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Townes Van Zandt A Hot Songwriter

NEW YORK (UPI)—During the years when rock bands abounded each group played its own compositions and jealously avoided recording the work of its contemporaries.

Of course, some of the young composers recorded music that was so good that others—mostly their elders—found worth repeating. The Beatles, for instance, turned out hit after hit.

Times are changing and once more good compositions are used by others.

Townes Van Zandt is a promising song writer as well as musician and his songs are catching on. Buffy Sainte-Marie has a hit in Van Zandt's "Mister, Can't you See," and Johnny Cash has recorded "Mr. Gold and Mr. Mud," and Elvis Presley has added "Two Hands" to his bag.

"Two Hands" is the lead-off number in "High, Low and In Between" (Poppy PYS 5700) by Townes Van Zandt. "Mr. Gold and Mr. Mud" and "Mister, Can't You See" also are highlights.

Van Zandt's voice generally is soothing. He makes no effort to overpower those who listen and by underplaying his role he strengthens his position.

In this session, Van Zandt is backed by a good string section, including three guitarists, a pianist-organist and a bass.

Goldie Hawn, a top comedienne and actress, makes her debut as a recording artist on

"Goldie" (Reprise MS 2061). While Goldie is not going to be singing at the Met, she does have a voice that deserves attention and is ideally suited to country-western music. Among her songs are Dylan's "I'll be Your Baby Tonight" and Dolly Parton's "My Blue Tears."

Selected Singles

"Something for Mary" by the Credibility Gap (Warner Bros. PRO 517), "Rag and Roll" by Cathy Chamberlain (Kama Sutra KA 543), "The Family of Man" by Three Dog Night (Dunhill D-4306), "The Power 18" by Mustang (A&M 8101-S), "The Pod That Came Back" by Paul Jones (London 45-178).

Tape Deck

"Four Tops Greatest Hits, Vol. 2" (Motown M 8740), an Ampex tape cartridge, is an interesting encore for this quartet's first reprise of chartbusters. Among the songs are "Yesterday's Dreams," "In These Changing Times," "Don't Let Him Take Your Love From Me" and "I'm in a Different World."

KEMPER HONOR FOR JACKSONVILLE CADET

Cadet SGT Timothy B. Hazel, son of Mr. and Mrs. Donald F. Hazel of Jacksonville, Illinois, has been awarded a certificate for being the Representative of the 8th grade class at Kemper Military School and College at Boonville, Missouri.

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