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FIRST HEARINGS IN JAZZ

The Harry "Sweets" Edison Quartet

PERSONNEL: Edison (trumpet), Webster (tenor), Kessel (guitar), Rowles (piano), Stoller (drums), Mondragon (bass).

"Opus 711" opens with a lovely solid beat. After a brief statement of the rather haunting theme, Edison leads the group off into an up-tempo blues. Here is the spontaneous expression of emotion that is the life blood of jazz. Edison shows up as the wonderful virile trumpet man that he is, and it is pleasing to see him recording so much in recent months. Every member of the group has a solo spot on this blues and perhaps I can sum up the whole track—indeed the whole session—by saying that none of the musicians has ever sounded more relaxed or more at ease than here.

Barney Kessel opens "Love is Here to Stay," and is followed by Edison's superb muted trumpet backed by rhythm. Listen to Kessel, who is so perfectly recorded in the ensemble passages—but then again, so is Jimmy Rowles. Webster takes a solo, one of his most moving on recent records. What a fine tenorman Webster is! This beautiful track closes with the Edison trumpet rising over the rhythm section and the occasional phrase from Webster. There is so much to hear in this item that all jazz fans should make a point of hearing the session three or four times.

"K.M. Blues" is a fast blues opened by sizzling drums before the ensemble takes over. Rowles' Basie-ish piano shines through and then Edison takes his first solo. This is one of the most powerful and inspiring solos I've heard from a trumpet man in months. Then solos by Kessel, Rowles and Webster follow in that order before Edison enters again, blowing as forcefully as ever to take the composition out to the closing ensemble.

Don't mention Gillespie or Baker to me when there is a wonderful swinging trumpet player like Edison around. His notes are as clear as a bell and he leaves no doubt about the ones he intends to play.

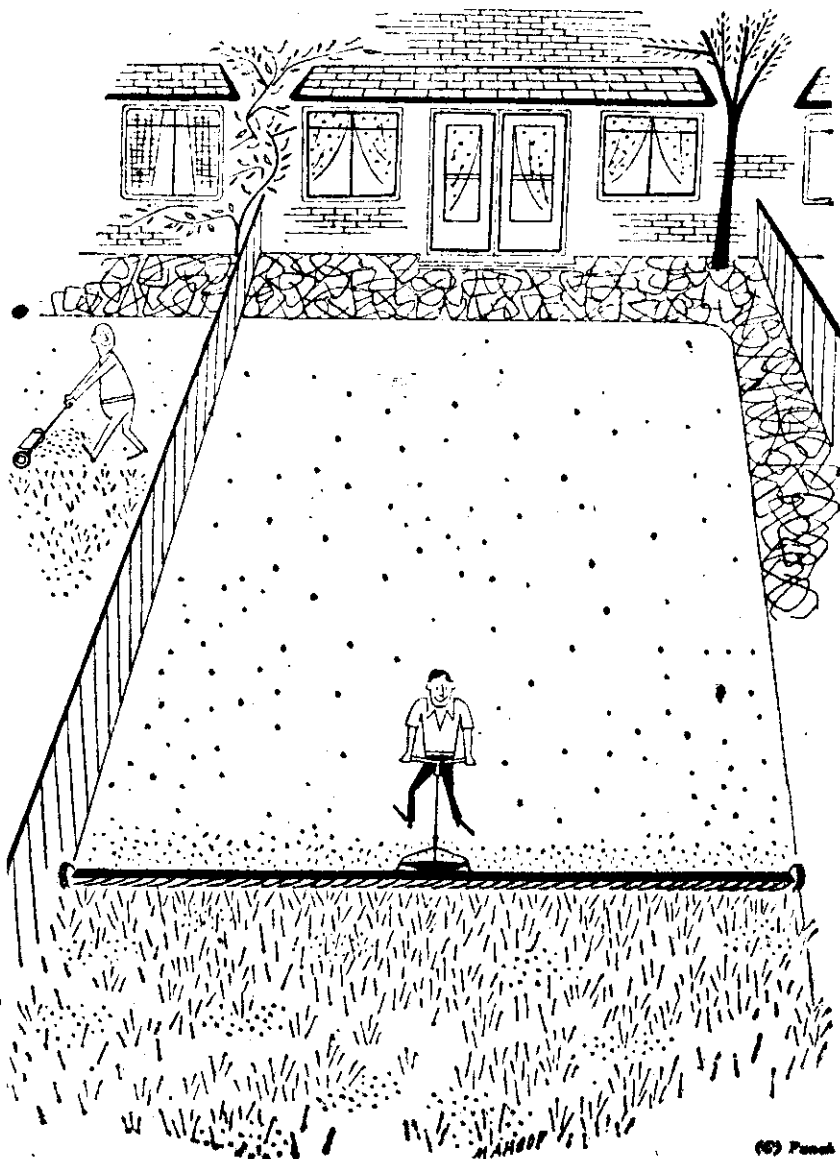
First Playing: Station 2YA, September 30, 10.45 p.m.

Herman's Las Vegas Herd

Personnel: Collins, Coppola (trumpets), Touff (bass trumpet), Kamuca (tenor), Herman (clarinet), Pockrandt (piano), Budwig (bass), Flores (drums).

"Junior" gives everyone a chance to blow. Listen particularly for Flores's drums and the solos by Kamuca, Touff, Collins and Herman. Ralph Burns arranged "Basin Street Blues," which features Herman's vocal and clarinet and Touff's bass trumpet.

"Wailing Wall" was written by and features Touff and listeners will be impressed with those low notes. "Bass



M.K. Lister, September 27, 1957