

Music

VIEWS



NAT 'KING' COLE

MAKES HIS DRAMATIC DEBUT IN

CHINA GATE

JUNE

from the *SOUND TRACK* of the Motion Picture



A brilliant production by **Otto Preminger**
A brilliant score by **Mischa Spoliansky**
A brilliant High Fidelity
recording exclusively on



Album
No. W865

'ORIGINAL CROONER' CROONS AGAIN

AFTER being absent from the showbusiness scene for some twenty-five years, crooner Gene Austin seems to be right back in the thick of things again. A series of events which culminated recently in the NBC television production "The Gene Austin Story," has brought the 56-year-old singing idol of another generation back "on the road" and in the performing spotlight.

Interest in Austin began last fall when Desilu Productions recorded and released an album of Austin singing some of the songs which he made famous (and vice-versa). Then a few months ago a deejay at station WVKO in Columbus, Ohio spun a few of his recordings. The response from the "older set" was so encouraging that the jockey, Bob Howard, began programming Austin's records at every opportunity. As a result of this, Austin paid a visit to Columbus, received the keys to the city and appeared on various TV and radio shows. The furore caught the attention of the producers of NBC's "Goodyear Playhouse" and "The Gene Austin Story" was presented.

It is claimed that before he retired in 1932 Austin's record-

ings had sold 86,000,000 copies. It is certain that his version of "My Blue Heaven" is one of the top selling records of all time. Sometimes called "the original crooner" (a title which is also claimed by one or two other personalities) Austin's hit recordings include "Yearning," "Way Down Home," "Yes, Sir, That's My Baby," "Sleepy Time Gal," "Ramona," "Ain't She Sweet" and "Bye Bye Blackbird." He was also a successful songwriter, having authored such hits as "Lonesome Road," "When My Sugar Walks Down the Street" and "How Come You Do Me Like You Do."

AUSTIN retired from the business at the height of his career in 1932, to "do what he wanted when he wanted." He now lives and travels most of the year in a huge trailer which contains two baths and a piano in addition to the usual appointments.

Recently, when an avid Austin fan was accused of acting the way teenagers do about Elvis Presley, she replied, "Maybe, but will Presley be able to stage a comeback twenty-five years from now?"

THE COVER

Not content with being one of the country's finest and most successful vocalists, Nat "King" Cole has invaded the ranks of the straight dramatic actors and acquitted himself admirably. The picture, "China Gate," casts Nat in the role of a soldier in the French Foreign Legion, fighting the communists in Indochina. Although Nat does not sing in the picture, his Capitol recording of the title tune, "China Gate," is heard behind the opening credits. It is also climbing fast on the hit charts. For more about Nat's dramatic debut, see pages 5, 6, and 7.

Music Views

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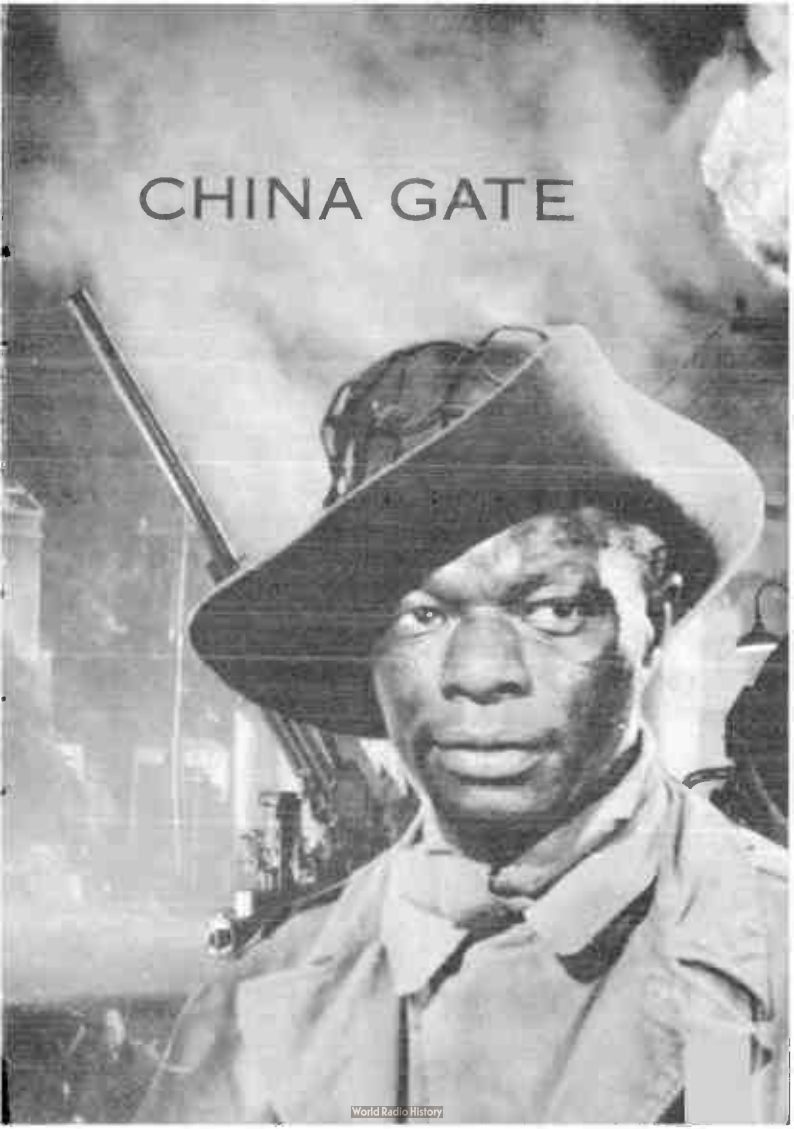
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Flanked by saxophones, June Christy doesn't seem to object to the dulcet tones of husband Bob Cooper (left) and Bud Shank. All three flew to Holland, recently, to kick off European jazz tour. June then traveled to Cuba, played a club date and then rejoined the boys on the continent.

CHINA GATE



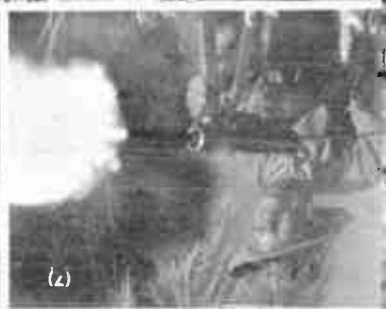
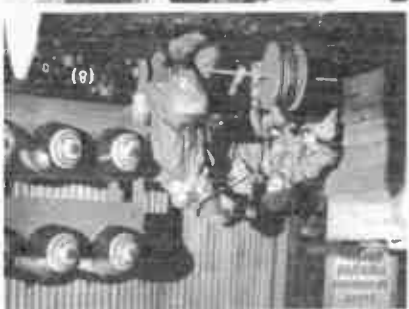
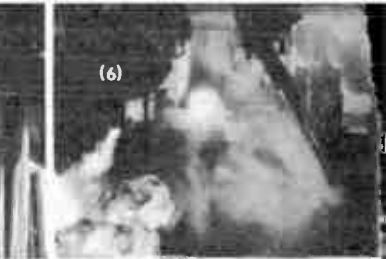
NAT 'KING' COLE

MAKES HIS DRAMATIC DEBUT IN

CHINA GATE

Nat "King" Cole makes his debut as a straight, dramatic actor in "China Gate," a Samuel Fuller Production for 20th Century-Fox, co-starring with Gene Barry and Angie Dickinson. Photos on these pages: (1) The French Foreign Legion rushes to save food from a burning American plane for a starving Indochinese village. (2) Maurice Marsac, head of the Legion, begs Angie Dickinson to lead his forces to a communist ammunition dump. (3) Gene Barry is the embittered soldier who finds the woman he loves and the Eurasian son he had previously abandoned. (4) Clutching his puppy, little Warren Hsieh follows Legionnaire Nat "King" Cole through a war-torn village. (5) Angie Dickinson leads the Legionnaires to the communist ammunition dump. (6) Barry bandages Cole's foot which has been speared on a field of iron spikes planted by reds. (7) Nat "King" Cole in his role as a Legionnaire. Although he isn't seen singing in the picture, his recording of the title song, "China Gate," is heard behind the opening credits. (8) Paul DuBov, Barry and Cole prepare to blow up the ammunition dump. (9) The Legionnaires accomplish their mission. (10) Barry eventually overcomes his bitterness and learns to accept his Eurasian son.





'SKIFFLE' JUMPS OCEAN TWICE

THE RECENT rise to popularity of "skiffle groups" in England and the subsequent spread of skiffle music in this country, has caused some speculation as to the true origin of the music. It would appear that the music in its present form actually grew up in tenements of Chicago and New York during the 1920's. During this era "block parties" were often given to help some family raise the money for rent and food. The entertainment at these parties was provided by inhabitants of the neighborhood playing on improvised instruments. The music seemed to be a combination of jazz and folk or hillbilly music.

Unlike its half-brother, jazz, "scuffle music" (probably the original name of "skiffle music") enjoyed little commercial success, except through the efforts of one of its best-known exponents, the late singer and guitarist Leadbelly. It could easily be that Leadbelly's recordings were the inspiration behind the current revival of the music.

The modern skiffle groups retain much of the improvised character, both in terms of the music and the instruments. The Vipers, a group which is popular both in England and the U.S., consists

of two guitars, a washboard, a "tub" bass constructed from a packing case, broom handle and a piece of fish line.

IT WOULD be a little presumptuous, however, for the United States to take complete credit for the origin of skiffle music. The beginnings of our own jazz can be traced back to the African origin of our negro population, and our folk or hillbilly music is often said to be derived from English sea chanteys and folk tunes.

So music continues to flow around the world, heedless of such barriers as oceans, time and distance, taking a little and leaving much each time it stops to visit.

LBS. STERLING

Bill Lowery, who is publisher of the hit tune "Young Love," was impressing the performers backstage of the "Grand Ole Opry" with the fact that his tune was No. 1 in England. Performer Ray Price brought Lowery up short, however, when he looked at the publisher's 268-pound form and remarked, "If there's anything you need less, Bill, it's more pounds."



Success of English Skiffle Groups (story elsewhere in this issue) in this country has prompted new release by Capitol of The Vipers Skiffle Group performing "Cumberland Gap" and "Maggie May." The Song Cumberland Gap" is one of England's top tunes and is now "breaking" in U. S.

DUKE COMBINES

Vernon Duke, who has long been a musical schizophrenic composing popular music under the forementioned name and classical music under his real name of Vladimir Dukelsky, is finally welding his personality into one person with one name. The composer of such standards as "April In Paris," "Autumn In New York" and "I Can't Get Started" will henceforth be known to long and short-hair alike as Vernon Duke. He is

currently active in both musical fields, and is now at work on the score for a Broadway musical "Time Remembered." One of his long-haired works was performed recently at the Chamber Music Festival of the University of California at Los Angeles.

Duke (formerly Dukelsky) is also an author of some note, having enjoyed considerable success with his recent autobiography, "Passport to Paris."



Broadwayite Dolores Gray makes her debut as Capitol recording artist with strong contender for hit honors, "There'll Be Some Changes Made" and "Fools Errand." Former is from movie "Designing Woman."

FOR TOURISTS

Calypso may be great stuff to Statesiders, but many occupants of the Caribbean area regard it as a "nowhere kick" and strictly for tourists. A store clerk recently told a touring correspondent, "I can't stand Calypso. We like tourists but why do they insist on keeping Calypso alive? We like rock and roll."

So Nat "King" Cole's waxing of "When Rock and Roll Come to Trinidad" isn't a joke. It's the word, man.

● REDS DIG MILLER ORK

It has become evident that the "Glenn Miller Story" was a little bit premature . . . for the last chapters are still being written. In its current tour behind the iron curtain, the Glenn Miller Orchestra, headed by and featuring Ray McKinley, has had an enthusiastic and somewhat surprising reception. At recent performances in Warsaw, Poland, the concerts were sold out well in advance and the ork played to more than 15,000 fans. The master of ceremonies for the concerts even made some satirical remarks about the red regime. Similar successes were racked up in Yugoslavia.



The release of a new Frank Sinatra album is always an event of major musical importance and his newest "A Swingin' Affair" is no exception. Title is extremely accurate.



"I wouldn't have believed it if I hadn't heard it with our own ears."

AGONY IN HI-FI

The sound was bad and I was
guileless
So I bought a diamond stylus.
To the cartridge then I
traced it
So I went out and replaced it.
I rearranged my very few
sticks
Of furniture to aid acoustics.
The speakers then took quite
a beating
To check the woofing and the
tweeting.
Since I am a do-or-die-er
I then rebuilt the amplifier.
It still was wrong so in my
next spurt
I sent the whole thing to an
expert.
And so the moral of my
sonnet:
It cost a hundred bucks to find
out that the record sounded
bad because of what the
company put on it.

—bolof

● KAYE SOLOS

Norman Kaye, brother and co-worker of Mary Kaye in the Mary Kaye Trio, will again record as a solo artist, this time under the Decca banner. Kaye's original solo disk debut was several years ago when he made some sides for Capitol.



Chinese vocalist Li Li Hua, heard on the new Capitol of the World album "China," is currently in this country and recently signed a motion picture contract to make movies for Universal International.



Bandleader Russ Morgan (r) joins in duet with Jimmy Wakely during recent stint on Wakely's CBS show.

Coleman Hawkins demonstrates he is still one of the greatest of the jazz saxophonists in his new Capitol album, "The Gilded Hawk."



TEENERS RULE ROOST

That the teenagers are looking to their own age group to provide musical fare is evidenced by the extreme youth of many new performers and songwriters. Among the current crop of hit-making singers who are 21 or under are: Jimmy Bowen, Buddy Knox, Tommy Sands, Eddie Cochran, Charlie Gracie and Steve Lawrence. Others include Sonny James, Patience and Prudence, George Hamilton IV, Brenda Lee, the Lennon Sisters and Frankie Lymon and the teenagers. Elvis Presley, Pat Boone and Tab Hunter, all in their early twenties, are

the "senior" members of the current crop.

Writers, too, are cropping up among the teenagers. Authors of such tunes as "Ninety-nine Ways," "Party Doll," "Young Love," "A Rose and a Baby Ruth," "Sittin' In the Balcony," "Singing the Blues" and others, had not reached their majority by the time they penned the songs.

All of which prompted one aspiring songwriter to ask, "Do you suppose I'm too old for this business? After all, I'm going on twenty-six."



Movie actor Robert Wagner tries his luck in the music business by singing "So Young" on Liberty.



Angela Drake is debuted on MGM disk by Leroy Holmes, "Souvenir D'Italie" and "Warm and Tender."

GREAT LISTENING

JAZZ

Capitol
RECORDS



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SOFTLY, BABY—Paul Smith, Barney Kessel, Stan Levy and Joe Mondragon supply the rhythm as Paul Smith's sparkling piano is featured in this free-swinging album. **T 829**



SWING LOW, SWEET SPIRITUAL—Jack Teagarden. The great jazz instrumental soloist and singer's wonderful group of beloved old spirituals ("In the Evening," "Shadrack" and others) are all heard here. **T 820**



MUTED JAZZ—Jonah Jones. The schoolboy's talking about the Jones boy and here he is. Jonah Jones' trumpet is spotlighted in an album that swings all the way. **T 838**

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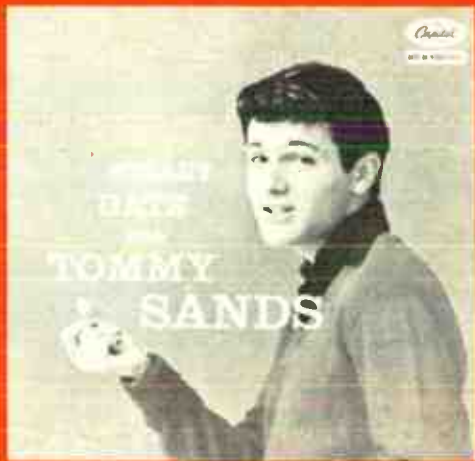
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KNOW WHY • TOO YOUNG
• TEACH ME TONIGHT •
GRADUATION DAY • "A"
YOU'RE ADORABLE • GONNA
GET A GIRL • TOO YOUNG
TO GO STEADY • KISS MY
PHONE • I DON'T CARE WHO
KNOWS IT • SOMEWHERE
ALONG THE WAY • WALKIN'
MY BABY BACK HOME •



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EAP 1-851



Monica Lewis has featured role as a nightclub performer in the new Jack Webb production for Warner's "The D. I." She waxed tune from the pic, "Somebody Else Will," recently under the Columbia banner.

TOO MANY 'WALLS'

One of those confusing situations which occasionally rises in the music business has been taking place over a song title, "Four Walls." Two different tunes by this title were released simultaneously by the Five Keys on Capitol and Jim Reeves on RCA Victor. Although titles are the same, lyrics and melodies are different.

Situations like this take place occasionally due to the fact that song titles may not be copyrighted. Although there are many songs which share the same title, ("I Love You" is the title of several different compositions all of which have enjoyed success) instances of them being released simultaneously are fairly rare.

To further confuse the issue, both tunes are showing up well on the hit charts.

● THESP WAXES

One of the most recent of the motion picture colony to tune up for records is actor Robert Wagner. The movie star signed with Liberty Records and his first release is titled "So Young."

● BROWN ORK AMBLES

Les Brown and his orchestra join the procession of bands touring abroad when they take off June 22 on a tour of Europe and North Africa. Les Brown, Jr., 17-year-old son of the batoneer, will join the band as drummer on the tour. Advent of the younger Brown makes the band almost a family affair, as Stumpy, brother of the senior Brown, has long been associated with the band as trombonist and vocalist.

SHRINKING VIOLET

The Billboard, entertainment business periodical, received a letter from a young man in Delphos, Ohio, who asserted, "Altho I have never acted or sung with music . . . I can truthfully say I can sing just about as good as Como, Crosby and Boone. . . I think also that I could make another John Wayne altho I am not as big as he and don't look like him but I can play it calm and cool. . . My shoulders and arm muscles are quite prominent and if handled right I think a big thing could be built up. . . As I said before any suggestions would be appreciated."

Well, some have it and some don't.



The unpredictable but always entertaining Louis Prima has a driving new package being presented under title "Call of the Wildest."



The lovely King Sisters, who recently made an ostentatious return to the music scene with their album "Aloha," have new versions of two standards as newest single release, "Imagination" with "You're My Thrill."

MUSICAL EPITATH

One of the oddest music licenses on record was granted recently by Mills Music to the H. K. Memorials, Inc., manufacturers of tombstones. The license granted permission to use several bars of "Gettin' Sentimental Over You" on Tommy Dorsey's tombstone.

In addition to the musical inscription, the late band-leader's memorial will have a full-size reproduction of his trombone carved out of stone. The structure will be installed in Kensico Cemetery, Valhalla, New York.



The strings of the French Franck Pourcel are featured again in a new Capitol of the World album known as "Honeymoon In Paris."

Luis Herrera de la Fuente conducts the National Symphony Orchestra of Mexico in an exciting addition to the Capitol of the World album series, title being "Viva Mexico!"



ERRATUM

A recent issue of "Music Views" carried a story which erroneously stated that cellist Pablo Casals was to make his first North American appearance in two decades at the recent Casals Music Festival in Puerto Rico. Casals has in recent years appeared in Mexico and Cuba as well as other Puerto Rican appearances. He

has resided in Puerto Rico for over a year, but refuses to play in the U.S. because of United States recognition of Franco Spain.

The aged cellist suffered a heart attack recently and was unable to appear at the Casals Festival. As of this writing he is resting comfortably and is expected to recover fully.



Don Elliott accomps The Jaye Sisters during rehearsals for recent CBS television show. Elliott records for ABC-Paramount, girls for Decca.

● ACTOR ALSO TUNER

Although noted primarily as an actor, the late Gene Lockhart who died March 31, was also a highly rated songwriter and member of ASCAP. Among the tunes penned by the thespian were "The World Is Waiting For the Sunrise," "In Your Wedding Gown," "Love's Riddle," "Song of Love" and others.

BETTER LATE THAN . . .

After 39 years in obscurity, a tune written by Irving Berlin will again see the light of day. The song is "Dream On, Little Soldier Boy," written during the 1st World War and recorded by John McCormack but cut short by the cessation of hostilities. The tune will appear in a special album sold by subscription to members of the American Gramophone Society and containing previously unreleased McCormack recordings.

Another of Berlin's tunes had to wait some twenty years to be heard. Also written during World War I, it finally was published and recorded in the early 1940's. The title was "God Bless America."



"Big T" is back again, playing only as Jack Teagarden can, on new album "Swing Low, Sweet Spiritual."



Wyatt Earp (Hugh O'Brien in real life) cuts his birthday cake supervised by Dinah Shore on recent telecast, NBC-TV's "Chevy Show." Dean Martin was also on show.

"Miss Show Business," Judy Garland, lends her own great stylings to a new album of torch ballads on Capitol. The title — "Alone."



● ELLA TO BOWL

Ella Fitzgerald will wind up her current tour with the "Jazz at the Philharmonic" group by having a special night in her honor at the Hollywood Bowl on June 19. The group has been in Europe since April 23, when they began the tour at Gothenberg, Sweden



Singer-actress Mae Williams has recorded an as yet untitled album for Verve, to be released soon.



For his newest release, Dean Martin plaintively states, "I Can't Give You Anything But Love" and tries to explain the reason on the flip-side, "I Never Had A Chance."

FIDELITY?

Consider the accidental irony of the song "false Hearted Girl" being in a "high fidelity" album. The tune is the most requested selection in "Tennessee" Ernie Ford's album, "This Lusty Land."



Behind the iron curtain with the Glenn Miller ork, Lorry Peters is doing the band's singing chores.



Pianist Dick Hyman has a triple album release on MGM wax titled simply "60 Great All Time Songs."

● CIRCUSER PENS TUNE

Circus impresario John Ringling North has joined the ranks of songwriters via a collaboration with Irving Caesar on a tune titled "Rainbow Round the World." Song will be distributed to schools and camps in U. S. and some foreign countries UNICEF as part of the organization's "Hi Neighbor" program. Tune was recorded by Bill Hayes and pleads for goodwill among peoples of all nations.

NO NEWS IS . . .

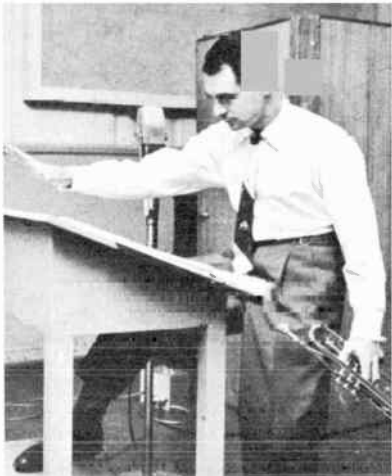
Country artist Jim Reeves has a recording of "Four Walls" which looks like a hit, but as of this writing he doesn't know it. The singer has been touring in Germany and RCA Victor hasn't been able to find him to tell him the news.

● AWARD TO MILLER

Columbia Records executive Mitch Miller has won a radio award for his Sunday night, CBS-Radio show. Readers of TV-Radio Mirror voted Miller "favorite evening emcee." Show spotlights music personalities informally and has received good ratings.

● ANTHONY REPACTED

Ray Anthony celebrated eight years of association with Capitol Records, recently by signing a renewal contract for five more years with the label. Anthony is currently in Hollywood where he is working in movies, television and weekend dances at the Hollywood Palladium.



Ray Anthony's golden horn and solid ark have come up with another fine package for dancers in new Cap album "Star Dancing."

CAREER BREWS

If Steve Schulte's singing career is a success, he will owe it all to the millions of beer drinkers across the country. Schulte's career is being promoted by the Anheuser-Busch Brewing Company to the tune of \$1,600,000 investment in the next two years. In what is believed to be the first venture of this sort, the brewery is spending the money to build the singer via record promotion, TV and radio appearances. Schulte's first recording is being released on the ABC-Paramount label and is titled "Such a Fool."



Swinging organist Jackie Davis's new album is "Chasing Shadows."

● HER NIBS TO RCA

After five years recording under the Mercury banner, Georgia Gibbs has left the label and signed with RCA Victor.



That incomparable and authentic calypsonian, Lord Flea, has another new single on Cap. titled "Donkey Bray" & "It All Began With Adam and Eve."



Nelson Riddle, whose album "Hey .. Let Yourself Go!" is doing extremely well, also has a new single, "Theme From Matinee" and "New Girl In Town." Former is from TV show, while latter is title tune from Broadway musical production.

● FORT CALLS KNOX

Buddy Knox, whose recording of "Party Doll" is currently riding the hit lists, has been called to active duty for a probable six months as a lieutenant in the U.S. Army. Prior to entering the Service, Knox cut some twenty sides for Roulette Records for release during his tour of duty.

● SINATRA IN 'TRIAL'

Frank Sinatra will co-star with Groucho Marx in an upcoming NBC color spectacular performance of the Gilbert and Sullivan operetta "Trial by Jury." Producer will be Sylvia Fine, wife of Danny Kaye. Date of the performance has not been announced.



Capitol has released two of the selections from English conductor Norrie Paramor's album, "Zodiac Suite" as singles. Tunes, written by Paramor are "Taurus Tongo" and "The Gemini Waltz." All songs in albums are titled for zodiac signs.



Gordon MacRae briefly resumes his "Oklahoma" role of "Curley" in his latest Cap package, "Cowboy's Lament," a group of prairie faves.



"Muted Jazz" is the descriptive title of new album by Jonah Janes.

ROBBINS HOP

If bunnies can hop, so can robbins. This is the theory of choreographer Danny Hoctor, who has designed a special dance for singer Robbin Hood, to be danced to her current disk "Don't Promise Me." The dance is, of course, called "The Robbin Hop."

WIND BLOWS WARM

Jo Stafford's new recording "Wind In the Willow" is showing signs of action, so Kapp Records is issuing a cover record which isn't exactly a cover record. The label is now releasing the original demonstration record of the song, waxed by Ann Reynolds.



Chanteuse Tilli Dieterle returns from winter season appearances in Jamaica to perform at Vanderbilt Hotel in N.Y. How come she has 2 names and Hildegard has one?

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Album**

starring

**ANDY
GRIFFITH**

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a face in the crowd

Music From the Soundtrack of the Elia Kazan Production



Budd Schulberg's

a face in the crowd



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**A FACE IN THE CROWD
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OLD FASHIONED MARRIAGE
JUST PLAIN FOLKS
MAMA GUITAR**

JUST A CLOSER WALK WITH THEE
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Success of Stan Kenton's recent Australian trip is demonstrated by the queue of fans waiting for autographs in Edels Record Lounge, Sydney.