

Chambers Bros. To Farrell Org.

LOS ANGELES — The Chambers Brothers have been signed to an exclusive recording and writing contract with the Wes Farrell Organization. The group will record for WFO's Chelsea label and their writing will be represented by the WFO music publishing companies.

The Chambers Brothers will begin

work on new product immediately with Farrell producing the sessions.

The group, who first gained prominence in 1966 with the release of their "Time Has Come Today," usually tours about 30 to 40 weeks a year and extensive marketing, advertising and promotion will be associated with the group's concert tours.



Pictured at the signing are (from left): Julius Chambers, Joe Moreno (manager), Gary Frischer (manager), Joe Chambers, WFO Music Group president Steve Bedell, Farrell, George Chambers, Greg Dickerson, Willie Chambers, Mike Frischer and Lester Chambers.

March Release Set For Wings LP

HOLLYWOOD — Capitol Records Inc. has announced a March 25 release date for the newest album by Wings, entitled "Wings At The Speed Of Sound." Wings, which includes Paul and Linda McCartney, Denny Laine, Jimmy McCulloch and Joe English, are currently touring Denmark, Germany, Holland and France on the third leg of their 1976 world tour, which concludes on March 26 in Paris.

"Wings At The Speed Of Sound" contains songs written by Paul and Linda McCartney, as well as Jimmy McCulloch and Denny Laine. "Wino Junko" was written by Jimmy McCulloch and Colin Allen, and "Time To Hide" was penned by Denny Laine. All other songs on the

Ringo Starr Signed To Polydor International

HAMBURG — Ringo Starr has signed an exclusive long-term recording contract with Polydor International, covering the world excluding the U.S. and Canada. He thus becomes the second former Beatle to sever a 12 year relationship with EMI.

The agreement calls for the delivery of seven albums for the next five years. Recording of the first begins in April, due for release in June.

Polydor president Mike Hales commented, "We are delighted to have Ringo in the Polydor family, to greatly strengthen our growing roster of international stars."

album were written by Paul and Linda McCartney. Lead vocals are shared.

"Wings At The Speed Of Sound" was produced by Paul McCartney and recorded by Wings at the famed Abbey Road Studios in London.

All prior Wings albums have been certified gold, while the albums "Band On The Run" and "Venus And Mars" were both certified platinum.

Idaho Enacts Piracy Law

NEW YORK — Idaho became the 39th state to enact an anti-piracy law when Governor Cecil Andrus signed a bill making the unauthorized duplication of recordings punishable by a fine of up to \$10,000 and/or imprisonment of up to four years. The distribution, sale and advertising of such duplications or the failure to have the name and address of the manufacturer on the recording is a misdemeanor punishable by a fine of up to \$1,000 and/or imprisonment of up to six months.

'Will O' The Wisp' Gold For Russell

LOS ANGELES — The RIAA has certified Leon Russell's "Will O' The Wisp" album, which features the hit singles "Lady Blue" and "Back To The Island," as a gold LP. Russell's LP is on Shelter Records, which is distributed by MCA.

WMAQ: Sparks Fly In Chicago

something to say. What we're doing is very much a scale of what rock is doing these days ... the old line radio days where a jock worked from one-liners are gone, and that's one reason Coffey was let go ... he could not make the change from the contrived material to the spontaneous material. It's a matter of listeners getting used to you as a person and any other type of phoniness shows up very much on the air."

Pittman is 22 and does afternoon drive on the station; he directs the on-air sound of WMAQ.

Tight Format

The man behind everything though is Charlie Warner, general manager. "I want to understand Gary (Deeb) and where he is coming from," said Warner. "He's a critic and totally against the formalized approach to what we're doing. We're a very tightly formatted station ... we're not overly country and not overly silly ... we ask our guys to be warm human beings ... being in a major market covering as many people as we do we have to do this ... we don't talk down to people and we feel the station becomes warm and friendly with this type of consistency in our jocks."

"Personality does not necessarily mean you have to be funny all the time ... if we find someone who is exceptionally funny and witty that's great; but we're certainly not going to force our people to be funny ... like work from one-liners, etc. We've got to have mass appeal ... we can't afford to turn people off by blue material."

Warner's next statement, "the station is the star, not the personalities" was particularly interesting.

Station is Star

"We don't want one person on our station to say 'I'm the star' ... you have to deal with egomania and its effect, plus it's awful hard to get 'stars' to do a precise format, a format we think is working well here. That consistency throughout the day is very important. What we simply look for is good people on the air who can communicate and Deeb used the firing of Coffey to make a point ... that WMAQ is a station devoid of personalities, and that's simply not true. Jay Marks, who replaced Coffey, does have background in country and although the rest of the staff doesn't, that does not mean that anyone who has never worked country before could tackle it. Our guys are nice warm human beings on and off the air and we think WMAQ is working very well."

And what about the man who is left without a job. "Personally I felt like I was doing the format," said Bill Coffey, when **Cash Box** contacted him. "I thought the object of a disk-jockey doing

a shift was to get ratings ... and I had ratings."

About Deeb's comments Coffey said, "I think Gary was attacking the principle of the station and not anyone individually. But there are very good indications that WMAQ has or may be peaking out if you look at the trends."

What's left to watch now is the sound of WMAQ. Gary Deeb's comments put WMAQ on the defensive, if indeed, the station needs a defensive. Pittman and Warner are convinced they are programming the station in the best way. And Coffey thought he was doing what WMAQ wanted. It's a jumble; and Chicago radio, with the WCFL change a couple of weeks ago to "beautiful music," will be a market to watch in the future.

Stones Set '76 Global Tour

LOS ANGELES — The Rolling Stones have set an extensive British and European tour next month. Their first since 1973.

The Rolling Stones are also planning to tour most of the globe during the remainder of '76 and into '77, with a mini-tour of the United States, probably this summer, on their agenda.

The 36-date tour, which will be the longest ever undertaken in Europe by the Stones, with appearances in nine countries including for the first time, Spain and Yugoslavia, opens on April 28 at the Festhalle, Frankfurt and finishes in Vienna on June 23.

The group will be joined onstage by Ron Wood (guitar), Billy Preston (keyboards) and Ollie Brown (percussion), the line-up that comprised the Stones' Tour of the Americas '75.

Finalization of plans coincided with a meeting in London last Friday (March 12) of all European promoters; Atlantic licensees; Rolling Stones management; Ahmet Ertegun, chairman of the board for Atlantic Records; Nesuhi Ertegun, president of WEA International; Jerry Greenberg, president of Atlantic; Earl McGrath, artist development for Atlantic; and Bob C. Kornheiser, vice president and international manager of Atlantic who flew in from the USA.

The meeting was filmed in its entirety for use in a possible forthcoming documentary.

The first European leg of their tour will comprise: Frankfurt, Festhalle, April 28; Munster, Munsterhall, April 30; Hamburg, Congresszentrum, May 2; Berlin, Deutschland Halle, (3); Bremen, Stadthalle, (4); Brussels, Forest National, (6, 7); Glasgow, Apollo, (10-12); Leicester, Granby Hall, (14, 15); Stafford, New Bingley Hall, (17, 18); London, Earls Court, (21-23); Den Hague, football stadium, (29); Cologne, Sporthalle, (31); Dortmund, Westfalenhalle, June 1, 2; Paris, Avatoire (4-7); Lyon, Palais De Sport, (9); Barcelona, venue to follow (11); Nice, venue to follow, (13); Zurich, Hallenstadion, (15); Munich, Olympia Halle, (16, 17); Stuttgart, football stadium, (19); Zagreb, venue to follow, (21, 22); Vienna, Stadthalle, (23).

The Rolling Stones' latest album, "Black And Blue," is scheduled for release globally during the six-week period beginning April 15 through mid-May, and is the Stones' first studio album since "It's Only Rock 'N' Roll." The eight tracks are all Jagger/Richard compositions and titled as follows: "Hot Stuff," "Hand Of Fate," "Cherry-O," "Memory Motel," "Hey, Negrita," "Melody," "Foot To Cry" and "Crazy Man."

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