NEW YORK:

Jerry Wexler's raves about the Atlantic Bud Johnson etching of "Off Shore" and "The Lost One" still ring true for the industry and the country. Now comes the Earl Bostic etching on King. The weird mood piece seems made to order for the mellow horn. Both treatments might well be given to the ear. ... Rama Records has an ultra slick dish in "The Blue Notes Too Hot To Handle." The group is "happiness to my soul," and I'm sure they'll cut closer than the amazing roundtrip of Dobbs of Dallas as distributors for its territory. At last count Davis had received over 190 requests from TV stations for his Christmas moving picture short with Irene Treadwell singing "Dear Santa, Bring Back My Daddy To Me." ... Gerald Records hit a double with a new offer. On one side, "Happiness To My Soul" and on the other "I'll Be True." Hard to say which might have won one even bigger than her sensational "Shake A Hand." A tip-off on what has made the Rich Brothers so uniquely successful is their meticulous attention to detail and quality. Only last week Herald signed a new group and cut a session with four Joel Tarraro. All the songs were disappointing in that the session turned out "only fair." Dubs were at least as good as many items on the market, but rather than hit the distributor with mediocre merchandise the two Al's and a Jack decided to scrap the session, take the loss of about $600, and hold the tunes (which they feel are hit material) for the proper artist. ... Johnny Otis, top ork leader now signed to the Peacock label, in Houston last week for the return engagement of Richard, Lovel Lewis and Joe Fritz. Peacock also cut another new artist, Robert Ketchum, and the disc seems stronger than the previous two that they expect to get from Ketchum and his initial etching. ... Irv Marcus, where are you? Your friends are calling in almost every day with inquiries as to your whereabouts. Last heard from Irv was at the hospital. The docto's orders have him to slow down a bit. Doc told him sleep might help. ... Herman Lubinsky, Savoy Records, called, saying "I'm excited about a new one. "(That's The Way) My Mind Is Working" her best yet. ... Gems Records just cut Frank Motley and his crew. Frank Motley's the man who blows two trumpets and one trombone simultaneously. "Red Hot and Blue" and "What's That Stuff Joe's Got." ... Pete Dorain's got one over on Allen. His new release, "I'm Gonna Chuck You Down" by Jimmy Newman, has that infectious novelty sound and distinctive styling that could carry it on the show for a big one. Pete's percentage is ok when you consider the short time he's been at Allen. He had the charts all to himself from the release of the Five Willows' "My Dear Darlin." ... Apollo Records continues its fantastic run of hits with the "5" Royales latest release "All Righty" picking up steam and heading for the top of the charts. "The Love Of My Life" is still a top seller in most of the r & b locations. Another that is keeping its place for Allen is "Don't Fool Me That Way" by the Mahalia Jackson. "I Believe" on Lloyds. Lloyds is also a Berlin man label. Things in a bit of a hassle at the Apollo offices now as Bess and Ike are putting in a studio for rehearsal and maybe another recording session. ... Leo Marf, Central is looking for a "rags to riches" type of a man. ... The Rag-Muffins. Lee is slowly building a stable and held his first recording session last Friday. Leo cut Emmett Jopson and Georgia Lane and should have the disks on the market in a week or ten days. ... Sidney and Pat under the More Records, just back from South America leaves again for a trip to Mexico. Siegel is excited over a new Rich Field monograph which he has designed especially for the South American market.

CHICAGO:

ASA (Artists Society of America) is planning a Thanksgiving Music Festival. Two concerts on November 28. A benefit for ASA. All star cast, with Ray Robinson, Billy Ward, Elvin Jones and Count Basie's ork heading the list. ... Hear tell that Sidney Bechet opening a nitty in Paris. And calling it the Chicago Club. Sidney, incidentally, has just finished an autobiography which now in the hands of a publisher. ... The Flamingo's, who have just been signed by Associated Booking Corp., recently on tour with Duke Ellington... Leonard Chess leaving for New Orleans to cut four new sides with Sugar Boy. Len claims the grand reception to Sugar Boy's first disk, "I Don't Know What I'll Do" b/w "Overboard" has put him in the top notch class as far as sales are concerned. ... Phil Chess advises that Muddy Water's "Mad Love" has now passed the 5,000 mark. "In fact," Phil stated, "any new release, if made on Friday, sells a minimum of 1,500 over the weekend. The Maxwell Street record dealers," he concluded, "never order less than 100 of any new Muddy Waters' disk." ... Muddy opened November 12 at the Crown Propeller Lounge. Standing top billing with that "real gone gal," Nellie Lutcher. "The Propeller" is the hottest spot in the city to feature only name attractions. McKee Fitzhugh has been put in charge of talent for the club. Skedded to follow current show is Valaida Snow. ... Interests around that, Whitey Ford is currently running third in The Cash Box Poll. Leading such all-time favorites as The Orioles, The Dominoes, Johnny Ace, etc. Definitely shows what hit records can do for an artist. ... Eddy Boyd now clicking like crazy at Ralph's Club on West Madison Street. ... Our nomination for the most played disk on the air as of today... Nat Cole's "Lover Come Back To Me."