

# MIDLAND BEAT

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 MOSELEY, BIRMINGHAM, 13.  
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## PULL YOUR SOCKS UP!

THE results of our poll to find the groups' group confirm the esteem with which members of the Spencer Davis Group are held by members of other outfits throughout the Midlands. The way Spence and company have swept the board in the poll is a tribute to their ability.

The challenge that now faces the best scene in the Midlands is to produce another group of similar calibre during 1967.

But it will not be an outfit who copy Spence who make it. Imitation may be the sincerest form of flattery — but it's not the way to get to the top of the hit parade.

It must also be accepted that one does not come across a musician of the ability of Stevie Winwood every day. The way he has carried off several sections of the poll is a remarkable achievement.

What a shot in the arm it would be for other Midland groups if they could all boast a Stevie Winwood in their ranks!

However, a group is basically a team affair. There is room for individuals to shine, of course, but the overall sound depends on the contribution made by each member.

Therefore, any group in which everyone pulls his weight stands a chance of getting on. It's those with someone letting the side down who will never get anywhere.

So what better New Year Resolution could be made by a member of a local group than really to pull up his socks in 1967 and get down to the job of helping his group emulate the success of the Spencer Davis Group.

Then maybe it will be YOUR group who will steal all the honours in our next popularity poll.

## THE DIARY WITH THE ANSWERS

DO you know how many groups and singers connected with Birmingham have made records? There is only one place where you can find the answer to this intriguing question. Yes, it's in the "Midland Beat" 1967 Diary.

For the diary, which costs only 3s., contains a list of just about every group or

singer in the Midlands that has recorded for a major record label — the only list of its kind ever compiled.

And anyone wanting to avoid adopting a name for their group that is already being used by another outfit in the Midlands will find the diary a real boon because it gives the names of every

group on the "Midland Beat" Group Register.

There are still a few copies of the "Midland Beat" 1967 Diary left. One can be yours by sending a 3s. postal order, payable to "Midland Beat", to "Midland Beat" Diary, 110 Wake Green Road, Moseley, Birmingham 13.

### Barr Enterprises

#### -Silver Blades

It is regretted that Silver Blades Ice Rink and the Heart Beat Club were omitted from the list of venues for which Barr Enterprises act as sole booking agents, in their half-page advertisement in the December issue of "Midland Beat."

We apologise to Pete Gittings for any embarrassment caused by this error and wish to assure readers that Barr Enterprises continue to enjoy a very successful association with Silver Blades Ice Rink and the Heart Beat Club.

## The Coventry Scene...



The Craig's Len Cox and Richard Pannell at the County Arms, Blaby.



Geoff Brown of the Craig in close-up at the County Arms, Blaby.



"Organised" group the Matadors in action at the Walsgrave Hotel.

## MERCIAN AGENCY

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MERCIAN AGENCY, 120a, COVENTRY ST.,  
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Expect another EMI release early in the New Year from the Vogues, those versatile Brum lads managed by Den Caney. The boys have been working on several numbers with their A & R man, David Paramor. It has not yet been decided whether the "A" side will be an original or a song from the Italian charts.

BEST WISHES TO  
**THE SECRETS**  
 with  
 "I SUPPOSE"  
 from  
**BARR ENTERPRISES**

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FOR ten years now, Birmingham has been rated as the Midlands mecca of beat.

But now, with many of Brum's clubs complaining of falling attendances, there comes a far different story from neighbouring Coventry, whose clubs report a rapid upsurge of support.

This is quite remarkable, considering the strict precautionary measures taken by the Watch Committee following the Nuneaton tragedy last year.

Coventry is unique in that almost all of its pop spots are held in public houses — there are no clubs such as Brum knows.

### Limitations

This situation arises as a direct result of the attendance limitations imposed by the Watch Committee, together with other restrictions which make the launching of clubs possible

## ... is on the upbeat

by **JIM SIMPSON**

only to large concerns, such as breweries.

Nevertheless, the scene is really building up, says Brian Ridge, manager of Coventry's leading agency Friars Promotions.

"We now run 31 clubs, operating altogether seven nights a week. The scene has grown so healthy that we now run our own clubs as far afield as Leicester and South Wales."

### Fanatic

Friars two directors are renowned Coventry trumpeter Jack Hardy and Mike James.

Despite his jazz and dance-band upbringing, Jack takes an almost fanatical interest in the groups he books to his clubs.

In fact, he is at present engaged in writing arrangements for the Birmingham group The Locomotive who, along with other groups such as Way of Life and Giorgio and Marco's Men, are proving great crowd-pullers in Coventry.

### 50 a week

With over 50 gigs a week available to groups in a comparatively small area, Coventry should provide a happy hunting ground for groups wanting to get in on an exciting scene, where it certainly appears to be "all happening".

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## THEY ALL MAKE IT - YARDLEYS -

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OR  
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## CRASH! But the show must go on...

REMEMBER that photograph of the D'Fenders' new van in "Midland Beat" just a few months ago? Well, it's no longer "the pride of the D'Fenders."

It was severely damaged in an accident in which the group were lucky to escape serious injury.

The van went out of control when a front tyre burst. It smashed into a garage, rebounded into a lamp post and ended up in a garden wall.

And the boys emerged with nothing more than slight shock.

Despite the £1,200

vehicle being a virtual write-off, the D'Fenders were relieved to find that the only equipment damaged was the P.A. column speaker, two microphone stands and a couple of guitar cases inside which the instruments were quite intact.

With the help of Burgess and Garfield, who loaned a replacement van, the lads were on the road again within 48 hours, fulfilling their engagements with most of their usual equipment plus some replacement gear provided by Jones and Crossland.

## THREE YEARS' DRUMMING -AT FOURTEEN!



One of the youngest drummers in the Midlands must surely be 14-year-old Kelvin Barnes. But this pupil at the Bishop Milner School, Dudley, can already boast three years experience. In fact, he is well-known at clubs around the Midlands.

Kelvin is a self-taught drummer but he reads music and is having piano lessons. His aim is to pass examinations as a pianist so that he is a complete musician.

With Mr. C. Hewitt, of Yardleys, Snow Hill, Birmingham, to guide him in the choice of his kit, Kelvin has settled for

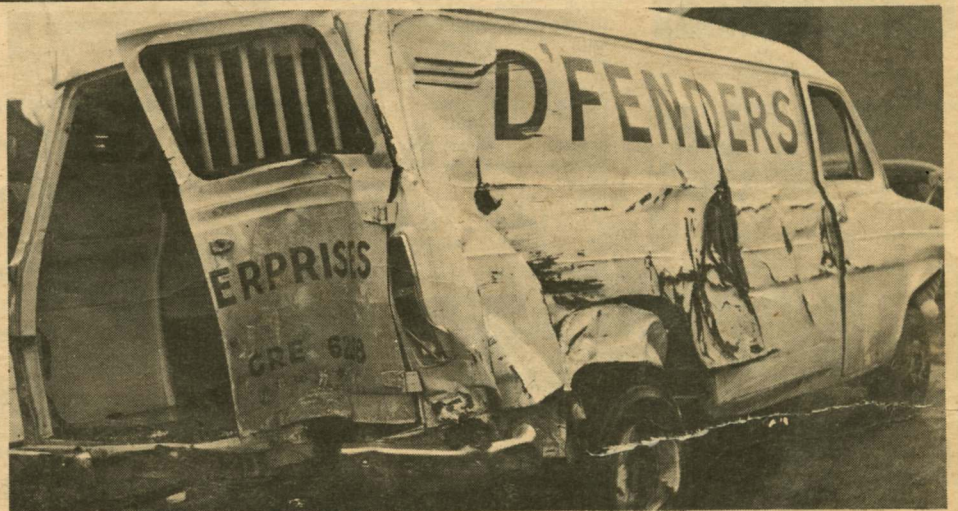
Premier, whose Leicester works he recently toured to see just how drums are made.

Kelvin's ambition is to play with a top-line band and to win a poll against all the other drummers in the country. He's passed an audition for ABC TV's "Opportunity Knocks" and is resident drummer with organist Ernie Smart at the Parkes Hall Social Club in Dudley.

So watch out for Kelvin Barnes. He's on the way to the top!



The D'Fenders' van — before the crash



.... and after.

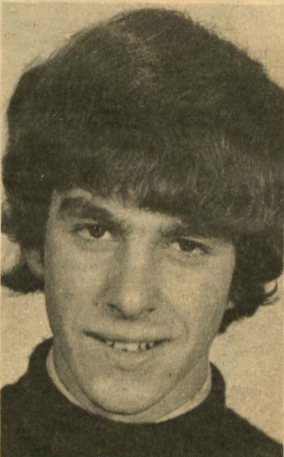
**MEET THE GROUP**

**Sooz Blooz**

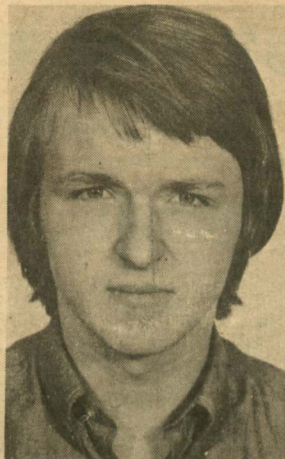
Look out, Bobcats! Another schoolboy group attracting the attention of the recording companies are Sooz Blooz from Sutton Coldfield. With the shrewd management of successful businessman John C. Harris behind them, the group has good reason to look forward to an eventful year.



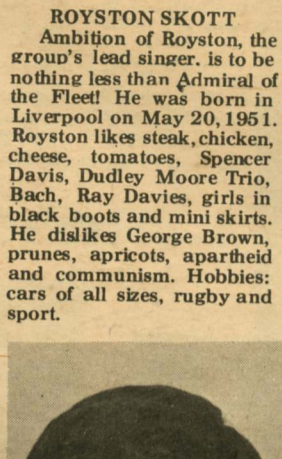
**JOHN HARRIS JNR**  
Son of the group's manager, John plays rhythm guitar with Sooz Blooz, but gained experience as a drummer in the States. His ambition is to be an actor. Born on May 31, 1953, John likes fast cars, blues, modern jazz, playing drums, beanz and tea, birds, sleeping, loud groups, drummers and mini skirts. He dislikes Bach, apricots, cheese, long car journies, getting out of bed and short hair. Hobbies: playing guitar, sketching



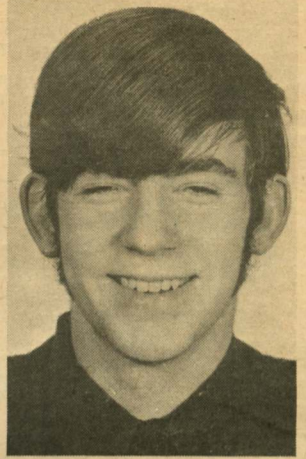
**DAVE COLLINGTON**  
Drummer Dave states that his ambition is simply "to get to number one." He was born in Nottingham on September 25, 1950. Dave likes fish and chips, cheese, Walker Brothers, the Stones, Spencer Davis, the Who and Lennon and McCartney. He dislikes James Brown, K.K.K. and snobs. Hobbies: sports cars and football.



**CLIVE ANDRE**  
Born in Birmingham on March 7, 1950. Clive is the Sooz Blooz lead guitarist. He likes girls with brown eyes, modern jazz, blues, clothes in blue, tea by Mrs. Harris, fast cars and mini skirts. Clive dislikes sweet music, old nags and soup. Hobbies: guitar, sleeping and birds.



**ROYSTON SKOTT**  
Ambition of Royston, the group's lead singer, is to be nothing less than Admiral of the Fleet! He was born in Liverpool on May 20, 1951. Royston likes steak, chicken, cheese, tomatoes, Spencer Davis, Dudley Moore Trio, Bach, Ray Davies, girls in black boots and mini skirts. He dislikes George Brown, prunes, apricots, apartheid and communism. Hobbies: cars of all sizes, rugby and sport.



**SYME DUGGAN**  
Born in Leicester on February 12, 1950, Syme plays bass guitar with Sooz Blooz. He likes Watneys Red Barrel, Kent cigarettes, watching good groups, Booker T, Spencer Davis, parties and people. Syme dislikes shaving, waiting for buses, wearing suits, bad coffee and George Brown. Hobbies: collecting instruments, playing the guitar and spending money.

**THIS MONTH'S BARGAINS**

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**Flash cars... Christmas cards...and dentists!**

SOOZ Blooz manager John C. Harris must have the flashiest car in the business... The Driving Influence chuffed at being called upon to "dep" for the Ugly's on only their second booking... Impressive "Kidderminster Times" supplement on the Secrets helped to launch their new CBS disc with local fans. **FIRST** Christmas card at "Midland Beat" office came from Northampton's Apex Group... Andy's Clappers' forthcoming U.S. trip is not an exchange involving the Beach Boys... Phil Myatt sees too much of his dentist for his liking!

**NEVILLE** Tustin's latest venture is a debt-recovery service called Debts The Midlands... Ex-Avengers organist Peter London was one of the artists in the first all-Midland edition of the new "Take A Bow" series on the Light Programme.

**FASCINATING** single, "Rubber Band," on Deram by David Bowie, managed by ex-Denny Laine and the Diplomats manager, Ralph Horton... Yardbird Club reopened at the Mercers Arms, Coventry, with the Ronnie Scott Quartet... Why can't "Big Fat Len" have "snazzy" trousers off the peg like the rest of the group?

**TOMMY** Cullinane is the new manager at Birmingham's Silver Blades Ice Rink... Bobcats played in teenage fashion department at Grey's store in Birmingham... Fan mail for the Vogues from Sweden, Poland and Singapore... Move's explosive act criticised by "Birmingham Planet."

**MIKE** Dolan reveals Listen's three-year agency contract with Tito Burns of the Harold Davison office guarantees them £35,000 in the next three years... Mrs. Iris Pryke will be sadly missed... Why did John Singer travel to Wales by train?

**WHAT** do the Move think about Listen?... The Rest are far from alsorans...

**On the Beat with Bo Berry**

D'Fenders, Lymies and Ugly's just three groups to have expensive van mishaps... Lots of letters to "Midland Beat" raving about the Nazz. **WILL** the next gimmick be Grannie Lynn and the Idle Race?... Geno Washington should pull in the crowds at the Cedar Club this month... Not so barmy: Barmy Barry, highest paid deejay in the Midlands...

**WHY** does "Midland Beat" secretary Rita Wickett always buy a packet of cigarettes on the 1st. of each month?... D'Fenders meetings Few and far between... Have La Renards gone down the fox hole?  
**AGENTS** Mike Carroll, Pete Gittings and John Singer visited Germany within a month of one another... Thursday sessions at the Raven, Shard End, packing 'em in... A group to watch: the Agency... Good luck with debut disc, Bobcats.

**MACKADOWN** reopens with a bang on January 18... Great to see both the Move and Listen in Birmingham's Top Twenty... Dougie would look cute in some of his shop samples... Ray Willets now runs Beat Groups (Birmingham) Limited.

**DEN** Caney has appointed Roy Foulger as the Vogues' promotion and road manager... Rockin' Berries back from Germany for pantomime season at Stockton...



Can you recognise the faces in this gimmick photograph? They belong to one of Birmingham's best-known groups. Turn to page 11 for the answer.

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Have You Kept Every Copy of "MIDLAND BEAT" since publication in October 1963? Back issues can be obtained from: "Midland Beat."

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**Midland Beat Ten-Pin League**

	Won	Lost	Points
1. TOMBSTONES	30	14	60
2. TIERNEY'S FUGITIVES	28½	3½	57
3. MIDLAND BEAT	22	9	44
4. THE NAZZ	21	23	42
5. ANDY'S CLAPPERS	18½	17½	37
6. THE APPLEJACKS	10	10	20
7. JENNY & THE PACK	9	11	18

Hi-Game team: Tierney's Fugitives 664; Hi-Series team: Tierney's Fugitives 1811; Ind. Hi-Game, Mick Gilmore 219; Ind. Hi-Series, Graham Walsh 554.

Matches are played at the A.B.C. Bowl, Stirchley, every Sunday at 12 noon.

**SOOZ BLOOZ**

All Enquiries to —  
**JOHN C. HARRIS**  
28 Belwell Lane, Four Oaks,  
Sutton Coldfield, Warks.  
Telephone: FOU 1411

Happy New Year



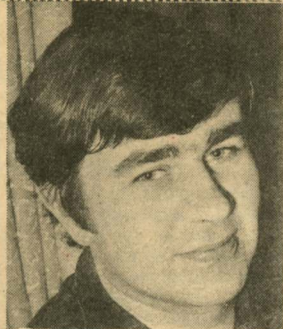
**The Spencer  
Davis Group.**

P.S. Thanks for the votes

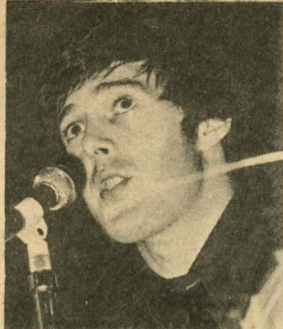
Steve. Spence  
Peck



GERRY FREEMAN  
Joint top drummer.



PETE YORK  
Joint top drummer.



SPENCER DAVIS  
Top rhythm guitarist.



JANET ANNE  
Top female singer.



DAVE PEGG  
Top Bassist.



MIKE BURNEY  
Top "other instrument".

Pete Gittings of Barr Enterprises  
congratulates

**JANET ANNE**  
of THE SHOWMEN

on her Second Successive Poll Award as the  
Midlands Top Female Vocalist

Congratulations to

JANET ANNE

on being voted the

Midlands Top Female Vocalist

from the

**SHOWMEN**

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CONGRATULATE  
DAVID PEGG

on being voted the

MIDLANDS BASS MUSICIAN

OF THE YEAR

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'Midland Beat' Poll results

**SPENCER DAVIS VOTED THE GROUPS' GROUP**



STEVIE WINWOOD  
Top male singer, lead guitarist  
and organist.

**Stevie Winwood wins  
three awards**

TAKE a bow, the Spencer Davis Group! They have swept the board in the "Midland Beat" poll to find the most popular group and individual instrumentalists in the Midlands.

Apart from winning the group section in our "Midland Beat" Awards poll, they have won five of the individual sections, establishing themselves as undisputed idols of the members of other Midland groups.

Stevie Winwood wins no fewer than three awards — as top male singer, lead guitarist and organist.

Spencer Davis is favourite rhythm guitarist and Pete York is joint winner of the drum section with Gerry Freeman of the Applejacks.

Winners of the other Awards are: Janet Anne of the Showmen (female singer), Dave Pegg of the Ugly's (bass guitar) and Plainsmen tenor saxist Mike Burney (other instrument).



**STEVIE WINWOOD**  
**AND THE SPENCER DAVIS group chose**  
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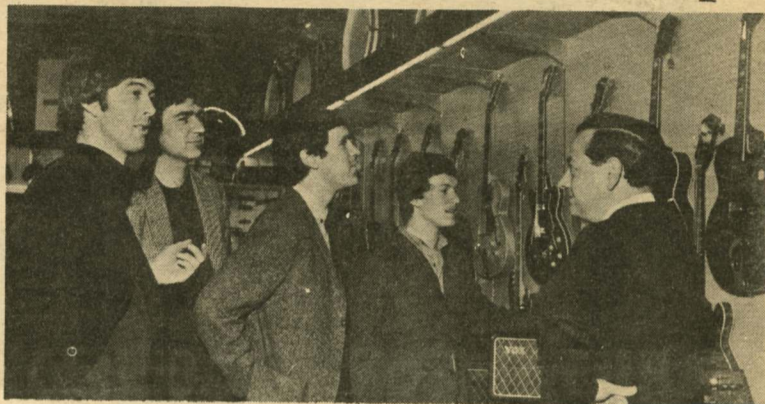
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the Spencer  
Davis Group  
p Group



**JONES & CROSSLAND**  
*congratulate*  
**The Spencer Davis Group**



on being voted  
**The Best Group in the Midlands**  
and applaud Spence, Stevie and Pete  
on their individual successes

Also Well Done

**DAVE PEGG**

OF THE UGLY'S

in winning the Top

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*Dear*

*Sir,*

ABOUT five weeks ago I flew back to England and forgot to change foreign currency into English. Consequently, I had to walk from the Bull Ring almost to my home in Blackheath.

During my walk late at night on the Hagley Road, I tried my luck at hitch hiking. But no-one was interested — although the Outer Limits and Andy's Clappers passed me and waved!

Bob Parsons,  
Manager, The Birds and Bees,  
c/o Gasthaus Kehrler,  
6793 Bruchmühlbach,  
Kaiserstr. 34 - 36,  
Germany.

♦♦♦♦

HAVING been a fan of the Move since they first started, I went to see them the other night. I was amazed at their performance.

They were a riot, axing a television set up, flash powder and smoke completely surrounding the stage. Gorgeous suits of all colours, very mod, with-it music — in fact, everything about them was original.

It's not often they play in Birmingham. Which is a pity. They would pack the dance halls out.

June Turner,  
8 Three Shires Oak Road,  
Smethwick.

♦♦♦♦

ON BEHALF of everyone in 521 Signal Troop, I am writing to you about the photograph of Teresa Oakley, road manager of Raynor's Secrets, on the back page of the November issue of "Midland Beat", which is sent to me by my father in Birmingham.

The Troop has decided to make Teresa its Pin-Up Girl — a sort of fan club, on a small basis, of course. We would like to get in touch with Teresa and we are also hoping to be able to get a few photographs of her.

24038214 Sig. Green, S.  
521 Signal Tp.,  
1 Royal Scots,  
B.F.P.O. 36.



*Deuce Coupe — a challenge to Andy's Clappers.*

HAVING read this month's edition of "Midland Beat" I would like to dispute the claim that Andy's Clappers are "the Midlands' leading surfing combination".

I say this with absolutely no disrespect to the group whatsoever, for I have seen them perform on a number of occasions and admire their versatility, as well as their achievement of a "Beach Boys' Sound" (no mean feat).

The group I belong to — Deuce Coupe (formerly the Zeros) — also features the Beach Boys' work prominently. If you will treat this letter as a direct challenge to Andy's Clappers, I am sure a friendly contest could be staged at the earliest possibility.

M. J. Latham  
5, Station Terrace,  
High Street,  
Coalville, Leicester.

WITH reference to the article "Make a Vase" in the "Second City Scene" column in your November issue, I would like to clear up a misunderstanding. There is no attempt to cast aspersions on the U.K. Bonds, whom we feel are artists of considerable talent.

The idea of the handout was purely to point out that the wrong record had been sent and, as no release date had been set on the U.K. Bonds' single, it was merely an attempt to cover our own mistake.

Clive Woods, Press Officer,  
Polydor Records Ltd.,  
17/19, Stratford Place,  
London. W.1.



*Teresa Oakley — another picture for her Army fans.*



## BEAUTY AND THE BEAT

Red-haired Katie Manning is employed by I. M. A. Ltd., Birmingham. Her work is solely concerned with the handling of the Locomotive, for which she is booker and administrator. Twenty-one-year old Katie's musical activities commenced when she played cornet in the Salvation Army from the age of 8 until she was 19.

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## Jazz

### 'Mod' in Birmingham?

### -It's here for the listening

MODERN jazz can be heard in Birmingham; for too long have people told me that the modern scene doesn't get the coverage it deserves.

Well, I can't say I have noticed the raving enthusiasm which marks Friday night at, say, "Salutation Stomp" or "Le Metro" clubs, but a following there is and I bring to their notice the efforts people are making: first, the "Grotto" club in Bromsgrove Street, city centre, tries to keep the Saturday afternoon jazz-session idea alive and the very able Graham Reid Quartet were really swinging the day I dropped in.

Graham Reid (bass), John Clifford (tenor sax and clarinet), Roger Bruton (drums) and Roy Walton (piano) ensure that the modernist won't be disappointed.

The management of the club are now opening on a Sunday afternoon also — if there are any fans able to tear themselves away from the newspaper and snooze traditional to those above the age for Sunday School.

Of course, a look-in at the "Grotto" might, for the ardent and eclectic jazz fan, be a mere preliminary to a Sunday evening session at the "Salutation," Snow Hill, where bands that helped to make the club such a resounding success on Fridays now play also on Sunday (Zenith Hot Stompers and Ged Hone Ragtime Band from Manchester have been particularly good there).

### Der Darktown Jazzmen

Talking of the Zenith H.S. reminds me that trombonist Alan Bradley once ran a band, named from its Black Country origins, the Darktown Jazzmen. I also knew a German band of that name in the Ruhr.

Now another Darktown Jazzmen come to notice, led by Pete Holmes (also trombonist) and playing at the Waikiki Club, Queen's Circus, Cheltenham, on Mondays.

The same venue on Wednesdays sees the Quay St. Jazzmen performing mainstream jazz. Acker Bilk's Paramount J.B. had a Cheltenham Town Hall date on December 23rd.

Once again on the modern scene, the Elbow Room at Aston is presenting star soloists with a resident trio on Monday nights latish; Don Rendell on November 20th; Joe Harriott, Dec. 5th are two who drew lovers of modern jazz recently.



No prizes for giving the name of the drummer or the make of his kit. Yes, it's Louie Bellson, in action with his Rogers drums at the recent Jazz At The Philharmonic concert at Birmingham Town Hall.

Roger Bruton confirms that Music for Musicians is still swinging every Tuesday at the "Saracen's Head," Dudley, completing, as far as I know, the modern jazz scene. If you think it inadequate, try opening another club and let me know how you get on.

### Clarinet lost

Crescent City Stompers and the New Lansdowne J.B. both seem to be about to lose Dick Chapman's clarinet services to a well-known band centred on Stourbridge.

Lately billed as the Puffin J.B., the New Lansdowne band and its Tuesday sessions at the "Woolpack," Summer Lane, are continuing; the Crescent City Stompers may re-emerge as the Bourbon Street Joymakers.

Leader Bob Barton's Purnell-tinged piano will continue to bring pleasure to his numerous fans, I am sure.

Likewise the Keith Gerrard J.B. sounds better each time I hear it, their last date on December 2nd at the "Salutation" being no exception.

The raggy sound of Mick Fisk's piano doing a solo warming-up session brings an authentic pre-1917 N.O. atmosphere to this wonderful hostelry when the Gerrard band are visiting.

From one night (Friday) to two (Sundays added), the "Sal." now operates also on Tuesdays, thus helping the 7-nights-a-week fan to keep his permanent round of jazz going.

Believe me, it is quite easy to hear a variety of jazz sounds in the course of the week in and around Birmingham.

### Up the Junction

If you think Monday is jazz-less, I remind you of Eddie Matthews band appearing on that evening at the "Junction," Harborne, and Eddie himself plays instead of Ken Ingram when the latter has a night off from the busy 4, 5-or-more-nights-a-week schedule of the Eagle Band.

Were I to offer a bouquet to the jazz band or group which has most pleased me this month, undoubtedly the prize would go to the wonderful Degville Quartet, of Walsall, whom I heard recently as guests at the "Golden Eagle" in Hill Street on a Wednesday.

Fred and Paul Degville are father and son. Bassist and violinist I could gather are named only Bill and Ernie respectively.

Doubtless I have said enough to convince older readers that I am on about a group styled after the Django Reinhardt Quintette of the Hot Club of France, whilst youngsters are forgiven if they think two guitars adds up to a pop group.

People capable of playing a jazz guitar like Django are unknown; people playing somewhere near his style are few (I know four only apart from the Degville's), and whereas leader Django had brother Joseph as rhythm man, Degville pere and fils exchange roles halfway through, when Paul will take over the scintillating guitar fire of Django.

For some years they have played regularly at the "Wheatheaf," Walsall, and now seek new dates. If there is any sense or justice in the Midlands jazz world, the Degville Quartet will speedily be offered these — and often.

### More blues, please

The Midland Jazz Club celebrated yet another birthday on November 26th, when business prevented my attending but I heard from all sides that visiting band Alex Welsh J.B. and visiting U.S. trumpet star Wild Bill Davison made the evening one to remember.

The following week I heard with pleasure interval band, Andy Hamilton's J.B., and once again think singer Vic Evans should be heard far more singing the blues.

The present front-line of trumpet, tenor and baritone gave that fat, deep sound we often associate with recent Lyttelton. Another visitor to the club, who sat in with the Second City Jazzmen, was tenorist Mel Trott from Nottingham, who gave me news of several swinging

places there, including the ever-famous Dancing Slipper Ballroom.

We also know of Notts. swing from the Les Devotees Jazzmen who hail from there.

### Seriously, though

Diving farther back into jazz history, I remember the times when the lucky owners of a very fragile, well-worn record of, say, King Oliver, or the Armstrong Hot 5, would be welcome at a Rhythm Club, where listening to jazz records was the prime activity.

Any live performances by musicians present were often apologetically in the style of the idol and a probably-with-hindsight fatuous "jam session" sent us wartime youngsters out back into the blackout hoping that the Glenn Miller U.S.A.A.F. Band would visit Britain (they needed no M.U. permission) and that our R.A.F. call-up would take us to Canada, from where one could actually visit New York on leave and hear LIVE JAZZ!

Now people casually fly off to New Orleans. However, jazz records are still played in a club for serious jazz enthusiasts: the Birmingham Jazz Record Society meets every Friday at "The Colmore", Church Street, city centre, at 8.30 p.m., and the December programme included offerings on "The Contemporary Blues Scene" (Barry Seager) and "Piano in Jazz No 6" (Harry Jordan).

If the live scene on Fridays palls and you really want to listen to records, this club can be heartily recommended. (And please send me your programme each month, B.J.R.S.).

### Take it easy...

May the New Year bring deeper devotion to Lady Jazz, a broader understanding of things past, toleration of things present and optimism for the future; longevity and good health to the great veterans.

And, as Coleman Hawkins in the Town Hall "J.A.T.P." show may have epitomized, "Take it easy, man, and keep swingin'."

Les Page

**STAFFORDSHIRE**

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

AT THE time of going to press just before Christmas, The "N" Betweens were topping the charts in their home-town of Wolverhampton with their first Columbia release "You Better Run."

It had sold over four and a half thousand copies to displace Tom Jones. Now the big question — is it going to make it nationally?

Certainly E.M.I. were pleased and it was notched up as a Radio London "climber". Obviously the boys were busy plugging the number for all they could last month.

They did live shows with Jimmy Savile in Torquay and also made a personal appearance in Wolverhampton. Ballroom records were all broken at Wednesbury, Bilston, Willenhall, besides their home town.

Their manager went wild and gave them Christmas Day and Boxing Day off but straight after they flung themselves into a hectic three days of recording a follow-up.

This month sees them having a week around London but on January 6 they have another home booking when they appear at The Civic along with The Move, Soul Seekers, Prim 'N' Proper and The Parchment People.

The latter group are big fans of the 'N Betweens and model themselves on their style. The 19th of this month finds them at Portsmouth with The Alan Price Set.

Just opened at Aldridge is the Hobo Entertainment Agency run by Dave Copson and Bob Thomas. They handle The Few, who comprise three of the four original D'fenders.

They are Ricky Terry (vocals), Ted Powell (drums), Barry Danes (bass) and Keith Dolloway (lead). The latter is the odd one out — he used to be with The Starliners. They have been going for two months under their new name.

The agency are at present booking into about 13 venues a week — mostly in the Birmingham area — but as Bob told me: "We expect to be enlarging upon that, greatly."

The Capitals are also with Hobo. Their line-up is: Melvyn Edwards (bass), who used to be with The Beachcombers; Bryan Burton (lead), ex-Shanes; George Davies (rhythm), ex-Tierney's Fugitives; and Ken Tralaney (vocals), a founder member; likewise Martin McClurg (organ and drums). Bob describes them as a good steady group.

Recognition at long last for those avid Blues boys The Soul Seekers. They have landed a recording contract with Blue Horizon records on their Purdah label — a label which has under contract such people as Eric Clapton and John Mayall.

The Wolverhampton group, sometimes under much criticism for specialising in American blues, have stuck to their guns doggedly and now it looks as if it is paying off.

This month sees the release of their debut disc, "Wang, Dang Doodle," backed with "It must be catching." And the boys have only themselves to thank for they made the tape and A. and R.'d it themselves. By this they stand or fall alone.

The outfit comprises: Graham Gommery (vocals), Roger Bromley (lead), Ricki Waldron (bass), Rob Lovatt (organ) and Clive Dawes (drums). I wish them the best of luck.

Some changes have taken place in Burntwood's In-Pack since I last mentioned them. This Cannock Chase group had organised John White leave them to be replaced by another guitarist Glenn Hughes. The organ has now been taken over by Neil, their old lead guitarist, who still doubles on the instrument for occasional numbers. Pete Stevens is still on bass and Brian Hewitt on drums.

They recently backed Susan Hayward, from Stoke-on-Trent, on a demo disc — copies of which have been sent to recording companies by their agent Cliff Brittle of Richard Benjamin Associates, Stoke.

In December The In-Pack were featured with The Montanas for the Crabtrees annual dance at the George Hotel, Walsall, and they also played in a variety show for the physically handicapped at Shire Oak Grammar School.

Changes aplenty also in Love's Lot. Walsall's Terry Matthews called to say that bass guitarist Barry Fiddler has retired from the scene altogether but she has brought in two brothers Tony and Keith Lake, whom she has high hopes for.

"They are excellent at vocal harmonising and, believe it or not, can play rhythm, bass, lead and piano," enthused Terry. "My idea is to always put on a good performance no matter what has happened to the group."

"In winter members get colds and go sick but with two versatile boys like these it is easy to cover up and no bookings need be cancelled," she said.

Lead singer Johnny Love is searching for a good, strong



The Jackpots Pop Group: left to right, Tony Bradley, Richard Howe, Eric Johnson, Ronnie Bird and Peter Hughes.

ballad to put on a tape and try for a recording company. At present he has rejected several which he did not consider up to standard. "I have advised him it is better to be patient until the right one comes along," Terry concluded.

On January 20 Mossley Youth Club putting on another charity dance at Walsall Town Hall. This time they have lined up Georgie Fame, The Ensemble and Barmy Barry... Jenny Wren looking for new backing group, but may have found them in The Fashion... Wolverhampton's Richelles, who are expected to change their name shortly, toured Germany with Sue Carr...

New Secretary of 'N Betweens fan club is Miss Carole Williams, of 53, Leicester Street, Whitmore Reans, Wolverhampton. "I have hardly missed one of their shows in 18 months," she says.

Lady Jane and Royalty going professional this month... Alan Clayton now booker with Wolverhampton's Astra Agency... Quite a feather in Soul Seekers' cap being accepted by Purdah. Excellent for prestige... Ensemble doing a lot of work in Birmingham these days.

Astra's Cinediscodollytheque at Hednesford went down quite well with the locals for a first outing... Geoff Jacobs was leaving for America just before Christmas... 'N Betweens first Wolverhampton group to head town's charts... Hobo Entertainment Agency also handle first class dancer in Cuddly Kimble.

Mike Cotton (Sound) really went overboard when he heard Johnny Love's singing. "How many records have you made?" he asked, and then registered shock at negative answer.

Wolverhampton's Ambassadors made sudden departure to entertain American Air Force men in Turkey, of all places... Tony and Keith Lake used to be "Noggins' Nogs!"

**NOTTINGHAMSHIRE**

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

THERE has been a personnel change in The Scott Gibson Five with Mick Hodgkinson replacing feature vocalist Keith Reavill. Mick was bass and sax player with The Mansfields (I still can't get used to their new name The Squeeze) but will be featured on the organ with his new group.

At the time of going to press, I am still unsure of the future of the Mansfields, but it could be that they will return to being a semi-pro outfit.

Barry St. Ives, vocalist with Tempo Victors, has left the beat world to join Billy Shaw and The Show Stoppers — a Nottingham showband with a good reputation in clubland.

Changes in group line-ups are not confined to the pro groups however. Stuart (Slev) Levy, the lead guitarist with the Pinxton Pack, has left the area following his recent marriage and is replaced by Neil Timson, who was formerly with the Strange Folk.

In to the Strange Folk's line-up steps Alan Osbourne from the Intellectuals. Small Hours are a group new to the scene consisting of ex-members of the Shamrocks, Hipsters and recently the defunct Angalons.

Vicky and the Kordettes were in London recently for an A.T.V. audition and all things being well, they should appear on "the box" again in the New Year.

An ambitious project comes from Nottingham's Beachcomber

Club. This is for the club to provide a full-scale package touring show featuring a big soul band plus dancers to tour the major R and B clubs...

Marriage for Dave Pratley the bass guitarist with the Reg Guest Trio... Who says group members can't play their instrument? Bass man Fred Randle of the Kordettes has just collected a first and third place for classical guitar in Nottingham Music and Drama Festival.

**WARWICKSHIRE**

**Paul Connew**,  
32 Pinnock Place,  
Pile Hill,  
Coventry.

CLERICAL collars crop up on the Warwickshire scene with the result that a hitherto unknown group get a big national plug via radio and T.V. NEWS bulletins.

A Coventry folk group, Sneak's Noise, four boys and a girl, have penned a Dylanesque song, "The Kids Don't Play In The Streets Any More," which turns out to be a "bitter indictment of the Aberfan disaster."

The group were invited along to the elevated realm of Coventry's Belgrade Theatre to sing their song during the interval of a Whitehall Farce production.

Result? Objections from the audience (what Dylan fan raves over Brian Rix and his set-up anyway?) and the song is taken off.

Objections are raised in the local press. But, lo and behold, who should step into the verbal fray with a strong defence of the group and their song? No less a personage than Canon Poole, Precentor of progressive Coventry Cathedral.

It is only fair to add that his teenage son Giles is one of Sneak's Noise and helped pen the song. But the end product was press and broadcasting coverage of the dispute and now a couple of record company executives are keen to commit the "Kids Don't Play In The Street Any More" to wax.

The moral of this tale is that it just shows what a bit of publicity — good, bad or indifferent — can do.

A much happier man this month is Don Fardon (nee Maughan), who used to lead the Sorrows. Don is now branching out on his own in a big way as a solo star. His first solo waxing, "It's Been Nice Loving You," comes out on C.B.S. this month WITH THE PERCY FAITH ORCHESTRA ON THE DISC.

The song is a Bacharach original and Don sees a great new future opening up for him. In March, he goes to the States for two weeks of record and business work. But it shouldn't be hard for a guy who is six feet six to get ahead!

The Sorrows themselves have split with their ex-manager, David Owen, and are now living and working exclusively as a trio in Italy. But Dave Owen is still a very live wire on the Coventry scene.

He combines running his excellent restaurant with promoting beat and cabaret. And, on Christmas Eve, he organised a dance at Coventry's Matrix Hall which featured a "Christmas Bikini" beauty contest. Brrr!

Friar's Promotions are as busy — if not busier — than ever. So hectic is life, in fact, that partner Jack Hardy has had to stymie first appearances by his big band because of pressure of business on the agency and management fronts.

Part of that business is an exciting 8-piece soul outfit, Soul Express, who feature saxes, trumpet and trombone. Friar's manager, Brian Ridge, calls them a "knockout, a great big brassy knockout".

It looks as if here is a band who are going to hurtle to the top, given luck, as fast as any express on British Rail! Brian Ridge and I also agree on Alexis Korner, who gave a typically masterful display of the blues at Canley Training College when booked in there by Friar's. The old maestro of British blues still takes some beating. He really knows what it's all about.

Coventry girl singer, Bev Jones, is now a mum — but has managed to find time for a pop comeback. The girl who used to record for Decca was once hailed as "Britain's Brenda Lee."

But she retired after marrying Johnny Wells, ex-vocalist with The Mad Classix. Now, she is singing

**Jackpots most popular club group**

A Wolverhampton beat group have been chosen as the most popular group playing in clubs in the Midlands. The five-man Jackpots came out top of a poll carried out amongst 180 concert secretaries in cabaret clubs and working men's clubs, in Warwickshire, Derbyshire, Staffordshire, Shropshire, Cheshire, and North Wales. The clubs also picked out the Duke Brothers, of Stoke-on-Trent, as their favourite double-act, and vocalist Marina Lake, of Congleton, Cheshire, as the favourite solo act. The poll winners also appeared at a special charity concert on Tuesday, December 13, at Middleport Working Men's Club in Stoke, to receive their awards from local agent, Bud Allen, who organised the poll.

with Warwickshire group, Hell's Angels. Hubby Johnny, however, contemplates no pop comebacks. Friar's are hoping that their fast-rising stars Monday's Children are going to get a record chance from Polydor.

And, every time the Jigsaw appear they have radically changed their comedy routines. No stagnation here for the outfit being hailed as Coventry's Barron Knights.

Birmingham band, the Johnny Neal Sound, are proving very popular in Coventry, report Friar's, who are booking them more and more. But are Coventry's Peeps now more popular in Wales than their home town?

The boutiques seem a good new booking media for promoters. Friar's report "astonishing results" by putting dance tickets on sale in two Coventry boutiques, Peggy and Jantiki.

Two new groups to watch are The Traffic and 3.A.M. The latter are managed by Rod Joyce, one of the real "characters" of the Midlands scene. Rod eats, sleeps and drinks music. He knows just about everything and everybody on the jazz, blues and pop scenes. A real hip aficionado, in fact.

Of 3.A.M., a three-piece band who plan to call in sidemen to form a "big blues band" for some dates, little is really known. They have not yet made their debut. But Rod Joyce is believed to have "hand-picked the band".

Certainly they are practising hard and their manager says: "They will not make their debut until they are ready — really ready."

But reports sifting back to me suggest that they are really something. Their impact on the local scene could be a blood transfusion — as vital as the arrival of The Cream on the national scene.

Soul fans will be glad to hear that Friar's are to open a new "in-place. The venue was not available at press time. But Graham Bond and Mike Cotton are definitely booked to appear.



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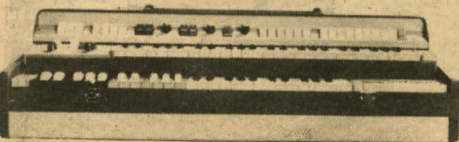
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2nd—Lyndon, Sheldon.  
3rd—St. Thomas's Youth Club, Ellesmere Port, Cheshire.  
4th—Bucknell W.M. Club, Stoke-on-Trent.  
5th—Crossville W.M. Club, Crewe.  
6th—Severn Club, Shrewsbury.  
7th—Spinning Disc, Leeds.  
8th—Manchester.  
10th—Coleshill & Maxstoke W.M. Club.  
11th, 17th and 19th—Private Functions.  
12th—Raven, Shard End and Rum Runner.  
14th—Le Metro Club.  
15th—Beeches, Great Barr.  
18th—Mackadown, Kitts Green.  
20th—Tube Products S.C., Oldbury.  
21st—Millfield S.C., West Bromwich.  
22nd—Allens Cross W.M. Club.  
23rd—Alcester Trades and Labour Club.  
24th—Sportsman, Near Coventry.  
27th—Golden Diamond Club Sutton-in-Ashfield.  
28th—Norton Youth Centre, Sheffield.  
29th—West End Club, Colville.  
30th—Rum Runner.

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

NINETEEN sixty six was a rather dull year in the county, so I am hoping for better things in 1967. We are undergoing a transition from "Big Beat" to Soul n' Swing bands, and the pattern for the forthcoming months is uncertain.

Disappointments were the break-up of the very popular Daisy Cutters and Suedes — also the failure of local groups to achieve success in the recording fields.

On the brighter side, though, we have the Deep Felling and The Secrets making a great bid — a new recording studio at Bromsgrove (ideal for that vital first demo disc) and the emergence of the Murfin Agency (Worcester) and the Mercian Organisation (Kidderminster) to help a sagging scene recover.

If the standard of groups can improve some, 1967 could well be the best "Pop Year" yet! I hope so.

Local groups playing Gun Tavern include New Sense, Sound Barrier, Nova Sounds, Cert. X., and Square One. "Barney Barry Disc Show" at Co-op Worcester (Sats) feature groups occasionally.

Malvern Finalists are the Cert. X., the county's youngest popsters, Nova Sounds — now reformed, the Exits — possible winners — and Malvern's The End, now back to full strength with the return of Colin Barker on bass, still nursing an injured leg, and colleague Bob Challacombe (rhythmist). (A full report on the Finals next month).

Welcome visitor at local events is Joey Dunnett, returned from a month's rest with his new group, the Renegades.

The group are due back in Norway, where they have been for over a year, in January — and are taking a well deserved month's holiday. They also have a contract with E.M.I. and hope to record tracks for an album shortly.

There was some confusion when Nova Sounds vocalist Peter Owen appeared as the new singer for the Chatterry, and then rejoined the Sounds, who disbanded — and then re-formed.....

Peter is now understood to be staying with the Nova Sounds — managed by Ricky Ryland, and the Chatterry are seeking another replacement.

They are interested in former Daleks Mike Wood. Group manager, Graham Plimmer was even more confused — he is Peter's teacher, and was rumoured to be taking over the Nova Sounds — now to be called the New Invention (next move please!).

Mr. Plimmer is also a songwriter of repute, and has penned two of the four originals on the C. M. J. Trio's private E.P. issued on the Worcester label, Impression Records.

The other tracks are written by Birmingham's own Peter Lee Stirling, and were recorded at his London Studios. Sales are reported to be going well at Allways Electric — and bass/vocalist John "Muff" Murfin is as pleased as his



agency partner, Mr. Wally Exall at the response. (I am still waiting for a copy).

Chatterry, Sound Barrier and Strictly for the Birds all rather surprisingly beaten in Malvern Contest Semi-Finals. Suedes former lead Sam Connell has formed the Sound Barrier, with his former Soundcasters colleagues, Clyde Hiam — drums, Sean Brown — bass, Roy Hyde — rhythm, and vocalist Tony Baldwin. They are still working on a programme, but show great promise.

News from Kidderminster reveals the Clippers are still together, despite break-up rumours — no details as yet.

Reflections, Indigo Set, Tommy and Crestas, the Secrets, and the Profits (former Huskies), all kept busy in the Kidderminster area.

There is some competition for the Mercian Agency from both Starlight Promotions (at the Barn, Stourport, and the Swan at Chadsey) — and also the Reef Agency promotions at Park Atwood Hotel and Chateau Impney. Competition in the pop world is always a good thing — the Birmingham scene proves it.

Former "Quote 5" vocalist Dave de Virr writing songs with former lead, Andrew Vance, and also offers his services as a D. J. Dave's interests in music are very wide, and his hobbies include mountaineering and sailing.

A 50 watt Marshall system, with tape and discs assures a good sound, and David would be pleased to hear from prospective clients (Evening 'phone No. Clows Top 374).

This Kind — Brian and Keith Lammars (rhythm and lead), Brian Meredith, bass, and drummer Dave Munday, playing gigs in Birmingham area. Frantic sifting of former group members in the City have still failed to produce a new group. Daisycutters still being re-organised — I think!

Butch Humber of the Profits, rang to say that organist Bob Baker fitting well into old Huskies line-up, and new manager Mr. Hutton's son has taken over as road manager.

News too, that Dennis Kay left a few weeks ago for America — he stayed over the Summer — and was let down like the rest of us! He is now a hairdresser in New Jersey, and also gives lectures — no easy matter, but years as a singer have given him lots of confidence.

Bewdley based Starlight Promotions ran one dance at the New Majestic Hall in town, but a poor showing for the Showmen and Tommy and the Crestas has spoiled the chances of regular events at present. A great pity, as we need something to liven the scene in the City itself, badly.....

Malvern is at least alive — with the opening of the Pink Dalmation Boutique (ladies only at present), and a Discotheque at the Flamingo Coffee Bar recently.

Johnny "Smig" Smith played Kiddy. Town Hall recently, with his new group, Herbie Goins and the Nightmovers, (one of the many great groups booked by promoter Norman Dickens). Smig was making his first Worcs. appearance with the group.

The British Railways axe has fallen again — this time it is "Stourbridge Junction" that has gone — the lads were formerly "Pagets Race", one of the few Soul groups in the Stourbridge area, and with

personalities from many groups flitting in and out of the line-up. There are no plans to reform at present, so I am informed by "harpist" Jerry Manders.

New to the scene are Redditch based. The Union. Manager John Newey's group have been together for about 3 months, and have wisely kept quiet until they were able to give a good show.

Lead guitarist, Mike Trevitt, at 21, is the oldest and more experienced player in the group. Martin Styker is 18, and plays rhythm in his first group. Bassman Tony Moran, 19, and vocalist Dave Morris, have been with several groups over the past 4 years — and drummer David Thomas was with the Kontikis for a while.

They feature most pop music, with some soul — often to the annoyance of the manager, who is a Gilbert & Sullivan fan.

A group which does not upset its manager is the Alvechurch based outfit "The Smoke Stack Image", who incidentally, are progressing well in the Silver Blades contest.

Their manager is Mrs. Suzanne Ash — sister to lead guitarist Ivan Bryan, 17. The others, Pat Osbourne, 17, on rhythm, Gerry Healey, also 17, on bass, and "Mac" McMillan on drums, who is 16; have been together some six months, and are branching steadily out.

Mrs. Ash has always taken an interest in the group, and hopes to handle them until "a break comes". I am sure it will. A recent experiment was entertaining children at the Longhill School for the Deaf, and the group have been asked to play at similar functions in the future.

The last word is with the "Quiet Few", sweating it out for three months in Germany — sweating in spite of sub-zero frosts, being on the move every few nights to a new G.I. base.

They write to wish all readers and fans all the best for 1967, and are on the look-out for gigs for March and April — any offers?

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

BACK in action after a few months of indecision is Boz, former lead singer of the Lynn-based groups the Tea Time Four and latterly the Boz People, with whom he went to the bright lights of the London scene eighteen months ago.

Now Boz has his own seven-piece band and this month, after kicking off the New Year at Norwich's re-decorated Gala Ballroom, is touring Belgium. Another local musician in the band is Barry Wilson, former drummer with Pato's People and a longtime friend of Boz.

Handling the work of the new band is another East Anglian — former West Norfolk promoter Alan Lockwood, now working at the Rik Gunnell Agency.

After one of the shortest solo careers on record, Colin Clegg is back as lead vocalist with the Norwich group — the Eyes of Blond.

Colin, better known by his current stage name J. J. Dean (he also used the mediaeval title "Quadmere Finkbine" at one stage in his singing career) quit the group

at the end of November. Less than two weeks later the band asked him to return and after due consideration he re-joined.

"I gave the deal a lot of thought," he says, "But it was the right thing to do, I feel. The band has a great deal of potential."

Colin's return to the Eyes coincided with the departure of the group's manager, Bernie Barton. Now in charge of the group's bookings is Butch Tyler, who also acts for the Aylsham based Barry Lee Show.

The News are not the only recording group in Norwich any more. On release this month is the first commercial recording by The Anglian Set, formerly the Contours.

The new release on sale from fateful Friday 13th January is A-sided with "A Friend of mine" — stateside number not previously heard in this country. On the flip is an own comp. by the group — "Discotheque Time."

One of the biggest successes at the Norwich Orford Cellar in recent years — Geno Washington and the Ram Jam Band — have made their last appearance there.

This is not because they've lost any of their popularity — in fact, it has grown to such a peak that the Orford cannot hold all the people who want to see Geno and it is also uneconomic for promoter Howard Platt to book him there at his increasingly high presentation costs.

However, Norwich will not be losing the band for next month they are making an appearance at a package show at the St. Andrew's Hall.

Mike Patto and Fats Dean, bass player in "Patto's People," got together to pen Mike's latest single release "Can't stop talking about my baby." The record, which features Mike with his "People," has a big brassy sound and has been getting air space on pop pirates.

**LEICESTERSHIRE**  
ARTHUR KIRBY,  
24 Tolcarne Road,  
Leicester

A GREAT start to the new year from the Dave Houston Four, elected the "Act of the Year" by readers of a club magazine. They received two-thirds of all votes cast. Full reports on this important poll in the February edition of "Midland Beat."

The Lancers Three, who last month contacted the editor of a London magazine for help, have been rewarded by their own enterprise. They now have work in Doncaster, Barnsley, Chesterfield and Derby.

Ruby Murray, recently back from a successful tour of America, where she played San Francisco, Chicago, Boston and New York, may soon play Leicester clubs after all.

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Early this year I put Bernie Burgess, Ruby's husband, in touch with several interested clubs but the tour had to be put off because of other commitments. Bill (Candid Camera) Kelly may support Ruby on a big all-star bill.

Newsy letter from the Funny Crow club in Hamburg, West Germany, came a few days ago from Barry Anderson of the Berkeley Squares. The group have recently signed a management contract and a recording contract.

The first record, an original composition by the group called "Is this goodbye?", backed by another of their own songs "Yippee," should be hitting the charts next month.

Incidentally, Barry and Mick (Edwards) are the only two remaining members of the original B.S. They have now been joined by Alan Jones and Leigh Catterall of the Martins and Phil Cart of the Rave. After a short holiday in the UK, they return to Dusseldorf and then proceed to Sunny Spain. What a life!

Stewarts & Lloyds of Corby recently invited a few local acts to take part in their annual talent contest. The contest was won by Buzz Ford and the show from Leicester with Corby group The Carnations in second place.

Dave Kaye and the Dykons looked quite impressive on their first Leicester date at Beaumont club and could be a group to make future headlines.

The Carnaby Boys are another impressive trio to note. These lads have some great comedy routines which have a professional touch.

The Jimmy Crawford Show are back in the local calls and they seem to have lost none of their fans in spite of a long absence.

Mair Davis and the Rockets are still a big box-office attraction and the addition of an organ seems to have made that vital difference. Drummer Mark Anthony has left the Rockets and now plays regular dates as partner to pianist Ken Fisher.

Finions Combo are enjoying a big success these days and seldom get a night off.

New night club, Timbers opened in million-dollar style with Diana Dors and Rosemary Squires taking top billing on the two house warming weeks.

Les Ambassadeurs are now booking groups for their Room at the Top.

Karl Boettchers band are one of the best dance outfits now playing the area.

Johnny Brent and the Thunderbolts chose the big Aylestone club to make their club debut after playing the big hotels and pubs.

Billy Henderson is now playing solo dates after touring the country with Billy Shaw and his organised music. This comes as no surprise to me.

No jealousy about the Houston Four poll win. In fact, most groups are jubilant that groups have figured so prominently in this pop poll. It should make the club secretaries think again before cancelling groups for other types of entertainers.

# GROUP DIRECTORY

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### DERBYSHIRE

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

THE CENTORS, still playing on American Army base in France, have changed their name to the *Facts of Life*.

John Frawley, their manager, visited England for a few days last month trying to sign up an organist and announced the change.

He said: "The Centors was a good name in the old days of bow ties and hair cream. It was time for a rock and roll group but we have changed completely and felt a more modern name was a must. We also thought that it was a good time to make the change while we were out of the country."

He said that the new cards the group were having printed would be tri-lingual. The information on the cards will be printed in English, French and German because the group intend to divide their time between home and Europe dates.

In France they are backing Barrie St John, who made a minor ripple in the charts with a cover version of the New Beats "Bread and Butter," but John feels they must add to the group.

At present there is just Brian Buxton on lead, Ray Brown on bass and Mick Hough on drums. John was hoping to sign an organist and anyone who fancies the hectic life of touring abroad can contact the group by ringing Derby 40953 or writing to them c/o 11 Tewkesbury Crescent, Chaddesden, Derby.

John concluded: "We can't promise them a fortune but the experience is invaluable and after a good run abroad we would like to go for the big-time in England. It's not fabulous money but its a comfortable existence."

Patrick Shippey still hasn't got his soul "package" off the ground. Bogdan's Brew (as he finally decided they should be labelled) have still to play their first dates, mainly due to the difficulty in equipping with instruments.

The Locarno hit back with a "Freak-Out" night, with Mike Cotton and the cream of the local group scene, including the Cyclones, The Heralds (now changed to the Six Across) and the Grit 'n' Soul band. It must have been very interesting, psychedelia and sequins, freak-out and fairy lights.

Generally, in fact, the Clouds opening has jerked many promoters out of the apathy which marked the scene. They know now that they must put on good groups at reasonable prices if they are to survive.

Pepper's Machine have, like the Grit 'n' Soul Band, recruited a coloured singer. His name is Fred Myrie, everybody calls him George and he sings under the name Dyno Reed.

With Fred, George, Dyno or whichever he prefers, outfront and

John Colley providing that something different with flute solos, Pepper's claim with justification to be the most advanced group in Derby.

Many managers of Derby groups were, at time of going to press, rather worried about a persistent rumour that a new group was to be formed of the top-men from Derby and Nottingham outfits.

A reliable source, who bound me not to reveal his name, told me that it was "in the wind" that he and others would be forming a really first-rate group; one able to make a determined bid to break into the soul club circuit.

My source, when asked if the group would be something like the Embers West, that superb Nottingham outfit, said: "Yes. Very much like them. Very much indeed."

Patrick explained: "We can't find anyone who is prepared to sponsor us until we get going. We are definitely going to start up soon but we can't accept dates yet."

He is anxious that their launching should not be delayed too long for two other groups have coloured singers (Pepper's Machine and the Grit 'n' Soul Band) and he doesn't want to "get left at the post".

The Clouds, Derby's first permanent disco-club, got off to a flying start last month and has not looked back. The only setback so far has been the refusal of local licensing magistrates to grant a drinks licence. They hope to overcome the objections by separating the soft and hard drinks area.

Pepper's Machine were the first local group to play a date at the club and when others get their chance, the club will be a shot in the arm for Derby's group scene. Certainly the club has sparked some of the other local night-spots into fighting to keep their patrons.

### BORDERLAND

AUSTIN POWELL,  
Station House,  
Bucknell, Salop

OVER the festive season and just after, one can gather a picture together of what this area has been like over 1966, and generally speaking it has not been a very expansive one.

There has been no large number of venues entering the scene with the possible exception of the "7 Club" in Shrewsbury.

Herefordshire has been very quiet, although right at the end of the year news came through that London-based "Jay-Bee" Clubs had obtained rights to the, until recently closed, "1600 Club", which was a centre for beat music at one time.

In Shropshire, the "Music Hall" fades from the scene, though Wellington's "Majestic" continues to do good business. As usual a number of groups have turned it in, and the most recent of those are The Dave Banks Group (Ludlow), The M-Pacs (Hereford) and The Heart and Souls (Newtown, Mont.)

Don't let me paint too black a picture, but 1967 will have to bring something more exciting for the Borderland scene to stay "alive."

Victims of early December flooding were The Karakters (Shrewsbury), who, when playing a gig in Montgomeryshire, had to stay the night because of impassable roads... Newish Leominster (Hf's) group is "Us" ... Bromyard/Hereford group The Buddies expecting release of their Italian-made records soon.

In Italy LP and single for issue ... Birds and B's professional as of 1st January... Herefordshire's groups can be counted on one hand these days.

Wrexham-group Rory's Gleneagles auditioned for circuit of Midlands' clubs and received 50 definite bookings at same audition. The four-piece group is fully pro.

Ludlow's Saracens supported Brian Poole and Tremeloes at "Regal", Craven Arms, just before Christmas... Name promotions in Newtown (Mont.) started with The Swinging Blue Jeans last month. Other names being rumoured to appear there include Spencer Davis Group.

Oswestry's Silverstones very successful on ITV's "Opportunity Knocks" recently... Dennis Murphy Entertainments of Shrewsbury now management office for The Starfinders, a promising local combo... "J Club" in Leominster starting mid-week disc sessions soon.

Policy of the club, owned by Roger Jahn, is to "import" groups from Bristol area... Popular trio from Craven Arms (Shrops.) are The Maytones, who concentrate on cabaret and club work. Trio consists of husband and wife on guitar and drummer.

### WALES

MARK GALE,  
7 Hanover Street,  
Canton, Cardiff

SOUTH Wales has started an eye-patch cult in memory of the late Johnny Kidd, killed in a car crash last month.

Johnny and his Pirates were among the most popular outside groups to tour the Principality and a concert by them was usually attended by some drama or other.

They didn't stick to posh theatres, but played the "flapper" dance halls up and down the valleys.

Now an uncommon number of local boys are sporting piratical patches over the right eye. "It's a tribute," said one myopic youth. "You know, like a black band around the arm. Johnny was a mate of ours."

And how long will it last? "Until it finishes, Ireckon," said the youth. "It's not like James Dean — not that long."

Change of Scene — the discotheque club in Leckwith Road, Canton, Cardiff, now emerges as the Koo-Koo Byrd Discotheque —

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which sounds even more psychedelic than the other. Ah, well...

Swansea's Eyes of Blue and Ebbw Vale's Yemm and the Yemmen have both been benefitting from exposure on "TWW Reports" transmissions.

Singer Marty Wilde has settled in at Swansea as Robin Hood in the Swansea Grand Theatre pantomime of the same name.

Eight of the area's busiest groups provided the music at a Yognite organised at the Top Rank Suite, Cardiff, by the local Young Oxfam Group. Taking turns on the revolving bandstand were: The Fabs, The City Riot, The Image, Some People, Witches' Brew, Mark Stevens Four, Geoff Murray Music and Marcus Dee and the Rock and Roll set.

The Bunch have been covering some miles lately with regular appearances at Pontypridd, the Koo Koo Byrd and all points east and west.

The van art urge seems to have died out. In fact, the mobile decorations I've been seeing just lately — notably Nuff Said — couldn't be classed as art even in these one-eyed times.

A trifle late to wish MB readers a cool Yule — I'll bet you had that anyhow. But here's wishing you a groovy New Year. And now the postal bedlam is over, perhaps somebody somewhere would like to send a letter to me.

### GLOUCESTERSHIRE

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

CHEL TENHAM now boasts four male boutiques with the opening in November of the newest and undoubtedly the smartest, "Guys" in the Promenade.

Another, Anthony Dee's, perhaps the most go-ahead for such a small shop is now selling exclusively what must be the latest in mod one upmanship.

They are hand made cuff links and knitted ties, which are manufactured by a local art student and his wife. They are really very good, original, and what's more ridiculously cheap.

The Mark Raymond Sound (not to be confused with The John Raymond Group), The Klan and The Reaction took part in a talent show, a section of Cheltenham Town Hall's Peter Tilley Show Night on the 27th November.

The contest was won by The Mark Raymond Sound. Contestants complained of the method of judging, however, all gracefully accepted the result.

The Reaction's lack of P.A. system really showed itself in the large hall, and had they played as they did the previous night, when I heard them with a P.A., I feel sure they would have bettered their position, if not won. However, that is one of the hazards of the pop world.

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The Pastel Shades are disappointed with their sixth position in the Brockworth House Club Talent competition, more next month. Also perhaps some information on the Skyriders manager please note address.

### OXFORDSHIRE

MIKE CHARLTON,  
34, Edinburgh Drive,  
Kidlington,  
Oxford.

SO NOW I know. Have you seen them? They are called The Right Track, the group that Mr. Clare, of Decco Attractions, told us to watch for. On a cold blustery Monday night, I went along to the Byford Club at St. Michael's Hall.

As I hastened down the dark and dingy alley way my past came rushing to mind. Thoughts of the Teenbeats, Pete Cox and the Beatnicks. I stopped, reminding myself that I had come to listen and not to play, did a group-type bound up the stairs, tripping at the top, to make a very undignified entry.

I found the group busying themselves setting up their gear. Taking advantage of the situation, I had a word with the boys to find out a bit about them. I was not too surprised to find Mick Hopcraft in this group. Mick has been a familiar sight in groups around Oxford for some five years or more.

Not so familiar are Burny Townsend and Steve Finlay (Drums). These two boys have spent some time together. Much of their time was spent touring abroad, but they decided to come home when funds ran low. The two other members are Collin Bateman (Bass) and Sam Prince (Organ).

The group was formed some four months ago, and I think those of you who have seen them will agree with me, that they stand a great chance of becoming one of the most popular groups around. The only thing they fell down on was presentation, which with hard work can soon be put right.

Many of you remember Pete Relton, who for some time played Bass for the Alpha-Beats, then later followed me into the Spirits, and later still teamed up with Wee Willy Harris in Germany.

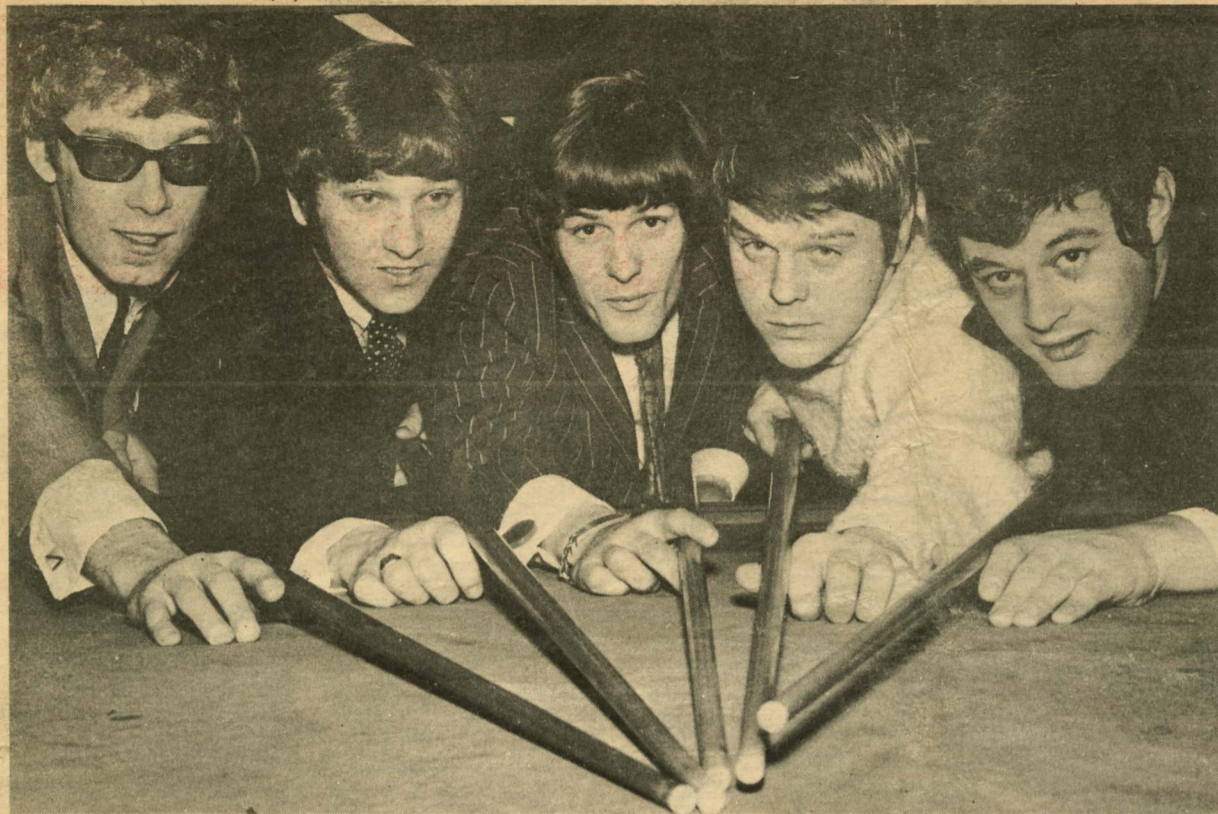
After some months with Willy, Pete made a big decision, to quit show business altogether. However, his retirement has been purely temporary. For Pete plans to return to Frankfurt-am-Main with the intention of getting married, and of course brushing the dust from his bass.

Oxford! What's happening? Where is everybody going? Maybe some kind soul would tell me. Oxford has never been the most swinging of places. But this is pathetic.

## Yes, it's the Idle Race!



Yes, the boys in the "crazy mirror" photograph on page 4 are none other than the Idle Race, who used to be known as the Nightriders.



Off to Bermuda again in the Spring will be the Rockin' Berries — (left to right) Bobby Thomson, Terry Bond, newcomer Rod Clark, Clive Lea and Chuck Botfield. They will also be off to Australia — probably after their summer season at Bournemouth.



An important day for the Bobcats is January 13. That's the date set for the release of the first record by these talented schoolboys, who made their first TV appearance last month in BBC 1's "Blue Peter". They have recorded two Ugly's songs "Can't See For Looking" and "Let Me Get By", for Pye.



New name for the Groovy Kind is The Cabinet. "We consider it more in keeping with today's trend", explain the group, who hope to make their bow on records for Polydor with one of their own numbers. Stage wear of the Cabinet must rate amongst the most colourful around.

**THE 'MIDLAND BEAT'...**

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

TO: "Midland Beat" 1967 Group Register, Midland Beat, 110 Wake Green Road, Moseley, Birmingham 13.

Name of group: \_\_\_\_\_

Manager's Name and Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone No: \_\_\_\_\_

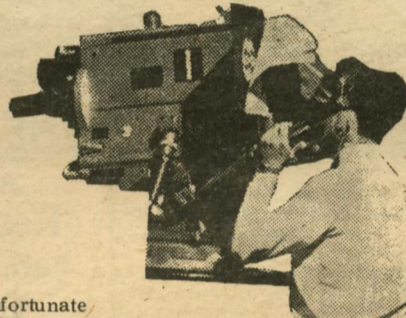
**...GROUP REGISTER**

Here are the latest additions to the Group Register:  
 Bogdan's Brew Personalities (Derby), The Bostons (Wolverhampton), The Cabinet (Solihull), The Fyx (Wolverhampton), Monday's Children (Coventry), Maye-Beez (Cirencester, Glos.), New Trend (Burntwood), The Psycho Daisies (Birmingham), The Roosters (Swindon), The Reaction (Cheltenham), The Soul Party (Wenlock Edge, Shropshire), The Small Hours (Sutton-in-Ashfield, Notts), The Stilettes (West Bromwich), Slim City Addition (Birmingham), Sooz Blooz (Sutton Coldfield), The Tributes (Birmingham), The Thatch (Birmingham) and Vicky and The Kordettes (Nottingham).

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A group who have successfully broken into the club circuit in Birmingham is Zero Five from Cannock. They are now preparing to make their second disc — their first release was "Dusty" for EMI — which will feature them with new singer Alex "Sleepy" Wilson.



Annie Ross enjoys a joke with personalities who will be no strangers to patrons of the Elbow Room. Despite Matt Monro being in town in cabaret at the same time, Annie proved a big attraction at the Elbow Room — one of her favourite British night spots.

**SECOND CITY SCENE**

LYMIES had an unfortunate experience when their van ran into a black cow straying on the road while they were travelling home one night through Shropshire. The vehicle was extensively damaged.

REST have not been confining their dates to Birmingham, having performed with success at such places as Kidderminster, Droitwich, Nuncaton, Nantwich and Stoke. Says manager A. Capaldi: "We don't believe in the current vogue of confining our repertoire to soul music and rhythm n' blues. We like to include all types of music in our stage act. "The lads adjust their music to the type of audience. For instance seated audiences are treated to a slightly different act than a crowd at a dance."

by  
**Dennis Detheridge**  
 and  
**Pete Gittings**

LISTEN are not resting on their laurels after entering the Top 50 with "You Better Run". They are working on various ideas to make their stage act really different. "One idea is a Black Nativity skit lasting about ten minutes", states manager Mike Dolan. "It involves using such props as light bulbs, telephone receivers, steering wheel, stethoscope, beer bottles and cigarettes".

MOVE Fan Club is planning a big recruitment drive in the Midlands. Area secretary is Pauline Evans, 361a Birmingham Road, Wylde Green, Sutton Coldfield. Says Pauline: "There is no difference at all in the running of both fan clubs but it enables speedier replies for those living in the Midlands area. The newsletters are the same as the London ones".

BOBCATS are not the only local group with a record out on January 13th. It also sees the release of "On the Beach" and "You Don't Ignore Me" by The Extreme from Walsall on the Go label. "Fortunately, we're not superstitious", comment the group, whose line-up comprises Robert Spencer (lead guitar), Edward Boughton (rhythm guitar), Michael Grigg (bass guitar), Derek Poutney (vocals) and David Brookes (drums).



**CORNER CARTOON**

by Ian Laird

Let me put it this way Miss Honeybun, so far I have missed two issues of "Midland Beat", so how CAN I relax !!

ARTHUR "BIG BOY" CRUDDUP