

"Johnny Crackle"

Singing a fine song

by Stephen R. Mills
 "JOHNNY CRACKLE SINGS"
 BY MATT COHEN
 McClelland and Stewart,
 Toronto 1971.

 Twentieth century youth are like no youth who have ever lived before. It's a fact few understand and even fewer appreciate. The very old and the middle-aged like to think that today's young people are basically similar to them. Oh, they acknowledge the new fads; the music, the hair, the clothes — but they assure each other that the basic things — the mind and spirit of youth, the confusion, the wonder — remain the same.

But they don't. They can't because today's youth lives in a different world. Brand new things — the bombs, the pollution, the media, the money — exist on tremendous scales and are commonplace. The confusions of youth have grown



youth are like no youth that have ever existed because the twentieth century is like no other age and the twenty-first will be even stranger.

One of the characteristics of new youth is its attempt to understand itself, not only through newer mediums like television and film but in new forms of older mediums. An example in point is Canadian writer Matt Cohen's newest novel "Johnny Crackle Sings".

Johnny Crackle is a pop singer from the Ottawa Valley who achieves brief stardom then fades to oblivion. The novel is basically a stream of consciousness thing — the thought-impressions of Crackle, his manager, his girl, his friends — but there are pieces of straight story-telling and continuing Ottawa Citizen coverage of Crackle's career to hold it all together.

Perhaps the most outstanding characteristic of the writing and that which gives most insight into the personality of Johnny Crackle is the imagery and the syntax. Cohen abandons all conventional (and arbitrary) rules of sentence structure and punctuation to achieve affect. Because he uses this free-form style in descriptions of common things, as well as acid trips and metaphysical insights, readers can identify with the mystery and confusion of Crackle's life, a confusion they share and can perhaps seek solutions to through this novel.



and become the confusions of mankind. Twentieth century

The story begins with Lew and Sally Clinton moving to a farm outside Ottawa; then a newspaper account of the arrest of two kids for drunken driving while returning from a Johnny Crackle dance; then to Crackle's girl, his manager and so on through his early life and career, closing on Crackle and wife moving west and the Clinton's leaving their farm to join them.

The outward symbols of modern youth — the dope, the music, the clothes — are here but things of universal concern — closeness to nature and to each other and new ways of looking into old and forgotten worlds are the main points of focus. "Johnny Crackle Sings" is a good novel and contains passages which promise great things to come from Matt Cohen.

Tips on top strings

by Charlie Moore
 In recent years the guitar has replaced the piano as the most

popular amateur musical instrument. Because of this there has been a great increase in

guitar sales, and the market has been flooded with many low-price instruments. The quality of these cheapies usually matches their price and some are little better than toys.

To the novice contemplating the purchase of a guitar this presents a problem, i.e.: How do I know which are good and which are bad? Many people have the idea that it is best to learn on a cheap model and buy a better one when their playing improves. Unfortunately, many cheap guitars are so difficult to play that they will discourage anyone trying to learn on them. As a general rule it is far wiser to buy a good quality second hand instrument than a cheaper new one. There are many good quality makes on the market and used ones are usually available.

The following is a rundown on the various makes of guitars currently available in roughly descending order of quality.

MARTIN: The Martin is the Rolls-Royce of guitars. They have a lifetime guarantee and are world-renowned for their fine quality, sound and action (action is the relative ease of fretting the strings on a guitar). Martins have no adjustment on either the bridge or the neck. Six-string Martins run from \$415.00 for model 000-18 to \$695.00 for the D-28. Twelve-strings are \$595.00 up.

GUILD: Guilds are actually on an equal footing with Martin quality-wise, although their reputation is not so widespread. Differences are that the Guild has a narrow neck, adjustable bridge and adjustable tension rod in the neck. Guild six-strings are \$225.00 and up, and twelve-strings are \$300.00 and up.

GIBSON: Gibson have recently revamped their line of guitars to bring their quality into line with Martin and Guild on some models. Used Gibsons are also readily available. The older ones are usually better. New Gibson J-40s list at \$340.00, and J-45s and J-50s at \$400.00.

EPIPHONE: New Epiphones are now made in Japan and have dropped in quality considerably. The older ones are really fine instruments and are usually underpriced in relation to their quality because the Epiphone name is not widely known.

DEL VECCHIO DOBROS: A Dobro is not a guitar in the true sense of the word but it is played in a similar manner. It is shaped like a guitar but has a metal sounding board inside the body which gives it a twangy metallic sound. Dobros are good for playing country and western music.

OVATION: Ovations are different from other guitars in

that they have a molded fiberglass back rather than wood, which gives them a loud tone. They have a reputation for not being too durable. Ovations are priced at \$300.00 up.

The following are considered medium quality instruments but are still at acceptable levels of workmanship and sound.

YAMAKI: This is one of the better quality Japanese guitars. It has a solid cedar top as opposed to plywood. Prices run from \$70.00 to \$130.00.

ESPAÑA: Espanas are made in Finland. Prices are not available at this time.

YAMAHA: Yamahas are good if you like loud guitars. The action is sometimes poor especially up the neck. Prices \$70.00 to \$130.00.

HARMONY: The higher priced Harmonys are a good value for the money. Prices \$77.50 to \$240.00.

FRAMUS: These are made in Germany. They have plywood tops but some models have quite good sound. They run \$75.00 to \$150.00.

I have concentrated mainly on steel string acoustic guitars because they are the most versatile and popular. Nylon strings and electrics are generally limited to one kind of music: i.e. classical and rock respectively.

Gesundheit!

by Uncle Walt

One ounce of (this cereal) with 4 ounces of milk is a good source of protein.

— cereal box

With the exception of soybeans and cashew nuts, most foods from plants do not contain complete protein. In other words, they are deficient in some of the amino acids which our bodies need to fully utilize protein.

The problem is easily solved by eating a combination of foods at each meal. The three major categories of food rich in vegetable protein are whole grains, legumes (beans, peas, and lentils), and the category of seeds and nuts. Milk products are also valuable for their protein and other nutrients.

Meals with complete protein can be created with the following combinations: seeds or nuts with legumes; legumes with whole grains; and whole grains with milk products. An example of each combination follows.

A tasty and filling meal can be created with brown (or green) lentils and raw cashew nuts. Soak the lentils overnight in 1 1/2 cups of water in the fridge. Using this same water, bring the lentils to a boil in a saucepan. Add raisins, lower heat, and simmer uncovered for 10 minutes. Add cashews and simmer for another minute or two. Make sure some water remains in the pan. Serve with seasalt (salt from the ocean, containing many useful trace minerals.)

Another high-protein combination is brown rice and soybeans. Soak the soybeans overnight in 1 1/2 cups of water in the fridge. (When deciding how much to use, remember that soybeans double in size when soaked, and brown rice expands when cooked.) Bring soybeans to a boil in a pot, add brown rice and bring to a boil again. Lower heat, cover the pot, and simmer for 20-25 minutes. If you use lots of rice, use more water. Vegetables such as Brussels sprouts can be added to the pot for the last 5-10 minutes. They will be steamed and flavourful.

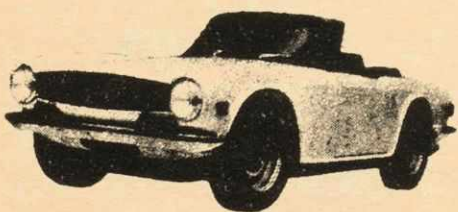
For a tastier meal, fry the combination afterwards in vegetable oil (a kind without chemical preservatives) with browned onions, tomatoes, or whatever. Season with seasalt.

A whole-grain cereal most people are not familiar with is millet. It is high in protein and vitamins, inexpensive and easy to prepare. For one serving bring 1 1/4 cups of water to a boil, add 1/2 cup of millet slowly so boiling does not stop, lower heat, add raisins and simmer uncovered for 10 minutes, making sure a little water remains. Remove from heat, cover for a minute, then serve with milk, and if desired unpasteurized honey.

For a more detailed explanation of protein combinations plus 100 recipes, read "Diet for a Small Planet", a pocket-book available at the Bean Sprout, 1709 Barrington. Happy eating!

BRITISH MOTORS
 LIMITED

"Your Authorized Dealer"



AUSTIN — MG
TRIUMPH
ROVER
JAGUAR

For Further Information
 or a Test Drive Call

Tim Herbert — 422-9258
 Dalhousie Campus Representative