

Hazlewood Charts Indie Course For LHI

NEW YORK—After several distribution deals, Lee Hazlewood's LHI operation is going totally indie.

Hazlewood, who formed the label thru Decca Records in 1967 and more recently through ABC, feels that today's competitive demands necessitates the move. He sees as "rapidly dwindling" the advantages of an indie record producer in having his label distributed by a larger company.

"Most major companies, in effecting dealings with indie producers," he says, "are really only looking for an automatic hit and not the work record. The emphasis by a major company is to work on its own product where its profit margin is highest."

In deciding to put all his energies into the development of LHI, Hazlewood said that he would no longer produce or sing with Nancy Sinatra on Reprise. He said he has also received his release from Reprise. Instead, he said he will form a new duo of Ann-Margret and Lee Hazlewood for LHI. Other acts on LHI include The Surprise Package, a Seattle-based underground group, another underground team from Calif., the Aggregation, and the Honey Lid. The Margret-Hazlewood duo will debut in Jan. Meanwhile, a solo single by the singer-actress is due soon with 14-city tour by the star to help the disk along. Tour is part of the performer's TV special sponsor, Canada Dry.

Move Office Space

LHI recently took additional space at 9000 Sunset Blvd. There'll soon be a network of local promo men. The

Stratta Exits CBS For Croma Vp Post

NEW YORK—Ettore Stratta has left his post as international manager of CBS Records to join Croma Music as exec VP.

In the past few months, Croma has expanded into the record business with its own label, blue Records, distributed by Atco-Atlantic, and has acquired several major film scores and soundtracks, both domestic and foreign.

Croma president Colby said his fluent Italian, Spanish, French and English will be a great asset to our organization, since we are so deeply involved in dealing with international copyrights and artists.

Stratta, who has been with CBS since 1961, started as associate A&R Producer for Columbia Records, and in 1963 was promoted to the position of international Pop A&R manager for CBS Records. As A&R producer for Columbia, he has been responsible for recording albums and singles with such artists as Barbra Streisand ("Je M'Appelle Barbra", "The Christmas Album", "Free Again",



Ettore Stratta

("Silent Night" and others.) The New Christy Minstrels, Chad & Jeremy, and many international stars: Nini Rosso, Geula Gill, Caravelli, Joe Dassin, Monique Leyrac, Andre Gagnon (Canada's current hit single—"Don't Ask Why"), Yaffa Yarkoni, Friedrich Gulda and many more.

Over the years with CBS, Stratta has worked and recorded in many countries of the world, and produced the foreign original cast albums of such hit Broadway shows as "My Fair Lady", "Oliver!", "Fiddler on the Roof", "King & I" and the hit original Israeli musical, "Kazablan".

In the area of foreign version recordings by American artists, he has

current exec line-up at LHI includes Hazlewood, general manager; Gil Bogus, manager of sales-promotion; S. J. Hokum, manager of advertising and packaging; Sue Jennings, office manager; C. Haro, assistant; Red Steiger, west coast promotion manager. Company's legal counsel is the firm of Marty Machat.

Bogus has step-up 26 distribs within the U.S. and Canada to service and distribute the LHI line. LHI is presently under arrangement with British Decca Ltd. for England and the German territories and with Festival for Australia.

TV Specials

Hazlewood will this year appear on three television specials, two of which are being built around him. The first television special will be "Trouble is a Lonesome Town" to be co-produced by Roger Smith and Lee Hazlewood. Roger Smith is the husband of Ann Margret and the producer of many motion pictures.

Another special is being prepared by Winters/Rosen Productions entitled "The Ladies of the World of Lee Hazlewood." Winters and Rosen produced the Ann Margret Special which will be seen on CBS on December 1, 1968 in the Smothers Brothers time slot. Also, Hazlewood will be the musical director and appear in the television special entitled "The Spring Thing" to be shown in April, on NBC.

Nashboro Reactivates Nasco Pop Label

NASHVILLE—The Nasco label has been revived by Nashboro Records. Bud Howell, exec vp and general manager of Nashboro, said that the company will re-enter the market with a single, "Carnival" by the Precious Few. Also due are singles featuring the Picture and Coventry.

All the acts are managed by Nashville's Talent Etc. and produced by Redell Productions. Talent Etc. will supply other acts for the label, according to Corinne Pittenger, president. Promo for the label is being handled by Promotion Etc. under the firm's president, "King" Zbornik. Many distribs have already been appointed.

The Precious Few date is the first

Jazz Composers Bow Deluxe 2-LP Set

NEW YORK—The Jazz Composer's Orchestra Association, a non-profit organization, has just released a two-record set featuring the Jazz Composer's Orchestra performing original compositions by JCO musical director Michael Mantler. Soloists on the date include Cecil Taylor, Don Cherry, Roswell Rudd, Pharoah Sanders, Larry Coryell and Gato Barbieri.

These recordings mark the beginning of the wide-ranging program that the JCOA hopes will develop financial support for the Orchestra as a permanent institution dedicated to the performance of the most valuable new jazz works. The Orchestra will have its public premiere in New York City this fall.

Atlantic Records will handle the distribution for the set, which will be sold in stores and will also be available by mail from the Jazz Composer's Orchestra Association, 261 Broadway, New York, N.Y. 10007 at a price of \$12.00.

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been associated with and produced such artists as Barbra Streisand, Andy Williams, Patti Page, Steve & Eydie, Johnny Mathis, Bobby Vinton, Robert Goulet, Frankie Laine, Dionne Warwick, creating international hits, among which The New Christy Minstrels hit Italian recording, 1st prize winner at the San Remo 1965 Song Festival, "Lee Colline Sono Fiore".

Atlantic Bills \$4 Million At Fall Meets

NEW YORK—Atlantic/Atco's traveling Fall sales meets with distributors, held in 24 major cities, have resulted in over \$4 million in orders for the firm's 31 LP release, according to Len Sachs, the label's head of album sales and merchandising.

17 new albums were released under the Atlantic logo, with the strongest responses being accorded to Aretha Franklin's first 'live' LP, "Aretha In Paris;" plus the Sweet Inspirations "What The World Needs Now Is Love;" "The Best Of Booker T. & the MG's;" Volume 3 of "Super Hits;" Sam & Dave's "I Thank You" (their first set in over a year); Archie Bell & the Drells' "I Can't Stop Dancing;" Herbie Mann's "The Inspiration I Feel;" and Carmen McRae's "The Sound Of Silence."

The Atco 10 LP release brought heavy demand for "Otis Redding In Person At The Whisky A Go Go;" the Bee Gees' "Rare, Precious And Beautiful," a collection of their early recordings as a trio; "The Best Of King Curtis;" Betty Wright's "My First Time Around;" and two new 'underground' sets, Scott Fagan's "South Atlantic Blues;" and P. F. Sloan's "The Measure Of—Pleasure."

The meetings, which started Oct. 25 and concluded Oct. 30, were held by teams of Atlantic executives flying from city to city to meet with distributors. The New York meeting was chaired by Len Sachs, with George Furness and Joel Dorn. Other Atlantic

executive teams handling distributor meetings included Bob Kornheiser and Sal Uterano, Juggy Gayles and Ralph Cox, Johnny Musso and Arnold Theis, Tim Lane and Rick Willard, and Herb Kole and Gunter Hauer. Ahmet Ertegun, Atlantic President, attended the Los Angeles meeting; Jerry Wexler, Atlantic Executive Vice President, attended the New York meeting.

Co-op Programs

In addition to the program for new releases and catalog product, Atlantic has set up a large budget for cooperative advertising, covering both radio and newspaper advertising that distribs can offer to qualified dealers. Atlantic's new in-store EP's which are now being used in many large chains and discount stores, were also introduced, along with new radio spots for the top albums and ad mats for Atlantic/Atco product.

The co-op budget will supplement the already existing large scale consumer, teen, underground and trade ad program for new product. The firm's new point-of-sale merchandising aids for dealers were also displayed.

Other Albums

Also included in the Atlantic release were "Mabel Mercer & Bobby Short At Town Hall," a two LP set; "Members Don't Get Weary" by Max Roach; Mose Allison's "I've Been Doin' Some Thinkin';" and the Freedom Sounds featuring Wayne Henderson, "Soul Sound System;" Roy Ayers' "Stoned Soul Picnic;" Charlie Palmieri, "Latin Bugalu;" John Hammond, "Sooner Or Later;" and two religious albums, "Seeking A Part Time Love," Rev. Edmond Blair; and "Grace," the Institutional Church of God in Christ.

Other Atco albums include "Rowan & Martin At Work;" two sets on the Vortex line, "Restoration Ruin," Keith Jarrett; and "Count's Rock Band," by Steve Marcus. On the Pompeii label is "The Abstracts," a new group. From the Brook-lyn label, "Murray The K. Presents," with cuts by Joe Tex, the Rascals, Janis Ian, the Bee Gees, Vanilla Fudge, the Blues Project and Deon Jackson.

All Atlantic/Atco product introduced at the meetings, along with all catalog product, is being offered at a special 15 per cent discount with dated billings for qualified accounts.

Hayes & Porter To ASCAP

NEW YORK—ASCAP has added more fuel to its contemporary writer fire with the addition of Isaac Hayes and David Porter. They're the Memphis-based writer-production team for Stax Records who've hit with "Soul Man," "I Thank You" and "Hold On I'm Comin'," all by Sam & Dave. They also did "Baby" for Carla Thomas and material cut by the Rolling Stones, Aretha Franklin, James Brown and Paul Revere & the Raiders to name a few. Their current efforts are "Got to Believe in Somebody" by Sam & Dave and "Give 'Em Love" by the Soul Children.

Other contemporary writers recently added to the ASCAP roster include the Rascals, the Doors, Bob Gaudio, Mamas & Papas, Big Brother and the Holding Co., Strawberry Alarm Clock, the Band, Bobby Russell and Jimmy Webb.

K-R's First RCA Date

NEW YORK—RCA Records is rushing into release the first independently produced single by Koppelman-Rubin, since recently entering into a long-term contract with the team.

The single "The Dance At St. Francis" c/w "Lady Finger," is by a new group the Barracuda. The songs were written by the songwriting team of Alan Gordon and Gary Bonner. Gordon and Bonner have racked up over ten hit records in the past two years by such notable artists at The Turtles, Gary Lewis, The Righteous Brothers and Petula Clark.

The single was produced by Koppelman and Rubin with Alan Gordon.

AGAC Recruits Young

NEW YORK—50,000 posters with the heading, "Hello Young Writer Wherever You Are! or So You Want To Be A Songwriter!" are being distributed to prospective songwriters by the public relations committee of the American Guild of Authors and Composers.



King Zbornik & Bud Howell

AGAC Recruits Young

The posters will be distributed via the 36 State offices of Battle of the Bands, which is sponsored by the Junior Chamber of Commerce in each locality. Posters are also being distributed to faculty music department heads at major colleges throughout the U.S.

The posters confront the young writer with some of the business problems he will run into and explain why he needs the aid and protection of AGAC. A free booklet, "What Every Young Songwriter Should Know," is offered.

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'First Roman' Closes

NEW YORK—The season's first musical, "Her First Roman," was set to close last Sat. (2) two weeks after its opening on Broadway. Naturally, there'll be no original cast LP, which was to be the Atlantic label's first Broadway show. Failure amounts to about a \$500,000 loss for the backers of the Ervin Drake musical based on George Bernard Shaw's "Anthony & Cleopatra."