

It Happened Last Night—

## Fire 'Improves' Works of Art

Blaze Damages Canvases By 'Famous Amateurs'

By Earl Wilson

NEW YORK, Nov. 11.—Fire marred a few paintings by "Famous Amateurs" at the Celebrities' Art Show, but didn't ruin any. No, sir! (One expert said the celebrities had already ruined them when they painted them.)

Fire—which broke out at the Associated American Artists Galleries—may even have improved some of the pictures.

Personally, I enjoyed Joe DiMaggio's picture of a badly proportioned ball bat, Ezio Pinza's painting of a fat-necked Mary Martin, Duke Ellington's

painting of a nude girl with a rear that lights up, Toots Shor's impression of a drunk with just one thing missing (a face), Robert Sherwood's picture of a lion reading a book with a rose in its paw, and Diz Gillespie's sketch of—uh—Diz Gillespie.

Capt. Edwin Molyneux's painting of two roses became a picture of one rose after the fire. His picture was said to be the best in the exhibition.

It was all for a wonderful cause—the Urban League. The celebrities were good sports and put in a lot of work.

YET Dr. J. B. de la Faille, the Van Gogh expert, called the whole thing from a technical standpoint, a "Chamber of Horrors." He was asked whether he thought the celebrities had had the pictures ghosted.

"No, they're not good enough to be ghosted," was his unkind remark. Well, Doc, I don't know.

Earl's Girls...



Joan Barton

JOAN BARTON—The lovely singer is shown getting in shape

for her opening Tuesday night at the Park Avenue Restaurant.

DR. KINSEY'S WIFE (a woman named Mrs. Kinsey) is trying to protect him while he's interrogating women about their habits. I phoned Bloomington, Ind., for him, and Mrs. K. said he was away but she wouldn't say where. "Well, thanks, I'll try to locate him in New York," I said. She answered, "He needs privacy. I wish you bad luck."

ED WYNN told on TV of a woman who came from a fastidious family—her father was fast, and her mother was hideous.

OSCAR LEVANT, on television, is the same fresh kid he was on radio—and is therefore excellent. On "Who Said That?" the other night, they repeated Harold Ickes' remark ("Dewey and Dulles are a couple of political falsies") and

Dewey's retort that "Ickes is a senile old prevaricator." Levant said: "Ickes can't be too senile, or he wouldn't know anything about falsies."

MOVIE STAR PAUL DOUGLAS took a trip on a boat named "Traveler" but declined to pose for a picture near the boat's name.

"Some ——" said Douglas, "would be sure to write 'Fellow' in front of it!"

SINCE IRVING BERLIN turned artist, painting landscapes, etc., his technique has aroused curiosity. I asked his friend, Irving Hoffman, "What does Berlin wear when he paints?" Hoffman replied, "Paint."

Wish I'd Said That CATHY MASTICE: "A songwriter is a fellow who lives on borrowed tune.... That's Earl."

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