

## Wigan Casino...

This place just keeps going on and on despite what some people say... an easing down of numbers just makes it easier to move about... Colin Bell and myself popped over after a great afternoon in the garden and a wonderful cup-final in which the best team won (who's unbiased then?) Colin is really getting into the Soul thing, Northern and Funk, these days and he's really taken to Wigan in particular — I've taken him down a couple of times already... its nice to see someone like him, the Music Librarian at Granada Television, taking the trouble to find out something about types of music he previously knew nothing about.

However, in keeping with my role of finding out about other forms of music besides Soul I went with Colin to a show in Manchester of Television and Blondie, two "New Wave" or "Punk" bands... to me they were noisy, heavy rock bands with long hair but that's beside the point. The point is that lots of important music business people were there, television and press also. I couldn't help wondering or knowing actually, that if say Earth Wind and Fire, a Soul group with something above the ordinary class had been on most of these people would not have been there. I have personally got nothing against Punk Rock — different strokes for different folks — but its still sad to find that in these enlightened times Soul music is still regarded as second class music by too many powerful people in the media.

Russ has got his records back of course (returning to Wigan I am) although those rumours as to who was involved are still as big as ever. Latest bit of bad news is that Dave Evison's car was looted at Wigan and various things including his tape player and cassettes were taken. Now Dave accepts that he isn't about to get much of that stuff returned but he's asked that someone might be able to help him get his cassettes back as they have tapes of shows he's done with Paul Cooke on Pennine Radio. So come on thief, don't be a complete swine, keep the rest of the gear if you really must but get Dave's tapes back to him.

Funny thing about Dave Evison, well not funny, but worth mentioning I feel... he's still the only top jock I know who still gets down on the dance floor and gets it on... I can't dance any longer with the back and all but I know how he feels... how many of the others do I wonder?

I didn't much go for the green luminous things everyone was sporting at Wigan either. Little tubes which form into circles they were exhibited to some ingenuity on arms, necks and even legs but they did somehow spoil the view of the dance floor for me.

Russ had some new stuff as well as his others back and some of them include: "You Didn't Have To Leave"; Illusions (Tomorrow); "Stop You've Broken My Heart"; Bobby Patterson (Telstar); "What You're Trying To Do To Me"; Bonnie Miller (Astro); "Crazy"; Sherry Gibbs (TNT); "Investigate"

# CHECKIN' IT OUT



**Frank Elson, B&S's ambassador in Shaw, hides his disappointment at being left out of Madge's Jubilee Honours List and files another report on the comings and goings around the scene. Never mind son, there's always the Golden Jubilee....**

(the Major Lance Song), Dave King Thomas (Larrie); "Be Young Be Foolish, Be Happy" (Instr. of the Tams hit), Royal Blues Orchestra (Hit).

Three from Richard include: "Three Thousand Miles From Home", New York Port Authority (Invictus); "I'm So Glad", Frank Howard (Barry); "No Way Out", Doris Jones (Nems)... even at Wigan they're accepting some of the newer stuff which is as it should be of course... the movement against the New York disco stuff is all very well when based on personal preference but when based on intolerance that's the way the National Front operates.

## Timepiece...

Sitting out in the sun as I type this I've got to keep all my bits of paper in a bag out of the wind... I'm therefore typing as I find the bits and they're not necessarily in chronological order... not that I think you lot are worried about that... I'm not really so, on with the show...

After our visit to Burtonwood Base (see what I mean? I've written about that yet!) Colin Bell and myself did the rest of the journey to Liverpool to sample some of Les Spaine's delights... hold it that reads funny doesn't it? Oh well never mind.

Les was as happy as ever and the Timepiece was doing good business, as ever. Roy the owner was his usual courteous and helpful self (who says reporters always stick to the truth!) the work on the burned out part of the club is progressing to the point where it should be open by the time you lot read this. Les's record shop opening is being held up because the carpenters are working on the club instead.

Some of the most popular records at the club at the time of

the visit included: "Wrap Your Arms Around Me", Ladylove (Chimneyville); "I Got It", "I Used To Hate It", New York Port Authority (from the Same Invictus album as Richard Searling's previous pick); "Get You Boom Boom", La Pamplemousse (Avi); "Feel Like Good Music", Juice (Greedy); "Don't Walk Away", General Johnson (Arista)... and I for one think its about time General Johnson got a hit in this country as we might then get a visit from one of the nicest and most talented people in the business.

## George Chandler oop t'North...

George Chandler, RCA recording artist (he did the "One In A Million" that should have hit) was in the North recently with Gregg Lynn, and that pair plus Richard Searling and myself went to Pennine Radio (they missed us on the Yorkshire border) so that George could promote his new single, "Little Girl".

That night we went on to The Placemate (after Carolines) for George to again promote his new single... at that appearance Colin Bell (who came to Carolines with me) and cuddly Derek Brandwood of RCA were also there...

There now follows my unabridged account of things hastily noted down as George and I were so wrapped up in having a good time, insulting each other and generally admiring Bradford and things that we plum forgot to do an interview until it was so late the next morning that we decided not to bother! I actually did a full interview with this gentle maniac when "One In A Million" came out so you can refer back to that.

George's new single (I've started now by the way) is very much in the manner of David Ruffin, he has

that same rough appeal and the record, a mildly disco orientated hunk of Soul could well make it if it gets the plays.

George Chandler tells good jokes, the one about the Irishman and the Pork pie was very good! He thinks our Police are wonderful (after five years in this country he ought to know doncha think?) He writes, very quickly, jingles to the tune of "Little Girl" as Paul Cooke will testify, Paul was chuffed with the interview as well as the jingle... He's also got a nice bum (George I mean, not Paul although as I've not looked at Pauls... oh lets get on with it)...

We did talk a little about serious things during the day and I'm pleased to find out that George agrees with me that although money is nice, music is not treated as art enough. George reckons that he tries to make commercial singles so the money is obviously important, he has to live like everyone else, but the most important part is the singing and performing and wanting to share your own pleasure at doing something well with other people. I suppose a bad review goes deeper for someone like George Chandler, a sensitive person for all his clowning around than actual low sales.

## New York Disco in Manchester...

Over at the Exit 21 Soul club in Rochdale John Grant, the jock, told me that he got so many New York Disco, Blackpool Mecca, people in his weekend Funk night: at the Painted Wagon Pub in Manchester that he's now set aside a New York Disco night on Wednesdays. The Pub is in Brown Street behind the Market Centre, times 8 pm to 10.30 pm and admission is free. John's currently raving over "In My Heart", Diane Brooks (Verve) a Northern Oldie that he plays at Exit 21, the Kingsway Hotel, Rochdale but not, obviously at the Painted Wagon. I hope to bring you a report from there soon.

## Jimmy Connors on home base...

Clever play on words that 'cos Jimmy is the US Army geezer I've mentioned before and this visit by Colin Bell and myself (before we went to Liverpool!) was at the US Army Base at Burtonwood near Warrington... thus Home Base geddit?

Unlike the squash club thing when I last saw Jimmy he finds it possible to play lotta US stuff on the base. I took the opportunity to do a deejay profile on a real live American Soul deejay... (Gosh)

Jimmy is an accountant with the American Army/Air Force at Burtonwood when he can spare the time from jocking around the area! He's "21 plus" and, "was born and raised in Riverside, California just south of L.A." He actually began

*Continued on page 18*

## Checkin' It Out:

*Continued from page 17*

jocking about four years ago in Monterey, California in a nightclub and on the Army Base as he was already in the Army at that time. To the question why did you start jocking? came the answer, "Cos I've always been into Music, I guess!" which is as good a reason as any. He's always worked around the bases he's been to including San Francisco and the Oakland area where he worked with a partner who stayed on as a jock and still works around Frisco.

Came to England in 1974 and bought his records with him. Now he gets records from relatives and friends in the States, from other US bases and from British shops which he says, "are every bit as quick and as good for US imports as I could do in the States". He still relies a great deal on friends, and of course B&S, to bring him up to date on whats happening in the States.

His favourite music is, surprise surprise Soul, and he also loves Reggae which he is stocking up on ready for whenever he returns home. As far as favourite artists go Jimmy's reply is, "As long as its funky I love it." Dislikes becomes slightly embarrassing as he cites Northern Soul . . . "It's not the music I dislike but the dancing," he told me, "there is no co-ordination as opposed to Soul dancing." Well I can't comment but I know a few people who'd give Jimmy Connors an argument on that!

## House that Jack built...

. . . is the name of the pub where Eddie Antimes, formerly one half of Ginger and Eddie, now does his thing with modern, up-to-date Funk and Stuff (as menched in this column a couple of times).

The pub is just down the Burnley road from Todmorden Town centre and the disco takes place in the bar right off the street. Thursdays where admission is free of course are packed out with music lovers and Eddie plays things like: Ralph MacDonald, "Jam On The Groove" (TK album track); "I Don't Love You Anymore" Teddy Pendergrass (Philly Int. album track); Latimore, "Something Bout Cha" (Glades); "Right On Time", Brothers Johnson (UA); "If You're Gonna Do It", People's Choice (TSOP); "Body Vibes", Ohio Players (Mercury); "Pinnocchio Theory", Bootsy Collins (WB).

Well worth visiting the House That Jack Built if you're into the very best Funk and modern Soul coming out of the States . . . but be warned, get there early or you've little chance of getting into the place let alone getting a drink . . . mind you with the present weather (sitting out in the sun working I am) who needs to go inside? Mucho recommended night anyway.

## Bits and Pieces...

Richard Searling is very upset at all the fuss about the Muppets . . . he's

been a Frog fancier for years . . . bestiality raises its head everywhere these days . . .

After deejay Tommy Smith showed his rudeness in phoning etc to get me over to the Greyhound in Ashton he didn't have the good manners to inform me when the disco closed a few weeks later . . . by all accounts it was a pity it closed for after my visit recently I un-derstood it to have picked up a lot. Billy Paul told me there were a lot of people there when he popped in . . . those of you who have clubs please remember that people (readers as well as myself) would like to know when your club is closed as well as when its open . . . a fair bit of bad feeling can be generated when someone wastes a journey only to find the club is closed . . .

In a recent copy I said that EMI International had no plans for releasing the Bo and Ruth single . . . then they went and released it before my column was printed . . . promotion people are my friends.

No young lady has yet taken up my challenge to do as many fellers do these days and dance topless . . . however with those flared skirts and lots of spins some of them are not far off dancing bottomless . . . not that anyone I know is complaining anyway . . . Tony C. gentleman antique dealer and deejay who has graced these pages before and I worked out the perfect Radio format recently . . . it would consist of 10% chart records, 20% oldies and 70% brand new sounds . . . Gregg Lynn, RCA disco promotion guy takes it even farther and suggests Monday mornings should be taken up with playing every new released record of the previous week — irrespective of whether the jock likes it or not . . . what everyone except radio jocks seems to agree on is that chart records are played too much (or well-known ones on the Soul scene) to the exclusion of new releases . . . bread delivery men are the mainstay of the Northern scene . . . Sandy who won Wigan's dancing competition once is one now. Dave Evison was one and so was that Elson feller — same firm as Evison in fact . . .

On the night that I was at the Spinning Jenny in Accrington, report elsewhere with a bit of luck . . . Keighley RAOB Club's Friday night thing celebrated its 4th birthday . . . congrats all you Buffs . . . Beware you jocks of Jock associations where the person running it gets paid for giving you records and picking hit picks . . . Joe Tex, currently running high with "Ain't Gonna Bump" also receiving a bit of revitalisation through Dave Evison's featuring "Show Me" his old Dial hit . . . I first bought that record on his "Live And Lively" album courtesy of Woolies who had some incredible album sales at around 5 shillings in the late sixties . . .

Deejays who have to play disco music and therefore find it a struggle outside of Soul to find any quality should look out for the Dooley's new single, "Think I'm Gonna Fall In Love With You" on GTO records. It's good although obviously not Soul but it really is worth a listen.