

MIKE COTTON SOUND

"KITES", & THE BIG SOUND

from B.B.C.'s MIDDAY SPIN

X

"BEND ME,

SHAPE ME"

THE AMEN CORNER **SPECIAL GUEST STARS!**

LEWISHAM, Odeon Friday, April 5th, 6.30 & 9.00 HANLEY, Gaumont Saturday, April 6th, 6.55 & 9.10 COVENTRY, Coventry Theatre Sunday, April 7th,6.00 & 8.30 GLASGOW, Odeon Tuesday, April 9th, 6.40 & 9.10 MANCHESTER, Odeon Wednesday, April 10th, 6.15 & 8.45 WOLVERHAMPTON, Gaumont Thursday, April 11th, 6.30 & 8.40 LEEDS, Odeon Friday, April 12th, 6.00 & 8.30 BLACKPOOL, A.B.C. Saturday, April 13th, 6.10 & 8.45 BLACKPOOL, A.B.C. Sunday, April 14th, 6.10 & 8.30 DERBY, Gaumont Monday, April 15th, 6.00 & 8.30

GENE PITNEY TOUR

CARDIFF, Capitol Theatre Wednesday, April 17th, 6.30 & 8.50 BRISTOL, Colston Hall Thursday, April 18th, 6.30 & 8.45 EAST HAM, Granada Friday, April 19th, 7.00 & 9.10 BOURNEMOUTH, Winter Gardens Sat., April, 20th, 6.00 & 8.15 LEICESTER, De Montfort Hall Sunday, April 21st, 5.40 & 8.00 GLOUCESTER, A.B.C. Tuesday, April 23rd, 6.15 & 8.30 PORTSMOUTH, Guildhall Wednesday, April 24th, 6.30 & 8.50 *BIRMINGHAM, Odeon Thursday, April 25th, 6.30 & 9.00

*Amen Corner not appearing, see local press.

SUTTON, Granada Friday, April 26th, 7.00 & 9.10 FINSBURY PARK, Astoria Saturday, April 27th, 6.40 & 9.10 LIVERPOOL, Empire Sunday, April 28th, 5.40 & 8.00 WALTHAMSTOW, Granada Tuesday, May 7th, 7.00 & 9.10

A LL this "Marquis de Sade" and "Kiss of the Whip" bit is somewhat wasted on Dave Dee! He's about as kinky as a pint of bitter! He talked to me about his new role as "the Party Whip" at his house in Salisbury with interruptions from Oliver, his massive Mountain Hound (or maybe it is an albino Yeti), who kept bringing trees into the room.

DAVE DEE WHIPS UP

"The pop business has been getting a bit too "twee" for my liking," said Dave. "The whip has made us just a bit nasty, which is good after all the pansies who blossomed in the flower-power garden. Just because we wear "funny" clothes on stage does not mean we're a load of old poofs!

NEW MUSICAL EXPRESS

"All the birds at 'Top Of The Pops' loved it when I used the whip on stage. They told me it really turned them on and several remarks were made about the wide open-necked shirt 1 wore. It was only open that far because I'd lost a button. Really the whole thing is just an act and 'the whip' is as good a gimmick as any.

The lid on Dave's letter box clattered and Oliver thundered out from the kitchen like an enraged rhinoceros and roared his disapproval. There was the hasty retreat of pattering feet along the garden path and Oliver returned from a job well done.

"That'll be the kids from the school along the road," said Dave. "Every afternoon I get a little bundle of fan letters. But they don't come round too often after they've met Oliver. He's not vicious but he makes a lot of noise and has a frightening appearance.

Stardom

The most refreshing thing about Dave is that after more than eight years in a pop group he still gets a kick out of being a pop star and is so staggeringly "just one of the boys" off-stage.

"Some advisers have told me "Some advisers have told me that a pop idol must remain aloof from the public, but that's not necessary," said Dave. "The public put you up there and once you've appeared on TV a few times you're a celebrity in most people's eyes.

"The only time when you have to break through the barrier and to break through the barrier and prove that you are not arrogant or different is at the clubs or in the kind of cabarets we've just been doing. Then we break the ice by telling a few blue jokes and making fun of each other. Like, for ex-ample, we might introduce Dozy as 'a nice lad who picks his nose'."

Well aware that he cannot go on



By

Still hoping for that illusive No 1 (left to right) BEAKY, DAVE DEE, MICK (centre), DOZY and TICH and the whip that's won them a kinky reputation.

roofs. That way they get the mes-"I flew to Jersey recently, my first flight over the sea. I must admit it's a little worrying to re-alise that if your one engine packs up you've had it. I kept an eye. open for the ships all the way

over. "Perhaps because I fly myself I don't get worried about flying when we go abroad, but I remem-ber talking to a pilot of one of the big jets on a recent trip. I asked

mother

him if the plane would float if it went down in the Atlantic. He replied: 'Yes — like a brick!'

FANS

replied: 'Yes — like a brick!' "We always give the air-hos-tess on our trip a round of applause after she has demonstrated the safety equipment and oxygen mask and request an encore of 'Melan-choly Baby.' It's not so silly as it sounds; it relieves tension and starts people talking to one an-other."

Forecast

Dave recalled Pete Townshend's early pronouncement last year that '68 would be a big year for groups like Dave Dee, Dozy, Beaky, Mick and Tich because they were not afraid to be commercial and the Bonzo Dogs, who were not afraid to laugh at pop music!

"So far he's making a lot of sense," said Dave. "I've thought about that remark a great deal. It's true that we are not out to prove anything other than that we can entertain people. We've always been an act first."

One other new development for Dave is to produce records of his own. He recently produced a single for the Family Dog, on which their own record producer, Steve Rowlands, sings.

"It was great to have him on the other end of the stick!" said Dave. "I kept telling him he wasn't singing it right and watch-ing him sweat from the control room. Great!"

There was an aguished squawk from the kitchen at this point as two-ton Oliver, after innumerable requests to "get down," had ap-parently done so — on top of

"Oh God that's it!" moaned Dave, "he's sat down now we'll never shift him." Is there a crane driver in the house?



On sale Friday, week ending March 30, 1968

Keith Altham

NEW MUSICAL EXPRESS

DAVY GROWS UP; PETER LABOURER?

MICKY THE NUT! HERMIT MIKE That's how Hollywood actress SUSAN HOWARD sees MONKEES

FORGET that appealing, sweet-little-boy image when you next think of Davy Jones! In real life Davy is no longer the lost innocent of his publicists' dreams, searching for his rightful place in the Monkees and always looking for love.

Davy is - to quote an attractive Hollywood actress who recently worked with the group in one of their TV shows - "no longer a little boy. He's a man."

Added dazzling Susan Howard, who came to Britain for film discussions after being voted "Hollywood Star Of Tommorrow": "It's a crime to keep thinking of Davy in baby-face terms. It implies he's forever unsure of himself, always relying on the others.

"Having worked with him, I know this is far from being the case. He's not hard bitten and shrewd, he's gentle and nice-but he knows what he's doing, and he'd do well even if he left the Monkees tomorrow.

By ALAN SMITH

"In my book Davy is the sexiest one of the bunch, although he wins my admiration

SUSAN HOWARD with MICKY and PETER in a Monkee TV sequence.

because he also happens to be very talented.

"He really works hard and gets involved, and he makes no secret that acting is one of the biggest ambitions of his life. Sometimes he's very down to earth, but he can also be very quiet_

Don't get the impression that Susan is an empty-headed starlet with goo-goo ideas about having worked with the Monkees. She is a serious ac-Monkees. She is a serious ac-tress, appears in straight theatre repertory and often takes part in television specials with other big names. In my book, this makes her praise of Davy—and her com-ments on the other Monkees— all the more unlid and unset

all the more valid and worth-



MONKEES in black during an up-coming TV episode. MIKE NESMITH and DAVY JONES give PETER TORK a "lift," while MICKY DOLENZ scouts out the next move."

The Monkees' show in which Susan appeared featured the group being rooked by their agent and getting up to a variety of crazy adventures, in-cluding frequent stumbling into a honeymoon bedroom of a young bride and groom. Susan played the bride

Considerate

"I found them all very con-siderate to work with," she adds. "Micky was wild and nutry but pleasant, and on and off the screen Davy made me think he could be very big in musical comedy ... like Tommy

Steele. I'd love to see him in a big show or film like 'Half A Sixpence.'

"Peter Tork? There, I'm afraid I don't have an answer. He could end up sweeping floors, he really could. "What I mean is that his attitude to life is wide open.

He has his own rules, and you can see he intends to live by them, no matter what others think.

"I got on quite well with Mike. He's from Texas, so am I, so I suppose that gave us some sort of link. Texas people are supposed to be very friendly, although I did find Mike gave the impression he

STICK

always had a big chip on his shoulder.

3

"He can only take so much and he likes to be left alone —unlike Davy, who thrives on adulation.

"You know, Micky is utterly out of his mind . . . zany isn't the word for it. But he's a smart businessman, and people say he's probably got every dime he ever made. "I believe it!"





DIANA HUSS & THE SUPREMES Diana Ross and The Supremes Live at London's "Talk of The Town" Tamla Motown TML11070 @ STML11070 @

SUNGS CHUSEN BY YOU Capitol T2919 @ ST2919 @

THE MOVE First Album Move Regal Zonophone LRZ1002 @ SLRZ1002 @

FORTES MENTUM GILBERT BECAUD Saga of a Wrinkled Man L'important C'est La Rose Parlophone R5684 Columbia DB8392

WAYNE THOMAS MATT MONRO One Day Soon I'll Be Yours Capitol CL15541 Stateside SS2100

JIMMY TARBUCK Your Cheatin' Heart Parlophone R5682 TROY DANTE **My Friend The Scarecrow** Columbia DB8381 BILLY FURY One Minute Woman Parlophone R5681

> MAGGIE L. David Sloane Columbia DB8390

Parlophone PMC7041 @ PCS7041 @

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NEW MUSICAL EXPRESS

AMEN IN DEPTH first of a new series by ALAN SMITH

A NDY FAIRWEATHER-LOW is undisputed leader of Amen Corner. This is no reflection against Alan Jones, Mike Smith, Neil Jones, Dennis Bryon, Blue Weaver and Clive Taylor, who are pleasant and intelligent people with plenty to contribute to records like "Bend Me, Shape Me.

Andy just happens to be boss, that's all. He is the lad from Llanrumney Secondary School in Wales who formed a group, decided he'd like a big sax sound, and brought it up from Cardiff to find fame and fortune.

Determined

He is smallish but not small, packs a quietly gritty determination into his slight frame, and candidly admits he wants the whole world to know about Andy Fairweather-Low and that great group Amen Corner. His biggest fear is that because of this

His biggest fear is that because of this driving force, this pride, he could so easily fall in love with himself. He says it was a faint smile, but you know he recognises the signs, and intends to watch out. Outwardly — to me, at least — Andy is friendly, honest, modest and sensible. He loves his work, but being successful is a sombre business

business.

He was lazy at school — "very lazy. I liked sport most, although I didn't mind sketching, and I also appeared in a few school nlays". liked plays

He added: "I played the Bird Man in an opera we did. I'll never forget the hat of feathers never forget the hat of reathers and the pair of yellow wings. "The first time I really got interested in being in a group," says Andy, "was one night when I saw a teenage show in Cardiff. I thought: 'This is for me'. After that I can advantation of the same shows

I thought: 'This is for me.' After that, I saw a documentary film on the Liverpool scene, with Farons' Flamingos and all those. "That made my mind up. I had visions of leisure, money, luxury and excitement. "I pestered my mother for a guitar—I was about 15—and even-tually I got a Futurama for about £18. If you're learning to play the guitar, you a lways play a

E18. If you're learning to play the guitar, you a l ways play a Futurama. "When I started playing with a group they were already estab-lished. The name? No, you'd laugh." (Pause). "All right, we were called the Taffbeats. We were a bit r-and-b-ish, and we did everything from Chuck Berry to Muddy Waters.



ANDY FAIRWEATHER-

"After a few months I decided picture outsiders have of the show I wanted to form my own group... with saxes. I don't know why I wanted saxes; I suppose some people would have thought they were a bit out at the time. I think I had a feeling that before

picture outsiders have of the show business life. "Say a fan sees us on TV. Probably she thinks we do that TV show, then we come back to London in a Rolls, do the odd recording session, and now and again appear at a concert. That's the way I used to think.

All work

"Now I know it's work, work, work, travel, travel, travel. One night we do a beautiful Mecca ballroom. Then we belt halfway up the country for a date at some little hall where there's no unning water and you're got to running water and you've got to change in a passageway. "I accept this kind of life because know that. moment, it's part of the business. I'm conditioned to the seven of us in one car travelling 200-300 miles a day.

* I know the disadvantages of being in a group so big. But that doesn't worry me. If I felt it necessary to the sound I wanted, I'd have 20 people.

I'd have 20 people. "I think all of us in Amen Corner are now more mates than when we started. We are such close pals that it may be difficult for people to understand how we feel the same way about things. If we go out as seven. And if we go to a club we tend to stay together and not to bother with anyone else."

Andy says he doesn't really know London at all, and when he's in it, he keeps himself to himself because there are so many false people about. He doesn't like insincerity. He likes to be straight with people. If he doesn't get on with someone, he doesn't see why he shouldn't be blunt and clear the air

He wants to produce an LP entirely of his own compositions; he likes to draw weird sketches; he doesn't feel he could ever take

part in an impromptu session at a club, with another group, because it would make him feel because it would make him feel insecure not knowing what was coming next; he says he likes to be the one to dominate and say what gives; admits he won't be told anything, but doesn't mind being persuaded; always thinks he's reading about somebody else when he sees the name Amen Corner; sometimes feels his head is going to explode because there's so much going on in his mind; and has no religion and no time for politicians.

Speed fan

Andy Fairweather-Low also says he hates arrogant people; boils with anger at the thought that his he with anger at the thought that nis younger brother was being paid only £2 5s a week as an appren-tice—" not even bus fares"—; feels himself to be a well balanced person; feels guilty when he some-times meets fans, in case they feel let down; loves any kind of music so long as it tingles through his bcdy because it offers something special; confesses to through his body because it offers, something special; confesses to being a speed addict; agrees his smaller height might be one of the reasons for his present grit and determination; and says money comes last

determination; and says money comes last. He has always felt Cardiff is "finished" as a centre of music and opportunity, and now finds others there agreeing with him; gets fed up living a life in "little boxes"; and has no greater pleasure than to walk shone in the cunshing across

greater pleasure than to walk alone in the sunshine across expansive fields and mountain-sides. He also hates flying—and loves trying to repay his parents for their goodness to him by attempt-ing to improve their standard of living. A complex and fascinating per-son—that is Andy Fairweather-Low.



IT'S NOT UNUSUAL by Tom Jones: feeling but listening to this makes me feel happy again. Tom Jones has developed into one of the finest entertainers, not just a singer, of our time and he can go further.
LIKE A ROLLING STONE by Sob Dylan's Like the sound of this, one of Dylan's best recordings. Don't knew what he's doing with him self but it's about time he showed his face to the world again.
OL MAN RIVER by Ray Charles: Anot soulful number this, and it anyone can feel and sing soul then ray Charles charles.
AY IN THE LIFE by the Beatles: Brings back nostalgic memories of big L and all who sailed in her. I payed it during the final hour A great ship has gone to rest.
YOU DON'T HAVE TO SAY YOU LOVE ME by Dusty Springfield. This also brings back memories of adio London Besides that Dusty is getting better all the time She's come a long way since she was a member of the Springfields.
BANG, BANG by Cher: A beautiful story which is true of everybody's childhood. A pity it didn't go higher in the charts over here.
To Best group to have emerged this year and they're going to get bis year and they do is newer and better.
TOF HE NAME OF LOVE! By the Supremes: My favourite moods and emotions in their songs.
POG NIDE OF TOWN by Johnny Rivers: A very underrated artist owne classics in their own right



UDM BULLEN HIL BEFEUZED BA THE MIBOY DUKES

POLYDOR 56243

DAVY'S COMING HOME TO DATE LOVE Lulu talks about OF HIS LIFE her great romance

DAVY JONES will be paying a short visit to England soon to visit his father-and see the lady in his life, Lulu, When I spoke to Lulu by phone in her suite at Miami's plush Diplomat Hotel, she told me that the Monkee would definitely be making the trip.

"But I'm not saying when," she added with a sly chuckle. "It wouldn't be fair, would it?"

So much has been written about the Lulu-Davy-Maurice Gibb triangle recently, that I asked her just what the position was. Was it all rumour? How did Maurice stand? Did she

"It's all over with Maurice," she replied quickly. "Davy's very nice. I don't want to say too much. It's very difficult.

Parting

13. 6 it gin

"I'm seeing him while I'm here, but I'm going back to England and he'll be in America."

But Davy has been spending a lot of time with Lulu and a romance is obviously in full bloom. Just how far it will develop will have to be seen. Certainly, his trip to London

will be the centre of attraction

for a lot of people. While "Me, The Peaceful Heart" continues to make progress in the NME Chart, Lulu has been unable to promote it in this country. She will be back, however, before long to start work on a TV series of her own. "My God, I can't believe it!"

she yelled when I told her that the record was in the Top Ten. "Isn't that fantastic? I recorded it just before I came over here.



Mickie Most found it and said it would be a smash, "I said it wasn't for me, but

Well, he said it was and I said ' I trust your judgement.' That's one thing I can rely upon, his judgement."

Lulu's cabaret opening in America attracted a whole host of stars including Tom Jones, Petula Clark and Claud Wolff, Tom Smothers, Vince Edwards and Henry Fonda.

Her reaction to her recep-tion?—" Marvellous."

"It's great, everyone's so wonderful," she enthused, and joked: "It's the big star bit now."

loo early

A transatlantic yawn indicated that noon was a bit early for Lulu to be up and about, but she commented: "I'm glad you phoned, I should have been up

phoned, I should have been up ages ago. "I've recorded three songs since I've been here," she re-vealed. "They're lovely. They were written by Mark London and Don Black, they're so tal-ented. They've written two for the Bits. Tushingham thing the Rita Tushingham thing, 'The Guru.'

"They may release one of



the songs as a single, I don't know yet. They're all sort of of . . . like numbers for an actual scene in the film. Like a little story in each one." Lulu's film to which she re-

ferred will begin shooting in England in August. Details,

however, are not yet finalised. It has already been put back from July.

"I still don't know who's going to play my grandfather," she said. "It's got a silly working title that we're going to change and it's all about me

Together and obviously so happy—LULU and DAVY relax-ing in Hollywood recently.

and my grandfather. I don't know all that much myself ac-tually."

Just before she left for America, Lulu signed a fashion design deal and I wondered if

"I haven't had any time," she had picked up any fashion ideas while in America. "I haven't had any time," she admitted. "I spoke to people who have loads of shops in Los Angeles and they say my dresses are selling like wildfire.

"I was talking to Sammy a was taiking to sammy Davis about the dresses on the 'Joey Bishop Show,' so all the people who see that will know about them."

Scream

Fashion led me on to Sandie

Shaw's marriage. "She's what?" came a disbelieving scream down the line. I didn't know anything about that. When was this? I can't

believe it. "She had her birthday party and 1 couldn't go, so 1 sent her a telegram, but she didn't say anything about get-ting married. How about that?" When she recovered from the shock of one of her friends taking the plunge, Lulu spoke about the enormous number of

5

British groups that are cur-rently in America. "There are loads of them," she began. "I have met so many so far, far more than you see in London. All the Amerisee in London. All the Ameri-cans are talking with English accents, saying things like 'smashing,' it's ridiculous!" She wanted to know who was where in the NME chart and when 1 told har that

and when I told her that "Simon Says" had just made an impression, the reaction was immediate.

Terrible

"That is the most terrible thing," she stated firmly. "They play it all the time in Los Angeles. Davy and I go mad every time it comes on." She has, however, had a nice surprise—in a most unexpected change shape.

"I went to the film set with Davy and Frank Zappa (of the Mothers of Invention) was there and he's so nice. I couldn't believe it. I was dead scared of him and I kept away on nurness from where he was" on purpose from where he was," she laughed.

"It was like that the first time I met Jimi Hendrix. I was scared of him, but he's really polite and nice.

"Davy called me over to where he was talking with Frank Zappa and Frank told Davy that the Monkees were the only group of that type that he liked. He's sweet, isn't that strange?"

MORE DAVY, LULU NEWS PAGE 8



THE ROBERT STIGWOOD ORGANISATION PRESENTS **BEE GEES SPRING TOUR** WITH THEIR ORCHESTRA **CONDUCTOR : BILL SHEPHERD** GRAPEFRUIT **SPECIAL GUEST STARS** DAVE DEE, DOZY, BEAKY, MICK & TICH 29 March, Town Hall, Leeds 17 April, Guildhall, Portsmouth 30 March, A.B.C., Chester 19 April, Gaumont, Hanley 31 March, Palace, Manchester 20 April, Odeon, Bolton 1 April, De Montfort Hall, Leicester ★ 21 April, A.B.C., Hull 4 April, Regal, Cambridge ★ 22 April, A.B.C., Lincoln

* ON THESE DATES THE FOUNDATIONS WILL APPEAR

IN PLACE OF DAVE DEE

PRICES & DETAILS FROM LOCAL THEATRES

5 April, Adelphi, Slough

★ 24 April, Odeon, Salisbury

City Hall, Sheffield 7 April, Hippodrome, Birmingham 10 April, A.B.C., Carlisle 11 April, Green's Playhouse, Glasgow 12 April, A.B.C., Edinburgh 13 April, A.B.C., Stockton 14 April, Empire, Liverpool

25 April, Udeon, Komford ★ 26 April, Odeon, Exeter ★ 27 April, Capitol, Cardiff 28 April, Granada, Tooting 1 May, Savoy, Cork 2 May, Adelphi, Dublin 3 May, A.B.C., Belfast

TOP SINGLES REVIEWED BY DEREK JOHNSON

Sparkling performance from new style Herd

I Don't Want Our Loving To Die / Our Fairy Tale (Fontana). THIS marks something of a switch for the Herd, in that there are

no classical allusions in title or lyric. It's what the boys call "rock ska" — in other words, up-dated rock'n'roll impregnated with an insidious blue beat. I like the group's vocal blend, laced with falsettos — and as always, the Howard-Blaikley composition is both catchy and commercial.

both catchy and commercial. In fact, having broken away from their basic style, the Herd are now more in the Dave Dee mould. I wasn't very keen on the spoken intro, but that's quickly over and done with — and then the disc breaks into its bouncy beat and snarkling nerformance

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The lyric tells us of a lad who plays the field, but all the time is hooked on one girl. FLIP: An appealing Peter Framp-

ton routine, set to a mid-tempo broken heat, with background chanting — plus trumpets and cel-los. An above-average "B" side.

BACHELORS ATTEMPT TO HALT SLIP

† The Unicorn/You've Got To Say We're Through (Decca). THE Bachelors have taken a bit of a nosedive in the Charts recently, so this time they try their hand at some-thing different, It's a folksy

thing different. It's a folksy number, explaining how Noah failed to provide for the uni-corn in his Ark, and so the species became extinct! Delicate backing of acoustic guitars and harmonica give it a country flavour, heightened by the similarity in the chords mel-ody to "King Of The Road." I imagine that youngsters in par-ticular will find this very ap-pealing.

ticular will link the pealing. FLIP: The sort of material we usually associate with the group. A jog-along romantic ballad, in-tensely emoted by Con, with chanting from the others.

The HERD (left to right) GARY TAYLOR, ANDREW STEELE, ANDY BOWN and PETER FRAMP-TON

TONY BENNETT

TONY BENNETT A Fool Of Fools/The Glory Of Love (CBS). It's seldom that a quality singer of Tony Bennet's calibre gets into the Chart — and when he does, it's usu-ally with a big-voiced ballad. Although this receives Tony's usual impeccable performance, which lesser mortals could well regard as an ob-ject lesson, it doesn't showcase him to best advantage — because it's a sophisticated swinger. Anything Tony does is okay by me —but this isn't one of his most mem-orable

orable. **FLIP:** An up-beat revival of the standard ballad, in which Tony ducts with Dominic Germano. Light-hearted and good fun, with bags of person-ality. Must be a great stage routine— but on disc. I'd have preferred a "straight" treatment.

FLEETWOOD MAC

TLEELIWOOD WAC † Black Magic Woman/The Sun Is Shining (Blue Horizon). With an LP hit already under their belt, the Fleetwood Mac are now try-ing to make their mark upon the singles charts. This is a mid-tempo blues number in the traditional form. with a touch of the voodoos thrown in

with a touch or the volucios intown in. Compulsively handled by leader Peter Green, who also wrote it, with a startling juddering guitar wailing behind him. It's mean and moody — except in the reprise, when the tempo sud-denly speeds up. It's great stuff, with a real touch of authenticity—but it remains to be seen whether the fans will go for anything as sinuous and earthy as this. FLIP: An ultra-slow soul ballad, in the classic 12-bar blues format semi-shouted by Pete — who literally moans the blues like there was no tomorrow!

tomorrow!



GENE AIMS STRAIGHT

GENE PITNEY: Somewhere In The Country/Lonely Drifter (Stateside).

VOU'VE got to hand it to Gene Pitneyhis discs are always aimed straight at the hit parade. And the only time they don't get there is when he's not around to plug them. Well, Gene's already in Britain promoting this new one like mad, so I'm quite confident it'll do him proud-even though melodically it's not nearly as strong as "Gotten Hold Of My Heart."

The beat is rather more forceful than in the

FOR CHART last one in fact, it's a snappy rhythmic ballad that builds in intensity as it progresses. As usual on Pitney discs, the scoring is rich and glossy, and the performance is flawless. I think this may be a record that grows on you — and you can bet that you'll be hearing a lot of it.

FLIP: Despite the sad title, this is bright number combining country and Tijuana influences. A sto song, set in New Mexico. Another busy backing. A story-in-

HARPERS BIZARRE

† Cotton Candy Sandman (Warner Brothers),

One of these days, Harpers Bizarre are going to strike it big in Britain, because they make excellent records —and this one is gorgeous. Brim full of delicate West Coast harmonies, it's an enchanting little song, with a wispy backing of strings and flute— plus an unobtrusive mid-tempo beat.

×

pours her heart out melodramatically emoting expressively — sometimes whispering intimately sometimes belting out for all she's worth. My goodness, how this girl can sell a song — surely just as effectively as Shirley Bassey! FLIP: The mixture as before ex-cept that a throbbing beat is injected into the arrangement. I rate this song on a par with the top side. Powerful!

* TIPPED FOR CHARTS

† CHART POSSIBLE

She'll Be There/No Sun Today (Lib-

FOUR SEASONS

VIKKI CARR

YOUK SEASOINS † Will You Still Love Me Tomorrow (Philips). Presumably this was scheduled for release to tie in with the Four Sea-sons' British visit — but this has now been postponed, so the disc's potential can't be as promising. You'll already be familiar with this Goffin-King number, and the group has made a startling adaptation to its own distinctive style — with Frankie Vall taking the lead, aided by fal-settos and counter-harmonies, crash-ing tympani, bells, sweeping strings ing tympani, bells, sweeping strings and practically everything in the ar-ranger's arsenal, It really is an in-credible sound — and it might well-cot at toreth get a touch

BILLY J. KRAMER

song

JACKIE TRENT

ON PAGE 10

of the last one

STATUS PAST TEST

Black Veils Of Melancholy/To Be Free (Pye).

TTS often said that the second Chart entry is much more important than the first - because, until an artist repeats his initial success, no one can tell whether or not he's just a one-hit-wonder. So this is the moment of truth for Status Quo. Can they repeat their "Matchstick Men" triumph with this new one?

Yes, I think they can. Mind you, it's not as good as the last one, and on the debit side are the un-necessarily gloomy title and the difficulty one has in comprehending the lyric.

Otherwise, the sound is as ting-ling and electrifying as their first hit — complete with wowing organ and quivering twangs.

FLIP: Gutteral raucous guitars, sighing organ and walloping drums support the soloist in this r-and-b medium-pacer. Colourful harmony chanting, too.

PAUL ANKA

PAUL ANKA Can't Get You Out Of My Mind (RCA). It seems ages since Paul Anka was dominating the British Charts-yet he still seems to be singing as well as ever. But tastes change with the passing years, and it will re-quire a superhuman effort if Paul is ever to recapture his former status. Don't think he has much of a chance with this, if only because it's not one of his really sensational compositions.

I'll Be Your Baby Tonight/Open The Door Homer (Philips).
 LAST week, I reviewed Graham Bon-ney's version of this Bob Dylan song — and now comes John Walker with his cover. One of these two discs may well make the Chart, if only be-cause if's such a good song — and much depends upon which of the two artists secures the most promotion.
 A very un-Dylan-like song it's strongly flavoured with a jogging beat and a really haunting melody.
 This is the most sensitive perform ance I've heard from John, who does the song full credit — and I found the steel-guitar backing most appeal-ing. Very nice!
 FLIP: Another Dylan song, and "B "side with a subtle organ back-ing — but it's a pity that John trices to sing like Bob.

John Walker -

so sensitive

DEL SHANNON

DEL SHANNON Thinkin' it Over (Liberty). Del Shannon's been missing from the Chart for a long, long time—but he keeps trying and sooner or later he'll register a comeback. Not with this one, though, it's a bouncy item, sung with gusto and spirit by Del, who frequently slips into dualtrack. But none of his well-known falsettos this time! The backing is specially good—notably the rasping trombones and echo chanting. But somehow it doesn't seem to have the instant ap-peal necessary for the Chart-

INCREDIBLE STRING BAND

Painting Box (Elektra). A delicate folksy ballad with a pic-turesque lyric, sung with finesse and warmth by the lead singer, who is joined by the others in the chorus. I find the word, "incredible" in the group's name appropriate, in that they achieve the most remarkable contrasting sounds on their acoustic guitars. guitars

UNION GAP

UNION GAP Young Girl (CBS). A U.S. group that's had two major hits in the States, and this is the second of them. Apparently they dress like Confederate soldiers from the Civil War — though, of course, their stage impact has no way of coming across on disc. This is a very pleasant rhythmic ballad sung in straight-forward un-complicated fashion by leader Gary Puckett — with background chanting and a busy all-happening backing.

X

Kecommended

TROY: "My Friend The Scarecrow" (Columbia). Our old friend Troy Dante discarding his surname, and coming up with a gently swaying ballad which he helped to write. Combines a folksy quality with a Caribbean in-fluence and a catchy chorus line. Bit like Donovan's recent material, with added strings

added strings. **WAYNE NEWTON:** "All The Time" (MGM). Clearly written by America's answer to Les Reed and Barry Mason, this is an expansive sweet-corn ballad with a melodic sing-along chorus, plus heavenly choir and sweeping strings. It's corny and sentimental — but if you like this sort of thing, good of its

kind. DR. WEST'S MEDICINE SHOW AND JUNK BAND: "Bullets La Verne" (Page One). A cute novelty number about a gal who used to work in a bullet factory! Set to a bouncy beat, with walloping drums and crashing cymbals, it's deliberately dated with a Good-Time flavour. It's enormous fun and vastly entertaining. TURQUOISE: "53 Summer Street" (Decca). Here's a new group generating an ear catching sound, sprinkled with falsettos and carried along by a pene-trating organ.flecked backing. Although not strong in melody, the per-formance is well above average, and the absorbing story-in-song holds the interest.

interest. BALLOON FARM: "A Question Of Temperature " (London). If you like your r-and-b raw, vibrant and strident, this is for you! It pounds along at gallop pace, with twangy guitar and bluesey organ, a vehement vocal and a grip-ping dramatic quality. And they've even managed to work in a few West Coast harmonics! **MILSON:** 'One' (RCA). A beautiful rhythmic ballad, with a haunting poignant quality, emphasised by deep-throated cellos and the pronounced classical influence in the scoring. There's a rippling beat, an appealing solo vocal, and an intriguing scoring. On top of that, the song itself is original.

SANTOS MORADOS: "Tonopah" (Island). A new London group conjuring up visions of the burning Mexican desert, in which — according to the pyric — a man rnd his dog are hopelessiv lost, in which — accounting to the lyric — a man rnd his dog are hopelessiv lost, Rich organ sound, Tijuana brass, hoarse-voiced solo vocal and a slowly pounding beat create a tremendous atmosphere. Great: **GRAPEVINE:** "Things Ain't What They Used To Be Anymore" (Liberty). A bluesy vocal, framed in a colourful backing of chugging beat, tinkling plano and an extremely impressive deployment of strings. It's easy-going, a wee bit wistful, and has a hummable tune. Makes for very pleasant listening. 1941 (Nems). The first release on the Nems label —which, in case your dealer doesn't know how to acquire it, is distri-buted by CBS. It's a cover of a cur-rent U.S. hit. Opens quietly with a spoken pas-sage to set the scene, but builds in impact as it goes along. After a spot of yodelling (ycs, really!) and scat singing, Billy J. Kramer launches into the main body of the story-in-song. listening.





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NOVELLO 'OSCAR' INNERS

THE Beatles have won two of this year's Ivor Novello Awards, and are runners-up in a third category. The Bill Martin-Phil Coulter Eurovision winner "Puppet On A String" is named as the most performed work of the year — and the Engelbert Humperdinck hit "The Last Waltz," written by Les Reed and Barry Mason, has the dis-tinction of being the top-selling British single of 1967.

The awards—organised and sponsored by the Songwriters Guild Of Great Britain—are regarded as the composers' own "Oscars." This year's winners and runners-up are as follows:

MOST PERFORMED WORK OF THE YEAR: 1. "Puppet On A String" (Bill Martin-Phil Coulter); 2. "This Is My Song" (Charles Chaplin

Chaplin).
HIGHEST SALES OF A BRITISH RECORD IN 1967: 1. "The Last Waltz" (Les Reed-Barry Mason); 2. "Hello Goodbye" (John Lennon-Paul McCartney).
BRITAIN'S INTERNATIONAL SONG OF THE YEAR: 1. "A Whiter Shade Of Pale" (Gary Brooker-Keith Reid); 2. "To Sir With Love" (Don Black-Mark London).
BEST BRITISH SONG, MUSICALLY AND LYRICALLY: 1. "She's Leaving Home" (John Lennon-Paul McCartney); 2. "Don't Sleep In The Subway" (Jackie Trent-Tony Hatch).
NOVELTY SONG OF THE YEAR: 1. "Grocer Jack" (Keith West-Mark Wirtz); 2. "The Ballad Of Bonnie And Clyde" (Mitch Murray-Peter Callander).

Peter Callander). BEST INSTRUMENTAL THEME: "Love In The Open Air" (Paul McCartney). No runner-up in this section.

SPECIAL AWARD: Leslie Bricusse, for his "Doctor Dolittle" film score. OUTSTANDING SERVICES TO BRITISH

MUSIC: Sir Alan Herbert. The awards were presented on Tuesday in a special BBC show, which was recorded for broadcast on Radio 1 and 2 next Tuesday (2nd) at 9.15 pm. Among those taking part are the at 9.15 pm. Among those taking part are the Joe Loss Orchestra, compere Brian Matthew, and various guest artists and Award winners.

Beatles romp ahead in NME points race

THE Beatles have opened up a huge lead in the NME Points Championship for 1968. With the first quarter of the year now completed, they are 65 points ahead of their nearest rival, Engelbert Humperdinck—an unusually large margin at this stage of the race. Solomon King occupies third spot, followed by Tom Jones and Manfred Mann. The Monkees are placed 12th but, with their new Chart entry this week, can be expected to forge ahead.

The table is based on the weekly NME Top Thirty—with 30 points allocated to a No. 1 position, 29 to No. 2, and so on down to one point for No. 30. The first 12 places, covering the January-March period, are:

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New DAVY TO GUEST IN LULU'S TV SERIES

MONKEE Davy Jones has agreed to make a guest appearance in Lulu's BBC-1 series, which — as previously reported — will be screened on Tuesday evenings from May 14. Although his trip to Britain is inteded primarily as a holiday to visit his father, he has accepted the invitation which Lulu extended in Hollywood last weekend. Davy will probably arrive in London early in May, but it is not yet known in which edition of "The Lulu Show" he will appear — the series is being telerecorded in advance of transmission.

than half-way through their shooting schedule on their first full-length feature film, which went into production on Febru-ary 19. Completion date is set for April 29, although some further sequences have still to be filmed when the group visits Japan.

spots.

Greco.

Lulu has been booked for a re-turn visit to America in the autumn, when she will star in a three-week cabaret season at Las

film will occupy the whole of June

The Monkees are now more

Japan. Davy is planning to fit in his British visit before re-joining the group for the Japanese trip. It is likely he will also make one or two other TV appearances in Bri-tain — but strictly in interview spots.

In the Lulu TV series, Davy will join an impressive line-up of guests artists including the Everly Brothers, Lou Rawls and Buddy

Vegas Caesar's Palace. She is also considering offers for her to play cabaret engagements in Canada and

cabaret engagements in Canada and Australia and—if accepted—these will follow her Vegas season. Lulu returns to England this Sun-day (31st), and immediately begins work on a new LP for May re-lease. Her manager, Marion Massey, told the NME this week that shoot-ing on Lulu's next major musical film will occurvy the whole of luna

NEW MUSICAL EXPRESS

On sale Frida

MOVIE

BENNET

THE Herd's first appearan with no musical contri

star in a British-made mov

Georgie Fame and P. J. Pr

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The Herd has been signed for its first appearance in a major film. The group has been shooting sequences this week for the United Artists' production "Otley," star-ring Romy Schneider and Tom Courtenay. They do not sing in the picture, but have small acting roles as a pop group receiving in-vestituters at Buckingham Palace. The film, directed by Dick Clem-

The film, directed by Dick Clem-ents, is scheduled for release in the

MOVE 'KEFFORD **GOES' RUMOUR** DERSISTENT rumours circu-

lating this week, suggesting that bass guitarist Ace Kefford will not be rejoining the Move, could not be sub-stantiated as we closed for press. The NME reported last week that the group is cur-rently operating as a four-piece unit, owing to Kefford's

ndisposition. The group's manager Tony Secunda commented: "He is not appearing with the Move at present because he is in a serious nervous condition and under strict medical care. At what the outcome of his illness will be."

BEATLES PEACE FEST, McCARTNEY — DENIAL

THE Beatles are planning a mammoth Festival of Peace to be staged in Britain in May of next year, accord-ing to reports from India. Maharishi Mahesh Yogi would co-operate with the Beatles in organising the event, in which Donovan has

ents, is scheduled for release in the summer. Reports that group leader Peter-Frampton is to have a solo acting role in the movie "The Legend Of Xanadu," starring Dave Dee, are still unconfirmed. Director Mike Mansfield told the NME: "No one has told me anything about it." He added that Esther Ofarim is still "very much in line" for the part of the leading lady, but she is awaiting final scripts before giving her approval. The story is being written by the writers responsible for the "Modesty Blaise" film. Tony Bennett may star in a Bri-tish film for Walter Shenson, who produced the Beatles' "A Hard Day's Night" and "Help!" The project is still under discussion but, if finalised, shooting would begin in the early autum. Tony's pre-vious movie appearance was in the Hollywood film "The Oscar." Shen-son envisages a private detective role for Bennett in the propsed event, in which Donovan has already agreed to appear. Commented their press officer Tony Barrow: "There is nothing official yet — this is something they have been cooking up during their stay in India." The group's month-long meditation course with the Marharishi has now been completed

completed. Paul McCartney and Jane Asher returned to London on Asher returned to London on Tuesday amid increasing specu-lation that their marriage is now imminent. The reports emanated in Teheran—where the couple made a brief stop on their home-ward flight — and were later added to by Paul's housekeeper in London. But Tony Barrow, speaking at Paul's request, said: "He has no marriage plans — these reports are without foundation."

Another Walter Shenson project is for P. J. Proby to play a leading role in a major movie. Although a firm subject has not yet been set, a picture with a Western theme is under consideration. The idea is at present being discussed and if finalised, the pic-ture will go into production this summer.

son envisages a private detective role for Bennett in the proposed new production.

Proby Western

Yet another pop star involved in negotiations on a new film is Georgie Fame, who is being sought to play the part of a singer drawn into a smuggling syndicate. This movie is scheduled for South American locations, with a late spring starting date.

Another Elvis

Elvis Presley begins work on his 27th film late next month. Titled "Live A Little, Love A Little," it is being directed for MGM by Nor-"Live A Little, Love A Little," it is being directed for MGM by Nor-man Taurog — who recently direc-ted Elvis and Nancy Sinatra in the yet-to-be-released "Speedway" film. Producer is Douglas Laurence, and the new picture is a comedy with Presley cast as a car dealer. An MGM comedy currently on loca-tion in India, titled "The Guru," is a micky-take on "well-known person-alities making pilgrimages to the land of transcendental meditation." Michael York plays a pop singer studying the cult, and the film also stars Rita Tushingham. Bruce Forsyth has landed a leading role in the forthcoming Universal Pic-tures' production "Can Hieronymus Merkin Ever Forget Mercy Humppe And Find True Happiness?" The movie—to be shot on location in Malta — is being written, directed and produced by Anthony Newley, who also stars in it. Forsyth recently completed work in Hollywood on the new Julie Andrews picture "Star."

The Show Stoppers -also new to the NME Chart this week-is another group in line for a British visit. The Stoppers are expected to tour clubs and ballrooms here for 17 days from May 3.

Other artists being finalised for British one-nighters by Danny O'Donovan, following his recent visit to America, include rock stars Freddie Cannon and Gary U.S. Bonds-plus Solomon Burke, Patti La Belle and the Bluebells, and Junior Walker and the All-Stars.

Sellers and O'Donovan have also set British one-nighters for American

E-MT

The TROGGS flew to America on Tuesday morning to begin their month-long debut tour of that country, culminating with a visit to Hollywood for film talks. Pictured in the departure lounge at London Airport are (left to right) RONNIE BOND, PETE STAPLES, REG PRESLEY and CHRIS BRITTON.

Three Sinatras in BBC colour special

THE three Sinatras - Nancy, Frank and Frank Jnr - star in a 50-minute colour spectacle to be screened by BBC-2 as the highlight of Good Friday viewing (April 12). Dean Martin and Sammy Davis guest in the show, which is titled "Movin' With Nancy" and is built around Nancy Sinatra's travels through California.

fornia. An Andy Williams special titled "Love Andy," with Henry Mancini and Erroll Garner guesting, will be transmitted by BBC-1 on Sunday, April 7. On subsequent Sundays—starting April 14—the entire series of the "Andy Williams Show" (previously screened by BBC-2) will be re-peated on BBC-1. Gene Pitney, John Rowles and Jill Day guest in BBC-1's "Dee Time" tomorrow (Saturday). Later the same evening the Seekers and Vince Hill join Don Partridge in the final edition of the "Rolf Harris Show." Guest bookings for BBC-1's "Whistle Stop" series include Simon Dupree and the Big Sound (today, Friday), Tony Blackburn (April 5) and the Paper Dolls (12). Seventeen countries are taking part in the Eurovision Song Contest from London's Royal Albert Hall on Saturday, April 6 — and a further eight countries, although not participating, are screening the event. It will be seen by an estimated audience of over 200 million. Cliff Richard, who has been suffering from a relaxed throat, is expected to be fully re-covered in time to represent Britain in the contest.

HOSTESS PET

Southern-TV's "A Tale Of Two Rivers" series -- screened in its

Southern-TV's "A Tale Of Two Rivers" series — screened in its own local region last year — is to be fully networked on Monday nights from April 15. The four half-hour shows, all hosted by Petula Clark, were filmed entirely on location on the River Thames and River Seine. Lulu, Marianne Faithfull, Mark Wynter, Claude Francoise and the Gojos appear in all four editions. Sandie Shaw and Unit Four Plus Two are featured in the first three. Adam Faith guests in the first and third programme. Dave Clark and Cathy McGowan guest in the second show, and Richard Anthony in the fourth. Guests in this weekend's edition of Southern-TV's "Time For Black-burn" are Paul Jones, Kiki Dee, the Lemon Tree, the Nite People, Tony Colton, Andy Ellison and d-j Emperor Rosko. The following week's show (April 6) includes a sequence filmed at Radio Luxembourg's studios— Tony Blackburn and Anita Harris are flying to the Grand Duchy specially to film the clip.

Now only 500 seats for NME's Big Show

Reparata, **Delrons**

A MERICAN hit girl group Reparata and the Delrons which enters the NME Chart this week at No. 22 with "Captain Of Your Ship" is being negotiated for a summer tour of Britain by pro-moters Danny O'Donovan and Henry Sellers. Meanwhile, the girls arrive in Britain next Monday for a brief promotional visit — they guest in "Top Of The Pops" (4th), "Dee Time" (6th) and "Time For Blackburn" (6th or 13th), and may also make one or two appearances,

artists the G-Clefs (March 29-April 18); J. J. Jackson (April 19-May 5); the Fascinations (May 3-May 19); James and Bobby Purify (May 17-June 2); and Oscar Toney Jnr. (May 31-June 2).

KATHY CABARET

Kathy Kirby is to star in a four-week cabaret season at London's Taik Of The Town theatre-restaurant from Easter Monday (April 15). She follows Matt Monro, who is currently appearing at this venue. Future at-tractions already set include Cliff Richard (from May 13) and Dusty Springield (from June 10), both for four weeks.

IRS Unicorn F22757



British visits

5	Manfred Mann 236
6	Love Affair
7	Bee Gees
8.	Esther and Abi Ofarim 194
9	Amen Corner 192
10	Four Tops
11	Beach Boys 179
12	Monkees 176

POPLINERS * ×

THE Beach Boys are considering an offer, submitted by British impresario Vic Lewis, to join the star line-up at the "Musica '68" to join the star line-up at the "Musica '68" Festival in Palma, Majorca, from July 22 to 27. • Peter Green's Fleetwood Mac opens nine-day Scandinavian tour on May 4, then flies to America for month-long visit to promote its hit LP. • Manfred Mann group to star in 30-minute TV play this summer adapted from Tom McGuin-ness's novel "Jester Versus Art." • Hollies to Bremen on April 5 for German TV appearance • Barron Knights and Karlins in Dick Emery's summer season "The Happy Holiday Show" at Brighton Palace Pier from June 28. • Move plays Morecambe Central Pier (tonight, Friday), York St John's (Saturday), Manchester Prin-cess and Domino (Sunday) and Birmingham Belfry (next Monday). • Paul Jones to America for short promotional visit from April 10.

14 20 3 3 4 2 11 2

IN our next issue, names of some of the exciting added attractions will be announced for the NME Poll Winners' Concert at Empire will be announced for the NME Poll Winners' Concert at Empire Pool, Wembley, on Sunday afternoon, May 12. Meanwhile the demand for tickets increases, and seats are now available only at 15s and 10s 6d each. There is only a total of 500 at these prices, so do not delay in com-pleting the coupon below—not forgetting to enclose a stamped addressed envelope with your remittance. We repeat the list of artists (in alphabetical order) which has al-ready been announced for this concert: Amen Corner, Tony Blackburn, Dave Dee Group, Herd, Love Affair, Lulu, Move, Don Partridge, Procol Harum, Cliff Richard, Jimmy Savile, Shadows, Status Quo, Tremeloes and Scott Walker.
 To: NME (Concert), 15-17 Long Acre, London, W.C.2. To: NME (Concert), 15-17 Long Acre, London, W.C.2. I will accept tickets priced atif my original choice is sold out Price of seats : 15s.; 10s. 6d. I enclose remittance (payablel to "George Newnes' Ltd.") together with stamped addressed envelope. Name Address (CAPITAL LETTERS)

y, week ending March 30, 1968



ce in a full-length feature film casts them in acting roles, bution. Tony Bennett is discussing a project for him to ie this autumn. Exciting film projects are planned for oby. Details of Elvis Presley's next movie have been annow in production is a comedy about the pop world's inmeditation.

New TV station plans Trem-Liberace spec.

L tacular for Thames-TV, the new television station which will shortly come into operation to serve the London area. The show is being filmed in colour for sale to America and elsewhere. British transmission will be in August — when the Tremeloes will almost certainly return to Sweden for a tour of folk parks. Thirteen drummers will be heard on the group's next single !

The Thames-TV offer is a direct result of the Tremeloes' recent Chart successes with "Suddenly You Love Me," "Here Comes My Baby" and "Even The Bad Times Are Good."

Are Good." Negotiations began last week, and this week Tremeloes' leader Alan Blakely has been having dis-cussions with Liberace regarding the format of the show, which will be devoted solely to the pianist and the Trems. Telerecording of the programme takes place next Wed-nesday and Thursday. Although titles and release date are not yet definite, the Tremeloes have decided to use a rhythm acc —an instrument which can re-create the sound of 12 drums—in addition to regular drummer Dave Munden on their next CBS single.

MISS JACKIE TRENT & MISS EVELYN TAYLOR

Our issue of March 9 contained Our issue of March 9 contained an advertisement by Jackie Trent relating to her representation in the future. We are now informed that the question of her personal man-agement is the subject of legal pro-ceedings between Miss Trent and Miss Evelyn Taylor and further-more that Miss Trent's agency agreement with Starcast Ltd does not expire until September next.

French star Mireille Mathieu plays her first concert date — following the car crash in December in which she sustained severe injuries — at Lon-don's Royal Albert Hall on Sunday, April 21.

SINGLE DELAYED

ENGELBERT Humperdinck returned to his title role in the London Palladium p a n t o m i m e "Robinson Crusoe" on Tuesday, after being out of the show for almost a week suffering from severe laryngitis. He was replaced by his understudy during his absence.

On Tuesday of last week, his voice was so strained that he had to speak the words of his songs on stage. The following day his voice had completely

day his voice had completely disappeared! As a result of this indisposi-tion, plans for Engelbert to re-cord his new single last week-end had to be shelved. This means the disc is now unlikely to be released before April 19 at the earliest.

VAUD TO CANADA

The New Vaudeville Band files to Canada on May 29 for a two-week cabaret season at Vancouver Issy's Club—it will also film its own half hour colour show for CBC-TV, titled "Let's Go" The group then goes to Hawaii for a fortnight in cabaret, spends a further two weeks in Amer-ica, and completes its travels with a two-week cabaret stint in Brazil.

SYMBOLS U.S. CLUBS

The Symbols' third U.S. tour, start-ing on September 15, will now de-finitely last until October 31—11 has been extended to enable the group to play two ten-day cabaret seasons in Los Angeles and Detroit Mean-while, the Symbols' second American visit from April'20 will now include Canada-where they make their debut in Vancouver



THE short concert tour co-starring Herman's Hermits and Amen Corner, plans for which were evaluated a starring the start of the start o which were exclusively revealed in last week's NME, is definitely ON! And John Rowles-who makes his NME Chart debut this week at No. 17 with "If I Only Had Time "-has been added to the package as special guest star. Promoter Danny Betesh has so far set seven venues, none of which is in London-but three dates (May 10, 12 and 19) remain to be filled.

With at least two more names to be added to the line-up, the itin-

IPSWICH Gaumont (May 11) MAIDSTONE Granada (13) WORCESTER Gaumont (14) LEEDS Odeon (15) LINCOLN ABC (16) WIGAN ABC (17) BLACKPOOL ABC (18)

Although the Amen Corner is pre

Attough the Amen Corner is pre-viously engaged in the Gene Pitncy tour, which opens next Friday (April 5), none of the towns visited by that package coincides with any of the venues on the Herman tour. It will be John Rowles' first concert tour since arriving in this country from New Zealand

country from New Zealand. • A new single by Herman's Hermits is scheduled for release on April 11 by Columbia, Tititled "Sleepy Joe," it was written by the Carter-Lewis team and, as usual, produced by Mickie Most.

STONE MAN'S GROUP

New Decca group Turquoise — handled by Rolling Stones' tour manager Tom Keylock — is to write and perform seven songs for a film titled "If That Was A Hard Day's Night, What Do You Think This Is? " which begins shooting on location in Rome this spring.

BALDRY IN ITALIAN

Long John Baldry last weekend re-corded "Let The Heartaches Begin" and "Hold Back The Daybreak" in Italian, with lyrics translated by Domenico Modugno. The disc will be issued in Italy next month, and Baldry files to Rome in May for a promotional visit.



to star in concerts at America's two most cele-brated venues-New York's Carnegie Hall and the Holly-wood Bowl. They would be accompanied by the full Glendale Symphony Or-

chestra. The group is hoping to ar-range the two dates for June, following a tour of Southern France already planned for that month.

THE Small Faces, the Brian Auger Trinity with Julie Driscoll, the Yardbirds and Fairport Convention guest in Radio 1's "Top Gear" on Sunday, April 14. Set up for the previous week's show (7) are Traffic, the Idle Race, Ten Years After, Tim Buckley and the Alan Bown. Appear-31) are John Mayall's Bluesbreakers, and the End. The Herd, Plastic Penny, Amboy Dukes, the Alan Bown. Jackie Trent, the Tony Hatch Orchestra and the Johnny Howard Band are among artists appearing in the "David Symonds Show" every evening from Monday, April 8, to Friday. April Booked for the morning "Jimmy Young Show" during the Same period are the Tremeloes, Marma-lade, the Searchers, the Spectrum, the Karl Denver Trio, the Skillets, Cliff Bennett and his Band, Kenny Ball's Jazzmen and the Ken Mackin-tosh Orchestra.

tosh Orchestra. Line-up for the "Pete Brady Show" during the week beginning April 8 includes the Yardbirds, the Peddlers, the Bystanders, the Cymbaline, Clinton Ford, Billy J. Kramer, Mrs. Mills and the bands of Alex Welsh and George Chisholm. This same cast appears in the Sat-urday afternoon show on April 6, hosted by Pete Drummond. Paul Jones quests in "Pop North"

Paul Jones guests in "Pop North" on Thursday, April 11, and the fol-lowing day (12) is joined by Procol Harum in the "Joe Loss Show."

Some of the former Light Programme comperes are returning to "Family Choice" when the series reverts to its original policy next month. Joe Henderson hosts the show for the week beginning April 8 — and he will be followed by Val Doonican and Geoffrey Wheeler. It is not planned to drop the young dj's completely, but in future they will appear only periodically.

Solomon King, the Moody Blues and Elaine Delmar take part in a special edition of "Follow The Stars" on Radio 1 and 2 tomorrow (Saturday).

HOLLIES TOUR IN KINKS, FACES, DAVIES, FLOYD, WITH PAUL, SCAFFOLD MACKENZIE - NEW SINGLES THE Small Faces' first single of 1968 is scheduled for release next I week. Also set are new discs by the Kinks, Dave Davies, the Pink Floyd, Scott Mackenzie and Peter and Gordon. Grapefruit's follow-up has been delayed by one week. Des O'Connor's new single is the Les Reed-Barry Mason song forecast in last week's NME. Another Bill Haley oldie is being re-issued. is being re-issued. "Lazy Sunday Afternoon" (Im-mediate) is the title of the Small Faces' new single out next Friday (5th). On the same day a new Kinks' disc is released by Pye, but details have not yet been disclosed. Similarly, the name of Dave Davies' new solo disc--to be issued by Pye on April 11-has still not been an-nounced. Other releases next Friday include

They're all touring this spring! Pictured at Radio 1's GENE PITNEY, BARRY GIBB of the Bee Gees, and Hol Gene's tour opens next Friday, the Bee Gees are alre

THE Hollies, Paul Jones and the Scaffold are to co-star in a major British concert tour starting in mid-May. All three attractions will be accompanied by a full concert orchestra directed by Mike Vickers. Promoter Danny Betesh is currently setting up dates for the package, which is expected to open on May 20 and run for 12 days. It had originally been planned for Paul Jones to join the Gene Pitney tour.

"Pop Inn' on Tuesday were (left to

abilities have coincided.

be quite different in conception from the majority of pop packages — as is obvious from the use of a full-scale



tional). Set for April 19 are Des O'Connor's "I Pretend " and Pink Floyd's "It Would Be So Nice" (both Columbia). Scott Mackenzie's "Holy Man" (CBS), Dave Berry's "Do I Still Figure In Your Life" (Decca) and d-j Tony Brandon's "Candy Kisses" (MGM).

• Tyrannosaurus Rex makes its disc debut on April 19 with "Deborah" (Regal-Zonophone), with an LP to follow in May.

A LETTER FROM THE LOVE AFFAIR

Dear fans,

Thank you very much for sending all those lovely letters. Please excuse us if you haven't yet had a reply, but we promise you that every letter will be answered, although it will take a little time as there are so many. Our new single will be issued on April 5th on CBS 3366, the 'A' side is called "Rainbow Valley'' and was written by the same writers as "Everlasting Love", the 'B' side is called "Someone Like Me" and was written by all of us. We hope you like it.

Our Everlasting Love to you all

Steve Mick Rex Lynton and No.

Hollies BOBBY ELLIOTT and ALLAN CLARKE already on tour. Hollies' plans revealed below.

which opens next week, but he subseqently withdrew. The Hollies, the Scaffold and Paul have — for some time been eager to tour together, but this is the first occasion on which their avail-

Betesh told the NME: "This tour will orchestra.'





9



Decca House Albert Embankment London SE1



NEW MUSICAL EXPRESS

On sale Friday, week ending March 30, 1968

corre

They really are the four TOPS!

THE Four Tops are well named. They are four top guys! Pleasant, hard working, and essentially a team. When Levi Stubbs is blasting off his solo in "Reach Out I'll Be There," the other three are pouring out their precision background "reply " sounds in support.



RENALDO and LAWRENCE pose with Holland's Eurovision singer, RONNIE TOBER.



RENALDO, two friends, LEVI and LAWRENCE "frame" NANCY WILSON

**** OTIS REDDING IN EUROPE (Stax, 589016). Great excitement stirred up by the late Otis, as he goes into his one-more time routine for the tenth time! Recorded live in Europe (there are no sleeve notes to say where), he really lets go with Shake to end side one, with the audiences going hysterical behind him! Every number is taken at maximum intensity, specially Satisfaction. Fa-Fa-Fa-Fa-Fa (with audience participa-tion) and Day Tripper, Softer Tarra (with addence participation) and Day Tripper, Softer was These Arms of Mine (his first-ever recording) and Try A Little Tenderness.
 Other titles: Respect, I Can't Turn You Loose, I've Been Lov-ing You Too Long, My Girl.

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*** KIKI DEE (Fontana, TL 5455)

*** KIKI DEE (Fontana, TL 5455). Picasant ... that's how I sum up Kiki Dee's singing on this LP. For some reason she took special time-out to ring me and say she didn't like it and was angry that the Fontana company was releas-ing it. So I was expecting some-thing rather diabolical. Perhaps that was the idea, so that I'd be agreeably surprised and write that Kiki was unduly modest. Later I got a call from her pub-licist to say the record was selling very, very well des-pite her dislike. Eventually the album arrived for review (the Philips ones usually take a time). There's good orchestral backing (from Arthur Greenslade and Les Reed) and vocal support. Kiki

14

And when Lawrence Payton is taking the lead in "Mack The Knife," Levi is back there with Renaldo Benson and Abdul Fakir, giving the support that Laurey had given him minutes before.

Laurey had given him minutes before. The plan now is to build up, more and more, an international cabaret act, with each member taking lead vocal on at least one number. Unlike the Supremes, there is no plan whatsoever to name one of the Tops for solo billing like Diana Ross gets today. I met them twice in Amsterdam at the Grand Gala. Once in a night club called Birds, where they were having fun making great sounds behind Nancy Wilson's scat singing, while Jimmy Smith sat, eyes closed, at the organ. The overall effect was pure vocal and instrumental dynamite. Later, the perspiring Abdul sipped a coke and told me: "Boy, did I enjoy that. We really relax when we're fooling around with our singing. It reminds me of the early days, when we'd goof about all night, singing and drinking cans of beer, in Detroit. "Dyou know, we got our first

"D'you know, we got our first ever big hit that way. We were over at Marvin Gaye's house, hav-ing a party, when suddenly we all felt the urge to make a record. We got on the phone at 4 a.m.

sings well enough, a bit Dusty-ish and her diction is clear. But I'd disagree with Simon Dee, who wrote the sleeve note, that Kiki is a star. Not yet. Soon, maybe, but not yet. She's pleasant. Titles: Excuse Me, Sunshine, Pat-terns. With A Kiss, When We Get There, Why Don't I Run Away From You, I, We've Got Everything Going For Us, 1 Dig You Baby, Stop and Think, Don't Destroy Me, I'm Going Out (Same Way I Came In).

Out (Same Way i Came In). *** JEFFERSON AIRPLANE AFTER BATHING AT BAXTER'S (RCA Victor, RD 7926). One of those gimmicky sound LPs, yet not without some good instrumental work, with futes and clarinets and all sorts of sounds permeating 'through, specially behind Grace Slick's Rejoyce. I also liked Grace'S Two Heads and two numbers they all sing on - Young Girl Sunday Blues. I haven't a clue what the titles are all about, and why there are titles combining titles, as there's no explanation on the sleeve. Titles. Streetmasse - Ballad Of You and Me and Pooneil, A Small Package Of Value Will Come To You, Young Girl Sun-day Blues; The War Is Over --Martha, Wild Tyme; Hymn To An Older Generation -- Last

and called various musicians and sound engineers. By 5 a.m. we were at the Tamla studios and I asked Abdul the rame studiog and then we went back to the party." I asked Abdul the name of the resultant record. "I'm not sure. At this time of night (it was about 2 am I are provided to the studies of the studies 3 a.m.) I am never sure about facts, but Levi will know. Levi knows everything . . " and he laughed and went to work on his

Wall Of The Castle, Rejoyce; How Suite It Is — Watch Her Ride, Spare Chaynge; Shizo-forest Love Suite — Two Heads, Won't You Try, Saturday After-noon

*** ROLF HARRIS: BBC TELE-VISION SHOW (Columbia, SX

VISION SHOW (Columbia, SA 6216). The verve and happiness of Rolf's Saturday night TV show is captured on this LP. The songs, the versatile bearded Aussie sings are from his TV show, but they have been recorded over a period of the last four years, with novelties like Dancing Mathilde French: Fljian Girl, Roochama (with wobble board), Iko Iko, O Mein Fapa. I've never thought Rolf very much of a singer, but he does get his number over just the same, and he has plenty of support here. Memories for those who like his TV show — 15 of them.

them Other titles: Poor Jenny, Here The Bass, Hurry Home, Come the Bees, Hurry Home, I've Never Seen Anything Like It, Jake The Peg, Green Valley, Thoroughly Modern Mille, Thoroughly Modern Mille, Ye-Le, Borrolooia, Under The Trees

ORCHESTRAL. JAMESS LAST BAND (Polydor, 184092) title this one "That's Life." This Continental - type orchestra makes magic of

doing night clubs as a supporting act, and living comfortably, when boom! We were stars."

Levi is the elegant dresser of the group. Next day, at a mid-morning Press conference, he turned up in a grey pin-stripe, with waist coat, looking for all the world the city gent. Lawrence Payton at the same conference looked like a football player in his bright blue sweater and Repaldo bright blue sweater, and Renaldo Benson was a country squire in his sports suit and cardigan and roll-neck sweater. (Abdul was miss-ing, he had lived it up a bit too much the night before and simply

could not be wakened.) The Tops had two managers with them and I rode up in the lift at the Amsterdam Hilton with them as they discussed, before the conference, how they could get the Tops up at 10 a.m. "We'll start at the top and work down," they said. "Abdul is on the highest floor, isn't he? Half an hour later they had three of them in the foyer, along

three of them in the foyer, along with Nancy Wilson, Jimmy Smith, Vikki. Carr and some of

Smith, Vikki Carr and some of the musicians that went along with the troupe. At the reception the Tops were affability itself. I noticed Law-rence giving a long interview to a girl journalist and looking as if he was enjoying it. And any photo-grapher making a request for a picture was immediately offered a selection of poses by the happy Tops.

Tops. When they heard that Holland's Ronnie Tober, Eurovision singer, Ronnie Tober, was at the conference, they con-gratulated him on singing the was at the contenence, may con-gratulated him on singing the winning Dutch song and wished him well, having their pictures taken with him at the same time. Renaldo, who says his name sounds Italian but he isn't, he just likes the name, told me: "We want to come back to Britain. We love the warmth of the audiences there. They send us on. But right now we are so heavily booked in other parts of the world we just can't. It is not for not wanting to, please tell them all that. We will be back with bells on as soon as we can." A happier, more obliging group A happier, more obliging group would be hard to find. I asked Lawrence why they had released a track from an LP as their cur-rent single. "If I Were A Car-panter" penter.

Lawrence was surprised this had been chosen. "We travel around so much we have to leave decision like this to others.

"But it's a good number and I'm sure it will do well for us. We don't get the time we would like to record singles. Besides, in the States it is mostly LPs now anyway.'

anyway." Lawrence's prediction has come true and "If I Were A Carpenter" is now at No. 12 in this week's chart. And the Tops are on two best-selling LPs, their own "Greatest Hits," at No. 6 and "British Carbusters," at No. 11. Yes, they live up to their name all right — the Four TOPS!

MORE SINGLES Contd from page 6

DEAN MARTIN

You've Still Got A Place in My Heart (Reprise). A predictable offering from Dean Martin — a slowly swaying sweet-corn ballad, with a group joining in the chorus. Dino croons as noncha-lantly and lazily as ever, sounding as though he's just about to drop off! Backing includes strings, brass and a plod beat, it's sentimental, corny and very hummable — with just a slight country flavour. All together now....

ROGER WHITTAKER

Talk To The Animals (Columbia). Cne, of the highlights from the "Doctor Dolittle" movie, this Lestie Bricusse novelty is fast becoming a standard not hit parade material, but most people who see the film will doubtless welcome a souvenir from it-

Rog Whittaker's version is actually a deliberate impression of the pic-ture's star Rex Harrison. And very good it is, too. But as Rex's own soundtrack is also available as a single, it rather defeats the object.



PRECIOUS FEW: "Young Girl" (Pye). A driving mid-tempo beat opus which, despite its spirited approach still has a very attractive melody. Belted solo vocal-backed by organ, guitars anid humming. A commendable cover of Union Cap's U.S. hit.

Cap's U.S. hit. BERKELEY KITES: "Hang Up Kites" (Polydor). An infectious bouncy beat and a punchy brass backing support this Monkee-ish routine. It's a lively number, but the en-thusiasm is controlled, so the over-all effect isn't overpowering. MATALS: "54.46 That's Market sounds like. ALS: "54-46, That's My Num-(Pyramid) As you might ct from this label, it's three ites of sheer unadulterated s beat. Totally lacking in ites beat. bi dy, but a nagging hypnotic im you can't ignore. Semi-ted vocal.

ES Contd from page 6
THE GROP: "Lovin' Tree" (CBS). Five Australian boys won a trip to London in a Melbourne talent contest. A typical beat-group item, exuding plently of excitement — both vocally and in the solid back-ing. But very ordinary material.
BROCKS AND JERRY: "I Got What It Takes" (Direction). A fervent double-sided soul duet, Impassion-ately handled, with the boys chat-tering animatedly between in chorus, and a socking beat. Real undulterated r-and-b, this.
GROUP 2: "It's Raining Outside". (Columbia). A touch of the kwelas here! This song stems from Africa, but it's been heavily commercial ised—and now has brass and chrip-ing girls in the backing. A happy number with a peppy beat.
THE FIRE: "Father's Name Is Dad". (Decca). A rumbling twangy back, ing, crashing symbals emphasising the thundering gallop beat, and a stage of the subscription of the kwelas here! This is a girl's name! A dis-tinct, and a socking the source of the subscription of the subscription.
THE FIRE: "Father's Name Is Dad". (Decca). A rumbling twangy back, ing, crashing symbals emphasising the dinger who sounds like the Trogs' Reg Presley. The tyric's novel, but otherwise it has nothing special to offer.
JOE COCKER: "Marjorine" (Regal-doubl, this is a girl's name! A dis-tinctly different disc, with a catchy tunct, finger-clicking beat and fas-cinating lyric Good performance. to Give it a try!
MINDY CARSON: "A Little Love" (President). A leading American candw singer, bowing to the com-mercial market with a sugar-sweet sing-along. Litting beat, heavenly choir and strings frame the gal's had smoochy.
CALIFORNIANS: "Congratulations" (Decca). Imagine what the Treme-los might do to C(III Reichard's 'A Song For Europe" hit, and you've got a good idea of what this sounds like. Snappy and brassy, with la-lae chorus and harmony





FOUR TOPS in action (left to right) LEVI STUBBS, RENALDO BENSON, ABDUL FAKIR and LAWRENCE PAYTON.

By ANDY GRAY

Levi did know. "It was 'Baby I Need Your Lovin'.' That was the start of big things for us. We had cruised along for ten years

LPS by Allen Evans

6216).

Strolling Through Gateshead! So you can imagine what a great job they make of Guan-tanamera, Born Free, Win chester Cathedral, etc., on the label which produces stereo discs playable mono. Full-throated brass and soft-beat ebuthm

label which produces stereodiscs playable mono. Full-throated brass and soft-beat rhythm.
LES REED SOUND (Deram, DML 709) has a melodic romantic quality as he conducts his or-chestra in "New Dimensions," using the Deramic Sound System. Included are Les' hits — Last Waitz, There's A Kind Of Husch Silver And Blue as well as that evergreen Kennedy-Carr hit. South Of The Border.
BILL DOGGETT ORCHESTRA (International, 62225) swings of the first rock era back in the mid-50s, a veteran jazz planist. Good tenor sax by Clifford Scott. Mostly combo work with varied musicians round Bill
EAR BOSTIC / TAB SMITH (International 622254). On "Swinging Saxes," each star shares a side – Earl playing alto on seven fittes, such as Bo-De-Rock and Bararole (recorded 1958-59); and Tab, also on alto sax, adding seven more, including Big Wheel. Over And Under, Cold Nose — all waxed in 1960.
FATZ SCHULZ - REICHEL AND BRISTOL BAR SEXTET (Polydor 249171) presents sauve dreamy, organ and piano accented music in their "Night-club. International" medley, which includes 29 top tunes, drifting from tune to tune — Only You to My Prayer to Autumn Leaves, etc. Very attractive listening.
JUDD SOLO (Studio 2 Stereo. Two 193) offers you "Continental Magic" from his orchestra, with 12 tunes from round the world. The bandleader at the Rooftop Restaurant at the London Hilton hotel, he knows what the international set want and gives it to them. I liked The Liars, Guantanamera, A Man And A Woman best.
MAR BILLAD SINGERS
NATC KING COLE (Capitol, ST 2820) sings a set of 11 tracks

BALLAD SINGERS

State & State

	JUN	NAT KING COLE (Capitol, ST 2820) sings a set of 11 tracks under the name "The Beautiful Ballads," with top conductors Ballad Camietary and Ballads,	all e MAYTA
H-JE-	TF 919	Ralph Carmichael, Les Baxter and Nelson Riddle. The purry- voiced Nat has left behind magical performances like Felicia, Marnie, I'll Always Be Remembering, and A Fool I Was. DANNY WILLIAMS (Deram, DML 1017) is a soft, sensitive singer of great charm and ex- perience. He excels with	ber expect minu blues meloo rhyth shout DIGNO "Man versio Amer
NITE F	PEOPLE	Jacques Brel's If You Go Away, A Kind of Loving and That Old Feeling. Musical directors are Les Reed, Ivor Raymonde and Arthur Greenslade, Good disc. JACK JONES (HAR 8344) uses "Our Song" as the title tune	harm savou washi sands - INVADE bia B and t
	field's Southern TV Production BURN" — 30th MARCH	of this 12-tracker. He sings with a great confidence and control, using his attractive voice to the utmost, making standouts of	most. ever,- provo suited listen
사람들은 것 같은 것	TE MONDAYS from 8th April s Marquee Club	Michelle, Now I Know, Along The Way, More And More. Top backing from Ralph Car- michael, Don Costa, Bob Flor- ence and Marty Paich.	WILLIE (Lond speak you ti showc playin

ted vocal. GARCIA Y SUS CARIOS: ria Elena '' (MGM). An exotic ton of this favourite Latin-rican standard. Beautifully nonised. The lazy treatment urs of blue tropical seas ing on sun-baked golden s. Capityating! ERS: "Stop Teasing" (Colum-Blue Beat). Another ska disc, this one is more melodic than

his one is more melodic than beat is as insistent as The and the lyric has a saucy cative quality. Far more l to dancing than armchair MITCHELL: "Soul Serenade"

(London). A tile that virtually speaks for itself, But let me warn you that this is an instrumental— showcasing some brilliant guitar playing, honking sax, background organ and steady jerk beat

100 - 10 00 00 + 100

Caller & Balanda

sounds like Snappy and harmony with la-la chorus and harmony exchanges. PAT MCGEEGAN: "Chance Of A lifetime" (Emerald). This is Lifetime" (Emerald) This is Ireland's entry in the Eurovision Contest, performed by the original artist. An uncomplicated delivery

of a pleasant romantic ballad. But doesn't strike me as a potential

doesn't strike me as a potential winner. AMBOY DUKES: "Simon Says" (Polydor). A very competent cover version of the U.S. hit. employing practically the same treatment. Thoroughly enjoyable, but now the 1910 Fruitgum Co. has made it here, this one must be a loser.

here, this one must be a loser. MERLE HAGGARD: "The Legend Of Bonnie And Clyde" (Capitol) A country story-in-song, Sounds like the theme from "The Beverly Hill-billies" with new lyrics! And the singer could almost be Roger Miller! But haven't we had enough of Bonnie and Clyde? FOUR EVERS: "A Lovely Way To Say Goodnight" (CBS). We've heard this before from the Four Seasons, and this is similarly handled-with falsettos and coun-ter-harmonies. Still, it's a very catchy number, and this is a worthwhile version.

THREE NEWCOMERS GIVE NEW



THE Philadelphia sound comes from the Show Stoppers, who sound like an Irish Show Band (in name that is) but definitely are not! "Ain't Nothin' But A Houseparty," on the new Beacon label, is their first big



The SHOW STOPPERS give them-selves and their label, Beacon, their chart debut with "It Ain't Nothin" **But A Houseparty** Houseparty" at No 22. It they are brothers EARL 22. Left . and TIMMY SMITH (top) and LADDIE and ALEX BURKE, brothers of Solomon.

hit, entering the NME Chart at No 22 this week.

No 22 this week. The Show Stoppers are two sets of brothers, Timmy (19) and Earl Smith (18) and Alex (19) and Laddie Burke (18). Alex and Laddie are in fact brothers of soul singer Solomon Burke who has given the group a great deal of support and guidance. "Houseparty" is the first British hit with the Philadelphia sound, which is only just begin-ning to make an impact in the States since the first 'Philly' hit "Boogaloo Down Broadway" by the Fantastic Johnny C.

Sound grows

Now interest in the Philadelphia sound is growing and a number of independent producers and re-cord companies are setting up in the city where a whole wave of new groups are waiting to break

big. Their sound has been described as Tamla without the strings, or a cross between the more sophis-ticated Tamla and the more down

to earth Stax. to earth Stax. The Show Stoppers first got together at Germantown High School in Philadelphia and are re-ported to have a fantastic stage act, similar in excitement value to that of James Brown,

They have played at most of the negro theatres in the States to much success and received a standing ovation on a recent show with the Four Tops. Show stop-ners indeed. pers indeed!

British visit

British fans will have a chance to judge for themselves when the group arrives in Britain on April 15th for TV appearances and a

tour. Besides being a breakthrough for the Show Stoppers, the record marks a triumph for the Beacon label, put out by one of the smallest and newest record com-panies around. The company is operated from

The company is operated from Willesden in North West London and is run by a team of young people, the oldest of whom is 261 "Houseparty" is the first Beacon release. N.L.



Congratulations all round for CLIFF RICHARD (whose " Congratulations " leaps 8 places in this week's chart) and newcomer JOHN ROWLES who has a triple celebration — his chart debut at No 17 with "If I Only Had Time," his 21st birthday which fell on Monday and giving his record label, MCA, its first chart entry.

'Classroom' sound from Reparata

PROVIDING the classroom sound with the catchy "Captain Of Your Ship" is an American all-girl Reparata and the Delrons, who come our way via Brooklyn High School whre Mary Reparata Aiese, Lorraine Mazzola and Nanette Licari are studying to be teachers. Mary, the group's 21-year-old lead singer, is studying Spanish and hopes to be a High School teacher, likes surfing, playing guitar and shopping for clothes. Lorraine, also 21, would like to teach French at College level and how intersect include puriting

teach French at College level and her interests include writing songs. She also plays piano, hav-ing been taught by her mother who used to be a pianist. Lor-raine's ultimate aim is mariage but before that she would like to break into films and musical comedy

The second Delron, Nanette, is a 20-year-old studying elementary education. She plays guitar and

comedy.

BY ALAN WELLS

writes songs. Their first record, "Whenever A Teenager Cries," was a big hit in America some three years back. They have had subsequent hits in

They have had subsequent nits in the States. "Captain Of Your Ship" is only the second record on EMI's new Bell label and its first British hit. Bell is a blues label in America, featuring among others Oscar Toney Jnr. James Carr, Lee Dor-sey and James and Bobby Purify, and FMI felt the catalogue was and EMI felt the catalogue was strong enough to warrant a sepa-rate label in this country also.



LABELS CHART DEBUT

ALL things considered, Monday was a great day for John Rowles A ... his 21st birthday ... and his first British record "If I Only Had Time" zooming into the NME Chart at No. 17. So how did John celebrate? Champagne? No ... with a glass of cold diluted coffee!

Contee! The reason being that John and management stable - mate Cliff Richard were at a photo session to publicise their respective re-cords. A shot was needed of Cliff offering his "Congratulations" to John, with glasses raised. No champagne at hand, so in came the cold coffee (see left). In between the photos I had a

the cold coffee (see left). In between the photos I had a word with John, who was justifi-ably surprised at the way his record was shooting up the charts. He admitted its success owed a great deal to plugs on television and added: "I always thought that it would make it if it got enough plays because it is the type of song that grows on you." John was born in New Zealand where his family — he has six sisters and a brother—still live. His first break was at the age of ten when he won a talent con-test singing "All Shook Up." In his teens he joined a singing

In his teens he joined a singing trio in New Zealand which later became the resident group at a

BY NICK LOGAN

11

hotel in Melbourne. When the trio folded after about three months John joined a show band in Sydney and took the opportunity to learn to play bass, piano, saxo-phone, trumpet and drums. He had already been able to play guitar since the age of ten.

since the age of ten. He went solo two years ago and the only two records he made went straight into the Australian charts. Says John: "I only decided I could sing about three years ago. That's When I started to take it seriously." However, John felt confined in Australia and decided that the only aya to further his career was to come to Britain, which he did in October last year. Many people have commented that he bears a resemblance to our own Engelbert Humperdinck, John agrees to a certain extent and says that on his first day in this country, while only for a flat, three young girls ran up to him in the street scream ing "Engel, Engel ..." And that can't be bad!



America's REPARATA and the DELRONS who enter this week's chart at No. 23 with " Captain Of Your Ship."



INDIA INSPIRES DONOVAN TO COMPOSE

By Keith Altham

BRIGHT little stars oft times become super novas in the course of time, and last Thursday at the Royal Albert Hall, where a full house of 5,000 people had come to listen, Donovan's sun was burning bright. Straight from his long run at the Maharishi's meditation centre he had returned fired with fresh energies to give a perfect concert.

With host of golden daffodils and purple iris scattered on the stage before him, Don snapped the musical chains of the folk singer once mor He dabbled in jazz with the assistance of brilliant musicians like Harold McNair, who warbles like some inspired song-thrush on a flute behind the simpler ballads like "The Lullaby Of Spring," and then switches to tenor sax to pro-vide a kaleidoscope of notes to the ode "To Hampstead Heath."

12

Hampstead Heath." The mini big band got right behind the feeling of "Skip-a-long Sam" and "Mad Mad John" to provide a touch of swing, while "First There Is A Mountain" brought the calypso touch, with bongos and tom toms Planist-conductor John Cameron arranged some beautiful classically-inspired passages for the string section, who, dressed be instructed and box the string section.

inspired passages for the string section, who, dressed in immaculate evening suits and bow ties, looked just a little bemused by the frills, flowers and "bandido" moustaches of their fellows. Donovan brought all back to earth with voice and a lone guitar on "Episte To Derroll" and a new song he wrote in India, "The Boy Who Fell In Love With A Swan."

Early in the second half of the concert Georgie Fame played organ for jazz singer John Hendricks. Both made surprise appearances and delighted the audience with two rhythm-and-blues numbers. The first half of the concert con- America. He

The first half of the concert con-sisted of two up-and-coming groups — The Flame, who sang sweet, undiluted contemporary folk music; and the Tyrannorsaurus Rex, who made some bold excur-sions into the realms of Indian music and were notable for some good guitar work from Marc Bolan

Bolan. But this was Donovan's show and each of his top pops were greeted enthusiastically by this capacity crowd from "Saffron" and "Jennifer Juniper" through to the final big band arrangement of "Mellow Yellow." Seldom have I heard a huge audience so atten-tive and silent as they listened to the work of one man — how one the work of one man — how one person was not arrested for blowing his nose during "The Tinker And The Crab" and disturbing the "peace," I shall never understand!

Those who came to hear cared and went backstage included Hollie Graham Nash, recently returned from a highly successful tour of -



He had a present for Don in the shape of book titled simply "Graphic Work" by M. C. Escher which contained some in-credible surrealistic sketches. He said of their new single "Jennifer Eccles"—"They would not buy 'King Midas In Reverse' so we've given them something that they will buy!"

Shy Mia Farrow

Mia Farrow (Mrs Sinatra) sat shyly in one corner of the dressing snyly in one corner of the dressing room and looked so young that she might have been fourteen, with her "urchin-cut," no make-up and an Indian shawi (a souvenir from the Meditation Centre on the Ganges) about her shoulders.

John Hendricks bounced through the door with a Scotch in his hand and a huge grin on his face. He began to change into his stage suit commenting: "Man, if I saw some-one who looked like me—I'd laugh!"

Georgie Fame arrived and ran up behind Donovan's manager Ashley Kozak to do an impression As they Kuzak to dain infiguression of playing a double bass. Ashley turned to discover the joker was the prodigal organist returned from his US tour and affectionately combined him embraced him,

And, of course, Donovan was there, relaxed in a cool white suit, holding a large red-and-yellow guitar which bristled with the spikey ends of new strings and had a cigarette impaled on one "I'll sing you a song that Paul McCartney wrote while we were out in India," he volunteerd and began a pretty tune about "Army boots, parachutes and sleeping bags for two."

"Lennon and McCartney got

"Lennon and McCartney got so together out there they must have written at least 27 new songs," Don reported. Was he nervous about going on stage before the huge audience? "A little," he admitted. "There is not enough darkness out there for me. I always begin with the quietest, most relaxing song I know to put me in the right frame of mind." In this case that proved to be "The Isle Of Islay," which is on his new double packaged album, "A Gift From A Flower To A Garden."

on mo album, "A Gift From a To A Garden." How much did it cost Don to stage one of these concerts with all his extra musicians? Ashlev jumped in: "The musici-

all his extra musicians? Ashley jumped in: "The musici-ans the flowers and all the extra equipment costs us approximately £500 to provide, but it's worth spending this to provide the audience with the best. They give it back to us by their support, like tonight's full house. The expensive packaging on the album was a gamble but we have already sold over half a million in America alone.



etc) would it not be possible for them all to get together for one huge project? Perfectly true," said Don. "In fact, It surprises me just how many of us are going in the same direction. I think many of us are direction. I think many of us are looking for a stage presentation which will eventually go back to the concept of 'the strolling players,' those troupes who enter-tained with songs, sketches and comedy...I'm sure we will converge some time in the future."

With so many people thinking alike in the pop business at present (Graham Nash, Eric Burdon, Georgie Fame, Paul McCartney, stopworld it pot the prostble for

A pop singer?

Does Donovan mind being called a "pop" singer. "No, it is such a general term that it pleases me. It means some-one who sings popular music and that's what I want to do. I don't think our generation wants its music put into little boxes labelled 'classical,' folk' or 'jazz.' We are absorbing all the best elements from these fields and the Eastern music thus coming the Eastern music, thus coming up with something that is new and our own.

"George Harrison has written this kind of music for a new film which has an Arabian in-fluence, but it's not Arab music. is what he has learnt from their music and is mixed with his own understanding. You can call it 'pop-music' if you like."

Is Donovan's next single to be "Hurdy Gurdy Man?" "I think so," Don replied. "It's a nice happy song. It's the story of the world. Whenever there are





B^{IG} news of the week are unconfirmed but strong reports that Bob Dylan may undertake a summer tour! Seemingly back in hibernation

since his one short guest appear-ance at the Woody Guthrie benefit

since his one short guest appear-ance at the Woody Guthrie benefit concert in New York carly last month, I understand from a re-liable source that Dylan may come out of his souri-retirement long enough to hit the road for a series of major concerts, either during the summer months or in October, Keep you posted if I hear any more! The Foundations will fly into the U.S for a cross-country tour in May, which will act as a springboard for a three-week trip to Australia, Japan, New Zealand, Hong Kong and possibly Israel, keeping them out of England for at least seven weeks. Group manager Barry Class was in New York this week setting up the visit, which will kick off dur-ing the second week in May, prob-ably on the East Coast or Canada, and will last a month. During his trip, Barry Class also set up an independent distri-bution deal for his own Trend label, the first release being "Breaking Up A Droam" by the Ways and Means.

• There's been an absolutely en-ormous response here to the **Crazy World of Arthur Brown**, already cracking wide open in this country, despite the lack of any record releases. Originally scheduled for a six-week visit, there have been so many demands it is hoped they'll stay for al leost two months. Group opens its first tour with a two-day stint at New York's



to n the West Coast recently with the Cream, was among some 15 persons arrested here last week. Eric was at a party at Steve Still's (of the Buffale Springfield) about 25 revelled it up! Sherifi about 26 r

Beatles or the Maharishi. We be-lieve we are heading for a golden age!"

Recently I heard someone criticise a female journalist for her constant allusions to Donovan's "beautiful world." It seems to me a pity that there are still some people who believe that because there is hate, pain and ugliness in the world we should not give more emphasis to "love pleasure and beauty." That is Donovan's beauty." That is Donova message. I'll buy it! Will you?

THE Beach Boys went wild on receiving a cable from the Maharishi Mahesh Yogi last week with his approval of plans for a 17-day coast-to-coast U.S. tour, starting May 3 in New York and ending May 20 in Hollywood.

Meanwhile, back in Hollywood the Beach Boys have been record-ing tracks for their next album ing t album.

BEACH BOYS

WENT WILD



Fillmore East, owned and oper-ated by **Bill Graham**, with the **Jefferson Airplane**, and will follow this with a two-week stay at the San Francisco. Fillmore, after which they'll play a whole series of cross-country dates.

Their New York opening is set for May 3, and to the in with their visit. The Crazy World of Arthur Brown will be the first release on Track Records in the U.S.

• Talking of Browns, the great James, together with his troupe of 35, fly out on March 29 to the Ivory Coast, Africa, for a concert in the capital of Abidjan on March 31.

on March 31. The James Brown Show was invited out by the Ivory Coast Government to star at their annual fund raising gala.

 Don't expect the Who back this week! Their tour has been so enormously successful that it's been extended by another week, keeping the group in Philadelphia and Canada through April 6, which is great timing because their new single, "Call Me tighthing the climbting the climbting." which is given wingle, "Call Me Lightning," is climbing the American charts in positive leaps and bounds.

and bounds. • Another group whose tour will be extended is the **Troggs**, due here for a series of dates in April, and now staying through May 10. Also likely to come in during May are **Dave Dee**, **Dozy**. **Beaky**, **Mick** and **Tich**, and **Procol Harum** will arrive on April 18 for a four-week tour, lasting through May 14.



	IErrom		to US	ing tracks for their next album. Brian Wilson didn't, however,
Great news! here's the best catalogue you've ever seen about the best equipment you'll ever play Bigger than ever before -	 ALAN BRYANT (London): In the past I have classed the Supremes as just a good vocal group. But I have just purchased their "Live At The Talk Of The Town " album and I can honestly say that it is fantastic. The atmosphere is so exciting as the group sings a large selection of songs. I can only plead with record companies to release more "live" LPs. For example, Cliff Richard to be recorded during his stay at the Talk Of The Town in May. JANET EDWARDS (Liverpool): Can 	Edited by TONY BROMLEY hit, and Grapefruit, Spooky Tooth and the Moody Blues to be BIG names soon. HILDA PASSCHIER (Enfield, Middlesex): Now that Caroline has gone off the air I would like, through NME, to thank all the dis and crew for the marvellous job they did, especially in those last seven months. Its programmes were full of happi- ness and joy that no other sta-	and the Comets at Nottingham Sherwood Room on April 29. So maybe Hazel has a good point Promoters please note. — T.B.) JOHN ELLIS (Burton-on-Trent, Staffs.): What has happened to the record buying public, especi- ally Procol Harum fans? Hasn't anyone heard their fantastic LP? Please give it a listen. A few of the tracks are really outstand- ing, such as "Repent Walpur- gis," "Salad Days," "A Christ- mas Camel" and "She Wan- dered Through The Garden Fence" which would have made a perfect single.	Brian whison didit, however, say on meeting Elvis Presiey at the studio: "I've worshipped that man for 10 years and I can't just walk into his studio and say hello." When Bruce returned from introducing himself and listening to Elvis rave about the Bruce tell him every word of the conversation. Peter Tork met the Beach Boys at another of their sessions and he told me he could really see the influence of the Maharishi on the guys. Peter said: "They used to be very confused, but I talked to Dennis and he's true spirit. He's got it Dennis is beautiful."
full colour too ! Packed full of new outfits, the superb '2000' range, new 'Lokfast' tom-tom holders,' snare drum stands, etc. etc. A must for every drummer. Send for yours today !	anything be done to bring back Radio Caroline? Radio 1 is a load of old rubbish. Do some- thing please, please, please! Caroline must come back! PHILIP BALDWIN (Coleford,	tion has been able to give. It is really said that thousands of listeners cannot listen any more to their favourite music. HAZEL STONES (Car Colston, Notts.): Do pop promoters think	FRIDAY 5th APRIL 73	
To Premier Drum Co Ltd, 87 Regent St, London W1 Please rush me the great new Premier catalogue. I enclose 8d in stamps for postage and packing Name	Gloucestershire): I do not mean to be disrespectful to David Simone (FYTU last week), but are his predictions really so marvellous? Is picking hit re- cords as difficult as some people seem to think it is?	Nottingham is not part of Bri- tain or something? In the past year, to my knowledge, the only pop tours to visit this large city have been the Who/Traffic/ Tremeloes and the Hendrix/Move tours.	MANFRE	
Address My usual dealer is N.M.E. C3	 I consider myself and many of my friends to be at least as good at picking out Top Thirty entries as David Simone. Here are some predictions you may be interested in: "Blueberry Blue" by Sun Dragon to be a 	Give us some more please? (I looked through the NME diary for the coming months. Both the Bee Gees and the Kinks/Trems/ Herd tours by-pass Nottingham and the only forthcoming attrac- tion I could find was Bill Haley		IAN PRICE SET

ESTHER & ABI--NOT ALWAYS SO HA

LISTEN to "Cinderella Rockefella" and you might think Esther and Abi Ofarim are the happiest people in the world - no worries, no fears, no complications. Most times they are. But immediately before a show, Esther breaks out in a rash of red spots on the neck. Both of them develop dry throats. And Abi begins to worry about Esther forgetting her words and if the performance will go off without a hitch.

When they've got some really big event coming up—like their Albert Hall concerts this weekend and on April 9-Esther confesses to getting such intense heeby-jeebies that nightmares set upon her and she often wakes up in the night all of a cold sweat.

"Sometimes," she says sadly, "I feel physically sick."

When we met this week I sug-gested that nerves like this were maybe a sign that Esther and Abi really **worried** about pleasing their audiences.

Smiling

Esther nodded (having earlier welcomed me into the room with a nice smiling rendition of "Come on without...come on within"), and sat there demurely in a big flowered hat and an ankle-length white dress that reminded me of Easter and spring sunshine.

"To say we always worry is right," she said. "It is a fear of the responsibility we feel in pleas-ing all the people who have come to see us."

Abi chipped in that for him, apprehension about Esther gave him his biggest nerves. He always him his biggest herves. He always worried about her forgetting the words (there then followed a gag session between them in which Esther cheerfully said Abi usually had only about two lines to sing anyway, and he cheerfully agreed), and if he would be able to joke his way out of the situation.

Sometimes, said Abi, they got away with it. Nobody noticed when Esther got the words of



"Morning Of My Life" wrong on the Eamonn Andrews Show recently.

recently. The main thing was that these things mattered to them both. Said Abi: "I think it bad that many groups don't care about things like make-up and presentation, when people have paid so much money to see them. It is an important thing."

thing." Anybody who saw Esther and Abi in last Saturday's "Rolf Harris" TV show will know that all this talk of professionalism by them isn't idle chatter. So often — with a big-selling chart name—it's almost possible to believe that the current record is the only one the artistes con-cerned ever sing.

Beautiful

The Rolf Harris show gave me a great kick because it at least gave a clue, to millions of viewers, gave a clue, to millions of viewers, that Esther and Abi can perform something other than "Cinderella Rockefella." And if you missed Esther's poignantly beautiful ver-sion of Lennon-McCartney's "She's Leaving Home" believe me, you missed a lot indeed.

Before I took leave of them— prior to racing along to "Top of the Pops" they'd been having an all action day filming a big German-TV colour special, already sold to 15 countries—we had a quick chat on a couple of topics. Israeli Esther and Abi were

ESTHER and ABI-they have their worries, fears and troubles just like the rest of us.

highly amused at a Pete Murray story regarding their records and the ban which Arab countries have put on them—it seems Pete knows of Arabs who have been trying to get hold of smuggled copies of "Cinderella Rockefella"!

Wonderment

Esther and Abi also gasped in Estner and Abi also gasped in wonderment at the scene in Carnaby Street recently, when they were trying to make a film for TV. Neither had realised they were that popular until slowly, then with terrifying speed, they began to be surrounded by a throng of fans.

They went away and tried again later (twice), but it was still as difficult.

difficult. Finally (just to let you know that Esther and Abi are real and very likeable people, not a couple of machines programmed to per-form "Cinderella Rockefella") I asked them to name their greatest fears. It was a question that brought me an unexpected answer from Ringo in last week's NME. NME

I have to report that Esther and Abi both have an intense fear of death—not a passing fear, but a deep-rooted fear of what it might hold.

Said Abi: "I am not afraid of things I know about, but obviously -I have no experience of death. As far as I know there is no com-ing back . . . and life can be very



beautiful." Esther said that death had been a great fear of hers ever since the age of eight, ever since her grand-mother died. "After that, I did not want to go home," she said. "It made me very conscious of life and death." and intelligent people: some people I've met seem to think "Cinderella Rockefella" is about all they can do. In fact, Esther and Abi are versatile artistes with a wideranging repertoire.

As Abi says: "We don't want to do a comedy song for our next single — we're looking for some-thing entirely different. All the time, always, we strive to be different." Maybe it was a morbid topic upon which to close our conversa-tion, but it may at least prove that Esther and Abi are sensitive



13

Professional name: Chris Denning. Real name: Christopher David Den

ning. Birthdate: May 10 1941 Birthplace: Hayes, Middlesex. Personal points: 5ft. 8in.; 1501b.; blue eyes, blond hair. Parents' names: Mabs and Bertie. Brothers and sisters: Ted, Michael, Norma

Present home: Richmond, Instruments played: Plano and trom-

bone. Where educated: St. Clement Dane's Grammar School. Musical education: Plano lessons for rayon years.

seven years. Age entered show business: 11.

Age entered show business: 11. First public appearance (amateur): In a school concert when, with the help of a friend, I did an im-personation of the Wester.n Brothers. First professional appearance: Radio Moscow, aged 16 talking about my travelling experiences.

my travening experiences. Biggest break in career: Working for Radio London. Biggest disappointment in career: Not being a millionaire by the time I was 21. TV debut: TV news reader in Kenya. Radio debut: Radio Moscow.

Own radio series: BBC-TV "Look Where You're Going " and " Where It's At " on the radio.

Major poll honours: Broadcasting House Potted Palm Sponger's Award for 1949

Important engagements abroad: Radio Luxembourg Staff Announcer Former occupation: Encyclopaedia salesman, furniture salesman, tyre

salesman, furniture salesman, tyre salesman. Hobbies: My work and my colour TV set. Favourite food: Strawberries. Favourite drink: Lime-juice. Favourite clothes: Men's. Favourite singer: Me. Favourite actor and actress: Marlon Brando and Natalie Wood. Favourite band: Si Zentner. Favourite composers: Holland-Dozier.

Favourite composers: Holland-Dozier-Holland and Neil Hefti.

Holland and Neil Hefn. Favourite groups: Beatles, Supremes, Young Conservatives. Car: Austin 1100. Miscellaneous dislikes: All other djs! Miscellaneous likes: Me. Most thrilling experience: Me. Tastes in músic: Everything except chamber music and trad jazz. Pets: 3 cats 3 dogs, 3 goats. Personal ambition: To get rid of my 3 cats 3 dogs, 3 goats. Professional ambition: To keep in work.



And when my self is feeling low

NUTERIAL INTERIOR PORTA

NEW MUSICAL EXPRESS





ACCORDING to U.S. "Variety" publication, fifty million Eddy Arnold records sold — topped only by Bing Crosby, Elvis Presley and the Beatles . . . Congratulations ! "Congratulations" is 50th Cliff Richard chart entry . . . At request of Jerry Lewis and Phil Harris, special Las Vegas performance by Tom Jones exclusively for other artists .

Their next singles: Nancy Sinatra "100 Years," Brenton Wood "Lovey Dovey," Scott McKenzie "Holy Man," Bobbie Gentry "Louisiana Man" and Bobby Vinton's revival of Bobby Vee's "Take Good Care Of My Baby" . . Don Kirschner (creator of the Monkees) forming group here for Harry Saltz-man's new film . . . In America, Bee Gees Britain's biggest export since Beatles and the Rolling Stones . . .

Infanticipating: Don Everly's wife, actress Venetia Stevenson... On "Spotlight" TV, Roy Castle more professional than Eddie Fisher last Sunday... At Dorches-ter Hotel, Liberace now occupying Richard Burton and Elizabeth Tay-lor's suite lor's suite

What happened to ABC-TV Frankie Howerd - Scott Walker -Sandie Shaw show recorded in December? Joan Baez married David Harris...For his Las Vegas opening, Tom Jones received tele-gram from Elvis Presley...

Before leaving Britain, Buddy Rich presented entire set of cym-bals to Eric Delaney ... Notice-able improvement in Adam Faith's

WHO'S WHERE

(Week commencing March 29th) MATT MONRO Löndon Talk Of The Town ENGELBERT HUMPERDINCK London Palladium BACHELORS Coventry Theatre ONE-NIGHTERS BEE GEES, DAVE DEE, DOZY, BEAKY, MICK and TICH Leeds Victoria Hall (29th) Chester ABC (30th). Manchester Palace (31st) Leicester De Montfort Hall (1st April) Cambridge Regai (4th). ESTHER AND ABI OFARIM London Royal Albert Hall (30th). Newcastle City Hall (31st), Man-chester Free Trade Hall (1st) Bristol Colston Hall (3rd) P. J. PROBY Nantwich Civic Hall (30th).



drews Show". . . For next Frankie Vaughan single, a Les Reed-Barry Mason song under consideration. Visiting Sydney: Cliff Richard's personal manager, Peter Gormley . . . Cancelled in U.S.: Pat Boone's daily TV series . . . Tom Jones din-ner party guests included Lulu in Hollywood . . . diction on Sunday's "Eamonn An-

Hollywood . . . Approaching U.S. Top 30: Troggs' "Love Is All Around," Madeline Bell's "I'm Gonna Make You Love Me," Tremeloes' "Suddenly You Love Me," Foundations' "Back On My Feet Again," Hollies' "Jennifer Eccles," Tom Jones' "Dellah," Small Faces' "Tin Sol-dier," Who's "Call Me Lightning," Lulu's "Me The Peaceful Heart" and David McWilliams' "Days Of Pearly Spencer" . Dave Dee's and David MicWilliams' "Days Of Pearly Spencer"... Dave Dee's current girl friend Rosemary Frankland, former Miss World ... Cary Grant should con-sider revival of Beatles' "Day Tripper "1....



Label change: Fats Domino joins Reprise . . . Frank Sinatra's ac-tress-wife Mia Farrow in London visiting Marion Ryan .. Gold Disc for Leslie Bricusse's "Dr. Dolittle " LP starring Rex Harrison and Anthony Newley ... Flipside of current Billy Fury single penned by Robin, Barry and Maurice Gibb ... Do you remem-ber singer Johnny Cymbal?—he's co-writer of Gene Pitney's new re-lease ... Brilliant showman: Libe-race on Sunday's ABC-TV "Eamonn Andrews Show."

Andrews Show.". British No. 1 hits overseas: Bee Gees' "Words." (Germany and Holland), Manfred Mann's "Mighty Quinn" (Denmark, Norway and Sweden), Engelbert Humperdinck's "Easy To Forget" (Belgium), Tom

Jones' "I'm Coming Home" (Spain), Moody Blues' "Nights In White Satin" (France) and Bee Gees' "Massachusetts" (Japan)... When Andy Williams visits here, singer-wife Claudine Longet joins him ... Back from U.S., Maurice Kinn reports Broadway's biggest hit is Pearl Bailey and Cab Callo-way in "Hello Dolly"—and names Fifth Dimension most exciting new Fifth Dimension most exciting new group

At Sunbury-on-Thames, Engel-bert Humperdinck seeks new home

DO YOU REMEMBER?

'TELSTAR' - 'GLAD ALL OVER'

'HAVE I THE RIGHT'!

tra . . . Only thing not released as a single from Four Tops' "Reach Out" LP is the sleeve!...

near Gordon Mills, his manager... What does Mike Love of the Beach Boys think about Lulu? Collecting Bach music LPs: Tony Hicks of the Hollies Sore throat prevented Cliff Richard singing on Saturday's Simon Dee BBC-TV show Andre Previn (composer of Dionne Warwick's "Dolls") will conduct London Symphony Orches-tra... Only thing not released



BOYS world concerts

Exclusives

HOLLIES







On sale Friday, week ending March 30, 1968







Mrs. JOY PALMER gets a cheque from MATT MONRO for £5,000 for winning Cadbury's "Late Late Show" contest, in which she se-lected 10 of the most suitable songs from 20 hits for Matt,



At the SOS Show

NEW MUSICAL EXPRESS



A group backstage at the SOS Show (I to r) GENO WASHINGTON, ALLAN KLEIN (lead singer of the New Vaudeville Band), SPENCER DAVIS and ARTHUR CONLEY.



P. J. PROBY goes down on his knees dur-ing his dynamic per-formance at the Wem-bley Empire Pool on Sunday, when he top-ped the bill in place of alling Cliff Richard. Others doing well at the SOS annual charity concert, spon-sored by the "Daily Express," were Amen Corner, Simon

Corner, Simon Dupree, and the Foundations. Every-one gave their ser-vices free to aid the

Spastics Fund, which benefited by two full houses.

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