

RCA Expands Nashville Operations; Adds Pennington, Dea to Prod. Staff

NASHVILLE — RCA Records has announced the appointment of two additional A&R Producers to its Nashville recording staff and at the same time announced taking over an additional floor of the building which houses its Nashville Operations.

The new producers are Roy Dea and Ray Pennington. In making the announcement, Jerry Bradley, director of RCA Records' Nashville operations, said their appointment is part of RCA's continuing expansion of its Nashville recording operations, which also includes acquisition of the entire third floor of its Nashville building to house RCA's stepped-up and enlarged recording activities there.

"The addition of these two producers to our staff, which already includes Bob Ferguson and Ronnie Light, will give each producer more time to spend with his artists and more time to audition new material and new artists as we increase the number of artists involved in our Country Music operation," Bradley said.

"Adding the third floor, with more than 5,000 square feet of space, to our facilities now gives us a more syn-

chronized operation," Bradley said, adding that the new floor will house Charlie Smith for country sales, Wally Cochran for artists relations, Elroy Kahaneck for national country promotion, Ed Hines for Custom record sales, and Chet Atkins, division vice president, country music and Nashville operations. The second floor now will be given over to A&R producers and Bradley's offices. The first floor contains the four recording studios, engineering, Stereo 8 and Q-8 mastering and mixing, Quad mixing room and a lacquer cutter for Quadradiscs.

In New York, Mort Hoffman, division vice president, Record Operations, said: "RCA Records long has been the number one company in Country Music, and this expansion, and the acquisition of these two highly regarded producers serves notice that we intend to continue being number one in Nashville."

Pennington joins RCA Records after having had a long line of successful record hits as a producer for Boone, Monument and Capitol Records. His recent hits include "Lonesome 77203" and "Little Willie John" with Billy Walker.

Dea comes to RCA after having spent five years with Mercury Records where he produced Linda Gail Lewis and co-produced Dave Dudley and Johnny Rodriguez. His most recent hit was "Pass Me By," which he co-produced with Johnny Rodriguez.

KLAC's Holds 1st Jamboree

KLAC, Metromedia's radio outlet in Los Angeles, held its first KLAC Jamboree and dance Friday, January 19, at the Hollywood Palladium before a turn-away crowd of Country Music enthusiasts.

Ray Price headlined the evening's festivities, singing his million selling hits "For the Good Times," "Release Me" and his current hit "She's Got to be a Saint".

To add a nostalgic note to the evening show and dance, Molly Bee brought back memories of the original "Home Town Jamboree" of the '50s, where she was discovered by Cliffie Stone. Molly sang some of the nation's favorite Country songs such as "It Keeps Right on A-Hurtin'" and "I Wish I was a Single Girl Again".

Harold Hensley and Kim Richards' bands provided musical back-up for the headliners and for dancing that continued until midnight.

Hal Smith, Program Director at KLAC, states that the purpose of the Jamboree is to give Country Music fans the opportunity of enjoying concerts featuring their favorite performers and an old fashioned dance. Smith labels the first Jamboree an unqualified success both in attendance and crowd reaction.

The next KLAC Jamboree is scheduled for February 23 at the Palladium, and will feature Marty Robbins backed up by Johnny and Jonie Mosby.

Puca Joins Key Talent

NASHVILLE — Promoter and night club operator Al Puca has joined the staff of Key Talent Agency according to an announcement made by E. Jimmy Key, president and owner of the entertainment firm.

Puca assumes the role of Key's chief assistant in placing and promoting entertainment acts. He has spent the past 16 years in managing and promoting.

Country Artist of the Week:

BOBBY G. RICE



HE LAYS SO EASY ON THE EAR—Bobby G. Rice has never known a world without music. Born on a farm in Wisconsin into a family where everyone played and sang, he first sang in public when he was three years old. In the early 50's his father built and operated a dance hall dedicated to country music called the Circle D Ballroom, where the group headquartered while not on the road.

But when marriage and time broke up the group, Bobby G. became a musician playing with various groups and after a stint with r&r he settled down into country with his own band.

Inevitably songwriting and recording followed, with some of his top tunes being "Sugar Shack", "Hey Baby", "Lover Please", "Mountain Of Love", "Suspicion", and "Hundred Pounds Of Clay".

Presently, Bobby G. Rice records for Metromedia Country with his "You Lay So Easy On My Mind" fast climbing the national charts.

Dick Heard co-produces the Bobby G. Rice sessions with Johnny Howard. Booking is by Buddy Lee Attractions.

Dot Artists Spark New 'Cross-Country' Trends

NASHVILLE — The Nashville Dot Records operation has significantly infiltrated the pop market with product from several of its country artists, including Tommy Overstreet, Joe Stampley and Donna Fargo.

Fargo, being the first to make inroads into pop sales, recently evolved on the scene and enjoyed two million-sellers in a row with "Happiest Girl In The Whole USA" and "Funny Face".

According to available statistics, she is the only female country artist within numerous years to ever enjoy the honor of having two consecutive Gold single records. Both of her single releases were #1 country hits and Top Ten pop hits, as well.

It is further noted that she was also the writer of both Gold singles. As a result, the Dot artist is up for two out of the five Grammy finalist for this year's Songwriter of the Year on "Happiest Girl In The Whole USA" and "Funny Face".

Additionally, Miss Fargo's first LP of "Happiest Girl In The Whole USA" has officially been RIAA certified to meet the qualifications of a Gold album.

Following this same trend, the label is now experiencing a similar situation with Joe Stampley, who's current country hit of "Soul Song" has also broken nationwide as a chart hit in the pop markets.

Stampley's country/pop action arrives on the heels of his recent country Top Ten hit of "If You Touch Me (You Got To Love Me)", and serves as direct indication of his steady growth process since signing with Dot less than 3 years ago.

Among other artists under the Dot banner who've enjoyed the success of cross-over sales are Roy Clark, Diana Trask, and Pat Roberts.

In making the announcement of the label's increased country/pop activities, which has helped lead to a better than tenfold upswing in sales and chart positions, newly appointed vice president in charges of sales & promotion, Larry Baunach further noted the Nashville operation has extensive plans in the mill for much more of what he terms "cross-country" product.

CMA Warns Fair Managers Of Tape Piracy Epidemic

NASHVILLE — At its first quarterly board meeting in Scottsdale, Arizona (Jan. 4-5 the C.M.A. voted unanimously to instruct its general counsel Richard Frank, Jr. to alert the nation's fair managers to the growing danger of tape music piracy. The decision was prompted by the rapid growth in pirated tape selling right at many of the nation's local and county fairgrounds.

In a letter directed to CMA board member and talent buyer Hap Peebles, designed to be read at the Fair Managers Seminar held in Wichita, Frank stated:

"As you know, 'pirate' tapes are those illegally manufactured from a commercial recording produced by a

legitimate phonograph record company. These 'pirate' tapes are usually sold at prices less than the wholesale price of legal tapes. This is made possible by the fact that the tape pirate pays no royalty to the recording artist or record companies, rarely to the owner of the song copyright, and bears none of the expense of producing and advertising the original record.

"It is estimated that sales of illegal tapes during 1972 were in excess of \$200 million, Frank wrote.

"A number of States have enacted laws declaring illegal duplication to be a criminal offense. The Federal Government has imposed further criminal sanctions against the pirating of product produced after Feb. 15, 1972. In addition, a Federal Court of Appeals has ruled that the unauthorized use of a song on a 'pirate' tape is a violation of the U.S. Copyright Act and subject to the criminal penalty provisions of that Act. The Supreme Court has recently refused to overturn that decision.

"In addition to the criminal aspects of piracy, the pirates and those associated with them may be the subject of civil law suits for unfair competition and copyright infringement.

"If you would bring to the attention of the fair managers the seriousness of the pirate tape situation and its effect on all those in the legitimate entertainment industry, you will be doing a service to the industry and to those governmental units who sponsor the fairs."

Additional plans are underway by the C.M.A. board to combat tape piracy in all areas through a heavily concentrated educational campaign directed to the general public via radio, television, newspapers and magazines, coast-to-coast, Frank revealed.

Overstreet Joins Halsey Agency

NASHVILLE — Tommy Overstreet, Dot Recording Artist, riding high with his number 1 chart hit, "Heaven is My Woman's Love" flew to Tulsa, Oklahoma, after the holidays to draw up his new pact with Jim Halsey Company for exclusive management. Besides one-nighters and clubs, John Hitt, Vice President for the agency said, there are plans for radio and TV shots and syndication.

Just before the holidays, Overstreet, who had four hits in top ten last year, cut four more sides with Ricci Mareno producing. One was by Tommy himself and two were by Mareno. The popular star, heads for the coast for a western tour and then Mid-March pairs up with Merle Haggard on a ten-day Southwest public appearance.