

Lathrop Brothers and Virginia Lee were next with their inimitable line of smart tap dancing. Coming out together they did a smooth routine to *Tea for Two* and then Virginia Lee did a solo tap. The boys returned with their distinctive tap strut and were rejoined by Virginia Lee for the closing number. The Lathrops, in this reviewer's estimation, are the tops when it comes to classy hoofing. Were a hit.

The Abbott Girls came back for another routine, this time a ballet in which they were assisted by Bentley Stone with aerial and one leg turns.

Milton Douglas, deep-voiced singer, just about stopped the show in this spot. Possessing a powerful and resonant baritone voice, he socked over *Great Day*, *These Foolish Things*, *Changing of the Guard* and *It Ain't Necessarily So* and left a sensational hit. He has what it takes.

The Abbotts did another sweet ensemble routine called the *Streamline Strut*, making their exit behind a prop streamline railroad train to heavy applause.

Rosita and Fontana closed. This new dance combination, which will improve when they have worked with each other longer, seem to lack a feeling for each other at present. They presented four numbers, a waltz, a tango and two fast numbers, and were well received, drawing one of the biggest rounds of applause of the evening.

Joy Hodges, last seen and heard here

## Stuff Smith's Charges Against Charles Green Dubbed "No Case"

Evidence is insufficient — AFM turns matter back to Local 802 without comment—action is interpreted as tantamount to decision favoring orchestra booker

NEW YORK, Aug. 1.—Charges filed by Stuff Smith, Negro orchestra leader, against Charles E. Green, president of Consolidated Radio Artists, failed to produce sufficient evidence against the manager to warrant a case, with the case returned this week by the American Federation of Musicians to Local 802. While the AFM, to which the local turned over the case, actually made no decision, the action of the national body in returning the case in this manner is interpreted in the trade as tantamount to a decision favoring Green. Local 802 no longer has jurisdiction in the case from the standpoint of making a decision, inasmuch as the matter has been handled by the AFM and for 802 to take further action would mean supplanting powers of the national group.

## New Associates For N. Carroll

NEW YORK, Aug. 1.—Norman Carroll, who recently combined with James Wittered to exchange European and American night-club talent, has made a tieup with Sara Mildred Strauss, who operates a dance school and girl troupe production office here, and with John Lonergan, who is associated with Miss Strauss.

The new combo is already casting the first of two vaude units to go out this fall, with girls being interviewed in the Strauss studios in the Ziegfeld Theater Building here. Carroll will supervise and Miss Strauss and Lonergan will stage dances for a musical comedy, *Oats*, by Samuel John Park, next season.

Wittered, with offices in Paris, will be the foreign rep for the new firm.

with Abe Lyman's Band, provides the singing with Nelson's Orchestra, and DeSoyos' Argentine Tango Band alternates on the tunes besides playing most of the revue music. *Morgan.*

## Arrowhead Inn, Cincinnati

When this popular night spot inaugurated its new season several months back with a crackerjack floor attraction it was generally believed that the management merely splurged for a gala opening and that the shows would soon slip down to average or below. However, such has not been the case. Whoever controls the Arrowhead's pursestrings is not shopping for price but for quality when he makes his flesh purchases, with the result that the Arrowhead patrons are getting the cream of the night club entertainment crop. The current layout is no exception. And the Arrowhead's quality floor attractions are reflected in the spot's healthy business. The popular and swanky club is drawing the town's best trade—the money crowd. Coupled with the club's smash entertainment and tasty surroundings to make the customers happy and content are good service and an excellent brand of cuisine. Drink prices are in line with the rest of the top-notch places hereabouts and the club's \$1.50 dinner can't be beat in these parts. There's no cover, but a small minimum charge prevails. The fact that Arrowhead Inn is a good 18 miles from downtown Cincinnati is no handicap; rather, it's an asset, if you get what we mean.

Cliff Winehill, emcee, an overwhelming favorite at this spot last season, when he remained 25 weeks, makes his return with this show and engineers the layout in his usual effective style. Winehill is an A-1 club worker. He totes good material and a strong set of pipes, which he uses to dispense some corking novelty numbers. His intimate style is such as to put him in solid with any night club crowd. He clicked swell on this occasion.

The Chicagoettes, eight well-drilled lookers, filled two spots with their dance efforts and were well received. Marian Weeks, sweet-voiced and comely prim, pulled a sound hand with a single novelty number, done while going thru the gyrations of a mechanical doll.

Collette and Barry, classy terpsichore team, opened with a novelty dance done to the tune of Duke Ellington's *Black and Tan Fantasy* and encored with a

(See NIGHT CLUB on page 75)

Smith's charges were, mainly, along two lines. His first allegation was that Green was taking too much commission. This was by virtue of a 10 per cent booking contract held by Consolidated, plus a 25 per cent managerial contract between Green and Smith personally. Green, it is claimed, showed in his rebuttal that this contract was negotiated at Smith's request; that it was similar to countless other managerial contracts, in the orchestra field and others, and that Green's 25 per cent didn't begin until Smith's income was double the maximum he acknowledged as his average earnings before coming to New York from Buffalo.

Smith also charged that money due him from CRA hadn't been delivered, but it is said that Green proved otherwise by giving all receipts and transaction records to the AFM. Another battle concerned a contract which Smith had to buy off. Leader alleged Green told him he could take the Onyx Club booking arranged by CRA despite a previous contract with a Buffalo night spot. Dates on the various agreements are believed to have shown that Smith signed this contract, after ticketed for the Onyx and without Green's knowledge.

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## AFA Wins Cafe Disputes

NEW YORK, Aug. 1.—American Federation of Actors reports its Chicago branch has just settled several disputes between performers and managers or agents in Chicago.

Jane Kennett had filed complaint, claiming she was booked into a Chicago cafe for six days and canceled after the first show. AFA had her report for work each day and induced the manager to pay her salary in full.

Another case involved Charles and Helen Stone, complaining against the Sligh-Salkin Agency of Chicago. Case settled after intervention of the AFA.

Ralph Whitehead, executive secretary of the AFA, is still in Chicago reorganizing the local AFA branch.

## Bernardi Showboat Set; Lands Upstate N. Y. Spots

NEW YORK, Aug. 1.—Bernard Bernardi has spotted a floor show into the Showboat "City of New York," which sails nightly from the Battery Park here. Opening show comprises Fred Dale, Ruth Templeton, Hawthorne and Whitney, Noel and Roda, Marion Kay, Pearl Roland, Teddy Ryan, Ethel Palmer, Polly McCann and Diane Holmes. Jack Raymond's Band handling the music. Boat sails to Keansburg, N. J.

Bernardi left today for Saratoga and Lake George, where he is opening two new spots for his shows.

## Two Shows for Panama

NEW YORK, Aug. 1.—Harry Walker has just sent two troupes to Panama. One is a 12-girl show going into the Moulin Rouge cabaret and the other a 10-person unit, headed by Frank Dobson, going into the Richman Club.