

Rod 'n Records



While in Chicago for a concert, Rod Stewart, second from left, stopped by Downtown Records on Rush Street researching material to be included on his next Mercury album. With Rod, from left, are Sandi Ambross, co-manager of Downtown Records, Mike Gormley, Director of Publicity for Phonogram/Mercury, and Phyllis Gallegos, co-manager.

Harrison & Tyler To 20th Century

■ LOS ANGELES — Harrison & Tyler have been signed to 20th Century Records, Russ Regan, President of the label announced. The woman comedy team, noted for their liberated woman attitude, will be spotlighted by the label at a radio and dealer gathering at the Troubadour in Los Angeles, May 22 and 23. Their first album, "Wonder Women," is scheduled for immediate release.

Beatle Gold

■ LOS ANGELES — The new Apple Records anthology albums, "The Beatles/1962-1966" and "The Beatles/1967-1970," have been certified million dollar sellers by the RIAA.

The Coast

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Kottke, beginning May 18 in Long Island and concluding June 17 in Denver; Seals & Crofts, beginning the 17th and including two Carnegie Hall nights, the 22nd and 23rd; Harry Belafonte, starting the 31st and ending with a week's stand at Universal's Ampitheatre here in August, and Savoy Brown, with 21 cities scheduled through June 30. Belafonte and Savoy Brown will also have new albums out soon . . . Steely Dan are finishing their new one here . . . And Bonnie Bramlett will probably have a tour to promote hers in July . . . Moving: John Stanton, Capitol marketing biggie, to Atlanta . . . Also, 46 of the 150 servicemen stationed at Camp David, transferred following someone's discovery that they were smoking something funny . . . Led Zeppelin offed the Beatles' record in Atlanta. They sold 4,000 more tickets than their predecessors had, we're told . . . Sports news: 20 teams are confirmed for the first annual Canned Heat Bowling Tournament here May 14. They include: Ten Years After, Steeleye Span and one being whimsically referred to as the Rock of Agents . . . The Checkmates have begun recording their first for Buffalo Records here, with Paul Rothchild and Sonny Charles producing. Arthur Lee, meanwhile, has finished mixing Love's lp for the same label . . . Sonny Rollins has been set to open the Newport Jazz Festival-West, June 17 at the Hollywood Bowl . . . FYI: "Garden Party" has gone gold in South Africa.

Shepherd To King Promo Post

■ NASHVILLE — Hal Neely, President of the Starday-King Music Complex, has announced the appointment of Mike Shepherd to head up the group's national pop promotion. Shepherd will be based in Nashville.

Shepherd served in similar positions with Monument Records and Barnaby Records.

O'Loughlin to Marks Music

■ NEW YORK — James O'Loughlin has joined Marks Music's professional department, Joseph Auslander, President has announced.

Weissberg to WB

■ NEW YORK—Warner Bros. Records has announced the signing of Eric Weissberg to a long-term recording contract. Weissberg already has a gold record with the label for his "Dueling Banjos" from the movie "Deliverance."

Cooper Sells Out

■ NEW YORK—An unbroken string of 20 consecutive sell-outs featured the second month of the all-time high grossing Alice Cooper "Billion Dollar Babies," tour, known as "America 1973." The 20 dates during the middle (April) phase of the tour drew a grand total of \$1,742,000 gross.

Dialogue

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And I wanted to stay in New York, so I could never really find something that had the same kind of kinky challenge that we had when we first started at WMCA, because we took it from MOR to Top 40, and there were already three other rockers on the market when we did it. So, it was a challenge and it was an exciting thing and I was waiting for something different enough with the same kind of excitement, and that's why, I guess, I really got more excited about this than I would have, probably, about anything else.

RW: How did it feel to come back to a country format, something that New York hadn't had previously?

Meyer: Well, I think it's easier to make the transition from rock to country than it is from say, MOR to country—you know, in your head—because rock and country are similar in so many ways. But I think our timing is just perfect with country. I think the world is kind of looking around for something new to interest them musically. It went from Rock into sort of acid and a lot of the stuff the FM's are doing now and I think there's a kind of boredom setting in with music and people are kind of looking for a new expression. And the country timing is just so right and the way country has changed into the kind of sound that we have now is exciting and much, much more urban than it was before. So I think you are going to find a lot more of the major markets going country, successfully and mixing the idiom of country and urban life with a great deal more ease than might have been possible a few years ago.

RW: You were saying before that you felt there was still some problems for women in broadcasting or in the program area. Is there anything that's opening up as far as women are concerned?

Meyer: Well, I think basically, the problem in terms of women Program Directors is that management has a certain amount of difficulty dealing with so called temperamental air personalities and the resistance to a woman being boss of these guys was because they felt that it was just sort of adding additional problems and women tend not to be able to handle volatile men, in great numbers at least, in a business environment. So the resistance, I think, is not particularly to women executives in radio, but it's primarily in having women deal with difficult men. The idea being that women are difficult, I suppose. I must say women's lib, notwithstanding, I don't think women particularly, generally speaking, make very good Program Directors.

RW: How about on the air personalities?

Meyer: There is a problem, I think, in this country because the people aren't, oh, they haven't heard enough women on the air, to make them believable. So, it's difficult for women to sell on the air, I think. Partly because of the way they see themselves. They're either terribly, terribly feminine and direct themselves primarily to women or they're so aggressive and strong on the air that they tend to make people react negatively to them. But I think it'll smooth out eventually. You know, in Europe, they've used them always.

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Juke Box Gathering



In celebration of nostalgia, Wurlitzer introduced a new Model 1050 Jukebox fashioned after the vintage phonographs of the late '30s and mid '40s. Part of the gallery of stars who came to Wurlitzer's Jukebox Introduction at The Plaza in New York City, (from left) are A. D. Palmer, advertising and sales promotion manager of The Wurlitzer Company; Tommy Tucker, first recording artist to sell a million records; Bob Austin, Publisher of Record World who arranged the gathering; Lionel Hampton; Teresa Brewer; Amile A. Addy, Vice-President and general manager of Wurlitzer's North Tonawanda Division; Sammy Kaye and Count Basie.