

# HIT SONG AID FOR LIMEHILL

Daily News Reporter

DAVE MARKS, the South African folk song composer of "Master Jack" fame, has decided to give half the royalties from his three biggest hits to the Africans at Limehill. This amount could run into tens of thousands of rands.

Master Jack is one of the songs — it will probably earn him as much as R100,000. The other two are Mr. Nico and Mountains of Men.

This was revealed in Dialogue, the monthly organ of the Methodist Youth Department which circulates about 2,000 copies throughout South Africa. The report says the 24-year-old former goldminer has launched a campaign to collect funds for the residents of Limehill. And it quotes him as saying they need "everything from hospitals to sportsfields."

It adds that Mr. Marks does not want his decision to be considered as a protest or a criticism of Government policy and that he is not "playing politics" but he simply wants

to help the people there.

He said, according to the report, "I first read about Limehill in the newspapers and decided I must do something to help these people. I haven't worked out how the money will be handed over. Probably we will have to form a trust to see that the funds are used to the best advantage."

Mr. Marks is writing a song which he hopes will be recorded by a South African group shortly and intends to donate everything it earns to the Limehill fund, the report says.

He is quoted as saying: "It costs me nothing to write a song. If it makes any money the people at Limehill are welcome to it."



19 FEB 1970

# NEW IDEAS FROM DAVE MARKS

By Mike Kallenbach

FOLK SINGER - SONG writer David Marks is back in Johannesburg with new ideas hoping to put them across here.

He has just returned after a 10-month visit to the United States. There is a strong possibility of three of his compositions being released there.

A music publishing company in Nashville, Tennessee has made "Demo" discs of three of his numbers — "You're just a Raindrop lady", "Denver idleman" and "Give me besides my daily bread".

During his first four months spent in Greenwich Village, he found work as a carpenter and plumber, eventually obtaining a job with a sound company working effects.

He mixed sounds for big beat shows, including those featuring Jose Feliciano (whom he classes as one of the "finest guitarists in the world"), John Lennon, in Toronto, Canada, and the Rolling Stones in Detroit.

Marks' first composition was recorded in September 1966, by Des Lindeberg and Ian Lawrence. It was called "Mountains of Men". Underground, as a learner-official on a mine, he wrote "Master Jack", which won him a Sari award for the best song of 1968.

An underground number in the true sense of the word.

The purpose of his trip to the States was not musical business, but merely to "see and hear", he said.

"I am not a musician — I can't read or write music."

Marks does not claim to be a music writer or folk singer although he appears regularly at Noord Street's folk Mecca, the Troubadour.

He said everything was luck, and none of his fame came intentionally. He would like to write songs for everyone interested: "just the same as someone who likes gardening".

Cape Town-born Marks would like to promote South African talent as he feels we have better singers here than in overseas countries.

"There is no free expression of the arts in this country. People can't do and say as they want to", he said bitterly.

28 FEB 1971

No. 1 on his miss parade

COMPOSER David Marks — he wrote the big hit Master Jack — and Durban actress Fran Downing have announced their engagement.

David, who is 27, runs a nightclub at a Durban hotel and 22-year-old Fran, who has worked with Peter Prowse and for Johannesburg's Academy Theatre, is teaching speech and drama in Durban.

28 MAR 1971

# 'Master Jack' David takes Frances to the Golden City...

DAVID MARKS, the South African folk singer who wrote the international hit song "Master Jack" and his bride, formerly Frances Downing of Durban.

They were married in the Old Fort Chapel yesterday. Frances has appeared in several stage productions in Durban.

She and David will live in Johannesburg "where opportunities are better in the entertainment field."