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A Name History of Jazz, vol. VII, no. 5

Thacker Cole

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by thacker Cole

— Program Introduction —

Welcome!! Jazz Fans

On this, the Seventh year of the Odessa Jazz Party, the Board of Directors and I welcome you to JAZZ - 73.

The continued support by the same fans of Jazz who return year after year to this outstanding presentation, assures us of its continued success. As a tribute to your unwavering devotion to the only truly American contribution to music, we dedicate this series to you, the TRUE JAZZ FAN!

With the most sincere desire to seat each of you in the front row, we request your indulgence to the extent that you forgive us, for we know not what else to do, when your requests far exceed the availability of "front and center" seating.

We hope you will find it possible to thoroughly relax and enjoy this week of history-making Jazz. As I have frequently stated, there are few, if any, places where one is privileged to see and hear, as a group, the many world-renowned Jazz musicians that we have brought together here.

In conclusion, as requested so many, many times in the past, PLEASE - BUT PLEASE "stifle" your conversation and reserve your remarks, critical or praise, until the music stops. Remember, your neighbor may want to hear every note, although the musicians may not be playing one of your favorite thernes.

At tucky

FLIP PHILLIPS. In the world of jazz, Flip Phillips is considered to be one of the top tenor sax men of all time. Noted for his hard-driving jazz and swing, he displays amazing versatility and plays a ballad with a sensitivity and feeling that few tenor men achieve. Flip has played with the top bands of the jazz era including Russ Morgan, Red Norvo, Woody Herman, Benny Goodman, and jazz at the Philharmonic in addition to playing and recording with his own groups. He was one of the major sparks in the Woody Herman Herd and most of the saxophone solos in that first and unequaled Herd were his. Recognition of his musicial ability is evidenced by the fact that for ten consecutive years he was the recipient of the Downbeat Award in the tenor sax field.





CLARK TERRY is one of the great contemporary individualists in jazz, as a trumpet — and flugelhorn — player. After a stint in the Navy, he joined the George Hudson band and it was while he was with this group that he received the personal commendation of Louis Armstrong. But it was after he joined Count Basie in 1948 that his name first became widely known. In November 1951, Terry became a member of Duke Ellington's orchestra, where he was a featured soloist for eight years. Late in 1959, he went to Europe with Quincy Jones to play and act in the Harold Arlen show, "Free and Easy", and a year later joined the NBC staff as a featured member of Skitch Henderson's orchestra. He is still seen on the "Tonight" Show with Doc Severinsen's group. In New York, he is one of the musicians most in demand, and besides the many albums made under his own name, he records frequently with all kinds of artists and with bands of all sizes.



STAN WRIGHTSMAN, Piano. Like so many jazz musicians, Stan began his professional career in the Mississippi Delta area, Gulfport, then on to New Orleans. He then traveled with bands in Texas, Louisiana and Oklahoma before migrating to Chicago, where he joined Ben Pollock. Following that, he settled in Los Angeles where he made numerous Dixieland recordings with the combos of Bob Crosby, Wingy Manone, Matty Matlock, Eddie Miller, Paul Weston, Johnny Mercer, Pete Fountain and the Rampart Street Paraders.



WILLIAM "WILD BILL" DAVISON, Cornet. His reputation as a jazzman spans four decades. From the 1920's, when he was the leading spirit of the Chicago jazz gangs, through the 40's and 50's where he brought his inimitable cornet style to New York (twelve years at Eddie Condons) and during the 60's when his European expeditions prompted considerable critical acclaim. In Germany, they call him affectionately, "Wild Wilhelm".

Like his music, which can be blue and sentimental or brash and bold, he has two sides: the exuberant, gumchewing extrovert on the band stand and the man at home, building model boats, painting furniture and collecting antiques.

Bill will reminisce about the years at Condons where "It was like New Years Eve every night". The musicians were all top professionals and responded to the enthusiastic audiences with the greatest renditions of Dixieland and Chicago jazz ever heard in public.

Many of the older aficionados of jazz will recall the old Columbia LP on which, among others, Bill plays "Mandy Make Up Your Mind", "A Ghost of a Chance", "Blue Again" and best of all, "When Your Lover Has Gone".

PEE WEE ERWIN - Trumpet - Pee Wee began playing in his father's dance band at the age of 4. He was featured on radio for the first time with the famous Coon-Saunders Nighthawks from the Muehlebach Hotel over Kansas City radio station WDAF, when he was eight years old. During his high school years, he was a regular member of the band at the Kansas City Athletic Club. Here he was exposed to the talents of King Oliver and Benny Moten and they probably influenced his style more than any other musicians.

He was a featured soloist with the bands of Joe Haymes, Isham Jones and Freddie Martin during the thirties. After two years with Benny Goodman (where he replaced Bunny Berigan) he joined Tommy Dorsey and became one of the original members of the "Clambake Seven". In 1950, he formed his own Dixieland band and is renowned as one of the few "outside" bands ever to play an extended engagement on Bourbon St. in New Orleans.

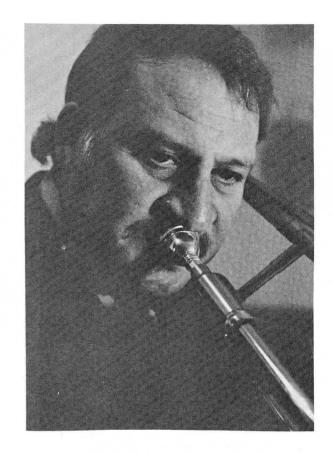
He continues to conduct his Dixieland band and free lances as a trumpet soloist for various recording dates. He has appeared at Gibson's Jazz Parties and was acclaimed by many as the star of the 1972 Show.





PETER APPLEYARD - Vibes - He is a native of England who now resides in Canada. He began his musical career on piano but switched to drums as a professional. He initially played with British bands, spent two years in the RAF, and then to the Princess Hotel in Bermuda for several years, playing drums. He moved to Canada in 1951, took up vibraphone and played with several groups in the Toronto area. Later, forming his own quartet, he traveled extensively in the US, especially to the East Side Clubs in New York City. He has recently concluded a tour of Australia. ' Herb is a younger brother of the late, great clarinet Edmond Hall who, many will recall, made several appearances in Odessa.

CARL FONTANA, trombone. This "youngster", born in Monroe, Louisiana, studied under his father, Callie Fontana, a saxophonist, and played in his band. Carl later played with Woody Herman, Lionel Hampton, Hal McIntyre, Stan Kenton and Kai Winding. In 1953 he tied as "The New Star of the Year" in Down Beat Critic's poll. He is currently living and playing in Las Vegas and first appeared in Odessa at the 1969 jazz party, where he has been an outstanding crowd pleaser ever since!





RAY LEATHERWOOD - Bass - Ray is another Texas musician — Itasca. After his 'education' as a member of the SMU Mustang Band, he entered the professional ranks with the bands of Joe Venuti, Ben Pollack, Les Brown, Muggsy Spanier, Jack Teagarden, Bob Crosby to name a few. He accompanied Julie London on her first recording success, ''Cry Me a River'', He now resides in the Los Angeles area, where he free lances, playing and recording with numerous swing and jazz stars who have settled in southern California. Ray played the first Odessa Jazz Party in 1967.



PEANUTS HUCKO, Clarinet, Christened Michael Andrew when he was born in Syracuse, N.Y. Peanuts played with the big bands of Will Bradley and Charlie Spivak, among others, before World War II. During the war he joined the Glen Miller band. After the war he played with Benny Goodman briefly for a tour of the Orient for the State Dept. and with Ray Mc-Kinley for a year. For three years he headed an all star group at Eddie Condons, during which time he made television appearances, recording dates and various jazz festivals, including the famous Newport "Clam-

In the mid-50's, he free-lanced, touring Europe with Jack Teagarden and with the Louis Armstrong Combo. Then he introduced jazz at his own club, the famous Navarre Restaurant in Denver during the 60's.

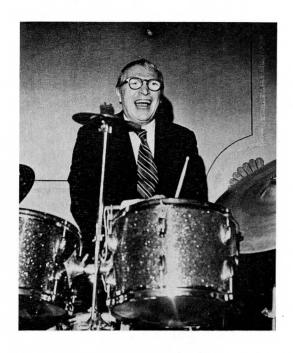
Peanuts now resides in Shermon Oaks, California, where the Chamber of Commerce has chosen him "Ambassador of Good Will."

He has been a regular at the Odessa Jazz Party where his wide ranging styles, from the familiar and beautiful, low register "Closer Walk with Thee" to the fast, biting, soaring high notes of "Stealing Apples" are instant crowd pleasers.

JOHN BEST, trumpet. He began his career playing in college bands in his home state at Duke and Davidson Universities North Carolina, Johnny played with Les Brown, Charlie Barnet, Artie Shaw and Glen Miller before the war and with Artie Shaw and Sam Donahue in the Navy during the war. After the "conflict" he played with Goodman, Bob Crosby, Jerry Gray and Billy May. John now lives in California, where he freelances, playing in various combos at clubs in the San Diego-Los Angeles areas. He also makes regular trips to Hollywood to join the Billy May band which is recording the Time-Life Big Band series.

He worked a part of the "Big Band Cavalcade", in 1972, with Bob Crosby, Frankie Carle, Freddy Martin and Margaret Whiting. When he isn't picking avacados in his orchards, he organizes and manages frequent jazz concerts in the San Diego area.





CLIFF LEEMAN, drums. Beginning with Artie Shaw, both Dorseys, Woody Herman, and Bobby Hackett, this man's reputation as a jazz drummer has continued to burgeon. Along with 4-years at Condon's in the Village, Leeman has logged many recording dates with the Lawson-Haggart Band and Bob Crosby's Bobcats. Cliff made the Japan Exposition and last year appeared at George Weins Jazz Festival.

SKEETS HERFURT, Tenor & Alto Sax, Clarinet. Skeets obtained his musical education in Colorado at Denver University and the University of Colorado. He was "discovered" by Glenn Miller while playing with a group of fellow college students at the fashionable Broadmoor Country Club. Glenn introduced the boys to Tommy Dorsey in New York. Skeets became a featured performer with the fabulous Dorsey organization for many years.

Taking a rest and settling in California, Skeets enjoyed a new career in radio and motion pictures. As a part owner of the great Alvino Ray Band, he made a personal triumph with such great hits as "Idaho" and "Deep in the Heart of Texas". He replaced Eddie Miller in the Bob Crosby 'Bobcats'' and made several tours through the U.S., Mexico and Canada. He accompanied the Ray Conniff band in a concert tour of Europe and was featured in a Dixieland trio with Ray and John Best. He is currently living in the Lake Tahoe area, where he plays with Brian Farnon's orchestra at Harrah's Club. He makes regular side trips to Hollywood to record with the Billy May group which is making the monumental 14 volume Time-Life Big Band Series.





JACK LESBERG - Bass - Jack's career as a bass man began when a bassist in a speak-easy band failed to show and Jack was handed the bass and asked to fill in. He started as a violinist, the youngest of a talented family of professional violinists.

His arrival on the New York musical scene was immediately appreciated for his classical approach in regard to intonation, precision and control, and a rich full-bodied distinctive sound. From 1947 to 1950, he played the first stand for the New York City Center Symphony under the direction of Leonard Bernstein. After symphony concerts, he would rush to Condon's and take over after the first set, frequently, with Bernstein in the audience. His classical experience includes appearances with Arturo Toscannini, Jascha Heifitz, Isaac Stern and Donald Vorhees.

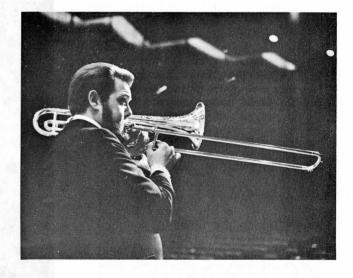
He played with Louis Armstrong's combos on many occasions, including foreign tours, movies and on many of Louis' outstanding recordings; "Blueberry Hill" and "Lucky Old Sun" to name a couple. As the most widely recorded string bassist, he was an accompanist on many famous albums: to his credits are some of Tony Bennett's, (including the original "San Francisco''), Ella Fitzgerald, Frank Sinatra, Pearl Bailey, Billy Holiday and John Lennon. He considers the Town Hall Concert of Billy Holiday and Tony Bennett's Carnegie Hall Concert as rewarding high lights of his career. He played with Benny Goodman, both as a member of his sextet as well as the big band. He made an extensive tour of Europe, in 1957, with Jack Teagarden and Earl 'Fatha' Hines.

Jack now lives in Sydney, Australia where he plays in concert with the Sydney Symphony, has his own jazz quartet which tours the Continent and manages international jazz tours appearing in Australia.



ED HUBBLE - Trombone - His first music teacher was his father, "Doc" Hubble, a professional trombonist. He began playing jazz at Jimmy Ryans at the age of 16. He worked with such renowned musicians as Hot Lips Page, Fats Waller, Eddie Condon, Wild Bill Davison, Ruby Braff and others. After a road stint with Billy Moxted he married and settled in Ft. Lauderdale. Here he had his own group under the management of Addie Teagarden (and gave trombone lessons to Joe T., Jack's son). He worked two seasons on the Jackie Gleason show with Phil Napoleon's Memphis Five. After a tour with the Dukes of Dixieland he took up residence in New Jersey; here he played at the Ferry Boat in Brielle with a jazz group where he performed and recorded some of his best jazz. He joined the Worlds Greatest Jazz Band in 1971 for two years but has recently returned to Florida working with Billy Butterfield.

ASHLEY ALEXANDER, JR., Trombone. By far the youngest performer at the Jazz Party, he is a product of the famous Jazz Education Section of the North Texas State University's School of .Music. After winning numerous superior ratings in state and regional competition both on trumpet and trombone in high school, he has continued his musical education at the college level and is currently a candidate for a PhD in music education. In addition to his formal studies, he has played with the Tulsa Symphony Orchestra, conducted the NTSU 1:00 Lab Band in National competition at rhe Illinois Jazz Festival. He has played with Ralph Martari, Tex Beneke, Stan Kenton and Billy May. He is is a staff musician for recording studios in Tulsa, Dallas and Ft. Worth. He currently leads his own aggregation, Ashley Alexander's Dixieland Band. He is at present Assistant Professor of Music at the University of Northern Iowa.





TEDDY WILSON was born in Austin, Texas. During the '30's he played with Louis Armstrong, Erskine Tate, Jimmie Noone. and Benny Carter.

He made national news when he recorded with Benny Goodman & Gene Krupa in July, 1935 and went on tour as part of the world-famous "Benny Goodman Trio". He made concert performances in Scandinavia and England in the early '50's and served on the Juilliard faculty, in addition to private teaching. Wilson's style achieved a neat, quietly swinging symmetry that was revolutionary in piano jazz and has influenced countless musicians.

Teddy continues to travel extensively throughout the USA as well as abroad; always receiving the highest praise for his inimitable piano stylings as he plays the old standards of the jazz and swing eras. He lives in New York City where he fills lengthy club dates, most recently at the Playboy Club.

JOHNNY MINCE - Clarinet - Johnny started professionally with the Joe Haymes band. He replaced Jimmy Dorsey for a spell in the Dorsey Brothers orchestra, then to Ray Nobles band for two years; to Bob Crosby's Bobcats, then four years with Tommy Dorsey. During World War II, he toured around the world with Irving Berlin's "This is the Army" show. Following the war he spent twenty years with the Arthur Godfrey Show then a brief period with Louis Armstrong. Like so many others appearing at the Odessa Jazz Party, Johnny lives in southern California where he free lances and plays many dates with his musical contemporaries.



