

Music

SEPTEMBER • 1997



THE
JAMES
DEAN
STORY



A recent hospital benefit in Memphis, Tennessee, found such personalities as Elvis Presley, Jane Russell and Ferlin Husky in attendance. Husky, who recently played a dramatic part in Kraft-TV Theater, sang his smash version of "Gone" on the show which Danny Thomas hosted.

Music Views

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THE COVER

The choice of Tommy Sands to sing the theme song of "The James Dean Story" was as wise as it is gratifying. Tommy, like James Dean, is a youngster who has captured the hearts of teenagers all over the country. In addition to his great talent as a singer, Tommy's proven acting ability gives him a further basis for identification with the young actor whose searching life and tragic death are portrayed in the film. For more about "The James Dean Story," see pages 4 and 5.

● BANDS BACK?

Those music business sages who closely follow each new trend and then philosophize accordingly are casting an interested eye in the direction of the "name band" business. During the past summer, reports from leaders and ballroom operators have indicated considerable up-swung over the previous year and, in some places, over the past few years. Most predominant of the explanations given for this increase in business is that the kids are dancing again.

There are many observers who have always insisted that the health of the music business is dependent on the dancing public. If this be true, the seeming increase in enthusiasm over bands may bring about some interesting changes in musical trends. It is certainly true that "the golden age of bands" in the mid-1930's was sparked by the dancers. It is this era that is credited with having produced some of our finest popular music.

Among the bands which have registered solidly with the dance set are The Glenn Miller Orchestra with Ray McKinley, the little Louis Armstrong unit, Stan Kenton, Ralph Marterie, Buddy Morrow, Jan Garber, Les Elgart, Charlie Spivak, Guy Lombardo, Tex Beneke, Charlie Barnet.

Count Basie, Lionel Hampton, Woody Herman, Duke Ellington and others.

It is interesting to note that with a very few exceptions, these are virtually the same bands which held sway some twenty years ago. Maybe the kids are deciding that mom and pop aren't so square after all?

TRAVELING TROUSERS

If one member of the Coasters vocal group ever gets to Italy, part of him ought to be in familiar territory . . . his pants have already been there even though he wasn't in them. Seems that the fellow's coat was stolen during an appearance in New York. Then it was decided that the trousers (part of the group's uniform) should be sent to Hollywood to be matched for a new coat. However, the shipping clerk at Atco Records, entrusted with the job of shipping the trousers, sent them by mistake to a record dealer in Milan, Italy. The pants eventually found their way back to their owner, having traveled half-way around the world all by themselves.

Can you imagine the look on the face of the guy who ordered the records?

THE JAMES DEAN STORY



TO CAPTURE in music the life of a talented, turbulent, uncertain and sometime violent youth, was the assignment given Leith Stevens, composer of the score to "The James Dean Story." That he accomplished his difficult mission is attested to by the picture itself and the Capital album taken from the soundtrack. By his unique use of the jazz idiom and such instruments as the recorder, harmonica and bongo drums, Stevens successfully captures the beauty, savageness and pathos of the young actor's life and tragic death. Such a composition as "Who Am I?" describes the young Dean groping for self-identification. "Lost Love" is a painful portrayal of a romance without happy ending; while "Testing the Limits of Time" is a brilliant montage of the moods and actions experienced by Dean in his last few months.

"The James Dean Story," produced and directed by George W. George and Robert Altman for Warner Brothers' release, involves a new motion picture technique... dramatic exploration of the still photograph. Without actors and by means of tape recordings, existing motion picture material and the people with whom he lived and worked, the story of James Dean comes to life.





Too bad she isn't on TV. She is Louise O'Brien, vocalist on CBS Radio's "The Rusty Draper Show."

VERSATILE

Just as Alfred Hitchcock manages to appear on the screen in some manner during each of his films, Archie Bleyer leaves his trademark on each of the records he produces for his Cadence label. His latest musical (?) efforts are the rattlesnake noises on the Kirby Stone Four's waxing of "S-S-S 'Wonderful'" and the playing of two soda pop bottles on the flip, "Raven." Prior to this he has done the knee slapping on the Chordette's "Mr. Sandman," sang the "bums" on "Lonely Lips," been the "whos" on his recording of "Rockin' Ghost" and struck the match for "Hernando's Hideaway."

● BREEN TRIES AGAIN

Bobby Breen, whose star has not been burning very brightly for the past fifteen years, may be staging a comeback. He is currently appearing in the pilot film of a possible TV series titled "Bobby." The series is to have a music and situation comedy format.

Breen rose to stardom as a child singer discovered by Eddie Cantor.



With school just about ready to start again, the Jordanaires version of "Summer Vacation" correctly expresses the sentiments of many a teenager. The flipside of this swinging disk coupling is titled "Each Day."

CAP TAPS TAPE

Capitol Records has entered the field of stereophonic tape recordings with a "bang" via the simultaneous release of thirteen packages recorded by top artists. Two of the packages, "Intro to Stereo" and "A Study in Stereo" are designed as showcases of the vast range of stereophonic sound. A third package, "The Orchestra," presents the orchestra in combinations and sections under the baton of Leopold Stokowski and includes a 24-page booklet in full color. Other titles include: "House of the Lord" with the

Roger Wagner Chorale; "Toch: Third Symphony" with William Steinberg conducting the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra; "L'Italia," "Bolero and Capriccio Espagnole," "Symphonic Dances," and "Gypsy!" — four packages by the Hollywood Bowl Symphony Orchestra under the batons of Carmen Dragon and Felix Slatkin; Nat "King" Cole's "Love Is The Thing;" "Black Satin" by George Shearing; "Kenton in Hi-Fi;" and "Fred Waring and His Pennsylvanians in Hi-Fi."

Pride of the teenagers, Gene Vincent and His Blue Caps, has a new one clamoring at the door of hit-dom, "Lotta Lovin'." Flip is a brand new ballad, "Wear My Ring."



● CALYPSO "MURDERED"

Trinidad experts, on a recent NBC "Monitor" show, insisted that calypso music didn't die a natural death on the U. S. market, it was murdered. These experts maintained that such Stateside hits as "Marianne," "Jamaica Farewell" and "Banana Boat Song" were not true calypso tunes but more in the folk and work song classification or products of tin pan alley imagination. They also insisted that even Harry Belafonte has not been presenting the real McCoy. They stated that in Trinidad calypso is more than a craze, it's a way of life.

Experts rendering the opinions were Patrick Castache, a composer; Sud Espinet, editor of the Trinidad Guardian; and Andrew Carr, magazine writer .

FIDDLING AROUND

A violin player recently provided the Flamingo Hotel in Las Vegas with the most successful show in its history. Of course the fiddler also told a few jokes between choruses of "Love in Bloom." Yeah... his name is Jack Benny. It marked the first time Benny has ever appeared in a nightclub.



Jazz vocalist Joy Bryan makes an impressive debut as a record artist with her new album on the Mode label tagged "Joy Bryan Sings."



Brooklynite Anthony Roma makes his first record appearance on Prep label with impressive pair, "Good Intentions" and "Too Good to Talk About." Marion Evans backgrounds.



"Idiot! I said bassoon!"

● HEAR 'TRUE LOVE'

Music lovers who are not impressed with the rock 'n' roll variety will be pleased to know that the song most heard on radio and TV from July 1, 1956 to July 1, 1957 was NOT a rhythm and blues tune. According to the Peatman survey of tunes with the largest radio and TV audience, this distinction goes to the Cole Porter tune, "True Love." The song's hit recording by Bing Crosby and Grace Kelly also stayed on the best selling charts for many weeks.

I PROMISE . . .

The Westinghouse Broadcast Company is launching several deejay-type shows over its various stations, of which one show could conceivably have political repercussions. Titled "Music from City Hall," the show will feature local mayors as platter spinners. As yet none of the opposition parties has apparently asked for "equal time."



Jeff Chandler (r) talks things over with conductor Earle Hagan during session which produced his new Liberty package, "Let's Get Lost."



Janice Harper debuts with a bang on Prep label with "Bon Voyage" and "Tell Me That You Love Me Tonight." And she's pretty, too.



The Rover Boys, now on Vik Records, have impressive initial release for the label, "Soft Sands" and flipside, "My Baby's Steppin' Out."


WORM TURNS

The tables were turned, recently, on jazz critic Bill Simon by jazz musician Don Elliott. Simon, who plays sax with his own combo when not functioning as associate music editor of *Billboard* magazine, invited Elliott to appear with his outfit as a guest star on a recent week-end engagement. Although holding his own through most of the evening, a request for "One O'Clock Jump" found Simon floundering around in a key which "I didn't know existed."

Elliott suffered in silence for two choruses and then gave Simon a fishy stare before exclaiming disgustedly, "You bum — I'd like to be reviewing you now!"

● DORSEY BAND TO TOUR

Following the trend set by the successful Glenn Miller band fronted by Ray McKinley, the band of the late Tommy Dorsey may hit the road this fall under the baton of one of several musicians who have been identified with the Dorsey aggregation. Among those rumored to be under consideration for the spot is trumpeter Ziggy Elman.



The "peapicker" does it again, "it" being his fast-breaking disk, "In the Middle of an Island." Flipside is also doing well, "Ivy League."



Ron Goodwin's sensational recording, "Swinging Sweethearts" became hit within week of release. It is still riding high on charts. His Intest Cap album, "It CAN'T Be Wrong," is romantic music set.

● POLKAS WAXED

Sparked by the increased interest in polka music, a new 'Capitol' of the World release features a total of eighteen polka tunes by four different artists. The sides divide themselves into three different types of polka: the Slovenian Polkas, the "old" Polish Polkas and the "new" Polish Polkas. Representing the Slovenian Polkas are six sides by Johnny Pecon. Eddie Zima provides four selections of "old" polkas while Jania and Marisha Data present four each of the "new" Polish Polkas.

● WEATHER OR NOT

New England's torrid heat wave of last summer proved to be a bonanza for the promoters of outdoor concerts but the impresarios were not without their worried moments. As the drought extended, the farm element began raising requests for cloud seeding to make rain. The promoters relaxed, however, when it became obvious that regulations and red tape would stall the operations until it was too late to do them any damage (or the farmers any good).



Sarah Vaughan and Billy Eckstine, both alumni of the great Earl "Fatha" Hines band, were reunited on the Mercury label recently to record two sides, "Passing Strangers" and "The Door Is Open." Several years ago they produced a number of memorable duets while on the M-G-M label.

SPECTACULAR NEW ALBUMS

TOP STARS • TOP SOUND



VELVET BRASS W-813—Jackie Gleason conducts a jazz brass orchestra with only six in music that is rollicking and sophisticated.



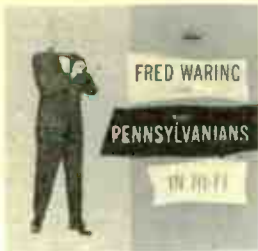
THE MAN I LOVE T-804—Peggy Lee sings + Frank Sinatra conducts + the attractive melody also by Nelson Riddle.



THE JAMES DEAN STORY W-881—From the motion picture soundtrack—a vivid musical portrait. Tommy Sands sings "Let Me Be Loved."



THIS IS NAT "KING" COLE 1-870—Great Cole hits like *Too Young To Go Steady*, *Never Let Me Go*, now in one album.



FRED WARING IN HI-FI W-845—America's beloved musical group in favorite selections, newly recorded in hi-fi.



CASA LOMA CARAVAN T-850—Smooth dance hits by Glen Gray and the Casa Lomans with vocalist Kenny Sargent brighter than ever in hi-fi.



CRAZY IN LOVE T-898—Brightly swingin' song stylings of Trudy Richards, backed by Billy May and his orchestra.



BLACK CATIN T-856—The official soundtrack score of the shearing "Quartet and Orchestra" in a variety of distinctive moods.



SUNNY T-867—Sunny moods, sung by one of the nation's most exciting young singers, Barry Manilow.



IT CAN'T BE WRONG T-1078—Enchanting music designed especially for lovers by Britain's popular arranger-conductor, Ray Charles.



n Martin's easy and ingratiating style is once more in evidence on new Cap album, "Pretty Baby." He also has a new single which is breaking fast, "Beau James" and flip "Write To Me From Naples."



Don Casanave (bet he gets kidded about that name) debuted successfully on ABC-Paramount with his initial recording "Deep Within Me."

● GOGI IN CYCLE

Gogi Grant has completed a cycle by the signing of her recent contract with RCA Victor. The singer debuted on that label in 1952 and subsequently moved over to Era Records where she scored with hits "Suddenly There's a Valley" and "The Wayward Wind." Miss Grant does the featured singing in the forthcoming "Helen Morgan Story" film, the album from which will be released by Victor.

TSK, TSK

Title of Elsa Lanchester's upcoming album on High Fidelity label will doubtless be enough to get it banned on the radio and TV networks: "Songs My Mother Taught Me Not to Sing." Each tune will have humorous intro delivered by Miss Lanchester's husband, Charles Laughton.



Singer Peggy Diétrick enjoys sailing (?) with Michael Ansara, who plays Cochise in ABC-TV's "Broken Arrow" Series. Sailors ten-shun!



Joannie O'Brien is co-worker with Rusty Draper on his daily CBS radio show "The Rusty Draper Show."

RAINS MONEY

It rained money in Raleigh, North Carolina, recently, but the fellow responsible for the downpour got thrown in the clink. It was all part of a stunt by hillbilly bandleader Big Jim Thornton to promote a radio show. He and his band were playing on a marquee of the Amba-

sador Theater and blithely threw small change and dollar bills down to the 4,000 people who quickly assembled. Thornton was henceforth arrested for violating a city ordinance which prohibits the throwing of money on city streets and sidewalks. Charges were later dropped.



Trumpeter Eddie Calvert has sparkling new instrumental, "Beyond Mombasa" from Columbia pic of same name. Flip is "Jungle Moon."



Tex Ritter's newest release is a two-sided narrative disk from the new motion pic "Trooper Hook." Ritter performs on pic soundtrack.

'CRESCENDO' SET

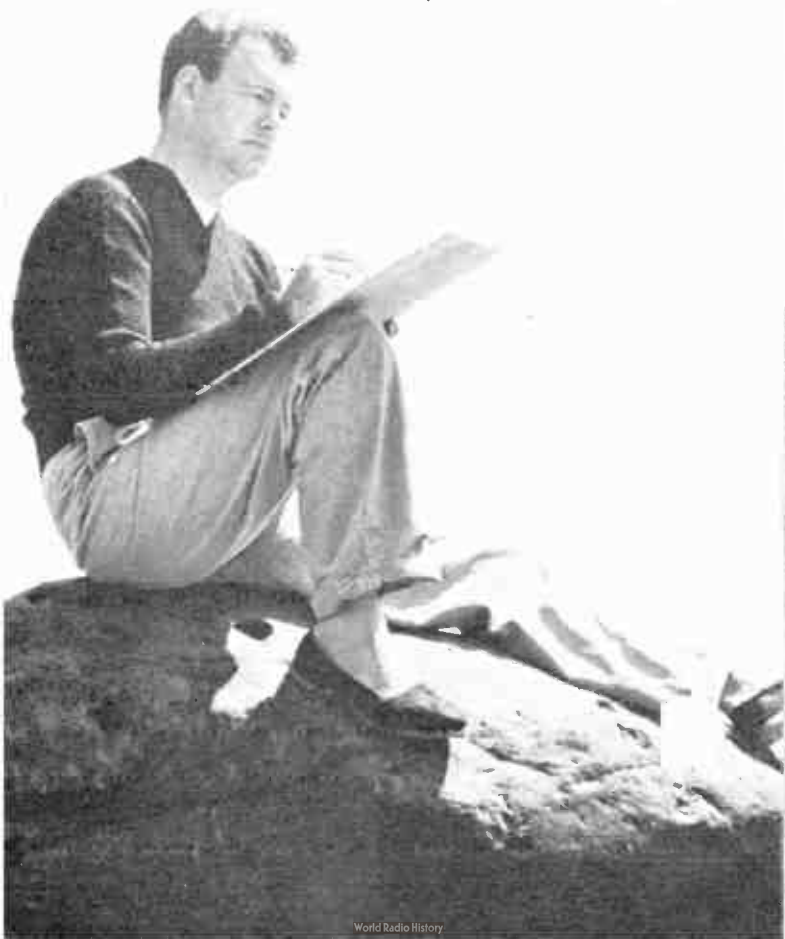
Rex Harrison has been signed to head the starring cast of "Crescendo," CBS Television's premiere "Du Pont Show of the Month," Sunday, Sept. 29. The hour-and-one-half color musical will be produced by Paul Gregory.

Harrison, currently starring on Broadway in "My Fair Lady," will portray an English visitor to this country who is given a kaleidoscopic introduction to the most American styles in music . . . musical comedy, blues, western songs, religious marches, folk songs, Latin-American rhythms

and jazz.

The British star of motion pictures and the New York and London stages is remembered by film audiences for his hilarious leading role in "Blithe Spirit" and his portrayal of the king in "Anna and the King of Siam." He won the praises of Broadway audiences and reviewers for his performance as Henry VIII in "Anne of the Thousand Days," for his light-hearted cavorting in "Bell, Book and Candle," and most recently in "The Love of Four Colonels."

The interesting sounds of Nelson Riddle's newest "Tangi Tahiti," are responsible for the large dent it is making in the record mart. Flipside is titled "Rue Madeleine."



NOW REALLY!

Eydie Gorme's press agent is doubtless a hard working individual trying to do a good job. However, we will leave it to the reader to determine the plausibility of his report on his client's recent Chicago appearance.

Miss Gorme, according to her p.a., was beginning to think she'd lost her touch with audiences when her performance at the Empire Room was met with long faces, and a deadly calm. However, when she broke into her current hit disk, "Your Kisses Kill Me," the room was alive with wild applause. Seems that the room was filled with delegates to the Illinois Funeral Directors' Association.

● DESMOND 3-WAY MAN

Johnny Desmond has emerged as a triple-threat man on the recently completed motion picture, "Escape From San Quentin." In addition to playing a dramatic part in the picture, Desmond will sing a song titled "Lonely Lament." Further proof of his versatility is that he also wrote the song.

● SATCH GOES AGAIN

Louis Armstrong, who has worn out a good many passports in the past twenty years, is again packing his grip, this time for a tour of South America. Tour begins in Buenos Aires on October 17, and will include Uruguay, Brazil, Venezuela and Trinidad.



Although formerly identified with the country and western market, Bobby Bare's newest, "A Beggar" & "The Livin' End" holds appeal for teenagers in city and in country.



The success of trumpeter Jonoh Jones' album "Muted Jazz" prompted Capitol to release two sides as singles. Tunes are "Rose Room" & "On the Street Where You Live."

● DUO IS UPPER CRUST

One of England's newest vocal teams is strictly from the upper crust. Two top socialites, the Duchess of Bedford and Mrs. George Legge, recently formed a duo and recorded two numbers on the HMV label. All royalties are to go to "Mrs. George Legge's Fund for Old People."

● JOHNSON PIPES

Van Johnson will play the title role in NBC-TV's musical spectacular "Pied Piper" on November 12. Role was originally set for Perry Como who had to bow out because of other commitments. The role in the musicalized fairy tale will mark Johnson's TV debut. Kay Starr is co-star.



Making their Capitol debut, the Hawkeyes are already rising with their disk, "Someone, Someday" & "Who Is He?" The four boys and a girl attend the University of Iowa.



Having risen to status as one of the nation's top vocal groups, The Four Preps are looking for the biggest hit of all in their new one on Capital, "Promise Me Baby" backed with "Again 'n' Again 'n' Again."

WHEWI

Every entertainer loves to see his or her name in lights, but Haunani Kahalewat, songstress of the "Hawaii Calls" program from Honolulu, long ago decided she would have to change hers before it would become possible. Her real name is Myrna Kahaunani-maunakeakauikalewa Kahalewai. There are 29 (count 'em) 29 letters in her middle name which means "Beautiful Snow on the Slopes of Mauna Kea Mountain."

● ARMED SYMPHONY

The musicians of the Zahal Symphony of Israel can trade their violins and horns in for rifles at a moment's notice. The conductor, Shalom Riklis, and all his musicians, aged 18 to 21 and of both sexes, are enrolled as Israeli soldiers.

● JAMES JUMPS

The flow of American musicians across the ocean will include the Harry James ork this fall. The unit will open October 1, in Munich, Germany and tour through Italy, France and possibly the Scandinavian countries.

M. D.s IN HI-FI

Three mid-western doctors who describe themselves as "frustrated musicians" have become the first producers of stereophonic tapes in that area. Their company, Stereophony Inc., was originally formed to turn out just one tape, a rag-time medley played on a souped-up piano. They now have fourteen tapes on the market.

Come to think of it, "stereophony" does sound like some kind of a surgical operation, doesn't it?

One of the most "different" disks to come down the pike in years is Elio Moe Morse's newest recording "I'm Gone." It's a "vocal jam session." Flip is titled "Swoy Me."



● MENDEZ TOOTS

Rafael Mendez has been signed to play his own composition, "Mood Mendez" as background music for a scene in the Columbia pic, "Cowboy." The noted trumpeter will play the flamenco-type solo on a cornet dating back to 1870.

● CANTOR CUTS

Absent from the recording scene for several years, Eddie Cantor recently cut an album for the Vik label. In the past, the comedian has had several hit recordings and been responsible for the success of many songs.



Manisa Lewis, known as "Sweetheart of the Marines" since her appearance in film "The DI," dedicates new Verve album to Marine Corps, "Sing It To The Marines."

EMPHATIC

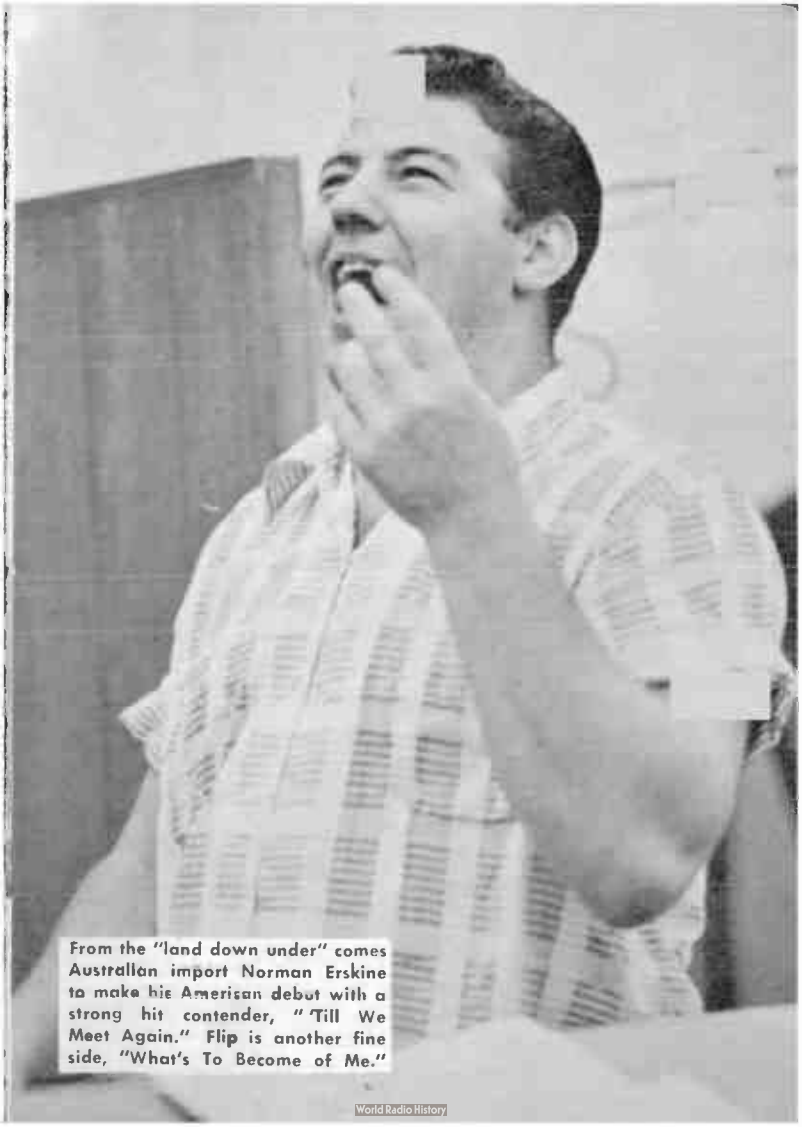
A San Antonio man's dislike of rock 'n' roll music recently proved fatal when he attempted to "influence" the taste of two other patrons who were playing the juke box in a tavern. Disagreement over the music to be played led to a brawl in which the objector was fatally injured by a blow struck with a bottle.

PLAY POSTOFFICE

It may have been the controversy about mail service which inspired it but whatever the cause, the post office is getting a lot of free advertising via Tin Pan Alley. A look at recent releases and hit lists discloses the following tunes: "Love Letters in the Sand," "I'm Gonna Sit Right Down and Write Myself a Letter," "Write to Me from Naples," "Air Mail Special" and "Mailman, Bring Me No More Blues." Through sleet and snow . . . etc.



Singer Jerry Wayne has new one on MGM wax, "Don't Want Your Kiss" backed with "It's Not Too Late."



From the "land down under" comes Australian import Norman Erskine to make his American debut with a strong hit contender, "Till We Meet Again." Flip is another fine side, "What's To Become of Me."



Lonnie Sartin has new one on Cap which shows promise. It's a new version of an old Polish marching song titled "Whoo-pie Shoo-pie" with "I'll Never Stop Loving You."

HOT TIME

Sonny James, "The Southern Gentleman," became a Canadian fireman recently. The singer was made an honorary member of the Ottawa Fire Dept. during a personal appearance engagement in that city.

● SCOTT ON WAX

Latest of the movie personalities to step into the wax field is actress Lizabeth Scott. Miss Scott recently waxed an album for Roulette Records.

● BERLIN SCORES PIX

Irving Berlin is writing the title song for the new Marlon Brando motion picture, "Sayonara." It is the first tune Berlin has done for pix since he scored "White Christmas."

● 'JEANNE' GETS THEME

A theme song for the Columbia picture "Jeanne Eagels" has been penned by composers Morris Stoloff and George Duning with lyrics by Ned Washington. The tune is titled "Half of My Heart" and will be heard recurrently through the background score.



Connie Francis' M-G-M disk "Eighteen" is presented to deejay Jack Lacy by Barry Gordon, who still has a few years until that age.



Les Baxter has new album on Cap wax which is extremely promising. Title is "Midnight On the Cliffs."

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The Four Dolls, a group of 12-year-olds with boundless charm, enthusiasm and talent, debut on Capitol with a socko rendition of two tunes designed specially for teeners, "Proud of You" and "Three On a Date."