INSIDE THE BOX

COVER STORY

Ringo Starr: Well Worth The “Weight”

After nearly a decade, former Beatles drummer Ringo Starr has just released a new album. Titled *Time Takes Time*, the LP features songs written by Starr and other top pop writers. In an exclusive interview, Ringo discusses with *Cash Box* Editor-in-Chief Fred L. Goodman the making of the album and the worldwide All Starr Band tour scheduled to begin June 2.

—see page 7

RCA To Release Elvis Commemorative Package

RCA Records is going to release a five-CD Elvis Presley box set entitled *Elvis: The King Of Rock ‘N’ Roll—The Complete ’50s Masters* on June 23. The package contains 140 tracks including some unreleased material, some alternate takes, some live tracks plus every master from the ’50s.

—see page 3
DCC IS COMING! DCC IS COMING! In September, Philips will introduce the Digital Compact Cassette recorder and player and, perhaps, all hell will break lose. The advantages to the never-quite-rolling DAT are many, most notably that the players will also be able to play normal old analog cassettes. But, fear not, PolyGram and MCA both announced last week that they are diving deeply into the prerecorded DCC waters, so you’ll have stuff to buy for your new player come fall. This as recordable and erasable CDs are revving up. Yikes!

DANCE OF DEATH: Red Hot and Dance, a compilation of dance tracks to benefit AIDS research, will be released by Epic on July 1st. There will be three brand new George Michael tracks, including the album’s first single, “Too Funky,” along with remixes of songs by Madonna, EMF, PM Dawn, Seal and others. The album is a follow-up to Red Hot and Blue, the rock stars-do-Cole Porter album, which, to date, has raised over $4 million for AIDS charities.

KHALLI ROUNTREE DIES: Khalil Rountree, the tour manager for Boyz II Men and a 20-year music industry veteran, was killed on May 25 at the Chicago hotel where he and the group were staying.

LONG LIVE THE KING: RCA Records is releasing a five-CD Elvis Presley box set entitled Elvis: The King Of Rock ‘N’ Roll—The Complete ’50s Masters on June 23. The set was prepared with the cooperation of the Presley estate and is a numbered collectible box set that contains 140 tracks from the ’50s. It includes a variety of significant surviving alternate takes, live tracks and rare and previously unreleased material plus every master studio take of Sun and RCA masters of the ’50s. Two years in the making, the release commemorates the 15th anniversary of Presley’s death.

IN NARM’S WAY: The National Association of Recording Merchandisers (NARM) has announced the dates and locations for its annual fall conferences. The 1992 schedule marks a departure from the past few years, with the Wholesalers Conference preceding the Retailers Conference.

The Wholesalers Conference will take place Sept. 18-23 at the Hyatt Newporter in Newport Beach, CA for the second year in a row. Colorado Springs is the destination for the Retailers Conference, which will convene October 11-14 at the Cheyenne Mountain Conference resort.

The T.J. Martell Foundation recently announced the formation of a junior division, T.J.’s Friends. Conceived by Allison Max and Stacy Meyrowitz, now co-presidents of the division, T.J.’s Friends will be made up of young people in and around the music industry whose primary goal is to increase awareness and funding in the fight against leukemia, cancer and AIDS. Pictured (l-r) are: Steve Yacht, Amy Mizulla, Jaime Cortilman, Meyrowitz, Tony Martell, Max, D.R. Goven, Christy Epstein and Scott Hyman.

- Epic Records has promoted Jim Scully, formerly a branch manager at Sony Music Distribution, to senior vice president, sales. - Tom Evered has been appointed to the newly-created post of vice president, marketing. Blue Note/Manhattan Records. Prior to joining Blue Note in 1990, Evered served as director, marketing, Angel Records. - Tim O’Brien, founder and operator of SRC (Sedona Recording Company), has also assumed the position of president. SRC also announced that it has entered into a joint venture agreement with BMG through Zoo Entertainment. The Imago Recording Company has established a fully staffed Los Angeles office to be managed by Hugo Burnham, director, A&R. He comes to Imago from Island Records where he held a parallel position. - Elaine Locatelli has been upped to national director, AC promotion, Columbia Records; she has been associate director since 1988. - Mark Milano has joined Quality’s pop promotion staff as national director. He worked with JRS and Alpha Records prior to joining Quality. - MCA Music Publishing has appointed Scott James to the newly expanded position of vice president, Motion Picture and Television Music and New Technologies Worldwide. - Tom Terrell has been appointed general manager, promotions, Gee Street Records, Inc. Terrell was recently the national director of Island Independent Labels since 1990. - Peter Gawrychowski has been named vice president & controller, Mercury Records; he was previously at Columbia/Tristar Home Video. - Betty Jo Fowler has been named director of publishing administration for the Nashville division of Malaco Records. Before joining Malaco, Fowler worked as director of royalties and synchronization for Tree Publishing. - EMI Music Publishing has promoted Brian D. Bush to worldwide chief financial officer; he had been senior vice president/chief financial officer, EMI USA, and international director, EMI worldwide. - Telarc has announced three recent promotions: Jeff Davis and Adrian Mills have been promoted to national sales managers and Kathy DeJohn has been named director of sales and marketing.

- TVT Records has named Oscar Young, formerly of PGD, to the post of director of product development.
CASH BOX • JUNE 6, 1992

TOP 100 POP SINGLES

1 MY LOVIN’ (Acos/Evenlrest 98590) ....... En Vogue 1 11
2 JUMP (Columbia 74197) ................. Kris Kross 2 9
3 UNDER THE BRIDGE (Warner Bros. 18978) ...... Red Hot Chili Peppers 3 5
4 BABY GOT BACK (Def Américan 1-18943) ....... Sir Mix-A-Lot 11 8
5 LIVE AND LEARN (Columbia 74053) ......... Joe Bob 6 12
6 DAMN, I WISH I WAS YOUR LOVER (Columbia 38-74186) ....... Sophie B. Hawkins 10 7
7 IN THE CLOSET ( Epic 34-74296) ............. Michael Jackson 9 6
8 BOHEMIAN RHAPSODY (Hollywood) ... Queen 11
9 IF YOU ASKED ME TO ( Epic 3474277) ........ Celine Dion 16 6
10 JUST TAKE MY HEART (Atlantic 4-87509) ....... Mr. Big 14 6
11 LET’S GET ROCKED (Mercury 34512185-2) ....... Depe Leppard 7 10
12 ONE (Island RICD 7006) ................. U2 4 13
13 EVERYTHING ABOUT YOU (Stardog Mercury 668823) ... Ugly Kid Joe 12 13
14 SAVE THE BEST FOR LAST (Wing/Mercury 865136) .... Vanessa Williams 8 18
15 I WILL REMEMBER YOU (A&M 1000) .......... Amy Grant 21 6
16 TEARS IN HEAVEN (Warner Bros. 19038) ....... Eric Clapton 15 19
17 ACHY BREAKY HEART (Mercury 865252) ......... Billy Ray Cyrus 26 6
18 SLOW MOTION (Giant 24429) ............... Color Me Badd 23 5
19 I THOUGHT I DIED AND GOT TO HEAVEN (A&M 750215367) ... Bryan Adams 13 13
20 AIN’T 2 PROUD 2 BEG (Lafax/Arresta 2-4008) .... TLC 17 8
21 WILL YOU MARRY ME? (Vergin 4-98584) ........... Paula Abdul 18 9
22 JUST ANOTHER DAY (SIBK 219748) ............ John Secada 31 10
23 NOT THE ONLY ONE (Capitol 102765) ........... Bonnie Raitt 27 10
24 DO IT TO ME (Motown 2160) ............... Lionel Richie 28 4
25 SMELLS LIKE NINNA (Both Bros 75314) ......... "Weird Al" Yankovic 22 6
26 YOU DON’T SEE ME CRY (SIBK 23568) .......... Wilson Phillips 32 5
27 LIFT ME UP (Elektra 4-67178) ............... Howard Jones 30 7
28 HOLD ON MY HEART (Atlantic 87481) ........... Genesis 36 3
29 STEEL BARS (Columbia 74094) ............... Michael Bolton 34 6
30 I’M THE ONE YOU NEED (MCA 54276) .......... Jody Watley 19 13
31 TENNESSEE (Chrysalis 29289) .............. Arrested Development 37 3
32 MONEY DON’T MATTER 2 NIGHT (Paslay Park/Warner Bros. 19032) ....... Prince & The N.P.G. 20 11
33 COME AS YOU ARE (DGC 21207) .............. Nirvana 25 14
34 MAKE IT HAPPEN (Columbia 74229) ............. Mariah Carey 24 15
35 EVERYTHING CHANGES (Gaffien 1118) ....... Kathy Troccoli 29 16
36 HAZARD (Capitol 44796) ................. Richard Marx 33 18
37 SILENT PRAYER (Motown 2165) ............. Shania Twain 38 3
38 TAKE TIME (Elektra PRK480) ............... Chris Walker 35 14
39 I’LL BE THERE (Columbia 74330) ............. Mariah Carey DEBUT
40 MASTERPIECE (Fomoto 19076) ............ Atlantic Starr 39 19
41 YOU THINK YOU KNOW (SIBK/Ze 14025) ....... Cause & Effect 40 19
42 HUMAN TOUCH (Columbia 74273) .......... Bruce Springsteen 41 12
43 MAMA, I’M COMING HOME (Epic 74099) ...... Ozzy Osbourne 42 18
44 RIGHT (Elektra 54736) ................. The Cure 46 9
45 BREAKIN’ MY HEART (A&M 36261001) .... Mint Condition 44 17
46 BEAUTY AND THE BEAST (Epic 74099) .... Celine Dion and Peabo Bryson 45 16
47 TO BE WITH YOU (Atlantic 8-7580) .......... Mr. Big 48 26
48 WE GOT A LOVE THANG (A&M75201581) ....... Ce Ce Peniston 47 15
49 LIFE IS A HIGHWAY (Capitol 44815) ........... Tom Cochrane 63 3
50 T.L.C. (Atlantic 87484) ................. Linear 59 4

1 ANYTHING AT ALL (RCA) .......... Mitch Malloy 67 7
2 THE BEST THINGS IN LIFE ARE FREE (Perspective/A&M 0010) ... Luther Vandross And Janet Jackson DEBUT
3 VIVA LAS VEGAS (Warner Bros. 18979) .......... ZZ Top 50 8
4 LOVE YOU ALL MY LIFE (Warner Bros. 4-18987) ........ Chaka Khan 49 6
5 I CAN’T DANCE (Atlantic 8-7532) ............. Genesis 51 19
6 I’M TOO SEXY (Charisma 90107) ............... Right Said Fred 53 25
7 CLOSER TO ME (MCA 54378) .......... The Outfield 69 3
8 WISHING ON A STAR (Epic 74343) ....... The Cover Girls DEBUT
9 NOTHING ELSE MATTERS (Elektra 66770) .... Metallica 43 12
10 3 STRANGE DAYS (Capitol 15675) .......... School Of Fish 54 14
11 GOOD FOR ME (A&M 7502123621) ........ Amy Grant 57 21
12 THINKIN’ BACK (Gaite/Warner 5169) .... Color Me Badd 56 19
13 PLEASE DON’T GO (Motown 2155) .......... Boyz II Men 55 9
14 REMEMBER THE TIME (Epic 74200) ............ Michael Jackson 60 20
15 GOODBYE (Guest/Warner 19008) .............. Tevin Campbell 62 8
16 TOO MUCH PASSION (Capitol 47446) .......... Smithereens 58 19
17 JUST FOR TONIGHT (Warner Bros. 85588) .... Vanessa Williams 89
18 ROMEO AND JULIET (RCA 62191) ............ Stacy Earl 64 16
19 KILLER (Warner Bros. 19119) .............. Seal 66 13
20 UNTIL YOUR LOVE COMES BACK AROUND (Giant 1902) ....... RTZ 65 21
21 IF YOU GO AWAY (Columbia 446) .......... New Kids on the Block 70 16
22 INNOCENT CHILD (Interespo 86813) ........... Colorhaus DEBUT
23 MISSING YOU NOW (Columbia 74184) .... Michael Bolton 61 20
24 THIS IS THE LAST TIME (Next Plateau 50172) .... Laura Enea 71 7
25 I’M GON’ GET YOU (Columbia 74019) .......... Eddie Money 68 27
26 WHAT BECOMES OF THE BROKENHEARTED (Capitol 74266) .......... Paul Young 72 20
27 DON’T TALK JUST KISS (Charisma 4-89569) .......... Right Said Fred 73 3
28 FALL IN LOVE AGAIN (Columbia 74262) .......... Eddie Money 93 2
29 RIGHT NOW (Warner Bros. 19095) .......... Van Halen 74 19
30 THIS IS THE WAY WE ROLL (Capitol 44786) .......... Eddie Money 83 2
31 YOU SHOWED ME (Next Plateau 5165) .......... Salt-N-Pepa 75 17
32 WHY (Asta 1-2419) ....... Annie Lennox 62 2
33 SHE’S GOTT THAT VIBE (Iove/RCA 42026) ....... R. Kelly and the Public Announcement 77 12
34 CAN’T CRY HARD ENOUGH (Warner Bros. 19326) ....... Williams Brothers 76 19
35 DON’T PASS ME TO BE (Capitol 79198) .......... Hammer 80 16
36 MAKE YOU A BELIEVER (Impad) .............. Sass Jordan 91 2
37 DIAMONDS & PEARLS (Paslay Park/Warner Bros. 19083) .... Prince & The N.P.G. 78 27
38 ALL WOMAN (Mista 2596) ................. Lisa Stansfield 79 11
39 LAST TRAIN TO TRANSCENTRAL (Asta 238) .......... KLF 86 2
40 WHAT YOU GIVE (Gaffien 1917) ............... Tesla 82 7
41 CHURCH OF YOUR HEART (EMI 4837) .......... Roxette 81 16
42 BAD LUCK (Epic EAT 4441) .......... Social Distortion 94 2
43 SMELLS LIKE TEEN SPIRIT (DCG 21679) ........ Nirvana 85 28
44 VIBELOGO (Vergin 78372) ............... Vanilla Ice 86 2
45 WHITE MEN CAN’T JUMP (SIBK 07384) .......... Riff 90 3
46 I LOVE YOUR SMILE (Capitol 20934) .......... Shania Twain 87 27
47 AGAIN TONIGHT (Mercury 616) .......... John Mellencamp 88 20
48 IT’S OVER NOW (Polygram CDP903) .......... L.A. Guns 98 15
49 ONE LIGHT BURNING (Mercury 8669224) .... Richie Sambora 95 14
50 TELL ME WHAT YOU WANT (Qwest/Warner Bros. 4-19131) .... Tevin Campbell 92 30
SINGLES

- **INDIGO GIRLS:** "Galileo" (Epic 75328)
  Amy and Emily are joined on this first release from their new album, *Rides Of Passage*, by many different guest musicians and vocalists. Background harmonies on "Galileo" are provided by both David Crosby and Jackson Browne while support musicians include members of the B-52’s and Simon & Garfunkel. Niki Nolin is working on tour with a full band, look for more success from these Indigo Girls. The single and album are produced by Peter Collins.

- **LINDSAY BUCKINGHAM:** "Wrong" (Reprise PRO-CD 5450)
  As one of the influential members of the Fleetwood Mac sound, Lindsay has brought his individual talents forward with two previous solo lips on Elektra, and his soon-to-be-released Reprise debut, *Out Of The Cradle*, his first solo work in over six years. This first single, "Wrong" has many recognizable Mac traits, as well as a signature guitar style. The single and album are produced by Lindsay Buckingham and Richard Dashut.

- **JAMIE KYLE:** "Ragged Heart" (Atco PRCD 4542-2)
  New artist Jamie Kyle Poland, with the tentative hit "Ragged Heart" is out this week, and "Ragged Heart" is the first single. Jamie's voice is almost Amy Grant-like but her style of music is straight-up rock. Although this is Jamie's debut effort, she has been busy in hometown, Nashville writing hit songs for groups like Heart and Air Supply. Big best, strong guitars along with a pretty face and sweet voice... just might work. David Cole produces.

- **KARYN WHITE:** "Do Unto Me" (Warner Bros. CD-5230)
  Karyn White's debut album has proven to be a highly successful sophomore album producing the R&B chart toppers "Romantic" and "The Way I Feel About You." Now, she has slowed things down considerably on her most recent work, a single that will bring her to Prominence. Her band has had several R&B albums, appealing to a base on R&B and A& M Contemporary radio. Look for a lot of ads on this track in the next couple of weeks.

- **TROOP:** "Whatever It Takes (To Make You Stay)" (Atlantic 4590-2)
  Troop, a young and talented group that has brought us such previous hits as "Mambo," "Spread My Wings," "That's My Attitude," and "I'll Do (Is Think Of You)," is back with their most recent single, taken off of their upcoming Deepa album. This up-tempo, R&B-flavoured track has somewhat of a "new-jack style" production with the group's distinctive vocals soaring above the music. Look for heavy R&B rotation on this one.

- **YO YO:** "Homegirl Don't Play Dat" (EastWest 4547)
  Yo Yo is, without a doubt, one of today's most talented female artists. Her debut album *Make Way For The Motherlode* introduced her as a hard-core artist that could also take the R&B route without "sellin' out." Recently she has completed her second album titled *Black Pearl* and has released this track as the first single. The production is hard-hitting, thanks to her homies from the Lynch Mob and should explode on college radio.

ALBUMS

- **THE NEVILLE BROTHERS:** *Family Groove* (A&M 75021 5308 2)
  New Orleans' most pre- eminent musical family's latest release is a 13-cut collection of meaningful and enlightening messages combined with a rhythm and style that has clearly seen the Family Groove. Not too much commercial appeal stuff here, mostly the music is what takes you like to play. Although there is an outstanding version of Steve Miller's "Fly Like An Eagle." This album is produced by The Neville Brothers along with Hawk Wolinski and David Leonard.

- **KISS:** *Revenge* (Mercury 687 437-2)
  Eighteen years and 24 albums later (70 million in sales), they still create something that can still be heard and enjoyed. This album is produced by Bob Ezrin.

- **SARA K:** *Closer Than They Appear* (Chessy [9676])
  Sara K. is a very soft-tempo folk/jazz vocalist. She is accompanied by a range of stringed instruments. Her voice is slightly Joni-esque, with a touch more vibrato. Sara's debut album is a 14-track release CD. It's self-produced and the arrangements are very simple. The album is produced by Bob Ezrin.

- **THE ISLEY BROTHERS FEATURING RONALD ISLEY:** *Tracks Of Life* (Warner Bros. 2670-2)
  It has been said many times that longevity proves the true potential of a group or artist. For years, the Isley Brothers have been releasing consistent hits and have managed to make longevity a reality for them. *Tracks Of Life*, the brothers' latest project, offers some familiar "isley-type" material such as "Searchin' For A Miracle" and "Sensitive Lover." They have also added to their version of the classic "Like A Rolling Stone." Producers: David Chesky and Joel Diamond.

- **VARIOUS ARTISTS:** *Music From The Motion Picture Class Act* (Giant 24416-2)
  This album is a 10-selection CD produced by A. B. Jensen. It includes tracks by such top artists as Players, Kid N' Play, Lisa Taylor, Linda Pinnese and others. The album's standout cut is "Full Term Love" by Bunny Love, which is currently being added to playlists nationwide.

- **RUMPLESTILTSKIN:** *You And Me* (CMS Records DMSR 399/399)
  With a name like Rumplesiltskin (a.k.a. Irv) you would probably wonder what kind of music they do. The group consists of deep R&B-rooted music and three extremely talented lead vocalists with five other background vocalists. The vocal sound they achieve as a group is quite impressive and easily radio worthy. The only setback on the project is that the production sounds pretty dated.

POP SINGLES LOOKING AHEAD

1. **WISHING ON A STAR** (Epic 4547) ............. The Cover Girls
2. **CHANNELS (AND NOTHIN' ON)** (Columbia 45839-2) ............. Bruce Springsteen
3. **I NEED LOVE** (Columbia 45839-2) ............. Olivia Newton-John
4. **IT'S NOT HARD TO LOVE YOU** (Reprise 45230) ............. The Judds
5. **JUST MAKE ME THE ONE** (RCA 45239-2) ............. Tyco Collins
6. **REDHEADS** (Sire 45235-2) ............. Smokey Robinson
7. **PEACE** (CBS 45238-2) ............. Jimmy Cliff
8. **SHINE** (Columbia 45237-2) ............. Tom Tom Club
9. **IT'S PROBABLY ME** (AMM 45234-2) ............. Sting
10. **WE HATE IT WHEN OUR FRIENDS BECOME SUCCESSFUL** (Sire 45237-2) ............. Monty
11. **12 MIDNITE SUN** (Hollywood 45241-2) ............. Motorpsycho
12. **THIS ONE'S GONNA HURT YOU** (A&M 45234-2) ......... Mary Stuart & Travis Trit
13. **I WISH SHE DIDN'T KNOW ME** (Mercury 45233-2) ............. Jeff Knight
14. **TWO-TIMIN' ME** (BNA 45235-2) ............. The Remingtons
When Wendy Carlos was Walter Carlos, she recorded Switched on Bach, which was quite the thing in the switched-on '60s. Now it's the '80s, so Wendy's giving us Bach 2000 on Telarc, whose president, Robert Woods, is the guy twisting the synth wiz's arm.

**MY MAMA DONE TOLD ME...** Blues. Sometimes it's hot, sometimes it's not. It was hot during the folk revival of the early '60s, when electric bluesmen suddenly became rural bluesmen, trading in their sharkskin suits for overalls. It was hot during the rock boom of the '60s, when elderly blues players were schlepped to London to record with English rock stars. And it's hot now.

I'm not sure what started when. Did John Lee Hooker's current success (caused by the fact that he's about the only guy of his generation still out there, not to mention the continuing help of rock stars like Bonnie Raitt, who has always helped blues musicians and whose own career sometimes is hot and sometimes is not) help get the reissue thing going, or did the success of the reissues (notably that two-CD Robert Johnson set, one of the few times all the reviews said "you must have this in your collection" and record buyers went out and got it for their collections) put the focus on new albums?

No matter, the blues is hot (although, oddly, Benson & Hedges just decided to put the kibosh on its set of blues festivals). Sony, for instance, started the "Roots n' Blues" series, under its "Legacy" reissue banner (which has done so well by jazz), and has been so happy with its old reissues (like the Johnsons) that it's about to start a "Contemporary Blues Masters" series which, presumably, will be for less old reissues. It will celebrate the launch with a private June 18 wingding at Tramps at which Taj Mahal and Johnny Winter, who got bigtime exposure on Columbia during the last blues heyday, will perform.

Pointblank, Charisma's blues label, will toss a wingding of its own this Wednesday (June 3), by bringing Pops Staples and John Hammond to the Bottom Line for a double bill. The new Hammond album, Get Love If You Want It (in typical blues style, Atlantic's just reissued an old Hammond album), is good, but that new Pops Staples album, Peace to the Neighborhood, is a stone cold masterpiece. Hammond, of course, has spent his career imitating rural bluesmen, but will plug in at the Bottom Line (is this getting confusing?), with backing from high-jumping Little Charlie & the Nightcats. Staples, of course, has spent his career shepherding around the Staple Singers, and they'll join him for at least some of Wednesday's set.

It was a really killer evening, and it should whet everybody's appetite for the Chicago Blues Festival, which will bring Albert Collins (also on Pointblank, as is the current Johnny Winter, not to mention the current John Lee Hooker), LaVerne Baker (not a bad artist, but also back recording, on DRG, for the first time in years), Eddy Clearwater, Gatemouth Brown and a couple of dozen other blues players to sweet home Chicago's Grant Park June 5-7.

And this, naturally, just scratches the surface. Under the surface, an upcoming Elmore James boxed set from Capricorn, lots of Buddy Guy reissues (on Rhino, MCA, Atlantic...), no doubt another ton or two of John Lee Hooker and Lightnin' Hopkins reissues, and active touring from every blues act in the land.


**IT'S MUSIC HISTORY WEEK:** Normally I don't say much about video releases. Most of them—unless you're a big fan—are no big deal. But once in a while, something that's more than just good enough to put out, something that captures a moment of historical significance or the essence of an artist. When they happen to be about rock legends as well, I stop to make mention.

**THE ROLLING STONES—GIMME SHELTER:** This critically acclaimed documentary film accounting of the '69 tour was originally shot on 16mm, and has now been digitally restored and highlighted by a remastered soundtrack containing 12 of the Stones' classic hits, including "Jumping Jack Flash," "Wild Horses," and "Sympathy For The Devil."

Also included are vintage performances by the tour's support acts: Jefferson Airplane, and The Flying Burrito Brothers. This uncut version of the film contains amazing footage from the Altamont Speedway show, in which the camera crew witnessed the fatal stabbing of an audience member. It was such scenes that prompted Newsweek, in the original 1970 review, to describe Gimme Shelter as "the most disturbing, powerful and incitement moment to be recorded on film of the young generation raised on rock."

The film (approx. 90 min. and available on Laser Disc) is the first release from Abko Video, and due in stores on June 23.

**JOHN LENNON—IMAGINE—THE FILM:** This film, directed by John and Yoko in 1971, is an inside look at the humor, the talent, and music of one of the world's most loved and least understood artists. This is not to be mistaken for the feature film that came out after his death, this is a more personal and artistic accounting of songs written around the Imagine album period, including recording sessions filmed at Lennon's former home, Tittenhurst Park in Sunningdale.

The 13 musical tracks include, "Imagine," "Crippled Inside," "Jealous Guy," "It's So Hard," "Power To The People," "Gimme Some Truth," and "How Do You Sleep?" among others. The 60-minute film is must-see stuff for any Lennon buff, and if it's not in your favorite store already, it can be obtained by contacting Video Music Inc., P.O. Box 1128, Norristown, PA 19404 or by calling Eve, at (215) 278-7240.

**FREE JAMES BROWN!** If you don't have anything else to do this Friday at noon, why not make plans to enjoy one of the best-tasting burgers in town, down at the Sunset Grill, and watch as James Brown puts his handprints into cement for the Rock Walk, located in front of the Guitar Center, at 7425 Sunset Blvd., in Hollywood. The burgers are cheap (get a double chili-cheese), and you can see the ceremony for free. You can also listen to introductory remarks and the comedy stylings of Michael Greene, president of NARAS, and witness several other "special surprises" during the festivities hosted by major broadcast personality, Jim Ladd. Don't forget, burgers and Brown, Friday, June 5, 12:00 noon. Bring the kids!... Why not?... What the hell else you gotta do... next week...
The song, probably Starr’s most autobiographical tune ever, sets the tone for the entire album. The material is more mature than on previous outings, and though most of the melodies and grooves have that “up, ’60s flavor,” the lyrics seem to be meatier and more meaningful. “When we went through the songs,” Ringo relates, “we looked for those with hooks and substance. Some of the songs that were rejected were with me singing to 17-year-old girls. I’m a little old for that now (he’ll be 52 in July). I’d be looked at as a bit of a loper.”

In “After All These Years” Starr writes about the rock star’s life on the road: “Traveling the world in a rock ’n’ roll band! It’s in my blood! Oh but you know it’s good to get back home.”

A London television show about parents searching for their run-away children sparked Starr to pen “Runaways,” in which he explains his views on the subject. “I have five children,” he says, “so I can understand the parents’ pain not knowing if their kids are alive or dead.” He also can relate to the kids’ side as well. “Running away is OK, but home alone. At least let them know you’re alive.”

Starr is extremely pleased with the album. “It’s time I stretched,” he says, “I didn’t want to play it safe. I feel I’ve moved on in my life, and I wanted that to show on the album.”

Even though Time Takes Time is a little heavier than his other work, Ringo had a ball recording it. At first there was some trepidation about going back into the studio after such a lengthy layoff. “The first week was a little strange,” he confides. “So I took a break to sort myself out. Then it was cool.”

Once he got more involved in the project, Starr found his spirits soaring like in the old days. “I haven’t been as happy with an album,” he explains, “since my Beatles’ album in 1974. For me this album feels good... I like what it says... and it’s in my range.”

Starr claims the best part about recording again is “playing with all these good players. The playing is still the ‘high.’ Listening to the finished mix is also a ‘high.’ The middle part is the work—getting it down, getting it right, fixing it up—all the overdubs. But once you get a good backing track (the rhythm track that is recorded first), you know from that if it’s going to work or not.”

Ringo is going to feel that “playing high” a lot in the coming months. His All-Starr Band tour starts in June with stops in venues like Radio City Music Hall in New York and the Greek Theatre in Los Angeles. In addition, there will be a first-ever European swing. The members of his band will include such rock veterans as Joe Walsh, Dave Edmunds, Nils Lofgren, Todd Rundgren, Burton Cummings and even Ringo’s own, Zak. “I wanted the show to sound like a rock ’n’ roll this time,” Starr states. “I wanted more guitars.” Besides the band performing Ringo’s oldies plus newies, each bandmember will get to sing a couple of his own hits. “I’ll do three tunes,” he continues. “Then we’ll go around the band. Then I’ll do a couple more. Then go around the band again. Then I’ll do some more. That’s the thrill for me—fronting and then playing behind Joe, playing behind Joe. Wow! Really fun with that.”

After nearly 30 years as a pop icon—including playing drums and singing for the world’s greatest group, then as a solo act, plus backing other superstars on their projects, plus acting in films and TV—Ringo Starr has come full circle. But this time the world will get to know a more mature Ringo, a man who has taken a long and winding road to achieve that emotional happiness. He sums it up this way: “I just feel I’m a different person than I was, so that’s what’s coming out. That’s how I’m writing. And that’s how I’m performing. It’s a bit more real.”

Ringo in the studio with one of his producers, Don Was.
U.K. BUZZ
By Chrissy Iley

FUN It: Cyndi Lauper calls her hair color "mother of pearl." It's actually a kind of mauve rinse usually employed by the sort of twin-set-and-pearls-lady who lunches somewhere on the set of a 1950s movie. Cyndi has always felt most at one with herself with multi-colored hair. It's 10 years since her multi-colored voice with its triple-octave range swooped and whooped around "Girls Just Want to Have Fun." She was the prototype on which Material Girl Madonna based herself. Lauper was wearing 1950s corsets as outerwear soon after she ran out of her convent school. Her fame was meteoric. She clawed her way out of silly jobs, piercing people's ears on the street and working as the only non-Japanese Geisha girl in a bar, to become outrageously successful.

For a while, it all seemed cozy-cute; she even fell in love with her manager, David Wolf.

Then, after five years, they broke up painfully. Records stopped spinning at the top of the charts. And a couple of movie roles were not exactly "Sophisticated Ladies." There was a story漂流 actor-turned-show-stopping-leading-man W1LSHIRE TALENT an Walter's debut, "Esmeralda," and there was wearing 1950s corsets as outerwear soon after she ran out of her convent school. Her fame was meteoric. She clawed her way out of silly jobs, piercing people's ears on the street and working as the only non-Japanese Geisha girl in a bar, to become outrageously successful.

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The group that inspired so many of today’s young male groups is still in the game, kickin’ it strong and fresh as ever because no one can deliver a song like... the Dells.

The Dells
40th Anniversary

Featuring the debut single
"Come and Get It"
3P17071-2

Produced by Jerry Vale for Gamble-Huff Productions
From the Album I Salute You - 72445-11030

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is all over the schedule. On the same day that Wynton debuted a nearly two-hour-long extended piece, commissioned from him by Lincoln Center, another Lincoln Center commission for him was announced—for a ballet to be choreographed by Peter Martins for the New York City Ballet, to be performed next January—were four jazz “Young People’s Concerts” to be hosted by Wynton, a lecture by Wynton, several Lincoln Center performances of that Jazz Orchestra, which features Wynton, etc. Wynton puts his artistic direction where his trumpet is.

Okay, why not? He’s got the clout, he’s the guy—stating that jazz is as important as European classical music while churning out in everybody’s face. Maybe, with those “Young People’s Concerts,” he’s the guy who can do for jazz what Leonard Bernstein did for classical music, although he doesn’t have Bernstein’s curiosity or generosity of spirit.

The Classical Jazz series, which begins on July 31, features nights of Monk, Miles, early New Orleans jazz composers, Ellington, tap dancers and McCoy Tyner. Down the line, aside from all the Wynton stuff, is a celebration of Celia Cruz, small-scale nights with Art Taylor and friends, Billy Higgins, Ed Blackwell & Herlin Riley; a Valentine’s Day concert of jazz ballads with Betty Carter, Jimmy Heath and others, a handful of film programs, and some lectures. Lincoln Center will also host the Thelonious Monk Drum Competition, an annual event (the instrument changes each year) that used to be at the Smithsonian. (A call to (212) 875-5299 gets all the details, including a wide range of subscription deals.)

If the currently second-most-famous Marsalis brother has done nothing else in his short career, he has done this: he has helped jazz get its due.
ARISTA AND LAFACE MAKE CONTRIBUTION FOR LOS ANGELES RELIEF: Arista and LaFace Records have agreed to donate a portion of its profits to the Los Angeles Music Relief Fund to help Black-owned mom and pop record stores that were dramatically affected by the recent riots. The program will run through the month of June in honor of Black Music Month.

Both labels will contribute to the fund $0.03 per album sold by their urban artists. Arista’s roster of artists whose record sales will help out will include Whitney Houston, Aretha Franklin and Lisa Stansfield. LaFace will donate funds for the sale of TLC and Damian Dame. All of these artists combined are responsible for eight number one R&B singles and over 10 million in record sales over the past year.

Hopefully, more record companies and firms dealing with the urban music scene will also get involved in relieving the city of Los Angeles.

Virgin recording artists After 7 are pictured in the studio while recording their upcoming album. Shown here are producer Dallas Austin (middle) and After 7.

ESSENCE AWARDS TELEVISION: If you were unaware, the 1992 Essence Awards was televised nationally by CBS on May 29. Even though the event actually took place late last month, many people took interest in viewing the special (that is, the unfortunate ones like myself that didn’t attend). For the event, many of the leading names in the R&B industry were there. Among the recipients of awards, Debbie Allen, Bertha Gilkey, Maya Angelou, Marian Wright Edelman, Gladys Knight, Dr. Georgia L. McMurray and Nancy Wilson were all honored for their outstanding contributions in the performing arts and for community activism.

Actor/composer/filmmaker Kenny Blank (center) joins BeBe (left) and CeCe Winans at the Essence Awards.

NOTE FROM THE R&B EDITOR: Throughout my time here at Cash Box I’ve had various projects to occupy this column. Artist profiles, interviews, concert reviews, news columns—just about everything. In the near future, I would like to have spotlights on those artists that are talented and have good-selling product, but just don’t have the resources to make their album pick up. If you have any groups that you think would be worthy of an artist spotlight, send a complete press kit to our Hollywood office and put it to my attention. Thanks...
WILLIE D LEAVES THE GETO BOYS: Yeah, you heard it right. Rap-A-Lot recording artist Willie D of the Geto Boys is currently working on a solo album that will be titled I'm Goin' Out Like Soldier, that is expected out in a few months. Everyone has different opinions on the "break-up," but all this breakin' up sh*t in the rap industry is gettin' pretty damn played out. So let's stick together and stop tha' trippin'. Anyway, he will still perform with the Geto Boys until his album is completed, and then he'll concentrate on his solo career. Of course, Bushwick Bill is also working on a solo album that's titled Little Big Man, but he's not goin' anywhere. It will be interesting to see if they replace him and if they do, whom they pick up. Good luck on that project, D.

By Bryan (B-Style) Devaney

SALT N' PEPA SET TO RELEASE: In the middle of July, Next Plateau recording artists Salt N' Pepa will release a new album titled Very Necessary. The first single to be dropped will be "Start Me Up," sometime in June. Their previous album Blacks Magic was certified platinum and produced various crossover hits, keeping the album on the charts for more than two years—yeah, two years. Look for another side of the group on this upcoming release. Also be sure to check out Spinderella's solo project.

Otha Artists Makin' Newz: Select recording artists The A.T.E.E.M. were among the first African American performers to play in Mali, Africa in over 30 years. The performance took place one day before Ghana's first free election in over 30 years. In recognition to their performance, councilwoman Marie Vallani will present them with the Keys To The City of Newark, New Jersey. Priority recording artists Penthouse Players are scheduling to have an album release party at the Hollywood Athletic Club June 3. The group's debut album, Paid The Cost, is quickly becoming an underground hit, puttin' DJ Quik's homes in the spotlight after a few weeks on the market...After kickin' it in the studio with Above The Law for a couple of months while they were recording, I have to say that their upcoming album, Black Mafia Life, is definitely "tha' mega." Watch for a lot more skill put into the production (compliments of Cold 187um) and some pretty deep lyrics. Also be sure to check out some guest appearances that I can't announce just yet. The group's debut album Livin' Like Hustlers under Ruthless, Epic came out just a few months short of gold status and contained the hits "Murder Rap," "Untouchable" and "Livin' Like A Hustler"...Capitol recording artist King Tee is back in the studio finishing up his third album and is expected to follow in the footsteps of his debut album, Act A Fool that had the underground greats like "The Coolest" and "The Payback"...Well, I'm outa here till next week. And a shout-out goes to Debbie Bennett at Luke Records (hope I can make it to Miami for the golf tournament this summer...hint!)
1. UNDER THE BRIDGE (Warner Bros.) ............... Red Hot Chili Peppers 2 10
2. IN THE CLOSET (Epic) .................. Michael Jackson 4 5
3. MY LOVIN’ (YOU’RE NEVER GONNA GET IT) (EastWest/Atlantic) ... En Vogue 6 6
4. JUMP (Ruffhouse/Columbia) ....... Kris Kross 1 8
5. HOLD ON MY HEART (Atlantic) . Genesis 11 4
6. LIVE AND LEARN (Columbia) ...... Joe Public 8 9
7. REMEDY (Def America/Reprise) ... Black Crowes 14 5
8. LET’S GET ROCKED (Mercury) ... Del Leppard 3 8
9. ONE (Island/PLG) ..................... U2 7 11
10. I’LL BE THERE (UNPLUGGED) ... Mariah Carey DEBUT
11. SMELLS LIKE NIRVANA (Sub Pop) ..... "Weird Al" Yankovic 5
12. MAKE LOVE LIKE A MAN (Mercury) ... Def Leppard DEBUT
13. AIN’T 2 PROUD 2 BE (La Face/Arista) ... TLC 10 8
14. DAMN I WISH I WAS YOUR LOVER (V Veil) (Columbia) ... Sophie B. Hawkins DEBUT
15. YOU’RE INVITED, BUT YOUR FRIEND CAN’T COME .... (Hollywood)
16. YOU DON’T SEE ME CRY (SBW/EMI) .... Wilson Phillips 10 4
17. COME AS YOU ARE (Geffen) .... Nirvana 12 11
18. BETTER DAYS (Columbia) ......... Bruce Springsteen 19 3
19. TENNESSEE (Columbia/EMI) .......... Arrested Development 19
20. WHEREVER I MAY ROAM (Elektra) ...... Metallicas DEBUT

The square bullet indicates strong upward chart movement.

MTV TOP 20 VIDEOS

1. 1992 MTV Video Music Awards
2. Michael Jackson performs "Bad"
3. Boyz II Men perform "Who Do You Love"
4. Britney Spears debuts "Baby One More Time"
5. Christina Aguilera debuts "Genie In A Bottle"
6. Red Hot Chili Peppers perform "Under The Bridge"
7. TLC performs "WaterFall"
8. En Vogue performs "My Lovin’ (You’re Never Gonna Get It)"
9. U2 performs "One" from the album "Achtung Baby"
10. "Rolling Stone" cover featuring the Rolling Stones
11. "MTV Unplugged" with Nirvana
12. "The Simpsons" theme song
13. "The X-Files" theme song
14. "The Nutty Professor" trailer
15. "The Silence of the Lambs" trailer
16. "The Birdcage" trailer
17. "The Shawshank Redemption" trailer
18. "The Usual Suspects" trailer
19. "The Nutty Professor" trailer
20. "The Silence of the Lambs" trailer

TOP 200 POP ALBUMS

1. The Black Crowes - "Shake Your Money Maker"
2. Red Hot Chili Peppers - "Blood Sugar Sex Magik"
3. Nirvana - "Nevermind"
4. Guns N’ Roses - "Appetite For Destruction"
5. Pearl Jam - "Ten"
6. Alice In Chains - "Distance"
7. The White Stripes - "Debut Album"
8. Oasis - "(What's the Story) Morning Glory?"
9. Radiohead - "The Bends"
10. Pink Floyd - "The Dark Side of the Moon"

THE SQUARE BULLET INDICATES THE TOP 5 CHART MOVEMENT.
Country News Box

CMA CONCERT READS SUCCESS—A sell-out crowd swelled the Grand Ole Opry House recently collecting over $22,000 for CMA’s Project Literacy public service campaign. The concert, co-sponsored by CMA and Nashville 95 WSM-FM, featured performances by Paul Overstreet who pulled off a Julio Iglesias impersonation, Billy Ray Cyrus who stirred up a steamy performance of “Achy Breaky Heart” and heart-wrenching numbers from Trisha Yearwood among others. WSM-FM operations manager Kevin O’Neal and promotions manager Brent Stoker organized an on-air book drive, collecting nearly 26,000 books. All books collected in the drive were turned over to the Cohn Adult Learning Center in Nashville for distribution to literacy agencies throughout Tennessee.

GATLINS TO RECEIVE HONORS—On June 18, the Seventh Annual Mary and Harry Zimmerman Memorial Dinner will honor Gatlin Brothers, Larry, Rudy and Steve and C. Thomas Caskey, M.D. of Baylor College of Medicine. The annual dinner, which benefits the Muscular Dystrophy Association, has become the country’s second largest single fund raising event for MDA, raising over $1 million each of the last three years. The Gatlins are being recognized for their contributions to the association through their annual celebrity golf tournament, which has raised over $1.5 million for MDA since its inception 14 years ago.

NEA GEARS UP FOR SHOWCASE—The Nashville Entertainment Association has announced sponsors for the 2nd Annual Music City Music showcase to be held June 2 and 3 at 328 Thompson Square, located in Nashville. Sponsors include TNN: The Nashville Network, Laredo Boots, WSIX-FM and WBVR. Tickets can be obtained by calling Ticketmaster at (615)737-4TIX, or NEA offices at (615) 327-4308.

TENNESSEE’S OWN HILLS OF HARMONY will be singing loudly as the Creekwood Amphitheater opens its 500-scat facility to some of the biggest names in country. Ronnie McDowell, Sammy Kershaw and Six Shooter opened the season last weekend. Future dates include Steve Wariner, The Remingtons, Deana Cox, Doug Stone, Dixiana, John Anderson and Lee Roy Parnell.

KEN AND BARBARA—When Barbara Mandrell and husband Ken Dudney renew their wedding vows on the occasion of their 25th wedding anniversary, TNN’s Lorrienne Crook will broadcast for her latest segment of Celebrities Offstage. The two-part telecast will also offer a tour of Mandrell’s 27,000 square foot log home near Nashville and one of Mandrell’s Atlantic City concert dates.

MARGARITAVILLE MAGIC—MCA/Nashville recently hosted a showcase at Nashville’s Ace of Clubs to introduce new Margaritaville Records artists Evangeline. The evening was highlighted when Margaritaville label head/artist Jimmy Buffett joined Evangeline, a five-member, female band from New Orleans, on stage for an encore. Shown here (l-r) are: Nancy Buchan, Kathleen Stieffel and Sharon Leger of Evangeline; and Buffett.

JIMMY & MARTY PARTY—MCA recording artist Marty Brown (right) and Elektra artist Jimmie Dale Gilmore stopped at The Troubadour in West Hollywood recently as part of their ---Jimmie and Marty Party Tour.

GONE FISHING—Dan Seals recently donated one of his personal handmade fishing rods to the Country Music Foundation at a listening party for his new Warner Bros. album Walking the Wire. Seen with Dan during the festivities are Warner Bros. A&R v.p. Martha Sharp (left) and CMF executive director Bill Ivey.

SOMEBODY IN THE STUDIO—Nashville’s Stewart Harris has been selected as music director and songwriter for Rainbow Dreams, an animated children’s musical for Papillon Productions. In addition to the movie, a book and 13-song album soundtrack will be released. Pictured here in the studio are (l-r): engineer Rocky Schnaars, producers/creators Tracy and Bill Wilkinson and Harris.
COUNTRY MUSIC

TOP 75 COUNTRY ALBUMS

#1: Wynonna

Wynonna Judd

#2: ROBIN THE WIND

Garth Brooks

#3: FENCER

Alan Jackson

#4: IT'S ALL ABOUT CHANGE

Travis Tritt

#5: FOR MY BROKEN HEART

Reba McEntire

#6: BRAND NEW MAN

Brooks & Dunn

#7: GARTH BROOKS

Garth Brooks

#8: PAST THE POINT OF RESCUE

Hal Ketchum

#9: 10 ALL I CAN BE

Collin Raye

#10: POCKET FULL OF GOLD

Vince Gill

#11: PAST THE POINT OF RESCUE

Hal Ketchum

#12: WHAT DO I DO WITH ME

Tanya Tucker

#13: ROCK & STONES

Terry Lawrence

#14: READ BETWEEN THE LINES

Aaron Tippin

#15: PUT YOURSELF IN MY PLACE

Pam Tillis

#16: SOMETHING IN RED

Lorie Morgan

#17: HOLDING MY OWN

Kenny Chesney

#18: CRYIN'

Ricky Van Shelton

#19: DON'T GO NEAR THE WATER

Sammie Kershaw

#20: SHOOTING STRAIGHT IN THE DARK

Marty Stuart

#21: FIRST TIME FOR EVERYTHING

Little Texas

#22: DIAMOND RIO

Diamond Rio

#23: IF THERE WAS A WAY (Warn Bros. 26590)

Reba McEntire

#24: GREATEST HITS II (RCA 10410)

Alabama

#25: I THOUGHT IT WAS YOU

Doug Stone

#26: A MILLION TIMES

George Strait

#27: EAGLE WHEN SHE FLIES

Dolly Parton

#28: COUNTRY CLUB (Warn Bros. 36009)

Travis Tritt

#29: TOO OLD AT HOME

Mark Chesnutt

#30: SOME GAVE ALL

Billy Ray Cyrus

#31: PUT YOURSELF IN MY SHOES

Lyle Lovett

#32: GREATEST HITS II (Curb/MCA 10619)

The Judds

#33: LONGNECKS & SHORT STORIES

Mark Chesnutt

#34: NO TIME FOR TEARS

Reba McEntire

#35: HIGH LONESOME

Randy Travis

#36: UP AGAINST MY HEART

Patty Loveless

#37: BARTENDER'S BLUES

Dean Sherratt

#38: GREATEST HITS I (Curb/RCA 83189/2)

The Judds

#39: INGENUE

Sherry Bird

#40: THERE IN MY HEART

Alan Jackson

#41: AT THE RHYME

Emmylou Harris

#42: ELECTRIC BARNYARD

Kentucky Headhunters

#43: FREEBORN MAN (Sisq'Cino 203)

Clint Black

#44: ROUTE 66

Joe Diffie

#45: WHEN I CALL YOUR NAME

Vince Gill

#46: DON'T LET OLD FEELING

Billy Joe Shaver

#47: KENTUCKY BLUEBIRD

Keith Whitley

#48: TRISHA YEARWOOD

Trisha Yearwood

#49: CHILL OF AN EARLY FALL

LeAnn Rimes

#50: THE BEST OF RESTLESS HEART

Restless Heart

#51: AND LONG AINE CAME

George Jones

#52: SHORE FIRE WITH FIRE

Merle Haggard

#53: KILLIN' TIME, (RCA)

Clint Black

#54: TEMPTED (MCA 1016)

Marty Stuart

#55: GREAT HITS (Curb/RCA 82319)

Keith Whitley

#56: THE PATSY CLINE COLLECTION (MCA 10427)

Patsy Cline

#57: TIME PASSES BY (Mercury 481975)

Kathy Mattea

#58: BLACK IN THE BLANK (Liberty 96897)

Pirates of the Mississippi

#59: LOVE ON (Mercury 482117)

Paulette Carlson

#60: BACK HOME AGAIN (Reprise 26724)

Kenny Rogers

#61: PASS IT ON DOWN (MCA 10079)

Marty Brown

#62: A COLLECTION OF HITS (Mercury 482300)

Kathy Mattea

#63: ZONE OF OUR OWN (Reprise 26658)

Texas Tornadoes

#64: TRIBUTE (RCA 20024)

Roy Rogers

#65: FIGHTING HANK (Curb/Motown 25599)

Hank Williams Jr.

#66: BING RANG BOOM (Warn Bros. 26348)

Waylon Jennings

New Addition:

BILLY RAY CYRUS—Some Give All—(Mercury)—#36

Most Active:

1. GEORGE STRAIT—Holding My Own—(MCA)—#22
2. LYLE LOVETT—Joshua Judges Ruth—(Curb/MCA)—#34
3. MARK CHESNUTT—Longnecks & Short Stories—(MCA)—#39

New Releases:

June 2, 1992 Neal McCoy—Where Forever Begins—(Atlantic)
June 4, 1992 Mary Chapin Carpenter—Come On Come On—(Columbia)
June 23, 1992 Oak Ridge Boys—The Long Haul—(RCA)

ALBUM TO WATCH—Holding My Own, the 16th album for George Strait is keeping this country music veteran not only in the running, but ahead of the pack. After four weeks on the Top 75 Country Album chart, Holding My Own scores a 15-point jump, and landing at #22, is this week's most active album. Meanwhile, two more Strait releases are keeping company on the chart. Now in its 15th week on the chart, Ten Strait Hits is hovering steadily above at #20, and the platinum certified Chill Of An Early Fall keeps sales alive nearing 60 weeks of chart activity.

SOUNDING GOOD BOYS—With two ACM wins under his belt, Billy Dean has more than a couple of speakers to smile about. Pictured here with co-producers Chuck Howard (left) and Tom Shapiro (right), Dean is currently working on the release of his third album.

ALBUM REVIEW:

TOY CALDWELL—Toy Caldwell (Cabin Fever Music)

Now here's a tasteful album from former Marshall Tucker Band guitarist, Toy Caldwell. Described by Caldwell as a "kind of country-blues" album, this self-titled release is filled with good southern blues licks, a horn section (The Memphis Horns) and an array of guest musicians including Charlie Daniels, Ace Cannon, Greg Allman, and Willie Nelson. Without being overly derivative, Caldwell does adhere to his musical roots, as he handles lead vocals as well as lead guitar, and acts as principal songwriter for most of the album, including the lead single, "Wrong Right." Other choice selections include a bluesy "Midnight Promises," which addresses the problems of teen pregnancy, a nature-conscious "Fly Eagle Fly," and the upbeat ballad "Mexico," which evolved from a Louis L'Amour novel. This project marks the first for the newly established Cabin Fever Music, a division of the Connecticut-based Cabin Fever Entertainment.
**HIGH DEBUTS**
1. BILLY DEAN—"Billy The Kid"—(Liberty)—#37
2. HIGHWAY 101—"Honky Tonk Baby"—(Warner Bros.)—#40
3. TANYA TUCKER—"If Your Heart Ain't Busy Tonight"—(Liberty)—#41

**MOST ACTIVE**
1. WYNONNA—"I Saw The Light"—(MCA)—#20
2. REBA MCENTIRE—"The Night The Lights Went Out In Georgia"—(MCA)—#18
3. LORRIE MORGAN—"Something In Red"—(BNA)—#26

**POWERFUL ON THE PLAYLIST**—By leaps and bounds, Wynonna is zooming up the Top 100 Country Singles chart. In the wake of last week’s 11-point gain, "I Saw The Light" jumps 12 notches this week to #20. Meanwhile Wynonna’s self-titled debut album continues to hold the top spot on the Top 75 Country Album chart, after dethroning Garth Brooks’ 32-week reign with *Ropin’ The Wind*.

Tying with 10-point moves each are Reba McEntire with "The Night The Lights Went Out In Georgia" at #18 and at #26 "Something In Red," the title cut from Lorrie Morgan’s second album.

**KEEP AN EYE ON**—Mercury artist Billy Ray Cyrus. With his debut single, "Achy Breaky Heart," Cyrus is stirring up enough attention to garner a #1 spot. At #3 this week, Cyrus first debuted on the Top 100 Country Singles chart seven weeks ago, the video for the song is #1 on CMT and he has been cited as the next... Elvis. He recently performed the title cut from his Mercury debut release "Some Gave All" at a Memorial Day salute in front of the Vietnam Wall in Washington, D.C. The album *Some Gave All* sold a reported 700,000 units even before its arrival in stores last week.

**LOOKING AHEAD**
(Listed are major label single releases which have not yet debuted on the Top 100 Country Singles Chart, but are receiving reports.)
1. I FEEL LUCKY—Mary-Chapin Carpenter (Columbia)
2. COME ON OVER TO THE COUNTRY—Hank Williams, Jr. (Curb/Capricorn)
3. I CAN SEE ARKANSAS—Anne Murray (Liberty)
4. WHAT’LL YOU DO ABOUT ME—The Forester Sisters (Warner Bros.)
5. (GET YOUR KICKS ON) ROUTE 66—Asleep At The Wheel (Arista)

**NEW SINGLE RELEASES**

**OUT OF THE BOX**

**KAREN BROOKS AND RANDY SHARP** “Baby I’M The One” (Mercury 667)
*Producers: David Malloy/Randy Sharp*
*Writers: K. Brooks/K. Fleming*

"I’m The One," the debut release from partners Karen Brooks and Randy Sharp, includes the hook necessary to garner these Mercury newcomers immediate attention. Shying from strict country formulas, the cut is tastefully mixed with excellent track separation and resonant vocal blends. Contributing to the song’s originality, Brooks, as lead vocalist, adds a humorous aside at song’s end, asking, "Who’ll cook dinner and put it on the table while you watch ESPN on the cable? I’m the one."

**FEATURE PICKS**

**CRYSTAL GAYLE:** "Three Good Reasons" (Liberty 79282)
*Producers: Buzz Stone
Writers: Don Schlitz/David Wingo*

Aided in part by Crystal Gayle’s award-winning vocals, “Three Good Reasons” is a tightly crafted song, rich in content and strong in traditional country formula. A single mother’s anthem, “Three Good Reasons” is a love song of survival.

**STACY DEAN CAMPBELL:** "Rosalee" (Columbia 74357)
*Producers: Brent Maher
Writers: C. Bickhardt/D. Schlitz*

Reminiscent of Vince Gill’s early days, Columbia newcomer Stacy Dean Campbell conveys a simplistic ode to the song’s namesake. A train-riding rhythm sparks the pace of this upbeat ditty.

**A MEMORABLE PITSTOP**—Just coming off a 100-stop, two-month, coast-to-coast tour promoting their debut album *Power Of Love*, Matthews, Wright & King enjoyed a surprise party in Nashville. The threesome is currently enroute to visit retailers and radio stations from Portland, Maine to Portland, Oregon. Pictured during the festivities are: Nancy Richmond (center), Columbia promotions manager and her “dinner guests” (from l-r) Woody Wright, Raymond Matthews, Columbia’s vice president of promotion Michael Moore and Tony King.
STAIRCASE RECORDING ARTIST—Kimberley Summers advances two notches on the Cash Box Top 100 Country Singers chart to number one this week, her first top spot among her independent competitors. "If Anybody Had A Heart," the highest-ranking independent single this week, is Summers' second release, following her debut release, "Walking and Talking." Since signing with the Texas-based Staircase Records, Summers, her native city of the Lone Star State, has released one project If Anybody Had A Heart. The 1991 debut release combines Summers' singing/songwriting talents, which she has been honing through years of piano and vocal training. "Hometown," one of the album's 11 cuts was written by Summers, while other songwriting credits on the album go to artists such as Charlie and Ira Louvin. J.D. Souther and Jimmie Gilmore.

Summers is currently working the Texas music scene with engagements at the Grapevine Opry in Grapevine, Texas, and the Johnnie High Opry in Haltom City, Texas.

MEANWHILE BACK ON THE CHART FRONT—With a pretty wide gap formed between Summers and the next indie artist, C.R. Davis edges up one point to #65 with "I Forgot That I Don't Love You," while Sandy Sanford's "Today I Found A Letter" takes a bullet "jump" from #57 to #56.

Big strides were evidenced by Stop Hunger recording artist Billy Ray whose "I Fell In Love With Your Eyes" scored a major move of eight points taking him to #58. Texas the Band falls in behind Ray, with a gain of six notches to #59. Other big movers this week include Misti Piersen, Michael Dineen and Denise Cole with seven-point gains each.

CHARLIE & CHARLIE FOR LOUVIN BROTHERS SALUTE—The Louvin Brothers' music was recently recreated during a special Grand Ole Opry performance entitled the "Louvins Brothers Music Celebration." The May 30 Opry appearance of Charlie Louvin and new duo partner Charlie Whitstein was the pairing's first public engagement. "We're very excited to see this resurgence and celebration of this great writing team's efforts," said Opry general manager Hal Durham prior to the weekend performance.

Louvins and Whitstein's celebration included such Louvin originals as "I Don't Believe You've Met My Baby," "Hope That You're Hoping," "My Baby's Gone," "If I Could Win Your Love" and "When I Stop Dreaming." Charlie and Ira Louvin gained success as a duo with multiple Hall Of Fame nominations. Since Ira's death in 1965, Charlie has scored with the singles "I Don't Love You Anymore" and "See The Big Man Cry," while continuing a solo act at the Opry. Now pairing with Charlie Whitstein, Louvin will be recapturing the sound once made popular by the brother duo.

IN OTHER INDIE NEWS—Silverstone Records has just released the latest album from England-based singer/songwriter Brendan Croker entitled The Great Indoors. The 14-song collection is all original Croker-penned tunes, with production compliments of Barry Beckett and musical contributions from Mark Knopfler and Chet Atkins among others. Best known as a member of the Notting Hillbillies, Croker's songwriting credits currently take up residence on Wynonna Judd's solo album, with the self-penned tune "What It Takes."

Listen for an adaptation of the John Conlee single "Hit The Ground Running (Heart Is Hurt)" in current Ford Truck commercials. The original song penned by Bobby Fischer and Rick Giles and released a couple of years ago is now sweeping the ad circuit with a new theme, "Hit The Ground Runnin' (In Your New Ford Truck)." Conlee continues as artist on the single.

Razzy Bailey has signed a record deal with Silver City Records of Mountain Home, Pennsylvania. Bailey's first single, "I Feel Like Jesse James," is scheduled for release in early June, with a video and album forthcoming.

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Whitfield Presents
M.A.E.S.T.R.O.S. Awards
By Tim A. Smith

Thomas Whitfield and the Whitfield Company

INDUSTRY, MEDIA AND POLITICAL CELEBRITIES, along with ardent gospel music fans turned out in droves for the 3rd Annual M.A.E.S.T.R.O.S. People's Choice Awards. The festivities commenced May 9, at the spacious Tinkard, Phil Keaggy and the Bremen, Detroit, Michigan. Along with the awards, the evening featured performances from guest artists Fred Hammond, Benson Records, newly signed Tyscot recording artist Dan Willis and the 120-voice Pentecostals of Chicago, Darius Brooks of Thompson Community Singers fame, along with Thomas Whitfield and the Whitfield Company.

The awards, the brainchild of Whitfield, is his way of acknowledging and encouraging young, upcoming talent in the metropolitan Detroit area. "In growing up as a young artist in the city of Detroit, known as the 'music mecca of the nation,' I learned very early in life that encouragement and appreciation from those in the Church, as well as the gospel music community, would be my greatest inspirations to continue my music ministry for the Lord," explains Whitfield. "It is my desire that the M.A.E.S.T.R.O.S. People's Choice Awards will be just that for the aspiring, upcoming talented musicians, singers and directors in this great city of ours."

Lately, Whitfield has been riding his own personal crest. His latest release on the Benson label, titled, Alter & Satisfied, featuring the talented singing aggregation which bears his name, the Whitfield Company, has been skyrocketing up many a gospel music chart. To top that, Whitfield has been in the studio working on a new project for Vincent Bell Armstrong, being included among the many working on the Handel's Messiah—A Soulful Celebration project with Quincy Jones, as well as appearing with mega-talent Carman at the 80,000-seat Pontiac Silverdome in Pontiac, Michigan.

The Craig Crawford Players

By Tim A. Smith

THE GOSPEL MUSIC INDUSTRY HAS BEEN EXPERIENCING A RESURGENCE in the popularity of the instrumental/jazz medium.

Helping to make this possible is mainstream acceptance and visibility of such acts as Ben Tankard, Phil Keaggy and the Bremen, Detroit, Michigan. Along with the continued popularity of the trendsetters of this musical genre, Kottona.

Guaranteeing the continued growth of this medium is a self-contained group of innovative musicians and singers from New York going by the name of The Craig Crawford Players. The Craig Crawford Players mission is to bring the "Word" to the masses through their unique blend of gospel and urban contemporary music.

Before the leader of this group, Craig Crawford, assembled his ensemble that is presently intact, he was already building a reputation for himself in mainstream musical circles. His credits include composing and performing music for NBC-TV's Positively Black and two JBO specials, One Year in A Life Of Crime, and Rape: Cries From The Heartland. Crawford has also opened for such musical notables as Bobbi Humphrey, Jon Lucien, Al Green and Desiree Coleman. Crawford and the Players also participated in the First Annual Boston Jazz Festival with Al Jarreau, Chick Corea, Stanley Jordan along with other well-known artists.

The Craig Crawford Players are ready to break wide on the national front, with the completion of their debut album, Our Weapons Are Not Carnal. The album infuses a mixture of gospel, jazz, R&B and other contemporary influences. Cuts such as "Calvary," "Amazing Grace," "Church Boy" and "Change" effectively display the innovative talent and direction this ensemble possesses.

The Craig Crawford Players are not your ordinary, run-of-the-mill gospel group. Their unique style and avant-garde compositions and arrangements set them a world apart.

The Multi-Faceted Ministry Of Raphael Green

Raphael Green
By Gregory S. Cooper

THROUGH DIVINE ORCHESTRATION, Raphael Green, founder and president of the Metropolitan Christian Worship Center of St. Louis, Missouri, is gradually becoming a nationally acknowledged speaker, composer, singer, recording artist and church statesman. Pastor Green has traveled extensively throughout the continental United States, portions of Canada, the West Indies and the Bahamas, diligently laboring and ministering in a variety of settings: churches, schools, tent meetings, street events, radio, television, conferences and seminars.

Green, 37, and his lovely wife, Brenda, who have been married for eight years, are the proud parents of three lovely children and serve as the local pastors of MCWC. MCWC has been described as a budding, multi-ethnic congregation meeting and working in urban St. Louis.

Green initially committed his life to Christ at age six, July 1961, and has grown and ministered in virtually all types of settings over the last three decades. He has held several leadership and administrative positions in pastoral, evangelistic and music ministries at CBN, Inc., Regent University, Rock Church, Oral Roberts University and various other churches. He is also the recipient of several awards in education, journalism, music, Christian leadership and service. He received his Bachelor of Arts degree in Theology from Oral Roberts University in 1978 and a Master of Arts inter-disciplinary degree in Biblical Studies and Public Policy in 1986 from Regent University (formerly CBN University).

From the heart of God to the heart of the hearer and viewer, Raphael ministers the life-changing message of Jesus Christ and His Kingdom through music and the spoken word. He has shared or ministered in song in various ministry endeavors along with such persons as Bishop John and Rev. Anne Gimenez of the famous Rock Church and "Rock Church Proclamis" telecast; CBN's Dr. Pat Robertson, Ben Kinchlow and the 700 Club, Oral and Richard Roberts; Larnelle Harris, Pastor Jack Hayford, Nancy Honeytree, Nicki Cruz, Tom Skinner, Sue Dodge, Sara Jordan, "Twickie" Clark, Pastors Carlton Pearson, Myles Munroe, Dr. Benson Idahosa, Larry Lea, Kenneth Copeland, many others. (Green admits that he does not know all of the above listed personally. In some cases, he only ministered in song briefly before they ministered during the week of ministry in which they were all involved.)

Green, also the founder and CEO of Metro Associates, Inc., an innovative, non-profit association established in December, 1978 to provide comprehensive ministerial and developmental programs and services for personnel in metropolitan areas, has also released two solo albums (1979 and 1986), and his present project in conjunction with Urban Song entitled, True To You, was released in 1991.

Pastor Green, who has served as associate director of Oral Roberts University's accredited choir and ensemble, Souls A Fire, for five years, has coordinated and co-directed seven national tours throughout the United States and Canada, arranged bookings and served as choral instructor. He is also the recipient of several awards including Regent University's Prestigious Beazley Scholar Award (in recognition of academic excellence, spiritual maturity, outstanding leadership and Christian service).
**NEW ARTIST SPOTLIGHT**

**Valerie Boyd**

**NEW YORK-BASED GOSPEL SINGER** Valerie Boyd is enjoying the fruits of her labors with her debut solo album, interpretations, released on Shokinah International Records. For years, Boyd has been a featured vocalist with the New Greater Bethel Radio Choir in Cambria Heights, New York. She is currently the music director and organist there, where her father-in-law is pastor. Her husband, John, produced the record. In the past year, she has won several prestigious awards including: International Christian Best Female Artist Award, nominee for the National Christian Academy of Gospel Music Best Contemporary Female Artist, and the recipient of the Vision Awards/Bobby Jones Store Magazine. Her first single, “I Give You Jesus,” catapulted into the Top Ten gospel playlist for the New York-New Jersey-Connecticut tri-state area.

Listening to some of the LP's cuts like “Keep The Flames Burning,” “He's Alive” and “Lamb Of God,” one can understand why this versatile singer/musician/composer/arranger has been compared to Mahalia Jackson and Aretha Franklin. Boyd is certainly ready to take her place amongst gospel's elite.

**New Releases...**

1. **I DEDICATE MY LIFE** (TM 1008)-Chicago-Church Of God In Christ, First Jurisdiction
2. **NORMAN HUTCHINS** (Sparrow 1318)—Norman Hutchins
3. **THANK YOU JESUS** (Savoy SC-14811)—The New York Restoration Choir
4. **A LIQUID EARTH** (Star Song SSC-8248)—Novella
5. **MORNING TAPESTRY** (Warner Alliance WBC/D 4117)—Various Artists
ForeFront Joins Star Song Communications

DAN BROCK, PRESIDENT AND CEO OF FOREFRONT COMMUNICATIONS GROUP, recently announced the signing of a long-term distribution agreement with Star Song Communications. This arrangement affects all ForeFront product beginning on July 1, 1992 except DC Talk's "Rap, Rock & Soul" video, which remains in the Benson system until September 30, 1992, and the new albums from Geoff Moore & The Distance and Audio Adrenaline, which will remain in the Benson system through December 31, 1992. This will not affect any future releases from DeCarmo & Key, who are signed directly to the Benson Music Group.

According to Brock, "The decision to move distribution to Star Song was the result of much prayer and planning as we looked towards growth in the '90s. It was not based on any negative attitudes towards Benson, but rooted in the positive strengths we see in the union with Star Song. We see at Star Song the same philosophies we have tried to maintain at ForeFront."

Brock adds, "Leaving Benson was a tough decision for me personally. Beginning with DeCarmo & Key, through the founding of ForeFront, and the success of DC Talk, I've been closely related to Benson for 12 years. I have great respect for the staff and management there, who over the past few years have helped Benson grow into a successful and well-respected company. This decision was made as I looked to our future, wanting to take ForeFront to a new level of expansion."

Brock continues, "The more we looked to corporate development in the coming decade, the more we recognized the need for a synergy in our distribution relationship. The opportunity to maximize and achieve our goals seems most likely met there. For me this is an exciting time."

ForeFront joins the impressive roster in the Star Song distribution system which includes Living Epistles, Home Sweet Home (Corbett) and Fixit Records. Star Song has seen an incredible rise in sales volume, increasing more than five times the annual volume in 1988, creating a new distribution power in the Christian music arena.

Stan Moser, CEO of Star Song, comments, "With ForeFront, we feel we have a greater growth potential for both companies in the '90s. It is a relationship based on shared goals, philosophies and mutual respect."

The combined vision of these two companies is their "Great Commission" for the '90s, utilizing the scope of contemporary Christian music to carry the message of hope, encouragement and victory in Christ to people around the world. The combination of the innovative marketing and creativity skills possessed by these individual companies will make this newly formed alliance ready to tackle churched and unchurched consumers and together make themselves a power for the decade ahead.

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By Gregory S. Cooper, Steve Giuffrida & Tim A. Smith

WILLIAMS BROTHERS MEMBER RECORDS SOLO PROJECT—Melvin Williams, a member of the popular Blackberry Records group, the Williams Brothers, took a break from the group to record a solo project for the label. The "live" recording took place May 22 at the Church Point Ministries in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. Special guest artists included Murphie Pace III and the Voices of Power of Atlanta, Georgia, former Caesar Singers member Debbie Austin, Harvey Watkins of the Canton Spirituals, Min. Kenton Rogers and Doug Williams of the Williams Brothers.

TROCCOLI TO APPEAR ON TONIGHT SHOW—After the overwhelming success of her Top Five pop hit "Everything Changes," her smash video, and a blitz of media appearances, Kathy Troccoli will appear on the Tonight Show on June 17 and will open several concerts for Michael Bolton in July and August. Recent appearances include: hosting VH-1's Top 21 Countdown; Entertainment Tonight; and Lile With Regis & Kathy Lee. Currently, Troccoli is on a promotional tour of Europe which will include the United Kingdom, Germany and Spain. "You've Got A Way," the follow-up single to "Everything Changes," was released to radio last month.

DID YOU HEAR TWILA PARIS ON TV?—Twila Paris recently presented three promo spots for CBS This Morning during the May 15 telecasts of Designing Women, The Bold and the Beautiful and Guiding Light. Paris filmed the spots this spring at the Belle Meade Mansion in Nashville.

TOURNIQUET ANNOUNCES DATES FOR PROMO TOUR—Intense/Metal Blade recording artist Tourniquet will begin a tour of the Midwest June 17 to promote their current release Psycho Surgery. Labelmates Mortal and Sacred Warrior will accompany Tourniquet on the tour, however, the latter only on a number of dates. Mortal will be performing songs from their debut industrial dance album Lusis while Sacred Warrior will showcase songs from their current release entitled, Obsessions. Tourniquet has recently gained secular radio exposure and has appeared as in-studio guests on a number of rock stations in the Southern California area.

NEW FROM FRONTLINE—Frontline Music Group has announced the release of Wish Me Love, the debut project from Nicole. After touring with Amy Grant and the Heart In Motion Tour as a back-up vocalist and choreographer, Nicole immediately entered the studio with veteran producer Rhett Lawrence (Mariah Carey, Michael Jackson) to complete Wish Me Love. The release will be a combination of urban/dance pop and soul and will also feature the songwriting talents of Nicole.

NILES BOROP AND HOMELAND ENTER PUBLISHING AGREEMENT—Niles Borop and Homeland have entered into a publishing partnership to develop and promote songwriters to southern, inspirational and contemporary music markets. Borop, known for his songwriting ability, has been building one of the largest independent writer-owned publishing companies in Christian music. This partnership will offer opportunities for writers who are multi-dimensional to explore the full spectrum of styles offered in Christian music, while not leaving their roots of southern gospel music. This partnership will also expand Homeland's visibility in Christian music and generate exceptional songs for Christian recording artists.

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Pictured at the signing are (from l-r): (Standing) Jeff Moseley, Star Song senior vice president; Ron W. Griffin, ForeFront partner; Darrell Harris, Star Song president; Eddie DeCarmo, ForeFront partner. Seated are Greg Ham, ForeFront general manager; Dan Brock, ForeFront president and partner; and Chip, Roger, Star Song CEO.

Pictured signing the publishing partnership between Niles Borop and Homeland are Terry Esley (left), vice president of publishing, Homeland and Niles Borop.
NEWS FROM JAPAN

MASANORI ITO, an advisor of Nippon Crown Co., Ltd., died from a bout with acute pneumonia. Ito, who was 92, joined Nippon Columbia in 1926 and became an executive of the company in 1961. He later established Nippon Crown with Kazutoshi Arita and will be remembered as one of the major contributors to the music industry in this country.

EXECUTIVES ON THE MOVE—Makota Yamashina, president of Bandai, will be named as the president of ApolloLab Records, Ltd., in June succeeding Hideki Hayashi... Nobuyuki Kuwata, an executive of Matsushita Electric Co., Ltd., will be named as the president of J-Tech. He is replacing Akira Higashimoto who will act as an advisor.

ACCORDING TO THE RIAJ (Record Industries Assn. of Japan), total shipments of audio and video software in Japan for March 1992 amounted to $405 million, up 11 percent from the comparable month of 1991. In more detail, audio software rose 6 percent ($280 million) while video software ($116 million) climbed 25 percent.

TOTAL ROYALTIES DISTRIBUTED by JASRAC (Japanese Assn. of Rights of Authors, Composers and Publishers), to copyright holders for the fiscal year of 1991 (April 1, 1991 to March 31, 1992), reached a record-breaking $320 million, 15.5 percent over the prior fiscal year. Royalties were distributed as follows: Performance received $140 million, or 44.4 percent over the amount paid out last year; Mechanical royalties amounted to $340 million, up 18 percent over the comparable fiscal year stated above. At the same time, $15 million went to publishing royalties while rentals accounted for $53 million.

TOTAL REVENUE OF TAURUS RECORDS for the 11th fiscal term has reached $34 million, up 28.6 percent over the prior fiscal term. Compact Discs increased by 47.4 percent (18 million dollars) while cassettes were down 13.4 percent (4.4 million dollars). Video software, on the other hand, rose 7.9 percent over the comparable term of the previous year.

Remember this guy? He's Stanley Herman, record biz veteran, whose music publishing company had several hits in the '70s while working with Rupert Holmes. They also produced albums with the kids from the TV show Zoom. In recent years he has worked in the TV and film industries writing for shows like Quincy and acting in films like Back To The Future. Now he's getting political. He has been nominated by the Democratic party for a seat on the L.A. County Central Committee in the 41st Assembly District and was recently a proxy delegate to the Democratic State Convention. He's got our vote!

By Camille Compasio

THE RECENTLY HELD (5/15) open house gala, hosted by ICAT American Laser Games at their spacious, new facilities in Albuquerque, New Mexico, attracted over 300 guests plus local media coverage, much to the delight of company proxy Bob Grebe and the firm's Stan Jarocki, who coordinated the entire affair! Everyone connected with ICAT (on all levels) attended this special event, along with the actors, stunt people, film crews and suppliers who contributed to the games we are all familiar with. Also present were some of the distros who have signed up to represent American Laser's new Gallagher's Gallery 25" product line. Event was so well publicized that even a busload of school children stopped by as part of their field trip—and took full advantage of the opportunity to play Gallagher's Gallery! Guests enjoyed a barbecue buffet, a bar set-up, a tour of the facilities and the opportunity to view and play the machines. A good time was had by all. And, we might add, that the factory is quite pleased with the early test reports on Gallagher's Gallery!

DATELINE LOS ANGELES, where we spoke with C.A. Robinson & Co. proxy Ira Bettelman just as the distro was wrapping up two successful Williams/Bally service schools—in San Francisco (5/18) where 45 “students” participated and in L.A. (5/20) where the count was over 60! As for equipment, Ira commented favorably on Atari's newly intro'd Moto Frenzy (motorcycle game), which is available in two cabinet configurations; namely, the Deluxe single-player simulator moving game and the Mini two-player stationary model. He made special mention of the “really superior movement” of the Deluxe! He also told us that C.A. Robinson has put out American Laser Games' Gallagher's Gallery on test and is anxiously awaiting the results, which should come in any day now.

STILL STRONG! After more than a year on the market, Taito's Super Sonic Blastman continues to be a big seller for the factory—and consistently in demand, according to Taito America's sales veepee Rick Rochetti. And let us not forget the Silent Dragon kit. As for what's coming up, Rick tells us they have some new pieces on test—so keep tuned.

COLORADO BOUND. Rowe distros will be heading for the Chuyenne Mountain Conference Resort in Colorado Springs on June 4 to attend the factory's annual distributor meeting and product presentation where the new LaserStar America juke will make its “official" debut! Visually speaking, the machine is sportin' a whole new look in cosmetics and design!
**MOMA State Convention Is Held In St. Paul**

**CHICAGO**—The Kolly Inn-Capitol in St. Paul was the site for the annual MOMA (Minnesota Operators of Music & Amusements) state convention which, for the first time, was held in tandem with the association’s annual “Day on the Hill.”

The agenda included a briefing on pertinent legislative activities addressed by Senate Majority Leader Roger Moe and Senate Finance Committee chairman Doug Johnson, and an opportunity for attendees to meet individually with their respective legislators “on the hill,” sit in on committee hearings and view the House and Senate in session.

The “Day on the Hill” ended with a reception, hosted by Hanson Distg. Co. and Lieberman Music Co., for the members of the state legislature, their staffs and families. A lineup of coin-op amusement equipment was displayed at the reception and guests were encouraged to compete on the machines for prizes of $100 (donated to the charity of the winner’s choice) and plush animals. This event was organized by Jerry Borth of Bros. Music & Games (St. Cloud, MN) and Brent McKennon of American Amusement Arcades (Minneapolis).

The second day of the convention began with a MOMA board meeting, followed by educational seminars. The topics were: “What’s So Bad About A Recession?”, presented by Robert F. Knote (business development consultant) and “Gambling Enforcement: What It Means” as seen by Tom Brownell (director, gambling enforcement division—Minnesota Dept. of Public Safety).

AMOA president Gene Urso addressed the association’s luncheon, during which plaques were presented to outgoing board members and the members of the MOMA President’s Club.

This year’s general membership meeting saw a spirited exchange and full participation with much give and take on such subjects as legislative strategies and MOMA’s future agenda. Additionally, the association’s current slate of officers were re-elected for a second term. They are: Roger Rasmussen, president; Dan Galvin, vice president; Charles Leininger, Jr., treasurer; and Kenneth Cipperly, secretary. (Ed. note: since the meeting Roger Rasmussen resigned as president and was succeeded by Dan Galvin.)

As in previous years, this entire event was planned and coordinated by MOMA’s long time executive director Hy Sandler, with the assistance of Linda Winstead.

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**Exhibit Space For AMOA Expo Is Sold Out**

**CHICAGO**—All 742 exhibit booths for AMOA Expo ’92 have been sold, as of mid-May, which is five months before the show opens (Cash Box, May 30, 1992). Expo will be taking place Oct. 1-3 at the Opryland Hotel in Nashville. In the event of cancellations, however, those companies who would like to be on the exhibitor waiting list must have their exhibit application and deposit on file at AMOA headquarters.

Over 175 companies have already reserved the 742 booths.

An estimated 8,000 owners/operators, distributors and manufacturers of coin-operated amusement, music and vending equipment are expected to attend AMOA Expo ’92. Among the latest in pinball games, video games, CD jukeboxes, electronic darts, pool tables, cranes, redemption equipment, monitors/electronics, cigarette vending and related products and technologies.

In addition to the exhibition, the convention will feature a lineup of educational seminars focusing on a variety of technical, marketing and management issues.

Exhibit waiting list inquiries, as well as registration and housing information may be obtained by contacting the Amusement & Music Operators Assn. at 401 N. Michigan Ave., Chicago, IL 60611 or phoning 312-245-1021 (FAX: 312-321-6869).

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**Laniel Receives NSM’s ‘Sales Increase’ Award**

**CHICAGO**—Quebec-based Laniel Automatic began representing the NSM line of laser disc Hyperbeam jukeboxes less than two years ago, and in that time has succeeded in establishing a market stronghold for the machines. At this year’s ACMC convention, the noted Canadian distributorship was singled out for the factory’s “Greatest Sales Increase” award, in recognition of its achievements.

In presenting the award to Laniel’s Jean Coutu, NSM-America president Rus Strahan observed, “I watched Laniel double its sales from month to month... and then, later on, sales began tripling from month to month. There was never any question,” he stressed, “as to which of our distributors would be receiving this award for 1991 sales!”

In accepting the award, Jean Coutu stated, “We set out to make NSM the number one jukebox in Canada, and we simply put everything we had into achieving this goal.”

Laniel Automatic’s Quebec sales territory is French-speaking, at least in part, and distributor personnel are adept in both French and English. Fortunately enough, promotional and instructional materials on NSM equipment is available in both languages. As Coutu pointed out, “NSM is one of the few companies that provides materials in both languages... which makes our job so much easier.”

And to Laniel’s next goal, according to Coutu, is “to double our NSM sales again this year... and with the beautiful new Performer-Grand jukebox, I do not think that we will have any problem at all in accomplishing this goal.”

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Pictured in the accompanying photos are: (photo 1) Sen. Roger Moe (Senate Majority Leader) as he addressed the assemblage on opening day; (photo 2, l-r) MOMA’s lobbying panel, including Robert Latz, Robert Hontges, Wendy Burt and Ronald Jerich (at podium); (photo 3, l-r) Norman Pink (past AMOA prez); Tami Norberg Paulsen (current AMOA officer); Gene Urso (current AMOA prez); Gene Winstead (current AMOA officer); and Dick Hawkins (past AMOA prez)—otherwise known as the AMOA 5 from Minnesota l-r (the “1” being former AMOA board member Hy Sandler, the man behind the camera!)

Pictured above (l-r): Laniel’s Jean Coutu (vice president); Michel Bergeron (sales mgr.); and Marc Raymond (salesman) proudly display their award!
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