

THE CASH BOX RHYTHM N' BLUES Ramblings

NEW YORK:

Billy Ward and his Dominoes made their big move for hitdom in the pop field last week when he and the boys cut what Jerry Blaine calls a "sensational session." Jerry has plans for an all out push to make the group one of the top vocal combinations in the country. Simultaneously, Federal Records releases the Dominoes in a couple of strong items, "Little Black Train" and "Above Jacob's Ladder," on which Ward and his group sound wonderful. . . .

Capitol, continuing to expand in the r & b field, announces the signing of Pepper Neale and Annisteen Allen. Annisteen formerly recorded for King Records. . . . The Midnighters definitely are in the process of racking up their third straight hit, "Annie Had A Baby." Not only is it their third straight, but the three are appearing on the charts at the same time. "Work With Me Annie"; "Sexy Ways"; and "Annie Had A Baby." The latter tune, which has taken off in unbelievable fashion, was written by Henry Glover and Syd Nathan, King prexy, after a couple of jockeys had gagged up the title of a non-existent release. When orders started coming in, Nathan realizing the potential of what had started out as a jockey's gimmick, wrote a tune, cut the group, and sent out samples—all in a matter of days. . . . Eddie Mesner talking up the new Margie Hendrix release "Good Treatment" and "Every Time" on the Aladdin subside,



MARGIE HENDRIX

Lamp Records. The gal's voice is packed with personality and she could break through. Eddie also feels the new Louis Jordan release, "If I Had Any Sense I'd Go Back Home" has the lyric and true blues feeling to make it a big one. Mesner and Jesse Stone will cut two new groups this week, the Mello-Felows and the Cues. . . . Fred Mendelsohn, Savoy Records, reports they've decided to hold back Nappy Brown's new release in view of the strong reaction accorded Nappy's "I Wonder." Savoy's new group, "The Blue Diamonds," also making like a hit with "Honey Baby" and "No Money." . . . Stan Pat (WTTM-Trenton, N. J.) has just signed Jubilee's newest r & b vocalist, Gloria Alleyne, to a three year personal management contract. Gloria has just released "When I Say My Prayer" and "The Uncloudy Day." This gives Pat three r & b artists. The others being, Bertice Reading, Groove star, and Baby Dee, MGM artist. Stan also does promotion for Steve Gibson and his Red Caps. His strictly r & b segment on WTTM has been meeting with sensational success reports Pat. Telephone calls and letters indicate that Pat is on the right kick by programming strictly rhythm and blues, not pop and jazz, on his r & b portion. . . . This column just received Aladdin's "You Make Me Happy" and "Let's Make A Whole Lot of Love" by the Dodgers. Although too late to review, the department gave it a fast listen and both sides look like real hit material. . . . Herald making big plans to move into the spiritual field with vigor signed the National Clouds of Joy and Ethel Davenport of Jacksonville, Fla., billed as the "first lady of gospel song." The National Clouds of Joy were cut this week and the first release will be issued shortly. Al Silver also announced the release of "Gonna Love You Everyday" and "Eternal Love" by The Herolds. . . . Irv Marcus, Peacock and Duke national salesmanager, reports they have several numbers that look strong. Lester Williams "Crazy About You Baby" and "Don't Take Your Love From Me"; and the Sultans "I Cried My Heart Out." "Also," says Irv, "we've a new Johnny Ace coming up that's sure to be his 8th straight hit." . . . The Clovers, Atlantic Records, in town for a session. . . . Cat Records will issue the new Chords disk this week. The "Sh-Boom" boys, we hear, have a great follow up that should further enhance their drawing power via disks and personals. . . . The Opals on Luna with "Come To Me Darling" spreading through the country. New cities showing Opal action are Jacksonville, Fla., Charlotte, N. C., and St. Louis, Mo. Disk previously showed real strength in Los Angeles and Chicago. Apollo has signed a new group, the Romeos, and the initial release, "I Beg You Please" and "Love Me" has already been released.

CHICAGO:
Interesting to note modern merchandising methods currently being employed by most R&B diskeries. . . . It's a well-know fact that record companies spare no expense in assuring good record sessions. Acceptance, however, is up to the public. Public opinion is most important. Not only to the diskeries, but to distributors and dealers. . . . For example, Leo Kolheim, "Mr. Pep" of the Vee-Jay diskery, told us the following story. Firm spared no expense cutting three waxings. Vivian Carter, dee-jay of Gary's WGRY, concentrated heavily on these three new recordings. Public reaction was strong for only two. Kolheim decided that these were the two to be released. In spite of the expense incurred in recording the third disk, it may never be released. This certainly points to the new and better merchandise methods, not only employed by Vee-Jay, but by all leading R&B record diskeries. . . . The two releases which Leo Kolheim reports received most acclaim from WGRY listeners are, "Baby I Need You Now" b/w "My Lovin' Baby" by The Eldorado's and "Off Time" b/w "Fussin' And Lovin'" by Floyd Valentine. . . . Visitors to our town this week included St. Louis disc jockey Spider Burke. Also "Mr. Epic" (William Nielsen) who came to town to discuss fall program with distribri Ernie and George Leaner. . . . Len Chess advises that while in New Orleans, he signed singer Paul Gaton who, he informs, cut the original "Cow-Cow Boogie." While in Dallas, Len signed the very popular Lowell Fulson. Len hoping for 'big things' from both these well-known artists. . . . Looks like B. B. King may have two hits going for him. Some like "Everything I Do Is Wrong," while others favor, "When My Heart Beats Like A Hammer." Both are riding high.

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A DOUBLE BARRELLED SMASH!
"GOT MY EYES ON YOU"
and
"Your Cash Ain't Nothin' But Trash"
THE CLOVERS
ATLANTIC 1035
Atlantic RECORDING CORP.
234 WEST 56th STREET NEW YORK 19, N. Y.

Two Tremendous Sides!
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BREAKING FOR A HIT!
"HURTS ME TO MY HEART"
FAYE ADAMS
Herald # 434
MOVING UP FAST!
"BABY COME A LITTLE CLOSER"
"5" WILLOWS
Herald # 433
Herald RECORDS
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B/W
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LOS ANGELES:

Biggest news to everyone in the music biz. is the massive thirteen story circular building which Capitol will construct at Yucca and Vine. . . . Joe Bihari staged the biggest event of the year 8/19 when he presented an all star show at the Savoy Ballroom. A record throng of 2400 people poured in for the gala event which was headlined by B. B. King along with Johnny Otis and his band. Also on the program was Marvin and Johnny, Shirley Gunter and The Queens,

Anna Marie, Preacher Stephens, The Lamplighters, The Platters, Marie Adams, and Junior Ryder. Joe Bihari plans to book several other attractions in many Southern and Northern Calif. cities. . . . A brand new group recently bowed in on the Aladdin label by the name of The Dodgers. Their first release of "You Make Me Happy" b/w "Let's Make A Whole Lot Of Love" has stirred up so much interest that two publishers are dickering for the tunes. . . . The Midnighters along with Todd Rhodes and his band are now headed for the West Coast. They will be in Denver Sept. 6th & 7th and are scheduled to open at the Savoy Ballroom here in LA Sept. 16th. . . . Saul Bihari says they're shipping records out like crazy and it looks like Marvin & Johnny's Modern waxing of "Tick Tock" will break in several other cities. Of course, Saul added, "Oop Shoop" with Shirley Gunter and The Queens is stepping out fast too. . . . After closing at

the Savoy Ballroom Roy Milton left on a tour which will include many engagements throughout Calif. Appearing with him on many of these dates will be Richard Lewis and The Flairs. . . . Chuck Higgins has signed with Specialty Records. Chuck leaves for Northern Calif. and the San Joaquin Valley to fill several dates along with The Robins and Jimmy Witherspoon. They will be in Monterey 9/2, Fresno 9/3 and Atascadero Lake 9/4. . . . Louis Jordan has been doing mighty well at the Trocadero in Hollywood. Appearing with him is The Robins and a new fem warbler Jo Ann Lynn. Jordon and crew will leave soon on a tour of the South that will take them through Texas, Oklahoma and Louisiana. . . . We hear that Johnny Ace will be here on the coast for several night club dates in October. . . . The Devonaire, The Dreamers along with Johnny Otis and his band staged a three day stand at the Savoy Ballroom 20th thru 22nd. . . . Meanwhile at Billy Berg's Five Ballroom Charles Brown and Lowell Fulson have been held over for another week-end. . . . Smash business during the Duke's engagement at the Hollywood Crescendo has brought in a jammed house almost every night. Appearing with the Ellington crew is vocalist Jimmie Grissom. . . . Lew Chudd, prexy of Imperial Records, has returned to his Hollywood office after an extensive business trip through the country & the Caribbean. While in Washington, D. C., he signed a new group called The Pelicans. Their first release will be out soon. . . . The old Riverside Ranchos was turned into a typical Harlem hot spot Sun. Aug. 29th when a big R & B show was held featuring Jimmy Witherspoon, Shirley Gunter and The Queens, The Dreamers, Richard Lewis, Marvin and Johnny along with Marvin Phillips and his Band. . . . Percy Mayfield blew in at the Harlem Hot Spot in San Pedro Aug. 28 before leaving for a two week engagement in Washington.

JAZZ JOTS

Capitol Records signed Woody Herman to a long term contract. Woody has been available on records via Mars Records, his own diskery, for the past several years. . . . Anita O'Day in trouble again. . . . Jimmy McPartland, booked to do a big concert in London with his wife, Marian, was unable to work as he had no working permit. . . . Mort Davis, formerly with General Artists Corporation and Gale Agency as a Booker, is now associated with Universal Attractions in its Jazz Department.



STEVE GIBSON'S REDCAPS



ROY MILTON

"It's What's in THE CASH BOX That Counts"