

RSO Expands; Will Buy Labels

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in RSO Records. "It's less than that," he says. As to what percentage PolyGram holds in the company, Coury says, "I don't know but it's certainly not 50%."

"Stigwood, Siemens and Philips (the latter two firms are owners of PolyGram) went into partnership with the Stigwood Group of companies. RSO Records comes under RSO Inc. Therefore, while PolyGram is in partnership in the overall Stigwood Group, it theoretically has nothing to do with RSO Records.

"There is not one PolyGram person on the board of RSO Records," Coury continues. "As for the effect PolyGram's restructuring may have on us, I don't know. I don't believe it will affect us—but that's yet to be seen.

"PolyGram Distributing says the restructuring will not affect us. However, when a company goes through a consolidation, there are bound to be changes. But if there are any, I believe they will be nominal.

"I don't see any changes in PolyGram Distributing's field operation. If anything, I believe it will add some field people. Its sales depart-

ment will continue to offer us the same services.

"As for RSO itself, not only does everything remain the same, but we're now expanding.

"We're (Coury and Stigwood) following the growth plan that we made at the formation of RSO Records."

Seek Arts Aid In California Schools

NEW YORK—Petitions are expected to be mailed this week to place a "Better Schools" initiative on the ballot in California this November that would require that primary and secondary schools teach a minimum of fine arts education, including music, each week.

The initiative, which has the support of various music organizations including the American Music Conference, is seen as an approach to capturing more dollars for fine arts education said to have been lost through Proposition 13's reduction of taxes.

But, according to the American Music Conference, support of the initiative by out-of-state music interests is necessary since "this mandate

Coury explains that RSO moved into the black-music arena through a distribution deal with Curtom Records. "That was part of the growth plan." And now, not only will the label acquire other companies but it has a large release schedule with several soundtracks upcoming.

is precedent setting. The California Better Schools Initiative will have repercussions throughout the U.S. Other states will be sure to note this trend and, perhaps, with the concerted effort of the music/arts community, they will implement similar mandates."

In order to gain presence on the November ballot, the initiative must have 350,641 signatures on the petitions, the language of which was approved by the California attorney general last week.

The cost of seeing an initiative through to the general election apparently runs high, since supporters are seeking between \$2.5 to \$3 million in campaign funds.

New Companies

New Way Productions established by manager/publicist Danny Suger and client Ray Manzarek, former Doors' keyboardist, who is the firm's music director and producer. First clients are new wave bands X and the Zippers. Address: 140 S. Roxbury Dr., Beverly Hills 90212. (213) 858-6093.

John Parker Promotion & Marketing launched by John Parker, formerly with Ariola and RCA Records. Nancy Sparks joins the firm as promotion director. Address: 6445 Powers Ferry Road, Atlanta 30339. (404) 953-0077.

Red Tennessees Music set up by songwriter/comedian Dale Gonyea and manager Lynette Cimini, in affiliation with BMI. Address: 816 N. La Cienega Blvd., Los Angeles 90069. (213) 657-4521.

Aralos International Records formed by president Michael H. Eiley. Vice president of sales and marketing is Ken L. Ayoub, previously with RCA Ltd. Address: 5624

Ranchito Ave., Van Nuys, Calif. 91401. (213) 988-4797.

Main Street Management set up by Dan Mingori and George Ward to provide representation, public relations and publishing services to new talent. Address: 259 S. Roxbury Dr., Beverly Hills 90212.

Noww Music Productions, Inc. established by Nova Lumber president Earl Noble. Formerly with Mushroom Records Canada. Jay Gold will be the new firm's operations manager. Address: 200 Bridge St., North Vancouver, B.C., Canada.

Sugarloaf Records set up by Guilherme Brazelton for the American release of Brazilian product. First signing is San Francisco based group, Viva Brasil. Address: 750 Las Gallinas Ave., San Rafael, Calif. 94903. (415) 479-8211.

Leona Williams Enterprises, formed by country music artist

Leona Williams to operate her road show, staff and business enterprises. Address: P.O. Box 454, Palo Cedro, Calif. 96073. (916) 547-4096.

TIA Productions, Inc. set up by producer/songwriter Anthony R. Harris to produce music scores for motion pictures and tv movies. Address: 942 N. Orlando, Los Angeles 90069. (213) 656-6060.

Right Note Records, a funk/disco label, and the Captain's Music, a division of publisher/manager/promoter Jimerson Enterprises by Benjamin Jimerson. Address: 433 N. Cleveland, Memphis 38104. (901) 278-4401.

Get Rich/Stay Rich Music Publishing formed by David Nelson Askew as subsidiary of the D.N.A. Organization. Address: P.O. Box 26, New York.

Styx T-Shirts

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had hired private investigators to issue subpoenas and identify more than 20 youths who were caught selling alleged bootleg merchandise.

This latter approach enables the plaintiffs to compel the street vendors to testify against the manufacturers of the illegally produced goods. Since both are in violation of federal and state laws prohibiting trademark infringement, both face legal penalties.

In the case of Styx, it is more difficult to trace the origin of the bootleg goods since they were manufactured in Pakistan.

"We accomplished our result," says Styx attorney Jules Zalon. "It was a limited action. There were no arrests. We were interested in just seizing the goods."

Action against Plymouth Mills and more than a dozen other defendants continues in Brooklyn's federal court in the suit brought by Winterland, which represents Fleetwood Mac, the Grateful Dead, the Rolling Stones and Ted Nugent, among others.

Lifelines Births

Son to Sarah and Glen Campbell in Los Angeles Feb. 5. Father is singer-guitarist.

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Daughter, LaVonne Frances, to Carolyn and Jheryl Busby Feb. 16 in Los Angeles. Father is national r&b promotion director for Casablanca Records.

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Daughter, Sally, to Janny and Bill Grein in Tulsa last month. Father is with Sparrow Records.

Marriages

Bobby Smith of the Spinners to Lorraine White in Toledo Jan. 22.

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Dean Sciarra, talent manager, to Marian Perkins, director of East Coast tour publicity for Warner Bros. Records, in New York Feb. 1.

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Ken Nomura, Alfa Music producer, to Yuko Ohmari of JASRAC in Tokyo March 1.

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Akira Fuse, popular singer, to Olivia Hussey, actress, Feb. 18 in Miami Beach.

Deaths

Bon Scott, 30, singer with the AC-DC rock group, in London Feb. 19. A Scot, he became prominent in 1976. He also was a successful songwriter. An autopsy is scheduled.

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Jerry Fielding, 57, composer, arranger and instrumentalist who for many years worked in motion pictures and television, in Toronto Feb. 17 of a heart attack. He served as musical director for Jack Jones, Mitzi Gaynor and others and is survived by his widow, Camille, and four children.

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Gale Robbins, 55, who sang with several name bands in the Chicago area before moving to California in the early 1940s, of cancer Feb. 18 in Tarzana, Calif. She appeared in numerous motion pictures, made records and for a time was active in television on the West Coast. She is survived by her mother and two daughters.

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Alex Bartha, 84, a big name bandleader in the 1930s, at Atlantic City's Medical Center Feb. 12. He is survived by a daughter and stepson.

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David J. Finn, 82, former recording manager for RCA Victor, in Hadonfield, N.J., Feb. 10. He launched the budget-priced Camden label for RCA in 1953 and retired in 1969.

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Carl Berkowitz, 19, son of Norman Berkowitz, account executive in Billboard's New York office, in an ice skating accident Feb. 16 in Massapequa, N.Y. Other survivors include his mother, Jean, and two brothers, Steven and Michael.

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Nathan McCalla, 50, at one time with Promo Records, a New Jersey cutouts wholesaler, Feb. 7 in Miami. He left the industry several years ago.

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Dr. Daniel E. Noble, who helped pioneer modern two-way FM radio communications and was a former vice chairman and director emeritus of Motorola, Inc., in Scottsdale, Ariz., Feb. 16. He is survived by his widow, Mary; a daughter and three sons.

Rain In So. Calif.

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\$1,000 over the usual amount of purchases for such a period.

"Sales are down from last year but it's not due to the rain," says Vince Brewer, assistant manager in Musicland's San Bernardino outlet. The mountains ringing the city have been afflicted by sliding mud.

"It's due to the industry just not doing well," he continues.

In Orange County, at a Santa Ana Music Plus store, assistant manager Angie Hanson says the weekend of George Washington's birthday was hectic. "But our other days were not so busy, so that brought our average down," she says.

A spokesman for a Big Ben's store in Encino, another afflicted area, says of Washington's birthday weekend, "that Sunday the store was packed."

The Tower store representatives believe the fact they were having sales on merchandise brought more people in than might have normally ventured out on a rainy day. Also, all those who did well credited the three-day Washington birthday weekend and the fact patrons did not want their holiday to be a complete washout.

Even Peggy DeCaprio, whose Pacific Palisades store suffered the most of those surveyed, says the Saturday of that weekend was good. For an explanation, she quips, "People get cabin fever. They need new music. It's either that or they get a divorce."

Arrangers

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grouping. "Arrangers are not employees but independent contractors who work for a fee," he says in his letter to Mary Lou Burg, Tribunal Chairman.

"The act of arranging music is identical to the act of composing except that the arranger composes music based on the music of others... an arranger often takes an 'ugly duckling' and turns it into a lovely swan."

Manson also argues that arrangers provide the "hooks" which sell records in today's market and that without their creative input, "a piece of music... might remain entrapped in the cocoon of a lead sheet or demo record for the rest of its life."

Manson's group wants arrangers to be cut in on the record companies' share of royalties and wants a separate mechanical royalty to be paid the arranger on each record sold which includes his work.

The Tribunal is soliciting reply comments from the Recording Industry Assn. of America, the National Music Publishers Assn. and the American Guild of Authors and Composers. Other interested parties are invited to comment on Manson's proposals. All reply comments are due at the Tribunal by March 3.

Camelot Saga Told

NEW YORK—"The King Arthur Soundbook" is the latest in Caedmon Records' series of dramatizations for disk and tape. The Camelot saga is told in four separate recordings which are available as a complete set or individually.

Prewitt Rose Moves

NEW YORK—Prewitt Rose Record Promotion/Production has moved from Gulf Breeze, Fla. to Dallas. Address: P.O. Box 29342, Dallas, Tex. 75229.

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