

MONDAY, OCT. 3, 1949

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**It Happened Last Night—  
'Margaret Is  
Real Party'**  
Accompanist Says Pictures  
Do Not Show Her Beauty

By Earl Wilson

NEW YORK, Oct. 3—I interviewed Margaret Truman's new accompanist while sitting in the shadow of his parlor grand piano.

I was awfully well qualified for the story—as my Dad says, I know as much about music as a hog does about Sunday School.

But this Herman Allison, 27, a sandy-haired son of a Methodist minister, who is a Georgian—not a Goggin cracker, though—up and said to me:

"Margaret Truman is not only a fine musician but also an extraordinarily fine person. She's worked out what is an

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**Mr. Allison**

Of course I wasn't expecting him to be putting in any beefs against "Meg"—but he was emphatic the other way.

"How the devil did you get so lucky?" I asked him.

Here's a boy who in one year has been accompanist to Ezio Pinza and Margaret Truman, both pretty hot folks.

So this boy, who's only been around N. Y. two years, probably would be welcome at the White House. What seems more important, he could probably dig you up two for "South Pacific"!

"WELL," he said, and he handed me a cigaret.

(A trait I always like to see in my interviewees.)

I was fortunate in getting a job as accompanist for Ezio Pinza's daughter, Claudia.

A fast double play followed, Pinza to Pinza to Truman. But Allison wasn't out. He was in.

I went on tour with Miss Pinza and when she did a joint recital with her father in San Francisco,

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**Earl's Pearls**

Edith Fellows seriously maintains that two rabbits she knows have just started a chain litter. . . . That wit, Walter Shirley, notices Edith Fellows that some guys got to get tight to get loose.

of course I met him," said the unsmiling young man who might be a person himself.

CLAUDIA got married and what d'you suppose came naturally?

Uh-huh! She needed a babysitter, not an accompanist.

Allison was on Pinza needles for a while. (Honest, it come to me, just like that!)

So Pop Pinza took him as his accompanist from October '48 to January '49, then came "South Terrific" and he didn't need one.

But you all know who did.

Margaret Truman is quite a good friend of Mr. Pinza's," Allison said. "She had been to see his show four times.

"He must have suggested me to her."

SO NOW THEY rehearse three times a week. When and where is none of your business and none of mine, either, they keep telling me.

Margaret calls him "Mr. Allison," although she's only a two-sky, or a deuce, younger, as we slangsters vulgarly put it.

Allison's a bachelor.

"This apartment would look better if I weren't," he said.

"The piano they have to bring up outside the building through the window. I rent it."

Allison—who was graduated from Emory College in '48—goes to Mr. Truman's Southern trip starting Sunday.

"She's worked awfully hard," he said. "With her vocalizing and rehearsing some days she's standing most all day."

"But she said she didn't mind it. She was used to it. From standing in receiving lines, she said, her feet were tough. Well, we all look that."

Me, too!

**The Midnight Earl**

WHAT'S HOT: A false dropped from the dress of Simone Dolphen, singer at No. 1 Fifth Ave., and caused excitement as it bounced off the piano and came to rest on the floor. . . . Jane Wyman's first date after returning from Europe was at the Colony, accompanied by Manny Sachs of Columbia Records and MCA's Sonny Werblin.

The Dave Workmans expect a little glamour photog in 5 months. . . . "Detective Story" has now paid its backer in full. . . . Jacques Fath, Don Loper, the Winnie Gardiners, Johnny Meyer and his Patay Lydon all showed up at El Morocco after attending Mrs. Orson Munro's fashion show at the Waldorf's Sert Room. . . . Comic Alan Young appeared at Chandler's and announced his expected fatherhood next month.

B'way Bulletins

WASHINGTON believes positively that V. P. Barkley will marry Mrs. Carlton S. Hadley.

Margaret O'Brien, 12, was nightcrawling and hamburgering in Toots Shor's. In Dinty Moore's, Connie Mack got her autograph. Age: difference: 70 years!

Ethel Merman may do a Lindsay & Crouse show in which she plays Mrs. Perle Mesta.

Pat Williams, the beautiful body (and face) in "Blackouts," admits to us

Miss Carpenter that she's looking for a husband, preferably her own. . . . Tyrone Power'll be back soon; he signed to do the "Cavalcade of America" radio show Oct. 25. . . . Sonja Henie off to Hollywood to go back to work, leaving her bridegroom behind. But he'll join her later. . . . The Jack Larue's are busting. . . . Morey Amsterdam named his Westchester home, "The House That Jokes Built." . . . Lois Wilson will play the mother in the Aldrich Family TV show. . . . Thelma Carpenter begins a singing engagement at the Sheiburne Lounge.

Who's News

THE ROY SEDLEYS are divorce-bound. . . . The Airline Trio's Hickory House opening brought out Duke Ellington and many other folk who are news in music. . . . Teddy and Phyllis Rodriguez, Joan Barton in a gown open to discussion and Dick Gasparre's band opened Monte Carlo for the season with many of the East Side elite attending.

Taffy Tuttle heard that Ted Navarré's giving driving lessons to her mother so now she calls her, "Oh, ma, the dent maker" . . . That's Earl, brother.

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