

Dixieland Trombonist Was City Native

Death Of Jazz Great Draws Little Notice

By DICK ROBINSON
Staff Writer

In this week's issue of Time magazine under the section entitled Milestones, along with the birth of Sophia Loren's son and the deaths of Roberto Clemente and Walter "Jack" Rollins, the death of Wilbur De Paris, 72, Dixieland trombonist, is noted.

The article required seven lines to describe the major achievements of a talented and durable musician. It almost went unnoticed here. This would have been a shame, for Wilbur De Paris was a native of Crawfordsville.

Little is known locally about this man who has played with all the great jazz musicians since the 1920s.

De Paris was born Sept. 22, 1900, the son of a musician. His father played trombone, banjo and guitar and toured the country with carnivals, circuses, medicine and minstrel shows.

Soon De Paris was working in shows with his father. "I was a trooper at the age of six," De Paris said.

Very few local residents remember hearing the De Paris group perform here. Mrs. Frances Wooden, 307 Beech St., recalls her mother taking her to see a minstrel show, here featuring De

Paris, his father and young brother.

Mrs. Wooden said the show was held on the third floor of the Modern Woodsman of America Hall at 120 N. Green St., directly across the street from the present Journal-Review offices. She remembers the long, tiring climb up the three flights and that the three De Paris musicians were waiting there to greet them. They were smiling at everyone who made the long trek, according to Mrs. Wooden.

Although she could recall nothing of the show, much has been written about the De Paris boys' ability since that time. Regretfully, much of this was in trade magazines and papers, and with the passage of time their connection with Crawfordsville was lost.

De Paris once said he and his brother had little formal musical training. Although both boys played with the Crawfordsville High School Band for a time. It can be assumed their father provided them with much of their musical background.

While he was still in his teens Wilbur was drawn like iron to a magnet to New Orleans where men like Jelly Roll Morton and Louis Armstrong were making a new sound which was a com-

bination of Dixieland and jazz.

Commenting on those early days in the birthplace of Dixieland, De Paris once said, "I at least knew breathing and phrasing. Naturally, my style was different from the originators of Dixieland back in New Orleans."

De Paris spent enough time there learning his trade that he was able to sit in with all those musicians whose names are associated with the famed area of New Orleans. It was there he first met and played with the great "Satchmo" — Armstrong.

Before his 25th birthday De Paris had played with all the great bands of that day, including fronting his own group — The Cotton Pickers. Being a Hoosier, chances are good that De Paris never was in a cottonfield. In the 1920s he was associated with the original Blue Rhythm Band for a time.

While Wilbur was making his mark as a musician his younger brother, Sidney, also a Crawfordsville native, was on his way towards becoming an outstanding jazz musician.

Sidney was a trumpetman, whom very few of that day could touch. According to Pic magazine, "He can play rings around Harry James

without the technical ostentations (vain and unnecessary show especially for the purpose of attracting attention). He is one of the finest 10 jazz men in America today."

In the 1920s the brothers joined up in Philadelphia where they were an instant sensation. They parted company later, each going his own way and spreading his fame.

They joined forces again years later and were inseparable until Sidney's death in 1967, which went unmentioned here.

During the '30s, Wilbur's list of accomplishments included working again with Armstrong. In the early 1940s he was associated with Ella Fitzgerald and Duke Ellington. The De Paris trombone can be heard on many recordings the two made.

In 1947, he and brother Sidney formed a band which would have to be called the most durable jazz band in the business.

Wilbur and his New Orleans Jazz Band, with Sidney as the featured trumpet man, in 1951 moved into Jimmy Ryan's in New York for a two-week gig. Ten years, 10 months and two weeks later, the group finally moved on — the building was being torn down.

This long stay could only be called a tribute to the band. Over-exposure can kill most groups. Wilbur was not concerned about this. He said people would come if they enjoyed themselves.

While at Ryan's, De Paris and his group found time to cut eight albums for Atlantic Records, play movie background music and appear on radio, television and in concerts.

De Paris's band played a wide variety of music, much of it original material written by the leader. De Paris was an outstanding musician, with a rare technical skill, and insisted on the highest caliber musicianship from his associates. A Crawfordsville resident who had a chance to hear the group in New York said, "It was the best Dixieland I have ever heard."

Off the bandstand, De Paris was described as a gracious and articulate man. He looked more like a professor than a jazz man.

His greatest accomplishment, however, was his three-month tour of Africa in 1958 as a goodwill ambassador for the President and official representative of the State Department. It was a serious mission which, an official

(Continued on Page Three)

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TOWNSHIP TRUSTEE'S (ABSTRACT) REPORT OF RECEIPTS AND DISBURSEMENTS FOR THE CALENDAR YEAR 1972

Madison Township, Montgomery County

FUNDS	Balance Jan. 1	Receipts	Disburse- ments	Balance Dec. 31
.....	\$ 2,903.46	\$ 5,973.94	\$ 3,598.92	\$ 2,375.02
.....	81.00	341.00	.00	341.00
.....	1,621.32	6,945.69	6,131.93	813.76
.....	885.67	1,912.49	1,500.00	412.29
.....	\$ 5,491.45	\$15,173.12	\$11,230.85	\$ 3,942.27

ALL OF RECEIPTS	Amount	
INDIANA GAS CO.	55.19	
TIPMONT REMC	8.35	
PERRY'S OFFICE		
SUPPLY CO.	22.50	
POST OFFICE	10.00	
TIPMONT	9.55	
INDIANA GAS CO.	62.53	
LOUISE FUGATE	100.00	
DON FUGATE	478.75	
TIPMONT	8.65	
INDIANA GAS CO.	32.48	
TREASURER MONT. CO.	3.00	
INDIANA GAS CO.	19.53	
TIPMONT	8.35	
POSTMASTER	10.00	
AMERICAN LEGION		
POST 306	100.00	
INDIANA GAS CO.	6.19	
TIPMONT	4.10	
TIPMONT	4.20	
INDIANA GAS CO.	4.06	
LOUISE FUGATE	100.00	
DON FUGATE	478.75	
TIPMONT	4.20	
INDIANA GAS CO.	4.13	
JOURNAL-REVIEW	87.72	
LEE SCHOOL SUPPLY	111.06	
TIPMONT	4.20	
INDIANA GAS CO.	4.27	
TIPMONT	4.20	
INDIANA GAS CO.	4.28	
JOURNAL-REVIEW	11.30	
LOUISE FUGATE	100.00	
DON FUGATE	478.75	
TIPMONT	4.20	
INDIANA GAS CO.	9.26	
TIPMONT	4.20	
INDIANA GAS CO.	23.76	
LINDEN STATE BANK	4.00	
CHARLES BENNETT	100.00	
RALPH LITTLE	100.00	
WILLIAM CLAWSON	100.00	
SELWYN HUSTED	100.00	
LOUISE FUGATE	100.00	
DON FUGATE	478.75	
Total	\$ 3,598.92	

DISBURSEMENTS	Amount	
DOG FUND		
None		
DISBURSEMENTS		
RECREATION FUND		
MAC SMITH	\$ 250.00	
JANICE C. HARRIS	250.00	
MARVIN VAIL	250.00	
JANICE HARRIS	250.00	
MAC SMITH	250.00	
MARVIN VAIL	250.00	
Total	\$ 1,500.00	

I hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct statement of receipts and disbursements of the above named township; that a complete annual report together with all accompanying vouchers showing of persons having been paid money by the township has been filed in the office of the County Auditor, and that a true and correct annual report is in custody of the chairman of the township board. Said report is subject to inspection by any taxpayer of the

DON W. FUGATE
Trustee
1-18-11

runaway. Judge Conrad Harvey suspended all the confinement except for seven days. Gibson was also fined \$25 court costs.

Dorothy G. Rathbun, 29, Ladoga, received a suspended 30-day term in the county and was fined \$50 after she pleaded guilty to a charge of issuing a fraudulent check.

In other matters, Judge Harvey dismissed a charge of assault and battery which had been filed against Dale Manion, 49, Crawfordsville.

Leah Holycross, 26, 1606 Plum St., pleaded guilty to a charge of speeding and was fined \$42.

Jerry Stockton, Rt. 1, entered a plea of guilty to a charge of violating the city's parking meter ordinance and was fined \$13.

DeParis

(Continued from Page One) report said, De-Paris fulfilled with understanding and dignity.

De Paris was an active member of the Sons of Indiana of New York and tunes like "On the Banks of the Wabash" and "Indiana, My Indiana" were heard almost nightly at Ryan's. Due to De Paris's influence, Ryan's became an unofficial meeting place for displaced Hoosiers in the big city.

De Paris's love for his native state is noted in his recording of "On the Banks of the Wabash" when he takes the opening lead with his trombone. Its a sound that seems to whisper love. When his brother comes in later in the recording with his trumpet, the sound and mood changes to solid jazz—that would be the sound one would expect from a musician whose main means of transportation was a motor scooter with sidecar.

Both Wilbur and Sidney are gone, but their music will please jazz fans for years.

It seems a shame that people of Crawfordsville did not pay more attention while they were at the height of their careers and claim them as native sons.

Fire Run

City firemen were called at 6:35 p.m. Wednesday to what appeared to be a field fire on County Road 300N west of the State Highway garage. Officials said the fire was attended by Roscoe Moore, who was burning trash and weeds

the appropriate level after these refunds have been completed. If approved by PSCI, these new rates will be effective on March 1.

This procedure follows the plan set forth in the PSCI order of December 11, 1970, which permits gas utilities of

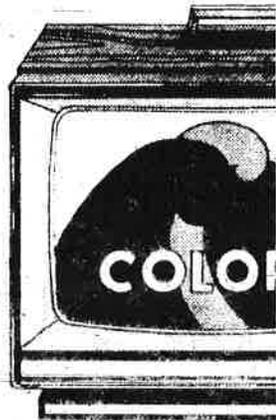
Jan. 11 at Davisville, R.I., to Mr. and Mrs. Randolph Ludlow. Paternal grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. Jay L. Ludlow of Hillsboro. Maternal grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. Kazumi Suzuki of Hiratsika, Japan.

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Dale All...
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Sale \$328

Reg. 369.95. Portable color TV with 19" screen (meas. diag.) has "Quick-Pic"™ for faster picture and sound, "Chroma-Loc"™ and automatic fine tuning.



Sale \$309

Reg. 349.95. 18" color portable features "Chroma-Loc"™ color and tint control, automatic fine tuning and "Quick-Pic"™ for faster picture and sound. Picture measured diagonally. 12" color portable, Reg. \$265. Sale \$229.

Sale \$379

Reg. 419.95. Portable color TV with 19" screen (meas. diag.) Features fully transistorized modular chassis, "Chroma-Loc"™ color and tint control and automatic fine tuning. 17" screen, Reg. 379.95. Sale \$339



Sale \$229

Reg. \$265. Here's a truly portable 12" set with "Chroma-Loc"™ color/tint control, and "Quick-Pic"™. Picture measured diagonally.

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