Brown Production Pushes Marva, Bobby and Dapps

It's two a.m. as perspiration pours off the musicians and a young lady is singing from the depths of her soul; and soul is what she is singing, eyes closed, arms outstretched. This could be a scene in a nightclub, but it isn't. Instead, it's in a recording studio and the young lady is Marva Whitney recording her first record, "Unwind Yourself." Now the recording session is finished and the record is in the stores.

Marva's is only one of many success stories for the man responsible for discovering this fresh new talent. His name: James Brown, of the King label. The company's name? James Brown Productions.

The driving beat so predominant in every record released by a James Brown artist is winning more and more attention, and is growing with such popularity that a recent release by Bobby Byrd called "You've Got To Change Your Mind" is being bought on an average of one record every 18 seconds, according to Brown statisticians.

Byrd is one of the original Famous Flames and is now on tour with the James Brown Revue.

Sought-After Company

The production company is supported by 60 people with offices in New York and Cincinnati, with four publishing companies within its domain, a national-acquired radio station, WJBE in Knoxville, and with plans for the purchase of five additional stations. The production company is becoming one of the most sought-after in America by aspiring artists and businessmen alike.

A new group called the Dapps has a release on the market called "Bringin' Up the Guitar" which has in two weeks accumulated air play and picks from all over the country. Orders for the record have come at such a pace that the record company barely fills an order before the phone starts ringing for reorder orders. The group is being kept under tight wraps as a mystery group until the appropriate time.

Some of the artists currently being produced by the Brown company are Vicki Anderson, the Brownettes, Troy Seals, Wendy Lynn and Leon Austin.

Rasputin On The Move

Rasputin Productions, guided by Tom Wilson and Mark Joseph and released through ABC Records, is picking up steam with a number of current itineraries.

On Saturday and Sunday, Feb. 10 and 11, the Bagatelle, a Boston-based group was the subject of a combined concert, live recording and video taping at New York City's Yiddish Anderson Theater on Second Avenue. The recording will result in their first album for Rasputin and ABC, and the video tape is intended as part of a filmed 'history of the group from its early career to its expected success. Wilson and Joseph recently followed the same procedure with their group, the Fraternity of Man, on the West Coast.

The Bagatelle returns to Boston to appear at the Boston Tea Party on Feb. 16 and 17, before preparing for a cross-country promotional tour in between half of their album.

Another group to record soon for Rasputin is "The Ill Wind," also from Boston consisting of four boys and a girl. A self-contained unit, all members of the group are college graduates, some holding master degrees.

Peachy Pick

Date Records' hit-making duo reaches and Herb visit Record World and enjoy seeing their latest single, "10 Commandments of Love," as a cover Pick of the Week.