

DAVY JAMES -SENSATION

by Michael Carroll

**His songs and music will bring him fame —
but success won't spoil this young bulldozer jockey
who has already beaten a
personal handicap on the way to the top**

GET READY to move over, Donovan. There's a 21-year-old youngster from Johannesburg, Davy James, who is moving up on the charts to challenge you.

Whose authority have we for this prediction? Well, that of Peter Lotis for one — and such an established singer and entertainer would scarcely stick his neck out unless he were sure of himself.

The Gallo Organisation is now recording the voice of Davy James. They believe implicitly that in Davy they have a new star whose magnitude may be enormous. A recording company can't afford to play hunches—not with money at stake.

Scores of South Africa's top disc jockeys concurred with big record dealers in acclaiming Davy's first seven-single.

Called *Ballad of a Working Man*, and backed with *It's Only Getting Worse*, it was issued late last October. Listeners immediately recognised *Working Man* as the kind of song that claimed your whole attention almost from its opening bars.

Invariably Davy James writes both the words and the music for his songs, and accompanies himself on a guitar. Other musicians find it difficult at times to play with him as he tunes his instrument about five semitones down to suit his voice.

There are several other remarkable things about this likeable, almost-shy youngster — one of which is the fact that Davy is afflicted with a stammer so bad that there are times when he cannot begin a word or a new syllable before his breath gives out. Yet the moment he strums his guitar and sits down to sing, the stammer disappears and out comes the voice — rich, full, sonorous and never hesitant even over the most difficult of syllabic sequences!

By trade Davy is a bulldozer operator — hardly the type of activity from which you