

LOVE BEATS THE BAND



LANA TURNER
Artie Shaw Fell Hard

THE third greatest white dance band in the world has broken up, and all because of Love. The disbanding was the climax to a series of irresponsibilities on the part of Artie Shaw, a clarinetting farm boy from Texas. After a high pressure courtship of M-G-M's screen starlet Lana Turner, he suddenly dropped his band, muttered "I want to be alone," and eloped to Mexico.

Shaw's career has been punctuated by free publicity that would make a Hollywood lovely green with jealousy. He

started as a humble, sincere dance musician, but as usually happens, success and fame whittled him surely away.

His first step up the ladder of success was when his small but effective band captured the imagination of the dance band intelligentsia. It was a really excellent band, but unfortunately from a commercial point of view it laid heavy emphasis on strings, and the American public likes saxophones.

So Shaw broke up his band, and from the debris formed an outfit that was later to challenge the supremacy of Benny Goodman. About this time, he had a much publicised row with his vocalist, Billie Holliday. Billie was as much a draw as Shaw, the maestro, and received even more applause than he did. This preyed on the mind of the farm boy from Texas, but there was little he could do about it, since Billie's contract was watertight.

Shaw resorted to humiliating his vocalist in every way he could think of, with the natural result that when her contract had expired, Billie told the press all about it. The whole affair cost Shaw the respect of his fellow musicians.

The band, however, was improving out of all recognition, and it was not long before Hollywood sent an invitation. Shaw was publicised in a big way, and the press was showered with photographs of Shaw coyly holding hands with Betty Grable, the ex-Mrs. Jackie Coogan. But one day Mr. Shaw spotted the glamorous Lana Turner, and he fell for her hard—so hard that one night he just failed to turn up, having eloped to Mexico, declaring that he was "through with the racket for keeps." His band melted away.

The elopement captured almost as much space as the unforgettable platonic friendship of Garbo and Leopold Stokowski; and the marriage itself lasted three months.

Shaw is now setting out to reform his old band and attempt a comeback. Many radio listeners will hope that he achieves it.

MAN'S GREATEST INVENTION

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In the Turnbull Library in Wellington. In the General Assembly Library it is planned that there will be an exhibit of official publications. In the Wellington Public Library the star exhibit will be Colenso's press, on loan from Napier. In the Turnbull Library there will be books and early manuscripts dating the progress of printing from the fifteenth to the twentieth century.

Priceless and Ageless

Some of these books are priceless, and seem also to be ageless. Nicholas Jenson's printing of Plutarch's Lives came off an Italian press in 1475. The Nuremberg Chronicle dates back to 1593. In 1482 an edition of Euclid was printed carrying about the first mathematical diagrams ever printed. Friar Collonna's "Dream of Poliphilia" was printed by Aldus in Venice in 1499.

With some note of regret, the librarian will say they have no fragment of the original Caxton, like other libraries; but their facsimile reproductions are perfect in their own way.

Colenso's Press

At Wellington Public Library, a press used by William Colenso, catechist and printer, will be on display and its operation demonstrated. Early New Zealand printing will be thoroughly treated. The General Assembly Library will show (at the Public Library) a series of early newspapers, and from the Turnbull Library will come examples of Maori printing and early books and pamphlets. At the Public Library there will also be a series of lectures during the last week of November, covering several aspects of printing and the book trade. All will be illustrated by either motion pictures or slides, and will be accompanied by commentary by authorities on the subjects treated.

Lecturettes will be broadcast from the YA stations, and the ZB stations will announce events of particular interest, so that the public can take the fullest advantage of opportunities as they occur.

(Illustrations with this article are by courtesy of the Wellington Club of Printing House Craftsmen)

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