

Olivia, Diamond Grab MCA Gold

HOLLYWOOD — Two MCA albums have been certified gold by the RIAA. Olivia Newton-John's "If You Love Me, Let Me Know" and Neil Diamond's "Neil Diamond/His 12 Greatest Hits" have each sold in excess of one million dollars. Both albums were released by MCA in May of 1974.

This is Olivia Newton-John's first gold album. She has received two gold singles, one for the title song of each of her MCA albums, "If You Love Me, Let Me Know" and "Let Me Be There."

Prior to this award, Neil Diamond had been awarded six gold LP's for MCA albums and four of his single hits have also been certified gold.

Mercury Sets New Paper Lace Single

CHICAGO — A Sept. 16 date has been set for the release of the new Paper Lace single from Mercury Records entitled "The Black-Eyed Boys." The single is the follow up to the group's recent number one hit, "The Night Chicago Died."

"The Black-Eyed Boys" was written by Peter Callander and Mitch Murray who also wrote "Chicago" and Paper Lace's debut record, "Billy Don't Be A Hero." The new single has been pulled from the group's first Mercury album, "Paper Lace," which entered the national charts within two weeks of release.

Paper Lace is scheduled for their first American tour starting in November. Besides personal appearances, the English group will be guests on TV shows.

Atlantic & Columbia Ink Electric Flag

NEW YORK — Atlantic and Columbia Records have announced a contractual agreement, under the personal supervision of Jerry Wexler, executive vice-president of Atlantic, providing for the reformation of The Electric Flag.

Under the agreement, the Flag's first album, "The Band Kept Playing," will be released by Atlantic next month and the following LP will be released by Columbia. Subsequent albums will be released on an alternate system, Atlantic the odd-numbered and Columbia the even-numbered. All of the Flag albums will be produced by Jerry Wexler.

The Flag made their debut of the "rock band plus horn section" format in 1967 at the Monterey Pop Festival. They recorded two albums for Columbia and completed a series of live appearances before breaking up. Together again, for the Atlantic recording sessions at Miami's Criteria Studios earlier this summer were Mike Bloomfield, lead guitar; Buddy Miles, drums and vocals; Nick Gravenites, rhythm guitar and vocals; and Barry Goldberg, keyboards. Joining the band on bass guitar and lead vocals is Roger "Jellyroll" Troy. A songwriter in his own right, he replaces original band member Harvey Brooks. All of the band members contributed original material for the LP.

The horn section work on the debut Flag album was done by the Bonaroo Horns, who played on recent LPs by Dr. John and Bill Wyman, and the Muscle Shoals Horns. Session musicians included George Terry on guitar, Richard Tee on keyboards, and King Biscuit Boy on harp.

RSO Sets Fall Release

NEW YORK — Bill Oakes, president of RSO Records, has announced the roster of talent for the company's forthcoming fall release. RSO recently hit with a number one album and single with Eric Clapton's "461 Ocean Boulevard" and "I Shot The Sheriff." RSO is distributed by Atlantic Records.

Leading things off is "Reel To Real," a new work by Love featuring Arthur Lee, lead singer, guitarist, and composer. Sitting in are Harvey "Snake" Mandel and Buzzy Feiten.

Jack Bruce's fourth solo album, "Into The Storm," offers Bruce on bass guitar, keyboards, synthesizer and harmonica, plus vocals.

"Pit & The Pendulum," Ross' second album for RSO, is built around the Edgar Allan Poe story of the same name. Ross has just completed a very successful nationwide tour with Eric Clapton.

"Burglar" marks Freddie King's debut for RSO. Produced by Mike Vernon and recorded in England with an English horn section backing him up, King does r&b and blues material. Eric Clapton makes a brief appearance on the album, exchanging riffs with King.

Capricorn Sets 2 LP's, 4 Singles

MACON, GEORGIA — Phil Walden, president of Capricorn Records, has announced the release of two albums and four singles for the month of September. The albums include the debut release of Fallenrock titled "Watch For Fallenrock" and the second album by The James Montgomery Band titled "High Roller." Both albums shipped Sept. 13.

Fallenrock, a Nashville-based trio recorded their first album at Mercury Studios in Nashville with Johnny Slate producing. Larry Keith, Steve Pippin, and Rafe VanHoy are Fallenrock and have written all the songs for their debut album. A single culled from the album titled "She's Still A Mystery" has already been released.

"High Roller," the second album by The James Montgomery Band, was produced by Tom Dowd and recorded at Atlantic Studios in New York and Capricorn Sound Studios in Macon.

The four singles to be shipped by Capricorn include "Long Time Gone" from Richard Betts' debut solo album "Highway Call," and "Country Side Of Life," the second single from the Wet Willie album "Keep On Smilin'." Both records ship Sept. 18. The final two releases of the month include Percy Sledge's debut release titled "I'll Be Your Everything" and a second single by Chris Christman titled "Love On The Run," both shipping Sept. 25.

Rufus Gold

LOS ANGELES — "Rags To Rufus," the latest album by ABC recording artists Rufus, featuring Chaka Khan, has been awarded a gold record by the Recording Industry Association of America. The group's single "Tell Me Something Good," which was culled from the LP, previously attained gold status.

Rufus is currently in the middle of a month-long tour, set to conclude with an engagement at Philadelphia's Hippo Club Sept. 26-28. Plans then call for them to return to Los Angeles to resume recording their next album.

GRT Sets 20 New 8-Tracks

SUNNYVALE — GRT Music Tapes has announced the release of 20 new 8-track tapes, with three simultaneous releases on cassette. White Sonner, company vice-president and general manager made the announcement.

New product released on tape includes Fantasy albums by Michael Dinner, Cannonball Adderley, Redwing, Merl Saunders and Frijid Pink, a Chess album by the Violinaires, Janus product by Eloy and Dunhill product by Headstone.

Releases on the Just Sunshine label include Paul McNeil's "If It Rains," "Heaven" by Arica, "Blues Inc." by Alexis Korner, "Breeze," Norman Feels' "Where or When," and "You Can Feel It" by the Voices of East Harlem.

Additional product included in the release was on the Bang, Cadet, Rarwood and Roulette labels.

Manzarek Band Readies 2nd LP

HOLLYWOOD — Ray Manzarek has contracted drummer Gary Mallaber to handle percussion chores on the organist's second solo album for Mercury Records.

Mallaber is best known for his work with Steve Miller, Jesse Ed Davis, Paul Williams, and Van Morrison. His most recent task was gigging with Joe Walsh & Barnstorm on their latest U.S.A. tour.

With the addition of Mallaber, the line-up for the band Manzarek will use to record his new album is complete. The sole other musician is guitarist Dick Wagner (of Lou Reed and Alice Cooper fame). Manzarek will accompany himself on organ bass and synthesizer bass, a trade he mastered while a member of The Doors.

The band has already begun an intense rehearsal schedule.

Private Stock's Second Single Via E.B. Marks

NEW YORK — Dick Stone, Marks Music professional manager, may not get blood but he is betting he's got a hit out of a Stone.

Stone initiated the deal with Private Stock's Irv Biegel for the J. C. Stone recording of "Carrie's Gone" to be that young label's second release. The new artist, from Vancouver, was cut on that Canadian city's label, Leo, by writer Bob Johnston and producer Geoff Turner. This team then brought the master to Marks Music, which recently turned a recording of another Vancouver neighbor, Terry Jacks' "Seasons in the Sun," into an international smash on the Bell label.

Both sides on the Private Stock release are written by Bob Johnston. Joseph Auslander, Marks' president, has completed a deal with the Canadians for world-wide rights, except Canada, for both tunes.

'Journey' Gold For Wakeman

HOLLYWOOD — Rick Wakeman's newest A&M release, "Journey to the Centre of the Earth," has been certified gold by the RIAA. A quad version of the album will be released soon and Wakeman is embarking on a 19-city tour of the U.S. which began Sept. 15. Appearing with Wakeman will be the National Philharmonic Orchestra of America and David Hemmings as a special guest narrator.

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