Now! ALL STAR JAZZ REVUE!
World Famous CHARLIE VENTURA—Tenor Sax
SERGE CHALOFF—Baritone Sax—AND HIS BAND
Featuring BOOTS MUSSULLI—Alto Sax
Paul Drummond, Drums — Everett Evans, Bass
Bob Freedman, Piano
Come—Join In Our Red Hot Jam Sessions Every Sunday!
Celebrity Club
Coming NOV. 7 Roy Hamilton

Bigtime Jazzmen Play Bop

HERB .... trumpet

Sounds cool and strangely-formed issued from the Hawthorne Inn Casino last night. Six bigtime jazz men in neat dark suits blew their best for nearly four hours, treating local "cats" to the best bop that has ever been heard in this area.

The Herb Pomeroy-Serge Chaloff band set a standard of sheer musicianship last night that would be hard for any other group likely to come here to equal. They will do it again tonight and then resume their tour.

The highly complex and yet really swinging numbers the band played were largely of their own composition. Most of the numbers on their newest Capitol recording on the Kenton Presents series called the Serge Chaloff Sextet were given a thorough going over during the evening. The album came out within the last two weeks.

Although the band is small, consisting of trumpet, alto and baritone saxes, piano, drums and bass, they have a very big sound. When they wail through an ensemble you can shut your eyes and have little trouble believing you are hearing a snatch from the Kenton or Herman bands.

Since the three horn men, Herb, Boots Mussuli on alto sax and Serge Chaloff on baritone sax, have all worked with these bands and other big groups for considerable lengths of time, this is not really so surprising.

BOB .... piano

BOOTS .... alto sax

What is surprising, however, is the creativity of the musicians. their numbers are elaborate constructs of highly trained musical minds executed by topflight musicians. To watch them reading the music as they blast through rapid and complex passages is quite a surprise to anyone who has ever looked at a page of notes.

Local boy Pomeroy got off some very fine solo work in his own distinctive style. The rest of the crew weren't a bit behind, with the possible exception of Chaloff, whom we personally felt didn't hit the towering standards the others set on all his solos.

Bob Freedman was just as fine on piano with the group as we have heard him on alto sax with Herb previously. They tell us he can do the same things with a baritone sax and after hearing him on piano we believe it. Bop piano can be a terrible bore and all too often is just that. Freedman is not loud, but even working on the poor piano at the Casino keeps a steady stream of ideas flowing forth.

The other rhythm section men, Gus Johnson on drums and Everett Evans on bass, are also excellent. Both solidly professional, they can keep a beat like crazy and do fine things in their occasional solo spots.

Some of the numbers the boys played from their new album were, Kip, Junior, Mardros, Unison and Sergical, all originals by alto man Boots. Herb arranged three ballads on the album, Body and Soul, What's New? and Yesterday's Gardenias. Chaloff and Freedman also write and arrange for the group.

Our only gripe is not with the band but with the people. The people we are griped with were the people who should have been in the audience and weren't. The band is one of the top jazz groups in the country. Frankly, it is never in our memory that such a good group of musicians played here and it was in large part luck that landed them here this time. Herb lives here for one thing, a fire in a night club in far off Detroit for another.

It costs money to pay a good band, and if people don't turn out to see it somebody loses money. People don't like to lose money and won't keep at it. If good jazz is wanted here—and plenty of people we know do want it—they had better get out and hear it. If they don't it may be a long time before fortune throws up another catch like the Herb Pomeroy-Serge Chaloff group.

DAVE GREER

SERGE .... baritone sax