

Starday - King, Trend-Setter

King Records, founded by the late Syd Nathan in Cincinnati, Ohio, started in the independent record business in 1943. The original labels were Queen and King.

Several artists immediately became giants in the R/B category such as Wynonie Harris with his all-time great hits "Good Rocking Tonight" and "Bullmoose Jackson," followed closely thereafter with a string of hits that were award-winners, "I Love You Yes I Do," "All My Love Belongs to You," "Bowlegged Woman," among others. In the early '40s, also introduced on King was Ivory Joe Hunter with his "Don't Fall in Love With Me," "Jealous Heart" and "Guess Who."

Going into the early '50s, King acquired by purchase the Deluxe label on which they racked up many hits by Roy Brown, Annie Laurie and Paul Gayton. Otis Williams & his Charms were signed in the early '50s and came up with big hits like, "Hearts of Stone," "Gumdrops," "Ivory Tory" and "Two Hearts."

Continued to Grow

King continued to grow during the middle '50s and added another name to its line, Federal. Federal Records enjoyed the immediate success of many hits by Billy Ward & the Dominoes which included "Sixty Minute Man," "Have Mercy Baby," "Do Something for Me," etc.

James Brown's first releases were on Federal, including those now on the market. The first thing recorded by Brown was "Please, Please, Please," closely followed by "Try Me, Think," "Prisoner of Love" and others. Of course, in today's market James Brown is the password and leader, so no mention is needed of his current hits.

Hit Big in '50s

Hank Ballard and the Midnighters hit big in the '50s with his Annie series, "Work With Me Annie," "Annie Had A Baby," "Twist," "Teardrops on Your Letter" and "Finger Popping Time." The Twist had its origin with Ballard who both wrote and recorded the original version.

The early King roster included the late, great instrumentalist Earl Bostic who had hit after hit. To name a few, "Flamingo," "Harlem Nocturne," "Sleep" and "Smoke Gets in Your Eyes." Tiny Bradshaw

and his big band gave the label exciting beats in the form of such instrumentals as "Soft," "Ping Pong" and others. Sonny Thompson, all-time top pianist, came to the label with his melody blues and also produced Lula Reed with her gospel stylings of R/B songs. Lulu first hit with "I'll Drown in My Own Tears" which since has become associated with many other artists and is considered a blues standard. Bill Doggett came to King with a wild string of hits and racked up sales records with "Ram Bunk Shush," "Hold It," "Slow Walk," "Moon-dust" and "Honky Tonk," which is now over five million in sales. Little Willie John spent his entire short-lived career on the label and is a legend for his "Talk to Me," "Let Them Talk," "Fever," "Sleep" and others.

It is unusual that part of the original staff that guided the

company to these great successes are still with the label. Hal Neely, President; Jim Wilson, Vice President Sales; Henry Glover, Vice President Publishing; Louie Innis, Director of Creative Services; Johnny Miller, Vice President of Manufacturing; and Roy Emory, Chief of Sales Service.

No King story would be complete without the mention of the Chanters — "Five Little Kisses," "Row, Row Your Boat"; Five Royals—"Dedicated to The One I Love," "Think," "Tell the Truth"; Wynonie Harris—"All She Wants to Do Is Rock," "Blood Shot Eyes," "Good Morning Judge," "Loving Machine"; Little Willie Littlefield—introduced "Kansas City" on Federal Records in the late '50s.

Albert King got his start on the label in 1960 with "Don't Throw Your Love on Me So Strong." Freddy King and Earl

Connelly King were on a King. The Bethlehem jazz series featured Eddie Vinson, Eddie "Lockjaw" Davis and Nina Simone. Miss Simone first got her start with "I Love You Porgy."

In 1968, Hal Neely once again took over direction of King and today the active roster includes James Brown, the Manhattans, Bobby Byrd, Vicki Anderson, Billy Daniels, Arthur Prysock, Redd Foxx, Marva Whitney, Marie "Queenie" Lyons, Pat Lundy, Dan Brantley and Earl Gaines. Most recent additions are Mickey Murray and James Duncan.

Long recognized as a trend-setter in R/B, King operates its own studios in Cincinnati, Nashville and Macon. The R & B production assignments are varied with James Brown producing himself as well as other artists for the label. Bobby Smith han-

(Continued on page 56)

Stafford Cuts LP

Artist-writer Terry Stafford of "Suspicion" fame is cutting an album for music production firm Don Perry Enterprises, Inc. Stafford and Perry are co-producing, Bob Summers arranging.

Estes Signed

LOS ANGELES — Nocturne Records, which originally initiated the popular "Jazz in Hollywood" series early in 1954, is soon to release the Gene Estes Band in an album entitled "Westful" to re-open the line.

Estes, who is both an accomplished drummer and vibist has been doing it in good company for a long time, with such people as Paul Horn, Harry Babasin, Louie Bellson, Herb Ellis, Barney Kessel and Jack Teagarden.

He was on staff at both ABC and NBC.

He had a trio with John Pisano and Chuck Berghofer; and, of course, been featured on records (e.g. World Percussion, Jazz at the Summit), TV and Motion Pictures.

In 1965 he formed the big band, which is being presented in this album.

Friedman Awarded

An animated film spot, composed and scored by Gary William Friedman, composer of the off-Broadway production "The Me Nobody Knows," received an award at the Cannes Film Fest.

THE BEST IS ON
NASHBORO

A-BET

CREED

nasco

excello

NASHBORO

1011 Woodland Street
Nashville, Tennessee
37206