

INFORMER

JAZZ

IN RECENT months this column has criticised the otherwise healthy jazz scene on Merseyside in three ways: The lack of visits from 'big name' musicians from London and America, the scarcity of venues where the audience can dance to the music, and the need for some of Liverpool's bigger agencies to take an interest in promoting the music locally.

At last there are signs of hope! Sammy Rimmington, one of Britain's most inventive 'traditional' clarinetists, is playing at the Raven, Farndon, near Chester on June 17, and Chris Barber is at the Shelstar Club, Ellesmere Port on June 29 — on both occasions the supporting band is the 'New Orleans Express'.

The Barber band is also appearing at the 'Echoes of Ellington' concert at the Empire, Liverpool on May 26 and that is a taste of something we really need more of in Liverpool (though doubts have been expressed in many quarters as to whether the Empire is the best venue for the concert).

On Wednesdays in June the Blue Magnolia Jazz Orchestra are playing at Pickwick's Club in Fraser Street, which has one of the best dance floors in the area.

Locally, the scene seems as thriving as ever. Congratulations to the New Orleans Express from Chester for their recent success in the Dunkirk International Jazz Festival — remarkable for a local band formed only twelve months ago.

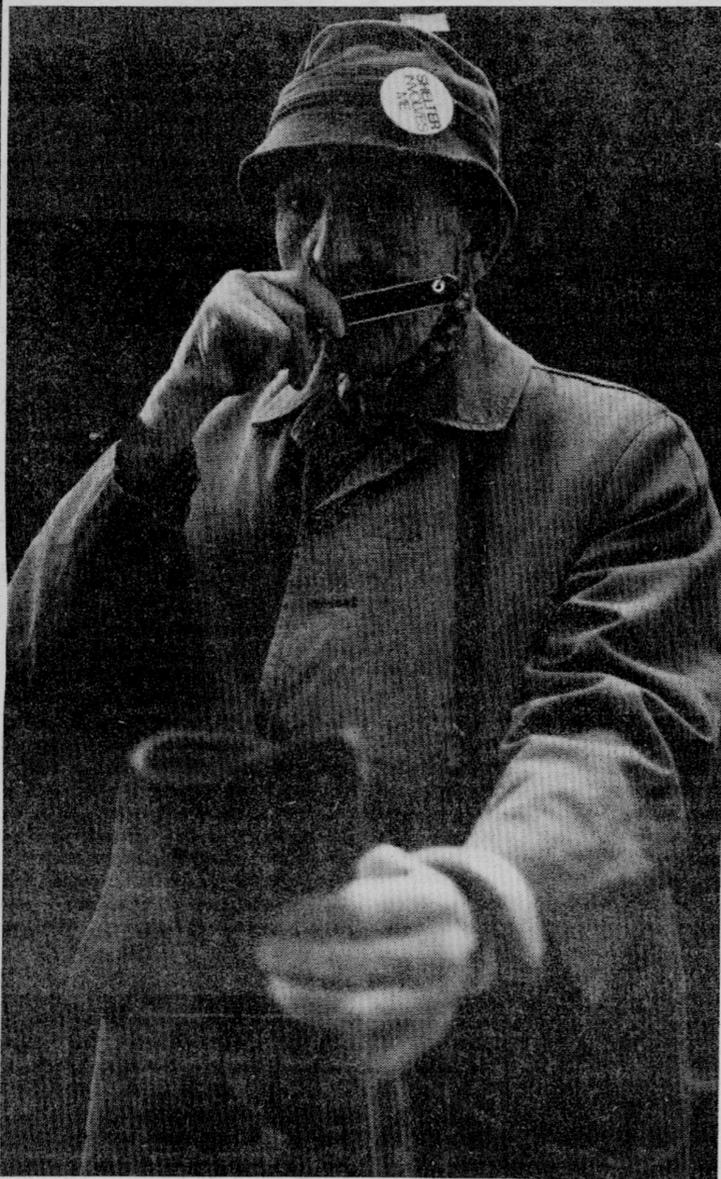
Anyone who appreciates New Orleans Jazz played with taste and spirit should enjoy a visit to the Albion Hotel in Chester where the Express play every Sunday evening. The Blue Mags with their magnificent allies, the Liverpool Barbershop Harmony Club, sold practically all the seats for their concert on May 21, not a bad achievement at the Philharmonic Hall!

Also, it is about time we mentioned the two excellent jazz programmes on local radio in the area. On Radio City (Wednesdays at 9 p.m., repeated on Saturdays at 8 p.m.) Peter Bevan hosts a lively and varied show, which, thankfully, includes plenty of local news and interest.

On Radio Merseyside (Wednesdays at 8 p.m.) Steve Voce introduces similarly varied material. Both shows are well worth listening to, and make a welcome change from the seemingly endless Country and Western music that dominates much of the local stations' output.

Live music can be heard at the following places on Merseyside:

- Monday: Merseyside Big Band, Victoria Hotel, New Brighton.
- Tuesday: Blue Magnolia Jazz Orchestra, The Coffee House (pub), Wavertree.
- Wednesday: Mississippi Jazz Band, The Sportsman, St John's Precinct. Panama Jazz Band, The Black Horse, West Kirby. Mike Jackson Quintet, Gladray Upper Parliament Street. Blue Magnolia Jazz Orchestra, Pickwick's Club, Fraser Street, Liverpool.
- Thursday: Panama Jazz Band, Victoria Hotel, New Brighton.
- Friday: Various bands at the Hawk and Buckle pub in Denbigh.
- Sunday: (Lunchtime) New Orleans Jazz, Victoria Hotel, New Brighton. (Evening) New Orleans Express, Albion Hotel, Chester.



THIS OLD BUSKER used to be a familiar sight in the city centre, but perhaps Shelter have moved him (see hat), for now we can't find him. When this picture was taken we asked him to come for a drink and tell us about himself. But he explained that Saturday was his best day and he couldn't afford to. So we said we'd see him during the week when business was slack, but since then there's been no sign of him. He did tell us one thing about himself, though. He used to make a living getting tied up and escaping from canvas bags.

SMALL ADS

Rate: 3p per word

DO YOU LOVE ANIMALS and feel guilty about eating them? Why not contact local Vegetarian Society (Youth Section 18-30 years) to obtain further information. Enquiries to: Nancy Taunton, 24b The Green, Liverpool L13 4BY. Tel: 051-228 4530.

RADIO FREEDOM disco like to do work in colleges and youth clubs all over Liverpool. Tel: 498 4248.

JOB WANTED WITH DOGS. Girl school leaver needs informal work after June. Dog exercising, vet's surgery, kennel work, small breeder's help; with understanding employer. Phone C. Rohrer, Childwall Social Services. Tel: 722 2234.

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

LITTLE BIRD. Monthly information package of leaflets/documents from Merseyside and elsewhere. Forthcoming political/community/educational events. 50p for six issues. Write: News from Nowhere, 48 Manchester St., L'pool 1.

ACCOUNTANT offers book-keeping service, full or part-time. —Taunton (051 228 4530).

FREE YOGA classes. Tues: relaxation Yoga postures. Wed: open spiritual conference (introduction to meditation). Thurs: philosophy (theory of Yoga). All at 7.30. Ananda Marga, 8 Ullet Road, Liverpool 8. (708 7335).

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

ONE-TON van and 11-stone driver for hire. Very reasonable. Distance no object. Andy: 708 0860 or 708 7174.

SILK-SCREEN printing. Pretty cheap. Especially for community and Left groups. Posters, banners, T-shirts, cards. Anything unusual considered. Billy, Andy, Rick 708 7174; 708 0860.

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)

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

BEER

Tony Wilson

LATEST ADDITION to the ranks of pubs selling the proper stuff is the 'Pen and Wig', Harrington Street, which now offers Greenall's bitter and Younger's IPA.

At 28p they are expensive (still cheaper than keg!) but worth a try. I gather that further beers are under consideration, and that the upstairs bar will also receive some cask beer in the near future.

ANOTHER hitherto keg-palace to add cask conditioned beer to its range is the 'Bridge Inn', Port Sunlight, where Davenport's bitter is now being served via hand pump.

Again, further brews are being considered, but it's worth the trip just to sample this distinctively smooth Birmingham brew, which is a rarity on Merseyside.

TWO PIECES of good news concerning Higson's mild.

(a) Thanks to the lads of the Liverpool Phil orchestra, mild on draught has been restored after an interval of several years, at the 'Caledonia', Catherine Street, and is currently selling well. How about draught Bass next, lads?

(b) My article on mild [February Free Press] contained a statement that there was no draught Higson's mild in the city centre. I'm glad to say I was wrong! The 'Villiers' still sells the cask version, alongside the keg. Both sell in sufficient quantities to justify their retention — which all goes to prove that the choice should be left to the customer. The brewers are being arrogant when they presume to make that choice for us.

BY THE TIME these words are read I hope real ale will have returned to the 'draught desert' of Formby and to the Southport semi-desert. Bass (North West) are putting their renowned Burton Bass at the 'Royal' and 'Bay Horse' in Formby and the 'Rabbit' at Southport. The beer will be on a trial basis only, so again the choice is left to the customer. Let's hope support and sales justify its

permanent retention.

MORE GOOD news from the 'Swan', Wood Street, where the infamous Boddington's bitter has been added to the existing range of beers. Landlord Ken has just had the lounge extended, no doubt expecting a sudden inrush of thirsty tipplers wishing to sample this potent and extremely bitter Salford brew.

GOOD NEWS — AND BAD from the 'Grapes', Mathew Street. Landlord Bob Cook and family escaped safely from the recent fire (awakened by exploding aerosols — even they have their uses!). The bad news is that when the interior is reconstructed there will be no public bar, which is a pity because the beer was a penny cheaper in the old one, and tiny though it was, it had a loyal (mainly GPO) clientele.

'Grapes' regulars seem to be split between the 'White Star' and 'Pen and Wig' while the 'Grapes' is shut.

THE MERSEYSIDE Trading Standards department, in recent correspondence with CAMRA Merseyside do not think that non-working hand pumps, installed merely for decoration and 'atmosphere', as at the 'Philharmonic Hotel' are misleading.

CAMRA Merseyside does not agree, and we are hoping that eventually some form of legislation would make it necessary for such pumps to bear a notice stating that they are not used for drawing beer.

MERSEYSIDE Real Ale Guide ('Jars') is now available at 25p from most pubs selling real ale, or from the writer (enclose a large SAE).

NEXT MONTH I'll tell you where to drink 15 different draught beers in 9 Liverpool city centre pubs.

Details of CAMRA can be obtained from the writer at 9 Hooton Road Aintree, Liverpool, L9 4SF. (Tel: 521 5967).

ROCKNOTES

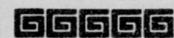
Mike Evans

A PIECE I wrote for a 'Sixties special supplement in the Melody Maker recently, has provoked considerable response, not least being several implied charges of rampant nostalgia-itis. The piece was about my days with the Clayton Squares from 1963-67, but the main point of the article was certainly relevant today — that the crucial reason so many groups flourished in the mid-sixties even though they never 'made it' on a national scale, was because there was enough work to support them.

Whereas today bands often have to rely on fat record advances to subsidise them turning fully pro, when there were around six gigs a week for scores (literally) of the hundreds of local groups, nobody needed to get within a hundred miles of a recording studio to earn a reasonable and regular living out of playing rock music.

Indeed very few did make records, and of those that did even fewer saw their one or two singles in the charts, so never got to make an album. The hit single was the only criterion for further excursions into a record company's valuable time.

Going on about the 'old days' isn't necessarily decrying what's happening today, more decrying what's *not* happening. As far as the rock scene is concerned, any 'new Mersey sound' crap like the Echo likes to churn up is just so much nonsense to bolster up a jaded club circuit. If the 'new Beatles' were to appear tomorrow, they'd be lucky to last six months scraping round for local gigs like most rock outfits have to at the moment.



LATEST in the saga of the legendary tapes of the Beatles in Hamburg, recorded at the Star Club in 1962, and unearthed by Alan Williams and Kingsize Taylor (who recorded them)

week by week enters the realm of farce. But Records, who have bought a third share in the tapes with Williams and Taylor, upon realising that there is no legal way they can release the recording — a fact Williams was clear about a couple of years back when EMI made it plain they had all release rights to Beatles product after September 1962 — have suggested cutting the tape into little bits and mounting the remnants in plastic, for sale as souvenir key rings!

And even more ludicrous is the subsequent report that the key rings would be given away as promotional gimmicks for Volkswagen cars — the German beetles, get it?



QUICKIES: Deaf School completing album for Warners, due out August... Vice Versa doing demos at Island soon?... Billy Kinsley's Liverpool Express getting good reaction with latest single... Scaffold/Deaf School Phil gig now off?... found super rock 'n' roll shop in London's Camden Town, 'Rock On', full of '50s and '60s classics — pity there's nothing similar around Merseyside... since Skyfall changed their line-up and became Next, a big improvement... and Deaf School again — one-time Fab Four publicist Derek Taylor now doing same for them...

STOP PRESS... 'Dearborn' have got through to the finals of the Melody Maker contest, following in the footsteps of 'Deaf School' last year.

WHAT'S ON...

- 2 June. John Miles — Empire.
- 3 June. Vice Versa — Metro Club, Sweeting Street.
- 3 June. Ice — Star & Garter, Precinct.
- 5 June. Chuck Berry — Empire.
- 6 June. Deaf School, and Albert Dock — O'Halligan's, Mathew Street.
- 8 June. Doctor Hook — Stanley Theatre, University.
- 12 June. Slik — Southport Arts Centre.
- 13 June. Magna Carta — Centre Hotel.

ZIGZAG

THE ROCK MAGAZINE

THIS MONTH: Dr Feelgood hits San Diego

25p MONTHLY

Order from your local newsagent

FOLK

June 19. MIKE HARDING AND BILL TIDY. 7.45pm. Southport Arts Centre, Lord Street.

June 25. ALL STAR MEDICINE SHOW 7.45pm. Southport Arts Centre. Prager, Rye and Hall return to give a further programme of good time blues, boogie, gospel and rag.

FILM

June 21. MIDNIGHT COWBOY. 7.30pm. Crosby International Film Society.