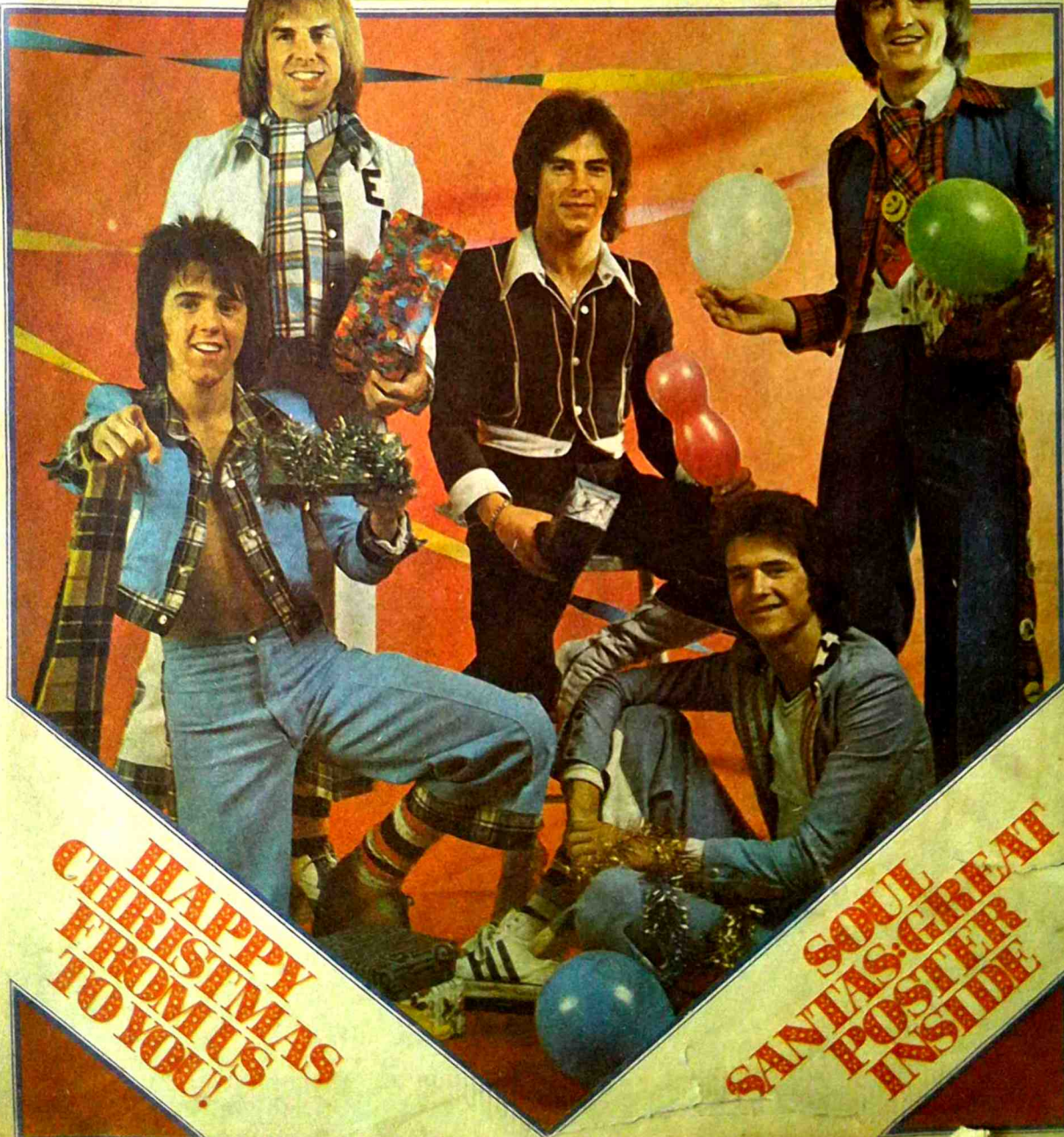


RECORD & POPSWOP MIRROR



*Having A WIZZARD
Time With ROY WOOD!
Christmas With The Stars
Charting '74*

8p December 28th 1974



**HAPPY
CHRISTMAS
FROM US
TO YOU!**

**SOUL
SANTAS: GREAT
POSTER
INSIDE**

TOP TRACKS

SUE BYROM

TOP ALBUMS

COURT AND SPARK — Joni Mitchell
 CAN'T STAND THE RAIN — Ann Peebles
 PRETZEL LOGIC — Steely Dan
 I FEEL A SONG — Gladys Knight & The Pips
 AVERAGE WHITE BAND
 BAD CO. — Bad Company
 WAITRESS IN A DONUT SHOP — Maria Muldaur
 FULFILLINGNESS' FIRST FINALE — Stevie Wonder
 I GOT THE MUSIC IN ME — Kiki Dee
 LORRAINE ELLISON

TOP SINGLES

I FEEL A SONG IN MY HEART — Gladys Knight & The Pips
 I CAN'T STAND THE RAIN — Ann Peebles
 UNTIL I GET BACK TO YOU — Aretha Franklin
 FEEL-LIKE MAKING LOVE — Roberta Flack
 GET DANCIN' — Disco Tex & The Sex-o-lettes
 TELL ME SOMETHING GOOD — Rufus
 FREE MAN IN PARIS — Joni Mitchell
 M. F. S. B. — T. S. O. P.
 WHEN WILL I SEE YOU AGAIN — Three Degrees
 DOCTOR'S ORDERS — Sunny

PETER HARVEY

TOP ALBUMS

PRETZEL LOGIC — Steely Dan
 THE PSYCHOMODO — Cockney Rebel
 FULFILLINGNESS' FIRST FINALE — Stevie Wonder
 SPIDER JIVING — Andy Fairweather Low
 COURT AND SPARK — Joni Mitchell
 ON THE BORDER — Eagles
 FIVE A SIDE — Ace
 FEATS DON'T FAIL ME NOW — Little Feat
 BEFORE THE FLOOD — Bob Dylan
 IT'S TOO LATE TO STOP NOW — Van Morrison

TOP SINGLES

CENTRAL PARK ARREST — Thunderthighs
 I SHOT THE SHERIFF — Eric Clapton
 HANG ON IN THERE BABY — Johnny Bristol
 QUEEN OF CLUBS — K. C. & The Sunshine Band
 HOW LONG — Ace
 I CAN'T STAND THE RAIN — Ann Peebles
 AIN'T SEEN NOTHING YET — Bachman Turner Overdrive
 CAN'T GET ENOUGH — Bad Company
 WALL STREET SHUFFLE — 10cc
 SMOKIN' IN THE BOYS' ROOM — Brownsville Station

DAVE HANCOCK

TOP ALBUMS

LOOK AT THE FOOL — Tim Buckley
 FEATS DON'T FAIL ME NOW — Little Feat
 FULFILLINGNESS' FIRST FINALE — Stevie Wonder
 BAND ON THE RUN — Paul McCartney & Wings
 HANG ON IN THERE — Johnny Bristol
 FROM THE MARS HOTEL — Grateful Dead
 I CAN'T STAND THE RAIN — Ann Peebles
 PRETZEL LOGIC — Steely Dan
 DREAMER — Bobby Bland
 LATE FOR THE SKY — Jackson Browne

TOP SINGLES

HANG ON IN THERE BABY — Johnny Bristol
 TELL ME SOMETHING GOOD — Rufus
 HOW LONG — Ace
 BAND ON THE RUN — Paul McCartney & Wings
 BE THANKFUL FOR WHAT YOU HAVE GOT — William DeVaughn
 I GET A KICK OUT OF YOU — Gary Shearston
 SAILIN' ON — Toots & The Maytals
 (YOU KEEP ME) HANGIN' ON — Ann Peebles
 FREE MAN IN PARIS — Joni Mitchell
 I VIVIN' FOR THE CITY — Stevie Wonder

JANILES

TOP ALBUMS

BAND ON THE RUN — Wings
 COURT AND SPARK — Joni Mitchell
 I WANT TO SEE THE BRIGHT LIGHTS TONIGHT — Richard and Linda Thompson
 PROPAGANDA — Sparks
 DINGO — Gary Shearston
 MO' ROOTS — Taj Mahal
 AVERAGE WHITE BAND — Average White Band
 VEEDON FLEECE — Van Morrison
 SECOND HELPING — Lynyrd Skynyrd
 SMILER — Rod Stewart

TOP SINGLES

RAISED ON ROBBERY — Joni Mitchell
 I CAN'T STAND THE RAIN — Ann Peebles

BECAUSE OF Christmas madness, there is no chart this week, but we thought instead you might like to see what your favourite pop paper staff consider to be the best albums and singles of the year. They're not listed in order of preference — either the staff or the records! We'll be back with the chart next week.



FAR FAR AWAY — Slade
 NEVER TURN YOUR BACK ON MOTHER EARTH — Sparks
 YOU AIN'T SEEN NOTHING YET — Bachman Turner Overdrive
 FAREWELL BRING IT ON HOME TO ME — Rod Stewart
 I GET A KICK OUT OF YOU — Gary Shearston
 WHATEVER GETS YOU THROUGH THE NIGHT — John Lennon
 HANG ON IN THERE BABY — Johnny Bristol
 SAILIN' ON — Toots And The Maytals

MARTIN THORPE

TOP ALBUMS

BAD CO Bad Company
 MIRAGE — Camel
 NOT FRAGILE — Bachman Turner Overdrive
 PHENOMENON — UFO
 PRETZEL LOGIC — Steely Dan
 SECOND HELPING — Lynyrd Skynyrd
 THE FREE STORY — Free
 THE GOODIES SING SONGS FROM THE GOODIES
 THERE'S THE RUB — Wishbone Ash
 WHAT WERE ONCE VICES ARE NOW HABITS — Doobie Brothers

TOP SINGLES

ANNIE'S SONG — John Denver
 CANDLE IN THE WIND — Elton John
 FAREWELL — Rod Stewart
 FAR FAR AWAY — Slade
 GET OUT OF MY HOUSE — Hustler
 KILLER QUEEN — Queen
 MR. SOFT — Cockney Rebel
 SATURDAY GIG — Mott The Hoople
 SAMBA PA TI — Santana
 THE AIR THAT BREATHE — Hollies

WENDY HODGSON

TOP ALBUMS

CICERO PARK — Hot Chocolate
 SPIDER JIVING — Andy Fairweather Low
 MANTLE PIECES — Clifford T. Ward
 ANYMORE FOR ANYMORE — Ronnie Lane
 DAVID ESSEX — David Essex
 THE SUPREMES ANTHOLOGY
 THE BUTTERFLY BALL — Roger Glover & Guests
 ELVIS PRESLEY'S 40 GREATEST HITS
 NATIVE NORTH AMERICAN CHILD — Buffy Sainte-Marie
 ELTON JOHN'S GREATEST HITS

TOP SINGLES

YOU AIN'T SEEN NOTHING YET — Bachman Turner Overdrive
 WALL STREET SHUFFLE — 10cc
 FAREWELL BRING IT ON HOME TO ME — Rod Stewart
 THE SIX TEENS — Sweet
 REGGAE TUNE — Andy Fairweather Low
 JUNIOR'S FARM — Paul McCartney / Wings
 YOU'RE HAVING MY BABY — Paul Anka
 NA NA NA — Cozy Powell
 ALL I WANT IS YOU — Roxxy Music
 FANNY — Ronnie Corbett

THE PAGE

TOP ALBUMS

IT'S ONLY ROCK AND ROLL — The Rolling Stones
 THE FREE STORY — Free
 SECOND HELPING — Lynyrd Skynyrd
 BAD CO — Bad Company
 SMILER — Rod Stewart
 WAR CHILD — Jethro Tull
 MARIA MALDAUR
 THE IMPOSSIBLE DREAM — The Sensational Alex Harvey Band
 WELCOME BACK MY FRIENDS TO THE SHOW THAT NEVER ENDS — Emerson Lake Palmer
 LAMB LIES DOWN ON BROADWAY — Genesis

TOP SINGLES

YOU AIN'T SEEN NOTHING YET — Bachman Turner Overdrive
 CAN'T GET ENOUGH — Bad Company
 FAREWELL — Rod Stewart
 GET OUT OF MY HOUSE — Hustler
 CANDLE IN THE WIND — Elton John
 WHAT BECOMES OF THE BROKEN HEARTED — Jimmy Ruffin
 MIDNIGHT AT THE OASIS — Maria Muldaur
 SAMBA PA TI — Santana
 I KNOW WHAT I LIKE IN YOUR WARDROBE — Genesis
 WOMBING MERRY CHRISTMAS — Wombles

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**LISZT TO
ROGER**

WHO singer, Roger Daltrey, will begin work on another film in the New Year. He will play composer Franz Liszt in Ken Russell movie.

It will be produced by David Putnam, who co-produced David Essex's Stardust film.

Meanwhile Daltrey's first Ken Russell film - Tommy - is due to be premiered in the Spring.

OSMONDS CANCEL - 25,000 FANS LEFT IN LURCH

THE OSMONDS have cancelled their sell-out British tour leaving more than 25,000 fans disappointed.

The fans had paid more than £100,000 to see their idols who were due to visit here next month for seven concerts.

Now it is hoped that the tour can be rearranged for April or May.

Fans have been asked to return all tickets to the theatre box office and



their money will be refunded. A statement from the brothers said there were

too many problems involved in moving 28 people and all their equipment round the world, so they decided to postpone their tour which would have taken in thirteen countries in six weeks. The tour had been

planned to make up for the family's August British visit when there were no live concerts.

The British gigs were to have taken place in London, Southampton, Birmingham and Glas-



**GARY
BANNED!**

GARY Glitter was banned from visiting the BBC this week - for fear of fan riots.

The decision was made after last week's fan trouble when David Essex turned up for Tony Blackburn's show. Instead Gary talked by telephone to Tony's listeners.

ARGENT'S NEW YEAR TRIP

ARGENT, who have just finished a British tour are to start another in the New Year, and will later begin a 10-week American trip.

The British dates are: Leicester Polytechnic (January 18); Bradford St George's Hall (23); Surrey University, Guildford (24); Crewe College

(29); Brunel University, Uxbridge (31).

A further 10 dates and venues are still to be announced.

A new album - their first as a quintet with John Grimaldi and John Verity - titled Circus will be released in early Spring, simultaneously with an as-yet untitled single.

PAPER DATES

PAPER LACE announced new cabaret bookings this week. The dates are: Wokeley Hollow, Liverpool (week 1, commencing December 29); Golden Garter, Manchester (w/c January 6); Caesar's Palace, Luton (w/c 12); Kings Country Club, Eastbourne (w/c 18); Stockton Theatre (w/c 24).

ADDED SWEETENER

SWEET SENSATION have added a few more dates to their tour in the new year. They are Leigh Casino Club (February 1); Scunthorpe Baths Hall (5); Grayswood Woodville Hall (9); and Cambridge Corn Exchange (13).

HOOR TRAMMIPS

A NEW Trammips single Sixty Minute Man will be released on January 10.

IAN AND RONNO LEAVE BUT MOTT SOLDIER ON

THOUSANDS of fans have petitioned Mott the Hoople to keep the group's name, even though Mick Ronson and Ian Hunter have definitely quit the band.

It is understood that Hunter left after being offered a gigantic sum of money by CBS for a solo deal.

At the moment he is in the recording studio and Ronson is doing the producing. The two of them are also planning to get a band together.

But if fans have their way Mott The Hoople will remain as a band.

Bassist Pete Watts, drummer Buffin and



keyboards man Morgan Fisher are looking for a vocalist which means the band will continue as Mott.

Ronson, who joined the band three months ago,

never played with them in this country. Their projected autumn tour was cancelled at the last minute when Ian Hunter collapsed from exhaustion while in the States.

More Sunshine

K.C. & The Sunshine Band are due back in this country in March for a 31 day nationwide tour. They are also expected to play some

dates in Europe. The tour is being arranged by Seven Sun Artists who are also negotiating for reggae star John Holt to tour in late January.

From airforce to army

GINGER BAKER has returned to London from Africa to form a new band and resume recording and live work after a lay-off of two years.

The band will be called The Baker - Gurvitz Army and includes Adrian Gurvitz on guitar and Paul Gurvitz on bass.

An album, already recorded and called

simply The Baker - Gurvitz Army will be released on January 10.

A British tour begins the end of next month and the dates are: Edinburgh University (January 31); Norwich University (February 5); Sheffield City Hall (6); Lancaster University (7); Leeds University (8); Birmingham University (9); Manchester Free Trade Hall (10); Southampton

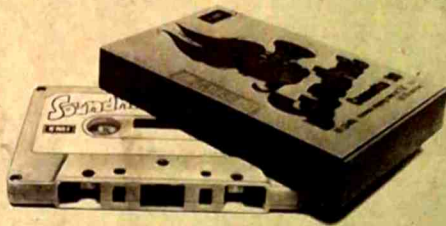
University (12); Reading University (16) and London's Rainbow Theatre (16).

It follows an eight date tour of Europe.

Baker, former drummer with Cream and Blind Faith has been living mainly in Nigeria for the past few years working with and recording African musicians in his own Lagos studio.



Although it sounds incredible, it's one of the lowest priced recording cassettes on the market.



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And why the only things that need be incredible are the sounds you record.



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Are you want for Christmas is a holiday

I MEET Abba in one of those London hotels where they change the tablecloth before you're half-way through a cup of coffee and you haven't even done your famous spilling the last drops act.

Activity goes on around us with waiters and bosses getting things just right for an opening later in the afternoon.

Perhaps it's just as well Abba are not of this celebrated guests of this occasion. The Swedish Eurovision winners look dead beat.

The year of their greatest success ever is rapidly drawing to its close and Christmas means a few days of relaxation. Yet in their case the chance of rest is more than a few days off.

It means a release of pent-up emotions and somehow adapting themselves to a period when no-one is interviewing them, taking their photographs and nor have they a long air trip or the eventual string of

concerts. You see they've had little time off these past months. They've travelled the world and seen their names in countless languages and smiled with people whose words they've not understood.

"It really is true, we can't think of even what we want for Christmas," says Benny. "Other than a good, good holiday."

Freda looks the most tired and adds a refrain to Benny's words. "I want nothing. I just want a holiday."

I ask the other two, Bjorn and the gorgeous looking Anna for their



ABBA TALK TO TONY JASPER

Christmas wish, and they agree with Benny and Freda, though Benny says with a smile. "No cuff links, no ties, no handkerchiefs. We would like some holiday."

It almost seems the wrong occasion to chatter on about their record and concert activity. I leave those subjects for a few moments and so continue talking with them about Christmas, and their 'holiday', however short.

"Christmas in Sweden is really for the children," says Fred. "They get so much and everyone goes out of their way to make it, what do you call it, a

'memorable' occasion. "And even the schools have many special events with big parties. Do you know that in Sweden we open presents on Christmas Eve? They are first put under the Christmas tree."

Benny adds. "Every-one eats so much more than you, I think. We don't just keep to certain foods, we seem to have lots of everything. We eat loads of fat stuff, things like meat balls."

"A lot of people get sick and the ambulances seem as though they're are constantly going up and down the streets."

An interesting thought! They tell me some skiing might be a definite possibility and of course they will be seeing something of in-laws and general family.

Benny says. "We hope later on for some time off in somewhere like the Canary Islands or the West Indies. This time at Christmas will be though a chance of lying in my favourite chair and forgetting for a time I belong to Abba. I will be drinking from Friday to Sunday, that is a joke by the way!"

Eventually we return to the subject of Abba and

records. They tell me Waterloo has sold over three million copies world-wide. There is disappointment on their faces when their disc, Ring Ring is mentioned. After all, here it didn't get into the Top 30 and mysteriously disappeared without much notice.

Now Abba release a new single on Epic entitled, So Long. "We do have high hopes for this," says Bjorn. "We have done Top Of The Pops so that is a very good start we understand."

The disc is written by Benny and Bjorn, as is

much of their material. Though Anna is also very busy, she avoids in writing. In her own country she records under her own name and has had plenty of success.

The record is the first taste of an Abba back to Britain campaign for they are very conscious of losing some of their popularity by being away so long.

Benny says. "We would like to concentrate on Britain. The whole world watches what happens here, and they should be then they all want to know. And we do like it here, very much."

"Unfortunately, when you have a Eurovision winner and a big seller like Waterloo, it means travelling everywhere, promoting that one disc, and you have danger in forgetting how you must still tell everyone about your other records. There is the problem of time."

Immediately the New Year opens, Abba are touring in Scandinavia and then they should be with us once again. They hope this visit will coincide with news of So Long being at the top of our record charts.

Anna says. "It would be marvellous to be there again. We do hope so." For a time while we've been talking, some of Abba's tiredness has gone, but it's only momentary. The waiter changes the tablecloth, there is a phone call, and the work feel disappears for a time while we're

So we call it a day. Around us frantic activity continues. As Benny says. "It's like the business, and we have to watch that we're not always working. Our holiday is getting closer!"

THE BOWIE HISTORIC

DEARSANTA.
Hope you're not too blinged up with snow to get a little bunch full of goodies over to our part of town. We're having a party and need a few extra gifts for some special guests. Only the best brands will do since these people are quite discerning and of course those who have chosen are not without taste. . .

WENDY HODGSON

OK RUDOLF, keep you snler's on! Mrs. Claus has just finished polishing the sleigh so we can be off now. Just a wee dash of laquer on my beard like so, then we can away into the night to give Judge Dread his very special present.

Brrr! It's cold enough to freeze the ballons off a monkey tonight! And what's more this damn universe is getting to look more like an earbaling's slag heap every day. I could earn a bomb organising a guided tour of outer-space. On the right we have Apollo, he making his way to the moon. Well hello there, Neil Armstrong! On the left we have one of many satellites throws out and left here so Japan can watch Tom and Jerry on TV. Wooh ease up Rudolf, we're arrived!

Where's the package? Right won't be two shakes of a cat's whisker! "Don't Die what a stee! It's that really Judge Dread? Well I'm sure he'll appreciate Santa's little gift — a ringed, plastic, sweat suit! Instruction: Right your way into this astronaut looking suit which binds tightly at your wrist and ankles. Climb back into bed, lie down and seconds later you will begin to sweat your fat away! You're guaranteed a sylph (7) like figure or a six month contract starring in the Planet of the Apes!

DAVID HANCOCK

WELL, BLOW me down, it was hard enough trying to think how much to give the newspaper boy, but also how many bottles of whisky the immediate

family wanted. So how can people like Elton John stand a chance!

Wait a minute though. I suppose you could always give him a pair of contact lenses, until he can see his way clear of all the lit bastards. Then, of course, there's three new wives for three old Beatles. I'm sure they'd come in handy — Paul knows it's cheaper than paying an extra band member.

But really it should be something personal, something from the heart. So judging by the success of Steve Harley's last single, how about giving him a nice white luxury towel. . . to throw in, of course. Ouch! That's not the right spirit!

Blitching aside (calm down out there), I think one red rose every day for a week should be sent to Dingo Tex, for daring to outrage an already outraged public, for making the most infectious single of the year, for being as bad as Top Of The Pops really is, for making posours out of date, and yet . . . bringing it all on home.

MARTIN THORPE

THE FESTIVE season is upon us once again, a time for giving and taking, you scratch my back and I'll scratch yours, or we can work it out in Hitchcock Park.

So what would I give as presents to those in the public eye, those with their head in the stars and a grin on their face — Starry Eyed and Laughing? Well to begin with, which is a good place to start, how about a large chunk of humility and a box of paracetamol pills for Steve Harley, the furthest away of all stars. He could even have a spot on the Sky at Night talking about the Pie he often sees up there.

And there should be plenty of room for Gary Glitter to get his platform boots through the General Hospital studio door — certainly the fastest recovery since John Wayne bought it in Sagecoach, and Billy Bremner realised they weren't allowing the trainer on the pitch.

Now at Christmas I don't like to give money, it takes the surprise away besides making your hands sore. But if there's one body I would give money to it would be the BBC, because if cutbacks continue on the present scale the radio scene could take on a dramatic change. How about nineteen questions; My Top Two Songs on Sunday; Desert Island Disc; Haig instead of Johnnie Walker.

SUE BYROM

AS I write this, not having done any Christmas shopping. . . a big kiss to the staff for such valiant work (a little more next year perhaps) — no, a stirring effort, really) over the last six months. A big single for Rufus who've nearly made it this year, and should do next year. . . a new diet book for Gary the old one doesn't seem to be working too well. . . a huge thank-you to all the record companies, P. B.'s, and rest of course, for making it a great six months on the paper (well, it is the season of good-will). . . a new joke book for Tony Bill Okburn as his own seems to be wearing the patience of even his dearest fans. . . and a big T-shirt for Kenny Everett's business for making waking-up an almost acceptable experience!

JAN ILES

If I were Santa I'd first of all like to give the Rollers a well-deserved Christmas good that would come in very useful during their lonely nights on the road.

I'd sneak into their bedroom on Christmas Eve while they were all fast asleep in their wee Slumberland's, deposit in each stocking an inflatable doll (made out of 1/10 material, complete with bicycle pumps. The delectable dolls would be voluptuous when blown-up (around the 38-36 mark) and have faces as flawless as Bardot. That way the lads could enjoy a bit of female company without their manager getting his knicks in a twist! Then, with Rudolph at my side, I would make another house-call. My victim this time would be the crumptonous Sue Byrom (Editor of R & PM). Her gift would be a vibrator machine, specially designed for "hippy" ladies in need of a trim. She could use it in the office and wobble away her unwanted inches to become a thinner, slicker version of her former self.

PETER HARVEY

WE INTERRUPT this list of Christmas presents to bring you the Queen's speech, read of course by Elton John, who is new at this very moment entering this paper by way of a trap door on page three. Elton is wearing a given you Christmas-edged with ermine and a pair of cognac-sheriff-immo's spectacles with matching earrings.

Other members of the royal family are shuffling in the snow walking with scarcely hidden jealousy for the star of the show. Some of the Courts' former pretenders to the throne are also here, though they would perhaps not wish to be recognised.

On the front row there's Bowie wearing black on his face and a suit with "Bowie" written all over it. We'll give him five years on a tobacco plantation just to get his discs sorted out. Oh and there's Marc Bolan, sharing the same bag of cherries. He looks just like what works model of himself. Never mind, he can have a year's subscription to Psychic News.

Next to him, and craning forward in his seat, is David Essex. He appears to lack for nothing but we're sure when it's all over he'll give of a hot water bottle. Then there are those Bay City Rollers, for each of them a night out with someone who's never heard of them. And finally, they can have a set of fairground mirrors to see themselves in. The Curzon really are, and Queen, the Curzon carries of course.

WHERE WERE YOU IN '68

'68 WAS a very good year - so was '67 for that matter! As you may or may not know a lot went on, but the question is: Were you around to see it all happen, or had you missed out that year completely? Try your hand at our fun quiz and learn your whereabouts during the year of '68!

1. Love Affair had a number one hit with:
 - A Rainbow Valley?
 - B One Road?
 - C Everlasting Love?
2. How many weeks did Manfred Mann's The Mighty Quinn stay at number one:
 - A One week?
 - B Two weeks?
 - C Four weeks?
3. On which recording label was Lady Madonna by the Beatles released:
 - A Parlophone?
 - B Apple?
 - C Polydor?
4. The Hollies had a number 7 hit in '68 with:
 - A Charlie Amey?
 - B Jennifer Eccles?
 - C Bus Stop?
5. The Move had a number three hit with:
 - A Blackberry Way?
 - B Mrs Bridges?
 - C See My Baby Jive?
6. How many weeks did Baby Come Back (Equals) remain at number one:
 - A 3?
 - B 2?
 - C 1?
7. On which record label was Louis Armstrong's Wonderful World released:
 - A Philips?
 - B Decca?
 - C Stateside?
8. Which is the highest position Love Child (Diana Ross and The Supremes) reached:
 - A 15?
 - B 10?
 - C 5?
9. Which Simon and Garfunkel record reached number four in the charts, and stayed there for six weeks?
 - A Homeward Bound?
 - B Mrs. Robinson?
 - C The Boxer?
10. Which Beach Boy number reached number one in '68?
 - A Do It Again?
 - B Good Vibrations?
 - C I Can Hear Music?



HOW TO SCORE

(1) a equals 2, b, 1; c, 3. (2) a, 2; b, 3; c, 1. (3) a, 3; b, 2; c, 1. (4) a, 2; b, 3; c, 1. (5) a, 2; b, 3; c, 1. (6) a, 3; b, 2; c, 1. (7) a, 2; b, 1; c, 3. (8) a, 3; b, 2; c, 1. (9) a, 1; b, 3; c, 2. (10) a, 3; b, 1; c, 2.

10 OK, where were YOU in '68? With a score like this you must have been in the dark hole of Calcutta leading the life of the proverbial hermit! Perhaps this was the year you spent in the local nursery / monastery, trying to escape the worldly affairs such as pop music? Boo, geronzi you miserable wotsit - get back to the kennel in the backyard!

7-9 You ol' swanker! You reckon you were at every event, in every place, every day of '68? And the proof of the pudding is that you weren't. Your ears wagged only when they wanted to hear gossip, otherwise they sealed up because you just wasn't interested! Perhaps you were too busy watching the box.

5 and over Don't know whether to call you a nosy or a knowing person. Boy, if any thing was going on in '68 you were around to see it, hear it, taste it and even smell it. 'Twas the year when you knew everything about everybody right down to the hairs on Cliff Richard's chest. Just like to know what or who fascinated you so much throughout '68?



THE HIGH point of Christmas for the pop fan is definitely on Christmas Eve. Both Radio One and BBC 2 are combining to bring to you live the Elton John Christmas Show from Balmorismouth. It begins on Radio One at 9.00 in stereo, and simultaneously on the Old Grey Whistle Test introduced by Bob Harris. The Radio One show is Christmas Gear, introduced by John Peel.

Top of the Pops on Christmas Day (BBC 1) is hosted by Jimmy Saville and Tony Blackburn. Artists appearing include Abba, Charles Aznavour, Ken Boothe, David Essex, Platts, Paper Lace, The Osmonds, Sweet Sensation and The Three Degrees.

Boxing Day at 10.30 in the morning brings the Beatles and Help back to your screens. Great pity the BBC don't dig up the Magical Mystery Tour one year.

Talking of films, the Graduate takes to the air on Monday 23rd, starring Dustin Hoffman and Anne Bancroft. That's at 9.20 in the evening.

Friday 27th is when Top of the Pops comes back at 8.20 with more number one hits from the last year. John Denver, Carl Douglas, Gary Glitter, George Macrae, Mud, Pansy People, Suzi Quatro, Rubettes, Alvin Stardust and Ray Stevens are the guests introduced by Dave Lee Travis and Noel Edmonds.

If you can't help wonder at those Osmonds, Monday 23rd at 6.05 sees the repeat of the highlights of the group's series of live concerts staged at the Television Theatre in Shepherd's Bush earlier this year. Noel Edmonds introduces the 50 minute show of mass hysteria, and it has to be seen to be believed.

Moving ahead to January 2nd, Top of the Pops returns with the first normal show of 1979.

All of these shows, except the Elton John Christmas Show are on BBC 1.

Radio One is giving their tribute to the Omadams at 3.00 pm on Christmas Day with a two hour show recorded at the families home in Utah. 'We're having a Party' includes tracks from the new Omadams album, plus their own favourite tracks.

Caroline Comment - Your replies

GOODNESS ME, what a response we had from you in Dorset would prefer to see the music policy change slightly so that up until 10.00 pm the records are similar to those played on MI Amigo.

John Owen from Grays in Essex was one of many of you delighted to hear Dave Owen back on the radio again, and John noticed a positive betterment of the music policy after our feature went in the paper. Philip Cox from Leamington in Warwickshire feels that the station has lost a great deal of its drive and ambition since the ship came over to the English coast. One are the days

David Morris from Poole in Dorset would prefer to see the music policy change slightly so that up until 10.00 pm the records are similar to those played on MI Amigo. John Owen from Grays in Essex was one of many of you delighted to hear Dave Owen back on the radio again, and John noticed a positive betterment of the music policy after our feature went in the paper. Philip Cox from Leamington in Warwickshire feels that the station has lost a great deal of its drive and ambition since the ship came over to the English coast. One are the days

What's In the air

LAND-BASED pirate, Radio Invicta, the soul music station serving London and South-east, is broadcasting on Boxing Day from 6.00 am to 10.00 pm on 92.4 stereo VHF and on 385 metres Medium Wave. Disc Jockeys include Roger Tate, Tony John, Alan Brown, Dave Benson, Roy King, Crispian St Peter and John Hardy. Programmes include special interview with the Detroit Emeralds.

LBC is certainly in the Christmas spirit this year. High points for the show biz fan are as follows. Christmas Day from 3.30 to 4.00 Tony Palmer and Sarah Dickenson talk to the stars, followed by an interview with Rolf Harris for an hour.

Boxing Day from 11.00 till 1.00 in the afternoon, Holiday 75 looks at the places and prices you can't afford next year. Half an hour later, Tony Palmer picks his own



choice in records for 60 minutes. And many more goodies for the holiday period!

Capital Radio on Christmas Eve, Nicky Horne for three hours hosts the station's Christmas Party. Next morning from 8 till 10, Kenny and Cash have a Christmas Cracker. Richard Attenborough plays Queen at 6.00 for an hour.

The high point of Capital's Christmas must be David Symonds on

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The high point of Capital's Christmas must be David Symonds on

of Mike Hagler, Mike the Poet, Samantha Dubois and Mickie Mercer. Philip also remarks with some surprise that reception of Capital Radio fades in the late evening!

Mark Coburn from Stoke-on-Trent agrees with Tony Allan in trying to play more soul music whereas Trevor Haynes from Peterborough would like Caroline to go straight into competition with Luxembourg and Radio One. This is not a view Trevor shares with many other readers.

Mr Maiseur from Plymouth in Devon seems to sum the whole thing up when he says that Caroline has been aiming for more intelligent people. Talk of LA and DA is rather odd, but the heads of young Gary Glitter fans.

Since we included the Caroline Comment feature on these pages, Roman has told us that he has had a change of heart, and now instead of the heavy album tracks, he has let the disc jockeys become more flexible. Now the policy is to play superior tracks, whether from an album or single.

I am sure all of our readers would join us at 8.6 PM in wishing Roman and Caroline all the very best for 1979, and thanking them for all of the pleasure they have given for so many years.

DAVE JOHNS

Everett takes a holiday

KENNY EVERETT takes a holiday from Capital Radio, starting on Christmas Day, and for three weeks he'll be looking over his new home in Devon.

December 28th just happens to be Everett's birthday, and straight after his Christmas Cracker show on 530 metres, he'll be motoring away from the city. From our records, Everett has had a total of seven shows in the last three years, ranging from Cowfold in Sussex via London, Lincolnshire, Weymouth, back along the M4 to London, and now out along the M40 to the Gloucestershire and Wiltshire hills.

From the look of Everett, he needs a holiday from Capital!

Have a Wizzard Christmas

IF ROY Wood was on piece rate he'd be one of the richest musicians in the country.

But what he's got to show for his endeavours apart from an obvious sense of fulfillment, is four albums, a chart single and an ulcer. It's there inside him as testimony to the endless chain of recording, touring and interviews he gets through in a year.

"I suppose four albums a year plus the singles is quite a lot when you're on the road as well."

Roy reckoned with massive understatement. "I spend most of my spare time in studios, hoping to stockpile material so that I don't have to worry about recording when we return to the States in March.

"The ulcer's not a big dodgy thing, there's only one and the doctor said if I look after it it'll be okay. I know not drinking so much," he added swigging down his third or fourth miniature bottle of Chateau Brainsby champers.

"The ulcer doesn't really interfere with my work, though after four days in the studio it tends to catch up on you and I have to spend a day in bed to recover."

HEALTHY

Roy and Wizzard have just returned from a healthy US tour, they've been back about four weeks and already they've played some scattered UK dates to coincide with their Christmas single Are You Ready To Rock, not to be confused with the re-release by another record company of I Wish It Could Be Christmas Every Day.

"It was rather pointless of EMI to release that single as the BBC turned it down because it was an old hit and it hinders our current stuff. It's the same with those three compilation albums they released of the Move, ELO and Wizzard because people see them in the shops and buy them instead of our current stuff because they're easier to get into."

"The reaction to Eddie

and the Falcons could have been better, but people tended to react too much against the rock and roll nostalgia and not to the humour."

"The humour — the custard pies on Top of the Pops, the parody of old rock and rollers, the graced-up image for Eddie — is of course all part of the whole Wizzard thing, as is Roy Wood Ltd, dye works and clothing manufacturers. The intruding garb acts as a mask for Wood, a naturally shy and nervous man.

"I used to be shyer than I am, and it's helped me being thrust to the front with Wizzard. But I couldn't have done it as me, that's another character in the make-up on stage, someone to hide behind.

"But it's easy working with a bunch of jobboes like Wizzard, they always shout out or sing up if I dry up because I still find it very difficult to communicate with an audience.

"That's why I don't really want to go solo, though I am doing a solo concert in February if everything works out. I suppose I'll be nervous because there will be no-one to fall back on."

The critical acclaim for Wood's first solo album was prodigious, even though he fell on its release, three years after it had been recorded, the album was a bit old hat. At the moment he is working on his second solo to be called Mustard, but a dispute is holding up some of the tracks.

"I've got more tracks than I really need, but I can't do a thing until the disputed tracks are cleared. I'll have a single out as well, which isn't under dispute, called Oh What a Shame."

Wood reckons this

album will be in much the same vein as Boulders, with the man himself demonstrating his amazing multi-instrumental talents.

"I don't usually say how many instruments I can play because I don't want to appear flash, but I can play quite a few. I started off just playing guitar and played some sax and a bit of oboe on some Move stuff.

"When we got ELO together I didn't play a guitar for two years. I was playing cello all the time. If I'm left to my own devices I can pick up most instruments, but not when people start getting into the technicalities.

"If I have to play oboes on a session I'll lock myself away in a room for half an hour to sharpen up and learn the bit I've got to do. My best instrument is the bass and I enjoy playing the drums — if I'm not drunk.

The best instruments of the more unusual variety are the bagpipes.

~~~~~

*'I used to be shyer than I am'*

~~~~~

oboe and cello. The rest I just use on sessions."

Wood's fascination with the bagpipes started from the Going Down The Road single, as he wrote them into the current Are You Ready to Rock release. "I thought it would be a nice idea to have something strange going on and bagpipes are strange. I suppose I've become quite interested in them really, though they're not very reliable, but I'm getting a bloke to the studio to give me tips on how to look after them."

OVERLAPPING

The career of Roy in this country has taken some definite steps, though there is at times some overlapping distinction about which hand he is with. In America the distinction is less clear. Last time they saw Roy he was in the Move and that was a long time ago, but nonetheless, Roy reckons Wizzard went down very well.

"Yeah, it went very well in the States. I'll say that. I will say it. People in this country may have got the wrong impression because the only gig reported in depth happened to be a bad one at the Academy of Music in New York.

"An audience over there is much more patriotic to a band and the crowd there were mainly Black Oak Arkansas supporters. We were originally booked in the Bottom Line but it was just too small, we'd have blasted the walls down and I'd be standing on top of the drum kit."

"So we moved not realising that Black Oak were so strong. That was one of four bummers, which were all support dates.

"Overall though, they seemed to enjoy what we were playing, and the make-up went down well in the places we tried it. At one place in New Jersey, the Joint in the Woods, we were due to play for an hour and ended up playing for two, it was really great."

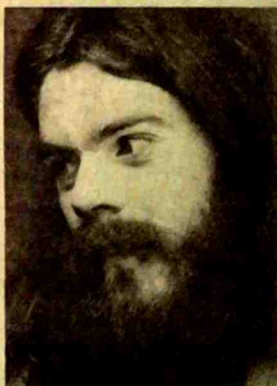
"Everyone was obviously interested in the Move, especially the press because they've got a sort of cult following there, but audiences didn't shout out for Blackberry Way or anything like that."

While he was in the States Roy came face to face with some of his all-time heroes: Carl and Brian Wilson of the Beachboys invited him and Wizzard's two sax players over to record.

DRUNK

"I played drums but I was really drunk and I reckon I was pretty bad, and I don't know if it's going to be released because I wasn't in a fit state to ask."

Before Wizzard return to the States they are hoping to do a free concert in their home city of Birmingham in aid of the bomb victims. Originally it was intended for Christmas but everywhere was booked, and after their experience in New York they didn't want a place too small. Throwing custard pies is one thing, knocking down walls is another.



HAVE YOURSELF A...

STAR-SPANGLED

WHAT ARE you doing this Christmas, how are you spending those once-a-year days of food, drink, and television which no-one would miss for the world?

Most people will be sitting at home with their families stuffing themselves full of nuts and beer and turkey and everything else that goes to make up Christmas.

And the stars aren't much different either, they spend Christmas in very much the same way as anyone else, stuffing themselves full of nuts and beer and turkey.

Gary Glitter hasn't as yet made up his mind what he's doing over Christmas. "I'm tempted to head for the sun or to go on a skiing holiday," he says. "Last year I was in the Bahamas. I would like to spend Christmas with my kids and I think I probably will. Because I'm divorced I see very little of them and Christmas is a family time."

"My friends and I have decided not to buy expensive presents this year. It got completely out of hand last year. Mind you I found a winner. Electric nail files! I bought hundreds of them but this year we've all decided to spend no more than a couple of quid and find something really unusual. Probably won't work out though because I never get time to shop!"

Meanwhile Steve Priest of Sweet will be spending Xmas at home with his wife and daughter. "Just relaxing and stuffing



myself silly!"

"We'll have to make it very Christmassy this year because our little girl's at the age where toys and parties mean a lot, but I won't go as far as dressing up as Santa Claus, unless it's absolutely necessary."

For me, Christmas is a time to relax and just sit at home watching telly."

It's a shame that people can't carry on the goodwill towards man feeling into the New Year, the world would be a much happier place to live if they did."

Colin Fairley of String Driven Thing revealed that his 24th birthday is on Christmas Eve. "So me and the missus will probably go out and celebrate. I'm a Scotlan and usually celebrate Hogmanay, but this year I'll be staying in England, so it's all down to a traditional Christmas for me."

Then on the 28th it's our singer Kimberley's birthday so that'll serve

as a good excuse for yet another booze-up."

Russ Field of Showaddywaddy will be going home to Leicester to spend Christmas with his family. "You know, plenty of decorations, a huge tree, lots of presents and Christmas pud, that and kind of thing."

"My mum always spoils me when I go home, she makes lovely mince tarts and Christmas pud, so I'll more than likely put on a few extra pounds."

This year all the relations are coming to our place for a good old knees-up, so I'm reckoning on ending up peed again this Christmas."

George McCrae is going back to the States for Christmas to be with his wife and child. "It is a time to spend with your family," he reckons. "We celebrate Xmas in a big way like we put a large tree in the corner of the lounge and place all our presents around it. They say Christmas is really for the children, but admittedly I enjoy it just



as much as they."

Bill Oddie says: "It puts tremendous pressure on you when the whole family gets together in their own little groups. So this year we decided to have an open house - in an effort to lose ourselves - so our Christmas will be spent with lots of friends."

"I'm enjoying Christmas much more now that I've two little girls!" he continued. "I can see Christmas through their eyes and consequently I enjoy them enjoying it!"

"I like receiving articles of clothing as presents!" laughs Hill. "Ideally I like to be pleasantly surprised by something silly and colourful, something which I wouldn't dare buy myself!" The mind boggles!

Tim Brooke-Taylor will be spending Christmas at home with his family, but he'll also be visiting parents up in the North. "We're going to have a nice quiet Christmas this year, nothing big, just a

peaceful occasion together."

Actually I quite enjoy the week after Christmas because you can have a nice long rest while the children play with their toys. It's nice too because you start finishing the left-overs of turkey, mince pies, fruit, nuts and everything else."

The present I'd most like to receive - but which I won't - is one of these telly machines which plays tennis. "There's no harm in wishing is there?"

Graham Garden will also be at home this Christmas with his



family. "We haven't anything special lined up," he says. "We normally visit both sets of parents. We won't be having many friends round this year - just a few thousand that's all!" Someone's gonna have a great time aren't they?"

Hello, the four young lads who've brought second-time-round success for Tell Him, will be looking forward to dozens of parties.

Drummer Jeff Allen reckons they see each other for the best part of the holiday because there's so many parties going on.

"I like Christmas because it's a good excuse to gorge lots and lots of goodies (no, not the above mentioned males). We all have Christmas dinner at home with our families and then we shoot off in the rave-ups and enjoy the booze!"

When Neil Sedaka leaves London on December 30 he will be heading for his beautiful and peaceful retreat amongst the snow capped mountains of New York State.

He'll be there with his wife and children, sitting on the newly laid blankets of snow. Lucky devil!

The McCartney mob are already in the States - New York - with Linda's dad, or Paul's father-in-law, where

WINGS



they'll be spending the forthcoming yuletide. It will be very much a family occasion, as the McCartney's have lots of relatives over there, and once they get together, well it's an instant party. Bet there'll be lots of merry making going on there!

Three months ago Barry Blue got married, but because of work pressures he never had time to take a honeymoon. So on December 12 he managed to find time to escape with his wife to America, where they'll be spending their honeymoon come Christmas holiday. And Barry will also be fitting in some time to do some recording there too!

Now what's Roy Wood doing? Have one guess and no doubt you'll be right. It's been announced that hard working Roy Wood will be spending Christmas in the studio, no doubt eating a hamburger with a bit of holly stuck on top!



Geoff Britton of Wings, is desperately looking for social work over the festive season. If anybody knows of any old folks, young kiddies or anyone alone who needs looking after in the London area, then he'll be pleased for further details. Now that really is a marvellous gesture on Geoff's behalf!

"We'll be slagging off Sweet this Christmas," reckons Ray of Mud jokingly.

"If Christmas is true to form, I shall probably spend it in bed," says Dave. "No, I shall spend it home with Mum and Dad, getting drunk, and doing Knees Up Mother Brown and Oke Kokie."

Ray: "I shall spend it with my in-laws and watch Bill do his world famous tap-dance on hardboard. He's my father-in-law. We get out a Fairport Convention record - a bit of the old jive 'y'know - and he's out of his head saying 'right

out with the hardboard'. It's classic now. He's been doing it for about ten years."

Dave: "Boxing Day round at Ray's is Bill singing 'army yesterday man!' to the record." (stands up and screams): "Yes mar friends that's what I am! Can we have another drink?"

Rob: "I shall be staying in my new house."

Ray: "We all go round Rob's house to laugh at his Uncle Len who comes around blowing his trumpet."

Ray: "Oh it's great Christmas, rough and ready and a good laugh. It sounds like it."

But David Essex plans to spend a more relaxing Christmas with his feet up at home, resting with his wife Maureen and three year old daughter Verity - that is even though he's appearing on Top of the Pops and the Cilla Black Christmas show.

The Bay City Rollers will be doing much the same, spending Christmas at home with their parents. Derek and Alan will be with their Dad in Edinburgh waiting for the day when they can buy him a new house for Christmas.

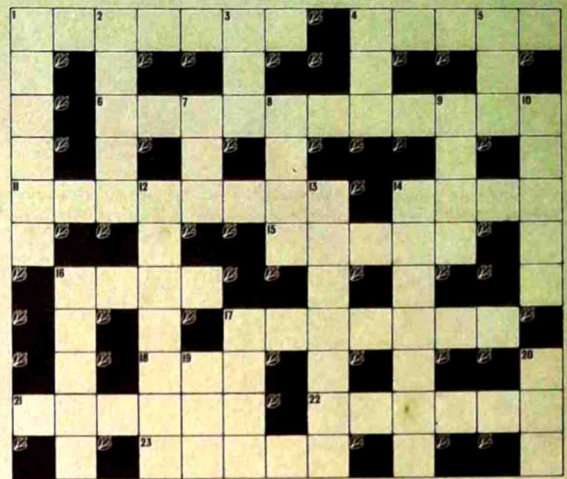
Woody will be with his family and hoping that Father Christmas will bring him a cure for his allergy to animals - he comes out in spots. Eric is planning to spend Christmas in his hideaway cottage somewhere in Scotland - no-one's letting on exactly where - and wishes he could write a number one hit for Christmas.

And like most of the band, Les, hoping for ANOTHER Ford Mustang, will be pulling the crackers with his family and relations. And who else is spending a quiet Christmas with his parents but Elton John.

"Usually I have a crowd of people round for Christmas, but I don't really want the responsibility of that this year," explained Elton. "I'm just going to sit with my feet up and watch lots of television."

O. K. YOU'VE stuffed yourself full of the good things in life, and you want to do nothing very much for a while. Still, the old brain keeps ticking away, so to tide you over this lull, Martin Thorpe

has devised a small but devious crossword to engage your mind. Answers, for those who need them, can be found on page 18.



ACROSS

- 1 Spark of recognition.
- 6 David's home county?
- 6 Major Tom.
- 11 Spectacles.
- 14 Ferry Music.
- 15 and 16 Lucy's revolver.
- 17 Bo the axeman.
- 18 Beck - ? Not a drink, just an album.
- 21 Happy Rod.

DOWN

- 1 Floyd oldies.
- 2 Holder of records.
- 3 Record company.
- 4 Bright band?
- 5 Graham the Seeker.
- 7 Diamond doctor.

- 22 Yes, Rick was one.
- 23 Candy band.

- 8 Mott's drummer.
- 9 Metal Butter fly.
- 10 Roger McGuinn was one.
- 12 What's out? Alice isn't.
- 13 Album with the meekest.
- 14 Skating up the charts.
- 16 Little lad of Liverpool fame.
- 17 Dan, but not Stoney.
- 19 Making the impresario grade.
- 20 Alphabetical record label.

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MUD

DONNY

SLADE



CHARTING '74

The singles which hit high ... and the ones which missed

MERRY XMAS EVERYBODY sang Slade right into February. For them it was the beginning of an incredibly successful year, as one hit followed another and they ended '74 with *Far Far Away*.

Their success story wasn't that of Sweet or T-Rex and even it seemed, at one point, that of the Osmonds, but the American team plus single hits from Donny, Marie and Jimmy did succeed in the end and upset those who said they were finished as a singles charting force.

David Essex was another singer who had us wondering when America failed to make expected chart position but we know his incredible Autumn tracking and winter chart performance.

The first chart of '74 saw Slade at number one but perhaps more interesting was the Philly sound beginning a chart onslaught and an amazing Top 50 occupancy from the CBS record company with a solid string of hits.

Harold Melvin was at 42 as Billy Paul, 48 and CBS Philly was on the way. January 19 saw Sweet enter with a smash at 6 with *Teena* and Rampage, perhaps the last really big singles smash likely from the present line-up but time will tell.

Lulu had a sudden chart return on January 26 with the Bowie produced number, *The Man Who Sold The World*. Interestingly enough Bowie's album soon re-entered the album charts. Mud were beginning a month at the top though Steeleye were still around with Gaudele and Andy Williams caused some raised eyebrows when *Solitaire* made the Top 10.

And of course the Wombles, in at 36 and a new fan hysteria was under way Jonathan King under yet another name. Bubbie Rock began chart climbing with *I Can't Get No Satisfaction*. And there was Stealer's *Wheel* with a cautious chart entry. Star, Who remembers them now?

Barry White was also starting out well with *Never Gonna Give Ya Up* and there was Clifford T



DAVID ESSEX

Ward with Scullery at 49, just a glimpse of chart action from a talented gentleman.

Love Unlimited entered with *Love Theme* in the February 2 chart and Cilla Black was in as well with *Baby We Can't Go Wrong*. By mid-February Alvin was getting into his stride and gaining record strength to claim the male singer's crown for the year. *Jealous Mind* made 22 at first go.

Cher threatened a return to the big time with *Dark Lady* at 49 but more interesting in the girl success story was Lena Zavaroni. For a ten year old she met abuse from many quarters but public comments could not stem her enthusiasm and record success. Elton sang *Candle In*

The Wind Into The March 2 chart and the same week saw Freddie Starr, no less, move from 39 to 16. For many, one of 74s best records made an entry the same week, *Jet from Wings*.

Barry Blue was saying hello with *School Love* and there was the prospect, though short-lived, of a new US hit group, *Brownsville Station*, with their first hit being, *Smokin' In The Boys Room*.

Angel Face sang *The Glitter Hand* with rest on March 23 and there was a surprise 28 listing for the *Electric Light Orchestra* and *Ma-Ma Belle*. And for lovers of class there was the haunting ditty, *I'm Gonna Knock On Your Door* from Jimmy Osmond entering at 43.

And there was Nazareth and a punchy *Shanghaï* in *Shanghaï* but where these days are the once exciting *Nazareth*?

It was Dave Hill's birthday on April 4 and in the chart just before, March 30 there was Gary Glitter saying *Remember Me This Way*. And there was Sunny with *Doctor's Orders* and an incredible 42 to 23 jump plus another surprise, *Genesis* in the singles listing with a very commercial number, *I Know What I Like*.

April meant Eurovision and a triumphant *Abba*, and chart tasting by *Three Degrees* plus the *Cat Creep* in from Mud.

The intruders, *MFSB*, *Charlie Rich*, *Mott*, *Wombles*. *Abba* were just some of the CBS family in

chartsville and down at 50 the beginnings of a jumper from Jim Stafford and *Spiders & Snakes*.

Ah, David sang *If I Didn't Care* into the May 11 listing but David Bowie found life hard with *Rock And Roll Suicide*. There though at 2 from 27, the *Rubettes* with *Sugar Baby Love*. *Cockney Rebel* made 47 with *Judy Queen* and some saw *Sieve Harley* a new star, rather than a mixture of at least three other stars.

Sparks were going great with *This Town Ain't Big Enough* and *Harry Chapin* began a short spell with the lovely *W.O.L.D. Cowboy* and *The Man In Black* and *The Streak* from Ray, plus *Mungo's*, *Long Legged Woman Dressed In Black* plus *The "In" Crowd*

from Brian Ferry were around and how!

Even Cliff had a sudden big chart splash with *(You Keep Me) Hanging On* and *There's A Ghost In My House* from R Dean Taylor was but one of many successful Motown revivals.

Lobo finally tracked *I'd Love You To Want Me* into the charts, thanks to Jonathan King's chart entry on July 27 plus another big '74 group, of course, of course, *The Bay City Rollers*. Their disc was *Summerlove Sensation*.

Please Please Me sang David and for those staying for Britain's August rainfall, there was *Showaddawaddy*, *Stephanie de Sykes* & *Rain*, *Terry Jacks* back again, after the marvellous success of *Seasons In The Sun*, even if the latter lyric was hardly for bucket and spade adventures.

There was 10CC but most important, soul was beginning its chart occupancy with August 19 showing *K.C.* and the *Sunshine Band*, *George McCrae*, *Carl Douglas*, *Barry White*, *Hues Corporation* and the *Marvelous When Will I See You Again* at one.

By mid-September there was Ken Boothe making 49 with *Every-thing I Own* and 10CC with *Lilly Love* and success again for *Leo Sayer* with *Long Tall Glasses*. Our hearts warmed. *Kiki* had success and Peter Shelley said *Ge* *Baby*, he too had arrived, outside of his work for Alvin.

And there was the odd success of *Sylvia*, plus *Annie's Song* from *John Denver*. *Rod Stewart* back once more with *Farewell*. *Andy Kim* made it big and *Don Covay's* entry gave

pleasure for many as did *Brian Protheroe*, *Tymes*, *Paul Anka* and *Mike McGear*.

By the end of October we were slayed with *Killer Queen* and *Waiting From The Wombles* via *Minuetto Allegretto*. Short story and we were thinking they were from the US and Gary Shearston took a *Cole Porter* song, *I Get A Kick Out Of You* very high. From Europe came *Pepper Box* and by November 23 there was *Gary back* again plus *Elton* with a *Beate* song. *David Essex* had conquered all, including his critics and cynics and the group I forecasted would be a success in 1975 (way back last January's issue of *R.M.J.*) *Bachman Turner Overdrive* were riding up the charts, fast.

Rupe Edwards, *Wayne*, *Nazmo* and soul was with us again plus *Roxy* and *Suzi* doing another amazing success chart story and we were into December and then right up to the present.

Who missed the charts? It's brief and in numerical order, though not in preference but these should have made it: *Johnny Taylor* - I've Been Born Again; *The Whispers* - A Mother For My Children; *3 I Don't Know How To Say Goodbye*; *Maldwyn Pope*; *Landslide* - *Tony Clarke*; *5 Come And Get Your Love* - *Redbone*; *6 Angel Baby* - *Helmi Steady*; *7 Sweet Jane* - *Lonnie Lee*; *8 Takin' Care Of Business* - *Bachman Turner Overdrive*; *9 Tip Of My Tongue* - *Ellie Ni City In The Sky* - *Staple Singers*; *11 Na Na Hey Hey Kiss Him Goodbye* - *Blam!*; *12 Motor Cycle Dream* - *Black Alice*; *13 The Player Parts 1 & 2* - *First Choice*; *14 Fly Away* - *Russ Ballard*; *And number 15* - well, *Q&A's* for you to decide!

TONY JASPER

BAY CITY ROLLERS: not just a Summer Sensation.

SWEET: last big hit?

THE WOMBLES: fan hysteria.



PHIL'S ANNUAL SNOW FALL

THINK OF a Christmas single and the chances are that you'll think of Ring Crosby's White Christmas but think of a Christmas album and it's more than likely that you'll name "Phil Spector's Christmas Album".

Originally released as A Christmas Gift For You on his Philles outlet in 1963 it has become a word-of-mouth legend after the biggest false start in record history. On November 22, the annual date of release, President John Kennedy was assassinated in Dallas, Texas, and a mourning U.S. was in no mood to buy a seasonal "pop" album.

Thousands of copies of the "white elephant" lay unshipped in warehouses on the West Coast and it looked as if fate had conspired to sink without trace what Spector called his endeavour into something new and different for Christmas.

Its remarkable recovery from being a forgotten album to today's revered status is due to the months of work Spector lavished on the project onwards from July of that year.

His unrivalled track record of singles successes was unerringly turned into the smoother Christmas joy of the album.

Spector's work as a producer had begun. By the summer with his self-composed Teddy Bears' Hit To Know Him is to face him and progressed through various artists (Connie Francis, Gene Pitney, The Paris Sisters and Ben E. King) to the formation of his own label Philles Records, with a select roster of artists.

The hits had come thick and fast in 1962/63 - Da Doo Ron Ron, Then He Kissed Me, Be My Baby, You Aint Gotta Steal My Love, and more - and Spector's idea of transferring at least one recognisable rhythm or melody from the singles' hits of the artists to selected traditional Christmas material has never been equalled.

Sophisticated

Distinctive Spector patterns reappeared again in even more sophisticated settings. The so-called "stripperish" drum figure devised for The Ronettes, Be My Baby, appeared in slightly larger form on "The Snowman" track.

Despite numerous attempts to capture and copy Spector's "wall of sound" technique, it has become evident there is a magical formula with which to conjure it. The most obvious factors that can be recognised as contributing to it were Spector's manipulation of a unique combination of talents and the facilities he had at Gold Star Studios and in engineer Larry Levine.

Around him too he had gathered a host of young musicians, arrangers and writers who at that time were largely unknown, but were later to become super-talents themselves.

Arranger Jack Nitzsche as exciting a Spector discovery as the studio and Levine himself subsequently worked with rock luminaries like the Rolling Stones and Neil Young.

Flautist Leon Russell has become a major artist in his own right. Sonny Blount, who was introduced

BY
**ALEXANDRA
HURST**

to the music business by Spector - first as a salesman and then as resident percussionist - met his future wife Cher at a Ronettes session and formed with her an enormously popular vocal act.

It was Spector's will-power which trapped and held his artists' spirit and energy into total participation.

In some ways it must have been similar to the working nightmare of Spector's reputation as an eccentric genius was already pretty widespread, and there are numerous stories of Spector conducting business appointments in total darkness, or leaving with waiting business guests for hours on end while he shot pool in his games room.

Dictated

For the artists it was probably the same story, as much as they were part of the project, they were integral only to the degree dictated by Spector and it is unlikely any of them really knew the finished nature or extent of the work.

Phil Spector's Christmas Album, in fact, almost amounted to a swan song as far as The Crystals, Darlene Love, and Bobb B Soxx & The Blue Jeans were concerned. The tracks they subsequently recorded showed a declining enthusiasm on Spector's part and little in terms of commercial acceptance.

Only The Ronettes - particularly lead singer Ronnie (or Veronica) Bennetts - were groomed further, both in the



THE CRYSTALS

development of Phil's ideas and their own identity with the public. The Ronettes remained a potent force until the first months of '66, when they parted with Spector. Records and Spector's music business interests in general, they were removed from the map.

Ronnie re-emerged twice more under Spector's direction in 1969 and 1971, with the beautiful "Try Some, Buy Some" on Apple.

The Crystals managed two further releases in the first half of 1964. All Grown Up and I Wonder/Little Boy, but they careered to a halt, which lasted for some months, before recording two ill-fated singles for United Artists. Spector has judiciously re-signed them to tie in with the successful reissue of Da Doo Ron Ron.

Spector's use for Bobb B Soxx & The Blue Jeans was almost certainly ceased with the Christmas album.

The group was never a nominal lead singer, Bobby Sheen, has recorded several non-descript R&B singles since then, while the all-purpose Darlene Love - not only a vital part of the Blue Jeans, but lead voice on

several Crystals singles reaching that might be initially recognised. The Ronettes - has come full circle with Spector, recently signing with him as an artist and co-writer.

The effect of the Christmas album on the recording industry since its emergence over a decade ago is more far.

SOUL GOSSIP

JAVELINS in the studios last week to cut backing tracks for their forthcoming single Loving You Is Easy tentatively set for Feb 14 release. Eye Records organising a National Wheels Competition with a £200 prize for the winners. The finals will be held at Wigan Casino and regional heats already set are: West Midlands, Dudley on Jan 7, and E. Midlands, Coleville, Leics, on Jan 19 January 3 sees Tania release of Syretta's Your Kiss Is Sweet c/w How Many Days followed by Temptation's Happy People and re-issue of Jimmy Ruffin's I've Passed This Way before (both Jan. 10). January 10 sees James Brown's Funky President out with surprisingly NOT Funky President Part 2 on the flip but Lyn Collins disco hit Rock Me Again, And Again, And Again etc. Following week sees Polydor release Atlanta Rhythm Section's Doraville plus a new Eddie Holman single I Believe In Miracles. Eye's Disco Demand series have three new ones set for the New Year. First off there's The Chosen Few's Fossies out Jan 3 in a special sleeve with the Wigan Casino badge on the front and pics of Wigan dancers on the reverse. Next Jan 24 comes Jimmy Breedlove's Can't Help Loving You previously only available as a bootleg under the name Billy The Kid. Finally, and perhaps best of all, there's The Fugitive's stomping Human Jungle originally released on the Roulette label in 1967.

WOMBLING MERRY CHRISTMAS

Written by Mike Bani
Sung by The Wombles

Open your eyes
Look to the skies when
you're lonely
There will be
Stars shining for you
Sleepers awake
It's getting late
Snow if falling
The whole wise world is
Wombling too.
Chorus
All day long we will be
Wombling in the snow
We wish you a Wombling
Merry Christmas
All day long we will be
laughing as we go
We wish you a Wombling
Merry Christmas.
Under the ground
There is the sound of a
symphony



The lights are low
The fire is burning
Wombling through
I'll tune in to you

You tune in to me
We'll send a message into
the night.
Repeat chorus.

SONGWORDS

Don't miss
next week's
R&PM

It's ring out
the old, ring
in the new in
next week's
issue

**DAVID ESSEX -
Superstar of '74?**



**NODDY HOLDER
answers your
questions
A look at '74**

**ELVIS...
does life
begin at 40?**

**PLUS - CHARTS - COLOUR
POSTER - A-Z OF POP
and many more**

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POPSWOP MIRROR EACH
WEEK.

NAME

ADDRESS

A newcomer to the music scene but not unknown to the British public, Stacy Dorning is a charming person who has tried very hard to produce a successful album. It doesn't always come off mainly because of difficult songs which she has executed to the best of her ability. There are a few shaky moments in the solo spots, especially with songs like What A Wonderful World, My Colouring Book, and Over The Rainbow (which will belong exclusively to Judy Garland for many years yet). It's a sure thing that Catch A Falling Star and Tammy will provoke more than a few nostalgic tweaks. The most outstanding track is Ragtime Piano Joe into which Stacy throws herself enthusiastically, a good knees-up song. Another good track is Flame, a song about one of those naughty ladies! Stacy D shows promise and if she continues to sing there is no reason why in a couple of years she shouldn't turn out to be a competent singer. It's early days yet and difficult to pigeon-hole her, which is important, because of identifying an' all that - sniff. One thing, she's got WONDERFUL diction!!

M. K.

MARIA MALBAUK: Waltress In A Donut Shop (Reprise K54025)

Delightful title for a delightful album that incorporates a nice selection of material which vary in mood and tempo and collectively makes very good listening. Maria Malbausk has a pleasing voice which isn't lacking in innuendoes even when giving a zippy rendering of that number I'm A Woman (of Peg Lee fame). The album has undertones of light reggae which has Malbausk well. This is best shown in a couple of tracks called Sweetheart and Honey Babe Blues, which are jazz and blues respectively. It is such a relief to listen to an album that has managed successfully to avoid being either one or more of the artists' recent single successes, and folks, there's not a single in The Oasis in earshot! Only one track Oh Papa

could make the ears prick up to a few vibes of instant Maldaur. The whole album is a treat, and my favourite track is a beautifully executed traditional gospel song called Traveller's Shoes which uses pure and undiluted vocal. Try it, buy it, and see!!

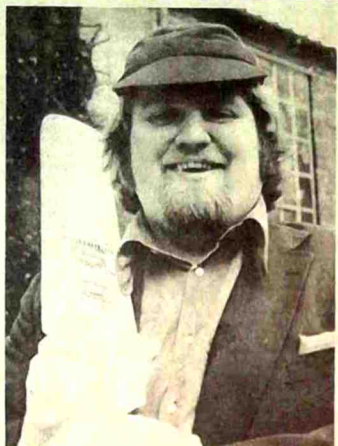
M. K.

MOTOWN DISCO CLASSICS VOL 3: Various Artists (Tamla Motown STM-L1278)

Not having any of the

previous four volumes, I can't say what selection of tracks have already been released, but all the 16 songs on this LP are taken from the 1964-1971 era, so they're not recent hits by any means. Still, many reckon on the oldies are the golden, so see what you think. Included are Uptight (Everything's Alright), Stevie Wonder, Psychedelic Shack, The Temptations, You Got The Love I Need, The Undisputed Truth, You Can't Hurry Love, Diana Ross & The

Albums



Supremes and It's A Shame, Detroit Spinners, S.B. JUDGE DREAD: Working Class ero (Trojan TRLS 100)

If you want a real lark, you've just gotta listen to Judge Dread's umph umph reggae, complete with Rugby styled lyrics. Most of those ruddy loona have double-meanings (which a mere schoolboy could grasp). Tracks like Take Off Your Clothes (written by Sarsted!) is about a guy who's trying to make it with a maiden. My daddy is a Priest, you know, sings Dread coyly, and I am not a beast you know, I just want to grope. This chirpy Cockney lad (he ain't a 16 stone Jamaican) has a very high falsetto voice for one so large, but he's most appealing when he sings in mock-African slang, especially on a Ska goodie The Big One, with ribald rhymes such as ride a cockhorse to Neadsen. Where a girl's idea of fun is to dance to reggae music And to play with Dread a big one. Mmm, well this is where I must exit. J.L.

CURTIS MAYFIELD: Got To Find a Way (Buddah HDLP 4029)

As there's only six tracks on this one the temptation is to assume that it's only half an album plus a lot of padding. Happily, the reverse is true and perhaps the weakest cut is the album's closer, Ain't No Love Lost which, at single length, seems uncomfortably com-

pressed alongside the lengthy but exquisite Mother's Son and Love Me (Right In The Pocket). The other short cut, A Prayer, which closes Side One is perhaps the album's strongest melody and would make a fine single. The rest is alternately lazy, funky and melodramatic featuring some fine sinewy guitar, a disciplined use of Norman Whitfield style strings and Curtis' inimitable and seemingly effortless vocals. Warm, complex and constant rewarding. G.D.

KEN BOOTHE: Everything I Own (Trojan TRLS 95)

The majority of the numbers on this album are slow and a bit average. It's disappointing, and apart from the title track and My Heart Is Like An Open Book the first side almost produced a yawn. A bad rendition of Impossible Dream was enough to make anyone stop mid-anything! I don't suppose many people have attempted to turn this good song into reggae, and I hope they won't laugh if it's going to turn out as badly as this has done. The second side is much better. Ken Boothe seems to have a better selection of songs that vary more in tempo, apart from Godfather which wasn't very successful. The only number that stands out is Time Passage, which is really good and worthy of Ken Boothe and reggae music. Unless you are a K.B. fan and a reggae fanatic you may find the album a little interesting.

M. K.

IF YOU'RE sick of hearing how this band and that intends to move mountains in 1975, consider the case of Ace.

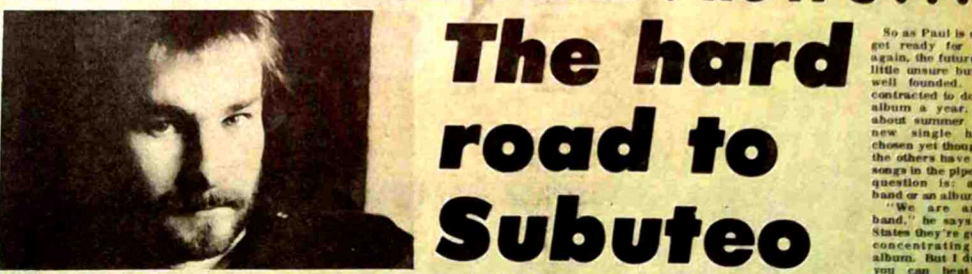
They started '74 as a gigging band, working as often as they could, and they finish in exactly the same position. A good record deal followed by a hit single and a very well received first album, have done little to change the London band. They're gigging right up to Christmas at the venues they've always played, and not until the New Year will they finally sit down and decide what to do.

All of them were at Anchor Records for rushed interviews last Wednesday but only a couple of hours could be spared before they trokked off to Bury St Edmunds for another gig in their non-stop schedule.

Paul Carrack looked just about all-in as he talked about the present state of the band. "We've been playing everywhere," he said slumping back in a deep leather couch. "The right night will be about the fifteenth in a row. It could have been disastrous but the gigs are going great, very enjoyable.

"You see, when the single came out it was bubbling under the charts

ACE A ROCK 'N' ROLL BAND? NO IT'S ...



PAUL CHARRACK talks to PETER HARVEY

and we didn't know whether it was going to go in or not. We don't have a big manager to put us on 140 a week and make us hold on, so we thought we'd better take all the bookings. We're a working band, so we've got to work to make money. Christmas is coming ..."

On their way to becoming a chart name, Ace have been through enough management hassles to disuade them from making the same mistakes again. They manage themselves with

the help of a secretary and Anchor Records, but Paul's unsure how long they can continue like this.

"We stop for a week over Christmas and we're gonna have to sit down and suss out what we're going to do. I suppose next year it will be more selective - we'll do only two or three gigs a week. And if we do get a manager, it's got to be the right one. Someone to stick it out with us."

Two or three gigs a week? God, that's a once-a-year tour schedule for most bands. Paul says Ace have a "gig" continue to be a gigging band.

road to keep it alive," he says, showing a slight Sheffield accent. "You've got to be on the road to find out what's happening. It's easy to be in London but you lose track. Then you go out into the sticks to play and people don't know what's happening ... Besides, we all enjoy playing too much. It's been great last year."

"These gigs have been really hard work and they could have been terrible but we've been playing consistently well and with more confidence. People are coming to check us out now because there's been a nice buzz in the Press. The Press and the airplay has been fantastic."

Whatever changes do go down next year, Paul maintains that Ace will remain basically the same band. They've already been labelled the ugliest band to go on Top Of The Pops. At one stage it was suggested that the silly crew would not shoot them close up because of this, but on their second appearance they were given "the treatment" and Paul believes people are getting used to their looks.

"Whatever happens," he says. "We won't sit down and say 'right it's about time we got some new suits' but probably if we're getting more money, we'll buy better clothes. We may use stage lighting to create

atmosphere, that's about all. The image is the music, that's the only image we've got."

One point he does refute is the alleged similarity between Ace and Average White Band: "I don't see it except maybe in How Long. They're a much tighter sound than we are - great band."

Ace's sound comes perhaps from the driving chord progressions that Paul lays down with ease in his compositions. "Barn's the man," he says talking of rhythm guitar player, Barn King. "Barn's Motown, he's the greatest. The whole thing is rhythmic. Everyone has to play in a rhythmic way, that's what it's all about."

So as Paul is judged to get ready for the road again, the future seems a little unsure but at least well founded. Ace are contracted to do just one album a year, the next about summer time. No new single has been chosen yet though he and the others have plenty of songs in the pipeline. The question is: a single band or an album band?

"We are an album band," he says. "In the States they're going to be concentrating on the album. But I don't think you can beat a good single, there's nothing like it; one that really sticks in your mind. It's the great singles that you remember." When they're good and ready they'll make another single, but they're not rushing anything.

He staggers to his feet, complains of "vo-as-ing", and admits that the early luxury boys do tend to indulge in it as a game of Subuteo after each gig. "We're football mad. That's what holds this band together. Before I used to have to repress my love of football because other group members might not be interested. Now it's there all the time. Of course, now we never get time to play football, so it has to be Subuteo ..."

THIS WEEK sees a very depleted singles column — Christmas madness having put a stop to the usual flow of records. These few pieces of vinyl that have trickled through are reviewed below, but there won't be a singles review page next week — due to entirely to absence of any records!

STEVIE WONDER: Boogie On Reggae Woman (Tama Motown TMG 454)

No stranger to anyone who has the Fulfillingness First Finale album, for that's where this rock comes from. For those who haven't yet had the pleasure, it's a bouncy tune with lots of harmonica and a good bass line running through it. Written, produced, arranged and knitted by Stevie, it's doing great business in the States, but somehow doesn't have quite the punch of some of his other numbers. It's a shame too, that there seems to be a growing trend to release a few too many tracks from one album as singles, be nice to see something completely new.

LEN BOOTHIE: Crying Over You (Trojan 1944)

From a reggae woman to a reggae beat, Ken Boothie's follow-up to Everything I Own doesn't have quite the same appeal. I'm sure it'll do quite well, and there's something playing going on in there between verses, but where's that hook? A couple of plays though, and your ears get used to the melody. Not unpleasant.

BONES: My One And Only (Jet 748)

Well, if there's one thing Lynsey De Paul

Singles

REVIEWED BY SUE BYROM



STEVIE WONDER

does. It's spread her talent around, because here she is taking writer and producer credits. The opening bars and quite a bit of the total feel of the record is a la Shangri-La's — especially all the sss noises and the ladies asking each other questions. Mix that up with some very recognisable L.D.F. touches like the castanet noises in the background and the high notes, and you've got yourself a

record. Must be a bit confusing for Bones, but the combined talents and sounds could well find a lot of appeal.

GLENN FRASER: Kumbaya (EMI 2340)

Kumbaya, as all good Cubs and Brownies will know, is a song traditionally sung round the camp-fire with the smoke getting in your eyes, and the latrines half a mile away at the bottom of a field. But now for

something completely different — this time it's full orchestral arrangement and Glenn Fraser doing the honours on solo bagpipes. Different? To complete the scene, flip the record over, and you've got yourself another little Christmas goodie — O Come All Ye Faithful and Good King Wenceslas — with full orchestral arrangement and solo bagpipes, match. Don't say we didn't warn you.



MAGICAL MERLINS

IT IS the end of a triumphant British tour for David Essex, but it is only the beginning for the supporting act Merlins, who drew virtually equal frenzied attraction from the crowds during their own performances.

They achieved the tremendous break-through of making the audiences forget that they'd really come to see the head-line artist throughout their 30 minute fast moving act of raw rock and the occasional heavy numbers. And they possess the manly charm and good looks that attract all pop conscious females. Merlins consists of vocalist and writer, Alan Love, Scully Waggoner on keyboards, Gary Strange on bass, Jamie Moses on lead guitar and David Wightwick on drums. Formed a little over a year ago, they started appearing in the small club circuits only to make a name for themselves and more important to entertain.

Since those days, Merlins have got through to more than 121,000 people because of the Essex tour. There weren't any doubts about failure before the

Interview: Wendy Hodgson

Reader's song" says Alan "which is very much a today song. I was thinking that it could be a smash hit all over again. It was re-recorded. In fact I did think of following it up but then I don't believe in that. I don't like going backwards in time. One must progress!

"I've ultimate belief in this band and I believe if we went into the heavy side we could become a respected heavy band. At the moment we're into entertaining people regardless of age or what cut they may be into.

"I believe I am a big proportion of Merlins and Merlins itself is an entity, not just one person. If any one of those five left the band then we'd have problems."

There is a far greater unity within the band since the DE tour. "In the earlier days we had a lot of strains and arguments over silly things" explains Alan "but now we're much tighter and closer."

Looking at Alan one can't help but notice the similarity between him and Roger Daltrey. "Wow, that's my hand up!" he laughs. "People may say I'm trying to act like Roger, but I'm not. I've had my stage show for years. Unfortunately if you happen to look like someone else, people start saying you're trying to take them off. To my way of thinking that would be the biggest way of killing yourself. You must form your own identity, you've got to be different and do what you feel."

Dave I suggest the vocal similarities between yours and Rod Stewart's voices? He laughs and exclaims. "You've noticed that too? I admire Rod's voice, but the modern idiom these days is to sing screamingly. If I sing soft or laid back I don't get what I want from it."

"I don't have a good voice," he continues "my biggest attribute is my stage work. I can do that well!"

All the same Alan Love has definite convictions for the group's progression in '75. "There's going to be a lot of things happening for us" he bubbles. "We shall issue a new single and there's talk of either a support or head-line tour. Personally we feel '75 is going to be our year — but then we said that at the beginning of '74."

Judging by the rumpus they caused during the 45 concerts on Essex's British tour, somehow '75 could well be their year.

DISCO

by DAVE JOHNS

Disc Jockey Who's Where?

IF YOU were wondering on where some of the top jocks are appearing this Christmas, take a look at the guide below.

Ed Stewart is appearing at Richmond Theatre from December 21st till Feb 1st.

Tony Blackburn is in Cinderella at Streatham from December 23rd till Jan 11th.

DJ T is at the Steam Machine in Hanley, Staffs

on January 3rd, and on the 6th he is at the Pier Pavilion in Worthing.

Nicky Horne is at the Mecca Dance Hall in Dunstable on the 30th of December.

Noel Edmonds does the Count Down disco on New Year's Eve in Wells Street, London.

That's all that's happening that we know of at the time of going to press. Happy Christmas!



A TIGERS TALE...

WHAT A stir was caused by the comments in this column recently, about the state of disco music in

Scotland. The thoughts from Tiger Tim at Radio Clyde about reggae and Ken Boothie weren't much appreciated by some of the crofters! In defence of poor wet Tiger, he was only speaking on his personal observations that at his discos, the audience like generally Gary Glitter and the Osmonds. It is a fact though that in Scotland, the "Black" music doesn't sell as well as further south.

and the national chart. One thing he does want to see more of is dee jay interviews, with the jocks talking about the gear that they use and the places they play at. Good news for all because in the next disco supplement we'll be talking to another top Beeb jock about what he's up to.

Enough toattering, what ditties has Dave picked for the chart?

- Disco Tex
- Barry White
- Javells
- KC and the Sunshine Band
- David Essex
- Zig-Zag
- Bachman Turner Overdrive
- Wayne Gibson
- Trammps

THIS WEEK'S chart comes from Dave Graham who runs Zodiac Discos in North Wales and the Merseyside area. Dave is one of the foremost jocks in his area, and his mobile work has graduated into quite a business as he now has two other jocks working for him. He thinks that Record & Popsowp Mirror is the best paper for him, not only because of the disco page, but also because of the singles reviews

- 1 Get Dancin'
- 2 How Long
- 3 You're The First, The Last, My Everything
- 4 Goodbye, Nothing To Say
- 5 Sound Your Funky Horn
- 6 Gonna Make You A Star
- 7 The Bump
- 8 You Ain't Seen Nothing Yet
- 9 Under My Thumb
- 10 Zing Went The Strings Of My Heart

Thanks for the charts, and we hope to be hearing from you again sometime soon. Ta.



band commenced the tour in November. Blame curly haired Alan said: "We went into it with the idea that we'd do reasonably well. We all know our limitations and we know we're a good enough band to prove something musically."

Merlins have not found a direction to head in. "We're not sure what category we'll slip into until we get a hit record," explained Alan. Their two releases Let Me Put My Spell On You and Wild Cat were never accepted by the public. "Consequently," says Alan "I feel that our future records and tours will reap the benefits as a result of the recent David Essex tour."

The musical ability of the band is extremely high, they are all self-taught musicians who are capable of tackling various types of music and producing it with powerful and promising results. But until they get their break there's nothing more the band can do. "I was listening to an old

POP, WHE AM HERE

IF YOU'RE sick of old uncle Angus and his "Christmases were different when I was a lad" tales at least you can escape on Boxing Day because there are a number of gigs scattered around the country. Of course, the "giants" have all retired to their baronial halls but there are still lots of amazingly good gigs during the break.

Even if there are few live gigs in your area there are still the good old discos who keep on truckin' to help you dance off your overdoze of turkey and god, so get out there and make the most of the holiday.

THURSDAY
December 26
SASSAFRAS, Queen's Hall, North
NORTHERN SOUL CLUBS ROAD SHOW, Vikings Hotel, Airmyn Road, Gode
CISSY STONE, Barbarella's, Birmingham
COASTERS, Bath's Hall, Southorpe
BROTHER LEE'S, The Tavern, Great Yarmouth
KILBURN & THE HIGH ROADS/FOENIX, Hope & Anchor, 207 Upper Street London N1
KEN BROTHER, Locarno, Birmingham
THE DOGS, Newlands Tavern, 40 Stuart Road, London SE15

SANKOFA DANCE, GROUPE/BOMBAYO, Rainbow, 22 Seven Sisters Road, London N4
ROCKY RHODES SHOW, Tiffany's, Shrewsbury
LIGHT FANTASTIC, Golden Diamond, Sutton in Ashfield
JIMMY HELMS, Cavendish, Blackburn (until Saturday)
BROTHERLY LOVE, Baileys, Derby (until Saturday)
PAPER DOLLS, Baileys's, Hanley (until Saturday)
GRAND SLAM, Brecknock, 227 Camden Road, London NW1
BENEFIT, Lord Nelson, 100 Holloway Road, London N7
LEE ROSMIN BAND, Dog & Bull, Surrey Street, Croydon
NICKY THOMAS & THE REBELS, Lyceum, Wellington Street, London WC2
FRIDAY
December 27
MICKLES, Rebecca's, Birmingham
SUNDANCE, Bishop Langdale, Derby
RUBETTES, Flamingo, Hereford
ACE, JWS, Dudley
JACKIE LYNTON'S GRANDE, Dingwells,

Camden Lock, London NW1
STARRY EYED & LAUGHING, Bibas, Kensington High Street, London
HELLO, Carousel, Work-sop
JOHNNY WALKER DISCO, California Ballroom, Dunstable
RUBBER BAND, Sun-down, Charing Cross Road, London
JOSH HANNAH'S, Speakeasy, 48 Margaret Street, London W1
HANDBAG, Greyhound, Fulham
STRANGE, Lord Nelson, 100 Holloway Road, London N7
GEORGE WEBB'S FAMILIAR MIX, IELANDERS, 100 Club, 100 Oxford Street, London W1
LEO SAYER/FUMBLE, Top Rank Ballroom, Brighton
HUSTLER, 76 Club, Burlton on Trent
BROTHER LEE'S, The Tower, Great Yarmouth
ROCK ISLAND LINE, Baileys's, Sheffield
SATURDAY
December 28
PROCOL HARUM/RUD CRISP, Pavilion, Hemel Hempstead
RUBETTES, Glen Ballroom, Llanelli
ACE, Houndhouse, Dagenham

SEVENTH WAVE, Bath's Hall, Southorpe
BRINSLEY SCHWARZ, Dingwells, Camden Lock, London NW1
EDGAR BROUGHTON BAND, Pier Pavilion, Hastings
STARRY EYED & LAUGHING, Bibas's, Kensington High Street, London
HOT CHOCOLATE, California Ballroom, Dunstable
NORTHERN SOUL ROAD SHOW, Haige Hall, Peterborough
SUTHERLAND BROS. & OLIVER/KURSAAL ELYERS, Friars Aylesbury
STRAY, Marquee, 90 Wardour Street, London W1
BASIC TRUTH, Speak-easy, 48 Margaret Street, London W1
FUMBLE, J's Club, Dudley
HUSTLER, Priory Hotel, Southorpe
MEDICINE HEAD, Bath's Hall, Southorpe
BROTHER LEE'S, The Tower, Great Yarmouth
ROCK ISLAND LINE, Baileys's, Sheffield
SUNDAY
December 29
BUNHACKERS BAND, Blundell Arms, Birkdale, Southport
PIGGY, Barbarella's, Birmingham
ACE, Winning Post, Twickenham

HELLO, Theatre Royal, Norwich
P R E T T Y THINGS/STRING D R I V E N TH I N G / K E I T H CHRISTMAS, Roundhouse, Chalk Farm, London NW1
ROCK ISLAND LINE, Baileys's Bristol
AMAZING BLONDE, Marquee, 90 Wardour Street, London W1
DR. FEELGOOD, Tite Farm House, Eastcote Lane, South Harrow
LEO SAYER/FUMBLE, Top Rank Ballroom, Reading
STRAY, Greyhound, Croydon
SHAKIN' STEVENS & THE SUNSETS, Greyhound, Fulham
BUSHWACKERS, Chequers, Chequers Hotel, London Road, Horley, Surrey
GENE ALLAN JAZZMEN, 100 Club, 100 Oxford Street, London W1
MONDAY
December 30
SHAKIN' STEVENS & THE SUNSETS, Hope & Anchor, 207 Upper Street, London N1
EDGAR BROUGHTON BAND/STILL LIFE, Marquee, 90 Wardour Street, London W1
BRINSLEY SCHWARZ, Dingwells, Camden Lock, London NW1
DOGS, Kennington, Russell Gardens, Holland Road, London W4
MOON, Speakeasy, 48 Margaret Street, London W1
ROCK ISLAND LINE, Baileys's Bristol
TUESDAY
December 31
THE HONEYCOMBS, Vikings Hotel, Airmyn Road, Gode
SHOWADDY WADDY, Dreamland, Margate
ACE, Hope & Anchor, 207 Upper Street, London N1
YAKETY YAK, Town Hall, Seaforth
HECTOR, Millie's Disco, Westgate on Sea
COASTERS, California Ballroom, Dunstable
BRINSLEY SCHWARZ, New Year's Eve Party, Dingwells, Camden Lock, London NW1, (£1.50)
HELLO, City Hall, St Albans
RUFIE EDWARDS, Regal, Edmonton
DUCKS OF LIXE, Hope & Anchor, 207 Upper Street, London N1
HEAVY METAL KIDS/JACKIE LINTON BAND, Marquee, 90 Wardour Street, London W1
KILBURN & THE HIGH ROADS, Hatchets, 87 Piccadilly, London W1

CHILLI WILLI & THE RED HOT PEPPERS, Newlands Tavern, 40 Stuart Road, London SE1
HUNTER, Penelope's Club, Brighton
DR. FEELGOOD, Kennington, Russell Gardens, Holland Road, London W4

COMING EVENTS
RORY GALLAGHER, Carlton Theatre, Dublin (January 1 and 2)
RUFIE EDWARDS, Starlight Rooms, Salisbury (January 4)
DR. FEELGOOD, Torrington, 4 Lodge Lane, London N12 (January 5)
HAWKWIND, Capitol, Cardiff (January 7)
BILLY CONNOLLY, Palladium, London (January 12)
EDGAR BROUGHTON BAND, King's Hall, Derby (January 15)
LITTLE FEAT/POWER OFF POW, Free Trade Hall, Manchester (January 15)
THE DOBBIE BROS. / GRAHAM CENTRAL STATION, Free Trade Hall, Manchester (January 16)



THE OSMONDS CREEPS
Dear Face,
Just who does Lisa from Hull think she is? What right does she have to call the Osmonds creeps. If she's looking for creeps look no further than the groups she mentioned: Deep Purple, Led Zepplin, Genesis, Yes, Pink Floyd and you. And Face tell me one thing are you male or female?
S.B. Aberdeenshire.
Don't know, what are you, snake or worm sweetie?
Dear Face,
Why is it one of today's best groups is never thought of I mean of course Barclay James Harvest. I've seen them live and they make the Osmonds look like mice.
B J H Fan, Plymouth.
Os fans will not like that.

THE FACE

OK, here I am then... The Face. Anything you want to write about, argue about or complain about - here's the place to send it to. Mail your comments to The Face, Record & Popswop Mirror, Spotlight House, 1 Benwell Road, London, NT.

Dear Face,
Radio One is cutting down on air time let us pray that it will not be teeny-bop all day long.
Be fair Heeb, let's have more rock and folk.
Derek London.
Hear Hear.

OOPS
Dear Face,
Please tell Sue Byrom to get her facts right. On Olivia Newton John's new album there are six singles not four. "What Is Love" and "If You Love Me Let Me Know" were both singles by the best female vocalist around today.
Olivia's No. 1 fan, London.
Ms Byrom offers a humble apology.

OLIVIA NEWTON-JOHN
Dear Face,
As for the Elton v Beatles saga I agree with "Doctor" from Barking. You can't really compare the two records. One other thing, Noddy Holder does sing like a frog with a sore throat.
-Jahnnathn Snook, Andover.
And still on the subject of ol' frog-throat Holder...
Dear Face,
Would you please tell Gillian of Skagness to leave our lovely Jan lies alone. She is correct, Noddy does sing like a frog - a ruptured one. Him and Slide are rubbish.
-Razi, Cheshire.
I have heard that he walks funny too.



BAY CITY ROLLERS FIVE VERSIONS?
Dear Face,
Have you noticed that only fans of such rubbish groups as the Bay City Rollers constantly have to remind us how "good" they are. However I must praise the Rollers for one thing, not many groups can release five versions of the same single.
Music Appreciator.
A lot of people hold the same opinion, so there may be a few letters supporting you among the hundreds of letters I will receive against it.
YOUR MISTAKE
Dear Face,
Since your magazine joined forces with Popswop you are becoming steadily worse. All I can say is that if you don't print an article and colour poster of Elton John I might be forced to tune to Radio 3 or 4.
-King Steve, Kidderminster.
Open your eyes big

mouth, Suzi Byrom interviewed him last week. Go ahead and tune in to most of the programmes could probably teach you a thing or two.
Dear Face,
In reply to any Os fans writing back to the Genesis fan, may I just say that I couldn't care less what catfood Donny eats for breakfast or whether Jimmy moans on Tuesdays (little creep). Write some decent info on decent groups you mob.
No name or address supplied.
I find this a trifle amusing even though Os fans won't like it.
TEN OUT OF TEN
Dear Face,
Without wishing to start a fight I must say how much I loathe the Osmonds and the Bay City Rollers and that I agree with most of the letters criticising them. Saying how useless and big-headed they are. Without doubt the band to marvel at must be 10CC. Show me a better album than "Sheet Music" and I'll take back what I've said.
Ian Foster, Staffs.
To be sure it's not a bad album either.

THE WINNER
Might you lot remember my offer of a copy of the album of your choice if you guess my favourite band. Well amongst the names you sent in, those were wrong: Cockney Rebel, Strawbs, Move, New Seekers, Who, Pink Floyd, Family and the Beatles. Scores of you however guessed correctly. It is/was...
FREE. Here is the first letter that I opened which guessed correctly and so is the winner.
Dear Face,
Is your favourite band Free? If it is then you have got an excellent taste in music.
Deborah King, 4 Boscombe Avenue, London, E16 8ET.
We done Debbie as soon as you let me know what album you'd like it will be dispatched immediately. One final thing - a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to every reader, no matter what their taste in music.

FROST OVER CHRISTMAS

WELL, IT'S Christmas, and what else do you expect at this time of year but snow and frost. Well the first part has yet to hit us, but Frost is here doing a good impersonation of a ventriloquist at the court of Abanaza.

fit in though, because in front of him, David has got one of his seven story telling albums.

Young Peter Furtak here looks spell bound by the whole thing. Either he's had that gottle of gear or... David put that lamp away at once.



WE'LL BE PRESENT THIS CHRISTMAS

YOU MAY feel sorry for us poor journalists had to work so close to Christmas, you might want to shed a little tear on our behalf. Go on, we'll let you. All right now, good 'cous you've been wasting your time!

We don't mind one bit working near Christmas because it's a time when the record companies, who furnish us with much needed information, tickets and albums the year round, let themselves go.

Out come the invitations to parties galore (if you see a bit of incoherent writing you'll



know why), and out come the presents. And this Mirror office has come a

year, the record and public relations companies have done themselves proud as usual.

Up into the Record Mirror office has come a

AYE AYE!

AYE, AYE what's all this then? Can it be... no it can't... well it certainly looks like... it is, it's part of the R&PM staff having a quick drink.

They don't always come to the office dressed like that, only at Christmas and Jack Hutton's birthday, but the real reason for the posh attire in the Anchor Records Christmas Party at the Grosvenor House Hotel ballroom, and evening dress was essential.

L. to this line-up of distinguished persons reads: Pete Harvey, assistant editor, an unidentifiable eye; Marcella Knaflova; Ray Fox (Crimming of AN Other pop paper); Sally Lewis, a former R&PM inspirer; Sue Byron, editor; Dave Hancock news editor, and Mrs Gerie Harvey.

So now you know what they look like, but was it worth the wait?

SANTA ALVIN

IF YOU'RE a last minute Christmas shopper then you have something in common with Alvin Stardust. For on the occasion of Alvin's first to Paris, to complete his Christmas shopping.

In a panic buying state, he made sure of a flight home before midnight so that he could be home for Christmas day! I wonder if he thumbed a lift off you know who? Who's that man in the red dress?

SETTING IN MONACO

THE SETTLERS were invited by Princess Grace and Prince Ranier to participate in the Royal Gala held at the Sporting Club, Monte Carlo, on Christmas Eve.

The Roy & couple wanted a slightly Gospel orientated band to take part in this performance and the Settlers were the ideal choice.

Departing from London in a six-seater plane, The Settlers arrived at 3 pm Christmas Eve. Rehearsals began almost immediately.

After the show, the group caught the midnight flight back home to spend Christmas with their families, that is, if they could still keep awake!

Goodies over the barrier

THE three comedy TV demons, Bill Odde, Graeme Gardner and Tim Brooke-Taylor are perfectly happy with their new recording company, Bradley's.

Bradley's treated the Goodie's single The Inbetweens / Father Christmas Do Not Touch Me with extra special care and now it's a big hit.

The Goodies were previously signed to the Decca label where, last year, they released an album entitled The Goodies Sing From The Goodies. And what was wrong with Decca?

Bill Odde explains: "Releasing something on Decca amounts to not releasing anything at all. They just didn't promote the album. It was a shame because it was a good album too!"

"We were upset, because they didn't appear to try for the break through we needed. At that time we weren't known as recording artists. We were known solely as a comedy team."

Somehow we think they're over that barrier now, don't you?

Yesteryear Charts

- FIVE YEARS AGO
- 1 TWO LITTLE BOYS, Rolf Harris Columbia
 - 2 RUBY DON'T TAKE YOUR LOVE TO TOWN Kenny Rogers and the First Edition Reprise
 - 3 SEAGAR, Archie RCA
 - 4 SUSPICIOUS MINDS, Elvis Presley RCA
 - 5 THE MELTING POT, Blue Mint Philips
 - 6 YESTER ME, YESTER YOU, YESTERDAY Stevie Wonder, Tamla Motown
 - 7 ALL I HAVE TO DO IS DREAM Bobbie Gentry and Glen Campbell Capitol
 - 8 WINTER WORLD OF LOVE Engelbert Humperdinck Decca
 - 9 TRACY, Chiff Links MCA
 - 10 WITHOUT LOVE, Tom Jones Decca
- 27 December 1969

- TEN YEARS AGO
- 1 FEEL FINE, Beatles Parlophone
 - 2 DOWNTOWN, Petula Clarke Pye
 - 3 I'M GONNA BE STRONG, Gene Pitney Stateside
 - 4 WALK TALL, Val Doonican Decca
 - 5 I UNDERSTAND, Freddie and the Dreamers Columbia
 - 6 PRETTY PAPER, Roy Orbison London
 - 7 NO ARMS COULD EVER HOLD YOU, The Beatles Decca
 - 8 LITTLE RED ROOSTER, Rolling Stones Decca
 - 9 I COULD EASILY FALL, Cliff Richard Columbia
 - 10 SOMEBODY, P. J. Proby Liberty
- 28 December 1964

- 15 YEARS AGO
- 1 WHAT DO YOU WANT, Adam Faith Parlophone
 - 2 WHAT DO YOU WANT TO MAKE THOSE EYES AT ME FOR? Ernie Ford Pye
 - 3 OH! CAROL, Neil Sedaka RCA
 - 4 SEVEN LITTLE GIRLS, SITTING IN THE BACK SEAT, Avons Columbia
 - 5 TRAVELLIN' LIGHT, Cliff Richard Columbia
 - 6 SNOW COACH, Russ Conway Columbia
 - 7 SOME KINDA EARTHSHAKE, Duane Eddy London
 - 8 AMONG MY SOUVENIRS, Connie Francis MGM
 - 9 MORE AND MORE PARTY POPS, Russ Conway Columbia
 - 10 THE JOHNNY STACCATO THEME, Elmer Bernstein Capitol
- 28 December 1959

WHAT DOES THIS WEEK'S

sounds

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THERE'S PART TWO OF

Roger Daltrey

Sparks Part 1

Oliver Reed

Bryan Ferry

PLUS YOUR CHANCE TO WIN A MONTY PYTHON ALBUM GET IT TODAY!

25 ALBUMS TO BE WON

WELL, if you didn't guess who the Santas were on page four, we'll put you out of your misery - the three lovely ladies who make up the group, Fanny. And seeing as



how they're in such a festive mood, we've got together with them in a little competition. Answer the three questions below, and send them, no later than January 14th to: Fanny Competition, Record & Popsop

Mirror, PO Box 195, Spotlight House, Benwell Road, London, N17. The first twenty correct answers will win a copy of Fanny's latest album, Rock And Roll Survival. The Editor's decision is final.

- 1 One of the members of Fanny has a very famous sister. Who is the sister?
- 2 Fanny's new album is one a new record label which is identified by a famous film that Humphrey Bogart starred in. What is the name of the label?
- 3 Only one of the present members of Fanny was in the original line-up. What is her name?

Keyword Answers

Across: 1 Ron Mael, 4 Essex, 4 David Bowie, 11 Cynthia, 14 Rexy, 15 and 16 Elton John, 17 Diddley, 18 Oia, 21 Smiler, 22 Strawk, 23 Sweden.

Down: 1 Belles, 2 Eve, 3 EMI, 4 ELO, 5 Eve, 7 Vet, 8 Dale, 9 Iron, 10 Byrd, 12 Schomb, 13 Sludger, 14 Rollers, 16 Jimmy, 17 Dare, 19 Lew, 20 ABC.

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PASTBLASTERS / 20,000 Available. — SAE 24 Southwalk, Middleton, Sussex.

TAMLA, SOUL. Pop records from 5p — Send large SAE. "Soul-scene", 6/8 Stafford Street, St. George's, Telford, Shrop. TF7 2JQ.

POP Rock soul singles from 15p. Send large SAE — Sheila Chadwick, Grove Street, Wilmston, Cheshire SK9 1YH. Juke Box Records, SAE, Llista, — 47, Chelmsford St., Weymouth, Dorset.

Records Wanted

ALL YOUR unwanted 45's and LP's purchased. Good prices paid. Any quantity but records must be in good condition. Send SAE with lists for cash offer! — F. L. Moore Records, 167A Dunstable Road, Luton, Beds.

Fan Clubs

CHOCBOY TIP. S.A.E. to Nicky, 270 Dunkery Road, Mottingham, London, SE9.

MUD FAN CLUB send S.A.E. to Linda, 43 Shaftesbury Ave., London, W.1.

ALVIN STARDUST FAN CLUB — Send SAE for full details. — PO Box 46, Derby.

GENE PITNEY Appreciation Society. — Write to: Alan Bell, 89 Netherby Drive, Newcastle-upon-Tyne 5.

HOLLYWOOD COMPANY needs lyrics for new songs. All types wanted. — FREE details. — Musical Services, 1305/R North Highland, Hollywood Calif. 90028 USA.

LYRICS WANTED by music publishing house. — 11 St Albans Avenue, London W4.

SONGWRITER MAGAZINE free from International Songwriters Association (R.M.), New Street, Limerick.

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