

Disk Biz Tax No Chicken Feed

Fiscal Year Excise Total Is \$6,482,798

Vermont Share \$1.06

WASHINGTON, April 1. — Six States had a disk industry doing a wholesale business of more than \$1,000,000 each during the 1949 fiscal year, with New York, Connecticut and California accounting for about five-sixths of the U. S. total, according to a State-by-State breakdown of disk-tax figures compiled by the Bureau of Internal Revenue.

The tax amounts to 10 per cent of the manufacturer's price, so it follows that States paying more than \$100,000 in disk excises did a wholesale business in excess of \$1,000,000.

Of the \$6,482,798 collected in disk taxes during the 1949 fiscal year, New York diskers shelled out \$2,648,172; Connecticut diskers' share was \$1,476,253; while those in California paid out \$1,438,258. The only other States assessed for more than \$100,000 were Illinois (\$469,098), New Jersey (\$165,845), and Ohio (\$159,106).

Eighteen States produced no records at all on which a tax was paid, while another half dozen paid out disk bites of less than \$1,000. The total disk excise bill for Vermont was \$1.06, which indicates that somebody put out about \$10 worth of

Disk Biz Up

WASHINGTON, April 1.—The upswing in the disk trade is finally being reflected in the monthly excise tax figures of the Internal Revenue Bureau. After months of registering declines, the March tax report released this week shows collections of \$581,779—an increase of \$75,754 over March, 1949.

For the first three quarters of the 1950 fiscal year (the fiscal year began last July 1), however, disk tax receipts were off more than a half-million dollars from the same period in the last fiscal year. Receipts amounted to \$3,610,080 as compared with \$4,165,881 for the first nine months of the 1949 fiscal year.

disks during the year ending last July.

States paying disk taxes of more than \$10,000 each—indicating an industry of more than \$100,000 annually — besides those mentioned were: Pennsylvania (\$22,078) Georgia (\$15,730), Kansas (\$16,932), Massachusetts (\$17,508), and Tennessee (\$10,585). Close were Maryland (\$8,060) and Michigan (\$9,460).

The other States which paid disk taxes during the last fiscal year were Alabama (\$35), Arizona (\$4.13); Florida (\$39.31); Indiana (\$7,564); Iowa (\$352); Kentucky (\$6,350); Minnesota (\$708); Missouri (\$2,699); Oklahoma (\$197); Rhode Island (\$240); Texas (\$5,864); Utah (\$564); Virginia (\$7.50); West Virginia (\$110) and Wisconsin (\$975).

King Revamps; Back in Pops

NEW YORK, April 1.—King Records is making its second push in the pop disk field, with plattery Prexy Syd Nathan at the artist and repertoire helm.

The artist roster has been revamped. Al Grant, Carrol Lucas and Leon Merian, nucleus of King's first pop roster, have left. Johnny Long, accordionist Milton Delugg and organist George Wright (who also waxes under the nom-de-disk of "Sister Slocum") remain, and warbler Bob Vincent has been added.

Grant signed a term pact with Columbia Records this week.

Lewis to U. S. For AFM Okay

NEW YORK, April 1.—Vic Lewis, British orkster who has been carving a rep for himself as a transatlantic version of Stan Kenton, is due here Saturday (1) with his manager. Among other things, Lewis hopes to get an audience with American Federation of Musicians' (AFM) Prexy James C. Petrillo to petition for relaxation of the rule against foreign orks playing here.

Lewis has been in communication with Kenton on this subject and, according to a Kenton spokesman, he is going to aid him in his attempt to reach Petrillo.

La Page 1-Nighters To Set Pattern?

NEW YORK, April 1. — Patti Page, Mercury recording thrush, could be setting a new pattern in one-nighter tours when she embarks on a two-week ballroom route this month. The package, which is booked by the General Artists Corporation (GAC), will group the vocalist with an 11 or 12-piece semi-name band. Miss Page will make two appearances on the stand at each date.

The deal is for the thrush to pay for the band, and to receive a guarantee against 60 per cent of the gross. The tour is skedded to get under way Easter week.

MGM, Fada Bankroll Balti. Talent Show

BALTIMORE, April 1.—Stairway to Stardom, jointly sponsored by MGM Records distributor, Gimbel Bros. and the Fada Television Company, made its debut Monday (27) at the Club Charles. The show is intended to seek out local theatrical talent and will run for 13 weeks.

Judges for the initial show were Derry Falligant and Phil Brito, MGM artists. Art Lund will judge the second week's contest and MGM artists will be on succeeding panels.

Among prizes for which contestants compete are MGM disk libraries, TV sets and radio-phonos sets. Top prize will be a trip to New York and an opportunity to audition for an MGM disk contract.

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