

WHAT GOES ON!



TimeMACHINE

This month in 1965 The Charlatans debut!

JUNE 21 Proto-psych band The Charlatans first tumbled into rock history when George Hunter (vocals autoharp), Richard Olsen (bass, vocals) Mike Wilhelm (lead guitar, vocals), Mike Ferguson (keyboards) and Sam Linde (drums) got together in San Francisco during 1964, achieving a modicum of interest for being clad in late Victorian clothing or gear that suggested they were en route to the shoot-out at the OK Corral. With Dan Hicks replacing Linde, the band of long-hairs crossed the border into Nevada and, with stars in their eyes and LSD in their brains, began a three-month residency at Virginia City's Red Dog Saloon on June 21, 1965. The event is now perceived as a landmark in San Fran rock; it also sparked the era of the psychedelic concert poster, with Ferguson and Hunter producing The

"We'd come together like gunfighters, hired to do a job."

Leaf, the first piece of art of its kind and a forerunner of offerings by Rick Griffin, Stanley Mouse, Wes Wilson and others. On-stage, The Charlatans offered a kind of acid-steeped trip through Americana. There was rock, sometimes Brit-related but shaped for Californian ears by the various band-members. And there were reminders that cowboy (even mock ones) love country music, as they performed material ripped from the Opry songbook, along with other material the Sons Of The Pioneers would never have touched in a zillion years. Richard Olsen explained that though every member of the band felt they were as important as each other, "we were so individual that we were inconsistent. We'd come together when it suited us, like five gunfighters coming to town, hired to do some job." Dan Hicks, rated by some as the major provider

of original material, mused: "Nobody was really a songwriter, no one was really a singer either, at least an outstanding singer. It was a matter of consensus."

Mike Wilhelm recalls: "The venue, originally known as the Comstock House, was built in 1876. It required substantial refurbishment but still had its ornate gold leaf back-bar which had been imported from France."

One Mark Unobsky had talked his father into buying the Virginia City building, which Unobsky Jr turned into a hide-out for those who wanted to stay high while listening to music amid the multi-coloured shapes created by Bill Ham's pulsating light show. A chef was recruited, along with resident folk singer Lynn Hughes and an impressive bouncer, a man-mountain Washoe Indian in a top hat. The Charlatans provided the floorshow. During this period they recorded demos for the Autumn label, but Wilhelm recalls that at the



time the band were fatigued and that Sly Stone, working at Autumn in an A&R/producer capacity, was so hyper they had to eject him from the studio.

Mike Wilhelm: "At the Red Dog, Mark Unobsky and a few of us had an audience with Chief Deputy Englehart at his request. He warned us that Nevada State Bureau of Narcotics detectives were on their way to investigate reports of drug use - LSD was still a legal substance at that time but they suspected we smoked weed. He told us, 'Don't embarrass us, boys, we like to make the arrests around here.'"

But when Wilhelm and proto-hippy Chandler Laughlin got busted in Rodeo, California, the sheriff was forced to act due to public pressure. Wilhelm recalls: "They eventually found some deer meat, which was probably planted, in the Red Dog's refrigerator and busted the place for poaching, a relatively minor offence carrying a \$50 fine."

With the venue fighting for survival as the local authorities took the moral high ground, The Charlatans made their way back to San Francisco, where some of those involved with the Red Dog Saloon formed an organisation known as the Family Dog. During October 1965 they held A Tribute To Dr Strange, a dance at the Longshoreman's Hall. It was San Francisco's first psychedelic rock bonanza, featuring The Charlatans with Lynn Hughes, Jefferson Airplane, Grateful Dead and The Marbles.

What music critic Ralph J. Gleason hailed as "the San Francisco Sound" had been launched. Luria Castell, a political activist involved with both Dogs, Family and Red, declared: "San Francisco can be the new Liverpool." But a new regime, spawned on lengthy guitar solos and a yen for world domination took over. The Western ways of The Charlatans took a back seat and by early '68 of the original line-up only Olsen and Wilhelm were left. Less than a year later, The Charlatans had split.

Fred Dellar

Ad Archive 1965

Dewar's
cool, clean and cosmic



Drinking Scotch while on a space walk is inadvisable, however "cool, clean and cosmic" its taste may be.

Also this MONTH

Hey 'Nam

1 Joan Baez and Bob Dylan go on London's Vietnam Peace March.

Cash Registers

3 Johnny Cash has his first UK hit - It Ain't Me, Babe enters the chart.

Supreme Effort

12 The Supremes become the first US act to notch five consecutive chart-toppers in the Billboard Hot 100 when Back In My Arms Again hits the summit.

Today It's Yesterday

14 Paul McCartney begins recording Yesterday at Abbey Road. He uses a string quartet, a first for a Beatles recording date.

Dylan Plugs In

15 At Columbia's New York Studio, Bob Dylan records Like A Rolling Stone. His first electric recording. It features Mike Bloomfield on guitar and Al Kooper on organ.

Rockin' In Uxbridge

19 Marianne Faithfull, The Who, Spencer Davis, John Mayall and Long John Baldry are among those who perform at the Uxbridge Blues & Folk Festival.

Louvin Loss

20 Ira Louvin, one half of influential country duo The Louvin Brothers, is killed in a car collision in Williamsburg, Missouri.

Smokey Weeps

23 Motown release Tracks Of My Tears by Smokey Robinson and The Miracles.

Works Outing

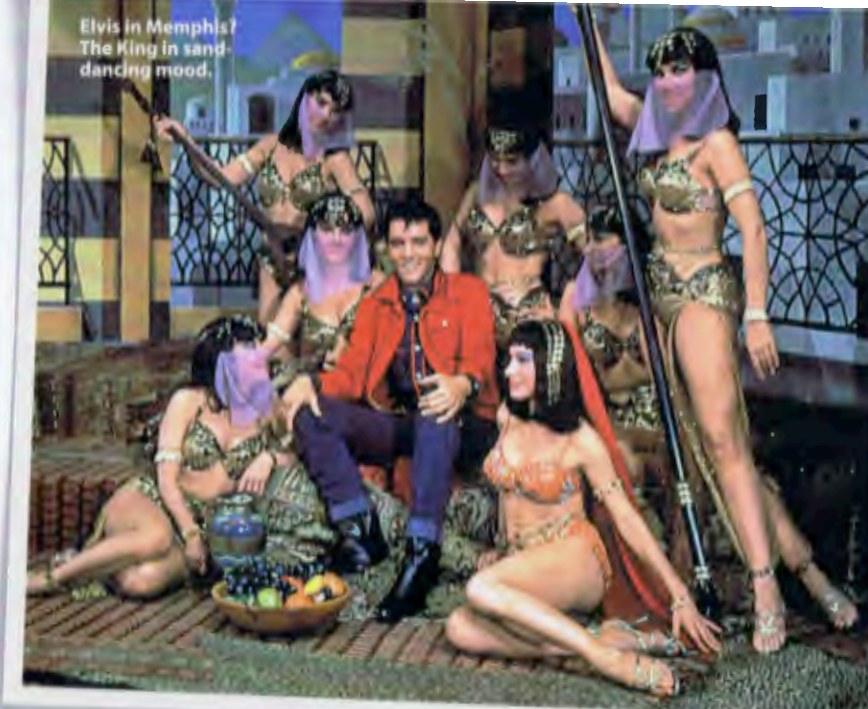
24 A Spaniard in The Works, John Lennon's second book, is published.

Here's Dickie!

28 US ABC-TV launch Dick Clark's afternoon show, Where The Action Is, an outdoor version of American Bandstand, with Jan & Dean, Dee Dee Sharp, Paul Revere & The Raiders and others.

Gigs Of The Month

5 Cambridge Dorothy Ballroom Jokers Wild (Dave Gilmour)
6 Wiley DJ Club John Leo Hooker
8 Wellington Public Hall The Who
10 Margate Cliftonville Hotel Davy Jones & The Lower Third
11 West Hartlepool Rink The Honeycombs
14 Warrington Parr Hall The Yardbirds
20 Manchester Mr Smith's Adam Faith
25 Blackpool Rainbow Gene Vincent, Gerry & The Pacemakers
29 London Marquee The Spencer Davis Group



...Elvis' Screen Scream

JUNE 7 At a screening of Elvis Presley's Harum Scarum, even his manager, Colonel Tom Parker, is alarmed by the film's lack of coherence. He declares it would take "a fifty-fifth cousin to P.T. Barnum" to sell such a waste of celluloid and even suggests slotting in a talking camel to make the film seem more deliberately nutty than it already is. The action, set against some of Hollywood's most unconvincing back-lot scenery, involves a singing star on tour in the Middle East who gets involved in a plot to assassinate the country's ruler. Elvis always was a man ahead of his time.



Unprofessional? Us? Kinks disembark.

...The Kinks Hit The USA

JUNE 17 The Kinks arrive in New York for their first US tour, but the romp around the States produces chaos. Ray Davies thumps a union official, the band skip a show in Sacramento and generally create such a rumpus over an appearance on the Hullabaloo TV show that they are blacklisted by the American Federation of Musicians, who cite unspecified "unprofessional conduct". The Kinks will not return to the USA until 1969.

Top Ten HONG KONG SINGLES June 26

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|---|--|---|
| 1 The Last Time
The Rolling Stones DECCA | 6 Baby The Rain Must Fall
Glen Yarbrough RCA VICTOR | 10 Crying In The Chapel
Elvis Presley RCA VICTOR |
| 2 Ticket To Ride
The Beatles PARLOPHONE | 7 Concrete And Clay
Unit 4+2 DECCA | |
| 3 The Minute You've Gone
KEITH Richards COLUMBIA | 8 It's Not Unusual
Tom Jones DECCA | |
| 4 Come And Stay With Me
Marianne Faithfull DECCA | 9 Goldfinger
Marty Gold RCA VICTOR | |
| 5 Rock And Roll Music
The Beatles PARLOPHONE | | |



Unit 4+2: Clay-dreamers.