HOLLYWOOD

Benny Carter and Brian Wilson have formed new publishing operations. Carter's company is Bege Cee Music, Wilson's firm is New Executive Music. In recent years Carter has left the field, where he'd gained prominence as a saxophonist to compose for film and TV. Wilson is leader of the Beach Boys and a very busy composer.

Herb Monti, of Johnstone-Monti, Inc., leaves Friday (8) for a seven-week European business trip to finalize publishing deals...

Buck Ram and the Platters are in Japan on a personal appearances tour.

Odetta, Judy Collins, Bad and Travis, Ian and Sylvia, "Long Gone" Miles and the Monroe Family will be featured at the Monterey Pop Festival May 30-31. Lou Gottlieb, of the Limeliters, will be on cue, with Mahalia Jackson featured in an afternoon concert. Not to be outdone, the Monterey Jazz Festival has begun selling tickets for its bash September 18-20.

The drama, "The Legend of Hannah Senesh," is conducting its out-of-town trials here before hitting Broadway in October. Abraham Ben Avtar and Joan Huffman have starring roles.

The play ran for three years in Israel before being brought to the U.S. With so much interest in spoken-word dramas by the labels, this play could conceivably become an original cast.

ELIOT TIEGEL

CINCINNATI

Mary Lou Smith, for many years executive secretary to Syd Nathan, president of King Records, died here recently following a heart attack. She joined the king firm in 1946 and, in addition to her varied executive duties, was considered an expert in the field of foreign publishing and record licensing...

Productions, Inc., with headquarters in Dayton, Ohio, has set Lighthouse for one nighter at the Taft Theater here May 9, and Maurice Chevalier at Veterans Memorial Auditorium, Columbus, Ohio, for a single performance May 25... Station WCKY, which this season airs the Cincinnati Reds' baseball game, hosted the local ad agency folk and press at a cocktail session and buffet at the Hotel Netherland Tuesday (14) to celebrate the opening of the baseball season.

Coney Island here has budgeted some $70,000 for names to play its Moonlite Gardens this season. Among those already inked are Pete Fountain, Homer and Jethro, the Four Saints, Al Hirt, the St. Zentner orch, Dave Brubeck, the Glenn Miller orch, headed by Ray McKinley, and the Rhythm and Blues orch. The Moonlite Gardens dance floor, which was covered with seven feet of water for more than a week during the recent flood, was reconstructed in time for the season preview two weeks ago (23-26). Coney's overall damage by the flood waters was estimated at $150,000...

BILL SACHS

Canada

Canada Columbia reports its c&g. records are selling very well, and that the sale of singles is much over last year. Columbia's Bob Martin and Jack Robertson to tour western Canada soon. They will

two weeks traveling from Calgary to Vancouver and will visit between 35 and 40 radio stations.

RCA Victor is planning big promotions for John Gary when he plays the Royal York Hotel, Toronto, beginning May 18... Toronto radio Station CHUM picked Spartan's Ray Charles Singers' album, "Song of Young Lovers," as album of the week.

Capitol of Canada announces early releases of albums by Rich Little, Margaret Ann Ireland and Paul Brodie. The latter two are scheduled for May 19. Brodie has signed exclusively with the company.

Tommy Ambrose, Don Francks, Barbara Chilcott and Don Gallie combined talents with jazz composers Norman Symonds, Gordon Delamont and Ron Collier, along with eight other leading jazz musicians, for a May 3 concert at Toronto's Crest Theater. Walter Sondheim officially announced he will retire as conductor of the Toronto Symphony after a nine-year tenure... Toronto Happenings: Johnny Mathis and Henry Mancini will appear at the GKeefe Centre May 18-23... "Beyond the Fringe" set same theater May 11-16... Count Basie played the Pala Royale April 30.

RUTH McGARRETT CHILDs

LONDON

The recording of "Can't Buy Me Love" which Ella Fitzgerald made here with personal manager Norman Grant and Beatles' recording manager George Martin has been issued on Verve and looks like a hot property.

Jim Reeves flew in from Scandinavia on a surprise visit, did two TV shows and talked about an autumn tour. . . . Tito Burns has been appointed European

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MUSIC AS WRITTEN

May 9, 1964, BILLBOARD