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THE
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DAVIS
COLUMN

No 31

APRIL, 1966

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MIDLAND BEAT



George Clay

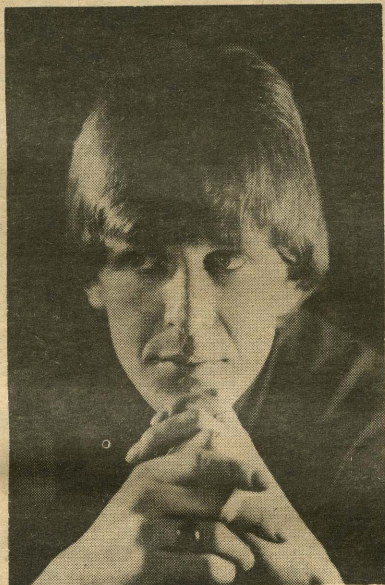
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THE MIDLANDS' LEADING ENTERTAINMENT MONTHLY



Roy Wood



Carl Wayne



Trevor Burton



Ace Kefford



Bev Ralston

Photographs

by Jerome (Birmingham).

THE MOVE PAYS OFF

THE MOVE are being hailed as one of the most exciting groups to emerge on the Midland Beat scene for many months. They are creating the sort of fan hysteria usually associated with hit parade groups.

And so it seems that the gamble taken by the five boys in the outfit when they left established groups to team up as The Move is likely to pay off in a big way. Three of them — singer Carl Wayne, bassist Ace Kefford and drummer Bev Ralston — were already together with Carl Wayne and the Vikings. They were joined by Roy Wood (lead) from Mike Sheridan's Lot and Trevor Burton (rhythm) from Danny King's Mayfair Set.

Why did they decide to join forces as The Move?

CARL WAYNE: "I always thought that in the Vikings we had a good group but never at any time did I think we would be a commercial success. So I joined in the Move with four others who felt the same as I, that together we have musical ability

plus visual image to make it. The Move has brought about a complete change of attitude. In our former groups we were getting in a rut. With the help of Roy's new material, our new sounds and original visual effect, we can create a new image."

ROY WOOD: "At last I have found a group of lads with the same ideas as myself. I

enjoyed playing with Mike Sheridan's Lot but I think the Birmingham scene needs a facelift and with luck The Move can do just that. I think we can make it."

TREVOR BURTON: "Everyone in The Move is dead keen. I've always wanted to play in this sort of group. I believe that with this line-up we stand a far better chance of making it big than any other local group."

ACE KEFFORD: "As part of the Vikings, I thought we were good at copying others but had nothing original to offer. I reckon the new group will be one of the most original on today's scene."

BEV RALSTON: "The Birmingham scene is dead at the moment. I think that by making the Move we can, with a bit of luck, liven the local scene up considerably — and become Birmingham's next hit group. Let's face it, Brum is just waiting for something to happen in the pop scene. We're all hoping we will be that something!"



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DENNIS DETHERIDGE
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JIM SIMPSON
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WINDERMERE HOUSE
110 WAKE GREEN ROAD
MOSELEY
BIRMINGHAM, 13
Telephone: SOUTH 1575

DON'T BE LATE FOR THAT DATE
AN audience's impression of a group begins to be formed from the minute they arrive at a venue. So it's only to be expected that the audience won't think much of a group turning up late.
Yet there are too many groups around with the attitude that the crowd won't mind hanging around for a few minutes after the time the dance was advertised to start while they set up their equipment.
An audience have a right to expect the group to begin playing bang on time. After all, they have paid an admission fee for this privilege.
And the promoter is also entitled to insist on punctuality from his groups. He has an obligation to his customers and he is letting them down by not seeing that the music starts on time.
Groups blacklisted by promoters for lateness, have only themselves to blame. Their boss would not tolerate it in an ordinary job and they cannot expect promoters to turn a blind eye to it.
When they accept a booking, groups undertake to abide by the conditions set out by the organiser of the function. And that begins with arriving on time!

Make
the right
MOVE
by
visiting
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to
hear
THE MOVE

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and Congratulations, Bev
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Good Luck
to
THE MOVE
from
their photographers
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BIRMINGHAM

The music big brother played ...

"Wandering", Ken Colyer's Skiffle Group. KCS, 1001. K. C. Records, 17, All Saints Villas Rd., Cheltenham.

THIS is the second release by a company in the Midlands with a special interest in ensuring that records by Ken Colyer continue to appear. Skiffle was the pop music your elder brothers played,

by **LES PAGE**

maybe before they handed on their guitars to you, a whole teenage generation ago, since when we've seen the boom-periods of rock, trad, folk and R & B. Some beat musicians of today started out as very young skifflers way back.
Ken Colyer it was who invented British Skiffle, Ken the jazz purist "Guv'nor" of the New Orleans jazz fans, who introduced this blues-flavoured, guitar-dominated interval music into jazz club performance as long ago as 1950, when he led the Crane River Jazz Band.
The sleeve notes, written by Ken himself, tell how he started on guitar in his merchant seaman days, and of the impression Huddie Leadbetter's records made on him at that time.
As an outfit within the Jazzmen, his Skiffle Group recorded from 1954 onwards. As with all pop fads, skiffle



Ken Colyer's Skiffle Group.

faded from public taste in time but it is typical of Ken to have revived it with his most recent band.

Alone John Bastable on banjo remains from the earlier days of skiffle. Sam Rimmington is on mandolin on this record and Bill Cole on bass.
Two titles, "Muleskinner Blues" and "Ella Speed" were recorded in 1956 and 1957 but all the numbers on this L.P. are new recordings made last year.

While making the inevitable comparisons, old fans (plus new ones) will certainly enjoy the maturer, more relaxed singing of one of our best vocalists in this field, with great numbers like "Good Morning Blues", "Wandering", "I'm Going to Walk and Talk with Jesus", and "I Can't Sleep".

ROGER ALLEN
Extends best wishes to
THE MOVE
For the coming year

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THE APPLEJACKS have changed completely to our exclusive PARK amplification for their April cruise aboard the Queen Elizabeth to New York and the Bahamas. THE SECOND CITY SOUND switched to PARK amplification and found the sound that put them in the charts with "Tchaikovsky One."
THE CON-CHORDS came to us for their equipment before earning their Polydor record contract, leading to their first disc release this month.

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Birmingham, 5. Telephone: MIDland 4655

JAZZ
by **LES PAGE**
'Red' hot at the M.J.C.!



WELL, the predicted jazz-indigestion did not happen.
In spite of all the attractions here in the Midlands during the last few weeks, jazz fans are weathering the feast of music well, and look forward to end-of-March treats at the "Salutation Stomp" on 25th, when New Orleans star jazzmen John Handy and Kid Shiek are accompanied by the Barry Martyn Band; and the day after, when the Midland Jazz Club presents a return visit of Earl Hines.
People like George Melly, who run down Birmingham, should have seen the enthusiasm among the crowd of fans at Midland Jazz Club when Henry "Red" Allen appeared backed by the Alex Welsh Band last month.
The jazz was red hot, and Allen in conversation was most ready to discuss the "good old days" represented in most fans' records collections.
He enthused about the legendary Luis Russell Band and the bassist "Pops" Foster, whom we applauded only a week or so later at Birmingham Town Hall with the New Orleans All-Stars Band.
If these jazzmen did not exhibit the cohesion of a band regularly playing together, they made up for it in technique and brilliance, and the wise selection of standards ("Beale St. Blues", "Four or Five Times" — misquoted in the lay press as "Four-Five Time", shades of Brubeck! — and "Bugle Boy March" among others) pleased the audience, which included practically every Birmingham jazzman playing in the older styles, but which was pitifully deficient in numbers for such "greats" as Darnell Howard, Alton Purnell and drummer Cie Frazier who taught Britain's best New Orleans-style drummer, Barry Martyn.

BELATED congratulations to our locals, the Second City Jazzmen, and the George Huxley New Orleans Jazzmen in fine performances in one of those unfortunately

Drummer with the new Tubby Hayes Quartet is Birmingham's own Tony Levin. Here he is in action with Tubby at a session promoted by Harry Flick at the Mermaid, Sparkhill.
rare events — a live broadcast. B.B.C., give us more of this!
THE Johnny Patrick Big Band had another outing at the Mackadown, Kitts Green, while lovers of H.C.Q.F. jazz could hear friend Diz Disley again on 28th February, when Aston University designate had a Rag Week and the evening included Diz with his current Stephan Grappelly, Dave Swarbrick.
The Atlanta J.B. played at "Ye Olde Whyte Harte", Kinver, where the West Midland Jazz Society meet each Saturday.
APRIL'S programme at "Salutation Stomp" is: 1st Keith Gerrard's Band, 8th (Good Friday) closed; 15th Les Devotees J.B.; 22nd Zenith Hot Stompers; 29th Artesian Hall Stompers. I also like the Perdido St. Jazzmen, heard there. You can hear them regularly on Monday at the "Rectifying House", Worcester. I would "place" them as early-Barber in style.
ANOTHER much-improved band is Cliff Bennett's Castle J.B., heard at "Le Metro" Club the same night as the Spencer's Washboard Kings reminded us of the Temperance Seven, the Alberts and O.D.J.B. and managed to swing all through.
FINALLY, Jim Simpson has replaced Dan Pawson with Mick Cooper's Jazz Band, appearing on Wednesdays at the "Grotto" Club, Bromsgrove St.

BRUM TO CARNABY STREET

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CALLING all groups! Have you ever wanted to shop in Carnaby Street, London's Mecca of the Mods, where all the London groups buy their clothes?

Well, a novel venture announced by Birmingham's Moat House Club means that for a £5 voucher, it will be possible to make the return trip from Birmingham to Carnaby Street and still have £4 to spend there. For the fare is only £1.

This offer has been made available as a result of a link-up arranged between the club and Lord John of Carnaby Street, whose customers include such groups as the Beatles, Stones, Herman's Hermits, Yardbirds and The Who.

The first coach trip will leave the Moat House Club on the morning of Saturday, April 16, enabling those aboard to spend three hours in Carnaby Street before returning to Birmingham well in time for groups to fulfil their evening booking.

Lord John of Carnaby Street has many exclusive designs in materials secured from all over the world. They carry in their two Carnaby Street shops and storerooms no less than 10,000 pairs of slacks and 10,000 shirts!

And anyone making the trip with a limited amount of cash to spend can make a note of the reference number of anything in which he is interested and order it later by mail.

There is bound to be a big demand for seats on the coach for the inaugural trip on April 16. Applications for seat reservations should be made as soon as possible to Robin Pryke at the Moat House Club.

CALLING ALL MIDLAND 'MODS'

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FIRST TRIP: SATURDAY, APRIL 16th

THE IAN CAMPBELL COLUMN

WHENEVER we have an LP released, I am always asked lots of questions about how we came to sing certain numbers in the album.

So I thought it might be a good idea to devote my column this month to telling you the story behind a few of the tracks on our new LP, "CONTEMPORARY CAMPBELLS". (Transatlantic TRA.137).

"MARILYN MONROE", (Dave, mandolin; Brian, guitar; John autoharp; Lorna, vocal); I once watched a television documentary on Marilyn Monroe which showed her becoming unhinged under the pressures of the publicity machine which ordered her existence. This song took on a new depth for me then, and I decided we should learn it. Sydney Carter wrote the words, and Rory McEwan put the tune to it.

"MY DONAL" (Dave, viola; Lorna, vocal): We first heard this sung by Glasgow singer, Ray Fisher, who told us that it was written by her friend Owen Hand, from Edinburgh. At that time he was comparatively unknown, but since then he has become a popular figure in British folk clubs, because he sings just as well as he writes.

"BATTLE OF THE SOMME" (Dave, fiddle; Brian, guitar; John, banjo): Dave learnt this noble tune from his friend and teacher, Beryl Marriott, who, before emigrating to Canada, worked hard for many years, keeping traditional dance music alive in the Midlands of England. Dave says it was composed by the late Pipe Major Robertson of the Gordon Highlanders, an almost legendary figure in the world of piping, who created many other striking melo-

Tales behind the tracks

dies. Some of them have had words put to them by Hamish Henderson. "HARD LIFE ON THE CUT" (Dave, fiddle; Lorna, vocal; John, banjo): I wrote this for a Charles Parker documentary radio programme about canal life called "Cry From The Cut". In our songbook (Heathside Music, 120, Marylebone Lane, W.1. - 7s 6d), we illustrated this song with an actual photograph of a

commercial longboat being pulled along a canal by a barge wife, while her husband handled the tiller.

"NET HAULING SONG" (Dave, fiddle; John, banjo; Brian, guitar; Ian, vocal): The first time I ever sang on radio was in the Parker and MacColl award-winning programme "Singin' the Fishing". A unique group of leading jazz and folk musicians had been gathered together, and I vividly remember the exhilaration of the rehearsals when I first sang to the accompaniment provided by this great combination. It was perhaps the urge to recreate this exhilaration that encouraged me to form the Ian Campbell Folk Group. "Net Hauling" was the song I sang on that first occasion.

CRANE'S DELIVERY!

Youth and experience play a large part in the most recent venture on the local scene. The venture? The opening at 261 Stratford Road, Birmingham, of Tetlow Recording Studio, by

Birmingham pianist and bandleader Colin Tetlow and his eighteen-year-old son Jim.

The first-storey studio ran into trouble when it came to the delivery from Cranes in Colmore Circus of the seven-and-a-half ft. Bechstein grand piano, because the only place wide enough for it to pass through was the first-floor window. Not to be outdone, Mr. Tetlow hired a crane and, as you can see from the photograph, finally succeeded with the installation.

Mr. Colin Tetlow says: "We can now offer a fully equipped recording studio, capable of producing a tape or disc of the highest quality demanded by the discerning artist."

"Through our resident songwriter, Nicholas Delaney, original material can be provided in the form of ballad, beat, or instrumental, complete with a backing group if required."



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The Ian Campbell Folk Group

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THE RINGWAY MUSIC ORGANISATION



Annie Ross with her husband, and the men behind the Elbow Room, Don Carless and Tony Carr.

BRUM BEAT

Spotlight on the Second City scene

by Dennis Detheridge and Pete Gittings



Jeannie (second female) is keeping busy

WE hear that the versatile Jeannie Dee and the Soulets are keeping busy, thanks to the efforts of their manager, local businessman Mr. J. Neal.

Since their formation last September the group have tended to play a lot outside Birmingham, but they are now becoming very well-known within the city boundary.

Belated congratulations to Jeannie Dee, by the way, on being voted second only to Janet Anne of the Showmen in the female vocalist section of the recent "Sunday Mercury" poll.

TRIBUTES, the Solihull group re-formed about six months ago, have had to turn down the chance of appearing on a bill with the Fortunes on a nation-wide tour.

"It's a great pity but our jobs must come first," explained a group spokesman, Alan Archer, whose father is a director of the well-known Solihull motor firm, Archers of Shirley.

The offer was put to the Tributes after they had performed at the Young Conservatives Ball at Solihull Civic Hall, where their ability created a favourable impression.

The boys are very much in demand at society functions, their recent engagements including hunt balls and the 21st birthday party of the granddaughter of Sir George and Lady Wade at Brand Hall, Market Drayton.

PLEASANT surprise for the Birds and the Bees on their return to Germany was a month's contract at the Star Club, Hamburg, starting on March 1, as well as the offer of a TV date in Bremen on March 26.

It seems that the Star Club's Manfred Weissleder rates the Birds and the Bees very highly and this opening at his famous club could well lead to other opportunities for the group in Germany.

PRO songstress Joan Paul is managing a group called the Newtons. They have been a big success at their appearances on the Regan ballroom circuit and are earning an enthusiastic following.

"We found it difficult at first getting bookings in the main venues in Birmingham," says Joan "but at last we are getting an opportunity to show our paces at some of them."

Boys in the group include: David Cook (drums), Ronald Tooze (lead guitar), Johnny Hammond (rhythm and vocals) and Tony Darlington (bass).

KING Bees name has now disappeared from the Brum scene. But the group is very much alive. They are now known as Craig — the name to be found on the label of their first disc, "A Little Bit of Soap."

WITH so many local groups failing to earn themselves a

spot on TV, it seems almost unbelievable that a Brum group without a recording contract should decline an appearance on "Ready Steady, Go!"

Yet that is exactly the sacrifice made by a group with the intriguing name Listen, according to their publicity spokesman.

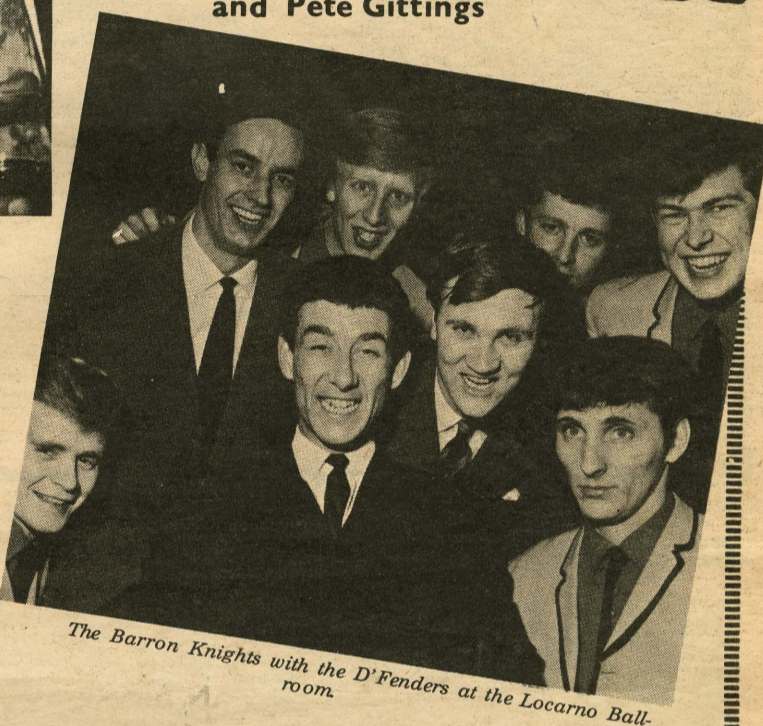
He says Cathy McGowan invited them to appear on "R.S.G." after seeing them in action — "but they reluctantly turned down the chance because the show was no longer televised in the Midlands where the majority of their fans would have seen them."

WITH their policy of presenting international cabaret artists, it was not surprising that Birmingham's Elbow Room emerged with flying colours from a survey of the city's clubs conducted by BBC 1's "A Whole Scene Going".

Our picture shows one of the Elbow Room's recent attractions, Annie Ross, with her husband (right) and the club's enterprising organisers, Don Carless and Tony Carr.

American song stylist Mark Murphy enjoyed a successful cabaret stint at the Elbow Room after Annie's visit and now other top stars are being engaged.

PERFORMING at the pantomime ball at the Locarno Ballroom, Birmingham, provided



The Barron Knights with the D'Fenders at the Locarno Ballroom.

the D'Fenders with a big thrill. For it gave them a chance to meet their idols, the Barron Knights, who were appearing in pantomime at the city's Alexandra Theatre.

CHANGES in the line-up of Andy's Clappers bring in drummer Norman Matthews, from Leicester, in place of Bob Neale, and lead guitarist — vocalist John Irvine, who takes over from Roy Saywood.

Says the group's Dave Kaye: "Roy has left to try his hand at a solo cabaret career in London and Bob just found that all the extensive travelling was getting too much for him and he decided to go semi-pro."

"Both Norm and John are used to singing and therefore we will be able to do four-part harmony, instead of three, a great advantage with

our kind of surfing music. Norman has been with several top Leicester groups and worked in Germany. John used to be with Tony Dangerfield's backing group.

NO-ONE will be surprised to hear that the two numbers recorded by William's Conquerors for their first disc are both original compositions.

It was partly due to their ability to produce their own songs that they were voted winners of the "Midland Beat" Contest at the Plaza Ballroom, Handsworth, last year.

Titles of the two numbers they recorded at A & R man Alan Freeman's London studios last month are "Leave That Town" and "She". Early release is anticipated.



The Birds and the Bees



Listen

MEET THE GROUP I

Giorgio and Marco's Men

These popular Wolverhampton boys have just turned professional and the move has coincided with their signing a recording contract with Polydor Records. The group has received a lot of publicity because their manager is none other than a priest, Father Michael Crook, but they are now hoping to achieve national recognition purely on their musical ability. Giorgio and Marco's Men have a thriving fan club and a following far outside the Midlands, resulting in their diary including engagements as far afield as the Silver Blades Ice Rink in Sheffield.



Name Giorgio Uccellini
Birthdate 22/10/43
Birthplace Caserta, Italy
Personal points Height, 5ft. 9ins; weight, 11½ st.; hair, black; eyes brown
Instruments Vocalist (baritone sax, organ)
Educated St. Joseph's Sec. Modern
First appearance Italian Club, Birmingham, 1957
Hobbies Music, art
Favourite food Spaghetti
Favourite drink Vino
Favourite clothes Mohair suits
Favourite composer Lennon-McCartney
Favourite group Beatles
Likes Continental food, sports cars
Pets None
Personal ambition To be in films
Professional ambition To play around the world



Name Marco Uccellini
Birthplace Caserta, Italy
Personal points Height 5ft 9in, weight 11st 7lbs; hair, black, eyes brown
Instruments Lead guitar
Educated St. Chad's College Wolverhampton
Hobbies Art
Previous groups None
Favourite colour Red
Favourite food Steak and mushrooms
Favourite drink Cider
Favourite clothes Mohair suits
Favourite composer Lennon-McCartney
Favourite group The Beatles
Likes Playing on stage, writing
Dislikes Insincerity
Tastes in music Slow ballads
Pets None
Personal ambition To get married
Professional ambition To get a record released



Name Alan King
Birthdate 20/6/47
Birthplace Tipton
Personal points Height 5ft 11ins; weight 11st, hair, brown; eyes, hazel
Instruments Drums
Educated Manor Sec. Mod., Dudley & Staffs. Tech College
First appearance School
Hobbies Motoring
Previous groups None-dance bands
Favourite food Fish and chips
Favourite drink Orange juice
Favourite clothes Mohair suits
Dislikes Rising early
Favourite group Giorgio and Marco's Men, Shadows
Tastes in music All sorts, preferably jazz & beat
Pets None
Personal ambition To have a business
Professional ambition To make a record and succeed



Name Michael O'Dowd
Birthdate 14/10/45
Birthplace Wolverhampton
Personal points Height 5ft 7in; weight, 10st 7lbs; hair, brown, eyes brown
Instruments Guitar
Educated St. Joseph's Sec. Modern
Hobbies Outdoor sports, art, gardening
Previous groups None
Favourite colour Blue & brown
Favourite food Steak, & roast lamb with new potatoes
Favourite drink Sherry
Favourite group Shadows
Likes People with a humorous personality
Dislikes Gossip and cigarette ends
Tastes in music Latin American
Personal ambition To own a business
Professional ambition For the group to succeed



Name Peter Byrne
Birthdate 12/4/46
Birthplace Wolverhampton
Personal points Height, 5ft 7ins; weight 12st; hair, brown, eyes, blue
Instruments Bass
Educated St. Joseph's Sec. Modern
First appearance SS Mary & John's
Hobbies Eating, sleeping, drinking
Previous groups None
Favourite colour Black, blue
Favourite food Steak & chips
Favourite drink Brown and mild
Favourite clothes Smart casuals
Favourite composer Lennon & McCartney
Likes Fast cars, money
Dislikes Varied
Tastes in music Varied
Personal ambition Make money
Professional ambition Make good



Name Frank Rudge
Birthdate 22/11/45
Birthplace Wolverhampton
Personal points Height 5ft. 5ins; weight 11st. 9lbs; hair, fair; eyes blue
Instruments Tenor sax; baritone; flute; clarinet
Educated Self taught
First appearance Milner Hall
Hobbies Drinking, smoking and sleeping
Favourite colour Blue
Favourite drink Beer
Favourite clothes Smart suits
Favourite group Sounds Incorporated
Likes Driving
Dislikes Byrne and King
Tastes in music Modern Jazz to R. & B.
Pets Meece
Professional ambition To play at the Civic Hall, Wolverhampton

Sixty groups in Silver Blades contest

LOOK OUT, Sir Laurence — Al Jackson's on the way! ... Yes, that upside-down advertisement in this issue of "M.B." is meant to be printed that way ... Why doesn't Roy Wood like riding on buses? Motto for Martin Baggott: "Have fun but observe the rules" ... Will Gordon Andrews shout "snap" if he happens to overtake new Jaguar owner Phil Myatt ... Barr Enterprises now managing Mike Sheridan's Lot.

Kay Westworth's came to the rescue by loaning equipment to the Innocents after their van broke down on way to a booking. Incidentally, it's whispered that the Innocents are to back singer Peter Janson.

More than 60 groups have entered the beat contest at Birmingham's Silver Blades — but it's still possible to enter by writing to manager Cyril Isherwood for an entry form.

Stringbeats getting plenty of bookings since being voted joint winners of the Birmingham Locarno contest. Theme song for the Ugly's: "Things Ain't What They Used To Be".

Looking for bigger offices is Arthur Smith, whose agency has already outgrown the premises they moved into at Christmas. Lymies manager Bill Mallard (phone: Smethwick 3323) anxious to obtain original material.

New faces in the Why? line-up: Ricky Purnell (ex-Atlantics) on bass and a new drummer in place of Maurice Greenburg. Who is Champagne Charlie in the business? "The Brian Yates Breed" wouldn't sound right, would it?

Was it a case of "1966 and all that" for Graham Bott with William's Conquerors? The Orions (Birmingham) a new addition

ON THE BEAT

to the "M.B." Group Register. Moonrakers have decided they don't need Toni Foster's songs after all. Pete Gittings "muscling in" on the cabaret scene.

Toni Foster hoping to bring back some surfing material for Andy's Clappers from her visit to Florida this month. Isn't it great that Spence still finds time to write his "M.B." column each month?

Fancy playing in the grounds of a stately home? Then apply to Mrs. Mary Shellam, Queen's House, 430 Moseley Road, Birmingham 12, to enter a beat contest she is running at a "Commonwealth Gala Day" in aid of the Royal Commonwealth Society For The Blind at Ragley Hall, Alcester, on Sunday, June 5.

U.K. Bonds and Chords recording for BBC

Midland Region's "One Night Stand" at BBC Show at Leicester.

Transmission date: Wednesday, April 6. In "Music Through Midnight" on the Light a week later — the Johnny Patrick Big Band and Brenda Scott.

What next from the Second City Sound? "The Queen One"? It's a small world — Applejacks will

GLOUCESTERSHIRE

JOHN STANLEY, "Leiden," Harp Hill, Cheltenham

HAD another chance to listen to the great Steam Packet recently in Cheltenham and it was in fact the last time the great Rod "The Mod" was to appear locally with the others, for he has now left after a very long spell to start things on his own account.

He is due for his own record release about now so watch out for it. If only local groups could take a few hints from Baldrey on announcements, Long J.B. speaks clearly and relaxed and always has something interesting about the number's history.

It makes all the difference between a polished show with sustained interest and something you can't hear or understand.

After a battle with local residents and clergy, the young music fans of Stonehouse now have their own Club. Called the Walk Club it was started back in January and business is now booming.

The promoters feel that blues are still going down best and

be visiting Bermuda on their Queen Elizabeth cruise while the Berries are appearing there in Cabaret.

A certain local agent is out of the office so much that he's earning the name "Dodger Allen". Vacant Lot held their own on same bill as the Hellions.

Move's offer to play before the start of Mr. Edward Heath's Birmingham Town Hall election

among the most popular group to regularly visit the club is the Alan Walker Outfit from Cheltenham. Others who played there are two Bristol outfits The "Spectres" and "Pete Bud and the Rebels," and a recent visitor from London was the very talented bunch John Lee and the Groundhogs.

Recently had an inquiry from a group of mothers who were promoting a charity party and had arranged for a group to come and play. The query was whether the fee they were to have paid, was fair. It was in fact, very high and excluded expenses which were to be charged separately.

Anyone in the business would know the charge was too high but at the moment there seems no way of protecting these other folk.

The best advice one can give is to contact the man who books the local town hall dances or what have you, and ask his advice on the groups ability and fees. If such stories again reach me, I shall print their names and fees for all to see.

That local group the "Night-shades" have recently undergone some alterations in their line-up and in their kit which is now almost entirely Vox including one of those Continental Organs.

meeting rejected by the Tories. Graham Dalley and His Music to be featured every morning for eight weeks in "Breakfast Special" from end of March.

When Michael Ford introduces "Roundabout" from Birmingham the week of April 18, music will be provided by Graham Dalley Quartet, Colin Hulme Quartet, Ken Rat-

Their new show line is Paul Holder on drums and vocals, John Garton on lead guitar, Phil Walters on bass guitar and John Raymond as their organist. For a group still in the smaller division, they have a pretty healthy booking list and play as far afield as Surrey, Essex and in London and now their line-up is again settled and they have had a chance to practise, the boys are to start auditions for a continental tour this summer.

Those Advocates are now signed to the Norman-Reid Agency for Bookings on a trial basis. A good group with average chances but like so many others lacks that vital spark.

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

MARK GRIFFITHS, 6 Cowper Street, Northampton.

BLACK Lion R and B Club, featuring the popular Apex All Stars, is still going a bomb. This group have recently changed personnel and have acquired Julian Coulter on guitar and Graham Waugh on drums.

Mike Sheridan's Lot — under new management.



tenbury Quintet, Johnny Patrick Quartet and Harold Rich Quartet.

Second City Sound's "Tchaikovsky One" sold 45,000 and earned release in America, Australia and five European countries. John Singer claims punctuality is not exactly one of the Move's better points. Ring CAS 3889 if you'd like to have a go at being a disc jockey.

Ex-Drumbeats drummer Dave Holland now doing very well indeed with Pinkerton's Assorted Colours from nearby Rugby ... Local rum clinic, with session men Bobby Orr and Andy White, a big success.

Mr. Tony Atkins, manager of the Soul of Lynton Grae, was recently married. This group has now had a change of line-up. New members are Tony Sketchley (tenor) and ex-Primitives singer John Soul.

Homelanders lead guitarist Jeff Hutchins recently had his Gibson guitar smashed mysteriously. Chequers jazz club in Wellingborough was recently started, by pianist Don Wilson, bassist Pete Cox and drummer Leon Roy. Forthcoming attractions include Tubby Hayes, Dick Morrissey, Bill Lesage, Don Rendell and other well-known jazzmen.

A group that is very up-and-coming is the Missing Links from Northampton. This group has been playing together for about four months and was previously known as The Classics.

Members of the group are Terry Jackson (18, lead), Roger Buswell (18, rhythm), Trevor Barber (19, bass), Terry Harris (16, drums) and vocalist Ray Smith (18).

BEST WISHES TO

GIORGIO & MARCO'S MEN

FROM THEIR OFFICIAL FAN CLUB

Sec. : Miss Lesley Clarke, 26, Westbrook Way, Wombourne, Staffs.



The Moonrakers' Bram Beere is one of the many beat musicians in the Midlands who finds that a Farfisa "Compact" adds bite to his group's performance.



All set for the Farfisa demonstration at Digbeth Institute, Birmingham, are (left to right) Mr. E. C. Wren (Product Manager, Electronic Organs, Rank Organisation, Audio Visual Division), Mr. George Clay (Managing Director, George Clay Music Co.), Marcosignori, Cecil Viles (Sales Manager, George Clay Music Co.) and (rear) Jackie Brown.

CONCERTS

KEEP FARFISA BOOMING

THERE has been a boom in sales of Farfisa electronic organs in the Midlands following a series of concerts promoted by the distributors, Audio Visual Division of The Rank Organisation.

The concerts were organised in conjunction with local Farfisa agents, including H. Crane Ltd. (Coventry), and the George Clay Music Co. (Birmingham).

A special attraction during the concert tour was the appearance of two musical celebrities — Marcosignori, the internationally famous

accordionist, and Jackie Brown, who is well-known for his mastery of the electronic organ.

Marcosignori, who has been described as "the poet of the accordion", specialises in the playing of the Farfisa Transicord — a unique electronic accordion which reproduces through a high quality amplifier. Performance technique is the same as for the conventional type of instrument.

Farfisa electronic organs do not require a "touch" technique — they produce fascinating sounds and tones whether played by com-

pletely inexperienced people or by the fully musically trained ones.

And it is claimed that anyone can become really proficient on them within six months, in comparison with the six years necessary for "touch" instruments.

Farfisa — up to 1962 renowned the world over only for reed organs and accordions — were well aware of the mystique and glamour surrounding the playing of an organ when they went into designing an electronic instrument.

One way of retaining the mystique has been to keep two key boards for most Farfisa electronic organs. To the casual observer, this makes them look complicated — possibly part of the one-upmanship of ownership — while in fact acutally increasing the ease of "knocking out" a tune.

The portability, competitive price and high standard of manufacture of instruments in the Farfisa "Compact" range has made them one of the most popular electronic organs with beat groups throughout the Midlands.

R & B night, Friday, 11.30



Hitting it out on a Farfisa Compact Duo...

Giving the kids the driving belting kind of sound they want. Night after night, the sparkling brilliance of his Farfisa Compact Duo gets them really going. Screaming for more. Gives him his kick. Makes it all worthwhile. Thanks to his fabulous Farfisa. He likes the twin manual, the bright punchy tone, the snap-action effects. The special Farfisa Multi-Tone Booster gives his playing a butter-cutting edge, without

overwhelming his own style. And that's really important. He hasn't had it long. His Compact Duo. But already he's experienced the exciting extra dimension that only an instrument of this calibre can provide. It's what he's always wanted in a portable — with looks to match. 285 gns.

The Compact Duo is not all. Also in the fabulous Farfisa range are:

The Compact A really versatile single manual instrument. Endless effects and tonal variations make it a natural for young groups. Multi-Tone Booster gives fantastic playing edge. May be used with any amplifier. Price: 199 gns.

Compact Minor A portable in every respect. Ideal for groups who have to travel a lot. Though weighing only 48lb., a wonderful range of colourful tonal effects can be obtained. Multi-Tone Booster zips up the sound no end. Price: 162 gns.

Transicord The electronic organ for the accordionist! Plays and looks like a real accordion. But just listen to the sound. Big, punchy, incisive tone. Crisp playing edge. Can be used with any amplifier. Price: 275 gns.

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Woodger Road, Shepherds Bush, London W.12
Telephone: SHEpherds Bush 2050

To: Rank Audio Visual, Woodger Road, Shepherds Bush, London W.12

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Address _____

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ARTHUR SMITH (A.D.S.E.L.)

GLEN KITCHEN (AUTOS) LTD.

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THE JOHN BULL BREED

on obtaining their record contract and hope their first release is a big hit! And we also trust they will have no trouble with the lorry we supplied to them!

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every success in the future and
THE JOHN BULL BREED

a quick entry into the Top 20

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ELBOW ROOM

extends best wishes to
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MAYFAIR CLUBS LTD.

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A confidential service SHE. 3472

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"Beat with the Elite"

Every Monday: The Belfry Hotel, Wishaw, Sutton Coldfield.

Every Sunday: The Chateau Impney, Droitwich.

Every Friday: The Green Room Club, Mere Green Road, Sutton Coldfield.

for the younger set

and announcing the opening of the following venues

Friday, 22nd April: Rave Dances at Atherstone Memorial Hall, every Friday, 8.30-12.

Opening attraction: **MARTY WILDE** and **The John Bull Breed.**

Saturday, 23rd April: Mayfair Clubs Annual Dance at Sutton Coldfield Town Hall 8.30-12. Starring **MARTY WILDE**, the **John Bull Breed**, **Danny King.**

Forthcoming attractions:

Easter Monday (April 11th): The Belfry—**Tommy Quickly** plus supporting groups.

Monday, 25th April: The Belfry

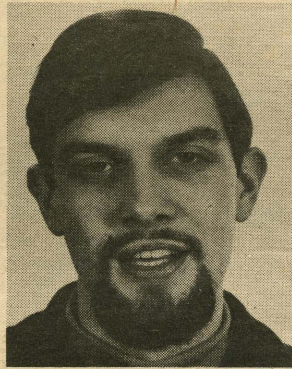
From America, the fabulous

"DEE DEE WARWICK"

plus supporting groups. Don't miss this **Night of Nights!**

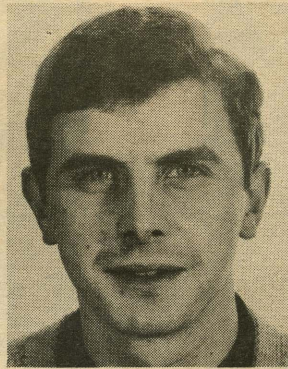
Also many other coming attractions

MEET THE GROUP 2



BOB DOYLE

Real name Robert Doyle
Birthdate 8/9/45
Personal points Hair, dark brown; eyes, blue; height, 6ft. 2ins; weight, 11st. 8lb.
Parents' names Edna & Ernest
Brothers & sisters Janet
Present home Acocks Green, Birmingham
Educated Hartfield Secondary Modern
Instruments Bass guitar
Musical education Self taught
Age on entering show business 17 years
First appearance Sydenham Hotel, Small Heath, Birmingham
Biggest influence in career. James Brown
Former occupation (s) Technical services investigator
Hobbies Electronics
Favourite colour Blue
Favourite food Pork
Favourite drink Lemon & Lime
Favourite clothes Anything smart
Favourite singer Tom Jones
Favourite groups James Brown
Zoot Money, George Fame
Car No (On the money I'm getting?)
Likes Quiet cars, a good bass sound, sleep
Dislikes People who sulk, spoilt children, apple pie, rice.
Best friend The other 'six'
Most thrilling experience Playing at Birmingham Hippodrome
Tastes in music Classical, blues, Modern jazz
Personal ambition To stay in show biz
Professional ambition To be a first class musician



DAVE HENNESSEY

Real name David Hennessey
Birthdate 29/11/43
Personal points Hair, light brown; eyes, blue; height 5ft 7ins; weight 11st.
Parents' names John and Margaret
Brothers & sisters 4 brothers, 1 sister
Present home Tyseley, B'ham.
Educated Formans Road Secondary Modern
Instruments Drums
Musical Education Self taught
Age on entering show business 18 years
First appearance Sydenham Hotel, 4 years ago
Biggest break in career. Meeting Richard Hill (Polydor Records)
Former occupation (s) Butcher trainee delicatessen manager, work controller
Hobbies Don't get time
Favourite colour Blue
Favourite food Curries, Irish Fry's.
Favourite drink Whisky, milk and water
Favourite clothes Casual
Favourite singer Barbara Streisand
Favourite actor/actress Michael Caine, Sean Connery
Favourite groups Zoot Money, Spencer Davis, George Fame
Car Ford Thames Van
Likes Lancia sports cars, dining out, good films.
Dislikes Groups who pull funny faces on TV
Most thrilling experience Recording
Tastes in music James Brown, big bands way out blues
Personal ambition Get married
Professional ambition To get on



CLIVE GRIFFIN

Real name Clive Griffin
Birthdate 7/9/46
Personal points Hair, brown; eyes, blue; height 5ft 5ins; weight 9st.
Parents' names Edward and Edith
Brothers & sisters 1 brother
Present home Moseley, B'ham
Educated Moseley Sec. Mod., Hall Green & Aston Tech.
Instruments Guitar
Musical education self taught
Age on entering show business 16 years
First appearance Abbeydale Club, Redditch
Biggest break in career. Securing a recording contract
Former occupation(s) Trainee draughtsman, Photography, Hi-fi equipment
Hobbies
Favourite colour Blue
Favourite drink Milk
Favourite clothes Reasonably smart casual clothes, suede, etc.
Favourite singer Dusty Springfield
Favourite actor/actress None
Favourite groups Manfred Mann, Beatles, Beach Boys
Car None
Likes Deserted countryside, crowds, unappreciative audiences
Dislikes
Best friend No particular one best friend
Most thrilling experience Appearing at Birmingham Hippodrome
Tastes in music Anything good
Personal ambition To make enough money for an early retirement
Professional ambition To have many record successes

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Birthdate
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Musical education
Biggest break in
Hobbies
Favourite groups
Car
Likes
Dislikes
Best friend
Most thrilling experience
Tastes in music
Personal ambition
Professional ambi

Mayfair Clubs pile up the promotions

Thriving Midlands concern

FROM promoting once a week at the Mayfair Suite at the Belfry, Wishaw Sutton Coldfield Mayfair Clubs Ltd., have expanded to become one of the most thriving management and promotion organisations in the Midlands.

They are adding several venues to their already impressive string of promotions and this month also sees the first record release by one of the groups under their management. The group is the popular John Bull Breed who are to make their recording debut on the

Polydor label under a contract negotiated by Mayfair Clubs Ltd. in association with Arthur Smith. The directors of Mayfair Clubs Ltd. are John Parsons, John Sabell, "Capt." Henry Morgan and Tony Sofiano, all enterprising men in their mid-

twenties with go-ahead ideas. They also manage the up-and-coming Sutton Coldfield group Blaises, whom they are expecting to see with a disc to their credit in the near future. Apart from their Monday promotions at the Belfry, Mayfair Clubs Ltd.,

promote at another plush venue, Chateau Impney, Droitwich. And they have a popular rendezvous for the younger set, the Green Room Club, at Mere Green Hall every Friday. Now they are to start promoting at the Memorial Hall, Atherstone from Ap-



The John Bull Breed

ril 22 with name artists every Friday and Sutton Coldfield Town Hall, from April 23, with Marty Wilde as the opening attraction. A Saturday night venue in Stratford - on - Avon is also to be added to the list.

Special attractions planned for the Belfry include a Pyjama Ball on Easter Monday with Tommy Quickly and the John Bull Breed followed by American songstress Dee Dee Warwick on April 25. "We have managed to develop a following for our clubs amongst teenagers from good class families," says John Parsons. "Membership at one of our clubs covers all the others, too."

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THE JOHN BULL BREED

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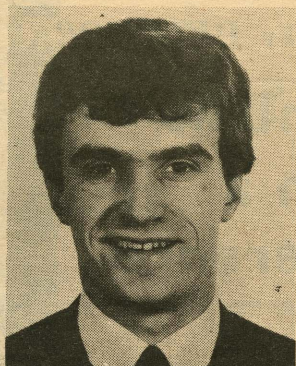
with their **Polydor** record release
this month

-Chords

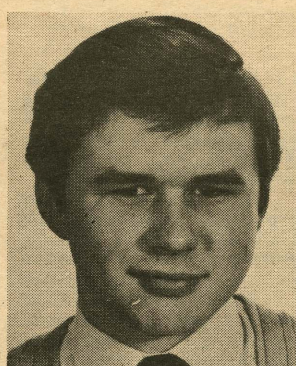
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...Midlands' lead-
...ps.



ROGER HARRIS
Real name Roger James Harris
Birthdate 27/9/44
Personal points Hair, Sandy; eyes blue; height, 6ft 1in; weight, 10st 7lb.
Parents' names Norman & Helen
Present home Hall Green, B'ham
Educated Lordswood Tech, Birmingham Art College, Hall Green Tech.
Instruments Electric organ, accordion, mouth organ, concertina, violin
Musical education Self-taught
First appearance Midland Ins. Birmingham
Biggest break in career Playing at Birmingham Hippodrome for one week and winning Mecca Midland Beat Contest 1965
Hobbies Composing, drama, outdoor sketching
Favourite colour Midnight blue
Favourite food Chicken and chips, bubble & squeak.
Favourite drink Milk, lime and soda
Favourite clothes English
Favourite singer Paul Jones
Favourite actor/actress Jack Warner, Shirley Ann Field
Favourite groups Zoot Money, Manfred Mann, Booker T. and the M.G.'s
Likes People who go out of their way to say 'Hello'
Dislikes Chinese food, routine
Best friend Miles Dawson
Tastes in music Pub music brass sounds
Personal ambition To be a credit to my family
Professional ambition To be a successful artiste



BILL JAMES
Real name Bill Weedman
Birthdate 4/9/45
Personal points Hair, brown; eyes, brown; height, 5ft 10ins; weight 10st. 10lb.
Parents' names Bill, Doris
Brothers & sisters One sister, Ann
Present home Tyseley, B'ham
Educated Moseley Grammar School
Instruments Guitar, drums (vocalist)
Musical education Birmingham School of Music
Age on entering show business 16
First appearance The Tudor
Biggest break in career Meeting Arthur Smith
Biggest influence on career Watching other artistes perform Ladies' hairdresser
Former occupation(s) Ladies' hairdresser
Hobbies Buying clothes, trying to save
Favourite colour Pink
Favourite food Welsh rarebit
Favourite drink Water
Favourite clothes Anything smart or modern
Favourite singer Steve Winwood
Favourite actor/actress Steve McQueen, Mylene Demongeot
Favourite groups Spencer Davis Group, Zoot Money's Big Roll Band, James Brown Roll Band, Ford Zodiac
Car Likes Hammond organs
Dislikes Having arguments, my voice
Best friend My mother and father
Tastes in music Anything that pleases me
Personal ambition To be happy
Professional ambition To do well on every engagement



JOHN KAY
Real name John Kay
Birthdate 3/3/48
Personal points Hair, brown; eyes brown; height 5ft 8ins, weight 11st.
Parents' names Ronald, Barbara
Present home Solihull, Warwickshire
Educated Solihull School, Tudor Grange Grammar School
Instruments Piano, clarinet, saxophone, cello
Musical education 9 years' piano lessons, 8 years' clarinet lessons, 2 years cello
Age on entering show business 17 years
First appearance 1957
Former occupation(s) Scholar
Hobbies Rugby, cricket, gymnastics, collecting jazz records
Favourite colour Blue
Favourite food Roast beef, Yorkshire, etc.
Favourite drink Watney's Red Barrel
Favourite clothes Smart, casual
Favourite singer Joe Williams
Favourite actor/actress Ian Carmichael, Claudia Cardinale, Peter Sellers
Favourite groups Duke Ellington, Basie, Brubeck, Zoot Money, Georgie Fame
Likes Laurel and Hardy
Dislikes boats, sleeping
Tastes in music Cold weather, bad musicianship
Modern jazz big bands, romantic classical, impressionist
Personal ambition To be successful
Professional ambition To be a good instrumentalist



Popular Leicester group 'The Farinas' get a chance to show their paces before the Birmingham fans this month when they undertake engagements in the city for the Carlton Johns agency from April 18 to 25.

Formed four years ago, the group comprises James King (tenor, baritone, vocals), Roger Chapman (tenor, vocals), Rick Grech, (bass, vocals), Harry Ove-nall (drums) and John Whitney (steel guitar).

The boys were the first Leicester group to have a record released when their "You'd Better Stop" was released in August, 1964. They are hoping to have another disc released soon. The Farinas are cultivating a "coloured" sound with much of their repertoire coming from the James Brown-Tamla Motown-Wilson Pickett-Lee Dorsey stable. "Our aim is to appear as often as possible in Birmingham and London," comments John Whitney.

With their First Release on POLYDOR on April 1st

THE CON-CHORDS

"YOU CAN'T TAKE IT AWAY." (C/W)

"LET ME WALK WITH YOU."

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FAN CLUB:

Janet, 18, Nutgrove Close, Kings Heath, Birmingham 14.

farinas

tel. great glen 393
12 st. cuthberts ave
great glen
leicester



GRAY
Anthony Gray
11/3/44
Hair, fair; height, 5ft 8in, Olton, Solihull
Lode Heath Ec. Mod School
Saxophone, mouth organ, jews harp
Lessons
Career Recording contract
Cars, music
Zoot Money's Big Roll Band
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To have a record in top five

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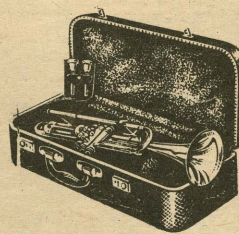
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AND WE ARE ALSO PROUD TO COUNT
GIORGIO AND MARCO'S MEN

...to have their First Disc released, among our many valued customers.





Larry keeps Bo-Weevils

A split-up between the two young men behind Birmingham's recently formed management set-up, Do'Lock Enterprises, results in Mike Dolan and Larry O'Loughlin retaining management of various groups under the Do'Lock aegis.

Mike continues to manage Listen (Walsall), Fattening Frogs (Birmingham) Poverty Incorporated (Wolverhampton) and the Wish (Birmingham) with Larry handling the Bo-Weevil Sound Band

(Coventry) and Sue Hamilton, singer with Poverty Incorporated.

Apart from appearing throughout the Midlands, the Bo-Weevil Sound Band (above), comprising three saxes, lead and bass guitar, drums and singer, pay frequent visits to clubs in the North.

Says Larry O'Loughlin: "Mike and I have had to part company purely for personal reasons. Our association has been brief but very happy."

DRUM TALK

by PETE YORK

Cymbals with a difference

I HAVE just bought another cymbal but this time it is one with a difference. It is a 22 inch Chinese rivetted by Avedis Zildjian and it has a very distinguished sound.

I am using it on all our broadcasts now, and if any body wants one, I shall be pleased to give information on how to get them.

I find it is very useful for backing guitar solos and, because of its startling sound is also good for crash work.

finishes, play them and look inside them.

HOW is your practice going? A record which helps me in practising rudiments, i.e. open and closed rolls, paradiddles, etc., is called "The Mighty Two" by Gene Krupa and Louis Bellson.

This record consists of drum rudiments built into actual tunes played by the mighty two with a small band backing.

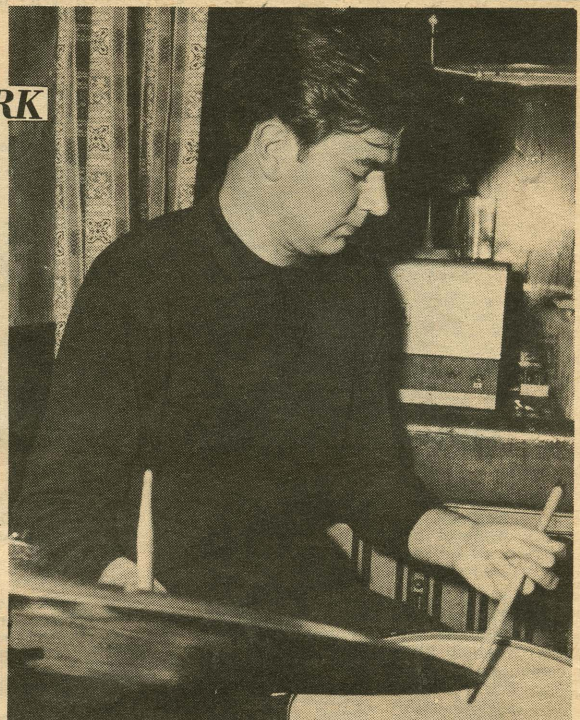
The tunes have self-explanatory titles such as "The Paradiddle Song" and in conjunction with any of the drum books which explain these rudiments, you can have great sessions making up the mighty three.

When you practice remember that a little practice regularly is better than a long session once every few days. Playing with your group does not count, as you tend to play within your capabilities on the stage, rather than trying to extend them as you must do in practice.

Give up...

I hope none of you consider it a drag that I keep emphasising the practice bit. If you find practice boring, then give up now.

I realise that many readers of this column play just for



Pete York with "short back and sides" hair-cut — a picture taken when the Spencer Davis Group was resident at the R and B sessions at the Golden Eagle, Birmingham.

fun, but if a thing's worth doing, it's worth doing well.

For those of you who work from books I would like to recommend two excellent ones by George Lawrence Stone, the master snare-drummer who taught Joe Morello.

His two books are entitled "Stick Control" and "Accents and Rebounds" and should be purchased in that order because you will not be ready for "Accents and Rebounds" until you have worked through "Stick Control," which may take some time, depending on your fortune. The exercises are easy to

read and, if the author's instructions are followed, these books, though expensive, are worth ten times the amount.

I HOPE that this has given you a little more food for thought and that there are at least a few who are following my advice.

There is room in this country for much more enthusiasm and mutual encouragement.

The reason why the young American drummers are so good is that they have fine academic facilities and the best teachers. We have to make it on our own.

QUEEN'S BALLROOM

QUEEN'S SQUARE, WOLVERHAMPTON

Monday 4th April THEM

Monday 11th April American Hit Parade Stars THE SHAVELLS

Monday 18th April ZOOT MONEY

Monday 25th April DAVE DEE, DOZEY, BEAKY, MICK AND TICH.

BIG BEAT GROUPS EVERY MONDAY

Big attraction for May THE HOLLIES

Doctoring

Remember, it's not always price that dictates quality. If a kit costs £350 it should be marvellous, but it may not be. It may not be what you play but the way that you play 'em.

There are many ways of doctoring cheap drums so that they sound more expensive. In the March "Crescendo", there is an excellent article by Frank King on this subject.

If you have a kit whose sound disappoints you, read this article because it will save you pounds.

And when you buy a kit, forget about the glossy

PETER YORK



OF THE FABULOUS

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Spence says

Germany? Es war gut!

"NOCH ein Bier, Herr Ober." This, roughly translated, means "Another beer, waiter." This was the only foreign phrase that Steve Muff and Pete learned when we were in Germany recently. It was the only phrase they needed!

Naturally, we had a marvellous time, flying to Holland on a grey Friday morning and arriving at the TV studios in Hilversum about lunchtime.

The afternoon, when we should have been doing the show, was taken up by wild photographic sessions which involved swinging from scaffolding and running across bomb-sites.

Since "Keep On Running", everybody seems to want running photographs. Our next record will be called "Keep On Sleeping".

Anyway, after the photos, we went to do the show, which turned out to be a big filmed spectacular with gorgeous dancing girls and the full bit. As soon as the TV show was over we had to rush 40 miles into Amsterdam for a concert at the Hague. The continental wiring was ridiculous and the size of our amps blew everything in the building. But we finally started to play on borrowed equipment and luckily the crowd seemed pleased.

After relaxing at a night club we got to bed around 3.30 a.m. for a few hours' sleep before flying to Hamburg for another afternoon TV show.

Here the studio arrangements were chaotic and the getaway very dangerous with the police outnumbered by about a hundred to one. We finally got out of the studios unharmed and headed for the Star Club. The audience were great and the arrangements for us were very good with comfortable dressing rooms and endless cokes. The German press went mad with enthusiasm when they found that I spoke the language

and they wouldn't leave us alone. I spoke more German in these two days than in two years at University!

After the Star Club we had a comparatively early night as we had to drive to Bremen on the Sunday morning for a televised concert.

We arrived at the Bremen Town Hall, where the box office was bigger than Birmingham Town Hall, and found that Twinkle and the Overlanders were also on the show along with numerous German groups of Liverpool descent.

After rehearsals they let the people in, 6,000 of them. Strange thing, they go mad for movement. Musical ability doesn't mean that much. The more you rave about on the stage, the better you go down.

This was all a bit alien to us, but we saw what was needed and Steve worked hard to give it to them.

Anyway, we did an encore, partly for the sake of the photographers, who were still charging about clicking anything that moved. They took shots of Steve's hair, Pete's knees and Muff's money belt, all of which were vibrating in certain directions.

After this show the promoter told us that we would all be paid at his club. Accordingly we all rushed there as fast as we could with Muff leading by three cheque books and a short bank statement.

As we entered the club we saw a large notice which read: "Personal appearances of Spen-

cer Davis, Twinkle, etc. The place was packed and the prices were up.

Very crafty and very embarrassing for us. As we lurched into the room, everybody began to applaud.

So much for enterprise.

The following day we had free and the less said about that day the better. Steve and I bought some jackets and Steve found some very continental tinted glasses which are useful on mornings when coming into daylight seems like staring at a nuclear test. On Tuesday, after no sleep, we flew back to London arriving at London Airport at 8.45 a.m.

In the Customs Hall, Acker Bilk's Band was playing havoc with officialdom and the air was thick with hundreds of cigarettes and bottles of scotch.

It was nice to see Ack again and I shall always remember that unbelievable scene with drummer Ron McKay accusing the customs officer of smuggling, with what looked like a pair of imitation bagpipes on his head.

Hope you enjoyed that account of our first foreign trip. I believe there are more to come.

WHY does Bo Berry always plug Ringway Music in his column? Between us we'll soon be made shareholders.

Our office now handles Goldie of Gingerbread fame and she has a great little band to back her great big voice.

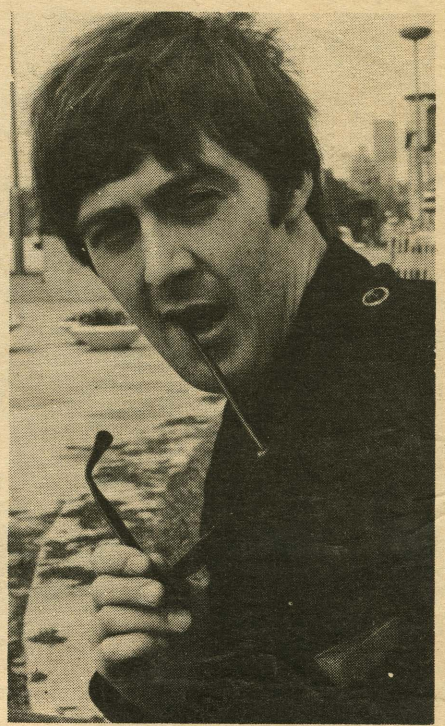
They are the Dave Anthony Moods and they use a trombone, trumpet, tenor and organ front line.

The trombone gives a great, full sound to the band parts and I wonder whether more groups might use this currently neglected instrument.

Goldie's new record sounds great with an all-star vocal chorus, Doris Troy, Kiki Dee and Jimmy Cliff.

Listen for it, folks, it ought to do well. Hope you like it. "I Do", which also happens to be the title!

Pete went to see the Woody Herman Orchestra last month and was impressed by the high standard of musicianship in spite of the youth of many members of the band.



Spencer Davis

This is because of the musical training young people receive at school in America. They have high school bands, clinics and specialised colleges with the best teachers in the world.

If you want to attain a high degree of technique and proficiency over here, you have to work largely on your own. It's a pity that education authorities over here don't have a more broad-minded and generous attitude to musical training. But things are improving slowly.

A few years ago, the lead tenor player with the National Youth Jazz Orchestra was completely bald. I'm not saying that he now has hair, but it must prove a point!

MOSSLY'S NIGHT WAS GREAT

MOSSLY Youth Club — already acclaimed as one of Staffordshire's top pop spots — reached an all-time high when they took over Walsall Town Hall and drew 1,000 teenagers to an electrifying night with Spencer Davis.

On the bill with Spence were Birmingham's Antiques, Wednesbury's Spartans, and Love's Lot, from Wolverhampton. Put them all together, add Stoke-on-Trent D. J. Barmy Barry, and you have a night to remember. But if ever anything deserved success, it was this extremely well organised event on Tuesday, February 15.

Full credit must go to Bloxwich youth club leader John Knight and his hard-working members for attempting such a task. John told me backstage at the Town Hall that it was the first time they had attempted to promote a dance on such a scale and it would not have been possible without the help of Walsall agent Miss Terry Matthews.

"We were amazed when just two weeks after the tickets were

issued we had sold all 1,000 of them. Because of this we hope to be able to give about £70 to the building fund of the Bloxwich East Rest Home," he added.

So apart from those 1,000 kids having a really good time they also had the knowledge that the proceeds were going to a most worthy cause. Everybody had a ball.

For the Antiques it was a very special night, however, being on the same bill as Spencer Davis. "This is something we have always wanted to do," they told me. "We think Spence is great."

And everybody at the Town Hall will no doubt second that. Spence, Stevie, Pete and Muff took up their positions at precisely 9.40 p.m. opening with an old Fontella Bass number "Gonna mess up a Good Thing."

Other numbers performed included "Down Home Girl" and "Jump Back Baby." When they closed at 10.25 p.m. with their number one hit "Keep On Running" the crowd nearly raised the roof. A great night all round.



Spencer Davis meets The Antiques. Upon learning how they always wanted to appear on the same bill, Spence obligingly posed with them for "Midland Beat" when the two groups appeared at Walsall Town Hall.

Disc jockey Barmy Barry is pictured here with Love's Lot. Miss Terry Matthews, the group's manager, is shown in the background and top left is D.J. Tony Teret. This photo was taken backstage at Walsall Town Hall.

Story by ROGER BENNETT

Pictures by 'ALEXIS'



The Spartans, from Wednesbury, also appeared at the Mossley Youth Club dance and played their part in making the evening a big success.



Beauty and the Beat Theresa MacDonald

If feminine charm can be relied upon to secure a group bookings, then the Six Six should never go short of engagements. After all, it's not often you come across a co-manager of a beat group as attractive as Theresa MacDonald. Twenty-one-years-old Theresa travels with this talented Bromsgrove group to their engagements whenever possible.

THEATRE SPECIAL by LESLIE DUNN

The Beeching axe falls again



FROM this month, due to shortage of space, Theatre Special, working on a skeleton time-table, confines itself to the highlights of the theatrical scene in the Midlands. Here then, are the shows that ought to prove well worth a visit and, perhaps not unreasonably, heading the list is our "first company's" second visit to Birmingham's Alexandra Theatre for the week of April 4th. This time the National Theatre Company brings its first production of O'Casey's "Juno and the Paycock," directed by Sir Laurence Olivier, which doesn't make its appearance in London until May, and the highly successful farce "A Flea in her Ear," in which Albert Finney plays the dual role. The "Paycock" plays on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday and the "Flea" only on Thursday and Saturday. No performance at this theatre on Good Friday. Before leaving the Alexandra mention must be made of their presentation of the new musical "Strike a Light," which plays from April 19 for two weeks. It stars Evelyn Laye and Jeannie Carson and, so we're told, is prior to New York and London. Another new musical makes its prior to West End appearance at Oxford's New Theatre

on April 4, with John Hanson starring in "When You're Young," which has been adapted from the stage and film success "Smilin' Through." On the following Monday the same theatre presents the prior to London premiere of "A Friend Indeed" by William Douglas Home, starring David Tomlinson, David Hutchinson and Jane Baxter. Now to the Coventry Theatre where another Spring Show opens on April 1 for nine weeks, featuring Harry Worth, Edmund Hockridge, Billy Dainty, The Barry Sisters, The Countrymen and one of Britain's best known ballerinas, Belinda Wright, who will be seen with her husband, Jelko Yuresha, in a special ballet presentation created by Pauline Grant the producer of the show. Quite a month this for openings... April 6, sees the first day of a new season at Stratford's Royal Shakespeare Theatre, with Henry IV parts 1 and 2 respectively for the matinee and evening performances. The Nottingham Playhouse offers a first night with a production of "The Spies are Singing" by Giles Cooper and the Theatre Royal runs throughout the month with "The Black and White Minstrel Show," with Stan Stennett and The Television Toppers.

PICTURED in the dressing room of their old favourite venue, the Plaza Ballroom, Handsworth, are members of the once top-line Birmingham group, the Redcaps. Disbanded twelve months ago, the Redcaps were holding a nostalgic get-together, writes John Lines. They had hoped to play on-stage for a short spot, but unfortunately time did not permit this. On hand to substitute for lead guitarist Mick Blyth, who could not attend due to sickness, was Peter Lee Stirling. Mick Blyth is now working as a quantity surveyor in Birmingham. Peter Lee Stirling's time is mostly taken up these days with the recording studio he owns in partnership with Bernie Mattimore. Most of their work is recording shows

for commercial radio, but Peter has just written a new number that is to be included on Tom Jones's next L.P. Incidentally, Peter provides the guitar backing on all Tom Jones releases. Mick Walker is now working for Malcolm Rose's London agency, and travels the country auditioning and booking groups. He maintains that the standard of groups in Birmingham is the highest in the country, and remember, Mick is a Walsall, not Birmingham man. Dave Walker is now a construction engineer, and in common with Alan Easterwood, is to cut a solo disc in the near future. The remaining member of the old Redcaps, Alan Morley, is currently playing with The Other Side.



Pictured in the dressing room of the Plaza Ballroom are three ex-Redcaps and one famous guest. Left to right Allan Easterwood, Dave Walker, Mick Walker and Peter Lee Stirling.

Dear Sir...

So you want to be a star...

Midland groups it is a shame,
You are receiving little fame,
For although you are quite good,
Progress is not being made as it should.

Individuality is what you need,
This you must get with some speed,
Like our friends "The Moody Blues",
If you want to make national news.

The fans admire the way you dress,
This they all will confess,
From hair down to your feet,
Most of you look trim and neat.

But oh the beat you do send out,
Makes everyone want to shout,
So create a different sound,
To play and circulate around.

From now on you must get cracking,
With no thought of any slacking,
For we'll be ready to cheer and clap,
When you are put on the "pop world map".

Barbara Wilkes,
Kersoe,
Elmley Castle,
Pershore,
Worcs.

BOY, oh boy, was I mad with that manager who wrote to you in "Dear Sir". If boys and girls want to have a go at making the top, let them take the plunge. They can either make it or break it.

What's it to do with him what other groups play? If the teenagers lap it up then it must be okay. Another point: how many members of groups rated top, local and otherwise, can read music?

If a dance hall is full, there's no room to dance, so you have to watch the group. Therefore, a joke or a comedy act goes down well because it's something different not just plain singing.

Take the Berries, for instance. They put over a fantastic act. It's the greatest act I've ever seen live. Even teenagers who have come just for the sake of something to do (as many do in our town because we don't have a lot going on) watch, laugh and join in the fun.

"Brilliant musicians." Who are they? Most teenagers rate either the Beatles or the Stones. Why? Because they are plugged the most on radio, TV and in newspapers and magazines. Would they have made it without publicity, I wonder?

All you have to remember is that practice makes perfect and criticism never hurts anyone who has any nerve in them. Groups will come and groups will go—but they can't all make it, can they?

MERILYN TOPHAM

61 Broad Street,
Kidderminster,
Worcs.

Crowd limit protest?

I WOULD like to comment on the report in the Warwickshire column in "M.B." concerning 10 sq. ft. per person in ballrooms following the Nunaton tragedy.

Coventry is not the only place likely to impose such a limit on dance hall crowds. They already have a limit at dance halls in Gloucestershire and it is gradually creeping into Wales.

I give it 12 months before it spreads throughout the country, especially the licensed dance halls where beat sessions have a hold. Can anyone tell me who thought of

the limit of one person per 10 sq. ft.?

It is probably all right for ballroom dancing—but it is ridiculous for dancing to beat groups.

Do you realise that if this limit spreads, which it seems to be doing, it will be the end of the majority of beat groups, dance halls and agents, not to mention charity dances requiring as many as they can accommodate.

Something must be done soon about changing this limit. What about it, "Midland Beat"? How about forming a Promoters and Agents Protest Association?

B. L. DAVIES

Honey Cavern,
Bronllys
Brecon.

Good luck, Applejacks

I VOTED for the Applejacks in the "M.B." poll, in spite of their losing Al Jackson.

You see, I was one of their best fans and naturally the recent news came as a great shock to me. It was especially bad because Al was my "fave" Applejack, too.

I am sure you will join me in wishing the group minus Al every success in the future. I am in two minds what to think

of Al. A lot of my friends are disgusted with him and call him "deserter," etc.

I must admit that he has ambition and the break had to come somewhere, but I never thought anything like this would happen. Anyway, good luck to him!

DOROTHY FARRELL

113 Links Drive,
Solihull,
Warwicks.

Ambition fulfilled

IN YOUR December issue, you printed a picture and paragraph about the Antiques, saying that our ambition was to play on the same bill as Spencer Davis.

Due to your article, agent Terry Mathews has enabled us to achieve our ambition. We played with Spencer Davis on Tuesday, February 15, at Walsall Town Hall.

We would like to thank all concerned for making this possible.

E. HURLEY,
Manager,
The Antiques.

115 The Broadway,
Handsworth,
Birmingham 20.

WALES

MARK GALE,
7 Hanover Street,
Canton, Cardiff

PORT TALBOT'S Smokestacks have blown their last, it seems. They announced their break-up at the Afan Lido, this month—a beginning arena which promises to revolutionise size and sound of entertainment along that particular stretch of the South Wales Riviera (Huh?).

Organist Phil Ryan and singer Gary Hopkins were last seen negotiating a transfer to Neath's

Eyes of Blue. Jayvee Entertainments, who manage both outfits are non-committal.

Meanwhile, the grapevine has it that Stacks bassist Roger Miles is trying to persuade Eyes drummer Dave Thomas to form a new group with him, while Stacks drummer Bob Davies may take a job at a Port Talbot club.

Mystery guests for whom the Pontypridd Town Hall was hired—a group of television fame—were the Overlanders, as it turned out. At the time the application was made, they had about as much fame as Harry Tate—(Who? Exactly!).

Swansea's Lott 13 took their harps to a party in Carnaby Street after a successful club date in London this month. But their purchases from the Via Gear were small, though still expensive.

Recent visitors to St. John's Church Hall, Cardiff—The Sect Maniacs—which may (let's face

it) be carrying soul music a little too far.

It may be curtains for the Thursday dances at the Llanelli Glen. Patronage was getting so poor that the organisers cancelled the visit by Hedgehoppers Anon.

Troubles already for Swansea's Lord John and the Mods who ain't ever been seen yet, though there have been sonorous hints of their coming. Lead guitarist Dennis Evans and drummer Tommy Hanna have retired. Replacements are sought—they don't have to be peers, or even Mods, particularly.

Why are amateur musicians so reluctant to reveal their occupations? Recent survey of mine around the patrons of Cardiff music shops showed a 95% swing towards anonymity.

If they just play music, fine—it's a great, hungry life. But what do they put on the H.P. forms for those 250 guinea guitars?



The Tearaways (Borderland) are, left to right: Philip organ; Malcolm Smallman, lead guitar; Norman Evans, drummer; Alan Jackson, bass guitarist; Richard Jones, vocalist; Leslie Whitehouse, vocalist. Right, Solihull's Rinki-Dinks, who have joined the ranks of Warwickshire's "big" groups by expanding to a seven-piece line-up.



WARWICKSHIRE

DENNIS MORGAN,
77, Radford Road,
Leamington Spa

SORROWS must surely make the Top Twenty with their great new record "Let the Live Live" which is released on April 1.

The number is written by lead guitarist Pip Witcher, and in-person bookings on "Saturday Club" plus other T.V. and radio dates should get the record off to a flying start.

March saw the group in Scotland, on the P.J. Proby tour in England, and doing television and club bookings in Paris.

This month they fly to Germany for dates in Bremen and Hamburg, and negotiations are going on for them to appear in Italy during June.

New Applejack John Washington's former backing group the Congress have changed their name to the Circles and have acquired a lead singer called Steve Harvey, who used to front a group called the Man-Chester Players from Manchester.

The group recently toured Wales for a week, and in their spare time they are building their own recording studios at Nunceaton.

Members of the group, with Steve, are: Wally Freeman (drums), Noel Ford (lead) and Joe Parsons (bass).

Ray King Soul Pact — formerly the King Size Kings — are now a seven-piece blues group having added two saxes to the line-up. The lads are booked out nearly every night of the week and are, I hear, particularly well thought of in Northampton.

Matadors have recorded their second disc which is called "Side-walk and the Street". Release date was not available at press time.

Angstroms have returned to Coventry after a tour of Germany and are now working throughout the Midlands.

Peeps' latest record was released on March 18 and is called "I Told You Before." Meanwhile their first record — "Now Is the Time," written by lead guitarist Steve Jones — is selling well in Australia, but not by the Coventry group. An Australian outfit called Ray Brown and the Whispers are responsible.

Falling Leaves, the former Oxford group who are now looked after by a Coventry agency, are looking for a new organist to replace their own, who leaves in September, to get married.

Ron Smith, lead guitarist, has left Mad Classix and I understand a replacement has been found.

Vocalist Tony Martin has left the Clouds and is doing a duo act in London. Called the Storytellers, the duo have a record out called the "Deedle-Dum Song."

Beat Preachers have added a sax to their line-up following the departure of their former vocalist.

Hell's Angels have changed their style considerably and now offer a very varied programme. Hawaiian

guitar has been added to increase the scope of the group.

The lads tell me they are now writing their own material with a view to trying for a recording contract. The best of luck!

A new group on the Coventry scene are the Bahama Sound, who have got off to a good start at a number of local halls.

Referring back to the Peeps, negotiations are going on for the group to do a summer season at a new hotel which is opening in Jersey, Channel Islands, soon.

Bob Wilkinson, former manager of the now-defunct Coventry Chads, has joined Personal Management Organisation.

A serious road accident robbed Cimmarons from Kenilworth, of drummer Derek Kendrick for a time. Electrician John Smith filled the breach while Derek was in hospital.

BORDERLAND

AUSTIN POWELL,
Station House,
Bucknell, Salop

FOURTEEN points separated the winning group from the two who tied for second place in the Shropshire Federation of Youth Clubs' annual beat group contest held in Wellington towards the end of February.

So nobody can dispute the fact that Newport (Salop) group The Tearaways, are the best group operating in Shropshire at present.

Tying for 2nd place were Shifnal's The Witnesses and Leominster - Ludlow's The Four Aces.

The only section in which The Tearaways were beaten was presentation and here the Four Aces pipped them to the post. Out of the ten groups that appeared seven played "Keep on Running," which tended to drag a little, but The Witnesses featured a couple of Four Seasons' numbers to great effect, and the winning group featured their girl singer, Lesley, to great advantage.

The three winning groups received money (first prize £20, and the second groups shared £15), as well as the Shropshire Journal Shield. This paper co-sponsored the contest.

Although some of the material used was rather hackneyed, the better groups got away from the usual and it was good to hear "I'll Go Crazy," "Pain in My Heart" and "Mystic Eyes."

The Tearaways comprise: Richard Jones (19 - vocalist), Alan Jackson (22 - guitar), Lesley Whitehouse (16 - vocalist), Philip Whitehouse (18 - organ), and Norman Evans (19 - drums).

Congratulations to the winners and I'm sure all the groups competing gained valuable knowledge from seeing other local groups perform.

Hereford's popular "1600 Club" is now under new management. John Adams is in charge there in association with a property holding company. Newly opened under the club is a cellar coffee bar which is attracting many.

The Soul Party journeyed to Yardleys recently for new equipment. New Tearaways manager joined Sue Carr & The Gondors just before they split up. Big Beat night in Ludlow Town Hall featured The Dave Banks Group and The Skylons, one of the groups in the Wellington contest. The Heart & Souls have so far been billed as The Heart & Soul, and Arts & Soul. Another new addition coming to The M-Pacs. Hereford group, Graham Carr & The Olympics, partially left the scene some time ago, but are now back and doing better than ever.

Interesting point arising out of the Wellington contest was that at Hednesford Civic Hall some time before The Witnesses pipped The Tearaways into first place at that contest. Newport's Bird & The Bees (the old Pacifics) were third. So now it's quits!

A split between members of James Sutton & His Own Kind, results in there now being two separate groups, neither of which are on the road yet. Starting soon — the annual round of barn dances held by various Young Farmers' Clubs in Radnorshire.

DERBYSHIRE

NEIL HALLAM,
Raymonds News
Agency,
4 Victoria Street,
Derby

A FAMILIAR sight scooting (or whatever one does on a scooter) along the A38 between Wolverhampton and Derby these days is Centors bassman Grenville Vale.

When he left Derby, where the group are based, six weeks ago, he decided he would remain with them despite having to make the lonely trek from the Black Country to dates and practices.

If he had been a centaur and not a Centor, of course, he could have ridden himself there! The other three members of the group are fighting hard to stop him interpolating snatches of Duane Eddy's "Forty Miles of Bad Road" into some of their numbers.

A criticism oft-levelled at this foursome, is that their name, the Centors, is corny and smacks of winkle - pickers and simulated leather jackets with "Super Rocket" splashed in gold paint on the backs.

They are not unwilling to concede this but refuse to change their name — at least until they "hit it big." Leader, Brian Buxton, reasoned: "Everybody knows us as the Centors so we don't want to start at square one again with a new name ... unless we hit it big and need a really commercial label."

At present they are pushing tapes and demo discs around the London agents and one record company has three of their own compositions in for study. Soon they audition for the Two J's in London and if all goes well, they intend to go fully-pro and tour Europe.

It was pretty much Hobson's choice that led to another of Derby's top outfits, the Vibrons (shudder), changing their name.

They have become Peppers' Machine, after toying with Impacts, Image Machine and others. Why Peppers' Machine? "Sounds hot and that's the sort of stuff we play now. Hot stuff," explained manager Paul Henman, who coined it.

He went on: "Vibrons was a good name when we first thought of it but now it's a bit Tornadoes, and people tended to think we were a dicky-bows and Brylcreem group."

The Hobson's choice came in when they found agents were reluctant to book them under the Vibrons tag for some of the clubs who feature their brand of blues approach. The group, one of the town's longest established, now features saxist John Colley on flute in some numbers. Very avant garde.

Some little while back I stated that John Gratch Raynor had filled the Yaks' headache - spot on vocals. The next month, with profuse apologies I had to announce that the Yaks had a headache again. He had left.

Now the Yaks do not have a headache again. He's back. The break came over "domestic issues" with John wanting to make changes in the group.

Now, seeing eye-to-eye, both group and John are anxious to make up for lost time. Drummer Terry Hall said: "It's great to have him back. We just stagnated after he left. Now we can start moving again."

The group, based at Belper, are still toying with the idea of introducing an organ into the line-up. Very soon they will have to make the decision for rhythm-guitarist Dave Varney has to leave them.

He is doing several nights a week at tech and finds it impossible to combine study and group work. Great pity this. He must be the only rhythm-man who can double on euphonium. I'm not joking. But to be quite honest he has never been called upon so to do. "They don't think a euphonium fits the corporate image," moans Dave,

who adds: "They're dead wrong. It'd be very trendy, with-it, switched on, whole scene going, and all that."

When Dave does leave, kinky, switched-on euphonium and all, the Yaks must decide whether to replace him with organ or another rhythm-guitarist.

"We're thinking about it. We're not going to rush into anything," Terry said. "Maybe we can find an organist who can play rhythm AND the euphonium."

The Imps, happily re-established among Derby's best and most widely travelled combos, are waiting to hear the result of their biggest break since re-formation ... an audition at London's Mod-Mecca, the Marquee Club.

Imps manager John Frawley has adopted Farran's Five Degrees a Derby group formerly managed by John Gillard. They too are playing the name-game and in April become Ooz Eer.

LEICESTERSHIRE

ARTHUR KIRBY,
24 Tolcarne Road,
Leicester

FOLLOWING the fantastic success of the X'Caliburs, the Scraftoft Valley Club went for another top group when they booked Sharon North and the Travellers. The next big group is expected to be Miar Davies and the Rockets.

The MUNIX are off to Scarborough for their first ever booking at a holiday resort. Incidentally, MUNIX lead guitarist has only three fingers on his right hand but plays as though he has six.

Pye recording singer Lennie Peters played his first date in Leicester recently and received a great ovation. Lennie has been blind since the age of 16 but not only is he a great singer but he has one of the cheeriest dispositions in show business.

The Rivals did a spot in Coventry recently and came back with four new dates, this was their reward for some up to date arrangements of some of the oldies. "Apple Blossom Wedding" was exceptionally well received.

Brian Henry and the Saints have been one of the town's busiest groups since their brief TV spot some weeks ago, they did a recent Demo LP and featured one of their own songs, this turned out to be the best track on the record.

Tina and the Hostrings, one of the most original combinations ever to play local clubs, are now getting lots of applause in the Yorkshire area.

The drummer with the Lancers Three is related to the lead guitarist, in fact she's the guitarist's mother.

The Ruby Murray show may be postponed until May because the Raindrops are not expected to be available till then.

The Flipsides, youngest group in the area, and possibly the youngest in the Midlands, are getting plenty of work. This is all due to their talent and not their ages. The 13 years old drummer is a regular Krupa.

The Rusty Chymes, who changed their name to the Chymes and then to the Tea Set have done it again. Now they're called the Good Times and just to prove how good the times are they recently went through to the final of a local search for B.B.C. talent. They have also entered the "Melody Maker" beat contest.

Pat Phoenix, "The Street's" Elsie Tanner, turned up late for a big city show. Due to comperes the show she only made it for the final act. However, she stayed so late signing autographs that all was soon forgiven.

Johnny Kennedy, the young singer who did a great spot on a recent Eamonn Andrews show, hopes to play some of the Leicester clubs in the near future.

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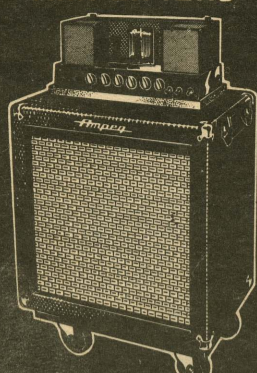
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The News (East Anglia) are left to right: Denny Royal, Harvey Platt, Ivan Zagni and Andy Field.

EAST ANGLIA

R. G. TUDOR,
92, Christchurch Road,
Norwich

THE NEWS is out, or should it be, are out. Last month the first record sales release by the News, formerly the Continentals, was the main talking point in the region.

After a disappointing reception on "Juke Box Jury", the record gained a lot of ground with pirate radio ships and Luxembourg and sales of the disc in the region's capital — Norwich — set new records for a single release.

Agents for the group are West End Promotions, the same outfit as Midland Beat's own stars, Spencer Davis. Management continues under Howard Platt, of Norwich.

American singer, Lucas, who stayed on in this country after quitting the USAAF earlier this year, played the Gene Pitney tour and the James Brown show.

His commitments with his group, Mike Cotton Sounds, prevented him from joining Brown when he visited Paris. Lucas, one-time singer with the Emperors, the long-established Norwich blues group, is hoping for a record release in the months ahead.

Big shock in Norwich was the decision of the Emperors, led by Lester Middleton for the past four years, to call it a day.

Lester is joining another Norwich-based band, Ricky Southern and C.B.O. Incorporated, and is taking the unusual step of giving up lead guitar and playing organ.

Hope the experiment comes off. Bob Tuttle, bass player, is joining the Cunard Line and the other members of the band, pianist Derek Sheppard and drummer Clive Monen are looking for two or three musicians willing to start a new group.

Pete Miller — the "Miller" of record fame — may join them on lead guitar.

Ipswich group, the Sullivan James Band, feature a



The Boss Men (Staffordshire).

trombone in their line-up. Proving to be more than a gimmick and they are enjoying success at regular shows at the Dereham Tavern Club and the Orford Cellar Club in Norwich.

Folk is getting quite a big following in the area and Norwich now boast three folkie haunts.

One of them, the Jacquard regularly brings down big names in the small folk world.

Last month Guy Carawan, the man who introduced "We shall overcome" to the freedom marchers in the anti-segregationist demonstrations in the U.S.A. made an appearance at the club.

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE

HARRY SHARPE,
4 Craster Street,
Sutton-in-Ashfield

TWO songs written by vocalist Terry Keetley have been committed to disc by The Tick-its under the supervision of noted disc producer John Sullivan.

It is now hoped that the disc, which was made in London, is to be sold to a major record company, and the group are eagerly awaiting the outcome. One thing they all agree upon is that the experience of being in a recording studio is something not to be missed.

Group changes seem to be dominating the scene in the north of the country. The Scott Gibson Four and vocalist Terry Aston have parted company and his replacement is Keith Reavill. Keith originally sang with the group before joining the all girl group The Sugarbeats in 1964. Since then he has been resident vocalist with the Ronnie Keene Big Band.

Only lead guitarist Mick Gregory stays in the much changed Beat Pedlars' line up. Dave McCallum and Sue Raymond are new vocalists while Chris Black, formerly with Roger and the Rattlesnakes, comes in on bass and Mike Winfield is in the drum chair.

The group's former vocalist, Shaun Allen, was linked with the Detours when the impending departure of Roy Ravelle was

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5. APPLEJACKS	39	31	78
6. MIDLAND BEAT	37	33	74
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announced, but the union was only brief. At the time of writing no permanent replacement for Roy has been found.

The group from Mansfield called The Group are a recently formed outfit who combine former members of the Chequers and the Dukes.

New names for groups are becoming increasingly difficult to find, but who would have thought of The Zbigniew Namyslowski Quartet? This modern jazz formation recently made their bow in the county at Nottingham's Beachcomber Club. To avoid the difficulties connected with their leader's name they also answer to the name of the Polish M.J.Q.

Pony riding man Lee Dorsey was unable to appear at Nottingham's Dungeon Club, owing to sudden return to the U.S.A. but other U.S. notables continue to arrive in the city.

The Midlanders have become the Tea Set while The Pack have consolidated to The Pinxton Pack to avoid any confusion.

Dave Rowberry of the Animals was once a member of Nottingham's Apex Jazzmen. Working visit to France for agent Philip Smith.

STAFFORDSHIRE

ROGER BENNETT,
23, Lichfield Road,
Walsall

JUDGING by the amount of mail that comes to the "Midland Beat" offices it would appear that The Spartans, apart from being a very popular group, have some very loyal and dedicated fans.

This four man outfit class themselves as a Wednesday group but the letters requesting more information about them have come from all over the Midlands.

Sandra Johnstone, of Aldridge, writes that they are one of the best groups she has seen and their act — minus any hit parade numbers — was a welcome change.

Signing herself "An Ardent Fan," Angela Morgan, of Wolverhampton, says she thinks they are fab, and it would please her and all

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her friends if they could find out more about them.

And another letter which reached me in March praises the lads' smart appearances saying they deserve a break as they write their own material. This was simply signed Mary Lou, a Spartans fan.

Obviously this was a case which deserved looking into, so when the boys appeared with Spencer Davis at Walsall Town Hall recently, I called on them in their dressing room and tried — amid gags — to conduct a quick interview.

They confirmed they do in fact write their own songs. "They" being 23-years-old John Shipley (lead guitarist) and Michael Dunn, also 23 (bass). Making up the number are Graham Webb (21, rhythm), and John Moreton (22, drums).

Bearing in mind they have been going nigh on four years, and having seen their act myself, I agree with everything their fans say and I hope they get that break. In the meanwhile, girls, cast your eyes on their picture which is included in the Spencer Davis feature.

Came across Charlie Peate, manager of Walsall's Boss Men. He tells me the group are now back in the town after a long spell down London and the south coast where they gained a lot of experience.

"We are hoping to cut a record any day now," says Charlie. "Probably a number called 'You've gotta be with me.'"

The line-up of this group who have been together for just over two years is as follows: Bernie Howell (lead), Steve Shirley (bass), Percy Davies (organ), Roy Knight (drums) and Herbie Beddows (vocals).

Had a phone call from Geoff Porter to tell me about a group he thought deserved recognition for their qualities via a lot more publicity. "They are Johnny Guitar and His Playboys," enthused Geoff, "and Johnny is one of the most talented boys on the scene, in my opinion."

He continued: "Johnny is really great and can tackle anything from rock n'roll to ballads. He came in on the skiffle wave and has been going strong ever since with only one change in line-up."

That long standing line-up is: Dave Porter (bass), and Freddie Firm (drums) with Johnny on rhythm. Recently Freddie Mackin came in on sax and now the group are thinking of adding a lead.

Hailing from Walsall, The Playboys have about £2,000 worth of equipment and that includes Johnny's £200 guitar. He recently had the misfortune to have his £300 guitar stolen, but he soon had his present one sent over from America.

Dilys Gundy, fan club secretary for Steve Brett and The Mavericks, informs me of great changes in the group. Peter Bickley (bass), Noddy Holder (vocals and lead) and Gerry Kibble (drums) have left, much to the disappointment of their fans.

The group are now continuing with Graham Franklin (bass), Steve Green (drums), and Peter Bryan (tenor sax) in addition to Philip Burnell (organ) and Terry Taylor (tenor sax) of the original Mavericks.

Another letter this month from Bill Purvis, manager of The Rivers, a Willenhall group with a healthy looking date book. They have quite a following in that area, writes Bill, and they would now like to add to it by playing further afield.

In March The Rivers cut a record at the E.M.I. Studios in London and at the time of going to press they were anxiously awaiting the outcome of it. Group members are: Johnny "Tich" Johnstone (21) lead; Joe Watkins (20) rhythm; Georgie Hunt (23) drums; Sid Cowley (24) bass; Tony Cox (22) vocals; and Sheila Startin (19) vocals. Best of luck with the disc, boys.

And a final letter for now comes from Miss B. M. Haddaway, fan club secretary for Cannock's Zero Five. She asks me to congratulate the group on a successful tour of Scotland and in doing so she points out the fan club now has over 700 members. "Is this a record?" she asks.

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most of the members think a song, "Carol Jane," which was specially written for them, is great and they would love the group to record it. To support her appeal she enclosed a petition, adding, "these are just a few." Over to you Tim Marshall, manager.

"Six groups for six bob" said the advert and the Roger Allen presentation at Wolverhampton's Civic Hall was certainly value for money. On the Bill were The Montanas, Dripper Kent, Finders Keepers, Sheila Deni, The Staffords and The Gentry.

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I SHOULD like to thank all those groups, and supporters which have written to me since my last appeal for information about themselves, or the groups which they follow. My only complaint — too many of them are anonymous, including a whole batch, sent direct to "Midland Beat". I am able to print only facts — and enthusiastic fans would help their idols if they sent FACTS!
 The largest mail came from Shakedown Sounds fans — sorry to disappoint you, ladies, but the lads have called it a day! I was not able to find out much more than this.
 Letters are always welcome, and if you don't want to give your own name, please do send the name and address of the manager/fan club secretary.
 Thank you — do keep writing. Also had correspondence from supporters of Stourbridge Huskies, Puritans, and new groups from Redditch, Bromsgrove and Evesham.

Several well known group personalities are now singing folk, purely for the pleasure, including ex-Cossack, Dennis Key, who forms a duo with his younger sister, ex-Saints lead Sid Parker, and vocalist Rich Creech have crept timidly out of retirement, both say they did not realise what they had been missing.
 This is true of many others. Try an evening at your nearest Club — if you can get in. The atmosphere is great — Beer and lusty singing combine remarkably well!
 Before I am snowed under with complaints, back to gossip. Revniks and Huskies (details welcome) impressed in the Birmingham Locarno Contest. Well done. Pershore's Tambla Modes now playing soul style music, new joint Managers Ray King and Ron Heeks pleased with response (for bookings ring Malvern 5614).
 Stourbridge Puritans now the Quote 5. Promising new Worcs. group, the Phantoms write a lot of their own material. Soundcasters reformed as Toby's Crowd.

Drummer, Danny Alcock with several Bands until he joined Bassist Roy Birchmore; Vocalist, Lee Richmond (ex-Panthers); Pianist Mike Selby, who doubles on Lowrey Organ; Tenor Sax, Roger Banning; and guitarists Rich Bennett (lead) and Chris Farr (rhythm). The group, previously known as the Sugarbeats, have been a Big Band since last Summer, though several changes have occurred in the personnel.
 Manager Jeremy Gaskell is looking for work in the Area, also anything within reason — any ideas, phone him at Chipping Norton 2843.
 They will be competing in the 1966 National Beat Contest at Brighton. I should be pleased to hear from any other outfits who have entered.

Helions' fantastic Soul/Blues sound, with vibes, flute and piano, bringing fresh hopes for a new recording contract.
 They found that it does not pay to park without lights — unfortunately the van insurance was not in order, and they had to fork out £45 in fines! (they were running a jumble sale to raise the bill!)
 New group from Redditch, "The Bob James Set" seek a Manager, any offers? Is there a drummer 14-19 in Bromsgrove area looking for a new group, ring Pete Clarke on Bromsgrove 2065 for details (of an outfit with experience). Malvern's Gen Things now "The Sett". New Imps manager, Bob Lessemun, brother of the very popular vocalist, Carole — who has been around since the Rock Band days, still thinks they should have beaten the KNAK at Malvern. Both groups have the chance to show their capabilities at a Friendship Dance (to be promoted by the "Nu-Suite Agency"), at Malvern on the 15th April (I can supply tickets if required).
 The Knak playing regularly for

Charities in the county, and are gaining tremendous followings. Keep it up, lads. Bromsgrove's Force now the Bent Society.
 Paul Nicholls takes over Rhythm with the Cellarmen. Congrats to the U.K. Bonds and Size Six on their excellent B.B.C. spots. Also the Stourbridge folk group, the Banners, signed up by Decca Records recently.
 Beat Sessions now being held at Catshill W.M.C., Kidderminster's Black Horse Hotel, and Frank Freeman's Club. Several changes have occurred in the area of late, Ex-Shakedown drummer, Shaun Jenkins with Cardiff's "Eyes of Blue", while lead Kevin Gammond has joined popular outfit Raynor's Secrets, hoping for a change of label, and now fully Pro. again.

Mercian Agency, now in new offices in Kidderminster town centre, representing the above, also the Buddies, still abroad, but returning soon, before departing for a Summer season in Italy. Sessions featuring the Hellions, Cheltenham's Alan Brown Set, and "Listen", held at the Corn Exchange recently.
 New ventures at neighbouring Stourbridge's "Blue Room" did not last long, nor did Stourport's Crown Hotel. Gigs are held at the Park Attwood and Mare and Colt, as well as the local halls in the Kidderminster. Details welcome from groups in the area please.
 Ery Berdz gaining popularity in South Wales after recent bookings. Still hopeful of an audition for B.B.C.'s Scene at 6.30.

Worcester's Allways Electrics appointed sole Lowrey Organ reps. recently, also well pleased with response to a Bird Organ Exhibition held earlier in the year. Evesham group, the Wavelengths, now have vocalist from a Stratford group, and lead ex-Sorrowful Sounds. Their old Bass and percussionist staying on. Mentioned recently in the Oxford's column were the Chipping Norton group, the "In-Sect", the seven piece line-up includes players from Broadway and Evesham.

Those Vibrations are very anxious to meet anyone who is a good song writer capable of penning a number for release in America.
 Already they have had a number of offers of material, but each time it's of little use. They have everything but this number, for arrangements are in hand for the immediate recording in London of this RIGHT number and should it ever suggest doing small things in the States, they would follow it out there to promote it.
 Already their fan following has expanded over the Atlantic and a number of tapes have been sent across. At the moment, Mr. Jeffs, their manager tells us, its one great "IF" so you budding songwriters neres a chance at an American release but don't bother unless its up to scratch.

New to me are the Tech; College group in Oxford the "Touch". These boys all study at the college in one thing or another and have been together now for two years.
 Their line-up is Giles Hedley as their singer who went to Eton and is now studying A levels; Tony Hadfield on lead who is studying to become a quantity surveyor and went to St. Edwards; John Siva Laws on Electric piano who is training in the business course; Bass player is 19 year old Mike Shelley who is to become an electrician and on drums is Ellwood Von Fiebold a 19 year old from Beaumont School now studying A levels and rated by the Pretty Things drummer.
 Although I have not heard them I am assured they are not a loud outfit and enjoy experiments in 5/4 time, which all sounds like sense and worth a listen.
 Take heart the "Fables" and indeed the "Acropolis" fans are now taking the trouble to write in about you both and in a later issue we must give the fans a treat.
 One letter about the Acropolis from Barton Youth Club boasted 52 different signatures and one who crossed himself/herself out. Was someone rude to a fan?

Last month I mentioned the Counterpoints, from Kidderminster. The Groups former Lead, Alan Reynolds, has written to say that he left with the Rhythm, last September, and the rest of the group reformed as the "Apper Clare" — that solves two problems at once.
 The group, whose ages range from 17-19, played very successfully, I am told at a Concert, given in aid of the Mayor's Youth Appeal, also on the bill was a Brass band and a choir — at last a beat group has been recognised as a part of Civic affairs.
 It is of course, not unusual to hear of a rhythm group play in a church. The complete line-up is now lead Larry Harris, rhythmist Ken Lewis (both ex-Discoards), Davie Towers on bass, Roger Cowen, vocals, and stickman Roy Stewart.
 The Malvern contest is still swinging, and four groups will go forward to the Finals from the following: Worcester's Quarrel, Odd Few, Ery Berdz and Unit 5; Cheltenham's Barons and Ramrods, Evesham's Tambla Modes and new group from Pershore, the Sun-Set, who were very impressive in their heat.

It will be an excellent Finals, and should find the top group in Worcs!
 Now is the chance for every group manager, who thinks H's outfit is THE best to write and tell me so, and why — look forward to your letters. Lastly, are there any musicians, with both equipment, and transport, seeking a new group? If so, do let me know. I may be able to help you, by reforming a very popular outfit. Any gigs available will be most welcome. Home 'phone — Worcs. 22935.

The Falling Leaves have had their record, cut privately in London, rejected.
 A new one has been hastily cut. This one, like the last, is a Doris Troy number. They still fill the shows locally and are getting the work in the same area — but what has happened to the drive that pushed their first record into existence and put them on the television scene?
 The Bridge Hotel at Wheatley, now has a Wednesday beat night as well under the guidance of Adrian Hopkins.
 When I saw Mal and the Primitives recently, they had just returned from their month of wildly successful shows in Norway with stories and press cuttings to prove it.

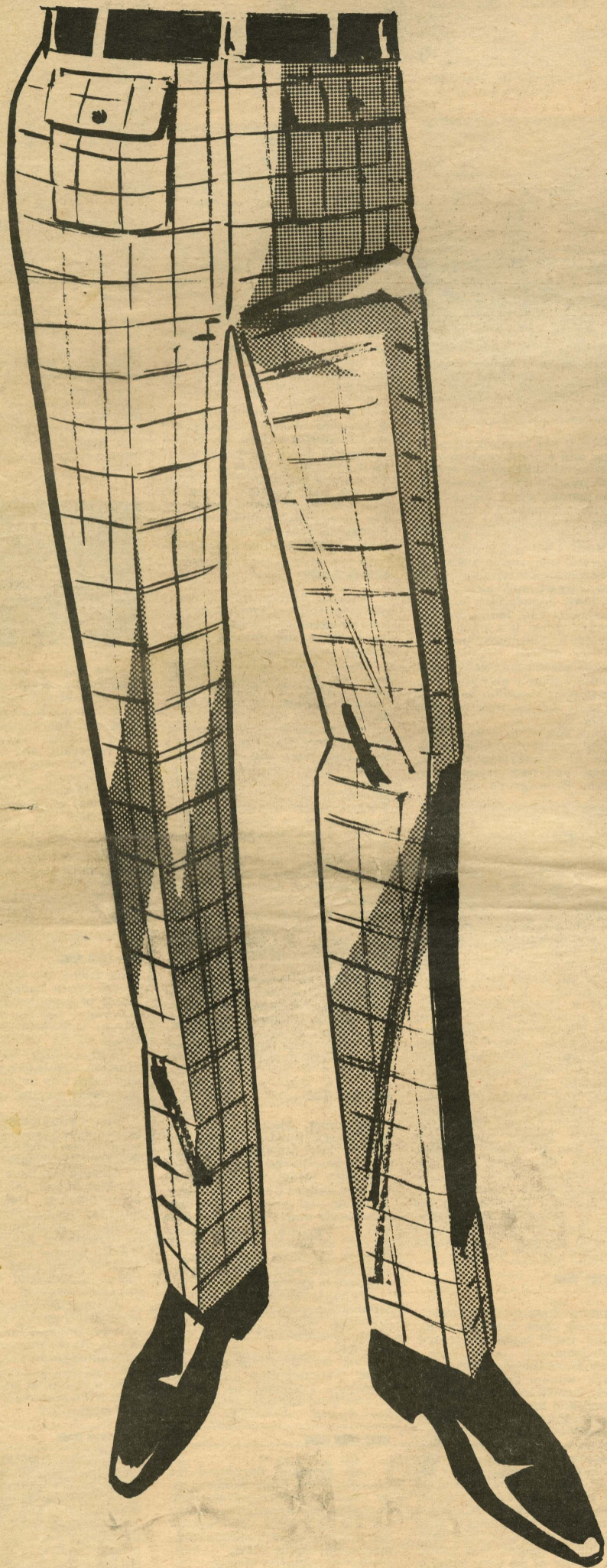
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