


ROUND THE WAX CIRCLE

NEW YORK:

The town was buzzing this week with almost all diskeries raising prices. Every firm was deciding when to put the hike into effect and the rumor was that dealers were pouring in with orders to stock up at old prices. . . . Wait till you hear King Cole's new release called "Jet." Benjamin & Weiss wrote the lyrics to the Harry Revel tune and when Cole heard it, he became so enthused, he recorded it the next day. Walter Rivers flew the pressing out to the Capitol offices in California and pressings are due next week. . . . Cosnat Distributors have added Signature to their line and have a winner in Deores Hawkins' "Sing You Sinners." . . . Lou Capone, Vic Damone's former manager has taken Russ Case, MGM artist, into his stable along with Bobby Wayne and John Shaw. Case goes into the Paramount early in January. . . . Phil Rose of Derby going out to the coast to handle distributor relations. . . . We wondered how come Louise Carlyle was looking more beautiful than ever these days when we found out it was because of a change in the probiscus department. . . . Rose Murphy opens at the Earle Theater in Philadelphia, December 26 for a week. . . . Evelyn Knight spending Xmas vacation with her son, Andy, in sunny Cal. . . . Spike Jones' record of "Baby Brother" has been selected as the "Hit Tune For December" by the Cleveland Phonograph Merchants' Assn. . . . The Weavers present their first concert at Town Hall on Dec. 23. . . . Mickey Katz' record of "The Cry Of The Wild Goose" is Capitol's biggest selling disk on Broadway. . . . Ralph Bass, new A & R director of Federal, left for the coast to record new talent. He expects to return before the end of the year. . . . Guy Mitchell out on a promotion trip in connection with his great record of "My Heart Cries For You." . . . Decca is rushing the album of "Guys & Dolls" by the original cast to get it out before Xmas. . . . Guy Lombardo is making up a booklet containing a complete history of the Royal Canadians. It's to be made available when he goes out on his annual tour in the spring. . . . Leonard Feather back on the air at WOR doing a jazz 'n blues program.

GUY MITCHELL



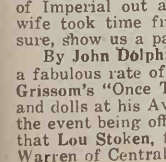
CHICAGO:

Continuing up the ladder fast—Art Morton—whose rendition of "Thinking Of You" is now in 4th place in top sales here. And Art so appreciative he simply wanted to learn who put it on the air so that he could thank him personally. The kid's got personality, voice and acting ability. A "comer" if ever there was one. . . . Lots of guys at the Woods' Bldg. (which always makes us think of old Al H. Woods) plugging like mad to get Hank Markbreit, one of the best pluggers of all, a top spot with one of the outstanding pubberies. Wonder why one of the top men hasn't grabbed this guy who has everything it takes. . . . Our vote for the swellest guy we've talked to over the phone this past week—Duke Ellington. Always asking, "Please why don't you drop over and let's get together." Why is it that the really great are so gracious? . . . You've just got to meet Wynn Lassner. (Husband of Eileen Barton). Whatta guy. And on the ball. "George" all the way. . . . Which reminds us. Those people walk out of the Chicago Theatre, after having listened to "The Duke" and Sarah Vaughan with dreamy smiles and something in their faces that just sorta makes you wanta walk in and see what it's all about. . . . Buddy Rich, a great, great jazz artist at the Capitol Lounge. Just simply wrecking the joint. . . . And he's not alone. There's the great Count Basie who plays one of the slickest, swellest of all jazz pianos at the Brass Rail. . . . Sincerest condolences to Moe Wells on the passing of Mrs. Wells. . . . Learned that Benny Strong just simply won't go out to dinner. Not since Maudie learned to cook. And Mrs. Strong, from what Benny tells us, (that's Maudie) is but one grand cook! (and gorgeous, too). What more could this kid from Marshall High School ask for? . . . On the phone with Jan Garber. One of the nicest personalities in all the ork field. Always wants to know, "How'm I doin'?" And so happy to hear that someone went out of his way to give him a plug. Hell, this guy's got more on the ball than half the guys who call themselves "band leaders."

LOS ANGELES:

Congratulations to Austin McCoy on what sounds like a very nice break for the hardworking and able young man. . . . For several years in charge of talent and material at Modern, Austin has been appointed national A & R and rhythm dept. for Mercury, working out of his old stamping grounds, the Mercury (former Modern) plant on Robertson Blvd. . . . The deal was closed during the recent visit of Irv Green and Art Talmadge to Los Angeles. . . . Speaking of Mercury, finally popped up at Harry Bloom's quite comfortable office quarters in the Warner Bros. Hollywood Blvd. theater bldg., only to find him out. . . . But we had a very nice visit with his very nice secy., Molly Verity (in truth, that's the young lady's name) and she played us Eden Abbez' "End of Desire" with new and different singer Bobby Please. . . . More Mercury: Harry Bloom informs us that the company had the biggest year in its history during 1950, going 50 per cent over last year in sales and even topping the fat year of 1947. . . . For the local distrib point, it's been the biggest year ever. . . . While in the Warner Bros. bldg. (this oughta get us a pair of Oakleys), we also found Lou Chudd of Imperial out and due back from a San Francisco run, but his charming wife took time from relieving a vacationing bookkeeper to chat and, to be sure, show us a pair of handsome pictures of the Chudds' 5-month-old son. . . . By John Dolphin, things seem nothing but good: In addition to maintaining a fabulous rate of sales at his two retail shops and riding a winner in Jimmy Grissom's "Once There Lived A Fool." John helped pack in about 4,000 guys and dolls at his Avodone dance featurin' Jimmy Witherspoon and Herb Fischer, the event being officially presented by Ben Waller Attractions. . . . Just learned that Lou Stoken, formerly half of Delson & Stoken Distribs, is now with Jim Warren of Central Records as an outside salesman.

JIMMY WITHERSPOON



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