

AND BEAT
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on the be...
The Birds & B's of... Largest Band Instrument Sh...
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Picture: John Lines.

WE make no apologies for devoting our front page once again to the Move. These five Birmingham boys are the most exciting outfit to hit the Midland scene for a long time.

We have not referred to them as a "group" for a deliberate reason. The Move are not a group. In the words of their manager, Tony Secunda, they are "an electric band."

And it is significant that amplification equipment made by a Birmingham firm is playing an important part in helping the boys to develop their distinctive sound.

Group? No, an 'electric band'!

The equipment is Park, produced by Cleartone Musical Instruments Ltd., an associate company of Jones and Crossland, the Birmingham musical instrument retailers.

The Move are far from the only Midland unit to use Park, of course. But the fact that they are using it on their stage appearances throughout the country is helping to introduce it to others.

After hitting the jackpot with "Night Of Fear," The Move seem set for another big hit with their follow-up, "I Can Hear The Grass Grow," another song written by their lead guitarist, Roy Wood.

A second entry into the Top Five would really put the Move on the map - and it could well result in more groups following their lead by trying Park amplification.

Groups interested in finding out about Park will be interested in a demonstration of the equipment being held at the Grand Hotel, Northampton, at 8 p.m. on Tuesday, April 18.

The following Monday, April 24, a demonstration of instruments and amplification by Vox, another name highly recommended by the Move, takes place at 8 p.m. at Digbeth Institute in Birmingham.



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VOLUME OR VALUE?

DOES your group concentrate more on giving volume-for-money than value-for-money? It must be accepted that far too many Midland groups are guilty of this offence.

Promoters are constantly complaining that groups appearing at their venues "won't turn down." The adage about he who pays the piper calling the tune seems to have gone by the board.

But the fact is that the promoters are right. There is no need for groups to play so loud. It is possible for them to excite a crowd without such volume if the music is good enough.

Perhaps this hits the nail on the head. Is it all too often a case of groups going full blast to cover up their mistakes? It is a short-sighted policy that will get them nowhere.

The Ministry of Transport is almost ready to produce new regulations which will for the first time in Britain define maximum permitted noise levels for road traffic.

So groups travelling to bookings will have to make sure their van does not make too much noise. Let's hope they keep a check on their music in the same way once they start to play!



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'Midland Beat' at the Boys and Girls Exhibition

BBC producer Michael Ford, who has done so much to find air time for local groups, admires the "Midland Beat" display at the Boys and Girls Exhibition

at Bingley Hall, Birmingham.

During the run of the exhibition, two of Mr. Ford's programmes, "Studio Six" featuring the Johnny Patrick Big Band, and "Midland

Beat" in which "M. B." editor Dennis Detheridge spins discs by local groups, were broadcast live from Bingley Hall.

The programmes

from Leslie Dunn's "Hall of Pop" where he introduced such groups as the Move, Chances Are and Dave Harris Sound with Tania to visitors to the exhibi-

tion. It's not just coincidence that Michael Ford is pointing to a photograph of the Move, by the way. He gave them their first broadcast.



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The Birds & B's are six young people playing young people's music, the way young people want it played, writes AUSTIN POWELL.

This has been proved time and time again, in the way that the group gets return bookings wherever they play, and they've played all over Wales, and the West Midlands!

Now they are setting their sights on the national scene, by turning professional, and setting out after a recording contract!

The line-up of the group is original in itself - the group has a female drummer (Dawn Cullis) a sprightly female lead singer, (Lesley Whitehouse), who sometimes solos, and sometimes duets

with the other u. (Chris Wallace). Backing them up on guitars are twin-lead guitarists (not birth-wise!) Gerry Ward and Mick Skinner, and bassist Jim Wilkie. Their music is vibrant, driving and "in".

The Birds & B's were founded a year ago last January when Jim Wilkie and Dawn Cullis left another local group and decided to form their own outfit.

They did so, and after another shuffle Chris Wallace joined them. Lesley Whitehouse joined six months after Chris in October of last year.

The group is now the most popular and well-known in Shropshire and has a fan-club with some 250 members!

Pop fans who have seen Dave Harris playing with his group, the Dave Harris Sound with Tania, must have had a surprise if they happened to be watching ATV's "The Tingha and Tucker Show" the other night. For he was featured as a vocalist - singing "Puff The Magic Dragon."



How the Rockin' Berries see themselves



Finding an image has been a problem for Birmingham's Rockin' Berries. But they seem to have hit the nail on the head with this new photograph by John Lines. It conveys the strong sense of humour to be found in this group, whose comedy work has made them such a hit with pantomime and seaside audiences. The boys have just returned from a month's cabaret in Bermuda to promote their new single, "Sometimes." They begin a fortnight in "The Dickie Henderson Show" at the Coventry Theatre on May 8.

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IN contrast with recent months, that has just gone has enabled jazz fans who prefer their music to have more of a 1967 note than pre-1917 to indulge their tastes: Freddie Hubbard, guest star at London's Ronnie Scott Club, appeared at the Mermaid Hotel, Warwick Rd., where the Ronnie Scott Club has occasional Monday dates.

It is very proper that fans in the Midlands should have an opportunity to hear the visitors to Scott's; to my mind it is a reproach to local fans that we have neither a permanent club like Ronnie Scott's or the Manchester Sports Guild.

Something uniting the atmosphere and music of clubs like the Midland, Metro and Salutation would be great! Accompanying Freddie Hubbard were drummer Phil Seaman and Ronnie Scott himself blew tenor, as do most of his U.S. importations, so it was a change to hear a trumpeter.

Don, too

Another welcome visit to Birmingham was that of the Don Rendell - Ian Carr Quintet, who were recently at the Opposite Lock Club, Gas Street. Fans should keep an eye open for this club's attractions.

By the time fans are reading this column, the only "package" jazz show booked into the Town Hall for a long time will have played, I hope to a full house.

We have heard Earl Hines, Buck Clayton, Bud Freeman and Vic Dickenson separately at the Midland Jazz Club, accompanied by either the bands of Humphrey Lyttleton, Alex Welsh or Terry Lightfoot.

"Jazz from a Swinging Era" has all these

names, plus trumpet star Roy Smith, Budd Johnson, "Sir" Charles, and others.

For many jazz fans the jazz concert, which became a feature of our local entertainment scene just 20 years ago this year, enables one to hear the music at its best under the best conditions.

Other jazz people prefer the more intimate and ambient atmosphere of a club, where the music may merely accompany drinking, conversation and dancing.

There is no doubt that all these lose their importance when some one like Ken Colyer is fronting the band; audience and musician gain a remarkable rapport in such circumstances, as we have often witnessed here in Birmingham.

Fans still speak in the proverbial "bated breath" of the Colyer band's appearance on the opening night of the old Piccadilly Club, which occupied the Picadilly Arcade premises for a few weeks.

Ticking well

More latterly, a Sunday night date at the Salutation brought the older fans of the Colyer retinue out in force to dig the most relaxed N.O. jazz to be heard here today.

The 17th March saw the Jazzmen here again, this time at the Metro Club in Livery Street, where March visitors included the bands of Monty Sunshine (including Chas. Galbraith on trombone), Alan Elsdon and Kenny Ball.

These are, of course, fully professional bands and it was good to hear that the scene is ticking over well, following the slump that led many bands to quit full-time music. The Sunshine Band remain frequent visitors

THE 'MIDLAND BEAT'...

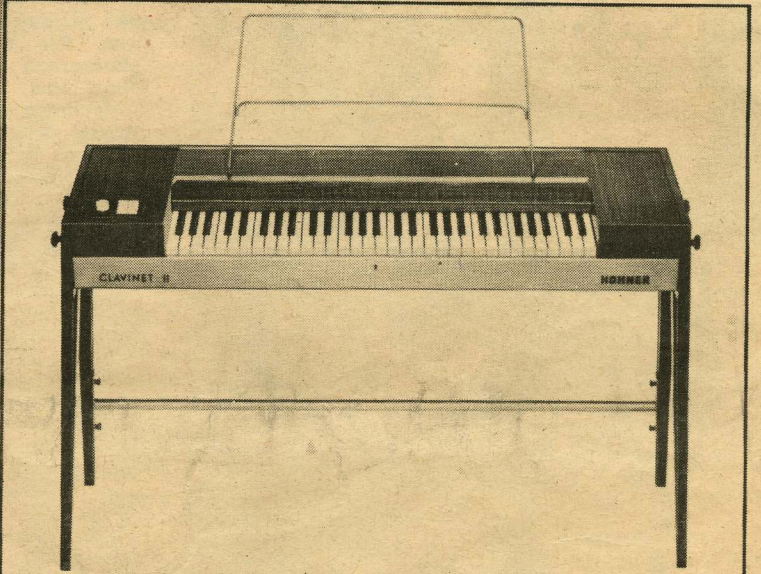
...GROUP REGISTER

The latest additions to the Group Register are:- The Blend (Worcester), 3 a.m. Blues (Coventry), The Crush (Northants.), The Carpet-baggers (Solihull), The Expression (Burton-on-Trent), Five of Clubs (Leicester), 5th Precinct (Calverton), Inner Sanctum (Birmingham), The Magic Roundabout (Grantham), The Nik Travis Reaction (Oxford), The Phloo (Evesham), Peer Gynt (Bilston), The Privileged Mind (Northampton), The Rush (Birmingham), Ride 'n Walk (Wolverhampton), The Rare Breed (Birmingham), The System (Wolverhampton), The Same Difference (Birmingham), Too Snooty By Half (Birmingham), Strictly for the Birds (Bromsgrove), Samantha's Moods (Albrighton) and The Underground Movement (Witney).



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Ev
Jazz at the minster, conti Dixieland Ba Wainwright o as at the "Cr ham, where t Band were n
As well as "Castle," by t have played a the recent ca stirring tones
Town can will likewise of New Orleans
The Barry with Midlands played numer including Rotherham; D
Not quite beyond! Of co Artesian Hall the Civic Cent
Then we h from Manche tation.
Not only plays like B

Leslie
"ET TU time as "Ju for the lasi Stoke-on-Tre run on this fi
Yes, I kn "in the rou it is April 18
But on 1
Coventry T as the fami Orchestra's
Annuncio play at 7.30 can call in o the opening and also o Birmingham and the star at Stoke's Vi
A bit of t ham Playho Silver Tassi the 5th: Pri Theatre on A "The Deadly Birmingham



...the
...starts.
...himself told me is exciting
...but tiring, and brings addi-
...abilities to the normal hard grind
...most enjoyable of their tours was
...Edmond Hall.

Every Monday

...riars, Habberley Road, Kidder-
...es every Monday. The Savoy
...of Pete Hindle now has Basil
...drums and plays there as well
...wn", Corporation St., Birming-
...rmerly the Ken Ingram Eagle
...ent.

...week-end dates regularly at the
...Central Fire Station, this band
...Birmingham University, where
...nival enabled us to hear the
...of the Tulane Brass Band.
...vals at Oldbury and Tipton
...ature this excellent recreation
...marching jazz.

First record

...Martyn Ragtime Jazz Band,
...Dan Pawson on trumpet, has
...Midlands dates this month,
...Nottingham, Accrington,
...by and St. Albans.

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...Clark, wife of the band's pianist, Jerry, was
...a revelation to the audience.

...A good place to hear jazz at Reading is
...the "Upper Deck" of the Ship Hotel, Duke St.,
...every Monday. Easter Monday found the Ken
...Colyer Jazzmen there.

Applejacks

...provide contrast with an early picture that now seems quite
...comical.

...The photograph below of the young Applejacks was taken
...in late 1960 when the group first got together as a skiffle
...oufit for a gang show at the 1st Olton Scouts.

...example than these two photo-
...the Applejacks. Long hair and even long trousers
...provide contrast with an early picture that now seems quite
...comical.

...The photograph below of the young Applejacks was taken
...in late 1960 when the group first got together as a skiffle
...oufit for a gang show at the 1st Olton Scouts.

...Three of the boys are still
...with the Applejacks today —
... (rear, left to right) drummer
...Gerry Freeman, rhythm gui-
...tartist Phil Cash and lead gui-
...tartist Martin Baggott. The
...lads at the front are (left to
...right) Chris Irving, Rex Mar-
...fleet, Geoff Plummer and Clive
...Farmer.



Applejacks
now ...and
not so very
long ago!

ROSE RITES

An outspoken column on the current scene by
EUAN ROSE

UNDERCUTTING
In a world of rising prices
one of the few things that is
on the decrease is the fees
paid to semi-pro groups.
By offering to play cheaper
than other bands, a group
spoils it for everyone else,
professionals included.

BUYING AND SELLING
Why is it that groups hit the
roof when they get to a
venue and find out, quite by
chance, that the fee the agent
is getting for them is often
five or 10 pounds in excess
of the one they are being
paid?

ANDY FERRIS
Through the dull outlook on
the present scene in Birming-
ham at the moment, with
many of our best groups

splitting up or resting on
their laurels, I see one per-
son to brighten 1967.
The young man in question
is 19-year-old, dark-haired
Andy Ferris, who is cur-
rently D.J. at the Belfry and
other "in" places.

to be a big one, hangs in the
balance at the moment with
a pending contract for him
with Radio Luxembourg.
I agree with Andy on one
point, too. In 1967, Soul
music will be out with com-
mercial quality discs return-
ing to the fore.





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Myers of folk

OVER the last three years, the Ian Campbell Folk Group has become known to an ever-widening audience. Unlike the pop group, with its vast exposure to the public by means of record plays, and appearances on the television plug programmes, a folk group's name is almost entirely built upon personal appearances, only aided by exposure on sporadic folk music series on tv. and radio, which rarely get peak time screening.

So much more, then, the credit due to the Campbells. Their record sales, alone, indicate how well they are known. In the last three years, they have made hundreds of personal appearances in concerts and clubs from Plymouth to Aberdeen.

The group's reputation as guaranteed crowd pullers is shown by the number of times they have recently been chosen as bill-topping artists on major package shows.

On television the group's status as the leading folk entertainment in the country is shown by their appearances on all t.v. folk shows, Barndance, Hullabaloo, Hoot'nanny and Singalong, and on such shows as Five o'Clock Club.

Home town

Though the group is nationally known, it is their home scene of Birmingham that still interests them most. They make regular three-monthly appearances at the Town Hall, often solo, and run a weekly club which is believed to be the largest in the country, with an attendance averaging four hundred.

Obviously, the group frequently appears with other artists, but it is in solo concert that the I.C.F.G. is happiest. This gives them more opportunity to exploit all the different musical combinations they can evolve.

A publicist recently said of the Ian Campbell Folk Group, "they are hailed as the highest flying folk fivesome in Britain at the moment." The alliteration might be questionable, but the message isn't.

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NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

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ONE of our most popular local groups, the Phoenix were recently involved in a road accident.

The driver, organist and lead guitarist were taken to the hospital, the latter two being let out with bruises and stitches, but the driver, Josh Cook was detained.

Some of the kit was damaged and the van was a write off. Other group members were luckily travelling in a different vehicle. The group is on its feet again and all members are fit and well.

A new group on the scene are the Privileged Mind. This group have only been formed since December and already have a large following.

Two demo discs have already been made. They are the first group in the area to be completely equipped with Park equipment. Their programme consists of mainly pop and the line up is Rolf Alibone, lead, Mick Barry, bass, Bob Cook, rhythm and vocals, and Steven Baker, drums.

The Grade I, mentioned a couple of times before here, achieved national recognition, when their photograph and group information appeared in "Fabulous 208".

The lads give credit for this to their Fan Club secretary, Val Collins (33, Nene Side Close, Badby, Northants), who tells me everyone has fingers crossed for a record release in the near future.

The Black Lion Inn is still a very busy club and has recently started on Wednesday nights and will feature a completely new group called Tom Halls Dubious Blues Band.

This group is rather unusual and will not have any rehearsals but play spontaneously. The singer, Tom, and lead guitarist have composed several unusual tunes the best being an instrumental called The Stick Insect. More about this band next month.

EAST ANGLIA

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

MORE group personnel are on the move this month. Joining the Reformation is Barry Thompson, on tenor sax. Formerly with Wynder K. Frog, Barry has moved back to Norfolk after two years in London.

April is a busy month for the band. On Sunday 9th they play Tiles in Oxford Street and make a return trip to Blazes on Friday 28th.

New lead singer for the Rubber Band, who come from the Fenland area, near Wisbech, is Harry Rix. Harry makes the move from the Accent — based at Bury St. Edmunds in Suffolk.

The Reformation and the Rubber Band are now in the agency of Brian Cross — the Swaffham farmer's son who in little more than three years has carved off quite a large slice of the East Anglian Beat cake. He now has four bands under his wing — The Feel for Soul and the Triffids make up the total — and his Tavern Club at Dereham is one of Norfolk's top Sunday spots.

Brian has embarked on a big promotion policy for his Dereham Club. Appearing there on April 30th is American legend Ben E. King, and the Cream, Chris Farlowe and Geno Washington are scheduled for dates later in the Spring.

On the day that the Sullivan-James Band arrived back in Ipswich from Germany the Anglian Set had their German tour cancelled. The message got to them just in time — all their bags were packed. Luckily they were not stuck for work, rather the opposite in fact.

The exit from Norwich's Samson and Hercules Ballroom of the Tempos — to the group spot at the Lyceum in London's Strand — gave the Anglians the chance to fill the

gap while Mecca make new arrangements. The band have also landed a 12-week summer season at the Casino Club, at Douglas, I.O.M., and this month they make a return to the Dorchester, W.I., for a private party.

This could be the Anglians' year. A new record release is planned soon and the Bob Miller Agency is bringing in the work for them.

The Southern Trust are back in favour at the Orford Cellar. Lead singer Ricky Southern can still raise the roof with Boney Moroney!

Latest of Howard Platt's St. Andrew's Hall promotions is on 10th April, when George Fame makes a return visit to Norwich. Supporting his band on this occasion is the Sullivan James outfit.

GLOUCESTERSHIRE

ANDREW M. JAMES,
1 Priors Court,
Priors Road,
Cheltenham.

VOCALIST of Gloucester outfit the Friction was dragged off stage and beaten up by members of the audience during a performance at a Gloucestershire venue.

He explained to me that he could not afford for the morale of the group to drop since he has so much of his own money invested in it. So he has decided as a direct result to make an early retirement and take over group management.

I know the Gloucester kids very well, they really are a swell bunch and good supporters. They have recently campaigned hard with a petition of several hundred names demanding bigger name groups at their dances as well as local boys.

I really think this was carrying things a little too far, although I must say I agree with them about the dances.

Cheltenham's High Numbers have broken up, and former manager B. Russell is acting as agent for another Cheltenham outfit — Pastel Shade, Shade's manager Mike Fletcher tells me.

His group are also experimenting with the use of impulse flashing light via cine projectors during their act. Vocalist Dave Phipps has practised for over eight months to get his voice to sound like Stevie Winwood, and Mike defies anyone to tell the difference between a record of Stevie's and Dave singing the same number.

He also says that he will not let his group go out for less than £20. He admits that the boys do not do much work, but all the work they do is of a high class. By this method he presumably hopes to avoid demoralising gigs.

But what about experience? Surely the only real way to learn is the hard way? Taking both the rough and the smooth. The boys are soon to make a demo-disc. Newham's Good Geds perform for the last time on April 15th so manager Jack Peacey tells me. Due to domestic difficulties the boys have decided that they cannot remain together any longer.

This is a great shame, as undoubtedly they were one of Gloucester's better groups. Jack has been approached by Clockwork Orange and Here There and Everywhere, with a view to his mangling them, he tells me he is taking a good look at the latter, although at the moment nothing is certain.

Dedicated Soul Set have temporarily suspended operations, organist and leader Rich Brook is now with Gloucester close harmony pack the Muncays. rie intends to purchase a new Lowry organ with Lesley speaker — £700 in all. The best of luck to him.

Better news now of Alan Walker Cheltenham's highly successful vocalist with the Long John Baldry Package. He has been with the show now for about 3 months, and his progress has been rapid from a talented amateur to a fast-maturing professional. Alan besides being a fine singer can equally well perform on bass, saxophone, piano, organ and harmonica, he is also at present going to acting school. With his first record well on the way (incidentally rumour has it that Micky Most is to produce it), the personal guidance of one of the Country's finest entertainers, Long John Baldry, the weight and hard work of manager Eddie Norman, all behind him, we are all keeping our fingers crossed for Cheltenham's and Gloucestershire's first really successful recording artist.

The Sack O'Woe played their first gig at the Blue Moon in Cheltenham last month. Following after the raving success of Geno Washington, the attendance was very poor, and the reception to say the least, disappointing. Cheltenham kids just refuse to accept their own groups, at least Blue Moonites won't. Apart from a few girls the rest of the audience had closed their mind to the group before it had begun. They have been nurtured on the truly professional talent of Chris Farlowe, Geno Washington, Lee Dorsey, The Cream and the like and will not accept anything from within a 50 mile radius of Cheltenham.

Exciting news for the over-18s comes from Cheltenham's West Country Breweries with the opening of a unique type of public house in Cheltenham's Pitville Street, Sarah's Bar, formerly the Sarah Siddons, which was redesigned to provide a meeting place for the county's jet-set.

Telephones are provided at each table in the plush modern bar, and customers have only to lift the receiver to contact the resident disc jockey, Cirencester's lovely Sara Clee, for her to play for them any record of their choice.

This service is entirely free, and following on from its obvious success a further room will be developed for live entertainment something which I am even more in favour.

West Country Breweries certainly deserve a pat on the back for this one and indeed other initiatives such as the Brockworth Flying Machine.

WALES

MARK GALE,
7 Hanover Street,
Canton, Cardiff

I WAS tapping the oracle this month (you have to tap them down here; they don't talk otherwise) for news of the scene in Mid-Wales. And the word is — there IS no scene.

Miles upon miles of rolling pasture land and whistling crag, churches perched like Tibetan monasteries, narrow gauge railways and only an occasional gymnasium ganu (community singing session) to lighten the load, man.

Mid-Wales, you see, is a kind of demilitarised zone. North Wales is more of a foreign country to South Wales than England, Scotland or Ireland and vice versa.

There's the Mersey imprint even on northern weekly newspapers. And the groups which count there are The Coasters, The Optimistic Incorporated, The Beeliners, The Swinging Machine, The Antics. Some of them local, some of them from Middle England.

Two points I make. First, the Midland groups seem to serve as common denominators between North and South. Second, there is no interchange of music (and little of anything else) betwixt S. and N.

So how about mounting a crusade? How about opening up a passage? And stopping off midway to supply a scene for Cardigan, Radnor, Montgomery, Merioneth? There must be teenagers somewhere along the way.

Taking the Welsh word to London from today (April 1) are Lot 13 from Neath, whose recent success in auditions at the Ram Jam Club has hastened their departure. A possibility that they may soon become backing group to a well-known coloured singer and a change of name is envisaged.

A second discotheque has opened at Bridgend to complement the 17 Club at the local YMCA. Known as the York Tavern, it was host recently to the Hi-Jacks.

On the Beat

by BO BERRY

ROY Wood looks like a fugitive from the C.B.S.O. these days... DOES Pete Oliver feel neglected because he's not been asked to play with the Johnny Patrick Big Band?

IT had to happen — Danny King's back with another group...

JOHN Singer unlikely to start a Keith Mallett fan club... Phone calls from Mike Dolan have become an exception.

ARE the Dave Harris Sound with Tania setting a trend?... DID Jimmy O'Neill get "The People" on Sunday?...

HAS Barbra Perrins persuaded Roger Spencer to join the Monkees' Fan Club?... IT would have been appropriate if the Move had recorded that song about "all coppers are 'nanas'"

IRONIC that first disc by the Chances Are should have been released on the same day as the debut disc by a Southampton group called the Chances-R.

WONDER if Spencer Davis thought about Rob Plant when considering a replacement for Stevie Winwood...

WHO sent "MB" a postcard from Germany signed "The M...s"?... Mercian Agency's new letter-headings are novel... ASK Brian Harbison if he's heard any good jokes lately.

ENQUIRY about Park from a German group... EUAN Rose might soon be working out his drum patterns on a computer...

WHO designed the business card for Blend 5?... RAY Bridger hoping short hair will soon be "in" with the groups... PHIL Myatt's plans are not just a lot of bull.

NEW single from The Berries is not exactly before time... Are the Applejacks preparing for colour television?...

SMART idea to book the Bobcats for the Boys and Girls Exhibition at Bingley Hall... EXIT Andy's Clappers enter Fredz People.

DO the Vogues appreciate all Den Caney has done for them?... NEW Street Station manager Mr. Walsh goes tangent shooting on Fridays.

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STAFFORDSHIRE

ROGER BENNETT,
82 Church Road,
Norton Canes,
Cannock,
Staffs.

AT the moment it's certainly all
systems go for the flourishing
Roger Allen Agency and the 26-
years-old boss of the outfit is pulling
out all the stops for deserved
national recognition of one of his
groups.

And the one that my money's
going on is The Montanas despite
their recent big shake-up.

To my mind their new record
"Ciaoou Baby" is the best thing to
come out of this county in all the
time I have been covering it. This
bouncy ballad fairly zings along
and must also be the most com-
mercial disc issued by a Midlands
group in a long while.

Forgive me if I sound too gush-
ing, but if you don't go overboard
for a number like this what can you
rave about? It's a Tony Hatch com-
position with lyrics by Mike English
and was released by EMI on March
17. Since then the boys have been
tearing round getting in as many
plugs as possible.

It has been tipped a hit on the
B.B.C.'s "Newly Pressed" sound
programme and on April 1 and 2
the boys complete a remarkable
"double" by appearing on "Sat-
urday Club" and "Easybeat."

At the time of going to press
Roger Allen was busily negotiating
several regional television appear-
ances. The flip, by the way,
"Anyone There", was penned by
bassist Terry Rowley.

Big things are also happening
on the Continent for the Wolver-
hampton-based Montanas. They
have been booked for T.V. spots
in Holland, Germany and France
to coincide with the release of an
E.P. over there comprising the two
sides of the new disc plus the two
on their last release "That's When
Happiness Began" and "Goodbye
Little Girl."

Roger Allen tells me that he
believes the recent changes have
worked wonders. "It has brought
about a vast improvement in sound
and I am keeping my fingers
crossed for this new record."

Roger's other "golden" boys are
The Californians and April 7 sees
the release of their new C.B.S. press-
ing "Golden Apples" which was
unearthed by A. and R man Irving
Martin. The flip is "Little ship with
a red sail" and was written by
John Stewart, Nicky James and
Roger himself.

The boys are getting ample
chance to plug their disc (which,
incidentally, I have not yet heard
and cannot therefore comment on)
via a spot in The Walker Brothers
tour which opened at Finsbury
Park on March 31. Local dates to
watch for include Wolverhampton
Gaumont on April 13, Birmingham
Odeon April 19 and Hanley
Gaumont April 23.

Also on the bill are Cat Stevens,
Jimi Hendrix and special guest
star Engelbert Humperdinck. On
stage the Californians will back
The Californians for their performance
of "Golden Apples" which was rec-
orded with an orchestra.

Roger Allen's Agency has also
moved into new offices in High
Street, Tettenhall, Nr. Wolver-
hampton, and Maurice Jones has
joined the staff on bookings from
the town's other agency, Astra —
bringing with him Lady Jane and
Royaltée and The Soul Seekers.
Maurice will continue to manage
The N Betweens.

Bill Bates, manager of Herbie's
People has been in a bit of a
quandary of late and it all over
the group's latest disc "Humming
Bird" released last month on
C.B.S. The song has also been
covered by Australian singer
Lionel Long.

Bill's in a spot because he wrote
the number and obviously he would
like it to become a hit — but who
for, the group or Lionel?

Herbie's People come first, of
course, but if their version does
not make it there's always the other.



The Montanas — See "Staffordshire."

The ideal situation, as Bill sees it,
would be for his outfit to take it up
the charts in Britain, and Lionel to
do likewise down under.

Richard Whittlestone writes to
inform me that, "with regret," he
no longer represents The Shooting
Stars. He continues: "They have
decided that someone else can offer
the possibility of more work than
that which I can expect to get for
them."

"After such a long time associa-
tion with the group since its
inauguration, myself and my fellow
associate, George Lockley, will
miss the hustle and bustle of the
Midland beat scene." Richard con-
cluded that he hoped to continue
being connected with the scene.

Another letter this time from
someone signing themselves "Hip-
sters' Fans." They want to hear more
about the Hipsters group whom
they saw at Kidderminster's Frank
Freeman Club.

"They are six coloured boys
from Handsworth and I can only
describe them as sensational. My
friends and I were speaking to one
of them, drummer Cecil Morris,
and he told us they have not got
a manager."

"We are sure that with a little
help they could make the big time.
We wish these guys lots of success
and remain their sincere fans from
Kidderminster."

New outfit on the scene are The
Dual Purpose with two excellent
singers in Jim Turner and Steve
Pritchard. They are backed by Mac
Bailey (lead), Clive Simmons
(drums), Pete Beaman (bass) and
Bill Bonham (sax and organ).
Pop concert at Walsall Town
Hall to raise funds for Bloxwich
Carnival featured The Zero Five
from Cannock, Birmingham's
Locomotive and The Stringalongs
from West Bromwich ... One of
Herbie's People has fractured a
kneecap.

Finders Keepers, who are mak-
ing quite a name for themselves
in cabaret, have a new C.B.S. disc
out sometime this month ... Staf-
forders due to record shortly ...

Example of Roger Allen's con-
nections: - Montanas on previous
Walker Brothers tour and now
Californians on current one.
Roger Allen thinks Hugh
Stirling (Stafford's vocalist) has
one of the best voices in Midlands
... New Zero Five lead singer
Sleepy Wilson joined them from
Liverpool's Escorts.

BORDERLAND

AUSTIN POWELL,
Station House,
Bucknell, Salop

THE annual Shropshire Youth
Clubs' Beat Contest, sponsored by
"Shropshire Journal", was held at
the Majestic, Wellington, in Feb-
ruary, when once again a goodly
bunch of groups battled for the
trophy.

Nine groups entered, including
the Skylons, the Protection, the
Paciffs (who were second), and the

Sovereigns (who were third). The
winners were the Soul Party, who
had recently increased their line-up
to include two saxophones.

Much of the material performed
by the groups was hackneyed but
odd gleams of talent won through
in many of the groups.

The Soul Party's act was non-
stop, with the group running many
numbers in together, which many
Shropshire groups have done for a
long time, to great advantage!

Congrats, to all those who took
part for putting on such a fine
show!

The Karakters (Shrewsbury)
auditioned for Decca recently, and
are now awaiting the selection of
material for them to record. The
song will probably be a ballad —
showcasing the boys' harmonies,
which impressed the Decca staff
producer.

Stafford's Vigilantes visited
Ludlow Town Hall last month ...
Ex-members of Paul Trapper &
Co., have re-formed and added
saxophones, calling themselves the
Modelle Union.

The Birds & B's are back to a
five-piece unit, after the departure
of Lesley Whitehouse to continue
her studies. The group have not
been deterred by this, and have
signed to visit the Continent for a
short spell in May, and hope for
a Swiss job in June.

Other dates for the professional
team take in Wiltshire, Derby,
Lincoln, Skegness and Taunton
in the next two months.

Featured at the Regal, Craven
Arms this month are: the Soul
Party (1st), the Four Aces (8th),
Strictly for the Birds - featuring
Peter and Paulette from Broms-
grove (15th), the Past 'N' Present
(22nd) and the End (29th).

Scene of the first "psychedelic
freak-out" in Shropshire was at
Shrewsbury's "Seven Club," when
London group the Creation
appeared. During their act, they
painted Helen Troy's body, calling
it "human expressionism." — Helen
merely said afterwards: "It tickled!"
Me too!

The Who appeared at Wem
Town Hall last month — the first
of a line of promotions there by
Cheshire Entertainments, while
Edwin Bocott Promotions are stag-
ing shows at Dawley ... Still going
strong, Honey Cavern, Bronllys.
Eye artists, the bystanders
played there recently ... Buddies
(Hereford) back on the Continent
where their record is selling well,
I hear!

Shrewsbury's newest group, the
Past 'N' Present are one of the
few trios left in the business these
days. However, they are picking up
work quite handsomely. Ken, Ray
and Brian have garnered a
manager who travels a lot, and is
at present in the Bolton area — and
will, no doubt, come up with work
for them there!

Worcestershire's Graham
Plimmer Agency booking the
Strand Hall now in Bulth Wells
(Breconshire) — a lively venue!
Plans are now going ahead to
hold a second Ludlow Town Foot-
ball Club Beat Contest. Last year
twelve groups entered — this year
they hope to increase that by 50%.

The winners were the Birds & B's
who have since become very
popular in the area, so much so
that one promoter that booked them
to made a profit of over £80 on the
night!

Groups in Herefordshire, Shrop-
shire, Breconshire, Montgomery-
shire — please send info, and
photos etc., to the above address.

The independent London-based
label, Delyse, has had a successful
recording, getting good airplay,
especially a useful plug on "House-
wives Choice" by Sennybridge
(Brecon) girl, Gillian Thomas.

Her record, in Welsh, titled
"Yours For Ever" was written by
a Bournemouth student, and apart
from the BBC plug, she has had a
good chance on BBC Wales TV,
and she is a regular on the popular
"Disc A Dawn" show!

WARWICKSHIRE

Paul Connaw,
32 Pinnock Place,
Fife Hill,
Coventry.

THEY celebrated in an atmosphere
of delight mingled with just a hint
of disbelief ... and the toast, of
course, was in champagne.

After four years of "bread
and marge" gigs and bright red bank
statements, the Good Time Losers
are in the charts, climbing rapidly
with their third disc, "Trafalgar
Square."

The song is by Barry Fantoni.
The Coventry-orientated group
now reside in the Big City and
their management has been taken
over by the Cromwellian Club
(what a break!), who share the
honours with "Coventry Kid" Ken
Wailes.

Says Ken, who has been with the
boys right from the start. "Some-
times you wonder whether the pop
door is ever going to open. You
keep knocking — but it stays shut.
Then suddenly everything happens
and you can't quite believe it at
first."

Fittingly, at the same time as
this chart breakthrough, comes the
news that Locarno manager,
George Thornborrow is running a
knockout contest for young West
Midlands groups.

Prizes include equipment ... and,
more important to any embryo hit
paraders, a record chance with
Fontana ... the label on which the
Good Time Losers appear.

Preliminary heats have been held
over the past month and the finals
take place next month. For one
young outfit, it could be the begin-
ning of that winding, unpredictable
path to fame and fortune.

Also at the Locarno ... a tribute
to the staff's powers of improvisa-
tion ... in adversity. There were
disappointed fans on hand when
John Mayall pulled out of a Thurs-
day night date there at the eleventh
hour. To make things worse the
group advertised to replace them ...
Box and his crew ... broke down
along the M.1.

Which is where the improvisa-
tion comes in ... the bouncers sud-

denly produced a set of mini-cycles
and organised a series of faces
between members of the audience.
Well, at least it's different.

Five-piece soul band The Big
Idea are beginning to cause a stir
... while the Perfumed Garden are
hoping for a record chance soon.
Tim James has quit 3 A.M. to join
them as a second singer.

3 A.M. meanwhile ignore soul
and stick to Chicago blues with a
faith that is almost dogmatic ...
even in front of audiences who
haven't got a clue what they are
doing!

Nuneaton pop group, the
Reason are working with Friar's
regularly now. Their stage presen-
tation is polished and their pro-
gramme does without long "tune
up and debate gaps" between
numbers.

Also linking with Friar's are
Chances Are, whose disc of "Fragile
Child" is climbing the influential
Radio London chart.

Those stalwart Midland favour-
ites, The Matadors, have just dis-
pensed with their old Vox organ ...
and bought a £750 Hammond.

Verdict ... it adds even more
depth to their already outstanding
harmony work. In the next few
weeks, they tour Scotland.

Hush-Hush Note: Friar's plan
to secure "one of the biggest ball-
rooms" in the Midlands and open
it with Zoot Money and Chris
Farlowe on the same bill (wow!)
But they're keeping the name of
the venue secret until the deal is
finalised.

Looking for a smart out-of-the-
way pop retreat. There is a very
good Sunday night discotheque at
the Craven Arms, Southam.

Emerging Nuneaton popsters,
Joneses have just returned from a
lucrative tour of Germany.

Andy's Clappers have made a
few return appearances in Coventry
with their "surfin' sound" ... after
a tour of U.S. bases. They are
more popular now than before
they left. But they are off to Sweden
shortly. Reckon they should be
re-christened Andy's Globetrotters.

Last-line-sad-note: Popular Jeff
Giles, a former guitarist with
several Warwickshire groups, is
off to face the bullets of Aden.
Jeff quit pop to join the R.A.F.

LEICESTERSHIRE

ARTHUR KIRBY,
24 Tolarne Road,
Leicester

HINCKLEY-based group The
Sugar Machine are busy writing
new material, which they hope to
feature on a demo-disc in the near
future.

Formerly called "T", this up-
and-coming outfit may shortly be
adding sax to the instrumental
line-up, which already includes
organ, drums and guitars. They
also hope to feature an attractive
girl on vocals.

Klock Agency and Friars Pro-
motions seem to be well in control
of the city's group bookings. What-
ever happened to P.S. Promotions?

Arthur Kimbrell must have been
bitterly disappointed with the "gate"
at the Four Tops show at DeMont-
fort Hall. The missing fans certainly
lost out on this one. The Tops put
on a great show.

Top Yorkshire showman Harry
Parker thinks that Leicester's Saints
are one of the best groups around.
Bill Gostinskie, former manager
of the Creators, is now on the enter-

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