

Bogey Spirit Lives At Comedy Club

By PHILIP WUNTCH
Humphrey Bogart is alive and well and was last seen across the street from Old Town Shopping Village.

Mr. Bogart, who lives in the Oak Lawn area of Dallas, was invited to attend the lavish Thursday opening of the James Comedy Night Club, 5421 Greenville Ave.

The club itself is dedicated, decor-wise, to the "Play it again, Sam" spirit of the late movie star. The club's owner, Tony Goble; manager Phil Weir; and designer Fred Merrill Jr. of The Agency, are all Bogart buffs. The name, the decor, even the grand opening of the club reflect the Bogey craze.

For the opening weekend, hostesses were dressed in clinging, Harlow-styled gowns of the 1930s. Tapdancer Jack Harwood was on hand to enhance the atmosphere.

The name of the club came about because I didn't hear correctly," Weir laughed. "There was a Bogart movie called 'The Left Hand of God' in which he played a character named Jim Carmady. I always thought it was Jim Comedy."

THE ENTIRE clubroom is decorated with Bogey re-

membrances. The north and east walls are graced with blown-up photographs of Bogart with Lauren Bacall in "To Have and Have Not," with Ingrid Bergman in "Casablanca," with Katharine Hepburn in "The African Queen" and with Bette Davis in "Dark Victory." Bogey buffs can readily recognize scenes from "Treasure of Sierra Madre," "Dead Reckoning," "The Big Sleep" and "Dead End." The men's room has a picture of—who else?—Bogart on its entrances, while the ladies powder room boasts the profile of Ann Sheridan.

The club itself is unique in conception. Old neon signs, some in the shape of cats, some saying such things as "hot dogs sold here," light the dance floor. One side of the room is a completely carpeted tiered lounging area, where patrons may "sit" on the "floor."

The foosball room features an old picture-taking booth and hanging lamps as well as foosball machines. The entranceway is covered with "flick paper"—wallpaper featuring likenesses of Bogart, James Cagney, Laurel and Hardy, Jean Harlow, Greta Garbo, Clark Gable, Joan Crawford, Norma



Phil Weir, left, manager of the James Comedy Night Club; designer Fred Merrill Jr. of The Agency; and assistant manager Greg Redman find themselves surrounded by likenesses of a certain film star as they inspect the club from the vantage point of the bandstand. The show-room, decorated with photographs and mementoes of Humphrey Bogart, opened Thursday.

Shearer, Theda Bara, Clara Bow, Jackie Coogan, Rudolph Valentino and Gloria Swanson.

The club will change acts every two weeks. Wheel Feathers, a rock group, opens Monday. The James Comedy Night Club is owned by Tony Goble.

INCIDENTALLY: Jimmy Dean closes out his Venetian Room run at the Fairmont next Sunday, June 18.

Jethro Tull will be in concert at Memorial Auditorium June 18, while Elvis Presley will be playing the Tarrant County Convention Center in Fort Worth that night.

Still time to get tickets for Jim Bailey, the noted female impressionist, who will play McFarlin Auditorium Saturday night at 8 p.m.

A slate of openings set for Monday: guitarist Marcus Capetillo at the Marriott's Sirolo and Saddle; comedienne Betty Rhodes at the

King's Club; singer Rusty Draper at the Executive Inn's Empire Room; talented Sami Jo at the Losers Club; and Vicki Britton, opening a 3-week run at the Western Place.

Folksinger Townes Van Zandt, whose current album is "High, Low and In Between," opens a 1-week run Tuesday at the Rubalyat.

Fanny, the all-girl rock group whose "Charity Ball" was an energetic chart-climber, opens a 3-day run Thursday at the Pad in Hillside Village.