



Composer David Marks

SOME MONTHS ago few South Africans had ever heard of David Marks. Now the 24-year-old song writer is world famous, and we may rightly be proud of the talent that exists in our own country.

David was born in Cape Town and began working underground in the St. Helena Mine in Welkom about four and a half years ago. Two years later he heard Des Lindberg sing. He was so taken by Des's singing that he decided to try his hand at song-writing.

We first heard of him through "Mountains of Men," a Nick Taylor favourite which has now been recorded seven times by five different people. "Mountains of Men" has long been high up on my personal hit parade, and I have just heard that it is now the theme of an American T.V. Show.

Then David wrote a song called "Master Jack."

"It was inspired by several things," said David. "In miner's slang, Jack is a word meaning cowboy. 'Master Jack' generalises about people — that they should see for

themselves instead of just believing what they are told."

The "Four Jacks and a Jill" recorded the song with a number called "I looked Back," which most people thought would be the more popular side.

But "Master Jack" made an immense impact. With "Timothy," another "Four Jacks and a Jill" number, still in the top ten, "Master Jack" began climbing the charts. The following week "I looked back" entered the lists too. This made the "Four Jacks and a Jill" the first South African group to have three discs on the charts simultaneously.

Now news has been released that "Master Jack" is headed for overseas success.

It is to be released in America, and then worldwide.

Latest news is that Trini Lopez, in South Africa for his second tour, was knocked out by the disc. He insisted on recording it as his next release.

I personally prefer the "Four Jacks and a Jill" version, but either way, this has given David Marks, and the entire recording industry in South Africa, a tremendous boost.