

Ruff Forms Label

HOLLYWOOD — Ray Ruff, who resigned from Happy Tiger Records last month to work on his Biblical rock record "Truth of Truths," has formed his own label, Lone Star Records, at 6430 Sunset Boulevard, Hollywood.

Through he is looking for independently produced masters, Ruff will at first sign lead singers and groups from the "Truth of Truths" cast. Among them is Tascosa, a group whose initial single for Lone Star will be an original titled "Little Latin Loop De Lu."

Miles 'Live' On LP, Tour

CHICAGO — With the release of a new double LP, "Buddy Miles . . . Live", the Mercury artists is in the process of re-forming his group for a national tour beginning in October.

Confirmed dates already have been set in Boston, New York, Chicago, Toronto, St. Paul, Los Angeles and Washington, D.C. Several of the bookings, arranged through Sol Saffian's American Talent International (ATI), are campus dates while others are major arena promotions.

Miles, originally considered an underground act, has gained ever-widening audiences which he attributes partially to his in-person appeal and in part to the success of his recordings. He was, for example, fairly unique during the past year by virtue of simultaneous representation on the pop, soul and jazz charts.

Following his European tour last Spring, Miles spent the first half of this Summer on an extended tour of 35 cities during which he played to an estimated audience of over a half million. In three representative dates—The Cotton Bowl with Three Dog Night, The L. A. Forum with Leon Russell and Pittsburgh's Three Rivers Stadium, again with Three Dog Night—paid attendance passed 80,000.

The new double LP will be the object of concentrated promotion in many areas to take advantage of Miles' growing appeal and crossover between markets.

Bell Signs Canada's Doctor Music Band

NEW YORK — Bell has signed Canadian group Doctor Music to an exclusive, long term recording contract, announced label vp and general manager, Irv Biegel. The deal marked the end of bidding by several U.S. companies for an act which has gained much prominence in Canada through appearances on Anne Murray TV specials.

The 16-piece group features Steve Kennedy, Ken Marco and Wayne Stone (formerly of Motherlode), Doug Riley, Don Thompson, Diane Brooks and Terry Black.

Bell has rush-released the first single under the new deal, "One More Mountain" written by Neil Sedaka and produced by Doug Riley and Terry Browne, in collaboration with Love Productions.

Chad Everett's First For Marina

HOLLYWOOD — Recording songsmith Nino Tempo will produce actor Chad Everett's first sides for Marina, according to label prexy Harold Berkman. The star of CBS-TV's "Medical Center," previously unrecorded, will be doctoring his first sessions here within the next ten days with a single due date in October. Released through MGM Records, roster of Marina talent now includes Everett, Nino and April, Dallas and Johnny Cymbal and Peggy Clinger. Deal was set by Berkman and Mark Turk, representing Everett through the William Morris Agency.



TALENT LINE—Singer-songwriter Jack Schechtman, who has performed extensively in the U.S. and Canada, has signed a recording pact with Columbia Records. Schechtman (far right) is pictured here with (l to r): Columbia East Coast director of contemporary music Allan Strahl, Schechtman's managers Marvin Pearl and David Yager, and Columbia Records president Clive Davis.

Prophesy Sets Push On Charlie Starr

HOLLYWOOD — Prophesy Records' topper Bobby Roberts, encouraged by initial sales response to Charlie Starr's debut package, "Tough & Tender," is planning to implement a specially tailored "total concept" campaign in the artist's behalf. He is ordering a number of advertising and merchandising aids, including in-store counter displays, window pieces, ad mats and radio spots. In each case, the LP and Starr's concert dates will be cross-plugged for maximum effectiveness. A number of time buys and trade ads are also planned.

The blind guitarist and singer is currently winding up a series of concerts dates with Blood, Sweat and Tears, and has been signed on as

special guest star for the upcoming Moody Blues national tour kicking off Sept. 25 at the Seattle Coliseum.

Other dates in that tour are the Memorial Auditorium in Portland (9/26), the L. A. Forum (9/28), and the Vancouver Coliseum (9/29). In October Starr will appear at Oakland-Alameda Coliseum (10/1), Arizona Coliseum in Phoenix (10/2), Dallas Memorial Auditorium (10/3), Midstate Arena, Memphis (10/5) Municipal Auditorium, New Orleans (10/6), Kiel Auditorium, St. Louis, (10/7), Cobo Arena, Detroit (10/8) and in Minneapolis (10/9).

Cole's Widow Writes Bio

NEW YORK — "Nat Cole—An Intimate Biography" has been published by William Morrow & Co. of New York (\$5.95). Maria Cole, widow of the singer who died in 1965, wrote the book in association with Louie Robinson. A photo section and discography are included.

2 MGM Goldies

NEW YORK — The Recording Industry Association of America (RIAA) has certified the Donny Osmond MGM single of "Sweet And Innocent" and the Lionel single of "Signs" by the Five Man Electrical Band as one-million sellers.

Donny Osmond is the youngest member of the famous Osmond family who now have a hit single "Yo-Yo" on the charts. Lionel Records is one of the labels distributed by MGM Records.

Smith & Hoch Set Prod-Mgmt Firm

HOLLYWOOD — Dallas Smith and Abe Hoch have teamed to form Renaissance Entertainment Corp., a production-management firm offering "complete service" to their artists in the record industry. Among those artists are the Five Man Electrical Band, Canadian rock group on MGM's Lionel label; Timber, on Elektra, and David Ackles, also on Elektra. Smith and Hoch will produce and manage the first two; Ackles is being produced by Bernie Taupin in England.

With both sales and promotion experience behind them, Smith and Hoch will also handle Prairie Madness, a Columbia group produced by Joel Sill, as well as Bobby Vee, on UA. Smith will produce Vee.

The two partners will headquarter in Hollywood at 1407 North La Brea Avenue. Their first record, released under the aegis of the new company, is "Signs," the top-ten seller by the Five Man Electrical Band.



SMILING FACES, ALL THE TIME—Celebrities at A&M's party in honor of Quincy Jones, to celebrate the release of his new album "Smackwater Jack" and his Greek Theatre date last week (from l to r) are: Clarence Williams III, Gloria Foster, Richard Roundtree (Shaft), Sarah Vaughn, and Greg Morris.

Free Flow Sets Town Hall Shows

NEW YORK — Free Flow Productions and George Brown have announced a series of concerts to be held at New York's Town Hall beginning Saturday, Sept. 18. Free Flow is a subsidiary of Directions Unlimited headed by Michael Brovsky and George Brown.

"The purpose of the series," says Brovsky, "is to bring good music to New York in an intimate, acoustically good, and comfortable auditorium on a weekly basis." Tickets for all shows will be scaled at \$3.00 and \$4.00, and will be offered in blocks when necessary.

The first concert of the series will feature McKendree Spring and Jim Dawson. Other acts that have been announced include The New York Rock Ensemble and David Bromberg (Sept. 25), Linda Ronstadt, (30), Captain Beefhart, (Oct. 7); and The Flying Burrito Brothers on Nov. 27. Tentative bookings include Brewer & Shipley, Steve Miller and Johnny Rivers.

Tiny Tim Opens Record Co., Pub

NASHVILLE — Tiny Tim has formed a label, Tiny Tim Records, and a publishing company, Vic-Tim Publishing. The artist, who previously recorded for Reprise Records, is launching the company with a single, "(Why Did They Have to Die So Young) A Tribute to Hendrix-Joplin-Morrison." Other artists will be joining the label's talent roster at a later date. Brite-Star Promotions of Nashville and Tex Clark are handling promotion.

McGarity Dies

NEW YORK — Vet jazz trombonist Lou McGarity, died in Alexandria, Va. on Sat., Aug. 28. The performer had performed with the World's Greatest Jazz Band in recent years. A memorial service will be held this Sunday (12) at St. Peter's Lutheran Church in New York.

Appearances Spark Rooster LP Sales

NEW YORK — Elektra recording artists Atomic Rooster, whose first album "Death Walk Behind You" is currently #78 on the Cash Box LP charts, are racking up album sales in the course of their thirty city American tour, according to vp in charge of sales for the label, Mel Posner.

"We've been experiencing tremendous in-store response immediately following the group's performances, particularly in rural districts. The word of mouth on the group has been incredible, and they've become a really hot act without any substantial AM airplay," Posner explained. The tour, which continues through early October, contains stops in a number of major cities, including New York, Los Angeles, Cincinnati, and Seattle.

The group is coming off of two consecutive singles in England, the most recent of which, "Devil's Answer" has just been released by Elektra in this country. The British quartet is composed of leader and keyboarder Vincent Crane (late of The Crazy World Of Arthur Brown, for whom he wrote the multi million seller "Fire"), lead singer Pete French, guitarist Steve Bolton, and drummer Rick Parnell. The group's second album, "In Hearing Of Atomic Rooster" will be released by Elektra in late October.

Handleman Dividend

DETROIT — The board of directors of Handleman Co. has announced the regular quarterly dividend of \$.17 per share of common stock, payable on Oct. 4 to stockholders of record at the close of business on Sept. 17.