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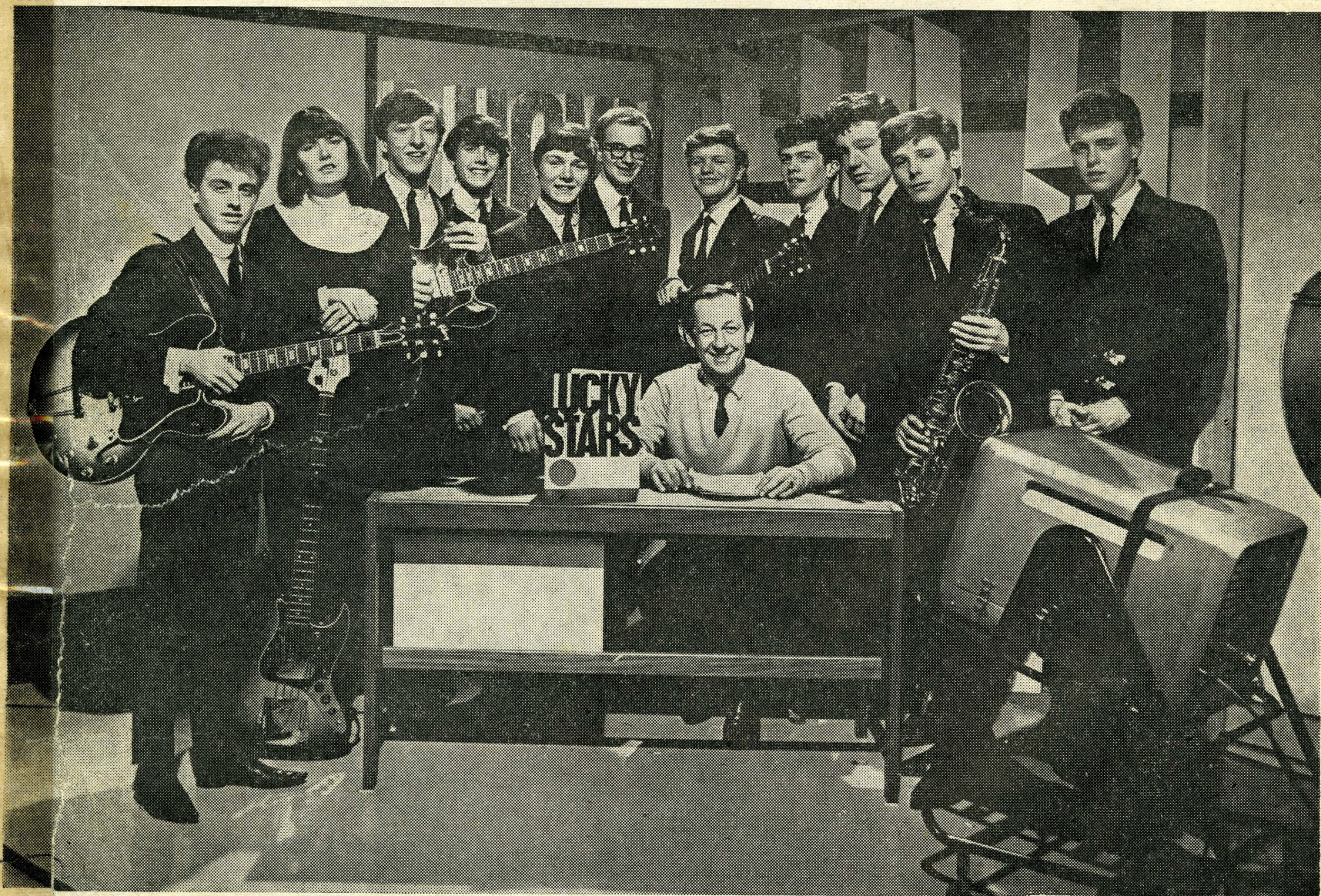
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Solihull's Applejacks, now leading the way for other Midland groups with their big hit, "Tell Me When," and another "fab" local group, The Brumbeats, whose first Decca disc is "I Don't Understand," pose with Brian Matthew on their appearance in ABC TV's "Thank Your Lucky Stars."

Photo: Willoughby "Gus" Gullachsen

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# MIDLAND BEAT

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DENNIS DETHERIDGE  
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## HIT

**WELL** done, The Applejacks!  
Good work, Lee Stirling!  
Yes, they are helping to put the Midlands on the map. No longer are the Merseysiders having it all their own way in the hit parade.

The Applejacks' first disc, "Tell Me When," has had a lightning climb up the charts, making their decision to turn professional well worthwhile.

And the co-writer of the song, Birmingham's own Lee Stirling, leader of The Bruisers, has been having considerable success with other songs, notably "I Think Of You."

Let us hope that it is just the start of an even greater assault on the hit parade by Midland groups and songwriters. It is about time our talent was recognised.

## HORROR

The three photographs on the opposite page reflect a trend in beat music. The constant search for a gimmick is leading groups and promoters to try a macabre approach.

It will do no harm as long as they realise where to draw the line. Gimmicks cease to be of value when good taste is sacrificed for sensationalism.

At a recent Birmingham Town Hall concert, the act of one of the country's specialists in horror-beat proved to be so frightening that girls left their seats in tears.

Beat groups and promoters, when considering ideas with the accent on the bizarre, should remember their responsibility to the public. It is to entertain—not to scare.



Birmingham's Roving Saracens, who came back from a six-week trip to France, were quickly booked for return, this time for a six-months' tour.

The Saracens, with their two girl singers, have been playing to U.S. Forces in Europe, belting out their repertoire five hours a night, six nights a week.

They arrived home for a breather weary but wiser than when they went. Manager Bob Parsons said: "It has been a great experience, but very exhausting. They even wanted us to play on our days off."

"The main drawback to the tour is that you get out of touch with British

pops. We had to pick all our new numbers from American releases.

"They are far keener on girl singers than English audiences. Any group would have a job to entertain them for an evening without a girl."

The Saracens have had recording auditions in both England and France now, and are nervously awaiting results.

With a lead, bass and organ line-up, they claim to play the authentic Brum Beat—and most of their favourite numbers were written by—The Roving Saracens. Our photograph shows the Roving Saracens on stage at the U.S. Army Post at Chinon, France.



Frankie Vaughan and The Toreadors read "Midland Beat."

Disappointment came for The Toreadors, of Stapleford, on March 8th. Booked to play at the opening of a new £28,000 youth centre at Beeston, Nottingham, they heard that Frankie Vaughan would be making an appearance.

For weeks beforehand they practised Frankie's favourite tunes. But when the big day came Frankie stood up, spoke a few words and sat down again without singing a note.

After the opening ceremony The Toreadors played "Green Door" and "Loop de Loop" to a packed audience. But the singer they'd

hoped to back was away, touring round the centre.

At night The Toreadors were in action again, playing at a special opening dance, with Vicky and the Chordettes.

Since it was completed nine months ago the centre has become a popular venue with local teenagers. Beat nights are on Monday, Thursday and Saturday, and among the groups appearing regularly are Colin King and the Skyliners, The Dominators, The M15, Ken and the Stereos and Roy Ravelle and the Gamblers.

### "MIDLAND BEAT" POLL

We have had many requests to hold a poll to find out the Midlands most popular beat groups. A voting form will be published in the May issue of "Midland Beat," on sale May 3rd. Make sure of your copy by ordering it from your newsagent today.

## NEWS FROM NORTH NOTTS.

by H. J. SHARPE

The Paladins, featuring Will Travaille on organ, have a record audition with E.M.I. lined up for May. Then comes a 15-week season in Jersey followed by the chance of a trip to Germany... Kirkby-in-Ashfield group The Saints recently played at a party for the pupils of Thieves Wood Special School, Mansfield... Two local groups, Mark Kenton and the Cheaters and The Lawmen, are awaiting auditions for Granada Television's "Scene at 6.30"... The Principals, all scholars of Bilborough Grammar School, were to play at a "pop" church service at St. John's Church, Bilborough, on March 8th. Although the boys intend to go to University, a fellow scholar has appointed himself their agent just in case they "do a Beatles."

Jimmy Crawford returned to Mansfield Palais-de-Danse, the scene of many of his previous triumphs. Jimmy, with a new hair style and backing group, The Shantells, was still a big hit with the crowd. The Shantells, who originate from Scunthorpe, made their only previous Palais appearance almost exactly a year earlier when they then backed Mansfield singer Tracy Martin. Other recent outstanding visitors to the Palais include The Nashville Teens, from London, who are to back Jerry Lee Lewis on his forthcoming tour, Merseyside's Cadillac and the Playboys, Pye recording artistes Tony D and the Shakeouts and the ever-popular Barron Knight with Duke D'Mond, who drew one of the largest crowds ever assembled at the Palais.

Youthful promoter Stem Stephenson has been on a horror kick. Bookings have included The Ghastly Ghouls, from Hemel Hempstead, and the heavily publicised Frankenstein and the Monsters. Johnny Gold and the Escorts, now fully professional, are having contract difficulties with their proposed German trip... The Shakes have turned professional but may have to change their name yet again... The Yukons, from Bestwood, can also boast a female bass player... Ilkeston now has a beat club—initial visitors The Marauders and Dave Kaye and the Dykons... Ray Stuart and the Tremors (alias Frankenstein and the Monsters) act at Sutton-in-Ashfield's Golden Diamond Club reported in "The People"...

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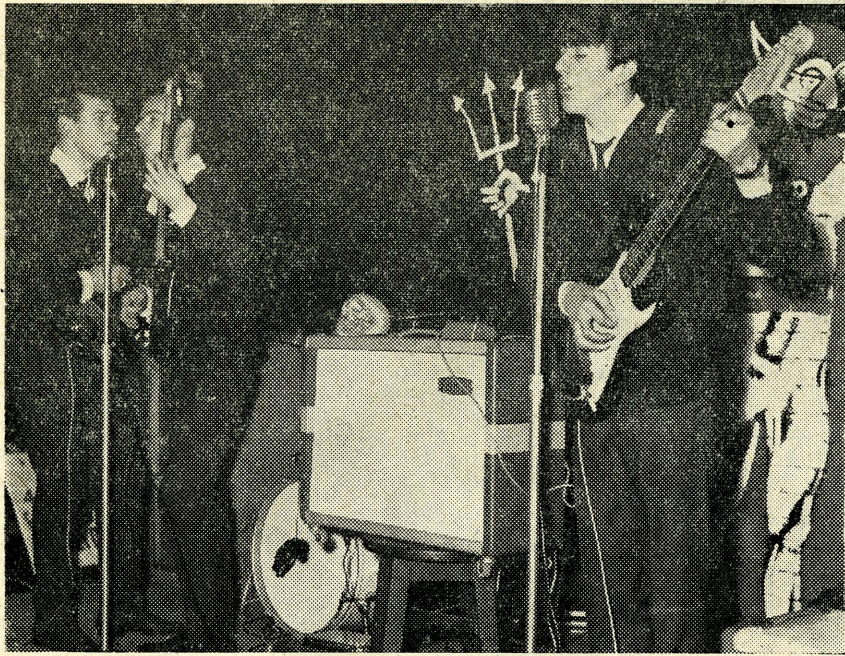
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# BIZARRE BEAT



Spot the skull on the amplifier? It's all part of the atmosphere at Birmingham's latest rock haunt, The Morgue, situated below the King's Head, Bearwood. On stage are The Lonely Ones.



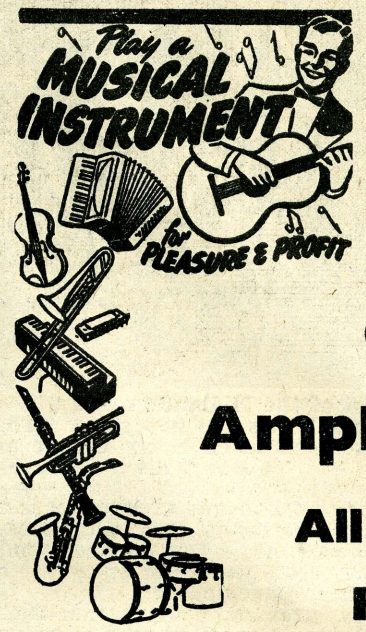
More macabre beat presentation comes from Jules and the Ghost Squad, seen here at a Sutton Coldfield session. The boys also appear in less horrific attire as The Tuxedos.



He's a scream! Yes, it's Screaming Lord Sutch, surrounded by members of Birmingham's Carl Wayne and the Vikings, who were appearing with the zany beat personality at Birmingham Town Hall.

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A Coventry group making a name for themselves around the Midlands are The Countdowns, who have played at Solihull, Birmingham, Nuneaton, Leamington Spa, Hinckley and Meriden. Line-up of the outfit: John Harris (lead guitar), Ken Smith (rhythm and singer), Bob Wilson (bass) and Eric Wilkins (drums).

Two apprentices—one an electrician, the other a telephone engineer—a tailor's assistant, a factory student and a welder—that's the line-up of The Vibratones.

According to their manager, Mr. H. Jeffs, of 29 Cumberland Road, Oxford, this talented young outfit recently played alongside The Rolling Stones and have more interesting dates arranged.

Number One fan of The Beathovens, a young group from Spalding, Lincolnshire, must surely be Miss Jean Addington, of "Beverley," Wygate Road, Spalding who sends full details of her favourite outfit which she describes as: "Fab, gear, smashing, hep!"

The Merseybeats and Tony and the Varitones will be this year's stars at the Annual Nottingham Youth Ball, at the Sherwood Rooms, Nottingham, on May 8th.

The two previous Annual Nottingham Youth Balls have been sell-outs—the first with 1,250 people and the second with a 1,350 attendance.

The Varitones Fan Club Secretary tells us that the group have been swamped with requests for tickets, so this year's Ball looks like being another sell-out.

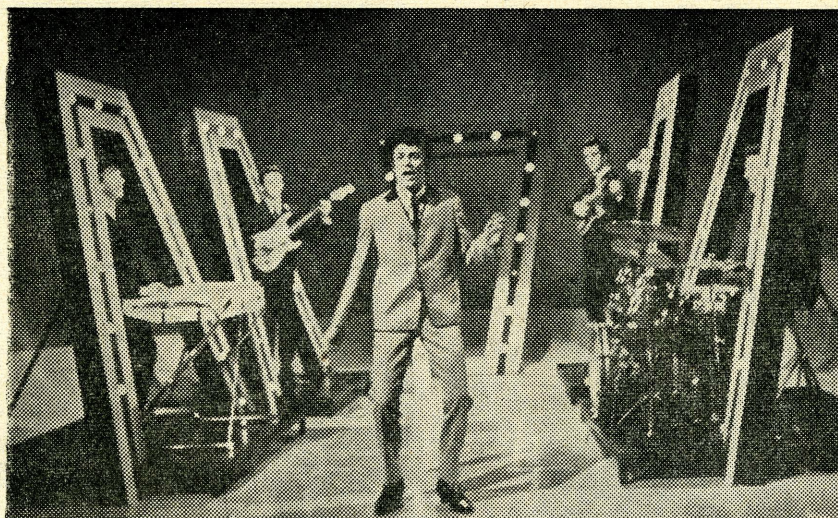
One of the many letters received this month comes from Peter James, of 213 Kettering Road, Northampton, manager of Johnny Kaye and the Kossaks. Peter writes: "There are about 25 groups in Northampton, of which, The Kossaks, Tornados, Skyliners and Apex are among the tops."

Another Northampton letter comes from Graham Smith, of 26 Letts Road. Graham, a member of "The Mavericks," writes:—"Formerly based at Daventry, The Mavericks moved into the local limelight some two years ago and since then have gone from strength to strength. We now reckon we are pushing into the top three groups in town."

Enterprising tie-up between Dudley group Beat Ltd. and their local newspaper is a £10 song-writing competition.

Judging the competition will be Beat Ltd.

"The idea is to see if there is a chance of getting the kind of number that might be worth recording," explains managing director of Beat Ltd., C. K. Hancock. "Naturally, this could be a very good thing for the person who writes the song as well as for the group."



Most of the Midland groups with a record to their credit have appeared in ABC TV's top pop show, "Thank Your Lucky Stars." This picture was taken when Gerry Levene and the Avengers, presented their first Decca disc, "Dr. Feelgood," in the programme.

We have had lots of letters asking for details of the group whose record of "I Don't Understand" has been heard almost nightly on Radio Luxembourg.

They are, of course, the Brum Beats—Alan Eastwood (drums), Graham Ashford (vocals), Roger Hill (lead guitar), Graham Gallery (bass guitar) and Paul Carter (sax)—who are resident at the Plaza, Old Hill.

We understand that vocalist star Billy Fury was interested in "I Don't Understand," a song which was written by the two Grahams and Roger of the group, and may have recorded it himself, had the Brum Beats not waxed it first.

Aspiring beat vocalists might like to listen out for their namesakes, the other Brum Beats, who are resident at the Brum Beat Cavern every Thursday.

The reason? Let Vic Wakelin, the group's manager, explain: "We have had various singers on a part-time basis, but so far no one permanently. Any offers to match our style?"

Formed just over 18 months ago, the present line-up of the group is: John Hancox (drums), Norman Haines (lead), Terry Dews (bass) and Trevor Langham (piano). Norman Haines is mainly responsible for vocals although he is sometimes assisted by Terry Langham.

It wasn't a power cut that silenced Ricky Topaz and the Diamonds when they were playing at Kettering Working Men's Club one night recently.

What was it? It was the tiny foot of 20-months-old Keith, son of the group's rhythm guitarist, Terry Jackson!

Young Keith was dancing backstage and he trod on a wire and pulled out the main lead plug!

Police had to be called to deal with a large crowd of children who flocked to a hall in Mansfield recently to hear a beat group in action.

The group? Johnny Gold and the Escorts—an up-and-coming outfit handled by E.C.C. Entertainments, of 8 Belvedere Street, Mansfield—who were rehearsing in a hall in Woodhouse, Mansfield.

A group out to achieve spectacular things on the Beat scene are undoubtedly The Four I's, the latest in the long line of beat groups with a gimmick approach.

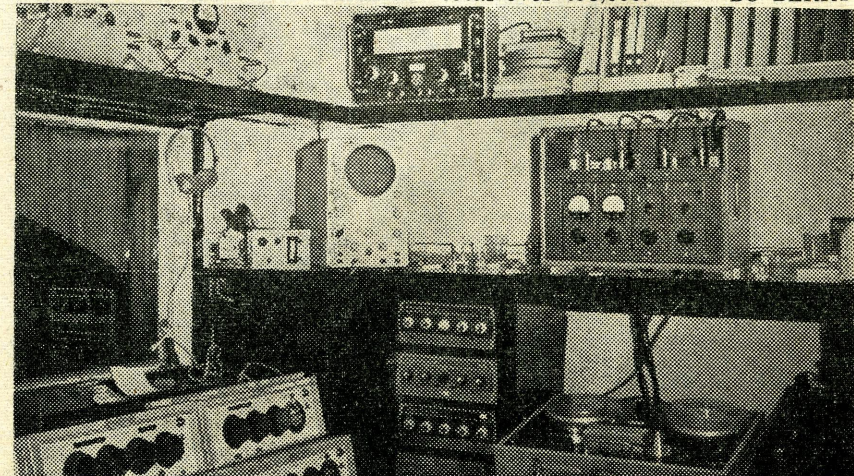
What have the Four I's got that other groups haven't? Spectacles. All five members of the outfit wear them—only one member needs to. He is Cedric Hill, the rhythm guitarist.

This month Bill Nile's Deltas celebrate their first anniversary as a pro outfit. The group, from Cheltenham, have been signed for a three-year period with Joe Meek, who on hearing them at his recording studio said: "You have the most original sound that has been in my studio for two years."

Colin Kayne and the Trojans, a popular group in North Staffordshire, are well known for their original composition called "Losing You" written by the group's lead guitarist, Peter Wynn.

Two members of the group have been playing for four years and the complete personnel reads: Peter Wynn (lead), Geoff Watts (drums), Melvin Mullock (bass) and Colin Sherwin "Kayne" (vocals).

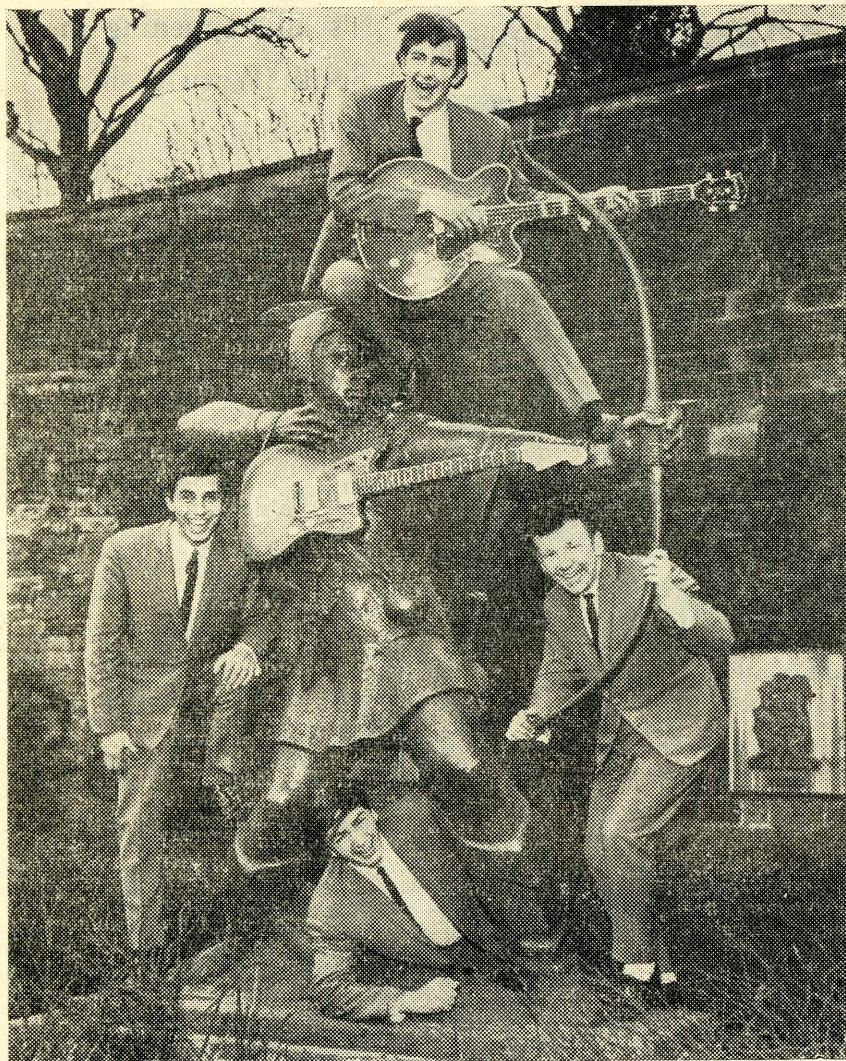
Colin Kayne and the Trojans cut their first demo disc last month.



Some of the £40,000 worth of equipment at the studios of Northampton Sound Recording Service, otherwise known as Studio 36. Demo discs have been made at the studios by such local groups as Size Seven (Corby), Tony Sands and the Drumbeats (Northampton) and Nottingham's Tony D. and the Shakeouts. Groups have also travelled from as far afield as Liverpool, Southampton and London to record at Studio 36. The partners are H. M. Fintimore, C. E. Eaton and J. R. A. Harrison.

## ON THE BEAT

**ROCKIN' BERRIES** van in smash... **MARK FAYNE AND THE ASTRONAUTS** in demand in the north... **DANNY KING** singing with **MIKE SHERIDAN AND THE NIGHT RIDERS**... Will **UNDER-TAKERS** appear at the Morgue?... **THE FLAMINGOES** (formerly **JOHNNY KING AND THE DIAMONDS**) seeking singer... **BEACHCOMBERS** making changes... Bass flown from States for **APPLEJACK MEGAN DAVIES**... Leicester's **DAVE DEAN AND THE QUAKERS** pass Fontana test... Agent **SID TYLER** tips Hucknall's **STRAYCATS** for fame... **CLANSMEN, TRENTSIDE FOUR, TRENIERS** and **HELIONS** booked for new Long Eaton R & B club... Red Freshman guitar (No. 344) stolen from **JONES & CROSSLAND**... **MARAUDERS** plugged "Lucille" in "Ready, Steady, Go" and "Lucky Stars" in same week-end... "He's Telling You Lies" first Pye disc by **LANCE HARVEY AND THE KING PINS** on April 3rd... Birmingham's **TULSA AGENCY** presenting **GENE VINCENT, EDEN KANE** and **BIG DEE IRWIN** at Market Harbour, Corby and Peterborough... Bassist **ALAN OWEN** replaces **JOHNNY MACLINDEN** with **WOODY ALLEN AND THE CHALLENGERS**... **ROCKIN' CHEVROLETS** packing 'em in on Fridays at the Marlborough, Small Heath... Burton's **RHYTHM 'N BLUES INCORPORATED** back at St. George's Ballroom, Hinckley, with **FREDDIE AND THE DREAMERS**... **KEITH POWELL AND THE VALETS** in "For Teenagers Only"... Big publicity drive by new Weoley Castle group **JON E. LAW AND THE TRESPASSERS**... Smethwick's **CRESCENDOS** took coach load of fans to Liverpool date... Malvern's **NEW FALCONS** for northern tour in June... **JOHN CLOUGH**, ex-lead with Newark's **TRIFFIDS**, joins Stafford's **LEA ANTHONY AND THE BLACK ARROWS**... Oakdene Entertainments handling **GULLIVER'S TRAVELLERS**... With **JERRY LEE LEWIS** at Birmingham Town Hall: **CARL WAYNE AND THE VIKINGS, ROCKIN' BERRIES, GERRY LEVENE, PAT WAYNE AND THE BEACHCOMBERS**... at same venue with **ROLLING STONES** and **MARAUDERS: DENNY LAINE AND THE DIPLOMATS**... "Tore Up" title of latest **KEITH POWELL AND THE VALETS** disc... **LEE STIRLING AND THE BRUISERS** record "I Believe"... **SENORITAS** become **THE SUGARBEATS**... April earnings of **APPLEJACKS** total over £3,000. **BO BERRY**



Aiming to push Nottingham's first beat record into the charts are Tony D and the Shakeouts, a lively four-some who have made a big impact on Midland fans since travelling down from Manchester.

Their debut disc, "Is It True?" has been released on the Pye Piccadilly label. Penned by pianist Ian Fenn, it's already had favourable reception from disc jockeys. In November last year Notting-

ham agent Phil Smith heard them and persuaded them to move to the Midlands. A demo disc, a change of name, and the Shakeouts were ready for their breakthrough into the recording world.

The Shakeouts celebrated the release of their record by appearing at Nottingham's Mardi Gras charity ball. Since then they have played on TV and broadcast on Radio Luxembourg.

Popular Birmingham group The Unsquare Men are called a "complete entertainment show" on their publicity billings—and they can't help gagging it up even when posing for pictures like this startling shot by well-known Midland Photographer Willoughby Gullachsen.

But the real strength of The Unsquare Men lies in their versatile performances. The group, which comprises Gordon Andrews (vocals), Dan Conboy (drums), Alan Nicklin (lead guitar) and Ken Freeman (piano-clavioline), also feature Alan's attractive sister, Janet Anne, as bassist and singer.

Accountant leader of the group Gordon Andrews tells us: "Ken Freeman and myself also feature on harmonica when we do numbers in the R & B field and besides our weekly Friday, Saturday and Sunday residency at the Viking, Ulleries Road, Solihull, we also have many mid-week dates."

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# STAFFORDSHIRE SCENE by ROGER BENNETT



THE MELTONES

Being the head of the county, one might be tempted to think that Stafford would be setting the pace as far as the group scene is concerned. But although it has a fairly active outlook, it also has plenty of scope for development on a much more ambitious scale.

The fact is that if an outsider was to look upon Stafford for a guide to what Staffordshire offered in the way of a beat scene, then he would probably leave disappointed and puzzled. Stafford, unfortunately, is not the shining light it could be to the towns within its county boundary. In fact it could do well to follow the very "with it" and progressive attitude taken by its surrounding towns. Towns like Stoke, Wolverhampton, Walsall, Willenhall and Wednesbury.

In contrast, Stafford is as quiet as a guitar without an amplifier. The odd one or two groups have the necessary drive and keenness but the majority are quite content to continue with their regular bookings and as a result they do not better themselves. This does not worry them at all for they know they have no real competition. The whole scene is said to evolve around just a few groups and those coming in from the outlying villages.

An on-the-spot view of the scene comes from Dennis Owen, guitarist with **The Electrons**, one of the popular groups. He told "Midland Beat": "I don't think Stafford is like any other towns in the county. The groups here are quite independent, not believing in agencies and all that jazz. There is plenty of work and not a lot of competition so there is no point in knocking yourself out for bookings. We are not really ambitious and we consider being out three nights a week is enough. If we are approached for dates we are naturally quite pleased to accept, if possible, but we do not push ourselves."

These candid remarks might not apply to all Stafford groups but it does appear there is a very satisfied, but not smug, attitude. One therefore cannot be blamed for thinking what if something happened to alter this situation?

Groups round and about Stafford include a recently formed rhythm and blues outfit taking the name of **The Staffords** and an up-and-coming unit **The Count-Downs**. Others who are popular are **Johnny and the Meltones**, **The Vigilanties**, **The Zambies** and **Johnny and the Venturers**.

## Austin Powell's BORDERLAND NEWS

The first group around here to go entirely R and B is Kington's **Johnny Rio and the Ricardos**. They were originally formed to be the regular backing group to big name stars that visited the Herefordshire town, but they proved so popular they found themselves taking work all over the county. The line-up is Johnny Rio on vocals, with Ricky Weaver (bass), Billy Fee (lead), Boven Himburg (harmonica) and Phil Fippens (drums). Their manager is very pleased with the group, who are now very popular wherever they go.

A beat contest was held at Wellington in the middle of last month and of the six groups competing **Mark Antony** and the **Senators** were the winners. There seems to be nothing to stop those boys now. Others taking part were **The Condors**, **The Van-Dels**, **Johnny and the Chu-Tehs**, **The Woodlarks** and **The Venoms**. The first prize was a trophy and £20.

**The Trensetts**, who, after being off the scene through the illness of one of the members, are now on the road again. The line-up is G. Lewis (vocals), Peter Jones (lead), Gwin Davies (rhythm), K. Jones (bass) and D. Owen (drums). Their first date was to support three Liverpool groups in their home town, Newtown, and they were more exciting than were the 'pool talent.

Shrewsbury's **Deltas** seem to be getting lots of good publicity nowadays and are proving very popular. I'd say that there are now about 20 groups operating within the four border counties here. One of the judges at the Wellington contest was Mr. Roger Thompson, a booking agent from Wolverhampton. **Vampires** wear blonde Beatle wigs on stage now. Not much activity over "Brum Beat" album in this area—possibly because the only Brum groups we've had around here are all contracted to the big labels and so were not on the Dial release.

## It's all happening in South Warwickshire

For several groups in Coventry and South Warwickshire April could be THE month. Never there been so much activity, and many opportunities.

The **Mighty Avengers** recorded "Hide Your Pride," a catchy number, on March 9th for release by Decca.

Due to be rush-released, they could put this combo into national ranks. And judging the enthusiasm of thousands of fans in this area it would be deserved.

Breaking new ground this month are a group who trek under the mournful name of **The Sorrows**.

Formed only five months ago, with a "For Teenagers Only" television appearance behind them, the boys are now due to be playing for two weeks in Hamburg, Germany.

With the exception of drummer **Bruce Finlay**, members of **The Sorrows** had belonged to other Coventry groups before teaming up. They have vocalist **Don Mourn**, lead guitarist **"Pip" Witcher**, rhythm guitarist **Terry Jukes** and bass guitarist **Packham**.

Decca were also trying to fit a recording session for the group before they left for Hamburg. It was expected that the session would take place on their return to the country if time wasn't found for the continental bookings.

With all this activity the group had no option but to go professional.

An extremely popular group in this area—**The Matadors**—appeared on "For Teenagers Only" April 2nd.

Worried by the "sound" problem that is noticeable on this and other live television shows, **The Matadors** told me they were hoping to make a couple of tracks they had privately recorded.

The group has been having more than its fair share of trouble recently. Illness to each member in turn has resulted in several cancelled bookings and many nights with an under-strength line-up.

But they too are hoping that April will bring them lots of luck.

There seems to be no stopping the continual trickle of groups emerging. **The Saracens**, **Tridents**, **Los Comarons**, **Renegades**, they are a few of the new ones from Warwick and Kenilworth.

By the way, the 18-year-old Leamington songstress **Lynne Cuthbert** had her first disc finally released by Decca on March 27th. The "House For Sale" it is backed by "My Little Boy."

The group that accompanied Lynne—**The Mustangs**—have undergone several changes recently.

Lead guitarist **Martin Williams** and bassist **Chris Allen** quit a few weeks after drummer **Tony Fenwick** said he was leaving to take up modern jazz.

These crippling series of blows have not succeeded in wiping this well-established group off the map.

Vocalist **Mike Burns** now plays lead guitar as well as singing; **Brooks** moved over to bass and rhythm; drummer **Tony Fenwick** and a Coventry lad, 17-year-old **Alan Howe** stepped in to replace him.

Nearly all bookings were cancelled last month, but they launch again now with a stronger rhythm and blues influence.

DENNIS G. MORRIS

# From the Editor's Postbag

I HAVE just read this month's edition of your fabulous magazine "Midland Beat," and I have not seen one of the Midlands' best groups mentioned—Lee Stirling and the Bruisers. I think their music is by far the best in the Midlands and Lee Stirling is definitely a great musician.

CHRISTINE E. HAMBLETON  
40 Attwood Terrace  
Dawley, Shropshire.

JUST a line to say I think it's about time someone wrote up about a fab group called Guitars Incorporated. They have played all over the Midlands and when they played in Wellington they were mobbed by screaming teenagers.

The girls wrote asking to join the lads' fan club. So please give the lads a mention in next month's "Midland Beat" and make me and all the other fans very happy.

VALERIE STROUD  
President  
Guitars Incorporated Fan club  
3 Wimpole Grove, Kingstanding  
Birmingham, 22c.

I NOTED the absence of readers' letters from the February issue of "Midland Beat," and presumed this was due to lack of space. This must cause you a lot of problems which have to be sorted out somehow.

There is no need for me to tell you that readers' letters play a part in the production of any paper. Even the most critical can be constructive—and therefore a guide to what people want.

I think you have made a fine job of the production of "Midland Beat." It should have a long and useful life and do much to boost the "Brum Sound." Carry on the good work and please accept my congratulations.

F. W. MATTHEWS  
76 Middleton Road,  
Shirley, Solihull

I HAVE just read my first copy of your fine paper "Midland Beat." Here indeed is a publication packed with fact and data about our local heroes. It is good to see recognition awarded to all those stalwarts to provide youth with good, danceable music week in and out, while only the very top crust (and not always the best) receive acclaim in the national papers.

How pleased I was to see a picture of the fabulous Falling Leaves. In the short time they've been together a tremendous following has amassed, and they have proved one does not have to play up to current popular fads in music to pack the halls where they play.

ANDREW J. CRISP  
St. Paul's College  
Cheltenham, Glos.

I'M only twenty-two years old,  
But boy—I'm not a square;  
Wherever the DIAMONDS from Burton  
go

You can bet that I'll be there,  
They're the most "fab" group I've ever  
heard,

They're really "in the groove";  
Whatever the age of their fans may be,  
They're sure to make them move.  
There's Ricky (he sings) and Glen Gold,  
too,

There's Tommy the drummer (he's  
swell);

There's Terry and Harold and Ken,  
They play the guitar and sure play  
well.

So all you club leaders, we want them  
up here,

So please book them soon if you will;  
You can bet that the money will roll  
in that night,

'Cos the fans, the room will fill.

Mrs. A. DAVIES  
Victoria Street  
Kettering



THE MICROS

I THINK your magazine ("Midland Beat") is gear, and so far you have covered quite a few of the fabulous Birmingham groups. There is a new Birmingham group which recently we had at Old Hill Plaza Ballroom. This group is THE LAWYERS.

My friends and I liked them very much. I don't suppose there is any chance of them being in your magazine, as they are a new group. But we would be very pleased if you could give us some general information on them.

Miss JEANNE ROBERTS  
13 Stuart Road, Throne Estate,  
Rowley Regis, Birmingham

I HAVE a complaint to make about the "Staffs. Scene" feature. Not one of Stafford's rock groups have ever had a mention. I think this is very poor on your part, as Stafford is the county town.

Here are just a few of them: The Zambies, The Countdowns, The Electrons, The Black Arrows, The Venturers, The Vigilanties. I suggest you come and get an opinion of the "Stafford Sound," as I think it is just as good as the Brum Beat.

J. W. BANNER  
67 Queensville  
Stafford

\* Roger Bennett writes about the Stafford area in this month's Staffordshire Scene.

I HAVE not been buying "Midland Beat" very long, but in the editions I have, there is nothing about a Chesterfield group, Johnny Deen and The Shakes.

I think they are a marvellous group, so please could you print a photo of them or something about them.

ANN SHARMAN  
45 Alfred Street, Bloxwich  
Walsall, Staffs.

I AM a regular reader of the "Midland Beat" and I take a great interest in all your articles, especially the "Readers' Letters."

In the March edition you printed a letter from seven Jaybirds fans and, like those fans, I also rate the Jaybirds as the tops.

I have yet to hear of any British group, including the so-called fabulous groups from Merseyside, better than the Jaybirds.

THE JAYBIRDS' No. 1 FAN  
Nottingham

I AM writing to inform you that The Ecko Four were involved in an accident on the night of March 6th. Malcolm Jenkins (the drummer) was slightly hurt, but the group escaped without further injury. Their van is a write-off, however, so I suppose it was worse than the boys revealed. They are a constant source of worry, but they're the greatest.

Secretary  
L. GILCHRIST  
Ecko Four Fan Club  
Trade Winds  
158 London Road,  
Whitley, Coventry.

I HAVE read "Midland Beat" and from your March edition I received much information and pleasure.

I have arranged for copies to be placed in the club for members' pleasure in future months.

It may interest your readers to note that Jackie and the Jesters were at our club on March 18th and our April bookings include: Karl Day and the Tonebeats (April 8th), The Sabres (April 15th), and Blue Stars (April 22nd)—all great groups.

I. B. THOMAS  
Manders Welfare Club  
Cannock Road, Wolverhampton

WE are pleased to see you have given a good write-up in the "Midland Beat" to The Shouts, as I get around and I think The Shouts have the makings of a good group. Give them your support.

SHOUTS FANS  
Birmingham.

WE are regular readers of your monthly magazine "Midland Beat," and we noticed your article this month on Oxford groups. We would like to point out that we are an Oxford group (semi-pro), and have been playing together for two-and-a-half years. Previously we were known as The Vampires and then The Caravelles, but we changed the latter to avoid confusion.

HOWARD SAYWELL

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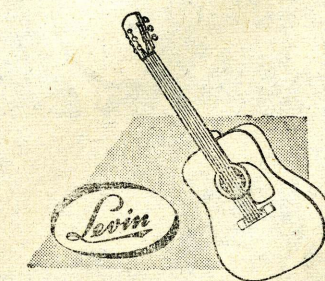
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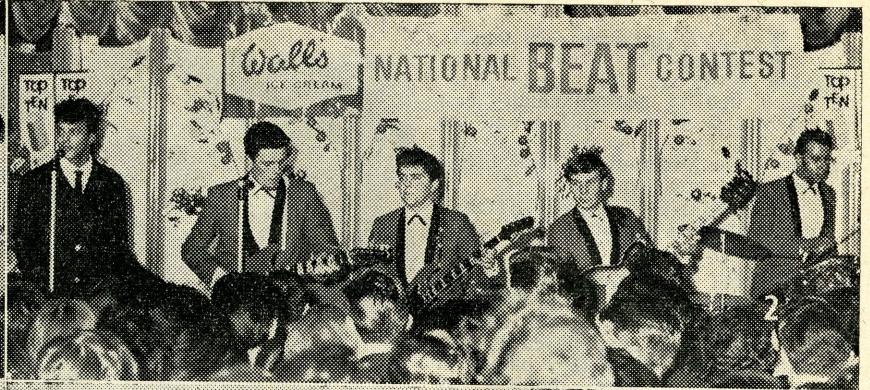
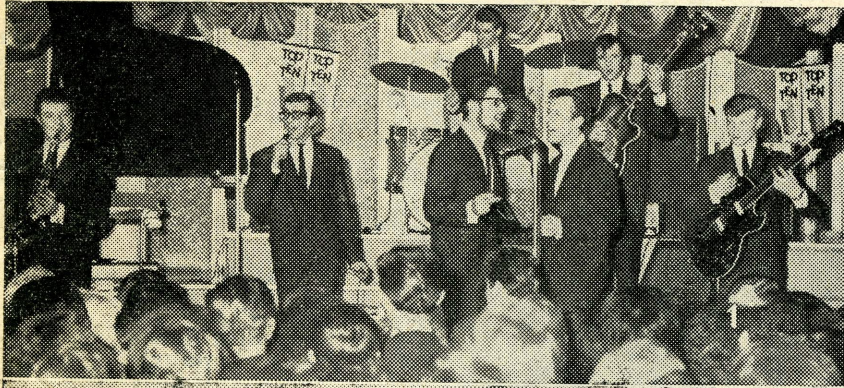
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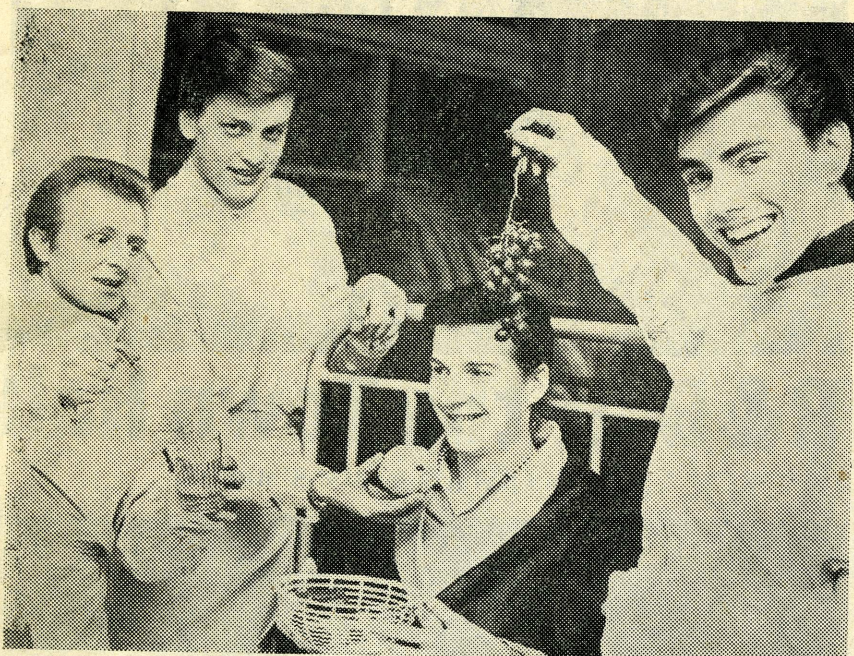
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# MIDLAND AREA FINALS OF THE MECCA NATIONAL BEAT GROUP CONTEST



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Back in action after recovering from a bout of glandular fever is Mick Charleton, drummer with one of Oxford's top groups, Mal Ryder and the Spirits.

Our photograph shows Mick being visited by the group during his spell in hospital when his place was taken by ex-Spirit drummer Larry Redd, now leading a beat group known as The Falling Leaves.

"Mick's illness began when the group were on tour. He was first taken unwell at Stockport, but after being checked over in hospital and given penicillin he seemed to be all right," says the group's manager, John Allen.

"But on the Monday evening when we were in Rochdale at the start of a week's tour, Mick was taken ill again and played the whole session propped against the wall."

Thanks a million, from

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 Birmingham, on March 2nd, 1964

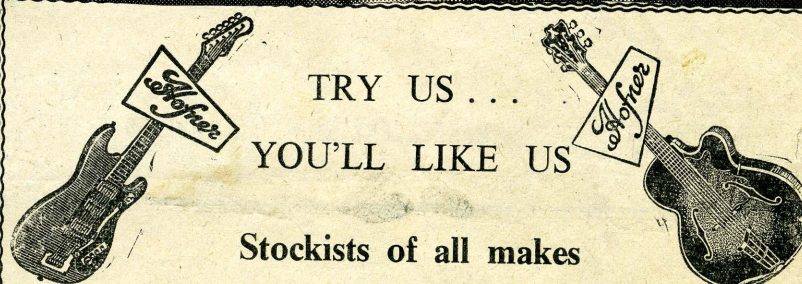
Best wishes for the National Final at the  
 Lyceum Ballroom, Strand, London, on May 4th, 1964

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Midland Beat" photographer Jim Simpson, was at the Midland Area Finals of the National Beat Group Contest at the Locarno Ballroom, Birmingham, on March 2nd. Two Birmingham groups, The Fortunes and The Plainsmen, went through to the finals. Photographs 1 and 2 show The Plainsmen and The Fortunes (right) in action; 3, The Zodiacs (Theatre Royal, Hanley); 4, The Gay Tower, Birmingham); 5, The Plainsmen (Locarno, Birmingham); 6, John Allen and the Challengers (Locarno, Coventry); 7, The Shondells (Crystal, Newcastle-under-Lyme); 8, The Salvos (Locarno, Bristol).



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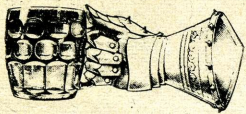
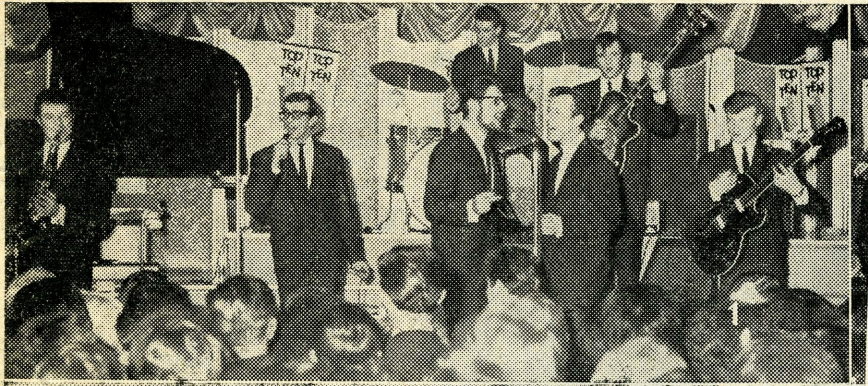
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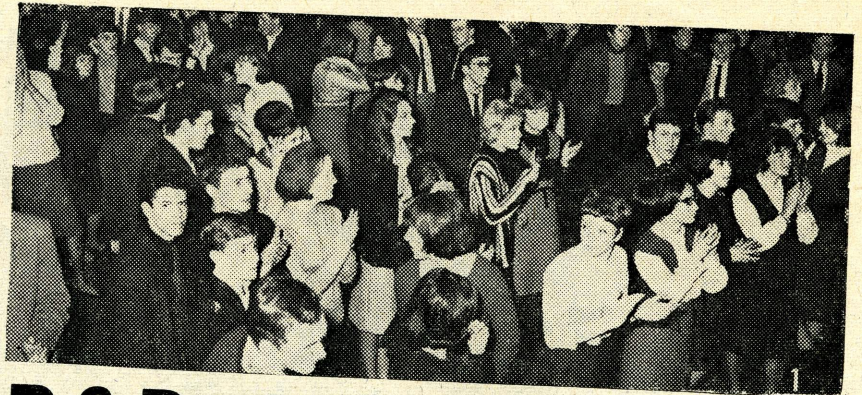
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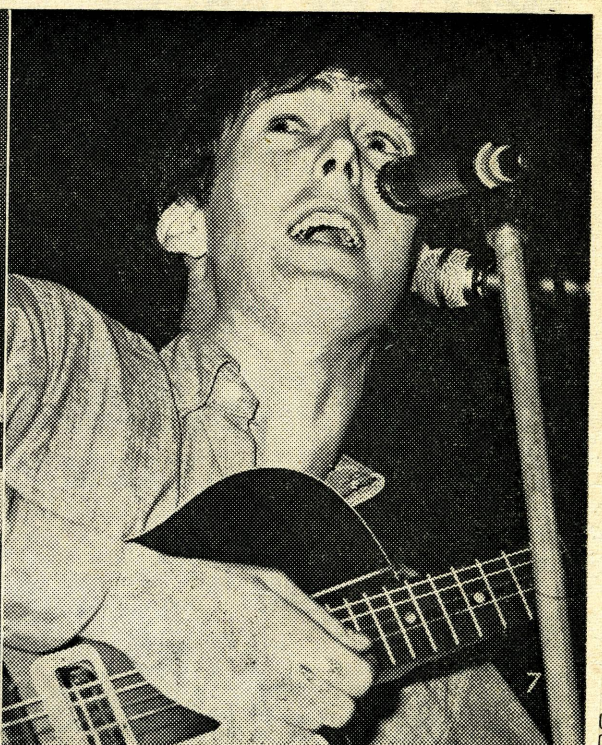


# R&B at the Town Hall

Story and pictures by JIM SIMPSON



Guide to photographs: 1. Fans crowd round the platform; 2. The Spencer Davies R & B Quartet take a well-earned rest; 3. Organiser David Postle and Georgio Gomelsky discuss the evening's programme; 4. Spencer Davies and Steve Winwood in action; 5. Rod Stuart (Hoochie Coochie Men); 6. Sonny Boy Williamson; 7. Spencer Davies; 8. Henry Hart (Roadrunners); 9. Keith Jelf (Yardbirds).



**A GREAT night for Midland R & B fans ended with 16 of the country's top performers jamming in front of a wildly excited capacity crowd at the Town Hall. This was the climax of Birmingham's first R & B festival featuring Sonny Boy Williamson and promoted by Birmingham's leading purveyor of R & B, David Postle, and the National Jazz Federation represented by Georgio Gomelsky, on Friday, 28th February.**

Liverpool compere Bob Wooler (Cavern Club) began the concert by introducing the Spencer Davies R & B Quartet, resident at the Golden Eagle Club, who kicked the show off to a resounding start. Making their last appearance before turning pro, the local group roused an enthusiastic audience, particularly with their version of Little Walter's "You're So Fine" and "Dimples," featuring Steve Winwood. Most impressive here were Pete York's musicianally drumming and Steve's guitar playing, but I would have liked a glimpse of his talents at the piano.

An authentic R & B sound came from Liverpool's Road Runners, featuring the vocals and booting tenor-sax of Henry Hart, and the Jerry Lee Lewis style piano of classically-trained John Peacock. The highspots of their performance were an infectious rolling version of Ray Charles' "Mary Ann" (complete with Basie coda) and a powerful treatment of Bo Diddley's "Road Runner," the tune that gave the group its name. I hope that, in spite of their many commitments (their extensive touring has reached as far as Hamburg and they are under contract to Oriole records), we will hear this exciting group in Birmingham again soon.

Long John Baldry's Hoochie Coochie Men, the group led by Cyril Davies until his recent tragic death, proved to be the most musically R & B group I have heard. Six feet seven inches, Long John Baldry, an excellent Blues performer himself, leads a group that in approach and material is never far from the jazz idiom and in which the powerful, rocking singing of young Rod Stuart is outstanding. From their opening number, Joe Turner's "Roll 'em

Pete" featuring ex-Humphrey Lyttelton pianist Ian Armit, they took the audience by storm, winning probably the biggest ovation of the evening.

When guest star Otille Patterson joined the group, opening with her latest recording "Baby, Please Don't Go" (a potential big seller judging from its Town Hall reception), she was more lively and buoyant than ever, even surprising us by producing some two-fisted piano. The climax of her set was a resounding "Got My Mojo Working" with Long John, on which she entertained a delighted audience with two encores.

From the south came The Yard Birds, a group with a reputation from records, touring with Sonny Boy Williamson, and a recent triumph at the Liverpool Cavern. Their almost overpoweringly frenzied and frenetic sound raised the temperature rather more than somewhat before the eerie "Slow Waltz" introduced Sonny Boy himself.

The bowler-hatted American R & B star gave a performance both casual and enthralling. Prowling around between his terse harmonica interjections, slowly searching his pockets for the appropriate instrument, ambling casually across the stage to discuss the next number, holding the stage completely on his own on originals like "Help Me" and the train-like "Bye, Bye Birdie"—in all this he held the entire hall captive. A riotous climax to his performance was provided by his harmonica contortions in which he even played the instrument with his nose.

The concert was followed by a late-night twist session which was, if possible, even more successful. Nearly 1,000 people were there to experience a tremendous night of informal R & B highlighted by Sonny Boy's performance and by the Long John Baldry/Rod Stuart slow rocker — "All Night Long." The informal jam session was showing every sign of living up to that title when, having over-run their time by more than half an hour, the musicians' electricity supply was cut off and we were left asking, "When is the next R & B Festival."

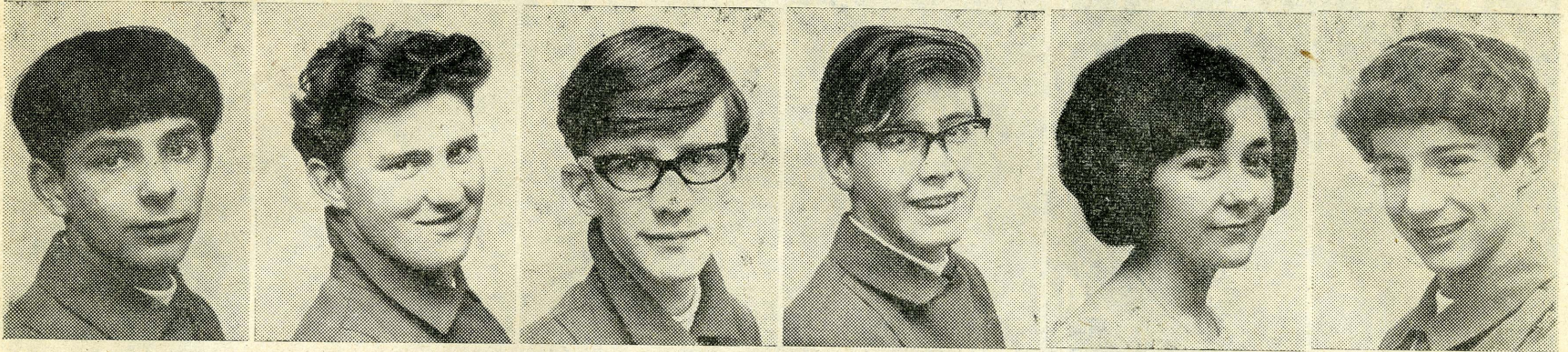


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# MEET THE GROUP

One of the most popular groups in Northants are The Electrons, from Corby, a fast up-and-coming outfit who are building up a reputation for reliability and first-class performance. The group have been playing together for just over two years.

# THE ELECTRONS



## Dennis Barwell

**Instrument:** Drums and vocalist.  
**Other instruments played:** Guitar and harmonica.  
**Date of birth:** 1947.  
**Occupation:**

**Ambition:** To be Minister.

**Likes:** Peanuts.

**Dislikes:** Sarcasm.

**Education:** Corby Grammar School.

**Taste in music:** Any, if well played.

**Age on first public appearance:** 7 years.

**Height:** 5ft. 8in.

**Colour of eyes:** Hazel.

**Colour of hair:** Black.

## Dewi Toleman

**Instrument:** Bass guitar.  
**Other instruments played:** None.  
**Date of birth:** March, 1946.  
**Occupation:** Apprentice turner.  
**Ambition:**

**To be:** Prime Minister.

**Likes:** Coffee, Brunettes and sleeping.

**Dislikes:** Sarcasm and fighting midgets.

**Education:** Corby Secondary Modern Boys' School.

**Taste in music:** Country and Western, Rhythm 'n Blues.

**Age on first public appearance:** 7 years.

## Pete Galloway

**Instruments:** Guitar and clarinet.  
**Other instruments played:** Piano, double bass and drums.  
**Date of birth:** January, 1948.  
**Occupation:** Scholar.

**Ambition:** To be Prime Minister.

**Likes:** Sleeping, girls and mad magazines.

**Dislikes:** Getting up for school, sarcasm and homework.

**Education:** Corby Grammar School.

**Taste in music:** R & B and modern jazz.

**Favourite artists:** Undertakers and Hollies.

## Bill Buchan

**Instrument:** Rhythm guitar.  
**Other instruments played:** Banjo.  
**Date of birth:** August, 1946.  
**Occupation:** Commercial apprentice.

**Ambition:** To be Prime Minister.

**Likes:** Girls and home.

**Dislikes:** Show-offs and blood sports.

**Education:** Corby Grammar School.

**Hobbies:** Relaxing and reading.

**Taste in music:** Wild and some classical.

**Height:** 5ft. 7in.

**Colour of eyes:** Blue.

**Colour of hair:** Light brown.

## Susan Fisher

**Instrument:** Vocalist.  
**Date of birth:** 24/3/47.  
**Occupation:** Machinist.  
**Ambition:**

**To be:** Prime Minister's wife.

**Likes:** Mod boys and mod clothes

**Dislikes:** Moody boys and milk.

**Education:** Our Lady's R.C.

**Hobbies:** Dancing and swimming.

**Taste in music:** Rhythm and Blues.

**Favourite artists:** The Beatles.

**Age on first public appearance:** 16 years.

**Colour of eyes:** Green.

**Colour of hair:** Fair.

## Ricky Dodd

**Instruments:** Tenor sax and drums.  
**Other instruments played:** Clarinet, flute, alto sax and bongoes.  
**Date of birth:** May, 1948.  
**Occupation:** "Scholar."

**Ambitions:** To play at the "Olympia" in Paris and learn to play the sax.

**Likes:** Sleeping.

**Dislikes:** School, getting up for school and blood sports.

**Education:** Grammar school.

**Taste in music:** Modern jazz and rhythm and blues.

## OUR TRIP TO LIVERPOOL

by THE HELIONS

It was with great excitement that we received the news from our agent that we were to play at the Iron Door, Liverpool, on February 14th. The excitement is still with us; it was an experience that will never be forgotten. In view of the mileage involved we decided to dispense with our own transport and hire a 'bus which worked out very well and was worth the extra expense.

We broke our journey on the M.6 at one of the Service Cafes and you can imagine our surprise when who should walk in but Adam Faith on route for Burnley. We found him very friendly and he wished us all the best of luck at the Iron Door before driving off in his Mark 10 Jag.

We eventually found our way to Liverpool and the Club. By the way the door is iron and very heavy. The Club is a converted warehouse and decorated with "arty" pictures

which you can only just see in the dim light. There seemed to be a lot of dark passages and stairways which we unfortunately could not explore because of the time available. The place must hold many hundreds of people.

There were three groups on with us, all devotees of the Mersey Sound. We wondered what sort of reception our sound would have—we need not have worried. Eventually we were down the steps from the dressing room along the passage and there we were on stage performing in Liverpool.

The atmosphere was electric, hundreds of teenagers, many with the Beatle hair cut and many girls looking like Cilla Black and dressed accordingly. The temperature was just on boiling point. Pack up the kit, sign a few autographs and we were away. Everything happens so fast in the Beat City.

## Bits & Pieces from Nottingham

Europe's largest housing estate, at Clifton, Nottingham, now has its own beat centre. Launched by 25-years-old Brian Charnock, it runs on Wednesday nights at the Winning Post pub.

Groups appearing there so far have included The Amazons, The Jaybirds, Les Dane and the fabulous Dangermen, The Rocking Vulcans, and TV's Blue Stars, from Doncaster.

Says Brian: "Before we opened young people on the estate had to travel four miles into Nottingham to hear music like this. Now they're getting top-class beat groups right on their own doorstep. And fans are even coming up from the city."

As membership rises, the club hope to bring in top groups from all over the Midlands.

Beeston teenagers have signed up The Merseybeats for their Youth Ball at Nottingham Sherwood Rooms on May 8th. Supporting group will be local favourites Tony and the Varitones.

The dance is being organised for the third year by a committee of nearly 50 young people from Beeston, Bramcote and Toton. Proceeds will go to the Cheshire Homes, West Bridgford.

A rhythm and blues invasion hit Nottingham in March. Jazz club promoter Bil Kinnell decided to concentrate on R and B for his Wednesday sessions at the Dancing Slipper, West Bridgford.

Result: roaring music from four leading London groups — Jimmy Powell and the Five Dimensions, The Graham Bond Quartet,

Georgie Fame and the Blue Flames (in his first visit to the provinces) and Long John Baldry and the Hoochie Coochie Men.

Booked for April are The Downliner Sect, The Wild Ones and The Giants, plus return visits from Jimmy Powell and Graham Bond.

Man with ambition is 17-years-old Ian Foster, of 188 Inham Road, Chilwell. Ian's always had a yen to break into films. Now he has a chance for a small part with Gerry and the Pacemakers when they start filming this Summer.

There's one snag—the part is for a mechanic and chauffeur to the Liverpool group. Ian can't drive.

He's taking lessons with the aim of passing his test by June, when casting and screen tests start at Pinewood Studios. A driving licence could be his passport to a film debut.

If he is successful, Ian has been promised the job. And apart from driving around Gerry and his boys, he would play the boy friend of Jennifer Moss—better known as Lucille Hewitt, of television's "Coronation Street."

Back in action around Nottingham clubs are The Teenville Four. And with them is Australian Mark Francis, who recently came to live in England. Apart from playing rhythm guitar, he's gaining a reputation as a vocalist.

Others in the group include Michael Moore (bass) and Johnny Carr (lead). Recently they travelled south to make a demonstration disc.

PHIL FRANCIS

# THE ELECTRONS of Corby

PLEASE CONTACT CORBY 3810

# WORCESTERSHIRE WHISPERS

by GRAHAM JONES

Beat groups in coffee bars are an innovation in Worcester, but it seems that a recent experiment—in which **The Hellions** played at the Flamingo—has not yet been repeated. Perhaps the audience was too engrossed to buy any coffee!

**The Hellions** are quietly becoming a most important force on the local beat scene. From quite small beginnings—they are a bunch of former beat group members who were determined to continue in the business—they have established themselves more by personal recommendation than by force of popularity.

Last month, for instance, there were very few beat enthusiasts who realised that the group had been to London, to entertain at the opening of a new Top Rank Victor Silvester Dance Club in Chelsea.

So successful was the trip that they came away with the suggestion that they use the studio for recording, and film soundtracks were actually mentioned.

Drummer and vocalist is Jim Capoldi, late of the Evesham **Sapphires**. Evesham at the moment is not too blessed with beat talent, though **Johnny and the Wave-lengths** are keeping the flag flying.

This is strange, because the town boasts one of the most enterprising halls in the area: Evesham Marine Ballroom. Highlight of their week is a Sunday night club—which operates, incidentally, with the active support of the local church!

Talking of churches, by the way, reminds me that the Rev. Michael Brierley, priest-in-charge of Dines Green, Worcester, continues his nation-wide fight to have beat music accepted as an instrument of worship.

Quoted in the national press as a champion of "Beatlemania," Mr. Brierley quite naturally has critics, but recently he managed to obtain permission for **The Mohawks**—whose manager is another Worcester clergyman, the Rev. W. G. MacAvoy, of Warndon—to provide music at his recent induction as Deanery Youth

Chaplain in All Saints' Church.

There are now 26 groups at work in Worcester, and more spring up with each succeeding month. Manager of a relatively new group, **The Soundcasters**, is Geoff Sargent, who gained local fame as a fan who followed Brenda Lee during her last trip to England, and became involved in an inconvenient motorcycle accident while travelling between shows. Incidentally, he's now in the process of planning another series of visits to Brenda when she comes here in the Autumn.

New drummer of **The Whirlwinds** is London-born Tony Levene (23). Recent announcement launched a fan club for the group: the first in the district.

Will **Renegades** get return booking at Brum Kavern? **Heralds** have been backing entrants in the Lakes, Warndon, singing contest. Early winners included Ernest Curtis, Polly and Jane, Len Lewis (Betrayers), and Dennis Tandy. Finals are on April 3rd, when the judges include your columnist.

**Dave Andrews** left **The Vampires** drums. He returns to Kidderminster's Premiers dance band, and is using up surplus energy in the formation of a new Worcester outfit, the **New Lansdowne Jazz Band**.

**Messengers** landed a Bourne-mouth Summer cabaret contract. Rumours say twelve musicians take turns at appearing with Unit 5—but Mr. G. Plimmer, their manager, denies the charge.

**Maurice Holder** (23), of the **Heralds**, expects a "happy event" in May. Congratulations, Moggie!

Worcester's **Cossacks** had a piece of luck last month, when a plea from a trio of fans brought them mention on Radio Luxembourg.

The fans wrote to the station, asking a firm of programme sponsors to help put the boys on disc. The request was duly broadcast, and E.M.I. arranged for their recording manager, Gordon Grey, to visit the Faithful City. What the outcome was, we have not yet heard.

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## It's Hurricane Henry and the Shriekers



One of the zaniest groups in the Midlands are probably Northampton's Hurricane Henry and the Shriekers. And this is no surprise—because most recent member of the group—the new Hurricane Henry—is Freddie Lee, formerly Screaming Lord Sutch's group, Savages.

Twenty-four-years-old Freddie, who joined the group in March, took over from Ian Patteson, now playing bass with the outfit. Freddie was previously with Eden Kane and besides playing piano and doing vocals, he plays guitar and harmonica.

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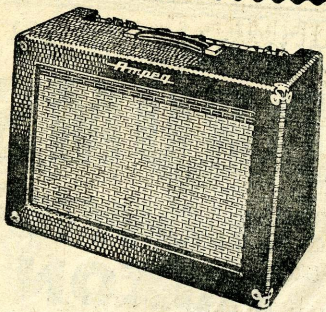
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## R & B Isn't That Young!

says LES PAGE

IN this spring of 1964 it is obvious to all observers of the scene that whilst beat music is as strongly supported as ever, large numbers of beat fans are also attracted to rhythm 'n blues. This music is also attracting numerous jazz fans, particularly those who were giving support to "trad" a year or two back. Now we have all-night R & B raves, where we formerly had them to "trad" bands; undoubtedly we are in for a crop of R & B festivals too, if promoters want to tempt our summer weather!

On 28th February, a very successful R & B package appeared at Birmingham Town Hall, for many years the scene of jazz concerts and (more recently) of trad and beat raves. Alongside out-of-town visitors like the Hoochie Coochie Men (led by Long John Baldry) was the leading Birmingham R & B group led by Spence Davies; and, to the surprise of many, the star name was—Ottillie Patterson.

The older fan remembers Ottillie's appearance around 1955 with the Chris Barber Jazz Band; she was then trying Bessie Smith blues with more than somewhat success. Her rule was never to sing with any other band and it was impossible to book Ottillie as a solo star. Now she is Mrs. Chris Barber and still tours with the band but from time to time is singing solo, backed with R & B groups.

This is nothing revolutionary. First of all, as with many things in connection with traditional jazz and allied forms of popular music, Chris Barber practically started R & B in this country. Over half a dozen years ago, while playing with the band in U.S.A., Chris was knocked out with the swinging music he heard around Chicago's South Side—where the U.S. Negro's own popular city music was—just Rhythm 'n Blues! A visit to this country by leading R & B artiste Muddy Waters followed. Other artistes who toured Britain with the Barber outfit were Big Bill Broonzy and Sister Rosetta Tharpe; they all loved the Barber band. Impressed with the terrific swing generated by the best American R & B groups, the Barber band added numbers in this idiom to their repertory. "I've Got My Mojo Working" has been sung by Ottillie Patterson from that time on.

As early as 1960, a band LP featured Ottillie Patterson in many R & B numbers—the "Chris Barber's Blues Book, Vol. 1," Columbia 33SX 1333 (e.g., "It's All Over," "Mama, He Treats Your Daughter Mean," and "Me and My Chauffeur"). Many of these numbers are 30 years old or more, so R & B is not that young!

For years R & B's leading exponents here were guitarist Alex Korner and harmonica player and 12-string guitarist Cyril Davies; both played with Ottillie and the period about two years ago when Alex regularly toured with the band, being featured guitarist with Ottillie, is remembered with affection; what a pity no records were issued featuring this aspect of the band. However, now one can hear Ottillie singing rhythm 'n blues backed by Long John Baldry's Hoochie Coochie Men, and she has nothing but praise for these swingin' R & B men. And I think she can teach the younger would-be R & B singers quite a lot.

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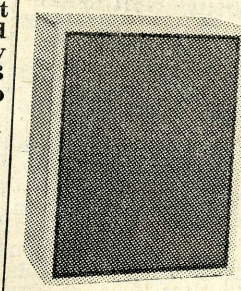
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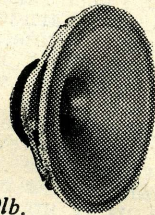
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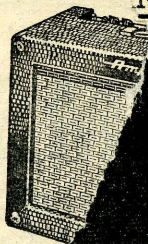
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