

Cameo-P'kway to Texan

PHILADELPHIA — William H. Bowen, listed in the Dallas City Director as in "livestock," has acquired 59.6 per cent of the common stock of Cameo-Parkway Records, Inc., from Bernie Lowe, Cameo president. Lowe will be replaced by J. R. Griffeth, listed in the Dallas directory as an accountant. However, Lowe will continue with the label as a composer and producer.

According to Stan Rubenstein, New York publicist representing Bowen, the statement of the purchase was made at this time "to satisfy Security and Exchange Commission requirements" and that Bowen wouldn't have any statement to make for a few days. He said that Bowen and Griffeth were in Philadelphia Thursday (24) and would be in New York the following day to prepare a statement.

Efforts to obtain more specific information about Bowen and Griffeth proved fruitless. The two men share the same Dallas phone number, but at 2:10 p.m. (E.S.T.) Thursday (24), the phone was off the hook. For an hour previously only a busy signal could be heard. However, Rubenstein said that the office

secretary customarily leaves the phone off the hook when she goes out to lunch.

No Response

Person-to-person calls to both Bowen and Griffeth (at his home) brought no response, although the phone at Griffeth's home emitted a busy signal during a one-hour period.

According to the publicity release, the Bowen purchase involves 353,000 shares of class B common and 6,000 shares of class A common, representing all the personal holdings of Lowe, plus stock held by Lowe and his wife, Rosalyn, as trustee.

PREMIER TO CONTROL FIRM?

NEW YORK — According to reliable sources, the purchase of the Cameo-Parkway stock by William H. Bowen is a prelude to the eventual takeover of the company by Premier Albums. Repeated attempts to reach Philip Landwehr, Premier president, were unsuccessful.

The purchase was for an undisclosed cash sum.

Bowen's only statement was that the operating management of Cameo-Parkway will continue uninterrupted and that he and his associates who are experienced in the recording and entertainment industries will study the Cameo situation.

Lost in 1964

The label, listed on the American Stock Exchange, reported a net loss of \$499,319 on income of \$2,007,494 for 1964. However, for the first quarter of this year, the company reported net income of \$57,266 or 9 cents a share on sales of \$1,160,697. This compares with earnings of \$44,144 on sales of \$1,160,697 or 7 cents a share for the first quarter of 1964. The company attributed its first-quarter improvement to the success of the Wyncote budget label.

While the price of the purchase was undisclosed, Bowen's investment is probably more than \$1 million. The stock was listed at 3% at the time of the purchase announcement, and 353,000 shares bought would put the amount well in seven figures.

School Board Investigating Charge Vs. Children's Label

HOLLYWOOD—The Young Peoples Record Company is being investigated in California for alleged subversive activities.

The record company, which releases music for children, came under verbal attack this week by the Torrance, Calif., Unified School District and parents of children attending school in that district. Torrance is the third largest city in Los Angeles County and has a population of more than 130,000 persons.

In 1948, the California Senate Fact-Finding Committee on Un-American Activities cited both the Young Peoples Record Co. and its subsidiary, the Children's Record Guild, seven times as being Communist dominated.

After listening to complaints from indignant parents, the trustees of the Torrance School district refused to eliminate the "questionable records" from the schools, but agreed to suspend purchasing additional records from the company until an investigation is completed.

A protest group labeled the Torrance Committee of Parents Concerned About Communist Records, insisted taxpayers' money has been used to purchase records from an organization (the Young Peoples Record Co.) as subversive.

Jay Kude, chairman of the protest group, called the company "a subversive front organization" and objected to the playing of the children's records, which included "Eensie Weensie Spider," a favorite among the kindergarten set. Representatives of the New York-based record company did not attend the meeting.

Although the board of trustees agreed to investigate the Young Peoples Record Co., they

refused to ban the playing of the records in the classrooms. Several trustees listened to the records and did not consider the material subversive, although trustee Dr. Kurt Shery said "one or two records might be in bad taste." He didn't elaborate.

Polly Watts, board president, said the record issue is twofold. "First, we will have to investigate to see whether money being spent by the taxpayers is going to purchase material from a subversive front organization and, second, should the records be played in the Torrance schools."

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Syd Nathan Takes Hold Again of King

NEW YORK—King Records, long reported as set to be purchased by Mercury, is being actively helmed once again by President Sydney Nathan. Nathan, after a period of recuperation from an illness, recently recorded James Brown and the Flames and the two sides are being rushed into release.

Waring Outing A (Golf) Ball

SHAWNEE ON THE DELAWARE—A colorful and sharp assemblage of music men gathered here Wednesday and Thursday for the 24th consecutive annual outing, hosted by Fred Waring. A highlight of the annual affair was the golf tournament for music men and guests. When the dust and sand settled, the tournament awards were as follows:

Worst score, Frank Campana; closest to the pin, Andy Wiswell and Phil King; longest drive (music man), Joe Linhart; longest drive (guest), Dick Shawn; low net (guests), Ed Barsky and Ed Weiner; low gross (music men) Fred Parker and Lucky Carle; low gross (guest) Mike Tadross and Endo Corsetti.

Jack Perkins of Capitol won the raffle, thereby getting a set of irons.

Some of the music men present, such as Bernie Pollack of Mills Music, have been present at every one of the Waring annual outings. This year's event drew publishing and recording men, as well as artists, from all over the country.

Murray Luth, as usual, made the opening remarks at the banquet, then turned the mike over to Waring. Entertainment following the banquet was provided by Sally Waring, Dick Shawn, Jim Wheeler and Linda Wicker and others.

During its 22-year history King has had its own branches. The new operation entails indie distribution, which, it is felt, will lessen the strain on Nathan, who is now past 60.

The indie distrib network will handle King's subsidiary labels also, including Queen, Federal and DeLuxe; they will also handle the new Gem label, started by King in conjunction with Harry Finfer of Philadelphia.

Distrib line-up already set is as follows: Superior, New York; Quaker City, Philadelphia; Dumont, Boston; Essex, Newark; General, Baltimore-Washington; Allen, Richmond; Garmisa, Chicago and Indianapolis; Arnold, Charlotte; Southland, Atlanta; All South, New Orleans; Mainline, Cleveland; Trinity, East Hartford; Robert, St. Louis; Huffine, Seattle; Pop, Los Angeles; Ratner Electric, San Diego; Sunland, El Paso and Phoenix, and the King Record Co. will service Cincinnati. Additional areas will be set very shortly.

Nathan is optimistic about the new King line and has engaged Steve Venet (through Screen Gems) to record Hank Ballard and other artists. He has also retained full-time a&r man Ray Rush of Houston.

King Records, with its publishing affiliate Lois Music, have made historic contributions to the music industry, particularly in the country and rhythm and blues fields. For many years King was also unique as an indie operation with its own branches.

Early King artists included Hank Penny, the Delmore Brothers, Homer and Jethro, Moon Mullican, Cowboy Copas and dozens of others. On the r&b fields the masters include sides by Wynonie Harris, Roy Brown, Sonny Thompson, Ivory Joe Hunter, Lucky Millinder, Bill Doggett, Five Royales, Lonnie Johnson and many more. Today the roster includes James

Orange-Empire Push on Grady

HOLLYWOOD — Orange-Empire Records, less than a year old, has joined the rush for the rock 'n' roll dollar, and in a big way, too.

Company President Tudy Hudgings said an all-out promotion campaign will begin for Don Grady, who left Capitol Records and signed with the new label, and The Palace Guard, a group of seven signed by Gary Bookasta, Orange-Empire vice-president.

Bookasta said the company will concentrate in rock 'n' roll and rhythm 'n' blues, but will have artists and material for jazz and country and western releases. Already under the Orange-Empire banner are Grady, The Palace Guard, Veronica Curry and Jimmy Starr. Grady, who appears in "My Three Sons" television program, waxed the label's first single, "Little People" b/w "Summertime Game."

The label is a division of Orange-Empire Productions, Inc., Beverly Hills.

FourMost Stages Gospel Concert

CHICAGO—A new producing gospel music combine has been organized here. Called FourMost Productions, the organization sponsored a sacred concert at McCormick Place on Saturday (26).

The concert featured such gospel recording artists as the Sixteen Singing Men, the Melody Four Quartet and Dick Anthony and Bill Pierce. Collectively, these artists have cut some 60 LP's in the gospel field.

Officers in the organization are Sherman Williams, president; Neal Doty, vice-president; Joe Musser, secretary, and Wendell Borrink, treasurer.

Brown, Hank Ballard and Little Willie John.

Songs in Lois include "Fever," "The Twist," "Money, Marbles and Chalk," "Sweeter Than the Flowers" and many other notable copyrights.

Blue Rock Gets Gardner Master

CHICAGO — Mercury's r&b subsidiary label Blue Rock has acquired a master titled "99 Plus 1," by J. Gardner on the Nola label. The disk is a breakout in the South.

Gardner, better known as June Gardner, was drummer for the late Sam Cooke for five years. Prior to that he worked for such groups as Lionel Hampton, Roy Brown and Ray Charles.

The artist fronts his own combo in the Raven, a New Orleans nitery. The acquisition of the master was negotiated by Andre Williams, Blue Rock a&r chief, and Wardell Quezzerque,

LOS ANGELES TO HONOR P, P & M

LOS ANGELES — The city of Los Angeles will honor Peter, Paul and Mary Friday (2) by setting aside the day as Peter, Paul and Mary Day and presenting the group with a plaque citing their contributions to folk music. City Councilman F. Lamport will make the presentation. The Los Angeles City Council voted the award last week. The singers will also be made honorary citizens of Los Angeles.

