

...and so this is Christmas

ALL OF US * VOLUME ONE * NUMBER FIVE * DECEMBER 15th * MERRY CHRISTMAS!!!

Dear Folks,

Well, the Christmas crunch is well under way as I write this. I'm so pressed for time it's not even funny. Let's get this baby started, shall we? First off, To follow up, I'm glad to report there's a happy ending to the tumultuous last issue- Lewis Crow rang me up soon after all the issues were mailed out, and, after brief discussion, we pretty much concluded that it was just a case of two people taking things too far (mainly *me*)... It was the general consensus of the people I talked to about it that I took it a little too personally, and I, looking back, must agree. I Apologize to Mr. Crow for this & for the fact that I did this *very* publicly instead of contacting him personally and dealing with him on a one-to-one level. I'm finding I do indeed have a bad habit of not giving folk the benefit of the doubt at times and getting unnecessarily uptight. This is something I'll have to work on in the future... & you know what they say, "admitting it is the first step..."

Even *more* James-blunders!!! In moving my bedroom furniture around yesterday, I came across a small pile of ALL OF US #2's, "flattening" (which is the 3rd stage of the ALL OF US production regimen- first printing, then folding-*by hand*, then flattening them under my small bookcase, making them a wee bit sleeker for the journey to your mailbox). Well, a few folk issues had been flattening for *months*!! Gee, no *wonder* some of the people I'd sent sample issues to never responded!!! I think it's pretty clear I need to work harder on better organization with ALL OF US. A note to those of you new folk, please make any checks or money orders out to JAMES d. BIRCH, as my bank doesn't know who ALL OF US is (what?! ya mean they're not BIG COUNTRY fans?!?).

Let's see... as for the new album, I predict it will be at *least* another 6-8 weeks away (probably longer)- the places that advertise in Goldmine always advertise new releases about a good *month* in advance, and I haven't seen anything yet. Also keep in mind that the usual procedure is to release a single about 2-4 weeks prior to the album. Although the last word I had from Jan (the same any of you in the Country Club got) said something about "unleashing BC worldwide", I don't plan on sitting back and hoping for a domestic release (remember the 6 month difference in the UK & US release dates for Buffalo Skinners, *despite* it's being heralded as a brilliant "comeback" album). I am, however, fortunate enough to have a great friend in the UK who sends me all the BC stuff as it is released. For those of you not so fortunate, one word of advice: **GOLDMINE**.

For those of you curious about our next BC Compilation CD, see inside for further details. You may notice the back page sports some of the design for the Dissidents' album, "Valiant". At the risk of saying too much, I'm gonna let you in on a little secret- The Dissidents are really our very own Tom Kercheval, with a session drummer. Tom did everything except the drums; acoustic and electric guitar, bass, lead & harmony vocals, etc., etc. (*stop blushing tom, and deflate your head a bit, eh? the air pressures' a bit high now*). My friendship with Tom aside, this is an excellent album, full of heartfelt ideas meshed with powerful and melodic music- you do yourself a favor and write to Tom to get your hands on a copy! Well, it's almost 1995 & I ask myself "where is that large automobile??"-NO, just kidding- I ask myself; what, James, would you say was *thee* album of 1994???? ...and I believe I would answer back "**Mighty Joe Moon**" by the LA band **Grant Lee Buffalo**. I saw them play an absolutely mind-blowing show in D.C. last month & was fortunate enough to speak with Mr. Grant Lee Phillips for a few minutes &, in the course of the conversation, asked if he ever listened to any BC, he said he recalled the first singles, that a lot of his friends really liked "the first album" & then said "they use a lot of [making the appropriate gesture] e-bow, don't they?". I sighed to myself a bit & said "yeah"- Great chap, and one of the best combinations of musician/lyricist to come down the pike in a while, in my opinion. On a side note, the Stone Roses have released their loooooooong awaited follow-up to their debut album, entitled "Second Coming", in the UK (as for domestic release, I couldn't tell ya). Me & the other two kooks in MISFIT TOYS layed down about 9 tracks at MSA studios on Nov 19th. Overdubs and mixing to be done in January, with an honest-to-goodness store ready, mass produced cassette available by March. The ALL OF US convention was, attendance-wise, a disappointment as it was only me, my girlfriend Dawn, and Cole Lauber (Tom was unexpectedly called in to work, nixing the "hootenanny" altogether). But, alas, we made the best of it by cracking good-hearted scots jokes & watching all the pipe bands, scottie dogs, flannel-clad lasses and big hairy guys in kilts with almost no vowels in their names! Dawn & I spent the rest of the weekend browsing thru the olde-town shops & shopping the large Alexandria mall and the nearby Tower Records (boy am I ever broke!!). Hey, hoping not to offend anyone, *how 'bout those November elections*??? I, for one, am extremely pleased with the outcome! So, in closing, I want to wish you all a Merry Christmas & a great 1995. And thank you all for your support in 1994. God bless you all, &, in Stuarts' words on that decade-old holiday B-side: "feed the people- Stay Alive"



WEMBLEY: a race against time

(reprinted from country club #8/9)

Having a wonderful time relaxing in the house, looking forward to cooking the dinner; hovering the furniture then sitting down to watch the mid summers' nights' tube special on channel weird. Paul Young seems to have pulled out for some reason. "Sore Throat" Muriel said, in her ever-so-posh Scottish accent. The thing is, he's meant to be playing at Wembley stadium with Elton John tomorrow, which will be the musical event of the year in Britain. I'm sure they'll find a suitable replacement. Anyway, lots of things to look forward to: we're flying to Sweden tomorrow to do the new album with Will & Steve. Oh look, Billy Mackenzie's on the Tube- he must have replaced Paul, it's a pity he's miming though.

Time: 11:30 pm... the Buntings are on now.

Nruuy Nruuy Nruuy Nruuy- I hate the sound of these new phones, you can't beat the old bell phones. At least you can hear them from the toilet.

ME: hello, what's the password?

VOICE: the puma has landed

ME: ok, go ahead

VOICE: it's me, Ian; I've got great news, get Stuart and be-

ME: Ian, stop gibbering, the line is so bad anyway and I'm still not used to your broad English accent

IAN: Paul Young's got a sore throat

ME: so what's new?

IAN: stereo tv

ME: come to the point, Ian!

IAN: Elton John wants us to play Wembley with him

ME: Wembley?

IAN: get Stuart and come down to London first thing in the morning

ME: I can't, tomorrow's bath night

IAN: We'll pay you well

ME: how much?

IAN: ten bob and a carry out!

ME: sounds good to me, see you tomorrow

Catch the first flight to London & meet up with the chaps at Heathrow which, at the moment, looks like the who's who of the rock world; everybody that was on the Tube last night has just arrived here from Newcastle. Saw Howard Jones' crew carrying a synth & an ironing board (no offense). Well, the chaps are in high spirits. The grin on Tony's face is bigger than the spare tire on Cyril Smith's gut. Mark's looking good and seems fully recovered from that embarrassing incident we had with the lawnmower at Stanbridge the other week. Grab our bags & are wheeled off in a black limo to

Wembley (paid for by Elton, of course)... Meet Ian at the hotel-

IAN: I haven't slept a wink

STUART: you'll go blind

IAN: Let's get down to the gig

TONY: what time are we on??

IAN: 5:45 pm I think

Get down to the stadium to catch the last 5 minutes of Nik Kershaw, sounded no bad. It's Kool & The Gang next, then us, then Elton. Elton comes across to meet us at our porta-cabin (dressing room) and thanked us for coming back at the last minute to play. He thought that we were on to Sweden and that we had turned back at the last minute. Alan Edwards (our publicity) must be up to his publicity stunts again. Stuart & I decided to go out front to check out the sound. He kept on getting hassled by little girls who couldn't believe it was him & asking for kisses etc. We went round to the disabled area to meet some of the people there and do some autographs. It's a shame because from the enclosure it's hard to see the group standing up, so you can imagine how bad it is sitting down. After that, we were escorted backstage by a very nice policeman (true) who apparently is a fan of the band. He was on duty at Wembley Arena the last time we played there with the Jam. Got back to the porta-cabin and laxed about in the sun for a couple of hours. It's a perfect day for an open air concert. One of the things about this Wembley gig is that it was organised by none other than Dave Wemham, who just happens to be our tour manager. We haven't seen Dave since the Japanese tour but he seems to be looking better- in fact, there is evidence of a sun tan on his face which is quite unusual because he doesn't come out to play during the day.

Six o'clock, time to go on-everybody well into playing now...

"Les, the strings on this guitar are a bit heavy!" ... "That's a bass, Bruce!" ... "I'm not nervous, honest!"

STEVE WRIGHT: Paul Young couldn't make it because of an illness, but BIG COUNTRY are playing instead!

CROWD: WAH

Thousand Stars... dee dee dee dee dee dee dee dee dee dee dee dee dee dee dee

"Brilliant! this gig's going to be brilliant!" ... Angle Park was the business. Oh no!-Stuart's amp has packed in. Get down the front & tell the punters some jokes... "Aw neebor, what's black and white with a dirty name?" ... Sister Mary Fu-"

And Stuart's amp is working again! Phew, that was a close one! Played a cracker of a set, got an encore the lot! You couldn't ask for a better day.

"Well, time to fly back to Scotland and get ready for our next adventure:

THE NEW ALBUM.



Christmas Messages



from fran seal:

"I would like to wish all the great people I've met through ALL OF US- Lowell, Tom K., Art, Andrea the most happiest of holidays, and a new year that is filled with Love, Happiness, Health and most of all PEACE!

And to James, I would like to wish the same & more! If it wasn't for you bringing us all together, this message would never have been! You have made all our lives a lot richer! Happy Holidays to ALL"- Fran Seal

ED NOTE: (sob!) STOP IT STOP IT STOP IT! I'M BLUSHING!!!

from tom kercheval:

"I just want to wish every in the ALL OF US clan a very Merry Christmas & a BC-laden New Year. I especially want to thank all those who've ordered video from me this past year. May your stockings be stuffed with all the crap you ever wanted! Also, if anyone's interested, my band, the Dissidents, have just released our first CD, VALIANT. If anyone wants to hear what a relatively young, BC-influenced band sounds like, just send me your correspondence and I will commence immediately to fling something your way.

Anyway, Happy Christmas, wankers!"-Tom Kercheval

ALL OF US is published approximately every other month and is available for \$7 per year. ALL OF US welcomes your comments, questions, and input of any kind.

Big Country, the Scottish roots-rock band that reached its height of fame in 1983, with the hit, "In A Big Country," is on the comebrack trail with a new album titled *The Buffalo Skinners*, and a tour that comes to the Stone Pony in Asbury Park tonight. The band, 700 Miles, opens.

If anyone might bear the rap of being constantly in the shadow of a famous sibling, it could be Simon Townshend. He's got a stable family life (wife Janie was the title subject of his Warner Bros. single back in 1975); his credentials include fronting a band, *The Air*, with Big Country's rhythm section, Tony Butler and Mark Brzezicki;

BIG COUNTRY 'King Of Emotion' (Mercury)

Emotion has always been Stuart Adamson's forte. Hale, hearty, a monarch of the glen, he turned Big Country into a fatuous marching band.

But this shrewdly-produced (by Peter Wolf) return suggests a carrier

BIG COUNTRY: King Of Emotion (Phonogram)

Big Country used to be the group whose tunes sounded all Scottish due to having billions of bagpipe-like guitars on them. This, on the other hand, is hip wiggling "rock" of the kind large crowds punch their fists into the air and shout

"Awwwwwwright" to. This is raunchy rock and ruddy roll, this it. Who are these imposters? Whoever they are, they've probably got a big hit on their hands.

ambition is overtaking him. The smooth surfaces are directed at appeasing the appetites of US radio. I suppose he has his eye on a bigger country now.

BIG COUNTRY return from a two year vinyl exile with a new single, a new LP and some live dates — behind the Iron Curtain! The single's called "King Of Emotion" and it's released next week by Mercury. It was produced by Peter Wolf who's worked with Starship and Heart, and is backed by an instrumental called "The Travellers". The 12-inch CD also features "Not Waving But Drowning", while the tracks appear on the band's as yet untitled new LP due for release in September.

Also in September, Big Country head off for an Eastern European tour which will take in Russia, Hungary, Poland, Czechoslovakia and possibly Afghanistan. Their manager, Ian Grant said: "The USSR is opening her door to young musicians under Gorbachev's new political initiatives. We believe a massive new audience and eventually a colossal demand can be reached and Big Country intend to trail-blaze those territories." After their Iron Curtain visit Big Country begin a 12-month world tour taking in America, Australia, Japan and Europe.

THE NEW SINGLE EAST OF EDEN

EAST OF EDEN REVIEW

Well 'Fields of Fire', it certainly isn't, and the music press didn't go overboard for it, but give 'East of Eden' a few spins and you will get to like it for sure.

This latest Big Country offering isn't designed to whip half the nation into a frenzied highland fling, or make you feel like tossing the nearest telegraph pole up your street, cos if you're expecting the 'bagpipe' sound, forget it.

This is a more conventional sound from the boys, and this some what laid back approach may not be appreciated on first hearing. Commercially, not as striking as previous hits, but it looks like change is in the air, a progressive change at that. 'East of Eden' is without doubt a grower and another step in the right direction for Big Country. The B-side deserves a mention. I've never been a big fan of Bryan Ferry, but 'Country Life' was a good album and 'Prairie Rose' was probably the pick of it. Here Big Country cover the '74 Roxy number, they kick out the brass and give it some great vocals. Some slick production work gives the record a Big Country sound and feel, it all adds up to a very worthwhile cover version.

Mike



Artist BIG COUNTRY - Stuart & Tony

Comments: Please be at PolyGram

Manager: _____

Records by 10:30 a.m.

Hotel Mayflower

Interviews will be handled by Sherry
Ring Ginsberg

Phone _____

Home # _____

Work # _____

Monday, August 25, 1986

<u>Interviewer</u>	<u>Publication</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Place</u>
Michael Hughes	The Source	11:00	30 Rockefeller Plaza - 8th Fl.
Vic Garbarini	Rock Today	11:30	666 Fifth Avenue - 34th Fl.
Dave Alpert	ABC Rock Radio	12:15	PolyGram Records
Karen Schlossberg	Creem Magazine	12:30	PolyGram Records
John Swenson	UPI	2:00	PolyGram Records
	MTV	3:00	
Dinner w/PolyGram executives	Auntie Yuan's	8:00	(*64th St.)

(a car will pick you up at 7.45)

bc shopper & pawn, inc.

GLOBAL VILLAGE

stephen parker; c/a A to Z video
chalfont pa 18914

— ships 1&2 \$12.98 each,
steeltown uk cd \$16.98,
no place like home uk cd \$21.98,
through a big country \$21.98

shipping \$3.75 1st disc, \$.50 each additional.

SHAKE SOME ACTION

bob paxton; amherst, ny 14228

UK 12": IABC-S10, TEACHER-S5, WONDERLAND-S6

US 12": LOOK AWAY (outlaw) promo-S4, WONDERLAND+3 cc-S4,
EAST OF EDEN promo-S5, ONE GREAT THING promo w/ big beard country mix,
LOOK AWAY (outlaw) & SONG OF THE SOUTH (7" version)-S7
LP: skids: EUROPA, canadian-S7

US 7": KING OF EMOTION promo-S4, JUST A SHADOW promo-S3, FIELDS OF

FIRE poster pack, promo-S8

US CD: KING OF EMOTION 1 trk promo-S5

ULTRA HOT RAZOR DISC #1

w/ IN A BIG COUNTRY (desert flower mix)-S32*very rare!*

LEWIS CROW

TEXAS

for sale (inc p&h): HEART OF THE WORLD 12" w/ acoustic PIOT & 13
VALLEYS-S20, FIELDS OF FIRE/ANGLE PARK 7"-S5, REPUBLICAN PARTY
REPTILE 10"-S15

wanted: HEART OF THE WORLD/RESTLESS NATIVES cd single, LOOK AWAY/
RESTLESS NATIVES 7", JUST A SHADOW/WINTER SKY 7" or 12", THE
TEACHER/RESTLESS NATIVES prt 12"

AMOEBIA MUSIC

berkeley, ca 94704

THE CROSSING uk red cover-S24 postpaid

INTERGALACTIC GARAGE

shepherdstown, wv 25443

BBC radio sessions uk cd-S18.99 postpaid

(ed. note: this is the cheapest I've seen it...)

JOE'S VINYL GROOVE

after 4pm est \$18.634.7415 arilton, ny 12058

12" promo singles: ONE GREAT THING, LOOK AWAY, EAST OF EDEN,
each \$10, p&h: \$4/1st item, \$.50 each additional

SPELLBOUND RECORDS

uk time 9-6

surrey,

SEER medium size promo poster-S24 postpaid

JADE

hillton head, sc 29928

BIG SAMPLER 4trk US promo-S15 postpaid

Mmmm...

boston, ma 02116

send one dollar and a request for a list of all the BC they have currently in
stock- they claim to carry rarities and one-of-a-kind items. For \$19.95/year,
they'll send you quarterly updates on their stock of 5 artists of your choice.

\$2 for a full color brochure explaining their service.

SURVEY RESULTS

...of mr les shriber III:

1st memory- IABC video, SNL appearance & seeing
them live 7 dec '83 at rider college in my hometown,
all in the same week

fave track on skimmers- alone, seven waves- tie

fave album- the crossing

fave single- wonderland

fave b-side- winter sky, buffalo skimmers- tie

fave album design- steeltown

fave video- field of fire, ships

DUES RATES UP, CD RATES DOWN!

First, the bad news:

as of January 1st, all subscriptions will be \$7 per
year. This is to cover the oncoming price increase
in postage, and also because, to be quite honest,
I'm going broke putting this little fanzine out.

Now, the good news:

Kevin at MSA studios tells me he expects a drop
in the cost of producing custom cd's, therefore we
anticipate that the BC Chronicles disc #2 (featuring
the re-mixes and b-sides from STEELTOWN,
plus the Wonderland 12" mix and All Fall Together)
will only cost \$35 each (a drop of \$10!). I'm going
in Jan 4 to edit the trax, and the cd should be
ready for your consumption by the end of January.





SHIP TO:

all of us -
the unauthorized u.s.
big country fan network

