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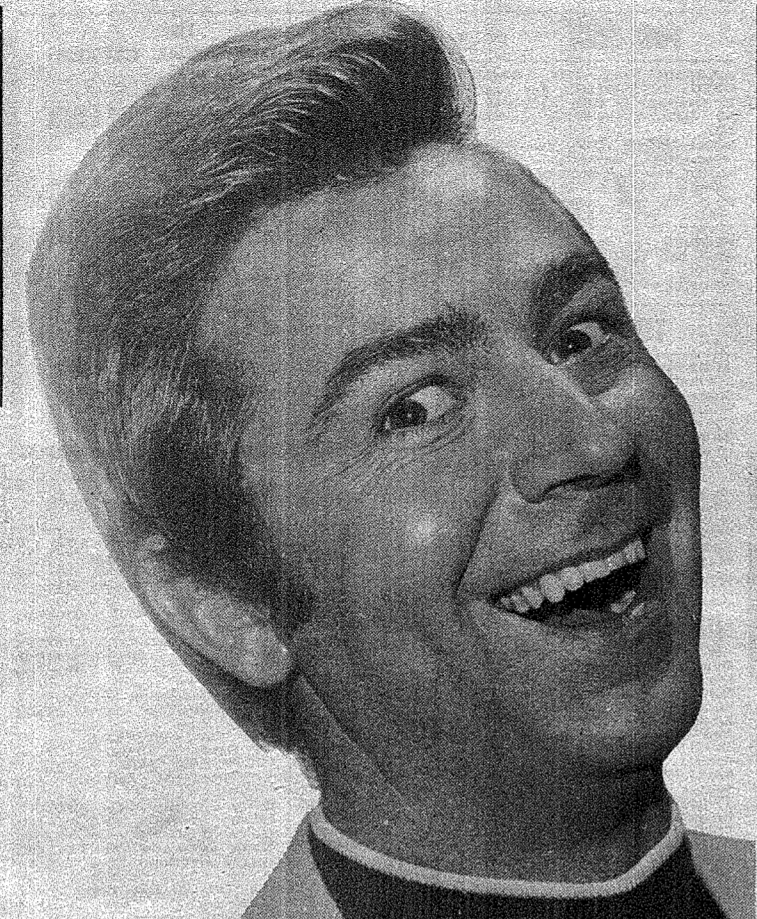
TAIL-PIECES BY THE ALLEY CAT

1968 was the big year for Les Reed and co-writer Barry Mason — but who will be the hit composer of 1969? Your Alley Cat plumps for Paul Ryan... Mixed reception for Elvis Presley's first U.S. TV Spectacular... Diana Ross is not leaving the Supremes for solo career... Prince Charles visited "Top Of The Pops" set last week... John Barry's estranged wife (actress Jane Birkin) recording in Paris... An impression Mike Yarwood refuses to do — John Lennon in the nude!... Guy Mitchell reuniting with Dickie Valentine in London... Tammi Terrell's next single revives Isley Brothers' current hit... Praise to Norrie Paramor's production and Mike Vickers' arrangement of No. 1 Scaffold success... Italian restaurant started by Norman Newell and musical director Geoff Love in West End... Eric Clapton enthusiastic fan of Bob Dylan's backing group — Band "Cabin Essence" (on next Beach Boys LP) another Brian Wilson masterpiece... February Frankie Vaughan appearance planned by Bernard DeLont at Talk Of The Town... Jimmy Saville was serious saying Noel Redding's favourite singer is Des O'Connor... Worth a spin: Donald Peers' new single

Current Gun hit produced by Johnny B. Goode, former leader of Scott Walker's backing group... Long John Baldry's "Mexico" waxed by Herb Alper and the Juana Brass... £50,000 asked for Ringo Starr's Weybridge house — £40,000 for John Lennon's... TV commercial by Locomotive for British Rail... George Harrison proves he can reach John Lennon-Paul McCartney composing heights on new Beatles LP with

NON-QUOTES OF 1968

ARTHUR BROWN: If "Fire" is a hit I'll heat my hat.
CLIFF RICHARD: Religion is the only thing that can get this country back on its knees again.
DUSTY SPRINGFIELD: Man does not live by bread alone.
MAD MITCH: And now, folks, it's Argyl-sock-it-to-me time.
DEAN MARTIN: Burp!
MARIA CALLAS: Goodbye, Mr Ships.
TINY TIM: You should've heard my voice before it broke.
GEORGE HARRISON: Verry interesting.
ARTHUR BROWN: Tiny Tim is just another pretty face.
SCOTT MCKENZIE: I left my hit in San Francisco.
MIA FARROW: My word!
ROGER MILLER: I didn't know the gun was loaded.
VANESSA REDGRAVE: See you late, Aligator.
ROBIN SCOTT: I preferred Radio One when it was known as The Third Programme.



Ken Dodd cracks...

Emperor Rosko, "Son-Of-A-Producer Man"?... Bee Gees have left publicist Chris Hutchins—but he gains Love Sculpture... Will New Year TV series spark Lonnie Donegan's chart return?... Is William Bell related to Edison Bell?... How about Locomotive on Track label?... Screen contract for Dan Rowan and Dick Martin with MGM... Is Marmalade's favourite group Lovin' Spoonful?... On Performing Rights Society, Mitch Murray youngest-ever Board director... Chris Wood (Traffic), Carl Palmer (Arthur Brown's group) and Paul Hancock (Spooky Tooth), all ex-members of Locomotive... Does "Tiger" Lulu's toothpaste have stripes?... After thirteen years, Eddie Fisher loses musical director Eddy Samuels—who has joined Jimmie Rodgers... "I Started A Joke" I Bee Gees' next U.S. single... With a feminine wig, Eric Burdon could pass for Shirley McLaine!

Dreamed up by Garry Chambers

P. J. PROBY: I don't know why my last marriage failed. I gave my wife the best week of my life.
FRANKIE VAUGHAN: Gang awa!
P. J. PROBY: Rumours about my previous marriages are old wives' tales.
RICHARD BURTON: She wears my ring... and Eddie's ring... and Mike's ring... and Nicky's ring.
LOVE AFFAIR: We did play our instruments on our hit discs but session men did the vocals.
DON PARTRIDGE: It's not true that my backing group and I are splitting up.
APRIL ASHLEY: My biggest mistake was turning down the title role in He And She.
SUE NICHOLLS: Until I made that record I had no idea I couldn't sing.

Answers to last week's and this week's Popwords

Answers Across:
1. Roger (Daltrey), 3. Elvis, 6. Mel, 8. Brian Bennett, 10. Hall, 11. John (Eavies), 13. Pye, 16. Rio, 17. Union (Gap), 18. Lulu, 19. Dud (Moore), 20. Quo, 22. Ellis, 25. "The", 26. Bud, 27. Love, 28. Otis, 29. Dean, 31. Bill, 32. Note, 34. "Four Milky Sea", 38. Herman, 40. Irma, 41. Zros, 42. Nancy (Sinatra), 43. Wyman.
Answers Down:
1. Richard, 2. Earl, 4 (Bobby) Vee, 5. Sonny, 6. Matt (Monro), 7. Mason (Williams), 8. Blood (Sweat and Tears), 9. Bono, 11 and 38 down "Hey Jude", 12. (" Fall On A) Hill", 14. "Eloise", 15. Blues, 21. Julie (Driscoll), 23. Leander, 24 (" Last Night In Soho", 27. Idle, 36. Mamma's, 37. NEMS, 38. Tandy, 39. Nina (Simone), 36. Con (Cluskey), 37. Son, 38. See 11 down, 39. Roy (Wood).

LISTEN TO
"Seasons In The Sun"
by
The FORTUNES
UP2239

GAGS by DES O'CONNOR

DID you hear about the fire at the soap factory? The walls fell in with a thickening suds!
I NEVER gamble. I've learnt my lesson. It's a way of getting nothing for something.
WHENEVER I go to Christmas dances I can always tell the girls who work for the GPO. Their eyes are always sorting out the males.
THIS Christmas there's a new toothpaste on the market. It tastes like a dentist's finger.
*
And Editor ANDY GRAY has thought up a new riddle (we're putting it in to honour him): What is the difference between a dwarf and a publicity agent?
Answer: One has stunted growth and the other growth from stunts.

NME HOLIDAY POPWORDS
Both compiled by Juliet Cox, Midford, Bath. Answers below.

CHRISTMAS diets are for people who are thick and tired of them!
AFTER Christmas I'm determined to cut down on work because my doctor told me if I was a building I would be condemned.

ACROSS:
1 Do they travel on a magic bus?
3 Records
5 Formed the Traffic
6 Tammi
8 Accompanies films
12 Arthur Comley's (type of soul music)

DOWN:
1 Reminiscent single title (4 words)
3 "Car" requests My Beatles
4 Reel of film
7 Light his fire
8 Related
10 "King" Cole
11 Where along the Watchtower?

CHRISTMAS POEM by Roger McGough of Scaffold

When I remember Christmas, the puddings and the pies, I think about a girl with mistletoe eyes.
I gave her a present behind the fairy tree, but her Father Christmas caught and knocked stuffing out of me.

ACROSS:
1 Dave Munden's instrument
2 "Street Mission"
8 An American coin
10 The solo Mama
13 Purple mist left by Jimi (2 words)
15 Record label (2 words)
16 Made on the 1st January?
17 Miss Thomas
18 "Old Heart of Mine" (2 words)
20 A member of Dave Dee's group
21 Herb had a Spanish one

DOWN:
2 "Out I'll Be There"
3 Gordon
5 Not silently
6 Frank's daughter
7 Love Sculpture's dance?
8 Amen Corner label
9 There's classical as well as pop!
10 He sings about "Marianne"
11 "Gone" — You've Been
12 Related to a preacher man
14 " — or Nothing"

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BEATLES AND TINY TIM - IT'S TOO MUCH!
says ALAN SMITH

Best wishes from Paul

Through thick and thin

Ringo talks to himself!

And a HAPPY NEW YEAR TO EVERYONE!

PAUL McCARTNEY, John Lennon, Ringo Starr and George Harrison have been messing about with tapes again, and in these last few weeks Kenny Everett has had himself a nice time whipping the bits and the pieces into an eight-minute long Christmas gift for 30,000 paid-up Beatles' fans.

Best wishes from Paul

Then into Mr. Paul McCartney, pianist-talking blues exponent extraordinaire, singing-saying "Happy Autumn Happy Christmas Happy Christmas Everybody To You" which is a nice thought in a story about a couple called Jack and Yono who were "strictly in love and bound to happen in a million years."

Through thick and thin

"And over here I have Mr. Malcolm Evans, who through thick and thin would truly like to say a word of greeting on this festive occasion..."

John's mod fairy tale

"Her father was in long story cut short in the middle of his life... we are indebted to the Colloquial Office for its immediate disposal of rowlitz including I might add hot patella ver totem. On the other handbag, I mean to say, L'amore nous toutjouressant, free speaking, for this film is about an hourglass houseboat."

Ringo talks to himself!

There is also Ringo doing a cross-talk act with himself; a Keystone-Kops-speeded-up-fast-as-this snatch of "Helter Skelter" from the double LP; snips and clips of sound meant to confound; and George Harrison with a loving message from America.

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IT'S ALL HAPPENING FOR LULU

Starting Saturday a series of anything-goes television shows



Veteran show business photographer PHILIP GOTLOP keeps ahead with this unusual portrait of LULU, which he considers his BEST PIC OF 1968.

JIMI HENDRIX's first return British TV appearance following his smash American tour... Jack Jones first ever "live" British TV performance... Joe Cocker, Arthur Conley, the Everly Brothers are just some of the surprises lined up for the coming Lulu television series on BBC-1 as revealed in NME last week.

In an exclusive interview this week, producer Stanley Dorfman told me that the series, "Happening For Lulu," which begins its run at 6.15 p.m. on Saturday (Dec. 28), "will be 45 minutes of live, unscripted, anything-can-happen television."

Also signed for appearances are the Sandpipers, Lionel Bart, Richard Harris and American Billy Preston, who made such a big impression when he toured Britain with Ray Charles earlier this year. Dorfman will use the Johnny Harris Orchestra, Sue and Sunny for vocal backing and Pan's People as "regulars" throughout the series.

"The show will be mostly musical although Lulu will do short interviews and chat with her studio audience," Stanley told me.

There will also be a "New to TV" spot and, so far, two new groups and a singer have been signed to make their TV debut during the series. The groups are The Iveys, recently signed by Apple, and cartoon who come from Glasgow.

The singer is Terry Reid who has a big discoteque following but, strangely, has been ignored so far by television producers.

"There will be all kinds of surprising happenings—particularly in the first show," the producer said. "I've called the series 'Happening For Lulu' and that's exactly what it's going to be."

Of course, the major task facing the series will be the selection of the song Lulu will sing for Britain in the Eurovision Song Contest.

The contest will be held in the Theatre Royal, Madrid, on March 29.

So to talk about Lulu and Eurovision, I went along to see Tom Sloan, the man who has done more than anyone else to turn the contest from something of an annual joke into the prestige pop music event of the year.

Tom Sloan is the BBC's Head of Light Entertainment and it is on his shoulders that falls the responsibility of selecting the right person to sing the British entry. "It is a rather terrifying responsibility," he admitted to me.

Mr. Sloan said he had "extremely high hopes" that Lulu would win back the contest first won for Britain two years ago by Sandie Shaw with "Puppet On A String."

"Girls, by and large, do much better in the contest than men," he said.

"What is more, the younger they are and the more appealing they are, the better chance they have—that is, of course, as long as they have both the talent and the right song."

Easy choice

This year, of course, I had no difficulty in deciding on Lulu. "In this country, at this time, pop music dominates the entertainment industry—it is pop music which sells records by the millions. And without doubt Lulu represents the quintessence of pop music as it is in Britain today. "However, I must confess I don't know where I would have turned had Lulu refused my invitation."

Says TERRY QUINN

Lulu will sing the first of six possible Eurovision songs in the third show of her series on January 11. From then on she will sing a song a week until February 22 when she will sing all six.

The winning song will be sung on March 29.

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TREMELONES (l to r) RICK WEST, CHIP HAWKES, DAVE MUNDEN and ALAN BLAKELY.

Tremels not worrying type, but...

WORRY is not an emotion which one would normally associate with the Tremeloes, but this has been plaguing them for the past couple of weeks. All is well now, however, since "I Shall Be Released" has made the NME chart.

BY RICHARD GREEN

"We were really worried about this one," Len admitted to me when I went to the group's recent recording session in high-class New Bond Street. "If this hadn't made it, we'd have had to have gone back to the happy music. We're glad this is a hit. It's doing better than 'My Little Lady', so it's snowing good signs."

After entering the CBS studios and being "shot" by Rick who was holding a soldering iron connected to an amplifier so that it made sparks and a buzzing sound, I was ushered into the control room to hear a track from the Tremeloes' next LP.

Here was the surprise. It is completely different from anything the Tremels have done before and a casual listener could be forgiven for mistaking the long ending as being by the Move or Hendrix.

Complex
Complex guitar work, electronic sounds and wallings issue forth. The song proper is interspersed by echoing cries of "Waaaahshey"—a reference to their jolly uncle-like manager, Peter Walsh.

Ruining

"Now we're getting 'Oh, Gawd, fancy them ruining a Bob Dylan song, they ought to be shot.' We've also been losing a lot of air plays—producers have been saying that it's not like us, so they're not going to play it."

"One disc jockey who usually says 'Arrrrr!' start with a bright Tremeloes record" phoned Peter and said he couldn't play it because of its mood."

"We'll probably have to make different records for abroad now," Dave mused. "We've got a couple already in South America ready to put out."

"We'll have to stick to the old sound for the continent," Alan added. "We're just getting big in Germany and they like all that old rubbishy stuff."

"On stage, though, we get people yelling out for our hits, so we can't drop them altogether. 'Shihhh!' warned Dave with a sidelong glance at a Continental photographer who was listening to the conversation.

Complex

Complex guitar work, electronic sounds and wallings issue forth. The song proper is interspersed by echoing cries of "Waaaahshey"—a reference to their jolly uncle-like manager, Peter Walsh.

Pleasure

Alan expressed his pleasure that the chart was getting better-looking with some good sounds emerging. "Dave became the subject of much ribbing when he said, 'I was coming here in me new E-type and passed a Mini, then conked out. I had to have the thing towed away.'"

"We've only got about three or four tracks to do to finish the album," Chip pointed out, "but it's finding the time to do them that's the trouble. There's always something cropping up."

Nodding wisely, I prepared to leave and as I made for the door was followed by Len yelling: "Ere, your hair's getting a bit long, if you want to join a group or something? We've got no vacancies... have we, Rick?"

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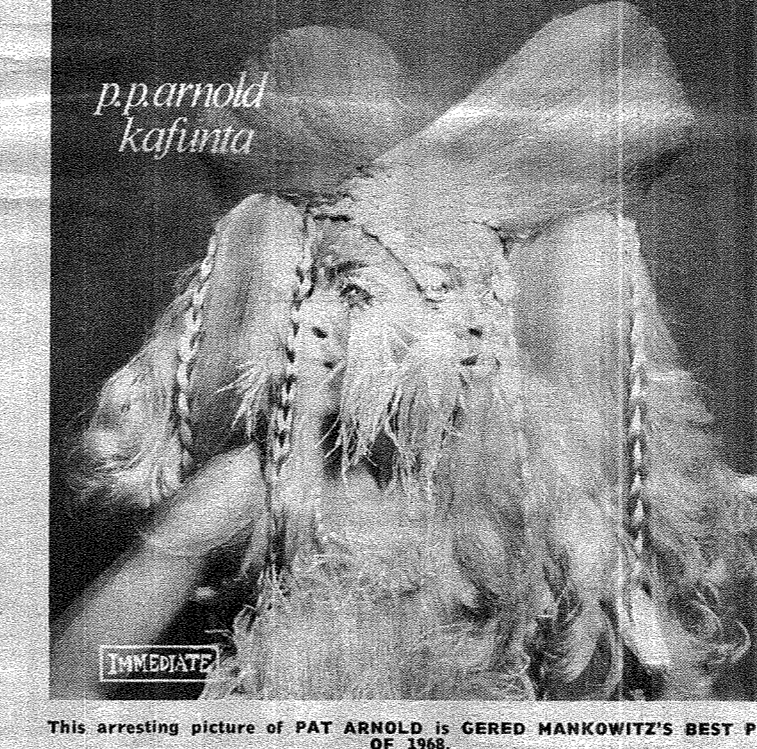
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JETHRO TULL
CHICKEN SHACK
SAVOY BROWN
merry Chrysalis

MORE BEST PICTURES OF 1968



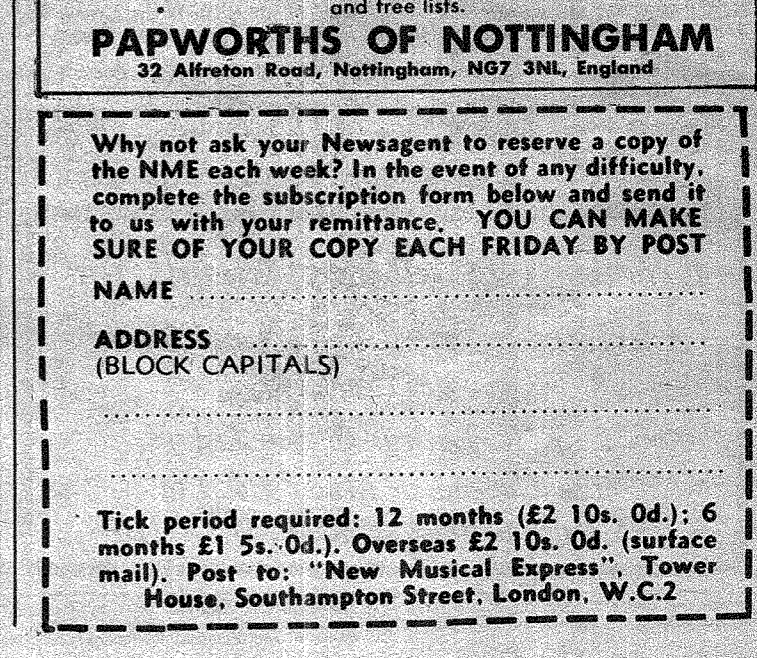
This arresting picture of PAT ARNOLD is GERED MANKOWITZ'S BEST PIC OF 1968.



Three for the price of one... this usual shot of JIMI HENDRIX is chosen by ace globetrotting show business photographer DEZO HOFFMANN as his BEST PIC OF 1968.



Photographer BARRY PLUMMER was too modest to pick a BEST PIC OF 1968 so we did it for him — this happy shot of the BEACH BOYS.



Picture that SKR Photo's top photographer STUART RICHMAN nominated as his BEST PIC OF 1968 is a shadowy one of TOM JONES.

Predictions, hopes for 1969



MERVYN CONN (left) with JOHNNY CASH, his wife BETTY CARTER and blonde model friend.

1969 WILL BE COUNTRY YEAR

MERVYN CONN, who successfully ran a country music tour in Britain in 1968, forecasts that Modern Country Music will become very popular in this country during 1969.

To back up his words, he brings Chet Atkins, Floyd Cramer, Dottie West, Boots Randolph and Gerry Reed to Britain to open at London's Albert Hall on February 19, and also play Manchester, Newcastle, Glasgow, Liverpool and Walthamstow, as well as Continental dates: Conway Twitty, backed by the Lonely Blues Boys, arrives March 25 to tour.

On April 5, he will promote the International Festival of Modern Country Music at the Empire Pool, Wembley, to which he has invited a host of top Country stars. Record companies and music publishers will have stands at the exhibition, which runs at Easter.

Johnny Cash returns in May for another tour, following his sell-out business in 1968, and finally Conn is forming a Modern Country Music Association in Britain. Looks as if Mervyn means business.

LIBERTY RECORDS: The Fifth Dimension will be the biggest of our new names and the Canned Heat will get even hotter.

LONG JOHN BALDRY: That 1969 won't be such a dreadful year as 1968, that I have lots of hit records and my American trip will come off at last.

BILLIE DAVIS: I would like to have some hit records.

ADRIAN CURTIS (Gun): I'd like to see the war in Vietnam stopped, the kids in India and Biafra getting more food, I'd like to find peace of mind, for Gun to become successful and everyone to be happy.

MIKE VAUGHAN (Easybeats' manager): To see the boys have a hit with our first single on our

new label to relieve our recent disappointments.

JOHN GORMAN (Scaffold): I'd be happy to have just one day without fighting anywhere in the world.

ROGER MCGOUGH (Scaffold): I'd like to think that this time next year, people will be able to say: "Biafra? What was that?"

MIKE MCGEAR (Scaffold): I'd like people when they're low and depressed to go and visit the slums or hospital.

CARL WAYNE (Move): The scene is set for a lot of people being big for a few months and then going out. The only group that I feel will have lasting success next year is the Time Box.

STEVE ELLIS (Love Affair): Philip Goodhand-Tait as a songwriter and performer will come to the fore. Spooky Tooth possibly.

STEVE ROWLAND (record producer for Dave Dee, Dozy, Beaky, Mick and Tich, the Herd and P. J. Proby): Success for Amory Kane. I feel he is one of the most significant singers and songwriters I have come across in my experience as a record producer.

TREMELOES: To keep our records selling worldwide and visit new countries.

MIKE RAVEN: For all pop fans in Great Britain to realise the debt they owe to the blues.

KEITH SKUES: To get a daily show on Radio One.

Some zany ideas for Christmas presents

HERE are some light-hearted ideas for Christmas presents...

PAUL CURTIS (Gun): For all the people concerned in the compiling of charts, adding machines.

PAT FAIRLEY (Marmalade): Chain of nudist camps for John and Yoko.

JOHN GORMAN (Scaffold): A get-well card for Father Christmas.

CARL WAYNE (Move): A razor blade for the Jethro Tull.

STEVE ELLIS (Love Affair): A new jacket for Scott Walker.

STEVE ROWLAND: A tonsillectomy for Andy Fairweather-Low.

JOHN PERRY (Grapefruit): A full-length mirror for Barry Gibb.

GEORGE ALEXANDER (Grapefruit): A plastic surgeon for Tiny Tim.

GEOFF SWETTENHAM (Grapefruit): Beate wigs for the Bee Gees.

MIKE RAVEN: A crate of Vichy Water for Richard Green.

KEITH SKUES: An original joke for Tony Blackburn.

KEITH EMERSON: A spirit level and plumb line to a certain record sleeve printing company.

LONG JOHN BALDRY: A mammoth bone for the hairy ant (my publicist's dog).

BILLIE DAVIS: Gonks galore for Michael Aldred.

TEN YEARS OF 1-2-3 IN THE NME POLL Part two — 1964-68

Table with columns for Year (1964-1968) and categories (World, Male Singer, Female Singer, Vocal Group, Musical Personality, British, etc.) listing artists and their chart positions.

LPs by ALLEN EVANS. Features Aretha Franklin's 'Live at the Olympia' and other titles like 'Night Life', 'Baby I Love You, Groovin'', etc.

ENGELBERT'S DREAM OF CHRISTMAS

CHRISTMAS is carol singers at the door, lamps lit at night, white snow outside and a warm traditional atmosphere surrounding everything. Engelbert says: "Unfortunately Christmas today is rarely like that..."

KLUBS on CAM. A collage of album covers and promotional text for various artists including The Seekers, Frank Sinatra, and others.

ANSWERS TO POPWORD & QUIZ ON PAGE 9

- Popword: 1. Tim Hardin; 2. Eric Burdon; 3. The Beatles; 4. The Walker Brothers; 5. Day Jones; 6. The Monkees; 7. The Beatles; 8. Mike Hugg; 9. Pat Arnold; 10. Gerry Reed; 11. Engelbert Humperdinck; 12. Esther and Abi Ofarim; 13. Lemon Pipers; 14. Donovan; 15. Sandie Shaw; 16. Tom Jones; 17. Bill Martin and Phil Coulter; 18. Maurice Gibb; 19. For Whom The Bell Tolls; 20. Ringo Starr; 21. Nancy Sinatra; 22. Otis Redding; 23. Florence Ballard; 24. John Rowles; 25. Tom Jones.



MARY HOPKIN — BOXING DAY SCAFFOLD — CHRISTMAS DAY JOE COCKER — BOXING DAY BEE GEES — BOXING DAY

Pics by HARRY GOODWIN Facts by TERRY QUINN. Features a large photograph of George Fame performing on stage.

NMExclusive preview of XMAS & BOXING DAY 'TOP OF THE POPS'

CHRISTMAS DAY "Top Of The Pops '68," with Jimmy Savile and Pete Murray: transmission time 1.25 pm. LOVE AFFAIR sing "Everlasting Love." BEATLES "Let It Be," "I Pretend," "I Wanna Hold Your Hand," "Lady Madonna," and SCAFFOLD "Lily The Pink." UNION GAP — "Young Girl." GEORGE FAME — "Bonnie And Clyde." ESTHER and ABI — "Cinderella Rockefeller." MANFRED MANN — "The Mighty Cream." BEACH BOYS — "Do It Again." CLIFF RICHARD — "Congratulations." ROLLING STONES — "Jumping Jack Flash."

ALAN FREEMAN and STUART HENRY — CHRISTMAS DAY. Features a photograph of the camera team and dancers in action at the 'Top Of The Pops' event.

NEXT WEEK GUN LIFE-LINES

CHAOS! IN THE LAST FEW WEEKS WE'VE BEEN SATURATED WITH CHART-WORTHY SINGLES

THE huge Christmas sales drive is over. And all of us — recording companies, artists, reviewers and fans — can sit back and breathe a sigh of relief. Because the last few weeks have been complete and utter chaos!

The reason is, quite simply, that new singles have been issued in such vast quantities that they have reached saturation point.

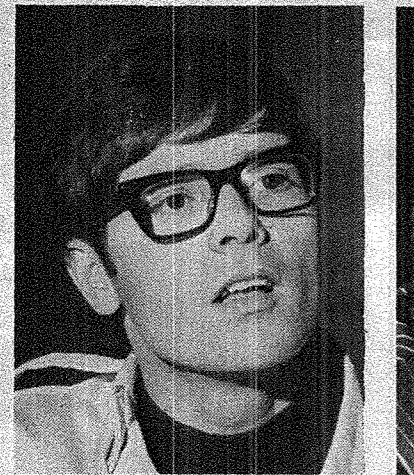
You would have thought that, by now, the disc firms and their artists would have realised the folly of this policy. But no — it's the same from one Christmas to another.

Just look at all these names — Tom Jones, Dusty Springfield, Cliff Richard, Manfred Mann, the Crazy World of Arthur Brown, Union Gap, Herman's Hermits, the Tremeloes, the Beach Boys, the Move, the Casuals, Donovan, the Marmalade, Canned Heat, Jose Feliciano, Otis Redding, Hugo Montenegro, Traffic, Gene Pitney. A pretty impressive list, isn't it?

They all have one thing in common. And so do Elvis Presley, the Paper Dolls, the Nice, John Rowles, Grapefruit, Pink Floyd, Stevie Wonder, Bruce Channel, Petula Clark, the 1910 Fruitgum Co. and a lot more.

All those big-name artists had new singles released within the space of three weeks during the peak of the pre-Christmas sales push.

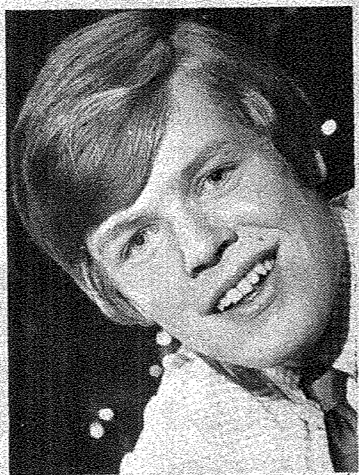
And it's quite obvious that, because of the intensive competition, about half of them — maybe more — are NOT going to get into



Cliff Richard



Otis Redding



Herman



John Rowles



Pet Clark

IT'S NOT DOING ANYBODY ANY GOOD

says reviewer **DEREK JOHNSON**

the hit parade.

I think it's fair to say that at any other time of the year — when the disc companies preserve a sense of proportion, and space their releases so that, not too many potential hits are issued simultaneously — practically all those artists I've mentioned would have been guaranteed a Chart placing on the strength of their current singles.

But it is now painfully clear that many of them — including several top stars — will have failures.

It's common knowledge that the Christmas trade is the most lucrative time of the year for the recording industry — as, indeed, with any other business. And the recent increase in Purchase Tax does not seem to have daunted the traditional spending spree.

It is probably only natural that the companies should fire all their big guns at this particular time of the year, to encourage the Christ-

mas shoppers to fork out even more of their cash.

But what never fails to amaze me is the way in which the artists allow themselves to be bulldozed into this position. Because it must be apparent to them that, with such cut-throat rivalry, they stand far less chance of securing a hit.

Accordingly, they run a grave risk of loss of status and humiliation. Surely it would be far better for many of them to delay their efforts until after Christmas when, for one thing, they can still

pick up large sales through record tokens.

I can't believe that flooding the market in this way is good for anyone. And it's hardly fair on the fans, who can't possibly buy everything they like to.

But the people who suffer most are the new artists, still struggling for Chart recognition. Because, for every big-name single that's issued in November and December, there are another five or six by newcomers or unknowns.

They simply have to accept

being tossed into the turmoil, knowing full well that — apart from an occasional fluke — they have no hope at all.

The plain fact is that far too many discs are issued immediately before Christmas. And another year, I'd like to see the companies get together, in order to plan a more thoughtful and realistic seasonal campaign.

Meanwhile, in case you're one of those last-minute Christmas shoppers — or, alternatively, in the event of your being given a cash present or a record token by your favourite aunt — here's a further selection of recent releases for your consideration.

It has been a fabulous year for CBS Records



We forge ahead now into 1969 with great new year listening from these fantastic Singles...

- 3873 The Tremeloes I Shall Be Released 3892
- Marmalade Ob La Di, Ob La Da 57-3145
- Fleetwood Mac Albatross 3714
- Gary Puckett & The Union Gap Over You

- 3764 The Gun Race With The Devil 57-3146
- Chicken Shack When The Train Comes Back 58-3899
- The Diplomats I Can Give You Love 58-3903
- The Tymes People

and Albums

- (S) 63429 Gary Puckett & The Union Gap Incredible (S) 63414
- Marmalade There's A Lot Of It About (S) 63416
- The Love Affair The Everlasting Love Affair (S) 63423
- Ray Conniff Turn Around Look At Me (S) 8-63477
- Cliff Nobles & Co. The Horse



RECORDS CBS Records, 28/30 Theobalds Road, London WC1

... and here's a few more FOR POP FANS

FIRST of all, let's spin through a few discs with a good teenage appeal. "Season Of The Witch" (CBS) was recorded at an informal jam session by AL KOOPER & STEVE STILL, and the spontaneity of the music, coupled with Donovan's disturbing lyric, generates a tremendous, exciting atmosphere. A power house beat and an uninhibited vocal are combined in "Come On, React" (Stateside) by the FIRE BALLS, which is ideal material for the more energetic dancers.

CLEAR LIGHT takes its self-penned "She's Ready To Be Free" (Elektra) at a breath-taking tear-up pace, and incorporates some startling harmonic patterns into its vigorous routine. A new Psy group known as TURNSTYLE is backed by shimmering strings, raucous twangs and a solid beat in a confree, rhythmic ballad called "Riding A Wave". A pounding medium-pace with an absorbing Arabian Nights lyric, "Five White Horses" (MGM) by SUN DRAGON has a compelling drive, a rich vocal blend and a hard guitar-and-organ backing.

"Fiska My Darling" (Prest) by the PYRAMIDS sparkles with an authentic Caribbean gaiety—it's a happy-go-lucky blues-chaser, giving the impression that the group is having a real ball. "The Duck" is a new dance routine that combines all the characteristics of the twist and the jerk, and the instructions are vehemently delivered by London's JACKIE LEE, aided by enthusiastic chanting.

In Phylvis (Prest), written by the DELLS adopt a bluesy approach for the big-beat ballad "Always Together" (Chess), which is more suitable for smooth dancing. The under-rated BARRIER offers a bustling toe-tapper with a catchy chorus line and the year's shortest title. In Phylvis (Prest), written by the Howard-Blakley team, and not surprisingly in the style of Dave Dee, a title like "Doctor Rock" is a little bit for itself, and predictably it proves to be a supercharged raver from Page One team APPLE. The POETS are in much more subdued mood than usual on the plaintive rockballad "Alone Am I" (Pye) featuring

solist with chanting, sighing organ and wailing harmonica. A couple of singles devoted to the musical "Hair" — GALT MACDERMOT performs the captivating Latin-

flavoured "Hare Krishna" coupled with the title song (Verve), and SONJA KRISTINA sings the delightful story-in-song ballad "Frank Mills" (Polydor). ROGER JAMES COOKE forcefully projects the powerful rhythmic ballad "Not That It Matters Any More" (Columbia), and in similar style GLEN DALE emotes "I've Got Something Too" (Page One), both written by David and Jonathan.

Two snappy folk-beat items which I can thoroughly recommend are "Give A Damn" (Big Top) by the JOHNSONS and "Lemon Balloon And A Blue Sky" (CBS) by the CARROLLS, both showcasing personality performances by the girl lead singers. Equally jaunty and bouncy, but more on a c-and-w kick, is "After All" (Jay Boy), competently and appealingly handled by the COUNTRYMEN.

We turn now to a few cover versions of recent or current hits, and my compliments to Capitol's PATTI DREW who turns in a sizzling and dynamic r-and-b styling of Otis Redding's "Hard To Handle," which Otis himself would surely have approved. If you think the Kasenetz-Katz waxing of Quick Joey Small is a bit overcrowded with groups, try the less cluttered treatment by Pye's REAL MCCOY, which is just as stimulating. American group FIVE-BY-FIVE really socks it to us with a pile-driving rendition of "Fire" (Eye-International), which won't sell many copies here but is well worth a listen. Guitar man CHET ATKINS demonstrates his vast technical ability and inherent feel for the blues in "Light My Fire" (RCA), with a beautifully scored accompaniment. And in its own inimitable and highly distinctive style, the RAYMOND ARIF MARIEN ORCHESTRA presents a brilliant instrumental arrangement of "Those Were The Days" (Major Minor).

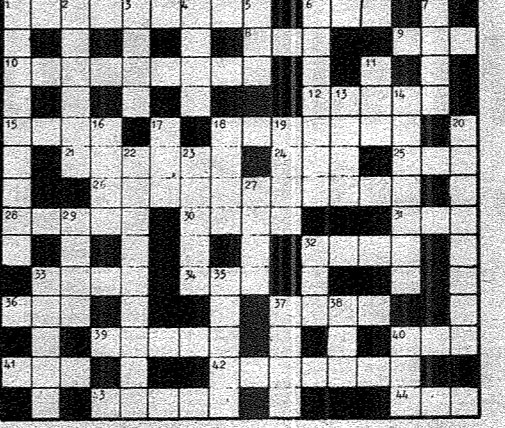
FOR MUMS AND DADS

NOW for a few discs aimed at the more "square" section of the community. For instance, Dad would doubtless welcome a copy of the stirring "World Of Sport March" (from ITV's Saturday afternoon show) played by Columbia's DON HARPER ORCHESTRA, or alternatively, RONNIE HILTON supported by the Leeds soccer team in the battle cry of the terrace, "Glory Glory Leeds United" (Columbia). And Mum would probably appreciate MIA FARROW warbling the haunting "Lulaby" from her film "Rosemary's Baby" (Dot), even though Mia is persistently out of tune for which reason, you may prefer the instrumental version by the ARIF MARIEN ORCHESTRA on Atlantic. Another lovely ballad with an engaging continental lilt and an attractive hummable melody, "Au Revoir Paris" (Morgan) marks the disc debut of the TRIO ATHENE. "May God Be Good To You" (Page One) is a Bill Martin-Phil Coulter ballad in the "I Never Walk Alone" tradition, handled with sincerity and conviction by MAGGIE FITZGIBSON. In a rich bass voice, ALFRED MARKS warbles "My Young Visitors And Me" (RCA), best described as a "Honeybus" (RCA) variation of "The Rose Tree." "The House" is back again, this time with a poppy toe-tapper reminiscent of his hits of 15 years ago. "Just Wish You'd Maybe Change Your Mind" (London). The diminutive ZOKKO'S play to raise a few giggles with his novelty revival of the beaty "Big Man" (Columbia). Mrs. Andy Williams, better known as CLAUDE LONGEY, croons the tender "Sleep Safe And Warm" in a rich, deliciously sweet, French accent that always makes my toes curl. Greek star NANA MOUSKOURI sings the folksy "My Friend The Sea" (Fontana), in which the accompaniment has a pronounced Balkan flavour. "Chameleon" is a very tuneful "I's stage musical. "Mr. & Mrs." HONOR BLACKMAN husses the flowing ballad "Before Today" (CBS), a typical show song, which loses much of its impact out of context. In Kalmarzand, isn't old Glenn Miller favourite, but a brand new bright-and-breezy roundelay, cheerily delivered by President's DICKIE HEADERSON with a children's choir. "The Borders" comes next week with a tasteful jazz variations on the Faure lullaby classic "Pavane" (Pye). And for the kiddies, we have the themes from two popular BGC-1 series. "Zooko's" play to the border, in which the title is "Zooko" and CECILE AUBRY sings the enchanting "Belle Sebastian And The Horses" (Philips) which is rather like a French version of Jacky's "White Horses". For readers North of the border, whose big celebration comes next week at Hogmanay, may I suggest the ALEXANDER BROTHERS with the lilting waltz "Remember The Children" (Pye) written for them by Tony Hatch and Jackie Trent. And JIMMY LOGAN with a gay ditty called "The New Year Bells" (RCA), the title of which is self-explanatory. Finally, my apologies to all the other artists who have had singles released in December, but those discs I have been able to mention owing to lack of space, which, surely, is further proof of my contention that far too many records are issued at this time of year.

QUIZ CORNER

NME POPWORD 1

- Across:
1. Wrote "If I Were A Carpenter" (two words).
 2. What the sun gave Vanily Fair?
 3. String "On a G."
 4. Not Elvis.
 5. Formerly Mr. Dorsey.
 6. Trem Alan's brother is in this group.
 7. Animal leader.
 8. Mike the Texan.
 9. Miss Kitt.
 10. Caught from the suit.
 11. Ex-Move.
 12. George is a great fan of his (two words).
 13. Nilsson.
 14. Half a duo.
 15. Otherwise Trem Chip.
 16. A Four Top.
 17. A soulful wife.
 18. Paul Williams has one.
 19. Bandleader who shares name with a politician.
 20. Produced "Telstar."



- Down:
1. Mr. Conrad.
 2. This is what they all want.
 3. Colour of the Band's house.
 4. Stone.
 5. Sang "It Must Be Him."
 6. Time for Blackburn channel.
 7. Sang "Hold Me Tight."
 8. Julie Andrew's film.
 9. Girl who figured in Hollies and Donovan hit.
 10. His brother's in the same group (two words).
 11. A Hollie.
 12. It was in a can.
 13. See 33 down.
 14. Alvin of Ten Years After.
 15. Singer-Guitarist who was a hit in the Scott Walker tour.
 16. "Eyes" sang the Everly Brothers.
 17. Chart Topper.
 18. Locomotion singer.
 19. "Papa's Got A Brand New Song" sang James Brown.

ANSWERS ON PAGE 10

HOW MUCH DO YOU REMEMBER OF 1968

1968 — JANUARY, FEBRUARY, MARCH

1. Which EP got to No 2 in the NME charts?
2. At the beginning of January two songs closely connected with films were in the hit parade — what were they?
3. What had "Wonder Wall" to do with a Beatle?
4. A famous trio split up. Who were they?
5. One member of a much-loved group went back to "Coronation Street". Who, and why did he want to see Ena Sharples?
6. Petula Clark was signed to appear in what film musical with Fred Astaire?
7. Lisa Marie made Priscilla and who proud parents?
8. Which group members wrote the film score for "Up The Junction"?
9. The Small Faces produced a record, for which female solo singer?
10. The Beatles promoted their first group. Who were they?
11. Who became Robinson Crusoe and made his first acting debut?
12. He married his girl friend to get her out of the Army and together they had a number one hit. Who are they?
13. An American group made the NME Chart with "Green Tambourine". Who were they?
14. Who made a twenty four hour trip to Athens for a cup of coffee?
15. Which well-known girl singer held her first birthday party at Madame Tussauds?
16. Whose hit record concerned a

17. Who wrote "This Wheel's On Fire"?
18. Which group drummer wed?
19. Who recorded a tribute to Otis Redding?
20. What was the name of the Spanish girl who won the Eurovision Song Contest this year in London?
21. Johnny Cash toured here with a former rock-and-roll star. Who?
22. What was the title of the song that brought the Easy-beats back into the chart after an absence of over a year?
23. Can you name the members of the Incredible String Band?
24. Engelbert Humperdinck announced his plans to take lessons in what?
25. Which group leader left to join Eric Burdon and the Animals?

1968 — APRIL, MAY, JUNE

1. The Beach Boys visited London and revealed their plans to tour America with a non-musical person. Who?
2. Louis Armstrong was signed to appear here in cabaret. Where?
3. What is the line-up of the Paper Dolls trio?
4. A member of a top group from Birmingham left. Who and which group?
5. Jacky had a hit with the theme song from a children's TV series. What was the title?
6. Which American star had to cancel his British visit because of injuring his hand in shooting incident?
7. Which Monkee began recording an album with a big band?
8. A pop concert in a European capital ended in a riot. Where was it held?
9. The Rolling Stones performed
10. Which group released an LP in a round sleeve?
11. Who conducted the orchestra in concerts here with Andy Williams?
12. After several Continental hits, a coloured-and-white group got in the charts here. What was its name?
13. News of John Lennon's novels to be filmed was released. Can you remember their titles?
14. Which song did the Tremeloes base on an African rhythm?
15. Two NME writers were involved in a riot in another European city. Which one this time?
16. A busker got into the charts. Who was he?
17. Who wrote "This Wheel's On Fire"?
18. Which group drummer wed?
19. Who recorded a tribute to Otis Redding?
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1968 — JULY, AUGUST, SEPTEMBER

1. Which famous star recorded in Bradford in July?
2. And what band did he record?
3. What was Des O'Connor's first hit in July?
4. All the Beatles' attended a West End film premiere in the summer; title?
5. Which TV star had a first hit in July? And what was the title?
6. Name the Negro comedian in the NME Chart in July.
7. A Monkee married whom, in August?
8. Name Herb Alpert's first vocal signature tune.
9. "Hey Baby" star had a comeback. His name?
10. Girl singer who pulled out of Scott Walker tour?
11. Tom Jones' hit in August?
12. George Harrison recorded an old friend from Liverpool, and a single was released. Name of the artist?
13. And the name of the single?
14. Beatles No 1 in September with what song?
15. Mary Hopkin is her real name. True or false?
16. An American poet-writer-painter had an instrumental hit in September? His name?
17. What was the Doors first NME hit in September?
18. And Fleetwood Mac's first single hit in the NME Chart?
19. "I'm a rocker again," said an internationally famous group member. His name?
20. Famous in Italy, unknown in Britain in July? Until September. Their name?
21. Marty Wilde in the news again as writer of...?
22. In what new film is Elvis Presley bearded?
23. _____ celebrated his 10th anniversary in showbusiness?
24. What American can poet-writer-painter had an instrumental hit in September? His name?
25. Which controversial musical opened in London in September?

1968 — OCTOBER, NOVEMBER, DECEMBER

1. Bonzo Dog Dah Band's "Urban Spaceman" was supervised by which famous group member?
2. Which song from the musical "Hair" made the Top Ten earlier this month?
3. Who are Trevor Gordon and Graham Bonnet?
4. What is the line-up of the three lead guitarists?
5. Name the ex-Sheffield gas fitter who made the No 1 spot in November?
6. Who replaced Clem Curtis as lead singer with the Foundations?
7. Which group did two sell-out concerts at London's Albert Hall in November and then disbanded?
8. Name the Bob Dylan film premiered here in November.
9. Who are ex-Hollie Graham Nash's new colleagues?
10. Who visited here in November with his ukulele and carrier bag of cosmetics?
11. Which leading British blues group has three lead guitarists?
12. Who threw custard pies?
13. Name the ex-Sheffield gas fitter who made the No 1 spot in November?
14. Ian Anderson is lead singer with which British blues outfit?
15. Otis Redding's "Papa's Got A Brand New Bag" was originally recorded by who?
16. Name the group led by Jimmy Page that emerged from the break-up of the Yardbirds.
17. Who are Marc Bolan and Steve Peregrine Took?
18. A current Chart hit by a
19. British singer was recorded in Memphis. Name the singer?
20. Controversy surrounded one of the acts on this year's Royal Variety Show. Which act was it?
21. Nicky Hopkins plays piano and Rod Stewart sings in which group?
22. Who is the British representative in next year's European Song Contest?
23. Where would you find "Martha My Dear" and "Rocky Racoon"?
24. Who had a November Top Ten hit with an old Doors number?
25. Which pop star plays the lead in the London production of "Gulliver's Travels" this Christmas?

20. Who was the lead in the London production of "Gulliver's Travels" this Christmas?
21. Who will be Ringo Starr's co-star in the forthcoming "The Magic Christian" film?

THERE'S NO TIME LIKE THE PRESENT



- HUGO MONTENEGRO The Good, The Bad and The Ugly
- JACK JONES Without Her SF7935 RD7935
- THE MAMAS AND THE PAPAS The Papas and The Mamas SF7960 RD7960
- HAROLD McNAIR SF7969
- THE MONKEES The Birds, The Bees, and The Monkees SF7948 RD7948
- JOSÉ FELICIANO Feliciano SF7946 RD7946
- Fantastic Feliciano SF7913 RD7913
- NINA SIMONE Silk and Soul SF7907 RD7907

ELVIS PRESLEY Elvis' Gold Records Volume IV. SF7924 RD7924

Speedway—The Original Soundtrack Recording SF7957 RD7957

JIM REEVES A Touch of Sadness SF7978 RD7978

Twelve Songs of Christmas RD7663

MALCOLM ROBERTS Mr. Roberts RD7940

OLIVER SB6777 RB6777

HAIR SF7959 RD7959

SOUND OF MUSIC SB6616 RB6616

RCA

NEIL SMITH'S POLLWINNERS PANTOMIME

Human Life is here



SIX LP'S THAT MAKE THE SCENE

- Dusty Springfield**
Definitely SBL 7864
- Esther and Abi Ofarim**
Up to Date SBL 7868
- Country Joe and the Fish**
Together SVRL 19006
- Dave Dee, Dozy, Beaky, Mick and Tich**
Golden Hits STL 5441 TL 5441
- Manfred Mann**
Mighty Garvey STL 5470 TL 5470
- Blue Cheer**
Outsideinside SBL 7869

His follow-up to
HOLD ME TIGHT
Johnny Nash
YOU GOT SOUL
MM586

The Big Seller in America
Rene & Rene
Lo Mucho
Que Te Quiero
(The More I Love You)
MM589

MAJOR MINOR RECORDS
58/59 Gt. Marlborough Street London W1

5 YEARS AGO

- 1 **WANT TO HOLD YOUR HAND**, Beatles (Parlophone)
- 2 **GLAD ALL OVER**, Dave Clark Five (Columbia)
- 3 **DOMINIQUE**, Singing Nun (Philips)
- 4 **SHE LOVES YOU**, Beatles (Decca)
- 5 **SECRET LOVE**, Kathy Kirby (Decca)
- 6 **I ONLY WANT TO BE WITH YOU**, Dusty Springfield (Philips)
- 7 **TWENTY-FOUR HOURS FROM TULSA**, Gene Pitney (A&M)
- 8 **YOU WERE MADE FOR ME**, Freddie and the Dreamers (Columbia)
- 9 **SWINGING ON A STAR**, Big Dee Irwin (Capitol)
- 10 **MARIA ELENA**, Los Indios Tabajaras (RCA)

10 YEARS AGO

- 1 **IT'S ONLY MAKE BELIEVE**, Conway Twitty (MGM)
- 2 **HOOTS MON**, Lord Rockingham's XI (Decca)
- 3 **TOM DOOLEY**, Lonnie Donegan (Capitol)
- 4 **TEA FOR TWO**, Cha-Cha, Tommy Dorsey (Brunswick)
- 5 **IT'S ALL IN THE GAME**, Tommy Edwards (MGM)
- 6 **TOM DOOLEY**, Kingston Trio (Capitol)
- 7 **LOVE MAKES THE WORLD GO ROUND**, Perry Como (RCA)
- 8 **THE DAY THE RAINS CAME**, Jane Morgan (London)
- 9 **HIGH CLASS BABY**, Cliff Richard (Columbia)
- 10 **COME ON LET'S GO**, Tommy Steele (Decca)

No. 15-year-ago chart as it was not issued for December 25 week, 1963.

NME TOP 30

(Week ending Friday, December 20, 1968)

WEEK LAST THIS	WEEK IN CHART	HIGHEST POSITION	ARTIST	TITLE	RECORD COMPANY
1	1	1	LILY THE PINK	Scarf (Parlophone)	7
2	2	2	ONE TWO THREE O'LEARY	Des O'Connor (Columbia)	5
3	3	3	BUILD ME UP BUTTERCUP	Foundations (Pye)	5
4	4	4	AIN'T GOT NO - I GOT LIFE	Nina Simone (RCA)	9
5	5	5	URBAN SPACEMAN	Bonzo Dog Doo-Dah Band (Liberty)	6
6	6	6	SABRE DANCE	Love Sculpture (Parlophone)	4
7	7	7	THE GOOD BAD AND THE UGLY	Hugo Montenegro (RCA)	13
8	8	8	OB-LA-DI OB-LA-DA	Marmalade (CBS)	3
9	9	9	MAY I HAVE THE NEXT DREAM WITH YOU	Malcolm Roberts (Major Minor)	9
10	10	10	RACE WITH THE DEVIL	Gun (CBS)	6
11	11	11	I AM A TIGER	Lulu (Columbia)	7
12	12	12	ALBATROSS	Fleetwood Mac (Blue Horizon)	3
13	13	13	A MINUTE OF YOUR TIME	Tom Jones (Decca)	5
14	14	14	PRIVATE NUMBER	William Bell & Judy Clay (Stax)	5
15	15	15	BREAKING DOWN THE WALLS OF HEARTACHE	Bandwagon (Direction)	10
16	16	16	LOVE CHILD	Diana Ross & the Supremes (Tamla Motown)	5
17	17	17	OB-LA-DI OB-LA-DA	Bedrocks (Columbia)	2
18	18	18	SON OF A PREACHER MAN	Dusty Springfield (Philips)	3
19	19	19	ELOISE	Barry Ryan (MGM)	10
20	20	20	HARPER VALLEY P.T.A.	Jeannie C. Riley (Polydor)	9
21	21	21	THIS OLD HEART OF MINE	Isley Brothers (Tamla Motown)	10
22	22	22	I SHALL BE RELEASED	Tremeloes (CBS)	2
23	23	23	STOP HER ON SIGHT	Edwin Starr (Polydor)	2
24	24	24	SOMETHING'S HAPPENING	Herman's Hermits (Columbia)	2
25	25	25	QUICK JOEY SMALL	Kasenz-Katz Singing Orchestra Circus (Buddah)	5
26	26	26	IF I KNEW THEN WHAT I KNOW NOW	Val Doonican (Pye)	10
27	27	27	ELENORE	Turtles (London)	9
28	28	28	THOSE WERE THE DAYS	Mary Hopkin (Apple)	17
29	29	29	ATLANTIS	Donovan (Pye)	4
30	30	30	DON'T FORGET TO CATCH ME	Cliff Richard (Columbia)	4

LP POINTS CHAMPIONSHIP

Based on the weekly Top 15 Chart throughout 1968. Fifteen points awarded for a No. 1 position, 14 points for No. 2 — and so on, down to one point for No. 15.

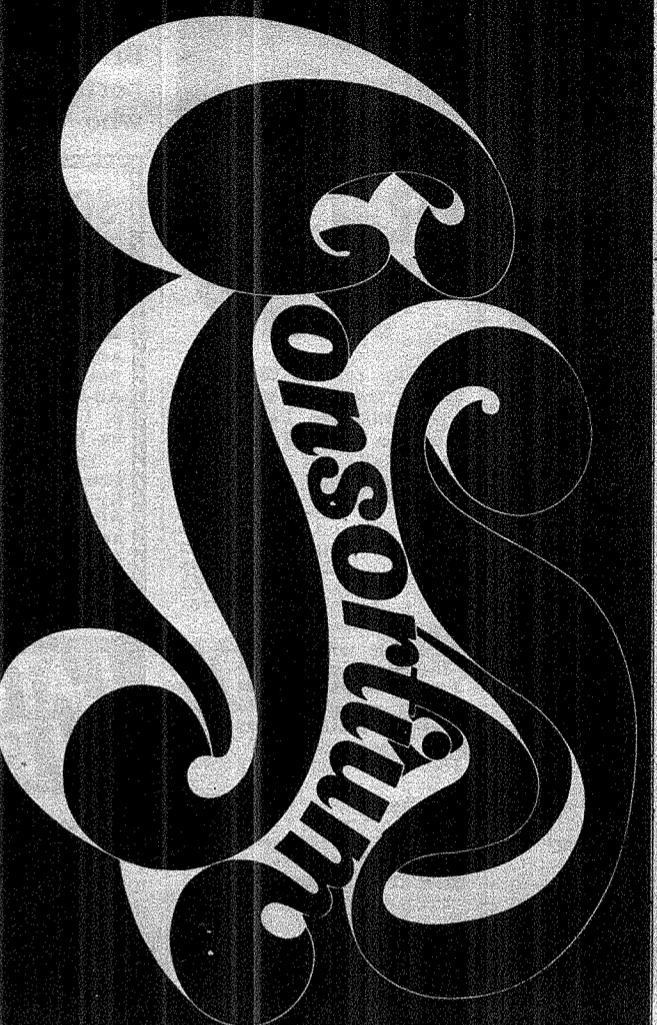
Rank	LP Title	Points	No. of weeks in chart	No. of weeks at No. 1
1	SOUND OF MUSIC (Soundtrack)	564	51	1
2	THIS IS SOUL (Various Artists)	321	27	9
3	JOHN WESLEY HARDING (Bob Dylan)	269	21	7
4	HOLLIES GREATEST HITS	254	19	10
5	SUPREMES GREATEST HITS	246	23	6
6	BOOKENDS (Simon & Garfunkel)	224	18	6
7	DELLIAH (Tom Jones)	200	20	1
8	HISTORY OF OTIS REDDING	198	19	0
9	FOUR TOPS GREATEST HITS	187	20	0
10	SEEKERS AT THE TALK OF THE TOWN	154	13	0
11	FLEETWOOD MAC	144	23	0
12	A MAN WITHOUT LOVE (Engelbert Humperdinck)	138	18	0
13	OGDENS NUT GONE FLAKE (Small Faces)	136	13	4
14	SCOTT 2 (Scott Walker)	131	14	0
15	SGT. PEPPER'S LONELY HEARTS CLUB BAND (Beatles)	125	14	2

AMERICAN CHART-POINT CHAMPIONSHIP

Based upon the "Billboard" Top Ten record chart throughout 1968. Thirty points awarded for a No. 1 position, 29 points for No. 2 — and so on, down to one point for No. 30.

Rank	Artist	Points
1	ARETHA FRANKLIN	916
2	BEATLES	889
3	UNION GAP	853
4	RASCALS	521
5	STAPPENWOLF	427
6	DIONNE WARWICK	400
7	1910 FRUITGUM CO.	370
8	TEMPTATIONS	370
9	SIMON & GARFUNKEL	353
10	MARVIN GAYE & TAMMI TERRELL	352
11	SERGIO MENDES & BRASIL '66	350
12	BOBBY GOLDSBORO	348
13	CREAM	347
14	CLASSICS IV	341
15	JAMES BROWN & THE FAMOUS FLAMES	336
16	PAUL MAURIAT	336
17	OTIS REDDING	335
18	ARCHIE BELL & THE DRELLS	332
19	VOGUES	315
20	MONKEES	290
21	HERB ALPERT	283
22	JEANNIE C. RILEY	280
23	5TH DIMENSION	279
24	OHIO EXPRESS	278
25	DOORS	260
26	MARY HOPKIN	252
27	BOX TOPS	250
28	DIANA ROSS & THE SUPREMES	250
29	O. C. SMITH	245
30	STEVIE WONDER	239

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RETURN OF TINY TIM?

TINY TIM is virtually certain to return to Britain in the spring to star in a series of concerts, plus his own TV special. His version of the Jerry Lee Lewis rock classic "Great Balls Of Fire" is scheduled for release next month — also a new album.

Negotiations for Tiny Tim to visit Britain in April are expected to be completed shortly. He will play concerts in London and other provincial cities during his ten-day stay, and three ITV companies are currently bidding for him to star in an hour-long special.

Tim's first concert — in which he will be accompanied by a 40-piece orchestra — probably be at the London Royal Festival Hall. Other venues at present under consideration include Glasgow Usher Hall, Birmingham City Hall, Manchester Free Trade Hall and either Bristol Colston Hall or Cardiff Sophia Gardens.

Depending upon the tightness of his schedule, Tim would also undertake radio interviews during his visit. A spokesman for Tetragrammaton — the company which manages Tiny Tim — told the NME: "Contracts for the tour have not yet been signed, but it is 99 per cent certain."

"Great Balls Of Fire" on January 10. Also out the same day is his new LP "Tiny Tim's Second Album."

STARS ON COLOUR TV AT MIDEM FESTIVAL

THE all-star variety galas, which traditionally highlight the annual Midem Festival in Cannes, are to be filmed in colour when the 1969 event is staged between January 18 and 24. The films will be offered to TV companies throughout Europe and America, and there is a strong possibility that BBC-2 will spread its net to most of the concerts. Among artists already set to appear in the galas are Aretha Franklin, Gene Pitney, Mary Hopkin, the 5th Dimension, Bobby Goldsboro, John Rowles, Canned Heat and Wilson Pickett.

The event promises to be the largest Midem yet held — from Britain, 46 music publishers and nine record companies have already accepted invitations to attend. And in 1970, the festival will extend still further, with the opening of new premises specially designed to accommodate it.

Stars to Malta for charity?

KEYSTONE, the charity organisation which raises money for boys' clubs, is planning a series of "Keystone Goes Abroad" pop concerts — first of which is scheduled for Malta next August at a 25,000-seat football stadium.

Keystone organiser, Michael Whitehall, who recently returned from the island where he received many offers of help for the venture, is now looking for British artists who will give their services free. The concert will be jointly sponsored by Keystone and Malta youth clubs. It will be covered by Maltese TV and radio.

★ POPLINERS ★

JUDY GARLAND is to star in a four-week cabaret engagement at London's Talk Of The Town theatre-restaurant, opening next Monday (30). ● Iveys and dj Mike Quinn late addition to the all-star pop party at London's Alexandra Palace on New Year's Eve. ● Diana Ross and Supremes cast as nuns in Brian Clavin's production of "The Young Man" on TV on Sunday, January 5. ● Dave Berry cabaret weeks at Manchester Talk Of The North doubling with "The Frank Sinatra Show" in January. ● Middlesex through Excel Bowl doubling Sunderland La Strada (from February 2). ● Tony Hatch has signed Mark Murphy to label, and has produced his first single "Come Back To Me," backed by the Trans-Hatch team. ● Eusebio "Tom" Trecan is director and recording manager for new Kent disc company, operating from Leytonstone — first releases on new label expected next month.

ENGELBERT, MARY HOPKIN SIX-WEEK CONCERT TOUR

ENGELBERT HUMPERDINCK is to undertake an extensive British concert tour in the spring, with Mary Hopkin as special guest star on all the shows. The opening venue has been set for Northampton ABC on Friday, March 7. Remaining dates are currently being set, but it is expected that most of Britain's principal cities will be visited during the six-week itinerary. Although one or two other supporting attractions may be booked, the show will be devoted almost entirely to Engelbert and Mary—who will both be accompanied by a large orchestra.

SCULPTURE, JOE, GUN IN RAVE

LOVE SCULPTURE, the Gun, the Spencer Davis Group and Joe Cocker and the Grease Band have been booked for an All-Night Rave to be staged at London's Lyceum Ballroom on Friday, January 24.

The previous Friday (17), George Fame stars in a charity concert at London's Royal Albert Hall in aid of the International Red Cross. Also set are Ten Years After, the Family and John Peel.



Camera-ace HARRY GOODWIN says this portrait of ENGELBERT HUMPERDINCK is his BEST PICTURE OF 1968. Harry, official "Top Of The Pops" photographer, takes thousands of portraits for the programme, and is noted for the sharpness of his work, which may be blown up to huge poster-size pictures.

LATEST ON RADIO Sculpture, Quo, Manfreds, Move

HERMAN'S HERMITS, Status Quo, the Equals and Freddie and the Dreamers are among the artists appearing daily in Radio 1's "Top Gear" programme from Monday, January 8, to Friday, January 10. They are joined by the Merseys, the Montanas, the Bystanders, Sons and Lovers and the bands of Alex Welsh and Trevor Jones. This same line-up is also featured in the Saturday-afternoon show, hosted by Pete Brady, on January 19.

A new group — Mason, Capaldi, Wood, Frog

THE new group which has emerged from the remnants of the now-defunct Traffic is to be named Mason, Capaldi, Wood and Frog. The newcomer to the line-up previously reported in the NME is Mick Weaver, leader of the Wynder K. Frog group. The quartet is to begin recording during the first week of January, after the Frog has completed its commitments. Under Jimmy Miller's supervision, the new team will cut an album and a single for rush-release by Island.

A six-week American tour has been lined up for Mason, Capaldi, Wood and Frog to open on March 15. The initial date is at New York Fillmore East, and among other venues in the itinerary are Philadelphia Electric Gardens, Detroit Grandex and Los Angeles Fillmore West. Several college and TV dates are also being set.

Island chief Chris Blackwell is planning to present the quartet as a group, a spokesman told the NME. He added: "They will begin British appearances in late January or early February. They then go to America to record their new album on April 22, after which they will continue with British one-nighters."

As already announced in the NME, Traffic ceased to exist three weeks ago, when its founder Stevie Nicks, opted out. The remaining two members, Jim Capaldi and Chris Wood, promptly enlisted the services of ex-member Dave Mason. And now, with the addition of Mick Weaver, a new group is born!

LEAPY'S FOLLOW-UP

Leapy Lee's follow-up to his million-selling "Little Arrows" smash hit is to be issued by MCA on January 10. Titled "Here Comes The Rain," it was written by Barry Mason together with a new composer named Michael Bradley.

ROYAL ALBERT HALL
 BRUNEL UNIVERSITY STUDENTS CARNIVAL
 (in aid of International Red Cross)

PRESENTS IN CONCERT
 ★ GEORGIE FAME ★

PRINCIPAL EDWARDS MUSIC THEATRE
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 Compered by: JOHN PEELE

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Pet opens BBC-1 colour; Trens Xmas Day booking

NEGOTIATIONS are nearing completion for Petula Clark to star in an hour-long special to be screened as the inaugural programme for BBC-1's colour service scheduled to begin in late October.

The Tremeles are a late booking for ATV's "All Kinds Of Music," networked immediately before the Queen's Speech on Christmas Day.

A new series of 13-hour long shows, hosted by Liberace, goes into production in London in mid-February. They will be networked here by ATV, and in America by CBS. British screening is expected to be on Sunday nights, following the Tom Jones series.

Latest bookings for BBC-1's Saturday-night Julie Felix series include the Fontaines and Jim Dale (January 11), Tom Paxton (18), George Fame (25) and O. C. Smith (February 22).

Paul Jones joins Esther and Avi Ofarim in the first edition of BBC-1's "Roll Harris Show" on Saturday, January 4. The same evening, George Brown guest stars in the "Morecambe And Wisdell Show." Also on BBC-1, Tammy Jones is in the "Dick Emery Show" on Tuesday, January 7.

Des O'Connor, the Move, P. J. Proby and the Fortunes guest in Southern-TV's "Time For Blackburn," which has a limited network on this Saturday (28).

Pete Brady's children's series for Thames-TV "Maggie" is to go twice weekly in the New Year. From February 18, it will be networked on Tuesdays and Thursdays — and its pop content will be increased simultaneously.



FOUNDATIONS ALBUM

THE FOUNDATIONS — whose "Bull Me Up Buttercup" hit has now sold over 300,000 copies — will spend much of January recording an album. One side will be devoted to John Macleod-Tony Macaulay compositions, and the other side will consist of their own self-penned material, the latter of which was confirmed last week. Expected to be "Our Love Went Thataway," as reported last week — will not be issued until March, to coincide with the group's return from its U.S. tour.

An extremely tight schedule of previously-booked one-nighters is preventing the Foundations from accepting many TV promotional spots on its hit single. They were compelled to decline BBC-1's "Top Of The Pops" and the group had to turn down ITV's "Time For Blackburn" and "Discotheque" this week.

The group is appearing at Birmingham Town Hall and West Bromwich Adelphi tonight (Tuesday). The venue on Boxing Day now take the Foundations to Chester, Clockwork Orange and Nantwich Civic Hall.

AFFAIR FOLLOW-UP

Love Affair's next single, to be issued by CBS on January 17, will be one of two Philip Goodhand-Tait compositions — either "One Road" or "Time Hasn't Changed Us." The previous Friday (10) Goodhand-Tait has his own self-penned single issued by Decca, titled "Love's Got A Hold On Me." A new booking for Love Affair is a one-week cabaret season in Milan from March 8.

Into '69 with Marmalade

MARMALADE — currently at No. 8 in the NME Chart with "Ob-La-Di Ob-La-Da" — is to visit America in April for a three-week college tour. The group is also set for a promotional tour of Holland from January 20 — its previous single "Wait For Me Marianne" is at present in the Dutch Top Ten. Marmalade was playing dates in Germany last week, and today (Tuesday) to telecast BBC-1's "Crackerjack" for transmission on Friday (27).

CASUALS MAKE CABARET DEBUT

THE Casuals make their cabaret debut on January 12, when they begin a week at Sheffield Cavendish doubling with Monk Bretton Social Club. They also play weeks at Blackburn Cavendish (from February 2) and Newcastle Dolce Vita doubling with South Shields Latino (from February 16).

AMERICANS WANT THE MAC

FLEETWOOD MAC's current American tour — which, as reported in last week's NME, is being filmed by U.S.-TV — has been extended by nearly three weeks. Instead of returning to Britain next month, the group is not now due back until February 15. This means that plans for it to visit Japan have had to be shelved until after its two-week Scandinavian tour, beginning on March 4.

Amen U.S. definite

Amen Corner's much-delayed debut visit to America has at last been set. Plans for the quartet are to visit Japan for the first time next spring in April for three weeks — are already booked. The quartet's manager Peter Walsh returned to Britain last weekend after negotiations in Tokyo.

The group has been criticised for failing to appear at advertised one-nighters at Oxford Clarendon Press Institute (November 20) and Colchester Corn Exchange (20). A spokesman stated this week that Mac had never been booked to appear.

TOM JONES GRABS 1968 POINTS CHAMPIONSHIP He just pips the Beatles

TOM JONES has won the NME Points Championship for the first time in his career! A last-minute spurt on the strength of his current "A Minute Of Your Time" hit carries him past the Beatles, who have seemed likely winners for most of the year. But the Beatles' runner-up position is still two places higher than they attained last year. The 1967 champion, Engelbert Humperdinck, comes third this time — and the only other artists to retain their grip on the Top Ten are the Tremeles and the Dave Dee group. Seventeen of the year's leading 20 artists are British or British-recorded — the same proportion as last year — but the number of groups in the Top Twenty falls from 15 to 12.

Outstanding achievements were scored by Des O'Connor, whose No. 4 rating gives the men soloists three of the top four places; new-comer Mary Hopkin, who finishes as the highest-placed girl soloist; and Louis Armstrong, whose "What A Wonderful World" scored 11 points that year — his own individual record during the year. Flops of the year were the Monkees, who captured the No. 2 spot in 1967. But competition this year has been the fiercest ever, with Tom Jones registering the smallest winning total since the Championship was inaugurated — nearly 500 points behind Engelbert's 1967 total.

The complete NME Points Tables, together with a detailed survey by Derek Johnson, will be printed in a fortnight's time. Meanwhile, here are the Top Twenty placings for 1968, based on the weekly NME Chart throughout the year — with 30 points awarded for a No. 1 position, 29 points for No. 2, and so on down to one point for No. 30.

1. TOM JONES; 2. BEATLES; 3. ENGELBERT HUMPERDINCK; 4. DES O'CONNOR; 5. LOVE AFFAIR; 6. UNION GAP; 7. BEE GEES; 8. TREMELES; 9. BEACH BOYS; 10. DAVE DEE, DOZY, BEAKY, MICK & TICH; 11. LOUIS ARMSTRONG; 12. AMEN CORNER; 13. HERMAN'S HERMITS; 14. SMALL FACES; 15. MANFRED MAAN; 16. DON PARTIDGE; 17. MARY HOPKIN; 18. DONOVAN; 19. ESTHER AND AVI OFARIM; and 20. JOHN ROWLES.

Simon Dee has recorded the Les Reed-Barry Mason composition "Julie" from the musical score of the film "Les Bicyclettes De Beizise". He is pictured in the recording studio with LES REED (right), who was also musical director for the session. The disc will be released on Les' own Chapter One label on January 17.

NEW DAVE DEE SINGLE: RECORD PANTO BOOKING

Dave Dee, Dozy, Beaky, Mick and Tich also has a new single issued on January 10 — titled "Run Colorado," is another composition by the Howard-Blaikley team. The group will be undertaking extensive TV and radio promotion on the new disc. Meanwhile, it opened in the pantomime "Dick Whittington" at Stockton ABC yesterday (Monday), and a spokesman announced this week that the four-week season is a "complete sell-out."

HERMAN TO HOST MAJOR U.S. TV SERIES; HOLLYWOOD FILM DEAL

HERMAN'S HERMITS are to make another film in Hollywood next year — and Herman is also likely to take over a resident host of a major U.S. TV series. The group plays a major concert tour of America over the Easter period, and is also being negotiated for a lengthy cabaret tour of Australia. It is also set for an additional cabaret week and two more TV appearances in this country.

Herman paid a four-day visit to America at the beginning of last week, for business discussions with MGM and Columbia Pictures. He is currently considering several offers for film roles, with a view to making another movie in the summer. It is expected that shooting would take place in Hollywood.

Also being negotiated is an offer for Herman to host US-TV's famed "Kraft Music Hall" networked series. He would star in eight shows in May and June, and the Hermits would also be featured. Commented agent Danny Betesh: "It is a marvellous offer, and provided we can agree terms, we shall doubtless accept."

Meanwhile the group flies to America on March 16 for an Easter concert tour, incorporating 17 venues in a 23-day period. Another likely engagement is an eight-week Australian cabaret tour, later in the year — but this cannot be finalised until the Hermits' filming commitments are settled.

A new British cabaret date for Herman and the group is at Stockport Poco Poco for the week beginning February 9. They guest in "The Red and White Show" on Saturday (28), and on January 19 they film a sequence for Tom Jones' forthcoming ATV series.

CLAY-BELL TOUR OFF

The projected British tour by Judy Clay and Paul McCartney has begun on January 22, and lasted for three weeks — has been cancelled. It is hoped the duo will now visit Britain in the spring.

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info on the current releases from Decca

As you're probably wondering how best to use all the record tokens you were given for Christmas, we thought we'd take time out to bring you up to date on some of the current records.

Don't miss out on **DION'S** beautiful single, titled "Abraham, Martin & John". It's had tremendous success in the States and should do at least as well here. The song is a touching tribute to four men who gave their lives to a cause they believed in, and it's moving without being over-sentimental. It's also great listening, on the London label, number HLP 10229.

TEN YEARS AFTER have recently released a double A-side, which should please an awful lot of people! Each number is as good as the other, but they're in completely different moods. "Hear me calling" is slightly subdued, with very subtle vocal harmonies, a persistent guitar riff and a massive build-up. "I'm going home" is a full-blooded, raving, earthy number, the kind which this group deliver so well. It's on the Deram label and the number is DM 221.

Every time **THE WEB** play a club, the number everyone asks to hear is one of the group's own compositions, "Baby won't you leave me alone". Because of the popularity of this song they decided to release it as a single, and it's doing very well.

Very light-hearted, it's a song you can all join in! On Deram, number DM 217.

The ever-popular **BACHELORS** have released an EP, which is an event in itself. "Seasonal greetings from The Bachelors" consists of four beautiful numbers, including the much-loved "I'll walk with God". You'll find this on Decca DFE 8681.

There's another EP just out which deserves a place in any collection. By **GERARD HOFFNUNG**, a man who had the great gift of bring-

SIMON DEE SINGS LES REED



Simon Dee has recorded the Les Reed-Barry Mason composition "Julie" from the musical score of the film "Les Bicyclettes De Beizise". He is pictured in the recording studio with LES REED (right), who was also musical director for the session. The disc will be released on Les' own Chapter One label on January 17.

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4-DAY GUIDE TO ALL XMAS RADIO AND TELEVISION

CHRISTMAS EVE

4.15 p.m.	Radio 1	"The David Symonds Show"
4.30	BBC-1	Nina and Frederik in "The Christmas Tree"
5.00	BBC-2	Herb Alpert and the Tijuana Brass
5.00	BBC-1	Gene Kelly in "Jack And The Beanstalk"
5.30	Radio 1	Alan Freeman presents "What's New"
7.25	BBC-1	"The Gang Show With The Stars"
7.30	Radio Lux	The Paul Burnett Show
8.15	BBC-1	"Cilla," with Cilla Black, Scott Walker
8.15	Radio 1 & 2	Pauk Clearly Sings "My Guest"
9.00	ATV	"Whatever Happened To Christmas" (Cliff Richard, Anita Harris, Kenny Lynch, Bruce Forsyth)
9.05	BBC-2	Frank Sinatra special with 5th Dimension and Dianah Carroll
9.30	Radio Lux	Pete Murray
10.00	Radio 1 & 2	"Late Night Xmas" with John Benson
10.30	Thames-TV	The Victor Borge Show
10.30	Radio 1 & 2	The Tony Price Show
12.00	Radio Lux	"It's Alan Freeman"
12.30	Radio 1 & 2	"Christmas Night Ride" with John Dunn
1.00	Radio Lux	The Dave Jensen Show

CHRISTMAS DAY

5.33 a.m.	Radio 1 & 2	"Breakfast Special" with Paul Hollingdale
8.00	Radio 2	The Tony Blackburn Show
8.02	Radio 1	"Round Britain Family Choice"
10.00	Radio 1	The Jimmy Young Christmas Show
10.00	Radio 1 & 2	"Jimmy Young Christmas Show"
1.15 p.m.	BBC-1	"From London—It's Roir" (Rolf Harris, Freddie and the Dreamers)
1.25	BBC-1	"All Kinds Of Music" with Michael Mansfield, Manfreds, Oramics, Stones, Cliff, Love Affair, etc.)
2.00	ATV	"All Kinds Of Music" with Dusty Springfield, Tremeles, Malcolm Roberts, Kiki Dee, Spinners
2.00	Radio 1 & 2	"The Christmas Special" with Casuals, Move, Billie Davis
2.10	BBC-1	"The Black And White Minstrel Christmas Show"
3.00	Radio 1	The Dave Cash Programme
3.00	Radio 2	George Mitchell's Christmas Minstrels
4.00	Radio 4	The Best Of Walt Disney" with Alan Dell
4.10	BBC-1	Val Doonican introduces "Disney Time"
4.10	Thames-TV	"Do Not Adjust Your Stocking" with the Beezies
4.45	Radio 1	"The David Symonds Show"
4.50	BBC-1	"Sumpdy Dumpty" with Lynda Baron, Sally Smith
6.30	Radio 1 & 2	"The Val Doonican Show" (Lulu, Pet Clark, Rolf Harris, Cliff Richard, Seekers, Louis Armstrong, etc.)
6.45	Thames-TV	"Opportunities Knocks" (Engelbert Humperdinck, Mary Hopkin)
7.50	Radio Lux	The Paul Burnett Show
7.55	Radio 1	"Sounds Like Christmas" with Tremeles, Joe Cocker, Tony Brandon
8.45	BBC-1	Ken Dodd in "Daddy For Christmas"
9.45	Radio Lux	Pete Murray
9.55	BBC-1	Marilyn Monroe, Jack Lemmon and Tony Curtis in "Some Like It Hot" (film)
10.30	Radio Lux	The Harry Secombe Show" with Shani Walls
10.30	BBC-2	"The Harry Secombe Show" with Shani Walls
11.00	Radio 1 & 2	"Late Night Xmas" with Pete Myers
11.40	BBC-2	Frank Sinatra and Gene Kelly in "Anchors Aweigh" (film)
12.00	Radio Lux	"It's Alan Freeman"
12.30 a.m.	Radio 1 & 2	"Christmas Night Ride" with Colin Nicol
1.00	Radio Lux	The Dave Jensen Show

BOXING DAY

5.33 a.m.	Radio 1 & 2	"Breakfast Special" with Paul Hollingdale
8.30	Radio 1	The Tony Blackburn Show
8.32	Radio 2	The Family Choice
10.00	Radio 1	"Christmas Forever" with Kenny Everett
10.00	Radio 2	The Jimmy Young Show
11.50	Southern-TV	"Little Big Time" with Freddie and the Dreamers
12.00	Radio 1	Disc "Jockey's Party"
12.00	Radio 2	Sam Costa
1.45 p.m.	Radio 4	"The Harry Secombe Show"
2.00	Radio 1	"The Harry Secombe Show"
4.15	Radio 1	"The David Symonds Show"
4.40	Thames-TV	Jerry Lewis, Anna Maria Albergheer and The Rocky Horror Show in "Cinderella" (film)
6.32	BBC-1	"The Andy Williams Christmas Show"
6.35	Radio 1 & 2	"The Johnny Cash Show"
6.35	BBC-1	"Top Of The Pops '68" (Beach Boys, Mary Hopkin, Bee Gees, Beatles, Joe Cocker, etc.)
7.15	BBC-1	"The Hopkin Hill Show"
7.30	Radio Lux	The Paul Burnett Show
7.35	Radio 1	"Boxing Day Special" with Marmalade, Vanity Fair, Tony Brandon
8.00	BBC-1	Morrim Wisdom in "The Bulldog Breed" (film)
9.30	Radio Lux	Pete Murray
9.35	BBC-1	Erica Burdett special, with Sacha Distel and Manitas de Plata
9.35	BBC-1	"The Good Old Days" with Kim Cordell and Johnny Hackett
10.00	Radio 1 & 2	"Late Night Xmas" with Barry Aldis
10.15	Granada-TV	"Cinema Extrama Special" (excerpts from film)
10.30	Radio Lux	The Tony Price Show
10.35	BBC-1	"Front Over Christmas" with David Frost and Julian Clary
11.00	Thames-TV	Emonn Andrews' Boxing Day Special (Kenny Ball, Danny La Rue)
11.15	BBC-1	"The Johnny Cash Show"
11.15	BBC-1	"The Dave Cash Programme"
12.00	Radio Lux	"It's Alan Freeman"
12.05	Radio 1 & 2	"Night Ride with Jon Curle"
1.00	Radio Lux	The Dave Jensen Show

FRIDAY (DEC. 27)

BBC and Luxembourg radio programmes follow normal weekday pattern

3.15 p.m.	BBC-1	"The Seekers' Down Under"
4.05	BBC-1	"Crackerjack" with the Marmalade and Roger Whittaker
5.20	Granada-TV	"Discotheque" with Billy J. Kramer, the Jackson Five and J. Jackson
8.50	BBC-2	"International Cabaret" with Kenneth McKeeler and Susan Maughan
12.2	BBC-2	"Tazz" with the Beatles, Count Basie, Dave Brubeck, Buddy Rich, Oscar Peter, son, etc."
11.20	BBC-1	"Come Dancing"

NOTE: All ITV programmes subject to disruption if the technicians' dispute persists.