



PAT BOONE FOR BRITAIN

'65 STARS OF 6.5 SPECIAL'
NOW ON SALE - SEE PAGE 3

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No. 583 EVERY FRIDAY PRICE 6d. March 14, 1958

MOST
BROTHERS
Whole lotta
woman



While **ELVIS PRESLEY** retains his position at Number 3 in the charts with "Jailhouse Rock," plans are going ahead to issue a Golden Album to coincide with his entry into the U.S. army. The LP will feature his million-sale hits.

BELOW: A picture sent from America shows **FRANKIE VAUGHAN** (r.) rehearsing for "The Big Record" TV show in which he appeared last week. With him, from left to right, are **ALAN DALE**, **PATTI PAGE** and **MARTHA RAYE**.



Thousands of teenage girls would like to change place with actress **JUNE LAVERICK** in the picture above. June is **TOMMY STEELE'S** leading lady in his forthcoming film, "The Duke Wore Jeans," which will be reviewed in NME next week. It opens in London on March 23 and is released on March 31.



JOHNNIE RAY says "Hello" to Europe. He's doing a great deal of travelling these days, due to his many commitments on the Continent, but he looks forward most to his return here in April, for concert appearances.



PETULA CLARK has completed the hat-trick by getting her third successive record into the best selling lists. Her "Baby Lover" has jumped from 23 to 12 in this week's Charts. (See page 3).



Although the weather recently has not been ideal for straw hats **RONNIE HILTON**, **ALMA COGAN** and **CYRIL STAPLETON** thought them just the job for last week's "Show Band Parade," during the "Old Routine" number.

A FASCINATING NEW SOUND

By **KATHY LINDEN** on FELSTED AF 102

BILLY

(I ALWAYS DREAM OF BILL)

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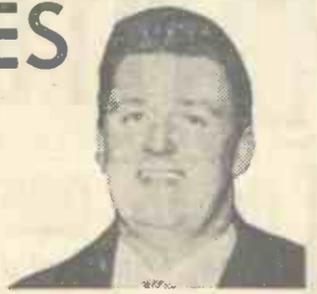
WHAT A SHAME

PAUL ANKA'S GREATEST

YOU ARE MY DESTINY ORKS. 4/-

ROBERT MELLIN LTD. & SHERWIN MUSIC CO., Number Thirty New Bond St., W.1 MAY 3272

DON QUIT BAND-COACHES TO RIDE TO FAME ON THE '6.5 SPECIAL'



It was Don Lang's desire to abandon the hectic round-the-country whirl of one-night stands that ultimately led to him securing a resident spot on the "6.5 Special." For Don had spent some years touring as a trombonist with the bands of Teddy Foster, Vic Lewis and Ken Mackintosh—and the day eventually came when he was sick of the sight of a band-coach, and he had a yearning to settle down in town.

So he left Mackintosh to become a "session-man"—one of the pool of musicians who are always available for recording sessions, gigs, broadcasts and any other pick-up jobs that come along.

But while he was operating under this cloak, he was also developing a burning ambition to launch out as a personality in his own right. He'd done a certain amount of singing with the vocal group in the Mackintosh band, but had now found a vocal idiom which he considered well suited to his own particular talents—"vocalese."

These are the songs which consist of tongue-twisting lyrics, belted out at a breath-taking pace "I'd heard some American stuff in that idiom," says Don, "though over in the States it didn't mean very much, because it hadn't been exploited. I felt the market was wide open for it."

Don made a private recording, with a small instrumental combination, took it along to HMV. So impressed were they that details of a contract were drawn up on the spot. It was decided that Don's real name

of Gordon Langhorn was a little too lengthy for professional purposes, so the middle two syllables were extracted—and Don Lang emerged.

The first of Don's "vocalese" offerings to reach the counters was "Cloudburst"—it was an instantaneous success, and got Don off to a flying start as a recording artist.

"This was before rock reached saturation point," said Don. "The hit parade at the time consisted largely of Ruby Murray ballads and novelty songs. So I think we did quite well under the circumstances."

Don was still recording with session-men, but as TV spots and other engagements began to come his way, he decided to form his own little group—and the Frantic Five came into being. Came the time when he decided to go along and see Jo Douglas and Jack Good, to try to secure a spot on "6.5 Special."

He convinced them, was booked

for a show—and so popular was he with the viewers, that he was quickly re-booked for further editions, and finally acquired the resident berth.

Asked how he felt about continually playing rock 'n' roll, Don showed that he has very strong thoughts on the subject. "People annoy me when they keep on knocking it, just because it happens to be rock," he exclaimed. "I agree that not all rock is good, but the same could be said for any musical form. couldn't it?"

"Quite frankly, I'd rather play rock than things like 'Lady Is A Tramp' in a night club. At least it does give us a chance to extemporise."

"After all, it is a jazz form—mostly a 12-bar blues sequence, with an exceptionally heavy beat. Yes, I like it—and what's more, I think its influence will be felt for a long time to come."

Thanks largely to the impact he has created on television Don's re-

ords now enjoy very consistent sales. Some of his discs which have done particularly well are "I Want You To Be My Baby" (one of the classics of vocalese), "Rock Around The Cookhouse," "White Silver Sands" and "Red Planet Rock," and he is also in demand for LPs.

Now Don and the Frantic Five are all set to undertake their first summer season—at that hub of entertainment during the holiday period, Blackpool.

But Don doesn't know at this stage exactly what he will be doing in the show. "I never look that far ahead," he explained. "I always just live for the day!"

There is no doubt that BBC-TV must be congratulated for grasping a hit potential when they saw it. Don and the boys have now become an accepted part of the regular Saturday evening session. And, let's face it, the old "6.5 Special" wouldn't seem the same without them!

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NME INFORMATION BUREAU

- BASIL KIRCHIN BAND**
Friday: Town Hall, Haverhill; Saturday: Seymour Hall, London.
- RONNIE ALDRICH AND THE SQUADRONAIKES**
Friday: New County Ballroom, Hereford; Saturday: Winter Gardens, Weston-super-Mare; Wednesday: Leyton Baths.
- CHRIS BARBER BAND**
Friday: Coronation Hall, Kingston; Saturday: Drill Hall, Horsham; Sunday: Broadway Cinema, Letchworth; Monday: Humphrey Lyttelton Club, London; Tuesday: Royal Festival Hall, London; Wednesday: White Hart, Southall; Thursday: Town Hall, St. Pancras.

- TERRY LIGHTFOOT'S JAZZMEN**
Friday: Star Hotel, Croydon; Saturday: School of Economics, London; Sunday: Coventry Theatre; Monday: Nottingham University; Tuesday: Jazz Club, Barnet; Thursday: Humphrey Lyttelton Club, London.
- CHAS. McDEVITT SKIFFLE GROUP**
Friday: Drill Hall, Dumfries; Saturday: Drill Hall, Haddington; Sunday: Dance Hall, Rosewall.

- ERIC DELANEY ORCHESTRA**
Friday: Royal Hall, Harrogate; Saturday: Town Hall, Crewe; Sunday: Locarno Ballroom, Sale.
- ERIC SILK'S SOUTHERN JAZZ BAND**
Friday: Southern Jazz Club, Leytonstone; Saturday: Cy Laurie Jazz Club, London.
- JOHNNY DANKWORTH ORCHESTRA**
Friday: U.S.A.F., Ruislip; Saturday: Pier Pavilion, Felixstowe; Sunday: Plaza Cinema, Bedford.

- ONE-NIGHT STANDS**
- BUDDY HOLLY, THE CRICKETS, GARY MILLER, TANNER SISTERS, etc.
- March 15: Ipswich Gaumont; 16: Leicester De Montfort Hall; 17: Doncaster Gaumont; 18: Blackburn St. George's Hall; 19: Hull Regal; 20: Liverpool Philharmonic Hall; 21: Walthamstow Granada.
- PAUL ANKA, LORRAE DESMOND, KENTONES, etc.
- March 15: York Rialto; 16: Hull City Hall; 18: Belle Vue, Manchester; 19: Liverpool Philharmonic Hall; 20: Lincoln Savoy; 21: Hanley Victoria Hall.

WHO'S WHERE

- (Week commencing March 17)
- JOHNNY DUNCAN, SOUTHLANDERS**
Bradford Alhambra.
- BILLY COTTON & HIS BAND**
Brighton Hippodrome.
- RUSS HAMILTON, BETTY DRIVER, JOE HENDERSON**
Edinburgh Empire.
- DAVID HUGHES, KING BROTHERS, AUDREY JEANS**
Finsbury Park Empire.
- MAETTY WILDE, CHAS. McDEVITT GROUP**
Glasgow Empire.
- ALMA COGAN, TERRY WAYNE**
Leeds Empire.
- DAVID WHITFIELD**
London Palladium.
- JIM DALE, WALLY WHYTON & VIPERS**
Bradford Gaumont.
- MICHAEL HOLLIDAY**
Leicester Palace.
- MALCOLM VAUGHAN**
Belfast Opera House.
- WEE WILLIE HARRIS, LES HOBEAUX, TONY CROMBIE, MOST BROTHERS**
Chester Royalty.
- BILL KENT & DENE-ACES**
London Metropolitan.
- BEVERLEY SISTERS**
Oxford New Theatre.
- DICKIE VALENTINE**
Huddersfield Ritz.
- EDMUND HOCKRIDGE, YANA**
Carlisle Lonsdale.
- EDDIE CALVERT, ROBERT EARL**
Nottingham Empire.
- MAX BYGRAVES, MACKELL TWINS**
Southampton Gaumont.

RADIO LUXEMBOURG

- FULL PROGRAMMES - 208 METRES
- SUNDAY**
6 Beaver Club; 6.15 You Lucky People; 6.45 Accordion Time; 7 Big Ben Banjo Band; 7.30 The Winifred Atwell Show; 8 Opportunity Knocks; 8.30 Take Your Pick; 9 Roxy Time; 9.15 Ella and Louis; 10 Record Rendezvous; 10.30 Humphrey Lyttelton Show; 11 Top Twenty.
- MONDAY**
6 Requests; 8 Show Business; 9 Bing Sings; 9.15 Song Hits of the Century; 9.45 Deep River Boys; 10 Jack Jackson; 10.30 Top Pops of Tomorrow; 11 Talking Points; 11.05 Bible Christian Programme; 11.15 Frank and Ernest; 11.30 The World Tomorrow.
- TUESDAY**
6 Requests; 8 Spike Harrigan; 8.30 Scottish Requests; 9 Alma Cogan Show; 9.15 Linger Awhile; 9.45 Tomorrow's Top Ten; 10 The Capitol Show; 10.30 Fontana Fan Fare; 11 Revival Time; 11.30 The World Tomorrow.
- WEDNESDAY**
6 Requests; 8 Double Your Money; 8.30 Smash Hits; 9 Stargazers; 9.15 Cugat's Carnival; 9.45 Favourites Old and New; 10 Record Show; 11 Back To The Bible; 11.30 The Hour of Decision.
- THURSDAY**
6 Requests; 8 The Harry James Show; 8.30 Lucky Number; 9 Song Parade; 9.15 Song Hits of the Century; 9.45 Favourites Old and New; 10 It's Record Time; 10.45 Italy Sings; 11 Old Fashioned Revival Hour; 11.30 Radio Bible Class.
- FRIDAY**
6 Requests; 8 Shilling A Second; 8.30 Tops With You; 9 Sporting Challenge; 9.15 Dickie Valentine Show; 9.30 The Dick Haymes Show; 9.45 Godfrey Winn's Concert; 10.15 Record Hop; 11 The Voice of Prophecy; 11.30 Still Waters.
- SATURDAY**
6 Requests; 7 Rhythm on the Range; 7.30 Intrigue; 8 Jamboree; 10 Irish Requests; 10.30 Spin with the Stars; 11 Bringing Christ to the Nations; 11.30 Jack Jackson.

AFN HIGHLIGHTS

- 547, 344, 271 METRES
- SUNDAY**
12 noon Waltz Time; 3 Highway Of Melody; 5.05 Jack Benny; 7.05 People Are Funny; 8.30 European Storybook; 9.35 News and Sports; 10.30 Westward Look.
- MONDAY**
11 a.m. Request Show; 12 noon Melody Mart; 1 Outpost Concert; 2.05 Stickbuddy Jamboree; 3 One Man's Family; 3.30 Lone Ranger; 4 Requests; 5 Quarter's Worth; 6 Music In The Air; 7.05 \$64,000 Question; 9 Hollywood Music Hall.
- TUESDAY**
11 a.m. Request Show; 12 noon Melody Mart; 3 One Man's Family; 4 Requests; 6 Music In The Air; 7.05 What's My Line; 9 Modern Jazz, 1958.
- WEDNESDAY**
11 a.m. Request Show; 11.55 Les Paul; 12 noon Melody Mart; 3 One Man's Family; 4 Requests; 5 Sound Track; 6 Music In The Air; 7.05 Groucho Marx; 9.45 Bob and Ray.
- THURSDAY**
11 a.m. Request Show; 12 noon Melody Mart; 3 One Man's Family; 4 Requests; 5 In The Mood; 6 Music In The Air; 7.30 21st Precinct; 8.30 Unit 99; 9.45 Melodia; 10.30 Request Show.
- FRIDAY**
11 a.m. Request Show; 11.55 Les Paul; 12 noon Melody Mart; 2.05 Stickbuddy Jamboree; 2.30 Robert Q. Lewis; 3 One Man's Family; 4 Requests; 5 Songs Of Many Lands; 6 Music In The Air; 7.05 Stuart Foster Show; 8.30 Mystery Time; 9 Stars Of Jazz; 9.45 Bob and Ray; 10.05 Request Show.
- SATURDAY**
11 a.m. Request Show; 12.30 Western Swing; 1 Saturday Salute In Music; 3.30 Galen Drake; 4 Request Show; 6 Music In The Air; 7.30 Saturday Night Country Style; 8.30 Operation Entertainment; 9 Music Views From Hollywood; 10.05 America's Popular Music; 11.05 Request Show.

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• 'With All My Heart' • 'Alone' • 'Baby Lover' •

PET CLARK

has three hits

in a row!



THE gay, cherry-coloured sports car drew up at the office door and Petula Clark emerged.

My door opened a fraction, and that mischievous, elfin-like face peeked in. "Thought I'd come and report, before I go to the Continent," grinned Pet, with the ever-present twinkle in her eye. "I'm just off on a few days' holiday, you know."

Pet, of all people, certainly deserves her brief vacation. She has had a greater degree of success in the best-selling record lists in the past months than any girl singer since Ruby Murray was at her hey-day.

In these days of male dominance, it is not a particularly common occurrence for any artist to attain best-selling status with three consecutive records; but when a GIRL singer accomplishes this, her success is really something to shout about.

Struck blow

Towards the end of last summer, Pet struck a telling blow for the combined cause of ballads and girl singers. She recorded a lilting, Italian-flavoured song, entitled "With All My Heart" and the public

latched onto it immediately. Despite intense competition, they chose Pet's version. She was not conducting an extensive TV exploitation campaign at the time, so why should this be?

The reason for the song's success is that you simply can't suppress a good basic melody, irrespective of the current gimmicks. And so far as Pet was concerned—well, we have always felt rather affectionate towards her, ever since the dark days of the war, when she entertained us as a child star.

Her disc was quickly boosted into fifth position and, as Pet is the first to agree, it was the distinctive and attractive novelty backing which, to a large extent, helped to get it there.

The backroom boys at Nixa seem to excel themselves in producing catchy and effective accompaniments. They know full well that this can be the deciding factor in establishing a record (it's happened so often before

"Memories Are Made Of This" and "Diana" being two outstanding examples), and they lose no opportunity in producing a unique sound to intrigue the record-buyers.

So they had a ready-made market for Pet Clark's "Alone," with its fascinating and unique "yah-yah" accompaniment—totally different from Pet's previous success, yet equally absorbing in its gimmick value.

Here, Pet was faced with even stronger competition, and hers was the only version which featured a solo artist, as opposed to a singing group.

Left mark

Nevertheless, "With All My Heart" had left its mark. Its effect was still being felt, and the fans rushed to obtain Pet's latest offering. The result? This time she found herself lifted to eighth place in the hit parade.

This situation presented something of a challenge to Nixa, for they were now virtually duty-bound to try to secure a hat-trick of successes for Pet Clark.

And they have done just that—by the simple process of giving Pet another completely different type of song.

Still combining the captivating Clark vocal tones with an irresistible musical backing, the overall result is entirely removed from anything she has recorded before—but it has just the right amount of disc appeal to send the customers hurrying to the shops.

Look at the record lists this week, and you will see that Pet's rockalypso-type "Baby Lover" has climbed into 12th place, and has thus completed a remarkable triumph for the young singer.

Pet readily admits her shortcomings when choosing disc titles. "I wasn't very keen about 'With All My Heart' or 'Alone'," she told me. "But in the case of this new one, I could well imagine myself singing it. It struck me as being quite a cute idea, and I felt that it was too good a novelty to miss."

Pet then went on to pay full tribute to Peter Knight, who arranged it. "It's people like Peter who hold the success or failure of a record in their hands, but people tend to overlook the important part they play."

What's Marion Ryan confiding to Petula Clark? Our cameraman Harry Hammond took this interesting picture at a party recently. Perhaps Marion was saying to Pet "Aren't we lucky to be recording for the label that gets its girls into the Sellers," or was it something more everyday like "What's this I hear about you getting married?"

I pointed out to Pet that when I last interviewed her, six months ago, she had indicated that she would like to concentrate a little more on the dramatic side of her talent. Did she still feel this way, after three record hits, I asked. "I should dearly love to act more than I am doing at the moment," she assured me. "But with those three records, I think the chances are even more remote than when we last discussed it."

I gained the impression that Pet was feeling somewhat restricted and limited in her present role of pop singer. And her desire for expansion has increased still further, since her

after her current disc. A new issue, I opined, might tread on the toes of "Baby Lover." But Pet wasn't unduly worried.

"It won't be coming out for a week or two," she explained. "And in any case, it has the advantage of being different again from the previous three. This time, it's a ballad!"

Is Pet convinced that ballads are on the way back? "Well, I think they are to some extent," she admitted. "But they've got to be ballads with a beat."

Abroad

It looks as though Pet will be working extensively on the Continent this spring. She plans a visit to Paris, where the locals have already shown their approval of her records. She has made several singles in French, and hopes shortly to cut an LP in that language. Pet is also intending to visit the Brussels Fair, before she starts upon her summer tour for Harold Fielding.

It must be specially pleasing to the Nixa company to be able to look at the Top Twenty records, and observe that the only two representatives of the fair sex are artists on their label—Pet Clark and Marion Ryan.

Marion, of course, is still more than holding her own with "Love Me forever," and looks well set for a follow-up with her new record—the only complication is that she may fall between two stools. For Nixa haven't made up their minds which of the two sides to exploit—"Always And Forever" or "Oh, Oh, I'm Falling In Love Again."

But as Nixa recording manager, Alan Freeman, said with a wink (I'm sure he was winking, even though we were speaking on the telephone at the time) "Yes, we seem to be doing pretty well with the girls!"

In all seriousness, though, three hits in a row is indeed a great achievement by Pet.

Congratulations to her—I'm sure there are many more to come.

by
DEREK JOHNSON

recent London Palace Theatre season with Frankie Vaughan. True, this only amounted to straight-forward variety—but it carried with it the glint and glamour of the West End.

And it only served to whet Pet's appetite for a really good musical comedy, or film musical, part.

Before she left for Copenhagen, where she was undertaking radio and TV engagements and a concert with Johnnie Ray, and then setting out for a short rest in Austria, Pet cut the titles for her next record release.

I suggested that this is rather soon

The Life-lines of EDDIE CALVERT



Birthplace: Preston.
Birthday: March 15, 1922.
Height: 5ft. 5ins.
Weight: 11 stone 7 pounds.
Hair: Dark brown.
Eyes: Brown.

First cornet lessons: From his father, a noted brass band musician, when he was eight years old.

Father's occupation: Boot repairer.
First major brass band achievement: Playing principal cornet with the Preston Town Silver Band—at the age of 11!

First job on leaving school: Apprentice electrician.

War service: At 17½ was called up for tank and searchlight training with the Royal Artillery. Later became a dispatch rider, and after a crash which landed him in hospital, was discharged in the autumn of 1942.

First "name" band engagement: With the Billy Ternent Orchestra; later with Oscar Rabin and, in 1945, he started a two year engagement with Geraldine; led bands of his own for important West End night club engagements.

First major resident radio series: "Top Score."

First variety date as a soloist: Theatre Royal, Portsmouth, in 1952.

Gold Records for million sales: "Oh, Mein Papa." This was the first British instrumental record to exceed a million sales. Eddie flew to America to receive his Gold

Record at a special presentation ceremony during March, 1954.

Other hit records: "Cherry Pink And Apple Blossom White"; "Midnight"; "John And Julie"; "Zambesi"; "Mystery Street"; "Stranger In Paradise."

Current hit: "Mandy" (No. 15 in this week's hit parade).

Best-known composition: "My Son, My Son"—the Vera Lynn record was top on the hit parade!

Fan Club Vice-presidents: Danny Kaye, Anthony Steele, Terence Morgan, Geraldine, John Gregson, Jimmy Edwards, Benny Hill, Alma Cogan, Norrie Paramor, Ray Martin, Gerry Brereton, and James Kenney.

Family: Wife, Josephine (they married in 1944) and son, Gilbert Edward Jack (born January 21, 1957).

Favourite sports: Golf, tennis, and swimming.

Hobbies: Record collecting and writing music.

First record company: Melodisc.

Present record company: Columbia.

Other business interests: Eddie Calvert Productions Ltd.; music publishing company—Gabriel Music.

Teddy and Pearl

"Sweet Elizabeth"

(Coupled with "Never Let Me Go")

Nixa N.15123 (78 & 45)

Hear this Record on the
"JACK JACKSON SHOW"
on Saturday, 15th March

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PRESENTING MARTY WILDE
A QUARTET of rock songs—
 "Wild Cat," "Honeycomb," "Love Bug Crawl" and "Afraid Of Love"—sung with great verve by Marty Wilde, accompanied by his Wildcats. On Philips.

SOMETHIN' SMITH and the **REDHEADS**
A TRIO of red-haired males in a quartet of swingy tunes, sung with plenty of gusto. Titles are "My Melancholy Baby," "Ma," "You Always Hurt The One You Love" and "Cecilia." Fontana label.

PORTRAIT OF SHELLEY
SHELLEY MOORE has a husky, smoochy voice, and she takes her time on her notes as she sings four sultry songs she wrote herself. "Where Is The Bluebird?" and "Gone On The Guy" are best. Instrumental background is imaginative, specially Martin Slavin's vibes. It's a Starlite EP.



PRESENTING THE KAYE SISTERS
THE three round-faced lasses, who started as dancers and then became harmony singers, do all right on this Philips EP. They couldn't go wrong with "Alone," "Shake Me I Rattle," "Dark Moon" and "Love Me Forever."

THE FLYING PLATTERS
GOOD examples of solo vocalising from within this hit group on this EP. Baritone Paul Robi shines in "You Are Too Beautiful"; Zola Taylor is at her best in "Mean To Me" and bass Herb Reed gives "Darktown Strutters' Ball" a great spin. On Mercury.

By ALLEN EVANS

THE DIAMONDS
THESE high-class singing bombshells from Canada get going well with "Shoo Ya Blues," "You Are The Limit," "My Dog Likes Your Dog," and "Oh, How I Wish." On Mercury.

BING
A SWINGY selection by Der Bingle, best of which are "Shine" and "Some Of These Days"—and older readers will like his hark-back to "Please." On Philips.

PICK OF "PAL JOEY"
THE Michael Sammes Singers, a precise, peppy aggregation, put over "Lady Is A Tramp," "Bewitched," "I Didn't Know What Time It Was" and "My Funny Valentine," aided by Ken Jones and orchestra. A worthwhile souvenir of the picture. Fontana label.

CALYPSO TIME
FRANK HOLDER sings saucy lyrics, particularly in "Watermelon" and "Kitch." This kind of calypso is to pop music what Max Miller's gags are to the music hall. Nixa release.

LOVER
FRANK SINATRA on Fontana, singing romantically such classic standards as "She's Funny That Way," "Try A Little Tenderness," "Laura" and "Lover."

YOUR CHOICE
VARIETY from Mercury singles—Sarah Vaughan in "Please Mr. Brown"; Hal Mooney in "Chick-A-Chick"; Chuck Miller "Plaything"; and Florian ZaBach's "Runaway Romance."
NIXA HIT PARADE—3
A NOTHER selection of hits from Nixa singles, headed by

Marion Ryan's "Love Me Forever." Gary Miller sings "The Story Of My Life," Lonnie Donegan "Jack O' Diamonds" and Edmund Hockridge adds "I'll Buy You A Star."

PLEASANT songster-cum-film actor John Fraser, from Glasgow, sings his way easily through "Bye, Bye Love," "Trolley Stop" and "Don't Take Your Love From Me," but he's best in "Why Don't They Understand?" which has been currently given new life by George Hamilton IV. Fraser's version is just as good. Nixa label.

JOHNNY MATHIS
THIS smooth, coloured balladeer has two EP's currently issued, both using only his name as the title. Philips have him singing "Wonderful, Wonderful," "Chances Are," "When Sonny Gets Blue" and "It's Not For

Me To Say." Ray Conniff accompanies. On Fontana, he's just as attractive, if slightly Sinatra'ish, when singing "Will I Find My Love Today?" "Too Close For Comfort," "You Stepped Out Of A Dream" and "Day In, Day Out." Percy Faith accompanies.

LADY DAY
BILLIE HOLIDAY in swingy, bluesy mood, with a low-down accompaniment of jazz greats such as Teddy Wilson, Buck Clayton, Bunny Berigan and the like. She sings "I Cried For You," "Me, Myself And I," "Billie's Blues" and "I Must Have That Man." Cool, cats, cool!

KINGS OF CALYPSO
POWERFUL-VOICED Ben Bowers adds to the West Indian library of folk songs with "Not Me," "Lazy Moon," "Donkey City" and "Naughty Little Flea." On Nixa.

KEITH FORDYCE advises *Watch out*

for 'You're The Greatest'
A SONG called "You're The Greatest" impresses me more every time I hear it—and I've heard it quite a few times now. At least four singers have recorded it.

Billy Scott on London-American must have a fair chance of collecting honours with his version—restrained, warm and understanding. One of the strongest lyrics I've heard for some time. Don't dismiss

this song after just one hearing—it kinda grows on you!
 Backing is a slow and romantic rendition of "That's Why I Was Born." Fair, but not a patch on the Ronnie Hilton etching that came out a month or two back.

Watch out
for 'You're The Greatest'



LITA ROZA
 Lita Roza sings "You're The Greatest" for Nixa. Good meaty material for the Roza talents, and vocally there's money's worth on this platter. The accompaniment is economy-size. The bloke with the big drum has a whale of a time, and the bass-player gets more than prominent billing.

Lita Roza makes a bid to join fellow girl singers on Nixa label in the Charts with "You're The Greatest."
 Below are The Dene Boys, highly praised for their "I Walk Down The Street."

The general effect is that the backing is of a mood completely different from the song.
 A pity, because Lita is in good form.
 A much happier result is obtained with "I Need Somebody." Here the simple, almost tom-tom effect is ideal for the happy and amusing lyric. Basically, this is more of a man's song than a girl's, but Lita really gets cracking with punch and verve and does a creditable job.

BEVERLEYS
 When The Beverley Sisters let rip they are great; on something slow and sentimental they can be terrific. With "Always And Forever" they have an in-between song, and in consequence we don't hear the Bevs at their best.
 They sound sweet and charming, but there's very little impact in the way they tackle the song.
 "Siesta" is a cute and amusing number from South America, and the Bevs extract the maximum in chuckles. The arrangement is good, and the harmonies attractive. That's a Decca release.

GORDON MACRAE
 A couple of very agreeable sides from Gordon Macrae on Capitol. "Now" is an easy-going ballad with a catchy rhythm that finds Gordon half singing, half crooning.
 Certainly not hit material, but the sort of disc that will do credit to any dee-jay and to any record collection.

Although he's so firmly established at the top of the tree where films are concerned, Gordon rarely overworks the cash registers with his discs, possibly because he refuses to be a slave to commercial trends.
 Flipside of this platter is the oldie, "Till We Meet Again." Once more the mood is happy-go-lucky and cheerful.

ROSEMARY SQUIRES
 Title song from a new British film, "Happy Is The Bride," has been recorded by Rosemary Squires, who has just been signed to a contract with HMV.
 Ace songwriter Paddy Roberts penned this cheerful ditty, which very amusingly describes the scene and details of a typical wedding-day.

More of a show-tune than a pop, but there's an excellent backing from the Frank Cordell orchestra.
 Rosemary has a delightful singing style that makes her two songs sound even better.
 "Give Me The Simple Life" moralises in a perfectly acceptable fashion and makes a happy, unpretentious number. A very pleasant disc in every way.



DENE BOYS
 Another British group, The Dene Boys, have turned out a delightful disc for HMV. Make sure you give a listen to "I Walk Down The Street." Not only is the vocalising first-class, but the arrangement holds the interest from start to finish.
 There is nothing fabulous about the song itself, but the vocal and instrumental presentation gets right away from "standard operating procedure" and is as refreshing as an iced-drink in a heat-wave.
 For the coupling, the boys take the Carmichael oldie, "Skylark." Fine, modern harmonising makes this a musical treat. Obviously, the Hi-Los and the Freshmen haven't got a monopoly of contemporary group-work; this home-produced record is not just an imitation of the American groups, and the Denes wisely refrain from trying to go one better than their U.S. rivals.
 They are quite relaxed and their unusual harmonies are so spaced out that they have additional impact.

SAMMY DAVIS
 Of late I have been disappointed in the records of Sammy Davis. His individual personality singing has got lost in a couple of very ordinary rock 'n' roll numbers on his latest platter for Brunswick.
 "Hallelujah, I Love Her So" has some interesting moments, and the real Sammy can occasionally be heard.
 "I'm Comin' Home" is a slow rocker that completely smothers the Davis talents. Not a bad number of its type, but definitely not Davis.

KING BROTHERS
 The King Brothers are featured in the film of "6.5 Special" and the two songs they sing therein are to be found on a new Parlophone release. One is "6.5 Jive," which makes an adequate "B" side.
 The main number is "Hand Me Down My Walking Cane," a simple and catchy tune based on a traditional melody, brought up to date by Geoff Love. A good arrangement, a

good, crisp quota of vocalising from the three boys, and good entertainment altogether.

Despite all this on the credit side, there is something missing. Perhaps it is the need for something just a bit more exciting.

There is a good beat, but even the steadiness of the tempo is almost a drawback; a brief change of pace somewhere along the line would have helped.

MANTOVANI
 When an old familiar semi-classic piece of music is newly recorded and sounds fresh and interesting, then the people responsible deserve a big bouquet. And that's just what Mantovani gets for his discing of "The Canary."

If the title doesn't ring a bell, then the tune is sure to—everybody knows it. The Mantovani orchestra sing the dreamy mood overboard for once and provide three minutes of bright, crisp music. Excellent!
 Tother side is a Monty original, entitled "To My Love." Slow and romantic, but not a firm enough melody to make much of an impression. A Decca release.

FRANKIE AVALON
 HMV also have the American hit recording of "Dede Dinah." A slowish, thumping rock job, put over by Frankie Avalon. There's nothing new on this disc that hasn't been heard before, but if you're after a real solid beat, with not too many words to worry about, this should suit your book.
 Flipside has "Ooh La La." It is brighter and more entertaining to my ears, but I don't fancy either side as a big 'un.

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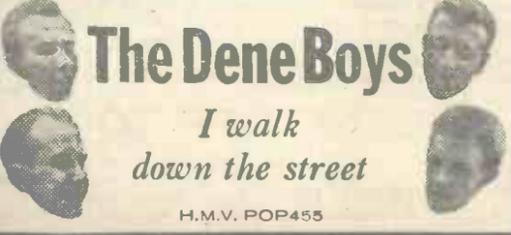
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Chappell Rec. First pub. 1957



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TWIN TUNES QUINTET

Baby lover

RCA-1046 45/78



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NME MUSIC CHARTS

BEST SELLING POP RECORDS IN BRITAIN

(Week ending Wed., 12th March, 1958)

Last Week	This Week	Title	Artist	Label
1	1	MAGIC MOMENTS	Perry Como (RCA)	RCA
2	2	THE STORY OF MY LIFE	Michael Holliday (Columbia)	Columbia
3	3	JAILHOUSE ROCK	Elvis Presley (RCA)	RCA
4	4	AT THE HOP	Danny & The Juniors (HMV)	HMV
5	5	DON'T ELVIS PRESLEY	(RCA)	RCA
7	6	LOVE ME FOREVER	Marion Ryan (Pye-Nixa)	Pye-Nixa
6	7	YOU ARE MY DESTINY	Paul Anka (Columbia)	Columbia
9	8	APRIL LOVE	Pat Boone (London)	London
8	9	OH BOY!	Crickets (Coral)	Coral
15	10	NAIROBI	Tommy Steele (Decca)	Decca
13	11	GOOD GOLLY, MISS MOLLY	Little Richard (London)	London
23	12	BABY LOVER	Petula Clark (Pye-Nixa)	Pye-Nixa
11	13	CAN'T GET ALONG WITHOUT YOU/WE ARE NOT ALONE	Frankie Vaughan (Philips)	Philips
10	14	ALL THE WAY	Frank Sinatra (Capitol)	Capitol
14	15	MANDY	Eddie Calvert (Columbia)	Columbia
—	16	LISTEN TO ME	Buddy Holly (Coral)	Coral
21	17	CATCH A FALLING STAR	Perry Como (RCA)	RCA
29	18	WHOLE LOTTA WOMAN	Marvin Rainwater (MGM)	MGM
16	19	PEGGY SUE	Buddy Holly (Coral)	Coral
17	20	WITCHCRAFT	Frank Sinatra (Capitol)	Capitol
19	21	SUGARTIME	McGuire Sisters (Coral)	Coral
20	22	SUGARTIME	Alma Cogan (HMV)	HMV
12	23	BONY MORONIE	Larry Williams (London)	London
24	24	THE CLOUDS WILL SOON ROLL BY	Tony Brent (Columbia)	Columbia
28	24	WHY DON'T THEY UNDERSTAND	George Hamilton IV (HMV)	HMV
—	26	IN LOVE	Michael Holliday (Columbia)	Columbia
—	27	TO BE LOVED	Jackie Wilson (Coral)	Coral
—	28	MAYBE, BABY	Crickets (Coral)	Coral
25	29	SUGARTIME	Jim Dale (Parlophone)	Parlophone
—	30	LA DEE DAH	Jackie Dennis (Decca)	Decca
—	30	RAUNCHY	Ken Markintosh (HMV)	HMV
—	30	SWINGIN' SHEPHERD BLUES	Ted Heath (Decca)	Decca

BEST SELLING SHEET MUSIC IN BRITAIN

(Week ending Wed., 12th March, 1958)

Last Week	This Week	Title	Artist	Label
1	1	MAGIC MOMENTS	(Chappell) 2s.	Chappell
2	2	THE STORY OF MY LIFE	(Sterling) 2s.	Sterling
5	3	APRIL LOVE	(Robbins) 2s.	Robbins
6	4	CATCH A FALLING STAR	(Feldman) 2s.	Feldman
3	5	LOVE ME FOREVER	(Kassner) 2s.	Kassner
4	5	SUGARTIME	(Southern) 2s.	Southern
7	7	ALL THE WAY	(Barton) 2s.	Barton
8	8	JAILHOUSE ROCK	(Belinda) 2s.	Belinda
12	9	AT THE HOP	(Bron) 2s.	Bron
9	10	PUT A LIGHT IN THE WINDOW	(Dominion) 2s.	Dominion
10	11	MY SPECIAL ANGEL	(Yale) 2s.	Yale
13	12	YOU ARE MY DESTINY	(Robert Mellin) 2s.	Robert Mellin
11	13	FORGOTTEN DREAMS	(Mills Music) 2s. 6d.	Mills Music
17	14	CHICAGO	(Feldman) 2s.	Feldman
14	15	KISSES SWEETER THAN WINE	(F.D. & H.) 2s.	F.D. & H.
19	16	MANDY (PANSY)	(World Wide) 2s.	World Wide
16	17	OH BOY!	(Southern) 2s.	Southern
13	18	MA, HE'S MAKING EYES AT ME	(Feldman) 2s.	Feldman
18	19	PEGGY SUE	(Southern) 2s.	Southern
—	20	RAUNCHY	(Aberbach) 2s.	Aberbach
—	21	NAIROBI	(Leeds) 2s.	Leeds
21	22	AN AFFAIR TO REMEMBER	(Feist) 2s.	Feist
—	22	WHY DON'T THEY UNDERSTAND	(Henderson) 2s.	Henderson
20	24	TAMMY	(Macmelodies) 2s.	Macmelodies

BEST SELLING POP RECORDS IN U.S.

(Week ending Wed., 12th March, 1958)

Last Week	This Week	Title	Artist	Label
1	1	Don't/I Beg Of You	Elvis Presley	Elvis Presley
2	2	Get A Job	Silhouettes	Silhouettes
7	3	Sweet Little Sixteen	Chuck Berry	Chuck Berry
10	4	A Wonderful Time Up There/It's Too Soon To Know	Pat Boone	Pat Boone
4	5	Short Shorts	Royal Teens	Royal Teens
6	6	Oh, Julie	Crescendos	Crescendos
5	7	Twenty-Six Miles	Four Preps	Four Preps
3	8	Catch A Falling Star/Magic Moments	Perry Como	Perry Como
8	9	Sail Along Silvery Moon/Raunchy	Billy Vaughn	Billy Vaughn
20	10	Who's Sorry Now	Connie Francis	Connie Francis
—	11	The Walk	Jimmy McCracklin	Jimmy McCracklin
—	12	Tequila	The Champs	The Champs
11	13	The Stroll	Diamonds	Diamonds
9	14	At The Hop	Danny & The Juniors	Danny & The Juniors
13	15	Sugartime	McGuire Sisters	McGuire Sisters
12	16	You Are My Destiny	Paul Anka	Paul Anka
—	17	Good Golly, Miss Molly	Little Richard	Little Richard
—	18	Ballad Of A Teenage Queen	Johnny Cash	Johnny Cash
18	19	Dede Dinah	Frankie Avalon	Frankie Avalon
17	20	Maybe	Chantels	Chantels

The American chart is published by courtesy of "Billboard"

Spotlight on...

A RECORD HIGH ON THE AMERICAN CHARTS...

THE ROYAL TEENS

in

Short Shorts

and

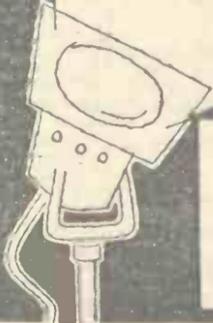
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Somewhere the sun is shining, So, hon-ey, don't you cry.



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FERCY C. DICKINS

Jive from 'Terror Cellar'

WHEN BBC-TV's "6.5 Special" is transmitted from Paris tomorrow (Saturday), its venue will be what producer Dennis Main Wilson describes as "the oldest jazz club in the world"—the Caveau de la Huchette.

This old building was erected in the Third Century AD, by the Romans. During the French Revolution it was used as a torture-chamber, when it was known as "The Cellar of Terror."

Famous jazz clarinetist, Sidney Bechet, is a late booking for this edition. Bechet, an American, has lived in Paris since the war.

Russell Turner, Barbara Lyon's husband, takes over production of the "6.5 Special" for four weeks, commencing April 19.

NEW DISC WILL BEND

FLEXIBLE plastic records will be marketed again in Britain soon by the new disc concern, Rainbow Records. First issue will be an album of ten numbers by the Eden Street Skiffle Group, which has frequently taken part in "6.5 Special" and BBC radio's "Saturday Skiffle Club."

The skiffle issue will be on sale in the open market through a leading chain of stores.

This week flexible records, made by Rainbow, were marketed as a pack with "Dorothy Vernon" stockings. Six different records are available.

Half a million pressings are involved in the first batch and similar quantities are being prepared for later release.

★ TWO THRILLING PUBLICATIONS

Everyone wants to 'catch' our '65 Stars of 6.5 Special'

THE exciting new NME publication, "65 Stars of 6.5 Special," has steamed up fantastic nationwide interest since the first announcement was made last week.

Orders have poured in from every direction, but extra supplies have been printed to cope with the colossal demand.

The display advertisement on page 3 of this issue names all the famous American and British personalities who are featured in this wonderful magazine.

Copies can be secured by completing the form at the foot of this column (which should be handed to your newsagent) or alternatively, they will be rushed to you by return post if you fill in the coupon which appears in the page 3 advertisement.

We are now able to offer to postal applicants only a limited number of copies, with the choice of a different front cover portrait (instead of Elvis Presley). Readers can select as an alternative one of the following: Buddy Holly and the Crickets, Lonnie Donegan, Don Lang, Pat Boone, Dickie Valentine, Frankie Vaughan, Jim Dale or Michael Holliday.

Those wishing to take advantage of an alternative front cover portrait must state clearly the name of the artist required when sending their application, as no exchange can be made from the original cover.

At only 2s. 6d., "65 Stars of 6.5 Special" is the greatest line-up of the world's most popular disc personalities ever presented.

PAUL ANKA STORY

The vast crowds which popular Paul Anka is attracting throughout his current nation-wide tour has created demands for our sensational "Paul Anka Story" magazine, making a reprint necessary.

This is a world-exclusive publication, the first devoted solely to this teenage sensation, including photographs, personally written articles by Paul Anka, a complete biography and full-page pin-up portraits which are suitable for framing.

See page 11 for details of your quickest way of obtaining the "Paul Anka Story."

Only a limited number of additional copies have been reprinted—once these are sold there will be no further opportunity of securing this great magazine.

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PAT BOONE HERE FOR EASTER!

Lightning visit for TV and concert dates fixed

A LIGHTNING visit to Britain next month by Pat Boone—voted the "World's Outstanding Popular Singer" and "Favourite American Male Singer" in the latest NME annual poll—is exciting news for disc-fans here.

Pat stars in Val Parnell's London Palladium ATV show on April 6, Easter Sunday. The previous day, he appears at concerts in London, but his decision is awaited regarding the number of performances.

DECCA HOUSE IS A PALACE



Here is a picture of the palatial new Decca headquarters in London. This luxurious ten-storeyed building is Decca House, situated on the Albert Embankment, overlooking the Thames. It was opened by Sir David Eccles, president of the Board of Trade, on Monday. In his speech he praised the splendid enterprise of Mr. E. R. Lewis, chairman of Decca, and congratulated him on the amazing growth of the company, not only in the recording field, but in navigational, TV and radio spheres.

MORE HUMPH

Humphrey Lyttelton Band's "Here's Humph" Granada TV series, scheduled to end on March 21, has been extended for a further two weeks.

BBC buys filmed Dinah Shore U.S. TV show

ANOTHER top American musical television show has been bought by the BBC. It stars Dinah Shore, for long a leading U.S. singing personality, who has devoted much of her time in recent years to TV.

Frank Sinatra will be Dinah's main guest when the first programme is transmitted on March 26. It will take the place of the Perry Como Show one Wednesday a month.

Like the Como series the BBC will present tele-films of the actual American shows. They will be seen here within a matter of weeks of U.S. screening.

Again like the Como Show, Dinah's presentation not only relies on the star's own contribution, but the top-flight American entertainers will appear as guests.

Next week, the BBC are planning to show a filmed Como Show, with Eddie Fisher as the star guest.

YOUNGSTER IN THE MONEY

A 15-year-old boy singer has just been committed to a contract that could bring him an income of £50,000 by the summer of next year.

He is Decca's new signing, Jackie Dennis, who was launched as "6.5 Special's" first discovery of the programme's second year.

Dennis has been contracted by the Harold Fielding office, which handles Tommy Steele. Fielding will present him in concerts and variety tours.

Jackie is also expected to head a package show for a Canadian tour in September.

Whitfield as 'Crusoe'

DAVID WHITFIELD will star in ATV's "Sunday Night at the London Palladium" on March 23. Excerpts from the "Robinson Crusoe" pantomime, in which he's played the title role at that theatre since December 23, will be seen.

On April 13, American musical comedian Dick Shawn (who is in Liberace's variety fortnight at the Palladium) appears in ATV's peak-hour Sunday night show.

Los Brasileiros, the celebrated South American song-and-dance team, arrived in London this week to appear in the Palladium TV show this week-end. Their trip is being sponsored by the Brazilian Government.

Other musical attractions on this bill are Canadian baritone Edmund Hockridge and The Beverley Sisters. The Confrey Phillips Trio takes part in "The Arthur Haynes Show" on March 22, with the Kaye Sisters.

A late booking for "The Jack Jackson Show" on March 22 is bandleader-saxist Ken Mackintosh, appearing with his rhythm section. The Mudlarks singing group and Chris Barber's Jazz Band complete the bill on March 29, and bookings so far confirmed for April 5 are The Beverley Sisters, Group One and Jimmy Young.

The Fraser-Hayes Four join Alma Cogan and Ronnie Hilton on "Top Tune Time" on March 30.



RONNIE CARROLL

Personal Manager, Eddie Lee, Will Collins Agency, Fan Club Sec., 34, Woodhall Gate, Finner, Middx.

AMERICA-BOUND MAURICE KINN HAS AN AWARD FOR PAT BOONE

A PLEASURE Maurice Kinn, managing director of NME, is looking forward to when he leaves for America today (Friday) with his charming wife, Berenice, will be to present personally a pair of silver candlesticks, suitably engraved, to Pat Boone in New York.

The gift is Pat's award for heading two sections of our 1957 Popularity Poll—World's Outstanding Singer and Favourite American Male Singer.

A plan has been suggested to Mr. Kinn to make the presentation on a top American TV show and this should materialise.

Throughout his entire stay in America, Maurice Kinn will be sending back reports of, and personal interviews with, all the top singing stars he meets in New York, Las Vegas, Hollywood and elsewhere.

He'll make the perfect start tomorrow night (Saturday) when he attends Frank Sinatra's gala cabaret opening in Miami, Florida.

Frank and Maurice have been close friends for several years and are looking forward to their re-union.

The resultant article should make thrilling reading, another exclusive NME scoop. Watch out for it and other exciting person-to-person reports from Maurice Kinn in America.

DENE OFF TO SWEDEN

TERRY DENE hopes to go to Sweden on Sunday. He will attend the Stockholm premiere of his film "The Golden Disc" the following day. Terry will be accompanied on the trip by his recording manager, Decca's Dick Rowe.

Dene was hoping to attend the London premiere of the film last night (Thursday). He had received permission to attend both functions from the doctors treating his recent illness.

He now expects to resume touring in variety within a few weeks. His first public performance is likely to be the Stars Organisation for Spastics show at Earls Court, London, on Sunday, March 30.

Union restrictions cancel Otis show visit

THE "Johnny Otis Show" will not be making eyes at British fans next month! A four-week tour of one-night-stands at Rank theatres (scheduled to commence on April 6) has been postponed until September.

Explaining the situation in a statement to the NME, London agent Leslie Grade said: "Because the 'Johnny Otis Show' contains several musicians, the same number of British instrumentalists must go to America. "However, the Musicians

show visit

Union said they were regulating the number of reciprocal band exchanges and after further discussions with the Ministry of Labour, their feelings left me with no alternative but to abandon my plans."

This is the first venture which has been affected since the Musicians Union intimated last November their desire to restrict transatlantic bookings.

Although the Ministry of Labour make the final decisions, as each application is considered on its respective merit, in this instance they were influenced by the feelings of MU.

The "Johnny Otis Show" scored a resounding hit with their recent revival of "Ma, He's Making Eyes At Me." The likelihood of a later visit to this country in September must be very much dependent on whether or not they enjoy further recordings hits prior to then.

MARIO FOR LEICESTER

ANOTHER date (in addition to those revealed last week) has been announced for singer Mario Lanza. Following his appearance in Belfast on March 29, Mario will travel to Leicester for an engagement at the De Montfort Hall, March 31.

Mario's Continental itinerary during April is Paris (2), Ostend (5), Rotterdam (7), Hanover (11), Kiel (13), Hamburg (15), Wiesbaden (18), and Nuremberg (20).

As previously reported, he will return to Britain for further dates here towards the end of April.

Harris, Vaughan for 'Top Numbers'

WEE WILLIE HARRIS and Malcolm Vaughan will be the guest stars in the next "Top Numbers," ABC-TV's fortnightly music show, on Sunday, March 23. Pip Hinton, Norman Wisdom's leading lady in "Where's Charley?", who appeared in last Sunday's programme, is joining "Top Numbers" as a resident singer.

Maureen Kershaw returns on March 23 after missing last Sunday's show because of illness.

Moe Koffman Quartet SWINGIN' SHEPHERD BLUES

HLJ 8549



45/78

THE DECCA RECORDS



Monty re-booked before current tour has ended!

FLUSHED with the success of his current American tour, Mantovani has already fixed the date for a return visit. His manager, George Elrick, told the NME: "We shall be starting our next tour at the end of February, 1959, and expect to visit the West Coast and Western Canada."

PAUL ANKA'S NEXT DISCS

PAUL ANKA'S first LP and a new "single" will be released in Britain next month. Titles on the "single" are "Let The Bells Keep Ringing" and "Crazy Love"—both Anka compositions. Release date is scheduled for April 1. The LP, made up of a selection of standards and Anka originals, will be issued later the same month by Columbia.

Long-term ITV contract for Marion Ryan

MARION RYAN is the first singer to sign a long-term contract with a commercial television network. An agreement with the Granada company takes effect from April until June, 1959. This deal guarantees Marion a specified minimum number of appearances in musical productions, but business representative Leslie Macdonnell informs the NME that an option has been secured whereby Marion can appear in certain other disc-style TV shows.

One of the greatest ambitions of pop artists today is to appear on "6.5 Special." It seems to lead to recording and stage fame faster than anything. Appearing in one of the "6.5 Special" stage shows this week at Finsbury Park Empire (l. to r.) Kenny Baker, Joe Henderson, Rosemary Squires, Don Lang, Carl Barriteau and Jimmy Jackson.

'COOL FOR CATS' STAGE SHOW IN SPRING

"COOL FOR CATS," one of Britain's slickest TV series designed to appeal to teenagers, is to be presented as a variety production—jointly by Associated Rediffusion (sponsors of the TV production) and Ker Robertson, who originated the programme. Although no fewer than six established theatrical agencies have been endeavouring to secure the booking rights of the "Cool for Cats" stage presentation, it is understood that Robertson and AR will probably join up with impresario Leslie Grade—who would be responsible for the music hall arrangements. Ker Robertson revealed that this exciting project would definitely be launched during this spring. Unless agreement with Grade is finalised by the end of next week, alternative plans with another top agency will be discussed.

Song awards for Steele, Hamilton

TWO of Britain's newest and most successful singing stars will be honoured at the end of the month for their songwriting efforts. They are Tommy Steele and Russ Hamilton, who figure among the 1957 winners of the Ivor Novello Awards. Russ's selected composition is "We Will Make Love," the number which he recorded himself and has already earned him a Gold Disc for considerably exceeding the million sales mark.

RAINWATER FOR BRITAIN

MARVIN RAINWATER, best-selling recorder of "Whole Lotta Woman" (one of the few authentic Country and Western records to enter the Hit Parade), has been confirmed for two major ATV appearances here. They are "Sunday Night At The London Palladium" on April 20, and Val Parnell's "Saturday Spectacular" (April 26). London agent Harold Davison confirms that arrangements have been made for the Lyn Dutton Agency to present Rainwater's 15-day tour here, commencing Sunday, April 27. It is understood that Johnny Duncan and his Blue Grass Boys will be featured with Rainwater on these one-night-stand dates.

With co-writers Lionel Bart and Michael Pratt, Steele is associated with three winning classes—the complete film score of "The Tommy Steele Story" and two numbers from it, "Handful Of Songs" and "Water, Water." Because of his South African tour, Tommy will not be able to receive the awards personally. His mother, Mrs. Betty Hicks, will receive them on his behalf at the presentation on Sunday, March 30, at the BBC Aeolian Hall studios in London. The ceremony precedes the recording of a special programme of the winning numbers. This will be broadcast in the Light Programme at 9.30 p.m. the following day. Produced by John Browell and compered by Richard Attenborough, it will feature Peter Yorke and his orchestra, Maxine Daniels, Vanessa Lee, Andy Cole, and the Adams Singers. The Novello Awards are presented annually by the British Songwriters' Guild. The complete list of winners has yet to be announced.

Quick return for Dickie

ATV have booked top vocal star Dickie Valentine for a quick return appearance in the May 3 edition of "Saturday Spectacular"—which will again be titled "The Dickie Valentine Show." This will necessitate postponement of a booking made for Dickie to take part in "Top Tune Time" on Sunday, April 27, which will be transferred until later the following month.

FOR CHARITY

RUSS HAMILTON, David Hughes, Jimmy Lloyd, Janie Marden and the Polka Dots are among the artists taking part in "Our Friends The Stars," the annual charity concert organised by the Songwriters' Guild, which will be held at the Victoria Palace on Sunday, March 23.

Mike Holliday is radio actor

MICHAEL HOLLIDAY is to follow the lead of Jim Dale when he appears in a Home Service drama production. On March 24, he will be heard in "Bigger Beggars," in which he plays the part of a café proprietor's son in London's East End. This will be Mike's first acting rôle, although he will also be heard singing. The play was recorded in December, as a sequel to "The Little Beggars," broadcast in November.

Colin Hicks film?

NEGOTIATIONS are virtually completed for Colin Hicks to make his first film in June for a Danish company. Colin's manager, John Kennedy, at present in South Africa with Tommy Steele, is expected to fly back at the end of the month to go with Colin to Copenhagen to sign contracts.

BBC ASK SINATRA, CROSBY TO BRITAIN FOR IRVING BERLIN TRIBUTE SPECTACULAR

THE most ambitious musical programme ever staged in Britain is being planned by the BBC Television Service. It takes the form of a spectacular tribute to world-famous hit songwriter Irving Berlin to celebrate his 70th birthday on Sunday, May 11.

On that date, a special 90-minute show will be produced by Ernest Maxin, who is lining up an impressive array of talent. The programme will be the main feature of the day.

Invitations have gone out to Frank Sinatra and Bing Crosby to come to London to take part in the tribute, and the BBC is determined that the question of money won't stand in the way of their coming.

Irving Berlin himself has also been invited to appear in the show. If the American stars are unable to accept, there remains the possibility of their being seen on film. The biggest British stars available will also take part in presenting a cavalcade of Berlin's songs of the past 50 years. Producer Maxin is planning to use three studios, one of which will house a 50-piece orchestra, under Eric Robinson.

Berlin, born in Russia in 1888, settled in America when he was four years old. He wrote his first major hit—"Alexandra's Ragtime Band"—in 1911, and has since written innumerable scores for films and Broadway shows.

His many hit-songs include "Always," "The Song Is Ended," "Blue Skies," "A Pretty Girl Is Like A Melody," "Easter Parade," "Say It With Music," "Heat Wave," "Top Hat," "Check To Check," "White Christmas," "I've Got My Love To Keep Me Warm," "They Say It's Wonderful," "I've Got The Sun In The Morning," and "It Keeps Coming Back Like A Song." Berlin is celebrating his 70th year as a songwriter, and many world-famous artists are recording albums of his songs to mark the event.

LOWE GOES

PETER LOWE, featured singer with Ted Heath and his Music is returning to his home country, South Africa, with his family on April 9. He joined Heath three years ago, replacing his brother, Dennis Lotis, who was then starting his solo career.

Sarah Vaughan at Leicester Square Odeon

SARAH VAUGHAN, one of the world's top vocal stylists, will enjoy the distinction of starring at the first jazz concert ever staged at London's famous Odeon cinema in Leicester Square. Her European tour—starting here next month—is launched by two nights at this West End venue, on Saturday and Sunday, April 12 and 13. It is understood there will be two performances each day. The Lew and Leslie Grade Organisation will cause surprise at its great scoop in securing this famous London cinema for live shows, starring a jazz singer. These concerts will be followed by a tour of major cities in the Midlands, North and Scotland, with further London suburban dates included in the itinerary.

Ronnie Hilton in last 'Record' show

RONNIE HILTON has been booked as one of the attractions on the last "Off the Record" show of the current BBC-TV series on March 27. The final name for this star-studded show is Goon Spike Milligan, making his first appearance as a "straight" singer. Pianist-singer Jeremy Lubbock completes Cyril Stapleton's bill for his "Show Band Parade" on March 20. Edna Savage is the principal singing attraction in BBC-TV's "Benny Hill Show" on March 29. Mrs. Leona Henderson, widow of bandleader-arranger Fletcher Henderson, died in America on Sunday.

Ronnie Carroll deputised at short notice for ailing Shirley Abicair on BBC-TV on Tuesday evening.

CORRECTION
ON behalf of the Decca Record Co. Ltd., an apology is made for an error contained in an advertisement on this page last week. The wrong label was indicated for "The Prince of Players" by Tommy Frederick and the H-Notes, which is a London-American recording, No. HLU 8535.

Al Hibbler opens Monday at Liverpool

U.S. coloured vocal stylist Al Hibbler—having refused the request to postpone his British visit until September—now definitely opens a six-week variety tour here, commencing March 24 with a week at Liverpool Empire. He's at Manchester Palace (March 31) and Glasgow Empire (April 7). Venues have still to be finalised for the last three weeks of Hibbler's stay, as well as various concert dates. The first concert to be announced is in the London area—at Croydon's Davis Theatre on Sunday, March 30. In this Hibbler is with the Ted Heath Orchestra. On his return to America, Hibbler televises in the Ed Sullivan Programme on Sunday, May 11.

BBC SPRING PLANS

Payne and Hall to repeat TV series

JACK PAYNE and Henry Hall, two leading pre-war bandleaders who presented their own music series on BBC-TV last summer, are to return again this year with similar shows.

Hall's will be on Thursdays, fortnightly from May 12. Producer will be Ned Sherrin, who is moving from the "Tonight" unit into light entertainment for the first time.

Payne has accepted a BBC offer to do a weekly series later in the summer, but no other details have been settled.

As previously reported, the Billy Cotton and Vera Lynn series resume in April. They will be seen on alternate Thursdays, Billy starting on April 10 and Vera on April 17, both from 8 p.m. for 30 minutes. "Show Band Parade," featuring Cyril Stapleton with guest stars, is planned for 8.30 p.m., when it switches to a weekly Friday feature from April 4.

Lorrie Desmond is scheduled to star in a comedy and music series, starting on May 12. Her co-star will be Jacqueline Mackenzie. If final details are settled.

Decca's Scots singer Kenneth McKellar has been promoted to the peak hour of 8 p.m. in his own series, seen fortnightly from Glasgow, starting April 29.

U.S. film company seeks Vaughan

TWENTIETH-CENTURY FOX have made a bid for Frankie Vaughan, to shoot a major screen production in America this autumn (cables U.S. correspondent Nat Hentoff). A decision is awaited from Frankie's film producers, Anna Neagle and Herbert Wilcox. One side of Frankie's latest Anglo-U.S. record release ("We Are Not Alone") was named a "Best Bet" in the current U.S. "Cash Box" publication.

Kirchin for U.S. in May

THE Basil Kirchin Band have been selected as the British unit who will tour America in exchange for Jazz At The Philharmonic, who, as exclusively announced in the NME, open their nationwide dates here on May 2. The Kirchin Band leave for America on the previous day—Thursday, May 1—for 15 concerts. Drummer Basil will lead the nine-piece group.

Delaney's season

THE Eric Delaney Band has been booked for its first long summer season. Showman-drummer Eric and his group will be resident at Brighton's Regent Ballroom for eight weeks, starting on July 6. The Delaney band appeared at the same ballroom for two weeks during the summer of 1956. This year's booking resulted.

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Teddy as himself in film comedy
TEDDY JOHNSON has been signed to appear as himself in a new British comedy film, "Girls At Sea." He sings a number specially written for the picture by John Turner and Geoffrey Parsons, called "Merci Beaucoup."

With his singer-wife, Pearl Carr, Teddy is booked for to-morrow's "Jack Jackson Show," the last time they will perform together for two months.

Pearl enters hospital on Monday for an operation. After a scheduled holiday abroad, Pearl and Teddy team up again for a summer season in Great Yarmouth at the end of June.

Band booked for religious show
THE Alex Welsh Band has been booked as the first regular group for a new ABC-TV religious show "Sunday Break," which starts this week-end.

Seen over the entire commercial TV network three weeks out of four at 6.15 p.m., it will last 45 minutes, filling in the present gap between afternoon and evening schedules.

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FANS WISHING TO GO ON COACH TRIPS
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THE HI-LOS STUCK TO THEIR IDEALS!

THE music world today is always in a constant state of change, and one of the many knotty problems which confronts an artist is exactly which path to tread in the search for ultimate stardom.

He is faced with the decision of either sticking to his ideals and producing musicianly sounds which may appeal only to a limited public, or sacrificing musical integrity in the hope of wider acceptance from the vast section of the listening public who concern themselves primarily with the more commercial forms of popular music.

Few artists are successful in attempting to scale the twin peaks of both commercial and artistic acceptance. But there are exceptions, and what better example could be put before you than the four young men who sing together as The Hi-Los?

Formed in April, 1953, the quartet have been subjected to fantastic

critical acclaim over the past 18 months, and writers both here and in America have been justifiably amazed at the fresh, invigorating, ultra-musicianship sounds made by this talented foursome.

Neither have the general public been slow to recognise the fact that The Hi-Los, in terms of music, are probably the most advanced group of their kind in the world today.

They haven't yet managed to place one of their infrequent "singles" in the hit parade, but their albums on the London and Philips labels have sold phenomenally well, and last year's annual NME Poll proved to be a concrete testimonial to their nation-wide popularity when the quartet finished second only to the rocking Platters in the section set aside for vocal groups!

Now The Hi-Los are set for their first British tour, and we can expect them here on June 9 for three weeks of concerts and a further week's London variety engagement.

Many of you, I feel sure, will have a basic knowledge of what to expect from this high-flying team, for they are extensively featured in "The Rosemary Clooney Show" on commercial television.

This regular exposure to the public has undoubtedly contributed immeasurably towards their present high degree of popularity.

The most striking aspects of the rich, disciplined yet relaxed sound of The Hi-Los are their crisp, crystal-clear diction and distinctive, unconventional phrasing — factors which add new dimensions to any tune they care to tackle.

They often alter melody and lyrics to their own liking, and have the uncanny knack of being able to insert humorous moments into their singing at just the right time and place.

Musicians

The four Hi-Los are all accomplished musicians, and their name is derived from their diverse heights. Leader Gene Puerling stands 5ft. 7ins., Clark Burroughs is two inches down on that figure, and Bob Morse and Bob Strasen both top the six feet mark!

Puerling, a former disc-jockey and one-time owner of a popcorn concession in his home-town, is the group's chief arranger—the guy who turns out the seemingly "impossible" scores! He's from Milwaukee, Wisconsin, where he was born on March 31, 1929.

Clark Burroughs, a 28-year-old married man from Los Angeles, is the guy in the outfit with the fantastic vocal range. On some of the quartet's scores, he is called upon to hit high G over middle C! At one time Clark appeared with the Billy May Orchestra, and he also worked as an actor for a while.

Fellow Californian Bob Morse (born in Pasadena on July 27, 1927) served for some considerable time with the U.S. Navy, and is also an accomplished artist, having

Plenty of pop stars in "The Golden Disc"

Convincing acting by Terry Dene

THERE are many good points about "The Golden Disc," which is now at the London Rialto cinema and is released next month. Two aspects of this modest-budget movie take precedence over all the other contributory factors: firstly, the bright, competent and thoroughly convincing acting of young Terry Dene in his first screen role, and secondly, the extremely fine and highly imaginative camera work, excellent lighting effects and admirable direction of Don Sharp.

says
JAMES WYNN
in his review
of the film



TERRY DENE as he appears in a coffee bar scene in the film.

The plot of the film (described at greater length elsewhere in this supplement) is reasonably scanty and perhaps a trifle far-fetched, but it is impressive enough to sustain interest throughout. And the dialogue is blessedly free from the idiotic (and often embarrassing) "dig," "man," "cool," "crazy" jargon that has saturated and spoiled some of the rock films.

Terry looks good on celluloid and his boyish features will doubtless make a few female hearts beat a little faster.

The singer's capabilities as an actor are limited, but the dialogue is within his scope and no attempt has been made on the part of the producers to overstress his importance in the film. Dene, in short, makes a promising and thoroughly worthwhile screen debut.

the strings of a harp that is very arresting).

Songs crop up at logical points during the film, the majority of them being either sung or played in recording studio scenes. Dene sings his first song—"C'Min And Be Loved"—in a coffee bar, and later works his way through a different arrangement of it twice more in the film. This is the song which wins him a Gold Disc (in the film!) and is, I suspect, the tune on which he is pinning his hopes of a hit record.

Personally, I feel he comes through better on the lilting "Candy Bloss," which embodies all the ingredients necessary for a hit. For my money, it's the brightest number in the film, but Dene fans will also get a kick out of his two other songs—"Charm" and "The Golden Age."

I particularly enjoyed the sound acting of two leading players, Lee Patterson and Mary Steele; also the equally delightful work of Linda Gray, who heads a useful supporting cast. Patterson has a bright, easy-going personality that is matched by

Miss Steele's carefree, effervescent manner and the pair work extremely well together.

Disc-jockey David Jacobs (as himself) appears briefly as a television announcer, and throughout the film you'll see a fair selection of good-looking teenage girls who will keep your eyes glued to the screen!

The sets — coffee bars, record counters, TV and recording studios — are effectively simple and very eye-catching and the scenes are never drawn out to the point where they become tedious. The sound-track is accurate and clear, and the camera work is often nothing short of superb (there's one particularly good shot of trumpeter Murray Campbell through

The film opens with Dennis Lotis singing the lyrics of "I'm Gonna Wrap You Up" over the credit titles. A close-up "on stage" shot of Lotis follows, and he is also seen "escaping" from a crowd of adoring fans at a theatre stage door.

When Mary Steele sings "Before We Say Goodnight," it's the voice of Jean Campbell you'll hear—and very nice it is, too! Les Hobeaux, a talented and versatile band of skiffers, are pictured in a coffee-bar singing "Dynamo," and all the remaining disc stars make their contributions to the film from within the confines of recording studio sets.

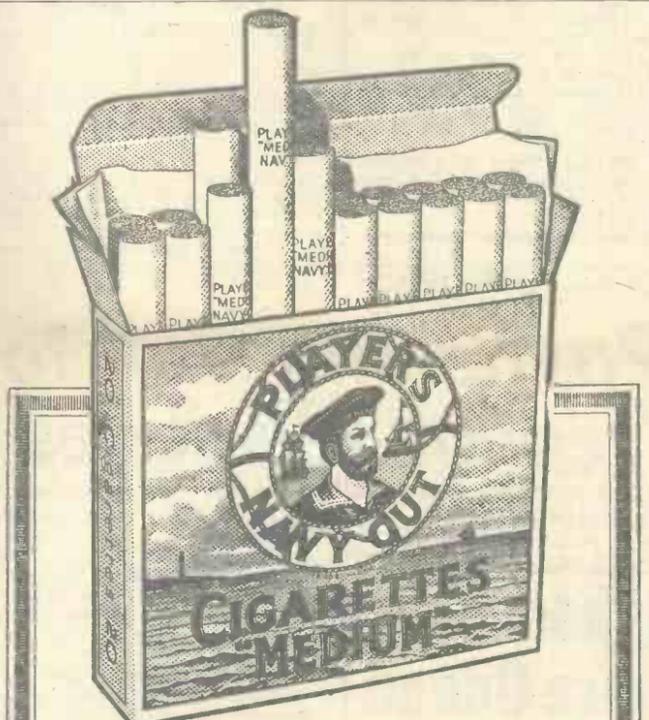
Skiffle

Sonny Stewart and his Skiffle Kings belt their way through "Let Me Lie" and petite Sheila Buxton changes the mood completely with the wistful "In-Between Age." Murray Campbell blows sweet trumpet against a lush string background during "Balmoral Melody" and the movie even includes a smattering of modern jazz via the Phil Seamen Jazz Group—with tenorist Don Rendell and trumpeter Bert Courtney—who swing into "Lower Deck."

Nancy Whiskey's performance is somewhat disappointing. Her song, "Johnny-O" is pleasant enough, but somehow her appearance lacks vitality and is a little on the dull side.

That, then, is "The Golden Disc"—an entertaining, neatly presented and tuneful film that will obviously appeal to anyone with the slightest interest in popular music and the people who make it.

KEITH GOODWIN



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Frankie enjoyed being unknown, until . . .

ON a recent week-end, Frankie Vaughan and his manager, Paul Cave, were strolling along Broadway and Frankie said: "It's kind of nice to be walking along here unrecognised and not besieged by autograph hunters."

A few seconds later, within fifty yards, he was stopped by a British family from London, two boys from Belfast, and a Scotch woman who is now a secretary in New York. He was, of course, more than pleased to be recognised, after all.

Guy Mitchell has completed a Columbia album of ballads, with arrangements by Glenn Osser. Guy started as a ballad singer before he made his hits in novelty recordings. On his way back to the coast as you're reading this, Guy plans to look over an Arizona ranch, now owned by his friend, movie actor Audie Murphy, and he may buy it, thus fulfilling a long-held dream. It has 17,000 acres.

Lee Magid, Al Hibbler's manager, is trying to convince bookers here and in Britain that Al has a jazz following, too, and should be considered as much a jazz artist as a pop singer.

The way it looks now, the Birdland All-Stars, who are likely to play Britain for three weeks in mid-September, will include the Miles Davis quintet, Buddy De Franco, Oscar Pettiford and Kenny Clarke. George Shearing will perform a number with the Cleveland Symphony in August and his quintet will also appear on the programme. Replacing bassist Al McKibbin with Shearing is John Neves, of Boston, who has worked with the Herb Pomeroy band.

James N. Bailey, Director of Administration and Finance for Dot Record, will also handle Dot's new foreign department. He'll travel to Europe in May and may re-align some of Dot's foreign distribution arrangements then. Bailey said he's starting closer contact between Dot and its outlets in overseas markets with new release advance information being sent along with promotional and sales aids.

London has released an album by the Bob Cort Skiffle group, featuring guitarist Ken Sykora. Title is "Ain't It A Shame (To Sing Skiffle On Sunday)". A new Capitol of the World album is "Norrie Paramor's Moods". David Platz, general manager of the Essex and Cromwell music firms in England, is setting up affiliates in Buenos Aires and Rio de Janeiro.

Jayne Mansfield is going to London to make a film with Kenneth More. Judy Garland, who has filed for divorce from Sid Luft, expects to return to London after a forthcoming personal appearance tour of this country.

In a poll conducted in 58 countries,

says

NAT HENTOFF in his AMERICAN AIRMAIL

Doris Day and Tony Curtis were voted "the most popular film stars in the world" and trophies were recently awarded them in Los Angeles by the Hollywood Foreign Press Association. Co-starring with Harry Belafonte in "End of the World" will be Mel Ferrer and Inger Stevens. It's a melodrama about the only three survivors of an H-bomb attack on New York city.

RCA-Victor has signed Lindsay Crosby, Bing's 20-year-old son. For the Academy Awards TV show, on March 26, Frank Sinatra will sing

A. P. THROWER, of Norwich, writes:

Why are so many shows today spoiled by teenage girls who cannot control their emotions? Their screaming is very selfish, for they cannot hear what is being sung, nor will they let anyone else.

When Marty Wilde came here, his singing was quite pointless when so many girls took to screaming. I didn't hear a word he sang and was quite relieved when the show ended.

Can't there be special performances for screamers, so that we who go to hear the singer can enjoy ourselves in peace?

PAULINE TINGLEY writes from London, W.12:

I'd like to congratulate Dickie Valentine on his really wonderful Luxembourg shows. In these Dickie proves himself one of the great names in show business.

One of the things I admire about him is that he always remembers the old folk in every one of his programmes, as well as catering for the young.

Incidentally, his new EP, "Dickie Goes Dixie," is one of the best records he's ever made.

JON WATERFIELD, of Plymouth, writes:

It looks as if Elvis is being toppled from his throne as King of the Pops by the "old man" himself—Perry Como.

Who knows, perhaps Como's BBC show will be the beginning of the decline of the brash type of rock 'n' roll that has been around for so long.

I think this programme has really

"All The Way," Vic Damone "An Affair To Remember," Johnny Mathis "Wild Is The Wind," Debbie Reynolds "Tammy," and Pat Boone "April Love."

According to Ralph Gleason in "The San Francisco Chronicle": "Advance reports indicate that Nat (King) Cole does such a fine job in the movie of W. C. Handy's life story that he will be able to get more picture rôles as a result."

Tommy Sands received generally good reviews when his first film, "Sing, Boy, Sing," recently opened in New York. Enthusiastically received was the Ed Murrow film of Louis Armstrong's travels, "Satchmo the Great." "Jazz Train" is finally likely to open here, sometime in late summer or fall after it finishes a run at the Stratford (Ontario) Festival.

Ed Sullivan, weary of the grind, may only do one show a month next season. Reports Joe Hyams in the "Herald Tribune": "Stage fright hit the Sinatra family recently. Frank Sinatra's daughter, Tina, nine, who was supposed to have made her professional debut on her father's ABC-TV show, had a bad case of stage fright before air time. Her sister, Nancy, seventeen, was in the wings and took Tina's place."

FROM YOU . . . TO US

opened the eyes and ears of teenagers to the fact that enjoyment can be got from a straight pop singer—even if he is over 21.

Yes, it has proved that "Magic Moments" can still be found in pop music, apart from the screamers.

J. CHAMBERS writes from Nelson, Lancs:

I have collected 226 photos of Tommy Steele. Can anyone beat this?

Mrs. H. J. OLD, of Guisborough, Yorks, writes:

My grand-daughter, aged nearly five, is a real "6.5 Special" fan. She chooses and buys her own records.

But she was terribly disappointed at not seeing the birthday cake cut on TV at the "6.5" party. She had got dressed in her party dress on purpose to join in singing a happy birthday.

EDWARD BARRANS writes from Morden, Surrey:

Why don't record companies take advantage of the opportunities provided by the revival of oldies?

For instance, there are many new recordings of "My Darling, My Darling," from "Where's Charley," and "Bewitched," from "Pal Joey."

But Doris Day's "Bewitched," so popular a few years ago, is now only available on LP, and Jo Stafford and Gordon MacRae's "My Darling" has been deleted for over a year now.

Philips promptly reissued Sinatra's "I Could Write A Book" when "Pal Joey" opened, and also released the LP of the original Broadway show.

But Capitol, apparently content with the sales of their soundtrack LP, do not care to publicise the fact that they, too, have an LP of the original stage score. And Jane Froman's version of "Bewitched" would also make a profitable single.

Other records I would like to see re-issued are Jo Stafford's "Scarlet Ribbons," "Autumn Leaves," "Best Things In Life Are Free," Doris Day's "When I Fall In Love," Sinatra's "Sit Right Down And Write Myself A Letter," Judy Garland's "You'll Never Walk Alone" and Vera Lynn's "My Prayer."

JOHN PATERSON writes from s.s. Cuzco, Panama Canal:

My mother sends me the NME while I'm at sea and it keeps me in touch with the things I like best.

Perhaps readers would like to know that of all the British singers I have heard on American radio the most popular are: Vera Lynn (14 broadcasts), David Whitfield (7), Laurie London (27) and Russ Hamilton (6).

Incidentally, in last week's Top Forty from Texas, Laurie London was at No. 10 spot with "Whole World In His Hands."

Miss C. EDWARDS writes from Shirley, Surrey:

The reason why we teenagers buy Presley's records even before we have heard them is that we have enough faith in him to know that he isn't going to disappoint us.

Ever since he has been in the entertainment world, he has kept all his records up to the same standard.

I'm sure that no teenager would waste his pocket money on a bad disc by Elvis or anyone else. It's just that he is practically incapable of making a bad disc. He knows what sort of

Elvis, the Serenader



Elvis Presley, without his side-burns, serenades his lovely leading ladies Dolores Hart (l.) and Jan Shepard on the set during a break in the shooting of his latest film "A Stone For Danny Fisher."

Sinatra later consoled his younger daughter, saying, "Don't worry, honey. I was sick for six weeks after my first show. In fact, I haven't been well since."

Columbia has just released a two-12 in. LP Sinatra package with notes by Gilbert Millstein that contain this analysis by Percy Faith: "It's not a studied voice; it's a native one. But he has the exact sound needed for a popular singer. The three ingredients

needed are these: he has got to be an extrovert—artistically, I mean; I'm not concerned with his private life—he needs to be a musician, and he needs a sound. If he has all of them, he's Frank Sinatra. Sinatra's voice has a higher range than the average for pop singers. He can go to at least a G if he has to."

As for Sinatra's analysis of himself, adds Millstein, "Sinatra credited his singing technique to two major influences—the trombone playing of Tommy Dorsey and the trumpeting

of Ziggy Elman, once a mainstay of the original Benny Goodman band. 'I sort of bend my notes,' Sinatra explained to an inquirer, 'gliding from one to another without abrupt breaks.'

"The trombone is the greatest example of that." From Elman, he said he learned to put a slight quaver into his phrasing (which Leopold Stokowski recognised as 'most individualistic').

Looks like Louis Armstrong may appear at the Brussels World Fair, July 4, with Sarah Vaughan for a week, July 29.

Benny Goodman will conduct a jazz workshop for the Boston University Department of Music starting later this year. Oscar Pettiford has become co-owner of a Second Avenue, New York, night club called O.P.'s Black Pearl.

Johnny Mathis, whose career continues to build swiftly, made "Time" recently with this preface: "The voice has a pump-organ quaver and a soft adolescent fuzz on it, the phrasing is smooth, and the sentiments . . . hit the pop fans right where they love to live." And describing a Mathis performance: "His phrasing was fresh, his diction impeccable, his dramatic sense unflinching. But it was the intimate, haunting quality of his voice that brought the audience alive. It has a kind of choir-boy innocence hooked with a Cole Porter leer."

Johnny, says "Time" (and it's been apparent for a long time) no longer has ambitions to be a jazz singer ("not profitable," says he). He plans to be rich in three years and become a singing actor like Sinatra. He could make it . . .

WRITE TO: "FROM YOU TO US" NEW MUSICAL EXPRESS, 5 DENMARK STREET, LONDON, W.C.2

His fans should realise that he has just recovered from a serious operation and isn't feeling 100 per cent. fit yet. Remember, he is a human being, not just a rag doll to be torn to pieces.

CATHERINE HOWDEN, of Edinburgh, writes:

The reader who criticised Tommy Steele's "Nairobi" doesn't know a good record when he hears one. I like it better than any he's made.

It's an unusual song with an unusual beat, and away from rock 'n' roll, which is so popular just now. The accompanying singers make it even more effective.



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TWO MORE NEWCOMERS TO THE CHARTS, introduced by DEREK JOHNSON

Starvin' Marvin is well-fed now!

He suggested he was good—and proved it!



MARVIN RAINWATER

Foley was inundated with requests for further appearances by "the new singer with the Indian name," following Marvin's success. Other country shows were quick to latch on to this new entertainer and he began to receive offers from outside the c & w stronghold as his fame grew.

He intrigued the Eastern States by appearing in cabaret, dressed in buckskin and moccasins—and singing with that simple sincerity now reflected in all his recordings.

Marvin next undertook a tour with a "Grand Old Opry" troupe (which in rock 'n' roll circles would be known as a "package show"), but his nation-wide acclaim was really clinched with a succession of appearances on The Arthur Godfrey Show.

These prompted Coral Records to sign him up. He cut two titles, "I Gotta Go Get My Baby" and "Daddy's Glad You Came Home," writing them both himself (as he does all his recording material).

Competition

The former title was covered by five other singers. The Coral label did achieve a million seller, but not with the composer's version. It was Teresa Brewer's more commercial treatment which won the Gold Disc.

But Marvin was quite happy—it's seldom that a pure, out-and-out country singer tops the quarter-million mark, as he did.

In January last year, he transferred to the MGM label. Without much advance ballyhoo, they released a Rainwater disc entitled "Gonna Find Me A Bluebird." Only fifty thousand copies were pressed (the standard pre-release order).

Dealers were flooded with repeat orders. This was unprecedented for a disc in the strict country idiom, but the company kept pace with demand, and the final tally resulted in a million sales for Marvin.

Now he is doing extremely well with his latest disc, "Whole Lotta Woman," which not only provides him with his first British hit parade entry (this week standing at 18th place), but also turns the spotlight onto MGM, the "Cinderella" label of the recording industry over here.

Recently, Marvin has cut an LP for MGM in the States, and in view of his current success and his impending visit, it is not unreasonable to suppose that we may soon expect its issue over here.

There's also a Rainwater duet coming up—with that delightful MGM songstress, Connie Francis, who appeared in the "Disc Jockey Jamboree" film.

His hit record could not have come at a more appropriate time, for next month Marvin arrives in Britain to undertake a tour of one-nighters with Johnny Duncan, and appear in a couple of television shows.

WHEN writing a combined article about two artists, a journalist always strives to find some angle, whereby the two may be linked. But apart from the fact that they have both burst into the sellers, I can find little to link Rainwater and George Hamilton IV, who this week occupies 24th slot in the NME Chart.

The contrast is really the outstanding factor; for here we have on one side the Indian lad from the backwoods, strumming out his brash music, with its fundamentally crude origins; and on the other, there's quiet, unassuming Hamilton from North Carolina, with his Washington University environment, lending his soft-voiced tones to highly polished ballad interpretations.

Two extremes without doubt, but united in their popularity with the fans. And pretty definite proof, too, that the record-buyers of today are not one-track minded, but fully capable of appreciating a wide range of modern music.

George's recording career began while still at University. He'd always had show business in mind,

and thought he might as well try the bold approach.

So he visited the offices of ABC-Paramount and offered them his services, suggesting that he would be more than suitable to record a number called "A Rose And A Baby Ruth."

The executives liked the tune, and even more, they liked George's unique style. They put him on disc, singing this very number (which he had already had rejected by a smaller label). The oracle-worked and George found himself established and accepted.

The follow-up to this disc, which entrenched his name even more firmly in the minds of the American fans, was "Only One Love." Largely due to the success of these two discs, George was given a television series, which he shares with a popular American country singer, Jimmy Dean.

However, it has taken a British song to boost George Hamilton into the international spotlight—"Why Don't They Understand?" penned by Joe ("Mr. Piano") Henderson and Jack Fishman.

Last year John Fraser's delightful Nixa version was issued, and it sold reasonably well, though its appeal was restricted to the British fans.

But now that George's treatment has been put on the market by ABC-Paramount (HMV in this country), both song and singer have become really big on both sides of the

meeting is invariably given over to the club skiffle group or a specially invited group.

Lonnie and Peter encourage the members to listen to folk and skiffle tunes, and to regard it as a simple music that doesn't take a lifetime to study to play.

They never stipulate that members should only listen to skiffle. One of the aims of the club is to encourage broad musical tastes, to include blues singers and all forms of jazz, and even classical, music.

For, as Peter says: "Anyone who takes an interest in guitar music may develop a taste for Big Bill Broonzy or Segovia—the scope is as wide as that!"



GEORGE HAMILTON IV

Atlantic. This week finds the Hamilton record Number 24 in the best-sellers.

By the way, we can soon expect the release of the new George Hamilton record, "Now And For Always"/"One Heart," which is already enjoying tremendous initial sales in the States.

I don't know what became of the first three George Hamiltons, but certainly the IVth in line is making his presence known, in no small way!

The average age of club members is between 15 and 19 years. The youngest member is aged two; the oldest—a grandmother—is 67! A good half of the members of each club play guitar, and many of the girls have taken up singing.

In the coming year, Lonnie and Peter intend to present a silver cup to the most progressive, go-ahead club; and later on may start awarding prizes to members who compose, play and sing their own songs!

Yes, the Lonnie Donegan Club movement is really making great strides. The mass London meeting is on Monday, when over 1,000 members are due to meet at the Tavistock Restaurant, Charing Cross Road.

LONNIE DONEGAN STARTS SOMETHING!



Lonnie demonstrates at his new Hackney club.

SKIFFLE and folk music clubs will soon be springing up all over Britain. They are starting at the rate of one a fortnight, and the guiding light behind each new venture is none other than "Skiffle King" Lonnie Donegan!

Seven such clubs are already operating—at Hull, Bristol, Stockton, Cardiff, Newcastle, Birmingham and Hackney. They are self-supporting organisations, whose members are all affiliated to the main Lonnie Donegan Club.

But although Lonnie is the figure-head of all these clubs, his show business commitments keep him on the move all the time. The administration of this movement is handled from his London office by his personal manager, Peter Buchanan.

To Peter, the organisation of these clubs now amounts to a full-time job.

Lonnie's main club was already in full swing when he decided to form these "off-shoots" within the main body. The first was opened at Cardiff last September.

During his variety engagement in the Welsh town, Lonnie invited fans to a meeting and encouraged them to form their own skiffle club.

He felt that it would be better if members knew and met each other from time to time rather than be scattered all over each town.

So the Cardiff branch of the Lonnie Donegan Skiffle Club came into being. Others followed, and the latest branch is at Hackney.

MORE WANTED

Lonnie hopes in the immediate future to form more district clubs in London, where he has already well over 1,000 members.

Discussing the project, Lonnie told me: "My aim is to organise one flourishing skiffle club in every major town in Britain. A movement such as this has great potentialities and I'm hoping to develop it on a nationwide scale."

Lonnie visits his clubs as often as his heavy working schedule allows. Peter Buchanan finds time to travel

by KEITH GOODWIN

all over the country to be present at every single club meeting.

Lonnie takes the chair at the inauguration of each new club. He pays for all refreshments and the hire of the hall, too!

The aim of each club is to help young people to take a deeper, and often active, interest in folk and skiffle music. Lonnie introduces members to lesser-known folk singers through the medium of records and also suggests to each branch records to buy periodically.

Most branches have their own skiffle groups (some have two and even three separate units), and Lonnie "sits in" with these groups when he can. Through the quarterly club magazine, he also demonstrates basic guitar chords for folk and skiffle songs.

Peter Buchanan also told me: "Within these clubs, we try to help members to help themselves. We encourage them to develop a sense of responsibility and to find entertainment among themselves."

Now what exactly does this mean? Well, already we've mentioned that the clubs are self-supporting. The members elect their own officers—president, secretary, treasurer, etc.—and conduct all their regular meetings in a very business-like manner.

Each club meeting (at which Peter is present in the capacity of what he terms "just another club member—not the 'big white chief' from London") lasts something like two-and-a-half hours.

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TAIL-PIECES BY THE ALLEY CAT

Great Honour For Doris Day

IN America last week, DORIS DAY was named the World's Favourite Actress (following a poll in fifty-eight countries) conducted by the Hollywood Foreign Press Association. They presented her with a "Golden Globe" award, besides conferring same honour on Tony Curtis, voted top actor.

At a special ceremony attended by a thousand guests, the Association made twenty-nine awards, including: "Best Acting Performance" (Comedy or Musical)—FRANK SINATRA ("Pal Joey"), with the equivalent feminine winner—KAY KENDALL ("Les Girls"). Voted "Most Versatile Actress of 1957"—JEAN SIMMONS; Leading "Goodwill Ambassador"—BOB HOPE; "Bettering Standard of Motion Picture Music"—HUGO FRIEDHOFER; "Best TV Musical Series"—EDDIE FISHER SHOW; "Top Film Promoting International Understanding"—"The Happy Road," produced, directed and starring GENE KELLY.

A regular annual event since 1954 will not take place this year—the "get-together" of Dickie Valentine's fan club. Few international stars have suffered more mental anguish than Judy Garland, now re-

ported to be seeking a divorce from Sid Luft; her previous marriages ended in failure—first to David Rose (the orchestra leader-composer), then film director Vincent Minelli.

Throughout this week, one-night stands of a different kind star Winifred Atwell—pre-recording Radio Luxembourg programmes (at a different town each day), with Geoffrey Everitt handling production.

The late Al Jolson's magnificent home in Palm Springs (California)



This picture was taken at the ATV studios last Saturday during a break in the rehearsal which lead to one of the finest "Saturday Spectacular" shows ever presented. Starring was Dickie Valentine, who is seen here with Pearl Carr and Teddy Johnson (l.).

has been given a complete new look by Frank Sinatra, who now owns this property; assisting him with decoration schemes—Lauren Bacall. Perhaps this question can be answered by Tommy Steele: If "The Duke Wore Jeans," did the Duchess wear out? Kim Novak is anxious to make a vocal recording; coaching her is Morris Stoloff, of "Moonglow And Theme From Picnic" fame.

Although current Tony Brent hit, "The Clouds Will Soon Roll By," is revival of an old number, some readers may recall Adelaide Hall's war-time success, "Let's Keep It That Way" a very similar melody. Tab Hunter has been fulfilling studio-arranged social dates with Venitia Stevenson—divorced after a few months of marriage from Russ Tamblyn. Seems that "Baby Lover" is growing out of walking troubles, now climbing hit parade ladder for Petula Clark at a confident pace.

Given the closing vocal spot on BBC-TV "6.5 Special" last Saturday, comedians Mike and Bernie Winters proved they can sell a song admirably. At present, Guy Mitchell is in New York for several disc sessions; his touring manager

Marty Horstman writes that they look forward to returning here this summer. Charles Govey visited Metropolitan Theatre last week—and reports that Steve Martin's first London variety appearance was a big success.

Bandleader Lawrence Welk has been voted "America's Most Popular Television Personality"—in a coast-to-coast poll conducted by Walter Winchell, famous U.S. columnist. First LP album on Parlophone by Jim Dale includes his own composition, "Belinda Jane"—dedicated to his two months' old daughter. Betty Hutton has been reconciled with her husband, NBC executive Alan Livingstone.

Capitol Records have released a Ronnie Hilton LP in America. In the "6.5 Special" film, Joan Regan appears in a negligee. Many of his close friends in Paris must have been astonished, when Billy Eckstine suddenly married beautiful model Carole Drake earlier this month.

Because box-office takings were below expectations for Tommy Sands in "Sing, Boy, Sing" (at London's Rialto Cinema), starting date there of "Golden Disc" (starring Terry Dene) has been brought forward a week. Following Little Richard's example of waxing titles featuring feminine names, Larry Williams attempts a hat-trick of hits here with "Dizzy Miss Lizzy". Although Liberace headlines first London Palladium variety bill (from April 7), your Alley Cat confidently forecasts that supporting star Dick Shawn will gain fantastic press acclaim—especially if he includes hilarious portrayal of imaginary "Elvis Presley Fan Club Chairman".

A "Variety" chart of best-selling LP's in New York (compiled by Sam Goody, a leading retailer), includes "Rhythms Of The South" by Edmundo Ros orchestra—in position No. 17. Returning to London last Friday (during his nation-wide concert tour), Paul Anka telephoned the NME—conveying his personal thanks to Managing Director Maurice Kinn, for coverage this paper has given him. Dorothy Squires takes a well-deserved fortnight's holiday in Spain, departing with husband Roger Moore on Monday.

Conversation remarks have created several hit titles which Fats Domino has composed. In New York last week, MGM executive Sol Siegal discussed a major screen production with Harry Belafonte. A mediocre BBC-TV programme on Friday, "Sing For Your Supper," was saved by Lita Roza—who sang magnificently, but looked plump; her "All The Way" had quality comparable to Frank Sinatra's version.

After hearing original "Nairobi" recording by Bob Merrill, any similarity is not coincidental on Tommy Steele's waxing. Outside shooting has commenced for film based on Stanley Dale's "National Skiffle Contest," studio cameras will soon be focussed on Jim Dale, who plays a leading role. Many of Anne Shelton's future variety bills will include another singer—Steve Martin.

After a long absence from U.S. sellers, David Rose is back with "Swinging Shepherd Blues". While their home is rebuilt in May, the entire Jerry Lewis family and staff take over a Beverly Hills hotel. Disc-jockey Neal Arden has been playing small acting parts in "Ivanhoe" ITV programmes. Most critics became "experts," boldly tipping Frankie Vaughan's latest release (following a hat-trick of best sellers); but Keith Fordyce did not rave, but courageously made justifiable comment on the Guy Mitchell vocal similarity. Fans living more than two hundred miles from his New Jersey home have offered to "baby sit" for Pat Boone—free of charge!

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A STAR DANNY KAYE SPEAKS

THERE is no such person as a two-media entertainer. I can't see myself in the position of asking the public to pay to see me in theatres and at the



same time offer them the option of remaining in their own homes to see me on television.

I prefer to be an entertainer—not a huckster (salesman).

Good golly, Molly, you've given Little Richard another "Hit and a Miss".

Many top orchestra leaders (including the late Victor Young) have directed various musical backings for new LP album, "Around The World With Bing Crosby"—just issued in U.S. To purchase a British sports car is No. 1 priority for Buddy Holly, during current concert tour here with the Crickets.

Prior to returning home after his European dates, Johnnie Ray is considering an offer to make his first

visit to Israel—for one week. Elvis Presley secures another "gold-disc"—because "Don't Did Top the Million!" The Bill Haley Comets have disappeared completely from British hit parade—since March of last year.

The ATV "Dickie Valentine Show" last Saturday was one of best-ever presentations in Val Parnell's "Spectacular" series; even the comedy was funny, while Dickie's song routine with Teddy Johnson and Pearl Carr was first class—besides his great solo vocal contributions.

Because organiser John Hammond thinks he has jazz potential, an invitation for Frankie Lyman to appear at American Newport Jazz Festival may be extended. Mantovani has another best-selling LP in the U.S.—"Concert Encores".

Although Perry Como's U.S.-TV show is the most popular American singer-series, Pat Boone secures second place—according to new Nielsen Rating Service. Impresario Bernard Delfont is confined to bed with pleurisy. Vocalist Anne Richards (who recently gave birth to her second child) is rejoining husband Stan Kenton's orchestra.

When he was recording manager of Mercury, Mitch Miller successfully guided many hit parade entries with jazz standards sung by Frankie Laine; this formula is tried again for release on Philips here, with Frankie's pianist Al Lerner directing the accompanying orchestra. Only British composition represented in Top Thirty this week is the Joe Henderson-Jack Fishman "Why Don't They Understand?"—thanks to an American waxing by George Hamilton IV. Although enjoying his first ski-ing holiday in Switzerland, Norrie Paramor hopes he will not suffer from a slipped disc!

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JAZZ by keith goodwin

SHADES OF the well remembered Miles Davis 1948/49 band are reflected in the intricate scoring devices utilised by the JAZZ LAB QUINTET co-leaders Gigi Gryce and Donald Byrd on their latest Philips album (BBL 7210).

The principal soloists—Gryce (alto), Byrd (trumpet), and pianist Tommy Flanagan—all author noteworthy solos, and on some titles ("Speculation," "Nica's Tempo," and the 3/4-time "Little Niles") the quintet are augmented by trombone, baritone, tuba and French horn. In summation, an interesting, absorbing and wholly successful album!

A SUPERFLUOUS prettiness which often marred much of pianist Andre Previn's playing at one point in his career is almost non-existent during his outstanding solo flights with drummer SHELLY MANNE AND HIS FRIENDS on Vogue LAC 12075. The up-tempo "Tangerine" and medium-paced "Squatty Roo" are my favourite tracks, and throughout the album, Manne and the ever-dependable Leroy Vinnegar (bass) lend excellent rhythmic support. Recommended!

FIFTEEN of the old Jimmie Lunceford Orchestra's original scores are authentically recreated in the booting, vigorous style of the band by a specially organised outfit under the direction of Billy May on Capitol's JIMMIE LUNCEFORD IN HI-FI (T 924). Several of the now-defunct band's stalwart soloists, including Trummy Young, Joe Thomas, and Willie Smith, are extensively featured, and the album, as a whole, is thoroughly entertaining. Pleasantly nostalgic!

MYSTERIOUS, often weird-sounding chords punctuate the five readings by pianist Thelonious Monk and his sidemen on BRILLIANT CORNERS (London LTZ-U15097). It may take a couple or so hearings before you eventually get the hang of this, but when you do, you'll find plenty to enthuse over in the playing of tenorist Sonny Rollins, bassist Oscar Pettiford, and drummer Max Roach. Monk is fine (especially during "I Surrender Dear").

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Betty Smith
Maxine Daniels
Jim Dale • Petula Clark

APRIL 8

The Joe Loss Orchestra
The Eric Delaney Band
The Chris Barber Band
with Otilie Patterson
Russell Quaye and the
City Ramblers
Don Lang
and his Frantic Five
Johnny Gray
Rosemary Squires
Dennis Lotis

APRIL 22

The Johnny Dankworth Orchestra
with Cleo Laine
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