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No. 36.

SEPTEMBER, 1966.

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Vogues' biggest bid

THE group who admit they have always "taken one step forward and two backwards" are making their biggest stride towards the top. They are the Vogues, whose first single, "Younger Girl," should enable them to make real progress at last.

So often have the boys felt they were getting somewhere, only to find themselves marking time once more, after achievements that seemed certain to guarantee them making the big time.

The Vogues reached the finals of the "Melody Maker" National Beat contest last year.

Talented

This talented Birmingham group also reached the finals of the "Ready, Steady, Win!" contest, sponsored by "Ready, Steady, Go!" Their reward was a track on an LP of the finalists.

But neither of these contest successes led to the release of a single in this country — despite the fact that a recording of one of their own compositions was issued in the States.

And the Vogues have also passed three separate auditions for Hughie Green's "Opportunity Knocks" TV show, without once having the satisfaction of being invited to appear on the programme.

Hoping...

"So you can see why the boys feel they have achieved so much yet so little," says the Vogues go-ahead manager, Den Caney.

"Now they are hoping that their record will bring them the fame they have been working so hard to attain."

Members of the Vogues, whose "Younger Girl" on the Columbia label was written by the Lovin' Spoonful's John Sebastian, are:

John Carroll (rhythm guitar, vocal), Bunny Bryan (lead guitar, vocal, harmonica, gazoo, drums), Ron Dickson (bass, guitar, mandolin, ukelele, vocals), and Steve Price (drums, vocals, guitar, piano).

Picture by Jim Simpson



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VOGUES

from
The George Clay Music Company

DEN CANEY

Personal Manager to THE VOGUES
wishes to thank Agents, Promoters and Everyone
who has helped us in the past, and trusts that the
release of

"YOUNGER GIRL"

justifies their faith in the Group

DEN CANEY

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congratulate

THE VOGUES

on their latest release

"YOUNGER GIRL"

We hope it will be a big hit.

You deserve it!

MIDLAND BEAT

Published Monthly — Price 1s.

Editor
DENNIS DETHERIDGE

Circulation Manager:
DENNIS W. GARNER

Picture Editor:
JIM SIMPSON

Blacklisting

IT is to be hoped that the blacklisting of groups who persistently let down promoters will prompt the offenders to take a close look at themselves.

For there is no doubt that local agents have been forced to take this action in an effort to bring to heel a handful of groups whose irresponsibility was jeopardising their livelihood.

Groups accepting engagements from an agent have an obligation to him to see that they carry it out to the best of their ability — and that begins with arriving on time.

Now groups who repeatedly show a lack of discipline will face possible blacklisting by most of the major agents in Birmingham. Which means they will have virtually no work in the area for the period of their suspension.

But it is up to the agents to use their power wisely. They must be scrupulously fair, giving every group a chance to state its case if it feels it has been treated unjustly.

No group should be blacklisted unless there is every justification for such punishment.

BO BERRY takes you

ON THE BEAT

IS Roger (no shoes) Beamer the group's answer to Sandie Shaw? ... How long before the Move move to London? ... Bon voyage, Lee Stevens ... Strike recording contract for the Sombrosos ...

LETTERS from Germany to "M. B." from Andy's Clappers and Giorgio and Marco's Men ... Wedding bells for Showmen's Mal Ford and Miss Pat Farrell next month ...

CUSTARD House surely a "plum" booking for Second City Sound ... Vogues' new release should get a liberal share of the sales with Den Caney behind them ... Has Froggy got a Monopoly at Tito's?

Number please

PHIL Myatt wanted to find out if the new Carlton Johns answering service had any messages for him — but he couldn't find their number to ring them! ... Trespassers now solely represented by Mike Carroll ...

MARTIN Baggott knocked out by the Move ... Jimmy Powell re-opening recording studios in Northfield in conjunction with Strike Records ... "Golden Ear - Rings" a suitable signature tune for Carlton Ballroom?

A & R man Alan Freeman visited Birmingham to discuss next Ugly's single (due out early September) ... R.I.P. the Shanes ... Office hunting: Barr Enterprises and Roger Allen Agency ...

Red roses

BERRIES Clive Lea and Chuck Botfield learning to play trumpet ... John Singer's secretary wondering who sent her a dozen red roses ... "M.B." celebrates third anniversary next month ...

DON'T expect to find the Move bidding for an ambulance at an auction again! ... Elbow Room has an impressive list of forthcoming attractions ... Spence is a dad again ... UGLY'S were paid a big fee for playing just two numbers during filming of crowd

scenes for "Privilege" at St. Andrew's ... Must find out the name of Cyril Isherwood's barber ...

NEXT month's Second City Scene column should have a Spanish accent with Dennis Detheridge (Majorca) and Pete Gittings (South of Spain) back from holiday ... Blind saxist with the In-Sect ... Spartans have a girlorganist

Busy start

GLAD to hear Randle's Replacement Agency has had a busy start ... Two more well-known Birmingham groups soon to be represented by Barr Enterprises ... Who told the Con-Chords to go to Blaises? ...

Pete Gittings denies judging too many contests brought on his recent illness ... Deplorable: lack of encouragement from the crowd at finals of Silver Blades contest ... YOU didn't miss much if you missed the U.K. premier of

the Rolling Stones film "Gather No Moss" in Birmingham ... Opening soon: Midnight City, 24-hour club for Birmingham teenagers ... GIORGIO and Marco's Men have distributed copies of "M.B." with their photograph on the front page all over the Continent ... Listen doubled the attendance on recent visit to Queen's Ballroom, Wolverhampton ...

Not the same

DECCA'S August 5th release sheet lists new discs by the Martells and Limeys ... but they're not the Birmingham groups with similar names ... Dennis Detheridge helped Phil Myatt force the Carlton Johns office door when the lock jammed ... Chuck Botfield lost his trunks when he tried water skiing without skis with the Berries at Blackpool ... Can we now expect Lee Stevens to record "When It's Springtime in the Rockies"?

Here's wishing
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with their record

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with

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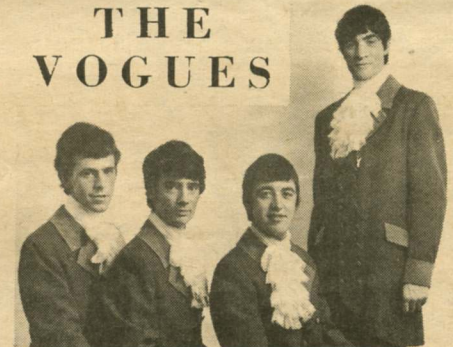
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**Mercian
boss back
again**

Mercian Agency boss Ray Northover is back from Devon, where he has been promoting at Torquay Town Hall, the attractions including Dave Berry, Chris Farlowe and the Alan Price Set.

Says Ray: "We pulled in full houses and were very pleased with the reception given to one of our own groups, Raynor's Secrets, who supported on two occasions."

During the summer, the Kidderminster-based agency has been booking as far afield as Aberystwyth, New Quay, Bude, Torquay, Bognor Regis and London.

Midland venues solely booked through Mercian, the only full-time agency in Worcestershire, include Worcester Co-op Hall, Stourport Civic Centre, and Kidderminster Black Horse Hotel.

Apart from Raynor's Secrets, the agency represents Deep Feelin' (now with Polydor and expecting a release on their return from France) and a re-formed Shakedown Sounds, possibly the most popular group in Worcestershire at the time of their break-up in May.

The new Shakedown Sounds commence bookings in September and now feature organ in their line-up. New vocalist is John Best, formerly with Hereford's Lee Starr group.

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Ray King plus Midriffs

The big sound of the Ray King Soul Pact (left) has joined forces with the versatile Midriff Dancers (below), resulting in a completely new package show, thought to be one of the first of its kind in the country. Handled by Do'Lock Enterprises, of Birmingham, the Pact feature a variety of instruments, including clarinet, flute and vibes. The act is in great demand and hopes to make its disc debut with E.M.I. soon.



The Ian Campbell Column

About turn on Czecks' 'folk'

ONE of the reasons why I first became interested in performing folk music professionally was because I made a trip to Czechoslovakia ten years ago.

At the time, I was in a skiffle group, doing the usual sort of negro prison songs, primitive jazz work songs, blues and so on, as well as having quite a few Scottish songs, drinking songs, etc., in our repertoire.

But it was with a choir that I went on the visit to Czechoslovakia. It completely turned me upside down because I was absolutely knocked out by the folk music there.

The whole country was throbbing away with traditional music. All the young people we met had a traditional costume in their wardrobe. They put it on at the slightest excuse and went round yodelling and stamping with their big boots on.

Most of them were singing or dancing in folk ensembles and those who didn't sing or dance were playing an instrument. It was more of a raving scene in folk music than the beat scene is here.

Although young people in this country are all tied up in beat, a lot of them don't play in groups, whereas in Czecho-

slovakia a young person not in a folk ensemble of some sort was the exception.

These groups were not like my own but huge ensembles of 50 or 60. Every school had its group, so did every college, factory and office block. And folk music was on the radio almost non-stop.

I was so impressed by the lively atmosphere of the music and how the young people had become so involved with it that I came back determined to start a folk ensemble.

I failed. In fact, the first thing I tried to do was to change the choir I was in into a folk ensemble. This led to a great deal of friction and I left!

Eventually, the skiffle group I ran developed into the Campbell Group, leaving me with this picture in my mind of this wonderful, Czechoslovakia, where it all goes on in folk music.

So when we embarked on our recent concert tour of the country, I told the others: "It's going to be a unique experience. You're going to have folk music coming out of your ears!"

After our first four days there, however, we realised that we hadn't encountered any folk music at all. Then we found out what had happened.

It seems that the whole folk music scene died in Czechoslovakia because it was being forced upon them. They just had too much of it. The Government, in trying to protect the Czech public from the corrupting influence of "decadent Western culture," had banned pop music of any sort.

Greener

Well, the grass is always greener on the other side of the hill, so young people, being what they are, immediately reacted by rejecting Czech folk music because it was official.

A black market developed in Elvis Presley and other pop records until the Government eventually realised the mistake they were making. So they lifted the ban.

The cultural mentors of the country came to the conclusion that if they were going to get beat by hook or by crook then they must try and set some sort of standard.

They decided that if the teenagers must have beat, let them have the best, so they invited Manfred Mann over, feeling that it was the most musical group in the West.

And when they noted the folk song revival here, regarding it as a very wholesome

move, they agreed that it would be a good idea to have my group pay a visit.

Their motive was: our young people have rejected traditional music, but if we bring it over from the West, it will suddenly become respectable again, since musically they regard anything from the West as good.

Which is how the Ian Campbell Folk Group was called upon to help to make folk music respectable again in Czechoslovakia!



Leslie Dunn's Theatre Special

THE FALL... AND THE RISE

SEPTEMBER brings the Fall ... and rise, of curtains in theatres around the Midlands.

September 5th. is perhaps the first rise worth noting in BIRMINGHAM where at the Alexandra, as part of the Birmingham Festival of Entertainments, the D'Oyly Carte Opera Company moves in for a two week spell with the following productions: "The Mikado"; "Iolanthe"; "Ruddigore"; "Trial by Jury"; and "H.M.S. Pinafore"; "The Gondoliers"; "The Yeoman of the Guard"; "Patience" and "The Pirates of Penzance".

From this same date until the 10th: STOKE-ON-TRENT'S Victoria Theatre plays Bernard Shaw's "Arms & The Man."

On September 6th: yet another Midland theatre moves over to the repertoire system - the Phoenix Theatre at LEICESTER will open a 15 week season with six plays interchanging throughout the period.

One of the numerous advantages of this system is that productions which prove to be more popular can be given more performances than others, the programme thus capable of being tailored to suit the demands and response of the public.

The plays that make up this season at Leicester are Noel Coward's "Present Laughter"; Bernard Shaw's "Man & Superman"; "Little Malcolm and his Struggle Against the Eunuchs" by David Halliwell; "Portrait of a Queen" by William Francis, the play which was such a success for Dorothy Tutin in London; Moliere's "The Imaginary Invalid" and Shakespeare's "The Taming of the Shrew". Not a bad collection of 15 weeks theatre in lucky Leicester.

The 6th also sees the opening of a new season at the BIRMINGHAM Repertory Theatre, already experienced in the repertoire system. Peter Dews heralds his appearance as the new Director of Productions with a production of Bertolt Brecht's "The Life of Galileo," following it up on the 13th with Ronald Eyre's "Crack in the Ice." Into the COVENTRY Theatre on September 7th comes by now the tried and trusted, nay not only tried and trusted but just about the greatest musical of all time, "My Fair Lady."

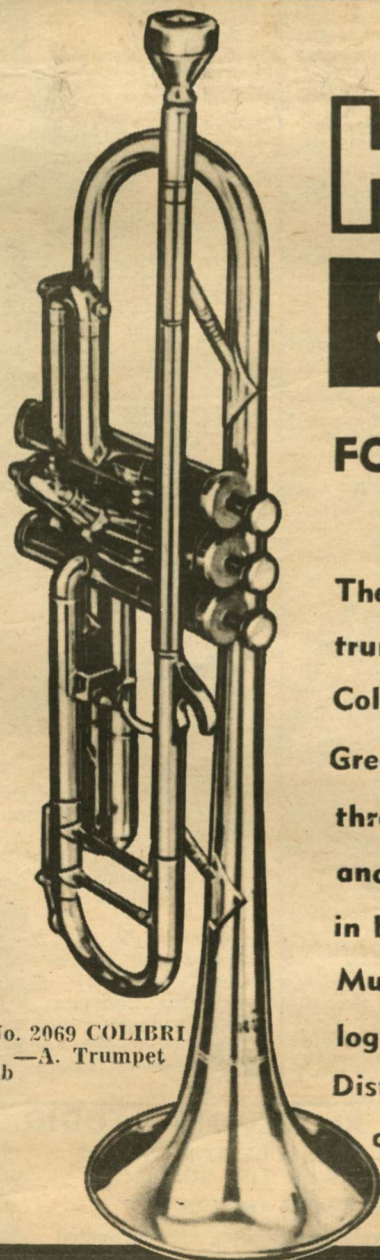
This particular company is the Southern National, which enjoyed such a successful season at the Birmingham Theatre.

The cast includes Tony Britton, Wendy Bowman, Bert Brownbill, Patrick Waddington and Gwynne Whitby. If this show is as good now as when I saw it in Birmingham don't miss it whatever you do.

The next night for openings is September 13th when at CHELTENHAM'S Everyman you can see "A Severed Head" for two weeks; DERBY Playhouse for two weeks of "Trespass" by Emyln Williams and STOKE'S Victoria for Peter Terson's "I'm in Charge of These Ruins."

The next date to note is the closing on September 17th of "Camelot", which opened at the BIRMINGHAM Theatre on August 30th.

Finally September 19th: BIRMINGHAM Alexandra - "Never Too Late" for 1 week; September 26th: COVENTRY Theatre - "The Royal Ballet"; September 27th: CHELTENHAM Everyman - "Private Lives."



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Jazz

I HEARD a long evening of superb jazz at the Midland Jazz Club on 6th August, played by the man who currently fills the trombone chair in the George Lewis Band back in New Orleans: Louis Nelson, admirably backed by Barry "Kid" Martyn's Ragtime Jazz Band.

Supporting band on this occasion was Dan Pawson's Artesian Hall Stompers, there was a bar extension, and yet, M.J.C. Chairman Eddie Fleming was somewhat disconsolate because the club was not quite full. So financially, all was not well.

If New Orleans fans don't support the club when they present such great attractions, the Midland, the biggest and most influential club in the Midlands, will not be able to afford George Lewis and Co.

Wingy Manone, likewise from New Orleans, is the star booked by the M.J.C. for September 17th. Older fans will remember him for his version of "Isle of Capri" a long time before Ken Colyer and Chris Barber presented this pre-war pop number as a vehicle for swinging jazz. Please, lovers of N.O. jazz, don't let Eddie and me down, will you?

NEWS has come in this month of Sunday lunchtime jazz sessions by Jim Shelley's revived Milenburg Band, at The Caves, Stafford St., Walsall. They formerly played at the Stork in that town and we were glad to see Rick Vaughan on clarinet alongside Jim on trombone.

♦♦♦♦

AN OLD band under a new name were recently at Le Metro club in Livery Street: the London City Stompers have become Max Collie's Rhythm Aces.

About the only band around to feature a female bassist (Annie Hawkins), they include, in addition to leader Max (trombone): Eddie Edwards (banjo), ex-Eric Allendale Band; Trevor Arnold (tpt.), Roy Pellett (clt.), and Tony Skrivens (drs.). Max Collie came over with the Melbourne New Orleans Band, which toured in 1962-3.



Back in Nottingham is Tony Jackson, who has been singing in London for the past six months with one of Britain's top jazz groups, the Bruce Turner Jump Band, Bruce having now joined the Acker Bilk Band, of course.

Tony has played in Nottingham with such bands as the Leen Valley Jazzmen, Richard Hallam Blues Band, R & B Messengers and Bob Wilson's Blues. He's also worked with Derby's Arthur Coyne's Jazzmen and the Derek Butterworth Band.

But Tony Jackson has not confined his experience as a jazzman to playing with bands in the Midlands and London. He was also in the South of France with Jean Christian Michel's Storyville Jazz Band

PLEASE, don't let us down

AT THE Giffard Arms, Wolverhampton, the Original Syncopation Jazz Club meets every Friday.

Mostly, the Zenith Hot Stompers play there but a visiting band is on when the Zeniths play away, for example at Salutation Stomp, Birmingham, as on September 9th. (Bill Nile's Jazzmen on August 26th).

ANOTHER popular club in the Midlands is the Woolpack J.C., meeting regularly at the Woolpack Inn, Union St., Rugby, on Sundays.

♦♦♦♦

Closed during August, they re-open in September, and feature visiting bands, such as Ken Colyer's, Monty Sunshine's, Barry Martyn's.

Spencer's Washboard Kings have also played there, likewise Nottingham's leading New Orleans-style jazz band, Les Devotees. Members pay 5s. at the Woolpack; guests 7s. TROMBONIST with the Savoy Jazzband is now Pete Hindle, whose temporary replacement with the Canalside Jazzband on Mondays is Dave Senior, the trombonist with the Artesian Hall Stompers.

This band have a new clarinetist in Dick

Bridges, who seems a very careful and sensitive Lewis-style musician. The Savoy's Monday dates at the Briars, Habberley Road, Kidderminster, continue successfully.

Also there on 6 August was Champion Jack Dupree, whose visits to the Midlands have been numerous and enjoyable.

Two clubs which also present visiting London bands as well as having a resident band are: Worcester, Old Rectifying House, Mondays, resident: Perdido St. Stompers, and Stafford, Staffordshire Yeoman, resident: Three Spires Jazzband.

HAVING closed at the Adam and Eve, Bradford St. for the summer, well-known trombonist-leader Nick Williams now plays on Friday nights at the Old Crown in Deritend.

♦♦♦♦

His band included Ken Littler (po.), Bob Oliver (tpt.), Phil Hodnett (bs.), Brian Helliwell (bjo.), Mick Haslam (drs.) and Roy Lunn (clt.) when I heard them. The Old Crown is the place to hear Ken Ingram's Eagle J.B. on Saturday and Sunday evenings. JAZZ fans, showing that well-known solidarity which holders of minority interests

usually exhibit, are notoriously gregarious.

If you have any time left to write letters after spending evenings in the numerous clubs and concert-halls and listening to the ever-increasing record collection, may I mention International Jazz Friends, formed to introduce jazz fans from all over the world to each other, in order that they may correspond and exchange records, tapes and magazines.

Membership is free. Having met jazz-fans from many countries, and being in active touch with a number still, I can vouch for the satisfaction such contacts give.

If readers are interested, write to either: R. Neal, 9 Lee Park, London, S.E.3, or J. Ellison, 29 Inverary Rd., Wroughton, Swindon, Wilts.

♦♦♦♦

I HAVE recently received two very interesting records from Czechoslovakia, whither Birmingham's George Watts travelled, as reported last month.

The Studio for Trad Jazz, led by Pavel Smetacek, reveal ability and taste and the clarinet player has certainly heard Monty Sunshine. This is all the more interesting since (as Monty himself told me at Le Metro club on August, 5th) the Sunshine Band will be a British representative at Prague's second international jazz festival in Czechoslovakia on October 6.

The departure of Val Wiseman, our local contribution to professional jazz vocalists, will mean that Monty will not take a singer with him. I understand Val is hoping to make a name as a solo artist, and I'm sure readers will join me in wishing her good luck.

Finally, two more dates to note, both at Salutation Stomp, Snow Hill: September 16 Johnny Parker, one of Britain's greatest blues pianists, with Birmingham's Creole Serenaders; September 23, Ged Hone Ragtime Band (from Manchester).

by LES PAGE

Dear Sir...

FURTHER to my letter printed recently regarding the playing of "Top Ten" numbers as an essential to success, I can now conclude as follows:

We have been forced to turn to playing these numbers in order to get bookings to pay the Inland Revenue (Taxman). So, on threat of jail, practically, our group has turned to playing "pops."

No more will we hear the sweet words of praise from other groups who were delighted with our material, no more will we perform numbers by such artists as Jackie Ross, Buddy Ace, the Entertainers and Bobby Moore.

If this does not convince Dave Hale, then I'll gladly talk it over with him in my cell at Winson Green!

Plastic Genius

Wednesbury, Staffs.

Move dedicated

WHY do groups insist on running down the Move? We think The Move are a fantastic group and we cannot see why they are the current object of criticism.

We feel that if groups — instead of showing their jealousy by knocking them — would follow their example by showing as much dedication to their music, we would probably see a lot more Bir-

mingham groups in the hit parade today.

The Monopoly

Sutton Coldfield, Warks.

Clique club

WE are writing to inform you of the Official Fan Club for the Clique, the winners of the "Sounds of '66" Contest at the Silver Blades, Birmingham.

When applying for membership, fans should send a postal order for 2s. 6d. and a stamped addressed envelope to the address given below.

Sheila and Anne

148 Walsall Road, Perry Barr, Birmingham.

Thanks...

WE would like to thank you very much for writing about the Virus in "Midland Beat." They are our local group and we think they deserve recognition because they are a fantastic group.

Sue and Lyn Fan Club Secretaries

44 Oakthorpe Drive, Kingshurst Estate, Birmingham 34.

A chance to see George Barnes

Midland guitarists visiting London at the beginning of September will have the opportunity of seeing noted American guitarist George Barnes, who will be assisting with promotions for Guild Guitars.

There is to be a "Meet the Guitarists" evening at St. Giles Music Centre on September 8 and a concert and demonstration at the Notre Dame Hall, Leicester Place, off Leicester. Tickets for the concert which begins at 3 p.m., with George being accompanied by Ivor Mairants, are available from local Guild stockists or Besson & Co., Edgware.

Beauty and the Beat

Attractive, 20 - years - old Cindy Cole has already made two discs, her latest being "Lonely City Blue Boy" on the Columbia label. She comes from Flint in North Wales.

It was after her family moved to Chester that Cindy got her E.M.I. recording contract. Now she's hoping it won't be long before her name is gracing the hit parade.



New Bromsgrove studios expect to be busy

PARTNERS in Bromsgrove's new recording studios, Phil Dawson and Roger Baker, have called the venture the "John Graham" Studios.

Situated in the old part of the Catshill, W.M.C., well known for its big beat sessions, in Meadow Road, Catshill, Bromsgrove, the first customers were the recently re-formed Moderation. Other visitors included the Bent Society.

Ideally situated between Birmingham and Worcester, it is expected that Worcestershire groups will make full use of the facilities offered by the principals.

Phil will be remembered by older readers as vocalist with the Playboys, who were the first county group on I.T.V. He is a fully qualified electrical engineer, and has made nearly all the equipment, with the exception of mikes and a Ferrograph tape deck (the latest model). He is the A & R man and his previous group experience with the Nomads will stand him in good stead.

Roger Baker, too, is well-known. He is a handyman/engineer and offers groups a van-replacement service, as well as repairs for equipment. Groups are advised to book early for appointments. The comprehensive charge will be £2.10s. an hour for the first two hours, reducing by ten shillings for each two hour period thereafter.

This offer is open till October 1st, when charges will be approximately three guineas an hour.

Further details from Phil (telephone Bromsgrove 5763) or Roger (Bromsgrove 2810) It is hoped to add a booking agency at a later stage.

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'MIDLAND BEAT' REGISTER

So many groups have just been formed, broken up or changed their name since the introduction of the "Midland Beat" Group Register that we have decided it should be revised. Therefore, any group wishing their name to be entered in the new register must complete the form below and send it to "Midland Beat" without delay. Remember, inclusion in the register is one way of helping to prevent another group coming on the scene with YOUR name!

TO: "Midland Beat" 1966 Group Register, Midland Beat, 110 Wake Green Road, Moseley, Birmingham 13.

Name of group: _____

Manager's Name and Address: _____

Telephone No: _____

Here are the latest additions to the revised Group Register: The Clique (Streety), Catch—22 (Birmingham), Exchequers (Birmingham), Heatwave (Brownhills), Levy Ramblers (Birmingham), Lovin' Kind (Birmingham), Peasant Sect (Wolverhampton), The Rest (Birmingham), Sonic Sounds (Ross-on-Wye), This End (Nottingham), The "T" (Leicester), The Nazz (Birmingham).

CLIQUE CLICK!

WELL done, The Clique! This popular Birmingham group are the winners of the "Sounds of 66" Beat Contest at the Silver Blades Ice Rink, Birmingham.

But it was such a close-fought battle in the finals that judges Dennis Detheridge, Pete Gittings and Frank Brookstein had a difficult task making a decision.

However, they agreed that the Clique were worthy winners with the talented In-Sect from Evesham in second place. Another hard-working group, the Outer Limits, were third.

Special individual awards to the outstanding instrumentalists and vocalists in the contest were presented by "Midland Beat."

These were won by Richard Bennett (lead guitar, In-Sect) Terry Gill (bass guitar, Clique), P. Hornby (rhythm guitar, Satans), Tony Pugh (organ, Clique), Doug Alcock (drums, In-Sect), Dean James (vocalist, Outer Limits) and Roger Banning (saxist, In-Sect).

The winning groups received substantial cash prizes, including £100 for the Clique, who also get a recording test and dates at other rinks on the Silver Blades circuit.



Dennis Detheridge, Editor of "Midland Beat," presents Terry Gill with a cheque for £100 for The Clique as the winners of the competition. On the left of the picture is the Clique's Tony Pugh.



Individual award winners shown here with their plaques



Playfully tuning his "B" string to the boss's satisfaction is Peter Maybury of the Kenny Haywood Four. Listening with interest are Dave Lowe (bass) and Mick Edwards (drums). The boss of course, is Kenny Haywood.

Toasting their own hoped for success just before the final are the In-Sect pictured here in the Silver Blades Milk Bar. Left to right: Lee Richmond, Roger Banning, Dick Bennett, Michael Selby, Doug Alcock and Roy Birchmore. The boys of the In-Sect are all from Evesham.

pictures
JOHN LINES



Pausing for a picture whilst donning their stage outfits are the winners of the contest, The Clique. Left to right: David Griffiths, Tom Bridgewater, Tony Pugh, Terry Gill and Michael Thomas.



Trying their luck on the ice (could this be who the Satans were watching) are the Outer Limits. Left to right: Dave Lloyd, Michael Walsh, Dean James, Dave Vedmore and Trevor Bown.

The Satans, from Coleshill, caught watching the skaters in action during finals night at the Silver Blades.



SECOND CITY SCENE

by Dennis Deth

HAVE you paid a visit to the Heart Beat Club in Birmingham yet? If you haven't, it's time you did, writes Pete Gittings.

The Heart Beat Club, the first discotheque to open in Birmingham, is situated over the Silver Blades Ice Rink. A very cosy club with subdued lighting and a friendly atmosphere, together with brand new dance floors, it makes a very pleasant evening out. Genial host and manager, Mr. Peter Forward is always at hand with a pleasant smile for his guests in the club. Top marks also to his charming young ladies who serve behind the bars, cloakrooms, etc., with good, quick service. Now to the man the club cannot do without, Frankie Lee, the resident D.J. Twenty-four-year-old Frankie started two years ago, gaining experience under Geoff Bailey and Tony Jay. Now he is playing in the region of 36 to 40 hours of records a week in the club, using something like 800 records, which are selected from 2000 - odd titles at his finger tips.

All types of music is played, including Country and Western, Rhythm and Blues, Motown, Pop, Blue Beat, seven nights a week. And on Wednesday a leading local group is featured in the club.

It is not unusual to see members of leading national groups paying a visit to the club, particularly if they have appeared at the rink downstairs earlier in the evening. This gives the members an opportunity of getting auto-



The Move — off to Vietnam?

It wasn't long before the conversation turned to Liverpool when manager John Morgan welcomed Tommy Quickly to his Gay Tower Ballroom at Edgbaston, Birmingham. After all, what else do you expect two "Scousers" to talk about when they get together?

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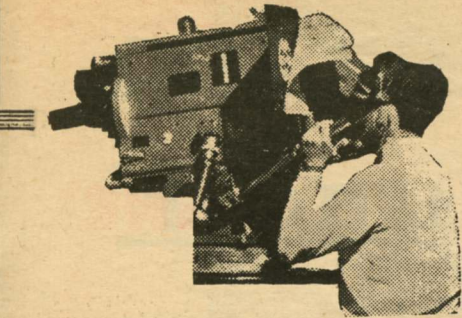
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"Jakkii" — writing to recording break.



eridge and Pete Gittings

aphs and meeting the stars themselves.

Smiling Frankie tells me at an "Oldie but Goodie" night will be held on Thursdays soon, featuring discs made during the past five years and still remaining popular. They will be played requested by the club members.

A point worth mentioning is that if any member requests any record to be played that Frankie has not in stock members are usually told that there is a possibility their record will be available the following week.

It's also interesting to note at members appear to know each other and mix very well with the new faces that might appear at the club, making the heart Beat a place where anyone can feel at home.

Help for Jakkii

LOOKING forward to making her first record soon — thanks to "Midland Beat" — Jacqueline Purser, of 172 Middleton Hall Road, Kings Norton. It was writing to "A.B." that led to "Jakkii" getting her disc contract.

She wrote: "I wonder if you could help me. I am 20 years old and have been singing and playing the guitar for about four years, during which I have been playing rhythm and vocal with different groups.

"But now I have decided to go out on my own, as neither Marianne Faithfull, only this time with guitar. This is where I would like someone to help me in arranging numbers, etc., most of all to give

me an honest opinion on whether I'd do or not.

"My style is more of a modern folk (Buffy Saint Marie, cum a little of Joan Baez, with a touch of Marianne Faithfull thrown in) than anything. I can also play instrumentals."

We passed on Miss Purser's letter to Arthur Smith, of the A.D.S.E.L. agency, suggesting he might like to consider her for Polydor Records. He arranged a recording test — and "Jakkii" passed with flying colours.

For Mr Brown

WHEN the U.K. Bonds read that Deputy Premier George Brown had made a speech at Durham Miner's Gala with the theme, "The World Is Watching Us," they couldn't resist sending him a copy of their disc.

An accompanying letter from drummer Mick Allen said: "We little thought that when we recorded the number that the title was to be used by you in one of your fiery speeches and quoted throughout the world."

But the U.K. Bonds have a feeling that Mr. Brown might be playing the "B" side of the disc now that he has moved over to the Foreign Office. It's called "I Said Goodbye to the Blues!"

To Vietnam

THE MOVE will be off to Vietnam to entertain the American forces in the autumn if President Johnson accepts an offer made by the group's manager, Tony Secunda.

Says Mr. Secunda: "I've written to the President saying that the boys would be pleased

to go out there for a few days. I'm still waiting for a reply."

Meanwhile, the Move are expected to make their first disc soon, possibly for Tamla Motown, as it is understood that there is a possibility that the boys might be signed by this label.

The Move have just been filmed at the Marquee Club by the World Health Organisation for a picture they are making on the youth of Britain compared with other countries.

And Sardinia

STILL "having a great time" on the Continent are Andy's Clappers. And it seems unlikely that we will be seeing much of them in the coming months because they are contemplating spending a long season in Sardinia.

Family act

HOW many beat groups have an act that appeals to all members of the family? One of the few are the Rockin' Berries, currently wowing audiences at the North Pier, Blackpool.

"Our season with Des O'Connor and Kenneth McKellar is giving us another chance to get across to family audiences," comments lead guitarist Chuck Botfield.

With a summer season at Great Yarmouth last year, pantomime at Wolverhampton last Christmas and an appearance in "Sunday Night at the London Palladium" on TV, the Berries have already had plenty of experience playing to family audiences.

"To be honest, we would rather be billed simply as the Berries," admits Chuck, "but

promoters won't book us unless we can be billed as the Rockin' Berries. They say they would lose business because people might think it was another group."

And that's why the label of their latest disc, "Midnight Mary," states it is by the Rockin' Berries — even though the boys have previously announced their intention to be known as the Berries in future!

Girls wanted!

ONE of the busiest of Birmingham's dee-jays must surely be Erskin Thomas, otherwise known as Ersking the "T", who came to England from Barbados ten years ago.

After spinning the discs at various venues throughout the Midlands, Erskin is now looking for three young mod girls to form a dancing troupe to add extra excitement and action to his show.

The debut for the new production will be at the new "Big Deal Discotek," opening at the Bredon Cross Hotel, Cotteridge, on Sunday, September 25, when a capacity crowd is expected for his action-packed show.

Book early

GRAHAM Bond is the attraction at Birmingham's Penthouse Club on September 3. There is also certain to be a big crowd a week later for the appearance of the Cream.

Star visitors to the Elbow Room include Alan Haven and Tony Crombie (September 5), Ray Ellington Quartet (October 2-8), Herbie Goins and the Night Timers (October 26) and Jackie Edwards (November 14).

U.K. Bonds — they sent their record to George Brown.



The Rockin' Berries — promoters won't let them be just the Berries!

The Andicaps made quite sure that there would be no doubt that they were a British group when

they set off for engagements in Germany. They had one side of their van completely painted as a Union Jack!



"M.B." gave her a



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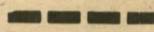
They're on top 'down under'

...and now these Aussies are hitting Midlands high spots

MAKING a big impression on the cabaret scene in the Midlands are the Australian Variety Trio, a musical combination with a high reputation "down under."

They arrived in England as a quintet called the Australian Concordes in May — but two members are currently touring the Continent.

"We decided to change our name to the Australian Variety Trio while we're in the Midlands to avoid confusion with the group called the Con-Chords," explained Peter Kay (saxes, clarinet and vocals).



The Trio is made up of Peter plus Hedy Benaud (girl singer comedienne) and Johnny Dennis (organist pianist). On the Continent are Ricky Ward (drums-vibes) and Mary-Lea (girl singer).

Because the organ they use in their act in Australia was too heavy to bring to England with them, the group have acquired a new portable organ since they arrived here.

"It's a Farfisa Compact Duo," explained Peter Kay. "We bought it from Crane's in Birmingham. We were very impressed with the range of organs on display there."

"Manager Ian Laird was very helpful and we've found the Farfisa very satisfactory."

The Australian Variety Trio with their new Farfisa from Crane's



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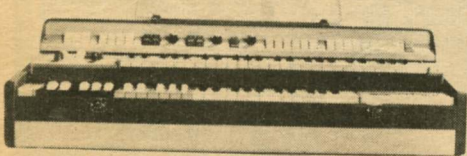
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The Germans need educating!

...says Giorgio

All set to promote their first disc for Polydor after a month in Germany are Giorgio and Marco's Men, the popular group from Wolverhampton.

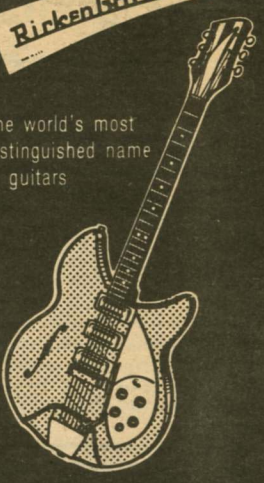
Says Giorgio: "We went down quite well at the Star Club. But it needs a lot more big groups over there with organ and saxes, playing our kind of music to educate them!"

"They are still living in the past. All the top groups are just a three-guitar line-up."

"We played three-and-a-quarter hours a night in the week and four hours on Saturday's and Sundays. I think we are much better for it."

A big music festival was held in Hamburg while the group were there and the boys appeared on a boat on the River Elbe with five other groups from all over Europe.

And the following night at the Star Club found Giorgio and Marco's Men being filmed for showing on television.



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The Heart Beat — Dancing Nightly



WARWICKSHIRE

Paul Connew,
32 Pinnock Place,
Pile Hill,
Coventry.

COVENTRY'S Matadors really exploded and hit the roof in the nicest sense ... when they appeared at London top spot, Tiles. The group were mobbed by enthusiastic admirers and have been invited to make a very quick return to the great shrine of in-people.

Needless to say, the influential George Cooper Organisation are very impressed and, at the time of writing, the future looks rosy for the boys. They plan their next recording session with pop avant-gardist Andrew Loog Oldham early in October.

LOCARNO ballroom manager at Coventry, Dennis Sullivan, continues to "scoop" away merrily. He now has those transatlantic pop record - smashers, the Troggs, booked. And calmly, Dennis tells me that the price he is paying is below their current valuation ... he took an option on them months ago when "Wild Thing" had only just been released.

Not that the Locarno have a patent on scooping. The Leofric Jazz Club (run by Northern agency, McKiernan's) also have some great dates lined up for their Coventry regulars.

One jazz attraction they have on October 1 is Sonny Stitt, the talented enigma of American modern jazz. And the man who is stylistically so reminiscent of the legendary, Charlie Parker, "The Bird" himself.

For this major date, the club are running a special Saturday show instead of their normal Sunday one. And tickets for the Stitt appearance will be made available to club regulars first. For the younger, soul music fans, the Leofric have American stars Lee Dorsey and Ben E. King.

COVENTRY has found a new idol ... but he hails from London! Scott Hamilton is the name and he is an up and coming Parlophone recording star with two discs, "Worry Is a Rocking Chair" and "Good-day Sunshine" to his credit.

He's made personal appearances at the Locarno ballroom and been a beauty contest judge (along with me) at the same venue. Judging from the girle screams that greeted his guest appearance, Scott has a big future.

STALWART Pretty Flamingoes have turned into a journalist's dream this month with good angles shooting out of them faster than musical crotchets and quavers. And that's the trouble, not all of the news is good.

One black night, thieves stole their van with much of their equipment inside and although the van was found, a lot of equipment, including drums and organ — value just under £2,000 — was taken. Several lucrative dates had to be cancelled and an important record chance was threatened. Only about half of the missing gear was insured.

Altogether, it was not a very happy return from holiday for the group's manager, Arthur Payne, who had been on the Continent combining business with pleasure.

The Pretty Flamingoes have also been responsible for the return of one of the Midlands early rock spirits, Shel Naylor. After some time in the wilderness, he is playing organ and piano with the group as well as the occasional vocal.

Rather different, though, from the lean young man who became

something of a Coventry legend with his uninhibited Jerry Lee Lewis efforts in the days when Elvis was still a new phenomenon and the Beatles had never been heard of.

SENIOR Friar's Promotions partner, Jack Hardy, from Bedworth, is quite a trumpeter, and used to have his own excellent little band. But, until a couple of weeks ago, teenagers who regarded him as a promoter more than a musician, never had a clue.

Now, however, Jack is back on the scene ... sitting-in on trumpet with the Ray King Soul Pact and the Jigsaw.

RUGBY guitarist Geoff Parson, formerly with the now defunct Beat Preachers is now with Coventry-Rugby outfit, the Ravens. A new rugger for Geoff, and I hope this will satisfy his fans, who have been plaguing me with requests for news.

THE thirty-odd miles between Coventry and Leicester is becoming almost next-door — in the pop sense.

Friar's Promotions and Leics P & S Promotions are linking up in many ways in a pop interplay of mutual benefit, they hope, to both scenes.

Two groups who should benefit are Leicester's Mozeltoff and Legay. The latter are said to be more like the Move than the Move.

What a month for London-based Coventrians, the Sensations, Liberty, under the auspices of Sonny and Cher, have flipped over both sides of their disc planned for American release. The "B" side has been switched into a follow-up "A" side and two new flips had to be rushed out.

Manager Ken Waites was happily shocked when the original 800-dollar advance from America was immediately trebled. Early sales are encouraging.

Young Ken — now with Southern Music — is being encouraged to branch out as a record producer on his own within the company and is looking for good Warwickshire solo singers, male or female.

"We are in a different position from most," he says. "With people like John Lewis and Ken Carter, of Ivy League fame, also in the company and its subsidiary, Iver Recording, we have plenty of good songs."

"This is usually a record producer's biggest headache. What I want, however, are some good singers, the songs are already available."

A golden chance for some song-birds and boys?

EAST ANGLIA

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

AFTER winning their way to the finals of the "Melody Maker" National Beat Contest 1966, the Versions, Norfolk's only representative group at the contest, failed to make the top placings at the London Palladium - held contest. Nevertheless, they put up a great show in the face of overwhelming opposition.

The four-man line up of the Versions was not enough to compete with some of the groups taking part, who featured up to seven, eight or nine piece mini-orchestras.

However, the contest has done a lot to boost the group's bookings and there is also the possibility of their making a record soon.

The group members, Malcolm Hooper, Roger Puymer, Brian Crook and Chris Bell, are certainly

the envy of many local bands, for it's not everybody who can say they've played at the London Palladium.

NEWS are in the news again. Although their first release, "The Entertainer", was a disappointment and failed to make the charts, they have a new release, a Chris Andrews number, "This is the Moment," which is now getting airplay.

The number was rush-recorded by the group in July and was featured in the B.B.C. programme "Adam Adamant," on August 25th. The News have created quite a stir in the area of late with their Rock 'n' Roll revival meetings.

A NORWICH group who have a total of nine members, Cheaters have flown to the Costa Brava to take up a residency at the El Cortijo night club in the tourist town of Blanes.

They got the job after the club manager, a close friend of the groups' organ player, Keith Burberry, heard some of the group's tapes.

He decided to give them the contract at the club and for the next three months, the Cheaters formed in their present line-up only six months ago, will be entertaining night-club crowds.

PETE Miller, ex-Jaywalker and now leader of the newly formed Fuzz, has penned the latest release by Boz, former King's Lynn singer, now based in London.

The release, "The Baby Song," has had good reviews in this country and abroad and Pete hopes for a hit with this one. His own group, the Fuzz, made a triumphant debut at the Orford Cellar at the beginning of August and since then promoter Howard Platt has booked them regularly throughout the winter season.

SATURDAY, September 3rd, sees the re-opening of the Saturday night dances at Norwich's Gala Ballroom after a break for August. Billy J. Kramer and the Dakotas are appearing at the first night session. Spencer Davis appears at the Dereham Tavern Club this month on a Saturday night session — September 17th.

WALES

MARK GALE,
7 Hanover Street,
Canton, Cardiff

ANNOUNCING a new hip pastime — well, new to Wales, anyway. Beat groups are beginning to decorate their vans with way out verse and legends.

One anonymous ex-P.O. van which stands habitually in Romilly Road, Canton, Cardiff, invites compositions for this way-side "Break-thru."

Another van, rather less anonymous — it is owned with every pretence of pride by Brother John and the Witnesses, of Barry — makes this suggestion, "Don't waste water, bath with Brother John."

I'm all for beat groups broadening their artistic canvas, and where better than on the sides of their vans? But I must confess a little concern over the directions their deviations are taking.

Anyhow, it's something new, something different, and maybe that's a virtue in itself. Is it happening elsewhere, I wonder?

CARDIFF, never exactly a swinging city, where beat groups grew and thrived or otherwise in church halls, suddenly has two rave centres — neither in the city centre.

Their gaining popularity has an air of infection about it. Fly-posters appear like brightly coloured pimples on empty grey walls, on the white-washed windows of abandoned shops.

They advertise the pleasures of the Scene Club discotheque in

Leckwith Road, Canton, and the Blue Dolphin Club, in Richmond Road, Cathays.

The Scene has been leased from Cardiff club owner Annis Abraham who used to operate the Sphinx Club on the site until localised complaints of slamming car-doors and stop-tap language brought a stay in the renewal of his music and dancing licence.

Recent visitors have been the Eyes of Blue (of whom we shall hear more directly), the Falling Leaves and the Image.

The Blue Dolphin operates at the Kennard Rooms, pioneer of purely teenage dances, which still retains an "Old-Tyme Night" link with respectability, if that's what it is called.

Rufus Thomas was there while I was on holiday and received sterling support from the resident Dave Edmunds Trio. Dave has a Peter Pan presence. He used to play bass guitar when his brother Geoff and I and a couple of others now departed from the scene made up the Stompers.

And that was eight years ago. EIGHT YEARS AGO! But I digress ... Rest of the bill of fare at the Blue Dolphin is made up by the disc jock, Doc Rock.

SWANSEA'S Eyes of Blue (see this page) had a busy time in London, quite apart from winning the Melody Maker Beat Contest with the P.A. system, £250 organ and Carnaby Street wardrobe that went with it.

Four days before the contest, they were doing a round of London clubs; the night after the contest they did a spot at the Cromwellian and were congratulated by Georgie Fame.

Then they returned West for celebration shows at Swansea, Skewen and Llanell. Presently, they are searching for suitable material for their first Decca record release — another adjunct to said contest.

The Swansea success took the cream off it a little for Pontypool's Sabres, who took third place. But local fans are planning to make it up to the Gwent group. And they still have a recording test with Decca's Dick Rowe to come.

PROMINENCE of the Principality in the contest already has the talent-seekers heading for the hills. E.M.I. artists and recording manager Peter Eden has asked me to help him find some recordable sounds, and I would welcome some word from groups who want an audition.

Incidentally, it might make things a lot simpler all round if groups could provide tapes. If they can't, it doesn't matter.

Disastrous introduction for bass guitarist Mike Richards to Pontypool's Stereos. The group were on their way back from Mike's debut concert at Tredegar when their car skidded on the wet road and crashed into a wall.

Mike suffered a broken leg, vocalist Ken Rees was concussed and lead guitarist Dave Parfitt was treated for severe bruising. Scene of the accident? Fiddler's Elbow ... Where else?

Swansea's Smokeless Zone have cut short their tour of German U.S.A.F. bases and are returning home, with rumours rife. Most probably story is that their transport was stolen.

OFF the track a little, a very close friend of mine, science-fiction writer Peter Tate, has what he describes as an "anti-beat" short story in the current "Impulse" magazine, published by Compact Books.

This is quite an about-turn for him, because I happen to know he does a great deal of beat journalism.

"All the better for authenticity," says Peter. I suspect that when he wrote "The First Last Martyr," he had a large lump in his right cheek ... his tongue.

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NOTTINGHAMSHIRE

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

JAYBIRDS have been having a busy time lately, but they have been loving every minute of it. In addition to backing the Ivy League nearly every night, the 'Birds have been featured on their new L.P. and also on B.B.C.'s "Saturday Club."

Much of the group's work has recently been centred on the "club circuit" of the north and north east of England, playing (with great success) some of the largest clubs in the country. Future plans with the Ivy League include visits overseas.

ONE of clubland's biggest names — Wee Willie Harris — remember him from early rock 'n' roll days? — has invited the Beeston group the Carpetbaggers to become his permanent backing group.

Willie is a tremendous pull in cabaret and his act has taken him all over the world, but the boys from Beeston have declined the offer.

The Carpetbaggers have done this because they are determined to reach national prominence, not as a backing group, but in their own right and on their own merits.

Recently in London, the boys recorded a demo disc featuring "I wanna meet her" on the A side, coupled with a self-composition, "I'm so lonely." Ballroom dates this month feature the group with Dave Dee, Dozy, Beaky, Mick and Tich, the Action and the Who.

THE future of Vicky and the Kordettes goes into the melting pot this month. Drummer Tony Borg returns to his native Malta and the whole group have been mulling over the situation.

It is not only the problem of finding a new drummer but also a rhythm guitarist, Roger Severn is reported to have lost interest and to be leaving.

There is a certain feeling in the group that they have gone as far as they can in their present format — they have appeared on "Opportunity Knocks" and had an unsuccessful recording test — and that a change is needed. At the time of writing no-one seems to know what will emerge — a nucleus of the group still calling themselves Vicky and the Kordettes, or two new groups.

NEW feature vocalist for the Pinxton Pack is Johnny Angel, who has moved from the Lost Taces. Only together since May, the five-piece Intruders came second in the Beat Nite group contest and are considering turning pro. in the New Year ... The Pedlars Show Group new title for the Old Beat Pedlars.

STAFFORDSHIRE

ROGER BENNETT,
23, Lichfield Road,
Walsall

A STORMY outburst comes this month from Maurice Jones of Wolverhampton's Astra Agency. He hits out at certain Midland outfits who are charging "fantastic fees" for their services.

"In some cases it is getting quite out of hand and they are in danger of pricing themselves out of work altogether. It is really getting ridiculous when I can book nationally-known artists for £20 cheaper than local groups," Maurice told me.

And he should know what he's talking about. In the next couple of months he has booked into the area both Tony Jackson and the Vibrations and the Mojos. The latter appear for the week commencing October 8 and the former start a week on November 13.

At the time of going to press Wolves manager Geoff Jacobs was hoping to get his boys up from Weymouth — where they are enjoying a highly successful summer season — for some recording work.

This Wolverhampton outfit recently recorded some half dozen numbers with Pye, who have them under a leasing contract. Geoff took a couple of them to E.M.I., however, and they too were interested.

"They are becoming a lot more particular what they release nowadays, however," says Geoff. "At one time anything that sounded vaguely commercial was put on the market. The pattern is changing."

Geoff also told me that when the Wolves finish their summer season this month they will be taking a well deserved rest.

BILLY Bonham, a member of Walsall's Prim n' Proper, is quite a talented boy. This 15-years-old plays the piano, clarinet, and tenor and alto, besides the organ. He's feeling quite pleased with himself lately, having just taken delivery of a brand new Hammond organ.

Talking of talented people, someone else who comes in this category is 'N' Between's bass guitarist Jim Lea. He gave up a scholarship in arts and music to join the group.

Jim can play piano, organ, violin, viola and double bass and was a member of the National Youth Orchestra. Quite a change, I should imagine, from orchestra classics to beat music, but obviously one Jim has accomplished.

The 'N' Between's themselves are still riding high. A few days ago they were cock a'hoop at playing at London's Tiles Club in Oxford Street — the real swinging place of the moment.



ABOVE: This End are being hailed as "Nottingham's biggest attraction," according to a press release. The group is endeavouring to create "a new type of music," earning them the description "four experimenters in sound."

LEICESTERSHIRE

ARTHUR KIRBY,
24 Tolcarne Road,
Leicester



BELOW: Popular Staffordshire group Samantha's Moods.

MAGNIFICENT Five are back on the scene with a new instrumental line-up which now includes a jangle-box.

Wigston composer Raymond Kirby has 16 songs on manuscript and is awaiting the release of one of his songs on a disc by the Saints. This is for the Pye label.

Les and Jean Davis, husband and wife team, won lots of applause with their drums and guitar act at Knighton and Scrafton clubs. The Flipsides have a rival for the title of Leicester's youngest group. New contenders are the Saketa Four.

PAUL Newman of the X'Caliburs is now out of hospital, where his recent operation was a complete success.

Laverne West and the Rangers Showband turned down a very lucrative offer from a London agent to fulfil a local engagement at a very much lower fee.

Marlin and the Munix fast becoming one of the city's best groups. Ann, of Ann and the Countdowns, may soon be working the area as a solo act. The Dave Houston Four have found themselves an excellent manager in Bob George of Oakham. The Barry Brothers are finding Leicester a swinging place to work in.

RUMOURS that Francis Langford may quit show business are premature, though it's true he has left the Vic Rawlings agency.

Mary Courtney and her Courtiers are still awaiting offers from Leicester clubs, and my hunch is that offers are being whispered.

Groups already lined up for the weekly "Shop Window" include Alec Winstone and the Flintstones and the Greycats.

Groups are getting out of the Top Twenty rut at last with Soul Expression trying to lead the way. Farinas are at last being recognised by local concert bookers. David Gibson is doing well as part of the vocal instrumental act called The Forresters.

Ken Noble has had a successful audition for "Opportunity Knocks" and has invited me to sponsor him on the show. Dave Houston Four are also through the audition.

RENEGADES are still resident dance group for the central St. Patrick's Club after four years at the same club.

Ken Norton, lead guitarist with the Magnificent Five is now sporting a magnificent beard. Rockets were recently advertised by two different clubs as "Leicester's leading group". E.M.I. man Peter Eden may soon visit Leicester to discuss with me the possibility of recording one or two local groups.

Bernie Burgess, husband of Ruby Murray, seems to have forgotten his promise to bring Ruby to Leicester. Clive Denison Trio got a great reception at North Evington recently.

MY remarks about low fees seem to have angered a few concert secretaries, who feel they are already paying out more than they can afford.

I'm not impressed with their crocodile tears. Groups are still a big attraction at most clubs and should be paid accordingly.

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WORCESTERSHIRE

B F FINCH,
24 Church Road,
Rainbow Hill,
Worcester

HANBURY - based Exits have taken on Vic Chivers as vocalist (not David McCallum!). He hopes to go to Germany with the lads in early September. They are also hoping for a recording contract, arranged by the Norton York Agency.

News, too, of the vocalist who is due on T. V. soon, Sandra Reynolds. She is due to record her first on "Opportunity Knocks" before she departs for a six-month cabaret tour with her new backing group, in Morocco and North Africa.

Sandra, 21, is blonde, petite, very attractive — and can sing most types of tunes. She plays Sundays with a trio led by her brother on piano, mid-week with a piano/drums backing at a venue near Droitwich, and Saturdays with the Gen Set, from Malvern.

The lads played as the Gen Things and the Set before and are pleased to be offered the chance to back Sandra overseas. Paddy Bevis (lead) and Roger Hardman (rhythm) both hope to get married before they set out for Africa.

Drummer Keith is a former pro, who was with Tom Jones' Squires for a period. Bassman Ray Vivien is not able to accompany them.

DROITWICH - based Additions changed members and are now named Lott 49. In Set now signed sole management forms with Evesham's Derek Bruce Agency.

They got as far as the semi-finals of the National "M.M." contest, and were runners-up to the Clique in the Silver Blades contest as well. Congratulations.

Crophone's Sun Set lost vocalist Dave Rose, but added 20 yr. old saxman John Klee, and hope to cover a wider field of pops than before.

Rain spilt City of Worcester show, but the Erly Berdz played with the Chatterly, This Kind and Nu-2-U (previously the Raiders). GLAD to report that the Malvern Contests will be restarted on Friday September 9, and will be held on Fridays. There are still a few vacancies in the October heats.

Promoter Doug Webber will be pleased to hear from new groups, and I look forward to meeting personally several of the groups entering. Applications to Mr. Webber at 44 Bellars Lane, Barnards Green, Malvern.

MALVERN'S Mood gaining popularity, as the End, who have added to the line-up — and then had a series of accidents, which put three out for the month. They hope to recover in time for Malvern dates.

The Chatterly have replaced bass man Geoff Bowkett and in comes Dennis Morgan. He was one of the original recording Hellions and has been road manager for the Berdz.

Joe Dunnett, former Suedes lead, after a spot with the Nomads, was rushed out to Italy and is with the Renegades for an unknown period.

CORRECTION: Doc Thomas Sound new City trio. Look out for them this autumn. Bromsgrove's Bent Society added Wicker Priest ex-Pack, on vocals, John Byng replacing Pete Burgess on rhythm, but still takes lead vocals.

Pete is supposed to be joining the Nomads. Another Pack player who has left is Brian Seed. The rest have called it a day.

Brian, or "Skib" as he is known, has joined the Moderation, now down to four members with the departure of drummer Clive Thompson, and Paul Nicholls is now road manager for Jimmy Powell's new group.

Moderation now consist of Butch Halpeny - 17, lead, John Collins - 20, bass, Phil Hobbs - 18, vocals, and Skib, who is 17, on drums.

HALESOWEN'S Four Ways organist says Worcestershire audiences are more appreciative than Birmingham crowds.

They line-up: Alan Tweedie, lead (17); Barry Hopkins, bass (20); Malcolm Miles, drums (20); and Pete Blackburn, who is 17, on organ. They were formed some two years ago, and have played unchanged since March.

They report an increase in bookings since their appearance in the "Group of the Year" contest at West Bromwich.

QUIET Few report all well in Ravalzhausen, Germany, after vocalist Roy Robbins lost his voice and they had to look around for new bookings as a result.

They are now entertaining American airmen — a swinging scene over there — and may stay another month yet.

An American D.J. suggested they visit U.S.A., as they had a great new sound (Helped by those Park amps!). Meanwhile, I should be pleased to consider bookings for the lads when they return. They will remain pro. if they get a good offer, so anyone looking for a five-piece outfit, playing standards, pop and R & B, get in touch please.

NEWS at last for Miss Pat Barlow, up there in Wordsley, of her favourite outfit, Paget's Race. She wrote months ago about them and road manager Andy Jones passed on these details...

Lloyd Simpson and Mick Woods, bass and vocalist with the now defunct Deerstalkers, joined forces with Dave Pagett on lead, "Pell" Smith on rhythm and drummer Jem Moberly, all from the Blackcrow Blues Band added Tex Maiden on harmonica, and when Dave bought an organ, and they now call themselves Paget's Race.

They have been together since early '66, and sound very exciting from the line-up. A small point here — if you write me with news about any group, do try to let me have a contact address or phone number. Thanks.

NEWS, too, of the Kingsnakes — they disbanded some time ago. Rob Plant is now with Listen, of course, and vocalist Alan King tells me he has joined the Money Game...

Lead guitarist Bill Davies is a former Shakedown Sound player, bass and drummer, Pete Downhams and Dick Hughes, were with the Astrals, and the group is receiving expert tuition from ex-Shakes man, Kev Gammond, the group's former lead.

READERS may remember that vocalist Jess Roden now sings for the very popular Alan Bown Set.

APOLOGIES to Richard Kaminski of the Intrigue, mentioned last month. Due to lack of space, I had to hold over the story for six weeks, and when it finally got into the paper, there had been a change around, yet again! This is why I have appealed to readers, or managers, in the past to let me know of changeovers as soon as they can.

Richard's new group is called the Gin Cotton Syndicate, and comprises Richard on lead, Frank Dudley (ex-Motions), 18, on bass, drummer Paul Macheath (17), who was with the Outrage and Joe B's, and vocalist Dave Deakin, who had been with Hangmen and Kingsnakes but had retired for about six months before joining the Syndicate.

The group has a fan club, organised by Miss Yvonne Spooner, 40, Woodland Avenue, Franche, Kidderminster, who will be pleased to forward full details in return for S.A.E.

More news next month of the newest groups in the county. Drop me a line if you know anything of any former group members who are still playing elsewhere.

DERBYSHIRE

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

PATRICK Shippey, the Rialto's Mr. Souldeejay, has, he says, found himself a group and is ready to launch himself on the unsuspecting public as a singer.

One problem he has, however. Money ... or the lack of it. He explained: "I've got me this group, man, but we need a few pennies to start the ball rolling. When we find a sponsor we'll practise for a few months and then make a record or two."

"I know we can make it to the top. Coloured singers are "in" and I reckon anyone with a few pounds to spare could do worse than finance us for a little while." What sum had he in mind I asked. "Ooohhh... say £700 or so."

Will interested candidates for this investment please form an orderly queue.

IMPS, who recently parted company with manager John Frawley, have become the Iliad, and are trying to cultivate a completely new image and reputation to go with their new title.

Organist and Leader Geoff Cooke explained: "We want people to know us as the Iliad and not as a group who used to be the Imps. The Imps are dead. They never existed as far as we are concerned. We have not just changed the name. The Imps broke up and the four component parts re-assembled as the Iliad."

Geoff was also anxious to give their point of view on the split with John Frawley. He said: "It was inevitable. We disagreed. People don't want to hear a pale imitation of a popular group. They want something new. We hope to develop a brand image of our own now."

YAKS, who were not long ago toying with bringing in a sax and organ, have decided to stick to the three guitars and drums line-up.

Drummer-leader Terry Hall explained: "We thought very hard about it but decided that our sound is more suitable for the sort of bookings we do. None of us is really keen on playing all over the countryside and we'd have to

if we changed our style. There aren't enough venues to go round for that sort of group but there are plenty of pubs and clubs who like straightforward beat stuff, like we play."

All the boys have good steady jobs and don't want to prejudice their chances of bettering them by taking time off to appear in the R & B circuit.

Terry added: "We get a lot of sneers from so-called R & B groups who think being commercial is a sin. We aim to please our audiences and it's only an avant garde fringe who want to listen to second rate imitations of little known blues artists anyway. Why "commercial" is such a dirty word I'll never know."

THE DATE when Roger and Doug Smith make the break from Godfrey's Grit "n" Soul Band has been set at September 12.

Doug goes to College and Roger is quitting to concentrate on the promotional side of things, but the group are not as was at first thought, breaking up.

Chris Smith, of the Inventix is taking over from Doug on organ and John Bennieston will move from lead to bass guitar. Guy Jones, a former professional balladeer, has been with the group for a few weeks and is taking to blues singing like a duck to water.

Doug Smith was full of praise for the coloured singer who has taken over his vocal spot. "He really is great. He doesn't scream, he place down but he gets things moving just as well as the types that do."

Doug added: "A lot of the coloured singers, and white blues singers as well for that matter, are too self-conscious altogether about producing a coloured sound. They try to sound like a gravel path and sound off like klaxons, yet get no more feeling into a song than Guy."

"He's got a more subtle approach — something like Otis Redding. He never tries to sing beyond himself. All the boys are knocked out by him. Although we are still committed to leaving the group, we are a lot more interested in things generally since he has joined us."

BROTHER Roger Smith is still trying to find suitable premises for Derby's first blues club and discotheque. At present he and Jim Milton run their promotions at the Wheel Hotel but a permanent club is their ambition.

Roger and Jim are biting their finger nails over a rumour that a well known Northern club owner has been spending a lot of time in the town looking for a place.

Certainly whoever finds a venue for a good-class R and B club should succeed. Every weekend there are hundreds of local people who flock off to Manchester's Twisted Wheel, The Place at Stoke, The Burlesque at Leicester, The Mojo at Sheffield or the Beachcomber or Duneon at Nottingham.

BORDERLAND

AUSTIN POWELL,
Station House,
Bucknell, Salop

LOCAL groups are now invading the far reaches of the Welsh coast, mainly as a result of Shrewsbury foursome The Karaktars spending a few days up there on holiday. They were booked to appear in

Town on one occasion and were asked to return. They could not oblige and passed the booking to The Bird and the B's.

The promoter in the area was so pleased with the Karaktars that he has planned to book groups from the Borderland for all his Winter promotions.

IN THE HOPE of bringing some sun into the lives of local promoters, the Heatwave launched themselves recently.

The Hollies in Hereford and the Zombies in Shrewsbury (supported by the Saracens and the Soul Party respectively) competed for audiences with the final of the Beat Contest in Ludlow on 19th August.

The Karaktars visited Hollick & Taylor's studios last month and recorded one of their own songs... the Uncertain Kind (Hereford) back from a German tour.

Where are all the Ups 'n' Downs now? ... Bromsgrove's the Charge, helping out with last minute bookings in local venues. During August, they were able to step into two venues in Shrewsbury and one in Welshpool!

TWO bands-cum-groups are very much in demand now in this area — the Clubmen from Shrewsbury and the Earls from Wellington. Bill Jones, a local promoter, runs the Clubmen, while Brian Eveley of Walton's Music Stores, Wellington, runs the latter. Both are now talking of dates in January and February which can't be bad for anyone.

AN E.M.I. A & R man is interested in a couple of local groups, but he's also competing with interest from two of the newer independent labels.

A local agent is also thinking of recording local talent in Future Sounds Studios, in order to sell the masters to the record company.

OXFORDSHIRE

JOHN STANLEY,
90 Lonsdale Road,
Oxford

NICE to think that Oxfordshire has given the national scene such a talented musician as Roy Young from Oxford.

Roy, you may remember, used to be on those raving pop shows a few years ago as a Jerry Lee Lewis type of pianist and singer. Since then, of course, he has been with the great backing group to Cliff Bennett, the Rebel Rousers.

Times become trying for such an established outfit when the charts elude them and we all hope that their latest waxing, penned by those Beatles, will send them into the elusive twenty.

THE "Garden of Eden" Club at the Bridge Hotel, Wheatley, recently celebrated its first birthday with a show from the Alan Bown Set. Having started the club on August 13 last year, it has dispelled all superstition and become a huge success.

The membership exceeds 3,000 and although the hall isn't quite the Elbow Room, the fans see a good cross-section of the best to be heard locally, like the Falling Leaves and national names.

The organiser, Adrian Hopkins, seems to have a flair for using artists who later have their names in lights.

It would appear that next month's column should carry news of the first serious recording contract for the area's most persevering outfit.

A NOTE from an Oxford outfit new to me, tells us "If Frank Foster and Stephen Winstone had not been at school together, the Hypnotics might not have been formed."

They started off by playing together back in 1962 at school concerts and small youth clubs around the Oxford area. John Foster, Frank's brother, joined the group three years later and soon after that it was completed when Bernard Dudie joined as their bass guitarist.

"By June '65," the note continued, "the group had become fully established and were playing at some of the dances held in and around Oxford." The note added that they hoped to make their first record by the end of next year.

What the note didn't tell us was who W.N. is: Stephen Winstone, whose initials share the arrowed heart deeply impressed into the notepaper, will no doubt have the answer!

ANOTHER quite fresh group in this area are the Heat Wave. These five local lads are Simon on drums, Ian on lead, Dick on bass, Jeff on sax and "Lucky" as the vocalist.

They play a good deal of top twenty material in their stage shows but personally prefer the Tamla Motown material of the Temptations and the great Otis Redding. This outfit, which has been running about four months, has gathered quite a following and happened as a result of members from the Un-Knamed, the Sonics and the Olympics joining forces. With that kind of local background and following these five boys should be able to make themselves quite a name in the area.

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Albany Hotel Buildings, Smallbrook Ringway, Birmingham 5. - Telephone: MIDland 4655

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