

ROCKNOTES

Mike Evans

ONE OF THE FIRST tours of the year, and one of the best, it seems, will NOT be visiting Merseyside. When this is printed Commander Cody and the Lost Planet Airmen will have already played Manchester Free Trade Hall on January 26, and their gain is definitely our loss. I first heard the Airmen on a BBC-2 George Hamilton country/cabaret sort of show, and was immediately knocked out as they laid down amongst other things the old Elvis/Arthur Crudup classic 'My Baby Left Me'. That was a couple of years ago, and since then every album has been a joy — the best of country-style rhythm'n'blues, with pedal steel and sax playing an unusual but effective lead role.

Even nearer the mainstream of country music is Emmylou Harris who plays the Empire this month — watch out for James Burton, one-time Elvis accompanist, on lead guitar.

Last month's promise of rhythm'n'blues in a city centre club is about to materialise. It looks like from the second week of February the Metro off North John Street will be giving over its Thursday nights to R & B, run by the capable and enthusiastic Roger Eagle who is responsible for most of the rock at the Stadium and the amazing Last Trumpet, a rock magazine full of fax'n'info as they say, that actually goes out free (yes, free folks) once a month.

The sell-out response to a similar venture before Christmas in Crosby has prompted Spencer Leigh to repeat his 'Man Who Gave the Beatles Away' night, this time at Southport Arts Centre, on the 4th. Featuring Alan Williams talking about the time he managed the Fab Four, plus two Beatles documentary films from 1963, the event is part

of a series Leigh is putting on at the venue entitled 'Rockumentaries'. There's already been one on Simon and Garfunkel in January, and next month it's Bob Dylan.

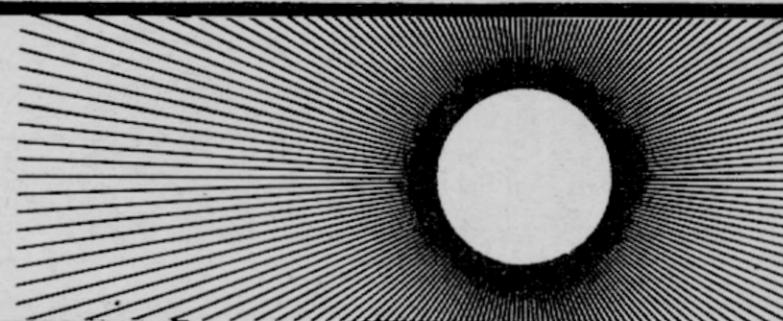
Live vintage rock'n'roll doesn't come much better than from Shakin' Stevens and the Sunsets, and John Meakin of the Grapes in Eger-ton Street is following up his sensational Deaf School river cruise on the Royal Iris with a rock'n'roll special on the boat featuring Stevens and the Sunsets, jiving competitions, prizes for the best 'fifties outfits and such. Should be good.

QUICKIES: What's happened to Alan Peters' new outfit, 29th and Dearborn?... 10cc should be worth catching at the Empire ... watch out for a possible Deaf School concert at the University on Valentine's night ... also some interesting support on same bill ... where's Nasty Pop album got to? ... any acoustic, semi-acoustic or at least fairly quiet acts interested in the already mentioned lunchtime sessions at O'Halligan's Parlour should contact me, care of the Parlour ... first Deaf School single 'A Bigger Splash'?...

WHAT'S ON

Wed Feb 4. 'The Man Who Gave the Beatles Away' with Alan Williams —Southport Arts Centre.
Thurs Feb 12. T Rex at Southport Floral Hall.
Sun Feb 15. Andy Fairweather-Low at the Royal Court.
Sat Feb 21. Emmylou Harris. Empire.
Thurs Feb 26. Shakin' Stevens — Royal Iris Cruise.
Thurs Feb 26 and Fri 27. 10cc at the Empire.
Sat Feb 28. Be Bop De Luxe (Stadium) and T Rex (Floral Pavilion, New Brighton).
Also every Wed: Rock at the Banyan Tree. Every Thurs (from Feb 19): R & B at the Metro.

INFORMER



HOOLEY'S HOPE STREET WAKE... and the audience getting in on the last days of the Everyman's twelve-year run.

But the fund-raising goes on in the form of minimum £250 donations and champagne suppers. Uncharacteristic Everyman style perhaps, but it's a professional fund-raising style that's got in £85,000 so far.

The largest single donation is £3,000. Most of the money has come in £250 blocks or £25 a year over seven years from individuals. The response from in-

dustry has been very poor but it's hoped that 20 or 30 firms can still be persuaded to give £1,000 each, which would allow the conversion to begin.

Students and their collecting cans will be at Anfield for the Liverpool v. Newcastle game on February 21, collecting pennies from the masses to help make up the £55,000 that still needs to be raised by public appeal. The Arts Council and the County Council will provide the other £140,000 between them.

Meanwhile the company go on the

road and into junior schools with Phin McGoo and the Giants for the 7-8-year-olds, and something on myths and legends for the older kids.

The Everyman Pub Show begins shortly. One of the first dates is the university on March 10.

Enquiries for booking these shows can still be made to the theatre in Hope Street until the conversion begins.

No word yet on the conversion of Les, the doorman. Maybe he'll provide a constant reminder of the old Everyman.

POLITICS

FOLLOWING its recent success at Ye Olde Bailey, the Liverpool BWNIC defence group has turned into the Merseyside Ad Hoc Committee to Change the Whole World, and continues to work on behalf of people up against the law, as well as trying to organise a Radical Liverpool Festival for a weekend in April. Meets: Tuesdays, 8.30 p.m., Open Ear, 39 Manesty's Lane, Liverpool 1 (Tel: 708 7174).

NATIONAL ABORTION CAMPAIGN demonstration in Liverpool on Saturday Feb 21 "For free abortion on demand — a woman's right to choose". Assemble 12.30 Sefton Park (Ullet Road entrance) march to rally in St George's Hall, Lime Street (3 p.m.). Speakers: Maureen Colquhoun (Labour MP); Dr Sheila Abdullah (Liverpool FPA); Antonia Norton (NAC Steering Committee); Barry Williams (Liverpool Trades Council). Details: NAC, Women's Centre, 49 Seel Street, Liverpool 1. (709 4141).

MERSEYSIDE POVERTY... is a new magazine produced by Liverpool's Child Poverty Action Group. First issue out now. Contents: Run-down of the fuel campaign on Merseyside (reports from different areas). Layman's guide to the Politics of Housing Finance. New pension scheme. What the press wouldn't say about the Skelmersdale claimant supposedly getting £67 a week.

From: John Lansley, CPAG, Institute of Extension Studies, Abercromby Square Liverpool.

PUBLIC MEETING. Feb 9, 8 p.m. Britain: Socialism or Fascism? All welcome. At October Books (CPB(M-L)) 4b Temple Court, Liverpool 2.

Plus SOCIALIST FILMS on Wednesday nights. A course of films running through till March 17. Definitely confirmed is China, the Red Sons (Feb 18) with, hopefully, Daily Life in Chinese Communes. Also planned are Felix Greene's One Man's China; One Fourth of Humanity (about China); To Die In Madrid (Spanish Civil War); Hanoi, Tuesday 13 (Vietnam); In the Year of the Pig (Vietnam); and The People and their Guns (Laos).

RED STAR Film Club. Leo McGree House, 39 Shaw Street, Liverpool 6. Feb 20: Angola in Struggle (colour film of liberation war). 7.45 p.m. Tickets 35p.

SONGS of Britain and Latin America. Pete McGovern and Ernesto Arsi. Organised by Chile Solidarity Committee. Feb 6, Netherfield Brow Hall, Netherfield Rd, Liverpool 5. 8 p.m. 50p. Bar.

• Our thanks to the Merseyside Arts Association for their help in compiling much of the information on these pages.

Events are listed free of charge on these pages. Will organisers please send details to Liverpool Free Press, 48 Manchester St, Liverpool 1 or phone 227 2514. Details of community events especially welcome.

THEATRE

PLAYHOUSE 709 8363

Until Feb 14. AN INSPECTOR CALLS. Alfred Marks in J.B. Priestley's masterpiece of mystery.
Feb 18—March 6. THE DEVIL'S disciple. A romantic comedy by G.B. Shaw.

PLAYHOUSE UPSTAIRS

Until Feb 14. ENTERTAINING MR SLOANE. Joe Orton's blackest comedy.
Feb 17—March 6. HOME. David Storey's magnificent play.

ARTS CENTRE Southport 40011

Feb 11—14. THE MERCHANT OF VENICE by William Shakespeare. Theatre North return to the centre after their successful visits with Shaw's St Joan and Shakespeare's Henry IV Part I.

AMATEUR PRODUCTIONS

NEPTUNE THEATRE 709 7844

Feb 3—7. Moving Being present THE JOURNAL OF ANAIS NIN.
Feb 13—14. Mersigas Drama Group in MADAME LOUISE by Vernon Sylvaire.

Feb 16. London Yiddish Players in SHALOM LANDSMAN [Professional production.]

Feb 18—21. Green Room Players in THE DAY AFTER THE FAIR.

Feb 25—27. University of Liverpool Cercle Francais in DON JUAN by Moliere. [In French].

Feb 3—7. Wallasey Drama Club in THE GLASS MENAGERIE by Tennessee Williams. Memorial Hall, Manor Road, Wallasey. 7.45 p.m.

Feb 6—14. Southport Dramatic Club in COME BLOW YOUR HORN by Neil Simon. Little Theatre, Hoghton Street, Southport. 7.45 p.m.

Feb 10—14. Liverpool University Dramatic Society in MACBETH. An unusual and unique setting of the complete play. Matinee Fri, 2.30, nightly at 7.30. Stanley Theatre, Old Union, Bedford Street. Bookings: 709 4744 ext. 22.

Feb 14—21. The Carlton Players in A DOLL'S HOUSE by Henrik Ibsen. Little Theatre, Grange Road, West, 7.30 p.m.

Feb 24—28. Liverpool University Gilbert and Sullivan Society in PRINCESS IDA. Stanley Theatre, Students Union, Mount Pleasant. 7.30 p.m.

FOLK

Lew Baxter

FOR SOMEONE of the standing of folk entertainer Pete McGovern, author of that now international song 'In My Liverpool Home', to describe a folk night as the best he's enjoyed on Merseyside in ten years must surely indicate a rare and memorable evening.

Such was the one night show given by Scots band Silly Wizard at Liverpool's Everyman Theatre in January.

Silly Wizard were resident at the Everyman for the duration of the theatre's closing down celebrations 'Hooley's Wake'. They decided to put on a special concert on a quiet Monday evening.

They raised the roof. Not only Pete McGovern piled on the praise. Many long-standing folkies were overcome at the atmosphere and standard of the traditional music played by Silly Wizard. And the audience of nearly 300 went into raptures even to the extent of dancing on the tables and in the aisles.

The evening began with a petulant set by Tim Glover and Brian Jones, the Wirral based duo, who introduced a basically non-folk audience to what it's all about — and they did it very well.

The only awkward time came when several young men took to the stage to present their own version of a sixth form romp. And sixth form was about the level. I'm afraid the majority of the audience were making noises about leaving at one stage.

But as soon as the six man Silly Wizard hit the boards and went straight into a three reel set the night was won.

Rarely have I seen such spontaneous reaction to basic traditional music. Even the sets in the Everyman, specially prepared for 'Hooley's Wake' added to the grass roots feel. The sight of chickens clucking in between the feet of the Scots lads nearly brought the roof down. The dancing, cheers and sheer enjoyment generated by this highly talented band marked the evening out as an historic landmark on the folk scene on Merseyside.

Without doubt Silly Wizard, who comprise Bob Thomas, Gordon Jones, Johnny Cunningham (a truly remarkable fiddler), Freeland Barbour, Alastair Donaldson and Andy Stewart, must become one of the best and most successful of traditional folk bands within the next year. If not it will be a travesty.

READING AIDS

THE FIGHT TO LIVE by the Claimants Union (35p). How to claim unemployment benefit and social security payments, how they try to stop you, and how to fight back.

Sections on the industrial misconduct rule and on such obstacles as the Employment Review Officer, with extracts from the secret 'A Code' instructions to officials.

Also, how to form your own claimants union and a little about the C.U. campaign against unemployment. Includes some criticism of the Right to Work campaign.

"The slogan itself is defeatist and conservative. It reinforces the basic fear of unemployment that the bosses depend on to keep us in line..."

NATIONAL WELFARE BENEFITS HANDBOOK from the Child Poverty Action Group (50p). Straight, detailed

guide to supplementary benefits, Family Income Supplement, rent and rate rebates, education, health and welfare benefits, payments to the disabled and legal aid and advice.

SQUATTERS HANDBOOK (10p). Updated until December. How to find a place and move in; what to tell the neighbours. Squatting and the law.

Practical advice on gas, electricity, water and social security. Contact list — though there is no squatters group on Merseyside.

MASS COMMUNICATION — OR MASS DECEPTION (17p). What makes news... and more important, what doesn't.

Based on a survey of the national press, radio and TV news, and using actual examples, the pamphlet looks at some of the ways the media distort information.

SMALL ADS

Rate: 3p per word

PENFRIENDS wanted urgently; all ages. S.a.e to: Pen Society, (X 99), Chorley, Lancs.

DUPLICATING! Electronic stencils give your duplicating that printed look. 55p paper, £1 vinyl. All artwork to Fly Press, c/o News from Nowhere, 48 Manchester Street, Liverpool 1.

WANTED: Unfurnished flat (or shared house) in Sefton or Newsham Park area by female teacher and daughter, aged 7. Reply: Dave Vardy (733 8783).

OPEN EAR Information Service urgently needs a typewriter to replace one stolen last year. Can pay reasonable amount. Also some kind of plasterboard very cheap — sixty 8' x 4' sheets of ½" Asbestolux ideally. Suggestions for insulating cold, wet warehouse welcome. Phone 708 7174 or 708 0860.

HOMOSEXUAL? The Campaign for Homosexual Equality meets weekly in central Liverpool. We provide social facilities for gay people in the area and aim to improve public awareness and understanding of homosexuality. Make friends through CHE, details from P.O. Box 7, Liverpool L8 2XN.

The Worker. Fortnightly newspaper of CPB(M-L). Obtainable from October Books, 4b Temple Court, Liverpool 2.

SOCIAL to raise money for National Abortion Campaign. Friday 6 February at Stanley House, Upper Parliament Street. 8 p.m. — 12 p.m. (30p). Disco, drinks.

Artwork from China. Posters, book-marks, handcrafts, greetings cards. Obtainable only at October Books, 4b Temple Court, Liverpool 2.

Women's Centre, 49 Seel Street, Liverpool 1. We need another person to live in the house. At present there are three women and two children, but only one of these is permanent. Would prefer someone with time/energy to help in running the centre. Temporary or permanent, but preferably at least six months. Tel 709 4141.

Lenin Sweeps the World (V. Denl). Large 3-colour litho. Printed and published by CPB(M-L). Only 30p each from October Books, 4b Temple Court, Liverpool 2.

THE MERSEYSIDE Gay Women's Group (for homosexual and bisexual women) meets each Tuesday, 8.00 for informal discussions and socialising. Ring Friend Merseyside 708 9552.

PHOTO-COPYING. A4 and foolscap. 10 copies 30p; 25 copies 75p; 60 copies £1.20; 100 copies £1.60.— Impact Resource Centre, Waterloo Building, Cases Street, Liverpool 1. (051-708 7172)

WANTED: Upright piano at nominal price for Free Press journalist. 227 2514 (daytime).