

AURAL SECTION

The Fall

by Paul Meiorin

The Fall
458489 *A Sides*
Vertigo/Polygram Records

It seems a surprise to see a new Fall (not the season) release so soon after their last record *Extricate*.

Could it be that like Led Zeppelin whose fans already have their Robert Plant wristwatches and their Jimmy Page guitar phones The Fall also have to fulfill a demand for a new record package? This record title *458489 A Sides* is a rather round-about way of stating that it is a compilation of The Fall's singles between the years 1984 and 1989.

Similar to the original records from which they have been lifted, these songs are difficult to criticize.

Over the thirteen years that The Fall have been toiling they have developed a loyal following. They have also placed their music in a category where it can be judged best on its own merits. The Fall seem to have a knack for unconventionality which makes it unfair to compare them to bands that conform to radio airplay guidelines.

The most familiar tracks to those devotees of 'alternative' music can be found on side two.

When "Hit the North," the first track on the second side was released in 1987, it actually received moderate airplay in those 'alternative' circles. It remains a Fall classic.

Great to listen to when looking at the autumn colours, "Victoria" is an old Kinks standard nicely reworked.

"Big New Prinz," is another strong song which was originally released on the *I Am Curious Orange* soundtrack to a ballet which The Fall were involved with. They played along with the live theatre performance.

Side one, keeps the listener continuously entertained with the aforementioned knack for the unconventional. "Cruisers Creek" and "L.A." exemplify this.

The compilation certainly provides a memory jog for The Fall fan who hasn't been through his/her old catalogue of Fall records recently.

It is a must for anyone you know who already has the Led Zeppelin chronology!

This package of singles from The Fall is a practical way to become acquainted with them. The only practical advice would be to call it *A New Listener's Aid*.

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Boys From Nowhere are going nowhere

by Bruce Adamson

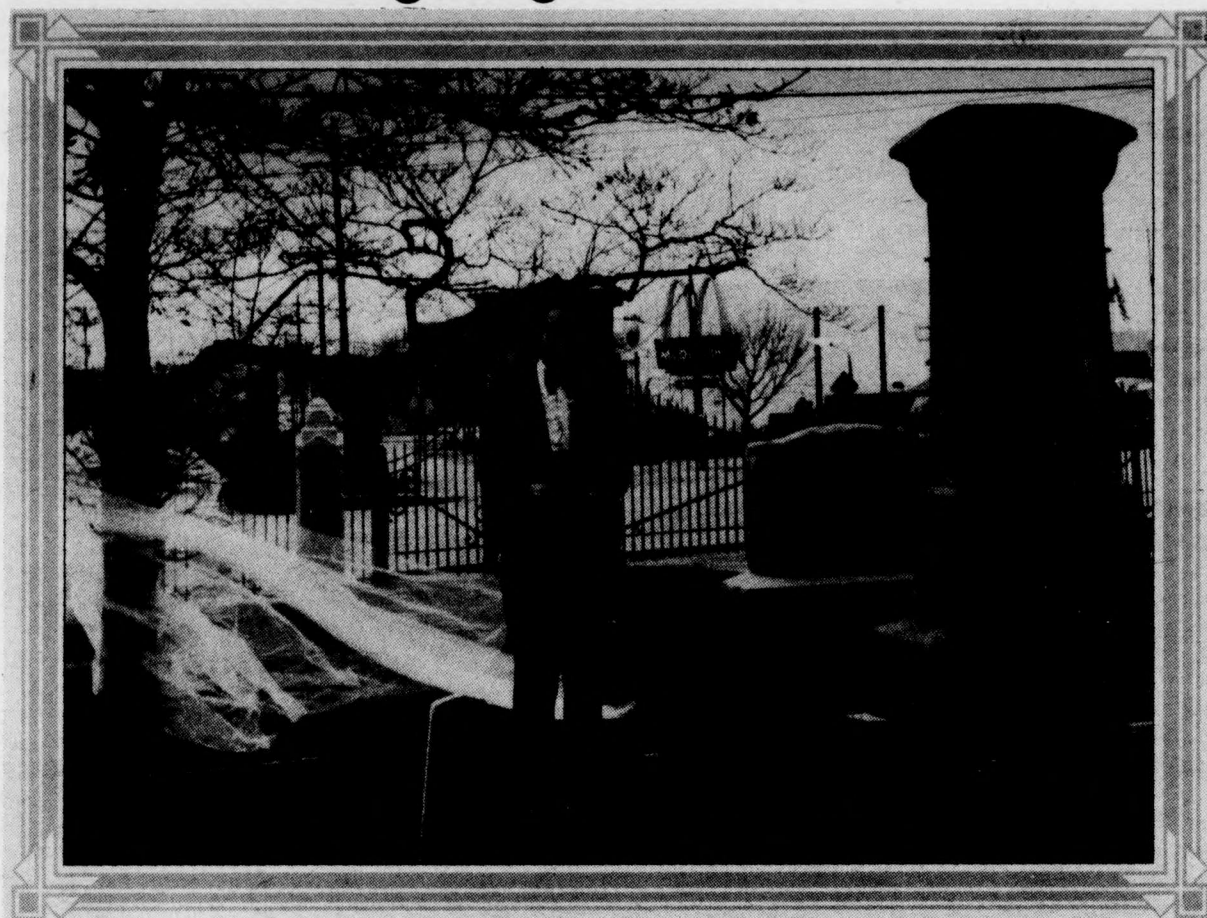
Boys From Nowhere
The Bridal Album
SkyClad Records

Since I'm press-kitless on this I'll assume that these guys are actually from Nowhereland. After checking out their current release, *The Bridal Album*, I sincerely hope that they go back and stay there for good, or at least wait until the remaining members of the Beatles decide to make their next film, "Sgt. Pepper Meets the Boys From Nowhere and Teaches Them How To Write A Song Fit For Human Ears."

What more can I say about this dross? The singing is inconsistent, the songs are bad, and the record itself sounds like it was recorded in a shoebox with tin cans for mikes and twine for cable.

Singer/guitarist/writer Mick Divvens, is a performer whose talent is, to be polite, "underdeveloped." At his absolute, complete and utter best he sounds a wee bit like Glenn Danzig; however, the remaining 99.9 per cent of his offering is poor.

Divvens' guitar playing has no saving graces whatsoever and actually verges on disintegration



during the acoustic vamp on "All Tied Up." And the songwriting! Forget it.

The question here is not one of

taste but of quality.

The Bridal Album is poorly conceived, inadequately recorded and ineptly performed. In short, it is

amateur in the very worst way and is the type of crap which gives hard rock a bad name. Sgt. Pepper, where are you?

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