

After Dark

It's Probably No More Than the Second Greatest Show on Earth
By HARRY MacARTHUR.

The circus may be the greatest show on earth, but Hildegard certainly is the second greatest. Even the frantic antics attendant to launching her upon the Statler Embassy Room floor are livelier than many night club floor shows. Only those who actually have been witnesses to these preparations really know what they are like. Those who have seen the frenzied prelude to a network radio show can guess.

The orchestra's intermission just prior to the Hildegard appearance is filled with furious activity. A piano, laden with microphones and baby spotlights is pushed to the center of the floor. Eager young men rush out to appointed spots with microphones. Other young men rush out with wires and plug in the

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microphones. One assistant stations himself at a "mixer" box to control the microphones, has them all tested. Another takes over the small switchboard and tests the lights, making especially certain that the piano bench is in line with the overhead spot.

When all is in readiness, the activity ceases, to be replaced by nervous expectancy. Suddenly the room is blacked out. After a decent interval, when the proper pitch of excited anticipation has been reached, the black hush is blasted by a crashing orchestral fanfare that must rattle the doors on the K street side of the Statler. Then the orchestra swings lustily into "Darling, Je Vous Aime Beaucoup," playing it as if it were "Pomp and Circumstance." Lights come up and reveal—Hildegard.

The lass from Milwaukee probably is the center of more controversy than any other entertainer on the present scene. Those who are not amused are struck with deadly boredom. They would elect Hildegard Miss Schmaltz of whatever year it is and happily forget her. Those who are amused, on the other hand, are mightily so. They think Hildegard is the greatest thing that has happened to human entertainment since the first minstrel raised a voice. There are, incidentally, enough of them that they may be found fighting to get into the already completely filled Embassy Room these nights.

If you've seen Hildegard, you know how you feel about her. If you haven't, you probably should. You owe it to yourself to see how

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lost after that herole introduction, with nothing to top it.

The new Club Cairo entertainment is one of those affairs that is more well-balanced than spectacular. It has comedy of Phil Foster, it has dancing by Germaine, it has music by the Modernaires, and it has dancing girls in production numbers staged by Sam Schanker himself.

Mr. Foster does not look much like Gary Grant, as promised, but he is a reasonably funny man, especially in his routine about Army life and an imitation of a Brooklyn Dodger fan. Germaine is a tap dancer who is both pretty and more talented than most. The Modernaires are four men and a girl—a group of the type usually found with "name" bands—who sing popular songs of the day very nicely, if you go for their sort of thing.

Postscript: If you've been putting off a visit to the Romany Room,

you'd better stop putting it off right now. Barring sudden change of mind, which isn't likely, the Romany Room will be closed for the season after Sunday night. The Brothers Young, Paul and Dave, known that there is one thing certain about the Washington weather—you can't trust it and the heat may be on any day now.

U. N. Manual to Depict Annapolis State House
By the Associated Press

ANNAPOLIS, May 8.—Maryland's State House, first State capitol over which a United Nations emblem was flown, will be pictured in a manual on development of the U. N. honor flag, Brooks Harding, chairman of the Flag Committee, announced yesterday.

The standard was raised here during the U. N. Conference in San Francisco, starting in April, 1945.

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