

Perception Music West Dist. Ties

NEW YORK — Perception Ventures, Inc., has reached an agreement whereby its labels will be distributed in Los Angeles and San Francisco by RCA's Music West and in the Cleveland-Pittsburgh-Buffalo and Dallas-Houston areas by Music Two.

Boo Frazier, vice president of Perception, and Gene Settler, vice president of Music West and Music Two, made the announcement.

The labels of Perception Ventures include Perception, Today, Bullet and Jamboree USA. Among the company's artists are Black Ivory, Lucky Peterson, The Odds and Ends, Debbie Taylor and Astrid Gilberto. The company also releases jazz product of Dizzie Gillespie, James Moody, Bobby Hackett and Mary Lou Williams.



BELL SOUNDS — Al Bell (l), executive vice-president of Stax Records and chairman of the board of the Stax Organization, joins multi-talented Melvin Van Peebles (c) and singer Billy Eckstine (r) at a party following Eckstine's opening at the Persian Room, Plaza Hotel, in New York. Stax has the original cast album of Van Peebles' new Broadway hit musical comedy "Don't Play Us Cheap" and now records Eckstine on the company's Enterprise label. Eckstine's new album for Stax is titled "Senior Soul."

Braun Re-Locates

NEW YORK — Photo specialist George Braun has relocated his studio and offices to the Wyoming at 853 Seventh Ave., and is once again accepting assignments in theatrical portrait, publicity, casting and album cover photography.

Braun was formerly at the Woodstock Hotel, rumored to be razed soon, and has covered numerous special events and personalities for agencies, producers and recording companies. His phone number remains the same: (212) 247-4733.

Libertore Dad Of Girl

NEW YORK — Don Libertore, vp in charge of sales at Double B Records & Tape Corp. in Freeport, L.I., is the father of a girl, Donna Jean, born to his wife, Jean recently. Donna Jean is the couple's first child.

Epic Signs Crazy Horse

NEW YORK — Don Ellis, Epic/Columbia Custom Labels' newly-appointed director of a&r, has announced that Crazy Horse has signed an exclusive recording contract with Epic Records.

Crazy Horse, veteran of two and a half years of touring with Neil Young and rhythmic backbone of two Neil Young albums have evolved through several name changes (at various times being Danny and the Memories, the Cyrkle and the Rockets) and personnel changes. At present the group is comprised of original members Ralph Molina and Bill Talbot and new members Gregory Leroy, Rick Curtis and Michael Curtis.

Crazy Horse is currently in Columbia's Los Angeles studio working on their forthcoming Epic album, as yet untitled. The album will be produced by Jack Neitzsche, an original member of the group who produced their first album and who has done production work for the Rolling Stones.

Knesz Joins Evolution

NEW YORK — Loren Becker, president of Evolution Records, has announced the appointment of Margo Knesz to the position of national promotion coordinator.

Ms. Knesz will be in daily communication with radio station music and program directors across the country, will act as liaison between the New York office and Stereo's field staff including Paul Ellis in Los Angeles, Andy Janis in the midwest, Fred Frank, independent promotion men in various markets, all distributor promotion directors, and trade publications chart editors. She will report to Fred Edwards, national sales and promotion director.

Ms. Knesz formerly served as manager of national promotion for GRT. She has also worked with Atlantic, as manager of promotion services, and with Epic in a like capacity.

Also, Evolution On Record is the name of the new information gazette being printed by Evolution Records. Written by sales, promotion and publicity department heads, its columns are titled Focus, Dimension, Perspective and Foresight. Edited and designed by Candy Leigh of the Tomorrow Today public relations firm, the chronicle will be issued monthly.

Sgro Named To Col/Epic Promo

NEW YORK — Bob Beasley, Columbia and Epic/Columbia label sales manager for the Miami market, has announced the appointment of Thomas Sgro to the position of promotion manager for the Miami market.

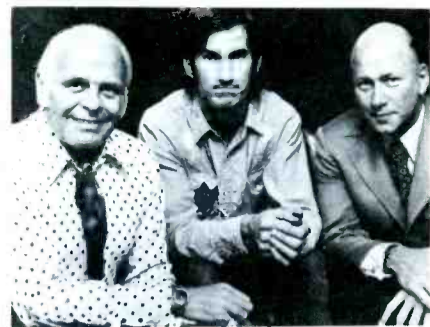
Sgro will be responsible to Beasley for the Miami market's promotion activities for Columbia and Epic/Columbia Custom Labels as well as for coordinating artists' appearances within the market. He has been in for several years, most recently with United Artists.

Byrd As Col's Dallas Promo

NEW YORK — Joe Mansfield, Columbia's Dallas branch sales manager, has announced the appointment of Stan Byrd to the position of Columbia and Epic/Custom promotion manager for the Dallas market.

Byrd will be responsible to Mansfield for the Dallas market's promotion activities as well as for coordinating artists' appearances and tours within the market.

Byrd was formerly promotion manager with All Tapes, Mercury and Capital Records.



TOWNES HOUSE — Singer-composer Townes Van Zandt's Columbine Music has been acquired by the Group, according to an announcement made by Murray Deutch, (l) president of the UA publishing organization. In one of the firm's major deals of recent years, UA secures title to all past and future Van Zandt compositions. Van Zandt, center, records for Poppy Records, distributed by United Artists Records, and is managed by Ken Greengrass (r) and Phil Lawrence.

Butler Label Name Change

LOS ANGELES — Michael Butler has changed his Los Angeles-based record company to Hallelujah Records. Neal Ames, president, made the announcement.

The production and recording company was earlier known as Revelation Records.

Ames has succeeded Red Shepard, who guided the production efforts of the company through several projects including a rock version of Handel's "Messiah" arranged and conducted by a young, English-born, UCLA and Royal Academy graduate, Andy Belling.

Shortly thereafter, an album by a rock group called "Joshua" will be released, followed by Keith (son of actor, John) Carradine's first album and an album of original Christmas music by Belling.

'Gather Me' Melanie Gold

NEW YORK — Melanie has received RIAA gold certification for her first album on the Neighborhood label, "Gather Me," which contains the 2½ million selling single "Brand New Key" plus "Ring The Living Bell" and her latest single release, "Steppin'."

Melanie has just returned from a European tour and recently appeared in the Schaeffer Music Festival.

Famous Music president, Tony Martell lauded the efforts of the independent distributors stating, "Melanie's first Gold album ever, belongs to them." Famous distributes Neighborhood.

AFM Annual Election Meet

HONOLULU — Hal C. Davis was re-elected to his second term as international president of the 315,000-member American Federation of Musicians (AFL-CIO). More than 1,000 delegates meeting at the union's recent annual convention at the Sheraton Waikiki unanimously endorsed Davis' nomination for the union's top office.

Also elected without opposition were incumbent secretary-treasurer Stanley Ballard and incumbent vice-president from Canada, J. Alan Wood, and vice-president Victor Fuentaiba was re-elected with 1,802 votes; his opponent, Gil Rodgers, received 158 votes.

Election of five other members of the union's international executive board returned all incumbents to office. Elected were: J. Martin Emerson (Washington, D.C.); David Weinstein (New Orleans); John Tranchitella (Los Angeles); Max Arons (New York); A. A. Tomei (Philadelphia).



MONDO CANE—For those who prefer an alternative to recording in the midst of a bustling city, Shaggy Dog Studios offer the seclusion of a summer home all year round. Gordon Rose's newly expanded complex is located at the junction of the Massachusetts turnpike and the New York thruway. Apart from their 16 track studio, Shaggy Dog also offers creative services to help songwriters and is equipped with a rental and leasing service. Shown above is the long and winding road that leads to the studios.