

Australia 20p South Africa 25p

RECORD MIRROR & DISC

December 27 1975 10p

**50 Gary
Glitter
albums
to be
won**

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**Charting '75~
those that made
it**

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those that didn't

Page 3

**Alex Harvey's
Xmas Party &
Colour Poster**

**Plus all the Christmas
frivolities**

OUR TOP TEN



SUE BYROM

ALBUMS:
CAUGHT UP, Millie Jackson
CAPTAIN FANTASTIC, Elton John
RUFUSIZED, Rufus Average White Band
ORIGINAL SOUNDTRACK, 10cc
KATY LIED, Steely Dan
JUDITH, Judy Collins
SNOWFLAKES ARE DANCING, Tomita
CRISIS? WHAT CRISIS? Supertramp
THE AMERICAN DREAM (London American Story)
SINGLES:
NEVER CAN SAY GOODBYE, Gloria Gaynor
SHAME, SHAME, SHAME, Shirley & Company
STOP ON BY, Rufus
GIRLS, Moments And Whatnauts
ONCE YOU GET STARTED, Rufus
GET DOWN TONIGHT, K.C. & The Sunshine Band
PICK UP THE PIECES, Average White Band
SENDING OUT AN S. O. S., Rhett Young
LADY MARMALADE, LaBelle
SEND IN THE CLOWNS, Judy Collins



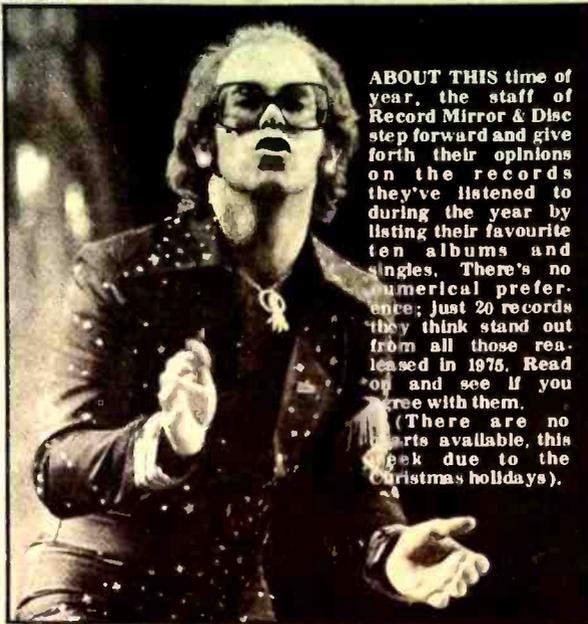
PETER HARVEY

ALBUMS:
NATTY DREAD, Bob Marley And The Wailers
BLOOD ON THE TRACKS, Bob Dylan
ROCK 'n ROLL, John Lennon
YOUNG AMERICANS, Bowie
OMMADAWN, Mike Oldfield
SOUTHERN NIGHTS, Allen Toussaint
THE BEST YEARS OF OUR LIVES, Steve Harley and Cockney Rebel
MANHATTAN TRANSFER
BLUE JAYS, Justin Hayward / John Lodge
ORIGINAL SOUNDTRACK, 10cc
TONIGHT'S THE NIGHT, Neil Young
SINGLES:
JANUARY, Pilot
PICK UP THE PIECES, AWB
BEST OF MY LOVE, Eagles
YOU'RE NO GOOD, Linda Ronstadt
LADY MARMALADE, LaBelle
MAKE ME SMILE, Steve Harley and Cockney Rebel
YOU ARE SO BEAUTIFUL, Joe Cocker
SHAME, SHAME, SHAME, Shirley & Company
FAME, Bowie
MOONLIGHTIN', Leo Sayer



RAY FOX-CUMMING

ALBUMS:
SIREN, Roxy Music
LOU REED LIVE, Lou Reed
TOMORROW BELONGS TO ME, The Sensational Alex Harvey Band
VENUS AND MARS, Paul McCartney & Wings
ANIGHT AT THE OPERA, Queen
OVERNIGHT SUCCESS, Neil Sedaka
THE BEST YEARS OF OUR LIVES, Steve Harley & Cockney Rebel
ANOTHER YEAR, Leo Sayer
CAPTAIN FANTASTIC, Elton John
THE IDI AMIN ALBUM, John Bird
SINGLES:
DREAMIN' MY DREAMS, Marianne Faithfull
YOU GO TO MY HEAD, Bryan Ferry
NO REGRETS, The Walker Brothers
MY MAN AND ME, Lynsey De Paul
LOVE IS THE DRUG, Roxy Music



ABOUT THIS time of year, the staff of Record Mirror & Disc step forward and give forth their opinions on the records they've listened to during the year by listing their favourite ten albums and singles. There's no numerical preference; just 20 records they think stand out from all those released in 1975. Read on and see if you agree with them. (There are no charts available this week due to the Christmas holidays).

MAKE ME SMILE (COME UP AND SEE ME), Steve Harley & Cockney Rebel
LETTING GO, Wings
DISCO QUEEN, Hot Chocolate
BABY GET IT ON, Ike & Tina Turner
ONLY WOMEN, Alice Cooper

JANILES

ALBUMS:
DREAD LOCKS
DREAD, Big Youth
BLOOD ON THE TRACKS, Bob Dylan
HANDSOME, Kilburn And The Highroads
KC & THE SUNSHINE BAND
INDISCREET, Sparks
THE ORIGINAL SOUNDTRACK, 10cc
NATTY DREAD, Bob Marley And The Wailers
STILL CAUGHT UP, Millie Jackson
FUTURAMA, Be Bop De Luxe
BORN TO RUN, Bruce Springsteen
SINGLES:
NO. 9 DREAM, John Lennon
THE WAY WE WERE, Gladys Knight & The Pips
OH BOY, Mud
IT'S BEEN SO LONG, George McCrae
NO WOMAN NO CRY, Bob Marley
SHAME, SHAME, SHAME, Shirley & Co
I'M NOT IN LOVE, 10cc
ONE OF THESE NIGHTS, The Eagles
BOHEMIAN RHAPSODY, Queen
LADY MARMALADE, LaBelle



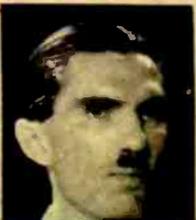
10CC: Original Soundtrack



WINGS: Venus And Mars

DAVID MANCOCK

ALBUMS:
DRAGONFLY, Jefferson Starship
CAUGHT UP, Millie Jackson
ROAD OF LIFE, Mataya Clifford
TONIGHT'S THE NIGHT, Neil Young
RITA JEAN BODINE, Rita Jean Bodine
YOUNG AMERICANS, David Bowie
HANDSOME, Kilburn & The High Roads
THE LAST RECORD ALBUM, Little Feat
BLUES FOR ALLAH, Grateful Dead
LA BOOGA ROOGA, Andy Fairweather Low
SINGLES:
LADY MARMALADE, LaBelle
FAME, David Bowie
IMAGINE ME, IMAGINE YOU, Fox
SHAME, SHAME, SHAME, Shirley & Company
OH BOY, Mud
THE NIGHT, Frankie Valli & The Four Seasons



SPARKS: Indiscreet



ANDY FAIR-WEATHER - LOW: La Booga Rooga

THAT'S THE WAY I LIKE IT, KC & The Sunshine Band
ONE OF THESE NIGHTS, Eagles
ONCE BITTEN, TWICE SHY, Ian Hunter
EIGHTEEN WITH A BULLET, Pete Wingfield

ROSALIND RUSSELL

ALBUMS:
BETWEEN THE LINES, Janis Ian
ATLANTIC CROSSING, Rod Stewart
BANKRUPT, Dr Hook
And The Medicine Show
ALL AROUND MY HAT, Steeleye Span
GET RIGHT INTAE HIM, Billy Connolly
THE BASEMENT TAPES, Bob Dylan And The Band
KATY LIED, Steely Dan
TIME FOR ANOTHER, Ace
SIREN, Roxy Music
WHO BY NUMBERS, The Who
SINGLES:
ALL AROUND MY HAT, Steeleye Span
SAILING, Rod Stewart
THE IMMIGRANT, Neil Sedaka
BARBADOS, Typically Tropical
D. I. V. O. R. C. E., Billy Connolly
I BELIEVE IN FATHER CHRISTMAS, Greg Lake
OH BOY, Mud
BOHEMIAN RHAPSODY, Queen
WHAT A DIFFERENCE A DAY MADE, Esther Phillips
AT SEVENTEEN, Janis Ian



KYMME JONES

ALBUMS:
WE GOT BY A JARREAU
A QUIET STORM, Smokey Robinson
HIGHER THAN HIGH, The Undisputed Truth
CITY OF ANGELS, The Miracles
NATTY DREAD, Bob Marley And The Wailers
DRAMATIC JACKPOT, The Dramatics
MY WAY, Major Harris
THE SUPREMES, The Supremes
FLYING START, The Blackbyrds
HONEY, The Ohio Players
SINGLES:
THAT'S THE WAY OF THE WORLD, Earth, Wind And Fire
STOP ON BY, Rufus
HYPERTENSION, Calendar
WOMAN TO WOMAN, Shirley Brown
SUGAR PIE GUY, The Joneses
SHINING STAR, Earth, Wind And Fire
LOVING YOU, Minnie Riperton
PADLOCK, I, Roy
CAUGHT YOU IN A LIE, Louisa Mark
MIDNIGHT RIDER, Paul Davidson



DAVE WRIGHT

ALBUMS:
HOTLINE, J Gells Band
ROLLED GOLD, Rolling Stones
CUT THE CAKE, Average White Band
NATTY DREAD, Bob Marley And The Wailers
WHO BY NUMBERS, The Who
BAND ON THE RUN, Wings
BEST OF BREAD, Bread
THE BEST YEARS OF OUR LIVES, Cockney Rebel
ONE OF THESE NIGHTS, The Eagles
MALPRACTICE, Dr Feelgood
SINGLES:
SHAME, SHAME, SHAME, Shirley and Company
FAME, David Bowie
PICK UP THE PIECES, Average White Band
NO WOMAN NO CRY, Bob Marley And The Wailers
THAT'S THE WAY I LIKE IT, K.C. And The Sunshine Band
I WANNA DANCE WIT CHOO, Disco Tex & The Prophets
ART FOR ART'S SAKE, 10cc
MOONSHINE SALLY, Mud
WHY DID YOU DO IT, Stretch
WIDE-EYED AND LEGLESS, Andy Fairweather-Low



RECORD MIRROR & DISC
NEWS EDITOR ROSALIND RUSSELL
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ROD LEAVES THE FACES

ROD STEWART has left the Faces. The split, which is not entirely unexpected, was made this week. Rod's tour of Australia and the Far East has been cancelled.

Stewart intends to start his own band in the New Year, and will be appearing with them at Wembley Stadium on June 26.

Rod's publicity officer, Tony Toon, said:

"Rod feels he can no longer work in a situation where the group's lead guitarist, Ron Wood,

seems to be permanently 'on loan' to the Rolling Stones."

Pianist Ian McLagan said: "I won't believe he is leaving the Faces until I hear it from him."

Drummer Kenney Jones said "If this means the end of the Faces, I'm not bothered. I expect I will survive."

Rod Stewart is soon to begin work on a new solo album. He has teamed up with Tom Dowd, who produced Atlantic Crossing which has gone gold all over the Continent and Scandinavia and platinum in the UK.

The new album, which is as yet untitled, will be recorded in LA and New Orleans, possibly with the Meteors. Rod has decided to use completely different musicians on this album.

More to the point

THE PRODUCTION of Nilsson's *The Point*, which was reported in last week's Record Mirror & Disc, will be ready by September next year. This was the news from Terry Oates this week. At the moment, a decision is being taken on the theatre which will house the show.

Big names are promised for the show and the premiere will be held in London. Nilsson himself is coming to Britain to finalise details in February.

New Lace

PETER OLIVER, a former New Seekers member, and Jamie Moses, from Merlin, have joined Paper Lace. The group will be produced by Ron Richards who produced all the Hollies' hits. Details of a new recording deal for the group will be announced soon.

Extra things

EXTRA DATES confirmed for the Real Thing. They are: West Rutton Village Inn (Jan 10), London Gullivers (14), Sheffield Balleys (16-18), Spennymoor Top Hat (30) and Carlisle Cosmos (31). They play a special New Year's Eve show at Huddersfield Ivanhoe's.

Mud go to college

MUD HAVE confirmed their college tour dates for the New Year.

They open at Cardiff University on February 6. Other dates are: Exeter University (7), Oxford Poly (8), Reading University (12), Salford University (13), Nottingham University (14), Glasgow Technical Col-

lege (March 4) and Edinburgh University (5).

The group break their tour from February 22-25 to appear at the Balley Variety Club. More college dates will be added later. Mud will spend January writing new material and will record a new album in March.

Christmas with Dana Gillespie

DANA GILLESPIE is to appear at a Christmas show at the Stratford Royal Theatre on December 31. Also appearing will be Linda Lewis and Lionel Morton.

Dana's dates for the New Year are: London Nashville Rooms (Jan 17), London Hope and

Anchor (20), Kent University (22), Birmingham Barbarellas (24), North Staffs Poly (30), Nottingham University (32).

Southampton University (Feb 3), Swansea University (5), Salford University (6), London Marquee (13) and Plymouth Poly (21).

Olsson returns

NIGEL OLSSON has arrived back in Britain, to spend Christmas with his family who live near Cambridge. He leaves behind his brand new home, in Ventura Canyon, Los Angeles, and his almost completed recording studio.

When he returns to the States on January 8, he will finish work on an album for Susan George; begin session work on a new Neil Sedaka album; compose the score for a film called *The Exterminators* and start a new solo album for himself.



RON WOOD: permanently 'on loan'

Stainton joins Hunter

CHRIS STAINTON has joined Ian Hunter's band, replacing Mick Ronson who is currently gigging with Bob Dylan. Stainton is flying out to New York to join Hunter and will also act as musical director and arranger to the band which also includes Denis Elliott (drums) and Les Nichol (guitar).

Stainton will also work on Hunter's second solo album which will be recorded in New York. Before he leaves for the States, he will produce a single for Viola Wills.

Hunter's band is expected to tour Britain in the New Year to promote the album on its completion.

Supreme engagement

THE SUPREMES' Scherrie Payne has announced her engagement to the singer-songwriter / producer Lamont Dozier. They plan to marry early in the New Year. Their association goes back several years to a group called the Glass House. Scherrie was the lead singer and Holland / Dozier / Holland were their mentors.

*** TO CLARIFY any misunderstanding, Tony Barrow International will engage Bess Coleman as a freelance P.R. to work on the Bay City Rollers account from January 1, 1976.

Joni — cancelled

JONI MITCHELL cancelled a fund-raising concert at the Los Angeles Immaculate Heart College at the last minute and asked James Taylor to stand in for her.

The reason for the cancellation was so that she could appear at another benefit concert with Bob Dylan and Roberta Flack in New York. That show was held in aid of Rubin "Hurricane" Carter, the imprisoned boxer.

Joni has promised the Immaculate Heart she will do another show for them at a later date.



JONI MITCHELL



DIANA SOLOMON

DIANA TALKS

DIANE SOLOMON, who recently hosted her own TV series, begins a two-week season at the London Talk Of The Town on January 13. She has also just been signed to EMI.

EAR WE GO . . .

FRANKIE VALLI had an operation on his ear last week.

"I couldn't hear in one ear," he told Record Mirror & Disc. "It was ruptured over a year ago and I thought the damage

was permanent. But my doctors discovered it could be operated on. They have told me to avoid noise for four weeks so I will be recuperating until January. Then I plan to do some charities for the deaf."

All Green

Full of Fire

HLU 10511

One of the great records of '75...
 One of the hits of '76

Marketed by

DECCA

CHARTING '75

Tony Jasper takes a look back at the singles that made it — and the ones that didn't

The good, the bad and the ugly

THE year opened with Mud, Wombles and Rubettes in the top three. At five, Bachman Turner Overdrive proclaimed *You Ain't Seen Nothing Yet* — and proceeded to be one of 1975's biggest disasters.

Obviously the first chart was a carry-over from the Christmas season of '74. All the familiar names were there: Gary, David E, Alvin (though '75 was not too good for him), Hot Chocolate, Rod Stewart and Elton. And Kenny were just beginning with *The Bump and Plot* were promising big things.

Stevie Wonder struck for a short while with *Boogie On Reggae Woman* and Jonathan King's UK records beat everyone (again) with Kevin Johnson's version of *Rock And Roll (I Gave You The Best Years Of My Life)*.

Mud were still tops with *Lonely This Christmas*. The fast movers came from Gloria Gaynor's *Never Can Say Goodbye* and Ms Grace from *The Tymes*.

Dramatic

January 25 saw action with five newcomers but they were dwarfed by dramatic movements from the *Glitter Band* who rose 30 places with *Goodbye My Love*; Sparks 26 places to 18 with *Something For The Girl With Everything*; Manchester's *Sweet Sensation* making 29 places from 49 with *Purely By Coincidence* and for Footsies from Wigan's *Ovation*, up from 45 to 26.

The first newbie came from *The Stylisties* with *Star On A TV Show*. They were the only group in '75 able to challenge the *Rollers* in both singles and album performance. *Queen* were the second with *Now I'm Here*.

At long last *My Eyes Adored You* made the 50 for *Frankie Valli* on February 1 and *Syreeta* reggaed forth with *Your Kiss Is Sweet*.

By mid-February Mud fans were well contented. Les and the team were off toward the top yet again, this time with *The Secrets That You Keep*. And *Plot* looked set for super stardom. January was tops. Fox too looked real good as *Only You Can* nudged into the chart.

Disco mania was strong, particularly from the bouncy *Shame Shame Company*. The girl season in chartsville was just beginning, set in motion by *Angie Girl* at five from *Helen Reddy*.

Telly Savalls made three on March 1 with *If And Steve Harley's Make Me Smile* was tops. Fox were at five but we still waited for the *BCRs*. A new group, *Guys & Dolls* hit 44 with *There's A Whole Lot Of Loving* and *David B* had entered with *Young Americans*. But by March's end, the *BCRs* were there, at number one with *Bye Bye Baby*.

Elton was trying again for his elusive number one single. It was a smasher, *Philadelphia*

Freedom, Dana, Supertramp, *AWB* and *Duane Eddy* were in the 20. Coming up strong, *Bad Company* with *Good Lovin' Gone Bad*.

Power

Sweet were back with power via *Fox On The Run* and the *Rubettes* were serving strong notice of continuing success as *I Can Do It* broke in the top ten.

Eurovision arrived with *Ding A Dong* and the *Glitter Band* *Cried* entered at 20. *Susan Cadogan* was moving for the first time with *Hurt So Good* and *Peter Skellern* was climbing again, *Hold On To Love* was his shout.

Into May and Mud hit tops with *Oh Boy*. *Minnie Riperton* repeats her US triumph here, at two with *Loving You*. *Ye gods, Honey* was back again, and in the top five, *10cc* were giving variety with *Life Is A Minestrone* and *Peter Shelley* sang *Love Me Love My Dog*. *Gary Glitter* entered at 25 with *Love Like You & Me*.

By June, it was *Whispering Grass* at one and *Tummy Wynette* at two with *Stand By Your Man*. *Shawaddywaddy* were three steps from the top with *Three Steps To Heaven*. *The Osmonds* sang *The Proud One* and oh, a beauty moving from 41 to 8, *I'm Not In Love* from 10cc.

Mud again! June 21 records *Moonshine Sally* entering at 26 and four places upwards, *Gary's best* for ages, *Doing Alright With The Boys*.

Rollers

On July 19, the *Rollers* were at one with *Give A Little Love* but meantime *Johnny Nash* had been tops with *Tears On My Pillow*. By mid-August, the *Stylisties* were heading up the 50 with *I Can't Give You Anything* and *Roger Whittaker* back once more with *The Last Farewell*. *George McCrae* was continuing his '75 success with *It's Been So Long*. *The Bee Gees* were back after a long absence and *Linda Lewis* sang with force. *It's In His Kiss*. *Sailing* was a biggie for *Rod Stewart*.

September and *Mike Batt*, under his own name, going strong with *Summertime City*. *Leo Sayer's Moonlighting* and *My On Fire*, in at 30 from 5000 Volts. By September 13 my eyes were on *Art Garfunkel's I Only Have Eyes For You*. The *Drifters* were rolling well with a 20 place mover, *There Goes My First Love*. *Jonathan King* winning the *Una Paloma Blanca* race but *Hold Me Close*, by *David Essex* was tops. So too for a time *Art Garfunkel* and by October 25, *Abba* were



MUD: openers



ROGER DALTREY



CHER: failed

back in favour with the hypnotic, *S.O.S.* *David Cassidy* was saying *Darlin'*. *Jim Capaldi* was complaining *Love Hurts*, and from yesterday, *Space Oddity* was hurtling toward the top, taking *David Bowie* with it.

November and *Art* at one, *David B* two and the *Drifters* continuing a residency at three. *Elton* was trying for one again with *Island Girl*. *Humour* from *Billy Connolly*

THE record buying public let some good sounding 45s slip away this year. So what, you say, do I offer as evidence? Well, any of the *Andy Fairweather Low* singles. *Mellow Down* was the first of a series of not outstanding discs but all well worth the top 30.

Why did *Sitting On Top Of The World* from the *Detroit Spinners* lose out? And though it wasn't a knock-out, I thought *Lyndee de Paul* deserved

ROLLERS: good year for singles

a top 50 placing with *My Man And Me*. *Our Sue* said it should make the charts without any difficulty. She was right — but millions ignored at their peril.



entering at 26 with *D.I.V.O.R.C.E.* He was soon at number one.

Well, the rest should be in your mind, fresh as a daisy! Mention though for *Queen's knock-out Bohemian Rhapsody*. *Sexy Thing* from *Hot Chocolate*, *Rod's This Old Heart Of Mine*, the *BCRs' Money Honey* and *David Essex's If I Could*. Oh and I must touch my cap to *Steeleye Span* for making *All Around My Hata* big one!

Was 1975 a good singles year? Well, it had its moments but somehow, I don't think it produced many classic hits. Now turn to the ones that didn't make it!

Mind you, I thought everyone was right to reject *Merlin's*, *What A Funny Way To Fall In Love*. Why all the excitement over them? And what was wrong with *Stop On By* from *Rufus*?

Now, who wasn't surprised when the *How Long* team failed disastrously with *I Ain't Gonna Stand For This No More*? I guess *Hot Chocolate* might wish to forget *Blue Night* but it's interesting how choosy people are with this very talented group.

I must confess that in spite of my opening sentence there are an amazing amount of duff singles released. I mean, why in April did they issue *Toy Orbison's*, *Hung Up On You*, *Oscar's*, *Mad About You*, *Presbyterian Church* from *Rolf Harris* and *Leapy Lee's*, *Every Road Leads Back To You*?

Back to the ones that missed, and now I can

really get emotional. Tell me, why did *Billy Swan's Don't Be Cruel*, or *Mike Berry's* version not become monsters? And to a lesser degree, in view of the disco mania, why did *Who's Got The Monster* from the *Rimshots* not do a thing? I rather liked *Polly Brown's*, *You're My Number One*, it almost made it.

Eddie Cochran's *Summertime Blues* should have grounded *Shawaddywaddy* for a time but thank goodness *Cher* failed with her painful *Rescue Me*. I suppose commercially speaking *The Rubettes* might have got away with *We Love You Rollers* and even the *Fulham* football team with *You Lucky People*.

Perhaps the Immigrant did have an American context a la *John Lennon*, but surely a deserved hit for *Neil Sedaka's* *I didn't exactly fall head over heels in love with I Love Rock 'n' Roll* from *Arrows* but a surprising miss. *The Real Thing* deserved a big smash with *Stone Cold Love*. *Affair* though that particular kind of sound has lost its popularity somewhat this side of the Atlantic.

Silence

Thank goodness *Grace* missed with *You're Mine*. *Rufus* met silence with *Once You Get Started*. Well, it wasn't exactly a goodbye but on previous chart performance I suppose *Sweet Sensation's*, *Boom Boom* might have caused a ripple. *Bunny* sounded earthy and urgent with *Baby You're Getting To Me*. *Limmie* and *The Family Cooking* missed, thank goodness, with *Lollipop* but unfortunately *Baby*, *Get it on*, from *Ike & Tina* didn't become big.

I liked *Thin Lizzy's*, *Rossie* but will they get another hit? *Slimon Townsend* sounded quite good with *Janie* and the *Tayres* had something with *It Only Takes A Minute*. Oh my, why was *Janis Ian* ignored with the lovely *Seventeen*?

Despite some chart nibbling, no one really made it with *Out Of Time* but at least *Dan McCafferty* can say he was the best.

Andy Fairweather Low's *La Booga* was ignored and so were *Arrows* with *Hard Hearted*. Likewise *Strange Ships* from *Fox*. I liked *All I Have To Do Is Dream* from *Alan Matthews* and wasn't *Gema Plincy's* *Train Of Thought* a goodie?

There will always be an element of mystery surrounding the charts and hit records. Perhaps, in the end, that's what makes chartsville such an interesting territory!



ARROWS (top left), FOX (above), SWEET SENSATION (bottom left): surprising misses

The 10th Anniversary of

MIDEM

International Record and Music Publishing Market

January 23-29, 1976

Palais des Festivals/Cannes, France

**IF YOU'RE IN THE BUSINESS
YOU CAN'T AFFORD NOT
TO BE THERE**

(Ask someone who goes)

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**THE MUSIC BUSINESS
YEAR BEGINS AT MIDEM**

1975: 5042 PARTICIPANTS FROM 902 COMPANIES IN 41 COUNTRIES
1976: MORE THAN 1000 COMPANIES EXPECTED

HAVE A MEDIA XMAS — ROLLERS NON-STOP

TELEVISION POP viewing seems fairly good over the holiday period but it's a disappointing schedule on BBC Radio One.

Doubtless all the cut-backs have left no money for some extra-special festive fare. However there are one or two changes from the normal schedules, particularly at the New Year. It still seems a pity though, that some of the great extra evening shows of past years could not be repeated in the immediate Christmas period.

by Tony Jasper

First, television fare. BBC-1 has the first of two special Top Of The Pops on December 23 at 5.50, compered by Jimmy Savile and DLT. Artists appearing are Cockney Rebel, Rod Stewart, Mud, Status Quo, the BCR's, Billy Connolly and Queen. The second TOTP comes at 2.10 pm on Christmas Day and features again, the BCR's, David Essex, The Tymes, Tammy Wynette, Pilot, Windsor Davis and Don Estelle, Telly Savalas, Mud and 10CC with DJ's, Tony Blackburn and Noel Edmonds.

At 8.45 and off the pop tracks, there is Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid.



DAVID ESSEX

there's Thoroughly Modern Millie at 8.15 and it stars Julie Andrews. Donnie & Marie have their Special at 6.45 pm on the 30th

BBC TV 2 have some goodies. 9.10 pm on the 23rd means Musical Time Machine with Johnny Mathis, Lynsey de Paul and John Howard. Christmas Eve brings a spectacular Old Grey Whistle Test from 10.00 pm to 11.00 pm live from the Odeon, Hammermith come Queen. Christmas Day has the rock musical, Great Big Groovy Horse at 7.55 pm. It's based on the story of Helen of Troy with narrators, ex-Manfred Mann singer, Paul Jones and from Wombles fame, Bernard Cribbins. Sunday December 28th brings a soul musical called Demolition Man.

Then, another OGWT Special on New Year's Eve and it's pick of '75 shows with a pile of talent. There's Led Zeppelin, Elton John, Yes, Little Feat, John Lennon, Joni Mitchell, Pink Floyd and oh, just prior to the programme, Big Ben. The Special starts at 12.03 pm.

Dominate

The Bay City Rollers dominate independent television offering but before their Christmas Day show, there's Look Alive on December 23 at 4.20 and it's national. Stephanie de Sykes will have Dana, New Edition and The Cheeside Fellers.

And the Roller's Christmas show. Don't read any further, if you want everything a complete surprise! It will go out at 5.20 everywhere except Harlech and Granada, where it will be 5.50 pm. The BCR's have Gilbert O'Sullivan with them and they will introduce guests who include Elton John, David Cassidy, Showaddywaddy and the Drifters. Him and Us Plus Three will dance some songs. And the Rollers? They will be live and on film.

The 27th bring Super-sonic with Granada showing it at 10.10 am and most other regions at 6.20 pm. Artists appearing are almost a Who's Who of pop: Marc Bolan, Linda Lewis, Justin Hayward and John Lodge, David Essex, Sweet, Slade, Mud, Alvin Stardust, Gary Glitter, Leo Sayer and of course, the Bay City Rollers.

Radio One on Christmas Day has an extended Junior Choce with Ed Stewart. Ed does his usual round of

children's hospitals in Glasgow, Belfast, Cardiff and the famous London Great Ormond Street. Anne Nightingale and Simon Bates present the Best of Pop from 10 to 12 pm. Otherwise, no change. Jonathan King has an hour to himself on Boxing Day from 12 to 1 pm. He says he will be presenting it very much in Jack Jackson vogue. Jack was a famous DJ of yesteryear who did some pretty freaky things.

John Peel has a Special from 10.00 to 12.00 pm but no guests are as yet announced. On December 27, 6.30 pm, Steeleye Span present an extravaganza with accent on some comedy. Twiggy and Paul Burnett guest.

On New Year's Eve, DLT has an extended show from 4.30 to 7.00 pm and then comes Rosko with a three hour special lasting until 10.00 pm. Paul Burnett takes us into the new Year and Radio One joins with Two at 12.30 pm.

Special

The Bay City Rollers Special is from ten to mid-day on the first day of '76 and they will be playing and talking records, including of course their own. David Hamilton will be in charge!

London's Capital have an interesting set of ideas. On Christmas Eve all the jocks will join Dave Cash at 1.00 pm for his competition time and all the prizes will go to senior citizens. Nicky Horne presents his pick of '75 discs from 7.00 to 10.00. Christmas Day opens with Graham Dene from 7.00 to 9.00 and it will be a special Wombles party with Mike Bait. Johnny Nash becomes the first of several artists over Capital Christmas playing their discs with his 9.00 to 12.00 pm spot. And then, gasp, gasp, Cliff Richard has four hours to himself! The first two hours sees Cliff presenting his kind of

music and is followed at 3 pm by the Cliff Richard story narrated by the lad himself. Tim Rice makes a welcome return for just one evening with a disc spinning session from 6.00 to 10.00 pm. Then it's to the famous Ronnie Scott's jazz club for Linda Lewis and George Melly and it goes through until 1.00 am. Leo Sayer presents his music on Boxing Day from 9.00 to 12.00.

On New Year's Eve from 7.00 to 1.00 am is Nicky Horne and Tony Myers party with one of them 'out and about' asking London people for their New Year resolutions. And then on New Year's Day an amazing 9.00 to 4.00 pm extravaganza, the Capital Hot 100 with Roger Scott and Kenny Everett. Nicky Horne is from 8.00 to 11.00 pm. BRMB have a DJ pantomime on Christmas Day at 1.00 pm and it's repeated on Boxing Day evening at 10.00 pm.

Up at Radio Clyde, as you might guess, it's all happening at the New Year and the mid-boggles! First, though comparative safety with a special Pick Of The Year pop spln from 8.00 to 10.00 pm. And from 12.00 to 6.00 am Steve Jones begins Clyde's entry into 24 hour broadcasting. But, New Year's Day at 12.00 pm through until 6.00 am there's Billy Connolly with Tom Ferry playing music and swapping stories.

Hallam will be virtually 24 hours from Christmas Eve and apart from their usual goodies there's a special Labi Siffre show on Christmas Eve from 8.00 to 9.00 pm. One other difference is the station taking calls and dedications, something not usually done.

That's most of Christmas radio and television and of course all stations will be following their usual programme format, outside of the 'specials'. Please check though all the times for things can change and quickly!



BAY CITY ROLLERS



BILLY CONNOLLY



LEO SAYER



WOMBLES



MARIE



DONNY

RECORD MIRROR & DISC

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ASSISTANT EDITOR Peter Harvey

NEWS EDITOR Rosalind Russell

EDITORIAL Jan Iles

David Hancock

Ray Fox - Cumming

David Wright

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GUIDE TO SOME SPECIAL CHRISTMAS & NEW YEAR TV AND RADIO PROGRAMMES

December 23

- 4.20 p.m. Look Alive (ITV).
- 5.50 p.m. TOTP Special (BBC 1).
- 9.10 p.m. Music Time Machine (BBC 2);

Christmas Eve

- 7.00 p.m. Pick Of '75 (Capital Radio).
- 8.00 p.m. Labi Siffre (Hallam).
- 9.30 p.m. Johnny Mathis (Radio 2).
- 11.00 p.m. Old Grey Whistle Test (BBC 2).

Christmas Day

- 7.00 a.m. Wombles Christmas Party (Capital).
- 8.00 a.m. Ed Stewart Special (Radio One).
- 9.00 a.m. Johnny Nash (Capital).
- 10.00 a.m. Bing Crosby Special (Radio Two).
- 1.00 p.m. Cliff Richard (Capital).
- 1.00 p.m. BRMB Panto (BRMB).
- 2.10 p.m. Top Of The Pops (BBC 1).
- 5.20 p.m. Bay City Rollers (ITV).
- 5.50 p.m. Bay City Rollers (Harlech, Granada).
- 6.00 p.m. Tim Rice (Capital).
- 7.55 p.m. Great Big Groovy Horse (BBC 2).
- 8.45 p.m. Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid (BBC 1).

- 10.00 p.m. Best of Pop (Radio One).
- 10.00 p.m. Linda Lewis (Capital).

Boxing Day

- 9.00 a.m. Leo Sayer (Capital).
- 10.55 a.m. Let It Be (BBC 1).
- 12.00 p.m. Jack Jackson (Radio One).
- 1.00 p.m. Jonathan King (Radio One).

- 4.00 p.m. Dave Dee (Capital).
- 9.00 p.m. Greg Edwards (Capital).
- 10.00 p.m. John Peel Special (Radio One).
- 11.35 p.m. Diane Solomon (BBC 1).
- 9.30 a.m. Saturday Soiree (London Weekend).
- 10.10 a.m. Super-sonic (Granada).
- 5.15 p.m. Cliff Richard Show (BBC 1).
- 6.20 p.m. Super-sonic (ITV).
- 6.30 p.m. Steeleye Span Special (Radio One).
- 8.20 p.m. Shirley Bassey (BBC 1).
- 11.05 p.m. Paul Simon, Art Garfunkel (BBC 1).

December 30

- 4.20 p.m. Look Alive (ITV).
- 6.45 p.m. Donny & Marie (BBC 1).
- 9.30 p.m. Coo Laine, Johnny Dankworth (BBC 1).

New Year's Eve

- 4.30 p.m. DLT Special (Radio One).
- 7.00 p.m. Nicky Horne, Tony Myers Party (Capital).
- 7.00 p.m. Rosko Special (Radio One).
- 10.00 p.m. Paul Burnett (Radio One).
- 10.30 p.m. Max Bygraves (BBC 1).
- 12.03 a.m. Old Grey Whistle Test.

New Year's Day

- 9.00 a.m. Capital Top 100 (Capital).
- 10.00 a.m. Bay City Rollers (Radio One).
- 10.25 p.m. Frankie Laine (BBC 1).
- 12.00 midnight Billy Connolly (Radio Clyde).

(Please check all programmes, they can suddenly be altered!)

From Us To You

AT THIS time of giving the staff of Record Mirror and Disc take the opportunity to join in with everyone else, and have come up with some of the presents they'd like to give certain members of the music business.

Sue Byron

IN VIEW of the difficulty I had in thinking of ten albums I'd enjoyed playing this year, my first present is inspiration to everyone... it hasn't been a vintage for LPs at all! What else? Ah yes, a pair of scissors to Millie Jackson so that she can free herself from that web and get on - caught up, and perhaps a nice pair of flippers for Steve Harley

to help him swim through the water if he can't manage to walk on it... to Lou Reed a pneumatic drill so that I can get my own back for having to listen to Metal Machine Music, and a 'Keep On Trucking' badge for Rufus. For LaBelle, personalised hand-cuffs and an open return ticket to Britain to come and cheer us up, while Guys 'n' Dolls would surely welcome a little less loving and a new song - I know I would! And finally, to Sallor, a copy of Virginia Plains by Roxy!



STEVE HARLEY

luck better luck. Then how about a bottle of rare old port for rare old Tam Paton - he deserves something for looking after all those boys. And surely Santa could arrange to have a moat and drawbridge erected at Ron and Kristine Wood's home (with of course an early warning radar system and shoal of Pirrhana)? Or should we concentrate our efforts on Freddy Mercury? He can have the Queen's award for fairies on the top of Christmas trees. Steve Harley can have the Queen's award for courage in the face of hostility, and Bryan Ferry, a bottle of Milk of Magnesia to settle his stomach. Burp, isn't this where we came in? Have you ever tried building a replica of Rod Stewart's nose out of melted down LP's? He's Irish isn't he?



RON MAEL

Jan Nes

AS LONG as Santa doesn't get sloshed on the festive sherry and Rudolph doesn't blow a tyre, the extra special stars of '76 will each receive something extra special on Christmas morn.

Hot Chocolate a year's supply of Ovaltine... Chubby Checker a dashboard and a pair of leather soled shoes... Barry White a five year contract for Planet Of The Apes... Paul Simon, Art Garfunkel... David Bowie a Mr Atlas pamphlet... Ron Mael a tour's supply of laughing gas... John Inman two male customers... Joe Cocker a boy scout's lambourline... The Fatback Band a thin front man...



BILLY CONNOLLY

David Hancock

DEAR SANTA, As it's Christmas again please send an expensive box of humbug to David Essex and make Bill Wyman President of the United States. Elton John's ever increasing fortune will need a new guard, and, of course, don't forget that badly damaged copy of So You Wanna Be A Rock 'N' Roll Star for Blast Furnace. John Stonehouse gets the Jaws Award. Errol Brown gets Gary Glitter's chest hair and the Rollers get it together. Bryan Ferry can have a new toggle and lanyard, and any old stocking filler will do for Freddie Mercury



DAVID ESSEX



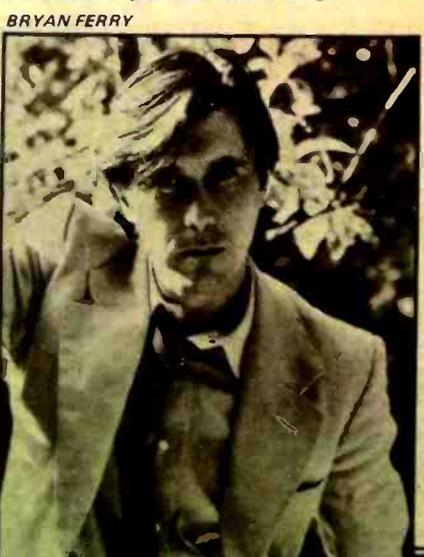
FREDDIE MERCURY

Peter Harvey

ALKAMINTS. NO, no, I didn't say Alkamints, Rennies (whoops) sorreee, indigestion, I beg your pardon, I mean Gary Glitter. That is Guzza, as we've come to know and love him here in ugly down town Hollaway (you know the women's prison is nowhere near us, but merry Chrissy and hot porridge to them anyway). And Gary? Give him a Chrissy pud - a three pounder, with lots of sickly rich rum or cream sauce, a sprig of holly to tickle his fancy, and a silver sixpence for

Ray Fox-Cumming

LINDA McCARTNEY - a good quote. To Bryan Ferry - a guilty secret (it's time he had one). To Robin Nash - Mike Mansfield. To Freddie Mercury - something pretty (to slick his personal effects in). To Billy Connolly - an interpreter. To David Bowie - a cushion (for a soft landing when he eventually falls to earth). To John Inman - butch soap. To the Bay City Rollers - underpants. To Gang - long pants. To David Essex - a brand new grin. To Mick Jagger - a request for an interview. To the Rubettes' John Richardson - a cork. To Kenny - permission to speak... and lastly, to Marianne Faithfull - an overgrown schoolboy crush.



BRYAN FERRY

Rosalind Russell

AS THERE hasn't been much in the way of romantic gossip around this year (unless you count Lyn Paul and Jack Jones, which we won't) the field has been left clear for Rod Stewart and the lovely Britt. Let them have a tick each to the African Jungle where they can do their thing in a mud hut and try even more to be like Richard and Liz. Watch out for the malaria you two!

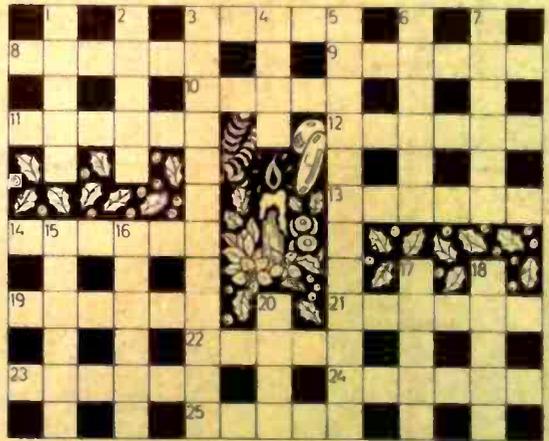
And to Swedish group Abba, who told us earlier this year they wouldn't tour Britain because they didn't need the money - a flannel to wipe the smile from your face.

Isn't it a pity Tammy Wynette couldn't make it to the UK to tour after all?



SPECIAL XMAS CROSSWORD FIVE FRESCO-LE-RAYE T-SHIRTS TO BE WON!

THE FIRST five correct entries to this crossword drawn from the posting will win a unique Fresco-Le-Raye Record Mirror & Disc Break T-shirt. Send your entries to: Crossword, PO Box 195, Spotlight House, 1 Benwell Road, London N7. Entries must arrive by January 12.



- ACROSS**
- 1 Not Hope or Charity (5)
 - 8 A holy one from Nazareth (6)
 - 9 There's the difference in Miss Phillips (6)
 - 10 An affair with Suevie's cherie (5)
 - 11 George or Gary (6)
 - 12 Mr Baker's going into a dream (8)
 - 13 Sacha is listed wrongly... (6)
 - 14 ... while Tom brings peace to the North (8)
 - 19 Guess that this is simply wonderful (8)
 - 21 Miss Gaynor may be heard in church (6)
 - 22 Cum on and feel it (5)
 - 23 Their eyes are lyin' ones (6)
 - 24 Like my town and the town of Bethlehem (6)
 - 25 Famous star lives in chaos (5)
- DOWN**
- 1 Christmas at this very moment with "25", in short (5)
 - 2 How to hold David Essex (5)
 - 3 A gift to enrage Foxy Jim first (12)
 - 4 One worshipped by the fans? (4)
 - 5 Carol singers! (6,8)
 - 8 Examples of bad weather brought by Deep Purple (8)
 - 11 Entertain one: Presley with drink (6)
 - 15 Such crackers make a Melania track (8)
 - 16 Done as by Lizzy? (6)
 - 17 An opening with MacNeal (5)
 - 18 Which way you go!! Mr Connolly? (5)
 - 20 Where the great gates make an exhibition picture (4)
- SOLUTION TO LAST WEEK'S PUZZLE**
ACROSS: 1 Disco Stomp, 8 Acted, 9 Bridge, 10 Squads, 12 Flirts, 13 Please, 15 Flight, 18 T-man, 20 Train, 21 Ken Hensley
DOWN: 2 Intruder, 3 Coded, 4 Thrill, 5 Mud, 6 Bars, 7 Years, 11 Greg Lake, 13 Party, 14 Splash, 16 Louis, 17 Tina, 19 One (rev).

No 503

NAME

ADDRESS

Please state T-shirt size: Large / medium / small. Ring appropriate size.

Edward Oliver PRESENTS A RECORD MIRROR & DISC GAME FOR TWO PLAYERS

STARMANIA!

ADAPTED FROM THE ANCIENT LAPLAND GAME, "TABLUT"

THE ABOVE board represents a Concert Hall just after the performance of a Rock Spectacular. Can the Star escape from the theatre without being seized by the frenzied fans?

WHAT YOU WILL NEED:
 One 10p piece, representing the Star.
 Eight 5p pieces, representing the Star's bodyguards.
 Sixteen pennies, representing the fans.
 If you're not that rich, you could use three different colours of counters, buttons or pieces of card.

PREPARATION:
 Place the Star in the Dressing Room, and the bodyguards and fans on the appropriately illustrated squares.

One player controls the Star and the bodyguards; the other moves the fans.
OBJECT OF THE GAME:
 The Star wins if he reaches ANY VACANT SQUARE ON THE EDGE OF THE BOARD.
 The fans win if they can capture the star (see below).
HOW TO PLAY:
 1. All pieces move ANY NUMBER of vacant squares in a straight line, either horizontally or vertically but NOT diagonally.
 2. Only the Star is allowed in the Dressing Room. Apart from this, any of the pieces may occupy any vacant square. (Illustrated squares are considered vacant once the initial counters have been moved.) Only one piece may be on a square at a time.

3. The Star begins the game by moving one of his bodyguards. After this, the players move one piece each in turn.
 4. A fan or bodyguard is caught and removed from the board when enemy pieces are on the two squares on either side of it (on either a vertical or horizontal line). However, a piece may safely move between two enemy pieces that are already in position. The Star may NOT be used to capture the fans.
 5. The Star is captured when fans occupy the four squares adjacent around him. If the Star is on a space NEXT to the Dressing Room, he may be captured by only three fans on the other three surrounding sides. The Star may NOT be captured when he is actually INSIDE the Dressing Room.
 6. Whenever there is a clear route for the Star to reach the edge of the board, the player must warn his opponent by calling "GANGWAY!", thus giving him a chance to block the passage (if possible) on his next turn.

What the Dickens...?

HERE, AT this very moment in time, you become a fly on the wall at a Record Mirror & Disc Editorial conference, where we burst in on the conversation at...

Editor: "Now on to the Christmas issue. We've got a Father Christmas on the cover."

First journalistic minion: "Who's that?"

Editor: "Gary Glitter. Now obviously we can't have another Father Christmas on the poster."

First, second, third and fourth journalistic minions in unison: "Y-e-s"

Editor: "So... has anybody got any ideas." (This was a stupid question. If minions had ideas, they'd be Editors.)

Second journalistic minion: "Well how about something vaguely Dickensian"

Third journalistic minion (David Hancock): "How camp?"

Second journalistic minion: "... and Christmassy."

Assorted minions: "Like who?"

Editor: "Well who's doing Christmas gigs?"

Fourth journalistic minion: "The Sensational Alex Harvey Band... and er..."

Fifth journalistic minion (Peter Harvey): "Yes, they're playing Christmas Eve and there's a very strange band supporting them..."

And so it came to pass that Nathan's Theatrical Costumiers begat Dickensian gear (at no small number of shekels per day) for the purpose of a Sensational Alex Harvey Band Christmas poster (see overleaf).

Over now to a photographer's studio but a stone's throw from Baker Street, where present and correct are a whole Sensational Alex Harvey Band and a raftful of Dickensian gear - frock coats, waistcoats, frilled

by Ray Fox-Cumming

shirts and neckties (it's not our fault they decided to wear fluff with jeans)

SAHB bassist Chris Glen (parading in tangerine coloured frock coat) "I feel (expletive deleted) great."

Alex Harvey: "Gimme that jacket."

Chris Glen: "Nae, it's mine."

Alex: "Look, it's my (expletive deleted) band



and I don't even get to have the best jacket."

The band finally get attired and present themselves for the photo session, during which they sing folk songs, carols and a curious little number called Old (Offensive term deleted) Never Die. They Only Smell That Way" (the BBC would never play it).

During the photo session, the band start playing about, interrupted periodically by Alex barking "Behave yourselves."

"Can't you control them, Alex? I ask afterwards."

"It's not that they're uncontrollable," says he, "they're just plain thick."

He strides over to Zal Cleminson and Hugh McKenna. "What are you?" he asks.

"We're very slick," they reply looking splendidly gormless.

"And that's not the worst of it," says Alex wickedly, "you should see the roadies - they're mutants."

Do you associate with them?

"Associate with the roadies? No, of course I don't, but I do happen to know the odd person who has spoken to one of them."

Do you know their names?

"No - why should I? See one roadie and you've seen 'em all."

If, after that reading that little sally, the SAHB's roadies have deigned to set up their equipment for them, the band are right now playing some Christmas gigs - three in Glasgow, four in London. These comprise the "best of" the past of the band before they radically change their show in the New Year.

At the last of the dates on

Christmas Eve the band will be supported by a group of musicians who promise to shock the rock world. Peter Harvey writes about them below.

Alex is fairly unforthcoming about these Christmas shows, preferring to save his surprises for the ticket-buyers. He is, however, prepared to sound off a note of hope for the music scene's general welfare in 1976.

"I think," says he, "that we are in for a healthy period. People are no longer prepared to contemplate their next single thinking 'right, let's dial a riff', they are looking forward and finding new things."

One hip Alex has for '76 is a US band called Tubes, of whom you have probably never heard.

"They're great," he enthuses. "They've got a fit 3in guy called Quay Lewd, who wears 18in stiletto shoes and he is the ultimate rock 'n' roll bisexual hero figure. We toured with them in the States and there was such an empathy."

After that, the band interrupt and Alex is immersed in the potential of the costumes.

"I really want a coat like this," he proclaims, "maybe in bottle green. Y'know, this gear makes you feel quite different. It takes you back in time. It makes me feel," he adds, "like discussing Kilchener's famous advance against"

"Now who would like to discuss Kilchener's advance with me?"



THE HEAT GOES ON

THOSE LUCKY enough to get tickets for Alex's last New Victoria concert (December 24) are going to witness a very special event: the public debut of the legendary Blast Furnace and his band, the Heatwaves.

Blast was this week unavailable for comment, but a close friend revealed: "Blast will not talk about the past because he doesn't want to be pre-judged by the

many who will know of his exploits in date."

Blast plays guitar and mouthharp and takes all lead vocals.

Alongside him are: the Lone Groover (guitar, keys, vocals); Sebastian Dangerfield (drums) and Pedro Mandolini (bass, vocals).

For the past two months the band have been rehearsing in a basement studio near Victoria Station.

Among those who've been along to check them out was the Baker Gurvitz Army.

The band have so far refused all offers of recording contracts but say they are ready to go into the studios when the right offer comes along.

Blast has already said: "Nobody will believe what they see when I walk out on stage."

*Sensational
Alex Harvey
Band*



soul stirrings

by Kevin Allen



REGGAE GETS THE BIRD

WHITE GIRL soul singers are nothing out of the ordinary these days, nor are white men reggae singers but a white, **GIRL**, reggae singer is something novel, especially when she makes her chart bid with a new reading of what started life as a country and western classic, the song **Last Date**.

"I just fell into reggae", T. T. Ross explained over the phone. "My friend's boyfriend Les Foster is a reggae singer and he'd always been singing reggae to us, then we'd go to West Indian clubs and parties, so the music was always around me. In fact, I've

been invited to perform in Jamaica next year."

Born in London and christened plain Elizabeth Zachariasz, T. T. is of Polish descent.

It was Les Foster who encouraged T. T. to take up a singing career and who introduced her to Eddie Grant, formerly with the Equals and now very active as a producer and songwriter as well as a solo artist.

"I've now been recording for some eight years and I've had discs out under various names including Silky Davis, Joan Ross and Maxine but none really sold big.

Full-time

"Yes, I do class myself as a full-time singer though at times I've had to work in shops and

things to make a little extra money.

"Till now I've had to rely on pick-up bands for the various clubs I've worked but now I'm looking for a permanent backing group."

T. T., who holds a karate blue belt by the way, is currently signed to the Eve label, part of the Dip / Lucky group of specialist reggae labels but she has the benefit of appearing under the Polydor togo due to a deal her company has with that organisation.

Legends

"The record had already sold 15,000 copies before Polydor picked it up", she told me.

It was Eve who found her **Last Date**: "It was originally a country hit as an instrumental for Floyd Cramer, the song comes from Acuff / Rose who are country legends. Yes, that's all a far cry from reggae but the company thought the song would fill the idiom well and it seems to have worked."

album pick

ISAAC HAYES: Use Me (Stax STX 1043)

After a consistent run of bummers over the past couple of years, the one-time Black Moses has finally got himself together and come up with a winner, ironically for the company he has now left and is at present suing for mucho dollars. Even more ironically, the most commercial track, **Good Love 6-9900**, is a revival from a far earlier album! What makes this one work where his others failed is undoubtedly the balanced choice of material for while the mood is mellow throughout there is still enough variety to maintain interest.

The title cut is, of course, the Bill Withers' song and Isaac breathes fresh life into it, again showing his undoubted talents as an arranger. It opens with a chicken-strut guitar and a rich toned organ then in comes first Isaac and eventually a full-blown orchestra pastiche centering on high-powered horn riffs.

Isaac has cut back on the self-indulgent raps and his singing seems to have improved somewhat. You can certainly

see just where Barry White pinched his ideas from and one is tempted to predict that Isaac is set to win back his crown as the king of deep-voiced mellow sexy soul.

GEORGE AND GWEN McCRAE: Together (President PTL 1070)

Over in America, Gwen McCrae, thanks to her **Rocking Chair** chart-topper and her **Love Insurance** follow-up, is far hotter than hubby George but as far as Britain is concerned she still remains largely an unknown quantity. The idea of a joint album has been in the wind for a long, long while and now it's with us it could be the thing to break Gwen into the big time over here.

Strangely, the mood is far more restrained than on either of the couple's solo items and, interestingly, they work not with the Sunshine Band but with other members of TK's entourage, using a bigger line-up than is usual on the company's product. It's mainly lightweight stuff and makes for pleasant if unsensational listening.

soul gossip

Dionne Warwick has, it seems, now dropped that final 'e' which she added to her surname some years back. Yvonne Fair hoping that her new found success will give her the chance to branch out further into comedy and dramatic acting — her appearance in **Lady Sings The Blues**, brief though it was, won much acclaim. Meanwhile, that film's star Diana Ross, has her hopes pinned on **Mahogany** the new Motown movie which is meeting a very mixed reaction. Tony Featheridge's **Northern Sounds** disco at the Raven and his **Whitchurch** all-dayers are now among the longest running regular soul venues in the country while up in Manchester the **Placemat** is building up the kind of following once commanded by the legendary and much-mourned **Twisted Wheel Club**.

Warner Bros' new name **Al Jarreau** winning a big underground following. **Playboy Clubs** in America moving into the disco thing in a big way. Some indication of current disco power in the States can be gauged by the 14,000 dollars in liquor sales alone taken by Washington's **Tramps Disco** in its third week of operation — what with his **Styliste's** arrangements and revivals of his old songs by **Tamiko Jones**, the **Exciters** and others, as well as his own hit-potential filled **Disco Kid** album, **Van McCoy** really is happening right now.

John Green's Radio

Hallam soul show, beamed from Sheffield, can be picked up as far away as Lincoln and Nottingham — release here of **David Ruffin's** enjoyable **Who I Am** album will depend largely on the impact made by his **Walk Away From Love** single which has just been released by **Tamla Motown**. All **Do Is Think Of You** is the **Jackson Five's** latest US single and it appears on Motown though the group has now left that company. Motown apparently still has nearly 150 unreleased recordings by the brothers. **Lancasterian** funk fans can find what they like to hear at the **Angels Club** in Burnley every Wednesday while at the **Underground Club** in nearby **Blackburn** there's a Northern Sounds' scene every Monday.

The Northern Soul nights at **Bailey's Club** in Sheffield every Sunday are going down far better than anticipated with crowds around the 500 mark where the management would have been happy with half that something of a comeback is expected for **Theola Kilgore** who cut that spine-tingling deep-soul ballad **The Love Of My Man** way back when. Her old man is **Ed Townsend**, who won fame as **Marvin Gaye's** producer among other things, and the lady is currently working with

Jimmy Holiday, another respected name from the 'Sixties who is shaking up hot again — off the usual soul beat, **Muscles** **Make Me Happy** (**Big Bear 5**) finds itself on the blues-orientated **Big Bear** label but it's stone solid disco funk and don't let the fact that the group comes from Birmingham put you off, this is the real thing. **Decca's** **The American Dream** double album sets awake many memories and much of the material still sounds good today, despite its vintage, especially that on the **London American** collection.

Arthur Alexander, the man whose songs were interpreted by both the **Beates** and the **Rolling Stones** in their early days, is back on the scene via the **Buddah** label but sadly **Every Day I Have To Cry Some** (**BDS 439**) doesn't shape up like a hit to my ears, despite the familiarity of the song and a decent enough performance. . . . the city of Atlanta recently held a special **'Bobby Womack Day'** to fete the soul man. **Mayor Maynard Jackson** made a commemorative presentation. **The Tymes** are set to return to these shores in January while the **Fatback Band** will be back in March and **Tramps** are due to make their first visit in January.

RECORD MIRROR & DISC competition

Win 50 Gary Glitter Albums



A FEW weeks ago, Gary Glitter, or Santa Gary as he's known this week, released a rather special album, called simply **G.G.** It was the first album Gary had ever recorded in America, and shows a lot of soulful American influences.

As a special Christmas present, we're giving away a copy of the album to the first 50 correct entries received by January 10, 1976. To enter, simply answer the three

questions below, and send the coupon to **GG Competition, PO Box 195, Spotlight House, 1 Benwell Road, London, N7.** The Editor's decision is final.

1 In which city was the **G.G.** album recorded?

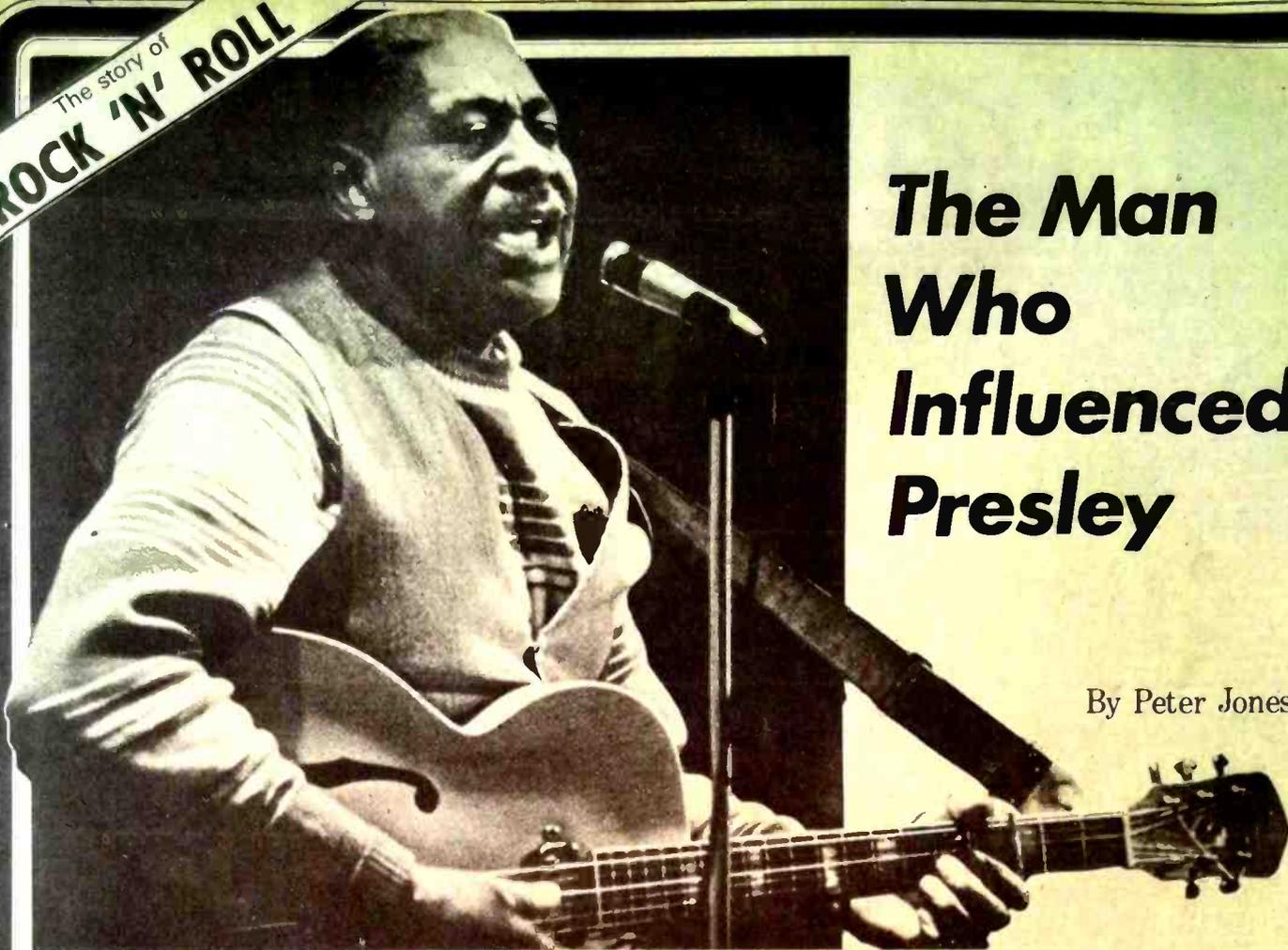
2 Under the name of **Paul Rayen**, Gary nearly had a hit. What was the name of the record?

3 Which of Gary's singles has sold the most?

ADDRESS

Competition Form

The story of
ROCK 'N' ROLL



The Man Who Influenced Presley

By Peter Jones

WHEN ELVIS Presley knocked the pop world sideways to become the big sensation of the rockin' 1950s, he was asked the usual questions about his likes and dislikes, fads and fancies.

He was also asked about which established artists had most influenced him and helped him create his style. Everybody has hero figures. Elvis had one main one — a blues-man name of Arthur Crudup.

Arthur "Big Boy" Crudup, to be more specific. When Presley hit the world's headlines, Crudup was already 50 years old and known as a classy singer-guitarist-songwriter to only a virtual handful of specialist fans.

Now getting a plug, a name-check, from the fantastic Presley should have done Big Boy's career a power of good. And, in fairness his career did go through a revival stage... but this amiable old chap never became a superstar.

Yet Elvis admits that if you play some of the records Big Boy made in the 1940s, then play some of the early Presley hits, you just

can't fail to notice the resemblance. Later, of course, many pop singers were to go for painstaking impersonations of Presley, but early on Elvis did his level best to sound like his own hero.

Still, there are many shrewd experts who call Big Boy — the surname is pronounced Croodup, by the way — the "father of rock and roll" in terms of his performances.

Big Boy was a little boy in the farming community of Forest, Mississippi, one of a very poor family and he learned how to hack a living out of working in the fields. But this was also a cradle of blues, long established, and as

a nipper Big Boy used to listen to the wandering minstrels, an alarming number of whom were blind.

But Big Boy didn't really get into singing, or playing guitar, until he was 32. Up to then it had been a life of hard labour, totin' barges and so on — working in a sawmill, logging, driving a truck.

Hard

He started playing small clubs around Silver City in the Mississippi Delta. And he learned a lot more from the big-name rural bluesmen who visited the area. By 1941 he'd headed off for Chicago, by now a fully professional musician.

A publisher there, Lester Melrose, got him a contract with RCA Victor and he produced nearly 100 titles on record between 1941 and 1956. By 1956, Elvis Presley was on the same label, the only difference being that each of his records sold at least a million copies.

But Crudup was essentially in the ghetto market. Among his singles which most appealed to Elvis Presley were If I Get Lucky, Rock Me Mama, and That's All Right Mama. When these came out, Presley was truck-driving and listening to radio whenever he could.

Trouble was that black entertainers found it difficult to break into the mass white market — ironically, that was to be one of the first barriers to be torn down by Presley. It is just that it all came too late to help the still under-rated Arthur Crudup.

Soon it was back to labouring for Big Boy, no doubt noting the remarkable boost to rock and roll given by Presley. And as a matter of interest, Presley's first "official" record on the Sun label and way before he hit the charts, was of Crudup's song That's All Right Mama.

Still, when Presley started talking about his

old hero and the influences he'd drawn from him, reporters and blues historians did visit Crudup on the farm where he was working, and a latter day blues revival led to RCA bringing out an old Big Boy album in their Vintage series.

Hero

Now the old fellow, 70 years old, does get invited to play in specialist clubs. While Presley drew 200,000 in six shows to the Houston Astrodome, Arthur Crudup would feel gratified to get 200 in a night.

So he never earned the big money. But he says: "It's been a life where the bad has been mixed in with the good. Singing the blues was just something that came naturally to me, even though I started later than most, and that ability enabled me to travel around the land a little, and the money I made gave me a chance to lead a more comfortable life than most of the other guys who worked the farms.

"And as for that boy Elvis Presley... well, it was good that he talked about me in the way he did."

It could be that there were many other bluesmen who had a big influence on the upcoming white-rock brigade, but Presley's enthusiasm for Big Boy was exceptionally strong. Elvis was to go on and sing in just about every possible vocal style, while Big Boy found himself tied to just one... the earthy, throaty, curiously-phrased blues which came from the Mississippi belt.

As for Crudup, he still holds happy memories of his visit to the UK in the spring of 1970, when he went on various television and radio chat shows.

Crudup has never known what it is to be caught up in the rock rat race, where only the fittest can survive. He's never seen one of his records hit even the top hundred.

NEXT WEEK:
Jerry Lee Lewis

'Rock It Baby'
(Baby We've Got A Date)

New single from

JOHNNY NASH



CBS 3825



james hamilton's DISCO PAGE

BELIEVE IT or not, but the Twist was being danced right back at the turn of the century, and its basic pelvic motion can be traced to ancient tribal dances of the Congo!

It seems that the rotating hip movement was incorporated as one part of the dance called Ballin' The Jack, which before it was even named people were doing in New Orleans around 1900. In about 1908 they evidently referred to something as "The Twist", and said it was "vulgar" as well! Certainly, pianist Jelly Roll Morton as a youth in New Orleans sang in Winin' Boy Blues the line, Mama, Mama, just look at Sis — she out on the levee doin' the double Twist.

In 1912 the young Ethel Waters sang an early dance song called Messin' Around which mentions the directions "Twist around with all your might" — presumably suggesting the movement from Ballin' The Jack, which was itself finally choreographed and presented on stage in 1913 with a pronounced version of the modern hip movement. The Georgia Grind seems also to have been similar, while in 1922 someone called Lemuel Fowler wrote "The Fowler Twist. The Twist hip movement was used by black singers of the '20s as they raised their arms to belt out a blues, and in the 30's it was inserted during the breakaway (where partners separated) of the Lindy — better known as the Jitterbug!"

So, as both name and movement, the Twist was not exactly new when R&B star Hank Ballard decided to put some words to the dance step that his group the Midnighters had introduced into their stage act while appearing at Atlanta's Peacock Club. Hank elaborated on the dance routine, called it The Twist and recorded it in November, 1958. Issued as the flip of his Tear Drops On Your Letter hit, The Twist actually entered the R&B chart in its own right during the spring of '59 a month and a half before young Chubby Checker scored his first hit with The Class.

Chubby Checker was the stage name given to Ernest Evans by the wife of Dick Clark, who, as host of the immensely influential American Bandstand TV Pop show, was a useful ally to have. However, Chubby had to wait for over a year

TWISTED HISTORY

until his next hit, during which time there had been a spate of dance records — like the Mashed Potatoes, Hully Gully, Slop and Madison — all helped towards popularity by Dick Clark's TV show. When suddenly Hank Ballard's original The Twist started to happen again, Clark wanted to feature Ballard singing it — but, the apocryphal story says, they disagreed over something and, in a fit of pique, Clark had Chubby rushed into the studio to record a note-for-note cover version which was used on the show instead. Certainly the facts would seem to confirm the chronology of this story. In that on both the R&B and Pop charts Hank Ballard's version had a two week lead over Chubby's.

The rest of the history of the Twist is better known. Chubby Checker topped the US chart in September 1960, then went from Twisting to the Hucklebuck, Pony and Mess Around (he also recorded Ballin' The Jack!) before saying Let's Twist Again the following summer. It was at this stage that gossip columnist Cholly Knickerbocker (real name Igor Cassini) wrote in the

Journal-American that he had seen such — and such an inebriated dower trying to Twist at New York's Peppermint Lounge — thus giving the Twist a degree of class that the middle-aged could understand. The place to be seen at was suddenly the Peppermint Lounge, and just before Christmas 1961 the club's resident band found themselves chasing up the chart hard on the heels of Chubby's revived Twist, so that the first two number ones of 1962 were The Twist and Joey Deco & The Starlitters' Peppermint Twist. Only then did the dance spread to Britain, via France, and following the fun of trying out the step at all the Christmas Parties.

Oh yes, and by the end of 1962, Hank Ballard's slightly bluesier original version of The Twist had managed to earn a gold record, even though its fairly modest chart heyday had been during the initial burst in 1960. He had far more success that same year with 'Finger Poppin' Time and Let's Go, Let's Go, Let's Go, between which The Twist was sandwiched. Still, from B-side to World craze is no mean feat — especially with a dance that's so old!



CHUBBY CHECKER: cover version

dj hot line

MESSY XMAS!

HAND OF THE BLACK WATCH: Dance Of The Cuckoo (Spark) gets 'em all linking arms and charging about causing another (ine mess, report Steve Day (Chingford) and Peter Greig (Route 66 Disco, Plympton), who are agreed about **MIRACLES:** Love Machine (Tania Motown) too. Steve also infos that rapidly rising are **CHUCK JACKSON:** I've Got The Need (All Platinum), tipped by Ray Robinson (Tiffany's, Leicester) and Jon Taylor (Crocker's, Norwich) and **JOHN CONTEX:** The Boxer (Boxa), tipped by Chris Hill (Goldmine, Canvey Island), who also tips **LOUIS JORDAN:** Choo Choo Ch' Boogie (MCA) as his Jitterbug of the week. **GEORGE & GWEN McCRAE:** I'll Do The Rockin' (President) is the word from Peter Greig and Jon Taylor again, together with Les Aron (Life Discos, Bognor Regis),

who's first onto **REAL McCOY:** Twist & Shout (Route). **TRAMMPS:** Hooked For Life (Atlantic) sees Les Aron and Ray Robinson joining Collin McLean (Acas Club, Hamilton), who says that **O'JAYS:** I Love Music (Philly Int) has taken the club by storm. Collin also reports a "better than Wingfield" reaction to **DERRICK HARRIOT:** It With A Bullot (Trojan), breaking for Ashley Early (Ashley's Disco, Ferry-side, Dyfed), who's been plugging **SHANGHAI:** Candy Eyes (Thunderbird) for simply ages. Ingenious Willy Cash (Untouchables Disco, Appleby) combines **STEELE-EYE SPAN:** All Around My Hat (Chrysalis) with **APPLEJACKS:** Mexican Hat Rock Twist (London LP, American Dream), which goes well once the audience know it as it changes from Twist to a strut, he says. Les Spaine (Timepiece, Liverpool) predicts his biggles for Xmas will be **L.T.D. EXCHANGE:** Money Mad (US RCA) and **CLEVELAND EATON:** Chi-Town Theme (US Black Jazz) belatedly, Bob Sampson (Black Cobra Disco, Burgess Hill) has turned on in a big way to **KOOL & THE GANG:** Spirit Of The Boogie (Polydor), which I seem to remember segues beautifully into **JIMMY CASTOR BUNCH:** Bertha Butt Boogie (Atlantic), suitably Xmas-y. Tom Russell (Kirk Intilloch) tips **EARTH WIND & FIRE:** Shining Star (CBS) and **MIKE OLDFIELD:** In Dulci Jubilo (Virgin) can contributing DJs please get their charts and hot shots in by next Thursday, New Year's Day, please? That night incidentally, I'll be playing the hits from 1960 (a very good year) at the Lord Nelson in London's Holloway Road — so a frantic first and — uh — Cool Yule, y'all!



MIKE OLDFIELD

star tip

MAKOSSA TO SALSA MANU DIBANGO: Makossa Music (Creole CRLP 503). I've had a bundle of Afro, Salsa and Dub albums sitting in my drawer waiting to be reviewed, and never the space on the page for them. Thank goodness for Christmas! If you're in a position to play great music like these ethnic sounds you're a lucky DJ indeed — for although superb to dance to they remain unknown amongst the British majority. Manu Dibango caused a stir in funky clubs a few years back with his terrifically rhythmic Soul Makossa (lead track here), which must have inspired the Fatback Band amongst others. This virtual "Best Of" album has many of the saxophonist's goodies

such as Oboso, Kata Kata and Pepe Soup, some of which may be a bit fast but are worth it for the lead track alone. **JH PICK FELA RANSOME KUTI A THE AFRICA 70:** Gentleman (Creole CRLP 502). Side One is the title track, and that is the goodie here. After a bit of skippable doodling it suddenly erupts into a bouncing, leaping, joyful throbber, with hollow booming bass behind a brassy front line. Jazzy and subtle, but infatigably happy as hell. **MASEKELA:** The Boy's Doin' It (Casablanca CBS 4005). Now living in America, trumpeter Hugh Masekela has forgotten his jazzy leanings on this Afro-Funk outing, much

of which features that Street Dance type of rhythm. Title track's a slow funkier, while Excuse Me Please, Ashiko and Mama have more bounce to the ounce. **TABOU COMBO:** 8th Sacrement (Decca SKLR 5227). Completely foxed by its origin when reviewing their New York City single, I now know that the Tabou Combo de Petionville are from Haiti, although this live album (containing the single) was recorded at a concert in New York City itself, where of course they are considered to be Salsa stars. Their rhythms keep rollicking and throbbing along more in the style of Nigerian Juju (type of High Life) music and they make much use of accordion and a rapidly played almost Shadows-ish guitar sound over the perpetually jumping percussion.

import picks

Sweet seduction

CHUCK JACKSON: I'm Needing You, Wanting You (All Platinum AP 2360). While in Britain Chuck's singing I've Got The Need, in the States he's doing his needing in a slower more seductive way. Starting with a sexy homecoming rap, he slides into this Moments-penned / prod smoocher like a sweeter-singing Isaac Hayes, as he suggests to his lady that they slip upstairs before their friends come around. **MARTHA VELEZ:** Aggravation (Sire SAA 722). Back in about '69

Martha cut an album over here produced by Mike Vernon (as is this) which, good in itself, spawned a single that to my mind remains the best ever version of Tell Mama. So I'm glad to hear her again on this bouncy bit of gritty funk, which whumps along without being quite another mother. **NOTATIONS:** It's Alright (This Feeling) (Gernig GMS 0603). Penned / prod by the Jackson & Yancy team of Natalie Cole fame, this vocal group's happy dancer has indeed got much of This Will Be's sprightly swagger, although the instrumentation is very different. Somehow also the group itself sounds as if it's made up of lots of Barry Whites.

james' top ten

- 1 **MISTY**, Ray Stevens, Janus
- 2 **I'M ON FIRE**, 5000 Volts, Phillips
- 3 **IN THE MOOD**, Joe Bob's Nashville Sound Company, US Capital
- 4 **LOVE ME LOVE MY DOG**, Peter Shelley Magnet
- 5 **A LITTLE LOVE AND UNDERSTANDING**, Gilbert Becaud, Decca
- 6 **HOLD ME CLOSE**, David Essex, CBS
- 7 **THERE GOES MY FIRST LOVE**, Drifters, Bell
- 8 **I'M NOT IN LOVE**, 10cc, Mercury
- 9 **LOOKS, LOOKS, LOOKS**, Sparks, Island
- 10 **I ONLY HAVE EYES FOR YOU**, Art Garfunkel, CBS
- 11 **EL BIMBO**, Bimbo Jet, EMI
- 12 **LADY MARMALADE**, Labelle, Epic
- 13 **LOVE IS THE DRUG**, Roxy Music, Island
- 14 **CAN'T GIVE YOU ANYTHING (BUT MY LOVE)**, Stylistics, Avco
- 15 **LOVE HURTS**, Jim Capaldi, Island
- 16 **(ALL I HAVE TO DO IS) DREAM**, Nitty Gritty, UA
- 17 **THAT'S THE WAY (I LIKE IT)**, KC and The Sunshine Band, Jay Boy
- 18 **TAKE ME IN YOUR ARMS**, Doobie Brothers, Warner Bros
- 19 **FOR YOU I'LL DO ANYTHING YOU WANT ME TO**, Barry White, 30th C
- 20 **TAKE GOOD CARE OF YOURSELF**, Three Degrees, Phil Int

Disco scene

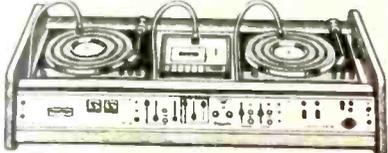
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Songwords



The Twelve Days of Christmas

ON THE first day of Christmas darling Freddie gave to me, a fairy for the Christmas tree.

On the second day of Christmas Bryan Ferry gave to me two sirens wailing and a fairy for the Christmas tree.

On the third day of Christmas Sir Monty gave to me, three rhinestones glinting, two sirens wailing, etc.

On the fourth day of Christmas Reggie gave to me, four specs a-twinkling, three rhinestones glinting, etc.

On the fifth day of Christmas Springsteen gave to me, five crystal balls, four specs a-twinkling, etc.

On the sixth day of Christmas David Bowie gave to me, six stars a-falling, five crystal balls, etc.

On the seventh day of Christmas Cliff Richard gave to me, seven angels honking, six stars a-falling, etc.

On the eighth day of Christmas the Rollers gave to me, eight tartans twitching, seven angels honking etc.

On the ninth day of Christmas Leo Sayer gave to me, nine couples fitting, eight tartans twitching etc.

On the tenth day of Christmas, David Cassidy gave to me, ten images changing, nine couples fitting etc.

On the eleventh day of Christmas Marc Bolan gave to me, eleven ways of silmning, ten images changing, etc.

On the twelfth day of Christmas the pop world gave to me:

Written by David Hancock
Sung by anyone

Twelve teardrops screaming.
Eleven ways of silmning.
Ten images changing.
Nine couples fitting.
Eight tartans twitching.
Seven angels honking.
Six stars a-falling.
Five crystal balls.
Four spec a-twinkling.
Three rhinestones glinting.
Two sirens wailing
And a fairy for the Christmas tree.



super stars

SAGITTARIUS

(Nov 23 to Dec 21)
You'll be ripping it up and rocking like a Robin over Christmas, but please don't get too shattered because the week after the festive season will be a busy one. Don't fret if people snigger at your Xmas presents. They've got no sense of sick humour.

CAPRICORN

(Dec 23 to Jan 21)
You won't have time to rant and rave because you'll be spending time with Mummy and Daddy so therefore you must be on your best behaviour. Make sure you don't let slip your murky high falutin' life. Granny might have heart failure and your parrot might start repeating words you use.

AQUARIUS

(Jan 22 to Feb 17)
Great haddocks! You're in a for a good time. Only because people who are in the know want you to grace their gin and tonic shindigs. They want to hear all the juice and the meat. Just play along and even if you have to get the jokes cutta the Christmas Cracker, they'll slip by.

PISCES

(Feb 18 to Mar 20)
You'll be wanting to go all seasonal on Christmas, with the carol bit and the Goodwill Towards Man philosophy. Ah well, we suppose it's better than getting sloshed in some boozier

and doing knees up mother brown with the bartender.

ARIES

(Mar 21 to Apr 20)
You're in for a confusing time. You won't really enjoy Xmas this year because there'll be too much messin' around. If you yawn too much you might miss the best part, so try to keep awake in order to attend Christmas Mass. If you don't then we're afraid the turkey and the pud won't be adequate substitutes.

TAURUS

(April 20 to May 21)
This is your big moment. You can upstage the Fairy on the Xmas tree and make men / women drunk even without guzzling the Brandy. You'll be such an Xmas stunner that people won't want you at their parties. Well you can always gatecrash and have yourself a right ding-dong.

GEMINI

(May 22 to June 21)
You'll be feeling in a mellow mood and won't feel like raving round the clock. You'll feel more relaxed getting bilstered beside a big log fire with just you and your special mate cuddling up and watching the comedians on telly with their party hats and balloons.

CANCER

(June 22 to July 23)
Christmas Time means cruising time, and what better way to do it than getting fitted out in fur, linking arms with friends and flirting with the best Newcomers of '75. If you get tired of these pick-ups then there's always the man / girl most likely to succeed in '76!

LEO

(July 23 to Aug 23)
Whoops! edaisy, fallen on your soft spot yet again have you? Ah well, if you're going to make a fool of yourself you might as well do it in the silly season. With all those Father Christmasses about nobody's going to notice your little flings. Words of Warning: Don't slap and tickle behind the Xmas tree, those firs are prickly!

VIRGO

(Aug 24 to Sept 23)
It's no use crying over split Christie Pud, the damage is done. OK, so you've got a second chance, but knowing you lot you'll blow it. Instead of using up your wind on useless things, why not save it for the balloons?

LIBRA

(Sept 24 to Oct 23)
A romantic period for Librans with just a hint of sadness at the end. Don't panic and think that you're going to remain on the shelf for ever - it's just that a false start and silly end will make you lose confidence. You'll regain it for the New Year.

SCORPIO

(Oct 24 to Nov 22)
Let the Mistletoe tickle your fancy and leave the rest to the group's sex maniac. Control yourself at office / school parties and dahlings don't do a "Tiller Girls" on the table tops with the cleaners!

super stars

fan clubs

ANDY AND DAVID WILLIAMS Official Fan Club. 1, Randall Drive, Hornchurch, Essex. Secretary: Jackie Oliver. Membership fee: 75p per annum. Membership card, badge, biography, discography, two glossy 10 x 8 black and white photos, and four newsletters during the year. Special offers available to members only, including pens, stickers, key rings, sew-on patches, photos and photo-stamps.

★ ★ ★

DANA Official Fan Club. The Secretary, 15, Sutherland Drive, Orton Dale.



THE THREE DEGREES

Worhorne, Staffs, WV5 9BB. Membership fee: £1 per annum. Membership card, personally signed photo, fan club sticker, pen, biography. Newsletter every three months. See Also: The Secretary, Clounalour, Oakpark, Tralee, Co. Kerry, Ireland.

★ ★ ★

DEL SHANNON News Service. 106, Cormorant House, Alma Road, Ponders End, Enfield, EN3 4QQ. Editor: Ron Clark. Membership fee: £1 to join, then no further fees to pay. Organised outings to various clubs. Six or eight magazines

per year. "The Del Shannon Review". Photograph and discography and short history.

★ ★ ★

ROY ORBISON Official International Club. 21, Daventry Gardens, Harold Hill, Romford, Essex, RM3 7QX. Secretary: Margaret Finch. Membership fee: £1.50 first year, and £1.25 to renew. Membership card, comprehensive record list. Between eight and 12 magazines per year; about five pictures. Full biography and lifelines. Three-page list of Roy's awards. Offers of 8 x 12 picture, posters, badges, pens, key rings, joffer pads, etc. Annual get-together with Roy; coach outings; block bookings all over the country; TV audience ticket allocation.

★ ★ ★

RAY CITY ROLLERS Fan Club. 27, Prestonpange Road, Prestonpange, Scotland. Secretary: Wilma. Membership fee: 50p per annum. Membership kit includes two large posters, six individual postcard-size pictures, an introductory letter, a life-line and a leaflet enabling fans to obtain Roller souvenirs. Three newsletters per year. Christmas card.

★ ★ ★

GELA BLACK Fan Club. c/o T.B.I. Limited, 4th Floor, Abchurch House, 1/2, Hanover Street, London, W1R 6WE. Secretary: Sue Ross. Membership fee: 80p. Membership

card, signed photograph, biography. Four newsletters per year, each one a small booklet. Competitions, offers. Members' tickets for GELA's TV shows.

★ ★ ★

T. REX Fan Club. Betwe G. G., Clwyd, LL21 9FU. Secretary: Wayne. Membership fee: 65p per annum. Membership card, badge, newsletters, competitions. Information, offer sheets. Offers of badges, records, tee-shirts. Phone-in system. Photographs, song books. Pen friends.

★ ★ ★

THE THREE DEGREES Fan Club. P.O. Box 6, Dagenham, Essex, RM10 8DJ. Secretary: Yvonne. Membership fee: 75p per annum. Membership card, biography of each girl, photo sticker, signed photo, newsletter every three months. Competitions, prize is often to meet the Three Degrees personally. Lots of special offers. Group bookings to see them live. Possible fan club convention. Friendly club.

★ ★ ★

ARGENT Information Service. "Good Earth", 8, Museum House, Museum Street, London, WC1A 1JR. Organizer: Jan. This is a FREE service: contact Jan and ask to be put on the mailing list. Information on tours, recording and other details of interest. Regular newsletters, badges, stickers and posters when available.

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Raunchy records

Christmas is loony season, when everyone comes right off the rails and purchases stupid records they'd never consider buying in non-illy seasons like high summer, when their minds and hands are on other things. The Beatles called it 'appy Crimble and John Lennon still pines for his true yuletide home when festive truckloads of Chocolate Oliviers are sent to him in New York City.

Christmas is raunchy rollecks like Merry Christmas Everybody or frosty frolics like I Wish It Could Be Christmas Every Day. Christmas is Her Majesty at three. Rolf Harris in pants with snow on his boomerang. Hard Day's Night on Boxing Day again and again... and again.

How better than to finish with a rousing chorus of John Lennon's Happy Xmas (War Is Over) as he might have put it back in 1964.

A very merry Crimble, and a happy new year. Let's hope it's a fab one, and it's really gear!

L. N. Price, The Jolly Christmas Preservation Society, Weston-super-Mare. The Jolly Christmas Pickling Society (Holloway) wishes the Jolly Christmas Preservation Society (Weston-super-Mare) a jolly Jolly Christmas.

Tasteless

I am very disturbed by the appalling lack of taste shown by this paper and particularly the low standard of humour and wit displayed on the letters page. You are somewhere between pomp and sleaze with a little portion of schoolboy charm on the side. Why are you so boring? Hasn't it ever occurred to you? Anything?

Where we (the Wombats of Wales) hang out,



JOHN LENNON

there's a completely original band which plays the village hall every Friday. They are called Noddy And The Big Boys and play electric celtic harps. Noddy has a big nose and spits between each vocal line. Also, when they play certain numbers the entire audience joins in a huge sort of conga. Isn't this unusual? But I suppose because it's a little bit of the ordinary your brain will be unable to function, you dimwits!

What we need are more funtuns!

Yours obnoxiously,
Jerry Gadd,
The Vicarage,
Lower Pensill,
Gower Peninsula.

● May your Christmas positively abound in pomp and sleaze.

POST CARD



Dear Santa
Mailman,
I'm frightfully sorry
to have to tell you this,
but I stopped believing
in you when I was seven.
Alison Brown, Bristol

"Record Mirror & Disc"
Spotlight House,
1 Benwell Road,
London N7 7AX

Disgusted

I was very pleased to receive a ticket for Supersonic show on Tuesday night especially as my favourite group were playing. The Glitter Band. Unfortunately the majority of the girls there were Rollers' fans and I was most disgusted by their behaviour throughout the show. They persisted in screaming out individual Rollers' names and David Bridger, the host, had to reprimand them for their behaviour after which they quietened down for a little while.

Andy Scott of the Sweet came on, as did Albert Hammond, and Terry Sylvester (a Hollie), and I thought it very bad of the Rollers' fans to insist on screaming for their Rollers' when these three acts were on as it obviously didn't make them feel very confident. Maybe it's the done thing to make a racket at a concert or festival, but I really think the kids could

have had a little more courtesy and feeling for the acts which appeared live at least, especially in a place like this, a television studio.

Lizzie Jackson,
Lewisham.
● May your Christmas stocking contain a set of (Carmen) Rollers.



ANDY SCOTT

Feeble flop

A short note in reply to Gaynor Tuck (Leek Power), in Mailman, issue December 13, I don't think that either Max Boyce or Billy Connolly are important enough in a music sense to be included in a pop paper at all, and the same goes for Jasper Carrott and other feeble funny-men.

Jane Miles,
Middx.

● You churl, you don't deserve a Christmas at all. May the fairy on top of your tree be a wicked one and may the curse of the reindeer with the runs land on your roof.

Memories

I'd like to reply to G. Wiseman, of Dundee, in Mailman, issue Dec 8, about the Rollers. For one thing Londoners never see the Rollers riding around in their flashy cars let alone stopping to talk to us, and in reply to the BCR

Devotee, Scottish Borders, you were lucky to have seen them so close to. In youth clubs, palais, etc - a thing us Londoners haven't experienced, so please cherish those memories. With regard to Alice, Edinburgh, would she really rather tartan scarf if an ordinary Scot whom she knew married someone English or from any other nation, or does she feel just like that about the Rollers. Judging from the tone of her letter, maybe she doesn't believe in mixed marriages.



JASPER CARROTT
See: Feeble flops

Emma, Southgate, London.
● What's Emma short for? Emancipated?

Tip Top

How will you be spending Christmas yourself?

Nosey of Norwich.
● Why my dear, on the top of the highest Christmas tree in the land of course - as usual. Only this year I hope someone remembers to take me down once it's all over.



STUART WOOD
See: Memories

Pre-booked

I'd be grateful if you could arrange for Rod Stewart to be in my Christmas stocking - without Britt. After all, there's not enough room for two of them in there and three would be a crowd.

Hopeful,
Bromley,
Kent.

● Sorry, but he's not available. I could however offer you Demis Roussas, John Inman or Sandy Posey. Yes?



ROD STEWART
See: Pre-booked

J. Edward Oliver "Once on Royal David's settee"

THIS WEEK, I'D LIKE TO BRING YOU AN EDUCATIONAL-TYPE EPISODE WITH A SEASONAL TOUCH, AS I REVEAL THE LONG-FORGOTTEN STORIES BEHIND...

THE ORIGINS OF Christmas Cards



A GANG OF HELL'S ANGELS ONCE TERRORIZED A COUNTRY VILLAGE, UNTIL THE TOWN'S CHEERIST CAME UP WITH THE IDEA OF SECRETLY MAILING LEAD WITH THE GANG'S DEVIL CREAM. THIS WOULD MAKE THEIR HEADS SO HEAVY THAT THE NEXT TIME THEY WENT SKIMMING IN THE LOCAL RIVER, THEY WOULD BE CARRIED STRAIGHT TO THE BOTTOM OF THE SCHEME. WORKING JUST AS PLANNED, THE YOUTH'S CRIES OF DISTRESS COULD BE HEARD FOR MILES AROUND. THIS PROMPTED THE NEIGHBOURHOOD SCUMBSTER TO COMPOSE THE YULETIDE CAROL, "HARK, THE HAIR-OILED ANGELS SINK!"

A ROYAL PALACE WAS ONCE INVADED BY A GROUP OF BANDITS. THE BANDIT CHIEFTAIN PUT THE KING AND ALL HIS SERVANTS TO THE TORTURE BY USING A THUMBSCREW, A RACK, AN IRON MAIDEN, AND A TRANSISTOR RADIO PLAYING THE JIMMY KONG SING. THE KING REALIZED THAT, TO KEEP UP THE MORALE OF HIS STAFF, HE MUST RESIST THIS TORTURE FOR AS LONG AS POSSIBLE, THAT HE MUST AVOID SHOWING ANY PAIN UNTIL THE REST OF THE VICTIMS HAD ALREADY CRACKED. AND IT WAS THIS THAT INSPIRED THE FAMOUS CAROL, "A GOOD KING WINKS LAST."



IN OLDEN TIMES, THERE LIVED A MAN WHO BELIEVED THAT BREAKING LIMBS COULD BE NARRATED TO MAKE HIM POWER. ALTHOUGH HE FELT SOMEWHAT FOOLISH, HE HAD GREAT FAITH THAT CRIMES WOULD PROVIDE A CHEAP AND EFFICIENT SOURCE OF ENERGY. IN ORDER TO TEST HIS THEORY, HE MICHED A BREAD-CRUMB TO A SLEEPER, CLIMBING ONTO THE SLEDGE. HE ORDERED THE CRUMB TO PULL HIM ALONG. THIS HE BECAME THE FIRST PERSON EVER TO UTTER THE WORDS OF THE FAMOUS CAROL, "OH, CRUMB, HARK, VE FAITH-FOOL."



BEING EXTREMELY CONCERNED ABOUT HIS FIGURE, A RICH BUSINESSMAN DECIDED TO HAVE A WEIGHTING MACHINE BUILT INTO ONE OF HIS DINING ROOM CHAIRS, SO THAT HE COULD TELL IMMEDIATELY IF HE WAS EATING TOO MUCH. THERE WAS ONE VERY LARGE CHAIR AND SIX SMALLER ONES. THE BUSINESSMAN DECIDED THAT THE LARGE ONE WOULD BE MOST SUITABLE FOR HIS PURPOSE AND IT WAS THIS DECISION THAT LEAD TO THE ANCIENT CAROL, "A WEIGH IN A MAIN CHAIR."



J. EDWARD OLIVER presents
FRESCO-LE-RAYE



A WEALTHY DUKE NAMED ERNEST WAS AT THE JEWELLER'S HAVING A GOLD CHAIN MADE IN THE SHAPE OF HIS INITIAL. WHEN A ONE-EYED CRIMINAL KIDNAPPED HIS DAUGHTER, THE DUKE OFFERED TO GIVE THE CROOK HALF THE GOLDEN £ AS A RANSOM, BUT THE THUG DEMANDED NOT ONLY THE ENTIRE INITIAL, BUT ALSO ENOUGH MONEY TO ENABLE HIM TO BUY A GLASS EYE. THIS DEMAND OF COURSE, WAS THE ORIGIN OF THE RENOWNED CAROL, "THE WHOLE £ AND THE EYE FEE."



NOBODY LOVES A TWO-MILLION-AND-TWO-YEAR-OLD DIMONDAIR. UNLESS YOU IT ALWAYS SEEMS EVEN WORSE BEING ALONE AT CHRISTMAS THAN IT DOES DURING THE REST OF THE YEAR?



IN DAYS OF YORE THERE LIVED A KING NAMED SILAS, WHO WAS KNOWN AS "SV" FOR SHORT. GIVEN A NEIGHBOURING KING WAS FORMING AN ARMY, HE ASKED SV IF HE COULD BORROW HIS STRONGEST, BRAVEST KNIGHT TO LEAD HIS TROOPS. BEING A HELPFUL SOUL, SV LENT HIM A KNIGHT AND THIS, OF COURSE, WAS THE INSPIRATION FOR THE TRADITIONAL CAROL, "ONCE IN THE ROYAL DAVID'S CITY" (E. H. NO. QUANT A MINUTE-THERE'S SOMETHING WAGONS HERE SOMEWHERE)



WAIT A MINUTE - I KNOW! I COULD GO DOWN TO OUR LOCAL DEPARTMENT STORE AND VISIT FATHER CHRISTMAS IN HIS MAGIC WISHING GROTTTO.



ON A REMOTE ISLAND, A MERMAID GAVE BIRTH TO A MERBORN. ONE CHRISTMAS THE MERBORN WAS GIVEN A DRUM THAT WAS SIX FEET TALL BUT THAT WINTER WAS SO COLD THAT THE ONLY WAY THE BOY COULD KEEP HIS FAMILY WARM WAS TO SET FIRE TO HIS PRECIOUS INSTRUMENT. HE BECAME RENOWNED FOR HIS SACRIFICE, AND WAS IMMORTALISED IN THE POPULAR CHRISTMAS SONG, "IT TALL DRUM MERBORN."



THIS COULD POSSIBLY TURN OUT TO BE NOT SUCH A BAD CHRISTMAS AFTER ALL.



garbage COLUMN

FESTIVE FLOP TEN

1. WHITE CHRISTMAS - VAN SMITH
2. LONELY THIS CHRISTMAS - MICHELLE DOTRICE
3. I WISH IT COULD BE CHRISTMAS EVERY DAY - ASSOCIATION OF TUBE SV PARAGERS
4. BLUE CHRISTMAS - JUDGE BREAD
5. JINGLES BELLS - QUASIMODO
6. GOD REST YE MERRY GENTLEMEN - SLUMBERLAND LTD.
7. LITTLE DRUMMER BOY - KEITH REDON
8. SILENT NIGHT - MARCEL BARCEAU
9. ANGELS FROM THE REALM OF GLORY - THE CHAMPAGNE
10. MAKE A DAFY HOSE FOR CHRISTMAS - THE RUBETTES

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A STOKES NEWINGTON MAN HOLDS THE WORLD RECORD FOR EATING THE MOST CANDY PADDOLES. HOW DID HE FEEL AFTERWARDS?
A STOKES NEWINGTON MAN HAD A HEADACHE, SO HE PUT HIS HEAD THROUGH A WINDOW, AND THE PAIN WENT.
FRANCIS FARRIS CHRISTMAS NOT BEING PAULER OF STOKES NEWINGTON? (SANTA-1980) (SAL WERT)
WHEN THERE WAS THE STOKES NEWINGTON MAN WHO MADE HIS BED IN A CHAIRBEARER BECAUSE HE WAS A LIGHT SLEEPER.
FRANCIS DOES A SMALL BUSINESS OF STOKES NEWINGTON TRAM BRIDGE MARKET. (SAL WERT)
WANTS YOU HEARD ABOUT THE ALCOHOLIC STOKES NEWINGTON SCUMBSTER WHO COULD NEVER GET PAST THE FIRST TWO BARS OF THE STOKES NEWINGTON WOMBAT AND SLEPT UNDER THE BED BECAUSE SHE THOUGHT SHE WAS A LITTLE HOT TV?
FROM PHILIP EDWARDS, STOKES NEWINGTON, 1980. (SAL WERT)

Small Ads

Personal

GIRL WANTED. Interests: wildlife rambling, Sweet, Alan Thurioe, 89, Sandford Close, Bransholme, Hull, Yorkshire. **JOHN PROFESSIONAL** D.J. fed up with Surrey life seeks Midlands girlfriend 16-19, for steady relationship, must like music. Photo if possible please. Box Number 502R.

JANE SCOTT for genuine friends, introductions opposite sex with sincerity and thoughtfulness. - Details free, stamps to Jane Scott, 3 RM North Street, Quadrant, Brighton, Sussex BN1 3GJ.

STEPHIE (21) seeks sincere girlfriend 16-19 South London. 399 1819, 5-6 pm.

SOUTH LONDON guy (21) seeks sincere girlfriend. 399 1819, 5-6 pm.

LONELY GIRL 20, seeks friends. Hull area. Box Number 506R.

GIRLFRIEND NEEDED for Gary, 17½, good looking, must be 15-20. Leeds area. Write now. Box Number 505R.

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