

“Icsey In the Sun”

by Alan Miles [email]

In 1965 I went to see The Spectres who were playing that summer, at The Essex Brewery Tap, (now gone) in James Street. There were quite a few mods there I remember, and many of them wore the target motifs on their t-shirts, which was the latest fashion then. Anyway, The Spectres were really good and they performed upstairs, in a club that once existed there.

I remember their PA system was called Gloworm, I had never heard of this make before, anyway their performance was brilliant and they looked good. I can still recall today The Everley Brothers numbers they played like; Birddog, Lucille, and Cathy's Clown.

A couple of months later, a couple of The Motives and myself decided to get the 'Bedford' out and go for a ride up the M1 to the Fortes cafe. We thought we'd stop for a bite to eat and after that go home. In those times if you rode about in a Bedford van and you had long hair, the girl's heads would turn as you drove past, sometimes they would even scream a bit.

The three of us sat down with our plates of beef burgers, chips and beans, and as we got stuck in to our nosh, a group of tired looking scruffy blokes walked in and filled their plates with a similar fry-up to our own. Suddenly I recognised them, and as they walked towards our tables holding their trays, I knew for definite that they were The Spectres!

They sat down and joined us, and I began chatting to Frank Rossi (although at the time I did not know that was his name). I told him that I liked their 'sound', and in particular their treatment of The Everley Brothers songs. Frank Rossi said to me "we don't call ourselves The Spectres anymore; we call ourselves "Status Quo". After finishing our chips and beans, we bade them farewell, and Frank Rossi asked me if I would like to go to Loughborough University with them as they were gigging there. We declined as we had to get back home.

I think now after talking to Frank Rossi, it was probably the influence of The Everley Brothers that helped The Quo create their unique vocal sound.