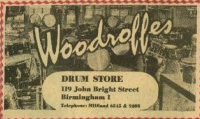


# MIDLAND BEAT

NO. 13.

OCTOBER, 1964.

PRICE: SIXPENCE.



Carl Wayne and The Vikings—picture by Jim Simpson

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# MIDLAND BEAT

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## ONE YEAR YOUNG

WE are proud to publish this issue of "Midland Beat." It was just 12 months ago that the magazine was published for the first time. During those 12 months, everyone connected with the beat scene in the Midlands—members of groups, fans, agents, promoters, musical instrument dealers, etc.—have eagerly awaited each issue.

We are grateful for the wonderful support you have all given us. We have endeavored to give full coverage to everything happening on the beatfront anywhere in the Midlands. Our team of correspondents in every county in the Midlands has kept you up-to-date with all the latest news.

Our policy has always been to write about Midland groups, especially lesser known groups.

We hope you like our full colour picture on the front page. We also carry in this issue a novel Midlands record review.

Another popularity poll: We feel that our quarterly poll is an invaluable guide to promoters and agents throughout the country. Repeat "throughout the country." "Midland Beat" counts amongst its thousands of readers beat enthusiasts all over the British Isles.

Our Group Register has been a great success. It is just one service that "Midland Beat" offers. Others will follow.

Finally, we would like to thank our advertisers. They have supported "Midland Beat" because they know it is the only way of reaching everyone connected with the local beat scene.



The Ebonies among the groceries. The group appeared in ATV's "Midland Montage" last month and have proved particularly popular at their Friday sessions at the Gladstone Club, Dudley. Personnel: "Omo" Hughie Chambers, Stamford Lindsay, "Caz" Silvester Reid, "Soulers" Lloyd Shaw, Geoff Miller and Del Davis.

## THE EBONIES

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LESS than two weeks after losing all their equipment when their bus caught fire, popsters Farren Christy and The Group are back on the beat scene.

Prompt action by a Nottingham retailer (Clements Ltd.) backed by their wholesaler (Boosey & Hawkes Ltd.) made

equipment available to the group for two long-standing engagements this week. One was at the Beat Barbecue at Beeston, and the other at a society wedding at Stamford.

The photograph shows the group posing with their new equipment.

## Have you got a hit?

DO you have a number you think could make a hit if waxed by a quality beat outfit? If you have, send it to M.M. Heston, of 17a, Belmont Road, Pensett, Brierley Hill, Staffs—the base for Brierley Hill group, Tony King and the Olympics.

Dick Wilson of the "Express and Star," Wolverhampton, calls them one of the best groups in the Black Country. Tony King and the group tell Midland Beat:

"Our group are looking for new material to record. If we can get a song, the composer chosen will come to the studios with the group to make a demo, and if one of the big recording companies likes the number, he or she will accompany us at our expense to London. We will also give a small prize of between £10 and £15."

Could this be the start of something big?

## Dr Hubbard's cupboard is far from bare

Don't look now, but there's a millionaire to ring into Midland beat music. He is Dr. R. Hubbard, who owns a mansion near East Gristled in Sussex.

Terry Wyatt, rhythm guitarist with the Coventry outfit The Sabres, represented the Midland sound when he accepted Dr. Hubbard's invitation to visit his home recently.

Terry was surprised to find special sound apparatus and two Wurliitzer organs at Dr. Hubbard's home but he was told that the doctor is making experiments in beat sound and intends to find a new sound for beat groups.

The rhythm guitarist was delighted to help the doctor with his experiments by playing five string guitar to Dr. Hubbard's Wurliitzer accompaniment.

## RATED HIGH!

Do the Cheltenham group The Bonings have to pay a high premium on their vehicle insurance?

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their organ and solid beat, and  
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recently appeared as Colin-King  
and The Skyliners.

## HOPPING AROUND!



Formerly known as The  
Trendsetters, The Hedge-  
hoppers are stationed at the  
R.A.F. at Wittering,  
Peterborough. Besides play-  
ing at NAAFI functions, they  
appear at Oakham, Upping-  
ham, Market Deeping and  
Hunstanton. Left to right:  
Ray Honeyball, Tony  
Cockayne, Les Dash, John  
Stewart and Mick Tinsley.

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## Trespassers get vote in Jennie Lee contest



## EIGHT GROUP WINNERS



Winners of the Eight Group Beat Competition at Quarry Bank Gala, Tommy and The Crestas, from Kidderminster, The Scorpions from Kinver (second), and The Rocking Blues from Wordsley (third) received £10, £5 and £3 respectively from beauty queen Miss Janice Tromans.



The Destinys — a popular Midland group.

HONOUR for Wooley Castle group Jon E. Law and The Trespassers who were recently awarded the Jennie Lee Trophy for their playing.

The boys won the silver cup in a contest at a Wednesday gala which they competed against 10 other groups, and they were given their trophy by Miss Jennie Lee M.P. at Chillington W.M.C. Wolverhampton.

The future looks bright for the group, with a record company considering them as likely prospects; an audition for TV lined-up, a tour of Germany in the future and the possibility of turning professional just around the corner.

## GOLLIWOG . . . .

We often hear of groups with mascots, well, here's an unusual group mascot — a golliwog!

The outfit is The Green-sleeves, of Ward End, Birmingham, who, besides appearing every Thursday at Cloverlea Hall, Ward End, also appear in Minworth, Water Orton, Atherstone and Sutton Coldfield.

The group comprise Tom Wiggins (19), singer; Arnold Bailey (27), lead; Clive Billings (24), rhythm; Chris Woodward (20), bass; and John Carter (17), drums.

## YARMOUTH CLUB

Successful Norwich R and B promoters, Howard Platt and Brian Lowe, open a new club in Yarmouth's Grand Hotel on Oct. 6, featuring the Buzbootles and The Continentals. Ken Rix, also from this organisation who has halls in Plymouth, Portsmouth, Grays and Southend will be in the Midlands for a few days this month talent-spotting and negotiating for Midlands groups at his many venues. This organisation has already featured The Diplomats at Grays and booked Freddie Fingers Lee and the Shriekers for Norwich. Mr. Rix says he will be pleased to hear from Midland promoters and agents who want to exchange groups.

## Popularity poll

IT'S Poll Time again. Here's your chance to register your vote in our Autumn Poll. Remember, every vote counts, so don't fail to register your vote for the local group you most admire.

Are the Tallmen, the winners of our summer poll, still the Midlands' favourite group? Your votes will provide the answer. Closing date for votes is October 30 and full results of the poll will appear in our November issue.

Fill in the voting form below, cut it out and post it to Autumn Poll, "Midland Beat", Windermere House, 110, Wake Green Road, Moseley, Birmingham, 13. Don't delay - votes received after October 20 will be too late. And only votes registered on this voting form will qualify.

### "MIDLAND BEAT" 1964 AUTUMN POLL

To: Autumn Poll, "Midland Beat", Windermere House, 110 Wake Green Road, Moseley, Birmingham 13.

I nominate the following group to be the best in the Midlands:

Name of group: .....

Town: .....

My name is: .....

Address: .....

Signed: .....

Date: .....

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## LUCKY TWOSOMES



"Mr. and Mrs. Applejack," bassist Megan Davies and drummer Gerry Freeman, after their marriage at St. Alphege Church, Solihull. Three thousand fans turned up to see the wedding, which coincided with the release of the Applejacks' third record, "Three Little Words (I Love You)". The four other Applejacks - Don Gould, Martin Baggott, Phil Cash and Al Jackson - were ushers.

A kiss from the Redcaps' Dave Walker for Miss Mary Stanley after she had been voted "Miss Keweenaw Club Personality Girl 1964" at a special session held to celebrate the first anniversary of the Brun Keweenaw Club in Wordsworth Road, Small Heath. Hundreds of local and national groups have appeared at the club during the past 12 months.

## DISC DATE by Dennis Detheridge

"MECCA" - "THAT GOODNIGHT KISS" (Phillips BF 1362) - THE CHEETAHS: Full marks to The Cheetas for attempting such ambitious material as "Mecca." It's a commendable effort - but I'll be surprised if it proves any more commercial than when Gene Finney's version was released. Flip-side is a likeable original by the four Beum boys.

"I DIDN'T MEAN TO HURT YOU" - "YOU'D BETTER COME HOME" (Broadway TN 30197) - THE ROCKY BERRIES: The A-side is easily the catchiest number yet recorded by the Berries. Too high pitched perhaps - they almost sound like the Caravelles - but very appealing just the same. In contrast, "You'd Better Come Home" is an Aley Brothers-style raver. A good pair to allow off the group's versatility.

"THREE LITTLE WORDS (I LOVE YOU)" - "YOU'RE THE ONE FOR ME" (Decca F.11981) - THE APPLEJACKS: The Midlands most successful group should make the charts again with "Three Little Words." The tune is quite ordinary - but the arrangement is great. It's a hard-hitting slice of Applejacks' "janglebeat." The Gerry Freeman-Don Gould composition on the flip-side proves a better-than-average "B" side.

"LOOK HOMEWARD ANGEL" - "I'LL HAVE MY HEARTS TO REMIND ME" (Decca F.11985) - THE FORTUNES: It's hardly a group disc at all because the three boys have full orchestral accompaniment. The result is a disc that emphasizes their vocal potential. "Look Homeward Angel" is a good song - Johnnie Ray had a big hit with it a few years back - and it's interpreted with imagination. There is more effective harmony from The Fortunes on the lower deck.



### Their own Sparks

DUKE ELLINGTON has his own barber, and so does that rather less musically inclined coloured entertainer, Sugar Ray Robinson. Frank Sinatra never travels without his bodyguards and whoever heard of Morcambe without Wise?

So why shouldn't The Deltas, an up-and-coming

group from Quarry Bank, always take their own electrician with them on their dates? Such is the desire of John Fletcher (lead), Ray Neck (drums) and Mike Wakeman (bass) for sound perfection.

And that's probably why they have done so well in six months and now have their own regular Monday evening spot at the Plaza Ballroom, Old Hill.

## Are You on the group register?

LATEST additions to the "Midland Beat" Group Register are:

The Hound Dogs, Nottingham; The New-Camers, Birmingham; The Scorpions, Birmingham; The Sullins Rhythm Group Sutton-in-Ashfield; The Advocates, Neerham (Gosport/Gosport, Chain Links, Lydney, Gloucestershire); The Alley Katz Rhythm Group Kirby-in-Ashfield; The Electric Rayhan Group Stafford; Pendulum Smithwick, The Haves Sutton Coumad, Ross 66 Birmingham; The Sound Breakers Stourport-on-Severn, The Ebonies, Tipton Staffordshire; Terry and the D men, Doughty; The Vagans Blaby; The Konvairs 2, and B. Witney; The Harvics of Ayr; The Apollo Inveter 8 J's; Winger; Johnny and the Fortunes; Minster Lovell; Fadeaway Stourbridge, The Demons, Birmingham.

## The London touch

THE MIDLANDS' loss will be London's gain now that "Midland Beat's" "Beat Bar's" tip for stardom" boy, Lee Stirling has taken his new bride, Inyrene from the south's 19-year-old Veronica Busby, to live in London.

For the latest news from Lee, whose "Sad, Lonely and Blue" could still win him honours in the hit parade, is that his song "Where Am I?" has been waxed by Duffy Power.

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## On the Beat with Bo Berry

**B**EAT in the parks in Birmingham — at the City of Birmingham Show at Handsworth Park last month and at Bonfire Carnivals next month.

London debut for Oxford's Blue J's at the Marquee — Terry Blood Agency's Miss Lloyd recovering from car accident — Latest luxury best spot: the "Impassia" at the plush Chateau Impney, Droitwich — Sunday lunch time beat music by The Rockin' 4 removers at the notorious Hazel, Great Barr — Former drummer with The X-Clubs, Tommy Law, has joined The Clansmen — Wilsey's Konvairs supported Oxford's Falling Leaves at the Garden of Eden Club — Falling Leaves to record track for "Ready-

## It's all happening!

Steady, Win\* LP — Eynsham's Rooms at the Top to be turned into a club with sessions on Fridays and Sundays.

\* \*

The Blue Stars, top group in the Cannock area, now back with Mrs. Mary Regan after a spell of northern dates — Friends and fans of The Ambassadors invited to a big beat dance at Wombourne last month — Beat dances promoted by J. and M. Fromotions at the Jubilee Hall, Brewood, outside Wolverhampton, proving popular — New name for Gloucestershire's blues and the Vikings is A Group Called Fred — Newcomer to The Shows, soon to leave Gene Vincent, is Alan Eastwood — Personal changes for The Roving Saracens after their return from France — New venue for promoter Mike Carroll is the Black Horse, Northfield, beginning with The Rockin' Herries on Thursday, October 15.

\* \*

Birmingham agent Ralph Horton joins the King's Agency in London — Darlaston drummer Tony Tooley The Backbeats' "sax man", married in Blackpool — New disc by Keith Powell and The Valsies "I Should Know Better" — Fractured neck, sustained in soccer match, fails to prevent Gerry Nicholls playing drums with the Solihull Downbeats at their three-weekly Royal Oak sessions — Drum Beats paid mid-September return to B.P.F. Entertainments' Faringdon show — Peter Sullivan for Leicester's Appaloos — Packing 'em in: Riverside Beat Club on Sundays at Chequers Inn, Babcock Hythe, near Oxford.

\* \*

H. M. Hobson's Apprentices dance at Wolverhampton featured The Appaloosas, Montanas, Strollers and Black Diamonds — The Wolves

Ugly? Well see for yourself....



They are called The Ugly. But you must admit, they are not a bad-looking bunch of boys. They are off to Germany on an exchange arranged by their agent, John Singer, of the John Agency.

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sharing stand with Honeycombs at Midland dates — Newest group on the Cannock Chess scene are The Critics — Tommy Burton's popularity resulted in a sell out when his combo visited Bloxwich Memorial Club — Zoot Money and His Big Red Band played at first Sunday 11 and B session at Digbeth Civic Hall, Birmingham, booked for October 4; Spencer Davis Group — Vince Baker presenting top names at Digbeth Civic Hall on Wednesday — but attendance disappointing at opening sessions — Birmingham's Benegades off to Friesland this autumn — Results of Stourport Carnival beat group contest: 1st, Simons (Kidderminster), 2nd, Soundmakers (Stourport) 3rd, Rebels (Birmingham) — Apper-

ance in T.V.'s "Opportunity Knocks" delayed for Birmingham's Carl Dobson and The Meteors.

\* \*

Rush release for new single by The Rockin' Herries. The title: "He's in Town" — Ex-Appaloosa singer Christine Holmes, working 'em in cabaret at London's Embassy Club, sings "Goodbye Boy" on her third single — Appaloosa drummer Gerry Freeman nominated by Birmingham Ophthalmic Information Council as being among the 10 most prominent men in Britain who are "the most distinctively fixed with spectacles".

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## Beat Bar

**M**IDLAND beat is often ecstatic, but it's never static. And this month sees the scene really jump'n' with beat at a Sateley Home and on board a pleasure boat ...

The group who set the rafters creaking and the aristocratic skeletons - in - the cupboards jangling at Staffordshire's Seighford Hall were a popular Staffs-based outfit called The Vigilantes.

The group comprise: Dave Lesak (sax); Rob Arnold (drums); Neil Butlin (rhythm); Dave Dohren (lead) and Dave Barment (bass).

Although Seighford Hall was not originally designed for beat shows, no technical hitches due to lack of electrical power were reported.

## Legal aid

**A**GROUP not on the run, nor ever likely to be - that's Derric Ryan and The Ravens, a Dudley-based outfit who regularly play at Dudley Hippodrome's "Stage Door Club".

The reason? They have the law on their side - in the attractive shape of 30 year-old Mrs. Juanita Anderson, of Wayside, Cotwall, Sedgley, who is the wife of a policeman and the group's manager!

In a recent poll held in the area by the local newspaper, Derric Ryan and the outfit topped the vocalist section and came second in the group competition.

Line-up is: Nigel Sargent (21), lead guitar; Graham Willets (18) drums; David Wilkes (21), bass; Tony Hawthorn, (21), piano and Derric Ryan (19), leader and vocalist.

"The group have equipment worth nearly £1,500 and have been promised a trial with a record company," says Mrs. Anderson.

A sparkling new column that discusses the trends, gives all the latest news and group gossip and helps set the Midland beat scene swinging ...

## Such a shock!

**B**UT there could have been an uproar, when, instead of twanging out some ear-splitting chords, members of the Birmingham group The Uproars found themselves on their way back to their van without having played a note, on a recent date.

The outfit were booked by the Birmingham Young Conservatives Motor Club to play for 150 Young Conservatives who boarded the pleasure boat S.S. Belle at Worcester expecting to dance their way up the Severn on a four-hour "River Boat Shuffle."

A great idea ... but for one thing. On arrival, the group discovered that their electrical equipment could not be used on board as there was not enough electric power.

It came as a bit of a shock to all concerned ...

## Trans - world

**N**EWs of Midland Beat spreading its wings across the world comes via Keith Powell, leader of a popular Birmingham outfit, whose group is having great success internationally these days.

America, Australia, Italy, New Zealand, Holland - they are just a few of the countries which went the outfit.

In America, The Valets' second disc, "Tore Up" is to be released by Stellar Records, of Chicago. In Australia, agents are negotiating a tour for the group. Both New Zealand and Holland featured a Valets' single in their best-selling charts. And a film spot for the boys is being planned in Italy.

All this is terrific going, considering the group have only celebrated their first anniversary as professionals ...



The Moody Blues - see "At the Marquee."

## At the Marquee

**S**TILL on the theme of movement, let's look at the Midland men on the move to London, The Moody Blues. Four are aged 22 and the fifth - Denny Laine - is 19.

Last month saw the outfit on Decca of the group's first disc, "Steal Your Heart Away", and, arriving in London only a few weeks ago, the outfit now has a resident night at the Marquee.

All Birmingham-born, the boys of the group are: Denny Laine (lead guitar and vocals), Mike Pinder (electric piano, vocals), Clint Warwick (bass guitar), Ray Thomas (harmonica, vocals), and Graeme Edge (drums).

Well, it's a novel move - taking the Brum beat into the heart of London for regular airings - and one which could well pay off for The Moody Blues. If it does, no doubt others will follow ...

## So let's tour ...

**B**ACK to the Midlands and movement around and about, that could be - if we copied the idea of The Geordie Beat Tour. It's the pet scheme of 36 year-old TV producer Keith Beckett, who plans to extend the Geordie beat from Tyne-side to the rest of the country.

A tour featuring six top Geordie outfits and, on occasional dates, two or three nationally-known groups as special guest stars, has been arranged covering such places

as Birmingham, Brighton, Sheffield and Southampton.

There is no reason why this enterprising scheme could not be developed by Midland groups. Why not a Notis Beat Tour, a Borderland Beat Tour, a Gloucester Beat Gallop? Well ...!

## We go to "Gib."

**O**FF abroad again, this time to Gibraltar where John Whitmore, from Loxells, and Malcolm Watson, from Castle Bromwich, two Birmingham lads serving in the RAF, keep in touch with the local beat scene by reading "Midland Beat".

Although Gibraltar has some beat groups of its own, these two Brummies feel that the Brum sound takes some beating. Malcolm is keen on Pat Wayne and the Beachcombers; The Astonaires, and Danny King and the Majestics and John's favourites are Danny King and the Majestics, The Diplomats and The Appliqués.

SAC's Whitmore and Watson are with the Fire Section, RAF North Front, Gibraltar, and their letter shows that "Midland Beat" is becoming increasingly read internationally.



The Vigilantes




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## The Hermits for Silver Blades

Herman's Hermits are set to pay their first visit to Birmin- gham since their "I'm Into Some- thing Good" shot to the top of the hit parade. They will be the attraction at the Silver Blades ice rink on Monday October 26.

## Atmosphere plus names makes Whiskey-a-Go-Go

TWO young men the envy of Midland promoters are Chris Griffin and Stephen Healey who promote rhythm and blues three nights a week at Birmingham Whiskey-a-Go-Go club.

As Birmingham's only it and it club as such, this extremely popular club draws regular customers from every part of the Midlands and London.

What's the big attraction? Steve and Chris say it's the atmosphere at the club plus the biggest names in the it and it world who play there.

Names like John Lee Hooker, Memphis Slim, Sonny Boy Williamson, and many others.

Their forthcoming attractions include: Alexis Korner, George Fame and The Blue Flames, Yardbirds, Graham Bond

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TOP LEFT: Derek Hunter and the Showways. Top row, left to right: Derek Hunter, Roy Birchmore. Bottom row, left to right: John De Cusi; Terry Turner and Bill Spreng.

TOP RIGHT: The name's the same but the male vocalist is different. That's the case with Nottinghamshire's Miss Sandy Dean, Mark Peters and the Vextones. The original Mark Peters has left the group. But this replacement, formerly with the Mansfield group, The Dalemen, is adopting his name "to avoid complications."



## SIZE SEVEN FAN CLUB

THE first official fan club has been formed for the Size Seven, the pop outfit from Corby New Town, Northants.

The club has been put into action by attractive, darkhaired Ann Littlewood of 30 Glyde- bourne Gardens, Corby.

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Herb Gorius, vocalist with Alexis Korner Blues Incorporated, introduces...



Steve Lihwood of the Spencer Davies Group.

## The Allnighters



Study with guitar (Alex Korner).



Study on piano (Blue Sound).

ONE OF the most successful events in Birmingham's Festival of Entertainments was the R and B Allnighter at the Town Hall. It was a complete sell-out with many more fans turned away at the door.

Highspot of the evening was provided by bill-toppers Alexis Korner's Blues Incorporated. This vastly underrated group has been the backbone of Britain's R and B scene since Alexis and the late Cyril Davies formed it three years ago as Britain's first R and B group. As well as its own contributions in this field the group has served as a breeding-ground for such top British R and B men as Graham Bond and Stones Mick Jagger and Charlie Watts.

Using the unusual line-up of two saxes, guitar, string bass and drums, they concentrate largely on original material, much of it instrumental. Sharing the vocals with Alexis is coloured New Yorker Herb The show was opened by the Sheffields, a group popular with American bluesmen. After accompanying Little Walter on his British tour, they leave for a stint in Europe with Memphis Slim.

Featuring Roy Ledger and pianist John Alexander on vocals, they were at their best on Howling Wolf's "Howling for my Baby", Memphis Slim's "Messing Around" and "Caledonia" by Louis Jordan. In contrast was their biting satirical 1920's-style "My Blue Bomb Shelter".

Completing the bill were Leeds University's Blue Sounds and Birmingham's, Spencer Davis and the much-improved Moody Blues Five. J. S.

### DISBANDED

The Fleetwoods Rhythm Group, who were formed about 12 months ago, have disbanded. Last line-up: Vic Jarvis (bass and lead vocals), Pete Britton (rhythm guitar, harmonica, vocal harmony), Brian Nichols (lead guitar and vocal harmony) and Ray Green (drums).



... His own happy outfit.



And the Sheffields.

# THE CHADS



**L**ET'S ask a question:—  
L... not the Chads? The answer is: not at the moment, anyway. They are currently moving around Germany on a three month tour.

First formed three years ago, the outfit went under the name of The Spudowners had two singers and concentrated on Everly Brothers numbers.

When the singers left and a new vocalist joined, the group changed their name and style and devoted their attention to r and b.

A Birmingham-based group, the Chads were not confined to shows in the Brum area. They had regular bookings at Skegness, Port Talbot, Newmarket and Stamford.



It was beat in the Bull Ring when Lee Scott and the Suspects went along to play at an exhibition in Birmingham's new Bull Ring Centre. The group are becoming accustomed to unusual venues as this photograph was taken when they played at a beat barbecue at the Tom O'Bedlam, Chadwick End. Lee Scott and the Suspects have also appeared at Lichfield's ancient Guildhall.

## Age fifteen

Maureen and the String Bells is the name of an up-and-coming Stourport-on-Severn outfit. Their leader is Terry Chandler of 13, Barnfield Road, Walsley Lodge, Stourport-on-Severn.

Lead guitarist Terry has written several numbers for the group, all of which Maureen, a young 15-year-old vocalist, full name, Maureen Edwards sings with gusto.

In brief, the Mansfields are now fully professional. The Deacons were once the regular backing group for Julie Grant

Mal Ryder.

## That's The Spirits -that was!

**T**HESE last six weeks have seen much movement by Oxford based outfit Mal Ryder and The Spirits.

They were booked to perform a weekend of shows in Glasgow immediately after a tour of one nighters in the South West. Between jobs at Weymouth and Plymouth their VW band wagon needed up beyond repair. Two days and two jobs behind, they were rushed to Scotland on the Thursday for the weekend of performance.

Sunday, after the show, they were to have flown to London, but the driver, arranged to drive the equipment back and make it in time. So Mick (drums) drove down to home town Oxford. ONE hour later, having collected enough clothes for a month, they set off for London and EVEN hours in a recording studio — still without sleep. Not their usual Decca studio but Studio 1 at Epsom under the very patient and experienced eye of John Schroeder, their new A and B man.

The group have changed contracts from Decca to keep Pye. After the session, watched at times by the Kinks, while the Searchers recorded their new LP in Studio 2, Mal and the Spirits — Mike Chequer, Mick Charlton, and Pete Nelson, were rushed to the coast and on to their new home in Belgium, where they are appearing for a month before returning to the Midlands and another series of one-nighters.

The Decoys are an outfit well known on the 10 Nottingham Mansfield circuit and they have had a large measure of success.

They have now decided to make a record of their original numbers and release it at their own expense.

This E.P. should be available shortly on the "Studio 36" label and is well worth having as a collectors' item as it features four original numbers by this semi-pro outfit, who have been together only six months.

Line-up of The Decoys is: Pat Green (lead); John Langton (rhythm); John Potter (bass) and Colin Robinson (drums).

## Torinos' E.P. is selling well

**B**USY chalking up success after success are The Torinos, popular East Anglian group handled by Portias and Carter Entertainments, of Spalding, Lincs. Their privately recorded E.P. is selling well and been heard on Radio Luxembourg and Radio Caroline.

In the contest field, The Torinos earned recognition in

a recent county newspaper best competition, winning a cup as the best group and another trophy for the best vocalist. They have also won another local best contest.

Strength of The Torinos Fan Club is now over 300 mark and outings to their engagements figure prominently among the club's activities. At the moment, the

group work five or six nights a week in East Anglia, but appearances in Scotland, Germany and France are being arranged.

Members of The Torinos are Chad Thompson (lead guitar-vocals), Pete Kley (rhythm guitar-vocals), John Turner (bass guitar-vocals) and brother "Buster" Turner (drums-vocals).

## KNOW YOUR DEALER



**M. R. Charles Hewitt**, now Director of Messrs. Harwood's of Birmingham, started as counter salesman and saxophone specialist in 1934.

It is not generally known that "Charlie" commented on his own career as a musician at the DeLicia Cinema, Costa Green (now B. B. C., T. V. Studios), in the gilt certificate in number 1938 saw him playing lead alto in the band that backed jazz tromp player Coleman Hawkins on his British visit.

Mr. Hewitt has 30 years service with Yardley's to his credit with the Royal Air Force 1941-1945, as a bandman, during which a two year period was spent playing lead alto at the Tower Ballroom, Blackpool, under the leadership of the Charles Barlow Orchestra. Mr. Hewitt was placed on the Board of Directors of Yardley's in 1948 which unfortunately was the termination of his playing activities.

\* \* \*

One of his best customers was Johnny Hodges, lead saxophone player with Duke Ellington's orchestra who bought goods on his 1960 tour, and his latest customers of repute are the Applacks, who purchased a drum kit in June, this year.

Mr. Hewitt possesses what is believed to be the smallest saxophone in Great Britain. This was presented by the Dallas Musical Instrument Company for his efforts in helping to design the new buffed saxophone and it is obvious that this Company has introduced this into this country, a few years ago.

During his long association on with the music business Mr. Hewitt has seen many changes in progressive trends and it is obvious that this Company has been successful in its ideas throughout these phases. That it is today it still holds a proud position as one of the Midlands largest dealers.

In 1962 Mr. Hewitt was appointed to the National Council of the Music Traders Association, and his latest venture is a completely equipped drum showroom entirely for the benefit of drummers and percussionists in general. J. C. G.

Here in 1947 we have been visited by Pat Wayne and The Beachcombers; Keith Powell and The Valets; The Rocking Berries, etc., and have been impressed by them all.

We have just heard a little known group from the Midlands, Tony King and the Olympics, whom I have never seen mentioned in any record mag.

They went down far better than most of the recording groups and have a great act which swings from start to finish.

I would like to wish these lads every success and also convey best wishes from North Wales to all other Birmingham groups through Midland Beat. Alan Parkes, Prestatyn.

## But from the Midlands....

**DUE** to the general lack of local support for local groups, it is not surprising that Birmingham Groups have met with little or no success in the national W.N. parade. With the possible exception of one or two groups in the Midlands, the support given to local talent (and there is talent in Midlands) is precious little.

Indeed, the Midlands must be the most difficult of all areas in the country for a group to find work and keep on working. What fans realise is that playing most nights a week and several hours per night is strenuous work for the players, for this work can be made enjoyable when appreciation is shown by the audience and the groups present not taken for granted.

Until Birmingham groups get a fair crack of the whip in their home territory, how on earth do they stand a chance of national recognition? It's up to local fans to support these groups by buying their records and show more appreciation, then maybe the rest of the country will take notice of the Midland Beat Scene.

**BILL TREVOR,**  
Erdington, Birmingham.

...So little

My friends and I went to a dance at the Golden Cross, Sutton, and heard a fabulous group called The Creators. One of the best groups we have heard for ages - Nora Russell, Sheldon, Birmingham.

## 'Ready, Steady, Win' final

**BIRMINGHAM** was represented by the Olympics in the national final of ITV's 'Ready, Steady, Win', judged by Georgia Brown, Bill Haley, Brian Matthew, Brian Epstein and Jack Hutton, the Olympics were placed fourth out of an original entry of 2,000, missing the third prize by only

two marks. They suffered by having to cut their first number, "Tossing and Turning" by 50 seconds to fit the allotted five final placings were the Be Street Runners first, with the Toggery Five and Jimmy Royal and the Hawks in second and third places. Well done, Olympics! J. S.



## Beat Box

### His cousins are stuck-up

**A**LL groups who register their name with "Midland Beat" receive an "Officially Registered" car sticker for the group van and one of the latest outfits to get one is Roger Blackwell and his Country Cousins.

Writing to us on behalf of the outfit, Mr. G. H. Tomlinson, of Reginald Road, North, Chaddesden, Derby, says: "It was totally unexpected and is quite an innovation and shows forethought and initiative."

"The label is prominently displayed in the van (a converted ambulance) and should be seen over a wide area as the boys are very popular and travel around Nottinghamshire, Leicestershire and Derbyshire."

## DRUM CLINIC

Famous American drum star Joe Morcillo played and demonstrated various techniques to an enthusiastic full house at Birmingham's Dugworth Civic Hall.

This was one of several "Drummers' Clinics" being organised around Britain by Ledwith Distributors, I. and J. Arthur. Joe Morcillo showed his outstanding capabilities as the world's No. 1 Drum Star but also showed a brand of humour that kept the audience of all ages highly amused. A standing ovation was given to this engaging and friendly personality at the end of a most entertaining and instructive evening.

## Wonderful, said Johnnie Ray



Latest disc by *The Fortunes*, a group featuring two Birmingham boys, Rod Allen and Barry Pritchard, in "Look Homeward Angel" a big hit when recorded by Johnnie Ray in 1958. Meeting the group in London, Johnnie played the disc over and over again before exclaiming: "Great, Wonderful. However did you get those top notes?"

## Thanks from Scotland

**I** COME from Glasgow and I have been staying with my sister for the past fortnight while on holiday. She lives on the outskirts of Birmingham at a town called Smethwick.

During my stay there I have been dancing at most of the halls in Birmingham and have been really impressed by the high standard of the groups.

We have groups in Scotland. One of our top groups is Lu Lu "Shout." But on the whole, Birmingham has more groups and better ones at that!

The ones who impressed me most were the Diplomats, who were at Tyburn House, the Moody Blues 5, who play rhythm and blues at Laura Dixon's, and a fabulous group with a girl singer called Barbara. She was more another Birmingham group The Applacks, played at Manchester a few weeks ago and I had the great pleasure of meeting them. They're really something!

Thanks, Birmingham groups, for a real swinging holiday. (Miss) Jean McKenzie, Smethwick.

## Thanks from Wales

**RECENTLY** saw a copy of "Midland Beat" and I was very interested to read of the many groups in and around Birmingham.

## Thank Johnnie Ray

My friends and I went to a dance at the Golden Cross, Sutton, and heard a fabulous group called The Creators. One of the best groups we have heard for ages - Nora Russell, Sheldon, Birmingham.



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## MEET

## The Olympics

## THE GROUP



**Name** Bryan Betteridge  
**Birthdate** 28/11/41  
**Instrument** Lead guitar  
**Height** 5 ft. 10 ins.  
**Weight** 11 st.  
**Birthplace** Birmingham  
**Education** Secondary Modern  
Paget Road  
**Eyes** Brown  
**Hair** Brown  
**Occupation** Top secret  
**First public appearance** Palladium (Hockley)  
**Favourite food** He-man's grill  
**Favourite pastime** Fishing  
**Dress** Casual  
**Likes** Driving  
**Dislikes** Singing with  
Ron Dickson  
**Previous groups** El Riot and  
The Rebels  
**Favourite artists** Roy Orbison  
Brenda Lee  
**Favourite composer** Bert Bakarak



**Name** John Carroll  
**Birthdate** 18/4/42  
**Instrument** Guitars  
**Height** 6 ft.  
**Weight** 12 st.  
**Birthplace** Birmingham  
**Education** Storchley Secondary  
School  
**Eyes** Hazel  
**Hair** Brown  
**Occupation** Dartsman  
**First public appearance** Storchley  
**Favourite food** Taboo Club, Steak  
**Favourite pastime** Cleanins,  
my car  
**Dress** Casual  
**Likes** Big cars  
**Dislikes** Walking  
**Previous groups** Dakotas  
**Favourite Artists** Rocking  
Berries  
**Favourite composer** Jim Backros

The Olympics made sure the Midlands was represented in the finals of television's "Ready, Steady, Win!" contest. They didn't win the event — but they did well enough to make a big impression on the judges — and millions of viewers. They are based in Birmingham and are in demand to play at sessions throughout the Midlands.



**Name** Ron Dickson  
**Birthdate** 13/2/46  
**Instrument** Bass guitar  
**Height** 5 ft. 9 ins.  
**Weight** 10 st.  
**Birthplace** West Bromwich  
**Education** Charistmont  
Secondary Modern  
**Eyes** Blue  
**Hair** Fair  
**Occupation** Pharmaceutical  
worker  
**First public appearance** Clifton Cinema  
**Favourite food** Steak, chips, peas  
**Favourite pastime** car  
**Dress** Quiet  
**Likes** Peace and quiet  
**Dislikes** John Carroll's  
driving  
**Previous groups** Renegades  
**Favourite Artists** Mystrians  
**Favourite Artists** Buddy Holly  
**Favourite composer** Buddy Holly



**Name** Steve Price  
**Birthdate** 11/3/44  
**Instrument** Drums  
**Height** 5 ft. 9 ins.  
**Weight** 10 st.  
**Birthplace** Birmingham  
**Education** Great Barr  
Comprehensive  
**Eyes** Brown  
**Hair** Black  
**Occupation** Joiner  
**First public appearance** Clifton Cinema, Stone Cross  
**Favourite food** Mxao  
**Favourite pastime** Bed  
**Dress** Casual  
**Likes** Driving and  
unmentionable  
**Dislikes** Ron  
**Previous groups** Vendors  
**Favourite Artists** Mystrians  
Rockins  
**Favourite composer** Lennon &  
McCartney

The  
beat



Al Jackson of The Applejacks autographs the arm of a girl fan.



Roy Stuart and The Cyclones — the winners!

## The Oxfam beat

### Wealth of local talent

THE Midland heats of the first Oxfam National Beat Contest uncovered a surprising wealth of local talent.

Heats were held at Digbeth and Solihull Civic Halls to find the ten best groups for the Midlands final at Solihull.

An additional attraction at Digbeth was Gene Vincent with the Shouts, whose latest record "Private Detective" was enthusiastically received.

Gene and the group appeared for expenses only, and spent the evening meeting the fans and signing autographs.

#### AGE FIFTEEN

Among the contestants at Digbeth were The Fadeaways from Stourbridge, believed to

be the youngest semi-pro group in the Midlands with an average age of 15 yrs. 2 mths.

This is the second time they have appeared with Gene Vincent. They are also booked to appear with the Swinging Blue Jeans. Until recently the group appeared with borrowed instruments, but now they have their own.

Joint organisers Messrs. Caldicott and Preston made a real scoop in obtaining the voluntary services of the Applejacks for the final at Solihull.

Unfortunately, due to a clause in their contract, they were unable to play, but were kept busy signing autographs and posing for photographs.

Other artists appearing without fee were Christine Holmes and The Conchords. Dynamic Christine must surely receive wider recognition very soon.



Christine Holmes with The Plus Five.



Two Size Six fans are given pride of place in this picture with the group. They travelled from Bristol for the occasion.

### On the way

ON THE move up the charts? Well, it could happen for The Wayne Gibson Dynamic Sounds, a new member of whom is Peter Cook, a local lad, now playing with this nationally-known outfit, whose "Kelly" has a good chance of success.

Miss Toni Foster, of Broxtowe Street, Sherwood, Nottingham, tells us that this is the outfit's third disc, their first on Eps, and that they have a large number of fans in

Nottingham and throughout the Midlands.

We don't doubt it.

More about Peter Cook? Of course. On leaving school Peter, who plays organ and piano, was a clerical assistant with Birmingham Corporation.

But his real interest was music and before joining the Dynamic Sounds he played with Gerry Levine and the Avengers and Pat Wayne and The

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## NEWS AND VIEWS FROM YOUR AREA

## STAFFORDSHIRE

by Roger Bennett

**D**ON'T mistake it for big-headedness when you read of The Blackjacks advertising themselves as "The Midlands' Greatest Professional Group".

These Brownish boys really know their stuff, which is made even more evident by a bulging engagement book. As the Blackjacks they have been together for nearly six months although a couple of their members have previously played for such groups as The Chic Bennett Four, The Commandos and The Tempests. Lead guitarist Barry Hewitt (23) and Gary Reaney, rhythm (22) have been together for almost five years. Completing the number are Derek Meredith (18), bass guitar and vocals, and 17-year-old Dave Williams on drums. The boys' pretty manager, Miss Bettina Reaney, told me that the group took their job seriously. "They really have to," she added. "They have a 12 months contract to play seven nights a week at The Bulla Club in Birmingham. They appear from 11.30 p.m. until 2 a.m. In an average week they also fit in another three dates before they appear at the club. Obviously the whole of the next day is spent sleeping."

\*\*\*

The knockers are at it again. This time they are saying that the best crate is on its last legs and so are the groups who play it. Those who think this is the case should take a look at the Wolverhampton scene, just as an example.

The town boasts a variety of best places and there are no signs yet of their being empty. Those who cater for the best have included the Staffordshire Volunteer, the Cleveland Arms, the Victory Hall, the Stag and Sportsman's Club, and the Woodpack.

Groups who pack-em-in at these places include The Mountaineers, The Strollers, The Matchmakers, The Medions, The Black Diamonds, The Soul Seekers, The Rocking Rustlers, The Vista-Sonics, The Astonaires and the West Indian Group, The Eborians.

\*\*\*

Wolverhampton promoter and Wolves manager Geoff Jacobs informs me that his group had to change their "Thank Your Lucky Stars" date from August 8 to August 22. Their August 20 spot on "For Teenagers Only" went ahead as planned, however.

On both shows the boys were able to promote their debut Pye disc, "Journey into Dreams" backed by "What Do You Mean?" which was released on August 7. The platter's "A" side, "The Backbeat", has been getting a fair number of plays on Radio Luxembourg.

A Darlington group, The Midlands, have been going almost a year now and have developed well for a group whose average age is 16. At present hard-working amateurs, they say they would like to turn professional if they can attract one. Their line-up is:— Colin Spooner (vocals), Terry Robinson (rhythm), Alan Webster (lead), Ry-

vor Smith (drums), and John Callaghan (bass).

Another very young group causing quite a stir are The Moonshots, from Alton. They first really hit the headlines a few months back when requested to book off their first live engagement at a local club because their act had become too popular. After three months on these weeks they were really packing the place so much the regulars complained they could not take their usual pint in comfort.

The boys, some still at school, can still smile, however, about their popularity. Formed last Christmas, the group are David Woodfield (rhythm), Mike Morgan (bass), Derek Salt (lead), Stephen Green (drums) and the vocals are taken care of by Derek Egerton and Paul Rees.

\*\*\*

Nick Bowman, manager of The Blue Stars, from Canusack, now tells me that his group have returned under the wings of Midlands agent, Mrs. Mary Regan. Last month I wrote on how the boys had left Mrs. Regan for a change of atmosphere. Now, after providing just as big a hit north of Birmingham, The Blue Stars have returned to the city.

## GLOUCESTERSHIRE

by John Stanley

**P**ERHAPS the saddest news from the Blue Stars, as briefly mentioned last month, is that the long established "Gloucester outfit" The Beatniks have pulled off their last bookings and stored away their gear.

The line-up, consistent for the last three years, was Ricky Welch; David Vick; Hugh Worsnip and Mike Collins. Started nearly seven years ago, this group must be one of the best known beat combos in the West Country. On one of their last shows they travelled to Cornwall to play with Big Dee Irwin. At Exmouth however, fate nearly took a hand in things. With their manager Paul Davies, Mike and David were involved in a very serious accident.

\*\*\*

Another tale of woe from Gloucester is the news that Ex-Rank disc jockey Tony Prince is in hospital with a stomach ulcer. He was leading his group at Exmouth with Ross, when he had to be rushed to hospital. His outfit have since left for some German engagements without their 20-year-old leader.

The Miles Organisation from Bristol is responsible for The Beatniks' antics in Germany, must be the biggest exporters in best around these parts. Another of their groups, Andi Grey and the Strangers, who have had their tour over here extended, are reported to have been seen playing Munich in a temp of 100 degrees, wearing bathing trunks!

Based at Tewkesbury, The Charozeks, who boasted a full Indian outfit complete with hair paint as stage suits, have decided to

change their name to the Krestures — interesting to see what they appear in next! The new line-up consists of two of the original outfits who have turned pro and feel the fresh name will help their progress.

Another new name comes from the Forest of Dean, The Cotswold Stones while Gloucester's Steve and the Vikings have changed theirs to "A Group Called Fred" (don't see the connection!).

\*\*\*

A shock for any group member would be ex-Beatnik Ricky Welch's new job — he is the new vocalist for the Bill Harwood Orchestra at the newly re-boored Town Hall, Cheltenham.

Gloucester Council recently held a beat contest as part of their carnival. It was a knock-out competition and judged by local dignitaries and a beauty queen. Sixteen groups entered and it took two weeks to play them off. The Sounds of Unit 3 were made the winners

from Bray and the Pathfinders from Cheltenham, voting 220 to 192.

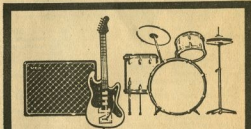
The Sounds received an audition with the Miles Organisation, and are now on their way to Munich. Line-ups, Ray Deimonie, Dod Kenston; Johnny Laverne and Eddie Young. Their numbers in the final: "I Saw Her Standing There", "Stick with me Baby", "It's All Over Now" and "Long Tall Sally".

Settling down well with this group is Mike Shane an ex-Vampire from Cheltenham, which is another group from this area to fall away under the strain of the summer season.

While in Cheltenham, news of "Midland beat's" Top Group, The Tallsmen, who have had to turn down a contract offer with Malcolm Rose Agency for an eight month tour of Germany valued at around £6,400. The reason for refusing the invitation was that Trevor, aged 20, has a signed apprenticeship to complete her and Clive is too young at 16 for a work permit.

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## NEWS, VIEWS AND PICTURES FROM YOUR AREA

WORCESTERSHIRE  
by Graham Jones

As Worcestershire swings into yet another social season, it's the Hellions who are first to stop the beat wave. Three weeks at Harburg's Inshore Star Club, their first composition on national release and runner-up in Worcester's Beat Week popularity poll; success is sweet for the Hellions.

The disc I mentioned in "Shades of Blue" was by session man — under Brian Mescham — for Phillips Fontaine. Judging by the number of their own compositions Jim Capaldi (drums) and Dave Mason (lead) could be living off song royalties long after they have packed their instruments away for the last time.

Before they left for Germany, The Hellions brought Worcester-



Worcester's Mohawks were among the finalists in a Young Group Contest at Malvern Winter Gardens. They are now spreading their wings outside their home town with visits to Bidford-on-Avon, Droitwich Evesham and Blackheath.

Worcestershire Mohawks and Kidderminster Simons by a handsome majority. In the semi-final they had bewildered observers by collecting more votes than the up-and-coming Suedes and were offered an appearance on I.T.V.'s "Opportunity Knocks".



Making a name for themselves around the Midlands are The Nomads. Their manager is Mr. Alan Stride, of 143. High Street, Bromsgrove.

shire's second annual Beat Week, a tremendous close with Renegades and Birmingham's Redcaps. Organized by Nutsie Promotions in aid of Swinington Bath and Youth Council funds, Beat Week offered a dance a night from August 22 to 29, with music supplied by a wide range of groups, including Keith Powell and The Vipers, the Redcaps and Bram Beats Ltd. from Birmingham, and a host of local talents.

Among possible future recordings for the Hellions could be a number from P. J. Proby's songwriter. The boys wrote to me from Germany, saying how much he had liked them.

Other visitors from the Big Smoke were Jerry Lewis, and Brian Benish of "Midland Beat" — both of whom helped judge the Amateur Group Contest. Winners were the Suedes, against opposition from the Lightning Blues, Raiders, Spartans, Bombastous (Evesham) and Charlymen the Worcestershire ladies outfit.

Paralleled to this contest, the Beat Week popularity poll showed that the Renegades are still tops after nearly two years, but losing ground to the Hellions. The K&K are a good third.

A string of contest winners of the Malvern Winter Gardens young groups contest were "Percheron" lady bombsters (ex-Bavans. Armed with the handsome trophy they were auditioned for I.T.V. on August 18. To take the title, they presented a crisp, well-balanced programme, and beat the

Ken decided to stay with the old firm — now backed up by vocals from bass-man Geoff Lowcock and seeking a new trade name.

Regular support group for the Heratians are the Avalanches led by Dave Walker — best man at the wedding of Herald's manager Maurice Goudie — and including instrumentalists from Hollow. Their appearance coincided with the demise of the Castles, Warndon now feature the Nomads (Bromsgrove), replacing Bromsgrove's Soldiers as resident group.

Inks — booked at Rose Rhythm Club — have new manager in place of Ray Babber. He is John Smith of The Kretures. Ray is understood to be forming a new group around a semi-famous drummer Michael Casey. A week or so before John joined the Cherokes and they altered their name to Thom Kretures one of the group's demo discs was given air-play on Laxembury. These recordings — made in London — include two numbers written by T. Herwick and G. Tyler of Easington's ambitious Fenders.

Somberos are now the Earthies. Catching the worm are Pete Georghanas (rhythm), former partner with the Spartans George Szabkni (bass), Ronnie Rozell (lead) and Tubby Sheving (drums). Malvern's Nanders — now known as the Shakes — are still expecting great things from Carole Leseman's demo disc for decca. Lightning Blues a popular change of name for George and the Dragons.

## OXFORDSHIRE

NEWS of a personal battle between two Oxford groups both trying hard to displace A and B around the Midlands — The Falling Leaves and The Cornflakes — was recently the buzz.

Very many of the "in" places around the city and you are sure to hear the good natural squabbles of members or fans of each group. Of the two The Leaves must take the fore in local following having moved from the Al Davidson Agency to Arthur Howes and recording on the soon to be released Decca album Brady Sensibly Win. They are also likely to record a single for Micky Most and could this be their last "in" written by the outfit.

The Cornflakes were formed seven months ago. They won a beat contest in Northampton and were signed on the spot by the theatre manager, Myer Clavin. Slicker in appearance than their rivals, the Cornflakes have developed the fashionable thicket, "I never comb it but his clean" type hair-do and present out pleasingly arranged A and B standards. It is to be hoped

that such competition between groups will extend beyond the visuals into the realms of arrangements and composition.

Big strides forward for the local outfit, The Apollo's who were placed second in the Bulmer's best contest a few months ago. A recording audition with Peter Sullivan of Decca — part of their prize — proved to be very successful no less than five numbers being issued, two of which, they hope, may give them their first single.

The winners from the Bulmer's contest, King Cobra and The Battle Snakes, are having a rough patch; the King having left, and Berry is now a new "Snake" on the skid.

Alan Ebdon Jazz Club, which started a few weeks ago at the Cape of Good Hope, has been closed by the Oxford Police for not holding a licence.

I hear the young Oxford group The Micros are to disband. Although quite new to the game, these lads had drawn a considerable following in the area and until tragic death of their lead guitarist recently, all was well. This naturally produced problems with the line-up. I feel sure that before too long these youngsters will reform and collect some of the success they desire.

Two local groups who achieved some success in the OXFAM Beat Week contest are the Earthies and The Footsteps. Prominent member of the Earthies is Terry Shaylor, a really hard working lads who has been in the game for a long while now. The Footsteps, managed by Mirc Cooper of Worcester, won their heat in the contest and a great many admirers in the process. Although a group I have yet to hear, certain promoters and indeed, a rival group of all managers, are sure that the Footsteps may have something.

The Wilton outfit, The Knaves, are currently with the name changed to its spelling of their name as a result of a miss-spelling in "Midland Beat". Incidentally, they went down very well at a recent appearance at the Garden of Eden Club at Blackbird Leys.

Three new groups for BPP Entertainments, Ricky and the Gambles (Newbury) — Ricky, who is only 14½, has an air-jet ball, plays bass. The other two groups are The Jellies and The Dominos, both from Ilchester, the former sounding a little like Louisa Liza.

A new organisation in Oxford is Fairways Entertainments, run by Adrian Hopkins, which has the bookings for The Falling Leaves, Apollo's, The Purple Hearts and the Earthies. The Purple Hearts toured France this summer under the name of The Crickets, only now it is all B and it.

The Earthies have been formed six months and mix their beat with a little Folk. The other two outfits, The Leaves and the Apollo's, are serious. The Purple Hearts "club" tells me that his B. R. & H. is at Blackbird Leys, the Garden of Eden, is a real success. J.S.

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## NEWS AND VIEWS FROM YOUR AREA

WARWICKSHIRE  
by Dennis Morgan

LEAMINGTON'S first and only seven-days-a-week teenage club, which opened two months ago, is already attracting young people from Coventry and Birmingham.

The Tavern Coffee Club in Kenilworth Street, provides best music, canned and live, every night from 7.30 until midnight.

Groups from a wide area are usually presented twice a week, with a special R and S session once a week. A fully-stocked soft drink bar and a mighty juke-box provide nearly all the light in the place, which can accommodate up to 250 management provide a free drink for every member as part of the admission fee!

Leamington Corporation just recovered from the shock flopping of three council-backed theatres in the thousand-seater Pavilion theatre. A total of fewer than 500 young people went along to see such popular Midlands groups as The Mighty Avengers, the Mastadors and Beat Preachers. Connected with the latter is the "Manager." The teenagers just didn't want to know. Obviously we are not giving them what they want.

It seems a strange state of affairs considering the amount of moaning that comes from the local youngsters about Leamington being "dead".

Topped by The Mighty Avengers the first concert included The Sorrows (Coventry), Semblers (Birmingham) and Minnieho (Warwick). Hinckley's Mastadors starred on the second bill, supported by the Renegades (Birmingham), Chicagoans (Coventry) and Johnny Clifford and The Presidents (Lion) while the Beat Preachers (Rugby) Woody Allen and the Challengers (Lion), Fortunes (Birmingham), Renegades (Warwick) and Jill and The Saints (Stratford-on-Avon).

Friday sessions at Leamington Town Hall continue to attract capacity audiences, with The Honeycombs, Johnny Kidd and the Pirates, Sounds Incorporated and Dave Berry and The Crusiers.



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It was a special occasion for the Honeycombs, two days previously they learnt that "Have It The Right" was topping the charts, and on the night of their performance girl drummer Hoesy Lantree celebrated her 21st birthday.

Warwick's Road Runners and Renegades plus Woody Allen and The Challengers are among local groups who have supported the top stars on these occasions. Two local groups who have gone to for crazy stage success are the Chicagoans from Coventry and Leamington's Challengers. The former were a drummer-type skins, while Woody Allen's outfit parade in pyjamas and girl's tight dresses. They certainly seem to be a hit with girls and on a practical point it is a lot cooler than the conventional stage suit.



Good looking Dave Hale, leader of The Dawnbreakers, has finalised his new line-up. Dave now leads Clive Hardin (lead guitar-organ) Dave Bailey (rhythm guitar), Roger Holder (bass guitar) and Mike, Horton (drums). The group will appear regularly at the Newlands Hotel, Coventry.

The Coventry scene is really warming up again after the drab days - beat was - of summer. Most clubs took a knocking during the surprisingly long warm spell. Sky Blue City has more than its fair share of rhythm-and-blues fans and there are plenty of clubs to cater for the demand. Probably the most popular is the Crawdaddy Club at the Berkeley Grill.

Names like Jimmy Powell and the Five Minutemen (now disbanded), Long John Baldry and the Hoochie Coonite Men and Bir-

mingham's crisp outfit Spencer Davis Group and the Graham Bond Organisation have already paid a visit.

The fast expanding agency called Friars Promotions Ltd, are introducing new names to the district including The Sons of Adam and The Vikings from South Wales, and Wolves from your own-shere and the popular South Midland outfit Size Seven. Several new contracts by the agency also mean Coventry is getting the chance to play in Wales and all over the Midlands. Right! Best period of the group are proving so popular these days they are almost fully booked for months ahead.

Lack of playing, I am sure, was responsible for the Mighty Avengers' second record, "So Much in Love" not getting off the ground. Their "Ready, Steady, Go" spot proved how partisan London audiences can be. Despite a good showing by the lads, the applause was very poor and Calby McGovern's introduction could have been better!

Those who have either heard or bought the record will know that a piano is featured prominently. Although they have no pianist, the group are hoping to add one to their outfit.

Talking of records, The Mastadors went down to Pye in London again seeing six numbers they had peaked their sales. They now professionalised to the line-up and lead guitarist Neil Tyson is learning tenors as to further increase the group's range.

After a mix-up over contracts recently, The Sorrows without Johnny L. Great, left for Germany, where they are now playing at the Kom-Tiki Club in Munich.

Coventry's Mad Classic now have the services of Dirty Farrell on drums. He was formerly with The Easybeats. Johnny Clifford and the Presidents are now reduced to a quartet of four, owing to the departure of lead guitarist Andy Evans. Johnny has now taken over as rhythm guitarist while former Mick Watson (bass) and Mick Oddy (drums) complete the line-up.

The Challengers, who have had three brass guitarists since the beginning of the year, are now looking for a fourth. Barry Barnett left the group recently to start his own group. Besides that, the Mighty Avengers were also spotted at the BBC T.V. "Dis-a-Gogo" programme (not seen in the Midlands).

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NOTTINGHAMSHIRE  
by Harry Sharpe

THE Scott Gibson Four - subject of the radio letters mentioned in last month's "Midland Beat" - have now been together for 18 months. Last month vocalist Terry Aston, joining them late in 1963 when his old group The Assassins broke up. Professional for four months, the group is particularly popular in the Doncaster area and is resident at The Cock Hotel, Ripley, on Wednesday's. An offer to play at Hamburg's Top Ten club has been turned down because: "We feel the German scene has been overplayed."

However, their Doncaster agent, Ernie Beattie, is negotiating for a tour of Sweden. The line-up of the group is Terry Aston (vocals), Trevor J. Ellis (lead), Dave Morris (bass), and Brian Randle (drums).

Billy Twilight has left The Sibhoettes but he will temporarily join the group for his top dates. Replacement Rob Morrison, ex-professional who has played in the States, has joined on as rhythm guitarist and vocalist.

The Cheaters have joined Mark Faye (formerly of The Astronauts) and are now known as Mark Faye and The Fontaines. This new formation now professionalised was the best contest organised by the National Union of Mineworkers at Mansfield's Hill Top Bar. Second place went to The Cheaters. Also competing were The Moody's, The Blues, The The Blues, and the judges: Ken Crosby of E.C.C. Entertainments, in the evening The Ashes, The Jays, and The Slatemans entertained.

Nottingham's Beesonsville R and B All Stars and Blues and Roots have been looking for new lead guitarists.

Neil Mullins, pianist of Chesterfield's Blueberries was taken ill with peritonitis at The Chestrospace Jazz Festival and is out of action for a few weeks.

Mansfield's Farran Kirby and The Group suffered minor ailments on their way to a booking at Chesterhops. The group was hurried out of equipment and uniforms destroyed.

Another group short of luck is Darvel Wayne and the Waymen. First they crashed in their van, then, when playing at a club in Northampton, they were in and "blew" up their equipment.

Rams Star and the Allens had a tour of London clubs in September including a date at the Flamingo Club with George Fane and the Blue Belles.

Since E.C.C. Entertainments have taken over booking in the group for Club, the number of star groups visiting the club has increased. Peter Clay and the Waywalkers, The Honeycombs and Wayne Fontana and the Mindbenders appear in September and Bern Elliott and the Klan are scheduled for October.

September also saw Pat Wayne and the Beachcombers, The Deacons and Ricky Topaz and The Diamonds at the club. Groups are playing there six nights a week.

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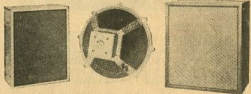
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Hello Friends,

First of all, let me thank you all for your letters. The interest shown in last month's column in this magazine was phenomenal, and everyone who wrote will have a personal reply, this may take a little time, however.

May I mention here our new lines in leather/suede for the Autumn.

In leather we are showing ties at 19/11, Slip-overs and waist-coats from 89/6, and lounge jackets styled by ourselves at £10/19/6.

In suede we have ties at 18/11, Jackets at £12/19/6 also, just arrived, is a Luxury Sheepskin lined three-quarter coat at 26 gns.

"Varlson" have introduced the "DAKOTA" Jean, heavy-weight 13½ oz. Denim, elegantly cut for the Fashion-conscious Male, retailing at 32/6.

I would like to mention the Charity Concert we are sponsoring on October 17th, at the Town Hall, featuring Little Richard, The Mersey Beats, Carl Wayne and the Vikings Mark Raymond and the Crowd, and the MODS. The show is in aid of The Birmingham Mail Christmas Tree Fund, and we are looking forward to seeing you there.

In closing, the Directors and staff of Nelson House (Tailors) Ltd. would like to extend their congratulations to "Midland Beat" on the occasion of their first anniversary.

*Ivor Lewis*

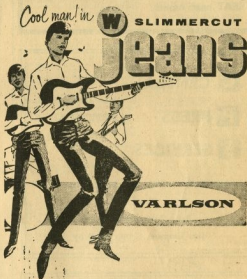
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## Raw edge of the wild wild Freemen

THEIR music has a raw, edgy sort of feel about it — and the Freemen delight in being known as "those wild, wild Scotsmen".

If you are wondering what connection an all-Scottish group can have with the Midlands I must explain that the Freemen quit Motherwell and Hamilton in Lanarkshire to find fame and fortune south of Hadrian's Wall three years ago.

The group settled in Kettering Northants, and now they are gathering fame throughout the East Midlands.

The Freemen became one of Scotland's top groups after winning a Carroll Levis Discoveries competition at Glasgow Empire Theatre, but they decided to quit the land of the heather for the greener pastures of the Midlands.

### GOOD LOOKS.

The Freemen are: Tom Macdonald (lead guitar) Norrie Hamilton (rhythm guitar), Bryan Stanners (drums) Bobby Leroy (bass and vocals) and Jim Pollock (vocals).

It is interesting to note that Bobby Leroy was once known as "Scotland's Elvis Presley" and the sight of his well-built five-foot-eleven frame, and good looks (dark, by the Presley mould) helps to draw the screams wherever the Freemen go.



The Freemen — down among the Sassenachs.

### EAST ANGLIA by R.G. Tudor

AT Nottingham the other Friday The Tea-time 4 and Blueboots arrived at adjacent venues. Both clubs drew full houses. Said Blueboots Manager, Dave Monkman, "I've never seen two audiences rave so much. Both clubs were forced to turn people away."

The Continentals will be playing Nottingham soon and are looking forward to meeting with the R and B conscious audiences there. Congratulations to Tea-Time 4 on being signed to Robert Stigwood Associate, under the wing of John A. Sparkes. Jack Blumehow, manager of the Tea-time 4, and managing director of King's Lynn's Adkinson-Barris Organisation, must be feeling very pleased with his achievement.

The Norfolk club scene is flourishing at Brandon in S. W. Norfolk. Whatsoeaf Club owner Verdon Butler, is doing good

business. His group, The Bruntones have been joined by Danny Eves, ex-Stroubers on electric organ and Vocals. The Bruntones have a full date diary and play at Hestham with The Zombies this month for promoter John Bennett.

Cromer showman Norman Trollos plans to bring down more top-lines at his Agynopia Theatre.

The Continentals backed Hill; Davies at the Empress Ballroom, Blackpool, recently. Their bass player, Harvey Platt, collapsed on stage at a local club last week and has had to take a rest.

A correction from last month. Fats has joined The Blueboots not The Contours.

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## Cheetahs and Carl Wayne Record at Perry Barr

INDEPENDENT disc-making has been carried out with great success in London. Now a well-known Birmingham recording studios, Hollick and Taylor, is endeavouring to put local groups in the charts through this method.

Now on sale are "Mecca" by the Cheetahs and "What's the Matter, Vikings" — both recorded at the Hollick and Taylor studios in Perry Barr, Birmingham.

The Cheetahs' disc is available on the Philips label and the Vikings make their disc debut as a result of Hollick and Taylor loaning the tape to Pye for manufacture and distribution.

Line-up of The Vikings is Carl Wayne (lead singer), Johnny Mann (lead guitar), Terry Wallace (rhythm guitar), Chris ("Ace") Kefford (bass guitar) and Dave Hollis (drums).

The Cheetahs' release comes shortly after the departure of axist Julius Janson from the group. Personnel is now Nigel Wright (lead guitar), Raymond Hejder (rhythm guitar), Rodney Wright (bass) and Sean Rose (drums).

The group have now chertab-stain some attractive management contracts and a series of T.V. engagements to "plug" the new disc. So it's no wonder that the boys are confident that stardom is just around the corner.

The master tapes for the new Carl Wayne and the Vikings release were made at

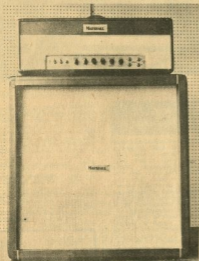
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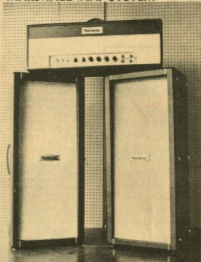
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## Prettiest?



### BORDERLAND by Austin Powell

ELSEWHERE you can read of the "Midland Beat" night held in my area, so I'll just say that the groups impressed the staff of "M.B." who were present and proved that we produce talent equal to that of other counties and more populous areas.

Two relatively new groups are on the scene. They are the Mantises and The Zenith Five. Can't make up my mind whether I like the name Mantises, but it must help them publicity-wise. One member of the group sang with groups in Germany while on military service.

The Zenith Five are from Craven Arms, Shropshire, and have a good start with bookings in local halls. Trips to Hereford and Llandrinod will increase their playing area.

Many Midlands groups seem anxious to come this way. Posing it very much alive here are the Juyemen of Wolverhampton, The Solitaires who were on the Deo Records' "Bram Beat" LP and the Fugitives. Agents have been after the late Seven of Cordy.

● The Honey Cavern, Brodlyns, keeps its hold on dancers by a lively programme from manager Mr. Bryn Davies. He regularly features groups from South Wales and has had many Worcester groups there — as well as giving the local boys plenty of work. Although out in the country, the "Cavern" is lively and atmospheric.

● The Four Aces, now along with the Ups 'n' Downs, the top group here, have a full date-book until January. Their date-book was full from mid-August. Liveliness, great personalities, beastly music, and hard work are the reasons.

● Although there is much activity around Shrewsbury, the scene there is far from as lively as in Herefordshire and Radnorshire. There is plenty of go-aheadness from promoters, but fans do not seem as ardent as for "up-country" folk.

Prettiest beat exponents around Worcestershire may just surely be The Ruzons, an all-girl group based at Lower Moor, Near Pershore. They have won a beat competition this summer and passed a television audition.

Fourteen-year-old rhythm guitarist Denise Simpkins and 15-year-old lead guitarist Andrew Mansingham are cousins. The group is completed by Brenda Hill (15, bass guitar) and Anne Tunbridge (14, drums).



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## SUE CARR-CONDORS TOP



SEPTEMBER saw a "Midland Beat Night" in the Grand Pavilion, Llandrinod Wells, when about 500 teenagers danced to the music of three of the top local groups.

The Condors featuring Sue Carr, topped the bill which was presented jointly by Austin Powell and Spa Entertainments. Sue ably sang her way through numbers like "You're My World", "My Guy", "The Wentling" and "Shout". The Condors backing her proved a very versatile group.

Sue only just appeared, as she had been the victim of a nervous breakdown over the past week or so, and only appeared after a late O.K. from the doctor.

The Tyrants from Hereford supported their lead singer, Paul O'Donnell, sing "La Rumba" in Spanish, a highlight of the act.

The Ten-Setts, third group on the show, were waiting for their demo disc to come through and the following Tuesday an audition which may result in tours of Scandinavia, France and Germany.

Noticed in the crowd were John Jones (lead singer with the Ups 'n' Downs) and members of the Black Diamonds, while promoters from Llandrinod's Rock Park, and Brodlyns' Honey Cavern made the trip.

The next evening is scheduled for October 7.

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ceived during recovery from his  
recent illness.

## POTTERIES by Al Jackson

AFTER six weeks' enforced  
idleness while seeking a suitable  
replacement bass, Vince Everett  
and the Black Orchids are now back in  
circulation with a vengeance. New-  
comer is Ray Hewitt, bass/vocalist,  
from Wolverhampton's Diamonds.  
Willie Smith has given up his drum  
chair to ex-President's Will  
Hoyemans and is now concentrating  
solely on managing the group.On September 21 the  
Marasera recorded "Let's Try  
Again" in E.M.I. studios; release  
date should be November and T.V.  
and radio dates are being lined up  
to coincide.The Tennesseans have made a  
major change in their line-up,  
bass Alan Fraser bowing out in  
favour of John Lennon double.  
Trevor Millward also takes the odd  
vocal and with Danny Davis adds  
vocal harmony backing for lucky  
Forte.With vocalian Sean Campbell  
retiring due to a change of  
occupation and Trevor Millward  
leaving, the excellent Mysteries  
are now no more. With their  
capabilities drummer George  
Morris and lead guitar Peter  
(Squak) Robinson, should have  
no difficulty in finding new groups.More changes — Tony Hoyle  
takes over bass with Terry King and  
The Saints who have notified their  
line-up organizer Gerry Knapper.Agent Dave Daniels is now part  
owner of Birmingham's Best City,  
probably the only place in Britain  
where dancing takes place simulta-  
neously on three floor levels, latest  
level to be opened by top storey  
"Temple of Bliss". Operating from  
Beat City, the Dave Daniels Agencycontinues to flourish, now  
controlling the activities of  
The Hickory Six, The Olympics  
and the Two By Two, formerly  
The Wombats. Incidentally, vocalist  
Pete Lavick, otherwise Lee Darrett  
of The Olympics has been brought  
in as agency assistant.Do the Probyn brothers hold a  
record in that they are a whole  
family of three brothers each playing  
in groups — 19-year-old bass Len  
along with Lance Harvey and the  
Kingspins, 21-year-old Derek (pro-  
fessional name Denton) with The  
Buckshires and Terry (16 and  
also known as Denton's) rhythm/  
vocalist with the young Orbists?Freddie has  
a new faceNew face in the line-up of the  
Northants group Freddie P'n's  
George Lee and the Strickers is that  
of Roger Green, formerly lead guitar-  
ist with the Dolphins. He has  
just toured Germany and returns  
to replace Julian Coulter.The group is now handled by a  
London agency and recently  
played with the Animals, enjoying  
a session with Hilton Valentine,  
the lead guitarist, who played with  
them for a short time last Sep-  
tember.The Strickers have been busy  
recording and a release in  
America is now a possibility. In  
addition, a music-publishing com-  
pany is showing a lot of interest  
in original compositions by a singer  
Freddie.READY TO MAKE  
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