

# A rose by any other name still sounds sweet

by Charles K. Stumpf

When Bill Haley and His Comets recorded "Rock Around the Clock" back in 1953, it started a whole new trend in the sound of pop music... ROCK 'N ROLL. It also started a vogue for performers to give themselves gimmicky names. One of the first groups with a name you would not soon forget was, "Dickey Doo and the Don'ts". Soon there were other groups called: The Platters - The Coasters - The Silhouettes - The Drifters - The Royal Teens (remember their big hit, "Short Shorts") - Danny and the Juniors (At the Hop) - The Diamonds (The Stroll) - The Poni Tails - The Crew Cuts (Sh-Boom) - The Supremes - The Temptations - The Shirelles - Dion and the Belmonts, and Little Anthony and the Imperials.

There were also many solo performers with unforgettable names: Fats Domino - Chubby Checker - Little Richard - The Big Bopper - Conway Twitty & Bo Diddley.

Gimmicky names were often imitated, Georgie Porgie and The Cry Babies were followed by such groups as The Teardrops and The Cryan Shames.

The subject matter was often as strange as the names of the recording artists. Sheb Wooley sang about "The Purple People Eater" while Betty Johnson told us about "The Little Blue Man". Thirteen year old Dodie Stevens sang about her boy friend who wore "Pink Shoe Laces, a Polka-Dot Vest and a Panama Hat with a Purple Hat-Band" while somebody else sang about his girl friend who wore "An Itsy-Bitsy, Teeny-Weeny, Yellow Polka-Dot Bikini", and so it went.

Jerry Lee Lewis was one of the first to use the gimmick of long hair (blonde). Recordings of his hits, like "A Whole Lot of Shakin' Goin' On" had his fans in a frenzy. In May 1958 he married his 13 year old cousin from Tennessee and his popularity took a nose dive. Today he is back on the music scene, featuring mostly country/western tunes.

The British Beatles appeared on the music scene in the early '60s. Their early hit "I Want to Hold Your Hand" sold well over 5,000,000 copies. In 1967 they turned out an album called, "Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band", which set a new trend in music

styles. The LP cover was a photomontage of a crowd gathered round a grave. Faces in the crowd included such diverse personalities as Marilyn Monroe, Karl Marx, Edgar Allan Poe, Albert Einstein, Lawrence of Arabia, Tom Mix, Mae West, Shirley Temple, and Sonny Liston. The Beatles were hailed as "messengers from beyond Rock 'n Roll, creating the most original, expressive and musically interesting sounds being heard in pop music". Other top pop British groups have been The Animals, The Rolling Stones, The Kinks, Dave Clark Five, Herman's Hermits, The Searchers and The Bee Gees.

By the late '60s the "psychedelic sound" entered the scene. Psychedelic music combined rock 'n roll and the highly controversial hallucinatory drug, LSD with "music to blow your mind". It also ushered in a whole new trend in strange sounding names and sounds. San Francisco gave us: The Grateful Dead - Quicksilver Messenger Service - Big Brother & the Holding Company - 13th Floor Elevator, and The Loading Zone. Los Angeles produced The Knack - The New Generation - Gentle Soul - New Society - Ever Present Fullness - The Mushrooms, and The Mothers of Invention. Back east, in Greenwich Village, The Fugs emerged!

One of the first groups to make use of psychedelic lights was a quartet billed as "Dr. West's Medicine Show and Junk Band". Their first single recording was titled, "The Eggplant That Ate Chicago". They were followed by The Nitty Gritty Dirt Band - The Incredible String Band - The New Vaudeville Band - Watts 103rd Street Band - Captain Beefheart & His Magic Band and another group called simply, The Band.

There was also: The Phaeons - Orpheus - The Velvet Underground - Beacon Street Union - Jimi Hendrix Experience - The Who - Pearls Before Swine - Box Tops - Harpers Bizarre - Procol Harum - First Edition - Fifth Dimension - Blood, Sweat & Tears - The Left Banke - The Happenings - Question Mark & the Mysterians - The Troggs - Mortimer - Holy Modal Rounders - The Wizard of Iz - The Beach Boys - Gary Puckett & the Union Gap - Allnight Apothecary - Cyrkle - Edison Lighthouse - Blind Faith - Sam the Sham & the Pharaohs - Ten Years After - Alive 'n Kickin' - Badfinger - Climax - Lunar Funk - Yes - Creedence Clearwater Revival - Crazy Horse - America - Jay & the Techniques, and Brenda & the Tabulations.

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Showcase Players (from left) Maggie Shemansk, Greg Weiler, Cherie Cresswell, Jack Brady and Joyce Branda are shown in their opening night performance of "Hooray for Hollywood" at Hank's Cafe in Frackville. Weiler is a former Hazleton Campus student, currently a member of the resident company of the Showcase Players, and four losses. The loss destroyed any hope that

## Hazleton Penn Staters part of Showcase Players

The Showcase Players of Mahanoy City are currently running a production entitled "Hooray for Hollywood" at Hank's Cafe in Frackville. The show will be presented Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday of this week, with starting time set at 8:30 p.m.

Miss Joyce Branda of New York City plays the leading role of Hattie Heartfelt, a fictitious Hollywood star who starts her career as a chorus girl at the Roxy Theatre in Pocatello, Idaho. She works her way to the Bijou Theatre in Buffalo, N.Y., and finally hits the big time as a star in the movie musical spectacular, "Happiness Hacienda". Hattie's partner Harry Houser, played by Jack Brady, producer-director of the Showcase Players, pursues his dream of opening a dance studio in New York while Hattie pursues her life as a Hollywood starlet.

Two Hazleton Penn Staters are involved in this Showcase production as members of the resident company: Gregg Weiler, a former student, portrays the character of Harold P. Hughes, while John Roslevich serves as technical director. A third Highacres student, Marge Luca, will be appearing with the Players later in the season in their productions of Cabaret and Sweet Charity.

Weiler is cast as Hughes, a Texas millionaire and movie producer, who auditions Hattie for his latest creation,

"Happiness Hacienda". What happens at the world premiere of the movie is a typical story line of movies of the extravagant era of the Thirties and Forties.

Other members of the cast include Cherie Cresswell as Helen Hewitt, Maggie Shemansk as Harriet Hemple, and Bob Sluzis as Henry Hugler. Musical director is Charles Bradley of New York City.

The next Showcase presentation is "Owl and the Pussycat", starring Weiler and Miss Branda. The show dates are March 7, 8, 9, 14, 15, and 16. A ten percent discount off the regular \$2.50 admission will be given to all Hazleton Penn Staters presenting current I.D.

## Rick Jackman concert "a true experience"

by Anne McKinstry

On Thursday, Feb. 24, at 8:00 p.m. in the Classroom Building Auditorium, Rick Jackman, a classical guitarist, from Main Campus, performed. He opened his program with Burgalesc, by Spaniard Moreno-Torroba, followed by Villa-Lobos' Prelude and Etudes. The three pieces were done with a flowing and deftness resulting in our immediate awareness that we were being treated to a true experience.

The first portion of the program also included pieces by the following composers: DeFalla, Crespo, Ravel, and Turina. These compositions held the audience's rapt attention - either following the dextrous movements of Mr. Jackman's fingers, which were fascinating to watch, or simply engrossed in the nice sound of his music.

After a short intermission, Rick Jackman returned with six pieces, self-composed. His next selection was Leyenda by Albeniz, and he closed the program with the lovely Bouree by Bach.

Jackman, as those who attended the performance may have guessed, is Australian-born. He has spent

the last four years in the U.S., previous to which he was in England for ten years. He attends University Park Campus and is a tenth term math major. He enjoys classical guitar and prefers to call his playing a "past-time", which was obviously well-developed. The performance was well received and enjoyed by those in attendance. This experience calls for many more like it in the future.

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"If everybody minded their own business, the world would go round a good deal faster than it does."  
Lewis Carroll "Alice's Adventures in Wonderland"

True, we spend a lot of time minding other people's business when we all would be better off paying attention to our own. Sometimes, though, it is a good idea to check just once in a while to see what other people are doing. They may be gaining on you. For example, take a good close look at the clothes other men are wearing. You may find that you are a little bit behind the times in the way you dress. Your clothes are detracting from your otherwise good impression.

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