



Pick Hits

TOUCH'N GO WITH THE CRITTERS

Project 3 PR 4001 SD.

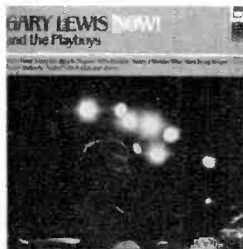
The group's "Touch'n Go" by Gordon and Bonner leads off this package of contemporary sounds. Things like Tim Hardin's "Reason to Believe" distinguish the collection. Group member Jim Ryan wrote many of the other enticers.



NOW!

GARY LEWIS AND THE PLAYBOYS—Liberty LST 7568.

All the recent clicks, including "Sealed With a Kiss," "Young Girl," "Windy," "I Wonder What She's Doing Tonight?" "Judy in Disguise," "Elusive Butterfly." Snuff Garrett produced the package and it's a great deal of fun.



THE BLUES ALONE

JOHN MAYALL—London PS 534.

John Mayall is a one-man band and he shows just how big a band he is on these bands. The guy plays harmonica, guitar, piano and drums and then, to top it all off, he is the vocalist with himself. Lots of low-down funk in these grooves.



HAIR PIECES

GALT MACDERMOT—Verve Forecast FTS 3045.

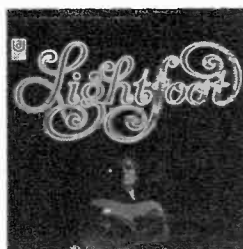
Galt MacDermot, who shook up off-Broadway and now Broadway with his score for "Hair," a truly lovely and gritty set of songs, grooves that score here with a motley instrumental group and chorus. Lots of singles possibilities here.



DID SHE MENTION MY NAME?

CORDON LIGHTFOOT—United Artists UAL 3649; UAS 6649.

Gordon Lightfoot, who writes songs that mean a great deal to people, has a grittily beautiful new package here, produced by John Simon. His superb "Black Day in July," coruscating and indelible, is here with other moody pieces.



LET'S GET TOGETHER

JIMMY McCracklin—Minit 24011.

This fellow really knows what the beat is all about. When his tracks start moving, so do the listeners. "Get Together," "Walk Right In," "How You Like Your Love" and others make for attractive and contemporary package.



THE HOOK WILL GRAB YOU

Uni 73023.

Here's a new group that the underground followers will want to take a look at. There are three fellows—guitar, bass and drums—and they know how to make the sounds a lot of the kids want to hear. They'll be heard from.



IRVING BERLIN ALL BY MYSELF

Monmouth Evergreen MES 6809-10-11.

To celebrate Irving Berlin's 80th birthday last week, Monmouth Evergreen collected three records full of Berlin tunes. Annette Sanders, Steve Clayton, the Jack Manno Singers and Rusty Dedrick's ork are the artists. The star is Berlin, who is frequently called, with some reason, Mr. American Music.



SWEET BEAT

CATERINA VALENTE—London PS 536.

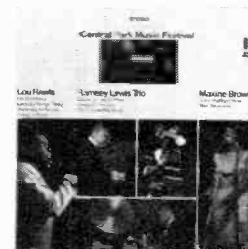
Everybody knows about this girl's versatility. Here she shows what she can do with a handful of recent popular tunes and one or two oldies ("Ol' Man River"). She makes something fresh of "We Can Work It Out," "Don't Sleep in the Subway," more.



CENTRAL PARK MUSIC FESTIVAL

VARIOUS ARTISTS—Music Images (S)T 2933.

Lou Rawls, Maxine Brown and Ramsey Lewis appeared at the marvelous concerts given in New York's Central Park last year. Here they are as they sounded that night on "On Broadway," "In the Midnight Hour," "Goin' Out of My Head."



HAVE YOU MET MISS JONES?

ARTIE BUTLER—A&M SP 3007.

Insouciant arrangements just right for drinking gin and tonics to. Summer is a-coming in and loud sing praise for Artie Butler's musical ideas. "When I'm 64," "Camelot," "In the Heat of the Night," "Something Stupid."



SONGS FROM THE HIT MUSICAL "GEORGE M!"

BANJO BARONS—Columbia CL 2843; CS 9643.

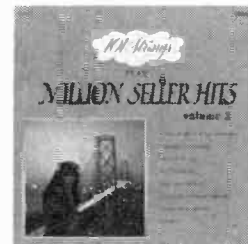
Cohan songs as they should be played and sung—jingly, jangly, bright, breezy, red, white and blue. Some of the unknown songs dusted off for the new "George M!" show are here. "Rose," "All My Friends," "The Belle of the Barbers' Ball."



101 STRINGS PLAY MILLION SELLER HITS VOLUME 3

Budget Sound 5088.

Lush and lovely versions of Tony Bennett's songs. Things like "I Left My Heart in San Francisco," "Who Can I Turn To," "Rags to Riches," "Strangers in Paradise," "Boulevard of Broken Dreams," "I Want to Be Around."



ETHEL WATERS

Columbia CL 2792; CS 2792.

Miles Kreuger, musical comedy historiographer par excellence, has gathered together these shining Ethel Waters cuts and annotated them thoughtfully. Ethel sings gaily and emotionally on most of her favorites—"Heat Wave," "Am I Blue?" "Harlem on My Mind."

