

By KOOP HEILBRON

Cable Music Show Starts May 19

MAYALL'S OLD GROUP ON LP

NEW YORK: A reunion of ex-members of John Mayall's many blues bands, including guitarists Eric Clapton, Mike Taylor, Jerry McGee, and Harvey Mandell; bass guitarists Larry Taylor and Steve Thompson; drummers Keef Hartley and Paul Logos; and Johnny Almond on saxophone and flute, has given new meaning to the English blues master, John Mayall.

"Back to the Roots" has furthered the reputation Mayall established with his other albums — namely Bluesbreakers, Turning Point, and USA Union — as the greatest living white bluesman in the world. The great thing about Mayall is his lack of pretentiousness. He doesn't claim to "have the blues" or to have "paid his dues", but he certainly plays it better than anybody else.

In the past, he showed why he is one of the best musical teachers in music by developing the talent in Eric Clapton, Mick Taylor, Peter Green, and other premiere guitarists.

Mayall's blues are strikingly honest. They are about drug addiction, groupies, the media, marriage, censors, and other things that concern people like himself and of his generation.

This album goes from a relaxed to a frenzied mood, with some great work by the aforementioned musicians.

Clapton plays on most of the loose numbers, notably "Home Again" and "Goodbye December", these are the opening songs of sides two and four, respectively. With Mayall, he does his best guitar work, since he was with the Cream. It's careful and relaxed playing.

Mick Taylor, now with the Stones, plays on the louder cuts, the best being on "Full Speed Ahead", which is a song about the world speeding to destruction.

Mick Taylor and Paul Logos do some excellent drumming and Mayall picks up the sticks himself to play drums on "Force of Nature".

Johnny Almond plays sax and flute, and Sugar-cane Harris plays fiddle, both doing great solo work providing the little links which keep this album together so solidly.

Mayall, with four other guitarists, only plays guitar now and then on the album, sticking mostly to piano, harp and vocals.

Enough can't be said about this great double album, which includes a twenty-four page booklet of pics of yer faves. Every cut is so carefully planned out, so full in sound, you can't pick out the "best" side or song, and that says something about what John Mayall is doing. It's one of the best albums of the year.

WISHBONE ASH is a British group formed about a year ago. This band has two lead guitarists, a bassist, and a drummer. The sound is very unique and "together". It's somewhat like a hard rock country type band, sounding at times like it's a well planned jam.

The first side is mostly short songs, all showing Messrs. Andy Powell's and Ted Turner's fine guitar work. The best music is on the second side. Two long songs, called "Handy", and "Phoenix" are fantastic. Both start out slowly and build up to a rising finish, especially "Phoenix", the best song on the whole album. The whole side is filled with original music and interplay between all the instruments. Wishbone Ash is a fairly unknown band, but have already played at both the Fillmores. The album is on Decca, called Wishbone Ash, and well worth getting.

Easter Rock, during the Easter holidays was fairly disappointing except for one band called "Joy Of Cooking". They're a fairly new band from San Francisco, owned and led by two women, Terry Garthwaite, lead guitarist, and vocalist, who according to some, "sounds just like Joplin". The other one, Toni Brown, plays electric piano, and sings back up vocals. The three males play bass, drums and congas, and the overall sound is a flowing combination of all the instruments. Their music is a combination of country, blues and rock, managing to sound like a band from San Francisco. Their concert at the St. Lawrence Market in Toronto failed to impress people, except for one number, a medley of "Goin' to Brownsville", and "Mockingbird", a rockin' song showing off Miss Brown's best piano work.

Joy Of Cooking has an album which I haven't heard, although one reviewer said "it's nothing like seeing them in person."

RUSH is a show directed and produced for "teens" by some people at Cable TV for Channel 10. It will be shown alternate Wednesdays every hour on the half hour. It's worth seeing, coming up May 19. Other shows have featured (among others), Buck Creek and Goldrush, so it's really a great chance for bands to get exposure on TV.

Keep the cards and letters comin' in folks.

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"Blithe Spirit" At Langstaff

Tonight (Thursday) is opening night for Sir Noel Coward's classic, "Blithe Spirit", at Langstaff Secondary School on Garden Avenue. Curtain time is 7:30 pm, and there will be a second performance at the same time tomorrow.

Leading members of the cast are pictured above in rehearsal, surrounding psychic Madame Arcati, played by Terry Neal, as she goes into a trance. Far left is Dr. Bradman (David Thompson), with Charles Condomine (Danny Willis) centre, and a distraught Ruth (Laura Hansen), the second Mrs. Condomine, at far right.

The drama club production is directed by grade 11 student Susan Kitcher, with Pam Johnstone, teacher of English and theatre arts as producer.

Provincial Aid Program For Farm Conservation

Rural landowners learned how each can do his bit for conservation during the annual "Tour For Conservation Assistance" at Palgrave Forest Saturday.

The program, sponsored by the Metro Conservation Authority, was established in 1957 to encourage landowners to undertake effective conservation programs on their land.

The tour last weekend included reforestation areas and provided the landowner with practical ideas on planting of fence-row trees, shrubs to supply food and cover for wildlife, layout and construction of ponds for water and fish management, and stream bank improvements designed to control erosion and flooding.

On hand to discuss the program and provide information were various members of the authority's staff as well as representatives from the Department of Lands and Forests and the Department of Agriculture and Food.

Forestry experts provided expert technical advice on reforestation and woodlot management, tree planting, fish and wildlife and habitat improvement.

Advice on the design and construction of ponds and other aspects of agriculture, as well as on subsidies that are available to landowners for property improvement were supplied by agricultural representatives.

Booklets describing the program are available from the authority offices, 5 Shoreham Drive, Downsview, telephone 630-9780.

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10:00 a.m. — Quarter Horse Show

2:00 p.m. — Breeder Show

5:00 p.m. — Western Show

7:00 p.m. — Mutt Show (in the arena)

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8:00 - 12:00 p.m. — Dance with Live Rock Bands

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SATURDAY

9:00 a.m. — Jersey Show (Arena)

9:30 a.m. — Hunter Show

9:30 a.m. — Pigeon Show (Arena)

9:30 a.m. — Poultry Show (Arena)

10:00 a.m. — Jumper Show

1:00 p.m. — Heavy Horse Show

1:30 p.m. — Official Opening

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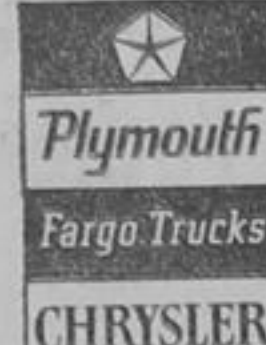
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