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MIDLAND BEAT

No. 33

JUNE, 1966

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THE MIDLANDS' LEADING ENTERTAINMENT MONTHLY



Picture - Jim Simpson.

BEHIND the rise of the Monopoly, now regarded as one of Birmingham's most promising groups, is a story of courage and determination. It concerns their lead singer, Froggy.

For the likeable Froggy (real name Ray Froggatt) spent nine months of last year in hospital. He underwent an operation for the removal of a kidney. But within a week of leaving hospital he had formed the Monopoly and was on stage with them at Tito's Club on their first engagement!

"The group deserve to succeed because of Froggy's spirit," says their manager, David Broadhurst, proprietor of Tito's Club and a director of several Midland companies.

Froggy deserves the Monopoly

The boys who teamed up with Froggy to form the Monopoly at the beginning of this year are Jay Stone (bass), Lennie Mann (drums), Stan Lee (lead guitar), and Rod Nolan (rhythm).

They took their name from the group with which Stan and Lennie had been playing. Now they seem set to make the name known nationally as they are looking forward to the release of their first disc on Polydor.

The group feature a lot of original material, written by Froggy and Rod, one of their numbers being top of the list at the moment as the "A" side of their forthcoming disc.

"Our musical policy is to avoid copying in favour of creating our own sound," says Froggy. "For instance, I am a great admirer of Bob Dylan and Tom Jones, but my approach is nothing like either."

"We're not a group with a set stage uniform. We never dress the same as one another because we're individualists with different tastes. It's our music that counts."

But local enthusiasts wanting to hear the Monopoly should attend their sessions while they have the chance. They have just signed a contract that will take them to the South of France for two months.

After taking third place in the recent contest at the Locarno, Birmingham, the Monopoly, assisted by the influential Mr. Broadhurst, should soon be monopolising the charts.



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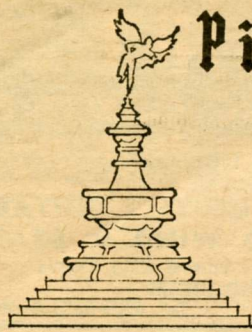
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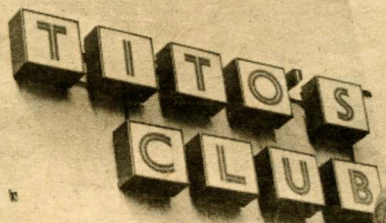
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MIDLAND BEAT

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Instead of our usual leader this month, we are publishing a letter from the manager of a Midland group. We feel that many other groups must feel the same frustration when trying to secure bookings in Birmingham. What's your answer, agencies?

DON'T PHONE ME...

Is Birmingham a closed shop?

an entry form for a competition.

As manager of a group trying to get in, I have found the answer to be, with the exception of one agent, that the door is, for most of the time, very tightly shut.

The agencies, I realise, must be under a strain with the number of groups that phone in — each one claiming to be different and great, etc.

Considering this, they show great patience. Personally, I enjoy speaking to the secretaries. What charming soft voices these ladies have — and the way they say "please send your availability list"...

The chances are you haven't heard of my group. They have had two auditions in Birmingham — one they passed and one I think they passed, as we received

Regarding auditions, it would be helpful if agencies offered constructive advice afterwards, or if, before giving an audition, made it clear that the chances are slim regarding being offered work when the audition is over.

However, how does a group get into Birmingham? Advertise in "Midland Beat," you say.

I dislike pestering agents but, if I don't phone them, my group thinks I am not doing my job — very frustrating!

Ah well, what was that. No, again? Hello, yes, I'll phone again. Goodbye.

C. Johnson, Manager, The Chances Are, 357, Birchfield Road, Redditch, Wors.



WHEN Spencer Davis came to Birmingham for an appearance at the Birmingham Theatre, he had a backstage visit from Michele, the 15-year-old Shirley girl whose first disc has just been released. Spence said he would keep his fingers crossed that her recording of "Sally Fool" on the Polydor label proved a big seller — and gave Michele an extra thrill by signing her autograph book.

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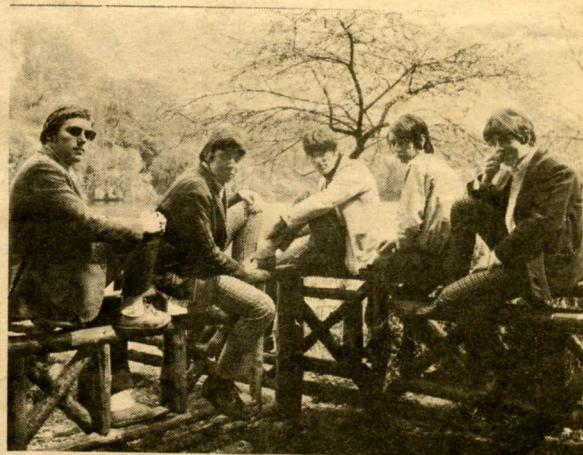
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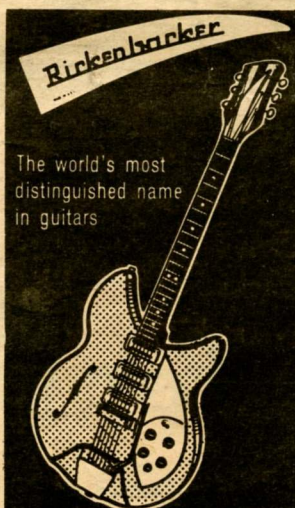
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Spence says Pardon my French, but...



APRIL in Paris. That's what we've just been through and a *vraiment* *bastille* it was to be sure.

We arrived at lunch time in steaming sunshine and had to go straight to a TV rehearsal for a show called "Tete de bois et Ages Tendres" which roughly translated means "Ready, Steady, Come Dancing" because it involves an army of boy and girl dancers as well as groups and solo singers.

Anyway, we rehearsed all that afternoon and all the following day. We were miming to "Keep on Running." When the show was finally transmitted on the Wednesday night all you could see of us were a few glimpses between the dancers' legs.

When we opened the number everything was fine, then suddenly this horde of gymnasts leapt onto the set in gold lame and tied up blouses and proceeded to perform this intricate dance routine between us and the cameras.

Moments

I still don't know why we had to rehearse two days to provide a background for a French leg show. Mind you it had its moments.

After the TV was over we played a set at the "Top Ten" club which was managed by a most enthusiastic little Frenchman who was so excited that he got in everybody's way.

We were to find that this is a national characteristic of the French. They are so convinced that they are doing the right things that when it is perfectly obvious that they have

made a mistake they have brainwashed themselves to such an extent that they can't believe it.

The following day was a Thursday and we played an afternoon session at the "Top Ten" club and in the evening went on to the James Palladium for another spot.

All these club appearances were well received and we were a little disconcerted to find that it is the boys who are the most demonstrative fans, they go quite berserk and tear their shirts off.

Next day we rehearsed and appeared on another major TV show "Music-Hall de France" which sounds like Billy Cotton with garlic only it wasn't.

Leaping

The Nashville 'teens and the Pretty Things were on the show as well, so that we had a great time with them before the programme started.

The Pretty Things went on first and tore the place apart with drummer, Skip, and vocalist Phil leaping into the audience and raving in the aisles. The French love all this wild bit so they got a fantastic ovation. Then we had to go on.

Considering we don't make much noise the crowd were very good to us and the resident orchestra seemed impressed with Steve's "Georgia."

Then it was time for the Nashvilles. Art was in fine form by this time and treated the hysterical crowd to as fine an exhibition of

falling-about as I have ever seen. He tore his clothes to shreds and did a spectacular dive head-first into the orchestra pit.

This capped everything that had gone before. The Nashvilles, justifiably, had been the hit of the evening.

I would like to say that this show was a tremendous improvement on the tap-dance fiasco of a couple of days before, using imaginative camera shots and considerate direction.

On the Saturday we played the famous Locomotive, which was so hot it was like playing in a tropical greenhouse, and from there we moved out to a little bar in the suburbs where we were scheduled to do another show.

Here there were more Frenchmen rushing around trying to be efficient and get us on the stage in the shortest possible time. The net result was that the equipment blew up and we were two hours late.

Thugs

During this time a gang of thugs attempted to walk out with the takings. I suspect they were disappointed fans wanting their money back but the gendarmes obviously thought differently. Next day we came home.

We came back to England with some very vivid impressions of Paris — Pete does one of the Eiffel tower — and some general thoughts.

The TV shows take some getting used to, because, like the rest of the pop music scene over there, they aren't very hip, although they try to be. The taste of the teenagers is much less sophisticated than in England.

Soul type music is filtering through the welter of brash rock and roll, and it seems that the bits of soul that get through are enormously popular. The French groups themselves are musically quite good, but as they have no real pop heritage they tend to play a sort of watered down version of English and American material.

No danger

They seem to be no more than good copyists, so don't worry, lads, there's no danger of a French group invasion of England, and there seems to be plenty of work for English groups over there. Some friends of ours who were working hard here for very little bread now find themselves working in France for ridiculous money.

Their records are beaty and are selling very well over there. The name of the group is the Habits and I mention them for a particular reason. I record them.

Record production is becoming a personal interest with me and next month, instead of continuing the diary, I will write something about my first ventures into the field of recording.

Order now to avoid disappointment.

Dear Sir...

I AGREE with Dave Hale's article in "M.B." on every point but... he's wrong! We've followed an original pattern for four years and it's got us nowhere.

We are so "cheesed off" with the local scene that we just can't wait to get bookings elsewhere — this Saturday it's Colchester and in the next few months we have bookings at Crewe, Manchester and London.

We were recently told by local agents that we must play a certain amount of Top Ten numbers before they would consider giving us any "top class" bookings in Birmingham.

My own personal opinion is unprintable, but the rest of our groups have just accepted the fact and consequently, last week, we learned the first Lennon-McCartney number since "From Me To You."

So Mr. Hale, besides being original and commercial, a group's material has got to be in the Top Ten before they can obtain any good bookings to enable them to hit the big time.

So, can anybody find a solution and save our group from the dreaded fangs of numbers like "Help", "Day Tripper" and "Midnight Hour"?

"PLASTIC GENIUS"
Wednesbury,
Staffs.



After making their disc debut with two instrumentals, "Tchaikovsky One" and "Greig One," the Second City Sound try a vocal for their third single. It's a song entitled "Love's Funny."



Stars recently at the Broadway Club, Dudley, which is fast becoming the dance spot of the West Midlands, were Craig from Great Barr. Seen with the boys, who are also making a lot of headway on the scene, is 19-year-old Linda Kynaston, West Bromwich Floral Queen.

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Jazz

by LES PAGE

CONGRATUALIONS to the Second City Jazzmen for a real swinging "Jazz Scene" broadcast on Sunday late (or Monday a.m.) May 8-9.

For years we have been saying how good this band (and similar Midland bands) are: at last the B.B.C. take notice. For the record, the S.C.J. played "Harlem Rag" with the lightness and swing of early Barber; "Ostrich Walk" had a period sound plus delightful raggy piano and final trumpet; "Splanky" showed us that contemporary Basie is known (one would have thought the Count's men had visited Midland J.C.).

"Satin Doll" and "King Porter Stomp" showed further facets of a really versatile band, whilst a final "Dans les Rues d'Antibes" brought the great Bechet to mind and we mention that here in Birmingham there are two great soprano saxophonists: Jim Hyde with the S. C. J. and George Huxley, whose New Orleans Jazzmen also deserve a broadcast again.

Un Ackerish

EARLIER in that particular "Jazz Scene" programme, I thought Acker-with-Bruce Turner and no banjo most un-Ackerish. What was of former interest now lacks and the limelight was on Bruce, who capably accepted it.

In fact, with numbers like "Rosetta" and "Moonglow" the outfit sounded more Bruce than Acker Bilk. And no "Persian Market" either!

Did you see on TV that Sunday a film called "The Hypnotist"? There were some nice shots in it of early Chris Barber — Monty Sunshine and Micky Ashman were in that band. Micky Ashman has since returned on bass.

Another...

BIG news of the month after the epic evening when Mike

A 'BREAK' FROM THE B.B.C.

Daniels played the "Metro" and Barry Martyn brought this band to the "Salutation" was the Monday when another club started — like the Gay Tower last month — with a local band resident and name bands visiting from outside the region.

The Savoy Jazzmen are at the Briars Country Club, Aberberly, near Kidderminster, each Monday (as well as having a residency at the Giffards Hotel, Wolverhampton, on Sunday) and the opening night saw Ken Colyer's Jazzmen proving again who is Guv'nor in the New Orleans field.

The Savoy's have a more orthodox line-up now, though I admit that the earlier presence of tenor-sax in a traditional band had a great attraction.

They now have Peter Hindle on trombone, and Phil Matthews, who plays both tuba and piano.

Stuart Spiers now plays alto rather more than clarinet, and the band make up in youthful fire and enthusiasm what they lack in experience of jazz-playing.

One night I thought I was in a N.O. cutting contest leaving the Metro club as the Alex Welsh Band were finishing "Hindustan" and covering the short distance from that place to the Salutation at top speed, I was surprised to hear "Hindustan."

Did the horn of Alex Welsh really sound 1400 yards on a clear night? It was, of course, the trumpet of Dan Pawson,

playing with Ken Pye's Creole Serenaders.

Incidentally, the Pye band's Saturday night club at the "White Horse Cellars" has closed, but you can still hear the Crescent City Stompers of Richard Ekins there on Sunday nights.

I hear that the Tuesday night club at the "Gough Arms," Marshall Street got off to a good start with the Mike Cooper Band up, as they say. Singer Rosemary Whitman has joined them.

...and another

ANOTHER new club is that at Perry Barr on Thursday and Sundays, at the "Crown and Cushion" The Ken Ingram Band is resident there on Thursdays, and visiting bands (Monty Sunshine Bob Wallis etc.) play there on Sundays.

Also on Sundays, the George Huxley Band now plays at the "Birmingham Arms" instead of the "Old Crown"; the change is for the good and the band can be heard there on Fridays also.

Dates

MAY dates at a popular modern club, that at the Midland Aero Club, Birmingham Airport on Fridays, included Don Rendell, John Patrick and Colin Willetts.

It was nice to know that the Bill Nile Band from Cheltenham is still good judging from their May visits to the Metro and the Gay Tower clubs.



When he's not taking photographs for "Midland Beat," Picture Editor Jim Simpson can usually be found blowing trumpet with Everett's Blueswingers, who are attracting a lot of attention with their big sound of trumpet, trombone, tenor-sax, organ, bass

guitar and drums. The group have been playing at the Sunday jazz sessions at the Gay Tower Ballroom, Birmingham. Now they are considering offers of work in Zurich, Paris and Frankfurt. By the way, Jim is on the left at the rear in the picture.

Praise

GREAT and well-merited praise has been given Johnny Barnes for his work with the Alex Welsh Band on baritone sax; latterly without an American guest, the band nevertheless played storming jazz.

I was reminded of another band that, even in the height of the trad-boom, when funny hats rather than saxophones were the thing, sometimes used a baritone: the Nick Williams Central J.B., now the N.W. New Central Jazzmen, and the word "new" informs me that the re-formed band with leader Nick on the trombone is up and about and can be heard at the "Adam and Eve" Bradford Street, on Thursdays.

This means, of course, that Nick no longer plays bass for Dan Pawson's Artesian Hall Stompers at the "Cambridge"

on Thursdays. Martin Pugh now plays bass there, and Mike Pratt banjo; following current trends, a pianist has been added to the Artesians: Reg Keirle, and I wish him good, in-tune instruments.

Why did she fall?

DISCUSSION point for the month: A band-leader friend recently told me how he lost a girl-friend. "You put that so and so band of yours before me!" she said. (Shades of "Orchestra Wives," seen for the fifth time, on telly!)

What should he do? Say, "No dear, actually they're after you, the wolves?" Break-up the band? Let her go, and play "Blues in the Night" with feeling?

No suggestions please; I merely report that the band in question is still in being, jazz

is rightly put first and, thank goodness, there are still dedicated musicians around, be they from the Crescent City or the Crescent Theatre, the levee or the Ringway.

Book now

BY the time you read this, you will have got your ticket for the Jazz Festival in Summerfield Park on June 11, won't you?

Remember, we have Ray Nance, the Dutch Swing College, Alex Welsh and Kenny Ball; the Second City J.M. and other local attractions (Andy Hamilton, Castle J.B. and Ken Ingram), also Bruce Turner's Band and Bud Freeman.

Pray that "The Sun's Gonna Shine in my Back Yard" that day, and I hope to see you all there.

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Imaginative use of back issues of "Midland Beat" has been made in creating a special window display at Loo Bloom's Gear Garden shop at 21 Darlington Street, Wolverhampton

The display also incorporates blow-ups of photographs of Giorgio and Marco's Men, one of the many groups who visit the shop for their mod clothes.

'MIDLAND BEAT' REGISTER

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

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

Name of group: _____

Manager's Name and Address: _____

Telephone No: _____



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NEWTONES



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EXITS

'SOUNDS OF 66' CONTEST

Three more groups win through

THREE more groups are through to the semi-finals of the "Sounds of 66" Beat Contest at the Silver Blades Ice Rink, Birmingham. They are the Kenny Haywood Four, Quiet Few and Cellarmen.

They join earlier heat winners Keith Allan and the Jokers (Sheldon), the Clique (Sutton Coldfield), Anxious Thousand (Stechford) and the In-Sect (Chipping Camden).

More than 70 groups have entered the Contest, which offers a recording test for the winning group as well as cash and dates at other Silver Blades rinks throughout the country.

Some of the groups who have competed in recent heats are pictured on this page.

ON THE BEAT with BO BERRY

MOVE'S new suits a great gimmick ... Ugly's the first group to do a one-night-stand in a Danish police cell...Applejacks first release with John Washington still awaited - Moodies need a hit with their next single...

Now Lee Stevens has sax-appeal as well ... A mistake for Second City Sound to follow - up "Tchaikovsky One" with "Greig One" ... Such a shame things didn't happen for Vic Wake- lin with the Brum Beats... John Bull Breed, Con-Chords and the Move all using old ambulances as band- wagons... D'Fenders so busy they never find time to watch "The Defenders" on BBC 1...

Infantipating: wife of Show- men saxist John Gainer... R.I.P., The Jaymen...Mod- ernaires now signed for sole management and agency representation to Barr Enterprises...

In-Sect through to Silver Blades semi-finals - not the In-Sect... Lucky escape for Phil Myatt when his new Jaguar was in smash ... Barr Enterprises - Roger Allen Agency merger rum oured...

Welcome back, Mackadown! ...Tennesseans' Ricky Ford looks and sounds like Roy Orbison ... Creatours now known as the Dark Hours... They say Pete Gittings has a new phone number before 12 - Bedside 1212...

Visits to London's Tiles for "Ready, Steady, Radio" and

Scotch of St. James for John Bull Breed ... Fanstravelled from Sheffield to see Giorgio and Marco's Men at Bristol Silver Blades.

Riotous Scottish tour for John Bull Breed... Giorgio and Marco's Men played at M. U. dance at Wolver- hampton... Exits soon made their exit from Silver Blades contest...

Never a dull moment when Monopoly manager David Broadhurst is around ... Con-Chords John Kay passed entrance exam for Royal Academy of Music... Other groups copying the Move's numbers ... Brothers John and Peter Stokes in the Cir- cuits...

Applejacks membership of Seamen's Union - they joined for their New York cruise on the Queen Eliza- beth - didn't prompt them to strike ... Farinas impres- sioned on Birmingham dates... Drummer Paul Russell (Bir- mingham South 0334) seeks group ... BBC auditions for Worcester's Ery- Berdz, C.M.J. Trio, Chat- tery and Daisycutters ...

No-one can say the Ladies Gentlemen are copying the Stones when it comes to dress! ... Nice gesture of the Con-Chords when they took Easter Egg presented by fans to the Children's Hospi- tal...

Berries urged Pye not to issue their latest single and it seems they were right! ... Who is the agent who has put his skates on since last month's Bo-Berry column?

What are the Applejacks up to?

SOME- THING very important seems to have captured the attention of the Applejacks.



But there must be a lighter side whatever it is, because it has made Martin Baggott grin.



Do you want a clue? Well, perhaps you will get an idea if we tell you that one of the Applejacks squidged when he should have squopped!



You will find the answer to the mystery on page 8.



NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

MARK GRIFFITHS, 6, Cowper Street, Northampton.

THE APEX have settled down with their new line-up and recently played with the Steam Packet.

On May 1, the Checquers Jazz Club at Wellingborough was packed for Tubby Hayes, backed as usual by well known local jazz- men, Don Wilson, piano, Leon Roy, drums and Pete Cox, bass. The landlord is hoping to book stars from the U.S.

The Soul Five have added organ to the three guitars and drums line-up.

Another popular group are the much improved Fireflies from Well- ingborough. This group have a two-guitar, organ, tenor sax, drums and vocals line-up and play Tania Motown.

The Soul of Lynton Grae had an all-nighter at the Nottingham Beachcomber with Georgie Fame.

This group recently played at Oxford Town Hall with Zoot Money and John Mayall.

GO TENPIN BOWLING



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On the Way Up

"SALLY FOOL"

&

I DON'T KNOW YOUR NAME"

by

MICHELE



on

POLYDOR

*

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A STILL from a Chicago gangster film of the twenties? No, it's just the Move with their new suits, specially made for them by a top London tailor.

The suits are complemented by ties in the same colour as the shoes — different for each member of the group — with the result that the group can now boast a real visual image.

The Move are now under the management of Marquee Agent Tony Secunda, the man who steered the Moody Blues to the top. Their fan club is run by June Hayton, 207 Wheelwright Road, Erdington, Birmingham.

Because they have proved so popular at London's famous Marquee Club, the group will be appearing there on June 2 and 23 and every Thursday in July.

"The Marquee crowd have really taken to the Move," says Tony Secunda. "We are getting lots of fan mail for them — a sure sign that the group is on the way to the top."

It was at the Marquee last week that the Move were filmed for a spot in "London Swings," an hour-long show to be screened coast-to-coast in colour on American TV.

An indication of the faith that Tony Secunda has in the Move is the fact that he has signed them to a contract guaranteeing them £75,000 in the next 12 months.



IT'S all smiles as Lee Stevens welcomes his new saxist, Jimmy Alexander, to his group. The rest of the boys in the line-up are Mike Clifford (rhythm), Roger Gauntlett (bass), Paul Brunt (lead) and Malcolm Priddey (drums).

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DEMO-DISCS - PRESSINGS - FAN-PHOTOS

Second city

by De



The Berries must have had a jinx on them until the time they arrived in Bermuda for their month's cabaret season, because they had a spell of misfortune.

First, they had their van and their instruments stolen, then various members of the group had wallets stolen. Van and equipment were later recovered — but not until after the boys had all bought new gear!

The last time they had wallets stolen was actually on the eve of their departure for Bermuda and it meant their having to borrow cash before they boarded the plane.

They thought their bad luck was over when they took their seats in the plane — only to find that they were being requested to leave it again. It turned out that someone had phoned to say there was a bomb on board and they had to wait around while a thorough check was made.

Eventually, the all-clear was given — but not until over six hours after the plane was originally scheduled to depart. You can imagine the sigh of relief when the Berries touched down in Bermuda.



Pictured standing by their group van — a £4,000 Bentley ham's latest contribution to the group scene — the Ladies' G quadruple vision, as each member sports a jaunty bowler a-la-Steed and a 13s.6d. Woolworth's umbrella — all their rubber soled, leather upppered nylon reinforced. 39s.

Not only gentlemen in appearance, but also in their they even call their agent "SIR" — they have caused qu class social and beat venues in Lower Gornal and Ba for their name came from a well known convenien various "gentlemen", formerly better known as the Br (Royston) Quinn, John (Basil) Hancox



scene

Annis Detheridge and Pete Gittings



THE UGLY'S first trip to Scandinavia had a disastrous start when they ended up spending a night in solitary confinement in Danish police cells. The group left Harwich for the Danish port of Esbjerg en route to Finland for television and a concert tour. But when they arrived at Esbjerg they were held by Customs officials, then handed over to the police. "They were told they had no work permit," said their agent, John Singer. "The police took no notice when they were told the group had left in a rush and all they had to do was to make a few quick telephone calls to clear things up. "The boys were taken to a police station and their passports, money and van were taken from them. Nobody there spoke English. Applications to speak with the British consular officials were refused. They just laughed at the group."

Said organist Jimmy O'Neill on their release: "It was the most frightening experience of our lives. We have instructed a solicitor to demand a full explanation from the Danish Government."

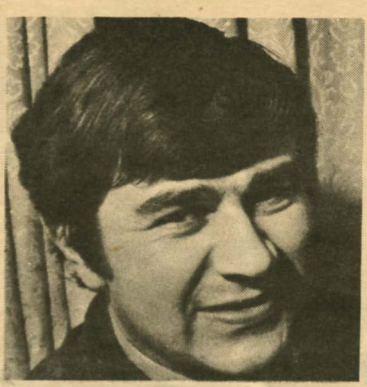


Beat again had a place in the Birmingham Tulip Festival, which attracted record crowds to Cannon Hill Park, Edgbaston. Here are two of the groups featured — the Nightriders (above) and the Con-Chords — relaxing in the park before setting up their equipment.

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DRUM TALK

by Pete York

The sergeant major was right ...

SWANK!

I HAVE, for many months, written about drum technique and given hints which I hope have helped you, but I have never touched on one aspect of drumming which is quite important in the popular music field. This is showmanship.

The people who listen to pop groups don't want to know whether or not you can perform a triple flam paradiddle around the kit, although they might be impressed by the way you played it.

When fans come to see a group play live they want to see something interesting, not just a bunch of doomheads idly plucking strings and waving sticks about.

Cadet

Some years ago I was an Army cadet learning to play the snare drum. The bandmaster was always yelling at us to "Put some swank into it."

This sums it up. If you can play with reasonable skill, why not make your playing look good also. This can double the effect of your appearance.

You don't have to be a scene-stealer and upstage everybody else, but a bit of stick-twirling and general flash always goes down well.

As a drummer you have everything on your side to make an impression on your audience. You have a gleaming drum-kit; or if you haven't, buy some polish, and you have the initial interest of the

on-lookers because everyone fancies himself behind a drum-kit.

Don't forget that the only people who appreciate it if you make your playing look easy and effortless are the one or two other drummers who may be in the crowd.

The general public like to see you sweat a little. It makes them feel they're getting value for money. Remember that you're paid to play to the audience and not some examining body of percussion technique.

This is not to say that you shouldn't play your best at all times, but don't be too clever on stage because it will fall on deaf ears most of the time and may put the dancers off. A subtle cross-rhythm to you may be chaos and confusion to the local Fred Astaire.

Crash

As regards making your playing look interesting, you might be interested in this. I use two crash cymbals, one high on the left and one high on the right, and for loud last choruses on mid-tempo beat numbers such as "Keep on Running" and "Somebody Help Me." I play the eighth notes between these two cymbals. I strike each alternately with the right stick so that it passes through an arc like a car windscreen wiper.

I also used to use a six-inch choke cymbal which I would strike perhaps only three or four times during an evening but which drew attention to the drums because it was an out-of-the-ordinary

sound. I get the same effect on the audience now with the Chinese cymbal, which has a frighteningly compelling sound.

I think it is most important to play with some sort of personal identity. Keith Moon plays like an over wound, clockwork windmill but everyone knows him for it. Those of you who aspire to be session drummers and jazz musicians will have no time or inclination to consider making an exhibition of yourselves.

This is not art, it is show-business. The choice is yours, but remember that all the drummers who lasted were the ones whose playing was not only good but also the way they looked playing it.

Gum

Gene Krupa's gum-chewing, grimacing face was as well known as the way he kept the fire going in the old Benny Goodman band. Louis Bellson's vast array of drums (two of everything) made his "Skin Deep" solo a hit, and the Guv'nor, Buddy Rich, never fails to startle professionals and laymen with the breathtaking speed of his playing.

I haven't given you any constructive advice this month, but I wanted to take the time to stress a point that I think is important.

Pop music as such is entertainment and the exponents of it should be inventive both in their playing and in their approach to playing. So be proud of being a drummer and "put some swank into it."

When it comes to a choice of drums

PETER YORK

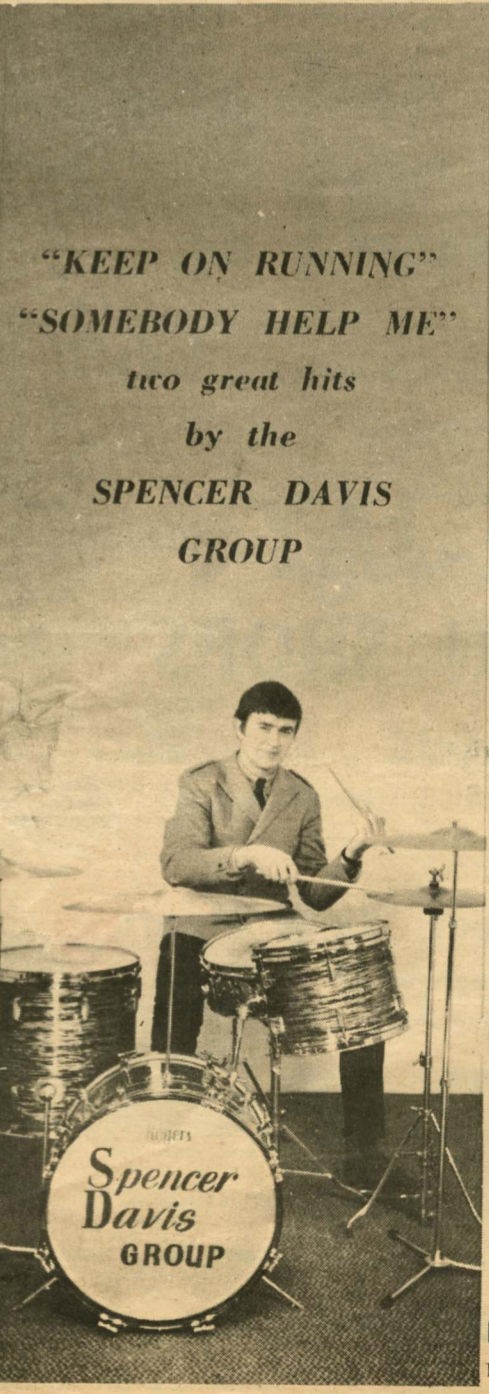
needs no help. Like so many other leading players, he chooses



the drums to beat

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DEE-JAY TROUSERS GO TO SCANDINAVIA



WITH THE UGLY'S INSIDE THEM

AMONG the first customers to visit the new branch of Dee-Jay Fashion Shops in Birmingham's Kings Heath on its re-opening after fire, were that popular group, The Ugly's, who dropped by to inspect the latest in fashion wear.

They were delighted to purchase some trousers, which they are wearing on their current visit to Scandinavia. And they have promised to call again on their return to buy more merchandise.

Other Dee-Jay regulars are Andy's Clappers. And top Worcestershire group the Deep Feeling buy from Dee-Jay's Worcester branch.

Terry Hill, vocalist with the Suedes, is shop manager. He recalls that only recently, the Suedes had fire problems, too.

Returning from a trip to North Wales, the group's van caught fire on a side road, miles from anywhere. A tough trip for new road manager, Nobby Clarke, who has never cleared the van of equipment so fast before.

A blocked air filter was the cause of the trouble. No damage was done, apart from a few cuts and bruises. It could have been a lot worse.

Advice to all groups from Terry Hill — apart from "Shop at Dee-Jay" — is: "Carry a fire extinguisher in your van. You may need it."



They're still

What is life like for a group working in Germany? Here's a report sent to "Midland Beat" by Andy's Clappers while this popular Birmingham group were appearing at the Liverpool Club in Dusseldorf.

screaming in Germany

WE ALL much prefer working over here to working in England. The audiences are really appreciative. In fact, they still scream for many numbers. In England, as any group will tell you, you are lucky to get half-a-dozen claps the whole evening.

The clubs in Germany, on the whole, expect you to work fairly long hours compared with England, but the money is ten times better. We are only doing clubs for the first month, after a holiday hotel stint, we are on the U.S. Air Force bases.

We have met up with many of our old friends over here so far. We met the Summer Set (another surfing group) at Hamburg's Top Ten Club. We have also met Screaming Lord Sutch over here. Also, the other night, Chris Andrews came into this club and he sang a few numbers with us. We really had a ball.

The audiences over here are terrific. You don't get all the boys congregating round the walls and the girls standing in groups, as you do in England. In fact, you hardly ever see two girls dancing together at all!

Another significant point about Germany is that all the

night life doesn't finish at 10.30 a.m. as in England. At five in the morning you can still find plenty of clubs open. Gambling in the clubs is virtually unknown. The clubs cater mainly for the younger people.

Everyone is so friendly over here. The habit is to shake hands every time one sees anyone else.

As for the groups themselves, there are quite a few good German groups, but most of them are still in the Chuck Berry, Little Richard stage. Most of them sing all the songs in pidgin English. There are very few German groups who actually sing in German.

One thing which does annoy us is that when you have set up your equipment in a club, most club owners expect you to lend it to any bunch of amateurs who care to come along.

Most things you buy in the shops over here are a bit cheaper than in England, except food, which is extraordinary dear. It is nothing to spend about eight marks (about 15/-) on a meal. Coffee and tea especially are about four times the cost they are in England.

IT'S TIDDLYWINKS, OF COURSE!



Now you know what the Applejacks were up to in those pictures on page 5. Yes they were playing tiddlywinks. Not just amongst themselves, though, but against Cambridge University Tiddlywinks Club.

them to a match at the Heart Beat Club at Silver Blades Ice Rink, Birmingham. But they were beaten 111-1. The defeat cost the Apple-

jacks £5 — the amount it was agreed the losing team would donate to the National Playing Fields Association.

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Big year for the Vogues

1966 is an important year for the Vogues. They realise that they must climb towards stardom in the next few months if they are to make big money out of the pop business.

Their failure to hit the big time so far is one of the mysteries of the Midland beat scene. There is not a group that does not speak highly of them. And they have been highly commended in contests open to groups throughout the country.

During 1965, the Vogues came fourth in the finals of the "Ready, Steady, Win" TV contest, enabling them to record one of their own compositions, "Think of Me", on a Decca LP.

Then they reached the final of the "Melody Maker" Beat Contest, following it up with the release of a record on the ABC Paramount label in America.

But the Vogues, who appear in George Washington-style stage suits, now need a hit record. They are hoping for a disc release soon, according to their enterprising manager, Den Caney.

"They have worked very hard since they were formed as the Olympics three years ago," he comments. "They deserve to get to the top."

It is so good as they're having it now. A good group with a good sound, they are great admirers of the X-Caliburs. They now feature the recording made recently by the X-Caliburs called "We will love."

Brian Henry and the Saints may soon be parting company. Ever since they did their TV date on Opportunity Knocks something seems to be lacking. A great pity, because they're a good group with a big following. Unfortunately Brian, who used to do a vocal act with his sister Jill, is in trouble with the Coventry Entertainments Council because he and Jill failed to fulfil a contract. He is banned for three months.

Several local groups are complaining that out of town groups like the Trackers, Travellers, Chevrolettes and Dinah Dee Three are getting big fees, while local groups are only getting £15 or £20 for a full weekend's work, including Sunday morning. It seems to me that the only way to get professional fees is to become professional.

Bad news for the Rivals is that Dave, their lead singer, may have to quit on doctor's orders. However, they are confident that they may soon be signing a young singer who has had experience with top groups in the London area.

OXFORDSHIRE

JOHN STANLEY,
90 Lonsdale Road,
Oxford

SOME months ago I wrote that Oxford's Vibratones were all set for an onslaught in America, and that all they needed was a good original number to record. All the arrangements for such a suitable number's release having been previously made.

Well song writer Raymond Kirby from Leicester is now in consultations with the group and their manager, Mr. Jeffs, over two numbers he has written and sent down to London.

At the time of writing no decision had been made but here again is another case of "Midland Beat" helping to bring together Midland talent.

As a result of my mentioning the Fables recently, letters have poured in telling me about this local group and indeed a few went into long details over the tragedy of their old drummer, Nik Clack leaving the line-up.

According to one writer this has caused a drop in their popularity as he was the life and soul of the outfit. No doubt the other fans who wrote don't agree that the outfit's on the fade.

Nik, in fact, left back in April to concentrate on college exams, but I gather he could be tempted back into show biz by a pro or good semi-pro outfit.

The Fables' present line-up is: Derek (Sooty) Sutcliffe on lead guitar; Jim McKee on rhythm guitar; Alan Priskey on drums; John Keyte on bass guitar and Alan (Wib) Wiblein, singer. They have gathered a very considerable following in this area and much of the credit is due to Wib's showmanship. Until recently they have been considered something of an R and B outfit but this, so bassist John tells me, is a thing of the past, as they now offer a much wider variety of numbers.

They plan to make another demo record this month of a number written by Paul Travers called "Lost and Found."



If Jane Hillery sounds as pretty as she looks, this 17-year-old daughter of a Midlands police sergeant should sell plenty of records. She has been with the Ravons all-girl group for a couple of years and is now recording under Birmingham's own Peter Lee Stirling.

A jazz trio familiar to fans in this area are now resident at a new jazz club to be held at the Swan Inn, Wantage. The idea, according to licencee, Major Ernest Quinn, is to establish the club and bring down leading London figures as well as featuring local musicians. Major Quinn already runs a folk club.

Good to see the "Oxford Mail's" talented music critic Peter Sykes, again performing in public. His Big Band was formed, like all good jazz, purely through creative local musicians, some semi-pro, meeting once a month to rehearse and play the sort of music they enjoyed.

One thing led to another and quite suddenly they were billed at Vic Good's increasingly popular Perdido Jazz Club at the Bridge Hotel, Wheatley.

Two new musicians in that hard working bunch of local lads, the Falling Leaves.

Reading man, Ian Green has replaced Neil on organ. Ian used to play in Billie Davis's backing group and is also a session organist in London studios, working largely for CBS. He uses a Hammond.

The other change in the six piece group is Rod Gyles' departure. The new bassist is Tago Byers, also from Reading. Before he linked up, he was playing with the Moquettes.

Their recording hopes are pinned on a new number penned by newcomer Ian, but in one field the group are very confident. Their Falling Leaves football team, made out of the group, the manager and a few friends, is still unbeaten.

WALES

MARK GALE,
7 Hanover Street,
Canton, Cardiff

UP and down South Wales, beat musicians have been in and out of hospital eight to the bar.

There was Bob Newcombe, lead guitarist with Newport's Volume Four, who caught a packet when there was a "short" in his amplifier lead and will be out of the scene for three months with badly-burned fingers — Volume Four have borrowed the lead guitarist from neighbours the Crossfires.

Then the Jets, of Swansea, had to curtail their quest for success in London when drummer Beau Adams developed a virus infection. They had to cancel two shows and a recording session.

The Jets, by the by, are changing their name to the Smokeless Zone, because none of them smokes. Suggestion that they should retitle themselves the Hospital Precincts was treated with the contempt it deserved.

Drummers seem specially susceptible — Sputniks sixman Plug Jones has gone into hospital for what the group call mysteriously a "snip" operation. Not a haircut, I hope.

Enough of the alarm and despondence. Mike Kay and the Contrasts have become Deano's full-time backing group since that vivacious 13-year-old left school to concentrate on showbiz.

Recent cheery visitors to Pontypridd's Basement Discotheque — the Vagrants, the Dekkas and the Mountain Men.

Elsewhere in Ponty have been the Moments and the Majority, who fortunately have been getting enough people at their shows to make the Majority a minority.

Welcome to a new Cardiff trad jazz unit whose music is as good as their name (I mean it) — Morgan's Easy Riders.

Not so good, the sort of inspiration that produces the Blue Chords — which was the sort of name we dropped immediately when I was drumming at the beginning of the rock 'n' roll craze ten years ago.

Delightful combination of ancient and modern in the programme for the National Children's Home annual garden party at "Clarendon," Cyncoed Avenue, Cyncoed, Cardiff — a very swish area — "Musical selections will be provided during the proceedings by Cyncoed's own sensational beat group, Four People."

GLOUCESTERSHIRE

JOHN STANLEY,
"Leiden," Harp Hill,
Cheltenham

Their material is now very much on Zoot Money's style and the general tone of their show has been greatly improved by the arrival of their new, Leslie organ.

Things certainly seem to be improving for these Gloucestershire boys since they joined an agency.

Perhaps the best signs of stage maturity is their use of movement, they have now developed good rhythm sense.

Congratulations to the local Cheltenham outfit the Barons on winning the recent Malvern Winter Gardens contest along with the Erly Berdz.

The line-up: Ken Boon on lead, Bob Stevens on bass, Brian Griffiths on drums, and Barry Garbutt offering the vocals. This bunch of Cheltonians have worked very hard for a very long time and deserve this first place. The group's manager is Mr Russell.

Those old favourites, the Ramrods also entered the contest and reached the semi-finals before being defeated. It seems a long time since we heard much from these lads.

Dave Bennet, the Blue Moon's highly popular professional disc jockey, is now performing in a glass box by the stage, for all the world like a goldfish. Never mind Dave, the fans think it fine and it adds interest to the record sessions.

Also new in this club are a number of huge modern paintings specially designed and painted for the club locally. Big groups appearing there during the coming month include Jimmie James and his Vagabonds on the 25th and on July 3, the return of John Mayall.

One of the Moon's co-managers Eddie Norman, recently returned from a 4,000 mile trip through Germany and Scandinavia, where he has been researching the ground for the groups to tour.

He attended all the right clubs in the main cities, including Berlin, and his travelling took him through Holland, Sweden, Germany and Denmark.

I hear the record for non-stop playing now rests in this county with the Cirencester outfit the Corals. Anyone know how long it was?

BORDERLAND

AUSTIN POWELL,
Station House,
Bucknell, Salop

BACK from the Continent are Leominster/Ludlow foursome The Four Aces. Leader Roger Philpotts told me they were to stay longer but work permits trouble meant an early return home.

However, they hope to be back again either in July or later. Teaming with Roger Philpotts on bass are Bob Maddox, Cliff Bosley and Colin James.

More news this month of Newport (Salop) group the Pacifics — Bob Green, Mac Rimmer, Pete Morris and Mick Lackey. Managed by Mike's father, they are becoming quite well known as a well-balanced act suitable for clubs and dance halls alike.

Wrexham's Acoustics are rewriting material for Mickie Most's brother and his Aberbach Publishing house . . . Leominster's Paul Trapper & Co. featuring plenty soul-sounds

The six groups entered in the first heat of the Ludlow Town Football Club Beat Contest on 10th of this month are the Four Aces, Dave Banks Group, the Cosmics, the Skylons, the Witnesses, the Rebels Five, Bobby Craig and the Bee-liners (quite a busy act in the North Wales areas).

Also from North Wales are Rory's Glenagles, who sport separate acts for dance halls and clubs and the Acoustics who are fully professional.

LEICESTERSHIRE

ARTHUR KIRBY,
24 Tolcarne Road,
Leicester

JESS Moran, leader of the Maverick trio, is completely recovered from the crash which almost sent him to the Pearly Gates. Daughter Janice is now secretary of the local fan club for Tony Christie and the Trackers. Incidentally, the Trackers' new record should be in the shops at any moment and it's great.

New group the Elcats made their club debut recently and got a great reception, these youngsters could have a bright future. They have lots of ability and play some of their own compositions.

The Martins did a cabaret spot at the elite Bell Hotel recently and got the audience in a swinging mood right from the first number.

The Quin-tiks are now featuring a new singer, 14 years old "Debbie". A young lady with a bright personality, she could become a big favourite with the right tuition.

The Henry J trio also have a lady vocalist. She was recommended to the group by the drummer, who was so impressed with her talents that he married her.

Top Leicester trio, the Peter Smart Three, have been booked for the summer season at Pakefield Holiday camp near Lowestoft. This should make a change for the boys, who usually spend the summer either at Blackpool or on the Continent.

Larry Baxter, brother of local singer Tony Gale, is doing well as a solo act. Larry is playing manager of Deal football club. He has also played for Leicester, Northampton and Chesterfield.

At a recent "shop window" show, several local group members were very interested in the young instrumentalist who calls himself Arthur Guitar. This young man is not only a very good singer but he plays the guitar like his idol, Bert Weedon. Arthur is not interested in joining a group, he's making his fortune as a solo act.

The Rangers Showband is managed by a priest. His name is Father Ford and he comes from nearby Syston. He has already got them so many dates in London that they may quit the Leicester scene.

The Reverbs have been around a long time now but they never had

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THE FLAMING FIRST OF JUNE

...AND perhaps the only people who hope it won't be, either on the first or any other day of the month for that matter, are the theatre managers, because hot spells outside mean thin audiences inside.

The BIRMINGHAM THEATRE are taking no chances. They'll have the best of both worlds with, we hope, hot weather outside and cool ice inside — "Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs" on Ice continues until June 18, to be followed on June 20 by the Sierra Leone National Dance Troupe.

Other hangover shows that opened on May 30 worth remembering are the Sadler's Wells Opera Co., at the NOTTINGHAM ROYAL;

"Two of a Kind" featuring Morecambe and Wise, Teddy Johnson and Pearl Carr, Eddie Calvert and Arthur Worsley for the week at the COVENTRY THEATRE; "Wuthering Heights" at STOKE'S VICTORIA THEATRE and at the BIRMINGHAM REPERTORY THEATRE the Premiere production of "A Boston Story" which plays until June 2; to be followed by their current repertoire of plays throughout the month.

On June 6 BIRMINGHAM'S ALEXANDRA opens for two weeks with Jack Roffey's ingenious courtroom thriller "Hostile Witness" and STOKE'S VICTORIA offers "Uncle Vanva" for the week.

THEATRE SPECIAL by LESLIE DUNN

For those with a weakness for Spanish dancing and music a special treat for the week of June 13 at the NORTHAMPTON REPERTORY THEATRE as Richard Graham presents the world famous Spanish dance ensemble "Susana and Jose," of whom the British Press critics waxed very poetic on the occasion of their London appearance.

Three interesting first nights on June 14 with the DERBY PLAYHOUSE opening a three week run of "Present Laughter;" LEICESTER'S PHOENIX presenting the first professional production of D. H. Lawrence's "The Widowing of Mrs. Holroyd," which was written in 1914; and STOKE'S VICTORIA doing a week of "Fallen Angels."

An exciting night indeed on June 15 at the COVENTRY THEATRE as the production of "Oliver" opens its seven weeks season. June 20 will see the Sierra Leone National Dance Troupe at the BIRMINGHAM THEATRE, and the opening of a two weeks run of Kenneth Horne's play "Two Dozen Red Roses" at the ALEXANDRA.

On the 21 the NORTHAMPTON REPERTORY THEATRE follows its Spanish week with three nights of Cyril Fletcher and his one-man show "After Dinner," which promises to be, and here I quote, "an evening of wonderful fun — and, as many would say, what more could one desire?"

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- 7th & 21st—Club Cedar
- 8th—Cats Hill W.M. Club
- 9th—Run Runner Club
- 10th—Club Pandora
- 12th—Bournbrook Hotel, Selly Oak
- 13th—Alcester Trades & Labour Club
- 15th—Parkinson Cowan Social Club
- 17th—Wagon & Horses, Wall Heath
- 18th—Queens Head, Erdington
- 19th—Golden Torch Ballroom, Stoke
- 22nd—Mackadown, Kitts Green
- 23rd—Tettenhall W.M. Club
- 24th—Silver Blades Ice Rink, Moat House
- 25th—Walsall Town Hall
- 26th—Staffordshire Volunteer
- 28th—Sportsman, Coventry

THE D'FENDERS

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

SCRUTINY of the entertainment ad columns in the local press might lead the uninitiated to believe that in Derby, at least one new group, is hatched.

This is not so, and the number of new names being bandied about should not obscure the fact. The names may change but it's the same old faces.

One group that springs to mind, Godfrey's Grit "N" Soul Band, changes its name more often than some people change their socks.

Even Godfrey, the group's corporate name, comes a rather poor second in the name game, however. The winner by a street is Patrick Shippey, resident deejay at the Rialto R and B club and challenger for Jimmy Savile's world speed talking record.

Patrick Shippey, he assures me somewhat reluctantly, is his real name. It may not however be a name which is recognisable to Derby's club set.

Mention King Pleasure and they will know who you mean. Or Screaming Mr. Soulful. Or V Rock-et., Mr. Soul, King Blues, Duke Shake... or any of a host of splendid names he has at some time invested himself with. But not Patrick Shippey...

He is now favouring the simple Mr. Soul, but that is not the end of the complications. He's settled his stage name but he's changed his real name — by refusing to answer to Patrick Shippey!

"Call me Tony Williams," he says. No doubt feeling some explanation was called for, he revealed that his mother's maiden name was Williams and his own middle name is Anthony.

The Yaks, a Belper-based group have done it again. Not so long ago they told me that Dave Varney, their rhythm guitarist was DEFINITELY leaving them. Pressure of studies.

The fact was recorded in "Midland Beat" with the remark that they were considering replacing Dave with an organist. Now they tell me they aren't getting an organist. Dave is stopping.

It happened before over John "Gratch" Raynor. Gratch, I wrote, had filled their troublesome vocal spot at last. Next month I had to eat my words for Gratch left after problems inside the group. He rejoined them before the next issue!

The Centors, one of Derby's old-established outfits, are now almost certain to go fully pro in the autumn. John Frawley, who has taken them under his protective wing, says that as soon as new bassman Baz Anderson completes his apprenticeship, the group will take the big step, probably working on the Continent.

Baz, formerly with Rufus' Rebels and Groups-Combined, has replaced Grenville Vale in the line-up.

Rumour has it that a saxist with another Derby group is playing out his contract with the group before moving over to the Centors.

With great regret Chris Wheel-don, founder member of the Imps, has been forced to quit the group. The demands of the local technical college on his time have made practicing and fulfilling dates very difficult and his employers have insisted that either studies or Imps must take priority.

Manager John Frawley said: "This is a great blow. We are really beginning to get back into the picture after our fade-out from the scene last year. We will try to carry on with the line-up of drums, organ, lead and bass but if this doesn't come up to standard, we'll get a sax or lead vocalist."

Geoff Cooke, their keyboard man who plays anything he sets his hands on, is to experiment with an amplified violin. John explained: "Geoff is always looking for something new. Something that hasn't been tried before. He thinks a souped-up fiddle might produce some really good sounds for some numbers."

Pepper's Machine, who were until recently known as the Vibrons, are the latest of local outfits to try their hand in the national beat contest organised by "Melody Maker."

The more fans you take the more likely you are to succeed. This means that groups from the South and London, able to pull in their own support, stand a better chance than a group from Wigan or Newcastle or Derby, who can hardly be expected to take more than perhaps a coachload along with them.

Undeterred, however, Pepper's Machine think they stand a good chance, for their sound is based on the London groups they have seen in local clubs. They feature John Colley on flute.

STAFFORDSHIRE
ROGER BENNETT,
23, Lichfield Road,
Walsall

WALSALL'S Konkraves are hoping the second half of 1966 will see their luck turn.

The group wrote off two vans on the way to bookings — although they are quick to point out "We still got to the dates and performed, though."

Next, the outfit's rhythm guitarist left for personal reasons and it was decided to remain as a foursome until they could obtain an organist.

Then their manager called it a day, also for domestic reasons.

That leaves, still surprisingly cheerful, Alan Davis (lead guitar), Bob Till (drums), Tony Till (vocals) and Cliff Jones (bass guitar). Hope your luck changes, boys!

The Peasant Sect, from Wolverhampton came second in a beat contest at the Hadley Castle works ballroom of Joseph Sankey and Sons Ltd. Groups from all over the West Midlands competed. Their Carnaby Street gear caused quite a sensation.

Another Wolverhampton group, the Wolves, are still hanging fire on their next disc. At the time of going to press manager Geoff Jacobs told me a decision was going to be made on three numbers. They are "Five O'clock World," "Chain Gang" and "Bless My Soul." The record is expected to be out sometime this month.

Still in Wolverhampton, just over a week ago a new group were due to make their debut. I saw new, but only by change of name really.

With Sheila Deni going solo, the Black Diamonds searched for a new singer. They have found him in the shape of John O'Hara, who was formerly with the Strangers. The outfit then decided a new name was wanted, so the Californians were born. They are managed by Roger Allen.

Maurice Jones, of the Astra Agency, informs that they have now taken Jenny Wren under their wing. This pretty 16-years-old Miss from Dudley did quite well with her first Fontana release but is hoping to hit the jackpot with her next. "We are looking for something more commercial than her debut disc," says Maurice, "and we already have some TV spots lined up to plug it."



JENNY WREN
See "Staffordshire"

A new group have been formed for Jenny and this month she will be using them in cabaret at the Domino and Princess Clubs in Manchester.

The Soul Seekers, doing a lot of Tamla Motown material these days, are now recording for Polydor. At the time of going to press they were waiting to go down to London for a session. The recent changes in line-up seem to have been all for the good.

It is expected that the "N" Betweens will also be recording with Polydor. The female fans are certainly missing these popular Wolverhampton boys, for they hardly ever seem to be in town nowadays.

Last week they were in Liverpool and for the most of this month they are touring the south west.

The Ides of March did very well in the Radio Luxembourg and Cyril Stapleton Talent Search. Because of their success, the famous orchestra leader is going to supervise the group's recording session in London.

Astra's rhythm and blues "doubling up" sessions at the Blue Flame, Wolverhampton, and the Casino Club, Walsall, have got under way but the latter venue is proving a bit disappointing.

Appearing this month are the T-Bones (June 1), Long John Baldry (8th), Jimmy James and the Vagabonds (15), Gem Washington and his Ram Jam Band (22) and the Action (29).

Another date to watch is June 10th. The place is the Civic and Wulfrun Halls, Wolverhampton, and Manfred Mann tops the bill along with Wayne Fontana. Also appearing are Jenny Wren, the Sonnets, Prim'n Proper, the Chequers and the Opposition.

Steve Brett's summer season sees him playing one week spots all over Devon and Cornwall... Walsall's Boss Men still keeping their fingers crossed about that elusive first disc... Roulettes members of "N" Betweens fan club.

WORCESTERSHIRE
B P FINCH,
24 Church Road,
Rainbow Hill,
Worcester

THE DAISYCUTTERS' Organist, John Myon's work has taken him to London, and I have been asked to make it clear that this is the reason John left the group. I apologise for any other impression I may have given last month. He will be selling his equipment (Farfisa Compact organ and amp), and hopes to do studio session work only.

Also, I reported that Bill Harvey was connected with the Trolls, this is not correct. Actually Bill was the manager of the Soviets, and there are two ex-Soviats with the old Trolls line-up.

This month I have a fairly complete picture of the group scene in the Redditch area of the county — there are several musicians from Redditch with Birmingham groups.

Probably the best known Redditch outfit are the Chances Are. They were known as the Wish-bones and the Trolls. Manager Colin Johnson thinks this new name is a good publicity gimmick. I agree with him. New drummer with the group is Chris Howdell. A recent booking was with a stage full of gorgeous "strip artistes" at a nightclub — some people have all the luck!

The Leaves are gaining popularity also. They played a charity concert recently, and in a contest were narrowly beaten by the Chances Are. Also playing was the Bob James Set, and a new group from the local County High School, called the Hearts.

Once known as the Spartans, and later as the Shux, the Congress are gaining a reputation as a promising group. The line-up is: Doug Baylis (ex-Chimes) on lead, Tony Bolt (Rhythm) and Brian Harrison — vocals, ex Shux., Dave Fewell, Drums, and ex Sovereigns bassman, Ray.

Kinver's popular quintet, the Revniks now the Quiet Few, and resident again at the Chateau Impney, on Fridays. This well known Midlands hotel promotes numerous musical entertainments.

Fridays — top groups, Sundays — 4 to 7 Club features jazz groups, and recent visitors to the Tuesday Grotto sessions include the Nightriders.

Worcester's St. John's Dive-Jazz Club features local outfits on Thursday, including the newly formed Jacinto Stamp Band, who are resident at the Bridge Hotel J.C. on Tuesday. Nearby, at the Old Rectifying House, Monday sessions are packing them in.

Jazz seems to be making a welcome return also to Kidderminster, with the Briars Club presenting Ken Colyer and the Savoy Jazzers recently.

The folk boom continues to flourish, though it will be a long time before either form will be more popular than "pop" music.

MSM. present top groups each Sunday at Droitwich Winter Gardens, and the Big Beat Sessions at Malvern are still presenting the latest stars on Tuesdays (Paul and Barry Ryan, Small Faces, Neil Christian last month). Many Worcester outfits playing support to the Big Names.

New are the Additions, based on Bromsgrove, members are from Droitwich, B'grove and Stoke, Worcs. Lead guitarist, Tim Barnett is only 14. Robert Clarke, rhythm 15, brother Peter, on bass 19; drummer Tony Slaughter 19, and 17-year-old Richard Gould handles the vocals.

They are hoping to add an organist. Any offers? (Several other outfits are looking for keyboard exponents, any enquiries will be passed on).

Those Suedes have talked bassman John Brown into buying an organ, with frontman Terry Hill sitting in on drums, rhythmist "Sam" swapping to bass, and drummer Mooney Mezzone on vocals. Sounds very interesting.

Date for this year's Carnival Day is Saturday, June 4th and local outfits the Suedes, Knak, Phantoms, Quarrel, and Chipping Campden based In-Sect have offered their services, for what will be the biggest session yet in Worcester.

Be there, Worcester Racecourse, early evening, — hope to see you new groups there. Also playing will be the Lightning Blues who played at previous Carnivals. They have lost bassist Mick Hodgetts and have been joined by ex-Remainers rhythmist Keith Gillett, Doug Constance switches to bass.

The Raiders, who have been around quite a while, now known as the Nu-2-U. Personnel remains unchanged. The Deep Feeling are now to record for Polydor, on the new Marmalade label, for former Yardbirds manager.

The Knak went up to audition for TV with them were the Chatterly and the Suedes. That great group The Erly Berdz have had quite a time recently. First they are announced as winners of the local Berrow's Group pop-poll, beating the Suedes, Phantoms, Knak, Raiders, Buzz, Sun-set, Daisycutters and Imps then they shared the honours with Cheltenham's Barons in the Malvern Contest, the first dead-heat ever.

They are awaiting the results of that overdue B.B.C. audition, with other groups who are as hopeful. The Berdz have also handed over the reins to well-known vocalist with the Unit 5, John "Muff" Murfin, who is a teacher of P.E. and music theory at one of the local secondary schools. Mr. Wally Exhall remains as the group's agent, and former bassman with the Jaguars, Dennis Morgan is the lads' new road manager.

The Erly Berdz prize for the poll was a visit to the City of London Recording Studios, where they taped several numbers written by Peter Lee Stirling, and their own originals.

It is hoped to issue several demo discs, though I understand that a single is already being considered by a major company for summer release.

Muff, by the way, has left the Unit 5, with organist Chris Cook, to concentrate on the C.M.J. Trio, which they both founded several years ago. The other members of Unit 5 are reported to be retiring, after several years as the Klak trio — a pity since their experience would form a great group, with additional vocalist.

John Murfin, besides handling the Erly Berdz, and his C.M.J. Trio, carries on his teaching activities, and still finds time to run an agency, and supervise the College Dons, based at Worcs T.T. College, consisting girl vocalist, drummer, organist and sax/clarinet. A busy ... and very dedicated man is our Mr. Murfin. He even has time to spend with his attractive girl-friend, who is also very interested in the group scene.

The C.M.J. Trio drummer is John Halthwaite (a pupil at John's school) and being tutored by Polly Palmer, the Deep Feeling's drummer/Vibes player.

His flute solos are now an integral part of the group's blues/jazz inspired repertoire.

The Exits looking for a vocalist — phone Hanbury 327. Daisycutters will audition organists, phone Chris Sinfelton on Droitwich 3314. Worcester's Odd Few now managed by Graham Pimmer (Malvern).

Kidderminster outfits, Tommy & the Crestas, and the Indigo Set both have busy periods ahead ... the Crestas line-up is: Nigel Bache, lead; Dave Mansfield, rhythm; bassist David Arnold; Nigel Turrall on skins, and "Tommy" is 23 years old Tommy Noyes.

The Indigo Set are not as well known yet, but their excellent three part harmonies are tremendous, and the bookings are in for July already ... Colin Youngjohns handles vocals, supported by Ian Hardiman, (lead) and Alan Attwood on rhythm; percussion is supplied by Martin Harrison, and Rob Newell provides the bass lines. A fan club is run by Carole and Paula, at 77, Stourbridge Road, Kidderminster. The Erly Berdz fan club is run by Mrs. K. M. Exhall, and 28.6d. will keep you informed for the year. Write to 3, Cyril Road, Worcester.

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The Con-Chords gave the young patients at the Children's Hospital, Birmingham, a big thrill when they called on them. The group took along a big Easter egg presented to them by members of their fan club.

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE

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

WITH the final curtain falling on
"Saturday Night and Sunday
Morning" somewhat prematurely
for the last time, The Jaybirds were
not long in finding a new job.

Once more it will keep them away
from the local scene but instead of
being resident in London the 'Birds
are now touring the country with
the Ivy League.

In addition to the tours, Alvin
Les and Dick have been featured
in broadcasts as the League's new
backing group.

With a new recording contract
in the bag and only suitable material
delaying their disc debut, the
Jaybirds could well become the
county's first nationally known
group since Shane Fenton and the
Fentones.

Until last year, there had not been
one change in the line-up of the
Mansfields, then Dick Lee left to
join the Jaybirds and now there
is another change with Stuart Lane
bowing out and Johnny Mac-
Gowan of the Tick-its replacing him
on lead guitar.

Mick Avory of the Kinks was
unable to appear at the Arts Ball
at Nottingham due to tonsillitis.
His deputy was no stranger to
beat fans however — Clem Cattini
formerly with the Tornados
and Division One, Bonzo Dog and
Co. and R & B of Blues and Roots
supported.

Great news for all groups in
the county — a second recording
studio is to be set up in Notting-
ham shortly. The man behind the
scheme is agent Philip Smith, and
the studio will be up to the best
professional standards.

With sufficient room to record
16 musicians and top class equip-
ment, Philip is certain the studio
must help groups towards national
recognition.

Back from France are Helles
Bells, who can now claim to be
seasoned Continental campai-
gners. The group however, now
return to heavy future work which
should keep them at home for some
while.

The Mansfield duo, the Barrie
Brothers, have taken the plunge
and turned fully professional. They
are in great demand in Clubland,
especially after their successes in
"Opportunity Knocks" and
"Comedy Bandbox".

Another joining the pro ranks
is Mike Bond, who was known as
Lance Tempest while with the
Tempests. Mike has a summer sea-
son at Ayr, while visitors to another
holiday camp at Skegness, will
hear the pleasant style of the Dave
Grant combo.

WARWICKSHIRE

DENNIS MORGAN,
77, Radford Road,
Leamington Spa

TWO of Coventry's most popular
groups have linked up to form one
tremendous package show. They
are the Beat Preachers and the
Mighty Avengers.

With Mike Linnell leaving the
Avengers to get married, the boys
decided that the time was right for
a new outfit. Teddy Mahon, their
rhythm guitarist, has now switched
to sax, while Tony Campbell con-
tinues on lead and Dave Beech on
drums.

Joining them are two former
Beat Preachers to make it into a

six piece unit. Vocals will be shar-
ed.

Beat Preacher's former bassist,
Stuart Coleman has joined Rugby's
Pnkerton's Assorted Colours, re-
placing Barry Bernard, who joins
the Avengers-Preachers combine.

Another of Coventry's popular
groups is the Peeps. They have re-
cently been inundated with offers
from Welsh promoters following
successful gigs over the border.

Matadors recently went to Lon-
don to cut a new record.

Also hoping to cut their first
record were the Ray King Soul
Pack, who have been offered a sea-
son in Majorca.

Friars Promotions have re-sign-
ed the Chicanos and now employ
an office manager — Brian Ridge.

Two new venues doing good
business are the Club Combine
in Coventry and Corley Village
Hall.

Falling Leaves, the former Ox-
ford group now based in Coventry
have added a second sax to bring
the strength up to seven.

Two new groups on the scene
are Leamington's Sons of Sin and
country-and-western exponents the
Westerners from Coventry.

All does not seem well with Cir-
cles and their manager Vince Mar-
tin, but the group are hoping for
a record release shortly after cut-
ting four sides for EMI. Vince tells
me he is looking for a new profes-
sional group to manage.

Discotheques are mushroom-
ing in Warwickshire. The "C" Saw
and Chick-Chap Clubs at Warwick
are packed out four nights a week.

Meanwhile, in Coventry, there
are about half a dozen to choose
from each week.

Stars to visit the city recently
include Lee Dorsey, Screaming Jay
Hawkins, Neil Christian, Small
Faces, Them and the Alan Price
Set.

POTTERIES

AL JACKSON,
34, Grove Road,
Heron Cross, Fenton,
Stoke-on-Trent

A NEW group of previously well
established players, the Hari Kari
are receiving rave praise wherever
they appear.

Vocalist-in-chief is the vastly ex-
perienced showman Hutch, more
recently with the new defunct Lit-
ter. Backing Hutch are lead and
vocalist Malcolm Spooner, bass
and vocalist "Juke" Morgan, or-
ganist Geoff Owen and drummer
Alan Sizemore.

Malcolm and Juke have play-
ed together both with the Black
Orchids and the Wombats, Alan
having played with a number of
local outfits, including the Kon-
cords. Geoff was also a one-time
member of the Black Orchids.

The Hari Kari play a varied
programme, but are particularly
fond of interpreting the material
of James Brown, Ben E. King
and Otis Redding.

The Black Orchids, backing
group for Vince Everett, have seen
tremendous changes during the
past year or so. Current person-
nel includes bass Dave Probyn,
drummer Wilf Honeyman and lead
Duggie Wilkes. Dave and Wilf were
together in the Marauders, now
sadly no more, while Duggie was
formerly lead with the Shondells.

Former vocalist Bry Martin of
the Marauders is now achieving much
success as a comedian with the odd
vocal/guitar thrown in, and is
shortly undertaking a week's en-
gagement at Mr. Smith's in Han-
ley.

The handsome, popular and
brilliant lead guitarist and voca-
list Chris Renshaw, also formerly
of the Marauders, has to a great
extent turned his back on pop and
rejoined the Fire Service at Staf-
ford, doing the odd date with Pres-
ley style vocalist Brian Bromley,

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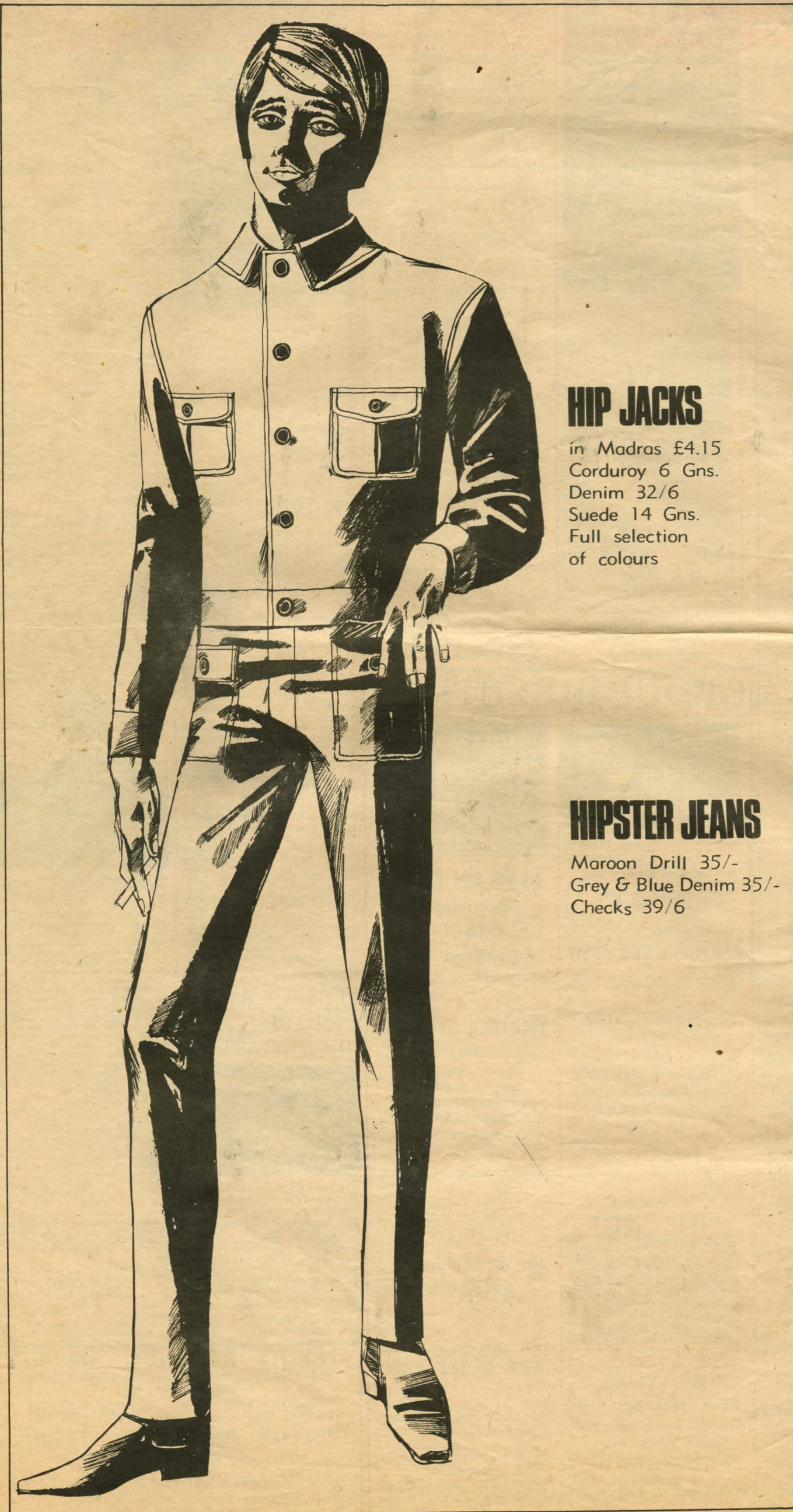
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