

If, like me, you get bored waiting in the queue at Chichester Post Office, it is well worth watching their video-machine. They were recently promoting a special Cliff Richard and the Shadows' record available only through the Post Office, and now they have a Bee Gees' album on offer. The promotion video shows some nostalgic clips of one of Britain's greatest groups of all-time.

For record collectors interested in the complete history of sound there is a first-class publication now available, called "The Guinness Book of Recorded Sound."

Here are just five of the numerous interesting facts to be found in the book: 1. The world's first record shop was opened in Philadelphia in 1897; 2. The largest records ever marketed were 20in. wide; 3. The oldest record in the B.B.C. library (the world's biggest) is Thomas Edison's 1888 recorded message; 4. Records have been made to run at speeds of 16, 24, 80, 100 and 120 r.p.m., as well as the traditional 33, 45 and 78 r.p.m.; 5. The world's first colourless (transparent) record was Steve Hillage's "Rainbow Dome Music," released by Virgin in 1977.

Chart-topper Paul Hardcastle's "19" is not being released in the

U.S.A. by Chrysalis, because they fear that the words will upset veterans of the Vietnam war.

As predicted last week "19" dethroned Phyllis Nelson's "Move Closer" from the No.1 spot. Phyllis is only the second woman to write and sing a No.1 hit. Out of 549 British chart-toppers the only other woman to do this was Kate Bush with "Wuthering Heights" in 1978.

Duran Duran are likely to make a big challenge for the top slot with their new James Bond theme "A View To A Kill" (on

Parlophone), co-written by John Barry. On first hearing it is not one of their most appealing numbers, but it really grows on you after a few plays.

Duran's former lead-singer, Stephen 'Tin Tin' Duffy (who was replaced by Simon LeBon in 1980 before they became famous), follows up his first solo hit "Kiss Me" with another infectious song entitled "Icing On The Cake" (on 10 Records). The disc has a definite Sixties feel to it. Also new this week is Donna Summer's "Eyes," OMD's "So In Love," and

Marvin Gaye's "Sanctified Lady," a single taken from his final recording session.

Dire Straits are releasing their first studio L.P. since "Love Over Gold" in 1982, called "Brothers In Arms" (on Vertigo), while Dead or Alive have issued their debut album entitled "Youthquake" (on Epic). This is instant, disposable, disco-pop at its best. In ten years time it'll be forgotten, but if you're planning a party in 1985 this disc is a must! Highlights include "D.J. Hit That Button," "My Heart Goes Bang," and "It's Been a Long Time."

L.P. CHART

1. Hits 2 (Various).
2. No Jacket Required (Phil Collins).
3. Songs From The Big Chair (Tears For Fears).
4. Be Yourself Tonight (Eurythmics).
5. The Secret Of Association (Paul Young).
6. Mr. Bad Guy (Freddie Mercury).
7. Born In The U.S.A. (Bruce Springsteen).
8. Voices From The Holy Land (B.B.C. Welsh Chorus).
9. Flaunt The Imperfection (China Crisis).
10. Around The World In A Day (Prince).

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Record Review

Bob Woodhead

The 30th Eurovision Song Contest was won by Norway for the first time, with "Let It Swing" by Bobbysocks. The U.K. came 4th with "Love Is" by Vikki. Over the years Norway have often come last, and they twice failed to score a single point — in the 1979 and 1981 contests.

So this was a popular victory for them. I cannot help thinking, though, that Bobbysocks have borrowed more than a few ideas from Abba's "Waterloo."

A similar accusation can be levelled at Paul Hardcastle, whose "19" single zoomed straight into the charts at No. 4 and may well be No. 1 by the time you read this. If you listen carefully to the melodic refrain on his keyboard you cannot help but notice the similarity to a passage from Mike Oldfield's "Tubular Bells" ... the piece where Mike runs through all the instruments he uses.

Nevertheless, "19" is a well-crafted piece of music from the 25-year-old East Londoner, who bought his first musical instrument, a synthesizer, only four years ago, and began writing songs. He has had a few club hits but this is his first Top 40 success. It also makes a pleasant change to listen to a dance record that has some meaningful lyrics.

Bryan Ferry this week ends a three-year silence by releasing "Slave to Love" ... a single which marks the beginning of a second phase to his solo career. An album called "Boys and Girls" is to follow in June.

Other new singles include Imagination's "Found My Girl," Jermaine Jackson's "Dynamite" (a remixed version of the former club hit), David Cassidy's "Romance (Let Your Heart Go)," and the Stylistics' "Give a Little Love for Love." It is good to see the latter group has signed a new recording deal with Virgin Records, after a few years away from the scene.

There are three very good LP releases this

week, to suit different tastes; firstly "The Best of the Eagles," containing their hits of the 1970s; secondly "Be Yourself Tonight," by the Eurythmics, recorded in Paris, produced by Dave Stewart, and featuring some famous guest artists. As their hit single suggests, Annie and Dave have moved slightly away from their electronic keyboard style, towards a harder guitar-based rock. And last, but by no means least, there is Freddie Mercury's "Mr. Bad Guy," which has to be my favourite of the week. Freddie wrote the 11 songs which took 14 months to record in Munich.

He treats listeners to layer upon layer of sound mixed with athletic vocals, and he has the marvellous ability to produce tearjerking love songs mixed with tongue-in-cheek humour and wit. Some critics accuse him of over-production, but his songs lends themselves to that kind of treatment, and it works superbly well.

LP CHART

1. Hits 2 (Various)
2. No Jacket Required (Phil Collins).
3. Songs From the Big Chair (Tears for Fears).
4. The Secret of Association (Paul Young).

5. Around The World In A Day (Prince).
6. Born In The U.S.A. (Bruce Springsteen).
7. Dream Into Action (Howard Jones).
8. Alf (Alison Moyet).
9. Voices From The Holy Land (B.B.C. Welsh Chorus).
10. Go West (Go West).