

# The Billboard

SIXTY-SIXTH YEAR

JULY 4, 1960

THE AMUSEMENT INDUSTRY'S LEADING NEWSWEEKLY

## Spirited Running in LP Charts Sweeps

Col. Leads Victor at Half-Way Mark; Cap. Third; New Talents Score Hits

By BOB ROLONTZ

NEW YORK—RCA Victor and Columbia Records engaged in a spirited battle for first place in the number of new albums that hit The Billboard's "top LP" charts for the first six months of 1960, with Columbia emerging the winner. Columbia had eight new entries on the best-selling monaural "action album" charts in this period and 14 on the stereo chart for a total of 22; Victor had 11 on the monaural chart and seven on the stereo chart for a total of 18. Capitol followed Victor and Columbia with six new monaural albums on the charts and five new stereo sets for a total of 11.

Victor led with new albums on the monaural chart during the January 1 to June 30 period of 1960 with the total of 11. Columbia was second with eight, and Capitol third with six, with the other firms following in this order: Dot four, M-G-M three, Mercury, Stereodities, Warner Bros. and Coral two each, and Liberty, Decca, Command, Warwick, Kapp, Vista, Atco, Atlantic, Argo, Verve, Cadence, Jamic, Canadian - American, and Rheims, all with one apiece.

Col. Stereo Shines

Columbia was far ahead of every label with new entries in the stereo charts for a total of 14. Victor was second with seven, Capitol third with five, and with the other labels following in this order: London, Dot and Command,

two each, and M-G-M, Atco, Coral, Liberty, Mercury and Kapp, one apiece.

It is interesting to note, on both the monaural and the stereo chart, the number of independent labels that managed to come thru with one or two album hits. A total of 23 firms had hit albums during the first six months of 1960, out of a total of 53 albums that hit the monaural chart. And 13 firms had new albums that hit the stereo chart in the first six months of 1960 out of a total of 39 new LP's on the chart.

Favorites Dominate

Artist-wise, the old favorites continued to dominate the charts, both stereo and monaurally, with new albums. Mitch Miller had all four of the new "Sing Along" sets hit the stereo chart and two made the monaural chart. Johnny Mathis had three albums on the stereo chart. Billy Vaughn had two records on the stereo chart and two on the monaural. Other artists with two records on the stereo chart were Ray Conniff, George Melachrino, and the Kingston Trio, plus the percussion sets under Enoch Light. Artists with two new LP's on the monaural chart were Pete Fountain, Connie Francis, Elvis

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## ARMADA AND CAMEO SUE PLATTA-PAK

PHILADELPHIA — The Association of Record Manufacturers and Distributors of America (ARMADA) which expressed so much concern over disk bootlegging during its recent convention, took its first official steps toward doing something about it last week.

Acting for ARMADA, the law firm of Blanc, Steinberg, Balder & Steinbrook filed suit in Philadelphia County Court here — in behalf of Cameo Records' prexy Bernie Lowe — against the Bonus Platta-Pak Company and two Philadelphia distributors on disk counterfeiting and bootlegging charges.

The suit asks for \$50,000, plus an accounting. Penalties asked — under the State of Pennsylvania trade mark laws — include claims of \$10,000 for counterfeiting Cameo's label trade mark, \$25,000 for Cameo's loss of profits as a result of the counterfeiting, and \$15,000 for profits realized by the defendants on the bootleg items.

The distributor defendants named in the suit are Herbert Slotkin, of Slotkin Record Distributing Company, and Jerome Schulman, of Schulman Distributing Company, to whom Bonus Platta-Pak al-

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## Pop Charts Sprout Grass Roots Altho Air Formats Change

C.&W., R.&B. Artists Still Strong; Hard-Core Comeback Foreseen

By JUNE BUNDY

NEW YORK — Despite changes in deejay programming formats — with a view toward new repertoire — the grass roots elements — country and western and rhythm and blues artists — continue to show remarkable strength on the pop charts.

The Billboard's current "Bubbling" chart provides a striking example of the continuing strength of c.&w. and r.&b.-oriented artists in the pop field. All 15 positions are occupied by artists in those categories and several are still mainly active in their original fields. Also at least half of the disks feature material which derives directly from one of the two fields.

C.&w. and c.&w.-based artists on "Bubbling" include Hank Snow, Johnny Cash (represented by two Sun sides and one Columbia), the Browns, pop canary Betty Johnson and the Johnson Family (reverting to her original country-sacred style) and Hank Thompson.

Rhythm and blues-oriented acts on "Bubbling" include Shirley and

Lee, Billy Bland, Little Walter, Five Royales, Jackie Wilson (with two Brunswick sides), Hank Ballard and the Midnighters and Lonnie Sattin.

Hard-Core Comeback

At the same time, many indie labels claim the old hard-core r.&b. and c.&w. disk business is coming back. Whereas three years ago — at the height of the rock and roll trend — the indies were sold on the idea that the rhythm and blues and country and western fields were on the way out as separate entities, today the same labels are anxious to build sales in these categories. Thinking is that the r.&b. and c.&w. disk customer remains a steady disk purchaser thruout recessionary periods, whereas the pop singles customer has recently displayed distressing fickleness sale-wise.

In line with this, several distributors at the recent ABC-Paramount Miami convention requested that Am-Par launch a rhythm and blues label. In spite of generally bad disk sales, the distributors reported decided up-swings on rhythm and blues sales in their areas.

Sales Reported

Syd Nathan, prexy of King Records, also reports a big increase on r.&b. sales of late, as does Atlantic Records; and United Artists is contemplating setting up a new r.&b. singles line. Mercury has also made strong sales inroads in the rhythm and blues field.

In the country and western field, several indies have recently stepped up their c.&w. activities. Liberty

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## C&W Spreads In Pop Soil

NEW YORK — Singles hits by strictly pop disk stars also reflect the influence of country and western these days. The No. 1 record on "The Hot 100," for example, is Connie Francis' "Everybody's Somebody's Fool," a Tin Pan Alley tune, but strongly country in treatment and sound.

Also in the country groove on "The Hot 100" are Anita Bryant's "Paper Roses," Patti Page's "One of Us Will Weep Tonight" and Pat Boone's "Walkin' the Floor Over You" (Ernest Tubbs' old hit).

## NEWS OF THE WEEK

### British Pop Music Getting Sweet; Mills Foreign Exec Sees New Trend . . .

Mills Music, Ltd., general manager disclosed that the British music scene is turning, much as the American market is, to a sweet-with-a-beat pattern. He sees a revitalized interest among English listeners in the ballad, that should prove a wholesome stimulant for sheet music sales. Page 2

### Newport Swings in Five-Day Fete; Wein Presents Top Talent Array . . .

The expanded, five-day Newport Jazz Festival kicked off Thursday (30). Heavy attendance contained strong youth and college representation. A "protest" festival staged in a local hotel by various artists drew only mild interest. This marked the seventh year for the Newport affair. Page 2

### Harris Bill Hits Unexpected Snag; Senate Committee to Hold Hearings . . .

The Harris anti-payola bill, which passed the House last week, ran into a delay of at least a month in the Senate, when the Commerce Committee elected to hold hearings on what it called the stiff fine and suspension clauses in the measure for broadcasters. Some

hope for passage in this session is still held, however. Page 3

### Phono Ties Boost Grand Award-Command Labels' Stereo Sales . . .

Close co-operation with stereo phono manufacturers plays an important role in the sales success of ABC-Paramount subsidiaries, Grand Award and Command, according to Enoch Light, prexy and founder of both labels. Promotional tie-ups, involving the use of Grand Award and Command stereo disks in special demonstration packages, have been set with Magnavox and Motorola. Page 3

### DEPARTMENT AND FEATURES

Amusement Park	Music Pop Charts—
Operation . . . . . 45	Top LP's . . . . . 22
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