

News Desk

Edited: Derek Johnson

CHUCK BERRY IN MANX FEST

NME UNDERSTANDS that Chuck Berry is to headline a major one-day festival in the Isle of Man during the week set aside for the annual T.T. motor-cycle races. It is planned for Douglas Lido on June 6, with a supporting bill that features several leading British rock revival outfits — including Shakin' Stevens and the Sunsets, Remember This and Crazy Cavan 'n' the Rhythm Rockers. This will be part of a full European tour by Chuck Berry, and among his Continental dates are two shows at Paris Olympia on May 25 and an appearance at Lyons Palais des Sports the following day.

TOUR NEWS ROUND-UP

THREE DEGREES have now confirmed the three remaining venues in their British tour, which follows their week-long engagement at the **London Palladium** starting April 12. They are **Manchester** Golden Garter (May 3 week), **Stockport** Davenport Theatre (30) and **Skegness** Sands Showbar (31). All other dates were reported by NME three weeks ago.

SUPERCHARGE are playing a string of one-nighters to promote their new single "Get Down Boogie". They appear at **Manchester** Didsbury College of Education (March 24), **Dudley** J.B.'s Club (26), **Leicester** Polytechnic (27), **Chester** Quaintways (29), **Southport** Dixieland Showbar (30) and **Wolverhampton** Lafayette (31). Their debut album "Local Lads Make Good" is issued by Virgin on April 30.

STYLISTICS are to play two additional performances at the **London Palladium** on Monday, April 5. These extra shows have been set because their two previously-reported dates at this venue have now completely sold out. Tickets for the additional gigs are now on sale at the Palladium box-office. The group have also added two shows at **Dublin** Carlton to their itinerary.

CHARLEY PRIDE returns to Britain for an extensive concert tour in the autumn, promoted by Jeffrey Kruger for Ember Concert Division. Dates so far confirmed are **London Palladium** (November 7) and **Southport** New Theatre (10 and 11). Other venues are being finalised. Support acts will be Gary Stewart and Dave & Sugar.

GROUNDHOGS are to undertake another series of British concert and college dates in June, due to the success of their current comeback tour. This



MUTTER SLATER (Stackridge)

STACKRIDGE have cancelled their scheduled appearance at **London** Shaftesbury Theatre on March 28 because, instead, they played a major London gig at the Chalk Farm Roundhouse last Sunday. Two dates in their current tour itinerary have been re-scheduled. They appear at **Bath** Pavilion on April 1 instead of March 24, and at **Yeovil** Johnson Hall on April 6 instead of yesterday (Wednesday).

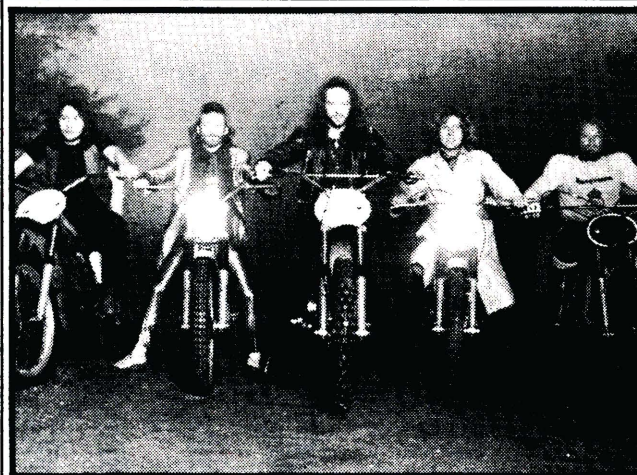
BOBBY WOMACK has been confirmed for two more gigs during his brief

MAN have made two changes to their current tour itinerary, adding **Ipswich** Gaumont on March 26 and postponing **Swindon** Oasis Centre (27). They are also considering adding a further five concerts to their schedule in the first week of April. The band's new album "The Welsh Connection" is released tomorrow (Friday).

JOHN MILES is now confirmed for a string of solo gigs, after appearing as support act on Robin Trower's recent concerts. He plays **Lancaster** University (tomorrow, Friday), **Stirling** University (Saturday), **Nelson** The Column (March 26), **Newcastle** University (28), **Chester** Quaintways (29), **Oxford** College of Education (31), **Tunbridge Wells** Court Club April 1, **Cromer** West Runton Pavilion (2) and **Birmingham** Barbarella's (3).

SHOWADDYWADDY are playing a few dates to promote their new album "Trocadero", issued on April 9. They are at **Leicester** Bailey's from tonight (Thursday) for three days, then visit **Manchester** Broadway (March 24 for four days), **Manchester** Wythenshawe Forum (28), **Watford** Bailey's (April 7) and **Derby** Bailey's (8 for three days). These will be their last gigs until they headline an extensive autumn tour. The title track from their new album is issued as a single on March 26.

RICK WAKEMAN's debut British tour with the English Rock Ensemble has undergone a few changes. It now opens with two shows at **Ipswich** Gaumont on April 19, instead of one show on April 20 as previously announced. And the gig at **Leicester** De Montfort Hall is brought forward from April 27 to 20. The itinerary is otherwise unchanged, except that a



Jethro end their exile

JETHRO TULL have decided to end their exile abroad. They are returning to live in Britain which, in future, will be their base of operations. The band have been absent from this country for over a year, being one of the first of the big-name bands to quit Britain for tax reasons. But now they feel they would rather live at home, despite the tax burden which this involves. And their decision could soon be emulated by other homesick British exiles.

It is understood that Tull are keen to perform in Britain and, although no definite plans have yet been made, it seems certain that concerts will be arranged for later in the year. These would be part of a full European tour.

A new Tull single is being rush-released by Chrysalis this weekend, titled "Too Old To Rock 'n' Roll, Too Young To Die". This is also the title track of their forthcoming album, recorded in Montreux and Monte Carlo, for which a release date is still awaited.

Jethro will perform the new

single and another new song in London Weekend's "Supersonic" on March 27, which will be their first British TV appearance for more than five years.

McTELL AT ALBERT

RALPH McTELL, who has just completed his first series of British dates since his year-long absence in America, is to play a major solo concert at **London** Royal Albert Hall on Friday, May 28. Tickets are £3, £2.50, £2, £1.50 and £1, and they are on sale now at D.B. Promotions, 16 Oxford Circus Avenue, 231 Oxford Street, London W.1.

Joni's dates OFF

JONI MITCHELL has cancelled her spring tour of Britain and Europe, which was to have included four major gigs in this country — at **London** Hammersmith Odeon (May 27, 28 and 29) and **Glasgow** Apollo (31), all of which were completely sold out. These would have been her first appearances in this country since she played **Wembley Stadium** in 1974.

Ticket-holders are asked to apply for cash refunds. Those purchased from the MAM Organisation should be returned to that office, enclosing a stamped self-addressed envelope, while those obtained from agencies should be returned to the point of purchase. Promoter **Barry Dickins** says that he has hopes of re-scheduling **Joni's** dates for later in the year.

The gigs have officially been cancelled on medical grounds. A spokesman said that **Joni** collapsed in New York recently, suffering from physical exhaustion after a severe bout of flu, and she has been advised by doctors not to undertake any touring for several months. He added: "There's a rumour going round that she has broken up with her boy friend **John Guerin** and, because he is a member of the L.A. Express, this has caused the tour to be called off. But I am here to tell you that this report simply isn't true."