

ON THE BEAT

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the summer. The island, according to Mathis, has at least 150 niteries, most of them interested in signing pop talent for the summer season. His advice to agents is: "Head for the sand dunes and boardwalks of Wildwood. Lots of fat 10-week contracts are waiting there!"

With the success of the "Purple People Eater," and interest shown in the cute novelty, "Take Me to Your President," it seems we are still on a space kick. This week a couple of new "moon" type disks turned up, including Chris Conner's "Moon Ride," on Atlantic and "Rocket to the Moon," by Lenny Welch on Decca. Miss Connor, especially, has a mighty stylish effort. It's good offbeat material that will probably appeal to a flock of jocks.

Roulette has signed Austin Cromer, former vocalist with the Dizzy Gillespie band, and Sonny Till, former lead of the Orioles. Initial disks are just out for both. . . . Meanwhile, thrush Jeri Southern and Jimmy Rodgers are in for disk sessions with the same

label. The gal will cut an album with guitarist Johnny Smith, while Rodgers is set for singles and albums sessions.

Della Reese and Al Hibbler have both been signed by GAC. Miss Reese has just concluded a stint at the Fontainebleau in Miami Beach. Hibbler has headed for the midwest for appearances following Decca disking dates. Trudy Richards is doing a three-week stint at Le Cupidon, Manhattan nitery. . . . Bob Thiele of Dot, happy about the Coral hits by Jackie Wilson and Buddy Holly, made by him before he left the diskery, promises a gas of a new spiritual album by Clara Ward and her family to be recorded in Town Hall, New York, with a live audience in attendance. . . . Frankie Vaughan, British movie star and cat, whose latest Epic disk is "Judy," has established a scholarship in his name for a "deserving member of the Boys Clubs of America who exhibits real talent as a vocalist." Winner, to be selected from 600,000 American Boys Club members, will tour Britain for three weeks with Vaughan next October, making personal appearances.

New Pattern on P. A. Tours

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urdays and Sundays when the promoters have the best chance of turning out a good crowd. We'll be fairly satisfied if they just break even during the week nights when it might be harder to put over a package. The main advantages are that our nut is lower and we can still keep acts working. And we can put out any number of these smaller units."

Shaw averred that the smaller units are better in other ways. "You send out a big dozen-act group but you still can't charge more than \$3 or \$3.50 tops. But if they see all those acts for say \$3, they're spoiled and they won't feel like paying \$1.75 or \$2 to see

only a few. The bigger the package is, the quicker they get their fill and the longer you have to go in between before you can come back into the same city with another package. The smaller units have plenty of advantages."

Other observers see the situation strictly one of economics. "Loot is just not around these days. So why should we stick our necks way out with a big-budget investment especially with what TV is doing to us?"

Most bookers agreed that next fall might see a resumption of the bigger package tours. Meanwhile, it was certain that a weather eye would be kept on the success or failure of smaller, compact groups with a view toward setting future policy. It was also seen as a possibility that with the market a touchy one, only the disk stars with better acts and performance abilities would get the call to the road. Others would likely have to rise or fall on the "relatively cold and unemotional medium of TV," as another spokesman put it.

AFM Election

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ventions every two years instead of annually. After two and a half hours of debate the delegates agreed to forego their annual conventions, thereby saving the AFM \$400,000 every two years. The convention will be held as planned next year in Seattle, but thereafter will operate on a biennial basis.

Kenin endeared himself to the delegates by discouraging efforts to raise the president's salary from \$20,000 a year to \$35,000. Head of the Portland, Ore., Local 9 for 20 years, Kenin, 56, led a jazz band before he was admitted to the Oregon bar 28 years ago. Under Petrillo's sponsorship he became a member of the parent union's Executive Board in 1943, abandoned his law practice and served as a member of the national committee that negotiated the first unemployment royalty fund in recording industry.

Re-elected to office by AFM delegates last week were Charles L. Bagley, vice-president; Leo Cluesmann, secretary and George V. Clancy, treasurer. E. E. Stokes was elected to fill Kenin's vacancy on the international executive board. Probabilities are that there will be a board session in New York this week.

Diskeries Flock

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tion, Warner Bros. Records, Inc., Carlton Records Corporation and Audio Fidelity Records, Inc.

List of RIAA members, other than the new entrants aforementioned, include the following:

Allied Record Sales, Am-Par, nsonia, Bartok Records, Bethlehem, Book - of - the - Month Club, Cabot, Cadence, Caedmon, Capitol, C-C Clubs, Cherokee Records, Children's Record Guild, Circle Records, Columbia Records, Concord, Cook Laboratories, Decca Records, DeSeymont, Disneyland, Dot Records, Folkways Records, Fraternity, Hickory, Jubilee, Kapp, Life Music, London Records, Magic Mirror Movies, James H. Martin, Mercury Records, MCM Records, Pacific Enterprises, Panart, RCA Victor, Romany Records, Roulette, Russell Records, Shelby Record Manufacturers, Albert B. Smith, Square Dance Associates, Standard Phono Corporation, Star Music and Recording Studio, Storyville Records, Tico, Unique, Thomas J. Valentino, Windsor-Pacific Corporation, Word Records, Zephyr.

FOLK TALENT & TUNES

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Them How." . . . Don Reno and Red Smiley and Their Tennessee Cut-Ups have a new release on the Dot label, "One More Hill" b/w "Banjo Medley." Deejaays who may have been missed may obtain a copy by writing to Don and Red at Box 150, Roanoke, Va.

Among those who dipped into the smorgasbord at the Bit of Sweden's Viking Room, Los Angeles, recently to celebrate the birthday of Nat Nigberg's "Country America" (KABC-TV, Los Angeles), were Mr. and Mrs. Gene Autry, the Rex Allens, Tex Ritter, Johnny Bond, Sheb Wooley, Charlie Williams, Jay Stewart, Tex Williams, Candy Candido, Tony Martinez, Jesse White, Billy Strange, Ray Whitley, Charlie Aldrich, Marty Landau, and Nudie, the Western tailor. "Country America" personnel on hand to keep things running smoothly included director Don Whitman, assistant director Bob Sheldon, emcee Joe Allison, Lefty Frizzell, Freddie Hart, Ginny Jackson, Jerry Wallace, Debby Kay, Betsy Gay, and Bobby Bruce and members of his Hometown Band.

Bill Carlyle and his unit are now working out of John Kelly's World-Famed Attractions, Nashville. . . . Dorothy Wright will appear as guestar on Tex Denton's show and dance at Hinkley, Calif., June 14, with Tom Tall set for that spot June 21, and Betty Luther, June 28. . . . Denver Duke and Jeffery Null introduced their first release on the new Guitar label via an interview on the all-night record show on WJOB, Hammond, Ind., May 31. Jocks may obtain a sample of the new platter, coupling "Bue, Blue, Blue" and "Candle-Lit Cathedral," by writing to Guitar Records, Box 64, Cicero 50, Ill., or Vokes Music, New Kensington, Pa.

Gordon Jennings, of Station WKOY, Bluefield, W. Va., has just had his first release on the Arcade label. Tunes are "Is It Yes or Is It No?" and "I Wonder If You Miss Me, Too." Deejaay samples are available by writing to Arcade Records, 2733 Kensington Avenue, Philadelphia 34. . . . John Stephenson, of Cowtown Records, Avery, Tex., has a new long-playing release carrying "The Truth Hurts" and "I Was Warned" on one side, backed with "Was I Born to Lose?" and "Sweeter Day by Day." Stephenson is offering samples free to deejaays who write in.

The Judy Lynn Show left Nashville last Wednesday (4) for Lincoln, Neb., where on the following day they launched a 53-day tour that will take them thru the Pacific Northwest, winding up July 30. The 10-person unit, booked by John Kelly's World-Famed Attractions, headlines Miss Lynn and features Pat Kelly, rock 'n' roller; Cousin Horsefly, the funny man, and all the Shamrocks. Group is set for a number of major fairs and rodeos. On some of the dates the package will be augmented by Little Jimmy Dickens.

Lester Flatt and Earl Scruggs will be Saturday's (14) special guests on "New Dominion Barn Dance," Richmond, Va., when the show will be aired via the CBS radio network. Carlton Haney, "Dominion" bossman, is bringing in a special guest each Saturday from now on in. Haney has worked a deal with Syd Nathan, of King Records, Cincinnati, to record an album by "New Dominion Barn Dance" talent. Plans are to release

it in the fall in conjunction with the Virginia Folk Music Festival. . . . Bill Monroe has a new Decca platter coupling "Sally-Joe" with "A New Pair of Shoes."

Archie (Hawjaw) Duff is back in Colorado Springs, Colo., where he began his deejaay career, and says that this time he plans to stay. Archie reports that country music is rompin' and stompin' at KPIK, where he mans the tables. "We have 12 hours of country music a day here, and the people have accepted it uncommonly well," typewrites Duff. "Tell the artists to send their new releases. I'll guarantee that their records will get a workin' over."

Smiley Burnette was the top attraction with the World's Championship Rodeo presented at Prichard Park, Prichard, Ala., May 30-June 1, under auspices of the Prichard Lions Club. Burnette's appearance netted him a front-page story in The Mobile (Ala.) Press of May 30. . . . Dean Richards, emcee of WLW's "Midwestern Hayride," Cincinnati, and Tommy Watson, of the Lucky Pennies, "Hayride" features, accompanied by Earl Haput and Bill Querner, of WLW Promotions, Inc., recently visited the Indian Lake resort area, Russells Point, O., to promote the "Hayride" attraction. Agnes and Wilson Davis corraled a group of natives and tossed a whing-ding for the WLW lads at their Cottonwood Lodge.

Jimmy Simpson, the Oilfield Boy of Station KBYR, Anchorage, Alaska, writes under date of June 2: "Little Jimmy Dickens appeared at the Red Barn here, Saturday, May 30, with Whitey Pullen and band and yours truly, and succeeded in pulling a full house. For the occasion, Jimmy aired his "Me and My Big Mouth" for the first time, and the station was swamped with calls from listeners wanting to hear more of it. Looks as tho music is turning back to country music again up this way."

In its first annual poll to determine the favorite country and western artist in Maine, New Hampshire and Massachusetts, Station WWNH, Rochester-Portsmouth, N. H., announced Ernest Tubb as winner. Listeners were asked to vote for their favorite c.&w. star on Jim Aylward's early-morning disk show. To wrap up the 1958 music poll, Aylward presented an hour-long "Salute to Ernest Tubb," featuring some of Tubb's top records over the years. During the salute, Jim phoned Ernest long-distance at his home in Nashville to congratulate him, and listeners got a chance to pop a few questions to him on the air.

KCUL's "Cowtown Hoedown," which appears each Saturday night at the re-decorated Majestic Theater, Fort Worth, moved into its third year June 7. "Cowtown Hoedown" guests next Saturday (14) will be Jim Edward, Maxine and Bonnie Brown, with Bobby Helms and band the gueststars June 21. The veteran Horace Logan is KCUL program director. . . . Dick Carson has left Station

WFMJ and Denver Bill's Ranch Hands in Youngstown, O., and is now appearing with his own combo at Johnnie's Place, Fresno, Calif., nitery which opened May 27.

Perk Williams, formerly with Jimmy Heap and the Melody Masters, has formed his own band billed as the Rainbow Ranch Boys. . . . Bob Cole, heard on Jay Records, appears each Saturday night as emcee-entertainer with "Ole Country Barn Dance" at Denim Springs, La., near Baton Rouge. . . . Al Terry, Hickory artist, is now whirling the country platters at KSLO, Opelousas, La., having recently shifted from KROF, Abbeville, La. His latest Hickory waxing couples "Good Deal, Lucille" with "Because I'm Yours." . . . Huey Meaux, Harry Trahan and the Ramblin' Aces featured at the Super 76 Club, Port Arthur, Tex., with their cajun French and country-style music. Lads appear each Saturday, 4-5 p.m., over KPAC, Port Arthur.

With the Jockeys

After a three-year absence from radio, during which time he took a fling at TV, Al S. Brock has returned to his old deejaay job at Station WTAL, Tallahassee, Fla., to spin country and gospel music. "I'd appreciate all the disks I can get in order to rebuild my recording library," typewrites Brock. He says the field is wide open for that type of music in the Tallahassee sector. . . . Bob Gallion, deejaaying the 6-12 p.m. shift on the new Station WABB, Mobile, Ala., has a new release on the M-G-M label titled "I Miss You."

"Hometown Frolic," c.&w. platter show heard daily on WAAT, Newark, N. J., went off the air recently, due to a decision of the new management. Lyle Reed and Don Larkin, who held the reins on the show the last 12 years, are scouting for other connections. The station now bears the call letters WNTA. . . . Vernon Stewart, c.&w. deejaay on KXJR, Russellville, Ark., has a new release on Razorback Records, coupling "I'm Tired of Making Believe" and "I'll Still Love You." Another new Razorback release ties up "Four-Leaf Clover" with "Why Do I Keep on Crying?" by Bill Parks. Deejaays not on the Razorback mailing list may obtain samples of the above by writing to the firm at 817 Cherry Place, Muskogee, Okla.

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