

Polydor Sets Distrib Deals With Blue Horizon, Warped

NEW YORK — Polydor Records has set two distribution deals for the U.S., according to Jerry Schoenbaum, president. The company will handle England's Blue Horizon label and Warped Records. Latter arrangement also involves production ties.

Blue Horizon was originally founded by Richard and Mike Vernon, both of whom saw the need for a record label to meet the needs of the growing market for blues. Before Blue Horizon, Richard had been a promo director; Mike was a producer for John Mayall, Ten Years After and Savoy Brown.

The first act signed to the label was Fleetwood Mac and their album, the first ever to be released on Blue Horizon, reached the number one slot on the British charts, a rarity for a blues album.

Among their biggest chart singles are "I'd Rather Go Blind" by Christine Perfect, "Tears in the Wind" by Chicken Shack and "Albatross", the million-seller by Fleetwood Mac.

Blue Horizon's roster of blues and soul acts in Britain include: Chicken Shack, Christine Perfect, Duster Bennett, Gordon Smith, Fleetwood Mac, Otis Spann, Champion Jack Dupree, Johnny Young, Jelly Bread and Eddie Boyd. Through American record companies, Blue Horizon has made arrangements to record artists such as B.B. King, the late Elmore James, Otis Rush, Earl Hooker, Albert Collins, Magic Sam, Arthur 'Big Boy' Crudup, Buster Brown and others.

The first four albums to be released by Polydor for Blue Horizon are: Duster Bennett, "Juster Duster"; Jelly Bread, "First Slice"; Otis Spann with Fleetwood Mac, "The Biggest Thing Since Colossus"; Fleetwood Mac with Otis Spann, "Blues Jam In Chicago".

In New York, Blue Horizon is represented by Richard Gotteher and Seymour Stein.

Polydor has also established a distribution/production arrangement with Warped Records. Elliot Mazer, producer and president of Warped, completed negotiations with Schoenbaum.

Warped Records, with offices in New York, Los Angeles, San Francisco and Nashville, is a multi-faceted company that aims to seek out and develop new artists in all aspects of their careers, including repertoire and management. Independent producers currently with Warped are Mazer and Kenny Buttrey of Area Code 615.

The first artist to be produced by Mazer and Buttrey is Troy Seals, a member of the funk-rock school of music. In his first release, scheduled

for this month, Seals will be accompanied by former members of the James Brown Band and David Briggs, Mac Gayden, Charlie McCoy, Wayne Moss, Weldon Myrick, Buddy Spicher, Bobby Thompson, Norbert Putnam, all members of Area Code 615.

Mazer's past credits include several albums for Polydor: Area Code 615, Jake Holmes, Ken Lauber's Contemplation (View). He recently completed a stint at The Fillmore West with 615, as producer, arranger and performer.

Warped will be administered by Brian Rohan, the San Francisco attorney who also administrates the affairs of The Fillmore record companies.

Warped Records is represented in Los Angeles by Dave Swaney at 8780 Sunset Boulevard, (213) 659-3126.

MGM Declares War; New LP From Burdon

HOLLYWOOD — MGM Records has signed Eric Burdon and his group, War, to an exclusive record contract. The group's first album, 'Eric Burdon Declares War,' will ship this month, and will be accompanied by one of the biggest billboard, black and white and radio campaigns in the label's history.

Burdon's LP, his first since disbanding the Animals thirteen months ago, has been a year in the making and is described as "a radical departure from the sound of his original group." The deck was produced by Jerry Goldstein.

Blue Note, SS, Minit Sales Triple

NEW YORK — Mel Fuhrman, general manager of the Blue Note, Solid State and Minit divisions of Liberty/UA, said the past year was the best ever in the labels' history. Sales reportedly tripled those of previous years.

Fuhrman said that within each label the musical content is continually broadening in scope and appeal.

"Blue Note has always been known for traditional jazz," he mentioned, "but several of our artists extend their appeal into the R&B and pop fields. Among these are Lou Donaldson, Lonnie Smith, Brother Jack McDuff and others".

He said there has been heightened activity on Solid State, particularly with product crossing into the progressive idiom. Lately, albums by Wali and the Afro Caravan and Jeremy Steig have received a great deal of attention from the underground. Steig is closely associated with the much-discussed fusion of rock and jazz. Wali and the Afro-Caravan has African roots with a contemporary flair.

Minit has R&B hits numbering five in the charts, led by the Ike & Tina Turner hit, "Come Together." Bobby

Cato Capitol Design Consultant In East

NEW YORK — Bob Cato will be acting in a design consultant capacity for Capitol product originating in New York. Dick Asher, vice-president of eastern operations, said Cato's appointment is part of Capitol's new east coast structure, which places control of all creative aspects of a record with Capitol's east coast staff.

Cato's album design and creative work have made him a top graphics authority in records and the recipient of a number of awards in this area.

Among his many credits are the jacket design for The Band's Capitol lp, "The Band", Dylan's "Blonde On Blonde", and the Simon and Garfunkel poster.

Cato's first project for Capitol will be the design of the jacket for the original cast recording of "House Of Leather", a new off-Broadway rock musical.

Asher explained that with Capitol's new east coast structure it will now be possible for artists and producers based in the east to work directly with Cato in the creation of graphic art for their records.

SG-Col Music Acquires Rights To 4 European Publishing Companies

NEW YORK — Screen Gems-Columbia Music, the music publishing division of Columbia Pictures Industries, has made a major move into the international music publishing market by concluding agreements with four European publishing firms for the U.S. and Canadian publishing rights to their songs.

The organizations involved are Page Full of Hits, Ltd., Limbridge Music, Ltd. and Mews Music, Ltd., all English firms, and World Music Company, a Belgian organization.

Page Full of Hits, a recently created company, is headed by Larry Page and Terry Noon. Page is the record producer, publisher and recording artist who has produced product for

Page One Records, which he formerly owned. Page recently created a new record subsid, Penny Farthing Records, and has already signed a number of young English recording artists who are also songwriters. Several of Page's productions, which will contain material by Caren Gems-Columbia Music in the United States, are already slated for release in this country by such labels as London, Event and Monument. Terry Noon, formerly professional manager with Ambassador Music in London, has developed a staff of exclusive songwriters including Mark Wirtz, Kris Ice and Pete Dello.

The agreements with Limbridge and Mews Music companies are direct outgrowths of the buildup of Screen Gems-Columbia Music's London office, Screen Gems-Columbia Music, Ltd., under the guidance of managing director Jack Magraw and general manager Terry Oates. In addition to

(Cont. on Page 42)



Schuster, Noon & La Viola

Motown Consolidates Creative Concepts In Schlesinger Position

DETROIT — Tom Schlesinger has been named director of advertising and creative concepts by Motown Records. Based at the firm's home offices in Detroit, Schlesinger will report directly to Barney Ales, executive vp and general manager of the company.

The position is a new one, and, according to Ales, resulted from the company's expanding growth picture. Schlesinger will become responsible for functions in all creative, non-recording areas taking over activities that had formerly been divided among other executives at Motown. Among the realms under Schlesinger's central control are advertising, album concept and design, internal communications, marketing and merchandising support and creative promotion ideas.

Ales noted, "it's our intent to take the concept of a creative service division a step further than that of some of the other labels. We waited until we could find the right person to develop such a department for us and we feel we have found the right man at the right time in Tom Schlesinger."

Schlesinger, still in his thirties, has 17 years of experience in the record industry with background in distributing, national promotion, sales and the rack aspect of the business.

Elektra Reshuffles A&R On East Coast

NEW YORK — Jac Holzman has restructured Elektra's east coast A&R department.

Dennis Murphy, former director of publicity for Elektra, who joined the label's A&R department seven months ago as an apprentice engineer and producer, has now been put in charge of all east coast engineering and studio facilities. Murphy will also continue in his capacity as an engineer and producer.

Peter K. Siegal, former head of the east coast studio, will now devote all of his time and attention to producing records and acquiring talent for the label. In the past, Siegal has produced such Elektra artists as Wild Thing, Earth Opera, Paul Siebel, and David Peel, as well as Elektra's classical Nonesuch Explorer series, which includes the famous "Nude Paper Sermon."

Shelly Snow will continue to be in charge of talent acquisition for the label, and Erin Costello, formerly serving in a secretarial capacity in the A&R department, will now be in charge of regulating tape traffic and studio time.

Form Soutown Music

NEW YORK — Soutown Music Co., a BMI firm, has been formed by Allied Artists Pictures Corp. as a wholly owned subsid with Carl Prager as president. Prager, who also is president of Allied Artists Music Co., said that Soutown's first venture would be the score of "End of the Road," current release of Allied Artists Pictures.

This will be followed by the scores from other upcoming Allied Artists product, including "Scorched Rose," De Sade's "Philosophy of the Boudoir," "Eagles in the Air," "Way of the Eagle."

Allied Artists plans an extensive production program for 1970 which will get under way in the spring.



Schlesinger & Ales

Thau Exits Buddah

NEW YORK — Marty Thau has resigned as director of promotion for Buddah Records. Neil Bogart, vp and general manager, said he accepted Thau's resignation with "regret," declaring that "Marty wishes to go into other phases of the record industry, and will be announcing his plans shortly." Bogart said that plans for the promo dept. would be revealed within the next two weeks.

Thau, recently appointed a vp at Buddah, had been associated with the label for the past three years. Before that, he held a similar post at Cameo-Parkway, leaving that label with Bogart to join Buddah. He is also a former staffer of Billboard Magazine.