

Ronstadt Signs with Asylum

HOLLYWOOD — Dave Geffen confirmed to Cash Box last week that he had signed Linda Ronstadt to his fledgling Asylum label, distributed by Atlantic. She makes the change in affiliation after some five years with Capitol.

Newcomer though it may be, Asylum has racked up an impressive record in the nine months since its founding. With the addition of Miss Ronstadt Geffen brings his artist roster to 13. Otherwise committed to Asylum are the likes of Jackson Brown, Jo Jo Gunne, Joni Mitchell, Judee Sill and Neil Young.

"We've never not been hot," said Geffen. "Half of our first releases have been hits, not only here but overseas as well—particularly in England, France and Germany."

All told there are four Asylum LP's to date, with a fifth due from the label's hottest group at the moment, Eagles, produced by Glyn Johns. Joni Mitchell's first LP for Asylum will be (Cont'd on p. 10)

FRONT COVER:



The roster of David Geffen-Elliott Roberts' Atlantic-distributed Asylum Records, only nine months old, has now grown to ten. Of the five artists who have thus far released their debut product on the label, three are charted this week: Jackson Brown (his single, "Doctor My Eyes" at 14 and album, "Jackson Brown" at 45); Jo Jo Gunne (their single, "Run, Run, Run" at 41 and album, "Jo Jo Gunne" at 52) and Eagles (their debut single "Take It Easy" is bulleted at 78). Album and single product by David Blue and Judee Sill has also been greeted by strong audience and sales reaction.

Joni Mitchell, long-heralded singer songwriter has her first Asylum album in the works at present as does the newly acquired Linda Ronstadt, whose past hits include "Different Drum" and "Long, Long Time." New both to the label and the recording scene are Steve Ferguson, Ned Doheny and J. D. Souther, and their debut works are forthcoming.

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RIAA Team Aids Seizure Of 10,000 Tapes Near Chicago

CHICAGO — An injunction prohibiting the future sale of unauthorized tapes has been issued against two men, following a raid on their business premises that uncovered 10,000 allegedly bogus tapes.

As part of the Recording Industry Association of America's network of investigators, a complaint was prepared by Gary Friedman of the law office of Arvey, Hodes & Mantynband of Chicago against Albert Gale and his son, Michael, who operate G&M Distributing in Skokie, Ill.

Based on reports by investigators, Judge Dan Covelli of the Circuit Court of Cook County issued a seizure order without notice, whereupon Friedman and two deputy sheriffs raided the premises and seized the tapes. The outlet was reportedly moving 8,000 unauthorized tapes a week. The injunction issued by Judge Covelli prevents the Gales and others in their employ from selling phony recordings.

Friedman pointed out that this was a civil action, since Illinois has no laws on the books against the sale of bogus recordings. Friedman said his office would consider action under the

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Stories We Hate To Write

Poppy's Modest Size Enables Custom-Tailored Artist Drives

NEW YORK — Poppy Records says its decked out in "early Elektra" in its approach to merchandising an act.

"While we're thin in personnel," says label principal Harold Friedman, "we're heavy in application." Friedman, a music industry veteran, is associated in the label with two other principals Kevin Eggers and his brother, Dennis Eggers.

With only seven acts to work on, Friedman points out that releases can be co-ordinated at different time schedules with maximum impact on each act. The roster is also one of planned diversification. Included are Dick Gregory, Linda Cohen, Don Randi Trio + L, Chris Smither, Doc Watson, Townes Van Zandt and Eric Von Schmidt.

Merchandising of each act begins with striking LP cover art as devised by well-known visual and graphics man Milt Glaser. Poppy then offers what it terms a "minimum personal-appearance package" designed to effectively exploit a local engagement. This involves time buys on local radio stations, promo-publicity with the club, no matter how small the venue, and activity on the retail level.

Friedman cites as an example of its

Nash, Crosby To Tour w/ New Band

NEW YORK — For the first time, Graham Nash and David Crosby will embark on a major concert tour of American and Canadian cities in the company of a group of musicians, according to David Geffen, president of the Geffen/Roberts Company.

Beginning in Aug., the two artists will appear with the same band with which they recorded their current smash Atlantic Album, "Graham Nash/David Crosby." They include Russell Kunkel, Leland Sklar, Craig Doerge and Danny Kootch.

This will be the artists' first tour in (Cont'd on p. 18)

new amendment of the Federal Copyright law—giving a copyright to sound recordings—if, after examination of the seized tapes, it was determined that the tapes were produced after Feb. 15, the date the amendment took effect.

Friedman said that five or six similar seizure approaches are pending in the area.

NARM Piracy Meet June 6 In Chicago

PHILADELPHIA—The first meeting of the nine regional chairmen of the NARM Anti-Piracy Committee will be held on June 6, at the O'Hare Hyatt House in Chicago. Along with national chairman of the committee James Schwartz (District Records, Inc., Washington, D.C.), the men who will lead the nationwide grass roots campaign organized by NARM to fight the sale of pirated recorded product, will meet with NARM exec director Jules Malamud, Charles B. Ruttenberg of the NARM law firm of Arent, Fox, Kintner, Plotkin and Kahn; and David Press, NARM president, (D & H Distributing Co., Harrisburg, Pa.). Since the NARM effort was coordinated with RIAA and the Harry Fox Office, Jules Yarnell, who heads the (Cont'd on p. 18)

approach its "regular campaign" for Doc Watson, which remembered, Friedman says, the fact the legendary country performer's greatness was "known to relatively few people who buy records." A "tailored buildup" started with a press party at the Gaslight in New York when he opened there a few months ago. In addition to the regular run of press people, Poppy made sure to invite a strong representation of college deejays and editors. Watson and his son Merle gave a private 45-minute concert. As he went on his tour of college campuses, Poppy tied-in with his manager Bob Miller of Folklore and contacted its U.D.C. promo men who met Watson and arranged for interviews and station visits whenever possible. In Los Angeles, time buys on Top 40 and country stations were dealer tagged, with the venue getting a plug.

Coming up, Friedman notes, is another custom-tailored campaign for Eric Von Schmidt to tie-in with a release next month.

To the exec, "point of view, attitude and look" sum up Poppy's attempt to carry weight on the pop music scene.

Neil Young Will Play Globe In Fall

NEW YORK — Neil Young embarks on a four-month world-wide concert tour this fall, performing in fifty North American cities over a ten-week period. This marks Young's first series of concerts as a solo artist in quite some time. The Stray Gators, who accompanied the artist on his current Reprise album "Harvest," will be backing him on all tour dates. David Geffen of Geffen-Roberts, the performer's personal managers, is booking all his dates.

Following the U.S. and Canadian concerts, Young will play dates in Australia, Japan, Great Britain, France, Holland, Germany and the (Cont'd on p. 18)

Ostin Chairs, Smith Pres. Of WB/Reprise

HOLLYWOOD—Mo Ostin has been elevated to chairman of the Warner Bros./Reprise labels, while Joe Smith has been named president, it was reported late last week. Ostin had previously served as president of the company; Smith had been exec vp. Under the management of both execs, the label has evolved into one of the industry's major volume sellers.

Knight Denies GFR Charges

NEW YORK — Terry Knight issued the following statement in response to the recent legal action against him by Grand Funk Railroad:

"The charges and allegations made against me and the other individuals are absolutely and unequivocally false, each and every one of them. The statements range from lies to outright stupidity and there is not one truth contained in any allegation which I will happily prove in Court when the cases are heard.

"As far as any announcement of new management and recording affiliations, the members of Grand Funk Railroad seem to have forgotten that they are defendants in several lawsuits filed against them in New York Supreme Court pertaining to their existing management and recording contracts with me. Until the facts are heard and decision made by the Court as to the validity of my existing management and recording contracts with the group, there won't be any 'new management' or 'new recording affiliations,' I assure you, as will anyone in the country with a law degree."

Farrell Buys 100% Of Pub Of Rascals

NEW YORK — Wes Farrell, president of the Wes Farrell Organization, has acquired 100% ownership interest of all compositions in the Slaesar catalog, the main publishing arm of the Rascals. No buyout price was given.

Included in the deal are over 100 individual songs written by members of the group, including such hits as "Groovin'," "People Gotte Be Free," "How Can I Be Sure," "A Beautiful Morning," "Hold On," "Carry Me Back," and "It's Wonderful."

In announcing his latest acquisition (Cont'd on p. 18)

Fame, UA Tie Opens w/Staton

HOLLYWOOD — The first product in the recently announced label affiliation agreement between United Artists Records and Fame Records has (Cont'd on p. 10)

Col Inks
Sonny James
—
See Country News

Canadian Brewery
Brews Song Contest
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See Int'l News