

THE CASH BOX RHYTHM N' BLUES Ramblings

NEW YORK:

Another juke box operators' poll goes into the records and again Atlantic grabbed off a great many honors. In addition to two firsts, Best Female, Ruth Brown and Best Male, Joe Turner, the diskery copped 2, 4, 6, and 8 in Best Record and 2, 3, and 4 in Best Vocal Groups. The Midnighters on Federal were double winners with the Best Record "Work With Me Annie" and Best Vocal Group. Ironic part of the race was the placing in second of Duke's Johnny Ace.



VARETTA DILLARD

Perhaps he should win the appellation "most consistent." Johnny has hit with every record he has released over a period of three years. Last year he placed second to Willie Mabon, Chess artist, who finished 16th in the 1954 poll. In 1952 Ace finished second to Lloyd Price. . . . The McGuire Sisters cut "Sincerely," the Moonglows hit on Chess. . . . Irv Marcus, Peacock and Duke salesman, shot up to Boston to supervise a session. . . . Cat Records issues a new Chordcat disk, "Hold Me Baby" and "A Girl To Love." Also making her bow as a songstress is Rose Marie McCoy. Miss McCoy has had fabulous success as a songwriter collaborating with Charlie Singleton on a number of hits. Rose Marie sings "Dippin' In My Business" and "Down Here." The Atlantic upper echelon flipping about the reaction accorded the Drifters' "White Christmas." Deck is going great R & B and is showing real life in the

sales reports from pop locations. . . . Earl Bostic, King Records, winds up a most successful year for his band highlighted by a record breaking engagement at New York's Basin Street, along with packed houses on his cross-country treks and his top selling King records. Earl will take a five-week vacation beginning December 20, which he will spend with his family at his St. Albans, L. I. home. . . . Bill Buchanan, Monument Music, on the road visiting jocks and the trade in general working on his Faye Adams "Hurts Me To My Heart," Ruth Brown and Georgia Gibbs "Mambo Baby" and Faye Adams "I Owe My Heart To You." . . . Herman Lubinsky of Savoy Records announces three new releases. Getting in the mambo kick, Savoy's Vin Strong does "Swingin' The Mambo" and "Heartstrings." The Roamers do "I'll Never Get Over You" and "Deep Freeze" and Sticks McGhee does "Help Me Baby" and "Things Have Changel." . . . Aladdin has another powerhouse in Amos Milburn's new release "One, Two, Three, Everybody." . . . Faye Adams in town and Al Silver and Jack Angel at Herald are busy, busy in rehearsals. . . . Joe Davis' Beacon "Be Faithful" looming as the biggest hit the group has had. Even though the disk is only out one week and some of the distribs are just beginning to get samples, the deck is showing up really strong in New York and other cities. . . . Timely has just released a new Ann Cole etching. The gal with the exciting voice does "So Proud Of You" and "Down In The Valley." . . . Chris Forde excited about the possibilities of his two new Tuxedo releases. Professor Taylor "I Woke Up This Morning" and the Street Singers' "Caldonia's Mambo." Chris has already gotten some wonderful comments on the latter. . . . The Clovers, Atlantic's great group, opening at the Hi-Hat Club in Boston December 6 for one week. . . . Apollo's Bess Berman in the Doctor's Hospital, New York, for a checkup. . . . Lou Sprung seems to have a definite winner in his "Sentimental Reasons" by The Rivileers on Baton. Action with the New York stores has been really strong in only the first week of release. Our neighbor across the river, Essex Distributors, also reports the deck is zooming. . . . Frel Mendelsohn, Savoy A & R, leaving for a trip around the country to contact distribs and deejays with new releases. Fred tells us Wilbert Harrison, red hot with "Don't Drop It," is returning to Royal Peacock in Atlanta, where his record started. He also reveals thrush Varetta Dillard is temporarily between engagements as she waits the arrival of the stork, due in March. . . . Joel Turnero, Afterhours Record Shop in Harlem, says according to his sales, jocks are playing the wrong side of Johnny Otis' new release on Peacock. They are playing "I Won't Be Your Fool No More" but he is selling "Shake It."



JOHNNY OTIS

CHICAGO:

Mahalia Jackson just back from New York where, she tells us, she cut her first session for Columbia. According to reports received, firm's execs absolutely thrilled with results. . . . Chess out with a new release by Eddy Boyd. Titled "Please Help Me," b/w "The Story Of Bill." Could be sixth hit in a row for this hot label. Len Chess also tells us that Arthur Gunther's Excello Play House, which Chess distributes, is looking like a hit. Ted Adams, a rep of Nashboro Records in town promoting the Gunther waxing. . . . Vee-Jay's current best seller is Jimmy Reed's "You Don't Have To Go." . . . Charles Schike, Epic representative, in town this week promoting three of Epic's latest releases. One of these, Roy Hamilton's "Hurt," is heading for the top ten list but fast. Making it three in a row for Roy. . . . Carmen MacRae is currently at the Steamliner. And Joe Holiday is currently at the Bee-Hive. But from what we hear, they may share billing in a couple weeks, at the new Rodeo Club here, where Anita O'Day is currently packing 'em in. . . . Sam Evans phoned this past week to report that he and the missus were about to embark upon a short vacation to Noo Yawk. Where, Sam says, he plans to book some major talent for his next dance. . . . In the meantime, Sam told us about a couple of the artists who had appeared at his last shindig. Frinstance,



DINAH WASHINGTON

Lovey Lovejoy, tenor sax man with Joe Morris, planning to front his own combo, headquartering out of Oakland, California, his home town. . . . Herald

Records planning to release a new disk by Billy Clark, a real 'whaling sax man.' . . . Dinah Washington riding high disk-wise here. Her "Dream" is still going strong, while "Teach Me Tonight" has joined "Dream" on the top ten lists. . . . "Ace" Harris singing and pounding the '88's at the Cloister Inn. He warbles, we hear tell, much in the manner of Nat "King" Cole which 'ain't' bad.

LOS ANGELES:

Billy Berg has severed all connection with the Five-Four Ballroom and has purchased an interest in the Savoy Ballroom on Central Avenue. . . . Received a short note from Henry Stone of King Records, Miami branch, telling us that "Hearts Of Stone" is breaking as the biggest record in the country, Hillbilly, pop and R & B. . . . Quite an unusual situation is arising locally. A new group called The Feathers have recorded the same tune on two different labels. Soon



JOE TURNER

after waxing "Johnny Darling" on the Showtime label the group signed with Aladdin. They etched the same tune all over again. This beautiful blues ballad has already stepped out as a strong up and comer and looks like it could soon go all the way to the top. . . . The new MGM musical "Deep In My Heart" (starring opera star Helen Traubel and Jose Ferrer) will bring back the old standard "When I Grow Too Old Too Dream." Many diskeries are expected to revive this popular old tune due to the picture. Imperial has already covered it in the R & B field by The Mellow Drops. . . . Deejay Hunter Hancock recently returned from a business trip to New York. . . . Two top attractions were presented at the Five-Four Ballroom Dec. 3rd thru 5th when Oscar Peterson's Trio and Chuck Higgin's Band combined forces to play before an enthusiastic crowd of dancers. . . . Marty Landau is again opening the old Riverside Rancho to R & B attractions. Johnny Otis has been booked to play Sunday afternoon dates on three consecutive week-ends. . . . From all present indications LA will have, at least, two big Christmas hits this year. Already showing strong signs are Babs Gonzales' "Be-Bop Santa Claus" (Bruce) and Oscar McLollie's "Dig That Crazy Santa Claus" (Modern). . . . B. B. King kicked off his new tour of the West Coast with a one-nite stand in San Diego 12/4. Sunday nite 12/5 he appeared at the Harlem Hot Spot in San Pedro. He will be in LA over the Dec. 11th week-end at the Five-Four. . . . Saul Bihari of Modern Records says that BB's "You Upset Me Baby" is the biggest number the Blues Boy has ever recorded. . . . Johnnie Moore's Blazers are currently appearing at The Keynoter on Santa Monica Blvd. This is the first club date for the group in several months. . . . Joe Turner and crew blew in at the Savoy Ballroom Dec. 3rd thru 5th. . . . "Ichi Bon Tami Dachi" is a Japanese tune that is now out on The Music City label by The Rovers. Unless you have been in the Orient you'll probably never guess that it means (My Number One Girl). This unusual new song features Japanese lyrics that are translated as the group sings. The background has a driving rhythm beat that really rocks. The tune has many commercial qualities that could click. . . . Leo Mesner, prexy of Aladdin Records, announced the formation of their ney Jazz West label. This new label will feature LP's and EP's in the contemporary jazz field. Their first album release is "Get Out Of Town" with the Jack Sheldon Quartet.

JAZZ JOTS

Leo Mesner, Alladin Records, announces the formation of Jazz West Records this week. It will be in the contemporary jazz field and the first issue will be an LP, "Get Out Of Town," by the Jack Sheldon Quartet. . . . The New York Times reports official permission has been given to Hungarian musicians to play American jazz. An attempt to ban it had floundered badly. . . . We'll probably hear they invented jazz. . . . Two Dixieland jazz bands, the Tigertown Five of Princeton University and the Spring Street Stompers of Williams College, blared out the two-beats at Carnegie Hall last week. Eddie Condon acted as master of ceremonies. . . . The International Jazz Club Sextet is featured at Waverly Lounge at the Earle Hotel in Greenwich Village each Saturday afternoon from 3:30 to 7. The Lounge is a gathering place for downtown musicians. . . . The Voice of America, says Sid Gross, Columbia jazz tutor, is taping sessions of Gross' jazz classes to be aired throughout the world. . . . Basin Street has a great line-up this week. The Duke Ellington Orchestra, Alec Templeton and Don Shirley. Roy Hamilton, booked into the Basin Street for December 21, in a hassle with Birdland, who claim option for his first New York nitery appearance.

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