

# POP TALK

By Jim Smith



The four fellows - Bill Smith, Steve Kennedy, Wayne Stone and Ken Marco - formed the rhythm section of a fairly popular Toronto-based white blues band called Grant Smith and the Power but last March the quartet split to form its own group, to play its own music. In retrospect, the move appears rather unpremeditated as more than a month elapsed before even a name was adopted. The first title suggested, "Bang Gang", was rejected for obvious reasons. Finally, in desperation, they took on Motherlode, the only other name imagined.

Smith and Kennedy wrote a song which the quartet recorded in the hope of obtaining a regional hit which would boost their bookings. The easy jazz-blues-rock number, "When I Die", instead developed into that rarest of all Canadian phenomena, an international hit. At last week's end, sales had exceeded half a million copies, the American market was still expanding, and distribution throughout the Commonwealth was still to come. Billboards, leading American trade magazine, has picked their When I Die album as a certain winner.

The totally domestic content of Motherlode distinguishes it from all other successful Canadian performers. From the recording studios in Toronto's Revolution Records to the band itself, Motherlode is Canadian. The only technical blot comes from Virginia-born Smith, who has resided in Canada for many years. Kennedy comes from Windsor, Stone from London, and Marco from Brantford. Moreover, they are proud of being Canadian. On a recent visit to Oregon, New York was cited as their hometown, a misconception which Steve immediately corrected. Rather reluctantly, they state that their album fails to contain a clear credit to Canada but, according to Kennedy, "Next time we'll put a flag on the cover, or something".

Technically, Canadian recording facilities have improved rapidly to the point where they now rival their American counterparts. Smith uses the example of early David Clayton Thomas recordings where the material was excellent but poor production destroyed much of the effect. Today Thomas records in New York although similar results could be obtained in Toronto, his home town. The difference seems to be that the good producers have finally come together with excellent facilities—both existed before, but separately.

That evening, Motherlode worked a dance engagement. Conditions were not good for their music. Motherlode is not a dance band, as their manager points out. Music itself is their expression, not music combined with dance. Kennedy and Smith spent much time jamming in Yorkville's old Penny Farthing where they picked up a jazz style which affects many of their arrangements. This makes them both more interesting and less danceable. Moreover, Motherlode employs an unusual structure—organ (Smith), lead guitar (Marco), drums (Stone), and electrified sax (Kennedy). There is no bass. Steve is fond of running his voice up and down the scale in a manner which steps outside the orthodox framework. Dance is definitely not their bag.

Unfortunately, there are not sufficient concert dates to permit refusal of dance contracts. Motherlode maintains a punishing schedule to take full advantage of its popularity. The preceding week had been spent on the west coast. Just for that afternoon, they flew to Cleveland for a television show. The next afternoon would see them in Washington, followed by Baltimore in the evening. On to Indiana and Illinois the following weekend. On the slow nights, early in the week, Motherlode concentrates on recording and television sessions. All in all, the pace is brutal.

One cannot understand Motherlode without also understanding Bill Smith and Steve Kennedy. The duo have been associates for years. At one time, a period which Kennedy does not really discuss, Smith led Kennedy into a previously all-black band. Later came the Penny Farthing jams and Grant Smith. Although both dug the jazz influences of Penny Farthing, the results show much more strongly in Steve. Bill continues to sing with a husky, soulful voice, its straightness contrasting with Steve's experimentation. Yet, were there sufficient demand for the medium, Motherlode would be a jazz band, not a rock band with jazz tendencies.

This love of informality extends even to interviews. General rap sessions find great favor with them but telephone interviews, where the interrogator's character remains unappreciable, are another story. The literacy developed by travel, a common feature of successful musicians, facilitates conversation: Kennedy in particular is unabashedly frank, frequently makes statements which he does not wish published.

Presently there are four possibilities for the next singles release. All but three tracks for a new album are also ready and Kennedy especially is keen about its possibilities. Although bookings are never made more than six weeks in advance, there are no indications of anything except greater demand in the future. Television appearances continue at a satisfying rate. No one mentioned sleep.

## Department introduces space and man course

A new Space and Man course for Ontario's senior secondary school students was announced by Education Minister William G. Davis recently.

The course, for Grades 11 and 12, allows teachers and students to develop their own programs from 20 themes contained in the course outline.

The course touches on international law, space politics, science, history, technology, astronomy. It has special significance in that some experts rank Canada third in the field of space exploration.

The course theme range from an introduction to flight, through to the recent moon walk. Introduction to flight starts its way up with suggested class visits to airports, control towers, air traffic control centres, flying schools and aircraft plants.

The way into space theme starts with the first practical rocket of 1040 A.D. and progresses through the buzz bombs and V2s of World War II to the Apollo 11 which carried Neil Armstrong, Edwin (Buzz) Aldrin and Michael Collins on their historic flight to the moon.

Current planetary probes and communication satellites are also included in the theme.

The space fiction theme gives science fiction buffs, and the course outline believes there are many, the chance to pen their own impressions of outer space adventures. Recommended reading for this theme are the works of Jules Verne, H. G. Wells, John Wyndham and other noted science fiction writers.

## Tape programs

Television cameras aren't expected to be introduced in Halton County schools in the near future, but provision is being made to tape educational programs and make them available to teachers in the system.

The County Board indicated consideration would be given in the 1970 budget to adding six more playback units and 150 video tapes so that each secondary school would be equipped with the playback equipment.



ATHLETIC TEAMS AT ACTON HIGH are bound to be successful, this year, with this group of gorgeous gals to cheer them on. Senior cheerleaders are, bottom row left to right, Dianne Frank, Dobi Booth, Nancy Abram, Marg Slaven, middle row left to right, Janet Clendinning, Barb Browne, top, Marie Holmes. Missing when photo was taken was Sharon Froelich. —(Staff Photo)

## ACTON HIGH Sports Review

By Mary Ann Freuler  
The miniature golf tournament at A.D.H.S. claimed Harry Lawson as the first place winner. His score was 131. Steve Van Fleet made a close second at 132. Glen McKenzie third at 133. First place winner will have his name engraved on the cup.

At the soccer game hosted by Orangeville last week, Acton tied its host 1-1. Jim Slaven scored the only goal. The game was played well, considering that Acton had been previously defeated 3-0.

A soccer game, as well as a girls volleyball game will be played here against the Ontario School for the Deaf this week. Wednesday Oct. 15, the athletic department is sponsoring an obstacle run for both boys and girls.

Thursday the junior and senior cross country teams will compete at the C.W.O.S.S.A. championships in Orangeville. On October 25, the girls volleyball team will represent Acton at the CWOSSA B championships in Milton.

Reminders... Persons wishing to, may donate Canadian Tire money to the Physical Education office. This will help to purchase some of the prizes for Las Vegas Night.



By Mary Ann Freuler  
The first edition of A.D.H.S.' own newspaper, "The Big?" was distributed to the student body, Tuesday. The journal included Dear Fran (a column for the love lorn), a sports report, interviews with some of the staff, student council report and on the lighter side a crossword puzzle and jokes. The paper is a follow-up to last year's "StrobeLight" whose editor was Stephanie Merrin. This year's Editor Mary Ann Freuler and assistant editor, Carol Patterson, are helped by many students contributing articles. The staff advisor is Mr. Brian Skerrett. In the future the paper will be sold, for the price of a nickel, regularly on Tuesdays.

Members of Student's Council this year are president Mark Hurst, vice-president Dianne Fisher, secretary Marie Timbers and treasurer Bob Smith as well as representatives from each home form. During the middle weeks of October they are planning to sell Hallowe'en candies to help raise funds for future projects. A prize will be given to the student who sells the most candies as well as prizes for the runners up. There is also a special reward for the home form who does the best.

The Student's Council first project for the school year was a dance in honor of the grade nines. The beat of Sherman and Peabody brought a good crowd and they made a profit of over \$100.

The Driver Education Program headed by Mr. C. Rogvaldson is now well on its way. The fifteen students, given their beginners test last Friday, were all successful. In car training will begin this week. In previous lessons, Constable Wood attended a session, explaining the rules of the road to the students. He also answered all of their questions concerning the driving of a car.

A meeting with Mr. Denny, of Denny Insurance, is planned for this week. He will be there to represent all of the insurance companies and to inform the students about them.



EXECUTIVE OF the 1969-70 Student's Council at Acton, District High are president Mark Hurst (centre), secretary Marie Timbers (left), vice-president Diane Fisher and treasurer Bob Smith. —(Staff Photo)

## Commencement awards this Friday evening

Commencement exercises at the high school have been split this year.

This Friday evening just the senior awards will be made during the usual program at the school gym. The prizes and awards for all the lower school students will be made during school hours the following Friday.

The program had been growing longer each year with the numbers of awards and students increasing.

Diplomas will be presented Friday to the graduates of both the four and five year courses. Top grade 13 students of the past year, who will accept several awards each, are students Kathryn Sinclair, Susan Perry and Gordon Read. Miss Sinclair will give the valedictory address. Guest speaker will be William Bellwell of Toronto.

If you have a flat, pull all the way off the road. If there isn't room, drive ahead until there is.

## OK trustee study trip to California

Study trips by trustees and board officials were approved by members of Halton County Board of Education to points as far away as California.

Director J. Singleton outlined the objectives of the trips following the meeting, stressing their value in familiarizing trustees with new techniques in education and construction.

He estimated cost of all the trips at less than \$3,000.

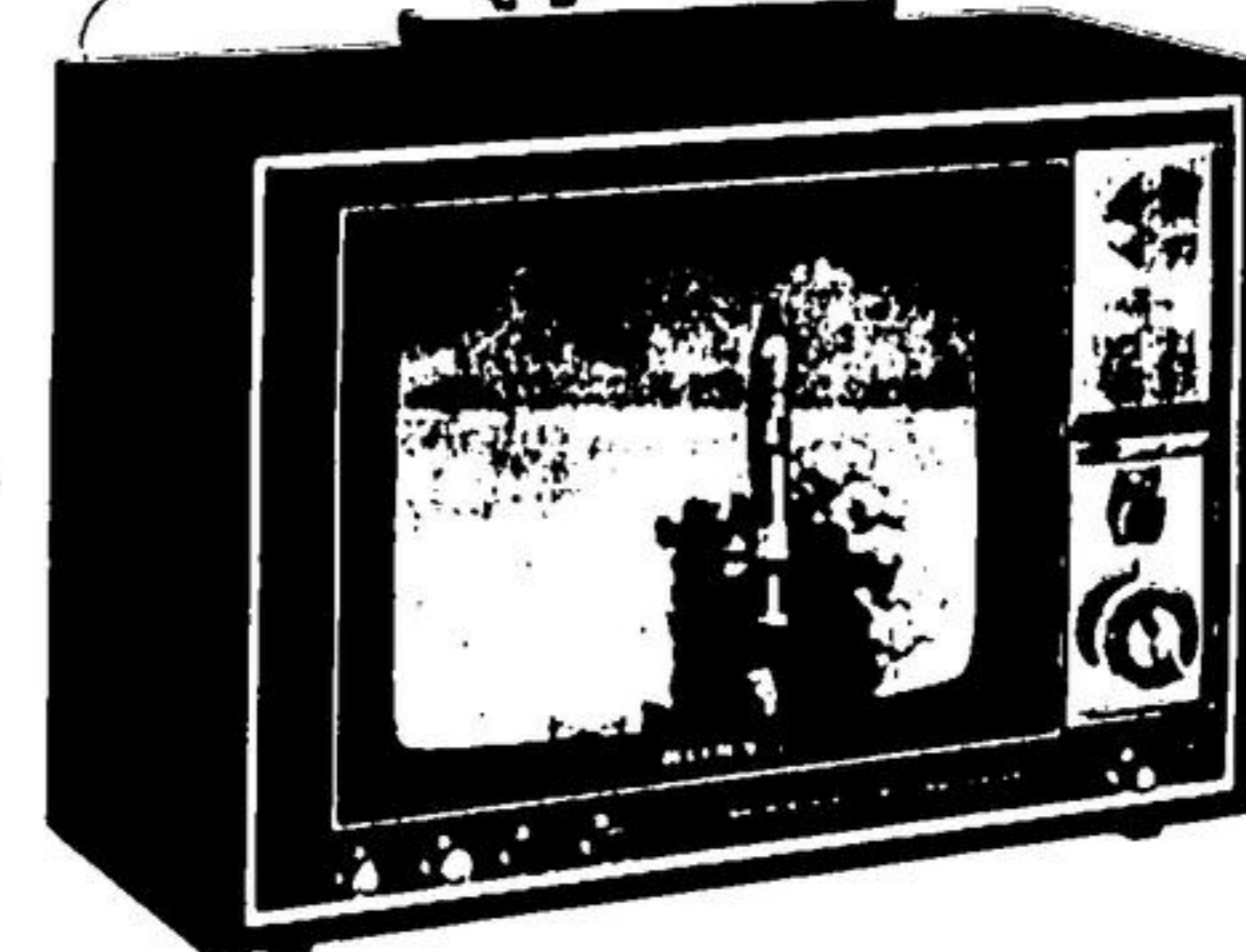
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The TRINITRON gun structure is a single electron gun that produces three electron beams, one for each of the primary colors. Contrast this with the conventional gun structure that employs three separate electron guns. A primary advantage of the TRINITRON gun is that it employs a very large electron lens, one that takes up almost the entire inside diameter of the tube's neck. Another lens aims the three beams through the centre of the large lens. The result is a large lens in which only the centre portion is used.

Amateur photographers will recognize the similarity to a large lens operated with a very small lens opening. The result is sharp focus and great depth of field. This means very sharp focus at every point on the screen. The increased beam concentration at the focus spot also means greater brightness. Three-gun systems, on the other hand, must employ individual electron lenses that must be small enough to fit inside the tube's neck. The three-in-line beam arrangement used in the TRINITRON gun also results in a great simplification in service adjustments. Convergence adjustments, for example, are reduced to four in comparison with 12 or more required for conventional tubes. Finally, SONY has developed the APERTURE GRILLE, a new color defining mechanism that permits more electrons to reach the screen and hence produce greater brightness when combined with the TRINITRON gun.

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