

Music

VIEWS

MAY • 1954



les &
mary

'I REALLY DON'T WANT TO KNOW'



*the songs
her television audiences
like best... the songs
they ask her to sing
again and again!*

Kate Smith

L.P. Album No. H-515
E.P. Album No. EBF-515

in a thrilling new album...

"TV CURTAIN CALLS"

INCLUDING THESE FAVORITE BALLADS...

- ★ The Nearness Of You
- ★ They Can't Take That Away From Me
- ★ Love Is Here To Stay
- ★ If I Had You
- ★ The Very Thought Of You
- ★ But Not For Me
- ★ Love Walked In
- ★ It Could Happen To You



Music Views

May, 1954 Vol. XII, No. 5

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About the time "Vaya Con Dios" had passed the 2-million sales figure, (the biggest record of 1953) Les Paul and Mary Ford began working on the next one. They agreed that it had to be something "different." Dipping into the country and western category, they came up with a socko treatment of a beautiful ballad, "I Really Don't Want To Know." Then Les loaded the other barrel with an exciting version of the standard, "South." Looks like this will sell in the neighborhood of another 2 million . . . a very exclusive neighborhood.

on the stand

RAY ANTHONY

Norfolk, Virginia	26 April
St. Petersburg, Pennsylvania	29 April
Kingston, North Carolina	1 May
New Beria, Louisiana	4 May
Atlanta, Georgia	7 May
Pine Bluff, Arkansas	11 May
Wichita Falls, Texas	12 May
Longview, Texas	13 May
College Station, Texas	15 May
Baton Rouge, Louisiana	17 May

DUKE ELLINGTON

Albany, Oregon	28 April
Portland, Oregon	29 April
Victoria, British Columbia	30 April

BILLY MAY ORCHESTRA

with SAM DONAHUE

Bridgeport, Connecticut	25 April
Ithica, New York	26 April
Allentown, Pennsylvania	28 April
Monaham City, Pa.	29 April
Troy, New York	1 May
South River, New Jersey	2 May
Worcester, Maine	7 May

Hershey, Pennsylvania	8 May
Wheeling, West Virginia	11 May
Fort Meade, Maryland	13 May
Raleigh, North Carolina	14 May
San Antonio, Texas	16 May
Tulsa, Oklahoma	18 May

FOUR FRESHMEN

Detroit, Michigan	1 May
Lansing, Michigan	2 May
Detroit, Michigan	25 May - 20 June

FOUR KNIGHTS

Buffalo, New York	26 April - 2 May
Washington, D. C.	3 - 9 May
Quebec, Canada	13 - 19 May

PEE WEE HUNT

Lawton, Oklahoma	1 May
Denison, Texas	2 May
Dallas, Texas	3 - 9 May
San Marcos, Texas	10 May
Houston, Texas	12 - 15 May
Fort Worth, Texas	16 May
Midland, Texas	18 - 22 May
Roswell, New Mexico	23 - 29 May
El Paso, Texas	30 May



The gal in the middle of all the Costa Rican cauliflower is Betty Hutton, whose "Banana Boat" (get it?) is current on Capitol. Flip-side is swinay 1924 vintage tune.

across the



Howard Keel, costumed as Petruccio, sings "Where Is That Life I Led?" from "Kiss Me Kate" for the cash customers at Last Frontier, Las Vegas. His act was a smash hit.



Stan Freberg, Tommy Leonetti, Helen O'Connell recently made it Capitol Night on Peter Potter's TV show. Helen's newest record is "Hang Up" with "Sorry, Sorry, Sorry."



Julius La Rosa, Herman Hover and Terry Moore of 20th-Fox in Ciro's, which Hover owns. La Rosa's current Cadence disk is "Have A Heart" backed by "When You're in Love."

country



DJ Jerry Wichner, Miami Beach, Fla., interviews Capitol's Al Martino about his "Way, Paesano" disk and Columbia's Liberace about his "Easter Parade." Note the Florida tans.



Zsa Zsa You-Know-Who and Kathryn Grayson, star of Grace Moore film bio, "So This Is Love," meet face to face in Las Vegas, where it could happen to anybody. Pretty?



One of show business' most talented teams, Danny Kaye and his composer wife, Sylvia Fine, prepare for a scene in Danny's Technicolor picture — "Knock On Wood."



The Ames Brothers are for a microphone made, as anyone will tell you who has heard their "Man Is For the Woman Made" on Victor. Quartet joined RCA from Coral.

AROUND THE WORLD IN 32 BARS

COMPOSER Eddie Heyman, who has "Body and Soul," "Out of Nowhere," and "I Cover the Waterfront" to his credit, returned home to Beverly Hills last month after a year of exploring the globe musically.

On a search for ideas, Heyman came home inspired by the unorthodox musical custom he encountered in Thailand.

There, he found, music is not confined to the concert or dance hall or night club. Boxing matches in Thailand are accompanied by a sizzling four-piece combination. Prior to a fight each boxer trips through a dance honoring his instructor. During the bout the combo bursts out in frenzied or cool passages, depending on how the fight is going.

MOST exotic stopoff for Heyman was Bali, where the orchestra is called the Gamelon and consists of 25 pieces. The Gamelon itself is an instrument similar to a xylophone. Each village has the Gamelon, which plays a major role in community affairs, and the natives use absolutely no music. For hours and hours they improvise enchanting productions.

A popular tourist attraction in Granada is the uninhibited dancing and singing of the gypsies who entertain deep in their caves.



Composer (Body & Soul) Heyman explored the globe for strange musical customs — and found plenty!

In Hong Kong funerals provide a reason for merriment; two big bands follow the procession, as a mob follows them down the street singing wildly.

I N Denmark Heyman met the composer of "Oh Mein Papa" before the song was released in the U. S. Heyman doomed it to a miserable death and much to his chagrin arrived back in the states to find it on the hit parade.

Jitterbugging and American jazz are avidly supported throughout the world, according to Heyman, but U. S. song lyrics are generally scoffed at and ridiculed.

Currently Heyman is throwing some of his new-found musical ideas at Capitol's Les Baxter and is collaborating with Victor Young.—M.H.

COOL, COOLER, COOLEST!

The cool winds blew up a storm over Los Angeles, recently, the storm center being the Shrine Auditorium, where jazz impresario Gene Norman presented his "Just Jazz" concert. Prevailing winds included Stan Kenton and his ork, June Christy, Errol Garner, Dizzy Gillespie, Lee Konitz and Charlie Parker. According to the turnaway crowd of "hipsters," it's a cool wind that blows good!



Stan Kenton



June Christy



High spots were provided by top-ranking soloists from the great Stan Kenton crew.



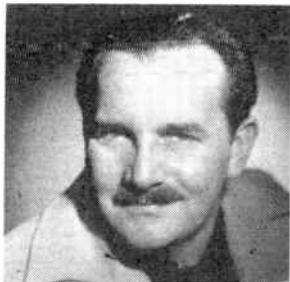
Dizzy Gillespie

Candido



Pianist Errol Garner and pianist Kenton took care of the comedy, in addition to making with the cool sounds. Errol's exit line: "Who's this guy Stan Kenton?"

ROUND



"Answer Me, My Love," which has become one of the country's top tunes via Nat Cole's waxing, has now completed an unusual cycle. The melody was originally composed by Gerhard Winkler (above) a resident of Berlin, Germany. A Viennese, Fred Rauch (below) wrote the first German words under the title *"Mutterlein, Weisst Du Noch, Wie's fruher war"* (Mother Mine, Do You Remember Times Gone By).

In France the song was titled *"Graziella,"* in the Netherlands *"Moeder Nijn"* and in

Scandinavian countries, *"Lille Mor."* The first English version was titled *"Answer Me, Oh Lord Above,"* and enjoyed considerable success in England under this sacred title.

For American consumption, the song was changed to *"Answer Me, My Love,"* and the Cole record quickly became a hit. Then it began to click in Europe too. Soon German fans were asking for a German version of the English lyric. So Rauch, the original lyricist, has had to rewrite his own lyric along the lines of the English version. The new German rendition will be out soon.



● HIT PAYING OFF

Things have picked up for Carolyn Leigh, composer of *"Young At Heart."* The songwriter has been stormed with assignments from 17 publishers and currently is set to do the score for a Broadway musical.

● COLLECTOR'S ITEMS

Such collectors' items as 100-year-old music boxes, a street piano and a hurdy-gurdy have been re-recorded by Radio Electric for high fidelity. The novelty disks had been obsolete for many years.

● BEETHOVEN TOPS

Beethoven, Mozart and Bach rate in that order as favorites of the average white-collar worker while Tchaikowsky replaces Bach in third place with the average industrial worker.

At least this represents the results bared in a recent listener poll by New York City's radio station WNYC. Beethoven was the favorite composer by a wide margin, with his "Ninth Symphony" voted the most popular composition.

Aaron Copland was first among contemporary composers followed by Prokofieff, Stravinsky and Bartok. Stravinsky's "Rites of Spring" was top winner in modern works. Pianist Vladimir Horowitz was voted leading pianist over Artur Rubenstein. Artur Schnabel and Walter Gieseking.

Other first place winners were Violinist Jascha Heifetz with the New York Philharmonic and the Boston Symphony sharing triumph honors as top orchestra. Arturo Toscanini was favorite conductor followed by Bruno Walter and Eugene Ormandy.

● MORE AND AMORE

Dean Martin's "That's Amore" platter on Capitol is approaching two million copies in sales, a record figure in Martin's career.



Pictures like this one encouraged disk jockeys to spin Helen Troy's Vito recording of the standard "I Get the Blues when It Rains." Nice?

SESSION WITH SINATRA

A musician to the core, Frank Sinatra is no singer to loaf around until time to start singing. The active hand he takes in his own wax sessions may account for some of the hit quality in recent best-sellers like "Young At Heart" and Sinatra's new Capitol album, "Songs for Young Lovers." His current Capitol release is "I Could Have Told You."



Photos taken during a recent Hollywood recording session show Sinatra working with Conductor-arranger Nelson Riddle (above) and with Capitol producer Voyle Gilmore (below, left, with back to camera) to achieve the balance and modulation that have held the "new Sinatra" at the top of the hit lists. Below right, he sings.





"FAN FARE" BY WALT DITZEN

REPRINTED FROM THE LOS ANGELES MIRROR BY PERMISSION OF THE JOHN F. OILLE CO.

Verse in the Groove For Caedmon Records

A musicless recording company formed in 1952 by two young college graduates is beginning to make the major labels sit up and take notice of its sales figures—especially since the new company records nothing but poetry.

Caedmon Records, of New York, has achieved success since it was founded by Barbara Cohen and Marianne Roney, Phi Beta Kappas who met in Greek class at Hunter College, decided that good literature ought to be available on records, and put their ideas into practice when they got out of school.

Although the young women had no experience in the record business, they now boast a roster of artists which includes some of the biggest names in modern literature. Among poets who have recorded their works for Caedmon

are Dylan Thomas, E. E. Cummings, Sean O'Casey, Ogden Nash, Eudora Welty, Katherine Anne Porter, Tennessee Williams, Thomas Mann and Edith Sitwell.

"The Market, we've discovered, is really hungry for poetry," says Miss Roney. "Our first volume, by Dylan Thomas, has sold almost 10,000 copies. And all these poets are continuing sellers—the Dylan Thomas records are selling more now than when we first released them."

Operating from offices on Manhattan's Fourth Avenue, the Misses Cohen and Roney help design their own album covers, wrap packages, handle the mailing, and, of course, supervise all recording. The latter has taken them as far from home as California, where they put the voice of Thomas Mann, reading his own verse, on wax.



Joan Blondell, away from the public eye for several years, is now displaying a new nightclub act in some of the better spots. Act includes team of Johnson and Madil.

● SEAL OF APPROVAL

Music City, Hollywood, leading U.S. record store, currently is pioneering in records "untouched by human hands." Each LP album sold is placed in the customer's hands with an unbroken seal on the sleeve indicating the album never before has been played. "When a person invests \$3 to \$18 in an LP album," says manager Clyde Wallichs, "he's entitled to put the first scratches on it."

● CAP ACQUIRES 'SEA'

Original cast album rights to "By The Beautiful Sea," new musical starring Shirley Booth, have been obtained by Capitol.

Under the terms of the agreement, Capitol will issue the original cast album as well as single tunes from the show as performed by Capitol contract artists.

Three Capitol artists are out with singles from the show — "Alone Too Long" by Nat "King" Cole, "Hang Up" by Helen O'Connell and "Coney Island Boat" by Gordon MacRae and June Hutton.



The most frequent question asked of clarinetist Artie Shaw is "who is your barber?" Newest release for the great Artie: "Tenderly," coupled with "Stop and Go Mambo."

● PLUGGER'S FRIEND

Music publishers who, only a year or so ago, were stating that TV had little or no effect on the music business, are changing their minds. In fact, the most covered plugs in the music business are now provided by "Toast of the Town," "Jackie Gleason Show," "Comedy Hour" and "Lucky Strike Hit Parade." Artists plugging their disks on these shows report an immediate rise in record sales. Reversal of the trend is credited to the fact that TV is now using more new and fewer standard tunes.



Bill Finegan (left) and Eddie Sauter bring an RCA-Victor disk to life in a Los Angeles Sauter-Finegan Orch concert staged by Gene Norman. Finegan is beating his chest.



The Taylor Maids (name sounds like a cigarette ad, doesn't it?) have been making quite a splash in the platter circles with their Eureka disk, "Nu, Nu, Nu," and "Bandana."

● A HAND IN MOVIE

There's more than one way to plug a pop record. Coral's latest method was to tub a Don Cornell disk, "Hold My Hand," into the sound track of a new film, Dick Powell's "Susan Slept Here." RKO, producer of the film, agreed to give Cornell mention by name in the dialog and include a screen closeup of the Coral label, in addition to billing for Cornell. Coral agreed to hold the record until release of the film later in March.

"The funniest twelve guys on television" – Jackie Gleason – portrays some of his best-loved characters in an album that captures all the fun and excitement of his great television show!



THE LOUDMOUTH JOE THE BARTENDER

FOR THE FIRST TIME ON RECORD



JACKIE GLEASON

SINGS COMEDY SONGS IN HIS OWN STYLE

And Away

— and here is Jackie's sentimental side that's featured in his sensationally successful romantic music



"TAWNY"



"MUSIC TO MAKE YOU MISTY"



THE HONEYMOONER FENWICK BABBITT REGGIE VAN GLEASON III THE POOR SOUL

GLEASON

NEWEST ALBUM

We Go!

LP ALBUM - 1951
EP ALBUM - 1951



src presentations —



"MUSIC FOR LOVERS ONLY"



"LOVER'S RHAPSODY"



You don't have to be beautiful to make records, but it helps. This newcomer to the M-G-M wax works is Vicki Benet, whose disk version of "Shipwrecked" is being heard.

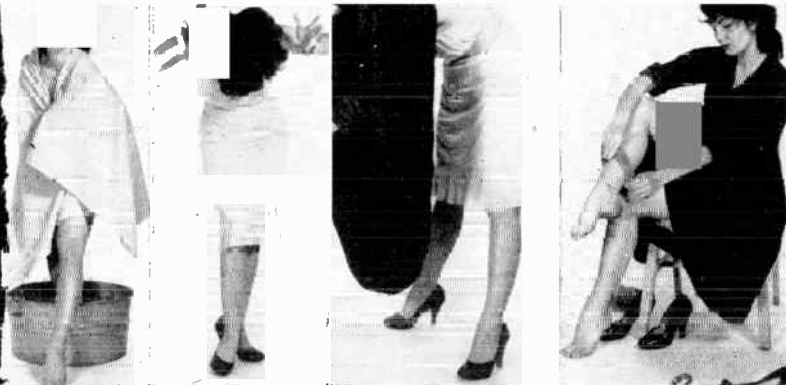
YOUNGSTER



Like Rachmaninoff, Pianist Carl Friedberg has always cast a jaundiced eye on recorded music. But recently, the 81-year-old master softened. He accepted Zodiac Records' offer to cut his first record. The concert pianist and teacher (above), who has been appearing before the public since 1887, has chosen Schumann and Brahms for his first performance on wax. Probably, the only living student of Clara Schumann, Friedberg is a former teacher of the Julliard School of Music.

● EUROPEAN TOURS

Harry James, Xavier Cugat and Tex Beneke plan to tour Europe this summer. Capitol's Ray Anthony tentatively is slated for a fall series of concerts overseas. Singer Nat King Cole played England last month.



This "reverse strip tease" was used by Victor to tempt deejays into playing Wyoma Winters' new disk, "Where Can I Go Without You?" Pictures of Wyoma were sent to DJs two days apart, in the above order, each bearing the caption: "Ready? No, not yet!" Disk got lots of spins.

Barracks Snapshot: Ronnie Gaylord, Pfc.

IMAGINE sitting in an army barracks, scrubbing floors every morning and peeling potatoes every other morning while earning something like \$50,000 a year in record royalties.

That's the plight of GI Ronnie Gaylord, PFC. Ronnie, one of Mercury's shining stars who sings, plucks guitar and composes, is credited with helping put the Italian-American folksong back on the Hit Parade. Twenty-three-year old Ronnie comes from Detroit, was a former law student and has been in the army nearly two years.

Some of his platter successes are "Tell Me You're Mine,"

"From The Vine Came The Grape" and "Cuddle Me." With his chum, Burt Donaldi, he duetted around bars then added Don Rea, pianist, to the act. Just before he joined Uncle Sam the trio cut a disk and sent it out to indie label, Dot, who returned it with the comment that "Tell Me You're Mine" had to go.

Mercury picked it up and the rest is history. Their first record "Mine" soared to the million mark.

Next year Gaylord will be out of the service and some predict he'll be on his way toward a \$100,000 a year income—a nice way to get those discharge papers.

INSULTS PAY OFF FOR DJ

CALIFORNIA'S Palm Springs, the desert playground with a millionaire on every corner, currently is talking about an ex-Paul Whiteman script writer turned disk jockey.

Thirty-nine year old Louie Quinn, who brought one of the first artists, Andy Russell, to the Cap label back in 1943, beams six nights a week, 11 to 2 via KCMJ-CBS from the La Paz Hotel. And occasionally he even plays a record.

Mostly Quinn talks—fast, furiously and insolently. A Hollywood columnist, Leo Guild, has him tagged as the "Arthur Godfrey of Palm Springs."

Sponsors and listeners are tickled and chilled by such Quinn specialities as reading the Bible with a Dave Rose background, and referring to one of his ten sponsors: "If your wife is untrue and you need a tie to hang yourself with, go to Ralph's Haberdashers."

Often while he's broadcasting to entertain himself (and his audience) DJ Quinn brings in a radio, sets it next to the mike and tunes in a rival station.

THE classy hotel from which he broadcasts sometimes is the victim of Quinn's biting quips.



Some people go to Palm Springs for sun, some to hear DJ Quinn.

He once announced its policy as "No minimum — no cover — no customers," and one night he aired: "If you don't have the money for this joint, just bring some wood for the fireplace." Sure enough, a guy showed up the same night with an armload of logs. Quinn fed him free.

As to his opinion of other deejays, Quinn snorts: "They play to the radio audience. That's all wrong. The mike should be handled so that the listener considers it a privilege to be tuned in."

But insults are paying off for Quinn. He earns \$350 a week, plus meals, swimming pool and room rent.—Merrilyn Hammond.



Hoagy Carmichael receives membership card in New Friends of Nothing Club, from Paul Nero, Chief Zero. Organization was founded to promote all types of good music.

● IT'LL BE A CIRCUS

Dean Martin, whose "Amore" is still a leading Capitol hit, and Jerry Lewis, currently being heard on "The Nagger," have tentatively agreed to four appearances with the Clyde Beatty Circus this summer as clowns. Beatty approached the duo with the idea while they were on location with Hal Wallis' "The Big Top" in Phoenix, Arizona, this spring.

● PRODUCER GLEASON

Jackie Gleason may be producer of the CBS-TV show which replaces him this summer. This would be the first time a television star has ever produced his own summer replacement.



"Why Didn't You Tell Me?" Marti Stevens asks on her new MGM record — and, gosh, how are you going to answer a gal as pretty as this except by buying the disk?



Virginia Mayo, usually seen singing or dancing in movie musicals, is currently appearing in Warner CinemaScope production of the Sir Walter Scott tome, "The Talisman."

IMPORT

To Mike Kaplan of Daily Variety goes the credit for discovering the latest recorded item from Africa. It's "Wena Bhuti Lalela," which is dialect for Glenn Miller's "In the Mood," and was recorded by the Cold Storage Commission of Southern Rhodesia — that's the name of the band—on the Gallatone label. It seems the record fell into the hands of actress Vonne Godfrey, who played it for Kaplan. The latter recommended it to a disk jockey friend, who played it on the air with such response that a deal for U. S. distribution of "Wena Bhuti Lalela" is now brewing.

● DUB FLAGSTAD

Soprano Kirsten Flagstad has confirmed a rumor that she permitted another soprano, Elizabeth Schwarzkopf, to sing two high C's for her on a recent recording of Wagner's "Tristan and Isolde." Flagstad, described by critics as the greatest singer of modern times, agreed to the dubbing because she was dissatisfied with her own high notes after the four-hour recording session, according to His Master's Voice—RCA Victor, London.

vamp till ready



IT IS estimated that recording companies supplied radio stations with over 175,000 classical LP's during 1953, in an effort to stimulate interest in classical music. Cost: \$1,000,000 . . . Under the assumption that a composer is best qualified to perform his own work, several new albums are being released featuring the artist-writer. Capitol has "The Duke Plays Ellington"; Atlantic is releasing "Vernon Duke Plays Vernon Duke"; Trend issued "Matt Dennis Sings and Plays Matt Dennis," and Heritage Records has "Harold Rome Plays Harold Rome."

THE National Father's Day Committee awarded Eddie Fisher a "George" in recognition of what his "Oh! My Papa" has done for the "fathers of America." . . . When Mercury Records dropped the option of singer Lola Ameche, manager Al Trace started his own label and recorded her under the name Lola Dee. So what happened? Mercury turned around and bought the masters.

PARIS. France, record dealers are screaming about a new tax. They are to pay a levy of \$30 per year to cover royalties on records which are heard—but not bought—in their shops . . . Hank Thompson, voted 1953's outstanding Country artist recently recorded for 20 hours in one week—more than 20 sides . . . Lawrence Welk's new contract with the Aragon Ballroom, L.A., calls for a year's guarantee of \$250,000 plus a 50-50 split on everything over \$5,000 per week. Which makes it the most expensive champagne in history.

ED SULLIVAN is planning another salute to the record industry on his "Toast of the Town" TV show, with the Record Industry Association cooperating. Show is scheduled for sometime after the ASCAP salute which takes place May 2 and 9 . . . In Italy and France songwriters are not granted copyrights unless they are graduates of a recognized conservatory or college—or unless they pass an examination. You need a degree to write "Doggie in the Window"?



No hayseed this gal; she's pretty Mary Rose Bruce, new RCA Victor pactee. Her first release for the Little Dog is "Don't Let a Day Go By." Harry Geller conducts orch.

Top Bands Report 'Business Is Good'

THOSE downbeats are on the upswing. Band bookings are increasing all over the country, according to observations of the music tradesters. Although fewer ballrooms are in operation, the price for campus engagements is up.

Established bands like Ray Anthony, Billy May, Ralph Flanagan, Ralph Marterie, Woody Herman and Sauter-Finegan, have latched onto solid bookings. Currently being scheduled are Les Elgart, The Commanders, Richard Hayman, Roger King Mozian and Phil Brito.

Old favorites like Tommy and Jimmy Dorsey, Guy Lombardo, Sammy Kaye, Harry James, Lawrence Welk, Jan Garber and Les Brown report they are able to work whenever they like.

Many reasons are given for the increased booking, among them the fact that bandleaders have learned to play to please the dancers while promoting their latest recordings. Record sales and the signing of bands by record companies has also helped in their promotion.

SINCERE



Curvy Micki Marlo, 21-year-old dark-eyed beauty, is one of the rare exceptions to the old story that the ladder to success is a long, hard, shaky ascent. After only a few months' voice training, Micki got her first club date at the Celebrity Room in Philadelphia, where Capitol Records scouts caught her act and signed up her first record, "Love's Like That" and "I'm Gonna Rock - Rock - Rock." Micki, who cannot read music, just "loves to sing." She feels that sincerity is the main ingredient of show business success. And who knows?

● SANDBURG ON WAX

The weekly Saturday Review magazine will put a poet, Carl Sandburg, on records—a long-playing album of readings from his works on Lincoln. The record may not be for sale but used by the magazine as a premium.



Jean Shepard glimpses her Cash Box Magazine Award as "Most Promising C & W Singer of 1953" over shoulders of Capitol producer Ken Nelson and mag's Carl Taft.



Haitian Chanteuse Josephine Pre-mice tells Princess Rashevsky about her new Coral Records contract in the swank Blue Angel, New York, where Jo's sophisticated act played.



Rita Moreno is "Latin Lady" used to promote Hugo Winterhalter disk which is not-so-coincidentally titled "Latin Lady." Postcards of Miss Moreno were sent out to deejays.



Joe "Fingers" Carr and basso Thurl Ravenscroft talk over the arrangement during the recording session which produced "Fingers'" hit record, "Until Sunrise," "Humoresque."

● BIG CITY STUFF

All aboard! See New York; meet your favorite disk jockey; attend a dinner-dance; meet your favorite disk jockey; get an autographed record free, and meet your favorite disk jockey.

That's the newest promotion deal the eastern DJs are supporting to bring groups of listeners to New York on weekend junkets. Each weekend a different radio station invites listeners from out of town to meet a disk jockey and tour New York at bargain prices.

Low cost of the trip covers train transportation into New York, all meals, a coke n' cocktail party, banquet and a show.

● CAFE BIZ OFF

The night club business, fabulous invalid, is near death's door again, according to interviews of cafe operators throughout the country by Bill Smith of Billboard. Says Nat Harris, of La Vie en Rose, New York: "There isn't a club in the country that's operating in the black." Blaming high talent costs, Karl Eddy, of Eddy's, Kansas City, Mo., told Billboard: "Cafes lucky enough to buy a record artist who is climbing will make money." But cafe business seems to rise and fall with popularity of the artist.

● CAP EARNINGS UP

Capitol Records, Inc., strengthened its position as one of the leaders in the industry during 1953 as earnings increased 38 per cent over 1952 and sales were up 15 per cent to a new all-time high, President Glenn E. Wallichs disclosed in his annual report to shareholders.

Sales, which have risen steadily for the past four years, reached a volume of \$16,941,230, stimulated by a number of outstanding hit records and mounting public enthusiasm for high fidelity reproduction of classical music. In 1952 the company's sales amounted to \$14,738,341.

Measured by the weekly tabulations made by a leading trade publication, Capitol ranked first in single popular records released during the year. Biggest hit, "Vaya Con Dios," sold more than 2,000,000 copies. The year's best selections have been brought together on a record which forms a musical supplement to the shareholder's report.

● LUTCHER TO DECCA

Singer Nellie Lutcher signed a new recording pact March 1 with Decca. Miss Lutcher, who scored her biggest success on Capitol with "Hurry on Down," most recently appeared on the Epic label.



Seven-year-old Rickie Vera has a glamorous visitor, Jane Russell, while recording his "Dagnet Goes To Kindergarten" on Coral. Flip-side: "Rosita, Red Riding Hood."



Jackie Gleason gets all the fractures and Red Skelton gets all the breaks. Here's Red surrounded by them. The gals are dancers from MGM's new pic, "The Great Diamond Robbery."



Chuck Miller (R) gets a suggestion from his manager, Art Whiting, on the interpretation of his Capitol disclick, "The Joker (In the Card Game of Life)" with "Idaho Red."



Chris Connor, one-time Stan Kenton vocalist, now records singly on Bethlehem Records. Latest disk on the label: "Gimme, Gimme, Gimme, Gimme, Gimme"- "Blue Silhouette."



Tony Bennett, who recently turned in his rags for riches, currently is looking for a repeat with his latest, "There'll Be No Teardrops Tonight." He waxes for Columbia.

● WHITHER ZITHER?

The professional innkeepers of Vienna are reported mad at "Amateur" Anton Karas, zither player who rose to fame via his "Third Man Theme." Karas piled up a nest-egg by touring the world after his hit then returned to Vienna to open a cabaret featuring himself as entertainer. Now rival cafe proprietors, complaining to their guild of "unfair competition," have appealed to the Austrian Ministry of Trade, which has fined Karas twice on license charges and now threatens to close his doors.



How good looking can a DJ get? Patti Rhodes (above) combines intimate chatter, sentimental records and mood music on "This Is Patti" show over WABC, New York.



The coy smile is being purveyed by Vera Leeds, who stirred up a lot of major label interest with her Original Records disk, "Long, Long Train with a Red Caboose."

NEW BABY

Not only does the public determine what songs will be hits; it sometimes chooses the title. Capitol's "I Get So Lonely," by the Four Knights, made such effective use of the opening words, "Oh baby mine," that many customers were asking for the record by the title "Oh Baby Mine." As a result the publisher, E. H. Morris, has requested that the title be changed to "(Oh Baby Mine) I Get So Lonely."



Sammy Davis Jr., singer, dancer and impressionist, talks things over in Hollywood with Judy Garland, singer, dancer and impressionist. Four of Davis' records are Capitol.



Frankie Laine finds something amusing in the lyric while cutting his new disk release, "The Kid's Last Fight." Trying hard to see the humor is Columbia's Mitch Miller.

● SONG OF THE ROAD

Ray King of Newark, N. J., makes his living as a truck driver, but his reputation as a recording artist. He's now out on a new Anchor release, "I Confess."

BACH BACK

Jobann Sebastian Bach seems to have written a 1954 topical number. His "Coffee Cantata," singing the praises of the Brazilian bean, has come in for more frequent performances than usual, since the java shortage smote the land.

—Down Beat.

● LIBERACE HEADLINES

Pianist Liberace this spring turned his press agent's dream into reality, with nearly 50 metropolitan U. S. newspapers running serial stories on the life of "the greatest love interest since Valentino." Among intimate facts unearthed in front-page stories: Liberace received 27,000 Valentines this year; the swimming pool of his California home is piano-shaped.

CAPITOL PUBLICATIONS

6362 Hollywood Boulevard
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