



AUSTRALIA

Full details of the next Lee Gordon show, scheduled for May, have now been finalized. The line-up is Crash Craddock, Everly Bros., The Champs, Marv Johnson, The Crickets, Bobby Rydell and the lone Australian on the bill, Lonnie Lee.

Show opens in Perth on 9th May, then Adelaide (10th), Melbourne (11th), Brisbane (12th) and Sydney (13th & 14th). This will be the first Lee Gordon tour to visit Perth in four years, the last one being the Stan Freberg Show. Crash Craddock was a sensation during his previous visit to this country and should prove equally popular here this time as his records are still hot. The Everly Bros. will be on their second visit and The Champs have also been here before. The Crickets have built up a big following here through their successful disks. Marv Johnson will be making his first Australian tour—although he was scheduled for a previous trip here this year but could not make it. His single "You've Got What It Takes" is doing quite well. Bobby Rydell is picking up plenty of fans following the release of his "Wild One." Young Australian star Lonnie Lee has two hot disks doing good business here, "Starlight Starbright" and "Ain't It So."

The No. 1 song of the 2UE Top 40 is "Little Boy Lost" and the three most interested parties had an exuberant Easter celebration. From an idea by top D-J Tony Withers, to his music publisher Jack Argent of Leeds Music, to composer-performer Johnnie Ashcroft, the resultant combination made a hit record for E.M.I. in Australia which Capitol America has already taken up for release. The song is dedicated to a four-year old boy who survived 77 hours in dense jungle country to be rescued by an all-out effort which closed all business houses in the local township of Guyra in New South Wales. It is expected that Tommy Steele, currently visiting Australia, will record his own version for British Isles release.

All of a sudden we have two albums released with the title "Shout." RCA has issued the Isley Brothers LP of this title, and the Johnny O'Keefe "Shout!" album is also available. O'Keefe's single cover version of "Shout" nudged the original—by the Isley Bros.—out of the top sales spot here some time ago.

Ken East, Record Sales Manager of the vast E.M.I. group of labels, has advised me of several important staff changes which followed the re-organization of the Record Sales Department. Kevin Ritchie has been appointed Record Promotion Manager for all E.M.I. records. Len Parry has accepted the position of New South Wales Record Sales Supervisor. David Nance has been added to the country sales staff for E.M.I. in New South Wales and John Jones has taken up the post of Metropolitan Sales Representative for the Northern and Western suburbs of Sydney.

Johnnie O'Keefe is now dubbed the "hit-finder" of the Australian record industry in addition to his title of Australia's King of the Rock. His first trip to the USA brought back "Starlight Starbright" a No. 1 hit for Lonnie Lee in Australia and "Bells Bells Bells" now making it for The Allen Brothers "down under." On his second trip, Johnnie brought back a new hit record for Lonnie Lee, "Yes Indeed I Do" plus some exciting songs for the top vocal group The Delltones and a hitmaker song "Sweet Thing" for a new artist Booka. O'Keefe supervises the recording sessions and then gives the artists a chance to promote their songs on his highly rated TV program "Six O'Clock Rock."

A new album released by Top Rank which should catch a good share of LP sales is "Just A Dream" by Jimmy Clanton. Clanton is enjoying great success here with his single of "Go Jimmy Go."

Eula Parker, composer of "The Village Of St. Bernadette," is back home in Australia for several weeks on a working holiday. Eula, who is also a vocalist, has already been signed for several TV shows—the first of them being an appearance on The Graham Kennedy Show, an hour-long national show.

Visiting American singer Billy Eckstine did a marathon job on Good Friday for the 3DB/Sporting Globe Royal Children's Hospital Appeal, which is an annual fund-raising appeal on behalf of the hospital. He endeared himself to thousands of Australians with his sincere efforts to raise funds and his singing performances in response to many pledges for large donation sums.

Pye Records look like making some real noise with Lonnie Donegan's "My Old Man's A Dustman." To add a unique touch of authenticity to their promotion literature for this release, disk-jockeys, radio stations and reviewers have received a delightfully concocted letter—on a dirt-smear letterhead—from "Dusty" Donegan, Refuse Disposal Officer (Grade 2). This record is definitely for stardom here.

Philips has issued the album Jimmie Rodgers "Hits" The Trail. With Rodgers' popularity increasing in the C & W field, Philips' expect this LP to do well for them.

In a smart move to cash in on the tremendous popularity of Bobby Darin in this country, Festival Records has issued an EP of Darin (from his American Decca days) with the Jack Pleis Orchestra and Chorus. Titles are "Hear Them Bells," "The Greatest Builder," "Dealer In Dreams" and "Help Me."



ITALY

After meeting Mr. Giannini of CGD at the San Remo Festival this year, Hal Neely, manager of King Records, Cincinnati, decided to publish an LP by Betty Curtis, a singer on CGD. Jamie Records has already published an LP by Betty Curtis.

Pat Boone arrived in Italy and settled in Venice for a few days where he will take part in some shows for American TV, with well known Durium singer Marino Marini and Italian movie star Pierangeli. He has been very warmly welcomed. The Corriere d'Informazione, one of the most important Italian daily papers published a large photo of him taken on his arrival in Italy. The artist is expected to go to Rome. Miss Bacchini of Decca Italiana informs me that the record "Words" by Pat Boone has been recently released in Italy.

Philips Italiana has had its first important appearance on the Italian best seller list with, "Por Dos Besos" by Francis Bay, and "Theme From A Summer Place" by Percy Faith. Only one record on Philips had previously been on the Italian list—"E' Vero" (It's True) by Marino Barreto. Corrado Lojacono of Philips Italiana is very successful with his new song, "Giuggiola." He had recently composed (with much success) "Carina" (Pretty). Philips Italiana is trying to release Frankie Laine's "The Valley Of One Hundred Hills" again. Arturo Testa, a Philips singer has recorded "Why" backed with "El Paso."

Maestro Alfredo Rossi, manager of Ariston, has published the song "Por Dos Besos" which is a terrific hit in Italy. In fact this cha cha is sixth on the Italian list.

"Mustafa," currently number one in Belgium, is published in Italy by Ariston. There are four record versions of this funny and odd record, one of the Vogue label distributed by Durium, the second on the Barclay label distributed by SAAR, the third sung by Marino Marini on the Durium label, and the fourth sung by Gege' di Giacomo on the Stereo label.

"Puppy Love" by Paul Anka, which was number one for two weeks on The Cash Box list is right behind "It's Time To Cry," which is third on the Italian list. VCM released the record, "But Not For Me" by Johnny Nash. Mr. Candida informs me that the sale of this record is rising, as well as that of "Tom Piliby" by J. Boyer, which won the Eurovision Great Prize of 1959 in London.

Italy's Best Sellers

1. Personalita b/w Till (C. Valente—Decca)
2. Marina (Marini/Granata—Durium/Bluebell)
3. It's Time To Cry (Paul Anka—Columbia)
4. Believe Me (Royal Teens—Capitol)
5. Morgan (Eddie Calvert—Columbia)
6. Por Dos Besos (Francis Bay—Philips—Ariston)
7. Pretty Blue Eyes (Steve Lawrence /C. Douglas—His Master's Voice/Top Rank)
8. Kriminal Tango (Trombetta—Columbia—Fortissimo)
9. Theme From A Summer Place (Percy Faith—Philips)
10. Why (Frankie Avalon—Bluebell)

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Australia's Best Sellers

1. He'll Have To Go (Jim Reeves—RCA)
2. Beatnik Fly (Johnny & Hurricanes—London)
3. Hippy Hippy Shake (Chan Romero—Columbia)
4. What In the World's Come Over You (Jack Scott—Top Rank)
5. Starlight Starbright (Lonnie Lee—Leedon)
6. Handy Man (Jimmy Jones—MGM)
7. What Do You Want To Make Those Eyes At Me For (Emile Ford—Pye)
8. The Village Of St. Bernadette (Andy Williams—London)
9. The Big Hurt (Toni Fisher—Top Rank)
10. Footsteps (Steve Lawrence—W & G)

New Zealand's Best Sellers

1. Way Down Yonder In New Orleans—Freddy Cannon (Top Rank)
2. Teen Angel—Mark Dinning (MGM)
3. Running Bear—Johnny Preston (Mercury)
4. What In The World's Come Over You—Jack Scott (Top Rank)
5. Pretty Blue Eyes—Craig Douglas/Steve Lawrence (Top Rank/W&G)
6. Go Jimmy Go—Jimmy Clanton (Top Rank)
7. Robbin' The Cradle—Red Hewitt (Audion) local.
8. He'll Have To Go—Jim Reeves (RCA)
9. A Voice In The Wilderness—Cliff Richard (Columbia)
10. Battle Of Waikato—Howard Morrison Quartet (Zodiac) local