

# Foursomes host great party

By MARTIN SCOT KOSINS

It was like a gigantic party at Meadow Brook Music Festival on Friday night when an overflow crowd turned out to hear four famous vocal groups perform their greatest hits.

The Four Freshmen, the Four Lads, and the Pied Pipers—a group which originated in the Tommy Dorsey Orchestra—all sang in their well-known styles, to the delight of a very appreciative audience.

But the highlight of the show for me was the segment during which Gene Miller and the Ink Spots sang a dozen of their million sellers. "The Gypsy," "Java Jive" and, of course, "If I Didn't Care"—all the big ones were included.

These are not the original Ink Spots; the Ink Spots history is a confusing one. But during intermission, Gene Miller, leader of the current group, did his best to clear up the matter.

THE ORIGINAL four were Bill Kenny, Charlie Fuqua, Orville "Hoppy" Jones, and Deke Watson, who was the originator.

After Jones died, there were several replacements. Later, the remaining originals broke up and formed their own Ink Spots units. Some of these groups broke up, and again, the number of groups multiplied.

Some of the spinoffs claimed to be

## Review

"originals by association." Confusing, right?

While Gene Miller does not claim to be an original, he did perform lead vocal with the Deke Watson group, beginning in 1949. When Watson died, Miller continued to perform and tour with his own group, as heard Friday.

The other members, Nat Williams, harmonica; Paul Parks, bass; and Floyd McDaniel, guitarist and tenor, are all seasoned performers—and terrific guys.

The atmosphere backstage was very relaxed, but yet the show was well produced. Effective lighting, generally good sound and excellent big-band-style arrangements all added to the enjoyment.

For a finale, all the groups shared a chorus of "A Lovely Way to Spend an Evening." After more than two hours of music, the crowd would have gladly stayed for more.

I have been told that the Friday Night jazz-pop series has had record sales this season. It is easy to see why.

To the credit of the Meadow Brook crew, by the way, is the very efficient handling of the parking situation.

I had a great time at the party.



The Ink Spots sang their old favorites at Meadow Brook Music Festival in Rochester.

## Sam Sanders group plays

Detroiters Sam Sanders and The Visions will appear at the Jazz at the Institute series tonight. There will be sets at 7:30 and 9:30 p.m. in the Detroit Institute of Arts Kresge Court.

Tickets are available through the Detroit Institute of Arts ticket office. Advance reservations are suggested.

Reserved table seating will be provided in the candle-lit continental cafe atmosphere. Wine, beer, soft drinks and snacks will be offered at additional cost.

For reservations and a complete schedule of Jazz at the Institute, call the Detroit Institute of Arts ticket office.



## Manhattan Transfer sings oldies

Vocalist Helen Schneider (right) is appearing as special guest star with the Manhattan Transfer (above) at 2 and 7 p.m. Sunday at the Birmingham Theatre. Manhattan Transfer offers nostalgic versions of old song favorites.



## Lonnie and Chico P'Jazzing

Holding forth at P'Jazz at the Pontch next week will be LonnieListon Smith on Monday and Chico Hamilton on Wednesday.

Starting time for both concerts will be 6:30 p.m. General admission tickets can be purchased after 5 p.m. at the entrance to the Hotel Pontchartrain's poolside terrace.

Chuck Muer started the summer P'Jazz concerts at the Pontch seven years ago. In its informal, outdoor setting with cocktails and sandwiches available, P'Jazz proved so popular that Muer has expanded the series and brings in some of the nation's biggest jazz stars along with top local talent. Lonnie Liston Smith a keyboardist

whose music spans jazz, soul and pop, has been described as "one of the new generation of jazz leaders."

Chico "The Cat" Hamilton is a drummer who joined Duke Ellington at age 16. He started his first group in 1955 after playing with Count Basie and Lionel Hampton and accompanying vocalists like Lena Horne, Billie Holiday and Billy Eckstine.

Chico's current group consists of alto and soprano saxes, flute, piccolo, electric guitar, bass and, of course, the Cat on drums and percussion.

For more information about these or future P'Jazz concerts, telephone the P'Jazz ticket office in the Hotel Pontchartrain at 965-0200, ext. 1755.

## Ensemble performs at Ann Arbor fair

The Actor's Ensemble will present two contemporary comedies: "Yanks 3 Detroit 0, Top of the Seventh" and "Sexual Perversity in Chicago" July 19-22, during the Ann Arbor Art Fair.

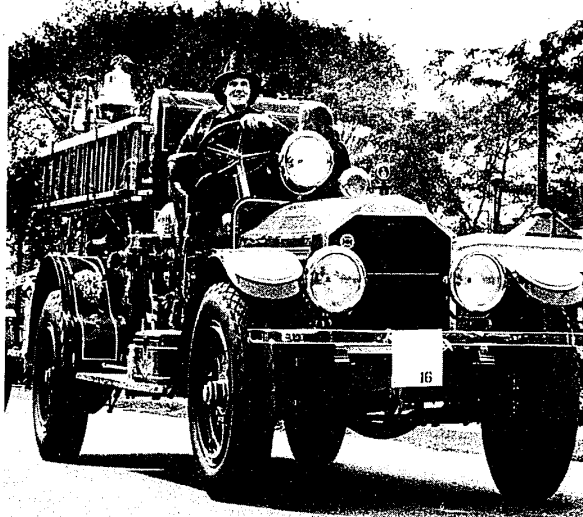
Jonathan Reynolds, author of "Yanks," is known for his New York

comedy "Rubbers." David Mamet, author of "Sexual Perversity," is an award-winning playwright, having received two Obies for Off-Broadway productions of "Sexual Perversity" and "American Buffalo." His "Life in the Theatre" is currently in a successful Broadway run.

B. David Green, founding director of the ensemble, is making his Ann Arbor directing debut with this production. He has recently been studying in London, and in Hollywood with Lee Strasberg. This is producer Daniel Kanter's third show with Actor's Ensemble.

will be performed at Schorling Auditorium, School of Education Building, University of Michigan campus, Ann Arbor. All performances are at 8 p.m. General admission tickets are available at UAC Ticket Central in the Michigan Union and at the door.

## DINING AND ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE ON THE TOWN



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### Performance Dates

July 23, July 30, August 6, August 13, August 20

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