R & B Reviews

AWARD & SLEEPER  B  VERY GOOD  C  FAIR  B+ EXCELLENT  C+ GOOD  D  MEDIOCRE

The Cash Box
Award o' the Week

“WILL THE SUN SHINE TOMORROW” (2:46)
[Jay & Cee BMI—Willie John]

“LITTLE BIT OF LOVING” (2:07)
[Jay & Cee BMI—Eddie Cooley]

LITTLE WILLIE JOHN

Little Willie John, whose 1956 poll as Best R & B Record, comes up with another powerful offering, “Will the Sun Shine Tomorrow.” Little Willie sings the slow beat in the manner to which we have become accustomed and it looks like another hit for the youngster. His wailing is super—watch the market snap this one up. The coupling, “A Little Bit of Loving,” is another strong item—the we favor “Sun Shine.” It is a quick beat jump rocked with enthusiasm and skill. Like this side too—but if it must be one side—we go with “Will the Sun Shine Tomorrow.”

“MIDNIGHT SPECIAL TRAIN” (2:35)
[Progressive BMI—Westley, Errogan]

“FEELING HAPPY” (2:36)
[Progressive BMI—Turner]

JOE TURNER

(Atlantic 1122)

Joe Turner has latched onto a piece of material that fits him like a glove. The “Boss of the Blues” rocks out a driving “Midnight Special Train” with all the zest at his command. Turner, who can generate plenty of excitement, is given lots of help with this one. The arrangement, orchestra and choral support give Big Joe the fire that lights up a sparkling performance. This should be a large size hit for Mr. Turner. The flip, “Feeling Happy,” is another rocking quick beat that comes off well. Turner impacts the necessary excitement to the deck, but it is very much like so many of his past releases. For the hit we look to “Midnight Special Train.”

THE RAMBLERS


B “DON'T YOU KNOW” (2:25) [Armo BMI—James Gibson] The Ramblers have a middle beat jump with a hard hitting lead. Deck comes off with a better than average rating.

ABE MOORE

B “MOORE BOOGIE” (2:56) [Dig-Ots, Ols] Abe Moore's whole orchestra gives him this middle beat instrumental blues effectively. Good sound and delivery in the current demand for instrumentals.

C+ Otis, Kels] Another rocking instrumental, but with a slow beat. Stays on top easily.

MEL WILLIAMS

B “ALL THROUGH THE NIGHT” (2:45) [Dig-Olt] Mel Williams voices this slow beat with deep soul and the proper touch. The deck, tuneful, is rhythmic love ballad given a strong reading by Williams. Pretty, soft, and a side to relax to. Like it.

B “I CRIED A MILLION TEARS” [Dig-Ols] [Hound of Fortune Music—George Motola] Williams backs with a similar item. Another slow ballad pretty. Well done, but without the little extra found in the upper deck.

JOE LYONS AND HIS ARROWS

(Hollywood 1061)


C+ “NO END TO TRUE LOVE” [Chaibourn BMI—Lyons, Davis] Joe Lyons and His Arrows sing a slow paced ballad. Comes off well but not outstanding. Lead does well and the stronger tune and better arrangement might have made this a good commercial deck. Pop treatment.

DE-BOANAS

(Fing 1001)

B CRACKER-JACK, DADDY” (2:43) [BMI—L. L. Cox] The De-Boaners rock on the flip. Quick beat between the lines. The kids will like. Ok, teeny jump wax.

C+ “SAY A PRAYER FOR ME” [BMI—L. L. Cox] The De-Boaners back up a slow beat item that just might be a short of being a strong reissue. Somewhere the group fails to jell and the technical sound also fails to come up to the top standards.

ROSCOE GORDON

(Sen 257)

B “SHOOBIE OOBIE!” (2:41) [Knox BMI—Gordon] Roscoe Gordon chants a gibberish tongue twisting lyric with a swinging beat that fascinates. Gordon handles the unpretentious lyric in a manner that brings a big tear to the listener’s eye. Watch it.

B “CHEESE AND CRACKERS” (2:42) [Knox BMI—Hayden Thompson] Gordon rocks out another novelty item in a very good hard hitting manner. A startling performer that stops you cold and makes you listen. Another good deck. Two sides to watch.

*Only those records best suited for commercial use are reviewed by THE CASH BOX*