



Commander-Leader of the USAF Thunderbirds this year was Major Chris Patterakis, Modesto, Calif. Following his lead was Captain John Lapointe, left wing, Pasadena, Calif.; Captain Steve Mish, right wing, South Boston, Va.; Captain Lloyd Newton, slot, Ridgeland, S.C.; Captain Jim Simons, lead solo, Grass Range, Montana; Captain Lacy Veach, second solo, Honolulu, Hawaii; Major Joe Prater, logistics officer, Atlanta, Ga.; and Captain Walter Parker, narrator.

(Continued from page 7)

uncertain of what his future would be, he began to give serious thought to joining the Air Force, but one of his teachers, Fouch Shanklin, persuaded him to go to college.

At college, he quickly became deeply interested in flying as a member of the Tennessee State University Air Force Reserve Officer Training Corps.

Tennessee State also was the place where he met his wife, the former Ruth Gadson of Yemassee, S.C.

After earning a commission as second lieutenant in the Air Force in 1966, he was admitted to jet flight training Corps program at Williams Air Force Base in Phoenix, Arizona, and from then on it has "up and away" as his dreams were realized. — ART CARTER.

Quick

"One sure way for a man to end up a loser, is to try to get more out of life than he puts into it."

"No matter how rich a man might be, he still can't buy a ray of sunshine on a rainy day."

"In most cases even the best of men would rather listen to lies that please them instead of listening to the truth when it hurts."

"To a crooked cop, wiping out crime is like killing the goose that lays the golden egg."

DAVID M. WARREN

Stevie The Wonder

By Vashti McKenzie

"I've never considered myself an orator nor a politician, only a person who is fortunate enough, thanks to all of you, to become an artist given a chance to express the way he feels and hopefully the feelings of many other people."

"Songs In The Key Of Life"
Stevie Wonder

Five years ago Stevie Wonder, blind master musician, shed his little-boy-genius image and the world became aware of an artist who had more to say than sweet bubble gum soul.

The magnitude of Wonder's ideas, hopes and dreams has blossomed in a new long-awaited double album, two years in the making, "Songs In The Key Of Life."

Since "Songs" was introduced in late September, there has been no holding it back. Rhythm and Blues radio stations, jazz, top 40 pop and progressive FM stations all began playing cuts from Wonder's epic album.

Motown Records exceeded 1.3 million.
The album registered the largest single day and week sales in Motown's history.

Record stores, large and small, began reporting their stock of "Songs" selling-out within hours. "Songs" was selling out not only in black areas but white, latin and heavy disco areas.

Wonder became the first American artist to have ever accomplished the rarity of having an album, a double one at that, enter number one.

Only one European artist, Elton John, has done it before.

"Songs In The Key of Life" is me as significant as my life," said Wonder. "It relates to a lot of things I've experienced. "Songs In The Key Of Life" is basically an idea, an idea of positive tomorrow for all people. It is not a temporary thing and can last in our hearts and minds for ever."

"Song" is over 100 minutes of 21 songs on two long playing records. There is a separate extended play single of four songs and a song book. Wonder invites the voyager . . . "May you join and sing with me."

His "Songs" cannot be placed in a single musical category. His music flows from big band jazz on his tribute to the late Ellington, "Sir Duke" to

good solid rock on "Another Star."

"As" and "Ordinary Pain" put most disco music to shame. "Contusion" is a beautiful piece of what might be called "new" jazz. "Have A Talk With God" and "Pasttime Paradise" are both just some of the best music heard in 1976. The messages of the simplistic tune "Isn't She Lovely," a song about his year-old baby girl, Alsha Aakiya "meaning life and intelligence" matches the powerful message of "Black Man."

"Song" essentially celebrates the zenith of Wonder's second career with Motown. He enjoys the creative independence that most artists dream about.

A young friend's big brother, Ronnie White of The Miracles brought Steveland Morris to Motown's studios in 1961. The 1960's decade partly belonged to Motown and with a new name Wonder became a part of the growing stable of talent that already included The Miracles, The Temptations, The Supremes and The Four Tops.

Born in Saginaw, Michigan, Wonder grew up in the projects on Hastings St., in Detroit. He sang "Johnny Ace tunes in the alleys and on the porches" with young friends and "visited a neighbor's apartment to play on the piano whenever he could."

Blindness "never really separated me from other kids," said Wonder. In fact, "I got in more trouble than most sighted kids, sneaking girlfriends to the railroad tracks . . . always running around."

"I never knew what it was to see, so it's just like seeing. The sensation of seeing is not one that I have and not one that I worry about."

If he ever desired to see one thing if he had the chance, Wonder said it would be "The earth, because it's beautiful and I've already seen it, because I feel it."

Wonder has an incredible sense of blending his sensitive words with innovative music. The reason could be that he is a terribly sensitive and feeling man.

"The biggest drawback is that I cannot understand how people can be so
blind themselves, spiritually blind.
How people can be continuously
mistreated and still accept it and deal
with it and how the mistreaters can

(Continued on Page 10)



Stevie Wonder introduces his popular album, "Songs In The Key of Life"



Page