

Music

VIEWS



"TENNESSEE"
ERNIE FORD

APRIL • 1957

THE COUNTRY'S GOING POP



"Skiffle Groups" are the rage in England and these gentlemen, named "The Vipers Skiffle Group," are making an equally large dent in the U. S. market with their "Don't Rock Me Daddy-O" with "10,000 Years Ago."

THE COVER

"Tennessee" Ernie Ford has long contended that a city slicker is just a country boy who gets his milk out of a bottle instead of a cow. The immense popularity of his corn-fed humor and countrified vocal stylings certainly bears it out. There's more about country music for city folk on pages 5 thru 7. Ernie has a new album on Capitol, "Tennessee Ernie Ford: Spirituals," also a new single: "Lonely Man" from the Paramount picture of the same name.

Music Views

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GORDON R. FRASER Publisher

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R & R DEBATED

Two college girls, Cynthia Whalen and Janet Baltusnik, recently lost a debate in which they held that rock 'n' roll music should be outlawed and all orks and media playing the music should be fined or jailed. Interesting aspect of the debate was that the opponents of the young ladies were inmates of the Norfolk, Massachusetts jail and the debate took place before an audience of 400 prisoners. The two hip prisoners who successfully defended the "big beat" were Alben Barrows and J. Paul Bathlett.

● TUNE UP COMICS

A new comic strip, "Johnny Reb and Billy Yank," will be promoted by a tune of that title written by veteran tunesmith Charlie Tobias. The strip will also carry the lyrics of the song spotted over a period of several weeks.

Previous efforts to tie in cartoon characters with songs include such successful ditties as "Barney Google," "Little Orphan Annie," an album of "Pogo songs and, of course, the Broadway show, "Li'l Abner."



Dani Crayne is another of the thespians who has turned singer. She expects to have a record out soon. Current flicker is a Warner Bros.' pic "Shoot-Out At Medicine Bend."

THERE'LL BE SOME CHANGES MADE?

"Farmer" Phil, a country deejay in Bangor, Maine, announced the birth of his son with song titles thusly:

After you read this note I hope you won't think I've "Stolen Moments" out of your day, but I do want you to know that Mrs. Farmer and I had our "First Born" and he's a "Goodlooking Blonde." "I'm Beginning To Feel Mistreated" because when he should be having "Sweet Dreams" he's "Crying Through the Night," making noise like he was "Rockin' In the Congo" and I have to carry him in my "Crazy Arms" and "I Walk the Line." When the "Day-

O" comes I'm "Singin' the Blues" because "I'm Tired." I'm not "Repenting" though, because I say to my wife "Hey Honey" there's our "Young Love" and "Great Big Love It Is." Of course he'll cost plenty of "Money" and I'll have to pay "Cash On the Barrel Head" but he's a "Poor Man's Riches." "According to My Heart," when he's sleeping, to him I say "That's the Way I Like You Best." To think this all started a few years ago when I told my wife "I'm Coming Over Tonight" because "I'm Loving You" and soon gave her a "Fourteen Karat Gold Ring."

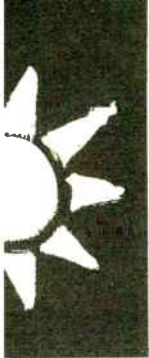
TUNE HITS 2ND TIME

Every once in a while a song which has been kicking around for quite a while without making much noise suddenly takes off and becomes a big hit. Ferlin Husky's hit pressing of "Gone" is just such a song. Several years ago there were two or three recordings of the song made, including a "pop" version by Gisele McKenzie. Nothing much happened

but Capitol producer Ken Nelson didn't forget the song. Not too long ago he made it once more with Husky and did it up complete with lush choral backing. This time around the market was right and the disc hit the charts almost immediately in the country and western field and has begun climbing in the regular popular market.

THE COUNTRY'S GOING POP





You've probably already recognized the handsome young man on the preceding page as the "Southern Gentleman" who made the original hit recording of "Young Love," Sonny James. Sonny is one of several young vocalists, previously identified with country music, who are cutting a wide swath in today's popular record market. His latest, "First Date, First Kiss, First Love," is following the hit pattern set by "Young Love." The young lady pictured above, Wanda Jackson, is another of the "country kids" mentioned previously. Her discing of "Don'a Wan'a" and "Let Me Explain" is coming up strong in both the country and pop fields.





Lower half of the preceding page shows Hank Thompson, a top-ranking country performer whose recording of "I Was the First One" and "Rockin' In the Congo" is assuming national importance. Above is Ferlin Husky, another country boy making good with his tremendous waxing of a feelingful ballad titled "Gone." Faron Young, pictured below, is well established as a country singer and is moving rapidly into the city market with "He Was There" and "Shrine of St. Cecilia." So watch out you urbanites, the RFD dwellers are moving in. Maybe it's that clean country air.





Barbara Nichols is "beating the drum," as they say, for the Warner Bros.' movie "Pajama Game" which co-stars Doris Day and John Raitt. So she isn't really beating that drum. We're in no mood to argue.

● REDS GET MILLER ORK

The Glenn Miller Orchestra, under the direction of and featuring Ray McKinley, is currently touring "iron curtain" countries for 4-6 weeks beginning March 28th. The band is the first to make such a tour.

The Miller-McKinley band is scheduled to appear in concert before the Red-dominated peoples of Poland, Rumania, Czechoslovakia to give these people a glimpse of American popular musical culture.

The International Exchange Program of the American National Theater and Academy is the official professional agency appointed by the Department of State to assist American performing artists to tour abroad under the President's Special International Fund.

Idea behind the tour is to show the people of the iron curtain countries that American culture has its own unique style of popular music.

● APPLEWHITE TO RKO

Pvt. Charlie Applewhite who created some stir as a teenage vocalist a couple of years ago, is due out of the army in a few months and is already set to record under the RKO-Unique label.



For authentic calypso, few can compare with the exciting Lord Flea, now on Capitol wax with genuine renditions of "Shake Shake Sonora," and "The Naughty Little Flea." He's accompanied by his Calypsonians.



Pat Boone doesn't seem to have enough arms to dance with both Dinah Shore and Shirley MaLaîne in rehearsal of NBC-TV "Chevy Show" also featuring Dan Dailey.



You'll find the Jodimars way up on "Cloud 99" if their new recording by that title fulfills its promise of success. Flipside is "Later."

TOOTHY TUNES

Next time you go to a dentist, don't be surprised if he sings you his latest song while he has both hands in your mouth. Dr. Warren Nadell, a dentist with a song-writing hobby, walked into a publisher's office recently and played one of his tunes. The publisher liked it and even liked the doctor's presentation. So they set up a recording session, pressed records and started distribution. The tune, "After School," looks promising. However, the doctor has not as yet made dentistry his hobby.



Marian McPartland, who is undoubtedly the country's leading jazz pianist on the distaff side and a top contender in any gender, has a new album of her imaginative keyboard improvisations, "The Marian McPartland Trio."

GERMANS DIG U. S. WAX

The interest in American popular music in Southern Germany is at an all time high these days. According to Hoyt Wertz, program director of AFN Munich, a continuing unprecedented increase in the amount of fan mail and requests for numbers on the "Bouncin' in Bavaria" show, point up this fact. A reported increase of over 800 letters per week is reflected in the mail from both European and American listeners and the present number

of letters represents "the largest mail pull for any single program on that station in the past 8 years."

Sergeant First Class Bud Shurian, the dee jay for the show that runs Monday through Friday at 5 p.m. Central European time, says: "If all the requests were read on the 45-minute show, there would be little or no time for music. Nevertheless, the requests continue to pour in."

ENCOURAGEMENT

Amateur songwriters may find some encouragement in the story of 23-year-old Melvin Endsley. The young tunesmith is the possessor of two hit tunes, has several others recently recorded and has become an RCA Victor recording artist, all in less than six months. The hit tunes are "Singing the Blues" and

"Knee Deep In the Blues," waxed by Guy Mitchell and Marty Robbins. Although the tunes were written several years ago, Endsley had not tried to promote them until 1956 when he went to Nashville in an effort to interest some singers in his songs. Marty Robbins got interested and Endsley got hit songs.



MGM Records' Connie Francis has last minute discussion with her artists and repertoire producer, Harry Meyerson, before she cut her newest sides for the label, "Everyone Needs Someone" which was paired with "My Sailor Boy," both with LeRoy Holmes orchestra.



The Beachcombers and Natalie, one of Las Vegas' top acts, debuts on Capital wax with promising sides, "Hankerin' For You" and "Hey-ho."

● SAUTER TO GERMANY

Bandleader Eddie Sauter has become musical director of Sud-westfunk, radio center in Baden-Baden, Germany. Sauter will also retain his interest in the Sauter-Finnegan band which records for RCA Victor.

The conductor-arranger is the third American jazz arranger to accept a European deal in the past few months. Preceding him were Pete Rugulo, who is now musical director of the Nichole Barclay disk combine in Paris, and Billy Byers who holds a similar job with another Paris label.

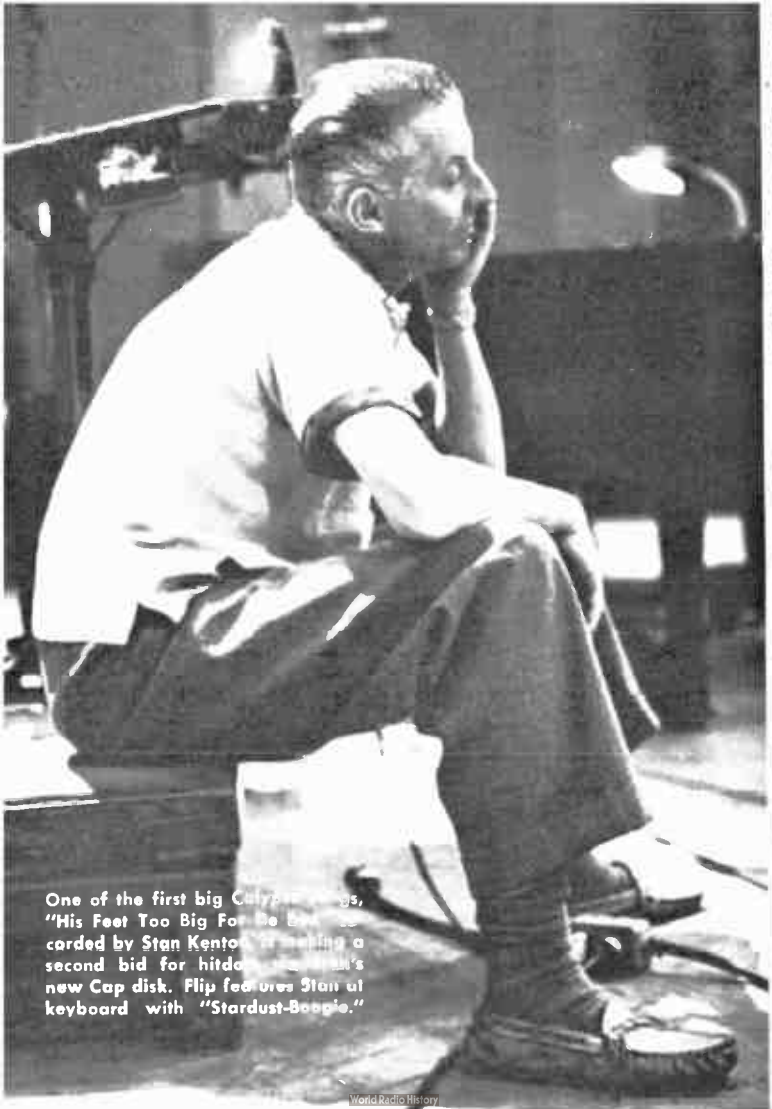
A BOTTLE OF CALYPSO, PLEASE

A slightly inebriate dipso
 Remarked, upon hearing
 Calypso,
 "The music's okay
 Down Trinidad way,
 But their rum is the reason
 I flip so."

—*bolof.*



Ella Mae Morse comes up with her own inimitable styling of the familiar standard, "Put Your Arms Around Me, Honey," for latest wax. Flipside titled "A Long Time Ago."



One of the first big Calypso songs, "His Feet Too Big For the Bed" recorded by Stan Kenton is making a second bid for hitdom on Kenton's new Cap disk. Flip features Stan at keyboard with "Stardust-Boogie."



Gordon MacRae pulls switch on his most recent wax effort, a modern version of the old waltz, "Till We Meet Again." Flip is "Lonely."



MGM Records' Roger Coleman has a new one in the stalls, "Only the One" with "Half Way to Heaven."

COOL FOR REDS

In an effort to hear how the other half lives, Soviet commissars have invited the British Youth Festival Committee to send several different types of musical groups to the Sixth Annual Youth Festival to be held in Moscow in July and August. They have requested a modern jazz group, a traditional group, some British blues singers and several Scottish dance bands.

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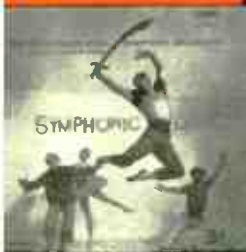


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AMERICAN IN PARIS**
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History

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T 020



GENE VINCENT AND
THE BLUE CAPS



TIME TO DREAM
Les Paul and Mary Ford
T 802



"It happens every time she plays that Liberace record."

THE TENDEREARS

(A PLAY IN ONE ACT)

SCENE: *The living room of Mr. and Mrs. Hi Faddict. Hi is tinkering with a pile of ominous looking machinery. His wife, Vi, is seated in a far corner, knitting. John and Mary Novice are seated on a couch in the very center of the room.*

HI: Glad you could make it. Finally got my hi-fi rigged the way I want it. Anxious to test it on someone.

JOHN: Swell. Always loved good music.

MARY: Yes indeed. I think Mozart is . . .

HI: I seated you in the center of the room to get the best acoustical effect.

JOHN: Thank you.

HI: Now that speaker up there is a 24-inch multichronic Bixby with built-in tweeters powered by a 50 watt Cortosone amp. Those big babies need lots of power.

JOHN: Sure.

HI: Cabinet is a special designed Fentelope with beveled edges. Speaker's no good without the right cabinet.

MARY: How interesting.

HI: Motor's a 5-speed Cubicorn with a Sassifrass turntable and a Picklehaupt tone arm

JOHN: Whadaya know!

HI: But they wouldn't be

worth a thing without the Gattlehart cartridge and the Taggle diamond stylus.

MARY: I'm sure they wouldn't. Your husband is quite an engineer, Vi.

VI: *(Looks up a little vacantly and nods and smiles.)*

HI: Give a listen while I flip on this disc.

(Loud "bangs" like gunshots sound directly behind the Novices. They both give startled jumps and look behind them.)

HI: *(Laughs)* Fooled you, didn't I? That's another multichronic speaker behind you. This rig is binaural. Those were just tympani beats. They help test the long cycles.

JOHN: Heh-heh-heh. Great. Just testing, huh?

HI: Sure. This rig reproduces anything from two to thirty thousand cycles. You understand that nobody can hear thirty thousand but it's nice to know you've got 'em if you need 'em.

MARY: I'll bet it is. Aren't you proud of Hi, Vi?

VI: *(Smiles vacantly and nods.)*

HI: Listen to this . . .

(A low rumble fills the room, rattling the windows and vibrating the floor. In a panic, Mary runs and stands in a doorway.)

(Cont. Next Page)

(Cont.)

HI: *(Convulsed with laughter)* It's not an earthquake, Mary. That's a Hi-Fi reproduction of Niagara Falls.

MARY: *(Manages a strained smile and returns to the couch)* Oh.

HI: You'll get a kick out of this one . . .

(An extremely high-pitched sound whines through the room. Mary claps her hands to her ears. John winces and scrunches down into the couch.)

HI: Bet you can't guess what that is?

JOHN: Haven't any idea.

HI: It's the dynamo at Boulder Dam. Listen to that baby hum.

JOHN: Yeah.

HI: Haven't seen our dog or cat since I got that record. Wait until you hear my recording of a jet plane. They put the recorder right in one of the turbines.

JOHN: Could we save that for a special treat some other evening? How about some nice, soft music?

HI: Music?

JOHN: Sure. Maybe the new Frank Sinatra album?

HI: Oh, I haven't bought any music yet. Too busy testing. But I've got an exact reproduction . . .

JOHN: *(Looks at watch)* Gee, it's getting late, Mary. Gotta take the baby sitter home, too. Tough

day tomorrow. *(They edge toward the door.)*

MARY: Lovely evening, Vi.

VI: *(Smiles vacantly and nods)*
(Exit Novices. Scene changes to Novices' car. John is driving.)

MARY: I wonder how Vi stands all that noise.

JOHN: As we left I saw cotton in her ears.

MARY: All that horrible racket.

JOHN: Kind of interesting, though.

MARY: It would drive me insane.

JOHN: Wonder where he picked up all that information?

MARY: Imagine living with that . . . John! Why are you stopping at the drugstore.

JOHN: To get you some cotton.

END



Up-and-coming country artist Wynn Stewart makes strong bid for a hit disk with "Hold Back Tomorrow." Flip is up-tempo "A New Love."



A true artist has to "get in the mood" for a performance, and this is how actor-turned-singer Robert Mitchum did research for his disc debut on Cap. Tunes are Calypso, "What Is This Generation Coming To" and "Mama Look Boo Boo"

DESERT MUSIC

Four Beethoven Symphonies and the original cast album of "My Fair Lady" are the phonograph records which readers of the New York Herald Tribune would take with them on a desert island or rescue from a fire. Although most readers polled stuck to the classics, popular albums came in for some mention and the albums of Frank Sinatra led the list.



Ray Anthony's new Extended Play album is made up of four tunes performed by the trumpeter in the 20th Century-Fox production, "The Girl Can't Help It," starring Jayne Mansfield.



Offering a dozen selections of music for easy listening in new Capitol album, "Skylight Rhapsody," is pianist Joe Bushkin.

● HAMILTON STUDIES

The rigors of trying to work in show business while going to school have proved too much for George Hamilton IV, 19-year-old singer who waxed hit disk "Rose and a Baby Ruth." The young vocalist was ordered to give up one or the other by his physician when a slight lung ailment threatened his health. Hamilton elected to continue his studies at American University in Washington, D. C.

AT THE PALACE?

Ed Sullivan, who is on record as feeling that operatic performances lack good "vaudeville values," was answered recently by an opera aficionado who suggests the following list of acts for Sullivan's show:

The bathing beauty tank act from "Das Rheingold," the horse that jumps through fire in "Goetterdaemmerung," the sharpshooter in "William Tell," the knife-thrower in "Carmen," the magician in "Tales of Hoffman," the rock 'n' roll storm scene from "Flying Dutchman," the animal act from "The Magic Flute" and the barroom Quartet from "Girl of the Golden West."



● CHRISTY COVERS MILES

Songstress June Christy played international hopscotch recently by flying to Copenhagen, Denmark for a guest appearance on television and then opening a week later in Havana, Cuba for a personal appearance engagement. The Danish telethon was a benefit performance for Hungarian relief sponsored by Capitol's Denmark associate.

Natalie Wood recently signed wax pact with Liberty Records. She also appears in picture, "Bombers B-52."



Nat "King" Cole played host to, of all people, his own wife on recent telecast of his "Nat 'King' Cole Show." He and Marin dueted on an appropriate tune titled "You're Getting To Be A Habit With Me."

AMEN

The late Alexander Woolcott is the unknowing co-author of one of the more recent calypso songs. Songwriters Griffin, Hecht and Bruce borrowed Mr. Woolcott's famous line about "All the things I like are either immoral, illegal or fattening," and tuned it up to read, "It's Illegal, It's Immoral (Or It Makes You Fat)."



Young, cute Ann Leonardo makes second appearance under Cap banner with two songs of teen-age appeal, "Straws in the Wind" and an up-tempo "Traveling Stranger."



Tex Ritter's latest disk is a pair of story ballads, "I Leaned On a Man" and "Children and Fools." Top side from pic, "The Big Land."

● OAKLAND, JESSEL DUO

Songwriter Ben Oakland will be teamed up with Georgie Jessel during April for a series of personal appearances titled "Musical Cavalcade of 50 Years." Team breaks in on April 6 at Grosinger's in the Catskills, and completes the circuit with a performance at Carnegie Hall on April 12.



As follow-up to her successful waxing "Money Tree," Margaret Whiting has new one breaking big, "Tippy-Toe." Flipside, "Spring in Maine," was penned by Steve Allen.



A Freberg name of Stan has got 'em rolling in the listening booths again with his laugh loaded waxing of "Banana Boat (Day-O)." "Interruptions" are by actor Pete Leeds.

TOMMY JUMPS

If there was ever any doubt that singer Tommy Sands is headed straight for the top of the heap, it was removed by his recent national telecast during the festivities of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences. His performance of "Friendly Persuasion" caught the few remaining eyes and ears of those

in the entertainment industry (as well as the general public) who had not realized the speed with which the young recording artist is rising to the top of the heap. Additional impetus will be added by upcoming appearances on the Steve Allen and Jack Benny TV shows.

CHARITY WAX

Radio Station WOV in New York worked out a way to clear its library of out-of-date recordings and do a good turn at the same time. The station donated some 40,000 records to the Salvation Army and then plugged the fact that the public could buy them for 10 and 15 cents apiece.



Lovely Barbara Lyon has promising new disk on Capitol, "Letter to a Soldier" and "Whisper." Practically bare in wardrobe trunk, she's daughter of Bebe Daniels, Ben Lyon.



Mickey Katz has come up with another of his hilarious satires on wax with a special version of the Frank Sinatra hit, "Hey, Jealous Lover," also "Barmitzva Special."

● NEWPORT GETS JAZZ

Although there was some talk of changing the site of the Annual American Jazz Festival this year, the event will take place starting July 4 at Newport, Rhode Island, for the fourth consecutive year. The Festival will present many top jazz names including Louis Armstrong, Ella Fitzgerald, Sarah Vaughn and Count Basie.



The story, in music, of the birth of the great Billy May band is now to be found in his new album, "A Band Is Born." It recaps some of the incomparable Billy's great hits.

● MacRAE RE-PACTED

Gordon MacRae has extended his ten-year association with Capitol by signing a new long-term contract with the label recently. The vocalist has been featured on a great many of Capitol's top-selling albums, including such recent hits as "Oklahoma" and "Carousel."

● STEREO PREDICTED

If the guarded guesses of electronics experts are realized, the public may be able to buy stereophonic sound, reproduced from a single groove by a single needle, in two or three years. The disk will also be "compatible" with traditional record players and needles.

● KENTON GOES 'UNDER'

Stan Kenton will conduct the "Biggest Show" orchestra which tours Australia for 16 days beginning April 4. Five of Kenton's own featured soloists will also make the junket.

● FEATHER LIFTS QUILL

Writer and jazz critic Leonard Feather will write Count Basie's biography. The book will probably appear under joint by-lines of Feather and Basie. Book is one of a series of three which Feather will write concerning jazz.



Dick Hyman's newest on MGM is an harpsichord-type arrangement titled "Blue Danube Bounce." Flipside is another novelty, "Yancy Special."



Don Elliott, a jazz musician, was recently cast on TV as a jazz musician, but he didn't play any jazz. Elliott records for ABC-Paramount.

● FRENCH HARPIST INKED

The world-famous classical harpist, Marcel Grandjany, has joined Capitol's roster of long-hair virtuosi. A native of Paris, France, Grandjany is known as an outstanding artist as well as a composer.

● STATION OFFERS PRIZE

If you can pick the top 50 tunes according to the compilation KUDL in Kansas City, Missouri, they'll give you \$10,000. The station is running the contest and compiles a list of the top 50 tunes. If an entrant picks the tunes and the order correctly he walks off with the 10 thousand.



The articulate improvisations of Miles Davis, one of the country's greatest young trumpet players, are featured in his new Capitol package titled "Birth of the Cool."



British import Ronnie Ronalde has two strong tunes for his debut on Capitol, "The Yodellin' Rag" and "Evening Chimes." Norrie Paramor's orchestra provides fine backing.

● CHAMPAGNE EXPANDS

Lawrence Welk gets the real plush treatment in his upcoming Coral album. It is reported that the orchestra will be made up of 100 men, including 50 strings.

● TUNES MULTIPLY

The Library of Congress now has over 97,000 phonograph records in its archives and more than 2,000,000 pieces of music. Copyright fees last year amounted to a record-breaking \$900,000. The Copyright office is now working on a three-year project to analyze copyright laws with an eye toward revision.

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It's coffee-break time for one of the country's top rock 'n' roll vocal groups, The Five Keys, while they discuss sales potential of their latest wax effort, "Let There Be You" and "Tiger Lily." Turned out that both the potential and actual are good. Van Alexander accompanies them.