

FOLK TALENT & TUNES

By BILL SACHS

Around the Horn

Gabe Tucker, personal manager to Ernest and Justin Tubb, has just closed a deal with Station WSM, Nashville, for Justin Tubb to appear as a regular on "Grand Ole Opry" just as soon as he plays out the dates that Tucker has booked for him. Justin's debut with the "Opry" is slated for September 10, when he will appear as special guest on the Prince Albert portion of the "Opry," which goes out over the NBC network. Tucker says he has Justin booked solidly until early September.

On the basis of the overwhelming success enjoyed by the WLW "Midwestern Hayride" on the first of its weekly show-dance appearances at Castle Farm, Cincinnati, June 3, Bert Somson, WLW talent chief, is mulling plans for a second "Hayride" unit to play Midwestern and Eastern ballrooms thru General Artists Corporation. "Hayride" attracted 2,800 payees at \$1 per head at its initial Castle Farm showing, with more than 400 turned away.

Tex Clark is emceeing a new television show over WICA, Ashtabula, O., each Wednesday night at 8:30. Billed as "Smoky Mountain Jamboree," the seg comprises Smokey Joe, Tennessee Lee, Dottie Jenkins and Louis Brazil. Meantime, Clark continues his country jockey role at WEOL, Elyria, O. . . . Jim Trippe, WMSL and WMSL-TV, Decatur, Ala., has taken over the booking chores for Arnold Morgan and his boys. . . . Ken Smith, until recently with WLW Promotions, Inc., visited the "Grand Ole Opry" Tent Show at Jamestown, N. Y., early last week and joined the show as publicity and promotion man.

Slim Miller, the Coon Creek Girls and "Scrubboard" Wallace, of the Renfro Valley Folks at Mount Vernon, Ky., have been working drive-ins thru Indiana, Kentucky and Ohio for the Gus Sun Agency, Springfield, O. On May 26, the group was a feature of the Mountain Laurel Festival at Pineville, Ky. . . . Blackwood Brothers' Quartet, appearing on a six-day revival at Baptist Temple, Canton, O., May 31-June 5, played to nearly 2,000 nightly, with Saturday (4) a turnaway. . . . Ernest Tubb, Carl Smith, Faron Young and Marty Robbins were photographed for a national magazine while playing a foursome at the Richland Golf Course, Nashville, recently.

Hank Snow's latest on the RCA Victor label is "Wishing, Waiting, Hoping, Praying." . . . Melvin Price and His Santa Fe Rangers, holding forth each Sunday at New River Ranch, Rising Sun, Md., are filling the remainder of the week on show and dance dates in Maryland, Delaware, Virginia and West Virginia. They also have several Sunday dates set in Pennsylvania parks and late in the summer will work the Washington sector. . . . Jimmy Work, booked up thru September by the Jolly Joyce office, Philadelphia, played last Friday and Saturday (10-11) at Suburban Park, Manlius, N. Y. . . . Carl Story and His Rambling Mountaineers stopped off at Monticello, Ky., June 3 for a visit with Welby Hoover, who spins the c.&w. wax at WFLW there.

The Miller Bros.' Band, under the management of Sam Gibbs, began a three-month tour June 2 at Alamogordo, N. M. They'll wind up the trek at their old club location in Wichita Falls, Tex., September 3. The Miller lads will confine all their radio and TV work to KWFT and KWFT-TV, Wichita Falls, beginning early in September. . . . Phil Long, WARL, Arlington, Va., has again taken his country & western entertainers outdoors for the summer via his "Lawn Party," held Saturdays, 6-8 p.m., in the station's backyard amphitheater. The outdoor move started three years ago, when breakdown of a studio air-conditioner drove Phil and his hillbillies outdoors. The folks are entertained by the area's top c.&w. bands and talent, while their appetites and thirsts are appeased by the sponsor's free refreshments. The event drew around 2,500 each week.

Casey Tibbs, five times winner of the Rodeo Cowboys' Association's world championship title, will be Red Foley's guest on the June 18 (ABC) telecast of "Ozark Jubilee." . . . Wally Yee, owner of Island Amusements, has signed to supply the western show at the 49th State Fair, July 1-9, to be sponsored by the Honolulu Junior

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RHYTHM-BLUES NOTES

By BILL SIMON

Savoy Records, according to the label's dynamic mentor, Herman Lubinsky, is jumping right into the rising tide of the spiritual business. This week he signed the Wesley's Blind Boys of Mississippi, and a whole batch of other contracts are in the mail. The diskery always has maintained a good position in the field by way of the Ward Sisters and the Davis Sisters.

Phil Rose, who headed up the r.&b. wing at Coral for some time, subsequent to waxing "Wheel of Fortune" and other hits for the late lamented Derby disk works, is the man behind the promising Four Fellows' recording of "Soldier Boy." Rose is now president of the new Glory label, and "Soldier Boy" is his very first release. The song, incidentally, was around for years with no takers—a common story in this business. Glory has signed Betty McLaurin, the "Wheel of Fortune" girl, who is managed by Rose, and who was with him at both Derby and Coral.

In another story in this department, we've reported the return of Keynote Records and Eric Bernay to active status. It may be recalled that back in 1946 and '47, this label created a load of excitement (and business) with the first important solo waxings by Dinah Washington, who up until that time had been Lionel Hampton's vocalist.

The Charioteers, long-established vocal group, have signed with Jubilee and cut their first wax last week with the support and arrangements of Sid Bass. Bass has developed into one of the top group arrangers. He writes and conducts for the Orioles, the Four Tunes, the Dominoes, the Smith Brothers, the Collegians and the Metrotones, among others.

Howard E. Taylor is general manager of a new Philadelphia music publishing firm called Rock 'n' Roll Music Company. . . . George Woods, Philly deejay on WHAT, brings the second edition of his "Rock 'n' Roll" show into the Philadelphia Arena June 24. . . . WBUD, Trenton, N. J., has upped its wattage to 5,000. George Bannister, r.&b. broadcaster, just celebrated his fifth anniversary on the station. . . . Joe Martin, of KNOK, Fort Worth, reports that the outlet is in its 20th month of full time r.&b. operation, and the entire staff is having a genuine ball. And it's paying off.

GOODMAN PIC

Release of Sound Track Set Unlikely

HOLLYWOOD, June 11.—With Universal-International, the Decca Records film studio subsidiary, currently starting production of one of its biggest musical efforts ever in "The Benny Goodman Story," little chance was seen for the release of a sound-track album from the film.

Film studio this week continued signing top music biz names to play themselves in the picture, among them maestros Harry James, Teddy Wilson and Lionel Hampton. Drummer Gene Krupa was inked two weeks ago, with comic Steve Allen set to play Goodman in the biopic.

Goodman himself, a Capitol Records pactee, will record parts of the sound track. Other music names in the film all record for competing labels. With Goodman under contract to Capitol, it seemed likely that they stood the best, possible chance of snagging film rights, assuming that permission to use the other names could be granted.

Decca's sound track album from the U-I "Glenn Miller" biopic had strong competition from RCA Victor's album because of the original Miller masters in the Victor catalog.

WAAF, Jocks Go Pubserv

CHICAGO, June 11.—Radio Station WAAF and two of its disk jockeys, Vince Garrity and Sig Sakowicz, played an important part in a spectacular holdup staged yesterday (10) in the office next door to the station.

Sakowicz on his way to work noticed the robbery in progress. He rushed into the studios where Garrity was on the air and informed him of the robbery. Garrity told his listeners to call the police. He also asked the robbers to give themselves up because the radio was on in the office being robbed. However, the two gunmen fled before the police showed up. All in all, 400 calls to the police were counted by the phone company. One phone official said more would have been made but most of the listeners thought the whole thing was a gag. The gunmen made off with \$5,000 stolen from more than 35 persons and the insurance company's vault.

Star Maid Setting Up Distribution for R.&B.

CHICAGO, June 11.—Star Maid Records here has begun a tour to set up distribution for the label. The label formerly handled only country and western tunes, but recently began issuing rhythm and blues numbers. Current c.&w. release is by Curly Allan, "Picking Wild Flowers" and the current r.&b. release is by Jimmy Petty, "I Wonder."

The firm has named Dave Clarke, a veteran of 20 years in the business, to handle the r.&b. promotion. Clark just returned from a promotion tour thru Cincinnati, St. Louis and Chicago, and will continue on to Atlanta, Birmingham, and New Orleans as well as other Southern cities. Distributions already been set in Chicago, St. Louis and Cincinnati.

BUCKSKIN DITTY FOR WEE GALS

NEW YORK, June 11.—In a move to tailor a buckskin ditty that will have as much appeal for the fem smallfry as Davy Crockett has for little boys, Muller Music is publishing a song tagged "Annie Oakley."

M-G-M Records is bringing out a waxing of the tune by Pat O'Day in a couple of weeks. Meanwhile, Miller is trying to set up a promotional tie-up with the Annie Oakley TV film series.

MISS JUKE BOX DOUBLE PUSH

CANTON, O., June 11.—Radio station WAND, here, and the local juke box operators' association have tied in on a joint promotion to plug the first RCA Victor waxing by Sonny Graham, named Miss Juke Box of 1955 at the Music Operators of America convention recently.

WAND deejay Bill Bennett, in conjunction with the Juke Box Dealers Association of Stark County, Ohio, selected one side of the disk, "I Didn't See Me," as Hit Tune of the Month. As such it is getting concentrated plugs on the air, and special title strips on county phonographs call attention to the promotion.

Bernay Revives Keynote Label

NEW YORK, June 11.—Keynote Records, one of the oldest indie labels, is being reactivated by Eric Bernay after a seven-year hiatus. Harry Lim, who handled jazz artists and repertoire for the label in the mid-1940's will be in charge of general a.&c. in this renewed phase. The first LP release has been scheduled for July 1.

Keynote was formed originally in 1937 as an appendage to Bernay's The Music Room, a midtown retail operation specializing in folk music, jazz and children's wax. The label introduced to disks such names as Norman Corwin, Lee J. Cobb, Josh White and many others. In 1945 the label went all out on jazz and r.&b. and came up with several big disks by Dinah Washington and Lester Young. Eventually, in 1948, Bernay sold all the masters to Mercury Records, on whose board he served for the next three years.

During the last few years Bernay has been active in artist management, acting as p.m. for Dorothy Dandridge, Robert Clary, Charlotte Rae, Marilyn Cantor and Sylvia Simms. He has divested himself of these interest to devote full time to Keynote.

Bernay sold The Music Room last year to Sam Goody.

Jubilee Signs Excl. Pacts With Artists

NEW YORK, June 11.—Jubilee Records, in the throes of an expanding album program, has signed exclusive contracts with most of the artists now represented in the line.

The latest signings, according to Jubilee topper Jerry Blaine, include Monica Lewis, Polly Bergen and Jerome Courtland—all vocalists—and three Dixieland jazz groups: Conrad Janis, the Spring Street Stompers and the Salt City Five.

Blue Note Records Signs New Artists

NEW YORK, June 11.—Blue Note Records, the long-established jazz indie, inked several new artists to exclusive contracts last week. These included the modern pianist Herbie Nichols, guitarist Lou Mecca, trumpeter Kenny Dorham and tenor saxist Hank Mobley. The label also re-signed tenor saxist-composer Gil Melle.

Recent session by the diskery have utilized the George Lewis New Orleans ork. French horn player Julius Watkins and the Horace Silver Quintet, as well as wax by the new artist named above.

Sterns Steps Out Of Starday Picture

HOLLYWOOD, June 11.—Don Pierce and Harold W. Dailey have purchased all interests held by Jack Stearns Jr. in Starday Records and Starrite Publishing Company.

Pierce, president of both companies, disclosed the buy-out here this week. Stearns is expected to continue in the management of artists in the country and western field.

Truck Jocks Back on Job; Waxers Happy

HOLLYWOOD, June 11.—The three-week-old truck strike that has played havoc with the shipment of phonograph records in 11 Western States came to a halt here this week (10). An agreement to end the strike was reached here yesterday by industry officials and representatives of the AFL Teamsters' Union.

Record manufacturers almost immediately canceled interim pressing and shipping procedures which have in some cases almost tripled the cost of shipment of records in the West.

Production schedules were expected to revert to previous plans, with all the majors once again pressing disks in their Coast plants. Disk manufacture had been diverted to Midwest and Eastern plants to circumvent shipping problems encountered here.

During the course of the strike, record manufacturers were forced to use all means of shipping other than out-of-State truck delivery. Disks were shipped by air freight, parcel post and rail, in all cases either substantially adding to the cost of shipment or delaying the shipment of records by as much as 10 days.

London Records Promotes Indies' Disks in England

LONDON, June 11.—The London label, used in England by the Decca Record Company, Ltd., as a vehicle for disks cut in the United States, is shaping up as a clearing house for Stateside indie label hits. An ad running in The New Musical Express last week listed 10 American diskings by nine artists leased from six different diskeries.

These issues parallel U. S. releases on Dot (four), Kapp, Abbott, Imperial, Dootone and Tampa. The Kapp recording of the Sunnysiders' "Hey, Mr. Banjo" actually was leased to London by Mills Music, which recorded the master and sold it to Kapp for the U. S. only.

The other records advertised include Johnny Maddox's "Crazy Otto Medley," the Fontane Sisters' "Hearts of Stone," the De Castros' "Teach Me Tonight," Billy Vaughn's "Melody of Love," Slim Whitman's "Rose Marie" and "Indian Love Call," the Hilltoppers' "Time Waits for No One," the Penguins' "Earth Angel" and the Doo-Ley Sisters' "Ko Ko Mo."

Vox Pop LP's Go to 12-Inch

NEW YORK, June 11.—Vox Records this month will expand its activities in the pop LP package field with the introduction of a 12-inch line. Suggested retail price for the new series is \$3.98.

The first release in this new line will be "Holiday in Italy," recorded by Gianni Monese and his ork in Italy. It will be followed by other "Holiday" sets from Vienna, Paris, etc.

'DAVY,' 'LOVER' FOR HUB POPS

BOSTON, June 11.—The award for the most incongruous programming note this month goes to the Boston Pops Orchestra, which will present two special 100-man arrangements of "Davy Crockett" and "Let Me Go, Lover" Tuesday (14) at Symphony Hall here.

Richard Hayman, who will be guest conductor that night, will also conduct two of his own compositions, "No Strings Attached" and "Carriage Trade."