STROLLING THE AVENUE

It was a lively, SRO crowd that witnessed the week-long run of the rollicking rock 'n roll show at the Royal Theatre featuring one of the high priestess' of the fad, Miss Ruth Brown.

There are those who are wild about rock 'n roll (also referred to as rhythm 'n blues), those who tolerate it and those who despise it, but rare is the soul who is not aware of its existence.

Among strollers of the avenue during the week, lovers of the uptempo blues out numbered all others two to one. And from last Friday to yesterday (Thursday) the getting sun not only brought the first stages of twilight, but also long lines of fans to the Royal Theatre.

The slam-bang delivery of Miss Brown rocked the rafters as she gave out with some of her oldies and some newer numbers such as "I'm Getting Right" and "Sweet Baby of Mine."

The last named number, this corner would wager, has enough of that certain something—a la Ruth Brown style—to shake the convictions of those who pretend to despise the rock 'n roll school of music.

* * *

ALSO APPEARING on the show (with Miss Brown (who changed the Miss to Mrs. when she got married here Wednesday) were the young singing-sensations, The Cadillacs and The Turbans; the shimmering Spence Twins; emcee Pat Taylor and Baltimore's Tracy McCleary and his Royal Men of Rhythm.

Have you noticed how the advent of daylight saving time has made the nights both shorter and livelier? If you take issue with this truism just visit some of the spots on the Avenue and eat crow.

Andy Ennis (whose big sister, Ethel, is going places) is still blowing up a storm over at the Red Fox Room.

Andy and his combo are a group of young men slated to go a long way. The music at the Red Fox is continuous, for when the Ennis group takes time out for something cool, Billy Foxx on the 88's carries on the entertainment in the cozy room.

In case you don't already know, we'd like to remind you that there will be a Declaration Day matinee at the Red Fox from 6 to 9 p.m. Declaration Day, remember, is Wednesday.

* * *

WHEN YOU visit Rick Cummings' Crossroads Bar (where Pennsylvania crosses Fulton), say "hi" to manager "Reds" Harris.

Alfonso Brown and his Tune Toppers are still entertaining on weekends at the Clover Club, Fayette and Wolfe Sts.

The beautiful room is open for special events and taking advantage of the atmosphere last week were the Eight Mellow Queens who held a cocktail party there.

The Emanons (no name spelled backward) are giving out with the cool sounds at Club Tijuana, Baltimore's answer to New York's Birdland.

The Sunday jam sessions start at 5 p.m. at Chick's Bar and Lounge, Baltimore and Green Sts. The attractions at this popular downtown spot are The Pace Setters and Lawson Vessels.

One of the few spots in the city currently featuring a floor show is (you guessed it) the Comedy Club.

Fellows, the best way to a girl's heart when you're out on a date is (you guessed it again) through her stomach.

But with prices the way they are there are certain problems to surmount.

However, if you don't want to be heartless you'll probably feel less pain by stopping at the Rice Inn, 1306 Pennsylvania Ave., or the Edmondson Cafe, 604 Poplar Grove.

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The Pace Setters
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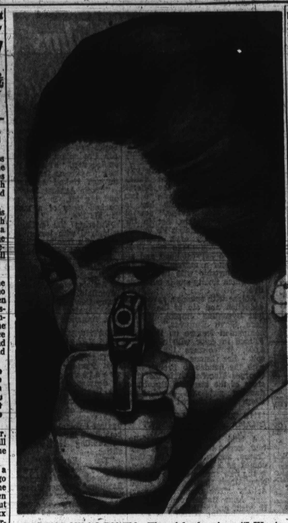

EARTHA KILLS ON TV—The girl who sings "I Want to Be Evil," finds her wish apparently coming true in her first straight acting part. Eartha Kitt shoots a man dead in the opening scenes of a television play, 'The Valiant,' broadcast in London May 15th. Here's Eartha looking suitable sinister.

Strictly Jazz

By MARIAN M. COLE

"I think jazz is destined for the concert platform," Pete Jolly, noted pianist, has been quoted as saying.

Let me ditto that statement, because I agree wholeheartedly.

* * *

OSIE JOHNSON, drummer-arranger, who has occasionally sung on stand for kicks, soon will be unveiled as a full scaled vocalist in an album consisting of 12 singing tracks by Osie.

The album, "A Bit of the Blues," has a few originals contributed by Osie. The others are the works of Manny Albam.

* * *

SARAH VAUGHAN'S "At the Blue Note" is a new LP. The Blue Note label has Miles Davis' Volumes one and two. Three of the new sounds—from Jazz Workshop Series are Al Cohn's "Four Brass One Tenor," "Hall Schaefer on Piano," and "Manny Albam on Piano."

"Adventure in Time," by the Sauter-Finegan Ork is also in the same package. Jackie and Roy are the singers on a new album called "The Glory of Love."

Herl Southern has this to say about Ted Heath's new album, "Malaguena," "It sounded like a marching band, then it sounded like Muzak, then it sounded like Stravinsky.

"I liked the part that sounded like Stravinsky, but there was no continuity and nothing happened, in spite of all the noise."

* * *

THE WOODY HERMAN Herd has signed a new drummer, Gus Gustrafson, from San Francisco. He will replace Will Bradley Jr. The addition of Gustrafson, who has been with Georgie Auld and Joe Burnett, will bring the total to five San Francisco musicians who are currently playing with the band.

I had the opportunity the other nite to drop in at Baltimore's showplace of jazz, Club Tijuana. On bandstand were the Emanons, whose very artistic way of delivering the sounds encouraged the thought that they might someday retire some of these limelight musicians.

The group consists of Claude Hubbard, piano; Donald Bailey, bass; Bobby Dardon, drums, and Earl Brown, vibes.

Among the tunes played were "Yesterday," "Opus De Funk," and "Round About Midnight." Some well wishes for Erroll Garner, who is convalescing after a serious auto accident. I sincerely hope that he will be back in formation soon.

* * *

THE NAME Lennie Tristano is back in the limelight. Lennie's recent LP on Atlantic is his first recording in some four years. In the interim, Lennie managed to polish up his piano-playing technique fashioning a new twist.

His use of multiple taping on several of the tracks has met with strong objections from other musicians. On his recordings, he has been accused of speeding up the piano tape to give a better effect.

In defense of several accusations, Lennie pointed out, "I am sure other people have done a lot more multi-tracking than I have. There's nothing at all wrong, for another example, in a pianist recording both parts of a two-piano classical work. Why is it wrong when I do it?"

In my opinion, with or without the effects of multi-tracking, Lennie is as good as most others who play the ivory.

* * *

THE LES BROWN band is missing trumpeter Rolf Ericson, who has left to lead a combo of American jazmen in a three-month tour of Europe. In the group are Cecil Payne, Duke Jordan, John Simmons, Kenny Clarke, and ex-Hampton vocalist, Ernestine Anderson.

After 10 years under a cloud of obscurity and oft-times self-inflicted hardship, Anita O'Day is finding herself back among the front runners. The indefinable quality in her voice that remains since she was with Krupa and Kenton, should be given the credit holds some qualities similar to Ella Fitzgerald, must be given the credit of being a true innovator in modern sounds. She has been a definite influence on such contemporaries as Sarah Vaughn, June Christy, and Cris Connors.

Check these incidental notes from Bop World, Philadelphia, which had suffered a dry season of concert jazz, received an avalanche of stage jazz recently. The Birdland road tour made its last stop in Philly.

Pianist-writer Billy Taylor has established Soundpost Music, a publishing firm, in partnership with music publisher Charles Hansen. Detroit jazz guitarist, Kenny Burrell, who has moved to NYC, recorded his first LP.

Kapp Records has signed singer-pianist Buddy Greco, who will record both singles and LP's. The Pete Candoli band with singer Vicky Lane have completed a new album for Sunset Records tentatively titled "His and Hers."

TRUMPETER KENNY DORHAM and his new group, the Jazz Prophets, have signed a one - year contract with ABC Paramount. Gene Krupa and Norman Granz have made plans for a recording program in which Krupa will cut a series of sessions for Granz' Clef and Verve.

That does it again for this week. I am on this same beat each week. I'll see you around. Write your comments and criticisms to Strictly Jazz, AFRO-AMERICAN Newspaper.

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DANA ANDREWS
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THEY'RE OFF — At the 80th running of the Preakness of Pimlico on Saturday where 29,774 saw Fabius ridden by Bill Hartack beat the favorite Needles to cop the $100,000 prize.

THE SONNETS DEBUT:

New singing group draws raves

"They're great . . . It looks like Baltimore will soon have another famous singing group . . . they will go far . . ."

These comments were heard Wednesday afternoon at the Club Casino when a young local quintet launched its professional career in the rhythm and blues field.

The group, to be known as the Sonnets, is comprised of five teen aged schoolboys: Maxwell Chapman Jr., Michael Monroe, Guy Bragg Jr., Gordon Koger and Billy Nixon.

Among the 50 persons in the gathering to bid them "bon voyage" were their parents, other members and friends of the families, several local disc jockeys and newspapermen.

* * *

FOLLOWING A SENDOFF dinner at which Mrs. Bernice Monroe, mother of one of the Sonnets, acted as hostess, the group performed. Heading their several selections was "Why Should We Break Up?"

This tune, backed by "Please Won't You Call Me," marked the Sonnets' debut on records last week.

The Herald label is reportedly interested in waxing other Sonnet efforts in the early future.

THE BOYS produce an unusual blend of voices.

According to Mrs. Monroe, who is also to serve as their personal manager, they developed an interest in singing professionally while making harmony during their moments of relaxation — at their various various homes and frequently while walking the street together.

Chapman is 17 years old and a junior at Douglass High School. He sings the lead. Maxwell lives with his parents at 1815 Division St.

Monroe, 18, a senior at City College, sings baritone and lives at 2267 Madison Ave.

Bragg sings the first tenor. A freshman at Morgan State College, he lives at 507 Cumberland St. Guy is 17.

* * *

THE SECOND tenor, Koger, also is 17. He lives at 2409 N. Eutaw. Gordon is a member of the June graduating class at Douglass.

Nixon, at 16, is the youngest of the group. Just the same his is the bass voice. A junior at Douglass, Billy lives at 2014 Division St.

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Inquiring Reporter

THE QUESTION

What is the thing you like most about visiting your favorite tavern or night spot? What is your pet peeve?

THE PLACE

Asked of people at Pennsylvania Ave. night spots, Tuesday.

THE ANSWERS

Mrs. Vivian Scott, beautician, 1820 Bentalou St.: "I enjoy meeting friends in a friendly atmosphere. My pet peeves are waitresses who are discourteous and proprietors who act as though they are doing you a favor when you come in their places."

MRS. PEAT MRS. SCOTT

Mrs. Inez Peay, beautician, 1918 Edmondson Ave.: "I like a place that's friendly. My pet peeve is discourteous waitresses."

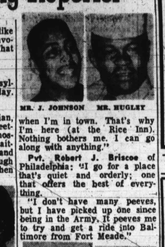
Mrs. Katrina Johnson, government clerk, 1520 Wheeler ave.: "I like to find a feeling of friendliness and congeniality. I dislike entering and leaving a place with the feeling that I'm still a stranger there."

MRS. JOHNSON MR. T. JOHNSON

Ted Johnson, printer, 1602 Ruxton Ave.: "The friendly atmosphere like I find here in the Sphinx Club. This is the only place I go. My pet peeve are barflies, and places where men have no respect for women and women have no respect for men."

Johnny Johnson, bus driver, 2322 Madison Ave.: "I like a place that has the modern jazz. Usually this club (Tijuana) is the only one that provides the music I like. I don't particularly like a place that does not feature modern music."

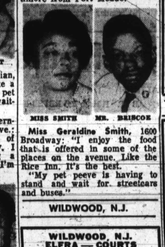
Pfc. Robert Hugley, 1527 Barclay St.: "I like a good meal when I'm in town. That's why I'm here (at the Rice Inn). Nothing bothers me. I can go along with anything."



MR. J. JOHNSON MR. HUGLEY

Pvt. Robert J. Briscoe of Philadelphia: "I go for a place that's quiet and orderly; one that offers the best of everything.

"I don't have many peeves, but I have picked up one since being in the Army. It peeves me to try and get a ride into Baltimore from Fort Meade."



MISS SMITH MR. BRIDGOR

Miss Geraldine Smith, 1605 Broadway: "I enjoy the food that is offered in some of the places on the avenue. Like the Rice Inn. It's the best.

"My pet peeve is having to stand and wait for streetcars and buses."

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