

**BIG  
COUNTRY**

COUNTRY  
CLUB

1994

30



"Buffalo Skinners" has about run its course now so, apart from 5th March in Leverkusen, Nr Cologne in Germany, there are no dates planned for the foreseeable future. I realise that you will not get this mag prior to 5th March (it's skiing season and I've just had a glorious time on the piste and am now trying to catch up on the back-log) but, I did "hot news" the German fans about it. Nevertheless, to fill you all in; on 5th March, Big Country are playing at the Culturecenter Forum in Leverkusen as part of the climax of "Rock Open 1994". "Rock Open" was founded in 1993 to focus attention on the variety of rock and pop groups of the local scene of Leverkusen. Groups will appear on different stages spread around the city and the finale of the whole week is the concert at the Culturecenter Forum and besides the international top-act, "Big Country", a nationally well known group "Stoppok" and a local group "Partners In Crime" will be appearing. The event of "Rock Open" is run by the music initiative ARO (Association Rock), the culture department of the city and the sponsor Ganser, a local beer brewery. Anyway, that's about all I can tell you about it at present and I hope that those of you who were able to get there will let me know how the event went.

You will all have been aware of the Hogmanay dates (29th December - Glasgow, Barrowlands, 30th December - Newcastle University and 31st December - Aberdeen, Capitol). The Hogmanay show was an hour and half acoustic, the midnight bells and followed by a full electric set for another hour and half - what a brilliant way to see in New Year! All three dates were recorded for the long awaited live album due for release, hopefully, late this year - as an album and video which was filmed at the Barrowlands gig. I was really, really pissed off at not being able to go to any of these dates and I'm sure there are hundreds of you who feel as disappointed as I do but, well, that's life, and we now wait with baited breath the release.

*Caron Hardon from Wigton, Cumbria (003513) wrote in saying, "....Newcastle University gig on 30th December. The journey from Cumbria was well worth it as the boys were truly on form. The acoustic set was wonderful, a real sing-song atmosphere (despite the tone deaf Geordie behind me! The loud guitars were well worth the wait, the crowd bounced, leapt and jumped in time to the songs and really went wild. This had to be my best Christmas present ever. I think I sat in the car and grinned from ear to ear all the way home. What a wally, eh? Thanks to all concerned for a wonderful night."*

We, unfortunates, don't think you are a wally Caron, we are just extremely jealous!  
- Jan

Bye for now,

Jan

## THE BAND ANSWER YOUR QUESTIONS

**Q** What were the best three gigs for you, personally, in America?

**Bruce** *The Roxy in L.A., The Coliseum in Seattle and Woocky's in Kansas City when we supported Paul Rodgers.*

**Mark** *New York, L.A. and Dallas. It's always good to perform well at the major cities as everyone is more on edge to do well with a lot of important people there. Dallas was fab because it was a great sounding theatre.*

**Tony** *Seattle Colliseum because it was great to turn my bass up loud in such a big venue and the L.A. Roxy - it was just a brilliant gig.*

**Stuart** *My favourite three shows were, in no particular order:- New York: the people there are so used to seeing any band they would like, so it was brilliant for us to be received so enthusiastically. Dallas: (in fact all of the Texas shows). I have never had anything other than a great time in Texas, it's like a separate country. Minneapolis: we played at a venue we had played before but had problems at (we arrived late in the snow) but this time we played great and had a fantastic night. I should also say, though, that the whole tour was very satisfying both in the way we played and were received.*

**Q** Which are your favourite American cities and why?

**Bruce** *New York City. It always reminds me of "Taxi Driver" or any Woody Allen movie. I find it the most exciting city in the world!*

**Mark** *Boston and L.A. Boston is most like home but still American and L.A. is hot and crazy.*

**Tony** *L.A. - I love being there for short periods of time because it's the kind of place that is so unreal that nothing about it should be taken seriously except the sun and earthquakes. BUT, it can get very boring in paradise (exquisitively boring).*

**Stuart** *I don't really have any favourites although I love California and the southern States. I enjoy being in America, generally.*

Salt Lake City



**Q** What do you do to pass the time when not gigging on tour in America?

**Bruce** *I still do a fair bit of filming and also go sight seeing. This last trip included Little Big Horn, Jimi Hendrix grave, Denley Plaza, Deadwood Gulch, Vicksburg. I also saw "Tommy" on Broadway.*

**Mark** *Sleep or use the phone.*

**Tony** *Drink, eat and dream about playing golf. We were so busy on the last tour that I never got a chance to swing a club, not once! (Angry from Cornwall).*

**Stuart** *Playing computer games, sightseeing, hanging out in shopping malls.*

**Q** How do you travel when on tour in the USA?

**Bruce** *Bus. We travelled on the WWF "Lex Luger" Express. The bus was painted in stars and stripes before we had it.*

**Mark** *On a tour bus.*

**Tony** *Bus. We had the great fortune and pleasure of being driven by Hank Carter, the greatest bus driver in the west. He kept us going (just).*

**Stuart** *In a bus or an aircraft and sometimes by car but always with shoes on.*

**Q** Is there an American Country Club?

**Mark** *Don't know.*

**Stuart** *Not at the moment although some people from Salt Lake City did ask if they could do it. I haven't heard any more about it.*

**Q** Who are your favourite new/old American bands?

**Bruce** *Neil Young, Allman Brothers and Edgar Winter.*

**Mark** *Dixie Dreggs and Spin Doctors.*

**Tony** *I don't have any favourites at the moment but if I'm told of or if I hear of something interesting I usually add it to my collection. I heard a lot of guitar bands in the States which is my thing but nothing overwhelmed me but I love American rock radio, alternative and AOR. The sooner we have it here, the better.*

**Stuart** *New:- Cracker, Pearl Jam, Spin Doctors, Sugar.*

*Old:- Springsteen, Nils Lofgren, Television, Alice Cooper.*

**Q** What was the average day's routine whilst on tour? Was it any different from Europe?

**Bruce** *Travel after show averages eight hours, get the room at the hotel, do acoustic radio show, go to sound check, do local press, get sleep, shower, go to gig, travel after show.....*

**Mark** *There's far more time spent in transit in America.*

**Tony** *See Bruce's answer. The only difference is the toilet arrangements.*

**Stuart** *Travel, play acoustic gig, soundcheck, eat, play loud gig, wash, travel some more. We played more acoustic stuff and the journeys were longer than in Europe.*

**Q** What did you look forward to most about getting home?

**Bruce** *Getting the Hoover out!*

**Mark** *I don't.*

**Tony** *Golf - smack, punch, kick - ouch! My wife and family.*

**Stuart** *Sex and soccer.*

**Q** What do you look forward to most about going back to America?

**Bruce** *Cheap good food and great service.*

**Mark** *Friends.*

**Tony** *Continuing the good work we started last year. Becoming a huge band and making more great albums.*

**Stuart** *Guitar music on the radio, helpful service in shops and eateries and great cars.*

**Q** **What did you miss most whilst in America?**

**Bruce** *Cheap good food and great service.*

**Mark** *Toast and marmite.*

**Tony** *Playing golf.*

**Stuart** *My family and playing footie.*

**Q** **Were there any humorous moments that you would like to share?**

**Bruce** *Holding the hair dryer against the windscreen when the heater failed in the bus. It was below freezing outside and we could only travel about two miles at a time before stopping and scraping windows.*

**Mark** *Finding back stage had costumes which we all dressed up in.*

**Tony** *Yeah and they're all on video.*

**Stuart** *We had to play a whole show in Detroit acoustically because the radio interference. Actually it wasn't amusing until it was over, at the time I was winging it.*

**Q** **From Oliver Prange (001960) Coming from the same place in Scotland, have BC ever thought of doing a song with Nazareth?**

**Bruce** *Both Stuart and myself have jammed in local pubs with Nazareth's alter ego band 'Middle Age Spread' which usually ends in a drinking for charity extravaganza!*

**Mark** *I don't live in Jerusalem but Slough is closer.*

**Stuart** *Not really, although I love Dan's voice and have jammed with them a few times.*

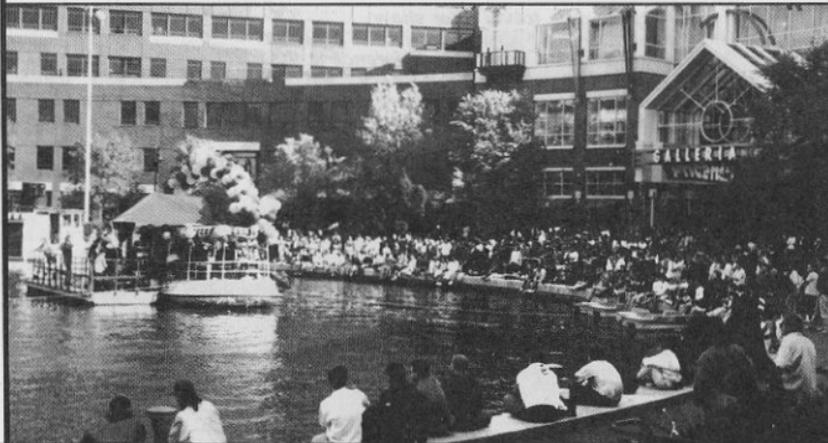
**Q** **From Oliver Prange (001960) On the German leg of the tour, how did you get on with Ian McNabb?**

**Bruce** *I have known Ian since his days in 'cicle Works' and get on very well with him.*

**Mark** *I never saw his leg but he seems a nice guy.*

**Stuart** *Great guy, cool band and happening songs.*

**Cambridge, Boston Mass. First US gig in seven years  
(11th September 1993)**



**Q** From Oliver Prange (001960) Mark, what do you think of Simon Phillip's work? i.e. What does one genius think of another?

**Mark** *A) I think he should give up and let me be the best, and  
B) My name is harder to say than his.*

**Q** From Oliver Prange (001960) After recording "Rockin' In The Free World", did you get any reaction from Neil Young?

**Bruce** *Heard nowt!*

**Mark** *He never calls, never writes, never sends flowers but we send him money.*

**Stuart** *A deafening silence.*

**Q** From David and Sarah Wright (003027) Did the band ever play the Asylum at Nottingham in the early 1980s?

**Bruce** *The first gig I remember in Nottingham was a club called 'Whispers'. I think we played a 'Gay Night'.*

**Mark** *Not sure? But if my memory fails anymore, I might end up in one!*

**Stuart** *No.*

**Q** From Kevin Powell (003233) First of all, welcome back, Mark. Did the band think of a promo tour of Australia as people I speak to either don't remember the band or think they split years ago. I'm the man who keeps people informed so, to prove to the morons down here that BC are still alive and well, come and see us.

**Mark** *Thanks, . . . . . I'm not sure who invented the first letter of the alphabet. We are alive and well and get me an air ticket a.s.a.p.*

**Stuart** *I'm desperate to gig in Australia and wish it could be set up.*

**Q** From Paul Wills (003368) Will the next album see a return to more traditional Big Country style drumming?

**Mark** *It will be the traditional drummer, Mark, or better known as ME!*

**Stuart** *It doesn't exist.*

**Q** From Paul Wills (003368) Stuart, are the days of numerous guitar overlays as on "Steeltown" (eg "Flame Of The West") for studio albums a thing of the past?

**Stuart** *I've never really gone in for a lot of overdubs, I tend to try and interweave Bruce and myself but sometimes I just feel little melodies and textures that add to the songs atmosphere. Basically, I do whatever I feel the song needs.*

Norfolk, Virginia. The last date of the tour - knackered (11th December 1993)



## *Art Love (Membership No 003858) meets Big Country!*

During their successful tour of the States in 1993, I had the opportunity to see Big Country in concert not only once, but twice. I was also lucky enough to meet the band between shows and to spend time with Mark Brzezicki, a master drummer who has been a huge influence on my drumming career. I hope that other club members, especially those who may not have ever seen BC perform live, may find this "unofficial tour report" interesting.

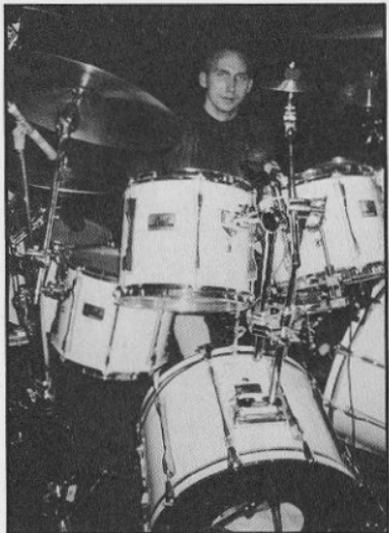
The first show that I went to was in Atlanta, Georgia at The Masquerade on 9th December. After having driven over four hundred miles (not on "Fields Of Fire", though), I hoped that I might be able to meet the band when they arrived but the weather was terrible and, when Big Country got there, they immediately went in to run through a soundcheck. I hung around outside the club for a little while listening to Mark, Tony and Bruce warm up but then I heard the guitar riffs to "Heartbreaker" and "Honky Tonk Women" and knew that had to be Stuart! The rain forced me to leave but I came back that evening and saw one of the most exciting live performances ever. My first time seeing Big Country in concert!

The audience (myself included) went wild when Big Country took the stage, opening with "All Go Together". The guys looked like they were really enjoying themselves and were in great shape as they rolled through most of "The Buffalo Skinners", throwing in older material like "Look Away", "Wonderland", "Lost Patrol" (during which Tony, Stuart and Bruce left the stage and Mark "conducted" the audience through the "yay-yui-yay-o" part of the song) and, of course, "In A Big Country". They also rocked out on

a cover of Neil Young's "Hey, Hey, My, My". Stuart even went into the audience a couple of times. I wish that critics who dismiss them as a "bagpipe guitar" band could have seen this amazing hour and forty five minute performance.

Shortly after Big Country's final encore, Mark and Stuart came out to meet some of the fans, signing autographs and chatting with everyone. Even after such a physically exhausting show they took the time to talk to us and I have great respect for BC for doing so. How many bands just barely deliver an adequate performance, then rush off the stage to the bus or limo, sequestering themselves from their fans? Anyway, getting off my soapbox, I finally got a chance to meet Mark, explaining that I play drums and we talked about his return to Big Country and I nervously asked if I could see the band's soundcheck at the next show. He cheerfully said OK and told me where to meet the band!

BC's next performance was in Augusta, Georgia at The New Post Office. BC was headlining a show celebrating the first anniversary of a local alternative



station, Channel Z and, as part of the promotion, they made an appearance at RadioActive Music. I found out about this listening to Channel Z on the drive from Atlanta so I stopped in and saw BC browsing through the shop looking for music to add to their own collections. Once again, several fans had shown up and the guys kind of "hung out". Mark and I talked about his "re-enlistment" in BC and he showed me some recordings by other artists that he has drummed on. (Fans of Mark should really check out "The Prodigal Stranger" by Procol Harum and "Pure" by Midge Ure which also has Mark's brother, Steve, playing bass).

The band then left to do a live interview on Channel Z, during which they performed an acoustic version of "The Long Way Home" and talked about some of the past record company problems that have kept them from touring the States. I think that the Georgia DJ had a little problem keeping up with Stuart's brogue but the interview was fun and several tracks from "The Buffalo Skinners" (or "The Finnalo Skuffers" as Stuart jokingly referred to it) were played.

I anxiously awaited the band's soundcheck at the club but nearly missed it when one of the club's staff asked me to leave. Fortunately, Mark spoke up and said, "He's with me!" (Thanks, Mark) I sheepishly followed Mark back to his colossal double-bass set as he made some minor adjustments. He asked what I wanted to hear so I named, "Tall Ships Go", the extended intro to "In A Big Country", "Pink Marshmallow Moon" and "Fields Of Fire". Mark also played parts of "River Of Hope", "Remembrance Day", "P.I.O.T." and "Rain Dance". I must say that I probably had an awe-struck look on my face as I watched this talented musician easily play syncopations which are difficult at best. The sound of his drum set was incredible. Mark gave me a tour of his set and then we talked about his double-bass technique and other "drummers-only" things. We watched Tony warm up with "Seven Waves" and Stuart singing "Look Away". Mark then joined the guys to

run through a moving rendition of "Ships". In a word, AWESOME!

Just as before, BC put on a spectacular show before an audience who seemed to know every song in the set. Several of us waited after the show and I was able to talk to Ian Grant who said that there is going to be a greatest hits package and a video collection released in the US in early 1994. He also mentioned that BC may return to the States in 1994 to tour larger venues with another major act. *(Please note that both of these plans now look doubtful but I will, of course, keep you informed).* Then the band came out of their bus and we got to tell them how much we had enjoyed their performance. I also talked more to Mark which could fill a page or two, like the fact that he did the demos for Sting's "All This Time", and that he was an unofficial member of Go West before BC, etc. Suffice it to say that he is glad to be back and appreciates all the support the fans are giving him and the band, as do Stuart, Bruce and Tony. I left Augusta that night feeling "over the top", having met four of the most consummate musicians and nicest people.

I wish to thank Mark, Bruce, Tony and Stuart for their time and for their kindness and generosity with their fans, Ian Grant and crew for letting me in the soundcheck. We hope we get to see you in the States again SOON.

## SET LISTS

9th December

The Masquerade, Atlanta

10th December

The New Post Office, Augusta

All Go Together

We're Not In Kansas

Look Away

What Are We Working For

Chester's Farm

Wonderland

Pink Marshmallow Moon

Ships

Long Way Home

The One I Love

Alone

In A Big Country

Lost Patrol

Chance

Hey, Hey, My, My

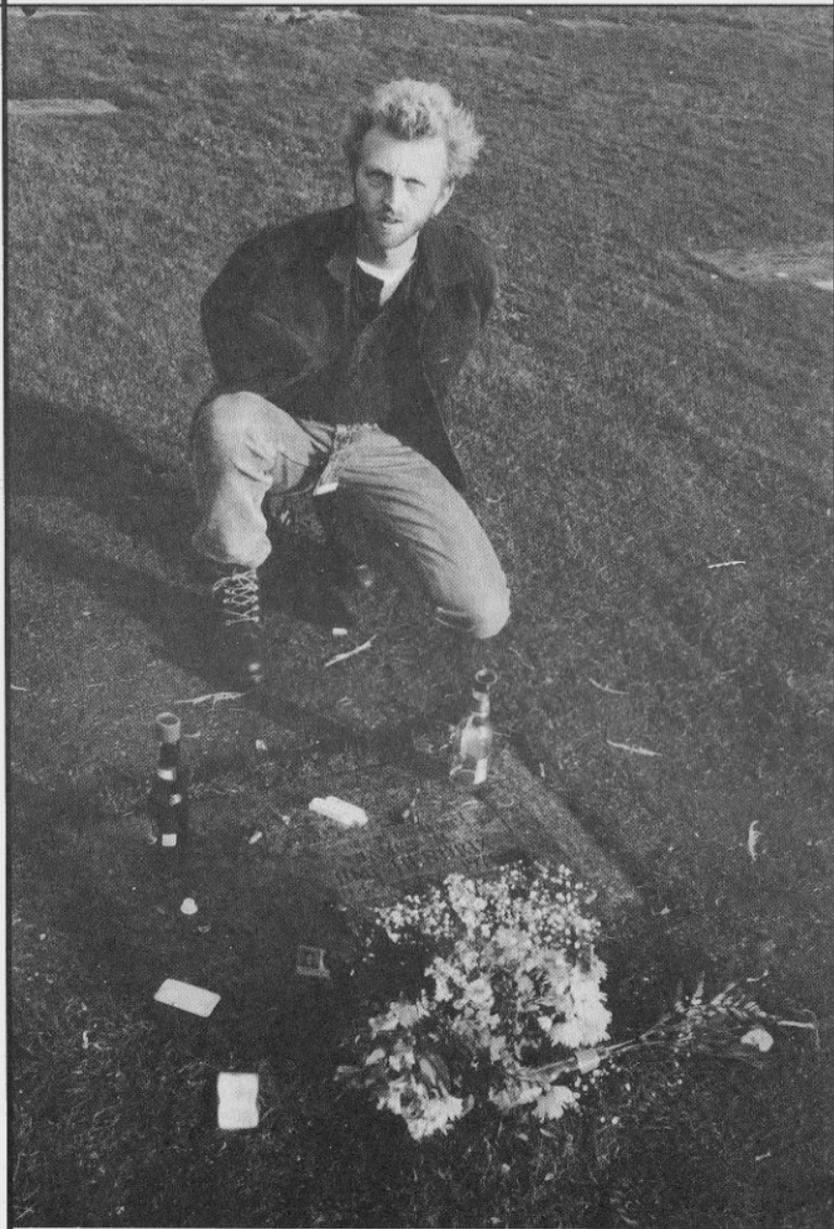
# LYRICS

I get dozens of letters requesting lyrics to appear in the mag but many of these have appeared, either in past magazines or, in fact, in the Lyric book. So, to clear up queries as to if or where these lyrics have appeared, I list below where they can be found.

Therefore, please, no further requests for any listed below 'cos if I grant these requests I get grief from other sources. Right, here goes:-

- "All Of Us"  
- Issue 5 & LB
- "All Fall Together"  
- Issue 28
- "Angle Park"  
- Issue 2, 21 & LB
- "Balcony"  
- Issue 1, 22 & LB
- "Beat The Devil" (LB)
- "Beautiful People"  
(LB)
- "Belief In The Small Man" (LB)
- "Broken Heart (13 Valleys)" (LB)
- "Chance" (LB)
- "Close Action" (LB)
- "Come Back To Me"  
(LB)
- "Comes A Time"  
- Issue 29
- "The Crossing" (LB)
- "Dynamite Lady" (LB)
- "Eastworld"  
- Issue 28
- "East Of Eden"  
- Issue 8/9 & LB
- "Eifedon" (LB)
- "Everything I Need"  
(LB)
- "Fields Of Fire"  
- Issue 3 & LB
- "Flame Of The West"  
(LB)
- "Freedom Song"  
- Issue 26
- "From Here To Eternity" (LB)
- "Girl With Grey Eyes"  
(LB)
- "The Great Divide"  
(LB)
- "Harvest Home"  
- Issue 1 & LB
- "Heart And Soul"  
- Issue 2, 21 & LB
- "Heart Of The World"  
(LB)
- "Hold The Heart" (LB)
- "Home Come The Angels" (LB)
- "Honky Tonk Woman"  
- Issue 15
- "The Hostage Speaks"  
(LB)
- "I Could Be Happy Here" (LB)
- "I'm Only Waiting"  
- Issue 29
- "In A Big Country"  
- Issue 4 & LB
- "In This Place" (LB)
- "Into The Fire" (LB)
- "Inwards" (LB)
- "I Walk The Hill" (LB)
- "Just A Shadow" (LB)
- "Keep On Dreaming"  
(LB)
- "King Of Emotion"  
- Issue 16 & LB
- "Kiss The Girl Goodbye"  
- Issue 26
- "Leap Of Faith" (LB)
- "The Longest Day"  
(LB)
- "Look Away" (LB)
- "Lost Patrol" (LB)
- "Made In Heaven"  
(LB)
- "Not Waving But Drowning" (LB)
- "One Great Thing"  
(LB)
- "1000 Stars" (LB)
- "Over The Border"  
(LB)
- "Pass Me By" (LB)
- "Peace In Our Time"  
(LB)
- "Porrohman" (LB)
- "Prairie Rose"  
- Issue 15
- "The Promised Land"  
- Issue 22 & LB
- "Rain Dance" (LB)
- "Red Fox" (LB)
- "Remembrance Day"  
(LB)
- "Republican Party Reptile" (LB)
- "Restless Natives"  
(LB)
- "River Of Hope" (LB)
- "Sailor" (LB)
- "Save Me" (LB)
- "The Seer" (LB)
- "Ships" (LB)
- "Song Of The South"  
(LB)
- "Starred And Crossed"  
- Issue 21 & LB
- "Steeltown" (LB)
- "The Storm" (LB)
- "Tall Ships Go" (LB)
- "The Teacher"  
- Issue 12 & LB
- "Thousand Yard Stare"  
- Issue 21 & LB
- "Time For Leaving"  
(LB)
- "Tracks Of My Tears"  
- Issue 15
- "Troubled Man" (LB)
- "We're Not In Kansas"  
(LB)
- "When The Drum Beats"  
- Issue 22 & LB
- "Where The Rose Is Sown" (LB)
- "Winter Sky" (LB)
- "Wonderland" (LB)
- "World On Fire" (LB)
- "You, Me And The Truth"  
- Issue 29

LB = LYRIC BOOK  
Available at £7.00 plus  
P & P from the  
merchandise list.



**Bruce at Jimi Hendrix grave.**

# YOUR GENERAL LETTERS:

From Harley Burns (Membership No 003673)

Harley wrote the following letter with INSTRUCTIONS to me to PRINT IT and, as this is your, the members', club, here's the letter! *"In brief response to issue 29's General Letters (though you've never given me a hearing): If Buffalo Skinners is the album the band had always wanted to make, it's valuable. Now, I just hope they don't become complacent or think they've done anything. They can't dwell enough on the chains of oppression and the yoke of injustice because this is truth and if the radios don't like to play it or the public don't want to hear it then tough shit. And forget about the Celtic tinge and folk roots or using folk instruments. People just don't want the band to develop. Gimmicky, undeserving bands like REM use folk as a commercial ploy, it has no relevance now and is as dead as Latin. Electric guitars ARE folk instruments since folk music IS for the people. If you're looking for curious sounds, you're not looking for folk, you're not listening to the music and so you'd better look elsewhere. Just you print that, OK?"* So, Harley, I've given you a hearing.

Obviously, since the US tour, America and Canada are buzzing and panting for more of BC and I've been swamped with mail, following revitalised and/or brand new interest from across the Atlantic. So, remembering the fact that fans over there have been waiting and waiting for the chance to see BC live, you can imagine that they all wanted to share their experience with like-minded people. So, at the risk of, basically, repeating what UK and European fans have been able to experience more frequently, let's hear from across the Pond:-

From Jeff Patterson from Cypress, Ca (Membership No 003868)

*"..... Roxy Theatre in L.A. on 15th November. What a great show! They played all but two songs from the new album..... Afterwards, we hung around, got to chat with the boys and obtain autographs. It was most excellent! Hopefully, they'll continue to rebuild their fan base here in the US so we can enjoy these shows more often than once every seven years..... pleasantly surprised to find the band members so interested in their fans' opinions and comments. They were as friendly as could be, staying around the hall for quite some time after the show, frankly discussing their work and anything else that*

*came up with anyone and everyone. What a thrill!*

*Tony related to me how the band interacts differently with the audience at each show. He said the band gets a feel for the mood of those in attendance and the shape of the performance is formed by that feeling. "If they want to rock, we'll rock them. If they want to sit back and listen to the music, that's fine too."*

*Thanks so much, guys, but don't wait another seven years ... come back soon!"*

From Brad Horstman from Cedar Falls, Iowa (Membership No 003853)

*"..... returned from BC concert in Minneapolis on 6th November. I must say it was a smashing success!! ....first opportunity to see BC live so it was a special treat for me.....drove four hours to Minneapolis once I heard of the concert. As a recent member of the Country Club, I just learned of the concert, so my membership has already paid dividends! ....people standing on the stairs, people backed up all the way to the doors and one guy with one foot on his table and the other on a railing.... first hard riffs of "All Go Together" to the last crowd chants of "Lost Patrol", the boys never let up one bit. You can tell that they REALLY enjoyed themselves and the crowd enjoyed them..... Stuart is fantastic ... he develops a great relationship with the crowd... I cannot say enough good things about "Buffalo Skinners" - it is by far their best work to date...."*

From Stephanie Palermo from Memphis, Tennessee (cos of past criticisms about being sycophantic, I thought I'd print this):-

*"....I would most definitely start crying if I thought that you guys were taking this letter as a critique of character rather than a critique of musicianship. In all honesty, I was a bit disappointed by your latest album "Buffalo Skinners". Allow me to explain. Like many of your American fans, no doubt, I was first drawn in by the song "In A Big Country". Because of it, I ran right out and bought the whole album. I even felt it worthy enough to buy on CD later. Upon hearing the rest of the story, as it were, I all but fell in love with you guys. The energy and style of that album came together very effectively and it provided a fresh alternative to the fluffy substanceless musical scene at that time (e.g. Wham and Culture Club etc.) So, when I think of BC, I hear "Harvest Home" and "Porrohman"..... Now, I'm fully aware of the fact that we all tend to change and move on and perhaps it was that fact which led you*

to try a newer sound on a new generation. If that's the case, so be it - but I don't have to like it! See, I didn't get enough of "The Crossing" and I suppose I was expecting more of the same from the new album. I know you put out other albums but I can't find them and I haven't heard them. I'm looking forward to the day that I find them in an unsuspected record store. Until then, I can only use "The Crossing" as a reference point. And, judging by that album alone, sometimes, just every now and then, you ought to look at who you are and know when that's just perfect by any standards. As I don't know you personally, I'm not trying to say that you're a waste of oxygen, I am merely expressing a solitary, though critical, opinion of your new album.

I applaud the political agenda of the lyrics but think something is lost in the spirit (or soul) of the music. I am coming from the crude, yet poignant, school of thought which states the theory that it's the music that kicks your ass, without which the message lacks direction and purpose..... I listen to you because you're you are, Big Country. "The Buffalo Skinners" sounds like any other band out there nowadays..... don't think you guys are living up to, or displaying, your potential at all..... No matter what, I'll always be listening to you. God bless you and your efforts"

The above is a very edited version of Stephanie's letter but I guess you'll get the picture.

From Jeff Armstrong from San Pedro, California (Membership No 003346)  
 "...last night in Hollywood, what can I tell you? The show was incredible. No, wait, it was phenomenal! .....enough energy in that room to light the whole city, the band really loved the reception they got and you could tell they were all having a blast..... even better, Stuart, Bruce, Tony and Mark all hung around after the show and chatted with those die-hard BC fans..... Stuart sat down at a table and entertained a dozen of us and answered all of our questions - what a guy!"

From Timothy Black from Chicago, Illinois (Membership No 003878)  
 "...pleasure of seeing BC in Chicago, ten years after the first time I saw them. They are as incredible now as they were then!"

From James Moniz from Washington  
 "... how much I enjoyed your performance at the KXXR Cash Bash Show in Seattle in November. Seattle audiences are famous for being rather sedate but you guys changed that very quickly!"

From Ralf Kirschnick (Membership No

001828)

"..... Christopher Dunn with his Big Country Merchandising Information Group, I've already received the first issue. I was overwhelmed with the detailed information he has collected. Why don't you have him write an article about weird merchandising stuff available?"

So, Christopher, what do you think? Please get in touch - Jan.

A little info for you:- "..... bootleg live CD. It's called "Defrostin". The label is "Metal Bites" number MB24 and has the code "add". It even has "GEMA" printed on it but I assume this is just for cover. It only has a computer processed group picture at the front and a one-page booklet stating: Members: Stuart Adamson - vocals, Bruce Watson - guitar, Tony Butler - Bass, Simon Phillips -drums. What a bummer for Mark that must be.... Track listing:-

1000 Stars	Chance
Angle Park	Inwards
Close Action	Field Of Fire
Balcony	Wonderland
Lost Patrol	Harvest Home
In A Big Country	Tracks Of My Tears
Porrohan	In A Big Country

The back cover states "Live in Austin, Texas 84". Total running time 72.42..... easily hear the CD has been copied from vinyl but the quality is OK and the price I paid at a recent German record fair was, well, fair enough.

Instore - Salt Lake City - Tony was ill (21st November 1993)



# BIG COUNTRY SURVEY

Graham Goodall (Membership No 001511) has collated your votes regarding favourite album track, single etc. and, although Graham says he was disappointed with the response, he did get some superb letters.

So, your votes for tracks from "The Buffalo Skinners" in order of preference:-

- |   |                       |    |                          |
|---|-----------------------|----|--------------------------|
| 1 | Seven Waves           | 7  | What Are We Working For? |
| 2 | Alone                 | 8  | All Go Together          |
| 3 | A Long Way Home       | 9  | We're Not In Kansas      |
| 4 | The One I Love        | 10 | Winding Wind             |
| 5 | Ships                 | 11 | Chester's Farm           |
| 6 | Pink Marshmallow Moon | 12 | The Selling Of America   |

Graham says, "Although sixth overall on a Eurovision(!) basis, more people picked "Pink Marshmallow Moon" as their favourite track than any other BUT others had it at the other end of the scale! Chester's Farm was the most picked 'last choice' BUT a few people had it as their first choice." (It must have taken ages to collate the votes, even with a poor response. It sounds very complicated to poor ol' me! - Jan)

Repeated comments regarding Buffalo Skinners were:-

*I've placed PMM last but I still think it's a good track.*

*Why wasn't Eastworld on the album?*

*Why wasn't Never Take Your Place included?*

*Why wasn't Rockin' In The Free World released as a single and included on the album?*

\*\*\*\*\*

**Favourite all time single:**

Chance / Fields Of Fire (tied)

"Mind you", Graham says, "virtually every BC single got a mention, especially "Alone", "Ships" and "Wonderland".

\*\*\*\*\*

**Favourite album track:**

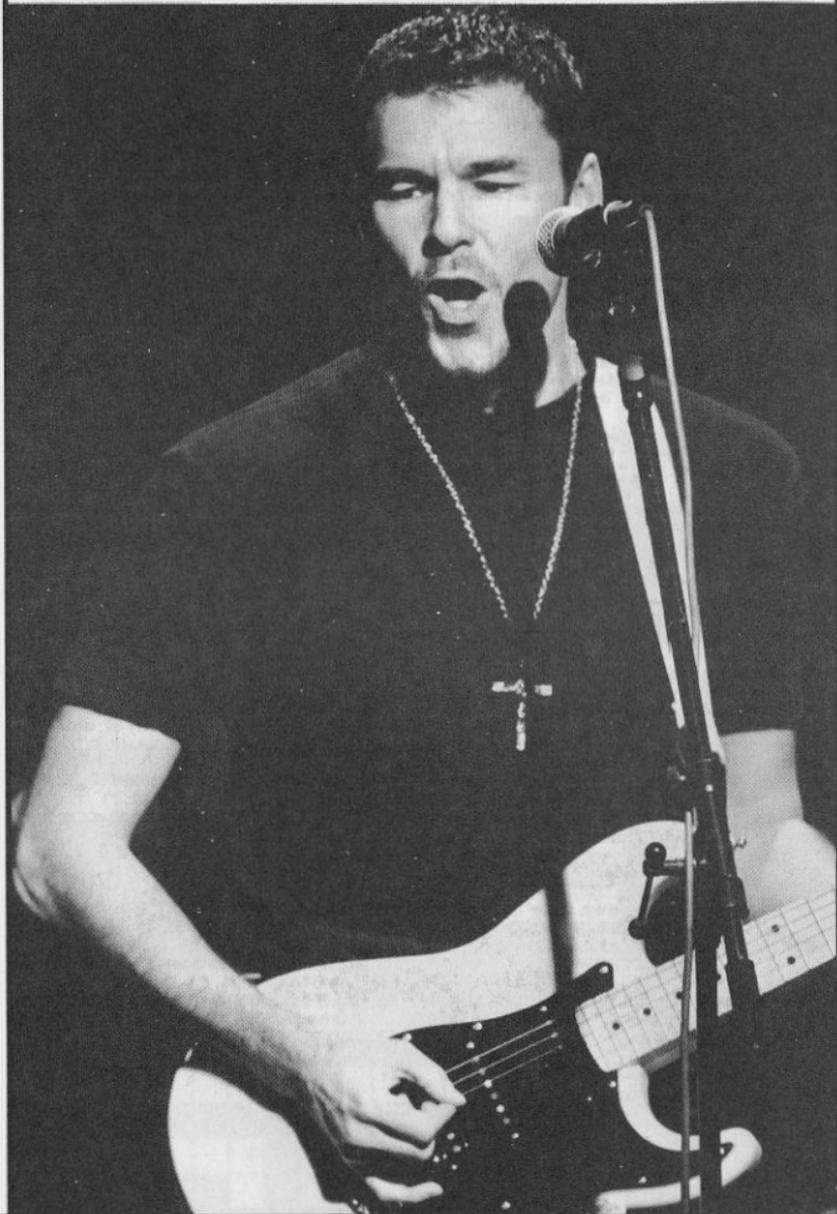
We're Not In Kansas

Graham points out, "So many people went for different tracks in this section that I reckon this category is practically irrelevant! You name it, it got a vote.

Anyway, many thanks to everybody who took the time to write (some of the letters were comprehensive and quite fascinating). I received votes from all over Britain, Germany, Finland, Holland and, of course, the USA."

Thank you, Graham, for the time and effort you have obviously spent in compiling this for us. Greatly appreciated. Cheers, Jan.

Toad's Place, New Haven, Connecticut, USA  
(1st November 1993)



# CROSSWORD CLUES

## ACROSS

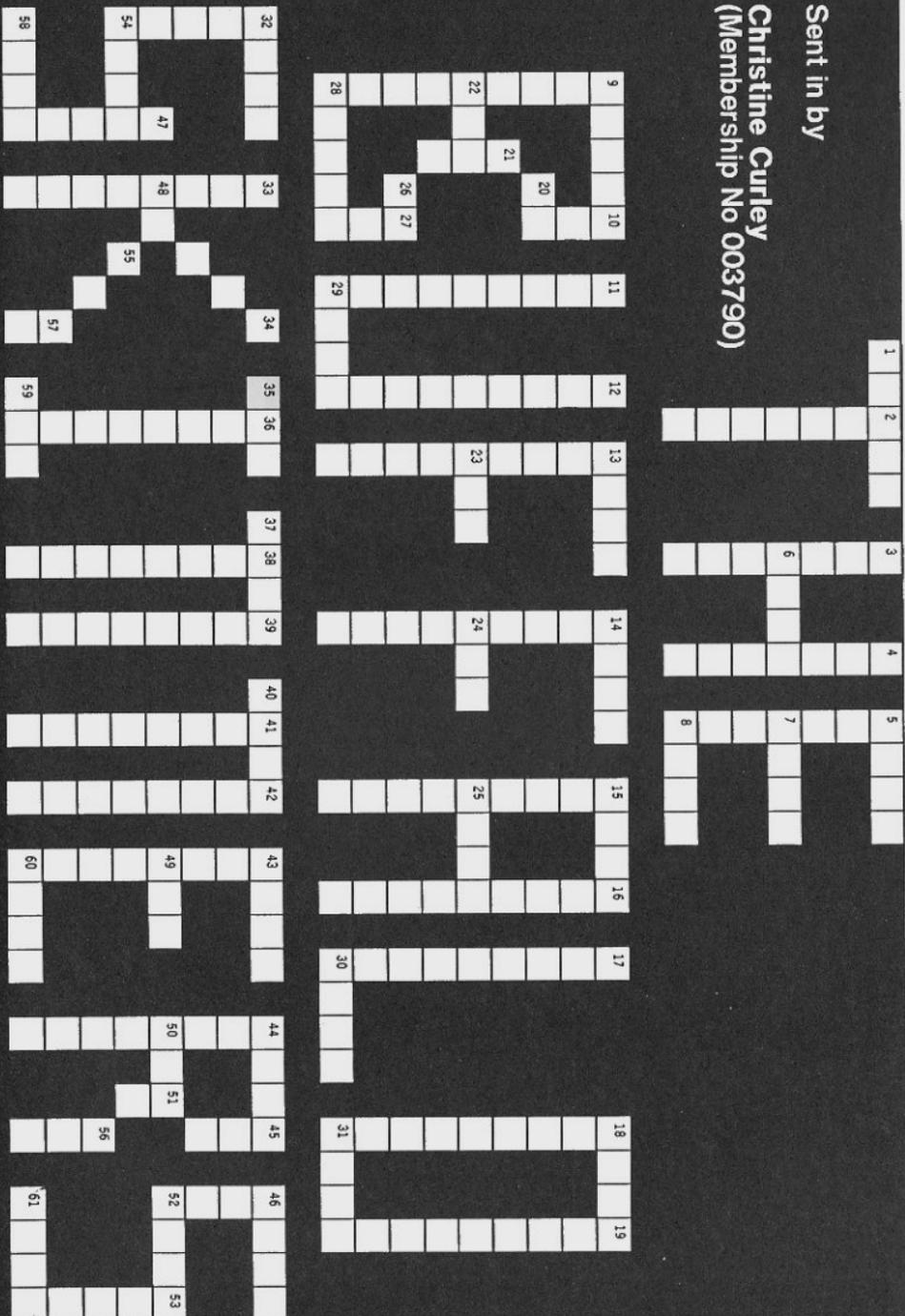
- 1 First UK release from current album (5)
- 5 Bruce performed with him at Barrowlands in October 1989 (4)
- 6 River Of ..... (4)
- 7 No Place Like ..... (4)
- 8 The Armoury ..... (4)
- 9 Number in UK charts which "PIOT" entered (5)
- 13 & 47D  
What was "In A Big Country" originally going to be called? (4, 5)
- 14, 57D & 58A  
Channel 4 documentary on Big Country (4, 2, 4)
- 15 Initials of fourth album  
"..... too soon for a future" (4)
- 20 Drummer between Mark (initials)
- 22 Sandra, Callum and Kirsten are Stuart's what? (3)
- 23 Initials of a record company
- 24 How many "Great Things"? (3)
- 25 "I will let no one near me, until you hear me ..... again" (5)
- 26 Party Republican Reptile - Stuarts cousin - initially speaking
- 28 Surname of producer/engineer on "NPLH" (5)
- 29 Where what was sown? (4)
- 30 "Everything I ..... " (4)
- 31 Searching for which way home? (4)
- 32 Kate Bush sang additional vocals on this track (4)
- 35 Mrs Peter Wolf (3)
- 37 Big Country were first to play the Eastern Block, then known by another title
- 40 Stuart played on this track on the Skids' album "Joy" (4)
- 43 "Under bridges in a ..... where bodies float where the summer smells keep the flies remote" (4)
- 44 "I need the day for tonight my blood runs ..... " (4)
- 46 See 61A
- 48 "..... My James" (2)
- 49 "Underneath your own safe ..... you may never wonder why" (3)
- 50 Number of little Adamsons (3)
- 52 "..... of The South" (4)
- 54 "Heart And ....." (4)
- 58 See 14A
- 59 Mr Adamsons' initials
- 60 A native of Scotland (4)
- 61, 55D & 46A  
1984 hit which reached No 17 in the UK charts from 2nd album (4, 2, 4)

## DOWN

- 2 Birthtown of Bruce Watson (7)
- 3 Brothers who left original Big Country line-up to form Runrig (7)
- 4 Stuarts perfect place? (7)
- 5 Whose hand always seemed like a fist? (7)
- 9 City where Polar Studios are (9)
- 10 "He talks about the ..... and their toys" (1, 1, 1)
- 11 Singular of instrumental B side to "King Of Emotion" (9)
- 12 She provided backing vocals on debut album (surname) (9)
- 13 "PIOT" mixing studio (9)
- 14 Record label (9)
- 15 Longest track on debut album (6, 3)
- 16 "Return of the ... .. king" (3, 6)
- 17 Second album title (9)
- 18 Stuart's type of people? (9)
- 19 Original artist on "Rockin' In The Free World" (4, 5)
- 21 Dynamite Lady could also be this explosive (1, 1, 1)
- 27 Mrs Bremner (3)
- 32 "Make just like the saviours of this plant, we're just trying to get by" (Name the track) (5)
- 33 Big Country covered this Black Sabbath classic (8)
- 34 Live ..... - Big Country were in the finale (3)
- 26 & 45D  
Hogmanay celebration (the following day) (3, 5, 3)
- 37 "The Buffalo ....." (8)
- 38 Which three day festival did Big Country headline in Denmark in 1986? (8)
- 39 Mark and Tony's former band (2, 3, 3)
- 42 What sort of chemistry? (1, 7)
- 43 At what farm do the shadows move behind the glass? (8)
- 44 "The ..... roar while the women wall" (8)
- 45 See 36D
- 46 "Girl with grey ..... " (4)
- 47 See 13A
- 51 "..... Lord" (2)
- 53 Mr Ian ..... (Manager) (5)
- 55 See 61A
- 56 Mark assisted this 'small' man in 1991 (surname) (3)
- 57 See 14A

Sent in by

Christine Curley  
(Membership No 003790)



# PEN-PALS

Just write in to me giving your name, address, membership number and brief details of yourself and hobbies and I will add your details to the list in the next issue. If anyone wishes me to re-print their name on the penpal list, you have only to ask.

Jose Avila (Membership No 003756)

, U.S.A.

Year of birth:- 1968

Looking for penpals to exchange opinions, ideas, material. Hobby, of course, collecting all B.C. material.

★★★★★★

Ian Drain (Membership No 003053)

, UK

Year of birth:- 1969

Looking for penpals, especially from southern England. Hobbies include sport and collecting records and CDs. Also looking for someone with whom to go to future gigs.

★★★★★★

Jonathon Smith (Membership No 003856)

, U.S.A.

Year of birth:- 1971

Hobbies:- tennis, animals, music collecting. Musical interests:- Big Country, Bad Company and John Mellancamp.

★★★★★★

Meryem Oguzberk (Membership No 003681)

Holland

Year of birth:- 1972

Business economics student and hobbies include:- BC, Agatha Christie, aerobics, travel.

★★★★★★

Lowell Austin (Membership No 003866)

Year of birth:- 1966

Hobbies:- Tennis, basketall, music (trading tapes and collecting). Apart from BC likes Kate Bush, Cocteau Twins, Enya, XYMOX, Irish and Scottish Alternative. Interests include politics, learning other cultures and loves animals. Likes intelligent people and dislikes spelling and dishonest people.

★★★★★★

Michael Berry (Membership No 003759)

U.S.A.

Year of birth:- 1969

Hobbies:- History, music (playing drums). Favourite bands:-Led Zeppelin, U2, Big

Country, The Alarm, Siouxsie & The Banshees and Queen.

★★★★★★

Art Love (Membership No 003858)

6400 SW 20th Ave, Apt 12, Gainesville, FL 32607-3512, U.S.A.

Year of birth:- 1971

Art says, "Not only is it impossible to find any female BC fans, I don't think there are any fans in my parts period. I would like to correspond with any BC fans but, in particular, those in the southeastern US (perhaps we would be able to go to a BC concert if they tour the SE States). There aren't many southerners with enough good taste to appreciate the guys so I definitely feel 'Alone' (sorry about that awful pun!). I'm also currently a student at the University of Florida. In addition to BC, my musical likes include Duran Duran, The Fixx, Police and INXS. I also play drums and guitar and wouldn't mind hearing from any musicians out there. I'd definitely like to see BC in concert and perhaps even meet the guys. All letters answered."

★★★★★★

Gillian Frostdick (Membership No 001552)

7 Green Lane, Thornaby, Cleveland, TS17 8PS, UK

Year of birth:- 1967

Gillian has been a CC member for TEN years! She would love to correspond with other BC fans.

★★★★★★

Michael McAllister (Membership No 003865)

, USA

Year of birth:- 1966

Studied Economics and Spanish at the University of New Mexico and plans to study for an MBA starting Spring 1994. Interests include listening to music, including U2, The Pogues and The Cure. Enjoys learning and speaking foreign languages - Spanish and a little Mandarin Chinese! Hobbies include playing squash, swimming, drinking and travelling. Looks forward to making new friends.

★★★★★★

Continued.....

# NOTICE BOARD

Sergio Alvarado (Membership No 003823)

Costa Rica  
WANTED:- "No Place Like Home" CD and "Beautiful People" single CD

☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆  
Kitt Curry (Membership No 000412)

Elre  
WANTED:- Photos of Big Country's gig at Slane Castle in 1987. Willing to swap bootleg tapes and other photos of various BC gigs that she has been to.

☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆  
Graham Goodall (Membership No 001511)

UK  
WANTED:- Any old bulletins or news, in fact anything anyone has from the old Skids Fan Club (1977 to 1981-ish). Thanks.

☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆  
Satu Holmberg (Membership No 003608)

Finland  
ON OFFER:- "East Of Eden" (ext version) 12" with "Prairie Rose" £5.00 and "Through A Big Country Greatest Hits" video £5.00

WANTED:- "The Teacher" (Mystery mix) / "Restless Natives"

☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆  
Keith Lewington (Membership No 000027)

UK  
WANTED:- Nicam stereo versions of the two Big Country concerts recently broadcast on the satellite channel UK Gold.

ON OFFER:- Various vids including:-  
Barrowlands 1984 New Year's Eve (Whistle Test)

Reading Hexagon (Whistle Test)  
Restless Natives (entire film)  
Plus all the pre-recorded releases (including The Seer Live in New York). Alternatively, he could record any track ever released in England since day one.

☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆  
Shaun Stewart (Membership No 003869)

UK  
WANTED:- "Made In Heaven" on the CD and 12" of "Thirteen Valleys". Dunfermline Convention video (we have long since sold out) Also wanted live performances of BC (audio or video from 1993), a copy of "Troubled Man" from the B side of "Heart Of The World" 12".

☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆  
Lowell Austin (Membership No 003866)

USA  
WANTED:- "Broken Heart" CD, "Save Me" 12", "Republican Party Reptile" 10" or CD, "The Teacher" 12" and "Look Away" double 7". Lowell is willing to trade for records or videos (American VHS) with anyone who wishes or he will pay top dollar for good condition copies.

☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆  
Art Love (Membership No 003858)

USA  
WANTED:- Any videos (NTSC/VHS preferred) or live audio BC tapes - performance or

interviews. BC items are difficult to acquire in Florida and Art would love to obtain any 7", 12" or CD singles, literature and tour programmes etc. He is willing to pay reasonable prices or, for non-American members, maybe there are some US items that he can get for you.

☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆  
Jamie Birch (Membership No 003860)

USA  
WANTED:- Promo "Crossing" playing cards, "Crossing" bandana, "Broken Heart" with "Made In Heaven", "Heart Of The World" 12" with acoustic tracks, 2 x 7" "Look Away", videos for American system, "Save Me" 12" with "Dead On Arrival", "P.I.O.T." CD with "Longest Day", 2 x 7" "One Great Thing" with Texas Tapes, 12" "Heart Of The World" with "Troubled Man". Also Jamie would like DAT copies of some B sides:- "Restless Natives", "All Of Us", "Flag Of Nations", "Winter Sky" etc., if you can help on this please write to him.

☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆  
Meryem Oguzberk (Membership No 003681)

Holland  
WANTED:- A Certain Chemistry, video "The Seer Live In New York", cd singles:- "Ships" 1 plus 2, "Broken Heart", "Heart Of The World" and "Save Me", all B sides, bonus tracks on cassette/CD singles, copies of BC shows (Super Channel: Wanted dead or alive etc.), documentaries (MTV etc.), promo vids, live gigs (Karlsruhe-Durlach concert), photos - concerts and convention, copies of magazine interviews, promo vids "Alone" and "Ships".

☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆  
Anthony Proctor (Membership No 001627)

UK  
FOR SALE:- Official ACME grey "Rose" medium tour T/Shirt - New and still in the original sealed packet £10.00 including P & P. "Alone" promo vid.

☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆  
Jonathon Smith (Membership No 003856)

USA  
WANTED:- Japanese CD box set. Since BC records are difficult to obtain in the States could someone help out by taping some records for him if he sends blank cassettes to you. Do, please, get in touch with Jonathon if you can help.

☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆  
Cole Lauber (Membership No 003845)

USA  
Cole says, "Please, please, for the love of God can anyone out there get me a CD of "No Place Like Home". I've been trying since Summer 1991 to obtain it - special ordering doesn't work. Nothing has. Put yourself in my shoes, what would you do? Somebody help me, please - you will be handsomely reimbursed."

☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆

Continued.....

## NOTICE BOARD Contd

Jose Avila (Membership No 003756)

U.S.A.

WANTED:- All or most of BC vids

☆☆☆☆☆☆

David and Christina Codd (Membership No 003284/3592)

Sedan Str 54, 5600 Wuppertal 2, Germany  
Tell me of all David and Ceconi wrote to first me that having "met" through our pen pal section in the magazine and subsequently meeting face to face, the wedding was on 30th December! Many, many congratulations.

Also they offer help if any one would like a copy of the bootleg CD "Defroster" (mentioned also by Ralf Kirschnick in "General Letters" elsewhere in the mag.

☆☆☆☆☆☆

Carol Nelson (Membership No 001550)

UK

PLEASE HELP:- Carol wrote to me about her brother, Gary, and his shitty luck:- Gary returned from his honeymoon to find that he had been burgled and the bloody rotter had nicked, amongst other items, his precious collection of Big Country CDs - every album and single available on CD! As yet, they have only been able to replace "Beautiful People". Can anyone point Gary in the right direction to help replace his collection. (Alternatively, if the git who carried out this wicked deed is out there, may you not sleep at nights!)

☆☆☆☆☆☆

James Birch (Membership No 003860)

U.S.A.

ON OFFER:- James has a DAT of the 6th November show in Minneapolis, MN. It's SUPERB!! If you would like I write to James and, he says, "We'll see what we can swap or try and work something out - I'm flexible"

☆☆☆☆☆☆

Brad Horstman (Membership No 003853)

U.S.A.

WANTED:- CDs - "Steeltown", "The Seer", "No Place Like Home" and "Through A Big Country". Cassette or CD single of "Winter Sky". Basically anything that may not have been released in America.

☆☆☆☆☆☆

Lewis Crow (Membership No 003890)

USA

WANTED:- VHS or Beta (US NTSC system) copy of "Through A Big Country Greatest Hits" video, poster preferably from 1983 to 1986 and 7 "Look Away" / "Restless Natives".

## PEN PALS Contd

Harley Burns (Membership No 003673)

Australia

Year of birth:- 1972

Hobbies:- gardening, bike riding, tennis and playing bass.

★★★★★

James Birch (Membership No 003860)

U.S.A.

Year of birth:- 1971

Likes:- BC, Pixies, Stone Roses, Waterboys, Curve and REM. James also plays in a band.

★★★★★

Brad Horstman (Membership No 003853)

U.S.A.

Year of birth:- 1966

Hobbies:- Baseball (Cincinnati Reds), Pizza and playing the stereo at full volume. Also likes Kiss, Van Halen, Motorhead and Dokken.

★★★★★

## THE INFALLIBLE(?) CD!?

Indestructable, we were told - yeah, sure!

Anyway, Liam Davey (Membership No 001593) has written to me on this problem which may be of interest (in case you've missed out on this worrying news to record collectors).

The article from the "Daily Mail" dated November 14th states:-

*Music-lovers are discovering that thousands of CDs produced in the late Eighties are corroding and becoming unplayable.*

*All were pressed by the PDO company which produces 25% of CDs on sale in British shops, including the Phonogram, Polydor and Fontana labels. Major shareholder, Philips, inventor of the CD, admits it first noticed the problem in 1989!*

*Liam writes, "...Like many other fans, I usually buy all formats of a single release but, as everyone is aware, record companies and producers are concentrating on CD as the main format.*

*When I buy a CD, I view it as everlasting - for life, as it were but, complaints against PDO have surfaced in the Press.*

*Between 1988 and 1989, thousands of CDs produced are corroding and becoming unplayable, apparently the CDs start turning a gold colour and then rust from the inside causing information to be lost and render the CD unplayable.*

The problem Big Country CDs are:-

"King Of Emotion" BIG CD5

"Thirteen Valleys" BIG CD6

"Peace In Our Time" promo LP CD BIG CD51

All came in cardboard cases so keep an eye on these discs in the future. My own CDs are still playing fine but I must admit that "King Of Emotion" is turning a little golden!