By JULIAN COLEMAN

Hal Neely of Starday-King Records announced the completion of a long-term distributing agreement with the new Mandala Records label. Artists currently under contract to Mandala include Ben E. King, The Vibrations, Robert John Gallo, The Chiffons, Aesop's Fables and Don Laruso. "Simple Song" by Gallo, "Wind Up Toy" by the Vibrations, and "Take Me To The Pilot" by Ben E. King are all scheduled for immediate release.

Mary Ann Johnson of the Jerry Butler Writers' Workshop, Chicago, reports that Billy Butler has just produced a session with The Peaches, featuring Brenda Lee. The song is "In My World..."

Tom Brown, former Chicago news writer TV/radio, is the co-producer of the new Jerry Butler LP, "Spice of Life." Completion of an album by Fantasy's new artist Walter Hawkins is expected by the middle of May with Tom Fogerty and Merl Saunders producing. ... B.B. King's current itinerary includes a May 15 Chico Prison Benefit, San Bernardino, Calif. and a Univ. of Calif. at Los Angeles lecture the following day.

A new addition to the Wilson Pickford Revue that's currently touring Europe is Yeruela, a Willie Mitchell discovery who records for Hi Record label, Memphis. It will be her first appearance outside of the country. Looking forward to hearing more about the young lady in these United States.

New single from the Brotherly Love is "Growing Pain" on Holland-Dozier-Holland Merchant label and speaking of the three genis (HDH) Carol Bartlett of Corfu, N.Y. writes "I am a real Holland-Dozier-Holland freak." Are there more?? Soul Sauce will forward any response to Carol. ... The long awaited single from Wanda Robinson's "Black Ivory" LP is "The Final Hour," and, according to Luella Johnson, who keeps us posted on the happenings at Today/Perception, the reaction after only one week, is outstanding. ... Robert Banks and Otis tarky head the soul label, BO Records, based in New York. ... Motown's Temptations just wind up their first UK tour with their two new members, Damon Harris and Richard Street, and the reviewer called their act the best ever performed by a soul group in Britain.

Jules Bihari, president of Cadet Records Inc., Los Angeles based firm, announced the appointment of Brother Henderson, religious D.J. for the past 20 years, as the head of their newly formed gospel series. The new company, Kent Gospel, has the backing of the Bob Jones University, and has already announced a new single with the O'Jays, and have others in the works. The group was formed in 1961 when it was known as the Jesusmen at Crane Junior College. Myrick is 32 and Woods is 26.

Chicago's Pharoahs Form Own Company & Production

CHICAGO—A local group that has been performing as the Pharoahs since 1965 but has been together basically for 10 years has formed Scarab Records and Great House Productions here. The 11-member group boasts that it plays 72 different instruments.

Spokesmen for the group, Don Myrick and Willie Woods, said all the members have full-time musicians and are privately and collectively financing the new operation. They have a music publishing firm too, Blackwood Publishing Co., a BMG affiliate.

The first release is an LP by the Pharoahs. Two other acts on the label are the Pieces of Peace, now performing in Singapore, and vocalist Sue Conway.

Other programs in the opera- tion will be a business manager, Lester Augustine and attorney John Burton.

Myrick and Woods have been traveling to various markets setting up distribution. They said Sunnun Stereo, Dist. here has taken the line and they have discussed distribution with Atlanta wholesalers.

Members of the group have written music and have performed with Donny Hathaway, Ben Branch, the Delfs and several other artists. The nucleus of the group was actually formed in 1961 when it was known as the Jasmine at Crane Junior College. Myrick is 32 and Woods is 26.