

Washington D.C. 1965 - 1973



AFTER DARK



The Mayflower Swings—Gently

By JOHN SEGRAVES

Apparently the word is even beginning to seep into the bastions of the city's more elegant after-dark haunts that to keep one's financial head above water these days one must appeal to that segment of society tiresomely known as the single swinger.

Even the Mayflower Hotel has heard about the situation and in its own manner is making a pitch for the eat-drink-and-be-merry-for-tomorrow-we-may-die bunch. The old Presidential Room had dancing until almost three years ago when it was closed for remodeling. Now the doors are open again, the magnificent room is called LaChatelaine and from 9:30 until 1:30 every night but Sunday there is dancing to the Ernie Douglas Quartet.

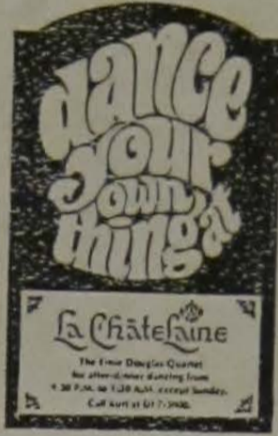
Douglas' outfit moves onto the stage just a step above the

comfortably sized dance floor as soon as the strolling strings of Grisha Titoff's trio has left, and it does an admirable job in attempting to appeal to the older folks who may just be finishing dinner and to the

younger ones who have dropped by to dance or listen over an after-dinner drink.

Douglas is a vibraphonist who puts the mallets aside several times during each set to sing some of the old and much of the contemporary in a middle range baritone of decided quality. He is backed by Frank Tate's bass and the imaginative low-key jazz piano of Dan Pushkar.

The togetherness of this trio is not to be denied as it makes its way through "Mr. Lucky," "The Girl from Ipanema," "That Old Black Magic," "Little Green Apples" and a host of other selections. There are some tasteful, soft jazz riffs tossed in spasmodically as if the hotel was trying to tell us that its elegance is remaining but Lawrence Welk's bubbles aren't appreciated either any



Washington D.C.'s Mayflower one of the great Western International Hotels

LA CHATELAINE

This elegant restaurant in the Mayflower Hotel interprets classic, 18th-century French design in warm, Mediterranean tones of gold and red. Intimate conversation helps break up the spacious rooms into cozy nooks. The menu ranges across the globe and features Oriental specialties, European dishes and flaming-wine recipes. Much of the cuisine is unique to the Mayflower as is an imported Burgundy wine offered in both red and white for \$2.50 a carafe. Sunday brunch served. Dancing nightly except Sun. 9:30 p.m.-1:30 a.m. to music of the Ernie Douglas Quartet. Dinner music 6:30-9:30 p.m. by the Grisha Titoff Trio.

WHERE MAGAZINE



ทางด่วนสำหรับรถวิ่ง 2514

LEFT BANK JAZZ SOCIETY OF WASHINGTON D. C. INC.

NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION

A Society Dedicated to Increasing the Number of Persons Appreciating and Supporting Jazz in the Washington Area

— Presents A — Jazz Concert

ernie douglas quartet

SUNDAY, AUGUST 6, 1967 — 6 P.M. to 10 P.M.



Air Conditioned CRYSTAL ROOM

5200 Foote Street, Northeast

photos by Cortez

program designs by Leona

AFTER DARK



Quiet Crowd Gets a Break

By JOHN SEGRAVES

Take two leaders who have built solid reputations at diverse places, add a third who has been a factor in helping another group to build definite regard around town, put them together and the odds are that something good should come of the musical merger.

It has. Just a short time ago Ernie Douglas, the tasteful, melodic vibe player-crooner who fronted his own trio at the Mayflower's La Chatelaine Room, got together with pianist John Phillips, late of Blues Alley and the Silver Fox restaurant's Fox's Den. They were joined by Henry Outlaw, the smooth bassist who originally worked with the Frank Hinton Combo at the Marriott's Windjammer (when it was a private room). The result is the new Ernie Douglas Trio, which opened just this week in the comfortable lounge of the Three Thieves Restaurant on Wisconsin Avenue.

This threesome is not the answer to a mid-20 swinger's dream. No one can do the latest discotheque dance to their music unless they've learned a way to do the bugaloo to "Misty," or "By the Time I Get to Pheonix." It is the answer to the older crowd who keep columnists' phones ringing as to where to go to dance (together) and how to spend a few hours.

From 9 until the 2 a.m. curfew Monday through Saturday they are up there on the little stand playing the old and the new, from Gershwin through Webb. Douglas' vocals are done in a warm baritone without that affected rough edge so many have been tacking on to their tonsils in recent years, especially since the rise to the late Otis Redding.

Phillips played for the original Tommy Gwaltney group when the clarinetist opened Blues Alley, and he has ranked at or near the top of the local keyboard world since. Phillips has always had the flexibility to move from cool subtle jazz to straight pop accompaniment and back again. Here he gets a chance to do both, accompanying Douglas' vocals and improvising when Douglas turns a tune over to him. Meanwhile, Outlaw gives the whole group a solid foundation with a bass which is never obtrusive.

The lounge is one of the few around town for those who want to return to the more restful, if less imaginative, exciting rhythms extant elsewhere. The dance floor is adequate size for the room and the Ernie Douglas Trio is perfectly placed. Groups of this kind have a way of breaking up after several months. Let's hope this one doesn't. It'll rob the anti-rock crown of its crown.

Other places:

- Blue Alley Georgetown
- Mr. Smiths Georgetown
- Mr. Henrys Georgetown
- Yacht Club D.C. - Virginia