Who said big bands are dead? it certainly wasn't this man

Dig that music on the Hi-Fi, son.

That's not rock and roll and it's not the strings of Mantovani.

That son, is big band music by Maynard Ferguson, the young and talented man from the land of the big snow who leads one of the best outfits on the current musical scene.

Maynard brings his 12 men into town on Saturday p.m. for a concert at Ford's Theatre and this, son, will be the first time such an attraction has been booked for the hallowed walls that usually echo the vocal emotings of thespians (that's actors, son).

Back in the 30s and early 40s, as we oldsters recall it, son, big bands grew like grapes in a vineyard and they were popular, yes sir, they were really popular.

Lanceford, Ellington, James, Goodman, Miller, Shaw, these were the bands we danced to and sometimes romanced to.

Along came World War II and when the smoke cleared from the air the big band business was shot to you know what, but good.

* * *

THE SINGERS took over and then came the grisly era of the rock and roll yellers with their unremoved adenoids and out of tune voices that drove teenagers mad and their parents even madder, though not in the same direction.

Things got so bad, son, that the only big bands of any merit could be counted on the fingers of one hand, with several fingers left over like for closing up your ears.

* * *

KENTON, ELLINGTON, Basie and after that, son, nothing except Guy Lombardo.

In 1950, after stints with Jimmy Dorsey, Boyd Raeburn and Charlie Barnet, the young man from Canada and the hero of our story, Maynard Ferguson, joined the Kenton group.

For two years he toiled with Stan and his "innovations" in jazz and not so jazz. In '52 he left Kenton for the lure of movie studio work in Hollywood.

In September 1956, he put together his own outfit, moved into the high temple of progressive jazz, New York's Birdland, and has been on the go, go, go ever since.

The job of getting the band launched was not a major problem, possibly because Maynard had already garnered a whole flock of laurels as a bright new trumpet star.

"I'd like to give you a dramatic story of how tough it was and how I starved, but we started the band and we've been swinging ever since," is the way Maynard puts it.

* * *

SOFT SPOKEN but intense, Maynard has definite ideas on a number of subjects, many of them outside the realm of music.

On the subject of integration, he doesn't preach, he does.

"When I audition a guy, the guy that plays the book, the best, the guy that sounds the best, is the guy for the chair.

"That's the way it should be in all bands and I hope the success we have had will be a way of helping other bands to be a little braver."

Since folks south of the border, Mason Dixon border that is, love jazz too, it's only natural that the Ferguson group has played in that section of the country.

But South or North, Maynard isn't tooting a toot unless the audience is unsegregated.

"We have already played Atlanta and El Paso and in both instances the audiences were as they were supposed to be, integrated," says the outspoken Mr. Ferguson.

"I think jazz has done an awful lot in that direction (of integration)," he adds as a footnote.

Maynard speaks with the authority of the need for musicians and the audience to establish a "compatability" as he asks the rather rhetorical question:

"How can they be compatable if they're segregated?"

Maynard's band is integrated but if you ask him the number of colored men therein, he has to stop and try to count them, and this takes some doing—to him, all he has in his band are musicians.

* * *

ONE OF the handsome young man's pet peeves seems to be the number of current bands which go under the name of some dead musician.

He gives for instance, the bands that use the names of the late Glenn Miller, and the Dorsey brothers, Tommy and Jimmy.

"They're playing (the current models) the same way the original leaders played when they made their names."

Maynard believes that had the band leaders lived they would have modified their original styles to take notice of the current trend toward progressive jazz, rather than to cling slavishly to the style of the 40s.

He blames the agents who book the bands for this "stagnation" and believes that if the young musicians were allowed to develop along their own lines, the health of the big band business would be much better.

* * *

A GREAT deal of Maynard's work is done at college persons and here he finds that he is making an increasing number of converts for modern jazz.

"Sophisticated rock and rollers" who have outgrown the monotonous beat of rock and roll, is the way that Maynard describes, with affection, the youngsters who hear his music and like it.

After the youngsters find his music easy to dance by, Maynard usually treats them to a short version of a jazz concert, featuring several choice items from his concert repertoire.

Likely to be featured, and rightfully so, is Maynard, who can hit notes higher than anyone else in the business, except perhaps Cat Anderson.

* * *

DESPITE THE prophets of gloom who say that the big band will never again be popular, Maynard has no doubts on this score.

He sees them coming back, not in their original forms, but **with progressive ideas that embrace the best of the modern jazz innovations.**

Maynard will be showing what he's talking about Saturday at Ford's and we'll bet, and give you odds, son, that the showing will be well worth seeing.

JAMES D. WILLIAMS

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BE SURE TO VISIT OUR SNACK BAR
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DENNY MILLER and JOANNA BARNES in
"TARZAN, THE APE MAN"
PLUS
"GUNMEN FROM LAREDO"
WEDNESDAY, THURSDAY FEBRUARY 17-18
MICKEY ROONEY in
"BABY FACE NELSON"
AND
"TOP GUN"
FRIDAY, SATURDAY FEBRUARY 19-20
JOHN BRYANT in
"I'LL GIVE MY LIFE"
PLUS
"THE LAST BLITZKREIG"

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OPEN 12:30 DAILY
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HARRY BELAFONTE in
"Odds Against Tomorrow"
ALSO
DENNY MILLER in
"TARZAN THE APE MAN"
WED.-THURS. FEB. 17-18
JOHN SAXON in
"CRY TOUGH"
ALSO
VINCE EDWARDS in
"SCAVENGERS"
FRI.-SAT. FEB. 19-20
"TEENAGERS FROM OUTERSPACE"
ALSO
PETER CUSHING in
"HORROR OF DRACULA"

COLUMBIA THEATRE
WASHINGTON BLVD.
At Fremont MU. 5-3771
OPEN 12:30 DAILY
SUN.-MON.-TUES. FEB. 14-15-16
DEAN MARTIN in
"CAREER"
ALSO
DENNY MILLER in
"TARZAN THE APE MAN"
WED.-THURS. FEB. 17-18
JOHN DEREK in
"THE ADVENTURES OF HAJJI BABBA"
ALSO
RANDOLPH SCOTT in
"MAN IN THE SADDLE"
FRI.-SAT. FEB. 19-20
RICHARD BURTON in
"LOOK BACK IN ANGER"
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RUSS TAMBLYN in
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ALBERT DEKKER in
"MACHETE"
SUN.-MON.-TUES.-WED., FEB.-14-17
DEAN MARTIN in
"CAREER"
ALSO
JEFF CHANDLER in
"THE JAYHAWKERS"
STARTS THURS. FEB. 18
"THE GOLDEN AGE OF COMEDY"
"HOPPITY GOES TO TOWN"

APOLLO
HARFORD & CENTRAL AVE.
Today and Sat. Feb. 12-13
Jeff Chandler in
"THE JAYHAWKERS"
—2nd Big Hit—
Dean Martin in
"CAREER"
Sun.-Mon.-Tues. Feb. 14-15-16
METRO-GOLDWYN-MAYER presents
TARZAN THE APE MAN
TECHNICOLOR
—2nd Big Hit—
"Jet Over The Atlantic"

CAPITOL
BALTIMORE & CHARLES STS.
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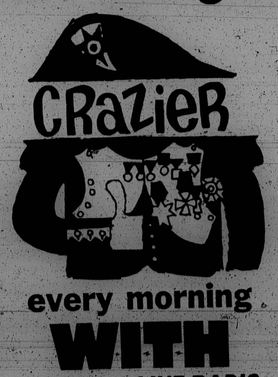
Jeff Chandler in
"THE JAYHAWKERS"
—2nd Big Hit—
Dean Martin in
"CAREER"
Sun.-Mon.-Tues. Feb. 14-15-16
TARZAN THE APE MAN
TECHNICOLOR
2nd Big Hit
"Guns of Fort Petticoat"

Jack Gale gets



every morning
WITH
DIAL 123 LIVE RADIO

Althea on TV's 'About Faces' Fri.

NEW YORK — Tennis star Althea Gibson will be Ben Alexander's special guest on "About Faces" Friday, 11:30 p.m., EST.

She replaces former actress Colleen Townsend, previously announced for that date.

Miss Gibson will recall a glittering highlight of her amateur career — receiving the Wimbledon Championship Trophy from Britain's Queen Elizabeth II.

Now a professional, Miss Gibson plays exhibition matches between halves of basketball games played by the touring Harlem Globetrotters.

THE MR. AND MRS. — Away from the trumpet that he blows so well, this is the picture presented by young band leader Maynard Ferguson as he discusses his favorite subject, music. By his side, per usual, is his wife, Flo. Maynard and his fine group will play a concert at Ford's Theatre tomorrow (Saturday). Tickets are still available.

COMING EVENTS

FEB. 12
GOP Lincoln Day Dinner at Lord Baltimore Hotel with former Governor Theodore McKeldin as toastmaster, 7 p.m. James Fansteen, dinner chairman.

FEB. 13
Bargains galore today on Pennsylvania Ave. in the 1500 to 1800 blocks as the Pennsylvania Ave. Lafayette Market Association stages its annual Lincoln Douglass Day sale. Shop and save money at the stores bearing the PALMA Seal.

FEB. 14
A Valentine Tea given by Mrs. Nellie Williams at 207 Winters Lane, Catonsville, for the benefit of Men's Day at Mt. Olivet Methodist Church, 3 until 6 p.m.

Kappa Chapter of Iota Phi Lambda Sorority presents its "Living Makers of History Program" at Union Baptist Church, Druid Hill near Dolphin St. at 11 a.m.

The recently organized Great Books groups, made up of Morgan State College alumni, administration, faculty and college friends, will meet at 6 p.m. in the Harper House Lounge.

FEB. 15
The PTA of the John Eager Howard School No. 61 will meet at 8 p.m. Subject will be "Brotherhood". All members are asked to attend.

FEB. 19
A night of fun at the Country Fair. The location is Waters AME Church and it's for the benefit of Women's Day. Aisquith near Orleans St.

FEB. 23
A Brotherhood banquet scheduled tonight at the West Baltimore branch of the Salvation Clubs.

FEB. 26
Tonight at 8 p.m. will see the first annual Fashion Show and Social Hour given by the Educational Department of the Fishers Union of Maryland, Inc. The place is John Wesley Methodist Church at North Ave. and Bloomingdale Rd.

The Faith Baptist Church School celebrates its 69th anniversary with an 8 p.m. program. Alfred Vaughn is the guest speaker. The church is at Bond and Ashland Sts.

FEB. 28
Cocktail party benefitting March of Dimes at Club Tijuana, 2600 block Pennsylvania Ave., 6 p.m. to 2 a.m.

Local alumni of the Meharry Medical College will show up at the Sheraton Belvedere Hotel this afternoon at 5 for a banquet. Guest speaker will be Dr. Howard D. West, president of Meharry. The affair is part of a national fund raising drive to benefit Meharry.

Another program in the 69th anniversary celebration of the Faith Baptist Church School. Dr. George Gunther will be the speaker at 7:30. The Rev. Walter Paige is pastor.

MARCH 1
Miss Lucy Lamerk of Tanganyika, Africa, guest at Delta Sigma Theta Job Opportunities Committee.

MARCH 7
Free training course for great books leaders at Pratt Library, 8 p.m. For information, call Cyril Keller, 1702 Meadow Ch. Windsor 4-7182.

MARCH 9
A sergeant from the Southwestern Police District will be the guest speaker at the month-ly meeting of the Wynn Ave. Neighborhood Association at Franklin and Allendale Sts. Meeting place is the Franklin Recreation Center, 8:30 p.m.

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9 a.m. to 12 noon 35¢
SEE THIS DOUBLE SHOCK SHOW...
AND THEN WARN YOUR DAUGHTER
THE NEWEST HEADLINES ON THE OLDEST PROFESSION!
The Flesh is Weak
DEREK · VITALE · JACKSON
BORN GOOD WITH A DESIRE TO BE BAD!
SYLVIA SYMS
Teenage Bad Girl
ANNA NEAGLE · SYLVIA SYMS · KENNETH HAIGH

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DEAN MARTIN
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SHIRLEY MacLAINE
CAROLYN JONES
2 BIG HITS
The Jayhawkers
TECHNICOLOR
WED.-THURS. FEB. 17-18
LESLIE CARON · HENRY FONDA
The Man Who Understood Women
ACTION
FRI.-SAT. FEB. 19-20
WHEN IT FLIES... SOMEONE DIES!
THE BAT
VINCENT PRICE · AGNES MOOREHEAD
CAMERON · MITCHELL
'FACE OF FIRE'

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SUN.-MON. & TUES. FEB. 14-15-16
"THE JAYHAWKERS"
TECHNICOLOR
JEFF CHANDLER
—ALSO—
"THE FEMALE AND THE FLESH"
BRIGITTE BARDOT
WED. & THURS. FEB. 17-18
"CAREER"
DEAN MARTIN
—ALSO—
"THE NAKED SPUR"
TECHNICOLOR
JAMES STEWART
FRI. & SAT. FEB. 19-20
"THE REBEL SET"
THE BEATNICKS
GREGG PALMER
—ALSO—
"SCARED STIFF"
MARTIN AND LEWIS

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512 W. BIDDLE ST. LE. 9-4375
DOORS OPEN DAILY 10 A.M.—SUNDAY 1 P.M.
SUN.-MON.-TUES. FEB. 14-15-16
NEW TARZAN FINDS FORGOTTEN WORLDS OF ADVENTURE!
TARZAN THE APE MAN
TECHNICOLOR
DENNY MILLER as the NEW Tarzan
2nd HIT
"THE REBEL SET"
added Cartoons
WED.-THURS. FEB. 17-18
FRANCIS LEDERER in
"TERROR IS A MAN"
PLUS
"SCAVENGERS"
FRI.-SAT. FEB. 19-20
FRANK SINATRA · GINA LOLLOBRIGIDA
NEVER SO FEW
PLUS
RANDOLPH SCOTT in
"BOUNTY HUNTER"

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1429 PENNA. AVE. LA. 3-2665
OPEN DAILY 10:30 A.M.
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ROOM AT THE TOP
PLUS
ADVENTURE!
TARZAN THE APE MAN
TECHNICOLOR
WED.-THURS. FEB. 17-18
JEFF CHANDLER in
"THUNDER IN THE SUN"
PLUS
"CATTLE QUEEN"
FRI.-SAT. FEB. 19-20
"BEAT GENERATION"
PLUS
"3 VIOLENT PEOPLE"

DELUXE LINCOLN
936 PENNA. AVE.
ON OUR GIANT SCREEN
OPEN DAILY 10 A.M. MU. 5-5948
SUN.-MON.-TUES. FEB. 14-15-16
ALL COLORED CAST in
"DIRTIE GIRTIE From HARLEM"
PLUS
SAL MINEO in
"A PRIVATE'S AFFAIR"
PLUS
Featurette
WILD BILL ELLIOTT in
"ACROSS THE SIERRAS"
WED.-THURS. FEB. 17-18
VICTOR MATURE in
"THE BANDIT OF ZHOBE"
PLUS
"TIN STAR"
FRI.-SAT. FEB. 19-20
ROBERT TAYLOR in
"HANGMAN"
PLUS
SUSAN HAYWARD in
"I WANT TO LIVE"
4 — Cartoons — 4

Jesse Belvin, famed singer and composer, dies in crash

HOPE, Arkansas — Jesse Belvin, 26-year-old singer and hit tune composer, was killed instantly in a head-on collision near here last Saturday morning.

The youngster, who wrote the song "Earth Angel," that sold over two million records, died along with three other persons in a highway crash shortly before noon. Belvin was killed outright, as were Charles Ford, the driver of his car, and a white couple, Mr. and Mrs. Gene Nohl, well-known deep sea divers who make their home in Milwaukee, Wisc.

* * *

CRITICALLY INJURED at the same time were Mrs. Jo Anne Belvin, 23-year-old wife of the singer, and guitar player Curt Norris. They were riding in the car with Jesse but were thrown clear of the wreckage as the colliding vehicles burst into flames.

All six were rushed to Hempstead Hospital in this city. Mrs. Belvin underwent emergency surgery. Immediately, and the operating physician, Dr. George Wright, announced later that she would most likely recover.

* * *

ASIDE FROM writing the "Earth Angel" tune which helped skyrocket the Platters to fame, Belvin was a singer of considerable promise. His first album, "Just Jesse Belvin," was so successful that RCA - Victor signed him for more waxings.

Later, he turned out his first LP, which included another hit tune, "Guess Who," penned by his wife. Following that, Belvin and RCA - Victor set up another session that was completed just before Christmas for release this spring.

* * *

BIRN IN Texarkana, Ark., Jesse moved to California with his family at the age of five. He launched his singing career two years later as a choir boy.

He took his first commercial job at the age of 16, when he joined Big Jay McNeel's orchestra as vocalist. It was while working with the rhythm and blues band that Jesse made his first recording, "All the Wine Is Gone."

* * *

THE ACCIDENT occurred as the Belvin group headed for a date in Dallas, Texas, from Little Rock, Ark. The caravan was composed of several figures in the rock and roll field, including singer Jackie Wilson.

In addition to his widow, young Belvin is survived by two children, Jesse Jr., aged 4, and Jonathan, 2.

MISS VERONICA TYLER
In Middle of Met audition row

Met tryout row hits Afro singer

A 23-year-old lyric soprano of this city was one of a number of contestants who may have been deprived of a chance in Metropolitan Opera by the dictates of a Metropolitan official in Washington last week.

Miss Veronica Tyler, a senior in voice culture at the Peabody Conservatory of Music, won third prize in a Met Opera audition at which the winner was selected in a high-handed disregard of the judges.

MISS TYLER, who lives at 3420 Gwynns Falls Parkway, is in her fourth year of study at the conservatory on an AFRO - AMERICAN scholarship and a Thalheimer grant.

Competing in the regional tryouts in Washington last week, the young woman sang the "Parmina Aria," from Mozart's "Magic Flute," the "Micaeli Aria" from Bizet's "Carmen," and "Ilia's Aria" from Mozart's "Idomeneo."

SHE WAS GOOD enough to collect the $100 third prize money behind Lavergne Monnette also of Baltimore, and Mary Ann Stabile of Arlington, Va. Miss Monetto won $550 and Miss Stabile $200.

After the announcement by **John Gutman, assistant director of the Met, however, the board of judges issued a statement which indicated that the winner was not its choice.**

Each member of the panel — all of whom are distinguished in the field of music — made it clear that Gutman made the decision on Miss Monette. All stated that the Met official insisted on having the final word on the winner, and told them that they were free to pick the second and third place entries.

* * *

THE JUDGES were Paul Hume, music critic of the Washington Post; Thorpe, music critic of the Washington Star; Paul Callaway, music director of the Opera Society of Washington; Peter Menin, director of the Peabody Conservatory; John White, music critic of the Richmond Times Dispatch, and Richard Bales of the National Gallery of Art.

Hume, Thorpe and White were vehement in protesting Gutman's action. They took the position that he put them in the category of "stooges" when he limited them in their choices to second and third, with no voice in the first place decision.

Menen said that Gutman's explanation was unsatisfactory. He said that the Met representative told them he would have to make the final decision because it "was necessary to find a voice strong enough to carry in the Metropolitan Opera House in New York. His familiarity with the Met setup, he contended, gave him a better understanding of what was needed from the vocalists.

Of the six judges, only one, Bales, made public the fact that the winner would have been his choice. All the others indicated they differed with the Gutman selection, but none would disclose which of the 43 entries (nine of whom were finalists) was his pick.

The two Washington newspaper members of the panel, however, paid tribute to Miss Tyler in statements to the AFRO.

"She has a lovely voice," said Paul Hume.

Day Thorpe asserted, "She is a very talented girl. I would say that she needs more experience."

* * *

MISS TYLER has a wide musical background. She has won numerous awards and last November appeared in concert at the Phillips Art Gallery.

An aunt, Mrs. Theresa Green Coleman, has made several national tours under the banner of the Columbia Artists Bureau in New York.

Another aunt, Mrs. Dorothy Green Player, a graduate of Wayne University, Detroit, once sang for President Franklin D. Roosevelt.

5 years for hold-up try

David Joy Smith, 19, 800 block George St., was sentenced to five years in the House of Correction Wednesday by Judge Joseph B. Byrnes in Criminal Court on a robbery charge.

Assistant State's Attorney Julius Romano told the court the defendant attempted to stage an armed holdup on a grocery store in the 700 block W. Franklin St., Jan. 5.

Alkun Jakobowitz, the proprietor of the store, testified Smith walked into his store and looked at comic books until the rest of the customers were taken care of.

Smith reportedly displayed a knife and demanded money.

The witness testified that when he saw the knife, he grabbed Smith's arm and screamed before the defendant could escape.

He was later picked up at his home.

In a statement Smith allegedly gave police, he said he got up that morning and decided he wanted some money, then selected a place to holdup. He was also quoted as saying he took a butter knife from his kitchen to use in the robbery.

Monroe St. bakery zoning case set

The question of whether to allow the expansion of a wholesale bakery to 1719 N. Monroe St. comes up before the Board of Municipal and Zoning Appeals at 1 p.m. this coming Tuesday.

Also scheduled are requests to allow three families to be at 1724 W. Franklin St., and the locating of six families at 1524 W. Fayette St.

A scheduled hearing the past Tuesday on a request to house four families at 800 N. Fulton Ave. was postponed until Feb. 23.

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JAZZ AT
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MAYNARD FERGUSON
AND HIS BIG BAND CONCERT
(A BALTIMORE FIRST)
★ SAT. FEB. 13th ★
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Admission—ORCHESTRA $4.32 inc. tax
1st Balcony — $3.77 — $2.67 — $2.11 incl. tax
TICKETS NOW ON SALE
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A NEW REVUE
EVERY FRI.-SAT.-SUN.
★ THE RAYETTES
featuring
BETTY RUSSELL
plus
The Magnificent
★ JASON WINTERS
That Buxom Lady of the Blues
★ TONIE OZZIE
And, of Course, Baltimore's Own
★ AL BROWN AND THE TUNE TOPPERS
NO COVER NO MINIMUM
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For Reservations Call LA. 3-6750
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CLUB LINDEN & ROBERT
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ORGAN TRIO
JOE ALLEN and his CRACKER JACKS
NEWEST SOUNDS IN STEREO HI-FI
everything's fine at KNOTTY PINE

APPEARING NITELY
The JAZZ MEN
"Live" Modern Jazz GROUP
featuring
★ CLAUDE HUBBARD, Piano
★ FATS CLARK, Drums
★ BUCK HILL, Sax
★ DON BAILEY, Bass
★ MOUSE JOHNSON, Trumpet
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CHINESE ROAST DUCK
WONTON or EGG DROP SOUP, DESSERT and HOT TEA
$1.65
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2 Hours Free Parking Adjacent to Playdium Bowling Alley

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★ ELYSE ROBERTS — New York's Debutante
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★ KATRINA TOLIVA — "Sexy Strip-Pip"
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THE MARVELOUS
MELLO JACKS
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CATERING TO BALTIMORE'S FINEST SET.

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ONE OF THE NICEST PLACES IN TOWN
KITCHEN NOW OPEN, serving Breakfast, Lunch and Supper. Chef formerly out of New York City, Viola Jeffress
MUSIC BY CLAUDE GRANT'S TRIO
Featuring CLAUDE GRANT—Organ, WILLIE WOODLEY—Drums, GEORGE MULDROW, Tenor Sax
The ROSE ROOM Upstairs Available for Cabaret Affairs, Cocktail Parties and Any Other Affairs Preferred.
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Willie Stewart and his ESQUIRES
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The "Madison" is Catching On At The Red Fox
Every Wednesday Night—2 hours of FANTASTIC SOUNDS, 9:30 to 12:30. Hi-Fi JAZZ TAPE SHOW conducted by Walt O'Brein in person.
REDUCED PRICES EVERY WEDNESDAY NIGHT.

ETHEL ENNIS
Just back from her London tour. Now with that International Flair. Backed by the best Jazz Group in town —
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"then the lightest of all, Canadian Club ...is the one for you!"
P.S. Canadian Club is also full 90.4 proof!

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