

TAILGATE RAMBLINGS

AUGUST 1981
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EDITOR: Don Farwell

CONTRIBUTING EDITORS:

Dick Baker
Vivienne Brownfield
Joe Godfrey

Harold Gray
Floyd Levin

POTOMAC RIVER JAZZ CLUB

President: Ken Kramer

TAILGATE RAMBLINGS is the monthly publication of the Potomac River Jazz Club. The Club stands for the preservation, encouragement, and advancement of traditional jazz, i.e., jazz from 1900 to 1930 in the New Orleans, Chicago, and Dixieland styles, including their various revivals, as well as blues and ragtime. We welcome contributions from our readers.

THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER

That famed blues singer, Leadbelly, had a song titled "Long Hot Summer Days." That's more than a little like our times this summer, and with not enough live traditional jazz around to alleviate our climate. There are only a few gigs, some fluttering, some doing very well. The day when you could pick and choose almost any time for live jazz is not with us now. The answer is simple--not enough of us rise up, get out, and go to the spots where our bands are playing. Club owners, as kindly as they may be, are at heart not philanthropists and art patrons with no rewards on the cash register tapes. The places which have traditional jazz are attractive, the prices modest, the beer cold, and the music hot. Let us gather, brethren.

PRJC and the National Press Club gathered at our first Sunday matinee recently. The attendance was promising and both clubs benefitted. The band was that band for all seasons, the versatile Who's Who. Joe Shepherd, leader and trumpet, has made this group of high-level talented local musicians into a band that plays a broad spectrum of highly enjoyable jazz. They play crisp and driving authentic Dixieland. They sound like 12 musicians on big-band material. Ballads, fun numbers (no funny hats), and some modern numbers make up their wide-ranging repertoire. Besides Joe, the others are Bob Thulman on clarinet; Steve Welch, trombone; Mort Langstaff, piano; John Wood, string bass; Charlie LaBarbera, guitar and banjo; and Gil Brown, drums. PRJC is discussing future joint events with the Press Club. More news on this in the fall.

We have worked out a reciprocal admission program with the New Jersey Jazz Society. We can attend their events at their member price, and vice versa. We welcome similar arrangements with other

clubs, and we would like to hear from you if your club is interested.

We heard Bob Wilber in Annapolis in mid-July. As long as Bob is with us the future of Jazz is in good hands. Accompanied by five highly talented young musicians, Bob gave us a great evening devoted to the music and times of the immortal Sidney Bechet. Bob is the world's finest soprano sax man, a student of jazz, and a perfectionist in carrying on the legacy of his early mentor, Bechet. His King Oliver and Benny Goodman sextet recreations at the Smithsonian early in the spring and the event at the King of France Tavern in Annapolis were high spots in jazz for me this past year.

And now on to the August Special on the 22nd, with two good local bands, and the Picnic on the 12th of September with 16 winners. Then on to the North Carolina Jazz Festival in Wilmington, N.C., on the 18th of September (details elsewhere in this issue). Summer is gonna end sometime, right?



LOCAL BAND SPECIAL AUGUST 22

The PRJC's second gala local-band special of 1981 is just around the corner. It's set for Saturday, August 22, in the Potomac Room of the Twin Bridges Marriott at the south end of the 14th Street bridge in Arlington. Time is 9 pm to 1 am and the price is \$5 for members and \$7 for nonmembers.

This event is the first official Club social activity since the sold-out boatripe June 27, so all you live-jazz-starved folks come on over.

You'll be treated to two bands of very different nature, both of them veteran organizations that have distinct followings. A good mix promises to occur when Ed Fishel's Band From Tin Pan Alley and Wild Bill Whelan's Dixie Six alternate sets.

The Fishel aggregation prides itself on an enormous repertoire that includes many Dixieland tunes as well as pop tunes played as jazz or swing, depending on the mood of the audience and the occasion. The band likes to be flexible. Ed, a past PRJC president, formed Tin Pan Alley back in 1974 as a reorganized version of his Randolph Street Gang. One of the mainstays in the early Tin Pan Alley days was the many-talented, late Scotty Lawrence, who served as co-leader and helped develop much of the vast repertoire.

Whelan, of course, is a local musical legend, having produced a Dixie Six in one form or another over the past three decades. (Perhaps some of you heard his reminiscences with long-time playing buddy Country Thomas on Jazz Band Ball not long ago.) Wild Bill is known for his fiery cornet, pure Dixieland, showmanship, and penchant for using the best musicians available.

For this gig Tin Pan Alley will feature two trumpets--Bruce Weaver and Joe Lazzaro, with Jack Gurin on trombone and Frank Guldseth on clarinet. The rhythm will include Ed, of course, on piano; Micki Jo Young on bass; and probably Fraser Battey on drums. Look for vocals from both Dick Tubbs and Shirley Fogleman.

The Dixie Six front line will be shared by Whelan; Mason "Country" Thomas on clarinet; and Art Poncheri on trombone ("Wait till you hear this cat," Bill says). Rhythmwise you'll hear the one and only Van Perry on bass, Al Stevens on piano, and John Roulet on drums.

Dancers should have a ball. See you there.
Gary Wilkinson

JAZZ PICNIC SHAPING UP

The PRJC Jazz Picnic will be a long-running affair this year. It will begin at noon September 12, and each band will play a 40-minute set. (The 30-minute sets of past picnics didn't give some of the bands time to get properly warmed up--kazoos are slow starters.) At the end there will be a jam session if anyone is still around. This probably will take the picnic past midnight. The outside limit is 2 am, since we have to vacate Blob's Park by then. So bring a sleeping bag with you.

As of July 15 eight bands had indicated they would play at this year's picnic. Feast your eyes on this roster:

Bay City Seven
Brandywine Revival Jazz Band
Buck Creek Jazz Band
Federal Jazz Commission
Picayune Cabaret Band
Rosebud Ragtime Ensemble
Storyville Seven
Sunshine Skiffle Band

At least as many more bands will be added to the field by post time. Once again the picnic will be a bargain--\$6 for members, \$9 for nonmembers. For

that pittance you get nonstop jazz, all the beer or soft drinks you can handle, and a good dose of the September sunshine that unfailingly falls on the Club's biggest bash of the year.

SECOND ANNUAL NC JAZZ FESTIVAL

The Second Annual North Carolina Jazz Festival will be held Friday through Sunday, September 18-20, at the Wilmington Hilton in Wilmington, NC.

The format will be similar to last year's festival, which was close to a sellout. Patronships are now on sale, and information on prices and availability can be had by writing to North Carolina Jazz Festival, Inc., 1924 South 16th St., Wilmington, NC 28401.

Featured at the festival will be Ernie Carson's Capital City Jazz Band, with Charlie Borneman and Kim Cusack. Other jazz greats who will be playing include Billy Butterfield, trumpet; Kenny Davern, clarinet and soprano sax; Peanuts Hucko, clarinet; Flip Phillips, tenor sax; Ed Hubble, trombone; Dick Hyman, Dick Wellstood, and Art Hodes, piano; Milt Hinton and George Duvivier, bass; Bobby Rosengarden and Don DeMichael, drums; and Carrie Smith, vocals.

JAZZ BAND BALL - AUGUST 1981

WPFW - 89.3 FM 6:30-8:00 PM

August 2 - Host Johnson McRee
Pee Wee Erwin

A memorial program dedicated to the life and music of the late jazz trumpeter Pee Wee Erwin, who died June 20, 1981.

August 9 - Host Harold Bates
Three Cheers for the Small Labels

A program designed to illustrate the invaluable contribution made to the availability of good traditional jazz recordings by the smaller record companies.

August 16 - Host Roy Hostetter
In Concert

A sampling of famous and obscure recordings made at jazz concerts in this country and Europe.

August 23 - Host Nat Kinnear
Humphrey Lyttleton
Britain's foremost traditional jazz trumpeter and leader, "Humph" was also a talented cartoonist, writer, and broadcaster.

August 30 - Host Dave Robinson
Honky-Tonk Piano
Its father was ragtime; its mother was Tin Pan Alley pop. Dave will take an objective look at this fad of the '50s.

GIANT IN MORE WAYS THAN ONE

Fats Waller, Vol. 25 in Time-Life Giants of Jazz Series, Alexandria, Va., 1981. Three 12-inch records. Biographical material by David Thomson; notes on the musical selections by the editors of Time-Life Records. \$22.95 plus shipping and handling (\$2.00 extra for 8-track cartridges or tape cassettes).

Fats Waller packed more living into his scant 39 years than most people who live to be twice his age. So it is fitting that Time-Life has managed to present him in satisfying measure--both his life and his music--through a thoughtfully prepared biographical sketch and 45 carefully selected tunes (of his several hundred recordings) on three LPs that make up this edition of the Giants of Jazz series.

This is a splendid compendium and does justice to the man, no mean undertaking. The booklet itself is worth much of the admission price. David Thomson's 30-page treatment of Waller's life is a skillful, colorful blend packed with exceptional insight, delightful anecdotes, and several pages of rare and entertaining photos. No less able are the editors of Time-Life Records, who in their 24 pages describe the particulars surrounding each recording session as well as what happens musically.

Ah, but the music itself! The sound is good--live yet intimate, warm, balanced. The tunes are organized to show three major Waller dimensions illustrating his tremendous musicianship and vitality--solos, small groups, and larger bands. The tunes unfold chronologically, yet there is variety from one to the next.

They start Waller out at age 18 with a straightforward blues, then move him to a date with Fletcher Henderson's band four years later where he generates the stride power and right-hand swing (dig his solo) that earmarked him as a superior band pianist.

His appeal to other major jazz leaders in fact shows on these sides, where he underpins and inspires such diverse talent as the Louisiana Sugar Babes (Jabbo, Bushel, etc.), and the bands of Ted Lewis, Jack Teagarden, the Rhythmakers (Red Allen, Pee Wee, Pops Foster, Zutty, etc.), Victor's jam session with Berigan, T. Dorsey, etc.), and Eddie Condon.

From Henderson they move him to pipe organ, where he solos on St. Louis Blues and accompanies (at age 23) Alberta Hunter on Beale Street. The series includes seven exceptional piano solos, including my favorite (Viper's Drag) and Fats's own favorite (Handful of Keys).

Also along the way you get Minor Drag and Harlem Fuss by Fats and His Buddies and 22 other "informal" gems by Fats and His Rhythm, most of the latter familiar tunes closely identified with Waller and a few not so well known. Yacht Club Swing, for instance, is a treat for the uninitiated.

Yes, of course he sings frequently with the small groups--sometimes spoofing (Your Feet's Too Big), sometimes affectionate (Sweet and Slow), but always interesting, full of impish mischief and good humor.

Like many others I wish he had been permitted to concentrate more on his remarkable (some say peerless) abilities at the keyboard and less on showmanship; but still he has left us with a strong enough legacy, most apparent from the mix on these sides. It's nice to have so much Waller in one package.

You'll soon be able to get this and other sets from the Giants of Jazz series through the PRJC record sales program. For now it's available by mail from Time-Life Records, 541 North Fairbanks Court, Chicago, Ill. 60611.

Gary Wilkinson

PEE WEE ERWIN, 5/30/13--6/20/81

Pee Wee Erwin, the Gentleman of Jazz, died June 20, 1981. The following notes are reprinted by permission from the St. Louis Jazz Club's publication, "Jazz on the River."

George "Pee Wee" Erwin, one of the world's most acclaimed jazz trumpet players, was born May 30, 1913, in Falls City, Nebraska, and began playing trumpet at age 4, often appearing in his father's dance orchestra. In 1921, at age 8, he was featured with the Coon-Sanders Nighthawks from the Muehlebach Hotel on Kansas City radio station WDAF.

In 1931, Pee Wee went to New York to join the Joe Haymes band, a band which contained such future stars as Johnny Mince, Joe Harris, Dick Clark, Mike Doty, and Gene Krupa.

Erwin joined the Isham Jones band in 1933. By 1934, he was back in New York doing studio work and appearing with Freddie Martin. He made his first recording with Benny Goodman that year, and in 1935 became a member of Goodman's new band for the NBC "Let's Dance" program. During this same period, Pee Wee also worked in New York for Ray Noble, the famous British band leader.

In 1936, Pee Wee joined the Goodman Band tour, to become part of the glorious success of the Swing Era. He worked with Goodman during the filming of the hit movie "The Big Broadcast" and the band's ever-to-be-remembered engagement at the Palomar Ballroom in Los Angeles.

Erwin joined the Tommy Dorsey band in 1937 to fill the solo spot just vacated by Bunny Berigan. During his three years with Dorsey, Pee Wee appeared on those great TD records, most notably the Clambake Seven classics. He left Dorsey in 1939 for studio work in New York and a year with the Raymond Scott Quintet.

In 1946, he formed an experimental group with several "creative" musicians and a vocal group headed by Dave Lambert. Somewhat disillusioned by the modern trend, he organized a Dixieland band in 1950 for a lengthy stay at Nick's in Greenwich Village, and since that time his reputation has become international.

Pee Wee's jazz bands, over the years, have made many outstanding albums on many labels and he has been heard as a featured soloist on countless recordings. He regularly appeared at American and European jazz festivals, and was heard in just about all of the more prominent East Coast clubs featuring the traditional jazz forms. In addition to his playing, Erwin was a member of the faculty at Fairleigh-Dickinson University in New Jersey, and was the author of two highly respected instruction books for trumpet.



Come to the PRJC
LOCAL BAND GALA

★ ★ ★

TWO BAND SPECIAL

Featuring . . . **WILD BILL WHELAN'S
DIXIE SIX**

ED FISHEL'S
BAND FROM TIN PAN ALLEY

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Time: SATURDAY, AUGUST 22, 1981
9 P.M. - 1 A.M.

Place: Potomac Room
Twin Bridges Marriott
South End, 14th Street Bridge
Arlington, Virginia

Admission: Members \$5.00 Non-Members \$7.00
(No Reserved Seats)

— REFRESHMENTS — CASH BAR —

For late information on this and other area jazz activities
Call 532-TRAD

THE POTOMAC RIVER JAZZ CLUB

24-hour PRJC Hotline
703-532-TRAD

All That Jazz

Events Editor
Joe Godfrey
829-4664

AUGUST 1981

AUGUST PRJC SPECIAL: WILD BILL WHELAN'S DIXIE SIX and ED FISHEL'S BAND FROM TIN PAN ALLEY.
Saturday, August 22, 9 p.m.-1 a.m. Potomac Room, Marriott Twin Bridges Hotel, Arlington.

WEEKLY GIGS

Thursday through Saturday: GREG HARRISON'S TRIO, Tiber Creek Pub, Bellevue Hotel, 15 E St., N.W., D.C., 8 p.m. (Thursday), 9 p.m. (Friday and Saturday).

Thursday: FALSTAFF FIVE PLUS TWO, Perry's Ordinary, Cross Keys Inn, 5100 Falls Road, Baltimore.

Friday: JAZZ LTD., Puff's Restaurant, 2916 Chain Bridge Road (Oakton Center), Oakton.

SOUTHERN COMFORT, Shakey's Pizza Parlor, 1471 Rockville Pike, Rockville.

NOW & AGAIN

Sunday, Aug. 2 & 16: SULTANS OF SWING (STevi BANKS, vocals), Springfield Hilton, Loisdale Road, Springfield, 8-11 p.m.

Sunday, Aug. 9: BUCK CREEK JAZZ BAND, Springfield Hilton, Loisdale Road, Springfield, 8-11 p.m.

Thursday through Sunday, Aug. 13-16: EARL "FATHA" HINES, King of France Tavern, Maryland Inn, Church Circle, Annapolis.

Tuesday through Sunday, Aug. 18-23: EARL "FATHA" HINES, Blues Alley, 1073 Wisconsin Ave., N.W. (rear), D.C.

Tuesday through Thursday, Aug. 18-20: RICK HENDERSON BIG ORCHESTRA in Tribute to Duke Ellington, the Ellipse, 15th & E Sts., N.W., D.C.

CATS ON THE KEYS

Sunday: TERRY HARTZELL, ragtime, Il Porto Ristorante, 121 King St., Alexandria.

Monday through Saturday: JOHNNY MADDOX, ragtime, Il Porto, 121 King St., Alexandria.

Monday through Saturday: DARYL OTT, rags, jazz, vocals, Fish Market (back room), 105 King St., Alexandria.

Monday through Saturday: JOHN EATON, jazz, Lounge, Fairfax Hotel, 2100 Massachusetts Ave., N.W., D.C.

Friday & Saturday: BILL OSBORNE, jazz, Sitting Duck Pub, Evans Farm Inn, 1619 Chain Bridge Road, McLean.

DOWN THE ROAD A PIECE

Friday, Aug. 7: TEX WYNDHAM'S RED LION JAZZ BAND, Green Room, Hotel Dupont, Wilmington, DE (reservations suggested).

Friday, Aug. 7 & 14: TARNISHED SIX, Hiway Pub, State College, PA.

Friday and Saturday, Aug. 21-22: BRANDYWINE REVIVAL JAZZ BAND, Ground Round, Philly Pike, Wilmington, DE.

JAM SESSIONS

SHY: George Gales (345-3113).

OPEN: Wednesday, 8 p.m., Peabody Book and Beer Stube, 913 No. Charles St., Baltimore.

BAND LEADERS/MANAGERS PLEASE NOTE: Keep news of your gigs and gig changes coming! Send your notices to Joe Godfrey, P.O. Box 14117, Washington, D.C. 20044.

PRJC MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION
(please print)

NAME _____ SPOUSE'S NAME _____

STREET ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____ TELEPHONE (opt.) _____

MUSICIAN? _____ WHAT INSTRUMENTS? _____

CURRENTLY MEMBER OF BAND? _____ CARE TO JOIN ONE? _____

DESCRIBE YOUR JAZZ INTERESTS BRIEFLY (styles, artists you prefer & why) (optional)

PRJC dues are \$10 per year, prorated as follows:

Those joining	Jan.-Mar.	pay \$10.00	through	end	of	year
"	"	Apr.-June	"	7.50	"	"
"	"	July-Sept.	"	5.00	"	"
"	"	Oct.-Dec.	"	10.00	"	" following year

Send application and check payable to PRJC to:

Evelyn Franklin, Membership Secretary
13108 Superior Street
Rockville, MD 20853

Don Farwell, Editor
Tailgate Ramblings
3220 Connecticut Ave., NW #511
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