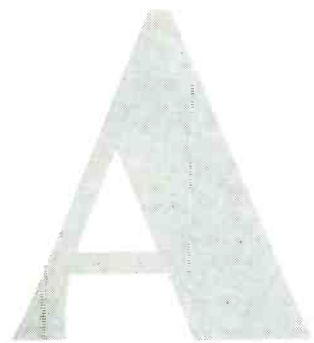


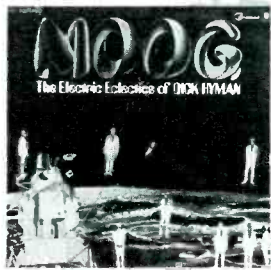


Can a 7½ minute electronic single called *The Minotaur* [that fabled monster of Greek mythology] break out of the labyrinth of competition and become a smash hit?



You can bet your synthesized bippy it can, when the record is a little rock-jazz concerto — electrified by Dick Hyman.

The Command single *The Minotaur* (#4126) is a monster and that's no fable.



From the Command album *Moog—The Electric Eclectics* of Dick Hyman (Command 938 S)



Distributed in Canada by Polydor Records, Ltd.

Elektra Distributes Dandelion

Dandelion, a new label from Great Britain, will be distributed in America by Elektra Records.

Elektra President Jac Holzman announces that Elektra has signed a long-term contract with John Peel, top British deejay, to handle Dandelion here. Peel currently hosts two BBC shows, "Top Gear" and "Night Ride."

The Dandelion concept began with a range of spoken poetry singles, but Peel's own success expanded the initial idea. In his position as radio-music personality he has been able to discover top groups long before they were recorded. Some of these include Ten Years After, Jethro Tull, Fleetwood Mac and Tyrannosaurus Rex.

The expanded concept included Peel's desire to record rock acts "for the entirely selfish reason of being the first to hear the good things" he intends to record.

One of Dandelion's first acts will be the Principal Edwards Magic Theatre, in Peel's words,



John Peel

"a large group of gentle people who would seem to represent what is coming in the boundless universe of music."

Dandelion will be a co-operative venture in that incomes will be divided equally between the company and the artists. For that reason, and others, Peel hints that some of the greatest names in British pop have mentioned they would like to join Dandelion as soon as their current contractual commitments are through.

Elektra will distribute between six and eight Dandelion albums per year in North America.

Townes Van Zandt

A Very Special Talent

NEW YORK — Townes Van Zandt is a catchy name that, once heard, finds its own special place in your mind. Townes himself is a folk musician whose songs are an accurate reflection of his interesting name.



Townes Van Zandt

As he chatted at *Record World* on a recent visit to promote his first Poppy label LP, "Our Mother the Mountain," we learned that although the name is odd, he was born and has spent his life in the U.S. Hailing from Texas and Oklahoma, Townes has been playing guitar since he was a child, absorbing styles and attitudes of contemporary and classical folk artists.

The "Our Mother" LP, recorded both in Nashville and L.A., was cut using only acoustic guitar, bass and drums. Townes explains, "My songs are folk and folk derivative. There is no need for super arrangements and heavy instrumentals."

Townes has been doing club and cafe appearances in some areas, and after the release of a second album in July will start a regular tour of the U.S. and Europe. Also, to be published in the fall is a book of original poetry that "expresses some of the things that are a little hard to do musically."

—John Kornblum.

Tanse Inks with Reshen

Mercury producer Anne Tansey has announced that she has signed a business management agreement with Neil C. Reshen Business Management, Inc.

Alice Hits Road

Alice Cooper, Straight Records' five-member, all-male group, are set to begin a cross-country tour starting June 3 and continuing until the beginning of July.

Polydor Pacts Cat Mother

Cat Mother and the All Night Newsboys, a rock group managed by Mike Jeffery, has signed a recording contract with Polydor, Inc., it was announced by Jerry Schoenbaum, Polydor's President.

Their first album, "The Street Giveth . . . and the Street Taketh Away," as well as a single featuring their hit medley, "Good Old Rock 'n' Roll," will be released this week. A full-scale promotion campaign including press kits, radio spots and full page ads to the trades and undergrounds will announce Polydor's first album product.

Cat Mother, produced by Jimi Hendrix, has recently toured cross-country as part of the Jimi Hendrix Experience and was warmly received at Madison Square Garden for Hendrix' concert there last week. After appearing at the



Cat Mother

San Jose Pop Festival in California, the group will be returning to the Electric Circus for a five day stint beginning May 27.

The group includes Roy Michaels and Charlie Chin on guitars, Mike Equine on drums, Larry Packer on violin and mandolin and Bob Smith on organ. Cat Mother writes and arranges all of their own material and has designed the jacket for their Polydor album.

Decca, Brovsky Promo On McKendree Spring

NEW YORK—Mike Brovsky, President of Brovsky Management, announced a special promotion by his firm and Decca Records for the new McKendree Spring Decca LP.

Brovsky and Decca have prepared a special promo kit consisting of a highlight recording cut from the LP, a bio and a

photo. A "Slinky" spring will be mailed along with the kit to 500 djs to help introduce the group. Record shops in the Manhattan were supplied with free tickets to the McKendree Spring engagement at the Bitter End. Two tickets will be given out with each McKendree Spring LP sold.