



Last year the San Luis Obispo Blues Society gave the Central Coast a Christmas present in the form of a Katie Webster concert. The Society is playing Santa again this year, with an even bigger present in store: Johnny Otis and his 13-piece band. "He puts on a great show," said Bob Oberg, who booked Otis for the Dec. 7 concert. "He played for us one time a year or so ago and it was just excellent. And we did want to have something a little bit special for Christmas." The society tries to get an artist "a little bit above and beyond the run-of-the-mill act we can get," said Steve Mullany. Otis "is available, he's more well-known than a lot of our concerts, and he's got a little more historical value." The concert at the Veterans Memorial Building in San Luis Obispo is a little more up-scale than the Society offering.

By Mark Brown
Telegram-Tribune

It's Otis! 'Hand Jive' singer has wide appeal

Cover Story

SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY (CALIF.) TELEGRAM-TRIBUNE, SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 30, 1985 FOCUS-3

SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY (CALIF.) TELEGRAM-TRIBUNE, SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 30, 1985 FOCUS-4

Dark Room

Continued from page 3

His guitar-playing was a bit frenetic — nerves, maybe — but skilled. The songs aren't ballads, but don't expect full-blown rockers either; expect strong-beat songs that cruise.

Go in and grab a beer. No headaches, I promise.

And hats off to The Dark Room for making it happen.

In the rack right now are three LPs to take note of.

Stevie Nicks' *Rock a Little* is out. The first single, "Talk to Me," is pretty decent and all over the radio. The album itself isn't getting many raves. Watch this space next week.

Tom Petty's two-album live set, *Pack Up the Plantation*, looks less than promising. The material's stretched thin, with only four songs per side. Some of the strongest stuff off his last tour — "Don't Come Around Here No More," "Change of Heart," "Straight Into Darkness" and "Spike" — aren't even on the album. But the inclusion of "Insider" and "Needles and Pins" may save the set. Again, a full report

next week. There's one can't-miss album out there: *Who's Missing*, a compilation of rare and/or unreleased tracks from The Who. The live version of "Bargain" is hot. The original version of "I'm a Boy" is interesting. The hard-to-find B-sides are nothing that avid Who collectors won't have already.

KCPR's Dawn Rangel says that the Cal Poly radio station has also picked up the SPIN Magazine concert series. They'll kick off soon with an hour-long live set featuring The Blasters. Future shows will include Husker Du and The Replacements. Times and dates aren't available yet; watch this space or call KCPR for details.

KXFM 99.1 in Santa Maria has also picked up the series but will run it on a limited basis, not every show, according to station officials. Those shows that do run will probably air after midnight on weekends.

SPIN is publisher Bob Guccione's attempt to wrestle away a slice of



Stevie Nicks' album, *Rock a Little*, includes 'Talk to Me.'

the territory that Rolling Stone has monopolized for years. The magazine has been around since March, and already they've scooped Rolling Stone on a couple of major stories, including a great piece on David Crosby's drug problems and another on Ike Turner. Watch here for more on SPIN in coming weeks.

For you John Cougar Mellencamp fans, there's another song out there you should pick up. The B-side of "Smalltown" features an acoustic rendition of that song that's not bad. Mellencamp has done this once before with a superb acoustic version of "Pink Houses" on the flipside of the "Authority Song" single.

Johnny Otis

Continued from Page 3

white, yet he's considered as authentic and devoted a bluesman as Big Joe Turner or BB King.

Otis, 63, has a musical history dating back to 1941 when he left home to travel with Robert Johnson's Combo. He has played drums and other instruments, but is known for his keyboard work.

Decades of touring took Otis to every part of the world, but Otis stayed in his adopted home in Los Angeles. In 1978, he founded the Landmark Community Church, having been ordained as a minister three years before. It's there that Otis is still pastor when he's not touring.

A possible added treat for the show could be the appearance of Otis's son, Shuggie. The younger Otis is a guitar virtuoso who appeared with his father when they were in San Luis Obispo a year ago. "We're hoping for Shuggie," Mullany said. "A lot of people are looking forward to Shuggie as much



"This is the time of year for a special kind of thanks. To all of the friends of the Central Coast Wine Festival organization, thank you for contributing to a successful community celebration . . . the 1985 Central Coast Wine Festival"



Otis did two full sets last time, Oberg said, and there will be a...