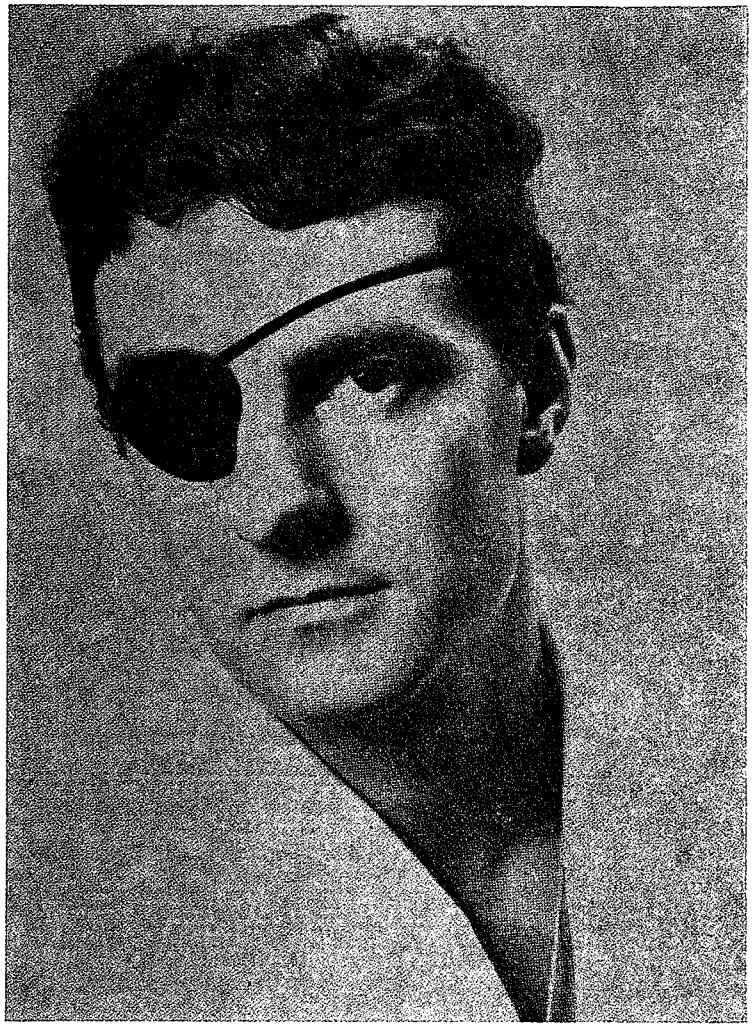
# JOHNNY KIDD



# Newsletter

THE JOHNNY KIDD APPRECIATION SOCIETY

# THE JOHNNY KIDD APPRECIATION SOCIETY

N E W S L E T T E R

No. 1 September, 1978

Secretary: ALAN WHEELER,
6, Pedlars End,
Moreton, Ongar,
Essex, CM5 OLR

Dear Friends,

I must apologise for the belated appearance of the first Newsletter. This has been partly due to the cost involved, and partly due to the lack of replies to the letters sent out (with stamped addressed envelopes) to some of Johnny's old associates in the business. It might be said that commitments have prevented these people from replying. That may well be the case, but I would point out that a very early reply was received from Jimmy Saville, O.B.E. and there are few people in the business busier than him. However, not to be undaunted, I have put together a Newsletter as best I can, and hope fully you will find something of interest. Two replies I did receive, contained some unwelcome news as will be seen from their reproduction here. The first letter is from Bridget Moore, Associate Producer, The Kenny Everett Video Show, Thames Television - "Many thanks for your letter to Kenny Everett," (this was a request to include a clip of Johnny and The Pirates on the Programme, A.W.) " unfortunately, there are no copies in existence of old Rock'n'Roll programmes such as "WHAM", "READY STEADY GO", etc., and our clip from "OH BOY" which we showed on the first programme is from one of only two shows in this series that we can find. It is very sad that these old programmes are gone for ever, and if you know of the whereabouts of any copies, please do let us know."

The second letter is from Mike Harding, A & R Manager, BBC Records: "Thank you for your letter of 24th July. In answer to your two points, with the release of the current Johnny Kidd and The Pirates Album on EMI, I don't think there would be any point in BBC Records releasing similar titles they recorded in the BBC Studios. On your second point, sad to say, there are virtually no tapes left of the famous Saturday Club and without looking I can say from memory that there are no tapes in existence of the artistes you mention" (i.e. JOHNNY KIDD, GENE VINCENT, EDDIE COCHRAN, MARTY WILDE, DUFFY POWER, DICKIE PRIDE and VINCE EAGER. AW.) "Yours is not the first letter to request tracks originally recorded with Saturday Club to be issued as a record, and I have always had it in mind to dig out recordings as I know some to exist (unofficially) of these famous sessions. But at the moment I cannot say when and if we will be pursuing this."

I'm sure you will be as disappointed as I am to learn of these facts, but maybe something will eventually come out on BBC Records, as I reckon an album featuring Johnny and The Pirates with the artistes mentioned above would do really well. It would certainly be a Rock'n'Roll collector's item. In the meantime, EMI have re-released the "OH BOY" LP originally cut for the Parlophone label in 1958 and featuring Cliff Richard, Vince Eager, The Dallas Boys, etc. It might be that another couple of Parlophone Albums could be re-released in time - "DRUMBEAT" featuring Adam Faith, Vince Eager, Roy Young, etc., and "SATURDAY CLUB" featuring various artistes including Tommy Bruce and Johnny Kidd "WEEP NO MORE MY BABY" and "BIG BLON' BABY".

These albums take you back to the good old days of Rock'n'Roll and it would be great to see them all out again.

TOMMY BRUCE & THE BRUISERS (NUT EP Series)

EMI have re-released an old EP by Tommy Bruce originally put out in 1961. This features a very good version of "SHAKIN' ALL OVER" on side two along with "GLAD RAG DOLL", "GOT THE WATER BOILIN' " and Tommy's big hit of 1960 "AIN'T MISSBEHAVIN' ". The number is EMI 2808 and is well worth buying for "SHAKIN' ALL OVER" alone.

REPLY FROM JIMMY SAVILLE, OBE

"Hi. I'm not really into writing articles and suchlike, but Johnny was one of the most exciting people on the scene in those days and his loss was a shock that a lot of us never got over. Keep it going !" Jimmy Saville, OBE. (I'm sure all our thanks go to Jimmy for his kind remarks on Johnny on his 'Old Record Show', Sundays, Radio One)

PIRATES (Mick Green, Johnny Spence, Frank Farley)

I'm sure all members are aware of the re-emergence of Johnny's former group, The Pirates, as an act in their own right, and pretty successful they have been too, with two Warner Brothers Albums, and a long list of stage dates under their belt. As yet though, the band have not made into the charts, but looking at some recent concert reviews, the signs are that a hit disc lies just around the corner. Now that would be great, as not only being able to blow most groups off the stage, The Pirates should be able to blow them out of the charts as well.

It would seem that one or two members do not share my enthusiaum for the present day work of The Pirates, and find them a bit too heavy, having a preference for their days as Johnny Kidd and The Pirates. Well, my own opinion is what the Pirates do is right for today's scene. Obviously I can never forget their association with Johnny, and nobody but nobody sings Johnny Kidd songs like Johnny Kidd, but it must be remembered

that for a greater part, the Pirates today are playing to a newer audience, and I think it more than a tribute to Johnny that they should perform some of his most famous numbers, be it heavy or otherwise, to this new market. Incidentally, I heard The Pirates on the John Peel Show (Radio One) some time back, doing what they themselves considered was their best yet version of "SHAKIN' ALL OVER", and real class it was too, with Mick Green in top form and a long ending. I think Johnny would have been pleased with the treatment.

Finally, I have received a rather nice letter from Roger and Vanessa, who run The Pirates Fan Club, making me an Honorary Member, and I'm pleased to recommend this club to anybody interested in the band. The Club has produced an excellent Newsletter (with plenty of photos) as well as badges, and even T-shirts. So if you would like further details why not drop a line to Roger and Vanessa, Pirates Fan Club, 19/20 Poland Street, London W.1. (enclosing a stamped addressed envelope).

P.S. If you haven't heard The Pirates two albums "OUT OF THEIR SKULLS" and "SKULL WARS" (both on Warner Brothers) I would suggest you do so. Some great Rockin', including on the first album, a good version of the former Duanne Eddy hit "PETER GUNN".

PIRATES (Clem Cattina, Alan Caddy, Brian Gregg)

Some members would like to know what happened to the line-up of Pirates (who worked with Johnny during the period 1959-1961) after they left. Clem Cattina (drums) and Alan Caddy (lead guitar) went on to form the nucleus of the chart-topping group, the Tornadoes, under the direction of Joe Meek, who composed and produced the multi-million seller "TELSTAR" in 1962. They were later joined by Brian Gregg (bass guitar) who was brought in as replacement for Heinz Burt, who went solo to wax some noteworthy hits like "JUST LIKE EDDIE" and "COUNTRY BOY" also under Meek's direction. After the hits stopped coming, the Tornadoes continued to earn good money, and even had a renewed career in later days, backing Billy Fury for sometime.

For those that may be interested, a surprising amount of Tornadoes recordings cut for RGM Sound, still remain on two albums: "REMEMBERING THE TORNADOES" (Decca REM Series) and "THE JOE MEEK STORY" (Decca Double Album).

Coming up to date, Clem Cattina is the only one of the original Pirates that I can locate. He is now a freelance session drummer, and recently appeared in the backing band to Cliff Richard at the London Palladium. I have noticed his name on a couple of albums in the shops such as "THE HANK MARVIN GUITAR SYNIDCATE" (EMI) and "EVERY ROAD LEADS BACK TO YOU" by Leapy Lee (Bell). I cannot trace where or what Alan Caddy or Brian Gregg

are doing now.

VERSIONS OF "SHAKIN' ALL OVER"

I have already mentioned the version of Johnny's big hit and composition by Tommy Bruce being available again, and you may be interested to know that another version is currently available on an EMI Import LP called "ROCK'N'ROLL COLLECTION". This is a double album featuring some groups of the Merseybeat era (GERRY AND THE PACEMAKERS, FREDDIE AND THE DREAMERS, BILLY J. KRAMER, ETC.) and includes "SHAKIN' ALL OVER" by the Swinging Blue Jeans.

Other versions of this great number have been cut by Bert Weedon, The Rock'n'Roll All Stars, C.C.S., The Who, Shanhai (Mick Green, lead guitar; Cliff Bennett, vocal), The Searchers (German-Philips), Vince Taylor & The Playboys (French - Barclay), American Group, The Surfaris (remember "WIPE OUT") on MCA-Coral Album, "IT AIN'T ME BABE", and Canadian Group, The Guess Who, who took the song into the "American Top 100" and issued here on the Pye label (a later hit by this group was "AMERICAN WOMAN").

There is also a 'live' version of "SHAKIN' ALL OVER" by THE PIRATES ("Out of Their Skulls" Album) and a single that went almost unnoticed when issued in 1975, by Little Tony on RCA-Victor. Great stereo on this '45 if you ever come across it (RCA 2638) and, yes it is the same singer who appeared on the "Boy meets Girls" TV show starring Marty Wilde back in '59/'60.

"BEST OF JOHNNY KIDD & THE PIRATES" ALBUM (EMI)

Unhappily, I cannot report whether the album has sold well or not, as I have had no correspondence back from Colin Miles or Walter Ridley at EMI House. It received some generally good reviews in the Music press, though "Sounds" wasn't too good stating that "in view of the current popularity of The Pirates, it was only a matter of time before someone put out an album of their early work." We all know, however, that the album stands up on its own as a collection of Johnny Kidd & The Pirates, and that his untimely death on 7th October, 1966, robbed this country of one of its best and most original rock'n'roll performers, as well as a genuinely nice person.

I have suggested to EMI Records, that they release, in time, two or three EP's of Johnny Kidd featuring:

(a) previously released, but now obscure items, such as "HURRY ON BACK TO LOVE", "IF YOU WERE THE ONLY GIRL IN THE WORLD", "LONGIN' LIPS" and "ECSTASY";

(b) previously unreleased tracks such as "SOME OTHER GUY", "BIG BLON' BABY", "A LITTLE BIT OF SOAP" and "THE FOOL" (all with Mick Green and Co.) and;

(c) Johnny Kidd compositions such as "PLEASE DON'T TOUCH" (Batchelors - Parlophone), "SHAKIN' ALL OVER" (Swinging Blue Jeans - HMV) and "MAGIC OF LOVE" and "THEN I GOT EVERYTHING" (Johnny and The Pirates). So far no reply from EMI.

A further suggestion will be to issue the tracks cut by Johnny and The Pirates for a once planned album of mostly R and B material, put down in tape in 1965.

To see any of these suggestions fulfilled would really be something. Don't you think ? Great for the memory of Johnny and great for British Rock'n'Roll.

JOHNNY IN "ENCYCLOPAEDIA OF ROCK"

Member, Roger Arthur of Paignton, informs me that a photo of Johnny and the original Pirates, together with a brief article appears in "The Encyclopaedia of Rock" (Vol. 1), price 75p. from the publishers: Aquarius Books, 1 Wardour Mews, London W.1.

Finally, I thank you for supporting this Society, and hope that you will pass the word around whenever you can.

Regards.

ALAN WHEELER (Sec.)

## JOHNNY KIDD & THE PIRATES DISCOGRAPHY (PART ONE)

Singles (HMV)

POP 615 PLEASE DON'T TOUCH/GROWL ('A' Side, Top Twenty Hit)

POP 674 IF YOU WERE THE ONLY GIRL IN THE WORLD/FEELIN'

POP 698 YOU GOT WHAT IT TAKES/LONGIN' LIPS ('A' Side, Top Twenty Hit)

POP 753 SHAKIN' ALL OVER/YES SIR THATS MY BABY ('A' Side, The Big One)

POP 790 RESTLESS/MAGIC OF LOVE ('A' Side, Top Twenty Hit)

POP 853 LINDA LU/LET'S TALK ABOUT US

POP 919 PLEASE DON'T BRING ME DOWN/SO WHAT

POP 978 HURRY ON BACK TO LOVE/I WANT THAT

POP 1088 A SHOT OF RHYTHM AND BLUES/I CAN TELL ('A' Side, Top Fifty Hit)

POP 1173 I'LL NEVER GET OVER YOU/THEN I GOT EVERYTHING ('A' Side, Another Big One)

POP 1228 HUNGRY FOR LOVE/ECSTASY ('A' Side, Top Twenty Hit)

POP 1250 MY BABE/CASTING MY SPELL (Both by The Pirates)

POP 1269 ALWAYS AND EVER/DR. FEELGOOD ('A' Side, Top Thirty Hit, and Johnny's last chart entry).

E.P.

7EG 8628 "SHAKIN' ALL OVER"

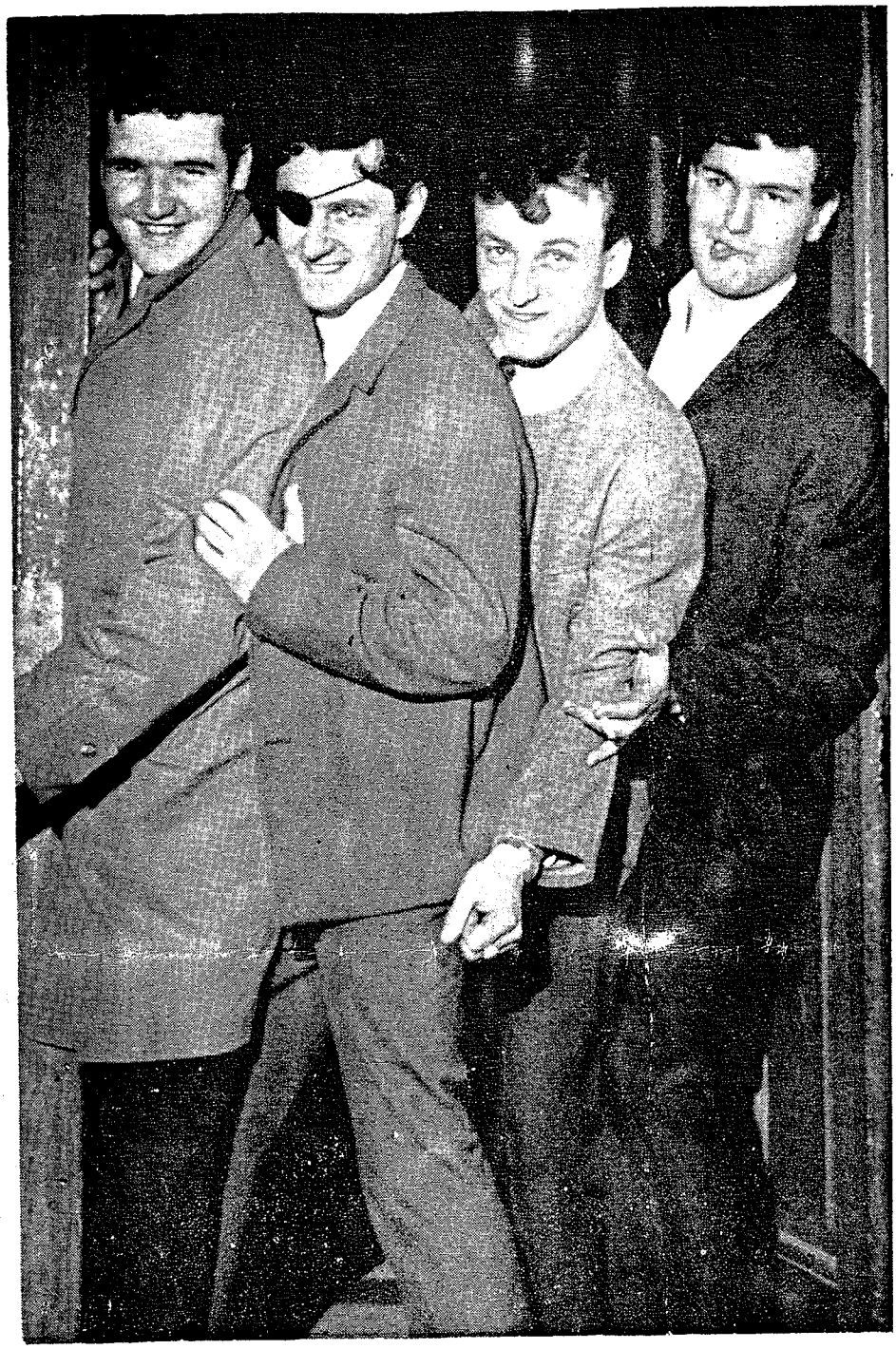
Shakin' All Over/Restless/Please Don't Touch/You Got What It Takes

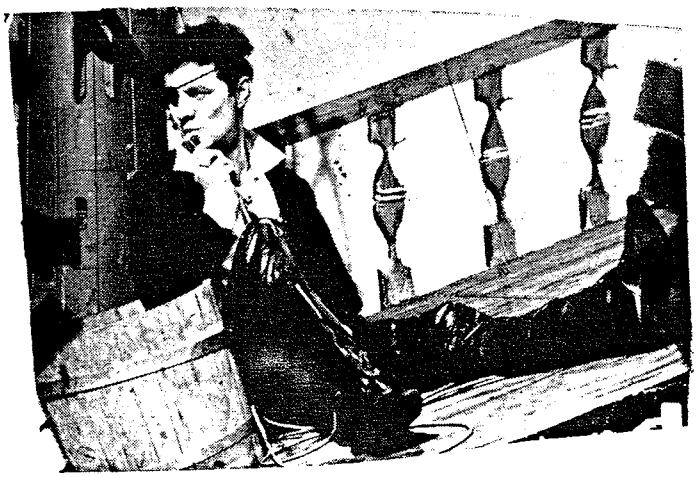
L.P. Parlophone GMC 1130 "SATURDAY CLUB" (various artistes)

Johnny Kidd Tracks: WEEP NO MORE MY BABY

BIG BLON' BABY.

(To be continued in next Newsletter)





# THE JOHNNY KIDD APPRECIATION SOCIETY

N E W S L E T T E R

No. 2 November, 1978

Secretary: ALAN WHEELER,
6, Pedlars End,
Moreton, Ongar,
Essex, CM5 OLR

Hi There !

Here we are with the second Newsletter, and I extend a warm welcome to new members, and also a big thank you to Charlie Gillett for mentioning the Society on his radio programme on Oct. 1st ('Honkytonk' BBC Radio London, Sundays Noon to 1.30 p.m.).

News has reached me of a new album, which may interest members. It is by an old mate of Johnny's. Veteran rocker VINCE EAGER who pays tribute to Johnny by including a version of "PLEASE DON'T TOUCH", and also mentioning Johnny and the Pirates in his own composition called "DAYS OF ROCK 'N' ROLL". "PLEASE DON'T TOUCH" is a different arrangement from Johnny's, being at a slower tempo with a sax and guitar backing. Nice that Vince should remember Johnny in this way, along with other great names of Rock 'n' Roll such as Gene Vincent ("SAY MAMA") and Eddie Cochran ("SUMMER TIME BLUES"). The album is called "VINCE EAGER - TWENTY YEARS ON" and is on NEVIS NEVI LP 143 and is in stereo. (I am grateful to Paul Stayrou of the Hounddogs Rock and Roll Club, Bishop's Stortford, for bringing this record to my attention AW). Still on new releases, I see that EMI have put out "THE BEST OF THE SWINGING BLUE JEANS" in the NUT LP series, containing their version of "SHAKIN' ALL OVER" - previously only available on an import album (as mentioned in the first Newsletter). Personally, I have always found this band rather luke-warm in their renditions of such Rock 'n' Roll classics as "HIPPY HIPPY SHAKE" and "GOOD GOLLY MISS MOLLY". But one really cannot knock them for recording Johnny's big hit and composition. Incidently, all the numbers on this album were produced by Johnny's former A & R Manager, Walter J. Ridley.

## VERSIONS OF "PLEASE DON'T TOUCH"

(Composed by Johnny Kidd and Guy Robinson).

Apart from the recent waxing by Vince Eager, "PLEASE DON'T TOUCH" has also been recorded by four other artists. The first and actual original version was by a duo called The Bachelors who recorded the song for a Parlophone single produced by George Martin only to be followed on HMV by Johnny and the Pirates' version on 8th May, 1959. An unknown American singer called Chico Holiday

'covered' the song in the States, a virtually unknown thing in those days, and it came out here as part of an RCA EP called simply "CHICO HOLIDAY" (RCA - VICTOR). In 1970, The Wild Angels, who had spent some time backing Gene Vincent on a British Tour in 1969, (including the London Palladium) cut "PLEASE DON'T TOUCH"as a 'B' side for a single on B & C Records. Lastly, in 1977, The Pirates included a great version of the song on their first Warner Brothers album "OUT OF THEIR SKULLS" (K56411).

SHAKIN' ALL OVER BY MAE WEST !

Unbelievable but true. Member Paul Stayrou brings my attention to the fact that veteran actress Mae West recorded an album of famous Rock 'N' Roll songs about 9 years ago for, I believe, American Columbia. It came out under the title "GREAT BALLS OF FIRE" (included) and contained such numbers as "ROCK AROUND THE CLOCK", "WHOLE LOTTA SHAKIN'G GOIN' ON" and "SHAKIN' ALL OVER". Put over in a most unusual way to say the least.

RICKY VALANCE - TRIBUTE TO JOHNNY KIDD

Remember Ricky Valance of "TELL LAURA I LOVE HER" fame, well I am informed by a reliable source that Ricky does a great version of "SHAKIN' ALL OVER" in his stage act that comes close to Johnny's original recording. Apparently Ricky appeared at a club in Bishop's Stortford a few months ago, and got a standing ovation for his tribute to Johnny with "SHAKIN' ALL OVER". So if you see Ricky Valance billed outside you local club or whatever, give him your support. The signs are that you won't be disappointed.

"HUNGRY FOR LOVE" OUT ON MUSIC FOR PLEASURE

Member Ray Lewington has informed me that the 1963 hit "HUNGRY FOR LOVE" by Johnny and the Pirates forms part of a current Music for Pleasure album called "HITS OF THE '60's" (MPF 50317) which also features Cliff Richard, The Shadows, Hollies etc.

WHEN I FIRST MET JOHNNY KIDD BY A.W.

I first met the great man back in 1962. I was running a British fan club for Chuck Berry at the time. Being a big fan of Johnny Kidd, I had made him an Honorary Member of the Berry Club and had included a short article on him and the Pirates in the Newsletter. Imagine my surprise when, after sending Johnny a copy, I received a very nice letter from the man himself, saying how knocked out he was by being made an Hon. Member and getting mentioned in the Berry Newsletter. He went on to say that he did not have a fan club (which I found surprising) and that he would be pleased if I would

run one for him and the Pirates. If I was interested I was to phone him at home to arrange a meeting. Like I said, I was a big fan of Johnny's and so I was more than delighted to start the first official Johnny Kidd and the Pirates Fan Club (under the name of Al Young) giving up the Chuck Berry Club in preference.

Having duly phoned Johnny, it was arranged that I would meet him at his parents home, where he lived at the time, in Perivale, Mddx., the arrangement being that his Road Manager, Johnny Irving would pick me up in town and drive me over to Perivale. I well remember the old B.M.C. bandwagon trundling up old Compton Street, Soho, suitably adorned with hand-painted inscriptions such as 'Capt. Johnny Kidd and Ye Olde Pirates' on the back door. On arriving at his home, I was met, at the front door, by Johnny in his dressing gown who, after having a hurried few words with Johnny Irving on the door step, explained that he had arrived back late from a 'Gig' the previous night. In contrast to his 'sinister' image, I was immediately struck by his friendly manner. Not at all big headed and a real down-to-earth person. We had a long chat, and I can remember Johnny going on about his friend GENE VINCENT. He showed me a couple of photos taken with Gene back stage at a show at Greenford, Middx. One showed Gene Vincent in his famous leather outfit shaking hands with Johnny, although wearing an eye patch, looking slightly unfamiliar in a pullover. The other showed Gene Vincent with Johnny and his second wife, Jean. Johnny was very pleased to show me these pics and also to talk about his stage shows with Gene Vincent whom he held in high esteem.

Whilst Johnny went off to dress, his mother, Mrs. Heath, made some tea, and I could hear Johnny strumming away on a guitar in the bedroom above. When he came down, he asked me if I would like to meet the Pirates, as he was going over to rehearse a radio spot with the boys. After a bit of lunch, we went off in Johnny's car, a Ford Zodiac (with J.K. on the hubcaps) to where he was going to rehearse with the boys. On the way we pulled into a tatty transport cafe, and I was amazed to see Johnny get out and stroll casually in to buy some cigarettes. Few people, if any, recognised him without his eye patch, which Johnny said was a great advantage in getting in and out of theatre stage doors. Eventually we arrived at a tiny cafe behind which a small hall from which could be heard a powerful group thumping away. As we walked in, the Pirates were just finishing a number, but there was sufficient music to tell that this was an ace band, that backed Johnny. After talking to Johnny Irving, who was in fact a close friend of Johnny's from years back, Johnny took me over and introduced me to the Pirates - Mick Green, Johnny Spence and Frank Farley. They too seemed genuinely interested and pleased that a

fan club was being started. They talked a fair amount about Chuck Berry and his more obscure discs at that time, with Mick also mentioning that he had worked with Vince Taylor and "THE SHEIK OF SHAKE", Dickie Pride, prior to his days with Johnny Kidd.

Johnny and the Pirates then went into the two numbers they were going to perform on their radio spot - "THE FOOL" and "SOME OTHER GUY" and I was priviliged to witness the great man in fine form. Johnny had a very good voice, more bluesy than his records suggest, and quite powerful.

After the rehearsal, we all went through to the cafe for a coffee, and it was here that I was to see another side of Johnny Kidd - generosity ! For he just handed over what cash I thought I needed to start the club off. Right there and then. That proved to me how genuine this man was.

A few days later I was in the audience when Johnny and the Pirates performed "SOME OTHER GUY" and "THE FOOL" on a radio show with the Springfields and Bert Weedon. This was recorded at the BBC's Paris Theatre in Lower Regent Street, W.1. It was to be the start of many recording sessions and stage appearances I was to be present at with Johnny and the boys, and I hope to recall some of those occasions in future Newsletters.

NEWSPAPER CUTTINGS WANTED

If any member has newspaper cuttings or any other items featuring Johnny, and would care to send them to me, I will see if I can get them photostatted for possible inclusion in future Newsletters. All items returned to sender.

PHOTOGRAPHS

A disappointing letter received from Elisbeth Rezler, librarian, BBC Photographic Library, informs me that they are unable to supply me with still photographs of Johnny.

Similarly, in a recent letter, Johnny's widow, Mrs. Jean Heath says that she hasn't found any suitable photos of Johnny that can be reproduced by the Society.

Regards,

Alan Wheeler (Sec.)

** STOP PRESS NEWS **

THE PIRATES RECORD "SHAKIN' ALL OVER"

Yes, the inevitable has happened ! With so many requests and good reactions, THE PIRATES have done a single job on Johnny's composition "SHAKIN' ALL OVER". It's out on Warner Brothers, coupled with "SATURDAY NIGHT SHOOT OUT". According to the latest issue of 'Broadside', the official Pirates Fan Club Newsletter, this is a new studio version of "SHAKIN'" and not lifted from the band's first album, "OUT OF THEIR SKULLS".

PLEASE HELP THE PIRATES BY BUYING THIS CURRENT SINGLE as it is undoubtedly one of their best efforts on wax !

My thanks to the Editor of 'Broadside' for mentioning the Society on Page 4 and 13 of Issue No. 2 and for publishing a rare photo of Johnny and the Pirates at the Star Club, Hamburg (1962) on Page 6, (courtesy of Frank Farley). THANKS ROGER !

DON'T FORGET The Official Pirates Fan Club,
19/20 Poland Street,
London W.1.

AND "SHAKIN' ALL OVER"/"SATURDAY NIGHT SHOOT OUT"
by the Pirates on Warner Brothers Records

THIS WOULD MAKE AN IDEAL CHRISTMAS PRESENT FOR SOMEONE!

"ROCK 'N' ROLL" (Import French Double Album)
Pathe-Marconi C184 50213/4

Featuring: JOHNNY KIDD/GENE VINCENT/WANDA JACKSON/SWINGING BLUE JEANS/FREDDIE AND THE DREAMERS.

JOHNNY KIDD tracks:

I'LL NEVER GET OVER YOU/SHAKIN' ALL OVER

JOHNNY KIDD AND THE PIRATES DISCOGRAPHY (PART TWO)

L.P.

"YOUR CHEATING HEART" (IMPORT ALBUM) FRENCH COLUMBIA C062-04731

Side 1. YOUR CHEATING HEART/LONGING LIPS/BABY YOU HAVE GOT WHAT IT TAKES/GOTTA TRAVEL ON/WEEP NO MORE MY BABY/FEELIN'/ JEALOUS GIRL.

Side 2. IT'S GOT TO BE YOU/THE FOOL/DON'T MAKE THE SAME MISTAKE AS I DID/BIG BLON' BABY/THEN I GOT EVERYTHING/A SHOT OF RHYTHM AND BLUES/MAGIC OF LOVE.

"THE JOHNNY KIDD MEMORIAL ALBUM" (IMPORT ALBUM) FRENCH ODEON C062-04422

Side 1. SHAKIN' ALL OVER 60/I CAN TELL/LINDA LU/LET'S TALK ABOUT US/HUNGRY FOR LOVE/I'LL NEVER GET OVER YOU/ SO WHAT/PLEASE DON'T BRING ME DOWN.

Side 2. SEND FOR THAT GIRL/WHOLE LOTTA WOMAN/PLEASE DON'T TOUCH/ SHOP AROUND/I WANT THAT/DR. FEELGOOD/RESTLESS/SHAKIN' ALL OVER 65.

"SHAKIN' ALL OVER" (U.K. RELEASE) STARLINE SRS 5100

Side 1. SHAKIN' ALL OVER/ALWAYS AND EVER/A SHOT OF RHYTHM AND BLUES/JEALOUS GIRL/PLEASE DON'T BRING ME DOWN/I WANT THAT/DOCTOR FEELGOOD.

Side 2. I'LL NEVER GET OVER YOU/I CAN TELL/PLEASE DON'T TOUCH/ RESTLESS/SO WHAT/YOUR CHEATIN' HEART/HUNGRY FOR LOVE.

(Deleted this year, but still available in some record shops.)

"THE BEST OF JOHNNY KIDD AND THE PIRATES" (THE CURRENT EMI ALBUM) NUTM 12 Mono

A Colin Miles compilation album with comprehensive sleeve notes by Geoff Barker.

Side 1. I WANT THAT/SO WHAT/FEELIN'/PLEASE DON'T TOUCH/RESTLESS/ LET'S TALK ABOUT US/THE BIRDS AND THE BEES/IT'S GOT TO BE YOU/JEALOUS GIRL/SHAKIN' ALL OVER.

Side 2. I'LL NEVER GET OVER YOU/GROWL/I CAN TELL/HUNGRY FOR LOVE/ LINDA LU/A SHOT OF RHYTHM AND BLUES/YOUR CHEATIN' HEART/ MY BABE (PIRATES)/CASTING MY SPELL (PIRATES)/BIG BLON' BABY.

(To be continued in our next Newsletter.)

# THE JOHNNY KIDD APPRECIATION SOCIETY

N E W S L E T T E R

No. 3 February, 1979

Secretary: ALAN WHEELER,
6, Pedlars End,
Moreton, Ongar,
Essex, CM5 OLR.

Dear Friends,

Here we are with another Newsletter - the first for 1979. Regretfully, I have had to reduce the content of this issue, in order to produce a postcard-size photo of Johnny which I think is long overdue. Your copy is enclosed with this issue.

## MORE VERSIONS OF JOHNNY KIDD SONGS

I have just come across an album by a British Rock'n'Roll Band called THE HELLRAISERS. This features ex-HOUSESHAKERS vocalist Graham Fenton (recently seen at the start of "The London Rock and Roll Show" film starring Chuck Berry, Jerry Lee Lewis and others, shown on most ITV regions) and includes a good version of "SHAKIN' ALL OVER", complete with 1960 styled lead guitar.

Actually this is not a bad album, and well worth buying if you come across it. Look out for "REMEMBER WHEN ? - GREAT HITS BY THE HELLRAISERS". It's on Contour 2870 381 (Stereo). I believe Graham Fenton is also vocalist on a recently released debut album by a rockin' outfit called MATCHBOX who are doing the rounds of clubs at the present time. I'm told that this album features a version of "PLEASE DON'T TOUCH". Anyone heard it yet ? It's on the Rockhouse Label (division of Charley Records) and the number is CR 30157 (Stereo). One or two members have written to say that the old BERT WEEDON album called "ROCKIN' AT THE ROUNDHOUSE" (1970) (Fontana Special 6438 031) which contains "SHAKIN' ALL OVER" along with "APACHE"/ "SHAZAM"/"GUITAR BOOGIE SHUFFLE" etc., can still be found in some record shops/stores (extract from the sleeve note: 'and as a special salute to my late friend Johnny Kidd, I have recorded his fabulous hit "Shakin' All Over"'). I am also indebted to member P. Ablitt of Ipswich, Suffolk, for drawing my attention to a 5 min. 15 sec. version of "SHAKIN' ALL OVER" by THE FLAMIN' GROOVIES on an album titled "STILL SHAKIN'" on the Buddah Label. Should be interesting to hear ! I remember THE WHO doing a long version of Shakin' on an early Decca album ('Live at Leeds' I think) but I don't think it was as long as 5 min. 15 sec. but I may be wrong.

Other versions on current release:

THE PIRATES

Single: "SHAKIN' ALL OVER"/"Saturday Night Shoot Out"
Warner Bros. K 17231

LP: "PLEASE DON'T TOUCH"/"SHAKIN' ALL OVER"
(Both live) and others on "OUT OF THEIR SKULLS"
Warner Bros. K 56411

VINCE EAGER

LP: "PLEASE DON'T TOUCH" and other Rock'n'Roll Classics on "VINCE EAGER - TWENTY YEARS ON"
Nevis NEV LP 143

TOMMY BRUCE

EP: "SHAKIN' ALL OVER" and others on "TOMMY BRUCE AND THE BRUISERS" EMI 2808 (NUT EP Series)

THE SWINGING BLUE JEANS

LP: "SHAKIN' ALL OVER" and others on "THE BEST OF THE SWINGING BLUE JEANS" EMI NUT 15

YOUR HELP NEEDED

In order to try and persuade E.M.I. Records to release another JOHNNY KIDD record, I think it would be a good idea if all members wrote to E.M.I. asking if something can be put out. Send your letters/suggestions to: Mr. Colin Miles, E.M.I. Records Ltd., E.M.I. House, 20 Manchester Square, London W1A 1ES. (Don't forget to mention that you are a member of the Society).

THE FIRST TIME I SAW JOHNNY KIDD (by A.W.)

Although I had heard Johnny Kidd and The Pirates on BBC Radio's "Saturday Club" Programme, the very first time I ever saw him was an ATV show called "Lunch Box" in 1959, on which Johnny, introduced by Noele Gordon (of you know what fame), sang his first disc "Please Don't Touch". As I remember it, Johnny was wearing an ordinary suit and DID NOT wear the eye patch, which was later to become his trade mark. This would seem about right because on the very first postcard handouts produced by EMI Records, Johnny wore a plain shirt, thin striped trousers, black

shoes and no eye patch ! (By the time Johnny's third disc "You Got What It Takes" came out in 1960, these had been replaced by handouts showing Johnny with an eye patch). The next time I saw Johnny on the Box, was in 1960, when he appeared on Jack Good's "Wham" Show which starred Billy Fury, Jess Conrad, and others.

Johnny gave a knockout performance (and first time airing) of the now classic "Shakin' All Over", surrounded by The Pirates (Art Caddy, Brian Gregg, Clem Cattina). I well remember Johnny slowly turning round after singing 'Tremors down the Thigh Bone' to face the camera for the line - 'Shakin' all over'. Very effective this, with Johnny looking sinister in his black leather outfit and eye patch. From the way he put the number over, you could tell that this was going to be a huge hit, which of course it was.

The first time I actually saw Johnny 'live' in person, came about by the way of Johnny's Manager at the time, Stanley Dale, who used to manage Jim Dale, and the famous Vipers Skiffle Group (lead by the co-presenter of today's popular "Country Club" Radio Show - Wally Whyton). It was in late '60/early '61. I was working for Pop Promoter/Manager, Larry Parnes, in Oxford St., running the World Fan Club for Marty Wilde, when I was offered a job by Stanley Dale. He invited me down to meet him at a dance hall in Peckham, South London. Now this was a real tatty dive, and you would certainly never have got any of Parnes' lesser star names such as Duffy Power or Dickie Pride appearing there in those days, let alone the likes of Marty Wilde, Billy Fury or Vince Eager, so imagine my surprise and disbelief to see the name JOHNNY KIDD AND THE PIRATES APPEARING TONIGHT scribbled up outside the grubby doorway. As it turned out, Stanley Dale owned the hall, so it was easy to put Johnny and The Pirates in there as an attraction ! But how ridiculous ! Here was a man who had had four hit records, including a No. 2, which had sold over 200,000 copies, and here he was performing in a dingy club, without any publicity whatsoever ! Actually, a good crowd of regulars to this club turned up, strengthened by those who had heard on the grapevine. The venue seemed to make no difference to Johnny Kidd himself. He gave a great rockin' performance, preceeded by The Pirates' own spot of twenty minutes or so of mostly instrumental numbers which warmed things up. As the intro to "Please Don't Touch" started, Johnny Kidd emerged from a curtain covering a small doorway, behind the tiny stage, and got a warm welcome. He was dressed all in black leather, complete with chains hanging from the sleeves of the jacket. After 'touch' with it's

leg kicks, Johnny went into "You Got What It Takes", introduced the members of The Pirates, and then featured his second disc, "If You Were The Only Girl In The World". A great stage number this, especially the second part which pounded out like Gene Vincent's "Baby Blue". This was followed by most of the songs Johnny had recorded to date - "Restless", "Magic of Love", "Big Blon' Baby", "Let's Talk About Us", "Weep No More My Baby". A special mention for the then current disc - "Linda Lu", followed by a fast "Yes Sir That's My Baby" and into "Shakin' All Over" (Knockout). A really great show, which deserved to be seen by a wider audience in more spacious surroundings. (This in fact happened later in '61, when Johnny worked a number of theatres and concert halls, supporting the likes of Jerry Lee Lewis and Gene Vincent). A few days after I had seen Johnny at Peckham, he turned up with The Pirates on BBC's "Juke Box Jury" TV Show, promoting "Linda Lu", and I wished I had accepted the job with Stanley Dale, if only to have got to know Johnny in those days.

* Hopefully the final list of Johnny's recordings will appear in the next Newsletter *



Other versions on current release:

THE PIRATES

Single: "SHAKIN' ALL OVER"/"Saturday Night Shoot Out" Warner Bros. K 17231

LP: "PLEASE DON'T TOUCH"/"SHAKIN' ALL OVER"

# JOHNNY KIDD

# Newsletter

THE JOHNNY KIDD APPRECIATION SOCIETY

# THE JOHNNY KIDD APPRECIATION SOCIETY

## N E W S L E T T E R

May 1979

Hi Friends,

Here we are with another Johnny Kidd Newsletter, and straight away, I wish to draw your attention to a recent album:

ROCK REVIVAL COLLECTION FEATURES THE CLASSIC NUMBER "SHAKIN' ALL OVER"

I am most grateful to the Promotion Office of K-Tel International (U.K.) Ltd. for sending me the double album "ROCK REVIVAL" (K-TEL NE 0634/2). When I first looked at the sleeve, I thought that this was just another collection of former singles, but I was wrong. All fifty tunes have been specially RE-RECORDED BY THE ORIGINAL ARTISTS and with few exceptions, they sound great ! My first track was, of course, "SHAKIN' ALL OVER" by CHAD ALLEN AND THE GUESS WHO (the Canadian band who took the song into the U.S. Top 100 back in the late '60's and previously known as just 'The Guess Who'). A great treatment here, with plenty of nice guitar work, that I am sure would have pleased the man himself. Don't you think it's a tribute to Johnny's writing talent that 'Shakin' is still being cut 18/19 years after he wrote it ! I know I do. Full marks to K-Tel, for including this version here. There are something like 37 different acts on this record, and I found it interesting in that most of them have been able to inject some freshness into songs which they first cut many years ago. Space permits me from a comprehensive review, but the highlights, were for me, the tracks by some early American Rock 'n'Roll stars such as LITTLE RICHARD, JOHNNY AND THE HURRICANES, THE PLATTERS, THE COASTERS, DEL SHANNON etc. and the British line-up that includes "TOBACCO ROAD" BY THE NASHVILLE TEENS (great re-vamp this !) "PICTURE OF YOU" BY JOE BROWN/"HIPPY HIPPY SHAKE" AND "GOOD GOLLY MISS MOLLY" BY THE SWINGING BLUE JEANS (you'll be surprised !) "WILD THING" THE TROGGS/"MEMPHIS TENNESSEE" BY DAVE BERRY/"I'M TELLING YOU NOW" BY FREDDIE AND THE DREAMERS (he sounds better today !) and "SILENCE IS GOLDEN" BY THE TREMELOES. I must also make a special mention of the three tracks included by BILLY FURY. Due to a long period of ill health, I never thought Billy would return to the recording studios for a long time, but he turns in a good performance of three of his old ballad hits including "HALFWAY TO PARADISE" and "IT'S ONLY MAKE BELIEVE". Welcome back ! A good double album, well worth checking out !

## TWO JOHNNY KIDD SINGLES AVAILABLE

After a long search, I have been able to locate two Johnny Kidd singles which came out as 're-activated' singles quite a while ago on EMI. They should still be available through your local record shop, but in case of difficulty, can be obtained through the Society. They are:

"SHAKIN' ALL OVER"/"YES SIR, THAT'S MY BABY" EMI 2414
(90p plus 15p postage)

"PLEASE DON'T TOUCH"/"I'LL NEVER GET OVER YOU" EMI 2667
(£1 plus 15p postage)

## A LETTER FROM NICK SIMPER

Recently received a nice letter from Nick Simper, who together with Roger Truth and Micky Stewart, backed Johnny on his last single - "Send for that girl"/"The Fool" as 'The New Pirates'.

Nick now lives in Hayes, Middx. and has recently formed a new band called 'Fandango' which have an album out in Germany (April release). Apparently Nick had a run of bad luck after he left 'Deep Purple', and the band he was in - 'Warhorse' ended up bankrupt in '74. However one of his songs made the U.S. charts in '75 and since then things have gradually improved.

Interesting to learn that Nick had several approaches to re-form the last Pirates around '75 but as the same guys weren't available, he abandoned the idea. Then just as he and Roger Truth were about to do a record as 'The Pirates', Mick, Johnny and Frank re-formed ! Nick mentions in his letter, the 'Johnny Kidd Night' that was held at a pub in Brixton several years ago. (This has been mentioned in several members' letters.) It would seem that Nick hasn't forgotten this night, when he was on stage, with Carlo Little and Roger Truth on drums, and an unknown guitarist and sax player, and Screaming 'Lord' Sutch <u>and</u> Wee Willie Harris on vocals !

Finally, Nick sends me some info. on another former Pirate BRIAN GREGG. Apparently, Brian now lives just outside Swindon, Wilts., and was until recently, running his own music shop. He now manages a Swindon store, selling Hi-Fi, TV's etc. (Maybe we can locate him one day, and get him to write something for the Newsletter ?)

Thanks, Nick, and all the best with 'FANDANGO'.

THE SECOND TIME I SAW JOHNNY KIDD ' LIVE' (By A.W.)

You may remember me recalling the first time I saw Johnny 'live' in the previous newsletter. The second occasion was far more interesting, for three reasons - (1) it was at a cinema instead of a tatty dancehall, (2) Johnny had a new trio of 'Pirates', and (3) Johnny had left Stanley Dale, and was working for the powerful George Cooper organisation under a new management/agency contract. It was early in 1962, at the Granada, East Ham, in East London. Quite a nice cinema, that regularly put on stage shows (and still does). Top of the bill: JOHNNY KIDD AND THE PIRATES supported by Joe Brown and the Bruwers, Tommy Bruce, Nelson Keene (remember "Image of a Girl" on HMV), Johnny Gentle, Shane Fenton and the Fentones, and either Michael Cox or Danny Rivers, plus the Echoes (ex-Gene Vincent backing group).

As I recall it, the highspots were gravel-voiced Tommy Bruce (believe it or not, he sang Danny Williams' "Moon River" to thunderous applause), Nelson Keene (tribute to Gene Vincent), the colourful Shane Fenton (he changed his suits more times than the Fentones changed keys), the likeable Joe Brown, and of course Johnny Kidd.

Back in those days, Joe Brown was not the easiest of performers to follow, and only a handful of people could do it. The great Gene Vincent was one. Billy Fury was another. Johnny Kidd, Marty Wilde, and the 'King of Skiffle' Lonnie Donergan, are the only other names that spring to mind. Two packed houses responded to Joe Brown's energetic act with the Bruvvers, that included the preview of "A Picture of You" - later to become a No. 1 hit. The guitar behind the head routine produced an ovation at the end of his act which Johnny and the Pirates had to follow. But as soon as they opened up with "Please Don't Touch", complete with chunky guitar, thumping drums, heavy bass, and leg kicks, the audience soon settled down to enjoy Johnny's great stage act. Johnny and the Pirates looked really 'moody' in their all-black leather outfits, and although the act looked basically the same as I had seen before, the sound had changed to become more powerful, and slightly R and B influenced, by a new line-up of Pirates that comprised Mick Green (lead 'fender' guitar), Johnny Spence (fender bass guitar) and Frank Farley (drums).

After 'Touch', came "You got what it takes", followed by "Let's talk about us", then into a very moody version of a less successful single called "Hurry on back to love" (with Johnny Spence doing a great bass run on the intro.). This went down well, and applause greeted "Linda Lu" which sounded great.

Johnny then introduced the Pirates, and went into a 'forgotten' HMV single (his second disc, in fact) - his version of the oldie "If you were the only girl in the world", which Johnny described as a 'small sallad-ballad'. A knockout rendition, with a great build up by the Pirates that really went down big at both houses, as did the final number - the classic "Shakin' All Over".

Plenty of girls screaming at Johnny during his 'shake' routine in the guitar break, which Mick Green really belted out. Lots of applause and shouts of 'more' as the curtains closed on the final bars of this great rock'n'roll standard.

A relatively short act, but most impressive. (Looking back at this stage show, I can still vividly remember Johnny dropping the microphone during the guitar break in 'shakin'', only to see the cable come away from the mic. I did wonder at the time, if he would realise this by the time he picked it up again. He did of course - but only just in time !)

BERT WEEDON'S SECOND VERSION OF "SHAKIN' ALL OVER"

Just come across a 1977 album of Bert Weedon's, that contains his second 'cut' of Johnny's "Shakin' All Over".

This is a very short version, but quite beefy, and comes as one of 55 tunes contained on "Bert Weedon's Let The Good Times Roll" (Warwick WW 5035).

As I mentioned in the last Newsletter, Bert included 'Shakin'' on his "Rockin' At The Roundhouse" album for Fontana, in 1970, so you could really say this was a Johnny Kidd tribute, second time around. A nice version of Gene Vincent's "Be-Bop-A-Lula" also contained, along with snatches of Bert Weedon's hits such as "Big Beat Boogie" and "Nashville Boogie".

MEMBERS' LETTERS

Keith Robert of Bembridge, Isle of Wight, writes to tell me that he actually played in the support band to Johnny and the Pirates at the Hotel, Ryde Castle, Isle of Wight, on Oct. 14th 1965. He says "We spent the whole day with the group (Johnny Kidd, Johnny Spencer, Frank Farley, John Weider and Vic Cooper) and struck up quite a friendship with them". Keith is a semi-pro bass guitarist, and recalls that there used to be just one bass-guitar tutor book - "It was written by Chas. McDevitt and Shirley Douglas. I can clearly remember that it contained an ace picture of Johnny Kidd and Brian Gregg, singing and doing leg-kicks simultaneously ! - Also no 'Pirates'

dress, but shiny suits !" Finally, Keith reflects that he saw the ROCKIN' BERRIES live about 2 years ago, and they included "Shakin' All Over" in their act.

Peter Harris of Stevenage, writes to suggest that: "If every member agreed to send a twenty pence postal order before each Newsletter, would it be possible to print a different song sheet of a Johnny Kidd record along with the Newsletter". (Even if members were agreeable, Peter, this is something I would have to take up with the music publishers in question. A.W.)

Keith Hunt of Northolt, Middx., takes me back, by recalling a 1963 stage show he saw at The Granada, Greenford, starring Johnny and the Pirates, Joe Brown, Heinz, Dee Dee Sharp, and The Sundowners. (I well remember this tour, Keith, with Vince Eager replacing Joe Brown on some dates he wasn't free to do. A.W.)

Finally, Peter Ablitt (Ipswich) asks if there are plans for a London meeting of Society members ? (Not at present, I'm sorry to say, but naturally it is something I would like to see happen. A.W.)

ALBUM REVIEW

My thanks to 'Waxie Maxie'. of Charly Records, for sending me two British Rockabilly albums for review. Unfortunately, I'm not really into the Rockabilly thing, so I don't know who is rated and who is not. But if I was going to buy something in this field, then I guess the "RIDERS IN THE SKY" album by MATCHBOX (Rockhouse CR 30157) wouldn't be a bad choice. The main interest for me was this band's version of Johnny's song "PLEASE DON'T TOUCH" on Side 2. Well it's not a bad attempt, slightly reminding me of the version once cut by the Wild Angels. Quite a long track, with a fairly light weight bass, but some Gene Vincent-type piano work going on in the background helps it along.

Overall, it's a reasonable album, this, with a pretty varied selection among the 18 tracks. I personally preferred the three instrumental numbers - "Steelabilly", "In the Mood" and "(Ghost) Riders in the Sky" (remember the Ramrods ?), but you may go for "It's only Makebelieve" or what I am told are fast becoming Rockabilly standards - "Teenage Boogie" and "Washmachine Boogie".

The second album "BEST OF BRITISH ROCKABILLIES" (Rockhouse CRM 2002) was for me, less interesting, being 14 tracks mostly

in the same vein. I found the two tracks by FREDDIE 'FINGERS' LEE the best remembered items - "Dib Dab Boogie"/"I'm down". I met Freddie about 18 months ago, at the Chancellor Hall, Chelmsford, and he told me he was a keen Johnny Kidd fan, having worked on several package shows with Johnny in the early '60's, as pianist with Screamin' Lord Sutch and the Savages. Getting back to the album, though, if you want a mixed example of Rockabilly music (bands that is) such as Flying Saucers, Crazy Cavan, Riot Rockers etc., then "Best of British Rockabillies" is for you. Talking about Freddie, prompts me to mention that he has his own album out, titled "FREDDIE 'FINGERS' LEE" (Rockhouse CR 30160).

MEMBER 19 (HON.) MARTY WILDE

Well, what can one say about this man. A really great entertainer, with surely one of the best Rock'n'Roll/cabaret acts around today. In recent times, I have seen him performing with the Wildcats at the London Palladium, and at Chelmsford, and can tell you that he put on a knockout show, really belting out the numbers. Just like the old days when he regularly appeared in the charts. A great rocker and a true professional.

I have made Marty, an Honorary Member, due to his association with Johnny in the early mid sixties, when he toured with two packages also featuring Johnny and the Pirates - one headed by the Ronettes/Rolling Stones, the other by Brenda Lee.

I feel I must give a mention to two Marty Wilde recordings, which are a good example of his later-day work. "MARTY WILDE" is on the NUT EP Series (EMI 2854) and features "Lonely Avenue" (a minor hit for him in 1963) plus the flipside "Brand New Love", and two 1964 tracks cut with the Wildcats - "My What A Woman" and "Kiss Me". A good showcase of Marty's songwriting talent this, as the last three numbers were self-penned. Formerly out on Columbia Records.

Less readily available is the album "BORN TO ROCK'N'ROLL" (Big M Records) which contains 13 tracks cut with a backing unit that includes Dave Munden (drummer with the Tremeloes) and Marty's son, Ricky Wilde.

Great to hear re-recorded versions of three Wilde hits - "Donna"/"Bad Boy" and "Teenager in Love", along with some uptempo rockers like "Whole Lotta Woman", "Rockhouse", and "Blue Suede Shoes". A good production by Marty as well.

POSTER

Along with this Newsletter, you should find a small 10" x 8" poster, advertising this Society. If you can get this displayed, maybe in your local record shop or Rock'n'Roll club, it may help to enrol more members. Thanks in anticipation. A.W.

SNIPPETS

In Tony Jasper's book "British Record Charts 1955 - 1978", "Shakin' All Over" is listed as the tenth best selling single of 1960.

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Jimmy Savile has played "A Shot of Rhythm and Blues", "I'll Never Get Over You", "Please Don't Touch" and "Shakin' All Over" so far on his 'Old Record Club' programme on Radio 1 (Sundays).

+ + + + +

Simon Bates recently played "Shakin'" on his Radio 1 Show.

+ + + + +

I am reliably informed that David Bowie's version of The Who's "Can't Explain", on his 'Images' album, contains a guitar solo note for note the same as Johnny's "Shakin' All Over" (K. Roberts).

+ + + + +

'Daily Mail' Tues. Feb. 6th 1979: Sally Brompton writes in her article: 'As a teenager, Anne Yorath used to jive to Johnny Kidd and the Pirates on the bandstand at the end of Margate Pier'.

RECORDS FOR SALE

"Rock'n'Roll" (Double Album) includes Johnny Kidd and Pirates' "Shakin' All Over '65"/"I'll Never Get Over You" plus six Gene Vincent tracks and Billy J. Kramer/Wanda Jackson/Swinging Blue Jeans etc. (French).

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"Vince Taylor - Super Rock" French LP containing "Shakin' All Over", "Memphis Tennessee", "Lovin' Up A Storm" etc. with the Playboys.

+ + + + +

"Power In The Music" - the Guess Who. RCA Album that includes an interesting song called "When The Band Was Singin' Shakin' All Over" (reflecting back to when this band started its career).

+ + + + +

"Shanghai" - the first album, produced by, and featuring Mick Green of the Pirates (Warner Bros.). Note: this does not contain this band's version of "Shakin' All Over" with Cliff Bennett.

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Please send SAE for further details/price to Secretary.

* * * * STOP PRESS NEWS * * * *

PUNK BAND WAXES "SHAKIN' ALL OVER" !

My thanks to Chrysalis Records (the company responsible for putting out the two 'comeback' albums by the great LONNIE DONERGAN - 'Putting On The Style' and 'Sundown') for sending me a single by GENERATION X who had a hit with their first disc "King Rocker". Not being one of my favourite groups, I wasn't the slightest bit interested in the 'A' side - "Valley Of The Dolls", but more in the flip - Johnny's much recorded song "Shakin' All Over". It's an up-tempo treatment which slows down for the chanting of the words 'Shakin' all over', and produced in conjunction with BBC Records.

I'm afraid I can't find anything really nice to say about it but then that probably suits their image. For those interested, it's on Chrysalis CHS 2310. Anyway I consoled myself by first playing Johnny's original single of 'Shakin'', and then the Pirates' version (Warner Bros. K17231) afterwards !

AND, ANOTHER VERSION AVAILABLE !

I haven't heard this one, but "SHAKIN' ALL OVER" forms one of the tracks on "50 ALL TIME ROCK AND ROLL HITS" by the Rock and Rollers on a double album on Pickwick 50 DA 309

JOHNNY KIDD DISCOGRAPHY (PART 3 FINAL)

with acknowledgement to Nick Simper, Keith Roberts and Paul Szmaciarz.

SINGLES:

| | |
|---|---|
| Jealous Girl/Shop Around | HMV POP 1309 |
| Whole Lotta Woman/Your Cheating Heart | HMV POP 1353 |
| The Birds And The Bees/Don't Make The Same Mistake As I Did | HMV POP 1397 |
| Shakin' All Over '65/Gotta Travel On | HMV POP 1424 |
| It's Got To Be You/I Hate Getting Up In The Morning | HMV POP 1520 |
| Send For That Girl/The Fool | HMV POP 1559 |

(Johnny's last recorded '45' backed by the new Pirates.)

'RE-ACTIVATED' SINGLES:

| | |
|---|---|
| Shakin' All Over/Yes Sir That's My Baby | EMI 2414 |
| Please Don't Touch/I'll Never Get Over You | EMI 2667 |

EP:

| | |
|---|---|
| "Johnny Kidd" - A Shot of Rhythm and Blues/ I'll Never Get Over You/ Hungry For Love/ Then I Got Everything | HMV 7EG 8834 |

LP:

"Hits of the '60's" (Various Artists)
Johnny Kidd and the Pirates track: Hungry For Love
Music for Pleasure MPF 50317

# JOHNNY KIDD

# Newsletter

THE JOHNNY KIDD APPRECIATION SOCIETY

# THE JOHNNY KIDD APPRECIATION SOCIETY

N E W S L E T T E R

No. 5 August. 1979

Secretary: ALAN WHEELER,
6, Pedlars End,
Moreton, Ongar.
Essex, CM5 OLR

Dear Members,

Time for another Newsletter, and I will straight away draw your attention to a currently available French Import album:

"JOHNNY KIDD, ROCKER" (EMI 2C 154.06653/4)

This is a 32 track double album, comprising most of the material previously released in France, on the two albums - "Your Cheating Heart" and "The Johnny Kidd Memorial Album", plus "Growl" and Ecstasy", and a PREVIOUSLY UNRELEASED VERSION of Johnny's song "PLEASE DON'T BRING ME DOWN".

This is much faster than the original single on HMV POP 919 (later included on the "Shakin' all over" album on Starline) and features a frantic guitar solo, quite different from the previous version. Johnny's voice is different too ! Being, in my opinion, much rawer. A good rockin' track this, and one from 'out of the can'. Great also, to hear "Ecstasy" again (the old 'B' side of "Hungry for Love"). The complete run-down of tracks is as follows: (Disc 1, Face A) PLEASE DON'T TOUCH/GROWL/FEELIN'/YOU GOT WHAT IT TAKES/ LONGIN' LIPS/SHAKIN' ALL OVER/RESTLESS/MAGIC OF LOVE. (Face B) BIG BLON' BABY/WEEP NO MORE MY BABY/LINDA LU/ LET'S TALK ABOUT US/PLEASE DON'T BRING ME DOWN/SO WHAT/ I WANT THAT/A SHOT OF RHYTHM 'N' BLUES. (Disc 2, Face A) I CAN TELL/I'LL NEVER GET OVER YOU/THEN I GOT EVERYTHING/ HUNGRY FOR LOVE/ECSTASY/DR. FEELGOOD/JEALOUS GIRL/ SHOP AROUND. (Face B) WHOLE LOTTA WOMAN/YOUR CHEATING HEART/ DON'T MAKE THE SAME MISTAKE AS I DID/SHAKIN' ALL OVER '65/ GOTTA TRAVEL ON/IT'S GOT TO BE YOU/SEND FOR THAT GIRL/THE FOOL. PLUS PIRATES SOLO 45: MY BABE/CASTIN'MY SPELL. Trackwise, it's a good collection, but at £8.80 (before the Budget) it comes as a bit pricey. Also, I found some of the sleeve notes slightly exaggerated, but nevertheless, a very worthwhile project on the part of French EMI. (My thanks to Terence Morris, John Pond, William Naylor, James Marks, Pete Bryan, who sent me info. A.W.)

"A MONUMENT TO BRITISH ROCK" (Vol. 1 includes Johnny Kidd)

The old J.K. hit and composition "SHAKIN' ALL OVER" also sees the light of day again on this 1979 compilation album from EMI. The 1960 recording forms part of the 20 Rock and Pop Classics from a mixed bag of artists that include the Shadows/the Troggs/Status Quo/Humble Pie/ Small Faces/Them/Cliff Bennett and the Rebel Rousers etc. (thanks to William Naylor for info. on this release A.W.).

Seeing the names of the Small Faces and Humble Pie bands here, reminds me of the guy who lead both units - Steve Marriott, who lived quite near me at one time ('Beehive Cottage' in Harlow Road, Moreton).

Although Steve now lives somewhere in the States, I'm sure he won't mind me mentioning here that he always regarded Johnny as both a great rocker and a great character ! And often said how he thought Johnny Kidd and the Pirates were incredibly together for their day. (My memory reminds me at this point, that when Steve Marriott undertook his first U.K. tour with Humble Pie, and David Bowie, in 1970, he opened the Pie's set with a 'heavy' version of "Shakin' All Over" no less !)

RARE VERSION OF "SHAKIN' ALL OVER" RE-EMERGES !

Remember THE SURFARIS who had a big instrumental hit with "Wipe Out" back in '64 ? Well, in between cutting numerous 'Surfin' discs for MCA - Coral, this U.S. band recorded an all-vocal album titled "It Ain't Me Babe" in 1965, which contained things like "Love Potion No. 9", "(I Can't Get No) Satisfaction", "Like a Rolling Stone" and Johnny's "Shakin' All Over" (following on the heels of the Guess Who success in the U.S. "Hot 100"). I'd almost forgotten about this, when surprise, surprise, I came across it recently again on a MCA-Coral album titled "MORE OF THE GOOD OLD ROCK 'N' ROLL" (6.28201 DP) with Bill Haley and the Comets, Carl Perkins, Waylon Jennings and others. I'm not sure if this is an import or not, but certainly worth checking out if you come across it. One thing that did catch my eye, was that on the sleeve, 'Shakin'' is attributed to someone called Rio, and not Heath or Kidd. Strange, to say the least, but I hope the royalties have reached the right quarter !

THE PIRATES

A recent U.S. trip and extensive U.K. touring has kept the boys out of the recording studios for completion of their third album. A fill-in disc for members of the Pirates Fan Club however came out with Issue No. 3 of the Club's "Broadside" Newsletter, in the shape of a 33⅓ RPM flexi single featuring FRANK FARLEY vocal on "ALL BY MYSELF", and an old Carl Perkins tune aired by the Pirates on the first series of "It's Rock 'n' Roll" - "PUT YOUR CAT CLOTHES ON". (My thanks to "Broadside" Editor for a renewed plug of this Society. A.W.)

DIFFERENT 'TAKE' ON RE-ACTIVATED SINGLE OF "SHAKIN' ALL OVER"

I am reminded by member John Walker, that the flip of "SHAKIN' ALL OVER" (EMI 2414) is different to the B-side on HMV POP 753. I agree with John's comments that this is obviously a warm-up version and is much sloppier than the original. Quite honestly, I don't know how, or why this particular take emerged, as I am sure something more polished, and befitting to Johnny's memory, could have been used.

'GOLDEN OLDIES' SECTION

RICKY VALANCE AT FOAKES HALL, DUNMOW, ESSEX, JUNE 15th

Presented by the Hound Dogs Rock 'n' Roll Club of Bishops Stortford, this R 'n' R night featured the 1960 chart-topper backed by a band called 'Sunstroke'. (The guitarist played a great instrumental in their first set.) I am happy to report that Mr. 'Tell Laura I Love Her' got a great reception, working his way through a mixed selection of Rock 'n' Roll Classics (Presley, Del Shannon, Rick Nelson, Bobby Darin etc.) especially well received, being "Runaway", and a great tribute to Elvis with "Can't Help Falling In Love" (from Blue Hawaii). As mentioned in an earlier Newsletter, Ricky did a salute to Johnny Kidd at a Bishops Stortford appearance last year, by doing a version of "Shakin'" and so I thought he may include it here, but due to a change of backing unit, it is now left out of the act. A pity, but we did get two renditions of Ricky's former Columbia hit "TELL LAURA I LOVE HER" which went down well - a good gig.

Prior to his act, I got a chance to have a chat with Ricky in the dressing room. He said he had fond memories of his stage dates with Johnny and the Pirates, and also Gene Vincent, and particularly remembered a show with Johnny at

Portsmouth Guildhall, I think, when all the members of the cast were looking for a way out of the theatre to avoid the fans. Someone found a side window and, a chance to get out and away unnoticed, and would have done so too, had it not been for Johnny ! With one leg half-way through the window, Johnny started shouting loudly 'Look we can get out through here' which resulted in a large crowd running up and blocking the way. Great publicity man was Johnny !

CURRENT RICKY VALANCE RECORDS: Not easy to obtain, but well worth buying if you come across them, are two releases on the 'TANK' label: Single: "HELLO MAY LOU" B/W "WALKING IN THE SUNSHINE" TANK B SS 313
Album: "RAINBOW" (Country and Western) TANK B SS 324.
(My special thanks to Paul Stavrou of Hound Dogs for sending me complimentary tickets for this dance. A.W.)

'PARLOPHONE' LABEL RE-APPEARS WITH JOE BROWN

Nice to see both circulating again after such a long time. To tie in with his appearances in the re-vamped version of "OH BOY" (on TV and Stage), Joe has brought out an EP featuring his own composition - "THE TED'S SONG" together with "SEA OF HEARTBREAK", "WHEN MY BLUE MOON TURNS TO GOLD AGAIN" and a re-cut of "SHINE" which he originally waxed for Pye in 1960. The number is PARLOPHONE R 6025. By the way, Joe has been made an Honorary Member of the Society as one of the artists who worked with Johnny the most.

NUT ALBUM FEATURES SOME RARE ROCK 'N' ROLL

Out on EMI NUT 19 is an album called "IT'S ONLY ROCK 'N' ROLL 1957-1964" with sleeve notes by Stuart Coleman - Presenter of the BBC Series "IT'S ROCK 'N' ROLL". They have really dug down into the archives for this one - coming up with an album of lesser known American tracks on one side, and some British rarities on the other. Real out and out rockers are noticeably missing, with the exception of DICKIE PRIDE - the one time 'Sheik of Shake', with a 1959 Columbia single "Fabulous Cure", and VINCE TAYLOR with an early Parlophone cut of "Right Behind You Baby". Others featured on this side include Terry Wayne (that goes back to '6.5 special'), Don Lang, and Dave Sampson and the Hunters. GOOD VALUE.

RETURN OF LONNIE D.

Nice to see the old "Rock Island Line" man, LONNIE DONEGAN in the TV coverage of this year's Wembley Country Music Festival. Lonnie now lives in California, where he enjoys better health and with less touring. He has also been able to shake off his latter day image of variety and cabaret artist, and really get back into music, with an excellent album produced by Adam Faith called "SUNDOWN" (CHRYSALIS CHR 1205) which includes the two songs featured on the TV recording - "Cajun Stripper" and an up-dated "Battle of New Orleans". NICE COUNTRY SOUNDS.

GET WELL DEPT.

The former British rocker BILLY FURY continues on the road to improved health, and earlier this year, re-recorded most of his hits for K-TEL. Titled "BILLY FURY - THE GOLDEN YEARS" (K-TEL NE 1030) it features 20 great tracks, 18 of which are instantly associated with him. The voice is slightly lower than in his heyday, but despite all the bad patches of ill health, Billy still has a fairly powerful voice, and sounds particularly good on the moody "Wondrous Place", "Maybe Tomorrow", "That's Love" and "In Thoughts of You". RECOMMENDED.

PIRATES PERFORM "I'LL NEVER GET OVER YOU" AGAIN !

This was earlier this year, at Sheffield University, when they were joined by one of our members, PAUL SZMACIARZ, for a one-off performance of the Gordon Mills song made famous by Johnny in 1963. Dressed in a full Johnny Kidd rig-out (eye-patch, black leathers, laced shirt), Paul fronted the Pirates to sing "I'll Never Get Over You" for the second time in his life. The first time was way back in 1964 at Bristol (according to 'Broadside') but in his letter to me, Paul states that he sang it before Johnny recorded it ! At Bath Pavilion 1963-64 ? Don't know about that, Paul, but I certainly do know that Johnny and the Pirates cut "I'll Never Get Over You" just a few weeks before it's release on 12th June, 1963 - the song itself first appearing as a B-side of a Pye single by a vocal group called the Viscounts (lead by Gordon Mills) - much faster and meaning nothing until Johnny and the Pirates got hold of it and re-arranged it into a No. 4 Hit.

EARLY K-TEL ALBUM FEATURED JOHNNY AND GENE !

One of the first albums put out by this company was "ROCKIN 'N' ROLLIN' GREATS" (K-TEL NE 493) which contained several R 'n' R classics including "SHAKIN' ALL OVER" by Johnny and the Pirates and "BE-BOP-A-LULA" from Gene Vincent. A rare photo of Johnny appears on the front cover along with some others, including Gene Vincent. This album made the best sellers, following plenty of TV promotion, and must have come as a surprise to one artist, Lonnie Donegan, who had "Cumberland Gap" as one track.

SNIPPETS

Johnny Kidd featured on Page 125 of the "NME Encyclopaedia of Rock" (1978).

* * * * *

French EP of Johnny and the Pirates issued in the '60's containing Shakin' All Over/Whole Lotta Woman/Shop Around/Restless (EGF 813). (Info. Pete Bryan)

* * * * *

"Shakin' All Over" by Johnny, released in the USA on APT 25040.

* * * * *

"Linda Lu" reached No. 47 for one week, October 1961.

* * * * *

The Pirates appeared earlier this year on Granada TV's "What's On" programme. I am told that they got a great introduction, with a rare photo of Johnny and the boys being flashed on the screen, before launching into a great version of "Shakin'". Followed later on by "Tear It Up". (Info. William Naylor)

* * * * *

SUBSCRIPTION INCREASE

Regrettably, I have had to raise this from £1 to £1.50 per annum, in order to meet increased costs, and to produce the new photostat cover from members' photos/cuttings (thanks to Keith Hunt and Pete Bryan). A.W.

MORE MEMBERS ARE NEEDED - PASS THE WORD !!

# THE JOHNNY KIDD APPRECIATION SOCIETY

N E W S L E T T E R NO.6 NOVEMBER, 1979

Sec. Alan Wheeler,
6 Pedlars End
Moreton, Ongar,
Essex. CM5 OLR

Dear Members & Friends,

Here we are with another Newsletter again, and before I get down to anything else, I must first just dwell briefly on a subject which is now putting the continuation of this Society in doubt - rising costs. I am afraid that even with the increase in the cost of Members' subscriptions (from £1 to £1.50), the Society is still a long way from being viable - the difference being met out of my own pocket.

Unfortunately, it is a situation which seems to be getting worse, rather than better, and one which I cannot allow to go on for much longer. You see, Members' subs are almost entirely being swallowed up in the production of this Newsletter, with hardly anything left over for postage, envelopes etc. Also, and nothing to do with costs, is the fact that I get little or no help in the way of co-operation from EMI - something which saddens me deeply. However enough of this. In response to some Members requests for information on J.K. recording sessions, I have written down some recollections which I hope you will find of interest.

## JOHNNY KIDD AT ABBEY ROAD STUDIOS

Although it was a long time ago, I can still remember the great sessions I was privileged to be present at, with Johnny Kidd and The Pirates at EMI's Abbey Road Studios in St. John's Wood, London. Most of these took place in Studio No.2, and all under the direction of Walter J. Ridley - then the HMV Label producer. His assistant in those days was a guy called John Smith which will probably mean nothing to you, until I add that he emerged as a chart singer himself for a while in later years, under the name of 'Hurricane Smith'. Back in 1963 & '64, everything was incredibly simple in the disc business, particularly in the major studios. EMI were not exactly primitive, in relation to B.B.C. Radio who were, but they were a goodway from using the sophisticated equipment that came out mid-way through the Beatles' career. At EMI, everyone was being recorded on four track tape machines in those days. And if you think that was pretty basic, I would remind you that the groups themselves never had the mass of sound equipment being carted around today.

The Pirates for instance, were using 100 Watt Fender Amps which were powerful enough for any engagement being worked in those days. All the great rockers, like Johnny Kidd, such as Gene Vincent, Jerry Lee Lewis, Marty Wilde etc., could really whip a storm with just a couple of 100 Watt Amps behind them !

- Getting back to the EMI sessions, Johnny would usually arrive at Abbey Road in the BMC Bandwagon with his Road Manager, Johnny Irving, and the three Pirates (Mick Green, Johnny Spencer, Frank Farley). Occasionally, he would come by taxi or minibus. Mostly he wore a plain suit for these recording dates, over which he nearly always wore a black leather overcoat, which he also liked to wear for most of his travelling round to 'gigs'. The Pirates would usually be set up in the studio, so that Frank and his drumkit were partly hidden behind a screen to cut down the sound to the other mikes. Away from Frank, and a fair way apart would be Mick Green and Johnny Spencer. Somewhere in the middle would be the man himself - also screened off, but not out of sight of the guitarists. Being such good pro's, Johnny and The Pirates rarely did more than 2 or 3 'takes' of any one number, but sometimes the arrangement would be changed at the request of Mr. Ridley or Johnny himself.

One number which springs to mind is "I'll Never Get over You". The first time I heard this at a session it was either as a run through for sound balance or may even have been the first 'take'. Anyway it did'nt sound quite right. It was much faster than the version which eventually came out. A slightly slower treatment was given to the song by The Pirates which sounded much more commercial. BUT EVEN THIS HAD A DIFFERENT ENDING ! To get a more pronounced ending, The Pirates taped a separate piece which was used on the actual single, after everybody had agreed that the rest of the track was O.K. Johnny was always recorded 'live' with the Pirates, as opposed to laying down the backing track first, and then doing the vocal separately. Thus, it was possible to cut both sides of a single in either a morning or an afternoon ! Unbelievable when you think how long some people take to make a 45. today. But then things have become more technical and advanced. What you got on disc from Johnny Kidd and The Pirates in those days was a really tight sound that still stands up today. It was exactly how they sounded on stage. The only thing that was added to some 'A' sides was some overdubbing by Johnny to get a much fuller vocal 'sound' in keeping with the group scene of the day. In fact Johnny double-tracked five 'A' sides in a row - "I'll Never Get Over You",

"Hungry For Love", "Always And Ever", "Jealous Girl" and "The Birds And The Bees". Some members have asked if Johnny Spencer actually sang of any of Johnny's singles. Well, he did the backing vocals, (with Mick Green) on "A Shot Of Rythm & Blues", and although I seem to remember him singing in the background when "I'll Never Get Over You" and "Hungry For Love" were recorded, I don't think he was actually picked up on the tape. However he can be heard throughout "Always And Ever" and also on "Gotta Travel On" ('B' side of "Shakin' All Over '65"). A little tale about "Always And Ever", is that it really started out as a bluebeat thing - like "Mocking Bird Hill", which is how it sounded on the original demo cut by Johnny and the boys. I can remember Johnny taking this demo to a gig on the evening of the day he had made it - Leyton Baths I think it was, and getting the D.J. to play it over the sound system. It was also one of the rare occasions that I heard both sides of an old Johnny Kidd single blare out in a dance hall - "Restless"/ "Magic Of Love". Getting back to "Always And Ever", I preferred the treatment given to the song on the original demo, which although only a rough cut, was much more earthy. The studio session which produced the single had all sorts of people singing on the over-dubbing tape - Johnny Spencer, Frank Farley, Mick Green, Johnny Irving, and even George Cooper, who was Johnny's agent at the time. Quite a lot of echo was added to the backing, which I think changed the concept, but it made the Top Thirty, largely I think on Johnny's great stage performance. On some occasions when studio 2. was otherwise engaged, Johnny and The Pirates would move over, to be recorded in Studio No.1.

This was a more spacious studio, where among lots of other things, 'live' albums of "Oh Boy", "Drumbeat", "6-5 Special" and Cliff Richard & The Shadows were cut before a specially invited audience. In contrast to the control room in studio 2, which was on the same level as the studio floor, the control room in studio 1. was above the entrance door. Things here generally resembled that of a small television studio, with Johnny and The Pirates being slightly lost in the bareness. Soundwise, though I always thought The Pirates came through sounding more chunky on the sessions in Studio 1. Listen to "Hungry For Love", "Ecstasy", "My Babe" and "Castin' My Spell" for instance.

You might be surprised to learn that Johnny Kidd only was the Contract Artist withEMI - The Pirates were always employed as session men - getting paid the sum of £6. Ten Shillings per session ! A good amount in those days, which the boys regarded as a bonus to their weekly wage of £25 each.

Thinking back to these recording sessions, an amusing incident springs to mind concerning Johnny Spencer. Johnny had a Ford Zodiac or Zephyr convertable in those days and had come to the Abbey Road Studios in it on one occasion. After the session he gave me a lift into town with Mick Green. Lots of chat was taking place and this continued as we pulled up behind another car in front. After about five minutes Johnny suddenly realised that he had'nt stopped behind a queue of traffic as he had first thought - but behind a stationary car with no driver in it ! - howls of laughter all round.

I forget which member asked me where Johnny Kidd cut his demo discs. I can't quite remember what the place was called, but it was a small basement studio, the entrance of which was saddled between two shops in Berwick Street, Soho. As I recall, it was close to what was then the 'Freight Train' coffee bar which was owned by a former skiffle star - Chas McDevitt (hence the name). Johnny occasionally tried out the odd song or two here on tape before going to Abbey Road. Demo sessions were not particularly lengthy, and mostly took place late at night after a booking in town - such as a radio spot.

GUINNESS BOOK OF BRITISH HIT SINGLES
LISTING FOR JOHNNY KIDD & THE PIRATES (Highest position reached shown after title)

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 12th June | 1959 | "PLEASE DON'T TOUCH" 26. 3 weeks in charts |
| 17th July | " | " " "(Re-entry) 25. 2 weeks in charts |
| 12th Feb | 1960 | "YOU GOT WHAT IT TAKES" 25. 3 weeks in charts |
| 16th June | " | "SHAKIN' ALL OVER" 1. 19 weeks in charts |
| 6th Oct. | " | "RESTLESS" 22. 7 weeks in charts. |
| 13th Apr. | 1961 | "LINDA LOU" 47. 1 week in charts. |
| 10th Jan. | 1963 | "A SHOT OF RYTHM & BLUES" 48. 1 week in charts. |
| 25th July | " | "I'LL NEVER GET OVER YOU" 4. 15 weeks in charts. |
| 28th Nov. | " | "HUNGRY FOR LOVE" 20. 10 weeks in charts. |
| 30th Apr. | 1964 | "ALWAYS AND EVER" 46. 1 week in charts. |

(Nice to see the inclusion of Johnny Kidd & The Pirates in this best-selling book, but contrary to what is listed, all the charts I have ever seen show "Shakin' All Over" as having reached the highest position of No.2. I have also seen "Please Don't Touch" shown in the position of No.19, and it probably would have been shown higher, had it not been for a printer's strike which hit the musical press in 1959. Likewise, I remember "Always and Ever" being shown in the Top Thirty nationally. A.W.)

COVER PHOTO

My thanks to Tony Scott - Editor of 'Red Hot' for allowing me to reproduce the photo of Johnny taken on stage at the Star Club, Hamburg 1963/4. A.W.

SNIPPETS

Member John Wetherley informs me that he was once Road Manager to a Grimsby-based group called 'Paul Keene and The Echoes' who were support band to Johnny and The Pirates on a number of occasions. I am asked to mention the old 'Boston Gliderdrome', which, I am told, was the scene of a Five-a-Side impromptu football match - The Echoes versus the Pirates.

* * *

Member Keith Roberts draws my attention to the album out on the Beeb label - "IT'S ROCK'N'ROLL" (BEMP 001) and says that he finds the two tracks included by The Pirates - "Milk Cow Blues" and "Sweet Love On My Mind" (cut shortly after their come-back) much closer to real rock than their later day versions. Also featured are Chas and Dave, performing a version of "Big Blonde Baby" (once waxed by Johnny and Jerry Lee Lewis) and "That's All Right Mama".

* * *

Pirates "My Babe" and "Casting My Spell" were included on a Double Album put out in 1977 by United Artists, titled "BEAT MERCHANTS - BRITISH BEAT GROUPS 1963 - 1964" (UDM 101/2) including all kinds of acts doing the rounds of that period such as Cliff Bennett and The Rebel Rousers, The Big Three, Bern Elliott and The Fenmen, Dave Berry and The Cruisers, Merseybeats, Four Pennies, Searchers, Pat Wayne and The Beachcombers, Wayne Fontana and The Mind-benders etc.

* * *

Last Series of the re-vamped "Oh Boy" TV show included Alvin Stardust doing a version of Johnny's "Shakin' All Over"

* * *

Former Pirates 'Art' Caddy and Clem Cattina in line-up of a 'live' Billy Fury and The Tornados album of 1963 titled "WE WANT BILLY" (Decca) apparently cut before another original 'Pirate' Brian Gregg replaced Heinz Burt.

## STOP PRESS NEWS

THE PIRATES LATEST SINGLE AND ALBUM

- NOW ON CUBE RECORDS (DISTRIBUTED BY PYE RECORDS)

45: "GOLDEN OLDIES" B/W "MERCY PIRATE"
CUBE. BUG 84.

Album: "HAPPY BIRTHDAY ROCK'N'ROLL"
CUBE HI FLY 33

Side 1. YOU CAN'T SIT DOWN
HEY MARY
GOLDEN OLDIES
LADY (PUT THE LIGHT ON ME)

Side2. HAPPY BIRTHDAY ROCK'N'ROLL
GOING BACK HOME
LEMONADE
1.30 2.30
HARD RIDE

PLUS A FLEXI DISC OF PIRATES AUDITION TAPE FOR JOHNNY KIDD - RECORDED IN 1960 IN WILLESDEN - "VENTURE CAFE ROCK" - A RARE INSTRUMENTAL !

Something of a collectors item if there ever was one, is the Flexi Disc which comes with the third Pirates album, complete with spoken intro by Johnny Spencer and Mick Green.

A good album this, with the boys going in slightly different directions than what they've done before. Plenty of great stereo sounds here, with Mick Green varying his guitar 'sound' to good effect. The best tracks for me were "LADY (PUT THE LIGHT ON ME)", "1.30 2.30" and "HARD RIDE" - any of which I feel could make it as a Pirate hit single !

Recorded and produced by Bill House at Rockfield Studios, Wales for TT Productions Ltd. The album contains no less than seven 'Pirate' originals. CHECK IT OUT NOW !

"SHAKIN' ALL OVER" - LATE '79 STYLE

Just released by RCA, is a new single version of Johnny's famous number, by a former chart artist ALEX HARVEY. Unless you are turned on by the sound of road drills or quarry blasting, then this might come a bit too 'heavy'. But whatever you may think of the vocal, one thing it has got is drive, and enough of it to possibly get it into the charts. ALEX HARVEY - THE NEW BAND on RCA PB 5199.

From: Alan Wheeler,
6 Pedlars End,
Moreton, ONGAR,
Essex.

CLOSURE OF THE JOHNNY KIDD APPRECIATION SOCIETY

Dear Friends,

It is with very much regret that, due to ever-increasing costs in printing, duplicating, stationery and now postage, plus the almost total lack of co-operation from a certain major record company, I have decided to close down the Society. Having subsidised the Society since its formation in April 1978, I have unfortunately now reached a point where I have to finally call it a day. Much as I would like to keep it going, the cost of even producing something on the small scale as the Johnny Kidd Newsletter is getting ridiculous. Can't blame our duplicating firm or printers. They are having to pay more for their materials, wages, etc., which in turn has to be passed on to the customer. It's a vicious circle, all to familiar today.

I hope that in the time the Society has been running, something has been achieved in bringing back memories of who was for me and many others, the greatest British rock 'n' roller - JOHNNY KIDD.

Sadly Johnny never reached the height of success of other U.K. rockers during his career. Whilst people like MARTY WILDE, CLIFF RICHARD, TOMMY STEELE, BILLY FURY and JOE BROWN, expanded their careers by good management or whatever, by moving into films, television, cabaret and by recording in different styles, Johnny Kidd was content to, or had no choice, in slogging it away in the dance halls and theatres, where he was always a big attraction. As a purely straight rock 'n' roller, Johnny probably made more stage appearances than any other singer of the period. Between 1959 and 1965, 'Johnny Kidd and the Pirates' could usually be seen billed outside some venue, most nights of the week.

Sadly, 1965 saw a decline in Johnny's popularity and work. Changes to the line-up and 'sound' of the Pirates followed early in 1966. By a solo disc ("It's got to be you") and a brief attempt at dropping the 'Pirate' image, by going it alone dressed in a conventional suit, all came to nothing. Then just as he had recorded a single as 'Johnny Kidd and the New Pirates' ("Send for that girl"), fate took a hand, and Johnny was tragically killed in a car crash on the 8th October, 1966. No one can say whether Johnny would have made it back again, but the signs were good - a newspaper cutting on one of Johnny's last appearances, at Cromer, Norfolk, states: "Always a very visual performer, Johnny Kidd's voice sounds more powerful today than when he was in the charts! A really tight

backing was provided by the Pirates for this legend of British rock 'n' roll!"

Johnny was also planning to record an album dedicated to the American rocker GENE VINCENT with whom he had become firm friends, from earlier appearances on the same package shows. Ironic that Johnny and Gene should both die in the same month - five years apart.

If other British rockers were more successful, none were able to come up with writing a long-term r 'n' r classic, as Johnny did, with the much recorded "SHAKIN' ALL OVER". That the song is still around today, I think, speaks for itself.

If membership in the Society has ceased, then your interest in Johnny Kidd needn't. I don't have to remind you of a certain three-piece band thumping it out around the country in the best traditions of their former 'Capt.' - I mean, of course, THE PIRATES. If you have seen them live, then you surely must have dug their great stage act. Take it further by buying their records whenever you can. The boys have put out three excellent albums, and several singles, since they re-formed in 1977. It would be nice if one of the hardest working bands became one of the most successful! Keep rockin' Johnny, Mick and Frank!

In closing, I would just like to thank you for supporting the Society, and hope that you found something of interest in the six newsletters that we put out. My thanks also to all those members who were kind enough to send in newspaper cuttings and photos. And for your letters.

Finally my special thanks to Mrs. Jean Heath (Johnny's widow) for allowing me to run the Society for nearly two years.

I shall always remember Johnny Kidd as a great character, a good rocker, and a warm human being. I am sure others will too.

Alan Wheeler - February 1980

JIMMY SAVILE, O.B.E. (Reproduced from Johnny Kidd Newletter, Sept. 1978): "Hi! I'm not really into writing articles and such like, but Johnny was one of the most exciting people on the scene in those days, and his loss was a shock that a lot of us never got over."

LONNIE DONEGAN, the former 'King of Skiffle', who appeared at the 1979 International Festival of Country Music, Wembley, on rock 'n' roll: "Jerry Lee Lewis plays a good country piano. Gene Vincent and Johnny Kidd have a fine bluesy voice."

THE JOHNNY KIDD APPRECIATION SOCIETY

# JOHNNY KIDD

## APPRECIATION SOCIETY

S A E for full details to:

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