

"Well at least they're not another pretty face

Rolling Stones' First

by Ian Holloway

When the Beatles conquered America in 1964, they ushered in a wave of British artists, many of whom enjoyed an initial success: Gerry and the Pacemakers, The Dave Clark Five, and Herman's Hermits, etc. Ultimately though, only those groups that took what the Beatles did one step further would attain lasting fame. Witness, along with the Rolling Stones, the Kinks, the Who, and the Yardbirds.

In those by-gone days, however, the Rolling Stones were not the darlings of the jet set or the confidantes of first ladies as they are today. On the contrary, they symbolized defiance and rebellion. The Beatles wanted nothing more than to hold your hand, but the Rolling Stones were really going to get you. Indeed, the Stones first came to national prominence in Britain, not through their music (although it was good), but through the fact that when refused the use of a gas station's lavatory because of their unkempt looks, they proceeded to urinate on the gas station itself.

The Rolling Stones began as a Rhythm and Blues group, playing Muddy Waters and B.B. King in many of London's dingier nightspots. Like any group, though, they needed a hit to give them a wide following. Their first single, "Come On", was a flop, their second, the Beatles "I Wanna Be Your Man", did moderately well, but it was their third, "Not Fade Away", that earned them Stateside success and ensured them a large popular following.

The first cut on the album, "Not Fade Away" is an old buddy Holly song. Originally written in very much a pop vein, the Stones characteristically beef it up with Jagger's meaty vocals such that it is

ENGLAND'S NEWEST HIT MAKERS

THE ROLLING STONES



song.

The second track, "Route 66" is one of the best of the Stones' rock and roll songs. The real Route 66 is a US interstate highway that runs from St. Louis to California, and the song mentions various places along the way. When the Stones played some of these places on their first American tour, it was this song that drew the biggest response (much the same as

Kansas City, they opened their concert with the Little Richard song of the same name).

Another notable song on the first side is the instrumental "Now I've Got A Witness". It credits one Phelge as its writer. Actually, the names Nanker and Phelge were pseudonyms used by Mick Jagger and Keith Richard for songs which they had written of which they were not sure.

ranks as one of the three best songs on the album. "I'm A King Bee" was written by black bluesman Slim Harpo. It features the Stones at their laid-back best. Brian Jones especially, adds some searing blues licks and harmonica. It is said that in the early days Jones was the best musician of the lot. As Keith Richard said: "Man, when he wanted to play, he could play his ass off, that cat". As time and his

experimentation with drugs went on, however, it became increasingly harder to get him to play. In fact, in some of the Stones' later sessions he is not on record at all. Rather the Stones used to turn off his amp, and add overdubs themselves. By 1968 he was, as Lennon said: "A victim of the drug culture. The kind of guy you would dread hearing on the phone". By 1969, he was dead, burned out at 25.

The second cut on the second side is pure Chuck Berry, "Carol". Keith Richard was (and is) primarily a Chuck Berry style guitar player and is at his best on this cut. Following is "Tell Me", the Stones' second US single. The album version, however has an extended instrumental middle, and although it is about as pop as the Rolling Stones get, it retains a R&B texture.

No discussion about this album would be complete without some mention of the cover. The current trend being to look as cherubic and cheerful (and inane) as possible on album covers, this cover was a daring departure. The Rolling Stones look sullen and moody, half shrouded in shadows. It is a pretty cool album cover for 1964.

"The Rolling Stones" is a fine, earthy R&B Rock and Roll album. It provides an excellent look at the early Rolling Stones. As Jagger said, "I like the first album because it was all the stuff we used to do onstage". Perhaps its major flaw is that the Stones are too eager. Nonetheless, "The Rolling Stones" along with "Meet The Beatles" represents a landmark in the history of popular music, namely the advent of the "British Invasion" which continues to this day.

- A Reef (5)
- B Former British Colony (7)
- C Shelter (11)
Night Before Exam (4)
Moon Hole (6)
Football Player or Ghost (6)
Clockwise in S. Hemisphere,
Counterclockwise in N.
Hemisphere (7)
- D A cloud of ---- (4)
Weight Unit (4)
- E Cain's Son (5)
Gung Ho (8)
- G State Flower of California (11)
Leg Muscles (5)
- I Inapt (5)
Degenerative Change (10)
- J Will Philip --- Cecile? (4)

- K New Zealand Bird (4)
Totality of Actions (5)
- L Lack of Eyelid Control (12)
What Exams can Make You
(7)
They Sleep all Night, Work all
Day (11)
Pass (5)
- M Hear Wrong (7)
- N Bad (7)
- O American Marsupial (7)
King of Fairies (6)
He Wanted More (11)
- P Two Homonyms (9 each)
Feel (9)
Gorilla largest (7)
Swing this Round and Round
(7)
Golf Score (3)
- R Dean Martin, Beef, Rump,
Cook (5)
Did Juliette Proud (5)

- S Simon (6)
Brownshoe's Mark (6)
Quelque Chose (9)
Flash it (5)
- T Phoenician City (4)
Taunters (10)
Little Witch (7)
- Y Missile Type (6)
- Quizword Clue:
Protest Ploy (16)
Last Week's Answer:

DALORAMA

Chris Hartt

E G A V A S R O T N E M R O T
H T I W I K G N I H T E M O S
C R A M S C Y C L O N E M T I
O U P M D A P C I T A N U L W
N L T L I J P R R E N Y I E T
E N M T S R O A I O N D N T R
G R O I N E P T S N C E I A E
D T O I T B N E M A C L M T V
E A D R T M E R T U A I O I I
S B E R M U D A L G S M P P L
U A E R E L L L I H P S N L O
H T K O S E O O E T E K O A E
T H N A P T G A V Y R E C P M
N A A S A M R A K N O R E B O
E R Y T L A P I C N I R P A R