Subject: White bucks vs. blue suede shoes
Posted by lon on Sun, 09 Apr 2006 04:53:25 GMT
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The talk show On Point had a special on 50's music withthe author of a new book on Fabian, Peggy Lee and a few others...oh yeah Tommy Sands. Was he one of the Mouseketeers before hewent into the teenage Vegas lounge act thing? I still remembera recording of his called "Old Oaken Bucket." In case you don'tremember TS he looked like Jay Leno's handsome brother if Lenoever had such a thing.Well the talk on the show was about the value of the sweetpop music of the 50's and early 60's before the advent ofthe Elvis style rock n roll. Was it just something to be forgottendue to embarrassment or did it have a kind of value of it's own?I have a different take on it. As an avid Trek and science fiction fan I think that I am a victim of living out an alternate time line.In the timeline that should have happened, Bobby Rydell would haveled a big band like Brian Setzer does today-- Setzer who playsmuch of the same music but particularly that of Gene Vincentand a lot of dynamite originals would have jacked up the r&bsound but maintained the big band swing format.Well, what we got instead was "How Much is That Doggie in The Window?"and on a good day "26 Miles".The name of the book is "Great Pretenders" Prob'ly worth a read but I'm not sure I can trust the author who is under 30.
On Point

Subject: Re: White bucks vs. blue suede shoes
Posted by Manualblock on Sun, 09 Apr 2006 17:56:35 GMT
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Hey Lon; That is an interesting POV. If this is your premise; that there was some sort of lingering Big Band fan base that would have morphed into a merge between rockabilly and swing if it wasn't for guys like Bobby Rydell or say Paul Anka. Am I getting this right?And are you saying the consumers of music were manipulated into the supporting of 50's schlock music?How did the returning vets from WW 2 and Korea who drove the recorded music scene of that era play into this scenario?And why swing? Why not say they would have created a genre' comprised of the combination of Country and pop?

Subject: Re: White bucks vs. blue suede shoes
Posted by lon on Sun, 09 Apr 2006 19:37:17 GMT
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I'm not saying there is any conspiracy in this, I'msaying "in a better world" this would have been the case.Big bands had a long run and the history of the periodsays that economics drove the big bands out of the spotlightin favor of small combos like Nat king Cole. The Jump Jive and Wail music of R&B was just buried in the racism of the time.According to the author, the CW craze

could have started upat that time with the popularity of Frankie Lane and "Mule Train".Franky Lane is one of the featured artists in the book.The book talks about all these novelty songs like they werefrom another planet. Then a caller came in and referredto those records produced by radio disk jockeys of reportsof aliens landing and clips from other pop tunes of the day. I can't think of the guy who made those.I think it's just the notion on the part of the author of the incomprehensibility of that much different _stuff_on the radio. Anyone under thirty has been brainwashedinto the playlisting of formatted radio. Elvis and the rest of the crop were likely the result ofenough small record players in the hands of kids playing 45's that cost less than a dollar playing music that theirparents hated.It was odd that during the report, no mention was made of the current musical "Hairspray" for instance, or the John Watersfilm itself, or Crybaby or a whole ream of films about songwriters, gangs and groups of the period.On the band thing, there's always been a big question in mymind about that. If GI's were returning to the land of wealthand prosperity then there should have been a base for supporting bands and orchestras.Wait. TV.

Subject: Re: White bucks vs. blue suede shoes
Posted by Manualblock on Sun, 09 Apr 2006 23:07:54 GMT
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Regarding the GI thing; look at the baby boom and when it started; that should explain why no large arena big band venues remained.The Elvis thing I think was an attempt to cash in on the R&B music in a safe way. That music carried a lot of baggage so here comes Elvis; a nice clean cut kid who loves his mom.Now the interesting part here is the rise of jazz clubs in the 50's. How many young guys went to university on the G.I. bill; a lot. They made that whole smokey club atmosphere possible by patronising those places.If you think of radio and it's developement; you have to track the rise of advertising and the marketting juggernaut that was unleashed on us begginning in the 50's. The end of the depression and return of G.I.'s with combat pay and cheap mortgages.I am sure any graduate studies in pop culture major could explain this all to us.

Subject: Re: White bucks vs. blue suede shoes
Posted by lon on Sun, 09 Apr 2006 23:50:34 GMT
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This is an unrelated topic but there is a current book outabout those cheap mortgages and GI Bill loans.It's called "When Affirmative Action was White"
 link to the book

Subject: Re: White bucks vs. blue suede shoes
Posted by Manualblock on Mon, 10 Apr 2006 01:01:31 GMT

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Is that a book with some reality?

Subject: Re: White bucks vs. blue suede shoes
Posted by lon on Mon, 10 Apr 2006 03:14:25 GMT
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Was written up in a trusted source: The Nation.