

TRICKS OF THE RECORDING STUDIO ON NEW TEN YEARS AFTER L.P.

CHICK CHURCHILL, organist with Ten Years After, devoured a chicken sandwich and explained: "We've been working very hard lately and now that we're back in England I've been eating and eating, but I can't put on any weight!"

Ten Years After have been busy recording their LP "Stoned Henge" which is released on February 7:

"The release date had to be put back," said Chick. "We've had difficulty getting the LP sleeve as we want it. We saw a fantastic picture in an AA book. It was taken at Stonehenge on Midsummer Day, the only day when a beam of light shines straight on the sacrificial altar! Unfortunately we had to pay £5 per LP cover if we used it—so we scrapped that idea! The LP is now going out in the States with a different picture of Stonehenge, with our faces super-imposed. We're still working on the British cover though.

"On this LP," continued Chick, "there are some strange little things. Six of the tracks last approximately five minutes each. On four other tracks Alvin, Leo, Rick and I play solo, but the numbers are only about a minute long. We use the tricks of the recording studios on them, but that's the only time we do."

I asked Chick if he felt that the long LP tracks might become rather repetitive without the visual medium of a club:

"Well, if that's so there must be 80,000 bored people in America!" laughed Chick. "I think that when the numbers are longer you can become more involved in them. That's really why we're not over worried about singles. The charts are in such a state anyway, that I don't think it would be representative of anything to have a chart entry."

Ten Years After have become noted in clubs for their long instrumental numbers, and more recently Love Sculpture have also been praised for

their instrumental ability. I asked Chick if he felt the two groups had a common influence:

"I've not yet seen the group live on stage, but I don't really like 'Sabre Dance'. It reminds me of a present day Shadows, and I'd expect to see them doing those little dance steps! The only music I really like is jazz—people like Thelonius Monk and Jimmy McGriff. Family are really great, they're my 'fave rave' group! I like some West coast groups including Big Brother and Moby Grape. West coast is exciting music, though it's not technically good."

Chick Churchill's main hobbies in life circulate around music and girlfriends. He can often be found at the Speakeasy when Ten Years After are in town:

"I go to the Speakeasy most nights" says Chick. "One evening there I joined in a terrific jam session with Aynsley Dunbar, his bass player, Long John Baldry, Tony Ashton and Roger Chapman. We played till quarter to five in the morning—and most of the audience stayed. We all really enjoyed it."

During moments of relaxation Chick also likes to write lyrics, and he hopes to buy a stereo tape recorder so that he can record the music as well.

Ten Years After, however, will soon be leaving Britain again on a nine day tour of Scandinavia. "I'm looking forward to that," said Chick. "It will be our fourth visit and it's going to be a concert tour. That's much better than playing ballrooms. In ballrooms you get the crowd saying, 'Can't you



CHICK CHURCHILL

play 'Knock on Wood'?". Then we reply "Surely you know, sir, there's a blues boom on!"

After their Scandinavian tour Ten Years After return to America on February 26.

Before you go, just one last question Chick. How did the name of Ten Years After originate:

"Well, there was no real significance in mind when we got the name. It could mean ten years after the present day, which would be 1979, or ten years after 1959 which would be today! Let them work that one out." Chick laughed before disappearing!

VALERIE MABBS