



Cash Box Record Ramblings

NEW YORK

The Scene is up for grabs . . . not for sale, but free (practically for the asking) to a non profit organization that is willing to keep it going and to assume its liabilities. The club, started by Steve Paul about four years ago, has been the site of performances by many of the major pop stars of this era. Paul refers to his offer to give the club away, as an attempt to hasten the "escalation of decapitalization of the Scene."

United Artists, in conjunction with the Ren Grevatt publicity office, threw a big welcoming party for Traffic at the Scene last week.



Ohio Players



Rascals



Joan Baez Harris



Joni Mitchell



Bobbie Gentry



Mark Richardson

This year's WBAI marathon will begin at 5 p.m. on May 14th and will run continuously 24-hours-a-day until the Pacifica outlet reaches its goal of \$125,000. Professional entertainers that would like to perform on the air (gratis) during the marathon and thus help raise the necessary funds, might call David Kelston at OX 7-2288 before May 10th.

The Rascals will appear on Leslie Uggams' first network special, "Hallelujah Leslie!" over ABC-TV on May 1st. They will perform "It's Wonderful," "A Rainy Day," "Once Upon A Dream," and "Groovin'."

Al Martino leaving soon to entertain the troops in Sweden. Al's latest dishing for Capitol is the old WW II favorite, "Lili Marlene." . . . The Magnificent Men, all of which are from the Harrisburg, Pa. area, will serve as Pennsylvania State Chairmen of the 1968 Christmas Seal Campaign.

Eddie Harris has signed with Oscar Cohen of Associated Booking.

Ritch Nader of Premiere Talent was the guest speaker at Westchester State College for a meeting of the fourteen state colleges of Pa. The subject of his address was, "Contractual Agreements & Agent Relations In College Booking." . . . The Shaggy Boys have changed their name to Central Park and have a deck out on Amy called, "Flower Hill." . . . Orpheus has been signed for the Peter Martin, Jerry Blavatt, and Bruce Morrow TV'ers.

The Ars Nova LP is out on Elektra, some of the tracks are getting frequent play here in the city . . . the Tom Rush "Circle Game" album, titled after the Joni Mitchell cleffing by the same name, is beginning to take off now.

Gail Buchalter is now working for Mercury producers Bob Halley and Dick Corby. Halley was out of town last week rehearsing a group called the Erector Set that had won a talent contest on the Jack Elias TV'er (hence a Mercury recording contract) while Corby was grooving on a party in Detroit with the Pleasure Seekers. Later in the week, the Pleasure Seekers went on to Windsor, Ontario where the group's Suzi Soul did an almost Lady Godiva bit hanging onto the saddle of a runaway horse. No damage done though . . . she's alright.

Word from Merrec's Jerry Ross indicates that the Manfred Mann soundtrack LP to the "Up The Junction" flick is picking up steam at the air-play level. Sales on the Bunky & Jake LP have begun to move since the duo played a gig at the Cafe Au-Go-Go last week. They are releasing a single

from the album. The side? . . . "Taxi-cab."

Teddy Rendazzo has been signed to produce Connie Francis' forthcoming LP for MGM. He's also been signed to A&R a Decca single by Ritchie Adams.

Jubilee's Mickey Eichner jetting to the coast May 13-18 for talks with indie producers, new acts, and Jubilee west coast office manager Harry Goldstein. Label's cookin' with new Mary Wells single "The Doctor" and the BT-Puppy outing of "Randy" by the Happenings.

Keith Phillips IV's debut single on Monument will be released this week. It's called "Chee-Wa-Wa" and is a

product of Pen Tal Prod., which is a division of Herb Paloff Associates.

"I've Got To Hold On" looks like the winning side on the new Ohio Players single, out on Compass. The group recently met with success through their "Trespassin" deck. Buzz Willis is working it for Compass.

Amy-Mala-Bell's Dave 'Do It To It' Carrico is back from London, where he had gone for the party held to celebrate the opening of Bell's new London offices. . . . New Orleans producer Marshall E. Sehorn arrived in New York last week with new masters by Betty Harris and Lee Dorsey. Bell will release them immediately, according to word received from Gordon Bossin and Oscar Fields.

Bobbie Gentry will sing her "Ode To Billie Joe" (winner of four Grammy Awards) on "The Best On Record: The Grammy Awards Show" set for NBC colorcasting on May 8th.

The Cafe Au-Go-Go has a new look now with the stage in the center of the room and all kinds of ramps and platforms sticking out all over the place. It's quite an improvement as it gives considerably more intimacy to performances at the club. First to use the new set up was David Blue. It has since been used by Bunky & Jake, John Fahey, and the Sidetrack.

Buddy Guy is playing Generation. If you haven't seen him, do so. If you've already seen him, the chances are that you'll go back. He's incredible . . . Lothar & the Hand People are on the same bill. They too, are quite good.

D. A. Pennebaker's paperback edition of the Dylan flick, "Don't Look Back" is out now.

Ben Jones of the Cash Box Coin Machine section was married last week to the former Kay Kelly of Arlington, Va. The ceremony took place in Burlington, Ve. on Apr. 20th. They will make their home in New York.

The Children Of God is a two-month old, five-man, integrated rock group that has been working closely with the Connie DeNave office of late. They write their own material on a rather loose love/peace/enjoy the theme believing that all people are God's children, hence the name of the group. Four members of the group are actively engaged in writing material for the Children Of God. They play their own material exclusive of all others. This was aptly expressed by one member of the group who said, "We don't have the time, even if we wanted to, to do something someone else has done." The Children Of God have built something of an underground following in New York after playing at the YIP-

In in Central Park. Bob Fass of WBAI-New York has a tape of the group and has been playing it on the air. They will be appearing at the Scene early in May. They've been rehearsing at a house in Woodstock and in the basement of the Figaro. The members of the group include: Gerry Moore, rhythm guitahr and vocals; Gil Silva, lead guitar and vocals; Ed Vernon, mouth harp and vocals; Tom Everett, bass and vocals; and Chris Sigwald, drums and percussion.

Just spent a little time re-listening to Buffy Sainte-Marie's "Soulful Shade Of Blue" single on Vanguard. It's delightful, as is "Piney Wood Hills" on the flip. The whole thing is available

'Honey' on Decca. But he lost the hit. For him—a special price. He must be pretty sick by now. Losing a million seller.

Call me again when you have a problem of this kind. As you know I'm a practicing psychologist. And I need the practice. Ha-ha." We hung up.

Back in March we were privileged to hear several advance cuts from Laura Nyro's "Eli and the Thirteenth Confession" on Columbia. We guessed that it would be one of the "monumental LP's of the year." Apparently the Fifth Dimension agree. They've covered her "Stoned Soul Picnic" comp from the LP. And, within the next few weeks, the national charts should

on LP now anyway. Buffy is about to appear in the first International Pop Festival to be held in Rome.

HOLLYWOOD

We have often wondered about America's aberational affinity to songs of death. In the last decade some of our fastest breaking, most discussed million-plus sellers have involved the demise of "Tom Dooley," "Big Bad John" and "Billie Joe." The most recent, of course, is Bobby Russell's composition "Honey." It has sold about 70,000 locally and, last we heard, was approaching the 1.5 million mark in the states.

We phoned practicing psychologist Dr. Reginald Goldberg this morning and asked about this strange phenomenon.

"What an amazing coincidence," he said. "'Honey' was in to see me just the other day. A very sick girl."

"You must be mistaken," we told him, "We have listened closely to Russell's lyrics and 'Honey' is dead."

"Sick she is. But not dead. Suffering with fantasies and psychoneuroses. A text book manic-depressive. Irrational behavior, wish fulfillment. But far from dead."

We asked him to explain, promising that we would not discuss the case with anyone else (who reads this column anyway?).

"If you listened to the lyrics you'd know already. Only a nut would go out in a backyard and try to plant twigs. And then run around in the winter brushing snow from branches. She also tripped over herself—remember? Sat around watching late late shows and crying. Attempted suicide—wrecked Bobby Goldsboro's car. Spent most of her afternoons looking at television. Sick."

"But what of the angels who took her away?"

"They said they were angels. Who knew? Russell wasn't home at the time. A couple of guys in white uniforms who promised her a wing at the local funny farm. They finally let her out just the other day. She's getting better. In fact she's feeling good. She'd like to rejoin Goldsboro—if only she could.

I'd say there's a reasonable chance for complete recovery. My hours, incidentally, are 9-4:00. If you're in touch with Russell or Goldsboro I suggest you urge them to contact me. They should both be loaded by now and I suspect they're in need of psychiatric assistance. Rates are reasonable.

Maybe you should also call up Bob Shane. He to was involved with

be surrying up, with sassafras and moonshine, to the Soul City single. Macey Lippman notes the Dimensions' record ships May 2nd. Their strongest since "Up Up and Away."

Buffalo Springfield, Country Joe and the Fish, Canned Heat, the Hook and Smokestack Lightin' combine to offer one of the heaviest displays of contemporary rock since last year's Monterey Pop—Long Beach Sports Arena on May 5th.

Richard Harris' single "MacArthur Park," words, music and incredible production by Jim Webb, is setting a new precedent with top 40 jocks. Deejays who previously never played a record longer than five minutes ("Like A Rolling Stone" by Bob Dylan) are spinning the seven-minute side. KHJ and KRLA started playing it here last week. Disk out of the Dunhill LP "A Tramp Shining."

Lalo Schiffrin, winner of two Grammys this year, added to the Grammy Awards TV'er set for NBC May 8th.

Our "West Coast Guy of the Week" is Mark Richardson whose first Vault disk "Together Together" was released last week—produced and written by James Fleming and David Austin of Satycon Music. Richardson might be recalled for an item on MGM titled "Boy's Night Out" which hit the charts back in 1960. He's 27—now lives in Hollywood; hails from Bellingham, Wash.

Capitol's Sandler and Young (Tony and Ralph) open for three weeks at the Century Plaza's Westside Room starting April 30th—their first bistro appearance in town since they debuted at the Grove with Polly Bergen a couple of years back . . . The Bobbie Gentry-Glen Campbell LP taping this week at Capitol with producers Al DeLory and Kelly Gordon handling the sessions. De Lory was responsible for both of Campbell's Grammy winners and Gordon co-produced Gentry's "Ode to Billie Joe."

Our "West Coast Girl of the Week" is Reprise' new hopeful, 23 years old Canadian poetress-composer-performer Joni Mitchell. Currently touring the folk circuit, her initial LP has drawn raves from opinion markers; underground and "establishment" press.

CHICAGO

Columbia's Gene Ferguson came in from Nashville (18) to join local rep Bob Destocki in hosting the big C&W presentation at the Lincoln Inn here. Affair was held in conjunction with the label's C&W promotion which is currently underway . . . The 5th Di-

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