Olivia, Diamond Grant 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’s 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 contained 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 will release the odd-numbered and Columbia the even-numbered. All of the Flag albums will be produced by Jerry Wexler.

The Flag made their debut on 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 Jelfryl Troy. A songwriter in his own right, he replaces original band member Steve Broock. 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 LP’s 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 number one album and single with Eric Clapton’s ‘461 Ocean Boulevard’ and ‘I Shot The Sheriff’, distribution by Atlantic Records.

Leading things off is ‘Reel To Reel’, a new work by Love featuring Arthur Lee, lead vocalist, and composer Sit- ing in are Harvey ‘Snake’ Mandel and Buzzy Feiten.

Joining their 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.

‘Burlar’ 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 2LP’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 who recorded their first album at Roxx Studios in Nashville with Johnny Slate producing, Larry Keith, Steve Pippin, and Kate 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 Smiling’. 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 from his second album, both 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 cut from the LP, previously earned 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 five 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 Dine, Barry Mann, David Ruffin, Meri Saunders and Frida Pink, a Chess album by the Violinaires, Janus product by Elvis and Dunhill product by Headstone.

Releases on the Just Sunshine label include Paul McCartney’s ‘American Dream’, 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, Ran- wood and Roulette labels.

Manzerek Band Readies 2nd LP

HOLLYWOOD — Ray Manzerek has contracted drummer Gary Muller to handle percussion chores on the organist’s second solo album recorded on A & M Records. Manzerek is best known for his work with Steve Miller, Jesse Ed Davis, Paul Williams, and Van Morrison. His most recent task was gigging with John Fogh & Barnstorm on their latest U.S. tour.

With the addition of Muller, the line-up for the band Manzerek will use to record his new album is complete. The sole other musician is guitarist Dick Wagner (of Lou Reed and Alice Cooper fame). Manzerek 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 minted the deal with Private Stock, an all R&B label, for the recording of ‘Carrie Gone’ to be that young label’s second release. The new artist, from Vancouver, was out on that Canadian city’s label, Leo, by writer Bob Johnston and producer Geoff Turner. This team 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 Bii 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 tapes with.

‘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 an alternate tour of the U.S. which began Sept. 15. Ap- pearing with Wakeman will be the National Philharmonic of America and David Hemmings as a special guest narrator.