

Billboard

The International Music-Record Newsweekly

Radio-TV Programming • Phono-Tape Merchandising • Coin Machine Operating

Mercury, Handelman Making Bid for King-Lois

By PAUL ACKERMAN

NEW YORK—At press time, it was learned that giants in the record - music business were seeking to acquire King Records and its music publishing subsidiary, Lois Music, plus the King plant, for a reported price of \$1,250,000.

Chief among the bidders were Mercury Records and Handelman Drug Company—the latter the giant rack operation which in the past 18 months entrenched itself even more firmly in the record business by taking on the distribution of MGM and purchasing Jay Kay and Arc in Detroit. Last week—it was learned—Handelman acquired the distribution rights to the Warners' line—which was formerly handled by Cadet in Detroit. Handelman has also acquired the Philips line.

Spokesmen for King in Cincinnati, checked this week,

stated that although many bids had been made, no deal had been concluded for the purchase of King and Lois.

In addition to Mercury and Handelman, others, including the Aberbachs, have recently indicated their interest in all or part of the King-Lois operation.

Green in Talks

It is known that Irving Green, Mercury president, has personally entered the negotiations with King representatives. The board of Handelman Drug, it was stated, has also approved the possible acquisition.

It was reported that the \$1,250,000 was the price for the "assets and liabilities," and included the record operation and its masters, the copyrights and the plant. The total operation, started about 21 years ago, is unique in that it is self-contained. Long before indies had their own branches, King set up branch distribution. Its plant

is also in the custom pressing business, and does its own art and label work.

Historically, King has been an indie giant in the country and r&b fields. In the former field, its masters include such acts as Reno and Smiley, Grand-

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JOHNNY CASH has earned the title of one of America's favorite folk singers. The success of his Columbia singles and albums has brought him a number of gold records and gold guitars. Currently his single "It Ain't Me, Babe" and his album "I Walk the Line" are headed up for gold territory. (Advertisement)

FCC Examiner Exonerates WILD on Charge of Payola

By MILDRED HALL

WASHINGTON—An FCC hearing examiner has thrown strong doubt on payola charges made against owner of Boston

AM Station WILD during the Harris Oversight Subcommittee hearings in 1960. FCC Hearing Examiner Basil P. Cooper recommends renewal for the WILD license in an initial decision.

The Examiner's 61-page document exonerates WILD owner, Nelson B. Noble, of a dozen allegations made during an FCC investigation begun in 1960. Noble was charged with violation of FCC rules in accepting loans from record companies, allegedly ignoring indications of payola by his deejays, running a "lottery" in connection with "Big Blast" teen dances, and plugging records over the air without proper sponsorship identification—among other things.

Examiner Cooper finds no proof of wrongdoings in Noble's having borrowed money from record companies and distributors, and plugging their records—with sponsorship identified in commercials—in return. The Examiner says the evidence shows WILD announcements named the record title and company supplying it, and told where it could be bought at local retailers. In Cooper's view, this fully complied with Sec. 317 requirements—moreso than many cigaret ads, he finds, which do not give name of owning company or say they are on sale.

In fact, Cooper takes the FCC to task because the Commission

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Hanna-Barbera Forms Label; Tap Bohanan

By ELIOT TIEGEL

HOLLYWOOD—Hanna-Barbera Productions, the eight-year-old TV film production firm, is entering the record industry, and has named Don Bohanan to head its new venture. The label will be known as Hanna-Barbera Records.

Bohanan, marketing director for Liberty Records, will move to H-B the first of the year. The label will produce and market material aimed at both the adult and children's fields. Bohanan's first duties will be to build his executive team.

Bohanan's successor at Liberty will be named next week.

"We are setting up an operation to exploit all our cartoon characters and we expect to come out with a complete line of low-end, middle-price and class line of products," said Bill Hanna, co-owner with Joseph

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TV Back in Familiar Role As Showcase for Artists

By GIL FAGGEN

NEW YORK—The television show, local and national, is again becoming a major factor in the exposure of record artists and current record releases, a survey of programming indicates. Not since the heyday of the Dick Clark across-the-board "Bandstand" show has this been so evident. Among its innovations "American Bandstand" moves to a new time period Saturday (26). Presently seen 1:30-2:30 p.m. (EST), the "New American Bandstand-'65" shifts from 1-2 p.m. on Saturdays.

The mainstays of the program, the record artist — two

each show—and the youngsters dancing on camera, will remain.

The network TV show creating the most talk in the music industry is ABC-TV's hour-long "Shindig," which has become a key promotional outlet for artists and records.

NBC-TV kicks off its answer to "Shindig" with its hour-long "Hullabaloo" show Tuesday, Jan. 12, in color from 8:30-9:30 p.m. EST. Woody Allen, New Christy Minstrels, Joey Heatherton and the Zombies are signed for the debut. The show will feature a shortie segment with Beatles' impresario Brian Epstein spotlighting Eng-

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IN ANY LANGUAGE IT IS "SEASON'S GREETINGS"

JOYEUX NOEL ET BONNE ANNEE

* FRÖHLICHE WEINACHTEN UND EIN GUTES NEUES JAHR • BUON NATALE E FELICE NUOVO ANNO • GLAEDELIG JUL OG GODT NYTAAR • FELIZ NATAL E PROSPERO ANO NOVO

* FELICES PASCUAS Y PROSPERO ANO NUEVO • MALIGAYANG PASKO AT MASAYANG BANGONG TAON • HAUSKAA JOULUA JA ONNELLISTA UUTTA VUOTTA • WESOLYCH SWIAT BOZEGO NARODZENIA

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KUAI LOH • TANOSHII KOTANSAI TO SHINEN

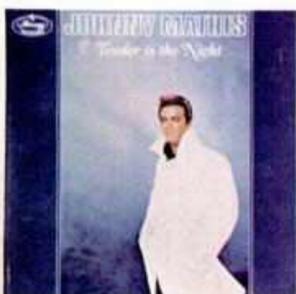
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* WESOLYCH SWIAT BOZEGO NARODZENIA

From the Billboard Staff

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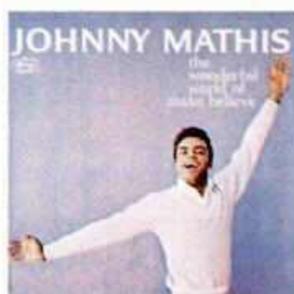
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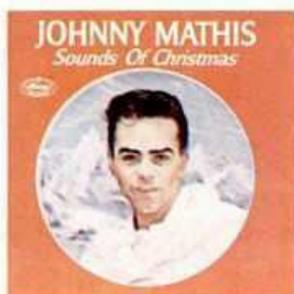
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