

Minglewood concert is a smash

by Rob Cohn

On Saturday, December 8th Halifax had the opportunity to see the return of what some consider the best band to ever come out of the Atlantic region. Those who took advantage (almost 7000 people) saw a concert they will not soon forget.

The Minglewood Band capped off their hugely successful

Canadian tour with a smash success at the Metro Centre. The Band's leader, Matt Minglewood, best summed up the Band's reaction when he

said "We were all across Canada and played to large crowds, we played to SRO

crowds at the El Macambo in front of U.S. record executives, but nothing, I mean

nothing, compares to the incredible feeling of coming home to as many people as were there tonight."

"You wouldn't believe the rush that we got from that crowd tonight" echoed Donny Hann the band's bass player.

They did play as though inspired by the crowd. From the opening notes of **Rocket 88** to the final note of their second encore **Dance, Dance, Dance** the audience was on the floor screaming, whistling, cheering and singing along.

After **Whiz Kids**, the Band's second number, an inspired Matt Minglewood screamed to the crowd "They said that you had to be from the States to be this good."

Next, they swung into **Long Way from Texas** combined with a fiddle reel featuring Donny Hann, a performance that had the house on its feet.

An old favorite had the crowd tearing the place apart as **Caledonia** walked through the door. The band followed this with a song written for them by Buddy and the Boys—**Don't Fool Yourself**.

As much as **Caledonia** worked the crowd into a frenzy the next song mellowed them. As soon as the first notes from **Can't You See** filled the Metro Centre the audience fell into a silence that was hard to believe from that many people.

Ain't What it Used to Be combined with **East Coast Blues**, showed that although stardom is upon them, they won't forget their roots.

The show was over, the band left the stage, but the

audience was not prepared to leave. The Minglewood Band was called back for two more numbers. The first was their new single **Rockin' the Blues**, the second **Dance, Dance, Dance**.

After this encore, the audience began to file out after the Metro Centre said there would be no more music.

This action hampers the band's performance according to Matt. "There are strict time limits placed on performers and if you want them to play all of your songs, you can't afford to get crazy with them."

Overall the concert was a great success. There were people who felt that the band was not popular enough in their own region and the concert would be a flop. Fortunately for everyone concerned this was not true. As it turned out the show was not just a concert, it was a party.

Buddy and the Boys played a good set to open the concert, playing their most popular songs as well as some new material. The song that brought the most reaction was their ever popular **Workin' at the Woolco Manager Trainee Blues**. Their new Album (if it ever gets finished) could well do for them what the new Minglewood LP did for Minglewood.

Taboo followed Buddy and turned out to be somewhat of a disappointment. Julie Turnpenny, the band's lead vocalist is worthy of note due to her stage presence and her voice.

In that order.

For the Minglewood Band a bit of rest and relaxation was well deserved after the rigors of touring. A pre-Christmas date at Dorchester Penitentiary and a New Year's Eve party at the Misty Moon were the only things on schedule and both of these were more for Auld Lang Syne than anything else.

The band is in at the Moon the rest of the week and following that the schedule is uncertain. The possibilities include another Canadian tour with Bob Seger, A.U.S. tour if the album is released in the States. It could also be back to the studios for the band. It has been almost a year since they last went to the Studios and there is plenty of new material.

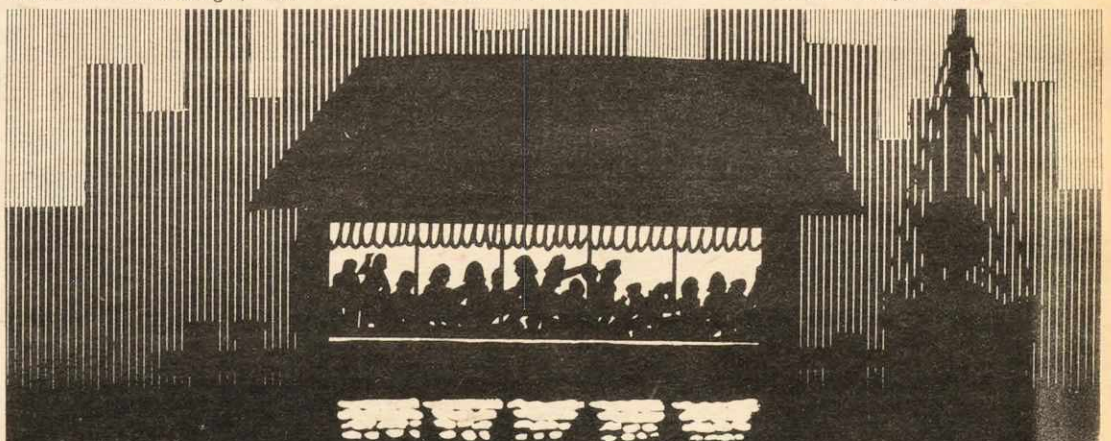
To prove that the Band is one of the Top Canadian acts the Minglewood Band now has an award in their Trophy case. In late November they were named as the **Best New Band** by **RPM Magazine**. The award is indicative of airplay that the single and the album have been receiving. The awards are voted on by the programmers of Canada's radio stations. They now are looking expectantly at the Juno Awards coming up soon.

Even among local artists there is a special feeling for the Minglewood Band. A member of Buddy and the Boys were asked early in Minglewood's performance what time his first show started at the Misty Moon that night. "Ten minutes ago" was the reply as he turned back to watch Minglewood.



Photo by M. Kaye

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