Are YOU a Gary Glitter SUPERFAN?

Before they disband -
THE NEW SEEKERS
on:
Life...
Love...
and Marriage

INSIDE:
The Carpenters
WOMBLES
GEORDIE

THE ONLY BBC TOP 50 PAPER!
Is ENO a Winkie?

AND -
CILLA
says:
"Great to be back"
SUZI makes the top. How long can she keep the number one spot? Bowie moves in for the kill at 2. Alvin Stardust is there in front having made a 19 place jump! The Hollies blast their way eight places up and hit eight. Is it now too late for the Wombles of Windowdon? Will Paul McCartney hit the ten string away with Jeff? Ringo at ten. Next week will be the most dramatic chart week for 7 years.

The Love Unlimited orchestra makes a spurt to ten but Mary's Boy Toy disappoints and drops to 16. The Bay City Rollers are going big, very big. They must be overwhelmed by their dramatic chart movement. Remember in 1969, Barry White climbs to 14 and Lena Zavaroni goes three forward to make 11. And there's Charlie Rich, the deep voice American guy has made it here, at last and how!

Quick flicking down the charts suggests a week of everyone rising. That can't be so but notice the other speedsters: Gilbert is 8, from Medicine Head 53 to 8. Alvin Head 39 to 44 and nearly forgot. Prelude 23 45. Perhaps there are people going fast down the 36 and that means Lee Sayer dropping 21, Radar Love losing 19, Bubble Rack (and still there for various radio people haven't given up. No Jessie from the Allman Brothers Band at 25. Mike Oldfield makes it the other week and she doesn't look like climbing. That, you see, is about the only news.

Hey, sudden stop by Neil Sedaka and Cilla has not made progress. And slight ambivalence expressed here by Chet's chart shows that Lady Lily is not going well. It's soon goodby time for Ronnie and Robert 15. The better it is with a slight contamination going on just now. Carol Everlasting Love? Yes, everything's a trifle dull after those surprising people. Chet may be over for next week. Don't wet the blood vessels but it's going to be one of them. Chet 10 45. Weeks like this week, but see, George Harrison on the 35th with Roger Daltry, would make me a very happy man. Especially in getting another candle on Friday March 8 and for all of them (we're only going to be starting to theised under the sign of Pieces. Next week a real biggie.

us soul chart

1. (1) Boogie Down - Eddie Kendricks (Tanga)
2. (2) Trouble Man - Isaac Hayes
3. (3) Happy People - Al Green
4. (4) It's All Right - D.J. Rogers
5. (5) Baby Needs Love - Little Feat
6. (6) Get Ready - James Brown
7. (7) We've Had Enough - The Isley Brothers
9. (9) I'll Be The Woman - Junior Floral
10. (10) Love Theme - Love Unlimited Orchestra (30th Century)

(From Billboard's Special Soul Survey)

THE DOOBIE BROTHERS are on their first UK smash. What's the stopping '00s. Bourneville Station and Mick Ronson? Yes and no. It's a secret. That doesn't Matter Anyway looks like making a chart return. Ferry Sledge challenging them but The Carpenters not getting away quickly with Jambalaya. Maybe we'll give them a Knock Off with Fall. Get it people! Buy it!

EVERLASTING LOVE RETURN TO THE Top Monster MNT 1968:

HE'S NOT HEAVY, HE'S MY BROTHER Neil Diamond MCA 101.

I LISTEN TO THE MUSIC Doo-Wop Brothers Warner Brothers K 16288.


THE LAST BLOODBROTHER IN THE WORLD U.K. 77.

AND YOU DO IT D.J. Rogers RCA

I KNOW WHAT I LIKE Genesis Charisma CB 254.

HABITATION Stones Rolling Stone RS 19100.

I CAN'T GET YOU OUT OF MY MIND Four Tops Probe P 04 12.

LOVE unlimited Rick Ross RCA AR 004 12.

BUCKLE DOWN Mel Tim & The Gonz Con CD 006.

BOY BLUE The Wombles RCA TMO 011.

COME GET TO THIS Marvin Gaye Tamla Motown M 101.

DON'T BLAME THE CHILDREN Jnr. Walker & The Allman Brothers Tamla Motown M 809.

Malcolm Holmes & Wallers Island WLP 616.

FUNKY STUFF Kool & The Gang Polydor 2805 674.

IT DOESN'T MATTER ANYMORE Buddy Holly MCA 101.

JAMBLAYA Carpenters A&M 796.

LEAVE ME ALONE Helen Reddy Capitol CL 15778.

LIVE FOR YOU Elton John DJM 15743.

REMEMBER Des O'Connor Pye 7N 437.

SEATING ON THE TONIGHT SHOW LES BAY Odds Atlantic K 1059.

THE WOMBLES Little Band Capitol CL 1708.

WHEN A MAN LOVES A WOMAN Percy Sledge Atlantic K 1038.

Y VIVA ESPANA Sylvia Scott Son 507.
THE BOWIE MAGIC continues! David Bowie may not be playing live gigs or have so many features written about him in the musical press but his records sell like mad.

Last week we told the Bowie story on albums. We told how he made almost twice as many points as his nearest challenger. This week he comes right in the 50 with Rebel Rebel.

Bowie is there now with Lulu on her version of The Man Who Sold The World. Bowie is in there in the album chart with his record with the same title.

Bowie's Pin Ups has made over £500,000 sales. The same is true of Aladdin Sane and The Rise And Fall Of Ziggy Stardust.

David's Honky Dory is over £75,000 sales.

Someone rang us up and complained about last week's Bowie congratulations. They said Bowie only sells in Britain. Elton is bigger than him for Elton sells in the States and that's where it counts!

What do you think? Was that person right?

LENZA VIZZARONE: 18-year- old Lena, currently hit making with Ma! (He's Making Eyes At Me), has already recorded her first album for March release. Among the tracks are Swingin On A Star (a big hit for Big Dee Irwin and Little Eva in 1963), End Of The World (a Steeler Davis hit in '64) and the Kristofferson song, Help Me Make It Through The Night (a hit last year for Gladys Knight & The Pips).

GARY GLITTER: Gary's next single for March 12 release is Remember Me This Way, title track from his forthcoming film. Penned by Gary and Mike Leander this is Gary's first ballad single. Gary tells us: "At first we didn't intend the song as a single but later we decided it had turned out so well that we simply couldn't leave it as an album track." Gary added, in case you or even us were worried: "My next single will definitely be a rocket!"

OLIVIA NEWTON-JOHN is in the US Top 10 with Let Me Be There and of course has had many hits in our Top 50. Now Olivia's busily singing the Eurovision song entries on the Jimmy Saville TV show. And this week there's the chance of winning her brand new album! 10 copies are offered to the first 10 people with correct answers. The album is titled Music Makes Me Cry. (Para.)

For various reasons we have to say:
1. Record & Radio Mirror guarantees albums leave this office for posting and each package is registered. We cannot accept further responsibility, though we would make necessary enquiries in case of complaint.
2. Though competitions may mention a certain album as being offered we cannot be responsible for industrial troubles such a date of sending, though we will do our best to send albums as near the date advertised as the last for entries.
3. In future all album winners will be informed by post within three days of the competition closing date. This will enable others to purchase the particular album from a shop without fear of receiving the same album at a later date from us. Sorry about all those words but you want to run competitions? We want to keep competitions running simply because so many of our readers have expressed pleasure at winning the records they want.

OLIVIA! Yes, she is not forgotten! Send entries to Record & Radio Mirror by Monday March 6. Only entries addressed OLIVIA Competition, Record & Radio Mirror, Chart Parade, 7 Carnaby St, London W1P 1GB will be accepted. Comp questions may be copied on an ordinary piece of paper and sent.

1. Has her current US hit been a Top 10 smash here?  
2. What is Jimmy Saville's programme called?  
3. In this year's Eurovision contest being held in the UK?
Osmonds' legal tangle means

No discs

THERE WILL be no new Osmond records released in this country until such a legal tangle has been sorted out between the family and M.G.M. the American record company through which which the Osmonds work.

R.R.M. understands that the Osmonds are presently suing M.G.M. although the exact details are not known. As a result of this Polydor, the record company handling the Osmonds in England, is not receiving any Osmond tapes.

Said Polydor spokesman: We don't know what it's all about since we haven't been told. The Osmonds records we release have to go through M.G.M. and at the moment we're not getting any tapes.

This means that plans for a new Osmond album have had to be shelved, but Jimmy Osmond's new single, I'm Going To Knock On Your Door, will be released on March 15 since the tape reached Polydor before the trouble.

Caravan face ban

CARRIANS have been refused permission to appear with the New Symphony Orchestra at the Royal Albert Hall on the grounds that they are a rock band.

The group were looking for a suitable venue over the Easter period to give a performance with the orchestra who are featured on their new album, Caravan album. The band was turned down.

Meanwhile the group are continuing their search for a suitable venue said a spokesman.

Cassidy

DAVID CASSIDY in Britain in the Spring, will play two dates on May 28 and 29 in concert at Glasgow's Shawfield Stadium and on May 29 at The White City Stadium, London.

Promoter Mel Bush is staging both concerts and plans are in hand to ensure the highest degree of safety for the audiences.

Although White City has a capacity of 60,000, only 40,000 tickets are being sold as a precaution against over-crowding.

To enable everyone in the stadium to have a good view of David, a giant video screen is being set up over the stage.

Tickets for the London concert which starts at 8 pm will be on sale from 12 noon Sunday, March 19, at the White City (Tel: 01 743 5544), but postal applications will be accepted before this date provided they are accompanied by S.A.E. and all cheques and postal orders are made payable to Mel Bush Organisation, Ltd. Tickets are also available from London Theatre Bookings. Bookings will be divided into two categories.

In England, tickets will be 15,000 and again tickets go on sale from 12 noon, March 19. They will be available from the Apollo Centre, Renfield Street, Glasgow (Tel: 041 532 6726) and from Focus, Sauchiehall Street, Glasgow (Tel: 041 532 4442).

Tickets are priced at £2 and the same conditions apply at postal applications.

The concert starts at 8 pm, doors open 6 pm.

Cat's

CAT STEVENS embarks on a three to four month world tour in March which includes several British dates culminating with a two-day appearance at London's Theatre Royal, Drury Lane March 27-28.

Touring with Cat and Gerry Conway, Jane Roussel and Ashley Easton, the group who worked on his recently completed album due for release in March.

Other British dates an announced: Glasgow Apollo (Mar 19); castle Eden (21); Liverpool Empire (23); Oxford New Theatre (24); Coventry Theatre (31).

Vee side

TWO new albums featuring Bobby Vee & The Ventures is to be released by United Artists this month as part of a Rock & Roll Jamboree.

A double album containing original versions of golden oldies titled The Many Sides of Rock 'n' Roll is also due for release.

United Artists will also be releasing P.F. & J. featuring such names as Johnny And The Hurricanes, Jan And Dean, Garrett Gambins and P. J. Proby.

Mann delay

MANFRED MANN'S Earth Band, back in England after a highly successful tour of the States with Led Zeppelin, are back in the studio recording their next album. Unfortunately due to the vinyl shortage release of their single has been put back to March 6.

Ruffin signs

JIMMY RUFFIN is signed up to start a mammoth five month tour on March 19. Meanwhile his latest single, Tell Me What You Want, has just been released by Polydor.
There's a thief about

GARY GLITTER and the Glitter Band had £26,000 worth of equipment and stage costumes stolen in Rome on Sunday night.

The gear, excluding the band's musical instruments, costumes for both Gary and Mike, stage scenery and sound equipment, was in a van which disappeared from outside the hotel where they were staying.

Gary and the band were in Italy last week for concerts in Turin and Rome. They have no more gigs until March when they go to Rhodesia.

Said a spokesman:

"The Italian police are still investigating the theft. Gary, who flew home from Rome on Monday, and his wife, who is now in bed with flu, will have to get it all together again unless the gear is recovered. Just what the insurance policy is I don't know. The road manager was unable to contact any earlier Italian ban on Sunday driving."

NEW WORLD were this week jokingly laughed at in a dramatic series of events which we threatened with murder and held £2,000 worth of their equipment to ransom.

The gear disappeared from the group's van last week after being repaired at a Hitchin garage. It included the chief roadie Ian Fieldsend saying he wanted £500 for its return.

"Ian's the James Bond of roadies," said group leader Fuzz Lee. "He played it very straight and got us to place the money in a taxi on a railway bridge near Hitchin."

Police staked out the railways but finally the thief did turn up only to be captured by police later on a chase. Afterwards, "Who can worry about death threats, you face it every time you go on stage."

GLYPHON, the medieval rock band, lost two guitars in the theft. The group has written to thieves to return their equipment worth £2,500 and offered their Roundhouse on September 27 for them to use.

They appealed for help in the recovery of an original medieval harp, a harmonium and a key from the house by Jeno of Illinois with a metal plate on the side. Also appeal: Fender Rhodes, electric piano, Fender Telecaster amp., and H & B lead stack with death threats, you face it every time you go on stage."

2X12 speakers, and Sunburst Preamp.

Brian Gallund from the group told Radio 1 that luckily they were not due to start gigging until March 8.

Ballard quits Argent

Richard banned

ROLLING STONE Keith Richard has been banned from France for two years because of his drug offence.

The Aix-en-Provence appeal court upheld sentences passed in 1973 in connection with the possession of drugs.

Both Richard and another member of the Stones' entourage, Bobby Keyes, given suspended prison sentences and fined at the original hearing.

The appeal court's verdict means both Richard and Keyes will not be allowed in France for two years, although there is nothing stopping the Stones appearing in Brussels, within travelling distance for the French, as they did on their last tour.

Mike Glitter

GLEN Campbell's Manchester concert which was postponed was to be held at the Manchester Central Hall on March 28. The concert was postponed due to illness and the date has not been rescheduled.

Tom Jones' concert at the National Sports Centre was postponed due to illness. The concert was to be held on March 29 and has not been rescheduled.

String sing single

STEVIE TILTON, currently appearing on the Gallagher radio tour, is to be on "In Concert" on February 26 at the Royal Albert Hall for broadcast on March 16. The tour dates will be announced by Dudley College of Education. Feb 23, Manchester University (Feb 25), Derby College of Art (Mar 1), Bognor Regis College of Art Centre, Portsmouth (Mar 10), Ballad Variety Club (March 15) and Highest Town Centre (March 25).

NIGEL SEDAKA is to undertake three weeks of a cabaret at the end of his concert tour. His concerts take place on March 22, Portchester Centre College (Feb 24), University College of Greenwich (Mar 19) and Huddersfield College of Education (March 21).

RAGTIME guitarist John James is appearing at Bedford College this Thurs. (Feb 19). Other dates are New Theatre Centre, London (Feb 22), Portchester Centre College (Mar 19), University College of Greenwich (Mar 22) and Huddersfield College of Education (March 21).

The dynamic partnership of Suzie Quatro and songwriters Mike Chapman and Nicky Chinn topped their amazing year of success with awards from RRM's sister publication, Music Week, which serves the music business. The trio are seen here at the presentations which took place at London's Miton Hotel.

The cover story of the week on the CM label is a track from her forthcoming album. This single is a fresh recording by Lesley Duncan written by Lesley about her life.
THINGS SEEM to be moving pretty fast for Queen. Hailed as the new Led Zeppelin they've just completed a strenuous but successful tour with Mott the Hoople. Now they're working frantically to finish off their second album to be released by EMI in March before flying out for a lightning visit to Australia. Roger Taylor (drummer) and John Deacon (bassist) took time to explain where the band were at.

"For a start", said Roger, flashing a set of immaculate teeth. "We were thinking of changing our name, with the release of our first album - because of dubious connotations", (but of course, why else?) then we thought: what the hell, it's been with us for three years now, and besides we couldn't think of a better one, so we're sticking to it!"

All four members of the band were attending different colleges in order to obtain degrees, "something to fall back on", and were meeting each other socially before their music took over their academic careers.

"I was at dental college", continued Roger, "then the teeth", Brian May (lead guitarist) was at the Imperial College studying astronomy, John was at Chelsea doing electronics, and Freddie Mercury (lead vocalist) was at art college. Brian and myself were already in a band called Smile when a mutual friend introduced us to Freddie.

"We all met up at a party", added John, "and I joined up with them after the departure of their sixth bass player and we've been solid ever since.."

It doesn't take much effort to observe that fair-haired Roger has, and dare I use the word, an almost "pretty face with large siren eyes and a delicate bone structure. Come to think of it, the whole band have the kind of looks which any girl would envy - makes you want to walk about with a paper bag over your head!

"We're visually a very exciting band to watch", said Roger enthusiastically, "our whole set is frantic, we come on, let it rip, move around a lot then we're off, leaving the crowds stunned and wondering what hit them."

"We have most of our costumes designed for us by Zandra Rhodes, and although we wear stage make-up for effect, it's only used theatrically in a traditional manner, and in no way is there any glitter. Every number we perform live or record, is written by us."

I asked whether he thought that rather restrictive.

"Depends how well you write", he replied confidently. "There are three of us who write, and I and myself, we write independently of each other, so there are three different styles, but we all collaborate when it comes to arranging the numbers."

"MUSICALLY", interrupted John, "we're a hard, heavy, electric rock band, with quite a bit of melody and complex harmonies, in fact a lot of people have been comparing us with Led Zeppelin, which is a great compliment, but whereas they're into straight ahead rock, we're more...

Genevieve Hall
Gary loves his fans - do YOU love him?

What does Gary look for in his fans?
"I look for love. I love to be loved. I'm sure my fans love me the way I love them. They help me to create the songs I write, without them there would be no inspiration. I look for love, inspiration and sincerity."

Can you match up to those qualities?
Each week we're inviting the fans of different stars to take part – we opened the series with David Cassidy, next week Gary, next week! Well you'll have to wait and see.

Superfan plaque to be presented by... well, that's a secret!
Write about superfanship to Genevieve Halp, Record and Radio Mirror, 7 Carnaby Street, London, W1V 1PG.
Entries to be in by Monday 11th March.
School’s Out slot for London’s Paul

BBC RADIO LONDON’s Paul Owens, the 21-year-old who got into radio through a D.J. competition, gets his big break on Radio One next month.

Paul, who hosts London’s Saturday afternoon soft music spot, The Other Programme, is to stand in for DLT on the School’s Out slot. He takes the show on March 7 and it will be “a joy to be able to help David Hamilton show,” according to Owens.

The changes are caused by Tony Blackburn’s holiday (it’s a holiday) which begins on March 4 for two weeks. His place is taken by David Hamilton with DLT moving into the afternoon slot. DLT retains his Sunday lunch show.

Owens is the BBC’s young star of the future, and as such is a natural choice for the slot.

Tangerine Dream, Robin Dransfield and the JSD band.

Saturday’s Story Of Pop is titled Just Their Imagination and features a list of stars including Carly Simon, Neil Diamond, Cat Stevens, Elton John, one of the last interviews with Jim Croce before he died. Smokey Robinson, Pete Townsend and Rod Stewart, Wishbone Ash guest on In Concert.

Sunday’s My Top 12 features New Seekers, Lyn Paul and Marty Kristian, and Sounds on Sunday has the unmissable Slade.

Monday’s Bob Harris show features Yes, Vinegar Joe, and Tony Bird, while Top Gear has Gentle Giant, Beekees Spain and Christie Hennemue.

IT’S AMAZING how the Dutch Government has kept us all in suspense over the past few years with their slow, slow, quick, quick, slow tactics. One day we are to believe that the offshore stations have only a few days left, then things get quiet again. The same situation may prevail now, but technically the stations are at the moment taking a break (if I am to believe a recent statement from our friends at the Dutch Embassy), the government are not taking any action yet, so the application for a licence by Voltage is still valid. The general feeling is that the government is probably planning to seek some sort of compromise before the next elections.

When the first offshore station was formed in 1970, it took the authorities a long time before they put it off the air, probably to get something working. It’s up to you to decide whether you are satisfied with the present state of affairs or whether you want something better. If you want something better, you should do something about it.

One person in Holland who is very optimistic is Rob van der Tuin, the man who has considered the possibility of developing a new offshore station. Rob has written a book about the subject, which has been published in Holland and is now available in paperback. The book is called “The Netherlands and Radio Free.” It is a comprehensive guide to the possibilities of developing a new offshore station. The book includes a detailed analysis of the legal and technical aspects of the problem, as well as a description of the various options available. The author has interviewed many experts in the field, and the book is based on their observations and conclusions. Rob van der Tuin is a well-known publisher in the Netherlands, and he has a good reputation for producing high-quality books. The book is well-written and easy to read, and it is highly recommended for anyone interested in the possibilities of developing a new offshore station.
The dark horse wins the race

Peter Harvey talks to Peter Powell

Peter Harvey, The Barron, Nicky Horne, and Steve Jones, were referred to as The Second Eleven. We did eight Saturday afternoon shows from 2:00 pm until 4:00 pm.

It was great, it gave me the break, gave me the name. And the best thing of all was that I went to the top and then wham, I came straight down to the bottom doing £15 discos.

That was good. I believe you've got to get knocked before you can start to climb.

February '73 saw the next break, this time three programmes with Radio Four's Fourth Dimension, another children's slot.

One was a documentary piece on the making of a record with Colin Blunstone, "which gave me a lot of confidence. I was working on programme pilots with a producer friend for Channel Four, and they were looking for some ideas for show ideas."

Anyway, it was a case of more pilots, disco work, a summer slot on Radio Birmingham in a sort of daytime thing. "I've got involved with the Luxembourg's dark home. He's 22 and he'd got involved with local radio, he'd produced his own background."

Not much more to tell at the moment. But I hope that the station gets a mention on your Radio Waves page.

There are reasons at the moment why there's no address with this letter which cannot be gotten into. It may be possible to come up with a sensible name for the station. Any ideas? I will write more at future dates.

(Martin Stevens)

Stourbridge-born Peter Powell travels out to the Grand Duchy. He's got no idea what programmes he'll be doing, what sort of music he'll be playing. "I just can't wait to get down to it."

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LIMITED EDITION - NOW HISTORIC.

SURE TO BECOME A COLLECTOR'S ITEM IN THE YEARS TO COME.
Gary and Suzi top of the world

GARY GLITTER and Suzi Quatro have been voted top vocalists in a poll of BBC World Service Pop Club members—and Slade emerged as number one group. Runner-up to Gary is the Pop Club President, Cliff Richard, with Elton John and David Bowie sharing third place. Runners-up in the other divisions: Diana Ross and Roberta Flack; and the Carpenters and Sweet.

So what is the Pop Club? It's broadcast three times a week in the World Service. The aim of the club, which has more than 60,000 members in every inhabited country, is to provide an international radio link for fans interested in top pop.

In memory

IT'S GOOD that we remember, from time to time, some of the pop stars who helped build today's scene but who tragically died young. We remember Buddy Holly. This month's tribute Franky Lymon, who was only 18 when he had a million-seller with Why Do Fools Fall In Love. And he was only 26 when he died.

Frankie was one fifth of R & B group The Teenagers after George Golden signed them to Gee Records.

Heywoodmania is on the way

THEY are unique, versatile, individualistic. Deep breath. They are special, brilliant, good-looking, clean-cut, out-taste. Fill the lungs again. They are fantastic, fun, nice guys, energetic, wonderful.

They are the Heywoods. Bo Donaldson and the Heywoods. Their Probe single is Deeper And Deeper, out next week. And all those breathless words in the first paragraph come from the blurs about the lads who, in America, have created Heywoodmania.

There are seven Hey- woods. They play a variety of instruments, sing, dance, write, play rock (hard and soft), country and western, or progressive blues.

Or put it another way: "Separately each member of the group is a vital entity who brings his uniqueness into the fold to create the sounds that cause Heywoodmania, an epidemic about to break out in Britain as it has in the States."

Bo Donaldson, 19, is the group leader; plays keyboard and trumpet. David Krock (20) is the key arranger, and plays bass and trumpet. Gary Coveyou is 18, saxist, choreographer and dancer. Mike Gibbons looks good, is 20, plays trumpet—and shares lead vocals with Rick Jozwick, who is 21. Left of the seven: Scott Baker (22) and Ricky Brunetti (20).

Now what hastriggered off a lot of interest already over the Heywoods is the fact that they tour regularly with another noted family-type group known as the Osmunds. They get the mobbing treatment. And Danny says that they are a brilliant, talented and "fun" group to take out on the road.

That little tribute should do the trick. That plus a likely hit record, and a possible tour, incidentally the lads insist on meeting their audiences personally after shows and after the initial hysteria has died down. And they're very into an anti-drugs campaign.

The latest Christie

There was the group Christie, who had a big 1970 hit with Yellow River. Dean Christie, who sang Heart-Breaker into the charts in 1962, Lou Christie, whose Lightnin' Strikes struck gold. Tony Christie, MCA's huge-selling international star, even in Iron Curtain countries like Bulgaria and Romania. The New Christy Minstrels, come to that, with hits like Chin Chin Charles.

And now it's John Christie, 20-year-old Australian, being launched in the direction of fame and fortune by my old mate Dave Clark of the Dave Clark Five. He's done it in plenty.

Dave sold 35 MILLION records. He's spent 15 months grooming John for a chart career. Says Dave: I felt he had talent, plus some special kind of magic which I still find difficult to explain—just so many simple words—John's debut single—Everybody But Me, is Polydor. And the album, out soon, is Relax.

Steeleye's new tale of Thomas

RIGHT NOW, you'll be wanting to know all about the new Steeleye Span single, Thomas The Rhymer. It took me ages to find out about their last hit, Gaudete, but I'm a glutton for punishment and what are a few ages in the search for knowledge?

Thomas The Rhymer is the story of a legendary Scottish prophet and seer. He lived in the thirteenth century and was given the gift of prophecy by the Queen of Elfrida. She also gave him a prophecy that he could never lie, from which he became known as Truthful Thomas. It's one of the greatest love stories that can be said for some politicians I could name.

He foretold things like the crowning of Robert The Bruce and the Battle of Flodden in 1513. My prophecy is that Steeleye Span will have another hit.

Pop from Moss Bros

LES GRAY, amiable front man of chart-topping Mud, paid a visit to Moss Bros famous city-gents store the other day. He was actually paying his old friend a social call.

For he used to work in the return - hire department. This time he went back to hire white tweedcoats and black trousers for a Top of the Pops spot — but several of the assistants were there when Les put in his three-year stint with the company. As they said, he was such a nice quiet chap in those days. My picture shows him in full vocal flow.

Jimi Ltd.

I GIVE YOU news of the Jimi Hendrix Information Centre which is an open community centre where all kinds of information regarding the late superstar. It started in Holland in 1967, when there was felt there was a need to establish a central collection point for giving and receiving information about Jimi. The organisation has acted as research consultant for a full-length feature film about Hendrix.

They don't sell the Jimi Hendrix Information Centre anything else - they just encourage a programme of FREE general education. And the address is Hendrix Information Centre, Postbox 3464, Amsterdam.
Genevieve Hall goes Wombling

BAH! HUMBUG! Who are these Wombles? And what are they doing cluttering up our charts with their Wombling Song? Well, not even humen did you say? So where did they spring up from? I should have known, from little burrows on Wimbledon Common. Yum-yum maybe they'd be good for eating, make a change from hobby-pie that would.

Well you won't catch me singing their Wombling Song... Oh I don't know it is rather infectious

Overground, Underground wombling free, the Wombles of Wimbledon Common are we. I must stop this are we all going BATTY?

"Certainly not," said a voice making me jump, "there's only one Betty person around here and that's me. Mr. Bat, Mr. Michael Bat, honorary friends of the Wombles and proud of it too. Would you like to meet them all?"

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"If I sound like Gene it's absolutely intentional' 

Alvin 'Ziggy' Stardust tells all to RRM's Roy Hill

"The actual pop business will always be the same - while you're successful everyone loves you and then when you're on the down nobody wants to know you. I'm very lucky in that I got out of it when I was alright and didn't attempt to come back."

Alvin, a firm believer in doing what you want to do when you want to do it. 'I'm not sure anyone, you could that has made an accidental comeback. He was in London when he met rock 'n' roll song-writer, Peter Shely. He made a couple of demo discs of Peter's songs and the rest we know.'

At the moment Alvin is riding on the crest of a wave which one day will suck him under, does the thought worry him?"

"As I've said I've done all I ever wanted to do. I went into Showbiz when I was 15, in fact I was in pantomimes at five. Whether I've got my name in the papers makes no difference.

'The most important thing is that I'm in and around showbiz. It's one of those things that just gets in your system."

And I know just what you mean Alvin alias Shane Fenton alias Bernard William Jewry. By the way, merci beaucoup for the copy of your biography you gave me on the way out. It was in French. Still, c'est la vie.

"Hi, how are you?" enquires Mr Alvin Stardust as I shake his black-leather gloved hand and we make our way to the interview lounge at Magnet records.

Needless to say he's in black leathers although with Jealous Mind storming into the charts Alvin can forget about any mourning.

He settles in a comfi armchair and I ask him if he was ever worried of being just another one-hit wonder with My Coo, Ca-Choo.

"I wasn't bothered," answers the 25-year-old Liverpudlian now tasting success for the second time around. As we all know Alvin is or was the rock 'n' roll singer Shane Fenton.

"I'm a daydreamer. I'd love to be a big star, but it doesn't worry me if I'm not. I don't expect too much. If it happens great, but I've done all I ever wanted to do. I got to number one in some charts, I've got a gold disc - what more do you want out of life? Right now Coo, Ca-Choo is in every chart in Europe except France and that's only because it was only released here last week.

"When the record got into the Top 30 and I did Top Of The Pops, I said that's do me. I'm really amazed. I don't feel like a pop star, you know what I mean. I feel like me and we've just made a record that we had some fun doing."

They never write in between.

Getting back to the original question Alvin talked about his days at school when he was constantly listening to Elvis, Bill Haley and then came Vincent, Eddie Cochran and Chuck Berry.

"The fact that people say I copy Gene Vincent - great. Where do they think I come from? I cannot work and not be influenced by what I brought up with", he said.

"If you saw any of the old Vincent photographs, and I've probably got everyone there is, Vincent used to wear tight drainpipe leathers and a baggy leather jacket because that was the style.

"A far as my image as Alvin Stardust I used to be as I am as Shane Fenton. I've not done anything to my hair apart from rinse it dark, nothing to my clothes, I don't wear make-up. The only thing about me which is rock and roll is my haircut and that's longer than they used to wear it. In contrast to Vincent I wear flairs, a tight leather jacket and platform boots.

"If I copy or sound anything like Vincent, Fesley or even Buddy Holly, it's absolutely intentional because I'm a firm fan of theirs and very much influenced by them as a kid."

Months before Co-Ca-Choo made the charts, Alvin says he was quite happy rocking away with his little trio playing the Northern clubs.

"I made Co-Ca-Choo as Shane Fenton, the name Alvin Stardust was decided after I recorded it. I was Shane Fenton one afternoon and then the next thing was I had to go on TV as Alvin Stardust!"

Right now Alvin is working on his album which should be out in March.

"I'm really looking forward to it because I wrote four of the tracks," he says enthusiastically.

"I'll admit I'm a very bad guitar player though. Apart from writing and recording I'm much into interviews and having photographs taken. But you get to a point where you want to actually do something and not just talk to people.

"I'm a doer, I don't like hanging around. The main thing is getting on the road and work. The guys I think we're going to use in the band will be those used in the recording sessions. I know guitarist Big Jim Sullivan (renowned for his work with Tom Jones and Gilbert O'Sullivan to name but a few) said he'd like to come on the road.

"Before I got involved in this again I thought Gary Glitter was great because he was the ultimate in pop rock. The kind of music I'm doing is fun music. The kids are fed up with just sitting on a floor, they want to jump about and scream a long. They are more alive now than they've ever been and they make instant decisions as to whether they like you or not.

"Pop is great at the moment, everybody is having a good time. I'm enjoying every minute of it.

"So you've got to be a doer and not hang around."

"I saw one letter in your paper that said Alvin Stardust should be booted off stage every time he works because he's too cheap, jumped up, poor copy of Gene Vincent," recalled Alvin.

"I probably get on pretty well with that guy 'cos I make the same kind of decisions about people - I either like them or I don't. I couldn't care less really what he thinks personally. I think it's a rib out when he writes things like that. I'm not trying to be cocky by that but I've got two rules which I learned, very quickly the last time I was in the business.

"Never expect too much but remember you get to number one on your own publicity. You get some nice things written about you that are untrue because they're too nice and vice versa."

"When the record got into the Top 30 and I did Top Of The Pops, I said that's do me. I'm really amazed. I don't feel like a pop star, you know what I mean. I feel like me and we've just made a record that we had some fun doing."

Does Alvin notice any great changes in the pop scene compared with when he first started out?

"Before I got involved in this again I thought Gary Glitter was great because he was the ultimate in pop rock. The kind of music I'm doing is fun music. The kids are fed up with just sitting on the floor, they want to jump about and scream again. They are more alive now than they've ever been and they make instant decisions as to whether they like you or not.

"Pop is great at the moment, everybody is having a good time. I'm enjoying every minute of it.

"The actual pop business will always be the same - while you're successful everyone loves you and then when you're on the down nobody wants to know you. I'm very lucky in that I got out of it when I was alright and didn't attempt to come back."

Alvin, a firm believer in doing what you want to do when you want to do it so long as you don't hurt anyone, you could almost say has made an accidental comeback. He was in London when he met rock 'n' roll song writer, Peter Shely. He made a couple of demo discs of Peter's songs and the rest we know.

At the moment Alvin is riding on the crest of a wave which one day will suck him under, does the thought worry him?"

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'The most important thing is that I'm in and around showbiz. It's one of those things that just gets in your system."

And I know just what you mean Alvin alias Shane Fenton alias Bernard William Jewry. By the way, merci beaucoup for the copy of your biography you gave me on the way out. It was in French. Still, c'est la vie.
DAVID BOWIE: Rebel Rebel (RCA Victor 5006). Written and produced by Bowie himself, single is a complete change of direction for him. And this is a good thing. The single is a rock'n'roll song with a guitar solo by David Bowie. It has a catchy melody and a strong rhythm that will appeal to fans of 1970s rock music. The production is top-notch, with excellent vocals and instrumentation. Overall, it's a great rock song that should chart well.

SENSATIONALEX HARVEY BAND: The Footsteps (Regalo 5090). This one goes down to business right away with the perfect strident chords and a love-hate atmosphere. They have done away with some of the style, but it's still pretty much the same old poodle-mid-tempo vocal ballad-styled, and the whole thing is missing out on the edge and roughness and the gentle and pleasant. Full marks in fact for a CHART CERT.

CAROLYN SIMPSON & JAMES TAYLOR: My Baby's Gone (Elektra K 15314). Mr and Mrs Taylor take the place of Great White for Sensational Alex's album Next. This time, the band is doing well on the market, and a single break is on the cards. The band is free-thinking, blues-based, and it's a strange mix of the rough-edged and robust and the gentle and pleasant. Full marks in fact for a CHART CERT.

ROBERT KIRK: Everlasting Love (Elektra K 15315). If you like your hits in stereo, then this is the one for you. The Love Affair took up the charts in 1968, exactly six years ago. What's more, it's been on the air for the last ten years, so there's no harm in being surprised. For this reason, a CHART CERT.

EARTH, WIND & FIRE: Toilet Seat (CBS 3003). This is a good song, with a bit of a message. It's a bit of a shame that it's not getting any airplay, though. But it's still a good song, and it's well worth a listen.

BOBBIE FORD: Up The Creek (Hill 1202). This is a nice, easy listening song with a bit of a message. It's a bit of a shame that it's not getting any airplay, though. But it's still a good song, and it's well worth a listen.

TERRY JACOBS: Seasons In The Sun (EMI 7090). This is a nice, easy listening song with a bit of a message. It's a bit of a shame that it's not getting any airplay, though. But it's still a good song, and it's well worth a listen.

LOVE UNLIMITED: Unlove Me (Vertigo 7011). This is a nice, easy listening song with a bit of a message. It's a bit of a shame that it's not getting any airplay, though. But it's still a good song, and it's well worth a listen.

EDDIE KENDRICKS: Banger Down (Vertigo 7011). This is a nice, easy listening song with a bit of a message. It's a bit of a shame that it's not getting any airplay, though. But it's still a good song, and it's well worth a listen.

SPINNERS: Mighty Love, Pt. 2 (Atlantic 1416). This is a nice, easy listening song with a bit of a message. It's a bit of a shame that it's not getting any airplay, though. But it's still a good song, and it's well worth a listen.

Pick of the week

MARTIN HAMBLIN: The Entertainer (EMI 2132). This is a nice, easy listening song with a bit of a message. It's a bit of a shame that it's not getting any airplay, though. But it's still a good song, and it's well worth a listen.
Gang bang

JAMES GANG
Bang (Atlantic ATCO SD 7037 0598) When Joe Walsh quit this classic American rock band it looked like the end. Puff. In Tommy Bolin they have found a guitarist and song writer of equal stature. His playing is seldom boring and often inspired on a set just as compelling as Walch's Smoker You Drink album. Basically it's driving rock in the best American tradition—climbing vocals, harmonies, synthesizers, and guitar pyrotechnics. And just to break it up there's an acapella number Rather Be Alone With You and the deliberate string accompanied Mystery to round it off neatly. A must for American rock freaks.

SLIM WHITMAN
Reminiscing (Sunset SSL 6027) Actually, the buyer, does the reminiscing with a handful of Whitman hits dating originally from 1963. Careless Hands When I Grow Too Old To Dream are included.

MAGIC TRILLINGS
Moonlight Party (Telefunken 1427) Romantic and melodic string arrangements presented by Norman Cavens. The music ranges from pop to contemporary material like Peter Skellern's You're A Lady to Bachman-Turner one turned up as In The Mood For Bach. Easy listening album.

Luke warm jets from Eno

MAGGIE BELL
Queen Of The Night (Polydor 2333 239) No, it ain't Lou Reed's new album, it's Maggie Bell's long-awaited solo. After eighteen months and two aborted attempts, here and one in the States, she finally made it. Again, it was made in America, under the strict supervision of Jerry Wexler, of Atlantic and, more particularly, Artha Franklin fame. Wexler has had a strong influence over Maggie, and his immaculate, if slightly dated, production dominates the album. Gone are the rapping vocals and ramshackle guitarlicks of Stone the Crows, sophisticated, more subdued, Maggie is highlighted. This subtle approach takes repeated listenings to let the mellow strength and personal album of Maggie fan to show through, so Crows fans should give it more than one hearing.

NORTH COUNTRY FARE

ROY HARMER
Valentine (SHBF 6027) Suddenly it's Roy Harmer for a moment. He's showed so much promise in the past but remained almost centreless, champion of the dope generation and less-committed folkies. This is the one to put it all right. Three songs are outstanding both lyrically and performance-wise, Commune, Forever (the single) and Twelve Hours Of Sunset. They are delicate sensitive songs treated sympathetically, sometimes with strings, sometimes with just Roy's guitar, and quite rocky with Magic Woman. Then there's the magnificently laid-back Acapulco Gold, the traditional North Country, and a neat acoustic guitar work-out with Tim Walker. Harmer is a meaningful contemporary writer well worth getting into.

No doldrums

LOGGINS AND MESSINA
Full Sail (CBS 60777) So there I was lying stretched out on my golden sands, sheltered from the scorching sun by the tall palm trees swaying in the breeze, with my feet lapping at my feet. And then some weary eyes and stared at the crowded walls of my dark bedroom. That's the affect this beautiful album from Loggins and Messina on me. It's a very relaxing sound these two American guys produce. There's a little of the material thing... some nice reggae in Coming To

The acid queen gets it on

BLOODSTONE
Emo (Buddah SKL 193) I'm sorry you guys, but this album didn't do much for me. Having not heard your music album ahead of time, I gave it a spin not once, not twice but three times before I heard it in person in a club. Now I'm only some people will take to it. The music is funky, soulful and Tamio winding. The whole side one is paced by the group and a bit too slow unless you want it as background for a late night listening. Nice version of Harrison's Something kicks off side two and towards the end of the album there's a moulded studio track talking in the style of Sid and Nancy which lingers.

NEIL DIAMOND
Rainbow (MCP 1329) You've got to hand it to Mr Diamond. Having produced three hit albums with his hit tracks, he seems to have settled down. He's touched on old standards like Melancholy Baby and Take The A Chance On Me. Nothing really exciting but it's a pleasant sort of music.

The acid queen gets it on

THANKS

TOMMY LEONETTI
Today (RI 1423) Nice blues. Tommy, very much railed by Morgan, Tony Bennett and Frank Sinatra, and they say a bit about swinging bands in musically inferior material from Rod McKuen, Bacharach and David, Paul Simon (yes, Bridge Over Troubled Waters), and Jim Webb (You Don't We) and a special treatment of the Hollies' Higgledy Piggledy He's My Brother. It's Happy.

JERRY REED
Lord, Mr. Ford (RCA 0328). Pretty predictable set, with the occasional string treatment, some neat guitar-picking, country-style air, the likes of Paul Yandell and Jerry himself, and two stand-out tracks in Fulsom Prison Blues and That Lucky Old Sun.
2nd British Country Music Festival

Sponsored by Record & Radio Mirror
and organised in association with the B.C.M.A.

Wembley April 13-14 1974

Are you an artist or a group involved in country music? If so, here is an opportunity to win some fabulous prizes by competing in the 1974 Country Music Festival.

Listed below are the categories, together with the trophies and prizes.

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**ENTRY RULES**

Interested parties should select the categories they wish to enter, and complete the form with all relevant details.

Please tick type of act: What type of country music:

- Solo □
- Duo □
- Group* □

I enclose photograph ( ) (tick)

Name

Address

*Please state number of personnel

Post to: Mike Storey 127 Cumbrian Way Lupset Park, Wakefield Yorkshire WF2 8LA

The judges will consider all entries on their merit and select 25 acts which will compete at the festival. Latest closing date for entries is March 18th 1974.

Guitar prizes kindly donated by CBS/ARBITER LTD.
Classroom capers in blue

I CAN'T get over the way the place is always so clean. Then, I thought, nothing even gets out of place," remarked Barry Blue-green around the godless dining room in his lawyer's apartment. "I'm even afraid to use the ash tray, but I suppose I'll have to if I want to smoke. It's not that I like living in a mess," he added, "but I do like a place to look lived in."

I'm sure he would have spent all morning discussing how to fit the flats into the apartments, having only just recently bought a place of his own.

Nevertheless it did occur to me that we were there to talk about Barry Green alias Barry Blue and not the state of his hyper-clean apartment.

Unlucky

For starters I wanted to know why he had chosen the colour Green and changed it to Blue.

"I've never like the colour green, anyway it's supposed to be unlucky isn't it? There's no dramatic reason or anything, it all came about when Dick Leahy of Bell records decided to release Dancing In The Moonlight. As I was leaving the office I said, by the way if you're going to put the record out, then get rid of Green, change it to Blue, something - I don't care what it is. So that's how Barry Blue was born," he finished up. "You'd be forgiven to think that Barry had just literally sprung out of the Blue with Dancing In The Moonlight, which after having been around for a number of months leapt into the charts and earned him a silver disc.

"It was the kids hearing it and wanting to dance to it, at their local discos and dance halls which really got the record off the ground. Before that, none of the DJs would touch it." I'm a great believer in thinking that the kids know what they really want, and not what someone tells them.

In reality Barry, now 23-years-old, has been involved in the music business since the age of 14 when he first signed a group known as the Black Diamonds.

"I was interested in music long before that though. I remember seeing most of our furniture at home, so I could buy various musical instruments. It wasn't until my mum died and found me a drum and an armchair or a table mirror.

At school I always knew that I would be singing when I left, and the night before I took my G.C.E. exams I was giggling at the Marquee until three o'clock in the morning! The Dark Knights appeared on a children's television talent show and wandered away with the first prize.

Barry himself was beginning to get the attention of the media and after working with several notable artists, he was invited to write the theme for Granada Television's Lift Off pop programme.

Switch

His connections with television didn't just lie in writing theme music. In fact he appeared in an episode of the series Shirley's World with Shirley MacLaine, during which three of his compositions were featured. The episode was originally titled the Green Goddess, but because Shirley was super, it was later changed to the Blue Goddess.

Barry then decided to step into the shadows of the pop world and left for a recording promotion man. However after a while he began concentrating more on songwriting, and eventually left the record company to devote his entire time to music.

His biggest success prior to Dancing In The Moonlight was the release of his single Young Girl recorded in 1965. Barry, making talks to tighten Continental, ensured Barry to remain with Bell. He had also just completed his very first album, but can't think of what he should call it. With a name like Barry Blue he should have no problem.

Watch out all you Barry Blue admirers for his concert tour of Britain, has been planned for April, after scheduled to be released by Bell records shortly. He has also just completed his very first album, and can't think of what he should call it. With a name like Barry Blue he should have no problem.

Genevieve Hall

Vic not only plays lead guitar with the band, he also writes all of their material.

"Slightly Brian J wrote St James Infirmary. It's different from our other singles, the lyrics play a prominent part in that particular one. In Get To Know, I wrote it with the base, drums and horns in mind, it's purely a dance record."

There was one that was dummier down for Genevieve that I was interested in what they had been up to for the past two months.

"We've got a different taste seven weeks off," replied Brian. "Need to get ourselves together, that's why we decided to release Black Cat. It's round about Christmastime that people start thinking about St James Infirmary and Get To Know.

'Get To Know', informed Vic, was originally titled Young Girl, but we thought people might mistake it for the Young Girl recorded by Gary Puckett and the Union Gap."

Papa Do which became a big seller for us, was a team effort throughout the whole of the Continent, causing Barry to get a lot of his time there. Barry's name came to the fore in Britain when he was featured on a TV show called "If you've ever seen room of the famous Luree Company, Sugar Me. Lynsey in her turn co-wrote Dance To Blue with Barry, making it obvious that the twosome had hit on the right formula.

So far Barry's career seems to be going well, and it's not only his career, it's also in his thoughts as well. One month he would be following a particularly interesting tangent, and then the next minute he will fly off at a tangent towards a completely different direction. It was because of this, that we ended up talking about train spotting.

"In my early youth," he was saying, "in the days when it was quite normal for trains to run, I would travel alone on a platform just to do some train spotting. I used to call my mother from wherever I ended up, it was usually somewhere in Scotland, and tell her not to leave my dinner in the dining room."

I notched up a thousand miles that way, and they gave me an award for being Champion train spotter. It was decided to step into the shadows of the pop world and left for a recording promotion man. However after a while he began concentrating more on songwriting, and eventually left the record company to devote his entire time to music.

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Genevieve Hall

"Ha Ha, very funny, chuckled Vic. By the way with you back from Australia I'm getting married."

Someone mentioned earlier that Vic had just got engaged himself, and his fiancee had naturally congratulated him.

Bearing all over his face, Vic asked whether I had ever met his fiancee.

I replied that I hadn't, so he promptly left the room to returnaccompanied with a very attractive German girl.

"Meet Cecile D'Ambrosio," he said proudly.

"Cecile and myself are going to live here in my new house up in Reading," said Vic. "Originally I bought it for myself, but now we're still trying to persuade her to come and live with us."

I asked Cecile whether she minded being photographed from Vic for long intervals.

"Perhaps that's why we get on so well - we don't see each other that often."

For all of you who enjoy watching the shows, the first four singles are getting married on Sunday, April 2nd at St. James Church in South Shields. Everyone here at Record Mirror Radio, wishes them lots of luck and happiness.

Genevieve Hall

November.

"What do you mean, unfortunately?" laughed Vic. "You're not supposed to say things like that. You don't take any notice of me, do you?"

"I'm looking forward to it, so are the rest of the lads," he laughed. "So now I play with dolls."

Talking about trains, I managed to get him on the right track. His new single is titled School Of Love and came out in April.
Mac controversy continues! Macca supports Osmonds

WONDER in braille on his Red Rose Speedway album will probably join Stevie in a London recording studio this week. Meanwhile, it looks as if the band is thinking of recording the next album, with Eric Clapton and Jeff Beck, which will be released this year.

You may recall that Beck appeared on Stevie's Last Waltz album. Speaking of JEFF BECK, he has been busy rehearsing for the recording of the next Fleetwood Mac album, but his distinctive guitar work will also be heard on the new albums by both of the band's former members, MIKE FELD and BADGER. In Badger's case, he appears on the side track of their first album.

BEATLEMANIA was the main event during the tenth anniversary since the BEATLES invasion these past week. The various stations across the country featured special programs to celebrate February 3. Many of them documented the Fab Four's lives, but of the most impressive were those by San Francisco station who confirmed this week's release - both British and American, and 50 songs and musicals that have been in the business for over 20 years. ELVIS is all set to embark on his first tour of the year. He is due to arrive in London on March 24, along with an entourage of 50 singers and musicians. All dates have already been sold out.

At one of BOB DYLAN'S concerts at the Garden, the audience was crushed by the opening acts. The Osmonds, who opened for the Osmonds, said Paul, "I'm sick of hearing the same old thing about the Osmonds for the whole night byoug thing, really, they're like an American version of the Beatles. Also heard defending the Osmonds recently was Peter Gabriel of GENESIS, who went so far as to say that he was getting to the bottom of the Garden the last time they were there.

THE WORLD'S GREATEST DEJAVU DEPT. is on an old album that was being re-released the other day. The album contained some ALLMANN BROTHERS songs that were never before heard publicly. More Craziness. That'll play on the new album. I KNOW, VIV STANSHALL, and ARTHUR BROWN ever got together as Dave Brock suggested on HAWKWIN's album. They went on tour as one of the band's best sound systems, as the Doctor's last major gig before the band was broken up. The former band is now to appear in a special project.

Rumors are that the next album is being recorded by the High Numbers and will consist of songs written by the group before they were the Who, which means that it will be called either R&B and possibly some surf music.

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Electric Light Orchestra

SINCE THEIR formation a couple of years back the Electric Light Orchestra have had a series of problems prevalent from personal to musical confrontation.

Jeff Lynne's ambition to build a constructive unit capable of a wide melodic range has finally been realised to some degree as shown by ELO's performance at London's Theatre Royal Drury Lane concert on Saturday.

It's obvious that three albums, a couple of American tours and hard rehearsing have given this seven-man outfit the confidence and ability to function well.

One tremendous asset has been the introduction of young violinist Mik Kaminski to the line-up whose visual and musical appeal surpass the talents of many in the group.

Jeff's still up front though but his "Thank you very much" line after each number tended to be rather conservative on reaction after the sometimes hilarious stage capers of the string section.

The set comprised of old and new from hits such as "Showdown and Roll Over Beethoven" to material from ELO's new album. On The Third Day there was another particularly nice piece as an interlude was the orchestra's version of "Day Tripper" with Richard Tandy doing a delightful piano melody.

I was a bit disappointed that the group didn't quite cash in on the stage antics bit. The string section, Kaminski, Mike Edwards and Hugh McDowell might have brought a rather sluggish audience to life if they had acted with the same enthusiasm on other numbers apart from Beethoven and Ma Ma Ma Belle.

Musically ELO are developing into a tight working unit progressing smoothly and it's healthy to see Jeff and his extraordinary group doing well and opening up a few eyes.

Hudson-Ford

IT HASN'T been a bed of roses for Richard Hudson and today's news of their seemingly ill-timed departure from the Strawbs last year has added a shroud of sadness to their success. Nearly a year ago the group were unable to manage to get a band together and get out on the road and continue their surprising what has happened musically as well looking back on their set at the moody to happy values in their discography.

Of course, one of the reasons that the Strawbs' set was a hit and unheralded, long and interactive was in between numbers they would showcase the tour. At the time of the group's departure, it was not much different from the way the Strawbs would usually approach a show.

Now after an album and three singles the future looks brighter and the formation is settled. Obviously they are coming up with a lot of interesting material often spoofed though in their act by some long boating riffs.

They tend to lose the attention of their undoubtedly young audiences because of this, particularly noticeable in numbers like "Don't Wanna Be A Star," which isn't a fair amount of material from their first album, "Nicodemus." The songs I mentioned interesting were "That Dark Land," taken from "Lord Of The Rings" and the new single, "Burn Baby Burn." Their material still seems very Strawbs sounding until at the moment it's a help and not a handicap as far as the audiences are concerned.

Hudson-Ford are doing a lot of smaller gigs catching up on the type of audiences they should have performed to initially but the excitement element is just not around at the moment.

Pye Records are proud to manufacture market and distribute records from THE GREAT EMBER CATALOGUE
IN-reply-to a letter in NaiMan about Dave Hill being voted top guitarist, from an anonymous person in brighton. Were you so scared about what would be said about you for your insults to such a brilliant guitarist? Maybe the person in question should have voted sugar-plum fairy and pea-brain '74.

Marc Bolan and Steve Currie are good guitarists, but they are figures of the past.

You can't change the shape of things to come, just because your own personal favourite wasn't the top.

It's the public who put him at the top, so give him a chance after all, he's what the majority want. So watch out wherever you are, there's a few thousand Slade fans on the warpath.

**Return of the Sugar Plum Fairy**

Jean Devine (Slade Fan)
Leviwham, London.

Slade Fan speak with forked tongue. Hoop had news for pea-brain from Bloxwich.

**Clef palate**

BACK in sixty-two, when Donald Osmond was a wee toddler, he was allegedly given a small piano for his birthday in a novelty as a well known London firm and one fine day, out of sheer curiosity, he was tried to swallow it whole. So he did, and subsequently all his pretty little teeth ended up on the floor.

As for the piano, it has been lodged in his cakehole ever since.

**Earring aide**

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**Antiques**

WHATEVER happened to the BBC's old programme Juke Box Jury? This was such a cool show that I am sure that many people would like to see it brought back.

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Cilla can't go wrong

Enjoy TV

"I don't mind if it's a boy or girl, but I think Bobby would like a girl. Being six months pregnant hasn't been a strain on me doing my TV shows because I've not had any of the nerves of what it's going to be like and worrying about the big day. I know this sounds terrible, but I don't really look upon doing television as work because I enjoy it so much.

"I've done more in this series than I did in the last one. I didn't think I'd be doing sketches and things like that being pregnant. If you know they even had me dancing the other week."

Cilla, with her fresh complexion and short red hair, has such a vivacious personality that you automatically feel at ease with her. Wearing a smock and slacks, she relaxes in an armchair munching a sandwich and occasionally sipping a cup of coffee. It's luncheon and she has a tight schedule.

Love hits

"I'm on a diet, the doctor says I'm a pound overweight,

The last time I was in the Top 10 was two years ago with 'Something Tells Me.' I love having hits, I like being tagged as a singer. But it won't upset me if my latest single doesn't get very high.

After talking about the pre-Halloween days when she used to sing with the Liverpool group, Little Star, the Dominos for 13 and Bobby and Bobby Willis was their road manager. Cilla told me about her entry in to the world of entertainment."

There was only Billy Cotton doing a variety show until I came along. I was the first female to get such a series and it was like a revolution.

"They were really taking a chance, but Billy Cotton Jr., who was the head of BBC's Entertainment and My manager, Brian Epstein, just thought of all the things I was capable of in television. I couldn't see myself at the time, in fact I didn't really want to be on every week. Even now I hate overexposure. When I do a show that's as far as television appearances until the time comes round for the next series, I feel now there are too many shows on TV of the type I do, the variety shows each week is a bit played out. I'd rather do four one-hour specials.

Away from life as a pop singer and entertainer, Cilla enjoys being mother and wife at her Buckinghamshire home. She admits she's not a very good cook, but finds relaxation in golf and interior decorating.

Likes golf

"I haven't done a lot of golf recently and I've yet to do a hole under 16 strokes, but I like the sport, she jokes. We live opposite each other in the house and we've been there three years and it isn't finished yet. Once I finish doing one thing I start on another. I'm also a television addict and have one of those video-tapes so I tape all my favourite programmes.

Despite her hectic life Cilla still manages to spend a lot of time with her son. During the day he's at pre-school, but as Cilla finishes rehearsals for her TV shows by mid-afternoon, she's home in time to have tea with him and put him to bed.

Dig Jimi

Does she find having her husband as her manager creates problems between them?

"Not really," she answers cautiously. "A lot of people forget what managers do. Bobby's not having about all the time, he's not always with me. What he does is more of an office job, he's got to do all those nasty things which I don't hear about like haggling over money and generally planning my career."

Back to the music scene and what does Cilla think of the make-up and glitter many of today's groups wear?

"Music has gone in a full circle," says Cilla whose personal tastes take in Neil Young, Bread and Jimi Hendrix. "In the early days before the Beatles they used to dress with the sparkle and tinsel. The difference today is that they can dress like that and also write songs and perform much better.

Oh Canada

What groups like the Sweet do doesn't upset me. I don't care what you wear so long as the music is good."

Cilla is off into the recording studios this week to cut an old Beatles number possibly as her next single, but she's not saying what it is in case someone else pinches it.

"In the summer I'm going six weeks at Scarborough and then I'd like to work abroad. I like to feel that I'm wanted in other countries so maybe I'll go to Canada and take the whole family. And then we're virtually round to next year's new series.

Roy Hill