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MAY, 1964

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FREDDIE AND THE DREAMERS are among the many who enjoy reading "Midland Beat" Photo: Jim Simpson

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HAIR

HOW long is just right for hair? Since that talented group The Rolling Stones made an impact on the beat scene there has been a tendency for some Midland groups to let their hair down—thick and long!

But how far should tresses be allowed to flow? Is the difference between a smart Mod hair style and plain old-fashioned scruffiness more than a hair's breadth?

No one will dispute the fact that a good gimmick can result in lots of first-class publicity for a beat group. But gimmickry itself can be dangerous business when, instead of a group getting a gimmick, a gimmick gets a group!

Originality is priceless. It could be that the next beat outfit to really hit the big time will be a get-ahead group which has looked for fame beyond the fringe!

HYSTERIA

THERE is a danger, too, in hysteria — as graphically demonstrated when The Rolling Stones were mobbed and pulled off the playing rostrum by frantic teenagers on a national TV show.

Another outburst of fan fury occurred recently in Coventry when a fire extinguisher was sprayed on to a mob to dampen the enthusiasm of some fiery followers of the big beat.

Such outbreaks of physical violence can do untold damage not only to public property but to the reputation of beat groups and their fans.

That's why fans who really care about their favourite groups and the music that they play will curb this wild streak before irreparable harm is done.

"MIDLAND BEAT" POPULARITY POLL

In our April issue we announced we would be launching a "Midland Beat" Poll and we now invite you to fill in the voting form below, giving details of your favourite group and the town from which they hail. Send it to us to arrive no later than May 14th.

"MIDLAND BEAT" POLL (May, 1964)

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

I nominate the following group as the best in the Midlands:—

Name of group

Town

My name is

Address

Signed Date

TWO AVENGERS JOIN DIPLOMATS



Denny Laine has left one of Birmingham's best-known groups, The Diplomats, to concentrate on R & B. His departure coincided with the break-up of Gerry Levene's Avengers. The result: two of the Avengers, Jim Onslow and Mike Southern, are now Diplomats. Jim is no longer playing bass, enabling him to concentrate on vocals, whilst Mike joins the group as lead guitarist. Our photograph shows the two ex-Avengers with the original Diplomats—Steve Dawson (bass) and cousins Bev Ralston (drums) and Phil Ralston (rhythm guitar). The new Diplomats earned a big ovation when they played at the Lord Mayor's Ball at Birmingham Council House. They were seen in ATV's "For Teenagers Only" on Thursday, April 30. Inset is a photograph of Denny Laine shaking hands with Steve, Bev and Phil after their final appearance together in the Rolling Stones concert at Birmingham Town Hall.

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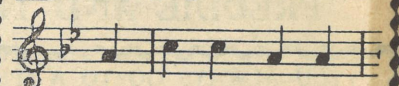
Used by Lee Stirling and the Bruisers, Redcaps, etc.

On the Beat

Whole lotta shakin' goin' on among Birmingham groups... Organist **PETER COOK** leaves **GERRY LEVENE AND AVENGERS** to join **BEACHCOMBERS**... Break-up rumours about **BEACHCOMBERS** strongly denied... **LEE STEVENS** back with **SATELLITES** after five-month lay-off with leg injury... Lead guitarist **JOHN MILES** (ex-**MILESTONES**) replaces **MAC LEIGHTON** with **ECKO FOUR**... For Cheltenham Town Hall: **THE MIGIL 5** (May 11th) and **THE MOJOS** (June 26th)... Expect changes in **DAVE LACEY AND THE CORVETTES**, soon to turn pro... **KEITH POWELL** (of **THE VALETS**) enjoyed meeting **PETER** and **GORDON**... **THE DIPLOMATS** sharing Monday night residency with **APPLEJACKS** at Solihull Civic Hall... Leicester's **FOUR SIGHTS** all wear spectacles... **THE COURIERS** hoping to lease tapes to major disc company... **THE BEAT CLUB** back in Lincolnshire after playing at Cologne Beer Festival... Reader describes **DARREN SPENCE AND THE TEENSVILLE FOUR** as "one of the smartest groups I've seen"... **HURRICANE HENRY AND THE SHRIEKERS** become **FREDDY** (Fingers) **LEE AND THE SHRIEKERS**... Many letters received about **LITTLE JOY**, **LEE MEMPHIS AND THE PANTHERS**... Leicester's **NEONS** and **MYSTICS** are two separate groups... Derby's **DYNAMICS** seeking new members... Young Oxford group **THE HERETICS** managed by **MIKE BANTING** and **FRED FOWLER** of B.F.P. Entertainments... **FALLING LEAVES** replaced indisposed **CILLA BLACK** at Oxford concert... **PAUL CLARIDGE** takes over lead with Oxford's **KONVAIRS**... Shropshire's **JACKIE AND THE JESTERS** for London on May 15th and 8-day Cornish tour in June... Specialist in beat photography: **C. A. NOBLE**, 29 Shelton Street, Nottingham... Nottingham's **ROCKING RAIDERS** have changed name three times to avoid confusion with other groups... **JOHNNY KING** (formerly of **THE DIAMONDS**) replaces **MARK CONDOR** with **THE ROCKIN' ACES**... **PANTHERS** (Birmingham) hoping for summer Irish tour... **DICK JAMES** interested in **CRESCENDOS'** original compositions... Booked for Manders Welfare Club (Wolverhampton): **BEAT LTD.**, **VOODOS**, **UNION FIVE**, **JACKIE AND THE JESTERS**, **ARISTOCRATS**, **BLACK DIAMONDS**... **STORMCATS** and **ROCKING VULCANS** joint winners of Mecca beat group contest at Nottingham.

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a few.

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From the Editor's Postbag

I HAVE just finished reading the April issue of your paper, and I cannot help but notice that once again the impression that Tony D. and the Shakeouts are a Nottingham group has been put over by your good-selves.

Surely the fact that the group's agency, namely Messrs. City Enterprises are centred in Nottingham does not turn this "foreign" group into one of the "top" Nottingham groups.

In my humble opinion there are better true Nottingham groups in this area e. g. The Jaybirds, Tony and the Varitones, The Talismen and Jonathan Kane and the Freemen.

R. J. STEVENS
12 Fremount Drive, Beechdale
Nottingham

WE are regular readers of the "Midland Beat," which we would not miss for anything.

We are also fans of our local group "The Rockin' Aces." We saw this fab group win a Rhythm Group Competition at the Tulip Festival, Cannon Hill Park, last summer and have followed their progress since.

We think they will eventually find great success, and I'm sure many others will agree with us.

Good luck to the "Midland Beat."

HAZEL BIRCH
SALLIE WAREING
25 Geoffrey Road, Sparkhill
Birmingham

AS "Midland Beat" is the best magazine in the Midlands, I feel you could let us see and hear a little more of that fabulous Worcester group "The Cossacks." Surely they have proved their ability to be one of the best Midland groups by winning the Malvern Rock Group Contest, therefore, this would not be asking too much.

Miss JANICE OAKLEY
50 Comberton Road
Kidderminster, Worcs.

WHY never a mention about the great rockin' groups of the famous Cotswold Hills in your (fab) "Midland Beat" mag.

The greatest group in this area is undoubtedly Little Joy, Lee Memphis and the Rockin' Panthers. This group is full of the mystery and wildness of their beautiful hill country.

You should see them sometime.

THE PANTHERS No. 1 FAN
Stow-on-the-Wold.



THE BRUMBEATS

I THOUGHT you might like to hear of a group in my area called The Vendettas. They are not fully professional, but I think they will go a long way in the beat world.

The Vendettas line-up is: Howard Horner (vocals), Roger Tate (lead guitar), Pete Ralph (rhythm guitar), Chris Fuller (bass guitar) and Tom Palmer (drums).

MARGARET E. TAYLOR
(aged 15)
3 Duport Road, Burbage
Leicester

JUST a line to say it's about time someone wrote up about a fab group called The Globetrotters. This group has played twice at our weekly dance and are really great. We believe they come from Nottingham.

BLONDIE, VAL AND JACKIE
Shirebrook

I AM sure everybody in the Midlands will agree when I say the Redcaps are our best group. I watch them every Wednesday and would not miss them. They have a fantastic sound and know how to pick their numbers. I don't know why their latest record is not selling, but I'm confident they will soon have a big hit. I play for a group myself but we may as well retire with competition like this. Let's have some justice.

TERRY HUNT
45 Heybarnes Road, Small Heath
Birmingham, 10

I HAVE just finished reading my first copy of your gear paper "Midland Beat," but I was very disappointed to find no mention of the fabulous Jackpots.

They must be in great demand, because they have had to turn down a summer season at Blackpool, and a tour of Denmark and Sweden.

A DISAPPOINTED READER
45 Highland Road
Leamington Spa, Warwickshire

I HAVE read "Midland Beat" for ages now and I have never seen a photograph of The Cheetahs yet. My friends and I think they are fabulous, and we go everywhere we can to see them play.

So can we have a photograph of them in their Cheetah's Skin Suits?

Miss D. LLOYD,
Miss J. HOPKINS,
Miss VELMA LOCKE and
Miss SYLVIA LLOYD
Fans of Carl and the Cheetahs
Rednal, Birmingham

BEING fond of pop music I visit most places where it is to be found. I'm a great fan of amateur groups and I'm really sent by Dean King and The Conquests, who are very popular in such places as West Bromwich, Walsall, Old Hill and Handsworth. I buy your paper every month and find it interesting. Reading it gives me great pleasure.

Miss C. LUNN
35 The Grove, Yew Tree Estate
Walsall, Staffs.

WE always read your monthly edition of "Midland Beat." As we are the official presidents of the Brumbeats Fan Club, we were very pleased to see them on the front cover of the April issue. We also read in the same edition a paragraph answering a number of fans queries.

If there is anyone wishing to join the Fan Club or wishing to know anymore information on this group, write for details to our address, where all letters and enquiries will be answered personally. Their first record, released on Decca, is "I Don't Understand" flipped by "Cry Little Girl Cry."

BARBARA and ROSLYN
Official Brumbeats Fan Club
4 Crossgate Road, Woodside
Dudley, Worcs.

WE have re-formed recently after a successful local career in the last two years. The boys are being billed about in Leicester and are playing three, four and five nights a week at dances and clubs in and around the area.

I think that you will be hearing a good deal about them in the near future. By the way, we feel that your magazine is well worth reading, and we scan it avidly each month. Best wishes for many future fab editions.

JOHN E. TROTTER, Manager
THE BERKELEY SQUARES
105 Evington Drive, Leicester

IN company with my friends, I would like to express our appreciation of your splendid monthly, "Midland Beat." Each edition is grabbed as soon as it becomes available in the hope that we might see a mention of our favourite group, The Rockin' D'Fenders.

We consider them the greatest. We try to see their every performance, and bearing in mind, they play between four and six nights a week, we are totting up quite a total of attendances.

JANET TEW
68 Knightwick Crescent
Stockland Green
Birmingham

WITH regard to The Shouts, Gene Vincent's backing group would it be possible sometime to see a photograph of them in "Midland Beat." It is not widely known that they are all Birmingham boys and are a good group on their own.

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Girls, those "dreamy" romances between fan and star sometimes do come true—as proved by "fan" Jeni Bowstead, of Coventry, now happily married to her pin-up star Allan Clarke of The Hollies.

Jeni, now Mrs. Clarke, of course, first met Allan at a dance at which The Hollies were playing in Coventry last year. Nineteen-years-old Jeni introduced herself to Allan by asking for his autograph.

The result? A fairy tale wedding reception last March at St. James's Church, Styvechale, Coventry . . .

*

A manager's enterprising publicity campaign—a specially printed handbill over 1,000 of which were distributed in Birmingham—has led to Jon E. Law and the Trespassers getting plenty of bookings.

The manager, Dennis W. Garner, of Romsley Road, Bartley Green, Birmingham, tells us: "This group was formed about seven months ago and my aim was to get them known in certain centres as soon as possible. The leaflet read: 'Look! New Weoley Castle Rhythm Group, Jon E. Law and the Trespassers. They're Fab! Book them now for your entertainment'."

Line-up of the outfit is: Grenville Williamson (18) lead guitar; Jon E. Law (16) vocalist; Derek Powell (20) drums; Allen Lakin (15) rhythm guitar and Keith Walters (17) bass.

Dress of the group is white shirts, bow ties, black trousers and coloured waistcoats and an interesting note about rhythm guitarist Allen Lakin is that he made his own guitar and is now developing another.

The group used to practice with another Weoley Castle team called "The Couriers" but now they rehearse every Wednesday and Thursday at the Community Centre, Weoley Castle.

*

Will Aston Villa, West Bromwich Albion and Birmingham City take up the idea of Lower Gornal Football Club—and hire a beat group to entertain the crowds at their football matches? It might be the answer to the declining attendance figures.

About 300 teenagers crowded into the pavilion at the Lower Gornal Football Club recently to hear rock played by The New Cyclones Rhythm Group of Oldbury.

Not only did this innovation make the teenagers jump for joy, but the team, Lower Gornal Athletic, beat their opponents Lye Town by one goal to nil.

The football club are now booking other groups to do a spot of Saturday afternoon entertaining—to win matches and to influence beat fans, no doubt!

*

Kev Star and the Nightshades are one of Birmingham's newer groups, although all the boys in the group have previous experience. Lead guitarist Dave Mason, of 300 Old Walsall Road, Great Barr, bought his first guitar when he was 12 years old.

Since the formation of the outfit in January Kev Star and the Nightshades have averaged 14 bookings a month. Their acting manager is Mrs. G. Kirk.



No prizes for guessing the name of this happy-go-lucky Birmingham group. Yes, it's The Renegades, one of the groups featured on the Dial Records "Brum Beat" LP.

Looking forward to a summer at the seaside in a season show after completing a successful tour of France—that's Birmingham outfit The Astonaires.

An ambitious group, The Astonaires have rung the changes in their line-up many times having, on occasions, featured rhythm guitar, sax, organ and piano. The current personnel reads: Graham Franklin (bass), Dez Pearce (lead), Alan Scott (drums) and Johnny Bishop (vocals).

Alan, Dez and Graham have been playing together for about seven years and all three grew up together in Clifton Road, Aston. John has been with the group for about two years.

One of the characteristics of The Astonaires is their zany approach and showmanship, a facet of their performance which experience has taught them.

Bassist Graham Franklin is the leader of the outfit. He acts as the group's driver and secretary and his home is at 96 Lime Tree Road, Alum Rock, Birmingham, 8.

*

More news from Northampton's Johnny Kaye and the Kossaks, who last month participated in the finals of a group contest at the Plaza Cinema, Northampton. Winners of the contest, which was judged by Norrie Paramor and L. Warwick, Editor of the Northampton Independent, were The Chirping Crickets. Johnny Kaye and the Kossaks came second and third were The Drumbeats, another Northampton group.

Both The Chirping Crickets and Johnny Kaye and the Kossaks are handled by the Chris Du Maurier Agency.

*

Organs are becoming increasingly popular with Midland Beat Groups and organist Ricky Wells is a Midland musician doing well in the Potteries. Ricky and his drummer accompanist have appeared with Gerry and the Pacemakers, Kenny Ball, Ted Heath and Ken Mackintosh.

Changes of personnel for Jon Fox and the Hunters, who have now become a five-man outfit, adding Alan Buxton on drums, from Robby Hood and his Merry-men, and Ian Lees, formerly of The Telstars, as featured vocalist.

The line-up is now: Ian Lees (vocals), Alan Buxton (drums), John Franks (lead guitar), Roy Lewis (bass and vocals) and Jon Fox (rhythm guitar and vocals).

As a result of winning the first International annual Isle of Man TV Talent Discoveries Competition, Birmingham folk group The Hootland Four have appeared on TV, done several sound BBC broadcasts, cut two discs and made an appearance at a celebrity concert in Douglas, apart from innumerable other public engagements.

TV and disc auditions are now being arranged for the winners of the second contest to be held in Douglas in August. The winners will receive £250 and the "Swinging U.K." trophy and there are also prizes of £50 to the winning group in each section and £20 to each of the section finalists, plus £20 for travelling expenses to all groups chosen as semi-finalists.

*

A Midland group that has played in Morecambe, Lancashire, but who are better known in and around the Stourport-on-Severn area are The String Beats.

Manager of the group is Mr. Chandler, whose son Terence Chandler is lead guitarist with the outfit. The remainder of The String Beats comprise Charles Bullock (rhythm guitar), Roger Capewell (bass) and Dave McCauley (drums).

Number one fan is undoubtedly Mrs. D. Chandler, who tells us: "They have been busy lately playing at local clubs and in Kidderminster and Blackheath. One distinction of The String Beats is that they can all play from music, unlike many beat groups who just copy records."



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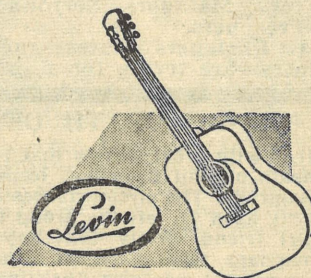
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Staffordshire SOUTH WARWICKSHIRE Scene

by DENNIS G. MORGAN

DERBYSHIRE DATA

Following my remarks in the March issue criticising Cannock's poor opportunities for the beat groups, it now appears that at long last something might be getting done about it.

Every week sees a fresh group coming to the fore and now the town has got its first agency, another sign of the ever-growing scene. It has been formed by three local boys. Two brothers, Dave and Laurie Hopkins, and Chris Symonds.

Going under the name Dave-Laurie Promotions, the agency has not had an easy time of opening their doors. Their attempts to get a dance going in Cannock have been met with negative answers from the town council, who incidentally, have also recently turned down similar requests from the Vince Baker Agency, Tamworth.

Undaunted the boys tried nearby Hednesford and secured the local Drill Hall, which is by some strange twist of fate, right opposite the council's own dance hall, The Civic. Now Dave-Laurie Promotions will run in direct competition every Saturday night, starting June 6th.

I wonder which way the teenagers will turn, having the choice of the council's "slow, slow, quick quick slow," and the swinging beat of a local group? It should prove interesting, to say the least.

Over at Walsall the Local Aid Committee have been having their own trouble with dances. Previously their Saturday night functions, accompanied by a band, have more than held their own. With the upsurge of beat music, however, attendances have fallen as the customers turned to the groups. Now the Committee are relying on the groups to also bring them back.

Groups springing to the fore in the Cannock Chase area include **The Interns, The Black Knights, The Chequers and Jon C and the Surfers.**

The latter group, who average three bookings a week have been going for 15 months. Their line-up reads: Clive Williams (bass guitar), Geoff Degg (drums), Mike Carrington (rhythm guitar), David Williams (lead guitar) and John Henderson (vocals).

The Chequers, who play St. John's Hall, Heath Hayes, every Friday, have had impressive "groundings" in the business. Before forming as **The Chequers** the boys had played with such groups as **The Kavern Four, The Gravediggers and The Cossacks.** Now they are as follows: Trevor Hubbard (bass guitar), George Davies (organ), George Foster (drums), Chris Symonds (lead guitar) and Chris Anslow (vocals). Fans of the group think they owe a lot to George's organ for the "big" sound they produce.

The Black Knights thank the scout movement for bringing them together. All the boys are members of Cannock's First Scout Troop and play at the troop's own dances. They are: David Farrington (lead guitar), Stewart Wilson (drums), Robert Wilson (rhythm guitar) and Owen Dillidge (vocals).

Another group only just getting started are **Pete Marshall and the Lawmen.** They are all members of Hightown Methodist Youth Club. The boys are Walter Lomax, Graham Benton, Alex Sheddon, Pete Bagley and Graham Slater.

ROGER BENNETT



Latest hobby of several of Coventry's well-known beat groups is flying. Groups who take part in this art on Sunday mornings include **The Matadors, Tony Martin and the Ecko Four** (pictured), **The Millionaires** and **The Beat Preachers.**

The Milestones have broken up following the departure of leader Johnny Miles, who now plays lead guitar with **The Ecko Four.**

Hoping that their debut disc will put them into the spotlight—**The Mighty Avengers**, from Rugby—whose disc "Hide Your Pride," written by Alan Klein of "What A Crazy World" fame, and backed by "Hey Senoritas" was released on April 24th. Label is Decca.

Woody Allen and the Challengers made their second television appearance on April 16th with a spot on "For Teenagers Only." The lads tell me they were well received by nearly 400 youngsters at Liverpool's "Lowlands" club recently.

Friars Promotions Ltd., one of the biggest agents in the area split up recently. Partners Mick James and Jack Hardy have formed separate organisations but will still work together on certain dates.

A tremendous beat package has been arranged for Whit Sunday (May 17) at the Jephson Gardens Pavilion, Leamington. Four local groups booked are the **Mighty Avengers, Matadors, Sorrows and Beat Preachers.**

Beat Preachers—latest rage of Coventry—are trying for a spot on

"For Teenagers Only." They are unfortunately being dubbed "The Midlands' Rolling Stones."

New Coventry group making quite a name for themselves are **The Chicanes.** Also new to the scene are **The Road Runners** (Warwick).

Matadors, who come from Hinckley (not Leicester as it said on the television) and are based in Coventry, satisfied by their "FTO" performance. They tour Scotland in July.

A tour of Wales is being negotiated for the **Matadors, Beat Preachers, Ecko Four and The Chicanes.**

The Sorrows received a set-back when they were turned down by Pye recently.

Slow starter, but nevertheless it should help to establish her—**Lynne Curtis** debut disc on Decca "House For Sale." Already she has appeared on Southern T.V.'s Disc-a-Gogo programme and ABC TV's Gazette.

Matadors hoping that some record company will accept their private recording of the Buddy Holly number "Well . . . All Right." **Swinging Blue Jeans** very interested in the group's version.

Leamington's **Mustangs** have spent about two months in retirement rehearsing a new act. They tell me they have plenty of bookings to play for the next few months.

Hollies, Big Three, Dave Berry and Cruisers, and **Animals** all booked for Leamington Town Hall during May and June.

TRAGIC DEATH OF CHELTENHAM BEAT STAR

It is with great sorrow that I have to report on the sudden and tragic death of Phil Crowther, leader of the top Gloucestershire group, **The Ramrods.** The circumstances of his death could hardly be more tragic. Phil, aged 21, left the group three weeks before in order to marry his girl friend, pretty Christine Brown, also from Cheltenham. Their marriage took place on Saturday, April 4th, at Cheltenham Parish Church; it was also Christine's 21st birthday. After the service they travelled to Devon for their honeymoon. On the 9th, the local paper carried the short facts of his illness in the stop press. It reported that he had been rushed to hospital and undergone an emergency operation on his throat, his parents were being brought to his bedside. It was not until the first editions of the next day's paper were released that it was announced that "Phil Crowther had died in the night from a ruptured gullet." At first it was quite impossible to realise that a person so young and alive could have gone from us. It always seems to be the best of us that die in needless ways, and Phil was certainly one of the best. He was a great showman always in the centre of his group and was a fine example to others trying to form a group. I know that every group and fan in the Midlands will join with me in sending our deepest sympathy to the parents of Phil and to Christine his wife for five days.

JOHN STANLEY

There are several beat groups in Derby who plan to put the town on the map as far as pop music is concerned. And now, they may have their golden opportunity.

For Derby Corporation's Entertainments Manager, Mr. N. G. Rushton, has received a letter from the London Music Publishing Co., asking about local groups who may have some potential for making records.

Many groups in town work hard regularly with this end in mind. Others are more content to play just for the fun of it and have no intention of turning professional.

The town's top groups, however, will no doubt leap at this chance for fame.

*

Making an impact on the already over-crowded pop music scene in Derby, is the big, chunky sound of **The Hawkers**—the group who arrive at engagements in an ambulance!

And the ambulance still retains its dark windows—ideal for keeping out prying fans. But it now sports a smart two-tone grey livery with the group's name printed along the sides.

After making their debut in December last year, the group had no difficulty in selling their sound to local clubs, ballrooms and pubs which cater for beat music.

Their appearance at a Derby beat group festival resulted in an offer of a week's tour of bookings in Cornwall in August, also taking in a couple of one-night stands in Worcestershire and Gloucester.

They were also invited to submit a recording to E.M.I. and have the possibility of engagements in dance halls in various parts of the country.

On stage, members of the group sport white pin collar shirts with black ties, black sleeveless cord trousers. Apart from featuring top pops, they also give their own treatment to rock standards and numbers in the R and B idiom.

Leader is big Dave Botham who plays rhythm guitar and handles vocal leads. He is an aeronautical engineer by trade, like bass guitarist John Milwain who is also an accomplished classical pianist.

Lead guitarist is Geoff Whittaker, a joiner and co-driver of the group's "ambulance" with manager John Preedy, who accompanies the lads on all their engagements.

On drums is "the silent vocalist" Alan Smith, journalist, with a wide range of drumming experience.

*

A new beat club which opened in Derby last month (April) may be run on the lines of Liverpool's famous Cavern in the future.

At least this is the hope of 23-years-old Michael Cash, who is organising the club at the former Rialto Ballroom. Michael's parents own a transport cafe at Shardlow, near Derby, and the club is a completely new venture for him.

It opened on April 17th with three groups—Johnny Peters and the JPs, of Manchester, Johnny Byrd and the Avengers from Burton, and Derby group **The Ensigns.**

Beat nights are being run once a fortnight and Michael hopes to attract some of the star names now that the club is proving a success.

He thought of starting a club because in his opinion, Derby is short of entertainment for young people.

BARBARA JONES

“MIDLAND BEAT” GROUP REGISTER

There has been a tremendous response to our Group Register which we introduced in the April issue. We have been inundated with letters from groups congratulating us on the idea of the register and stating that such a list of groups is long overdue.

We are listing below, in alphabetical order, the first groups to be entered in the “Midland Beat” Group Register:—

Name of Group	Town	Name of Group	Town
The Alternators	Derby	Johnny Kaye and the Kossaks	Northampton
Johnny Saturn and the Asteroids	Uttoxeter	The Lonely Ones	Smethwick
The Beat Club, featuring Norma Grant	Grimsby	The Meteorites	Hinckley, Leics.
The Berkeley Squares	Leicester	The Metronomes	West Bromwich
The Big Beats	Wolverhampton	The Midland Beat	
The Blue Venoms	Birmingham	Avons	Birmingham
The Bobcats	Birmingham	The Mockers	Birmingham
Boll-Weevills	Birmingham	The Moonrakers	Solihull
Buddies	Kirkby-in-Ashfield	Key Star and the Nightshades	Birmingham
Chads	Birmingham	Graham Carr and the Olympics	Tupsley, Hereford
Clansmen	Braunstone Leics.	The Original Cheveraks	Kettering
Jimmy Shade and the Contemporary Sounds	Mansfield	The Panthers	Birmingham
The Conchords	Birmingham	Little Joy Lee Memphis and the Panthers	Moreton-in-Marsh
The Concords	Birmingham	Danny Cannon and the Ramrods	Bilston
The Condors	Wellington	The Ravons	Wolvecote, Oxford
The Confessors	Birmingham	Rockin' Chevrolets	Birmingham
The Congressmen	Birmingham	Rockin' Defenders	Birmingham
The Counterpoints	Kidderminster	Rockin' Martells	Birmingham
Roger Blackwell and his Country Cousins	Derby	Rocking Raiders	Eastwood, Notts.
The Creatours	Birmingham	The Royalists	Teau, Staffs.
The Dalesmen, featuring Gil Davis	Sutton-in-Ashfield Notts.	Lee Stevens and the Satellites	Birmingham
Ricky Topaz and the Diamonds	Burton-on-Trent	The Screaming Marines	Shirley, Works.
The Dominators and Fred	Hereford	The Shades-5	Bewdley, Worcs.
Dean Shane and the Dominoes	Birmingham	Sheridons	Kirkby-in-Ashfield Notts.
The Dwellers	Solihull	The Spartans	Redditch, Worcs.
The Falcons	Wellington	The Stilletoes	Solihull
The Flames	Smethwick	The Storms	Cheltenham
The Fortunes Rhythm Group	Birmingham	Stringbeats	Stourport-on-Severn
The Freeways	Birmingham	Tikis	Birmingham
Johnny and the Graduates	Birmingham	The Treaders Rhythm Group	Stapleford, Notts.
Karl D Monns and the Hellions	Nottingham	The Trekkers	Birmingham
John Myon and the Impacts	Pinvin, Worcs.	Jon E Law and the Tresspassers	Birmingham
Jesse and the James Boys	Birmingham	Colin Kayne and the Trojans	Stoke-on-Trent
The Javalins	Cossall, Notts.	The Urchins	Leek, Staffs.
The Jukes	Old Hill, Staffs.	Chris King and the Vagabonds	Hereford
		The Vigilantes	Newark, Notts.



FULL MARKS

To RON STANLEY for an imaginative policy that is bringing the best in beat to the teenagers of Northampton. His Gayeway, combining beat club, record bar, hairdressing salon and restaurant, is unique.

To DAVID POSTLE for helping to put rhythm 'n blues on the map in Birmingham. He began sessions at a time when the cynics were claiming that R & B was not commercial. It is David who has had the last laugh.

To PHIL MYATT and his colleagues at the Midland Top Ten Agency. Their ambitious network of beat sessions throughout Birmingham has provided dozens of groups with a platform. And they are giving them the chance to play alongside national stars at their popular Carlton Club, Erdington.

To recording studios like STUDIO 36 (Northampton), HOLLICK AND TAYLOR (Birmingham) and DOMINO RECORDING CO. (Albrighton). Their facilities are enabling Midland groups to record demo discs of a standard that is impressing the big disc companies.

In a leading article in “Midland Beat” in February we urged groups to get with modern ideas on publicity—including, we suggested, suitable decorating of the group van. This advice was quickly taken to heart by Mr. C. K. Hancock, manager of Beat Ltd., the thriving Dudley group and he set the lads to work at once on painting up their Morris with the result shown in our picture.

The van now has a yellow top and white sides. The staff and notation is in black on which is superimposed in Bold Red lettering “Beat Ltd.”

All the work was done by the boys and a first-class job has been turned out. The design was the idea of Mr. Hancock which is in fact the theme of their visiting cards.

Mr. Hancock told “Midland Beat”: “I thought the advice to spruce up our vans was really first-class and with the help of the lads we quickly transformed our own transport.” Just to prove it was good advice Mr. Hancock added proudly: “And wherever we go now people notice and admire our effort. I am very pleased with the result.”



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JERRY LEE MEETS THE BRUM BEAT BOYS



Some of Birmingham's top groups provided Jerry Lee Lewis with excellent support when the American star began his latest British tour at Birmingham Town Hall. “Midland Beat” photographer Jim Simpson was backstage to photograph Jerry Lee with the Brum Beat boys. The local lads belong to Carl Wayne and The Vikings, The Rockin' Berries, Gerry Levene and the Avengers and Pat Wayne and the Beachcombers.



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FIVE GROUPS ON "BRUMBEAT" LP



THE MOUNTAIN KINGS



DAVE LACEY AND THE CORVETTES



THE STRANGERS

Hot on the heels of the "Brum Beat" LP by Dial Records comes "Brumbeat," a Decca album featuring five top Midland groups.

The groups are not actually Birmingham outfits—but they all play regularly at ballrooms in the city.

Here are full details of the titles and groups included in "Brumbeat" (Decca LK 4598):

SIDE ONE

The Strangers—"What A Way";
The Mountain Kings—"You Left Me Alone"; Dave Lacey and the Corvettes—"Clap Your Hands";
The Blue Stars—"I Saw You Yesterday"; The Kavern Four—"So Glad"; The Mountain Kings—"Dont You Know"; The Kavern Four—"Stop Your Crying Little Girl"; The Blue Stars—"Your's Forever."

SIDE TWO

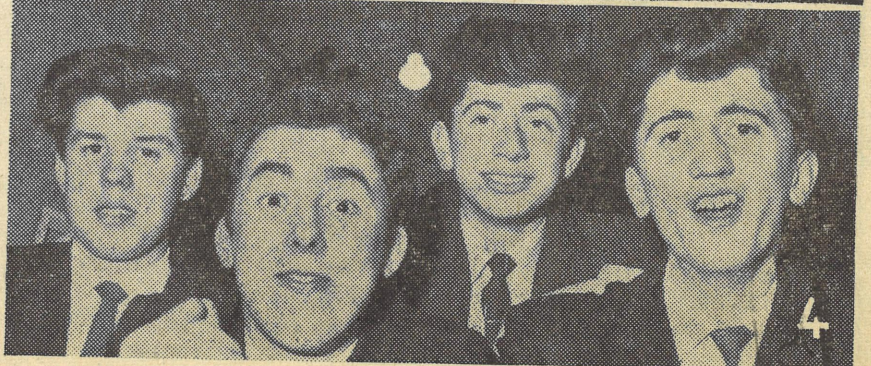
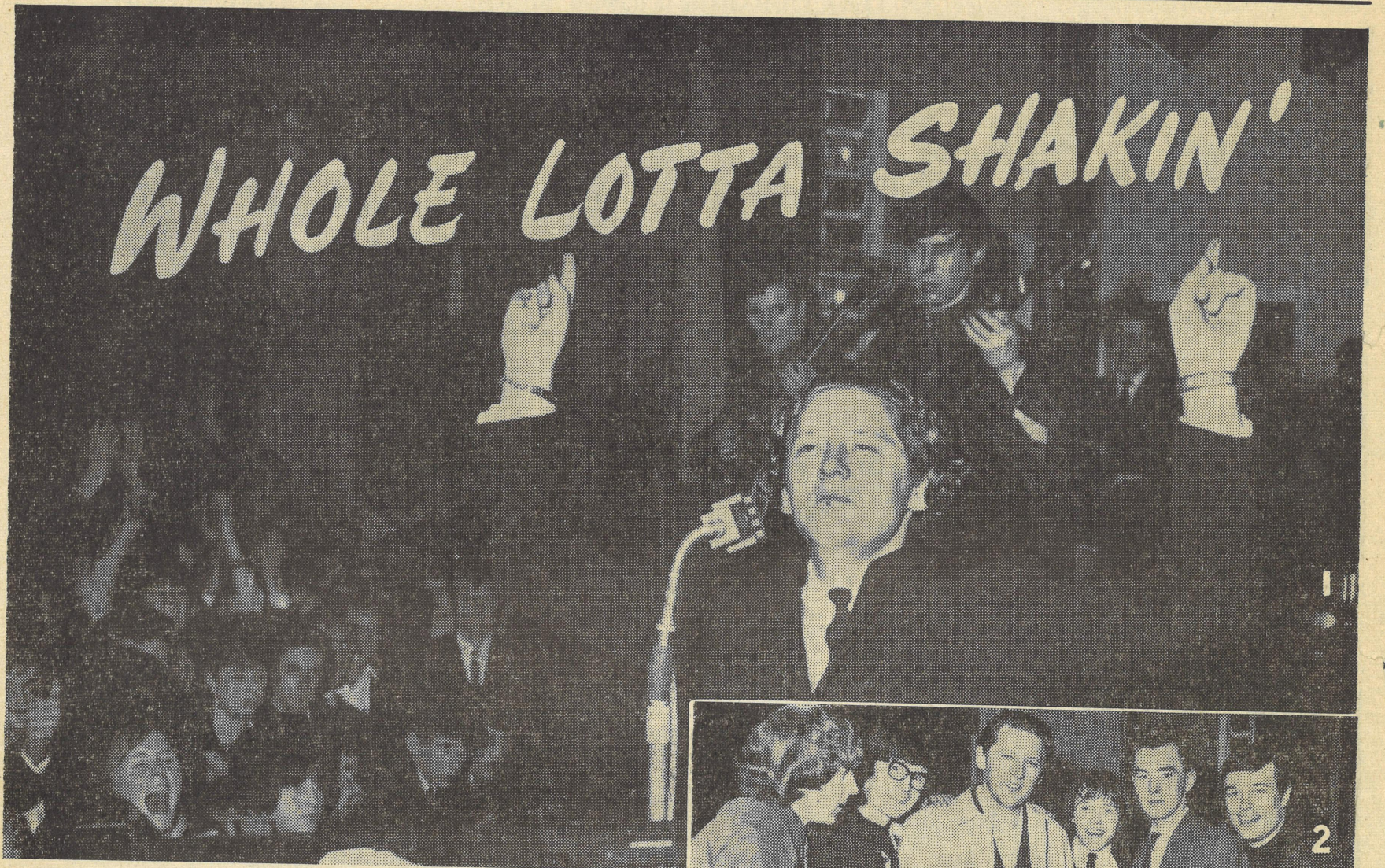
The Mountain Kings—"There'll Be Times"; The Strangers—"It's Not Too Late"; The Blue Stars—"School Days"; The Kavern Four—"I Want To Dance"; The Strangers—"Bye Bye Johnnie"; Dave Lacey and the Corvettes—"Unlucky Am I"; The Strangers—"Return To Mary"; The Mountain Kings—"Can't You See."



THE BLUE STARS



THE KAVERN FOUR



JERRY LEE at COVENTRY

COVENTRY'S Matrix Hall had a near capacity crowd for Jerry Lee Lewis's last Midland appearance of his present tour. Supporting groups were Johnny Tremaine and the Liberties, from Walsall, and Coventry's number one outfit — The Mighty Avengers who earned enthusiastic applause with their robust R & B sound.



Story and pictures by
JIM SIMPSON

Jerry Lee was effectively backed by the Nashville Teens in a powerfully swinging show, his numbers ranging from his recent release "I'm On Fire" to such old favourites as "Whole Lotta Shakin" and "Great Balls of Fire" via Boogie, Ballads and The Blues.

Those fans who expected eccentricities of behaviour from Jerry Lee were not disappointed. In the course of the evening, besides jumping on and off the piano, he also played it with both foot and backside.

A large contingent of his Fan Club followed Jerry Lee from town to town. Those of us who were fortunate enough to catch his act more than once can understand why, as his performance, even of his hits, varies for each concert. Jerry takes a big interest in his fans—at Coventry, for instance, he spent an hour on stage at the end of an exhausting evening, signing autographs, posing for photographers and talking to admirers.

Not only his musical ability but the force of his personality made Jerry Lee Lewis's tour one of the most exciting recently.

Guide to photographs: 1. Jerry Lee in action. 2. Jerry Lee with Coventry's Mighty Avengers and Promoter Terry Blood. 3. Jerry Lee signing autographs on stage after the show. 4. Johnny Tremaine and the Liberties. Left: Jerry Lee lets his hair down!

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Solihull's Applejacks, currently riding high in the hit parade with "Tell Me When," and another Solihull group, the Downbeats, hand over £250 from the Youth of the area to the Mayor of Solihull, Councillor H. B. Shaw, towards a public clock which is being erected to mark the town's new county borough status. It is part of the proceeds of a dance at Solihull Civic Hall, "home" of the Applejacks, at which 1,200 teenagers paid a higher-than-normal admission fee to swell the profits. The Applejacks and the Downbeats waived their fees to aid the clock fund.



One of the most colourful groups in the Midlands are Birmingham's Carl and the Cheetahs, who appear in suits made of imitation cheetah-skin. The boys have just returned from a ten-day stint at the Metropolitan Opera House, Stockholm, Sweden. They came back to this country in time to begin a nine-day tour of Cornwall and Devon with the Hollies, Peter and Gordon and Shane Fenton and the Fontones. Members of the group are Julius Jason, Rodney Wright, Nigel Wright, Ray Beano and Euan Rose. They were hoping that their recording of "Mecca" would be released by Fontana as we went to press.

BITS & PIECES - from Nottingham

A record debut and trips to Germany and Sweden look like making this summer a busy one for the fabulous **Beatmen**, already one of Nottingham's most widely-travelled groups.

First the record. It's to be released by Pye, probably later this month (May). Title? "You Can't Sit Down," a number which rose high in the American charts some years ago when recorded by **The Dovells**.

Whacking along at a lively pace, it gives the whole group a chance to air their vocal chords, against a catchy background of cross beat clapping.

Since rhythm guitarist **Bill Mosley** joined them from **The Futurists**, **The Beatmen** have undergone something of a revolution.

Before, only half their numbers were vocals. Now the proportion has been stepped up to 75 per cent., with Bill leading the singing.

"His voice is a good asset, and we find that audiences like our greater emphasis on vocals," says lead guitar **Bill Brazier**.

Nottingham's first regular R & B group have started up at the Boat Club on Friday nights. They call themselves **Blues and Roots**—an unusual name derived from the title of an old Charlie Mingus number.

Driving force behind the group is drummer **Les Shaw**, one of the most versatile talents on the local musical scene.

Already he plays modern jazz at the Riverside on Mondays, and mainstream at the Boat Club's popular Sunday sessions. Now he's going back to what he calls "the basic beat."

Drayton Porter, son of Nottingham's former Assistant Chief Constable, is on guitar, **Geoff Pearson** (bass guitar), **Mel Thorpe** (tenor sax) and **Chris Smith** (piano).

They concentrate mostly on wailing numbers associated with **Ray Charles**, **Fats Domino**, **Chuck Berry** and **Howlin' Wolf**.

Eventually they hope to bring guest stars to town—top blues men like **Memphis Slim** and **Sonny Boy Williamson**, whose visits to the East Midlands are almost non-existent at present.

The Newtones, featuring Jamaican singer **Vic Johnson**, had to play four extra numbers before they could leave the stage at the Tower Ocean Room. They were asked to make a return visit before the opening of the summer season.

Vicky and the Kordettes met with equal success, and later appeared at the Winter Gardens.

E.C.C. Entertainments director, **Ken Crosby**, was in Blackpool to handle the business arrangements, and says he was inundated with requests for Mansfield groups to appear at almost every venue of note in the seaside resort.

Other bookings have been obtained at Skegness, Yarmouth and several spots in and around London.

Another TV date for **Tony D and the Shakeouts**, the city's first recording group—this time on popular Sunday sessions. Now he's recorded on Monday, May 25th.

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NORTH NOTTS.

NOTES

by H. J. SHARPE

The Shakes have an agreement with a Liverpool agency to play in that city for four days a month for four months . . . The Sugarbeats have the same agent as Dave Clark—Harold Davison . . . The Jaybirds are under disc contract to Philips. The Avengers have broken up . . . Ranne Star and the Aliens are now fully professional . . . The Adens are now known as The Four Plus One.

Bulwell has opened its own Beat Club. First visitors: Darryl Summers and The Teenbeats. Lead guitarist Paddy has left The Rocking Vulcans to join a new group, The Edwardians. Other group changes: Gil Davies, former Newtones vocalist, now with The Dalesmen, combining with Pat Summers, who used to be with The Sundowners; Roy Ravelle of The Gamblers to The Detours and Dave Evans (Sovereigns) and Al Elliott (Deamons) to The Swinging Sensations.

Dave Kaye without his usual backing group, The Dykons, on his Decca record release. On the "A" side, the old Presley number "A Fool Such As I," he is backed by The Outlaws, and on the flip, "It's Nice, Isn't It," by The Saints . . . Neither Ranne Star and the Aliens nor Mark Fayne and the Astronauts are now making the trip to Germany but Ray Dane and the Diamonds are hoping to return there . . . An unusual booking for The Dean Beats—playing at the christening of the godchild of their manager's wife.

Success for The Newtones when they visited Blackpool and return summer bookings have been made. Both Ranne Star and the Aliens and Ray Dane and the Diamonds, Cornwall bound . . . Brum Beat in opposition at Mansfield over Easter—Pat Wayne and the Beachcombers and The Renegades playing at the Parochial Hall and Palais de Danse respectively on Easter Tuesday.

Bad luck on The X'Caliburs. Just when things were looking up for them, vocalist Paul Newman collapsed on stage at Sheffield and had to be rushed to hospital. He was released after a week but again collapsed. This time Paul underwent an operation and the group had to cancel two months' bookings, including a German tour. Happily, Paul is now back in action and the group's bookings are now re-organised.

The Principals are now known as The Konkords . . . Nottingham Beat Club is catering mainly for mods . . . A sign of the changing tastes in music: the strong Nottingham Jazz Club has devoted one night a week to rhythm and blues. Top London artistes such as George Fame and the Blue Flames, The Graham Bond Quartet and Long John Baldry and the Hoochie Coochie Men are providing the music for some great sessions.

Johnny Gold and the Escorts were at Skegness at Easter . . . The Wednesday night residency at Mansfield Palais de Danse is now changing monthly. The Rocking Vulcans are currently appearing and followed The Stormcats, The M.I.S., The Futurists and The Newtones.

Austin Powell's BORDERLAND NEWS

Mark Antony and the Senators underwent a personnel change recently earlier than they expected. Originally they had lined up Ted Charlton to replace Geoff Price on bass in May but Geoff Price was taken ill with Glandular Fever and so Charlton was called in sooner.

Last month, I mentioned Kington's Johnny Rio and the Ricardos but I inadvertently misspelt the names of Boven Hinbury (rhythm/harmonica) and Phil Tippins (drums). Now I find that the group, who have now gone completely R and B, have changed their name to the Ups 'n Downs. I have only seen them once but I was very impressed at the time.

Mickey Shane, who was featured vocalist with The Clubmen, recently got engaged and had to leave the group. Although his position was held open for him to return for a three-month period, the group are going down just as well without him and it is unlikely that he will return to the group.

The advertisement in last month's "Midland Beat" for the "Honey Cavern," Bronilys (Breconshire), was a sign that the venue is now gaining popularity rapidly. As well as featuring many of the local groups, the venue, a cellar, under a cafe, also spotlights groups from the Midlands, Liverpool and London.

Ricky Starr—a local boy now forming his own group—sang with a few German groups while in the country on Military service.

A controversy raged around here recently over two groups using very similar names. Mark Antony and the Senators and Johnny Saint and the Senators. Although efforts were made to get the names straightened out, these failed and the two groups are still operating under the same names. I for one welcome the "Midland Beat" registration of group names, to safeguard small promoters from getting the wrong group because the names are so similar, as has happened in this area.

WORCESTERSHIRE WHISPERS

by GRAHAM JONES

The Malvern Winter Gardens Rock Group Contest trophy was won for Worcester last month (Saturday, April 11th) by The Cossacks, who are now preparing for the television appearance promised to the winners by ATV.

Following the withdrawal of Bromsgrove's Playboys, The Cossacks had to beat their neighbours The Renegades and the Bredon Cherokees. Their success was partly due to overwhelming support from a panel of teenage judges, brought in by promoter Mr. Doug Webber, from Wiltshire, to supplement audience voting.

Was a representative of Val Parnell at Malvern on finals night? The impressario had promised to dispatch a scout to weigh up the chances of one of the finalist groups appearing on "Sunday Night at the London Palladium."

A fortnight earlier, a similar contest for "young" groups reached the semi-finals—won by the Worcester Skeeters and an all-girl group from Pershore, The Ravons.

Their success was made all the more significant by the consequent defeat of The Invaders, a Kidderminster group with professional style and polish.

Also unplaced were George and the Dragons and The Spartans, both from Worcester.

Such interest has been prompted by the latter contest that Mr. Webber has promised to make a trophy for the eventual winners, as he did for the Rock Contest proper.

Heat Three for the "young" will be on Thursday, June 7th, with the semi-final on Thursday, July 9th, and the grand final on Thursday, July 23rd.

The finalists from Bredon, The Cherokees, were the subject of much speculation last month. Rumours that they were breaking up were founded on an offer to lead guitarist John Vickeridge of a good job in Reading.

He decided against the job, and for the group.

Among the groups who have folded in fact are The Betrayers, of Worcester, and it is expected that similar news will soon be received about The Sundowners (Malvern), one of whose members is a potential University student.

Better news from fellow Malvernians, The Trackers. They hope to be back in circulation soon, after too long an absence (four months to be precise) from the local scene.

Phil of The Fortunes move to the Vampire drums heralded changes for the former outfit. The survivors have joined ex-Raider vocalist Jon Myon as The Impacts.

Beat fans were disappointed when the Swindon Hummelflugs failed to arrive at Worcester Co-op Hall for the Easter Saturday dance.

Their manager explained that Johnny Watson (coloured American disc and television vocalist) had walked out, and taken the saxophonist with him.

Listen for news of two Worcester groups: The Soundcasters and The Barons. The former made a tremendous public debut at the Easter Saturday Spectacular, and The Barons have secured the services of Sel Reed, seasoned Trakker, and a Carroll Levis discovered violinist at the age of 14.

Renegades have a new singer. No—Brian Jenkins hasn't left. But the boys have discovered great talent lurking in the background. Namely drummer Geoff Weaver, who tuned his chords as a boy chorister . . .

Vampires have added the prefix "Count Dracula and . . ." to their already horrific name . . .

The Klik. No, not an anti-integrationist group. It's the new name for The Baskervilles . . .

Plans now under way for Beat Week, 1964, and for beat contributions to Worcester Carnival Week, June 28th to July 4th . . .

Eric Davies, of The Strangers, a folk music fan . . . John Murfin, of The Jays, now vocalising for Unit Five, following Gordon Jackson's permanent move to The Hellions, who have since changed their name to The Emotions . . .

The Emotions themselves have begun producing their own numbers, and they performed one of them, "Sound of a City," when members of local groups were guests of the Odeon Cinema, Worcester, for a showing of the documentary of the same name. The film—if you haven't guessed—deals with the emergence of the so-called Mersey beat . . .

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LINES FROM LEICESTER

by FRED LEE

Local beat groups are getting somewhere—one mentioned in my notes in the March issue of "Midland Beat" was featured on ITV's "For Teenagers Only" on April 2nd. Many others are getting better bookings too, and another had a tempting offer of a Continental tour—but they were too young!

A very encouraging development is the Package Shows being presented at Leicester's De Montfort Hall, where Mr. Goddard, the Corporation's enterprising entertainment manager, is hiring out this excellent venue for these shows. Such names as Freddie and the Dreamers, Gerry and the Pacesetters, Manfred Mann, Dave Clark Five, Sounds Incorporated, Rolling Stones, John Leyton, Mike Sarne, The Ronettes, The Crystals and, of course, The Beatles, besides a host of others, have appeared. I wish I had the space to recount details of the interviews I've had with some of these stars.

These shows, however, do not feature any local groups, but their chance is made available by the Chris Wainwright Agency, who provide the artistes for the beat dances at Hinckley's St. George's Ballroom, where the manager, Mr. George Parkinson, caters for the mods and rockers.

In this well-appointed show place, with ultra-modern design and elegant decor, such attractions as Johnny Kidd and the Pirates, and Freddie and the Dreamers are recent bookings. Another is Hamburg's top group, The Rattles. Future bookings are Big Dee Urwin, Peter and Gordon, The Hollies and others.

Local groups on the same bill as these international stars are The Megatonnes (Nuneaton), The Meteorites (Hinckley), The Rockets (Leicester) and The Comaneroes (Leicester). Three nights a week events are run regularly and the Sunday Club is extremely popular, too.

It all adds up to the fact that Leicestershire groups are on the move—towards the big-time beat shows!

JOHN STANLEY REPORTS THE BEAT NEWS FROM TWO COUNTIES

OXFORDSHIRE

Decca's Mal Ryder and the Spirits are really having a rough time with their latest recording. After the success of their first release, "Cry Baby"/"Take Over" the group's hopes were raised for an even further success with their new record.

Originally they recorded "Beautiful Dreamer" which had to be discarded when John Leyton released it. Then came weeks of searching for a new arrangement of the oldie, "Tennessee Waltz," then this disc was released by Alma Cogan and Mal's disc again had to be shelved. Poor Mal and the boys were left with two great B sides and no A. However, a new secret disc is being tied up; let's hope this time their fans get a chance to hear it!

This year, Mal and the boys were invited to appear at the Ideal Homes Exhibition to mime to their record "Tennessee Waltz." As it is not to be released, this presented them with a bit of a problem.

They want to thank all their fans who read "Midland Beat" and who made their recent appearance at the West End Ballroom in Birmingham such a great success, thanks to them they should be appearing there throughout the summer.

Latest news from the boys is that they have just returned from their fifth tour of Scotland where they went down like a bomb, particularly at one venue on their return in Halifax.

There, they were featured in a new beat club for the big timers, Big Dee Urwin being the entertainment which was to follow Mal's show.

From Scotland to their home town, Oxford, where they are making a series of appearances at the New R and B Club, the "64" Club. Their manager tells me the idea is to build an even stronger local following, what a pity that local fans can only be given short spells of their local heroes; it's a great mistake to forget your home town.

An enterprising venture worth mentioning was the second Beat Festival held here in Oxford on 28th April. Organised by Mr. Bain of the Chris Du Maurier Agency. The show put on at the Town Hall was headed by Shane Fenon and the Fentones. The others are The Tornadoes, Ricky Valance, Johnny Kaye and the Kossacks, Ian Taylor and the Condors, Tina Shane, The Eko-Beats, The Beathovens and The Cornflakes.

The Cornflakes are Oxford's newest outfit. Formed from members of the Buccaneers and Crickets, they gained first place in the finals of the Norrie Paramor Talent Contest in the Northampton area. Incidentally Johnny Kaye and the Kossacks also in the Beat Festival achieved second place and were lucky enough to record their own composition for Norrie Paramor.

The Oxford University group, The Four Beats, formed at the beginning of the Christmas term, are fairly racing down the road to success. Apart from bookings right into the summer, and a fantastic selling EP, they have now taken part in their second French TV show, this time with singing star, Pet Clark.

Nigel Tully from University College, leader of the group, explained to "Midland Beat"



Coventry's Johnny B. Great, seen here with his group, The Goodmen, makes his film debut in "Just For Fun," in which Solihull's hit paraders, The Applejacks, are also appearing.

that before moving to Oxford to study he ran a group in Birmingham, his home town, called The Tornadoes, now better known as Lee Christian and the Sinners. Their first broadcast as The Four Beats was on the farming serial, The Archers, when they played in the fictitious county town of Borchester.

Their record, and EP of Beatle numbers, was recorded by Alpha Studios with recording manager, Ron Timperly (responsible for hits like "Come Outside" and "A Picture of You." It was financed by the Oxford Playhouse Reconstruction Fund to raise money for their theatre.

The record, featuring guest singer Annabel Leventon, is at present only on sale in Oxford, although copies have found their way as far afield as the U.S.A. and Russia.

Ricky Valance ("Tell Laura I Love Her") has broken away from his backing group, The Valentines, and is now looking for another around Oxford. Any interested outfit with a three guitar, drums and organ line-up should contact the Chris Du Maurier Agency, 28 Cowley Road, Oxford. Ricky Valance is at present staging one-nighters in the Midlands.

New groups from this area include The Key Five, from Wallingford, and The Blue Beats, from Abingdon, whilst The Mystics, The Beathovens and The Secrets have faded away.

GLOUCESTERSHIRE

Leading Gloucester group, The Ramrods, have acquired a new lead guitarist, Johnny Cramham—ex-leader of The Phantoms. Interesting note on their early line-up—a certain Brian Jones played sax for them before moving to London and emerging as a member of those "Rolling Stones." A new manager and band suits should help to keep them bright and shiny.

Rodney Davies of the popular group, The Sapphires, has been having some trouble with, of all things, his trousers. At a recent dance at the Guildhall, Gloucester, he appeared in a pair of tight trousers, much to the displeasure of the management. After the first half of the show, Rod was told that unless he changed his trousers he could not go on again. Rod stood firm—no one would debag a Sapphire—the crowd became restless and noisy so Rod and the boys had their own way. However, they weren't to have the last laugh; the City Council met and passed a decision that The Sapphires were to be banned from all shows put on by the Gloucester City Entertainment Committee.

Gloucester lads, Terry James and the Intruders, who formed about two years ago and then broke up, are back with us again with the same line-up as before—Lead, Bass, Drums and Vocalist Terry. We all know that it is hard work

trying to make a name in this game but what a shame to give up for periods when everything gets a bit tough; it's only by keeping at it that you can hope to become established.

Mike and the Mystics are a group to watch from this area, though fans in Birmingham should soon get a chance to hear what the Gloucester beat sounds like for they have been offered a week of appearances in the Tulip Festival at the end of May. Full of bright go-ahead ideas, they recently wrote to the Bergermaster of Ostend, asking if he could put them in touch with a promoter who might be interested in them travelling over there: they got a reply and an introduction to one of the best Casinos.

News of another Gloucester success story—The Chas Time Trio. These three young men who make a very smooth sound are on their way to a big future. They have just become the first group in the country to be signed to a Brewery.

The present contract extending to 12 months will mean a series of one-night stands in Charrington houses chiefly on the West and East Coasts. The Toby Trio, as they will be known, are to wear Toby Green and they hope that the Contract will eventually lead to TV adverts. Interesting to note that their pianist studied music at the Royal Academy.

We all know of the "Brum Kavern" but keep an eye on the Cheltenham Grotto, a new night spot opened and run by the talented Talismen. Although lead guitarist Steve Hathwaite is a Bachelor of Science from Liverpool, it is not expected to be held against him when the group make their double debut in Brum on the 23rd May. They will be appearing at both the Ritz Ballroom and the Kavern.

The recording debut of The Saxons, from Newent, Gloucestershire, is a promising number called "Please Tell Me" penned by their lead guitarist, Peter Holder. Local support for it seems encouraging much to the delight of Joe Meek who is helping them release it.

During this month, The Alligator Club at Tibberton, Gloucestershire, is celebrating its seventh anniversary and one of the most frequent visitors to this great club have been The Beatniks, from Gloucester. They are members of the Committee who runs this highly successful club. It has been open once a month and guest groups mainly from Bristol play there with The Beatniks. This group, formed nearly seven years ago much prefer to play original R and B numbers in preference to pop parade material. As a group they are less certain of what they should wear on stage. At one time they dressed in beatnik costumes, then they decided they would wear smart suits. Rumours have it that they will be returning to off-beat outfits.

Cheltenham group, The Barons, have important London debut on May 9th at St. Pancras Town Hall, and hope to be cutting demo of their own composition on the same day.

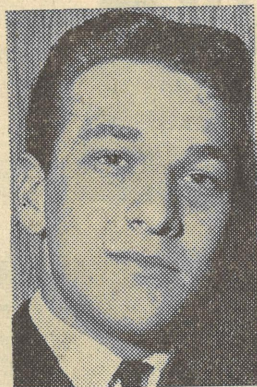
Local groups hoping for TV shows might follow the example of Tewkesbury's Cherokees, who recently appeared on "For Teenagers Only" in full war paint.

Gloucester's Rhythm and Blues group, The Gophers, formerly The Quay Street Jazzmen, are so new they still have the wrapping on.

MEET THE GROUP

First group to put Brum Beat on disc when making their record debut for Decca. To-day they are constantly touring the country with the result that they appear in their home town only occasionally. A great success on the Jerry Lee Lewis bill at Birmingham Town Hall recently.

ROCKIN' BERRIES



Terry Bond

Birthdate: 22/3/43.
 Height: 5ft. 10in.
 Weight: 10st. 7lb.
 Colour of eyes: Blue.
 Colour of hair: Dark brown.
 Instruments played: Drums.
 Age entering show biz: 17.
 First public appearance: Turves Green Baptist Church.
 Hobbies: Football, shooting and reading.
 Favourite actor and actress: Our Clive and Julie Christie.
 Favourite food: Steaks and roast potatoes.
 Favourite clothes: "Mod" casuals and mohair suits.
 Likes: Parties & magazines.
 Dislikes: Lack of sleep and small dressing-rooms.
 Personal ambition: To own an "E" type Jaguar.
 Professional ambition: To have a No. 1 hit record.



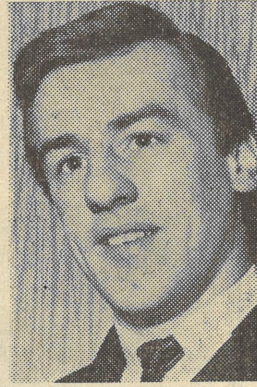
Clive Lea

Birthdate: 16/2/42.
 Height: 5ft. 10½in.
 Weight: 11st. 5lb.
 Colour of eyes: Blue.
 Colour of hair: Fair.
 Instruments played: Harmonica and melody spoons (proved).
 Age on entering show biz: 16.
 First public appearance: Casino Ballroom, 1958
 Hobbies: Records, travelling and meeting people.
 Favourite actress: Olive Oil.
 Favourite food: Steak and anything well cooked.
 Favourite clothes: Smart suits and casuals.
 Likes: Clothes.
 Dislikes: Small dressing-rooms.
 Personal and professional ambition: To further the group and myself.



Geoff Turton

Birthdate: 11/3/44.
 Height: 6ft. 3in.
 Weight: 11st. 7lb.
 Colour of eyes: Blue.
 Colour of hair: Auburn.
 Instruments played: Guitar, piano, clarinet, and learning drums.
 Age on entering show biz: 16.
 First public appearance: Hophood Hall, 1959.
 Hobby: Sleeping.
 Favourite actor and actress: Charlton Heston and Hayley Mills.
 Favourite food: Chinese.
 Favourite drink: Milk.
 Favourite clothes: Casual.
 Likes: Telling corny jokes on stage.
 Dislikes: The drummer.
 Personal ambition: To be myself.
 Professional ambition: To be a star.



Roy Austin

Birthdate: 27/12/43.
 Height: 5ft. 9in.
 Weight: 10st. 7lb.
 Colour of eyes: Brown.
 Colour of hair: Brown.
 Instruments played: Bass and guitar.
 Age on entering show biz: 17.
 First public appearance: Turves Green Baptist.
 Hobbies: Using and looking after my car.
 Favourite actors: Fred MacMurray.
 Favourite food: Mom's bread and butter pudding.
 Favourite drink: Milk shake.
 Favourite clothes: Casual, coats and slacks.
 Dislikes: The rest of the group.
 Personal ambition: Hit record.



Brian "Chuck" Botfield

Birthdate: 14/11/43.
 Height: 5ft. 10in.
 Weight: 12st. 11lb.
 Colour of eyes: Brown.
 Colour of hair: Black.
 Instruments played: Guitar, melodica, clarinet and harmonica.
 Age on entering show biz: 15.
 First public appearance: Culmington Youth Club.
 Favourite food: Steak, chips and peas.
 Favourite drink: Strawberry milk shake.
 Favourite clothes: Casual and suede.
 Likes: Girls, cars and money.
 Dislikes: Tactless people and small dressing-rooms.
 Personal and professional ambition: Success.

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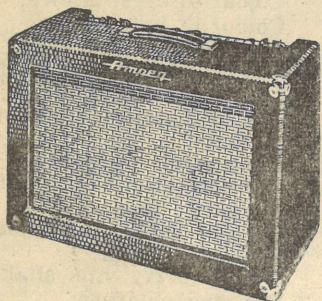
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Pretty, 17-years-old Christine Holmes, a pupil at Tudor Grange Grammar School for Girls, Solihull, Warwickshire, is battling against top Italian stars in the disc battle to gain a hit with the British version of the Eurovision Song Contest winner, "This Is My Prayer" ("Non Ho L'Eta Per Amarti"). Fair-haired, blue-eyed Christine went back to her desk after Easter holidays, studying to take G.C.E. examinations in nine subjects. In the same week, Phillips Records, on their Mercury label, released her version of the Eurovision winner, which has a British ballad, "My Dream," on the flip-side.

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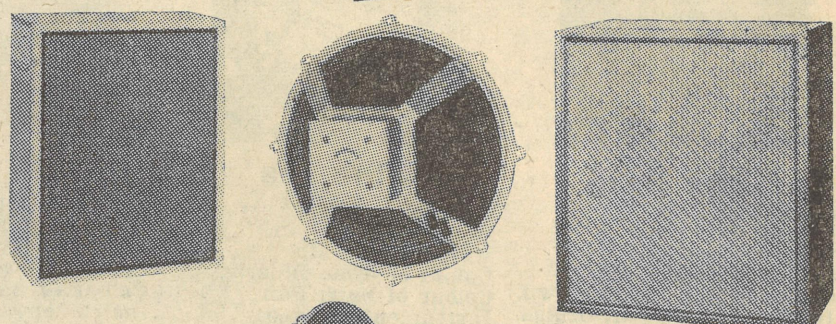
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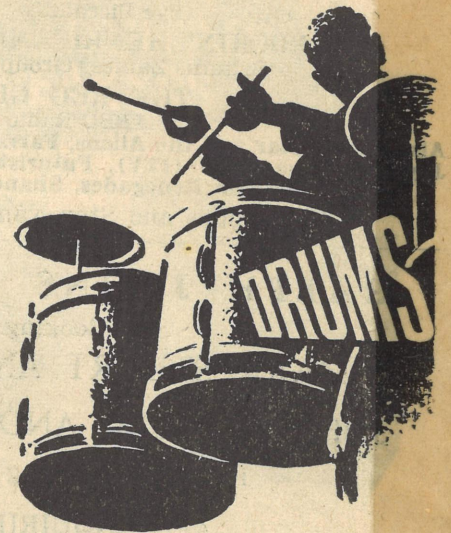
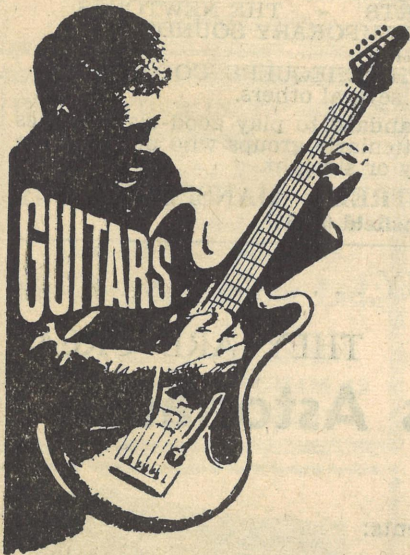
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