

THE TOP RECORD & MUSICAL WEEKLY

No. 198 Week ending January 6, 1962
Every Thursday, price 6d.

TV drop 'Lucky Stars' show

ATV, the company that controls the week-end programmes in the London area, have stopped networking ABC TV's highly successful pop series "Thank Your Lucky Stars". Last Saturday's show was the last they will screen. In its place ITV viewers in the London region will be offered repeats of the "Sword of Freedom" adventure series, starting Edmund Purdom, which were originally screened in 1958.

ABC TV spokesman said: "All That Jazz" begins its Friday evening transmissions tomorrow for a run of six weeks and ATV may consider two shows with similar themes and artists to be too much for screening on successive evenings.

Another school of thought points to the increasing amount of keen rivalry between the ATV and ABC companies. At the outset of commercial television, ABC had the reputation of being a strong drama company, with its "Armchair Theatre" series, and ATV was regarded as the light entertainment specialists.

Since then both companies have branched into each other's specialist fields. In the absence of any definite reason for the decision, speculation is rife in pop music circles. One theory is that ATV have dropped the series because their



JOE BROWN will remain in the Parnes package show.

JOE BROWN QUITS LARRY PARNES ORGANISATION

JOE BROWN is leaving the Larry Parnes organisation, and Cooper Organisations, which will continue to act as his agent.

The following statement was issued on Monday: "It has been mutually agreed that Joe Brown and Larry Parnes should terminate all existing contracts. Both Joe Brown and Larry Parnes remain the best of friends, and Joe Brown will continue to work for Larry Parnes Promotions in the future when and where possible."

Brown's part in the forthcoming Parakee package show tour will not be affected. HARRY DAWSON told DISC that he is investigating offers from America and Australia for Brown to visit those countries for appearances.

DECCA, EMI DENY THOSE RUMOURS

ANOTHER flurry of rumours blew up at the end of last week concerning a take-over bid for the Decca group. This time the interested party was said to be the other British recording giant, EMI.

A Decca spokesman told DISC on Monday that the group had nothing further to add to Decca chairman Sir Edward Lewis' denial of the reports last Friday. And EMI chairman Sir Joseph Lockwood's office told DISC that Sir Joseph's statement of the week-end denying that his group was negotiating with Decca still stood.



The Latin dinge seems to suit TONY OSBORNE (DISC Pic).

DARIN TWISTS

BOBBY DARIN has jumped on to the twist bandwagon. His latest American album released is "Twist With Bobby Darin", and it contains several of his early hits set to a twist beat. These are "Queen Of The Hop," "You Must Have Been A Fool," and "I'm a Fool," and also includes his current hit, "Multiplacation."

Tony Osborne keeps on that Janet Leigh to get Continental kick

LEAD IN 'BIRDIE' JANET LEIGH, actress wife of film star Tony Curtis, has been named by Columbia Pictures for the China Rivers lead role in their forthcoming film version of the hit Broadway and London stage musical "Bye Birdie."

COMPOSER-MD Tony Osborne ought to do extremely well if and when Britain enters the European Common Market. His successful string of HMV recordings of his own compositions reveal his interest and enthusiasm for the Continent.

Foremost of all, of course, was "Windows Of Paris," a gay, attractive, typically Parisian piece which became the signature tune of the long-running "Light Programme" series "Roundabout."

Then there was his successful "Man From Madrid" and another infectious item with a Latin flavour, "And now comes "Turkish Coffee," Tony's latest.

It's a sort of Turkish twist, with lots of driving saxophone and guitar work, plus some nice jangle piano from Tony. The theme is catchy and easy to remember, and initial reactions suggest that it will delight everyone, including the Turks.

Winter sports On the Rhine is another of Tony's compositions, appropriately called "Tony's Tune." This is a cha cha cha, one of Tony's favourite Latin tempos and another link with those far-off days when he blew trumpet for a rumba band.

At present Tony is somewhere in the Alps with a lot of other hopeful people waiting for a snow-fall enough to enable them to indulge in their winter sports.

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TOMMY STEELE Discs, the charts and my future

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NEW HIT SINGLES BY Presley Richard Kane

(page 8)

SPECIAL FEATURES ON Springfields and Doug Sheldon

A wonderful new instrumental from

TONY OSBORNE

HIS PIANO & ORCHESTRA

45-POP 967

HIS MASTER'S VOICE RECORDS

FREE

POST BAG

Each week an LP is awarded to the writer of the Prize Letter... and once a month there is a bonus prize of a *Romans lighter/fashway set.*

are artists about their cover jobs?

SOME readers seem to be very strongly against British covers of American songs. I believe British artists should make their own if they can do a better job than the original. And don't forget that Steve Lawrence got "Portrait Of My Love" into the American charts, as did Andy Williams with "Do You Mind?"

If only one record were made of each number we would have no variety.—ANNE ELLIOTT, 338, Alfred Street North, Nottingham.

PRIZE LETTER

that all their records sound the same.

As for the versatility of the John Barry Seven, I haven't heard any of the charts which is any different from the first instrumental pop record.

R. D. BLACKWOOD, 13, Keynse Road, Cambridge.

PAST IT?

WHY do some people insist "Past It?" Surely if this was so he would not have attained number one on the charts with "Tower of Strength?"

Agreed that Frankie is older than the majority of current pop stars, but they certainly haven't got the gift for it as he has.—CAROLYN HOLDEN, 69, Coney Farm Road, Haverley Green, Halesowen, W. Yorks.

YES, JOHN

I WONDER if it has ever occurred to the Americans that the real reason for the

British records in the charts is a result of better quality in our records?

I agree with John Barry when he said in DISC that a greater percentage of our records are good and get into the hit parade. Nearly all the discs in the U.S. Top Twenty are trash.—THOMAS C. ROGERS, 18, Addison Drive, St. Giles, Lincoln.

WRONG ORBIT

I THINK that the views of B. Gahanne on "Thank Your Lucky Stars" are misguided. Frank and Cliff were out there, confessed she had never heard of Billy and had never seen him. American artists get top publicity when they don't make anything out of promoting our artists over there? Perhaps a British record would be better, said and sponsored by a British record company.—DAVID MASON, Shepherds Grove, Tynes, Kings Lynn, Norfolk.

If an artist has any real ability and talent then he or she should

WRITE TO: POST BAG, DISC

161 FLEET STREET, LONDON E.C. 4

VERSATILE

WHAT the record business means today is more versatile artists like Bobby Darin. For, with every record, he offers something entirely different, quite unlike artists such as Leyton, Shannon and King, who stick not only to their own but with releasing records not in the same way as before.

Let us hope that in future more artists will take a leaf out of Bobby Darin's book by trying to be more versatile.—M. C. A. WYNE, 28, Abbey Lane, Leicester.

MY HOPES

HERE are my hopes for the New Year. No more plugging of The Springfields, whose music is not a patch on that of The Kingston Trio, more space in DISC for Jack Good whose views I usually agree with, and more *Edie* like Jimmy Stew, with more records like "The Lion Sleeps Tonight" by The Tokens.—JOHN BARRETT, 6, Wynde Street, Liverpool, 7.

nothing to investigate and papers very little to write about. They would they move it.—A. G. GRIFFITHS, 74, Greylocks Avenue, Austin Farm, Plymouth, Devon.

SPOIL-SPOILT

A S short seems to be so much as an animosity towards teenage music by the majority of adults, why not forbid the sales of discs to anyone under 25, collect all coffee bars and dance halls completely, dispose of all juke boxes and to rid the country completely of this awful habit, then saving youth from immorality and degeneracy.

Alas, we would also leave poor old Mum and Dad nothing to move about.—COMMITTEES



JIMMY... more like him, please. See "My Hopes." (ABC TV picture)

A GRUDGE

HOW can Nicholl get a grudge against Jess Conrad? How do the boy's records sell if every time one is released it is stopped down by Nicholl? Jess Conrad is a fine artist with a strong personality. He may not be a Crosby or Dean Martin, but with a bit of luck and less harsh criticism, he'll make it.—G. CLARK, 23, Galleshaw Avenue, Wundford Green, Buxton, Derby.

Don Nicholl writes: I must I reserve a special opinion of the records I have.

NOT ALIKE

IT was recently said that Karl Denny is in the same class as the one and only Slim Whitman. Comparing these two is just like comparing Adam Faith with the great Buddy Holly. There is just no comparison.—JIM CURTIS, 78, Hildshire, Cray, by Glasgow, Dumfriesshire, Scotland.

The Editor does not necessarily agree with the views expressed in

GARY MILLER... "There Goes That Song Again" one of the best discs of 1961.

YEAR'S BEST

I THINK that Gary Miller's recording of "There Goes That Song Again" is one of the best records of 1961. He is in great voice on it and the backing is terrific.

It's nice to discover to get in the charts, but I doubt if it will be the old story of being too good for the teenagers to buy.—JOHN KOPFER, 6, Haverest Avenue, Sargby, Notts.

OFF KEY

OBVIOUSLY Mr. Tony Jackson (DISC 21-12-61) doesn't know his Shadown records. There is such a tremendous difference between "Niverson" and "The Savage" that I am inclined to believe he is talking out of the back of his head when he says

S * T * A * R * T * A * L * K

Bart's 'twisting' policy earns £50,000 a year

EXPLAINING the success of "Oliver T." which has been running since last June, Lionel Bart says: "People like what's familiar and they're thinking a note ahead every time they hear one, a word ahead when they listen to a lyric. All I do is let them feel with my familiar, and then I give them a little surprise by changing a phrase."

Bart should know. His policy has been mainstay in some handsome £50,000 a year. 1961 must have been Tony Newley's most successful year, but not content with being just about an all-round personality, Tony has a varied, secret ambition. He wants to be a film director, and he admits that Ingmar Bergman is his idol.

Perhaps in 1962 will see his name credited as director of his own movie, starring Anthony Newley? I've just discovered that Kenny Lynch is a rival "Bar the Booth" supporter. And the immaculately dressed Kenny wears a small, round, special goggles engraved with the nucleus of uranium sign. In one year's wonder what would happen to boy poet Clayton Ellis, friend of Cliff Richard and author of two books, I can tell you that he now lives in the Channel Islands—Jersey, to be exact. Last I heard of the brilliant genius, he had entertained cabaret singer Carmita to a

lamb Christmas dinner at Jersey's Ritz Hotel. Don't think bob poetry was that profitable.

As for hopes to Gary Miller for mentioning that he has a wife and two children, he would call for the office last week confirmed that while Gary is in the States, she sang, played a guitar and had six costume changes.

Bright, Breda made one of her very few TV appearances on New Year's Day when she starred in her own 15 minute programme in France. In the show, she sang, played a guitar and had six costume changes.

Pea Cheater, songwriter, comedian, musician and son of Charlie Cheater (who last just gone on records, married a girl named Betty, and is a director of Basins in London last Wednesday).

IT'S not very often we get a negative news of Tommy Steele's 20-year-old brother Colin Hicks, who is doing very well in Italy, that you know. However, Colin, currently in Rome for a fortnight before taking a winter holiday in St. Moritz, is in the middle of putting some money into a betting shop.

Says he thinks it's a good proposition, but hasn't added that he never has a flutter.

The "Twin" duo are all over the place. At the opening of Paramount's "Hey, Let's

Twist," at the Plaza Theatre, last Thursday, a contingent of members from the Arthur Murray School demonstrated a new dance in the foyer of the theatre.

Incidentally, this movie, which is not to be confused with "Columbia's" "Twist Around The Clock," stars the great, great, great, Chubby Checker, is to go out on ABC relying on New Year's Eve. It was filmed at the Poppyrenter Lounge and the Starliner.

"Twist Around The Clock" is to be generally released on January 29.

JUST for the record, 20-year-old Pat Anka, who with Linda Scott starred in Granada's "Personal Appearance" last night (Wednesday), made his live public appearance when he was 10, and two years later won first prize in a talent contest.

When he decided to turn professional, no one in Hollywood showed any interest, so he went back to New York and "Diana." Incidentally, Paul has just penned the new Tommy Steele record "Woodie Joe Of Love," which is soon to be released by Decca.

Latest news on Bill Haley, currently hitting the new wave "Twist" wave, is that a leading Mexican recording company has taken an interest in "Twin" LP for them. Hank Locklin, RCA's C &

W singer, used to be a shipyard worker before he started writing. Now he lives in Nashville, has a wife, three children and a pet dog called Farfly.

CONNIE STEVENS has been criticised for her night classes in geography, partly because until she crossed the Atlantic she thought Hollywood to be the only place where she could find a taste of it.

Answer discs, maybe. But to answer two hit discs in a row is a little bit too far. The Chantels, America's newest girl singing group, have recorded, with much success, a number called "Well, I Told You So." The title suggests that they're going to give Kate a taste of his own music.

That's a purely true, but London Records report that in addition to this, "Well, I Told You So" is to be given to Ray Charles' "Jack, who hit the road!"

INDEPENDENT TV companies can argue as much as they like over the current equity strike, but the B.B.C. are laughing. Latest figures to be revealed for their peak hour television programme "Take It Easy" back to New York and All this in spite of full competition from "Thank You Rocky" which is a programme which can hardly be called either creative in the field of pop music.

Those of you who saw the CONNIE STEVENS... "Well, I told you so" in the movie.

LANGUAGE OF LOVE

JOHN D. LOUDERMILK

45/RCA-1288



45 rpm

AMERICAN

Last This Week

- | | | | |
|----|----------------------------|-----------|-----------------------------|
| 1 | The Lion Sleeps Tonight | - - - - - | The Tokens |
| 5 | The Twist | - - - - - | Chubby Checker |
| 3 | Walk On By | - - - - - | Leroy Van Dyke |
| 4 | Run To Him | - - - - - | Bobby Vee |
| 2 | Please Mr. Postman | - - - - - | The Marvelettes |
| 6 | Can't Help Falling In Love | - - - - - | Elvis Presley |
| 7 | Peppermint Twist | - - - - - | Joey Dee and the Starliners |
| 12 | When The Boy In Your Arms | - - - - - | Connie Francis |
| 8 | Goodbye Cruel World | - - - - - | James Darren |
| 13 | When I Fall In Love | - - - - - | The Lettermen |
| 9 | Let There Be Drums | - - - - - | Sandy Nelson |

TOP DISCS

These were the twenty numbers that topped the sales in America last week (week ending December 30).

Last This Week

- | | | | |
|----|-------------------------------|-----------|-----------------|
| 11 | Happy Birthday, Sweet Sixteen | - - - - - | Neil Sedaka |
| 14 | Unchain My Heart | - - - - - | Ray Charles |
| 20 | Rock-A-Hula Baby | - - - - - | Elvis Presley |
| 15 | I Don't Know Why | - - - - - | Linda Scott |
| - | I Know | - - - - - | Barbara George |
| 18 | Gypsy Woman | - - - - - | The Impressions |
| - | Revenge | - - - - - | Brook Benton |
| 17 | Moan River | - - - - - | Jerry Butler |
| 20 | Big Bad John | - - - - - | James Dean |

ONE TO WATCH

Small Sad Sam - - - - - Phil McLean



THE LION SLEEPS TONIGHT-

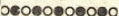
Winovich

THE TOKENS

45/RCA-1283



45 rpm

CONGRATULATIONS
Mr. Acker Bilk

1st TRAD MUSICIAN TO
TOP THE HIT PARADE CHARTS
AND WIN A SILVER DISC

WITH

Stranger on the Shore

theme from B.B.C. TV Series
COLUMBIA 45-DB4750



COLUMBIA RECORDS

E.M.I. RECORDS LTD.
30, N.M.C. Street,
London, W.1.

TOP TWENTY

Compiled from weekly returns from all over Britain

Week ending December 30, 1961

Last This Week	Title	Artist	Label
3	1 Stranger On The Shore	- - - - -	Acker Bilk Columbia
6	2 Johnny Will	- - - - -	Pat Boone London
4	3 Let There Be Drums	- - - - -	Sandy Nelson London
2	4 Moon River	- - - - -	Danny Williams HMV
5	5 Tower Of Strength	- - - - -	Frankie Vaughan Philips
5	6 Midnight In Moscow	- - - - -	Kenny Ball Pye
13	7 I'd Never Find Another You	- - - - -	Billy Fury Decca
11	8 Happy Birthday, Sweet Sixteen	- - - - -	Neil Sedaka RCA
7	9 So Long Baby	- - - - -	Del Shannon London
11	10 Multiplication	- - - - -	Bobby Darin London
12	11 Toy Balloons	- - - - -	Russ Conway Columbia
9	12 My Friend The Sea	- - - - -	Pet Clark Pye
8	13 Take Good Care Of My Baby	- - - - -	Bobby Vee London
17	14 Goodbye Cruel World	- - - - -	James Darren Pye-Int.
19	15 I Understand	- - - - -	The G-Clefs London
15	16 Walking Back To Happiness	- - - - -	Helen Shapiro Columbia
10	17 Son, This Is She	- - - - -	John Leyton HMV
-	18 Run To Him	- - - - -	Bobby Vee London
-	19 Charleston	- - - - -	Temperance Seven Parlophone
-	20 Language Of Love	- - - - -	John D. Loudermilk RCA

ONE TO WATCH

Let's Twist Again - - - - - Chubby Checker

VEE IS IN AGAIN

NOW that the Liberty label is to be released through EMI, Decca have been quickly releasing their stock of Bobby Vee recordings. It was said that this sudden flood of Vee records would jeopardize Bobby's chances of getting a follow-up disc to his highly successful "Take Good Care Of My Baby" into the charts. But he has confounded the experts and this week his "Run To Him" comes in at number 18, with "Take Good Care Of My Baby" still holding a place at number 13. Bobby Darin's "Multiplication" as forecast, has made the charts, but in an even bigger way than was expected. This number was taken from Darin's screen role in

"Come September" and although that film was released some time ago it was felt that "Multiplication" was such a good commercial possibility that it was worth losing as a single, even after the film had come and gone. John D. Loudermilk's "Language Of Love" finds a chart rating at the bottom of the Twenty. There has been some competition between this recording and the one done by The King Brothers. Perhaps it is just that as Loudermilk wrote the number it should be his recording that gets the accolade. Another new chart entry this week is the Temperance Seven's "Charleston". This has been selling consistently for some time.



BOBBY VEE - Two stars in the charts.



STAR SINGLES

GARY MILLER

"THERE GOES THAT
SONG AGAIN"

7N 1504



JIMMY DARREN

"GOODBYE
CRUEL WORLD"

7N 2014

I don't want to be with the charts any more, says Tommy Steele

"A CONFUSION over dates" was the way that the mix-up concerning the recording of "Give Us A Kiss For Christmas" was described. Lionel Bart, writer of the number, told me that he had originally written the song for Tommy Steele to record and it just so happened that he looked in at the recording session to find that Tommy had not turned up.

"That was unlike Tommy," he told me. "He is always on time for a session." It was found that Tommy didn't expect to do a recording that day and there was no other time available for several weeks and to wait would have meant that a Christmas favour number could not be ready for Christmas release.

So Bart went ahead and recorded the number himself. It was sold fairly well, and if it weren't for its Christmas favour number could not be ready for Christmas release.

But, says the critic, if Tommy had recorded the number then it would have been a hit. "I don't think I can't have done any better with the song than Lionel," Tommy told me. "I could not have given as much time to playing it as he has. I have too many things to do and that is why I don't expect to have a number in the hit parade."

"I HAVEN'T THE TIME TO PLAG A NUMBER, AND THAT IS ESSENTIAL IF YOU ARE TO GET A TOP TWENTY HIT."

Does that mean that Tommy Steele has given up trying to find and record numbers that are going to put him in the charts?

"I'm not concerned with the charts any more," he told me over the telephone from his

theatre in Liverpool where he is currently starting in pantomime.

"I find it more satisfying both financially and in my show business career to play the boards. If I am to do that, then I have no time to plug records."

"While I am a success on the boards then I don't need records to be a hit."

"I shall of course, continue to record. I expect to record about three numbers a year. But I don't expect any of them to be a hit."

"Also I feel that to take too many TV appearances can kill you cheaply."

"There is another reason. I am not the sort of person who would be handled in a merely top plug record. I can't make an appearance and after one number get up and say 'I just can't do that. It sounds so false.'

"You can be over-exposed on TV. In fact, if a singing record it is necessary to appear on television as much as you can. If you are doing the things that I am doing then you can't be over-exposed on TV. So I can't plug a record in



TOMMY STEELE—Discs are no longer so important.

the way it should be plugged.

"Making records is not the hell and snuff of an entertainer's life. So, it would seem, Tommy is out of the twenty. But one of those three records a year hit the top without Tommy giving the time to plug them."

I think there is a demand for Tommy in the hit parade but the chances of picking a number that can get into the Top Twenty purely on its own merit are very

thin. It has to be plugged. But it is a poor reflection on the average record buyer that in order to like a number enough to buy it in any quantity he has to hear it over and over again on radio and television.

It would be nice to see one of Tommy's un-plugged numbers get into the hit parade. If this happens then I shall agree with the industry when they tell me that the British charts are healthy.

PARS NEXT FOR GIGGET FILMS?

"JUSTLY, I don't call them teenagers. They don't like the word, and it implies a certain superiority on the part of the speaker which isn't justified."

The speaker was Jerry Bressler, 49-year-old veteran film producer from Hollywood. He's worked on practically every kind of picture under the sun, including the current one in the "Gidget" series "Gidget Goes Hawaiian." He was talking about teenagers—or, to be precise, especially young youngsters.

"I believe the cinema should be a place where people go to be entertained, fed and foregone. If you can get some worthwhile message across at the same time, so much the better. But I would never make a movie which talked down to anyone, especially young ones, youngsters."

He doesn't believe in aiming at any one section or age group when filming, either.

Big appeal

"For instance, I honestly feel that 'Gidget Goes Hawaiian' appeals to everyone from a young child to the aged. My message for those looking for a new kind of picture should trust their children—and vice versa."

"The 'Gidget' saga undoubtedly appeals specially to youngsters, but it is the second in the series, and already the signs of youth and fading interest are evident. There are Gidget clothes and other articles available in the States, and there is a constant flow of mail containing polite reproachable suggestions for a competition organized by Bressler which asked fans where they would like Gidget to go for future films. Paris is well

Cable from AMERICA

Edited by Maurice Clark

are Tony Bennett, Eve Damore, Greg Grant, George Greeley, Chet Baker and many others who frequent the scene in the movie.

Cadence Records expects big things of *The Weight Notes*, Ray and Surf, who incidentally are the daughters of well known Country and Western singer Patsy Cline.

Does that mean that Tommy Steele has given up trying to find and record numbers that are going to put him in the charts?

"I'm not concerned with the charts any more," he told me over the telephone from his

keeper as this aspect of his affairs was becoming too difficult to be handled in a merely top plug record.

"Neil Sedaka is very thrilled and honored that 'Life' magazine is to run a big article dealing with his life story."

Gone 'legit'

SINGER Margaret Whiting has again gone "legit" and is appearing on tour, playing the role of "Call Me Madam."

Records have decided to release nationally the late Eddie Cochran's disc of "Workin' For Me" and "The Light In Your Window." This record was, of course, a big hit in England, and is expected the same success here now.

Colony is expecting the same success this year to get the star buildup is young Kenny Rogers. His first single, "Crazy," is "Oh Sweet Love" and "The Light In Your Window." You'll be getting plenty of Kenny, I think.

Capitol Records have announced a series of disc rights to Richard Rodgers' first solo writing effort for the stage, "No, No, No."

March and stars Duhamel and Jerry Cole. The Philadelphia Orchestra Court for permission to spend \$250,000 on a new series of discs for friends and business associates. At the same time, he could hire a part-time book

had the fastest selling album in the history of the disc business. RCA were talking of the sales of Elvis Presley's "Blue Hawaii" which has sold more than 600,000 copies since it was released in

its release two months ago. In any case, whatever it is, both are set for a big record award.

Jo Stafford is set about to work albums and singles for three labels at the same time—Capitol, RCA Victor and Colpix. For Capitol she is to record two albums, one of folk songs and one of hymns.

For RCA she will make another contract disc with her husband, Paul Weston, under the name of Joan and Darlene Edwards; and for Colpix, four new discs under the direction of Don Covay. Boy, girl.

A success

VERY successful cabaret act Nelson Eddy and Gale Sherwood, are shortly to act an LP for Everest Records. Jerry ("Supercalifragilistic") and The Statler, who made "The Statler" in Paramount's "He, He, He, He," have been signed to make two more musical films later this year.

Bobby the Bear is to be the subject of an hour-long American TV documentary to be shown early in the New Year. The programme will show Bobby on one-nighters and an appearance on the Dick Clark show, and at home, where there will be an interview with his family.

PATTI PAGE

October, and Columbia was referring to Mitch Miller's latest, Holiday Sing Along With Mitch, which has now passed the 350,000 mark since

for future films. Paris is well

Gidget, incidentally, is a young girl of small stature played in the first film by Sandra Dee and in the present one by Deborah

Deborah was the part playing the mother, and she has two other girls, and is now contracted to Columbia for two pictures, every year, and to Walt Disney for two more.

Nice guy

Bressler was full of praise for James Darren, a regular in the "Gidget" series.

"Jimmy's a really nice guy—intelligent, co-operative, well-rounded, but big as well. I also think he's a darned good pop singer."

"Gidget" films seem to be here to stay. The first made was based on a novel by the novelist, and the procedure with "Gidget Goes Hawaiian" was to write a book based on the film, and it's in the book he's better off.

Bressler believes the cinema has a special effect on youngsters which they can't get anywhere else. He spoke of plans about making two more musical films and make them more attractive, without losing the cinema price.

And his advice to youngsters who complain that their tastes are neglected these days by the film industry is to tell them to do the job at the box office.

"If a producer finds he's made a mistake, he'll make more like it."

N.J.H.

EDDIE COCHRAN's British hit to be released in U.S.

Big hit for Frank

LOOKS like Frank Sinatra's first big hit of 1962 will be "A Pocketful Of Miracles" from the film of the same name. Within a week of release it has started to move big, and is receiving a mass of radio plays.

"Patti Page is very pleased with her reaction to her latest single, "Go On Home," which she the first she has recorded in lucky Nashville. Looks as if it will bring pretty Patti back the hit drama again.

So make artists have received the title song for the film "Tender Is the Night," which could become the first big film song of 1962. They

Girl twist

ONE of the First Twist records by a female is on release now. It's by newcomer "Lorraine" as a "Summer." It's called "Monny And Diddy Wee Twisting."

Chubby Checker, still not 21, has been granted the Philadelphia Orchestra Court for permission to spend \$250,000 on a new series of discs for friends and business associates. At the same time, he could hire a part-time book

JACK GOOD lashes out...

LAST year was a terrible year for pop music. There, I've said it. I had intended to skip the post-mortem business for once because I was sure that everybody else would be doing it. They did. But they were all so unanimously jubilant about the old year, and so completely opposed to my view, that I felt I just had to speak up for the opposition.

First of all let me make my position clear. As your columnist for DISC I don't give a rap about the pop music industry. I am no businessman, and I am not particularly indignant.

I have the same interest in the expansion of sales of records as I have in the number of bananas consumed in Greater London — that, is, none whatever.

And again, it gives me no kicks to see more British records in the charts than there have been over the past years. A record is a record, an artist is an artist. Their places of origin are as immaterial as the colour of their labels or eyes respectively. It makes no odds to me whether Helen Shapiro comes from Hackney or Hong Kong. The fact that she's a good singer is what counts.

Those columnists who are giving loud cheers for 1961 because of the alleged (though not actual) predominance of British records are indulging in a kind of flag-waving—and flag-waving being square when Empire Day was getting forgotten.

Finally, to get things quite straight, chart ratings are not of ultimate importance to me. They are important, of course—pops aren't pop unless they are popular—and the charts are our weekly popularity polls. But popularity isn't everything.

Excitement

No, I am interested in pop music in as much as it is a form of entertainment—a commercial product must have EXCITEMENT.

There has, I contend, been precious little excitement in pop music '61. Others may argue that it is variety rather than excitement that matters and that as the pops of '61 were so varied it was a vintage year. This attitude shows a complete misunderstanding of the word "variety."

Variety is important to entertainment because it helps to create excitement. We need variations of pace, content and climaxes or we have monotony. But the word variety implies a common framework—a unity of style.

For instance, take a team of clowns, a troop of trained

horses, acrobats, jugglers, acrobats, elephants, tight-rope walkers and you have a circus. That is variety. But take a team of clowns, an excerpt from the film "King Of Kings," Adam Faith singing "Poor Me," a 100 yards sprint, a speech by Barbara Castle. That isn't variety. That's just a mess.

And that's what the pop scene was last year—a mess. Because there was no common framework, no unity of style, and therefore no excitement.

Some people seem to have got a great kick out of the fact that Acker Bilk recorded with strings or that Billy Fury sang "Jailhouse 'Strait." To me, this isn't in itself either entrancing or exciting, merely curious.

In the words of Dr. Johnson: "Sir, it is like a dog walking on his hind legs. It is not done well; but you are surprised to find it done at all."

And this sort of thing has been typical of the year. Commercial gimmicks have been being around thick and fast since the not of inspiration but desperation.

What next?

We can always hear the back room boys muttering "What on earth are we going to do next?"

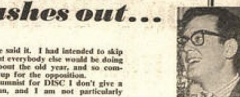
Of course, records are selling quite well these days... but the scene is stagnating and needs something big turns up in the new year, singles are going to suffer.

True, there have been two exciting trends which have tried to get under way — rhythm-and-blues, led by Ray Charles ("Hit The Road Jack") and modern jazz ("Take Five"). But so far the records they have made have been negligible, and we must hope for bigger successes in 1962.

There have been two new singers who really do sound different — Helen Shapiro and Karl Denver. But I can't say that I feel like giving their careers about the way they're two considerable talents have been recorded on their single records or about the way they have been presented as personalities.

Both seemed to be firmly tied to the treadmill of play-safe commercial music and both

JOHNNY BURNETTE... as glamorous as a new breed of singer.



A good year for pop? Rubbish it's been TERRIBLE



BILLY FURY... still a big name (D.M.C.)

seem to have had their public images carefully handled and ironed so that we imagine them to be the nice ordinary people—the folks next door, with not much as much personal magnetism.

And this is a pity, because it isn't good for show business, and it is so because that it is not true. We wonder that our big names are more or less the same as they were a couple of years ago—Ella, Cliff, Adam, Billy, Lonnie and so forth. They still have an aura of magic about them. The new ones seem to have about as much glamour attached to their names as a new brand of detergent.

What sort of colorful images are conjured up in your mind at the mention of Bobby, Vic, Del Shannon, Johnny Burnette, or Clarence "Frogman" Henry?

None. Complete blanks, the lot of them. And for that reason these artists have the staying power of their latest release—no more.

It is the artists who command fan loyalty who keep the market steady—and as far as this is concerned we are still depending on the same small group.

And this is dangerous. The more so as that this group seems to have got bogged down in the maze of beautifully-executed, guaranteed-commercial, strictly unadventurous mediocrities—only revealing their real feet under the safe cover of an attractive LP sleeve.

In sum, my description of pop 1961 would be affluent, slick, sleek, flabby, unoriginal, superficially smart but underneath it all fantastically searching for something that never happens.

P.S. In case you wonder why I have omitted to mention Fred Astaire—it's because it's dead. Fred

EMI

NEW POPS



THIS WEEK'S TOP SINGLE!

EDDIE CALVERT

Berlin Melody

(from AR-TV series 'Here and Now')

COLUMBIA 45-DB4765

COLUMBIA

45-DB4765

DAVE APPELL
and his Orchestra
Happy José

MERCURY

45-AM71168

BROOK BENTON
Revenge

COLUMBIA

45-DB4762

THE BEVERLY SISTERS
The water or the wine

H.M.V.

45-POP963

EDDIE FISHER
Shalom
(from musical 'Milk and Honey')

PARLOPHONE

45-PA4061

THE KING BROTHERS
The language of love

TOP RANK

JAR907

PHIL McLEAN
Small sad Sam

CAPTIVOL

45-CL15234

WANDA JACKSON

In the middle of a heartache

H.M.V.

45-POP967

TONY OSBORNE
with his Piano and Orchestra
Turkish Coffee



EMI RECORDS LTD. 1961
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Fury for

PRIZE

PRESENT

NER of our Chris-
n contest in which
readers to put their
in their checks and
"soluble" presents
or favorite pop stars.
By:

ED FEXTON, of 15
Hood, Bilson Grange,
near three circles west
of Belafonte. A pan-
for the hole in his

Leyton—a packet of
powder for his "Wid-
Newart"—A pile of
gold, pure for
Fexton will receive an
of his own choice.

STEELE ON TV

STEELE ON TV

TOMMY STEELE tops the bill in ATV's "Sunday Night At The London Palladium" show on Sunday. Also appearing will be The Dallas Boys.

Taking over the comping spot in next Sunday's show is virtually unknown, 34-year-old country singer Norman Macdonald. He replaces Bruce Forsyth, who is in pantomime at Manchester.

Macdonald, who was Val Farrel last summer while he was appearing in Lonnie Donegan's Blackpool show.

Jimmy Shand honoured

FRANKIE VAUGHAN, Scottish country dance band leader Jimmy Shand received an M.B.E. in the New Year's Honours List for his services to Scottish country dance music.

ELEN KANE FOR U.S. IN JULY

ELEN KANE will definitely go to America during 1962. Likely date for his departure will be late July or early August, while there he will make personal appearances and do some television. His American agent, Marnie Greenfield, is currently setting up dates for him.

Elen, who has a new disc release this week-end—"Forget Me Not," will probably proceed with his American tour with a visit to Copenhagen during the summer. He has been invited to appear there and his managers, Michael Bartley and Philip Waddlowe are trying to arrange dates so that he can accept the offer.

Currently in Paris, where he is combining business talks with a pleasure visit, Elen returns home this week-end in order to commence a week's Scottish tour, which opens in Glasgow on January 8.

Subsequent dates are Dundee (9), Dumfries (10), Elgin (11), Perth (12), and Aberdeen (13).

On February 19 Elen begins a six week tour as one of the stars of the new Larry Pates package.

Plans are now being made for Elen to appear in a film and on TV during the autumn. However, these are still very much in their early stages, and no official announcement is expected yet.

Marshall comes to us

GARY MARSHALL is acting as the singing composer of a new BBC Light Programme series called "The Top Spot," which features new artists who have passed their BBC audition.

The first show went out on Tuesday, and two more are due on January 9 and 16, a possibility of a further extension.

Resident group is the Ted Taylor Four.



FRANKIE VAUGHAN, a staunch supporter of the National Association of Boys Clubs, is to present a five-minute appeal on the Association's behalf on BBC TV on January 21. Before Christmas he filmed a tour of several boys' clubs in which he took part in a boxing match and a chess tournament. These film clips will be shown during the programme.

Donegan, Barber hit by bad weather

Kirkham to Germany

YOUNG singer Ken Kirkham, who was the big star of last year's song festival at Knockle-Zone, flies to Stuttgart on January 8 to appear in "The Caterina Valente Jubilee Tour."

Kirkham then travels to Cologne for recordings for the German Pledge label, and will top the cabaret bill at the "Hall Of The Year" in Munich.

He returns to Britain on January 21 for club dates in the Manchester area, and opens in cabaret at London's Alton Club on January 23.

'Minstrel Show' back

BBC TV's prize-winning series "The Black And White Minstrel Show" starts another run on January 13, starring its usual regulars including Man Sorenst, George Chisholm and the Goetze Mitchell Singers.

It will be a fortnightly feature on Saturday evenings, alternating with Billy Cotton's "Wacky Wacky Taver."

Greco plays Manchester

BUDDY GRECO will play a BBC concert at the Reg Trade Hall, Manchester, on February 3, prior to his Bal Tabarin cabaret opening in London the following day.

Supporting him will be Cleo Laine and Johnny Dankworth.

Kenny Ball gets trad its first Silver Disc

TRAD, the sound of 1961, is honoured in 1962, for the first-ever all-instrumental trad jazz Silver Disc has been awarded—for "Midnight In Moscow" by Kenny Ball and his Jazzmen. And close on their heels comes Pat Boone, who wins his first Silver Disc for "Johnny Will."

Although Kenny Ball gains the distinction of being the first British jazzman to claim a Silver Disc, credit must be given to Chris Barber, Acker Bix and Co. for creating the precedent which made it possible for British jazz discs to enter the big parade. And no doubt Kenny's earlier success with "Samamba," and his appearance in last year's Royal Variety Show have helped the disc over its 250,000 hurdle.

"Midnight In Moscow" entered the charts at number 12, week ending November 11. It subsequently rose to Number 4, a position it held for three weeks. It was "Johnny Will" that congratulated Pat Boone, who with "Johnny Will" has his first big British hit since 1958.

Did the trick

It was thought that "Moody River," which only had a moderate success here, but which reached the American Twenty, would have put an end to his record run, but it was "Johnny Will," his follow-up, which did the trick.

Pat, who in recent months has been concentrating on a film career, will be seen on British screens at Easter in "State Fair," in which he co-stars with Bobby Darin.

Film is also in hand for the singer to come to Britain next month to shoot his next film for MGM at Shepperton. Tentative title is "Marta," and Pat's co-star will be Nancy Kwan.

Her presentation is glamorous and her programme balanced with well tried favourites and, of course, her recent successes. She opens with "Let Me Sing A Happy Song" and swings through numbers such as "When I Fall In Love" and "Thank Heaven For Little Girls."

But the highlight is without doubt her impressions of pop singers. Eartha Kitt, Connie Francis, Shirley Bassey, Helen Shapiro, Jaye Garsland Vera Lynn, Ruby Murray, and Alma Cogan are her repertoire.

The audience were enthralled, including such show business names as Jackie Kay and Janette Scott, Charlie Drake, Gary Mills. The Beverley Sisters, The Pinks, Dixie Jean Conrad, and Helen Shapiro.

Congratulations

KENNY BALL AND HIS JAZZMEN

ON WINNING THE FIRST SILVER DISC OF 1962 FOR

"MIDNIGHT IN MOSCOW"



DECCA
LONDON
45 RPM RECORDS
Brunswick
CORAL
SUNSHINE RECORDS

BYE BYE BABY
DUANE EDDY
BBB CONRAD THE AVENGER
45-78 14 Warner Bros. 45-78 1677 London

BLACK'S COMBO
ST-HER
DIXON
FIGURE ON HIM
TREVOR PEACOCK
45-78 145 London 45-78 1213 Decca

Embassy swings

THE American Embassy has organised a programme of jazz films which will be showing at its Grosvenor Square headquarters on Thursdays, January 11.

The films are "Jazz From New Orleans," "The New Orleans Weeper" and the Ahmad Jamal Trio, which will be shown on CBS Television. "Talgat" Man From New Orleans," in which Kid Ory recalls the early days of New Orleans jazz, and "Mann With A Plan," featuring Herbie Mann from the Village Square Club in New York.

Admission is by ticket only, and these are available by writing to the film office at the American Embassy.

HANK MARVIN talks frankly about The Shadows' latest single

'The Savage' as mediocre - a bad mistake

THERE has been a great deal of controversy over The Shadows' single—"The Savage." "We have had more conflicting opinions from the fans over this than over any other record we have made," Hank Marvin told me. "Some say it is the worst thing that they have heard and others say that it is the best single we have done."

"BUT WE KNOW HOW WE FEEL ABOUT IT. IT IS UNDOUBTEDLY A MEDIOCRE RECORD AND SHOULD NEVER HAVE BEEN RELEASED AS A SINGLE."

I asked Hank how it came about that an inferior number (1) recorded (2) released as a single.

"'The Savage' was recorded as part of the sound-track for Cliff's picture 'The Young Ones.' As a second-tier number and as part of the LP of that sound-track it is OK, but it hasn't a strong enough melody for a single release. It is just a run-of-the-mill number with little to recommend it."

"When we went to Australia we had no idea at all that 'The Savage' would be issued as a single. It was only when we were in Australia that we learned that it was going to be released."

"We were astounded. We set up half the night arguing about

it and eventually agreed that it would be a big mistake to put this number out."

"We cabled our objections to the powers that be but back came the reply that a single was needed for release in conjunction with the film and they had no other material of ours in the can. Also they had pressed 100,000 copies and it was too late to pull out."

"We were very upset, but there was nothing we could do about it. 'Kon Tiki' was still showing well in the charts and we didn't want to spoil that, especially with a number that we knew was just not good enough."

"We did manage to get the release of 'The Savage' held

back for another week so as to give 'Kon Tiki' a longer run. But this was a small concession. 'THE SAVAGE' SHOULD HAVE BEEN LEFT WHERE IT WAS—AS PART OF THE SOUND-TRACK. THE BEST OF THE SINGLE—PEACE PIPE—THE BROTHER NUMBER THAT 'THE SAVAGE'—will still make a case. The Shadows to think again about their singles? We they not consider changing their style? Their sound?"

New style?

"Yes, we will change our style. But in the natural course of events," Hank told me. "We will, we hope, become more mature. But it will be a natural change and not abrupt."

"We will change in the way that Cliff has changed—no suddenly, not overnight and not noticeably. But there will be a change."

"I think that we will retain our original sound for some time to come. But we will certainly add to our individual record. We had a session in London after our return from Australia before we went into this part in Stockholm-Los Angeles. But it was not if you see, and nothing came out of it. We did nothing there unless we could get happy with a putting it out as a single."

Different

"We are definitely looking for something different this time. We would like to do more number like 'Nervous' (Marvin cut backward) from our LP. The after our return from Australia we would like to try something like that on a single."

"I would hazard a guess that our next single release will be a number that we recorded some time ago called 'Wonderful Laine'."

"Now this is a number that we recorded in London with Terry London and it is typical London with a nice melody line. We haven't changed our sound to do this number, but we are thinking of making it with more sounds on it. It is some of our best. I just think that this record could be a winner. We were excited happy with it. This was released as a single."

Peter Hammond



BRUCE WELCH, JET HARRIS and HANK MARVIN during a concert (DISC 196).

COLOURED SLEEVES—IS THIS THE START OF A NEW TREND?

Is the day coming when you will get your single discs in special coloured covers, bearing photographs of your favourite artist? Just such a treatment has been given to the latest releases by Jew Conrad and Joan Regan. Maybe you have been wondering whether this could be the start of something.

After a check among the disc firms, I can tell you it might, but don't expect it to happen in a hurry, since there are big problems in the way. Let's look around among existing special-sleeve artists. For a start, there is EMI, issuing Jazz sets, which brings you the music and the photographs of Acker Bilk, Chris Barber, Terry Lightfoot and others.

When they launched this recently, EMI must have been encouraged by the fact that their earlier special-sleeve artists, "Your Kind of Music," featuring show tunes and light classics, has become one of their straight sellers.

The Pye group have had special sleeves for Nancy Sinatra's "Coff Lark And A Tip," the Madkapodons' "Never On Sunday" and now Joan Regan's "Surprise."

At Philips, the Springfield's "Bambino," The Dave Sear's "Come To Me" and Roy Terney's "Cupid."

The cost

New Decca present the Jew Conrad coupling of "Twist My Way" and "Hey, Little Girl." The first big problem with special-sleeve singles is COST. EMI's Landowne and "Your Kind of Music" singles cost 7s. 6d. I am told EMI make nothing out of the extra charge. I can well believe it. But you may wonder why if it is possible to market the other special-sleeve singles at the mentioned without extra charge in the consumer. Who pays for the special sleeves? Who may who chip in include the artist, his manager, the music publishers; and (if it is the case of a special-sleeve disc firm itself) and, in the case of the Jew Conrad disc, the money has come from none of these sources.

by Dick Tatham

It is being paid by a outside firm—the makers of Briton sweaters. They have also made a three-minute film. Joan Regan plays the sweaters and sings the music and the photographs of Acker Bilk, Chris Barber, Terry Lightfoot and others.

The film will be seen in all cinemas next month, will be screened on TV.

On the other hand, sleeves are meant as a special boost. Mr. Louis Benjamin, joint general manager of Pye, tells me:

A boost

"With 'Never On Sunday,' we wanted our version to stand out among dozens of more rivals—and I think we succeeded. With Joan Regan's 'Surprise' we felt the sleeve was exactly right for that particular record. Our results will bear this out. We simply judge each case on its merits."

But, larger, other labels share this "special boost" approach. Bob Berry's rub of a special boost were to work too well, the disc might be in trouble. It could be at its wits' end for too long. This print problem was well put out among by Mr. Ron White, general marketing manager of "Photographs on sleeves is not a new idea. We did it back in the days of the 78s with Jack Heilon. Paul Robson and I would have no trouble in the past-gered thing that it is the only thing that is 'Singles are often, rock-released. I don't think it is a matter could cope with special-sleeves—particularly with a disc like, by money has come from dried thousand."

Along the Alley

NEWS FROM THE STREET OF MUSIC

Back to normal in Denmark Street

DENMARK STREET—the Alley—after Christmas is a very quiet and very sober thoroughfare, with most people walking about slowly and wining every time a cat strays past. All the decorations and seasonal standards are put away until next year, and all the empty roadside hoardings are collected together for the refuse.

The music publishing fraternity was conspicuous by its absence from the Valentine's celebration thrown by the record companies, with the notable exception of EMI.

I find it rather surprising in view of the close liaison which exists between the music publishing and record companies during the year, and also the considerable amount of each other's goodwill and co-operation.

It's over the Merit Music outfit who adopts a verbal or badge for themselves. It will undoubtedly be Welsh. This Norman Pye number has been secured heavily already in two copies, and now Les Lewis tells me a vocal version is on the way.

It's gone with ROBB STORMY's "Thee's EP entitled 'Whooles.' Les is hoping there will give it the same boost as a single so that it can compete in the hit-parade for the new season by the SPAINISH LONGER (Goddard) and JOE LANE (HMV).

But the other release, incidentally, has now topped the hit-parade charts with some 200,000 copies on the number as yet.

Talking of chart music scores, ROY KANEY'S "Midwest Theme" is now displacing itself for Merit. The following is an undoubted BIC TV version for which it was composed but which is good enough and French enough to do well by itself.

BROKEN ribs sustained as a car accident just before Christmas were an undoubted setback to a fabulous

successful playing season for Eddie Regan's since he joined the Famous Chappell outfit in the autumn.

F. E. N. K. I. E. VAUGHAN'S Silver Disc success with "Lover of Sorrow" (Parlophone), DANNY WILLIAMS' Silver Disc success with "Let's Get Together" (HMV), and SANDY NELSON'S success with "Let There Be Drums" (London) are just a few of the small part of Eddie's tireless profession which has resulted in a...

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The first time his special significance for the expectant Pye these days.

N.H.