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NOW AND THEN

Pictures of two stars — in 1962 and today, six years later. Two pictures on the left are BOBBY VEE and on the right BRUCE CHANNEL, then a chubby kid, is now a lean, bearded singer.

NOW IN THE CHARTS

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chart buster

TAIL-PIECES BY THE ALLEY CAT

AN ambitious plan for next London Palladium pantomime by Leslie Grade has failed. He hoped to secure Davy Jones as co-star for Lulu... On London stage, Richard Harris co-stars with Faye Dunaway in "Othello" early next year... Big disappointment for producer Mike Mansfield when Tony Blackburn's TV series dropped in London area next month... Folk song Tim Rose's "Morning Dew" Lulu's next U.S. single... Shirley Bassey has re-appointed Tony Lewis her agent... First signing on Andy Williams' Barnaby label — Osmond Brothers... Julie Felix plans August visit to Leonard Cohen's Greek home... "Down At Lulu's" "Ohio Express" next single... American Kevin Devich new manager of Eric Burdon and the Animals... On Saturday Gary Brooker (lead singer with Procol Harum) married Swiss Miss Françoise Riedo... Issued five weeks ago, new Cilla Black and Sandie Shaw singles don't seem chart-bound... Gene Pitney recording three Tony Macaulay-John McLeod songs... "Hey Baby" No. 1 for Bruce Channel in 1962... Paper Dolls make switch from Rik Gunnell agency to join Leslie Grade's organisation... Large bet staked by Tony Macaulay for Top 30 entry of New Formula's "My Baby's Coming Home"...

MIGHTY TIM

THE vastness of the Royal Albert Hall and a mix-up with his backing group detracted from an otherwise impressive Tim Hardin concert on Tuesday, the opening show of his tour... He was on stage for an hour and a half and ran through a repertoire which contained most of his big songs... Standout numbers were "Misty Roses", "If I Were A Carpenter", "Reason To Believe", "Don't Make Promises", "Black Sheep Boy" and "Tribute To Hank Williams"...

Bobby, Bruce comeback

SOMEWHERE, I feel certain, there is a vast, timeless void where lost souls wander aimlessly, guitars in hand, crooning Golden Oldies sadly to themselves and awaiting the arrival of the Great Rediscovers! The souls are the stars discarded and forgotten by the public as it moves on to new sounds and faces—and few of them come back... Two who might have gone that way are the "Hey Baby" man Bruce Channel, back in the NME Chart this week with "Keep On", and Bobby Vee, who, like his own "Rubber Ball" of old, has bounced back from the pop wilderness to enjoy a successful past two years in the States, during which he has notched up his biggest selling single of all time... So far Bobby's success has been confined to his home country, his last big British hit, "Night Has A Thousand Eyes," being way back in 1963... "I haven't been able to get off the ground here yet," said Bobby when I caught him at his London flat on Friday, attempting to unravel the mysteries of the Great English Eccentricity—cricket... Before he came to Britain in 1962 — on the strength of his hit — Bruce had never left the southern states... He was born in Jacksonville, Texas, into a musically inclined family where singing and playing a musical instrument was taught along with the alphabet... While at high school, the family encouraged him to try for an audition with the "Louisiana Hayride" show, and his first appearance on the show drew such a good reaction that he remained there as a regular for six months... "I got to know Johnny Horton pretty well while I was on the show," says Bruce. "He was a great man in country music and he helped me a lot..."

More time

"I think it is a question of spending more time here and coming up with a release that's more suitable for this country. It's got to the point where a No. 1 in America isn't necessarily a hit here... When I first started coming over it seemed like everything that was in the Top Twenty in the States was doing well here," he continued, turning down the sound on the escapades of Cowdrey and co... "Then, of course, with the Beatles hitting in the States, it was just the opposite and any British act had a free ticket over there... Now it's levelled out and everybody has an equal chance and it's just a question of coming up with the right material... Why did he think he had gone through a bad patch before his recent success? "I think, especially in Top 30 music, you can only last for so long, I remember when I was young, when I was buying a lot of records, there were certain artists I just got tired of and didn't want to hear any more..." Bobby has been in Britain since the beginning of June for TV and radio work on his current single...

By NICK LOGAN

but the main point of his visit has been club dates in the North of England... **Six-year wait** FOR Bruce Channel (pronounce it 'shan-ell'), the wait for his follow-up hit to "Hey Baby" has been a long one—six years in fact! "Hey Baby" was Bruce's first record and the then 21-year-old was soon to find himself shooting up the chart with it on both sides of the Atlantic... Before he came to Britain in 1962 — on the strength of his hit — Bruce had never left the southern states... He was born in Jacksonville, Texas, into a musically inclined family where singing and playing a musical instrument was taught along with the alphabet... While at high school, the family encouraged him to try for an audition with the "Louisiana Hayride" show, and his first appearance on the show drew such a good reaction that he remained there as a regular for six months... "I got to know Johnny Horton pretty well while I was on the show," says Bruce. "He was a great man in country music and he helped me a lot..."

Don and SOL give good summer fare

DON PARTRIDGE led a capacity audience on a musical journey through the streets of London with his busking songs at Blackpool's Central Pier on Saturday... Don's 15-minute act closed the first half of Star Show '68, in which he and Solomon King co-star... A street song opened Don's one-man-band act, then he moved into an old Irish song, "Wayward Boy," which had new words... Wearing red velvet trousers with a green silk, angel-sleeve shirt, Don looked rather bored throughout his act... This didn't seem to worry the appreciative audience, who were entertained by his "Rosie" performance... The former busker's performance was spoiled by bad microphone positioning, resulting in minimal sound from his kit... But he overcame this with an excerpt from the William Tell Overture, played by tapping his hands against his mouth and producing a sort of music... **Great form** Then came the closing song for which, everyone was waiting... "Blue Eyes," with Don in great form... Solomon King's six-foot-tall voice was matched to the big ballads he chose for his 20-minute act, which might have been improved by more variation... The only time he strayed from his format was during the final song, "Have Nagla," proving he can sing beat, besides ballads... However, he scored heavily with "Stranger In Paradise," "When We Were Young," "More" and "She Wears My Ring..." The Jimmy Crawford Four, a comedy pop group, came a close third to Don and Solomon for a star spot, but could do with a little more instrumental practice... Joan Savage and the Denise Shaune Dancers gave the only glamour to the show... Singer Steve Montgomery (very entertaining), comedians Les Dawson and Ray Martine, and Jimmy Coulter with Rex, his singing dog, completed a varied bill... **EILEEN WOOD**

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IT WAS like having the power to turn back the clock ten years. As I sat on the TV stage steps, only five feet away from the King while he gyrated, twisted and glided through his early hits, looking tender, or cruel, or loving, or mean as he sang through the lyrics, it was as though I was watching EL's first appearance on the Ed Sullivan show way back. I became a Presley fan — ten years late!

On steps five feet from him

Let me tell you about the exciting night I had with Elvis. He spent most of a week taping his first TV special in eight years at the NBC studios in Burbank, near Hollywood. He had rehearsed for two weeks before that. By Saturday night, the second-to-last night of taping, the NBC cameras had captured Elvis in over 40 hours of tape, which would be clipped to fit the one-hour special to be aired to America on December 3.

He picks me

About this time the executive producer came out and explained that for this particular sequence he needed people to sit on the surrounding steps of the platform. Hands darted up all around the audience, but he told them he would just walk around and choose the ones he wanted. And I was one of the lucky ones to sit on the steps.

The setting

As we (about 200) entered the studio, we gazed upon a 15 foot square platform with three steps leading up to it. This was surrounded on three sides by seats going up about seven rows, so that even the farthest fan was very close. The fourth side was filled by the orchestra.

Young and old

What amazed me was the audience reaction. If there had been 200 viewers who had been Elvis fans since the days of "Hound Dog" then I would expect the reaction he got. But no, there were old women, grown men, teenagers, children — every age was there and they were all "freaking out" over The King. Sex made no difference, either, the boys were just as eager to touch and get near him as the girls.



ELVIS as he appears in "Speedway." His latest record, "You're Time Hasn't Come Yet, Baby," has made the NME Chart this week.

NMExclusive by ANN MOSES

and then they ask "if I can walk and talk and dream, why can't my dream come true right now?" With Elvis singing those words, pleading to make his dream come true so sincerely, the song takes on even added dimensions and becomes a true experience.

NANCY TRIES TO TRAP PRESLEY

THE thing about Elvis Presley films is that they are so easy to criticize, it seems almost unfair to do so. Anyway, most of the critics have already given Elvis' latest escapade "Speedway" the acid bath ducking. So a synopsis of the "plot" should be evident enough.

Fun-loving, high-living Steve Grayson (Elvis) is a fearless stock-car driver, winning against all the odds (of course) and dishing out his prize money to all, including a spongy widower and his maddid kids. Cue for Elvis to do his song-to-the-delightful-little-girls bit which with the inevitable light sequence, the rivalry for the girl and the final race, are all basic ingredients of Presley films.

The girl in "Speedway" is Nancy Sinatra as an agent for the income tax authorities out to recoup El's misspent earnings. Nancy sings "Your Groovy Self" and Elvis croons his current NME No. 30, "You're Time Hasn't Come Yet Baby" plus the flipside, "Let Yourself Go," and "Speedway."

Every scene, every laugh (my greatest was on discovering the name Ponce Ponce among the credits for the actors) is predictable but then if you've ever seen a Presley film you'll know just what to expect. And if your idea of entertainment is predictable corn then "Speedway" is for you. — NICK LOGAN.

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group made big hits in Budapest, Hungary (writes Vass Tmre). Traffic's biggest success came from two instrumentals, and from "Paper Sun" and "Heaven is in Your Mind." Jimmy Cliff love-ark large, open air audiences apart with "When a Man Loves a Woman" and Frog on organ was most acceptable. Nagy Adam picture shows Steve Winwood in Budapest.

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Andy Williams waxes beaty 'Step Inside'

ANDY WILLIAMS has long been a Beatle fan. Over two years ago when no singers appealing to adults would touch Beatle songs, Andy usually included at least one of his favourites in his weekly TV show. Later, when "Sgt. Pepper" was released, he thought it was just about the greatest album ever made.



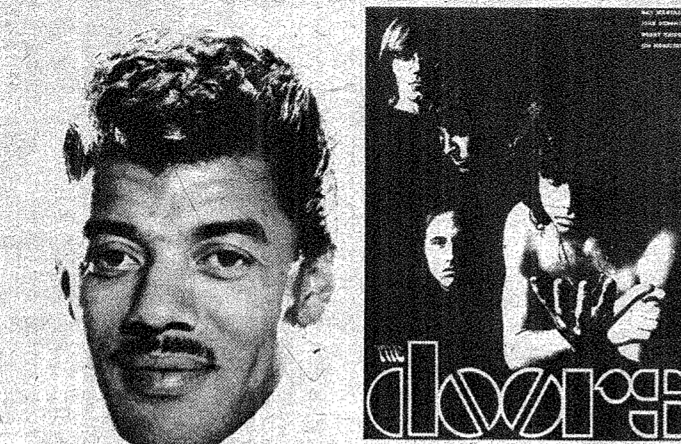
Ann Moses Editor of "Tier Beat" in Hollywood

When he was in London on his last trip he met Paul McCartney at the London Zoo, lunched with him and had him in his dressing room. As a result of that meeting, Andy is soon to record one of Paul's songs.

It's quite possible that he may release Paul's "Step Inside Love" as his next single. The background track is already on tape, awaiting his vocal.

Andy has felt that he would like to appeal to a younger audience for quite a time. His TV spectaculars, done under his own banner as apart from his more sedate sponsored weekly TV shows, have always had a leaning towards youth rather than an adult audience.

AMERICA CALLING



O. C. SMITH, whose "Son of Hickory Holler's Tramp" just rocketed up the British charts, was so happy about his first hit in England that he can't wait to start a fortnight's promotional trip there at the end of this month. O. C. always believed the song had universal appeal and proved right as it is obvious by its success! But then, Smith has always had a feel for the "right" song. It was he, in fact, who recorded the original version of "That's Life". His version was just starting to sell in America when Frank Sinatra rushed out a cover version. Frank's name sold a million copies and O.C.'s was forgotten.

DOORS BIG DRAW

THE DOORS are doing absolutely phenomenal business just about everywhere they go. At this moment they are, I would say, top group in America. They are reported to be commanding \$12,500 a night against box office percentages — a vast jump up from the \$7,500 they were getting until very recently.

June Harris in New York

They pulled in \$81,000 gross at the Hollywood Bowl a week or so ago! Record-wise, Elektra is amassing wealth from their albums and their latest single, "Hello I Love You", which is terribly reminiscent of the Kinks "You Really Got Me". Performance-wise, Jim Morrison is absolutely incredible. There's no one like him on the scene today and because of him, the Doors have made it in a big, big way. They're coming to New York at the beginning of next month for a date at the 17,000 seater Singer Bowl, with the Who on August 2. For this, I understand their fee will top \$12,000.

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BRITISH TEAM'S POOR CHOICE

THE British team for this year's European Song Cup Contest at the Casino in Knokke-Le-Zout, Belgium, was, on paper, a strong side. Unhappily, the choice of material hampered them so much that they went down in the first round against a French contingent that had all the style and polish associated with people like Edith Piaf or Charles Aznavour.



Britain's team at Knokke (l to r) MARTY WILDE, WAYNE FONTANA, FRIDA BROWN, ALLUN DAVIES and BRENDA MARSH.

Marty Wilde, Wayne Fontana, Friday Brown and the two successful Opportunity Knocks contestants — Allun Davies and Brenda Marsh — were confident and all turned in very good performances. It was not their voices that let them down. Marty went in first with "By The Time I Get To Phoenix". He sang it excellently. His second song was "Abergavenny", which has the Continental appeal of a Puppel On A String or "Congratulations".

of the judges' support by doing the number masterfully. The last Briton was Wayne Fontana, one of the better singers on the British pop scene and who we all hoped would seek it to 'em in no mean manner. We had, of course, reckoned without his songs, "Yesterday" and "Perfidia", is a strong enough combination, both well-known songs, but in this contest what was needed was something fresh and new.

OUT NOW

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THE MISTERY LADY

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Didn't happen

I wasn't sure whether Wayne had difficulty remembering the words or if his sense of timing had gone astray, but "Perfidia" sounded all wrong. It is a lovely number usually associated with Ben E. King, but in Knokke it didn't happen.

EUROVISION SONG WRIT WITHDRAWN

Carlin Music Corporation and Davray Music Ltd. have decided not to proceed with the copyright action commenced last April in the High Court against Philips Records Limited, Dick James Music Limited and Arcusa for an injunction and damages.

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Target for kidding is KENNY JONES who gets a neck-lock from IAN MCLAGAN and a cheek-tweck from RONNIE PLONK LANE, STEVE MARRIOTT'S thinking up what he can do next!

We're getting better ideas, better lyrics says KENNY JONES to NME's KEITH ALTHAM

HAVING nipped smartly into the No. 1 best selling album slot with "Ogdens Nut Gone Flake", the Small Faces are now deservedly considered big wheels in the progressive pop stakes. To see how they were enjoying their new found status I journeyed to Immediate control headquarters where on a bright sunny afternoon, there was only a skeleton crew holding fort and things were strangely quiet. Even the company's all-weather "Super-Publicist," Paul Thomas was on holiday! In a small inner office I met drummer Kenny Jones, decorated by the lovely blonde, Jan Osbourne.

beginning of things," said Kenny. "We're now free to do just what we want and Ronnie and Steve are into different things. We are not going to make the mistake of getting in one bag and getting stuck there—that's what happened to groups like the Searchers!"

The Beach Boys

Do It Again

Capitol CL15554

Tim and Paul

Smile If You Want To

Parlophone R5714

Reparata and The Delrons

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THE BEACH BOYS

Do It Again

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SOUNDS OF SUMMER

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Columbia TMO 149

FRANCK POURCEL

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Columbia TMO 114

MANUEL AND THE MUSIC OF THE MOUNTAINS

Blue Waters

Columbia TMO 131

MANUEL AND THE MUSIC OF THE MOUNTAINS

Exotica

Columbia TMO 103

MANUEL AND THE MUSIC OF THE MOUNTAINS

Beyond the Mountains

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EMI

THE GREATEST RECORDING ORGANIZATION IN THE WORLD

'I Pretend' gives him greatest ever reception — 'It's embarrassing'

EVEN GALES CAN'T MAKE DES UNHAPPY!

SPENDING a wet afternoon in Great Yarmouth is about as daunting a prospect as trying to get out of Central London during the rush hour. There is one man, however, who is oblivious to the temperamental weather lashing the Norfolk coast — Mr. Des O'Connor.

By RICHARD GREEN



My telephone call to his dressing room at the Wellington Theatre, where he is in the midst of a summer season, interrupted his latest venture. He is, it seems, embarking upon the tricky business of writing a film script.

"What's the weather like down there?" he enquired. "It's pouring down here, you should see it!" Unpleasantly over, I asked Des if he had received any film offers, recalling that he told me recently he wanted to break into the movie world.

Film script

"Yes, one or two," he replied. "Actually, I'm trying to write one on my own. That's what I'm doing now. Anthony Newley and Tommy Steele, who are both mates of mine, said why not write it myself. They said I can write gags, so why not try a film."

"I've got what I think is a very funny, original plot coming. I'm sitting here with a typewriter and it's all coming from me. Funny, really, I didn't think I had it in me until they suggested it."

"And what of the continued success of 'Pretend'?" I asked. "Oh, don't say it like that," Des laughed. "It's bloody amazing. I didn't think it would go on like this. When I saw people like Manfred Mann, Cupid's Inspiration and the Marmalade whizzing in I thought they would go flashing past."

"I ring up every day, it's like

checking on your shares, and I'm amazed at the sales: six and seven thousands still! The only plug I've had being up here is 'Top Of The Pops' and I thought it would die a slow death about three weeks ago.

"They played it on 'Bamboozler' the other day and I thought 'who'd ever have thought, it'd be on something like that.' It went 'Sitting here all oink-splash-wallop by the crash-creek-bang,' it was so funny."

Des sounded so happy that I thought he must never stop laughing. Another good reason to laugh is the box office for his season.

Fantastic

"The record has had a fantastic effect on the show," he revealed. "We're booked up for the next month. I've never ever got a reception like this, it goes on for about a minute. It's embarrassing, I don't know what to do."

"I make them laugh, then sing the song in a mellow mood, then make a quip about it and I'm away again. It's horrible trying to make them laugh when they're still applauding the song."

Des has already decided on his next single. He has a sure-fire way of judging its reaction, as he explained to me.

"I know what I'm going to do," he commented. "I've got to convince two or three people but it's already been chosen. We'll probably release it in September when the season ends."

It's a ballad, but different again. Although this is my third ballad, they've all been different to

each other. I'm doing an LP and that'll be released, I think, about Christmas. It's not fair to confuse them by putting out an album at the same time as a single.

"I think the single will be like the aperitif to the main course! I sang the new one to my daughter Samantha (31) twice and she's al-

ready singing it, so that's a good sign."

During his act, Des sings "Careless Hands" and "I Pretend," of course, plus "Mame" when "all the girls are on stage," a medley of Flanagan and Allen-type songs with the girls again and other members of the cast. "You Always Hurt The One You Love" and "Just One Of Those Songs."

Going big

"I think I'm going to have to put one or two more songs in because they're going so big," he said happily.

"I'm getting more confident about this singing thing. I never considered myself to be a singer; it's very nice, I'm very surprised."

As a straight singer who is primarily a comedian, what does Des think of the view that pop stars should watch how they behave all the time in case they influence their fans?

"That's a difficult question," he said. "I think it depends on the different fans, on the individual sitting out there in the audience. Young people are not so foolish as some people would have us believe."

Intelligent

"I met a bunch of long-haired boys, what I'd call layabouts, in a restaurant the other day. They got up and walked over and I thought 'hello, here we go,' but they sat down and we had an intelligent conversation."

"You get a totally wrong impression from what people appear. They were nice lads from an amateur pop group or something from up north."

"But if the fans are 15-year-old little kids, you must influence them a bit and I think it's there you've got to be careful what you say and do. They might just go away and do something because they've seen you do it."

At least there's no danger of anyone attacking an old lady after watching Des.



CLODAGH ROGERS

BRITAIN'S BACKING CLODAGH

EVERY country's doing it — holding, in one form or another, music festivals—and latest to join the list is tourist-conscious Greece which holds its first International Light Song Festival in Athens from 26th to 28th of this month.

Representing Britain will be RCA Victor recording artist Clodagh Rogers who will compete with a Roy Budd/Jack Fishman number, "Ask Anyone," against Germany, Argentina, Austria, Belgium, Egypt, Spain, France, Greece, Holland, Israel, Italy, Lebanon, Malta, Portugal, Switzerland and Turkey.

Songs will be eliminated on the first two days of the contest held at the 70,000 seater Athens Stadium and ten will be sung on the final night before a panel of judges.

Pye's Cyril Stapleton, who also chaired a miniature "Juke Box Jury" which selected Britain's entry, will be our judge there.

Prizes worth over £4,500 are at stake, so good luck to Clodagh. —JOHN WELLS

NMExclusive

DON — THE FLYING PARTRIDGE

Just one of his crazy escapades from the past recalled by Alan Smith

TALKING to manager Don Paul last week about our spectacular picture scoop of the genuine "flying" Partridge, he admitted that it was indeed his boy. And even if it had not been, it certainly sounded like him!

"That was something that Don pulled about five years ago," said Donald and you could almost hear him grinning down the phone. "He did a lot of wild things in those days. He's simmered down now," he added hopefully.

Serious attempt

"He was quite serious about the attempt to fly from that bridge though," said Donald. "He firmly believes in the law of aerodynamic aerodynamics and were it not for the fact that I would stop him, he might still be trying." He loses too many good artists that way!

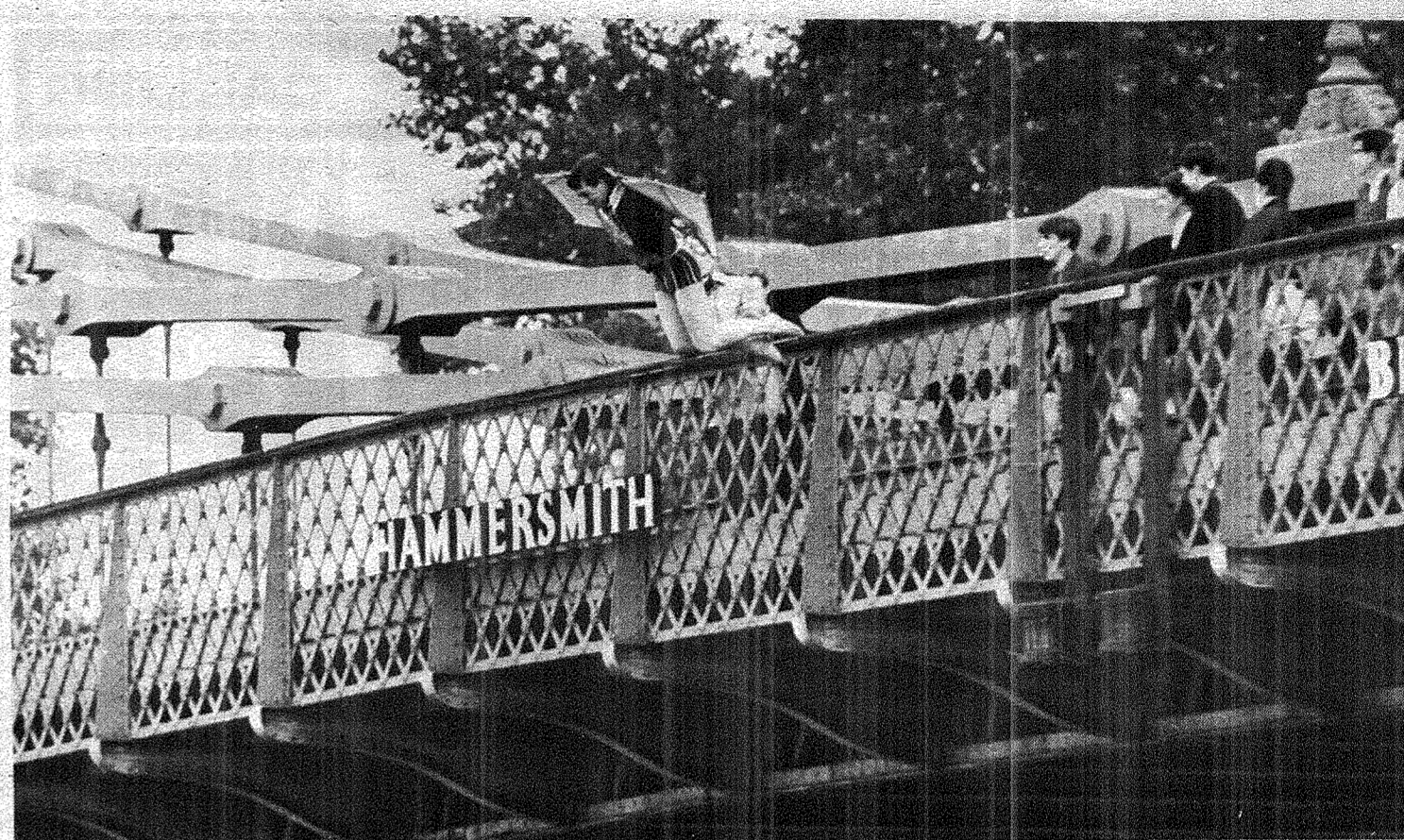
"It all began because Don heard of some American who had leapt off the top of a skyscraper in New York with wings and lived to tell the tale," continued Donald. "Believe it or not that man made a perfect landing. So it is not quite the impossible feat you might think."

Other news of our own weird 'bird' is that at present he is working in Blackpool with both feet planted firmly on the ground and only his bass drum upon his back.

Latest single

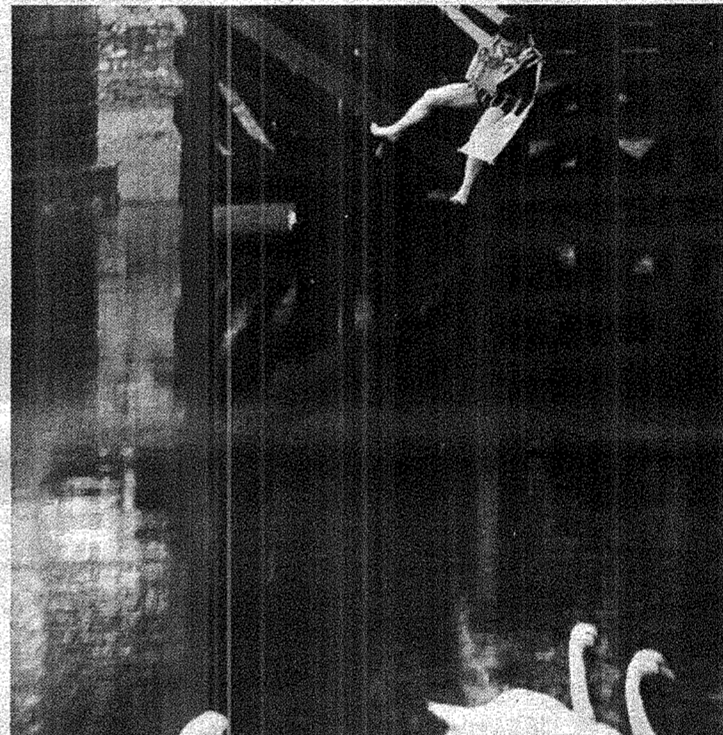
Shortly we are to be blessed with a single from Don Partridge and his augmented 60 piece orchestra! Don has recorded "Homeless Bones" the theme song for the Columbia film, "Ooley" starring Tom Courtenay which will be released in conjunction with the film as a single in December.

"We're not sure whether we will promote it as a single or whether it will just be an extra disc," said Don. "Anyway it is a very strong number which Don wrote himself." And so Don Partridge gives new meaning to those captivating speech balloons on all Superman comics — "Faster than the speed of light — more mighty than an express train — is it a bird — is it a plane? No, it's Don Partridge!"

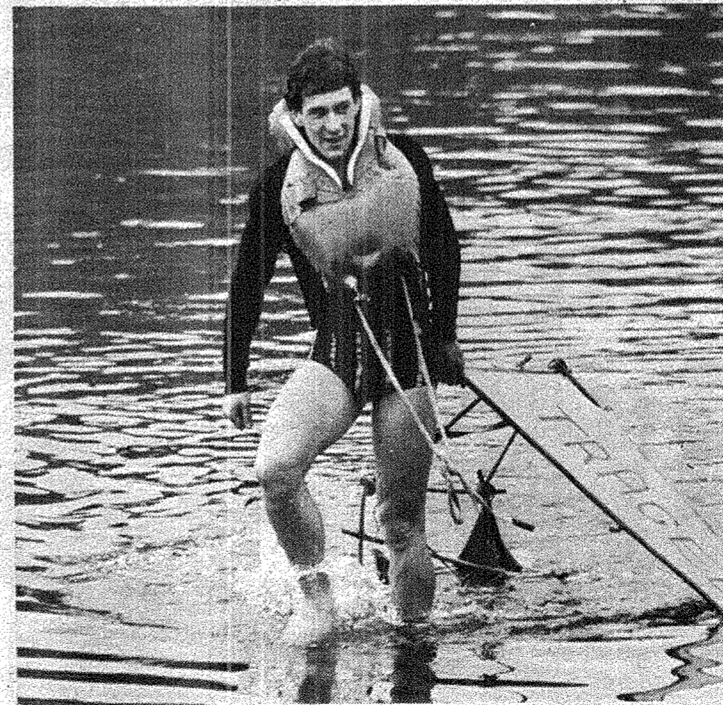


Alan Smith

TAKE-OFF—always the most dangerous part of any flight, is from Hammersmith Bridge.



FLIGHT. Birds can cause serious hazards, but somebody should have warned those unsuspecting swans.



LANDING. As this was a sea-plane DON expected the ducking—but perhaps not so soon after take-off! And no, this is not a crazy publicity stunt to promote his latest record. These pictures were taken five years ago and we have to thank sharp-eyed readers Dave Borrell and Pete Hodgkin for sending us in a clipping from "Amateur Photographer."

WINNING GROUPS

The Radio Luxembourg "Woodpecker Show" group competition resulted in Birmingham's Probe (30,845 votes) winning, with Bristol's Paper Sounds (18,752) and Hanley's Look Twice (9,203) runners-up. Other high scorers were Southampton's Visions and All of Us, Birmingham's The Spiral, and Preston's Purple Maze.

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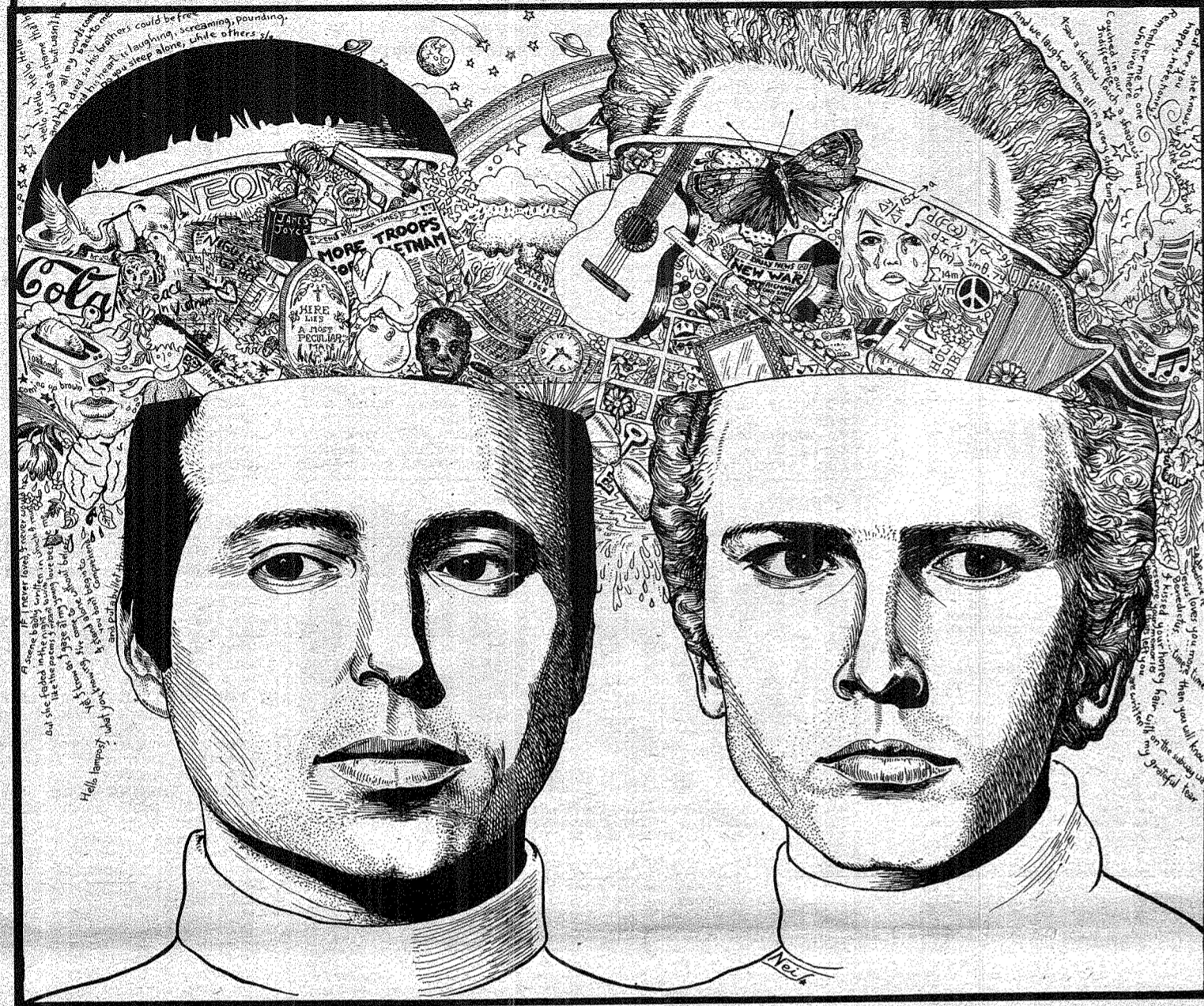
Form with fields for NAME, ADDRESS, and a coupon to request a brochure. Includes the text: ALWAYS ASK FOR GENUINE LEVI'S BY NAME LEVI'S FROM STOCKISTS ONLY—EVERYWHERE

Advertisement for Engelbert Humperdinck's LP 'A Man Without Love'. Features a large portrait of the artist and the Decca logo. Text includes: 'A Man Without Love Can't Take my Eyes off of You From Here to Eternity Spanish Eyes A Man and a Woman Quando Quando Quando Up, Up and Away Wonderland by Night What a Wonderful World Call on me By the Time I Get to Phoenix Shadow of your Smile 12" stereo or mono LP record © SKL 4939 © LK 4939'. A heart-shaped graphic says 'an outstanding new LP'.

Advertisement for DISCOTHEQUE RECORD CABINET. Text includes: 'WITH ROOM FOR 300 RECORDS 12" & 7" PLUS SPACE FOR PLAYER AND SPACE FOR RADIO IN. SOUNDLY MADE in Multi-ply with Teak or Walnut finish (state choice). NOTE: SIZE 35in. long 23in. high 14in. deep, sliding door. Many other uses, Telephone Table/Seat, etc. Space for Player, Radio/TV. Ideal for Home or Club. OUR QUALITY AND PRICE DEFY COMPETITION! Post orders to Dept. ME.19 251 DARTMOUTH ROAD, SYDENHAM, LONDON, S.E.26. Callers welcome Monday-Saturday, 9-5.30. Tel. 01-699 1913. CASH REFUND GUARANTEE IF NOT DELIGHTED. SILENT LOW'.

SIMON and GARFUNKEL

A craniotomy by cartoonist NEIL SMITH



From you to us

Edited by
TONY BROMLEY

GABRIELE MACHATTI (Vienna, Austria): I always thought British pop fans appreciated their singers, but it seems you have forgotten Paul Jones who makes great records. In my opinion he is the finest British singer on the pop scene with incredible expression in his voice. He works really hard at promotion: tours, TV and radio and it must be very disheartening for him when, in spite of every thing, his records fail to make the charts. Why does it happen?

PHILIP D. (Ayrshire): At long last the fantastic Equals have made their mark in British pop, and in no uncertain terms. But this should surprise no one as they are now household names in Belgium, Germany, etc. They are by no means a "one-song group," as besides numbers like "Baby Come Back" they can put over a ballad with immense feeling.

MISS D. J. BRIGGS (Abingdon, Berkshire): Lulu's take off of Esther Ofarim in last week's Lulu Show was brilliant and so characteristic of a singer whose ridiculous stage manner irritates me beyond words.

D. J. JASTWOOD (King's Norton, Birmingham): I think it's about time that the most under-rated group in Britain was given a break by pop-music fans. Formed as a skiffle group in 1958, the Swinging Blue Jeans were playing as a beat group at the Cavern, Liverpool, well before the Beatles, and have been extremely popular throughout the world for four years. Their hard work and appearance successes to their credit. Since their initial hit discs in early 1964, their success in Britain has been virtually eluded them. A handful of faithful DJs have played their records a few times, but this fails to influence the majority of record-buyers.

BO WIDELL (Sweden): What a pity that Cat Stevens hasn't been in the NME charts since August 1967. Cat's singles since "Bad Night" have been top records. I would like to say that "Kitty" and "Lovely Julie" were as good as his biggest hits. "Matthew and Son," even the LP "New Masters" proved Cat's fantastic ability to write good songs. I hope that Cat Stevens will reach the charts with his next single, because he is an artist and songwriter who deserves to be there.

MAUREEN AND MARY CHALLIS (Reading, Berks): If newer talent could be ignored we would never know, and to think that only a little while ago my sister and I were part of that ignoring public. Recently we look at the success of the Moody Blues and have been following them as much as possible ever since. It's about time people realised how much British talent is forced to work abroad instead of getting the full support it deserves from its own country.

WHO'S WHERE

ONE-NIGHTERS

CLIFF BENNETT: The Factory, Birmingham (19)
EQUL: Hemel Hempstead (19), Norwich Mecca Ballroom (20), Kew Mecca Ballroom (21), Bath Mecca Ballroom (22), Croydon Mecca Ballroom (24)
TIM HARDIN: Leeds Town Hall (20), Cardiff Phoenix Gardens (19)
TIM ROSE: Hatchetts, London (20), TRAFFIC: Newcastle Mayfair (19), Towanall (23), Redruth Flamingo (24).

SUNDAY CONCERTS

FREDDIE AND THE DREAMERS: Great Yarmouth
ENGELBERT HUMPERDINCK: ABC
SOLMON KING: Torquay Princess
FRANKIE VAUGHAN/DALLAS BOYS: ABC Blackpool
CARABAY: (for one week) Sheffield Cavenish
FOUNDATIONS: Doubling South Shields Latino and Newcastle's La Dolce Vita
ROY ORBISON: Batley Variety Club
JOHN ROWLES: Stockton Fiesta
SHADOWS: Eccles Talk Of The North

NINE HITS IN ROW, BUT MICK STILL UNHAPPY!

WHEN I arrived at the Lime Grove TV studios it was to find that Tich, Mick, Beaky, Dozy and Dave Dee (how about that for a switch?) had troubles. Mick, for example, was bemoaning the fact that for years the group had been careering up and down the country and although he liked playing in public, "the travelling is a drag."

Tich (on hairdrier) was taking a more optimistic view. "What you have to remember is that there are plenty of groups who would like to be where we are. In spite of any of the difficulties, we are a lot better off than most other groups. We've each got our own house, about £10,000 in the bank and other assets. Maybe we're not giant film stars but we've got a lot more out of our success than some others I could name!"

Do more?

Mick was not entirely reconciled and felt that they should be doing more between records.

"We've had nine consecutive hit records," he summed up, "but nothing else seems to happen to us. We come up with a new record and it dies down and then we come up with a new one and that dies down. We can't seem to get anything else going. I just want to know what's next?"

Tich observed that the days were over when a pop star, or a group, could walk into a film and become overnight sensations. As long as they were making hits like "Last Night In Soho," he was all right. Jacki Dave did not enter into the career argument as he was worried about Oliver, who, it appears, was not well and had been bitten.

Huge hound

"By a rhinoceros?" I enquired. Anyone who has observed Dave's massive Pyrenean mountain hound will understand that the possibility of it being attacked by anything smaller than a mountain lion is remote. "No," I smiled. Dave. "My Dad had him on the lead and a little dog bit him. Dad was frightened to let him off the lead, in case he killed the little one. I might have



DAVE DEE makes for a quick getaway "Last Night In Soho," while fellow groupsters (as gangsters) try to stop him. L to r BEAKY, MICK, TICH and DOZY.

let him off," he added, disconsolately. Dave has not been having much luck lately in his private life. Only recently has he recovered from a nasty incident with a "dangerous bend traffic sign, a railway embankment and a telegraph pole, which he sliced in half when his car spun off the road and turned over."

"Look! I got this nasty graze on my little finger." He indicated the wound. "The trouble is, with the amount of travelling I do, the law of averages is that I must have more accidents than most people. I've had three this year. I'm being very careful from now."

With such a successful run of hit records behind the group, I asked Dave how serious he thought it might be if the current disc had not made the NME chart?

"Bigger groups than ours have had misses so you can never be sure it will make it," said Dave. "We obviously believe in each tune released and from there on it's up to the public. Even after all this time I never take it for granted that the next song will be a hit. I prefer to be sceptical and unsure. "I don't think it would do us a lot of good if we missed with one. But we could recover from it

quickly if the next one was big. People are bound to turn round and say: 'They've had a miss at long last', but it wouldn't be disastrous."

How did Dave feel about the tremendous distances that the group has been travelling recently? "I have to admit it — we're whacked. We've been averaging about 3,000 miles a week in the last few weeks, just in England. When you work as hard as we do, by the time you get round to your holidays you are almost out on your feet."

Seven years

"It wouldn't be so bad if we had only been doing it for three years or so, but we've been at it for seven years. It's got to slow down. The answer is probably doing more work abroad and less here. It's terribly difficult to plan to work so many months and holiday so many months. You have to tour to the right places at the right times."

One of the incredible things about Dave Dee and Co. is that they have had hits in almost every country in the world, from New Zealand to Japan, without one big hit in the States. Why?

"This is one of those questions which we just cannot answer. We could be one of those groups who will never have a big hit in America."

"The challenge is still there and we are still trying. The latest attempt is a number we recorded on the new album, one of the most soulful things we've ever done, called 'Breakout'. It was once done by James and Bobby Purify. Personally I don't think I'm a soul singer and to release this number in America is rather like taking coals to Newcastle, but that's what's happened."

Appearances

"We're going to America to make our first public appearances—the last time we went we did just TV and radio—in November and we hope that will do the trick."

Talking more generally, I mentioned that it was a shame the Majorca Pop Festival had been cancelled. Dave was not so sure it was so bad. "At least from the performer's point of view I don't think it was a bad thing," he emphasised. "We've had some experience of

working on the Continent, in places like Italy, and they just do not know how to organise these things. "You arrive at the airport and no one meets you. You don't know what hotel you are staying at and when you do book-in you spend about three days waiting for someone to contact you. Then someone suddenly turns up on the day of the televised concert and you get one run-through for a major TV show with the orchestra. That was what happened to us in Rome."

In spite of the lack of organisation, Dave was quick to add that the enthusiasm of the young people in these countries towards British pop music was very much appreciated. In fact, although the group has never had a No. 1 record in Britain they have had at least eight "Ones" in Germany!

No regret

Enthusiasm of the hysterical type in this country a while ago is not something which Dave is altogether sorry to see disappear.

"It means I can walk down the street now and the kids will say: 'Oh, there goes Dave Dee' or just ask for an autograph. Three years ago I would have been ripped to pieces!"

We discussed the relative merits

KEITH ALTHAM discovers when he interviewed the DAVE DEE group

of a pop star who approached his fans with a very human manner and one who detached himself and retained his "mystique" quality. Dave thought the better method was to be friendly and in touch and he was sure the fans appreciated the contact. "Elvis Presley," said Dozy, suddenly awaking from a quick nap in the corner. Having made his contribution, he dropped off again. Further Dozy bulletins will be issued at six-monthly intervals!

SUMMER SEASONS

ENGELBERT HUMPERDINCK: LONNIE DODD; **BLUEBELL KINGS:** Blackpool Opera House
KEN DODD: Blackpool Central Pier
DON PARTRIDGE/SOLOMON KING: Blackpool Central Pier
VINCE HILL: Blackpool Winter Gardens
BACHELORS: Glasgow Alhambra
DES O'CONNOR: Great Yarmouth Wellington Pier Pavilion
MARK WYNTER: Scarborough Floral Hall
VAL DOONICAN: Torquay Princess
TOM JONES: Bournemouth Winter Gardens
DALLAS BOYS/EVE BOSWELL: Morecambe Winter Gardens

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HERMAN'S HERMITS
Sunshine Girl
Columbia DB8446

PETER AND GORDON
You've Had Better Times
Columbia DB8451

R. DEAN TAYLOR
Gotta See Jane
Tamla Motown TMG656

JOHNNY NASH
Hold Me Tight
Regal Zonophone RZ3010

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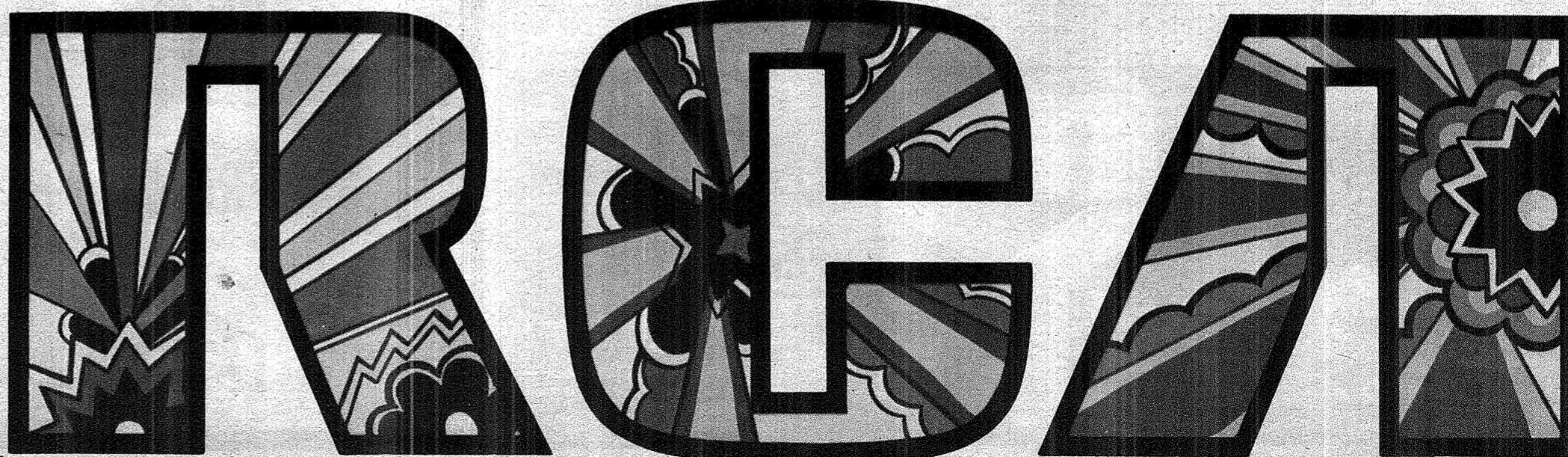
'I've got a car but still manage to save in the Army'
—says Maurice Perry; 20, of Birmingham, serving with the Royal Army Medical Corps. Maurice, who is training to be a medical clerk, joined the Army through Junior Entry.

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JOHN HARTFORD RCA1719
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TOP SINGLES REVIEWED BY DEREK JOHNSON

Reparata reverts to hit formula

REPARATA AND THE DELRONS' Weather Forecast (Bell) THE principal sales factor of "Captain of Your Ship" was its novelty gimmick content. But this element was lacking in Reparata and the Delrons' follow-up, which is probably why it didn't make the grade. So now the girls revert to the sound effects and tricks-of-the-trade which helped to bolster their hit disc.

WRONG SONG FOR CHARLES

RAY CHARLES' Eleanor Rigby (Stateside) I MIGHT well have assessed this differently, if I had never heard Paul McCartney's original version. But as it is, my initial reaction is that Ray Charles' styling doesn't quite come off.

And I think it's because the song itself — a delicately wistful ballad, full of poignancy and quiet sorrow — doesn't really call for an impassioned soul treatment, emboldened by gospel chanting. Ray relates the tale in a bluesy singing-talking fashion, rather like a revivalist preacher addressing his congregation — with a backing of imaginatively-scored strings and a more solid beat than on the Beatles' disc.

* TIPPED FOR CHARTS
† CHART POSSIBLE

BEACH BOYS BACK TO SURF SOUND

THE more progressive sounds of "Good Vibrations" and "God Only Knows" seem to have taken a back seat these days. Like several of the Beach Boys' recent releases, this is virtually a throwback to their surfing days, with a lyric all about sun-tanned bodies and beautiful girls!

It's not as fast as some of their early ravers — it's more of a steady shuffle beat — and the tune is very simple and quick to register. But as usual, the outstanding highlight is the distinctive and unmistakable vocal blend, with those golden glowing harmonies so very easy on the ear. A good one for dancing, too—with handclaps accentuating the rhythm.



THE PICADILLY LINE (l to r) GEORGE BUTLER, JAN BARBER, ROD EDWARDS and NORRIE MACLEAN.

MERSEYS

Lovely Loretta (Fontana). It's been a couple of years since the Merseys last appeared in the Chart, but — with sufficient exploitation — this could well restore them.

Pounds along at a rip-roaring pace, with tambourine emphasising the beat, and trumpets adding depth to the backing — and there are frequent outbursts of cheering to conjure up a party atmosphere.

Spirited support is provided by the Funky Bottom Congregation — which turns out to be Dave Dee & Co., Julie Felix and sundry others. An extremely commercial disc.

Title put me off!

BACHELORS' I'll Walk With God (Decca)

THE title of this record put me off from the start — because there's nothing that makes me shudder more than a sickly pseudo-religious epic. But having heard it, I can report that it's not nearly as nauseating as I had feared — probably because the Bachelors have the appropriate family image and intensely dramatic approach to cope tastefully with this material.

Con solos passionately, and Dec and John join in as the ballad swells to its climax.

The song is like a cross between "My Prayer" and "You'll Never Walk Alone" — but not as good as either. Don't see it as a hit, but with TV promotion, it could be a minor one. By the way, it was originally sung by Mario Lanza in 1954.

Chris sings Stones — but what a change!



CHRIS FARLOWE — in action

CHRIS FARLOWE Paint It Black (Immediate)

AS with the new Ray Charles single, this has the disadvantage of having originally been recorded by a bigger attraction than the present singer — the Rolling Stones, of course. Besides which, it's a track from the new Chris Farlowe album.

But in this case, I think the debit column is outweighed by the credits, because it's a thoroughly exciting and spine-tingling disc — quite different from the original. Arranger Arthur Greenleaf has employed the lavish string section to excellent effect, injecting a flavour of the gipsy horns into a scoring that savours of the Balkans and Israel. Chris attacks the lyric with fire and urgency, his hoarse tones growing more frantic as the sizzling backing reaches its frenzied climax. Well worth hearing.

TIM ROSE Long Haired Boy (CBS). A song about those American teenage girls who idolise the long-haired pop groups, and go around boasting that they actually know them! Tim Rose has a vibrant fruity voice with a timbre not unlike John Baldry.

MORE SINGLES ON PAGE 10



THE PENTANGLE: TRAVELLIN' SONG C/W MIRAGE BIG 109
THE PURPLE GANG: KISS ME GOODNIGHT, SALLY GREEN C/W AUNTIE MONICA BIG 111

THE BIG 2 FROM BIGHAM
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C'MON MARIANNE b/w Ain't It Good
GRAPEFRUIT
RCA Victor 1716

THE NERVE
IT IS the title, "Mystery Lady" is the flipside
IT IS produced by Reg Presley
IT IS published by Apple Music, 94 Baker Street London, W.1. HUN 1922
IT IS released on Friday, July 19th
IT IS issued on Page One Records, 71/75 New Oxford Street, London, W.1. TEM 7187
IT IS the first hit from The Nerve so book them now from Avenue Artists, 69 Devonshire Road Polygon, Southampton Tel: Southampton 27077

RICHARD HARRIS—JIM WEBB LP MUST BE BEST SELLER



RICHARD HARRIS with halo? No. Patrick Ward has photographed him in front of a tape pool in the recording room.

MORE LPs by Allen Evans

BLUE CHEER (Philips, BL 7839) title this LP "Vincebus Eruptum" and offer six tracks, one almost nine minutes and another over six. The singing is of the raving, shouting variety, and the music gets a weird Eastern sound to it on occasions. Definitely a wayout trio — Leigh Stephens (guitar), Dick Peterson (bass, vocals, composer of three tracks), and Paul Whaley (drums).
FRANCOISIAUS REK (Regal Zonophone, SRZ 1009). Do not adjust your record players, this is how Marc Bolan and Steve Peregrine sing — as if they are about to break out crying. Using some weird backing instruments, like Chinese gongs, Picie phone, varied percussions and bongos, they do get a "different" sound, as they sing a dozen new songs by Marc Bolan.

FAMILY (Reprise, 6312) produce a rather mournful, yet full-blooded sound from their tenor saxes, harmonicas, lead and bass guitars, violin, cello, and various distortions on their vocals, which are strong. The group has written all but one of the 12 tunes, and includes three variations on themes of three of these tunes. Traffic Dave Mason has produced this interesting album, featuring four English boys and one French-born Leicester student. Should hear more of this group.
CORRECTION: Due to a misunderstanding, the price of the JAMES LAST TRUMPET, PIANO, and GUITARA-GOGO albums was incorrectly stated as 12/11, whereas they are 36/1. Only the JAMES LAST A GOGO album, sent with the others, is 12/11. My apologies. A.E.

THE sound of frantically scurrying feet that you hear in the distance is the sound of artists falling over one another in the attempt to cover the superb tracks on this album all written by Jim Webb! But in spite of the fact that almost every track would make a potential hit single, they may be wasting their time in trying to improve upon Richard Harris' perfect, sympathetic interpretation of what Webb spins.

This is not likely to get overplayed in discotheques, but if you have a mind to sit down, "shurrup" and listen, then this is your LP.
And although I know this LP is not being released here until September, I feel compelled to tell you about it from my copy which I received from the States.

The album opens with an introductory line taken from "A Tramp Shining" which Richard sings as his own character reference.
Here I am, a tramp shining "A brand new clown." This trick of little tracks between bigger tracks is used throughout the album. The titles are as follows:
DIDN'T WE is one of Webb's more beautifully melancholy ballads, upon which Richard brings his battered larynx to bear with telling effect. A magnificent

broadside of rich orchestral accompaniment and the "bitter sweet of melancholy." PAPER CHASE can be found on the flip-side of MacArthur Park, and is a slightly more frivolous song, in which Harris breaks up the number to give a clever example of how he has managed to evolve a vocal narrative. Those few almost spoken words which occasionally are inserted in a song by other singers tend to make it sound mawkish. An actor of Harris' clever enunciation knows better how to do the trick.

Inserted between each track is a ten second interlude of musical doodling from Webb which often

CHICKEN SHACK'S CHRISTINE A SURPRISING GIRL

CHRISTINE PERFECT is a surprising girl — not only because her name is the one she was born with — nor that she plays organ and piano. Where the surprise comes is that she makes her musical contribution in a predominantly male preserve — the blues.

Christine is, in fact, one quarter of the blues outfit Chicken Shack, whose debut album the oddly-titled "Forty Blue Fingers Freshly Packed And Ready To Serve" is enjoying its third week in the NME LPs Chart.

Other Chicken Shacks—all four are 21—are Fulham-born Stan Webb (vocalist, guitarist and songwriter), Andy Silvester (bass), and Dave Bidwell (drums).

While soddies of fahrenheit and centigrades pervaded the London air recently, I joined Stan and Christine in a pub near Piccadilly Circus for Chicken Shack talk over ice cold beer.

Christine: "Everybody thinks my surname is a stage name and, of course, I used to suffer from it at school" — feels that there is nothing unusual in a girl being in a blues group.

"I love it," she said. "Of course, there are problems, like the things other girls can do that I don't have the time to do. But I just like playing and being in a band."

Nick Logan

about attempting to establish a following. It wasn't easy at first because they were a completely unknown outfit and British blues fans are notorious for being the hardest fans there are to win over.

Stan points out that Fleetwood Mac benefited at first because their guitarist Peter Green was known from his John Mayall days. "But," said Christine, "our reputation has really been brought up from nothing. Nobody had ever heard of Chicken Shack six months ago."

But despite the fact that it was hard going in the early days, the group refused to change to a more commercial style and the tide began to turn some six months ago when Mike and Richard Vernon of Blue Horizon Records began to take an interest in them.

They brought them from Birmingham to London where the group moved into the front of an old shop which was up for sale. Eventually the shop was sold but better times had arrived, and they were able to move into better living quarters.

Stan outlines the group's thinking on live performances thus: "Audiences are doing us a favour by being there. It's not us who are doing them a favour. They are the people who buy the records, they pay to work on the people they take," said Stan. "It's just like the American



Newest British group to make the Chart with a blues album are CHICKEN SHACK (l to r) ANDY SILVESTER, CHRISTINE PERFECT, STAN WEBB and DAVE BIDWELL.

blues labels... like a little family. "There's no back stabbing about who is better than anyone else. We all help each other."

So the Chicken Shack's next single "It's Hot Down There," lyrics by Stan and Mike Vernon, music by the whole group, will contain mentions of the various people who have helped them along, including Duster Bennett, John Peel and Fleetwood Mac.

BLUE CHEER PHILIPS
A GREAT NEW SINGLE JUST A LITTLE BIT
AND THEIR NEW LP VINCEBUS ERUPTUM
SBL7839(S) BL7839(M)

LPs reviewed by ALLEN EVANS

TOM, ENGELBERT, SMITH, CASH: FOUR-STAR ALBUMS

TOM JONES: DELILAH (Decca, SKL 4946)
The power-driven voice of Tom Jones makes everything he sings into something dramatic and compelling. On this LP he takes 12 good and varied numbers and adds something to each. He had top-class backing, both instrumental and vocal, from the Peter Sullivan production. Several songs have a Spanish flavouring about them, as Make This Heart Of Mine Smile Again and Linger On. Two other standouts are Just Out Of Reach (Of My Two Open Arms) and Why Can't I Cry. Other titles: Weeping Annalath, One Day Soon, Delilah, Laura, You Can't Stop Love, My Elusive Dream, Only A Fool Breaks His Own Heart, Take Me.

JOHNNY CASH: OLD GOLDEN THROAT (CBS 63316)
A set of ten useful country songs, either not available in Britain or deleted from catalogues. Fourteen well-sung songs by the deep-throated Cash, who got the nickname Old Golden Throat from his wife, June Carter. Favourites for me here are I Got Stripes, a prison song; Still In Town, a love-lament; The Matador, with a Mexican flavour; You Dreamer You, a lilting love song, with good supporting singing. The songs were recorded over the period 1959-67. The backing is typically Nashville in sound.
Other titles: A Certain Kinda Hurtin', A Little At A Time, All Over Again, Smiling Bill McCall, The Wind Changes, Sons Of Katie Elder, Dark As A Dungeon, Tennessee Flat-top Box, Send A Picture Of Mother, Red Velvet.

ENGELBERT HUMPERDINCK: A MAN WITHOUT LOVE (Decca SKL 4939)
The title tune of this LP is probably the most catching of the many Engelbert has given us as single hits. He adds plenty of other catchy tunes to Man Without Love, particularly Can't Take My Eyes Off You, Quando Quando Quando, Up Up And Away, By The Time I Get To Phoenix. Everything he sings is good, and he gets excellent support from three conductors: Charles Blackwell, Johnny Harris and Sydney Dale, under Peter Sullivan's producing guidance.
Other titles: From Here To Eternity, Spanish Eyes, A Man And A Woman, Wonderland By Night, Call On Me, Shadows Of Your Smile.

O. C. SMITH: HICKORY HOLLER REVISITED (CBS 63362)
This former vocalist with Count Basie's band has a great blues voice and most of the songs here have a

touch of despair injected into them by this fine coloured vocalist. Smith's current single hit, Son of Hickory Holler's Tramp, sets the key and we have similar rhythmic blues songs in Long Black Limousine, Main Street Mission, Sitting On The Dock Of The Bay, and his most sensitive version of Honey, H. B. Barnum. Every musician gives out with his best towards jazz; every musician gives out with his best. And there are some really great vocal sounds also behind the soulful music of Smith's voice.
Other titles: By The Time I Get To Phoenix, The Honey Next Door, Little Green Apples, Take Time To Know Her, The Best Man And Seven Days.

JOHN ROWLES (MUS 335)
Britain's latest hit solo singer, John Rowles comes from New Zealand, has a rich voice and considerable control over it. He takes the deeper notes well and imparts into the dozen songs here a throbbing sin-

cerity. His diction could be better. He gets a lush backing from Mike Leander, who gives the orchestra plenty of scope to be heard without any singing, specially with lengthy introductions at times. An impressive debut LP of a singer who should improve. Titles: By The Time I Get To Phoenix, Domino, If It Only Had Time, It Takes Two, Lonely Street, Only You Honey, Walk In The Sun, I Really Don't Want To Know, Do It, Love Of The World, Doct Of The Bay.

MOTOWN SOUND: IS ORIGINAL BIG HITS (Vol. 6) (Tamla Motown, STM 11074)
Another album which will be a must for every Motown fan. Sixteen tracks offering the same number of Motown acts, with only Marvin Gaye on two of them, one with Tammi Terrell (Ain't No Mountain High Enough) and one solo (Unchaining Love). Recordings were made between 1961-67.

Artists and titles: Diana Ross and Supremes (In And Out Of Love), Contours (It's So Hard Being A Lover), Martha Reeves and Vandellas (Love, Love, Love, My Heart Alone), Isley Brothers (This Old Heart Of Mine) Rita Wright (I Can't Give Back The Love I Feel For You), Shorty Long (Night Fo' Me), Temptations (Fading Away), Four Tops (Walk Away With Me), Gladys Knight and Pips (Just Walk In My Shoes), Monitors (Since I Love You), Barbara Randolph (I Got A Feeling), Elgins (It's Been A Long Long Time), Jimmy Ruffin (I've Say Forever My Love), Marvellettes (My Baby Must Be A Magician).

MORE SINGLE REVIEWS

BOBBY RUSSELL (Capitol)
Not dedicated to Miss Springfield, I assure you—in fact, it might have been a more commercial proposition if it were. This is a gentle folksy number, with a rippling rhythm and a subdued guitar-humming backing. Bobby sounds like a cross between Bobby Goldsboro and Roger Miller as he relates this charming story in song. Melody reminded me of "Little Green Apples". It's a disc that grows on you. Could spring a surprise.

MADLINE BELL (Philips)
Poor Madeline Bell must be despairing of ever getting a hit in Britain—she maintains a consistently high standard, yet consistently fails to achieve Chart recognition. This latest offering is in the currently-popular Dionne Warwick idiom. A captivating bossa nova, with maracas prominent in the very colourful scoring, and beautifully rendered by Madeline—partly in duet-track.

TOMMY BOYCE AND BOBBY HART (A & M)
Alice Long (A & M)
Best-known as the composer of the early Motown hits Tommy Boyce and Bobby Hart have made quite a name for themselves in the States as an act in their own right as "Star dust" and "Deep Purple". And this is a real stormer! Thunders along at a terrific pace with a walloping beat and enveloping backing, while the boys sing spiritedly.

DANNY WILLIAMS (Decca)
Everybody Needs Somebody (Decca)
We usually think of Danny Williams as a romantic ballad singer, but here he demonstrates his ability as a sophisticated swinger. This is a peppy personality item, with a brush all-happening backing and a forceful beat.

JIMMY CLIFF (Waterfall) (Island)
If it swings like few pop songs have ever swung before, says the publicity hand-out. Well, that's a public point, but I wouldn't dispute that it swings like mad. This is probably Jimmy Cliff's best single to date, and certainly his most commercial.



MINO TEMPO AND APRIL STEVENS (Capitol)
This couple hit the headlines a few years back with their beauty revivals of such oldies as "Star dust" and "Deep Purple". Those hits, this new release seems a bit out of character. It's one of those funky-beat r-and-b items, with an insidious rhythm, biting brass and repetitive lyric. Pleasantly handled by Mino and April, but not much substance to the song.

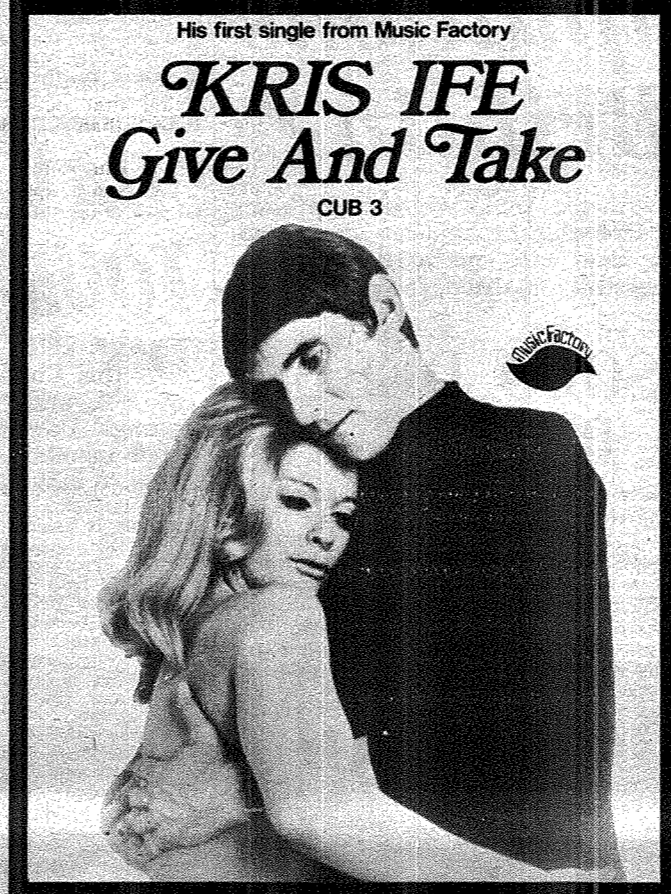
RICHARD LORING: The Girl With The Sun In Her Hair (Columbia)
A delightful atmospheric ballad, with a nostalgic lyric written by Dan Black and John Barry. Sensitively handled, with sweeping strings and choral voices. Easy listening.

OPAL BUTTERFLY: Beautiful Beige (CBS)
Written for the boys by the Covells, this is noteworthy for its imaginative and descriptive lyric. Startling counter-harmonies blend with a solid beat and an ear-catching rippling backing.

QUICK SPINS

The ever-growing army of Jim Webb fans will be interested to learn of a new version of his "Carpet Man" by Columbia's Nocturnes, whose styling is both impressive and enjoyable. "The Walk Will Do You Good" (Pye) by the Rainbow People with its cute lyric, complex contrapuntal harmonies and jogging beat—pity the tune isn't a bit stronger. The title "I Lived To Tell The Tale" implies a novelty disc, but actually it's a thoroughly absorbing track—with glowing cellos, magnificently scored violins and incredible tempo changes—and a credit to Decca's West Change Back on the scene again is Dick Haymes with a captivating ballad "Until I Fell In Love" (Fontana) which has an engaging Latin lilt and a shimmering orchestral score. A disc that's right in today's funky soul idiom—that's Downtown Souville (Soul City) by Chuck Edwards, whose ripe hoarse tones are ably supported by organ, brass, guitars and jerk beat. Johnny Nash (not to be confused with Cash) warbles his self-penned "Hold Me Tight" (Regal Zonophone)—a bouncy number with a country flavour, plus a girl group chirping merrily in the backing. A shining organ and wailing sax lead titled "The Man" (President), which makes an effective showcase for the Reaction and a strangely haunting quality. The ambitious Spark label comes up with a melodic sweet-romantic single along "You Are The One" which sounds like a young Vera Lynn; a punchy beat-group offering with an ethereal quality, "The Devil Rides Out" (inspired by the horror film of the same name) by Leary; and an up-tempo item in the commercial r-and-b vein called "Angie" by Gene Darling, which sounds terribly contrived and artificial.

TWO GREAT NEW SINGLES



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NME TOP 30

(Week ending Wednesday, July 17, 1968)

LAST WEEK	THIS WEEK	ARTIST	TITLE	HIGHEST POSITION
1	1	BABY COME BACK	Equals (President)	9
2	2	SON OF HICKORY HOLLER'S TRAMP	O. C. Smith (CBS)	7
3	3	I PRETEND	Des' O'Connor (Columbia)	9
4	4	YESTERDAY HAS GONE	Cupid's Inspiration (Nems)	5
5	5	NONY NONY	Tommy James and the Shondells (Major Minor)	4
6	6	YUMMY YUMMY YUMMY	Ohio Express (Pye)	5
7	7	MACARTHUR PARK	Richard Harris (RCA)	4
8	8	MY NAME IS JACK	Manfred Mann (Fontana)	6
9	9	FIRE	Arthur Brown (Track)	3
10	10	LOVIN' THINGS	Marmalade (CBS)	8
11	11	JUMPIN' JACK FLASH	Rolling Stones (Decca)	1
12	12	HURDY GURDY MAN	Donovan (Pye)	8
13	13	THIS GUY'S IN LOVE WITH YOU	Herb Alpert (A & M)	2
14	14	I CLOSE MY EYES AND COUNT TO TEN	Dusty Springfield (Philips)	3
15	15	BLUE EYES	Don Partridge (Columbia)	8
16	16	MRS. ROBINSON	Simon and Garfunkel (CBS)	2
17	17	HUSH	John Rowles (MCA)	5
18	18	YOUNG GIRL	Union Gap (CBS)	12
19	19	WHERE WILL YOU BE	Sue Nicholls (Pye)	4
20	20	ONE MORE DANCE	Esther and Abi Ofarim (Philips)	5
21	21	LAST NIGHT IN SOHO	Dave Dee, Dozy, Beaky, Mick and Tich (Fontana)	2
22	22	GOTTA SEE JANE	R. Dean Taylor (Tamla Motown)	3
23	23	HELP YOURSELF	Tom Jones (Decca)	2
24	24	D. W. WASHBURN	Monkees (RCA)	4
25	25	DAYS	Kinks (Pye)	1
26	26	KEEP ON	Bruce Channel (Bell)	1
27	27	UNIVERSAL	Small Faces (Immediate)	1
28	28	SOME THINGS YOU NEVER GET USED TO	Diana Ross & the Supremes (Tamla Motown)	2
29	29	AMERICA	Nice (Immediate)	2
30	30	YOUR TIME HASN'T COME YET, BABY	Elvis Presley (RCA)	1

Britain's Top 15 LPs

1	ODGENS NUT GONE FLAKE	Small Faces (Immediate)	6
2	SOUND OF MUSIC	Soundtrack (RCA-Victor)	7
3	THIS IS SOUL	Various Artists (Atlantic)	18
4	HONEY	Andy Williams (CBS)	3
5	CRAZY WORLD OF ARTHUR BROWN	Track	4
6	JUNGLE BOOK	Soundtrack (Disneyland)	12
7	THE BIRDS THE BEES AND THE MONKEES	Monkees (RCA)	2
8	SMASH HITS	Jimi Hendrix Experience (Track)	12
9	OPEN	Julie Driscoll & the Brian Auger Trinity (Marmalade)	5
10	LOVE ANDY	Andy Williams (CBS)	9
11	FLEETWOOD MAC	Fleetwood Mac (Blue Horizon)	20
12	40 BLUE FINGERS FRESHLY PACKED AND READY TO SERVE	Chicken Shack (Blue Horizon)	3
13	DOCK OF THE BAY	Otis Redding (Stax)	9
14	A SAUCEFUL OF SECRETS	Pink Floyd (Columbia)	1
15	JOHN WESLEY HARDING	Bob Dylan (CBS)	21

New Albums

Family
Music In A Doll's House
RLP 6312 (M) RSLP 6312 (S)

Liza Minnelli
Liza Minnelli
AML 914

New Single

The New Formula

My Baby's Coming Home
7N 17552

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5 YEARS AGO

TOP TEN 1963—Week ending July 19

- 1 I'M CONFESSIN' Frank Ifield (Columbia)
- 2 I LIKE IT Gerry and The Pacemakers (Columbia)
- 3 SWEETS FOR MY SWEET Searchers (Pye)
- 4 ATLANTIS Shadows (Columbia)
- 5 DA DOO RON RON Crystals (London)
- 6 TWIST AND SHOUT Brian Poole and the Tremeloes (Decca)
- 7 TAKE THESE CHAINS FROM MY HEART Ray Charles (HMV)
- 8 WELCOME TO MY WORLD Jim Reeves (RCA)

10 YEARS AGO

TOP TEN 1958—Week ending July 18

- 1 ALL I HAVE TO DO IS DREAM/CLAUDETTE Everly Brothers (London)
- 2 BIG MAN Four Preps (Capitol)
- 3 TULLIPS FROM AMSTERDAM YOU NEED HANDS Max Bygraves (Decca)
- 4 STREET WHERE YOU LIVE Vic Damone (Philips)
- 5 TWILIGHT TIME Platters (Mercury)
- 6 SUGAR MOON Pat Boone (London)
- 7 WHO'S SORRY NOW? Connie Francis (MGs)
- 8 RAVE ON Buddy Holly (Coral)
- 9 BOOK OF LOVE Mudrarks (Columbia)
- 10 WATCH DOCTOR Don Lang (HMV)

BEST SELLING POP RECORDS IN U.S.

By courtesy of "Billboard"

Last week (Tuesday, July 16, 1968)

- 1 GRAZING IN THE GRASS High Noon
- 2 LADY WILLPOWER Gary Puckett and the Union Gap
- 3 JUMPIN' JACK FLASH Rolling Stones
- 4 THIS GUY'S IN LOVE WITH YOU The Miracles
- 5 THE GIFF Nobles and Co.
- 6 STONED SOUL PICNIC 5th Dimension
- 7 HURDY GURDY MAN Donovan
- 8 CLASSICAL GAS Williams
- 9 HELLO, I LOVE YOU Doors
- 10 INDIAN LAKE Cowells
- 11 REACH OUT OF THE DARKNESS Friend & Lover
- 12 HERE COMES THE JUDGE Story Long
- 13 WORKING MEN (For the Love of Money) The Four Tops
- 14 TURN AROUND, LOOK AT ME The Look of Love
- 15 THE LOOK OF LOVE Sergio Mendes & Brasil '66
- 16 SHE'S A HEARTBREAKER Gene Pitney
- 17 MACARTHUR PARK Richard Harris
- 18 YUMMY YUMMY YUMMY Ohio Express
- 19 I LOVE YOU Liza Minnelli
- 20 SKY PILOT Eric Burdon & the Animals
- 21 PICTURES OF MARCH-STICK MEN Status Quo
- 22 SUNSHINE OF YOUR CREAM Come Come Come The Judges
- 23 HE COMES THE JUDGE Pickett
- 24 NONY NONY Tommy James and the Shondells
- 25 NEVER GIVE YOU UP Jerry Butler
- 26 AUTUMN OF LIFE Bobby Goldsboro
- 27 THINK A MIDSNIGHT MOVER A Wilson Pickett
- 28 YOUNG GIRL Liza Minnelli
- 29 MRS. ROBINSON Simon and Garfunkel
- 30 NEVER GET THIS TO YOU Diana Ross & the Supremes

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SCOTT WALKER - TV SPECIAL AS PRELUDE TO SERIES

SCOTT WALKER is to star in his own BBC-1 showcase on Friday, August 16—it will be screened from the new TV theatre at Golders Green Hippodrome, and will include two major pop guests. The show is being tele-recorded on August 12, and the following day Scott films a second show for BBC-1 transmission a few weeks later.

Supremes-Temptations TV spec for Britain?

DIANA ROSS and the Supremes are to co-star with the Temptations in a hour-long spectacular, which NBC-TV is filming for screening in America on December 9. The NME understands that negotiations are in hand with one of the new ITV companies for British screening rights.

ESTHER SOLO DEBUT SCOOPED BY BBC-TV

AS the result of a last-minute switch in its programme schedules, BBC-TV has scooped the rival London Weekend TV company by two hours—in screening Esther Ofarim's first British solo TV appearance.

Tom film delay due to TV deal

TOM JONES will NOT now make his film debut until well into 1969. Plans for his first picture to go into production this autumn have been shelved, because his recently-concluded TV deal has to be given priority.

London club package set for Jack Good TV

THE entire evening's entertainment presented at London Hatchett's Club last Sunday has been booked for inclusion in a Yorkshire-TV pop spectacular, Jack Good—who, as previously reported, is to produce several pop specials for the new ITV company—was in the audience and booked the complete line-up.

STOP PRESS

THE CRAZY WORLD OF ARTHUR BROWN IS TO FILM ITS OWN 20-MINUTE SHOWCASE FOR BBC-2'S FRIDAY-NIGHT POP EDITION OF "LATE NIGHT LINE-UP." TRANSMISSION WILL BE ON EITHER AUGUST 9 OR 16.

Top 3 American Smash Hit Version!

MERRILEE RUSH Angel Of The Morning Bell BL11013
THE BACHELORS I'll walk with God F 22814
THE ELASTIC BAND Do unto others (From the Granada TV series 'Mr. Rose') F 12815

Harrison pens Lomax disc; Equals delayed

GEORGE Harrison has written and produced a new single for Jackie Lomax, to be issued as one of the first batch of releases on the Beatles' Apple label. The Equalizer group has not yet decided upon titles. The NME understands that the final selection will be made from a short list of three songs of which — as previously reported — "Revolution" is one.

DAVE DEE FOR PANTO AND TOUR - BUT 'XANADU' DROPPED

DAVE DEE, Dozy, Beaky, Mick and Tich are virtually certain to star in pantomime this Christmas — they have agreed to appear in "Dick Whittington" at Stockton ABC and, although contracts are not yet signed, the deal seems certain to go through.

Kinks in panto too

THE Kinks are to make their pantomime debut this Christmas. They will star for an eight-week run in the Midlands, although the exact venue has not yet been finalised.

Dusty for Blackburn TV

DUSTY SPRINGFIELD, the Crazy World of Arthur Brown and the Paper Dolls have been added to this weekend's edition of the Southern-TV series "Time For Blackburn".

HERD CONCERTS

The Herd is set for three days of concerts in Germany from September 14 followed by a four-day tour of Switzerland.

EQUALS ONE-NIGHTERS

A REVISED schedule of one-nighters has now been set for the Equals, who retain their No. 1 spot in the NME Chart for the third successive week.

LULU IN ROYAL GALA

LULU is one of the stars of ATV's latest "Royal Gala" which is being filmed next Monday (22) at London's Theatre Royal, Drury Lane.

Cliff's summer holiday

Cliff Richard flies to America on Monday for a six-week stay. It is a strictly private visit—except for one week when he will be joined by his manager, Peter Gormley, for discussions with film companies.

PALLADIUM OPENING FOR BEACH BOYS; LIVE ALBUM Bruce Channel coming—soul show set

IT is now confirmed that the Beach Boys will open their British and European concert tour at the London Palladium on Sunday, December 1—they will play two performances at this venue, one of which will be recorded in full by Capitol Records for subsequent release as an LP.

MOVE ASSAULT ON EUROPE - AUGUST SINGLE NAMED

THE MOVE is planning a mass assault on the European market. Agent Don Arden has booked the group for six-week concert and TV tour of Belgium, Holland, France and Switzerland early next year.

Who Autumn tour

THE Who will definitely star in a major British package tour this autumn, probably opening in October. The group's management is currently considering two tour offers from leading promoters, but a final decision on which to accept will not be taken until the Who return from America on September 1.

GEES FILM CLIPS ON NEW DISC

THE Bee Gees' next single will be issued by Polydor on August 2 — four days after the group has departed for its U.S. tour. But Swedish director Peter Goldman—who produced the Beatles' film clips—is flying to London this weekend, and will shoot some promotional sequences with the Bee Gees on their new single.

ARTHUR'S WORLD REFORMS!

THE Crazy World of Arthur Brown—currently at No. 9 in the NME Chart—has been re-formed. Drachen Theaker and Vincent Crane, who returned home during the group's last American tour with nervous troubles, have been replaced permanently.

Cliff's summer holiday

Cliff Richard flies to America on Monday for a six-week stay. It is a strictly private visit—except for one week when he will be joined by his manager, Peter Gormley, for discussions with film companies.

CHART SPINNERS THE BACHELORS, FRIENDS, DANNY WILLIAMS, ROBERTO MANN ORCHESTRA AND CHORUS, THE BUGALOO BRASS, NINO TEMPO AND APRIL STEVENS, THE SWINGIN' GENTRY SINGERS, THE MEMORIES, ANNA MCGOLDRICK

DOLLS TV, CABARET

The Paper Dolls are to tele-record a guest appearance in BBC-1's "Morecambe And Wise Show" which begins as a weekly series in September.

MARTY MUSICAL?

Marty Wilde has turned down the offer of a role in a Western movie, to be shot in Texas this autumn, in order to complete the musical which he is writing.

ORBISON HERE FOR FILMING?

ROY ORBISON's next film will be shot on location in Europe, either in November or early next spring. The singer told the NME this week that it would have a strong musical content, but would be more dramatic than his first film.



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