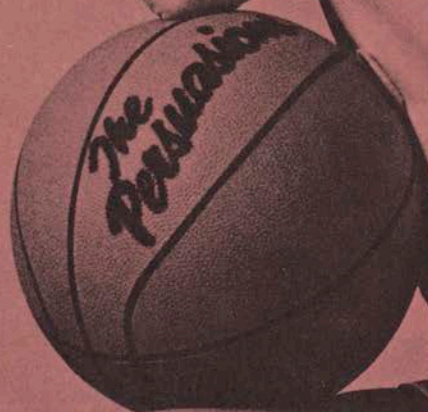


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71 With a Bullet



71 With a Bullet

(A Collection of Recollections of This Past Year, Mostly Expressed in Song Titles)

Welcome to *Circular's* year-end issue, a scattered remembrance of the year just-about-to-be past, a year whose events formed slowly and, just as slowly, slid back into nothing. But if it was a year of watery news and thin books and pale television and flat people and murky situations, it was also a year of

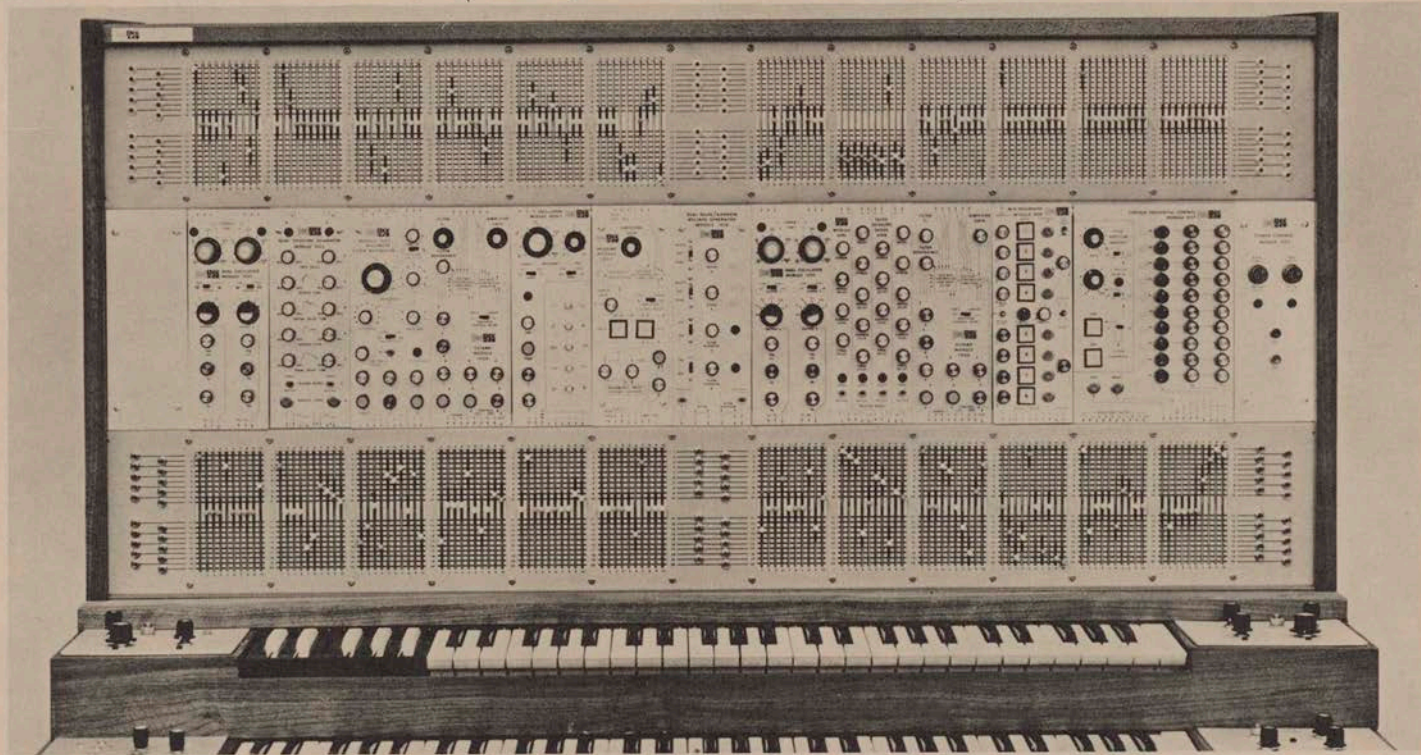
much good music and many odd things surrounding the making of that music.

An odd assortment of those odd things is the bulk of this issue, which is far from encyclopedic, far from fair, far from comprehensive and far from a lot of other adjectives, but it's the thing for a publication to do in this season, and do it *Circular* did.

What follows, then, is what was hurriedly and blearily assembled during a couple of weeks of frenetic activity sandwiched in between

other sorts of frenetic activity. Hopefully some of it is amusing. Hopefully it does not create the impression that Warner/Reprise and its affiliates are less fallible than other institutions and their affiliates. It is inevitably biased and cowardly, this reflection of 1971, but not with a largely malicious intent.

Pleasantries and disclaimers aside, *Circular* thanks Carl LaFong, Jersey Nat Moss, Loraine Alterman and Harvey Geller, whose distorted perspectives contributed mightily to this issue.



Madmen Across the Water

England Swings Like a Pendulum Do

★ For reasons no one was ever able to adequately explain, Elvis Presley's "Heartbreak Hotel" was a chunky hit in England last summer. It was not, however, followed up the charts by either "Love Me Tender" or "Old Shep," both of which would seem possibilities.

Like a Rolling Stone

★ The Stones filled their calendar by negotiating a label distribution deal with Atlantic, releasing the formidable *Sticky Fingers* LP, marrying off Mick Jagger (who sired a baby in record time) and relocating to France.

The Cat Came Back

★ Rounding out the triumph of the singer-songwriter in 1971 was Cat Stevens, who was good enough to suffer mightily from the overexposure that good people often must endure.

Life Is a Carnival

Happy Together

★ The Temptations broke out of their psychedelic spell for one of their biggest-ever hits, "Just My Imagination," featuring, for a change, the high and sweet lead voice of Eddie Kendricks. Next thing anyone knew (shades of David Ruffin!) Kendricks starred in his own solo album (backed by you-know-who) and decided to leave the group. Illnesses and egos prompted several other personnel shifts in the group and at year's end few people outside the Temptations knew who was inside. They finished strongly nonetheless with a return to Sly Stone-inspired freakiness, "Superstar," a song which might have been directed at Kendricks.

When You're Hot You're Hot

★ Elton John wrote music for a film called *Friends*, which fact the film's distributors exploited as relentlessly as if he had directed, starred in, co-starred in and photographed the flick, which hoopla did little to abate the Elton overdose many incurred in 1970. The poor guy.

Memories Are Made of This

★ Whatever Happened To Department: The Masked Marauders, Solomon Penthaus, four-track cartridges, the 1971 Audio Visual Cassette Boom, the 1971 Quadraphonic Sound Boom, all of the Monkees except Michael Nesmith, the movie that *Rainbow Bridge* is the sound-track of, rock festivals, everybody's Nehru shirts, the Warner/Reprise British Invasion, Primal Therapy, Gary Usher, the Maharishi Mahesh Yogi, sitar records, Top 40 radio, Free-form FM radio, Middle-of-the-Road radio. "The Ballad Hymn of Lt. Calley," the FCC crackdown on drug messages, the Warner Bros. Hawaiian Convention, the 16 rpm record, the British sense of humor, the Archies, the American sense of humor and albums without lyric reprints.

You're Not a Kid Anymore

★ Among those who turned 30 in 1971 were Bob Dylan and John Lennon, both of whom apparently survived the transition.



Match Box

On the left are names of artists and companies who changed record labels in 1971. On the right is the list of label changes showing former label and present label. Match them up. Notice how no two artists or companies made exactly the same change. No prize.

Moby Grape	Capitol to WB
Ten Years After	Dunhill to RCA
Kinks	WB to RCA
Neil Diamond	Blue Thumb to Rep.
Rolling Stones	King to Polydor
Dionne Warwick	Ampex to Columbia
Dan Hicks	Epic to Blue Thumb
Seals & Crofts	London to Atlantic
Ian & Sylvia	Reprise to RCA
The Association	Columbia to Reprise
John Stewart	London to Columbia
Blue Thumb	Uni to Columbia
T. Rex	Scepter to WB
Bearsville	TA to Warner Bros.
Everly Brothers	WB to Columbia
Capricorn	Capitol to Para.
Gass Elliott	Ampex to WB
Joni Mitchell	Atco to WB
James Brown	Reprise to Asylum
Love	Elektra to Blue Thumb
	Columbia to Limbo

Those Were the Days

★ Nostalgia was a big emotion in 1971, coupled with its usual mate, sentimentality. Among the focuses for over the shoulder looks and listens were *No No Nanette*, *The Boy Friend*, an update of "I Hear You Knocking," the death of Gene Vincent, Howdy Doody, Roy Rogers and Dale Evans (who began appearing at folk clubs), *Love Story*,



"Desiderata," the continuing rock and roll revival and the poetry of Rod McKuen. WABC in New York changed its call letters to WPLJ. RCA reissued many classic old sides in a marvelous Vintage Series. Same for Columbia with its excellent Bessie Smith *et al* repackages. And Atlantic with its revived Coasters, Drifters, Joe Turner, LaVern Baker and the Clovers albums. And King Records with some great blues reissues.

Where's the Money

★ The President's wage and price freeze improved a sluggish record business toward the end of the year. It didn't improve prices for record-buyers, though, because of an almost industry-wide concept called variable-pricing—a system in effect long before the freeze which enables diskeries to put any one of a number of prices on a given album, with no one but the label the wiser. Generally speaking, any album that would be a monster at a suggested retail price of \$4.98 would be a monster at \$5.98 or \$6.98 also. Conversely, a loser at \$5.98 would also be a loser at \$1.98. You get what you pay for.

One Toke Over the Line

M-I-C K-E-Y M-O-U-S-E

★ Christmas has many faces in many places. This is how *Daily Variety* saw it at Disneyland:

Showmanship of combining Mickey Mouse with the Bible is unmatched, attested by the throngs gathered Saturday for Disneyland's 17th salute to big holiday business—opening of two-week run of "Fantasy on Parade" preceded by weekend presentation of its Candlelight Procession.

Procession remains one of the most mammoth salutes to the holidays, with 2,000 singers being matched by equally-weighty narrator John Wayne—and back-



dropped by electric candles and human Christmas tree in center of Main Street for striking staging and overwhelming effect.

Choirs from Azusa to Carlsbad sang the appropriate carols as Wayne read the original Christmas . . . His narration, while small,

was unsure—and delivered in too similar a manner as a soliloquy from *True Grit*.

Goodyear's blimp flashing neon Christmas greetings, effective before onset of program, was disturbing during quiet moments of reading . . .

Don't Think Twice, It's All Right

★ Columbia Records released Bob Dylan's Greatest Hits, Volume 2, as a two-record set, no less. Dylan's sole Top 30 singles, "Like a Rolling Stone" and "Just Like a Woman," were on Volume 1. They're good records, though.

Too Much

★ *Circular*, a publication wholly owned by Warner Bros. Records Inc. and staffed exclusively by people sympathetic to Warner/Reprise and its artists, devoted a whole dyspeptic issue to making fun of outsiders' activities in 1971.

Those Oldies but Goodies Remind Me of You

★ Chicago released a four-record album compiled from live performances at Carnegie Hall containing two giant posters, one super-giant poster, a bonus booklet and one new song out of a total of 32.

To Each His Own

★ The legion who have recorded "Bridge Over Troubled Water" got a new and unlikely member in Buck Owens. His album containing the song was mailed to reviewers with a Buck Owens wristwatch.

Never Can Say Goodbye

★ Cotillion Records released *Woodstock II*.

Chick-A-Boom

★ It was a boom year for ladies in music as Carole King, Roberta Flack, Aretha Franklin, Barbra Streisand, Lynn Anderson, Diana Ross, Judy Collins, Joni Mitchell, Dionne Warwick, Carly Simon,

Joan Baez, Melanie, Freda Payne, Jean Knight, Helen Reddy, Cher and others could attest. What with the gaping market for females and the mass appetite for sensitivity, somebody figured to cash in with two albums' worth of Dory Previn. Nothing exceeds like success.

It's a Family Affair

★ Bhaskar Menon, president and chief executive officer of Capitol Industries Inc., was accused by George Harrison on the Dick Cavett TV show of delaying release of *The Concert for Bangla Desh* charity package by trying to make money for Capitol on the distribution deal.



Menon answered by accusing Allen Klein, who was handling the Apple end of things, of stalling the proceedings. A week later, both were in accord and several weeks later the albums appeared. Meanwhile, Clive Davis, president of Columbia Records, scored a blow for Anglo Saxon inscrutability by getting U.S. tape rights to the concert and world-wide disc and tape rights without getting embroiled in the controversy one whit.

Doctor Feelgood

★ Drugs were big with the musical set in 1971. Biggest movers were, unfortunately, uppers, downers, cocaine and harder stuff.

Party Lights

★ Hollywood socialite Rodney Bingenheimer went to Europe, where he briefly joined Faces for a stand-in television shot, and came back to Los Angeles.

Mr. Big Stuff

★ Terry Knight, manager and Merlin of Grand Funk Railroad, who had a very good year indeed, insisted that



the group be promoted via an embossed billboard on Hollywood's Sunset Strip.

The Name Game

★ Here are some names which *Circular* blew its chance to do something clever or nice with: Mama Lion, Tiny Tim, Sonny & Cher, David Crosby, John Denver, Helen Reddy, Artie Mogull, Lenny Bruce, John Baldry, Phil Spector, Marvin Gaye, Sam the Sham, Rubber Dubber, Donny Hathaway, J., Kris Kristofferson, Ed Rossenblatt, J. Giels Band, Dan Hicks, the Kinks, T. Rex, David Blue and S. David Cohen.

The Language of Love

★ The symbols used by Led Zeppelin in the title of their latest album were made up as special type fonts by Atlantic Records so the trade



papers could accurately list the record in their charts. Atlantic's zeal notwithstanding, record dealers still referred to it as Led Zeppelin's fourth album.

Guess Who

★ Frank Zappa appeared on *What's My Line*, where he was photographed with Arlene Francis. He also re-formed the Mothers and recorded a best-selling album, *Live at the Fillmore*. He also finally finished his pet movie, *200 Motels*.

Laugh, Laugh

★ It was a big year for comedy, too. Among comedic albums for 1971 were those by The Firesign Theater, Hudson & Landry, Lily Tomlin, David Frye, Flip Wilson, All in the Family and Cheech & Chong.

A Little Less Conversation

The underlying columns contain a list of 1971 Record Biz Movers and a selection of their Deathless Words as enunciated by the Trade Papers, *Rolling Stone* and in Speeches Before the Public. Your job, should you decide to accept, is to match the Mover with the Motion. Anyone who comes up with the right answers earns a bag of unused 1971 promotional goodies from *Circular*.

- C** 1. "I never practice at all. Every time I play my horn I discover new things in there. If I practiced, they wouldn't be new anymore, would they?"
- A** 2. "... it's my candy store. I keep my hours. I have eggs when I want to. I have a Zimburger when I want to. I play with the microphone when I want to. And I leave the building when I want to."
- D** 3. "I haven't heard no band that plays more perfect music than Guy Lombardo yet. That's the way I feel and I don't let my mouth say nothin' my head can't stand."
- K** 4. "You never know where Clara-belle's going to hide his rolling papers."
- I** 5. "You know me today as a smart-ass rock and roll critic rather than as a rock and roll superstar simply because, while accumulating the soul points prerequisite to my realizing the group of my dreams, writing smart-ass criticism has brought me more loot than either making Bonus-burgers or Paying Dues in beery little nite-spots."
- B** 6. "In order to be able to talk music, you got to be able to play music."
- F** 7. "The whites are just *startin'* to get the blues."
- L** 8. "This ain't *my* garbage. It's Bob Dylan's. I just grabbed it from in front of his house."
- J** 9. "Rock and roll got me into being one of the boys. Before that I just got me ass kicked all over the place."
- E** 10. "You know anyone who wants to buy some Hollywood clothes, a few Grammy awards and a promising career?"
- H** 11. "The dream is over. I'm not just talking about the Beatles, I'm talking about the generation thing. It's over, and we gotta . . . get down to so-called reality."
- G** 12. "If the FCC is going to be used by the Administration to frighten broadcasters to carry only stuff favorable to it, this country is in a lot more danger than any of us has imagined."
- ~~a.~~ Duane Allman
~~b.~~ Louis Armstrong
~~c.~~ Captain Beefheart
~~d.~~ Bill Graham
~~e.~~ John Hartford
~~f.~~ John Lee Hooker
~~g.~~ Nicholas Johnson
~~h.~~ John Lennon
~~i.~~ John Mendelsohn
~~j.~~ Keith Richard
~~k.~~ Buffalo Bob Smith (at the Fillmore West)
~~l.~~ Alan J. Weberman

American Pie

I Think We're All Bozos on This Bus

★ Employees of the Shelby Singleton Corp. in Nashville, according to *Rolling Stone*, were sent to classes to learn how to run a record company. The label, best known for the single "Harper Valley PTA," its acquisition of the classic Sun Records catalog and unflinching promotion in the country market, is headed by Shelby Singleton Jr., who explained the instructional program thusly: "I suddenly realized that most everyone in this company didn't know what the music business is all about."

One Monkey Don't Stop No Show

★ Bill Graham, playing the media like a giant organ, announced the closing of the Fillmores East and West, demurring to the resulting interpretations of his act as the death of rock and roll while simultaneously making plans to enlarge his booking agency (Millard) and his management company (Fillmore). Meanwhile, he continued to produce concerts in San Francisco, Salt Lake City and possibly Tanglewood, while negotiating production of a film and an album documenting the death of the Fillmore West.

What's Going On?

★ Loosely, a rack jobber is a sub-distributor of records whose musical tastes correspond exactly with what's in the Top Fifty. Over the past six or seven years rack-jobbers have accounted for an increasingly whopping percentage of total record and tape sales because they stock the self-service record bins in places like super markets, drug chains, department stores and discount marts. But in 1971 shrewd operators of retail stores put two and two together—that is two stores together with another two record stores—and thereby were able to buy at the same low wholesale prices rack jobbers are given, which enabled them to undercut the racks' prices while offering a much wider spread of records.

It's Growing

★ Many feel that the written word is on its way out. *Look* folded in 1971, joining the ghostly line just behind *The Saturday Evening Post*, *Collier's*, *Liberty* and countless more. Yet in this troubled time, *Circular* doubled in circulation, burgeoning from 6,000 to 13,000. It's nice to have an uncle.

I Want to Take You Higher

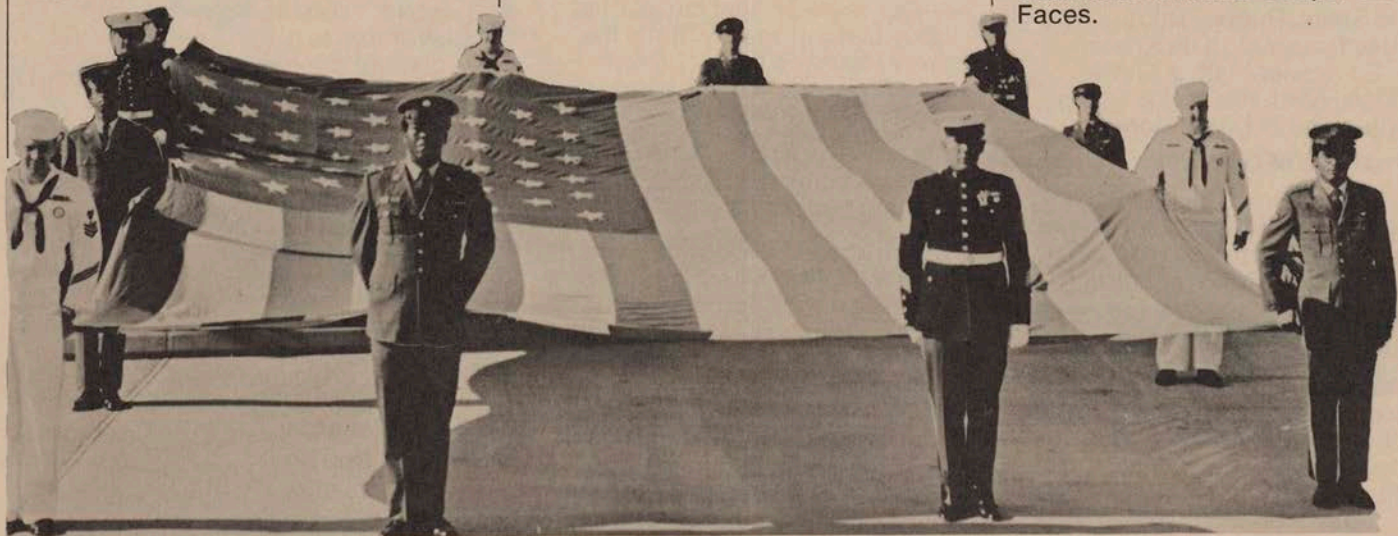
★ Sly Stone was generally a less than endearing person in 1971 but he managed to get away with it since everyone else was still catching up to music he'd made two years ago. "Family Affair," his first single since "Everybody Is a Star," was the hottest thing in the country at *Circular's* press-time and the newly-released *There's a Riot Going On* album was following suit, though neither the single nor the album was quite what anyone expected. Of course.

Get It On

★ Chase, led by 37-year-old Las Vegas trumpet player Bill Chase, captivated audiences across the country with their exciting fusion of jazz and rock elements into a whole that some critics had begun to refer to as "jazz-rock" by year's end. They were, unfortunately, the victims of an Ed Ward review in *Creem* in which it was wondered how many of them wear hairpieces.

It's My Party

★ A troupe of San Francisco theatericians of sometimes indeterminate gender called the Cockettes were the darlings of a variety of exotic parties on the West Coast, among them fetes for Alice Cooper and Faces.

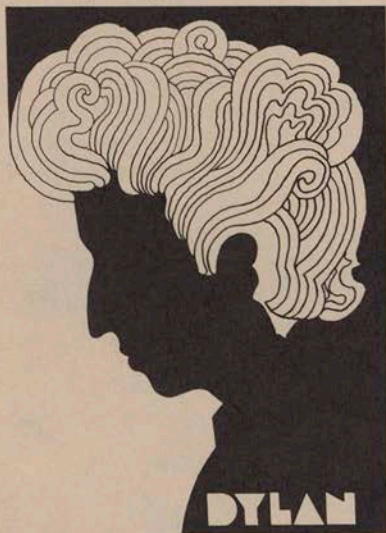


Chopsticks

★ In the wake of a hyperactive 1970, Leon Russell relaxed in 1971, playing on only about 40% of the year's albums and in other situations only when sorely needed, as on Bob Dylan's "Watching the River Flow" single and at George Harrison's Madison Square Garden concert for Bangla Desh.

Be True to Your School

★ The year 1971 saw the rise of a new academic discipline, Dylanology, complete with a leading exponent, A. J. Weberman, who said he found many clues in Bob Dylan's garbage.



Moonlight on Vermont

★ Captain Beefheart and His Magic Band embarked on a Warner Bros.-promoted tour of the nation along with Ry Cooder, a voyage which did not immediately catapult the Captain into the Top 10 though it was judged vastly worthwhile by all concerned. Captain Beefheart also supervised the making of a television commercial for his *Lick My Decals Off Baby* album. It was educational, amusing and non-toxic but it was refused by a variety of television stations on the grounds that they couldn't understand it and it contained the word "lick."

Nobody Knows the Trouble I've Seen

★ Diana Ross had a very busy year on her own, what with a surprise marriage to publicist Robert Silberstein, a surprise separation, a surprise reconciliation and a baby. All of which was dues-paying preparation for Diana's (surprise) portrayal of Billie Holiday in *Lady Sings the Blues*, a film currently in the works.

B-A-B-B-Y B-B-L-U-E

★ Grace Slick was photographed in *Life* magazine dangling her baby daughter, China, upside down by the feet.

It's Not Easy Being Green

★ *New York Post* pop columnist Al Aronowitz devoted a column to complain that no one, including his family, liked him. Several weeks later he aired more of the same in a saga about being barred from backstage at Madison Square Garden.

From Rags to Riches

★ Success story of the year was that of Bill Withers, who began 1971 installing toilets in airplanes and ended as a red-hot recording artist after scoring a million sales with "Ain't No Sunshine," an endearing round of appearances and a very tasteful album, *Just as I Am*.



Choice of Colors

★ In the twilight of the year Pop Bigotry was streaking up the album charts with the album *All in the Family*, culled from the hit CBS television show.

Do the Funky Chicken

★ Alice Cooper, the group unanimously blackballed from membership in the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Poultry (ASPCP), made it close to the top of the charts with the single "Eighteen," and entered the Hollywood social register in July with a party that was the event of the year—a white-tie reenactment of high-lights from *Satyricon*, *El Topo* and *Birth of a Nation* staged by Warner/Reprise at Los Angeles' astonished Ambassador Hotel. Anyone who was everyone was there. Unfortunately, the venerable Ambassador is no longer available for record company parties.

Oh Happy Day

He's Got the Whole World
in His Hands



★ While the secular world of music was getting spiritual, the spiritual world of music was getting secular. *Billboard* writer Bill Williams reported it thusly:

NASHVILLE—The Gospel Music Association, after finding “discrepancies” in 10 of the 14 awards categories, has invalidated all of the 1971 Dove presentations.

“In general, our actions reflected the recommendations given us by the five-man committee we had named to study the situation,” said Marvin Norcross Jr., chairman of the board...

The action stemmed from findings which followed the presentation of the Doves Oct. 9, at which time the Blackwood Brothers of Memphis swept most of the categories. Twenty four hours later, after “prayerful consideration,” James Blackwood returned the Doves. He said he and his group had been “over-zealous.”

The committee, in its probe, found that the Blackwoods had assisted individuals in becoming members, even to the point of “lending” them the \$10 necessary for membership; had sent the recruited members a letter advising them how they should vote; and had offered a “gift” to those members who filled out their ballots “properly” and returned them to the Blackwoods for forwarding to Ernst and Ernst, the auditing firm.

It Ain't Necessarily So

★ Moses never pretended to be Isaac Hayes but that didn't stop Isaac Hayes from donning a striped hooded robe, sunglasses and sandals and posing with arms outstretched for the cover of his late-1971 album, *Black Moses*. The jacket opens into a 3-foot by 4-foot cross, apparently a symbol of Hayes' crossover.

I Don't Know How to Love Him

★ *Jesus Christ Superstar* slid into the world backwards, first as a zillion-selling disc which *Circular* suspects almost everyone bought to give to someone else, then as a stage production. The physical version kept hordes of lawyers busy attacking churches and sundry other institutions which attempted to mount their own productions of the music and the story without the sanction and license of the creators of *JCS*. The sanctified version was

a smashing success, lofting itself even unto the cover of *Time*.

Yes, Jesus Loves Me

★ Scads are the songs in the 1970s with Christian references. How many of these supplants can you identify?

- One toke over the line, sweet Jesus. BREWER & SHIPLEY
- Put your hand in the hand of the Man from Galilee. OCEAN
- Jesus is just all right with me. BYRDS
- Won't you look down upon me, Jesus? J TAYLOR
- I really want to see you, Lord, but it takes so long. G. HARRISON
- Prove to me that you're divine/ Change my water into wine. JCS
- Listen only to His song and watch his eyes/ For it might be the Prince of Peace returning.
- I believe in Jesus and what the Bible said/ I am fairly certain He had Himself a heavy head.

