

THE CASE BOX RHYTHM N' BLUES Ramblings

NEW YORK:

The **Midnighters** on Federal Records come up with the fourth in the "Annie" series, titled, "Annie's Aunt Fannie". Operators and stores don't have to be afraid of this one as the lyrics are in good taste. A kudo to Syd Nathan for his grand move in the right direction. This kind of cooperation will earn him the respect of the general buying market and benefit the trade generally. . . . The **Robbins** on Spark have one titled "Loop De Loop Mambo" that has all the earmarks of a hit. Deck has drive and novelty appeal. . . . **Harry Aposteleris**, Alpha Distributors, reports he has four platters that are really moving. They are "Earth Angel" by the **Penguins** on Dootone; "The Letter" by the **Medallions** on Dootone; "God Only Knows" by the **Capris** on Gotham; and "The Big Break" by **Richard Berry** on Flair. . . . **Phil Chess** in town working on **Willie Mabon's** new one. . . . **Bess Berman**, Appolo Records, out with a cold. Bess is releasing her new group, **The Gentlemen**, doing "Something to Remember You By" and "Tired Of You". . . . **Herald Records** really moving on their new **Charlie & Ray** "I Love You Madly". Plate is only out about ten days to two weeks and reorders coming in giving every indication that the wax has it. Pop labels are

already rushing to cover with "The Four Coins" on Epic session already in the can. . . . **Hy Weiss**, Old Town Records, just signed the **Solerettes**, a female group, and the **Ballentines**, a male group. . . . **Lee Magid** supervised his first session for the Dawn label getting on wax **Helen Thompson** (famous for her "Going Down To Big Mary's" and **Bobby Shields**, blues singer who Lee describes as a combination of **Frankie Lane** and **Johnny Ace**. . . . **Varetta Dillard**, Savoy Records, and **Helen Thompson** at the Baby Grand, Harlem nitery. . . . **Jack Holmes** (WLOW-Norfolk, Va.) celebrates his fifth anniversary on October 31. The station will hold quite a shindig in Jack's honor. Holmes, an old timer in the business, has been through the mill in almost every capacity—singer, agent, booker, and in general is one of the leaders in the community. . . . **Herman Lubinsky**, Savoy Record appointed **Al Sherman**, Record Sales Company, distrib for the L.A. territory. . . . **Coral Records** just cut **Johnny Parker** with 12 strings and a 5 piece rhythm section doing "Hurts Me To My Heart", the **Faye Adams** r & b hit. . . . **Bill Buchanan**, Monument Music, working around the clock visiting with jocks plugging the **Ruth Brown** and **Georgia Gibbs** versions of his "Mambo Baby". Covers are starting to flood in. **Sy Oliver & Jim Brown** on Bell; **Mambo Five** and **Edna McGriff** on Favorite Records; **Dolly Wade** on Two Mikes Records; and several others in the process of being cut. . . . **Charlie Singleton** has been having terrific success with his sessions at Herald. **Charlie** handled the **Faye Adams** "Hurts Me To My Heart", the **Charlie & Ray** "I Love You Madly" and most of the other recent Herald releases. . . . **Saul Richfield**, manager of the **Five Keyes** working like mad on the group's new Capitol release "Ling Ting Tong". Advises it has been showing a strong reaction in the South and West Coast areas. . . . **Atlantic Records** issues a special package of religious releases this week. **The Booker Gospel Singers** do "Get Away Sinner" and "Jesus The Light"; **The Fountain of Life Singers** blend on "Peace Be Still" and "Jesus My Savior"; **The Jackson Gospel Singers** sing "Heaven Bound Train" and "Someday I'm Gonna Walk With Jesus". **Miriam Abramson** advises that **Clyde McPhatter** is in on a special pass and a session was cut immediately. . . . **Irv Marcus** spent the week visiting the **Peacock** and **Duke New Jersey**, Philadelphia, Baltimore and Washington distrib. **Irv** has a hit in the new **Johnny Ace** "Never Let Me Go", the deck gaining momentum by the hour. . . . **Nashville** reports that the **Louis Brooks** and his **Hi-Toppers** recording of "Double Shot" and "Time Out" is beginning to move strongly around the country. Good reports have been received from Atlanta, Ga., Charlotte, N. C., Detroit, Mich., and Chicago. **King Records** announces the recoupling of **The Midnighter's** "Annie Had A Baby" with "Moonrise". Side dropped is "She's The One".

CHICAGO:

Four new releases on Chess'n Checker this week have the Chess boys working like mad. 'S'matter of fact, **Phil** currently on the East Coast. The disk which has **Len** most excited is **Willie Mabon's** new Checker, titled "Poison Ivy" b/w "Say Man." Second on Checker, by the newly-signed **Moonglows**, called "Sincerely" b/w "Tempting" which, **Len** says, the 'Glow's deliver in a smooth manner. **Len** also looking for big things to happen to **Lowell Fulsom's** debut disk on the Chess label. Titled "Reconsider Baby." Finally, a disk cleverly titled "Shoo Doo Be Do" b/w "So All Alone" by **Bobby Lester** and **The Moonlighters**. Looks like the **Chesses** are starting off the fall season in grand fashion (again!!!). . . . From the **Vee-Jay** diskery comes a new release titled "Annie's Answer" which is **Vee-Jay's** follow-up to series which began with "Work With Me Annie." **Leo Kolheim** sent out advance copies of the disk, as done by **Hazel McCollum** and **The El Dorado's**, and received nothing but favorable comment regarding chances for record to become another smash. . . . Flip side titled "Living With Vivian" is instrumentally delivered by the **Al Smith Combo**. . . . **Leo** also told us about a visitor firm had this past week. Seems **Memphis DJ Eddie** decided to pay the **Windy City** a weekend visit and did just that. . . . **Chicagoan Relgat Llessur**, drummer-protege of bandleader **Lionel Hampton**, has just announced that he has organized a quintet bearing his name with **Lionel Hampton's** promise of support and cooperation. **Llessur** was with 'Hamp' for three years. . . . **George Leaner** tells us that the hottest-selling disk his **United Distributors** has had in a long time is **B. B. King's** latest, "You Upset Me, Baby." Claims he sold 6,000 in the first five days. "B. B." is currently riding high with "When My Heart Beats Like A Hammer." **George** left the subject of business long enough to



RUTH BROWN



JACK HOLMES



WILLIE MABON

tell us that he has just moved into a brand new home, making him practically neighbors with **Daddy-O Daylie**. And since **George** pitched in and helped with the moving himself, he is feeling none too chipper at this writing. . . . **Sammy Davis, Jr.** and the **Will Mastin Trio** currently knocking 'em dead at the **Regal Theatre** which currently boasts of having the only stage show in Chicago. **Sammy's** "Hey, There" is right up on top and his new, great recording of "Because Of You" is also starting to climb. . . . **Louis Jordan** will head his own show of stars at a big benefit festival at the **Trianon Ballroom** November 4 with proceeds going to a children's nursery. On the same bill are the phenomenally successful **Midnighters** whose feat of keeping three tunes in the top ten is currently the talk of the biz.

LOS ANGELES:

Many radio stations are now picking up the fight against dirty records. **WDIA** in Memphis is to be congratulated for starting the ball rolling. Also **WHEK** in Akron. . . . A packed house is expected at **Billy Berg's** **Five Four Ballroom** Oct. 29th thru 31st when one of the largest attractions to hit the Coast in several months takes over the popular dance palace. On the show will be **Johnny Ace**, **Willie Mae Thornton**, **Faye Adams** and **Memphis Slim**. . . . A new vocal group tabbed **The Holidays** bow in on the Specialty label this week with "Irene" and "Aw-Aw Baby". **Lloyd Price** is also out with two new sides under the Specialty banner assisted by another new vocal group called **The Dukes**. Titles are "Chee-Koo Baby" b/w "Co-E Baby". The popularity of **Price** combined with vocal backing, in keeping with today's trend, should make this a smash hit. **Art Rupe** is also expecting big things from **Guitar Slim's** "Sufferin' Mind" b/w "Twenty-Five Lies" and his new **New Orleans** artist **Alonzo Stewart's** "Love Me Baby" b/w "Goin' Back Home". . . . After a short vacation **Roy Milton** starts his Fall tour back to the East Coast Nov. 1. Appearing with him on all dates will be **Shirley Gunther** and **The Queens**. . . . **Al Sherman**, prexy of **Record Sales Company**, has appointed publicist **Jean Bennett** to handle all his record promotion. . . . **Oscar Peterson** opens at **Zardis** Nov. 10 for a three week stand. . . . **Leo** and **Eddie Mesner** of **Aladdin Records** must feel that the popularity of vocal groups is here to stay the way they have been signing up new artists. They just signed **The Five Pearls** and **The Regals** on **Aladdin**. **The Cookies** have also been added to their new subsid. **Lamp** roster. This makes a total of six new groups within the past two months. . . . **Johnny Green**, the original **Johnny** of the famed duet **Marvin & Johnny**, has been signed by **De-Luxe Records** (King subsid.). His first release "Money, Money, Money" b/w "Don't Close The Door" has just been released. He is billed on the label as **Johnny & Mack**. . . . **Morry Dubin** recently joined the sales force of the local **King Records** branch. . . . **Joe Morris** and **Al Savage** bowed in at **Billy Berg's** **Five Four Ballroom** for a three day stand Oct. 22 thru 24th. . . . "Annie Pulled A Hum-Bug" by the **Midnights** on the **Music City** label is now handled throughout Southern California by **Al Sherman** of **Record Sales Co.** . . . **The Platters**, who opened at **Slim Jenkins' Supper Club** in **Oakland** Oct. 1, were so successful that they were held over for 4 weeks. They leave for dates in **Sacramento** Oct. 30. Their latest **Federal** waxing of "Voo Vee Abbee" b/w "Shake It Up Mambo" is now out. . . . **Lee Silvers**, prexy of **State Record Distributors**, announced the appointment of **Joel Delson** as salesman for the Southern California territory. . . . Say, did 'ya' hear the be-bopper story about the inscription on the tombstone of a departed bopper: "Don't dig me now. I'm really gone!" . . . **Gene Norman** is finalizing plans with **KHJ-TV** for a one hour Sunday TV show to emanate from the **Savoy Ballroom** on **Central Avenue**. The new telecast will be a talent showcase entitled "Harlem Jamboree". **Local Mortgage Co.** is set to sponsor show.



WILLIE MAE THORNTON

JAZZ JOTS

Basin Street has as headliners this week, **Bobby Hackett** blowing his sweet horn and **Terry Gibbs** racing his mallets over the vibes. . . . **Bobby Shad's** **Mercury** subsid, **EmArcy** issued a flock of LP's and EP's that should bring reams of dollars into the till. Too many to mention here but some of the artists involved are **Billy Eckstine**, **Sarah Vaughan**, **Errol Garner**, **Maynard Ferguson**, **Art Hodes**, **Red Norvo**, **Coleman Hawkins**, **Roy Eldridge**, **Teddy Wilson**, **Beryl Booker**, **Charlie Shavers** and **Joe Thomas**. Just about the "craziest" cover is the "Holiday in Trumpet" album. What did it mean, **Bobby**? Another interesting release is the "Willie Smith" LP which features such names as **Willie Smith**, **Les Paul**, **Nick Fatool** and **Billy May**. . . . **Dwight Cappel** (**WWSW-Pittsburgh, Pa.**) featured the 100th Sunday Jazz Concert by **Ted Heath** at **London's Palladium** on his October 18 "Jazz Scene, 1954". . . . **Norman Granz** **Carnegie Hall** concert last Saturday was the third successive sellout in two nights. Friday in Philadelphia, Saturday evening at the **Mosque Theatre** in **Newark** and Saturday night at **Carnegie**. The star studded show featured **Duke Ellington**, **Gerry Mulligan**, **Stan Getz** and **Dave Brubeck**. The three concerts kicked off a three week-approximately 20 concert tour. . . . **Record Collectors Shop** in **New York** sponsored a concert Saturday, October 30, at **Town Hall**. Featured performers were **Charlie Parker**, **Sonny Rollins**, **Thelonious Monk**, **Art Farmer**, **Horace Silver**, **Jimmy Raney**, **Hall Overton** and others. **Gene Norman** and **Frank Bull's** 7th Annual **Dixieland Jubilee** at **The Shrine Auditorium**, **Los Angeles**, Oct. 15 drew a capacity crowd of 7,000. It was reported that the show netted \$14,120 after taxes. The star studded cast of jazz greats included **George Lewis** and **His New Orleans Jazz Band**, **Rosy McHargue's Ragtimers**, **Okefenokee Jug Band**, **Eddie Skrivane's Sextett** **From Hunger**, **Firehouse Five Plus Two**, **Pete Dailey's Chicagoans**, and featuring sixty-three year old **Johnny St. Cyr** and the **New Orleans All-Stars** who were flown to **Los Angeles** from **New Orleans** for this one night engagement.

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