

# AFTER DARK

By ED BAKER

Last Monday's benefit show for Ron Long at the Shaggy Dog not only was a financial success but also turned out to be a king-size entertainment package.

More than two dozen entertainers contributed their services to aid Long, the young bass player from Portland who suffered a stroke while performing with the Shaggy Gorillas two weeks ago.

Bill Olwell, manager of the Shaggy Dog (where the Gorillas were playing when Ron was stricken), said 480 persons attended the Monday-night shindig. The amount collected was about \$1,300—all of which, after overhead expenses, goes to Long and his family.

The large attendance put an across-the-street bistro, the Sweet Chariot, into operation for the night. When an entertainer finished at the Shaggy Dog, he hustled over to the Chariot for an encore.

Even the entertainers paid their way in. And Local 76, American Federation of Musicians, waived talent fees to help the cause.

In addition to the tried-and-true acts, there were several surprises. One surprise was Gracie Hansen's gift for comedy. She handled her punch lines like a feminine Bob Hope.

Another hit — a spur-of-the-moment one — was the teaming of Teddy Ross, singer from the Colony Restaurant, with John Bunce, guitar-playing member of the Shaggy Gorillas. Ross walked in with no accompanist and Bunce volunteered. The result was splendid; Ross can wail mean blues, and Bunce is a brilliant musician.

Two "amateurs" — Olwell and Jerry Stacy, a partner at the Shaggy Dog — filled in nobly. Stacy played solid piano while Gracie Hansen sang. Olwell, doubling for Long in comedy numbers with Brian Bressler and Bunce, proved to be an uncured humorist and retired, undefeated, from show biz after a one-night stand.

THE CITY'S musicians showed another example of heart last week, with Bea Smith as the beneficiary.

Bea, a blues singer who closed at the Colony last July, is recuperating from surgery. Melody Jones, pianist and vocalist at the Century House, decided to give Bea a hand.

Melody held a party at her house to collect money for Bea, who has been singing in Seattle for the past 12 years. Musicians — about 100 of them — dropped in and donated.

DOWNTOWN, at 410 University Street, Victor Rosellini has returned to a continuous-entertainment format in his cozy Boulevard Room. On the bandstand are a songstress, Rita Carol; a Southern-fried humorist, Hank Penny; and a "house" trio headed by Lee Humes on bass.

Rosellini probably covers more ground than any other boniface in town in search of entertainment. Since 1956, he has experimented with everything from chamber jazz to Las Vegas-type variety groups. He hopes to stay with the present format: A couple of solo acts backed by a house band.

Rita Carol is playing Seattle for the first time. Recently she went on a tour that embraced Europe, the Far East, Canada and Dixie. Besides singing — sometimes like Ethel Merman, sometimes like herself — she plays trombone, trumpet, piano and guitar.

Penny also picks a git-tar, juiced with electricity. His humor is juiced with rich Southern "flap-jawin'" ('f

you're expectin' anything fancy," says Alabama-born Hank, "you've come to a goat house for wool.")

Hank is no rookie. Twenty-five years ago, in Tennessee, he led a musical group that gave two young instrumentalists their first break. They are known today as Homer and Jethro.

Penny spends most of his time spinnin' jokes and pickin' git-tar in Hollywood and Nevada. By his reckoning, only one other comic, Hank Henry, has exceeded his longevity record (nine years) in Las Vegas clubs.

AS EXPECTED, Chuck Mahaffay has put together a swinging group in his first week with the new Individuals at Mario's Restaurant.

Mahaffay is not an exceptional musician. The word competence perhaps best describes his work on drums, clarinet and vocals. But he is a shrewd showman and organizer.

He has surrounded himself, through the years, with top musicians. Now he has a combo that already displays good balance as an act and promises to produce outstanding sounds.

The pianist, Jerry Gray, is the musical catalyst. His playing and arrangements are big-league. Bill Franklin excels on vibes and has a wild comedy sense — developed, no doubt, in the days when, as a teen-ager in Kansas City, he set out to get a job drumming with a symphony orchestra but wound up drumming in a strip joint instead.

Mahaffay, stepping front and center for a change instead of lurking behind the drums, has a lively, off-beat wit that is delivered through a lazy drawl.

Finally, there is Tamara Burdett, a stunning brunette. Besides looking good, Tamara plays a lot of bass. In the jazz vernacular, she puts down an honest line.

Tamara has had good teachers, including her father, Vaughn Abbey. He played in the Seattle Symphony when he was younger. Tamara later studied with Tiny Martin, another ex-Symphony bass player, and now studies with Ren Simon, a major power, at the ripe old age



AT LEGEND ROOM: Maureen Lodge, pianist and vocalist, will alternate with Franc Gauthier nightly at the Legend Room in Northgate beginning tonight. Entertainment starts at 7 o'clock.

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of 23, in the long-hair Symphony and in Jerry Rowan's short-hair combo at the Magic Inn.

Tamara, also 23, has held a musician's union card since she was 15. She played with the Long Beach, Calif., Symphony a few years ago. She played at the Gaslamp in Bellevue before joining Mahaffay.

JENNIE SMITH IS PROOF, in full living color at the Magic Inn; that television has not replaced the real article.

Jennie this week is hiding from Steve Allen's TV show to sing at the Seattle supper club. In three dimensions, she is a joy to the eyes. She is easy on the ears, too.

Another Allen helper, Donni Trenner, will be at the Magic Inn piano tomorrow night, as he was Monday night when Jennie opened. Trenner is Allen's music director.

It seems Jennie came to town with "charts" written for a big band. The charts, when boiled down to combo size, called for the pianist to play several parts. Trenner, who works with Jennie every week on TV (and also happens to be a terrific pianist), is flying up to back the vocalist when she closes tomorrow.

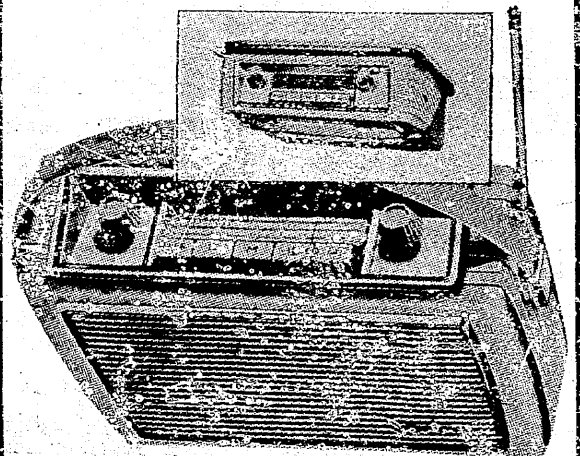
On the same stage this week, young Paul West is getting his first chance as a standup comic. West generally tells his jokes while seated at the piano in various lounges around Seattle. Paul's most recent stint, before moving into the Magic Inn, was at the Moore Hotel's Fire-lite Room.

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