

AGVA Lists Rose Club Unfair

Road Company Not Affected

Billy Rose says AGVA does not represent majority of acts in Horseshoe Show

NEW YORK, July 29.—The embers smouldering under the Billy Rose Diamond Horseshoe-AGVA negotiations for the past few weeks burst into full flame when AGVA notified Rose that his spot had been declared unfair.

Rose countered with a long statement saying he would be "happy to sign a contract . . . if he (Shelvey) could prove that it (AGVA) represented the majority of people employed at the Horseshoe as chorus girls and entertainers." Matt Shelvey, national administrative AGVA head, said that principals and sub principals now at the Horseshoe are members.

Rose adds: "Mr. Shelvey admitted on several occasions that his organization would not improve either the salaries or working conditions of entertainers at the Horseshoe."

Shelvey replied that such a statement was meaningless, for under AGVA rules actors were guaranteed against pay cuts and received written agreements which prevented an op looking around for a gimmick to cut expenses and taking it out of performers' salaries.

Rehearsal Pay

"All performers at the Horseshoe are paid during rehearsals," says Rose. Shelvey's answer is that all Class "A" spots must pay rehearsal dough. First week acts rehearse for free. Next week they get a half week's salary and for the third week they are to get regular salary. Rose pays a half week's salary thruout rehearsal.

"Chorus girls get a minimum of \$45 a week and showgirls a minimum of \$55," says Rose. The AGVA minimum, according to Shelvey, is \$50 for the line and \$75 for showgirls. At the Copa, for example, says Shelvey, the line gets \$100. Rose counters that at Leon and Eddie's, "a similar operation as mine," the kids get \$37.50."

Principals at the Horseshoe get a minimum of \$90 a week as against \$75 AGVA minimum, says Rose. Principal minimums, according to Shelvey, are \$85 but there is no binding agreement that (See AGVA LISTS ROSE on page 27)

Rio Cabana Inks Shows for Fall

Lester, Tapps, Robinson, Chadwicks, De Casandros, Green signed

CHICAGO, July 29.—Chuck and Bert Jacobson, owners of the Rio Cabana here, set their shows for the remainder of the 1944 season. New line-up of name attractions, which have been inked in up to the holidays, will give the spot the most important billing it has had since its opening last January.

After the current bill starring Frank Fay and the third holdover of Danny O'Neil, first show set will feature Jerry Lester and the De Casandros. Immediately after, they are taking the outstanding acts of two former shows, George Tapps, dancer; Joan Merrill, songstress; Jackie Green, emcee, and the Chadwicks, ballroomers, and combined them into one big bill. After that comes Bill Robinson, who finished an extended engagement here two weeks ago. All shows have been booked in for a six-week period.

The big holiday show has practically been set but the Jacobsons have not as yet released names. The bookings of these acts gives the Rio the distinction of being the first club here to ink in shows five months in advance.

IN SHORT

New York:

MONTE PROSER having booked Frank Fay for the Copa is now on the Coast working on his flicker, *Copacabana*. . . . MYRUS, current at Cotillion Room, goes into the Copley Plaza, Boston, September 14 for a month's stay. . . . MARINA now at the Waldorf-Astoria joins Myrus at the Copley September 14. . . . JAN PICKENS starts at the Earle, Philly, August 4. . . . MILT BRITTON, Willie Howard and two more acts to join the Abe Lyman show to open Downtown, Detroit, August 11. . . . DUKE ART Clay Models set for USO hospital tour for six weeks, starting August 21. . . . GENEVIEVE NORRIS replaces Peggy Wright in *Circus Daze*, Ice Terrace, New Yorker.

JESSE KAYE is finally getting away for a week's vacation. Expects to chase a golf ball at the Wayne Country Club. . . . GRACIE BARRIE and Jackie Miles open at the La Martinique when place unshutters. . . . MATA HARI deal for December date at Latin Quarter on the fire. . . . SENOR WENCES set for the Roxy, either September 6 or 13. . . . ROSS SISTERS leave for the Coast to do an MGM pic. . . . EDDIE DAVIS (Leon & Eddie's) signed for Dave Wolper's *Have a Good Time*.

APUS AND ESTRALITA are ready to begin working after illness of Estralita. . . . VICTOR BORGE now at the Palmer House, Chicago, returns to the Waldorf-Astoria September 7. . . . BERLE IVES, current at Cafe Society Uptown, set for legit some time this fall.

BEN YOST Mimic Men go offshore about August 1. . . . BEN YOST Vikings set for Latin Quarter September 18. . . . GALENTE AND LEONARDA tested by 20th-Fox. . . . PHIL FARRELL now a full associate of Abby Greschler. . . . JOE JACOBS and Joe Bond are said to be out of the Harlequin management picture.

Chicago:

THE STADLERS are at the Walnut Room, Bismarck Hotel. . . . MARIE HOLLIS has joined the show at the Rio Cabana. . . . WILLARD GARNER, singer, skedded for the Grand Terrace. . . .

Ink October Sinatra Date N.Y. Para'mt

NEW YORK, July 29.—Frank Sinatra is due back at the Paramount sometime in October, tho a definite date has not been set. Right now theater is trying to work out the kind of flicker with which *The Voice* is willing to work.

Old deal made when Sinatra worked the Paramount last calls for the bobby sox fave to appear there before he takes any other theater dates.

AGVA May Ask Bonds From Clubs City Says Owe Taxes

NEW YORK, July 29.—Mayor LaGuardia's hunt for after-dark spots which he claims have held out on city taxes may not be the only problem to plague Stem ops. As a result of the investigation, AGVA has also decided to step into the picture.

Mat Shelvey, national director of AGVA, says his organization is primarily concerned with performers, and to see that they get their money. If spots have to get up the heavy sugar the city says they owe, then AGVA members may find themselves with contracts but no money in the till from which to pay them.

Right now, explained Shelvey, there

MARGO GOOD, songstress, has been inked for the 5100 Club.

JIMMY HUSSON, emcee, and Vicki Hart, singer, are current at the same spot. . . . GEORGE MOORE, dancer, has replaced Virginia Austin, puppeteer, at the Empire Room. . . . LEOLITA, dancer, currently at the Tavern Room, Bismarck Hotel. . . . BILLY ROSE'S new Diamond Horseshoe revue skedded for a two-week run at the Chicago Theater starting August 4. . . . JERRY LESTER inked in for an August engagement at the Rio Cabana.

Hollywood:

FIVE MORE TROUPERS were added to Purple Heart Circuit by Hollywood Victory Committee. . . . GEORGE MURPHY joins a USO unit for three weeks, beginning August 7. . . . SIGNE HASSO and Dorothy Ford opened July 28 at Ashford General Hospital, White Sulphur Springs, W. Va., ending their tour August 12 at Valley Forge General Hospital, Phoenixville, Pa. . . . MARION BELL and Maxine Fife started a tour at Burns General Hospital, Albuquerque, N. M., July 31, winding up August 18 at Beaumont General Hospital, El Paso, Tex.

SOPHIE TUCKER goes into Frank R. Brunl's second edition of *Varieties of '44* at the Florentine Gardens, opening July 30. . . . EL BRENDEL and wife, Flo Burt, did their old vaude act *The Breakaway Suit* in PRC's *I'm From Arkansas*. . . . THE FOUR LADY KILLERS (The Guardsmen) quartet, appearing at the Biltmore Bowl, started their bit in *The Corn Is Green* at Warner Brothers. . . . EARL CARROLL may do a pic for major release called *The Most Beautiful Girls in the World*. . . . THE THREE SWIFTS, jugglers, set for a specialty turn in the 20th-Fox film *Nob Hill*. . . . PRISCILLA WHITE, aerial acro, has also been signed for the film.

New show at Last Frontier, Las Vegas, Nev., includes JONNIE AND SONDRRA STEELE, song and piano duo. On July 30 they leave for Rio, where they open at the Copacabana. STEVE EVANS emcees the show at the Last Frontier, which (See IN SHORT on page 27)

Joy Hodges in 'Blind Date' For Detroit Theater Run

NEW YORK, July 29.—The alrer, *Blind Date*, goes into the Downtown, Detroit, for a week stand starting August 18, sans Arlene Francis.

Gal emcee prefers to stay close to New York in case anything breaks. Joy Hodges will take over for the Downtown run.

Hildegarde to Reopen Detroit Statler Sept. 11

DETROIT, July 29.—Date of reopening for the swanky Statler Hotel Terrace Room has been set for September 11. Spot is now undergoing major remodeling. Hildegarde has been booked as the opening name attraction.

are many contracts and commitments which run beyond the city deadline, July 31, the date by which taxes must be cleared up. It represents a sizable chunk of cash, and performers, says Shelvey, won't find themselves behind the eight ball if he has anything to do with it.

At present niteries hiring talent are required to put up a cash bond or a week's salary. In some cases where a club has proved its financial integrity such deposits may be waived. But now, with the city closing in with a pay-me-or-else attitude, many spots will have to re-demonstrate ability to pay or put up the dough.

Moss Sicks Law On Agent Sans N. Y. City Permit

NEW YORK, July 29.—The recent hunt by Commissioner Paul Moss for unlicensed ten percenters has already brought one fee splitter in court. Harry Cohen, 1630 Broadway, was held in General Sessions for operating without a city permit.

Trade is aware that an employment agency license is necessary to stay in business but many once indie agents now working for the large agencies feel that the office license covers them. While it is true that so long as they operate under the aegis of the office paper they are covered, there are several fee splitters connected with the large offices who sell acts under their own names. In such cases, the License department says, these agents work as individual contractors and have to get a city permit.

Occasionally bookers and even operators of spots make side deals with acts to sell them to other places. Such talent sellers, even tho not agents in the strict interpretation of the law, comes within its provisions. Any deal in which an unlicensed person is a party, is, according to the department, null and void. Where a suit is brought by an unlicensed agent for collection of commission or for an accounting, such agent will not only have no standing in court but the act need not pay anything and may even walk out on the agent. To make it still harder for the guy who operates without a paper, he can be thrown into the jug or fined a chunk of dough.

Beer Prices Cut by OPA

Rollback in two districts sets 19 cent price in Cleveland, 25 in Florida

WASHINGTON, July 29.—A new move that would hurt niteries was indicated by what seemed to be a national effort to lower the price of bottled beer sold in cabarets and restaurants. National OPA said such price rollbacks were decided by regional directors and did not necessarily indicate a nation-wide policy.

The Cleveland OPA office which controls a five-State region has projected regulations which would set the top price of bottled beer to 19 cents. Detroit Cabaret, Hotel and Restaurant Owners' Association are fighting the measure vigorously.

In Florida, the regional OPA is also mulling an edict setting bottled beer prices back to 25 cents.

So far, New York and New Jersey OPA officials have not followed suit but the trade fears that efforts to roll back prices in one area may be used as precedents in other areas or even bring about a national order to that effect.

Nitery ops point out that principal victims of such a price cut would be the performers. For even if acts are covered by contracts, a smaller house take would force management to either replace performers with cheaper talent or possibly eliminate it.

Low DuFour To Form Believe-It-Or-Not Units

NEW YORK, July 29.—Lew DuFour, outdoor showman who for the past three years has devoted his efforts to the road-show film field, is again joining the flesh ranks.

DuFour has secured a license from Robert Ripley (Believe-It-Or-Not) to take out two units to play vaude theaters thruout the country. Each unit will have from 12 to 14 people.