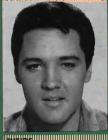
INSIDE

#### UNSATISFACTORY POP CHARTS — THE ONLY SOLUTION



IF YOUR FAVE'S I THE CHARTS THERE' SOMETHING ABOU THEM IN



NSIDE

#### FORECAST FOR STARDOM 1965 WHOT WHOT WHOT





POP WEEKLY STICKS ITS NECK OUT ON THE NEWIES Week ending 26th Decembe

INSIDE

# EXCLUSIVE! THE NEW CRAZE THAT'S SWEEPING THE U.S.A.

when is a sandwich not a sandwich? I WHEN IT'S A SHREWSBURY.



BY FAITH!

THEY'RE AT IT AGAIN!



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THIRD SERIES WEEK ENDING 26/12/64



I Feel Fine (1) I'm Gonna Be Strong (2) Downtown (3) Walk Tall (5) Walk Fail (5)
Somewhere (—)
Little Red Rooster (4)
I Understand (10)
I Could Easily Fall (15)

Rolling Stones ddie/Dreamers Cliff Richard The Bachelors

Elvis Presley Roy Orbison The Supremes Adam Faith Sandie Shaw

Gene Pitney
Petula Clark
Val Doonican
P. J. Proby

Jim Reeves The Kinks

The Shadows

Wayne Fontana Dusty Springfield Twinkle



I Feel Fine (1) I'm Gonna Be Strong (3) Downtown (4) Little Red Rooster (2) Walk Tall (8) I Understand (10) Fro Somewhere (—) Rolling Stones Val Doonican die/Dreamers

I Understand (16) Fr.
Somewhere (—)
I Could Easily Fall (15)
Pretty Paper (6)
No Arms Can
Ever Hold You (14)
Baby Love (9)
Blue Christmas (18)
Message To Martha (11)
Girl Don't Come (—)
The Following Me (5)
All Day And All
Of The Night (7)
Genie With The Light
Brown Lamp (19)
Um, Um, Um,
Um, Um,
Terry (—) P. J. Proby Cliff Richard Roy Orbison

erry (—) osing You (13)

The Bachelors The Supremes Elvis Presley Adam Faith Sandie Shaw Jim Reeves

> The Kinks The Shadows

**Dusty Springfield** 



THE ONLY SOLUTION

Last feature in our series on the charts, the facts behind them, and the rigging of charts, deals with the wholesalers, the national newspapers and the people who

really matter, the teenagers. The record-buyers-YOU!! First the wholesalers. They are the people who decide how many copies of the disc they are going to order, and then they send these in turn to the retailers. A wholesaler's job is not always an easy one. Supposing for example, a new artiste is expected to have a big hit with a certain record. Well, the wholesaler hears about the record. Does he order ten thousand, or does he only order five hundred or even less? What happens if this new artiste starts to sell quite a lot of records? It means that the wholesaler has got to try and stop his phone ringing with requests from irate retailers who have orders for the disc and haven't any more copies.

In turn he gets on to the record company, who then start pressing more. A hit usually only lasts a short time. If a wholesaler isn't quick enough in ordering enough copies or if he believes that a certain record won't sell, and he gets thousands of requests from record shops for it, he can be in a very bad position. Simply because he has not got the time to tell the record company. Or rather he has got the time, but by the time the record company press all the copies that have been asked for the record-buyers don't want the record, and are tired of waiting.

So it is impossible to judge a record chart on what the wholesalers have ordered. They may have ordered too many or too little. They are not always right on a new hit by a new artiste, and it usually results in all the companies having to work like mad to get copies of the record

This week we offered to show you how it was possible to have an accurate chart. Well, here it is. Take for example the "Daily Mirror." Now imagine if all the fans who went to buy a record over the weekend, that is on the Saturday, were to immediately post a card to the "Mirror" countersigned by the retailer saying which record they had ordered. Since the "Mirror" claim to have five million readers there should be quite a few postcards. Of course, it would be a massive operation but I'm sure that by the Tuesday out would come the "Mirror" with a complete and much more accurate guide to the Top Thirty.

The plan could be tried for just one week. If the plan worked then it could be carried out every week. It would not only show what records were selling, but you could even make the matter more interesting by showing what record was selling most in one particular

Most of the charts published in the papers are by "Melody Maker" or "New Musical Express." Possibly because they (the two pop papers) are owned by the same company that prints the national newspapers!!

The "Daily Mirror" group own both "Melody Maker" and "New Musical Express", and yet their charts are often different. A difference of a No. 1 hit and a No. 21 hit a few weeks ago!!

So why can't the "Mirror" use the system we have mentioned? We too would be delighted to use the system for our charts!! It's workable, and a lot more accurate!!

#### BRITAIN'S TOP THIRT

(As at the week-end)

	1 re	ei rine	(1)		
2	I'm	Gonna	Be	Strong	(2)
-					(-/

Downtown (4) Walk Tall (5)

Little Red Rooster (3) 5

Somewhere (23) I Understand (10)

I Could Easily Fall (15) No Arms Can Ever Hold You (14)

Pretty Paper (8) 10 Blue Christmas (19) 12 Baby Love (9)

13 Message To Martha (12) Girl Don't Come (28)

All Day And All Of The Night (7) 15 There's A Heartache Following Me (5) Genie With The Light Brown Lamp (18) 17

Um, Um, Um, Um, Um, Um (11) 18 19 Losing You (13)

**Terry** (24) 20 He's In Town (17) 21

What Have They Done To The Rain? (26) The Searchers 22

23 Go Now (-) 24 Yeh Yeh (-) 25 Walk Away (21)

Cast Your Fate To The Wind (-) 26 27

Like A Child (-) Ferry 'Cross The Mersey (-) 28

Christmas Will Be Just Another Lonely Day (-) Brenda Lee 29

Show Me Girl (20)

**Gene Pitney** Petula Clark Val Doonican **Rolling Stones** P. J. Proby Freddie/Dreamers Cliff Richard The Bachelors Roy Orbison Elvis Presley The Supremes

The Beatles

Adam Faith Sandie Shaw The Kinks Jim Reeves The Shadows

Wayne Fontana **Dusty Springfield** Twinkle Rockin' Berries

The Moody Blues

Georgie Fame Matt Monro Sounds Orchestral Julie Rogers

Gerry/Pacemakers

Herman's Hermits

#### TOP SOLO GROUPS ARTISTES

Last Week Group Position Artiste **ROLLING STONES ELVIS PRESLEY** THE BEATLES **CLIFF RICHARD** 

ADAM FAITH BILLY FURY DUSTY SPRINGFIELD KATHY KIRBY **ROY ORBISON BRENDA LEE** FRANK IFIELD CILLA BLACK P. J. PROBY 12 **HELEN SHAPIRO** 13 SANDIE SHAW

SIMON SCOTT

JOHN LEYTON

THE SHADOWS THE KINKS DAVE CLARK FIVE MANFRED MANN THE SEARCHERS THE HOLLIES HERMAN'S HERMITS 10 THE HONEYCOMBS BRITAIN'S ONLY GREAT POP STAR CHARTS \* Send the names of your 3 favourite stars to: POP WEEKLY, Heanor, Derbyshire

(By courtesy of Cash Box)

I Feel Fine Mr. Lonely Come See About Me The Beatles Bobby Vinton The Supremes Ringo She's Not There Time Is On My Side Lorne Greene The Zombies Rolling Stones

I'm Into Something Good Going Out Of Herman's Hermits Anthony and
The Imperials
The Larks
The Beach Boys
Johnny Rivers My Head

The Jerk
Dance, Dance, Dance
Mountain Of Love
Any Way You
Want It
You Really Got Me

Dave Clark Five The Kinks Leader Of The Pack The Shangri-Las Amen The Impressions She's A Woman I'm Gonna Be Strong Gene Pitney Big Man In Town The Four Seasons My Love Forgive Me Robert Goulet

Sha La La Love Potion No. 9 The Wedding Oh No Not My Baby Maxine Brown

Saturday Night At The Movies Walking In The Rain Everything's Alright The Newbeats Ask Me Elvis Presley 28 How Sweet It Is **Baby Love** 

The Drifters The Ronettes

Manfred Mann

The Searchers

Julie Rogers

The Beatles

10

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#### PERSONAL

U.S.A. PEN-PALS! Stacks in this month's issue "Pop-Shop," 1/2, obtainable all newsagents, or 1/3 direct from "Pop Shop," (PW), Heanor, Derbyshire.

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#### **Buzzin' Dozen**

By DON CRISP

A group that are hoping and hoping that their new record will smash the charts are THE LANCASTRIANS. Their version of Well Sing In The Sunshine has been voted a hit on "Juke Box Jury" and by many, namy other panels of experts. It's a gigantime and the sunshine that the sunshine the sunshine that the

All set to star in a Christmas play, and with a new single already starting to draw attention is MILLIE, whose new disc I've Fallen In Love With A Snowman is one of the hottest records of the year. Hot, that is, because so many people in the business have tipped it for the Top Ten.

One of the nicest and most talented groups ever, THE SEARCHERS, certainly seem to be carrying their intentions of more his into the New Year. Their latest record, What Have They Done To The Rain! is a mourtful number and should just about be thin the To The Roin is a mourtful number of moticeable about this group. They never seem to get big-headed, and after the number of hit records they have had both here and in America, that's pretty surprising.

Just bound to be a Top Ten entry, or there ain't no justice, is THE EVERLY BROTHERS' hit Gone Gone, a really up to date swinging single that has just about everything any hit record needs. Whatever you may say about The Everlys, when they really try they can get a hit sound that is really worth hearing about. This should, by all accounts, mark the comeback of the two brothers and I certainly hope that on their next tour of Great Britain they get a lot more publicity, and lots more of the really huge welcomes from their fans that they used to get.

Just getting over a very serious illness is that fabulous star, SHIRLEY BASSEY. After being in a hospital for least few weeks she must really be miserable. Perhaps it will please her to know that her Goldinger still looks as if it's going to be a world-wide hit. A calculus tower with the properties of the still charts, but even so, has done very well indeed.

Off on a long bash at South African fans is **DUSTY SPRINGFIELD**, She is getting more and more popular every day and the big problem now is not where to appear in Great Britain, it's britain after all her overseas appointments. At the moment she has a new Yamas single out competing with her Losing You which did terribly well the the first few weeks but ferribly well because the fans would like to see more of Dusty in this country.

One of the hottest properties from the United States disc scene are THE MIRACLES, They have already got something going by livening up all our



tired British Pressmen at a special reception given by the record company over here. They gave such a dazzling show that even writers from some of the womens' papers who usually go just for the drinks actually opened their eyes. Currently over here for TV and promotion, don't be surprised if the New Year starts off with "miracle hits" by this group.

Suffering maybe from non-hittis; rather like their loos, Billy J. Kramer, THE DAKOTAS are certainly trying hard via large advertisements etc., to get back into the charts. Since their strumental level or no success in the Top Twenty. Their latest disc Oyeh is a swinging title, for a very swinging piece of misic. However I can't see the record-buyers of today going for this son. I rate it as one of the best instrumental discs of the year.

One of those fabulous Tamala Motown stars, KIM WESTON, who was recently over here with the intention of appearing on the P.J. Proby tour which didn't come off, is now almost certain to be going back to he of the certain to be going back to he out. The Pacemakers tour (to which she later switched) without even seeing whether her disc A Little More Love hits the charts or not.

After breaking away from The Secarchers and not missing much because his first disc made the charts (with his backing group, The Vibrations) TONY JACKSON is now all set to have another stab at the Top Twenty. He comes up with a delightful number titled Cyto Beat Me To The Punch which sounds like the Cassius Clay monologue, but in fact is a ditty which could make this second record even better than the first chartwise.

The record that made the No. 1 slot in the USA recently and looks as if it could do very well here is a single by YC cowboy, LORNE GREEN, known to all Western TV addicts as father of the "Bonanza" sons. The single called Ringo Start, which must please Ringo Somewhaft, but is about a gunslinger. Definitely helped along the 'I would say by the Ringo name.

America's popular singer, **BOBBY FREEMAN**, who has had several
an analysis of the states comes up with a
manner entitled SWLMs, yet another
dance from the States, ones up with a
falled to see why British companies
release this sort of record. The Twist
falled to see why British companies
release this sort of record. The Twist
records in Great Britain, only those that
had a good tune. This one sounds
exactly like the Twist records except the
words are different. I would say that it
hasn't got a chance of being a hit.
Definitely not the style for Great Britain.





# Forecast F

By Antony Logsden

Every paper, every musical paper that is, spends a lot of time working out who they think will be the big stars in next year's charts. Who will be the stars of '65? The new people who this year haven't had that success as vet? Well, we too are going to give our predictions, and below I give the six people I think will make it chartwise in the New Year. You will probably have seen all their names at one time or another, but not in the Top Twenty-or that elusive Top Ten.

First group worthy of the Top Ten and a great deal of popularity next year must be The Poets. Already establishing a name for themselves they are reckoned to be one of the hottest properties groupwise that still haven't broken the hit barrier.

They have a great deal of talent, and also of course their recording manager is Andrew Oldham who has successfully recorded The Rolling Stones, Marianne Faithfull, and various other artistes. His first disc with The Poets, Now We're Thru was an "entirely new idea of music" says Andrew and indeed the "entirely new sound" nearly made the grade.

We tip The Poets as one of our Six Smash artistes for next year. Next on our list is another group, The Yardbirds. They have successfully stormed the R & B club scene for some time now and they also have that appeal that the ordinary pop fans like. I tip them for the top, because that extra something which all artistes have is definitely had by The Yardbirds. They are in the same sort of category as The Rolling Stones and The Pretty Things. I rate them as one of the hottest prospects of the New Year, definitely something worth happening-and I wouldn't mind betting that they are the first of our six in the charts.

Another group make up our third forecast for stardom next year. A group that everyone knows and everyone likes without exception-and yet they haven't had a big hit yet. Their name? Sounds Incorporated. They have recently been taken over by Brian Epstein, the magical man who handles The Beatles, Gerry, Cilla, and many other top names. They are known to be the most musical of all the groups and certainly the group who must hit the charts by sheer weight of public opinion amongst the pop fans. Instrumental groups usually have a very hard job to hit the charts, bar The Shadows, but I expect to see the Sounds Incorporated team smash into the charts and really hit hard over the New Year. One big hit will prove that they can have a lot of others. Definitely a tip for the Top!!

LEFT: Jackie De Shannon. Sounds Incorporated and Tommy

Quickly.

## or Stardom 65!

Next on our list is Simon Scott. With solo stars looking like being the mainstay of the charts next year, you can expect Simon to be in there with a fair chance of hitting the top amongst the countless hundreds of new fans. He has the voice, and the looks. I believe that looks are going to count for a heck of a lot in the New Year and this gives Simon a distinct advantage over the rest of the field. Funny thing is that his first and second records are both selling strongly abroad, and not at all in Great Britain as regards the Top Twenty. Perhaps that's a bit harsh. After all his first record did reach the Top Forty and the second one is selling extremely well.

As I expect the New Year to be a boys' paradise, I would say that Simon is well in with the leaders for a lot more popularity and a lot more record sales. Watch out charts—here comes Simon!

Another individual who I personally think will make the charts, but many may not think so, is rommy Quickly. Although he has had six records released, none of them have really been smash sellers, but the last one, Wild Side Of Life, proved that with the right kind of material our Tommy is going to go places and quickly! He has an impish look which is currently wowing the girls and his stage performance is extremely good for one so young and so little time in the business.

Definitely an artiste to be reckoned with. Given slightly better material and less exposure, note the less exposure, Tommy Quickly could be one of the New Year's New Stars. I think so, anyway.

Our last artiste is the only female in the six. Her name is Jackie De Shannon, and her vocal and composing abilities are fast becoming international. I rate her as one of the best American talents to visit these shores and certainly one of the best composers for the female pop world. Give her one of her own good stongs and get it recorded exactly right and there is going to be nothing left to stop this girl making the charts. Plus that she has the looks, the style and a very charming manner!

That's our Top Six then. The artistes who we think will smash the charts and will gain in popularity next year. Simon Scott, The Yardbirds, Sounds Inc, Jackie de Shannon, The Poets and

Tommy Quickly.

A few other artistes who have a chance to smash next year are Peter and The Headlines, a return from Marty Wilde, The Mighty Avengers, James Brown, Marvin Gaye and Betty Everett.

Let's see how close we are to the truth, eh?







RIGHT: Simon Scott, The Yardbirds and The Pcets.



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So hurry, ask at your local beauty counter or chemist for NAILFORM Magic Liquid Nails today, and give yourself lovely glamorous hands...in seconds!



# BY FAITH! THEY'RE AT IT AGAIN!

They're back again, and we were the paper that said they would do it—and keep on doing it. Who are they and where are they back from? They are the artistes whom most people had given up as regards the Top Twenty, and now they are back in the charts and all of them look certain to still continue to come

back when they want to.

Back with a bang is that great laddie, Adam Faith. We have been the only paper to continue running features and pictures on Adam whilst he has been out of the charts over the last year. Now he is back with a strong smash seller in Message To Martha and one of the best discs I've ever heard from him for almost two years. Must be a big seller everywhere and it must give his next disc a hefty sales start towards the Twenty.

Always welcome to our charts and into our hearts is that petite and charming girl who now spends most of her life in France, Petula Clark. She really has come back with a vengeance and a song that Cilla or Dusty would have given their eye teeth for. Downtown must be one of the most catchily phrased songs of the year and certainly a disc I would tip for No. 1 if The Rolling Stones and The Beatles weren't about.

She too, must hit the charts first time with her next disc and let's hope that this swinging crisp chick is back into this country with a bang and will stay

here for a long time.

Sliding gracefully out of the Top Thirty after a very long run is that old perennial Matt Monro. Every so often the soft-voiced balladeer comes back into the running just to prove to the younger singers that he's not forgotten and certainly not going to be told he's too old for the charts. A lovely voice (no other way to describe it) and Matt deserves the success he gets. He couldn't be a nicer guy if he tried!

With the accent on ballads for the next year, expect to see big voiced Matt treading the top rungs of the Hot Ten yet again, and I wouldn't be surprised if next year isn't one of his best.

A group that must continue to carry on making hit after hit, and still be here for their seventh year are The Shadows. Genie With The Light Brown Lamp is a really strong number and one that deserves to smash the charts





book I hope Paul Jones tells us whether he's married or not. Pat (South Normanton)

Tore Them Off

After reading your article in "Pop Weekly" Number 15, on pop marriages, I just had to write and tell you what happened when I found out that John McNally of The Searchers was engaged to be married.

I tore down all my Searchers pictures from my bedroom wall and cried, in a temper (not that I've met him, or was ever likely to). Then I saw his bride-to-be and read her article in a Sunday newspaper, on John, about their future marriage and about how long they had known each other. Now I wish them all the best in the world. It touched my heart, and I still love him!

Margie (Blandford)

Makes No Difference

I read with interest your article regarding married pop stars. You asked for readers' views, and would like to take the oppor-

tunity of expressing mine. Contrary to the belief of many teenagers, pop artistes are human. For boy to meet girl, fall in love and finally marry, is one of the joys of life and should be shared by everyone. What difference does it make if a star is married? It has no effect on records, or stage performances, so the private life of a star should not be detri-mental to-his, or her, success.

As you say, most fans don't care whether their idols are married or not, and I don't think the marriages should be kept secret. After all, it's the fans who have put the various artistes where they are now.

V. Yates (Bromley)

Four Artistes who have found that riage has not harmed their careers.

I think that they are cowardly, and have no faith in themselves or their fans and

deserve to lose popularity because of their deceitfulness. B. Laurie (Shanklin)

Lucky Wives

After reading your article in Pop Weekly" No. 15 about pop stars' marriages, I thought I'd like you to know my opinion. There is only one group for me, The FABULOUS SHADOWS, who I've seen scores of times and also had the fortune to meet in Great Yarmouth this year. I personally, don't think that marriage has affected their career, in fact they seem to thrive off it. All except John, as you probably know, are married and have families, and I think that their wives are the luckiest people alive.

Judith A. Taylor (Rochdale) Should Tell Thanks for giving us a chance to express

our views about the Stars and Marriage. Mine are VERY strong.

If I were a 'pop stars' wife, I would feel

very hurt every time I were denied. Nobody marries anyone to be denied and hidden, just for the sake of fame and money What kind of a life is that?

How can a male star convince people he is more of a man, than his sex says, if he is too cowardly and deceitful to acknowledge his wife?

Every fan dreams or thinks of the chances he or she would have with their idol, when they aren't married, it's natural, but when marriage is in between, well, somehow thoughts and dreams vanish. This does NOT mean we lose all feeling for the Vicky Jane Ward (Highgate) person.

POP Weekly



A new craze is sweeping the States and although at first glance it appears to have nothing whatsoever to do with pop music (not unless someone starts to make a record about it anyway) it has certainly close conections, for most Shrewsburys are ardent English group fans and it could happen over here in a big way! Ever heard of a Shrewsbury? Well, a Shrewsbury is a sandwich. Says our informant from the States, "the Farl Of Sandwich didn't invent sandwiches, it was a guy called the Duke of Shrewsbury. Therefore every time you want to have something to eat, you should ask for a ham shrewsbury rather than a ham sandwich.

Since the Americans say, and they seem to be the authority on the subject, that the Earl of Sandwich actually pinched invention of a sandwich from the Duke Of Shrewsbury, all the teenagers in America have banded together and have formed a Shrewsbury Society. They are known as Shrewsbury Promoters or Promoters of Shrewsbury and sign their name with a P.S.

The American girls and guys are now looking forward to similar

# INTRODUCES THE

by TERRY HALL

societies starting in Great Britain to do away with the word sandwich and use instead the word Shrewsbury. Those of you who are interested can write to the International Director of the MOTHERS (Movement organised to help

expound reasons for Shrewsburys). If you do any special work you can get as high as being a Top Crumb which is a really big honour and one that should be taken careful note of !!

As many of you might find this helpful also in establishing friends with boys or girls in the States, especially as most of the members of Shrewsburys Clubs seem to be mad on The Beatles and Stones, you have a double project to write about.

What about you being a Top Crumb? There is no English Top Crumb at the moment but plenty of information can be obtained from the States on how to be a Top Crumb and learn crumbmanship.

Remember now, if you really want to be in the swing with all the Top Crumbs and all the rave rages that never get to Britainthen read "Pop Weekly." For those of you who want to get in on this latest craze (Shrewsburys) write to Mike Taylor (T.C.C. S.C3) Box B1, Defense Language Institute of W.C. Presdin of Monterey, California, U.S.A.

Certainly a swinging time will be had by all. Don't forget to write without delay and learn how to be a TOP Crumb in the real sense of the word!!

#### BROADSIDES THREE Hopping Mad

#### Reader's Forecast

In my opinion The Stones, Beatles,

Animals and Kinks, and of course The Shadows, will be the only pop groups of today still in the charts in six months time. The Stones will top The Beatles, naturally.

Dusty, Brenda Lee and Sandie Shaw will be the only surviving girls left, unless Helen Shapiro makes a comeback (let's hope she does). Lulu deserves to be in the charts as she deserves a future like Miss Lee. I somehow don't think Cilla is going to do too well, I hope she does for her sake, as she has a great voice.

In the male vocalists I think Elvis, Cliff, Adam, Gene Pitney, Roy Orbison, Richard Anthony and possibly Billy Fury will be in the charts in six months' time. Valerie Hurst (Morecambe)

So the Editor dares to speak does he? I am glad to see he agrees with his own views as he does not necessarily agree

with readers

I definitely do not agree with any of his page. I am hopping mad! as a group fan, do not believe this

rubbish that some typewriter has dared to print—this nonsense that pop groups are dying. The Big Beat may not be as big as when The Beatles just started it (I will not argue that they didn't), and the groups may not be tripping over each other to get a record into the top ten, but I can reassure the dear Editor that this time in 1965, however few, there will be some groups dominating the charts. New groups will continue to invade the pop scene for a long while yet so the Editor does not need to think

he can relax and wash his hands of them. A rebellious group fan (Birmingham)

Not Dying

If beat is dying then why are there so many groups in the Hit Parade? If groups aren't going to be around next

year, then what is going to be popular? Victor Sylvester?? Surely it's obvious that groups will still be popular although many will fade.

We think R 'n' B will come in big and such groups as The Yardbirds, T. Bones, The Cheynes, The Authentics etc. will

become popular.

The Beatles we think (and hope) will go out and The Kinks will take over their crown as the greatest (to us they already are). Male singers will still be around, the biggest of them will be Gene Pitney

and possibly Bobby Shafto. We predict that of the groups in the Top Twenty now, only a few will be

around.

Linda and Angela (Brighton)



#### DISCussion

Hello then—and before I write another word I really do want to wish you the happiest Christmas you've ever had! May you be warm, cosy and united with your family! But should you be away from your loved ones, then I hope you will accept a very special wish—iust for you.

Now then—discs! As the festive day is almost upon us I thought you might like a run-down on some of the Christmas records; there's always that last minute panic to buy a present—or even to buy that one extra disc to help your party along. Over the past few weeks the record companies have issued a fair selection of discs for that very purpose, so let's see what we've got.

So long associated with White Christmas, Bing Crosby now offers "Christmas Candles," on the Reprise label. Not necessarily a hit with teenagers but most definitely an acceptable gift for the family. "The Old Groaner" is still in good voice; he never changes! There is bags of atmosphere on this platter which is packed with pleasant sentiment and lilting melody. A pretty tune, too; but I doubt whether it will become anywhere near as hardy an annual as White Christmas.

A right old knees-up and sing-song can be had from "Mrs. Mills's Medley" on Parlophone. This is the main aim of this one on which Mrs. Mills tinkles out such old favourites as Shine On Harvest Moon, Around The World and the like. Again, for the family gettogether.

On Columbia there is a rather appealing sound from Des and Daws with their "Christmas Dreams." A rather nostalgic melody set against a lilting, rather infectious rhythm. Complete with sleighbells and references to

\*\*\* BOUQUET \*\*\*\*

\* For the mere achievement of \*\*

\* combining their basic pop talents \*\*

\* with the Christmas spirit without \*\*

\* sounding too contrived. The Four \*\*

\* Seasons double-sided festive offer- \*\* ing will, no doubt, be the best all-round pop bet of the season. The striking sound of Frankie Valli is well to the foreground of the hand-clapping Santa Claus Is Coming To Town. A pretty solid beat on this medium-pacer-and if you don't want to take any notice of the lyric here is one to which you can dance along with any pop disc. On the flipside of this Stateside offering there is a change of pace and mood. A slow dreamer with sad undertones Christmas Tears displays a versatility of the group's style. A good performance with plenty of contrast. This is one of the more effective serious songs of this season-and whisper it I dare! !you can still dance to the slow beat of the rhythm! \*\*\*\*\*

old Santa coming down the chimney this one will attract the young youngsters! Nicely done and effective.

Although not designed as a Christmas song "A Spoonfull Of Sugar" from that delightful film "Mary Poppins" fills the bill for its happy, bouncy and very melodic content. Mary Martin, on this London label release, is helped by the Do-Re-Mi Children's Chorus. By now, of course this disc will be well-known to most—but it is definitely worth re-capping.

A couple of very young teenagers hide behind the name "The Baby Dolls" on Columbia's "The Bell That Couldn't Jingle." The uncomplicated young voices deal very simply with a straight-forward composition. The strength of this one lies in the appeal of such young voices at this time of year. It is very effective because of its simplicity.

That superb choir The Harry Simeone Chorale revive the ever-popular "Little Drummer Boy" on one side of their 1964 Christmas Stateside release. Just about one of the most striking performances of this song. As in all the Chorale's work, there is a perfect balance and tone. They never go overboard or get carried away with the thought of "Christmas" as so many artistes do: they never contrive or underline sentiment. Get some good material, treat it simply but sincerely and the material will speak for itself. This is a lesson that could well be learned by a lot of pop singers all the year round too! "O Holy Night" is the contrasting offering on this disc which features a crystal clear lead vocal. In the more serious vein, this is perhaps the best of all carol recordings this year. So I award it a special bouquet of holly!

Christmas is given the basic pop beat on Parlophone's "Mistletoe Love." Jaymes Fenda And The Vulcanes—yes, he does spell his name like that; my typewriter didn't slip!!—give an average group performance of a composition that hasn't anything new to offer. It is the kind of song we've heard so many times over the year—the only difference being that it's been given a Christmas title and a mention of the festive season in the lyric. This gentle beater has little attraction at all for me, I'm sorry to say.

On Oriole American one of the leading lights of the celebrated "Black Nativity," Marian Williams is joined by the Stars Of Faith in a particularly powerful performance of the much-loved carol "O Come All Ye Faithful." The interpretation of the song has seldom been so striking; Marian Williams has



that talent which ferrets out a new, but completely legitimate, inflection, mood or tone to make us realise that there is more to an old song than we thought. This is creative talent and it is fascinating to listen to her.

Valerie Masters has a gentle beater in Columbia's "Christmas Calling;" it jogs along very quietly but the melody is very elusive. Not a very striking composition because nothing sticks in the mind either when listening—nor afterwards. Nevertheless, Valerie's slightly husky voice has an attraction of its own but this is, unfortunately, hardly sufficient to make a disc stand out on this occasion.

Those Salvation Army popsters The Joy Strings come up with a modern beat treatment of a religious song written "in the idiom" and the result is very effective. On Regal-Zonophone "Now I Know" is switched on but the weakness, this time, lies in a lack of distinctive melodic attraction which was the strongpoint of the group's previous hit. I like the performance very much; it has clarity and purpose.

On the whole not a very good year for new ideas or songs for Christmas. We've had better—and very very few top line names have had festive material; just as well, I suppose, because the Season is over all too quickly and topicality soon wears off.

Well, have yourself a real ball over the holidays—and my advance best wishes for a really spinning New Year.

Happy memories, 'Bye for now.

We feel sure that readers will join us in congratulating Peter on entering the N.M.E. Polls for the first time at No. 10.





POP WEEKLY WISHES YOU ALL A HAPPY CHRISTMAS