

Music

VIEWS

MARCH 1953

VOL. XI • NO. 3



KAY STARR

"SIDE BY SIDE"

"I BELIEVE"

*An inspiring record
by the first lady of song!*

JANE FROMAN

backed with

*"Ghost of a
Rose"*

Capitol
RECORDS

No. 2332



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THE COVER

Kay Starr promises to turn her second million disc with brand new version of the standard, "Side by Side" and "Noah." Miss Starr rode "Wheel of Fortune" on the green side of a million sold copies when she clambered aboard that tune early last year. The faith that record retailers and juke box operators have in Miss Starr is clearly demonstrated in the advance orders (400,000) on her new disc. The unique style which marks her work has been openly copied by many of today's pop singers, but as the records show Kay Starr got there "fustest with the mostest."



MITZI GAYNOR, dancing star of 20th-Fox musicals, is ready to leap into another dimension.

Music Views

Edited By BUD FREEMAN

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PEGGY LEE and **BRAD DEXTER** smile happily for the photogs immediately after the wedding ceremony in Hollywood. Mrs. Dexter follows "The Jazz Singer" with a musical lead at Warners.



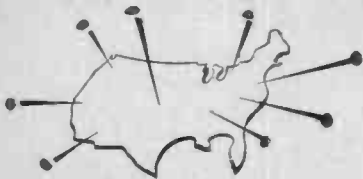
JOE "FINGERS" CARR, Capitol recording star, debuted as a night club entertainer at the Thunderbird, Las Vegas. He was formerly chief accompanist at Madame Fifi's School of Fine Arts.



GROUCHO MARX gets a tip on girl vocalists from daughter Melinda who told him to drop all those singers. She took the job herself on NBC's "You Bet Your Life."



MINDY CARSON'S straight dramatic performance on "Studio One" was so good she was brought to Hollywood to test for the role of Miriam in "The Robe" at 20th-Fox.



TENNESSEE ERNIE discusses odd cricket sounds heard on his ABC deejay show with an authority. ABC city engineers were confused by the unique call and suspected mechanical failure.



FARON YOUNG, Grand Ole Opry vocalist, starts a series of engagements for a new employer. Young recently released "Goin' Steady" for Capitol.



CONNIE RUSSELL joins Dick Haymes, the Bell Sisters and Billy Daniels in "Here Comes the Showboat" at Columbia. Singer attracted attention on New York tv.



JACK BENNY, holder of the first fiddle chair with the Waukegan String Duet, is planning a concert tour. He was recently backed by a sixty piece symphony. Mr. B. played "Love In Bloom."

B'WAY SILENT

Record dealers, along New York's Great White Way, have had to muffle the outside loudspeakers used to promote record sales. The Broadway Association clamped the lid on when it was learned that there were nearly 100 loudspeakers along the 25 block stretch. Dealers say the ban is hurting business, but they're racking their brains for new and better promotion gimmicks. The Broadway Association has forbidden snares, bear traps and concealed pits.

LEIGH, OLIVIER CHANT

Vivien Leigh and Laurence Olivier will appear in a musical play for the first time in their careers next winter in a Drury Lane production of "The King and I." Intensive voice coaching is planned by the couple in preparation for their roles.

MITCHELL IN INK

Guy Mitchell started the new year by renewing one contract and signing another. Singer renewed his Columbia Records contract calling for minimum 12 sides per year for three years, and signed with Paramount Pictures to appear in an untitled technicolor production. Recent release for Columbia is "She Wears Red Feathers."

BIRD TAKES FIVE

San Mateo, California radio listeners tuned in on a local dee jay early morning program and instead of morning chatter got an earful of snores. They called up the Sheriff who sent a man to station KVSM. He woke up the jockey Jerry Leeds, asleep beside the open microphone and told him to rise and shine.

CROSBY FOR XMAS

Bing Crosby is again set to star in Paramount's "White Christmas," but the film will begin in August instead of March as originally scheduled. Fred Astaire and Rosemary Clooney have been approached as co-stars, but nothing definite has been set for them.

O'CONNOR'S BIZ

The Donald O'Connor-Sidney Miller Music Publishing Co. has been set up to publish new songs by O'Connor and Miller as well as other writers. Jessie Stool is the associate.

DAUGHTERS CAST

Four of Eddie Cantor's five daughters have been cast for the 1929-31 sequences of "The Eddie Cantor Story" at Warners. They are Gail Ganley, Diane Dozier, Steffi Sidney, and Mary Ellen Clemens.

Jimmy Boyd Asks Contract Release

Jimmy Boyd, 14 year old tv performer who sprang to national prominence on his recording of "I Saw Mommy Kissing Santa Claus," has split with his manager, Abner J. Greshler. Boyd family, through counsel, claims the contract with Greshler is invalid since more than 50% of singer's earnings have been going to Greshler who, as an agent, is legally entitled to only 10%. Greshler states that he holds a producer's contract with Boyd the provisions of which entitle him to "lend out" the youngster's services. Court must decide whether Abner J. Greshler Productions are actually producers or, as Boyd's attorney's claim, a production company in name only which has produced no films or tv shows.

Boyd and family are in New York to renegotiate their contract with Columbia Records and to do tv guest spots.

BUT DOES IT SELL SHEET MUSIC?

January 29 was designated as "No Moon at All Day" honoring the song "No Moon at All." Publisher reportedly arranged the lunar eclipse.



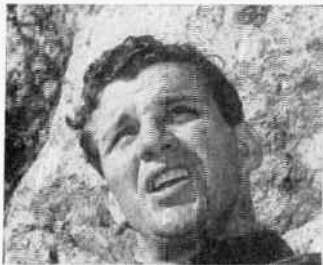
GLEASON

Gleason Swings In "Rose" Pit

Jackie Gleason satisfied a yen to be a band leader by batoning an ork at N.Y's La Vie en Rose, and working for scale. Leader's scale for the date is \$225 weekly. Band is styled after the outfit used for Gleason's Capitol album "Music For Lovers Only," featuring strings and Bobby Hackett's trumpet.

Las Vegas Deals For Bankhead

Tallulah Bankhead joins the list of artists turning their talents to night clubs. According to Variety she will play the Sands Hotel, Las Vegas in May. Reported salary, \$25,000 the week.



JACK POWERS enters the recording field with an original rendition of "I'll Be Seeing You" and "From a Fox Hole." Both sides are sung without musical accompaniment.

Bailey Will Be Her Own Pearl

Pearl Bailey has been signed by MGM to play herself in "Easy to Love." The picture costars Esther Williams and Van Johnson.



TOMMY MERCER, Ray Anthony's vocalist, took top honors among band singers in the Down Beat poll for 1952.

Many Switches On Railroad Hour

Plans for televising the "Railroad Hour," current radio musical program starring Gordon MacRae, are being considered. Final decision to go ahead is waiting sponsor approval. There will be an opening for a new male lead as Warner Brothers, to whom MacRae is under contract, has refused to allow him to appear on tv. Byron Palmer made test film for a Railroad Hour tv show and was set for singing leads once the package was okayed. Since doing the audition show, Palmer has been signed by 20th Century-Fox. Chances are the studio will not okay a tv pact for him.

Williams Discs Continue To Sell

Since the death of the late Hank Williams, the sales of his records has risen tremendously. Fans are not only buying his last record, the prophetic "I'll Never Get Out of This World Alive," but also the rest of his 50 single records and two albums. As a rule Williams recorded his own songs many of which attained hit status in the popular field. "Hey, Good Lookin'," "Settin' The Woods On Fire" and "Cold, Cold Heart" were some of his hits.



JO ANN GREER has joined Ray Anthony's band giving the Anthony organization the strongest team of vocalists since Helen O'Connell and Bob Eberly sang with Jimmy Dorsey. Miss Greer is featured on "You're a Heartbreaker" and "Wild Horses" which Anthony cut for Capitol. She's scheduled to duet with Tommy Mercer on a forthcoming disc date.

Goodman Gathers New Group

Spurred by the sales of his discs on Capitol and Columbia, Benny Goodman will organize a new band this year. While he has continued to record, Goodman has not fronted orchestra in more than three years. Goodman's Columbia discs were cut in 1937-38. His work for Capitol was done with Gene Krupa and Teddy Wilson during World Intermission II.

DEE JAY TALENT

American Guild of Variety Artists has rescinded the disc jockey ban on performers, killing one of the most controversial rules in the union. AGVA acts are now permitted to appear on cafe-emanating dee jay interviews, but not to gag, sing or tell stories.

"JAZZ AT PHIL" WAX

Norman Granz is mapping plans to put an entire "Jazz at The Philharmonic" concert on wax. Previously the Granz albums have been only excerpts from the various tours. Package is to be three 12 inch LP's to sell for an estimated \$15.



LAURITZ MELCHIOR drops a plaintive tone into the upswept ear of Red Dust. Singer and the hound appear in Paramount's "The Stars Are Singing."

Bob Manning's Capitol Shove

Bob Manning, young singer, signed recently to a long-term pact with Capitol Records will be given an all-out promotional push by the diskery. A specially packaged waxing of his first release and a record which will tell the background of the warbler, his career before being signed etc. will be shipped to over 1,800 disc jockeys. The latter disc will be called "A Star is Born."

Ernie Journey

Tennessee Ernie will headline the show at the London Palladium starting April 6. The singer will precede the date with two west coast night club appearances.



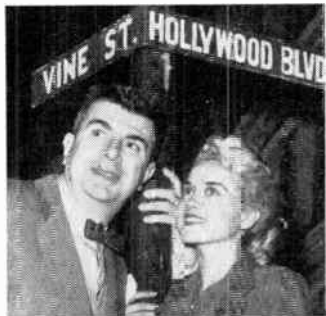
ANNA MARIA ALBERGHETTI and director **Norman Taurog** listen to a playback of the young concert star's voice on the set of "The Stars Are Singing" at Paramount.



KATHRYN GRAYSON talks it over with **MERV GRIFFIN**, her leading man in Warners "The Grace Moore Story." Griffin was formerly a vocalist with Freddie Martin.

Agencies Clear Artist's Throats

According to weekly Variety, the booking agencies handling the big name vocalists are now figuring mileage on the larynx. Because so many singers have been forced to lay off for weeks at a time due to vocal strain the agencies are attempting to arrange bookings with a few days between engagements to give the pipes that relaxed timbre. While it is. Variety states, expensive to the artist and the agency to take time off while on tour it is proving less costly in the long run than taking a chance on a throat ailment particularly if artist should become indisposed while he has a hit record going.



KEN MURRAY and **LAURIE ANDERS** look over the new location for their tv show. Murray returns to the West Coast where he camped his long run success, "Blackouts."

Ray Noble Back On Bandstand

Ray Noble has been set for a five-week engagement at the Coconut Grove, Los Angeles on March 4. This will mark the orchestra leader's first L. A. hotel date since he played the Grove in 1940. In recent years he has been concentrating almost exclusively on air and recording work.

Raft Rhumbas In

George Raft returned to the night-club circuit after a long absence when he opened at the Flamingo in Las Vegas. He featured the dancing that made him known before he entered pictures.

Hit Musicomedies In Repertory

An extensive world-wide tour is being mapped for the National Repertory Company, a new legitimate musical troupe being put together by Jule Styne and Richard Rodgers for the presentation of five top Rodgers and Hart shows. The outfit expects to begin rehearsals early next summer and open in New York in the fall. They will tour the U. S. and go to England, Europe and Australia. Present plans call for a repertoire of five shows—"Too Many Girls," "I Married An Angel," "On Your Toes," "By Jupiter" and "Boys From Syracuse." The troupe will remain one week in each city and present each show on a different night.



AL GOODMAN congratulates **STAN KENTON** on winning top honors in Down Beat Poll for 1952. The Kenton organization took first place for the third consecutive year.



what's with warblers

Margaret Whiting will play her mother in the life story of her father, Richard Whiting, which Roy Rowland will make in three dimensions. David Wayne will do the role of composer Whiting who wrote such hits as "The Japanese Sandman," "Beyond the Blue Horizon," "My Future Just Passed," "Honey," and the title song of the picture, "My Ideal." The Margaret Whiting part will be done by sister Barbara while the role of Barbara will be played by Margaret Young. Margaret Whiting's daughter, Deborah, will play herself. There should be a spot in the picture for a song titled, "I Know Who You Are, But Who Am I?" . . . Guy Mitchell's picture career begins with the Pine-Thomas musical, "Those Sisters From Seattle." Mindy Carson and the Bell Sisters have been signed. John Wayne and Rhonda Fleming head the cast. Picture will be shot in both two and three dimensions . . . G. Norman Collie says, "It's a waste of time to warn girls to watch out for men who lavish expensive gifts on them—they always do." . . . Sarah Vaughan's English tour delighted the Britishers . . . Doris Day goes into "Sally" when she finishes "Calamity Jane" at Warners. And, at the same studio, Kathryn Grayson contributes a highly jelloese shimmy to "The Grace Moore Story." Sequence is based on Grace Moore's appearance in the chorus of "Hitch Koo," a Broadway revue . . . Davey Lee, the original "Sonny Boy" in the picture, "The Singing Fool," has returned to show business. He's the regular vocalist on Jack Owen's ABC radio show. Lee had been working in a Burbank aircraft plant . . . Jackie Gleason journeys to Hollywood to do "The Curtain Never Falls" this summer . . . Jane Russell has just recorded two sides for American Records. Freddie Karger, husband of Jane Wyman, supervised the session. Miss Wyman cut one of her husband's songs, "Eskimo," for Decca . . . Dennis Day renewed Lois Butler's contract for his tv show . . . Nelson Eddy takes his night club act to Las Vegas' Sahara in April . . . If Paula Stone and Henry Willson sell their tv package, "Cinderella Hour," Margaret Truman will head the cast . . . Frankie Laine broke the house record on his recent engagement at Blinstraub's Village Cafe, Boston.



JIMMY McHUGH has stepped out as a night club personality with an act built around his many song hits. To interpret his tunes, McHugh has surrounded himself with five outstanding vocalists. Top left, McHugh is pictured with Beverly Richards and Dorothy Coulter. In panel from top to bottom are Darla Hood, Judy Clark and Eve Marley.

Spotted in a London shop window by Ron Randall a sign reading, "Piano Lessons — Special Pains Given to Beginners." . . . Metro has signed vocalist Nestor Amaral and guitarist Lourindo Alemeida to serenade Ricardo Montalban and Lana Turner in "Latin Lovers." . . . In a Paul Gregory road show titled "This Is the Life," scheduled to tour in the fall, Anne Baxter will sing and dance in addition to playing in dramatic skits . . . Mike Connolly reports the President's favorite tune is "Down Among the Sheltering Palms" which just happens to be the title of a 20th-Fox musical . . . Betty Clooney, Rosemary's sister, has an April booking in Las Vegas . . . Eddie Heywood will record a new jazz series for Coral . . . Jack Pleis, husband of Karen Chandler, walks into the house quietly. He picked song, arranged and conducted, "Till I Waltz Again With You" for Teresa Brewer. "Waltz" is the only Coral disc topping Karen's "Hold Me, Thrill Me, Kiss Me."





MERLE TRAVIS is eyed appreciatively by pretty Mrs. Travis. The popular western artist recently waxed "By-O-Baby" and "Knee Deep in Trouble."

CBS Scrubs Doris Day TV Spot

CBS - Columbia Inc., canceled its sponsorship of CBS radio's "The Doris Day Show." Ex-sponsor manufactures radio and TV sets, and gave up the show when negotiations for plant space broke down. Company felt they might end up advertising something they couldn't deliver.

Waring West After 16 Years

Five one-night concert stands were arranged for Fred Waring who played the west coast for the first time in sixteen years. His 36-piece orchestra and choir appeared at the Russ Auditorium, San Diego; Pasadena Civic Auditorium; Long Beach Memorial Auditorium; Ontario Auditorium.

Kenton Renews With Capitol

Stan Kenton has completed 8 years service with Capitol, and celebrated by renewing a long-term contract with the discery. In connection with this, Capitol will release several new packages and all the old Kenton sides.

Crew opens in Birdland, N. Y., April 23 for two weeks along with the Four Freshmen.

Yul Brynner To "Hold Back Dawn"

A musical version of "Hold Back the Dawn" to star Yul Brynner has been tentatively set for the spring of next year. Brynner takes a leave of absence from "The King and I," Broadway hit musical, to make "A New Kind of Love" this year.



JUNE CHRISTY maintains her high popularity rating as one of the top vocalists of the day with her new waxing "I Was A Fool" and "My Heart Belongs to Only You."

Deejays Land Record Pact

Jerry Crocker and Jolly Joe Nixon who dee jay over KCUL, Fort Worth eleven hours each day have signed an exclusive recording contract with Mercury Records. Rated by Hooper as the number one deejays for pop and hillbilly broadcasting respectively, the pair waxed "What Am I Doing Here" and "Phftt! And Then You Were Gone."

"Easy To Love" Songs

Vic Mizzy and Mann Curtis have completed four songs—"That's What a Rainy Day is For," "Look Out! I'm Romantic," "Louisiana," and "Did'ja Ever"—for MGM's "Easy to Love" starring Esther Williams, Tony Martin and John Bromfield.



MOLLY BEE rocks again on a recent release on the Capitol label. Sides are "Nobody's Lonesome for Me" and "Honky-Tonk Mountain."



DEAN MARTIN and **JERRY LEWIS** practice archery. After their loss in golf to the "road" team they challenged Hope and Crosby to a quiver.

Jazz Plates Hot

Though the demand for hot jazz on records was once far smaller than the polite din for the classics, the ride stuff is now among the best selling classifications in disc company catalogues claims Variety. Older record companies have found it profitable to re-issue discs done by the jazz greats. Glenn Miller, Benny Goodman, Bessie Smith, Bix Biederbecke, Louis Armstrong, King Oliver and innumerable others are selling briskly. Decca is releasing new jazz by Charlie Ventura and the Lawson-Haggert outfit. Capitol has organized many of its outstanding performances in the "Classics in Jazz" series.

you
can't
miss
with
this...



... *Background*
Music

**Light and
Lively**

*Rhythmic,
bubbling melodies
with a soft,
sparkling beat.*

No. 375—33 $\frac{1}{3}$ or 45 rpm



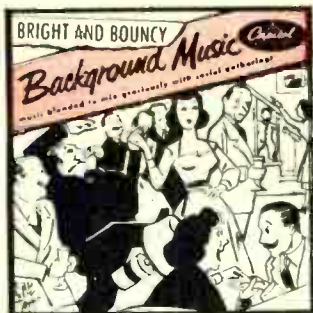
**Songs We
Remember**

*Especially good
if anyone is in a
singing mood.
Everyone knows
the words.*

No. 376—33 $\frac{1}{3}$ or 45 rpm



ound



No. 377—33 $\frac{1}{3}$ or 45 rpm

Bright and Bouncy

In brighter tempo — happy music to accent lighter moments.



Show Tunes

Familiar hit songs from Broadway shows, done in tempo, without vocals.

No. 378
33 $\frac{1}{3}$ or 45 rpm

Also Available On 12-inch 33 $\frac{1}{3}$ Long Play In The Following Combinations

Light And Lively &
Show Tunes 33 $\frac{1}{3}$ rpm P-379

Bright and Bouncy &
Songs We Remember 33 $\frac{1}{3}$ rpm P-380



Here's what every host and hostess wants — music especially designed for social gatherings! Never dominating, always pleasant and listenable, these familiar melodies fill those awkward gaps in conversation and provide a warm, inviting background for those who like to hum or dance to favorite tunes. Ideal for card parties, dining — any occasion when friendly folks get together. With these new albums, your party just can't miss!



LORRY RAINE with Nelson Riddle (left) and songwriter Harry Ruby. Riddle recently arranged and conducted an independent recording session which landed Miss Raine an Okeh contract.

VALLEE REBANDS

Rudy Vallee is preparing to organize a band for dance hall and hotel dates.



EILEEN BARTON and **BOBBY SHERWOOD** cut up old recipes at New York's *La Vie en Rose*.

Palladium Pages Eddie Fisher

As soon as the Army no longer requires the services of Pfc. Eddie Fisher, he jumps into the personal appearance business in a big way. Plans now include a stand at the New York Paramount theatre, possibly during Easter week, and two weeks at the London Palladium in the spring.



LAWRENCE WELK (Left) squeezes an accompaniment for Roberta Linn and Yogi Yorgesson on Welk's highly rated local tv show over L.A.'s KTLA.

STRONG FINISH

Benny Strong finished twelve weeks at the Trianon Ballroom and will play three weeks at the Coconut Grove, Los Angeles, beginning April 8.

ROONEY-BRACKEN PIX

Mickey Rooney and Eddie Bracken have formed their own film company, Comedy Productions.

OSCAR DERBY RECALLS WINNERS

Seventeen years ago the first Oscar for an original musical composition used in a motion picture went to Harry Warren and Al Dubin, composers of "Lullaby of Broadway." That song was featured in Warner Bros. "Gold Diggers of 1935."

The year after "Lullaby of Broadway," Jerome Kern and Dorothy Fields took top honors with "The Way You Look Tonight," introduced by the picture "Swing Time," released in 1936.

The next year Harry Owens' "Sweet Leilani," which still retains its place on popular repertoires, got Oscar's nod as sung by Bing Crosby in Paramount's "Waikiki Wedding."

"Thanks for the Memory," which Bob Hope keeps alive on his TV and radio shows, took top honors in "The Big Broadcast of 1938." It was written by Leo Robin and Ralph Ranger.

In 1939, when a wistful, teen-aged Judy Garland had the world singing "Somewhere Over the Rainbow," the wording of the award was changed from "best original musical composition" to "best original song introduced in an eligible picture." E. Y. Harburg and Harold Arlen won the Academy Award for the "Wizard of Oz" tone.

"When You Wish Upon a Star" from "Pinocchio" won in 1940; "The Last Time I Saw Paris," 1941; "White Christmas," 1942; "You'll Never Know," 1943; "Swinging on a Star," 1944; "It Might As Well Be Spring," 1945; "On the Atchison, Topeka and the Santa Fe," 1946; "Zip A Dee Doo Dah," 1947; "Buttons and Bows," 1948; "Baby It's Cold Outside," 1949; "Mona Lisa," 1949; "In the Cool, Cool, Cool of the Evening," 1951.

Jerome Kern, Oscar Hammerstein, Johnny Mercer and the team of Ray Evans and Jay Livingston have all won two awards. Harry Warren has been represented three times on the list of Academy winners.

On past performance the team of Harry Warren, Bing Crosby, Jane Wyman and Paramount (a studio which has had seven previous song winners) should be the favorite with "Zing A Little Zong." Certain contenders will be Dimitri Tiomkin's "High Noon" and Nicholas Brodsky's "Because You're Mine."

To be eligible, a song must have been heard in a film which has played in a Los Angeles theatre for at least one week during the calendar year under consideration.



NELLIE LUTCHER holds back the tears as **Ralph Edwards** (center) and **Dave Dexter** look on. Action took place on Edwards' "This Is Your Life" tv show. Dexter, Capitol Recording exec, made her first record hit, "Hurry on Down."

Welk Bubbles Float Aragon

In 1951 Lawrence Welk took his entourage into L. A.'s Aragon Ballroom as a goodwill gesture, and 78 weeks later he had broken all existing records. An average of 6,764 dancers per week paid the tariff necessary to float in Welk's Champagne bubbles. Success of the stand is attributed to the TV show which originates from the ballroom.

SKEETS SCOOTs STARS

Skeets MacDonald had the first "Don't Let the Stars Get in Your Eyes" hit. Capitol artist made it in western field.

Roy Acuff Signs With Capitol

Top hillbilly artist, Roy Acuff, pacted with Capitol Records after twenty years on the Columbia label. The veteran vocalist who is regarded as the original hillbilly artist, has his own publishing firm and will continue to write and publish his material. His many hit records include "The Wreck on the Highway," "Wabash Cannon Ball" and "Jole Blon."

Lyric Lectures

A class in popular lyric writing is being offered for the second semester by U.C.L.A. Extension under the direction of Hal Levy. The popularity of the first course resulted in an expansion into both beginning and advanced classes for the second period. Scheduled to appear as guest lecturers are Ralph Blane, Victor Young, Margaret Whiting, Lou Busch, Paul Weston among others.

VICTOR'S HUGO

Hugo Winterhalter has resigned with RCA Victor. He will continue as an arranger conductor, recording artists and executive of the company. Billboard estimates new deal will net Winterhalter \$50,000 annually.

Revlon Joins Froman Canteen

Jane Froman's "USA Canteen" nabbed another sponsor, Revlon cosmetics. Show which appears twice weekly has been partially bankrolled by General Electric. GE will continue with Revlon picking up second show.

Essex Takes Howard To Coral

Coral records recently inked Don Howard to a three year pact. Howard, whose Essex recording of his own song "Oh Happy Day" catapulted him into importance, is being prepped for personal appearances. Although Howard is now signed with Coral, Essex released the follow up to "Happy Day."

DORSEY SAILS

March 25 marked the start of a six week European junket for the Tommy Dorsey ork. Tour carries unit to Italy, France, Belgium, Switzerland, and the Scandinavian countries. T. D. recently returned to the Statler, N. Y.

NEW WAX DEALS

Joe Marine, vocalist with Fred Waring, has been signed by Decca as a soloist. Company also added McQuade Twins to its roster.



FERRANTE and TEICHER, piano duet, record in the dark for Columbia Records. After studying with pedal virtuoso, Gilbert S. McKean, the team attacked "Caravan" and "Susanna's Last Stand."



FRANK DEVOL and JAYE P. MORGAN his band vocalist. DeVol returns to discs as an arranger-conductor on Gordon MacRae's sweetly sentimental "Congratulations to Someone" backed by "How Do You Speak to an Angel," from "Hazel Flagg."

Marilyn Monroe Spreads Out

Nitery habitués will have an opportunity to glimpse Marilyn Monroe in the flesh if plans go through for her intended café act. Operators in Miami and Las Vegas are being offered the act at \$15,000 per. Miss Monroe's singing talents have been mentioned in publicity releases, and she has been reported ready to sign a record contract, but, to date, has not come to terms with any recording company. She may be heard in her forthcoming musical, "Gentlemen Prefer Blondes."

CANTOR'S TOP 20

Eddie Cantor has recorded 20 songs for his film biography.



ROSEMARY CLOONEY duets with **Ross Bagdasarian**, composer of "Come On-A My House," at Paramount where they both were making pictures.



HELEN O'CONNELL climbs aboard the cry-wagon with her latest Capitol recording "With Ali My Tears For You." Flip side is "Just To Be There."

"Pal Joey" Pic For Mae West

Mae West will return to pictures in Columbia's version of the New York musical, "Pal Joey." Miss West has not appeared in a film since 1943. She will do the role created by Vivienne Segal. Male lead, done originally on Broadway by Gene Kelley and by Harold Lang in the revival, has not yet been announced.

ROY ROGERS RIDES

Roy Rogers, Dale Evans, Trigger and troupe start a tour of 20 one nighters from Chicago in April.

Writers Face Publishers

Amateur songwriters are being given the opportunity to play their music for a panel of publishers twice a week at the Little Manhattan Supper Club in Hollywood. Bi-weekly meetings have been organized by publicist Jo Brooks who said that several songs have been accepted since the project was begun six months ago. "The response has been tremendous," she added, "with people coming in from out of state to submit their music."

"BOOK" MAKING IT

The Johnny Standley record, "It's In The Book," has sold over a million and a half copies.



TEX RITTER repeats his "High Noon" success with "Buffalo Dream," and "My Woman Ain't Pretty," newest release for Capitol.



CLYDE McCOY and Mrs. McCoy. The dog made the act, too. McCoy is currently heard on "Mr. Wah Wah" and "Music Goes 'Round and Around."

Pictures Seek Record Names

Motion picture studios are on the trail of recording artists who come up with that big disc. Within the past six months Rosemary Clooney, Nat "King" Cole, Guy Mitchell, Johnny Ray, Peggy Lee, Joni James, Molly Bee, Don Cornell and Karen Chandler have all been signed for pictures. Frankie Laine, Billy Daniels, Vaughn Monroe and Billy Eckstine were also plucked from the platters by the film studios.

Hollywood trend toward expensive musicals will see an increasingly large number of recording personalities appearing in two or more dimensions.



DORIS DAY does the oot bit for Silver who plays a straight dramatic role in Miss Day's forthcoming Warner musical, "Calomity Jone."

Crosby Will Do Vidbit

Bing Crosby has definitely agreed to do a tv series and will begin to film shows immediately. Bill Morrow, writer producer of the Crosby radio show, will handle the production reins. General Electric sponsors and CBS will telecast. If show has a dramatic format a la "I Love Lucy" a studio audience will be used.

Freberg Gnaws Disney Role

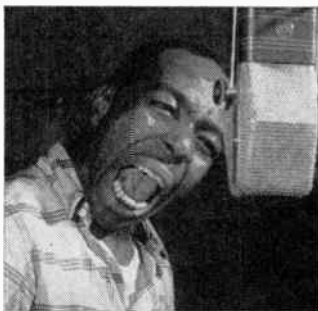
Stan Freberg will play a beaver in Walt Disney's "The Lady and the Tramp." Peggy Lee wrote the songs and does the voice of a cocker spaniel.

Army-Mercury Swap Crooners

Mercury records had to make a trade with Uncle Sam recently. The Army released recording star Vic Damone in March, but not before they'd laid a convincing hand on the shoulder of Ronnie Vincent. Vincent is the head of the Gaylords, the trio regarded as Mercury's find of 1952.

Hairston Backs Haymes

Jester Hairston and his negro choir of 18 men and women will appear in choral sequences in "Cruisin' Down the River." Choir will background solos by Dick Haymes and Billy Daniels.



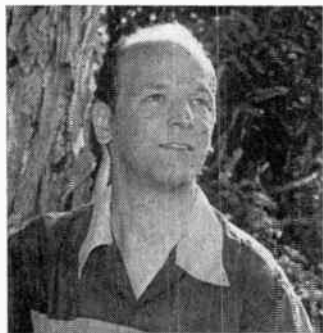
TIMMY ROGERS whomps the tippie, a ten string cousin to the uke. New Capitol artist has rounded out a night club routine featuring songs, donces and friendly patter.

Anthony Band Set For Ciro's Date

Ray Anthony becomes the first featured ork in three years to play Ciro's L.A., when he opens there June 5. Bistro has used only nitery acts and house bands since Freddy Martin in 1949.

Burl Ives Strums Aussie Tunes

Australian folk tunes have been recorded by Burl Ives while American singer was on tour down under. Traditional music was collected by the Australian Conservatory of Music.



LES BAXTER is preparing a concert tour with his troupe of singers, dancers and musicians. Baxter features unusual South American music and dancing in his production. His last release for Capitol is "April in Portugal."



JO STAFFORD and **FRANKIE LAINE** seem to be happy about the whole thing. Miss Stafford's high hit percentage rolls along with "Keep It a Secret." Laine's currently pushing "I'm a Poor Bachelor."

Liberace Signs For 117 Pix

Liberace is set for a series of 117 half-hour telepix involving a budget of \$1,521,000. Films are to be produced by Guild Films. George Liberace, the pianist's brother, will be musical director for the films.

"Show Biz" To Go On Discs

RCA Victor set George Jessel to narrate album of the book "Show Biz" written by Abel Green and Joe Laurie Jr. Album is to recreate highlights of last half century in show business.



NAT COLE "cracks" one for **DICK HAYMES** and **NANCY GUILD** on Lux Video Theatre. It was Cole's debut as a tv actor. After the dramatic bit for CBS, Nat jumped into the Warner picture, "Blue Gardenia."

Too Much Tv Fades Rose, Sez Studio

Rosemary Clooney is in the middle of a tv-motion picture squabble. Her studio, Paramount, does not object to occasional tv guest shots, but her agency, MCA, is making her available for a weekly tv spot of her own. Paramount says they have \$4,000,000 invested in pictures starring Miss Clooney and believe that weekly tv shows will hurt the singer's box office potential.

All tv rights were maintained by Miss Clooney when she signed with the studio.

MAIL HAREM

A chain letter for bored husbands and "tired business men" circulated in London last month. As usual, duplicates of the letter are to be mailed to five other business men. "Then bundle up your wife and send her to the fellow who heads the list," the letter says. "When your name comes to the head of the list you will receive 168 women. Some of them ought to be dandies." The letter warns against breaking the chain: "One fellow who broke the chain got his own wife back."

SPENCER FIRST BIG RECORD ARTIST

"First Genius of the Phonograph" — that's what his admirers called Leonard Garfield Spencer, first man to win something like world-wide fame because of his records. From the standpoints of versatility, ingenuity and creative ability, it's doubtful if Len Spencer has had an equal among record makers.

Born in Washington, D. C., January 12, 1867, Len was the son of Mr. and Mrs. Henry C. Spencer. With Len's uncle, Platt Spencer, they operated the Spencerian Business College and originated the "Spencerian" system of penmanship. The college was among the first to use the phonograph as a dictating instrument, and Len was frequently sent to Columbia's offices for recording cylinders.

One day in 1889 or 1890, Len asked to make a record. He was found to have an excellent baritone voice, and he was soon kept busy, sitting at the piano, playing his own accompaniment and singing into six or eight phonographs at a time. For each accepted record he received ten cents. After mechanical duplication of original records was developed, Spencer's rendition of hymns, Irish specialties, famous orations, almost every kind of number, gradually found their way around the world, and he had a large income.

The November, 1896, issue of a phonograph trade publication, *The Phonoscope*, said of Spencer:

"Mr. Spencer has an original way of singing the best Negro songs that makes his records of splendid merit . . . He is the originator of the darky shout in phonograph work . . . He has a repertoire of fully 600 songs . . . and the total records he has made exceeds 62,000 . . . In the descriptive selections played by Issler's Orchestra, Mr. Spencer manipulates the castanets, clogs, tambourines, etc., making also the necessary announcements and the remarks that cause so much laughter by those who have listened to these popular selections. Gifted with a powerful voice, he utilizes it to great advantage in announcing for band and other records where a number of machines are used, necessitating great vocal power to fill the horns of the several machines."

For a time Spencer specialized in recording excerpts from speeches of famous men, and many persons have bought second-hand recordings of his version of "The Last Speech of the Late President William McKinley," believing it to be by the President himself.

vamp 'till ready



The "Christine" gags lowered the tide of bopster yarns. Positively the last of the Christine lines — her song, "Those Danish Doctors Are Breaking Up That Old Gang of Mine." . . . Lew Ayres will sing the lead in the suspense musical, "No Escape." In the role of a young composer, Ayres will render a few numbers . . . There's a project afoot to film "The Bing Crosby Story" in the manner of "The Jolson Story." Der Bingle would do the vocals on the sound track. Among those being considered for the role of Crosby as a young man is Gary Crosby . . . Harold Arlen, composer of Judy Garland's biggest hit, "Over the Rainbow," will write the music for her forthcoming musical, "A Star Is Born" at Warners. Ira Gershwin is set to do the lyrics . . . Metro will do a Technicolor musical on the life of Ruth Etting. Jane Powell, Kathryn Grayson, Ann Blyth and Roberta Linn, vocalist with Lawrence Welk, are being tested for the title role . . . Mike Connolly tells about the Australian saxophone player who wanted a new boomerang but couldn't throw his old one away . . . Dean Martin and Jerry Lewis embark for Europe 1 June. They play the Palladium in London for two weeks opening the 15th, return Stateside in time to begin a new picture at Paramount on 1 August . . . Jose Ferrer will take the song and dance routines into

night clubs opening the act late May in Las Vegas . . . Theme song sung at a recent Union party, "Time-and-a-Half on My Hands." . . . Sidney Miller, Donald O'Connor's tv partner, has been commissioned by Marie Wilson to write a night club act. Miss Wilson will tour when the tv season shrinks this summer . . . Fred Astaire, Jr., accompanies his father on the drums when F. A. Sr., does his next tap dance recordings . . .

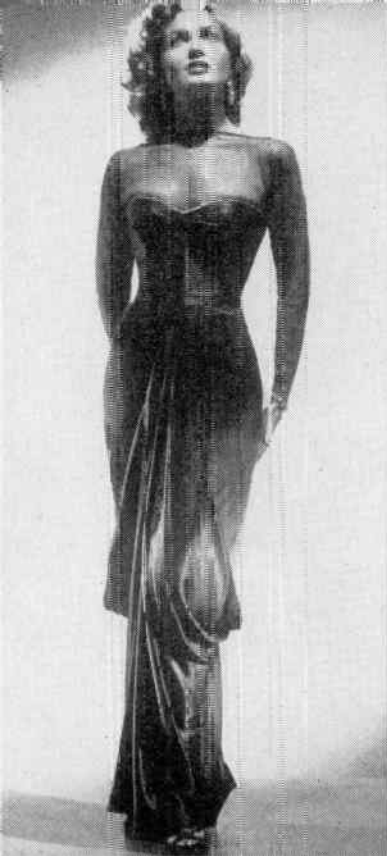
PENNY EDWARDS gives up Hollywood temporarily for a Broadway musical.



Erskine Johnson's column carried the hipster's claim that Teddy Roosevelt was the heppiest ever to sit in the White House — "He dug the Panama Canal, didn't he?" . . . Tex Ritter will narrate, "First Texas Bad Man" for MGM cartoons . . . When Jerry Lewis was taken to a Hollywood hospital recently, daily statements on the condition of the nurses were issued . . . And Sam Coslow, minutes after a newscast announced the famous songwriter was at the Los Banos Emergency Hospital as the result of an auto accident, received a phone call from a woman who said all in one breath, "Oh, Mr. Coslow, I'm terribly sorry to hear you are injured and I have a song I'd like you to hear." Sheila Graham reported in Daily Variety . . . Ingrid Bergman is going operatic, so Irving Hoffman states. She will debut with the San Carlo Opera Company in Naples. Vehicle will be "Joan of Arc at the Stake" and Rossellini will direct . . . The title role in "The Glenn Miller Story" at Universal belongs to Jimmy Stewart . . . In Mike Connolly's column, Bob Hopkins' prescription for what to take when you're run down: the license number . . . Gwen O'Connor will not do an act with husband as reported but will launch a single in night clubs and theatres . . . In May Bill Daniels hops to Glasgow to belt "That Old Plaid Magic" for the Scots . . . In her act Sophie Tucker turns to accompanist Ted Shapiro and says, "Don't call ME Madam! I'm still one of the girls." . . . Vera Ellen puts aside the ballet slippers for the dramatic spikes in Metro's "The Big Leaguer." It's her first non-musical role . . . Yma Sumac opens at the Baker Hotel in Dallas late in February, returns to L. A.'s Cocoonut Grove the first week in April . . . Now that she has switched from Universal to Metro, Ann Blyth will be starred in musicals. Her first will be "Indian Love Call," a remake of "Rose Marie." Howard Keel has the male lead . . . Alan Wilson tells about the tv star who named her baby Kinescope. It arrived a week late.

ELAINE STEWART of "The Bad and the Beautiful" gets the star buildup at MGM.





BETHE DOUGLAS sings (as if she needed to) for Vogue Records. Miss D is currently illuminating night clubs. She returns to West Coast for a featured spot in a Warners musical.

in the spot



FRANCES FAYE

Kansas City, Mo. 27 Mar.-3 Apr.

STAN KENTON

Amarillo, Texas	3 March
Holcomb, Kansas	4 March
Tulsa, Oklahoma	6 March
Ft. Worth, Texas	7 March
Longview, Texas	10 March
Houston, Texas	11 March
Flugerville, Texas	12 March
San Antonio, Texas	13 March
Austin, Texas	14 March
Galveston, Texas	15 March
Dallas, Texas	16 March
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma	17 March
Fort Smith, Arkansas	18 March
Wichita, Kansas	21 March

BILLY MAY

Bridgeport, Connecticut	1 March
Storrf, Connecticut	6 March
Cheswick, Pennsylvania	9 March
College Park, Maryland	13 March
Pottstown, Pennsylvania	14 March
South River, New Jersey	15 March
Lewisburg, Pennsylvania	20 March
Middletown, New York	21 March
Paterson, New Jersey	22 March
New York, New York	23 March

HELEN O'CONNELL

Camden, New Jersey 6 March

PITTSBURGH SYMPHONY

Schenectady, New York	3 March
Albany, New York	4 March
Stamford, Connecticut	5 March
New York, New York	6 March
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania	9 March
Binghamton, New York	10 March
Auburn, New York	11 March
Alfred, New York	12 March
Erie, Pennsylvania	13 March
Warren, Ohio	14 March
Mansfield, Ohio	15 March



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AL MARTINO and the Mrs. check over the fan mail. Singer's etching of "Rachel" is well on its way to being his biggest since his "Here in My Heart" smash.