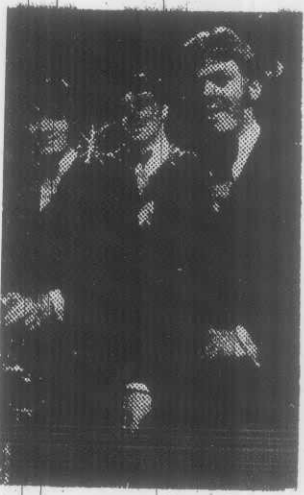


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Manager Tommy Hayden is
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This may
really
be 'it'

Year of the Smokeys

AS A POINTER that 1969 was indeed the year of the Smokeys, the annual popularity poll of New Spotlight bears true indication to that claim: for two members of the all-star Ramblers, fiddler George Kay and lead singer, Pat Ely, were voted into the top five country stars of the year.

From nowhere in 1968, it was the Smokeys surge of the second half of last year which set showband-land talking.

And their first rise to the top has sparked off a new trend in dancing: the power of country and western outfits.

There is no place that the Smokeys do not draw big crowds now.

In one stint next summer, they'll be working 45 nights on the trot.

But there is a bonus: they go to America in Lent and they take a week's holiday in Nashville, of course!

Says George: "We will be guests at the Grand Ole Opry.

"We'll be meeting stars like Buck Owens, Porter Wagoner, Charlie Pride and Johnny Cash and we're appearing on a special concert there."

Dreams go into Europe

FOR THE second year running, the Dreams have been voted into the top ten band attractions in New Spotlight's annual poll.

And this week, manager Jim Hand announced that the new generation band would have a new record, before the end of February, specially written for them by Alby Blackly and Chin



Next week's big attraction to the 'Tabu' club will be the 'Orphanage,' They are by far one of the up and coming young beat groups. Recently they were here in the 'Tabu' club where they received a great crowd.



Don Duggan, lead singer with the Savoy Showband.