

## Capitol Sues Grand Funk

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Last week, Grand Funk announced its intention to fulfill its remaining obligations to Capitol by delivering a two-lp "live" album consisting of songs all of which the group had already recorded for Capitol at least once and had released once, twice, or even three times in earlier Capitol albums.

In its lawsuit, which was instituted against both Grand Funk and MCA Records on June 13, 1975, Capitol maintains that it has the right to suspend the term of its contract with Grand Funk until Grand Funk fulfills its obligation to deliver two lps of new material: that is, musical compositions not previously recorded for Capitol.

## Chess/Janus Shifts

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GRT Music Tapes will assume the sales and accounting functions of Chess/Janus Records but will not change their basic record distribution policies. Chess/Janus will continue exclusive distribution arrangements with independent record wholesalers and GRT Music Tapes will continue to market all tape lines on a non-exclusive basis.

### History

GRT acquired the Chess labels from Leonard and Phil Chess in 1968. Janus Records was formed as a joint venture with Pye Records of England a year later. In 1971 GRT purchased Pye's interest in Janus and consolidated both Chess and Janus into one company. Chess/Janus will continue to distribute Barnaby Records, owned by singer Andy Williams, BTM Records, owned by British Talent Management and certain Westbound lps by Ohio Players and Funkadelic, in addition to the artists under contract to the Chess/Janus labels.

### 'Open Door'

DeJoy and Mason plan an "open door" a&r policy and can be contacted at 8776 Sunset Boulevard in Los Angeles, phone: (213) 659-6444.

## UA Promotes Licata

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Licata was most recently vice president, sales, for United Artists. In his new post the United Artists promotion and creative services departments will now report to Licata, as well as the UA merchandising, production and artist development departments.

### Background

Licata was previously president of Blue Thumb Records; he was

## Epic Signs Spanky & Our Gang



Spanky & Our Gang have signed a long-term contract with Epic Records. The Gang has completed the recording of their first album under the production of Chip Young at Youngun Studios in Murfreesboro, Tennessee. Pictured at the signing fete are, from left (seated): Steve Popovich, vice president, a&r, Epic Records; Spanky McFarlane; and Chip Young; (standing): drummer Jim Moon; Al Warbucks, personal manager of Spanky & Our Gang; steel guitarist Marc McClure; Bonnie Garner, a&r coordinator, CBS Records, Nashville; bass player Bill Plummer; session musician Bobby Woods; and guitarist Nigel Pickering.

with Blue Thumb for four years, beginning as national sales and general manager, and progressing to vice president and general manager to president.

Prior to his tenure at Blue Thumb, Licata was with Tower Records, a subsidiary of Capitol, for five years, where he was assistant national sales manager in charge of Tower's east coast office; he was initially Tower's east coast regional sales and promotion manager. Prior to that he did independent promotion in Cleveland, was with Big Top Records in New York and, at the very beginning of his career, did local promotion for Cosnat Distributing in Cleveland.

Licata is headquartered at United Artists' offices in Los Angeles.

## Stephen Stills Tours

■ NEW YORK — Stephen Stills' first solo tour in almost two years began June 20-21 with two sold-out performances at Pine Knob, Clarkston, Mich., to be followed by Tanglewood on June 28 and the Saratoga Arts Festival on June 29.

### Album Release

The tour, which will continue through August 4 at HIC in Honolulu, coincides with Columbia's release of "Stills," his first album since Manassas' "Down The Road" was released in 1973.

### Back-up

Stills will be backed by Donnie Dacus (guitar), Joe Lala (congas), Jerry Aiello (organ), George Perry (bass), Ronald Ziegler (drums) and Rick Roberts (guitar).

In September, Stills will return to Miami to record another album set for release October 1, to be followed by a tour of colleges in November.

## Proffer Leaves UA

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work with UA acts.

### Contact

Proffer may be reached c/o David Berman, his attorney, at Mitchell, Silberberg and Knupp in Los Angeles (213) 553-5000, or his home (213) 274-5854.

## Dialogue (Continued from page 27)

The majority of the members are executives; then there are a few ground types anxious to get in and we have others with affiliations on the periphery of the record business in other media. But primarily we are record-business oriented.

**RW:** How does your scholarship program at FORE-PACE-work?

**Tyrrell:** We get a selection of candidates from the New York City high schools as we have a correspondence ongoing with the Chancellor of the Board of Education. We have our own selection board and we interview each applicant.

The purpose of the scholarship program is one of "access" made easier. Access to business is difficult for blacks only in that they don't know very much about what goes on inside those hallowed halls. No one they know has ever been in there. It's like "How do you feel when you're dead?" You don't know anyone who's ever been there to tell you.

But you can pick up a lot by osmosis if the opportunity is presented to you. We're attempting to deal with that situation.

**RW:** How effective do you think FORE has been?

**Tyrrell:** We have successfully dealt with employment situations, and have become intimately involved in several. We've also on occasion helped people out legally. We do not necessarily have to act legally in all of those situations, but we do where we feel that will be effective.

The most help that the organization has been able to provide to the greatest number takes place via our seminar programs where we expand the horizons of everybody, so that they can become aware of the great number of things going on in the business that they otherwise would know nothing about. The panels we've put together have been outstanding, including some of the best people in the business. Everyone who gives of their time and expertise comes away having had a truly rewarding experience.

**RW:** What is the outlook for other local FORE chapters developing across the country?

**Tyrrell:** New York at this moment is the first and only solid local chapter. There are loosely gathered groups in Los Angeles and Chicago, but they haven't officially organized as chapters. The problem is finding the leadership talent; ideally I mean motivated leadership. It takes a lot of time and dedication, and takes quite a bit away from your private life. ☺

## Caedmon Taps W. Botsford

■ NEW YORK — Ward Botsford has been named executive producer for Caedmon Records, Inc. He joined Caedmon recently after serving as production director from 1965-1971.

### Background

Botsford's career spans more than 20 years as a producer, director and author of over a dozen books and major aired productions. He served as vice president and repertoire director for VOX Productions, Inc. from 1952-1965. Prior to rejoining Caedmon earlier this year, he was an independent producer of educational radio and television programs.

## Gross Joins UA Music

■ LOS ANGELES—Mike Stewart, chairman of the board, United Artists Music and Records Group and Wally Schuster, vice president, United Artists Music Publishing Group, have announced the appointment of Janet Gross to the post of assistant to the vice president, publishing. Ms. Gross will report directly to Schuster.