

THE SPARROWS



It was many months ago when we were first introduced to a very talented group of musicians known as The Sparrows. They have the distinction of being the first Canadian group to offer up a sound comparable to the fast-moving English sound. It was for this reason that Beatle-eared Paul White of Capitol records hawked down on these Sparrows and confined their nesting grounds to the Capitol camp. The boys have contributed a great deal to the task of making the average Canadian aware of the fact that we in Canada have a music industry to be proud of.

The Sparrows are Canadian. Art Ayre is the lead. He is pianist, organist, melodic, vocalist and composer. Art is a vigorously trained musician who stems from a jazz background. Besides looking after the business end of the group and keeping track of the instruments, he also manages to crack up the boys with his quick wit. He has owned and raced several modified sports cars and at the drop of a cab fare will show you his collection of trophies, his pride and joy.

Jerry Edmonton looks after the drums, blows a mean harmonica, is an important part of the harmony (vocal) of the group and also pens some mighty pretty tunes. Jerry hangs his hat in Oshawa (home) but has been so successful as a musician he now shares a dorm with the rest of The Sparrows. When he's not way out listening to a blues recording, he's way out in space by way of his telescope. He is somewhat of an expert on space. He can give you the name of every constellation in the sky and has followed every blast-off so closely he knows the space ships by their first name.

Dennis Edmonton, brother of Jerry, picks one of the prettiest sounding lead guitars in the business. His singing voice is the strongest and keeps the other voices well paced and in close harmony. Dennis is also the master when it comes to setting down a tune. His bush and specs (beard and glasses) give him that scholarly look which in effect he is. He spent three years studying psychology at university. Of the four he is the most even-tempered. Never angry, very patient, and always happy. His educational and musical achievements can best be described by one of his compositions:



*"If I had my way
It would be spring every day
And flowers would bloom along every
road way
And I would bring sunshine
Into each mind."*

Nick St. Nicholas, the clown of the group, keeps tab on the bass, gets into the act of singing and has a knack of putting the right notes in the right places and coming up with some pretty listenable compositions. Nick is a student of the Ontario College of Art, and if he can't make enough

at being a successful Sparrow (he also lives in the lap of luxury at the famous Sparrow dormitory) he can sell his paintings and move home to Scarborough, a suburb of Toronto.

The group is a foursome of not alike which must be the reason they get along so well together. They have had an interesting trip through Music Canada and "Hard Times With The Law" is an example of their desire to make their talents acceptable and most important - listenable. Much more will be heard from THE SPARROWS.



Montreal: Last week we mentioned that a very big company and an equally large advertising agency had arranged a cross country tour of top Canadian recording groups.

It turns out now we were a little too premature. The very big company is not so big and the tour has been called off. But it didn't take long for someone to pick our music industry back up off the floor. We understand arrangements are now under way to kick off this same show in Montreal through the efforts of Lionel Pasen and Dave Boxer. This show will have a completely Canadian lineup and we can safely predict that when Dave Boxer (The Pied Piper of Montreal) gets behind a promotion it will be the biggest show ever to hit the bi-bi town. A sponsor is standing by, we understand, and if sufficiently impressed will take the show across Canada. This show will be a success in hogtown despite the negative attitude of some of the not so Canadian minded citizens who would use their influence to discourage a show of this magnitude. The chance in a lifetime for our floundering music industry.

J.B. and the Playboys, who are regarded as Montreal's number one group, will be appearing in a movie called "Montage". The boys have been busy gigging in Upper Canada and are fast becoming one of the most popular groups in the area.

Los Angeles: Walt Davis, assistant to Bob Marcucci, sends along news that John Andrea is in New York cutting a session for MGM. Walt also sent along a copy of the new release "Runaway" by Gail Ganley on 20th. Nino Tempo and April Stevens, who are always big favourites in Canada, have released "Think Of You" on Atco. We prefer the flip "I'm Sweet On You". Could be another "Whispering".

New York: Negotiations are under way between Larry Uttal of Bell Records and Stan Klees Productions for the release of "Sloopy" in the US. Release skedded for latter part of July.

Blackpool: The on-again off-again Canadian Rodeo is on again. We understand the show is slated to run in conjunction with the Royal Lancashire Agricultural Show to commence August 1 for eleven weeks. The location is Stanley Park in downtown Blackpool. The BBC will be doing a 30 minute telecast of the show and could reach us through the services of the "Early Bird" satellite.

Regina: Barry Dreger, president of the Loreen Church fan club, sends RPM an honorary membership plus news that Loreen will have a new record out some time in August.

Ottawa: Pat Hamilton, president of the Esquires Fan Club, has news that The Esquires have just cut a recording session for Capitol. They are presently playing the Ottawa House in Ottawa and will shortly move on to Brockville for a two week stint. Plans are apparently in the making for the

Esquires to make a cross Canada tour linking forces with other top Canadian groups.

Nashville: Ray Griff will be releasing his first on the RCA Victor label the first part of August. The tune "I'll Follow Each Rainbow" by the Blue Boys (RCA) was written by Ray and could make the charts.

The Country Music Association has announced plans to sell an album featuring 25 great country artists. Label and publishing companies involved have waived their rights in order to make the album possible. Artists featured on this LP "Original Hit Performances" are Hank Snow, Ray Price, Tex Ritter, Marty Robbins, Buck Owens, Hank Thompson, Merle Travis, Hank Williams, Kitty Wells, Ernest Tubb, Johnny Bond, Johnny Cash, Patsy Cline, Red Foley, Lefty Frizzell, Don Gibson, Pee Wee King, Roger Miller, George Morgan, Bill Anderson, Roy Acuff, Bobby Bare, Eddy Arnold and Jim Reeves. Pressing will be done by Columbia with an initial order of 500,000 copies. The LP will sell for \$2.00 but only through mail orders as arranged on 200 TV Stations and up to 500 radio stations.

Las Vegas: The Personality Plugger has news that The Bits & Pieces, a strong Canadian comedy and instrumental singing trio now at Isy's in Vancouver, are skedded to re-enter the US for a six to twelve week stay at The Gaslight in Hollywood. Several singles and an LP are being readied for Dee Gee Records. It was also interesting to note by way of The Personality Plugger that Ike Cole will be appearing on Art Linkletter's Talent Scout Show. According to reports, the similarity between the voices of Ike and his late brother Nat are almost unbelievable.

Sault Ste. Marie: J.B. and The Playboys and The Big Town Boys, two of Canada's most popular recording groups, made their appearance at the Gardens in the Sault. Reports had it that the advance sales were greater for these Canadian groups than for The Dave Clark Five.

Toronto: Jack London releases his first on the RCA Victor label July 26. "Don't Ever Change" and "Misery and Me" were both written and produced by Jack. The Last Words, a local Toronto group, have been given an assist by Jack and could be preparing to sign with a major recording company.

Fred Roy, prexy of Acadia Records, is getting set to release the biggest new country single ever to hit the market. The artist is Aubrey Hanson, radio personality at CFNB Fredericton. His first single is "Green Hills and Blue Rivers" (Sparton). An LP "Old Fashioned Country Songs" is also being readied for release. Fred also advises that new equipment is being set up for Acadia Records and the hunt is on for new Canadian country talent. All interested parties contact Fred Roy, Box 400, Toronto 19, Ontario.

According to a newspaper report, Jon and Lee and The Checkmates have landed a US TV deal which should net them somewhere in the neighbourhood of \$150,000. The boys will be leaving shortly on a cross country tour boosting the city of Niagara Falls, Ontario. Special two-decker buses have been brought in from England

which will be the mode of transport for the group. It is further reported that a major US recording company has reserved a dotted line for the boys.

RPM would like to take this opportunity to welcome the executive, members of the sales staff and distributors of Capitol Records of Canada on the occasion of their annual sales convention being held at the Inn On The Park in Toronto July 19, 20, 21.

On a much smaller scale, but of much more importance to Canadians, comes a 2½ minute film on Canada. The score is written "Something To Sing About" by Oscar Brand. Now, Torontonian, Oscar Winner (film editor—"Target For Tonight") Donald Ginsberg is looking for the appropriate film. He and his assistant, Toni Trow, are busy examining many thousands of feet of film from various film-makers in an attempt to find 90 feet. This is much cheaper than taking a camera crew from Howe Sound to Dingle Beach.

Jim Darra of Darra Enterprises advises that he has made arrangements to produce a recording session for Lynda Lane. We understand back up group will be The Regents with vocal background by The Charmaines.

Record Jottings: Hot on the heels of Disneyland colossus "Mary Poppins" comes news from RCA that Disneyland has adopted the favourite of the 1930's "Winnie-the-Pooh". Although the film is not yet finished and still only about two-thirds hand painted the cartoon isn't skedded for release until next Thanksgiving (US) but already the wheels of promotion have been put in motion. A large US department store has tied in with the promotion for a line of youngsters' clothes. By the time the film is released the public will probably be so pre-conditioned to A.A. Milne's loveable bear that the release will no doubt be a chain reaction of success throughout the "50" and will, of course, affect Canada as well.

Columbia records releases "You Don't Want to See Me Crying" by Ross Campbell. This single has the right ingredients to make it a chart item. Ross is well backed up by good experience with the Du-Kanes and the Laurie Bower Singers.

HAPPENING
across the BIGLAND

"HARD TIMES
WITH THE LAW"

by the
SPARROWS
on CAPITOL

BIG THINGS ARE HAPPENING

ON



WITH THESE POWERFUL SINGLES!



CAPITOL RECORDS OF CANADA, LTD.



Winnipeg: CJOB led the way in introducing Frequency Modulation broadcasting to western Canada and are now leading the rest of Canada in a venture that quite appropriately began on "Canada Day". General Manager R.M. MacLennan advised that "It's a matter of record that many Canadian composers and performers are recognized in the fields of traditional

western, ethnic, country and folk music. Therefore, effective July 1st, CJOB-FM will broadcast a format embracing these four broad music fields." He went on, "This work requires and deserves recognition just as the efforts of Canadian performers in other areas of music and the arts." The Board of Broadcast Governors has given approval for the first major change in FM programming in Canada thus making CJOB-FM the first station to break with the accepted FM programme format to reach out to the largely neglected audience that prefers good traditional and popular music in the country field. Many thanks to Kirk Northcott for supplying us with the above information.

Quebec: Bill Payton, PD at CFOM, has good reason to be proud of his station. Every year, a good number of American warships make Quebec City one of their ports of call, and it's not because of the beauty of the Plains of Abraham or the equally beautiful Chateau Frontenac. It has to do with beauty but La Femme. Each year CFOM have lent their air staff to the navy to run their radio stations on board ship. This year CFOM decided to make this the biggest effort yet. CFOM moved lock, stock and barrel to the destroyer USS Compton and proceeded to broadcast their regular shows from space allotted by Commander T. Stuart. The shows were complete to regular commercial content and music. The station's air personalities took aboard their music and programmed their shows direct from the ship. Interviews with the ship's personnel as well as visitors gave the day's programming that touch of personal interest. Public response was overwhelming and CFOM have been asked by both Canadian Navy officials and the American Consulate to do repeats on other ships making the Quebec scene. This is a first in Canada, in the sense that two complete days of regular station programming originated on board a visiting warship. It also gives our sometimes strained relations a chance to relax.

Ottawa: "Hush Hush Sweet Charlotte" would never get a second reading with our "Dear Charlotte". It only happens for 15 minutes a day, five days a week, but Charlotte Whitton is enjoying more popularity now as a television personality than she did as "the fighting Commander" of the Ottawa City Council. Originating from CJOH-TV, viewers in Ottawa, Kitchener, Montreal and Toronto have granted her show unanimous acceptance.

It is hoped that other member stations of this network will see the potential of taking this show for their own area. Miss Whitton is far too entertaining and controversial to be confined to a four city spread.

Leamington: The new DJ line-up for CJSP includes - Johnnie Jay 6-10 a.m. - Craig Cole 10 a.m.-2 p.m. - Wayne McLean 2-8 p.m. - Don Brown 2-8 p.m. (Sat). CJSP has been number 1 in Essex County for ten consecutive years and dominates with 61% of the audience.

Truro: Graham Wyllie of CKCL sends news that Lynda Layne will be appearing for a week at the Nova Scotia Provincial Exhibition September 1st to 5th.

Edmonton: DJ line-up at CJCA boasts Emperor Jim Hault 6-9 a.m. - Scott Cameron 9-Noon - George Payne Noon-

4 p.m. - Frank Todd 4-8 p.m. - Bob Stagg 8-Midnight - Chuck Chandler Midnight-6 a.m. Bob Stagg looks after "Disc Derby Battle" and "Juke Box Jury" so if record promoters are looking for the right person to send their extra disc to it's obviously Bob Stagg. Other news from the Edmonton area has it that Klondike Days turned out to be one of the successful events of the year for CJCA. The Guess Who appeared at the CJCA Teen Tent during the 6 day show (July 12-17). Wes Dakus and The Rebels were the added special feature attraction for the event.

CHED were also very active for the Klondyke Days Exhibition. The CHED Klondyke Discotheque Show turned out to be a crowd getter with guest star Eddie Rambeau performing several times daily. Eddie's newest is "My Name Is Mud".



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Another Bob Vollum Production



"That's very little!!!" What would happen if DJs went on strike against un-Canadian

Got to Start Off With a Big item that will keep them talking. **Elvira Predicts** . . . There'll be a very HOT Canadian production on the US charts at all times from now on. Call this **Step One** in the breakthrough. **Next Item** . . . A top exec with a NOT SO top company has been waving a flag and telling people "We're doing all we can for Canadian talent." **Elvira Says:**

THE BIGLAND AGENCY

BOOKING:

Little Caesar & the Consuls
The Big Town Boys
Jon & Lee & the Checkmates
J.B. & the Playboys
Dee & the Yeomen
The Rogues
Jaye's Raiders
Little Diane & the Starlights
Ronnie Hawkins
The Guess Whos
The DuKanes Sextet
The Sikusis
The Vendettas
The Ardels
The Canadian Dell-Tones
Richie Knight & the Midnights
The Esquires
The Staccattos
The Countdowns with Phil Wright
The Twilights
Shirley Matthews
The Allan Sisters
The Regents with Dunc & Judy
The Rising Sons
The Silhouette Revue
Bobby Kris & the Imperials
The Tee Jays
The Valiants
The Apostles
Jeff & the Continentals

"THE FRIENDLY GIANT"
IN THE BIGLAND

record companies. **Right Here and Now** . . . (Never mind!!! It would just get edited!) I've made my point!

People Are Talking About . . . The apparent BIG breakthrough of Jon and Lee and the Checkmates into the **BIG BIG** market south. Good luck J & L and the Cs. Another Canadian group missed being first by a couple of weeks. More details when . . . **We Won't Betray A Trust!!! (Ed: Oh! Really???)**

The Tour??? You haven't heard the last of this hot little item. It gets hotter . . . and hotter!!! Rumours of a big big group coming to this neck of the woods are false!!! It's All Off!!! But . . . Why???????? Now the fight is on to establish a tour circuit across Canada, and we admire the guts of the people behind this project. **They'll Never Say Die!!!**

Watch For A Change in address and format of a very influential Canadian trade mag dealing with the music industry. The new premises are rumoured to be a Canadian music headquarters. The name I'm hearing circulated is "MUSICLAND, CANADA". The building would house many many companies, and one of them could be the aforementioned trade paper. **It's What We Need** . . . for our new industry. (Correction: "Floundering" new industry.)

Terry Black's appearances on TV are building this boy's star image immensely. He's following the footsteps of Anka . . . to a "T".

"Sloopy" by Little Caesar and the Consuls is rumoured to be ready for release in the US by Larry Utah's Amy-Mala label. Is **Elvira Ever Wrong???** (Together now) . . . **N-E-V-E-R!!!** Move over "Shakin' All Over".

Look To One Of Canada's Leading Studios to come up with a New Great sound. The busy little bees have been busy rearranging the tapes, the walls, the baffles and the equipment to come up with the winning sound. The geni behind this **Giant** step forward are the people that will some day be referred to as the pioneers of the "**SOUND**" FROM CANADA.

The Governor Of Tennessee takes a great interest in Nashville. Why not???. It put Tennessee on the map. Some day we'll breakdown the EAST-WEST conflict of hits and we'll end up with an industry.

Hype Of The Week and **Plot Of The Week.** Find a record called "COME ON DOWN" by Wes Dakus on Capitol and programme it. **EASTERN CANADA!** Play this one like instrumentals were going out of style. Let's show the west that we don't discriminate between EAST and WEST!!!

Why?? hasn't a French-Canadian single ever cracked the English-Canadian hit parade in Canada. It might just break down the bi-cultural barriers. In all the French-Canadian productions there must be **One** great record that we can Prod onto the charts . . . or is all the Prodding going to be done south of the border.

A Reader Writes: "I can't understand a great deal of what you write."

Well, dearie, Elvira is very inside and frankly I don't understand a great deal of what I write!!!

(ED: We should start a club.)

Sounding Board



Frank Todd, teen personality of the 'Tiger crew at CJCA Edmonton, reviews new Canadian records for Sounding Board.

Bill Payton CFOM Quebec
Pickin Up My Hat Debbie Lori Kaye
"This is like a gigantic birthday cake, that is to say everything is there to make it good. One of the best outings we've heard in a long time. Should make it big across the ten, and for that matter, could easily have the big ear put on it by our American counter parts. Without question, a big thing. SURE."

"Kege" Legge CHEC Lethbridge
Hard Times With The Law Sparrows
"It has the NB ingredient 'The British Sound'. A good contender on Battle of the New Sounds. COULD."

Frank Todd CJCA Edmonton
Hard Times With The Law Sparrows
"Mediocre, would need an awful lot of help. COULD."

COUNTRY

Bill Payton CFOM Quebec
Sittin and Thinkin Jerry Hatton
"Could be a sleeper on the country stations, the lyric is good, and Jerry has put forth a good vocal effort. We'd like to see it move, but honestly feel the country flavour is a little too strong for those stations that include country in their regular format. COULD."

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"MY GIRL SLOOPY"
Little Caesar & the Consuls
IS A
SMASH!!!
on RED LEAF

NEW YORK



The country sound is becoming more and more the "selling" sound these days. Jerry Vale has captured the right feeling with his recording of "Where Were You When I Needed You?"... Thanks to the boys at FGG Productions, Bang Records might have its second hit within a couple of months. "Out In The Sun (Hey-o)" by The Beach-Nuts could break through big...

Fats Domino's next single will be "I Left My Heart In San Francisco", done in Fats' own inimitable style... The boys at Kama-Sutra have done it again. Their production of "Around the Corner" by The Duprees has taken off big... Adam Wade has just signed with Atlantic Records.

Just before taking off for Canada, Kenny Chandler told me his new record will be out in about three weeks... Eddie Rambeau leaves for Edmonton next week for some personal appearances. In the meantime, he tells me his record of "My Name Is Mud" is getting "picks" all over the place... I found Ian Crawford a charming guy when we met this past week. He's in N.Y. taking care of some business and hoping for some word regarding his next Vee Jay release... Big Dee Erwin told me he decided to leave Roulette Records and sign with Eddie Newmark's Rotate label... It was nice seeing Wayne Newton while he was in N.Y. for a few days. This is one of the busiest and nicest guys in the business. He wears his success well, perhaps not always believing all the great things that are happening for him... I actually surprised Kenny Young with the news that Herman's Hermits next release would be "Just A Little Bit Better". Kenny wrote the song.

Tin Pan Alley is talking about the decision of Bernie Lowe to sell out his interest in Cameo Records. Although the company had been "cool" for a while, sales started picking up about six months ago... It is also talking about the untimely deaths of Claude Thornhill and Red Nichols.

Waiting to break big on the charts are two new records with the country sound, "If I Had My Life to Live Over Again" by Lloyd Price and "Say You're My Girl" by Roy Orbison... Watch "I'm Alive" by

The Hollies take off... Tony Bennett is proving a good song can make it again and again. His record of "Fly Me to the Moon" is doing beautifully... Listen to Tutti Camaratta's version of "What's New Pussycat" from his "Think Young" LP.



We in Upper Canada have always been envious of the French-Canadian market and lately the English-Canadian market in French Canada. From all reports it is quite obvious that if and when the Canadian industry becomes a power in this country, the action will happen first in LaBelle Province. The following letter is evidence of the interest generated by the general

public in Quebec.

"Dear Sir: I would like to tell you about something that happened in Montreal yesterday, June 25. There was a big show of French-Canadian talent here and 225,000 people paid a dollar to see this show. The top Canadian, French-Canadian that is, were there. You may know them; The Classels, Baronets, César et Ses Romains, Tony Roman et Les Dauphins, Les Bel Canto, Les Excentriques, Les Honlops, Têtes-Blanches. There were also singers

like Pierre Lalonde, Donald Lautrec, Michèl Louvain, Michele Richard, Robert Demontigny, Joel Denis, Jenny Rock and folk singers like Les Cailloux, Les Quatre Vingt etc. This show was presented by radio station CJMS (French). It was held on an open air stage at Jarry Park which was surrounded by a fence for this occasion. Now tell me, where in Canada, where even in the world would so many people go and support their own nation's talent? Why not put this information in one of your books and use it as a lesson to the English-Canadian. The French-Canadian go and support their artists but the English-Canadians don't support their artists in the same way. Then those who read your magazine will say to themselves 'What do French-Canadian have that we don't have?' and they may accept this as a challenge and start supporting English-Canadian talent.

I have found one thing wrong with your magazine. Most of the groups and artists you show are from the Toronto area. I have not seen a picture of the Rockatones with their record 'I'm A Man' or Bartholomew Plus Three or the Mersey Makers. The The Classels, The Haunted, M.G. and The Escorts or Chuck Dornel. They all have records on the market. Also, for 30¢ eight pages is too little." (signed) Vincent Crivello.

(ED: We would use photos and information on the artists mentioned but we have never received reproducible material.)

PUT A TIGER

ON YOUR
TURNTABLE

ROBBIE LANE'S
New Release
on Capitol is a
TIGER
about to roar
up the charts

"TIGER IN YOUR TANK"
ROBBIE LANE

THIS IS A "PLUG"!!!
It's 2" by 2". Just big
enough to be noticed!
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will be seen by every-
one in the trade across
Canada. Phone or write
RPM and reserve a
"PLUG"

IF YOUR COLUMBIA RECORDS
SALESMAN IS AWAY THIS WEEK
WORKING ON HIS TAN,



MAKE SURE THESE COLUMBIA
SINGLES ARE WORKING FOR YOU ...

DEBBIE LORI KAYE	"PICKING UP MY HAT"	4-43295
ROSS CAMPBELL	"YOU DON'T WANT TO SEE ME CRY	4-42663
THE BYRDS	"ALL I REALLY WANT TO DO"	4-4332
THE BYRDS	"ALL I REALLY WANT TO DO"	4-43332
BILLY JOE ROYAL	"DOWN IN THE BOONDOCKS"	4-43305
BARBRA STREISAND	"MY MAN"	4-43323
JIMMY DEAN	"THE FIRST THING EV'RY MORNING"	4-43263
ROBERT GOULET	"SUMMER SOUNDS"	4-43301
CHAD AND JEREMY	"BEFORE AND AFTER"	4-43227
PATTI PAGE	"HUSH HUSH SWEET CHARLOTTE"	4-43251
THE BYRDS	"MR. TAMBOURINE MAN"	4-43271
THE BROTHERS FOUR	"COME KISS ME LOVE"	4-43317

coming soon

THE LIVERPOOL SET

JOHNNY AND THE CANADIANS