

MIDLAND BEAT



NO. 18

MARCH, 1965

PRICE: ONE SHILLING

'Midland Beat' Championship -entry form inside Beat news from Wales, East Anglia and throughout the Midlands

Going OUT

Unkempt look



The "smart look" is on the way back.

There is no doubt that the public are getting fed up of groups with unruly, unkempt hair and dishevelled dress.

Coming IN

The smart look

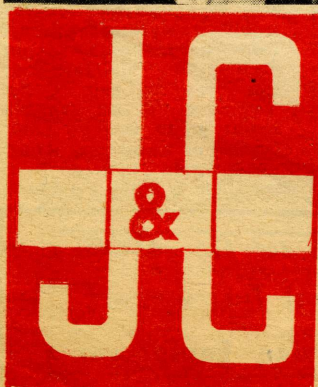
Take a look at our photograph of The Pretty Things. Then study Jim Simpson's picture of the popular Birmingham group, Pete Tierney and the Nighthawks.

The Brum boys' "uniforms" give them a much more professional appearance than the

Unkempt look.

groomed Brum Beat exponents, The Moody Blues and The Rockin' Berries.

Their first disc, "Oh How I Need You," is out on Fontana this month. The line-up: Pete Tierney (lead singer), Mick Gilmore (bass), Dave Evans (rhythm), George Scott (lead) and Lenny Boyle (drums).



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WE ACCUSE- the record dealers...

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 Advertisement Manager:
 JOHN C. GIBBINS
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 BRIAN ENNIS
 Picture Editor:
 JIM SIMPSON

MIDLAND groups are not getting a fair deal. They have as much chance of getting on to records as groups from other parts of the country. But it is when they succeed in having a record released that they are let down.

We accuse Midland record dealers of failing to help local groups. They do not display new releases by our groups.

And many do not even take the trouble to stock their discs. It has been a great start to the year for Midland outfits in one way. Almost a dozen have had discs issued. A dozen groups dreaming that a passport to the Top Ten is within their grasp at last.

But most of these discs will not even get off the ground let alone rocket to the top of the

charts. The reason: people thinking of buying one of the discs will probably get another as a result of their local record shop not having it in stock. Our Editor asked for six new releases by Midland groups at a leading Birmingham record store. Each one had been issued within the previous fortnight. Only one was in stock. True, the store offered the all-too-familiar "but we can get

it for you". But most people want to take a record home with them when they walk out of a record shop. They are reluctant to wait until a particular disc is obtained for them. So they buy another record instead. Probably one by a group from Liverpool, Manchester or London. Is it any wonder that more records by Midland groups don't enter the hit parade?

'MB' advertising PAYS OFF!

FOLLOWING the news item about Suzette joining the Nocturnes in our "Midland Beat" January issue, the Birmingham group have received an enquiry from Berne, Switzerland

for an Anglo-Scottish exchange deal involving Wolverhampton's Montanas and Motherwell group The Jokers has been arranged between the Astra Agency and Scotland's Impact Entertainments through the Wolverhampton agency's "M. B." advertisement.

Barrie Finch, of Nu-Suite Agency, Worcester, tells us: "Since advertising in "M. B." I have had literally hundreds of letters from groups all over the Midlands.

"It is very encouraging to know that "M.B." is bought all over the Midlands and further afield. I have had enquiries recently from Swansea and several from Scotland." "Midland Beat" is the paper that gets results. It's read by everybody who matters in the beat world and we are constantly hearing of successes resulting directly from advertisements or stories in "M.B."

"Yes, it certainly pays to advertise in "Midland Beat."

MEET

THE COURIERS

THE GROUP

These five boys are popular in the Birmingham area, especially at their own dance at Weoley Castle Community Centre, now in its fourth year. Apart from appearing at Brum beat spots like the Moat House Club and Cedar Club, the Couriers often visit Droitwich Winter Gardens, the Golden Cross, Bromsgrove, and other Midland venues. They hope a demo disc they have just made will lead to their first record release soon.



DEREK ARNOLD

Instrument: Guitar
 Born: 25/7/45
 Height: 6 ft.
 Weight: 11 st.
 Colour Eyes: Brown
 Colour Hair: Brown
 Favourite Singer: Dave
 Fav. Instrumentalist: Duane Eddy
 Fav. Group: Beatles
 Fav. Comp.: Lennon and McCartney
 Fav. Drink: Tea
 Fav. Food: Anything good
 Fav. Actor: James Cagney
 Fav. Clothes: Casual
 Likes: Driving
 Dislikes: Miserable people
 Personal Ambition: To get on
 Professional ambition: To have a record released
 Hobbies: Ice skating
 Previous Group: The Caddillacs



DENNIS NORMAN LAWTON

Instrument: Drums
 Born: After Chuck Berry
 Height: 5 ft. 8 1/2 ins.
 Weight: 11 st.
 Colour Eyes: Brown
 Colour Hair: Brown
 Favourite Singer: Dave
 Fav. Instrumentalist: Derek
 Fav. Group: Beatles
 Fav. Comp.: Ravel
 Fav. Drink: Rum and Coke
 Fav. Food: Chinese
 Fav. Actors: Laurel and Hardy
 Fav. Clothes: Smart suits
 Likes: Music, photography
 Dislikes: Filling in forms
 Personal ambition: To earn a lot of money
 Professional ambition: To have our disc in 'Top Ten'



BRIAN HANSON

Instrument: Guitar
 Born: 7/1/40
 Height: 6 ft.
 Weight: 11 st. 7 lbs.
 Colour Eyes: Blue
 Colour Hair: Light Brown
 Favourite Singer: David Lawton
 Fav. Instrumentalist: Tony Collinge
 Fav. Group: Beatles
 Fav. Comp.: Goffin and King
 Fav. Drink: Whiskey and lime
 Fav. Food: Chips, beans and egg
 Fav. Actor: Ringo Starr
 Fav. Clothes: Casual wear
 Likes: Fast cars and money
 Dislikes: Apartheid
 Personal Ambition: Own night club
 Professional: Top Hit Parade



DAVID SPENCER LAWTON

Instrument: Vocal occasional
 Born: 4/2/47
 Height: 6 ft.
 Weight: 11 st.
 Colour Eyes: Hazel
 Colour Hair: Auburn
 Favourite Singer: Johnny Majhis
 Fav. Instrumentalist: Cher Atkins
 Fav. Group: Hollies
 Fav. Comp.: Lennon and McCartney
 Fav. Drink: Coke
 Fav. Food: Chicken and chips
 Fav. Actor: Sean Connery
 Fav. Clothes: Casual
 Likes: Music, bed, driving
 Dislikes: Getting up
 Personal ambition: To succeed
 Professional ambition: To sell records (ours)
 Hobbies: The Couriers
 Previous Group: Gators



GEORGE ANTHONY COLLINGE

Instrument: Guitar
 Born: 4/2/47
 Height: 6 ft.
 Weight: 11 st.
 Colour Eyes: Hazel
 Colour Hair: Auburn
 Favourite Singer: Johnny Majhis
 Fav. Instrumentalist: Cher Atkins
 Fav. Group: Hollies
 Fav. Comp.: Lennon and McCartney
 Fav. Drink: Coke
 Fav. Food: Chicken and chips
 Fav. Actor: Sean Connery
 Fav. Clothes: Casual
 Likes: Music, bed, driving
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 Personal ambition: To succeed
 Professional ambition: To sell records (ours)
 Hobbies: The Couriers
 Previous Group: Gators

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DENNIS DETHERIDGE reviews some new records

DANNY KING — "Pretty Things"—"Outside of my Room" (Columbia DB 7456): "Pretty Things" is a good melody and the backing is well up to standard. But the song doesn't really exploit the Birmingham singer's unique voice. The original on the flip-side is a lilting ballad with more emphasis on harmony. Organ is prominent in the accompaniment.

MIKE SHERIDAN AND THE NIGHTRIDERS — "Here I Stand"—"Lonely Weekends" (Columbia DB 7462): The "A" side is a better-than-average Brum Beat offering. Definitely the Nightriders' best so far. But it somehow lacks the impact of American discs in similar idiom. "Lonely Weekends" is run-of-the-mill material.

THE FALLING LEAVES — "She Loves to be Loved"—"Not Guilty" (Parlophone R 5233) The top side fails to establish an Oxfordshire sound. The number is delivered competently but without much individuality. On the other hand, the lower deck has a strong story line and a good lead voice to put it across.

THE SORROWS — "I Don't Wanna Be Free"—"Come with Me" (Piccadilly 7N 35210): A touch of the Kinks about the Sorrows approach on "I Don't Wanna Be Free." A gimmick opening on the reverse track leads into an unusual number in 6/4 time. But the Coventry boys' diction suffers because of the tempo.

THE QUAKERS — "I'm Ready"—"Down the Road Apiece": (Oriole CB 1992): A wild harmonica solo livens up a rather pedantic first side. It's easy-paced R & B with the lead singer taking the limelight. The Leicester lads put more vigour into the Chuck Berry coupling. But it could be any one of a hundred groups.

STEVE BRETT — "Wishing"—"Anything That's Part of You" (Columbia DB 7470): The gap left by Jim Reeves could well be filled by Wolverhampton's Mr. Brett on this showing. But his self-penned "A" side is rather monotonous. He takes a leaf out of the book of the balladeering Presley of a few years back for his interpretation of "Anything That's Part of You."

THE PRIMITIVES — "You Said"—"How Do You Feel" (Pye 7N 15755): Here we have an Oxfordshire-cum-Northants group very much under the influence of the Rolling Stones. "You Said" is not a very strong "A" side. It's better LP material, in fact. "How do You Feel" falls in the same category. But the group has promise.

THE SPENCER DAVIS GROUP — "Every Little Bit Hurts"—"It Hurts Me So" (Fontana TF 530): Two ballad-type R & B songs from Birmingham's top R & B exponents. The "A" side is not as

way out as some of Spence's music and could catch on with enough plucks. The coupling also indicates that the group have an approach that should take them far.

THE CHEETAHS — "Soldier Boy"—"Johnny" (Philips BF 1383): The Brum-based Cheatahs make a bold bid to be different with the unusual "Soldier Boy". There is a big production intro and the number continues in an out-of-the-rut manner. The flip-side also gets away from the conventional group sound.

THE SIZE SEVEN GROUP — "Where Do We Go from Here?"—"Till I Die" (Mercury MF 845): It's an over-elaborate arrangement from the Corby crew on the top track. But their harmony shows they have potential with the right material. The "B" side is given a simpler treatment and proves easier on the ear.

THE EARTHLINGS — "Landing of the Daleks"—"March of the Robots" (Parlophone R 5242): This product of the Hollick and Taylor studios in Birmingham earns full marks for ingenuity and deserves healthy sales. The session group and electronic effects are blended cleverly in the Dalek number. The tune on the reverse is professionally delivered without catching the imagination like the upper track.

THE IVY LEAGUE — "Funny How Love Can Be"—"Lonely Room" (Piccadilly 7N 35222): Birmingham's Carter-Lewis plus one have a big hit on their hands with "Funny How Love Can Be," of course. But have you heard the other side? Their harmony is even more ambitious and certainly sets a challenge to groups wanting to copy it.

DANE HUNTER — "Evergreen Tree"—"Too Late" (Oriole CB 1985): This isn't the sort of stuff Colin York (his real name) sings with Northampton's Apex Group. Unfortunately, it's also not the kind of material finding its way into the charts at the moment. A sickly female voice in the background spoils the "A" side while the other track gets confused in its efforts to be different.

THE ROCKIN' BERRIES — "What in the World's Come Over You"—"You Don't Know What You Do" (Piccadilly 7N 35217): The top side is pleasant enough but lacks that extra something to put it in the same class as "He's In Town." "You Don't Know What You Do" gives us a chance to hear the Birmingham group without falsetto. Both sides emphasise just how much the Berries have improved since their disc debut with Decca.

TORNADOS BLOW OUT

THE TORNADOS, hit recorders of "Telstar", made their last appearance as a group during February. They topped the bill at the Benn Memorial Hall, Rugby, where 24 years old drummer Clem Cattini told Midland Beat's ANDY ANDERSON their reasons for the sudden break-up.

"Two weeks before our appearance here our organist, Jimmy O'Brien, told me he would like a change", said Clem, the group's former leader, and the only one left from the original Tornados.

"We were appearing at Stafford at the time, and Jimmy said he hoped to join Dusty Springfield's backing group, The Echos."

Clem, who had had all the trouble of starting the group from scratch once before, decided there and then that this was the end of the Tornados. "It just was not worth going through the trouble of rehearsing a new group again", he said. Now Clem is going it alone —

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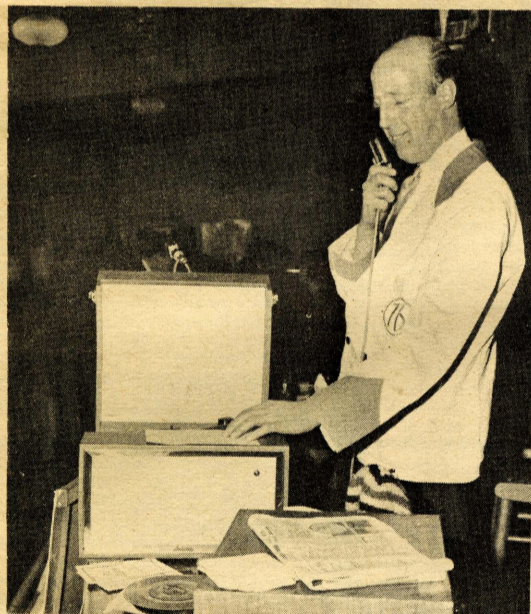
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Arthur's never dull

TOPS with teenagers in Burton-on-Trent is J. Arthur Phillips, the go-ahead Disc Jockey, Manager and M.C. at the town's famous beat haunt, the 76 Club.

There's never a dull moment while Arthur is at the turntable.

Wednesday night is discs only at the 76 Club and Arthur gives away lots of prizes to members. Admission is free on this particular evening. Groups are featured on Fridays (3s.), Saturdays (3s.), and Sundays (5s.).

Situated at the rear of the Mocambo Coffee Bar in High Street, Burton-on-Trent, the 76 Club has built up a membership of 1500 in three years, beat enthusiasts travelling to the club from all over the Midlands to attend the sessions.

TONY D. and the Shakeouts are back in Nottingham after having toured the country backing Lorraine Gray. Pianist Ian Fenn has left the group, who broadcast on the Home Service's "One Night Stand" last month. Now only a trio, the group are concentrating on novelty and close harmony numbers. They think that there is now a marked swing away from beat to a more sophisticated type of music.

Their new style is paying dividends, for not only are they getting rave receptions wherever they appear but they have also been booked for a fortnight in Paris cabaret. This as far as they know is the first time an English group has played in cabaret in France. Joe Meek records the boys this month.

DALESMEN are loosing this area for a six months' tour, and change their names to Some People from the first of March. The tour starts in the West Country before going to Wales for two months, and Devon and Cornwall for July and August. The group have had several changes of personnel in the last three months, and the line up now reads: John McGowen (lead), Terry Keetley (vocals), Brian Cooper (bass) and Gerry Mills (drums).

A "FESTIVAL of Blues" was presented at the Boat Club, Nottingham, in honour of Mike Stocks, and the proceeds from the event went to his widow. Mike was a bass player with several Nottingham jazz bands. He died in a road accident. Groups who he supported were The Richard Hallam Blues Band, Blues and Roots, The Riverside House Band and The Arthur Coyne Jazz men.

SWITCHING to Derbyshire briefly, the new Dave Kaye record is causing something of a controversy. Dave lives at Heanor and often makes the short trip over the border to Nottinghamshire with his group the Dykons. His "In my Way" came in for a hammering on "Juke Box Jury

Nottinghamshire

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

and his spoken tribute to Elvis Presley at the start of the record was ridiculed as comedy. Dave is a great fan of Mr. Presley and his tribute is more than sincere.

NOTTINGHAM'S Dungeon Club continues to bring star names to its patrons. The Original Checkmates, The Applejacks, The Pretty Things, Dowliners Sect, The Yardbirds and Brian Anger Trinity are just a few who have been providing some great sessions. The Pretty Things will have cause to remember their Nottingham trip, for they were refused service in the pub where they were scheduled to give an interview to reporters.

Moving to another hostelry, Phil May, the vocalist, declared "It's worse than segregation" and drummer Viv Prince was particularly bitter because he often used to visit that pub when he lived at nearby Loughborough, but that was before he joined The Pretty Things. Nottingham's Britannia Club also have been booking star names with hit paraders. Them, Wayne Fontana and the Mindbenders and Dave Berry and the Cruisers among them.

BIG Ugly Dane and the Diamonds, backed Brenda Lee at Boston on her last tour, should be recording soon. They will be going to a major independent studio with hopes of an outlet to one of the record companies.

Staffordshire groups do battle

by Roger Bennett

NEARLY 500 screaming, chanting, banner-waving teenagers jammed Stafford's Rising Brook School to offer rousing encouragement to the nine groups doing battle over the title of "Champions of the County."

The swingin' occasion was the Staffordshire Education Committee Youth Service's County Beat Competition.

Nine groups — one from each of the districts in the county — had reached the final.

Judges were "Midland Beat" editor Dennis Detheridge and Mr. E. G. Harris, Midland Executive of A.B.C. T.V.

Winners were The Plus Five The Stoneagers and The "N" Betweens. The judges final decision went to the "N" Betweens.

This Wolverhampton outfit have really shot to the fore in record time and no wonder they have such a following. Vocalist John Howells was more than impressive with his wild version of "Lover, not a fighter" and "Twilight Time" offered an excellent contrast.

In order of appearance: Tony Wade and the Breakers (Roger Jones, Alan Campbell, Sidney Swift, Neil Sutton, Glyn Nixon) Biddulph Youth

Club; representing Leek, Cheadle and Firehill area; "You'll Never Be Mine," (self-penned) and "It's a Long Way to Tipperary." The Kobras (Christopher Abbotts, Stuart Dunn, Tony Humphries, Peter Ward) Bennett Y.C. representing the Newcastle area; "Route 66" and "And I Love Her." The Cobras (Terry Rhodes, Michael Brookes, Melvyn Brookes, Graham Jones), Bilston Stowlawn Estate Y.C.; representing the Tipton, Coseley, Sedgley and Bilston area; "Pretty Woman" and "Always with Me" (self-penned).

The Witnesses (Phillip Dennis, Dennis Rigby, Andrew Smith, Alan Price, Peter Astley), Burntwood Parish Old Scholars Club; representing the Cannock and Rugeley Area. "I'm Crying" and "You'd Better Move on." The "N" Betweens (David Hill, Graham Swinnerton, Donald Powell, David Jones, John Howells, Michael Marson), St. Giles Y.C.; representing the Willenhall, Wednesfield, Darlaston and Tettenhall area. "Lover, not a Fighter" and "Twilight Time."

The Memphis Rockers (Paul Worrell, Paul Preece, Alistair Usher, Martin Peer), Wordsley Health and Strength Club; representing Brierley Hill and Rowley Regis area; "Great Balls of Fire" and "King Bee." The Gingers (Graham Titley, Colin Stokes, Robert Heath, David Bates, Denise Walker), Tamworth Youth Centre; representing Lichfield, Tamworth and Uttoxeter area; "Too Much Monkey Business" and "P.S., I Love You."

The Plus Five (Michael Holland, Alan Dunn, Garry Lowbridge, Bryan Eardley, Peter Owen), Rushall Y.C.; representing Aldridge, Brownhills and Wednesbury area; "What'd I Say" and "Can't Help Falling in Love." The Stoneagers (Philip Reaney, Terence Hamner, David Plimmer, Stuart Howes, Alan Clegg), Granville Y.C.; representing Stafford and Stone area; "I've Got that Feeling" and "A Thousand Stars."

Honours go to Stellites

TOP honours in the North Notts Beat Contest have gone to The Stellites, writes HARRY SHARPE. They defeated five other groups in a final at the Festival Hall Kirkby-in-Ashfield, by the high standard of their playing.

The other finalist were Ritchie Saton and the Devils, The Shakanes, The Ravons, The Dynamic Detours and The Zeniths, who defeated The Bandits from Sutton-in-Ashfield in the final heat.

First to appear were The Zeniths, who concentrated on the big beat. The Dynamic Detours' act was well presented, highlighted by "Walking in the Sand" and "Humpty Dumpty."

R & B in the Bo Diddley/Chuck Berry vein introduced The Shakanes. Fast tempo numbers dominated their act.

The Ravons provided aggressive beat throughout their spot with "Walk in the Room" their best number.

Ritchie Saton and the Devils included in their act numbers designed to show the versatility of the group. Last on stage, The Stellites opened with "Pretty Woman," but it was "Call Up the Groups" that demonstrated their ability to the best advantage.

Judges included Mr. W. R. Jewry of The Carloo Variety Agency and Mr. Stuart Mercer of The Carlsbro Sound Co.

Final placings: The Stellites; The Dynamic Detours; The Shakanes; The Zeniths; Ritchie Saton and the Devils; The Ravons. Prizes were presented by the chairman of the judges, Mr. Barrie Middleton.

**JURY MEN
WANDERING**

WOLVERHAMPTON'S JURY MEN have travelled all over the Midlands, from the Potteries to the Borderland. Their music is a cross between R "n" B and pop, with more than a little leaning to R "n" B.

They are managed by Trevor Horton, who is always on the look out for fresh pastures, and the group find that they are playing more and more dates out of their home area.

The line-up is (left to right in photo) Paul Stewart (rhythm), 20; Benny Sparrow (drums), 19; Frank Littleford (vocals/harmonica), 19; John Elson (lead) 19; and Eric Timmis (bass) 20.

Frank Littleford was co-writer of the first disc by fellow Wolverhampton group THE WOLVES, who record for Pye. When it comes to girls, all five are confirmed bachelors (!).

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Small turnout for 'The King'

Story and
pictures by
Jim Simpson



JERRY Lee Lewis, King of Rock 'n Roll, again held sway at Birmingham Town Hall. The show, featuring well-tryed crowd drawers Spencer Davis and Gene Vincent, had a surprisingly small first house and a capacity audience for the second show.

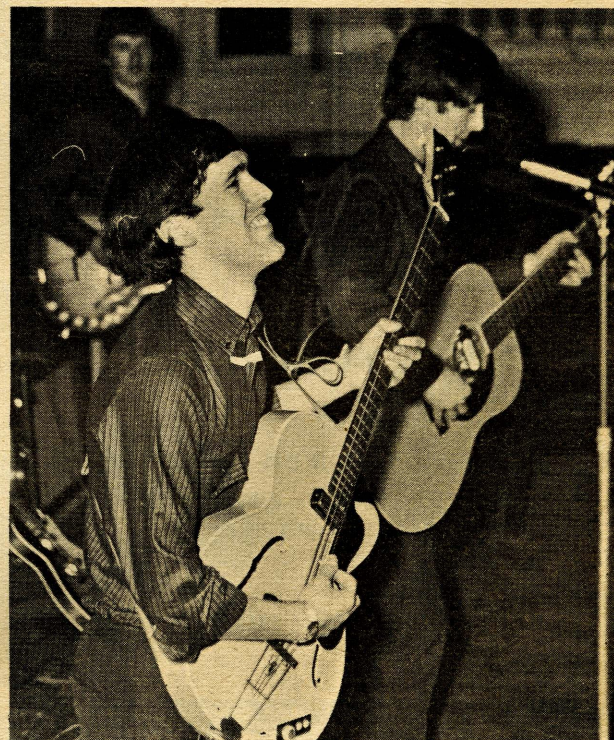
The fans at both performances were moved to the near-hysteria that has now become the accepted thing at Jerry Lee shows.

On this tour, Jerry was backed by the uninhibited Plebs, who, with any luck, might just follow in the footsteps to success of Jerry's previous backing group — The Nashville Teens.

Jiving

Jerry played the whole gamut of his past hits — "I got a Woman", "What'd I Say", "Cheating Heart", and when he swung into "Great Balls of Fire" the audience rose as one to applaud, and the aisles were filled with jiving fans as in the early days of Rock 'n Roll.

The Town Hall must be like a second home to the Spencer Davis Group, but such is the quality of their act, that nobody tires of them. They seem to improve with familiarity. They featured their "I Can't Stand It", which is currently getting a lot of airtime on the better record programmes, but the hit of their spot was the groovy "Every Little Bit Hurts" — a bluesy gospel-song magnificently sung by Steve Winwood and featuring his down-home piano playing.



Above: Spencer Davis Group in action.

Mr. Waller is already a promoter of some pretty hefty affairs at the Cavern Hill on the Bicester garrison.

Judging by some of his successes, these two should be in for some full house signing before long. The R and B brigade, The Howlin' Wolves, were also spotted recently and have prepared demos at the Sterling Cinema, Kidlington for Pye.

THE RISING SONS, who as I mentioned last month have changed their line-up are also due for a demo session at the same place.

RIVERSIDE Beat Club which packed up at the Chequers Bablockhythe, recently, is likely to re-open shortly in Oxford. Meanwhile, the Chequers landlord, Mr. Miller Mead, runs beat dances with free admission every Wednesday, Friday and Saturday.

B.F.P. Entertainments hope to be moving into Newbury during the month with shows at the Plaza. Mr. Banting's reason for this long stretch—the Plaza's manager is a Bampton Castle man! No prize for guessing where B.F.P. are based!

LEICESTERSHIRE

ARTHUR KIRBY,
24 Tolcarne Road,
Leicester

THE PUNDITS who declare that beat groups are on the way out should have been at Leicester University for the packed finals of the Leicestershire Beat Contest.

Six finalists out of an original field of 40 strummed, drummed and hummed their way through 30 great numbers. Winning group The Renegades (Leicester) were outstanding. Managed by Geoff Cox from Braunstone, the lads played like hit parade veterans. Rhythm, harmonica and vocals, Trevor Oakes, lead and vocals, Dave Wilmoth, bass and vocals Rob Weston, drums Shes Simpson.

Second place went to the Colorados, who since the contest have lost two men to the Rockets. The Colorados (Leicester) featured a new song written by the boys which was highly praised by Bert Weedon, adjudicator.

Two groups tied for third place, the Saints and the Black Hawks. The Saints have since disbanded. The Black Hawks (Hinckley) who already feature an alto sax, are thinking of adding a tenor. Other finalists were the Sheremos (Leicester) and The Super-Sounds (Mountsorrel). The drummer of The Super-Sounds was chosen by Bert Weedon to back him in his own cabaret spot.

Number one fan of The Presidents group, Miss Joyce Clark, tells me that the boys are doing great. Bill Orton is now back on lead guitar. The others line up as before: Len Spires - rhythm, Terry Lee - bass, and Tag Cox - drums.

CAROL and the Electrons went out of circulation for a couple of weeks and caused a lot of wild speculation. The group are now back with a bang and on Feb. 25th they go to Birmingham for a B.B.C. audition.

COUNTRY and Western boys, the Dave Johnson Four, are now managed by a well known Leicester personality, George Kingham.

A GROUP with a difference are The Ragtimers. The difference is in the remarkable line-up — guitar trumpet, euphonium and drums. At the Boot and Shoe Club where they made their debut they went like a bomb. Several dates have followed, including one at the brand new Scraftoft Valley Club.

RAVE notices for the Essoldo (Loughborough) Ballroom now under new management. Ken Philpot is the organising genius behind the current success.

OXFORDSHIRE

JOHN STANLEY
90 Lonsdale Road
Oxford

THE CITY of Oxford has a floating population of many thousands of young people all trying to be that further "out".

This, coupled with the city youngsters who hang on, makes for numbers of long haired, roughly dressed outfits, who cater as best they can for these extremists' tastes in R and B.

The groups, sometimes not blessed with much talent, exist only in the vacuum of the society and would certainly die under outside competition.

This, I hasten to add, applies only to a handful who consider it more professional to talk drugs than read music.

As a result, a number of amateur outfits remain anonymous to all but their neighbours, not through inability or lack of determination, but simply because they cannot or will not compete.

Generally, the quality of groups in the county is high; certainly more so than Gloucestershire. Many are talented; one University outfit, the Fourbeats, are spreading wide in the social circle, whole page pictures in the "Tatler" recently and ex-member Doug Fisher now pops up weekly on "Not So Much a Programme."

ON THE more open market, The Primitives must be considered to have a more than fair chance with their second record in three months, which has just been released.

With "Thank Your Lucky Stars", big package shows and expensive publicity, they are rapidly becoming known to the nation. A good, but not yet outstanding group, they have the added assistance of Tito Burns as sole agent.

THE OTHER locally based group on the upper slopes is Mal Ryder and the Spirits.

With broadcasting, TV and three records behind them, they are well known over Britain for three years of professional shows, based more on quality than currently fashionable music.

Manager David Stones who also looks after The Federals, is a strong believer in steady building and often prefers to book for cabaret. The group are talented and are sometimes referred to as a group's group, but after three rather ill-suited records, they still wait to step into the limelight.

Crusaders of Oxfordshire beat must include the Victors and probably the most popular group locally The Falling Leaves. The Leaves have pinned their hopes on their first release.

Under manager Adrian Hopkins from Oxford, they have put up some really successful shows at the New Theatre on London package shows.

The boys, who appeared on "Ready, Steady, Win!" and its LP, specialise in R and B. Sometimes one feels, however, there is need for more variation in their repertoire.

THAT popular group The Planets have finally disbanded and Johnny Evans, their vocalist, has joined The Blue J's from Oxford as a rhythm guitarist.

He is certainly an asset to the group and has just brought new Selmer gear. While playing at the Clarendon recently, these boys were heard by a talent scout and as a result received an invitation to make four demos at Vocalion's expense.

THE BLUE J's manager, Ernest Brown, and Dave Waller, manager to The Ravons are to try joint promotions in Oxford in the near future, starting with shows from the Primitives.

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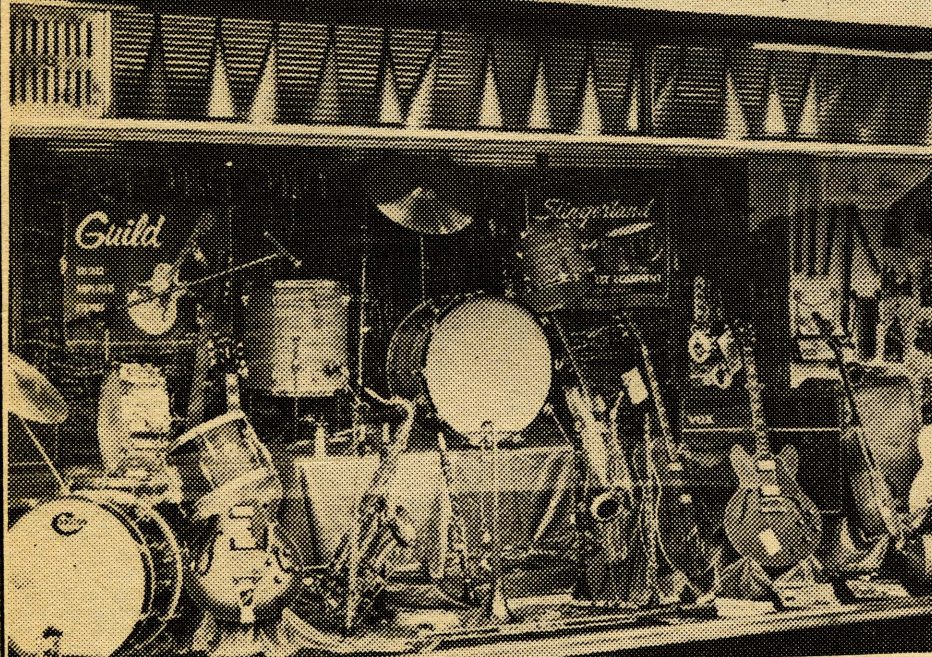
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APEX: popular group with a jazz bias

THE APEX R and B All Stars are, without doubt, one of the most popular jazz-based authentic R and B bands operating in the Midland area. They play at Birmingham University Union; Hen and Chickens, Langley; Leofric, Coventry; Wellingborough Chequers and numerous other venues.

They also appear at their own R and B club, held every Thursday, at the Black Lion Inn, Northampton, which has been the home of the Apex Club for the past eight years.

Leaving

Now, after such a long period, co-founder member Colin York (vocalist/guitarist) is leaving as he has a solo recording contract with Oriole Records.

Replacing Colin on guitar is Allan Lines, a real way out blues man from The Drumbeats. And sharing the singing spot with veteran blues man Frank Short is Johnny Thompson, who is stepping back into the business after five years' retirement.

Line-up

The Apex, winners of a national skiffle contest as long ago as 1957, now line up as follows: leader, vocalist, bass - Frank Short; guitar - Allan Lines; harmonica - Teddy Kench; sax/flute - Kenny Plummer; drums - Pete Solomon; and vocals/piano - Johnny Thompson.



BEAUTY and the BEAT

Lovely, blue-eyed blonde Lea Temple, of Lorie and Lea Temple, a promising vocal duo

As the Cameos, the girls have extensively worked the club/cabaret scene, mainly based on Leicester. Now settled in Birmingham, they are working with various local groups, including The Kingfishers.

Plans are also afoot for them to link up with Solihull's Con-Chords. But if negotiations are not successful, they will be in the market for a high standard backing group of their own. Any offers?

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BEAT BAR

The column that discusses the trends, gives the latest news and group gossip, and helps set the Midland beat scene swinging...

It's just not good enough!

THE SCENE was the familiar one - the clubroom of a Birmingham pub well-known in club circles; at 7.55 p.m. the early beatsters were in, the man on the door was raking in the loot. The group leader arrives.

"Sorry, mate; we can't play tonight. You see, the drummer's ill, can't play. All the gear is at his place in his old car - we can't drive that - got a dicey gearbox. Can't reverse."

Panic-stricken club promoter first checks his tape-recorder well-loaded with current hits, ostensibly for interval use, now his only saving from the Fate Worse than Death, "Money back folks, come next week."

"Where is the car?" "Edgbaston."

★ I'll pay...

"Ten bob in a taxi; plus a tip for the extra weight of a couple of amplifiers; take two taxis, round up the boys. And why didn't you let me know before?" After a moment's struggle: "I'll pay the taxi."

Excuse followed excuse. In a day when nearly every one can be contacted in working hours by courtesy of the firm's telephonists (chat 'em up if private calls are "out"), this promoter could have been warned.

We all know of drummers short of gigs to whom a last-minute offer of a job means the difference between some beer and no beer that weekend.

I know jazz - bands who would march miles to a job rather than disappoint fans. In the R & B field, I remember the late great Cyril Davies coming late to the Hen and Chickens, Langley, owing to transport trouble.

He said, simply, "Sorry, folks. We'll get fixed up and play our hearts out to make up for it."

★ Effort paid off

Here's a story to prove that some groups don't hesitate to put themselves to a lot of trouble to please promoters.

The group not afraid to try

extra-hard, call themselves The Sorcerers and hail from Erdington, Birmingham. One Sunday recently their lunch was disturbed by a phone call from a northern agent who said: "Will you go to Germany for four weeks?"

Although the lads were not prepared, they agreed to go, even within two days notice!

Due to sail on Tuesday, they had to motor in thick fog to Liverpool for work permits and other documents, then back home for a quick meal and to pack their equipment. The journey to Liverpool and back took 13 hours in atrocious motoring conditions.

"It was still foggy when they set out to motor through the night to Dover to catch the ship, which eventually led them to arrive exhausted in Germany on Thursday..."

But it was well worth the effort. The group are creating a stir across the channel: "We are famous in Germany", they report. "Wherever we go the fans are all over us. If we accept all the contracts we've been offered we'll be here for years!"

The Sorcerers, who return here for a short holiday in May, look likely to make their first disc in Germany...

★ Singapore fans

Dreamy break for the Brum Beats.

They had a letter from six lovely lassies in Singapore. W.R.A.C. Private P. O'Grady at Tanglin Barracks, Singapore, and five of her pals, rave about the boys.

"It's great to read in your paper all about the local groups and especially about our favourite outfit the Brum Beats" write the girls.

★ Forming a group?

Are you forming a beat group? If so, you may be interested to hear about the Tombstones of King's Heath, Birmingham, whose spokesman seems to be 20-year-old rhythm guitarist and vocalist Brian Newey.

"About 18 months ago, keen on forming a beat group, I asked two of my friends to join me", says Brian. "We had no equipment, no idea. We saved our money and bought three

cheap, second-hand guitars and started to practice".

But things didn't go too smoothly for this ambitious trio and a couple of weeks later, young Brian passed a pawn shop and glancing in the window, saw his two companions' guitars hanging there.

"I was determined not to give up and I advertised for a second hand amplifier", adds Brian. "And Kevin Rees, now our 18 year old lead guitarist, harmonica and vocals, got in touch with me".

Soon the couple were joined by drummer Roger Craythorne and as a trio they practised at Brian's home. But the drums were too much for Mum and within a few nights, she threw the learners out....

"We eventually found a hall in which we could practise", continues Brian, "and we worked hard for about four months. Having no bass, we didn't get many bookings. But then Brian King joined us on bass. Now we are doing very well."

Moral: If at first you strike wrong notes, strum, strum, strum again.

★ Our Joy Strings

HAVE you heard the Joy Strings? If you haven't, then try to... because this group of Salvation Army "minstrels" really do have a swinging sound. I congratulate them.

Now I hear that the Midlands has an answer to the Joy Strings. They are six boys and two girls who set the place alight at Nuneaton Salvation Army headquarters, Leicester Road, Nuneaton.

Leader of the group, who call themselves The Persuaders, is Mr. Ken Bebbington, who told me: "We do not claim to be as good as professionals. We simply want to put over the gospel of Jesus Christ in a modern and lively way".

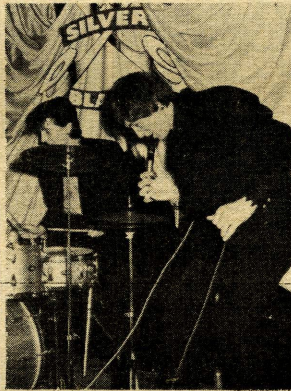
Why not? THE BEATLES have joined Stourbridge's Dave Lacey and The Corvettes.

I'm referring to the fan club of this popular and pleasant Worcestershire group.

George, Paul, John and Ringo have agreed to become Honorary Members of the Corvettes Fan Club, c/o. 186, Church Hill Road, Handsworth, Birmingham.

Plectrum

DAVE'S RAVES



The most enthusiastic crowd ever to attend the Silver Blades Ice Rink, Birmingham, surely must have been that present to see the third Big Beat Night starring Dave Berry and the Cruisers.

Feet were tapping and hands clapping very early on to Beat Limited and top Midlands disc jockey Ricci the Dee kept the spirit moving with another lively programme.

The Cruisers started the main act and when Dave Berry came on he found he had a somewhat unusual stage on which to play. He was able to wander at will. This drew more screams from the fans. All in all, a fabulous evening.

Pretty blue Brian

DISAPPOINTED beat boy is Brian Gulliver, former leader of Brian Gulliver and his Travelers, now with Les Jondors, the group who used to appear as the Roving Saracens.

Brian had high hopes of one of the major disc companies releasing a disc he had made with top session men in London.

"I recorded 'Pretty Things' and a song written by Worcester group The Hellions called 'Shades of Blue', says Brian, fiancé of Janice ('Thank Your Lucky Stars') Nicholls.

"I was told that one of the big companies would issue the disc with 'Pretty Things' as the 'A' side. But nothing has happened - except that E.M.I. have put out a version of the song by Birmingham's Danny King."

DRUMS



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But Chuck never lit up!

Story and picture by Jim Simpson

CHUCK Berry arrived in Birmingham for his Hippodrome concert fresh from a series of incidents with previous audiences.

Though these were not repeated here, neither audience was as large or responsive as we might expect on a Chuck Berry tour. This, coupled with a somewhat jaded approach, make another big Berry hit record desirable before another tour is arranged.

In the second house, he failed to come on stage when announced. This left his backing group in the unenviable predicament of having to fill in seven minutes to an audience already impatient for Berry.

Fortunately, the Five Dimensions, rose to the occasion with the same aplomb and efficiency they had shown all evening; they were loudly applauded.

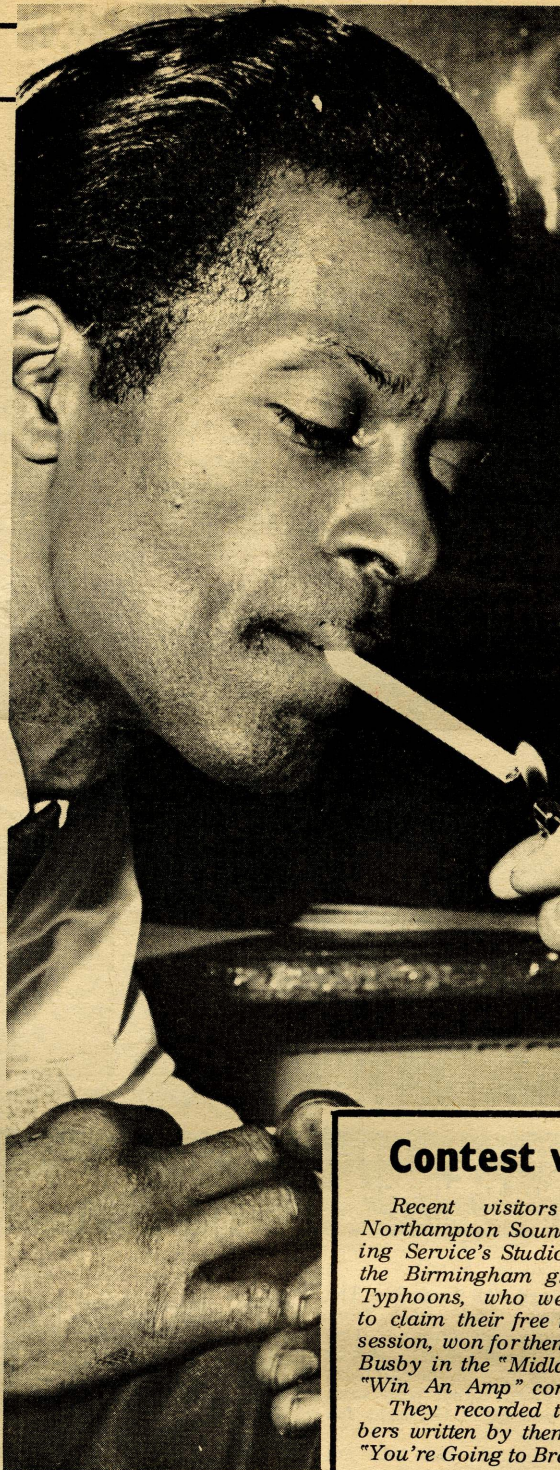
When Chuck eventually appeared, he repeated his first

house programme which lacked a vital spark.

The Moody Blues were superb. A lot of hard work has obviously gone into the Moodies' well-balanced, slick, and very commercial act.

The Graham Bond Organisation and Long John Baldry's Hoochie Coochie Men, are both convincing advocates of their individual styles of jazz-based blues. Graham Bond has a potential hit on his hands with "Tammy." Playing alto and organ simultaneously, Bond achieved a fantastic sound for only a four-piece group. Drummer Ginger Baker and tenorist Dick Heckstall-Smith are two of the most exciting players on the scene, while Bond's blues-shouting on such ravers as "Stormy Monday" was superb.

The outstanding feature of the Hoochie Coochie Men is their magnificent rhythm section — Ian Armit, Pete Blannin and Eddie Taylor.



This is a 'must'

A "MUST" for all Midlands Spectacular, the largest demonstration of music in Birmingham, on Tuesday, March 10. A complete display of Guild Guitars will be on view to the public. The demonstration will begin at 8.30. Playing at the Guild Spectacular are all Birmingham music institutions: Sandford Group, The Count George Kish. "Midland Beat" photographer, members of local groups, his story and photographs "Midland Beat."

KNOW YOUR DEALER

MANSFIELD, the town where Shane Fenton and the Fentones originated, has many up-and-coming groups. They get plenty of encouragement from Eric Smith, proprietor of Hardy Smith's music shop. The business was started over 40 years ago by his father, Hardy, in Mansfield's town centre.

Eric commenced his musical career at the tender age of five years, playing drums with guidance from Mr. Smith senior. At the age of six, he decided that he would like to play violin, thus following in his father's footsteps.

At eleven, the accordion became the great attraction and within two years, he was taking an active part in his father's accordion band.

A H... FOR...



Then Eric took up the saxophone, which, in a few days, was the main attraction. He graduated from his father's dance band.

Contest winners claim their records

Recent visitors to the Northampton Sound Recording Service's Studio 36 were the Birmingham group, The Typhoons, who went along to claim their free recording session, won for them by John Busby in the "Midland Beat" "Win An Amp" competition. They recorded two numbers written by themselves — "You're Going to Break Down

and Cry" and "Jupiter" — and each member of the group took home a demo disc as a souvenir.

Now we have received this letter from Mrs. Joyce Busby, manageress of The Typhoons, of 35 Simms Lane, Hollywood, near Birmingham.

"We should like to thank Mr. Jack Harrison and

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'MB' Championship entry form

ANNOUNCING a contest every group will want to enter — THE "MIDLAND BEAT" CHAMPIONSHIP. It is to be held at four leading Midland ballrooms and puts a record release within the grasp of every group.

For the outfit carrying off the Championship will be given a recording test in the studios of one of the major recording companies — apart from receiving other attractive awards.

The contest will be staged at the following ballrooms: Plaza, Handsworth; Ritz, Kings Heath; Plaza, Old Hill; and the Brum Kavern.

Full details of the Championship — first heats will take place at the beginning of next month — will be published in the April issue of "Midland Beat." Meanwhile, groups wishing to enter should complete the form below and post it to us without delay.

"MIDLAND BEAT" CHAMPIONSHIP

Entry Form

To: "Midland Beat" Championship, Midland Beat, 110 Wake Green Road, Moseley, Birmingham, 13.

Name of group:

Leader/Manager:

Address:

Please tick ballroom preferred for heat: Plaza, Old Hill. Ritz, Kings Heath. Plaza, Handsworth. Brum Kavern.

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beat musicians is the Guild station ever organised by Boosey & Tamm at Digbeth Civic Centre, Birmingham. Tickets are available from music stores — will be the Donny and Ex-Bob Miller star, Jim Simpson will be taking pictures attending the demonstration and will appear in the April issue of

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JOHN GIBBINS.

ing session

off of the Northampton Recording Service for patience and persistence during the recording session. We were given consideration and highly recommend them to any group wishing to make a recording.

A photograph shows the group making their demo in Studio 36.



WELSH

A NEW FEATURE ON THE SCENE IN WALES

BEAT

It's a man's music

THE SOUTH WALES sound is muscular, wild, a BIG sound. Like the terrain.

Beatmen SHOUT because they still remember the ballrooms and dance-halls in the Afan, Gwynfi, Rhondda, Aberdare, Merthyr, Rhymney, Gwent Eastern, Gwent Western valleys where the sound sometimes failed.

They are TOUGH because a musician may often catch a girl's eye and her boy friend may not have heard of the Marquess of Queensbury.

It is a man's music, with none of the pretty choral harmonies of the Ivy League and the Beach Boys.

Tom and the Squires know the score. As Tommy Scott and the Senators, they were the Pontypridd boys who travelled furthest, oftenest, most dizzily among the blasted landscapes of South Wales.

They are now making good sense among the fresh fields and pastures new; others can do the same.

Tony Miles, music writer once employed with Dick James Music, now moved from Charing Cross Road to New Bond Street, London, has sited his

own latest venture over a shop in Caroline Street, Cardiff. He has recording equipment and all the means to boost. He thinks he has the group to follow Tom.

The Mountain Men come from Gilfach Goch, they have a mountain goat that they keep at Barry Zoo.

The goat went with them to London recently when they recorded "Bald-Headed Woman" and "Cell 39" for Dick James. The numbers are penned by themselves.

The Sons of Adam are a different proposition again. They were the first boys in Cardiff to grow their hair down to their shoulders.

Song-writer Joey Escott, who used to record with the Gentlemen - has produced three new numbers for them which are, says manager Johnny Blain, certain to take the boys into the big-time.

Joey, through his recording days, has links with Pye — which could be good news. Johnny may be prejudiced. George Sharland who made the

tapes and takes the Sons' publicity pictures may be licking the hand that feeds him, but my ears don't lie.

Down West, they do things differently. Recently, Qualiton Records opened a new plant and among their first acquisitions were The Bystanders, a Swansea group. The Bystanders are melodic and melodic is always a bit of a risk. But it could happen.

The Midnighters, of Cardiff already have a silver disc, if everybody who has scratched a name on their van buys a copy.

There is a sort of Grand Guignol humour in the titles they give themselves these days, too. The Road Gang (used to have a singer called Jack Tar-honest) Lawrence and the Arabians, The Sect Maniacs, The King Beez, Vance and the Vaqueros (where d'they come from?) The Purple Hearts, dozens of Dominoes, Rebels, Halfbeats, Easybeats, Heartbeats, Backbeats, Deadbeats.

In the coming months, I am hoping to introduce you to them all.

are breaking into a national circuit with gigs at the Brum Kavern and week-end visits to Wales. They plan a full day's recording session in London soon, and will soon be guesting at Mole's, the beat club that has arisen from the remains of the old Black Horse tavern, Lowesmoor.

DOUG CLARK, lead guitarist of one of Bromsgrove's earlier groups, the Citizens, has joined the Wester Suedes. It is understood he was a likely candidate for 'The Herald's' recent vacancy.

A SECOND Bromsgrove group — The Nomads — are preparing for a recording trial in April. But they will not sign on anything but the most favourable terms. With bookings so abundant at the moment, they can afford to choose the best time to turn professional.

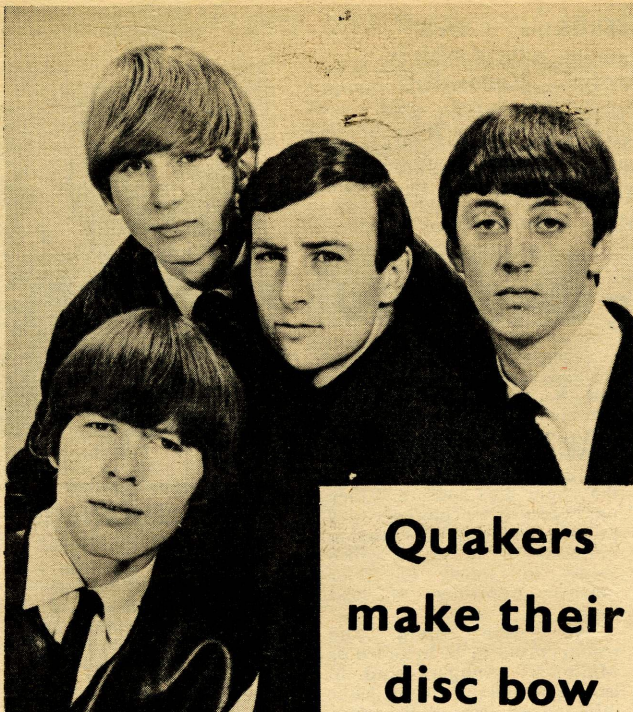
NEWCOMER to the Bromsgrove Cellarmen is rhythmist Butch Halfpenny. He takes the place of Kev Fryer, a founder member who was reluctantly released on compassionate grounds — involving study and, it is rumoured, romance. Butch joins Phil Hobbs (vocals), Dave Joyne (lead), Dave Simpson (drums) and John Collins (bass).

WORCESTERSHIRE

**GRAHAM JONES,
91 Lansdowne Road,
Worcester**

BEAT fans were disappointed last month, when Worcester's Lakes Inn lost its music licence and beat dances were banned at the Guildhall. Unruly behaviour was partly to blame for both clamp-downs.

UP-AND-COMING group these days are the Klik. They were out of circulation for three weeks while Robb Klottrup (bass) took important examinations, but came back with a vengeance for Worcester Carnival Committee's first Young People's Dance of 1965. Now the Klik — billing themselves as a "folk and blues" outfit — have an offer of a tour of U.S.A.A.F. bases in Spain, and



**Quakers
make their
disc bow**

One of the latest Midland Groups to make their disc bow are The Quakers, the Leicester group whose first record is now out on the Oriole label.

"A" side is a Muddy Waters composition, "I'm Ready", and the coupling, "Down the Road Apiece," is a Chuck Berry original. Both are R & B.

Undeterred by an unsuccessful recording test at Philips Records last March, the Quakers went to Northampton's Studio 36 in August to make their own demo disc. "It was as a direct result of

this test that we were signed by Oriole," says their vocalist and harmonica player, Dave Dene. "After three sessions in their London studios we had two sides accepted for release."

Dave's fellow Quakers are Terry Muse (bass), Skrep Perks (drums) and Mick White (lead). They sum up their musical approach thus: "We play R & B material in the main but we make it danceable."

The Quakers are well-known in Loughborough, Grantham, Hinckley, Leicester and Melton, but they have also appeared as far afield as London and Skegness.

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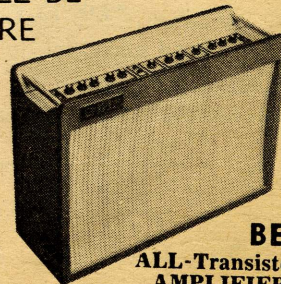


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GER 1633 — Phone — GER 1633

Dear Sir...

THE ROCKIN' MARTELLS support many of the top groups and recently rushed to Tamworth to support Mike Sheridan and the Nightriders — with less than one hour's notice ... Miss P. Truman, 10, Keverdale Grove, King's Heath, Birmingham.

Why no word?

WHY have you failed to mention anything in your paper about the Beat Routes Rhythm Group (Rog, Vic, Bas, Jeff, Mick and Dave)?

They have two singers who have plenty of style and the backing is also good... Yvonne Evans 101 Sunderton Road, King's Heath, Birmingham.

Club for Sprites

WITH the help of 'The Sprites' a new fan club has now been established for Sue Downes and the Fabulous Sprites.

Anyone interested in becoming a member should contact June and Linda at 84 Hurstbourne Crescent, Wolverhampton, Staffs. Thanks ... Miss Pauline Tudor, 92 Deansfield Road, Wolverhampton.

For old folk

I HAD the pleasure of listening to The Marshalls from The Broadway, Witton, recently. They were entertaining a party of "Over 60's" at Wyrley Birch Community Centre.

They did a good evening's work and were greatly appreciated singing new and old songs and I think these boys should be given some encouragement ... Mrs. J. Wheeler, M. Rogers, N. Bennett, F. Payne, L. Green and Mr. Rogers, Gipsy Lane, Erdington, Birmingham.

Scope in Germany

I WAS recently in Germany with the Ashes, who have been playing the Storyville Club, Cologne. I visited the Storyville

STAR LETTER

What's wrong with YOU?

WHAT is wrong with Midland teenagers today? They seem unmoved by rapid changes in the field of groups and music and stick rigorously to the old, and terribly outdated stuff.

They are so unaware of the changes going on around them, and so unappreciative of new trends in music, which makes them look so stupid compared with the up-to-date trendsetters of the provinces.

Little wonder then, that the big groups stay away from the Midlands. As far as getting through to these youngsters is concerned they are beating their heads against brick walls. They just have no meaning for these people.

Recently we had the good fortune to see and hear a group known as The Tea Time Four from Norfolk, who were playing at a club in the Midlands.

in Frankfurt to meet the owner of these clubs, Mr. John Marshall.

During our talks I mentioned the fact that his club had been the subject of a write-up in your newspaper and I was able to show him the issue concerned.

He was also interested in some of the groups mentioned and there is certainly a good deal of business in Germany at the moment for the right groups ... Ken Crosby, E.C.C. Entertainments, 97 Westfield Lane, Mansfield, Notts.

Mark Mark

EVERY month I read your fab magazine and I like the way you write about the groups in the Midlands. Many of the groups are not as well known as others, but you give the fans a chance to hear about new groups.

What about an article on Mark Fayne and the Fontaines, a fab R and B group from Nottinghamshire? ... Miss Carol Hart, 5, Rivergreen, Clifton Estate, Nottingham.

Our pleasure...

ON BEHALF of The Kingfishers and myself, we would like to thank you and your staff for your kind service and attention towards the Kingfishers. We all appreciate it ... E. Busby, Secretary, The Kingfishers, 78, Sydenham Road, Sparkbrook, Birmingham 11.

POTTERIES

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

NO SOONER do we recover from one bombshell than another explosion rocks the local pop scene, the latest one being centred around Lance Harvey and the Kingpins, who had appeared to be coming up to the crest of a wave.

The group had passed an audition for a one-month trip to Germany in March, embracing the Storeville Beat Clubs in Cologne and Duisburg, when Lance Harvey announced his intention of leaving the outfit, partly because he didn't want to go to Germany and also because he hopes to marry in the not too distant future. Lance says "I am cheesed off with the group scene, working like hell and getting nowhere in the rat race". He would like to become either a solo artist in club and cabaret work or featured vocalist with a resident band.

While an anxious search was going on for a replacement, lead guitar Alan Saunders suddenly announced that he too had no wish to go abroad and would be leaving the group at the same time as Lance Harvey. Alan said he wasn't prepared to go to Germany for the fee stated and that working hours were too long. Then vocalist Roy Grant was recruited from Terry King and the Saints and lead guitarist Keith Turner. The reconstituted group will now go to Germany as arranged, but meanwhile Terry King seeks a replacement vocalist.

ALAN SAUNDERS will be joining drummer Phil Hassall, bass/vocalist Trevor Millward and vocalist Pete Lavick, who will also double on rhythm in a new group yet to be named but which will play a similar type of programme to that of the Kingpins, including C and W. The group will start off on a semi-pro basis.

CARL MANN and the Candyman have signed a 12 month contract with the Barclay Record Company

"Midland Beat" welcomes letters which provoke discussion. Starting this week, we are offering an LP of the writer's own choice to the sender of the month's best letter.



The Rockin' Martells — see first letter.

Congratulations

I WOULD like to congratulate you on your very successful magazine. I am very interested in Birmingham groups and I find that "Midland Beat" is the only paper. That gives me the information I want to know.

A very good friend introduced me to "Midland Beat" in March and ever since I have had it every month. I would not miss it.

I have mentioned your magazine to many of my friends and they find it interesting too. Please continue with the good work, and keep the Birmingham fans happy.

Miss Vicki Sanders,
Broomhall Crescent,
Hall Green,
Birmingham.

good joke. Their act often consists of songs they wrote themselves and these are first class. The only thing that worries me is why the tag "Ugly's" is used for such handsome boys ... Elizabeth Nicole, Moseley, Birmingham.

Manhattans

I WOULD like some information on the fabulous group The Manhattans, whom I have seen at the Bilston Town Hall and Handsworth Plaza.

Also, can you tell me if they will be appearing anywhere in the near future ... Miss C. Wyton, Hanover Road, Rowley Regis, Blackheath, near Birmingham.

What about Stars?

I HAVE "Midland Beat" every month and there are some very good pop groups in it, but I've not yet seen the Shooting Stars, a great group. Let's have a picture ... Lynda Steele, 37 Rosedene Drive, Handsworth Wood, Birmingham 20.

Swinging group

AS A FAN I cannot understand why Nottingham's wonderful R and B group Blues and Roots are never featured or mentioned in any way.

This swinging group have their own club every Friday at the Nottingham Boat Club and from March, when Blues and Roots began to play, they have been playing to capacity ... L. Else, Nottingham.

Barbara is a fabulous singer and she is backed by the remainder of the group in vocals.

I would like to congratulate you on the grand and wonderful job you are doing for the many Midland groups with "Midland Beat".

But how about devoting more space to "Brum Beat"? ... Miss A. Avery, 39 Pitfields Road, Quinton, Birmingham, 32.

Enjoy 'MB'

WE WOULD like to say how much we enjoy reading "Midland Beat" ... Suzanne Thomas, secretary, Cosmos Fan Club, 53 Reddings Lane, Tyseley, Birmingham, 11.

Pictures, please

COULD you please publish a photograph and some information on the new group called The Spartans. I have heard them play at our local dances and I think they're fab, especially the drummer, Chris ... Miss Mary Chambers, 61 Oakenshaw Road, Redditch.

Not so ugly

THE BEST group in the Midlands is without a doubt The Ugly's. They're fab-looking, can play any type of music and are always ready with a

which guarantees them minimum release of two E.P. discs in France. When these discs are released the group are expected to take up semi-residence on the Continent for promotion purposes. A and R man Bobby Graham is most impressed with this show group, which will become an even "wilder" outfit centred around lead guitar character Lonnie — he really has to be seen to be believed! Bobby Graham is also extremely impressed with new organist Ian Holding and intends using him on session work.

NEWCOMER to The Hypnotics is rhythm/vocalist David Wright, more recently with Vicky and the Night Hawks.

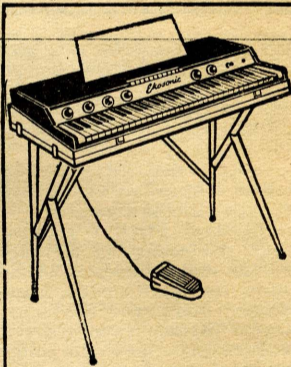
POPULAR rhythm guitarist/vocalist Ricky Norman of the once popular pro-group The Electrons, which unfortunately disbanded sometime ago, tells me he wouldn't mind "having another go", but this time on a strictly semi-pro basis.

GROUP well able to defend themselves are The Secrets, exponents of judo, having been trained by their manager, George Tinsley, himself a Brown Belt. George has recently been appointed general manager of the Top Twenty Club in Longton.

Johnny Gregory, of Hanford's Bulls Head Hotel has inaugurated a once monthly Thursday star show, kicking off with the Vernons Girls and Christina Mitchell on the February 18. Also tentatively lined up are The Avons, The Kestrels and that delightful young lady Jackie Trent.

WITH drummer Mervyn Galore, vocalist/rhythm guitarist Gary Rogers has formed a new group, The Big Daddies; personnel being completed with Ray Pearson, bass, and Les Code, lead, both having been recruited from The League. Possibility, too, of a sax and a girl singer being added. Accent will be on C and W ballads and R and B.

WITH the recent opening of Top Twenty Club the Golden Torch in Tunstall and the Top Rank Suite in Hanley, the battle for patrons in the Potteries will become more intense and will be interesting to watch; meanwhile the Top Rank Suite got away to a fine start with a Saturday Light Programme late night broadcast on the first week it opened, by its resident band, Bob Potter and his Music with vocalist Gordon Somers.



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THE MOTIONS

BRUM BEAT

Introducing from the heart of Midland beatland

BY POPULAR demand — a column about the beat scene in Birmingham. There's plenty to write about. The chart successes of the Rockin' Berries and the Moody Blues has given Brum groups new hope.

Surfing sound

SETTLING down in Brum again, having been on tour in Scotland, are Andy's Clappers. The group have a diary well-filled with engagements throughout the Midlands.

Feature of the line-up is their female member, Jan Jeffries, on organ and piano. The others: Dave Kaye (bass), Roy Saywood (lead), Andy Preston (rhythm) and Roger Smith (drums).

Favourite music of Andy's Clappers is the "surfing sound" — songs in the idiom of those recorded by the Beach Boys. They tell us they are recording four numbers in this style.

Local beat fans wanting to hear the "organ-ised surfing sound" of Andy's Clappers should lend an ear to them while they have the chance. They are finalising arrangements for a visit to Spain and Portugal.

Bottled..!

ADDING an electronic piano to extend their range of

sounds are the Rockin' Martells Rhythm Group, who have had the standard guitar line-up since their formation in the Maypole-Hollywood area of Birmingham.

Apart from doing well with the group, singer Dave Brecknell is making a name for himself as a Top Rank dee-jay. He spins the discs at the Saturday mid-day sessions at the West End Ballroom.

How did the group get its name? "Well, it was really cribbed from a brandy bottle," one of the rockin' Martells reveals.

Personnel: Roger Gee (drums), Dave Brecknell (vocals), Phil Copestake (bass), Alan Palmer (rhythm), and Gess Hood (lead).

Capital move

A CHANGE of name and personnel for The Diamond Boys. They are now known as The Capitals, and the change in line-up has been brought about by the decision of rhythm guitarist Alan Clark to leave the group.

A spokesman for the Capitals explains: "Alan is leaving to study the guitar to an advanced level and to take a well-deserved rest from the stress and strain of group life."

But we understand that the Capitals will not be replacing Alan with another rhythm guitarist. They are thinking of widening their scope by introducing an electric organ or pianist.

The group have an all-Marshall amplification line-up,

by Pete Gittings

Fender guitars and Ajax "new-sound" drums — aimed at giving them "the clean, crisp sound of '65 to take them to the top."

Proud of Brum Beat

PROUD that they play Brum beat and not Solihull sound, that's The Con-Chords, from Acocks Green, winners of the "Midland Beat" contest at Birmingham's Locarno Ballroom.

Founded in their present form about 12 months ago, The Con-Chords have achieved a high standard of musical performance and general presentation.

Says their manager, E. F. Doyle: "Since the beginning of June, 1964, the group have played every Monday evening at the Civic Hall, Solihull, and there is no doubt that a large

following of fans has been built up in that area.

"This has probably led to the general belief that we are a Solihull group, whereas in fact most members of the outfit live in the Hall Green-Acocks Green areas of Birmingham.

"We are still under contract to play the usual Monday evenings at the Civic Hall, an engagement which the boys really enjoy."

Popular Dominoes

HAILING from Quinton, The Dominoes are setting a hot pace in the area. They have supported such big names as Eden Kane, Vince Eager, Sounds Inc and The Merseybeats.

As well as being popular in Birmingham, The Dominoes have played concerts in South Wales, Corby, Northants, Evesham and Worcester.

Line up of the outfit: Ernie Gamble, lead guitar-singer; Bob Gamble, bass; Derek Chambers, rhythm-singer; and Tony Edwards, drums.

Leaves with Dad

Boll Weevils' rhythm guitarist has left along with his father, who was manager.

The group continue as a trio until a new rhythm is found. It comprises: Pete Webb, drums/vocals; John Rowlands

bass/vocals, and Jeff Nicholls, lead guitar/vocals. All are Erdington lads.

New manager for the group is Mr. R. A. Webb, of Great Barr, Birmingham.

Bob impressed

AT A recent function held at Sutton Coldfield Town Hall, Bob Miller and the Millermen were supported by The Crescendos, featuring Janet Anne and Johnny Collins.

Bob Miller was very impressed by Janet Anne's singing and he finally persuaded her to sing the recent Petula Clark hit, "Downtown", with the Millermen.

150 not out

THE THIRD anniversary of a weekly beat dance held at Weoley Castle Community Centre has just been celebrated by the Couriers.

That's a fine record, 150 not out, even snow and ice of the 1963 winter failing to stop the regular fans from supporting their favourite group.

Disbanded

AFTER their New Year's Eve booking at the lush new Brierley Hill Youth Centre, Johnny and the Alpines disbanded after nearly four years.

PETE & The NIGHT-HAWKS

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PETE & THE NIGHTHAWKS



The JIM SIMPSON Column

WHERE are Birmingham's girl singers? While the male front flourishes there is hardly a female face on the scene. Though there is the odd girl who plays or sings with a group, where are our Cillas and Sandies?

Are Birmingham's girls content to idolise the groups rather than seek fame and fortune for themselves? Whatever the reason, I cannot believe that this city's girls are devoid of talent.

FEBRUARY 24 saw the uniting of jazz, rock and Rand B to raise money for the Lord Mayor's Appeal for Mentally Handicapped Children. On this date, Birmingham's Tek City Jazz Club, at the College of Advanced Technology, featured an unusually attractive and varied programme.

Among the jazz groups were London's Original Downtown Syncopators plus Charlie Galbraith, while the representatives of pop music were the Spencer Davis Group, Mike Sheridan and the Nightriders and Jimmy Powell. These, with many others, performed without fee, and all proceeds went to the West Midlands Society for Mentally Handicapped Children. Soon I fully expect two of these groups to make a sizeable dent in the Hit Parade.

In early February, Spencer Davis' third record, "Every Little Bit Hurts", was released. This is a bluesy gospel song featuring Steve Winwood on vocal and piano. The song is by the American negro hot gospeller Brenda Holloway, and has been recorded in response to a fantastic number of public requests.

This disc has two "A" sides. The record company cannot decide which is the better. The other number is an original called "It Hurts Me So" — an easy swinger in 6/8 time. They also have their first LP released soon, which includes a track featuring Millie, entitled "The Gong Gong Song."

ANOTHER recent release is the latest offering by Mike Sheridan and the Nightriders — "Here I Stand." This beat ballad features their own very



On the Beat Bo Berry

PHIL MYATT is unlikely to join the Moody Blues Fan Club ... Don't expect Carl Wayne and Keith Powell to form a mutual admiration society ... Rockin' Berries sorry they didn't record "Funny How Love Can Be" as a single ... The Morgue hasn't proved such a dead loss to John Singer ... Applejacks wise not to record "Chim Chim Cheree" and "Baby's in Black".

IRONIC that the break-up of Birmingham's Diplomats - should coincide with fantastic chart success of Moody Blues, whose lead singer is ex-Diplomats leader Denny Laine ... Did you spot the deliberate mistake (s) in last month's "Midland Beat"? ... "The Observer" should have checked their facts before writing about Brum Beat.

VIC WAKELIN will never appear in Gillette advertisements ... Eric Delaney rang "Midland Beat" to see if we could recommend a girl singer ... Former Bruisers' vocalist-pianist Bobby Corral now with Wednesbury's Tremors ... Name changes: Birmingham's Sapphires are now The Typhoons and The Wanderers have become Sounds 65.

NEW suits for Stourbridge group Dave Lacey and the Corvettes also a new drummer, Chris Hayes, ex-Raiders from Kidderminster, replacing Dave Little ... Lead guitarist Bobby Breeze moved to The Raves on break-up of Sutton Coldfield's Chessmen ... Musicians welcome to "sit in" at Saturday lunch time jazz sessions at Birmingham Arms.

Members of Stourbridge's The Puritans are still at school... Break-up of the Shades Five a loss to Midland beat scene ... Staffordshire group The Precincts used to be known

as The Aristocrats... Swindon's The Avengers inform us they have become The Roosters ... Ex-Brum Beats member Christopher H. Scott-Reed forming own group ... Argentine Republic release for "I Should Know Better" by Keith Powell and the Valets.

RINGWAY Music are the store happier by £2,000 as a result of the Deuces Wild re-equipping ... Brierley Hill group Tony King and the Olympics have parted company with manager M. Heaton ... Northampton singer Dane Hunter, recording for Oriole, is managed by Ruby Murray's husband, Bernie Burgess, ... Rave report received about Derby's Four Aces ... Full marks to Corby's Size Seven for excellent publicity brochures ... Ralph Horton didn't like newspaper article describing him as Moody Blues "nanny and cook".

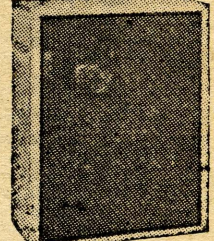
JIMMY Powell appearing with the Five Dimensions ... Redditch group The Spartans now The Shux ... Tommy Smith provides drums and "assorted noises" with Burton's Ricky Topaz and the Diamonds ... Two members of the Ivy League - they have a hit with "Funny How Love Can Be" - are Birmingham boys. Drummer Tony Borg has taken over from Kevin Spence with Notts group Vicky and the Kordettes ... Staffordshire group The Vanguards - average, age only 15 - have completed a century of bookings... Fan club formed for Great Barr's The Shooting Stars ... Sue Downes sings with The Sprites - not the Spirits ... In search of a manager - Stourport group The Exits, formerly known as The String Beats.

Bill White, 28 Erdington Hall Road, Birmingham 24. The members of the Ebonites were all born in Jamaica and are now a big success at cabaret, dances and private parties in the Midlands.

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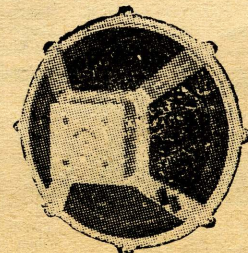
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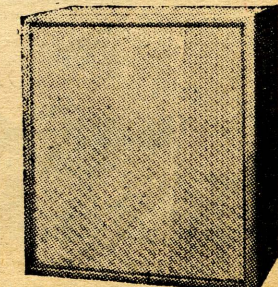
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GLOUCESTERSHIRE

Special report on

JOHN STANLEY,
"Leiden," Harp Hill,
Cheltenham

County of make-believe pop pedlers

GLOUCESTERSHIRE has a population of some 921,000.

Even when one has excluded all but the young, who are interested in pop music, the figure should be high enough to produce at least one or two groups of above standard quality.

Not so. It would appear that the only Gloucestershire youngster recently to achieve national fame is Rolling Stone Brian Jones, a native of Cheltenham.

If it were a county with few groups, there might be an excuse for this lack of success, but in fact Gloucestershire has a healthy batch of enthusiasts.

So why not someone from this area?

Although primarily the blame lies with the groups and their managers, some must fall with the fans, who are often impossibly slow to show appreciation to a group who try other than the standards in beat music.

AT THE giddy heights of local success, The Saxons

and The Talismen are on much of a par. Both have assured me that genuine records are due to appear before long.

The former is quite a fair outfit with Joe Meek connections and a very long list of demos. The Talismen, under contract to Shal Talmay, of Kinks fame, have a very straightforward sound which is noisy but pleasingly simple. Neither are outstanding.

AMONG the others. The Roadhogs, Dimensions of Sound and The Gophers are all triers.

The Roadhogs have a limited following because their more extreme tastes in R and B are not appreciated by many of the locals.

Basically, though, a hopeful group. For those who don't mind a group who enjoy a little fun The Gophers are on their own.

Originally a jazz band, they offer a sense of aliveness with their shows which is lacking in so many others. Reasonable music, a group popular with

quite a large number of promoters in the Midlands.

Another outfit with faint possibilities are The Advocates from Lydney; four with a very ordinary sound, but a certain determination which has changed them a good deal in the last few months.

THE TALISMEN'S achievement in winning the first "Midland Beat" poll produced sour grape comments from groups and no attempt to retaliate at the next poll.

If the idea of forming a group is just for amusement and pin money, fair enough. Go ahead and enjoy it.

But if intentions are for a record, T.V. shows and fame, local groups will have to do better than this. At the moment, Gloucestershire is — a county of make believe pop pedlers.

AS a county, Gloucestershire is quite well blessed with functions, despite the remoteness of some areas, and every night of

the week can account for action somewhere.

Excluding the Bristol area, package shows pay regular visits to both Gloucester and Cheltenham and among the venues where named artists are the policy are Cheltenham Town Hall and Stroud Subscription Rooms, which are linked with Jay Bee clubs.

Interesting, that despite a giddy list of big timers who appear at Cheltenham Town Hall, the two box office draws were The Hollies, followed by neighbours from Oxford, Mal Ryder and the Spirits.

Municipal policy's to encourage the smaller artists as either support groups or for the great Sunday Showtime.

I ASKED journalist Paul Davies, who was for six years manager of the well-known Beatniks, what he felt of the local scene.

He told me he booked three groups a week at the Glevum and fifty per cent of the Gloucestershire Guild Halls work, apart from his managerial interests in the business.

To him, the Advocates and the Dimensions of Sound seemed to be the most reasonable, but if he wanted to book a good group, he had to go to either Bristol or Birmingham.

The local fans appeared to have only really woken up in the last two years to the existence of beat music; before then there was nothing.

THE FOREST of Dean, though rather remote, has active interest in the beat game and boasts The Concordes, The Advocates, The Chainlinks, Rob and the Zeros, Barry Castles and the Castles, and Martin Nichols and the High 5.

There are the popular Memphis 4, who run the Tuesday Club at the Feathers, Lydney.

Shows are also staged at the Town Hall, Lydney, and one of their promoters, Doug Oldfield, also looks after most of the bookings for three of the above mentioned groups.

None of his groups travelled far because at the moment none would offer enough to make the journeys worth while.

Recent example: they were asked to go 150 miles for £12.

ENIGMA are The Ramrods from Cheltenham who have been going for six years without getting far. They appear to have a surprising following and a hopeful future.

GENERALLY then, Gloucestershire beat is still sleeping in the rolling Cotswold Hills and has yet to prove itself capable of competitive group music.

This is not to say that it cannot, but just that as yet it has not yet done so.

So all you West Country Wonders, skip the frills and get down to the business.

STAFFORDSHIRE

ROGER BENNETT,
23 Lichfield Road,
Walsall

THE WOLVES off to America? This could well be the astonishing headline for this most sought-after Wolverhampton group — although it may be a good way off yet.

Copies of their second Pye disc, "Now", have aroused the interest of several New York D.J.'s and three big agencies there. This is the news that Pye gave a delighted Geoff Jacobs, adding that it might be worth while making the trip over there.

The group's manager will now fly out on May 30 for a three week trip. The boys have just landed a summer season contract at a Weymouth holiday camp and their manager aims to see them settled in there before he leaves. The group will be featured at the camp from May 22 to September 20.

Following their accident last month in which John Eades took a spell in hospital, Adrian Wigley was brought in as replacement. His lead organ work has improved the sound so much that Geoff intends him to stay when lead guitarist John returns.

First single from Steve Brett and the Mavericks, is on Columbia, called "Wishin'", released at the beginning of February. Flip is "Anything that's Part of You." Steve penned both numbers. Watch for bigger and better things on disc from this boy.

Steve first crashed the scene on "For Teenagers Only." With the "old" Mavericks he was resident singer on the show for quite some time. When he parted from the group Steve soon gathered some more musicians around him, sticking to the name of The Mavericks. The five he chose were at the time The Memphis Cut-Outs. They were Nod Holder, Philip Burnell, Gerry Kibble, Peter Bickley and Terry Taylor.

AT WOLVERHAMPTON recently two groups took a dive. First Derrie Ryan and the Ravens decided to call it a day, making a last appearance at The Majestic, Wellington, and then The Jonquill Five split up after eight months.

Some go, yet others come. Five Walsall boys have got together to form The Studants and are coming into the limelight.

LATEST group to hit the road the wrong way are Wolverhampton's Montanas — and the crash that did it kept this extremely talented unit out of action for almost a month. The boys were on their way back from Stoke and had almost completed their journey when the accident occurred.

Their vehicle went off the road in Tipton and hit a lamp standard. Lead guitarist Bill Haywood went through the windscreen and had nine stitches in his face. Terry Rowley, bass guitarist, also received treatment for slight injuries. The boys missed dates at Torquay, Nottingham, Luton, London, Leicester, Stoke, West Bromwich, besides their home town.

THE COBRAS, of Bilston, need not be disappointed at not gaining a place in the Staffordshire County Beat Competition. For a group who have been together for only two months, it was no mean achievement in reaching the final to represent their area.

In the contest they performed one of their own compositions, "Always with Me", and Roy Orbison's "Pretty Woman". The boys pride themselves on being up to date in performing Top Ten numbers — but they never give a new number an airing until they can get it as near the record version as possible.

Forming the group who put quality first are Mick Brookes on lead, Mel Brookes on rhythm, Terry Rhodes on drums and Graham Jones vocals. They hope shortly to make a demo disc.



The Studants

PROMOTING the group scene at its best, four Staffs groups earn full marks from me. They are The Vista Sonics, Beat Ltd., The Vampires and

The Swinging Sounds. At a Bilston dance to raise funds for the National Society for Cancer Relief all four groups gave their services free. A fine effort.

KENNY BALL and his Jazzmen played both Wolverhampton and Walsall recently. The Wolves supported him at the former and The Sonnets and The "N" Between at the latter.

NORTHANTS

JACK HARRISON
36A Spring Gardens,
Northampton

After criticising the lack of appreciation of groups by local fans, I have received a letter from the organiser of "Beat 65" club in Kettering suggesting that groups in this area are so good that to get applause they have to be exceptionally good.

He names one or two groups falling into this category: The Formula Five, who have a highly varied and entertaining programme; The Size Seven, who have a disc out on the Mercury label; plus The Cascades, Freeman, Invaders, 2 Men, Barry Noble and the Sapphires and Roy Black and the Senators, all of whom are based within a ten mile radius of Kettering.

The letter goes on to say that fans at "Beat 65" show their appreciation by going back week after week and once a month, to show their appreciation of the fans, "Beat 65" put on a name group at a financial loss.

THE FIRST anniversary of the Studio 36 label was marked by a dance at the Maple Ballroom. The evening began with a rousing hour by The Skyliners. Next on stage were The Kordettes, who skillfully prepared the way for the entrance of their charming little singer, Vicky. Last on stage were The Martins, who had brought with them a coach-load of fans.

In all it was a very successful venture and more Studio 36 stars will be brought back in the future, though they will probably come of their own accord to take part in a contest being arranged by the Maple Ballroom, a recording contract being offered as a prize. Watch "Midland Beat" for further details.

OWING to the recent slump locally, several groups have decided to hang up their instruments, leaving a few odd musicians who wish to continue. As a result, a new group is now in practice, consisting of local guitar teacher, Mark Griffiths, late of the "So-and-So's" and two former Drumbeats, Tony Maycock (vocalist) and Dave Holland (drums).

THE FIRST local soloist on disc came out at the end of January on the Oriole label. He is Dane Hunter, who used to sing with the Apex as Colin York. His record of "Evergreen Tree" should do well with the reputation he has built up over the years as a singer and guitarist.

BORDERLAND

AUSTIN POWELL,
Station House,
Bucknell, Salop

LEOMINSTER'S newly-opened "J Club" is run by cafe owner Roger Jahn. His club is situated in a beautifully decorated cellar, with soft lights and barrels as tables, low ceiling and benches around the sides.

The club was opened last December by the "Ups 'n' Downs" and the Mayor of Leominster's daughter (seen together in the photograph). Mr. Jahn has presented groups from Bristol, Liverpool and Brum at the "J". The club was opened by the Mayor of Leominster and the Ups 'n' Downs were the first group to appear there.

HEREFORD'S Hells Angels continue to do good business. Once known as Carl Wayne and The Sundowners, the group play mainly Rock 'n' Roll. They have been in existence since September, 1961, and it was in May of '63 that they became Carl Wayne and the Sundowners. In October of the same year they were taken over by manager Stuart Smith and about six months ago became Hells Angels.

Now a further name change is likely so as not to clash with two other Hells Angels groups.

As Llandrindog Wells' Night Tyme Blues bow out, a new group start under the name of the Viceroy's Van-dels (Ironbridge) feature 15-year-old Lesley in the act now exit Hereford's



Ups "n" Downs with Mayor of Leominster's daughter.

Johnny Saint & the Senators Ex-Mark Anthony & the Senators drummer Bobby Hall, now playing for Kidderminster's Clippers Shrewsbury's Wildcats now the State Blues. Groups in Montgomeryshire include The Kodax, The Checks, The Alpines Oswestry Victoria Rooms featured Mojos Leominster Vampires may change management soon.

Shropshire's Greasers, F. B. 3., Delharmonics and Clubmen working well now. The area is soon to be the scene of the annual Beat Contest sponsored by the "Wellington Journal and Shrewsbury News" with quite a lot of groups having entered. Last year's winners were Mark Antony & The Senators, now disbanded, so the field is wide open for new boys.

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

DESPITE the ban imposed on P. J. Proby recently, three promoters have taken dates on him for appearances in Norwich. Surely that's enough exposure for anyone.

THERE'S a new sound in the Contours. Johnny Byles, well known local tenor player, has joined the group. Former rhythm player Al Thorne has taken over on bass guitar. The new line-up is proving to be very successful. The boys have rejoined the Norwich management organisation that they left last autumn.

MIKE Patto, ex-Bluebottle now on a solo career, was back in Norwich recently. His new disc, "Thinking of You," on one of the E.M.I. labels, was scheduled for release at the end of February and appearances on "Ready Steady Go" and other pop TV shows are being lined up. Mike hopes to follow up this disc with a number that Graeme Edge, one of The Moody Blues, has promised to write for him.

ANOTHER ex-Bluebottle, Ronnie Day, is now organist with The Puppets. They are currently touring the Mediterranean. Radio London and Caroline have been giving a lot of plays to their recent release, "Can't Walk Gotta Run" on Pye.

NORFOLK impresario Jack Barrie has left the Atkinson Barrie Organisation to concentrate on the management of Mike Patto and his other big interest, The Tea Time Four. The Agency is now handled by Alan Lockwood. Alan, together with Andy Field, pianist/vocalist with The Continentals, appeared on

Anglia TV. The programme took the form of an inquiry into music, and show business personality Steve Race answered questions on modern trends put by Alan and Andy.

THE Continentals have just returned from a week in Newcastle at the Club a'Gogo, one time haunt of The Animals.

LUCAS and the Emperors are shortly to record two original numbers which they have been featuring on stage. These have impressed John Sparkes, now with Dick James Music, and the Emperors are hoping for big things in the future. Their Yarmouth club now has attractive Bunny hostesses. The Emperors are favourites at the University of East Anglia and are due to appear on several shows with Ronnie James and the Nighttimers, who pulled in a good crowd at the Orford in February and will be down there again very shortly. Return visitors to the Orford Cellar include Graham Bond, Alex Harvey, Zoot Money and Long John Baldry.

SATURDAY and Tuesday nights at the Gala Ballroom, Norwich, feature the best of local beat and top attractions from London and the Midlands. The Debutantes, an all-girl group, appeared there with Ricky Southern and C. B. O. Incorporated and promoters Ray Aldous and Geoff Walker continue to put on first class shows.

WARWICKSHIRE

DENNIS G. MORGAN,
c/o Leamington Spa
Courier,
Leamington

IS THE beat boom dying in Coventry? Rival promoters seemed to be divided over the question. David Owen, Top Variety agency, said: "It's on the way out. The trend in the city is for dance trios and quartets playing many types of music, and folk music."

But Mick Tiernan, of Friars Promotions, commented: "All our halls are doing well and I don't think beat is dying. The public are getting more choosier in who they go to see, however."

Folk clubs are springing up all over Coventry and they are literally packin' 'em in. Irish showbands, too, are climbing the popularity ladder.

MIGHTY AVENGERS' third disc was released on February 26. Titled "Blue Turning to Grey," it has trumpets and maracas added to the sound.

THE PICKWICKS have a very efficient secretary in Lorna Gilchrist, who wrote asking me why there was so little news about "one of Coventry's top groups" in "Midland Beat."

COVENTRY'S Establishment group have acquired a new bass guitarist, Barry Kingsbeer, who used to play with the Chicanos (now Gerry Levene and the Avengers).

CHADS have been offered a further three months' bookings in Germany after their recent successful trip.

APPEARING in Germany at the moment are another local group — the Mad Classix — who wrote home saying that the scene was tremendous and they were going like a bomb.

NEW group are Hell's Angels. Line-up: Frank O'Sullivan (vocals), Roy Allbrighton (lead), Robert Hodgkins (rhythm/harmonica) his brother Roger (bass) and Barry Llewellyn (drums).

CLUB opened at the Weddington Hotel, Nuneaton, proving very popular; likewise the Bamba Club in Coventry.

MIGHTY Avengers returned to a favourite haunt with regular Tuesday night date at the new Club Caroline at the Walsgrave Hotel, Coventry.

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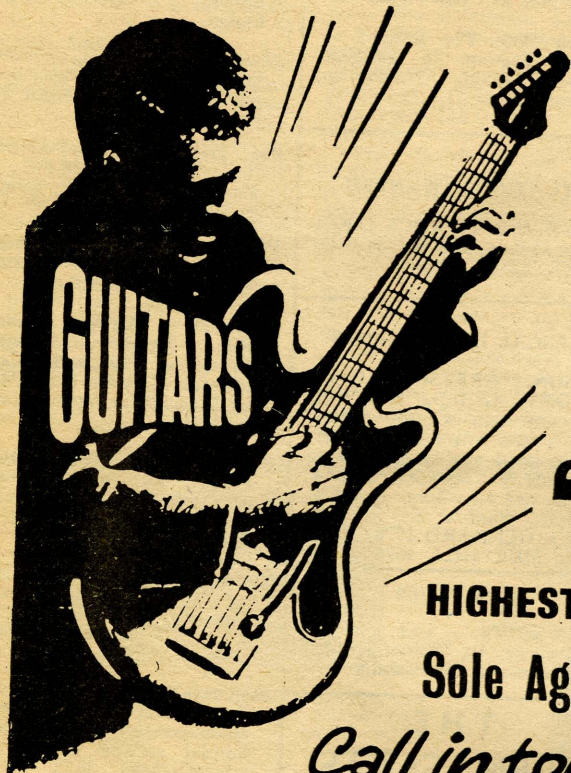
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