

MEET THE GROUPS MONTANA/ANDREW KEEPER/BLACK DIAMONDS

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DAVID BOWIE

"Can't Help Thinking About Me"



MIDLAND BEAT

No. 29. February, 1966.

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Spencer Davis writes exclusively for 'Midland Beat.' Also in this issue: Tips to Drummers by the Spencer Davis Group's Pete York



The Spencer Davis Group — (left to right) Stevie Winwood, Pete York, Spencer Davis and Muff Winwood.

Picture: Jim Simpson.

The toast is Spence and the boys

THE TOAST of the local beat scene — that's the Spencer Davis Group.

In toppling the Beatles from the top of the charts with "Keep On Running", they have become the second Birmingham group to reach the coveted No. 1 spot.

Now Spence, Stevie, Muff and Pete face the challenge that the Moody Blues failed

to meet — to follow-up this success with another chart-topper.

Here in the Midlands, Spence and the boys have been idolised for some time, of course. And it's typical of the group that they should so readily acknowledge the support and encouragement they have received from the local fans in their climb to the top.

Says Spence: "We would never have made it without our fans in Birmingham.

They have been behind us right from the start and the way they have always turned out to hear us has been a constant spur."

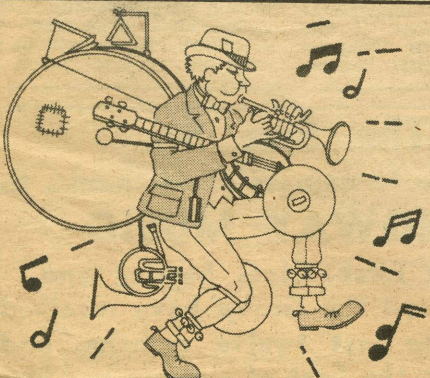
It is interesting to recall that the first issue of "Midland Beat," published in October, 1963, contained a large picture of Spencer Davis, taken by Jim Simpson at the opening session of Birmingham's first rhythm 'n blues club.

"We'll never forget those sessions at the Golden Eagle in Hill Street," comments Spence. "The atmosphere was tremendous and the interest the crowd showed in the

music convinced me that R & B was going to be very big."

But the Spencer Davis Group's success with "Keep On Running" has not gone to their heads. In fact, their leader admits that he is embarrassed when it is pointed out his group knocked the Beatles off the top of the charts.

Explains Spence: "The demand for the Beatles' disc had diminished and it had only one way to go — down. We were just lucky that we happened to be coming up at the time!"



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A PLACE FOR EVERYBODY

WHAT a start to the New Year! Just one month gone and we've had a Midland group topping the hit parade and shock changes involving three of the area's recording groups.

We welcome these developments. The advantages of having one of our groups at the top of the charts are obvious, of course. It is bound to focus attention on other groups in this area.

And a change of personnel in an established outfit should have the effect of revitalising the group — especially if they seemed unlikely to make further progress in their existing form.

Even more exciting is the break-up of a long-established group to make way for a new unit with fresh ideas and a determination to offer the local scene something different.

True, some groups make the grade after serving a long apprenticeship, but the majority must accept the fact that they are

not going to make it in a big way if they are still striving for national recognition after two or three years in the business.

That does not mean that it's time for them to pack up. There is still a place for them on the local scene. But any member of the group with his eye on the charts cannot be blamed for seeking pastures new.

A disturbing trend, however, is the lack of notice given to a group by a departing member. It should be remembered that finding a replacement takes time. It is unfair to leave a group without giving the rest of the boys sufficient time to find someone to take over.

And the same reasoning applies to a group about to fire a member. It is unlikely that he would be able to step right into a job with another group.

So give him enough time to fix himself up with another group before bringing in the new boy.

'MB' TEN-PIN LEAGUE

	Won	Lost	Points
1. Tierney's Fugitives	48	4	96
2. Tombstones	33	19	66
3. Andy's Clappers	28	20	56
4. Hangmen	27	9	54
5. The Applejacks	23	23	46
6. Midland Beat	22	16	44
7. The West Side	6	22	12
8. Moonrakers	6	30	12

Hi-game: Tierney's Fugitives 635. Hi-series: Tierney's Fugitives 1732. Ind. Hi-game: Graham Walsh 228. Ind. Hi-series: Graham Walsh 577.



WHO is the unfortunate beatster behind the bandages? It's the Cheetahs' Ray Bridger, photographed after receiving hospital treatment following a motor accident.

But we are glad to report that Ray's injuries are not as bad as they might appear. In fact, we gather that the bandages were soon removed to enable him to continue performing with the Cheetahs.

A winter warm-up

Br r r r r r. but not as cold as our poor Willy.

Welcome aboard the Winter Theatre Special as we try to generate as much heat as possible during a non-stop round up of theatre offerings in the Midlands this month.

With Robinson Crusoe still at the ALEXANDRA and Humpty Dumpty continuing his great fall (metaphorically, of course) at the BIRMINGHAM THEATRE, the only change of bill to record in the Second City is the closing of Treasure Island at the REP and the opening on February 22nd of John Osborne's "Inadmissible Evidence," directed by John Harrison.

Half an hour's run through the sylvan glades of Oldbury, Dudley Port, Tipton and Coseley will bring us to a clearing that is forever Wolverhampton where at the GRAND THEATRE Jack's Beanstalk finally crumbles on the 19th to make way for more fairy tale adventure, J. M. Barrie's immortal play "Peter Pan" with Sylvia Sims, in the title role, Ronald Lewis in charge of the Pirates as Captain Hook and Vanessa Lee.

Jimmy Clitheroe, alias Tom Thumb, alias Big Success, runs through at the COVENTRY THEATRE and that's what we'll do — run straight through to Northampton where the "rep" company at the ROYAL open to the public on the 3rd, with the musical play "Lock Up Your Daughters," having played a charity performance on the previous night for Northampton's Round Table Organisation.

South now through Bicester to Oxford where at the PLAYHOUSE their theatrical event of the year must surely be the long awaited production of Dr. Faustus with guest stars Elizabeth Taylor and Richard Burton who are giving their services to allow all the proceeds to go to the building of a University Theatre Workshop.

The Oxford Playhouse Company return on the 28th with Barbara Jefford, John Turner and Leon Eagles in "Phedre."

To Stratford's ROYAL SHAKESPEARE THEATRE now where the Royal Ballet completes its three week season on February 5th, and makes way for "Late Joys" the Old Tyme Music Hall production from London's Players

THEATRE SPECIAL by LESLIE DUNN

Theatre on the 14th.

Still moving West, we pass through Worcester pausing only to mention that David Kossoff offers an unusual evening of entertainment at the SWAN THEATRE from Feb. 3rd to 5th.

Our next pause is just down the line at Malvern's FESTIVAL THEATRE where a special "schools season" will include "Twelfth Night" 1st. to 12th. and "Othello" from 15th. to 26th.

Both of these plays are being studied for this year's G.C.E. and are being presented at the special request of the local schools, the sort of co-operation that must eventually pay dividends.

The 28th. sees the opening of "Major Barbara" by G. B. Shaw, no stranger to Malvern since he appeared in person at every Malvern Festival between the wars.

Not far from here is Cheltenham's EVERYMAN THEATRE with a good selection for the month which includes the 2nd week of "Worm's Eye View," and if it's laughter you're after that takes some beating. Two weeks of "Separate Tables" by Terence Rattigan are followed on the 22nd. by "Plunder."

Moving North to Kidderminster we find a short season of professional repertory at the PLAYHOUSE with a programme that should guarantee plenty of support ... 31st. "Reluctant Heroes"; 7th. Feb. "Worm's Eye View"; 14th. "The Scandalous Affair of Mr. Kettle and Mrs. Moon"; 21st. "Rookery Nook"; 28th. "Jane Steps Out."

A 50-mile run further North brings us to STOKES ON TRENT'S THEATRE-IN-THE-ROUND where Peter Terson's new musical documentary "Sing An Arful Story" opens on Jan. 31st for the week. In it the life of a great industrial area, Tyneside, is contrasted with the vastly different atmosphere of Britain's vegetable garden, the Vale of Evesham.

A very industrious writer is Mr. Terson because another of his plays gets its first production at this theatre from Feb. 8th - 12th. It's called "All Honour Mr. Todd" and it's the first of Mr. Terson's plays to be presented while he's spending a year with the Victoria by means of a special bursary from the Arts Council.

Destination Derby, where at the PLAYHOUSE a varied offering includes Feb. 1st. "Dial M For Murder"; Feb. 15th. "The Birthday Party"; Feb. 28th. "Hamlet". Continuing East we arrive at Nottingham's ROYAL to find that "My Fair Lady" has at last moved out to make way for the premiere opening of "Tom Jones" starring Keith Barron and adapted by Joan Macalpine.

On the 9th. "Camelot" begins a 2½ week run starring Paul Daneman, Lynn Kennington who was the principal boy at this theatre last Christmas and Cardew Robinson.

A short trip South brings us to this month's journey's end to LEICESTER'S PHOENIX for the last week of "One for the Pot" Feb. 8th. "The Birthday Party"; and 22nd. Noel Coward's "Blithe Spirit."

IAN CAMPBELL ... on Harvey Andrews

A COUPLE of years ago, we recorded a Spanish Republican song, which, although we sing it in Spanish, is still one of the most requested items in our repertoire.

This encouraged us to record the beautiful Cuban song "Guantanamo," without translating it, as the "A" side of our latest single (Transatlantic SP 7).

The words are by the poet Hose Marti, who is to Cuba what Robert Burns is to Scotland. Aliteral translation would be unsingable and any other might be presumptuous. The song is a declaration of Marti's devotion to his country and people. He spent most of his life in exile in the U.S. and this poem was written shortly before his death in an abortive Cuban uprising.

There are no language barriers with the flip-side, Mary Anne, although it comes from the same great continent

as "Guantanamo." It is a simple traditional love song from some fishing community in Nova Scotia and obviously has its roots in one of our own English or Scottish folk songs.

I first heard it sung long ago by Peggy Seeger and have loved it and wished to record it ever since.

Enough about the latest single by my own group. Now a few words about an EP (Transatlantic TRA EP 133) by Harvey Andrews. The songs on the record are "Most Peculiar Man," "Child of Hiroshima," "You're On Your Own" and "Death Come Easy."

My introduction to Harvey Andrews came about a year ago following a session at the Jug O' Punch Folksong Club in Birmingham at which I made one of my periodic appeals for new singers to come forward from among the club members.

Later that week I had a phone call from a young man who wanted to know if I really meant what I said in my appeal for some new voices. "Certainly," I answered. "Do you sing?"

"I used to sing in a church choir and a madrigal group," he said, obviously unaware of my sinking heart. "I was taught something about the guitar at college, too, so

could I have a go next week?" At the next club meeting, he arrived with a guitar. When called up, he sang two songs, neither of which I had heard before, and sat down to tumultuous applause.

The enthusiastic reception he had received would certainly have justified an encore and I asked him why he had not taken one. He confided to me then that those were the only two songs he had written.

Harvey Andrews soon established himself as a firm favourite at the Jug O' Punch. Seldom a week passed in which he did not produce at least one new song.

He also began to sing the songs of other contemporary writers and, as his repertoire broadened and his artistry developed, he became one of the most popular club performers in the Midlands.

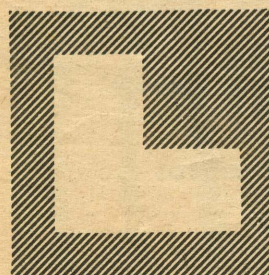
Since leaving his teaching job to become a professional singer he has become known to audiences all over the country.

His songs are very personal expressions of life seen through the eyes of an intelligent young urban Midlander and, if you doubt that they are good songs and that he sings them very well indeed, I recommend his new record.



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NEMKON is a race horse. That's how the Nemkons got their name. Their manager used to back it and now he finds he's on to another winner handling the group.

Not many groups have such a large following as the Nemkons. As many as 50 of their fans will hire buses to travel all over the country from Rutland to give them their support.

The line-up: Jimmy Findlay (18, drums), Dave Brown (19, lead singer), David Walker (18, rhythm guitar), Mick Vodi (18, bass guitar) and Don Collins (17, lead guitar).

The Nemkons play up-to-date music with a number of outstanding originals written for them by one of their friends, Bob White, who is an Uppingham Public School Boy.

They were such a success at the finals of the "Melody

Maker" National Beat Contest at Wimbledon Palais last year that they were asked back to the ballroom to give another great performance at a Radio London Big "L" Night.

The Nemkons have had unusual engagements, too. They played carols and hymns beat-style in Belton Village Church and the boys were the first group to play at Coltesmore Hunt Ball.

Don and Jimmy are apprentice electricians; Mick is a milkman for his father's business; Dave works for his father in the retail trade; and David Walker is a technical circuit draughtsman.

The Nemkons' first record was "Failing To Excite Me." We feel sure their next one won't fail to excite you — neither will the boys if you are lucky enough to see them perform.

JAZZ

by LES PAGE

*The card
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gets you
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"JAZZ for Moderns" continues to draw a regular crowd on Tuesdays at the "Saracen's Head," Dudley, as if to show that modern jazz is not dead outside Birmingham. More support from musicians would be appreciated and production of an M. U. card will obtain free membership.

Nearer the centre of things, carrying on the "Chapel" tradition of Saturday afternoon jazz in a comfortable, informal atmosphere, the "Grotto" Club in Bromsgrove Street has been the home of some swinging sessions of jazz which is "unlabelable" as modern, trad or what-have-you.

For instance, the New Year got well under way on January 1 with such stars as Dutch Lewis (tenor, flute and clarinet), Noel Hudson (bass), Roger Bruton (drums), Ray Foxley (piano) and Diz Disley (guitar).

The last two once played with Ken Colyer but their present jazz playing does not resemble the New Orleans brand of the Guv'nor.

The point is that these musicians meet and find a common denominator in jazz; they please those of us who have a strong preference for such-and-such a school or style but who appreciate more than one.

Remember, these are the men making the jazz — you are listening or writing about it. I personally attribute a broader appreciation of jazz to men like this playing music like this; thanks, men!

Gordon Whitworth joined in later; he is currently doing well in the difficult job of following Ken Rattenbury as trumpeter with the Second City Jazzmen.

It is good to know that Andy Hamilton is playing again after injuring some fingers at

work. (Noel Hudson plays bass with Andy's Band).

So some so-called jazz musicians objected to the Spencer Davis Group playing on "Jazz Jamboree!" I remember when this function produced little jazz, the very name in the title stemming from pre-swing days.

For years, it was the dance-bands who figured prominently, and those of us who were around then know how little jazz appeared on the programmes of the popular big bands.

Come to that, much of the music played now by these big bands seems to me dance music in the derogatory sense applied to it by jazzmen.

Perhaps Spence's critics don't acknowledge Leadbelly as a jazzman; or Ray Charles. Spence was doing admirable performances of Leadbelly numbers many years ago when he and Cyril Davies must have been the only two people in the country to own 12-string guitars.

And Steve Winwood's Ray Charles-tinged vocals are the nearest thing to jazz in the current R. and B. offerings.

Of course, the London-based people probably didn't know that the Davis people have already played with the Johnny Patrick Band to the intense satisfaction of the audience here in Birmingham.

As one jazzman to another, may I say, "Congratulations, Spence. Keep up this swinging thing."

Forthcoming attractions: "Le Metro" Club, February: Alan Elsdon J.B., Ken Colyer Jazzmen (11th) Monty Sunshine J.B., with Val Wiseman (18th) and Al Fairweather's Band (25th).

On the same nights at "Salutation Stomp" you are offered: Artesian Hall Stompers, Zenith Hot Stompers and other of the bands which play New Orleans and classic hot jazz regularly. (Dates not yet finalised).

Recent swinging attractions there have included the Greenleaf J.B., with Frank Brooker and Kid Bunk. Frank is about the only tenor saxist in the country playing contemporary N.O. music in the style of Emmanuel Paul.

And don't forget the visits of Duke Ellington with Ella Fitzgerald, Henry "Red" Allen with Alex Welsh's Band and the New Orleans All-Stars, all within eight days in February.

With the usual club attractions and bands like the George Huxley N. O. Jazzmen and the Second City Jazzmen regularly performing may I wish you all a swinging February! In Birmingham, the swinging city!

BO BERRY ON THE BEAT

SO MANY groups have now had equipment stolen that there is no excuse for not having gear insured ... It will be interesting to see how Al Jackson's career as a solo singer works out ... Was Mike Sheridan surprised when his group decided to carry on without him?

Welcome back to the business, Roy Foulger! Did John Singer pick an hotel without a 10 per cent. service charge for his holiday in the Canary Islands? ... First groups to qualify for the finals of the Birmingham Locarno contest: Stringbeats, U. K. Bonds and Miller Beats.

Everyone sympathises with Mike Carrollon his loss of the Mackadown after working so hard to develop it as a beat venue ... Pete Gittings is adding so many venues to his agency's list that they are calling him "Get-In Gittings."

Get well soon, Vic Wakelin! If you are ever stuck for a vehicle, contact Ray Willetts (Moonrakers and West Side) he can probably spare one ... Ugly's have named Phil Myatt's girl Mary Wooding "Miss Ugly" ... Mary returns the compliment by saying the boys are "very dishy."

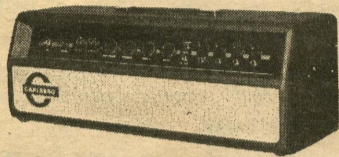
Cruel luck on the Montanas when all the tapes used in their brilliant miming act were stolen ... Watch Froggy and the Monopoly A. No name problem for new group from Kinver — they reversed Kinver and became the Rev-niks!

Maori Castaways show just what so many local groups lack ... Has Johnny Neal been on a diet?...Max Griffiths has bought so much equipment from Jones and Crossland that he's thinking of applying for shares in the firm!

Is the National Anthem Danny King's favourite tune?... Ask Mike Sheridan how long he has been married — you'll be surprised!

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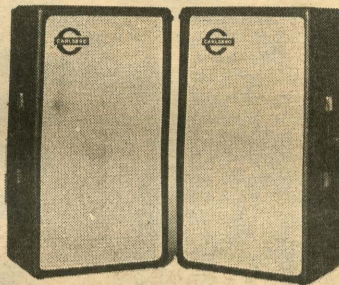
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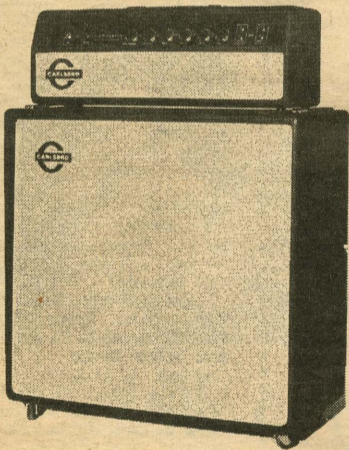
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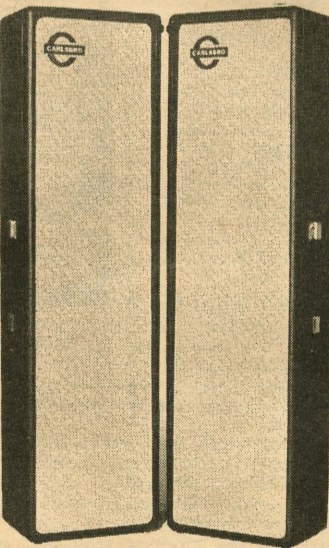
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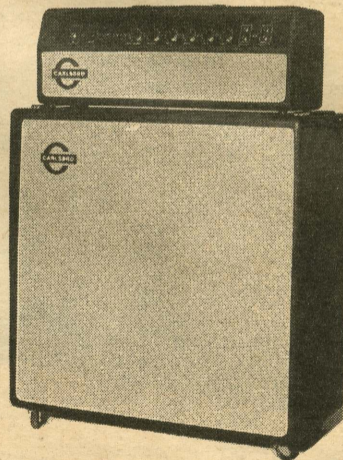
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Top groups who share the Hammond



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JIMMY Smith, Georgie Fame, Manfred Mann, Brian Auger — what have they in common? They all owe their success to the Hammond Organ.

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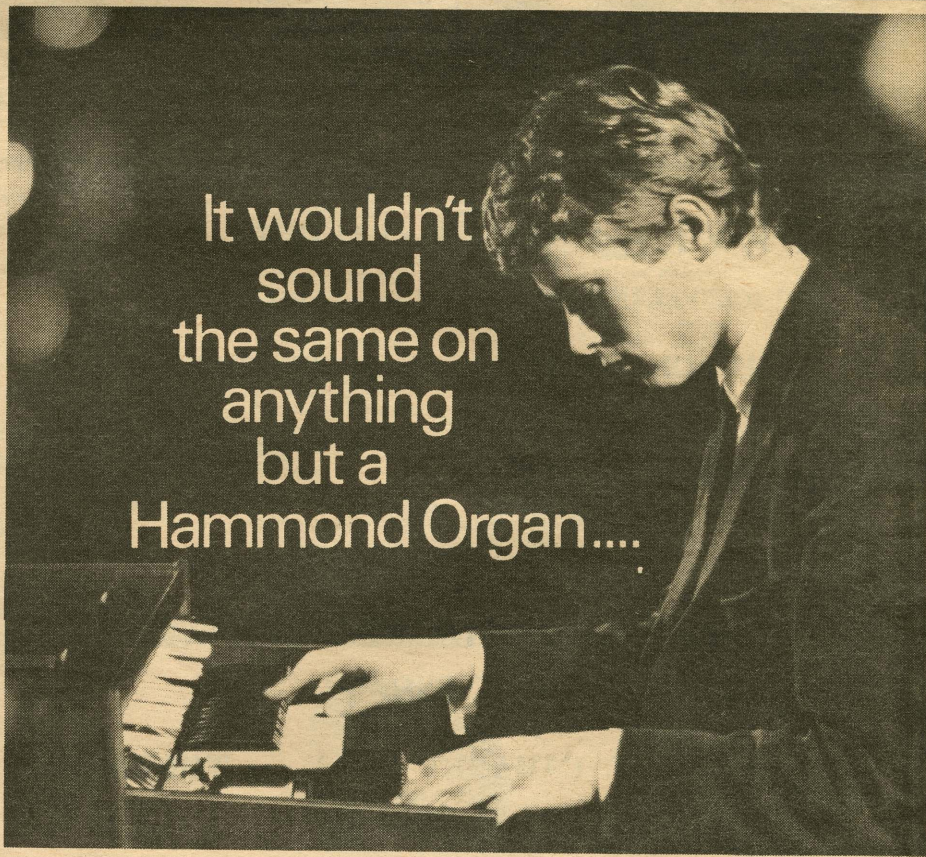
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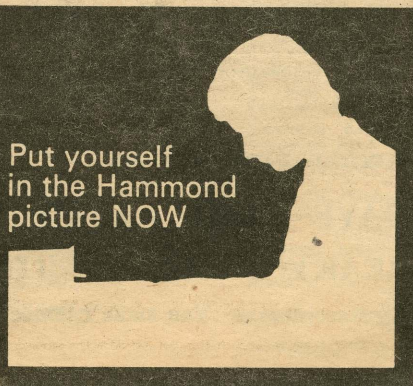
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BRUM BEAT

by Dennis Detheridge and Pete Gittings

LITTLE did we realise when we gave the exclusive news of Carl Wayne's decision to disband the Vikings that several other well-known local recording groups were to make surprise changes.

The biggest shock was Al Jackson's departure from the Applejacks. It has been followed by auditions but at press time a replacement had still to be announced.

"Meanwhile, we are carrying on as a five-piece," said



Al Jackson — no longer an Applejack.

drummer Gerry Freeman. "We're very sorry to lose Al, of course, especially after all the fun we've had together during our two years on the road."

Then came the Mike Sheridan bombshell. With the sixth single by Mike Sheridan's Lot on release only a matter of hours, Mike informed his group he was leaving them.

"I'm not packing up signing altogether," assured Mike. "It's just that I want to go back to a day-time job and concentrate on local gigs with a semi-pro group."

But drummer Roger Spencer and the rest of the "Lot" had other ideas. They lost no time in deciding to stick together under their old name of the Nightriders.

"We thought no-one would want to know after Mike had left us," admitted Roger. "But most of the promoters have stuck by us and agreed to take the group without him."

Meanwhile, Carl Wayne and the Vikings have played their last date and Carl is now a member of the new group, the Move, along with



Nightriders — still in business without Mike Sheridan.

Roy Wood, Trevor Burton, Ace Kefford and Bev Ralston.

"I'm just one of the Move now," emphasised Carl. "We're a co-operative group and I don't want to be picked out as the leader. That's why references to 'Carl Wayne and the Move' embarrass me."



Move — with Carl Wayne in the background.

NOW changes are afoot in another Birmingham recording group, the Nicky James

Movement. As we went to press, Nicky was planning to launch a new line-up comprising Mike Hopkins, Bobby Child, Terry Wallace and Keith Smart.

IN CONTRAST, the Ugly's seem quite settled as they keep their fingers crossed for success with their third single, "A Good Idea" another of their own compositions.

But their former organist John Gordon, is back to business leading a new group, the In-Set, managed by the Ugly's former manager, Roy Foulger, who has big plans

for the outfit.

Members of the In-Set are John Gordon (organ), Roger Bloomer (lead vocals), Phil Stonall (lead guitar, harmonica), John Willets (bass guitar) and Roger Brown (drums).

Said Rog Foulger: "The boys are staying semi-pro until they are established and I am getting a lot of help from local agents and promoters."

ROCKIN' Berries have been enjoying considerable success in "Jack and the Beanstalk" at the Grand Theatre, Wolverhampton — but this triumph as marred by the theft of their equipment.

"The van containing our gear, worth around £2,000, was stolen from outside our hotel when we were visiting Manchester for a television engagement," stated lead guitarist Chuck Botfield.

ANOTHER group to lose their gear during the past month are the Staffords, who had equipment worth nearly £1,000 stolen from their van. They believe they were followed by the intruders from a Birmingham night club.

NOW news of William's Conquerors, winners of the "Midland Beat" contest. They will be visiting London on February 10 to make their first disc for A and R man Alan Freeman, one of the judges at the finals of the contest.

"At the moment, we believe we will be recording one of our own songs," says manager Graham Bott, "but it's possible that it may be decided that we should do a song written specially for us."

Promoters have been commenting to William's Conquerors on the fact that they have not been advertised at local dances in recent weeks. The reason: the group is undertaking a lot of out-of-town work.

It is likely that the boys will sign with a London agency on the release of their disc. They have turned professional and have made numerous improvements during the past 12 months.

Apart from a new p.a. system, lead guitarist Mick Webley has a new Gibson Stereophonic and two Vox amplifiers, while the group have acquired a new set of Ludwig drums to go with their new drummer, Derek Woodward.

And William's Conquerors complete their new look with a complete change of repertoire, including many of their own songs, plus a new set of stage gear.



William's Conquerors — cutting their first disc.

AFTER establishing beat sessions every Sunday, Monday and Thursday with such great success at the Bel-Air Club, Castle Bromwich, Mial Enterprises are branching out.

On Friday, February 18, partners Mike Prinsep and Alan Lewington open the Coach Club, meeting every Friday at the Coach Hotel, High Street, Coleshill.

"We'll be presenting all the top local groups at these sessions," comments Mike Prinsep. "We feel there is a need for his type of club in Coleshill."

WHY? surely the most intriguing name on the local scene since the arrival of the Ugly's, have lost rhythm guitarist Ivan Bryan and bass guitar

rist Dave Walker.

A replacement for Ivan has been found in Matt Bridger, brother of the Cheetahs' Ray Bridger, but the group were still auditioning bass players when we went to press.

ENTRY into the charts of "Tchaikovsky One" by the Second City Sound is a great achievement by these Brum boys considering how rarely an instrumental gets into the hit parade these days. Well done, lads!

DHOBIE'S are a group with an enthusiastic fan club secretary. She is Bernadette, of 6 Alleyne Road, Erdington. Boys in the group are George Gifford (vocals), Paul Sebastian (bass), Ray Miller (drums), Ken Haynes (rhythm) and Denis Bennet (lead guitar).

ONE of the first Birmingham agents specialising in beat work, Ralph Horton, is the man behind the promotion of David Bowie, whose first record is entitled "Can't Help Thinkin' About Me."



David Bowie — managed by a former Birmingham agent.

After helping to build up Denny Laine and the Diplomats into one of the biggest names on the local scene, Ralph moved to London, where he had spells at the King's Agency and on the road as personal assistant to the Moody Blues.

"I'm concentrating on getting David to the top now that I am in personal management," says Ralph, who

maintains the Birmingham scene is "dead" compared to London.

"I see in him the same sort of potential I saw in Denny Laine and we all know how successful he has been with the Moody Blues. So I'm confident David will soon be at the top."

GERMANY is a happy hunting ground for many Birmingham groups. One of the latest to tell us how much they are enjoying life out there are the Sorcerers.

They have been in Germany for 14 months and are now looking forward to the release this month of their first record — two songs co-written by lead guitarist Greenville Warne and vocalist Graham Perrins.

Fancy going out to Germany to join the Sorcerers? Well, they are looking for "a singer for lead vocals able to play rhythm guitar, harmonica and preferably a third instrument."

The job carries a salary of £35 to £40 a week and applicants must be aged between 18 and 22. Applicants should phone GRE 4030 or ERD 0939 after 6 p.m.

FROM groups with a liking for the German beat scene to one who have rejected the opportunity of sampling it — the Lymies. They have turned down a month's tour for £400 with all expenses paid.

"Naturally, all the group were thrilled," said manager Bill Mallard. "But they ran into difficulties when they tried to get time off work. So we reluctantly had to refuse."

"I wonder what other groups would have done in the same position? All the boys have very good jobs and we didn't think it was worth while giving up our jobs just for a month's tour abroad."

Now the boys are concentrating on finding original material.

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MEET THE GROUPS

THE MONTANAS

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WILL HAYWARD

Birthplace Wolverhampton
 Personal points 6ft, blue eyes, black hair, weight varies, usually upward.
 Instruments Guitars of any description
 Educated Wulfrun College
 First appearance The Cock, Bilston (with Hawaiian Band)
 Hobbies Anything unconventional
 Previous groups Crossfires, Belmonts
 Occupation Service Engineer
 Favourite food Cleveland Court steak
 Favourite composers Lennon and McCartney
 Favourite group The Who, The Quotations, Beatles
 Likes Originality
 Dislikes The Mal Craig Three
 Personal ambition To design a good guitar
 Professional ambition To succeed
 Best friend Johnny



JOHNNY JONES

Birthplace Sedgley
 Personal point Blue eyes, blonde hair, 5ft 10ins, 11 stone.
 Instruments Tambourine, Triangle
 Educated Dudley Grammar School
 First appearance Civic Hall, Wolverhampton, in a play
 Hobbies Improving our show
 Previous groups None
 Previous occupation Buyer
 Favourite food Beetroot
 Favourite composers Lennon/McCartney, Bacharach
 Favourite groups The Berries, The business
 Likes To own my own castle.
 Personal ambition To perfect an act that appeals to all age groups.
 Best friend 'Drip'



GRAHAM "GAGGA" CREW

Birthplace Dudley
 Personal points Eyes hazel, hair black, 5ft 9ins, weight, don't know
 Instruments Drums and bass guitar
 Educated Luton Railway Mission
 First appearance Tipton Tavern
 Hobbies Golf, pushing the van
 Previous groups Strangers
 Previous occupation Shop Assistant
 Favourite food Chicken
 Favourite composers Lennon and McCartney
 Favourite groups Beatles, Money, cars
 Likes Sarcastic people,
 Dislikes Tony Meehan
 Tastes in music To retire at age of 26.
 Personal ambition To star in pantomime at Wolverhampton Grand
 Professional ambition To succeed
 Best friend My bank manager



TERRY ROWLEY

Birthplace Wolverhampton
 Personal points Brown eyes, brown hair, 11st 7lbs
 Instruments Bass guitar, lead rhythm, piano, drums
 Educated Tech. High School
 First appearance London Palladium
 Hobbies Tape recording
 Previous groups Mountain Kings, Scotti Wood.
 Previous occupation Electrical Engineer
 Favourite food Chip butties, Johnny B. Great, Ugly's.
 Favourite groups Playing piano in the dark.
 Likes Doormen at the Cedar Club
 Dislikes Joan Baez.
 Tastes in music To own a Bechstein grand piano
 Personal ambition To star in pantomime at Wolverhampton Grand
 Professional ambition To succeed
 Best friend Gipsy Dave

FINDERS KEEPERS

A group who are quickly becoming popular under the same management as the Montanas. They have recently landed a three year recording contract and are working on comedy material to improve their show. They are also booked for a summer season in the South of France. Their first British release is expected in March.



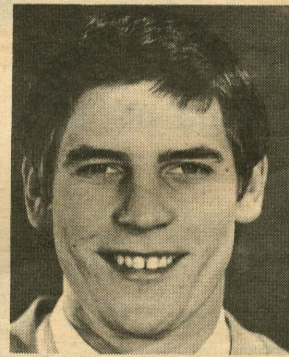
ROY (DRIPPER) KENT

Birthdate Unknown
 Birthplace Dudley
 Personal points 5ft 2ins, eyes blue, hair brown, 8st 7lb
 Instruments Mouth
 Educated Dudley Boys Grammar
 Hobbies Snooker
 Previous groups Zodiacs
 Occupation Professional musician
 Favourite colour Blue
 Favourite food Prawn and chop suey
 Favourite drink Rye and dry
 Favourite clothes Jeans and sweaters.
 Favourite composers Goffin and King
 Favourite group Barron Knights
 Likes Wine, women & song
 Dislikes Hypocrites
 Tastes in music Assorted
 Pets Girls and Alan Clee
 Personal ambition To succeed
 Professional ambition To do a season in panto



JOHN (JAKE) ELCOCK

Birthdate 3.10.43
 Birthplace Dudley
 Personal points 5ft 11ins, blue eyes, hair mangy, 11st 9lb
 Instruments Bass guitar
 Educated Dudley Boys Grammar
 Hobbies Charity work
 Previous groups Saints
 Favourite colour Blue
 Favourite food Chicken curry
 Favourite drink Rum and coke
 Favourite clothes Suits
 Favourite composers Lennon & McCartney
 Favourite group The Lettermen
 Likes Cards, food women.
 Dislikes Promoters who don't pay groups at end of the night.
 Pets Girls
 Personal ambition To make a lot of money
 Professional ambition To make a Finders Keepers LP.



ALAN CLEE

Birthdate 30.3.45
 Birthplace Dudley
 Personal points 6ft, lin., two eyes brown hair, 14st 7 lbs.
 Instruments Lead guitar
 Educated Comprehensive
 Hobbies Sleeping and conversions
 Previous groups Strangers, Martells
 Occupation Professional musician
 Favourite colour Beige
 Favourite food Cow pie
 Favourite drink Beer
 Favourite clothes Clean undies
 Favourite composers Rogers and Hammerstein
 Favourite group The Beatles
 Likes Mommy
 Dislikes Daddy
 Tastes in music Assorted
 Pets Dripper and dogs
 Personal ambition To sleep for 24 hours
 Professional ambition Get in Top 10



DAVID WILLIAMS

Birthdate 27.8.46
 Birthplace Wolverhampton
 Personal points 5ft. 10ins blue eyes, brown hair 10st 7lbs.
 Instruments Drums and vibes
 Hobbies Drums
 Previous groups Too many
 Occupation Professional musician
 Favourite colour Yellow
 Favourite food Chicken and chips
 Favourite drink Rum & coke
 Favourite clothes Anything
 Favourite composers Lennon & McCartney
 Favourite group Hollies
 Likes Ludwig drums
 Dislikes Too much talking
 Tastes in music Assorted
 Pets Drum sticks
 Personal ambition To hole in one
 Professional ambition To have record in Top 10

THE BLACK DIAMONDS

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A much improved combination who seem to have a natural flair for cabaret work. The pleasant harmony and sweet sound of the group, fronted by the strong voice and attractive appearance of Sheila Deni, seems the ideal partnership for the type of work they like doing.



SHEILA DENI

Birthplace Wolverhampton
 Personal points Black hair brown eyes, 8st 9lbs, 5ft 2ins
 Educated Wulfrun College
 First appearance Queens Ballroom
 Previous occupation Typist/Telephonist
 Favourite food Curries, Scampi and steak
 Favourite actor/actress David Janssen, Margaret Rutherford
 Favourite musician Terry Rowley (Montanas)
 Favourite composers Lennon, McCartney
 Favourite group Beatles
 Likes Montanas, Spencer Davis
 Dislikes Sincere people, sarcasm, Under-rehearsed acts
 Personal ambition To buy my parents a bungalow
 Professional ambition To be recognised and become successful



PETE HABBERLEY

Birthdate 1.4.47
 Birthplace In bed
 Personal points 5ft 10ins, hazel eyes, dark hair
 Instruments Bass guitar
 Educated At school
 First appearance Luton Railway Mission
 Hobbies Golf
 Previous groups Morgan Fayne
 Occupation Musician
 Favourite colour Green
 Favourite food Steak and chips
 Favourite drink Coke
 Favourite clothes Casual
 Favourite composers Lemmon & McCartney, George Taylor
 Favourite group Beatles and Montanas
 Likes All good things
 Dislikes All bad things
 Tastes in music Good harmony
 Pets None
 Personal ambition To live happy
 Professional ambition To have a hit record



ROGER CLARKE

Birthdate 20.7.44
 Birthplace Wolverhampton
 Personal points 5ft. 10ins, blue eyes, 9st 10lbs.
 Instruments Guitar
 Educated Bed
 First appearance Central Boys Club
 Hobbies Golf, reading
 Previous groups None
 Previous occupation Agency Rep.
 Favourite colour 'P' green
 Favourite food Roast beef
 Favourite drink Martini & Coca Cola
 Favourite clothes Suits
 Favourite composers Lennon/McCartney, George Taylor
 Favourite group Beatles, Girls
 Likes Girls
 Dislikes Boys, engagement rings
 Tastes in music Anything good
 Pets None
 Professional ambition To sex the group break up



KEITH EVANS

Birthdate 1.7.45
 Birthplace Wolverhampton
 Personal points 5ft 4ins, brown eyes, brown hair
 Instruments Penn, Sec. Modern
 Educated Percy Thomas
 First appearance Hall
 Hobbies Girls, golf, girls
 Previous groups Barons Richelles
 Previous occupation Musician
 Favourite colour Blue
 Favourite food Steak & chips
 Favourite drink Coke
 Favourite clothes Mohair suits
 Favourite composers Lennon/McCartney, George Taylor
 Favourite group Beatles.
 Likes Girls, girls
 Dislikes Boys, engagement rings
 Tastes in music Anything
 Pets None
 Professional ambition To be money and to have a pad in Italy.

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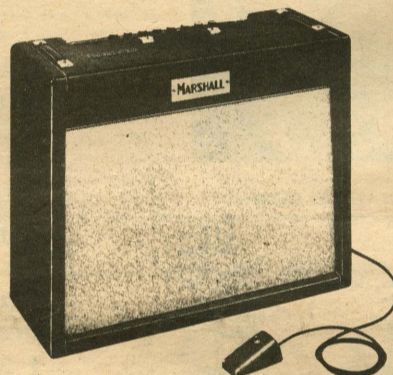
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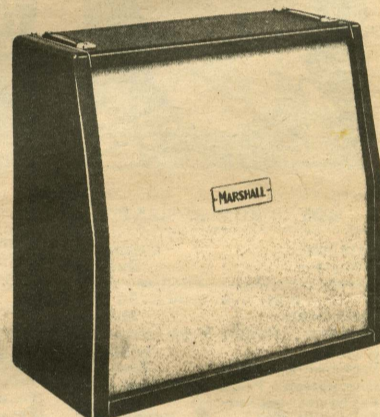
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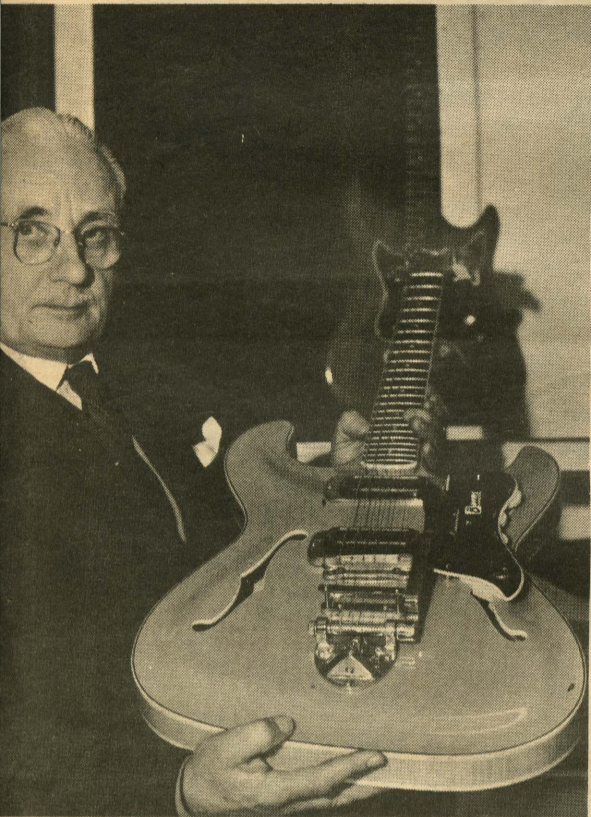
'MB' WINTER POPULARITY POLL

Moonrakers win again

MOONRAKERS have done it again! They are the winners of our Winter popularity poll, with Andy's Clappers more occupying second place. The West Side, eighth in Autumn popularity poll, are third.

Here are the ten top groups: 1. Moonrakers; 2. Andy's Clappers; 3. West Side; 4. Hangmen; 5. The System; 6. U No; 7. Brum Beats, The Expressions; 9. The Ugly's, The Jetweens.

Other groups among the votes: Finders Keepers; Alley Dominoes; Chapter Five; The Uncertain Kind; John Breed; Eight Feet 4; Huskies; Method Five; Montanas; Cheetahs; Size Six; Steve Brett and the Mavericks; Con-Chords; Mansfields; Ricky Ford and the Tennessees; The Imps; Applejacks; Daisycutters; Spencer Davis; The Knak; Sombreros; Lee Starr and the Astrals; Bonds; Williams Conquerors; Somethin' Else; The Iron.



Charles inspects the guitars. Views left and at...

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Spence says

THAT HIT WON'T CHANGE US

PEOPLE are now asking us what it's like to have a big hit record. Steve's reply is: "It's great, but people always ask you what it's like."

Seriously it is very difficult to answer this question without resorting to meaningless words like: "Marvellous", "Fab", or even "Smashing".

I think we were probably more thrilled when it went into the Top Ten than when it actually made Number One.

Because when you make the Ten then you know that the record is breaking big.

And before anyone starts asking questions, we shall still be playing clubs and we shall still play the same kind of thing we did before. We shall not change our venues, our style, our policy or our socks.

.....

WE have just completed our first tour of Scotland. It was wild. When you have a taste up there, you don't see pink elephants, you see tartan haggises.

The audiences were fine: we had adapted some numbers specially for Scotland, such as "The Hoos of the Rising Sun" and "May the Bird of Paradise Fly Up Your Kilt."

It was wonderful to work for Flora Mac-Nightgown, who is the Mrs. Regan of Glasgow.

Even Johnny, our road manager, was confused by things north of the Border.

As he roared the wrong way down a one-way street, we were flagged down by a Scottish policeman.

"I'm glad you did that," said Johnny. We tried to understand what the law was saying, but compared to him, P'efe Robertson's a cockney.

.....

I AM writing this from a plane which is just about to fly over Birmingham. The steward has been serving us with drinks and Muff is sitting next to me with a paper bag on his

head. He looks like Philip Harben on a hunger strike.

The lights of Brum are below us now. Muff wants to stop off for a clean shirt. The stewardess catches hold of his money belt and pulls him back into the plane.

Meanwhile, I am thinking of the great New Year's Eve we spent in Brum at the Adelphi and the Town Hall and how impressed we were with the new Johnny Neal Combo.

Birmingham is a hip town and has some hipbands equal to the best of the London club bands. Johnny's new band is the most exciting of these.

With the addition of a couple of local jazzmen, including our old friend, Ian Boyle on trumpet, this group now plays what we refer to as Negro pop music.

I'm sure that they will improve even more when the horns become more familiar with the style and the arrangements.

.....

PETE was seen standing outside Ringway Music at half past four one morning looking at his photograph and muttering about his teeth.

HAVE you noticed that Pete Quaife of the Kinks has a perfect Greek profile? Neither had I until he told me about it!

.....

STEVE, Muff and I went into a motorway cafe the other day and the waitress said, "Hello where's the tall, stiff one?" No prizes for guessing who that is. He's writing a tall, stiff column somewhere else in this issue!

.....

AS WE all started our musical careers in Birmingham by playing in jazz bands, we still retain great interest in this form of music. Pete has told me a lot about a club which operates at the Golden Eagle in Birmingham on Wednesdays.

This was the place where we started and it's nice to hear there's a good scene going on



Spencer Davis

there now. The Eagle Jazz Band play early to middle period jazz with expertise and tremendous enthusiasm.

I've seen them several times myself and was knocked out by the atmosphere of enjoyment which pervades the audience and the band.

For a music which has been pronounced long dead by the pop papers there is always a large crowd and the band really set out to entertain them.

There are hilarious vocals and ad lib clowning from Eddie Matthews, Bob Smith, Tony Hobson and Jim Shelley. Drummer Barry Norman keeps it swinging and the brass bass has to be heard to be believed.

This is a band which deserves its regular following and I am sure that if any readers sampled this club they would not be disappointed and would be vastly entertained.

.....

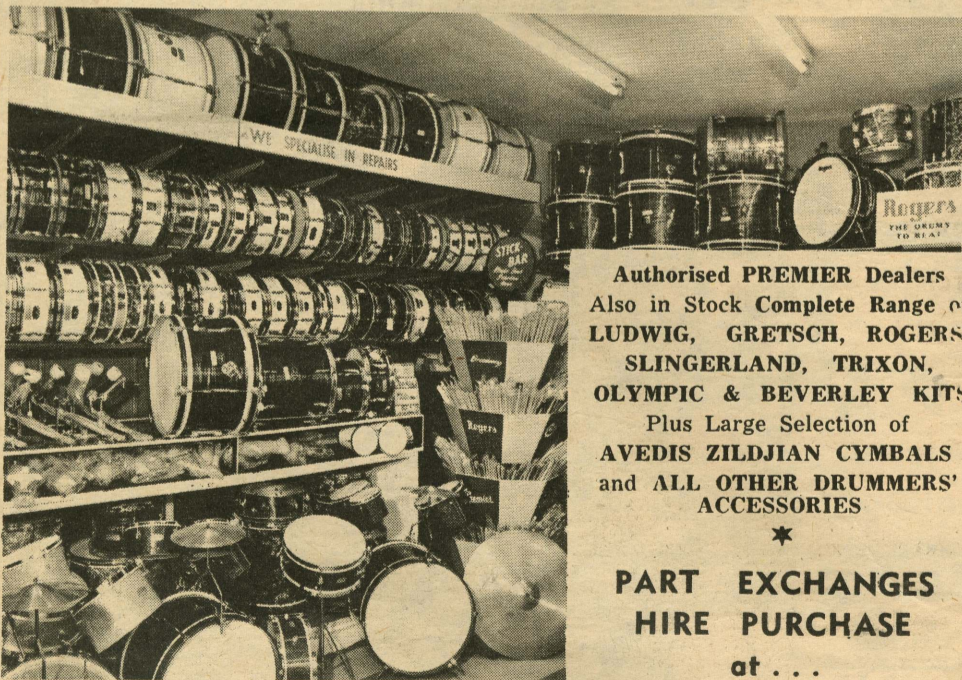
STEVE'S biggest thrill of this year, so far, has been the passing of his driving test.

The driving examiner presented him with a bowler hat as a crash helmet. That doesn't sound like confidence to me.

So Steve now has a car and regrets that he won't be travelling on the Corporation buses any more. I hope his coloured sound won't suffer!

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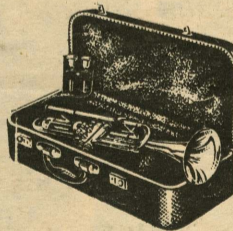
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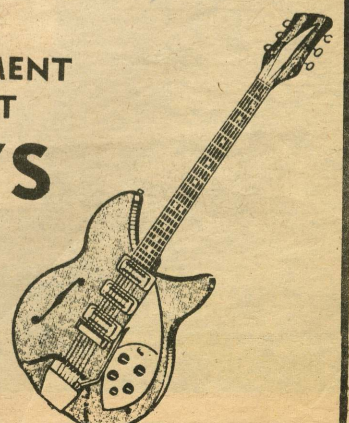
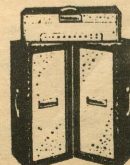
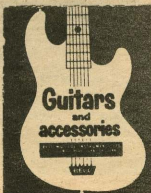
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Chaikovsky
-one-

Advertisement

Sensational offer by Jones & Crossland

On-the-Spot Repairs – Without Labour Charges! – at New Service Department

A great step forward in the service offered to members of groups by musical instrument retailers has been made with the opening of a new electronics department at a leading Birmingham store.

For the store, Jones and Crossland, of Albany Hotel Buildings, Smallbrook Ringway, are now able to undertake repairs without labour charges for 12 months following the purchase of the equipment from them.

"Since most equipment already carries a guarantee covering replacement parts for the first 12 months," says managing director John Jones, "it means that customers will not have to worry about having to

pay out for repairs for a whole year."

Another big advantage of the new Jones and Crossland service is that the electronics expert carrying out the work has his workshop on the premises.

"Anyone wanting to explain exactly what is troubling them about their equipment will be able to do so to the man who will be about to rectify the fault," explains Mr Jones.

"The fact that the job will be done on the premises also means that, in most cases, we can now restore equipment to working order the same day as it is brought to us.

"This is a service we

know the groups will appreciate very much indeed because they cannot afford to wait several days while an amplifier is repaired."

In charge of the electronics department at Jones and Crossland is Mr Glynn Woodhouse, a qualified electronics engineer with considerable experience of repairing beat group equipment.

Comments Mr Woodhouse: "Jones and Crossland have a reputation for leading the way in the musical instrumental field in the Midlands and setting up the new electronics department is another example of their go-ahead ideas.

"Frankly, I don't see how other shops will be

able to compete. After all, if they have to send equipment to an outside firm for it to be repaired, they have to pass on the charge incurred to the customer."

Anyone buying equipment from Jones and Crossland is given a card valid for twelve months entitling them to repairs without labour charges.

This guarantee naturally includes Jones and Crossland's own Park amplification equipment, now used by many of the Midlands' top groups, but such is the workmanship that goes into Park that it is unlikely that many of these amps will require Mr Woodhouse's attention.



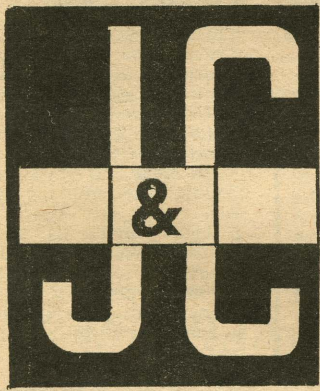
Mr. John Jones (right) discusses the new Jones and Crossland electronics department with Mr. Glynn Woodhouse

★★★★ Shop with the 'Tops'...



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It was great to find on arriving in Birmingham that there was a musical instrument shop that we could rely on. We have found Jones and Crossland always ready to help us and we have had every satisfaction from the equipment we have bought from them.

The J. & C. service is as good as any provided by a London West End music shop. Ask Butch. He had an accident with a guitar and Jones and Crossland had exactly the same model at the theatre within ten minutes. That's service!



He's a tower of strength at the Tower



Gordon Noton.

A YOUNG man who is establishing himself as one of the most popular ballroom deejays in the Midlands is Gordon Noton, who will be the host at the "Star Dee-Jay Guest Show" sessions commencing at Birmingham's Gay Tower Ballroom on Monday, February 7. Twenty-one-year-old Gordon has a bright and breezy personality that has made him a firm favourite with the Tower dancers since his arrival at the ballroom from Manchester four months ago. He has a fantastic knowledge of pop music and an uncanny ability to spot a hit as soon as he hears a new disc. In fact, he was forecasting the No. 1 spot for Spencer Davis's "Keep On Running" before it was even released! Gordon not only spins the records but he actually knows many of the stars whose discs he puts on the turntable. Artists like the Mersey Beats, Dave Berry and Herman's Hermits are among his personal friends.

Today, Gordon Noton's hair is black, but he has dyed it orange and white and even polka dot colours in his earlier days as a disc-jockey. Now he is thinking of another gimmick — to open his own his own radio station on the reservoir adjoining the Tower Ballroom! At the launching of the "Star Dee-Jay Guest Show" series on February 7, Gordon will be introducing Shaw Taylor, well-known for his deejay work on Radio Luxembourg.

Dear Sir...

A PLEA to the young men and women who are trying to emerge out of the mass of beat players as musicians. If cultivated in the proper manner, the beat business can offer one of the finest training grounds for young people to qualify in later years for the musician's trade, but just how many bother to think about this?

One sees, all too often, a bunch of youngsters "twanging out the beat stuff," invariably far too loud, and that is all that the end product means to them.

Personally, I think the days of pure, straight beat music are numbered and it will be the "proven versatility" groups who survive.

This will be a good thing because before any "group" starts taking money for performing they ought to remember that if they are receiving "musicians' money" they should be able to play as "musicians" — i.e. to learn from and be able to read "sheet music," not simply reproducing various sounds and chords learnt from records or tapes and copied.

When a young man (no matter what instrument he plays) can do this, then, and only then, can he expect to gain the status of the new position in the trade — group musician.

Sooner or later, the day will come when a good musician will be worth 20 times more than the "comedy" acts and/or smutty joke routines which so many groups are putting over these days.

The brilliant musician has a "flair" for it; the good musicians can only learn the hard way to become constantly good.

Who knows? They could even learn "God Save The Queen," "Happy Birthday" or "21 Today," etc., etc., and really qualify to call themselves versatile groups.

We shall then have the new blood for the "bands" of tomorrow. Surely that's a point well worth remembering.

Ray Willetts
Manager to the West Side and Moonrakers.
126 Kineton Green Road,
Olton,
Solihull,
Warks.

WORCESTERSHIRE

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

THE biggest recent shock has been the Hellions lead guitarist Dave Mason's departure. Dave, a founder member of the Jaguars, Worcester's first recording group and lead with the Hellions before they turned pro., has been replaced by a member of Evesham's Wavelengths — recently in Germany.

It was understood at presstime that this would not affect the issue of their Pye release expected soon, though the name suggested was expected to be changed to the Generation — despite other groups having similar names!

Dave tells me that he intends to study music with accent on piano percussion, composition, and orchestration. He is no mean composer, having written the Jags' first disc by himself, and being co-author, with Jim Capoldi, of the probable flip-side of this (somewhat overdue) latest release.

Dave hopes to go to America soon, where he might meet up with my old mate — Dennis Key, vocalist of the now defunct Cossacks, who has often spoken of leaving for America.

He is a first rate performer, and being a qualified hair-stylist would have little difficulty in mixing business with pleasure. Best of luck to you both, whatever you decide to do.

1966 "Midland Beat" Diary (very handy it is, too), reveals a few new names of Worcs. outfits, the most unusual being the Apper Clarse (Kidderminster). New names to me are Stourbridge's Deerstalkers and Puritans. Local outfits recently formed, include the Quarell, Idols and the musically named Buzz, who have also joined the S.W.W. stable.

Groups that have faded from the scene include Counterpoints, Simonals, Strangers, and Soundbreakers, from Kiddy area.

Bromsgrove has lost the Nomads, who turned Pro to back Jimmy Powell; but Size Six, with two very attractive young ladies to handle all the bookings are really on the up and up, with a recent broadcast on the Midland Home Service's "One Night Stand."

They are hoping to put Bromsgrove right on the map; they started off on the right footing with auditions for Decca and E.M.I. recently.

Forecast a healthy future for the Ravens. (Worcs only all-girl group and one of the few in the country). Unit 5, from the faithful city, are probably the most experienced and widely travelled of the local outfits — each of them a first-rate musician. (Incidentally they are the first local group to feature organ in the line-up).

The Daisycutters are the only group with an organ and saxophone line-up. The Revniks have recently incorporated a trumpet, and who cover the entire field of pop-music with a line-up incorporating Hawaiian guitar and organ as part of the regular six-piece team.

London's Bannister Promotions, who run sessions at Bath, Bristol, Worthing and Swindon, as well as at Worcs venues such as Malvern Winter Gardens, are hoping to present top Midland, and particularly B'ham groups at Kidderminster Town Hall on Saturdays, as well as normal Friday dates.

Sessions here and at Stourbridge have presented the Exits, Revniks, Jurymen, Huskies and Cellamen, the chance to play with the top names on the scene.

Any group looking for original material, would be well advised by writing to Steve Daly, at 3 Oakwood Close, Hilldene, Cinderford. Steve, who lives near the Forest of Dean, has sent tapes to

Never too late for 'MB' Diary

IT'S a little late to think about buying a diary, we agree, but you really cannot afford to be without the "Midland Beat" 1966 Diary if you like to feel part of the local scene.

They have been selling like hot cakes — but there are still just a few left. Make sure one of them finds its way to you by sending for your copy TODAY.

The "Midland Beat" 1966 Diary contains a list of just about every group in the Midlands that has recorded for a major label. And the diary also gives the 1965 additions to the unique "Midland Beat" Group Register.

To secure your copy, send a 3s. postal order, payable to "Midland Beat," to "Midland Beat" Diary, "Midland Beat", 110, Wake Green Road, Moseley, Birmingham, 13.

Mal and the Primitives, who were reported to be interested in his work. Several groups use his numbers in Gloucester. Steve, who was at

Also hoping to make a hit are a reformed Cellarmen from Bromsgrove. New members Pete-White (ex-Rotundas) on rhythm, and ex-Memphis Sounds drummer Clive Thompson, join vocalist Phil Hobbs and bassist John Collins, while former rhythmist "Butch" Halfpenny, takes over lead from Dave Joynes, whose father used to manage the group.

He has been succeeded by Mr. A. E. Thompson (for bookings 'phone HILLSIDE 2958). You may recall that the group reached the finals of the Midland Counties beat contest last autumn.

Despite some controversy over the result of the voting of the finals, groups from Gloucester, Hereford, Bromsgrove, Redditch, and Worcester have filled both heats of the Malvern Senior Groups contest, all eager to win the T.V. audition, and cash prizes offered to the winners.

Heats are on January 29 and February 26; Semi-finals are March 26; Finals, April 23. University with none other than Spence D. himself, is hoping that a recent tape of original compositions will be used by Spence in his act.

An electrical engineer, Steve has been writing songs for several years and he is now studying piano and composition.

EAST ANGLIA

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

ANOTHER well-known Norwich musician has joined the Bo Street Runners. He is drummer Barry Wilson who used to play with Mike Patto (who joined the Runners last month) in the ill-fated Bluebottles. For the past few months Barry has been playing in the Tempos, a Mecca trio, and during his career to date has played with such people as Graham Bond, Joe Harriot, Don Rendell and Ronnie Ross.

Tony Russell, drummer with the Contours for the past four years, has left to fill the drummer's place in the Tempos.

Norwich has been voted second to London by Chris Farlowe as the place he most likes to play in. Chris and his group the Thunderbirds made another appearance at the Orford Cellar in January and performed on Anglia Television on "About Anglia."

Making a big splash at the Bedford Beat Spot in January after a raving session on New Year's Eve were Sounds Reformed. The group feature brothers Danny and Ian Eve and the rest of the band comprises players from two recently disbanded groups, the Bruntones and the Strollers, who both came from West Norfolk.

February 1st sees the visit to the Orford Cellar of the Ronnie Ross quartet. A big night for city

jazz fans, and if it follows the success of the last Cellar modern session in December there will be more sessions, on a monthly basis, featuring jazz groups from London.

Barry Lee and the Planets (Aylsham, Norfolk group) now fully professional, have won another beat contest, this time in London.

Norwich groups still dominate the Norfolk scene. Lucas and the Emperors and the Continentals are as popular as ever at the Orford Cellar as well as at all their out of town dates.

Ricky Southern and C.B.O. were the first beat group to play at the new Washington Club near Norwich in January. This night club also features a big Pirate Radio show in February, including appearances by Helen Shapiro, Unit Four Plus Two and D.J. Pete Murray.

Norwich Band the Ultimate have taken over from the old Falcons in local beat circles. Two ex-Falcons have joined the group and organ is now featured.

Promoter Norman Troller continues his Sunday Beat sessions at the Olympia Roller-drome and another Sunday venue, the Tavern Club, Dereham, continues to flourish. Promoter Brian Cross consistently presents the right formula of blues and beat to attract large crowds.

John Stanley is indisposed. His Gloucestershire and Oxfordshire area reports will be back next month.

Group Register

GROUPS throughout the Midlands are continuing to ask for their names to be put on the "Midland Beat" Group Register because they know it is one way of helping to prevent another group coming on the scene with their name.

Here are the latest additions: Toby Jugs (Birmingham), Beathovens (Staffordshire), Comancheroes (Leicester), Hobo's (Bromsgrove), Heart Beats (Nottingham), Inset (Blackheath), Misphts (Walsall), Mysteries (Nottingham), Mods (Birmingham), Our Generation (Wolverhampton) and T. Set (Birmingham).

THOSE globe-trotting Renegades continue to chalk up success after success in other countries. Their latest achievement: representing Italy in the San Remo Song Festival.

The Birmingham boys were due to fly to Italy for the event from Finland. They were then to return to Finland before going on to appear in Sweden and Switzerland.

BORDERLAND

AUSTIN POWELL,
Station House,
Bucknell, Salop

AT LAST this area seems to have its own songwriter, in the shape of Miss Margaret Rutherford, a private in the W.R.A.C. stationed at Donnington in Shropshire. At present she is pushing a demo of one of the songs which was made in America by Five Star Music Masters, run by Lew Tobin. Her song is: "I Don't Think So", a ballad which would suit a good female vocalist.

All very hush-hush, Cliff Richard stayed in this area, at Ludlow, last month. Not until the Columbia star had returned to London was the news announced, that he had stayed at Nash Court after having visited a Youth Centre. Press reports stated that the star had enjoyed himself, and had had a few quiet days away from London.

Wenlock's Greasers now called The Soul Party are doing pretty well for bookings, ranging from their home area to Somerset. The group is run from the Plough Inn, Wenlock Edge, which itself is a very popular Saturday night dance venue.

The Size Seven re-visit Craven Arms on the 19th of this month, and have a Friday and Saturday hereabouts on March 4th and 5th, the latter date at the "1600 Club" in Hereford.

Further news about the Shropshire Beat Contest in next month's edition.

On their way to Neath on New Year's Eve, the Beat "N" Track (Newport, Salop) crashed and two of their members were in hospital until the following Monday. They missed their Saturday date in Hereford. None of the other members was seriously injured.

Four Pennies visited Llandrinod Wells on January 28th. Supported by Ludlow group, The Saracens. Recently the latter group played Builth Wells' Strana Hall one night after the Pretty Things and got a much better reception than the star group.

Dave Hanks, one of the original Senators, has restarted his group, enlarging it from a trio to a quartet. Newest member is another ex-Senator bassist, Geoff Price. The trio was resident at the "Tally-Ho" Club in Ludlow.

Dennis Murphy's Shrewsbury agency now booking for the Music Hall, Golden Guitar Club, Morris's and Severn Club in his hometown, and does lot of work in Crewe, Wrexham and North Wales too.

Applejack's appearance at the "Regal Cinema", Craven Arms, on January 10th was a great success. The star group, ably supported by Ludlow's Saracens, put on a well-balanced show, including Coasters' numbers "Young Blood" and "Yackety-Yak", the Four Seasons' "La Dee Dah", their hits, "Tell Me When" and "Baby Jane".

Other groups in the audience included members of the Manics and members of the old Zenyth Five.

LUCKY SOON?

FROM singer Clive Woakes comes news of the Lucky Charms, a Birmingham group formed nearly a year ago. It comprises members of the now disbanded Cherry-stones and Colebeats.

"Having had considerable trouble, first with amplifiers, then with our first bass guitarist leaving us, we are not as well-known as we think we should be," writes Clive.

"But we hope that luck will change soon and we will make a name for ourselves in the pop world."

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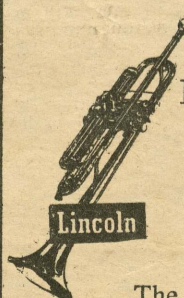
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Photo: John Singer.

HOW TO TOUGHEN UP YOUR WRISTS

I WOULD like to begin this series of drum articles by welcoming this opportunity to rabbit about my favourite subject.

I hope that you will also find a description of my own kit interesting.

I use an American Rogers kit which I bought from my mentor, Lionel Rubin. It consists of a 20" by 17" bass, 16" by 16" and 13" x 9" toms.

I use wood and metal shell snare drums depending on the acoustics of wherever I am playing.

I have 14" Avedis Zildjian and I use combinations of 22", 20", 18", 16" and 5" top cymbals which are also Avedis.

One-handed

Here's a tip for toughening up the wrists. Try using very heavy military sticks on a soft cushion or pillow for ten minutes a day in addition to your normal practice routine.

If your muscles ache, you must rest for a few minutes before continuing. Be careful not to overstrain your muscles.

Also, this is not designed as an alternative to your practice with the sticks you

normally play with.

You may find that your usual sticks are easier to manipulate and you tire less easily after using this method. But don't do too much of it.

This is only as a supplement to normal practice which will help to develop the muscles of arms, wrists and fingers.

Softly, softly

It may be interesting to note that the Guv'nor, the great Buddy Rich, picks up a table with one hand and mops his brow with it after playing a ten-minute feature.

I'm not suggesting we all go round throwing furniture about, but this does show the importance of physical fitness and endurance.

Thanks to Lennie Hastings for that tip, by the way.

Many people ask me why I fuss so much about the cleanliness of my kit. Well, for a start, dirt on cymbals and between shells and heads and loops on drums acts as a damper, ruining fullness of sound.

As for keeping the chrome

clean, this is more a personal morale booster than anything else. Be proud of your drums and of being a drummer.

Please let me know of your problems. They're probably the same as mine and we'll sort out some answers. In the meantime, stick at your practice (what a shocking pun).

Whether you're just starting or have been playing a while, practice makes progress.

Incidentally, if you don't know what to practice, Lionel Rubin has a fresh consignment of Buddy Rich tutors in Ringway Music.

One of these will last you for a lifetime and if you ever mastered all the exercises in it at top speed you could confidently play beside Dave Clark.

Heavy sticks

Before I finish for this month, I would like to advise you to practise quietly as much as you practise playing at normal playing volumes. This will help your stick control and precision of execution.

Next month a useful warm-up guide and some chat about bass drums.

WARWICKSHIRE

DENNIS MORGAN,
 77, Radford Road,
 Leamington Spa

WARWICKSHIRE promoters are extremely concerned about their future following an indication that Coventry police are thinking of reducing the number of people allowed into the city's ballrooms and clubs.

With the Nuneaton New Year's Eve tragedy at the backs of their minds, the police may adopt the yardstick of 10 square feet per person in each premise with a dancing licence.

If the rumours are true and the move goes through when the city's licencing justices meet this month, it could have nation-wide repercussions.

Local promoters are already saying that it will be impossible to stage dances with big-name artists if the new limits come into force.

A spokesman for the Personal Management Organisation commented: "This is going too far just because of this one incident; it doesn't seem right that they should clamp down like this."

"Promoters will not be able to offer top name groups because of these limits. The dances just wouldn't pay."

And Friars Promotions Ltd. also added: "If this does happen it will be the young people who will suffer. And make no mistake if it is passed in Coventry it will spread throughout the country."

Turning to the group scene, just about everybody in the business seems to be raving about a young West Indian singer called Ray King.

Ray, who is 20, has teamed up with the King Size Kings to form a new group called the Ray King Soul Pact, and already they are being tipped to become one of the biggest names on the Midland scene.

Featuring American soul and Motown music, the group have already played in London, Porthcawl and Neath.

Matadors' first record was released in January and called "A Man's Got to Stand Tall" on the Columbia label. First pressing was completely sold out. The lads have adopted a "mod" image and are kept busy working as far afield as Lancashire, Nottinghamshire and Worcestershire.

Biggest shock this month is that the Mighty Avengers, who looked like becoming the area's first representatives in the national charts some months ago, have returned to their jobs and are now playing on a semi-pro basis.

There was a delay — owing to copyright difficulties — in releasing the Sorrows' new record, the disc will now be released the second week in February.

It has been a hectic January for the boys, who took "Take a Heart" into the Top Thirty. They have been in France and Germany.

This month sees them in the Midlands, Manchester and Scotland, and the exciting news is that their LP is to be released on the Warner-Brothers label in the States. Tours of Sweden and Finland are also being negotiated.

Coventry's new mod Scene Club at the Walsgrave going a bomb, February attractions include Chris Farlowe, the Herd and Ronnie Jones.

My prediction that Lynne Curtis would make a come-back is coming true. She has been looking for a backing group, and a big build-up to launch her is forecast.

Coventry exiles called the Angstroms paid a brief visit to the city before flying back to Germany for yet another tour.

Peeps cut a new disc on January 23 for February release. The lads tell me that over the New Year period they covered more than 600 miles in 2½ days!

By the way, any Midland groups seeking work in Germany, at reputable halls should contact David Owen, manager of the Sorrows.

The group's road manager, American Peter Rood, has covered the Continental scene for a number of years and has loads of contacts.

LEICESTERSHIRE

ARTHUR KIRBY,
 24 Tolcarne Road,
 Leicester

THE FINALS of the "Midland Beat" Championship held at the De Montfort Hall on January 12 attracted a record crowd for this annual event.

Seven hundred fans cheered like crazy when the winning group was announced as the Invaders. This very fine group from Corby will shortly be offered a recording test for Decca and should stand every chance of joining the elite.

Runners up were two Leicester groups, the Chelsea Set and the Rhondos. Both these groups put up fine performances. The Shellies, although beaten into fourth place, convinced me that they could be one to watch.

Yet another change of name for the Rusty Chymes. Now the Tea-Set, they seem to be brewing up a bright future and have already found lots of new work in local ballrooms.

Johnnie Brent and the Thunderbolts are full of praise for The Hollies. The boys were on a recent stint with the Hollies and found them to be not only good musicians but good guys too.

New to the local scene are Mal Darron and the Ramblers, and judging from reports they are making lots of fans with a very authentic Cowboy show. They come from all parts of the country and expect to be staying here in Leicester at least until the end of summer.

The Creators have signed a new rhythm guitarist called "Choc/Royle." He was formerly with a popular Liverpool outfit called the Sassenachs and I got the distinct impression that he has given this very up and coming group a big boost.

The Jimmy Crawford show are building up a very big following. One of the few truly original acts in the area, they deserve to become better known nationally.

Mick Peters, one of the most talented drummers in the Midlands, and young Carol Saunders, an equally talented singer, are both leaving the Electrons. This blow has been softened by the fact that the group seem to have discovered another exciting vocal prospect.

The X'Calibers have made a new record which they feel has a great chance to enter the charts. There is a strong possibility that despite the ban imposed on the group by the Ent Secs council, they may yet be booked to make their first appearance at Scraptoft Valley.

Jess Moran, leader of the Maverick Trio, had a narrow escape when his car was in a five-lorry pile-up near Nottingham. His folk singing daughter Janice, also in the car, had only slight injuries. Jess received spinal injuries and is now up and about again but heavily strapped up.

Some of the instruments played by the various members of the Kyu include French horn, flugel horn, cornet, piano, and harmonica. This talented outfit have one of the most original and exciting sounds in the city.

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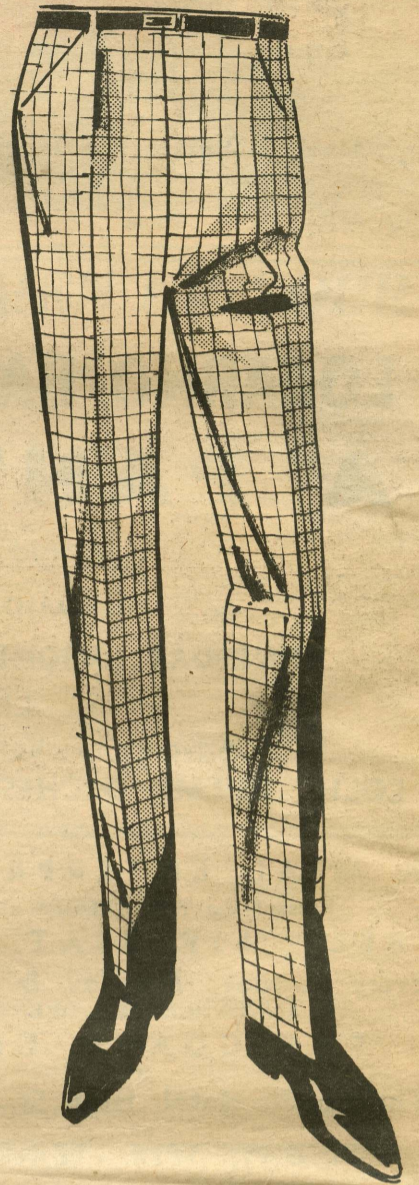
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