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45/78



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10. PAUL ANKA You Are My Destiny



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In this corner . . .

**PERRY
COMO**

present
champion

They're both

FROM my ringside seat, it looks very much as though Perry Como is set for a convincing points win over Ronnie Hilton in the "Magic Moments" contest—unless Ronnie is able to summon up a last-minute knock-out blow, though it begins to appear that the strength of his attack has been sapped.

This is the first occasion on which they have been in opposing camps, having previously been under the same management.

Believing in the principle that too many cooks spoil the broth, HMV did not release separate recordings of the same number by Messrs. Como and Hilton, when these singers were both on the same label.

In one particular instance, Ronnie was asked to record the haunting ballad, "No Other Love," instead of HMV issuing Perry Como's version to which they had access (although this was later included on an extended-play, released after the song's popularity had passed its peak).

In fairness it must be added that Ronnie's "No Other Love" was a smash hit here and Perry's record had no equivalent success in the States.

With Perry's discs currently being issued by the Decca group on the RCA label, these two singers have become record rivals for the first time. Both have a recording of the lilted "Magic Moments" on the market (Perry's came into the sellers last week at 16th position, and this week has rocketed up to third place!)

On the other hand, there is still no sign of Ronnie's disc making an appearance in the frame. Why is this? First and foremost, we must attri-

BAND CALL

(Commencing February 14)
TERRY LIGHTFOOT'S JAZZMEN
Friday: Kensington; Sunday: Woolwich; Monday: Town Hall, Chiswick; Tuesday: Humphrey Lyttelton Club, London; Wednesday: Carlton Ballroom, Slough; Thursday: Luton.
HUMPHREY LYTTELTON BAND
Saturday: Royal Albert Hall, London.
DAVE BRUBECK QUARTET
Friday: Free Trade Hall, Manchester; Saturday: Town Hall, Birmingham; Sunday: Royal Festival Hall, London; Monday: De Montfort Hall, Leicester; Tuesday: City Hall, Sheffield; Wednesday: St. Andrew's Hall, Glasgow; Thursday: St. George's Hall, Bradford.
ERIC SILK'S BAND
Friday: Southern Jazz Club, Leytonstone.

JOHNNY DANKWORTH ORCHESTRA
Friday: Matrix Ballroom, Coventry; Saturday: Royal Albert Hall, London; Sunday: Colston Hall, Bristol; Thursday: Lido Ballroom, Winchester.
RONNIE ALDRICH AND THE SQUADRONAIRES
Friday: De Montfort Hall, Leicester.
BASIL KIRCHIN BAND
Friday: Baths Hall, Streatham; Saturday: Corn Exchange, Sleaford; Sunday: U.S.A.P., Sculthorpe; Wednesday: Baths Hall, Leyton. Saturday: Imperial Ballroom, Nelson; Thursday: Huddersfield.
CHRIS BARBER BAND
Wednesday: White Hart, Southall.

DAVID WHITFIELD
London Palladium
EVE BOSWELL
Manchester Palace
SONNY STEWART and HIS KINGS OF SKIFFLE
Nottingham Empire
DANNY PURCHES, MACKELL TWINS
Bolton Grand
JIM DALE, THE VIPERS
Newcastle Empire
DAVID HUGHES, NAT GONELLA
Chester Royalty

EDNA SAVAGE, CHAS. McDEVITT'S SKIFFLE GROUP
Gloucester Regal
DARGIE QUINETTE, NEVILLE TAYLOR
London Metropolitan
MURRAY CAMPBELL
Chiswick Empire
MAXINE DANIELS
Brighton Hippodrome
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SUNDAY
6 Beaver Club; 6.15 You Lucky People; 6.45 Accordion Time; 7 Tunes To Remember; 7.30 The Winifred Atwell Show; 8 Opportunity Knocks; 8.30 Take Your Pick; 9 This I Believe; 9.30 Cream Of The Pops; 10 Record Rendezvous; 10.30 Magic Of Sinatra; 11 Top Twenty.
MONDAY
6 Requests; 8 Show Business; 9 Deep River Boys; 9.15 Song Hits of the Century; 9.45 Ronnie Hilton; 10 Jack Jackson; 10.30 Top Pops of Tomorrow; 11 Talking Points; 11.05 Bible Christian Programme; 11.15 Frank and Ernest; 11.30 The World Tomorrow.
TUESDAY
6 Requests; 8 Spike Harrigan; 8.30 Godfrey Winn's Concert; 9 Alma Cogan Show; 9.15 Linger Awhile; 9.45 Tomorrow's Top Ten; 10 The Capitol Show; 10.30 Fontana Fanfare; 10.45 Bing Sings; 11 Revival Time; 11.30 Oral Roberts.
WEDNESDAY
6 Requests; 8 Double Your Money;

8.30 Calvert Cavalcade; 9 Stargazers; 9.15 Cugat's Carnival; 9.45 Favourites Old and New; 10 Record Show; 11 Back To The Bible; 11.30 The Hour of Decision.
THURSDAY
6 Requests; 8 The Harry James Show; 8.30 Lucky Number; 9 Song Parade; 9.15 Song Hits of the Century; 9.45 Favourites Old and New; 10 It's Record Time; 10.45 Italy Sings; 11 Old Fashioned Revival Hour; 11.30 The Radio Bible Class.
FRIDAY
6 Requests; 8 Shilling A Second; 8.30 Tops With You; 9 Sporting Challenge; 9.15 Dickie Valentine Show; 9.30 The Dick Haymes Show; 9.45 Scottish Requests; 10.15 Record Hop; 11 The Voice of Prophecy; 11.30 Still Waters.
SATURDAY
6 Requests; 7 Rhythm on the Range; 7.30 Intrigue; 8 Jamboree; 10 Irish Requests; 10.30 Spin with the Stars; 11 Bringing Christ to the Nations; 11.30 Jack Jackson

AFN HIGHLIGHTS
547, 344, 271 METRES

SUNDAY
12 noon Waltz Time; 3 Highway Of Melody; 5.05 Metropolitan Opera Auditions; 7.05 People Are Funny; 8.30 European Storybook; 9.35 News and Sports; 10.30 Westward Look.
MONDAY
11 a.m. Request Show; 12 noon Melody Mart; 1 Outpost Concert; 2.05 Stickbuddy Jamboree; 3 One Man's Family; 3.30 Lone Ranger; 4 Requests; 5 Quarter's Worth; 6 Music In The Air; 7.05 \$64,000 Question; 9 Music For You.
TUESDAY
11 a.m. Request Show; 12 noon Melody Mart; 3 One Man's Family; 4 Requests; 6 Music In The Air; 7.05 What's My Line; 9 Modern Jazz, 1958.
WEDNESDAY
11 a.m. Request Show; 11.55 Les Paul; 12 noon Melody Mart; 3 One Man's Family; 4 Requests; 5 Sound Track; 6 Music In The Air; 7.05 Groucho Marx; 9.45 Bob and Ray.
THURSDAY
11 a.m. Request Show; 12 noon Melody Mart; 3 One Man's Family; 4 Requests; 5 In The Mood; 6 Music In The Air; 7.30 21st Precinct; 8.30 Unit 99; 9.45 Melodia; 10.45 Request Show.
FRIDAY
11 a.m. Request Show; 11.55 Les Paul; 12 noon Melody Mart; 2.05 Stickbuddy Jamboree; 2.30 Robert Q. Lewis; 3 One Man's Family; 4 Requests; 5 Songs Of Many Lands; 6 Music In The Air; 7.05 Stuart Foster Show; 8.30 Mystery Time; 9 Stars Of Jazz; 9.45 Bob and Ray; 10.05 Request Show.
SATURDAY
11 a.m. Request Show; 12.30 Western Swing; 1 Saturday Salute In Music; 3.30 Galen Drake; 4 Request Show; 6 Music In The Air; 7.30 Saturday Night Country Style; 8.30 Operation Entertainment; 9 Music Views From Hollywood; 10.05 America's Popular Music; 11.05 Request Show.



The
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RONNIE HILTON

challenger

battling for 'Magic Moments'



pute the reason to Perry's Stateside television show, which is now being seen weekly on the BBC channel

He had already become recognised as one of the most outstanding TV performers in America—and with millions of viewers eagerly awaiting his show every week, he had the ideal showcase for exploiting any new record he may have waxed—such as the time when he introduced "Round And Round" by performing it three times, within the space of an hour!

Now that the show has come to Britain, the spearhead of his attack can be said to have established an important beachhead in this country.

For it has certainly gained him increased popularity and a host of newly acquired admirers.

It seems highly unlikely that Perry will be able to cross the Atlantic for some time, as the success of his TV show is bound to keep him anchored in New York indefinitely. But with the BBC's decision to start screening his show over here, his problem has virtually been overcome.

Loser, too

There have been occasions when, with a Como recording competing against versions by other artists, he has lost the battle to a British singer—partly because the latter has had the advantage of personal exploitation, and partly because the fans will

rally around an artist they know rather than one they don't.

These are also motives which prompted HMV to issue Hilton's "No Other Love," instead of Perry's.

One is tempted to speculate on what might have been the outcome of the present Como-Hilton duel, had Ronnie's treatment been totally different from Perry's, instead of practically the same.

I am inclined to think that a marked distinction between the two might have given rise to a closer battle—but that's only a personal opinion.

Until the advent of his TV show on January 1, Perry has been infinitely better known at home than in Britain. Sure, he has had his record successes over here, but nothing like on the scale which he has experienced in the States.

Throughout last year, for instance, although his discs enjoyed reasonably consistent sales—he didn't get into the sellers' charts at all.

Yet during the same period, he had one record, "Round And Round," which reached the very top of the tree in America, while another disc, "Just Born"/"Ivy Rose,"

climbed to twelfth position in the table over there.

Perry is no newcomer to our Charts, however. Mid-1956 saw him in fourth place, with his exciting interpretation of "Hot Diggity" (which climbed to No. 2 in the States).

A little later in the year, his coupling of "More" and "Glendora" achieved fourth position in America and, although on first sight it did not do quite so well over here, this is doubtless due to the fact that in Britain the two titles were rated separately—"More" reached No. 10, and "Glendora" No. 18—though a combination of the two would have given the record a substantially higher placing. At about this same time, another Como record came into the lower half of the tables—this was "Juke Box Baby."

Going back a few years, we recall that in 1953, Perry was riding high with a No. 1 best-seller, simultaneously in Britain and America—this was "Don't Let The Stars Get In Your Eyes." And the following year, he enjoyed another top-of-the-table success in the States with "Wanted," though on this occasion it didn't do quite so well over here.

These titles comprise just two of the eleven Golden Discs he holds, for million-plus sales on his recordings; other numbers in the same category, and upon which Como has set his seal for all time, include "Prisoner Of Love," "Temptation" and "Till The End Of Time." This, of course, takes us back quite a bit—back to the remarkable year of 1946, when Perry achieved the sensational feat of selling four million records in the space of a single week!

numbers as "No Other Love" and "Around The World," he beat all available competition.

He became the nation's best-seller with "No Other Love" and, battling mainly against Bing Crosby and Gracie Fields, reached as high as fourth place with his "Around The World."

Immediately following his "No Other Love" success, Ronnie very nearly repeated the formula with "Who Are We?" which got as high as No. 6, and we mustn't overlook the hit he scored with "Two Different Worlds" just over a year ago.

His last appearance in the sellers was in August, when he just looked in briefly with "Wonderful, Wonderful."

It is reasonable to suppose that Ronnie was hoping for even better things with "Magic Moments"—though it is to his misfortune that the song happened to coincide with Perry Como's sudden flux of popularity here, as a result of his TV series.

But don't count Ronnie out of the fight yet, by any means. He has a vast following of supporters, who can confidently be expected to rally round, and I shouldn't be at all surprised to see his name creeping into the Charts in the near future.

Gary Miller's Life-lines



First singing experience: With the famous St. Cecilia's Choir when he was 11. Later soloist at Welsh Eisteddfods.
Wartime service: Lieutenant in the RNVR.
After demob.: Studied languages at London University.
First show business work: As straight actor. After a few small parts, was cast in "Lend Me Robin" at London's Embassy Theatre. It was the star of the play, Sonia Dresdel, who recommended that he should take up singing seriously.
Subsequent work: Several years of

touring with small revues as singer and dancer; concert parties; variety dates; also a return to the legitimate theatre, playing Romeo in "Romeo and Juliet."
First broadcast: "Up and Coming," 1952.
First television: "Shop Window," 1952.
First big TV break: Resident in the fortnightly "Kaleidoscope" series. This led to his first record contract, which was with the Philips Company.
Achievements: Televised many times on both channels. Appeared in variety as top-of-the-bill.
Current record company: Pye-Nixa.
Record best-sellers: "Davy Crockett"/"Robin Hood" (reached 10th position in NME Chart); "Garden Of Eden" (reached 14th position); "Wonderful, Wonderful" (reached 29th position); and currently "The

Story Of My Life" (reached 14th position).
Records which just missed: "Hold My Hand," "Wanted," "The Yellow Rose Of Texas"/"The Man From Laramie," "The Moonraker's Song."
LP's: One 12-inch called "Meet Mister Miller."
Currently: Entertaining the Forces in Cyprus.
Future: Returns to Britain February 28, begins a tour with the American vocal group, The Crickets, on March 1.
Family: Wife (Joy—he met her in Italy, when he was in the Navy, and she was with ENSA. Three young sons (Pip, Kit and Jonty).
Relaxations: Sport. Once played as an amateur for Blackpool FC. Now turns out for the Show Business XI. Also enjoys cricket and sailing.

Done well

RONNIE HILTON has given an extremely good account of himself over the last two years, for during that time, he has appeared in the hit parade with no fewer than seven different titles.

Naturally, he has made other records which have not been so successful (haven't all singers, except possibly Presley?)

But he has invariably fared well, even in the face of stiff competition.

Although Ted Hockridge beat him on "Young And Foolish" and Frankie Laine topped the Chart on "A Woman In Love," Ronnie nevertheless managed to get into the sellers with his versions; while with such



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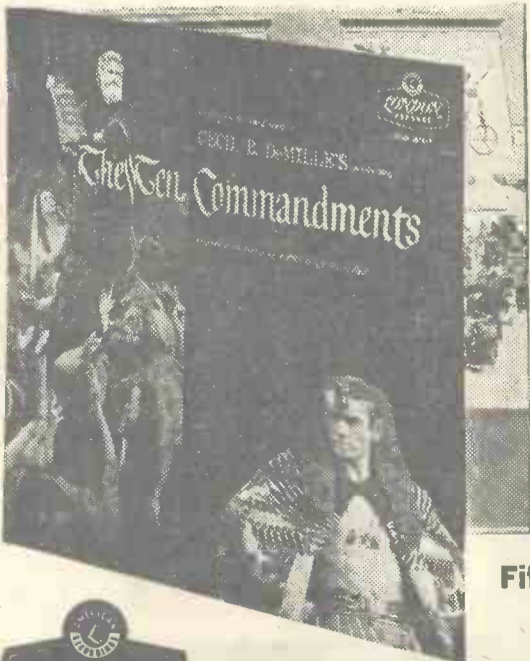
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THE THINGS WE DID LAST SUMMER
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Frankie Lymon should 'Thumb' his way to the Charts

FRANKIE LYMON gives one of his wildest-ever performances on "Thumb Thumb," and is certain to induce a big sale.

There's a racing beat and an excitement about this platter that is the very essence of the enjoyment of rock 'n' roll.

The flip over is just the opposite. "Footsteps" mixes a slow rock beat with a tearjerker lyric, and Frankie wails most painfully.

The whole effect is miserable and has not one iota of appeal. That's on Columbia.

forecasts KEITH FORDYCE

wilder treatment from Wee Willie Harris on Decca. Willie gets far more instrumental support than Jimmy, and this could swing the sales in his favour.

Despite the quips about his appearance, Wee Willie can sell a rock song as well as the rest. His coupling is "Rosie Lee." More good value for the fans.

Eydie Gorme jokingly tells husband Steve Lawrence where he stands. These popular vocalists will be seen on ABC-TV's transmission of "The Steve Allen Show" on Saturday, February 22. Eydie's "Love Me Forever" is No. 26 in the Charts this week.



JOHNNY GREGORY

I defy you to dream up a more lush-sounding title than "Deep Velvet Rose." Waxed by the Johnny Gregory Orchestra on Nixa, the arrangement lives up to the title. The tones are rich, the mood warm and the melody delightful.

In another day and age this might have been a hit, but not today's fear. The coupling, "Venice" makes equally good listening, except that, to my mind, it just isn't Venice!

TERRY WAYNE

There's been no big hit yet for young Terry Wayne, but in "Forgive Me" he displays a vocal style that picks him out as one who can easily outlive the current rock 'n' roll era.

To a slow beat Terry croons a more than passable song. His tone is especially pleasing and his interpretation is intelligent, too.

Tony Osborne provides an attractive backing. "All Mama's Children" is an ordinary rock number that excites very little interest.

COLIN HICKS

Much improved is Colin Hicks, youngest product of the Nixa label. He has a likely-sounding number in "La Dee Dah," a gimmick-ridden medium-pace beat ditty.

The lyric is not the greatest, but the overall effect is well in keeping with current demand.

Colin might have hepped up his vocalising a bit, but he does a good job all the same.

"Wasteland" has a strong C & W sound about it, covered up considerably by the pop arrangement.

TERESA BREWER

The teaming of Teresa Brewer with the Dick Jacobs orchestra has produced some good discs, and "Mutual Admiration Society" is another to add to the list.

I don't rate this as a potential hit, but Teresa's admirers (yours truly is one of the most fervent) will enjoy it plenty.

It's a bright, near-novelty number with the merit of being different.

"Careless Caresses" is slow, undistinguished and gives no opening for the special Brewer talents. A Vogue-Coral release.

LONNIE SATTIN

For some time I have been impressed by the singing of a coloured American boy called Lonnie Sattin. He has turned out some extremely good records.

His latest for Capitol, "Ring Around The Moon," does not live up to the earlier promise.

The singing is still good, insofar as the number allows, but it's a very ordinary rocking beat job that could be tackled by just about anybody. Lonnie has what it takes to be a big name, given the right songs.

DOROTHY SQUIRES

Want something really good? For artistry that can't be faulted Dorothy Squires takes some beating, and you'll get full money's worth if you invest in Dot's interpretation of "Bewitched".

She's in gay mood for "A Secret That's Never Been Told," a happy song that you just can't help enjoying on Columbia.

RUBY MURRAY

Charm is the keynote of the bright and breezy "Keep Smiling At Trouble" that Ruby Murray sings on Columbia. Norrie Paramor has provided a happy accompaniment in the Dixieland style. "Forgive Me, My Darling" brings back the Ruby of her "Softly, Softly" days. The freshness and sincerity are just as much in evidence as ever.

GEOFF LOVE

In the instrumental department Geoff Love adds to his rapidly growing reputation with two sides of excellent orchestral work for Columbia. "Wherever You Are?" is a strong, slightly wistful melody, well suited to those in romantic mood.

"A Story Of Ireland" is an appealing, nostalgic tribute to the Emerald Isle.

NELSON RIDDLE

Nelson Riddle penned the musical score for the new film "The Girl Most Likely," and you can get a preview of the title number on Capitol CL 14827. Smooth and easy-flowing with a vocal group (anonymous) sharing the honours.

EARTHA KITT

Seems pointless to award a bouquet to Eartha Kitt—much better to give her the Wolf Call, First Class (with bar)! Gramophone sapphires will go up in smoke by the score as they wend their way through the grooves of "Take My Love" (RCA).

A double "X" certificate for the lyric!

I'm not normally a Kitt fan, but Eartha sends me with this sizzling song. Terrific backing from the Hugo Winterhalter Orchestra, too. The flipside is entitled "Proceed With Caution." Not so devastating.

FRANKIE VAUGHAN

The disc waxed by Frankie Vaughan in the United States is disappointing. I don't think it's Frankie's fault, but that of the recording chief who directed the session—Mitch Miller, I believe.

Frankie's voice and vocal style have been "bent" almost beyond recognition. An overdose of echo is partly responsible, but on top of that there appears to have been an attempt to make Frankie sound like a couple of other Philips stars, "Can't Get Along Without You" is Guy Mitchell-ish, while "We Are Not Alone" has a Johnnie Ray touch. Both songs are quite good, with preference for the latter. Backing is by the Ray Ellis Orchestra.

ANDREWS SISTERS

Back on Capitol, and proving that they are still the tops with the slow, attractive "Melancholy Moon" are The Andrews Sisters. The big beat joins in on the coupling, "One Mistake," and the three girls really punch out the words.

EDWARDS, HARRIS

"Love Bug Crawl" could come off, but it's a long shot. The right sound, the right words, yes. But nothing much to distinguish this number from so many others.

Jimmy Edwards vocalises in the approved fashion for Mercury, and backs up with "Honey Lovin'." Only the beat saves this song from being downright dull. "Love Bug Crawl" gets a much

Brubeck's drummer steals the show

says KEITH GOODWIN

THE undeniable brilliance of one man completely overshadowed the all-round debut success of the Dave Brubeck Quartet at London's Royal Festival Hall on Saturday. He was Joe Morello, the finest, most impressive American drummer yet to play in this country.

The quartet was great, but Morello even greater. He's perhaps the most relaxed and consistently tasteful drummer I've ever heard—both section and solo-wise—and his ability to swing at the drop of a hat is quite remarkable.

Joe's brushwork is crisp, crackling and precise; he uses his cymbals intelligently and extracts a fantastically wide variety of sounds from his modest drum kit.

His timing and sense of dynamics are superb, and he excels as a constructive, logical and never flashy soloist.

Pianist Brubeck greatly impressed me both as a soloist and in the rôle of accompanist. He has a broad sense of humour and a fertile, imaginative improvising mind. A fault, however, lies with his somewhat excessive use of thunderous, percussive block chords.

Firm notes

Bassist Gene Wright, newest member of the quartet, played some firm, rounded bass notes that put the finishing touches to an excellent rhythm section.

Altoist Paul Desmond has certainly developed what might be termed a "personal sound," but it's not a sound that I particularly enjoy. His tone is thin, almost anemic.

While listening to Desmond, I kept asking myself "Why doesn't he blow the thing," for the impression I got from his work was that he was only blowing at half-steam.

Morello's extended work-out on "Sounds Of The Loop" was an object lesson. "These Foolish Things" included some fine interplay between Desmond and his leader, and "Some Day My Prince Will Come," with its conflicting rhythm patterns, was a gem of musical humour.

Congratulations 'MIKE'!

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NME MUSIC CHARTS

BEST SELLING POP RECORDS IN BRITAIN

(Week ending Wednesday, Feb. 12, 1958)

- | Last Week | This Week | Title | Artist | Label |
|-----------|-----------|----------------------------|------------------------------|------------|
| 2 | 1 | THE STORY OF MY LIFE | Michael Holliday | Columbia |
| 1 | 2 | JAILHOUSE ROCK | Elvis Presley | RCA |
| 16 | 3 | MAGIC MOMENTS | Perry Como | RCA |
| 5 | 4 | AT THE HOP | Danny & The Juniors | HMV |
| 3 | 5 | OH BOY! | Crickets | Coral |
| 4 | 6 | ALL THE WAY | Frank Sinatra | Capitol |
| 7 | 7 | LOVE ME FOREVER | Marion Ryan | Pye-Nixa |
| 8 | 7 | PEGGY SUE | Buddy Holly | Coral |
| 9 | 7 | APRIL LOVE | Pat Boone | London |
| 15 | 10 | YOU ARE MY DESTINY | Paul Anka | Columbia |
| 6 | 11 | GREAT BALLS OF FIRE | Jerry Lee Lewis | London |
| 14 | 12 | BONY MORONIE | Larrie Williams | London |
| 10 | 13 | MA, HE'S MAKING EYES AT ME | Johnny Otis Show/Marie Adams | Capitol |
| 11 | 14 | MY SPECIAL ANGEL | Malcolm Vaughan | HMV |
| 21 | 15 | RAUNCHY | Bill Justis | London |
| 12 | 16 | KISSES SWEETER THAN WINE | Jimmie Rodgers | Columbia |
| 17 | 17 | THE STORY OF MY LIFE | Gary Miller | Pye-Nixa |
| 19 | 18 | JAILHOUSE ROCK (EP) | Elvis Presley | RCA |
| 13 | 19 | KISSES SWEETER THAN WINE | Frankie Vaughan | Philips |
| 26 | 20 | RAUNCHY | Ken Mackintosh | HMV |
| 26 | 20 | WITCHCRAFT | Frank Sinatra | Capitol |
| 20 | 22 | BYE BYE BABY | Johnny Otis Show/Marie Adams | Capitol |
| — | 23 | CRY MY HEART | David Whitfield/Mantovani | Decca |
| — | 24 | SUGARTIME | McGuire Sisters | Coral |
| 18 | 25 | REET PETITE | Jackie Wilson | Coral |
| 21 | 26 | LOVE ME FOREVER | Eydie Gorme | HMV |
| 30 | 26 | MANDY | Eddie Calvert | Columbia |
| — | 28 | PUT A LIGHT IN THE WINDOW | King Brothers | Parlophone |
| — | 29 | SUGARTIME | Alma Cogan | HMV |
| 24 | 30 | I LOVE YOU BABY | Paul Anka | Columbia |

BEST SELLING SHEET MUSIC IN BRITAIN

- | Last Week | This Week | Title | Artist | Label |
|-----------|-----------|----------------------------|-----------------|---------|
| 1 | 1 | THE STORY OF MY LIFE | (Sterling) | 2s. |
| 3 | 2 | APRIL LOVE | (Robbins) | 2s. |
| 4 | 3 | LOVE ME FOREVER | (Kassner) | 2s. |
| 5 | 4 | ALL THE WAY | (Barton) | 2s. |
| 2 | 5 | MY SPECIAL ANGEL | (Yale) | 2s. |
| 6 | 6 | KISSES SWEETER THAN WINE | (F.D. & H.) | 2s. |
| 9 | 7 | JAILHOUSE ROCK | (Bellinda) | 2s. |
| 7 | 8 | MA, HE'S MAKING EYES AT ME | (Feldman) | 2s. |
| 8 | 9 | FORGOTTEN DREAMS | (Mills Music) | 2s. 6d. |
| — | 10 | MAGIC MOMENTS | (Chappell) | 2s. |
| 14 | 11 | OH BOY! | (Southern) | 2s. |
| 12 | 12 | ALONE | (Duchess) | 2s. |
| 19 | 13 | PUT A LIGHT IN THE WINDOW | (Kassner) | 2s. |
| 11 | 14 | TAMMY | (Macmelodies) | 2s. |
| 16 | 15 | AN AFFAIR TO REMEMBER | (Felst) | 2s. |
| 15 | 16 | PEGGY SUE | (Southern) | 2s. |
| 10 | 17 | WAKE UP, LITTLE SUSIE | (Acuff-Rose) | 2s. |
| 12 | 18 | I LOVE YOU, BABY | (Sherwin) | 2s. |
| 18 | 19 | LET ME BE LOVED | (Frank) | 2s. |
| 20 | 20 | CHICAGO | (Feldman) | 2s. |
| 17 | 21 | DIANA | (Robert Mellin) | 2s. |
| — | 22 | AT THE HOP | (Yale) | 2s. |
| — | 23 | SUGARTIME | (Southern) | 2s. |
| — | 24 | LIECHTENSTEINER POLKA | (Aberbach) | 2s. |

BEST SELLING POP RECORDS IN U.S.

(Week ending Wed., Feb. 12, 1958)

- | Last Week | This Week | Title | Artist |
|-----------|-----------|--------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| 3 | 1 | Don't/I Beg Of You | Elvis Presley |
| 1 | 2 | At The Hop | Danny and the Juniors |
| 2 | 3 | Get A Job | Silhouettes |
| 4 | 4 | Stood Up/Waltin' In School | Ricky Nelson |
| 5 | 5 | Sail Along Silvery Moon/Raunchy | Billy Vaughn |
| 15 | 6 | Short Shorts | Royal Teens |
| 10 | 7 | The Stroll | Diamonds |
| 9 | 8 | Sugartime | McGuire Sisters |
| 17 | 9 | Catch A Falling Star/Magic Moments | Perry Como |
| 7 | 10 | Great Balls Of Fire | Jerry Lee Lewis |
| 6 | 11 | Peggy Sue | Buddy Holly |
| — | 12 | Dede Dinah | Frankie Avalon |
| 11 | 13 | La Dee Dah | Billy and Lillie |
| — | 14 | You Are My Destiny | Paul Anka |
| 8 | 15 | April Love | Pat Boone |
| — | 16 | Maybe | Chantels |
| — | 17 | (I Love You) For Sentimental Reasons | Sam Cooke |
| — | 18 | I'll Come Running Back To You | Sam Cooke |
| — | 19 | Don't Let Go | Roy Hamilton |
| 12 | 20 | Kisses Sweeter Than Wine | Jimmie Rodgers |

The American chart is published by courtesy of "Billboard"

Teresa Brewer

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Debbie Reynolds

A very special love

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JIM DALE

Don't let go

coupling SUGARTIME

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ALMA MELTS ICELAND!

SINGER Alma Cogan has explored Iceland—and is thrilled and delighted with her findings! So tremendous has been her success since she started a 10-day season at Reykjavik last Sunday, that capacity audiences have resulted in an additional performance every night. Telephoning London on Wednesday this week, Alma revealed that her programmes include a song in the Icelandic language, which she has learned since her arrival there. She has presented two disc-jockey programmes by herself, too.

RETURN DATE OFFERED

Alma has been offered a return visit already, to tour North Iceland. Her current pioneering for British singers ends next week, when Alma returns with her pianist, Ralph Dollimore.

She may appear in the "Sunday Night at the London Palladium" programme on February 23, and is in the BBC-TV's Saturday night variety hour on April 26. More dates can now be revealed in her extensive variety tour—four weeks in succession at Nottingham Empire (March 24), followed by Sheffield Empire, Chiswick Empire and Manchester Hippodrome.

'Oscar' awards for discs?

FOR the first time in the history of the recording industry in America, a special organisation has been formed to award annual trophies for creative work in recording, besides making presentations to outstanding singers and artists—on a similar basis to Hollywood film "Oscars" and U.S.-TV "Emmy" awards.

The new group is titled National Academy of Recording Arts and Sciences. In New York last week, orchestra leader Guy Lombardo was elected president, with an executive committee including musical personalities Percy Faith, Neal Hefti, John Hammond, Dave Kapp, George Avakian and Ben Selvin.

Treasurer of NARAS, Ben Selvin (visiting London this week) said: "Our aim is to extend the functions of this organisation to Great Britain and make our awards of a world-wide nature."

The first awards are scheduled to be made this summer (specially presented on U.S.-TV). There is also a Californian section of the group, functioning under the auspices of orchestra leaders Paul Weston and Sonny Burke.

COTTON'S FIRST FOR EMI

THE long-awaited decision confirming new recording plans of the Billy Cotton Band Show has been made. Under the auspices of the EMI organisation, their first session since leaving Decca has been arranged for Monday, February 24, under the supervision of Norman Newell.

At EMI's St. Johns Wood studios the Cotton Band recording includes a title from "My Fair Lady" shortly to be presented in London. It is understood that a vocal group (including Rita Williams) will be featured.

Since the exclusive NME revelation that Billy Cotton was making a switch from Decca to EMI in our January 17 issue, it has since been decided that their output will be released on the Columbia label, instead of HMV, as originally scheduled.

Deaths of famous composer and disc talent chief

TWO leading American music personalities died during the past week—Lew Brown, of the famous song-writing team De Sylva, Henderson, and Brown; and Manie Sacks, a vice-president of NBC, who was associated with launching several stars on records.

Brown died of a heart attack at the age of 64. Hollywood recently filmed the life-story of Brown and his co-writers under the title of "The Best Things In Life Are Free," one of their successful hits. Besides producing several Broadway stage productions and Hollywood musicals, Brown was also a partner in a music-publishing concern with Buddy De Sylva and Ray Henderson.

MOST RESPECTED MAN

Best known songs penned by the trio include "That Old Feeling," "Beer Barrel Polka," "Life Is Just A Bowl Of Cherries," "Broken Hearted," "It All Depends On You," "Shine," "Birth Of The Blues," "Sonny Boy," "Don't Sit Under The Apple Tree," "You're The Cream In My Coffee," and "Sunny Side Up."

Sacks was acknowledged one of the most powerful and highly respected personalities of the U.S. entertainment scene during the past 20 years. He died in Philadelphia on Sunday at the age of 56.

He was closely associated with American Columbia records when Frank Sinatra was signed to that label, becoming vice-president, as well as director of artists and repertoire.

Transferring to RCA in 1950, he occupied a leading executive rôle before he went to the parent NBC company as vice-president in 1953.

Besides Sinatra, Manie Sacks was responsible for guiding Dinah Shore early in her career, and helping Harry James and Doris Day during his stay with Columbia.

The list of present-day stars who have been constantly advised by him and regarded Sacks as a close friend reads like a "Who's Who of Disc Personalities."

JERRY LEE LEWIS TOUR CONFIRMED

McGuire Sisters surprise visitors here in May

AMERICA'S sensational vibrant disc personality Jerry Lee Lewis has confirmed he will make a six weeks British tour starting May 24—also top U.S. feminine vocal trio the McGuire Sisters (seen above, right) are definite to make their first British appearances during the same month.

LANZA, DUE HERE, NOT ILL, SAYS IMPRESARIO

MARIO LANZA is due to arrive in London tomorrow (Saturday) for the resumption of his British concert tour. He is appearing at the Royal Albert Hall on Sunday.

Impresario Victor Hochhauser told the NME he was quite confident that Lanza was in good health, and that no part of the tour was in danger of cancellation.

Lanza's film "Seven Hills Of Rome" will not open in London before April. It is due for general release on May 19.

Terry Dene's nasal check postponed

THE threat of being called up for National Service still hangs over rock 'n' roll idol Terry Dene. He has still to have a special medical examination of his nose, which was injured while he was playing football when a young boy.

This was originally arranged for last week when Dene was appearing at Hulme Hippodrome, Manchester. It has had to be postponed until his return to London.

He stars at Chiswick Empire for a week from March 3, and his examination will be arranged then. At Peterborough Embassy on Monday, Terry collapsed during the first house, due to throat trouble. He was able to appear at the second performance, after treatment, and has been continuing under difficulty since then.

FRANKIE VAUGHAN IN TOP SUNDAY TV

FRANKIE VAUGHAN, who ends his highly successful West End season at London's Palace Theatre on Saturday, has been booked to top the bill in Val Parnell's "Sunday Night At The London Palladium" on February 23, possibly appearing with other artists from his London show.

As already announced Max Bygraves, The Kaye Sisters and The Clark Brothers will be seen this week-end in the Palladium show.

Teddy Johnson and Pearl Carr will be the principal musical guests in "The Dickie Valentine Show," which occupies the "Saturday Spectacular" spot on March 8. More bookings for ATV's Saturday evening "Jack Jackson Show" are Eddie Calvert (February 22), and Lita Roza and Malcolm Vaughan complete the bill on March 1. The following show (March 8) features Ronnie Hilton and the Chas. McDevitt Skiffle Group.

Dennis Lotis and the Jones Boys will guest in "Top Tune Time" on March 2.

Jackie Dennis, Decca's singing discovery, makes his ITV debut in Val Parnell's "Startime" on March 6, in the new Jewel and Warriss shows.

Guest singer in "Lunch Box" for the week of February 17 is Joyce Clark, with Terry Burton set for March 3.

ATV's "Rainbow Room," which previously occupied a 15-minute spot on Thursdays, is extended to 30 minutes on Monday evenings, from March 17.

RONNIE CARROLL
Personal Manager,
Eddie Lee,
Will Collins Agency,
Fan Club Sec.,
34, Woodhall Gate,
Plinner, Middx.



Winnie in air drama

WINIFRED ATWELL figured in an air drama last Thursday when the plane taking her and other members of the Hughie Green TV show developed mechanical trouble over the Atlantic and had to return to London Airport.

During the flight, she was filming contributions to Green's programme, scheduled for transmission by AR-TV on Monday.

The plane successfully flew to America on Friday and the party stayed in New York until Wednesday. Before her return, Britain's piano star was scheduled to make a guest appearance in Dave Garraway's TV programme earlier in the day.

Winnie is booked to star in a package show for a one-nighter tour of Granada Theatres, which opens on February 23 at Harrow and then continues with Walthamstow (March 2), Maidstone (4), Aylesbury (5), Bedford (6), Kettering (7), Grantham (8), Rugby (9).

Included in the package with Winnie is a former Show Band singer Joan Small, the Cab Kaye Quintet, the Bob Cort Skiffle, singer Bob Dale, and comedian Len Marten.

RAY MARTIN HERE FOR LP

RAY MARTIN, the orchestra leader-composer who emigrated to the United States last spring, has arrived in London for a short visit.

He appears as a guest artist in BBC-TV's "Still Contrary" tonight (Friday). It was in the earlier editions of this show—"Quite Contrary" and "More Contrary"—that Ray was featured with his orchestra, and first introduced Ruby Murray.

Tomorrow (Saturday), Martin will be at the EMI Hampstead Studios making an LP with a large string orchestra. The session will be supervised by Norrie Paramor, with whom Ray was joint a & r man at Columbia.

Martin expects to return to America early next week.

Burston milestone

REGINALD BURSTON this week celebrates his 15th anniversary as head of musical direction for the Stoll Theatre Corporation. For ten years he was MD at Drury Lane and is now at the Coliseum conducting "Bells Are Ringing."

'6.5' show built round Donegan

SKIFFLE king Lonnie Donegan is the principal attraction when the "6.5 Special" TV show takes the road again.

On March 22, the show comes from Cardiff. It will be built round Lonnie who will be taking part in sketches and interviews, as well as singing with his Group.

Eric Delaney and his band are also on the bill, as well as local Welsh artists.

Bill Cotton, Junlor, producer of the show, goes to Cardiff on Monday to select a suitable venue.

On March 8, the accent will be on modern jazz in "6.5 Special," when Ted Heath and his music will be seen, plus the Jazz Couriers, featuring Tubby Hayes and Ronnie Scott.

Producer of this edition is Duncan Wood, who told the NME: "There will also be several surprise guests. And believe me—some of them will really be surprising!"

On March 15, "6.5 Special" goes to Paris, but neither artists nor venue have yet been selected. It is thought unlikely that Don Lang's Frantic Five will be able to make the trip, because of MU complications.

The Johnny Dankworth orchestra is the only booking to date for March 29, when Dennis Main Wilson produces.

A late addition to March 1 show is Decca's new singer, 15-year-old Jackie Dennis—"6.5's" first discovery in its second year of operation. Dennis makes his TV debut in next week's anniversary show. On the same date, groups appearing in the finals of Stan'y Dale's National Skiffle Contest come from Reading and Hull.

WHERE YOU CAN SEE PAUL ANKA

MOST of the dates for Canadian singing star Paul Anka's British tour next month were announced this week by impresario Harold Fielding.

Anka opens with a package show in Aberdeen on March 1, and the unit then travels south and to the west country before visiting the north again.

The artists—including Paul—will travel about 4,000 miles in a coach during the 23-day tour.

New bookings for the package are songstress Lorraine Desmond, the Peter Groves Trio and pianist Roy Stevens. They join comedian Reg Thompson and The Kentones vocal group. Vic Hammett will direct the 13-piece accompanying orchestra.

Anka will give two performances at every venue, except York, where he'll play three.

The dates so far arranged are: Aberdeen Music Hall (March 1); Dundee Caird Hall (2); Edinburgh Usher Hall (3); Newcastle City Hall (4); Sheffield City Hall (5); Leicester De Montfort Hall (6); Brighton Dome (7); Harrow Dominion (9); Bristol Colston Hall (10); Plymouth Theatre Royal (11); Bournemouth Winter Gardens (12); York Rialto (15); Hull City Hall (16); Manchester Kings Hall (18); Liverpool Philharmonic Hall (19); Lincoln Savoy (20); Hanley Victoria Hall (21); Croydon Davis Theatre (23).

MORE 'SHOW BAND' ON TELEVISION

THE popularity of Cyril Stapleton's current fortnightly BBC-TV series "Show Band Parade" has resulted in a new contract. It calls for programmes to be presented weekly, commencing on Good Friday (April 4).

Their last Thursday date is March 20. The new series will be relayed for a minimum of seven weeks, with production remaining in the hands of Graeme Muir.

The new shows will each be of 30 minutes duration from 7.30 p.m. No major changes are expected from the present format.

Latest bookings for the next "Show Band Parade" on February 20 are the Peter Crawford Trio and Tony Gibbons, an Australian recording artist making his British TV debut.

Ronnie Hilton appears in the series on March 6. The King Brothers, an original booking for that date, are now unable to appear.

Singers in variety

ADDITIONAL variety dates for a Dickie Valentine can be announced—in addition to venues for singer Malcolm Vaughan with his partner Ken Earle.

Dickie Valentine stars at Cardiff New Theatre (April 7), and during Whitson week at Great Yarmouth Regal (from May 26).

Theatre appearances for Earle and Vaughan recently booked include Peterborough Embassy (March 3), Finsbury Park Empire (April 7), Chester Royal (April 21), Brighton Hippodrome (April 28), Taunton Hippodrome (May 5), and Cardiff New (May 26).

Jazz pianist Teddy Wilson and his wife have a second son.

Ken set for IOM

KEN MACKINTOSH and his orchestra will play a third summer season at the Villa Marina Ballroom, Isle of Man, commencing a 13-week season on June 1.

The band, whose recording of "Raunchy" is at present No. 20 in the best sellers, will play nightly and do at least seven Sunday concerts.

Ivy Benson and her All-Girl orchestra are also returning to open at the Villa Marina on May 24 for a week, then to be the concert attraction in the adjacent gardens.

Carroll better

RONNIE CARROLL, who collapsed after recording a BBC broadcast last Friday, was leaving a Harley Street nursing home yesterday (Thursday).

He was suffering from "complete exhaustion," but has recovered sufficiently to record for Philips yesterday, and do another edition of "Moonlight Serenade" today (Friday).

VARIETY AGAIN FOR BYGRAVES

MAX BYGRAVES, after his long run in the "Rocking The Town" revue, first at the London Palladium and now at Manchester Opera House, is to play provincial variety engagements next month.

Dates so far booked are Gloucester Regal, March 10; Southampton Gaumont (17), and Stockton Globe (24).

DATES FOR JOYCE

Singer Joyce Shock, Frankie Vaughan's former secretary, has been booked to appear at Middlesbrough Empire next week and at Chester Royalty from March 3.

New Fr film plan dates

FRANKIE VAUGHAN, third major film in Lo of his life, following the

To emphasise the importance Neagle herself will be one of who realised his great potential stardom.

Another important admirer of Vaughan's vocal strength is Ed. Sullivan, the master U.S. TV impresario, who has booked Frankie for an important guest appearance on his "Toast of the Town" show.

The new film will start on April 14 and is provisionally called "The Lady is a Square." It is a light comedy drama set in London and Manchester.

Another important feminine rôle has yet to be filled, possibly by a famous young American actress, Herbert Wilcox, Anna Neagle's husband, will produce and direct the film.

Vaughan will sing several songs in the new picture. A top American composer is writing some of the numbers.

The singer is now due to leave for America on February 24. He is booked to appear on Sullivan's show on March 16, in addition to a guest-spot on Dick Clark's "American Bandstand"—the nearest equivalent to "6.5 Special." He also has a previously announced March 5 spot in Patti Page's "Big Record" show.

Frank's season at London's Palace Theatre ends tomorrow (Saturday). Bookings have been so heavy that a special matinee has been arranged.

Bernard DeFont is presenting Vaughan in virtually the same show for a 10-week summer season at Brighton Hippodrome, starting early in July. It will be called "Happy Go Lucky."

With Vaughan, from his Palace show, will be Hetty King, Fayne and Evans, and Murray Campbell. Comedian Jimmy Wheeler and other artists will join them.

Liberace plan disagreement

A DISAGREEMENT concerning venues for the return visit here by noted Hollywood musical entertainer Liberace is likely to result in the cancellation of dates throughout the month of April.

The NME understands that Liberace has refused the offer from Rank Cinemas to devote his entire visit to nightly concert appearances at different venues.

Liberace insisted on three engagements of complete weeks (in order to eliminate journeys every day) but his demand could not be met.

A booking representative for the Rank Organisation had routed a complete 23-days, nation-wide tour, but on Wednesday of this week he gave no hope that Liberace's counter-suggestion of three dates of a week each could possibly materialise.

LITTLE JOHNNY



photo: "Daily Sketch"

Baby lover

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Frankie Vaughan Announced: major TV in New York

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ance of his third picture, Anna Frankie's co-stars. It was she ties and directed him to screen



BBC TO FLY U.S. SINGER TO BRITAIN

BBC-TV is flying American singer Gene Austin to Britain to appear in "Off The Record" on February 27. This is the first time the BBC has paid a transatlantic air fare for an American singer.

Gene Austin claims sales figures of more than 85 million discs, exceeded only by Crosby.

Austin's heyday was the seven years from 1925. Such was his fame at the time—when the gramophone had not been superseded by radio as the principal mechanical home entertainment—that he was able to retire in 1932, when only 32.

Although he subsequently appeared in Broadway and film musicals, he did not figure extensively in the show business scene until 1956, when he recorded both single and LP discs for the American RCA label.

His great success was "My Blue Heaven," which sold a total of 7 million. "Ramona," "Stardust," "After You've Gone" and "Honey-suckle Rose" were other hits.

During his TV appearance, he will sing and be interviewed by host Jack Payne.

Frankie Vaughan will also be seen in the February 27 programme. His contribution will be filmed in advance, as Frankie will then have left for America.

Already booked for the show are Petula Clark, Rosemary Squires and Ted Heath and his Music.

The last "Off The Record" of the present series will be seen on Mar. 27.

'Cats' twice weekly

"COOL For Cats," AR-TV's popular teenage disc programme, will be seen only twice weekly, starting next week—but both sessions will be of 30-minutes duration.

The show will cease on Mondays. The Wednesday evening session will be transmitted from 6.10 to 6.40. Friday's show remains at 11 to 11.30.

Johnny Otis package plan April debut here!

JOHNNY OTIS may be bringing his full rock 'n' roll show to Britain in April. This news was given to the NME by Johnny's partner and personal manager, Hal Zieger, who is on a 10-day visit to Britain.

He said: "The prospects are extremely good. We propose coming to Britain for a four-week tour. It may last longer.

"We will bring the entire package of 15, including the band of eight musicians. Marie Adams, the Three Tons of Joy, and Mel Williams would also be featured."

Otis is the former jazzman and disc-jockey, whose West Coast rock package hit Britain with his revival of "Ma, He's Making Eyes At Me."

It currently has a second entry in the best-sellers—"Bye Bye, Baby."

A third Otis record is due for release here in a fortnight. The titles, both of which feature Marie Adams, are "All I Want Is Your Love" and "A Light Still Shines In My Window."

Ruby Murray's TV

RUBY MURRAY is one of the stars in BBC-TV's "Variety Parade," which occupies the peak-hour spot on Saturday, February 22. Other artists in the show, which is produced by Ernest Maxin, include John Hanson and the Vernons Girl Choir.

Marty Wilde opens his 15-week variety tour for Manchester impresario Arthur Fox at Dudley Hippodrome on March 17, followed by the Oldham Empire on March 24.

TWO TELE-SHOWS FOR HOLLY, CRICKETS

Complete concert tour

ON the second day of their imminent nation-wide tour of Britain, Buddy Holly and The Crickets' vocal group will be starred in Val Parnell's "Sunday Night at the London Palladium" on March 2.

Another important television engagement for them has been announced—Jack Hylton's "See You, Soho" on March 13.

The complete schedule of 25 concerts for Buddy Holly and The Crickets are now finalised—including seven London venues. Eighteen dates will be staged at super-cinemas, with the remaining seven at municipal halls.

Here is the complete list: Trocadero, Elephant and Castle (March 1), Kilburn State (2), Southampton Gaumont (3), Sheffield City Hall (4), Stockton Globe (5), Newcastle City Hall (6), Wolverhampton Gaumont (7), and Nottingham Odeon (8).

Bradford Gaumont (9), Birmingham Town Hall (10), Worcester Gaumont (11), Groydon Davis Theatre (12), East Ham Granada (13), Woolwich Granada (14), Ipswich Gaumont (15) and Leicester De Montfort Hall (16).

Doncaster Gaumont (17), Blackburn St. George's Hall (18), Hull Regal (19), Liverpool Philharmonic (20), Walthamstow Granada (21), Salisbury Gaumont (22), Bristol Colston Hall (23), Cardiff Capitol (24) and Hammersmith Gaumont (25).

Second film for Russ Hamilton?

A LEADING British film company is negotiating for Russ Hamilton to star in a second picture. Russ, one of 1957's most successful British recording stars, is strongly featured in the "6.5 Special" film.

While talks continue, agent Dave Forrester is completing plans for a lengthy variety tour which starts on Monday.

Variety dates completed so far are Belfast Empire (Feb. 17), Edinburgh Empire (Mar. 17), Cheltenham Gaumont (31), Newcastle Empire (Apr. 14), Brighton Hippodrome (Apr. 21) and Leeds Empire (Apr. 28).

He appears on ATV's "Jack Jackson Show" on Mar. 1. Dates for the weeks of Mar. 3 and 10 have still to be announced.

CONN'S NEW POST

LESLIE CONN, well-known Tin Pan Alley exploitation man, leaves Robbins Music today (Friday) to become European representative of Carlton Records.

Conn will help exploit Carlton discs at first. He will also be concerned with European recording for the label, and general sales matters on this side of the Atlantic.

Lita with Humph

LITA ROZA will be the Humphrey Lyttelton Band's guest star when its "Here's Humph" Granada-TV series becomes a 30-minute programme and is seen on the entire ITV network for the first time on February 21.

Maxine Daniels (Feb. 28) and Sister Rosetta Tharpe (March 7) are likely guests in later presentations. Cleo Laine is booked for March 14. A filmed interview between Humph and visiting American jazzman Dave Brubeck may be included on the March 21 show.

PAT BOONE'S NEXT

PAT BOONE signed for his third starring screen role by 20th Century Fox, in "Mardi Gras." Production commences this spring, during Pat's recess from New York's Columbia University.

Duetlist radio hit

HARRIOTT and Evans' late Sunday night Light Programme radio series has been extended for a third time, and will now run until June 22.

The pianist-singers first occupied the 11.30 p.m. music spot for six weeks starting last October. They were brought back in for another six weeks at the end of December. This series was first extended to 13 and now to 26 programmes.

Watched by a 4,000 crowd, the Show Biz football team were beaten 2-1 by Harlow New Town last Sunday. Singer Marion Ryan kicked off. This Sunday the team play at the Salisbury Road ground, Worcester Park, Surrey.

ELLA : REVISED ENGAGEMENTS

REVISED date for American jazz singer Ella Fitzgerald to star in ATV's "Sunday N" at The London Palladium" is May 4. Previously Ella hoped to appear on the show on Easter Sunday.

It is expected that she will tour Britain for about three weeks from May 2, with the most outstanding package of world famous musicians yet to visit this country.

This will include Dizzy Gillespie, Stan Getz, Coleman Hawkins, Roy Eldridge and Sonny Stitt, as well as the Oscar Peterson Trio, cables Nat Hentoff from New York.

Ella, her own accompanying trio and the Peterson Trio would play Continental dates in April before coming to Britain. At the end of the English tour Ella and Peterson would return to America while her trio and the solo instrumentalists would go on the Continent.

Sister Rosetta back in March

SISTER ROSETTA THARPE is returning to Britain from the Continent to appear in Granada-TV's "Chelsea At Nine" on March 4, when she may be accompanied by the Humphrey Lyttelton Band.

She may have a return booking in the "Here's Humph" TV series three days later, which would precede engagements in Denmark lasting for ten days from March 15.

The second British tour for Jazzshows Ltd. is planned to start on March 27. It will include two performances at London's Royal Festival Hall.

KINGS' TOUR

THE King Brothers, following their season with Frankie Vaughan at the Palace, resume touring in provincial variety until their summer season at Blackpool North Pier in June.

The tour opens at Middlesbrough Empire on Monday. Other dates so far booked include Chester Royalty (Mar. 3), Boston New (10), Finsbury Park Empire (17) and Chiswick Empire (24).

It is preceded by a BBC-TV "6.5 Special" appearance on March 1.

Hilltoppers' extra towns

FOR the return variety tour here by U.S. vocal group the Hilltoppers—commencing at Newcastle Empire on April 7—dates not published last week can now be revealed.

Following successive weekly engagements at Leeds, Glasgow and Edinburgh (April 14, 21 and 28), the Hilltoppers continue at Liverpool Empire (May 5), then Hanley Theatre Royal, Bristol Hippodrome, Sheffield Empire and Finsbury Park Empire in that order.

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JOEL GREY

in a slow rhythm ballad
'BE MY NEXT'
b/w 'Shoppin' Around'

LONNIE SATTIN

sings an up tempo blues—
'RING AROUND THE MOON'
b/w 'My heart's your home'

NAT KING COLE

'ANGEL SMILE'

b/w
'Back in my arms'

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RECORDS

Frank Sinatra 'SONGS FOR SWINGIN' LOVERS'
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NAT HENTOFF'S AMERICAN AIR MAIL

Johnnie Ray's pitch truer

since ear operation

JOHNNIE RAY has re-recorded five new songs since his ear operation. Reports Jack O'Brian: "Mitch Miller said Johnnie's pitch is truer than heretofore and the happy cryboy's only reaction was a slight diminishing of his ear power. 'It's just ear fatigue,' the doctor reported, happily." Johnnie also scored—without his hearing aid—at a concert in Philadelphia.

General Manager of Herald-Ember Records, the New York firm that bought *The Silhouettes'* "Get A Job" master, is British-born Doug Moody. Doug, who used to be American representative for several companies in Britain, has been in the States since 1953... London has released an LP of "Winifred Atwell Plays 50 All-Time Hits"...

Beatrice Lillie and Cyril Ritchard are likely to be teamed in a Broadway version of "For Amusement Only," which has been running in London since June, 1956... Elvis Presley, according to Sheila Graham, is preparing for the Army. He's lost his sideburns and is thinner. "I'm glad I'm going into the Army this year and not last year," said Elvis. "A year ago they were saying I couldn't last. I've proved to myself I can." He reports on March 20. "I'll do my two years and I'm not sorry to be going. I feel I can be of some use. I'm glad I'm not married. I wouldn't want to be leaving a wife"...

According to Victor's W. W. Bullock, Presley was the biggest record seller in America last year (some 20,000,000 records), followed by Pat Boone and Perry Como... While Elvis is away, Colonel Tom Parker is interested in producing a



JOHNNIE RAY poses with two of Vic Lewis's band during his last visit to Britain. When he arrives here in the Spring he won't be wearing his hearing aid.

Broadway musical, "Fourteen Karat Fool"...

Says Sophia Loren about Frank Sinatra: "During the making of 'The Pride And The Passion,' he was very disturbed. I didn't have half enough time at my disposal to understand him. But later on in Hollywood I discovered it's very difficult to be Frank Sinatra's friend, but if he chooses you he is a great friend."

"People say," Miss Loren said to interviewer Art Buchwald, "he is a great lover, but I say he's the kindest man I ever met"...

Mario Lanza received good personal reviews for his new film, "Seven Hills of Rome." The

"Times" thought he "appears far more relaxed than ever before"... Paul Robeson is appealing against the denial of his passport, but prospects are dubious. Robeson's lawyer claims Robeson has a Palladium TV offer and other British engagements (ATV in London confirms this)... "The Big Record" will continue on TV until June. Its future in the fall is doubtful...

Pearl Bailey may star in a Broadway musical version of "Vermilion O'Toole," with Ann Sheridan, Howard Keel and Caesar Romero...

Nat Cole disclosed recently that he had known W. C. Handy since 1942, and that the idea of his playing Handy in a film biography had come up at their first meeting. "The first time I met Mr. Handy was when we played a benefit together. I remember bringing up the subject of a movie, but he thought a story about a coloured person wouldn't be accepted by everybody."

"Then a little over a year ago I went East for the testimonial dinner on his 84th birthday and we discussed it again. He surprised me by saying he had been a fan of mine for years and would be delighted to have me play him in the movie. You can't imagine how proud I felt when he said that"...

Dizzy Gillespie's new group now consists of Sonny Stitt and a rhythm section of Wynton Kelly, bassist Sam Jones and drummer Jimmy Cobb... Stanley Dance cut an LP for British Decca here with trombonist Dickie Wells, George Mathews, Benny Morton and Vic Dickenson with a rhythm section of Jo Jones, Major Holley and pianist Skip Hall...

Former British bandleader Terry Slater, now living in San Francisco, blasted American audiences in an "Oakland Tribune" interview: "In my opinion, one of the factors that make it difficult for big band jazz to go over in America is the public itself. The average Americans... are almost totally lethargic and blasé toward real support of anything."

Do you disagree? Have you something to

say? If so write to

FROM YOU TO US

NEW MUSICAL EXPRESS,
5 DENMARK STREET,
LONDON, W.C.2

Miss N. VASA, of Walmersley Road, Bury, goes into poetry to praise Presley in "ODE TO EL": "Heartbreak Hotel" was El's first hit which launched him on his way; Since then success is in his mitt, Now he's the greatest of today. He has an outstanding personality, A sincere and different approach, He is famed for his originality, Even though he's had much reproach. About that, El's conscience is clear Knowing he has done no wrongs, So Elvis need have no fear When the few make fun of his songs. Such ability to sing, play and act It's no surprise we fall for Elvis Even squares can't ignore the fact That he owns a golden pelvis!

Miss C. GAMBLE, of Sutton Coldfield, Warwicks, writes: Many thanks for the article by Bing Crosby. I found it most absorbing. However, I have one criticism to make. I am glad to hear that Bing likes Elvis Presley, but I don't think Elvis needs to widen his style. He sings practically every different kind of song there is to sing—and excellently, I might add.

A. G. TULL, of Abingdon, Berks, writes: Bill Haley change his style? Heaven forbid! Let SOMEONE remain with a style of his own. Just compare some of today's songs with Haley's original rock numbers. The driving beat is lost in a confusion of harmonising choruses, over-amplified guitar and too much echo. In my opinion, there hasn't been a group to touch Haley for skill in belting out rock 'n' roll, for authenticity and tuneful lyrics. It's been my firm belief that Bill would make a comeback ever since he was crowded out by an influx of newcomers. When he is back in the Charts, I hope that it's his own style that carries him there.

ROGER THOMAS, of Treochy, Glamorgan, writes: I'm amazed that some of America's best rockers are so little known over here. Take Bo Diddley, who according to a rock magazine, is stupendous. But I listen to every record programme and have never heard him!

Then there are the marvellous singing group, The Del Vikings, and Ivory Joe Hunter. Both have sold a million in the States, but didn't get off the ground here. The thing that surprises me most is that Gene Vincent isn't a success over here. Ask anybody who Galloping Cliff is, and they look at you as if you're mad. Nobody knows him as Gene's guitar player.

ALEX CLARKE writes from London, W.8: I read with disgust that The Vipers are changing their style. Until recently, I had bought all their records, including their brilliant "Coffee Bar Session" LP. Now they are just another group and have made an awful record called "No Other Baby," which I shall certainly not buy. Please stick to real skiffle, Vipers, and not this commercial stuff!

A. L. KENNAUGH, of Huyton, Lanes, writes:

What really did happen to Bill Haley? Why did his "fall" coincide with his first and, apparently, last British tour? All the critics point to this tour as his downfall, giving no evidence to substantiate their claim. His dethronement gave an opportunity to the malcontents to show that the "wicked wave" of rock 'n' roll which was perverting the younger people was receding, and the youth of the nation was now out of danger. But, as everybody knows, the Big Beat dominates the music scene more than ever, in spite of attempts to oust it. At least this is one field left in which, if the public wants something, it can have it.

DAVID ADES, of Leigh-on-Sea, Essex, writes: What's the use of having so many different record labels these days? Why don't the large companies issue all their releases under one banner? I can see no advantage in flooding the market with all kinds of weird and wonderful designs round the centre hole. Surely this must lead to increased administrative costs?

Mrs. G. D. GREEN, of Rayleigh, Essex, writes: I can't understand why Tommy Steele's record of "Hey You"/"Plant A Kiss" hasn't gone high up in the hit parade.

To my mind, this is just about his best record to date. His voice has a fine new quality, and the accompaniment, together with such catchy tunes, make it a "must," I should have thought.

What's the matter with you Steele fans?

"RECORD FAN" writes from Plymouth:

I don't agree that there should be more rehearsals for the "6.5. Special" show. As Alma Cogan said recently: "It's such a relaxed show, and you can't rehearse relaxation."

But I think it would be better if the "Disc of The Week" spot was given to a new artist, or one who has never had a hit disc. Follow-up discs by The Crickets, Presley, etc. need no help to the top.

JOHN KING, of Enfield, Middlesex, writes:

Mr. F. Lindon asks why fans don't buy Bill Haley's records. I think the answer is that few people realise he is still making discs.

The trouble now is that any new Haley record is just another catalogue number because it isn't plugged enough.

"PRESLEY FAN" writes from London, S.W.3:

So Elvis has given his fans nothing! Nonsense! He gives you a wonderful "away from it all" feeling, whenever or whatever he sings. I hope he never comes to Britain for his sake. For people like the writer of that letter would turn him against Britain and his British fans for ever.

I, like many others, am saving up to go to America to see Elvis. There at least, he is appreciated.

TOMMY STEELE



I HAD a giggle when I read the reports of a speech by a Stockton headmistress. She blames me because the exam results in some of her classes are poor. Why pick on me? Anyway, she didn't paint a very good picture of her pupils to their parents, did she?

THE TROUBLE IS I GET TAKEN SERIOUSLY TOO OFTEN.

I made that statement this Miss Carr quoted—about me not having a dramatic coach—jokingly. What surprises me is that an intelligent person like a headmistress of a technical school should be so worried.

If her pupils are not doing so well, it's a pity she can't think of a better excuse for it than poor old Tommy Steele!

The truth is that a lot of people in films have no time for coaching. I was advised against taking any at first. After all, I don't want to play "Hamlet" . . . or even be a ham!

Because I have no coach doesn't mean that I've stopped learning. I listen to any good advice given me, and I always attempt to improve myself, give better performances and try out new forms of show business.

I was offered a spot in the London Palladium pantomime To appear there—the world's greatest variety theatre—is one of my main ambitions. But I would have been limited to my variety act only.

I came to Liverpool's Royal Court Theatre instead, because I was given the opportunity of taking a full part in the production—dancing, acting and doing comedy as well as singing.

You see, Miss Carr, I was keen to learn something new. I think

The Beat is Big!

SUPPOSE your father presented you with your own record company but told you to concentrate on established artists rather than sign up a new talent. What would you do?

That's the basic dilemma of the hero of "The Big Beat," the new American film musical that opened at London's Haymarket Cinema this week.

The hero decides to do what any self-respecting young recording boss would do, of course. When his father goes away for a few days, he starts signing up and recording all the unknown artists he can lay his hands on.

But, alas, he discovers one of the basic truths of the disc business—you must not only learn how to make records but how to sell them too.

The father returns to find that his son has 350,000 unsold records on his shelves and almost as many unpaid bills. Fortunately, at the end of the film a fairy godmother turns up in the shape of a businessman who offers to sell the discs in his super markets.

But the plot, of course, is only an excuse for bringing to the screen 18 of America's top recording

names. And for this the plot serves its purpose very well.

Gogi Grant, playing an acting role as well, has the lion's share of the songs. Her contributions include "Call Me," "You've Never Been In Love" and "Lazy Love."

But for my money the best performances comes from Fats Domino and the Canadian vocal group, The Four Diamonds.

The fat man is at the top of his form, singing, dancing, kneeling down at the piano, with a rip-roaring performance of "I'm Walking." He also performs the film's title-song.

Diamonds

The Diamonds, doing a hilarious comedy routine on their recent hit disc, "Little Darlin'," prove themselves to be excellent visual performers as well as good singers. I think you will go a bundle on them.

Elsewhere along the way, we meet The Four Aces ("Take My Heart"), Jeri Southern ("I Wanted So Long"),

everyone should try to better themselves. I would give that advice to fans.

A few weeks ago, Sam Wanamaker came to see me. Sam is a distinguished American actor who is staging very good productions in another Liverpool theatre.

The Del Vikings ("Can't Wait"), The Mills Brothers ("You're Being Followed").

We also bump into famous handleaders like Harry James, Buddy Bregman, Charlie Barnet, Russ Morgan, Freddy Martin and George Shearing.

This is by no means an out-and-out rock film, the mood varying from the rock 'n' roll of Fats Domino to the stylish singing of Jeri Southern. And the dialogue has its bright moments, too.

I specially liked the girl's reply to a harassed record executive: "Don't you know that girls like something else besides records?"

CHARLES GOVEY.

personally replies to this . . .

Tommy Steele is blamed

Express Staff Reporter

HEAD MISTRESS Miss Gwen Carr yesterday blamed Tommy Steele and other rock 'n' roll stars for poor examination results at her Stockton-on-Tees secondary technical school.

At the school speech day she 'kicked the girls' attitude to the reported answer of Tommy

Steele when it was suggested he should have a dramatic coach.

"I don't have no coach. I don't dig that stuff. Those people cannot learn you nuthin'."

Miss Carr said her teachers did not share the schoolgirls' "ecstatic appreciation" of rock 'n' roll stars. "It is a great hindrance to progress in school work," she said.

—Reproduced from the "Daily Express," February 7.

in an interview with DON WEDGE

You've taken me too seriously, he says

He asked me to be his star in a London production of "Mr. Wonderful," a Broadway musical which featured one of my great idols, Sammy Davis, jr.

I jumped at the chance. There will not be the opportunity to do it this year, but I hope it can be arranged for 1959.

People tell me that I may not be able to earn as much money in a musical as I could in variety. In that case, I will not let money matter.

Starring in a big musical would be worth making sacrifices. It would mean tackling something new. I would be learning again.

That is the real me, Miss Carr, the real Tommy Steele. I think someone must have given you the wrong impression.

Anyway, may I send a final message to your girls: "If I hindered your studies last term—like your headmistress says I did—then do me a favour and work hard for her—and me—next term. Promise?"

"And if your exam results are better, I'll present a prize to the best pupil—if Miss Carr will let me! Fair enough?"

LP of the Week

LOVERS IN THE DARK

(Tony Osborne and Orchestra play Two Silhouettes, Two Shadows, You And The Night And The Music, Kiss In The Dark, When You Wish Upon A Star, Lovers In The Dark, The Second Star To The Right, Whispers In The Dark, Two Cigarettes In The Dark, Dancing In The Dark, Dream Lover and I'll See You In My Dreams).

Dark doings here! Romantic music, played with sugary softness by Tony Osborne and his Orchestra, captures the mood of moments in the gloom which are anything but gloomy for lovers! No vocals, but plenty violins, soft saxophones and voices used as instruments. HMV label. A.E.

JAZZ

records by Keith Goodwin

NOT SINCE Lester Young, Coleman Hawkins and possibly early Stan Getz has a tenorist wielded such a commanding influence in jazz as Sonny Rollins—quite definitely the best of the "newer" tenor men on the New York jazz scene.

A virile, emotional, attacking soloist with a provocative, biting tone, Sonny has now reached maturity and his most recent Esquire album is one of the finest quartet releases I've heard for many years.

Titled WORKTIME (32-038), it features Sonny with pianist Ray Bryant (an ever-improving soloist), bassist George Morrow and the effervescent Max Roach (drums). The slow "There Are Such Things" is a classic of its kind and Sonny's eloquent, extended solo is particularly striking. The fluency of his phrasing on "No Business Like Show Business" is equally remarkable and his powerful blowing is also suitably showcased on "Paradox," "It's All Right With Me" and "Raincheck."

THERE'S more good Rollins to be heard on PERSPECTIVES (Esquire 32-035)—an album of reissues of titles recorded by the tenorist between 1951-53. Four tracks with the MJQ (The Stopper; Like Being In Love; No Moe; Sentimental Mood) come off extremely well, but there's a suggestion of inconsistency about Sonny's playing on a further eight titles with Kenny Drew, Percy Heath, and Art Blakey. The final track ("I Know") features trumpeter Miles Davis in the unfamiliar role of pianist. Worth hearing!

THE CURTIS COUNCE

Group—Vogue LAC 12073 (Landslide; Time After Time; Sonor; Mia; Sarah; A Fifth For Frank); Bassist Counce, you may recall, toured Britain with the Stan Kenton band in 1956. Here he leads his own combo for the first time on record and what a fine, swinging little outfit it is!

Aside of the leader's excellent bassing, there's a generous helping of booting, coarse-toned tenor by Harold Land, some interesting piano spots by Carl Perkins, and forthright, if at times a little more unsure, trumpet work by Jack Sheldon. A fine album!



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It's too good to miss!



Lock all the doors! Bar all the windows! WEE WILLIE HARRIS confesses everything in . . .



THE latest British musical personality to fill theatres is Wee Willie Harris.

He believes in having something the others haven't got—pink hair! Whether it is this, or his flamboyant, debonaire, carefree personality on the stage, TV screen and on records, we don't know.

But he has captured the imagination of the teenage public like wildfire and, as always happens, many of our readers have written in questions about this unusual young man.

We have taken these questions to him and he graciously answers them for you on this page.



Wee Willie sends himself as he 'rocks' the house with his torrid brand of 'roll.'

QUESTION-TIME WITH THE STARS

He talks about COURTING, his SONG STYLE, PRESLEY and his famous PINK HAIR!

Q. How did you come to dye your hair pink? (Hilda Holmes, Birmingham).

A. For a gimmick, of course. It was mostly Paul's idea—Paul Lincoln—my manager. He's promoted wrestling, and that's a lark that's full of gimmicks.

When he said he wanted me to get pink hair, I thought he was joking. Then I found out he wasn't. I thought I'd be taken for a looney and put into a bin.

But we came to what we called a decision, and I said I would. Off I popped to Maison Louis in Kensington—get that right, not Kensington, like one geezer wrote—and he had a bash. My hair turned ginger, but Paul said it had to be redder.

Back I goes. Redder, I says. Louis obliges, but Paul shakes his head. Back I go. Louis gets anxious this time. But he gets me locks a nice pink, and Paul is pleased.

Q. Do you ever feel self-conscious about your hair? (Rex Hirst, Orpington).

A. The first week in the street I was dead embarrassed. It was new to those who passed me, and new to me, too! People would say, "Look at his hair!" or "Blimey! Is it true?" I'd take a peek in a window to see for myself that it was true.

I'd tell myself not to be clever and chirp back at those who made remarks about me. I just ignored them as if my pink hair was natural.

I thought I'd have to be with it for a long time, so I had to fight with it and get used to it. Now I am.

Q. What is your real name? (Marion Jones, Cardiff).

A. Charlie William Harris. I felt a proper Charlie with my pink hair at first, too. I don't like that name much, so I just shortened William to Willie, and Paul Lincoln added the "Wee," because I'm on the skinny side.

Q. When did you turn professional, and what made you do it? (Jack Burt, Manchester).

A. I turned my job in, like, at the biscuit factory 18 months ago. I was making more money at the singing lark than I was mixing puddin's in the Christmas puddin' department at Peak Freans. I needed more money to help dad, who's got a weak ticker and hasn't been able to work for 12 years. Mum's a chambermaid at the May Fair Hotel, in Piccadilly. I wanted to make enough so she could stop work if she wanted.

Q. Do you ever think you'll sing ballads? (Claire Morton, Glasgow).

A. Ballads? Me? Not likely, mate! That Edmund 'Ockeridge stuff ain't my line. I'm more a rhythm-and-blues geezer.

Q. How old are you, and how long have you been entertaining? (Jean Armstrong, of West Hartlepool).

A. Twenty-four. I've been attempting to entertain since I was sixteen . . . amateur like, in pubs, concerts and talent competitions. I worked clubs two years ago.

Q. Have you any plans to desert your rock style and become a straight singer? (David Keen, Hendon).

A. I do impressions of Frankie Laine and Johnnie Ray, and they're pretty straight. But as long as I get big applause from rock, I'm a rocker.

Q. Do you think your career will be a long one, bearing in mind how Tommy Steele has already said he thinks his rock 'n' roll life could be limited? (Phyllis Knox, Islington).

A. I think I'll go on a long time, straight up I do. You see, my gimmick goes everywhere with me—even to bed.

My pink bounce is an advertisement for me all the time, and I never wear a hat to cover it up—'cept if it's raining hard and the colour might run, although I'm told it won't.

Course, if my hair fell out, my career might end quicker than I think. But Louis, who does my dyeing for me, says I got good roots. I get it done every week. As long as I keep my thatch nice and rosy, my future will be the same.

Q. Have you a fan club? (Mildred Cooke, Wolverhampton).

A. Yes, I have. Up in Yorkshire I send me letters. One asked if I was engaged, married, courting or interested? The answer is no, no, no, yes.

I'm interested, right enough, but I've got no time right now to do anything about it. I can't start courting seriously until I get more settled.

Everything happens so fast in this lark, you know, and I can't make a date because I never know when I'll have to break it.

So, girls, you'll just have to be patient—until I get settled!

Q. Who is your favourite singer? (Kenneth Lawlor, Edgware).

A. I got so many, mate. Sammy Davis, Little Richard, Fats Domino, and a couple of girls—Ella Fitzgerald and Sarah Vaughan. I think they're all American, but I don't care. They sing what I like to hear.

Q. Do you style yourself on any other singer? (Daphne Bishop, Bridport).

A. Don't know for sure. People say I sound like Little Richard. But I don't know how I sound, even from recordings. I know I can't sing dead like Little Dickie. I can't sing dead like anybody but me.

Little Richard has quit show business to be an evangelist, but that's one thing I won't be doing. I like show business too good ever to leave it.

Q. What do you do in your leisure hours? (Jill Gill, Sunderland).

A. I like a good game of soccer. Arsenal supporter, me. When they're playing away, I go to Queens Park Rangers and give 'em a shout. I get chivvied for my hair, but everyone has a good giggle.

In the mornings when I'm home, I go down to the dockers club near my place in Rotherhithe—the Lady Gomm Club—and have a game of snooker.

Or I go to the pictures on occasions. I like the cartoon places best, that show for an hour. Great artists them blokes who make cartoons. Real smart and funny.

Q. Have you got a record player at home, and what records? (Jimmy Wilson, Bow).

A. Sure I have. I buy lots of records. Four and five at a time, mostly rhythm-and-blues. Got about 300 of them. My brother

Maurice—he's a lighterman like my dad used to be—made me a cabinet for them.

Q. When you gave me your autograph the other day, you looked pale and rather unhealthy. Are you? (Mary Ailson, Hammersmith).

A. You're right. I look like I'm dead. But honest, I'm never ill, touch wood. And I feel fine—specially when you shout and cheer and whistle after my songs.

Q. With all the excitement of your new life as a star, how do you relax? (Peter James, Aston, Birmingham).

A. I don't really. Before I go on the stage I still get panicky. I get dressed long before I get to go on, because otherwise I'd be in a flap and that wouldn't do. I get nervous and sweaty before I start, but once I'm cracking, I'm fine.

At night I drink that stuff that prevents night starvation. It's great and really works with me. If I don't drink it I wake up with the bed clothes all over the floor. But if I drink it, the covers are all there just the same as I started my kip.

Q. What is your favourite song? (Pearl Dimond, Hackney).

A. I'm a rocker, but I like "Pennies From Heaven" best and other Crosby types of light song. I like Bing, too, but in films. He's better to watch and hear, than just to hear.

Pat Boone is good to listen to, but I've never seen him yet. Presley is a great showman. He must be to get where he's got singing what musicians call trash. Yes, he's okay and I'd love to dekkko him.

I've always found it tough to go out and sing if I didn't feel like it. Throwing baseballs around relaxes me quicker than anything. I keep one in my dressing room, and throw it up and catch it for a while before going on stage or before a recording mike.



I remember one summer I was in a show with The Four Lads. They'd be on stage working, and I'd be by the open stage door throwing a baseball to somebody and catching it when he threw it back. I was getting relaxed for my part of the show.

Once I missed the ball. It sailed on to the stage, and rolled under the curtain between The Four Lads' feet.

When they finished they kicked the ball to the wings, and all during my act I heard them throwing and catching the ball in their baseball mitts.

Made me quite envious, and maybe I hurried the act a little so I could join them.

Q. How are your records doing and what are they? (Diana Perkins, Salisbury).

A. Going well I'm told, but I got no figures yet. I've done two 78-45s.—"Back To School Again"/"Rockin' At The 2-Is" (my own number); and "Love Bug Crawl"/"Rosie Lee." I'm on two LPs—"Stars Of The 6.5 Special" and "Night At The 2-Is."

Q. What are your plans for the future? (Jack Allcott, Dagenham).

A. To make as much money as I can and give my fans as much enjoyment as I can. I want the money for my Mum. If Tommy Steele can get his Mum a house, so can I. We got a nice flat, done out with contemporary wallpaper and all, but I want a house for her. I'll get it too—with all your help. So go on liking me, and my pink hair. It's a proper giggle, ain't it?

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TAIL-PIECES BY THE ALLEY CAT

Paul Anka's feat

It appears that sixteen-year-old Canadian vocal star Paul Anka has established an unusual record in Britain. He is the first artist to secure a "hat trick" of top ten entries—with his first three disc releases. The latest hit, "You Are My Destiny," is not only positioned at No. 10 here, but has plunged into the U.S. charts for the first time at No. 14. With these concentrated record successes during the past few months, Paul should get an even bigger reception for his quick return tour, commencing Saturday, March 1.

A fourth daughter has been born to Mrs. Bill Monahan in New York; you would know her better as singer Teresa Brewer. . . . When their U.S. concert tour starts later this month, Vic Lewis and his Orchestra will appear at leading colleges; they play reciprocal dates for Glenn Miller Orchestra (directed by Ray McKinley), who concluded here last Sunday—proving most profitable band ever presented by impresario Harold Davison here. . . .

In new colour musical film "The Big Beat," Fats Domino sings two songs from his own pen. Frequent visitor to Liverpool Press Club is Tommy Steele—keen to exploit his

pro prowess at snooker against local journalists. . . . Now living in America, Jean Sablon, the French crooner, was scheduled to arrive in London this week—also Ben Selvin, RCA repertoire chief from New York

Mario Lanza has purchased a house in Hampstead (London)—according to Decca Group recording manager, Marcel Stellman. . . . Coinciding with their concert tour here next month, The Crickets' new disc



Alma Cogan and Ronnie Carroll went along to the Jack Of Clubs recently to give support to Toni Dall (l), who is in cabaret there. Toni leaves for the States today (Friday) to appear on Ed Sullivan's TV show and fulfil other engagements.

release will be "Maybe Baby," written by their leader Buddy Holly. . . . Rave press notices in America for latest issue of Russ Hamilton, titled "I Had A Dream"

The Evening News published a best sellers' chart on Tuesday, listing Gary Miller's "The Story Of My Life" in No. 1 position; this prize mistake was quickly remedied by Norrie Paramor, manager of Columbia—who deserves congratulations for steering Michael Holliday to leading the hit parade, especially because it involved "dethroning" mighty Elvis Presley. . . . Despite his years of experience, surprisingly Don Ameche gave an ineffectual performance on Sunday's London Palladium TV show; pity that British singer Joyee Blair did not help matters by irritable gesticulations. . . .

Has Rosemary Clooney's comparative lack of disc hits recently provided a challenge to her famous husband Jose Ferrer—who has signed an MGM recording contract? During his first six months as a star Paul Anka's earnings totalled £40,000

Snowbound in Newcastle last week-end, Dickie Valentine cancelled his visit to London on Sunday to discuss with producer Joan Kemp-Welch his forthcoming AR-TV series. . . .

"Indian Giver"/"Just Being Of Age" are latest RCA titles recorded by Hollywood screen star, Tony Perkins. . . . Proud owner of a new Renault-Dauphine car is band-leader Johnny Dankworth. . . . New-comer to the hit parade this week with "Raunchy," Bill Justis also composed this title. . . .

Besides surprise announcement that Bing Crosby and his film actress-wife Kathy Grant are expecting a "happy event," two British music personalities are "infantivating"—disc jockey David Jacobs and singer-comedian Des O'Connor. . . . Big sales of their U.S. hit, "Sugartime," secured a season for McGuire Sisters at New York's plush Waldorf Astoria, which started this week. . . .

When Elvis Presley was asked to give his opinion of Jerry Lee Lewis, he said: "This boy has everything—he can't miss." Frank Sinatra has three albums in America's top twenty list of best sellers—with "Warm" by Johnny Mathis topping LP hit parade. . . . Film debut in a British production is planned for The Kaye Sisters this Spring

An attempt to secure a hat-trick of "gold discs" is made by the Everly Brothers—with "Should We Tell Him"/"This Little Girl Of Mine". . . . Former RCA recording manager Joe Carlton has now launched his own U.S. label; first release has been secured here by E. R. Lewis (Decca group chief); title is "The Prince Of Players" by Tommy Frederick and the Hi-Notes—to be issued on London Records. . . . British agent Harry Foster planned to New York last Monday week to witness Broadway opening by Sally Ann Howes in "My Fair Lady"



SHIRLEY BASSEY



MANTOVANI

Simultaneously with receiving his second "gold disc" last month (for "Kisses Sweeter Than Wine"), Jimmie Rodgers celebrated his first wedding anniversary. . . . A new Musicians' Union ruling prevents Philips' manager Johnny Franz sending to Australia backing tracks (recorded by British accompanying musicians) and stops Shirley Bassey dubbing her voice, for a long-awaited new release by her. . . . Independent producer Harry Alan Towers is reputed to have filmed (for worldwide distribution) a TV series by Mantovani and his Orchestra. . . . In America, "Catch A Falling Star" is chief selling side of Perry Como's latest hit—as opposed to "Magic Moments" in Britain. . . . Producer Herbert Smith completed film version of "6.5 Special" on Wednesday of this week, when the King Brothers made final contribution. . . . Twenty-four hours after arriving home from Middle East Forces' tour, Gary Miller immediately joins the concert package show starring Buddy Holly with his vocal group, The Crickets, on March 1. . . .

Although a Broadway stage musical headlining our versatile Jean Carson is still likely this summer, an attempt to present her with Hollywood's Van Johnson as co-star has failed. . . . Office premises opposite London's Comedy Theatre (once leased by NME Managing Director Maurice Kinn, when he was Britain's top band booker) are now occupied by

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Peter Sellers. . . . This column revealed the "hush-hush" secret a fortnight ago that Spike Milligan had waxed a ballad; now issued by Parlophone, don't blame your Alley Cat for purring at yet another exclusive scoop. . . .

During 1957, two million three hundred thousand records were sold by Frankie Lyman; more than 25% of total can be attributed to British figures. . . . The Three Tons of Joy (a group including Marie Adams) have been dropped from next disc by the "Johnny Otis Show"; name of the featured vocalist is Mel Williams. . . . Capitol have signed a new vocal group, formed by Ken Errair—an ex-member of the Four Freshmen unit, who is married to film star Jane Withers. . . .

Sales of "Hound Dog"/"Don't Be Cruel" by Elvis Presley have exceeded five million copies—according to Steve Sholes, U.S. chief of RCA pop releases. . . . For her cur-

rent Las Vegas cabaret date, Marlene Dietrich's songs include "Kisses Sweeter Than Wine". . . . After a ten months' absence, David Whitfield approaches the Top Twenty again—thanks to Mantovani's composition and orchestral accompaniment with "Cry My Heart". . . .

"Stardust" singer Billy Ward has been named as possible visitor for stage dates here. . . . Disc-jockey Kent Walton guilty of two astonishing blunders, by reporting nice sales obtained in America by record Frankie Vaughan waxed there last month (EDITOR'S NOTE: This disc has not been released yet!) Mr. Walton also revealed that in the U.S. next month, Frankie appears on Patti Page's TV show, followed by another date in "The Big Record" (EDITOR'S NOTE: Patti Page is the hostess of "The Big Record"—this is her only TV show in the States!) . . . Did Johnnie Ray sing "Cry" or did Julie London sob "Cry Me A River" at the "March From The River Kwai"—but when their eyes met at the bridge, did they cross?

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- Mar. 2nd—DUNDEE**
Caird Hall, 5.30 and 8.0. Book from Feb. 17 at Largs, Music-sellers, 16/24, Whitehall Street. Tel. 1061, Ext. 25. Prices 10/6, 8/6, 7/6, 6/-, 5/-, 4/-, 3/6.
- Mar. 3rd—EDINBURGH**
Usher Hall, 6.30 and 8.45. Book from Feb. 15 at Edinburgh Book Shop, 57, George Street. Tel. Caledonian 4495. Prices 10/6, 9/-, 7/6, 5/-, 3/6.
- Mar. 4th—NEWCASTLE**
City Hall, 6.20 and 8.40. Book from Feb. 15 at Waddington's, Northumberland Ave., Newcastle-upon-Tyne. Tel. 24279. Prices 10/6, 9/-, 7/6, 6/-, 5/-, 3/6.
- Mar. 5th—SHEFFIELD**
City Hall, 6.30 and 8.50. Book from Feb. 20 at Wilson Peck, Ltd., Fargate, Sheffield. Tel. 27074. Prices 10/6, 8/6, 7/6, 5/-, 3/6.
- Mar. 6th—LEICESTER**
De Montfort Hall, 6.30 and 8.50. Book from Feb. 14 at Municipal Box Office, Charles Street, Leicester. Tel. 27632. Postal applications must be accompanied by s.a.e. and remittance. Prices 8/6, 7/6, 6/-, 5/-, 4/-, Promenade 3/6.
- Mar. 7th—BRIGHTON**
The Dome, 6.30 and 8.45. Book from Feb. 18 at Dome Box Office, Church Street. Tel. 29337. Prices 10/6, 8/6, 7/6, 5/-, 3/6.

- Mar. 8th—To be announced**
- Mar. 9th—HARROW**
Dominion, 6.15 and 8.30. Book at Dominion Box Office. Tel. Harrow 1743. Prices 10/6, 8/6, 7/6, 5/-, 3/6.
- Mar. 10th—BRISTOL**
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- Mar. 11th—PLYMOUTH**
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- Mar. 13th—To be announced**
- Mar. 14th—To be announced**
- Mar. 15th—YORK**
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- Mar. 17th—To be announced**
- Mar. 18th—MANCHESTER**
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- Mar. 19th—LIVERPOOL**
Philharmonic Hall, 6.15 and 8.30. Book from February 18 at Rushworth & Dreaper Ltd., Islington, Liverpool 3. Tel. North 0131 and at 251, Grange Road, Birkenhead and 71, Foregate Street, Chester Also tickets at Hall. Prices 10/6, 8/6, 7/6, 6/-, 5/-, 3/6.
- Mar. 20th—LINCOLN**
Savoy, 6.15 and 8.30. Book at Savoy Box Office. Tel. Lincoln 162. Prices 10/6, 8/6, 7/6, 5/-, 3/6.
- Mar. 21st—HANLEY**
Victoria Hall, 6.20 and 8.45. Book from February 15 at J. C. Sherwin & Sons, Market Square. Tel. Stoke-on-Trent 21621. Postal applications must be accompanied by s.a.e. and remittance. Prices 8/6, 7/6, 6/-, 5/-, 3/6.
- Mar. 22nd—To be announced**
- Mar. 23rd—CROYDON**
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