

Picks of the Week

THE GRASS ROOTS (Dunhill 4198)

I'd Wait a Million Years (2:35) (Teenie Bopper, ASCAP — Zekley, Bottler)
Returning to the mood of "Midnight Confessions," the track that started the current string of Grass Roots hits, the team surges on with a side headed straight for breakout. Steady driving dance track with a fine teen lyric sets the pace for a heavy sales outing. Flip: "Fly Me to Havana" (3:50) (Trousdale, BMI — Entner, Grill)

THE VENTURES (Liberty 56116)

Theme from 'A Summer Place' (2:16) (Warner-7 Arts/Witmark, ASCAP — Steiner, Discant)
Delving into the archives, the Ventures follow their "Hawaii Five-O" comeback with a glistening reworking of the Percy Faith giant. Set for the coming summer, the track began getting response from play out of the "Hawaii" LP and is now breaking as a single for the instrumental team. Flip: "A Summer Love" (2:11) (Paulcrest/Euphony, BMI — Bogie, Edwards, Taylor, Wilson)

DUSTY SPRINGFIELD (Atlantic 2647)

Willie & Laura Mae Jones (2:47) (Combine, BMI — White)
Back with the Memphis sound that put "Son of a Preacher Man" into the top twenty, Dusty Springfield turns out a powerhouse ballad side filled with sales electricity. Family picture with an understated brotherhood motif gives Dusty material that allows her full range with her own vocal brilliance. Flip: "That Old Sweet Roll" (2:58) (Screen Gems/Columbia, BMI — Goffin, King) Fine side too.

RAY STEVENS (Momentum 1150)

Along Came Jones (3:37) (Tiger, BMI — Leiber, Stoller)
Taking a breather from his series of social commitment songs, Ray Stevens had smooth going with a return to comedy in "Gitarzan." Latest side remains light as Stevens revives the years-back Coasters hit with help from "Jane" and a sax break straight from the '50's. Bound to crack up listeners across-the-board. No flip info supplied.

THE BEACH BOYS (Capitol 2530)

Break Away (2:54) (Bri-Mur, BMI — Wilson, Dunbar)
A series of sides that are basically experimental have marked the latest Beach Boys phase. They have revived old-rock material, toyed with rhythm, tempo and harmony and generally shaken off their own old image categorization. Now, softened, the team comes up with a lovely summer teen side featuring impeccable production and a Four Seasons-y vocal touch. Flip: "Celebrate the News" (3:03) (Brother, BMI — Wilson, Jakobson)

JOHNNY RIVERS (Imperial 66386)

Muddy River (3:15) (Rivers, BMI — Hendricks)
Finding himself for the first time in about a year, Johnny Rivers delivers in this belting track penned by the "Summer Rain" — "Look to Your Soul" man. Excellent, honest, vibrant side that should bring in East Coast sales this time and put Rivers back on top nationally. Flip: "Resurrection" (3:32) (Rivers, BMI — Ray)

WATTS 103rd ST. RHYTHM BAND (Warner-Bros.-7 Arts 7298)

Till You Get Enough (3:45) (Wright Gerstl/Tamerlane, BMI — Wright & Assoc)
Even though the Watts Rhythm Band couldn't get all the sales action to break simultaneously for their last record, "Do Your Thing" has whetted local appetites for the follow-up side. Bounding in with this dynamite side, the crew has its reputation establishing track on this rhythm ride. Flip: "Light My Fire" (3:40) (Nipper, ASCAP — Doors)

LITTLE MILTON (Checker 1225)

Let's Get Together (2:42) (Arc, BMI — Dollison)
Familiar title, but a new song, this "Let's Get Together" is a blockbuster blues ballad that is turned into a sensational side by the performing talent of Little Milton. Coming on the heels of his "Grits Ain't Groceries" hit, this side carries instant r&b impact and solid pop potential. Flip: "I'll Always Love You" (2:57) (Same credits)

B.J. THOMAS (Scepter 12255)

Pass the Apple Eve (2:23) (Press, BMI — James, Christopher)
Narrowing the gap between his own style and the Box Tops sound, B. J. Thomas pours on the power in a medium-paced rock effort earmarked with AGP studio mannerisms. The production and Thomas' special brand of vocal excitement makes this a solid bet to move in top forty circles. Flip: "Fairy Tale of Time" (2:46) (Same credits)

JEANNIE C. RILEY (Plantation 22)

The Rib (3:47 - :09 intro) (Shelby Singleton, BMI — Smith, Lewis)
A bit more preaching and less of the fresh, almost irreverent honesty that has established Jeannie C. Riley changes her pace on "The Rib." Cute idea, though, and one that will make a go of it in teen and adult areas. Folky woman's eye view of second sex mystique. Flip: No information supplied.

CAROLYN FRANKLIN (RCA 0188)

It's True I'm Gonna Miss You (Regent, BMI — Williams, Simpkins)
Second single from this talent has two solid advantages going for it, aside from a tremendous sound appeal. First, this Miss Franklin has already gained some recognition via her first single; and, second, the song is getting solid play from her "Baby Dynamite" LP. Slow, potent ballad with the intensity to boom from r&b lists into the pop running. Flip: "Reality" (2:35) (Lloyd & Logan, BMI — Price, Logan)

MOMS MABLEY (Mercury 72935)

Abraham, Martin & John (3:48) (Roznique, BMI — Holler)
A bit upsetting at first, Moms Mabley's singing debut in as dramatic a side as "Abraham, Martin & John" is difficult to adjust to. Being noted as a humorist, she has a Mrs. Miller complex to overcome from programmers; but the impact of her performance should conquer the anticipated incongruity. Flip: "Sunny" (2:36) (Music/Portable, BMI — Hebb)

Newcomer Picks

RON MOODY & THE CENTAURS (Columbia 44908)

If I Didn't Have a Dime (2:43) (January, BMI — Russell, Medley)
Straightforward, simple rock production (somewhat akin to the Bill Deal hit sound smoothed over) gives this teen track a staying power which will have listeners retaining the melody in spite of production shortcomings. Picked up as a master following its Richmond breakout, the side should spread nationally. Flip: "The New Breed" (3:05) (Versil, ASCAP — Easter)

FLYING MACHINE (Congress 6000)

Smile a Little Smile for Me (2:55) (January, BMI — MacAuley, Stephens)
First offering from the reactivated Congress label is a stunning teen romance tune with a bittersweet touch that makes it particularly appealing. Tempting fare for top forty exposure, "Smile a Little Smile" appears as a strong contender in the best seller ring. Flip: "Maybe We've Been Loving too Long" (2:55) (Anne-Rachel, ASCAP — Kilbourn)

TERRELL & DAHROUGE (Metromedia 126)

Baby Now There's Two of You (2:10) (Greenlight, BMI — Dahrouge)
Bright new team with a polished soul style that should attract the notice of blues and rock stations in a double-edged thrust at the charts. Fine beat side in a medium dance tempo gives the track enough extra power to make it clear sailing into the sales picture. Already getting play along the eastern seaboard. Flip: "I'm Happy Making You Happy" (2:02) (Greenlight, BMI — Tillman, Wooley, Dahrouge, Terrell, Lambert, Kannon, Feldman, Weiss)

BOB FRANCIS (Atlantic 2643)

There Goes My Baby (2:40) (Progressive/Jot, BMI — Nelson, Patterson, Treadwell, Leiber, Stoller)
Delightful revival of the Drifters' classic features a fine new vocal talent and some sensational instrumental touches to bring the tune back with combined blues and rock magnetism. Echoes of the Tom Jones vocal impressiveness mark Bob Francis for sizeable reaction. Flip: "Love Has Come" (2:10) (Stonefield, ASCAP — Segal)

PROCESSION (Smash 2225)

Adelaide, Adelaide (2:43) (Ramrac, ASCAP — Peacock)
Haunting melodic side with a bright new group presenting a polished vocal backed by splendid strings and a flashing rhythm line. First listen shows the makings to touch off heavy action; and a second run-through guarantees that this side has the sound of a winner. Flip: "One Day in Every Week" (3:30) (Ramrac, ASCAP — Peacock, Rogers)

SHANNON (Heritage 814)

Abergavenny (2:43) (Mills, ASCAP — Manston, Geller)
This side is a peculiar cross-breed combination of light hearted English novelty and heavy-handed rock (in part) which fuses the two in a boisterous teen and MOR effort. The track's infectious quality and bright approach should make it a heartily received item across the pop field. Flip: No info included.

THE CITY (Ode 119)

That Old Sweet Roll (Hi-De-Ho) (3:22) (Screen Gems/Columbia, BMI — Goffin, King)
Slow rocking semi-blues side with a taste of "The Weight" in its lyric. Strongest side to date from this act, and one that should start top forty and FM programmers taking note. The City's sound vocally and instrumentally shapes up as one likely to crack the best seller lists beginning with this single. Flip: "Why Are You Leaving" (3:55) (Screen Gems/Columbia, BMI — Stern, King)

THE CHOSEN FEW (Talun Stereo 821)

Maybe the Rain Will Fall (2:55) (Tupco, BMI — Storie)
American answer to the distinctive BeeGees' vocal sound gives this independent prospect a powerful teen appeal. Side is a slow, strong, love ballad given the extra dimension of a splendid lead vocal that should reap instant sales acceptance. Top forty material. Flip: "Deeper In" (2:45) (Tupco, BMI — Cascella) Talun Records, P.O. Box 1025, Indianapolis, Ind. 46206

Choice Programming

Choice Programming selections are singles which, in the opinion of our reviewing staff, are deserving of special programmer consideration.

THELMA HOUSTON (Dunhill 4197)

If This Was The Last Song (3:17) (Jimmy Webb, ASCAP — Webb)
An important side marking the premiere recording of an impressive artist and Jim Webb's first blues entry. Heavy potential in this sleeper for pop/r&b and MOR audiences. Flip: "Sunshower" (3:17) (Canopy, ASCAP — Webb)

BOBBY PATTERSON (Jetstar 115)

My Thing Is Your Thing (3:08) (Jetstar, BMI — Patterson)
Some sensational instrumental work and a very fine piece of Patterson-penned material give this side a booming sound to sparkle on r&b airways. Could break wide open. Flip: "Keeping it in the Family" (2:38) (Same credits)

ARTHUR PRYSOCK (King 6243)

(I Wanna Go) Where the Soul Trees Grow (2:27) (Jay & Gee, BMI — Glover)
First Prysock release for King is a very commercial ballad with more contemporary support backup than has been used on earlier sides from the artist. Additive could be just the catalyst in staging a sales breakout once more. Flip: "Soul Soliloquy" (3:32) (Same credits)

BILLY JOE ROYAL (Columbia 44902)

Cherry Hill Park (2:44) (Low-Sal BMI — Nix, Gilmore)
Impressive performance from Billy Joe Royal in a up-dated "Lady Godiva" tale. Musically strong, but material subject to local programmer opinion that could turn it down or into a monster. Flip: "Helping Hand" (2:36) (Low-Sal, BMI — Buie, Cobb)

TOM PAXTON (Elektra 45667)

Crazy John (2:33) (Deep Fork, ASCAP — Paxton)
Though public opinion has turned on John Lennon, Tom Paxton's new single poses a 'devil's disciple' presentation which could become an anthem among FM supporters. Flip: "The Things I Notice Now" (3:08) (Same credits) Impressive folk-blue track from Paxton's latest LP.

JOHN DAVIDSON (Columbia 44896)

California Blood Lines (2:54) (Stewart-Nims, BMI — Stewart)
Tit track of John Stewart's West Coast breakout LP comes on solidly in the John Davidson reading. Artist's adult MOR reputation could key excellent responses for the track. Flip: "I Am Now" (2:32) (Three Bridges, ASCAP — Bernstein, Millrose)