

# DISCOURSE

FROM THE BILLBOARD SALES DEPARTMENT

A weekly column of lively chatter material on the hottest and most popular recording artists—those "Spotlighted" by Billboard's review staff, as well as those featured by the records in their major Billboard ad promotions.

**COUNT BASIE:** Throughout some 20-odd years, the Basie band has been one of the more enduring and consistently enjoyable musical organizations in jazz. RCA-Camden has a re-issue album, *Basie's Basement*, of exciting Basie jazz-vintage works which features such jazz notables as Jimmy Rushing, Paul Gonsalves and Jo Jones. The album is a collection of favorites recorded in 1947 and 1949. The "Count" from Red Bank, N. J., and his band, are currently at the Apollo in Chicago till Jan. 14. They will do a series of one-nighters from the 15th on, and then head back to Chicago for an engagement at the Blue Note Club starting Jan. 20 and running thru Feb. 14.

**RAY BRYANT:** Ever hear of a four-sided record? Well, there is one. Signature Records has a swinging instrumental titled *Little Susie*, by pianist Ray Bryant. Signature has parts 2 & 4 and in an ad in *The Billboard* this week they wish Ray the best of luck on his move to Columbia Records, where he has cut the same song, parts 1 & 3.

**FREDDY CANNON's** *Way Down Yonder* in New Orleans has climbed way up yonder to the number three spot on the Hot 100 this week, another hit for the young Swan Records artist. Born in Boston, Freddy's initial release, *Tallahassee Lassie*, proved to be a strong seller as well as his second, *Okefenokee*—three hits in a row for the dynamic Cannon. And now, Swan has released his first album, *The Explosive Freddy Cannon*, a collection of his past singles clicks as well as a flock of standards. The album was produced by Frank C. Slay, Jr. and Bob Crewe, composers and producers of many hit songs, and the team that was instrumental in launching Freddy. In April of 1959, Frank and Bob heard Freddy singing at a record hop in Boston and were impressed with his fresh style. They arranged to have him tape a few songs for them the next day, which resulted in *Tallahassee Lassie*, and the Cannon explosion.

The **CHAMPS**, Dave Burges, Dale Norris, Van Norman, Dash Crofts, Jimmy Seals, and Dean Beard, who gave us the million seller, *Tequila*, are on the scene with another powerful potion, *Too Much Tequila*. The group got its name from a Challenge Records mahoff, who thought the boys nothing less than the Champs.

**BIRTHDAYS OF THE WEEK:**  
Jan. 11, Don Cherry, Wilbur De Paris.  
Jan. 12, Ray Price, Tex Ritter.  
Jan. 13, Sophie Tucker.  
Jan. 14, Billy Butterfield, Jack Benny.  
Jan. 15, Gene Krupa, Chuck Berry.  
Jan. 16, Ethel Merman.

**DUANE EDDY:** The twangy guitar of this young artist from Phoenix, Ariz., is with us via Eddy's newest on Jamie, Bonnie Came Back, a rockin' version of the oldie, *My Bonnie Lies Over The Ocean*. His previous hits, *Rebel Rouser* and *Forty Miles Of Bad Road*, are included in his new album, *The Twang's The Thing*.

**EDDIE FISHER** launches his new label, Ramrod Records, with a winning offering that lands right in *The Billboard's* Spotlight Circle. Titles are *Scent of Mystery*, a movie tune in calypso vein done to a mighty smart arrangement, and a cute and happy tune, *The Chase*. Both are from the Michael Todd Jr. motion picture production which adds scent to picture, *Scent of Mystery*. A constant favorite on the entertainment scene, Eddie is now active in the management and a.r.t. area of music with the formation of Ramrod. As well as recording for his own label, he will act as top a.r.t. man and will supervise the recording of other company artists. Fisher's first album, *Eddie Fisher At The Waldorf*, will consist of songs he did in his recent engagement at the hostelry. Much luck to Eddie and Ramrod.

**PEGGY LEE's** seventh album for Capitol, *Latin A La Lee*, has a double-barreled theme: all 12 tunes are from the Broadway musical-comedy catalog, all are spiced with healthy doses of Latin flavoring. These are the first Latin stylings Miss Lee has recorded since her 1948 hit, *Manana*. Peggy began singing at an early age back home in Jameston, N. D., where she was born Norma Egstrom.

**JULIE LONDON's** "soft voice for a smoke-filled room" attracted immediate attention with her first hit, *Cry Me A River*. Liberty Records has released a new version that should win additional fans for Julie. The release of her newest album, *Your Number Please*, brings to nine the total Julie London albums available on Liberty. The newest is a collection of songs made famous by the "Greats" *Love Is Here To Stay*, *One For My Baby*, *When I Fall In Love*, *Learnin' The Blues*, and *Makin' Whoopie* are a few given the London treatment. The young mother of two children, makes her home in a two story Georgian structure with the classic beauty (an apt description of Miss London) of a Southern plantation in Royal Oaks, Calif.

**DEAN MARTIN** is in *The Billboard* Spotlight with his latest single, *Love Me, My Love*, a romantic ballad with a Latin touch. Dean's current schedule calls for appearances in two motion pictures. In Jan, he goes into star role in Paramount's *The Sons of Katy Elder*, a western in which he portrays a two-fisted lawman, and Frank Sinatra's film, *Ocean's 11*. Dean and his pretty wife are celebrating their 10th wedding anniversary.

**MAVIS RIVERS** is a comparatively new voice on the singing scene, and one that has created an enthusiastic response in the Capitol Tower. The result of this excitement is her new album, *Hooray for Love*. The Samoan-born singer has been likened to Ella Fitzgerald, and scored in *Billboard's* recent deejay poll of Most Promising Female Vocalist. As a girl with a gilt-edged voice, she has come up an unusual path to stardom. She sang for the troops who landed on her home island in war time, eventually became New Zealand's favorite singer, won a scholarship at Brigham Young and worked in Hollywood night clubs before she came to the attention of Capitol Records.

To help you spot the ones you need, when you need them, all artist items are carried in strict alphabetical sequence.

**MEREDITH WILLSON,** "The Music Man," was presented with a gold record recently, commemorating the sale of a million original cast albums of *Music Man*—one of the few albums to reach that mark. In addition to the album success, the Broadway show is entering into its 3rd year on Broadway. The composer, flutist, conductor, has held many positions in the field, including musical director for various radio networks. Born in Mason City, Iowa, Mr. Willson chose Gary, Ind., as the locale for his musical.

**FRED WARING** and The Pennsylvanians have come up with all the ingredients for romance in their new album, *The Time, The Place, and The Girl*. The recording contains four three-song medleys, with each medley arranged to carry out the theme. One medley, for example, contains *In The Good Old Summertime*, (the time), *Down By The Old Mill Stream* (the place), and *My Gal Sal* (the girl). A by-word in good music, Mr. Waring and the group will appear at the Civic Aud., San Jose, Calif., Jan. 11; in Medford, Ore., Jan. 12; Public Aud., Portland, Ore., Jan. 13; Coliseum, Spokane, Wash., Jan. 14; Orpheum Aud., Seattle, Jan. 15; and Lake Tahoe, Nev., Harrah's Club, Jan. 18 thru 31.

**PROMOTION DAYS AND WEEKS:** Jan. 15 is Arbor Day in Florida. Jan. 17 is World Religion Day and begins Church and Economic Life Week, Guitar Week, Jaycee Week, National Amateur Printer's Week and National Franklin Thrift Observance begins thru 23—to commemorate the thrift of Benjamin Franklin.

See you in seven spinnin' days.  
**TOM ROLLO.**

## MUSIC AS WRITTEN

### New York

Frank Hanshaw has been named a veepee of General Artists Bureau, a subsidiary of GAC. Pat Lombard, head of the bureau, made the appointment. Hanshaw is in the Miami office of GAC. The Miami GAC office just added Alan Sherwood to the staff. . . . Freddie Ellis, new singer with Coral Records, is being managed by Artie Pine and George Arlotta. . . . Trude Adams will open at the St. Regis in New York on February 11. . . . The Drifters appeared at the Michigan State Fair last week. . . . Monica Zetterlund, Swedish thrush, is set to record for Hanover-Signature. She opens at Baker's Keyboard Lounge in Detroit starting January 12. . . . Nancy Wilson's first album on Capitol will be issued this month. She is managed by John Levy.

World and Republic Music, the Sammy Kaye firms managed by Frank Abramson, will move to the Brill Building about mid-January. "We want to see writers," says Abramson. . . . Chris Connor and George Shearing opened at Basin Street East last week. . . . Buddy Laine and his ork are now on a one-nighter trek thru the Midwest. . . . Don Johnson is now at the Fireside Club in Fort Lauderdale, Fla. . . . Warwick Records recorded comic Henny Youngman last week in person at the Taft Grill in New York. . . . Publicist Mal Braveman is now handling Abbe Lane and Jackie Wilson.

United Artists Records has signed vocalist Frankie Ray. . . . The Art Farmer-Benny Golsen Combo has been held over at Joe Termini's Jazz Gallery in New York's Greenwich Village. J. J. Johnson and his group will alternate with them. . . . Chuck Cabot and his ork are spreading out on one-nighters thru the South. . . . Music for the Blind, the charitable organization, has organized and will market a tour to the 1960 Casals Festival in San Juan, Puerto Rico, in June. . . . Ray Charles and his ork were featured at a concert at the Hollywood Palladium last Sunday (10). . . . Warner Bros. Records will release this week the first record by new artist George Graves, from Washington, D. C.

Dizzy Reese, English trumpeter, opens at the Jazz Gallery in New York this week (12). . . . Carmen McRae opens at the Arpeggio in New York City today (11). . . . Chris Connor and George Shearing will do several weeks of concerts together on the West Coast in March. . . . Barbara McNair opens at the Embers in Indianapolis on Monday (11). . . . Josephine Baker opens her one woman show at the Broadway Theater in New York starting in April. . . . Apollo Records has pacted Bobby Miller and the 5 Royals. First release by Miller and the Royals will be issued this week. . . . Cleffer Otis Blackwell and Investors Planning Corporation adviser Sally Du Pont have formed a talent and management firm. Jerry Vale will open at the Monticello in Framingham, Mass., starting January 18. Bob Rolontz.

### Cincinnati

Mel Herman, bossman of State Records Distributors, again played host to area music tradesters and deejays at his annual New Year's Eve whinding at Comisar's Colony Restaurant in Swifton Village. All local radio stations, save one, were repped at the shindig. Exception was WCPO, which recently put its personnel on an accept-no-favors-pay-your-own basis. . . . The town's top comic, Clarence Loos, long a howling fave with locals and visiting conventioners alike, shows his wares at a special show for General Electric personnel at Lynn, Mass., Tuesday (12). His pianist, Dick Wardell, makes the trip with him. Band leader-booker Barney Rapp set the date. . . . John Gary, currently creating excitement with his new Fraternity release, "When I'm Alone," arrived back in New York last week from a four-week stand in Bermuda. He auditioned Friday (8) for a possible engagement at New York's Blue Angel. Gary is signed to return to Bermuda for another four-weeker in April.

Taft Broadcasting Company's WKRC stations, radio and television, last week began automated broadcasting operations from their new \$2,000,000 headquarters here, and officially celebrated the event Thursday (7) with a cocktail session, buffet supper and entertainment attended by several hundreds trade folk, civic leaders and the press. With complete automated broadcasting, the first in TV, an entire day's programming can be punched into inch-wide tape which controls both sound and picture. Programs are timed by a device which has a maximum error of three seconds in three days. In some studios, performers will appear before cameras which are remotely controlled. Once the tape has been started, it controls eight film projectors, four slide projectors, two record turntables, two cameras and four mikes. The manned cameras are controlled from a master control room.

Don Pierce, Starday Records chief, spent three days here last week mulling record and packaging projects with Syd Nathan and Hal Neeley, King Records nabobs; arranging a new mail-order set-up with Wayne Raney, WCKY c.&w. deejay, and visiting with Jimmy Skinner and Lou Epstein, of Jimmie Skinner's Music Center downtown. . . . Bob Braun, WLW and WLW-T personality and deejay, has been named honorary polio chairman of the March of Dimes for the third consecutive year. As such, he will head up the March-of-Dimes Teen-Age Ball at Topper Ballroom in Music Hall Sunday afternoon, January 17. In the past, the affair has attracted more than 3,000 teen-agers. Local 1, AFM, is donating the services of the Jimmie James ork for the occasion. Also set to appear are the Keynotes, local group, with negotiations now on to bring in a number of top platter names for the occasion. Braun's assistant, Carol Rathman, has been named teen chairman for the event.

Ike Klayman, head of A.&I. Distributing here, phones in to wax gaga over a new tune, "Forever," which the Little Dippers have cut for the University label. Liberty Records

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## THIS WEEK'S NEW Money Records

. . . an alphabetical listing of the records manufacturers are backing with special feature treatment in big-space Billboard ads.

### SINGLES

- BEYOND THE SEA—Bobby Darin . . . . .Atco
- CANDLESTICKS—Zeno Goss . . . . .M.P.I.
- HELL HAVE TO GO—Jim Reeves . . . . .RCA Victor
- LITTLE SUSIE, PARTS 2 & 4—Ray Bryant . . . . .Signature
- SETTIN' THE WOODS ON FIRE—Johnny Burnette . . . . .Liberty
- SOUND OF MUSIC—Patti Page . . . . .Mercury
- THAT'S THE WAY LOVE IS—Bobby Darin . . . . .Atco
- TIL TOMORROW—Four Aces . . . . .Decca
- TRACY'S THEME—Spencer Ross . . . . .Columbia

### ALBUMS

- SARATOGA—Original Cast . . . . .RCA Victor

According to statistics maintained over a period covering thousands of releases . . . 7 out of 10 will reach Billboard's "HOT 100" in the weeks ahead!

Every week . . . disk jockeys all over the nation help spark up their record shows with this fresh, lively material furnished exclusively by The Billboard. Watch for it next week.