

REVIEWS

ALBUMS

(continued from page 8)

the vocal prowess of Karen Selden, a saucy lead singer who started her career in Alaska before heading down to the Lone Star State. Although her tough lady attitude sometimes seems vulnerable beneath the surface, she can perform a Stones classic ("Let's Spend The Night Together") or an original ballad ("Hold Me") with equal aplomb. Young Mega Records hopes to establish itself as a force to be reckoned with and if pop radio bites onto this release, the new label could flourish.

SPITTIN' IMAGE — MCA MCA-5343 — Producer: Robln Jenney — List: 8.98 — Bar Coded

On its self-titled debut album for MCA, Ohio-based Spittin' Image introduces the world to its catchy, upbeat pop fusing elements as diverse as lounge music, country, folk, European rock and British new wave. Lead vocalist Mimi Rousseau vacillates from a delicate whisper to a desperate wail at different times and is also quite competent as a songwriter, contributing six of the 10 songs on the platter. After receiving much local airplay for the tune "Boys A Dancer," it appears the group is ready to break out of Middle America and earn greater recognition for its recorded efforts.

SINGLES

(continued from page 8)

Members of the DeBarge family formed the creative nucleus of Switch, so it's not so unusual to see the clan back performing under its own name. It's easy to make comparisons to The Jacksons, which DeBarge most closely resembles, but the group has its own silken style as it slides through this buzzing brass 'n' bass dominated cut.

CRUSADERS (MCA S45-1775)
Street Life (3:20) (Four Knights Music Co./Irving Music, Inc. — BMI) (J. Sample, W. Jennings) (Producer: J. Sample, W. Felder, S. Hooper)

A truly "Royal Jam," bringing together guest vocalists B.B. King and Josie James, along with the Royal Philharmonic, for an orchestrated version of perhaps The Crusaders' most popular groove.

NEW AND DEVELOPING

JOSIE COTTON (Elektra E-47481)

He Could Be The One (2:46) (Televox Music/House Of Paine — BMI/Headstock Music/Painful Songs — ASCAP) (B. Paine, L. Paine) (Producers: B. Paine, L. Paine)



Where the surf meets the girl group sound. It's not the Go-Go's, but actually closer to the original feeling of '60s girl pop,

with irresistibly effervescent keyboards and Phil Spector-ish inspired warblings. From the lass who asked the \$64,000 question, "Johnny, Are You Queer?," it's a fresh breeze for pop.

SKIP AND LINDA (MDJ 7 68178)

If You Could See You Through My Eyes (3:43) (House of Gold — BMI) (L. Henley, J. Hurt) (Producers: P. Baugh, L. McBride)

Even if the act's name isn't extremely innovative, the performance bears an indelible stamp of emotional understanding as both vocalists and the overall production display a romantic sheen. The pair has an extremely complementary pair of voices and producers Phil Baugh and Larry McBride seem to have borrowed much from Kenny Rogers in fashioning a vinyl work with crossover potential.



Bruce Bird

Bird Appointed Exec VP/GM At Boardwalk

LOS ANGELES — Bruce Bird has been named to the post of executive vice president and general manager at Boardwalk Entertainment. Bird, who has served as a consultant to Boardwalk for the past several months, will be headquartered at the label's West Coast offices in Los Angeles.

In his new position, Bird will be responsible for a number of functions, including the coordination of the label's marketing, advertising and promotional campaigns. He will report directly to Irv Biegel, president of the label.

A longtime friend and associate of the late Neil Bogart, founder of Boardwalk Entertainment, Bird views his new appointment as "a natural progression of my relationship with Irv Biegel and Joyce Bogart . . . The label has a strong family feeling which I'm happy to share. It's the spirit that Neil Bogart had when he founded the company, and I'm proud to be a part of making that grow."

Bird served with Bogart in the early '70s at the Buddah label and came out west to help with the founding of the Casablanca Record & FilmWorks project in the mid-'70s. He stayed with the company throughout the decade, eventually rising to the position of president after Bogart sold the label to PolyGram.

By the '80s, Bird was independent, founding and heading the Badlands label affiliated with CBS, the position he held prior to his most recent appointment. During his tenure with Badlands, Bird worked with such acts at 707, Greg Guidry and Streek.

Commenting on Bird's appointment, label president Biegel said, "Bruce's contributions to Boardwalk and his partnership in our company reflect the confidence we've always had in his drive and imagination. Since I first began working with him over five years ago at Casablanca Record & FilmWorks, I've watched him develop into a judicious executive without compromising the assertive style he's known for. I'm very pleased with his new commitment to Boardwalk."

Springfield Ties-In With Jordache Jeans

NEW YORK — Rick Springfield's current U.S. summer tour is being sponsored by Jordache Jeans in another music tie-in for the company. The four-city promotion will occur at young men's and junior's divisions of stores selling the jeans, and will feature concert ticket giveaways, posters and music from Springfield's current "Success Hasn't Spoiled Me Yet" LP.

The stores participating in the promotion are Macy's in Kansas City, Strauss and O'Neil's in Cleveland, Kaufmann's in Pittsburgh and the Hecht Co. in Washington, D.C. Springfield's concert dates in those cities are Aug. 17 in Kansas City, Sept. 1 in Cleveland, Sept. 16 in Pittsburgh, and Aug. 22 in Columbia, Maryland.

EXECUTIVES ON THE MOVE



Hutkin

Ameen

Epstein

Yeskel

Hutkin Promoted — Pickwick Distribution Companies' rack services division has announced the promotion of David S. Hutkin to vice president, merchandising. He is a three year veteran of Pickwick Rack Services, holding various merchandising positions.

Ameen Named — Michael Ameen has been appointed vice president at Rogers & Cowan, Inc. Ameen, who joined the public relations firm in 1979, has served in various posts since that time as assistant to the chairman and as a publicist in the motion picture division.

Changes at EMI — EMI Music's International Classical Division has announced the following appointments: John Willan becomes manager, classical production and Peter Alward is appointed manager, artists and repertoire.

Epstein Appointed at CBS — Steven Epstein has been appointed executive producer for CBS Masterworks. Since 1973 he has been a producer for CBS Masterworks.

Yeskel Named at Atco — Paul Yeskel has been promoted to assistant director of national album promotion for Atco Records & Custom Labels. Prior to this new appointment, he had been overseeing northeast regional promotion activities for Atco since joining the label in October of 1979.

Anderson Named at CBS — CBS Records has announced the appointment of Norm Anderson as director, Nashville operations, CBS Records Nashville. He joined CBS Records Nashville in June of 1972 as studio manager — a position later upgraded to manager, studio operations and sales, and one he has held until this latest appointment.



Anderson

Christiansen

Blum

Bogart

Christiansen Appointed at Bearsville — Bearsville Records has announced the appointment of Jill Christiansen as director of publicity. Prior to joining Bearsville, she was manager of national tour publicity for Arista Records.

Mittman Named at Chappell — Gary Mittman has been named professional manager, West Coast for Chappell Music. Based in Los Angeles, he was formerly professional manager for Arista/Interworld.

Blum Named — The appointment of Linda Blum to director, professional activities, Arista Music, has been announced. Blum, who joined the company in 1979, has most recently been its general professional manager.

Bogart to Firmature — Lance Bogart has joined The Firmature Group public relations division as director of music accounts. He was formerly the L.A. area promotional manager for the PolyGram group of record labels and prior to that was Casablanca's director of Northeast and Northwest promotion.

Atlantic To Distribute Albert Label

NEW YORK — Atlantic Records will be the North American distributor for Albert Records, the new international label established by Australia's Albert Prods. The first release on the Albert/Atlantic label will be "Rock And Roll Women," the debut album by Australian rock group Cheetah, slated for release this week.

Albert Prods. is the recording arm of Australian music publishing firm J. Albert & Son, Ltd. Established in the mid-1960s by Ted Albert, the recording company enjoyed its first international success with The Easybeats. Since then, the company has been associated with such Australia-based acts as AC/DC, Rose Tattoo, Flash & The Pan, and John Paul-Young.

In announcing the Albert/Atlantic pact, Atlantic president Doug Morris noted the long-standing relationship between the two firms. "Atlantic's association with Ted Albert's fine company goes back many

years, and we have enjoyed many mutual successes," he said. "I am therefore very pleased that we are able to further strengthen our ties, and we look forward to continuing our long and fruitful relationship with this exciting new arrangement."

North American activities of the new Albert label are being coordinated out of New York by Albert Prods. International manager Crispin Dye. Joining Dye is Bruce Solomon, who will serve as Albert's North American professional manager. The company's New York offices are at 1790 Broadway.



SKAGGS IN L.A. — After a rousing performance at the Country Club in Los Angeles, Epic recording artist Ricky Skaggs was the guest of honor at a reception arranged by his label. Pictured enjoying themselves are (l-r): Cash Box managing editor Richard Imamura, Skaggs and Cash Box marketing director Mark Albert.

Escape Records Bows

LOS ANGELES — With the aim of specializing in the development and production of AOR albums and singles, David Sherbow recently formed Escape Records in a joint venture with rock group D.C. Star. The Baltimore-based label's initial product will be a picture disc album by the group scheduled for release in late July.