

RHYTHM N' BLUES RAMBLINGS

(Continued)

Roman holiday early in 1956 when, simultaneously, across the Continent, Nat "King" Cole, Lionel Hampton and his orchestra, and the film musical "Rock 'n Roll Revue," in which they both star, will play headline engagements. With the first showing abroad of "Rock 'n Roll Revue," jazz enthusiasts in Sweden, England, France and Italy will see, in addition to Cole and Hampton, others including Joe Turner, Dinah Washington, Larry Darnell, Duke Ellington and Martha Davis. . . . Al Silver and Jack Angel, Herald Records, in a dither handling "When You Dance" by The Turbans. The record has broken sensationally in both pop and r and b. It has jumped into the Top Fifty Retail Sellers in no uncertain terms and as a result has found entry into the programming of pop disk jockeys all over the country. Herald also has a very strong item in the Nutmegs' newest, "Betty Lou" and "Whispering Sorrows." . . . Ray Dobard, Music City Records, in town plugging "W-P-L-J" by the Four Deuces and "Tell Me Darling" by the Gaylarcks. Joel Turnero was of great assistance to Dobard, squiring him around to all the deejays in New York and New Jersey. Ray has already visited distribs and jockeys in Chicago, Detroit, Cleveland, Newark, Philadelphia as well as New York and will now move on to Baltimore, Cincinnati, Nashville, Memphis, and other key cities on his way back to the coast. . . . George (Hound Dog) Lorenz (WKBW-Buffalo, N. Y.) has signed Mr. Bear, Groove hit artist, to appear on his New Year's Eve Rock and Roll show. . . . Miss Clara Ward recently waxed her first sides for Duke Records in New York City. . . . Billy Brooks, "Song Of The Dreamer" and "Donna," is scheduled for a new release in the very near future. "Rene" Williams tells us the recent Carl Van Moon session was terrific and has the entire Duke staff excited. . . . Bill Cook (WOV-New York) lists his ten this week as follows: 1) Only You, Platters; 2) Play It Fair, Lavern Baker; 3) Adorable, Drifters; 4) Come Home, Bubber Johnson; 5) April in Paris, Count Basie; 6) Feel So Good, Shirley & Lee; 7) Cry Me A River, Julie London; 8) Everybody's Got A Home But Me, Roy Hamilton; 9) He, Al Hibbler; 10) At My Front Door, El Dorados. Neil Mack, Bangor, Maine, lists—1) Only You, Platters; 2) Adorable, Drifters; 3) Good Rocking Daddy, Etta James; 4) Play It Fair, Lavern Baker; 5) At My Front Door, El Dorados; 6) Hands Off, McShann & Bowman; 7) Black Jack, Ray Charles; 8) Steamboat, Drifters; 9) Tutti Frutti, Little Richard; 10) All By Myself, Fats Domino.

CHICAGO:

Cal Tjador hopped in fast for quickie radio chats with Mike Rapchak and The Great Montague on WAAF, and Daddy O'Daylie on WAIT. . . . Hy Frumkin was never surer of a prediction, he says, than this: "Gene & Funice will be hitting top profits in the foreseeable future. Their latest is 'I Gotta Go Home'.

It's got a real kick." . . . McKie FitzHugh, a producer at station WOPA, watching wax sessions at Chess and Checker. Reports that Big Bill Hill and other DJs at his station look forward to lively holiday season. . . . Mac MacDermott puts it this way: "Etta James is a real singin' woman on 'The Woman'." Mac has the jive talk these days. Incidentally, Mac and Milt Salstone will be in Las Vegas Dec. 16 for the Clef and Norgram convention. . . . Morrie Myers of King distribs here looking forward to heavy sales from The Rock Brothers. New Group. It was Hy Grill, A & R man for King, who discovered The Rocks at New York niterie. Interesting presentation for DJs is the biographical material on King records. Lowdown on all artists. Gives DJs a chance to entertain public with word-sketches. . . . The Chuckles due in town soon for promotional chit-chats. . . . Happiest guy in town is Len Chess, bossman at Chess and Checker. The Cash Box "Most Promising Male R&B Vocalist Award" went to Chuck Berry, who is proving to have golden touch for the Chess firm. Meanwhile Phil Chess went to Cleveland and Detroit to promote The Moonglows. . . . The Flamingoes came in for cutting session. . . . A veteran name with plenty of gusto signed by Vee-Jay is John Lee Hooker. New release about to hit streets. Abner of Vee-Jay calls John Lee one of best country blues singers around. Abner especially proud of The Cash Box "Award of the Week," given The El Dorados' new disk, "I'll Be Forever Loving You" b/w "I Began To Realize." If this tune can match only half the sales of "At My Front Door" The El Dorados won't complain—no siree. The Vee-Jay outfit celebrated its second anniversary recently. And for a comparative youngster in R&B, it's gone far and fast, due to imagination and hard work by Abner and boss Jimmy Bracken. Wishing Vee-Jay many profitable birthdays. . . . Al Duckett advises he's now handling publicity for Clyde McPhatter, lead singer with The Drifters.

LOS ANGELES:

Eddie Ray, of Imperial Records left last week on an extended national promotion tour. Eddie will be working on Fats Domino's "Poor Me" and the new Smiley Lewis release. . . . Incidentally, Jimmie Nelson of the 54 Ballroom says that no one has yet broken Fats Domino's record at the 54. Specialty recording artist Guitar Slim is the current attraction. . . . Radio station KWKW announced a first for the Los Angeles area. Ken Murakuma will be the first Japanese-American disc-jockey to play rhythm and blues in the Southern California area. Ken is associated with the Sterling Way Enterprises. . . . Shirley Gunter in town for a recording session and Joe Bihari of Modern Records is hoping for another "Oop Shoop." . . . The Platters currently at the Flamingo in Las Vegas. Their new Mercury release of "The Great Pretender" was put out in two test cities and looks like a big follow-up to "Only You." . . . Charlie Trammel and Billy Berg report great reaction to their TV show from the Savoy Ballroom, which is seen from 8 to 9 P.M. on Sundays. . . . Vita recording stars, The Colts, are still attending Los Angeles City College working towards their degrees, in addition to all their entertainment activities. . . . Johnny Otis Annual



GUITAR SLIM

Hep Cat Ball held this year at the Shrine Auditorium on Dec. 2. Johnny's new TV show Tuesday nights on Channel 11 doing very well. . . . Dootone Records releasing an album of modern progressive sounds by Dexter Gordon and his West Coast Stars. . . . Looks like The Barons have another big one in their new release of "Searching For You." . . . Roy Milton, whose new side is entitled "I Want To Be Home" hasn't spent much time there. The band has been on tour for the past month and will continue on the road, starting the new year at the Ebony Club in Cleveland.

"Nice Work, Fella"



DETROIT, MICH.—On a recent visit to Detroit, Ahmet Ertegun and Jerry Wexler, Atlantic Records execs, together with Charlie Grey, head of Cosnat Distributors of Detroit, visit Ernie Durham (WJLB) to compliment him on being one of the Motor City deejays who helped break "You Tickle Me Baby," by the Jokers on Atco. From left to right they are, Grey, Ertegun, Durham and Wexler.

THE CASH BOX

COMING UP IN R 'N B

"NEED YOUR LOVE SO BAD"

THE CASH BOX
By the
SLEEPER OF THE WEEK 11/12

Little Willie John

King 4841

"THE GREAT PRETENDER"

THE CASH BOX
DISK OF THE WEEK

Platters

Mercury 70753

Henry Stone Forms Chart Records and Sherlyn Publishing

NEW YORK—Henry Stone this week announced that he had severed relationships with and terminated whatever interests he had with Crystal Records, nationally distributed by King Records, which also includes the King, Federal and Deluxe labels.

Terms of the deal included the acquisition by Stone of all unreleased Crystal masters, fifty per cent of copyrights (Crystal Publishing Company), an undisclosed amount of cash, several small items not disclosed, and the contract of the Charms, not including the services of Otis Williams, lead singer, when the group made such hits as "Hearts of Stone," "Two Hearts," and others.

Jack Pearl, attorney for King Records, stated that Crystal Records had been composed of Henry Stone and several King Records executives.

"Rhythm and Blues Revue"

NEW YORK—As a follow-up to its successful "Rock 'n Roll Revue" film, Studio Films, Inc., is issuing another revue type pic under the title "Rhythm and Blues Revue." The seventy-minute feature film will have its national premiere in Baltimore during Christmas week at the Royal Theatre.

The all-star line-up features Count Basie, Joe Turner, Sarah Vaughan, Herb Jeffries, Faye Adams, Lionel Hampton, Amos Milburn, Nat "King" Cole, Ruth Brown, the Larks, the Delta Rhythm Boys, Martha Davis, Mantan "Birmingham" Moreland, Nipsey Russell, Bill Bailey, Freddy and Flo Robinson, Paul "Hucklebuck" Williams, Little Buck and will be emceed by Willie Bryant.

Stone recently formed Chart Records and Sherlyn Publishing Company. Chart is currently enjoying a good sale with The Evergreens' recording of "Very Truly Yours."

The Charms initial release for Chart is "Love Love Stick Stov," which is due out this week.

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b/w "IT WON'T BE THIS WAY ALWAYS"

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