NEW YORK:

This Fourth Annual Yearbook, which has become the historical and statistical guide of the R & B industry, reports that the future generations will refer to it as the “year of rock and roll.” As we refer back to the years of Dixieland, the years of swing, and the years of boogie, we can say that the focal year of the rock and roll era is 1956. It is the year that rock & roll became the country artist with what has become known as rock-a-billy music, moved out of the status of launching platform from which a pop star could do anything but climb the charts with the pop chart’s national pop hit, and took the place away from the pop artist. He, the original r & b or rock-a-billy, now introduced the “hit” and took it all the way up the pop charts himself. He, the r & b artist or the rock-a-billy, was in the dead of the year’s format, and the darlings of the record buyers. The buying of records according to the color of the artist was shattered beyond recognition as the rock-a-billys, Little Richard, Clyde McPhatter and many others crossed the line.

Gene Vincent, Bill Haley all sell well in the r & b markets. 1956 is an important year in the history of rock, but more than that music has made it an important year in social history of the country and provided the United States of America with one of its strongest weapons in its fight against communism.

The Platters, who won three “firsts” in The Cash Box Disk Jockey Poll, “Most Programmed Record” and “Average Disk Rating” in the R & B classification; “Up and Coming Vocal Group” in the pop classification; and “The Most Programmed Record” with their hit “The Great Pretender”, have been booked solidly and lucratively for the remainder of the year reveals manager Buck Ram. Currently starring at Atlantic City’s Steel Pier through August 29, they have been booked for one week beginning August 5, and will do a two week engagement at the Chicago Music Hall. On August 31 they will begin a one week appearance at the Michigan State Fair and then a week at the Coliseum in New York. To Mo’s. When they will be among the starring acts scheduled to perform at the “Disk Jockey Convention,” the Ford Motor Company has arranged a direct program to be performed at the “Jubilee” pageant, which will be held at Mo’s on Saturday night. And Big Walter’s “Hello, Maria” and “Pack Fair and Square”. Big Walter did very well with his previous release a short time back, “Shirley Jean.”

Adam’s new hit “In The Still of The Night” by the Five Satins is breaking out in new territories all the time, the latest territory being the coast. In addition, the reaction and the recording of the “hit” has been sensational and Cosmat has ordered large quantities for their five branches. Silver is also having a good time with their new release “Take a Letter Baby.” Little Dutchie Saunders, who is handled by Ted Lewis’ shadow, Elroy Peace. The kid is so sensational he may be included in the Bill Haley package. Mercury has released two spiritual offerings that they say are nothing else, Johnny Hager, Alpha Rosetta Tharpes’ “When The Saints Go Marching In” has gotten an exciting top reaction. The other half of the spiritual team, Marie Knight, has a strong two sider, “Stand By Me” and “Blessed Be The Name Of The Lord.” Mercury has also issued a new Bugsy Johnson that looks strong, “You Got It Made” and “Bring It Home To Me.”

Herman Record has released a new record for the record label’s new subsidiary, “Hit Hi Cha Cha Cha.”

The station has received several names demanding more airtime for rock and roll music. Clee Everett (WLA-Peekskill, N. Y.) advises the station has received several names demanding more airtime for rock and roll music. Clee wishes those r & b diskers who haven’t as yet put them on their lists would do so. We learn that Bob plywood, the current WNYC disk jockey for the network, has been assigned to a new record label, Victory Records, and has already released his first record, “Angel Face,” by The Nomad. Also just released is “Go Cat Go” by rock-a-billy Bill Floyd.

White English, Engledow, is part of the Nomad label and has recently returned to the WNYC desk. The benefit show staged for Carnegie Hall on September 25, which featured the Savoy Kings, featured many of the top names currently musically active. Only a few days before the old Mr. Dr. Blues, Sweet and Swim show, and Savoy Swingtime, he is with WANN for more than one of a sudden thing is happening fast. Little Richard, with his firsts to the girls. mashed up the record for weeks, “The Twilight Time.”

As for Columbia, the record has been a smash hit. The record was released by Teddy Wilson, and the record was reviewed by the top disk jockey for the west coast, the head of the disk jockey department.

The response, after only a couple of airplay, has been fast. The record label, Columbia, and it looks like a jackpot for them.

R&B Ramblings

R & B Records, New York, and Joe Cohen, Essex Records, Newark, who handle the disk locally, tells us that he and their downtown makes into areas of hectic confusion, but it has also upped the sale of all the records that have been cut into the “Flying Saucer,” “Earth Angel,” which was practically dormant of recent months, has again been revived through the exposure given it on “Flying Saucer.” . . . J & S Records has released “This Guy’s In Love With You” by the Shiftee Five. This is an instrumental backed by “My Shoulder To Cry On” released by Manda Hopper. The Zell Sanders label has also signed Freddie Scott and his first release is due out any day. It will be “Turn The Other Side” from the DeLorean label.

Syd Nathan reports the newest Bill Doggett, “Hony Tonk,” has gone literally crazy. The initial press of 20,000 was sold before they could turn around and the King family feels this is headed for the top. Ray Clark reports Groove has released Roy “Mr. Guitar” Gaines in his second for the diskery. It is “Worried ‘Bout You Baby” and “All To Myself.” Groove has also issued Clayton Love doing “Bye Bye Baby” and “Mary Lou”, and Johnny Hodges and his label are rocking “Passion Flight.”

CHICAGO:

Looks like we’ve run out of tape on another one. While the head man through the Ampex staff gives us a new master number, let’s replay the take and see what has happened. . . Len and Phil Chess have built an empire on top selling merchandising names like “Hound Dog” and “Juke Box Moan”. . .

Bobbi Charles, The Moonglows, Lowell Fulson and Bo Diddley. Cheese peppers “I Don’t Want To Be Loved” with Lowell Fulson’s “Tollin’ Bells,” “A Kiss From Your Lips” by The Flamingos “Roll Over Beethoven” by Chet Baker, “Take A Letter Baby” and the “Great Montage” will vault for that. He found The Magnificents at a school show and believed they were potential recording stars. Vee-Jay has proven Monty’s by the hit record “Up On The Mountain” which has climbed to 13th place nationally. The youth and talent of the whole Vee-Jay roster promises much in the coming year. The label also claims the “firsts” in the LP release of Sarah McLawver and Richard Otto, these are a promise of bigger things to come in the future. “Blue Bells” is the way Abner, Viv Carter and Jimmy Bracken sum it up. . .

George and Ernie Leater turned Epic into “Walking In The Rain” by Big Boy and a smash hit. Big Boy released one from Carl Perkins with “Blue Suede Shoes” and then made it two with “Boppin’ The Blues.” Jazz package sales were at an all time high for Vee-Jay, and the total package sales for the year have reached 300,000 copies.

Los Angeles:

Doctor anto, Dexter Gordon opens at the Blue Room in Balboa this week for an extended engagement. . . Special to the Times-Orange County, Little Richard currently breaking all records on his tour of the South and the East. . .

Big Jay McNeely due in town for a series of one-nighters throughout the Southland.

The young jazz trumpeter, Al Checco, who was unable to decide between Fats Domino’s “When My Dreamboat Comes Home” and Brazil” by The Coasters. Peter D. Meier has released “Boppin’ At The Zoo” by the Zephyr Kings on the Zeke Manners TV show. . .

Oscar McLoye recently released “Shitty” by the Moonglo’s on the Wing recording of “God’s Green Earth.”

Julie Lessch’s tells us that Phil Klein has some big ones riding in the area. Johnnie Otis, with the Dukes of Dixieland, “My Friend” on Capitol and The Teenagers’ two sided hits of “I Promised To Remember” and “Who Can Ex- George” on Epic and the new Cornell “Stevens” new release of “Blue Mood” on Dig Records. . .

Jim Ameche picked up a double that the St. Mary’s University, basketball player who has signed for the New York Knicks. . .

Johnny Marin has upped the ante to the point that he will not record for Modern Records under the name of Long Tall Marvin. . .

Dolly Cooper appearing in clubs locally is now resuming on the Cash label. . .

The Station

NEW YORK:

HOPPY ADAMS

LOWELL FUSION

SHIRLEY GUNTER

Don Roey

They are the writers, the performers, the publishing company and the manufacturers. The trade is talking about Bob Moog, Johnny Hager, Max, etc.}

"Only those records best suited for commercial use are reviewed by the Cash Box"