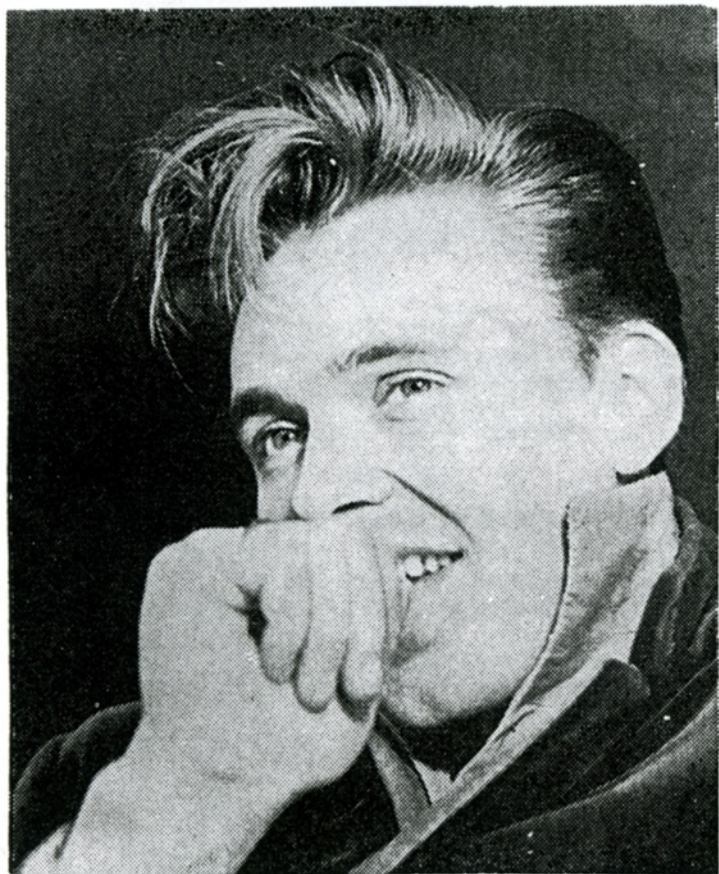


Billy Fury

Number 2



THE SOUND OF FURY
Official Billy Fury Fan Club

I'D NEVER FIND ANOTHER YOU

By CAROLE KING & GERRY GOFFIN



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Recorded on DECCA by BILLY FURY

2'6



THE SOUND OF FURY



Official Billy Fury Fan Club

c/o 36 Manbey Grove, Stratford, London, E15 1EX

Here's the moment you've all been waiting for - the second Fan Club Magazine. Thank you for the many kind comments about the first one. We hope you enjoy this one as much.

It's good to see the musical "The Sound of Fury" back on the road. Many thanks to the Liverpool Empire for offering a discount on tickets to fan club members. Unfortunately many of us had already booked before the offer was made but hopefully some of you may have been able to take advantage of it.

We were happy to see Eden Kane at the Mill Hill re-union in April. He's a lovely fella and he's wearing well girls!

CARING FOR BILLY'S GRAVE

Do you live within reasonable travelling distance of Mill Hill? Would you like to participate in a rota for tidying up Billy's grave on a regular basis? If so, send me your name, address and phone number and the following information.

1. Are there any periods when you would not be available, e.g. when you're on holiday in Costa Packet, due to have your tonsils out, or giving birth?
2. Would you prefer to visit the grave on your own or do you want to be paired with another member of the rota?

Please let me have the details by the end of October. I'll then work out the rota, hopefully to ensure that someone visits the grave approximately every two months. I'll contact you all telling you the periods you've been allocated and you can do it anytime during those periods which is convenient for you. If you've asked to be "paired", I'll send you the name, address and phone number of your partner so you can make arrangements which are convenient to both of you.

Send the details to:
Mrs M Bowden
Gorffwysfa
Llanddaniel
Anglesey
LL60 6DT

Many thanks for your co-operation.

Maureen Bowden, Jackie Clark, Chris Eley
Mick Hill, Clare Mehmet-Nugent, Jean Prosser



BILLY FURY MEMORIAL FUND
(for research into Heart Disease)
Registered Charity No 286604

by
Lynne Appleby

I have been asked to tell you all about the above charity and the work I do for it, which has virtually taken over my life!

I was first introduced to Billy's music (by a girl who lived with us for many years) at quite a tender age. My first real link with Billy was when a local singer (and boyfriend of mine) was taken under the wings of Larry Parnes and travelled down to London to spend the weekend with Billy Fury. Another close friend of Billy's at the time was Shane Fenton, who also helped my boyfriend considerably and who I subsequently got to know extremely well and who was later to support my work for the Memorial Fund with interest. My own career took a showbusiness path, when I qualified and established my own stage school.

I knew Billy only had a matter of weeks to live when 1983 began and actually had one of his records on the turntable when the devastating news of his death reached me. My first reaction was how on earth could I ease the pain for Lisa. Of course, nobody could, but she quickly decided to set up the charity and I knew this was my opportunity to help. We'd lost Billy, but he could live on in the hundreds of heart sufferers we could save by providing advanced medical equipment, to leading hospitals, in his memory.

I designed a simple red felt heartpin, which all the artistes wore at Billy's Memorial Concert in Hayes. I have now made over 32,000 of these and have created over a hundred other different badges and approximately fifty various mascots too. These have raised well over £23,500 and the money has provided machinery for nine major hospitals.

I fund the purchase of all the materials myself so every penny raised goes to the charity. It's hard work (on average six hours sewing daily on a very ancient but much loved sewing machine) and I need the support of YOU - the fans. Anyone wishing to make a donation or purchase souvenirs can contact me: Lynne Appleby at 56 West Dyke Road, Redcar, TS10 1HQ.

I also need vast quantities of small gold safety pins, pencils, brightly coloured fur fabrics and red, white or yellow felt. If you know where I can get hold of any of these or if you could donate all or any of the above, please let me know.

FAN CLUB BADGE COMPETITION

HOW ARTISTIC ARE YOU?

Very?

Fair to middling? Or

Decidedly "iffy" but hopeful?

READ ON!

Rules of Competition

Entrance Fee £1. (Cheques, etc. Payable to the Billy Fury Bronze Fund and sent to Jean Prosser, 16 Norton Crescent, Baldock, Herts, SG7 5BE together with your design).

Submit a design you would like to see manufactured as a fan club badge.

The designs will be printed in the next magazine and all members will be able to vote for the one they like the best. If we receive too many entries to print them all we'll select the best dozen for you to choose from.

The winner will receive 25% of the competition proceeds. The rest will be donated to THE BILLY FURY BRONZE FUND.

Please bear in mind that we'll have to sell the badges to members at a price which will cover the cost of manufacture, so make your design simple to help us keep the cost down.

Good Luck!

Love & Fury

Maureen



Cross My Heart

by
Maureen Bowden

A few years ago The Billy Fury Stone Fund arranged the presentation of a lectern to Liverpool Anglican Cathedral in Billy's memory. It cost £2,000 and was funded by contributions from fans from all over the country plus a generous donation from Decca Records.

A service of dedication was held at the cathedral and the day before the service, Billy's mum Jean and myself were interviewed on Radio Merseyside by Linda McDermott. I left my mum with a cassette tape set up to record the interview and an "idiot's guide" to which buttons to press. She still managed to mess it up. My mother is to electrical appliances what Captain Kirk is to Klingons. Luckily my husband Dave recorded it as well.

The great day dawned. The weather persons forecast rain and they weren't kidding. It was chucking it down in bucketfuls. We thought "Who the hell is going to venture out to spend an afternoon in a draughty cathedral on a day like this?" But those dear, dear people came in droves.

Frank Bull and I, as representatives of the Stone Fund, stayed in the entrance to welcome the folks and invite them to stay behind after the service for a cup of tea and a buttie. Many of Billy's old friends were there including Terry Dene, Duffy Power, Danny Rivers, Hal Carter and Brian Johnson who was with him at the Birkenhead Essoldo the night he was "discovered". There were several familiar faces from the Mersey Beat era, local DJs from the Liverpool radio stations and Joe Boyle, writer of the musical "The Sound of Fury". The Lesson was read by radio personality Billy Butler and Hal Carter and some of Billy's songs were played by the organist before the service began. It was very moving. Clare Mehmet-Nugent videod the "get together" afterwards. All I saw of myself on video was the back of my head. Are you trying to tell me something Clare?

Three of the London girls, Rita Smalley, Debbie Miller and Jackie Clark and Monica O'Bierne from Dublin were staying overnight with Jean and she invited us all to spend the evening with Albert and Marie. We all piled into Rita's beloved Manta and made our way to Albert's. Rita was driving and Jean was in the front navigating. Debbie, Jackie and Monica were on the back seat and I was on Monica's lap. She'd be the first to admit that she's a generously endowed lady and I had a rather cramped but well cushioned ride. We stopped at an off-licence for some goodies and staggered out of the car. I thought my head would be

permanently hanging on one side. Anyone who's spent any length of time in the back of a Manta in the lap of a buxom Irish lass will know what I mean.

We invaded the "offy" and selected a couple of bottles of "Mother's Ruin" and assorted crisps, nuts etc., then attempted to split the cost between us. We had money all over the counter. Someone wrongly assumed that because I work for the Inland Revenue I can add up. Wrong! It was like a scene from a Stan and Ollie film. "Is that the £5 I gave to you to give to her or is it the £5 she gave to me in the change for the £10 I gave to you?" Meanwhile Monica was insisting in her rich Dublin accent "Oi'll get de nuts, Oi'll get de nuts." The shop assistants were as confused as we were and I'm convinced we came out with more money than we took in but they were glad to see the back of us.

We spent a very pleasant evening with Albert and Marie and next day the visitors went sight-seeing. They strolled past a statue of some group or other named after insects but spelled wrong (sorry Sir Macca, only joking), and they even went for a sail on the ferry in spite of the foul weather.

Finally the London girls made their way home but due to a slight navigational miscalculation on the M6 they were halfway to the Lake District before they realised they were heading in the wrong direction!

Whenever I go home to Liverpool I avoid that "offy". I can't help feeling that if I went in there someone would say "She was in here that time with Billy Fury's mother, the cast of Eastenders and Bridie Gallagher and they didn't pay for the nuts!"

Love & Fury
Maureen



HANDS ACROSS THE SEA

YOO HOO! Her Furyness here talking to you from Down Under - New Zealand!

First of all I must say how much I enjoyed the first magazine from The Sound of Fury Fan Club and how much it makes me feel a part of what's going on back 'home'. I hate to miss a thing where Billy is concerned.

I first met Billy in 1959 - pay day of my first week in the work force to be exact. I had gone to the show at the Hippodrome in Manchester every night after seeing 'Our Billy' in 'Strictly For Sparrows' and fell in love with him. Each night I threw a rose onto the stage, except this particular night - when my wages (which was all of five pounds) went flying through the air by mistake. I had to make my way to the stage door and get it back - or not go home!

Billy was expecting me with a shy grin on his face. He invited me into his dressing room and there was Monday/Tuesday/Wednesday and Thursday's roses in a jam jar by his mirror. He was appearing in Liverpool the following week and gave me his Mam and Dad's address. This was the start of a beautiful friendship.

I ran the Manchester Branch of Billy's Fan Club for years and as I look back on the years between 1959 - 1973 when I married Ron and left England to come to New Zealand I recall a host of the most wonderful memories. Billy - I thank you.

After settling down to being a new wife in a new country and eventually becoming a new Mam with the birth of my precious daughter Rachel - I finally reformed Billy's Fan Club. We started off with 9 members and we are now in the hundreds. Our main aims are to keep Billy's memory alive, to raise funds for whatever cause we feel deserving in his name and to have fun. We achieve all these things to the max. There is not a day goes by where I don't think about him, play his music or mention his name.

Over the last 3 years alone Billy Fury Fan Club members and friends have donated over \$16,000 in Billy's name to charities divided between The Heart Foundation, Brain Care, The Cot Death Society, South Auckland Hospice, Alzheimer's Society and The Starship Children's Hospital.

We have two events each year, one to raise funds for whatever cause we feel deserving and the other is a Rock'n'Roll dance for Billy's Birthday. The charity nites are based on a theme, such nites as a Mid-Winter Christmas, Pommy Pub Nite, Trivial Pursuit, etc. My brain never stops with ideas.

All our charity nites include a Crazy Cabaret. Billy Nites are so popular that tickets sell within a week of going on sale by word of mouth. They are a lot of hard work but also a lot of fun and very satisfying to all involved. I am so lucky having friends who pull together and also makes fools of themselves for a worthy cause.

The money raised from the Birthday dances is set aside for whatever we decide or need for the club to put these nites together, such as sound equipment and hireage, etc. One birthday raised enough money to bring Jean (Billy's mam) out to N.Z. for one of our Billy Do's. The last birthday has seen £500 go into an account towards the Bronze Statue. Good Luck with that project.

Also, \$62 was presented to the Hospice a dollar at a time from people who said "Billy Who?" and were fined \$1. There are 62 people who now know who Billy Fury is and are not likely to forget. Billy WAS not so well known in N.Z.

Recently we were asked by a Ladies Club (who also do good work for charity) to entertain them at one of their meetings, we were happy to oblige. We staged a Rock'n'Roll Opera (Little Red Rocking Hood) and our version of Cher singing 'Turn Back Time' with our own Cher and 8 ladies dressed in outfits from the 1920's to the 90's. We were paid \$50 with which we bought a brick for the new Auckland Zoo walkway. THE BILLY FURY FAN CLUB will be etched onto the brick. On completion we will have a day at the Zoo to find our brick. We will have a head count as we enter and again as we exit to make sure none of us have been kept in!

My head is now spinning with ideas for the next Billy 'Do' which will not be until next April - I really must first concentrate on getting our new home and land in order - no prizes for guessing the name of our new abode but I'll give you a clue - it's the title of a Billy song and it begins "I FOUND A PLACE FULL OF CHARM"

I have enjoyed chatting with you and look forward to future magazines and keeping in touch. Until then ROCK ON LIKE FURY.



LOTZALUV AND A 'BILLY' ON XXX's

Moya
President T.B.F.F.C. N.Z.

"GONNA TYPE A LETTER"

Below is a selection of extracts from your letters which we thought would interest other members. Anytime you write to us please let us know if you object to our printing an extract from your letter and of course we'll respect your wishes. Otherwise we'll assume you don't mind.

*** "Congratulations to everyone on the first copy of the club magazine. Excellent quality, format and articles. I think this sets the standard by which all other magazines should be judged (and will fail). Personally I enjoyed the bits and pieces section and would have no objection to non-Billy items, record/CD reviews appearing as I'm sure at times 'new' Billy articles will be hard to find." - Dave Woodhouse Rotherham. ***

*** "Hi Jean, This morning I received my 'Sound of Fury N°1, please pass on my thanks to "Mo", it's an excellent read (tell Jackie that she is like a thorn between two Roses!!! (See page 5 of said magazine)!!

A small cheque enclosed towards the Bronze Statue, it's a great idea, and any help I can be, just let me know.

My 'luv' to the Syndicate (only the females). Cheers" - Frankie Connor Radio Merseyside. ***

(Frankie's my N°1 favourite DJ now but I still think Jackie's better looking! - Jean Prosser)

*** "It was a wonderful idea to name a star after our Billy - "A Thousand Stars" will never be the same again!

I think the magazine is WONDERFUL. It makes me feel so much closer to everyone who's lives are as much wrapped up in Billy as mine is. There's not a day goes by where I don't think of him, play his records, mention his name. I live and breathe Billy and do all I can to keep his memory alive for as long as I live and beyond. I know I'll see him again coz we once made a pact that whoever WENT first saved a seat for the other.

An idea for the fan club mag is to get everyone to photocopy all the personal and commercial photos they have of Billy, send them to the club and you can print so many each mag with their comments of where/when etc." - Moya Gleave New Zealand. ***

(Nice one Moya. It might give us a few copyright problems though - Maureen)

*** "I have recently been pressurising EMI about releasing a CD featuring Billy's Parlophone Singles (22 tracks) and reminding them that Billy is the 67th most collectible artist in the UK (per Record Collector May 1997). They have responded that they are unsure of the contractual position but have passed the suggestion to the marketing area responsible for re-issues. We can but hope. Although I have all the Parlophone releases in my own collection it saddens me when I see the huge amounts of money these rare singles fetch and a re-issue CD would no doubt help those Billy collectors in a less fortunate position than myself.

Incidentally, I have just bought the CD "That'll Be The Day". It's good to have a non-scratched version of Billy's soundtrack songs in my collection. Well done Ronco. One puzzlement about the track listings is that Billy's "(Baby) Get Yourself Together" is accredited to the song writers Marriot / Lane (*Small Faces*). Surely this is one of Billy's own compositions, as shown on the original LP and also the Sticks'n'Stones LP. I just hope the royalties are correctly allocated." - Tony Philbin Stockport. ***

(Anyone out there know anything about this? Please let us know - Maureen)



Stars of the top TV show "Oh Boy" pose for this happy photo taken on the 30th May 1959. Back row - Two members of the Dallas Boys, Bill Forbes, Peter Elliot, Marty Wilde, Don Storer, Cliff Richard, Mike Preston, Billy Fury and Cuddly Dudley. Front row - Three members of the Dallas Boys, Cherry Wainer, Lorie Mann, Dickie Pride, Don Lang, Neville Taylor plus a member of Neville Taylor's backing group The Cutters.

BILLY FURY - RARE AND UNRELEASED

by
Chris Eley

Welcome to the first instalment of a number of articles intended to cover a wide aspect of 'rare' Billy Fury; from recordings to clothing. First of all, many thanks to those of you who have kindly supplied photocopies and brief descriptions of your own 'rarities'. Please continue to send them in; also photographs of any stage clothing or other interesting items, including previously unpublished photographs. Please also give your written permission for the reproduction of any information sent, especially photographs which you wish to share with the 'Fury Faithful'.

THE DECCA SESSIONS

Billy Fury's untimely death in 1983 cut short what many people believed would have been a major comeback. Certainly, his stage performances were still riveting, rivalled only by the young Gene Vincent or the best of Elvis, and his appearance on the 'Russell Harty Show' in 1982, for example, saw him looking better than ever. Billy's stage act was always his biggest draw, but his recordings shouldn't be overlooked, as from his earliest sides for Decca through to his final releases on Polydor, they were consistently excellent. No other artist of that period recorded so many consistently good B sides, EP and album tracks.

Billy Fury during the making of "Play It Cool" (copyright Chris Eley)



In this feature, I want to look in detail at the songs that Billy recorded for Decca, and the tracks that remain unreleased from the peak of his recording career.

Early in 1958 Billy (still Ron Wycherley at this time) had entered the Percy Philips recording studio in Liverpool and cut six tracks totalling a little over seven minutes. The strong Elvis influence which would prevail during his live appearances up until about 1963 was evident in "I'm Left, Your Right, She's Gone", "Have I Told you Lately that I Love You", "Playing for Keeps" and "Paralysed" supplemented by "Come Go With Me" (Del Vikings and Dion) and "Loves a Callin'" (Yodelling Song) which was a self penned composition based on Slim Whitman's "Indian Love Call". To date these tracks have only been publicly aired, courtesy of Billy's family by Spencer Leigh on local radio in Liverpool. Billy is documented in the Decca archive as having made his first official recording in November 1958. The song in question, of course, was his own composition, "Maybe Tomorrow" (Decca matrix no DR 25282). This was released in the USA on the London label. The track also featured on Billy's first EP. All copies of the EP are hard to find, especially the later issues which apparently possessed mauve, green and blue covers. The first two issues in 1959 and 1960 were orange and yellow respectively. The orange had a triangular centre. The following month, Billy returned to cut a Fury/Robinson number "Gonna Type a Letter" (DR 25283), which became the B side to "Maybe Tomorrow".

USA issue of "Maybe Tomorrow" Ten inch 78 rpm white label test pressing

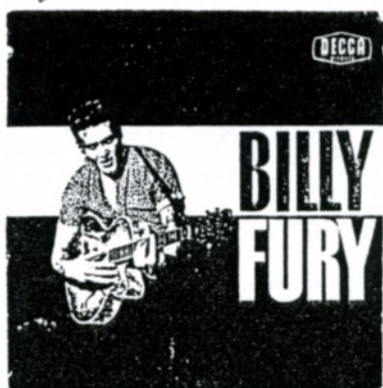


Between April and December 1959, Billy taped six more tracks starting with the self-penned "Margo" and ending with the much sought-after single, "My Christmas Prayer". This great under-rated but immensely popular track, equivalent to "Maybe Tomorrow" in terms of being plaintive and evocative, failed to chart; presumably because of lack of general interest by the public. The fans loved it and a petition started in 1964 by Fan Club leader Roz Fleetwood had raised 65,000 signatures by May 1964 for the re-release of this deleted single. Eventually, in November 1983, the track appeared on vinyl once more on EP DFE 8686 "My Christmas Prayer". Mint copies, indeed, any copies of the original 45, are hard to find and now change hands at astonishing prices. Triangular centres and demonstration records (Billy's first four Decca demos were all single sided, e.g. A and B sides on different discs) are especially hard to find. It saw an EP release in France in the early 60's.

*Near mint one sided demo -
"My Christmas Prayer"*



French EP featuring "My Christmas Prayer"



All of the first seven 45 releases had single sided demos circulated and the first five releases had both triangle and round centres. The first four singles were released on 78 rpm and "Colette" is also rumoured to have been on 78 rpm.

This first year as a recording artist was surprisingly unprolific, but this was because of the success of Billy's stage performances, which kept him touring extensively.

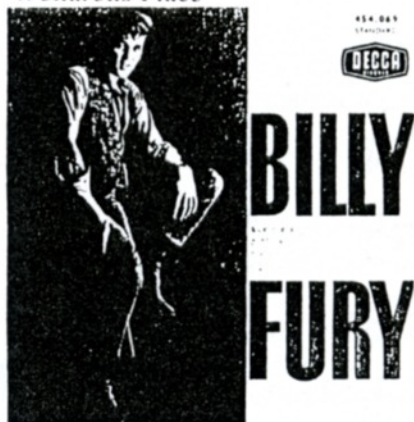
According to the files, the first six Decca tracks, "Maybe Tomorrow", "Gonna Type a Letter", "Margo", "Don't Knock Upon My Door", "Time Has Come" and "Angel Face", were also cut in stereo, but not released in the UK at the time. They still have to be located, which is a pity because their inclusion on the "Sound of Fury + 10" CD (London 820 627-2) and Deram 820 627-2 (second issue) would have been the icing on the Billy Fury rock 'n' roll cake.

In the early months of 1960, Billy cut no less than fifteen songs in the studio. He began the sessions with "Colette" (DR 26693) and "Baby How I Cried" (DR 26694), and then went on to record the ten tracks for the classic "Sound of Fury" album, starting with DR 26695, "Turn My Back On You", arguably the finest slice of British rock and roll. The song was apparently recorded twice during these sessions, although there is no evidence in the archive to show whether the first version was a reject or simply an incomplete take. Stereo versions of all but "Turn My Back on You" were located in the USA in time for the 1988 CD release, but the more familiar mono versions of the other songs on the album still require a CD release (Polygram please note!) It's sad that the finest track on the famous "10 inch" LP couldn't be located in stereo, because the other stereo cuts give a whole new, fresh dimension to some of the best British rock 'n' roll tracks ever. Seven tracks from the album were released on two French EPs

*French EP featuring
"Turn My Back On You"*



*French EP featuring
"Wondrous Place"*



The album itself is extremely collectable, with release dates listed on the back of the sleeve at the bottom right e.g. McN4.60 (1960 issue). It was re-issued in 1980 with a darker cover (without pianist's shadow) and new number LFT 1329. Double sided test pressings (which were not issued with sleeves) now change hands at around £300 and around £120 for the original album (near mint or mint condition). Prior to cutting the album Billy was recorded rehearsing not only the released tracks but others such as "Cheat With Love" which he was not to actually cut until 1963. The rehearsal tape was returned in error by Decca to a band in Ireland instead of their own demo tape. It appears that no-one really took much notice until the mid 1980's. The tape apparently now resides in a private collection. The sound quality is apparently quite good and Polygram were made aware of its existence in the hope that they would purchase and release the tracks.

They believe that copyright resides with them because of the circumstances of the recording. As part of a "Sound of Fury" double CD or miniature boxed set its release would overshadow just about every other archive release of the past 30 years. It is hoped that an accommodation can be reached between the present 'owner' and Polygram, anything less would be quite criminal given the scarcity of unreleased Billy Fury 'gems'.

Test pressing of the "Sound of Fury" album



New Zealand release "Halfway to Paradise"



Also cut around the same time was the epic "Wondrous Place", as well as the first of the known 'unreleased' tracks, the self-penned "I Got Someone" (DR 27244). This was finally released on the double LP "They Called It Rock'n'Roll" in March 1980, and has also since been included on the "Sound of Fury" CD mentioned above.

RAW

No other unreleased songs are documented from these session, but some sources claim that raw recordings dating from this period do exist in private collections. Maybe one day they could be offered to Polygram for release.

Once again, because of Billy's growing TV and live commitments, there was a long gap in his recording career, and he does not seem to have entered the studios again until December 1960, when he cut four tracks subsequently issued on the "Halfway to Paradise" album. That track, classed by one music paper during the 1980's as being the best British record of all time, and definitely Billy's best-known performance, was recorded on April 9th 1961, along with six other numbers. Its success changed the direction of Billy's career.

It was at this month that the first 'true' unissued Fury track was cut. "It Was You", two minutes and twenty seconds long, and written by Westlake/Becaude, is not documented anywhere in the Polygram archives so, presumably, it's lost unless an individual holds an acetate.

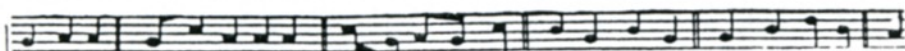
In July 1961, around the same time as he cut "Don't Jump" and "Jealousy", Billy apparently recorded a song called "In Real Life" (DR 28275). No other information is available, however, and no such track is listed in the archives. The next batch of sessions, in November 1961 - which produced the single "I'd Never Find Another You" - also saw the recording of the first version of "Begin the Beguine" (DR 28672). The song was recut the following year, and one version - it is not certain which - has now been released on the "Once Upon a Dream" CD. An enjoyable performance, given the comparative inexperience of the singer, but thankfully Billy was not to fall into the trap of becoming a 'standards' singer, despite some apparent aspirations in that direction.

During 1962 we see the first evidence of Billy cutting remakes of earlier material, which was presumably not considered good enough for release. "Don't Walk Away" and "Begin the Beguine" were both re-recorded (DR 28920/21) as well as "Last Night Was Made For Love" (DR 29099) and "Once Upon A Dream" (DR 29300).

At the beginning of that year, Billy laid down all the tracks for his first movie, "Play It Cool" - starting with the title track, and ending with the original version of "Once Upon A Dream" (DR 29300). The title track was released in Germany on 45 rpm. The EP was released in South Africa with a different cover

*German red label single release
of "Play It Cool"*

*South African issue of the
"Play It Cool" EP*



As so often happened with Fifties and Sixties movies, the final studio recordings were different to the film versions, with the film company having the rights to the latter rather than Decca. This is a great pity - Billy adding a snarling vocal to the middle of Shane Fenton's "It's Gonna Take Magic", and the bluesy start to the closing version of the title track - are unavailable on record.

On January 8th 1963, Billy cut four tracks with the Tornados: "Lovesick Blues" (DR 30378m "Keep Away" (DR 30379), "What Did I Do?" (DR 30380) and "Cheat with Love" (DR 30381). The first and last tracks failed to surface until their release on the "Once Upon a Dream" CD in 1990.

Twelve further tracks were taped on 11th January 1963 - eight for inclusion on the excellent "Billy" LP, which was released on the London label in the USA, but copies rarely surface. The first CD issue (in 1989) is now deleted (and therefore collectable) but the BGO double CD is an excellent buy ("We Want Billy/Billy" BGO CD 258 issued in 1995).

Three tracks accompanied by the Tornados were also recorded at this session. These tracks were the familiar "I Can't Help Loving You", "Candy Kisses" (DR 30383) and the truly beautiful ballad "I'm Hurting All Over" (DR 30384). "Candy Kisses" was eventually released in February 1977 on "The Billy Fury Story" (Decca DPA 3033/34). This deleted album is now collectable in its own right especially the white label test pressings and the Belgian double album release with Tommy Steele (Decca DA 207/208). It's hard to believe that it's twenty years since the excitement of that release. "I Can't Help Loving You" is not an especial favourite of many fans, being perhaps overlong and a little slow. It saw its digital release on the "Once Upon a Dream" CD. The original Billy Fury and The Tornados EP which featured the track is, as with all of Billy's EPs, much sought after. "I'm Hurtin' All Over", on the above CD is a real gem. It features Billy at his plaintive best, and for part of the song he hums along in Elvis style. It was originally planned for issue on "They Called It Rock'n'Roll, but was replaced by "I Got Someone"

12 inch acetate (including "I'm Hurting All Over"



Israeli issue of "We Want Billy" LP on the PAX label



April 30th 1963 saw the recording of the live LP "We Want Billy". This was mixed in both mono and stereo, and the stereo original is very much a collector's item, despite the later Decca reissue. This LP saw a release on the London label in the USA, in the Philippines and on the PAX label in Israel. The New Zealand Decca release featured blue instead of the usual dark background on the classic front cover. Presumably other foreign issues also exist. At the same session, the Tornados also recorded a version of "Telstar", their chart-topping instrumental hit from the previous year. An article in Record Collector several years ago mentioned the discovery of the rehearsal tapes for the live LP, but to date no other information has been forthcoming. Certainly the prospect of alternative takes, and perhaps more live tracks, is an exciting one. The album saw a general stereo release with its reissue in 1983. Collectable today is the test pressing, a white label with the figure 1 on one side and 2 on the other. Tracks are the same as on the general release.

On 6th June 1963, Billy recorded the hit "In Summer", a remake of "Somebody Else's Girl" (DR 31071) and the unissued "I Will Always Be With You" (DR 31072, 2:45 long). Decca do not appear to have this track. "In Summer" enjoyed an Italian release on a white Decca label 'Juke Box Special'. Three as yet unreleased tracks were cut at a session on July 12th 1963 - all marked 'R' in the files, presumably to show they had been rejected for release. "Please Love Me" (DR 31491), written by long-time road manager and friend Hal Carter, is a typical Fury flip side or EP song in the "Don't Walk Away" mode, quite well handled and suitable for release. It exists as an acetate in a private collection, and it is believed that Polygram now hold a copy of the tape - though this apparently wasn't the case prior to 1983, when the company were offered the loan of the acetate. The known acetate track (bearing in mind there could be up to five others) is a sparse demo cut. According to Hal Carter a full string backing was added and when played to Hal sounded sensational. Larry Parnes didn't want it to be released and it seems Dick Rowe wiped the tape. File under probable Top 10 hit if released at the time. Regrettable loss for Billy, Hal and the music buying public of 1963.

*The Emidisc acetate for the
unissued Hal Carter song
"Please Love Me"*

Italian "In Summer" issue



VAULTS

The two other songs cut at that session were "Take Me" (DR 31493, written by 'Sweet') and "Straight To Your Arms" (credited to M&J Negar/Hawkshaw). Sadly, these can be added to the long list of tracks which Polygram have not yet traced in the vaults. A remake of "Somebody Else's Girl" also dates from this session.

Two further unissued tracks were both cut on 19th July 1963. The bluesy "I'll Be So Glad" (DR 31513) and the faster, typically Fury styled, "From The Bottom Of My Heart" (DR 31514). Billy handled these Chuck Willis R & B classics in fine style, a pity they weren't in stereo as are the original cuts by the 'Turban wearing one'; yet another apparent Fury influence.

September 3rd 1963 saw a further remake of "Somebody Else's Girl", a song that obviously posed problems for Billy. Exactly a fortnight later, he recorded remakes of "Please Love Me", "Take Me" and "Straight To Your Arms" (DR 31875). To complete the rare recordings from 1963, on 13th November Billy taped the unissued "Nobody Else Will Do" (Dr 32214, just 93 seconds long). Polygram don't appear to have this brief track in their archives, but it's likely that it is in fact a misnomer for "What Am I Living For". On the same day, he cut the single "Do You Really Love Me Too (Fool's Errand)". This saw a Japanese release.

1964 proved to be the second most prolific year of Billy Fury's recording career producing thirty-five songs. On 14th January "Hippy Hippy Shake" and "Glad All Over" were cut for Scandinavian release. This most sought after 45 could be purchased on the standard dark blue Decca label and in the standard Decca sleeve, by UK fans who knew of its release, but was not a widely known or advertised release for 'home consumption'. In truth, it was a weak effort, competent rather than striking, but is quite popular with fans. It could and should have been much more powerful. Two different picture sleeves (P/S) are known to exist and a third is rumoured.

One sleeve featured musical instruments (what a waste of space) and had a light blue label, the other was the standard Decca label placed in a picture cover. Both known P/S releases were for the Scandinavian market. The coupling was released in other parts of the globe, notably USA and Canada (blue London labels) and in New Zealand. In addition, it saw a French EP release.



Japanese 45 release
"Do You Really Love Me Too?"



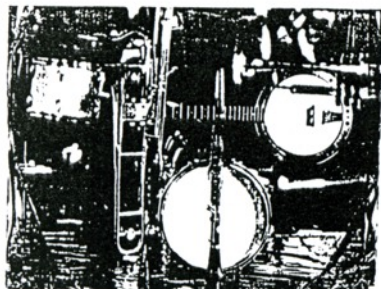
French EP featuring the
Continental single



Scandinavian (musical
instrument) picture cover -
"Hippy Hippy Shake"

BILLY FURY & THE GAMBLERS
GLAD ALL OVER
HIPPI HIPPY SHAKE

DECCA



New Zealand issue of
"Hippy Hippy Shake"



Full frequency
recording

MADE IN NEW ZEALAND AND
THE DECCA RECORD CO. (LONDON)
BY THE MASTER'S VOICE PICTURE
HEAD OFFICE, WELLINGTON
BRANCHES: AUCKLAND AND CHRISTCHURCH

DECCA

Scandinavian (Billy) picture cover
- "Hippy Hippy Shake"

HiPPY HiPPY SHAKE

DECCA

Billy Fury
&
The Gamblers



GLAD ALL OVER

Canadian release of
"Hippy Hippy Shake"



Another unissued track dates from this same session - "Break Up" (DR 32640) which may be the Del Shannon song, the Jerry Lee Lewis hit written by Charlie Rich or something quite different. Seeing as Billy used to feature the Jerry Lee version in live shows it was most probably that version that he cut. If only that could be found!

On the same date, "Love Don't Let Me Down" (DR 32641) was cut, but rejected for release. It was remade on 9th March 1964 (DR 32923), along with the finished version of the rocker "Nothin' Shakin'" (DR 32927), which at 2:15 was ten seconds longer than the rejected first attempt. Another unreleased track, "More" (DR 32971), was cut on the 18th of that month. Once again, Polygram don't seem to have the tape on file, so we can only assume that Billy cut the standard song of this name (originally a hit for both Perry Como and Jimmy Young in 1956).

Unissued tracks seemed to pile up during 1964, as two more emerged from that 18th March session. The first was "Suspicion" (DR 32972) 2'30" long. This was presumably the great song also recorded by Elvis and Terry Stafford. To beat either version would have been some achievement, even for Billy, but his unique voice would have been wonderful to hear on this number. Bobby Vee also cut a reasonable version of this song.

The second mystery song from this session was called "A Thousand Clowns" (DR 32943, 2:03 long). All sorts of ideas are conjured up by the title, which perhaps could have been an Orbison-style ballad. But once again, we will probably never know, as Polygram don't appear to hold the tapes for either song - which seems strange when you realise that the hit single "I Will" was cut at the same session. Why there were no stereo releases during 1964 other than the "I've Gotta Horse" soundtrack is a mystery, and acutely disappointing.

Billy's biggest chart session of 1964 was a remake of Conway Twitty's hit "It's Only Make Believe". The version issued as a single (2'27" long) was cut on 21st June 1964; but a few weeks earlier, on 29th May 1964, Billy had made a first attempt at the song, which ran to 2:40. It apparently went to No 1 in Singapore.

During that same May session, Billy cut his classic version of Jimmy Reed's "Baby What You Want Me To Do", along with two more unissued numbers. "For Your Love" (DR 33383 2:35) would probably have been too early to be the Yardbirds hit, so it must be another, less familiar song. The other song left over - but not in the vaults apparently - was "Like a Child" (DR 33389).

****1964 TO 1966 TO FOLLOW IN NEXT ISSUE****



GAUMONT - WOLVERHAMPTON

Mon.
4th
NOV.

Manager: J. Alexander

ON THE STAGE

Telephone: 26010

TWO PERFORMANCES ONLY

(Instead of the usual film programme)

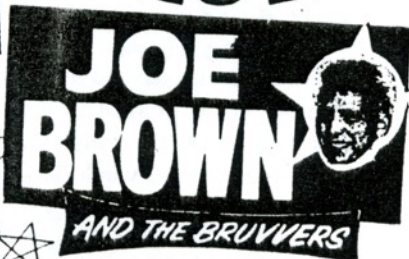
6.15
and
8.40

ONE NIGHT ONLY

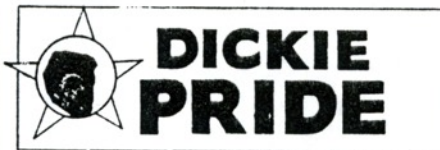
LARRY FARNES PRESENTS: **THE**



**BIG STAR
SHOW**



The **TORNADOS**



Monday, 4th November, 1963

THE FURY SHOW

WHEN Larry Parnes puts out a touring show, he puts out a big un. He slams in plenty of acts, plenty of variety, plenty of scream-garnering gimmicks. And he certainly hasn't fallen short of his standards with the latest package topped by Billy Fury

I saw it at the ABC, Croydon. Second house. Ear-drums still bemused by audience reaction, I was told first house had been even more rapturously received, even more ecstatically yelled at.

Bill Fury is undisputed top. A highly-polished act, much more economical in movement but tellingly effective down to the minutest gesture, cunningly conceived in terms of light and shade. He sings better each time I hear him. And the Tornados, despite personnel changes, work so efficiently with him—somehow they've found a deeper, earthier sound.

VARIED

Bill operated on varied offerings such as "From The Bottom Of My Heart", "I'll Show You", through to the latest single "Somebody Else's Girl". Dynamic, dramatic—that's the Fury of today.

Now let's whip through as per running order, so you'll know what to expect when this monster tour hits your part of the country. The Ramblers lead off—and they're a powerhouse outfit, spark-plugged by tenor sax. Driving non-stop in their own act, they did first-rate work as a backing outfit.

For Dickie Pride. The "Sheik of Shake", touches of humour all the way, walloped "What'd I Say", but switched successfully to a soulful "Unchained Melody".

For Daryl Quist. It may take time, but this young Canadian, received with a barrage of screams, will be big ere long. "Da Doo Ron Ron", "Goodbye To Love", broken by excellent stage movements—he suffered only by over-heavy backing sounds. That'll be put right . . .

**A Review of the
New Larry Parnes
Tour, headlined
by BILLY FURY**



BILLY FURY and DICKIE PRIDE.

Then Joe Brown and the Bruvvers. A predictable act, stacked with personality. An acoustic guitar session listened to with commanding silence. Ukelele bit on a George Formby "standard". And of course "Hava Nagila".

The Wildcats kick off the second half. A Grieg piano concerto tastefully rocked up. Then Marty Wilde. "Jezebel", "Will You Love Me Tomorrow", "Sea Of Love" included—and a rave fave "Twist and Shout". This guy's still one of the greatest.

Karl Denver and the Trio. Beautifully timed comedy on "Green Grass", then "Still", "Wimoweh". To the like-it-or-lump-it voice has been added first-rate presentation.

Then the Tornados. As I've said, a rounder, fuller sound. And a lot packed into a shortish act. Medley of earlier hits, a "Theme From A Summer Place", "Dragonfly". And the scene was set for the as-described Billy Fury . . .

A first-rate, talent-packed package. With breezy introductions from Larry Burns, though some of his gags had a bewiskered look about them.

'JEAN REMEMBERS

Personal Memories of Billy's Mum

Interviewed by Maureen Bowden

When Billy was sixteen he was working on the tugs. He used to ride down to the Pierhead on his bike every day and watch the ships coming into The Mersey. He hoped to go to sea one day and in the meantime the tugs were the next best thing.

The one he worked on was called 'The Formby'. He and his friends among the crew formed a skiffle group called 'The Formby Sniffle Gloop'.

One of them was a lad called Ray. He and Billy went on holiday together to the Isle of Man. Because of his delicate health Billy was warned to keep warm, keep dry and not go swimming.

One day when they were on the beach they found an injured seagull. Billy carried it in his jacket right along the prom to an RSPCA centre. His clothes were completely wet through and this caused a recurrence of Rheumatic Fever when he returned from holiday.

He was admitted to Smithdown Road Hospital for three months complete bed rest. He asked Jean to bring his guitar in. She wrapped it in a bolster case and Billy told her to hide it under the bed. Bearing in mind that hospital beds are at least a foot off the floor it was hardly inconspicuous.

After three months flat on his back he was allowed to sit up in bed and play it.

The recurrence of his illness ended Billy's career on the tugs and his dream of going to sea. Luckily he found another dream to replace it.





PENFRIENDS

CAROLINE WETTON 4 Chevin Side Chevin Rd Belper Derby DE56 2UN is divorced & a single parent with 1 teenage son. Loves animals, old cars, countryside, music, dancing. Is looking for a sensitive person with GSOH who might be interested in meeting up now & then to attend R & R gigs, "Fury" get togethers - perhaps someone living in her area. London would be OK it might give her an excuse to visit.

MARIANNE EDWORTHY 4 Larch Walk Crosspark Ave Shiphay Torquay Sth Devon TQ2 7HG is 18 and a carer for her mum. She's a big Billy fan and would love to write to lots of fans everywhere. She loves movies, cooking, collecting Billy records and more! She'd like male/female penpals who are Billy fans, and who also have a GSOH.

LYNNE CHARLTON 13 Factory Lane Ilkeston Derbys DE7 8HQ enjoys music and lyrics and is a poet. She also sings, plays piano and guitar. She would like penpal any age but especially someone who enjoys music and poetry.

SWAPS

GLEN BORRILL 34 York Terrace Warsop Nr Mansfield NG20 0BL would like to swap "The Best of Sun Rockabilly Vol.2" inc Sonny Burgess, Jack Earls, Carl Perkins, Eddie Bond LP

WANTED

MRS PHYLL GRIFFITHS 37 Beech Rd Bromsgrove Worc B61 8NF wants photos or news reel films of Billy's funeral.

GLEN BORRILL 34 York Terrace Warsop Nr Mansfield NG20 0BL wants photos of Billy & videos, e.g. I Gotta Horse.

MISS GILLIAN KIDDLE 109 Sheep St Devizes Wilts SN10 1DJ wants Billy T shirt (size M) Billy books, badges, key rings.

MARIANNE EDWORTHY 4 Larch Walk Crosspark Ave Shiphay Torquay Sth Devon TQ2 7HG wants Billy photos, LPs, CDs, in fact anything to do with Billy.

CHRIS CHAPMAN 12 Chaucer Rd Gt Yarmouth Norfolk NR30 4EZ wants I've Gotta Horse video, The Missing Years LP BUSLP1003 or CD, Once Upon a Dream CD 820791-z, Amateur/professional 8mm film containing Billy.

MAUREEN BOWDEN of "Gorffwysfa" Llanddaniel, Gaerwen, Anglesey, LL60 6DT (01248 422087) wants the sleeve off Billy's first EP (I've got the EP but the sleeve went to a party in nineteen nought dot and never came home)

MR MALLE WESTMAN Suomensuontie 15 C 29 00870 Helsinki Finland wants Videos Channel 4 documentary "Mr Parnes Shillings & Pence" Play It Cool I've Gotta Horse Unforgettable. News-paper/Mag Clips interviews, record/movie reviews, sports news featuring Anselmo (mention name of mag & date if pos) photocopies will do.

MOYA GLEAVE Wondrous Place 106 Harry Dreadon Rd RD4 Drury Auckland New Zealand wants "I'll Be Your Sweetheart".

ALBERT REMEMBERS

Personal memories of Billy's brother

Interviewed by Maureen Bowden

It was 1960 or 1961. Billy had a couple of days off from touring and he was staying with his family in Liverpool. The Daily Mirror asked him to go to London to be photographed with a 'look-alike' they'd discovered. Billy took Albert with him. They travelled down by train. Albert was seventeen or eighteen at the time and it was the first time he'd been to London. Billy took him on a brief sight-seeing tour pointing out the famous landmarks then they met the 'look-alike' at the Daily Mirror's offices.

Their next stop was a hairdressers in Marble Arch where the 'look-alike' had his hair done like Billy. They came across Craig Douglas having his hair done there and Albert was introduced to him. Craig had a big hit with 'Only Sixteen' at the time. Next they went shopping for identical outfits for Billy and the 'look-alike', then back to the Daily Mirror for the photographic session.

The 'look-alike' got a centre page spread, Billy didn't like the clothes so Albert got the cast-offs and Billy's comment was

'The cheeky looked nothing like me.'

Some months later Billy purchased 'Fullwood' in Ockley, a beautiful country house with it's own swimming pool. Albert visited him there on many occasions. Later in his life he also visited him at his farm at Llanwrda, near Brecon. We'll save that for another time. Prepare to have your brains picked, Albie.



THANK YOU FOR A LEGEND

by Beth Golding

Some time ago in Liverpool
On April 17th 1940
Albert and Jean Wycherley
Gave birth to a wonderful son.

He went on to make many more
Always climbing up the charts
And very soon he touched
Everybody's hearts.

Some childhood days were good
Some childhood days were bad
Some things made him happy
Some things made him sad.

But there were two sides to him
Not everyone heard
He changed a swimming pool he had
Into a pond for feathered birds.

He loved Mother Nature
He loved every living thing
This man grew up to be
A Legend and a King.

He helped the sick and injured
He kept them from all harm
And built a place for them to live
Upon his little farm.

He worked on tug boats as a child
Then one day he met Marty Wilde
Still only 18 years of age
Marty put him on the stage.

But there was only one thing wrong
And I guess we'll never know
Why God took him from us
And said he had to go.

He went on that stage with Marty
A dream he wanted to fulfil
He went on that stage as Ronald
But came off that stage as Bill.

I guess it is because
He needed a helping hand
To look after all God's creatures
In that lovely land.

Yes, Billy Fury
Was his name
Luck changed for him
And grew to fame.

We really wanted him down here
But he's in heaven above
So please give him lots of animals
Because that's what he would love.

He started to sing songs
Like you have never heard
And very soon his name
Became a household word.

So God now that you have him
And he's no longer on his farm
You must look after him you know
And keep him from all harm.

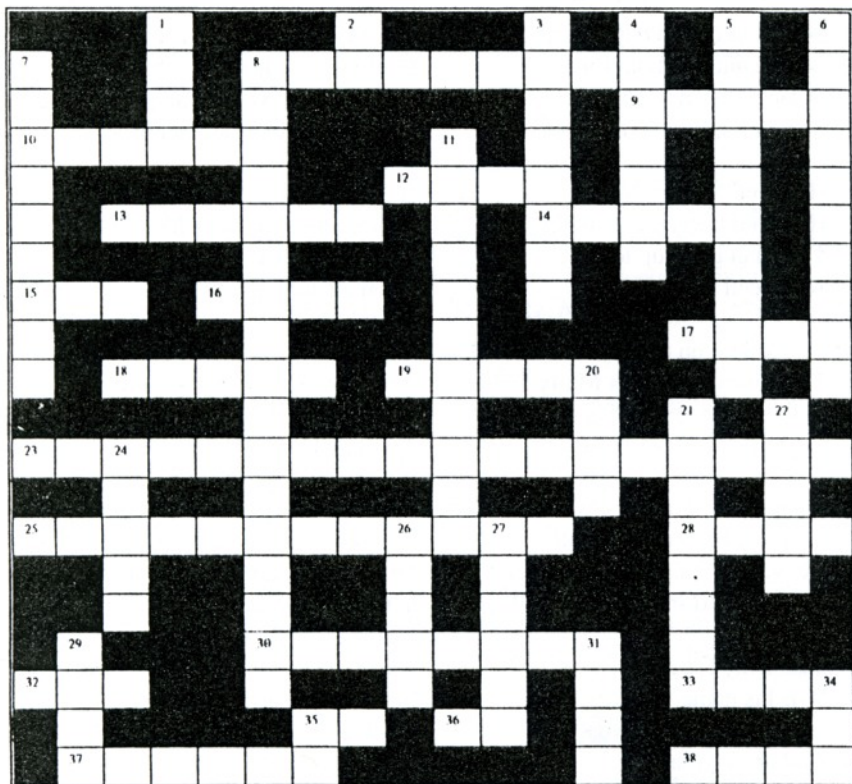
He sang songs of love
He sang songs of sorrow
Then one day he made a record
Called "Maybe Tomorrow".

I know you will look after him
In your mansion on the hill
So thank you God for lending us
That precious man call Bill.



CROSSWORD WITH A DIFFERENCE

The answers to all the clues are titles of
songs Billy's recorded
Good Luck!
Maureen



We hope to raise some money for the Billy Fury Bronze Fund with this crossword. Please send your completed Crossword to Jean Prosser, 16 Norton Crescent, Baldock, Herts, SG7 5BE together with your cheque or postal order (no cash please) for £1 made payable to THE BILLY FURY BRONZE FUND. The first correct crossword drawn out of the hat on 5th December 1997 will win 25% of the proceeds, the rest will go towards Billy's statue. Even if you don't know all the answers please send back your crossword, your money will be going to a very worthy cause.

SOLUTION WILL BE PRINTED IN ISSUE NO 3



CROSSWORD CLUES

ACROSS

- 8 One thing we'll never do (6,3)
- 9 Sounds like a marriage vow (1,4)
- 10 (And 19 across) Now, in a spotlight on a platform (2,4,5)
- 12 See 28 across
- 13 Australian lady? (6)
- 14 See 30 across
- 15 (And 31 down) Solitary token of affection (3,4)
- 16 See 26 down
- 17 (And 2 down and 24 down) Passion on pounds (3,2,5)
- 18 (And 20 down) Enchanting optical organs (5,4)
- 19 (See 20 across)
- 23 Planetary rising (6,2,2,3,5)
- 25 Stay (4,4,5)
- 28 (And 34 down and 12 across) The moment has arrived (4,3,4)
- 30 (And 14 across) Nauseous romantic depression (8,5)
- 32 See 6 down
- 33 (And 1 down) Exert pressure twice (4,4)
- 35 (And 27 down) Personal recommendation (2,6)
- 36 See 6 down
- 37 (And 38 across) See 29 down
- 38 See 29 down

Down

- 1 See 33 across
- 2 See 17 across
- 3 Small area of communication (5,3)
- 4 What's my colour (2,1,4)
- 5 In the event of your being mislaid (2,1,4,3)
- 6 (And 32 across and 36 across) Sympathetic tree (6,4,3,2)
- 7 Emotion that makes the world go round (5,4)
- 8 (And 22 down) Hypnotic illumination (11,6,5)
- 11 You're in ignorance (3,4,4)
- 20 See 18 across
- 21 Good advice if you're on a boat and you can't swim (4,4)
- 22 See 8 down
- 24 See 17 across
- 26 (And 16 across) Heavenly visage (5,4)
- 27 See 35 across
- 29 (And 37 and 38 across) Be truthful (4,4,2,4)
- 31 See 15 across
- 34 See 28 across



Many thanks to all those who bid for the autographed copy of the play "The Sound of Fury". The highest bid received was from Perry Smith. Thanks to Joe, Gary and Perry. The Bronze Fund is richer by £100.





This 'n' That



with Chris Eley

First of all many thanks to those members who have given us all in the Fan Club team your verbal and written support. Thanks too, for your comments, both for and against, regarding the Colin Gold Tribute Show to Billy. Feelings are mixed but I understand that the show is much improved and the brochure sells at a more reasonable price level. No-one can replace Billy, but providing his name is being kept alive in a competent and reasonable manner, and that the majority of fans (and the general public) are happy, then surely it's no bad thing.

On a different, but associated note, Albie Wycherley's new track "I've Gotta Heart" is an enjoyable, emotion packed performance and well worth the having. The release, on another 'Cavern Days' CD and entitled 'Happy Birthday' is apparently available (so I've been informed) from Liverpool's BBC Radio Merseyside - 0151 708 5500. I can't, at this stage (no pun intended), comment on the other tracks by the other Liverpool artists.

The excellent 'Sound of Fury' is enjoying a short run again. Last confirmed date apparently, one week's run from 28 October at the Forum Theatre in Billingham, Middlesbrough. Let's hope it ends up where it deserves - in the West End. Please support it!

Some fans have expressed disquiet about the cost of Billy memorabilia and original releases, particularly foreign issues. Whether we like it or not Billy is now within the Top 80 (out of 500) of the most collectable artists of all time. No mean feat, good for Billy's reputation, but bad for our pockets. Single Fury Monthlies have appeared in Record Collector for up to £20 each and the whole set (which is seldom seen for sale) can exceed £400 easily.

The original soundtrack from 'I've Gotta Horse' can fetch around £60. The Record Collector Guide does not reflect the current collectors' market, so it's difficult to establish just how much to pay. It depends how much you want the item and how often it surfaces. I had to pay £25 for a 1985 Del Shannon 45 'What Are You Gonna Do With That Beautiful Body', simply because I'd already bid £18 in an auction for one copy, and lost it. Incidentally, for those of you who remember Del only for his excellent 1960's output and great live performances, during the 1985 Rock n Blues Reunion Tour especially, you should check out his last released recordings on the 'Rock On' CD, Silvertone ORE CD 514 1991. (Was it really that long ago?) Perhaps if he really knew how highly he was regarded he wouldn't have taken his own life - and left us with yet another hole in our lives. This release was Del's equivalent of Roy Orbison's 'Mystery Girl' album, both albums containing some of the finest work that either of them produced, a bit like Billy with some of the Polydor output, equalling his Decca years, tracks like 'Forget Him' in particular.

The Fan Club has written in an attempt to get out a 40th Anniversary album (of the signing to Decca in 1958) and a CD release of the 'Missing Years' tracks. No definite reply to either has been received but we are hopeful that those responsible will enable such valid releases instead of the incessant repackaging of the K Tel tracks. The most recent is, in my opinion, a blatant rip-off. 'Billy Fury - Halfway to Paradise' has a great cover. The problem is, it's from 1961, there are only 16 tracks and no-where on the CD or tape does it state that the tracks are the 1978 re-recordings first released in 1979.

Fans, and general punters are going to think that they are getting the real thing, but of course they're not. For anyone interested, e.g. completists like myself, the CD is on the Prism label, PLATCD 49 and PLAC49 for the tape.

Also released on CD 'That'll Be The Day' Ronco TBTD 1/TBDT 2, available from either Bob Thomas at Bimbam (01703 600329) or Terry from Spinning Disc (0181 994 4606). Great to have these really fantastic hard-driving Billy tracks in good clear sound for the first time. Those original albums always crackled after a while, perhaps it was sub-standard vinyl used on those pressings. I always liked Billy best when he featured prominent guitar work, I suppose that's why I like 'Don't Jump' and 'A King For Tonight' above most other, more famous tracks.

It was only recently when listening to the great new Cliff mail order only boxed set that I realised just what a hard driving edge The Shadows had on some tracks. With the over-dubbing gone and pure digital sound 'Now's The Time To Fall in Love' 'Do You Wanna Dance' and 'Willie and the Hand Jive' sound truly great. I know the old guy gets some stick, from some Billy and Elvis fans in particular, but he was good. 'Choppin' n Changin' and 'Move It' of course were amongst the best of British. I wonder just how much of Billy's output would have been in stereo if he had gone with EMI (Columbia).

Those of you who remember the 1960s and/or were at the 1992 Blackpool Billy Fury weekend will remember Dave Sampson. Dave was apparently quite friendly with Billy, there is a nice picture of them together somewhere, and Dave's performance at the weekend was competent and enjoyable. Dave's other link with Billy was his recording of 'Talkin' In My Sleep' on his much sought-after 1960 EP. I don't know whether there was an original stereo release, but the clear stereo sound on his new RPM CD release is a joy. Billy's version has the edge, but the whole CD is worth having, not only for 'Sweet Dreams' of course but also '1991' 'It's Lonesome' 'A Wide Wide World' (also done by Del Shannon) but the previously unreleased (and in stereo) 'Don't Fool Around' and 'Teenage Dream' CD-RPM 180.

Billy's musical influences were many and varied, from Billy Daniels and Johnny Ray to Nappy Brown and Dakota Staton. There can be little doubt, however, but that Elvis was the main influence. Billy was always distinctive and in no way an Elvis clone yet the similarities were self evident which is why so many people are

fans of both top artists. The new 4 CD book-type release of 'Elvis Platinum' is a must for anyone who likes Elvis. The high points are the previously unreleased versions of 'I Got A Woman' 'I Need Your Love Tonight' and 'A Big Hunk of Love'. Highlights for me were the 'You Fink' version of 'Bossa Nova Baby', alternative version of 'For The Good Times' (studio) and the cracking 1974 live in Memphis performance of James Taylor's 'Steamroller Blues' - great stuff. Now's the time to pick up the original 50s and some 60s albums at virtually budget prices, but with remastering, extra tracks and new photographs, everything's coming up Elvis.

Next year everything should be coming up Billy but without a lot more effort by everyone it won't happen. The Bronze Fund is very low, Fan Club membership, considering the number of people attending both the 'Sound of Fury' musical and 'Billy Fury Experience' is also low. There needs to be a concerted effort to get the statue in place, at least before the millennium, and to get Billy products, particularly music releases, out into the market place. Please contribute to The Bronze Fund!

I'm sometimes a little critical regarding 'I've Gotta Horse' but today, after playing the soundtrack I've been reminded that 'Stand By Me', especially in stereo, is a great track. I suppose I was disappointed that there wasn't a short 'In Concert' segment with The Gamblers slipped into the film. Not having a visual record of Billy's 1960s on stage performances, with any band is a source of constant frustration. What did happen to the demo film that Parnes sent to the USA?

Apparently Stu Colman was recently being waited on in a restaurant/bar in the USA, Nashville I think. He got into conversation with the young waiter who said "You won't know the singers I like, mostly rockabilly and a guy called Billy Fury!" We know Billy has his international fans but it's nice to know that some young people in the USA rate him. Rather ironic that it was Stu Colman that the young guy chose to talk to, you can picture what a story the young Billy fan then got! Billy's 1960's grey stage suit with black piping is displayed in The Hard Rock Cafe in Miami!

It seems that the Billy items are still not up in the 'Rock Circus'. We shall be chasing this up. Still more rumours abounding about the imminent surfacing of Billy's Joe Meek recorded tracks. I'll believe it when I see it!

For those of you who may have missed it, there is a live performance by Billy and Marty duetting on 'Collette' available on the 'Oh Boy' CD, also available from the previously mentioned outlets, Original Sounds JG081001. Not especially good quality and of short duration, but worth having.

The New Zealand Fan Club are keen on donating an ornament or decoration at Mill Hill, lovely idea. They're studying the options at the moment. What a character Moya is, a real live wire, see the article elsewhere in the mag. Also, just like so many others connected to Billy, she does so much for charities in his name.

A nice gesture from Ian and Sheila Alexander, to throw their rooms open at the Allendale Hotel in Blackpool in order to raise money for the Bronze Fund. A limited attendance Billy Fury weekender over 5th/6th December departing Sunday 7th, bed and breakfast only, with all proceeds from the rooms and raffles going direct to the Bronze Fund care of Jean Prosser. There are only 17 double rooms and the bar is small, hence the first come, first served basis. By the time this magazine is issued and the September Mill Hill meeting held, all bookings will most probably be full. However this may not be the case so if you wish to be squeezed in, please write with a s.a.e. to the Fan Club. Please do not phone the hotel direct. Jean & Albert are being asked to be guests of honour, depending of course on their diary dates.

A special thanks is due to Peter and Lynda Keller for their sterling efforts in promoting Billy and the Bronze Statue in Liverpool. Hal Carter has also promised his help in supporting the Project, there is such a lot of money to be raised, but united we can do it. Unity is the key word, we do need to be one, for Billy's sake, and together keep his name alive

Billy fan Helen Shinzil 52 Sandford Grove Road Nether Edge Sheffield S7 1RR sells Billy badges and key rings. This is done by her on a purely personal level, without official Fan Club involvement and for those who like wearing and collecting badges, she has an interesting selection. Some limited edition black & white stickers are officially sanctioned.

I would like to thank all of the other Fan Club team members for their hard work, especially Clare (and her daughter Aysha) for being the 'engine room' of our organisation. I don't know where the energy comes from, I don't have it! Thanks to Jean too, deciphering and putting my scribble into something workable must be quite a challenge, or so others has told me (Maureen!) *(Chris; your writing looks as though a spider has fallen in some ink and then walked randomly across a blank page but the articles are extremely interesting and we all appreciate very much your hard work - Thanks. This comment contributed by Jean Prosser the hard working typist).*

More information on yet another release 'Worldwide Hits' - LECD440 (Wisepack) CD - Billy sings 'In My Room' (beautiful haunting song) and 'Sticks n Stones'. Not seen the release myself. (Thanks, Roy!)

Nothing to do with Billy but just recently, apart from the lovely 'Beautiful Body' track by Del Shannon I was privileged to hear for the very first time 'Watch Me Walk Away' by P J Proby. Love him or hate him, what a voice, and this US only 1960s release is stunning, leaving you just breathless. If there's anyone prepared to sell (or swap it for a Billy item) please let me know. I need it!!

More information from Maureen regarding a 'Rockers Reunion' at Old Battersea Town Hall, 31 January 1998 with Joe Brown, Terry Dene (how I love "The Feminine Look" - no comments please) and Crazy Cavan and the Rythm Rockers (Frank Bull's 'modern' favourites). More information from Willie Jeffries, 111

Worlds End Lane, Green Street Green, Orpington, Kent, BR6 6AW. Talking about Worlds End don't forget to subscribe to Mick Hill's great British R n R mag, Rock You Sinners. Issue 34 has an article written by Vince Eager about the night Billy was discovered. More information from Mick at 117 Worlds End Lane, Enfield, Middx, EN2 7RG.

Apparently Billy is now on the internet. Does anyone know who put him there or whether we can link in with this person to update the information, etc, a nice worldwide link. Any computer 'buffs' who can help, please contact us, the more 'hands across the water' the better.

Catch Darrel Higham in his Eddie Cochran Tribute Show if you can, very much the real thing.

Marty Wilde was, and is great, if you don't believe it play 'Tomorrow's Clown' 'Danny' (better than Elvis's version) and 'No! Dance With Me' and then reflect on how under-rated he was. His sincere tribute to Billy is available on 'Solid Gold' Select CD SRCD01 available from Big M Productions, Big M House, 1 Stevenage Road, Knebworth, Herts, SG3 6AN. Marty does 'Like I've Never Been Gone' 'I Will' 'I'd Never Find Another You' and 'Halfway to Paradise'. There are a few word changes but they are nice versions. The highlight of the CD is his tremendous 'T Rex' type version of Elvis' classic 'Little Sister', knockout track up there with Marty's best. Talking of Marty, what a gentleman (and superb guitarist) Big Jim Sullivan formerly of the 'Wilde Cats' is. He was there on 4 October at the Essoldo when Billy first appeared, but unfortunately can't remember exactly which tracks Billy sang. Can anyone please remember? Were you there? Can you be sure of the tracks? If so, please write to me, care of this column. Likewise if anyone went to The Late Eddie Cochran - A Tribute Show at the Birmingham Hippodrome on Monday 27th June 1960. Billy topped the bill, with Joe Brown and others appearing from the Parnes 'stable'. If you can remember which numbers Billy sang that night, please write and tell me. Hopefully there would have been several Cochran numbers done by Billy.

Some great 2 on 1 Gene Pitney CDs available at low price. Why did they leave 'I'm Afraid To Go Home' off them all, when some tracks are repeated? Also the 'Blue Gene' album is only in mono when at least the title track is available in stereo. Does anyone have a copy of the original LP in stereo? Please let me know if it exists. I've been looking for a copy for years.

Lovely to see Eden Kane (Mr Sartorial Elegance / Mr Growl!) at Mill Hill posing for photographs and signing autographs. A real gentleman, and a great stage act these days - catch him on the forthcoming 'Solid Gold' (organised by Hal Carter). Thanks Hal for bringing Eden along.

Great to see Elvis at No 4 in the album charts recently with the 'Always On My Mind' compilation.

Look out for two new Rick Nelson CDs available soon - the 'Best of the Later Years' on ACE and the 'EP Collection' on See For Miles. This guy, arguably

Billy's US counterpart, was truly great - check him out! I hear his version of 'Talkin' About You' is on it, better be in stereo!

Four of Albert's early tracks (as Jason Eddie with the Centremen) have now surfaced on RGM Rarities Vol 2 - The Beat Group Era Diamond Label (number not known).

Unfortunately due to the rising costs of printing next year's subscription to the "Sound of Fury" Fan Club will have to be increased. Cost yet to be decided. As it is, the funding is tight this year with just producing three magazines and the postage costs. (It's fortunate that we can distribute a few copies to members at Mill Hill).

My old mates Frank and Mig tell me that Billy Fan, young Sean Mitten is engaged, or should be by the time this article is in print. Congratulations to a nice guy (who actually sings Billy numbers quite convincingly too!). When I attempted to vocalise 'Somebody Else's Girl' as front man for the Derek Lowe Trio (who?) in 1963, we got thrown out of the cafe we were booked into. Mind you, we played about four or five numbers before the amp blew up and we were asked to leave - happy days!!!

Sadly Clare has to have an operation sometime in October, and we all wish her the best of luck.

I know we do like to have our very own bit of Billy (that no-one else has) but as Billy's mum, Frank, Hal and I have in the past shared our photos for everyone's benefit, we are now in need of different shots if we are to keep the fans happy. Would fans who have photos of Billy, to which they have copyright, please send them to Mick Hill c/o the address in this column. Please either send them guaranteed delivery, for return once they have been used, or get them copied and send them in for our use. In either case, please send written permission for them to be reproduced (with a credit) in the Fan Club mag. If you are prepared for them to be copied for sale for all the fans, in addition to being published, please give permission also. Apart from the costs of copying them for sale all money will go to the Bronze Fund. Many a time we have no idea where a photo has come from. In this case we will credit it unknown until/unless someone can prove copyright, in which case, of course we will not publish again without permission and, if necessary, will retrospectively credit the owner. It really is not considered reasonable to be expected to trace thirty year old photographs that have no written information available to follow up on.

Some fans are apparently disgruntled at having to pay £1.50 in order to enter the Church Hall at Mill Hill. The fact is that the hire cost to the Fan Club/Fans is £35.00. Most regulars also bring cakes, sausage rolls, sandwiches, etc and tea, milk, sugar, etc has also to be provided. It all costs and is largely done through goodwill. So please, don't get by on the backs of the willing, let's ensure we all contribute to the event.

Steve Kramer, 123 Victoria Road, Barking, Essex, IG11 8PZ has sets of 7 6' x 4' 1982 in concert Billy photos for sale, at only £5.50 per set. Sounds like good value to me.

Apologies to those who may have not yet received an answer to questions, etc. posed to me. Sometimes the whole of a Saturday or Sunday from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. can be taken up just corresponding and researching, etc., so please bear with it!

Special thanks to John Kingstree for travelling miles following 'The Sound of Fury' play in order to distribute Fan Club leaflets. Thanks to Jeanette Lee for providing leaflets at each of Brian Lee's gigs. Finally a thank you to anyone who has been active in supporting Billy whom I may have missed out, or perhaps don't even know about.

Well the sun's gone in and it's too late for the 'beach'. Never mind, look forward to seeing you all at Mill Hill.

NEWS FLASHES

IT'S OFFICIAL! THE MUSICAL 'THE SOUND OF FURY' IS GOING TO THE WEST END. WE DON'T KNOW THE DATES YET.

BILL KENWRIGHT HAS PROMISED US A DONATION OF £1,000 FOR THE BRONZE FUND. Thank you Bill.

BILL KENWRIGHT IS HOPING TO PRODUCE A FILM ABOUT BILLY'S LIFE NEXT YEAR. NEGOTIATIONS ARE IN THE EARLY STAGES YET BUT IT LOOKS PROMISING.

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Wednesday, Mar 1st
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