

# VOX JOX

By JUNE BUNDY

**CHANGE OF THEME:** Danny Davis of Bit Top Records advises that George (Hound Dog) Lorenz is now syndicating his show to a group of stations throuout the country, including WPOP, Hartford, Conn. Record promoters can reach him at 208 Baitz Avenue, Buffalo, N. Y. . . . Chris Lane, director of operations for Bartell Family Radio, KYA, San Francisco, is accepting audition tapes for the position of morning man at KYA.

Wally Thornton, who uses the name J. Walter Beethoven on the air at KRAK, Stockton-Sacramento, Calif. where he is also program director, has signed a recording contract with Dore Records, a subsidiary of Era. His initial waxing is a recitation of the lyrics of "The Muleskinner Blues." . . . John H. Heetland is new general manager of KIZ, Amarillo, Tex.

Frank (Swingin') Sweeney, ex-WHOT, Youngstown, O., has joined KYW, Cleveland, in the evening time period. . . . New staffer at WERC, Erie, Pa., is Bill Gittler, formerly with WVKO, Columbus, O. . . . Norman Berger has replaced Paul Turner as program director of WKBN and WKBN-TV, Youngstown, O. Turner has moved to the post of assistant TV program director at KPIX, San Francisco.

New program director at WCCO, Minneapolis, is Val Linder, formerly assistant program director for that outlet. He replaces Hank Basayne, who has returned to KCBS, San Francisco. Linder's old post has been filled by WCCO Music director Wally Olson. In his new position, Olson also becomes chairman of the WCCO music committee. . . .

Station WFIL, Philadelphia, has started 24-hour broadcasting six nights a week, marking the first time the station has operated on a round-the-clock schedule, since it went on the air in 1922. The new time period, 12:30-5:30 a.m., will be sponsored by Texaco Dealers Wednesday thru Monday. . . . Bill Keith, KCRC, Enid, Okla., has started a new program, "Night Life," which runs from 6:30 to 8 p.m., Monday thru Friday. The show features music culled from The Billboard's "Hot 100" chart, and reports from local police, fire department, highway patrol and KCRC's radio contact car.

New director of programming and public affairs for KCMO, Kansas City, Mo., is Kenneth W. Heady, who joined the station as an announcer in 1939. . . . Jack Pyle has returned to WRCV, Philadelphia, in the 6-10 a.m. time period, Monday thru Saturday, after a four year absence. The Philly station (which features a "Big Band Music" policy) extended its broadcast schedule to a 24-hour operation, and Tom Reddy is hosting WRCV's new all-night show—12:30-5:30 a.m.

George Tucker, WNTA, Newark, N. J., is originating his daily "Teen Beat" show from Palisades Park, N. J., as of last week. Each hour broadcasts will be staged as a teen-age hop with guest recording artists and local high school students appearing on each program. . . . Bryce Bond, formerly with WNOR, Norfolk, Va., has joined WVOX, New Rochelle, N. Y.

Bob Salter appointed music director at KAYO, Seattle. The news comes to us from free-lance record programmer Bill Gavin, to whom we apologize for describing as a "record promoter" in a recent issue. . . . Bill Miller, formerly with WERE, Cleveland, has joined the New York sales staff of radio-TV station rep Venard, Rintoul and McConnell, Inc.

**(ELEPHANT) EDWARDS:** Tom Edwards, WADC, Akron, who swore he'd not forget the ingrates who dropped him from their disk promotion lists when he left WERE, Cleveland, last year, is keeping his word. He writes: "A personal note to pop song pluggers: Now that I am back in business, some of you are starting to make phone calls and letter contact with me again. Unless you were one of the few people who maintained contact with me while I was out of work, just forget about me and what I can do for you. I am tired of 'phoney friendships' which last only as long as you are able to help out. Save your company's money on phone calls and postage. I don't need you and you got along without me for the past 10 months, so let's keep it that way."

**BOOMERANG FOR WILLIAM B.:** William B. Williams cracked a costly gag recently, when he played one of Mitch Miller's "Sing Along" disks, and sardonically suggested that if any listeners who were driving their cars would "sing along" they could write to Miller and he would send them \$1. More than 200 dialers promptly wrote the Bearded One, and he, in turn, passed the "buck" to Williams, who called off the gag in a hurry. Upshot was that Williams—accidentally or on purpose, via WNEW publicity chief Frank Young—pulled some hefty press notices for the sum of \$212.

**GIMMIX:** Radio Station WINS, New York, is giving away a year's lease on a brand-new Manhattan apartment August 7. Listeners are asked to send in as many keys as they wish to the station. The keys, with senders' names attached, will be spread on the ground in front of the apartment house's rental office and a massive 20-story crane, manned by five blindfolded steeplejacks, will dip into this pile and come up with the winner. Winner may live in the apartment or collect rent.

**THIS 'N' THAT:** Bob (Coffeehead) Larsen, deejay, assistant to the general manager of WRIT, Milwaukee, is one of the most active spinners on and off the air. For example, during the week of June 20 he emceed a preview of the Ford Motor Company's "Show for Suburban Living" at Capitol Court Center on Monday, emceed the Milwaukee Ad Club outing on Tuesday; acted as welcoming host for Variety Clubs at nation-wide premiere of "Story of Ruth" on Wednesday; emceed a show for children at St. Camillus Hospital on Friday and appeared at the Southgate Shopping Center on behalf of the Variety Clubs for a white elephant sale on Saturday. At the same time, of course, he piloted his daily 6-9 a.m. platter program.

## ARTISTS' BIOGRAPHIES FOR JOCKEY PROGRAMMING



### 'One Boy' a Winner For Joanie Sommers

Eighteen-year-old Joanie Sommers hails from Buffalo, where she began her singing career at the age of 10 by appearing on a local TV show. Shortly thereafter she and her family moved to Venice, Calif.

In 1955 the young thrush won honors to become the vocalist with the Venice High School dance band and did it again at Santa Monica City College.

Soon Miss Sommers met band leader and arranger Tommy Oliver who was impressed enough with the vocal talents of the young lady to have her audition with the Warner Bros. a.&r. department.

Miss Sommers, the first new female vocalist to hit the "Hot 100" in a long time, is coming on strong with her debut disk, "One Boy."



### Marchan Scores With 'Something on Mind'

Bobby Marchan was born April 30, 1930, in Youngstown, O. He attended East High School there and received his early vocal training singing in the church choir.

In 1955 Marchan began singing as a solo and recorded a tune called "Chic-A-Wa-Aa." He made the rounds of clubs and theaters until he was persuaded to join "Huey P. Smith and His Clowns." With this group he recorded, "Don't You Just Know It," "Don't You Know Yockomo" and others. Marchan left the Clowns in 1959 to form his own group, the Tick Tocks but early this year he again decided to go it alone.

He recorded "There's Something on Your Mind" for Fire Records, and debut disk for that label is currently hot on the "Hot 100."

## YESTERYEAR'S TOPS—

The nation's top tunes on records as reported in The Billboard

JULY 16, 1955

1. Unchained Melody
2. Rock Around the Clock
3. Cherry Pink and Apple Blossom White
4. Learnin' the Blues
5. A Blossom Fell
6. Something's Gotta Give
7. Honey Babe
8. Hart to Get
9. Ballad of Davy Crockett
10. Dance With Me, Henry

JULY 15, 1950

1. Bewitched
2. Third Man Theme
3. Mona Lisa
4. I Wanna Be Loved
5. Sentimental Me
6. Hoop-Dee-Do
7. My Foolish Heart
8. Count Every Star
9. Tzena, Tzena, Tzena
10. Old Piano Roll Blues

# MUSIC AS WRITTEN

## New York

Apex-Martin Record Sales of Newark, the distributorship headed by Joe Martin, has set up a national sales division. Martin will head up the national branch while Jerry Cohen will handle the Newark firm. The national division is handling the Hob and Choice labels. . . . Jonah Jones is now at the Embers in New York. . . . There will be a Johnny Horton day at Freedomland in New York July 16, as the climax to the teen-age essay contest being sponsored by Columbia Records. . . . Jerry Zuckerman, former national sales manager for Audio Fidelity Records, has assumed the post of product sales manager for Brand Products, Inc. He will be in charge of field sales for Triton magnetic recording tape, and Restorz products.

Ed Talmus, Westminster veepee, is now in Europe concluding contract negotiations for European distribution of the line. . . . The Second Annual Tony Martin Hole-in-One golf contest will be held this year at Concord Golf Course in Kiamesha Lake, N. Y. . . . Buddy Neil, pianist and teacher, who is now associated with the Leone label, became the father of a boy, Thomas Richard, last week. . . . Cannonball Adderly and his combo open at the Surf Club in Baltimore July 12 for a week. . . . The Roundtable in Toledo has booked Kai Winding and his Septet for a week starting August 1. . . . Gene Krupa opens at the Steel Pier in Atlantic City July 22. . . . Erskine Hawkins starts at the Brown Derby in Toronto July 11. . . . Larry Williams is now on tour with a large record package. . . . Sheen label of California is now adding the melody lyrics and the chord selections to the covers of all single records the firm releases in an effort to hype single sales. First releases with lyrics will feature the Deuces Wild with Golly Gee on vocal.

Erroll Garner is set for a stint at George Wein's Storyville in Cape Cod starting July 12. . . . Fred Van Scoyk, head of Mid-Way Enterprises has signed Dick Budd and the Panelites to a personal management pact. . . . Nina Simone opens at the Village Gate in New York on July 11. . . . Casey Anderson, the folk singer, has signed with Elektra Records. . . . Dick Weddell, formerly with RCA Victor, has joined Westminster Records as advertising manager. . . . Salvatore Ingeme has been named promotion manager of Columbia Records Distributors in Boston. . . . Johnny Bienstock has returned to New York after a Midwest promotion tour for Big Top records.

Geoffrey Holder has signed with Mercury Records. . . . Marnel Distributors of Baltimore is now handling the Angle-tone-Atlas line. . . . Carlton Records has signed thrush Penney Parker. . . . Fred Edwards has joined Bud Hellawell's Budd Productions, indie disk promotion man. . . . Wye Records of Warwick, R. I., has released its first disk with the Mark II singing "Night Theme" and "Confusion." . . . Smokey Warren has returned to showbusiness with his brother Shorty and a big band. They are appearing at the Copa Club, in Secaucus, N. J.

Bob Rolontz

## Chicago

Rosalyn Gewarter, formerly secretary to Art Talmadge, when he was v.-p. and a.&r. director with Mercury, has re-joined her here. . . . Sid Epstein, long-time talent agent with the William Morris office locally, moving to the firm's Beverly Hills' branch. . . . The Max Coesterstein's (he's the Chess Products Corporation sales manager) are expecting their second child soon. . . . Ben Baker has shuttered his Baker Distributor outlet in Dallas, indie label outlet, while Bill Schapiro has closed his Sunland Distributor branch in Phoenix. . . . Hal Mooney, Mercury jazz a.&r. director, is readying a jazz album spotlighting the Candoli Brothers, Pete and Conti. . . . Ahmad Jamal just cut a new album for Argo.

## Cincinnati

Smitty Smith and Cecil Suratt, of Bluefield, W. Va., toting their own band with them, marched on the King Records studio here last week to cut a flock of singles and albums, 36 sides in all. . . . Ann Jones and Her Western Sweethearts passed thru town Wednesday (6) en route to Goldsboro, N. C., to play the Air Base there. . . . Little Willie John, currently hot on the charts with "Heartbreak," cut four sides at the King studio Friday (8), with King prexy, Syd Nathan, handling the a.&r. . . . Others occupying the King studio the past week were Harry and Paul Carlson, of Fraternity Records, to cut John Scoggins; the Ralph H. Jones adagency to knock out spots and jingles for Ashland Oil; the Leonard Sive Agency to wax jingles for Kemmer Toys, and Martin Snyder to do a session with Rusty Yorke. . . . Mooney Marthaler, with King Records 11 years, has resigned due to ill health. . . . Al Miller, King sales manager, states that "Finger-Poppin' Time," by Hank Ballard and the Midnighters, is the fastest selling platter King has had since "Honky Tonk," by Bill Doggett.

Ralph de Toledano, chief of the Washington News Bureau for the Taft Broadcasting Company; Harry Mohr, promotion manager of the Taft-owned WTVN-TV, Columbus, O., and Nick Basso, news supervisor of Taft's WKRC-TV here, left for Los Angeles Thursday (7) to cover the Democratic convention for the Taft stations in Columbus, Cincinnati, Knoxville, Birmingham, and Lexington, Ky. Bill Bradshaw, chief photographer for the chain, and Alan Wells, WKRC engineer, rounded out the five-man crew.

Officials of the Sheraton Hotel chain gathered at French Lick, Ind., Tuesday (5) for an emergency meeting to study reports and observations on the riot that sloughed the Newport, R. I., Jazz Festival last week. Purpose of the meeting was to gain assurance from local authorities that they will be able to maintain order at the French Lick Jazz Festival to be held July 29-31. Al Banks, entertainment director for the Sheraton chain, flew in from Boston for the meeting. He stated that the hotel could control the crowds

(Continued on page 36)