

... Although they get no disk billing, that's John Kirby's crack crew accompanying Una Mae Carlisle on Bluebird records . . . Duke Ellington's bass player, Jimmy Blanton, is resting in a California sanitarium after being stricken with a lung ailment . . . Benny Goodman is out playing an extensive theater and one-night tour. He returns to the Hotel New Yorker in the Fall. B. G.'s arranger, Eddie Sauter, has returned to the fold, following a long illness.

Something unique in the band business is the current "Battle of the Sexes" now amusing dancers across the country. Fletcher Henderson's band alternates on the bandstand with an all-girl swing outfit called "The International Sweethearts of Rhythm." For the last set, the thirty-five boys and girls merge for a torrid finale.

Mary Margaret McBride, the radio commentator, has turned songwriter, collaborating with Vic Mizzy and Irving Taylor on a tune called "America For Me."

Van Alexander, recently Les Hite's arranger, has started out with a band of his own again. Hite's new scorer is Walter Fuller.

Mark Warnow, Hit Parade conductor, has recorded eight of the most popular tunes in the history of that program and Victor will release them in an album.

Lightning Strikes Twice for Shep Fields

WHEN Shep Fields decided to scrap his commercially successful "rippling rhythm" style for a new experiment in a dance band without brass instruments, the reverberations could be heard from New York's Radio City to Chicago's Loop.

"Why throw away something profitable for a gamble?" asked one hard-headed friend of the bandleader.

"Who ever heard of a band with nine saxophones?" piped another, when Shep enthusiastically outlined his plans for a band that featured only woodwinds and reeds, without trombones and trumpets.

"Nobody will want to hear it," cautioned his agent.

But to all these pessimistic comments, Shep turned a deaf ear. Only his wife, Evelyn, agreed with him and urged her husband to take the risk.

"She was the only one to have implicit faith in my venture," Shep says. "Even I got scared when the third rehearsal of my new band seemed to fizzle. I suddenly realized I was tossing away something proved and certain for something the public might snub."

When Shep went home that night after the ragged rehearsal, his wife helped lift his spirits.

"Listen, honey," she said, "This is what you want to do. Keep it up. Don't let those Broadway wise boys scare you. If it means that we will lose all we have, we can always start all over again."

Today, Shep Fields' brass-less band is one year old and shaking off its growing pains. Its creator and conductor candidly admits that his income isn't as large as it was when he was blowing a straw into a bowl of water for a rippling rhythm

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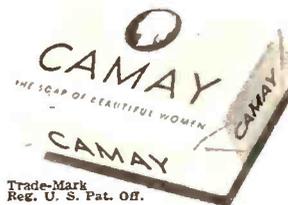


This lovely bride is Mrs. Angus G. Wynne, Jr., of Dallas, Texas, who says: "My complexion has a new lease on loveliness since I went on the Camay Mild-Soap Diet!"

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