



New Venture

The unforgettable performance of the Pipelines with their impersonation of Sonny and Cher singing "I Got You, Babe," took honors as Best Overall Act in the Lee talent show. Senior Bob Geissler and junior Johnny Gross expound on their latest venture in the accompanying feature exclusive to the Bugle Call.

—Photo by Rob Richie

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Gross Writes It— Pipelines Record It...

By ANNE HAGY

"We came up with the name "Pipelines" in about 30 minutes when we needed one for a job right away. That was back in July—that's how long we've been together as a group; but Bob (Geissler) and I have been playing together in different bands and stuff since we were in the seventh or eighth grade." That's how junior Johnny Gross summed up background history for a band that's fast becoming one of the best in San Antonio.

Better Than Good

The Pipelines have already established a local reputation for themselves for being better than good by playing dances and benefits with music either borrowed from the charts or composed by Gross. Their sound is basically West Coast.

"That's what we play mostly but we don't want to sound like the Beach Boys, or the Beatles, because when you imitate you can never be as good as the original; and people know that," Gross explained.

Now the Pipelines have a chance to be more than a good local group. They've signed a recording contract with Epstein Enterprises and have just recently cut a record entitled "Hey Girl," an original composition by Gross.

Epstein, head of Epstein Enterprises.

Geissler, who handles the business end of the group, arranged for an audition with Epstein and the outcome was a success.

"We went in, played about five different songs for him and then he asked us what else we had, so we thought for awhile and decided to try Johnny's "Hey Girl." He liked it and thought it had national promise so we recorded it—after we changed the lyrics some," Geissler said.

Original Sound

"See, after every song we played he'd (Epstein) say something like that's too much like the Beach Boys or that's too much like Bob Dylan or something; but he liked 'Hey Girl' because it was an original sound," Gross added.

The first recording session was set up for Jan. 8 when they recorded the music portion of the song. The session lasted from 10 pm to 2 am.

"We didn't use any special effects," Geissler said. "When you use special effects it's hard to reproduce the same sound on stage as on the record, so we played for the recording session like we do on stage.

"Then we recorded the singing portion on Jan. 18. When you record the lyrics to a song, you just sing. You don't play instruments

Courtesy of Jan (Janet) Hanson Clarke