records

Sheer Novelty
We continue to take our hat off to the enterprise and flexibility of the recording industry.
Novelty was never a substitute for substance or good performance, but the record-makers are still proving themselves media leaders in moving nimbly into new areas with new recording concepts.

For a few valid examples, consider some recent LPs that are making a bit of history:
The Controversy (Capitol KAO 2677) is a well-rounded examination of the storm over the death of John F. Kennedy and the Warren Report. Another excellent work in Capitol’s “Probe” series, these tapes of the advocates and critics of the report plus nine eye-witnesses to the assassination are all fascinating listening.

How to Avoid Probate! (Philips 600-229) takes the essence of Norman F. Dacey’s book, which has been hitting all the best-seller charts, and has the author spell it all out for the home listener. Most useful.

Homosexuality in the American Male (Capitol ST 2652). Another brave Lawrence Schiller “Probe” LP, this one going where most documentarists would fear to tread. Courageous and provocative recording.

Viva La Causal! (Thunderbird Records, Box 1060, Delano, Calif., $4.25). The songs and sounds pressed from the grapes of wrath, the grape-pickers strike that has aroused the compassion of the whole country.

The Jazz Mass (Columbia 2598) is still another of the bold fusions of traditional religion and innovative music. Rates favorably with previous excursions by Ellington and Paul Horn.

Colors: Ken Nordine (Philips 600-224) Curious, but often compelling little word and music essays on a new spectrum.

Kweskin and the Jug Band put kazoo sounds in your ear.

Those Good Old Days
"Winchester Cathedral" was destined to start some nostalgia for the music of the 1920s, and so it has. Rudy Vallee (Pickwick 3063) is one of the kings of that era, as these reissues of his “My Time Is Your Time” and the “Maine Stein Song” and seven other old hits will testify.

The Best of Tommy Dorsey and The Best of Artie Shaw (RCA Victor 3674 and 3675) are electronically reprocessed masters from yesterday by two master bands. But it’s not just resurrected hits of the past that are dwelling on old-timey sounds. Try these three LPs for a contemporary reconstruction of the light, joggy spirit between the wars:

Goodtime Happening (Epic 24240).
The Eggplant That Ate Chicago: Dr. West’s Medicine Show and Junk Band (A Go Go 2217002).
Jim Kweskin and The Jug Band (Vanguard 29234).

What’s Happening Now
Lest you fear, dear reader, that we are getting hung up on yesterday or day-before-yesterdays, here’s a brief checklist of some recent jazz, pop and rock releases that all merit your shopping dollars:
Cannonball Adderley: Mercy, Mercy (Capitol ST 2683).
Cernbread: Father Tom Vaughn (RCA Victor 3708).
Donovan: Mellow Yellow (Epic 2423).
The Doors (Elektra 74007).
Love: Da Capo (Elektra 74005).

Guitar Freakout: The Ventures (Dolton 2050).
More of the Monkees (Colgems 102).
Face to Face: Kinke (Reprise 6228).
Buffalo Springfield (Atco 33-200).

The Siegel-Schwall Band (Vanguard 9235).

Sound Principles?
Enoch Light is a knowledgeable, highly respected figure in recording. He has been developing a new line of LPs, Project 3, for some time now. It’s a label that features “total sound” by recording on 35-mm magnetic film. The sound is indeed opulent, one of the best jobs of fidelity to come out of an LP. But there Mr. Light’s sound principles flag. The first four LPs on the new label are of little interest to the sophisticated record-buyer. Perhaps one, The