

ROCKNOTES

DEAF SCHOOL were recently in the recording studio making the two sides of a single. In the event, the recording company — Warner Brothers — decided to keep the two tracks for an album the group are subsequently working on. But the fact that these two songs took three days in the studios to finish, plus more time to mix, highlights an example of technology ruling the rock roost to an amazing degree. A competent outfit like the Deafs can take two or three days for two sides mainly because the technical requirements of recording on twenty-four tracks etc demand it.

What puts all this in sharp focus are various revelations in a recent book by Charlie Gillet 'Making Tracks', a history of Atlantic Records. For instance the Bobby Darin session of 1958 that produced both 'Splish Splash', 'Queen of the Hop' AND their respective flip sides, took just an hour and a half — altogether! And the 'Genius of Ray Charles' album, which features a twenty-odd piece big band on one side and a string orchestra on the other — twelve tracks in all — was cut in one afternoon.

We all know that 'Sgt. Pepper' which took the Beatles six months to complete is a far superior product technically than their first album, 'Please Please Me' which was done in a day, but in most cases the aims, let alone results, are nothing like as ambitious as 'Pepper'. Significantly, these days the majority of rock bands are footing the bill for recording costs themselves.



SO THE latest 'craze' is Swing. Over three weeks in January the Melody Maker virtually single-handedly created a trend based on the goings on in an East London disco and

Mike Evans

RCA's subsequent re-release of three Glenn Miller tracks on a single.

Nice though it is to hear more of the legendary big bands like Miller, Dorsey and Ellington, it comes to something when the Cavern can advertise 'Jitterbug' disco nights. A pity they don't carry on the tradition of their namesake with more LIVE music — whether swing bands or mere four-piece groups which the original club became quite famous for once upon a time.

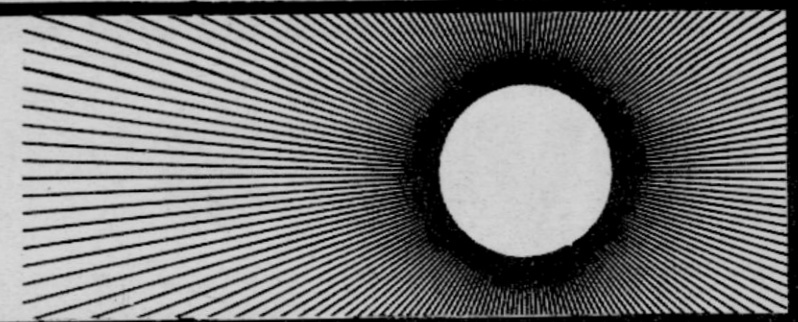


QUICKIES: Rock'n'Roll night on Royal Iris postponed from Feb 26 to March 23 due to fire on boat... guitar ace Paul Pilnick (ex-Big 3, Stealer's Wheel etc) now with Deaf School, in place of Roy Holt... 29th and Dearborn emergent at last at the Metro Thursday nights... which Liverpool drummer was recently observed being removed bodily from Kirkland's winebar? ... sad to see Banyan closing — but Bob Hardy likely to open up elsewhere... Vice Versa reckon Island are interested... Fats Domino only playing London, March 24... Rick Jukes/Stan Reynolds 'Desolation Angel' Kerouac work, now basis for regular band... Liverpool Express soon to record? ...hope to see Brian Farrel back on the road soon... Friday lunchtime happenings in O'Halligan's Parlour worth a look/listen/smell/feel/taste...

WHAT'S ON...

- Sun 7 Gary Glitter — Empire.
- Wed 10 Doctors of Madness — Univ.
- Sat 13 101'ers — University.
- Babe Ruth — Stadium.
- Mon 15 Deep Purple — Empire.
- Wed 17 Drifters — Southport Theatre.
- Fri 19 Neil Innes and Fatso — Univ.
- Sat 20 Thin Lizzy — Stadium.
- Sun 21 Man — Empire.
- Tue 23 Shakin' Stevens and the Sunsets — Royal Iris cruise.
- Sat 27 Focus/Charley — S'port Theatre.

INFORMER



THERAPY — the Manchester-based folk duo with a big following on Merseyside are at the Polytechnic's Vaults Folk Club on March 25.

FOLK

RISING COSTS in record production have persuaded Liverpool folk singers Jacqui and Bridie to launch a record label of their own.

Called J & B Vintage Records, the new label issues its first album this month — "Rhona Sings for Free"; a collection of ballad-type folk songs by local folk singer Rhona Jones.

Describing Vintage Records as an inevitable venture, Jacqui McDonald said: "It has become increasingly more expensive to record material with the large companies and with our experience in making records over the years we felt it was a natural progression to start our own label. It opens up a whole new area for us."

Cannon Studios in Chester provide the facilities for Jacqui and Bridie to make their records but all of the technical work, including dubbing and mixing, will be carried out by the girls themselves.

"On Rhona's album we both did all the technical work and we're quite pleased with it," added Jacqui.

Now it is likely that the girls' next album will be recorded under their own label and there are plans for other local singers to record. "But we're not saying too much about this at the moment," said Jacqui.

"It's all in the embryo stage but we are confident that the label will

provide less expensive recording facilities for many artists."

The first album will be on sale at folk clubs throughout Merseyside and at selected shops in Liverpool.

Apart from carrying out all the technical work, Jacqui and Bridie also feature as session musicians on the first album along with many local folk singers and club artists.

In fact the musical background on the album is quite formidable. Guitars, banjos, drums, fiddle, bass guitar, and whistles all add up to a really exciting sound. Add to that, of course, Rhona Jones' crystal clear singing voice and this could well be an album that will sell out very soon.

EVENTS

Vaults Folk Club meets in Commerce Bar, Smithfield St (off Tithebarn St) every Thurs at 8 p.m. Members 20-, non-members 30p.

March 11 — Ian Chesterman.
March 18 — Come All Ye.
March 25 — Therapy.

Two-Plus-One Folk Centre meets at Centre Hotel, Lord Nelson St. every Sunday at 7.30.

March 14 — Alan Holl (ex-Lindisfarne)
March 21 — Noel Murphy
March 28 — The Battlefield Band Plus; Mechanical Horsetrough

Folk Night. Fri 28 March. Melling Tithebarn Arts Association, Melling Tithebarn. The Wakes and the Southport Sword Dancers in an evening of song and dance. Straw bales! Bar and sandwiches. 65p (students, OAPs 50p).

JAZZ

IT'S GOOD to hear that arts associations in the north have got together to tackle what they say is a shortage of jazz concerts in the area. £12,000 has been made available to promote jazz of all styles, and this is exactly what the region needs. As has been pointed out before in this column, the local jazz scene is thriving but what Merseyside desperately lacks is visits by 'big-name' artists from London and America. The organiser of the scheme is Ian Croal from Edinburgh, and he takes up his appointment on March 1. It's encouraging to know that he is interested in all styles of jazz, and there should be considerable support for his efforts in the Liverpool area.

With the Banyan Tree at the Adelphi Hotel on the verge of being converted into a casino, the Monday night modern jazz sessions have been transferred to the Late Extra Club, Rowson Street, New Brighton, where musicians are welcome to sit in with the Ron Parry Trio. Similarly, musicians interested in the jazz of the 1950s and 1960s are welcome to join the Mike Jackson Quintet for a blow on Wednesday nights at the Gladray Club in Upper Parliament Street.

On the traditional front, events this month include a visit to the Coffee House on March 23 of the Savoy Jazzmen from Cambridge. They are a fine band, playing many of the Oliver, Morton and Armstrong classics, presenting them in a lively and entertaining manner which should ensure them a good welcome from the hordes at the Coffee House — although how it will be possible to prise any more people into that back room I cannot think. The Sunday lunchtime sessions at the Grand Hotel, New Brighton have ended, Roy Potts and his "Five and a Penny Band" now play at The Cheshire Yeoman in Ledsham on Wednesday nights.

Mention in last month's column of music that goes well with jazz should have included the "Barbershop" singing of the Liverpool Barbershop Harmony Club. "Barbershop" style, with its unique harmonies and syncopations, of course originated in America, but in recent years has spread rapidly in this country. The Liverpool club, founded eighteen months ago, is organised from the Pineapple Hotel, Park Road, Liverpool 8, and on the occasions they have performed with the Blue Magnolia Jazz Orchestra the two styles have complemented each other superbly. The Barbershoppers' singing is authentic, exciting and enthusiastic and anyone who appreciates this type of music should not miss an opportunity to hear them. Where to hear jazz on Merseyside is outlined below:

- Monday: Merseyside Big Band, Victoria Hotel, New Brighton. Ron Parry Trio, Late Extra Club, Rowson Street, New Brighton.
- Tuesday: Blue Magnolia Jazz Orchestra, The Coffee House (pub), Wavertree. The Savoy Jazzmen, The Heath Hotel, Greenhill Road, Allerton.
- Wednesday: Merseyside Jazz Band, The Sportsman, St John's Precinct. Panama Jazz Band, The Black Horse, West Kirby. Mike Jackson Quintet, Gladray Club, Upper Parliament Street. The 'Five and a Penny', The Cheshire Yeoman, Ledsham, Wirral.
- Thursday: Panama Jazz Band, Victoria Hotel, New Brighton.
- Sunday: (Lunchtime) New Orleans Jazz, Victoria Hotel, New Brighton. (Evening) New Orleans Express, Albion Hotel, Chester.

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
March 10-27. Peggy Mount in THE ANNIVERSARY by Bill MacIwraith. Outrageously funny stage version of the Bette Davis film about a possessive mother.

PLAYHOUSE UPSTAIRS 709 8363
March 9-27 Leslie Lawton and Jenny Oulton in ASHES by David Rudkin. Moving and uncompromisingly honest account of a childless young couple's desperate attempts to become parents. (Not suitable for children).

GATEWAY Chester 40393
March 8-13. NEVER TOO LATE. Comedy by Sumner Arthur Long.
March 17-April 3. HOW THE OTHER HALF LOVES. Comedy by Alan Ayckbourn. Chester Gateway Company.

AMATEUR PRODUCTIONS
NEPTUNE (Hanover St) 709 7844
March 10-13. Neptune Theatre Company in THE LION IN WINTER by James Goldman. 7.30.
March 19-20. Apsop Drama Group in WHEN WE ARE MARRIED. Comedy by J.B. Priestley. 7.30.
March 23-27. Martins Operatic Society in THE GRAND DUKE by Gilbert and Sullivan.

OTHER AMATEURS
March 16-20. Childwall Opera Group in VIVA MEXICO! Liverpool premiere of the record-breaking musical. Stanley Theatre, Liverpool University, 7.30.

March 17-20. Formby Theatre Club in NIGHT MUST FALL by Emlyn Williams, Holy Trinity Parish Hall, Rosemary Lane, Formby. 7.45.

March 17-20. The Walton Players in ROCK-A-BYE SAILOR. A comedy. St Aidan's Hall, Cherry Lane. 8 p.m.

March 18-20. The Riverside Players in TEN LITTLE NIGGERS by Agatha Christie. Heswall Hall, Telegraph Road. 8 p.m.

March 19-27. Southport Dramatic Club in MISTRESS OF NOVICES by John Kerr. Little Theatre, Hoghton Street. 7.45 p.m.

March 22-27. Chester Theatre Club in A DOLL'S HOUSE by Ibsen. Little Theatre, Gloucester Street, Newtown. 7.30

March 25-27. The Crescent Players in THE LIGHT OF HEAVEN by Emlyn Williams. West Kirby County Grammar School for Girls, Graham Road. 7.30.

March 27-April 3. Carlton Players in THE MILITANTS by Norman Holland. Little Theatre, Grange Road, West, Birkenhead. 7.30.

EXHIBITIONS

WALKER ART GALLERY
William Brown St., Liverpool. Tel 227 5234 Ext. 2065.
March 17-April 3. TOPHAM TROPHY COMPETITION. Annual competition for design of a trophy for the Aintree race. Drawings and models by silversmiths and young craftsmen.

BLUECOAT GALLERY
School Lane, Liverpool. 709 5689
Until March 27. FORMAL ABSTRACTS BY BRYAN BANKS. New work by the north-west artist.

ACADEMY GALLERY
65 Renshaw St., Liverpool. 709 4088.
Until March 12. TRIBUTE TO JIM HUGHES. Work by the late ex-Liverpool student.
March 16-26. THE ART OF MADNESS. Work produced in art therapy sessions. Exhibition organised by Peter Byrne.

METROPOLITAN CATHEDRAL
Mount Pleasant, Liverpool.
Until April 25. THE WAY TO THE CROSS. Photographs by John Siney.

ALLERTON GALLERY
117 Allerton Rd, Liverpool 18. 724 5206
Until March 13. BRITISH PAINTINGS AND DRAWINGS 1900-1950.
March 18-April 19. PICTURES OF LIVERPOOL AND LANCASHIRE. Works by E.Scott Jones, J.H. Lee, Edna Lumb, Fred Wilde.

ATKINSON ART GALLERY
Lord St. Southport. Tel: 33133 (Ext 149)
Until April 5. HORSE BRASSES. Exhibition from N.W. Museum and Art Gallery Service.

March 22-April 22. MODEL THEATRES From N.W. Museum and Art Gallery Service.
March 27-April 19. SOUTHPORT PHOTOGRAPHIC SOCIETY. Annual exhibition.

COUNTY MUSEUMS
William Brown St, Liverpool. 207 0001.
New Humanities gallery now open.
Until June. NEW SHIPPERIES EXHIBITION. From the museum's extensive collection of ship models, relics, paintings and documents.

Until April 4. ABC OF MINERALS. Display of minerals from the museum collection and elsewhere.
Until March 28. MOONROCK. A small piece of the moon brought back by Apollo 11.

Until March 28. METEORITES. Small exhibition about meteorites and their origin, prepared by Bolton museum.
March 13-May 19. TANTRA ART. Exhibition from the V & A illustrating the Tantric belief and art.

READING AIDS

"Oil, a workers' guide to the health hazards and how to fight them." The risks to workers coming into contact with oil have been known (by the authorities) for many years. But nothing like enough has been done about them.

This pamphlet from the British Society for Social Responsibility in Science explains the hazards and suggests ways of reducing them.

A large number of workers are at risk in the engineering industry, printing, biscuit and chocolate making, garages and elsewhere. But the pamphlet shows that neither the oil industry, the Factory Inspectorate, employers or unions are doing enough to prevent serious diseases like cancer and lung damage.

It concludes that "Successful and active shop-floor organisation is the key to the fight to improve health and safety conditions at work."

Price 75p a single copy. Or 50p each

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

for ten or more copies to trade unionists, from BSSR, 9 Poland Street, London W1V 3DG.

"Who's next for the chop (the essential facts on unemployment)" is the second Crisis report from Counter Information Services. Price 30p.

Both government and industry, it says, are making use of the crisis to actually create unemployment. The government is deliberately misleading the public by claiming that high unemployment is a temporary thing.

On the contrary, say CIS, the government is helping industry to increase production from a permanently reduced labour force.

Does government intervention bring job security? ...some examples. Also, of local interest, the background to the closure of Thorn's Skelmersdale plant.

"Your Rights". From Age Concern. 25p. A guide to the inadequate state benefits for women over 60 and men over 65.

[All available from News from Nowhere, 48 Manchester St or other good book-shops.]