

FOLK TALENT & TUNES

By BILL SACHS

Around the Horn

Dub Dickerson (Capitol) has joined with the Five Strings (Columbia) for a tour of Texas night spots during May. . . . Faron Young and the Wilburn Brothers set for May 16-17 at Frank Dailey's Meadowbrook, Cedar Grove, N. J. Due to the amazing grosses chalked by c.&w. names at Meadowbrook in recent months, Dailey is now running 'em two days instead of one and has upped the cover charge from \$1.50 to \$2.

Hank Snow's All-Star Jamboree, underwritten by Hank Snow and Col. Tom Parker, kicked off a three-week tour of Louisiana, Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Virginia, North Carolina and Tennessee at New Orleans May 1. Trek winds up in Chattanooga May 20. Headlined by Snow, the unit includes Faron Young, the Wilburn Brothers, Slim Whitman, Martha Carson, Elvis Presley, the Davis Sisters, Mother Maybelle Carter and the Carter Sisters, Onie Wheeler and Jimmie Rodgers Snow. Troupe is playing auditoriums in the various spots. Colonel Parker, assisted by Tom Diskin, is using radio, TV, newspapers and circus billing to herald the mammoth show. Deejays along the route are also co-operating on the venture.

Preston Temple has taken up the managerial reins for the Louvin Brothers, Ira and Charley. . . . Jimmy Wakely recently flew from Los Angeles to Dallas for two big dates with "Big D Jamboree," but on the medic's orders flew right back to L. A. for a rest without showing. Laryngitis. . . . "Cat and Country Jamboree," held at Northside Coliseum, Fort Worth, May 3, had the Crew Cuts, Sandy Sandifer and band, with Betsy Jones, and a rural segment made up of the Maddox Brothers and Rose; Retta, recently added to the Maddox group; Sonny James, the Belew Twins, Helen Hall, Doug Bragg, Wes Harrison, and John Harper, emcee.

The Blackwoods Brothers' Quartet set for a week at Baptist Temple, Canton, O., beginning May 31. . . . Tragedy forced Texas Bill Strength to cancel several bookings early last week. He made a plane trip to Houston May 1 to attend the funeral of his 19-year-old brother who was killed in an auto wreck two days before. . . . Sunset Rhythm Boys (4), who toured the country with Lash LaRue over a year ago, have returned to Canton, O., to appear at the Golden Arrow nitery. . . . Lefty Frizzell, who Saturday (7) began his 10th week at Town Hall Party, Hollywood, launches a week's tour at Hobbs, N. M., May 16, winding up at Rion's Hillbilly Park, St. Louis, May 22. He heads back to Town Hall from there.

Bonnie Sloan (Columbia) kicks off a country promotion idea at Bostonia Ballroom, San Diego, Calif., May 13, with the dansant planning weekly shows using c.&w. names. Others set to work the spot are Joe and Rose Maphis, Merle Travis, Quincy Snodgrass, Lefty Frizzell, Johnny Bond, Tex Ritter and Freddie Hart, in the order named. . . . Terry Fell (X label) flew from Hollywood to Nashville for a record session Monday (9). . . . Gary Williams, who received considerable publicity for hitchhiking to Meridian, Miss., last year for the Jimmie Rodgers celebration, has been pacted by Capitol Records. He is under the direction of American Corporation, Hollywood, and his music has been assigned to Heart Line Publisher.

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RHYTHM-BLUES NOTES

By BILL SIMON

Herman Lubinsky plans to unveil heavy artillery this month. The Savoy disk mogul has souped up his releases with sides by Nappy Brown and Varetta Dillard, and he has been burning up the phone wires playing these for the trade. Brown, just on the basis of his "Don't Be Angry" smash, is one of the most in-demand artists in the field. The Dillard disk comes out immediately, and the Brown may follow in a couple of weeks.

Gene Barlow, a member of the Crickets group, has cut some more solo sides for Joe Davis' JayDee label. One side is the ballad, "Forever," which is the first tune with both words and music by deejay Alan Freed. Barlow now is under the personal management of Davis.

Speaking of Freed, we've just learned that the now-famous phone book—the one he slams on the afterbeat—is the Bronx directory. It's not true that he uses the Newark, N. J., book for Savoy artists, or the Chicago book for Chess and Checker. . . . It doesn't look as tho Lavern Baker is going to get much rest these next few months. As soon as the "That's All I Need" thrush finishes her tour with the Nat Cole package, she'll join up with the new Roy Hamilton tour. That should be next week.

Carolyn Hayes, the Detroit blues thrush, cut a session last week for the new Castle label. On the date with her were the Four Tops and Maurice King's band. Miss Hayes is managed by Chuck Darwin. . . . Lou Krefitz, manager of the Clovers and other top acts, is in town laying plans for the second edition of his "Big Ten Revue." This year he plans to launch the package in Texas, about September 1.

Okeh Records is out to strengthen its r.&b. roster, via three new signings this week. Artists and repertoire chief Marv Holtzman has inked the former Lionel Hampton thrush, Betty Carter, and also Carmen Taylor, who formerly cut for Mercury, Atlantic and Guiden. Holtzman sees the girl as Okeh's answer to Ruth Brown and Dinah Washington. He also signed Jimmy Scott, former Savoy waxer who has been threatening to break into the star class for several years.

Sax virtuoso Earl Bostic, currently spending four months on the West Coast, has landed a full schedule of college dates. On May 18, he takes his combo into the Black Hawk Cafe, San Francisco, for two weeks, then boards a plane for Anchorage, Alaska, where he'll inhabit the 1042 Club for two more weeks, starting June 8. The club is chartering a plane for the round trip at an expense that almost tops Bostic's guarantee. He is expected to really "cool" things in that Northern town.

Larry Newton has signed up vocalist Buddy Lowe and a new group called the Five Stars. He leaves next week to promote the first Lowe release down South. . . . The Moonglows were in Chicago last week to cut a fresh session for Chess.

'HAYRIDE'

WLW's Unit Set for Cincy Castle Farm

CINCINNATI, May 7.—In a deal consummated this week by the Crosley Broadcasting Corporation in association with General Artists Corporation, WLW's "Midwestern Hayride" will appear each Friday night at Milt Magel's spacious Castle Farm here in a combination show and square dance program, beginning June 3. Due to previous Farm commitments, the show will lay off June 10 and July 8.

All tickets for the combo show will be scaled at \$1, with additional revenue coming from souvenir books and record pitches. Castle Farm can comfortably accommodate 2,500, and with a bit of jamming can stack in 3,000. Bert Somson, Crosley executive vice-president in charge of WLW Promotions, Inc., station's talent division, and Frank Hanshaw, of the local GAC office, will handle show details.

A guest attraction will augment the "Hayride" roster each week, with Pee Wee King and Redd Stewart set for the initial showing. Names tentatively set for succeeding weeks include Eddy Arnold, Hank Snow, Goldie Hill, Jimmie and Johnny and Little Jimmy Dickens, according to Somson.

The regular "Hayride" contingent includes Hugh Cherry, emcee; Bonnie Lou, Mimi Roman, Skeeter Bonn, Rockin' Rudy Hansen, the Hayriders, the Trailhands, the Kentucky Boys, the Ceer Sisters, and Buddy Ross. The program will kick off at 8:30 p.m. with an hour and-half of square dancing. Following a brief intermission there will be another half-hour show, winding up with more dancing until 1 a.m. The Midwesterners, "Hayride" square-dancers, will look after that end of the program.

Crosley officials will herald the combo show with spot announcements on radio and TV plus newspaper ads in the WLW area.

Disk Firms Have New 'Hits' in Mind

NEW YORK, May 7.—Some of the keenest music business competition today is taking place on the plains of Central Park, here, where the issue is hits of a non-musical nature. Most of the companies have again organized soft ball teams and an actual music business league is in the making.

Teams already have been fielded by the American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers, by Columbia Records, Raleigh Records, London, Victor-Groove-"X," Decca-Coral and Decca-54th Street. The hottest team to date in the non-official contests has been Decca-Coral, which has won three straight. Raleigh topped Columbia 8-2, then lost to Decca-Coral 11-10 and 8-7.

Summer Stocking Plan Set by RCA

NEW YORK, May 7.—RCA Victor sales staffers returned this week from distributor junkets laying out the label's summer stocking plan. The program involves dating privileges extended by the diskery to its distributors. The latter are expected to pass on these benefits locally to dealers in their respective territories.

Blake to Observe 20th Year on 'Supertime'

CHICAGO, May 7.—Randy Blake is to celebrate his 20th anniversary with the "Supertime Frolics," heard over Chicago's WJJD each evening. Randy, now deejay on the program for almost all of the 20 years, started out as producer, worked his way up to singer, and then finally took over the show entirely. The show is devoted entirely to country and western music, as was the original formula.

Espey Intros Hi-Fi Line

NEW YORK, May 7.—Espey Manufacturing Company here will begin merchandising a line of high-fidelity components from tuner to changer, matched ensembles, that will be sold for what the firm calls "the lowest prices in the industry."

Called the Golden Ear series, the high-fidelity packages are priced from \$39.95 to \$249.95. The units will feature Norelco speakers made by Philips of the Netherlands, custom cabinets, baffles, a V-M changer, and tuners and amplifiers by Espey.

According to Mike Muckley, sales manager, "this is the way the consumer wants high fidelity. The mystery is taken out, the packages are complete and the price is right."

Display stands that tell the Golden Ear story will be made available for in-store merchandising. Ten-page, two-color catalogs for dealers and customers are also being made available.

Ekko Records Incorporates

HOLLYWOOD, May 7.—Ekko Records, headed by Richard Hall, has incorporated for \$200,000 in line with a program calling for widespread expansion of the firm's operations.

Organized in the early part of 1954 by Hall, a writer at CBS and Warner Bros., the company plans on adding to its existing talent roster in addition to opening new distribution outlets.

Ed Bloodworth, for the past 12 years production and editorial supervisor of the CBS radio program, "The Whistler," has joined the company as a vice-president.

Prosen Launches Big Records Firm

NEW YORK, May 7.—Music publisher Sid Prosen, head of Village Music and Hometown Music, has entered the record field with a label titled Big Records. First sides have already been cut. These include "Coo, Coo, Coo" backed with "Call Me Darling, My Darling," by the Voices Three. Also in the first release is "The Horse and Carriage Ran Away" backed with "Sitting Alone," cut by vocalist Georgia Carr.

For the present, Big Records will operate in the pop field, according to Prosen, who claims he has some 20 sides in the can and six artists under contract.

Hampton Pays Token Fine in 'Breach' Case

HARTFORD, Conn., May 7.—Band leader Lionel Hampton has been ordered to pay \$25 damages for breach of contract.

The Citizens Committee of the North End, a non-profit organization serving a community center, had sued Hampton for \$3,000 for failing to appear at a benefit concert some 18 months ago. Hampton played, instead, at the downtown State Theater.

Common Pleas Court Judge John C. Fitzgerald awarded the lesser amount because he said many intangible factors were involved.

Name Bands Booked By Pleasure Beach

BRIDGEPORT, Conn., May 7.—Pleasure Beach Ballroom here, at the municipally operated amusement park, will open for the season May 22 with the same policy of name bands on Sundays and territorial bands during the week.

Ralph Flanagan is booked for May 22, Charles Barnet May 29, Woody Herman June 5, Tex Beneke June 12, Bill Haley's Comets and Ed Grady's Commanders June 19, Charles Spivak June 26, the Dorsey Brothers July 3, Richard Maltby July 10, Sauter-Finegan July 17, Les Brown July 24, Stan Kenton August 14, and Ralph Marterie ending the season August 28.

VINYL SUPPLY

Floors and Beer Hold Up Platters

NEW YORK, May 7.—Beer and floors, not necessarily in that order, are affecting production of LP and EP records.

The Bakelite Company, which supplies the bulk of the vinyl used by the disk industry, has experienced peak demand from producers of plastic flooring and beer cans, both of which use the same vinyl resin that goes into records. In the case of the beer cans the vinyl is used in the lining.

As a result, the vinyl supplier has been forced to back order shipments to record manufacturers a week or more for several weeks. However, a Bakelite spokesman said that deliveries, should be back to normal in June.

Three Connecticut Concert Groups Hit In Contract Suit

BRIDGEPORT, Conn., May 7.—The Wednesday Afternoon Music Club of this city, The Community Concert Association of New Canaan are named as "agents, trustees and debtors" of Columbia Artists Management, Inc., which is defendant in a \$75,000 breach-of-contract suit brought by Robert H. Ferguson in Superior Court here.

Ferguson alleges that he signed a contract with Columbia Artists in July, 1952, to cover the period of January 1, 1953 to December 31, 1957. But on November 15, 1954 he was discharged, according to writ. No further details are given.

The \$75,000 attachment on Columbia Artists brought the three organizations into the suit. The writ says that they "have concealed in their hands the goods, effects and estate of said defendant (Columbia) and are indebted to it."

Astor Roof Books Monroe and Hefti

NEW YORK, May 7.—Vaughn Monroe and Neal Hefti's band have been booked into the Astor Roof here for a four-week engagement starting May 25. The date is the first set under the management of the Sheraton Hotel chain, and virtually the first time in 17 years that the room has been booked by any other agency but the Music Corporation of America.

Monroe and Hefti were both booked thru Willard Alexander. Following the Astor date, Alexander has set a one-nighter dance tour thru New York, Ohio and Pennsylvania for Hefti and the McGuire Sisters starting July 2 thru 17. Meanwhile, the band is playing a series of college dates, including Cornell and Penn State. Monroe, who goes into the Astor as a single, just finished a two-week date at the Riverside Hotel, Reno, Nev., and before that a five-week run at the Sahara in Las Vegas, Nev., and a four-week engagement at the Fontainebleau, Miami Beach.

M-G-M to Release 'Melody' Albums

NEW YORK, May 7.—M-G-M has finally cleared the way to release its sound track album of the new M-G-M movie "Interrupted Melody," and the package will be on the market the last week in May.

The movie is based on the life of paralytic opera singer Marjorie Lawrence, with Eleanor Parker playing her on the screen and Eileen Farrell dubbing in the vocal selections. All three ladies will be given credit on the album, which will be released as a 12-inch at \$4.98 and a \$4.98 three-pocket EP, marking the third such three-pocket EP package for the label.

Since most of the sound track is in the classical vein, M-G-M for the first time will make a drive to get plays over classical record programs aired by FM stations in and around New York.