

MIDLAND BEAT



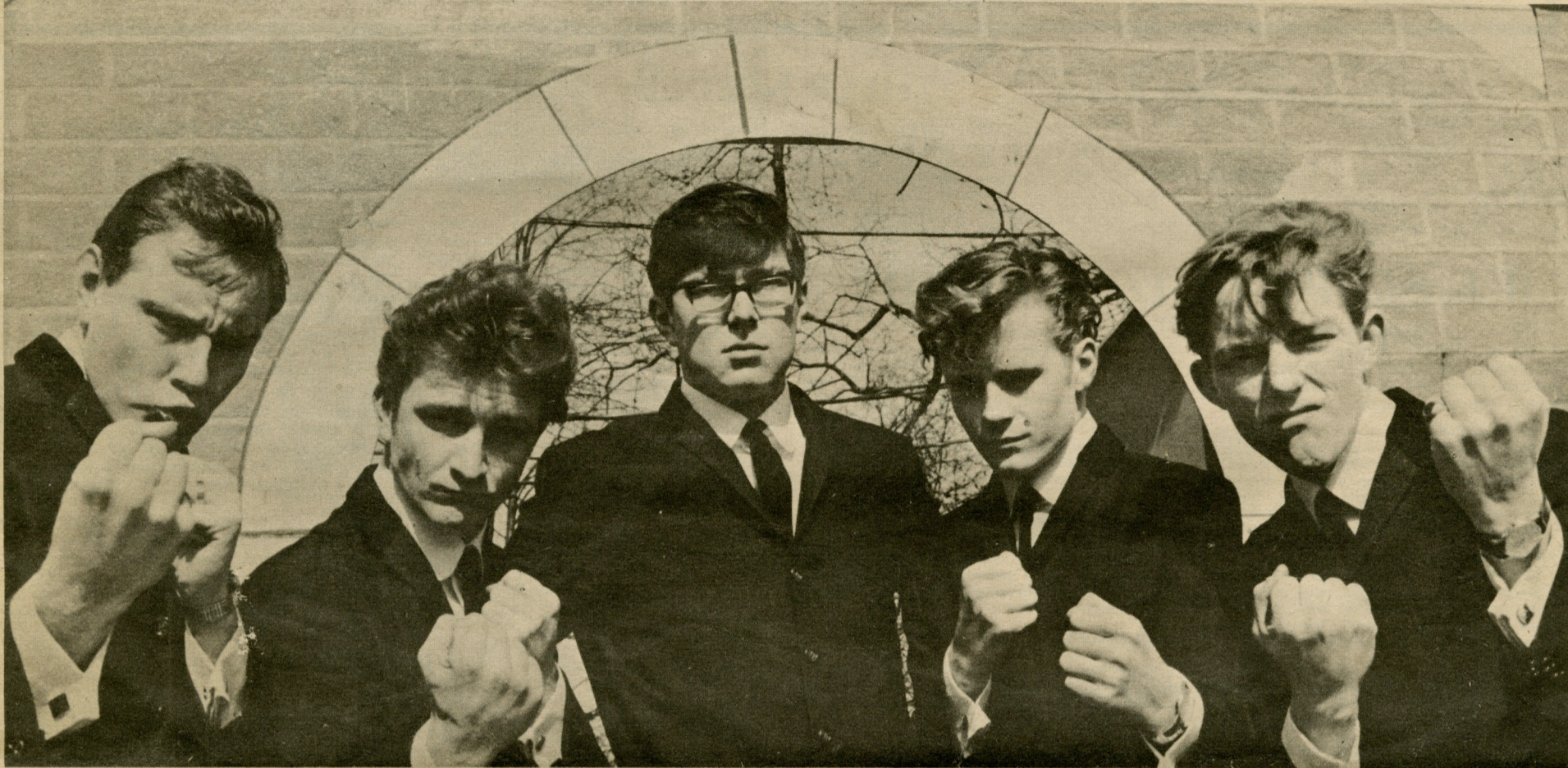
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NO.20

MAY, 1965

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Jim Simpson

THEY used to be billed as The Rockin' D'Fenders. But times change and now they are known simply as The D'Fenders.

"We don't want people to get the impression we're a wild rock group," say these five popular Brum boys. "We're a pop group with the emphasis on close harmony."

The vocal ability of the D'Fenders is an asset that should take them far. They tackle numbers from the Barron Knights repertoire with ease—something beyond many Midland groups.

Formed 18 months ago, the D'Fenders comprise: Max Griffiths (lead guitar, vocals), Barry Dawes (bass, vocals), Ted Powell (drums, vocals), Bob "Fingers" Green (organ, harmonica, vocals) and Ricky Terry (lead vocalist).

The Fourmost were raving about the group at a recent appearance at Birmingham's Old Moat House Club and they added another feather to their cap when they supported Brian Poole and the Tremeloes at the Birmingham Spring Festival.



CARL WAYNE in action.

But no Lord Mayor

NEARLY £100 was raised for the Lord Mayor of Birmingham's Appeal for Mentally Handicapped Children at a dance at which six top Birmingham groups gave their services.

But the event was marred by the failure of the Lord Mayor, Alderman Frank Price, to attend the function at the Carlton Ballroom, Erdington.

"It's a big disappointment", said Phil Myatt one of the organisers. "We understood the Lord Mayor would be coming and his non-attendance makes it seem as though he doesn't appreciate the gesture made by the groups in playing for nothing".

But a spokesman for the Appeal told "Midland Beat": "The Lord Mayor has been detained on urgent Council business. But I am attending on his behalf to show that he does recognise the effort made by the groups".

The groups appearing at the dance were: Carl Wayne and the Vikings, the Ugly's, Couriers, Lee Stevens and the Satellites, Sombreros and Freeways.

JONES & CROSSLAND

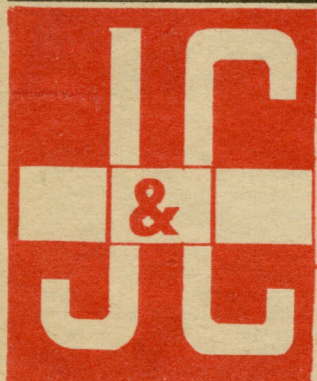
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MIDLAND BEAT

Just what have they got against us?

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WHAT have the B.B.C. disc jockeys got against discs by Midland groups? That's what many local groups with unsuccessful records must be wondering.

One local group leader with particularly strong views on the subject is Pete Tierney, leader of Pete Tierney and the Nighthawks.

The reason: he has not had the satisfaction of hearing the Nighthawks' first disc played once on B.B.C. radio. Despite the fact that fans have told him they have written to B.B.C. disc jockeys requesting it.

It is not as if this situation is peculiar to Pete and his boys. There are many other

Midland groups whose records have never had a single play on B.B.C. radio.

"It's just as well we have Radio Luxembourg, Caroline and London," says a frustrated Mr. Tierney. "Otherwise we would never have heard our record on the radio at all.

"Midland Beat" has already drawn attention to the failure of local record shops to display or stock discs by local groups.

But this lack of interest by the B.B.C. deejays in records by our groups is far more serious. Because a group whose record has

never been given a spin by them is virtually barred from taking a place at the starting post in the hit parade stakes.

Television presents another problem. Here again Pete Tierney and the Nighthawks — and many other Midland recording groups — have not had a single appearance to plug their disc.

True, the Applejacks, Rockin' Berries and Moody Blues have overcome the problem. But surely there is something wrong when a group has to accept London management in order to get plugs for its records.

It's a tough life playing on the Continent. But it does for Midland groups in Germany have its touches of — that's the view of THE SHERWOODS, a popular Solihull group now explain in this exclusive "Midland Beat" feature.

WE SLEPT 10 TO A ROOM!

We are now nearing the end of another month in Germany. We were last here in September, 1964. We are staying in a good hotel in town this week — but this is a luxury compared with the past three weeks.

We've slept ten men in one room; we've had painters in at 9 a.m.; we've slept in a cinema projection room; been without hot water or toilet facilities; we've been asked if one of us would sleep with our girl singer, because of the accommodation shortage!

Perhaps we ought to explain ...

The five of us Sherwoods are touring Northern Germany with Liz (who is billed as Maid Marion). She joined up with us especially for the tour and we all admire the way she has put up with the rough-and-tumble life of a pop group out here.

We have played dates in Kiel, Eckernforde; Luneburg; Buckholz and Rendsburg. The clubs are very good, decorated with lots of paintings. They are of a very high standard and depict Ancient Egyptian and tropical scenes and scantily clad females. Pure white tablecloths glow under the ultra-violet lighting.

But what a contrast when it comes to accommodation offered without charge to groups! In Eckernforde the night we arrived, we had no sooner gone to bed when another band arrived (about 3 a.m.) and after a long and fruitless argument with the management, five of them kipped down with us as well.

There were 10 people and 8 bunks! Liz was safely in an hotel ...

With another group crammed in with us for a week we didn't get much sleep but then, it had been worse in Kiel the first three days of the month.

Somebody above us put the same record on again and again all through the early hours of the morning and to cap it all at 9 a.m. a squad of painters marched in under instructions to paint the room! We kicked them out!

Our second week was spent at Luneburg, and here was luxury in the form of a bath! We almost all jumped in together. This is the only bath on the circuit!

On the first night we were overwhelmed by the generosity and good nature of the fellow who seemed to be running the place. He seemed to be well-primed with the "hard stuff" and after dishing out some free beers, he told us we could finish playing an hour early.

The next morning, as we were congratulating one another on our good fortune at having such a generous "boss," a Chevrolet drew up outside and out stepped the owner of the club with a face as black as thunder!

The "man-in-charge" was, in fact, a waiter. He was sacked immediately and the owner charged us £6 for the use of the bathroom!

Our third week was at Buckholz, just outside Hamburg, and from what other groups on the circuit told us, we were descending into hell ...

Buckholz in fact turned out to be one of the nicest clubs, but when it came to accommodation, hell was just about the right word for it.

The club was a converted cinema and our tiny room, housing six bunks, had once been the projection room. The first night, Liz had to be locked in the club for the night. We had no electricity points in the projection room which adjoined the club and the only access we had to the locked club was a nine inch square projector port.

So on the first night we gave Liz all our cooking equipment and she passed mugs of soup through the hole to us!

We had one wash basin in that room (cold water only) and the electricity point wasn't fixed until our last day there — the electrician arrived at 2.30 a.m.!

There was no toilet. We had to go 150 yds to the local station every morning. The radiator always went off when we were about to "kip down" for the night.

Our fourth week was in Rendsburg and the change in conditions was remarkable. We were actually in an hotel — no more than two to a room, with real beds (not bunks) and heat and wash basins and cleaners who came in every day!

During the time we spent there most of us ate out although two of us boiled German sausages and eggs every day for a week!

Malcolm Drew made a point of taking bread rolls to the club for a quick snack between sessions and he used a sharp knife to cut the rolls. One night he had an accident with the knife and seriously cut his right hand.

A Mercedes, driven at breakneck speed by one of the waiters at the club, took Malcolm to hospital where an Egyptian doctor put in three stitches. He also arranged to come to the hotel to take out the stitches five days later and did this so that Malcolm would not have to pay for hospital treatment.

This was a generous gesture on the part of the doctor and one which the whole group appreciated. The injured hand is almost completely healed now and Malcolm is playing guitar again.

Our last week at Rendsburg was most enjoyable and we were sorry to leave, but a new contract had been signed for a month's residence at Schleswig.

Accommodation here was equal to Rendsburg and we lived in what we considered to be a pop group's paradise. For dinner we would have a three-course "slap-up" in the hotel restaurant at half-price.

We played from 8 p.m. until 1 a.m. with a 15 minute break each hour.

The first drink each night was free and the rest were at house prices. We all felt we could have stayed here longer, especially when the boss gave us all a day off and we went for the day to Denmark, only 25 miles away!

HELP NEEDED

WANTED: groups willing to give their services as part of the carnival day celebrations at Galley Common, Nuneaton. The event takes place on Saturday, July 3, when it is hoped to feature

groups in an outdoor setting after tea.

Any groups willing to lend a hand — there are no funds to pay for them — should contact the Carnival secretary, N. Taylor, 128 Tunnel Road, Galley Common, Nuneaton.

BRIERLEY Hill's *Swinging Pendulums* have had to turn down a chance to spend 18 weeks in the Channel Islands this summer because of college examinations.

"We all attend various colleges and want to get reasonable qualifications before we turn pro," says a spokesman for the group. "The temptation to accept the offer is very great and if we got a chance to do something similar, say from July, we'd probably accept."

If you want a group with a genuine American influence, tune into Bromsgrove's Cellarmen Rhythm Group, whose bass guitarist, 19-year-old John Collins, is an American citizen.

Formed 12 months ago, the line-up is: Dave Joynes (18), lead guitar; John Collins; Kevin Fryer (19), rhythm guitar; Dave Simpson, drums; and Phil Hobbs (17), vocals. "We don't draw any wages," says Phil Hobbs, "the idea being to pay off our equipment as soon as possible."

KNOW YOUR DEALER



Left to right: Lionel Rubin, Ken Ingerfield and George Watts.

Popularity Poll results

BRUM BEATS AGAIN

- 1st. Brum Beats
- 2nd. Telstars
- 3rd. Uglys
- 4th. Boll Weevils
- 5th. Capitals
- 6th. Method 5
- 7th. The Ashes

Others mentioned were: The Nomads Mike Sheridan and The Nightriders, Sons of Adam Applejacks, Renowns, Carl Wayne and The Vikings, Formula 1, Erly Berdz, Tony King and The Olympics, Ricky Topaz and The Diamonds, The Exits,

Moody Blues, The Mods, The Chucks, Mike Young and Beat Squad, The Cheetahs, The Precincts, The Jaybirds, U.K. Bonds, Cimmarrons, The Toreadors, Apex Rhythym and Blues, John E. Law and The Trespassers, The Fentones, The Nocturnes, Rockin' Berries, Cellermen, The Fivestones Chapter 5, In Crowd, "n" Betweens.

Andys Clappers, The Freeways, The Studants, The Rotundas, Con-Chords, Rufus's Rebels, The Chafs, The Deuces Wild, The Sovereigns, The Dominoes, The Mark "V", The Rinki Dinks, Williams Conquerors, The Motions, The Loose Ends.

Wales reporting...

WITH all the pros and cons carefully weighed, the Dekkas of Cardiff have decided to go fully professional from May 7.

Presently, the future looks bright. They are set to tour Norfolk, return to South Wales for a fortnight and then play an important date at Cirencester. No fear of mileage, these boys.

The other week, they played alongside a major Birmingham group at

Cheltenham.

And so enthusiastic was their reception — fans besieged their dressing room for half an hour — that Neil, Clive, Rob, Paul and Gerry decided there and then to make music their working life as well as their relaxation bit.

In the near future, they will be recording four original numbers at Regent Sound, London. After that, anything could happen.

Mike Hart, owner of the Gogo Bar, Aberdare, is examining the possibility of booking one major group — of Animals, Swinging Blue Jeans, Yardbirds stature — for the club each month.

During the SBJ's visit this month, he was more concerned with the finance than the family silver. The Aberdare

by MARK GALE

folk weren't buying at ten shillings a ticket, so he had to lower the price.

Capitol Entertainments, of Connaught Road, Cardiff, have said they can get the Animals for Aberdare in May, and many more top groups thereafter.

SOUTH WALES reaction to Tom Jones's new "Once Upon a Time" more patriotic than enthusiastic. All eyes now on Tom's EP which is selling like pie and chips — and that's fast.

TEENY, Tony and the Bush Babies — Once "Flash" Ford, freelance rock singer, once Gene Hatter, vocalist with Isle of Man group The Cousins, now Tony of the above-named outfit, Jackie Ford, certainly gets around.

By the way, Jackie, of Grangetown, is still Gene Hatter — "Gipsy Gene Hatter" of the noble art of grunt and groan. But Jackie — Toney-Gene wants to get the Hit Parade in a half-Nelson more than anything.

TAWNY, Tony and the Pye Babies — Pye recording manager Tony Hatch reported very happy with the trial recordings he made of Tawny Reed, red-headed female vocalist with Pontypridd's Flowerpot Men. Something good may blossom. Said Tawny — "Blob-a-lob". Which, freely translated, means ...

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ROUND ABOUT

DAVE HALE and the Ly-mies is the name of the new group formed by Birmingham singer Dave Hale, whose previous group, the Drifting Sounds, broke up almost as soon as it was announced. Dave now leads Vince Riordan (lead), Timmy Dickie (rhythm), Diana Mallard (bass) and her brother, Grenville Mallard (drums). They are resident at Smethwick's 77 Club.

"ANYONE want to challenge the Applejacks at ten pin bowling?" That was the question Bo Berry asked in last month's "On The Beat". The result: challenges within 24 hours of "Midland Beat" being on sale from Pete Tierney and the Nighthawks and the Crawdaddies.

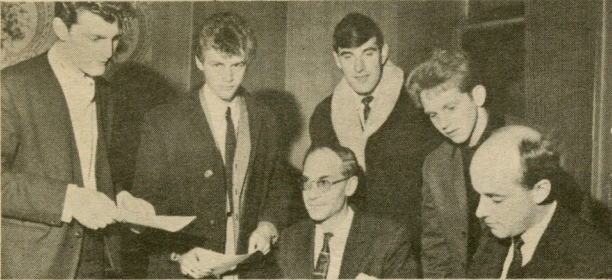
The Applejacks won the first match against the Crawdaddies at the Top Rank Bowl, Pershore Street, Birmingham. But the challengers claimed that they were at a disadvantage because they played the Sunday lunch time match only hours after appearing at an all-nighter.

Our picture shows members of the Applejacks and Crawdaddies checking on progress as Al Jackson adds up the points.

A fan club has been formed for Notts outfit The Alley-Katz. Details from Karen and Marilyn, 103, Kingsway, Kirkby-in-Ashfield, Notts.

One of the zaniest discjockeys to appear on the Midland beat scene for years is Rockin' Robin. He hails from West Bromwich and in six months has built himself up to the top of the profession, appearing at clubs and dance halls all over the area. He had over £150 worth of portable equipment made specially for the job.

Having seen the popularity of this type of act in Manchester and Liverpool he decided to have a go at enlightening Midlanders. It was slow at first, many clubs were frightened of trying it, not knowing what members reactions would be, but after seeing him in action, the bookings rolled in. Could this be another success story for a Midlander?



At the Musicians Union meeting in the Market Hotel. (Story above).

BRUM BEAT

AT the beginning of May, the Carlton Johns agency proudly open their offices in London's West End.

All Carlton Johns bookings will be handled by top British bookers Alvin Roy and Pat Rainbow, with Midlands and Northern bookings being handled by the Birmingham office.

ACE promoter Mike Carroll does it again. His new Monday night promotion at the Black Horse, Northfield, proved a big success with the House Full sign up very early in the evening.

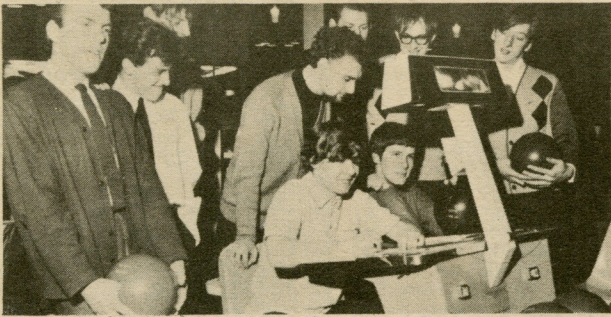
THE OTHER-SIDE, the new backing group with Keith Powell, consists of Micky Blythe, (lead) Alan Morley, (drums) both former Redcaps, and Stefan Stanley (bass/vocals) and Tony Vincent (rhythm) who were originally with the Destinies.

RECENT group break up's include, The Panthers, Beat Ltd, Shades Five, Lee Rogers and the Strangers.

FORTHCOMING Pye release expected soon from The Chantelles.

AT THE Swingin' Tudor Rose, Atherstone, Birming-

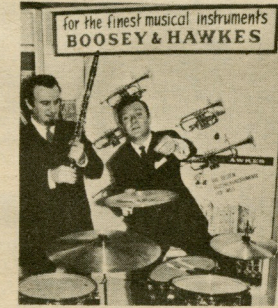
People...places...names...faces



Above: the Applejacks and the Crawdaddies, who met in a bowling match. Below: Mike Carroll with the Tombstones.



THE only curtain between East and West in the musical world is that on a stage. Here



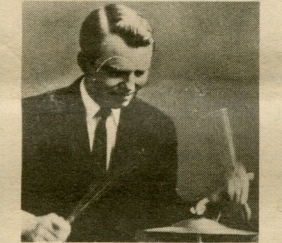
we see Fips Fleischer, the No. 1 television bandleader in East Germany, with Mr. Acker Bilk at the Boosey and Hawkes stand during the Spring Leipzig Fair.

MEMBERS of local R and B and beat groups attended an open meeting of the Musicians Union at the Market Hotel, Station Street, Birmingham. Finding out something about the benefits Union membership offers to group members from Mr. John Forman (seated, left), M.U. Midland District Organiser and Mr. Phil Boothroyd (seated right), M.U. Birmingham Branch Secretary, are (left to right)

Micky Ray (Raves), Terry Stanners (Edgewiggs), John Gwilliams (Swingin' Sounds) and Jim Rex (Redds).

AT the Mackadown, Kitts Green, on Wednesday, April 14, the late arrival of Top Ten group, Them, provided local group The Tombstones with an opportunity to step into the breach and win themselves an audience. The Tombstones remained on stage, with only oneten minute break, from 7.30p.m. until the arrival of Them at 10.35, much to the relief of promoter Mike Carroll, who is shown thanking the Tombstones for their gallant and talented display.

DRUMMERS wanting to pick up some tips from an expert should not miss the Rogers Drum Clinic being held by Besson at Digbeth



Civic Hall, Birmingham, at 8 p.m. on Tuesday, May 4. It will feature star American drummer, Roy Burns who is paying his first visit to Britain. Roy was featured drummer with Benny Goodman for three years and has since played with such jazz "greats" as Duke Ellington, Count Basie, Teddy Wilson, Woody Herman, Charlie Shavers, Buck Clayton, Roy Eldridge and Lionel Hampton. He now leads his own group at concerts and clubs throughout America.

by PETE GITTINGS

ham groups enjoy playing to packed audiences every Friday, Saturday and Sunday.

BOWLS match between The Applejacks and Pete Tierney and the Nighthawks was postponed due to singer Pete being in hospital with an infected leg. Keith Williams of the Chucks' also in hospital recovering from a recent operation. Here's wishing them both a speedy recovery.

WHEN the current hit number recorded by Them was released, promoter Mike Carroll took a great liking to it and immediately decided to book Them for the Mackadown; this paid off well as the record had reached No 4 spot on the day of the booking.

SINCE their departure from Keith Powell, Valets, Steve Horton (bass) Malcolm (Tex) Ritter, (drums) Mal Ford (organ) and John Gainer (tenor sax) have been joined by former Danny Storm and the Strollers man Dave Spence on lead, who replaces Colin Wood, who has retired from the beat scene.

Many of their fans knew them only for their brilliant instrumental numbers in the

past. But now they plan to include a large number of vocals in future programmes and have been proving quite successful in this move.

IT'S quite true, The Vacant Lot don't have many vacant dates. These boys are proving popular in Brum, where they're based.

This four-man group are students from all parts of England, except Howard Williams, who hails from Bartley Green (lead). Bob Davies (rhythm/vocals) is from Ross-on-Wye, Teddy Lancaster (bass) from Scarborough, and Londoner Bob Daly (drums).

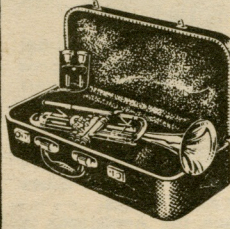
Pye releases for two Birmingham groups: Johnny Neal and the Starliners (April 30th) "And I Will Love You" c/w "Walk baby, Walk"; The Ugly's "Wake Up My Mind" c/w "Ugly Blues", due for release on May 14th. All numbers are the respective groups' own material.

CARL-Wayne and the Vikings, The Ugly's and the Cimmarons for eight-week tour of Devon and Cornwall commencing July 10th.

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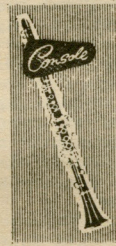


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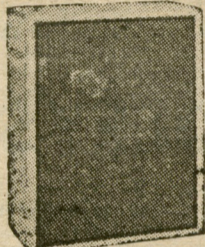
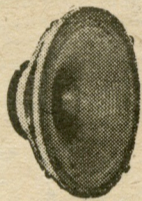
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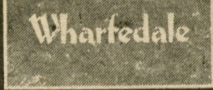
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W12/EG, a wide response unit, fitted with double diaphragm and intended for use with LEAD GUITARS.

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Maximum input peak	30 watts	40 watts
Frequency range	40-17,000 c/s	35-5,000 c/s



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Speaker unit only	£10 10 0	£17 10 0

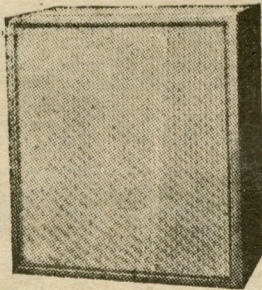
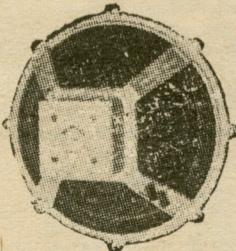
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EG 15 Cabinet 24" x 21" x 11 1/4"
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BEAT

But for the luck of the draw this column would be congratulating Peter Lee Stirling, of Birmingham, on winning the Eurovision Song Contest. Instead, congratulations on coming second — a laudable feat — with the song "I Belong," vivaciously sung by bubbling Kathy Kirby.

Peter's terrific international success with this song is regarded as another honour for the Midlands, proof that when it comes to big beat and pop music we can produce as much talent here as anywhere north or south of rivers Mersey and Thames.

It took the Applejacks to lead the way to the top ten of the charts, a success ably followed by the Rockin' Berries and Moody Blues, and when it comes to R and B, the talent-packed Spencer Davis outfit should not be overlooked.

Now, thanks to Peter Lee Stirling and his 34-year-old uncle, Philip Peters, we're scoring in the song-writing department. And let it not be forgotten that The Ivy League, two members of which hail from Birmingham, have also produced a string of hits.

Not that the Kathy Kirby song was Peter's first song-writing success. He clicked as a composer last year when he wrote "I Think of You" and "Don't Turn Around", both chart-riding numbers for The Merseybeats.

DON'T look now, but the animals are coming. No, not that outfit from Geordie-land who keep on turning in first-class material, but groups with animals' names. Take, for instance, the Yaks — yes, Yaks! These Belper boys used to be called the Strollers, until the trend for name-changing got the better of them.

They line up: Stan Sheldon (lead), Dave Varney (rhythm), John White (bass), Terry Hall (drums) and John Raynor (vocals).

Not to be outdone in this field — or should I say game park? — is an outfit from Norfolk who call themselves The Moggs — yes, Moggs! Blame it on rhythm guitarist John Jary who discovered it in a book. It was the name given to a wild-looking cat. The boys adopted it. They now have a tiny Mogg on all their equipment.

And they line up: John Jary (18), Paul Johnson (17) lead; Terry Smith (19) bass; Christopher Knight (16) drums.

WHERE are the Dusties, Cillas, Sandies and Lulus of the Midlands? That was the question asked by "Midland Beat" columnist Jim Simpson in a recent article.

I haven't got the answer, but Miss Kerensa Webb reckons she can help. Miss Webb, of Bittell Lane, Hopwood, Birmingham, writes:

BAR

"I am a singer. I've had my voice trained. Although I've written to many Birmingham agents and to the TV studios, I've never had an audition in this area. It seems that no one is interested."

"I have had an audition in London with TV companies and agents and I've worked in Redditch. But before Birmingham can start producing Sandies and Cillas, local girls have got to be given the chance to prove themselves and local managements should realise this."

Miss Webb could have a very good point here ...

IT'S a hard life for beat groups and for solo pop singers, too, if Solihull's blonde songstress Christine Holmes is an example.

You may recall that the talented Miss Holmes, the girl with the bombshell voice to match her pretty face and figure, left school at 18, to trip smartly to London to appear in cabaret at the Embassy Club.

The ambitious Miss Holmes has found, to her cost, that the strain of being a working girl — in the hectic world of the recording personality — can cause even the stoutest of hearts to collapse.

Just before the release of her latest single "Many Things From Your Window" on the Mercury label, Christine had to return home to Warwickshire to rest up on



Christine Holmes.

doctor's orders because of overwork.

We're glad to report that talented Christine is now fully fit again and back in London. We hope she wins lots of honours.

WE may never see the day when a beat group will employ an organisation and methods manager, but we are rapidly coming to the period in which lots of groups are getting ORGANISED.

Sue Downes and The Sprites, from Wolverhampton have just taken on a Hammond organ and we're told the range of tones is remarkable.

The group feature the organ in R and B, pop and ballroom dancing spots and all agree "it's the best sound on the scene."

Bound to agree with this is the outfit with the unusual name of "Andy's Clappers." They are the Brum group with a girl organist, Jan Jeffries.

Plectrum



The Yaks — see above.



**BEAUTY
and the
BEAT**

MEET JEANNE, the talented vocalist with Birmingham's popular all-coloured group, The Ebonites. Her effervescent personality has been a big asset to the group since she joined them last July. Jeanne plays an important part in helping the group to live up to manager Bill White's claim that "no matter what your requirements, the Ebonites can do it!"

ON THE BEAT

with **BO BERRY**

IF Lee Stevens could find time to attend the Carlton Ballroom's charity dance, now come Birmingham's Lord Mayor couldn't make it? Moody Blues were quoted as saying they weren't going to be "one-hit wonders" like a certain other Midland group when "Go Now" hit the top. Oh, yeah? Will Johnny Neal be Birmingham's answer to Tom Jones?

DON'T believe rumours suggesting Cannock's Telstars are breaking up. Expect other Birmingham groups to turn their attention to Finland after the Renegades' fantastic success there. Have you seen John Singer's new car? Who said agents and promoters are not having it so good! WHAT the Dickens is happening to the Pickwicks? I predict handsome royalties for the Ugly's first disc. It didn't take long for Dave Hale's Drifting Sounds to drift into oblivion.

ASK John Gibbins to tell you the previous owner of the car he's just bought. Tom Jones tops the bill at Birmingham Hippodrome May 24 week. Name change: The New-Comers, no longer newcomers to the Brum beat scene, renamed The Master Sounds.

THREE trips to Manchester for Staffordshire group The Precincts — but they have turned down a German tour. Exits (Droitwich) busy washing messages from fans off their car. Brum's Renegades given their own TV show in Finland. Doncaster's Counterbeats have a fan club run by two Leicester girls.

BRUM Kavern starting a folk night with the Sandalwoods resident. All tickets for Bob Dylan's Birmingham Town Hall concert on May 5 sold out within two hours. Another Birmingham name change finds the Chantelles appearing as the New Wave.

THIS year's Bromsgrove Festival attractions include the Temperance Seven (May 18) and the Ian Campbell Folk Group (May 20). Local groups engaged for the Birmingham Spring Festival at Cannon Hill Park included the Olympics, Carl Wayne and the Vikings, Giorgio and Marco's Men, Cimarrons, Con-Chords, Jon E. Law and the Tresspassers, Unit 5, Kingfishers, Keith Powell and the D'Fenders.

BBC TV date for Jon E. Law and the Tresspassers on July 2. For five shillings, the Birmingham jazz festival at Summerfield Park on Whit Monday offers the Dutch Swing College, Buck Clayton with the Humphrey Lyttelton Band, Ben Webster with the Bruce Turner Jump Band, Acker Bilk's Paramount Jazz Band, Second City Jazzmen, Norman Dovey's Big Band and Ken Ingram's Eagle Jazz Band.

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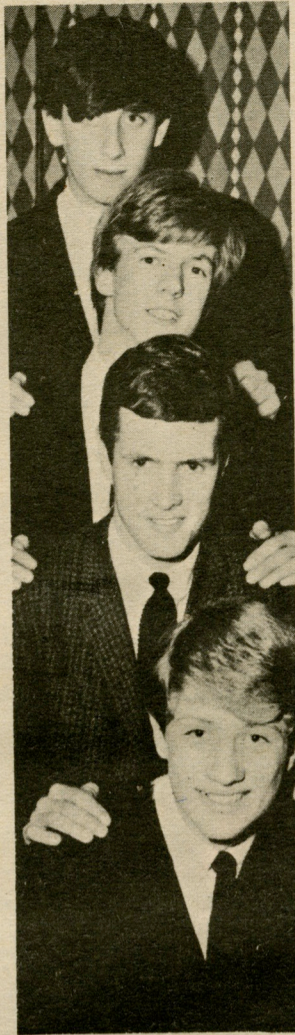
The 'Midland Beat' group championship-first heats



The Surf Cyders.



William's Conquerors.



The Moonrakers.



The Chills.



The Exchequors.



The Beat Squad.



The Wodens.



The Swingin' Sounds.



The Taverners.



The Yamps.



The Exits.

IT LOOKS LIKE A HARD FIGHT!

WHAT a fight it's going to be for the honour of carrying off the "Midland Beat" Championship. That's obvious from the high standard of the groups competing in the first heats.

As we went to press with this issue, three groups had already won their way through to the semi-finals — Williams' Conquerors (Birmingham), Mike Young and the Beat Squad (Wolverhampton) and the Prospectors (Birmingham).

Williams' Conquerors were the first group to gain a place in the semi-finals when they won their heat at the Ritz, King's Heath, in a keenly contested battle with the Chills (Birmingham) Exchequors (Birmingham) and Rugby's Surf-Cyders.

Three days later, Mike Young and the Beat Squad joined them in the semi-finals when they managed to earn the most applause from the crowd at the Plaza, Old Hill, where they played against the N' Crowd (West Bromwich), The Wodens (Wednesbury) and the Swingin' Sounds (Dudley).

And the Prospectors won the heat at the Brum Kavern in competition against six other groups — Taverners (Birmingham), Yamps (Birmingham), Exits (Stourport), Moonrakers (Solihull), Berkeley Squares (Leicester) and the Internationals (Birmingham).

It's a contest offering something for everyone, because every member of each group taking part receives a voucher entitling him to generous discounts on purchases made at two leading Birmingham musical instrument shops — Jones and Crossland and Ringway Music.

And the winning group, as well as having a recording test in the studios of a major recording company and a contract to play at ballrooms on the Regan circuit, will receive equipment worth £50 from Ringway Music.

Ringway Music are also presenting from their impressive display of beat group equipment at their shop goods worth £25 and £10 to the groups placed second and third respectively.

Full details of the semi-finals and finals of the "Midland Beat" Championship will be published in the June issue of "Midland Beat."



The Internationals.



The Prospectors.



The Berkeley Squares.



The N' Crowd.

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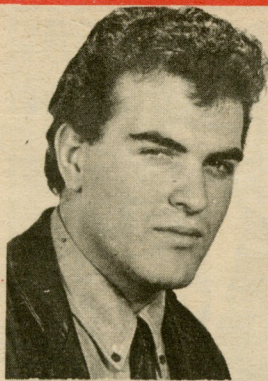
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MEET

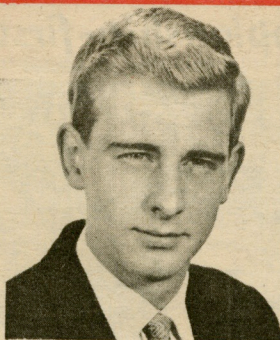
Name Gary Beecroft
 Birth 24/10/42
 Instrument Rhythm guitar
 Height 5' 9"
 Weight 10½ st.
 Birthplace Bristol
 Education Wellington School
 Eyes brown
 Hair brown
 Occupation Sales trainee
 Favourite food Mint sauce
 Favourite —
 pastime Eating mint sauce
 Dress casual
 Likes Girls
 Dislikes Drains
 Previous —
 groups Shades of Blue
 Favourite —
 artists Eddie Cochran
 Favourite —
 composers Eddie Cochran



Name John Eden
 Birthdate 29/1/43
 Instrument Vocals
 Height 5' 9"
 Weight 11 st.
 Birthplace Birmingham
 Education Leicester University
 Eyes Blue
 Hair Brown
 Occupation Student
 First —
 appearance International
 Club, Bromsgrove
 Favourite food Chinese
 Favourite pastime Driving
 Dress Casual
 Likes Sun
 Dislikes Insincerity
 Previous groups None
 Favourite —
 artists pre-1962 Presley
 Favourite —
 composers Willie Dixon

THE

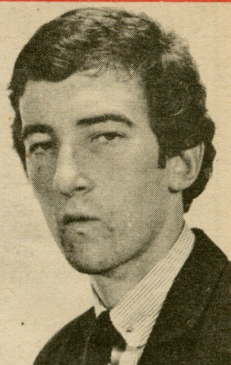
Name Keith Finch
 Birthdate 29/4/42
 Instrument Bass guitar
 Height 5' 8½"
 Weight 10½ st.
 Birthplace Wigan
 Education Secondary Technical
 Eyes Blue
 Hair Brown
 Occupation Stock controller
 First —
 appearance April, 29, 1942.
 Favourite food Roast pork
 Favourite pastime Driving
 Dress Casual
 Likes Walking
 Dislikes Dentists
 Previous groups None
 Favourite —
 artists Presley (old style)
 Favourite —
 composers Lennon and McCartney



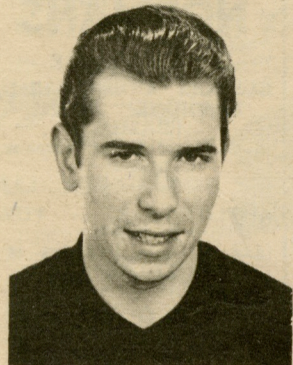
Name Geoff Garside
 Birthdate "censored"
 Instrument Lead guitar
 Height 5' 8"
 Weight 10 st.
 Birthplace Northumberland
 Education Bromsgrove College of Technology
 Eyes Green
 Hair Fair
 Occupation Commercial apprentice
 First —
 appearance International Club
 Favourite —
 food Prawn cocktail
 Favourite pastime Driving
 Dress "Usually"
 Likes Money, women
 Dislikes Shaving, 12 o'clock
 New Year's Eve
 Previous groups None
 Favourite —
 artists Lightning Hopkins
 Favourite composer Lennon and McCartney, Hopkins

GROUP

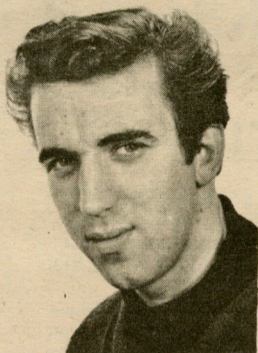
Name Gavin Jones
 Birthdate 7/1/45
 Instrument Vocals
 Height 5' 9"
 Weight 10 st.
 Birthplace Wrexham
 Education Bromsgrove Public School, Training College
 Eyes Blue
 Hair Blond
 Occupation Student
 First —
 appearance International Club, Bromsgrove
 Favourite food Chicken chop
 Favourite pastime Acting
 Dress Casual
 Likes Sleep
 Dislikes Giggling girls
 Previous groups None
 Favourite artist Jerry Lee
 Favourite composer Bach



Name Mervyn Thomas
 Birthdate 12/10/46
 Instrument Drums
 Height 5' 9"
 Weight 10½ st.
 Birthplace Bromsgrove
 Education Bromsgrove County High School
 Eyes Green
 Hair Dark brown
 Occupation Trainee branch manager
 First appearance "Don't remember"
 Favourite food Beefburgers
 Dress Modern suits
 Likes Girls, rain, animals
 Dislikes Going to bed, getting up
 Previous groups Sapphires, Shakedown
 Favourite —
 artist John Lennon
 Favourite composers Lennon and McCartney



THE



SIZE



SIX

The Size Six were originally formed in January, 1964; Keith Finch and Mervyn Thomas joined them in July. They play mostly in and around Bromsgrove

and Birmingham but have played in Manchester, Bristol, Crewe and Shrewsbury. Their fan club has Bristol and Bromsgrove secretaries. The Size Six

all-black attire was chosen for cheapness but was so successful that it was retained. For material the Size Six generally prefer songs of the early rock

stars. Progress since the group's formation has been good and promises a bright future.

Brum Beat

NO PRIZES for guessing that a group with a name like the 2nd City Sounds are exponents of "Brum Beat." Appearances at such venues as the Viking, Solihull, the Raven, Shard End, and the Old Horns, Great Barr, keep them busy almost every night of the week.

Alan Nicklin (lead guitar), Ken Freeman (piano) and Dan Conboy (drums) are all ex-Unsquaremen. Eight months ago, they were joined by Des Ryan formerly vocalist with the Plainmen Show Band, and Pauline Brown (bass guitar and vocals).

Having turned down offers of playing in Germany, France and Turkey, the 2nd City Sounds are anxiously awaiting their first record release before deciding on their future. They claim that versatility is their trademark.

Another change

ANOTHER line-up change for the Warlocks R & B of Leicester. Personnel is now Ken Spencer (lead), Norman Mitchell (harmonica-vocals), Jeff Betts (bass), Rod Turton (drums) and Velma (maracas and tambourine). Important date for the group is with John Lee Hooker at the Maple Ballroom, Northampton, on June 11.

'MIDLAND BEAT' REGISTER

The Drolls — Derby, the Midlanders — Walsall, the Variations — Nottingham, the Setbacks — R.A.F. Langtoft, Northants, the Rest — Birmingham, the Rare Set — Coventry, the Yaks — Derby, the Yamps — Birmingham.



IT WAS an archway of guitars from the Cheetahs when Miss Carmel Regan, 21-year-old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. P. J. Regan, owners of the Regan ballroom circuit in the Midlands, married 21-year-old Peter Howe of Bromley, Kent, at Olton

The Cheetahs, whose management is handled by Mrs. Mary Regan, acted as ushers then played at the reception at the Grand Hotel, Birmingham. Entertainment was also provided by folk group The Sandalwoods, the Langleys and the Charles Simpson Band. Guests had a preview of the Cheetahs latest disc, "Goodbye Baby", released on the Philips label on April 30. The group were resident in toppers and new white suits — a far cry from the cheetah skin stage outfits with which they first made their name.

MAKING a name for themselves in Lancashire are Leamington Spa group The Trojans.

They are to visit Bolton's Beachcomber Club in May and an engagement is also being negotiated for Liverpool.



"BRUM BEAT" for "Sunday Night at the London Palladium!" Yes, it comes about on May 16 when the Rockin' Berries appear in this famous TV show. "We're thrilled about it," says the Berries' Chuck Botfield. "It's a wonderful opportunity for us to establish ourselves with family audiences."

Another chance for the Berries to win over the mums and dads comes in June with the start of a season with the Bachelors at the ABC Theatre, Great Yarmouth.

In "Sunday Night at the London Palladium," the Berries will feature their new disc "Poor Man's Son." Their lead singer Clive Lea will also be presenting his Norman Wisdom impersonation — a "take-off" he is now able to do better than ever after meeting the comic for the first time last month, when our picture was taken.

NORTHANTS

JACK HARRISON
 36A Spring Gardens,
 Northampton

NORTHAMPTON'S pop fans turned out in force to support the groups taking part in the first heat of the beat contest at the Plaza Cinema, Northampton. Eleven groups took part.

Judges Mr. R. Blisset, Miss D. Linnel (a teenager from the audience), Mr. J. Farthing and Mr. T. Baker passed the following through to the finals: The Unnamed, Original Hermits, Fireflies, Outcasts and Stringbeats.

The standard set by the groups in the second heat of the contest was so high that seven groups instead of five were chosen to appear in the finals.

They were: The Quick and the Dead, Home-landers, Kossacks and Olympics (Northampton), Sonics (Oxford), Rising Suns (Abingdon) and Detours (Kettering).

Judges of the second heat were Northamptonshire journalist Mr. J. Taylor, Mr. R. Blisset, Mr. E. Lawe and a teenager picked from the audience.

I am a little surprised that more groups from Kettering have not put in an appearance in the competition.

FINALLY, an open invitation to Northants groups to keep me informed. I will be pleased to receive details concerning all Northants groups.

EAST ANGLIA

R. G. TUDOR,
 92 Christchurch Road
 Norwich

"THE TIMES, they are a changin'." This is certainly true in the Norfolk scene today. There are now more groups than ever and though this can be regarded by some observers as a good thing, there has been a general lowering of standards.

This has resulted in venues closing, because of a lack of good-class groups, and a drop in the number of gigs per group per week.

COMPETITION for groups, is being sponsored by the Norwich Mercury newspapers. Finalists will appear at the Royal Norfolk Show in June. Judges include Alan Freeman and John Sparkes.

ONE group making an impression in Norwich recently has been the Clique, who travel up from Ipswich. Manager Mike Reeve announced recently that plans are going ahead for the group to record for Tony Hatch. They will be backing singers Rod and Caroline, from Colchester.

Line-up of the Clique: Graham Paul, lead guitar; Dik Mann, sax; "Bo" Underwood, drums; and Dave Lingard on bass. The boys have built up quite a following at the Gala Ballroom, Norwich.

ONE long-established Norfolk group, Ricky Lee and the Hucklebuds recently acquired a new vocal system. Only two of the original "Huckles" are left in the line-up Ricky Lee and lead guitarist Mike Starling. The other three members, Jim Lawes-Bass, Barry Holden, rhythm guitar, and John Kennedy, drums, all joined at the same time when their former group, the Escorts, broke up last summer.

ANOTHER name change is Cavaliers to Trends. These boys used to be called Dave and the Gay Cavaliers, and on occasions appeared in cavalier-type costume.

Norwich group Mervyn and the Falcons, managed by agent Norman Guest, are very popular at the Bedford Beat Spot in Norwich. This club has changed the nature of the Wednesday night sessions by bringing in top-line local bands in place of the record sessions.

RICKY Southern and C.B.O. Incorporated made their television debut on B.B.C. T.V. last month. TWO NEW groups in the area feature unusual names, The Detonators, and the No Strings Attached group. Both bands have been making appearances in local dance halls recently.

A PETITION organised by Norwich teenagers failed to persuade the City Council to allow the use of St. Andrew's Hall, the civic hall, for a dance featuring P.J. Proby. Proby failed to draw a large crowd at Lowestoft when he appeared at the Royal Hotel there in April and the management expressed their disappointment in the turnout.



The Emperors: left to right, Lester G. Derek Shepherd (organ and electric "Stu" Macintosh (drums), Bob Tu (guitar).

SUPPORTING Proby and his orchestra Ricky Wilson and the Threequarters. This group is certainly one of Norfolk's professional groups.

THE NEW policy of the A.B. Organ King's Lynn is paying divide promotions started by Alan Lockwood, the company, include Banham, where the recently appeared, and the Enterprise Club.

NORFOLK group the Brokers a numerous appearances in Fenland clubs Midland venues. "We have a big follow area," says manager "er Dick Bloy. It is a p don't see much of them in the eastern side of This first-class group deserves to have mo the Norwich area.

EMPERORS were the last group to Bacton Village Hall before it closed on until the summer season commences the 5th.

MIKE PATTO whom many will remember of the Chuck Berry Show, is ed by the Continentals on some of his



Mike Patto

local American bases. The combination and Continentals has proved successful at the Oxford cellar.

BACK at the Cellar this month are M Sound, and Zoot Money's Big Roll Band. LOCAL electronics wizard Tony "O has just produced a new amplifier Zagul, the Continental's lead guitarist. to use the new amp in future recordings.

OXFORDSHIRE

JOHN STANLEY
 90 Lonsdale Road
 Oxford

WELL, things really are happening in and "Midland Beat" is the first to announce the great backing group for Mal Ryder — have folded up after over three years of p work. The break came about partly for reasons and partly due to the pressure months bookings in Germany.

I was out there myself recently, filming and the strain was quite obvious. Pete, the b stopped in Frankfurt and is now a mem Willie Harris's group. Wee Willie is q attraction abroad at the moment.

Vode Chequer and drummer Mick Char refused a number of very exciting offers as both feel that a rest from the business. In the meantime, Mal Ryder storms on. E record was penned by Carter-Lewis. A Mal is playing all his shows with an unnan including stable mate Paul Hanford.



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TOP GROUPS RELAX AT BIRMINGHAM'S SILVER BLADES



Left: Another famous group coming to the Silver Blades Manfred Mann will be the attraction on May 10. Incidentally, the group's Mike Vickers is a cousin of the rink manager David Thomas.

Right: Herman's Hermits in the right mood for relaxing.

country's top beat stars have found a new way of relaxing. It seems that whenever any of them come to Birmingham and have a few hours to spare they make the line for the Silver Blades Ice Rink in the city.

Some of them have even been so keen to get their skating on that they have come back at midnight when the rink is closed in order to have private skating sessions. The only way that some of them can get on the ice is to get mobbed by the hundreds of fans whenever they are at the rink.

The country's top beat stars said recently: "We get so much exercise when we are touring the country that skating is a heaven sent opportunity for relaxing a bit. We always come down to the Silver Blades when we are in Birmingham, sometimes in the early hours of the morning."

THE HERMITS who have appeared at two of the Big Beat Nights, recently played to a capacity crowd. The fervour of the crowd was such that 18 ice stewards were needed to get the group off the stage. The crowd refused to leave the rink while Herman was there and eventually the boys had to forego their skating session and slip out the side door.

OUR PENNIES have been several times, and, while some of them are now becoming quite proficient, Fritz, one of the boys in the picture, was in need of a permanent cushion seat.

HE has been once and her natural sense of rhythm and timing soon enabled her to learn to skate (the photograph shows her having a skating lesson from the rink manager, David Thomas).

LEE LEWIS, on his recent tour of the country, made a lot of calls at the Silver Blades and finished up playing in a real "cool" way! Having half-an-hour to spare, he

sat down at the rink piano and idly started tuning it. In no time at all he had a crowd of young skaters round him and finished up giving them an impromptu concert.

DAVE BERRY gives a magnificent show on stage. The capacity crowd gave him a wonderful reception.

THE MERSEYBEATS came in to skate one Saturday afternoon but their fans gave them no respite and finally they came back to the rink at midnight when they had the whole gigantic ice surface to themselves. Little Odette Tolman stayed on to give them their first skating lesson and they proved very apt pupils.

JESS CONRAD skated extremely well for a "learner" and was speeding round the ice rink in no time. Later he confessed that he had been a skater many years ago and, like riding a bicycle, the art is never lost.

TSAI CHIN came to the skating rink for the Speed Skating Championship of Great Britain. Tsai is a fan of the Birmingham Speed skating team, the Mohawks. Tsai decided to try skating and was taken on by Ken Pendry, who has just been chosen to captain the English Speed Skating team, and Johnny Woodcock, the Mohawks' secretary.

THE HONEYCOMBS and the THEM came skating together one afternoon. Honey in particular proved to be a very promising skater, although both groups found it extremely difficult to break away from their fans long enough to get any skating time.

PETER AND GORDON who were at the Aston T.V. studios recently to record "Thank Your Lucky Stars", came to the rink afterwards and took over an impromptu disc jockey spot.

A tip from the Ice Rink — to watch out for two very new and very promising young groups, both of whom not only have personality but are good instrumentalists — The Freeways and Giorgio and Marco's Men.



Millie under instruction.

Tsai Chin with Mohawks

A great pity such a break had to happen to an outfit who have been so near yet so far from the big time. There is hardly a big town in the British Isles that they have not appeared in, their biggest selling record topped the 9,000 mark and only weeks ago an American fan club was set up for Mal and the boys following the 50 odd letters received after an American beat paper made a spread on the boys. Their last record was released out there.

ANOTHER recent shock for Oxford beat fans came when lead and bass guitarists Will and Malcolm left the top area group The Falling Leaves. The official reason given was girl friends. For the time being, Rod has moved onto lead and now plays his harmonica on a harness. The original rhythm guitarist Radburn Edwards now moves back into the group on bass. The group's second release should be appearing before too long.



A British beat fan filmed with Møl Ryder and the Spirits in the streets of Frankfurt.

JOHN FORD is singer for the group The Tribe. The group broke up eight months ago after Pete Pinchin (sax) left to play jazz in France and Germany. However, only three weeks later, they re-formed to play at the Byford Club at the Clarendon, George Street.

At that time, the group included Pat Stack on skins, (he now manages them) and Ronnie Bridge on bass from the London outfit The Ambassadors. The last two dropped out after six months and Lew Shripton (drums) and Dave Elliot (bass) took their places.

The group, who have a resident spot at the Byford every month, also have pretty young Wendy Herdman to look after their interests... Lucky Tribe!

OXFORD University group The Blue Monks keep popping up in all the right places. A six piece outfit, they have the added interest of a negro singer, indeed a sergeant, from an American base, who was brought up on Gospel singing in the States.

As with the well established Four Beats, the Blue Monks specialize in society parties, dances etc., which pay well. Those interested in booking the group should contact John Nicolson at University College, Oxford.

RECENT change in the line-up of the Blue J's following Kenny Newport's road accident. Current bass player is Rickie Murphy. The crash also broke off an arranged German tour. "Midland Beat" sends its best wishes to Kenny and we hope all returns to normal before too long.

MAKE no mistake about it — the promoters read this column. In the last two months, I have given three groups openings in new areas through booking men reading this feature.

GLOUCESTERSHIRE

JOHN STANLEY,
"Leiden," Harp Hill,
Cheltenham

AT LAST The Talismen have a disc out. It is "Masters of War", a Bob Dylan number. The producer of this release by Cheltenham's first recording group is Shel Talmy, who is also The Kinks' recording manager.

"Masters of War" was issued on the Stateside label on April 23 and the Talismen are hoping that it will also be released in America. One of their first assignments on the release of the disc was an appearance in Radio Luxembourg's "Friday Spectacular".

To celebrate their first record, after months of patient waiting while the right number was decided upon, the Talismen are getting a new bandwagon. Let's hope it helps to take them to the top.

LEICESTERSHIRE

ARTHUR KIRBY,
24 Tolcarne Road,
Leicester

IN three short weeks Mair Davis has become little Miss Box-Office and completely dominates the local beat scene. It's hard to imagine that this is her first time here, and my guess is that she's here to stay.

Dennis and the Rockets are still hoping to secure the exclusive services of Miss Davies but she may decide to try her luck as a solo artist. Whatever the final decision, Redditch won't be seeing so much of Mair Davies in the future.

MOST of the action beatwise is taking place at the many W. M. clubs in the area. Fees vary from about £6 to £18 a show, depending on the ability of the group.

A weekend show of three performances can bring in up to £50, although most semi-pro groups get about half that amount. Interested groups should be prepared to audition at one of the weekly "Shop Windows". I'll be glad to supply full details.

GETTING a very warm welcome are the Heatwaves, an all-coloured group led by a very exciting tenor man. They play a lusty sort of jazz which at times is a little ragged but always interesting.

THE Glen Sounds played at a recent "Shop Window" and the organisers were very glad they came. Halfway through the evening the club's equipment packed up and the group's amplifiers were loaned to the organisers. The Glen Sounds were rewarded by a number of bookings.

ONE of the year's big events is a benevolent concert run in aid of the Stewards Association. Topping the bill this year were comparative newcomers Tina and the Hotstrings. A well deserved break for a very entertaining act.

PET charity of Carol and the Electrons is the O. A. P.'s. The group has already appeared in several shows for elderly people and more are lined up. They won't thank me for making their charity work known but it makes a nice story in these days when so many kids are supposed to be some kind of kinked up goons.

DAVE Johnson, yodelling singer with the Johnson Four, is building up a big image with C and W songs. Although the group feature several belting beat tunes they still get most requests for songs like their country style Danny Boy.

TRIOS are becoming more and more popular ever since Reg Guest came in from Nottingham. The Peter Smart Three are way up there among the best and will soon be off to Blackpool for the summer season.

They follow this with a six months tour of La Belle France. Another busy outfit are the Jimmy Johnson Trio who feature Dennis Ryan, one of the city's most stylish singers. The Geoff Goodman Trio are resident at the Northfields Club and Scraftoft have the John Barry Trio for their Monday shindigs. It would appear that three is a very swinging crowd.

SHEREMOS have made consistent progress since being beaten into fifth place in the Casino beat contest. They are hoping to sign one of the youngest organists in the Midlands to add a new dimension to their already attractive sound.

CREATORS are the 13th group to play the mid-week dance at Scraftoft Valley. I asked their manager if the lads were superstitious and he said, "not really, but they try to avoid sleeping 13 in a bed". (me too, brother). It looks like a case of lucky 13 anyway, the Creators have now been offered the resident spot.

ANOTHER recommendation for the Magnificent Five, this time from a "talent appreciator" from the Braunstone Victoria Club.

This group put on a better show than many of the top-line acts who have recently appeared there. A COUPLE of the Berkeley Squares are sons of Ray Martinez, the Sammy Davis of the Accordion.

VOCALIST with the Silhouettes is the son of Billy Davies, resident comedian/comper at Northfields Social Club.

DESPITE what many considered to be a faultless performance Carol and the Electrons failed their B. B. C. audition. Could be the producers are only looking for folk and Dixieland groups. Carol and the boys are disappointed but not defeated.

THURNBY 3862 is the number to dial if you have some news for this column and can't find time to write.

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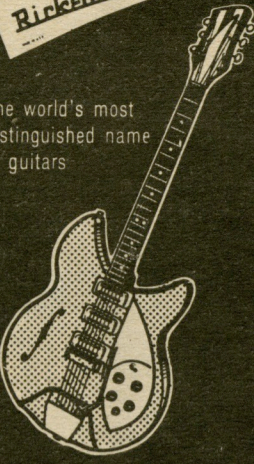


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- May 8th: Wednesbury Town Hall.
- May 9th: Bournbrook Hotel
- May 10th: Queen's Head, Erdington.
- May 12th: Redditch Y.C.
- May 13th: Black Horse, Northfield.
- May 14th: Golden X, Short Heath.
- May 15th: Private function.
- May 16th: Beeches Hotel (lunchtime), Birmid S.C., Smethwick.
- May 19th: Yet To Fill.
- May 20th: Golden X, Bromsgrove
- May 21st: Lyndon, Sheldon.
- May 22nd: 3 Men in a Boat, Walsall.
- May 23rd: Old Horns, Gt. Barr (1' time), Bournbrook Hotel.
- May 26th: Redditch Y.C.
- May 27th: Flying Fox Club, R.A.F. Cottesmore.
- May 28th: Private function
- May 29th: Carlton Club ... Moat House
- May 30th: Tudor Rose, Atherstone.
- May 31st: Alcester Trades.

Many thanks to Agents and Promoters too numerous to mention for all their help.
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Some of the groups who took part in a beat competition near Cannock recently. Among them are, the *Shades*, the *Kraken Wakes*, the *Fanatics* and the *Witnesses*.

STAFFORDSHIRE
ROGER BENNETT,
23 Lichfield Road,
Walsall

THEY have been on the group scene for nigh on three years and although they carry quite a following. The Tennessee Teens have not exactly made the headlines.

Vocalist Ron Annakin told me: "We like to feature Tamla Motown material mostly." Under the present name, the boys — who hail mainly from Walsall — have been going for two years. Before that they were known as The Wild Cats. Recently they joined Birmingham's Regan Agency and struck up an acquaintance with The Cheetahs, who are writing some material for them. Ron said the group had just come back from a week at Torquay with 'The Cheetahs'.

Their line-up reads: John Crutchley (lead), Keith Whitehouse (rhythm), Roger Beamer (bass), Geoff Thompson (drums) and vocalist Ron Annakin. Keith was previously with The Sonnets.

ABOUT 100 teenagers attended a beat contest at Huntington, near Cannock, and voted it a big success. Four groups competed in the finals but for one of them it was nearly a contest that wasn't.

Three members of The Witnesses, from Burntwood Parish Institute, were being driven to the event by club leader Ray Derry when they were involved in an accident. They had bruises and a nasty shock but the other groups taking part very sportingly allowed them to go on stage last so as to give them time to recover. This was despite the fact that there was a draw for places.

Winners of the competition organised by Staffordshire Service of Youth: The Shades, from Chase Terrace. They comprise Brian Garbett, Keith Masterson, Neil Harvey and Godfrey Hill. Also taking part: The Kraken Wakes and The Fanatics, both from Cannock.

THE AMBASSADORS, from Wombourne, near Wolverhampton, invited all fans and friends to the last appearance of their singer at the Ambassadors Dance Club, Village Hall, Wombourne. Mark Wade has now departed and Nick Vance takes care of the vocals. The dance also saw the introduction of their new organist, Lawrence Smallwood.

THE FIRST record by Smethwick's Formula One (reviewed in last month's 'Midland Beat') "I Just Can't Go to Sleep", was voted pick of the week on "Lucky Stars" Spin-a-Disc. The number was written by Kink leader Ray Davies but so far it has failed to take-off.

LOOKING for a new name are The Interns, from Cannock — and the sender of the best suggestion will be awarded a record token. Names should be sent to Tommy Galley at 15, Lincoln Drive, Rumer Hill, Cannock.

The boys (average age 19) feel they need a change after being in business for 18 months. They have recently taken in Malcolm Mason on drums, a former member of the Scott Wood Combo. Making up the number are lead guitarist Melville Galley and bass guitarist Johnny Jeavons. At the moment "We're on a folk kick", Tommy said.

AS FAR AS Wolverhampton was concerned on the Roy Orbison tour, The Rockin' Berries were easily the best of the rest. Wolverhampton's "N" Betweens were wished good luck by Brian Matthew on Saturday Club — a fan had written in requesting Spencer Davis's "Every Little Bit Hurts" and it was pointed out The "N" Betweens had just turned pro.

CANNOCK'S Zero Five and The Chequers, joint winners of a local beat contest, received their cups at a special presentation dance at Hedsnesford. The long hair controversy gained quite a lot of useful publicity for Stafford's newly opened Top of World Ballroom. Possibility that both The Sonnets and The Matchmakers are calling it a day, if they have not already done so.

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

RELIABILITY — that's the key word for The Mansfields. Returning home from a booking at Leeds recently, the Mansfields were involved in a road accident which ruined their van.

Leaving their £1,500 worth of equipment in the care of the police, the Nottinghamshire Beat Champions made their way home by bus and rail arriving wearily at 8 a.m. The group's next booking, however, was that very night and like all professionals, they knew "the show must go on."

So, two hours later, two of the group were making their way back to Leeds in a van borrowed from Johnny and the Haloes. The equipment was duly rounded up and this time their journey to Mansfield passed without a hitch and the group were able to perform that night at Derby Beat Club.

Fully professional for a year now, the group have played with several of the top Liverpool groups and have been offered a German tour. Line up:

Stuart Lane (lead), Richard Lee (drums), Keith Williams (rhythm) and Mick Hodgkinson (bass).

VOCALIST Johnny Gold has parted company with The Ashes who are at present handling the vocals between themselves ... The Fentones have returned to Mansfield following their split with Duffy Power. The group still remains professional and is doing work for the Nottinghamshire agents ... Nottingham's Beatmen may be going on a South American tour including Venezuela and Mexico, depending on the success of their recent record release.

THE SABRES from Matlock spent April in Hamburg clubs. At home they are resident at the Whitworth Institute, Darley Dale ... The Defiants are now under contract to Mike Shelton Ltd., the London agency ... After ten years residence at the Trent Bridge Hotel, the Nottingham Rhythm Club were forced to change their headquarters last month. Fittingly Ken Colyer, who played on the very first night at Trent Bridge, also played at the last session there. The new headquarters for the club is the Liberal Club, Bulwell.

NEW lead guitarists for both The Beat Pedlars and The Teenseens ... The Swinging Sensations have broken up ... The Ashes collected no less than six fines for parking during their German trip ... Ricky Slade has left The Rapiers, who bring in a new vocalist from the Matadors and are now calling themselves Five Kinds.

CLIFF LEE, clarinettist in the Trevor Jones Jazzmen cut his forehead when flung out of his car in a car accident ... The Mansfields have bought the van which used to belong to Ranne Star and the Aliens ... Kevin Spence has changed drumming chairs from Vicky and the Kordettes to The Alley Katz ... Nottingham's Beat Club have started Sunday R. and B. sessions as well as their Friday "gas" with Blues and Roots.

THE first night was a "Steam session" with The Brian Auger Trinity ... The Royalists have broken up ... A new jazz club has opened in Nottingham and is known as the Creole Jazz Club. Les Devotees Jazz Band is the force behind the new club and it is being operated in conjunction with the West London Jazz Society ... Vicky and the Kordettes passed an audition for "Opportunity Knocks" at the Sherwood Rooms, Nottingham.

TWO members of The Swinging Sensations have joined other groups. Alan Elliott switches from lead to bass to join the Silhouettes and Jeff Brown takes over as drummer for the Zeniths from Gordon Fisher.

BORDERLAND
AUSTIN POWELL,
Station House,
Bucknell, Salop

TWO of Wellington's best known groups broke up recently. They are the Falcons and The Condors. The latter split after Sue Carr left to join Les Jondors.

The loss of these groups did some good for another group from that area, The Pacifics of Newport (Salop) who stepped in and did many of the dates vacated by the Condors. The Pacifics have a girl drummer and the group is making very good headway all round.

ALSO missing from the Shropshire scene are The State Blues who have one member in hospital and one working temporarily in Doncaster. Lee Starr has had his hair cut after many people had mistaken him for Keith Relf of the Yardbirds. The Phantones spoiling their act by including some "blue" jokes, a thing that this paper campaigned against some time ago.

BOBBY Hall (ex-Senators) now with Craven Arms' James Dee and the Zeniths. The Nashville Teens appeared at Hillside Ballroom, Hereford on April 23rd. Seen on advert for appearance of Barbara Linn and the Leaders hereabouts; "featuring the Pamela Motown Sound!" The Bad Times (Shrewsbury) have an apt name.

ONCE again the Swinging Blue Jeans missed appearing at the Grand Pavilion, Llandrindod Wells. They were skedded to appear there on April 9th, but arrived back from Denmark that afternoon at 2.15 p.m., and were held up in Customs.

Then they missed their plane to Liverpool and didn't arrive there until 8.15 p.m. Meanwhile their road manager and their equipment were at Llandrindod. They were originally to be in Llandrindod on March 5th but snow meant the dance had to be cancelled.

TWO artists from North Wales and South Wales get onto disc this month. One is 18-year-old Cindy Cole from Chester who debuts on Columbia with "A Love Like Yours" (but did she record for Pye before under the name Jeannie?) and from Newport (Monmouth) Ricky Valance tries for a comeback on Decca with "Six Boys".

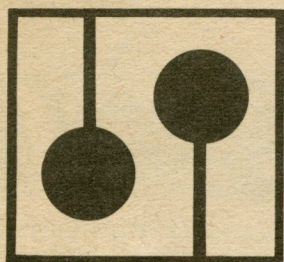
HOW many times do agents get let down is an interesting question for this area. Recently one agency has been let down twice by the same group. First they were set to play at Rhydader, but went to Hereford Hillside to support The Merseybeats, and later when set to appear in Shrewsbury they decided they wanted to appear with Tom Jones in Hereford instead.

Surely this is not the way for any group to run their affairs! Maybe a blacklist for this type of offence could be inaugurated in order to stem this sort of behaviour. A group will not do this sort of thing for long if promoters and other agencies know that they practise this.

BRUMBEATS at Regal Cinema, Craven Arms, on April 24th. The Tren-Sets covering wide area for bookings now. M-Pacs very popular in Abergavenny. They play the Town Hall there run by Eddie Tattersall very often.

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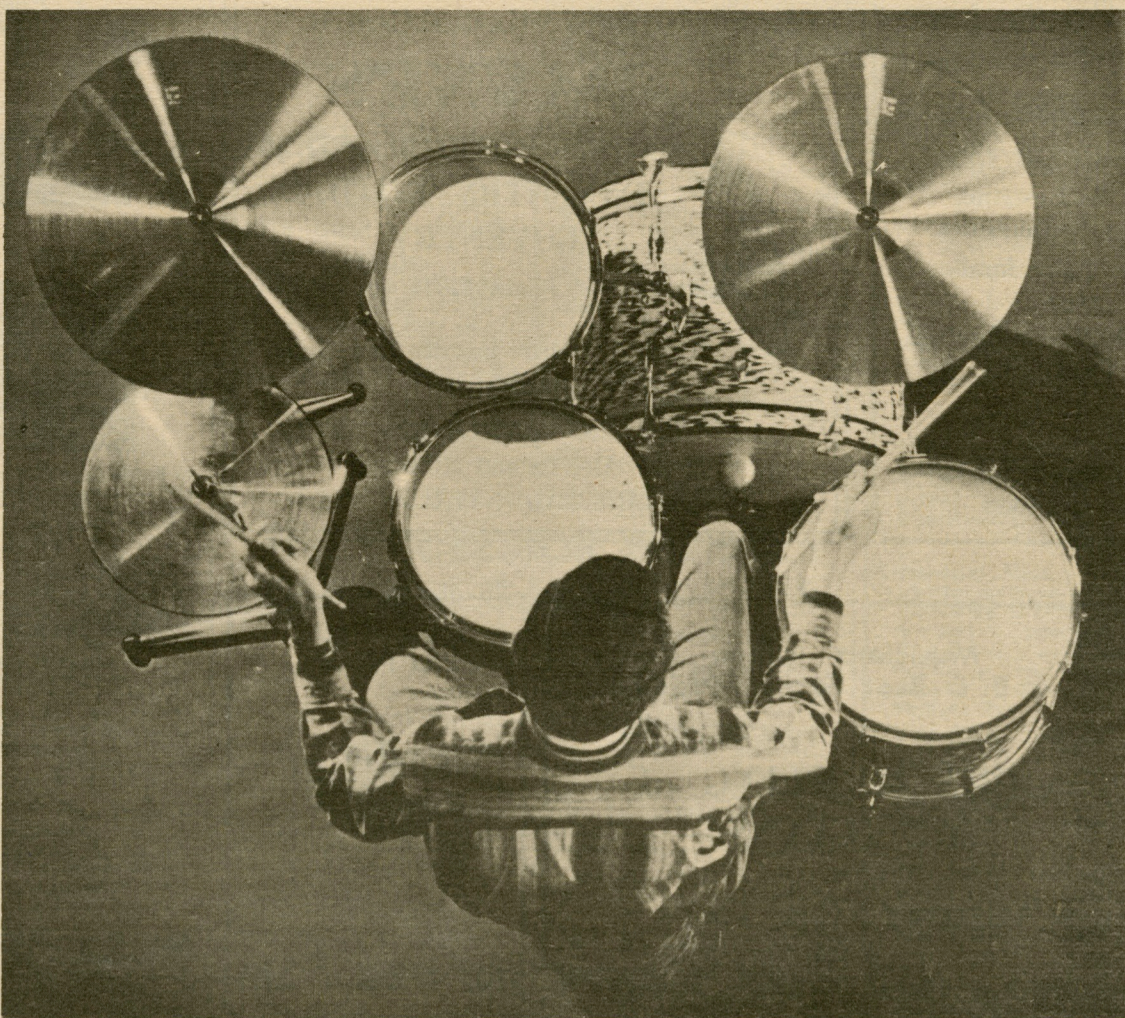
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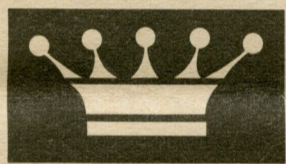
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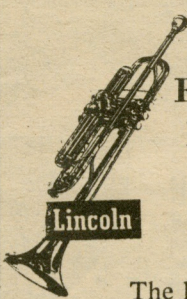
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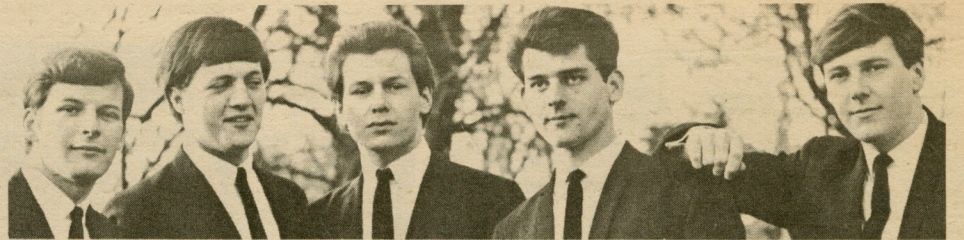


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Cliff Ward and the Cruisers

WORCESTERSHIRE

GRAHAM JONES,
91 Lansdowne Road,
Worcester

FOURTH Worcestershire group to enter the commercial record stakes are the Kidderminster outfit, Cliff Ward and the Cruisers. And with the release of their disc, "Candy to Me" on May 7, they will be changing their name to Martin Raynor and the Secrets.

The success is a fitting culmination to four years of persistent enterprise. In 1963 the boys became West Midland Mecca Locarno Champions, but they did not begin trying for national recognition until late last year.

They sent a demo recording of "Rachel" — one of their own compositions — to the major recording companies, but it was unsuccessful. The second attempt was a demo of "You're a Wonderful One", favourably received by Columbia, who gave them "Candy to Me" to prepare for a test session. That way lay success.

On April 26 the boys travelled to London to record for Radio Luxembourg's "Friday Spectacular" show.

Line-up of the Cruisers since mid-1963 has been Ken Wright (drums), Graham Drew (lead), Terry Clarke (rhythm), Trevor Jones (bass) and Cliff Ward (vocals).

FURTHER to last month's notes, Brian Bromley has recently made a test recording for the Fontana label. Other Potters with records due for release this month include the Marauders and Vince Everett of the Black Orchids. With regard to Vince, he is backed on record not by the Black Orchids but by a sixteen piece orchestra consisting of two violas, six violins, two cellos, percussion, drums, piano, bass, rhythm and guitars.

LANCE HARVEY, who recently left the Kingpins, has taken over as resident vocalist with Gerry Savage's Top Ten at Stafford's new luxury ballroom. "The Top of the World". Lance has also landed a contract to play a summer season of from 16 to 22 weeks at one of Pontins Holiday Camps, where in addition to doing vocals, he will be assistant entertainments organiser.

FOLLOWING an internal difference of opinion, bass guitarist Terry Bateman has left the Candy-men, his place being taken by Linc Chatfield, one time member of the disbanded Aristones. NO TRUTH in the rumour the Marauders' new signature tune is "We're off on the Road to Morocco" — although arrangements have been made for them to play a four month season beginning in June at the Hacienda a Meknes about 60 miles from Tangier.

Wombats have had Birmingham's Nicky James singing with them. Readers may remember that Nicky's record of "My Colour is Blue" was quite a success a year or two ago. They intend adding an electric piano in the near future; meanwhile Cliff Nelson has bowed out for pastures new.

DENIS HURST, recovered from his recent bout of ill health has taken over the electric chair (piano-wise) with the Tennesseans, while Colin Turner, brother of Kingpins lead guitarist Keith Turner, is the new bass player with the Litter, where he takes over from Cedric Spooner. Both Keith and Colin were former members of Phil's Feelgoods.

BACK in circulation comes Tony Kaye, who has taken over from John E. Clay the weekend vocal residency at the Bull's Head. Particularly good on his Ben E. King type vocals, Tony is also scoring well with point numbers.

FINDING the demand of everyday life becoming too heavy, lead guitarist Glyn Hewins has left the Hickory Six, his place being taken by John Egan, formerly with the Shondells and the Olympics. In addition to guitar, John is also being utilised as additional vocalist.

TENNESSEANS are looking around for new recording material and it is currently on the cards that they may wax a number written by film star Jane Asher in conjunction with Freddie Allen, who was bass guitarist with the Bristol Cyclones at the time Tennesseean Ricky Forde was featured vocalist with them.

Good to see bass player Clive Lovatt in circulation again. Clive retired from the scene after suffering two severe electric shocks while a member of Terry King's Saints. Fully recovered, he will be prepared to accept a first class offer from either a pro or semi pro group; meanwhile he has recently backed Bert Weedon on several concerts in the Midlands area.

TWO ex-strutters in the persons of lead Paddy Payne and rhythm Russ Hibberd have formed a duo concentrating on C. and W. Everley Brothers and ballad type vocals/instrumental numbers.

VOCALIST Deke Dene of the Saracens has taken over on vocals with the Vegas Five from John Bowen (cousin of John E. Clay) who has gone to work in Doncaster. Rhythm guitar Harry Owen has moved over to bass while newcomer to the pop world John Bryan is currently on rhythm.

WARWICKSHIRE
DENNIS MORGAN,
77 Radford Road,
Leamington Spa

Big talking point this month is the mystery of why the Matrix Hall — largest ballroom in Coventry — repeatedly fails to draw the young people no matter which stars are billed.

Three big promoters had already tried — and failed — when Calthorpe Enterprises decided to launch their big beat spectacles at the Matrix. But after only two weeks — and with such attractions as the Ivy League, Cliff Bennett and the Rebel Rousers and other top groups — the promoters have pulled out. They are reported to have lost about £1,000 on the ill-fated venture. Now promoters are wondering whether there is a jinx on the place.

MEANWHILE Friars Promotions Ltd., Coventry's biggest agency, are hoping to expand still further with Mick Tiernan looking for new halls up north and Vince Martin scouring the seaside resorts for summer bookings.

MAD CLASSIX still doing great business in Germany — vocalist Beverley Jones returned to Coventry last month and a replacement — a girl from Ireland — flew out to join the boys.

AUTOCRATS, who were out of action for a couple of weeks, now have the services of Olly Warner, ex-bass player with Johnny B. Great's Goodmen.

FRANK Sullivan vocalist with Hell's Angels, had successful operation on throat and is back with the group. They will lose their drummer Barry shortly, however, as he has to go abroad in connection with his work.

CHADS have lost their girl organist Margaret. SABRES are booked for a 10-week summer season at the Floral Hall, Morecombe, while the Mighty Avengers have signed for a string of Sunday dates at Yarmouth during the season.

MATADORS still waiting to hear about release date of their record, produced by Joe Meek and proposed booking on sea cruiser.

ESTABLISHMENT went down to London on April 20, to record numbers written for them by Birmingham's ace-composer Peter Lee Stirling.

MATADORS and Beat Preachers proving popular in Yorkshire, while the King Size Kings are now getting bookings outside the Modland circuit.

A full time disc-jockey from Macclesfield, has been booked out by Friars Promotions at Market Harborough and may take up residency in Coventry.

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LATEST addition to the scene are Censored! the group formed by promoter Barrie Finch. Its members are Pete Webster (ex-Mavericks, Fortunes, Impacts and Saints), bass and organ, Paul Jenkins (ex-Spartans) lead/rhythmist, vocals and gazoo, Tony Hill (ex-Spartans) drums, counter-lead, vocals and bass, Grant Balmer (ex-Invaders) organ and bass, and Dave Tiplady (ex-Invaders) vocals and drums. Possibly Worcestershire's most versatile group!

NEW face in the Daisycutters is Terry Goode, saxophonist, making them the only six-piece outfit in the area. He joined them on Saturday, April 17, when they played at Hanbury. Easter Monday saw them topping the bill with Cliff Ward and the Cruisers at a 12-hour spectacular at Chateau Impney. Also appearing were the Nomads, Lonely Ones, Fourways and Motions.

REMAINDER to lose vocalist Steve Holder. He moves to Dunstable, in August, to join the police cadets. "We will be sorry to lose Steve," says Dave Gwillam, the group's leader. "Besides being a very good singer, he is also a very nice person." In their search for a replacement, Remainder are continuing their probe for a manager. "Not many of this species seem to exist around Worcester," complains Dave.

Most off-beat group name in Worcestershire must be Blacksnake Moan the trade-mark of six lads from Stourbridge and Halesowen. They are Rob Plant (harp and vocals), Martin Shaw (lead), Paul "Neddy" Harris and Mick Morris (co-rhythmists), Dave Totney (bass) and Alan Stuart (drums).

CHARITY work features considerably in the bookings of the Typhoons a group of 16-year-olds from Hollywood. For the past two months they have played every Monday at the Dealdans Hall, Rubery, in aid of Cancer Research; they have given their services freely to Wythall Red Cross Society in order to raise funds to send a girl to Switzerland for two years; and now they are planning another dance to help pay for her stay there.

NEW-STYLE Cossacks have crisper sound — Charlaynes unlikely to stay together for much longer — New to you: the Dalmatians.

POTTERIES

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

BIGGEST pop news of the month concerns John E. Clay of the deep, deep, golden voice, recently resident weekend vocalist at Hanford's Bulls Head Hotel, who through his manager Cliff Brittle, has signed for the powerful London Grade Agency. Immediately impressed by the quality of his voice, on a demo disc, the Grades called John to London to record "The Ballad of Dick Turpin", theme song from the new Walt Disney film, "The Legend of Young Dick Turpin". This has been issued as a number one record and rush released to co-incide with the world wide showing the film will receive. John's contract with the Grades includes a five year contract with Pye Records.

BEAT GUIDE

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American Penpal List: Send 10 6d. s.a.e.—World Friendship Enterprises, U.S., 74, Amhurst Park, London, N.16.

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GROUP DIRECTORY

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 Manager: Mr. L. McCabe
 42, CROWHURST ROAD
 LONGBRIDGE
 BIRMINGHAM 31

Dear Sir...

IT seems that some agents and promoters are continually taking the bread and butter from the mouths of Birmingham groups, who quite often find that one of their bookings has been cancelled because an out-of-town group have been booked in their place.

Usually this happens at the last minute, which makes it all the more difficult for the group concerned to get another booking.

The visiting groups are quite often not as good as the original group, and on many occasions, are either late arriving at the venue — due to the fact that they cannot find it, or just don't turn up at all.

I really don't know what local promoters would do if the local groups decided to blacklist such venues until the persons responsible put their house in order and stop the inconvenience to Brum groups, who after all, have helped to put these successful promoters where they are today.

**FED UP GROUP MANAGER
BIRMINGHAM**

IN a recent edition of "Midland Beat", the Gamblers were advertised to appear at two ballrooms, but I would like to point out that we were not at anytime booked to appear at these venues.

We have never failed to turn up for a booking, apart from when we were involved in a motor accident last year, and we don't want beat fans in the Midlands to think we would let them down.

**Jack Henderson
The Gamblers.**

24, Stannington Place,
Heaton,
Newcastle-upon-Tyne.

I WOULD like to say "thank you", through your columns, to all the groups who have written or telephoned me asking for bookings.

I cannot guarantee to 'phone straight away with a string of dates — but please continue writing. What I want to know is line-up details (experience, age, programme) etc., together with photographs and, most important from both points of view, fees wanted for mid-week/weekend work in Worcestershire and district.

Barrie P. Finch.
Nu-Suite Agency,
24, Church Road,
Worcester.

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★ **"Midland Beat"** welcomes letters which provoke discussion, we offer an LP of the writer's own choice to the sender of this month's best letter.

MY cousin, who lives in Coventry, sends me "Midland Beat" each week. I have yet to see an article on the Trojans who were playing in this area recently. Everyone thought they were fab. They are a Midland group, so why not an article, please?

Anne Hodges.
25, Chip Hill Road,
Deane,
Bolton,
Lancs.

IN a Nottinghamshire report in "Midland Beat", it stated that Paul Woodcock was an ex-member of the Nottingham group, Tony and the Varitones.

I would like to point out that I was with Tony and the Varitones from the time they started till the day they finished last June, and I have never heard of, or seen, Mr. Woodcock.

In their three years existence, eight people played with the Varitones — namely, Tony Collins, Fred Breedon, Stan Stanley, Rock Wheatley, Dave Swingle, Bob Barnes, Pete Jeffrey and myself. You must have been misinformed.

Richard M. Cooke.
6 Mabel Grove,
West Bridgford,
Nottingham.

THANK you for printing such a fine magazine. It's the best magazine of its type in the country without a doubt.

Christopher H. Scott-Reed.
32 Selly Avenue,
Selly Park,
Birmingham 29.

WHERE are Birmingham's girl singers? That's the question posed by Jim Simpson in his column. Surely he's heard of Suzette of the Nocturnes!

Jim Simpson need look no further than Suzette. So many girls today idolise male pop groups that they are too blind to recognise real talent, like that possessed by Suzette.

Isn't it about time we heard more about this girl and the excellent Nocturnes?
Christine Meredith.
229 Cherry Orchard Road,
Handsworth,
Birmingham.

HOW angry we were when we found in "Midland Beat", a full page portrait of the Beatles! We all agree that the Beatles are a great group. But they should not have a whole page in "Midland Beat". Enough national magazines print their picture already. "The Lads of Stock Control". British Wire Products Ltd., Stourport-on-Severn.

I WOULD like you to know that there is a group named the Shooting Stars. These boys have played at all the top Midland halls — but not a comment in "Midland Beat" yet.

Margaret Brettall,
Shooting Stars Fan Club,
Great Barr,
Birmingham.

I AM a regular reader of "Midland Beat" but have yet to see any mention of the Rinki-Dinks, the great Solihull-based group. I know the boys personally and they are all fine lads.

Nicholas May.
Wilberforce House,
Bloxham,
Nr. Banbury,
Oxon.

I do of course realise that space is limited, but please consider the fact that East Anglia comprises over one-third of the area of the East Midlands, and about one-quarter of the Midlands as a whole. So please try to aim for complete coverage in East Anglia.

C. F. Payne.
65, Mousehold Lane,
Sprowston,
Norwich,
Norfolk.

I THINK "Midland Beat" is a great magazine. I like to read about the King Bees, who often play at the Brum Tavern. They are very friendly and everybody enjoys them. They create a wonderful atmosphere.

Miss P. Macdonald.
194 Green Lane,
Small Heath,
Birmingham.

IT'S YOU WHO ARE KILLING OFF THE GROUPS

WHY are groups breaking up? I am just an onlooker on the beat scene. But I know why one must have a skin tougher than leather to go on to play the one night stand game for more than a year or two.

I blame YOU, the teenagers. You have the answer in your hands. Birmingham has the worst offenders. YOU are killing off the groups. Yes, as surely as if you shot them down with a lethal weapon.

HOW? With SILENCE.

When asked, "How important is all this screaming to you?", John Lennon replied, "We need it like a camel needs water. When we don't get it we mope around like we're in a condemned cell."

To keep up with the trends, all groups know, is sheer

hard work. But to see the crowd, apparently enjoying their efforts, makes it more than worth while.

At the end of the evening, when the guitar feels a ton weight, when perspiration has soaked through the shirt and the fingers feel like thumbs, groups deserve to hear appreciation at the end of each well practised number.

After they have given all they have to give, are a few hand claps too much to ask in return?

Or, do YOU want your favourite group to say: "It is not worth living "in a condemned cell"? Over to YOU. "Onlooker".

Northfield,
Birmingham 31.

★ The sender of the above letter is awarded an L.P.

ROOTES

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NAME

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Rose-Morris