

TOP POP STARS

FRANKIE VAUGHAN



SHIRLEY BASSEY





Elvis Presley



Frank Sinatra



Shirley Bassey



Rick Nelson



Tommy Sands

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TOP POP STARS



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Edited by
Ken Simmons



Elvis Presley King of the Kids

No artist has suffered more criticism, more abuse and more attacks than the dynamic Elvis Presley.

Elvis Presley! Even the name conjures up visions of wild excitement and unlimited fury. But Elvis has survived them all. Some of his fans say that he has never been greater than he is today.

When Presley came on the scene with a record called "Heartbreak Hotel," he brought with it a new type of entertainment. Wild, exciting entertainment which changed the whole pattern of show business.

He was something new, something fresh, with a talent that had to come to the surface. His fans today were then giving their undying love and affection to sob boy Johnnie Ray who had the teenage hysteria all to himself. But when Presley wiggled, gyrated, and charged his way to fame Ray didn't have a chance. There was nothing and nobody to stop this wild boy.

Attack followed attack on his sexy, sensuous body movements. Government bodies tried to get him barred. Prissy organisations joined up to try and stop his new performances. But nothing could stop him. The kids loved him.

Not once did Elvis Presley strike back at his condemners, his attackers and his critics.

"Some of the things they said about me were pretty raw. I'm not made of stone. They hurt sometimes. But no matter!" said Presley. The harder the critics hit the more popular Presley became.

His records sold in fantastic numbers and his recording of "Love Me Tender" which was the title of his first film, sold a million copies as advance orders before it was on sale in the record store. Such was the amazing



Producer Hal Wallis chats to Elvis and Juliet Prowse during the making of G.I. Blues
Below: Elvis catches up on the news



success of this young man.

When Elvis joined the Army there were those who said he would be finished. Two years away from his fickle teenage following would be the end of him. They were wrong. When Elvis came out of the Army, there were fantastic scenes to greet him home.

Since he returned he has made two films, one called "G.I. Blues," the other "Black

Star." Many more are to follow. Elvis Presley is certainly not finished by a long way.

While he was away it gave his "carbon copies" a chance of quick success. They imitated his voice, his style and his sensuous movements. A few of them, only, were ever successful. Why? Because Presley fans ignored them. They wouldn't allow anyone to take his place. After all, there was only one Elvis Presley.

For two years they remained loyal and now that he has returned, Elvis has discovered that the crown "King of The Kids" still rightly belongs to him.

There has never, ever, been anyone quite like Elvis Presley. . . .



Elvis makes a big come-back in the film world and is welcomed by his many fans

Craig DOUGLAS

A Town Boy Now

Craig Douglas was talking about success. And he has every right to for this former milk delivery boy has made a great niche for himself during his rise to fame.

"I used to be so shy before I came into show business," he was telling me. "I could never look straight at a person. But now I feel much different. I suppose success can give a person lots of confidence in himself."

"Sometimes too much," I reminded him.

"Oh, no. I haven't got a big head. Nothing like that. But I feel so much happier now."

There were times when Craig wondered if he had done the right thing by giving up his steady job on the Isle of Wight.

He had entered a talent contest which was being run by a local cinema. The manager thought he was so good that he arranged for him to have a private audition with a London agent who sailed across specifically to hear him. He liked what he heard and promptly signed the boy to a contract.

"At first I had little success," said Craig. "I appeared in *Six Five Special* on TV, and I'd cut a couple of records for Decca, but nothing seemed to happen, until I recorded 'Only Sixteen' then, suddenly, I felt it had all been worth waiting and struggling for."

Craig sings pleasant songs. "It isn't in me to be a rock 'n' roller," he says.

He now lives in a London flat.

"For a time I lived at home with the family and came up to London whenever there was work to do. But when the ball started rolling for me, it was too much to keep on going backwards and forwards from the island, so I found myself a flat in London. I missed home very much at first but now I've got used to all the bustle and bustle of

living in London. You know it is quite different from the way of life I was used to on the island."

Craig's aim is to get into films. His managers tell me that they have been getting Craig dancing lessons and elocution lessons to get rid of that Isle of Wight accent.

"He might one day prove to be another Russ Tamblyn type," they say.



It was a warm night on Zuma Beach in California. The moon was shining, the sea was calm.

The only sound was the noise of teenagers enjoying one of their regular beach parties.

The teenagers belonged to a club, a hot-rod club where the male members would oppose each other in their home-built jalopies which they raced, illegally, along the Californian highway.

But now they were having fun on the beach. Some were jiving to the strains of the latest Presley record. Others were lying on the beach gazing up at the far-off stars.

Suddenly a rival gang swooped down on them. The air was filled with screams as youths fought fist to fist.

VINCE TAYLOR

*The "HOT-ROD" BOY
WHO MADE
GOOD!*

Knives were drawn. Girls screamed. Cowards ran. The beach looked a mess.

Vince Taylor was knifed. Then the police came. He hid as he watched his friends being hauled off to the police station.

A friend put him up for a few days where he recovered.

Not long after this incident he decided to come to England to try his luck as a rock 'n roll singer.

"I'd done a lot of singing in clubs in Hollywood," said Vince, "but I thought there would be far more opportunity in England where rock 'n roll at the time was in its very early stages. But when I got here I was so surprised. It was more advanced than I ever realised."

It was an American disc-jockey who discovered Vince one night singing in a night club in Hollywood and it was he who virtually got Vince interested in coming to England.

On arrival here Vince was introduced to

TV producer Jack Good and, work soon followed in *Oh Boy* where he proved a great success.

His records haven't exactly set the business alight, but nevertheless this tough, dark haired young man from the land of golden opportunity has found fame here in England.

"I'd like to go back home one day," says Vince. "In fact I nearly went back a few months ago when the going here got a little tough. I wasn't getting the breaks. Then one night Jack Good re-discovered me again and work came pretty steadily. I've got a lot to thank Jack for."

What does he think of British girls?

"Well, they're not so demanding as American girls," he says.

An exponent of the beat and rock school, Vince has not yet had the breaks he deserves



Cliff RICHARD

HIS EYES ARE HIS FORTUNE

Stare deeply into the eyes of Cliff Richard. They are his fortune. For it is with his eyes that Cliff Richard can excite his large teenage following.

They earn him £30,000 a year.

He drives a large American car which set his bank balance back by £4,000.

He lives in a £12,000 house with his mother and father. He built them the place with the money he has earned in the few years he has been singing his young heart out.

A well-set individual, with shiny black hair which hangs over his face like, as one reporter said, "Virginia creeper on a white-washed wall."

His snub nose, the curl in his lip which now and again trembles in the middle of a song, his sudden gyrating of the body, his boyish good looks and his easy-on-the ear voice have made him a million fans.

They love him, yearn for him.

But the young nineteen year old, born Harry Webb, is taking his phenomenal success well within his tiny strides.

"Success is a lonely life at times," says Cliff.

"There is no privacy left at all. You sense that you don't belong to yourself any more. The little things in life, which some people enjoy, like going to the pictures, or to a Saturday night dance, or to the Fair on August Bank Holiday Monday, things I used to love doing, are no more. Whenever I go away on tour and I want to see the town, the boys and I have to walk around at two or three in the morning if we want to see the place in comfort," said Cliff.

"I suppose now I've come to accept my new way of life. I've always been an ordinary sort of chap. And I've always liked doing



It's double adoration for Cliff as twin fans show how they feel about him.

ordinary things. I still feel a bit out of place whenever I attend any big social function. I suppose it's because I don't like lots of fuss."

Cliff's real self is quite different from the kind of person he sometimes conjures up on stage.

He is quiet. Very quiet. And shy.

"I don't date many girls," he said. "I never go out with a girl who asks for an autograph. Not that I don't like girls who ask for an autograph. I love them. I owe everything to them because they've made me what I am today. But to me it's like a glorified pick-up if you date a fan."

Cliff is an honest boy. He leads an honest living. Clean and healthy.

"I suppose when you're unknown you have a desire to be a success and to be recognised everywhere you go. It's a natural



feeling after all, isn't it? But it isn't all you dream. Believe me it's hard work. And it's a worry too. You've got to be better than the night before. There's no time to be lazy. Once things start to slip, you've had it. So you've got to keep working and you've got to keep giving your best."

Cliff is the kind of lad who likes hard work and has always striven hard to give of his best.

Look at his act of a few years ago, when he was just another young lad looking for glory in this exciting world of pop music.

His performances today have the maturity and polish of an experienced old timer.

The difference stands out a mile. In fact

there is no comparison.

Come to think of it he is an experienced "old timer." And at nineteen this takes some doing.

Cliff's ambition now is, like so many other singers, to make a big success in films.

His first one *Serious Charge* proved to be an adequate start. *Expresso Bongo* which he made later showed signs of a great improvement in Cliff's acting technique.

Shortly Cliff will be starring in his third movie. Will he be better? He certainly hopes so.

And I think he will be.

Cliff Richard is going to be around for a long, long time.

Cliff is delighted that his backing group—"The Shadows"—have made the top pops by themselves. They drank a toast—but in soft drinks!





"Rosie" as her friends call her, has one of the most familiar voices in the music profession. Immediately on hearing the voice, anyone interested in pop music can tell it belongs to Rosemary Clooney.

It has been described by the "trade" as both "barrelhouse" and "blue" which means robust and fresh.

One critic in his review wrote "Rosemary has the kind of voice that can spin out a slow tune with almost cello-like evenness, or take on a raucous bite in a fast rhythm."

"At times there is a strong undercurrent of seductiveness in her singing," wrote another.

Basically Rosemary is a happy girl, with a perpetual smile on a face which she describes as ugly.

"My nose is too long and my face is far too thin," she has said in the past.

About her singing she has said. "I didn't study music—and don't warm up too much. What is there to warm up to? I just make a commercial sound that sells songs. Sure it's a husky kind of voice. I'm not surprised. I smoke forty cigarettes a day."

Her marriage to actor Jose Ferrer is one of the happiest in show business.

"Life with Jo," says Rosemary, "is absolutely wonderful. He's the most stimulating man, just because he has all that talent and he's most considerate. Life is never dull when he's around."

Today Rosemary has a large family to look after so she is taking things a lot easier.

"I guess I'm one of the lucky ones," she says. "I rarely have to get up at five in the morning and go off to some dark cold film studio. I'm a singing star. Neither am I tied up with a stage play. TV work and recording keep me fairly busy but I'm not long out of the house."

Rosemary was born on May 23, 1928. Her father was a house painter in Maysville,



Rosemary with her actor-producer husband, Jose Ferrer

Kentucky.

Rosemary and her sister, Betty, were very close friends. By the time they were seventeen they had their own singing act.

One day band leader Tony Pastor passed through the town on the search for a feminine vocalist to sing with his band. He hired them both. They were now getting £40 a week each. Rosemary got most of the solo vocals because Tony told her that her voice was in the busiest range. Betty's was a few notes lower. In 1946 Rosemary made her first solo recording titled "I'm Sorry I Didn't Say I'm Sorry When I Made You Cry Last Night."

"What a mouthful that was," she recalled.

It was the beginning of her amazing recording fame.

Ask what her favourite compliment is and Rosemary will tell you the time Bing Crosby once said to her, "I just want to tell you Rosie, that I think you're the best singer in the business."

Rosemary Clooney

.....husky-voiced Charmer

Paul Anka

- My Big Day!

The offices of the A.B.C.-Paramount recording company were crowded as usual.

Famous faces were to be seen everywhere.

Paul has certainly got a glamorous singing partner in Marnie Van Doren—they were recording a song for *Girls' Town*.



Autograph-hungry fans clamoured around the main doors.

Past them walked a little boy, with jet black hair and dark brown eyes. He was carrying a pile of manuscripts under his arm.

"Who's he?" one of the girls asked.

"Don't know," said her friend.

"Bet he knows lots of stars. Must be an office boy."

They weren't to know then that the "office boy" as they called him was fifteen year old Paul Anka from Ottawa, Canada, about to start his fabulous career.

He made his way shyly along the corridors, trying to look confident. Trying to feel like a big star, which he was going to be.

"This is my big day," he thought to himself. "It's now or never."

He stopped outside the office of the company's recording manager, Don Costa. He was invited in. A secretary smiled at him, then informed Don that a "Mr. Anka" was here to see him.

Don Costa couldn't believe his eyes when "Mr. Anka" walked in.

"I've written some songs I'd like you to hear, sir," said Paul.

"Songs?" said Costa. "Say, how old are you son?"

"Fifteen, sir. But please would you listen to my songs?"

"Why, sure," said Costa, believing the whole affair to be a practical joke.

But it became obvious to a man of Costa's great experience that the boy wasn't kidding. They were good songs.

He lost no time in contacting Paul's parents. Paul was the son of a restaurant owner. They later signed a contract.

"I wasn't too keen on Paul becoming a

singer," his father said later. "I was afraid what the music business might do to him. He was young, and my wife and I were rather worried when he would go away on tours. But I'm so glad and pleased with him, for young Paul hasn't changed at all. He has met some wonderful, fine people, and it has done him a world of good."

Paul's success story began with his own recording of a song he composed himself, titled "Diana." He named it after a girl he used to know back home. She used to sing in the choir alongside him.

"Diana" of course became a world hit.

Paul, at fifteen, had the world at his feet. Since then, he has written dozens and dozens of other hits, not for himself, but for other singers too.

Canada was so proud of him, that in 1957 he was voted "the most outstanding citizen" by a group of Ottawa businessmen.

If you ever talk to Paul, you'll find him to be one of the most modest singers in the profession.

"I always wanted to be in show business," he will tell you. "I know that my folks were worried at first, but all that is in the past. You know, even when I was in short trousers, I used to day dream of having my own record store, and even my own record company.

"Now I have got a music publishing company. I'm going to publish songs written by other composers as well as my own compositions. So I've got to keep my ears open for good songs."

Paul's first taste of public acclaim came when he was twelve years old. He walked out into the spotlight in a Massachusetts Hotel to the murmur of an audience surprised at the sight of such a young lad.

"I'm going to do an impression of Johnnie Ray," he said rather nervously.

He did, and the audience went wild over him.

Since then, Paul has grown accustomed to the cheers, the acclaim, the adulation that world wide audiences have showered on him.

Canada can well be proud of their Paul Anka.



S-O-H-O spelt SUCCESS for EMILE FORD

Very few entertainers who win talent competitions have made such a success as Emile Ford.

Picture the setting. It is Friday evening in July, 1959. Finals night of the Soho Fair held annually in London.

Emile Ford and his group "The Checkmates" are in the finals. They are virtually unknown except to their fans who have followed their progress in the many coffee bars where Emile and his boys have entertained.

Tonight could be their lucky break.

In the audience are several leading person-

alities of the music business.

Emile wins the contest. He is given a recording test. Pye records sign him up and his first disc release is a country wide hit. What a story.

"What Do You Want To Make Those Eyes At Me For?" will always be associated with Emile's rise to fame.

"My main ambition has always been to bring happiness," says Emile.

He was born in the West Indies. His stepfather was a Chief Crown Land Surveyor in the Bahamas.

"At first I wanted to be an engineer," said Emile. "I came to England to further my studies in this direction, but my fellow students noticed that I was very fond of singing. So one day they invited me to entertain them in the lunch hour. I'd picked up the technique of playing the guitar very quickly," he said.

Some of the students suggested he would be a success if he tried to get into show business for they regarded Emile as being a fine singer.

A London coffee bar proprietress gave him a job singing in her coffee bar one night. She recalled the occasion. "He had a lovely voice but no technique. And he had such a lovely smile but he was afraid to look at the audience. I think he was very shy."

But confidence came with success.

The Checkmates were born in January, 1959. Today they are composed of eighteen year old Ken Street, who was a Stationery Office clerk. He plays lead guitar. Twenty-one year old John Cuffley plays drums. John was formerly a clerk in an engineer's office. Says his favourites are Shelley Mann and Joe Morello. Emile's brother George plays the bass guitar. Recent additions to the group are twenty-two year old Les Hart who plays lead saxophone and Emile's other brother, David, who also plays the saxophone.

Emile married a German girl last Christmas.

He doesn't smoke or drink and keeps himself fit on fruit juice and exercise.



Ronnie HILTON

"I Like the Quiet Life"

The name on the gate read "RONde-vous." It was the Leeds home of singing star, Ronnie Hilton.

He came to the door smoking a pipe and invited me in. His wife Joan said hello and their little daughter Geraldine smiled at me.

Ronnie showed me into the living room. We sat down and my interview began.

"I never really have anything shattering to say," said Ronnie. "I'm happily married, so there's no gossip ever going around about me," he grinned.

"I lead an ordinary life and I really enjoy it. Show business is hard work, but then it's the kind of work I love doing. The only thing I miss now and again are the old days when I was working in a factory and I used to have a lot of fun with the fellas there, you know darts and a drink at the local pub. I don't seem to be able to do this nowadays. Never get much time."

His wife brought in tea and cakes.

While Ronnie and I munched I said to him, "I hear you are basically shy!"

Ronnie laughed, "Shy? I suppose in a way that is true. I'm never the life and soul of the party, am I, Joanie?" he turned to his wife.

She agreed. "Ronnie isn't one of the party types. He prefers to spend his evenings quietly at home. But he isn't as shy as he used to be. I knew he was fond of singing ever since we first met but he could never do anything about it, so one day I entered his name in a local talent show. He won, too!"

Ronnie laughed. "Yes, and I was so nervous. Shaking, I was."

"How did you meet each other?" I asked them.

"Let me see? It was in a dance hall, wasn't it?" smiled Ronnie. "I was home on



Ronnie with his wife Joan and their daughter Geraldine at their Leeds home

leave. I think it was V.J. night. We were out celebrating and I humped into Joan. We dated for the rest of my leave and then we promised to write to each other."

For a time they lost touch but they were to meet again some months later in the same dance hall.

"It was in December I asked her to marry me," Ronnie said.

The Hilton family is one of the most pleasant I have ever talked to in show business. Nothing pretentious about their way of life. They live like thousands of other happily married couples.

Ronnie is a great Perry Como fan and has many, many records in his collection.

"What I like about Ronnie most of all," said Joan, "is his wonderful sense of humour. He is such a goon."

"Goon," said Ronnie. "That reminds me of Harry Secombe. Harry and I are great pals."

I left the Hiltons with Ronnie doing a crazy impression of Harry Secombe and as I shut the gate marked RONde-vous I felt satisfied that I had discovered another facet of Ronnie Hilton that few people realise.

He really is a great comic.

Shirley BASSEY

The "Tigress"
who wants to be
Tamed!

She comes from Tiger Bay, Cardiff, and they call her "tigress." Her name is Shirley Bassey, and she is one of the most tempestuous feminine vocalists who have made a success on the British Show Business scene.

She is a girl who is constantly hitting the high spots of success and then descending into the depths of depression.

"Sometimes I curl up alone with the blues," she has said, "or else I buy myself gaudy coloured clothes which I give away the next day."

"The first commercial TV show I did was an unforgettable experience. I really had the blues that night. I banged my head against the dressing room wall crying. I just couldn't go on. Then someone slapped my face and it did me the world of good, though I do hate having my face slapped."

"I am earning more money than I have ever seen in my life," she said. "My moods are getting blacker and I'm terrified of my own thoughts. When I am like this I like to be left completely alone. Otherwise I scream."

Success can be hard to live with and Shirley isn't the first to discover this. She lives in a £12,000 house with a doorbell which chimes "As I Love You," her biggest disc hit.

Her constant companion is a white poodle she calls "Beaujouis."

Shirley is the daughter of a West Indian sailor and is one of five children. Her first job was working for an enamel firm. She stayed there for eighteen months earning under £1 a week. She got her break one night when a producer heard her singing in a workmen's club.

Shirley soared to fame in a few short years. It seemed that she was always destined for fantastic success. One medium she still has to conquer is films.

Shirley will be the first to admit that trouble seems to have crossed her path more times in her twenty-two years than some people experience in a lifetime.

Remember the night she was held a prisoner for a few hours in a Loudon hotel by one of her former boy friends who was carrying a gun? She was showered with rotten apples and tomatoes during a variety





A little off duty entertainment for Shirley as she dances a nifty cha-cha

performance in the old Chiswick Empire, and when she went to America for the first time she experienced a lot of embarrassing situations.

Recently, while she was appearing in cabaret in London's Pigalle Restaurant, a man was shot on the pavement outside.

"That had nothing to do with me," Shirley insisted. "I guess trouble follows me around. Why?"

When Shirley thinks back to her humble beginning she says, "You know I wasn't really attracted to the stage in the first place because it frightened me too much. I still get butterflies in my tummy. But I always wanted to sing. I was singing before I could walk. It's the only thing I think I can do

really well and I'll go on until I drop. The only thing that could ever make me give it up is if I lost my voice."

Many reports about Shirley that have appeared in print indicate a rather hard, dominating person, obsessed with the desire to make good and be a star. This isn't quite true. Shirley has a kind heart and is a great sentimentalist.

Shirley Bassey is a great personality, a fine singer and entertainer who has had many bitter heartaches for the fame she has achieved.

"I'm not regretting any of the things that have happened to me," she says. "When you're singing songs about human emotion, you can sing them much better if you know what life is all about."

And Shirley Bassey certainly knows. . . .

"Diamonds are a girl's best friend," thinks Shirley as the final touches are put to her scintillating gown





When he was seven years old, Duane's teacher told him that he would never get anywhere as a guitar player. But he made a dreadful mistake because Duane has made a fortune out of his unique guitar sound which has sold him millions of records.

His first major hit was "Rebel Rouser," then came "Peter Gunn," "Bonnie Came Back," "Some Kinda Earthquake," "Shazam" and "Because They're Young." Six big disc hits in twelve months catapulted this shy young man to world fame.

He recently bought his father a Cadillac, but Duane prefers to roam around in an old jeep, because his favourite pastime is hunting the mountain lion. Duane spends hours in the hot, wild Arizona desert with the wild animals; that is, of course, when he can find time, for his many disc hits have

brought him world travel.

He is constantly on the move in America, playing in a town here and a town there. He admits that he doesn't care very much for all the travelling he has to do.

"I'd just like to make records, and then take it easy out in the desert in my old jeep," says Duane.

He first started playing the guitar when he was five years old. His early interest in American Frontier History and Folk Music stimulated a keen interest in guitar music. Shortly after his people had moved from their Corning, New York, home to settle in Arizona, Duane started to make a name for himself by playing at church socials. His reputation grew and it wasn't long before he got himself a job with a recording company accompanying other singers on his guitar.

It was a meeting with record executive, Lee Hazelwood, that really changed Duane's fortune. They paired up and started writing music together. Duane thought up the tune Lee gave it a slick title. Lee managed to get Duane on disc as a solo artist and it wasn't long before the gamble paid large dividends. Duane rapidly became a star. Practically all of his major recording hits have been original compositions thought up by Lee and himself.

Duane is a very quiet, modest type of person. He keeps very much to himself and he confesses that he is moody.

Film producers have been interested in his possible screen potential and Duane may turn out to be quite a good dramatic actor. He has already been seen in a recent film titled "Because They're Young," in which he played his big disc hit with the same name.

If he doesn't make it as a dramatic actor he needn't worry, for he can go on making hit discs till the cows come home.

DUANE EDDY *A Twangy Guitar*

* * * * *

Two in Tune *The* Everly Brothers

Two boys, a song to sing and a fortune is theirs.

The Everly Brothers are the most popular twosome in the singing game. Hit disc follows hit disc.

Phil and Don Everly, from Kentucky, come from a musical family. Their mum and dad used to be a singing team and for a dime the boys joined them in a family act. Then their folks retired and the boys decided they would try it on their own.

Months of early frustration followed, with the elusive break still to come their way.

It came when Wesley Rose, now their manager, stepped in and saved their careers just when the boys were thinking of giving up show business and joining their folks in the shopkeeping business.

Wesley, a music publisher at the time, had great faith in the two young lads, and in spite of the odds against him, launched an all-out attempt to promote the boys in a big way.

He got them an audition with Archie Bleyer of the American Cadence label. The boys sang one of their own songs at the audition.

Archie liked their individual style. The song they sang was 'Bye Bye Love.' Later they recorded it.

When 'Bye Bye Love' was released, the reaction was slightly less than fantastic. It became a world beater.

Since then their records have never failed to sell.

"We have a great sentimental attachment naturally, for 'Bye Bye Love' because it really did save us," Don told me when he visited these shores on their last British tour.

"Up to then we had been singing strictly

country and western songs. We were brought up on country folk music. Now, with the success of our disc it meant that we had successfully entered the wider popular music market."

The elder of the two, Don, who is now twenty-two, is married to a girl named Sue. They have a daughter.

Phil has been living with his parents who have now retired from their own private business so they could be with their own internationally famous sons.

Don and Phil may soon start work in films. They have been having drama lessons, and acting is another aspect of the business they have always dreamed of doing.

These two happy gold disc hunters have the world at their feet. . . .



Anthony NEWLEY

Career on a Joke

Tony Newley sat laughing to himself in a large cinema. He was watching one of his own films *Idle On Parade* in which he played a rock 'n roll singer who joins the army.

In his characterisation he was asked to sing. He did. He more or less took the mickey out of the rock singers.

When the film was released, teenagers all over the country took him seriously, and Tony found himself acclaimed a new rock 'n roll star.

"For the second time I was 'discovered'!" he said. "It first happened when I did *Oliver Twist*. I was fifteen then. They said I was a great actor for my age. Now,

Tony relaxes with a book—serious for once!



Tony can play an instrument—the tape recorder!

thirteen years later I'm 'found' again."

Tony laughed.

"I couldn't really understand why the kids liked my singing so much. I thought I was going to get a lampooning. Instead I was even asked to record the songs I sang in the film. What a laugh!"

The record became a hit.

Tony followed it up with other hits. One record sold over half a million copies.

Tony is essentially an actor, and it was as an actor that he made his first impact on audiences.

"Yet, funny thing!" he said, "my first interest in life was music. I wanted to get into the music business. I queued up at the labour exchange one day and told the man behind the counter that I wanted to get into the music profession. He looked up a few cards and told me that I was in luck. There was a job going with a piano firm. Wonderful, I thought, nothing like getting in on the ground floor. But all I ever did in their factory was sweep the floors. My first big disappointment in life, I suppose."

After this he got himself a job with an

insurance company. This was too dull. He soon left. Then he thought he would try for a job in Fleet Street and it was while waiting for an application form in a newspaper office, that he happened to glance at an advert in the paper which read "Boy Actors Wanted."

He applied to the Italian Conti Dramatic School. The tuition fees were too high for him. So he took a job in a gasworks. One day he received a telegram from the Dramatic School. Would he like to audition for them? Would he! He went along and read some verses very nervously. Later, he was astonished to learn that the school was going to offer him a scholarship on the understanding



Tony serenades Anne Aubrey off the set of *Idle on Parade*

that he worked as an office boy in the school for 30s. a week. He accepted.

His first acting job came when a radio producer wanted him to play a young boy named Dusty Bates in a radio serial. Following this Tony worked for Emyln Williams.

At fifteen he made his film debut in *Vice Versa*, which was followed by his famous role as the Artful Dodger in *Oliver Twist*.

Many other films followed and in 1956 he won great acclaim for his part in the very successful revue "Cranks" which was the talk of London and New York.

Warwick Films later signed him to an exclusive film contract and he made a series



Associated British Picture Corp.

Nocturne for a guitar case is Tony's latest composition!

of films beginning with *Cockleshell Heroes*.

On the subject of music, Tony is very well informed.

"I do keep well up to date with music," he says. "I have to now. In my place I've got a Baby Grand piano, two guitars, a sousaphone and a mouth organ. I like writing songs. Got piles of manuscripts, real hit parade material. It just needs someone to discover me again and I'll be all set!"

I left Tony laughing. . . .

Man of many faces, Tony has a happy personality!



Jess Conrad

A NATURAL BREAK

An appearance in a television play as a rock singer, started Jess Conrad off on a new career. The play was called "Rock A Bye Bernie." Jess sang a few rocking numbers which had the girls at home wondering who the new boy could be. He was frequently seen in a television commercial advertisement which advertised a well-known brand of cigarette.

Jess and I were having lunch in one of London's fashionable restaurants. A couple of girls just couldn't take their eyes off this handsome singer and actor.

"It's like this all the time now," he said. "It never dawned on me before then to become a singer. I know I can't sing, but I've had more breaks as a singer than I've had as an actor. Singing has certainly brought me recognition."

Film producers have also been quick to cash in on Jess's sudden fame. Recently he

has appeared in a handful of feature films, including "Too Young To Love," and the horror film, "Konga" which gives him his biggest film role to date. Jess has recently been working on "The Queen's Guards," with Raymond Massey.

He was born in London. As a young boy he used to help out on his father's flower stall. Then he studied acting in a school in East London. For a while he toured the country with a repertory company.

"I learnt a great deal, travelling with the rep. company. I used to do everything for them, make the tea, shift scenery, build the sets and play small parts; all for a few quid a week. But it was fun," he said.

How did the lucky break come?

"I used to pose for adverts and one of them appeared on television," he said. "A TV producer was looking in one night and told me that he thought I would be ideal for the part of Bernie Day in his play about a rock singer. I auditioned for him and he gave me the part."

The ball started rolling and eventually Jess landed a Decca recording contract. He admits that he hasn't got much of a voice. But the boy has personality and this is the quality that sells today.



Jimmy Jones

Success Came
Suddenly

Jimmy Jones from Birmingham, Alabama, had been asked to make a demonstration disc. Naturally he was all excited.

"Do you mind if I sing one of my own songs?" he asked.

There was a low rumble of conversation among the recording boys. They agreed.

And so Jimmy Jones began singing a song called "Handy Man." It was taped.

The studio engineers thought it so good they couldn't stop playing it.

A visiting recording executive happened to hear it and made inquiries.

"Who's the singer—he sounds great," he said.

One of the engineers spoke up, "He's a new kid. Was in here the other day. It's a demo. disc. We kinda like it."

Everyone was impressed. Within a matter of days Jimmy Jones was back in the studio, this time to record a "master" of the song which he had written himself.

When the disc was released it didn't zoom straight into the charts.

"It lay around for a few months," said Jimmy. "Then suddenly it began to sell. Gee, I was happy."

The record became a number one hit on both sides of the Atlantic and Jimmy Jones became a star.

His records have been selling like hot cakes since.

What kind of a person is Jimmy?

His friends say he is very mild tempered and easy going.

"He's a wonderful cook," said one friend. "I guess he learnt all there was to know in the Armed Services. He was a cook. Man, that guy can cook the best pizza I have ever tasted. He cooks anything."



Jimmy's first record hit the top of the pops both sides of the Atlantic—his other records are doing the same.

"How do you relax Jimmy?" I asked him recently when he came to this country on his first tour.

"I like reading a lot," he said. "Give me a good mystery book and you won't see me for hours. I like the movies. Science-fiction movies are my favourites. All that horror, man."

"Me Relaxed? - *that's a Laugh!*" says **Michael Holliday**



A perfectionist is Liverpool born Michael Holliday.

"This fellow has got what I call a 'sitting down voice'" wrote one critic.

"He is the most relaxed singer I've ever heard," said another.

Michael chuckles at both descriptions. "Me relaxed!" he says, "I'm probably the most nervous fella in the business. I'm a bundle of nerves. I always have been a little shy, especially about my singing."

The story goes that once when Mike was just getting started in the business, he gave an audition in his bathroom because he was too nervous to face the bandleader. He locked himself in while the slightly embarrassed leader waited and listened outside. Mike got the job for £5 a week.

"Those first few nights singing in public were probably the most nerve-racking of my life," he recalls.

"For the first four nights I sang sitting down in the chair. I suppose that is how I got the tag 'the man with the sitting down voice.'" Mike chuckled. "Anyway on the fifth night I decided to stand up and sing in front of the band. I rose from my chair, walked slowly to the microphone, and then . . . I froze. So I walked back to my chair again, feeling terrible."

Mike spent some considerable time singing with the band in a Holiday Camp. Then at one of the Royal Albert Hall reunions Michael was introduced to bandleader Eric Winsome.

Eric could see Michael's potentialities as a fine singer so he gave him a job with his band. This happened eight years ago. Michael has certainly come a long way since those days.

It was in September, 1955, that he became



Michael chats with Shirley Eaton during a break in the shooting of "Life is a Circus". He found it even more difficult to relax when playing love scenes with Shirley

a recording star in his own right and recorded "Yellow Rose of Texas," which increased his number of fans.

Then came television, radio and personal appearances and Michael's film debut with the Crazy Gang and Shirley Eaton in a film called "Life is a Circus."

"Another nervy experience," says Mike. "I had some love scenes with Shirley and I felt a proper Charlie as the technicians were looking on."

He is happily married to a girl named Margie, whom he met when he was a van driver for a firm in his home town.

"She was the first girl friend I had had. We first met like many thousands of couples—in a dance hall. She worked in a bank."

Mike later decided to give up working on the land and joined the Merchant Navy.

"Margie was a little annoyed but I had to save up some money to get married and thought this was the best way. For £17 a month I had to scrub the decks, wash the dishes and peel the spuds."

For a time Mike joined the Royal Navy . . .

One day he plucked up enough courage to ask his girl friend to marry him. She didn't hesitate and they were married in a registry office.

When Mike is not entertaining he likes nothing better than to relax in his Surrey home or go riding over the Downs on one of his horses.

"There is no feeling in the world like cantering over the Downs in the early morning," says Mike.

Michael with his wife, Margie. Michael is a great admirer of Bing Crosby—they met when he was over here a month ago. Bing returned to the U.S.A. with one of Mike's latest record albums—a gift from one star to another!



Frank SINATRA *Sheep Genius*

Frank Sinatra must be regarded as one of the greatest entertainers of all time.

They call him "The Guv'nor," "The Boss," "The Monster," "The Heel" which his many friends and enemies have aptly named him.

The quick, warm electric smile, the soft caressing voice, the sad blue eyes that has had two generations in fits of joy is still very much an influencing force in show business today.

The genius that is Frank Sinatra shows no signs of fading for many moons.

A phenomenal man.

His life has been crossed with mixed fortunes. Much unhappiness has filtered through his glory. Deep depressions have creased his now ageing face.

But Sinatra remains as great as he ever was.

Nelson Riddle, the man who has shared much of Sinatra's success on record, being his musical director for a long time, says of Frank, "His whole wonderful career is the result of overwhelming talent. Talent will out—that's an old saying—but only if it's in a sufficient quantity. He's a block buster, not only in music, but in all the arts. His ability as an actor carries over in phrasing and interpretation. Frank has that sympathy for the written word, whether it's said or sung."

Confidence has played a great part in the success and downfall of Sinatra.

As a young singer Sinatra perpetuated mass audience hysteria which developed over the years to its absurd conclusions today.

At 21, he was earning 15 dollars a week as a singing waiter. Five years later he was making 25,000 dollars a week, the idol of the new generation which aptly became dubbed "the bobby-sox generation."

The confident Sinatra went on, storming his way to the top. Quick-tempered, difficult and temperamental. The Hoboken kid lifted himself up and up and up.

He made films. Success.

Sinatra was living on success. He could do no wrong. He was acting the star. Inevitably he made enemies. Many enemies.

"How long can a guy go on being a bum like Sinatra?" wrote one gossip columnist.

Confidence in himself was strangling Sinatra.

By 1947 he had reached the climax of his



first phase of success. Then slowly Sinatra came down the ladder of fame. It was a slow gradual process but a sure one.

By 1951 Sinatra was almost a has been. His once happy marriage to his childhood sweetheart Nancy, was over. His career was in the shade. Sinatra was static.

Frank says that 1951 was the darkest year of his life. "I couldn't get anywhere. My career seemed over. Nothing would go right."

Through the unhappiness and depression of 1951, one little ray of happiness shone through for Sinatra, for in July that year his stormy friendship with Ava Gardner finally came to its happy conclusion—marriage.

Many of his fans couldn't forgive their former hero for divorcing Nancy, for they had often put themselves in Nancy's position. They, too, felt married to Sinatra.

Marriage to Ava Gardner was for a time a happy one. But then the gossip started all over again and his domestic problems were once again the subject for every gossip monger in Hollywood.

Bob Hope played an important role in reviving Frankie's career. Bob gave him a break in his TV show and all show business tuned in that night to watch him sink or swim. Many of them wanted the privilege of seeing him crawl.

But Sinatra won through. The old fire, the magic and the talent made some of the other guests look like amateurs.

It was Sinatra's night.

It wasn't until 1953 that Sinatra found himself truly back on his two feet.

At the time he was with Ava Gardner in Africa trying to woo her back after one of their stormy upsets.

Frank had set his heart on playing the part of Maggio in the film version of *From Here to Eternity*. He had the book and even before film plans were announced, Frankie vowed he would play the role.

He was still as confident as ever.

A lucky break came when Columbia contacted him and offered to give him a test provided he pay his expenses back to Cali-



Frank sings a duet with glamorous Ava Gardner

ornia.

Sinatra got the first plane back and flew straight into phase two of his fabulous success story.

He played the role. He was brilliant, brilliant enough to win an Oscar, which he did.

He was paid 8,000 dollars by Columbia for his work.

Sinatra had the world on his string again. Offers rolled in for his services.

He was the big man again.

Marriage to Ava Gardner suffered the extreme penalty. In spite of Sinatra trying all he could to stop it breaking he finally gave in and he and Ava said goodbye.

But Sinatra had other things to worry and think about now. A new career as a dramatic actor.

With his success in films, his disc sales zoomed high.

There was a new generation of disc fans to please. Gone were his bobby-sox days. His fans had become mothers. But they still



Frank and Dean Martin share a joke during a break in the shooting of *Ocean's 11*

loved him. Sinatra went on to a more sophisticated, swinging kick and teamed up with Billy May, and then a fellow named Nelson Riddle. Together they made sweet music and Frankie's long playing albums chalked up amazing sales.

For his film work Sinatra was earning fabulous money. He is reported as having been paid 150,000 dollars for *Pal Joey*, plus 25 per cent. of the profits.

Since then Frankie has had a large percentage share in every film he has made.

His famous "Clan" was formed. This is an exclusive set in Hollywood which Sinatra's mad-cap friends, like Shirley MacLaine, Dean Martin, Peter Lawford and many others belong to.

Beneath his rugged exterior beats a heart of gold, so say many of Frank's personal friends. "Sure he has a bite! But he's one of the softest guys around when you really get to know him," said one of them.

He is a great father to his children and his relationship with his first wife Nancy is a very understanding one. In no way has

their break-up affected their children. They have never lacked the love and affection of a parent which so many children of divorced parents suffer from.

Their children are a credit.

Now Frank has a son-in-law in Tommy Sands who married his daughter Nancy.

Frank is as proud of Tommy as he is of his own children.

Today Sinatra still maintains his fabulous pace. He never stops. When he is working on a film, he is setting up another one to follow it. When he isn't working on a film, he's hard at work in a recording studio, working on an album and working on a follow-up. When he's not there he will be down at his hotel in Las Vegas.

Sinatra never stops. A human dynamo. Relentless. Powerful. Dedicated.



Britain's my Goal Johnny MATHIS

Johnny Mathis has yet to sing in Britain and there are many thousands of his British fans waiting anxiously for that wonderful day.

Johnny has been looking forward to it for a long time. He said to a newspaper columnist in America, "I can't wait for the chance of playing in Britain. I anticipate a change in atmosphere and audiences with which I try to communicate. I've been told that British audiences have a better sense of humour than American ones and that I can be a little more subtle with them."

Johnny, with hits like "The Best of Everything" backing him all the way, would be a tremendous success over here.

He is twenty-three years old and comes from San Francisco.

He might well have been a world champion in athletics had he not taken up singing. For in San Francisco he is considered one of the best all-round athletes the city has ever produced. His 6 ft. 5½ in. high jump has been matched only a handful of times in the Olympic Games.

As a basketball player he has won many medals and awards. He is also a great hurdler.

Record winner as an athlete—and a big record seller as a recording star.

How did Johnny get started in the singing profession?

"Well I was discovered one night singing in the 440 Club just above the Old Barbary Coast district," he said.

This happened after he had been working professionally for only three weeks.

For into the club that evening walked George Avakian, a well-known recording executive.

George, highly interested in the brilliant Mathis style of singing took him to New York and made an album with him. Within a few weeks the album and a few singles which he had also recorded were selling in their thousands.

This happened in March, 1956.

"I started taking my first singing lessons when I was 12," said Johnny "three years later I'd made up my mind to be a professional singer."

Johnny first came to the attention of the British public when his disc "Wonderful Wonderful" was released here.

Record reviewers everywhere showered high praise.

"My dad was a former vaudeville star," said Johnny, "and it was he who taught me a lot of things I know today."

And this man Mathis certainly took his father's advice



Rick **STAR- BY ACCIDENT** NELSON

It seemed inevitable that young Eric Hilliard Nelson was destined to become a star on that very day in May, 1940, when he was born.

Rick Nelson, as millions of fans know him today, was born into show business, for his mother and father Ozzie and Harriet Nelson were a well-known team on the American show business scene. Today, Rick has become one of the most popular recording stars with the younger generation, who go in a big way for beat music. An actor as well as a singer, Rick seems all set for a remarkable future.

"I guess I became a recording star by accident," he modestly said. "You see it happened like this. I was strumming a guitar and kind of mumbling a song during rehearsals on my Ma and Pa's TV show 'The Adventures of Ozzie and Harriet,' when a scout from a disc company strolled onto the set and heard me. A few days later I was making a record. It was called 'I'm Walkin',' and on the other side was a song titled 'Teenager's Romance' and that's just about how it all started."

Within a few days of the release Rick was

Rick with Angie Dickinson during the filming of *Rio Bravo*. Rick's singing coupled with his good looks have brought him success.



catapulted to sudden disc fame. Rick, so it has been said, inherited this newly-found musical talent from his father Ozzie who used to lead a dance band and from his mother who sang with Ozzie's band.

What does he say about his disc success? "I guess I'm most happy about it and about my records," he says, "mainly because they show I can do something on my own. That's what most kids want, to be able to do something on his or her own."

The greatest kick he says he's ever had was accidentally bumping into Elvis Presley one day.

"A few guys and I were driving along Sunset Boulevard one day, when a car pulled up beside us to wait for a signal change and there sitting in the car was Elvis. Man, what a moment that was. I'd never met him before. One of the guys in my car knew one of the other fellas in Elvis' car and we were introduced. We carried on a conversation for a few blocks as the two cars moved side by side, then we lost him.

"Two days later I saw him again. He was looking over a few cars parked outside a hotel, he's real interested in cars. So I stopped to talk to him. He was great."

Rick was asked why he was such an ardent fan of Presley. Said Rick, "He's so different and exciting to watch."

And so is Rick Nelson . . .

About his spare time relaxations Rick will say that he likes nothing else but a game of tennis. He is a very handy player. Don Budge was often a guest of the Nelsons. Don and other notable players taught Rick many of the finer points of the game and before Rick was sixteen he had attained a No. 5 rating in California for players under the age of sixteen.

Now he is a handsome nineteen year old, and a star, a brilliant guitar player and handy at writing good songs.

He can sing a sad sentimental ballad with a great warmth and natural feeling and then straight away tear off into the loudest of rock numbers.

Rick Nelson is a talented youngster.



Gary Miller

—Meet
Mr. Miller

Gary Miller came to the fore as a major recording star with records such as "Garden of Eden," "Yellow Rose of Texas," "The Story of My Life" and the rousing "Robin Hood."

He is a modest person. Leads a quiet life with his family, wife Joy and their three sons, Philip, Kit and Jonathan.

"I might have taken up professional football," he said, "I was playing with Blackpool for a time. Now I turn out for the show business team when they are really desperate," he joked.

"What happened then?"

"The war!" smiled Gary, "I joined the Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve and became a Lieutenant. When I came out of the service I had a passion to become a teacher of languages so I enrolled as a student at London University. I used to sing to the students in the lunch hours. Then I suddenly realised one day I could earn more money

Gary listens for a change when his wife Joy and sons Kit and Jonathan take over the piano



as a professional singer."

Gary wanted to marry a girl he had met in Italy. So the money he would earn from singing would help their marriage get off to a fine start.

For a time Gary toured the country in a revue as a singer and dancer. "The tour taught me a lot," he said, "I gained a lot of valuable experience through this kind of work."

His first big break came in 1952 when Norman Newell, a recording executive, saw him in a review at Northampton. He was recommended to watch Gary's performance by that line singer Steve Conway who so tragically died. Steve was not able to see Gary climb the ladder of fame.

"I once dedicated a spot in one of my radio shows to Steve," said Gary. "I suppose I owe him quite a lot for my first break. Mr. Newell signed me to a recording contract."

1952 was a lucky year for Gary, for he also made his radio and television debuts.

What are his spare time interests?

Gary chuckles when you mention this, "Spare time? I don't get much, what with being in show business and a father at the same time, but I still like to kick a football around and sometimes go horse-riding which I enjoy very much. I like a game of cricket now and again. I'm really a very keen sportsman!" he said.

Gary is a singer who dismisses the theory that a singer must always have the luck on his side if he wants to get to the top.

Says Gary, "Luck barely enters into show business. Good and bad breaks come largely as a result of what an artist does for himself . . . by himself."

Well said, Gary.

"I was born
with a dice
in my hand"

says DEAN MARTIN



Smooth, handsome and talented is the man they call "Dino."

Dean Martin has rapidly emerged as a personality in his own right since he left his partner Jerry Lewis a few years ago to try his luck as a solo act.

Dean, in the estimation of many people has proved more successful than his former partner. He is a success in films, a competent actor, his records sell in their millions and now Dean has become one of the hottest properties in Hollywood.

He is part of Frank Sinatra's group called "The Clan." His friends say that he is a truly great actor.

"I'm a born gambler," says Dean. "My Dad once told me that when he first saw me my hands were gripped so tightly he could have sworn I had a pair of dice in them."

Dean laughs at himself and jokes about his drinking. "You know I've a wonderful home in Beverley Hills. English style man-

sion, with two swimming pools. When Sinatra comes over he swims in one and rinses in the other," jokes Dino.

There is no need to inquire about Dean's off-stage interests because everyone knows that he is one of the keenest golfers in Hollywood. So keen in fact that he has a putting green in the basement of his home.

It has been reported that Dean is now one of the richest men in Hollywood. He never makes a film for less than £100,000 and he gets a percentage of the profits.

Many Gold discs have come his way. In fact his ever popular version of "That's Amore" sold almost two million copies.

His marriage to Jeanne Biegger is one of the more successful of Hollywood marriages in spite of their occasional feuds. "Every couple has rows," says Dean. "It wouldn't be a human relationship without arguments."

His first marriage failed. "I wasn't stable enough," he said, "I was a wild one. But I guess I have quietened down a lot with Jeanne. She is a kind of stabiliser. We are both still very much in love."

Dean is a great party giver and holds most of them in his own restaurant in Hollywood, which he calls "Dino's Lodge." "Man, when that guy holds a party, it sure is a swinging one," a friend said.

But then Dean Martin has always liked fun . . .

Dean and his beautiful wife Jeanne





Tommy SANDS

Joins the Sinatra family

When Frank Sinatra's daughter Nancy told her father that she was going to marry singer Tommy Sands, Frankie smiled and said, "I like Tommy. A nice guy. I'm glad for you, sweetheart!"

Such is the reputation of Tommy Sands. He is one of the friendliest characters in Hollywood.

Everyone warms to his pleasing personality. There isn't much chance of success ever spoiling this young man from Chicago.

Tommy's mother, Grace, can well be proud of her son. She recalls one little instance when Tommy was a little boy learning to ride a horse.

"Isn't he showing off, Gracie," a friend said to me. I told her not to worry—he would soon learn his lesson. Then suddenly the horse stopped dead in its tracks and pitched Tommy off.

"Tommy has always remembered that," says his mother. "Whenever he gets into a mood and starts acting up a little I just remind him what happened. He knows what I mean!"

Since, Mrs. Sands has passed the hint on to Nancy.

Tommy's mother had no regrets when her son married. "I've always had this hunch about Tommy marrying early in life. I'm all for it. Some of my friends were sure I'd be sorry I said this, but I'm not. I hope he finds every happiness. Tommy and I have had to depend on each other for company for many years. You see, his father was a pianist and travelled a great deal. Tommy's brother Edward was almost grown-up when Tommy was born, so he and I were often left alone. I divorced his father and it became even lonelier."

Tommy has great character. He is a deeply religious person.

"I'm banking on his character to make him a good husband and future father," says his mother. "I know he'll never let me down."

Tommy is aware of the many sacrifices his mother has made for him. He says, "We shared a lot of hard times together. Now I want to show her my appreciation for the wonderful way in which she has brought me up."

And he is keeping his word.

How did Tommy's interest in the kind of music which has taken him right to the very top, get started?

"I was eight," he said. "At the time I was ill in bed when one day I switched on the radio and listened to a singer of Western songs. His name was Harmie Smith. I just fell in love with the way he played that guitar and thought well one day I want to do the same."

Tommy bought himself a guitar, got himself an audition with a local radio station and was hired at five dollars a week.

When he left high school he was offered a job as a disc jockey. His mother didn't want him to take it. Instead she wanted him to go to college and study for a diploma. But Tommy's mind was set. It was one of the very few occasions when he has acted contrary to his mother's wishes.

He saved enough money to eventually make the trip to Hollywood, where he got his big show business break.

His first film was *Sing, Boy, Sing*.

Today Tommy is part of the Sinatra family and he couldn't be happier.

A nice fellow is Tommy Sands.

*Freckle-faced
Charmer!*

Doris Day

She doesn't try to hide the thousands of freckles on her face.

Maybe this is all part of the down-to-earth appeal that has made Doris Day one of the most lovable gals in Hollywood.

Film producers fight for her services for they realise that with Doris Day in their film they will be guaranteed a box office success.

Such is the amazing popularity of Doris Day today.

She has emerged in show business not just as a pretty singer with a happy, carefree voice, but as a serious dramatic actress, on the threshold of acting awards. Her performance in the comedy *Pillow Talk* won her a nomination for an Oscar.

Her fellow-workers on her latest Hollywood film *Midnight Lace* predict that Doris will not only be nominated in next year's awards but that she will win the award.

Doris is the epitome of the all-American girl. Sweet, sincere and never without a smile on that familiar freckled face.

Some of her friends call her "Dodo." She calls herself "Clara Bixby," for Doris has a habit of making up crazy names.

Doris Day's popularity does not lie just in her singing but in the freshness and charm of her personality



Her real name is Doris Kappelhoff. It was a band leader by the name of Barney Rapp who changed her name after hearing her sing "Day by Day."

Her original ambition was to be a dancer. Her mother sewed to pay for her lessons.

But Doris's career as a dancer ended after she had been involved in a serious car accident.

During her convalescence she started to study singing.

After recuperating from the car accident she appeared on a local radio station and sang in public for the first time.

Later she had singing breaks with Bob Crosby and Fred Waring's bands, but it was with Les Brown that Doris won her greatest recognition as a singing star.

Hollywood beckoned and Doris made her debut in the film *It's Magic* for Warner Brothers.



Doris Day and Richard Widmark enjoy a joke together off the set of *Tamara of Lova*

A new career had been born. Doris successfully combined her singing talent with her acting ability until she made her first serious dramatic film titled *Storm Warning*. She has since done splendid work on the screen.

Underneath her gay exterior, Doris is a serious person. She has known bitterness, disillusionment and hurt.

Two marriages ended in divorce. Her first marriage was to Al Jordan, a trombonist in the late Jimmy Dorsey's band. Al became the father of Doris's son Terry, who was born on February 8, 1942.

After the failure of the Jordan marriage, Doris married another musician, George Weidler. It ended unhappily.

When she met Marty Melcher and fell in love with him, Doris made up her mind that this time marriage was going to work.

It has.

They are Hollywood's happiest couple.

Her pet aversion is talking on the telephone and having her hair done.

She rarely drinks coffee. She has said the Bible is her favourite reading.

In spite of her tremendous success in the recording field and acting profession, Doris is still nervous of an audience. This is one of the reasons why she is infrequently seen on television and on the variety stage.

Doris, Marty and son Terry, lead a quiet social life. She doesn't like parties and confesses that they bore her.

If she has any one outstanding criticism of herself then it is her lack of tolerance. Says Doris, "I wish I were more tolerant, particularly about such things as running the home. I'm such an organised girl in my career and personal activities that I get jumpy when things don't run like clockwork."

Her musical tastes range from Frank Sinatra and Ella Fitzgerald to Debussy and Tchaikowsky.

Asked what she would advise newcomers wanting to make a success in show business, Doris replied, "Take it easy and don't try so hard. Success will come when it's ready. Don't worry about the good things in life. They'll happen."

And they have happened to gay Doris Day.

Pretty as a picture and sweet and charming is Doris Day





Chris Barber

-success on
a second-hand
Trombone!

Chris Barber has the very rare distinction of being the only British jazz band leader to cut a record which has sold more than a million copies.

Chris acquired his treasured Gold Disc with the sales of "Petite Fleur."

The record also became one of the first British jazz records ever to get into the American Top Ten best selling disc charts.

For Chris, the award meant the crowning of a career which has so often been dominated by ill-luck, disappointments, disillusion and near starvation.

He has always been a dedicated "trad" man.

Fourteen years ago he was a regular in most of the London jazz clubs studying techniques, listening closely to the music being played and envying the men who were making it.

He decided he wanted nothing more out of life than to be part of this happy, musical scene.

He bought an old trombone from a fellow musician and spent hours and hours perfecting his technique. Then he joined Ken Colyer's Jazzmen and toured the clubs as a performer.

The years passed and Chris began to realise that the profession was tough. Public interest in traditional jazz wasn't always as healthy as it is today. There was little money in it. The men who played its music were more often than not far from Easy Street.

Chris later formed his own band. At the time he wasn't making more than £8 a week.

Recognition was finally won when skiffle came on the scene. Skiffle gave the "trad" business new interest, the youngsters flocked to jazz clubs once again.

Chris Barber's band became a band of personalities. Lonnie Donegan played banjo. Monty Sunslúne played clarinet. Pat Halcox played a wonderful trumpet, incidentally it was Pat who played the trumpet while Richard Burton mimed, for the sound-track of the film *Look Back In Anger*.

Perhaps the band's most favourite solo artiste is its singer Otilie Patterson, the Irish-born blues singer.

When the band went to America and Canada on a personal appearance tour as a result of their tremendous disc success, there were "house full" notices to greet them everywhere they played.

So successful was their tour that further visits were planned.

One incident, however, marred their tour. It happened in Virginia where they were booed by the students of a university there.

Said Otilie: "Many of the white Southerners objected to a white girl like me singing what they call nigger music. I just ignored the boos and carried on singing."

A few months after the band returned to England Otilie married Chris.

The band today is one big happy family and it shows in their music.



Johnny **RUNNING BEAR** BROUGHT FAME **PRESTON**

Twenty-one year old Johnny Preston can thank the late Big Bopper for his great start in show business.

Big Bopper (J. P. Richardson) was tuned in one night to a television show when on the screen came a commercial urging viewers to notice the "whiteness of Dove Soap." Big Bopper thought "White Dove" would be an ideal name for an Indian girl. He sat down and wrote a song about her which he called "Running Bear."

In December, 1958, Johnny Preston went into a recording studio and sang the song that was soon to make his name known throughout the world.

"It was released in June, 1959," he told



One record was Johnny's passport to fame but he won't be resting on his laurels

me on a visit to London. "But you know for five months nothing happened at all. I carried on with my clerical job and started looking around for another song. But strange things began to happen. The record somehow caught on and before I knew what had happened I was presented with a gold disc! The millionth copy was sold around December," he smiled.

Johnny comes from Port Arthur, Texas.

"My first singing experience was in school and church choirs," he told me.

His first job was in a grocery store and in his spare time he formed his own group which he called "The Shades."

Every weekend the group would play for the local dance.

Today one of his proudest possessions is a certificate awarded to him by the American Federation of Musicians. "It's their Certificate of Achievement," he informed me.

In a disc jockey poll conducted by the American magazine "Cash Box" he was voted one of the most promising new pop artists.

He is happily married and runs his own ranch. . . .

THE SHADOWS

... In the Spotlight

When four lads, who call themselves The Shadows scored a country wide hit with their disc "Apache" one of the first to congratulate them was Cliff Richard.

The boys had always provided the musical backing for Cliff on all his stage and TV appearances until they decided to make another record on their own.

The publisher of the song held a celebration lunch for the boys and Cliff went along with them to a Soho restaurant to join in with the celebration.

Cliff said jokingly: "Well if this is what happens you'll have to go . . ."

Cliff's own record "Please Don't Tease" had just been overtaken by his own group's disc.

The boys laughed.

Young Jet Harris quickly got in with "If this happens again we'll have to find a new singer."

It was all in good fun.

Cliff and the boys have done much to keep the beat alive in this country.

The group was originally called the Drifters, but because of the similarity of the

name with an American group, they changed their title.

The first time the boys ever played together happened in May, 1958. At this time they were all playing for other groups.

Jet Harris, who plays bass guitar—a former sheet metal worker who was born in London on July 6, 1939—was playing with The Mest Brothers.

Rhythm guitarist Bruce Welch, born in Bognor, and Newcastle born Hank Marvin were with a group called The Chestnuts.

Drummer Tony Meehan, youngest of the four, who was born in London was skin bashing for a time with The Vipers.

In October, 1958, the four boys met again in Soho's Two 1's Coffee Bar and they decided to form their own group.

Cliff Richard, was rapidly making a name for himself at the time. He heard the boys one day and invited them to play for him.

Since then they have risen to fame with Cliff and now they are stars in their own right.

The Shadows are now very much in the spotlight.





McC Photo

Frankie Vaughan is truly an international star today. The rise to fame of this Liverpudlian boy who spent his early life roaming the streets of Liverpool with a gang, would make an ideal screen-story. And it has a fairy tale finish.

He wanted to be a commercial artist. He was so keen in fact that he went to Leeds College of Art to study for a teaching diploma which he finally won. With a few pounds in his pocket Frankie made his way down to London to try and get a job in commercial art.

It was harder than he ever dreamed. Then he tried singing. He was lucky enough to get on the bill at the Kingston Empire. In those days Frankie didn't care about the billing. He was bottom. But his fantastic performance promoted him to the top of the bill at the Hulme Hippodrome a week later.

Then Decca gave him a record test and shortly after, he made his first record. Then things started going wrong. His record flopped and Frankie was back where he started.

It was at this time, that he decided to marry Stella, the girl he had met at a local dance. They spent their early marriage living in a £5 a week Soho flat. Frankie was almost on the point of giving up his ambitions in show business when another record company offered him a break.

He recorded a song called "My Sweetie Went Away," which became an instant hit. Once more recognition came to Frankie Vaughan. Only this time it was for keeps. Frankie went from strength to strength as a major recording star and television personality. He toured the country's variety halls and built up a great following.

FRANKIE - he's the
VAUGHAN Most!

His success was almost complete. The last hurdle was the silver screen. Apart from a very small role in a Sabrina film, Frankie had still to play a major acting role. It was Anna Neagle and Herbert Wilcox who offered him a chance that was eventually going to lead him to Hollywood and the arms of Marilyn Monroe in a film called "Let's Make Love." Anna and Herbert gambled on using Frankie in the lead role for a film titled "These Dangerous Years" which was followed by a number of others, starring Frankie.

He was a success in films and Hollywood was quick to make an offer. His night club appearances out there have caused quite a sensation for a British singer. He has made frequent return appearances in most of the clubs where he has entertained.

Frankie is a great family man and loves his home and family more than anything else. Their home is a large, five bedroomed

house in North-West London which Frankie and Stella call "Oak Lodge."

Frankie is very friendly and has a warm personality. He has donated much of his earnings to the National Association of Boys Clubs and takes an active interest in them whenever he can.

Today Frankie is rich in friends and rich financially. He can earn thousands of pounds in a year and yet his simple attitude towards life hasn't changed at all.

As an entertainer he is the greatest!
As a human being he is the most!

Frankie in action. The famous side-kick is guaranteed to set the girls squealing.



Frankie is most definitely a family man and enjoys most of all the time he spends with Stella and the kids.



I felt like a dwarf as I bounded along Charing Cross Road with six foot three and a half inch Vince Eager.

"It's a little embarrassing being so tall sometimes," he smiled. "Specially in the pictures when you go in late and sit down in front of someone. It feels awful, but what can I do about it?"

"Go in earlier!" I said.

"No, about being tall, I mean."

We walked into a coffee bar.

A thing Vince Eager doesn't do very often without causing a near riot if his fans frequent the place. And he has thousands of fans all over the country.

There was a rush for autographs.

Vince signed a few but the situation got a little out of hand. "Quick let's move on to another place," he shouted and we dashed down the road. I felt even sillier than I did before.

We turned up a little side street where we found a quiet place. We looked anxiously inside for any sign of a Vincent Eager fan. There didn't seem to be any so we went in.

Two girls smiled over at us, but there was no sudden rush, thank goodness.

**TOO TALL
FOR COMFORT**

**THE
EAGER**



"How did you get started in this business Vince?" I asked as the waitress brought our coffee.

"Well I'd come down to London to take part in the finals of a nation-wide talent competition," he said. "In the audience was Larry Parnes, who is now my manager. I was lucky enough to win the contest and Mr. Parnes signed me up a few hours later. Before I knew what I was doing, I found myself in Paris doing a singing spot there. Later I was booked for the old TV show 'Six Five Special,' and I suppose that's how the kids got to know me, through that show."

"You like being a star?"

"Sure. It's a grand feeling. But it's a little frightening sometimes when the fans start ganging up for autographs. Before you know what's happened they become a scorching mob and you feel as though you're suffocating. But it's a lovely feeling being appreciated."

Vince comes from Grantham. He was born on June 4, 1940.

Some of his friends call him the dandy of the bear world for Vince is extremely clothes-conscious.

"Most of my money goes on clothes," he told me. "I've got quite a lot of Italian gear now. I really dig good clothes. To be smartly dressed a fella has confidence in himself."

"Any ambitions?" I asked.

"Well I'd like to get a gold disc one day. I haven't even had a number one disc yet, so I've got an ambition with this too. But my biggest dream of all is to make a western film. I'm crazy about westerns. I see them all."

Just then two young girls put their noses to the window of the coffee bar, squealed and rushed in.

"Please Vince, can we have your autograph. Oh, please Vince!"

"It's being so tall, that's my trouble," he smiled. "I just can't pretend I'm not me any more."

I left Vince smiling signing away—outside the coffee bar.

Life's Wonderful Joan Regan

The spotlight caught her golden hair. The beautiful blue eyes shone. Joan Regan was on stage.

The graceful presence of this fine singer brought a hush on her packed audience.

And then Joan Regan went into one of her familiar songs with great professional polish and maturity.

Joan is one of the most respected singers in the business. Her ladylike manner and quality has endeared her to millions of fans and fellow performers.

She radiates a warmth, a great warmth, and genuine sincerity in what she is doing.

Beside having a successful career to take care of, Joan has a large family to look after. There's husband, Harry Claff, and three children, Danny 13, Rusty 9, and Donna 2, and, of course, there are the family pets who need looking after too.

Work never stops for Joan Regan.

"Do you like being a housewife?" she was asked.

"I love it. I really do," she smiled. "I'm putting my family first today, I've turned down attractive offers so I wouldn't be separated from them for long. They are my first consideration today. One of the reasons I enjoyed my London Palladium season recently was the fact that I could go home every night and be with my husband and children. It was wonderful being able to do both," she smiled.

"And what is life like with your husband Harry Claff," she was asked—no doubt the questioner was remembering her first marriage failure, a marriage which began when Joan was only seventeen.

"Marriage to Harry is perfect," replied Joan. "Before I ever met him I used to be so





Joan and her two sons by her first marriage: 13 year old Danny and 9 year old Rusty

nervy. Always on edge. Jumpy, you know, but Harry is such a calm and relaxed person. Now I'm like him. I don't panic as much as I used to. I take everything much more calmly today. He's been wonderful for me."

Joan's singing career started when she made a private recording of her voice on the suggestion of her bank manager.

Joan wanted to change her job and she asked him if he had any ideas on show business.

"Make a recording of your voice, girl," he told her.

She did, by singing "Too Young" and "I'll Walk Alone." It was a good recording.

Her bank manager liked it very much and later took it to an agent friend of his, Keith Devon. As a result Joan was signed to an agency contract.

It wasn't long after this that she started her recording career. Her records became immediate successes. Discs like "Ricochet Romance," "If I Give My Heart To You" and "Prize of Gold" were foundation stones

to her now firmly rooted career.

For the next seven years, Joan spent most of her time learning the rudiments of her newly acquired career by singing up and down the country in cabaret, on variety bills and radio. In 1953 TV fame came knocking at her door with appearances in "Quite Contrary." Three years after this she had her own TV series. Later she made her pantomime debut in "Dick Whittington" at Liverpool.

Today Joan Regan is in the £50,000 a year class, a happy, contented woman with thousands and thousands of friends.



A radiantly happy Joan with her husband Harry Cliff of the London Palladium, seen here leaving for a delayed honeymoon in Gibraltar

Dickie Valentine

SINGER SUPREME

Life with Dickie Valentine is wonderful according to his wife Betty, who is a former ice-skating star from Glasgow. She has been married to Dickie for six years and I went to see her to talk to her about her life with such a famous husband.

"He is difficult to get to know," said Betty. "Basically he is a shy person. He never feels at home with strangers, and strangers might find him a little difficult to talk to. But this isn't anything horrid, it's just the way Dickie is."

How did they meet?

Betty continued, "Dickie was appearing with Ted Heath in Morecambe. I was there too, starring in a skating show. We met now and again and felt attracted towards each other, but we didn't meet again until about a year later. I hadn't missed him because I didn't really know him very well. Somehow we started dating again, regularly."

And so they were eventually to marry on an unforgettable day when thousands of Dickie's loyal admirers turned up to wish him good luck and happiness.

What is Dickie like in the home?

"He is not one for relaxing," says Betty. "He is on the go all the time. He worries me sometimes. If he's not working over new songs he plays with the tape recorder or works out a new routine. One of his hobbies is cine film. He's got a lovely cine camera and he is always taking films wherever he goes. Dickie is a great father to our two children, Kim and Richard. He's always playing with them. They have a great time. I'm sure he enjoys a new toy just as much as they do," she laughed.

In every great artistic depression hits hard. Does Dickie ever get deeply depressed?



"Sometimes he does!" she said. "But then, of course, everybody does. Dickie simply shuts himself up in his study and is terribly quiet. I can always tell when something is troubling him. He never says a word. But these moments don't last very long. Dickie is essentially a gay type who likes the company of his friends when he can be himself. He is really a happy person."

Dickie's first show business break came when he was featured vocalist with Ted Heath. When he decided to go solo he had built up a terrific fan following.

Immediately on becoming a solo star, Dickie was a fabulous success.

One of his ambitions was realised when he played his first London Palladium date. "My dream was to one day occupy the star dressing room," Dickie said, "because I used to work there as a call boy!"

He has come a long way since then . . .

Tommy Steele

*The Bounding,
Bouncy
Cockney*

Happy as the day is long is our Tommy Steele, one of the breeziest showmen in the world's glamorous profession—show business.

A true cockney is this fair-haired wonder from Bermondsey.

The life and soul of the party. A great practical joker and a joy to be around.

His friends, close friends, are like himself, jolly and very amusing.

Harry Fowler and Andrew Ray are two of his closest pals, always ready to laugh at someone's expense.

Apparently one day they bought an old second-hand car without an engine. Pushed it to the top of a hill and then got in and



Tommy and his wife join with Harry Secombe for this happy picture

The irrepressible Tommy rocks the Russians in Red Square, Moscow



steered it down to the garage at the bottom.

They asked for petrol. And then asked to make a phone call. But they never made the call for as soon as they got out of sight they hid behind a wall and watched the fun as the garage attendant discovered the car had no engine.

Then at this point the boys returned to the car and accused the poor man of having stolen their precious little engine.

It was all great fun, but then it is so typical of Tommy.

But he also has a serious side for he takes his work seriously, as a star of his calibre should.

He works for perfection and this is the reason for such polished performances in the theatre, on television, on records and in films.

He knows that he must continue giving only of his best to remain a truly outstanding and talented young star.

His films prove that he is an accomplished actor as well as a stage performer.

His latest film *Touch It Light* gave him the best acting role he's ever had, but his fans still regard *Tommy The Toreador* as the film they liked him in the best of all.

It was in this film that Tommy sang one of his greatest disc hits, "Little White Bull."

If there is one quality that one might dislike in Tommy's nature then that quality must surely be his unpredictable ways.

You never know what he is going to do. If you arrange to meet him for an appointment he may turn up half an hour late or



As seen in British Picture Corp.

Tommy seems quite at home in his costume for *Tommy the Toreador*.

ten minutes early. But very rarely is he late for an important appointment.

Tommy went to sea when he was fifteen. During a leave in 1956, John Kennedy, now his manager, heard him singing in a coffee bar and approached him with the idea of making him a star.

When Tommy went home that night and told his parents he was greeted with a mixed



As seen in British Picture Corp.

"Little White Bull, yes, but big black bulls I do not like!" decides Tommy.

reception.

His mother didn't care for the idea of her son going on the stage. His father, however, was more interested in the project. He advised his son to "have a go."

Tommy did and within a few weeks of his meeting Kennedy, he was already making headlines in the newspapers and had had his first Decca record released.

Tommy Steele was off to a grand start.

Today, Tommy has played in almost every aspect of show business.

He earns roughly £50,000 a year and lives with his wife Ann in a large house in Kingston, Surrey, on the banks of the River Thames.

In spite of success, immense success, Tommy is still very much the same lad he was before he hit the show business jackpot.

He still likes his fun and practical jokes.

He still likes roast beef, Yorkshire pudding, steak and kidney pie, chips, stew and so on.

He's still just an ordinary chap only he's making ten times more than the ordinary chap.

In this age of "the angry young man" it really is a tonic to meet such a happy, contented person as Tommy Steele from Bermondsey. Everyone loves him from London to Moscow and from Moscow to Sydney . . .

PERRY COMO

The Man they call "Mr. T.V."

Is there a greater television personality than Perry Como?

I wonder.

But without any doubt Perry is the idol of millions of telly viewers. His show, transmitted in colour in America, is one of the most popular variety shows on both sides of the Atlantic.

The relaxed Como. It seems nothing can upset him. Panic is a word he's never heard of.

"That guy is so relaxed it's a wonder he doesn't drop off while he's singing," said one comedian about Como.

"Bing Crosby is jet propelled compared with Como," said Bob Hope.

Yet, take a look at Perry during the rehearsals of his show and you'll see he is just as nervous as everyone else.

Why is he so tremendously popular?

Is his warm personality his secret?

"Perry can never talk to anyone unless he's got an arm around their shoulders. He is such a friendly guy," said one of the technicians who works on his show.

Each week he receives thousands and thousands of fan letters from all over America and Europe.

So many in fact, that he was once inspired to record a long playing album with the title "We Get Letters." It became one of his most successful selling albums.

Many years ago, Perry, the seventh son of a seventh son and one of thirteen children, now forty-eight, was quite content to run his barber shop business until Hollywood cashed in on his minor fame and tried to make him a screen lover.

Perry wasn't a success in films.

"Some of the movies I made were

stinkers," he told a columnist recently.

"Boy, I was lucky to get out of Hollywood all in one piece. Since the TV shows have been quite a success there have been one or two movie producers offering me attractive deals to go back into movies. I don't know. I just don't know if I'll do another one. I'm quite happy with my way of life as it is today."

Continues Perry, "I've got a lovely, comfortable home out at Sands Point which is about twenty miles from New York. We've got a swimming pool. I guess I could have a servant for every room but we've got just one maid who helps with the housework. My wife Roselle does all the cooking. Man, can that girl cook? Mama mia!"

Sunday is a special day in the Como household. "On that day the family are all together. It is a rather special day to us."

The Comos rarely go out to night clubs. They don't entertain much either.

"I've always hated big parties," says Perry, "we like having a few close friends calling in now and again. We just like to keep to ourselves, Roselle, the three boys and I."

Mitchell Ayres, his musical director who has worked with Perry for a number of years recently paid his boss a wonderful compliment.

Mitch said, "He's the nicest guy alive. Not many people know that Perry is also a very fine musician in his own right. He can do something very few other singers can. He can take a new number and read it off the paper for the first time."

Perry's relaxed manner and charm have endeared him to millions of TV viewers all over the world



Happy as a sand boy is Ricky Valance. And who can blame him. His first disc "Tell Laura I Love Her" zoomed straight into the number one position of the best selling record charts only a few weeks after it was released.

Ricky, born in the Welsh mining village of Ynysddu, South Wales, was once turned down by the recording company who recorded his hit disc.

"At the time rock and roll was all that seemed to matter!" said Ricky. "It wasn't really my cup of tea. The company told me that I wasn't commercial."

But times have changed.

"I could never settle down in an ordinary job. For a year I worked in the mines. I think this was the longest job I ever had I've been an hotel page boy, worked in a bakery, a butcher's shop, on a building site, in a dry cleaning shop, on a milk round, in a toy factory, the list goes on and on. For a time I tried my hand at male modelling. Used to model swimming costumes."

"What was the shortest job you ever worked in?"

RICKY VALANCE

*** A NEW STAR for Tin Pan Alley**



"Well I worked in a plastics factory for an hour," he laughed.

"Why were you so unsettled then?"

"I wanted to sing. It ran in the family. My mother was a lovely singer. She would sing in the church choir when she was a young girl. I started singing in the same chapel she sang in. At school I took part in the Eisteddfods when I was about ten."

Ricky started singing with the local dance bands when he was sixteen. A year later he joined the Royal Air Force.

"I served in Malta. Used to sing in an hotel there," he said. "Did a spot of service in Tripoli too. I'm a very keen sportsman and I became the javelin throwing champion of the R.A.F.'s Malta Command. I'm very proud of that," he smiled.

When he was demobilised he returned home to Wales where he did more dance band work.

Like most ambitious people Ricky soon decided it was about time to make the trip to London.

"I got a job with the Electricity Board for a time and in my evenings I'd go around looking for singing jobs. After I'd been in London for about a year I managed to get myself a cabaret job. Had to travel all round the country, Sheffield, Doncaster, Rotherham and Nottingham. I was a straight tenor at the time. I'd sing songs like 'On The Street Where You Live' and 'Everywhere.' Rock came on the scene and although it wasn't really my style of singing I decided to join a semi-pro rock group. We got a booking on the Granada Cinema circuit."

But Ricky's big break came when his present managers, Lena Davis and David Taylor, heard him singing in a London pub one night.

He was given another test by Columbia records and this time he passed.

He recorded "Tell Laura I Love Her" and hit the jackpot.

Now he is touring the country as a star! Ricky says his favourite singers are Lita Roza, Cliff Richard and Elvis Presley.

MARTY WILDE

THE "WILDE" BOY FROM GREENWICH

When he was discovered playing rock 'n roll in a London coffee bar he was plain Reginald Leonard Smith, a teenager from Greenwich who worked in a timber yard.

The man who "found" him for fame was Larry Parnes, who knew his new boy would be a star providing he was given the right grooming and coaching.

His name had to be changed.

Parnes quickly thought up Marty Wilde. Why? Because he says, the christian name suited his quiet, shy manner off stage and the surname described his wild, attacking, forceful stage presence.

Marty, the son of a Greenwich bus driver, stormed his way to fame. Within two years he was in the £1,000 a week class. He found fame singing songs of misery. They were morbid and nauseating songs, with titles like "Endless Sleep," "Misery's Child," "Fire of Love," but for Marty they paid handsome dividends.

He was a success on television through shows like the "Six Five Special," "Oh Boy" and "Boy Meets Girls" in which he made his debut as a compere.

Marty's interest in music began when he was still at school. He hated school, and the day he left was one of the happiest, he says.

His parents had bought him a second-hand guitar. He spent hours practising. They were nearly driven crazy by his constant plucking of the strings in strange tunes.

When Elvis Presley came on the scene, Marty had decided he wanted to be a rock singer, so with a few local pals, he formed his own group and entered it into talent competitions as well as playing at a local youth club for a few shillings a night.

Then one day into his suburban life

walked Larry Parnes and offered him a contract which was to make him into a nationwide star.

At twenty-one, Marty Wilde is happily married to a former Vernons Girls singer, Joyce Baker, who wooed Marty in secret for seven months without anyone realising they were in love.

"There were a lot of people who advised me not to marry at this point of my career," said Marty at the time.

"In fact Larry Parnes was opposed to it and told me that it would probably affect my career. But Joyce and I were so very much in love and I couldn't risk losing her."

Lately his career has taken a back seat. Maybe marriage did affect it for a time. Marty can't understand the reason why, for he feels his act today is better than it has ever been.

But then every true artiste has a black patch from time to time and it just so happens that it is Marty's turn.

It won't be too long before his name is once again topping the number one hit disc charts.

Marty Wilde is here to stay.





Frankie AVALON Makes the Big Time!

When he was six years old, young Frankie Avalon toddled on to the stage of the Broadway Theatre, Philadelphia and sang "Give Me Five Minutes More" in a talent show.

For Frankie it was an experience he will always remember, for it was the first time he had ever set foot on a stage and sang to the public.

He won the show and was presented with a real scooter, his first reward in show business.

When Frankie was nine he took an interest in the trumpet and decided that he wanted to be another Harry James. He was soon rapidly hitting the headlines as a child prodigy having made appearances with Perry Como, Jackie Gleason, Ray Anthony and Paul Whiteman.

When he was fourteen Frankie had formed his own group and made frequent appearances with the top line bands all over the country.

With his fantastic success as a trumpet player, Frankie had saved enough money to open his own teenage club in his home town of Philadelphia.

The club opened in a loft above a tailor's shop. It was a great success, until a mysterious fire broke out and destroyed it.

It was because of the fire, that Frankie's singing career got started. Two of the sponsors of the club, Pete De Angelis and his partner Bob Marcucci, had formed their own recording company and were on the lookout for exciting new teenage talent.

They had heard Frankie singing one night in his own club and invited him to audition for them. Eventually they led Frankie into the disc big time.

But not until Bob and Pete had groomed and coached him for disc fame. They took a

gamble with Frankie believing that he would be an even greater singer than trumpet player.

They were right.

To date, Frankie has sold over five million records, and earns a six figure salary.

Now he is proving his capabilities as a dramatic actor in films.

He first went to Hollywood to make a film with Alan Ladd titled *Guns of the Timberland*.

John Wayne happened to see the film one night and consequently invited Frankie to appear in his fourteen million dollar spectacle called *The Alamo*.

Frankie is basically still very shy.

"He's the most unobtrusive guy I know," says one of his friends.

"He's one of the mostest around Hollywood," says a girl friend. "A lot of the kids around here could take a lesson from Frankie. Such a sweet guy and a real gentleman."

His natural charm and talent has taken Frankie Avalon to one of the loftiest positions in show business.

Frankie's first venture into the film world was in *Guns of the Timberland* with Alan Ladd and her famous father



THE HUSKY DUSKY WONDER

NAT KING COLE

The night club was crowded. The music was soft and sweet. Suddenly a drunk got up at one of the tables and shouted to the leader of the group on the bandstand.

"Hey you!" he shouted. "Yeh, you at the piano. Will you sing 'Sweet Lorraine' for me?"

The audience laughed.

The pianist looked embarrassed and tended to smile the interruption off. But the drunk was not to be put off.

"Say bud. I want you to sing 'Sweet Lorraine.' If you can't then I will. . . ."

And for the first time in public the pianist, Nat King Cole burst into the opening lyrics of the popular song.

The audience greeted this new voice with great acclaim.

The incident influenced Nat Cole to take up a singing career.

Up until this point he had been a successful pianist, and leader of the Nat King Cole Trio.

He started in a musical career in High School when he formed a fourteen piece band. When he left he joined a touring

revue company but one of its members ran off with their 800 dollars one day and the company had to fold.

"I was really stranded when that happened," said Nat. "I decided to stay on the West Coast and play wherever I could get a job. I must have played in every bar in California making about five dollars a night." It was when Nat was almost down to his last dollar that he sold one of his songs "Straighten Up And Fly Right" for fifty dollars.

He was later to record it and it is said that the man he sold the rights of the song to made an estimated 20,000 dollars profit with it.

Today Nat is earning over £3,000 a week. He sells over seven million records every year.

"It began with 'Nature Boy' a long time ago," smiled Nat.

"What I'd like to do one day, is maybe retire, buy my own plane and fly to every baseball ground in the country. Man, I just can't get enough baseball. I love it," says Nat.

He was born, son of a Baptist Minister, in Montgomery, Alabama, on March 17, 1919.

In March, 1948, he married singer Maria Ellington whom he met in a New York club.

They now have three children, two girls and one boy and they live in a Tudor style mansion in the district of Los Angeles.

"Many people don't realise that Nat is a great comic," Maria told me recently when she and Nat came over here for a fleeting visit.

"Someone ought to put him in a comedy movie. He'd be wonderful. I haven't liked his movies at all," she said.

The question Nat is always being asked, wherever he goes, is his reason for disbanding his wonderful trio.

"Well," he says, "Capitol Records and I both felt that a big band behind me would sell more discs, and I've never regretted my decision."

Neither have millions of other people. The voice of Nat King Cole will never fade away.

Nat with his wife and two daughters, Natalie and Carole bound for Monaco



What's in a Name?

Conway Twitty

The name Harold Jenkins is just a little too plain for a show business personality?

This is what Harold Jenkins asked himself a few years ago when he was on the threshold of a show business career.

"It's too ordinary," he was told.

"Too square!" said another.

"You gotta have something unusual, man!" said an old experienced show business type. "Somethin' that the kids will laugh at, at first."

Harold Jenkins sat down to think, and so did his manager.

"Twitty" his manager suddenly shouted, "Twitty, how's that, kid?"

"How's that?" said Jenkins. "Why that's a little gilly, isn't it? Twitty?"

But Twitty it was going to be.

"Now all we gotta do is to think of an unusual christian name to go with it. Let's take a look at the map for a couple of place names."

After a few choice names that were completely unsuitable, the manager put his finger on a town named Conway which was a few hundred miles from Harold's own town, Mississippi.

"Conway Twitty!" repeated the manager.

"Yep, I reckon that's about as good as a name you'll get."

And so plain Harold Jenkins, became colourful Conway Twitty.

British disc buyers first raved over the new recording star when his version of "It's Only Make Believe" was released here.

Conway first started singing when he was ten.

"Did my first broadcast then," he said.

"When I was twelve I formed a group which



Conway's first hit was "It's Only Make Believe"—his success has proved very real

I called 'The Phillips County Ramblers.' When Uncle Sam called for me to serve my country I carried on in the entertainment business by forming another group called 'The Cimмерons' and we entertained G.I.'s all over the Far East."

He was twenty-seven years old.

Recently he was asked by a newspaper reporter if he didn't feel a little too old singing songs about teenagers.

Conway replied, "I think I know what the kids like and I go out with the kids and I can feel what they do like. So I find it and do it on the stage. It feels kinda funny sometimes at twenty-seven years old."

Funny or not Conway Twitty has made a fortune out of it.

Freddy Cannon

HE'S DYNAMITE!

His real name is Freddy Picariello. He was born in Massachusetts twenty-one years ago.

Freddy Cannon soon blazed a successful trail when he rocked his way into the very top bracket with his discs such as "Tallahassee Lassie" which he wrote himself, "Way Down Yonder In New Orleans," "California, Here I Come," "Indiana" and so on.

His close friends know him as a great practical joker.

One told me, "I never know what Freddy is up to. The time to start worrying is when that guy is quiet. You always can tell when he's got something up his sleeve. He just loves having fun."

For a time after graduating from high school, Freddy got a regular job as a truck driver. His father was also a truck driver.

"I wasn't very interested in driving a truck," said Freddy. "I was always interested in music. When I was thirteen I'd saved up enough money to buy myself a guitar. Gee, I was so thrilled when I walked into that store and paid for it. Felt as though I'd just bought the world. I used to spend all my free evenings learning to play it. The

guys used to wonder why I didn't ever go out with them any more to the movies and dance hops."

At High School Freddy formed his own group.

When he was sixteen a famous Boston disc jockey heard him singing and asked him if he was interested in making show business his career.

"You got an exciting voice, kid," he said. "You could make a fortune out of that voice. But the first thing we gotta do is to change that name. It's too much of a mouthful for the kids to say when they go into a record store and ask for one of your records."

Freddy didn't know whether to take the disc jockey seriously or not.

"I don't want to change my name," he said, "I'm proud of it."

But after long discussions the disc jockey won.

"Let's see. How about Cannon. Explosive. Which is you kid. You're explosive. T.N.T. Cannon, yeh, that's a good 'un."

Freddy said the name a few times. He got to like it. "O.K. suits me. Freddy Cannon. Yeh. I kinda like that."

While Freddy was entertaining in a Boston night spot just over eighteen months ago, two influential and noted composers Frank Slay Jr. and Bob Crewe walked in and were both immediately impressed with the explosive style of Freddy Cannon.

Together with Freddy, the two writers collaborated on a song Freddy had been working on called "Tallahassee Lassie."

The two writers were also instrumental in getting Freddy to record it. It became a big hit.

Freddy gave up his truck driving job to concentrate full time on his rising show business career.

Now there was no time to look back.

A gimmick was found and he started to record songs with familiar place names and this really put his name on the map.

"I guess I've been very lucky, because I'm not the best singer in the world," says Freddy.





Peggy Lee

Miss Fabulous

What a fabulous singer! No wonder she is known as a singer's singer for this girl **Peggy Lee** is the epitome of what a feminine vocalist should be.

Her sense of rhythm is amazing as the many ardent followers of Peggy Lee will tell you. But like all great singers, Peggy suffers the incredible fate of being too good for the general public. Now and again she has had hit records, but the intervals between them have been very long.

Ask anyone in the profession who their favourite singers are and you will almost certainly hear the name **Peggy Lee** mentioned in practically every case.

She is Frank Sinatra's favourite singer.

Nat King Cole buys all her records.

Elvis Presley has said she is one of the finest vocalists in America.

In spite of the absence of big hit records



Capitol Records

Peggy Lee lives fabulously well. Her personal and private life hasn't always been happy. She has had her share of marriage problems.

Her first husband was guitarist **Dave Barbour** whom she met while singing with the **Benny Goodman** band. Romance blossomed, they both left the band and eventually married. Their marriage was happy at first. **Peggy** and **Dave** made a great musical team and it was **Barbour** who became responsible for many of **Peggy's** early hits such as "Don't Smoke in Bed," "All Dressed Up With A Broken Heart," and "Riders In The Sky."

But divorce followed success. Since, **Peggy** has married twice.

Life for her began in a small town, **Jamestown**, North Dakota. She was born one of six children, to the **Egstroms** of Swedish-Norwegian descent. They christened her **Norma**. **Norma Egstrom**.

Norma had made up her mind that her future was going to be as a singer, before she left school.

By the time she was 14 she had become a semi-professional singer. She did a 15 minute spot on a radio show shortly after leaving school for a small radio station in a nearby city. It was then that she decided to change her name to **Peggy Lee**.

The local cafe hired her services and paid her five dollars a week with free meals to sing for customers.

Because of a throat ailment which she contracted in California, **Peggy** had to return home to **Jamestown** where she was to suffer eight throat haemorrhages before the doctor finally cured her. She had to spend nearly three months in bed but when she finally got up she discovered her voice had changed.

It had become husky.

Look magazine were eventually to describe it as "electric blue" and **Peggy** has made her fortune out of it.

Her big break came when **Benny Goodman** hired **Peggy's** services after his featured vocalist, **Helen Forrest** left him. **Peggy** was twenty-one and on the threshold of fame.

Peggy will always remember her first play-date with **Goodman**. It was in **New York**.



Walt Disney Production

She froze up. One person in the audience said, "She sang the lyrics like a mechanical doll."

The critics went to town on her showing and advised Goodman to send her back where she came from.

But Benny was a very shrewd musician and knew that he had a star in the making with Peggy Lee.

Peggy made her film debut in *Stage Door Canteen* when she sang "Why Don't You Do Right," with Benny Goodman.

Later she appeared with Bing Crosby in *Mr. Music*. She sang "Life Is So Peculiar." Then Walt Disney hired her services for his *Lady And The Tramp*, a full length cartoon

feature. Peggy was signed as co-author on the actual sound track.

For this film, Peggy wrote a number of original compositions with Sonny Burke.

Perhaps her greatest movie role was her role in *Pete Kelly's Blues* with Jack Webb, following the film *The Jazz Singer* which she made with Danny Thomas at Warner Bros.

In *Pete Kelly's Blues* Peggy proved that she was an extremely competent dramatic actress.

Yet Hollywood has since failed to promote this extraordinary acting talent possessed by Miss Lee for they haven't signed her in another movie role since she made that film.

But as long as Peggy goes on singing she has nothing to worry about.

*It started on
the Altar Steps*

GARRY MILLS

Nineteen year old Garry Mills wondered a few months ago whether he would ever have a recording hit.

He made a number of records, such as "Running Bear," "Seven Little Girls" and others, but other performers always had the hit version.

Then a lucky break came Garry's way.

A horror film had been made titled *Circus Of Horrors* and the makers were searching for a singer to record the film's title song which was to be heard over the credit titles.

Garry was their man. He sang the song, which was titled "Look For A Star" and the subsequent release of the record in America, to coincide with the showing of the film proved at last that Garry possessed that quality which makes hit discs. In spite of many other versions which had been rushed out, it was the Mills recording that sold.

Immediately the disc was released in this country there was a heavy demand for it and Garry found his name in the elusive Top Ten charts.

Garry came into show business in 1959 in the most unusual circumstances. For Garry sang a rock 'n roll number on the altar steps of a London church as part of a campaign launched by the Rev. Geoffrey Beaumont to

bring a modern touch to the church service.

Garry later gained a recording contract with the Top Rank company.

Garry was born in West Wickham, Kent, on October 13, 1941. His father, now an engineering estimator, was once a semi-professional singer. Encouraged by his father, Garry developed an interest in music when skiffle became the big rage.

He taught himself to play the guitar, violin and harmonica. His father later persuaded him to visit the famous Two P's Coffee Bar in London where many of today's young stars started their careers.

"The competition there was very strong," said Garry. "I used to sit in with Adam Faith and The Worried Men."

But young Garry found the combination of school homework and singing at night quite a strain and he became ill.

He soon recovered and went back to playing with Adam Faith and The Worried Men skiffle group.

Garry has since worked on a few films.

He made his film debut in *London Lights*, which also stars Lance Fortune. Garry also sang for Jess Conrad in the film *Friends and Neighbours* which starred Arthur Askey. He recently worked on a film called *Treasure Island W.C.2*, which tells what happens to a song after it has been written until it reaches the hit parade. The commentary is spoken by Peter Sellers.

Then, of course, there is Garry's lucky film *Circus Of Horrors*, which no doubt will always be regarded by Garry as giving him his first real break in show business.

Singers he likes listening to are Cliff Richard, Paul Anka, Elvis Presley, Johnny Mathis and Peggy Lee.





Yorkshireman John Barry, the son of the owner of a chain of cinemas in the North, shot to nation-wide fame with a distinct sound of his own which has been heard accompanying many of our top recording stars.

It was John's distinctive musical backing to Adam Faith's hit disc "What Do You Want" that helped considerably in making the Faith disc the huge success it became.

Since then, Adam and John have become an inseparable team.

But as most disc fans will know, John is also the leader of the bestest group in the country—The John Barry Seven.

Today, he is one of the most sought after musical arrangers and composers in the country.

**John
BARRY** 

His latest work has been extended to that of writing musical scores for films.

He wrote the entire sound-tracks for the two Adam Faith films *Beat Girl* and *Never Let Go*.

"It was a wonderful experience," said John. "Now I'm hoping to concentrate more on background film music. It excites me."

I must say that John's two film scores were the most contemporary ones I've ever heard in British films.

His early career was spent studying orchestration and composition (by post) with former Stan Kenton arranger, Bill Russo.

He gained valuable experience from this talented American and consequently later got himself musical assignments with several of our leading dance bands.

One day, while taking it easy down in a jazz club, he conceived the idea of forming a group.

He did so and soon after Val Parnell, that great impresario, discovered it. He wasn't the only one to rave about their exciting musical talent. Johnnie Ray and Vic Lewis also shared his enthusiasm.

In London they were given a private recording session where they cut six records.

The result was a Parlophone recording contract. Their first disc release was entitled "Zip, Zip" and "Three Little Fishes."

When Stewart Morris, a TV producer held auditions for a new TV show called "Drumbeat" John Barry and his boys were the first to be signed.

"They have the freshest sound in the country," said Morris.

Frequent television appearances did much to enhance their reputation.

One of their later discs titled "Hit and Miss" is being used as the signature tune of the TV show "Juke Box Jury."

Music is John Barry's life. He wanted nothing else from life except to be involved with the sharps and flats.

He certainly is today, well and truly involved, and he has carved a great niche for himself.



My first glimpse of Pat Boone was at a crowded Press reception.

He was surrounded by gossip hungry newshounds.

Fresh-faced, looking cool, Pat stood up well to the barrage of questions which were being fired at him.

"How many children have you got, Pat?"

"Four cute little girls," he replied.

"Whereabouts are you living now, sir?" asked another reporter.

"We've got a place in Englewood, New Jersey and another place in California," he smiled.

"Do you drink?" another asked.

"Only minerals. I don't smoke either!" he answered.

The questions went on and on.

The twenty-five year old singer and actor makes a reported million dollars a year. Pat confesses that he looks on show business as a joke.

"It's rather like college humour," he said.

"You know I call one of my companies, the one that looks after my TV show, Cooga Mooga. It means nothing," he laughed.

Pat went on to inform us that he is naming his new recording company Agoom Agooc.

"That's Cooga Mooga backwards. I really get a laugh out of that," he giggled.

"Mr. Boone, you don't smoke, drink or kiss other actresses on the screen without your wife's permission. Have you no vices at all then?" asked one writer.

Pat looked a little thoughtful, smiled and replied, "I smoke a pipe."

This is really the kind of person Pat is. He likes having fun. Doesn't ever take things seriously.

He was once asked if he was in fact related to the great trail-blazer Daniel Boone. Pat replied, "Maybe, but I never carry a rifle."

Pat has a heart of gold.

Pat's show business success story started when he recorded a song titled "Ain't That A Shame," which shot straight into the top bracket. He has been collecting golden discs with regularity ever since.

"I like singing nice clean songs," he said.

PAT BOONE

he's a Swell Guy!

"Good songs. I won't have anything to do with a suggestive lyric."

Pat feels that an entertainer doesn't have the right to do anything that might excite an audience.

Teenagers look up to him as a kind of example for them to follow.

Asked about this, Pat said, "I think I can do something useful by singing—while my popularity lasts. Teenagers look up to me. I try to set them a good example."

He does. A wonderful example.

Pat with his wife and four daughters



FABIAN

The Fabulous!

When Fabian started singing there were a great many critics who said he would never last the pace in show business.

His voice was just not good enough for the big time.

But how wrong this young, handsome Philadelphian has proved them to be.

His records have sold like hot cakes and his fans have flocked to see his films *Hound Dog Man*, *High Time* and now *North to Alaska*, which he made with John Wayne.

But the going was tough for Fabian Forte, son of a policeman.

"I hated some of the criticisms I had when I first started in the business. It wasn't very encouraging," he says today. "But you see I came into this business without any experience whatsoever. And I've worked hard at my singing lessons. Very hard. I still spend an hour every evening with my coach Sandy Meisner and I practise singing every day."

Fabian was discovered by Pete DeAngelis and Bob Marcucci who are joint heads of a recording company.

"The first thing we noticed about him were his good looks. This kid had all the ingredients of being a teenage idol," they said.

He certainly had. He was six foot. He had a warm smile, muscular build, a shock of light brown hair and a great magnetism, personality some people call it.

"He was a popular kid at high school," said Bob. "The gals loved him. Only one drawback was the fact that he couldn't sing very well. We were so sure about this kid being a success that we immediately began coaching him. You know both Pete and I had the same feeling about him as we had over another kid we helped along the road to fame—Frankie Avalon. Fabe looked like

Rick Nelson and Elvis and we thought he must tick with the kids."

After Fabian's first public performance the critics went to town on his showing.

"He is frightful," wrote one critic.

"He just hasn't got a thing," said another.

"Doesn't even wriggle his hips."

In spite of this attack Fabian carried on undaunted.

Pete and Bob then decided to launch an expensive ballyhoo campaign in America's national magazines praising their new discovery to the sky.

The plan worked for some unknown reason.

Suddenly offers started pouring in for his services, his records started to sell and Fabian found himself acclaimed in a big way.

Records like "Turn Me Loose," "Tiger" and "This Friendly World," from his first film, became the most played records in juke boxes all over the country.

His long playing album "The Fabulous Fabian" earned him a Gold Record. He was presented with this award when he appeared in a Dean Martin TV show.

When Fabian went to Hollywood to make *Hound Dog Man* the reception to greet him at the Los Angeles airport was described by one official as "the second most terrifying thing that ever happened to me. The first was at Guadalcanal in 1943."

Nearly a thousand fans turned out to welcome him to Hollywood.

Fabian was astonished at the sight which greeted his young eyes. "The most fantastic thing I've ever seen," he said. "There was a goodbye party for me in New York but it was like a lady's tea party compared with this."

He finished the day in hospital because an over excited fan jumped on to his car and smashed one of the windows. A piece of glass flew into one of Fabian's eyes.

Louella Parsons, the noted Hollywood columnist was one of the first to interview him there.

She said after, "This boy has a charm which goes far beyond his singing ability. He'll climb like a rocket."

He certainly has . . .



Happy-go-Lucky Go-getter Lloyd Price

When a disc with the rather unusual title "Stagger Lee" was released in this country it brought the name of Lloyd Price to the attention of record buyers here.

But Lloyd had already achieved great success in the States.

His home town is New Orleans. A happy-go-lucky type of person who admits to a great passion for dixieland music and almost every other form of music.

"I guess coming from New Orleans I really dig Dixieland the most," he grinned.

Lloyd is one of seven brothers and three sisters.

He believes he inherited his musical talent from his father who was a professional guitarist. His mother is a traditional gospel singer.

Lloyd started his musical career in High

School where he formed a five piece combo. A few weeks after its formation the group did its first broadcast in New Orleans. While working with the radio station there, Lloyd was asked to write music and lyrics for a commercial. He called the piece "Lawdy, Miss Clawdy."

So great was the reaction to the number that Lloyd's group was signed to a recording contract.

His following three discs were nation-wide hits.

Then Lloyd's career took a back seat for he was called up. In Army uniform he was sent to the Far East where he soon organised a band. The band later toured Korea, Japan and the South Pacific playing for the servicemen.

They also accompanied Jimmy Durante, Debbie Reynolds, Terry Moore and other stars who were entertaining the forces.

It was whilst serving in the Far East that Lloyd wrote his now famous "Stagger Lee."

Lloyd left the Army as a sergeant and resumed his show business activities and reorganised his band.

His first major disc success, back in civilian clothes, was a number called "Just Because." The reaction was stupendous.

Lloyd Price was back again, greater than ever.

He has gone on to more disc success.

Many songs Lloyd has written, including "The Girl Can't Help It" have been successes.

This talented singer, song-writer and band leader is married and has two children.

"Some day," says Lloyd, "I'd like to reach the status of a recording director and producer."

I hope he continues to record as well.



When Neil Sedaka was twelve years old his friends regarded him as a "square."

The young Neil was always playing the music of Bach on his parents' piano in their Brighton Beach, New York, home. His mother and father had wanted their son to become a classical pianist.

Instead he found fame with a rock song entitled "I Go Ape."

Neil first showed signs of following a musical career at the age of eight.

The school which he attended had its own choral group and after just a few weeks of practice, Neil was said to have led them like an old experienced maestro.

Neil's only family connection with music was that his grandmother was a concert pianist.

At the age of nine, Neil won a scholarship to the famous Julliard School of Music in New York. There he studied his favourite subject.

When he later attended high school he wrote a musical show.

It is said that Neil's interest in music changed from the classical vein to the kind of music which made him a world star, after hearing Alan Freed the disc jockey refer to himself on a radio show as "Moondog." Neil was drawn to the kind of rock records "Moondog" was playing and then came a change in Neil's style of piano-playing for Bach was now being interpreted with a distinct beat.

The highbrows raised their eyebrows and the lowbrows theirs. Neil became a great favourite.

Neil formed a band which really swung, so much in fact that the governors of the school forbade them to play any more.

But this didn't stop Neil.



He was later encouraged to market some of the more popular music he had written to the commercial world of pop music.

He and a fellow songwriter Howard Greenfield combined on a number that was later recorded.

"Boy, what a tremendous thrill that was," Neil said recollecting the occasion. "I just couldn't take my eyes off the record and I wanted to tell everyone that I'd written the song."

One day they wrote a song and Neil decided to sing the number himself on a demonstration record to show a major recording company how it would suit one of their male singers.

He got a letter back inviting him to record the song himself in their studios.

It was a hit. He cut another record shortly after titled "I Go Ape." Success finally caught up with Neil Sedaka as the sales of "I Go Ape" soared and soared. He was a star!

Now he and his partner are writing a full-length musical show . . .

"I go Ape" to Stardom

Neil SEDAKA

Julie London

the World's sexiest singer



They call Julie London the sexiest singer in the world.

Julie crooned her way to fame when she cut a disc titled "Cry Me A River," which became an immediate hit, selling 800,000 copies during its first week of release.

Julie, born in California on September 26, started her career as an actress after being discovered in a large departmental store where she was employed as a lift attendant.

Sue Carol—Alan Ladd's wife—then a talent scout, discovered her and managed to get Julie a few small parts in films.

"That department store has figured quite prominently in my life," says Julie. "It was there that I met Jack Webb whom I later married and divorced. He was a salesman there. Jack went into the services. When he got out he became a radio announcer. I'd just finished my biggest movie role in 'The Red House,' when Jack called me from San

Francisco. He wanted me to fly and see him. A few hours after the plane landed, Jack and I were engaged. It happened very quickly."

It wasn't long before Julie and Jack were married. For them, marriage began with little money until Jack conceived the original idea for a TV show called "Dragnet" which became a huge success.

In the meantime Julie continued working in films until she discovered she was going to have a baby. In November, 1952, her second daughter was born. Two years later Jack and Julie had parted. Divorce was their only solution.

"My whole world seemed to fall apart when my marriage crumbled," said Julie.

Julie with daughters Lisa and Stacy



"I just didn't know what I was going to do. I carried on making movies for a while then one day I got a job singing in a plush night club, very much to my surprise. You see I'd never really taken singing seriously. I used to sing when I was a kid, but then all kids sing!"

For Julie London, this proved to be the turning point of her life.

But Julie didn't entirely give up acting. Her close friends, Rosemary Clooney and Jose Ferrer played an instrumental part in getting Julie to star opposite Jose in a film called "The Great Man."

Her acting performance was acclaimed by the critics. Other films followed. It was M.G.M. who gave her another big film break when they decided to co-star her with Robert Taylor in "Saddle the Wind."

British producer Raymond Stross wanted Julie for his film "A Question of Adultery" to play the leading role opposite Tony Steel;



Julie and Jose Ferrer in U.S. *The Great Man*

and so Julie made her first working trip to London.

Julie London is a talented girl.

John Cassavetes and Robert Taylor with Julie London as they appear in M.G.M.'s *Saddle the Wind*



Billy's real name is Ronald Wycherley. He comes from Liverpool, home of many fine entertainers.

He spent most of his early life working on a tug on the River Mersey. "Used to play my guitar for pennies trippers used to throw me," he says.

Now Billy can pick up £20,000 a year. Quite a change in fortune for this blue-eyed lad.

He is basically quiet. Never has a lot to say, prefers to be lonely.

"I'm a little mixed-up," he said recently.

"I can't seem to settle down. I love doing one nighters because I'm on the move all the time."

Girl friends? Well Billy certainly has his share of girl friends, in fact, he once dedicated an album of songs to all the girls he had known well.

"I write lots of songs," he said. "Practically all of them are dedicated to girls. I generally write them after we've had a row. Times when I feel a little sad."

"Course," he continued, "I could never write the kind of songs Rodgers and Hammerstein used to write. Maybe in time I might be able to, but I've got a long way to go yet."

"Do you have any big ambitions, Billy?"

"Not really. I would like to have a silver

Roving Minstrel BILLY FURY

disc one day for selling 250,000 records. I've never had a big disc success. I don't like much of the material I record myself, so I really can't expect my fans to, can I?"

Billy is very keen on fast cars.

"I'd love to be a racing driver," he said.

"In fact, this is a secret dream of mine. I'm going to have lessons soon in race driving. I've always liked speed."

Billy came into show business after Larry Parnes had heard him singing in a dressing room one day.

"I went to a local theatre with a few of the boys to see Marty Wilde who was topping the bill. Some of the fellas suggested I try and get an audition with Mr. Parnes as they thought I was just as good as some of the boys already making records. I felt a little nervous when I walked into the theatre. The first person I saw when I got through the stage door was Larry Parnes. I didn't know what he looked like and I really felt a fool when I asked him if he could direct me to him. He said, 'I'm Larry Parnes, what can I do for you?'"

Larry has done wonders for Billy. He is one of the tops with the squealers who haunt his every performance.

"And now, with the money I'm getting today, I'm hoping to buy my father a shoe repair factory. This is his trade. But it'll take a lot of saving."

"Do you want to get married?"

"Who me?" he laughed. "Naw, I don't think I'll ever get married, at least not for some years. I've never really met the right one . . . not since my first big love affair back home in Liverpool, which started before I came into show business. I keep thinking about the girl. It just doesn't seem to be the same with anyone else."





£25 TO FORTUNE! Dennis LOTIS

The days when Dennis Lotis was a teenage idol have passed. No longer are his clothes torn to shreds by over excited young fans. No longer do they yearn for him in the same manner that they yearn for Elvis Presley.

For now Dennis has become a mature performer who pleases everyone, not just the star struck kids who haunted his every appearance not so long ago.

Not that it bothers Dennis, for he is one of the busiest personalities in the business and his services are being used by film producers more than ever.

In the John Osborne play *The World Of Paul Slickey*, Dennis proved he had a deep acting talent.

Frequent appearances on television keep him continually busy and his disc releases are still quite numerous.

He lives in Mill Hill with his attractive wife Rena, formerly a model, and their three sons. His immediate plans are to buy a farm,

Dennis Lotis with Irene Hamilton as they appeared in *The World of Paul Slickey*



but he is finding it very difficult.

"We've seen a number of places but Rena and I just can't seem to find the one we are looking for, but we are determined to buy one, so we'll carry on looking," said Dennis.

Dennis first came to England from his native South Africa with £25 in his pocket some years ago.

"I was very ambitious," said Dennis. "In South Africa I had achieved quite a success for myself as an entertainer. I had my own radio show called 'Anything Goes.' You know at one time I had a beard until I sang on a show which was sponsored by a razor blade manufacturer. When I arrived in London I looked up Ted Heath. A friend had given me a letter of introduction. But Ted was hard to find. I first met Henry Hall who gave me a couple of spots on his 'Guest Night,' and then Ted heard me and invited me to an audition. He later signed me to sing with his band. When I settled down I sent for my wife Rena to join me."

In Britain Dennis Lotis became a big favourite. With Dickie Valentine and Lita Roza also singing with the Heath band in those days, Lotis held his own and used to steal the limelight whenever he performed a number called "Cuddle Me." The kids went wild with delight. On a number of occasions many ugly scenes were created when the mobs got out of hand and almost undressed him in their quest for personal souvenirs.

"Some of those days were really wild," recalled Dennis. "I got scared many times when the kids started moving towards me. Can't say that I particularly miss those days," he smiled.

Off stage, Dennis is very much the quiet type. He is not one for the night life.

"I just like to go home, put my slippers on, smoke my pipe and listen to some good classical music or Frank Sinatra," he said.

"In the summer the kids drag me out into the garden to play cowboys and Indians. We have fun too. You know I think I'd like to make a Western film."

Lotis was dreaming again . . .

Connie Francis

SLOW DOWN

AND WIN!

Connie Francis was on the verge of a nervous breakdown.

Her hit recording of "Who's Sorry Now" suddenly changed the simple life she had been leading to that of a hectic life which she described as "living and dying in the Top Twenty."

"The trouble with success is that it makes me want to eat the whole world every day," she told one newspaper columnist.

Connie was overworking.

It was obvious to see. She looked tired and exhausted. To her, every day was a nineteen-hour one.

Her friends noticed she had developed a red rash. A nervous red rash.

The price of earning over £1,000 a week was beginning to tell.

Connie had to do something about herself.

"I started taking pills by the mouthful," she said. "They didn't do me much good. Then one day I talked to Nat King Cole who told me that success was not in material things. I'd been under the impression that making hit records would solve all my problems. But it just hadn't. Nat was right. I asked Perry Como once how he always seemed to be relaxed. He told me his motto was 'Slow down and win.' I've been trying to do that ever since."

Connie was born in Newark. She made her first professional appearance when she was twelve. She also wrote her first song at twelve.

"I'd always been interested in music. I could play the accordion when I was four," she said.

When she started recording in May, 1956, she didn't exactly break into the big time. Her first releases weren't hits.



Connie hit the top of the pops with a song 35 years old!

But Connie began building up quite a strong reputation for herself on various TV shows.

M.G.M. Records noted her during one appearance and invited her to their studios for an interview.

"We'd like you to record a song written thirty-five years ago," they told her.

She did. It brought her instant fame.

The song was "Who's Sorry Now." Many, many other big hits followed and Connie was also heard singing on a couple of film tracks although she is still waiting for her big movie break.

The name Connie Francis is now firmly established in the history books of show business.

RUSS CONWAY

Seaboard to Keyboard

Russ Conway is certainly worthy of the title "Prince of the Keyboard."

A Prince Charming to the many thousands of fair damsels who watch and listen to his very distinctive style of piano playing which has made him one of the most successful pianists in this decade.

Russ, in spite of his overwhelming success in such a short time, remains the happy, modest person he has always been.

He is a great believer in fate and he will tell you "If fate decreed that I should have success then I must make the most of it and be thankful for it."

His early ambitions had no show business connections; in fact it was Russ's urge to go to sea which seemed to dominate his early life.

When he was twelve he joined the Sea Cadets. Later he enrolled in a Merchant Navy Training School. It was a tough life for a young boy but he was tough enough to take it. He was later sent to join a cargo ship the "Toveil" docked in his home port of Bristol.

"I used to get up at four every morning and make coffee for everyone," he says. "Then I had to start peeling the spuds for lunch. I must have peeled a billion potatoes," he chuckled.

"But to me then, the sea was my life. Nothing else interested me."

He joined the Royal Navy before he was seventeen and had to lie about his age when he volunteered.

During his first month in the Navy he lost the first joint of the third finger on his right hand. The accident occurred when Russ was operating the bread slicer.

During the war years many things hap-



Three musicians—one piano. Russ teams with Liberace and Stanley Black.

pened to Russ whilst serving at sea. He finished the war a hero by winning the D.S.M. for "Gallantry and devotion to duty during mine sweeping operations in the Aegean and Mediterranean."

He was demobilised in 1946. He felt lost in civvy clothes and decided to return to sea. But by June, 1948, he had been discharged with a stomach complaint.

"I just didn't know what I was going to do," Russ relates. "It was tough, very tough, knowing I would not be allowed to go back to sea again. Once a sailor, always a sailor. For four years I moved from one job to another. I became a radio salesman, a soap salesman, machinist, plumber's mate, barman and a civil servant. I couldn't settle."

In 1952 Russ could bear it no longer and decided to go back into the Merchant Navy.

But by July, 1955 his old stomach complaint returned and he landed back in hospital knowing that he would never, ever go back to sea.

What now?

For a time he roamed Europe, generally having a good time. Then one day in London, near Leicester Square tube station, he bumped into an old friend who informed him that there was a job for a pianist going in a London club. Russ thought he might just as well have a crack at it. He got the

job deputising for the regular pianist.

Into the club that Saturday night walked Irving Davies who was impressed with his piano playing. He invited him to be his rehearsal pianist. Russ took the job.

Slowly but surely show business took a hold of him and he began meeting several show business people.

For a time he worked with a music publishing company which gave him a great insight into the music business.

Then he became an accompanying pianist to several of today's leading singing stars—Lita Roza, Joan Regan, Dennis Louis, Dorothy Squires and many others.

"My greatest thrill was playing for Gracie Fields when she did some concerts out in Malta. I'd always been a great fan of Gracie's and I looked upon the job as truly

a great and wonderful experience," Russ said.

Norman Newell, one of the biggest recording executives in the show business put Russ on record.

The rest of the story is well known. After a few disc releases which didn't exactly set the world on fire, Russ recorded "Side Saddle" which opened the doors to fame.

Today he drives a Rolls-Bentley and lives comfortably in a basement flat in Maida Vale not far from the recording studios where he cut all his disc hits.

And now Russ wants to make films. He could be a big success too, if and when he is given the chance.



JIMMY *No Dream* CLANTON *-this!*

It was a big day for Jimmy Clanton and a very proud one too.

For his home town of Baton Rouge, Louisiana, were going to present him with the key to the city since he was the first singer from Baton Rouge to sell a million copies of a record. The record was titled "Just A Dream."

"Fancy the town naming a day after me," Jimmy said later. "I couldn't believe it. I was also appointed an honorary colonel on the State Governor's staff and this really is something."

And all this for a tall, handsome, young eighteen-year-old son of a local instrument engineer.

It was Jimmy's father who was responsible for Jimmy going into show business in the first place.

"My dad bought a guitar for eight dollars from one of the pawnshops in town. I guess I come from a musical family because my dad always wanted to make show business his career but the breaks never came. I have a brother, Ike, who is seventeen and he plays bass with Duane Eddy's group and a younger brother, Tommy, he's fourteen and he is quite something on the drums. I guess he'll make show business his career too one day."

Jimmy spent hours on his second-hand guitar.

He formed his own group at school which he called The Rockets. He made frequent broadcasts on an amateur radio programme.

When Jimmy graduated the group decided to collect for the trip to New Orleans so that they could make a record which could be used for important auditions.

By the time they were ready for the session they realised they only had one arrangement



There was no number for flip side. So Jimmy sat up all night and wrote one the day before they were due to record.

"Gee, I sat down and just couldn't think of a song. I didn't have any inspiration at all," said Jimmy.

"Then one of the guys happened to mention something about a former girl friend. He made me feel a little sad I guess but it did give me an idea for a song. I'd just parted from my girl you see. I came up with a song called 'Just A Dream.' The guy at the recording company was so impressed with it that he decided to record me singing it and then signed me to a long-term contract."

More recently Jimmy had another big seller with "Another Sleepless Night" which certainly shouldn't give Jimmy many other sleepless nights.

He is knocking on the door of international success and teenagers in this country are beginning to hear him.

Jumping Joe Brown

"I used to sell cockles and mussels," said Joe Brown. "But look what's happened. I've just made a thirty-five minute film about my life!"

Such is the success story of this happy-go-lucky cockney, never without a smile and a chirpy answer.

Joe Brown is a true cockney.

Most rockers sing morbid material. Not Joe. He is as happy as a sandboy.

"Just isn't in my nature to sing these sad, morbid songs," he says. "If we're gonna make this kind of music let's get a laugh out of it."

Joe, blue-eyed, six-foot one inch tall, with the blondest hair you've ever seen, started playing his happy music in London pubs when he was fourteen.

"Had some great times with the boys in those days," he grinned. "Had our own group which we called 'The Spacemen.' For a while I started singing on my own in one of Butlin's Holiday Camps. Me and the boys got together again when I came back and we started playing in ballrooms. One day Larry Parnes invited me for an audition, and offered me a contract to appear in 'Boy Meets Girls' on the telly."

It was through his TV appearances that Joe built up his wonderful reputation. One song in particular, "Darktown Strutters Ball," did much to enhance his career.

Then "Jellied Eels" became associated with him, and soon songs like "Make a Monkey Out Of Me" and "Letter Of Love" will be great favourites with Joe Brown fans, for he will sing them in this new film, based on his life.

When Joe was thirteen he was a rag and bone merchant. When he left school he got a job as an electrical apprentice.

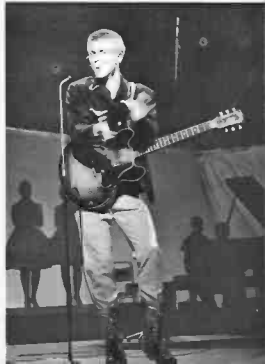
"But I was more interested in the old guitar," he said. "I was always looking for a way of making money out of it. Didn't dream I'd be recording though. That was a real laugh when Decca signed me to a contract. Couldn't believe it."

Joe cannot read or write music.

"It doesn't give me any trouble though, not being able to read or write music," he grinned. "We get by O.K. I feel a bit sorry for the boys working with me, but I suppose they're pretty used to me by now."

And so are his fans, they just love him.

Jumping Joe Brown gets with it for ABC Television programme WHAM



Joni James

Girl with the Platinum Voice

The recording studio was rather quiet. The atmosphere was subdued as over forty musicians awaited the arrival of the "star" of the evening.

In a few minutes she would breeze in to start an evening's recording.

We were all waiting for Joni James, a five foot one inch charmer, with eight gold discs to her credit and a platinum disc which is awarded to those who sell more than two million copies of one recording.

Two minutes late. Three minutes late. Then in came Joni accompanied by her husband Tony Acquaviva, a celebrated musician in America.

"Hi fellas!" she breezed. "So sorry to keep you waiting."

She shared a few jokes with the "fellas," took off her fur coat and got down to work.

Joni is one of the easiest singers I've ever met. After a few minutes of testing for the correct balance she was singing her heart out into a microphone in a little booth separated from the main orchestra.

In the tea break I had a chat with her.

"You know I could have been a journalist," she giggled.

"Really. What stopped you?"

"I wanted to be a dancer," she said. "So I turned down a scholarship in journalism to do so. I don't think I've got any regrets," she smiled.

Success has come in large doses to this friendly vocalist, born Joan Carmella Babbo in Chicago on September 22, 1930.

"There was a time when I did manage both dancing and writing," she said. "When I was at high school I used to do feature writing for the school newspaper, and I organised a ballet club. After school hours

I used to pick up a few dollars on the side with a modelling agency. I modelled shoes, hosiery and hair styles. Guess I could have become a model too!"

Upon graduation she joined a dance troupe which toured the country. In Chicago she was offered a featured dancing spot in a fashionable hotel.

I asked her how her singing career got started.

"Well I had to give up dancing because of an attack of appendicitis," she explained. "When I came out of hospital I was offered a singing engagement. I guess that started the ball rolling for me. I began touring the country this time as a singer!"

It was through a major television show transmitted from Chicago that Joni came to the attention of a record company.

Shortly after, she cut her first record titled "Let There Be Love," and "You Belong to Me."

The public flocked to their nearest record stores to buy it.

Her next recording was "Why Don't You Believe Me." Within six weeks of its release it was the country's best selling record. She was eventually awarded a platinum disc when the sales reached two million.

"This was one of the proudest days of my life!" she smiled.

I asked her where she kept all her gold discs and that valuable platinum one.

"We've got a special trophy room in our Manhattan flat. We've got them hanging up on the wall. It's always a little embarrassing when our friends come to call," said the modest singer. "But I really do treasure those awards. They took a lot of getting."

She hiccuped. "Oh no!" she cried. "Hiccups is one of my weaknesses. Once I start I go on for hours."

Someone fetched her a glass of water. She stopped.

"Gee, of all the times to get a hiccup attack, right in the middle of a recording session."

Her husband Tony, who bought her a lovely white Rolls in London recently, called



in to see her.

"You O.K. honey?"

She smiled over at him.

"Do they want me again?" she asked him.

"Yes. They're all ready waiting for you out there. We've got a couple more songs

to do then we'll be finished."

Joni said goodbye and I made my way back into the studio again where I watched her for two more hours working for more gold discs or even a platinum one.

She sure is a hard worker, Joni James.

The stage is empty; the auditorium packed.

Suddenly from out of the wings walks a small figure in casual clothes. The spotlight is turned on as he walks into the centre of the stage.

Hysteria breaks out as a great, wild scream greets him from the packed audience



Adam selects a record and (below) talks over a number with Cliff Richard



of squealing girls.

Adam Faith is on stage.

What a wonderful success story this twenty year old boy from Acton can tell.

His parents know him as Terry Nelhams. Terry is one of four children. His father is a coach driver and his mother a cleaning supervisor who still gets up at five every morning to toddle off to her local job in a factory.

Adam Faith, as Jack Good named him, is now on the threshold of what might prove to be a highly successful film career.

Film producers are constantly requiring his services, but so far Adam has only made two films, the first being *Beat Girl*, followed by *Never Let Go*, which was released a few months ago. It is reported that a Hollywood producer is keenly interested in making a film with him, so Adam may soon go to Hollywood.

What kind of a lad is he?

I've met him on a number of occasions and I find him, at times, most unusual.

During his Blackpool season I spent an hour with him in his dressing room and he spoke of nothing else but psychology and talked in great detail about Huxley's book "Brave New World," which he advises everyone to read.

Adam is a great reader.

What did young Terry, as his friends called him in those early days, want to do?

"My first ambition was to become a film director," he said to me when we lunched during the making of *Beat Girl*.

"I had a friend, Roger, who is still one of my greatest and closest friends, and he suggested we get jobs as clapper boys to start with, but it wasn't all that easy. At first I got a local job, then mum got me a job with a film company."

It was in this job that Terry began to be interested in music.

"Skiffle was the craze at that time, so a few of the boys got together and formed a skiffle group. We called it 'The Worried Men,' and we practised in the lunch hours. We had a lot of fun too. Then one day I

Golden Boy * * * * * ADAM FAITH

got a job with a film company over at Elstree where I worked in the cutting room. But we still kept the group going. I'd come home from the film studios, have a quick bite to eat and then up to town to play in a few coffee bars. It was hard work. Used to get terrible pains in my stomach through irregular meals. You know I still get those pains today."

"Terry, with a new hair-cut styled like Julius Caesar, managed to get a recording break with one of the large recording companies, but the record didn't sell at all.

John Barry, a close friend told him about an audition which was being held for a TV show called "Drumbeat." Terry applied and got the job, only now he is known as Adam Faith.

He was a great success in the show but still his records were not selling very well. Then one day he cut a record called "What Do You Want," which set the disc world alight.

From then on there was no looking back.

Adam Faith went from success to success.

"I miss some of the old days when I used to go around on my old motor bike with the fellas," he says. "We used to have a lot of fun. Now there isn't much time for other interests. I'm working pretty solidly."

Adam Faith is now paying the price of fame. Wherever he goes he has to conceal himself behind huge dark glasses. For now the fans have become a pack of wolves ready to descend if ever he should show up.

"I've got no privacy at all today. Can't even go to the pictures without causing trouble."

But I've a sneaking suspicion that Adam wouldn't swap his job for the world. He loves it.





Bobby DARIN

WONDER BOY from the BRONX!

At the age of twenty-three Bobby Darin, swing merchant, possesses an amazing stage polish for one so young. His performances are flawless. His technique is superb, brilliant, fabulous and uncanny.

When he first appeared on the Ed Sullivan Show, one of the most popular shows on American television, Ed introduced him as "the greatest young rhythm singer in the business." So great was the reaction to Bobby's appearance that Ed re-booked him four times in six months.

Bobby has been described as a young zesty Frank Sinatra and a budding Dean Martin. His critics have accused him of imitating both. If you see his act it might appear obvious to some, that Bobby is doing just that. There is little doubt that Sinatra and Martin have influenced him tremendously, but Darin strives hard for originality.

At times he finds it hard to escape Sinatra's mannerisms. He has obviously studied Frank's technique down to the last twitch and it shows in Bobby's act. The way he walks, the way he flicks his fingers, the way he holds himself. But nevertheless Bobby Darin has carved a great niche for himself in show business.

His first public appearance of note came when he was invited to appear on a television show with the late Tommy Dorsey in March, 1956. The reaction made it quite obvious that here indeed was a young singer to watch. Fame was just around the corner for Bobby Darin, born Walden Robert Cassotto in New York on May 14, 1937.

As a young boy, Bobby studied for a musical career. He always wanted to be "in music." He learned how to play the drums, guitar, vibres and bass. His mother, Bobby seen here singing the famous song "Mack the Knife."

who has since died, encouraged her son in his ambition, for she was herself once in show business.

Bobby discovered an early talent for writing songs. Later, much later, he got a recording contract and recorded some of the songs he had written—"Splish-Splash," and "Dream Lover" were among the first. Many other artists such as LaVern Baker and Gene Vincent have also recorded titles written by Bobby Darin.

But it wasn't until he recorded the popular "Mack the Knife" that international fame came to young Darin. The record was a fantastic success. In a few weeks it had climbed to the number one selling disc spot.

"Mack the Knife" presented Bobby with his third gold disc. And the song gave him nominations in four categories of the National Academy of Recording Arts and Sciences for 1959. He was voted as having "The Best Record of the Year," "Best Arrangement" and being "Best New Singer of 1959."

His long playing albums have also been tremendous successes. Bobby's singing career has been crowned by such early achievement.

It wasn't long before Hollywood beckoned him. Paramount Pictures signed him to a six picture contract. Bobby was prepared for the offer for he had been taking dramatic lessons hoping that one day he would get his chance as a dramatic performer. Bobby will soon be seen as a guest star in the film "Pepe."

Unlike several other singers who have gained fame on one record, Bobby has stayed around to make a bigger success.

So many "one disc stars" have rapidly disappeared after their sudden glory only to fade away into obscurity.

But not Darin. He is here to stay . . .

Associated Television photo

Dynamic

Devastating

SAMMY DAVIS Jr.

Sammy Davis put his foot down on the accelerator. He was late. Sammy was on his way to the Universal-International Film Studios just outside Hollywood. The company had invited him to sing the title song of a new film they had just made with Tony Curtis.

Sammy screamed down the road not wanting to be late for such an important assignment. Suddenly everything went black.

When Sammy awoke he was staring at a white ceiling. Around him were nurses and doctors peering down at him.

Then he felt his face. It was smashed to pieces. Oh no! Oh no! . . . not now. Not now . . . please . . . he kept on saying to himself.

Sammy had been involved in a serious car smash. His career which was beginning to shine had come to a temporary close.

His nose had been completely smashed. His left eye had gone. Sammy Davis Jr. was out of action. For two weeks he lay in hospital wondering whether he would ever make it back into the big time. This was nearly six years ago.

Sammy Davis Jr. has certainly hit the high spots in the entertainment world. Man, he's dynamite when he beats these drums!

ABC Television



Today they call him a genius. The world's most exciting entertainer. A wonder man.

"That crash was the rude awakening for me," he recalled. "Frank Sinatra had offered me his Palm Springs place to recuperate, and for the first time in my life I had time to think. Time to wonder exactly where I was going. What I wanted to become. I knew. Ever since I was a kid I wanted to be the world's best entertainer. I was on my way too. I knew that. I was really on my way. The breaks had started coming. I was getting a few thousand a week. Man, this was money. I got a big head too. I couldn't go fast enough," he said.

Sammy had begun living the high life and then came the crash.

His attitude towards success changed while he sat thinking about himself in Frank Sinatra's place.

"I had to take it easier," he said.

"But I just couldn't wait to get back into the business again."

Sammy soon recovered. Within a few short weeks he landed himself his biggest break. He was signed to star in the Broadway play *Mr. Wonderful*. The play wasn't a great success, but the way in which Sammy attacked the role with unbelievable vitality and talent made everyone sit up and acclaim him a new star.

His recordings started building up his reputation in other countries. It was his 1954 release, "Something's Gotta Give" which really established the name of Sammy Davis Jr. in this country.

When he came to London a few months ago, he proved to the many thousands of customers who paid handsomely to see his act, just how great an entertainer he really is.

"You have to see his act to really believe it," wrote one critic. "It is incredible."

Sammy Davis Jr. has now turned his great talent towards making films.

His dramatic part in *Anna Lucasta* with Eartha Kitt proved his acting talent.

Soon his biggest screen characterisation will be projected on to the giant screens.



ABC (wireless)

When Sammy sings he gives it all he's got

Sammy plays the part of Sportin' Life in Sam Goldwyn's screen version of the famous musical *Porgy and Bess*.

Ever since Sammy went to see Cab Calloway in the stage role, he has wanted to play Sportin' Life.

When plans were first announced to make the film, Sammy hounded Hollywood hoping that he would be cast in the film.

He was appearing in cabaret at the Moulin Rouge one night when he walked Sam Goldwyn.

Sammy was told and that night he is said to have given the performance of his life.

He finished his act by singing songs from *Porgy and Bess*.

It was enough for Sam Goldwyn. He later invited Sammy to play the role. Whether or not Sammy is a success in the role he is truly an outstanding performer and one that will go down in history as being one of the most talented performers in show business.

Lonnie DONEGAN

-It all started with SKIFFLE!

When the skiffle rage died, many folk thought that the success of Lonnie Donegan, who had shot to overnight fame with his recording of "Rock Island Line," would die with it.

How wrong those silly folk have been.

Lonnie has lived on to far greater success than he ever thought.

Today he runs a Lagonda car, a new £11,000 home on the fringe of Epping Forest and earns a fabulous income every year.

"I believe I must be the wealthiest pop singer in the country," he says. He is also one of the best-dressed men in the land.

Lonnie at times is a strange person inclined

to be a little cocky.

"I'm always being called a big-head by someone or other," he said. "I don't know why. Am I too cocky or something? I don't think I am. I suppose it all started during school days. I was a very small kid and all the big blokes would take the rise out of me. I found out the only way to fight back was with the tongue, so I used to be cocky. Maybe that attitude has been with me all along."

Lonnie's close friends know him as being a great ball of fun.

"You know the funniest thing that ever happened to me was the time I was picked to

Lonnie relaxes at his new home—but with his famous guitar!



play football for an eleven who were opposing a boxer's eleven. We played the match on the West Ham ground. I was on the right wing. Left-back for the boxers was Brian London. He's such a big fella. Look at me. You know he was so easy to beat, I used to run under his legs. But once he caught me and gave me a terrific clout, all in good fun of course."

What does Lonnie do in his spare time?



A proud moment, Lonnie in action for Royal Variety Show

"I drink tea and I go to sleep!" he mused.

"Seriously, Lonnie what do you do?"

"Well I've got my own cine gear. I like messing around with film. I wouldn't mind making films as an actor. I've appeared in a couple. But they haven't been much good."

We asked Lonnie's wife what life with this famous staging star is like.

"Well we don't seem to have much private life these days. There are always fans around the place. If we go out for a meal we're always interrupted by fans wanting autographs. I know this is all part of being a success, but sometimes I wish we could go out and spend the evening all to ourselves. That would be lovely," she said.

Needless to say Maureen, Lonnie's attrac-



Lonnie and his daughter Corrina

tive wife, is extremely proud of her twenty-eight year old husband who a few years ago was an obscure banjo player with Chris Barber and his band.

Times have certainly changed for Glasgow born Lonnie Donegan.



CRAIG DOUGLAS



ELVIS PRESLEY

