

# BACKSTAGE <sup>1944</sup> and on the AISLE

by JAMES LEE

## Fagerquist Will Join Gene Krupa's Orchestra

Don Fagerquist, the sensational 17-year-old trumpet player from Greendale, now with Mal Hallett's orchestra, has been signed by Gene Krupa and will join his new band on Sept. 6.

He will play all the music that Roy Eldridge, former featured trumpet player with Krupa, used to do, which means plenty of solo work.

Don attended Commerce High School until last Spring when he joined Hallett. Locally he played in the Plymouth Theater's orchestra and with Bob Pooley, and despite his youth, was recognized as an exceptional musician.

Hallett's orchestra plays tomorrow at Sun Valley in Shrewsbury, and it will be a homecoming for the three Worcesterites in the personnel. Besides Fagerquist, the band includes Paul Rohde, sax player, and Mary Conlon, bass player and vocalist—the only girl in an otherwise all-male orchestra.

Hallett, an old-time favorite in this section, has just returned to New England after three weeks in Youngstown, O., a week at Atlantic City and one-nighters in Ohio and Pennsylvania. On Sept. 6 they play a coast-to-coast "Spotlight band" broadcast.



1954

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with JAMES LEE

## Don Fagerquist Rates No. 5 In Metronome Trumpeters Poll

Worcester-born Don Fagerquist is picked as the No. 5 trumpet player of the country in a poll conducted by Metronome magazine.

That's a particularly signal honor when it is considered the four who preceded him on the

list are such redoubtable names as Chet Baker, Dizzie Gillespie, Shorty Rogers and Roy Eldridge. They finished in that order.

Don is featured trumpet man with Les Brown's orchestra, currently in its seventh week at the Palladium in Hollywood.

He has come notably to the attention of jazz fans through albums made by Brown's band and by a trio within the band.

Donnie's career in music started young. When only 13 he was playing with the orchestras of Bob Pooley and Dol Brissette when they figured importantly in New England.

Two years later the late Mal Hallett grabbed him for his band and took him off on tour, and he really was on his way. Since then, he's been featured with Gene Krupa, Artie Shaw, Woody Herman and Tony Pastor.

He's the son of Mr. and Mrs. Bernard Fagerquist of 4 Poccasset street, and makes his own residence with his wife and two children.



Fagerquist