

Oldies Blossom In Japan

• Continued from page 8

utmost to heat up this boom. They are coming up with collector's items, omnibus albums, original singles, medley singles and product of new artists singing oldies.

Included among collector items are special compilations for Japan. "Rock 'N' Roll Album," the double album by Presley, has already sold 20,000 sets, and another double album, "Paul Anka & Neil Sedaka," has sold 65,000 sets.

Collector items released in their original form by such artists as Sedaka, Anka, Presley and Bill Haley & the Comets are enjoying considerable sales. "Endless Summer" and "Spirit Of America," both by the Beach Boys released from Toshiba-EMI, have sold 25,000 copies each.

Omnibus albums are generating the biggest sales. The original soundtrack of "American Graffiti," a double album, has sold nearly 150,000 sets. Another double album, "Rock 'N' Roll Graffiti" (CBS/Sony), featuring Anka, Bobby Vinton and Little Richard, among others, has sold nearly 80,000 sets, while

a King two-record album, "The Twist," featuring Chubby Checker and Ray Charles has sold 10,000 sets.

Nippon Columbia has come up with four volumes each of "ABC Paramount Oldies Hits" and "Dot Oldies Hits" featuring such artists as Barry Man, Steve Lawrence, Brian Hyland, Pat Boone, Gale Storm and Tab Hunter. All are selling well.

Current product includes oldies by local artists, oldies by foreign acts and oldie-flavored disks by local acts. CBS/Sony came up with "Rock 'n' Roll Special," planned by the label and recorded by the British group, Flying Saucers, which accompanied Chuck Berry on his European tour.

Discos are also playing an increasing number of rock records. A disco in Shibuya, Tokyo, which used to be called Soul Train has dropped Soul from its name and is now simply called Train. It no longer plays soul—only rock 'n' roll.

How long will the oldie boom continue?

At least until the end of summer, say many dealers.

U.K. Society Net Hits Record High

LONDON—Performing Right Society gross revenues increased by more than 25% last year, rising \$7.9 million from 1975 figures to a new high of \$36.76 million. And 1975 was a record year for PRS.

At the society's annual meeting last week, chairman Allan Frank also reported that net distributable income rose by more than \$6.84 million to \$31.8 million, a gain of almost 27%.

He said: "Impressive though these figures are, they have to be viewed in the context of inflation. This continued through 1976 at an alarmingly high rate, though less so than in 1975. During 1976, the Index of Retail Prices rose by 15.1%, compared with a 1975 rise of 24.8%."

This was reflected in administration expenses, which rose by 16% from \$4.27 million to \$4.95 million, but as a percentage of income they fell from 14.6% to 13.6%.

Gross royalty collections in the society's own territories of administration, together with investment income, increased by more than \$4.2 million to \$22.91 million, an increase of 24.3%.

New directors elected were Bill Martin, writer-director replacing Richard Rodney Bennett, who resigned because of overseas commitments; and Peter Phillips, publisher director, replacing Bob Kingston, no longer eligible since leaving Southern Music. Re-elected writer-directors were Roger Greenaway, John Gardner, Joseph Horovitz and Ernest Tomlinson, and publisher-directors Roy Berry, David Platz and Tony Fell.

Korean Govt. Mulls New Copyright Law

SEOUL—The Korean government is reported considering enactment of a new copyright law that will offer stronger protection for mechanical and performance rights.

Korea, which is not a member signatory of the Universal Copyright Convention, has long been known as a haven for record and print pirates.

Lyttelton's Challenge Is Rebuffed By PRS

By PETER JONES

LONDON—A resolution demanding an independent enquiry into the affairs of the Performing Right Society, result of a long campaign spearheaded by composer-lawyer Trevor Lyttelton at a personal cost of some \$15,000, met with total defeat at the society's annual meeting here.

He was supported by just one member, with 10 voters abstaining and 183 going against him.

Lyttelton, whose bitter fight for a review of PRS activities has been run by mail, through press and radio and via the courts, still alleges that the society is over secretive about its financial affairs and has too narrow a franchise to represent its members fully.

Following what was described as "humiliating" defeat, he said: "The result is as I anticipated and publicly predicted. I have been unable to canvas, campaign or communicate with voting members over an independent review in the face of the PRS's continued refusal to make a list of voting members available to me.

"But the society has campaigned strenuously, apparently contacting almost every member by mail, telephone or at personal level."

The vote was so decisive that proxy votes were not called into play, but Michael Freegard, PRS general manager, said that votes against the Lyttelton proposals far outweighed those gathered by the Campaign For Independent Review, led by songwriter/publisher Doug Flett.

At the annual meeting, the PRS council took the unusual step of allowing a vote on the Lyttelton resolution even though it was not seconded by a full voting member. Martin Humphrey, of Island Music, had proposed the resolution but his was the lone hand raised in favor.

Allan Frank, PRS chairman, in turn unveiled the council's own proposals, which have been two years in the making, for a widening of the voting franchise.

Currently only 14% of members have a vote, but soon it is expected 70% will have the right to attend and vote at general meetings. New members with sufficient earnings will have a vote after only one year's membership instead of the present five-year stipulation.

But it was stressed that ultimate control of the society will remain in the hands of "the professionals," or those who rely for total income on songwriting.

Polygram Shifts Continue

HAMBURG—Further appointments in the Polygram management reshuffle (Billboard, July 2) were announced last week.

Effective Oct. 1 this year Metronome GmbH managing director Dr. Gerhard Weber will join the management of Phonogram in Hamburg as deputy managing director, reporting to managing director Oskar Drechsler. Weber will be succeeded as managing director of Metronome by Wolfgang Gassner, who is at present sales manager of Deutsche Grammophon in Hamburg. Taking over as deputy managing director of Metronome from Oct. 1 will be Guenter Hensler, present head of the Polygram corporate planning department.

Hensler's place will be taken by Dr. Bennie Hagels, who until

Freegard said after the meeting: "Trevor Lyttelton clearly represents a tiny handful of members' opinions. His activities have resulted from time to time in near paralysis of the society's functions and time has been taken up to an extraordinary degree."

After the vote was taken, a number of members called for his expulsion and this suggestion was greeted with prolonged applause.

The PRS is to continue with its High Court appeal against last month's ruling that it should supply Lyttelton with a list of its full voting members.

Proby To Focus As Lead Singer

AMSTERDAM—Controversial U.S. singer P.J. Proby is to be the new lead singer of Dutch rock group Focus. He won international fame, and notoriety, in the early 1960s with hits like "Hold Me," "Together," "Somewhere" and "I Apologize."

His enlistment with the highly successful local group leaves former lead vocalist Thijs van Leer free to concentrate on keyboards and flute. Other changes in the Focus lineup bring in Eef Albers as lead guitarist, having recently recorded an impressive solo album for CBS; new drummer Steve Smith, until recently with violinist Jean-Luc Ponty's backing band; and Belgian jazz-rock guitarist Philip Catherine returns after six months working away.

Focus is rehearsing at van Leer's studio in Geel, Belgium, and cuts a new album this summer for worldwide release in mid-October through EMI. The group's last LP, "Mother Focus," was released more than two years ago. Concerts are scheduled for November.

Dutch Labels Mark Centenary Of Sound

AMSTERDAM—To commemorate the centenary of recorded sound, the Dutch record companies will collectively release a series of 26 albums of popular music and 16 of classical product.

The move is on the initiative of NVPI, the local branch of IFPI, the International Federation of Producers of Phonograms and Videograms. All records will carry a special centenary logo.

(Continued on page 81)

International Turntable

Jack Boyce has returned to Pye Records in the U.K. as head of marketing, reporting to general manager Robin Taylor. He was previously with Precision Tapes, then left to work briefly at RCA and later for a year with Transatlantic. Richard Jakubowski has left Pye after two years in the marketing department and Jim Flynn, a&r manager U.K., has left to operate as a freelance. Flynn's background includes a spell with B&C Records.

Tony Peyton has left AP Creative Services in London and his own company, Tony Peyton Graphics, is now fully operational. He will continue offering a service specifically to the record industry and his current clients include Arista, GTO, Private Stock and Track. His offices: 26/28 Brewer Street, London W.1. (phone: 01-439 7567).

Former Phonogram U.K. press of-

ficer Mac McIntyre and Nick Massey, previously with Threshold Records, have set up McIntyre Massey Associates, a press and public relations consultancy in London for the music business.

Peter Ryves is appointed manager of the EMI Group royalties department, reporting to Alex Mears, royalties controller. He was previously with Polydor, working in the royalties and a&r department.

Ginny O'Sullivan has been appointed export manager for DJM Records following the departure of Sue Partridge. She still reports to John Mephram, where she was previously assistant, and Mephram's own duties now include overseas production. And Fergus Martin, formerly of the DJM royalties department, has been moved over to the production department, as DJM/CBS liaison assistant.

From The Music Capitals Of The World

LONDON

At fund-raising Music Therapy Charity lunch, when proceeds exceeded \$25,000, the Duchess of Gloucester presented a silver clef award to Cliff Richard and the Shadows for outstanding achievement in the world of music, and first prize in raffle went to June Bolan, estranged wife of Marc.

Sonet U.K. moved offices to 121, Ledbury Road, London W.11 (phone 229 7267), just around the corner from the old Sonet productions' headquarters. . . . Ninth Atlantic album by Yes group, now with Rick Wakeman back in the fold, is "Going For The One," out as preface to U.S., U.K. and European tour with Donovan as special guest.

Warner Bros. releasing a Beach Boys LP to tie in with forthcoming U.K. concert visit, featuring four tracks from four different albums. . . . And the company is launching a major tape campaign, "The Tape Gallery," comprising packs of 50 of WEA's best-selling cassettes, the promotion starting Aug. 1. . . . Phonogram latest to follow recent price-increase decisions in album, single and tape areas. . . . CBS U.K. driver Tony Edwards repeated last year's success as Lorry-Driver of the Year (London section), his test performance rated 24% above average for the under two-ton lorry division.

Punk-rock group the Jam raised \$400 for the Tower Hamlets Arts Project as a result of a gig in the East End of London. . . . Barry J. Green now operating in his new job as executive assistant to Leslie Hill, managing director, EMI Records U.K. . . . Disk jockey copies of Max Bygraves' al-

bum "Hits From The Forties" carried "Hits From Thirties" labels, a mistake discovered "on-air" by BBC DJ Pete Murray.

EMI rush-released "This Perfect Day" by Australian punk-rock band the Saints, the first 12,000 copies of the single available in 12-inch form. . . . Big campaign by Polydor for electronic album "Oxygene," by French composer Jean-Michel Jarre, son of Maurice Jarre, composer of "Gone With The Wind" and "Dr. Zhivago" soundtracks. . . . Fast ending to U.K. court case involving George Harrison's alleged plagiarism of the Chiffons' "He's So Fine" for his own "My Sweet Lord," with out-of-court settlement from Harrison to publishers Peter Maurice Music.

Recent flurry of tape-record price increases due almost entirely to costs of manufacture, with polyvinyl chloride prices rising faster in 1976 than the Retail Price Index here. . . . New K-tel album features one-time "pirate" disk jockeys Tony Blackburn, Ed Stewart, Keith Skues and Paul Kaye, marks demise of off-shore "pirates" in August, 1967.

Series of six half-hour peak-time television shows starring David Essex to be screened weekly by BBC-TV this fall, guests including Twiggy, Small Faces, Real Thing, Ronnie Spector and Denny Laine. . . . Tie-up between EMI Records here and skateboard manufacturer Morris Vulcan supports release of "Skate Out" by Ricky and the Kween Teams, with special skateboard selling at around \$12.

David Paramor quit general managership of EMI Music here to join United Artists Music in a similar position. . . . Phonogram early in field with 16-track new-wave compilation album with

acts ranging from Patti Smith, the New York Dolls, through the Ramones to a first recorded track from the Boombtown Rats, who built fame (notoriety) on recent Tom Petty and Heartbreakers' tour.

Country Joe McDonald now represented for management and agency worldwide by Phil Banfield of Nems. . . . Mervyn Conn, U.K. country promoter, is to open an office in Nashville, Tenn., has taken on management of Carl Perkins and is to present next year's 10th Wembley Festival in Russia. . . . Neil Diamond reported to have made \$350,000 from his open-air concert at Woburn Abbey here. . . . WEA chief John Fruin to take delivery of a 1934 replica Bentley convertible car very much in the James Bond mold.

PETER JONES

TOKYO

Victor Musical Industries will handle distribution for Trio Records starting July 21. Trio, which has five distribution centers, one each in Sapporo, Tokyo, Nagoya, Osaka and Fukuka, will now have five more in Sendai, Yokohama, Kanto, Hiroshima and Shikoku, as the result of this new working relation, strengthening its distribution network and allowing it to concentrate more on production and sales activities.

CBS/Sony recording artist Mayumi Itsuwa left for the U.S. to record an album in Los Angeles. She recently returned from Paris where she appeared at the Olympia. . . . A Fuji television network program, Music Fair, featured Captain & Tenille, Tanya Tucker and Vicki Carr.

(Continued on page 80)