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Roger Wolfe Gave Dixieland Music Needed Shot In Arm

by Ray Liuzza

It's ironical that Dixieland Jazz, born and nurtured on Basin Street in New Orleans, was revived on the air recently by a native of Spokane, Washington.

The man responsible for the current upsurge of interest is Roger Wolfe, soft-spoken WDSU staff announcer and one of the South's leading authorities on instrumental rhythm.

Wolfe, whose "Dixieland Jazz" show is heard each Saturday at 9:30 p.m., has probably done more to create a new interest in jazz than any other person.

Roger came to New Orleans seeking first hand information on Jazz and the musicians connected with it. After wandering around concert halls, bistros and even wharves, Wolfe found interest in jazz at an all-time low in its birth city.

He decided to promote Jazz and inaugurated a record show featuring the 1000 discs of his private collection.

The show was produced intermittently, yet after only five months earned a local Hooperating almost equal to the popular, long-established network show on another station at the same time.

Wolfe told listeners bluntly if they expected Stan Kenton's "Progressive Jazz" or "bebop" they might as well twist their dials elsewhere. The reaction was gratifying. Fan mail and phone calls poured in; five New Orleans Jazz bands began playing Dixieland on Bourbon St. Perhaps it's just coincidence, but in the year following Wolfe's first broadcast other platter spinners began featuring Dixieland Jazz on their turntables.

"In case native Orleanians don't know," Wolfe chuckled, "Jazz is instrumental rhythm seldom sung because of the fast tempo. It's emotional music. It's 'beat your feet' music."

"Take, for example, the flambeau bearer in a nocturnal Mardi Gras parade, dog tired after lugging a torch for five or six miles. He keeps marching in cadence with the beat of the Jazz combo. The music lifts his spirits and he forgets his physical fatigue. Jazz is spiritual."

Wolfe thinks Bing Crosby has done more to foster Jazz than any other musician. "Remember it was Crosby who paid the bills for the Original Bob Crosby Jazz band," Wolfe said.

Roger also feels that although Jazz may have been played approximately at the same time on Basin St. here and Beale St. in Memphis, New Orleans should claim it because it developed in this city.

Occasionally, Jazz "greats" like "Wingy" Manone, Louis Armstrong, Earl (Father Time) Hines, Eddie Miller, Pops Celestine, and others, make guest shots on his program. Wolfe also discovered several ardent Jazz record collectors in the city and invites them as guest spinners. Recently, Dr. Edmond Souchon, and avid Jazz record collector and leading figure of the New Orleans Jazz Club, guested the show with his extensive collection.

Future plans include a Dixieland Jazz show on television, Wolfe said.

Bob Thaler



—Photo By Wolbrette & Mortenson.
 ROGER WOLFE, WDSU Jazz expert, and WINGY MANONE, famed Jazz trumpapist
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Hanley Stafford To Go Under Knife

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Gildy's Secretary A Noted Pianist

Gloria Holliday, who pl "Gildy's" secretary on NE Wednesday "The Great Gil sleeve," is considered one Hollywood's top pianists and so interested in piano music she is collaborating with J Meakin, "Gildersleeve" mus director, to write a piano c certo.



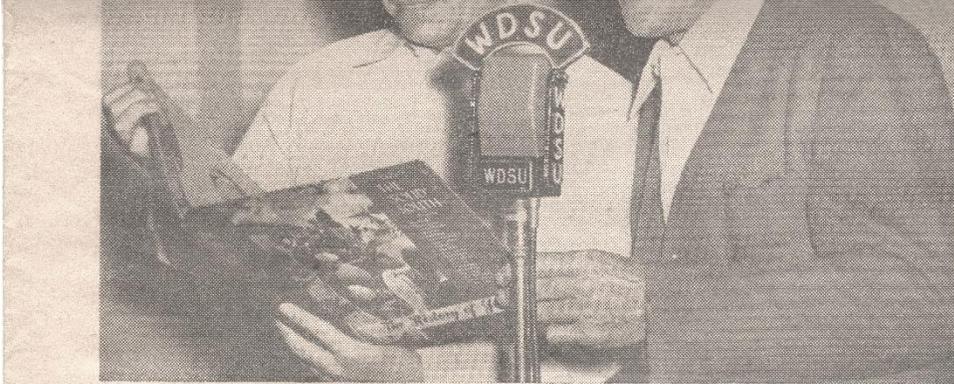
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ATTACHED TO FIDDLE

Ernie Newton, bass player with NBC "Grand Ole Opry's" Cumberland Valley Boys, has an attachment on his big fiddle that allows him to make a drum-like rhythm while plucking the strings.



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QUICK STUDY—A man of diversified talents is Staats Cots-

PAUL SEIFFERT & SONS
 STAMPS OFFICE SUPPLY