

# VOX JOX

By JUNE BUNDY

**TEXAS ROUNDUP:** New staffer at WBAP-FM, Fort Worth, Tex., is George H. Raines Jr. . . . Walter Lawson, formerly with KHEM, Big Spring, Tex., has joined KPEC, San Angelo, Tex., as manager. Lawson, who has scheduled an hour each day of gospel music on KPEC, plans to promote live gospel singing shows in the area. . . . Charles Stewart has taken over the "Musical Clock" show on KITE, San Antonio. . . . New manager of KENS-TV, San Antonio, is Wayne Kearl.

San Antonio station KAKI, which assumed those call letters last August, has returned to its former call letters (KTSA) due to a "stream of protest letters and phone calls." . . . Charles Van, formerly with KONO, San Antonio, has joined KTSA, same city. . . . Jocks at KONO, San Antonio, took turns at the mikes from midnight New Year's Eve to dawn spinning the top 50 tunes of 1958. All-night crew included Herb Carl, Howard Edwards, Jerry Miller, Doug China and Bill Davis.

**CAB BAG:** Pro and con opinions continue to pour in on rock and roll. Ken Albridge, KFRU, Columbia, Mo., writes: "True, rock and roll has met with much opposition from many corners, but in spite of this opposition, it has continued to stay at the top of the heap, because to a great many it is the sound of the Late 1950's. Each era has its own musical sound that comes to the forefront whether it be the Charleston, the Lindy, or whatever-you-will. Each seemingly meets with plenty of opposition until finally acceptance on a large scale is realized. There's room for all types of music on almost any disk show, and it seems to me that that is the American way."

On the other hand, Freddie Peterson, WKRZ, Oil City, Pa., writes: "Was more than pleased to note the rebellion against rock and roll and the demand for better music from the nation's deejays. I, too, want to be included in the pleas for better music and help exit the trash. Another thing, why is it that the 50,000 watters get advance pressings of certain records that the little guys never see, and when they become hits the aforementioned have to scrounge for them and find them not available locally? Let's have more 'big band' sounds and more instrumentals."

Ray Oddis, WJET, Erie, Pa., takes the following position. "The record and music business as a whole is on the upswing, progressing with each new record, song or record label; giving each of us more of a selection from which to choose. From what I have been able to observe, many deejays feel that our job is to educate the listener. This, in my book, is wrong. Our job is one of entertainment, and those who gripe may be overlooking this fact. It's the thing that sets us apart from the common occupation. A deejay should take into consideration that it is his job to weed out anything that he feels will not please the majority of listeners. Our country is based on competition, a necessary part of the American way of life for the betterment of all. So let the new artist, songs or labels roll hot and heavy. I'll be set and ready to listen."

**KYW ALL-STAR BENEFIT:** Station KYW, Cleveland, is readying standout all-star music show January 30 for the benefit of the Parents Volunteer Association for Retarded Children. The show, which will be presented at the Music Hall, will feature Roger Williams, Mitch Miller, Bob Crosby, Ruth Brown, Connie Francis, Jackie Wilson, Kathy Linden, Billy Grammer, Ernie Freeman, Conway Twitty, Lloyd Price, the Chantels, Rocky Marciano, Ellie Frankel and Al Russ and his Ork.

The program is under the supervision of KYW deejay Joe Finan, who will also emcee the event, assisted by Big Wilson and other KYW jocks. All of the performers are donating their services and KYW is paying their expenses during the stay in Cleveland.

Proceeds from the show will be used by the P.V.A. to finance its campaign to persuade the State of Ohio to build a home and school for retarded children in northern Ohio. Tickets are scaled from \$2.50 to \$10.

**DISK JOCKEY GAGS:** That's the title of a new book by Walt Hiley published by Vantage Press. Hiley, who wrote gags for Arthur Godfrey, Norman Brokenshire, Bob Reed and others when they were functioning as deejays in Washington, has a hearty, homespun writing style and his deejay "gags" favor the "punny" school of comedy. The book — frankly described by the author as "corn in the show business sense of the word"—should be a useful turntable fixture, altho some of the "gags" are rather feeble and dated. Hiley has one for every occasion. For instance, his "Who, Me?" chapter contains "ad libs" for jocks who favor the humility-type approach. Sample: "On one occasion I felt pretty set up when my singing was described as 'out of this world.' Later, I found out they meant it was unearthly."

NBC station WRCV, Philadelphia, has extended its local programming to include Saturday. The Saturday programs feature only records requested by listeners. Jocks involved are Grady and Hurst, Ted Jackson, Jack Rattigan, and Pat Landon. . . . Cleveland station WDOK launched another series of tours for listeners this month. Program director Norman Wain and group of Clevelanders left Ohio January 10 to visit Mexico, Guatemala and Yucatan.

**THIS 'N' THAT:** Dick Shepard has resigned from "Milkman's Matinee" on WNEW, New York, and Jack Lazare is returning to the all-night slot. Al Collins, heretofore heard from 10 p.m. to midnight, is taking over Lazare's old show-time, and is now heard from 8 p.m. to midnight. . . . Stan Richards, program director of WILD, Boston, has been appointed veepee of the Noble Broadcasting Corporation. He will continue his daily 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. record show.

## ARTISTS' BIOGRAPHIES FOR JOCKEY PROGRAMMING



### British Chris Barber Digs New Orleans

Britain's Chris Barber was educated at the King Alfred School, Golders Greens, and at St. Paul's Hammersmith. He planned to become an actuary, until he got bitten by the jazz bug. The 28-year-old orkster studied trombone and double bass at the Guildhall School of Music and formed his own band in April, 1953.

Barber's main hobby is sports cars — preferably Lagondas. The Barber band bases its music on the New Orleans pattern. The front line soloists are Pat Halcox on trumpet, Marty Sunshine on clarinet and Barber on trombone. The band will arrive in the U. S. in the middle of next month for a concert tour of schools. "Petite Fleur," on Laurie Records, is their current hit.



### Small Annette Rises With 'Tall Paul'

Annette (Funicello) is a member of the original Disneyland Mouseketeers, having debuted on the Mickey Mouse Club in October, 1955. The pert brunette was born 16 years ago to non-theatrical parents in Utica, N. Y. Her family moved to California in 1946.

Annette is a hobbyist and sports enthusiast. Her ambition is to become an actress and ballerina. She also likes to play the piano. Right now, Annette's kept pretty busy at North Hollywood Junior High School, where she's a straight "A" student.

"Tall Paul" promises to be a big success for the small, 5 foot 2 inch, 95-pound teen-ager.

## YESTERYEAR'S TOPS—

The nation's top tunes on records  
as reported in The Billboard

### JANUARY 22, 1949

1. A Little Bird Told Me
2. Buttons and Bows
3. On a Slow Boat to China
4. My Darling, My Darling
5. Far Away Places
6. Lavender Blue
7. Powder Your Face With Sunshine
8. You Were Only Foolin'
9. Cuanto Le Gusta
10. Galway Bay

### JANUARY 23, 1954

1. Oh, Mein Papa (Oh My Papa)
2. Stranger in Paradise
3. Changing Partners
4. Rags to Riches
5. That's Amore
6. Ricochet
7. Heart of My Heart
8. Ebb Tide
9. Secret Love
10. You, You, You

# ON THE BEAT

By REN GREVATT

Harold Jenkins is a young man out of Marianna, Ark., who has a band, an attractive wife, a fascination for football and baseball, and a hit record which has been at the top both here and in Britain. "My manager had a last name all picked out for me," he explained, "but we couldn't find the first name to go with it. So we took out a road map of Arkansas and with a blindfold on we pointed at the map. The finger was pointing at Conway, Ark., and that's how Conway Twitty came into being."

"I've been writing songs and singing most of my life, but things started to happen when I was in the Army in Japan. I had a little band there called The Cimarrons and I met a friend of the fellow who later on became my manager, Don Seat. When I got out of the service, I sent Don some tapes and he arranged for us to make some records for Mercury. Nothing happened with those records really, but late last year Don told me that M-G-M looked like it was going to be a hot label and he got me signed up. Jimmie Vinneau made our first M-G-M record in Nashville. That was 'It's Only Make Believe,' which my drummer Jack Nance and I wrote."

"We also made a few sides for Sun Records but they were never released. Jack and I wrote some material for Roy Orbison, too, which he used when he was on Sun. We've also done some things for Jim Edward, Maxine and Bonnie Brown and we are working on some song ideas now which we hope we can get the Everly Brothers, Pat Boone and Teresa Brewer to use. Our first album for M-G-M will have 11 of our own songs in it."

Twitty was a good enough centerfielder to have been offered a contract by the Philadelphia Phillies. "But I had to choose between baseball and music and it seemed to me the music could last longer for me. Before we were lucky enough to get our record hit, my band and I had been picking up wonderful experience for over two years. That's great for me, because even without record hits, I can always play dances and put on shows with my band. We spent almost two years playing clubs and dances in Canada—Toronto, Hamilton, London and a lot of places thru Ontario. It was the greatest kind of experience anybody can possibly have. I started with my Army group and I've had my band of two guitars, a bass and a drum ever since. Yes, I play guitar too."

It was Twitty's talent and touch for showmanship which led Perry Como to single out the youngster for kudos on a recent Saturday night TV outing. Como remarked on Twitty's prowess on a stage in comparison to many other current pop disk sensations. His talent has also brought up the possibility of movie work for Twitty. Negotiations for an M-G-M picture are already under way. Possible appearances in England for Twitty are also under discussion at GAC.

Twitty makes a definite attempt to figure what the singles market is going to want next, when he's making records. "Playing with my band on dance dates as often as I do gives me a chance to know exactly what they want, just from their requests. I figured a ballad trend was getting very strong early last year which is why we made 'It's Only Make Believe.' Right now, they seem to want a lot of cha chas, but what they want at dances doesn't always reflect what they want on records. I think rock and roll is still very strong. The kids will want it for a long time. Some of the jockeys, I think, sometimes make a mistake in pushing the smoother stuff. They go too far in trying to get rid of the beat. But that's just my opinion."

Twitty likes country music and feels that Elvis Presley is "the greatest. He was an inspiration to me and a lot of others. Tommy Sands is very good, too. Patti Page really started as a country singer, too, and she has always been a favorite of mine. Connie Francis and Joni James are two of the best around and maybe you won't believe it, but Mario Lanza is also a great favorite of mine. I saw his picture, 'The Student Prince,' six times." Twitty has seen much of the new pop talent on the various package touring troupes with which he has appeared. Assessing the newer talent, he says: "Frankie Avalon is certainly one of the most promising of the new kids coming up. He's got a lot of stage presence and he can sing. The Everly Brothers have a good act, too. I think they've been especially lucky to be hooked up with Acuff-Rose and Mr. Bleyer who is another good record man. They have been around long enough with a number of hits to learn a lot about how to handle themselves on a stage and that knowledge can keep them going a long time. Some of the others who have a hit one day and can't repeat, never get a chance to learn showbusiness savvy. That's why I say again, we were lucky to get so much experience before the hit record came along."

That great cat, Little Richard (Penniman), may soon be back on the disk scene. He's signed a booking pact with the West Coast Lil Cumber Agency and will do a series of religious concert tours, opening in Tennessee this month. Concerts will be for the benefit of a scholarship fund for aspiring ministers and missionaries. Richard also has signed with Jordan Records for an album of gospel material. The diskery is headed by Joe Lutcher, who also renounced the world of night life for evangelism.

Strong reaction is reported to the new Marty Robbins disk, "The Hanging Tree," from the pic of the same name. It's one of the few cases where a country artist has been tied in with big picture song material. . . . Joe Lutcher, Nellie's alto-playing brother, has hit the sawdust trail. He has his own religious label, Jordan Records, out of Los Angeles. He's also a Seventh Day Adventist and is working in a downtown Los Angeles mission. . . . Roberts Show Lounge, in the Windy City, has opened its penthouse, with Phyllis Branch starred. Main Room downstairs is headlining Dinah Washington. . . . Cozy Cole is at Chicago's Preview Lounge.