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Rockaround

by Andrew Baggott

Marking the tenth anniversary of the death of the king of rock'n'roll, RCA records have issued a double-album featuring 45 hits by Elvis Presley. The package is called "Presley — The All Time Greatest Hits" and as well as pleasing his fans it should also become an essential part of any serious record collection.

The songs run in chronological order starting with "Heartbreak Hotel" in 1956 and ending with "It's Only Love" in 1980 (after his death). Apart from "Love Me Tender" and "If I Can Dream", which both reached No. 11, all the tracks are former Top Ten records unlike the "40 Greatest Hits" which featured a strange collection including some cuts which never appeared on singles.

Wasted

There are a dozen of the king's hits from the 1970s on this new package, like "I Just Can't Help Believing," "Suspicion" and "The Girl Of My Best Friend" although the latter two were earlier recordings. None of these outstanding songs appeared on the "40 Greatest" which was released in 1974.

The recent TV tribute programmes have been interesting and sad. It seemed a great travesty that Presley's talent was wasted on so many soppy movies after the initially powerful batch pre-1962. It was also shocking to recall how his young, dynamic appearance became middle aged in a matter of only two years.

New from WEA Records is the debut album by Sherrick who enjoyed a much-deserved hit in August with "Just Call." That song is on the self-titled LP together with the new, more uptempo 45 entitled "Let's Be Lovers Tonight." Sherrick has a terrific vocal range and style but she will need better songs than most of the others on the album if he is going to make a major impact on record buyers.

In its first week in the shops Michael Jackson's "BAD" sold more than 350,000, achieving the highest one-week sale of any album in the history of the British record industry. It outsold the No. 2 album "Hits 6" by a margin of more than ten to one and its sales were greater than the remainder of the Top 40 combined! In fact as many as one in every four albums sold in the UK was "BAD", and 40,000 of those 350,000 sales were on CD.

While jackson rules the roost as far as albums go in this decade, it has recently been estimated that Madonna has sold more than six million singles on these shores since her rise to fame in 1984, and more than 3.6 million albums, or 3.8 if you count "Who's That Girl" which features four of her songs.

LP CHART

1 BAD (Michael Jackson)
2 Actually (Pet Shop Boys)
3 Momentary Lapse Of Reason (Pink Floyd)
4 Changing Faces (10cc and Godley and Creme)
5 Joshua Tree (U2)
6 Hits 6 (Various)
7 Whitney (Whitney Houston)
8 Hysteria (Def Leppard)
9 Substance (New Order)
10 The All Time Greatest Hits (Elvis Presley)

Record review

by Bob Woodhead

It would seem that several local live music venues have been having problems with local health authorities over noise levels sparked off by complaining neighbours.

The Cabin at Elmer have had to pay out on double glazing to try to solve the problem. It seems unlikely that this will work considering the Victoria's £20,000 soundproofing investment, headlined in last week's Observer, hasn't solved the problem.

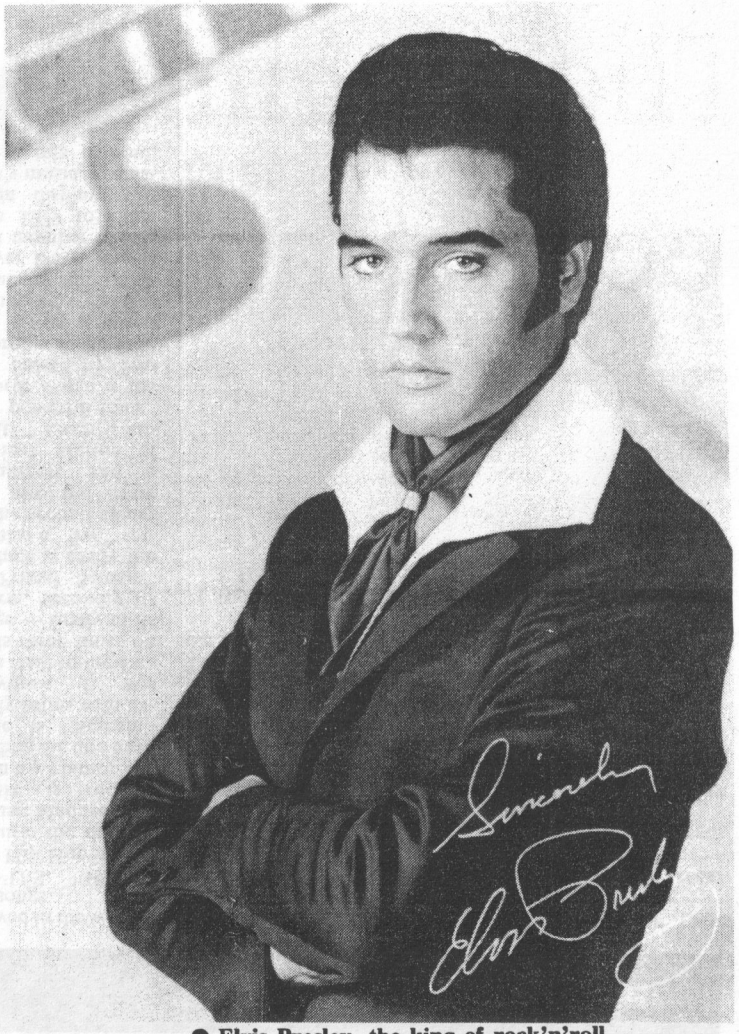
Both venues seem doomed to fit "electronic oranges" which cut off the power if the music gets too loud. The fitting of such a device will probably become a prerequisite to the granting of a public entertainments licence.

Despite these problems both venues seem determined to continue with live music on at least two nights a week.

Indeed the Victoria in Chichester is now taking bookings well into 1988 including a number of bands new to Chichester. The Reptiles are one such band who played to a capacity audience at the Vic earlier this month. Hot Knives, an excellent six-piece reggae band will be appearing at the Vic on Tuesday, September 29 with future new acts including Camirage, The Boys, 5-Alive and Press.

It seems that Bournemouth's local council have been rather embarrassed about the publicity surrounding their banning of Uncle Barney's Atomic Wobblers as the band have received a letter of apology from the council claiming the whole affair was a gross misunderstanding and unconditionally lifting the ban.

Send information to Rockaround, 24, St Pancras, Chichester PO19 4LT.



● Elvis Presley, the king of rock'n'roll.