INSIDE THE BOX

COVER STORY

Valerie Boyd

Gospel songstress Valerie Boyd has been compared to the legendary Mahalia Jackson and Aretha Franklin—and she's only released her first album. The lp, Interpretations, on Shekinah International Records, features the artist's versions of several gospel classics.

—see page 16

Jacksons Series
Not A Home Video...Yet

Although early word indicated that the TV mini-series, The Jacksons: An American Dream, due to be broadcast on ABC-TV in November, was going to be the debut release of the newly-formed Motown Home Video entity, such is not the case. Cash Box's M.R. Martinez explains why.

—see page 8

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BOXING DAY: The RIAA's new gold and platinum rules for boxed sets (each disc is counted individually) has led to July’s list of gold and platinum albums being stuffed with boxes. Leading the pack is Bruce Springsteen & the E Street Band Live 1975-1985, with a whopping 12 million sold. An Eric Clapton box, Crossroads, also hit multi-platinum last month, at three million sales.

Rounding out the multi-platinum list, sans boxes: Garth Brooks’ Ropin’ the Wind (eight million), Whitesnake (six million), Garth Brooks, Patsy Cline’s Greatest Hits and Bonnie Raitt’s Luck of the Draw (four million each). Clapton’s Time Pieces/Best Of... and Color Me Badd’s C.M.B. (three million each). And Travis Tritt’s It's All About To Change, Billy Ray Cyrus’ Some Gave All, Little River Band's Greatest Hits, Reba McEntire’s For My Broken Heart, The Judds’ Why Not Me and the Beauty & the Beast soundtrack (two million apiece).


Gold platters also went to the Crowes, Cyrus and Wilson Phillips, as well as to such boxes as Phil Spector’s Back to Mono 1958-1969, the Allman Brothers Band’s Dreams, Frank Sinatra’s The Reprise Collection, Simon & Garfunkel’s Collected Works and Jimmy Buffett’s Boats, Beaches, Bars & Ballads, and such lonely single discs as Sandi Patti’s Another Time...Another Place, Temple of the Dog, Aaron Tippin’s Read Between the Lines, Celine Dion, George Strait’s Ten Strait Hits, Duran Duran’s Decade, Kiss’ Revenge, Lionel Richie’s Back to Front, Fourplay, Tracy Lawrence’s Sticks and Stones, the Pat Metheny Group’s Still Life (Talking) and Annie Lennox’s Diva.

FREEDOM'S FREEDOM: Ex-C+C Music Factory rapper Freedom Williams, who is now signed to Sony as a solo act, has reached an amicable settlement of his beef with C+C’s Davie Cole and Robert Cleveland and his legal action against his former producers has been withdrawn.

YO! HBO RAPS: Rappers Kool Moe Dee, Yo-Yo, DAS EFX and Chi-Ali are starring together in Strapped, an upcoming HBO movie directed by actor Forest Whitaker (Bird).

GIVING IT BACK: Hit songwriters Jerry Leiber and Mike Stoller and the ASCAP Foundation have established the Leiber & Stoller Music Scholarship, to provide financial assistance to young aspiring composers and musicians in the N.Y. and L.A. areas. New York high school students Emily Lin and Nkenge Simpson copped the first prizes, each receiving a $10,000 four-year music education scholarship.... NARAS’ annual Musicares Dinner, a popular annual fundraiser, will be held in Los Angeles on Feb. 20, 1993. Mark it down.

VIDEOLA: Videofilm Producers International, a N.Y.-based television distribution company, has signed a deal with BMG Video International for North and South American TV distribution of such longform music video product as Cher’s Estravaganza: Live at the Mirage, Dave Stewart and the Spiritual Cowboys and Lisa Stansfield’s All Around the World.

Carlos Tabakoff, formerly of CMJ, has been named jazz product manager, international marketing, PolyGram Records. Frank Ceraolo has been promoted to director, dance/crossover promotion, Epic Records, from his previous associate director slot. BMG Distribution has promoted three members of its New York sales staff: Helene Gurin to field sales representative, Bob Venetianer to singles coordinator, and Terri Cooney to product development coordinator. And two new positions have been added: Sabrina Vasquez as a sales assistant, and Drew Kanter as a field marketing representative.

Gene Reed has been named chairman of the board of the Academy of Country Music, as announced by executive director Bill Boyd. Having served for six previous terms, Boyd will again be producer and director of the Academy of Country Music Awards telecast scheduled for April.

Arthur Braun has been named to the newly created position of president of TKO Music Publishing, the Kruger Organization's American Music Division. Prior to joining TKO, he was vice president/director of education at the Music and Video Training Center at Career Institutes of America in Miami Beach, FL. Uni Distribution Corp. has promoted Michael Farrell to the position of regional sales manager, New York. He previously held a similar post in Boston. Farrell will report to Richard Groebecker, regional branch manager, Northeast Mid-Atlantic Region, who will assume the managerial duties of the New York branch.
**Cash Box • August 15, 1992**

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**Cash Box Top 100 Singles**
**SINGLES**

**VOICE OF THE CITY:** "Stand And Be Proud" (Scotti Bros. 72392)
Get a problem? Write an anthem. It seems like that's the way it works these days. A recent trend is to use songwriting as an excuse to raise money, with a songwriter taking on the role for publicity. The ding is, all the songs sound alike, and there is relatively little cash for the money raised.

"Stand And Be Proud" is your basic L.A.-not recovery anthem, written by David (Partridge Family) Cassidy and his wife, Sue Strifin. All proceeds go to Rebuild Los Angeles. Why not?

**BILLY JOEL:** "All Shook Up" (Epic Soundtrax ESK 74422)
Yes, this is exactly what it sounds like it is. So, in addition to trying to sound like the Four Seasons, Sam & Dave, The Beach Boys, and various other rock icons over the years, Billy has now gone back and cut out 'n' out re-done an Elvis classic. It's a little tongue-in-cheek, considering the song is from the upcoming James Caan film, Honey in Vegas, which makes it okay. But you can bet Billy got off on doing this one. Joel produced this himself.

**STRAZY CATS:** "Lost N Love" (Great Pyramid/RIS JFTS 812-2)
Here's the second release from the newly re-assembled Strazy Cats latest single. Choo Choo Hot Fish. Producer Dave Edmunds helps the band tremendously with their "new" old sound, with the same clean, yet raw style we grew to love from Edmunds himself. Setzer still cranks on his fellow familiar voice, while the other two-thirds of the trio slapping the bass and whacking the skins in respectable rockabilly fashion.

**SOPHIE B. HAWKINS:** "California Here I Come" (Columbia CSK 4594)
No, this isn't Hawkins' version of the Jolson classic. Sophie's sophomore single from her Tangle And Tailz debut lp is the songwriter's own tune, hot on the heels of "Darn, I Wish I Were Your Lover," which was the most chart tune on the album. And if that's the case, her Madonnas-meets-Cris- sy Hynde voice and unusually structured songwriter style Sophie could get more AC play on this track. Rick Chernoff and Ralf Schuckett produce.

**BABYLON A.D.:** "So Savag the Heart" (Arista ASCD-2343)
This rock ballad from the band's Nothing Sacred album is a sing-along chorus of meagerly memorable means. Singer Derek and guitarist Danny DeLakosa co-wrote the track that sounds like it could have been more of a filler Madonna-meets-Christy Hynde voice and unusually structured songwriter style Sophie could get more AC play on this track. Rick Chernoff and Ralf Schuckett produce.

**PROMISED LAND:** "Circle In The Square" (Epic ESK 74260)
This duo consists of former Culture Clubber-Jon Moss and ex-Wang Chung-er Nick Feldman. Feldman's style prevails on this single from the new group's upcoming self-titled debut album. English-type dance music with a twist, the backing is strange, almost ethereal, and percussive. It's just commercial enough to get enough to make a splash outside the club scene. Definitely CHR and AC. Produced by Torv Swain and Promised Land.

**ALBUMS**

**STEVE MORSE BAND:** Coast To Coast (MCA MCAD-10565)
Although this album has been out a few months, it's only fair to mention Morse's solo career since there is a new, released, reformed, live Dickey Dee album out. He has been the recipient of many awards and accolades over the years, and this album is part of the overall work of this amazing guitarist. The 10 instrumental tracks show almost all phases of Morse's versatility in this rock 'n' roll saxophone writing, playing and production style. Bassist Dave LaRue co-produces.

**GRAHAM PARKER:** Burning Questions (Capitol CDP 7 99003-2)
Parker's 15th album in almost as many years offers up 13 tracks of his usual British punk-wave sarcasm. Some times it's difficult to tell the difference between Graham and fellow ex-Ray. This new Parker gets unusually gentle on the string quartet- and acoustic guitar-backed, "Long Stewed Rose," political on "Short Memories," and a little angry on "Here It Comes Again." All songs are written by Parker and co-produced along with Jon Jacobs.

**WILLARD:** Steel Mill (Roadrunner RRD 9162)
According to the band members themselves, they were out to produce an album that is... the heaviest, biggest album to ever come out of Seattle. A tall claim to say the least, but that's up to interpretation. Needless to say, you should have an idea of what's happening here. The five-piece band can put out more grunge-noise than a three- or four-piece band. Seattle underground producer, Dan Endino Soundgarden, Nirvana), lends his touch at the console.

**THE 25TH OF MAY:** Leni & McCarthy (Arista 07822-18712-2)
Thirty years ago in Liverpool, there were four guys who went on to revolutionize pop music. Not that this new Liverpool quartet will change the world, but they certainly have brought a new angle to British pop. This clash of hip hop, rock and politics are fresh and unique enough to make a splash here in the States, at least in the clubs. Vocalist/Lyricist, Steve Swindell manages to keep up both ends of content and delivery on this 13-cut debut album.

**JUMP IN THE WATER:** Jump In The Water (MCA MCAD-10292)
Jump In The Water is a multi-textured and eclectic and intriguing assortment of styles ranging from folk to roots rock, and some slightly more intriguing traditional instrumentation. The group makes elaborate use of acoustic guitar, mandolin, and some rich harmonies on the 13-cut CD, all backing singer and principal songwriter, Steve Moss. This is more AC than AC stuff in the traditional MacMorrison mode, but definitely with a sound of their own. Produced by Jim Cregan.

**LAURA EMEA:** Laura Enca (Next Plateau PLC 1041)
Laura popped up earlier this year with her Madonna-esque single. "This Is The Last Time," which got some chart action and club play. The 10-track debut cd also includes Laura's current single, "Our Love," another soulful die-up. Don't look for anything too serious here. Laura only wrote two of the songs; the others are primarily written by producers, Mario DeSantis, Jerry Mello and Mathew Facchin.

**PICK OF THE WEEK:**

**TOTAL ECLIPSE:** Total Eclipse (Tabu/ATM 28965 4 008-2)
Leave it to four black musicians from varied musical backgrounds to formulate a high-energy funk, hard-drivin' rock and roll band. Singer Terence K. has the vocal chops to rival most in his field, former Bus Boys guitarist Victor Johnson uses his finest and power like a well-oiled machine. The evidence is in the listening, and it's that the guys lay down grooves that are tighter than a frog's ass. Their 13-cut debut album features outstanding musicianship, excellent background harmonies, and more than a few white bands. First single is the al- most anthemic, "Fire In The Rain." Producer is former Fatim LaBelle and Kay Charles engineer, Michael McDonld.

**POP SINGLES LOOKING AHEAD**

**CASH BOX • AUGUST 15, 1992**

1. BACKDOOR ROMEO (Hollywood).................. T-Ride
2. ANOTHER DAY (Aceo).......................... Dream Eagle
3. SYMPHONY OF DESTRUCTION (Capitol)........ Megadeth
4. HUNGER STRIKE (A&M)......................... Temple Of The Dog
5. Lisa M. (Hands Black American).............. Bum
6. START ME UP (Next Plateau).................... Salt-N-Pepa
7. NOT ENOUGH TIME (Atlantic)............... INXS
8. MIC CHECK (EastWest)......................... Das EFX
9. MY DESTINY (Motown)........................ Lionello Richie
10. TRY MY LOVE (Electra)....................... Sibiu Head
11. THE GREATEST MAN I NEVER KNEW (MCA)... Reba McEntire
12. DISAPPOINTED (Warner Bros.).................. Electronic
13. SORRY ABOUT THE WEATHER (Virgin)........ Mark Curry
14. CAPE ON THE CORNER (Curb)............... Suzy Bogguss
15. LETTING GO (Liberty)........................ Suzy Bogguss
SOMETHING TO SELL TO THE GRANDCHILDREN:
These days it takes a lot to grab the attention of over-pursued music reviewers and radio programmers. I can't tell you how many calls I get asking, "Did you receive the so-and-so CD?" that result in me bumbling through the stack on my desk going, "Gee, it sounds kind of familiar." I know I got the new Poor Boys album, Pardon Me. Why? Because Hollywood Records threw a handsome black T-shirt in the package. My new Rhino Records Frank Zappa beret will look awfully sporty this fall, when it gets too chilly for my black BAD II baseball cap, which has been alternating summer duty with last year's white ZZ Top baseball cap and that snazzy "Columbia Jazz" number.

I'm not suggesting that record companies can only get my attention with booty, I'm just suggesting that anything that makes one album stand out from another is helpful. I long ago forgot about an album called Every Mother's Nightmare by a group called Left Wing Fascists (or was it an album called Left Wing Fascists by a group called Every Mother's Nightmare?) but their wacky, bright-green T-shirt is a highlight of my personal cruisewear collection. And I write this from under the watchful gaze of my remarkably realistic Salagon Kick lizard (The Lizard being the title of their new album), as I scratch my tuxedo with my Ronnie McDowell "Just Out Of Reach" backscratcher.

Along with the stuff that comes with the CDs are the CDs themselves, which are sometimes all dolled up themselves, including such attention getters as a disc packaged in a steel box (the Rolling Stones, in a faux guitar case (Cinderella), in something that looks like a silicon breast implant (Jellyfish, naturalmente), future collector's items all.

This week, Continuum Records sent along a CD single of Ronnie Wood's "Show Me," from his upcoming album, Slide On This. Not only is the song in a lovely black package tied with a lovely black ribbon, but inside of it is one of "a series of four limited edition screenprints" done, numbered (mine is #196), and initialed by Wood himself. I don't even know what a screenprint is, but I do know that they're four CD-sized self portraits printed on "velin arches creme/270 gsm" paper, and that they're an edition of 600 with 60 artist's proofs and 30 publisher's proofs.

I am, to put it mildly, impressed with this; it certainly did get my attention. I'm also impressed with the song, a rocking little ditty that finds Wood's often unlistenable voice taking a not-unpleasant turn towards Joe Cocker raspiness. The backing band (which includes Bernard Fowler, Continuum labelmate Charlie Watts and The Edge) helps grease it along—a modest little rock and roll tune all dolled up in fancy dress clothes, something to display on the mantle (now if somebody would just send along a promotional mantle...).

The Cliffister celebrated his #15th birthday back stage after his performance at the Greek Theatre, with sugar-jonesing, JRS Records president, Artie Mogull, cutting into the munchies.

HE'S A REAL REGGAE-MAHN: The World Beat Tour '92 bounced all the way down the West Coast from Vancouver to San Diego last week with a one-night stop at the Greek Theatre in Los Angeles. Headliner Jimmy Cliff closes the show, but also appearing on the same bill were Burning Spear, Toots & The Maytals, and Majek Fashek, all Jamaican/African reggae bands. Oh yeah, you could smell the ganja all the way to the Griffith Observatory or was all that just incense burning?

Sterotypes aside, the music was what the people showed up to hear, and they got plenty. Nearly four hours of world class world beat. How could one sit and listen for that long? Well, nobody does, mahn. By the time it got dark, not a butt was seated. The entire crowd of over 5,000 was on its feet swaying to the playin' of island sounds in the open-air venue. Hard as it may be to picture, it actually looked like the world's largest aerobics class. Even die-hard "I don't dance" types (like myself) couldn't resist the beat and were bobbin' and weavin' in one way or another. (Possible contact high? Sure.)

Unfortunately, for Majek and Toots, the sun hadn't gone down yet, and the arena didn't really start to fill up until just before Burning Spear hit the boards. But once they did, these groove-masters laid down their classic reggae beat, and there wasn't a stiff neck in the house. Just when you thought you could boogie no mo', came on the man of the hour, Jimmy Cliff.

Even though his voice was a little tired from the exhausting schedule, Jimmy kept the dance class moving. Most of his set consisted of material from his recently released Breakout album, but his simple, infectious melodies had the crowd singing along to the new songs like they knew them as well as his bigger hits, like "You Can Get It If You Really Want," and "Wonderful World, Beautiful People."

The general vibe was so much more relaxed and laid back than your average music fest. Sure, the air quality has something to do with it, but the message behind the music was one of peace, love, and universal harmony. Something everybody basically wants, down deep. Jimmy even altered some of his lyrics to fit the L.A. crowd in remembrance of the recent riots, for which he wrote and recorded the first single off Breakout, "Peace." The only sad trinity about the show, which was filled with warmth, human understanding, even an overwhelming sense of brotherhood, was leaving the tranquil environment and heading back out onto the unforgiving streets of Los Angeles where people are only too quick to remind you of reality by cutting you off in traffic, yelling obscenities and of Life, who was only five for few hours, smiled, sang and danced like one big happy family. And that's what live music is all about. Cahn you deeggit, mahn? Next week...
The Persuasions
By Robert Adels

McCABE'S, SANTA MONICA, CA—More than anyone else, The Persuasions personify the essential difference between a tired oldies act and a timeless a cappella attraction. "And we still ain't got no band," a singer-jerry Lawson boasted to the worshipping, sold-out crowd celebrating their 30th Anniversary.

These all-vocal, instrument-free heroes paved the way for today's platinum a cappella acts Like 6 and Bobby McFerrin, as well as for the retro-hip-hop styles of Boyz II Men and Color Me Badd. Launching their own '60s cartoon singles that one often hears in movies, their second "doo-wop" boom faded. The Persuasions pursued a soulful dream that has earth humor, especially since the musical time and tide through four decades.

The Persuasions flat out sold Frank Zappa (who gave these street-smart voices their first label deals and Frumpy Straight Records), with their slant on his "The Meek Shall Inherit Nothing." But they did so by counterbalancing Frank's etherealism with a reverent version of Curtis Mayfield's "Amen" (straight from their command performance at The Tel Aviv Hilton).

While The Persuasions have yet to top a bit single, gold album or major label mega-support, they enjoy their music more than all the groups they've survived put together. And it shows.

Jerry Lawson (lead/baritone), Henry Darrow (bass), David Washington (first tenor) and Jesse Russell (second tenor) sing a cappella as if they invented it. But The Persuasions fully realize this venerable singing style goes back beyond their 30 career years, all the way to Gregorian chants and barbershop quartets. They capture the music's black history by delivering Sam Cooke's "Chain Gang" with the intensity of a Civil War-era field holler. They can also send-up that history with a Vegas-style version of "Swanee River."

The doo-wop '50s is their most obvious reference point and here The Persuasions create a jukebox for its soul, sampling bits of nine songs from "Sunday Kind Of Love" to The Great Pretender into one rapid-fire "Stars On 45"-type medley.

The depth andar time baritone men (Herbert "Tubby" Smith) have hit since the early '60s may have reduced this quintet to a quartet; but they still enlarge their music by slightly thin (The Times "So Much In Love") or vast (Elvis "Return To Sender") the impact of its original. Their own vocal mix has enough rough edges to reconfirm the sidewalk roots of each and every tune.

They make The Five Satins' ultimate doo-wop song an anthem ("The Still Of The Night") their own by giving it back to the crowd, inviting anonymous audience members onstage for their own group singalong encore spotlight. (Spotted in the large impromptu chorus at McCabe's was Michelle Shocked).

The Persuasions' father-figure role in Spiro Lee's PBS TV special and soundtrack album Spike & Co. Do It A Cappella has led to overdue exposure from Elektra (Capitol, Rounder and other former labels. But we hope to hear a new album from them shortly.

This is no oldies group. On a Spin-E-Tingling Scale of 1 to 10, The Persuasions rule with a contemporary, consistent 12.

Too Kool For Words
By John Carmen

Jeff Kabot
HOLLYWOOD IS DEFINITELY the eccentric capital of the world. And one of its rock scene's most out-there dudes is Jeff Kabot.
Perpetually slumped over under a thick mop of black hair, Kabot resembles the bastard child of Jim Morrison and Joey Ramone, especially onstage where he leads his garage-rock quintet, the Superkools. Drawing and shambling through the band's '60s-ish repertoire (Kabot is said to have rewritten the changes to "Steppin' Stone" in over 100 semi-original songs), Kabot is one of the only performers I've ever seen who is side-splitting and serious at the same time.

Which figures, given the half-punk, half-classic rocker man's background, Kabot began his music biz life writing comedy for Boston's leading drive-time dj, Charles Laquidara. Not really an experience the singer cherishes. "Anytime I had a decent idea, Charles or his sidekick would take credit for it," says Kabot angrily.

Kabot then did a few years on the Boston comedy circuit opening for the likes of Steven Wright and Bobcat Goldthwait in their salad days. "I've got an old tape of Bobcat from back then that'll be worth bucks someday," muses Kabot. "That'll keep me in smokes for maybe a week!"

Kabot began his career in performing music as a member of the Venusians, a paisley-fied send-up of '60s trash. "Never did a thing in Boston," sighs Kabot. "We moved to L.A. and did a demo for Bomp. Total shit. Never saw the light of day, and never deserved to. For all I know, it's out in Europe making Greg Shaw rich. Hah!" Kabot's band suffered the usual Hollywood fate: flaky bandmates, terrible gigs and general ineptitude. From there, he formed the Superkools with a host of other Hollywood garage scene vets.

As a live act, their following has grown in leaps and bounds, but so far the band has only one single in the stores, "Why Baby Why" on Dionysus, and another in the can. Considering Kabot's rep as a rather tyrannical band leader (he has been likened to a Third World dictator, only with an even shakier command of the English language), one would expect more product. "Once again, the personnel thing has slowed us up," Kabot admits.

"We keep changing members, and I have to keep showing them the new songs over and over again. Which sucks, because I barely can play them myself!"

Kabot thinks that a move to the mainstream may be in order. "I think I've outgrown the garage thing. I can see myself as the next Tom Petty maybe, or John Mellancamp. (I could hear peals of laughter coming from Kabot's fiancée on the other end of the phone on that note.) Headlining the Forum, that's my next step." The delusions of Hollywood have taken another casualty—rest in pieces.
Jacksons Series Not A Home Video...Yet
By M.R. Martinez

THE JACKSONS: AN AMERICAN DREAM will not be the first release to debut the newly-formatted Motown Home Video as the company had announced last Monday (Aug. 3). Motown Records backed off plans to release the mini-series to the home market immediately following its scheduled airing on ABC-TV in November. ABC-TV has reportedly paid a $10 million license fee for first and second airings of the mini-series, which was produced by Lonesome Dove producer Suzanne De Passe, a former Motown Records executive and Roots producer Stan Margulies. Motown Records president/CEO Jeryl Busby reportedly said that Motown Home Video in conjunction with PolyGram Filmed Entertainment would own all rights to the project after its initial airing. The company additionally said it held rights to worldwide TV syndication, merchandising and books related to the project. Busby reportedly said in one press account that "we are taking a 'why not' approach to this. We have full legal rights to release it right after the first airing, but we may elect not to."

It was unclear after the revised statement issued last Tuesday (Aug. 4) if Motown planned release of the Home video version of The Jackson's story following ABC-TV's second airing of the program. Motown did not return calls last week. And calls to Michael Kuhn, who was directing the home video marketing for PolyGram also were not returned. An ABC-TV network spokesman also could not be reached at press time. It also was unclear at press time what effect the turn of events would have on plans by Motown to release a 14-song soundtrack to the mini-series, which is slated to include the unreleased Jackson 5 song "Who's Loving You," which was to be ship on Sept. 8. The soundtrack was to contain other Jackson 5 material and music from artists associated with The Jackson family. Jermaine Jackson is represented on the soundtrack with a cut inspired by the mini-series, "The Dream Goes On."

The mini-series will star Angela Bassett as Katherine Jackson, Lawrence Hilton-Jacobs as Joe Jackson, Billy Dee Williams as Motown founder Berry Gordy, Vanessa Williams as Suzanne De Passe and Holly Robinson as Diana Ross. The Jackson clan will be portrayed in three stages of their life.

Instead of the Jacksons mini-series, the Motown revised statement last week said the company "plans to release several long-form music videos of various artists." Busby suggested in an early statement that because of Motown's rich musical history and heritage, with legends like Stevie Wonder and Marvin Gaye, there was a potential for development with PolyGram of other theatrical, network and cable television ventures in the future.
**Video Software Far From Soft**

*By Milt Petty*

**THE VIDEO SOFTWARE DEALER ASSOCIATION’s** annual convention is the largest gathering of video retailers, distributors and manufacturers. Though some 10% fewer companies bought booth space this year and overall attendance was down, so many different kinds of companies were represented at this year’s event that one was left with the impression that everything that could be on video already is.

The 11th VSDA confab, July 26-29 at the Las Vegas Convention Center and adjacent Hilton Hotel, was a very energetic affair, in keeping with its theme, "Fast Forward To The Future." Not coincidental to the prevailing mood, projected industry rental revenues for 1992 are as high as $16 billion, up from $14 billion last year, and video sales (sell through) as high as $5 billion, up 5% from last year.

The combination of special guests ranging from Dana Carvey and Shirley MacLaine to Orville Redenbacher and Bob Koehan (Captain Kangaroo) and every B-movie starlet you can think of, the chance to pick up the innumerable promotional items, and the after-business hours video company parties (Playboy's was the most talked about), make the VSDA a good time for all.

Hot trends in the video business are Laserdiscs (everything released on cassette can be re-marketed on disc) and kidvid. Every major seemed to have a new line to market toward the three- to 11-year-old set.

New exhibitors at this year's "wingding" included everyone from a foundation advocating "family-friendly" films to a society that claims it can get you out of paying income tax to a gourmet coffee supplier, a comic book distributor and SEGA of America, a video game software and hardware deals.

The talk at VSDA's is about deals, low prices, rebates and gifts with a purchase. One company unveiled a plan to put five- to seven-minute videocareals at the end of tapes, complete with hooks to get you to endure.

New technology was on everyone's mind, and video dealers were encouraged to become home entertainment display centers. On prominent display were advances in home theater, interactive multimedia, the ubiquitous laserdisc and a passel of alternative products to enhance video store offerings.

Among key announcements was Turner Home Entertainment's September 16 release of the original Fay Wray King Kong (for the 60th anniversary) and Disney's Beauty and the Beast at $25.

Recent hits such as Basic Instinct, Alien 3, Lethal Weapon 3, Sister Act and Batman Returns are expected to boost business for the holiday season.
A LIFE OF RHYME: When the Brand New Heavies hit the colonial shores of America from their London base, they were gradually embraced by a broad spectrum of fans and colleagues in the recording industry. The group's self-titled debut album on Delicious Vinyl Records, which featured singer N'Dea Davenport of Atlanta, GA, became a favorite source of samples and mixing for freestyle rap last year. Their acceptance in the rap community was strong enough that the group's sophomore release, Heavy Rhyme Experience: Vol. 1 features the band jamming with a bucker crop of rappers, including Main Source, Black Sheep, Gang Starr, Large Professor, Ed O.G. and others. According to a rap by the Large Professor, "Brand New Heavies play the shit that people listen to in '70s Cheny/So we don't have to loop up a beat to fuck your group up."

"It's something we wanted to do for a while," Brand New Heavies drummer/keyboardist Jan Kincaid told Cash Box recently, commenting on the project with the rhyme merchants. "After we did a show at S.O.B.'s (Sounds of Brazil) about 18 months ago, we got calls from Motown for 3rd Bass, Main Source, A Tribe Called Quest and some others to go on stage with them." Kincaid said that the group's schedule wouldn't permit the live thing, but that a lot of acts released albums with Heavies samples. The album features a live feel, with rappers interplaying freely with the group's open, funky, horn-laden jams. Kincaid said that BHT "is the kinda band that people seem to want to jam with." He said the band has an eye on doing film soundtracks, but must first finish recording songs for the album that was to be their second release. "We've already got three singles that will be on the album out in England, including a cover of singer Jean Carn's "Don't Let It Go To Your Head." Kincaid said that the group produces their own work and that, "sometimes it starts out like a jam, because you have to sing the grooves." Word.

STAR RISING: Recent Grammy-winner Patti LaBelle will receive a star on the Hollywood walk of Fame. LaBelle, who earned her first Grammy earlier this year for her MCA Records album, Burnin', after ten years in the R&B/pop vineyard, recently began work on her upcoming NBC-TV sitcom Out All Night, in which she plays a part-time entertainer. She is said to be out a number or two during this show's run.

SAMPLES: Harem Records has signed songwriter Denise Rich to a deal calling for 12 of her songs to be recorded by the Harem roster, which includes Heartcore, Arpeggio, French Kiss, Charisma and Romance. Rich penned the hit "It All Begins With You," performed by Jody Watley. She has also contributed material to Cee-PeCom, Melba Moore, Kool and the Gang and others...Herbie Hancock and Wayman Shorter had an all-star ensemble currently on tour of the U.S., Japan and Europe performing a "Tribute to Miles Davis." The U.S. leg of the tour kicks off Aug. 14 at New York's Beacon Theatre. In addition to a headline date at The Strand, the group, which also features Ron Carter, Wallace Roney and Tony Williams, will also play a date at the Hollywood Bowl during its Southern Cal run....Mercury/Wing recording artist Vanessa Williams is hosting 10 new special editions of The Soul of VH-1. The specials began airing Aug. 8...Debbie Allen will receive the 1992 Medgar Evers Medal of Honor during ceremonies held by the Beverly Hills/Hollywood NAACP, Friday Aug. 21 at the Beverly Hilton Hotel. Allen is receiving the award for weaving pertinent issues into the storyline of the NBC-TV sitcom A Different World, which she directs and produces.
A PINCH OF SPICE 1: “Everybody else in Oaktown wants to be a player (pimp), but I’m a gangsta.” So sayseth Spice 1 the Oakland, CA-based rapper raissin’ hell on Jive Records’ blow-your-s self-titled debut album, the acid-rapper-and-dope EP for Jive, Let It Be Known. Spice 1, who used to travel with labelmate Too Short’s posse got his first vinyl exposure on the compilation Dangerous Crew released on Too short’s Dangerous Music label. But he’s forged out a distinct ID, which is rich with observations on the underbelly of life and style. His diverse delivery rockets from straight gangsta tip to reggae toaster style. “I’m into rapping about what I see, straight through my eyes and outta my mind. I don’t write some of my raps down,” he recently told Cash Box. Tunes like “In My Neighborhood,” “Peace To My Nine,” and “Break Yourself” cover the ruthless side of ghetto life. But as Spice, who did most of his growing up in Hayward, CA, just outside Oaktown, puts it, “The gang thang ain’t like it is in L.A. When somethin’ goes down on the street. You want your boys to have your back. But if they don’t, it’s not like you go out and kill them. It’s just that they ain’t your boys no more.” Spice was recently in the City of Angels working with the studio with Quality Records act South-Central Cartel, Virgin Records artist Kid Frost and Sire recording artist Ic-Ton the record “City In Lockdown,” aimed at keeping the gang truce intact in Los Angeles. “It was great I mean, I grew up listening to Ice-T.”

SOUND NIBBLES: Geto Boys grandmaster Bushwick Bill is taking the loss of his eye in a shootout in stride with tongue in cheek. The first single from his solo album on Rap-a-Lot Records, Little Big Man, is “Ever So Clear.” The song describes the events of that fateful night. The video takes it a step further. In one scene, Bushwick’s glass eye pops out and ends up floating in a glass of water, which appears to be the almost-totally alcoholic drink Everclear. Of the song, Bushwick says he wrote it to “learn from my mistakes.” Of the scene in the video, he says: “Don’t try this at home.” Amen, my brother...Def Jam Records is dropping lingo from New Jersey rapper Redman, who was discovered by EPMZ mainstay Erick Sermon and Parrish Smith. Redman calls himself a “harrow-funk rapper” with an attitude. The first single from his inmate...The album debut album is “Blow Your Mind”...Mac Dre, the 21-year-old rapper who’s self-proclaimed cop critic is being held without bond in Fresno County Jail on charges of conspiracy to commit armed robbery. According to a statement from his publicist, Mac Dre’s Rok Wash Productions has been suspected by the Vallejo Police Department of being the Rapah Room Gang that has committed a series of robberies in Vallejo. Police there have been irritated by Mac Dre’s frequent criticism of the department, which is on the record “Funk Polico,” from his EP What’s Really Goin’ On. The rapper has said that “the biggest gangstas are on the VPD.” Police reportedly found Mac Dre without a gun, nor near a bank...New indie label Ian Records is about to drop product by reggae/dancehall queen Shelly Thunder and hip hoppers Simply Dope, according to the label’s co-owners, New York-based Davey Simmons and London-based Andy Bowan. Additionally, Cassandra Goin has been named national director of A&R for the new label.
## Top 200 Pop Albums Chart Index

### Albums

1. **New Yeah**
   - Artists: Steve Perry, Journey
   - Label: CBS
   - Genre: Rock
2. **Bitter Wonders**
   - Artists: Billy Idol
   - Label: CBS
   - Genre: Rock
3. **Shine**
   - Artists: Seal
   - Label: A&M
   - Genre: Pop
4. **Dancing in the Street**
   - Artists: The Rolling Stones
   - Label: Motown
   - Genre: Pop
5. **Greatest Hits**
   - Artists: Lionel Richie
   - Label: MCA
   - Genre: Pop
6. **The Best of Peter Gabriel**
   - Artists: Peter Gabriel
   - Label: A&M
   - Genre: Pop
7. **Born in the USA**
   - Artists: Bruce Springsteen
   - Label: Columbia
   - Genre: Rock
8. **57th Street**
   - Artists: Johnny Mathis
   - Label: ABC
   - Genre: Pop
9. **Rolling Stone Magazine**
   - Artists: Various
   - Label: Rolling Stone
   - Genre: Magazine
10. **Remastered Classics**
    - Artists: Various
    - Label: Various
    - Genre: Pop
11. **The Very Best of**
    - Artists: Various
    - Label: Various
    - Genre: Pop
12. **Greatest Hits Volume 2**
    - Artists: Various
    - Label: Various
    - Genre: Pop
13. **The Best of**
    - Artists: Various
    - Label: Various
    - Genre: Pop
14. **The Very Best of**
    - Artists: Various
    - Label: Various
    - Genre: Pop
15. **The Very Best of**
    - Artists: Various
    - Label: Various
    - Genre: Pop
16. **The Very Best of**
    - Artists: Various
    - Label: Various
    - Genre: Pop
17. **The Very Best of**
    - Artists: Various
    - Label: Various
    - Genre: Pop
18. **The Very Best of**
    - Artists: Various
    - Label: Various
    - Genre: Pop
19. **The Very Best of**
    - Artists: Various
    - Label: Various
    - Genre: Pop
20. **The Very Best of**
    - Artists: Various
    - Label: Various
    - Genre: Pop

### Other

1. **The Very Best of**
   - Artists: Various
   - Label: Various
   - Genre: Pop
2. **Greatest Hits**
   - Artists: Various
   - Label: Various
   - Genre: Pop
3. **The Very Best of**
   - Artists: Various
   - Label: Various
   - Genre: Pop
4. **The Very Best of**
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    - Label: Various
    - Genre: Pop
Valerie Boyd

By Gregory S. Cooper

Having been described as lovely and spiritually vivacious, Valerie Vanette Boyd, singer/musician/composer/arranger, has been compared to Mahalia Jackson and Aretha Franklin. Her first solo album, released on the Shokinah International Records label, was simply titled, *Interpretations*. Although none of the songs were written by Valerie, all are interpreted with a new perspective, including "He's Alive," "Revival In The Land," "El Shaddai," and "Tomorrow."

Boyd, whose artistry is defined through her versatility as a contemporary and spiritual soloist, is a graduate of the High School of Music and Art and has received a Bachelor of Arts degree in music from Hofstra University with a full music scholarship. While in fact she does aspire to win a Grammy award, Valerie declares that there will be no compromise in her music or her ministry. A deeply religious person, Valerie offers a rich theological interpretation to her music which leaves no room for compromise.

Valerie enjoys a celebrated career both in the states and even some parts of the West Indies, where she clearly states, "I am not an entertainer, I'm a minister. It's the anointing that breaks the yoke and I live for the anointing. One of the greatest compliments that anyone ever gave me was from older people, mothers in their sixties and seventies...they don't say how good you rife, they simply say 'You're anointed.'"

Boyd has an impressive list of live television and concert appearances that include The Bobby Jones' Gospel Explosion; The Morris Cerullo National Conference; The International Christian Awards in Jamaica; Ambi Skin Care Products National Tour; The Apollo Theatre and Felt Forum in New York; The Omni in Atlanta; Two On The Town, CBS; Arthritis Telethon; New York People, ABC; March Of Dimes Telethon, and many more.

Boyd has also been reviewed by George Albert, president and publisher of *Cash Box*; Dr. Albert Lewis, producer and host of Gospel Hour Television; Rev. Lawrence Roberts, pastor of First Baptist Church of Nutley, NJ; Dr. Bobby Jones, host of America's #1-rated television program on the Black Entertainment Television network, *Bobby Jones Gospel*; Ed Smith, executive director, Gospel Music Workshop of America; and Sal Baldino, editor of Christian Musician United Magazine, among others.

When Valerie is not preparing to go out on the road, whether it be to tour the West Indies, minister in the prisons, street witnessing, ministering at the Gospel Music Workshop of America, or the Morris Cerullo World Evangelism Conference, or doing live radio or television appearances with Tramaine Hawkins or Clifton Davis, she humbly serves as the minister of music and organizer of her church in Cambria Heights, New York, the New Greater Bethel Ministries. Boyd, who is managed by her husband of 14 years, Dr. John H. Boyd II, is also the proud mother of three children; a set of twins, Janell and Joshua, and an older son, John Boyd III. For booking information on Valerie Boyd, call Shokinah Management Group at (718) 978-4357.

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**MARANATHA TO RELEASE GOSPEL PRAISE SERIES**—Popular praise and worship leader/recording artist, Morris Chapman, will be the featured artist as Maranatha Music launches its latest venture entitled Gospel Praise into the praise and worship market. The project will feature Chapman along with a 50-voice choir from the Bible Enrichment Church in Los Angeles, California. The album is set for an October release.

**ANGELO & VERONICA HIT THE SOAPS**—The song, "I Love You More," recorded by Benson’s hot new husband and wife duo, Angelo & Veronica, will debut as part of a story line on the daytime soap, *As The World Turns*, seen daily by more than six million viewers on the CBS television network. The song was not originally scheduled to be on the duo’s new album, but through Benson’s insistence, the manufacturing of the album was interrupted and resequenced to include the additional song. A&M Records, along with picking up the project for mainstream distribution, will be releasing the song to pop radio.

**DEBBIE AUSTIN & FRIENDS TO RECORD LIVE**—Debbie Austin & Friends will be doing a live recording session and video taping at the St. James C.O.G.I.C. in Warren, Ohio on Saturday, October 3. The performance is being sponsored by Rev. Milton Biggham and the Savoy Records label. For additional information call (216) 394-4163.

**NEW FROM MYOLON LEFEVRE**—Christian rocker Mylon LeFevre recently cut his famous lengthy locks to give himself a new look. LeFevre not only changed his visual image, but also changed his sound and vision as well. His upcoming album, due out in September, will be his first with his new band, and is the reflection of a man challenged and changed by the promises and provisions in God’s Word. Look for the vocal talents of Senior Curtis Chapman, Ricky Skaggs, and many others on the new project, giving LeFevre a carefully crafted, melodic, and heartfelt tapestry of sound.
New Releases...

1. MAIA AMADA (Dayspring MAIA-1985) — Maia Amada
2. LIFT HIM UP (Inspiration Music HMC944) — Ron Kenoly
3. SING IN THE SPIRIT (Light 7-115-75083-1) — Christopher L. Gray & The North Carolina Mass Choir
4. REUNION (Star Song 2974) — Bill & Gloria Gaither
5. RIVERS OF PRAISE: A WORLD BEAT CELEBRATION (Myrrh 7016941612) — Various Artists
GOSPEL MUSIC

EDWARD SMITH, A NATIVE OF DETROIT, is a professional with over 25 years experience in the floral trade and gospel music industries. Mr. Smith has also served as booking agent and business manager for the late Reverend James Cleveland. Smith once also served as executive secretary to the Gospel Music Workshop of America, Inc., an organization that boasts over 25,000 active members. Recently he was appointed executive director of the GMWA during its annual board meeting. March 1992. Smith also has the distinction of being the only African-American owner of a greenhouse in Michigan. His professional duties include floral merchandising and marketing, purchasing supplies and equipment, bookkeeping, and all floral design. For the GMWA, he negotiates contracts for the annual convention and board of directors meetings, total convention program, convention facilities, security, speakers, performers, vendors, etc.

Smith, an entrepreneur, is owner of the booking agency, Gospel Artists, Inc. and four flower shops, Flowers by Ed, Ed Smith's Florist & Greenhouses, The Flower Shop, and Sheila's Gift & Flowers. He is also a licensed trade embalmer; a licensed pilot for single engine aircraft; a licensed apprentice funeral director; former member of the Civil Air Patrol and the Detroit Police Reserves; executive producer of the Diviticus awards; lecturer and consultant for a gospel music series at Howard University, 1981, assistant musical consultant for the Mad Messiahs, 1983, author of the Workshop Book on Promotion of Gospel Shows; and executive producer and coordinator of the Rev. C. L. Franklin Benefit Program, in Detroit.

Smith, who is a member of the Gospel Music Association as well as a vice-president, is also a member of the United Gospel Industry Council and serves as a vice-president. Other affiliations by membership include The National Association of Negro Airmen; National Association of Television & Recording Artists; Allied Florists Association; Religious Convention Managers; Society of American Florists; International Floral Association; and the American Association of Executives. Smith has been married to the former Sheila Fitzgerald for 36 years, and they are the proud parents of three children: Ed Miles, Jr.(deceased), Mark Richard, and Kim Renee.

AL HOBBS, AFFECTIONATLY REFERRED TO AS "THE BISHOP" was born June 4, 1943 in Decatur, Alabama, and was reared in Louisville, Kentucky. He is currently a resident of Indianapolis, Indiana, where he has lived for the past 32 years. He further served as a United States Army Reserve sergeant from 1964 to 1969 and received an honorable discharge.

Mr. Hobbs has served as vice-president and general manager of radio stations WTLC/WTUX in Indianapolis since 1981. Hobbs began as an account executive for WTLC in 1970, became a sales manager in 1973, and general manager in 1976. His professional affiliations include the Gospel Music Workshop of America, Inc., as chairman of the board-elect; Gospel Announcers Guild, GMWA, chairman; United Gospel Industry Council, treasurer; Bobby Jones Gospel Explosion, board member and co-producer; Gospel Music Workshop of America, chapter representative; Altheo Enterprises, founder and president; Gospel Music Excellence Awards, co-producer; Indianapolis Broadcaster Association, president; Indianapolis Mass Choir, organizer, writer, producer and manager; Atlanta International Records, recording artist; Indiana Sports Corporation, board member; Indiana Black Expo, vice-chairman, marketing and sales; Indiana Christian Leadership Conference, board member; Operation Push, board member; NAACP Student Fellowship For Blacks, board member, Greater Indianapolis Progress Committee, appointed by the Mayor; Soul People Repertory Review, board member.

His most recent honors include Jackson State University Alumni Service Award, 1992; Sagamore of the Wabash, 1991 (Indiana's highest civic service award, awarded by the Governor); Omega Psi Phi Citizen of the Year, 1990; and Black Radio Exclusive's (BRE) Cononal Manager of the Year, 1989.

Hobbs, who has several artistic credits including The Indianapolis Mass Choir, Eternal Light and the Christ Missionary Mass Choirs, and a religious musical comedy titled, Everybody's Talking Bout, is the husband of the former Cabrella Coleman and they have two children Alex Carrington, and Asha Gabriell.

CASH BOX • AUGUST 15, 1992

TOP 30 BLACK GOSPEL SINGLES

1 MY MIND IS MADE UP (Word 48784) Rev. Milton Brunton & The Thompson Community Singers 1 2
2 IT'S GOOD TO KNOW JESUS (Malaco 6008) Mississippil Mass Choir 2
3 HE'S WORKING IT OUT FOR YOU (Word/Epic 48785) Shirley Caesar 3 2
4 I STOOD ON THE BANKS (Malaco 6009) Rev. James Moore 5 2
5 JESUS IS REAL (Tyscot 1401) New Life Community Choir/John P. Kee 6 2
6 MASTER CAN YOU USE ME (Savoy 14804) Rev. Timothy Wright & The Chicago Interdenominational Mass Choir 7 2
7 THROW OUT THE LIFELINE (Sparrow 1319) West Angeles C.O.G.I.C. 8 2
8 I KNOW I'VE BEEN CHANGED (Savoy 14807) Shun Pace Rhodes 9 2
9 JESUS IS THE LIGHT (Benson 8530) Hezekiah Walker/Fellowship Mass Choir 10 2
10 EVEN ME (Trip: 790/113) Yolanda Adams 10 2
11 VICTORY IS MINE (Malaco 4450) Dorothy Norwood/Na. C. G.M.W.A. Mass Choir 12 2
12 THANK YOU JESUS (Savoy 14811) The New Restoration Choir 13 2
13 HOW I DEPEND ON YOU (Blackberry 2002) Williams Brothers 14 2
14 HE'S PREPARING ME (ARC 10162) Rev. E. Davis/Wilmington Mass Choir 15 2
15 MEDLEY (Benson 2611) Thomas Whitfield 16 2
16 NEVER SHALL FORGET (Tyscot 4019) V.I.P. Music & Arts Seminar Mass Choir 17 2
17 JESUS IS THE WORLD (Tyscot 1580) Donnie Harper/New Jersey Mass Choir 18 2
18 I CAN GO TO THE ROCK (Light 75073) Chicago Mass Choir 19 2
19 COME AS YOU ARE (Light 73055) Los Angeles Mass Choir 19 2
20 PRAY FOR ME (Word 9202) Mighty Clouds of Joy 21 2
21 WATCHOWER (Benson 2615) Albertina Walker 22 2
22 THE POTTER'S HOUSE (Sparrow 1246) Tramaine Hawkins 23 2
23 IT SHALL BE DONE (Sparrow 1234) Daryl Coley 24 2
24 YOU BROUGHT ME (New Haven 20014) Rev. Lawrence Thomison & The Music City Mass Choir 25 2
25 A SONG OF CONSECRATION (Savoy 17507) Ron Winans Family & Friends III 26 2
26 MEDLEY OF PRAISE (I Am 740/12) Alvin Darling 27 2
27 A TRIBUTE TO JAMES CLEVELAND VOL. I (CGL 8505) Various Artists 27 2
28 MOVE MOUNTAINS (Fath 1800) Rev. R.L. White/Mt. Ephraim Mass Choir 29 2
29 HE'S WORTHY (I Am 740/14) Walt Whitman & Soul Children of Chicago 30 2
30 POWER (Malaco 6012) The Jackson Southernaires

Sparrow recording artist Steve Green (I) is currently in the studio with producer Greg Nisler finishing up work on Hymns: A Portrait Of Christ. Green's recording features renditions of 17 favorite hymns, including "Great Is Thy Faithfulness" and "How Great Thou Art." Being released simultaneously with the recording on October 12, will be a Sparrow Press gift-book entitled Hymns: A Portrait Of Christ, a full-length devotional video produced in cooperation with Moody Bible Institute and White Lion Pictograph, and a choral collection.
NSAI Profits From “The Hard Way” Tour

BLACK GIVES SOME BACK—In a press conference held recently at Nashville's Starwood Amphitheatre, Clint Black announced that his September 5 show at the venue will benefit the Nashville Songwriters Association, International (NSAI), which represents over 2,500 songwriters worldwide.

Black, who wrote or co-wrote all the songs on his three albums, his most recent The Hard Way, and an honorary lifetime member of the NSAI, said “I can tell you what’s in my heart, and that's the songwriters.” Black, seated with NSAI executive director Pat Rogers, went on to credit NSAI for their active role in politics and legislation on behalf of the songwriting community.

Joining Black on this stop of his 150-city tour will be Emmylou Harris and Billy Dean, as well as an unprecedented “songwriters’ circle” to include as yet unnamed Nashville tunsmiths for a free forum of singing and playing.

Tickets for the September 5 concert are currently on sale, with all proceeds going to the NSAI. Prices range from $25.00 for gold circle seats, $19.50 for reserved, and $12.50 for general admission.

CHAPMAN, ET AL—Beth Nielsen Chapman will headline the August 20 “Pass It On” benefit to support The Songwriters Guild Foundation. The “Pass It On” benefit, created in 1987, appoints a respected songwriter to begin a “pass it on” chain, selecting people who most inspired him or her creatively and artistically. Each new participant does likewise, thus enlarging the songwriting chain. Also participating will be Bill LaBounty, Craig Bickhardt, Tony Arata, Pat Alger, Peter McCann, and Richard Leigh. The event will be held at Vanderbilt University’s Blair School Of Music with tickets available at all Ticketmaster locations. For an updated artist roster or more info call the Songwriters Guild Foundation at (615) 329-1782.

Country News Box

THE COUNTRY MUSIC HALL OF FAME—The CMA has named nominees in two categories for induction to the Country Music Hall Of Fame. While the CMA honors a candidate in the Open Category every year, this year, a non-performer will also be inducted. The 1992 nominees for the Open Category are: Don Gibson, Merle Haggard, George Jones, Willie Nelson and Ray Price. Finalists for the Non-Performer Category are: Harold W. “Pappy” Daily, Don Law, Ken Nelson, Frances Preston, and Irving Waugh. The two inductees will be announced during The 26th Annual CMA Awards telecast on Wednesday, September 30 on CBS Television. A panel of approximately 350 electors, each having at least 10 years of experience in country music, elect the Hall Of Fame inductees.

SRO '92—Nominees have also been named by the CMA for the SRO '92 Awards, which honor outstanding professional achievement within the country music touring industry. The SRO Awards will be awarded Saturday, October 10 during the CMA's Entertainment Expo, which takes place October 8-10 at the Stouffer Nashville Hotel and adjoining Nashville Convention Center. For registration and other SRO information contact the CMA's Special Projects Department at (615) 244-2840.

SPEAKING OF TOURS—Miller Lite will sponsor the 1992-93 concert tour of country music star Alan Jackson with 175 performances beginning in September...Garth Brooks' tour recently stopped for a show at the L.A. Forum on Friday, July 10, where entertainment luminaries abound in the audience including Paul Stanley (Kiss), Marlee Matlin, Arsenio Hall, Michele Lee and Mark Harmon.

MICHAEL MARTIN MURPHEY'S—WestFest will return to Copper Mountain, Colorado for its sixth year. Sponsored by Justin Boots and presented by American Express, Murphey will share the WestFest stage with Vince Gill, The Texas Tornados, The Nitty Gritty Dirt Band, Brooks & Dunn, Suzy Bogguss, Michael Johnson, Riders In The Sky, The Sons Of San Joaquin, and cowboy poet Waddie Mitchell, among others. A showcase for all things Western, the event has been set for September 5-7 at Copper Mountain Resort, Colorado. For more information and tickets call (800) 438-8386.

NASHVILLE NEWS—Country music star Travis Tritt will make his acting debut in the CBS television movie, Rio Diablo, Tritt, who says he's always wanted to try his hand at acting, co-stars with celebrity performer Kenny Rogers. The four-week shoot will begin on September 14 at an undisclosed location in the Southwest...Liberty recording artist Chris LeDoux has signed an exclusive management contract with T.K.O. Artist Management. Previous to his Liberty signing, the 1976 World Champion Bareback rider released 22 independent albums on the American Cowboy Songs Label, garnering over $4 million in sales through tack shops and western wear stores...Country superstar Wynonna Judd will participate in "A Salute To The American Veteran" on Wednesday, August 19 at Houston's Astrodome, as part of the 1992 Republican National Convention. She will also be opening that evening's session by singing the National Anthem.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>#</th>
<th>Song</th>
<th>Artist/Group</th>
<th>Label/Year</th>
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<tr>
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<td>I'll Think of Something</td>
<td>Mark Chesnutt</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>Billy the Kid</td>
<td>Liberty/Sky</td>
<td>79529(CD)</td>
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<td>I Feel Lucky</td>
<td>Mary Chapin-Carpenter</td>
<td>Columbia 7434(CD)</td>
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<td>We Tell Ourselves</td>
<td>Clint Black</td>
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<td>She Takes the Sad Out of Saturday Night</td>
<td>Clint Gregory</td>
<td>Step One SAC-434</td>
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<td>If Your Heart Ain't Busy Tonight</td>
<td>Liberty 79289(CD)</td>
<td>Curb 1023(CD)</td>
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<td>This One's Gonna Hurt You (for a Long, Long Time)</td>
<td>Brooks &amp; Dunn</td>
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<td>Boot Scootin' Boogie</td>
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<td>Alabama</td>
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<td>What Kind of Fool Do You Think I Am</td>
<td>Lee Roy Parnell</td>
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<td>A Woman Loves</td>
<td>Steve Wariner</td>
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<td>Runnin' Behind</td>
<td>Tracey Lawrence</td>
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<td>I Still Believe in You</td>
<td>Vince Gill</td>
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<td>The Letter</td>
<td>Wayne Newton</td>
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<td>Warning Labels</td>
<td>Doug Stone</td>
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<td>Love's Got a Hold on You</td>
<td>Alan Jackson</td>
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<td>Familiar Ground</td>
<td>Michael White</td>
<td>Reprise 5466(CD)</td>
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<td>Nowhere Bound</td>
<td>Diamond Rio</td>
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<td>So Much Like My Dad</td>
<td>George Strait</td>
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<td>Too Much</td>
<td>Pirates of the Mississippi</td>
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<td>Whatcha Gonna Do with a Cowboy</td>
<td>Liberty 9618(CD)</td>
<td>Astra 2444(CD)</td>
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<td>That's What I'm Working On Tonight</td>
<td>Chris LeDoux &amp; Garth Brooks</td>
<td>Epic 46520(CD)</td>
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<td>Me and My Baby</td>
<td>Paul Overstreet</td>
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<td>The River</td>
<td>Garth Brooks</td>
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<td>Going Out of My Mind</td>
<td>McBride &amp; The Ride</td>
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<td>One Time Around</td>
<td>Michelle Wright</td>
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<td>Our Love Was Meant to Be</td>
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<td>I Bought the Law</td>
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<td>Last of the Hard Drivin'</td>
<td>Confederate Railroad</td>
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<td>I Got a Date</td>
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<td>This Ole' Heart</td>
<td>Tim Mensy</td>
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<td>When Love Comes Around the Bend</td>
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<td>Let the Best Man Win</td>
<td>Tail Boat</td>
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**Top 100 Country Singles Chart for August 15, 1982**
This is the first single from Tills' forthcoming Arista album, *Homeward Looking Angel*. A uniquely penned tune, "Shake The Sugar Tree" could be a signature song for her just as "Maybe It Was Memphis" was from her previous album. Dynamically produced and modulated for commerciality, this song is upwardly mobile, and without a doubt a good choice for release.

**FEATURE PICKS**

- **JOE DIFFIE "Next Thing Smokin" (Epic 47477)**
  - Producers: Bob Montgomery/Johnny Slate
  - Writers: Joe Diffie/Danny Morris/Johnny Slate
  - Album: Regular Joe

A lively toe-tapper from Joe Diffie complete with Jerry Lee Lewis-style piano playing, strong fiddle riffs, and pleasant guitar picking, "Baby I'm leaving on the next thing smokin..."

- **DWIGHT YOAKAM & PATTY LOVELESS "Send A Message To My Heart" (Reprise 5545)**
  - Producer: Pete Anderson
  - Writers: Kostas & Kathy Louvin
  - Album: If There Was A Way

Appalachian tradition to the max. Yoaakam's whine and Loveless' yodel make for an interesting vocal combination. Why not do an album together?

**ALBUMS**

- **NITTY GRITTY DIRT Not Fade Away (Liberty 98564)**
  - Twenty-five years together and still doing fine, the Nitty Gritty Dirt Band gives us more great "dirt" with *Not Fade Away*. The album opens with a fantastic cover of the rolling Stones classic "Not Fade Away," and takes us into "Little Angel," which is a typical Dirt Band original. Merle Haggard's "Mama Tried" is resurrected in the album, as is the Sonny Curtis classic, "I Fought The Law," which is currently at #47 with a bullet on the Cash Box Top 100 Country Singles chart just three weeks after its debut. "One Good Love" is a Radney Foster/Jeff Hanna-penned tune, and "Losin' You" is a uniquely written tearjerker. "Don't Underestimate Love" with Suzy Bogguss is definitely hit-single material, and "What'll You Do About Me" is an upbeat, multi-instrumental/harmony attention-getter with Nitty Gritty signature all over it. What more can be said? The Nitty Gritty Dirt Band is an American original.

—Brad Hogue

**NEW ALBUM RELEASES**

(August 18, 1992) **t-r-o-u-b-l-e**—Travis Tritt—(Warner Bros.)

(September 1, 1992) **Hearts In Armor**—Trisha Yearwood—(MCA)

(September 15, 1992) **Judds Collection 1983-1990** (3 CD Box Set)—The Judds—(RCA)
POWERFUL ON THE PLAYLIST
Alabama has scored some 30-odd #1 hits, first in 1980 with "Tennessee River" and this week with "Take A Little Trip," the first single from the soon-to-be-released album entitled American Pride.

"Nowhere Bound," the fifth single from award-winners, Diamond Rio, garnered the most movement this week on the Top 100 Country Singles chart. From #36 to #28, Diamond Rio's eight-point jump, outdistanced other chart-hoppers McBride & The Ride (#37), Confederate Railroad (#48), and Giant's Tim Mensy (#49), all of whom gained six-point conversions.

Clint Black (#6), Doug Stone (#27), George Strait (#35), and The Forester Sisters (#46) rallied up five chart positions each.

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. AS LONG AS YOU BELONG TO ME—Holly Dunn (Warner Bros.)
2. WALK SOFTLY ON THE BRIDGES—Jeff Chance (Mercury)
3. WE MUST TAKE AMERICA BACK—Steve Vaus (RCA)
4. THE TASTE OF FREEDOM—Aaron Barker (Atlantic)
5. JUST CALL ME LONESOME—Radney Foster (Arista)

CMT Top Ten Video Countdown
1. Clint Black . . . . . . . . . We Tell Ourselves (RCA)
2. Marty Stuart & Travis Tritt This One's Gonna Hurt You (MCA)
3. Mark Chesnutt I'll Think Of Something (MCA)
4. Brooks & Dunn Boot Scootin' Boogie (Arista)
5. Aaron Tippin I Wouldn't Have It Any Other Way (RCA)
6. Tracy Lawrence Runnin' Behind (Atlantic)
7. Vince Gill I Still Believe In You (MCA)
8. The Bellamy Brothers Cowboy Beat (Bellamy Brothers)
9. Lorrie Morgan Something In Red (RCA)
10. Billy Ray Cyrus Could've Been Me (Mercury)

Margaritaville Records' Evangeline
By Brad Hogue
JIMMY BUFFETT's music is something we're all familiar with, and now he's giving us more of it through Margaritaville Records. The five-member female band from New Orleans called Evangeline is the first act to sign with Buffett's label, which is marketed through MCA.

Evangeline's first single, "Bayou Boy," peaked at #44 on the Cash Box Top 100 Country Singles chart, and the band has been performing in front of sell-out crowds while serving up Buffett's feel-good act for Jimmy Buffett's '92 "Recession Recess" tour dates with Buffett will resume in August and continue west until early September, when the band will be playing solo club dates on the West Coast, as well as opening for The Radiators on their Benson & Hedge's concert tour.

Evangeline's Kathleen Stiefel described the experience as "the best thing that could have happened to us," and said, "it was in the grapevine that Jimmy Buffett had heard about us and wanted to see us, so we arranged for him to see us play at a club on Bourbon Street called the La Strada. He sat through several sets and then took us to lunch a couple of days later and made us an offer, and we took it."

Being thrust into the limelight is something Evangeline is comfortable with, as all the members were professional musicians for many years prior to signing with Margaritaville. In 1988, they entered the first ever Jazz Search, a talent contest sponsored by the New Orleans Jazz and Heritage Festival and the Audubon Zoo, and won first prize, which garnered them a spot on the annual Jazz Fest. Jazz Fest producer Quint Davis not only booked the band every year at the festival, but also initially brought the band to Jimmy Buffett's attention. Evangeline later won both the Marlboro Talent Roundup and the True Value Country Music Showdown.

Vocalist Stiefel comes from Bay St. Louis, Mississippi, with a strong background in country bands. Lestie Lohmeyer, from Gretna, Louisiana, also strengthens Evangeline's country roots, while vocalist/bassist Sharon Leger cut teeth in an environment of purer Cajun music in central Louisiana, where she sang on several albums by Cajun artist Bruce Daigrepton. Keyboardist/vocalist Beth McKay, from Jackson, Mississippi, was a fixture on the Austin blues scene, and she recently toured with Fingers Taylor, who was Buffett's opening act in 1991. Fiddle mandolin player/vocalist Nancy Buchan hails from Wichita, Kansas, and came to New Orleans after stints in New York and Colorado playing everything from classical music to jazz to rock to bluegrass.

Diversity is the key to Evangeline's music. Stiefel explained, "The whole Southern area, the Mississippi Gulf Coast, the Louisiana Coast, and the surrounding areas are still full of music, full of the blues from Mississippi, the jazz from New Orleans, and the Cajun from North Louisiana, in addition to the country music and the rock music we all grew up on. I still love the Jazz Festival, though, it's very special to us. Quint Davis always finds his way over to our stage and hangs out with us. He's a big fan and a very good friend of ours, and he's directly responsible for our chance at success."

NO SIGN OF RECESSION—Executives at Margaritaville Records and MCA/Nashville recently presented Jimmy Buffett with a gold album for Boats, Beaches, Bara and Belladots. The 32-song box set was released in May. Pictured at the presentation during a break from Buffett's "Recession Recess" tour are (L-R): Tony Brown, executive vice president & head of A&R, MCA/Nashville; Bob Mercer, vice president, Margaritaville Records; Buffett; Bruce Hinton, president, MCA/Nashville; and Walt Wilson, senior vice president of sales and marketing, MCA Nashville. (Photo Credit: Beth Gwinn)
"LET THE BEST MAN WIN," now in its fourth week on the Top 100 Country Singles chart, carries not only the recognition of being this week’s top indie single, but it is also the 59th chart entry for veteran country music artist Narvel Felts. At #53, “Let The Best Man Win” is Narvel’s latest release from Tugboat Records, and the highest independent single this week.

In his last five decades of making music, Narvel has garnered success in both the rock-n-roll arena and then the country market. As one of the original pop acts in the ’50s, Narvel recorded “Three Thousand Miles” and “Honey Love.” A signee to Sun Records, Elvis’ original record label, Narvel was labelmate with such fellow luminaries as Carl Perkins, Roy Orbison, Charlie Rich, Conway Twitty, and Johnny Cash.

As a country artist, Narvel gained highest recognition in the ’70s with Top 10 records such as “Drift Away,” “All In The Name Of Love,” “When Your Good Love Was Mine,” “Funky How Time Slips Away,” “Somebody Hold Me (Until She Passes By),” “Lonely Teardrops,” “My Prayer,” “Everlasting Love,” and “Reconsider Me.”

Numbered as one of the Top 10 Most Popular Country Music Artists of all time, Felts continues to work the international country circuit, as well, with chart success in Canada and Norway and concert dates in Sweden.

**INDIE FEATURE PICK**

**BUCK OWENS** The Buck Owens Collection (Rhino)

This is a must for collectors. The 62-song, 3-CD/cassette collection includes all the Buck Owens and his Buckaroos 20 #1 country hits cut for Capitol between 1959 and the early 1970s. It’s the first complete Buck Owens anthology including material which has been out of print for more than 20 years, most tracks making their CD debut. In addition to the classic tracks, the collection is also accompanied by a detailed set of liner notes, photos, detailed biography, track-by-track commentary, complete discography and sessionography, and tributes from country artists such as Garth Brooks, George Strait, Dwight Yoakam, and many others.
AMOA Forms Committee To Address Advanced Communications

CHICAGO—Dramatic changes in the viability of interactive communications networks have led to commitments by telephone companies, cable TV operators and major entertainment companies to enter the interactive marketplace using fiber optic, CATV, satellite and CD-ROM delivery systems. Multimedia games are an essential component of interactive systems. When truly interactive multimedia video games reach the home market they will pose a serious threat to the future viability of the amusement operator.

AMOA not only recognizes the impact these developments will have on its members, but also clearly understands the strategic importance of advanced communications networks to the United States. For this reason, AMOA has formed the Advanced Technologies Committee to study ways and means for its members to assist America in building advanced communications networks while helping to motivate the people of America to develop the skills needed to use these networks.

The committee, established on July 16, will study recent advances in twisted pair, fiber optic, CATV, satellite and CD-ROM delivery systems in order to determine how the amusement industry can play a role in their development. A preliminary report will be released during AMOA Expo '92, October 1-3, in Nashville, Tennessee.

Taito's Operation Gun Buster

CHICAGO—Taito America Corp. announced the latest entry in its upcoming product line that is targeted for late summer/early fall delivery. It is called Operation Gun Buster and it is the first 4-player interactive gun game to hit the U.S. market, according to the factory. Operation Gun Buster offers non-stop combat action as players compete against one another in team play and, for added challenge, must find and destroy the attacker.

The machine has a joystick that provides control of direction including left, right, forward and backward. The gun is unique in that it incorporates a special design with trigger and grenade button, which is one-hand operational.

Operation Gun Buster will be sold as a dedicated 4-player game. Delivery will be announced shortly.

Further information may be obtained through factory distributors or by contacting Taito America Corp., 390 Holbrook Drive, Wheeling, IL 60090.
**Mad Dog McCree In 25' Format From American Laser Games**

CHICAGO—American Laser Games' Mad Dog McCree is world famous. Since its introduction in 1980, this machine has maintained itself as a top earning arcade piece with longevity and staying power. As announced by the factory, this outstanding machine is now available in a 25-inch screen cabinet, with ticket dispenser option to satisfy the needs of amusement centers that are offering redemption games for the entertainment of their customers.

As noted by corporate planning advisor Stan Jarocki, “American Laser Games is offering Mad Dog McCree in the small-screen format to expand the universe for exposure of the product. With the smaller floor ratio size, the cabinet for the 25-inch game will be attractive to a broader base of locations. We foresee the 25 inch Mad Dog McCree impacting the street location market.”

The 25-inch model of Mad Dog McCree will be available in the U.S. and Canada through the factory’s distributor network.

Further information may be obtained by contacting American Laser Games, 4801 Lincoln Road NE, Albuquerque, NM 87109.

**Dick Shelton Is Named General Manager At Valley**

1M—Richard B. Shelton has been appointed senior vice president and general manager at Valley Recreation Products, as announced by Valley president Chuck Milholl. Shelton joined Valley in 1965 and has been vice president of manufacturing for the past 16 years. In his new position, he will be responsible for all of Valley’s operating activities. “Our company has grown five-fold over the past 10 years,” stated Shelton, “and as we approach the next decade we must be prepared to meet the challenges and to capitalize on all opportunities to sustain this growth.”

Upon assuming his position as general manager Shelton announced the following key management changes and additions.

Alan R. Schafer, formerly vice president of marketing, now becomes vice president of sales; with responsibility for sales, sales promotion, and service for Valley’s full line of products in the U.S. and Canada. “Alan has played a key role in the tremendous success we have enjoyed in marketing our award-winning Cougar ZDS model and the Cougar electronic dart machine these past years,” observed Shelton. “Through this reorganization he and his staff will be able to concentrate their efforts on maximizing Valley’s further successes in the market place.”

Scott Schroeder, who joined Valley’s sales staff in 1991 after graduating from the University of Michigan, has been promoted to product manager. He will be involved in all facets of market planning and product development. Reporting to James E. Griffiths, vice president-international operations, Schroeder will assist with marketing services and international sales. “In the short time Scott has been with us he has made quite an impact on Valley,” said Shelton, “especially with the successful launch of the Valley League Management System. I am confident that he will make an important contribution to Valley’s future growth in this assignment.”

Bruce Allen has been promoted to plant manager-Bay City, overseeing all factory operations including purchasing, engineering, manufacturing and plant maintenance at Valley’s main production facilities in Bay City, Michigan. Allen, who has been with the company since 1981, progressed from engineering manager in Bay City to manufacturing operations manager, prior to his recent promotion. “Bruce has certainly earned the opportunity through his hard work and dedication to the company,” stated Shelton. Allen will report to the new general manager.

**Coin-op Machines “Amuse” U.S. Olympic Team In Tampa**

1M—During the period of July 10-22, a fully equipped game room was set up at the Tampa Hilton Metrocenter in Tampa, Florida, under sponsorship of the American Amusement Machine Association for use by the U.S. Olympic Team and its staff. This mini-arcade provided hours of relaxation and entertainment for athletes and staff members during the three weeks of final processing that preceded the start of the Olympic Games in Barcelona, Spain.


The line-up of machines included: Arachnid’s Galaxy dart game; Atari Games’ Road Riot; Capcom’s Street Fighter II; Dynamo’s Air Hockey; Konami’s X-Men; Midway’s Terminator 2; NM America’s Performer Grand jukebox and Strata Group’s Rim Rockin’ Basketball. The equipment was coordinated and delivered by Brady Distributing (Orlando) and Lawson Music Co. (Winter Haven).

AAMA has enjoyed a good relationship with the USOC since it first sponsored game rooms at the final processing before the 1988 Summer Olympic Games in Seoul, Korea and at the 1989 U.S. Olympic Festival in Oklahoma City. The game rooms proved to be favorite gathering places for athletes during their hours of rest from Olympic preparation and competition.

As part of its continuing efforts with USOC, AAMA has set up permanent game rooms at the U.S. Olympic Training Centers in Colorado Springs, Colorado and Lake Placid, New York. The association is raising funds for the 1992 U.S. Olympic Team by selling video game-shaped lapel pins and colorful stickers to place on amusement machines.

![Image of Mad Dog McCree in 25' Format from American Laser Games](Image)

![Image of Dick Shelton named general manager at Valley](Image)

![Image of Coin-op Machines "Amuse" U.S. Olympic Team In Tampa](Image)
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THE RASCALS, the Young Rascals, Joey Dee & the Starlitters, the Hi-Fives, Felix Cavaliere, Gene Cornish, Dino Danelli, Eddie Brigati and David Brigati: Free information and pen pal service for fans of the Rascals and all Rascals-related artists. Please send your questions and a stamp to: The Rascals/Starlitters Fan Club, P.O. Box 481, James A. Farley Building, New York, NY 10116-0481.

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