

SPECIAL MERIT PICKS

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POP

JOE SOUTH—A Look Inside. Capitol SP 11074
It's been quite a while since Joe South was last heard from on album but this strong LP will put him back in the forefront of the music scene. Using only his own material, cuts like "One Man Band," "I'm A Star," "It Hurts Me Too" stand out. "All Nite Lover, All Day Friend" and "Save Your Best" are very fine. Superb production by Jefferson Lee.

YOUNGBLOODS—High on A Rooftop. Warner Bros. BS 2653
A new Youngblood's LP is always a treat, and this set is no exception. A mixture of oldies such as the charmingly arranged "Speedo," "Running Bear," "Donna" and "La Bamba" combine with Dylan's "I Shall Be Released" and Jesse Colin Young's "Dreamboat" to make this LP excellent. This may be the last set for the group, which recently broke up, but fans can look forward to more fine efforts from individual members.

NORMAN GREENBAUM—Petaluma. Reprise MS 2084

Whatever happened to Norman Greenbaum, erstwhile founder of Dr. West's Medicine Show (remember "The Eggplant That Ate Chicago") and momentary superstar of several moments back with "Spirit In The Sky"? Well he decided that the simple life was for him and back to the earth he did go, specifically residing in a small northern California community known as Petaluma. The rest of the story is all nicely chronicled herein. The music is buoyant, lively and ultimately pleasing to the ear. Lay back and enjoy "Dairy Queen," "The Day the Well Went Dry" and "Grade A Barn."

OSCAR BROWN, Jr.—Movin' On. Atlantic SD 1629

Oscar Brown, Jr. is one of the finest singer/songwriters around, and the only complaint about this set is that it's been too long in coming. Brown has a most distinctive voice and puts it to good use here, whether he is singing "Walk Away," a caustic cut about the trouble with women; "Young Man," a poignant tune about a friend who died; or "A Ladies-man." His voice always fits the mood. You can't categorize him as soul, jazz or pop, and this is a strong compliment.

JOHN HARTFORD—Morning Bugle. (Warner Bros.) BS 2651

This album is truly beautiful in its simplicity and forthrightness. John Hartford had the good taste to use just two other musicians, Dave Holland and Norman Blake and the resultant sound is clear and pure. Hartford is an eloquent banjo picker and his bullfrog voice does delightful things on a whole batch of semi-autobiographical songs such as "Nobody Eats at Linebaughs Anymore," "Late Last Nite When My Willie Came Home," "Howard Hughes Blues" and "All Fall Down."

TURKEY—Wild Turkey. Chrysalis (Warner Bros.) CHR 1010

From the first batch of Chrysalis albums comes the second LP from Turkey, a fine British rock band headed by ex-Jethro Tull bassist Glenn Cornick and singer Gary Pickford-Hopkins. The group plays straight, unpretentious rock and roll and plays it well, with highlights including "A Universal Man," "Eternal Mother" and "The Return." The group is also fortunate in being able to draw on the writing talents of Cornick and Pickford-Hopkins. Should be a strong chart and FM item.

RICK ROBERTS—Windmills, A&M SP 4372
The former lead singer of the Flying Burrito Brothers has come up with a brilliant solo debut, filled with fine country flavored rock. Backed by cream musicians such as Bernie Leadon, Jacsonne Browne, Byron Berline and Chril Hillman, Roberts offers fine narrative material such as "Davy McVie" and the beautiful seven minute "Sail Away," the possible highlight of the set. Other standouts include "Pick Me Up on Your Way Down" and "Drunk and Dirty." Should get strong FM and AM play.

KEITH MITCHELL—Sings Broadway. Spark SPA 03

The brilliant actor-singer adds fresh touches to some of Broadway's greatest music of yesterday and today. Among the highlights are his exceptional treatments of "Somewhere," "Gigi," "Being Alive," "She Loves Me," and "I Only Want to Say" from the current "Jesus Christ Superstar."

LITTLE RICHARD—The Second Coming. Reprise MS 2107

Little Richard once again sets out to prove that he is no lacquered artifact of some bygone era. At a time when even the blattent ugliness of the fifties is viewed through rose-colored bifocals the great and beautiful Mr. P. is singing it like it was, shutting down all newcomers. If Chuck Berry can do it, then so can the big "L." Hop along with "Second Line," "Rockin' Rockin' Boogie" and "Sanctified, Satisfied, Toe Tapper." Sideman include Sneaky Pete, Jim Horn, David T. Walker and Chuck Rainey.

CHIP TAYLOR—Gasoline. Buddah BDS 5118
Chip Taylor has been reknowned as a songwriter for years and this LP, unlike many writers who move into the recording end of the business, proves quite a success. "Londonerry Company" is an excellent cut as is "Angel of the Morning," perhaps his most famous tune. Other highlights include "Home Again," the title cut, "Dirty Matthew," and "You Didn't Get Here Last Night." Taylor has a pleasant voice and is a competent guitarist, and this LP should launch another successful career for him.

CHARLES RANDOLPH GREEN SOUNDE—Masterpiece. Ranwood R 8105
There's so much beautiful material in this LP that it's difficult to pick out the best tunes. "The Masterpiece," of course, was a hit single. "Lennie's Theme" and "The Ninth" are both exceptional. Dealers should be aware that this orchestra has had several hits in the past and is firmly established.

JOHN HAMBRICK—Windmill in A Jet Filled Sky. Brown Bag (United Artists) BB 14201
Brown Bag's second album release serves to introduce a rather skilled new singer songwriter, John Hambrick. His voice is strong and magnificently resonant. A definite country flavor prevails, the total effect is relaxed and the music flows unstrained. Charlie McCoy's "talking" harmonica is much in evidence. Fine cuts include "Courage, Dignity and Grace," "Hard Faced Road" and "Purple Haze Under the Moon."

ONE—Grunt (RCA) FTR 1008
New group featuring a pleasant, almost MOR sound with flutes, autoharps and dulcimers as well as the conventional rock instruments. Top cuts include "I of A Kind," "I Car Raga," an Indian flavored tune featuring Marc Granat on sitar and an interesting, almost chanting background which segues into more conventional rock structure. A varied set and a group quite obviously made up of very competent musicians.

THE SECTION—Warner Bros. BS 2661
Rarely do studio sidemen receive the recognition their talents deserve. Danny Kortchmar, Russ Kunkel, Graig Doerge and Leland Sklar comprise one of the most artfully endowed rhythm sections claiming exception to the rule. The roster of notables who owe their indebtedness to these artisans seems impressively endless. The Section's music is none that you've heard or felt before. Once you've heard "Second" and "Doin' the Meatball" you will be overcome with an urgent desire to have another piece.

TRAPEZE—You Are the Music. . . We're Just the Band. Threshold (London) THS 8
Fine set from this British trio with a little help from friends such as Rod Argent and B.J. Cole. Group moves from hard rock on "Keepin' Time" to the more melodic sounds of "Coast to Coast" and back to rock on "Way Back to the Bone." Top vocals on all cuts from Glenn Hughes who also plays bass, as well as good support from Mel Galley on guitar and David Holland on drums. "Lover" also a standout cut.

STEELEYE SPAN—Below the Salt. Chrysalis (Warner Bros.) CHR 1008

Steeleye Span (not to be confused with Steely Dan. . . two different groups) are a marvelous little group intent on the preservation of medieval music, a time and a sound where everything was a bit more clear-cut and well defined. The exquisite sensitivity and beauty of the ancient melodies, breathtaking in themselves are illuminated by Maddy Prior's lilting crystalline voice. The instrumentation is nigh perfect, an audio rightness being maintained. Transcend "nowness" with "Royal Forester," "Saucy Sailor" and the frolicsome "The Bide's Favorite/Tansy's Fancy."

GARY OGEN & PAUL LAMB—Portland. Elektra EKS 75048

Another set exemplifying the currently popular laid back school of folk rock sounds. Good set from this duo who sing excellently together and are also top musicians, especially on acoustic guitar. Help also added from veteran studio musicians such as David Briggs. Standouts include "Send It Over," "Portland Rain," "Love Lust Lady," "Our Sweet Love" and "Just for Awhile." Both share writing and lead singing responsibilities, and set could get AM and FM play.

JAZZ

RAY BRYANT—Alone at Montreaux. Atlantic SD 1626

Recorded live at this year's Montreaux Jazz Festival, Bryant puts on a brilliant solo performance, again showing one of jazz's most expressive pianos. From the opening "Gotta Travel On" through other standouts such as "Willow Weep for Me," "Slow Freight," "Greensleeves" and "Until It's Time for You to Go," Bryant can move from traditional or contemporary material of his own to standards with ease, and the amazing part of it is that it's one man alone who captures these varied sounds.

COMEDY

WOODY ALLEN—The Nite-Club Years 1964-1968 United Artists (2 LPs) UAS 9968

These years might be referred to as Allen's formative years, covering the 1964-1965 period. The material we have come to associate Allen's comedy with is all here, including his inferiority complex, trouble with his first wife, sexual trouble, religion and his experience in analysis. This material has been out before but UA has done a top job of repackaging and the LP could prove a fine Christmas gift.

SOUL

INDEPENDENTS—The First Time We Met. Wand (Scepter) WDS 694

Though this is a new group they have it all together and this impressive debut album is proof. The package highlights "Just As Long As You Need Me" "I Love You, Yes I Do" and their recent single "I Just Want To Be There." Entry assures pleasurable acquaintance.

THE SMITH CONNECTION—Under My Wings. Music Merchant MM 105

The songs and vocal performance of The Smith Connection is indeed pleasing and should prove to be rewarding for them. "I Been In Love" and the title cut displays best their outstanding harmony style. Other cuts on their debut LP are "The Day You Leave," "Til There Was You" and "You Ain't Livin' Unless You're Lovin'." An excellent bow.

FAITH, HOPE & CHARITY—Heavy Love. Sussex (Buddah) SXBS 7019
Good, pop soul set featuring top vocal harmonies and a cross between pop and soul which should see the disk fare well in both markets. Standout cuts include "We Can Change the World," the title tune, "I Was There," which is almost jazz flavored and "Who Could Love You More Than I?" Good use of strings on this LP, which serve to blend rather than intrude. "No Trespassing" is a more soul-flavored cut which should do well in that market and shows single potential.

MONCLAIRS—Dreaming Out of Season. Paula LSP 2216

Excellent soul LP in the traditional sense of fine lead vocals and top background harmonies. Highlights include the eight and a half minute "Prelude to a Heartbreak," "Do I Stand A Chance" and "Just Can't Get Away." Phill Perry is an interesting writer and this set should get strong play on soul stations as well as some pop outlets and should appeal to fans of both types of music. "Just Can't Get Away" is on the more commercial side, as is "Unwanted Love."

ACTION Records

NATIONAL BREAKOUTS

SINGLES

There Are No National Breakouts This Week.

ALBUMS

There Are No National Breakouts This Week.

REGIONAL BREAKOUTS

SINGLES

There Are No Regional Breakouts This Week.

ALBUMS

There Are No Regional Breakouts This Week.

Bubbling Under The HOT 100

101. LOOKING THROUGH THE EYES OF LOVE Partridge Family, Bell 45-301
102. THAT SAME OLD OBSESSION Gordon Lightfoot, Reprise 1128
103. LATIN BUGALOO Malo, Warner Bros. 7677
104. BECAUSE OF YOU (The Sun Don't Set) Kracker, ABC/Dunhill 4329
105. TODAY I STARTED LOVING YOU AGAIN Bette Swann, Atlantic 2921
106. I CAN'T STAND TO SEE YOU CRY Smokey Robinson & the Miracles, Tamla 54225 (Motown)
107. LADY PLAY YOUR SYMPHONY Kenny Rogers & the First Edition, Jolly Rogers 1001 (MGM)
108. I'VE NEVER FOUND A MAN Esther Phillips, Kudu 910 (CTI)
109. WISH I COULD TALK TO YOU Sylvers, Pride 1019 (MGM)
110. DON'T MISUNDERSTAND O.C. Smith, Columbia 4-45655
111. LIVING TOGETHER LOVING TOGETHER Tony Bennett, with the Mike Curb Congregation, MGM/Verve 10690
112. ALL TOGETHER Rowan Bros., Columbia 4-45728
113. LOVE STORY Nino Tempo & April Stevens, A&M 1394
114. MELANIE MAKES ME SMILE Terry Williams, Verve 10686 (MGM)

Bubbling Under The TOP LPs

201. BYRDS Best of the Byrds, Vol. II, Columbia 31795
202. MARY HOPKIN Those Were the Days, Apple SW 3395
203. LANI HALL Sunrise Lady, A&M SP 4359
204. JACK BRUCE Best Of, Polydor PD 3505
205. JESSE WINCHESTER Third Down, 110 To Go, Bearsville, BR 2102 (Warner Bros.)
206. MOM'S APPLE PIE Brown Bag, BB 14200 (United Artists)
207. ELVIN BISHOP BAND Rock My Soul, Epic KE 31563 (CBS)
208. JOAN BAEZ Ballad Book, Vanguard 41/2
209. RICHARD HARRIS Slides, ABC/Dunhill DSX 50133
210. DONNY OSMOND My Best To You, MGM SE 4872
211. BILLIE HOLIDAY Billie Holiday Story, Decca DXB 7161 (MCA)
212. LOU REED Transformer, RCA LSP 4807
213. MASON PROFFIT Rockfish Crossing, Warner Bros. BS 2657

DECEMBER 9, 1972, BILLBOARD

find

Dear FIND Dealers:

Large department stores as well as independents are active in FIND. What does the record and tape buyer for one large West Coast outlet of this type say about the service? "It's working out very well," says the buyer. "It's convenient and all of our stores are certainly taking advantage of it, and using it on a regular basis. I've been out in our branch stores recently checking on the fills, and they are steadily improving."

This buyer also emphasized that "Special orders are becoming a more important part of the record business, for the large outlet as well as for the record and tape store. Since using FIND, our customers have become aware that we can get special orders for them. Ads are running and we're mentioning FIND in these ads. We're getting the customers who want special orders. As long as the service runs smoothly," he continued, "it's a plus. We've been keeping the catalog on the counter and having the salespeople write up the orders and there have been no real problems. So far it's been running smoothly, so I have to say it's a plus."

Good reaction coming in concerning the new FIND catalog, with 7,000 more listings than the previous edition. Special Christmas supplement is also getting good reaction. More good response coming from dealers using FIND'S "Christmas Gift" service. Just tell FIND the product you want wrapped and FIND will do the wrapping and send it to the recipient along with the appropriate card. Or dealers may get a sample gift wrapped product to let customers know this service is available.

UPS still the fastest way to receive product during the busy holiday season at the post office, so don't forget to specify this in your orders. FIND has also found a dealer at the South Pole. More about that next week.

Candy Tusken

FIND Service International
Box 755
Terre Haute, Indiana 47808
A.C. (812) 466-1282
Bill Wardlow, President
and
FIND Service International
9000 Sunset, Suite 415
Los Angeles, California 90069
A.C. (213) 273-7040
Candy Tusken

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