

'A Decade of Security Thru Global Airpower'

# AMARILLO JET JOURNAL

VOL. 6, NO. 1

AMARILLO AFB, TEXAS

THURSDAY, NOV. 8, 1956

## AF 'Tops In Blue' Due Here Monday

"Tops in Blue" for 1956—the Air Force's fourth annual all-airman variety show—will arrive here next Monday for a one-night appearance beginning at 8 p.m. in the service club.

The big production, made up entirely of winners from the recent AF-wide talent contest, had its premiere at Bolling AFB, Washington, D.C., on July 18. The troupe made a nation-wide appearance on Ed Sullivan's TV show.

Currently on a tour of U.S. bases, AAFB is the 21st Texas base the troupe has played since it began in the state on Oct. 17.

Later this month, the entire production will leave the U.S. for bookings at AF installations in Europe, and North Africa.

With a cast of 26, the show features acts ranging from rhythmic dances to smooth songs, comedy and colloquial hillbilly routines.

Master of Ceremonies for the show will be A/2C Donald J. Fitzpatrick of Bolling AFB, Washington, D.C. Fitzpatrick is a comedian who, in the past, has received great praise for his ability to keep a show moving at an even and interesting pace. Reviewers report the comedian's ingenious brand of comedy never fails to captivate his audience.

The Jesters, a very versatile vocal, comedy and trumpet duo have won great acclaim wherever they have appeared for their impersonations of Harry James, Perez Prado, and Clyde McCoy. Members of the act are A/2C Jack C. Jensen and A/2C Milledge H. Blair, both of Malmstrom AFB, Montana.

Winner in the novelty class was A/2C Richard E. Miller, of Lackland AFB, Texas. One of Airman Miller's outstanding song and dance routines is his impersonation of Ray Bolger. He has performed in two stage shows: "Best Foot Forward" and "I Feel Wonderful."

M/Sgt. Theodore Hunt took

the honors in the Comic field for 1956. Sergeant Hunt, at an early age, appeared on Major Bowles' Original Amateur Hour. He received the Commendation Ribbon in the Alaskan Air Command for outstanding achievement in the field of entertainment.

Instrumental Soloist of the year is A/1C Alfred King of Hamilton AFB, Calif. Airman King plays anything from Spanish serenades to the swinging rhythms of the modern jazz trend on his guitar.

Top Impressionist of the Air Force Show is A/3C Donald Pyburn from Lackland AFB, Tex. Pyburn has been praised by the Chicago critics for his impersonations of Nat King Cole, Frank Sinatra, Sammy Davis, Jr., and Billy Eckstine.

A/1C Glen P. Childers of Westover AFB, Mass., was selected as the best Western Soloist of the Air Force World-Wide Talent Contest. Childers is a veteran of last year's show. He has been seen by millions of TV viewers on programs with such stars as Eddy Fisher, Don "Red" Berry, Mickey Rooney, and many other top TV personalities.

The WAF Vocalist of the year is A/3C Sherry M. Sims of Roslyn AF Station, New York. Sherry joins the show as it's rhythm and blues singer. Her experience ranges from jazz concertos to night clubs.

A/3C Ronald Evans won first place in the dance category in the Talent Contest. Airman Evans is from Brookfield AF Station, Ohio. He has had numerous night club engagements in and around New York City.

Male Vocalist for the show will be A/3C Franklin D. Long from Pinecastle AFB, Florida. Long has many of the vocal qualities of Gordon McCre. He will take you on a musical tour of great show tunes.

A/3C Donna D. Byers, the charming and lovely WAF Vocalist from March AFB, California has appeared on several TV shows, and has added to her experience by singing regularly with the March Field dance band.

A/3C Donald G. Baudria of Goose Bay, Labrador won honors in the Instrumental Solo category. He plays the ukelele in a very unusual manner, such tunes as Malagueña makes him a favorite with most audiences.

The Barbershop Quartet division was won by "The Air Chords." Members of the Quartet are A/2C Richard J. Wilson, tenor; A/2C Phillip Schwarz, baritone; A/2C Otto F. Karbusicky, bass; and A/1C Bruce A. Heacock, lead. The Air Chords were rated number 16 in the international competition among thousands of civilian and military vocal groups in 1955.

Members of the show's band "The Blue Notes" were selected from bases scattered through the world, and met for the first time on July 2, 1956. They have all had TV and night club experience playing in combos both in civilian life and during their service careers. The members are: A/2C Jerry E. Garmon, trumpet; S/Sgt. James Fairley, sax; A/1C John W. Johnson, trombone; A/1C Bruce A. Heacock, trombone; A/1C William M. King, piano; A/3C Donald G. Baudria, bass; A/1C Alfred King, guitar; and A/2C Don Maroncelli, drums.

AIR FORCE TIMES

## 'Tops in Blue,' Base in Miniature, Finds Full Cast Doubling in Brass

WASHINGTON.—Air Force audiences viewing the all-airman "Tops in Blue" show may not notice it but they are also watching one of the most mobile of the AF's "rotating" units.

Built on a strictly military organizational set up, the troupe matches its on-stage performance with a behind-the-scenes "base in miniature"—complete with medical detachment, finance office, information services office and supply. It is currently on the NEAC leg of its tour.

To keep overhead to a minimum, practically all of the units T/O slots are filled by members of the cast "doubling in brass." Sole exception is escort officer Lt. John B. Barnes and his exception is only a technical one. While he does not appear on the stage, besides commanding the 25-man troupe, he is also producer-director of the show on tour.

A FEW OTHER members of the cast are relieved of specific additional duties for a good reason. Performers like master of ceremonies A/2C Donald J. Fitzpatrick are on stage for so much of the show, there is little time for them to fill behind-the-scenes slots.

Otherwise, the T/O shapes up like this:

M/Sgt. Ted Hunt (Campbell AFB, Ky.) drops his comic routine off-stage to become NCOIC of the troupe and production on tour.

A/2C Richard J. Wilson (Hunter AFB, Ga.), tenor of the Air Chords quartet is in charge of administration, personnel, billets and mess. Wilson, with A/3C Ronald Evans (Brookfield AF Station, Ohio), tap dancer handles stage lights and curtains.

A/2C Otto F. Karbusicky (Hunter), the quartet's bass, assists Wilson and carries additional duties as mail and change of address clerk. The job can get complicated during an eight-month series of one night stands.

A/2C Sherry M. Sims (Roslyn AF Station, N.Y.), WAF vocalist, handles the troupe's publicity.

A/3C Donna D. Byers (March AFB, Calif.), also a WAF vocalist, is in charge of finance. The role is "type-cast." Her AFSC is that of finance clerk.

A/2C Roy Caldwell (Biggs AFB, Tex.), a member of the Westerners

trio, is also working in his AFSC. A medical specialist, he is in charge of shot records and medical matter for the troupe.

A/1C Glen P. Childers (Westover AFB, Mass.) hillbilly singer, and A/2C Richard E. Miller (Lakeland AFB, Tex.), impersonator are co-stage managers.

A/3C Donald L. Pyburn (Lackland) impressionist, and A/3C Franklin D. Long (Pinecastle AFB, Fla.) the male vocalist, are responsible for the public address system.

Two acts team to trade off on the spotlighting of the show. The "Jesters," A/2C Jackie Jensen and A/3C Milledge H. Blair (both of Malmstrom AFB, Mont.) carry one shift. A/2Cs Phillip L. Schwarz and Otto F. Karbusicky (Hunter), baritone and bass in the quartet, take the other.

S/Sgt. James Fairley (Sidi Slimane AFB, French Morocco) trades his saxophone in the combo for the off-stage slot of assistant NCOIC for operations, inspection and transportation.

Airman Schwartz, plus running spotlights, is assistant to Sergeant Fairley.

A/2Cs Caldwell and Neal A. Maertins (Wheeler AB, Tripoli), both "Westerners" are also in charge of supply.

WEARING THE most 'hats' is Airman Jensen. Besides the aforementioned spotlight job, he works on both the baggage and cleaning details. Vocalist Long and Jensen's comedy partner, Airman Blair are also on the baggage squad.

Airmen Miller, Evans and Pyburn round out the cleaning crew. In the music department, A/1C Bruce A. Heacock (Lowry AFB, Colo.), trombonist in the combo and lead in the quartet, has added duties as music director.

A/1C John W. Johnson (Goose Bay, Labrador), also a trombonist, is the show's band director.

Heacock, Johnson and A/1C William King (641st AC&W Sq., Labrador), pianist in the combo, are in charge of musical arrangements.



THE JESTERS

### Tops in Blue

(See Photo)

The Air Force's fourth annual production of "Tops in Blue," all-star variety show, was presented at the Langford theater on 9 January 1957.

Many of the cast for this year's show had experience in other military shows, as well as in radio, theater, television, and night club work in civilian life. The versatility and experience of the 26 performers, two of whom are veterans from last year's "Tops in Blue" show, set the Langford theater rocking and gave the 603rd some of the best entertainment of the year.

### 'Tops in Blue' Hits Burtonwood

Hitting the high spots over the festive season at Burtonwood was the Air Force's own variety show "Tops in Blue." The show arrived here December 21 and played to an enthusiastic audience at the NCO Club, and followed with a scheduled show at the Skyline Club, December 22.

Bad weather prevented this crack all-star show from leaving for Christmas day engagements in Paris, and the "Tops" misfortune turned out to be Burtonwood's good luck as the boys gave one of the greatest variety shows ever to patients in the Hospital on Christmas Day.

This show includes top entertainers drawn from Air Force talent, and most of the artists have had screen, stage, radio, or television experience. Playing in the UK since December 7, "Tops in Blue" has played at every base here, and their appearance at Burtonwood capped an exhaustive UK tour.

Reports indicate that the show has been enthusiastically received everywhere, and has been a great morale booster. "Tops in Blue" are certainly tops Burtonwood way.

### "Tops In Blue"

The all airman Air Force show "Tops in Blue" will perform at the Sembach Service Club on January 10th at an hour to be announced at a later date. This is a don't miss event. "Tops in Blue '56" is considered the best all airman production of its kind to date and its laurels include a TV appearance on the "Ed Sullivan Show." The cast consists of 24 male and 3 female performers who really put on an all-star performance. Remember the date January Tenth and don't be late, as we expect SRO for late comers.

A/1C ALFRED KING, from Hamilton AFB, Calif., delights the MAFB audience with Latin American rhythms from his electric guitar. He was one of many outstanding performers on the all Air Force show "Tops in Blue", that appeared here last week.

