

DISC

and MUSIC ECHO 9d

DECEMBER 9, 1967

USA 20c

THANK U VERY MUCH
SCAFFOLD SPECIAL!

BEATLES HIT TOP:
JOHN, PAUL SPEAK

'TOP OF THE POPS' SENSATION:
TAKE-OVER BY RADIO 1? SEE PAGE 6



Sunday mornings
in bed—by
CLIFF RICHARD

SEE PAGE SEVEN



DAVE CLARK: March tour

DAVE CLARK FIVE fans, clamouring for the group to make a nationwide British tour for the first time since early 1964 now that it is a big chart name again, got an answer from Dave himself this week: "Nothing doing . . . not before March at the earliest."

Group is spending the first part of the New Year making a series of six colour TV shows, starring itself with British guest artists, for America. The series, being made

by the DC 5's own company, Big Five Films, will later be seen in black and white by British audiences.

"Because of this we can't consider touring. We'd only appear in Britain if we could give it 100 per cent attention, and that's impossible at present," Dave told Disc. "We just wouldn't go out now simply to cash in on our hit. But we do feel we owe it to our fans to try and manage a quick 10-day tour in March."

DC5 appears on "Top Of The Pops" tonight (Thursday).

SCENE ★ All the week's pop gossip ★ SCENE

A RADIO 1 story that must be told. Dee-jays Keith Skues, Chris Denning, Tony Blackburn, Roger Moffat and Pat Doody returning by train from opening of Radio Merseyside. Seated, Skues, Moffat and Blackburn, plus three male passengers. Enter Denning: "Good evening, gentlemen. I am from the Ministry of Agriculture. You are just leaving a badly infected foot and mouth disease area, and as a precaution I must ask you to remove your shoes and socks for inspection." And behold, everyone in the compartment DID! It's a true story folks!

Esther Ofarim facially resembles Audrey Hepburn and Barbra Streisand. Add a beautiful voice and magnetic personality, and you have a star.

We're sorry Tony Blackburn, but TV just isn't your medium.

Quote of the week, from producer Bill Bebb to "Saturday Club" compere Keith Skues: "You'll have to put that jingle on one second earlier!" Talk about accurate timing!

Pat Doddy wishes it to be known he comperes "Late Night Extra" every Tuesday night!

Rosko

Disc's David Hughes, among journalists, wined and dined and treated like royalty by German Philips records last week in Hamburg. Reason? A fantastic concert by Israeli husband and wife team Abi and Esther Ofarim, currently Germany's top-selling artists, and, if Britain's Giorgio Gomeliski has anything to do with it, likely to score success here before too long.

Emperor Rosko manager Henry Henroyd hoping to revive Hamburg's famous Star Club by co-ownership shortly.

Tony Sheridan's lovely German wife, Rosie, when encountered at 5 a.m. last Thursday morning, confessed she still has not heard from



● Last time Jimmy Savile went to "Top Of The Pops", Engelbert sent him up by wearing a similar Union Jack-et. Jim, standing no nonsense, borrowed a Clyde Barrow tommy gun last week and by the look of things Long John Baldry will never wear the same suit when he's on a show with Savile again!

Tony, who is entertaining troops in Vietnam.

Photographs of Beatles outside Hamburg Star Club would make priceless collectors' items.

We always thought Traffic's Chris Wood was one for the girls. Now, thanks to his trouser-making sister Stephanie, we know why. In the post last week a card, dated January 1956: "I-Spy Tribe, Order of Merit, awarded to Christopher Wood, Redskin No. 499397, who is now entitled to use the Honourable Rank of Bird Spotter. Signed, Big Chief I-Spy!"

Get well wishes to Major Minor Records boss and publisher Phil Solomon after recent operation.

Last week's Engelbert TV show featured slick teamwork by Peter Gordeno Dancers. Engel tripped some snazzy footwork, too.

Full marks for Peddlers on same programme. They deserve a big break on records.

Bachelors—like Val Doonican—doing their own "Arnold

Palmer" scene. They're always out on the golf course when not in the theatre.

Hollies a smash in the States.

Vaudevilles' Mick Wilsher, back from the States to depressingly hard-up Britain supposes: they'll devalue radio next and we'll be only able to listen to Radio 1.

Long John Baldry amazed friends by speaking fluent French for nearly an hour with Paris radio interviewer at TOTP. What's more LJB is also fluent in Spanish and German.

Cheers!

Shouldn't they vary the cheerleaders at the start and end of each act on "Top Of The Pops," John?

EMI flew in Gladys Knight and the Pips to appear at their publicist Fred Pearson's farewell reception last Thursday.

Producer Mike Aldred says next Time Box single will "annihilate everybody."

Mick Wilsher marries Los Angeles model Therese Hol-

guin at Euston Town Hall on Saturday morning.

Mike A'Hern left for Australia today (Thursday), disillusioned with the Radio 1 scene.

Thanks, Roger "Twiggy" Day for the dedications.

Rosko really is as good in French as he is in English.

In new film "A Smashing Time" Keith West and Tomorrow appear as a group called—The Snarks!!

DJ John Peel in hospital with appendix trouble.

Mike McGear on the Beatles: "I'm very upset really. Look, we wrote this song called 'Love Me Do' and before we knew where we were this other group had come along and pinched the whole idea!"

Gladys Knight shopping for boots during her London stay.

Speakeasy, London, club manager Roy Flynn phoned Disc to thank us for the mention in "Swinging London" feature last week and added: "After that we're thinking of opening an 'out room' for all the people who can't get in!"

Spencer Davis, Foundations, Tony Macaulay, Frank Allen, Moody Blues, Manfred Mann, Mike Lennox at party for Foundations and new Bayswater, London, record shop Disci last week.

Manfreds/Dave Dee/Scott Walker publicist Brian Somerville standing as Tory candidate for the Labour-held Crafton Ward of London's Camden Borough Council election in May. Watch out, Harold!

Non-drinker Cliff Richard persuaded to try glass of port in BBC club at "Top Of The Pops" last week.

Pink Floyd publicist Bill Harry "got the bird" last week. Member of American group the Electric Prunes left a brace of pheasants in his care — and never reclaimed them.

Georgie Fame trumpeter Eddie Thornton played as session musician on LPs by Rolling Stones and Small Faces.

Cliff Richard plans to buy boat for use on the Norfolk Broads next summer.

Scott Walker went to see sax star Coleman Hawkins at London's Ronnie Scott's club last week.

Big pop gathering at London's Speakeasy Club last Wednesday after Foundations' party—Spencer Davis Group, Jimi Hendrix, Brian Jones, Manfred Mann and New Vaudeville Band's Mick Wilsher.

Long John Baldry muttering at "Top Of The Pops" last Thursday that he hadn't had time for a drink all day. Record producer Mickie



● PET CLARK: super on 'Dee Time'

Most's brother, David, working for Karlin music publishing firm.

Scott Walker phoned his mother in America recently and the first thing she asked him was, "are you getting enough to eat?"

Herman looking extremely sunnied at "Top Of The Pops."

Tony Macaulay, an immensely unassuming young man for someone who's penned and produced last two No 1 discs.

Long John Baldry brought along a jereboam of champagne when scores of supporters packed Pye studios at dead of night on Saturday to watch him finish tracks on his January album, which will be hailed a big hit.

One pop singer successfully making the transition to acting—Bobby Shafto, who's reverted to real name Robert Farrant to understudy Simon Ward in the Sir Alec Guinness West End hit, "Wise Child."

Now Godfrey Winn's chasing the chart with a spoken song, "I Pass." So do we...

Refreshing to hear a DJ's honesty: Tony Blackburn slated Guy Darrell's "Cupid" single on his breakfast show on Monday. Quite rightly, too.

Bassey

Shirley Bassey super on Palladium TV last Sunday.

Derek Taylor and family, back in Britain from Hollywood, stayed with Paul McCartney and Paul's father, in the Wirral this week, before moving down to Surrey.

Cliff Richard's current chart favourite: Bee Gees' "World."

On "Eamonn Andrews Show," Tom Jones admitted he's offered "a Hollywood film a week." He said that director Joe Pasternak (father of Emperor Rosko) asked him if he could shoot a gun and ride a horse. "He tossed me a script and said: 'If you like this—it's yours!' "Title? "The Dude From Cheyenne."

Pet Clark looked unbelievably young on "Dee Time" on Saturday. Sang excellently, as usual, and her new TV series is great.

Fan Gag ... by Barry Fantoni



"I remember the Monkees, yes. Weren't they the group that was going to take over from the Beatles way back in 1967?"

I LIVE in the hills of Hollywood; no view, no pool, but it's fashionably inaccessible. I love the Beatles, the Buffalo Springfield, the Grateful Dead, Eric Clapton and Jimi Hendrix. I don't dislike the Monkees personally, although I will no doubt be accused of that eventually for reasons you will learn eventually. I can't get excited about Engelbump or Tom Jones, but Pete Townshend and Alan Price strike some responsive primeval chord.

Supercool

The Grateful Dead may be visiting England soon. I wonder if England is ready—but, then, you've survived Frank Zappa, so apparently there will always be an England!

Several words about the Dead. They're frightening to look at, delightful to know, and fantastic to hear. Lead guitarist Jerry Garcia is a San Francisco folk hero of sorts. He's paunchy, pockmarked, and hairy, and wears rainbow pants and obscene T shirts. Pigpen, the organist, looks like Hell's Angel without the motor-

But is Britain ready for the GRATEFUL DEAD?

By JUDY SIMS, Disc's new Hollywood reporter

cycle. Bob Weir just looks strange. Bassist Phil Lesh and Bill the Drummer might, under special circumstances, be socially acceptable!

They are probably five of the best musicians on the West Coast, and, thankfully, they are neither supercool nor ultrahip. They dance and laugh and carry on and "take you to another place" when they perform. If you want to go.

They're articulate, intelligent, witty (funny, actually), and have amazingly few—if any—ego problems. They all live together (with about seven or eight others) in peace and harmony. Of course they must be freaks!

The Dead are, unfortunately, a rare combination of talent,

honesty, and outrageousness. The American groups held in highest esteem by the largest masses almost always have that sanitary, squeaky-clean look which Americans insist on calling "all-American," as if we invented soap.

● The latest well-scrubbed "chart-topper" (a little show biz term) is a group called the Cowsills. It's an apple-pie-and-freckles family (two items which are endearing to Americans), complete with Mom and Dad and brothers and sister. MGM Records spent a fortune promoting them; hence, a Number One record. Encouraging, isn't it? Perhaps England will love the Cowsills.

● Whether or not the Cowsills and the Dead, the Anglo-



● Grateful Dead: visiting Britain soon

American talent exchange has been quite nice for us recently.

Procol Harum were here. So were Pink Floyd. Eric with his Animals. Donovan. The Who. And the Beatles on Ed Sullivan's TV show.

These are listed in order of ascending importance to me. You may cut out and rearrange the names in whatever order you choose.

● I'll be back next week. See you then.

DISC TOP 30

FRANKIE McBRIDE

SINGS

HIS FIRST LP

including **FIVE LITTLE FINGERS**
and his latest single **BURNING BRIDGES**



● SLD 28 ● MLD 28 12" stereo or mono LP record

Emerald Records Limited 67/69 Ann Street Belfast Northern Ireland manufactured and distributed in Great Britain by Vogue Records Limited 9 Albert Embankment London SE1



CHART TOPPER



- 1 (3) ● HELLO, GOODBYE.....Beatles, Parlophone
- 2 (1) LET THE HEARTACHES BEGIN
Long John Baldry, Pye
- 3 (2) EVERYBODY KNOWS.....Dave Clark Five,
Columbia
- 4 (4) IF THE WHOLE WORLD STOPPED LOVING
Val Doonican, Pye
- 5 (9) ▲ SOMETHING'S GOTTEN HOLD OF MY HEART
Gene Pitney, Stateside
- 6 (11) ▲ CARELESS HANDS.....Des O'Connor, Columbia
- 7 (8) ALL MY LOVE.....Cliff Richard, Columbia
- 8 (16) ▲ I'M COMING HOME.....Tom Jones, Decca
- 9 (15) ▲ WORLD.....Bee Gees, Polydor
- 10 (6) ● THE LAST WALTZ...Engelbert Humperdinck, Decca

NEXT 20: Introducing CILLA BLACK, BEACH BOYS, DIANA ROSS AND THE SUPREMES and TRAFFIC

- 11 (5) LOVE IS ALL AROUND.....Troggs, Page One
- 12 (18) DAYDREAM BELIEVER.....Monkees, RCA
- 13 (7) ● BABY, NOW THAT I'VE FOUND YOU.....Foundations, Pye
- 14 (24) ▲ THANK U VERY MUCH.....Scaffold, Parlophone
- 15 (10) THERE IS A MOUNTAIN.....Donovan, Pye
- 16 (12) ZABADAK.....Dave Dee, Dozy, Beaky, Mick and Tich, Fontana
- 17 (13) I FEEL LOVE COMING ON.....Felice Taylor, President
- 18 (14) AUTUMN ALMANAC.....Kinks, Pye
- 19 (27) ▲ KITES.....Simon Dupree, Parlophone
- 20 (23) SO TIRED.....Frankie Vaughan, Columbia
- 21 (21) I CAN SEE FOR MILES.....The Who, Track
- 22 (22) BIG SPENDER.....Shirley Bassey, United Artists
- 23 (19) THERE MUST BE A WAY.....Frankie Vaughan, Columbia
- 24 (—) HERE WE GO ROUND THE MULBERRY BUSH.....Traffic, Island
- 25 (17) ● MASSACHUSETTS.....Bee Gees, Polydor
- 26 (20) SAN FRANCISCAN NIGHTS.....Eric Burdon and the Animals, MGM
- 27 (—) IN AND OUT OF LOVE.....Diana Ross and the Supremes, Tamla Motown
- 28 (—) WILD HONEY.....Beach Boys, Capitol
- 29 (25) YOU'VE NOT CHANGED.....Sandle Shaw, Pye
- 30 (—) I ONLY LIVE TO LOVE YOU.....Cilla Black, Parlophone

● Silver Disc for 250,000 British sales
▲ This week's TOP 30 Zoomers

HIT TALK by JOHNNIE MORAN



Troggs: not the world's greatest musicians...

BEATLES are amazing. Here they are with what is really a very simple theme and yet they manage to do so much with it. Yes, a very good record.

I'm very glad **Long John** has got a hit after all this time. Yet, it's not really representative of what he likes to do—still, who can argue with a big hit like "Heartaches"?

Dave Clark Five are not exactly my fave rave group, but at least they've done something here that appeals more than their past attempts.

Val Doonican is not the sort of music I'd play at home, but

obviously it has a market, folks, so good luck to him.

Troggs, too, are not exactly the world's greatest musicians, but they succeed fantastically well with these simple rhythms of theirs. Remarkable.

Cliff has a very smooth, melodic line, but I'd like to see him getting away from ballads; **Pitney's** is certainly not the best he's made, but ballads must be coming back.

Des O'Connor, another ballad! I just wouldn't be caught playing this at home—or on the radio. No, definitely don't like it.

Another I'd like to see off the

ballads kick is **Tom Jones**. **Frankie Vaughan!** Oh, what is happening? I played "So Tired" on my show and had a knock at Columbia Records, pointing out that **Ken Dodd**, **Frank Ifield**, **Donald Peers** and this one were all released within eight days. They're just putting out a mass of Christmas market corn.

Monkees "Believer" is positively embarrassing. I just don't know what the words are about"

**NEXT WEEK:
TOMMY VANCE**

Top Ten LPs

- 1 (1) **SOUND OF MUSIC**
Soundtrack, RCA Victor
- 2 (2) **SGT. PEPPER**
Beatles, Parlophone
- 3 (3) **BRITISH CHART-BUSTERS**
Various Artists,
Tamla Motown
- 4 (5) **BREAKTHROUGH**
Various Artists,
Studio Two
- 5 (6) **SMILEY SMILE**
Beach Boys, Capitol
- 6 (7) **DISRAELI GEARS**
Cream, Reaction
- 7 (4) **BEST OF THE BEACH BOYS, VOL. 2**
Beach Boys, Capitol
- 8 (10) **THE LAST WALTZ**
Engelbert Humperdinck,
Decca
- 9 (8) **BEE GEES 1st**
Bee Gees, Polydor
- 10 (9) **UNIVERSAL SOLDIER**
Donovan, Marble Arch

AMERICAN TOP TWENTY

- 1 (1) **DAYDREAM BELIEVER**.....Monkees, Colgems
- 2 (2) **THE RAIN, THE PARK AND OTHER THINGS**
Cowsills, MGM
- 3 (3) **INCENSE AND PEPPERMINTS**
Strawberry Alarm Clock, Universal
- 4 (5) **I SAY A LITTLE PRAYER**.....Dionne Warwick, Scepter
- 5 (8) **I HEARD IT THROUGH THE GRAPEVINE**
Gladys Knight and the Pips, Soul
- 6 (4) **TO SIR WITH LOVE**.....Lulu, Epic
- 7 (11) **I SECOND THAT EMOTION**
Smokey Robinson and the Miracles, Tamla
- 8 (45) **HELLO, GOODBYE**.....Beatles, Capitol
- 9 (13) **IN AND OUT OF LOVE**
Diana Ross and the Supremes, Tamla
- 10 (10) **AN OPEN LETTER TO MY TEENAGE SON**
Victor Lindberg, Liberty
- 11 (20) **MASSACHUSETTS**.....Bee Gees, Atco
- 12 (12) **YOU'D BETTER SIT DOWN KIDS**.....Cher, Imperial
- 13 (15) **BOOGALOO DOWN BROADWAY**
Fantastic Johnny C., Soul
- 14 (9) **I CAN SEE FOR MILES**.....Who, Decca
- 15 (16) **KEEP THE BALL ROLLIN'**.....Jay and the Techniques, Smash
- 16 (6) **PLEASE LOVE ME FOREVER**.....Bobbie Vinton, Epic
- 17 (7) **SOUL MAN**.....Sam and Dave, Stax
- 18 (14) **LAZY DAY**.....Spanky and Our Gang, Mercury
- 19 (19) **PATA PATA**.....Miriam Makeba, Reprise
- 20 (26) **SKINNY LEGS AND ALL**.....Joe Tex, Dial

A Happy Christmas To All Our Listeners From...

GENO WASHINGTON

& THE RAM JAM BAND

with his latest E.P. Different Strokes

NEP 24293

DEAN MARTIN

In The Misty Moonlight

RS 20640

JONATHAN KING COLUMN

DOWN THE STREET OF DREAMS . . .

NO DOUBT you, too, have had recurring dreams. The power of subconscious memories returns frequently to the sleeping mind of their origin. So that odd dream continues.

On a small, wildly excited corner of Baker Street, a throng of smiling faces opened a new shop. Beautifully decorated and hand-painted, its purpose was only to sell groovy things. And the originators of so many things that are groovy drifted through it. And Leaping Terry Doran leapt, and calm Derek Taylor was cool and connected. And the apple was eaten once more, and, above, I plucked a black grape from the bunch and thought of grapefruit.

The veil of the temple rippled—then I saw a mad scene. The bald ogres were at it again, executing "Where It's At," tearing the show from the schedules. "Stop," I cried. "It has had more exclusives than any other programme; it started it all; it was the top BBC radio show in numerous polls." But my cries were not heard—the naked heads were in control—this week is its last.

And in the next studio, chubby Tony Blackburn chuckled on, gaining popularity and looking as if he was wearing a nylon stocking stretched over his head. Providing a high intelligence level on the "Eamonn Andrews Show"; a vast expanse of sheer professionalism on "Top Of The Pops."

Jupiter, camping it up near the Parthenon in a pink robe, laughed heartily at my last remark and chuckled a few thunderbolts at Africa.

Blocking my ears from the Grecian harp music behind me, I strained to hear the sounds from earth. "Requiem" by the Chocolate Watch Band—at last, "Walk Away Renee," "Four Tops—Roll up, roll up, yes, all rather dominated by a certain group this month. And all the old tips happening, thank you very much. By the way, how are you on Cockney rhyming slang? Because thence lies the secret.

At this moment Venus tripped over me, smashed her lyre against my head, tipped her halo into her left eye and swore profusely.

When I gathered myself together again, I politely asked Socrates to turn down the volume of his declamation to the fresh young students of Athens, and attempted to pick up "Top Gear" on my heavenly transistor. For some time all I could get was Radio London, a station which seems to linger on in blessed atmosphere but then—crackling far away—came the refined voice of M. Jagger introducing his new LP.

Interesting sounds, punctuated by soft Welsh words from Brian and the usual bright, light Jagger sarcasm.

Mercury floated past, high as a kite. And Diana, who crowned me with a golden coronet and kissed my cheek, whispering "Hail—PROFIT OF POP." Bored by the scene below, I joined the merry deities on their godly frolics.

STARS IN THE NEWS 1

PETER, PAUL cut 'Homburg'

PAUL Jones' new LP—released in the New Year—includes Procol Harum's "Homburg," Foundation's "Baby Now That I've Found You" and "Tell It Like It Is."

All three tracks were cut last Friday with Paul's new record producer, Peter Asher.

Peter and Paul are currently looking through song material for a new single.

Paul starts work next year on his first TV series with producer, Mike Mansfield.

Cliff and Shadows have a 'Smashing Time'

CLIFF Richard and the Shadows provide cabaret at the premiere of the Rita Tushingham-Lynn Redgrave film "Smashing Time" which coincides with the re-opening of the reconstructed Leicester Square Odeon in London on December 27.

Next Wednesday, Cliff makes a special TV appearance from the BBC's Shepherds Bush studios which is being relayed to Paris TV.

West goes west

KEITH West—whose new "Teenage Opera" track "Sam" is making slow progress—left this week for a fortnight's holiday in Jamaica and returns a day before appearing in the all-night rave at London's Olympia on December 22.

West and co-writer Mark Wirtz, undeterred by lack of success for deadline for release of the first "Sam," are working on a May album of the "Opera."

West plays a week in Denmark from January 3 and follows with a French TV date in Paris.

SCAFFOLD: CONCERT, TOUR, ALBUM

SCAFFOLD make their first tour of Britain next spring—and a special concert appearance is planned in London within the next two months.

A'Hern ahoy!

FORMER Caroline deejay Mike A'Hern, unable at present to land a regular show of his own on Radio 1, leaves for Australia today (Thursday) to take up a six-month offer with a leading Sydney station.

KOOBAS, back on Tuesday after a five-month eight-country Continental tour to cut a new single, make a two-week tour of Switzerland from January 14 which two Swiss journals are sponsoring.

The concert would probably be at Queen Elizabeth Hall on London's Embankment.

"Plans for the tour are proving more difficult," said a spokesman for the Scaffold's management on Monday. "The group is not essentially pop and we are trying to decide whether to send them out on their own—or as part of a package."

Group's first LP, with songs written by McGear and McGough, will be released in January.

Fresh Faces

SMALL Faces only fresh TV date so far for their new single "Tin Soldier" is "Twice A Fortnight" on Saturday.

Group goes to Germany on December 29 for the TV show "Beat Club" and dates are being set for a Far East tour starting at the end of January.

CILLA WILL WED BOBBY!

CILLA Black—her new single "I Only Live To Love You" enters the chart at 30—has confirmed that she will wed her road manager and "steady" boyfriend, Bobby Willis, next year. First news of the pending marriage was revealed by Disc four months ago—in August this year.

But press officer Tony Barrow said this week: "Stories that Cilla will marry in June are inaccurate—but based on fact."

"She has said that she would like to get married when she's 25—on May 27—but wants to point out that neither she, nor Bobby, has discussed the month

or date. There are no concrete plans."

He added that June next year was a "highly unlikely" date, as Cilla is in line to begin a summer season about that time.

Last summer Disc learned that Cilla had revealed her wedding plans to a small circle of friends. March was the month mentioned.

Cilla and Bobby met in Cilla's hometown of Liverpool five years ago. They've been going "steady" ever since. Apart from being her road manager he's also director of two thriving engineering companies.

● Cilla's next LP, titled "Sher-oo!", is set for mid-January release.

countdown

THURSDAY

MOVE—Caledonian Hotel, Inverness, Scotland.

Moody Blues—Leofric Hotel, Coventry.

Simon Dupree—City Hall, Sheffield.

Chris Farlowe—Marimba, Middlesbrough.

Pop North (Radio 1—1 p.m.)—Alan Price Set, David and Jonathan introduced by Dave Lee Travis.

Late Night Extra (Radio 1—10 p.m.)—Acker Bilk introduced by Barry Alldis.



Move's Carl: Inverness

FRIDAY

FOUNDATIONS—400 Ballroom, Torquay.

Traffic—Musicland, Watford High Street, and Leicester University.

Bonzo Dog Doo Dah Band—Southampton University.

Move—Regal Ballroom, Bonningrigg, Scotland.

Moody Blues—Christchurch College, Oxford University.

Amen Corner—Gaiety Ballroom, Grimsby.

Simon Dupree—Town Hall, Cheltenham.

Eric Burdon and the Animals—Crystal Club, Newcastle.

Tremeloes—Leicester College of Education.

"Crackerjack" (BBC 1—4.55 p.m.).

Joe Loss Pop Show (Radio 1—1 p.m.)—Tremeloes introduced by Tony Hall.

Late Night Extra (Radio 1—10 p.m.)—Roy Budd Trio introduced by Mike Lennox.

Eric Burdon and the Animals—Coventry College of Further Education.

Tremeloes—Royal Links Pavilion, Cromer.

Flowerpot Men—Nottingham University.

Alan Price Set—Dreamland Ballroom, Margate.

"Dee Time" (BBC 1—6 p.m.).

"Val Doonican Show" (BBC 1—7.55 p.m.).

"Twice A Fortnight" (BBC 1—11.5 p.m.).

"Good Evening" (ATV—5.50 p.m.)—with guests introduced by Jonathan King.

Saturday Club (Radio 1—10 a.m.)—Paul Jones, Georgie Fame, Moody Blues, Truly Smith introduced by Keith Skues.

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Flowerpot Men—Nottingham University.

Alan Price Set—Dreamland Ballroom, Margate.

Pete's People (Radio 1—10 p.m.)—Trogs, Long John Baldry, Geno Washington and the Ram Jam Band, Marmalade.

Eric Burdon and the Animals—Coventry College of Further Education.

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Scaffold's McGough

TREMELOES TRY AGAIN

TREMELOES, who missed the chart with "Be Mine" after a hat-trick of big hits, rush out a new single in early January before a six-week tour of America, also taking in Argentina and Hawaii, starting January 16.

Their new album—"The Tremeloes"—out next Friday (15), features eight new numbers and "Silence Is Golden."

● FOOT (and mouth) note: Arriving at Belfast for a week of Irish dates last week, group was stopped and questioned by customs men anxious because they were wearing sheepskin coats which "might spread the epidemic." Later Tremeloes were allowed to leave—with their coats.

Eric Burdon and the Animals—Coventry College of Further Education.

Tremeloes—Royal Links Pavilion, Cromer.

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Eric Burdon and the Animals—Coventry College of Further Education.

Tremeloes—Royal Links Pavilion, Cromer.

Flowerpot Men—Nottingham University.

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Now Des buys a racehorse

DES O'CONNOR, who shoots up to number six this week with his first-ever hit "Careless Hands," has celebrated by buying a racehorse called "Chart Buster."

Queen's jockey David Mould will ride the five-year-old gelding which is being trained at Newmarket.

The chart buster himself breaks off rehearsals for his pantomime appearance with Vince Hill and Tanya the Elephant in "Cinderella" at Manchester Palace (starting December 23) to appear in "Dee Time" next Saturday (16).

Des is currently considering an offer to appear at London's "Talk Of The Town" at the end of his pantomime season.

Foundations trip

FOUNDATIONS' promotional trip to the States has been set for the first two weeks of February—a fortnight after release of their next single, "Back On Our Feet Again." It is another Tony Macaulay-John MacLeod production and composition, and is set for January 12 release.

ISLAND Records' director Chris Blackwell has signed London newcomers Spooky Tooth to a management-production contract. Their first single, "Sunshine Help Me," is out on January 19.

Freeman TV show: January

ALAN Freeman's new "replacement" show for "Juke Box Jury"—which ends on December 27—goes out on Friday, January 5.

Titled "All Systems Freeman," it will be an early evening show lasting 25 minutes, and be recorded on Wednesdays in Manchester.

Alan presents new releases, talks to artists in the studio and shows groups on film playing their latest record.

He told Disc on Tuesday: "I am wildly excited about the whole thing. It's like the old saying—'All things come to him who waits'."

Asked if the new series would mean his leaving "Top Of The Pops," Alan said: "Frankly, I think I might well come off it. But my present contract goes on to December 14, and I shall be doing the Christmas specials with Pete and Jimmy."

"But my new show will entail a lot of dashing about and filming, so I might find it difficult to do both this and 'Pops'."

Lulu, Sandie Cilla: TV special

LULU, Sandie Shaw, Cilla Black and Val Doonican head an all-star pop line-up for BBC-1's Christmas Day bumper TV special.

They appear in "Christmas Night With The Stars," introduced by Rolf Harris, which lasts two hours. Show also includes special sketches from the Alf Garnett and Steptoe series.

Pet Clark's TV show "This Is Petula Clark" is being screened "live" on Boxing Day (26) and "Top Of The Pops" presents its usual two-part programme spotlighting the year's chart-topping stars.

New Frank Sinatra show in colour has been negotiated for BBC-2 by impresario Harold Davison.

Scott single BBC 'ban'—Europe and British tour plans

Felice tour here

FELICE Taylor, who returned to America last week after a promotional visit to Britain, comes back next year for a tour and club dates.

Felice's new single, released in January, is "I Feel Your Love Coming Down On Me."

Peddlers with Skelton

PEDDLERS, following successful cabaret in America last May, have been invited on to the "Red Skelton Show," screened across the States, in January.

'New look' for 1968 pop tours

IMPRESARIO Arthur Howes—who handled tours by Beatles, Cliff Richard, Beach Boys and Walker Brothers—predicts a drastic "new look" for tours in the New Year.

"There just aren't any big groups around like the Beatles or Walkers capable of doing top business in theatres these days," he told Disc on Tuesday.

"Now, the only big names are people like Engelbert and Tom Jones, who appeal to a different type of audience."

"I can see 1968 tours taking on an entirely different look. They will be shaped more to appeal to wider audiences. For instance, the Flower scene has gone completely, and the chart provides very little guidance."

"And pop groups have played so many ballroom dates, who wants to see them in the theatres, too?" Arthur Howes confirmed that he is negotiating for a New Year tour by Gene Pitney.

LISTENERS to Radio 2—the BBC's old Light Programme—have objected to Scott Walker's new single, "Jacky," on the grounds that it is a "nasty song."

The song is a translation of Frenchman Jacques Brel's composition, and mentions queers, virgins and brothels.

First objections to the song blew up when Simon Dee was not allowed to play Scott's recording on Monday's "Midday Spin."

But, on Tuesday, Mark White—assistant head of the BBC's Gramophone Department—told Disc: "The record has in fact been played eight or nine times on various programmes, including 'Midday Spin' by both Simon Dee and Tony Brandon."

"The programme goes out on both Radio 1 and 2, and we have had a number of complaints, mostly from Radio 2 listeners, saying they did not like the song."



Gene Pitney

Bee Gees song for Cliff

BEE GEES will release two LPs early next year—their already-completed "Horizontal" plus a special soundtrack album of their TV spectacular "Cucumber Castle." They have also been asked to write a song for Cliff Richard.

The soundtrack LP will consist of all the music and sketches from the show, currently in production with Southern's Mike Mansfield.

Bee Gees are due to meet Cliff this week to discuss a new song they have written for him as a single.

Next year's plans for the group include a major tour in Australia for two weeks in February—on return from their first U.S. tour.

On January 19, the group goes to Germany to receive a Gold Disc for "Massachusetts" at the International Record Convention in Hanover.

Seekers' box office record

SEEKERS, who wind up a four-week season at Glasgow's Alhambra on Saturday, have established a box-office record at the theatre.

Says Herbert Lumsden, Scottish area manager for Howard and Wyndham Theatres, who is based at Glasgow: "They have done capacity business during the four weeks. We have never had an act of this type for this period before."

"Queues have been forming at the box-office well before it opens at 10 a.m. and they've still been queuing when it closes at 7.30."

"We thought the simplest thing would be to advise producers to restrict it to those programmes that are transmitted only on Radio 1."

"There is no ban on the song as such. In fact, Scott will be heard singing it next Tuesday on 'Pop Inn'."

But Scott's pre-taped insert for tonight's (Thursday) "Top Of The Pops" of "Jacky" has been cancelled. He will also not be seen singing the song on "Dee Time" on December 16, or on a forthcoming Jonathan King "Good Evening!" show.

And Scott Walker is eager to clarify the spelling of his record title. So far it has been "JACKIE"—and even appears on the actual single as such.

But, says Scott, it should be "JACKY" since it is a number written by Brel about HIMSELF—and "Jacky" is the masculine derivative of his christian name

Jacques.

"It appears to have been a misprint that snowballed," said Scott.

About the BBC's decision on playing the record, Scott commented: "I didn't expect this record to have a completely trouble-free passage. But most BBC producers are playing it. It shows they understand what the song is about."

Scott makes brief flying visits to Europe within the next few days to promote "Jacky."

He leaves on Sunday for Paris to appear on a show called "Forfait," followed by trips to Amsterdam (December 14) and Brussels (17).

Scott's French EP—tracks are "When Joanna Loved Me," "Mathilde," "Montague Terrace" and "Angellique"—from his best-selling album—is climbing the charts in most European countries.

Manager Maurice King confirmed this week that Scott would tour Britain in his own right next year.

"Tour formats have become a bit tired," he explained. "We'd like to do something a bit different. It largely depends on how the single does."

TOP OF THE POPS

On tonight's (Thursday) Top Of the Pops: Beatles, Simon Dupree, Dave Davies, Gene Pitney, Traffic, Des O'Connor, Scaffold, Petula Clark.

DAVE DEE-HERD POP SHOW GETS BBC BACKING

DAVE Dee, Dozy, Beaky, Mick and Tich and the Herd have had favourable reaction from two major TV companies for their idea behind a brand new pop series. It is hoped to start the show early in the New Year.

Original details of the series were exclusively revealed in Disc four weeks ago—on November 11.

Explained Ken Howard, co-manager of both groups: "Both Tyne-Tees TV and the new company, Thames TV [title of Rediffusion from the New Year], have shown a lot of interest."

"There's not much scope for pop TV as it is today; not the opportunity for artists to really show what they can do. So much talent is being wasted."

"Our idea—we'd like to call it 'Open Space'—would show what pop stars can really do, other than just sing and play guitars. Every major artist with acting and general versatility would be invited to take part."

Final arrangements for the Dave Dee group's proposed concerts in Rhodesia next January have now been delayed until the group gets written guarantees that they won't have to play to segregated audiences.

Promoter Peter Bankoff, in London recently for talks with the boys' co-manager, Bob James, has returned to Salisbury, Rhodesia, to get a specially-signed warrant from rebel Premier Ian Smith's Government.

Explained James: "A lot of paperwork is involved. Because of the Musicians Union ruling about members playing there on apartheid grounds, it's necessary to get guarantees that segregation isn't involved."

If the deal does go through,

the boys fly to Salisbury on January 19 for a week's season, followed by dates in Bulawayo. Later they play Singapore (January 31-February 6) and Japan (two weeks from February 9). Visit to Australia, before returning home via America, is also planned.

Dave Dee and Co will be the first pop group to be sprayed with anti foot-and-mouth disinfectant when they start a short tour of Ireland next Wednesday (13).

Move asked to clean up act

MOVE have been asked to clean up their act by the Moss Empires circuit after their show last week at Blackpool. Moss Empires—which owns the London Palladium—have said that if the Move do not change certain parts of their act they will be banned from all their appearances on the circuit.

Move manager Tony Secunda told Disc on Tuesday: "We are not at all worried, we wouldn't think of changing the act because a lot of old men read something suggestive in what the group does. Our policy has always been one of non-compromise and we shall continue with that policy."

Move appear at a special concert at London's Olympia Stadium on December 22. Their act is to be filmed for US and Continental TV and will be used for promotional campaigns when the group goes to America in January.

RECORD producer Norman Newell, who has four hits in the current chart (two by Frankie Vaughan, Des O'Connor and Shirley Bassey) has signed British girl singing team, the Karlins, to a recording contract.



LJB, Alan Price, Georgie for Tex tour dates

GUNNELL Agency artists—including Long John Baldry, Alan Price Set and Georgie Fame—have been helping to fill in the dates left vacant by the eleven-hour announcement from America that Joe Tex was calling off his British tour.

Tex was due in last Thursday morning and less than 12 hours before, agent John Gunnell received a phone call cancelling the trip. "We shall sue," Gunnell told Disc. "I'm still waiting some formal cable."

From America, Dick Allen, from Joe Tex's agency, stated: "It was impossible to get away because of recording commitments."

Last night's Royal Albert Hall show in London, which was to have featured Tex with the Alan Price Set and Ferris Wheel, was cancelled. Dave Dee deputised at the opening date—Boston on Saturday—and Alan Price filled in at London's Saville Theatre on Sunday. Last night's Bag O' Nails spot was taken by Long John, and Georgie Fame plays London University College next Wednesday.

NVB newcomer

NEW Vaudeville Band, back in Britain after a three-month American tour, have brought in a new trombonist to replace Shuggy Watts, who has left the group to settle in Canada with his local-born wife.

Newcomer is Charles Obscure (real name Peter Davis), formerly with Adgo Cutler and the Wurzels.

NVB release a new EP this weekend—"Thoroughly Modern Millie," "Flagpole Squatter No. 1," "So Tired" and "One Little Packet Of Cigarettes"—and delay a new single until the end of January.

Traffic LP first

TRAFFIC fans living in the Watford, Herts., area, will not only be able to meet the group this week, but also have an opportunity to buy the debut Traffic LP, "Mister Fantasy," a week prior to general release.

The group is making a personal appearance at Musicland record store, 96 High Road, Watford, at 2 p.m. tomorrow (Friday) afternoon, and will sign copies of the album. A special rush order is being pressed this week for the store.

Traffic breaks a Christmas holiday between December 24-January 18 to appear at the premiere of the film "Here We Go Round The Mulberry Bush" (Jan. 4), title track of which is their new single in the charts this week at No. 24.

Group promotes the disc on Radio 1's "Top Gear" (Sunday) and "Dee Time" (16). A reception is being held for Traffic at London's Speakeasy Club on December 18 when they receive their Silver Disc, awarded by Disc for sales exceeding 250,000 for "Hole In My Shoe."

Dantalian's LP

DANTALIAN'S Chariot, group led by Zoot Money, has been signed to CBS Records' new Direction label. Their first release is an album, "Transition," in the New Year.

Dusty cuts U.S. film title

DUSTY Springfield, whose "What's It Gonna Be" leapt into the American chart this week at 40, goes into the recording studios in Los Angeles this week to cut the title track for a new U.S. film, "The Sweet Ride."

The film, which stars Anthony Franciosa and British girl, Jackie Bissett, is produced by Joe Pasternak. Music for the film has been written by Nancy Sinatra's record producer, Lee Hazlewood. There are no plans yet for the track to be released as a single, either here or in America.

Because of her outstanding success in the States, Dusty returns there for three major engagements next

year. In late February she stars in the "Jonathan Winters Special" TV show and in March does a three-week cabaret spot at Baltimore's Venus Club.

Two more offers for cabaret seasons at Los Angeles' "West Side Room" and "Century Plaza," are under consideration.

Dusty does her first-ever college tour in America for three weeks in November.

Dusty, who now returns to Britain just before Christmas, is completing TV engagements in the States, including "Tonight" and the "Pat Boone Show."



THE EASY BEATS

'The music goes round my head'

(UP 1201)



A HAPPY CHRISTMAS TO ALL OUR LISTENERS FROM



1 SANDIE SHAW
Love Me, Please Love Me
NPL 18205 (M) NSPL 18205 (S)

2 THE FOUNDATIONS
From The Foundations
NPL 18206 (M)

3 VAL DOONICAN
Val Doonican Rocks, But Gently
NPL 18204 (M) NSPL 18204 (S)

4 THE ORIGINAL MOTION PICTURE SOUND TRACK FROM THE WARNER BROS. FILM 'CAMELOT'
W 1712 (M) WS 1712 (S)

STARS IN THE NEWS 3

JACKIE TRENT COLLAPSES

Jackie Trent, who was due to appear on the Simon Dee TV show on Saturday, had to cancel her appearance at the last minute because of illness. Jackie collapsed during rehearsals and doctors diagnosed severe tonsillitis. She also had to cancel a date at Kings Country Club, in Eastbourne, on Saturday night. Tony Hatch and Jackie start their own late-night BBC 1 radio series in the New Year.

Spencer disc

SPENCER Davis Group's new single, "Mr Second Class," released here on December 29, is issued in the States in mid-January and group goes to America for TV and a few concert dates in March. Also out in January in Britain is an album titled "Spencer Davis With Their New Face On."

Beatles open shop: Apple of their eye!

AS "Hello, Goodbye" smashed its way to the top of the chart, the Beatles have made it a historic Christmas occasion by opening a West End salon that may be the first of a similar string of shops throughout Britain. Titled "Apple," the shop ("Don't call it a boutique—John hates the word," manageress Pauline Fordham told Disc) was launched with a mammoth celebrity party on Tuesday night.

Beach Boys, LJB strike Silver

BEACH BOYS have qualified for a coveted Silver Disc sales award for their single "Sloop John B"—in the chart 18 months ago. The record was released in April 1966 and reached the number two spot in May. It has been selling consistently since then and recently passed the 250,000 British sales mark.

Beatles also win a Silver Disc—their 20th so far—for "Hello, Goodbye," which takes over the number one spot this week from Long John Baldry.

Long John Baldry this week qualified for a Silver Disc for "Let The Heartaches Begin." Because the disc is still selling strongly, his follow-up has been put back to mid-February. Song will again be a Tony Macaulay-John MacLeod composition. Baldry completed work at the weekend on his album "Let The Heartaches Begin," due out January 12 or 19. He appears on "Dee Time" (Saturday) and Rediffusion's "Exit" (28).

Troggs for U.S

TROGGS, who have completed a new untitled single for January 19 release, make their first-ever trip to America when they play college, club, TV and radio dates between March 28-April 21. Agent Danny Betesh and manager Stan Phillips flew back from the States after finalising the trip on Sunday. At the end of the States tour—where "Love Is All Around" is breaking out—Reg Presley will stay on to talk with Hollywood chiefs about a possible film score deal and acting chance for the boys later in the year.

Shock shake-up for 'Top of the Pops?'

by LAURIE HENSHAW

A MAJOR New Year shake-up in "Top Of The Pops" may bring in a young, swinging team of Radio 1 deejay comperes in place of the regular "Establishment" rota of Alan Freeman, Pete Murray and Jimmy Savile. Although no official confirmation could be obtained from "Top Of The Pops" at presstime on Tuesday, I understand that the change would be in line with predictions of a "major altera-

tion" already made by producer Johnnie Stewart, and first revealed in Disc on October 7. Just two weeks later, "Top Of The Pops" introduced a drastic new look by presenting guest comper spots by the first of several Radio 1 deejays. Tony Blackburn came in, followed by Stuart Henry and subsequently Kenny Everett and Emperor Rosko.

Simon Dee: film star

AT PRESSTIME, Simon Dee was poised to sign a new contract for a further series of his successful "Dee Time" BBC-TV programmes. New contract is for the January to March quarter. Agent Bunny Lewis told DISC on Tuesday: "The contract from the BBC is right here on my desk. I am sending it on to Simon for his signature."

Bunny Lewis is also negotiating a major film role for Simon. News that Simon was in line for such a part was revealed in Disc as long ago as October 28. Said Lewis: "We have had a film offer in, and in my opinion, the role is absolutely right for Simon. A major film company and a very big producer are very interested, but I can't say anything further at this stage. But Simon is very keen to make his debut in films as an actor."

Yardbird ballet

YARDBIRDS have written all the music for a special ballet—in which they will appear—to be staged at the Olympia Theatre, Paris, on December 13. The ballet, which the group has been working on for the last five months, is experimental. It will be performed by the dance group Pan's People and taped by French and Scandinavian TV.



DEREK TAYLOR: signed? BEATLE MAN BACK
DEREK Taylor, DISC's former American columnist, was being strongly tipped this week to become the Beatles' new manager. He returned from the US recently and is staying with Paul McCartney and his father just outside Liverpool. Spokesman for NEMS Enterprises, for whom Taylor once worked as press officer before moving to America, strongly denied Taylor was taking over. "There is no truth in the story," said Tony Barrow.

Now, it is strongly rumoured that the Radio 1 team will replace Alan Freeman, Jimmy Savile and Pete Murray. Alan Freeman and Pete Murray will have big new commitments in the New Year, as reported last week. Alan Freeman is in line to start his own BBC-TV series of "All Systems Freeman" shows in place of "Juke Box Jury," which ends its eight-and-a-half year run on December 27. A pilot has already been shown to BBC-TV top brass, and advance reports are that it was "highly successful."

Pete Murray is set to start a series of situation comedy shows in the New Year. Says agent Peter Prichard: "We are already having discussions with the BBC." Some TV circles believe that "Top Of The Pops" should be given a "younger image" on the comper scene.

Comments Jimmy Savile: "I would be bothered if I was off 'Top Of The Pops'—only because I love the programme so much. But I wouldn't be worried. Why should I, when the rest of the things I do bring me in over £850 a week? "Anyway, I have a loaded revolver in a drawer beside my bed. I should place it to my temple—then make quite sure someone was there to pull it aside and say: 'No, Jimmy—don't!'"

Footnotes Bill Cotton Jr., BBC Head of Light Entertainment: "Top Of The Pops" is developing all the time. The format of pop is changing, and this is reflected in the programme by bringing in new personalities. "But there is no question of anyone being dropped. The regular comperes are tremendously professional. Pete Murray, for instance, is desperately professional. I consider him one of the finest deejays in the world." When I pointed out that, if only through other commitments, the "regulars" might have to forego their "Top Of The Pops" and make way for the Radio 1 deejays, Mr. Cotton agreed that this was a possibility.

Herd in Highlands

HERD tour Scotland for five days from December 14. They do Dundee (14), Bonnyrigg (15), Kelso (16), Dundee (17) and Inverness (18). Group appears on "Crackerjack" (12) and "Dee Time" (23). Agent, Danny Betesh, returned from Los Angeles at the weekend where he had been finalising plans for the Herd to visit the U.S. in February. They go to Brussels and Paris on January 9 for TV.

Dave Dee show

DAVE Dee, Dozy, Beaky, Mick and Tich and American star Chuck Berry top the bill of an all-night dance at Leeds' Queen's Hall on February 2 (8 p.m.-6 a.m.). Also taking part: Herd, Jimmy James and the Vagabonds, and Brian Auger and Julie Driscoll.

LULU: film, musical

LULU, currently in America, has been offered fantastic contracts for a new film deal and a New York stage musical. The film, following her enormous success in the box office smash "To Sir, With Love," will be made by an international company in England during the summer. Lulu has been offered a major starring role. The musical, still in the planning stages, would not be undertaken until the end of next year. Lulu has already turned down the chance to appear in a five-year TV series in America starting next year. Agent, Dick Katz, told Disc on Monday that it would have meant staying away from Britain and being tied to a contract. Lulu returns to Britain this weekend to work on a new cabaret act for three weeks.

A DAY IN THE LIFE of CLIFF



A BACHELOR BOY GETS THE BIRD!

DEC CLUSKEY is leaving the bachelors! But don't be alarmed, fans. Note the small "b". "He's NOT quitting The Bachelors. Just the world of bachelorhood.

In short, Dec is taking the plunge into wedded bliss. He plans to say "I Will" around next August. The girl of his choice? Twenty-two-year-old blonde dancer Sandra Williams, of Stamford-le-Hope, Essex.

"We met when Sandra was dancing in our show about two years ago," says Dec. "We have seen each other on and off ever since.

"Of course, we shall have a church wedding. We're both Catholics, and my mother is very happy. Children? We'll probably have two. You never know—there may be more.

"She's very understanding and, like me, loves the open air. I'm mad keen on water-skiing, and so is she. She's not one to go raving around the clubs, and is an excellent cook.

"I wouldn't want her to give up show-business right away. Like me, she loves it a lot. If she wants to do the odd TV, then that's fine. But she's a home-loving girl, and I think eventually we shall get a little place in the country.

"Main things we differ about are golf and films. I'm crazy on golf, so I expect she will be a bit of a golf-widow. I don't really care for her taste in films. She likes sloppy love films.

"Musically, our tastes are also different. Sandra likes Andy Williams' type of music, and the Engelbert Humperdinck ballads—romantic music. She hates folk. I like all types.

"Sandra is very understanding about my moods. Sometimes I get tired and a bit irritable and don't feel like talking. She plays along with this.

"Both my brother Con and John have given me some sound advice. I feel I'm getting married at a rosy time. When Con married, we were having a pretty tough time careerwise.

"John and Con have told me the most important thing in marriage is to be faithful and true. That's a thing everyone finds hard to do in this business. There are temptations all the time.

"John says another important thing is to be understanding. He's a great believer in giving more than you take in a loving partnership.

"The fans reacted with loads of congratulations. They've all wished us the best of luck."—LAURIE HENSHAW.

WHEN you're sitting with your feet up in front of a blazing fire this Sunday, either browsing through the newspapers or gazing intently, utterly engrossed, at the afternoon offering on the "box," Cliff Richard will be teaching religion to youngsters. □ Everybody knows the hectic lives pop stars lead. Often they work round-the-clock, 24 hours of every day. Weekends, as much as possible, they like to have to themselves. Sundays are sacred. □ But for Christian-minded Cliff the Sabbath is reserved for religion. Not for him lazing and lounging around the house. The best part of his afternoon is taken up talking about the Bible to members of the Crusaders Union in Finchley, London.

HOW then does a Sunday in the life of our most successful solo star start?

"I usually stay in bed till about 10.30 in the morning," he revealed when I caught up with him at the "Top Of The Pops" studio the other day. "It depends what I've been doing the night before. How late I got to bed.

"Sometimes I'll go to the cinema. Saturday night is still cinema night for me! I went to see 'Bonnie And Clyde' the other evening. It WAS vicious, but in a way I learned something from it."

So after his lay-in, what's next? Bath, shave and dress, probably in casual clothes.

● I usually stay in bed till about 10.30 in the morning. It depends what I've been doing the night before. How late I got to bed ●

Then a look through the papers.

"I like to do a bit of gardening if the weather's fine. I share a house in Finchley with some friends and we like to keep it looking smart."

And if he feels in the mood he may be moved to wash and polish either or both of his cars—the sleek, white E-

type Jaguar and the run-around MG 1100.

"It's usually a casual lunch and then I change for church. Afterwards I take a Bible Study class for boys. Their ages range between 10 and 14.

"We try to take the Bible and discuss the stories and make them relevant. Once every month it comes round

to my turn to give a talk."

Was he held in awe by his young audiences? Did they tend to regard him more as Cliff the pop singer than Mr. Richard, the preacher?

"At first it was a bit like that. But they're all very used to me now."

After a bit of tea and attendance at church from 6.30 to 8.00 p.m. Cliff moves on to a Youth Fellowship meeting where he and his friends further discuss God and religion.

"Sometimes I get invited back to a friend's home after that and we just sit around and talk about general things. Interests we have in common."

The day usually ends with his getting back home in time to see the "Eamonn Andrews Show." That's if there's anybody interesting on.

"Sometimes I just potter around the house. Playing with my tape-recorder or having a go at my guitar. I also play badminton to keep fit.

"I read a bit—but not as much as I should. Last book I read was 'The Lord Of The Flies'."

The subject was ultimately changed to Cliff's current chart success with the dreamy ballad "All My Love," the Italian song which has rocketed into the hit parade, hot on the heels of "The Day I Met Marie," and how he sees his chances in next year's Eurovision Song Contest.

"Of course, it would be great to win. But I was very brought down the other day when I was told that no

country had ever won twice on the trot.

"There are so many songs to choose from. And I'd like to be able to listen to every one myself before choosing what I'll sing.

"I'm hoping the Shads will write one for me—but even that's not certain. They've got a knockout number for their next single which I wish I'd had. It's a Hank solo on the A-side with the Shads on the flip."

Somebody revealed that Kink Ray Davies was hoping to get a song accepted for the contest.

"Great!" exclaimed Cliff. "I really like what he's doing. I'm a big fan of Ray Davies' songs."

MIKE LEDGERWOOD

HOW IT TOOK MISS KNIGHT 14 YEARS TO GET A HIT

GLADYS KNIGHT And The Pips have been together for 14 years—a fact made all the more unbelievable when you consider that Gladys herself looks about 24, has a lovely smile, a pretty face and a gentle voice—until she sings.

Of course, it's not as simple as that. Like all Tamla groups—who seem to have a penchant for being inter-related—there were originally three girls, one being Miss Knight's sister.

Two left to get married, and that left Gladys on her own with her two brothers and some assorted cousins.

They slogged on for years after forming at high school and being given time off by an understanding teacher so they could travel to dates. In between starving, Miss Knight got herself married and had two children—but continued on regardless.

"There were a few times when I felt like giving up—especially when I saw my children growing up and I was always away on the road. But in the end I sorted it out by getting my mother to look after them when I was away and she used to bring them to the theatres.

First visit to Britain

"I wanted them to know what it was all about. In fact, I'm going to take my son, who's six, on tour with me later because I think it will do him good."

This is Gladys Knight and the Pips' first visit to Britain in their lengthy careers. They view this trip with amazing excitement. To Gladys it has meant some sort of achievement "We feel like royalty—everyone's been so nice," she said sweetly.

It really took "Take Me In Your Arms" to get them going, even though they had been a very highly-thought-of Tamla group for years beforehand, and made some astounding records which never saw the light of day in Britain.

Since then, "Take Me" has been recorded by many people.

"I think it's a compliment really. It means it had such a good melody line that people really wanted to get to grips with it.

"Personally I wouldn't want to cover anyone else's song unless I could do a better, or just as good a job as the original, and I think all the versions we've heard have been just that."—PENNY VALENTINE.



GLADYS: 'almost quit'



● Faye Dunaway as "Bonnie." Says Cliff: "The film was vicious."

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Production - Geoff Stephens

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THOROUGHLY MODERN MILLIE - SO TIRED

ONE LITTLE PACKET OF CIGARETTES FLAGPOLE SQUATTING PAPA No.1



"Me Auntie Jean sits in front of the telly having kittens in case we make a mistake . . . just as she did when Paul started."

BEATLES top—and SCAFFOLD swinging! DISC interviews

IT would be hard to find two brothers less alike than Mike McGear and Paul McCartney, the musical visionary, is calm, polite, seemingly interested in everyone. The height of tact and diplomacy, and as careful as a man walking a tightrope. He has his life planned to the last second, he knows where everything is and why it's there—not the least himself. A careful man.

McGear, on the other hand, although he shares Paul's disarming smile and instant friendly nature, is more extrovert. Somehow a more immediate personality, he is 24, two years younger than Paul, but looks older ("My face is a different shape"). His life appears to take shape almost accidentally from an endless series of chaotic adventures.

McGear, for instance, came to be interviewed as though a whirlwind had swept him through the door. A wily, handsome wizard he had a mad grin in his eyes having just emerged victorious from a shopping spree in London's Regent Street where, he declared with a great deal of pride, the man in the shop had sold him a Cashmere sweater by mistake and only charged him for a Shetland one.

The gentleman in question had also recognised our hero and done one remarkable chorus of "Thank U Very Much." Mr. McGear had been knocked out by both things.

"Come along," he cried, waving his giant umbrella and hoisting his coat round his shoulders like a cloak. "We've got to make Euston station in half an hour!"

And he dragged a slightly bewildered Roger McGough, Scaffold member extraordinaire, behind him. Already the remarkable has happened to McGear. The Scaffold, newly emergent into the chart with a song taxi drivers love, have achieved instant recognition so that when Mike walks in the street in London girls giggle and stare, and who can blame them, for he is very splendid.

"It knocks me out when I'm recognised in London. Of course, in Liverpool, people know us very well, but they tend to put you down a bit when you get successful."

"You can go into a pub at home and the people you know well will turn their back on you rather than come running up and bashing you on the back saying 'Congratulations.' It's good because they keep you down to size."

It is an odd quirk of fortune that has brought the Scaffold, perhaps the most unlikely pop group of all time, into the chart.

"Thank U Very Much" was a song they used to close their show at the Edinburgh Festival last year.

Everyone liked it—including the man who swept the stage. So they decided to record it.

It is, as McGear points out, a jaunty, joggy little thing, but he's still very surprised that it's doing so well.

"What it's meant to us is that we're getting the group known and we'll be able to do what we want to now—it's given us an audience. Of course, we're not a teenyboppers group, but then they only go for an image anyway, and we haven't got one. I'd say we appeal to a certain teenager—the Traffic, Hendrix, Bee Gees crowd, perhaps."

For the diversity between Mike and Paul is not only in personality but was also in ambition.

"Dad was a pianist with the Jimmy Mack Jazz Band in Liverpool and he always wanted us to get up and bash away," Mike said as we raced for the Liverpool-bound train and threw ourselves into a couple of seats with Roger McGough panting behind us.

"I just didn't want to know about it but he bought me a drum kit and Paul a lovely guitar. I managed to break my arm so the drum kit was useless, but Paul just went mad about this guitar. He wouldn't put it down, took it everywhere with him—even to the bathroom!"

The McCartney family was therefore highly delighted with the emergence of the Beatles, and one son was swept to the pinnacles of fame. Now, says McGear, the

Mike and the Scaffold in top McGear!

The Scaffold got together three years ago when McGear gave up his job as hairdresser and part-time actor, McGough gave up teaching and John Gorman gave up engineering.

"We were all idiots at the time," recalls Mike happily. "We did it just to go on telly for seven weeks which got extended to 27 weeks!"

"Thank U Very Much" has not only given the Scaffold scope to turn out two LPs and for McGear to publish his little children's book "Roger Bear," but has made Mr. McCartney Snr. a very happy man.

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The McCartney family was therefore highly delighted with the emergence of the Beatles, and one son was swept to the pinnacles of fame. Now, says McGear, the

family pride has been hoisted another rung.

"You know they were just saying the other day how they felt exactly as they did when the Beatles started to happen. Me Auntie Jean sits in front of the telly having kittens in case we make a mistake or something, just as she did when Paul started. Odd, really."

It will be a great shame if, as the Scaffold believe, their future on the pop scene is fairly limited because their material is more sophisticated than most.

McGear is an incredibly engaging personality to have around. He still gives complete outpourings of genuine Liverpoolian expressions. They sprinkle his conversation so that in the middle of very funny, amusing and witty repartee he will mention "my young lady" and sound completely incongruous.

He is a man who on the surface appears to take life as it comes—a big red balloon to let loose on a string. He jokes and laughs and is super-friendly. He explained his superficial flippancy by saying he didn't know me well enough to be serious.

"Wait," he threatened, "until next time—probably sweep you off your feet, I will."

He has also promised to give me his splendid umbrella as a present on my birthday.

WHAT MORE COULD YOU ASK?

Penny Valentine

Just t
straight
are S
IT was a
Soho.
street

They were
man creep up
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John, Paul, and McCartney Junior—Mike McGear

o put the records ht—the BEATLES ANE ... it's official!

a remarkable sight, that Thursday lunch-time in London's John Lennon and Paul McCartney walked along two streets. They walked slowly. And they were not attacked. They were not pounced upon by autograph hunters, nor did a policeman warn them that they should disappear for their own



...king at this meat on my plate, thought: 'Why?'

John and Paul wandered free. They peered into a shop window. John spotted a calendar which featured thinly-dressed girls. He and Paul chortled.

"Bet you daren't go in and buy it," said Lennon. "Okay," said Paul. He went in alone. A minute later, he rejoined us, waving a large, brown envelope.

"Discretion always," he said. "As you can see, I asked them to give it to me under plain wrapper. . . ."

Freedom to amble and lark about like that has not always been possible for the Beatles. For five years they have been prisoners of fame. Yet that day's anonymity shouldn't lull us into thinking that the Beatles' personal magnetism has lost its strength, glamour or magic.

Meditation and fans . . . eating meat . . . the cranks . . . John and Paul talking to Ray Coleman

It means that instead of locking themselves away from the world they can now mingle and be accepted as part of the world's sights. It is a warming thought.

We went to lunch at the Trattoria Terraza—"Oh yes," said Paul. "The swinging Beatles HAVE to eat at the in-place!—and McCartney and Lennon talked about Beatlemania, transcendental meditation, songwriting, politicians,



● "We never believed in Beatlemania. That way, we managed to stay sane"

"Hello, Goodbye," touring, growing older, their responsibility to fans—and more.

Paul spoke enthusiastically about their freedom to move around more easily. "We never did really like being surrounded by a big team of bodyguards and all that, although it was necessary at times. Now, it's much more like the old Cavern days—it's lovely to be able to be friends with fans.

"If people come and stand at the end of my road, I try to go and talk to them, and the relationship is so normal. They get autographs, if they want them, and I enjoy finding out what they've got to say. It's great.

"This 'pop-glamour' bit—nobody is really like that. People who behave as great big stars are kidding themselves and nobody else.

Sane

"The thing is, we never believed in Beatlemania. If you're the Beatles who people everywhere talk about and write about, you've got to be a Beatle for 24 hours a day. And you believe in it for the 24 hours.

"But we never really believed in it—never took the whole thing that seriously, I suppose. That way, we managed to stay sane."

"That's right," said John. "The Beatles are sane."

At the height of Beatlemania, then, during their tours, were John, Paul, George and Ringo oblivious to what was going on?

"Oh, we knew a bit of it," said Paul, "but things moved so fast it was hard to take it all in. We didn't have time to sit back and consider it. But we knew a lot was going on, and when we had a few months off we started thinking about it a bit more.

"It had gone round in a circle. Today, we're still doing

roughly what we were always doing, only now it's in other directions. It's like a zig-zag. And it doesn't only apply to records. It applies to everything."

"We think we're only just starting," said John. "As far as I'm concerned, we're starting afresh every day. Who wants to rest on what's gone? That was then. It's history. It's all happened and finished. We've got to prove ourselves all the time."

Paul said they just didn't want to go through life getting Beatlemania-type reaction. "We'd like the recognition, of course, but without the scenes that go with it."

"It's a groove," said John, "having different kinds of fans now. People who are just interested in what we're producing instead of just who we are."

● While Paul's lunch was chicken, John ate pancakes. Three of the Beatles—John, Paul and George—lean towards vegetarianism. Ringo is a non-believer.

"I occasionally eat meat," said Paul. "John and George feel more like vegetarians than me, but I'm a sympathiser."

"It happened way before the Maharishi," said Lennon. "I just decided I didn't fancy the idea of eating meat any more. I occasionally eat meat, but I believe in vegetarianism."

"If you've ever opened an egg," Paul said, "and seen a little chicken in there, you'll know what the feeling behind this is. We've decided we don't need meat. There's no need at all to eat it—and a lot of people say it's no good for you. I like bacon and eggs and things like that but at least I'm aware of doing without it."

Meat

John: "One day, I just decided that was it. George had been talking about it, and it

had been going through my mind, anyway, for a long time. I just started looking at this meat on my plate and I thought: 'Why?'

Paul: "Oh, let's stop talking about it. People already think the Beatles are cranks who get hung up about things. The thing is—we've got our beliefs, and we're not saying anybody should follow us.

"'Cranky Beatles don't eat meat but they meditate' and all that."

● From here, it was a short conversational step to meditation. The waves of suspicion in certain circles have not killed the Beatles' interest in the methods of Maharishi Mahesh Yogi, and John replied forcefully to critics who said the whole idea was "irresponsible opting-out of society."

"It's not opting-out — it's opting-IN!" he declared. "You don't have to go to Wales and do it, or even cut yourself off from society or reality. And you don't have to get so hung up about it that you go round in a trance. I can't understand why people are so stubborn, and why they're not open-minded. I do my meditation in the car on the way back home from work."

Stupid

Paul: "People who put these things down, like meditation, don't listen to anything. They have closed minds. They always advance some argument against it—and that's easy to do.

"It's so stupid, you see, because they're not allowing anything fresh or different to get inside their heads. Even if it could possibly be right, or good.

"THEY'RE the cranks—trying to force the issue. We're not trying to force any issues or say we're right, even. We're just trying, while other people fight against a natural enthusiasm for something."

John: "If the Maharishi was asking people to devote their lives to meditation, that would be different. But what possible harm can it do anyone to TRY for half-an-hour a day something that could be good?"

Rubbish

Paul: "We're just trying to find out about things instead of putting them down as a lot of rubbish. Instead of doing what a lot of others do—go naturally against things, all suspicious-like, we're giving it the benefit of the doubt.

"Meditation might be a big 'con.' That doesn't matter either. I don't think it is a 'con,' but if it is, I want to find out why. I don't believe the Maharishi is a 'con.'"

"I BELIEVE HE'S TELLING THE TRUTH."

● NEXT WEEK: Will the Beatles ever tour again? How do they see their responsibility to fans? What do the words in "Hello, Goodbye" mean? John and Paul answer these and other questions NEXT WEEK . . . and they talk, too, about growing older greatfully!

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MIREILLE'S ROYAL SONGS ARE NOW ON RECORD

I LOVED the songs Mireille Mathieu sang on the Royal Variety Show. Are they available on record? — PAUL RAYNER, 34 Nottingham Avenue, Maidstone, Kent.

• We predict that 1968 will be Mireille Mathieu's year. The two songs were "La Dernière Valse," better known as "The Last Waltz" and "Seuls Au Monde" ("Alone In The World"), and were released last week on a Columbia single.

WHAT has happened to Keith Skues' book "Pop Go The Pirates"?—J. E. SKIPP, 43 Ledborough Lane, Beaconsfield.

• Even Keith doesn't know and that's the truth! It reached the publishers in a completed state and has not been seen or heard of since.

I KEEP hearing about a record containing parts of the last hour of Radio London. Does it exist and how can I get it?—K. FULLARD, Lynwood, Eaton, Retford, Notts.

• It's all true. An EP with the highlights of Big L's final hour has been made.

Write to Radlon Sales Ltd., 17 Curzon Street, London, W.1., for details.

INFORMATION please on the Alan Bown! What are their names?—TOM EVANS, 3 Cedar Grove, Codsall, Wolverhampton.

• Seven men in the Bown! Alan, Jess Roden (vocals), John Anthony (tenor sax), Jeff Bannister (organ), Dick

Sweeney (drums), Tony Catchpole (lead guitar) and Stan Haldane (bass guitar). The group's new single "Toyland" is still creating quite a lot of interest.

I HAVE Press cuttings and pictures of the Monkees which I would like to exchange for pics, etc., of the Kinks. — PAULINE LOCKETT, 189 Tarbock Road, Huyton, Liverpool.

PLEASE tell me something about the fantastic Tony Rivers and the Castaways?—P. CLARKE, 88 Howard Road, Upminster, Essex.

• Many others have asked the same question and Tony still seems to be very popular. Apart from Tony, the Castaways comprise: Martin Shaer (second lead vocalist), John Perry and Peter Swettenham (guitars), Geoff Swettenham (drums) and Ray Brown (bass). Group was formed in 1962 and have had two minor hits with the only records

released. The success of the group lies in its skilful five-part vocal harmony along the lines of the Beach Boys and Four Seasons.

PLEASE note that the address of the Buddy Holly Appreciation Society is now: c/o Mick Mirams, 12 Calverden Road, Ramsgate, Kent.—SAM COOPER, Portsmouth, Co. Armagh, Northern Ireland.



We welcome your questions. But each question MUST be accompanied by one of these seals. Pin it to your letter or postcard and write to: 'Pop the Question', Disc, 161 Fleet Street, London, EC4



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Paul Jones: Pat Jennings, 24 Denmark Street, London, W.1.

Pink Floyd: Carol, 1 Randall Drive, Hornchurch, Essex.

Chris Farlowe: 47 Gerrard Street, London W.1.

Ed Stewart: Gill, c/o Harold Davison, 235 Regent Street, London, W.1.

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PLAY THE NAME GAME THIS CHRISTMAS!

IF there's one thing people like to receive at Christmas, it's a present they know belongs to them.

Handkerchiefs are an obvious choice, and there's something rather special in being able to produce your own monogrammed ones. Shirts as well have that certain personal superiority when your initials are smartly embroidered on the pocket. Engelbert Humperdinck and Tom Jones are among stars who occasionally wear them.

Or how about some personally initialled ball-point pens or pencils — perhaps even with your whole name engraved on them in bright gold paint?

A very novel idea is your very own bubble bath sachets, hair shampoo, car shampoo or windscreens wash — each one labelled with a name or special greeting.

More decorative is an initialled dress ring or signet ring, or perhaps one of those delightful silver or gold bracelets with your name engraved on it.

Cigarette lighters, propelling pencils, book matches, writing paper, envelopes, cuff-links, tie-pins—all these mean so much more if the name of the person receiving them is printed on.

Your dear old Dad is undoubtedly one of those people who loves an enormous cup of tea first thing in the morning. How much better it would taste in a large cup marked "Dad"!

Or perhaps a key-ring for his car keys, with the registration number of his car embossed on it.

It all boils down to one thing. The name of the present game is the name. So play the name game this Christmas and be original.



No prizes for guessing what this is — the sign which means this shirt belongs to Engelbert!

Food for thought!

HERE'S food for thought! A dreadful pun, but nevertheless a good idea for Christmas gifts is—food! It sounds daft, but a large box of biscuits, a basket of fruit or a portion of cooked meat make a far more acceptable gift than might be thought.

There are several firms who will send boxes of fresh English apples anywhere in the world, and they don't cost all that much. Nuts too (and we're not being rude) last a long time and are one of those luxuries that make Christmas a time for indulging. Chocolates, liqueur or ordinary, are fairly commonplace gifts, so why not ring the changes and send your best gourmand friend a sack of jelly-tots or bubble-gum!

Big or small, old or young, food parcels are presents that are appreciated.

Late-night write-up

HERE'S a novelty gift—and a very useful one too. The Pan Light Writer. It looks just like an ordinary ball point pen, but press the switch and a bulb lights up the area just round the point—so you can write in the dark without the writing going berserk and without dis-

tracting anyone who may be sleeping nearby.

In the same vein are the luminated spectacles, as worn by Emperor Rosko. Just like ordinary specs, except that there are no lenses, and just by each eye a small light that shines straight on your book.

If you want to get ahead wear a wig!

PREVIOUSLY it was a hat, but this year if you want to get ahead—get a wig! Miss Peru did, and look what happened to her. Sandie Shaw wore one especially for the Queen, and Lulu was embellished with a long false piece for the same occasion. Dusty Springfield often adds to her natural looks with blonde tresses, and wigs are also the order of the day for such artists as Pat Arnold, Felice Taylor and the Supremes.

So why not you as well? Wigs need not necessarily be expensive and they can do wonders for your morale. For a special occasion it's a wonderful feeling to know you can make your hair up to 20 inches longer—and think of the admiring glances long hair always attracts! Maybe it will take a brave and understanding boy friend to buy you a wig (let's face it, a boy hates to think there's anything false about his girl friend!), but perhaps your parents would be more sympathetically inclined.



Sandie Shaw — wore a wig for her Royal Variety spot

BARGAIN BASEMENT—'IDEAS FOR CHRISTMAS GIFTS' (see also pages 10 and 12)

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Ballads have SAVED pop!



LONG JOHN:
I've NOT gone commercial!

SINCE "Let The Heartaches Begin" has been in the chart, I have received many letters from fans accusing me of changing my style just to obtain a hit. There is no limit to the material I use. I like to think that anything I sing is given the kind of treatment expected of me. Before recording "Heartaches" I went through many numbers with recording manager Tony Macaulay and musical director John MacLeod. I didn't like any of the songs until "Heartaches" came up, which I loved. Although it is a ballad, it has a bluesy feeling and not that much different to my previous work.—LONG JOHN BALDRY, Collindale, N.W.

Pirates fans!

I have ten copies of the Roaring Sixties' record, "We Love The Pirate Stations," which I am willing to sell to Disc readers for 8/6d, including postage and packing.—JOHN REHAHN, 361 Seven Sisters Road, London, N15.

Disc's cover photograph of Long John Baldry and friends (25.11.67) was a right old Shakespearean freak-out—like Hamlet and the three witches from "Macbeth"—!—VERONICA PUFFER, 12 Granville Road, Littlehampton, Sussex.



HENDRIX: is this excitement!

Has Hendrix devalued in sympathy?

SO Hugh Nolan thinks the Hendrix/Move package is one of the most exciting to hit the road in Britain (Disc 25.11.67)? After sitting through the tour at Blackpool on Saturday, I can only presume that Hendrix has decided to devalue in sympathy with the government. If that's excitement you can keep it, and in future I'll keep my 15 bob!—P. GILBERT, 16 Frinton Grove, Blackpool.

AT last — an article by someone who LIKES the fantastic Pink Floyd (Disc 25.11.67). Hugh Nolan is the only Disc writer to get through to their beautiful music. Thanks for a great article and the due praise for the Floyd. — MISS C. WILSON, "The Rosary," Church Hill, Dartford, Kent.

CONGRATULATIONS to Andy Fairweather-Low and the Amen Corner for their tremendous performance on the Hendrix/Move tour. Andy said he thought the group would "die a terrible death" on the tour but I'm sure many thousands of fans will agree they were a terrific hit. — SUE SAMMER, Rhiwbina, Cardiff.

DAVE DEE'S letter (Disc 25.11.67) sums up very well the feeling of people of all ages who enjoy pop music without worrying too much about fads. If Flowerpower had gone on much longer, the general viewing public would have become so bored with pop there would be even less pop TV shows than now.

Messrs. Humperdinck, Vaughan, O'Connor, Dodd, Secombe and other "established" entertainers have SAVED pop from its "in-crowd." Christmas means there'll be even more non-rave artists in the chart. The fact that the only group in this year's "Royal Variety Performance" was the Rockin' Berries shows producers will feature groups in peak-hour TV shows if, like the Berries, they can do straight versions of their own songs and some real entertaining.—JOHN WATERFIELD, 278 Taunton Avenue, Plymouth, Devon.

Engelbert Humperdinck asked in Disc (25.11.67) how readers liked his TV show. I have one complaint—it's not nearly long enough!—G. GRIMSHAW, Three Bridges, Crawley, Sussex.

I am fed up with the Musicians' Union making excuses why free commercial radio should not legally come to this country. There are many countries with free radio, and if musicians can survive in those countries then why not here? It's about time artists stood up to this stick-in-the-mud union and told them where to get off. — DAVID STEPHENSON, Commercial Radio Society, 34 Newington Close, Coventry.

David Jacobs should have gagged Aimi Macdonald on Juke Box Jury (November 29). Her contribution was nothing but a load of silly nonsense. Thank goodness Penny Valentine was on the show! — JANE REYNOLDS, Oldbury, Warley, Worcs.

How do the Hollies do it? Only a short while ago they produced their wonderful LP "Evolution," and it seemed nothing could top that. Then they come up with "Butterfly"—full of thrilling sounds and melody, 12 fabulous tracks. Surely their next LP can't be better than this—or can it? — PAT CONNOLLY, 5 Lansdowne Road, Leicester.

Fancy saying the Beatles lead fashion in Britain (Disc 25.11.67)—what rot! They are so scruffy and unkempt they degrade British fashion. The Beatles are trash!—M. LAVER, London, SE1.

I was annoyed by Mike d'Abo referring to British audiences as "dreary and bored" (Disc 25.11.67). Mike must have forgotten that in the "dreary" audience there are Manfred fans—people who buy their records, turn out specially to see them, and who put them where they are.—L. J. COWELL, 37 Parsonage Gardens, Enfield, Middx.



Mad about something? Write to "Pop Post," Disc and Music Echo, 161 Fleet Street, London, E.C.4.



Engelbert Humperdinck: helped save pop from its 'in-crowd'

No, Jonathan, Bee Gees will never replace the Beatles

JONATHAN King will founder in the morass of his own verbosity if he continues his unending adulation of the Bee Gees. Why he, an excellent record critic, should constantly pander to a group which has yet to prove its ability is beyond belief. They are talented songwriters but they must expand vocally and musically before earning the lavish praise Jonathan pours on them. The Bee Gees will never extend to the Beatles' ethereal plane.—R. GARNER, 100 Shelford Avenue, Manchester 18.

JOHNNIE Walker proved ("Hit Talk" 25.11.67) that it is possible to express personal opinions of records without being nasty or using terms like "rubbish" and "big drag." Johnnie will push Jimmy Savile into second place or even lower in Disc's Valentine Poll.—PATRICK HEELEY, 21 Rectory Gardens, Worthing, Sussex.

SURELY after watching last Thursday's "Top Of The Pops" Johnnie Stewart should go out and find an appreciative audience with some sense of rhythmic movement who do not literally "jump for joy" each time the camera focuses on them. Oh for the days of unique "Ready Steady Go!" — MARC SINE, 5 Riley's Place, Belfast 7.

A MERRY CHRISTMAS TO ALL OUR LISTENERS

FROM

ERIC MORECAMBE & ERNIE WISE

The Twelve Days Of Christmas

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Please Love Me Forever

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1	2	3	4	5	6
7			8		
9				10	
12					13
14	15		16		17
			18		
19				20	
21					22

CLUES ACROSS

- 1, 4 Across, 7 and 8 (all together) The Foundations' first (4, 3, 4, 3, 5, 3)
9. A Highland gentleman called Andy (7)
10. Great part of the world (4)
14. One of those Cowsills things (4)
16. Hot stuff (7)
19. People popular with Bobbie (6)
- 21 and 20. Alarm Clock colour (10)
22. Stick around, don't leave the party (6)

CLUES DOWN

1. Gets all steamed up? (5)
2. One of the Massachusetts group (3, 3)
3. Modern Hifferite (7)
4. Significant eyelid movement (4)
5. Tubby's in Middlesex (5)
6. Follower of never-tell-a-lie Washington? (6)

11. In which Flower People sleep? (7)
12. Love is All Around 'em (6)
13. J.M. was a great writer, Amanda (6)
15. Almost bull ring! (5)
17. Surname of Jack and Jill, folks! (5)
18. Bird inclined to boast? (4)

LAST WEEK'S LP WINNERS

Miss B. Quirk, Moorland Court Lodge, Knox, Harrogate. Mr. L. Simpson, 155 Manderston Road, Newmarket, Suffolk. James Wicks, 14 Harcourt Road, Stratford, London, E15. Jenny Giltrap, 24 Penarth Road, Northenden, Wythenshawe, Manchester 22. Jeremy Hill, 9 Gaer Road, Newport, Mon. John Williams, 4 Hall Hill Road, Holbeach, Lincolnshire.

LAST week's solution: ACROSS: 7. Almanacs. 8. Ice. 9. Autumn 10. Let it. 11. Bus. 12. Out. 14. Kay(J.K.). 15. (m)Ann(ered). 17. Penny. 18. Misses. 20. Rib. 21. Oklahoma. DOWN: 1. Zabadak. 2. Smut. 3. Gnomes. 4. Psalm. 5. Diction. 6. West. 11. By and By. 13. Tuesday. 15. Animal. 16. Byron. 17. Part. 19. Shoe.

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VALENTINE

SPINS THIS WEEK'S NEW DISCS

STONES' 'BREAKDOWN' ECHOED BY HUMAN INSTINCT

EFFECTIVE morse code signals start Mike Hurst's first entry into a more way out production than usual with "A Day In My Mind's Mind" by THE HUMAN INSTINCT. The actual tune is like the Stones' "19th Nervous Breakdown" with fly-away woodwind (Deram).

I didn't go for SPANKY AND OUR GANG's last record but "Lazy Day" is really very nice. Spanky has a gutsy masculine sort of approach to singing and the number is rather Fifth Dimensionish (Mercury).

Also prettily gentle—despite my built-in aversion to any more songs about San Francisco—is the old "Frisco Bay" given a very nice treatment by STATE OF MICKY AND TOMMY with guitars playing over each other and an Everly Brothers feel around the lyrics (Mercury).

Another traditional number is "Wayfaring Stranger" by a gentleman I had never heard of before going under the super title of HP LOVERCRAFT. He is not, however, a sauce bottle but merely does a very good job with nice bass and percussion. Yes. (Philips).

"Love Me Two Times" is not very inspired DOORS from their LP. But many will like it better than I (Elektra).



• Mark Wynter: pops up

THE chap who once surfaced with a dying swan song re-emerges with one of my favourite old songs, "I'm Just A Country Boy." CHRIS McCLURE does it slightly Mathis style but with less strain. Some of his diction is a bit sloppy but the song is so beautiful it holds it up (Polydor).

QUICK SPINS

PRETTY piano on FRANCOISE HARDY's "On Se Quitte Toujours" (Vogue). It's nice to have some pure solid romantic stuff around and nobody does it better than sad-voiced Miss Hardy. Her records always remind me of staring out of a rain-filled window.

A group many people admire is PAUL BUTTERFIELDS BLUES BAND—and with reason—but "Run Out Of Time" is truly a little boring (Elektra).

I have liked records by one JON GUNN in the past. There's something about his voice that intrigues me. "If You Wish It" is an interesting little song with excellent brass sounds but somehow I feel they would have done better commercially to turn it over and promote the less-inspired but immediately corny "I Don't Want To Get Hung Up On You Babe" (Deram).

LOCOMOTIVE have a good sound going and I liked the lead singer on "Broken Heart" but I wished for more going on in the background and did not get it, did I? (Direction). I cannot understand why anyone thought it necessary to come up with a record like "I Saw Santa Sitting On A See-Saw" but WEAVERS GREEN obviously saw possibilities in it. Oh, well (MGM).

A name from the past—MARK WYNTER—pops up in time to latch on to the end of the ballad boom with "Please Love Me Forever" and does his usual competent job on a fairly uninspired song (Pye).

I feel very sorry for poor GILBERT who naturally got upset when I didn't review his new single "Disappear" and wrote me a rude letter. Then I wrote him a rude letter and he wrote me a nice letter and the whole thing got very confusing.

Never mind, it was just lack of space and to make up for it may I say that he has a dear Jessie Fuller sort of voice and a bar room piano (CBS).



MIKE d'ABO:
songwriter

Shades of Jimmy Ruffin on the beginning of THE SAND PEBBLES' "Love Power." A pleasant soul record to listen to (Track).

"Judy In Disguise" sounds a bit like "Lucy In The Sky" at times. But it's better than usual from AMBOY DUKES (Polydor).

BEACH Boys dad MURRY WILSON has "The Plumbers Tune" out as a single which is a bit of nonsense nobody's going to mind (Capitol).

I kept expecting a singer on AL KENT's "You've Got To Pay The Price" but no just soft-shifting hiccupping tune (Track).

SALENA JONES has a lovely voice and deals splendidly with "The Glory Of Love" (Decca).

Fairground atmosphere on THE MOONSTONES' "How Many Times." Quite nice (Mercury).

"The Closer She Gets" by JOHN DREVAR's EXPRESSION didn't fulfil any hopes I had. Just a rather ordinary dropping tune with a nice build-up with brass (MGM). "Woman Woman" cry UNION GAP. I liked Mr. Gary Puckett's voice but didn't go overboard for the words much (CBS).

Old friend WILLIE PARKER grunts and groans his way through "You Got Your Finger In My Eye"—I'm not surprised, must be uncomfortable (President).

Miss GENTRY—white girl with soul!

OKOLONA River Bottom Band (Capitol)—A marvellous record this. A record that proves that the voice and writing of Bobbie Gentry is something of a phenomenon of the age — a white girl who hardly looks as though she knows what soul is all about turning up with the gutsiest, greatest, most solid bit of singing I've heard.

Somehow I thought "Ode To Billie Joe," much as I loved it, was a fluke record and Miss Gentry would slip into oblivion.

This proves that the talent promised there has been spread around much more, expanded on in a different way and on a different sound.

She suggests her way through this song where the words are less important than the rhythm, which is kept going with big guitar and a gorgeous tight "we know what we're doing" feeling.

And they do, they do. Towards the middle it slides into a happy laughing background and at the end Miss Gentry almost boogaloes out of the record. It's a sitting-in-the-noon-day-sun record and excellent.

OUT TOMORROW

DESMOND DEKKER

Sabotage (Pyramid)—The funny thing is, I learn from a generous colleague, that Mr Desmond Dekker himself was nearly sabotaged the other day by arriving in London for the first time, leaping on a bus and getting lost.

Consternation. Search parties eventually found him in a police station where he had gone for help, insisting that he was blue-beat singer and little else. Yes, London is a bewildering place.

To prove to those bewildered police that Mr Dekker is indeed a blue-beat star of high rating comes this new single. A rather ordinary crumbling number that insinuates itself and that I have heard before. A hit though? Perhaps—if enough policemen feel generous.

OUT TOMORROW

LOVE AFFAIR

Everlasting Love (CBS)—Before I am branded a traitor by Robert Knight fans, may I say that I reviewed this record with a nasty prejudiced mind.

Therefore, you will understand that it is twice as amazing that I liked it at all and even more staggering that I actually enjoyed listening to it.

All of which leads me to say that this is a very good record of a beautiful song which means a lot to me.

They take it at a slightly different pace from the Knight original, with more determined drumming towards the end before it opens out and sweeps back. Nice.

OUT TOMORROW

DOUBLE FEATURE

Handbags and Gladrags (Deram)—This is interesting, mainly because I liked the Farlowe version of this Mike d'Abo song so much and yet find I like this equally, which says much for the standard of the song.

Mike Hurst produced this one with great deliberation. It pounds very solidly with a lot more going on in the background.

Somehow this, with the two members of the group singing alternate verses, seems longer than Farlowe's, but that might be my imagination.

OUT TOMORROW



• BOBBIE GENTRY: phenomenal vocal and writing talent

This odd Penny may turn up with a hit

EVERYTHING I Am (Page One)—I have a creeping suspicion that from considerably out of nowhere, and despite the ridiculous name of the group—which someone I know will find Plastic Penny amusing — this record is going to do something.

The main reason is that there's that same fascinating slightly underplayed sound about it that the Foundations had. I would hesitate to call it old-fashioned or unfinished, but it is a bit of both.

This has the advantage of having a nice lead singer who grates his way through a song where the melody line is very strong and then disappears and re-appears, and also of a very strong solid deliberate arrangement.

But it is really its utter simplicity that's going to get it off the ground. And nice too, say I.

OUT TOMORROW

Geno Washington: like 100 other singers

DIFFERENT Strokes (Pye)—Bewilderment. It must be added now that despite the festive season's approach and goodwill and all that, I would not have normally given the popular Mr Geno Washington so much space on the strength of this record.

Also it would have been nice to know what this single is officially called, as it has four different titled tracks on it—no help to anyone, least of all me.

Oh well, it's Geno Washington, whose voice doesn't sound

any different from a hundred other coloured singers singing a variety of rather uninspired songs like "I'm Your Puppet" and "You Got Me Hummin'" quite well enough for your party.

OUT TOMORROW



• GENO: uninspired songs

CHER

YOU Better Sit Down Kids (Liberty)—I must admit that much as I like Cher and her voice I find this record a rather nasty embarrassment.

It is in the worst American taste — a song about a couple parting and "telling the kids." Over to you, Marsha. Ugh.

Sonny seems to be a bit Cat Stevens influenced towards the middle, where he does a "Matthew And Son" bit. But it doesn't save the whole thing from instant nausea.

OUT TOMORROW



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Lynn and Tush —but no Smashing Time



NEW FILM: "Smashing Time." Stars: Lynn Redgrave, Rita Tushingham, Michael York. Reviewer: PENNY VALENTINE.

"WE'RE going to have a smashing time," yell Yvonne and Brenda hopefully as they emerge from St. Pancras Station to conquer Swinging London from their home up North.

And they do too. Big Yvonne, all red hair and commands (Redgrave) and little Brenda getting into scrapes (Tush) get discovered as a pop star and model respectively, get disillusioned and get back home to comfort and sanity.

Thus the plot of "Smashing Time"—a film which quite honestly just wastes the admirable talents of two of our most sensitive actresses.

We have learned from "Blow Up" and "Darling" if we didn't know it before, that Swinging London is a vacuum. "Smashing Time" points it out again in a light-hearted fashion, but the basic idea, which is ostensibly a good one—of two young innocents eager to enter the "groovy generation"—is never

really given a chance to be more than a vehicle for a lot of watery cameo roles for familiar faces like Arthur Mullard, Irene Handl and Ian Carmichael.

The touch of pathos, which is merely hinted at and which would have brought a great deal of balance and relief to a lot of tired situations, is never given a chance to emerge.

I had hopes during a lovely shot of Tush in her pussycat costume and Redgrave in her tawdry evening dress wandering along a wet pavement in the early hours of the morning sadly twitching their tails, but the promise ended there.

DJ Mike Lennox, blondely grand, makes a spectacular entrance having his clothes ripped off by fans and guffawed loudly during the screening. It was the lightest moment in the evening.

"Smashing Time," as somebody pointed out to me, is harmless fun. I agree, but slapstick needs a delicate hand to be really funny and the director Desmond Davis hasn't shown it.

DAVE RUBS THE CLOWN'S MASK CLEAN!

by BOB FARMER

SEEING HIM standing there, all grins, floppy hats and full of beans, one would never suppose that being the younger brother of someone rather brilliant and brainy would ever bother Dave Davies.

And when our carefree Kink decided to make a solo disc and deduced on hearing it that it hadn't "a hope in hell" of ever being a hit, one became even more convinced that comparison with Ray Davies didn't bother Dave in the slightest.

But the fact is that brother Dave said that of "Death Of A Clown" in self-defence. A solo hit was desperately important to Davies Minor.

He admitted as much this week. Having proved himself in the solo department and with encouraging sales indications for the follow-up ("Suzannah's Still Alive") Dave could afford to own up at last.

"When I told you 'Death Of A Clown' didn't stand a chance, I meant it, although I suppose I said it in self defence. I desperately wanted to prove to myself and other people that I am fairly talented in my own little way.

"I wanted people to realise that I could do it on my own and didn't need to hide behind my brother all the time. But I couldn't come out and say I expected to have a hit, because I would have looked so pathetic, such a fool, if it hadn't made it."

But make it, it did. As far as No 5 in fact. And leaves Dave decidedly optimistic about "Suzannah," which he takes obvious pride in admitting he wrote himself, whereas "Death" was a dual effort with Davies Major.

"Basically, I prefer this one, because it's exactly the folk-rock bit I want to do. I don't want to get involved in any of your way-out Pinky Floyd sort of stuff. I like to stick to simple things that people can pick up and whistle."

A decidedly happier Dave? Well, not exactly. He can't resist asking everybody he meets if they see any comparison between his material and the songs Ray writes for the Kinks.

'I wanted to prove that I'm fairly talented'

One answers that, well, there is a certain singalong similarity. "Oh," he says a little sadly, "I suppose working with Ray must mean it rubs off on you a bit. I only ask because I do so want to be accepted on my own ability when I'm doing these solo discs."

To this end, he expects to do even more on his own if "Suzannah" is a similar-sized hit. Maybe even a tour. But don't suppose this signals the gradual break-up of the Kinks.

"We're good friends now—



it's taken us about four years, but now we're very much together and I don't see any sign of a split or Ray retiring into something of a Brian Wilson.

"The fact is," says Dave, drawing closer (he always seems to crowd in on you when talking), "Ray may never like to admit it, but actually he enjoys singing very much. People say he is wanting to withdraw and concentrate on writing, but I bet he'd always want to make records himself. And do gigs. It's hard to find out just what Ray does like, but this thing about singing I do know."

As far as Ray's writing goes, the pop business is beginning to say that it's time the Kinks climbed out of their admittedly successful rut of making lazy, hazy, wistful records, and tried for some newer sound.

Says Dave: "It's very difficult when making a record not to aim at what you have already proved to be successful. Admittedly, the Kinks singles may have sounded a bit samey over the past year or so, but you have to keep to a pattern that's a proven success."

"Whereas, with my solo career, I don't have to do this at all," he adds with a grin.

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What a line-up! Engelbert Humperdinck, who'll be in pantomime at the London Palladium; Radio 1's Tony Blackburn; Long John Baldry; Traffic; Lulu; and, of course, the Beatles.

All these extra features, of course, on top of DISC's regular line-up: Penny Valentine's record reviews, and her special commentary on the 1967 disc scene; Jonathan King's review of the year and his 1968 forecasts; the fashion world in close-up.

When you go Christmas shopping next week, make sure of your copy of DISC by ordering it. Better still, order it with the coupon on the left.

Swing into Christmas with the pop fans complete paper—DISC!



**Scott and Mette:
'She completely
transforms me'**

SCOTT FINDS HIS GIRL— IN THE COMMON MARKET!

by MIKE LEDGERWOOD

HEARTS SANK by the hundred last week when handsome Scott Walker hit the headlines in the cosy company of a dainty Danish dish with the virtually unpronounceable name of Mette Teglbjaerg.

At last, the big secret is out. The fair-haired American with the looks and charm of a fairy tale prince has found himself a "steady" girlfriend.

When I called on him at his new Hampstead hideaway the other day, he revealed that little Mette had been playing a big part in his often complicated and confused life FOR THE PAST TWO YEARS.

"She completely transforms me when we're together," he admitted. "I'm a different person altogether. I'm very self-indulgent and self-centred. It's my biggest fault and I'm only too aware of it. But when I'm with Mette I find myself doing things for her. Instead of always thinking about myself. That's never happened before."

Scott's secret leaked out when he persuaded 21-year-old Mette to return home to Copenhagen to face a minor charge of shoplifting.

He was silent for a while. Sitting in his small snug lounge—the curtains tightly drawn as always. Cool, uncomplicated jazz flowing from the stereo.

"We've known each other about two years. I met her in Copenhagen during a Walkers Brothers tour. We've been backwards and forwards to see each other a lot.

"There's a very childlike quality about this girl that changes my outlook and personality. Whenever I feel terribly uptight about something or need to get myself together—it's to Mette I turn," he went on.

"Men are always looking for perfection in their women, aren't they? But I'd sacrifice an intelligent girl anytime for someone like Mette. She is so essentially simple in her ways.

"We get along very well together. She organises my life for me. If I have a problem which is beyond discussion with people, I rush to see her. Just like that! Yes, she keeps me on a pretty even keel.

"I'm hooked on her country," he did disclose. "There's a fairy tale quality about Denmark. The people in Copenhagen are beautiful. They're all children. Even the adults. Everyone's placid by nature, all rosy-cheeked and healthy. Sometimes I think I'm in the wrong business!"