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, Mary Johnson and the Crickets, Bobby Rydell and the Isley Brothers on the bill, Lonnie Lee.

Show opens in Perth on 9th May, then Adelaide (10th), Melbourne (11th), Brisbane (12th) and Sydney (13th) with the Lee Gordon troupe to visit Perth in four years, the last one being the Stan Freberg Show. Crash Craddock has been known to buy a new guitar every time he tours Australia 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. Bobby Rydell has already had a bit of a following here through their successful disks, Mary Johnson will be making his first Australian tour- although his name is still associated with the name of a group that made 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.” Younger fans are being introduced to the Isley Brothers, “Starlight Starbright” and “Ain’t It Love.”

The Australian single songs is “Little Boy Lost” and the three most interested parties had an exhuberant Easter celebration. From an idea by top DJ Tony Withe, to his music publisher Jack Argent of Leeds Music, to composer, John Hieland, who has written 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 Gwyra 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 a Bayley Brothers LP of this title, and the Johnny O’Keefe “Shout!” album is also available. O’Keefe’s single cover version of “Shout!” nudge the original—by the Isley Brothers—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 Tan has been appointed Record Promotion Manager for all E.M.I. records. Len Parry has accepted the position of Manager of the National Record Sales Supervision. David Nancarrow has been called to the country sales staff for E.M.I. in New South Wales and John Jones has taken over the up of Metropolitan Sales Representative for the Northern and Western Region.

Johnny O’Keefe is now dubbed the “hit-finder” of the Australian industry. booklet of Australia’s No. 1 hit for 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 “doo wop” follow up to the second trip, and this hit record for Lonnie Lee, “Yes Indeed I Do” plus some exciting songs for the top vocal groups. E.M.I. Jones and a hitmaker song “Sweet Thing” for a new artist book. O’Keefe is now in the process of recording sessions and then gives them 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. Parker, who is 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. Veteran American singer Jerry Lee will be the Headliner on Good Friday for the 3DB/Sporting Globe Royal Children’s Hospital Appeal, which is an annual fundraiser appearing on behalf of the hospital. He endeared himself to thousands of Australians with his sincere efforts to raise funds and in his stirring performances in response to many pledges for large donation sums.

Philips Records like making sound real noise with Lonnie Donegan’s “My Old Man A Dustman.” To add a unique touch of authenticity to their production, Bernstein arranged for this release, disk-jockeys, radio stations and reviewers have received a delightfully conceived letterhead from “Dusty” Donegan, Refuse Disposal Officer (Grade 2). This record is definitely for promoing here.

Philips has issued the album Jimmy Rodgers “Hits” “The Trail With Rodgers’ popularity increasing in the C & W field, Philips expect this LP to do well here.

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 Marjino Marini and Italian movie star Pierangelii. He has been very warmly welcomed. The Berlin Daily Telegraph, 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. Mia Bluette of Decca Italian informs me that the record “Words” by Pat Boone has been recently released in Italy.

Phelps 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 Perry Faith. Only one record on Phillips had previously been on the Italian list—“E’ Vero” (It’s True) by Marino Barreto, Carreno Lojacono of Phillips Italiana is very successful with his new song, “Giugliano.” He had recently composed (with much success) “Carina” (Pretty), Phillips Italiana is trying to release Frankie Laine’s “The Valley Of One Hundred Hills” again. Armando Testa, a Philips Italiana singer, recorded “Why” backed with “El Peixe.” 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 Aris. There are four record versions of this funny and odd record, one of the Vogue label distributed by Durium, the second the on the Barclay label distributed by SAAE, the third sung by Mariano Marini on the Durium label, and the fourth sung by Ciro 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. Candido informs me that the sale of this record is rising, as well as that of “Tom Pil- lio” by J. Boyer, which won the Eurovision Great Prize of 1959 in London.

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