

### Cotton Band strongest yet

# Are You Listening ?



James Cotton

[Due to an error in editing this article, it did not appear in last week's Gazette.]

by B.C.

Electrically speaking, Saturday evening seemed to contain that aura of anticipated excitement which occasionally circulates when something rare is about to happen. Perhaps it was the wind and the street wetness on the way, but James Cotton is known. He's had his own band since 1966, prior to which he was with Muddy Waters for twelve years, and played on all of Waters' hit albums, including the recent, "Nothin but the Blues", which features Johnny Winter.

Cotton's current band is the strongest he's had yet, in that they are young, talented,

know what they are about, and are united in what they want. They have been dealing with Budda records, but are looking for artistic control of the product, to acquire the sound desired.

The Cotton Band has been getting more of the exposure they deserve of late, and their potential seems almost unlimited. FM 100 will be doing an hour special on Cotton in the near future, and the band's booked to record at the Commodore in Vancouver on New Year's Eve.

Saturday night, after a set of equipment trials and tribulations, Cotton asked, "Are you listening?" It seemed people really were, and before long, Cotton was howling out some of the good Southern tunes. An intriguing combination of two guitars with

James' harp and sax man focused the band's energy. The guitar players in the band are Pat Rush of New Orleans, who's played with Winter, and Harry Hmura from Chicago. Hmura just turned 21, and James found him teaching his son bass. Cotton's band is his first, but he conjured an image somewhat between a Townshend and a Mayall, playing like he'll be around for awhile. Cotton's drummer, Ken Johnson, has been with him for 6 years, and Herman Applewhite from Chicago held things down on bass.

After the show Saturday, the band drove down to New York to play the Lone Star and then rest before the block time. Gordon Kennerly, the group's manager, mentioned that Cotton has recently been over to Newfoundland—met

and played with Dutchy Mason. Word has it the Dutch is revitalizing and may tour with Cotton "when the cold's finished". I was asked to mention that the agency which booked Cotton at the Moon didn't please them. Oh well, hard to be pleased all the time—be good to get more Cotton though.

#### NOTICE

To those and only those who are prepared, and possibly waiting: The best continuous rockinblues are at the Downtown Connection (the old Lighthouse Tavern) on Saturday afternoon between 1 and 5. South end of Barrington. Before 1:30 or 2 for a seat.

Tia Maria goes with Bogota.  
Tia Maria goes with Paris.  
Tia Maria goes with milk.  
Tia Maria goes with ice.  
Tia Maria goes with Istanbul.  
Tia Maria goes with him.  
Tia Maria goes with Vodka.  
Tia Maria goes with Janis.  
Tia Maria goes with music.  
Tia Maria goes with dessert.  
Tia Maria goes with friends.



# Tia Maria goes.

For recipe booklet write: Tia Maria (S), P.O. Box 308, Station B, Montréal, Québec H3B 3J7

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