

# THE CASH BOX

## RHYTHM N' BLUES

### Ramblings

#### NEW YORK:

The stories about the trade re Rama and the Commodore masters are just a shade premature. The deal is about 98% closed but it is still in the process of negotiation and could be completed at any moment. Goldner and Kolsky haven't as yet made up their minds whether to issue the jazz line as a new and separate label, or under the Rama tag. In line with this expansion, Rama has purchased the Tico Record Company. Tico was Goldner's baby; the spring-board for his entry into the record business and one with which he established himself. Goldner also started the Rama and Gee labels, but last year brought Joe Kolsky into the firm as a partner. However, until now, Goldner maintained the Tico label completely as his own. Now all the loose ends will be tied under an overall picture which will see Rama as the mother label. . . . Rama will issue two new singles introducing two new names. Mable King's "I'm Gonna Change" and "Alabama Rock'n Roll"—The Pretenders' "I Gotta Have You Baby" and "Possessive Love." The label will also issue its first lp, a 12" package, by Serena Shaw called "Cry My Love." The gal is described by Kolsky as of the Yma Sumac style. . . . Herman Lubinsky, Savoy Records, tells us Big Maybelle's



HERMAN LUPINSKY

"Candy" is going pop. Savoy is also racking up big sales with Little Esther's "You Can Bet Your Life." . . . Imperial Records talking up The Spiders' newest, "A-1 In My Heart." They see it as a definite hit by early summer. . . . Jolly Joyce, one of the hustlingest guys in the business, just pacted Bill Haley and his Comets to another long one-nighter tour with Irving Feld of Super Attractions, Washington promoter. The tour will cover a period from September 28 to December 2 and will take in the U.S. from coast to coast and parts of Canada. Haley will take off from October 1 to October 10 to be with Mrs. Haley when they expect their third child. . . . John Stone doing his "Dr. Daddio" show, one hour of rock and roll, six days a week, with KTOW-Oklahoma City, Okla. Stone manages three vocal groups, and has signed one of them, The Dukes, to Imperial. . . . Johnny Comacho, RCA Victor Latino a & r head, to Havana on June 5 or 6. With Comacho will be Steve Shoals, Jack Burgess and John Davidson. On the 8th Comacho, Shoals and Burgess go to Caracas, Venezuela and on the 11th to San Juan, P. R. Davidson leaves the group in Havana to visit Tampa, New Orleans and Texas and back to New York via Chicago. . . . Hilda Simms, WOV lovely, was honored on June 3 by the Citizens Achievement Day Committee of Abyssinian Baptist Church. Jack Walker handled the mike. The committee's statement says in part: "We feel that there is no individual in America who has made a greater contribution toward the advancement of our race and the advancement of all people than Hilda Simms." . . . William Miller, father and manager of the five Miller Sisters, purchased the recording contract of the girls from Herald Records. The girls plan to freelance for a while before committing themselves to any label. "Hippity Ha" on Herald brought considerable attention to the sister team. Their current release on Herald is "Guess Who" and "How Am I To Know." . . . The Robins on Whippet follow up their "Cherry Lips" with "Hurt Me" and "Merry-Go-Rock." Deck bears watching 'cause their "Cherry Lips" stirred up quite a bit of commotion. . . . Lou Sprung and Sol Rabinowitz, Baton Records, elated at the late, but nevertheless welcome action taking place on Ann Cole's "Easy, Easy Baby." Ann, who sings like nobody's business, had a good sized hit in "Are You Satisfied" and it now looks like the gal can make another strong impression with "Easy." Baton's newest release is "I Remember" by The Suburbans. Advance copies have brought an exciting reaction from the distribs and disk jockeys. . . . Phil Rose, Glory Records, going into a session with a new group, three boys and a girl, yet unnamed. Phil also reports lots of excitement on his Sidney Poitier "Poetry of the Negro." It has gotten nothing by rave reviews and when the flic, in which Poitier is starred, "A Man Is Ten Feet Tall," is released, the lp should get a tremendous shot in the arm. Poitier was the delinquent who turns good in "Blackboard Jungle" and also starred in the tv production of "A Man Is Ten Feet Tall." He goes to Africa shortly for six weeks to do "Something of Value." . . . Bea Kaslin, Hull Records, reports her "People Are Talking," by The Heartbeats, is doing very well in New York and Baltimore, and showing good signs in some other areas. Hull is about to release The Avons' "Our Love Will Never End" and "I'm Sending S.O.S." The Avons are a teenage group from Englewood, N. J. who walked into the office, asked for an audition, and were signed on the spot. . . . Bess Berman, Apollo Records, has another potent disk, "Darling You Know I Love You," by The Vocaltones. . . . Beverly Cherner leaving Jubilee and Josie Records to go to Shaw Artists. . . . A local retail outlet reports its four top Latin records are "Speak Up Mambo" by Al Castellanos on Mardi Gras backed with "Merengue #28"; "Together 1-2-3" by Al Castellanos on Mardi Gras; "Pao Pao" by Monchito on Fiesta; and "La Luna" by Jose Curbelo on Fiesta. . . . Larry Dean (WCIN-Cincinnati, O.) reports Roosevelt Lee, who he manages, will have his Kit record "Get Out of Town Mr. Whiskey" in about two weeks. Dean recently narrowly escaped injury while returning from Detroit. Outside of Monroe, Mich., a drunken driver ran into his new 1956 Mercury and wrecked it. Fortunately no one was hurt. The driver of the other car tried to skip but was flagged down by a police patrol car hovering nearby. He was charged with driving without a license, driving while under the influence of liquor, and leaving the scene of an accident. . . . Zell Saunders makes her debut in the record manufacturing business with two releases. The Pre-Teens with "What Makes Me Love You Like I Do" and The Pilgrim Harmoners doing "The Wooden Church." . . . Morty Kraft, Melba Records, took over the master of the Bobby Shields recording of "I Wouldn't Change You For The World" and "Land of Rock and Roll." Shields is backed on both sides by the Ray Charles



ROOSEVELT LEE



MILLER SISTERS

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Singers. Bill Harrington, who originally cut the two sides, was rewarded with a substantial advance. . . . Atlantic Records, coming off the two best months of their history, this past April and May, in spite of the natural seasonal slack-off that the industry went through, is busy making sure the sales totals stay way up. They are in one huddle after another, selecting material and cutting sessions with Chris Connors, The Clovers, Ruth Brown, and Lavern Baker. . . . Clyde McPhatter, sizzling like butter in a frying pan as his "Treasure of Love" makes like it is going to number one on the pop and r & b charts, opened at the Apollo Theatre this past weekend. . . . Herb Abramson, Atlantic and Atco prexy, announced the signing of a new team he expects great things from. The Tibbs Brothers, Andrew and Kenneth, have already cut, and their initial Atco release will be out very shortly. . . . Syd Nathan, King Records, reports that Friday, June 1 and Monday, June 4, were his two biggest consecutive days of business in the past five years. Some of the platters that went into setting this record were "Fever"; "Ivory Tower"; "It's All Over"; "One Night Only"; "Please, Please, Please"; "I Don't Know"; and "I Feel That Old Feeling Coming On." . . . Dick Sugar (WEVD-New York) reports his dozen most requested numbers (and in no special order) are: "Piano Merengue," Johnny Conquet, Rainbow; "La La La" and "Poco Pelo," Jose Curbelo, Fiesta; "Pedro Pablo," Monchito, Fiesta; "The Laughing Cha Cha," La Playa Sextet, Mardi Gras; "Together 1, 2, 3," Al Castellanos, Mardi Gras; "Speak Up Mambo," Al Castellanos, Mardi Gras; "Invitation," Tito Puente, Tico; "Vibe Cha Cha," Tito Puente, RCA Victor; "Si Si-No No," Machito, Perfect; "Manengue," Tito Rodriguez, RCA Victor; "Alo Quien Nama," Moncho Lena, Ansonia; and "El Marinero," Trio La Rosa, Panart. . . . Earl Bostic, who has had his share of illness and bad luck, was plagued again this week when his road manager Billy Sharpe was taken ill and had to be flown from Seattle, Wash., back to New York for immediate medical care. Sharpe, associated for many years with Andy Kirk, Billie Holiday, Louis Armstrong, and for the past five years with Earl Bostic, will be replaced by Joe Hess. Bostic currently doing one-nighters on the West Coast, holes up at the Flamingo Club, Portland, Oregon, until June 10 and then into the Cave Club in Vancouver, B. C. beginning June 18 to 24.

#### CHICAGO:

Don Robey of Peacock and Duke Records, passed thru town last week. Peacock seems to have hit the public between their rock and roll with "Rock and Roll Bells." The success of this disk is another illustration of what concentrated exposure can do for a record. Mr. Roberts says the tune is proving to be a "Chicago hit." . . . Chuck Edwards has a swinger with "Just For A Day." Apollo Distrib here is pleased with the play that Chuck is receiving. . . . Geo. Leaner of United Distribs tells us to watch for a surprise release on Sun by Carl "Suede Shoes" Perkins. George claims that the whole gang at United expects something even bigger than "Blue Suede Shoes." . . . The Magnificents took their Vee-Jay wailer, "Up On The Mountain," to Milwaukee's Colonial Theater. "Magnificent" Montague informs us that the crowd just wouldn't let them quit. Finally Montague picked up a set of bongos and led the acts out of



CHUCK BERRY

the theater. Along with The Magnificents were The Charms of King Records plus Johnny and Ray from Aladdin. . . . Minneapolis Labor Temple was the scene of a rocking one nighter by Eddy Taylor. Eddy's recording, "Big Town Play Boy," we are informed, was the highlight of the show. John Lee Hooker introduced his recording of "Every Night" to the same Minneapolis audience. John advises that the audience was very receptive. . . . Johnny Moore of The El Dorados still elated over their rock and roller date in Paducah Ky. this past 6-2. . . . Len Chess had The Moonglows in town for a session last week. "They never sounded better," says Len. Len went on to tell how happy he is at the success of Chuck Berry's latest, "Roll Over Beethoven." Checker is showing on all surveys with Little Walter and "One More Chance With You." The Flamingos seem to have the top spot within their grasp with "A Kiss From Your Lips." . . . Reports to the effect that Andy Star's new waxing on MGM is a real "twitcher," guitar plus cart wheels yet. . . . Abner says the religious music field is taking an upward turn. Two groups seeming to click in this market are The Highway QCs with "He Lifted My Burdens" and The Five Blind Boys, formerly known as The Jackson Harmoniers, doing grandly with "I Never Knew A Man." . . . Decca's Don Foreman all excited about the Bill Haley sides, "Hot Dog Buddy Buddy" and "Rockin' Thru The Rye," because, he claims, they will outsell all past Haley releases. . . . Parrot Records dinking of "Going Down Slow" certainly isn't. John Burton claims this side, coupled with "Murder In The First Degree," sung ably by St. Louis Jimmy, is a real hot item. . . . Blue Lake Records releasing a pretty thing sung by Lou Mac entitled "Take Your Troubles To A Friend." . . . Marie Knight recording of "Tell Me Why" causing a flock of excitement in the Wacker Drive offices of Wing. . . . Miles Davis into Stage for two weeks, followed by James Moody who will hold forth for three.

#### LOS ANGELES:

Mike Gradny took dubs of the new Jackie Kelso release of "The Sleeper" on Vita around to the disk jockeys last week. Hunter Hancock and distributor Abe Diamond received so many calls on the record that Larry Mead had to rush out production on the disk. . . . The Empires first waxing for the Wing label will be out this week. . . . Shirley Gunter and The Flairs doing great business on their current Eastern tour. Shirley's "Headin' Home" on Modern has already taken off, and The Flairs have a new one on Aladdin called "Rock 'n Roll Drive In." . . . The Penguins set to do the Alan Freed CBS radio show and sing their current side, "Peace Of Mind." . . . Harry Fox has taken over sales and distribution for the Cash and Money labels. One of the first sides to be released under the new set-up will be "Hum De Dum" by The Gassers. Other new artists signed to the Cash label are Ray Agee and Robert Byrd and The Birds. . . . The Platters due back in town the first of next month for a two week vacation. While here Buck Ram will be recording the group for another album, to follow their first successful LP for Mercury. . . . "Ooby Dooby" by Ray Orbison on the Sun label breaking big in the Los Angeles market. . . . According to Jim Warren at Central Record Sales, Atlantic Records will continue their streak of hits with "Hallelujah, I Love Her So," by Ray Charles, and "Love, Love, Love" and "Your Tender Lips" by The Clovers. Jim and his wife are the proud parents of a baby boy, born May 18th. . . . Flash Records are giving away lapel pins made in the form of a diamond studded record as a promotion for their record of "Stranded In The Jungle" by The Jayhawks. The side is already big in the Los Angeles area and is beginning to show up around the country. . . . Imperial Records out this week with two hot disks by The Spiders and Bobby Mitchel.



JACKIE KELSO