

Night Owl Coffee House

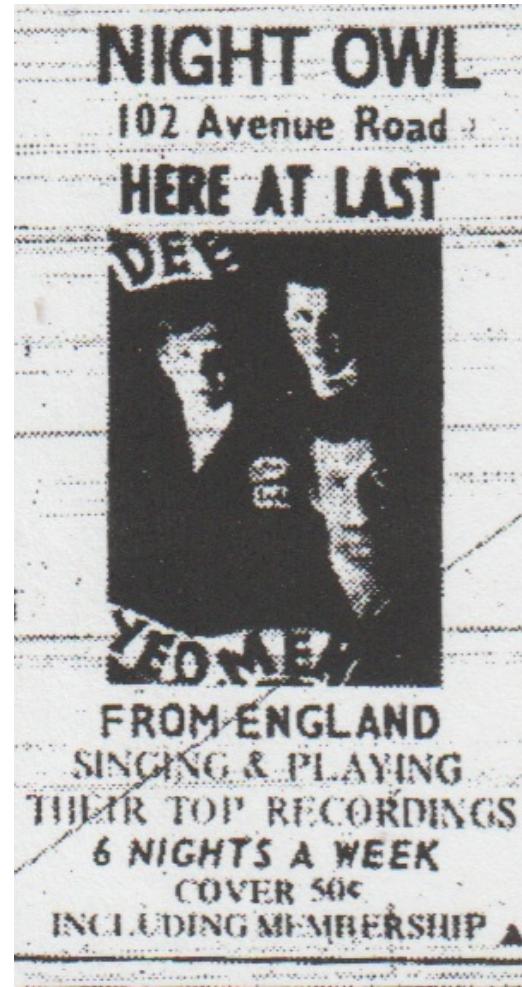
As we see below, from the Toronto Star's Gerry Barker; Harry Finegold and David Levin opened the Night Owl on March 6, 1964 at 102 Avenue Rd. Toronto. This would become one of the longer lived coffee houses; one that bridged in 1965, the move from folk/jazz to a Rock, R&B format.

From the Toronto Telegram June 10, 1965;
a display ad for the Night Owl announcing the start
of what would be one of the longest residencies
we'd see in Yorkville Village in the 1960's, a group called
Dee and the Yeomen.

The relationship between Finegold and the band;
Graham (Dee) Dunnet (singer, guitar), Terry
Watkinson (organ) and Len Lytwyn (drums) was
“different”, making Bruce Lawson’s article in
the Globe and Mail October 8, 1966, page 19,
a must read (join the Toronto Public Library and
access it online through their link to ProQuest
Historical Newspapers).

This list has been enhanced by Facebook comments
from contributors who are noted below.

Updated October 16, 2022



1964

Mar 6	In Gerry Barker's In "Town and Out" column	Star Mar 6 th p.23: "Another coffee house opens tonight on the fringe of the new Village; this one is the <i>Night Owl</i> . Harry Finegold and David Levin open up at 102 Avenue Rd."
Apr 12	Sonny Greenwich Quartet with pianist Don Naduriak	Star Apr 11 th p.32 display ad. From Mark Miller: <i>A review of John Norris' Toronto column in Coda Magazine reveals that the weekend jazz policy at the Night Owl began in early 1964 and continued for about a year. Pianist Don Naduriak and guitarist Sonny Greenwich were among the first musicians to appear there.</i>
Apr 17-19	"Jazz groups play week-end nights and Sunday afternoon"	Tely Apr 18 th "What's Going On" column: open noon to 3 am, cover charge 25 cents
Week-ends	"Jazz groups play week-end nights and Sunday afternoon"	Tely "What's Going On" column continues with this message until June 20th
Jun 26-28	Bruce Stiles' New Jazz Quintet with tenor saxophonist Brian Barley	Tely Jun 27 th "What's Going On" column: The New Jazz Quintet plays on the week-ends, dancing every night to a trio. Opening hours remain the same but the cover charge rises to 50 cents. Star Jun 20 th p.25 names Bente Paulsen as jazz singer
Weekends through the summer	The New Jazz Quintet unnamed other groups probably appear	Further from Mark Miller: (Greenwich and Naduriak) were followed briefly in the summer by drummer Bruce Stiles' New Jazz Quintet, which included tenor saxophonist Brian Barley
		Tely 27 th "What's Going On" column and the After Four "Chum About Town" mention the club occasionally

September weekdays and weekends	Peter Coveart (sp.) Trio and vocalist Susan Coveart and The New Jazz Sextet	Tely Sep 10 th After Four “Chum About Town” column: There’s jazz nightly in the west Village with the Peter Coveart Trio and vocalist Susan Coveart. The New Jazz Sextet plays regularly on weekends.
October 1 forward	The Peter Coveart Trio with vocalist Susan Coveart and the Jazz Couriers now on weekends	Tely Oct 1 st After Four Chum About Town column; the week-end jazz group changes. And from Mark Miller: alto saxophonist Phil Branton’s Jazz Couriers included trombonist Russ Little and others.
Oct 10	Jazz Couriers on weekends	Tely Oct 10 th “What’s Going On” column: now “dancing to Latin American music” through the week
Oct 24	Jazz Couriers (9:30 -12:30) with Al Stanwyck’s quintet (1 am to 4 am)	Star Oct 24 th p.25 with Al Stanwyck’s group referred to as “Al Stanwyck his trumpet & orchestra”
Oct 31	Jazz Couriers (Fri and Sat) with Al Stanwyck’s quintet also late on Sat	Tely Oct 31 st “What’s Going On” column. Latin American music for dancing during the week
November, December & January	The Jazz Couriers with Al Stanwyck’s quintet late on Saturday continue on weekends with dancing to the Bernie the Beachcomber Latin American combo and his fire limbo	Tely “What’s Going On” and “After Four Chum About Town” columns. By Nov 26 th in the Tely’s “After Four Chum About Town” column, dancing during the week is replaced by “coffee and intimate atmosphere during the week”
Dec 19	The above line up is confirmed	Star Dec 19 th p.28 but no mention of Bernie; so sad, wish I’d seen him.

1965

Feb (nightly
from at least
the 6th)

The New Liberty Singers

Tely Feb 6th "What's Going On" column: "a new folk comedy group give four shows nightly" Star Feb 6th p.25 display ad confirming the New Liberty Singers, but it being their 2nd week (4 shows nightly) repeating the following week to make it three weeks.

Mar 12-13, 19-
20, 26-27

**The Jazz Couriers with
Eugene Amaro's quintet**

Tely Mar 13th, 20th, 27th "What's Going On" column and Star Mar 20th p.26 confirming the Saturday lineup

Apr 2-3

**The Jazz Couriers return with
Eugene Amaro's quintet and
singing star Susan Coveart**

Tely Apr 1st "After Four Chum About Town" in a trailer bottom of the page, providing detail on timing. The Jazz Couriers Fri 11-2 am. Saturday the Jazz Couriers with Eugene Amaro's quintet 9:30 to 4 am. Susan Coveart both nights. Also covered this weekend in the Tely's "What's Going On" column

Apr 9-10, 16-
17, 23-24, 30-
May 1

The previous week's
performances repeat

Tel Apr 8th and 10th, 15th and 17th, 22nd and 24th, Apr 29th in the usual sections

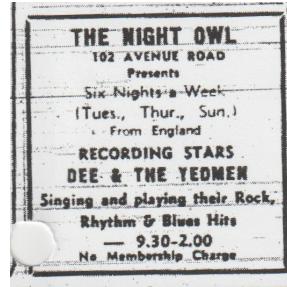
June, 1965

Jun 10

Dee and the Yeomen

After a long break in advertising in the Telegram, the Night Owl changes its programming from jazz to R&B, Rock in early June.

Tely Jun 10th and 17th in formal advertisements:



Jun 15-20	Dee and the Yeomen	Tely Jun 19 th the “What’s Going On” column pins down weekly timing: “Tuesday thru Sunday 10 pm to 3 am”
July 3 through mid-September	Dee and the Yeomen	Tely “What’s Going On” column ads repeat: Jul; 3 rd , 10 th , 24 th , 31 st , Aug 7 th , 14 th , 21 st , 28 th , Sep 4 th , 11 th , 18 th after which the Tely ad format in this column changes and many coffee shop/club references were dropped. The After Four classified don’t pick them up with regularity. From Bruce Lawson’s Globe article it’s evident why the club probably didn’t see it needed publicity in the daily newspapers.
Fall, 1965	The Rogues	From George Olliver on Facebook; The Rogues also played the Night Owl in late ‘65.

1966

May 13-14	The Five Rogues	From Nicholas Jennings on Facebook May 18/20
A book by Mark Doble and Frank Troiano	Domenic Troiano His Life and Music	Chapter 3 of this book puts the Rogues in perspective with valuable detail on their rise and success together with excellent insight into the musicians themselves.
Apr 10-14	Dee and the Yeomen present “Direct from Edmonton, Alberta” The King Beezz	Tely Apt 7 th “After Four” classifieds
Jun 24	The Five Rogues	From Nicholas Jennings on Facebook May 18/20
Sep 24	Dee and the Yeomen	Tely Sep 22 nd “After Four” classifieds with club now calling itself “The Famous Nite Owl ”
Sep 29	Dee and the Yeomen	Tely Sep 29 th “After Four” classifieds with club continuing to call itself “The Famous Nite Owl” and with “dancing and listening to the best, 7 days a week”

Oct 13-14	The Paupers	Tely Oct 13 th "After Four" classifieds "... presents The Paupers last 2 Days"
Oct 27-30	The Paupers (Thurs, Sat, Sun), The Manx (Fri) and Dee and the Yeomen also Sat.	Tely Oct 27 th "After Four" classifieds - guess it wasn't the last 2 days for the Paupers.
Dec 15-22	The Staccatos (Thurs) The Knack (Fri) Manx (Sat) Dee and the Yeomen (Sun-Thurs)	Tely Dec 15 th "After Four" classifieds - and back to the "Night Owl", but still "Famous"
Dec 22	Dee and the Yeomen	Tely Dec 22 nd "After Four" classifieds - a sort of Christmas card from the band naming other bands, promoters, etc., around and about (will copy and insert after COVID recedes)

1967

Jan 12-15	The Staccatos (Thurs) A Passing Fancy (Fri) The Staccatos (Sat) Dee and the Yeomen (Sun)	Tely Jan 12 th "After Four" classifieds
Jan 26-27	Jimmy Dybold & the Jayrockers	Tely Jan 26 th "After Four" classifieds - "chosen Canada's most promising male vocalist 1967 - RPM Awards
Mar 28	The Magic Circus	

Mar 30-Apr 2	The Wee Beasties (Thurs) The Dickens (Fri) The Wee Beasties (Sat) The Rock Show of the Yeomen (Sun)	Tely Mar 30 th "After Four" classifieds - a change of billing for the Yeomen
Apr 1	The Knack	
Apr 8	Lords of London	Tely Apr 6 th After Four classifieds
May 18-20	The Amen	Tely May 18 th After Four classifieds
Jun 4	Kensington Market	
Aug 12	A Globe news article: "Yorkville man says <i>nightspot</i> too noisy"	G&M Aug 12 th p.5 a charge against the Night Owl is dismissed because the Crown failed to "establish Mr. Finegold owned the Night Owl."
Dec 28	Magic Circus	

1968

Feb 1-3	The Rainy Field	Tely Feb 1 st , After Four Classified
Feb 8, 10-11	"The Rock Show of the Yeomen"	Tely Feb 8 th , After Four Classified

Feb 24	Jimi Hendrix , probably after the Jimi Hendrix Experience played the CNE Coliseum Arena on Feb 24, 1968	Comment by Michael Watson on Facebook May 13/20: <i>the Night Owl was the place of a 'famous' jam with Domenic Troiano, Whitey Glan.... and Jimi Hendrix, after a Toronto show. As for when? Hendrix was here twice probably not jamming while he was getting busted (May 3rd, 1969). I'd think after the Coliseum show? Troiano was predominant then.</i>
Feb 16-17	The Rock Show of the Yeomen (Thurs, Sun) Rainy Fields (Fri) Livingston's Journey (Sat)	G&M Feb 16 th p.12 Blaik Kirby: "A guide for swinging boulevardiers" and Tely Feb 15 th , After Four Classified
Feb 22-25	The Rock Show of the Yeomen (Thurs, Fri., Sun) The Big Town Boys (Sat)	Tely Feb 22 nd , After Four Classified
Mar 25-27	The Dana	Tely Mar 21 st , After Four Classified
Mar 22	The Five Shy	Tely Mar 21 st , After Four Classified
Mar 29	Group Therapy	Tely Mar 28 th , After Four Classified
Mar 30	The Night Owl is referenced in a Globe article	G&M Mar 30 th p.21
Mar 30-31	The Young Ones	G&M Apr 26 th p.12 "... Egyptian-oriented "radomelic" group"
May 3-4	The Young Ones	G&M May 3 rd p.12
May 16-19	Duke Edwards and The Young Ones	Tely May 16 th , After Four Classified Duke Edwards now featured
May 21-22	"The Fabulous Paupers"	Tely May 16 th , After Four Classified

May 30-Jun 2	The Rock Show of the Yeomen	Tely May 30 th , After Four Classified
Jun 13-14	Bobby Kris and the Imperials	
Jun 15	Fraser Loveman Group	
Jun 27-30	Rock Show of the Yeomen (Thurs, Fri) The Paupers (Sat Sun)	Tely Jun 27 th , After Four Classified
Jul 4	The Mozart Group	G&M Jul 5 th p.10 - described in an article by Ritchie Yorke titled " <i>Mozart Group toots at Night Owl</i> ". And Tely Jul 4 th , After Four Classified
Jul 5-6	The Rock Show of the Yeomen (Fri) Hamilton's Village Stop (Sat)	G&M Jul 5 th p.11 the Yeomen "hand out nostalgia" Whew, how quick we forget. And Tely Jul 4 th , After Four Classified
Jul 11-14	The Edward Bear Revue (Thurs- Sat) The Rock Show of the Yeomen (Sun)	Tely Jul 11 th , After Four Classified
Aug 5-10	McKenna Mendelson Mainline	Comment by Nicholas Jennings on Facebook, May 13/20 in response to the posting of this list: "The Night Owl is also noteworthy for being the place where McKenna Mendelson Mainline debuted as a band, from August 5–10, 1968" and Tely Aug 1 st , After Four Classified
Aug 16-17	McKenna Mendelson Mainline	Tely Aug 15 th , After Four Classified
Aug 31 Sep 1-2	McKenna Mendelson Mainline (Sat) The Rock Show of the Yeomen (Sun, Mon)	Tely Aug 31 st , After Four Classified

August	From the Aug '68 issue of Saturday with thanks to Doug McClement	
Oct 26,27	The Rock Show of the Yeomen and The Paupers	Tely Oct 26 th , After Four Classified
Oct 28-29	Edward Bear	Tely Oct 26 th , After Four Classified
Oct 30- Oct 3	The Paupers	Tely Oct 26 th , After Four Classified
Nov 9,10	The Paupers	Tely Nov 9 th , After Four Classified
Nov 16,17	The Paupers	Tely Nov 16 th , After Four Classified

Nov 18-20, 22	McKenna Mendelson Mainline	Tely Nov 16 th , After Four Classified
Nov 21	The Rock Show of the Yeomen	Tely Nov 16 th , After Four Classified
Dec 17-18	The Wizard's Hand	Tely Dec 14 th , After Four Classified
Dec 31	The Rock Show of the Yeomen	Tely Dec 28 th , After Four Classified

1969

Apr 17, 19-20	The Rock Show of the Yeomen	Tely Apr 17 th , After Four Classified
Apr 24, 26-27	The Rock Show of the Yeomen	Tely Apr 24 th , After Four Classified
May 1-4	The Rock Show of the Yeomen (Thurs, Sun), The Rhubarb (Fri) Edward Bear (sat)	Tely May 1 st , After Four Classified
Jun 19-22	Bobby Kris and the Imperials	Tely Jun 19 th , After Four Classified
Jul 11, 12	The Rock Show of the Yeomen	Tely Jul 10 th , After Four Classified
Jul 18-20	The Rock Show of the Yeomen	Tely Jul 17 th , After Four Classified
Aug 7-8, 11-16	The Paupers	Tely Aug 7 th , After Four Classified

Nov 21-23	The Whisky Howl (Fri to Sun); Sunday featuring Joe Mendelson	Tely Nov 20 th , After Four Classified after a break in advertising ... presents "A Blues Weekend"
Nov 27-30	Sweet Blindness (Thurs, Fri) Whisky Howl (Sat), Sunday Special: The Yeomen (two shows before midnight) McKenna Mendelson Mainline (12-3)	Tely Nov 27 th , After Four Classified ... presents "A Weekend of Top Bands"
Dec 4-6	The Yeomen (Thurs, Sun) Eddy Spencer & Nostra Damus (Fri, Sat)	Tely Dec 4 th , After Four Classified
Dec 11-14	The Yeomen (Thurs, Sat) The Poor Souls (Fri, Sat, Sun)	Tely Dec 11 th , After Four Classified (both bands appearing together on Saturday)
Dec 18-21	Sweet Blindness (Thurs) Blitz Creek (Fri) Whiskey Howl (sat, Sun)	Tely Dec 18 th , After Four Classified
Dec 24-28	The Fox (Wed-Fri) The Yeomen (Sat, Sun)	Tely Dec 24 th , After Four Classified (no paper on X-mas in those days)
Dec 31	The Rock Show of The Yeomen	Tely Dec 31 st , After Four Classified. With the above entry advertising in the Telegram appears to end, though this search stopped at the end of March.

Data Collection

These listings are a composite of what appeared in the Toronto Telegram's (the Tely) What's Going On listing in the Showcase Section and the Chum About Town listings in the After Four Sections Chum About Town and classifieds, augmented by electronic searches of the Toronto Star (Star) and Globe and Mail (G&M) archives from the 1960s on. Where I take words directly from a listing I use "quotation marks" and/or italics. Where I cite an article I reference the reporter if identified, as best I can.