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The Fabulous Fifties

1952-53

THE 'Fifties introduced innumerable singing stars, some of whom proved to be durable favourites, while others faded quietly into the background. But it's significant that three artists—still hit

Slower speeds, but faster sales!

parade singers today—held a stranglehold grip on the best selling field as far back as 1952 — Frankie Laine, Guy Mitchell and the inimitable Johnnie Ray.

Unknown here the previous year, the "Ultra Violent" Ray hit the British music scene like a thunderbolt, and before the end of the year had established a fantastic army of fans, who almost tore apart any place he appeared. Johnnie's discs sold like the proverbial hot cakes, and his success in '52 with "Cry," "Little White Cloud," "Brokenhearted" and "Please Mr. Sun" aroused great interest in powerful dramatic ballads.

Throughout the year, pop music tastes changed very little. Happy-go-lucky, bouncy jump numbers of the Guy Mitchell variety ("Pawnshop On The Corner," "Always Room At Our House," etc.) were nationwide favourites, and such songs brought the house down when performed by Guy at the London Palladium.

Frankie Laine's successes were furthered by such early '52 hits as "Gandy Dancers Ball," "Rock Of Gibraltar" and "I'm Gonna Live Till I Die," and other "old faithfuls" with big hits on their hands included Nat "King" Cole ("Unforgettable"); Doris Day ("A Guy Is A Guy"); Les Paul and Mary Ford ("Meet Mr. Callaghan"), and Jo Stafford ("A-Round The Corner").

Fisher hits

Next to Johnnie Ray, undoubtedly the most impressive newcomer of the year was handsome young Eddie Fisher, who sang his way into homes all over the country with "I'm Yours," "Anytime," "Tell Me Why," "Never" and the British song "Lady Of Spain."

Kay Starr made her mark with "Wheel Of Fortune," Ella Mae Morse clicked with "Blacksmith Blues," Rosemary Clooney notched "Botch-A-Me," and pianist Sir Hubert Pimm turned out one of the year's biggest novelty song hits—"I Wanna Say Hello."

By the early months of 1952, interest in pop music had reached unbelievable proportions and the need for a newspaper devoted exclusively to the pop industry was becoming more and more obvious.

Thus on March 7, there appeared on the news-stands the very first edition of the "New Musical Express"—later to become the largest-selling weekly musical publication in the world.

An immediate point of interest was the U.S. best seller charts, and realising their importance, the NME pioneered the first hit parade (based on dealers' returns) ever to be published in Britain—on November 14.

Britain's first Top Twelve read: 1, Al Martino's "Here In My Heart"; 2, Jo Stafford's "You Belong To Me"; 3, Nat Cole's "Somewhere Along The Way"; 4, Bing Crosby's "Isle Of Innesfree"; 5, Guy Mitchell's "Feet Up"; 6, Rosemary Clooney's "Half As Much"; 7, Vera Lynn's "Forget-Me-Not" and Frankie Laine's "High Noon"; 8, Doris Day and Frankie Laine's "Sugar Bush" duet, and Ray Martin's "Blue Tango"; 9, Vera Lynn's "Homing Waltz"; 10, Vera Lynn's "Auf Wiedersehen"; 11, Max Bygraves' "Cowpuncher's Cantata" and Mario Lanza's "Because You're Mine"; and 12, Johnnie Ray's "Walkin' My Baby Back Home."

The list is self-explanatory—with one major exception. Had the charts been inaugurated some months



AL MARTINO



FRANK SINATRA



LITA ROZA

earlier, the top disc would most certainly have been the still-remembered "Auf Wiedersehen," Vera Lynn's biggest-ever hit.

A best seller here, it also became the first British disc to top the U.S. charts—and went on to pass the million sales mark!

Martino, Ray, Crosby, Kay Starr and Doris Day notched more hits before the end of the year, and Winifred Atwell made her first chart appearance with "Britannia Rag"—following on the success of "Dixie Boogie" and "Jubilee Rag." A new British representative in the charts was Tony Brent, with "Walkin' To Missouri."

Band boom

Big bands were big business in 1952—in dance halls, on radio and disc. Eager not to be left out of the pop music boom, the BBC took a giant step by launching the star-studded Show Band, a resident orchestra under the baton of Cyril Stapleton. Interest in the group—and the wide variety of sounds and styles it produced—was unmistakable, and paved the way for a personal appearance tour early the following year.

Aided by composer-arranger Ronald Binge, Mantovani perfected his unique "tumbling strings" sound and scored a mammoth orchestral hit with "Charmaine." A great new orchestra leader had emerged.

During the year, we also paid our last respects to two other great men of music—Debroy Somers died in May, and America's jazz giant Fletcher Henderson passed away on December 30. Disc fans were saddened, too, by the death of singer Steve Conway on April 25.

The recording world was undergoing radical changes, and LPs were starting to get a grip on collectors. It became obvious that "slow speeds" were here to stay when EMI released the very first 45 r.p.m. singles in October... a new-size disc that has since become very fashionable. It was learned, too, that the famous Philips organisation would launch their own disc label in 1953.

London Palladium first appearances included top-of-the-bill dates by such as Frankie Laine, Les Paul and Mary Ford, Jo Stafford, Billy Daniels, and Peter Lind Hayes with Mary Healey. Lena Horne, Dennis Day, Sophie Tucker, Jimmy Durante, The Deep River Boys, musical comedy stars Betty Hutton and Dolores Gray and the then unknown Jane Morgan also appeared there, alongside such British artists as Winifred Atwell, Max

All pictures in this feature were taken during the years 1952-53.



VERA LYNN with her Gold Disc for "Auf Wiedersehen"

Bygraves, Billy Cotton, Peter Sellers, and The Beverley Sisters.

Peruvian singer, Yma Sumac, the girl with the multi-octave range whose discs were popularised by Jack Jackson on his "Record Roundup" radio show, came here for concerts.

American showman Cab Calloway came here to star in "Porgy And Bess," which gave us an opportunity to enjoy such famous Gershwin songs as "Summertime," "It Ain't Necessarily So" and "I Got Plenty Of Nuttin'." The U.S. also sent us "Call Me Madam," the stage show which produced "It's A Lovely Day Today" and "You're Just In Love," while Jean Carson and Johnny Brandon starred in the British musical, "Love From Judy."

The year's big filmicals included "Aeron Slick From Punkin' Crick" (Dinah Shore), "About Face" (Gordon Macrae), "Because You're Mine" (Mario Lanza), "Just For You" (Bing Crosby), "Lovely To Look At" (Howard Keel), "Meet Danny Wilson" (Frank Sinatra), "Rainbow Round-My Shoulder" (Billy Daniels and Frankie Laine), "Singing In The Rain" (Debbie Reynolds and Gene Kelly), "Skirts Ahoy" (Debbie Reynolds and Billy Eckstine), "With A Song In My Heart" (the biography of Jane Froman), "Glory Alley" (Louis Armstrong) and two more Dean Martin and Jerry Lewis comedies—"Jumpin' Jacks" and "The Stooge."

1953 Chart Toppers

AL MARTINO was still at the head of the best sellers at the turn of the year, and his success won him a variety season the following year at the Palladium. Four other international stars who topped the charts during 1953 also appeared there... Frankie Laine, Kay Starr, Guy Mitchell and Eddie Fisher.

Laine's hit parade consistency throughout the year was spectacular, to say the least. He topped the sellers on three occasions—with "Hey, Joe," "Answer Me" and the amazing million seller "I Believe," which set up an all-time record by remaining in the No. 1 slot for 18 weeks! Don't forget, either, that on October 23, Frankie had three discs in the top four—"Hey, Joe" (1), "Where The Wind Blows" (3) and "I Believe" (4). A week later, "Answer Me" crashed into the charts at No. 3!

Other U.S. stars to top the charts in '53 were Kay Starr ("Comes-Along-A-Love"), Jo Stafford ("You Belong To Me"), Eddie Fisher ("Outside Of Heaven") and "I'm Walkin' Beside You", Guy Mitchell ("Look At That Girl") and "She Wears Red Feathers" and Perry Como ("Don't Let The Stars Get In Your Eyes").

But the Americans didn't have it all their own way, and on April 10, a British disc occupied the top spot for the first time—The Stargazers' "Broken Wings." The feat was emulated on three further occasions

before the end of the year—Lita Roza's "Doggie In The Window," Mantovani's "Moulin Rouge Theme" and David Whitfield's "Answer Me." Many new British stars began to shine in '53. There was Tony Brent, who had three discs in the sellers ("Walkin' To Missouri," "Make It Soon" and "Got You On My Mind") in January; Jimmy Young, who scored with "Eternally"; Winifred Atwell with "Coronation Rag," "Flirtation Waltz," "Five Finger Boogie" and her mammoth-selling Christmas disc (later a million seller) "Let's Have A Party"; Dickie Valentine ("Broken Wings," "Golden Coach" and "All The Time And Everywhere"), and Joan Regan ("Ricochet").

Vera Lynn re-appeared with "The Windsor Waltz," while three big British instrumental hits were Ted Heath's "Hot Toddy," Ray Martin's "Swedish Rhapsody" and Frank Chacksfield's "Limelight."

The latter disc was also a big hit in the States, and Chacksfield followed it up later in the year with a second Stateside chart entry—"Ebb Tide."

Early in the year, the NME's first Popularity Poll won honours for Lita Roza and Dickie Valentine (top singers), Ted Heath (top big band), the Johnny Dankworth Seven (top small group) and tenorist Ronnie Scott (musician of the year). Later, we inaugurated the NME Record Awards, with Tony Brent ("Have You Heard?") and Frank Chacksfield ("Limelight") voted the winners by a judging panel.

Kenton trip

Two more NME promotions worth remembering were the concert series starring pianist Teddy Wilson in September and a giant airlift to Brussels, where fans heard the Stan Kenton Band the same month.

Biggest surprise of the year was Frank Sinatra's poorly supported provincial concert tour in June. He came here at a time when his popularity—for reasons never really ascertained—was waning. But it still came as a shock when box-office figures slumped, and in many quarters the tour was branded as a flop. However, as we shall see later,



DICKIE VALENTINE



TONY BRENT received his NME Record Award from the Mayor of Swansea in 1953—and the occasion was relayed from the stage of Swansea Empire to the audience at the NME Record Ball at London's Royal Albert Hall—via G.P.O. land-lines.

Sinatra wasn't down for long! Other visiting Americans fared a good deal better, and scenes of riotous enthusiasm greeted Johnnie Ray's London Palladium debut. Fans turned out in their thousands to watch this electrifying showman, and capacity audiences at this venue were no less appreciative of Tennessee Ernie Ford, Billy Daniels, Dean Martin and Jerry Lewis, and The Merry Macs.

Big news in the jazz world was the disbanding of the Johnny Dankworth Seven and the leader's formation of a big band. An American band appeared here for the first time in 20 years when the Jazz At The Philharmonic troupe played a London charity concert.

The long-running British stage musical "Salad Days" was still going strong, and theatregoers flocked to watch such celebrated Stateside musicals as "Guys And Dolls," "The King And I," "Wish You Were Here" and "Paint Your Wagon." On screen, Guy Mitchell starred in "Red Garters" (with Rosemary Clooney) and "Those Redheads From Seattle"; while Martin and Lewis in "The Caddy." Two of the year's biggest movie musicals were "Seven Brides For Seven Brothers" and "Bandwagon."

And so the pop music boom continued. But more was to come, and next week, you can read about some of the events of 1954-55—Dickie Valentine's solo debut and U.S.-TV success... Sinatra's great comeback... Eddie Calvert's Gold Disc... Ruby Murray's fantastic hit parade feat... the beginnings of commercial TV... and the start of the rock 'n' roll era!



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TOMMY STEELE appeal now embraces the whole family

IT'S a long way from "Rock With The Caveman" to "The Little White Bull," but with the right amount of personality and ability, it's possible to cover the distance in just over three years—and to feel no ill-effects into the bargain.

Indeed, in the case of Tommy Steele, the transition has involved the gathering of an infinitely wider range of support, plus a considerable increase in prestige.

Some will argue that Tommy's appeal on disc is not as strong now as during the first year of his reign. Personally, I refute that suggestion.

For whereas Tommy no longer goes out of his way to cater incessantly for the beatniks, he has proved his worth as an all-round entertainer by gaining a following amongst the age-groups and tastes who, two or three years ago, were simply not interested in the lad from Bermondsey.

When one recalls the varying nature of the titles he has recently recorded, his emergence as a musical comedy star in last year's West End "Cinderella" production, his flair for light comedy evident in his films, and the sparkling family appeal of his current television spectacles — it is more than obvious that Tommy has convincingly blossomed forth from the narrow confines of rock 'n' roll.

Back in 1956, Tommy rose to fame on the crest of the rock wave, as Britain's answer to Elvis Presley.

As the months passed, so basic beat music began to find a level, and to infiltrate into other more complex musical forms.

Tommy, sensible boy that he is, has gone along with these trends, continually developing as a personality — instead of remaining just a rock singer. With his latest record (one of the highlights from his imminent new film, "Tommy The Toreador"), he sings what in effect is a children's novelty song.

Bearing in mind the various mediums and styles he has conquered, I am tempted to ask — could Elvis have done the same?

Greatest

Don't get me wrong, I'm not decrying Presley. He's still the greatest rock singer in the world, and he's proved that he is a successful film star — even though the extent of his acting ability is a subject of some controversy. What's more, his career has been sadly handicapped by his period in the Forces.

Allowing for these points, the fact remains that Tommy Steele today appeals to a wider range of people and tastes than does Elvis Presley. And all credit to him for bursting out in this manner, for there can only ever be one Elvis—and if Tommy had continued to jog along the same path, he could never have hoped to be more than an also-ran to Presley.

It is, of course, true that in the last two years Tommy hasn't done quite so well on disc as in 1957—but that was such a fabulously successful recording year that, in view of all his newly-acquired activities, he could not really be expected to maintain these triumphs.

In any case, since Tommy's record was first released, slightly under 39 months ago, he has had thirteen discs

from YOU to US

JOHN HENDERSON, of Hyson Green, Nottingham, writes: My congratulations to all at EMI who were concerned in the production of Connie Francis' great LP, "Christmas With Connie."

The numbers, arrangements, backing and everything are simply superb, and what a lovely sleeve picture, too! Her version of "Adeste Fideles" is the most outstanding I have ever heard.

ELISABETH O'SULLIVAN writes from Clapham, London, S.W.4: I am tired of hearing Toni Dall singing in variety and disgusted to know that a truly great voice like his is to be wasted in pantomime.

I have heard Toni sing many operatic arias and it would be wonderful to see him recognised as the wonderful tenor he is — when allowed!



☆☆
The elegantly clad "Tommy The Toreador" in person. You'll be seeing him as the kind-hearted bullfighter soon.
☆☆

with a cover version of Guy Mitchell's great Stateside hit, "Singing The Blues."

The first week of 1957 saw Mitchell at the top in Britain—and the following week, Tommy pulled off the near-impossible by overtaking Guy and securing the coveted top spot. He was only there for one week—but the fact remains that he's made it!

Came the follow-up, a tuneful ditty titled "Knee Deep In The Blues," on which Tommy was again competing with Guy Mitchell. This didn't do as well as his previous smash hit, but at least he made the half-way mark in the lists with it.

During the summer of that year, Tommy enjoyed a string of hits, including "Butterfingers" (reached 8th spot), the doubled-sided success "Water Water"/"Handful Of Songs" (reached 5th spot), and "Shiralee" (reached 11th spot)—and at one time, all three discs were in the top table together.

Between times, Tommy was one of six Decca artists who were featured on a charity "All Star Hit Parade" disc, which climbed up to 15th place in the hit parade.

The year ended with Tommy making a brief appearance at the bottom of the charts with a number called "Hey, You."

Novelty hit

There were four Steele entries in 1958, by far the most successful being "Nairobi," an intriguing-sounding novelty which carried Tommy way up to No. 3. Nevertheless, he had no cause to complain about "Happy Guitar" (No. 20), the lilting "The Only Man On The Island" (No. 16) or his return to the basic rock formula with "Come On Let's Go," which obtained 10th position.

Due to the diversity of his activities, 1959 didn't look so healthy disc-wise. Decca staged a big campaign on "Hiawatha," but it just failed to enter the table—and then they repeated the procedure on "Tallahassee Lassie," this time to good effect. For battling neck-and-neck with Freddie Cannon, Tommy won by a short head when he reached 17th spot.

Tommy's following release, a dramatic ballad called "You Were Mine" looked all set for the charts, even to the extent of BBC-TV's "Juke Box Jury" tipping it for honours. But surprisingly it didn't register enough to make the grade.

For his current release, instead of falling back on one of his safe-bet sellers in the rock tradition, Tommy goes even more commercial and sings a cute party song with a bunch of children — a disc which "Juke Box Jury" voted a miss! Yet here is the "Little White Bull" giving Tommy one of his most popular waxings for some time.

I venture to suggest that many of the people who are buying the record are either schoolchildren or middle-aged married couples.

Which just goes to show the widespread public approval for this shock-haired young entertainer.

By the way, if you're thinking of buying a Tommy Steele album for Christmas, there are four from which to choose—plus the "Stars of 6.5



TWO FAMOUS STARS SPEAK



MORE by Frank Sinatra as told to reporter Joe Hyams: "... after going it alone all day I have to go it alone afterwards. Loneliness is pretty much forced on an entertainer. I can't walk into a restaurant and sit by myself because I'd never finish. People feel I belong to them.

"So I have to eat dinner in my hotel room or at home. After a while you get so you duck the people.

"Contrary to what's been said about me, I'm not a night club guy. I only go if a friend opens and I can help him out. The point is I can't just be someplace without it becoming a public appearance."

HARRY BELAFONTE says about the behaviour of today's teenagers: "No different from when I was a teenager, or when my mother was a teenager, or even my grandmother. Life is just more difficult today, and adults are not giving teenagers a fair shake.

"Adults expect young people to be law-abiding, generous and ambitious, while they wave an atom bomb over their heads and set an example of rushing madly after money." He believes that the solution of the teenage problem is for adults to let them alone and let their natural enthusiasm straighten things out.

Special" and "Cinderella" LPs on which he is featured alongside other artists.
Also there are several Steele EPs available, including a delightful disc featuring the soundtrack material from "Tommy The Toreador" — a film I strongly recommend you to see at the first opportunity, as it underlines all I have said about his development as an artist.
DEREK JOHNSON.

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★ **KEITH FORDYCE** reviews the platters-that-matter ☆

Gene Vincent's 'Wild Cat' is too tame

WITH a title like "Wild Cat" and a singer like Gene Vincent, you might expect something really wild. I'm afraid you'd be disappointed.

It's a repetitive, run-of-the-mill rocker that borders on the dull.

Up goes the tempo and with it the entertainment value, as we flip to "Right Here On Earth"—a rocker that really moves, without being wild.

Gene keeps the vocal output down to a low level, with a group used well in the background. On the Capitol label.

ingly successful.

"You Deserve" has a swinging tempo, but again it's all very light and casual. Peggy's incredibly easy singing is a delight to listen to.

POTTED POPS

★ **ROSEMARY JUNE** (London) has waxed her version of "The Village Of St. Bernadette." Not as good as the Anne Shelton record by a long way, but good, nevertheless. The production is restrained and in good taste. "But Not For Me" provides a sharp contrast. A small group accompanies Rosemary for her easy-flowing version of this attractive oldie.

★ **DELLA REESE** (RCA) is a coloured singer with a ton of personality. She lets rip for a rough, tough version of "Soldier Won't You Marry Me." Utterly different from the quiet and gentle waxings of this amusing song, and great fun. "Not One Minute More" is a heavy ballad with an almost Mozart-like accompaniment.

★ **NELSON EDDY** (Philips) is a name to stir the hearts of many older listeners. Younger ones, too, cannot fail to recognise the unique character of his rich, powerful voice. With chorus and orchestra he sings "Hark The Herald Angels Sing" and "Jingle Bells." The baton man is Paul Weston.

★ **DAVID CARROLL**, his orchestra and chorus (Mercury), offer a rousing, he-man rendition of "Waltzing Matilda." Very good. Flipside is indeed something cute and clever. The oldie, "Sometimes I'm Happy" is brought up to date with guitars playing in the "Sleepwalk" style. Beat that for originality!

EVE BOSWELL

Put a good singer together with a good song and the result is something worth hearing. This is true of Eve Boswell and "Misty." A strong, impressive melody, with a strong romantic lyric give Eve the opportunity to use all her considerable vocal skill and technique.

I just can't remember her having made a bad or dull record.

Coupling of this Parlophone platter is "Turnabout Heart," a cheerful, bouncy ditty about a girl in a "tizzy" over a fellow who could never quite make up his mind.

Accompaniment on both sides is by the Ken Jones orchestra.

PEGGY LEE

Together with Jack Marshall, Peggy Lee has written "Things Are Swingin'" and she has recorded the number on Capitol. It's a very lightly swingin' item, with Peggy using very little voice. What you might call "intimate swing."

It's good, it's unusual and, what almost goes without saying where Miss Lee is concerned, it's captivating.



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Talk" comes from the film of the same name. It is a breezy, light-hearted ditty of the guy who looks forward to wedded bliss.

Rock has a lightish voice, quite relaxed, but not overloaded with distinctive personality. Song nips merrily along—it will entertain without making a great impression. "Roly Poly" (from the same film) is a plain rock-type number that fails to stir up any excitement.

DON LANG

With his own arrangement of "Frankie And Johnny" on HMV, Don Lang has something really interesting to offer. It's an instrumental with Don leading on trombone and The Frantic Five backing up.

Right from the opening bars it's an ingenious and clever presentation.

"Reveille Rock" is another non-vocal, and I must confess I miss Don's gravelly tones, but this r'n'r sizzler has real punch and vitality, so I can't complain.

Try spinning this one at Christmas when the party's really swingin'.

ELLA FITZGERALD

One of the most delightful and heart-warming of Christmas songs is the one composed by Mel Tormé, and very simply entitled "The Christmas Song." Mel made a brilliant waxing of it himself, but now on HMV there's another one to match it—by Ella Fitzgerald.

She takes the song very slowly, giving every single word a compelling sincerity.

The orchestra is conducted by Russell Garcia. Unreserved praise and recommendation for this one. That ace songwriting team, Messrs. Cahn and Van Heusen are responsible for "The Secret Of Christmas." Again it's slow and thoughtful, almost preaching a sermon, but in the nicest possible way.

Vaughan

Fats Domino creates a really 'solid' mood

WITH a reliability and solidity that matches his own figure, Fats Domino comes back again and again to the hit parade. He's in the Stateside charts now with "Be My Guest," released here on the London label.

A bright, medium-paced rocker with the excellent beat backing that is always a feature of Domino discs. The tune is worthwhile, and Fats sings in a straightforward manner—he doesn't need any gimmicks because his personality is big enough to give a disc that something extra.

"I've Been Around," is slower, has a jerky kind of presentation. It's unusual and attractive. Fats creates quite a mood with his singing.

TERESA BREWER

"Bill Bailey, Won't You Please Come Home," is such a well-remembered oldie that it is exceedingly difficult to give it any fresh appeal.

It needs a very individual personality to do it, and that's just what happens as Teresa Brewer trips chirpily through this happy evergreen.

A Dixieland backing from Dick Jacobs together with a male chorus completes the picture.

"Mexicali Rose" is another old favourite which benefits from the magic Brewer charm. Dick Jacobs deserves special mention for the most attractive backing. Label is Coral.

THE PLAYMATES

Although I previously stated that "On The Beach" was best as an instrumental, I have now heard a vocal version that I can confidently recommend. It is by The Playmates on Columbia, with Joe Reisman's orchestra.

This love theme from the film "On The Beach," must be about the only cheerful thing in the movie, which concerns the end of mankind after an atomic explosion. The male trio sings smoothly and romantically, capturing just the right mood of this lovely melody. As always it's the warm, lazy tempo which is the outstanding feature of the song. This version could be a big seller.

"First Love" is a gay beat number with a rhythm in the "When" style. A bright and appealing tune, a good lyric. Great two-sided value on this platter.

ROCK HUDSON

Joining the ranks of film stars who give us the benefit of their vocal prowess is Rock Hudson, who turns up on the Brunswick label. "Pillow

PETER MAURICE KEITH PROWSE GROUP

*Wish all our friends in the Business
A Merry Christmas
and a Happy New Year*

"Man will live for evermore,
Because of Christmas Day."

from

MARY'S BOY CHILD

NINA & FREDERIK—Columbia 4375
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COMING UP FAST!

RIVERBOAT

By FARON YOUNG—Capitol 15093

MACMELODIES MUSIC LTD.

Two songs perfect for Malcolm Vaughan

MAYBE I've overlooked a record, but it seems to be ages since we had a new one from Malcolm Vaughan. Now, on HMV, he sings two songs that are perfect for him. He captures the full magic of that wonderful ballad "You'll Never Walk Alone" (from "Carousel"), singing with restraint and sensitivity.

With the aid of the Frank Cordell orchestra, he builds up to a thrilling climax.

The Michael Sammes Singers join Malcolm and the orchestra for "The Holy City." An excellent performance. This record will be an asset to any collection, and it's one that is likely to get lots of broadcasts in the years to come.

JACKIE WILSON

On the Coral label there's another could-be winner for Jackie Wilson, accompanied by the Dick Jacobs orchestra. "Only You, Only Me" is a slow rock ballad, presented in the big style, with strong choral support.

Jackie, of course, uses his vocal chords in a highly individual way that you will either love or loathe. Me, I love it—with the right song. And this IS the right song. "Talk That Talk," is a bright and bouncy rocker, full of sparkle.

Mr. W. gives his vocal all, and I defy anybody not to get some enjoyment from this sure-fire blues-chaser.



DEAN MARTIN

"(Love Is A) Career" is an interesting thought, and Dean Martin, on Capitol, conveys the thought in a convincing manner. He's singing in a firmer voice than usual.

Tune and tempo are casual enough. Brass and chorus accompany, and the melody will begin to get hold of you after two or three spins.

In "For You" Dean relaxes and quietly serenades the current girlfriend. Pleasant rhythm and tune.

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NME MUSIC CHARTS

BEST SELLING POP RECORDS IN BRITAIN

(Wednesday, December 9, 1959)

Last Week	This Week	Title	Artist
1	1	WHAT DO YOU WANT?	Adam Faith (Parlophone)
2	2	WHAT DO YOU WANT TO MAKE THOSE EYES AT ME FOR?	Emile Ford (Pye)
3	3	TRAVELLIN' LIGHT	Cliff Richard (Columbia)
4	4	OH! CAROL	Neil Sedaka (RCA)
8	5	SEVEN LITTLE GIRLS	The Avons (Columbia)
5	6	RED RIVER ROCK	Johnny and The Hurricanes (London)
7	7	PUT YOUR HEAD ON MY SHOULDER	Paul Anka (Columbia)
6	7	MACK THE KNIFE	Bobby Darin (London)
10	1	TEEN BEAT	Sandy Nelson (Top Rank)
12	9	SNOW COACH	Russ Conway (Columbia)
18	11	LITTLE WHITE BULL	Tommy Steele (Decca)
20	12	AMONG MY SOUVENIRS	Connie Francis (MGM)
13	13	RAWHIDE	Frankie Laine (Philips)
24	14	LITTLE DONKEY	Beverly Sisters (Decca)
28	15	MORE AND MORE PARTY POPS	Russ Conway (Columbia)
14	16	PIANO PARTY	Winifred Atwell (Decca)
25	17	MR. BLUE	Mike Preston (Decca)
—	18	BAD BOY	Marty Wilde (Philips)
9	19	'TIL I KISSED YOU	Everly Brothers (London)
11	20	SEA OF LOVE	Marty Wilde (Philips)
16	21	ONE MORE SUNRISE	Dickie Valentine (Pye)
30	22	THE THREE BELLS	The Browns (RCA)
15	23	POISON IVY	The Coasters (London)
22	24	DECK OF CARDS	Wink Martindale (London)
29	25	SAN MIGUEL	Lonnie Donegan (Pye)
—	26	LIVING DOLL	Cliff Richard (Columbia)
21	26	MAKIN' LOVE	Floyd Robinson (RCA)
26	28	I'LL NEVER FALL IN LOVE AGAIN	Johnnie Ray (Philips)
30	29	IF YOU WERE THE ONLY BOY IN THE WORLD	Stevie Marsh (Decca)
—	30	MARY'S BOY CHILD	Harry Belafonte (RCA)
23	30	LITTLE DONKEY	Gracie Fields (Columbia)

BEST SELLING SHEET MUSIC IN BRITAIN

(Tuesday, December 8, 1959)

Last Week	This Week	Title	Artist
1	1	LITTLE DONKEY	(Chappell)
2	2	TRAVELLIN' LIGHT	(Kalith)
7	3	WHAT DO YOU WANT TO MAKE THOSE EYES AT ME FOR?	(F. D. & H.)
4	4	SNOW COACH	(Feldman)
8	5	SEVEN LITTLE GIRLS	(Sheldon)
5	6	MACK THE KNIFE	(Arcadia)
12	7	MARY'S BOY CHILD	(Bourne)
3	8	ONE MORE SUNRISE	(Dominion)
9	9	MR. BLUE	(Morris)
10	10	THE THREE BELLS	(Southern)
13	11	PUT YOUR HEAD ON MY SHOULDER	(Spanka)
11	12	CHINA TEA	(Mills)
10	13	HIGH HOPES	(Barton)
15	14	LIVING DOLL	(Peter Maurice)
24	15	WHAT DO YOU WANT?	(Mills)
18	16	VILLAGE OF ST. BERNADETTE	(F. D. & H.)
14	17	BROKEN-HEARTED MELODY	(Peter Maurice)
16	18	SIDE SADDLE	(Mills)
19	19	TREBLE CLOANCE	(Henderson)
—	20	JINGLE BELL ROCK	(Cromwell)
17	21	SEA OF LOVE	(Southern)
21	22	HEARTACHES BY THE NUMBER	(Joy)
—	23	LITTLE WHITE BULL	(Peter Maurice)
20	24	ROULETTE	(Mills)
29	25	THE KEY	(Leeds)
25	26	RED RIVER ROCK	(Burlington)
26	27	OH! CAROL	(Nevens-Kirshner)
27	27	MAKIN' LOVE	(Chappell)
23	29	ONLY SIXTEEN	(Ardmore & Beechwood)
27	29	TRUDIE	(Henderson)

BEST SELLING POP RECORDS IN U.S.

(Tuesday, December 8, 1959)

Last Week	This Week	Title	Artist
1	1	MACK THE KNIFE	Bobby Darin
4	2	HEARTACHES BY THE NUMBER	Guy Mitchell
3	3	MR. BLUE	The Fleetwoods
2	4	DON'T YOU KNOW	Della Reese
5	5	IN THE MOOD	Ernie Fields
8	6	WE GOT LOVE	Bobby Rydell
6	7	SO MANY WAYS	Brook Benton
9	8	BE MY GUEST	Fats Domino
13	9	OH! CAROL	Neil Sedaka
14	10	DANNY BOY	Conway Twitty
7	11	PUT YOUR HEAD ON MY SHOULDER	Paul Anka
11	12	DECK OF CARDS	Wink Martindale
12	13	MISTY	Johnny Mathis
10	14	SEVEN LITTLE GIRLS	Paul Evans & The Curls
—	15	EL PASO	Marty Robbins
—	16	SCARLET RIBBONS	The Browns
—	17	THE BIG HURT	Toot Fisher
—	18	IT'S TIME TO CRY	Paul Anka
—	19	OH! OH! (Part II)	Nutty Squirrels
—	20	COME INTO MY HEART	Lloyd Price

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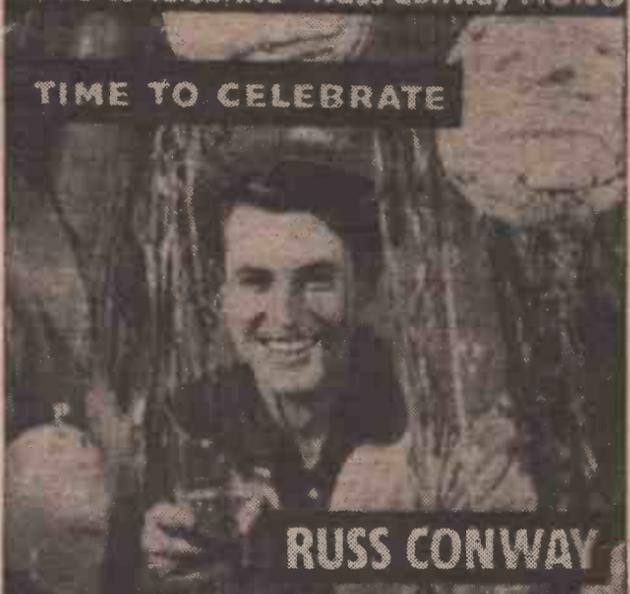


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★ **Untold secrets** of PRESLEY
 ★ CLIFF RICHARD ★ BASSEY
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GREATEST NME ANNUAL EVER!

WHAT are the true facts about Elvis Presley's life before he became a world-famous rock 'n' roll star? How has Shirley Bassey triumphed over the problems of her private life?

What was the mysterious marriage ceremony Paul Anka went through in Japan? Do you agree that Frank Sinatra is the greatest vocal star of the past 30 years—or would you choose Bing Crosby, Doris Day, Harry Belafonte or Elvis?

Are you the kind of girl Craig Douglas would like to marry? Has Eddie Fisher ruined his career? These are just some of the highlights among countless articles in the 1960 NME ANNUAL—a bumper 100-page magazine which will be on sale at all newsagents and bookstalls next week—price 3s. 6d.

Packed with stories about all your top recording favourites and containing almost 200 pictures, it will provide every popstar music fan with endless hours of absorbing, exciting entertainment.

Every effort has been made to bring you exclusive, up-to-the-minute stories about the stars. Ricky Nelson tells readers about the new, highly dangerous sport he spends his spare time practising for. Does Dickie Valentine intend retiring from show business?

We have persuaded Cliff Richard's mother to tell us unknown facts about the early childhood of her famous singing son, together with Cliff's own personal views on girls, marriage, trouble-makers at his concerts, etc.

CONNIE ON DATING

Other exclusive features include Connie Francis' views on dating; a pen-portrait of Anthony Newley by his private secretary; and behind-the-scenes stories of Johnnie Ray, The Platters, Guy Mitchell and other American stars by one of Britain's top TV producers.

Are you a fan of Pat Boone or Bobby Darin? Then you'll want to know why Pat's disc sales have slumped and how Bobby has become the most widely acclaimed newcomer in show business today.

Toni Dalli has penned a special tribute to his idol—the late Mario Lanza; Frankie Vaughan gives candid answers to some searching questions.

Have you ever wondered how the stars spend their time between jobs? Alma Cogan has lent us some pages from her diary giving a day-by-day account of her life.

How do today's young rock singers rate as guitar players? Studio reminiscences of Tommy Steele, Marty Wilde, Cliff Richard; Terry Dene, Laurie London and others are contributed by Bert Weedon.

Are you perhaps an aspiring vocalist yourself? You can read the practical advice of such famous singers as Connie Francis, Lonnie Donegan, Joan Regan and Tommy Sands.

Other star features in the 1960 NME ANNUAL range from great articles about Russ Conway, Lonnie Donegan, Winifred Atwell, Buddy Holly and Joan Regan to stories about "Saturday Club," the Larry Parnes rock 'n' roll stable, the TV All Stars football team, and Luxembourg's "Pick Of The Week" spot.

There's an extensive review of 1959, introducing all the great names that have emerged during the past year; surveys of the NME Charts and the year's LP releases; exclusive snapshots of famous artists taken during their service in the Forces; a humorous article about the Beaulieu Jazz Festival; star tips for your Christmas party; 100 hit songs and the singers who wrote them; a super pop music crossword; a star cartoon quiz, etc., etc.

Handsome produced on glossy art paper, with a two-colour cover which includes a great Cliff Richard portrait, the 1960 ANNUAL also contains superb pin-ups of many other top singing favourites.

Altogether this is a magnificent magazine production—a "must" for every popular music fan. And it will prove to be the ideal solution to many of your Christmas present problems.

YOU CAN BE SURE OF YOUR COPY BY PLACING A FIRM ORDER WITH YOUR USUAL NEWSAGENT OR BOOKSTALL RIGHT AWAY. IF YOU HAVE ANY DIFFICULTY, FILL IN THE COUPON BELOW AND A COPY WILL BE RUSHED TO YOU ON THE DAY OF PUBLICATION.

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ROBERT HORTON: ARRIVAL DATE

ROBERT HORTON, star of the top-rated "Wagon Train" TV series, arrives in Britain on December 20. He will make two major ATV appearances—as exclusively forecast in the NME several weeks ago.

In addition to his "Sunday Night At The London Palladium" appearance on December 27, he will also telerecord a one-hour "Saturday Spectacular" for later transmission.

Horton will spend two weeks in Britain. He regards the trip principally as a holiday and is bringing his parents with him.

Frankie Vaughan rush session

FRANKIE VAUGHAN takes part in a rush recording session at the Philips recording studios today (Friday), and flies to Hollywood on Sunday to rehearse for his appearance on "The Dinah Shore Show" a week later.

Vaughan intends to return for Christmas with his family and shortly afterwards starts to record a new LP. He has been discussing this during the last few weeks with Philips recording chief Johnny Franz.

His next release here will be "The Very, Very Young," recorded in New York on his last visit, which has just been issued in the U.S.

ELLA OPENS HERE ON MARCH 5

ELLA FITZGERALD will head an all-star bill when Norman Granz's famous "Jazz At The Philharmonic" package show begins its third British concert series at London Festival Hall on March 5, presented by Harold Davison.

Set to tour Britain for 14 days, the package will also spotlight drummer Shelley Manne's Quintet. Other attractions, according to Nat Hentoff, include The Jimmy Giuffre Trio, The Paul Smith Quartet and possibly Gerry Mulligan.

'COOL FOR CATS' AWARDS AGAIN

FOR the second successive year, special awards of "Cat's Whiskers" will be made to Britain's top music personalities—in AR-TV's "Cool for Cats" series on Monday, December 28.

Presentations are for nine separate categories—including best British male and female singers, band, song, novelty disc, instrumental group, solo instrumentalist and outstanding 1959 discovery. Only in one section (world's greatest disc) will American and foreign artists be considered.

The British winners receive their awards during the TV programme from composer Paddy Roberts, chairman of the Songwriters' Guild. Those unable to attend will be represented by their recording managers or a relative.

Critic Ker Robertson will choose the respective winners.

Liberace in provinces

Two fortnightly engagements are planned for Liberace at Glasgow Empire and Manchester Palace next Summer.

They will follow his eight-week season at the London Palladium, due to start as soon as the pantomime season ends in mid-April.

Rabin Rock date

The Rabin Rock Unit from the Monday lunchtime "Go Man Go" series (which celebrates its first birthday on December 28) return to BBC Light Programme's "Saturday Club" on December 19.

Also guesting on this date are The Peter Crawford Trio, Toni Lee, The Dene Four, Vicki Anderson and Robin Hall.

Sunday afternoon folk music sessions will be inaugurated at London's Jazzshows Jazz Club in Oxford Street from January 3. Steve Benbow's Folk Four and the new Red Sullivan Group are residents.

RONNIE CARROLL
 Personal Manager,
 Eddie Lee
 Will Collins Agency



Fan Club Sec.,
 17, Evelyn Drive,
 Hatch End, Middx.

★ U.S. 1960 star invasion plans

DARIN—EDDY PACKAGE, EVERETT MATHIS, COASTERS, TWITTY PL

Cliff Richard voted Rock King

CLIFF RICHARD has been chosen by listeners to Luxembourg "Swoon Club" series as the "King of Rock 'n' Roll." The result was announced in last Sunday's programme with the British star polling a majority of more than 350 votes.

Cliff will make a special appearance on the show early in January, when he will be awarded the title. Before leaving for America next month, Cliff will star in ATV's "Sunday Night at the London Palladium" on either Jan. 3 or 10.

NEW YEAR'S EVE DATES FOR BANDS

TED HEATH and His Music will see in the New Year for BBC Light Programme listeners, when they play at the "Daily Mirror" Teenage Ball at London's Waldorf Hotel on New Year's Eve.

Brian Matthew will introduce the radio excerpts, which will be aired before and after midnight.

The bands of Cyril Stapleton and Teddy Foster play at the Royal Albert Hall on New Year's Eve—at "People" columnist Arthur Helliwell's charity party.

Another U.S. song ace for London

SONGWRITER - SINGER Otis Blackwell, who wrote Elvis Presley's hits, "All Shook Up" and "Don't Be Cruel," will arrive in Britain from America early in Jan.

A recording singer as well as a prolific writer, Blackwell composed Jerry Lee Lewis' big hit, "Great Balls Of Fire."

During his stay he will appear on ABC-TV's "Boy Meets Girls." The most likely date for this appearance is January 16.

Producer Jack Good was hoping to get Neil Sedaka to appear on the show during January, but this is not possible due to definite American commitments.

'Juke Jury' Jayne

Last minute addition to the panel of BBC-TV's "Juke Box Jury" tomorrow (Saturday) is Hollywood's glamorous blonde bombshell, Jayne Mansfield.

She takes the place of Anthea Askey, who is unable to appear owing to illness.

GREAT NEW 208 SERIES

EXCITING Radio Luxembourg plans revealed for 1960 include a series by Red Nichols with his Five Pennies; the return of Pat Boone, and an extension of Jo Stafford's series—with a likelihood of two weekly programmes for Michael Holliday.

208 chief Geoffrey Everitt returned from America this week (where he accompanied the winner of the "Empire News" "Top Pop Pools" contest) and announced several new deals.

He has signed Nichols and the Five Pennies to prerecord 26 half-hour programmes, which will be aired by Luxembourg early next year. "The Five Pennies" film, starring Danny Kaye, is based on Nichols' life.

Everitt also finalised plans with Pat Boone and his manager, Jack Spina, for the prerecording of an additional 13 programmes by Pat. They will be aired on Thursdays at 9.45 p.m.—but not until April, at the conclusion of Russ Conway's series which starts next month.

Jo Stafford's Saturday evening show (originally set to terminate at the end of the year) is extended by 19 programmes. The singer is now prerecording them.

The NME also understands that British vocal-star Michael Holliday is to undertake a twice-weekly series of 15-minute programmes from February. Approached by the NME, however, Everitt said: "I cannot comment at present."

PLANS are rapidly being finalised for one of the top-line American recording stars, due to be in Spring.

Latest developments are the fixing of an opening date for in which he will co-star with Duane Eddy; confirmation that will start at the beginning of April; the long-awaited agreement for Mathis visit; and the probability of a tour by The Coasters.

Following the NME revelation last week that Bobby Darin and Duane Eddy were among the stars expected in the New Year, these two top disc-sellers have now signed for a three-week tour of Britain, scheduled to commence on March 18. During their visit they will also undertake major television engagements.

Agent Leslie Grade told the NME on Wednesday that The Everly Brothers tour will now definitely commence on either April 1, 2 or 3.

The many negotiations for a Johnny Mathis visit have always collapsed previously because of the singer's apprehension about the standard of the London Palladium Orchestra.

Speaking to Johnny's manager, Mrs. Helen Noga, in California, last week, NME managing director

Maurice Kinn assured her of its quality as an accompanying group, pointing out that many American stars could testify to its calibre.

At Maurice Kinn's suggestion, Mrs. Noga sought advice from Nat "King" Cole, who has experience of working at the Palladium, and is a personal friend of Johnny Mathis.

Leslie Grade now says that during the past week the situation has been surprisingly revived by Mathis' American agents, who are now enthusiastic about the British visit.

Added Grade: "In view of previous experiences, I cannot confirm a definite deal until contracts are signed. But I can say that terms have been agreed for Mathis to play a 10-day concert tour, plus the Palladium TV show and one other major

Marty Wilde on 208 twice weekly from next month

WHEN Marty Wilde's first radio series starts on January 17, he will be broadcasting on Radio Luxembourg on both Sunday and Monday evenings.

He will have a 15-minute spot on both nights, and the series is scheduled for at least a six-week run. Marty and his group, The Wildcats, will be joined by guest artists in each programme.

Recordings of the first eight shows took place in Glasgow and Manchester this week.

Marty's other plans include two Sunday concerts—East Ham Granada (January 10) and Greenford Granada (24th).

POLKA DOTS IN 'TAKE IT FROM HERE'

The Polka Dots vocal group replaced the Sid Phillips Band on radio's "Take It From Here" yesterday (Thursday) and will continue in the show until the end of its present run in February.

This engagement means that the vocal group will be unable to accept the offer of a 4-week tour of Germany until their radio series ends.

Xmas 'Lunch Box' for London

ATV's daily Midlands series "Lunch Box" is being networked to other regions, including London, on Christmas Day—when guests will include The Polka Dots and Eula Parker.

At the same time, in the North only, Granada-TV present a Christmas edition of "People and Places," with Ronnie Hilton as one of the featured guests.

Latest addition to the all-star guest list for AR-TV's "Hughie Green's Party" on Christmas Day is singer Marion Keene.

Dennis going 'down under'

JACKIE DENNIS, Scotland's teenage kilted singer, is to undertake a protracted tour of Australia—for a minimum of 36 weeks.

He is to play the major Tivoli circuit and, although his first venue is not yet known, it has been announced that he opens on May 16. Dennis precedes this with a visit to Germany, where he begins a six-week tour on March 21.

IT MIGHT HAVE BEEN JOE LONDON

HLW 9008 London

JOHNNY and the HURRICANES REVELLE ROCK

HL 9017 London

forge ahead... RILYS CONFIRMED: PROBABLES

greatest-ever invasions by
triggered off early next

or Bobby Darin's package tour,
t The Everly Brothers' tour
ement of terms for a Johnny

ATV presentation, between March
16 and April 1."

Hyman Zahl, of Foster's Agency,
meanwhile revealed that he has
offered to promoter Arthur Howes
a package show headed by cele-
brated American vocal-group The
Coasters.

It would play a four-week tour of
Britain, also starting in March, and
Zahl was expecting a decision on
the project yesterday (Thursday).

From New York, Nat Hentoff
cables that Conway Twitty's manager,
John Seat, is still negotiating for the
MGM recording star to return to
this country to head a package show.

From New York, Nat Hentoff
cables that Nat Cole will tour the
Continent for impresario Norman
Granz in the Spring. He will prob-
ably open in Vienna on April 3, and
the itinerary will last about three
weeks.

There is every chance that Cole will
appear here for limited dates, either
before or after the Continental tour.

Fans organise own Steele film opening!

DUE to the delayed opening of
Tommy Steele's "Tommy The
Toreador," his fan club has arranged
a special showing of it in a Bermond-
sey cinema—only a few yards from
where he used to live.

Following their annual party at
London's Empire Rooms in Totten-
ham Court Road tomorrow (Satur-
day), members will travel by special
buses to the Bermondsey Rialto to
see the film.

They had originally planned to see
it at the Warner Theatre in the West
End tomorrow evening, but it is un-
likely to open there now until Mon-
day, December 21, at the earliest.

PRIMA, SMITH HERE SOON—IN FILM

LOUIS PRIMA and Keely Smith
are among the musical personali-
ties who are featured in "Senior
Prom," a film musical which goes on
general release on the Rank circuit
on January 4.

Other stars making brief appear-
ances are Sam Butera and The
Witnesses (Prima's supporting group),
American Columbia a-and-r man
Mitch Miller, Connie Boswell, Bob
Crosby and Toni Arden.

Como gets NME Award



PERRY COMO got a big thrill when he received the handsome NME
Award for being British TV's "Musical Personality of the Year" from
"ERA HOSKINSON, of Liverpool, the winner of the "Empire
News" "Top Pops Pools." Perry looked at the cup admiringly and said:

"You English do things in a big
way. This'll look great in my
study at home. Thanks a lot."
Vera, who arrived back last
Saturday from her thrilling prize-
winning visit to the States, during
which she met Doris Day,
Marilyn Monroe, Stephen Boyd,
British vice-ace Victor Feldman
as well as Perry Como, said: "I
had rehearsed in my mind what I
was going to say to Perry before
I gave him the cup, but when I
came face to face with this
casual, charming star, I forgot
every word and just handed it to
him in complete silence!"

"He could see I was nervous
and did his best to put me at
ease by reading the inscription
and chatting to me as if he'd
known me all my life. I had
always thought his relaxed casual-
ness was a gimmick, but I can
assure you he was just the same
when I met him as you see him
on the television screen."
"A final thrill for me was meet-
ing Gene Vincent in the Boeing
707 bringing me back to
London."

SARAH VAUGHAN: TV DATE PLAN

SARAH VAUGHAN, set to tour
Britain with the Johnny Dank-
worth band in the New Year, is in
line for a starring appearance in
ATV's "Sunday Night At The
London Palladium" on January 24.

Promoter Vic Lewis, for William
Victor Productions, is also arrang-
ing a London concert for her on the
same day. Venues, probably in
London, have still to be revealed for
January 30 and February 7.

An additional date to those
announced is Liverpool Philharmonic
on January 27. The Glasgow Odeon
concert has been switched from
February 3 to February 5.

Two singers topple Presley from juke-box poll peak

BRITISH MUSICIANS GAIN PLACES IN U.S. LISTS

BOBBY DARIN'S sensational new acclaim has been re-affirmed in yet another major
American popularity poll. In winning two sections, he has ousted Elvis Presley from
top place as the year's outstanding pop singer!

Darin's million-selling "Mack
The Knife," still No. 1 in the U.S.
charts, was voted Best Pop Disc of
1959 by America's juke-box
operators in the 14th annual poll
conducted by "The Cash Box."
It thus repeats its success in the
National Academy of Recording
Arts and Sciences poll announced
in last week's NME.

Darin was also named joint
winner, with Lloyd Price, in the Best
Pop Male Singer division. Presley,
last year's winner, finished third.

However, Presley was not totally
eclipsed and his defeat was partially
expected. Voters based their selec-
tions on the year's juke-box favour-
ites, and due to his U.S. Army com-
mitments, Elvis has had very few
discs released this year.

A second honour came the way of
Lloyd Price, who was also named
Top Rhythm-and-Blues Artist of
1959. The Everly Brothers and
Connie Francis repeated last year's
victories in the Vocal Group and
Female Vocalist sections respectively.

Several British artists were placed
in the poll, including four entries in
the Best Pop Studio Orchestra—
Mantovani (5), The Knightsbridge
Strings (9), Reg Owen (13) and Cyril
Stapleton (16).

Ted Heath (7) and Chris Barber (9)
were named among the year's Best
Pop Bands, while two records were
placed among 1959's best—Cyril
Stapleton's "Children's Marching
Song" (44) and Chris Barber's
"Petite Fleur" (52).

Winners were as follows:

- Pop Record: Bobby Darin's "Mack The Knife."
- Male Vocalist: Bobby Darin and Lloyd Price (tie).
- Female Vocalist: Connie Francis.
- Vocal Group: The Everly Brothers.
- Studio Orchestra: Martin Denny.
- Pop Band: Ray Anthony.
- Instrumentalist: Duane Eddy.
- R-and-B Male Singer: Lloyd Price.
- R-and-B Female Singer: Dinah Washington.
- R-and-B Vocal Group: The Coasters.
- C-and-W Male Singer: Johnny Cash and Ray Price (tie).
- C-and-W Vocal Group: The Browns.
- Most Promising Male Singer: Fabian.
- Most Promising Female Singer: Anita Bryant.
- Most Promising Vocal Group: The Fleetwoods.
- Most Promising Instrumental Group: Johnny and The Hurricanes.
- Most Promising R-and-B Male Singer: Brook Benton.
- Most Promising R-and-B Female Singer: Nina Simone.
- Most Promising C-and-W Male Singer: Stowall Jackson.

LONG BRITISH TOUR FOR GENE VINCENT LIKELY

IMPRESARIO Larry Parnes is on the point of signing visiting
American rock star Gene Vincent to a contract embracing all his
1960 British appearances, apart from his 12-day Granada tour in
January.

Parnes, who hopes to conclude the
deal this weekend, will not neces-
sarily present all Vincent's dates him-
self. Gene's early itinerary is likely
to include 10 weeks of stage dates
throughout the country.

At present, Parnes is planning to
discontinue his "Big Beat Show,"
featuring Vince Eager, Billy Fury,
Terry Dene, Dickie Pride and others.
He will book them as individual
attractions instead.

Next week's variety stint at the
Finsbury Park Empire may be the
last time all Parnes' artists appear
on the same bill, except for a
forthcoming Blackpool concert.

Although Terry Dene is not
managed by Parnes, he has been
under a three-month contract which
recently expired. The impresario
now plans to offer Dene a new con-
tract for the whole of 1960.

Vince Eager appears in his first
big TV variety show when he guests
with Michael Medwin and Shirley
Bassey in AR-TV's "Merry With
Medwin" on Christmas Eve.

ELVIS FANS AID CHARITY WITH BIRTHDAY SHOW

THE 8,000-strong Elvis Presley
Fan Club has arranged a
special screening of the Presley
film "Loving You" on Saturday,
January 9, at London's huge
Plaza Cinema. All proceeds from
the event will be donated to the
RSPCA.

This private showing is in con-
nection with Presley's birthday
week (his birthday is January 8)
and is a milestone in the history
of the British Club.

Although previous Presley films
have been attended by large num-
bers of fans under the auspices of
the Club, this will be the first
time a West End cinema has been
booked for a private showing.

SHEILA'S TV SERIES

SHEILA BUXTON'S own BBC-TV
series has been scheduled to
commence on Thursday, January 7.
Under the title of "Little Miss
Music," it will be transmitted fort-
nightly at 6 p.m., which is a new
time for programmes of this nature
on BBC channels.

Roberto Cardinali, who has been
resident with Sheila on the "Make
Way For Music" series, guests in
BBC-TV's "Italian Serenade" on
Wednesday, December 30.

"A great little guitar" says ROY PLUMMER



Adam Faith: big concert tour—Avons, Preston, too

A MAMMOTH concert tour is being arranged for Adam Faith, Britain's newest chart-
topping star. For many—if not all—of the dates, he will star with another new hit parade
team, The Avons, as well as Mike Preston.

There is a good chance that
Emile Ford and The Checkmates
will also star. Definitely booked is
The John Barry Seven.

Faith's tour starts on February 6.
The first eleven days will be in Star
Cinemas, covering a wide area in the

North. The Avons and Mike Preston
will definitely appear with him on
these dates.

Then the package is booked for
four dates in concert halls, including
visits to Manchester, Newcastle and
Glasgow, and ends with a seven-day
tour of Granada theatres in the
South, to complete the hectic month.

In January, Adam and Barry
play Sunday concerts at Edmonton
(10th), Derby (17th), Cheltenham
(24th) and Lewisham (31st).

In America, Adam's recording of
"What Do You Want" will be
released by MGM on January 1.

In London, Columbia recording
manager Norman Newell has given
the go-ahead to Faith and John
Barry to re-record as an LP Barry's
music from "The Beat Girl" film,
in which Faith starred.

This is probably the first time
the music from a British picture
will have been recorded as an LP.

As he does for the film, Barry will
conduct a 15-piece string orchestra
as well as leading his Seven. Adam
will sing his two feature numbers—
"Made You" and "I Did What
You Told Me."

Adam Faith appears on Cyril
Stapleton's "The Melody Dances"
on December 22, with Sylvia Sands.
The Avons—with Eddie Calvert and
tenor Mario Calpe—appear in the
same series next Tuesday (15th).

SAMMY DAVIS SAYS: 4 WEEKS IN MAY HERE

AMERICA'S dynamic entertainer
Sammy Davis Jr. paid his first
visit to Britain on Tuesday (his 34th
birthday)—remaining a few minutes
at London Airport while changing
planes en route from Australia to
New York!

The "Daily Express" reports
Davis agreed to play four weeks in
London cabaret during May, which
he discussed with the night-club
owner during his pause here.

According to Davis, he hopes to
marry Canadian girl Joan Stuart in
February, with Frank Sinatra acting
as best man.

Eddie Fisher BBC-TV show date set

AMONG the topline attractions
included in BBC-TV's Christmas
schedules is Eddie Fisher, who stars
in the lavish spectacular he recorded
when in this country in August.

The show will be transmitted on
Sunday, December 27.

MUDLARKS WITH DONEGAN

THE MUDLARKS have been
added to Lonnie Donegan's
guest list for his three half-hour
ATV shows, which start on Mon-
day, December 28.

Dates on which the various
guests will appear has now been
set as follows:

Lorrae Desmond, Des O'Con-
nor (28th); Mudlarks, Clyde
Valley Stompers (January 4);
Peters Sisters (11th)—with Miki
and Griff appearing in all three
shows.

Coming of age

Noel Gay Music Company,
founded by the composer in 1938,
are celebrating their 21st birthday
this month. A celebration cocktail
party was held in their Denmark
Street offices on Wednesday.

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HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

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Pet Clark, Valentine to play South Africa

CONTRACTS have been concluded for two noted British vocal
personalities—Petula Clark and Dickie Valentine—to undertake
cabaret seasons in South Africa next year.

Terms have been agreed in both
cases—for Pet Clark to open in the
Spring, and Dickie Valentine to star
at the conclusion of his Summer
season in Scarborough.

At Johannesburg, Pet Clark is
booked to play ten days from May
4 at the exclusive Colony Restaurant
of the Hyde Park Hotel, followed
by a week at Durban's Beachcomber
Hotel. Concerts in Nairobi and Salis-
bury on May 1 and 2 are being
considered.

Dickie Valentine's starting date
depends on when his Scarborough
residency ends next Summer. He
will fly, however, to South Africa
during the latter part of October to
undertake engagements similar to
Pet Clark.

During the early part of 1960—
following her Southampton panto-
mime engagement—Pet Clark will
spend the majority of her time in
other European countries, probably
for three months. Her schedule
includes more TV appearances in
Paris, besides French Riviera, Bel-
gium and Spain cabaret dates.

Singer Betty Miller leaves for
South Africa on December 17 for a
six-week tour of major cities.

ELAINE DELMAR JOINS TV CAST

ELAINE DELMAR, singing
daughter of the late Leslie
"Jiver" Hutchinson, becomes a resi-
dent member of ATV's late-night all-
coloured show, "Sunday Serenade,"
this weekend.

She takes over from Lucille Mapp,
who stood in for her last week, and
joins Emile Ford and The Check-
mates, Jimmy Lloyd and The South-
landers for the remainder of the
series—scheduled to run for another
five weeks.

ARTHUR HOWES
PRESENTS

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Thur., Jan. 14th, 6.30 & 8.40 p.m.

GLASGOW, ODEON
Fri., Jan. 15th, 6.40 & 9.00 p.m.

BIRMINGHAM (New Street) ODEON
Mon., Jan. 18th, 6.30 & 8.45 p.m.

CARDIFF, GAUMONT
Wed., Jan. 20th, 6.15 & 8.30 p.m.

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Gene Vincent makes British debut with Marty Wilde and 'Beat Show' gang

WEARING a red-and-black sweater, and jet black trousers, Gene Vincent made his first appearance in this country at Tooting Granada on Sunday in front of a capacity audience.

Gene closed the first half of the all-rock show with a performance that put him way above the rest of the artists in stagecraft and showmanship.

In spite of an injury sustained in a car smash some years ago which left him slightly lame, Vincent performed miracles with the stand mike he used throughout his performance. He hoisted it above his head, swung his leg over the top of it, and generally made a very heavy prop look like featherweight bamboo cane!

Add a peculiar, half-crouching stance, and his act was not only good to listen to, it was well worth watching, too!

Most of the numbers he sang were new to British ears, but all Vincent fans know his first hit "Be Bop A Lula," which was extremely well received.

Unfortunately, Gene and his backing group, led by guitarist Joe Brown, hadn't been able to have sufficient rehearsal. This was noticeable, but it didn't make a great deal of difference to Gene's memorable performance. But it could have made it even better.

After the show, many fans gathered at the stage door yelling for Gene, hammering on the door and showing that his first visit is certainly no disappointment to the fans who have

heard him only on disc.

The rest of the package was the complete Larry Parnes "Beat Show," including Marty Wilde (making his first theatre appearance as a married man), Billy Fury, Duffy Power, Sally Kelly, Vince Eager, Dickie Pride, Johnny Gentle, Julian X, Terry Dene and The Viscounts.

Marty, of course, had the Granada reverberating with screams when he came on stage singing "Mack The Knife."

"Teenager In Love," "Donna," "Sea Of Love" and his latest chart entry "Bad Boy" made up the rest of his act.

Billy Fury also had his fair share of the screams and Vince Eager's powerful versions of "Make Believe" and "What Do You Want To Make Those Eyes At Me For?" earned the appreciation of a full-house.

New addition to the Parnes stable, Julian X, has an attractive voice and stands more or less motionless when he sings. Maybe he's trying to evolve a new style or perhaps he's just nervous.

Incidentally, this package, minus Gene Vincent and Marty Wilde, starts a week's variety at London's Finsbury Park Empire on Monday.



Larry Parnes' vocal line-up at the Tooting Granada on Sunday was (l to r): DICKIE PRIDE, BILLY FURY, VINCE EAGER, JULIAN, MARTY WILDE, DUFFY POWER and JOHNNY GENTLE

Top stars salute a great songwriter

BACK in 1934, a young man began his career in the entertainment world, determined to make good as a composer. This year Jule Styne celebrates his 25th anniversary in show business. He can look back on a mission well and truly accomplished, success following success with thrilling regularity.

To mark the occasion, the "Congressional Record," America's official newspaper, printed in Washington, published this glowing citation recently: "The lives of Americans throughout our land, as well as the lives of people throughout the corners of the world, have been enriched by the artistry and genius of Jule Styne."

"As an American, he has brought great credit to his country—the United States of America—is, therefore, fitting and proper for his fellow-Americans to pay tribute to Jule Styne on the occasion of his 25th anniversary in show business."

"His accomplishments have been great—the position he holds in the hearts and minds of fellow Americans is just as great."

Praise indeed for a man who was born in humble circumstances 53 years ago in Bethnal Green, London, and who went to America with his parents in 1913.

He was a piano soloist at 9 with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, and started his own dance band in 1931.

Returns here

Jule Styne visited London last year, the first return since he went to America, aged 8. His son is now a songwriter, too.

His songs have indeed won world fame, and much acclaim from the famous singers who have sung them.

Here are some of the recent quotes from stars about Jule Styne:

PAT BOONE: If it weren't for musical geniuses like Jule all we singers would have to warble do re mi fa so la ti do or something.

DORIS DAY: Congratulations on your 25th anniversary of writing songs. I hope you keep it up for another 125 years.

DEAN MARTIN: Everyone is saying nice things about Jule Styne and that's because all you can say about this fellow is nice things.

NAT "KING" COLE: Thank you for all the great and wonderful music that you have contributed to the world in the past 25 years.

JOHNNY MATHIS: Not only is Jule a great, great songwriter, but he is a wonderful showman and a wonderful man.

BING CROSBY: This Jule Styne commemoration is a deserved tribute to a really fine composer. His lovely music has played a big part in the lives of all of us.

JONI JAMES: I'm sure that one of Jule Styne's songs is your favourite, because I know that all of them have been mine.

FRANK SINATRA: The list of songs Jule has written reads like an all-time hit parade.

Frank is right. Here are some of the famous numbers he has composed:

I Don't Want To Walk Without You, Baby; I've Heard That Song Before; Come Out, Come Out, Wherever You Are; Saturday Night Is The Loneliest Night Of The Week; There Goes That Song Again; Forever And Ever; I'll Walk Alone; Bonita; Since You; I Begged Her; When It's Chilly Down In Chile; It's Been A Long, Long Time; Tequila; The Charm Of You; Honky Dory; Three Dreams; I Fall In Love Too Easily; Three Little Wishes; I Said No; Let's Start Where We Left Off; I Believe; Five Minutes More; I'm The One Who's Lonely; Let It Snow, Let It Snow, Let It Snow; The Things We Did Last Summer; Papa Won't You Dance With Me; It's Magic; The Girl From Havana; Who Am I?; Diamonds Are A Girl's Best Friend; How Do You Speak To An Angel?; Three Coins In The Fountain; And Then You Kissed Me; Prairie Serenade; Time After Time; Never, Never, Never; Some Other Time (Not Now); Just For You; It's The Same Old Dream; Take My Heart; It's You Or No One; Make Yourself At Home.

Put 'Em In A Box, Tie 'Em With A Ribbon; I Still Get Jealous; International Cowboys; Bye Bye Baby



JULE STYNE

(Remember You're My Baby); Stay With The Happy People; Kentucky Opera; It's A Great Feeling; Top O' The Morning; That's What I Like; Melody And Moonlight; Money Burns A Hole In My Pocket; Song's Gotta Come From The Heart; Wa Wa Watermelon; Just In Time; I'd Love To Know You Better.

Long Before I Knew You; Down Mexico Way; The Party's Over; When The Cat's Away; Bells Are Ringing; Pagan Lullaby; Well, Well; Say Darling; Baby's A Big Girl Now; Small Talk; Tumble Down Shack In Havana; What Makes The Sun Set?; Out Of This World; The Closer You Are; Ridin' On A Rocky Road; Are You Just A Beautiful Dream?; Zuyder Zee; Talk To Me Tomorrow; Victory Polka.

The Closer You Are; For The Want Of You; Hold Me, Hold Me, Hold Me; Sing A Song Of Laughter; A Long, Long Winter; From Here On; In The Cool, Cool, Cool Of The Evening; Keep Your Powder Dry; A Change Of Heart; A Better Day Is Coming; You're Good To Me; Nobody Knows; Rainbow In The Night; As Long As There Is Music; Tahiti Polka.

Conchita, Marguita, Lolita, Papita, Rosetta, Juanita Lopez; The Lady Who Didn't Believe In Love; Who'll Buy My Flowers?; Where The River Meets The Range; When A Fella's Got A Girl; Manhattan Holiday; Cupid's After Me; Lonely Hills; Don Pedro Pistachio.

Co-writers

Majority of his songs contain lyrics by Sammy Cahn; other co-writers include Frank Loesser, Leo Robin, Betty Comden and Adolph Green, Herb Magidson, Kim Cannon, Walter Bullock, Ralph Murphy, Sol Meyer, Eddie Cherkose, Harold Adamson, George Brown, Lew Brown, Sidney Clare, Ray Golden, Sid Kuller, Nick Castle, etc.

From 1940, he wrote for motion pictures, including Tonight And Every Night; Two Guys From Texas; It's A Great Feeling; Kid From Brooklyn; It Happened In Brooklyn; West Point Story; Two Tickets To Broadway; Don't Fence Me In—currently screen version of his Broadway musical Bells Are Ringing.

Stage musical scores: High Button Shoes, Gentlemen Prefer Blondes, Two On The Aisle, Peter Pan, Hazell Flagg, Bells Are Ringing, Say Darling, Gipsy.

Won Academy Award for Three Coins In The Fountain. Gave Broadway debut to Sammy Davis, Jr., when producing Mr. Wonderful. In 1958, produced series of Eddie Fisher U.S.-TV shows.

Also produced Broadway production of Pal Joey. His current presentation (Gipsy) based on life of Gipsy Rose Lee, includes song Small Talk, waxed by Johnny Mathis.

By ALLEN EVANS

EPs
FRANK IN FILMS (Philips) offers Frankie Vaughan singing These Dangerous Years, Wonderful Things, Lady Is A Square, and Heart Of A Man, with Wally Stott orchestra. **CHRISTMAS WITH JOHNNY MATHIS** (Fontana) means he charms you with Winter Wonderland, Christmas Song, O Holy Night, and Silent Night... Clyde McPhatter's beaty, high-pitched voice infuses excitement into I Told Myself A Lie, Where Did I Make My Mistake, TWICE AS NICE, and The Masquerade Is Over, on MGM.

GREAT COUNTRY AND WESTERN HITS (Philips) introduces Johnny Horton (Battle Of New Orleans), Stonewall Jackson (Waterloo), Johnny Cash (Don't Take Your Gun To Town) and Carl Smith (10,000 Drums). **WANDA JACKSON** (Capitol) provides rock 'n' roll and c-and-w, singing Let's Have A Party, Money Honey, Heartbreak Ahead, and Just Call Me Lonesome. **CHICO HOLIDAY** (RCA) is a lively rocker, with a great instrumental group behind him. His numbers—Please Don't Touch, Young Ideas, Lonesome Stranger, Your Kid Sister—prove his youthful versatility. He's good, singing and playing guitar. Britain's **MIKI AND GRIFF** (Pye) sound more c-and-w than most Americans, specially with Lonnie Donegan supervising the session, and accompanying them with his group. They sing I Heard the Bluebirds Sing; I'm Here To Get My Baby Out Of Jail; A New Love; and Rockin' Alone—in a tuneful, lilting way.

Smooth guitar and mandolin playing, plus tuneful harmony singing from **IRA AND CHARLIE** (The Louvin Brothers) on Capitol. Songs are Don't Let Your Sweet Love Die, We Could, Are You Teasin' Me, and Here Today And Gone Tomorrow. **PRESENTING LITTLE TONY** (Durium) has the Italian lad and his two brothers purveying rock—Who's That Knockin', Jumpin' Jack, Pity Pity, and You Send Me—all passable. **SING ALONG WITH THE GAYLORDS** (Mercury) has plenty of beat and guitar music to offer, as this gay twosome sing Sweeter Than You; Homie Pigeon; The Shovel; and Jesse James.

SWINGING SOUND OF (Ralph) **MARTERIE** (Mercury) has an oriental flavour at times, specially in Cleopatra's Dream. Exciting big band disc. **WILD BILL DAVIS** (Top Rank) is really quite soft and gentle as he swings "My Fair Lady" tunes on the organ, backed by a rhythm group. Very suave music... **CHUBBY** (Jackson) **MAKES BIG BAND MUSIC** (Top Rank) does just that, playing Loch Lomond; Alexander's Ragtime Band; The Saints; and It's D'Lovely.

THE SONGS TO SING THIS XMAS
TILL THE RIGHT TIME COMES
Recorded by Pat Bredin on Top Rank JAR 257
On the Shores of BANTRY BAY
Recorded by Jack Doyle on Melodisc 1537
THE XMAS STAR
Recorded by The Junior Chorale on Top Rank JAR 212
GIVE ME A NIGHT IN JUNE
Recorded by Norman Wisdom on Top Rank JAR 246
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RUSS CONWAY reveals how it feels to relive your life before millions

ALL day Tuesday, Russ Conway was feeling the after-effects of the nerve-racking surprise—and delight—of being the "victim" of the BBC-TV's "This Is Your Life" programme.

"I've still got butterflies in my stomach. Yet somehow I feel the programme means a big turning-point in my future life," was what Russ told me on Tuesday afternoon.

He confessed that it was a shock at first, then a slight worry, but in the end an inspiring and delightful half-hour.

Russ was very surprised when he saw the television transmission van outside the sound radio studio on Monday afternoon, when he turned up to record his show to be heard in the Light Programme next Monday night.

It was a very unusual thing, he further thought, to find TV cameras inside the plush Piccadilly One sound studio, a few yards from the Circus. And he was even more surprised when he met Joan Regan—in full TV make-up.

But one thought calmed his curiosity. "About a fortnight ago," he explained, "someone mentioned to me in strictest confidence that Bert Weedon was to be the subject of 'This Is Your Life.'"

Russ went to work as usual on rehearsals for the pre-recording of the show. The clock was approaching 7.30 p.m. when an operator moved behind one of the cameras that had been lying dormant for so long.

No worry

Russ was suspicious, but as Bert Weedon was in his programme, he just thought it was Bert's "Life" that was about to be revealed to millions.

Tension reached a peak when Eamonn Andrews arrived—and spoke to Weedon. "I laughed inwardly," Russ recalled. "I was in on the secret and had been right all the time—or so I thought."

"I noticed Eamonn working his way around the studio. He spoke to me, I replied, and turned away, thinking we had finished our conversation."

"But he was still talking to me. When I realised I was to be the subject—or victim—I wanted to run right out of the studio. Panic? I never was so close to it."

But Russ overcame it, and the show went on . . . There was Billy Cotton (on film)

from Glasgow, Mrs. Joan Morgan, a childhood friend; Miss Bissicks, his Sunday school teacher; and Mike Holliday, who knew Russ in the Navy.

"I bleached my new collar," recalled Mike, "to take the newness away and to make others think I was an old hand. Russ saw my collar and said: 'You must've been in a long time.' I winked and said: 'All day!'"

"Years later I met Russ at a music publisher's when I was looking for 'Yellow Rose Of Texas.' I remembered him, even out of uniform."

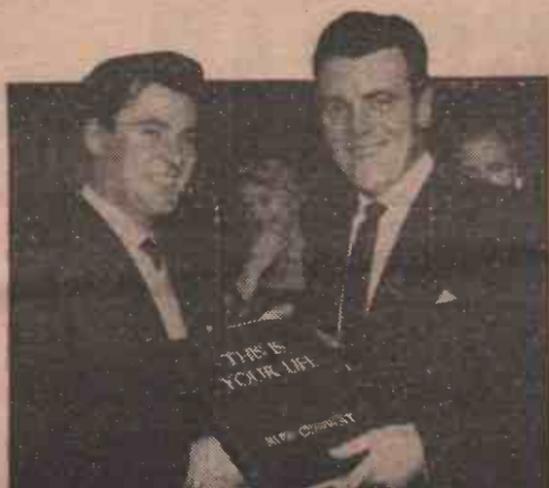
Russ (or Terry Stanford, as he

was then) was proud when his father won the George Medal in Bristol and modestly embarrassed when he himself was awarded the Distinguished Service Medal for devotion to duty as a signaller during a battle.

Out of the Navy in 1948, he became radio salesman, barman, civil servant. When his father died in 1952, he joined the Merchant Navy, leaving in 1955, when he got a job playing at the George pub, Newington Butts, three times a week,

attracting an ever-growing audience. One fan then was John Lloyd, who described Russ as "a master of the change of key," and who recorded him at his home one night—Conway's first!

Dancer Irving Davies introduced Russ to Norman Newell, who got him a job as song plugger with Teddy Holmes, of Chappells. Norman told how he rang Ken Morris to record "Roll The Carpet Up," but Ken wasn't at home. So he asked Russ to do it—which Russ



EAMONN ANDREWS hands RUSS CONWAY his "Life" on BBC-TV last Monday night.

jumped at because it was a song he was plugging for Teddy Holmes at the time!

That started Russ off as a recording artist, but Teddy Holmes said: "He was a good plugger. He can have his job back any time!"

As Terry Stanford was too square, Norman took the name Conway from the late Steve Conway, and Teddy added Russ.

Russ was asked to write the music for the BBC pantomime, "Beauty and the Beast," and a minute from this, with tempo changed, became "Side Saddle"—and Russ was made! "Roulette," "China Tea" and "Snow Coach" followed.

Always shy

He played in the Royal Variety Show in Glasgow this year, but another "Command Performance" was described by his aunt, Mrs. Lilian Stanford, which Russ did for her at Bristol for charity. "He was overcome by the applause," she recalled. "He has always been so modest and shy."

Next Joan Regan told how he was so nervous about playing on-stage with her for the first time at Birmingham. Just beforehand she injured her leg backstage, and Russ was so worried about her he forgot his nerves.

"He once said he was going to pack it in," went on Joan, "but I told him off. 'You're raving mad, giving up the talent you have, I told him sternly. I'm so glad he took heed.'"

LPs by ALLEN EVANS

BEST OF THE WEEK

PAUL ANKA'S latest, **MY HEART SINGS** (Columbia) was recorded in America (with Don Costa's pulsating accompaniment) primarily for his recent Paris season, but his peppy singing is equally attractive to British ears. Seven French songs (in English), including C'est Si Bon and Paul's haunting Les Filles de Paris, are featured. Other highlights are My Heart Sings and Autumn Leaves. All very good . . .

CHRISTMAS WITH CONNIE (Francis) devotes one side to religious songs—Silent Night, Ave Maria, The Lord's Prayer, etc.—and the other to popular Yule tunes—White Christmas, Have Yourself A Merry Christmas, I'll Be Home For Christmas, etc. Connie sings with her easy charm and deep sincerity on this MGM LP, produced in London by Norman Newell. She's backed by Geoff Love Orchestra and Rita Williams' Singers . . . Plenty rocky zip in **MR. PERSONALITY LLOYD PRICE**, which features a dozen r'n'r songs, including Personality, I'm Gonna Get Married, a torrid All Of Me and I Only Have Eyes For You. Accompanying orchestra is Price's, conducted by Don Costa.

SONG ALBUMS

That popular film couple Shirley Jones and Jack Cassidy duet easily in **WITH LOVE FROM HOLLYWOOD** (Philips), choosing 12 popular standards, highlights of which are Hit The Road To Dreamland, Check To Check and Love Of My Life . . . Nat "King" Cole excels in **EVERY TIME I FEEL THE SPIRIT** (Capitol), an album of 12 great spirituals, backed by Gordon Jenkins conducting The First Church of Deliverance Choir. Plenty of beat infused into these joyous songs and an excitement you'll enjoy over and over again . . .

COMEDY SPECIAL

Advent of new Peter Sellers' album, **SONGS FOR SWINGING SELLERS**, is an event for all who enjoyed his last LP or his brilliant work in various mediums. You won't be disappointed—he satirises with devastating wit, skiffle (a Donegan "take off"), a rock impresario and one of his boys, radio shows, boarding schools, as well as singing My Old Dutch (a wicked burlesque) and I Haven't Told Her, She Hasn't Told Me (in pleasant voice). On two tracks he is aided by that queen of comedienne, Irene Handl. All very amusing and just the thing for the "interval" at your Christmas party.

NAT HENTOFF'S American Airmail

such an unprecedented avalanche of advance reservations that one of the rival clubs . . . decided to close for a week, rather than try to fight City Hall."

● French popular singer, Yves Montand, who has had much success here, will star in a Broadway musical by Jule Styne, "The Story of Georges Carpentier."

Torme a deacon!

● Mel Tormé has an acting role in Paramount's "Walk Like a Dragon." He'll play the deacon of a church.

● Frank Sinatra has bought for filming "The Execution of Private Slovik." It's the story of the only American soldier who was executed for desertion since the Civil War.

● Although Fabian has been winning some popularity polls in teenage magazines, it's expected that Elvis Presley will be back at the top soon after he returns from the Army.

Sedaka in Brazil

● Neil Sedaka was a great success in Brazil. He'll do some new recordings for Victor next month.

● Harold Arlen's health is improving—he suffered from exhaustion because of overwork on his new Broadway show, "Saratoga"—and he should be out of the hospital soon.

● Singer Jackie Wilson recently broke attendance records at the Apollo in Harlem.

CONNIE FRANCIS feels that one factor in her success is "the fact that I'm relatively unsophisticated helps teenage girls to identify themselves with me." And of rock, she said: "Lots of rock 'n' roll is junk and calculated to sell. But to me, rock is fun music. It's meant to be felt and enjoyed, not analysed."

● Hugh O'Brian will play Australia in February.

● One of the directors of Eddie Fisher's new record company is Elizabeth Taylor.

● Debbie Reynolds will be in "Night Without End," with William Holden. Filming will be in London, Paris and Munich.

● Eddie Joy, Guy Mitchell's manager, is anxious to get some new records going for him, and hopes to bring Guy from the coast to record in New York some time this month.

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JOHNNIE RAY joins 'Old Pals' in the Charts!

IT'S 'Old Pals' week in the hit parade! Just take a look at the top table, and reflect on the significance of some of the names appearing there. Several of the artists currently riding high had practically been given up for lost—yet here they are, lending a decidedly 1955 flavour to the Charts.

What a year it's been for come-backs! British stars like Joan Regan, Dickie Valentine and The Beverley Sisters have enjoyed their most successful recording year for many seasons, while long-established favourites such as Winnie Atwell and Gracie Fields have convincingly cemented their popularity.

But perhaps the most resounding triumph of all has been scored by that trio of oft-reputed has-beens—Frankie Laine, Guy Mitchell and Johnnie Ray. And in the process, they have no doubt gladdened the hearts of Philips Records executives—for all three singers are released on this label over here, and they have been noticeably missing from the table of honours for the past few years.

By **DEREK JOHNSON**

plotation, this title failed to register. And then interest began to switch to the coupling. Sales gathered momentum, an airing on BBC-TV's "Juke Box Jury" clinched matters—and, hey presto! the disc was in the Charts. And what's more, it had taken close on four months to get there!

There's probably one other factor which should be taken into consideration—the recent unfortunate court case in which Johnnie was involved. Happily he was acquitted, but until then, it was not good publicity for him.

However, one school of thought maintains that any publicity is good publicity, and that theory appears to have been substantiated in this instance. For the case brought Johnnie into the public eye once again, reminded people of his existence and—I feel sure—helped to boost his record sales when he was declared innocent.

I (and many thousands of his fans) can derive satisfaction from the knowledge that Johnnie had, at least, gained some advantage from this wholly unpleasant, unnecessary incident.

New era

Does this return to the hit parade indicate that we are entering a new Johnnie Ray disc era—and that he might, in fact, achieve another No. 1 best-seller?

No, I don't think it means any such thing—and I'll tell you why.

Johnnie is no longer the sudden sensation he was back in 1952, when he burst upon a startled world with "Cry" and "The Little White

Cloud." He is now a mature recording artist, who can always be assured of steady sales even on poor-quality material—and he can expect occasional and periodic Chart entries when he hits upon songs which happen particularly to tickle the public's fancy.

Every once in a while, a song comes along which is strictly Johnnie's cup of tea—and the outcome is a No. 1 seller. As in 1954 when he came up with "Such A Night," the number which the BBC shunned but the fans didn't; two years later, when he waxed probably his biggest seller of all, "Just Walkin' In The Rain"; and the following year, when he notched up a hat-trick with "Yes, Tonight, Josephine."

And, of course, we must remember that "Cry" and "Little White Cloud" were doing the rounds in Britain before the inauguration of the NME Charts. Had these been in existence at the time, it is probable that Johnnie would have another one or two best-sellers in Britain to his credit now.

Anyway, judging by the law of averages, it looks as though he is about due for another smash hit.

I shall be somewhat surprised if "I'll Never Fall In Love Again" proved to be the really big hit for which he is looking, but at least it is having the effect of re-establishing him as a hit parade artist.

Although Johnnie's singles have not experienced world-shattering sales in the last couple of years, he has built up a considerable reputation as a recorder of albums. He has an appreciable selection now available in the Philips catalogue, his latest having been issued only this month. Called "A Sinner Am I," it was cut during his recent visit to this country, and features him with Jack Parnell and his Orchestra.

Possessing one of the most demonstrative and loyal fan followings in the country (as anyone who has attended a Johnnie Ray live performance will witness!), he can rest assured



that his reappearance in the frame has given immense pleasure to many people from all walks of life.

Now that the old firm of Laine, Mitchell and Ray have succeeded in making their mark once again, let's hope that the dawn of 1960 will herald a brighter year for them.

LPs for Your Party

Russ Conway will certainly be welcomed at many Christmas parties this year and if you want him to play for a long spell without changing records, better get **TIME TO CELEBRATE** (Columbia), his latest piano LP, on which he plays 18 attractive numbers to dance to or sing along with—on both. They range from Old Bull And Bush to Who's Sorry Now... For soft background music during a meal or late at night, I recommend **DIZZY GILLESPIE'S Muted HAVE TRUMPET WILL EXCITE** (HMV), swiny horn magic, backed by a jazz quartet, or the **OSCAR PETERSON TRIO AT CONCERTGEBOUW** (HMV), sophisticated, soft piano playing by Oscar, recorded at a concert in Amsterdam, Holland... Or if it's a sing-song album you want, there's **SING SOMETHING SIMPLE** (Pye), featuring The Adam Singers in a medley of "oldies," such as Lily Of Laguna, Underneath The Arches, A-You're Adorable; or **THE MELODY MOVES** (Fontana), with The Mike Sammes Singers with more modern vocal style and numbers—Taking A Chance On Love, Manhattan and Hi Lili Hi Lo, mixed with Comin' Thru' The Rye and O Can Ye Sew Cushions? Excellent harmony here. **Wally Stott**, with orchestra and chorus, captures the happy spirit of the coming holiday season in **CHRISTMAS BY THE FIRESIDE** (Pye), a carol-pop song mixture... **TOMMY TRINDER'S PARTY** (Fontana) is a happy sing-song and games disc, recorded in a bar at Butlin's, Clacton. A.E.

Right!

Back at the end of October, I suggested in the NME that both Frankie and Guy might well reappear in the lists before long—and I was proved right when they duly showed up with "Rawhide" and "Heartaches By The Number" respectively.

But no one noticed Johnnie Ray creeping up on their heels.

Then last week he burst into the sellers with his waxing of "I'll Never Fall In Love Again," which today is situated at 28th position.

The reason why Johnnie's return is perhaps a little more unexpected than the other two is this—his record was released way back in the summer, and it looked very much as though it had failed to make the grade.

When first issued in August, attention was focused on the other side, "You're All That I Live For." It was this waxing which the disc-jockeys chose to include in their programmes, and which Philips nominated as the "A" side.

For all the radio coverage and ex-

Wink recites his way to fame

FOLLOWING in the footsteps of Jerry Keller, Big Bopper, Teddy Johnson and others—all of whom earned a living as disc-jockeys before becoming recording artists with their own hit disc, is 26-year-old Winston "Wink" Martindale, who entered the NME Charts last week and is this week at No. 24.

His version of the ingenious monologue "Deck Of Cards" broke into the American top twenty on October 16, and on the same day, it was released in this country on the London label.

In America, "Deck Of Cards" reached No. 7 before it started a downward trend again. At the same time it started dropping from the Stateside charts, it came into the top thirty over here!

Against a slow rock backing of guitar, organ and voices, Wink tells the story of a soldier bringing out a



pack of cards in church, a deadly sin in the eyes of his sergeant. The following day, when he is

brought before his provost-marshal, the soldier explains the religious significance each card has and that a deck of cards acts as his bible and prayer book.

The monologue, also recorded by Phil Harris on his Camden LP, was performed by Tommy Steele on television quite a while ago, and at the time, The Alley Cat suggested Tommy should record it. But Tommy ignored the advice, so enter Wink Martindale!

Wink's sincere and dramatic version has made a lasting impression on both sides of the Atlantic. Wink goes to church every week with his wife and family of three daughters, and his deep religious feeling helped him with the record.

Deejay

A couple of years back he was a Memphis deejay, and at that time he interviewed Hollywood disc chief Randy Wood.

"Randy arranged for two of the songs I had cut for a local label to be released nationally—but they failed to click," says Wink sadly.

Back in Hollywood, Randy had not forgotten him, however, and in February of this year, he asked Wink to go to the film city and record "Deck Of Cards."

Then his employers transferred him from Memphis to one of their Hollywood stations and so the family moved west.

Wink promptly waxed "Deck Of Cards" on Randy's Dot label and Wink Martindale the recording artist came into being.

A sturdy 6ft lin., Tennessee-born Wink is a very keen water skier and enjoys driving his Ford Thunderbird sports car. Other interests include reading, his favourite authors being Tennessee Williams and William Faulkner.

A monologue such as "Deck Of Cards" in common with most songs with a religious angle, can so easily be ruined by an over-sentimental approach.

Wink has managed to get exactly the right balance as he explains that a deck of cards has 365 pips—the number of days in a year; 52 cards—the number of weeks in a year; four suits—the number of weeks in a month; and 12 picture cards—the number of months in a year.

Although the disc doesn't actually say so, no provost-marshal could jail a young soldier after hearing such a moving reason for spreading a pack of cards out during a church service. **IFOR GRIFFITHS.**

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12.05 Portrait Of Vienna; 2.05 Trio;
5.05 Spotlight; 7.05 People Are Funny;
12.05 Serenade.
MONDAY
11.15 Request Show; 12.05 Melody
Mart; 1.05 Outpost Concert; 2.05 Stick-
buddy Jamboree; 4.05 Santa Claus;
6.05 Music In The Air; 9.30 Christmas
Around The World; 10.05 Late Request
Show.
TUESDAY
11.15 Request Show; 12.05 Melody
Mart; 1.05 Outpost Concert; 2.05 Stick-
buddy Jamboree; 6.05 Music In The
Air; 7.05 What's My Line; 9.30 Christ-
mas Around The World; 10.05 Late
Request Show.
WEDNESDAY
11.15 Request Show; 1.05 Outpost
Concert; 2.05 Stickbuddy Jamboree;
3.15 NBC Radio Theatre; 4.05 Santa
Claus; 6.05 Music In The Air; 7.05
Groucho Marx; 8.30 Suspense; 9.30
Christmas Around The World; 10.05
Late Request Show.
THURSDAY
11.15 Request Show; 12.05 Melody
Mart; 1.05 Outpost Concert; 2.05 Stick-
buddy Jamboree; 6.05 Music In The
Air; 9.30 Christmas Around The World;
10.05 Late Request Show.
FRIDAY
11.15 Request Show; 12.05 Melody
Mart; 1.05 Outpost Concert; 2.05 Stick-
buddy Jamboree; 4.05 Santa Claus;
6.05 Music In The Air; 7.30 Gunsmoke;
9.30 Christmas Around The World;
10.05 Late Request Show.
SATURDAY
11.15 Request Show; 1.05 Saturday
Salute In Music; 3.15 Jim Backus; 4.30
The Beat; 6.05 Music In The Air; 7.05
Grand Old Opry; 8.05 America's Popu-
lar Music; 10.05 Dancing On Two
Continents.

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- SUNDAY
6 Beaver Club; 6.15 Tune A Minute;
6.45 Memories With Music; 7 Juke
Box; 7.30 Swoon Club; 7.45 Winifred
Atwell; 8 Opportunity Knocks; 8.30
Take Your Pick; 9 Calling The Stars;
9.30 Dublin Theatre Royal Orchestra;
10 Record Rendezvous; 10.30 Star-
gazers; 11 Top Twenty; 12 Top Rank
Time.
MONDAY
6 The Six O'Clock Show; 6.45 Pops
At The Piano; 7 The Mudlarks; 7.15
Monday's Requests; 8 Top Rank Turn-
table; 8.15 Film Time; 8.30 Rosemary
Clooney; 8.45 Perry Como; 9 Deep
River Boys; 9.15 Tommy Trinder; 9.45
Odd Tune Out; 10 Jack Jackson; 10.30
Tony Hall; 11 Alan Freeman; 11.15
Gerry Wilmut; 11.30 The World To-
morrow; 12 Midnight On Luxembourg.
TUESDAY
6 The Six O'Clock Show; 6.45 Pops
At The Piano; 7 Ruby Murray; 7.15
Tuesday's Requests; 7.45 Here Comes
The Showboat; 8 Acker Bilk; 8.30 Guy
Mitchell; 8.45 Favourites Old and New;
9 Bing Sings; 9.15 Big Ben Banjo
Band; 9.30 Jack Good; 10 The Capitol
Show; 10.30 Pete Murray; 11 Tip Top
Rank; 11.30 The World Tomorrow; 12
Midnight On Luxembourg.
WEDNESDAY
6 The Six O'Clock Show; 6.45 Pops
At The Piano; 7 Eddie Calvert; 7.15
Wednesday's Requests; 8 Music Of

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TAIL-PIECES BY THE ALLEY CAT

TIPPED to enter U.S. Top Twenty this month — Frankie Avalon's "Why", Fabian's "Hound Dog Man", Freddie Cannon's "Way Down Yonder In New Orleans", Connie Francis' "Among My Souvenirs" and Ricky Nelson's "I Wanna Be Loved"; meanwhile, congratulations Paul Anka on two current placings . . . Despite departure from Charts of Guy Mitchell's "Heartaches" here, expect it back with a bang? . . . Don Lang has covered next Johnny and The Hurricanes release, "Reveille Rock" . . .

By February, expect new Warner Brothers label to start here . . . Unlike most other singers, Alma Cogan changes dresses more times than her mind! . . . Lew Chudd (U.S. Imperial label chief) signs Mickey Rooney's 11-year-old son Teddy Rooney to a disc contract . . .

A dull contribution from The Browns on "Boy Meets Girls," followed by Joyce Baker's solo vocal

(and slow Marty Wilde ballad) reduced pace of Saturday's Jack Good production to a miserable crawl; only Emile Ford's verve compensated . . . Opposite James Cagney in "Big River, Big Man" film, Lena Horne is sought . . . For cabaret debut of Kathryn Grayson at Hollywood's Moulin Rouge, Betty Lanza (widow of the late Mario Lanza) backstage for opening night shows . . . Cadence chief Archie Bleyer in U.S.



GENE MEETS MARTY

GENE VINCENT got a warm welcome to Britain last week. He met many stars at his reception where the picture above was taken, showing (l to r) MARTY and JOYCE WILDE, GENE, and LITTLE TONY.

press adverts. for Andy Williams' "St. Bernadette" waxing specially praises Eula Parker's composition—but names her Eula Clark! . . . Filming postponed ten weeks by Audie Murphy for TV series—enabling Guy Mitchell's broken arm to heal . . . Opinion of your Alley Cat disagrees with "Juke Box Jury" panel, but endorses David Jacobs' view that "Some Kind-A Earthquake" another Duane Eddy smash hit . . .

At London Airport, Gene Vincent arrived with Radio Luxembourg chief Geoffrey Everitt on Saturday . . . Irrespective of billing, Cliff Richard makes "Expresso Bongo" huge box-office success . . . Marty Wilde's flat neighbour is Jack Good, in same Chiswick block . . .

Eddie Fisher's Ramrod Records has signed Malcolm Dodds, former U.S. Decca singer . . . Johnny Wells' disc played in "Cool For Cats" by Kent Walton, an even more accurate Perry Como imitation than Michael Holliday gives of Bing Crosby! . . . "Why," next issue by Anthony Newley, creates war against Stateside Frankie Avalon hit—besides competition from Vince Eager . . .

London premiere of "Career" (Dean Martin starring), December 17, Plaza Cinema . . . Sandy Nelson switches to same label as Ricky Nelson: they are not related . . . Bruce Forsyth was pianist in Jack Jackson's Band during 1946 . . .

On Wednesday, Dickie Valentine commenced rehearsals with Eve Boswell for Birmingham pantomime . . . Revival of Mario Lanza's million-seller "Be My Love" (by Keely Smith) under consideration . . . After several acting roles, Mel Tormé persuaded to sing on Steve Allen U.S.-TV show . . .

Latest Tommy Steele car, an MGA 1600 . . . Agent Hyman Zahl delighted with big business by Gene Vincent (combined with Marty Wilde package) at Tooting concerts . . . For disc sessions, The Kingston Trio remove their shoes! . . .

On Sunday, Jean Metcalf rejoined "Family Favourites"; the Nat "King" Cole record played proved singers like Johnny Mathis and carbon-copyist Earl Grant will never equal the "King's" greatness . . . Louis Prima supervising first Dodie Stevens' LP . . . 21 on Tuesday is Jackie Rae's actress-singer wife, Janette Scott—two days after Connie Francis . . .

Expect Jerry Fuller Chart debut with "Tennessee Waltz," Patti Page's biggest-ever hit title . . . From New York, Lance Fielding reveals 1960 London plans for Frank Loesser's "Most Happy Fella," 1957 Broadway musical . . . Dick Clark's troubles could jeopardise tour for Cliff Richard and The Shadows in America next month . . .

Financial problems for Sammy Davis, jr., now—besides being coloured and Jewish! . . . Gary Crosby "Rocking The Blues" EP with Marty Paich on HMV . . . Switch by Ray Charles to ABC-Paramount—inspired by Lloyd Price's success with label? . . .

Potentially Joyce Baker a good disc singer, but would Marty Wilde be agreeable? . . . Backing group with Vince Eager known as The

Quiet Three—title of a recent Duane Eddy record . . . 'Flu victim Anthony Newley has recovered . . .

Will Frankie Laine's "We'll Be Together Again" get chosen by Russell Turner—for Saturday's appearance by Jayne Mansfield on "Juke Box Jury"? . . . Compared to Michael Holliday's "Starry Eyed," original Gary Sittes disc does not compare . . . For George Pal's "The Brothers Grimm" film, Peggy Lee writing seven songs . . .

Penned by Sammy Cahn, "There's No Business Like Shoe Business," sung by Harry Karl (footwear millionaire) at Hollywood Dean Martin testimonial dinner . . . Former British vocalist Johnny Brandon surprisingly composed great jazz singer Ernestine Anderson's next release, "Our Love Will Last" . . . Louella Parsons reports London Palladium Spring date for Eddie Fisher; wishful thinking . . .

Wimbledon Girls Choir (twenty-seven voices) assisted ex-boxer Jack Doyle for new Melodisc waxing . . . The Sons Of The Pioneers million-seller "Old Smokey" revived by Harriott and Evans, on Parlophone debut . . . In "The Gene Krupa Story" (after drumming a scene), Sal Mineo collapsed with exhaustion . . .

"Mr. Jim," playwright Dan Harvey's Broadway show, includes Jerry Keller's music—sixteen songs . . . The reply was "Fabian's handsome," when a disc-jockey asked Dodie Stevens if he resembled Ricky Nelson . . . The marriage of singer-actor Jimmy Darren to Danish beauty Evy Norlund expected soon . . .

Besides new Connie Francis recording, other versions of Mel Tormé's "Christmas Song" available

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SHOWBIZ XI APV Sports Ground, Crawley, Sussex, 2 p.m. Sunday, December 13
TV STARS XI Royal Marine Ground, Kingbastion Road, Gillingham, 2.15 p.m. Sunday, December 13.

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include Johnny Mathis and HMV's Ella Fitzgerald single among others . . . Planned in Russia—future Harry Belafonte film location . . . Negotiations for TV dates by Dorothy Dandridge here, early in 1960 . . .

Celebrating!—Dean Martin's tenth wedding anniversary to Jeanne Bieganer . . . "Hound Dog Man" should trigger Fabian into 1960 teenage idol here . . . This Sunday, Johnnie Ray's personal manager Bernie Lang arrives for holiday . . .

Hugh O'Brian named recently—now Glenn Ford (estranged from wife Eleanor Powell) supposedly latest light in Debbie Reynolds' eye . . . This month, five new Cyril Stapleton LPs issued in America—also Frank Chacksfield has four releases . . . Medley containing twenty-two Rodgers and Hart hits sung on Dean Martin's recent U.S.-TV "Spectacular"—Frank Sinatra aided him . . .

1953 "Cash Box" poll voted The Browns most promising country group . . . Frank Sinatra was star guest of recent U.S.-TV "Dean Martin Show," but many thought Mickey Rooney stole major honours; he even married Ava Gardner before Sinatra! . . . When interviewer Charles Collingwood questioned her interest in current events, Mae West replied: "My weakness is foreign affairs" . . .

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