

of Music. In the UK Slade were huge; "Mama Weer All Crazee Now" was currently top of the UK pops and they were slugging it out with fellow-glamsters T. Rex and Gary Glitter for the top spot on a regular basis. Not in America, though. Backstage I talked to them, but with one ear cocked at bill-toppers J.Geils jamming on "You're So Fine" with Hank Ballard who'd dropped in:

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SLADE START FROM SCRATCH

WHAT'S big in England ain't necessarily big in America. Not yet, anyhow. But Slade are having a lot of fun starting from the bottom again - this time without that sensationalist publicity that clad them in Brutus shirts, braces, and bovver boots. How fashions change!

"This tour is really to get experience," said Noddy, "it's like a feeler for us, learning how American audiences are different to British audiences, learning how to cope on the road, learning which numbers to do. And learning about sound..."

"We've always been considered loud in England," said Jimmy, "but over here we've been lost. We've had to stick mikes in front of everything and the gear's been so battered about it's dropping to bits."

Noddy was delighted the band was getting such a good reaction, especially from audiences that had never heard of them: "We know that when we go down a storm over here it's purely because of the act we do on stage, not any records we have."

"We're learning so much, we started from scratch here again. In England we go down well anywhere, but now in America we have to work our knackers off to get to those audiences. It's going great!"

"One of the problems is that being bottom of the bill we only get about half an hour. You only just get going, and then you're off. And if you've got a possible encore - forget