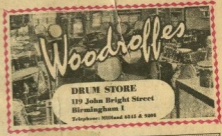


Midcaps P23

(100 (250)

MIDLAND BEAT



NO. 16 JANUARY, 1965.

PRICE: ONE SHILLING.

Inside: Beauty and the Beast — and other sparkling new features



The Brum Beats — picture by Jim Simpson.



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MIDLAND BEAT

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The pop world can be YOURS

1964 has been a momentous year for Midland Beat with many Midland outfits swinging into the charts with new records and placing the Midlands well and truly on the map of beatdom.

Notably, Solihull's Applejacks were the first to break through the Liverpool Sound barrier to thrust Midland music to the fore in the pop world, and this, of course, was soon followed by Birmingham's Rockin' Berries. Both groups have given the Midland scene a tremendous boost and set a standard, not only for themselves, but for other groups to emulate.

Plenty of promise

On the R and B front The Spencer Davis group have done more than most Midland outfits to push this particular brand of beat onto a very responsive public and Jimmy Powell and his 5 Dimensions, although without a "seller," have also shown plenty of promise that could well bring them to the top in the New Year.

What of the future? It could be tougher at the top. The scene, like the weather, is constantly changing. It could be a stormy 1965 — and we hope it is. For we want as many Midland groups as possible to storm to the top as fast as possible.

The only difference between a top group and one that is in the shade is a successful disc. Work hard on one of these and the pop world can be yours. Good luck in 1965 to you all ...

STILL TOP-VALUE AT A SHILLING A MONTH

WE ARE sorry that the price of "Midland Beat" has had to be increased to a shilling. We have managed to put off an increase for some months but increased production costs make it inevitable.

But we are confident that we are offering a magazine that is well worth a shilling to anyone who wants to be kept well informed of the local beat scene.

In a recent competition, we asked readers to tell us why they like reading "Midland Beat". Most entrants wrote: "Because we like to read about local groups instead of those in the hit parade".

We pride ourselves on the unrivalled coverage we give to the beat scene throughout the Midlands and East Anglia. A shilling could not be better spent if you want to keep "with it", when it comes to the activities of Midland groups.

Make sure of your copy of "Midland Beat" each month by placing a regular order with your newsagent.



Five country boys from East Anglia who are top attraction in many rural halls. The Highwaymen are:

Left to right: Bob Secker, bass guitar; Alan Cannell, lead guitar; Keith Artis, singer; Tony Fowles, rhythm guitar; Hilson Hatley, drums.

Radio chance for Midland groups

Midland beat groups are to get a new opportunity for a radio engagement with the start of Michael Ford's "One Night Stand" series on the Midland Home Service.

A band and a group will be featured live in the show each week as well as local beat personalities on disc. The programme is to be aired every Tuesday from 7.0. to 7.30. p.m.

In the first show on January 5 are Brian Penrall and His Music and the Scott Gibson Four plus records by Christine Holmes and the Rockin' Berries.

Name band policy is paying off

TEK CITY Jazz Club's new name band policy is most certainly paying off — both financially and musically. Bands featured recently include Humphrey Lyttelton, Alex Welsh and Charlie Galbraith, while January's bookings include Original Downtown Syncopators and return visits of Welsh and Galbraith.

Big names allied to lowered bar prices, and definitely the cheapest admission fee in town, must soon put the T.C.J.C. back on the jazz map and establish yet another stronghold in days when jazz is supposedly on the wane.



Soccer star Stanley Matthews shakes hands with Pat Payne of Pat Wayne and the Beachcombers before the group provide the pre-match entertainment at a Stoke City home game.

ON COLUMBIA — 'BRAND NEW MAN'

By PAT WAYNE with THE BEACHCOMBERS

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THE **BIG** SHOP AT THE BOTTOM OF SNOW HILL
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THE TROUBLES ARE GETTING LUCKY

When they lost two guitars, their van broke down and the microphone system poked up, a *Nurston* outfit called *The Bluesians* decided to change their name.

They re-called themselves *The Troubles* and so far, fingers crossed, all has gone well with

the outfit, who line-up as: Roger Dickens (20) singer, bass and saxophonist; Alan Harrison (30) lead; Marvin Blackburn (22) rhythm; Roy Carl (21) drums and Bernard Brooks (22) electric piano.

Now, *The Troubles* are all set to become the luckies...

Size Seven go full ahead

POPULAR Midland Group, the Size Seven, have just signed a recording contract with Dalley-Taylor Productions of Birmingham.

Dalley-Taylor have been responsible for several Midlands groups, including the Chestnuts and Carl Wayne and the Vikings.

The Sevens are already working on two "sides" at the Birmingham studio which will probably make up their first disc for Dalley-Taylor to push out to the big national companies.

Both numbers are written by the group's six-foot-plus "man mountain" of a vocalist, Brian Dowell.

The group was formed in Corby New Town, Northants, back in the old skills days and the Size Seven's kit included a tea chest bass and a couple of washboards! Now they have a full range of equipment which includes echo units and specially imported guitars from the States.

Record dealer Mr. Harold Sturgess, heard the boys playing in a Corby coffee bar and was so impressed by their melodic but driving sound that he had them up to a management contract.

Since then, they have twice appeared on radio's top pop show,

"Saturday Club" and on B.B.C.'s Midlands television.

Earlier this year, Mr. Sturgess founded his own *Rendezvous* Records company to push out the Size Seven's first disc "Crying my heart out" and it sold all over the Midlands.

Now the Sturgess Size Seven team is going full ahead for a national release and national recognition.

The Size Seven line-up (there are actually only six in the Seven, if you see what we mean) is: Jack Stewart (lead guitar), Bill Geary (rhythm) Alan Black (bass) Billy Nicol (drums) and vocalists Brian Dowell and George Cumming.

Warlocks

disband, but...

Leicester's The Warlocks R and B outfit have disbanded. But Ken Spencer, former Warlocks lead guitarist, soon hopes to be playing in the area again with a brand new group under the same name. One of the first newcomers is John Baldwin, ex-Berkley Square, now to be bassist with the new Warlocks.




"MB" helps them keep in touch

- Best way to keep in close touch with the beat scene in the Midlands is to read "Midland Beat" — and this is put into practice by Burton Group Rhythm 'n' Blues Incorporated.
- The boys read the magazine on their travels by van from venue to venue. Line-up: Mick Payne (lead), Andy Clarke (bass), Bob Smith (rhythm), and Tony Hall (drums).
- The group hope soon to add an organ to the line-up.

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When top American pianist Jerry Lee Lewis arrived in Birmingham for his show at the Town Hall he had an hour to kill so he popped into the Silver Blades Ice Rink only to find that the ice was in use by the children practising for the pantomime they were to give for 400 spare children on December 22. Jerry was so impressed he agreed to play for them during rehearsals. During a short break, when this picture was taken, he sang them a real hot number on real cold ice.

DATES WITH CAROLINE

NORTHAMPTON'S Skylines are hoping their big break to the top will come via their new record 'Say You'll Never Leave Me' and 'Love Me Too,' which they cut recently at Northampton Sound Recording Service's Studio 36.

The immediate impact made by the disc was so great that Radio Caroline liked what they heard so much they agreed to give it regular airings.

Both sides of the disc were written by the Skylines' leader, Graham

Worley. Personnel: Graham Worley, 22 rhythm guitar and vocalists; Ed Page, 23 (bass); Paul Longland, 17 (lead); Alan Clarke, 17 (drums); Dickie Ains, 15 (saxophone); and Steve 'Roger' Tivey, 21 (organ).

Music of the keys

ONE OF the most original sounds on the current R & B scene is produced by a group known as the Keys (formerly King Bees), from Todmorden, Halifax, who were among the votes in the 'Midland Beat' autumn poll.

The group, formed six years ago, are now attaining recognition, and their appearances all over Britain



have built up an enthusiastic following. They concentrate on authentic interpretations of the blues — material picked up from the American blues and jazz 'greats' — expanded and expounded in their own particular style.

This group have often been compared to George Fats — probably because of an organist/singer who manages to produce a remarkably similar sound to Fats.

The group recently provided backing for Columbia recording star Bicky Valance, whose 'Tell Laura I Love Her' topped the charts a couple of years back.

Personnel: Dave Whalley, lead guitar; Terry Meyers, bass guitar; Donald Parrot, organ/singer; Bev Pickles, drums.

In Focus

"MIDLAND BEAT" believes that the Midlands is one of the most talented areas in the country and that there is no reason why we cannot be as well represented in the charts as Liverpool is.

As the Midlands' only beat magazine, we feel it our duty to turn the spotlight on the performances of some of the hundreds of comparatively unknown groups in this area.

Future issues will contain reviews of the performances of local groups, and the first to go under the microscope is The Advocates, reviewed here by JOHN STANLEY.

This group, although from Neenham in the Forest of Dean, played the South and Central Midlands most of the time. When we visited them they were playing a support group at the Guild Hall, Gloucester.

The boys, known only as Wes, Bub, James and Les, are aged between 15 and 18 and have been playing two years.

Wes (lead), uses a Burns guitar with Fender amp; Bub, on bass,



The Advocates: Bub, James, Les, Wes.

uses the overworked three-string Fender previously used by Otis, the ex-Spirit. Les, on drums, is equipped with Premier and a red flashing light.

Their show consists chiefly of R & B standards such as 'I Can

Tell', which they opened with, and 'Johnnie Be Good', which all but Wes laid vocals to. Many of the numbers were spilt by too fast an entry on the drums, while others, of notably 'Houcha Coochally' (Les was flattered by the use of only snare and high hat).

However, numbers like 'Sweet Little Baby' were made by intelligent ad-libbing by Les, who boasts a top hat with the ever popular paper cutting's finish. Vocalist James, who was suffering from a leg injury, remained not surprisingly, motionless. As a group, they could do a lot to improve their stage show.

In present they stand almost apologetically. Only one number really caused the crowd to take notice — a very rousing rendering of the 'Kinks' 'You Really Got Me', not (so they tell me) 'up their street' but a real effort to combine Top Ten and R & B. Praise especially to Wes on lead, who completely mastered that 'Kinky' sound.

My personal favourite from their repertoire, a number called 'Come on Girl', a really well arranged effort, not too fast and with plenty of punch. They heard the number some-time ago and adapted to their style. The boys seemed to sense the number suited them and the reception from the crowd confirmed it.

Beat

THE COLUMN THAT DISCUSSES THE TRENDS, GIVES ALL THE LATEST NEWS AND GROUP GOSSIP AND HELPS SET THE MIDLAND BEAT SCENE SWINGING.....

Bar

We like it,
we like it...

DID YOU NOTICE? Don't suppose you did. But it's definitely proof that the beat makes news these days. A recent edition of the 'Sunday Mercury' carried no less than three stories about beat outfits in a single edition.....

Perhaps it doesn't sound particularly noteworthy to you, but don't forget that it was not long ago that the press in general completely ignored the big beat scene, as at one time, it ignored the popularity of jazz.

But today, the big beat is big business and therefore, big news. And we like it, we like it.....

The stories which graced the pages of the 'Sunday Mercury' concerned George E. Washington and the Congressmen, The Crescendos and The Picemen. And, incidentally, each story was accompanied by a picture of the personalities involved.

Theatre is home

LET'S TAKE George E. Washington and the Congressmen - yes, a British group with a name like that! They live at the Dudley Hippodrome and before you re-read that, take it from us that like another very well known Washington, we're not lying.

The boys - George, real name John Houslow, drummer Tony Topp, rhythm Doug Perry, lead Arthur Ray and bass Doug Walker - reside in the theatre's backroom, now converted into a flat.

"We don't have much problem getting a place to rehearse" said 19-year-old George. "And we've a ready-made appreciative audience in the theatre's cleaners, Aunie, Elsie, Florrie and Gert".

Something afoot

NOW MARRIED, Megan Davies attractive bassist with the Appalachians, had better look to her laurels. She is just isn't the only girl beat group member in the Midlands who can look pretty on stage and play a rhythmic base.

Shapely brunette Janet Anne Nicklin - the subject of the 'Mercury's' second group story - was a showgirl before she joined a beat outfit and now also shares that distinction.

Jane used to be with The Unsquare Men, but since the group



THE SHADES 5 - See "American fans."

broke up, she and Gordon Andrews have joined The Crescendos.

Now this attractive 23-year-old has a new idea for a beat group. She wants to dance.

"It would be something very different and that's what we want" she said. "The idea is for me to do a couple of speciality dances in between the normal beat numbers".

Having seen the girl, I like the idea. Yes, I like it, I like it.....

Helping health

FINAL STORY in the Sunday paper trilogy concerns beat groups who have helped in fund raising for the newspaper's popular and worthwhile pet cause "Give a Girl Health".

The picture showed the group which played at Stachford Y.M.C.A. teenage dance organised in aid of the fund. They were The Picemen - Robert Bruce, John Willis, Don Turner and Colin Swinburne.

American fans

BO BERRY readers (we may as well admit that this isn't the only column that's read in this magazine!) may have noted the line about group receiving letters from America.

They're The Shades 5, who were seen at a visiting American when they appeared at the Carlton Club, Erdington some time ago. And now they are getting letters from America asking for membership of their fan club.

Yes, they must have made some impact!

With fan club members in Leeds, Manchester, Dorset and Wiltshire, the Kidderminster outfit certainly know how to spread their wings and, if you want to hear why, you might like to note that they are resident at a well-known 'r' and 'b' club in Birmingham.

As YOU like it

DON'T LOOK NOW but The Bard and The Beat have something in common - the fabulous Marine Ballroom and Restaurant on the banks of the Avon in the lovely vale of Evesham.

It's a place highly popular with tourists during the summer and with beat groups right now, because this smart, modern restaurant and ballroom keeps in touch with the times by staging beat sessions.

If you're wondering where to go for a special night out, you ought to try this pleasant venue situated in the heart of Shakespeare's territory on the river at Evesham.

'MB' in India

HERE'S A STORY which might give one or two of us food for thought. It concerns one of the 'Midland Beat' readers who regularly receives copies of the paper. She is Miss Juliet Maskell of the "Save the Children Fund", Blythin Hill, Sirdia, Punjab, India and if you think that's a long address, remember, it's a long way from home.

Juliet writes to us to say: "The magazine is widely read by the younger members of our educated staff and a number of college students who visit here seem to find 'Midland Beat' absorbing. The same groups and vocalists are popular in this country as well as at home."

It does me good to know which teenagers are swaying the British public and to know the latest popular records. Here we have an English and Hindi Hit Parade".

And it does us good, too, Juliet, to know there are girls like you, doing the jobs you do.....

Germans wonderful

CERTAINLY, we're getting around in Beat Bar this month. Now let's have a look at Germany, through the eyes of well-known local group 'The Ligt's'.

Once back in the Midlands with a full diary of bookings and a chance to spend some part of the time in Norway, the group tell me they had a wonderful time in Germany.

We can thoroughly recommend the Club Kontiki, Nurember, for other British groups. The fellow there is very fair and he has a great understanding regarding English beat groups working in Germany" says Ligt's manager R. Foulger.

The audience over there are simply wonderful, and make the lads feel that playing for them is very worthwhile. The music enjoyed there is mostly commercial beat, songs anything in the charts".

Without a doubt they liked it there..... they liked it!

W.I. get with it

DON'T LOOK NOW, but the ladies are getting with it. Yes, there's definitely some swinging afternoon afoot for lucky groups if what began at Fentham Hall, Hampton-in-Arden, catches on.....

What was it? A marriage between drama and beat music arranged and devised by Mrs. Joanna Freese, producer of one of the plays presented on a Saturday by the Hampton-in-Arden women's Institute.

Mrs. Freese says "I think the women's institute should keep up with the times and encourage local talent".

And she promptly went out and booked local beat outfit The Dymes to play between the summer and the presentation of two one-act plays.

A good move, we say. The more work, the merrier we shall be. Mrs. Freese's idea is one we, and the groups, will like. As we've said before somewhere, we like it, we like it.....

Beauty and the Beat



Sue Carr

HERE'S A CHANCE for the girls to shine. A sparkling new feature for the magazine, designed with the boys in mind.

Each month we will present a photograph of a girl connected directly with the beat scene in the Midlands.

So if your outfit has a glamorous girl singer, instrumentalist, manager, fan club secretary or agent, get her to send her best photograph to us and we'll publish it.

We would also like details - name, age, group, colour of hair and eyes. But don't worry girls, we won't publish your telephone numbers.....

This month's beauty is lovely and talented Sue Carr, vocalist with The Condors.



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Plectrum

MEET

LEE STEVENS and the SATELLITES

Lee and the boys are one of Birmingham's oldest established groups. They were among the first Brum outfits to appear in ATV's "For Teenagers Only".

THE GROUP



MALCOLM PRIDDEY

Instrument Drums
Born 18/2/48
Height 5 ft. 7 ins
Weight 9 Stone
Eyes Blue
Hair Black
Favourite — Lee Stirling
Singer Joe Morello
Instrumentalist The Shadows
Group Beehovens
Composer Whiskey
Drink Chicken
Food James Cagney
Actor Sophia Loren
Actress Croul
Clothes Cars
Likes Floppy slacks
Dislikes To own
Personal Ambition Aquila Princess
Professional To play in a large dance band
Hobbies Cars
Previous Groups None



ROGER GAUNTLETT

Instrument Bass
Born 6/11/42
Height 5 ft. 8 ins.
Weight 10 st. 8 lbs.
Eyes Brown
Hair Mousy
Favourite — Nicky James
Singer Jiffy
Instrumentalist Zimballer Jr.
Group Bertie
Composer Ray Charles
Food Iced coffee
Drink Snek and Chips
Actor Sean Connery
Actress Dora Bryan
Clothes Mod, Casual
Likes Sleeping
Dislikes Brown Mod Boots
Personal Ambition To stay single until 25
Professional To be an Abolition Officer
Hobbies My Group and Bowling
Previous Groups None



LEE STEVENS

Instrument Vocals
Born 10/3/40
Height 6 ft. 0 1/2 ins.
Weight 13 Stone
Eyes Blue
Hair Auburn
Favourite — Ben E. King
Singer Lightning
Instrumentalist Hopkins
Group Mike Sheridan and the Night Riders
Composer Gilbert and Sullivan
Food Scotch
Drink Irish
Actor Peter Sellers
Actress Kim Novak
Clothes Lounge suits
Likes Humour
Dislikes White R. and B.
Personal Ambition To be wealthy
Professional None
Hobbies All sport
Previous Group Deatones



PAUL BRUNT

Instrument Lead and piano
Born 17/1/47
Height 6 ft. 1 in.
Weight 12 st. 4 lbs.
Eyes Hazel
Hair Fair
Favourite — Lee Stevens
Singer Roland Kirk
Instrumentalist Bertie
Group Bill Black Combo
Composer Burt Bacharach
Food Mother's
Drink Sean Connery
Actor Sophia Loren
Actress Leanne
Clothes Dark haired girls
Likes Girls who sweat
Dislikes Ambition
Personal Ambition To own a Rolls
Professional To be a managing director
Hobbies Records
Previous Groups Corvettes



MIKE CLIFFORD

Instrument Rhythm and Mouthpart
Born 22/11/42
Height 5 ft. 3 ins.
Weight 11 st. 10 lbs.
Eyes Green
Hair Dark brown
Favourite — Arthur Alexander
Singer Chet Atkins
Instrumentalist Bill Black Combo
Composer Burt Bacharach
Food Rum & blackberries
Drink Fried rice
Actor Steve McQueen
Actress Tippi Hedren
Clothes Casual
Likes Finances
Dislikes Packing near Good health
Personal Ambition To succeed
Professional Fishing
Hobbies Records
Previous Groups Deatones, Lawmen

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On the Beat with Bo Berry

56 Midland groups on way

HOW MANY Midland beat groups and singers have been featured on discs released by the major companies? The "Midland Beat" 1965 Directory lists no less than 561 ... Royal date for the Rockin' Berries: the annual ball at Keele University, attended by Princess Margaret and Lord Snowdon.

THE APPLEJACKS entertained before the Under-23 international soccer match between England and Roumania at Coventry — first time a beat group had played before an international football match. Moody Blues publicity brochures claim they were Birmingham's first R & B group. No comment ... Great to see the Moody Blues in the charts.

MANY readers write to congratulate Jim Simpson on his "Midland Beat" picture spreads ... Gloucestershire, Herefordshire and Shropshire haven't produced one recording group — Cheltenham's Johnny Ford and the Blues are now The West Side Roots.

SINGER Jack Jones has left Jon. E. Law and the Trespassers and the new "Jon. E. Law" is 16-year-old Mike Taylor. The Trespassers comprise Grenville Williamson (lead guitar), Alan Lakin (rhythm), Keith Walters (bass) and Derek Powell (drums) ... The Derbyshire group The Trekkers boast two female vocalists ... "Midland Beat" editor Dennis Deatheridge one of the judges at Staffordshire County Council's Service of Youth County Beat Competition on January 30. "MIDLAND Beat Gallery 1964" show at the Grand Theatre, Wol-

verhampton, on December 19 resulted from an editorial in "Midland Beat" in which we warned groups not to prize themselves out of business ... BBC TV rounded up a coachload of Rockin' Berries fans at the Silver Blades Ice Rink in Birmingham and took them to the Television Centre in London to see the group in action in BBC 2's "Beat Boom" — an edition also featuring Christine Holmes, Jimmy Powell and the Five Dimensions and Keith Howell and the Vales.

ENTERPRISING Idea of Jones and Crossland to award plaques to the "Midlands Group of the Year" (Applejacks) and "Birmingham Group of the Year" (Rockin' Berries) ... Oldbury's Mark Five played at a most successful "Beat Night" they arranged for the Golden Years Darby and John Club Christmas Party at Langley Institute.

ANONYMOUS report sent to us about Nottingham's Jaybirds "the group may be going to South America very soon on a month's booking with excellent connections" ... Birmingham appeared on several dates without Al Jackson when their lead singer was taken ill with a severe throat infection ... Christine Holmes acts as well as singer in BBC 2's "Who is Mary Morrison?" on January 9.

MOODY BLUES on the bill of forthcoming Chuck Berry tour — dates include Hayley Gassmont (January 12th), Leicester Odson (13th), Birmingham Hippodrome (17th) and Wolverhampton Gassmont (28th).

'Midland Beat' Winter Poll

DO YOU have a favourite local group? Then now is the time to vote for them in our Winter Poll. Every vote is important to a group and your vote could help your favourites to top the poll.

The winners of our Autumn Poll were Broms grove's Nomads. Will they still prove to be the Midlands most popular group in our Winter Poll? Or will they be slipped to the post this time by Carl Wayne and the Vikings, The Tallmen — or perhaps a group not even in the first ten places last time? Fill out the voting form below, cut it out and post it to Winter Poll, 'Midland Beat', Windermere House, 110 Wake Green Road, Moseley, Birmingham 13. Don't delay — votes received after January 20 will be too late. And only votes registered on this voting form will qualify.

Each reader is only entitled to one vote.

"MIDLAND BEAT" 1964 WINTER POLL
To Winter Poll, 'Midland Beat', Windermere House, 110 Wake Green Road, Moseley, Birmingham, 13.

I nominate the following group as the best in the Midlands:

Name of group:

Town:

My name is:

Address:

Signed:

Date:

Introducing...

The JIM SIMPSON Column

'Blue' jokes

THERE APPEARS to be a disturbing trend among certain Midland beat groups towards crude, tasteless humour — on stage. In particular I noticed this included in the acts of two Birmingham groups recently performing in Town Hall package shows on successive weeks.

Both played to large audiences comprising people of both sexes and all ages, many of whom must have been embarrassed or shocked by the generally unfunny 'blue' jokes and 'Lady Chatterley' language.

Parents in the audience were surely disturbed that the teenagers' idols should be so lacking in taste. Though the reason for this unsavoury tendency is the desire to provide an entertaining show (in itself commendable), such "off" humour can do the image of beat music as a whole nothing but harm.....

Brum groups set

Birmingham's groups now seem all set to stage their assault on the national scene. As well as the chart successes of The Rockin' Herries and The Appliques, there are fine recordings on the market by Spencer Davis, The Brand and The Moody Blues, besides many high standard discs by other outfits.

Now, success of a different sort has reached The Senators. The song that they had issued on Dial's 'Brum Beat' LP last February 'She's a Mood' — has been covered by an Australian group Ray Columbus and the Invaders and rocketed to the number one spot in Australia's charts, where it has stayed for three weeks.

The Number was composed by Senators vocalist Bobby Childs and

is now due for release in America by the Australian outfit on the Mercury label.

A great pity that no one had the foresight to release the original version there or as a single in this country.

Road record?

Is this a record? Keith Powell and the Valis have worked their way through six band wagons in three weeks! They must be voted number one in the car dealers Hit Parade for 1964.

Keith has recently left the Columbia label to sign a five year contract for Pye — the recording home of The Rockin' Herries. First disc should be out in January.....

The big borrow

It is common for musicians to borrow one another's instruments. It is even recognised for groups to borrow another musician for the evening.

Who else but M.B.'s trumpeter Jimmy Gibbins would borrow a whole 16-piece orchestra for the night!

New club for Gloucester

BEST WISHES go out to brand new and very exciting club in Gloucester, 'The Dolphin'. It is based on London standards, and is the only one in the area.

A member/guest basis and an 'over 21' limit helps to attract those who appreciate really good food and drink, pocket handkerchiefs, dancing and top line cabaret.

The Chas Trio Trio will be the permanent music, and big-name artists will take the star spot in the evening.



THE TELSTARS

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SUCH A DARLING STUNT!

LITTLE DARLINGS is not what a recording manager called the best group who stopped the roar and the movement of the teeming London traffic right outside his front door. And he was right, for the group was formerly called The Pina.

The object of the exercise was to bring themselves to the notice of the recording manager and get an audition and a contract.

The mission was successful and

Cowetry's Little Darlings, who played four numbers in the street outside the offices of Southern Music Publishing Co. Ltd., in Denmark Street, London, before the police intervened, can now await the fate of their first disc.

"We were determined we'd make them listen to us or get locked up," said Ken Waites, the 22-year-old manager of the group.

That's spirit for you!

Enterprise of The Ebonies

AH, ENTERPRISE! That's what we like to see. And a group who can rightly be proud of their achievements in this direction are Dipson's The Ebonies.

'MB' Down Under

"MIDLAND BEAT" is being read in Melbourne, Australia — that's the news that has come to us via Mick Fielding, of S.S. Records, Melbourne.

Mick received the copy of the magazine from his brother Peter, who is one of the partners of the Astra Agency, Wolverhampton.

"What I didn't bargain for," he tells us, "was the interest shown in the paper by the people in Australia, especially the girls. I hold on to it for a time — I managed to read it all — and then it was gone, to be read by lots of locals."

This uncouth West Indian rhythm group have produced and published a brochure giving full details of themselves.

"Midland Beat" editor, Dennis Detheridge, says: "We've always encouraged groups to concentrate on publicity and this publication is an excellent example of the sort of thing we have in mind."

Groups expect promoters to give them engagements — and promoters expect to be told something about them. This sort of brochure is an ideal way of making the introduction.

The Ebonies are bound to attract attention because they are an all-coloured group. All credit to their manager, Mr. B. Price, for bringing them to the notice of promoters in another way — this excellent brochure!

Suzette joins Nocturnes



The Nocturnes Rhythm Group were formed 18 months ago and come from Hollywood, Birmingham. Their newest recruit is Suzette, formerly vocalist with The Congressmen and rated by many as Birmingham's top girl singer.

She has turned down several tempting continental offers because she prefers working in the Midlands.

The Nocturnes first started by taking their gear to local bookings in a pram — but they've come a long way since, now turning up for bookings in three vans.

Their manager is Trevor Ingram, 48, Ralph Road, Shirley, Solihull.



Hullabaloo and Custard go with Dalesmen

THE B.B.C.'S second channel, B.B.C. 2, has not yet arrived in the Mansfield area, but the new station's symbol, the kangaroo Hullabaloo and Custard, have already arrived thanks to The Animals, write H. J. SHARPE.

Hullabaloo and Custard were given by the Animals to the Dalesmen for coming second in the Midland final of the Oxfam Beat Contest and now this 2'3" high mascot accompanies the group on all their dates.

The Civic Hall, Solihull, was the scene of this final. As well as the ten finalists, appearances were made by Gene Vincent, The Applejacks and Christine Holmes. In this, their first beat contest, the Dalesmen, with their

own brand of more commercial R and B, obtained second place and a cheque from Jones and Crossland Ltd.

A previous booking prevented the group from going to the national finale in London, but it was from there that they received the new mascot.

Although the group here been formed for three years, vocalist Terry Keeley had only been with the group three months at the time of the contest. Previously with the Codas, Terry is not only the latest recruit but is also the youngest.

Drummer: Gerry Mills, Geoff Walker (lead), Ken Horner (rhythm) and Jeff Cuisson (bass) are all 18.

BACK IN SWIM

Back on the Midland scene after an absence of several months are Dave Dee and the Demons, of Cheltenham. Bert Weedon, famous pop guitarist was recently quoted in a national Sunday newspaper, praising this outfit for a song on their demo-disc "Lonely Nights".

The group — Dave Dee, (20) vocals; Vince Collins, (18) rhythm guitar and vocals; Dave Lane (18) lead; Vic Taylor (18) bass and G. Bevan (20) drums — have about 10 numbers of their own.

THUMBS UP!



Back on duty again with Netherthorn, Dudley, group Beat Ltd., is lead guitarist Ivan Hancock after an enforced lay off with a broken thumb. Ivan broke his thumb in an accident at work.

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Now, showband-manship?

SHOW BANDS could catch on in the Midlands — that's the view of Jeannie Dee and the Dee-Tones, who include a trombone, comedian, and bass guitarist all wrapped up in one of their members Mike Cooper.

The outfit, who originally intended to have two trombones up fronting, regularly play at family-type shows combining best with entertainment of a more general level.

"We set out to entertain people of all ages," says a spokesman for the group, who have played a good deal at the College Arms, Erdington, and have entertained old people.

The group comprises: John Bellison (17) drums; Mike Cooper (17) trombone etc; Ken Bird (21) rhythm; Jeannie Dee (19) vocals; Rod Stephens (20) lead.

How they got their Brand

GROUP WITH an unusual name, Birmingham's The Brand, are one of the most recent outfits from the second city to record. And they've done it on the Piccadilly label with "You a Lover Not a Fighter."

The Brand? Ya, a name formed by combining R and B and giving the two letters a twist, keeping AND in the centre. The

line-up is: Chris Wheeler (22) lead guitarist; Ralph Wheeler (20) drummer; Henri Edwards (24) bass; Roy Everett (19) singer and harmonica player.

If the record clicks the outfit intend to turn professional. At the moment they are handled by Phil M'vitt and John Singer, well-known for their agency and promotions in the Birmingham area.



I AM FOR THE DUNDEE BOYS

ARRIVING IN NORWICH in November, three days early for a booking at the Orford cellar, four Dundee lads, Hudson's Hi-Four, found themselves with time on their hands, writes R. G. TUDOR.

Local impresario Bram Lowe offered them a few bookings and the boys took them up — to find that whenever they played they had rave receptions.

They decided to stay on and now they are rapidly increasing their popularity all over the area.

"It was quite a decision to make," said Johannes Hudson, group leader. "We were twice voted top Scottish group in 'Scottish Beat' magazine and we were working four and five nights a week," he added.

Their style of music is not wild or immature but extremely professional and of a high musical standard. One thing which has impressed local groups in the wide repertoire of the Hi-Four. "In Scotland we often had bookings which lasted five hours," said Casey. "We had to have plenty of numbers for gigs like that," he added.

JOHNNIE HUDSON, 20, leader, is the featured vocalist and rhythm guitarist. He trained horses before turning professional. He is a great Brook Benton fan, and, like all good Scots, he likes haggis.

CASEY MCCABEY, drummer and vocalist. Before he began playing professionally he was a marmalade taster in Dundee. He too is a great Brook Benton fan.

DOUG MARTIN, who plays bass guitar, harmonica and sings, is the odd-job man. If the van breaks down or if an amplifier packs up

Right up to date!

Swing '65 — that's the name of a newly formed club featuring beat and jazz music every Wednesday at Ferris Hall, Worcester, Royal Grammar School.

The club was formed by pupils of senior schools in the City of Worcester via their Youth Theatre Council. The Council aim to raise funds for the new theatre in Worcester.

Membership of Swing '65 is free and next year it is hoped that it will be possible to transfer the club to the new theatre building which when completed will be known as The Swan Theatre.

Already pupils have raised £1,000 towards seats for the new theatre.

he'll fix it. He was an undertaker's apprentice before he joined the Hi-Four.

CHIC TAYLOR, 19, is lead guitarist, organist and support singer. He likes Dusty Springfield, hates getting up in the morning, but will get up any time to go bowling.

KNOW YOUR DEALER



MR. BILL PICKERING started in the music business as a teenager and arrived in Birmingham in 1955, to start work for Kay Westworth's.

He had one week in Birmingham then travelled to Hanley, Stoke-on-Trent, to open a new branch shop where nearly every musician in the Potteries became a customer. Unfortunately this came to an abrupt end in 1941 when Mr. Pickering joined the Royal Air Force. A month later, the Worcester Street shop of Kay Westworth's was destroyed by enemy action.

In December 1948, demobilisation saw Mr. Pickering scouting around for new premises. They were taken in Moore Street, and flourished until 1954 when, owing to Birmingham's Inner Ring scheme, were forced to move to Snow Hill.

Melody House was then added to their already well established name. They stay in Snow Hill, however, was not to be for long as the changing face of Birmingham needed the site once again for the Inner Ring Road scheme.

Another move was made to Melody House, 17 Cannon Street Birmingham 2, where Mr. Pickering and his competent staff are always at the service of "Midland Beat" readers.

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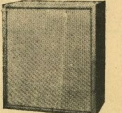
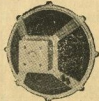
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Dreaming of a hit

A JACKIE de Shannon composition on the Piccadilly label called "Day Dreaming of You" is the title of the first record of The Hutsons, from Worcester. On the flipside is "Shades of Blue," which they wrote themselves.

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Sabres are cutting a niche

IN DECEMBER, 1962, five young Coventry boys, together with Mr. Frank Jones, of Watery Lane, Keresley, Coventry, met in Mr. Jones's home and decided to enter the beat business, writes MALCOLM RADFORD.

Each boy wanted to get to the top and now, after exactly two years (twelve months since they turned professional) The Sabres of Coventry, presenting their popular 'Coventry Sound,' are quickly climbing the ladder of success. They have been in demand throughout the country since their recent nationwide tour which lasted from April of this year until the first week in November.

Following the appearance of The Sabres as the first Coventry group to be televised in A.T.V.'s 'Teenagers Only,' the boys have had only three days' rest. In March this year, following a very successful stay at Morecombe, where their appearance increased the Sabres' fan club by 117 new members (all Morecombe teenagers) Frank Jones, who now manages the group, received the unusual offer for the group to appear as guest artists in Sir Robert Fosse's Touring Circus.

Seven months with the circus brought them TV dates in South

Wales, at Southampton and Dover and again in London. Their appearance in the sawdust ring brought in hundreds of teenagers at each performance, and on several occasions it was necessary to call in police to control the crowds who flocked to the big top.

The Sabres had been right in their choice! The circus contract had helped them to become known throughout the country, and both group and management were delighted with the experiment.

The Sabres are now receiving offers from locations visited during their tour, and have received four contracts for appearances on the Continent early in the New Year.

On the group's arrival back in Coventry, the Lord Mayor invited the Sabres to a reception in honour of the group's fantastic success with 'The Coventry Sound,' and the boys attended the Council House, to meet by their many Midlands fans.

The boys were interviewed on B.B.C. News, asked to send a demo disc of their new number immediately to Parlophone, and negotiations are now almost complete for an appearance on East Anglia TV and for participation in a colour film being made by Pathé.

Cosmos getting established

FORMED ONLY last April, the Cosmos are really establishing themselves in and around Birmingham, writes JON CROSSLEY. They recently played a week at The Pink Elephant Club and appear every Saturday night at the Stampin Lions Club.

Founder members of the group are rhythm guitarist Graham Tapp

and drummer Peter Stringer. They were then joined by brothers John and Peter (ainford), bass and lead guitarists. Shortly afterwards vocalist David Humphries completed the group.

They are managed by the drummers uncle Mr. S. J. Baylis and, although he is a keen jazz fan, he has come to like beat through his interest in the group.

The Cosmos have a varied repertoire. They use quite a lot of Stones and Beatles material. David, a wire drawer, has written the lyrics for about 50 numbers and Graham, who is a trained draughtsman, is busy putting the words to music.



The Sabres: back row, Terry, Paul, Graham, kneeling: Steve, Martin.

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STRONG TURN-OUT FOR CHARITY

SHOW

LOCAL musicians responded enthusiastically when the management of the Hen and Chickens decided to run a charity event to raise funds for the Mayor of Oldbury's Charity Appeal Fund.

All the groups concerned, and the staff of this PMC run ballroom, gave their services free, and the evening was so successful that the management hope to make it an annual event.

The groups taking part were The Nomads, The Panthers, The Motions and The Veldens — all are regularly featured at the Hen and Chickens usual sessions, and will probably take part in the talent competition now being run there. A welcome visit was made by the Mayor of Oldbury and her consort.



NOMAD IN ACTION



ABOVE: THE NOMADS — WITH GUESTS

BELOW: THE PANTHERS



ABOVE: THE VELDONS

BELOW: THE MOTIONS



Twenty-year-old Danny Garfield, and Michael Lake (22), rhythm guitarist and drummer, teamed up in April to form Birmingham outfit The Twirheads. Francis Burns (20) lead guitar, John Lee (18) bass guitar, and Kevin Wright (15) vocals, complete the personnel of The Twirheads, who had from Killa Green.

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The Tombstones



The Freeways



The Simonals



Johnny Ford and the Riots



The Deuces Wild

The big night for the beat battle

WEDNESDAY, January 6 — that's the big night for beat groups throughout the Midlands. For it is the date of the finals of the beat group contest being held every Wednesday at the Locarno Ballroom, Birmingham.

The high standard set by the groups in the first heat has been maintained. Those battling for a place in this round were the Tombstones (Birmingham), Simonals (Kidderminster), Kingfishers (Birmingham), Spirits (Wolverhampton), Freeways (Birmingham), Deuces Wild (Wythall) and the West Side Riots (Cheltenham).

Close thing?

Full marks to Mr. Albert Archer, enterprising manager of the Locarno Ballroom, for this attractive contest, which offers some fabulous prizes presented by Jones and Crossland Ltd., the Birmingham musical instrument retailers.

"It's going to be a very close thing in the finals", predicts Mr. Archer. "Some very good groups have won their way through and I wouldn't like to tip a favourite. All I can say is that it is going to be a very exciting evening."

They came for

THE LATEST R and B Allnighter at Birmingham Town Hall was well attended as usual, despite there being only one name band on the bill. This was Birmingham's Spencer Davis Group, which only a year ago was a minor supporting act on such occasions.

It is a measure of Spence's popularity that so many people paid to see a show in which the only non-local group was the excellent but little-known John Mayall's Blues Breakers.

Pleasant change

Owing to an evening engagement at London's Flamingo Club, the Spencer Davis Group did not go on stage until 3 a.m., but they still aroused the customary enthusiasm.

It was a pleasant change to hear Steve Winwood playing organ — he should do it more often! I also liked their hilarious "Gong Gong Song," which they have already recorded with Millie for New Year release.

Not surprisingly, they finished with "Dimplex," and their current release "I Can't Stand It." John Mayall's Blues Breakers are a very talented London group who backed John Lee Hooker on his recent British tour. John sings, plays organ and harmonica —



John Mayall



The King Bees

r Spence

generously — and displays a collection of no less than 16 horns.

is as singing in with Spence, he has taken by the Blues

in a powerfully swing-

set which included a fine ver-

Howling Wolf's "Smaka-

lightnin'" and also featured

new recording, the catchy

win' Up a Hill" — altogether

exceptionally performance with

great content.

Minister's Shades 5 have re-

cently added an organ, played

by vocalist Mike Lawrence, to

the line-up.

Their fans

King fans have the distinction

numbering among their fans,

Spencer Davis Group, whose

manager, Pete York, enlists

them. I particularly liked

his handling of Mose Allison's

"Archman's Farm" and the sym-

bolic treatment of "Evening,"

Jimmy Waterpooon classic.

With group on the Bill, Jugs

Henry, were unadvertised, as

their performance was without

and in the nature of an audi-

ence for the promoter. Though

singing in polish and general

entertainment, they have the poten-

tial to be one of the leading mem-

bers of Birmingham's R and B

scene.



ABOVE: Brenda Lee with Carl Wayne and the Vikings.

BELOW: The Beat Merchants.



A lot of entertainment from little Miss Lee

PROFESSIONALISM, musicianship, and polish. These were the

keynotes of the highly entertain-

ing Brenda Lee Show at Bir-

mingham Town Hall.

The accomplished Miss Lee, backed

by the talented and versatile

Bobby Patrick Big Six, easily

won over the audience with her

dynamic personality and perfor-

mance. She satisfied her record-

buying fans by singing all her

hit songs, including "Sweet

Nuthin'," "Jump the Broom-

stick," "As Usual," "All Alone

Am I," and her latest release,

"Christmas Will Be Just Another

Loosey Day."

Her technique

Brenda has such remarkable tech-

nique and presence that one for-

gets that she is still only 17 years

old.

Of the supporting groups, Johnny

Kidd and the Pirates, who were

as picturesquely zany as ever,

stirred up most enthusiasm —

especially for what Johnny called

"A small salad called 'Eggstasy' —

which turned out to be a beauti-

ful version of 'Ecstasy'."

Two groups laid the accent on in-

strumentals, the Bobby Patrick

Big Six from Scotland, and the

John Barry Seven, whose biting

sound owed not a little to John's

trumpet playing. Excellent

arrangements played by good

musicians. Johnny Patrick also

played trumpet — could they be

trend-setting? and he was featured

on their latest release, the quaint

"Monkey Time."

Their frills

The frilly Beat Merchants were

wildly entertaining, despite their

singer being handicapped by

laryngitis. Birmingham's Carl

Wayne and the Vikings, smooth

and professional as ever, have

obviously worked hard on their

act, which included two amusing

comedy numbers featuring im-

pressions from Steptoe to The

Shadows, Cagney to Clarke.



Above: Johnny Kidd.

Below: Mike Lawrence



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(Dist. M. 12), Blackburn, Lancs.

WARWICKSHIRE by DENNIS MORGAN

SOUTH WARWICKSHIRE launches its biggest assault on the hit parade this month with probable releases by three of its most popular groups.

Spearheading the attack are the Mighty Avengers from Rugby, who are all set to record two original numbers. The "A" side will almost certainly be another Mick Jagger—Keith Richards speciality. I understand The Stooges have actually made their own demo disc of the number for the boys to learn from. The "B" side will be a number penned by the group themselves, their first attempt at writing their own material. Although Decca, their recording company, failed, in my opinion, to realise the potential of The Mighty Avengers' second release, "So Much in Love," I understand they are all set to give the new release maximum exposure.

MAKING their disc debut on Pye's Piccadilly label this month are The Backham, who are guaranteed to clear up existing skin troubles and prevent them returning. MASCOFIL gets to the source of the trouble—within this system I just 2 tiny pills a day—what could be simpler? No more sticky creams or ointments, unpleasant squeezing or unsightly plasters—but most important of all—

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THIRD prong in the invasion on the charts are The Matadors, who were to record two numbers for Joe Meek.

The lads were a little disappointed recently when they went down to record The Bells—only to discover that Brian Poole and The Tremeloes had beaten them to it. Back to the Sorrowful for a moment, negotiations were going on at press time for the group to be included on the Chuck Berry spring tour.

ANOTHER Coventry group, The Establishment, went down to

Pye to meet Tony Hatch, but their material was not recorded, although enough.

BIG PUBLICITY for the Figular, the dance started by a Coventry youth club—and for The Autocrats, who provided the signature tunes Carol and The Elektrons searching for original material following their success in a Coventry band group contest. Also hoping for a break with Pye, Warwick's Midnight are smouldering themselves as firm favourites with audiences at night clubs and restaurants in the area. Their act verges on the cabaret style.

TWO NEW groups who have appeared on the scene lately are The Gazelles and The Librarians... Five Dimensions going down well with ballroom audiences and are auditioning for various TV shows... Another group in line for television work are Lemington's Presidents, who passed a preliminary B.B.C. audition in London with flying colours and are set for another under full studio conditions. The group were the winners of a local popularity poll run by a Leamington newspaper. Warwick's Soul Seekers were second and Woody Allen and the Challengers third.

THE MAD CLASSIX with Beverly Jones are going to Munster, Germany, for two months and if successful plan to stay longer. Also offered German dates—the Bent Preachers, while The Chads will probably return to that country for further dates.

CHICANES have now joined up with Gerry Levens and call themselves The Avengers. This has caused confusion with local beat fans, so strongly redefining the group are The Mighty Avengers.

What makes it even more confusing is that Gerry Levens is to vocalist for the Mighty Avengers about two years ago!

FRIARS Promotions Ltd., the big Coventry agency, are looking for pitches in the Channel Islands this month, in preparation for the summer's tourist trade.

WORCESTERSHIRE by GRAHAM JONES

THE MALVERN Daleks now include bass-man Mike Mazzone from the Soundtracks defunct group, also from the latter group, was expected to drum for the Howlin' Wolves, but arrangements may since have been altered.

It was considered unlikely that Tony Hill (from the disbanding Original Spartans) would join the new R & B group, and a third choice could have been Steve Muncho from Hallow.

HERALDS on the look-out for a suitable bass-man to replace Jeff Rowcott. The Little Stoke-on-Trent group, the Liverpool-based Worcester last month—Oxford R & B group, the Blue Shades, were featured on Oxford's New Year's Eve dance at Worcester Guildhall. Support outfit were the Mohawks.

CONGRATULATIONS to old friends the Hummelflights from Swindon. They have joined the agency-mates, The Hellions, in producing a first-rate disc, and a swingin' performance on "Be Ready, Go" convinced me they have a great future.

NO DOUBT about it. The Hellions were Worcester's Group of the Year. Although their record, Jackie de Shannon's "Day Dreamin' of You," has so far made no impression on the charts, they completed 1964 with prospects of a long series of tours and one-nighters and the honour of having backed their friend and benefactor F. J. Proby.

No other local group has achieved anything like their measure of success. A glut of groups, break-ups by the dozen, and an influx of "foreign" groups, have all contributed to the dulling of the Worcestershire scene.

But interest in the group sound is as intense as ever, and despite the Town Council's reluctance to allow him use of the premises at weekends, this interest continues to be reflected in the programmes organised at Malvern Winter Gardens by Mr. Doug Webber.

At the Grand Prix of the senior group contest, the Cossacks held off challenges from Hell's Angels (formerly the Malvern Wanderers), and three Gloucestershire groups, the Delmonts, Advocates and Road-hogs.

And at the junior contest final, the Ravons also retained their title. The girls from Pershore triumphed the Ross, Soudley and the Malvern's Daleks, Worcester's City Herds—in poor form—lost out in the first round.

The door to television for the winners is not closed. Mr. Webber assures me that the group of David Scott has promised to let me know when more studio space is available.

DECEMBER was marred by the departure from the management field of well-known Worcestershire personality Geoff Sargeant, though he remains agent for the reformed Soundtracks and Hereford's Buddies, he has relinquished control of the Charlaynes girls' group and the Soundtracks.

STRANGERS are doing well in their new guise. Ex-Soundcaster Mick Roger is on bass, with newcomer Paul Goddard on rhythm. One of the original Strangers Adrian Cooke, is now with his uncle's dance-band.

DAISY-CUTTERS' organ has proved an interesting innovation. Mick Roger is on bass, with newcomer Paul Goddard on rhythm. One of the original Strangers Adrian Cooke, is now with his uncle's dance-band.

NEXT MONTH I have to be able to give you details of two important developments that are reaching fruition as I write. One is the establishment of a Worcestershire Beat Cabaret, after years of searching, and the other is the launching of another Worcestershire group—but one backed by big local interests.

NEW LEAD singer for the Raiders is Trevor Cunniff. Former agent Bill Andrews (manager of the former New Falcons) has booked them an Easter tour of the Leeds area.

Personalities at the Locarno Ballroom, Coventry, at the presentation of prizes in the "Midland Beat" Win An Amp contest - (rear left to right) Mr. A. E. Eley (Director) H. Payne (Coventry) Ltd, Mr. D. Cooke (Sales Engineer, Bendix Electronics Ltd.) Mr. Jack Harrison (Director, Northampton Sound Recording Service) and Mr. Denis Sullivan, manager of the Locarno. Seated are the well-known Mr. "Roby" Ford, (left) Director, Barnes and Mullins Ltd., and Mr. Bill Martin (Advertising Manager, Boosey and Hawkes (Sales) Ltd.



MUSTANG GUITARIST WINS £100 AMP

GUITARIST Alan Healy was the envy of more than a thousand teenagers packing the floor at the plush Locarno Ballroom, Coventry, on Thursday, December 10, when he was presented with a new amplifier worth about £100.

Alan received the Bendix 4/60 amplifier as the winner of a "Midland Beat" competition in which readers were asked to place in order of

merit the qualities to be found in one of these popular all-transistor "amps".

Alan is a member of The Mustangs and he brought along the rest of the group so that they could perform for the crowd — using a complete suite of Bendix amplifiers! The equipment was most impressive.

After Mr. R. W. Elliott, sales and commercial manager of Bendix Electronics Ltd., had presented the

4/60 amplifier to Alan Healy, a local lad living at 96 St. Austells Road, Wyken, another presentation took place.

Locarno assistant manager Brian Thompson invited John Busby, a member of the Birmingham group The Sapphires, onto the stand to collect the second prize from Mr. Colin Eaton of the Northampton Sound Recording Service.

Mr. Eaton handed John a voucher entitling his group to a free session at the famous studio of the Northampton Sound Recording Service with a copy of the demo disc to keep as a souvenir for each member of the group.



ABOVE: Mr. Colin Eaton of the Northampton Sound Recording Service, presents John Busby of the Sapphires, with a voucher entitling his group to a free session at his company's studios.

BELOW: Alan Healy (left) of the Mustangs, is congratulated by Mr. R. W. Elliott, Sales and Commercial Manager of Bendix Electronics Ltd., on winning a Bendix 4/60 amplifier.

Shirt and cuff links

Third prize (a shirt, tie and a pair of stylish cuff links from Nelson House) was won by D. Moss (of 12 1/2, of Home Farm, Westwood Park, Arnold, Nottingham).

Fourth prize — a set of glossy publicity photographs of his group, taken by "Midland Beat" photographer Jim Simpson — went to Terence Chandler, of 13, Burnfield Road, Washes Estate, Stourport. Terence is a member of the String Beans.

And the fifth prize — a copy of "Midland Beat" for each member of his group for the next twelve months — was won by Paul Stratton (of the Buddies), of 55 Caradoc Drive, Leominster, Herefordshire.

The judges placed the Top Ten features of the Bendix 4/60 amplifier in the following order: G, F, A, D, C, B, J, E, K, L.



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9th January.

OLD HORNS, GREAT BARR

10th January.

OAK

11th January.

ASSEMBLY ROOMS,

STAFFORD

15th January,

BILSTON TOWN HALL

16th January.

OAK

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MAJESTIC BALLROOM,

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22nd January.

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BORDERLAND by AUSTIN POWELL

SEEN much in this area now are the Concorda, from Lydney, who under the management of Mr. A. Dutton have broadened their area greatly over the past couple of months.

Recently, on their first visit to Newport, they were welcomed by 600 teenagers. Seems they have quite a reputation.

They were formed in August, 1963, and are among the all too few groups who can spot a completely full date book. They are booked solid for the first few months of this year.

The Concorda's repertoire is extensive, and is helped by the presence of singer Paula Powell.

Other members (left to right in photo) Ron Walker (vocals), "Spud" Walker (bass), Roger Dutton (drums), Paula Powell (vocals), "Iain" Rafferty (lead), and 14 year old "Rob" Teague (rhythm). New agencies spring up everywhere. Roy Beeson Enterprises based in Wellington are relatively new but have already "taken over" the Woking area.

Mr. Beeson manages the Concorda and Sue Carr and has



ABOVE: The Concorda.

BELOW: The Soultens, from Ross-on-Wye. Left to right: Fred Fisher, Terry Griffin, Patrick Brooke, and Pete Watts.



many other local groups under him and has access to pool winning Nomads from Bromsgrove. Some time back, H.B.E. opened a Sunday Club in the Town House, Wellington, taking over from Mini Entertainments of Sheffield, but this failed, which is quite surprising.

On New Year's Eve, Mr. Beeson has some 14 odd groups out for him. He is now in a very interesting position.

HEREFORD bustles on, though here too, there are signs of change. Many groups disappear, others merge with one-time rivals and the "1600 Club" continues to do big business. The Hillside Ballroom run by J. B. Clubs, does a bomb every Friday it opens.

Lined up are The Pretty Things and Screaming Lord Sutch, The Marrybeats, Dave Berry and King Size Taylor. Farther away the Honey Cavern, Ironlids, does well and the groups that play there are usually very pleased with the atmosphere of the cellar.

NEWEST arrivals in Hereford are The Odds 'n' Ends managed by Dave Hodges. These boys were once members of The Dominators and Fred (registered with "M.B.") and the 247's, both of whom enjoyed some success and popularity. The new outfit turns in an "old rock act" and includes many numbers not touched by other local groups. Whether rock comes back or not is a debatable point, but the Odds 'n' Ends firmly believe it will — and are the only exponents of the music around Hereford right now.

Hereford's Buddies under new management ... Meet all the people in the know in this area in Musical Instruments (Hereford) Ltd., in Elgin Street, Hereford ... Beatclubs opened in Leominster and Lansford and Wells now ... Regal Cinema, Craven Arms, still THX place on Saturday nights in Shropshire.

Brum Beats' disc in New Year?

ONE OF the Birmingham groups likely to make their disc debut in the New Year are The Brum Beats, not to be confused with The Brumbats, who changed their name from The Blaazats when they recorded for Iceca.

Because they are determined to make their recording how, the Brum Beats have turned down work in Germany, France and Spain, preferring to build up their reputation in this country.

They are already particularly popular in the Midlands, coming fifth in the "Midland Beat" Autumn Poll — four places higher than their position in our Summer Poll.

The Brum Beats, managed by the enterprising, bearded Vic Wakelin, one of the characters of the Midland beat scene, do not confine their activities to the Birmingham area.

A glance through their diary reveals dates as far afield as Maidstone, Aberystwyth, Leeds, Faringdon (Berks), Walsoken (Manchester), Ross-on-Wye, Peterborough and Mansfield.

But the group — Terry Dew, Norman Haines, Colin Timmins and John Hancock — are still semi-professional. The members of the outfit are all directors of Brum Beats Limited.

New additions to 'MB' register

THE Trojans, Leamington Spa; The Lyphobes, Hollywood, Birmingham; The Crow-Inds, Hereford; The Silhouettes, Leicester; The Zeniths Beat Group, Mansfield; The Cobras, Blinton; The Miffits and Diane, Birmingham; The Nocturnes, Solihull; The Echoes, Birmingham; The Witness, Hereford; The Lemars, Walsall; The West Side Blues, Cheltenham.

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STAFFORDSHIRE by ROGER BENNETT

LATEST news on the Cannock Chase circuit concerns The Fulmers and The Critics. There were domestic troubles in both groups and eventually they disbanded.

Then John Hall (lead guitarist) and Warren Edwards (bass guitarist) from The Fulmers joined forces with two of the original Critics Eric Wall (rhythm guitarist and vocalist) and Dave Holt (drummer). They decided to form another group calling themselves — wait for it — The Critics.

At the moment they would like either a good rhythm guitarist or vocalist so that Eric Wall can concentrate on one or the other.

STILL scouting around the Chase and we come across The Chequers. They formed a year ago, consisting of five players but now there are only two original members.

They are lead and Hawaiian guitarist Chris Symmonds and vocalist Chris Anslow. They have been joined by Alan Turner on drums, ex-Crick, and Dave King, bass guitarist, who previously performed with The Saracens.

The lads are hoping to cut a demo disc in the near future but over the last few months they have found it hard enough to keep going with the group being unsteady. Now as far as they are concerned it is all go. The group are running their own successful dances at the Terrace Community Centre every Friday.

THE BLUE STARS, by far Cannonock's most successful and established group — they have come seventh in both of "Midland Beat's" Popularity Polls — are excited about releasing their first single release. Still under contract to Decca, having appeared on their Bruin Beat L.P., they are at the moment considering several songs sent to them from a scriptwriter in Germany, George Miltiad.

LAATEST arrivals on the Chase scene are The Kraken Wakes. They got their unusual name from a book by science-fiction writer John Wyndham. When becoming popular, though, the group thought they'd better check with the author in case they were infringing on any copyright.

The group also have an unusual line-up using four guitars and drums. Michael Birknwell plays lead, Dave Billings bass, and Warren Lowe and Roger Smith both play rhythm. Barry Dean is the odd man out.

TO ENCOURAGE the many amateur groups in the Youth Service Staffordshire County Council are organising their first ever County Best Competition.

The county will be divided into areas, each of which will organise a local contest. The winning group from each area will then compete in the final on January 30 at Stafford.

The divided areas are as follows: Aldridge, Brownhills and Wednesbury; Birtley Hill and Rowley Regis; Stafford and Stone; Cannock,

The lads have written several of their own songs, two of which they intend to make a demo of and send to a record company.

COMPLETING this Cannock Chase roundup are The Teletots who have somewhat changed their line-up since I wrote about them at the beginning of the year. Ian Lees still takes care of the vocals and Terry Heath is still lead guitarist. Now Dave Jones has taken over from Patrick Morris on bass guitar and Colin Corbett on drums instead of Michael Sollow. The group now also have George Davies on organ.

The group are going after fame in a big way — even to the extent of having publicity pictures taken by well-known show-biz photographer Dick Hoffman. The Teletots are now managed by a Wallall Wood businessman, Gerry Southgate.

WEDNESDAY, January 13, will be rhytym and blues night in Wolverhampton with Big Local, Top 10 putting on what promises to be quite a contest. Those appearing in the two performances show are Georgia Fame, Zoot Money's Big Soul Band, Spencer Davis, Alex Kanner, The Soul Seekers and The N'Bevans.

WALSALL has also recently been blessed with some of the best in R. and B. The special R. and B. nights at the Casino Club have featured some of those just mentioned and those who have not yet appeared are booked to do so.

WOLVERHAMPTON'S Montanas have really gone down like a bomb with Liverpool audiences following a double booking at the Cavern and the Rhythm Lounge. There is little wonder they have taken a liking to this truly talented group.

AT THE TIME of going to press there were definite signs that both

Rugby and districts; Wednesfield, Willenhall and Darlaston; Leek, Chesley and Crecilly; Tipton, Coseley, Sedgely and Uttoxeter; Newcastle and Walsall.

Judges at the final will include Dennis Detheridge, "Midland Beat" editor; Derek Johnson "New Musical Express", columnist; besides prominent A.T.V. officials. Three simple rules are made for groups wishing to enter: they must not be full-time professionals; members must be between 14 and 21 years of age.

Steve Brett and The Soul Seekers were due to record, the latter probably in the New Year.

ANOTHER Wolverhampton group to keep an eye on are The N'Bevans. Having Walsall, they gained a well deserved reception for their rave rhythm and blues — they save the real R. and B. for club work.

WOLVERHAMPTON'S Black Diamonds were extremely disappointed last month at having to turn down a very lucrative offer indeed.

It came from a club in Germany, and the sum of £2,000 was waved in front of their noses for four months' work. Unfortunately it could not be accepted because of previous engagements.

AT BOULTON Paul Aircraft Apprentices annual dance, Wolverhampton's Montanas, the sound-makers appeared with Sounds Incorporated and Lulu and The Luvvers.

Actra Agency's Ship and Rainbow is still packing em-in and little wonder with groups like Spencer Davis, Alex Kanner, the Lull and The Paramonts on the bill. The Graham Bond Organisation is just another one of the top groups lined up for later dates.

GIORGIO and Marco's Men, from Wolverhampton, must surely be setting a precedent by having a Roman Catholic priest for their manager. He is Father Michael Crook of the Roman Catholic Church of S.S. Mary and John, Snowhill.

And the boys go on record, saying that he is the best as far as they are concerned. In fact vocalist Giorgio Ucellini says that if it were not for Father Crook they would be nowhere. Supporting Giorgio in this are Frank Ridge on sax, Peter Bryce on bass, Michael O'Dowd on rhythm, Rex Warton on drums, and Giorgio's brother, Marco lead guitarist.

GEOFF JACOBS, manager of The Wolves, from Wolverhampton,

and they must be entered by a recognised youth club or organisation.

During the contest each group will play one last number and one ballad. Bonus points will be awarded by the inclusion of an original composition by a member(s) of the group. The judges will be awarding points for the following: musical ability, speed in preparation of equipment before performance and the clearing of it afterwards, appearance, choice of numbers and introductions.

has high hopes for his group's second by record, "Now" which was released in December. It coincided, incidentally, with a same title record from Shirley Bassey which received some good publicity because of this.

The Wolves' song was written by Ken Howard and Alan Blackley. The Honeycombs' writers, and it is in sharp contrast to the Wolverhampton group's debut disc — a slow ballad. This one is a wall-to-wall best number which races along at a great pace and Bobbly. It's a very really gets to grips with the lyric.

The flip is "This Year, Next Year" with Bobby again in fine form. The boys performed their record on "Thank You, Lucky Stars" besides getting good plugs from Radio Caroline, Disc Jockey Alan Freeman also featured it in his Sunday radio programme.

WHEN the disc was played as the opening record on "Juke Box Jury" however, it took a terrific hammering from the panel. Quick quotes from those on the Jury were: "I don't like it," "Ten million groups play like this, I find nothing to commend it." Polly Elvers: "It will not be a hit," Jimmy Edwards: "I did not like it," Shirley Eaton: "I did not like it either. It is the same as any other ordinary record and will not be a hit."

The lads will be wise, though, not to worry too much about the comments of one of the most out-touched juries to appear on the show for a good while.

SINCE starting their new series of Top Pop Shows, The Staffordshire Yeoman at Stafford, have recently been pulling the crowds in. Groups featured there recently include the New Everitt, having returned from their tour of the North East, The Marauders, The Seekers and The Ashanti's.

THE TIPTON all-West Indian group, the Ebonics, are pretty busy these days. Apart from a bursting engagement of 200 at the Tipton New Year they are off to Germany for four weeks.

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AT THE Northampton Festival of Jazz over a thousand fans of both young and old, gathered in the Drill Hall to listen to eight hours of jazz by some of the finest bands in the country. The programme included Alex Welsh, Ken Colyer, Freddy Randall with their respective bands and Bill Dickens and the Front-size Stompers, who chose this as their first professional appearance after being semi-pro for quite a time.

The compers were almost as numerous and famous as the bands and included Humphrey Lyttelton, Alan Freeman, and Terry Hensbey (of "Jazz 625"), Johnny Jones of the London City Agency, who organised the festival, kept the whole thing going. Other personalities were Sid James, Andrew Oldham, Janette Scott, Billy Walker and Mae Mercer.

The programme started with a short parade through the town at 3 p.m., then from 4 till midnight it was jazz all the way. Ruck-sacks and sleeping bags littered the floor and certain gentlemen, after removing their shoes and socks, paddled in split beer; others just danced or listened to the music and all, I think, enjoyed themselves.

WHAT DO Northampton fans want? In the past few weeks we have had Manfred Mann and the Barron Knights in town but the fans just didn't want to know. Northampton people must now be living up to their "Most difficult people to please" tag. We asked Gerry Heckman, organiser of The Homelanders, to comment, and he said:

"Even though we ourselves do go down well locally, it is most difficult to please even for local groups. When we play out of town we have no trouble at all to gain an appreciative audience, but when in Northampton we are quite used to silence at the end of a number."

From this it would seem that if you go down well in Northampton you will have no trouble elsewhere. Though even this does not add up, when you consider that a record from the town has ever got as far as near the Hit-Parade or even a recording contract.

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE by JACK HARRISON

THE LOCAL recording studs have organised a "Stars of Studio 36" dance in the new Maple Ball-room, at which they are to present three of the groups who have released records in the "Studio 36" label. They are Vicky and the Kordettes, from Kirby-in-Ashfield, the Martins, a very promising outfit from Leicester, who have just released an E. P. of four of their own numbers; and Northampton's own Skylovers, whose record was not only accepted by Radio Caroline, but also gained them a TV audition which they missed and are now to appear on "Ready, Steady, Go!"

WHILE returning from a recent booking in Leicester, the van in which The Homelanders were travelling ran out of petrol and they were stranded on the roadside for a couple of hours.

GLOUCESTERSHIRE by JOHN STANLEY

THIS AREA'S news of the month comes from that Cheltenham outfit, The Tallmen, who have made real progress. They have just signed a five-year contract with The Kinks' recording manager, Shel Talmy, and they are due for their first Pye record during January.

The number is to be a secret until release. Unlike the Kinks, they are to be personally managed by Mr. Talmy as well as being their A and R man.

The boys' previous manager, Roger Kendrick, still retains the group's old beat club the Grotto, which as well as being able to spend more time organising.

A LOCAL outfit with great possibilities are The Road Hops, who have just opened their own weekly spot at the Ship Inn, Gloucester. The line-up of these boys, who were previously The Icons, is: Chris Lethbridge-bass (an Ex-Baron), Jeff Kingswell—drums, Dave Doddwell—rhythm; Alan Walker — tenor sax and vest pocket harp (harmonica to us) and lead.

There lies the problem, for they recently lost their talented lead. Bob Jones, a one-time member of Group 4, has been helping them out but at the time of writing they were desperate for a new member as they are to complete in a final of a best-contest within days! Following the current trend in R and B, they make some quite interesting attempts at their own arrangements. One I particularly liked was "Bye Bye Baby."

ANOTHER group on the hunt for a replacement is the popular Group 4, who lost Alan Parks some time ago. Although they have tried a number of applicants, at the time of going to press, drummer Mike Willocks was still doing the honours with his vocal cords.

EX-BEATNIK Ricky Welch has joined the area favourites The Dimensions of Sound — that Northampton outfit The Advocates are getting bigger every month; they reached the finals of the Malvern Beat Contest with more than a fair chance and even the local press are giving them space.

THE GLOUCESTER group The Dynamic Bee-J's, who lost their lead guitarist Jim Grey a while back, have found an ideal replacement in George Phillips (the Ex-Mike and the Mystics lead).

Jim, so manager Terry Leach tells me, has set to concentrate on married life! This group, who turned down a German tour worth £1,600, regularly offer their services free of charge for prison shows and approved school hops.

THE CHELTENHAM Town Hall Christmas rave was a real swinging affair with that top line group Mal Ryder and the Spirits supported by Midland favourites the Flavours — an all girl group — and the "Ready, Steady, Win" group, the Olympics.

Among the shows lined up for January is Big Beat affair on the 5th with the Ex-Sweet Frenchers, The Dynamic Bee-J's and that exciting group The Beat Merchants.

Also lined up for the month are Wayne Fontana and the Mindbenders on the 25th and just over the border in February, on the 8th, the great Dave Berry with his Cruisers.

"VETERAN" CHELTENHAM boys The Ramocs press on with their bid to become the masters of entertainment. Colin Taylor, their acquitment from The Ram-pires, certainly helps, for they now have two vocalists, which always helps to make a stage show out of a six.

Recently, their manager had some tapes made by the boys, played on Radio Caroline. Further numbers are being written by lead guitarist Johnny Graham.

BIG STEPS forward for the Cheltenham group, Tony Faye and the Faytories, who are now to be known as the Freshmen. They have already cut their own demo and are at present chewing over a German tour offer.

The group's drummer, John Davies, has exchanged positions with Brian Pashy from The Saxons. Their rhythm guitarist, Jeff Hestead, has given up in favour of his girl friend and Jimmy White from The Hawks has filled the bill.



ABOVE
Mal Ryder and
the Spirits

LEFT
The Primitives

OXFORDSHIRE by JOHN STANLEY

A HAPPY ending story, this month from the Oxford boys, The Blue-J's, who performed at a recent Oxford charity dance in one of the city's big hotels. After the show it was discovered that the bass player Ken Newport had had his brand new Vespa amp stolen.

Oxford met another at the Black-bled Leys Community Centre at which many local groups gave their services free and the profits were put towards Ken's new amp. Among the groups who played were The Howlin' Wolves, Apolonia and The Night Wreckers. The latter group, broke up but immediately three reformed as Group 88. They have formed their own best club at Walingford.

A distinction for The Apolonia is that they all own Gretsch guitars and for that reason Sound City are to use the boys for publicity. Their line-up is Nicky, lead, Derek, rhythm, Pete, bass; Johnny, skins, and second Pete offering the vocals.

THAT eagerly awaited moment for The Earlybirds should arrive during January when their self penned number entitled "The Answer is No" will be released.

January 22 is a new release date for The Falling Leaves' disc debut with EMI, and manager Adrian Hopkins has a ten copy order under his belt from the boys' parents.

It was out during November in the IBC studios in London with Bill Phillips from KPM as A and R man. The number was originally meant for Ready Steady Win' LP, but Mike Most those another number and so the boys took it to Tony Palmer at KMI.

The session man on the disc, playing tambourine, is George Bellamy, the Ex Teletar Tornado.

A last minute rush by train brought their brand new suits, cut in London for the show. Also new were their tab shirts, a good will

present from Littlewoods who have recently opened a store in the city. On the Friday of that week they appeared as arranged on package and then raced across the city centre to the Town Hall, to appear in another show. The group are also due to appear at the Town Hall on New Year's Eve with two London outfits and The Earlybirds.

These hard working boys, who recently appeared in yet another package with Gerry and the Pacemakers and Sounds Inc. are due for half week tours of Manchester and Birmingham during the month.

PRaise for Mr. Southorn of the Carfax Ballrooms, in Oxford, who took the then unsuccessful Saturday dance night under his care. Since then it has gone from strength to strength partly due to keeping the entry price down and partly to very wise selection of big bands, rather than expensive London groups.

TWO YOUNGER groups trying hard to make a name locally are The Mellotones, who play chiefly in pubs in and around Oxford, and The Stormbeats, who have the distinguishing feature of a bear as a band wagon. A third who make strenuous efforts are the Lyrictron Marston.

FOLLOWING a "tip-off" I proceeded to the east side of town and a demolition-marked shop repair shop to interview The Strangers. Hefty blows on the decaying door brought a long haired character to a broken first floor window, and finally I was led up a ladder to the loft. It only by an electric fix.

There I sat with the boys — Tony Burchfield (organ), Barry Ford (bass), David Horwood (drums) and Ian Kiky (rhythm) and listened to their problems. Only days before two of their members had suddenly left the group for personal reasons. At the time of writing, Ian had moved into Leeds and the vocals were being shared around the group.

STILL MORE progress for that fast-rising outfit from the town, The

Primitives, who recently achieved a half page picture in one of the big London beat papers, through connections with The Burns Agency. The boys, who are due to be featured in another big London beat mag, fluting the mouth, have already made some takes for their forthcoming release.

NEW band wagon for the Mal Ryder and the Spirits line-up, who recently started on some very serious night club cabaret work — big test of a group's qualities. Success was with them. Indeed, they got a free four course dinner and a week's return, booking in the New Year. These boys also have some much sought after bookings at a famous Country Club in Cornwall.

The group, who are almost nightly contributors to the Radio Lux scene, recently had another opportunity to hear their leader in an interview in a beat show. This features their latest recording, "Your Friend", which is still selling well.

LOOKING forward and making strides in the direction of the top, are The Heretics, who have lined up for their auditions in two of London's top clubs, The Flamingo and The Discoteque, and an audition with T.V.W. Television.

The boys are also hoping to wear a disc early in the new year.

UP AND COMING R and B outfit The Rintar Soots have made a couple of changes in personnel. The line-up is now Ray Young, lead, Bern Townsend, rhythm/vocals; Hank Lockwood, bass; Steve "Fin" Finley, drums.

The boys have recently done a little travelling, having played at Bedford, London, and Weynes. They now have their own manager, Mike Bonning, of B.F.F. Entertainments, Aston, Oxford, who also manages The Heretics. Two groups to watch in the future, ions are open for work and want to travel.

WITNEY'S 5's are said to be folding up. Several members are leaving for personal reason.

THEir success in the supported Gloucestershire's all girl group. The Flavours at Witney.

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HAVE YOU got your 1965 "Midland Beat" diary? They have been selling like hot cakes — but there is still time to get your copy. It's a "must" for everyone connected with the beat scene in the Midlands. For instance, for the first time, the diary gives a list of just about every group in the Midlands that has recorded for a major record label. Where else is there such valuable information for the Midlands beat enthusiasts?

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EAST ANGLIA by R.G. TUDOR

THE CONTINENTALS had a scare when Ivan Zagui, lead guitarist, lost his Gibson guitar after a London club engagement.

The guitar, valued at £250 and one of only three in the country — it was custom built for Ivan in the States — was missing when the boys turned up for a recording session in London.

A frantic phone call to the club led to the discovery of the guitar — too late for Ivan to use it for the recording or for the date they had that evening on the East Coast.

The boys got in touch with old friend Graham Bond, who picked up the guitar on his way to Norwich the following day and delivered it to Ivan at the Orford Cellar, where Bond was playing.

A NEW CLUB at Attleborough opened this month. First group to play there were Freddie Fingers, Les, and the Strikers. Popular with local crowds. More Midland groups will be appearing later.

HIGHWAYMEN and Planets, both country groups living in the depths of the forest, are doing well despite competition from Norwich groups.

PERFORMANCES of local groups are on the whole very disappointing. It is hard to fault

the top boys, The Continentals, Contours, Hi Four, Empiros, C. B. O. Incorporated and a few others when there is an ever increasing number of new groups who lack training, good equipment and professionalism.

Promoters who book the inferior groups soon find business is going down.

"You can't palm rubbish off onto people these days", says Howard Hunt, of the Orford Cellar, Norwich. And of course, he is absolutely right. The Orford Cellar has top-line groups four nights a week and every night is a success.

A NEW GROUP on the scene were The Hairies. Managed by Brian Lowe they had so much trouble with their name that they have changed it to The Figments.

TWO GROUPS from Lynn, managed by Portess and Carter. Entertainments of Sutton BRIDGE — The Moggs and The Torinos — go to France this month.

POTTERIES by AL JACKSON

EQUALLY at home on piano, organ, double bass, violin, bass, lead and rhythm guitars in addition to being a prolific song writer and vocalist, 17 years old Leek High School boy Denis Hurst, formerly leader of the now defunct Diamonds

and son of band leader Jack Hurst, has snapped up the great chance of success by joining the Tennesseans, but also on occasions in the role of lead/rhythm guitarist.

Denis played rhythm on the Tennesseans' first disc "You Are My Love" (to be released on January 22), which has a first-rate chance of success, the Tennesseans having already booked a Saturday Club date for January 23, a "Record Show at 6.15 p.m., January 24, a "Ready, Steady, Go" appearance on the 22nd January, in addition to other dates rapidly being lined up for them, including a Border television show.

THE POTTERIES beat scene has quietened down, temporarily, only I feel, through the sudden Tennesseans/Marauders changes.

Ex-Tennesseans drummer Colin Stone has joined the Wombats displacing Bruce Hill who has taken over the drum chair with Terry King and the Saints, replacing Vic Leigh, now professional with Vince Everett and the Black Orchids, whose previous drummer, Will Honeyman, is now with the Marauders as a replacement for Barry Sargeant, who started it all off by joining — and here we go back to — the Tennesseans!

BASS GUITAR/vocalist Trevor Millward, also an ex-Tennessean, joined the Huckleberries in place of new Marauder Derek Denton, but is now anxious to get fixed up with a new pro-group due to the shock abandonment of the Huckleberries.

Apparently Toby — (Lyovette's (Tony Kaye) record "Play the

Music, Keep on Dancing" failed to take off and a disappointed Toby has temporarily retired from the scene.

A thousand pities that the so professional Tony has taken this decision, which, it is to be hoped, is certainly not a final one; with his fine voice and tremendous personality there is still much scope for him.

Ex-Frickleberries drummer Phil Hassall and electric pianist Ian Holding in addition to Trevor are anxious to get fixed up again, together if possible, by adding a lead guitarist or falling that by joining other groups; meanwhile Ray Stanton lead/rhythm of the Huckleberries is forming a semi pro outfit.

FOLLOWING the success of last year's Keele University rag record, both The Kingpins and The Changing Times were approached to take part in the second release, the former waxing "Time to Spend with You" written by Kingpins' rhythm guitarist/vocalist Dave Shirrup and sung by Lance Harvey and the latter group; the latter recording, Making Me Cry", written and sung by lead guitarist Kenny Knowles.

GENERAL manager Dave Austin of the Girls Winwright Agency marries Miss Joyce Morton, daughter of Newcastle-under-Lyme's Town Clerk, only this year. Currently carving out a name for themselves are the Fingies, whose vocal harmony from bass guitar Paul Riley and lead Ray Shirrup (brother of Kingpins Dave) is really first-class. Completing the line-up are drummer John Lacey and rhythm/vocalist Joe James.

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