

BRUM BEAT

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MLD

Paul Flower charts
the Fall and Rise

PLUS MARC COHN · THE ALLIGATOR STORY ·
PAT DEWHALLEY · CABARET · BOOKS · NEWS
VIEWS · REVIEWS · COMPETITIONS

Episode 36. The star sign is Gemini/Cancer as we enter the fourth year of this crusade to retract the foreskin of roots music and check what passions are throbbing underneath.

The regular reader of this column should be well aware by now of my ongoing mania for Texas music, particularly the folk/country brand. Segue to the 1st Saturday of June, when Messrs Butch Hancock & Jimmie Dale Gilmore, aided and abetted by Jesse 'Guitar' Taylor, play a return fixture of 'Lubbock Or Leave It' at the Breedon Bar and Border Cafe in Cotteridge. As far as promotion of that date is concerned, it's something of a departure, with new Breedon owner Steve Brough and BRUM BEAT sharing the credits. The gig also marks a welcome return to the Breedon, of Reading's Terry Clarke as support. Terry's second album for Minidoka will now be out in the autumn. Hancock is currently up to month 10 of 14, with the release of his 'No 2 Alike' cassette series (if you missed my December '90 writeup on 'No 2...', contact BRUM BEAT for details). Come October this year, it seems to me that the eternally youthful George should start contemplating a new studio album. The years since 'Yella Rose', the Marce Lacouture duo set, now amount to six. Townes Van Zandt would sum up the omission with "Time flies like a banana!" Moving on a tick, James Dale Gilmore Esq. should have his new solo album in the racks by July. After two Hightone releases, this will be his first outing for Elektra. Word from Jesse Taylor, following a recent Breedon gig in his own right, is that the album, cut at Wink Tyler's studio in Austin, is "A cookin' mother."

Hang yer hat up Hank Jnr. You've already had the financial rewards. Merlin waved his wand, and Jimmie was blessed with the genuine legacy. Jimmie, right here is one impatient pair of ears.

While we're talking about artists from the Llano Estacado.... Joe Ely, the final member of the Lubbock Trinity, has his original MCA deal back catalogue, progressively issued in the UK over the next few months. 'Joe Ely' is already available. If it weren't for that eponymous slab of history and one cold autumn morning in 1977, when the Michael Davies of this parish happened to expose my aural apertures to the songs therein - well, my life wouldn't be the jolly merry-go-round that it is now. Stateside, MCA threw caution to the wind, wrestled that Texas longhorn to the ground and released in one fell swoop, 'Joe Ely', 'Honky Tonk Masquerade', 'Down On The Drag' and 'Musta Notta Gotta Lotta'. What price, a viewing by MCA of the unreleased, mid eighties gem 'Dig For Love'?

*"Hang yer hat up Hank Jnr
... Jimmie was blessed with
the genuine legacy."*

And next, it's the local and almost local festivals over the coming month or so.... June 1st & 2nd, see the final days of the Edale Bluegrass Festival (for details, contact Tom Travis on 0457/861789). June 14th-16th and it's the fifteenth All Round The Wrekin Festival, which takes place at the Court Centre, Madeley, Telford. Among the acts advertised to appear (some yet to be confirmed) are Robin Williamson, Alistair Anderson, Jez Lowe & The Bad Pennies, Les Barker and Pete Coe (for details, contact Mrs Chris Wood on 0743/

ARTHUR WOOD



JOE ELY

354423). June 21st-23rd, finds the fourth Jackfield & Ironbridge Bluegrass and Roots Festival taking place at the Maws Craft Centre, Jackfield. The opening night is Cajun influenced, with R. Cajun and Bon Ton Roulez in attendance. On Saturday afternoon, there's an international Folk Dance concert. Headlining the Festival, is US band Muleskinner (for details, ring 0952/727698). Over the same weekend, at various venues around the town, it's the Lichfield Folk Festival featuring the Waterasons, Bernard Wrigley and the well named Mitres Well. Over in Victoria Park, Smethwick on Saturday 22nd, it's the second Sandwell Strawberry Fair. By the way, there's no admission charge. There will be two stages featuring rap, jazz, house, rock and here's the rub, folk music and more. Names of the folk artists appearing, are not immediately obvious as we go to press! (For details, ring 021429 5122). June 28th-30th and it's the third Four Fools Folk Festival, at various venues in the Headless Cross area of Redditch. Among those billed, are Sean Cannon of The Dubliners, Martin Carthy and

Anne Briggs (for details, ring 0527/24328 or 545247). Further afield, there's Fleadh 1991 at Finsbury Park, London on Sunday, June 2nd. A full list of the mainly Irish born and based acts appeared in our May issue. The information hotline for Fleadh is 081/9612474, backed by numerous nationwide ticket outlets, including the Odeon, New Street

and Mike Lloyd, Wolverhampton. If you have nothing more emotionally rewarding to fulfil you on that day, why not pursue Butch, Jimmie 'n' Jesse to Cheltenham for another acoustic helping of West Texas Mayhem. The Heineken Music Big Top, which I also mentioned last month, is pitched at Hopwood Hall, Middleton, Manchester from July 4th-7th.

Looking farther ahead, on the final weekend of July, that major UK folk gathering at Cherry Hinton, Cambridge celebrates it's 27th year. Full details next month. Meantime, here's what's in store.... Janis Ian, Steve Earle (solo), Roddy Frame (taking a break from AC), Clive Gregson & Christine Collister, Gene Clark (will he finally show, or shall he continue to be a byrd out of sight?), Dick Gaughan, The Charlie Musselwhite Band and Cheryl Wheeler. Clannad and Ms "It's Suzanne, not Susan" Vega (solo), also appear to count among the headliners.

And finally, the same predictable ending; the June calendar around the local clubs: Fri 7th Singer's Night (Woodman, Kingswinford); Cosmotheke (Bell & Pump, Edgbaston); Three Cheese & Pickles (The Market Tavern, Moseley St.); Fri 14th Allan Taylor (Woodman); Johnny Coppin (Bell & Pump); Singer's Night (Market Tavern); Fri 21st Sileas (Woodman); Dave Swarbrick (Bell & Pump); Bermuda Quadrangle (Market Tavern); Fri 28th Sean Cannon (Woodman); Tuxedo Moon and The Copycats (Bell & Pump); Geoff Higginbottom (Market Tavern).

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