

3 Degrees Hot New Act

NEW YORK — There's nothing wrong with night club business that more bills like the current Copa coupling of the Three Degrees with the top-starred Pat Cooper couldn't cure.

In one of the best-balanced, most entertaining nitery shows within memory, Roulette Records' three thrushes proved superior to most singing groups by more than a few degrees. In fact, if it is true that Stevie Wonder has called them the best female singing act around, he will get no argument here. The girls ("I'm Valerie . . . She's Fayette . . . This is Sheila"), although relative newcomers, are not only superb showwomen but expert musicians with an unusually skilled harmonic sense and a flair not only for "now" tunes but standards as well.

The Three Degrees' potential is enormous. Working with great zest and personality, the trio seems particularly sparked by their saucy little redhead (Valerie? Before long no one should have to ask) who displays a deft comedic sense. It is she who does the long, spoken introduction to their hit record of "Maybe"—"Ya know, girls . . . I told the nicest guy in the world to get lost . . . I been as evil as a wet hen ever since." But all the girls are attractive and engaging, with distinct personalities of their own. At work they cover the whole room, not merely by turning their heads but by moving away from one another to far corners, each giving a complete, snappy, solo performance for the nearby tables, all the while somehow retaining their togetherness.

Versatile, Vast Appeal

In versatility and vast, cheerful appeal one can best compare them to the Andrews Sisters, whom they mimicked gently in a charming medley of gal group songs including "Don't Sit Under the Apple Tree," "Mr. Sandman" and "Stop, In the Name of Love." They were especially amusing on the latter Supremes spoof, each one seemingly choreographed to upstage the others by moving around and in front of them, wailing and flailing.

Outstanding, too, was their funny emoting and emitting on "Big Spender," which suggested they also are probably very good actresses; and a lovely "Ebb Tide," on which

their misty effect was heightened by their own simulation of gull sounds. Their latest single, "I Do Take You," was more straightforward pop vending, but nonetheless listenable. This reviewer regretted only that they omitted their dazzling, roll-and-rock version of "Stardust" found on their "Maybe" LP. Maybe next time, when they headline at the Copa.

The Three Degrees can be called slick, but only if the connotation is a positive one, if it means polished and professional. It is a happy act, and the audience gets the message.

Pat Cooper, United Artists comedian, sustains the euphoric mood. A master monologist who almost atones for the contemporary superabundance of styleless gag reciters in his brotherhood, Cooper is a consistent delight, even when some of his Italian-American humor is familiar from past performances. —Doug McClelland.

Bedno-Wright Forms LP Promo Division

CHICAGO — Bedno-Wright Associates, independent promotion firm, has expanded its services to the industry with a new division devoted to LP promotion and merchandising.

Board Meeting On Coast



Invictus' Chairmen of the Board visited Record World's Coast offices to discuss their new LP, "Chairmen of the Board/In Session." From left: Thomas Chapman, road manager; Record World's Charlene Groman; Harrison Kennedy; General Norman Johnson; and Danny Woods. Eddie Custis, group's fourth member, was not present for the photo.

Commissioner Johnson Submits To Q&A Session at Radio Meet

LOS ANGELES — Commissioner Nicholas Johnson of the Federal Communications Commission will submit to a full-scale question-and-answer period following his opening session address at the Fifth Annual Radio Program Conference here Nov. 20-22 at the Century Plaza Hotel.

Johnson will address an audience of some 1,000 broadcast, recording and advertising industry executives Friday morning (20) on the subject, "The Social Impact and Opportunity of Radio."

His appearance is considered particularly timely in light of recent attacks on the "brainwashing" lyric content of contemporary music by Vice President Agnew, which drew a prompt rebuttal from the FCC

official.

Additionally, a resource panel comprising eight authorities will be present on Nov. 21 for "The Rocky Road of Rockless Radio," one of four encounter sessions set to run simultaneously during the Conference.

Joining Moderator Mark Blinoff, Assistant Program Director, KMPC-Los Angeles, are:

Alan Newman, Vice President-programming, KSFO-San Francisco; Mike Curb, president MGM Records; Program Directors Frank Pollack, SXIV-Phoenix; Robert Moomery, WIND-Chicago; Jerry Harms, KABL-San Francisco; Pat Whitley, WWDC-Washington, D.S.; Dave Klahr, WFIL-FM-Philadelphia; and air personality Gary Owens, KMPC-Los Angeles.

UA Action on Paxton

NEW YORK—United Artists Music Group is currently enjoying an unusually high level of interest and activity on Tom Paxton's "Whose Garden Was This," reports Murray Deutch, Exec Vice President and General Manager of the company.

Deutch also advises that the Big 3, who are sheet music sales agents for all of the firm's songs, report a heavy demand for sheet music copies of this song from all over the country.

Deutch points out that the theme of "Whose Garden Was This" is ecology, probably the number one topic of conversation and concern today. As a result, there has been an increased amount of recording on

this timely tune; in particular, an RCA recording by John Denver has just been released as a single culled from his latest album of the same name, and Elektra also has made available a single by Paxton that was originally released in an album by the composer.

Deutch added that Bobby Vinton has just recorded the song for Epic and a number of other important artists are scheduled to wax it within the next few weeks.

Further impetus has been given "Whose Garden Was This" via its performance on a number of television variety shows.

Audio Fi Issues Jimi Hendrix Single

Audio Fidelity has released a single by Jimi Hendrix entitled "No Such Animal."

The track was recorded in 1966 when Hendrix was playing clubs in Greenwich Village as Jimmy James & the Esquires. The single is instrumental with an unmistakable Hendrix lead guitar throughout.

Other Tracks Expected

It was as Jimmy James that Hendrix was discovered by former Animal Chas Chandler and brought to England. The master was purchased from RSVP's Jerry Simon. Ten other Hendrix tracks from the same era are also expected on another label.

Agnew Album On Cadet/Concept

NEW YORK — Arnie Orleans, Marketing Vice President of Chess Records, announces that he will shortly release a new comedy album on Cadet/Concept, "Spiro T. Agnew is a Riot," featuring Stanley Myron Handelman as Agnew.

The LP was conceived and produced by Earl Doud, whose "First Family," "Welcome To The L.B.J. Ranch" and "Lyndon Johnson's Lonely Hearts Club Band" established him as a leader in the field of concept comedy. The LP's cover was done by L.A. Free Press artist Ron Cobb. Included in the cast are Vincent Price, Rich Little, Pat McCormick, Jo Ann Pflug and Doud himself in key roles.