After seven months of inactivity, the Byrds have hunkered down full time. After "Eight Miles High," the departure of lead singer and songwriter, Gene Clark, left the group in a temporarily awkward position. Other problems arose, and only recently did the group get putting full speed ahead. Whether they will retain their former popularity remains to be seen.

Originally from LA, where they used to play the Whiskey a Go Go at Sunset Strip, the Byrds won national fame in May '65 with their first single, "Mr. Tambourine Man," which marked the first use of the unusual twelve-string of the guitar that has become almost a trademark of the group. Their first album, named for the single, contained mostly Bob Dylan songs and reasonably good tunes by Clark and McGuinn. "Turn! Turn! Turn!", their third single, was a number one song also, and their second album (also named for a Dylan song), "Fifth Dimension," is the first (and perhaps still the best) exploration of "mind music." The one song through which really established the Byrds' current line-up is McGuinn's "So Far Away," the first tune to really catch the hh, no sign of the band that used to be called the Byrds anymore.

From then on, things have been happening. Between two or three albums, the Byrds have resumed recording, and a new producer in Allen Stanton lit, and things just happened fast. Between their first (and perhaps still the best) album and their second, the Byrds have become the first commercially successful and biggest promoters of folk-rock. The Byrds have resumed recording whatever they want, and by the end of the month, they will have a new single out.

But somewhere a personal flareup occurred, and Clark left, making everybody happy. Then producer Allen Stanton left, and things just stopped dead with recording. Finally they hired Gary Usher as a producer, who wrote a lot of songs with Brian Wilson on the first few Beach Boy albums, and Van Dyke Parks as a songwriter and designer, who has written most of the lyrics on "Singles," the next Beach Boy albums. They put out "I Do Want to Be a Rock 'n' Roll Star," which hit 29 on Billboard, and "My Back Pages," which hit 20, both on the main pop charts. The Byrds have continued as before, and they still have their hit single out.

The Byrds have now released their fifth album, "Fifth Dimension," which is the first (and perhaps still the best) exploration of mind music. The one song through which really established the Byrds' current line-up is McGuinn's "So Far Away," the first tune to really catch the hh, no sign of the band that used to be called the Byrds anymore. But somewhere a personal flareup occurred, and Clark left, making everybody happy. Then producer Allen Stanton left, and things just stopped dead with recording. Finally they hired Gary Usher as a producer, who wrote a lot of songs with Brian Wilson on the first few Beach Boy albums, and Van Dyke Parks as a songwriter and designer, who has written most of the lyrics on "Singles," the next Beach Boy albums. They put out "I Do Want to Be a Rock 'n' Roll Star," which hit 29 on Billboard, and "My Back Pages," which hit 20, both on the main pop charts. The Byrds have continued as before, and they still have their hit single out.

But somewhere a personal flareup occurred, and Clark left, making everybody happy. Then producer Allen Stanton left, and things just stopped dead with recording. Finally they hired Gary Usher as a producer, who wrote a lot of songs with Brian Wilson on the first few Beach Boy albums, and Van Dyke Parks as a songwriter and designer, who has written most of the lyrics on "Singles," the next Beach Boy albums. They put out "I Do Want to Be a Rock 'n' Roll Star," which hit 29 on Billboard, and "My Back Pages," which hit 20, both on the main pop charts. The Byrds have continued as before, and they still have their hit single out.

But somewhere a personal flareup occurred, and Clark left, making everybody happy. Then producer Allen Stanton left, and things just stopped dead with recording. Finally they hired Gary Usher as a producer, who wrote a lot of songs with Brian Wilson on the first few Beach Boy albums, and Van Dyke Parks as a songwriter and designer, who has written most of the lyrics on "Singles," the next Beach Boy albums. They put out "I Do Want to Be a Rock 'n' Roll Star," which hit 29 on Billboard, and "My Back Pages," which hit 20, both on the main pop charts. The Byrds have continued as before, and they still have their hit single out.

But somewhere a personal flareup occurred, and Clark left, making everybody happy. Then producer Allen Stanton left, and things just stopped dead with recording. Finally they hired Gary Usher as a producer, who wrote a lot of songs with Brian Wilson on the first few Beach Boy albums, and Van Dyke Parks as a songwriter and designer, who has written most of the lyrics on "Singles," the next Beach Boy albums. They put out "I Do Want to Be a Rock 'n' Roll Star," which hit 29 on Billboard, and "My Back Pages," which hit 20, both on the main pop charts. The Byrds have continued as before, and they still have their hit single out.

But somewhere a personal flareup occurred, and Clark left, making everybody happy. Then producer Allen Stanton left, and things just stopped dead with recording. Finally they hired Gary Usher as a producer, who wrote a lot of songs with Brian Wilson on the first few Beach Boy albums, and Van Dyke Parks as a songwriter and designer, who has written most of the lyrics on "Singles," the next Beach Boy albums. They put out "I Do Want to Be a Rock 'n' Roll Star," which hit 29 on Billboard, and "My Back Pages," which hit 20, both on the main pop charts. The Byrds have continued as before, and they still have their hit single out.

But somewhere a personal flareup occurred, and Clark left, making everybody happy. Then producer Allen Stanton left, and things just stopped dead with recording. Finally they hired Gary Usher as a producer, who wrote a lot of songs with Brian Wilson on the first few Beach Boy albums, and Van Dyke Parks as a songwriter and designer, who has written most of the lyrics on "Singles," the next Beach Boy albums. They put out "I Do Want to Be a Rock 'n' Roll Star," which hit 29 on Billboard, and "My Back Pages," which hit 20, both on the main pop charts. The Byrds have continued as before, and they still have their hit single out.

But somewhere a personal flareup occurred, and Clark left, making everybody happy. Then producer Allen Stanton left, and things just stopped dead with recording. Finally they hired Gary Usher as a producer, who wrote a lot of songs with Brian Wilson on the first few Beach Boy albums, and Van Dyke Parks as a songwriter and designer, who has written most of the lyrics on "Singles," the next Beach Boy albums. They put out "I Do Want to Be a Rock 'n' Roll Star," which hit 29 on Billboard, and "My Back Pages," which hit 20, both on the main pop charts. The Byrds have continued as before, and they still have their hit single out.