

Johnny Winter: Real Blues

JOHNNY WINTER (Columbia). This is the authentic debut album of the much talked-about albino bluesman. And it's doubtful that much production work had to go into it, for Winter's voice speaks for itself. He can sing as black as midnight and his style is straight blues, hard and heavy.

His experiences and blues background are mirrored in his voice, in his own compositions (especially "Dallas" and "Leland Mississippi") as well as his true-to-form interpretations of "Mean Mistreater," "Good Morning Little School Girl," "I'll Drown in My Own Tears."

Johnny Winter is a discovery. He's from Texas and he sings blues. Real blues.

PLATTER PICKS: CHIL-DREN OF LIGHT—Biff Rose (Tetragrammaton). In his own inimitable style, Biff Rose presents his second album of collected happiness in 11 songs, stories and ballads that somehow always manage to make you feel better. His sprightly, honest voice and impish humor sparkle in "Evolution," "Ballad of Cliches," "Color Blind Blues." Biff's liner-note aphorisms are as enjoyable as the record: "My temper can steel your heart."

MENDOCINO—Sir Douglas Quintet (Smash). Infectious and moving, Doug Sham's group is still happening. This latest outing dishes up some Texas stylings with new verve as well as a remake of their 1965 hit, "She's About a Mover," and two songs dedicated to the home state—"Texas Me" and "I'm Just a Country Boy in This Great Big City." "And It Didn't Even

Bring Me Down" has been re-mixed from the album version for release as a single.

LAST EXIT—Traffic (United Artists). Bowing out with a collection of studio and live recordings, this LP from Steve Winwood and Co. includes their last single, "Medicated Goo." Seven cuts in all showcase impressive performances in "Just for You," "Something's Got a Hold of My Toe" and "Withering Tree." "Feelin' Good" and "Blind Man" were recorded live at the Fillmore West.

BABY DYNAMITE!—Carolyn Franklin (RCA). This debut album of Aretha's younger sister Carolyn should prove she can stand on her own merits and exceptionally well, too. Since her background is the same as Aretha's she comes on with all the explosive power that her sister does and carries it through to finish. She is dynamite and she's only scratched the surface of her talents. Keep your eyes open for this soul sister.