

THE CASH BOX RHYTHM N' BLUES Ramblings

NEW YORK:

Billy Ward's Dominoes, top vocal r & b group, successfully made the transition to an all-pop programming at the lavish Wolhurst Country Club in Littleton, Colo. last week. The Dominoes broke the club's all time attendance record on opening night. . . . Peacock Records has another likely looking release in Clarence "Gatemouth" Brown's "Hurray Back, Good News". Tune is a belter and is apparently another hot one for the Robey label. . . . Bobby Shad already has things humming over at Decca with his first release since taking over the R & B duties there. Bobby has a Sister Rosetta Tharpe release already on the market, titled, "There's Peace In Korea". Side is timely and should rack up the sales, especially in the wake of the emotional tide that must sweep the nation at the end of the war. . . . Bess Berman's Apollo label has another big "5" Royales hit. According to Joe Cohen, Essex Distributors in Newark, N.J., the "Too Much Lovin'" side is already giving indications of really taking off. The Cohen boys, Joe and Irv, going slightly crazy running two stores, what with sister Dotty having been hospitalized with a stomach ailment. Dotty is home now but still unable to put full time in on the job. . . . George Goldner, Tico and Rama A & R head, getting lots of mail congratulating him

Lonnie Johnson

on the acquisition of Lonnie Johnson, formerly with King Records. Lonnie is remembered for his fabulous "Tomorrow Night" and his first release for Rama is the answer "Will You Remember". Latter is a sock etching and should prove a biggie for the fast growing R & B label. . . . Did you notice how The Clovers' "Good Lovin'" has been streaking through the "hot" charts. Could be the group's strongest selling release yet. Atlantic is really blazing with six disks racking up strong sales. Right along with The Clovers is Ruth Brown's two siders, "Wild, Wild, Young Men" and "Mend Your Ways". . . . What could be Brunswick's biggest to date is the Jazzbo Collins "Three Little Pigs" and "Little Red Riding Hood". Hip disk, that started out as a local bid to Jazzbo's Gotham followers has spread out over the nation like swift running lava. Rose also pleased with the way the Georgie Auld-Sara McLawler team has caught on with their two etchings, "Red Light" and "Let's Get The Party Rockin'".

CHICAGO:

Heartiest congratulations to Jimmy Martin on his marriage this past week. At this reading, the Martins are on their way to a Bermuda honeymoon. . . . Saw George and Ernie Leaner at the Southmoor Country Club where they had just completed a game of golf. "I shot a neat 103", Ernie gleefully reported. "On the first nine holes that is," brother George added. . . . Eartha Kitt spent a day signing copies of her "C'est Si Bon" at Al Benson's Record Shop. In temperatures of 100 degrees. Later did a broadcast with Al. "C'est Si Bon" is one of the hottest disks to come along in a long time. . . . Nat Cole feeling much improved, has 'hit the road' again. Chicagoans will get a chance to see Nat again when he opens at the Blue Note, August 28. . . . Eddie Jefferson, bop vocalist, whooping it up at the Capitol Lounge. . . . Jack Lauderdale of Prestige, visiting our sultry city. Singing the praises of "Sweetheart, Darling" by Marvin Phillips. . . . Eddie "Lockjaw" Davis working out plans for an appearance at the Bee Hive Lounge. Eddie formerly featured tenor sax man with Count Basie. Best known for his work on "Paradise Squat" which rode The Cash Box' 'Hot Charts' a few months ago. Johnny Jordan, vocalist-turned-cab driver, has returned to his first love, singing. Formerly with the Vagabonds until one member passed away, Johnny has reorganized the group, now known as the Johnny Jordan Quartette. Have now received word that the boys have been signed to a contract by Tiffany Records, a newly formed label here.



Eartha Kitt

LOS ANGELES:

There's a small square of paper, about 6 inches by 6 inches, on which one A&R man has dared to make a written prediction. In advance, yet. With things what they are these days, as regards A&R men, this is, to say the very least, awe-inspiring. Most A&R guys are like the Sphinx when it comes to advance predictions. So when Ralph Bass, A&R for Federal here, dared put pen to paper, in front of witnesses, and state that the new group he had formed, The Five Artists, with Thurston Harris as the lead voice, would kick off with a hit on their first disk, all looked at Ralph as others gaze at the world's seven wonders. Even Al Sherman, who is head rep for the King and Federal labels of Syd Nathan in this area, and who witnessed this remarkable document, is now wondering what he signed. . . . Linda Hopkins, who'll be remembered for some of her grand cuttings for Savoy, will be the first thrush to come up on the Crystalette label, in the very near future. . . . Jerry Blaine can now smile with lots of satisfaction. His disk, "Crying In The Chapel", with Sonny Til and the Orioles, is zooming high here and may make that No. 1 position. Remember when Jerry left Cosmo, some many moons ago, phoned us to advise that he had just started his own label, and that he had, what he termed, "the greatest singing group ever put together". Lead voice, Jerry explained, was Sonny Tillinghast. So we said, in those days of paper economy, "The name's too long. Let's cut it down to just 'Sonny Til' ". . . . The mucho traveled Lou Chudd of Imperial is one guy it's well to know when visiting Mexico. Mention of his name 'round music circles there brought some grand accommodations to friends who were caught short without reservations. Proving, of course, that Lou's Latino Americano and Mexicano discos are very well accepted south of the border.



Billy Ward & The Dominoes

On The Way To
No. 1
Fats Domino
"PLEASE DON'T DO IT"
Imperial-5240
Imperial Records
6425 Hollywood Blvd.
Hollywood 28, Calif.

HIT OF THE YEAR!
"Si Bon"
SONNY KNIGHT
ALADDIN - 3195
with
Aladdin RECORDS
Beverly Hills, Calif.

The Flairs
A SENSATIONAL HIT!
"I HAD A LOVE"
b/w
"She Wants To Rock"
Flair # 1012
flair RECORDS
257 NO. ROBERTSON BLVD.
BEVERLY HILLS, CALIFORNIA
BRadshaw 2-1148

Johnny Moore's
"DRAGNET BLUES"
Featuring FRANKIE ERVIN
b/w "PLAYING NUMBERS"
Modern # 910
Modern RECORDS
257 No. Robertson Blvd.
Beverly Hills, California
(Phone: BRadshaw 2-1148)

RHYTHM N' BLUES RAMBLING'S

DETROIT:

Things are poppin' along R&B row in the motor city, with Johnny Ace's "The Clock" on the Peacock label still the top seller. . . . The Original Royals, local boys, whose recording of "Git It" on Federal is way up on the local R&B list will be one of the attractions on the next R&B show to be held at the Graystone ballroom next week. The show will feature Dinah Washington as headliner. . . . Frank Brown local promoter is doing real well with the Rhythm and Blues packages he has played at the Graystone. His last show featured Billie Holliday, Charlie Ventura, Tiny Bradshaw and Roy Milton, The joint really jumped. . . . Chess Records signed Alberta Adams, one of the most underrated blues singers in the country. Her first release is due this week. . . . Lenard Allen of United Records signed three new R&B Artists to his fast growing label. Heading the list is the popular jump singer Helen Thompson, now appearing at Detroit's Flame Show bar, Nelda Dupree, torch singing pianist and Terry Timmons, Cleveland, Ohio girl who sings on a Dinah Washington kick. T-Bone Walker, blues shouting guitarist, opens the Flame here this week. . . . The independent distributors of R&B labels are doing a good volume of business as all seem to have some tunes that are moving. Cadet Distributors Harry and Irv Levin have "The Clock" on Peacock; "Send For Me", a new Big Maybelle on Okeh; "That's My Desire" The Flamingoes on Chance. Pan-American has one by The Clovers and one by Ruth Brown that continues to move; Charley Gray at Polonia Dist. advises that The Orioles' "Crying In The Chapel" is tops with Eddie Boyd's "Third Degree" still going strong and Memphis Slim's "The Come Back" coming up. King Distributor has three hot ones in "Git It" by The Original 5 Royals, "Tongue Tied Blues" by Jack Dupree and "A Good Man Is Hard to Find" by The Dominoes. . . . Gales's R&B Show headed by Champ Joe Louis and featuring Ruth Brown, Buddy Johnson's Band, The Clovers, Lester "Prez" Young's Combo, Wynonie Harris, and Dusty Fletcher packed 14,000 into the Detroit Olympia here this week.



Johnny Ace