

World class entertainment presented during variety show at The Quincy Music Theatre

By Byron Spires
Herald Editor

World class entertainment came to town last weekend.

Gordon McLeary's Variety Show for America swept the stage of the Quincy Music Theatre with big band music, singers, dancers, acrobatics, magicians and comedians.

A semblance of the television's hay day of entertainment, reminiscent of the Ed Sullivan Show, less Topo Gigio, the production had all the earmarks of classic variety.

Emceed by Rich Natole, an "A" class entertainer in his own right, the production flowed along on a river of pure pleasure.

Natole's vocal and singing impressions kept the audience rolling in a cloud of laughter. His rendition of "The National Anthem," sung with the voices of every president since

Kennedy, was classic.

If you like the cool sounds of Bobby Darin and Frank Sinatra, then you would have enjoyed the two male singers. Ned Fasullo and Bobby Kemp owned the stage when they performed their melodies of songs from the past.

Both crooners brought back a lot of memories of days gone by when singers sang heart songs and women swayed under their trance.

Fasullo sang many of the old standards, now raked away in album covers. He sang the audience down a memory lane of torch songs. His rendition of "Mack The Knife," was pure Bobby D. from the start.

Kemp's high energy performance and hyperactive stage presence captivated the audience in a whirlwind of Sinatra songs tagged with a little Tony Bennett for extra measure. His "New York,

New York," rendition rocked the house.

In front of, behind, and around the entire show was Coates and Company, a 16-piece big band orchestra from Tallahassee. Their performance rivaled anything New York or Las Vegas clubs could produce.

Glenn Miller tunes were well represented by Coates and Company during their sets of pure musical joy.

Magician Eric Olson stammered the crowd with his mixture of magic and comedy. Olson's hysterical escape from a straight jacket wooed the audience into a clatter of clapping and laughter.

The Liang Acrobatic and Comedy Show gave the QMT audience a glance into plate spinning. Few acrobats can manipulate eight plates and maneuver as gracefully at Liang can.

The stage became a plat-



Photo by Byron Spires

Bobby Kemp entertains during the Variety Show for America held in Quincy.

form of perfection as Caroline Picart and Darian Chancellor of Tallahassee glided across the floor in modern dance. The pair gracefully performed as one, enchanting the audience with their every move.

When the lights dimmed and the sweet music of the grand piano filled the air, the beautiful voice of Avis Berry swept across the audience

like a breath of fresh air. Accompanied by William Peterson, Berry took her listeners on a journey of song. From gospel to torch, she mesmerized the crowd.

Way before the audience was through the show ended, leaving a gnawing expectation of possibly another performance.

McLeary said the future was bright for his flock of

troubadours. Around the corner may be another show. Like all variety shows it will be a little different.

Maybe early next year the QMT stage will light up again with the sounds of laughter and song, McLeary said. But, it might pay, once a few strings are pulled, McLeary added, to watch the media for a possible show, somewhere, even sooner.