

The Listening Post

Jazz By Frenchmen On Radio Tonight

BY ROCKY CLARK (Swing Edition) From time to time, on our "Rock 'n' Rhythm" show over WNAB, we have featured imported jazz recordings to illustrate the spreading popularity of America's only original contribution to the musical arts in other parts of the world.

We first learned about Luter from Jack Teagarden during Big T's appearance at the Club Tip Toe after his return from the International Jazz Festival at Nice with Louis Armstrong's All Stars.

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Music Center 50 FAIRFIELD AVENUE Next To Mohican Mkt. COME IN TODAY!

about the other players in this band of young Frenchmen. Since then we've been anxiously awaiting an opportunity to hear this band. And so it was a big thrill when Bob Fargo came in last week with a couple of imported (Pacific label) recordings by the Luter aggregation. We were more enthusiastic than ever after playing them, and Bob agreed to loan them to us for tonight's broadcast.

The Luter band was written up in an American jazz magazine, The Jazzfinder, last month. And their story sounds a lot like that of Bob Wilber's Wildcats, the fine little band from Seaside High school which we had the pleasure of introducing to WNAB listeners in January, 1947.

Luter was only 18 years old in 1945 when he got together with a friend, trumpeter Pierre Merlin, and decided to form a band to play some of the stuff that thrilled them on historic American jazz records by Louis Armstrong, King Oliver and other all-time greats.

At length they assembled an enthusiastic group—Claude Rabanti, cornet; Mowgli Jospin, piano; Claude Philippe, banjo; Christian Vienot, trombone; and Michel Pacou, drums. Unable to buy jazz records because of the war, they made weekly visits to the home of Henri Bernard, noted French collector, to hear his records, learn the American style and work out simple arrangements as a foundation for their improvisations.

The band obtained jobs in various Parisian clubs, entertaining for American soldiers and other patrons. Admirers began demanding records by the band, but no commercial firms were functioning, so the fans took up a collection to finance eight sides—which records are now among the rarest collector's items in the world, for only 50 copies of each were issued.

In 1947, the band made its first sides for a big company—the French Swing label, The Pacific Sides, to be aired on WNAB tonight, are more recent. And now comes word that an American company, Circle Records, will issue an album of Luter records within the next few weeks.

Teagarden is not the only American jazzman who has heard and admired this band of French youngsters. Don Redman, Don Byas, Tyree Glenn and others who have been touring Europe have all stopped off in Paris to hear the Luter band and have come away astonished at what they heard.

Drummer Baby Dodds went so far as to say, upon hearing Luter, "That's my brother—Johnny Dodds." And the September issue of "The Record Changer," reviewing the band, says "Claude Luter's is the finest contemporary jazz band in the world."

CONDON ON TELEVISION Eddie Condon has arranged with television station WPIX to do a weekly jazz program from his Greenwich Village night club, Bob Sylvester, drama editor of the Daily News, will emcee the programs—tracing the history of jazz—with such musicians as George Brunis, "Wild Bill" Davison, Peanuts Hucko, Morey Feld, Jack Lesberg, Gene Schroeder, and guest jazzmen who happen to be in New York at the time. The programs are to be broadcast Tuesdays at 9:30 p. m.

RADIO PROGRAM: Note (*) indicates program is heard on WJZ and WELL.

Table of radio programs for Tuesday, August 31, 1948. 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