

ELVIS AND BRITAIN

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N-M-E RECORD SURVEY

THERE was really never any doubt about it this year! Elvis strolled to as comfortable a victory as he could have wished, notching up nearly half as many points again as his next nearest rival. Which just goes to show that, despite the controversial nature of some of his discs in 1961, the affection of his host of fans never wavered in the slightest.

A splendid victory, Elvis. This time last year, when you were placed third (having only returned from Army service in the spring of 1960), I said it was a near-certainty that you would be in the No. 1 spot by the time another year was through. But I don't take any credit for that forecast—because the unique Mr. Presley has only lived up to expectations.

With such tremendous competition from Elvis, I reckon our own Cliff Richard has done exceptionally well to amass over one thousand points—a total which keeps him in second place.

Although he came top last year, I'm sure that Cliff will have no regrets at losing to such a worthy opponent.

Last year's table developed into a battle for top honours between Cliff and Adam Faith, with the former just emerging the winner by a mere 30 points. Throughout this year, Cliff has had another fight on his hands—this time for the runner-up position.

Steadily during the year, young Helen Shapiro has been creeping up on Cliff.

It wasn't until the last week of March that her first recording, "Don't Treat Me Like A Child," entered the charts—by which time Cliff had already collected practically 300 points. Slowly but surely, Helen has been closing the gap—and they finish the year only 50 points apart.

I rate this Shapiro triumph as the most remarkable achievement of the year. For a girl who was completely unknown less than a year ago to finish third in the aggregate best-sellers—well, it's fantastic! I know that Cliff would be the first to agree with me on this point—and he would be well supported by the Shadows, whom Helen has edged into fourth place.

When the half-yearly survey was made at the end of June, the Shadows were running third. But they finish the year in No. 4 spot. Nevertheless, they can be well pleased with their splendid total of 886 points—for this gives Cliff and the boys a combined total of 1,895 points.

Cliff and the Shadows, plus Helen Shapiro, spearhead an amazingly successful year for British recording artists—for we can claim six of the Top Ten stars, and twelve of the Top Twenty. This shows an improvement of one-third upon last year's entries.

And a special bouquet must surely be awarded to our British girls, who have at last broken through the male dominance in no uncertain terms. For, in addition to Helen Shapiro's success, we find Shirley Bassey comfortably placed at No. 7, while Pet Clark is only another five positions behind.

★ THE TOP TEN for 1961 ★



ELVIS CLIFF HELEN SHADOWS EVERLYS BOBBY SHIRLEY BILLY DEL ADAM

By DEREK JOHNSON

Shirley was placed at No. 15 last year, while Pet had a year in the doldrums in 1960.

Another superb showing has been achieved by Billy Fury, who last year could only finish at No. 74. Now, thanks largely to his "Halfway To Paradise" (which lasted longer in the charts than any other disc in the year), coupled with his current entry, he has hoisted himself into 8th spot.

Adam Faith has experienced an appreciable drop since last time, when he finished as runner-up to Cliff. I think this is possibly due to his commendable attempt to broaden his horizon, which naturally takes some time for the fans to assimilate—plus the fact that he hasn't had quite so many discs on the market during the past twelve months.

Special congratulations to those two newcomers, Eden Kane and John Leyton, both of whom were not in the reckoning last year. Eden has fared very well with his two discs, to finish in 13th place—and indeed, he might well have climbed higher had not his release been so long delayed.

PRAISE FOR JOHN

A special word of praise is due to John Leyton, who suddenly arrived on the scene in the summer with his distinctive "Johnny Remember Me" waxing. He didn't enter the charts until August—yet in the surprisingly short space of 17 weeks, he compiled no fewer than 471 points to reach No. 15.

And so to the British bands, who have certainly had a field day—for we find no fewer than three in the Top Twenty. The outstanding success of the Temperance Seven, Acker Bilk and Kenny Ball clearly demonstrates the widespread popularity of trad in this country right now.

The Temperance boys, although not strictly in the trad idiom, could do no wrong once they rocketed to fame with "You're Driving Me Crazy," and they finish comfortably at 11th place. They are just five positions in front of Acker Bilk—though Acker has attained a higher position than would otherwise have been so, thanks to his delightful solo effort with "Stranger On The Shore." And then there's Kenny Ball, of course, who has never deviated from the straight-and-narrow of trad, and is a shining example of this musical form at No. 19.

Well done, all you top British entrants. But in gloating over your success, it would be unfair to ignore the successes of our American friends.

Take the Everly Brothers, for instance. Apart from Elvis and Cliff, it's impossible to find anyone more consistent than this duo. For some time now they've held a season ticket to the Top Five in these yearly surveys, and they don't disappoint us again this year—having finished at No. 4. Absence of a follow-up disc means they've been out of the charts for the last nine weeks—but no doubt they will be up there again at the end of 1962.

Bobby Vee has made an impressive impact upon the table this year, registering at 6th position. For a young man who is personally unknown to British audiences (though we shall have an opportunity of seeing him shortly), this is really great going.

Del Shannon is another newcomer who shoulders his way into the Top Ten. He was fortunate in experiencing a wonderful start to his chart-busting campaign, for he exploded upon us with "Runaway"—a disc which lasted in the top table only one week less than Billy Fury's "Halfway To Paradise"—while yet another artist making his hit parade debut in 1961 was Clarence Henry, and although he hasn't been able to maintain the pace in recent weeks, his spurt earlier in the year still keeps him in 14th spot.

This year Connie Francis finds herself in the relatively low position of No. 17—for previously she has appeared regularly in the top few places. The obvious explanation lies in the tremendous challenge she has experienced from our own local girls.

At No. 18, Bobby Darin improves six places from last year (probably due to his recent films keeping him in the public eye), while Duane Eddy slips rather startlingly from 8th to 20th spot—and indeed, most of his points were compiled earlier in the year. Could Duane's twangy guitar be on the decline?

GONE DOWN

NOW let's look at some of the artists who have slipped out of the Top Twenty since last year. Most significant drop of all is experienced by Jimmy "Handy Man" Jones, who did sufficiently well with his novelty recordings in 1960, that he finished

in seventh place. But this year, the novelty seems to have worn off, for Mr. Jones is conspicuous by his absence!

Another heavy drop has pushed Johnny and the Hurricanes way down the ladder, from their comfortable 9th spot of last year on to the remote 54th rung. This, however, is no reflection on the boys' popularity—it's just that they haven't had a new release on the market for ages.

Among the British stars who have dropped out of the leading twenty this year are Anthony Newley, Lonnie Donegan, Emile Ford, Johnny Kidd and Tommy Steele. In every case, they have suffered to some extent from a reduction in the number of their releases—though I think it's only fair to suggest that their actual choice of material hasn't been quite so successful as in the past.

NEWLEY'S DROP

Tony Newley experiences a drop of 20 places, moving down to No. 24, while Lonnie's lapse is one of 16 positions—from No. 12 to 28. In both cases, you'll agree that they are still relatively highly placed, but of course we are obliged to compare their positions this year with past performances.

Emile Ford moves out from No. 13 to 49—and, in fact, the points he collected this year were compiled mainly in the opening months.

Tommy Steele, who has had very little in the shops this year, whizzes down from 20th to 108th—and poor old Johnny Kidd, 19th last year, is missing completely this time.

It's good to see Ricky Nelson back in the disc big-time again, having amassed a healthy 378 points to put himself in 21st position—after finishing right at the bottom of the table last year, with a mere one point. Johnny Burnette moves up from 32nd to 29th, while Johnny Tillotson (who opened 1961 in No. 1 position with "Poetry In Motion") claims 42nd place.

Matt Monro and the Allison's both finished the first half of the year in exceptionally strong positions—Matt was 5th and the duo 10th. But in neither case have they been able to cling on to hit parade placings during the second half of the year, so Matt moves out to 22nd while the Allison's are at No. 25. Nevertheless, both have fared extremely well for newcomers to the top table.

Another newcomer is Karl Denver, who made his first appearance in the best-sellers in June—so he's done pretty well to earn himself 292 points in just over six months, on the strength of "Marcheta" and "Mexicali Rose."

Craig Douglas reaffirms his consistency by capturing 26th place. This is just one spot lower than last year, but this is counterbalanced by the fact that he has collected 34 more points than in the last reckoning. And I must confess to being extremely surprised that he didn't earn a few more marks, through the medium of his lovely Christmas disc "No Greater Love."

RELIABLE NEIL

Neil Sedaka shows that he's pretty reliable, too, for he pops up in 23rd place—just six positions lower than in the 1960 aggregate. Roy Orbison moves out from 14th to 33rd, but here again he hasn't had so many discs in the shops during 1961 as in the previous year.

It's always interesting to look through the yearly points table, and speculate upon the flashes-in-the-pan. In other words, to assess the potential lasting power of the various newcomers to the hit parade scene. Among the comparatively highly placed artists last year were Ricky Valance (23rd), Tommy Bruce (28th), Percy Faith (29th), Marv Johnson (35th) and Garry Mills (40th).

They all achieved these placings primarily on the strength of speciality material and we note that this year they are all missing.

So far as this year's list is concerned, we find the Marcells at No. 31, immediately followed by the Shirelles. And frankly, I can't help wondering whether they will so much as figure in next year's table. Much the same can be said for the Highwaymen (36th) and Dave Brubeck (39th)—though all credit to them for their really splendid entries this year.

Among the more pleasant aspects

of this year's table have been the return to the disc limelight of Frankie Vaughan, who moves up from 91st to 40th—and was still going strong when the survey period ended; the very similar situation which applies to Pat Boone, moving from 113th to 45th, and currently piling up points like mad; the gratifying triumph by quality artists such as Cleo Laine (44th), Johnny Dankworth (46th) and Ray Charles (47th); and the hit parade debut of Danny Williams, who finished a strong 37th, and saw the old year out at the coveted No. 1 spot.

I am most impressed by the support which Buddy Holly and Eddie Cochran are still able to command, although they have long since been taken from us. It is a great tribute to their popularity that, at this stage, they can still finish in 59th and 68th positions respectively.

More British chart newcomers who deserve a pat on the back are the Brook Brothers, who finish at No. 34 and obviously possess great potential for future honours; Laurie Johnson, whose "Sucu Sucu" interpretation earned him over 200 points, and pushed him into 41st slot; and Hayley Mills, who only aspires to 72nd spot, but nevertheless enjoyed disc success on both sides of the Atlantic with her "Let's Get Together."

Young Brenda Lee hasn't had a particularly successful year, moving out from 16th to 57th, though—as in Connie Francis' case—this could be due to the weight of female competition (which includes another teenager, Linda Scott, at No. 59). Other girls in the news include our own Anne Shelton, whose "Sailor" takes her to 61st—and Dorothy Provine, whose Charleston-styled singing boosts her into 74th spot.

Other points worthy of note are—the upsurge of country-and-western, with such personalities as

Jimmy Dean, Don Gibson and Jim Reeves figuring strongly; a futher hit parade lapse by Russ Conway, who finished 1959 top of the table, was 22nd in 1960, and now emerges at No. 63; Marty Wilde's hits earlier in the year, which boost him into 48th position; and the initial success of rhythm-and-blues specialist Gary (U.S.) Bonds, who finds himself at No. 35.

Hit parade favourites of past nine years, who appeared in the 1960 table, but are completely missing this time, include Michael Holliday (35th last time), Fats Domino (40th), Perry Como (42nd), Guy Mitchell (48th) and Frankie Laine (50th).

BOTTOM RUNG

Severe drops have been encountered by Johnny Mathis and Max Bygraves, who were in 26th and 31st spots last year, but who are now sharing the bottom rung way down at No. 133. Other lapses include John Barry (36th to 110th), the King Brothers (37th to 73rd) and Bobby Rydell (39th to 64th)—while some of those who have dropped out altogether are the Kaye Sisters, Bob Luman and Elmer Bernstein (all three were in last year's Top Fifty).

The number of acts appearing in the table rises by three. During 1961, a total of 136 different acts appeared in the hit parade, as opposed to 133 the previous year. 66 places were filled by British artists—a total of 48 per cent. of the representation, which I calculate as the best ever.

What is even more encouraging is the fact that over half the total points awarded during the year were collected by British artists. Yes, 51 per cent. of the grand points total went to British artists—an achievement never before accomplished.

1961 POINTS TABLE

HERE is a complete analysis of the NME best-selling Charts for 1961. It shows the total hit parade merits of every artist who has appeared in the Top 30 during the past 12 months. Thirty points were awarded for every top position, and so on down to one point for No. 30.

1 Elvis Presley	1487	68 Frank Sinatra	93
2 Cliff Richard	1009	71 Peter Sellers and Sophia Loren	81
3 Helen Shapiro	959	72 Hayley Mills	88
4 Shadows	886	73 King Brothers	77
5 Everly Brothers	754	74 Sandy Nelson	75
6 Bobby Vee	729	74 Dorothy Provine	75
7 Shirley Bassey	689	76 Ricky Stevens	68
8 Billy Fury	661	77 Mike Preston	56
9 Del Shannon	659	77 Jim Reeves	56
10 Adam Faith	656	79 Don Gibson	55
11 Temperance Seven	621	80 Benny Hill	53
12 Petula Clark	544	80 Nina and Frederik	53
13 Eden Kane	538	82 Teddy Johnson/Pearl Carr	51
14 Clarence Henry	504	83 Jess Conrad	43
15 John Leyton	471	84 Shane Fenton	41
16 Acker Bilk	465	85 Springfields	39
17 Connie Francis	429	86 Mark Wynter	36
18 Bobby Darin	417	87 Troy Shondell	34
19 Kenny Ball	412	88 Fireballs	33
20 Duane Eddy	384	89 Henry Mancini	31
21 Ricky Nelson	378	89 Semprini	31
22 Matt Monro	374	89 Viscounts	31
23 Nell Sedaka	334	92 Frank D'Rone	28
24 Anthony Newley	316	92 Andy Stewart	28
25 Allison's	314	94 Mrs. Mills	26
26 Craig Douglas	308	95 Ral Donner	25
27 Karl Denver	292	95 Ben E. King	25
28 Lonnie Donegan	284	97 Johnny Horton	23
29 Johnny Burnette	274	98 Max Harris	22
30 Ferrante and Teicher	252	98 Freddy Cannon	21
31 Marcells	250	99 Gene Vincent	21
32 Shirelles	248	101 Rhet Stoller	18
33 Roy Orbison	239	102 Ernie K-Doe	16
34 Brook Brothers	235	102 Doug Sheldon	16
35 U.S. Bonds	233	104 Nat Cole	15
36 Highwaymen	224	104 Dorothy Squires	15
37 Jimmy Dean	217	106 Dick and Dee Dee	14
37 Danny Williams	217	106 Gene Pittney	14
39 Dave Brubeck	215	108 Joe Loss	13
40 Frankie Vaughan	213	108 Tommy Steele	13
41 Laurie Johnson	203	110 John Barry	11
42 Johnny Tillotson	202	110 Brook Benton	11
43 Floyd Cramer	196	110 G-Clefs	11
44 Cleo Laine	194	113 Tony Bonnet	10
45 Pat Boone	185	113 Terry Lightfoot	10
46 Johnny Dankworth	184	115 Eddie Hodges	9
47 Ray Charles	166	117 Connie Twitty	8
48 Marty Wilde	163	118 Jimmy Crawford	7
49 Emile Ford	161	121 Lionel Bart	6
50 Sam Cooke	154	121 Tonamites	5
51 Ramrods	149	123 Dnah Washington	4
52 Tony Orlando	145	124 Rose Brennan	3
53 Jerry Lee Lewis	144	124 Ken Dodd	3
54 Johnny and the Hurricanes	134	124 Clinton Ford	3
55 String-A-Longs	123	124 Peggy Lee	3
56 Drifters	118	124 Marion Ryan	3
57 Brenda Lee	116	124 Sarah Vaughan	3
58 Ventures	108	130 Al Calola	2
59 Buddy Holly	107	130 Ronnie Hilton	2
60 Linda Scott	107	130 Bert Weedon	2
61 Dion	103	133 Max Bygraves	1
61 Anne Shelton	103	133 Johnny Mathis	1
63 Russ Conway	101	133 Al Saxon	1
64 Buzz Clifford	98	133 Bob Wallis	1
64 Bobby Rydell	98		
64 Maurice Williams/Zodlacs	98		
67 Piltown Men	95		
68 Eddie Cochran	93		
68 Charlie Drake	93		

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PLUS FEATURES ON: OUR WORLD-BEATING COMPOSERS; 39 STARS NAME THEIR FAVOURITE SINGERS; HEADLINES OF 1961; LP RELEASES; STARS OF TOMORROW; BRITAIN'S TOP RECORDING MANAGERS; SUPER CROSSWORD; THE YEAR'S NEWCOMERS; GOLD DISC WINNERS; THE TRAD FAD; REAL NAMES OF 100 STARS; FAN CLUBS; COMEBACKS OF 1961; BRITISH ARTISTS' TRIUMPHS ABROAD; HOW THEY BEGAN; RADIO LUXEMBOURG; MUSIC FROM FILMS AND TV; COMEDY DISCS; THE DISC-JOCKEY BUSINESS IN AMERICA; DOZENS OF OTHER FASCINATING ITEMS; BEAUTIFULLY PRINTED ON ART PAPER IN TWO-COLOUR COVERS.

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After 16 months of trying— The Twist makes the Charts!

**CHUBBY CHALKS
UP TWO ENTRIES**

WITH a fantastically successful promotion campaign behind it, chart success for "The Twist" (dance and record) was inevitable. But cynics like myself, who have seen dance crazes come and go without exactly lighting up the country, got a severe jolt when two twisting numbers entered the best-sellers this week!

All credit must go to Chubby Checker, who by now needs no introduction. His tremendous drive and energy has succeeded in getting "The Twist" played and danced to an extent where few people will not have heard of it by now.

Chubby's achievement goes rather deeper than that, though. Fifteen months ago he pushed Elvis Presley out of the top spot in the U.S. charts to make room for "The Twist." This was swiftly followed by "Let's Twist Again."

Although this dance craze caught on in America (where, let's face it, they are much more craze-conscious than we are and you only have to claim that everybody's doing something and, before you know it, they are!) it didn't mean much here.

Reviewer Keith Fordyce, on September 23, 1960, said of "The Twist": "It's a steady rocker with Chubby Checker vocalising about a new kind of dance step. Chubby's singing voice has a most fascinating, strangled sound about it."

At the time, Chubby earned a Gold Disc for "The Twist"—and now he seems all set to gain another one for exactly the same record.

Followers of the U.S. Top Twenty published in the NME will have noticed that the disc has re-established itself among the top placings, while another Twist disc, "Peppermint Twist" by Joey Dee and the Starlites, is also holding well.

Double triumph

In this week's British best-selling chart, "Let's Twist Again" has zoomed in at No. 15 and "The Twist" is at No. 22—a double triumph for Chubby, who told me on his recent visit to London that it was one of his personal ambitions to establish himself here.

The campaign to make you twist-conscious began towards the end of October, when it was hailed as "a new dance craze from America." John Leyton and Adam Faith, with a team of dancers, demonstrated the Twist on ITV's "Thank Your Lucky Stars."

Because the dance looks interesting, too, most cinema and TV newsreels and documentary teams have shown films of the Twist, while pictures of celebrities from all walks of life doing the Twist are now a regular feature of newspaper and magazine reading.

Not to be discounted is the way in which Hollywood film companies have been quick to jump on the Twist bandwagon.

There's "Twist Around The Clock" (made by the same director who was responsible for "Rock Around The Clock") which features Chubby, Dion, the Marceles and a host of others, and "Hey Let's Twist," with Dee and the Starlites.

Telefilm shots

BBC-TV's "Tonight" showed a brief telefilm when the craze came in on this second time around. Over the Christmas period, Chubby appeared in ITV's "Here And Now" demonstrating the dance and interested a lot of women viewers by stressing the point that he had lost 28 lbs. in weight!

His "Here And Now" appearance and a guest spot on last Saturday's "Thank Your Lucky Stars" were undertaken on his lightning trip to Britain last month.

For just a few days, Chubby flew in from a hectic schedule of appearances in other parts of Europe and did his utmost to raise even more interest in the dance. Perhaps the climax of his visit was when he showed EMI chairman Sir Joseph Lockwood how to do the Twist at a party towards the end of his stay!

Well, with the first week of 1962, it looks as if we are off to a twisting start. And if I can make a New Year prediction (ignoring the fact that once I doubted if any Twist discs would get into the charts), I think the Twist will be with us for some time! **MIKE HELICAR**



Another disc takes time JOHN LEYTON WAS WORRIED!

—but he's not
any more!



ONE of the biggest mysteries in the recording industry during the past month has been the absence of John Leyton's new disc, "Son This Is She," from the best-sellers. Remember that his previous two releases had come zooming into the charts virtually on the day of their issue—but for the past three weeks there has been no sign of his follow-up record.

Not only has this puzzled the music business, but it has also provided a talking point amongst our readers—many of whom have defied the postal go-slow to comment on this unexpected situation.

Now the omission has been rectified and today a much-relieved John makes his belated appearance—albeit at the relatively low placing of No. 25. Nevertheless there is still widespread speculation on why it has taken so long to achieve chart status, especially as it had a pretty substantial advance order.

The major fly in the ointment was obviously Christmas. Not only did the holiday rush delay many of the new releases in reaching the shops, but the tremendous demand for records during this period created absolute chaos in many stores.

Under these circumstances it is perhaps not surprising that some aspects of the Top Thirty may appear a little haywire.

But what about the big advance order for "Son This Is She"? It's true that a pretty hefty figure had been amassed before the disc was released—a reliable source places it at around 75,000—but remember that our dealers' returns reflect only those records which have actually been sold over the counter, and not those which are in the order book.

Not so big

In any case, this wasn't such a large advance as for John's previous release, "Wild Wind." I'm told that there were practically 200,000 copies of this disc on order up to the morning of its release. One wonders what has happened to the other 100,000-odd, who didn't order "Son This Is She" in advance. Maybe they were delegating their money to Christmas presents!

However, I think there's another very important point which shouldn't be overlooked. Personally I can't help wondering whether HMV have chosen the right side to exploit on this disc, for the coupling "Six White Horses" is equally as strong, and may well be splitting the sales.

It seems that some disc-jockeys have also taken a preference for this track. It was noticeable, for instance, that Jean Metcalfe played this side in the all-important "Two-Way Family Favourites" last Sunday.

The reason why "Son This Is She" was chosen as the "A" side of the record is simply that it's a

ballad. In other words, it's something of a contrast to John's previous two issues. The object of this move was to ensure that John did not get himself into a rut—to let the fans see that he could cope with any type of material.

This point has certainly been proved. Indeed, one has only to listen to his "Two Sides Of John Leyton" album which was reviewed in detail a few weeks ago, to realise how versatile is this young artist.

But it does raise the question of the advisability of giving the public something different from what they expect, so far as the hit parade is concerned. Obviously there are points on both sides.

Contrasting

Pet Clark followed her smash hit "Sailor" with the contrasting "Something Missing"—with the result that the only thing missing was Pet from the charts! On the other hand, you couldn't wish for anything more unorthodox than Acker Bilk's "Stranger On The Shore"—and look what that has achieved!

Clearly it's a move which requires very careful deliberation. And I know that John Leyton's handlers devoted much time to considering this policy. I think in the long run that they have probably taken a wise decision, for if an artist becomes too stereotyped, it can mean curtains. Remember Jimmy Jones?

All the same, I can't help wondering what might have happened if "Six White Horses," which is very much in John's usual style, had been the "A" side. As it is, there is vast interest being shown in this title. It's pretty obvious that many fans are buying the record specifically for this track (and, of course, if they ask for this side in the shops, it will prove detrimental to "Son This Is She" in the dealers' returns).

So it could well be that "Six White Horses" may make a chart entry in its own right. We shall see!

But in any event, whichever way the wind blows, there's no doubt that John Leyton has made a lasting impression upon the music business. I rate him one of the most important discoveries of 1961—and with several showcase films coming up in the New Year, it could transpire that he will make an even greater impact in 1962. **BRUCE CHARLTON**

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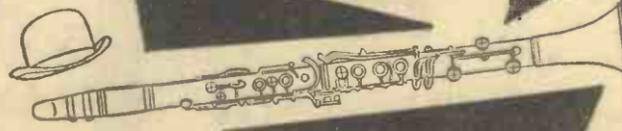
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AND NOW ELVIS DOES TWIST!

THE New Year starts off in fine style with many of the top stars featured in the first week's releases, headed by the biggest seller of them all, Elvis Presley. On RCA he sings "Rock-A Hula Baby," which is billed as a "Twist Special."

CARTER/LEWIS

"Two Timing Baby" is a pleasant-sounding rocker on the Ember label featuring Carter, Lewis and the Southerners.

Medium-pace with ear-pleasing harmonising. "Will It Happen To Me" is on the slow side, a romantic ditty worth one go round the turntable.

But I don't think you'll feel forced to give it a second go!

Strong vocal and instrumental support from the ever-faithful Jordanaires helps make this a very lively offering with far more of the rock element than the hula.

Not an outstanding performance from Elvis—this disc will sell on the strength of the overall sound. "Can't Help Falling In Love" is more distinctive Presley. A slow romantic ballad in which Elvis emotes to great effect. Melodious and attractive.

A lot will be heard of 'Shalom'

A STRONG and beautiful ballad called "Shalom" (from the Broadway musical "Milk And Honey") is going to be heard plenty often in the next few weeks.

POTTED POPS

BILL BLACK'S COMBO (London) toots out "Twist-Her"; good for the dance floor, dullish for listening. "My Girl Josephine" is a jerky rock-beat number, good for d-f, d for l!

THE McGUIRE SISTERS (Coral) will delight with their sparkling rendition of "Old Devil Moon." "I Can Dream Can't I" is slow and richly romantic. The Sisters are as skilful as ever.

TONY SHERIDAN and the Beatles (Polydor) are a young British group who display a welcome amount of imagination in their treatment of "The Saints." This and "My Bonnie" are both worth a listen for the above-average ideas.

"Shalom" is a Jewish word of greeting, and the song is about all the meanings it can have.

Dickie Valentine has recorded the song for Pye—and a wonderful job he's made of it, too.

Peter Knight conducts the orchestra and chorus in an arrangement that makes the most of the lovely melody.

Flipside is "I'll Never Love Again," a satin-and-silk ballad, lush, luxurious and very enjoyable.

"Shalom" can also be heard from Eddie Fisher on HMV, in a tougher, more dramatic arrangement that inevitably comes over with more sadness and less warmth than the Valentine version.

Both discs are of an equally high standard but there's this slight difference in approach—you pay your money and you take your choice.

Eddie backs up with the title song from "Milk And Honey." A wonderfully vital song, swaggering, powerful and exciting—a great tune too, that could just remind you of the theme music from "Giant." Such is the impact of this song that I'd tip it for the hit parade if it weren't for the non-commercial lyric.

by ALLEN EVANS

*** RAZZMATAZZ AND ALL THAT JAZZ (Pye) is bang up-to-date by being bang-on 1920s style! The combined and successful efforts of the harmonising Viscounts, boop-a-doing Lorie Mann, and an oom-pah-pah band conducted by David Ede and titled his "Electric Wireless Orchestra." I liked best the take-off of Eden Kane's hit, "Well I Ask You," sung oh so poshly by Viscount Ronnie Wells. Lorie is best in "Get Out And Get Under," and the orchestra are let loose, Temperance Seven style, in "The Sheik Of Araby." Good fun.

*** MILLIGAN PRESERVED (Parlophone) is real gone man! Spike fans will revel in this delicious bit of lunacy, and I found specially hilarious his long explanation of how the common cold was invented! And "Have They Gone," featuring Spike and his small guitar, is a riot. The sleeve notes are written in Arabic (I think), and helping the arch goon are such names as Graham Stark, Valentine Dyal and Bill Kerr.



KEITH FORDYCE

reviews some star-studded singles

THE BEST FROM LONNIE FOR SOME TIME

"THE Comancheros" on Pye, is the best Lonnie Donegan record that we've had for quite some time. A Mexican mood pervades the whole disc, though the story of a gunman on the run starts in New Orleans.



EDEN KANE spent the New Year in Sweden, where he scored a terrific hit at Gothenburg.

Fastish, compelling rhythm is very good, vocal performance is first class and the use of brass in the accompaniment is just right.

Song is well out of the usual run and makes a worthwhile spin on any turntable. Reckon it will be a big hit for Lonnie. "Ramblin' Round" is a Donegan original; lazy-paced and slightly reminiscent of "Life Gets Teejus."

Memorable one from Eden

"Forget Me Not" is the plea from Eden Kane and I don't think he need worry; plenty of people are going to remember him for this song.

Medium-paced with the distinctive "Kane" rhythm, a spot-on-the-target lyric and a most attractive melody. Bouquets to all concerned in the making of this disc, which must certainly become a hit.

"A New Kind Of Lovin'" is a growling type rocker—performance is better than the material. Label is Decca.

NAT HENTOFF'S AMERICAN AIRMAIL

Elvis stirs it up again

THAILAND may ban Elvis Presley movies as the result of a ruckus that occurred at a recent screening there of "Blue Hawaii."

• Nat Cole's new, three-year contract at the Sands in Las Vegas calls for 24 weeks work at \$540,000.

• The climax of the recent American Society of African Culture festival in Nigeria was the explosive Lionel Hampton band.

• Doris Day's newest hobby is collecting sculpture.

• According to Louella Parsons, "My Fair Lady" will finally be filmed in 1964 with Vincente Minelli directing. Rex Harrison has been offered his original role.

• Paul Anka's Copacabana act was televised as the pilot film for what may be a regular CBS network series next year that would feature a different night club performer each week.

Reprise scoop

• The all-star show Frank Sinatra arranged for the inauguration gala of President Kennedy will finally be released by his Reprise Records. Proceeds will be shared by the label and the Democratic Party.

• More indications of Sammy Davis Jr's acting versatility: in the next few weeks, he'll be an embittered former slave on the G.E. Theatre, a navy frogman on "Hennessy," and he'll be back in the old west in "Rawhide."

• The Kingston Trio are up for a comedy television series next season.

• Frank Sinatra may star in the movie version of the long-term Broadway comedy hit, "Come Blow Your Horn."



• Bobby Darin (above) is trying hard to get the lead in the movie version of "Fiorello."

• Frankie Avalon gets his most important dramatic role yet in the movie, "Survival," starring Ray Milland. It's about the effects of an atom bomb.

• Patti Page's next movie will be "Boys' Night Out" with Kim Novak and Tony Randall.

• Duke Ellington is writing a television show for Lena Horne.

• There's a good chance that Frank Sinatra's Reprise Records may sign Charlie Mingus.

CLIFF SINGS TITLE FROM FILM HIT

TITLE song from that brilliantly successful British musical film, "The Young Ones," can be heard from Cliff Richard on Columbia. With accompaniment by the Shadows and a big string section, this is an appealing and tuneful ballad-with-rhythm—or call it a light rocker with ballad treatment, if you prefer it that way.

Flipside also comes from the film and it's a straight and punchy rocker from the pens of Peter Gormley, Bruce Welch and Hank Marvin.

Titled "We Say Yeah" it's a good 'un. For those who haven't yet seen it I can add that there are plenty more excellent songs in this not-to-be-missed movie.

SUE THOMPSON

The girl who had a big hit Stateside with "Sad Movies" (it didn't catch on here) Sue Thompson, can be heard again on Polydor, this time with "Norman."

Song was penned by John D. Loudermilk and turns out to be a slightly old-fashioned, slightly oom-pah-pah ditty, singing the praises, quite naturally, of one Norman.

Lyric is in the teenager category, overall effect is unusual and quite entertaining. "Never Love Again" is a slow, sad ballad.

RAY/YURO

A most surprising team of duettists turns up on the London label, singing "I Believe"—namely Timi Yuro and Johnnie Ray. Miss Yuro sings forcefully but in his solo parts Johnnie sounds quite inexplicably lacking in confidence.

Coupling is "Smile," taken as a solo by Timi Yuro but in a way that suggests an impression of Johnnie Ray.

A strange release altogether but one that could be of interest to a lot of listeners.

Como faces very tough opposition

The old team—RCA label, Mitchell Ayres orchestra, and singer Perry Como. Their new offering is "You're Following Me," a beat number with a good teenage lyric.

Not so strong in the melody department, but a toe-tapping winner all the way.

Chorus supplies plenty of "doo wahs," rest of the backing is mainly guitars and drums and piano.

"Especially For The Young," finds Como at his smoothest in this tuneful dreamy ballad. As always the arrangement is top-class.

Mr. Como faces tough opposition on "You're Following Me" from a newcomer called Jimmy Breedlove. Young Jimmy gives a fabulous performance with an amazingly husky voice and a terrific personality.

Backing cleverly mixes the quiet with the explosive. Take my word for it, this disc has everything and given the airings can be a smasher.

No kidding, you can buy this disc without even hearing it first—I'll stake my shirt on it.

Flip of Jimmy's Pye International disc is "Fabulous," a slow but punchy rocker, well put over.

DON GIBSON

The lad who specialises in being lonesome, Don Gibson, comes up with an attractive c-and-w number titled "Lonesome Number One."

Keeps moving at a fair pace with a rippling rhythm in the background and with a pleasant melody.

Simplicity is the main part of the appeal of this disc. "The Same Old Trouble" deals with guess what? Yup, lonesomeness.

Nevertheless Don can somehow make even that hardship sound attractive. On RCA.

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PETER GORDENO

You're following me

H.M.V. 45-POP964

ROBERT HOLLIDAY and his Orchestra

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H.M.V. 45-POP965

LEE & PAUL

The Happy Gondolier

CAPITOL 45-CL15235

THE LETTERMEN

When I fall in love

45-MGM1146

JIMMY JONES

Mr. Music Man

COLUMBIA 45-DB4755

PAUL HAMPTON

Nothing's impossible (if you really want it bad enough)

COLUMBIA 45-DB4764

TEDDY JOHNSON & PEARL CARR

Be mine

H.M.V. 45-POP966

ADAM WADE

Preview of Paradise

MISTAKES

c/w If only tomorrow

The Kaye Sisters



PHILIPS PB1208

NME MUSIC CHARTS

BEST SELLING POP RECORDS IN BRITAIN

(Wednesday, January 3, 1962)

Table with 2 columns: Last This Week, Record Title, Artist, Label. Includes entries like 'STRANGER ON THE SHORE' by Acker Bilk, 'MOON RIVER' by Danny Williams, etc.

BEST SELLING SHEET MUSIC IN BRITAIN

(Tuesday, January 2, 1962)

Table with 2 columns: Last This Week, Record Title, Artist, Label. Includes entries like 'MOON RIVER' by Chappell, 'TOWER OF STRENGTH' by Chappell, etc.

BEST SELLING POP RECORDS IN U.S.

(Tuesday, January 2, 1962)

Table with 2 columns: Last This Week, Record Title, Artist, Label. Includes entries like 'THE LION SLEEPS TONIGHT' by Tokens, 'THE TWIST' by Chubby Checker, etc.

NEW HITS

EDEN KANE

FORGET ME NOT

45-F 11418 Decca

THE

EVERLY BROTHERS

CRYING IN THE RAIN; I'M NOT ANGRY

45-WB 56 Warner Bros.

PERRY COMO

YOU'RE FOLLOWING ME

45/RCA-1271 RCA

DON GIBSON

LONESOME NUMBER ONE

45/RCA-1272 RCA

HANK LOCKLIN

FROM HERE TO THERE TO YOU

45/RCA-1273 RCA

WELL I TOLD YOU

THE CHANTELS

45-HLL 9480 London

IT WILL STAND

THE SHOWMEN

45-HLP 9481 London

HAPPY JOSE

JACK ROSS chorus and orchestra

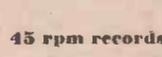
45-HLD 9485 London

THE

McGUIRE SISTERS

I CAN DREAM CAN'T I

45-Q 72446 Coral



The Decca Record Company Ltd Decca House Albert Embankment London SE1



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 Advertisement Manager:
 PERCY C. DICKINS

Shadows, Barber snow victims

HUNDREDS of the Shadows' fans turned up at Leicester's De Montfort Hall for their two concerts last Sunday—only to be turned away.

The group was snowbound in Stockton-on-Tees, where it is appearing in pantomime, so the package show—featuring Danny Williams and Frank Ifield—had to be called off.

The disappointed audience was told that it could either have ticket money refunded, or attend the concert which promoter Arthur Kimbrell will stage at a later date.

The Chris Barber Band had a succession of misfortunes on its way to Manchester on Sunday for ABC-TV's "Sunday Break."

The band van was involved in an accident on the way to London Airport. This caused some delay, but when they reached the airport it was impossible to get any flights to Manchester.

The band then returned to central London and caught a train. This was so delayed that they arrived at ABC studios as the programme was about to go on the air and without time for camera rehearsals.

The Allison's had to travel from London to Rhyll on Saturday, but managed to get through. They were delayed, but were able to make their entrance on time.

DENVER HEADS DECCA EUROVISION ENTRIES

KARL DENVER is to head Decca's contingent in the preliminary heat of the Eurovision Song Contest next month. He will be supported by actor-singer Doug Sheldon—whose "Runaround Sue" was a Top Ten entrant six weeks ago—and Robb Storme.

Other participating disc firms—EMI (3 entrants), Philips (3), Pye (2) and Oriole (1)—have yet to select their artists for the heat, which is being held on Sunday, February 11.

EMI is following the same selection procedure as last year; a-and-r managers have until January 18 to select and record artists.

They will be played to an internal judging panel, made up of employees to represent "the television viewing audience."

When the BBC's finalist is chosen, he will go forward to the Eurovision contest being held in Luxembourg on Sunday, March 18.

New disc signings

VOCAL GROUP MAKE PICCADILLY DEBUT

A NEW vocal-instrumental group, the Countrymen, makes its bow on Piccadilly soon. They are one of the first assignments for a-and-r executive Ray Horricks, who started with Pye this week after a long association with Decca.

The group took the place of the Brook Brothers on "Easy Beat" last week. No titles are set for release. A session is planned for later this month.

Horricks' last single for Decca is issued next Friday—Anthony Newley's "I'll Walk Beside You."

A Cardiff group and its singer have both been signed by Oriole's new pop recording chief, John Schroeder. They are the Gary Edwards Combo and singer Tony Sheverson.

They came up to London to audition for agent Tito Burns, who recommended them to Schroeder. They record for Oriole next week.

Former Shadows drummer Tony Meehan directed the instrumental accompaniment on Michael Cox's "Young Only Once" and "Honey, 'Cause I Love You," which is issued next week by Parlophone. This was his first MD duty after leaving the Shadows. He acted in the same capacity with the group.

Names in the News

JOE LOSS' "Twistin' The Mood" has been licensed by EMI for U.S. release by FTP Records.

ALAN FREEMAN begins a special "Pick Of The Pops" series in the BBC's general overseas service today (Friday).

KENNY BALL has been signed for five of the first six programmes in the Light Programme's "Get With It" series, from January 17. On the January 31 show, he is replaced by Alex Welsh.

STEVE BENBOW telerecords a four-part series for Scottish TV next week, in which he will give guitar lessons. No transmission date is set.

FAITH: MAJOR TV, RADIO SHOWS, TOUR DATES NOW SETTLED

ADAM FAITH'S first big commitment for 1962 will be a return BBC-TV guest spot with Billy Cotton. He also stars in two major radio shows, visits Denmark and resumes British dates with a major February tour.

Norman Vaughan Palladium MC

COMEDIAN-SINGER Norman Vaughan has now been confirmed as new compere of ATV's "Sunday Night At The London Palladium" in succession to Bruce Forsyth. He takes over from this Sunday (7th).

The Roy Castle/King Brothers spectacular, which was tele-recorded on December 21, will fill the first of ATV's new Wednesday "Star-time" spots on February 7. Cleo Laine and Kenny Baker are also featured.

Guest bookings for ATV-Midlands' daily "Lunch Box" show include Peter Elliott and Sylvia Sands (16th week), David Macbeth and Susan Maugham (23rd week), Frank Ifield and Sheila Southern (30th week)

REPEAT FOR TV 'SHOWBOAT'

Hughie Green's "Atlantic Showboat" spectacular, screened in January, 1959, is being repeated by ATV as a peak-hour Saturday night presentation on January 13.

Shirley Bassey, Duke Ellington, David Whitfield, Jackie Rae, the Malcolm Mitchell Trio, Allan Bruce and Joyce and Lionel Blair were among the guests in this show, which was filmed on board the *Empress of Britain*.

He makes his guest appearance on "Billy Cotton Band Show" on Saturday, January 20. He was last on the show on September 30.

Danny Williams also returns to the programme on this date, which is the first of Mrs. Mills' resident appearances on the show.

Next Thursday (11th), he makes a guest appearance in BBC Children's Television "Crackerjack" presentation.

On Wednesday, January 31, Adam is again featured in the Light Programme's "Parade Of The Pops." Three days later (Feb. 3), as already reported, he tops the bill in "Saturday Club."

DANISH TV

Adam flies to Copenhagen on Monday to make a guest appearance on Danish television the following day (9th).

Adam's February tour opens at Slough Adelphi (3rd). He then visits Ipswich (4th), Cambridge (5th), Aylesbury (6th), Bedford (7th), Sutton (8th), Rugby (10th), Derby (11th), Maidstone (14th), Kettering (15th), Grantham (16th), Mansfield (17th), Woolwich (18th), Tunbridge Wells (19th), Preston (20th), Carlisle (21st), Bradford (22nd), Romford (23rd), Guildford (24th) and Exeter (25th).

The John Barry Seven are featured on the bill with Adam and the supporting cast includes Des Lane, Johnny LeRoy, compere Dave Reid and latest Fontana discovery Brad Newman.

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 GRANADA, MANSFIELD, SAT., JAN. 20th, 6.0 & 8.15 p.m.

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JANUARY—FEBRUARY BALLROOM TOURS
 include **ADAM FAITH**
 EDEN KANE, KARL DENVER TRIO
 SHANE FENTON and the FENTONES
 Enquiries: George Cooper and Harry Dawson

Decca pop team to visit States

DECCA'S new pop singles team—headed by Dick Rowe, former Shadows drummer Tony Meehan and engineer Peter Attwood—flies to America next week to survey the pop music scene.

Rowe will remain in New York for twelve days, afterwards returning to Britain, but Meehan (travelling with his wife) and Attwood also plan to visit Nashville.

A fourth member, Mike Smith, will remain in charge of pop singles.

The team was set up last month to increase Decca's success with singles by British artists.

BOB WALLIS TV AND TOUR DATES

Bob Wallis and his Storyville Jazzmen, who star in BBC "Jazz Club" on January 18, have been signed for a guest appearance in BBC-TV's "Charlie Chester Show" 10 days later.

Other January dates include Woolwich (7th), Aylesbury (9th), Northampton (11th), Norwich (13th), Wakefield (14th), Woking (15th), Huddersfield (19th), Nelson (20th), Oldham (21st), Leicester (23rd), Ilford (25th) and Cambridge (26th).

Basie return almost set

THE Count Basie Band is virtually set for a return three-week tour of Britain opening on March 31. This is one of the results of impresario Harold Davison's current New York visit, cables Nat Hentoff.

Davison is also finalising a two-week Louis Armstrong itinerary to begin here at the end of April and separate tours by Sarah Vaughan and London-born George Shearing—his first since emigrating—for the autumn.

DELANEY BAND IN 65 ONE-NIGHTERS!

THE Eric Delaney Band is featured in 65 one-nighter shows and two full weeks of variety, all sponsored by various manufacturers, this spring. They will be fitted in between February 11 and May 19.

The two full weeks are at Streatham Hill Theatre (March 26) and Finsbury Park Astoria (May 7).

In addition, Delaney tours Germany with U.S. singing star Jeri Southern for two weeks from March 1. The band is also booked for the month of June in Germany and there are discussions about an Australian visit in July or August.

GALBRAITH RE-BOOKED

Charles Galbraith and his Jazzmen, who topped the bill at the Palais De Congress in Liege, Belgium, on New Year's Eve, have been booked for the same event this year.



CLEO LAINE and CLIFF RICHARD were two of the many stars who appeared in last Sunday's Palladium TV show, a special performance by the Stars Organisation for Spastics. Every performer gave his and her services free.

Ella—JATP set for eleven concerts here

A ROYAL Festival Hall opening and ten provincial dates have now been revealed for the tour Ella Fitzgerald makes with a Jazz At The Philharmonic package next month.

The show's first booking will be at the London venue on Feb. 17.

Other dates included are Leeds Odeon (19th), Newcastle City Hall (23rd), Manchester Free Trade Hall (24th), Liverpool Empire (25th), Glasgow Odeon (26th), Leicester De Montfort (28th).

Birmingham Odeon (March 1), Sheffield City Hall (2nd), Southampton Gaumont (7th), Bristol Colston (8th).

Between the Sheffield and Southampton dates, Ella flies to Switzerland to star for two days at a gala function.

For the tour, Ella will be accompanied by the Paul Smith Trio and co-starring in the package will be the Coleman Hawkins-Roy Eldridge Quintet.

Songwriter dies

Joseph Tunbridge, composer of many pre-war musical comedies in association with Jack Waller, died last Thursday, aged 75. Their best-known songs were "Roll Away Clouds" and "Got A Date With An Angel."

COGAN RADIO SERIES

Alma Cogan begins recording a fresh series of quarter-hour programmes for Radio Luxembourg this month. No transmission date is arranged. She will be accompanied by her pianist Stan Foster.

Stevens first EP

Ricky Stevens, an instant hit with his first Columbia single, "I Cried For You" (now No. 23)—is scheduled to make his first EP. Titles will include "If I Had My Way, Dear" and Johnnie Ray's big hit, "Cry."

Postponed from this week, RCA issue Elvis Presley's "Rock-a-Hula"/"Can't Help Falling In Love" coupling from the "Blue Hawaii" LP next Friday.

JOHNNY MATHIS MAY PLAY ULSTER DATE

JOHNNY MATHIS may visit Ulster for the first time during his return British tour of one-nighters this spring.

A May 29 date at King's Hall, Belfast, is being discussed by impresario Philip Solomons and Vic Lewis, who is bringing Mathis over again.

Another Solomons venture starring Miki and Griff with Hughie Green, is for four days at Belfast's Ulster Hall from March 12. The show plays one night in Londonderry on March 16.

U.S. praise for Holly 'Tribute'

MIKE BERRY'S hit waxing of "Tribute To Buddy Holly" has caught the attention of American disc jockeys and also of the late Buddy's mother and father, Mr. and Mrs. L. O. Holley.

In a letter to Mike this week, they say that the disc is "a wonderful, sincere tribute in song" to their son. They add, too, that the disc is proving very popular with d-j's.

However, the record—released here on the HMV label—hasn't yet been generally released in the States. Only a few copies have so far found their way to the U.S.

Mudlarks back

THE Mudlarks this week began rehearsals for their comeback, following injuries received in a road accident last November.

Their first date will be next Wednesday's pre-recording for the Light Programme's "Easy Beat" on January 14.

<p>Garry Mills TREASURE ISLAND <small>45-7 11415 Decca</small></p>	<p>Ted Heath TONIGHT <small>from 'West Side Story'</small> <small>45-F 11410 Decca</small></p>
<p>Bryan Johnson LOVE THEME FROM 'EL CID' <small>45-F 11411 Decca</small></p>	<p>Bill Black's Combo TWIST-HER <small>45-ELU 9479 London</small></p>

In U.S. disc-jockey poll

MONRO TWICE HONOURED: NEWLEY, DONEGAN NAMED

BRITISH singers and composers scored heavily in the 1961 disc-jockey poll conducted by the U.S. music trade paper "Billboard." Matt Monro won two top places while Anthony Newley, Lonnie Donegan and Hayley Mills were placed among the American d-j's' favourite international artists.

CLIFF, EDEN KANE IN 'POPS PARADE'

CLIFF RICHARD and Eden Kane both return to the Light Programme's Wednesday lunch-time series "Parade Of The Pops" on January 17.

The following week (24th) marks the return of Danny Williams after only six weeks absence. Matt Monro also guests on this date, as previously reported.

With Vince Hill leaving the Raindrops to go solo, a change in the resident line-up has been introduced. Vince and Bob Miller's singer, Lynn Collins will now handle all vocals, while the Raindrops leave to rehearse their new member, John Padley, formerly of the Jones Boys.

SHIRLEY AND HER HUSBAND ON 'JURY'

SHIRLEY BASSEY returns to BBC-TV's "Juke Box Jury" on Saturday, January 13, her third time on the show. She will be joined by her husband, Kenneth Hume.

Songwriter Ross Parker and actress Susan Castle complete the line-up.

The following week (20th), the Jury consists of disc-jockey Alan Freeman, music publisher Jimmy Henney, and actresses Miriam Karlin and June Thorburn.

Variety dates for disc duo

THREE variety dates have been set for Nina and Frederik before their long British summer season this year. They are weeks at Golders Green Hippodrome (April 2), Streat-hill Theatre (9th) and Bradford Alhambra (23rd).

The week of April 16 is being reserved for television in Britain and it is likely that a week of one-nighters will be arranged from April 30.

Nina and Frederik are anxious to tele-record some major TV shows with a view to world-wide screening.

If negotiations are successfully completed, this will occupy them from early May until their June 9 opening for a 20-week season at Blackpool Queens as reported in last week's NME.

DANNY FOR COVENTRY

Danny Williams, Ricky Stevens and the John Barry Seven are featured in a concert at the Coventry Theatre on Sunday, February 4. New disc artists, Peter Gordeno and Van Doren, are also on the bill.

BROWN-PARNES SPLIT

The three-year management association between singer-guitarist Joe Brown and impresario Larry Parnes ended last Saturday. However, Joe will appear in several stage shows organised by Parnes this year.

Fury film track waxing next week

RECORDING work on "Play It Cool," the Anglo-Amalgamated musical film which will give Billy Fury his first acting-singing role, begins on Monday.

Decca pop a-and-r chief Dick Rowe, who has also written some of the numbers, is supervising the recording. Danny Williams is the latest pop star to be signed for the film—he will make a guest appearance like Helen Shapiro and Shane Fenton.

Although two EMI recording managers—Norman Newell and Norrie Paramor—are contributing to the score, Rowe is producing the sound track because Fury is a Decca artist.

MANTOVANI TO TOUR BRITAIN IN MARCH

MANTOVANI once again makes a short British tour of major concert halls this spring. Later this year he completes his seventh U.S. itinerary and negotiations are in hand for him to visit Japan for the first time.

His spring tour begins at Leicester De Montfort on Sunday, March 25.

This is followed, on consecutive days, by Sheffield City Hall (26th), Manchester Free Trade Hall, York Rialto, Portsmouth Guildhall and Bournemouth Winter Gardens ending at London's Royal Albert Hall (31st).

If the Japan tour materialises, it will be in May or June. Enquiries have also been received from Czechoslovakia and Australia.

Mantovani begins his next U.S. tour at the end of September. It will last for nine weeks, and was arranged during his long concert series which ended last month.

Audio takes over Conrad waxing

AUDIO ENTERPRISE—the independent recording organisation which produced Eden Kane's Decca hits "Well I Ask You" and "Get Lost"—is to make Jess Conrad's recordings in the future. The discs will continue to be issued by Decca.

Headed by Phillip Waddilove and Michael Barclay, Audio is also recording discs by Joe Brown for release on Pye. His latest single, "What A Crazy World," was taped by the company during a show at Woolwich last autumn.

David Whitfield: second musical

DAVID WHITFIELD is to take the leading role in another musical next year—a short time after spending nearly eighteen months in "Rose Marie."

He will star in Tom Arnold's presentation of "The Desert Song," which is due to begin a six-month provincial run in April at a theatre yet to be arranged.

Discussions are also taking place for the musical to move into a London residency when the tour is over.

Bing's film on BBC-TV

Bing Crosby stars on BBC-TV in "The Bells Of St. Mary's," in which he plays the part of a priest, on January 7. It is the first of a new series of Sunday afternoon feature films.

PARIS DATES FOR BROOK BROTHERS

Brook Brothers fly to Paris on Monday to fulfil two important engagements. That evening they guest in a major television show. The following day they appear at Olympia Music Hall in "Musico-rama" which is being broadcast throughout France.

Geoff Brook has now recovered from his illness. The duo was able to film his contribution to the "It's Trad Dad" movie this week.

Greco going North

American singer-pianist Buddy Greco plays a Sunday concert at the Manchester Free Trade Hall on February 3, with Cleo Laine and the Johnny Dankworth Orchestra.

Two days later he opens in cabaret at the new London night spot, Bal Tabarin.

ACKER RETURNS TO 'EASY BEAT'

ACKER BILK'S Paramount Jazz Band returns to the Light Programme's "Easy Beat" on Sunday, March 11 and 18. The other two Sundays in March will spotlight the Alex Welsh Band.

Terry Lightfoot's Jazzmen are featured every Sunday in February. Although "Pick Of The Pops" has now separated from "Trad Tavern," records will still be heard in the Saturday night trad series. A weekly spot will be devoted to favourite jazz discs.

Two vocalists end fan clubs

FAN clubs for Marion Ryan and Valerie Masters have been closed down by organiser Bill Badley—because their 1962 plans will not keep them in contact with their fans!

Marion Ryan's big contract with Granada-TV, which commits her to many major showcases and her overseas bookings have caused her to close her club.

Valerie, who is married to her manager Dick Katz, expects their first child next year and plans to retire for some time.

FRANKIE VAUGHAN CONCERTS, HOME-TOWN THEATRE DATES

FRANKIE VAUGHAN undertakes two more concert dates later this month. In February, he headlines a "birthday show" at Liverpool Empire in his home town. He will again be accompanied by Billy Ternent and his Orchestra.

He is set to appear at Bournemouth Winter Gardens (January 27) and Portsmouth Guildhall (28th). He stars at Liverpool on February 4, the day after his birthday!

Vaughan may also undertake an eight-day concert tour in Israel next month. Later this month, there is the possibility of a trip to Switzerland and a return visit to Milan for TV.

FOREIGN VISITS

There are also negotiations for appearances in France and Spain later this year.

Vaughan's Philips LP, "Let Me Sing And I'm Happy," will be issued in America this month on Mercury—one of the first British-made LPs chosen by the U.S. label since it became part of Philips last summer.

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DONEGAN AND KINGS FOR 'LUCKY STARS'

LONNIE DONEGAN, Danny Williams, the King Brothers and the Allisons are among many pop artists set for ABC-TV's "Thank Your Lucky Stars" this month.

The Kaye Sisters and Ruby Murray join Donegan in the show next week—January 13. The cast also includes guitarist Dennis Newey and newcomer Brad Newman.

The following week (20th), the Allisons, the Kings and Williams are featured. Peter Elliott and Robert Earl are also in the cast.

The revised line-up for the show tomorrow (Saturday) is Don Arrol, the Brook Brothers, Shane Fenton, Miki and Griff, Carol Deene and guest d-j Brook Denning.

Viewers in the London region will not see the programme after tomorrow—it has been dropped from the schedules by ATV, who are replacing it with repeats of "Sword Of Freedom."

Vee and Orlando TV projects

A HOST of radio and TV dates are being arranged for Bobby Vee and Tony Orlando during their big tour which, as fully reported in last week's NME, opens at Doncaster Gaumont on February 9.

Tito Burns, who is presenting the package with Arthur Howes, has negotiated appearances for both the U.S. singers on ABC's "Thank Your Lucky Stars" and the panel of BBC's "Juke Box Jury."

They will also appear in Southern-TV shows and negotiations for dates are taking place for appearances with AR.

Vee is set to perform in both "Saturday Club" and "Easy Beat." Exact dates have not yet been finalised.

Teenage singer-pianist Suzy Cope has been added to the touring package which will be accompanied by the Checkmates, the breakaway group which used to be with Emile Ford and is led by his brother George.

MITCHELL TRIO FOR PALLADIUM

THE Malcolm Mitchell Trio has been booked for two weeks in variety at the London Palladium, starting May 14, and a ten-week summer season at Brighton Hippodrome—with Helen Shapiro topping both bills. They will also accompany Nina and Frederik on their spring tour.

JOAN REGAN AT COVENTRY

Joan Regan will be one of the stars in Coventry Theatre's annual spring show. It opens for a season on Tuesday, April 3.

Also in the production will be the Dallas Boys, as previously reported. Joan ended her exclusive two-year BBC-TV contract on Sunday and is now negotiating her first ITV bookings.

Minstrels going to Australia

The Black And White Minstrels show is to be staged in Australia next autumn, it was confirmed in London this week. A Sydney opening date of Tuesday, October 9, is planned.

Principal singers and featured artists will be British. They are now being chosen by Cyril Berlin, who negotiated the deal with Minstrels' impresario Robert Luff.

Moss Empires confirmed reports that the Minstrels are to have a West End season at Victoria Palace this spring. No opening date was given.

Dill's score

JAZZ pianist-arranger Dill Jones, who left Britain to settle in America a few months ago, has written the music for a new stage musical which will be premiered in London next autumn.

Written by Gwyn Thomas, the show—as yet untitled—is set in Cardiff's Tiger Bay area.

LEYTON FILM RELEASE

John Leyton's short colour film, "The Johnny Leyton Touch" in which he features both sides of his current record, is now being generally released on the ABC circuit on February 4.

Leyton who was suffering from laryngitis last week, did not appear on BBC-TV's "A Pair Of Jacks" last Saturday. He was wrongly announced for the show by the BBC.

30,000 LP PRIZES!

Thirty thousand Golden Guinea LPs are being offered in a record competition organised by Heinz Foods—probably the biggest competition involving long-playing discs ever launched.

Star-studded 'Club' shows

THE Viscounts return to Light Programme's "Saturday Club" on February 10, when they are joined by Keith Kelly, Colin Day, the Red Price Combo and the Mike Cotton Band. As previously reported, Helen Shapiro tops the bill.

Additional bookings for the February 3 show include the Eric Delaney Band, the Polka Dots, Ray Pilgrim and Joy and Dave.

The Alex Welsh Band, the Ted Taylor Four, Al Saxon and Phil Fernando are featured in the January 27 show—plus Shane Fenton and the Springfields.

HELEN SHAPIRO VARIETY DATES

HELEN SHAPIRO is set for two variety dates in the spring, prior to her headlining engagement in the second of the London Palladium variety fortnights on May 14.

She is booked for Shrewsbury Granada (March 19 week) and Glasgow Empire (April 9 week). Other dates are likely.

At Shrewsbury, she will be supported by the Dale Sisters, the Four Jays, Gladys Morgan and the Red Price Combo.

RYDELL BACK IN FEBRUARY

BOBBY RYDELL, who stars for the second time in ATV's "Sunday Night At The London Palladium" on February 11, will spend nearly a month in Europe as part of his trip.

He is due in Britain on February 9, flying direct from Tokyo after a Far East tour.

He may play concerts here between February 12 and 17. Following his British stay, Bobby goes to Paris for a French TV appearance.

He then visits other European cities before sailing to New York on the Queen Mary from Southampton on March 8.

Bassey's ex-manager has new post

MICHAEL SULLIVAN, the man who discovered and groomed Shirley Bassey for stardom, confirmed this week that he is joining the Bernard Delfont Organisation.

He will start on February 1 when Delfont returns from his current South African trip. Sullivan, who was Shirley's manager until early last month, will concentrate on the international side of Delfont's activities.

In the meantime, he has arranged with Philips recording manager Johnny Franz to cut an LP, "Banned," by Daphne Barker and her new partner, Iain Kerr.

BERGEN, SILVERS ON ITV

Polly Bergen and Phil Silvers star in a two-person tele-recorded U.S. musical show, "Polly And Me," on Granada-TV on January 24.

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Derek Johnson nominates 10 promising artists for 1962 stardom

HERE we go again! This is the season for looking back—and forward! While some folk like to turn into the New Year on a nostalgic note, reviewing the year which has just ended, there are many who prefer to look into the future—to predict what lies ahead.

Indeed, this is the time of the year, you will recall, at which I usually stick my neck out a mile, in order to offer my suggestions as to who will be the new disc stars of the coming year.

Of course, I can't hope to give you a completely accurate forecast. If I were in a position to do so, I would undoubtedly be the world's most successful a-and-r manager! But based upon records which I've heard during the past few months, I can suggest a few names of newcomers who—with a fair share of luck, plus the right recording material—could make the top table in 1962.

I've picked six British and four American artists, each one of whom—based upon their initial promise and potential—could be well established in the disc big-time one year from now.

Let's start with the local talent, shall we? And because girl singers have staged such a fantastic fight back against male dominance in 1961—a situation which I think will be maintained in the coming year—I've chosen three boys and three girls.



PIERCE RODGERS

should already have a hit to his credit but, for some inexplicable reason, it hasn't happened. His Parlophone release of "Do You Still Love Me" was voted a unanimous hit by BBC-TV's "Juke Box Jury"—and certainly it goes along with such a swing that I was convinced it would become a hit.

But Pierce has already had more than his share of ill fortune. At his first BBC audition, a couple of backing electrical instruments got broken, and the session became a fiasco. Soon afterwards Pierce and his group, the Overlanders, had most of their equipment stolen.

Now, however, I suspect that things are looking up for 25-year-old Pierce, who first came into the public eye as a Carroll Lewis discovery.

Subsequently, he appeared on several "Oh Boy!" television shows, and landed a recording contract.

GIRLS HAVE MADE TERRIFIC RETURN TO FAVOUR

"Do You Still Love Me" was Pierce's first release, and I reckon it shows very great promise for the future.



LENA MARTELL

will not be an unknown name to you, for this young Glaswegian has already starred in three BBC-TV shows of her own—a remarkable achievement for an artist who, until then, had never made a record!

Lena arrived in London in 1958, determined to find fame and fortune, though she found it extremely hard graft at the outset.

But eventually she plucked up courage to go along to the Bagatelle Restaurant for an audition—and it was here that the owner, Jack Fox, was immediately impressed by her rich, vibrant voice and compelling personality.

After being groomed by Jack for several months, he launched her as the star of his floor show—and immediately attracted interest in high show business circles. BBC-TV, much to its credit, decided to experiment by giving her a show of her own, and HMV signed her to a record contract.

Lena's first release, "Love Can Be," hasn't proved a hit—but it's a magnificent interpretation of a romantic ballad. And if only the material had been a shade stronger, it could have shot into the charts. As it is, I feel that Lena has a great deal to offer the musical world—and 1962 may well see it exploited to best advantage.



NICK VILLARD

is the young ex-merchant seaman who was launched with such clamour and excitement by Pye Records some months ago. Now 28, Nick has spent much of his life working his way around the world—and airing his talents on radio stations as far apart as New Zealand and Peru.

This year he plucked up sufficient courage to submit demonstration tapes of his singing to Pye, and they wasted no time in setting the wheels in motion.

Nick abandoned the sea, and started a new career as a disc artist—and the vehicle with which he did it was "Don Quixote."

To my way of thinking, this was a very fine performance. The fact that he didn't make the grade at first attempt was perhaps due to the novelty of the tune and the arrangement—a powerfully dramatic story told at a gallop pace by Nick's strong, lyrical voice.

Today, we're beginning to accept this type of material—thanks to John Leyton's and Rose Brennan's efforts. But maybe Nick was just a few weeks too premature in the release of this piece. At any rate, the boy has certainly got what it takes—as we shall all discover in the near future.



ANITA HARRIS

was sufficiently well thought of at EMI that she was given a Lionel Bart song and a John Barry backing for her recording debut. The disc in question was "I Haven't Got You," and it did so well in sales figures that, in the final analysis, it wasn't very far short of chart honours.

Anita is also held in high regard by BBC producers and is frequently heard on such high-rated programmes as "Saturday Club" and "Easy Beat."

Such exposure is of immense importance in the creation of record hits, and, if Anita can maintain her string of broadcasts to coincide with her next release, she will be well on the way to the top.

She also has the advantage of good looks—which viewers who have seen her on TV's "Song Parade" and "Startime" will confirm—as well as a background of dramatic training. So look out for Anita in 1962.



IAIN GREGORY

is included in my list because of the spate of actors who have recently turned to singing with phenomenal

including → New to the Charts



Guitarist turned singer

JOHN D. LOUDERMILK is 26, tall, broad-framed, dark-haired. Became noted on the Nashville scene as a discussion guitarist and later a songwriter. Chet Atkins, famous Tennessee a-and-r chief, discovered John and encouraged him to become a vocalist. He hails from Durham, North Carolina, is married to his home-town sweetheart. Due to the success of his "Language of Love" here, an album will be released soon.

actor-singers. It looks to me as though John is about to become the latest star produced by that hotbed of talent, Nashville.



CURTIS LEE

is surely the unluckiest artist of 1961. For just why his London release of "Under The Moon Of Love" never managed to climb into the charts, I'll never know—to me, that's one of the biggest mysteries of the year.

For this pounding, dynamic hand-clapper with the whistleable melody has been on most teenagers' lips for many weeks, and gets my vote as one of the best rock records of 1961. So far Curtis has had three discs, on the British market—"Pledge Of Love," "Pretty Little Angel Eyes" and the current one—and each has improved in quality.

This 20-year-old blue-eyed blond from Arizona is one of America's top heart-throbs of the moment. He was discovered by Ray Peterson, and I have a strong suspicion that we're going to hear a great deal of him in the coming months.



ANN-MARGRET

qualifies for the American section because she emigrated to the States 15 years ago, with her parents, from Sweden. A beautiful 19-year-old, Ann will soon be more than a disembodied voice to us—for her first picture, "A Pocketful Of Rainbows" is due in Britain shortly, while she has just finished making "State Fair" with Pat Boone and Bobby Darin.

From the disc point of view, Ann-Margret's "I Just Don't Understand" created a sizeable impact upon the American charts, though it didn't happen here—possibly because she is something of an unknown quantity in this country. However that situation will soon be rectified when her movies get around.

Right now in America she is being dubbed "The Female Elvis Presley" because of her rhythmic treatment of out-and-out rock numbers. Her latest release here, "Gimme Love," is just such a tune—and I'm sure that her beat appeal, coupled with her forthcoming films, is bound to register with British fans shortly.



BARRY MANN

is yet another composer-turned-singer. Having written material for many leading American disc stars (including Steve Lawrence's big hit, "Footsteps"), Barry realised his ambition to record some of his own compositions—and already the back-room boys are saying that he could become another Neil Sedaka.

When Barry's first disc was released in Britain in September—his own song "Who Put The Bomb"—he had the misfortune to find himself competing against a top British vocal group, the Viscents. His follow-up release, "Little Miss USA," hasn't so far attained the hit parade—possibly because he has so much seasonal competition at the moment.

Despite this, it's quite evident from what he has already done that Barry has an appreciable future as a singer. And provided he doesn't have to fight against too much home-based competition, he could well make his mark here before long.

So there you have them! Ten tips for 1962—and even though they may not all succeed, you can bet your life that some of them will. Anyway, good luck to all of them. For fresh talent is always healthy—and goodness knows there's plenty of it on the way up.

Happy dancers in 'Hey, Let's Twist'

I DON'T know whether the Twist will ever really catch on in this country to the extent it has in the States, but the current spate of films is bound to increase its popularity in some measure. Particularly when it's seen that it isn't so hard to do, after all.

"Hey, Let's Twist," now showing at London's Plaza Cinema, is centred on the Peppermint Lounge. Situated in New York, this restaurant is recognised as the home of the Twist.

The music, supplied by Joey Dee and the Starliners, Teddy Randazzo, Jo Ann Campbell and the Peppermint Loungers, is both compelling and well performed.

The most notable number is "The Peppermint Twist," by Joey Dee. It is already a hit in the States and might make the charts here when the film is generally released.

But for me the most intriguing feature is the gay shots of teenagers happily Twisting, sprinkled liberally throughout. There is also an above-average story concerning the Peppermint Lounge's rise from an obscure Italian eating-house to the most talked-about restaurant in New York. CHRIS WILLIAMS



JOEY DEE and JO ANN CAMPBELL lead the dancing in "Hey, Let's Twist." Joey had plans to visit Europe in connection with the opening of the picture, but found himself in too great demand in the United States. But he hopes to come to Britain soon.

success. Iain probably stands as good a chance as any of his contemporaries, since he springs from the same stable as John Leyton—sharing his manager and musical director.

Iain has an extremely pleasant singing voice, and is currently making quite a reputation for himself as a TV heart-throb, with his role as Blondel in the "Richard The Lion Heart" series. To strike a parallel, remember that it was in the "Biggles" TV series that John Leyton first captured attention.

Being a member of Equity, he hasn't had much opportunity to give TV coverage to his latest Pye release, "Can't You Hear The Beat Of A Broken Heart"—but with the full weight of the Pye organisation behind him I'm sure that he will make up the leeway with his follow-up recording.



SUZY COPE

is well and truly in the idiom of the day, in that she is still only 16. And when one considers the success of Helen Shapiro and Brenda Lee, one realises that there is room at the top for Brighton-born Suzy.

She, too, is a Carroll Lewis discovery—though her big break came when she travelled up to London for an audition at the celebrated Stork Room. It so happened that Sammy Davis and American composer Jule Styne were present when she sang, and both raved about her remarkable ability.

She was signed to a recording contract and, as if to prove the range of her versatility, her first disc offering was one of her own compositions, "Teenage Fool"—in which she captured the essence of today's beat craze.

Unfortunately, I don't think the melodic content of the song was quite strong enough for it to catch on, and it could be that Suzy needs a little more experience as a composer before she can gain success with her own material. But vocally, she's got just about everything—as time will surely tell.

... and the Americans

SO much for the British potentials—though, if there were sufficient room, I would also have included Glenda Collins and Cliff Bennett as probable contenders for disc honours. But now let us turn to our American friends.

Here again, I have had to whittle down the numbers and in the process, I have been obliged to omit two strong candidates in Leroy Van Dyke and Joe Dowell. But let's look at these four:

JOHN D. LOUDERMILK

gets my vote. I must confess, after only a couple of hearings of his "Language Of Love" RCA release—and I nominate him for 1962 disc stardom for several reasons.

First, it's an extremely catchy and totally irresistible record—both in conception and treatment. Secondly, John stems from the country-and-western idiom, which is fast increasing in popularity over here. And thirdly, he has a sensational gimmick in his name, which simply can't be ignored!

John is basically a composer, having written many hits for such artists as the Everly Brothers, Bobby Vee, Ricky Nelson, Connie Francis and Bob Luman.

And, of course, writer-singers are as much in the vogue today as are

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(BLOCK LETTERS)

Wallis band's success proves NME forecast!

ALTHOUGH we're fully aware that it's not the done thing to pat oneself on the back, we nevertheless feel that the entry to the best sellers of the Bob Wallis band's Pye waxing of "Come Along Please" entitles the NME to indulge in a little of the same this week.

Why? During last year, we recognised the hit parade potential of the Wallis band and introduced the group to NME readers at our "Big Stars Of 1961" concert presentation at Wembley Empire Pool. We felt the band would be a hit—and we were so right.

Trumpeter Bob and his sidemen turned in a romping, stomping performance which prompted many of us to suppose that it would only be a matter of time before this swinging outfit found its way into the charts with Bilk, Ball and Lightfoot.

The tune that has done the trick for Bob and his Storyville Jazzmen is the bright, lively "Come Along Please," a ditty partly written by *Daily Mirror* disc columnist Pat Doncaster. The band as a whole is effectively showcased and leader Bob handles the vocal chorus.

In the past, the band has done well—but not quite made the hit



BOB WALLIS

parade grade—with such discs as "Bluebird," "Jingle Bells" and most recently, "I'm Shy, Mary Ellen, I'm Shy."

Born in Bridlington, East Yorkshire, on June 3, 1934, Bob has had a long and colourful career in trad jazz circles. Although he actually began his musical life playing bugle with an ATC brass band. Later on, he switched to cornet and won a place with Hull's noted Excelsior Silver Band.

At 18, Bob formed his first amateur jazz unit—King Wallis' Jazz Band—which played together for a year before Bob decided to try his luck in London. He played frequently at trumpeter Ken Colyer's Club, then travelled to Denmark to appear with Papa Bue's Viking Jazz Band prior to returning to London to play with Colyer's Omega Brass Band.

The first Storyville Jazz Band was formed not by Bob but by banjoist Hugh Raney. Though musically sound, it failed to click with the public and was forced to disband a year later. Bob immediately left for the West Country to join

Mr. Acker Bilk's promising Paramount Jazz Band.

Bob's association with Acker lasted a year, until he quit in 1957 to join Diz Dsiley for a tour of Sweden and Denmark.

Back in London, he set about forming his own group, but after a favourable debut, disaster struck when Bob was taken ill and confined to hospital for six months.

However, the band continued working, using deputy trumpeters until Bob's return in October, 1958. Since then, the Storyville Jazzmen have gone from strength to strength, and the latest feather in its cap—apart from the disc hit—is a guest appearance in the forthcoming "It's Trad, Dad" film just finished at Shepperton Studios.

Line-up of the Wallis band includes Keith "Avo" Avison on trombone, Al Gay on clarinet and a rhythm section comprising Pete Gresham (piano), Hugh Raney (banjo), Brian "Drag" Kirby (bass) and Alan Poston (drums). These are the Storyville Jazzmen—latest trad swingers to hit the best selling highspots.

★ From YOU to US ★

MR. and MRS. L. O. HOLLEY (parents of Buddy Holly), of Lubbock, Texas, write: We would like to express our sincere and deep appreciation to the readers of "New Musical Express" and Buddy Holly fans for voting him still among your favourites.

This great tribute gives us much happiness, and we feel that Buddy would want us to say "Thanks for remembering."

We hope you may enjoy his future releases.

(Editor's note: Mike Berry also received a letter from Mr. and Mrs. Holley, saying how much they appreciated his "Tribute" disc.)

ALAN RICHES of Bradford, writes: "As Long As I Live" hasn't made the charts. After "What'd I Say," there were signs of a great Jerry Lee revival, yet neither his follow-up, "It Won't Happen With Me," nor "As Long As I Live," one of his best records has got anywhere.

SIDNEY ALSFORD of Finchley, London, writes: I recently had the great pleasure of hearing "Come Along Please," by Bob Wallis and his Storyville Jazzmen.

To my mind, this is the best record so far in the present trad boom, and I shouldn't be at all surprised to see it supersede Acker and Kenny in the Top Ten.

MISS M. CATTELL of Leicester, writes: Bobby Darin must be the world's most versatile artist. I have all his records, and each one offers something different.

Now, to top it all, he has recorded "Ave Maria," and I must say he sings it beautifully, with tremendous feeling and sincerity.

GEOFFREY HOWES of Great Yarmouth, writes: I fervently agree with Keith Fordyce that it is much more interesting to have different types of songs, singers and rhythms in the charts.

I hope the trend will be maintained during 1962.

8 out of 10 players

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Hofner

V2 Two pick-up model with specification as V3. Exclusive Hofner "Slendaneck" and single row tuning head. Max. Body dimensions: 17½" x 12½". Price 45 gns.

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Hofner

'Colorama'

models with tremolo in "Solid" design. Fitted with latest ball-bearing tremolo unit, double pole pick-ups and "flick-action" console. Max. Body dimensions: 16½" x 13". Price One pick-up model 28 gns. Two pick-up model 32 gns.

NEW

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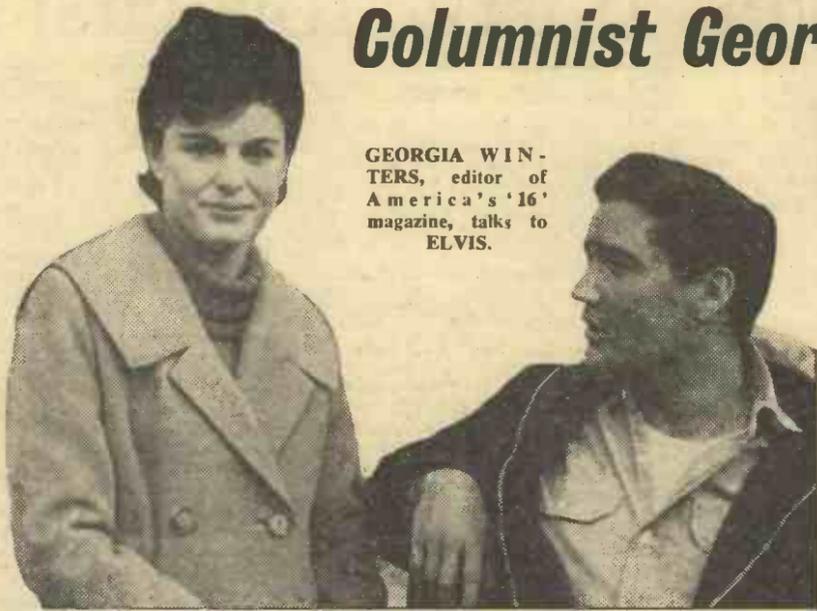
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Columnist Georgia Winters sees ELVIS and confirms HOW TO GET HIM TO BRITAIN



GEORGIA WINTERS, editor of America's '16' magazine, talks to ELVIS.

HELLO again! As I told you the last time around, Elvis Presley is the main item on today's menu. Naturally, the first thing all of you want to know is: When is Elvis coming to Britain?

That question does not have a definite answer. There are two things that Elvis said he wants to do more than anything else. One is to start doing public appearances again, and the other is to perform in London. But from the look of things, his fondest dreams are not going to be realised any time soon.

But I can tell you the best possible way to get Elvis there.

Here's how:

Get one of the biggest and best organised charities to plan to present Elvis in person in the biggest arena you have in London—then start the campaign to win manager Col. Parker over.

Because of Elvis' flat rate of \$125,000 minimum fee per booking, it is almost out of the question for him to do live shows any more.

But Col. Parker has already said that the only way Elvis will play London is "the same way he played Memphis and Honolulu—for 100% charity."

When I interviewed Elvis recently he mentioned that one English booker had said he would book Elvis and would also provide a private plane to transport him from America to England, but the deal never materialised, much to Elvis' sorrow.

Elvis is better looking than he has ever been—if that's possible—and is in perfect physical shape as a result of his boxing training for "Kid Galahad" his karate lessons, and his "touch" football games.

His latest single record release started out to be a hit for the "Rock-A-Hula Baby" side, but "Can't Help Falling In Love" is now way ahead and will be No. 1 in America when you read this.

I imagine that the Twist (and its inventor, Chubby Checker) is gripping Britain. Well, here's a comment made over here recently: "They have finally given a name to what Elvis has been doing for five years."

Elvis, incidentally, can and does dance the Twist—and digs doing

it! Before I left Elvis I asked him his plans for the future, and here is what he told me:

"I just want to keep entertaining. For the next four years I'll do one movie a year for Hal Wallis of Paramount. I love to work with him and he has helped me a great deal. I have another movie contract with MGM, with an option on my contract to do as many as three more for them."

"I'm doing a lot of recording. We did four songs for United Artists' picture 'Follow That Dream,' and I am doing six songs in 'Kid Galahad.'"

"I also hope to do eight days of live appearances at the opening of the Seattle World's Fair this spring."

recitation pleading for peaceful co-existence. While I agree with him in theory, I think two "talkies" in a row for this fine talent is something like beating a dead horse. The flipside, "Smoke, Smoke, Smoke That Cigarette," is my pick for chartsville.

Don and Phil Everly won the suit that their former managers, Les and Wes Rose, brought against them, and Acuff-Rose were forced to release all the money they were holding for the boys. When they get out of the Marines, Don and Phil will work with agent Jack Rael exclusively. Phil almost got himself engaged to his long-time steady, Jackie Bleyer, but decided to wait a while.

Brenda Lee has temporarily cancelled her plans to visit Britain because her hectic schedule has her worn to a frazzle. But she WILL make it during this year. Brenda has always told me that her big dream is to bring her own show over there featuring Duane Eddy and the Everlys. Brenda's reviews of her opening at the swank Sands Hotel in Las Vegas were simply smashing!

Connie Francis' good friend, songwriter Howie Greenfield, gave her a 23rd birthday party. Guests included Neil Sedaka and Dion. Dion has become quite a songwriter himself. He is penning his next hit. "The Wanderer" (which he did not write) turned out to be his latest hit, beating out "The Majestic."

But we won't go into the "Life And Times Of Darling Dion" just yet—for he's my next guest and we'll learn all about him then. Thanks for the fun—and stay cool!

★ ALL the American artists who showed up on the NME Polls were terribly excited and grateful. Cutie Connie Francis flipped over her first place.

Bobby Vee is still in a state of shock. "I had no idea I was that popular over there!" Bobby told me.

That brand new daddy of a boy named Dodd Mitchell—Bobby Darin was also thrilled and honoured at his placing on the Poll.

The Everly Brothers were not available for comment (busy with their Uncle Sam, you know), but I am sure they were just as floored by their whopping triumph.

★ JIMMY DEAN has released another talking record, "Dear Ivan." It is a straight



MARINES IN THE MAKING

The EVERLY BROTHERS get instruction from a U.S. Marine at the start of their basic training.

LIFE-LINES OF TERRY LIGHTFOOT

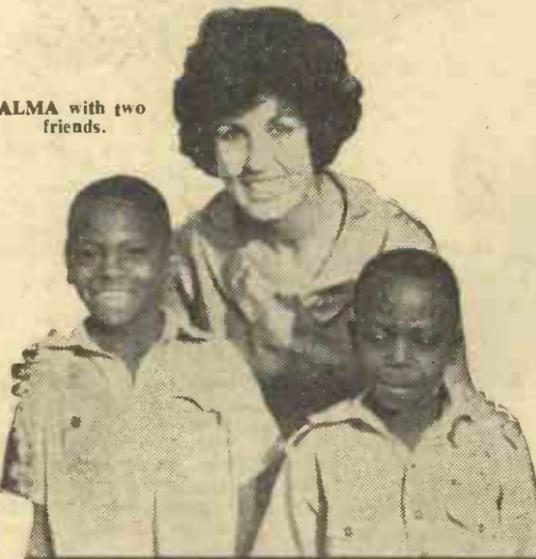


Real name: Terence John Lightfoot. Birth date: May 21, 1935. Birthplace: Potters Bar, Middlesex. Height: 6 feet. Weight: 12½ stone. Colour of eyes: Brown. Colour of hair: Brown. Parents' names: Mary and Thomas Wilfrid. Family: One brother, Pat. Wife's name and former occupation: Iris Rosemary, tailoress. Children: "Two daughters so far—number three on the way!" Present home: Potters Bar. Instrument played: Clarinet. Where educated: Ladbrooke School, Potters Bar; Enfield Grammar School, Middlesex. Musical education: Studied with Leslie Evans for three years. Age at which entered show business: 16. First public appearance: Wood Green Jazz Club, 1951. Biggest break in career: Touring with Kid Ory and Red Allen here, in 1959. Biggest disappointment in career: None yet! TV debut: "6.5 Special" in 1957. Radio debut: BBC Forces Show, 1953. First important public stage appearance: Festival Hall, 1956. Current hit and latest release: "King Kong."

Other disc which appeared in best sellers: "True Love." Albums: "Tradition In Colour," "Trad Parade," "World Of Trad." EPs: "Trad," "Trad Again," "More Trad," "Still Trad." Present disc label: Columbia. Other label in past: Pye. Recording manager: Denis Preston. Personal manager: Don Read. Musical director: Norrie Paramor. Personnel of Terry Lightfoot's Jazz Men: Dickie Hawdon, Roy Williams, Vic Barton, Wayne Chandler, Johnnie Richardson. Compositions: "Minor Chant," "Good Time Swing," "Orange Blossom," "Black Diamond Rag," "Old Pull 'N' Push." Title of film debut: "Jazzboat." Forthcoming film: "It's Trad, Dad." Biggest influences on career: Louis Armstrong, George Lewis, Benny Goodman. Former occupation before show business: Accounts clerk. Hobbies: Football, athletics. Favourite colour: Green. Favourite singers: Frank Sinatra, Ella Fitzgerald, Bing Crosby, Mahalia Jackson, Louis Armstrong. Favourite actress: Deborah Kerr. Favourite actors: Paul Newman, Frank Sinatra.

Favorite food: Chinese. Favourite drink: Bitter. Favourite clothes: Good suits. Favourite bands and instrumentalists: Goodman, Ellington, George Lewis, Oliver, Morton, Armstrong. Favourite composers: Rodgers and Hammerstein, Cole Porter, George Gershwin. Car: Consul Classic. Miscellaneous likes: Farms, zoos, Sherlock Holmes. Dislikes: Touring in bad weather. Best friends: "My parents." Most thrilling experience: Meeting Louis Armstrong. Tastes in music: Everything as long as it's well done. Forthcoming disc projects: Album of clarinet duets with Acker Bilk, followed by new EP and LP. Professional ambition: "To tour the USA, and be working as regularly in ten years time as I am now." Personal ambition: "To give my children a good education, and to see them do well."

Alma Cogan brings good news for our stars from South Africa



ALMA with two friends.

ARE you reading this, John Leyton, Helen Shapiro, Russ Conway, Frankie Vaughan and the Temperance Seven? There's a great demand for you in South Africa, where British singers and instrumentalists are held in very high esteem. And if Messrs. Bilk and Ball have got a few free days in 1962, they may be interested to know that trad is catching on fast there!

Last week I chatted with Alma Cogan, who has just returned from a record-breaking trip to South Africa, lasting several weeks. She told me: "The stock of British artists is very high. It will prove to be a new and exciting experience for anyone who goes out there to entertain—but they had better go prepared!"

Alma qualified this remark by adding that star artists, whether in cabaret or one-nighters, are expected to do as much as 75 minutes on stage—and compared to the usual 30 minutes, or at a pinch three quarters of an hour in Britain, you can see that it would be necessary to go there with quite a repertoire!

"If the audience appreciates you, they will call for one encore after another," Alma told me. Her press cuttings show that she was a tremendous success there—one critic said that she was the best entertainer ever seen in Durban.

Alma brought back to Britain a careful study of the disc-buying habits of the South African people, plus a detailed survey of their tastes in all forms of entertainment. She noted that our own Cliff Richard is the best-known British entertainer in South Africa, ranking alongside Elvis Presley in popularity.

"Cliff's reputation was greatly enhanced by his trip there last March," Alma told me. "People still talk about his success and the huge crowds who turned out to see him."

John Leyton, Helen Shapiro and the Temperance Seven are comparative newcomers to the disc scene there (as they are here, of course), but the interest in them continues to

rise. Established favourites like Russ Conway and Frankie Vaughan will be welcome any time they care to set foot on the shore, Alma assures me. But the big music of 1962 will undoubtedly be trad, she asserts. "As I left South Africa, the trad boom was just beginning—very soon it will be at its fullest and Acker Bilk and Kenny Ball, who are popular there, will find dozens of overtures from bookers who want to present them there." On the subject of music, Alma has brought back a tape of Kwelatype music (remember "Tom Hark" by Elias and his Zig-Zag Jive Flutes?) which really thrilled her.

"It seems that all the children know how to play Kwela," she said. "They form up in a line and march barefoot along the street, playing outside the hotels. When they get tired of producing that wonderful sound they sit on the kerb and play cards."

The picture shows Alma with two boys, exponents of the Kwela sound, who had just been giving her a demonstration of their craft.

Don't judge from Alma's remarks that British artists never think about South Africa; agents and bookers alike regard it as an important mar-

ket. In the next few months they will probably be seeing Adam Faith, who also holds a high degree of popularity there, and there are negotiations to present several other stars in the Union this year.

South Africa's biggest disappointment of the year, strangely enough, came from a British artist! Cliff Richard was due to spend two weeks there from Christmas, but due to recording commitments, cancelled his trip. This, according to Alma, was the reason for so many crestfallen faces this Yuletide!

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STAR QUOTE
COLUMNIST Hy Gardner asked Fabian if he pays attention to what the papers say about him. The answer, says Gardner, is substantially the same as he's received from Elvis Presley, Bobby Darin, and Liberace: "Some of the things said about me were so ridiculous I stopped reading the bad things and put only the good things in my scrap book."

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TAIL-PIECES BY THE ALLEY CAT

Chubby's made history!

UNIQUE feat by Chubby Checker this week—British chart debut with two Twist discs; now craze on everyone claiming original Twist—but Chubby's first issued here September, 1960... Diana Dors (expecting second baby in June) wore £750 gown for Monday West End cabaret debut... Next titles from Tommy Steele "Green Eye"/"Running"/"Slap Bang"...

Sales exceed 300,000 for Pat Boone's "Johnny Will"... Band-leader Arthur Lyman is latest interest of Connie Stevens... Las Vegas home bought by Billy Eckstine... Film title song of Joe Pasternak's "Paper Moon" waxed by Duane Eddy... "Money" is next Jerry Lee Lewis single... "Pioneer Go Home" (starring Elvis Presley) retitled "Follow That Dream"...

Big Freeze notes: snowed up on M1, Lonnie Donegan missed Palladium TV show in aid of spastics... It took Bob Wallis band ten hours for London-Folkestone trip... Bert Weedon able Donegan deputy in duet with Roy Castle... Title of Eden Kane's latest, "Forget Me Not," same as Kalin Twins' follow-up to big "When" hit... This week Wally Ridley winter-



All aboard! Having an interested look at the various trim crafts at the "Daily Express" Boat Show at Earls Court, London, were (l. to r.): KENT WALTON, DOUG SHELDON and JOHN LEYTON.

sporting in Switzerland... Brook Brothers' new one, "He's Old Enough To Know Better," previously waxed by Crickets... In "Irma La Douce" ailing Shani Wallis replaced by Mary Preston... Three "Twist" LPs from Pye group this month... Doris Day's co-star in "The Perfect Set-up" for May filming—Montgomery Clift... Wife Pat made MGM singer Russ Hamilton father of boy last Saturday... Mr. and Mrs. Frank Cochran (parents of Eddie) send season's greetings to all fans, via this paper... Keith Goodwin resigned from NME staff to be publicist... Infanticiding—singer Julie London and husband/pianist Bobby Troup... A-and-r post for Tony Meehan at Decca was Sir Edward Lewis' idea... Fred Mudd(larks) reports brother Jeff much better after car crash... Doesn't Terry Dene resemble Ken Dodd?... Infanticiding—Gene McDaniels' wife... "I Am," flip-side of current Ricky Stevens success, originally waxed by Tony Bennett... Starring role for Sammy Davis in screen biography of James Bland ("Whisper In The Wind")—with Sammy Cahn and Jimmy Van Heusen writing title song... Duane Eddy and his fiancée Miriam Johnson may wax spiritual LP... Bobby

ATTENTION SONGWRITERS & ARTISTS

An independent recording and publishing company requires material and artists suitable for commercial recording. Send demo discs or tape only, to:—

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FURY KEEPS HIS POETRY SECRET

BILLY FURY has turned his attention to poetry—with a beat, of course! Billy won't show his poems to anyone. He labels them "way out stuff."

"If I get the feeling, I write. If I don't, I don't," he says. Oh, and he reads whenever the opportunity presents itself—which isn't very often.

His tastes in literature range from the classics of Twain to biographies of top jazz men, and in the lighter vein—ghost stories. As I watched him reading, I found he takes it all seriously too.

CHAD CHRISTIAN.

Darin a Hollywood neighbour of Mel Tormé...

While the Mudlarks are inactive (following recent Fred Mudd accident), hairdressing course taken by Mary Mudd in Manchester... For Judy Garland's "Girl Is Waiting" film, John Cassevetes likely director... Because he refused to work with Fabian, film studio suspended actor Bradford Dillman...

Minelli to direct... His latest probably Billy Fury's best-ever disc... Filming starts next week for Dean Martin's "Who's Got The Action," with Lana Turner co-starring...

How about Norman Newell teaming his pianists Russ Conway and Mrs. Mills on same record?... Tony Meehan could have scored with Sandy Nelson's "Let There Be Drums"... For Gary Moore's U.S.-TV show, a Shirley Bassey duet with Mel Tormé planned... Despite original Patti Page version there, U.S. release for Cleo Laine's "You'll Answer To Me"... At Birmingham, Lonnie Donegan in opposition to Miki & Griff, his great friends... Joan Hull (from Australia) says Mark Wynter has endeared himself there...

John Cassevetes plans to star Bobby Darin in "Day After The Fourth" film... Bing Crosby's U.S. radio series with Rosemary Clooney extended one year... Frank Sinatra confirms Reprise's capture of Dean Martin, starting next month...

Britain's best blues singer?—Norrie Paramor thinks Cliff Richard qualifies... ABC-Paramount signed Billy Daniels... As a sequel to Nina and Frederik, how about Sadie and Hymie?!

EPs by ALLEN EVANS

BEA LILLIE (Decca) is in gay mood as she puts over What's New At The Zoo and Paddy Roberts' saucy Ballad Of Bethnal Green. The comedienne adds Sing A Song Of Spacemen and I Always Say Hello.

DANNY HARRISON (Starlite) is a pleasant American c-and-w singer-guitarist who excels in No One To Love Me, backed by the Jordanaires. Other titles are Worries, I'll Never Forget, and All The World Is Lonely Now.

BOB NEWHART (Warner Bros.) is a glib-tongued comedian who makes you laugh throughout his Ledge Psychology (talking someone out of jumping from a high building) and Bus Drivers' School (how drivers are so good at making it tough for customers).

AND HERE ARE THE 1961 'CAT'S WHISKERS'

IT is customary for honours to be awarded at this time of the year, so once again your Alley Cat looks back over 1961 to announce annual "Cat's Whiskers." These are his choice of artists and music-business personalities who earned them—but not in order of merit:

- FRANKIE VAUGHAN—came back with a vengeance like a tower of strength...
- WALLY RIDLEY—HMV Manager who produced Britain's two best-selling albums by George Mitchell's "Black and White Minstrels"...
- NORMAN NEWELL & CYRIL ORNADEL—composers of the year's best song, "Portrait Of My Love"...
- TONY HATCH—producer of a long string of Pye hit discs...
- ALMA COGAN—still the nicest girl in show business...
- SHIRLEY BASSEY—for flying the Union Jack high in America...
- SAMMY DAVIS—incomparable talent with a capital T...
- ANTHONY NEWLEY—for stopping the world with his artistry...
- JOHNNY WORTH—who lived up to his name...
- LONNIE DONEGAN—not only for maintaining his own successes, but for introducing Kenny Ball on the scene...
- CONNIE FRANCIS—a superb singer—insisted on appearing at the last NME poll-winners' concert...
- DICK ROWE—Decca a-and-r manager who moulded Billy Fury into a disc star...
- HELEN SHAPIRO—undoubtedly the year's biggest discovery...
- ELVIS PRESLEY—a model teenage idol...
- CLIFF RICHARD—a model teenage idol...
- MATT MONRO—our kind of boy
- JOHN LEYTON—who proved actors can sing...
- BOBBY VEE—best American newcomer...
- SIR JOSEPH LOCKWOOD—for having the nerve to twist with Chubby Checker—in public!
- BRUCE FORSYTH—his talent forced almost every Palladium TV star to play second fiddle...
- THE SPRINGFIELDS—Poll-winners despite lack of a major hit disc...
- LOUIS BENJAMIN—who baked the success ingredients into the Pye...
- EDEN KANE—a Beau Brummell among pop singers...
- DON WEDGE—again his news-gathering achievements cannot pass without praise...
- JOHN SCHROEDER & MIKE HAWKER—a smashing hat-trick of hits composed for Helen Shapiro...
- TITO BURNS—he lost the management of Cliff Richard, but gained the respect of the music industry.
- DANNY WILLIAMS—how high the moon?...
- GEOFFREY EVERITT—for his bold venture by extending Radio Luxembourg programmes until 3 am daily...
- CYRIL BERLIN—more than a popular personal manager—virtually a father to Lonnie Donegan.
- PETULA CLARK—a "Grable-bodied" seaman of the high C's!
- DAVID JACOBS—who appeals to every jury...
- NORMAN NEWELL—for introducing more hit parade newcomers than any other recording manager—besides innumerable successes with his established stars...
- MAURICE BURMAN—who discovered Helen Shapiro, but died before he could enjoy her triumphs.
- THE SHADOWS—their Poll Concert reception can never be topped...
- FRANK SINATRA—undisputed leader of many clans...
- JUDY GARLAND—sheer inborn talent—not manufactured...
- NORRIE PARAMOR—like Old Father Thames, his hit parade successes keep rolling along...
- NEIL SEDAKA—among the world's top five singer-songwriters...
- ACKER BILK—the trad-daddy of 'em all...
- DICKIE VALENTINE—his summer ATV series was a gem...
- ANDY GRAY—an Editorrific!...

WHO'S WHERE

- (Week commencing January 8th, 1962)
- LONNIE DONEGAN, THREE MONARCHS Birmingham Hippodrome.
 - MARK WYNTER Glasgow Empire.
 - TOMMY STEELE, EVE BOSWELL Liverpool Empire.
 - CHARLIE DRAKE, JACKIE RAE, GARY MILLER London Palladium.
 - BRUCE FORSYTH, YANA Manchester Palace.
 - RONNIE HILTON Nottingham Theatre Royal.
 - NORMAN WISDOM Bristol Hippodrome.
 - NIGHTSPOTS
 - JOAN REGAN London Talk Of The Town.
 - DIANA DORS London Bal Tabarin.
 - SOCCER
 - SHOWBIZ XI Harlow, 2 pm, Sunday, January 7.

BIG SUM FOR GOOD CAUSE

ROY CASTLE and VERA LYNN were two of the many stars who appeared on ATV's Palladium show last Sunday. Vera Lynn, vice-president of the Stars organisation for Spastics, holds the cheque for £700 which was the Jackpot prize and was given to the spastics.



ACTOR JIMMY DARREN SHOWS HOW IT'S DONE

IN "Gidget Goes Hawaiian," Jimmy Darren shows many of today's young singers who are attempting to turn actors just how it's done.

Although the film is a romantic comedy, he gives an impressive performance as a boy who having broken with his girl friend is determined not to lose face by apologising.

In its later stages the plot becomes rather involved, but everything finally sorts itself out into a happy ending, a welcome change these days.

Jimmy sings two songs—"Gidget Goes Hawaiian" and "Wild About That Girl"—neither of which are up to the standard of his "Cruel World" hit.

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