

EMOTIONAL SCENES

Winner

AT SARI PRIZE-GIVING

PRIDE OF PLACE this week must undoubtedly go to the cream of South Africa's talent—the seven Sari award winners. At a glittering function at the Wanderers, Johannesburg, the winners in the 10 categories were presented with their golden Sari awards.

More than 130,000 radio listeners cast their votes for the artistes and about 400 separate recordings were played during the 10 weeks the competition ran.

On the night of the awards emotion and excitement ran high.

Tall good-looking David Marks mumbled into the microphone that he was very "happy" to win the song of the year award for "Master Jack." Other artistes like Four Jacks and a Jill, who are in America, Nico Carstens, in Rhodesia, and Gé Korsten, in his own show at the Civic, did not attend the presentation.

Four Jacks and a Jill, South Africa's most popular folk and beat group, are campaigning in America with great success.

Their song "Master Jack"

**In the groove:
with Peter
Feldman**

reached No 1 on the Malaysian Hit Parade and "Timothy" was jumped into eighth place on the New Zealand Hit Parade. The group's latest record "Hey Mister," also penned by David Marks, is due for release in America soon.

A name that comes readily to mind when discussing Four Jacks is that of brilliant songwriter David Marks, who discovered his talent for songwriting 3,000ft. underground. The names David Marks and Four Jacks and a Jill have become synonymous.

MINER

Born in Cape Town, 24-year-old David began working underground in the St. Helena mine near Welkom five years ago. About two years later he heard Des Lindberg sing and was so

taken by his music that when he was underground and had nothing to do, he sat down and began writing songs.

In three years he has written more than 50 numbers.

Top female vocalist Virginia Lee is a bundle of energy and inventiveness. Her LP "Hits, Hits and More Hits" also won the Sari record of the year award.

About eight years ago Virginia, then an aspiring young vocalist, translated an English hit number "Ten Thousand Miles" into Afrikaans. It became a hit and she has never looked back.

LANGUAGES

She has the fantastic ability to learn phonetically perfect any foreign language and can sing in twelve different languages including Hindu, Mexican and Turkish. As a cabaret artiste she has toured Europe, Istanbul, Turkey and Iceland and has appeared in every major city in South Africa and Rhodesia.

Nico Carstens, winner of the top instrumentalist and Afrikaans orchestra awards, is the only South African artiste to sell a million records in this country. And at the comparatively youth-



David Marks . . . underground music came out tops.

ful age of 39 — he was born in Bellville in the Cape — he is on his way to selling his second million discs.

A qualified schoolteacher lovely, soft-eyed Min Shaw gave up teaching to concentrate on singing about two years ago. She is currently appearing in a number of musical films and has recorded six LPs to date. Min won a Sari for top female Country and Western singer.

During this year she appeared

with the Gunther Kaliman Choir on tour.

South Africa's most famous operatic tenor, Gé Korsten, top male vocalist, has starred in a musical picture "Hear My Song" and has made 10 LPs all of which have become best-sellers. In 1966 he also won a Sari award. In March he was presented with a gold disc to commemorate the sale of more than 100,000 long playing records during the period July-December 1967.