

## From The Music Capitals of the World

DOMESTIC

### LAS VEGAS

Dick Levine leaving IFA to handle Perry Como. . . Gary Ford son of Phil Ford, team of Phil Ford and Mimi Hines signed by Tropic-Art Studios, Inc. for the male lead in "The Legend Of El Patron" to be filmed in Las Vegas. . . B. B. King inked to a long-term contract at the Hilton. First appearance is a two weeker on May 17 followed by four weeks in late August. Advance reservations for Johnny Cash's Easter Week stand at the Hilton indicate a sell-out for his seven night.

Sahara's Pete Barbutti has penned four TV pilots, two of which are under consideration by Bob Banner Productions and the others by Curly Morrison of Trans-American Video. Pete would star in two of the pilots, host one, and be writer-guest star of the fourth. . . RCA's Jimmy Dean opens at the Spark's Nugget Thursday (30) then co-hosts the Mike Douglas TV show beginning April 24.

Columbia's Billy Joe Royal who plays the Flamingo had his "The Family" disk produced by Jerry Fuller. . . Larry Dean cutting a single in Las Vegas for Mar-Ka Records. . . The Russ Black Orchestra backs the Barry Ashton-Wolf Kochran original production Verve-It Started With Eve at the Union Plaza. . . Seven production numbers are included in the "Geisha'rella" review at the Thunderbird. Music for the spectacular is provided by the Jim Wallace Orchestra.

Callione returned to the Sahara for a three week stand under the leadership of Steve Casciola. . . Peter Anthony, Jan Mills, Jane Mitchell and Vaccaro holding forth in the lounge of the Bonanza. . . Marty Robbins and Jerry Collins at the Fremont. . . Chuck Berry making his local debut in the Hilton's lounge. . . Robert Goulet returned to the Frontier with The Establishment a musical group comprised of ten sorority guys and gals.

A very ill Petula Clark opened with MGM's Osmond Brothers at Caesars Palace. She was too sick to do the midnight show opening night so the showroom went dark. Steve Lawrence and Eydie Gorme came in to headline the following night. . . The Celebration now at the Sahara joins Engelbert Humperdinck for an April to October tour starting in Caracas, Venezuela. . . Pearl Bailey will do one show a night at the Sahara and Buddy Hackett likewise. Pearl will do the dinner show with Buddy entertaining at midnight.

Jack Morgan signed a new contract at the Dunes calling for eight months in 1973. . . Dan Terry's 20 man band offers a weekly session at the Colonial House aired live on K1AV radio. . . Marty Allen, Flamingo star planning a benefit for the staff of the burned out KORK-TV. . . Frankie Laine currently at the Landmark giving a benefit performance for the 7th Step Foundation, an organization which helps in the re-motivation of former prison inmates, drug addicts and youthful offenders.

The Hilton's summer line up includes: Johnny Cash March 30-April 5, Red Skelton April 6-April 26, Tony Bennett April 27-May 10, Glen Campbell May 11-June 5, Liberace June 22-July 5, Charley Pride July 6-July 17, and Perry Como July 18-Aug. 6.

LAURA DENI

### SAN FRANCISCO

Fantasy's Creedence Clearwater Revival to have a new album on the market the end of this month. A tour of the East and the southern states is scheduled in April and May. . . Ella Fitzgerald's current Fairmont Hotel engage-

ment playing to SRO crowds. Melba Moore follows Miss Fitzgerald into the Venetian Room. . . Tom Jones the Circle Star Theatre headliner April 18-23. . . Sammy Davis Jr. due in San Francisco to accept an award from the local chapter of the NAACP.

The Beach Boys have added two new members, South African drummer Ricky Fataar and bass guitarist Blondie Chaplin, both of whom were original members of Flame. The group is currently at work on a new album and preparing a nationwide tour. . . The Grateful Dead tour of Europe kicks off Saturday (1) at the Rainbow Theatre in England. WB to release a Dead single for the European market only to coincide with the group's tour. . . Pianist-composer Todd Cochran signed to the Prestige label, which is distributed throughout North America by Fantasy.

Upcoming Bill Graham presentations at Winterland include West, Bruce & Lang and Cold Blood on April 2; Sha Na Na, Malo and Sweathog (7 & 8); The J. Geils Band and The Elvin Bishop Group (14 & 15); Humble Pie, Edgar Winter and Osibisa (21 & 22) and Dave Mason (28 & 29). . . Richie Havens into the Berkeley Community Theatre on April 22. . . Joe Cocker in concert at the Oakland Coliseum on April 16. . . The World's Greatest Jazz Band of Yank Lawson and Bob Haggart at Cupertino's Flint Center (7) and S.F.'s Masonic Auditorium (8). . . Leontyne Price makes her only Bay Area appearance on April 9 at this city's Opera House. . . MCA's new group Sod cut their Bay Area tour short to return to the company's LA studios to prepare a new album for spring release. . . ATA, locally based rock talent agency, added to its staff and will move to larger offices within the next few weeks.

PAUL JAULUS

### CINCINNATI

The Lettermen hopped into town Wednesday (15) to cut a tape for Bob Braun's "50-50 Club," Avco feature, to plug their new Capitol album, "Lettermen I," and a single from the deck, "Oh, My Love." The group returns April 6 for a repeat on the Braun show and to appear in concert at Taft Theater in a promotion arranged by Larry Aiken of Theater A Corp., Evansville, Ind.

The Carpenters, plus Randy Edelman, stop off at Music Hall April 16 for a single shot, with Belkin Productions handling. . . Joe Cocker, with Redbone as added feature, shows his wares at Freedom Hall, Louisville, April 6. . . The Gross Brothers, country threesome out of Rising Sun, Ind., in town recently to audition for a guest shot on WLW-T's "Midwestern Hayride."

General American Records, with headquarters here, has a new single by r.&b. driver Kenny Smith, coupling "Lord, What's Happening to Your People" and "The Same Old Story." Smith in the past has done a bit of arranging for the Platters and Harry Carlson's Fraternity Records group, the Casinos. . . The area sports a new country & western niter in the Midwestern Club, Sixth and Central, Newport, Ky., which bowed in March 11 with Kenny Price, host of WLW-T's "Midwestern Hayride," as the opening feature. Earl Richards played there last weekend and Bruce Nelson, former WUBE deejay now at WMIL, Milwaukee, heads the bill there this week along with his protegee, Bobby Nelson (no kin), who is catching on in the territory with his new GNT Crescendo single, "Welcome to Lonelyville."

Mary Lanier, formerly with Cabin #2 and Harmony Grits, is

## Anka Tour Of Japan

NEW YORK—Buddah Records artist Paul Anka is on a Japanese concert tour that runs from March 25 to April 10. The singer will play 11 concerts, seven nightclub dates, and will star on two television shows. He will also make special personal appearances at hospitals and bases of the armed forces.

Following his return from Japan, Anka will appear at the Westbury Theater, L.I., April 24-April 30. He then is slated for a two-week stint at the Persian Room in the Plaza Hotel, May 28-June 10.

Future dates on Anka's itinerary include El San Juan Hotel, Puerto Rico, July 1-10; Fileans Art Theater, Washington, July 13-14; Caesar's Palace, Las Vegas, July 20-Aug. 9; Iowa State Fair, Aug. 22; Central Canada Exhibition, Aug. 24; Blossom Art Theater, Cleveland, Sept. 3; Buffalo Art Theater, Sept. 4 (one week); and Oakdale Art Theater, Conn., Sept. 11 (one week).

now a member of the Last Gal-axie, who recently etched the music from "Godspell," off-Broadway play, for the General American Records album, "Selections From Godspell." Miss Lanier has a new single slated for release this week, "Day By Day" b.w. "Prepare Ye," taken from the album. . . GAR last week added Mike Donelson to its operation as sales and promotion manager.

Rufus Thomas, Memphis soul singer, in town last week to promote the first of four TV black music hour specials on WKRC-TV. The first was scheduled for Monday (20), with Isaac Hayes, Jean Knight, the Bar-Kays and Carla Thomas as guests. Thomas will host similar specials here in May and later this year.

BILL SACHS

### BOSTON

Al Martino, who opens in Cambridge's Empire Room this week for a 10-day engagement will also be on hand for the Boston premiere of "The Godfather." Martino portrays Johnny Fontane, the godson of the underworld chief-tain. . . The Berklee College of Music presented the Richard Levy Memorial Award to Vick Von Elps, March 21, at New England Life Hall. The award is given to a senior student who had been voted "Most Prolific Composer" in his or her junior year. . . Tom Jones will make another appearance in Boston; this time at the Music Hall. Two shows are planned. . . Caesar's Monticello was recently host to Johnny Mathis and will soon welcome Englebert Humperdinck. . . Colin Blunstone, Epic Records artist, recently spent an afternoon with WMEX. . . Artist-Composer Paul Williams also passed through Boston promoting his A&M album. . . Texas' Townes Van Zandt played Passim's in Cambridge for a week recently. . . Lenny Collins has joined the local Columbia Records promotion team as local promotion man for Epic. He takes over Lenny Petze's job who was promoted to regional promotion man. . . Bonnie Raitt recently played a benefit concert with all proceeds going to the various Boston women's liberation leagues.

JAYNE FERGUSON

## Melvoin Forms Publishing Co.

NEW YORK — Mike Melvoin, composer-producer-pianist, has formed Dirt Sleeves Music (ASCAP). Melvoin recently was signed by producer Leonard Grant to compose and arrange the musical score and conduct the orchestra for Bridge Productions feature film "Vincent Lodge's Escape."

In addition, Melvoin will compose the score and conduct the orchestra for the Screen Gems television pilot "Billy Joe." He's also been tapped by producer Wes Farrell to arrange and conduct singles sessions for Lulu and Wayne Newton.



ROCCO LAGINESTRA, left, president of RCA Records, presents Harry Nilsson with a gold record for the album "Nilsson Schmilsson." Tucked under Nilsson's arm is another record he received for his single, "Without You."

## Harmonicat Links the Past With Present as Success Key

CHICAGO — Long-established acts have to recognize the young audiences and the influence of rock if the act is to survive and flourish, according to Don Les, for 27 years a member of the Harmonicats, who is now building an entirely new group and plans to be recording soon.

Since breaking up with Jerry Murad and Al Fiore, Les has brought in Mildred Mulcay and rhythm harmonica player Bob Herndon. He is also signed with personal manager Vic Beri of Las Vegas who is planning the recording activities as well.

Because the original Harmonicats was a partnership, Les and Murad both have rights to the name, Les said. Thus, the name New Don Les Harmonicats. Murad and Fiore are also remaining active.

Miss Mulcay, harmonica lead with the Mulcays who had a hit years ago, "My Happiness," also brings a lot of experience to the act, Les pointed out. Herndon, from Indianapolis, is a veteran too and plays bass, guitar, ukulele, organ and piano.

Les said the act will feature in addition to more rock-influenced music, novelties, impressions, impersonations and be a complete entertainment group.

While a natural assumption would be that Les will capitalize on the current nostalgia binge, he said he intends to blend the older songs with the new "up-dated" beat. For example, "Under a Blanket of Blue," is played traditionally until about one half through, then the trio goes into a three-quarter-time rock beat.

Les explained that the rhythm and bass harmonica will lay down a basic rock pattern against the up-dated melody line. He is also using a blues harmonica, which creates a sound young audiences go for, he claims.

## Cacavas in Guest Shots

LONDON—John Cacavas, former executive with Chappell & Co., Inc., in New York, has been contracted for a series of guest conducting assignments on the BBC and in Brussels. The appearances are scheduled for early spring, following completion of a current project, composition of a film score for "Redneck," being produced by Joseph Shaftel and Silvio Narizzano.

Cacavas was instrumental in launching the recording career of the late Sen. Everett M. Dirksen and recently completed the title song and incidental music for the Scotia International film, "Pancho Villa," with Don Black as lyricist. Black's credits include lyrics for "Born Free," "Diamonds Are Forever," and "To Sir with Love."

Most familiar of Cacavas' current work is the theme for the BOAC TV commercial. Also just concluded are two albums with

"Theme from 'Love Story,'" "Impossible Dream," "Theme from 'Shaft,'" and a variety of country songs too such as "Gentle on My Mind," "Release Me" and "Make the World Go Away" are typical of the more.

## Talent Booked For U.K. Festival

NEW YORK—The Faces, Beach Boys, Sha Na Na, Don McLean, Humble Pie, America, Lindisfarne, Billy Preston, Ry Cooder, John Baldry and Fanny have been signed to appear in a U.K. festival, the Great Western Festival, Essex, May 26-29, according to Great Western Festival Co. executive John Martin, at present on a singing trip in the U.S.

Martin revealed that the company also intends to hold another similar festival, Aug. 25-28. Principals in GW Festivals include film actor Stanley Baker and Lord Harlech.

In the U.S. Martin is also booking talent for an open air event in Indianapolis, June 24 and Pocono, Pennsylvania, July 8.

Martin was also discussing a U.S. tour and recording contracts for West German group, the Rattles.

## West, Bruce and Laing Use Heil

MARISSA, Ill.—The current 40-city tour of West, Bruce & Laing is utilizing a special sound system designed by Bob Heil Sound Systems here costing \$65,000. Bobby Pridden, director of Heil's U.K. office and sound man for the Who, is mixing the tour.

Telly Savalas, in his singing debut, for Dick James' DJM Records in London, Cacavas co-produced with Charles Wood and provided arrangements for the albums, first of which is scheduled for early spring release.

## Leventhal On Global Trip

NEW YORK—Harold Leventhal, head of his own management firm, is on a four-week business trip around the world. From Paris he proceeds to Cairo for four days and then goes to Calcutta and then to Dacca, Bangladesh where appointments have been set to meet Prime Minister Mujib Rahman and Bangladesh officials.

After a two-week stay in the Indian sub-continent, he will return to the U.S. via Hong Kong and Japan.