



**Sydney Nathan, Star Maker**  
...wanted to be a drummer in big dance band

## Country Music King Dies Of Heart Ailment

He wanted to be a drummer in a big dance band. But instead, Sydney Nathan became president of King Records Inc., a firm that brought fame to James Brown's rhythm blues and Cowboy Copas country-Western style music.

Nathan, 63, died of a heart condition Tuesday in Miami Beach, Fla., where he lived six months of the year. His home is 6325 Elmview Pl., Bond Hill.

**HE MADE STARS** of rock and roll singer Hank Ballard, popular singer Nina Simone, "Fever" writer, Little Willy John and series of country-Western singers Grandpa Jones, the Delmore Brothers and the Stanley Brothers.

He discovered The Ink Spots and The Platters, who made gold records of "Smoke Gets in Your Eyes" and "Twilight Times." And he wrote hit songs too.

In 1928, he owned a small record shop on West Fifth Street. A \$5 debt, owed to him by a juke box operator, changed his life.

His debtor wanted to pay him back with 300 used hillbilly, Western and Negro records. Nathan sold the records at a dime each and made \$10 the first afternoon.

He bought and sold more records, but wanted to make his own. King records started at a small Brewster Avenue, Evanston, site with old machinery. In 1940, after four years in business, the company was selling 20,000 records a day. Now it publishes, records, makes and tests its own records.

Almost blind, Nathan had poor eyesight from childhood and he suffered from heart attacks and a stroke. A lover of big, black cigars, he was active in Republican politics and helped with campaigns for Gov. James A. Rhodes.

He leaves his wife, Zella; son, Nathaniel; daughter, Mrs. Beverly Cook; sister, Mrs. Saul Dorothy Halper, all of Cincinnati; brother, Dr. David A. Nathan, Miami Beach; and one grandson.

Services will be at 1:30 p. m. Thursday at the Weil Funeral Home, Reading Road, with burial at Judah Torah Cemetery. There is no visitation. A mourning period will follow the funeral at the Nathan residence in Bond Hill.

### Madeira Protesting Indian Hill's Cutting Off Water Supply

**MADEIRA**—For the fifth time, officials here will confer with their counterparts in Indian Hill in an effort to reverse Indian Hill's decision to stop supplying water to Madeira.

The meeting will be at 11 a. m. March 16. Indian Hill, which has its own water works, has notified Madeira that it will not accept re-

## Syd Nathan obituary

Clipped By:



**Chris\_Richardson333**  
Thu, Jul 23, 2020