

# DE FACTO BAN DEFIANCE

## Platter Giveaways Featured in Auto Dealer-Maker Bally

DETROIT, Aug. 14.—A new type of auto manufacturer-dealer promotional tie-up, with record albums a continuing giveaway feature, is being instituted here by Car Tunes, Inc. According to F. H. Bourke, head of the company, a deal co-sponsored by almost all local car manufacturers, offers automobile dealers two-record albums to be used either as a premium for their customers or such other promotion as they may individually select. Each album will have the car's insignia on outside covers, with front and back liners devoted to pictures, dealer's imprint and text.

The albums will be brought out four times a year, with standard tunes predominating. The initial release, for Lincoln-Mercury, has four sides obtained from Decca, and is due out in the early fall. Subsequent deals with other waxeries, both major and indie, are on the fire.

The price to dealers is said to be the equivalent to that of a good promotion piece, with the additional advantage that the package is virtually certain to be kept instead of thrown away.

## Copas Inks Pact With King, WSM

CHICAGO, Aug. 14.—Lloyd (Cowboy) Copas, whose waxings of *Signed, Sealed and Delivered* and *Tennessee Waltz* are among folk music toppers, this week inked two contracts that are probably the longest in recording and radio history. Copas Hancocked a 10-year paper with his present wax affiliation, King Records, which calls for an increase in his yearly releases and royalties. In addition, he signed a 10-year pact with WSM, Nashville. Continuing the link with King is important, for Copas had been approached by a number of other waxeries for his services.

Copas's new radio schedule calls for him to do a new show, *The Cowboy and the Duke* (6 p.m., CDST), co-starring Whitey Ford, plus an additional 15-minute sponsored shot over WSM and his regular half-hour sponsored shot. Deals were made thru Copas's p. m., Les Hutchens, Nashville.

## Williamson Music Becomes Inactive

NEW YORK, Aug. 14.—Williamson Music, a subsidiary of the Chappell pubbing holdings, this week went into its annual state of inactivity. The firm, which last year reactivated primarily to handle the Rodgers-Hammerstein output, will probably remain shuttered until the composing team completes and puts on the boards their forthcoming *Tales of the South Pacific*. The firm last worked on the team's score for *Allegro*.

Meanwhile, the Williamson plugging corps was split and moved into other of the Chappell holdings. Stan Stanley and Lenny Mysels were shifted into the T. B. Harms firm, while Freddy Beanstock is now in the Crawford Music org.

## Decca Waxes With Musicians On 'No Comment' Basis; RCA, However, Firm on No Flouting

Individual Defy To Spread? AFM Men Available on Q. T.

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tor, however, has indicated to the remainder of the disk industry that it intends to maintain a status quo in the recording ban. In other words, the firm will not record here except with non-union instruments or in other countries in open defiance of the ban. This stand was reiterated (at a recent meeting in Brig. Gen. David Sarnoff's office) by the RCA boss man to representatives of other waxworks. Altho no open expression has been brought forth, observers see in the discrepancy between RCA sentiment and that of other labels a resentment developing by purely record firms against RCA's apparent primary concern for its multifold business—labor problems rather than the record branch proper. The diskers are seen as re-awakening the complaint that RCA's lack of fight is not based on any pro-American musician or pro-labor attitude, but on simple fear for its relations with other unions. Those record firms which must rely on record sales to survive, find it less simple to be patient (so the other diskers see it), hence the separation between RCA and other waxers.

### Decca Plans Defiance

As it stands, an individualized defiance already bids fair to be paced by the Decca waxery. The firm last week cut a pair of sides with warbler Bob Eberly, accompanied by an ork which will receive label credit as the Sunshine Serenaders. It was reliably learned that this date was held in New York with what was described as a "hillbilly" band.

The Decca firm, apparently setting a keynote, maintained a "no comment" attitude as to the union question, with the explanation that it did not intend to make a public issue out of such dates. It's believed that Decca feels it has waited and tried long enough for a break in the ban. With no such break in sight at the moment, the diskery is moving ahead on the thesis that adequate salable coverage of new and rising pop material can be accomplished only with adequate instrumental aid.

### Columbia May Join

Tho it has not committed itself, Columbia Records, Inc., may soon share Decca's "we're recording, not talking" attitude of resistance. Altho Columbia has not conceived a ban-flouting program, it is believed that the firm is looking more kindly on the possibility of using studio musicians to cover itself on new hit material. This, despite the fact that Columbia, like Victor, is a segment of a larger entity involved with other labor unions. Unlike Victor, apparently, Columbia seems more confident of a tangle with AFM and less disturbed about dealings with many other unions. RCA, of course, with its many products and plants, probably deals with some 39 other unions, far more than those with whom the Columbia Broadcasting System (CBS) and CRI must negotiate.

### Cap's Foreign Source

Meanwhile, Capitol Records this week issued a press release heralding the discovery of "an endless source for foreign music" for its transcription subsid. The release states that these platters will be etched by union musicians in foreign countries at a source which was uncovered by Jim Conklin, the diskery's artists and repertoire chieftain.

Other Capitol execs have for the past few weeks indicated that if the necessity would arise to use American tootlers, the firm would go ahead and cut such wax. They also revealed that there are many tootlers who are willing to slice wax.

Meanwhile, ban-flouting practices continue to be employed by Mercury Records via the foreign-cut background route. Altho Mercury execs vow that they can provide invoices to cover every ban-made musical etching made in Europe, trade gossipers have been of the opinion that the diskery has been cutting musical sides over here.

MGM, along with Columbia, has been counting on English-made etchings to fill in on the fast-breaking new-hit material.

It also is well known in the trade that there has been a steady procession of small record company dates from the very day the ban began. A number of the smallies are waxing union tootler sides just as steadily as if there were no ban at all.

From all this individualized defiance, it is probable that a test of the Petrillo ban will result. To date the union has taken no action against tootlers who have recorded. In fact, the AFM has stated that it is not aware of any cases where union tootlers have made recordings. In some legal quarters it is believed that if the AFM takes action against any recording tootler, then Petrillo will, in fact, be admitting that the ban actually is a strike. If this occurs, then diskery legal eagles may be able to force Petrillo's hand via the strike provisions of the Taft-Hartley Act.

## Signature To Release New Red-Black Label

NEW YORK, Aug. 14.—Signature Records next week will inaugurate a new red and black label, the 32,000 series, which will encompass the firm's race, blues and spiritual wax.

The first releases on the new series will include sides by the Sons of Harmony and Georgia Peach and Her Gospel Singers.

The 1,000 series, which formerly contained the label's race line, will now consist solely of hillbilly, Western and country music releases. The label color in this series remains black and gold.

## Carle's Northern Calif. Junket Set

HOLLYWOOD, Aug. 14.—Frankie Carle will take his aggregation on a tour of Northern California prior to swinging eastward on a series of one-nighter and theater stands. Carle and crew will hit the road following a 12-day vacation after closing at Casino Gardens, Ocean Park, Calif. Carle opens in Stockton Friday (20) and follows with dates in Sacramento (21) and Edgewater Ballroom, San Francisco (24-29).

September dates set include 1-7, Lakeside Park, Denver; 10-16, Orpheum Theater, Omaha; 18, Ballroom, St. Joseph, Mo.; 19, Ballroom, Sioux City, Ia.; 21, Ballroom, Oelwein, Ia.; 22, Ballroom, Kaukauna, Wis.; 23-29, Riverside Theater, Milwaukee.

During October the band will play ballrooms in Davenport, Ia., 1; Fruitport, Ill., 2; Peoria, Ill., 3; plus the following theater dates: Palace, Toledo, 7-10; Palace, Youngstown, O., 11-14; Shea's, Buffalo, 15-21.

Carle is still seeking a girl vocalist to replace his daughter, Marjorie Hughes, who will remain in California. In the meantime Carle will bolster his vocal corps featuring Billy Williams, in addition to Gregg Lawrence and Chris Weston.

## Signature Buys Haven Masters

NEW YORK, Aug. 14.—Signature Records this week completed purchase of over 100 masters from the Haven and Lee diskeries. Terms of the purchase were not revealed. Signature plans to issue these newly acquired masters, which are mainly in the race and spiritual field, on its new 32,000 red and black label (see other story this section).

Meanwhile, the Signature diskery this week officially was extricated from its status under Chapter XI of the Chandler Act. The firm was sending out checks in payment of its accrued debts under terms of its agreement with creditors over the week-end.

## Weems, Snyder Ink Co-Operative Deal

CHICAGO, Aug. 14.—Bob Weems, who severed his connection with General Artists Corporation two weeks ago after the booking firm dissolved its short-lived concert department, this week joined with W. Carl Snyder, ex-Frederick Bros. exec, for the past three years engaged in private ice show promotion, in a co-operative partnership deal. Working out of offices at 333 N. Michigan, Weems and Snyder will maintain separate businesses but will co-operate on certain factors.

Weems will concentrate on concert promotions in the Midwest, while Snyder will continue his connections with *Holiday on Ice* and *Ice Vogues*, together with his hotel ice show production chores. Weems and Snyder were previously associated about eight years ago when Snyder was an FB exec in Chi, while Weems had charge of the FB band department here.

Weems will continue his previously announced affiliation with Sid Page and Art Goldsmith, of Chicago, and Pat Hayes, Washington, who are block-booking concert tours on Spike Jones, Jose Iturbi and Fred Waring for the fall and winter season.