

A Sinatra-Basie Classic---And a Gillespie Gas

The Rhythm Section

By Ralph J. Glenson

AT THE TOP of the pile of new LPs this week there is one which is a contemporary classic, a collector's dream come true—Frank Sinatra with Count Basie.

The LP is called quite simply "Frank Sinatra—Count Basie" (Reprise R-1008) and Neal Hefti did the arrangements for the ten tracks. The tunes are mostly standards associated with Sinatra, numbers like "Pennies from Heaven," "The Fender Trap" and "Learnin' the Blues." But there are a couple of extras including "Please Be Kind," which is my favorite of the whole LP.

The Sinatra-Basie sound is interesting. Basie has been my nominee for the best band to accompany singers for some time now and this LP does nothing to change that. I would say, however, that Sinatra himself is a little short of top form here, especially on the songs with the brighter tempos where he seems to be ill at ease.

Even so, this is an album that is way out of the ordinary and one that may very well in time become a collector's item.

In another vein is Dizzy Gillespie's new LP, "New Wave" (Philips PHM 200-070). This is a thoroughly de-

of the tracks there's an unidentified alto saxophonist who is very good and sounds like a blend of Bud Shank and Paul Desmond.

★ DO THE BOSSA NOVA, Herbie Mann (Atlantic 1397). This is the LP that Mann went to Brazil to make. He appears on it with several groups including the Sergio Mendes group which is by far the most exciting unit from Brazil I've heard since the original Bandada Lua. "One Note Samba" is done here with the composer Antonio Jobim singing the lyric; a most interesting performance and a better vocal on it than I've heard to date. But the Sergio Mendes group steal the LP; they are a wildly exciting, hard swing-



FRANK SINATRA AND COUNT BASIE

ing group of bossa novans and I hope they record on their own.

RIGHT NOW, Herbie Mann (Atlantic 1384). A pleasant LP mainly of bossa nova

lightful album which contains some of the numbers recorded last year by Gillespie with guitarist Bola Sete. The Gillespie group of last year (Leo Wright, Lalo Schifrin, Chris White and Rudy Collins) was augmented on various sides by Latin percussionists, a Latin vocal group and saxophonist Charlie Ventura.

Gillespie has a natural affinity for Latin music and the bossa nova tunes herein are excellent. There's a long version of the second part of "No More Blues" that is marvelously joyous and a number called "Ask John," which the vocal group sings, that is one of the most infectious of all the bossa nova numbers I've heard. A gas!

In addition, there are a couple of prime examples of how Gillespie works with rhythm in his version of "Morning of the Carnival," "In a Shanty in Old Shanty Town" and "Careless Love." Thoroughly enjoyable all around.

THE HI-LO'S HAPPEN TO BOSSA NOVA (Reprise R-6066). The soft blend of the Hi-Lo's goes very well with the whole bossa nova pitch and makes one of the best LPS the group has produced in a long time. On a number numbers played by the Mann group in a relaxed, listenable style but without any particular quality of excitement. I'm fondest of "Carnival" and "Desifinado" on this LP.

HERBIE MANN, Brazil, Bossa Nova & Blues (United Artists UAJ 14009). Another pleasant offering from Mann but without any real distinc-

tion. The blues track is all right too and that's just the trouble with the LP. It's all right. Not even bad and not particularly interesting.

CANTANDO BOSSA NOVA, Vi Velasco (Colpix CP 438). Manny Albam has arranged and conducted a big band through a lot of pop tunes in what purports to be the bossa nova manner but which is simply Latin style. The best thing is the occasional solo by Zoot Sims. Vi Velesco's voice is good, true and clear but undistinguished.

PORTRAIT OF SHEILA, Shelia Jordan (Blue Note 9002). Miss Jordan is a singer from Detroit who, the notes aver, has an underground reputation with jazzmen. Like some other notes from the underground, when it gets upstairs it doesn't make it. This is the worst vocal album in years and absolutely painful for me to listen to. I cannot understand why it was made and the notes seem to apply to some other singer on some other time track altogether.

PRELUDE TO THE BLUES, Bill Doggett (Columbia CL 1942). Organist Doggett with a group that includes a tenor sax in a series of schmalty, likeable but undistinguished numbers that are great for background listening late at night.

ILLINOIS JACQUET (Epic LA 16033). Jacquet is one of the great tenor saxophonists in jazz history, a swinger of the first magnitude. This LP is uneven but delightful nevertheless. Like all great jazzmen, Jacquet is a fine ballad player as "Stella By Starlight" and "Imagination" testify, but it is on the swing-

ing numbers like "Pucker Up" where he gets that wildly exciting, sailing feeling that characterized his great work with Lionel Hampton and Count Basie. A most welcome album and I hope the first of many new ones by Jacquet.

On and Off the Record

DUKE ELLINGTON, who is currently in England, will do an hour-long TV show for the BBC . . .

. . . **Annie Ross** is singing with the **Tony Kinsey** band in London and got a rave review in the *Melody Maker* . . .

. . . **Odetta** is currently at London's **Prince Charles Theater** and will also do a BBC show . . .

. . . **Roy Eldridge** and **Coleman Hawkins** are working together in the Midwest . . .

. . . **Bobby Hackett** has joined the **Benny Goodman** band . . .

. . . **Fats Domino** is rumored leaving **Imperial Records** for **Columbia** . . .

. . . **Gus Johnson** has joined the **Al Cohn - Zoot Sims** group and **Dave Bailey** has replaced him as drummer with **Gerry Mulligan** . . .

. . . **Woody Herman** did a series of record dates for the **Sesac** radio transcription company with guitarist **Fredie Greene**, and tenor **Paul Gonsalves** added . . .

. . . One of **Duke Ellington's** first dates as an **A&R** man for **Reprise** will be a session with **Cootie Williams**, **Johnny Hodges** and **Lawrence Brown** . . .

. . . When the high school stage band festival is held Feb. 23 at the University of Nevada in Reno, **Jerry Coker** will lead the **Monterey Peninsula College** band, one of the four college bands participating. Bands from the **Albany**, **Castro Valley** and **Crockett** high schools are entered . . .

. . . Up-coming **Impulse** releases include LPs by **Fredie Hubbard**, **McCoy Tyner**, **Duke Ellington** and **John Col-**

trane, **Duke Ellington** and **Coleman Hawkins** and the **Chico Hamilton Quintet** . . .

. . . **Ricky Nelson** is expected to sign with **Decca** . . .

. . . **Red Garland**, after a recent illness, is back on the stand at **Minton's** in **New York** . . .

. . . **Lionel Hampton** will produce a jazz festival at a **New York** department store . . .

. . . **Columbia** will issue a **Jack Teagarden** re-issue package



DUKE ELLINGTON

with sides going back to 1928 . . .

. . . **Sister Rosetta Thorpe** has signed with **Todd** records . . .

. . . **Eddie Condon** and pianist **Sammy Price** are rumored going into the meat packing business together . . .

. . . **Bassist Richard Fullbright**, who played with such bands as **Teddy Hill**, died recently . . .

. . . **Erroll Garner** will tour the Orient in May and in October will return to England . . .

. . . **Nat Towles**, bandleader

of the Thirties, died last week . . .

. . . **Jack Sheldon** and **Jimmy Rowles** have recorded for **Capitol** . . .

. . . **Sammy Davis Jr.** may play **Chick Webb** in a film bio of the drummer . . .

. . . Pianist **Horace Parlan** has joined the **Roland Kirk** group . . .

. . . **Art Farmer** and **Benny Golson** have disbanded **The Jazztet** . . .

. . . British tenor player **Ronnie Scott** and British trumpet player **Jimmy Deuchar** play the **Half Note** in **New York** next month . . .

. . . Bandleader **Ted Weems** is seriously ill in **Texas** . . .

. . . **Nellie Lutcher** is now appearing with the **Wilber de Paris** band . . .

. . . **Chuck Wayne**, formerly guitarist with the **George Shearing Quintet** and **Woody Herman's** band, is playing banjo in a **New York** club . . .

. . . Singer **Joya Sherrill** is planning to return to **Moscow** for concerts . . .

. . . Tenor saxophonist **Tubby Hayes** from **Britain** may join **Woody Herman** . . .

. . . **Sonny Clark**, the pianist, died last week in **New York**.

. . . Trumpet players **Al Porcino** and **Red Rodney** will be guest artists at the session tonight in the **Gold Nugget** with **Johnny Coppola's** band.

. . . **Sam Charters** is working on a blues film featuring **Sleepy John Estes**. —R.J.G.