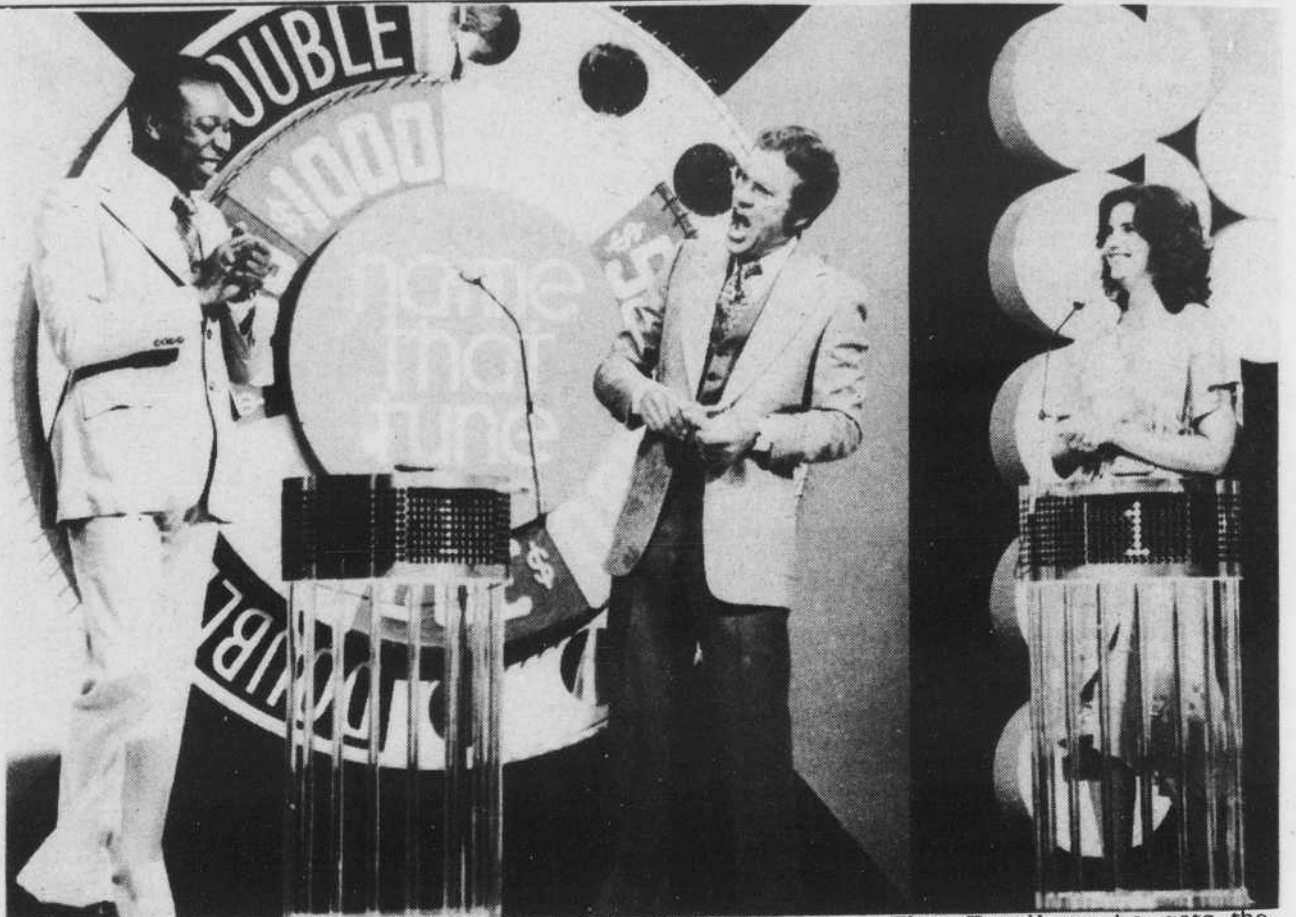




Epic recording artist Melba Moore will appear on the nationally televised "Super Bowl Saturday Night". In addition to performing her chartmaking single, "YOU STEPPED INTO MY LIFE" (from the current hit album, "MELBA"), she will also perform the show stopper "TOMORROW" from the Broadway musical Annie. Sports personality O.J. Simpson will host the show and it airs Saturday, January 20th on NBC TV. Bob Hope, Telly Savales and Johnny Carson are others Scheduled to appear.



"YOU'VE GOT IT!" -- Naaman Foster, left, "\$100,000 Name That Tune" as he gets the good word from emcee Tom Kennedy. The pop-



"Haste ye back, haste ye back", a usually dour highland audience chanted in unison, at the conclusion of THE PLATTERS' stirring performance at the "Tele Comm Club" in Scotland. The SRO crowd felt so much rapport and emotion that they joined hands and sang "Auld Lang Syne" as a tribute to America's "GOOD WILL AMBASSADORS". THE PLATTERS were given similar receptions throughout their European tour of six countries. (England, Germany, Holland, Scotland, Wales and Ireland.) In Wales, the entire audience of 1,200 members of the "Double Diamond Club" stood up and sang, in an old Welch tradition, "There Will Be a Welcome in the Valley." Only three times in the club's 25 yrs. history have these hearty, difficult to please laborers so honored any performers. It was a moving experience for THE PLATTERS, Buck Ram (music director, originator of the Platters and composer of many of their greatest hits) and Jean Bennett (manager of the Platters for 25 years.)

Jean described the Griffin Inn, an ancient and beautiful building in which they stayed in Caerphilly Wales. Built in 1280, with a second section added in 1780 and a third in the early 1900's, the inn has been passed down from generation through generation. This was where THE PLATTERS, Jean and Buck spent Thanksgiving. The innkeeper and local population searched throughout the town for a live turkey. (Frozen wouldn't do.) The party had to settle for a giant prime rib and a local specialty, carrot soup. Not in the American tradition, but very delicious anyway.



Any group that can release a "Best Of" collection and see it shoot to platinum status in just a few days has got to be doing something right. Earth, Wind & Fire, the dynamic ARC/Columbia super-group that has been thrilling audiences for years, has been doing nothing but the right things since signing with Columbia Records back in 1972.

EW&F's first Columbia album, Last Days In Time, sold close to 400,000 units behind their remarkably different jazz-influenced hit "Power". The album established them as one of those rare groups that everybody quietly keeps an eye knowing that sooner or later they would explode with a blockbuster.

To call "Evil", the group's first single from their second LP -- Head To The Sky -- a blockbuster would be an understatement. That tune, along with the sensational vocal abilities highlighted in the LP's title track, propelled the 1973 album to gold status and set the stage for the unbelievable success that was to follow.

The group's third LP, Open Our Eyes, was released in 1974 and -- as was becoming EW&F's trademark -- easily went gold behind such tunes as "Mighty, Mighty" and "Devotion". Had their career died out at that point, the marvelous nine-piece self-contained group would have already been declared one of the greatest things to happen to Black-oriented music in the '70's.

But Maurice White (founder, mentor, producer, composer, vocalist & Percussionist), Verdine White (bassist, vocalist, percussionist & composer), Larry Dunn (keyboardist & composer), Fred

White (drummer & percussionist), Al McKay (guitarist, percussionist & composer), Philip Bailey (vocalist, percussionist & composer) Johnny Graham (guitarist), Ralph Johnson (drummer, percussionist & vocalist) and Andrew Woolfolk (woodwinds) had grander visions. They wanted to be the best, not just in "Black" music, but in all areas of contemporary music.

Gearing their music toward what Maurice calls "a universal sound", Earth, Wind & Fire has managed to do what many thought was impossible: they've gone double-platinum on every album released after Open Our Eyes. The list of double-platinums includes That's The Way Of The World, Gratitude (both 1975), Spirit (1976) and All 'N' All (1977). The group's latest LP, The Best Of Earth, Wind & Fire - Volume I, may soon be added to that list. The LP was released in mid-October and by mid-December, just two months later, it had already sold 1.5 million units while still averaging 65,000 units sold per week.

In addition to older EW&F favorites such as "Shining Star", "Reasons", "That's The Way Of The World", "Singasong", "Getaway", "Can't Hide Love" and "Fantasy", the LP also includes EW&F's version of the Beatles' classic "Gotta Get You Into My Life" (the only cut from the Sgt. Pepper soundtrack album to become a gold single) as well as two new tunes: a pop-reggae monster called "Love Music" and their current smash hit single "September".