



NEW YORK

Cutting The King

You should know by now that Elvis returned to Memphis to cut an album ("Elvis In Memphis," released last week by RCA) and that he's riding his third smash single in a row, "In The Ghetto." In short, Elvis is hot.

Since the Elvis resurgence began with his TV special and the "If I Can Dream" single, a complimentary phenomena has also been happening: an increase in the revival of old Elvis tunes. And not all by straight rock groups or pop singers, but by several contemporary artists as well. Dillard & Clark's "Don't Be Cruel" is one that comes readily to mind, but we've also seen "Heartbreak Hotel" and "Mean Woman Blues" on disk in recent months. The Jeff Beck Group has been using an Elvis medley in their live act and it may crop up on their forthcoming Epic album. To top it off, Albert King has cut an entire LP of Elvis tunes, titled "King Does The King's Thing."

What's it all mean? We don't know. Maybe rock & roll is coming back. NRBQ thinks so.

IN SOUNDS: No messing around for Bill Graham. He's rebooked the Who for four shows Thurs. and Fri. (Sat. will be dark) after their fiery show several weeks ago. Chuck Berry and Albert King are also on the bill. You can still catch the Everly Brothers at the Bitter End. Delaney & Bonnie in a two-day gig (2,3) at the

Scene. Townes Van Zandt plays the club June 4-8. Tim Hardin has one more weekend at the Au Go Go. The Amboy Dukes and John Braden at Ungano's for the entire week. Louis Abolafia, Love candidate for Mayor,



Toni Wine

will be campaigning at the club on Sat. and Sun. Sea Train, originally skedded to play the club, has had more personnel changes and is back in the woodshed.

New Yorker's will be able to see Jose Feliciano for the first time in two years when he headlines the two-day Schaefer Latin American Music Festival at Randall's Island on July 26,27.

Steve Cropper to cut Janis in Memphis? Looks likely. Jerry Ragavoy, vet pop & R&B producer, cutting new Paul Butterfield album in New York.

Marilyn McCoo and Billy Davis of the 5th Dimension to wed in July. Capitol singer/writer Bert Sommer



Billy & Marilyn



Delaney & Bonnie

signed to play Woolf, one of the leads in "Hair."

Top session singer, top commercial singer and hit songwriter. Quite an accomplishment for a girl who's just turning 20, oops, promised not to give her age, but she is young. One of a handful of girls who would be more than welcome at every recording session in New York (had she but time), Toni Wine is now riding to the crest of success with "Black Pearl," the Sonny Charles/Checkmates hit which she

co-wrote with Phil Spector and Irwin Levine. Three years ago on her birthday (June 4), Toni's "Groovy Kind Of Love" (co-authored with Carol Bayer) hit the top slot on the singles charts. "Black Pearl" hasn't kept to the timetable, but what's a week or two. If you haven't guessed, Toni is our East Coast Girl of the Week.

Songwriter Bob Stone, on the charts with the current "We Can't Go On This Way" single by the Unchained Minds and Betty Everett's "I Can't Say No To You," busy writing the next Shadow Mann single.

Went to a live recording session for Moms Mabley yesterday and flipped

for her new single, "Abraham, Mart & John." Indie producer Barry Olander has a hit. Glad to see Johnny Tillotson back on the hit track with "Tears On My Pillow." Catch Ma Hopkin on the Tonight Show Fri.

Al Wilson to cut his next LP. Memphis with Chips Moman. John Rivers will supervise. Channel presents a two-hour show based on the "1969 New Orleans Jazz Festival" Sunday (8) at 8:00 pm. Him, He & N open at the St. Regis Maisonette Monday (2).

Stevie Wonder at the Apollo th Thurs. with Peaches and Herb, and others. Trini Lopez opens at the Waldorf's Empire Room on June 4.

Enzo Stuarti into the Persian room on June 4.

Ex-Candymen bass player Bill Gilmore has joined the Classics IV to fill in for Wally Eaton, injured in an auto accident recently. Lead singer Denny Yost, also in the accident, is back to work with the group. Eaton is expected to return in six months.

Stax/Volt prexy Jim Stewart and Detroit PR man Al Abrams receive the "Award Of Merit" from the Department of Labor for their work in the "Stay In School" Campaign.

Mike Kelly from Roulette stopped to tell us that the firm was a beehive of activity, buzzing with "Quick Brown Fox"; a happening instrumental version of "Oh Happy Day" by Billy Mitchell Group (Calla) and the new Tommy James, "Crystal Blue Persuasion."

Next Peter Sarstedt single on World Pacific will be "Frozen Orange Juice." It's a song that requires a lot of concentration.

HOLLYWOOD

Sorghum And Acid

For those who suggest that poet-performer-composer Rod McKuen is the rock generation's Edgar Guest, we give you Richard Christensen, Capitol Record's newest un-discovery. Next to Christensen, McKuen reads like Wylan Hugh Auden, Billy Shakespeare, Bobby Browning and Tommy Stearns Eliot.

A few years back Christensen came within 30,000 votes of representing the state of Washington as its next junior senator. He also lost out in the subsequent gubernatorial primary. Since, he has been involved in the worthy effort of teenage drug and narcotic rehabilitation. Along with Keith Eichner, he formed an organization known as "Teedrunar." Utilizing the "game" techniques of Synanon, the group began with two members — now numbers seventy.

The album was created, according to an advance press release, with the thought of giving "quality listening and entertainment... intended to share the young lives that Christensen has known well, with the whole world." Christensen says, "It's funny, we're becoming afraid of ourselves and many of us don't even know who that is. Everybody is saying that you and I are a Zip, a Social Security, an Area Code or an address, and if you don't believe it, just ask... a computer. I sure wish we could bring people back into style again."

Sugar powdered prose is, at best, an unwieldy weapon with which to

fight drug addiction. His initial LP, which ships next week, deals morbidly and mawkishly with the subjects of death and self destruction — with teenagers like "Shannon Girl" (who befriended "speed" and "its close companion — tragedy") or "My Terry Girl" ("a crystal drop of dawn dew gone away now"). Recited to the tune of Ravel's "Pavanne," (the orchestra-



Richard Christensen



Melodie Johnson



Ironing Board Sam

tions by John Tartaglia are, incidentally, rather magnificent) we are told that "My Terry Girl" is planned as a single and will probably be performed by Christensen on the Ed Sullivan show. So quite possibly what is not our cup of tea may turn out to be one of the big big cuts and LP's of '69. Christensen undoubtedly is sincere. Our minority opinion is that the subject requires a more articulate, less froshomoric observer. Album is titled "Muve Unlimited." For us, it doesn't. And it isn't.

MEMORABLE MELODIE — Our "West Coast Girl of the Week" is one of the more marketable models in L.A., now branching out as a featured flick performer with a starring role in A.I.P.'s "Lisa" which starts shooting in August. She'll also be seen in Warner Bros. "Run Rabbit" and Norman Jewison's soon to be released "Gaily Gaily," with music by Hank Mancini. She goes by the name of Melodie Johnson. Husband is generally regarded as one of the top three indie record producers on the coast — has cut what could be the single record of

the year. For more on Bones Howe read this week's Producer's Profile.

Roy Clark, now in Dot Records' orbit via "Yesterday When I Was Young," penned by Charles Aznavour and Bert Kretzner, has been signed for a quartet of network guestings: Hollywood Palace, Jim Nabors and two Glen Campbell shows. Gene Russell's first for RDL Records is "Summer Will End," a Jim Webb comp. New label is headed by Richard D. Lopez. Most intriguing new

record and instrumentalist is Iron Board Sam who sings and plays electric ironing board (a self-styled contraction including old auto part and organ keys). Record titled "N Support" (distributed by Al Chaman) is already top 40 at KGFJ.

Most distressing report of the week is the news that Walt Disney Music Larry Graburn will be vacating post as ad agent for the diskery a pub firm, moving north to Calgary Alberta, Canada. He'll be missed.

Reprise' Nancy Sinatra won't be following in her dad's footsteps, we're told. Instead of debuting her night act at Caesar's Palace (as previously announced), she'll be headlining at International Hotel in Vegas, following Barbra Streisand and Elvis Presli. Nancy is set to headline for the weeks beginning Aug. 28th.

The Olympics (along with Wolfm Jack) opened the all new Bonai Hotel on the Vegas Strip on May 28.

OVERHEARD — At Chasen's Monday singer-comedian Geo Burns, celebrating Wayne Newton's 21st anniversary in show biz, recalled that many years ago he first heard Newton at the Fremont Hotel in Las Vegas. "I stood up and announced to the audience that someday you would be a major star in our industry. You remember that, don't you, Wayne?" Wayne nodded. "You're a g... liar," giped George. "I said no such thing." Jim Pewter, whose oldies show is heard on Armed Forces Radio, pacted by R.C.A. Victor. First release titled "Father Kline" b/w "Sunday Morning Light." Actor/singer Richard Williams signed to Gram

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CHICAGO

In the very pleasant surroundings of the Sheraton Chicago Hotel's Crystal Room, the local trade was given a briefing on LOVE, the new "progressive rock programming" concept introduced by ABC-radio, FM special products group. The WLS-FM (Chicago) hosted cocktail bash preceding (and following!) the actual LOVE presentation, was without a doubt one of the most successful events of the year attracting just about every promotion rep in town — not to mention ad agency people, various manufacturers representatives, etc.! An explanation of

the format was provided in short talks by WLS' general manager Gene Taylor and ABC's Hal Neal Jr., Allen Shaw and George Yabraes, co-developers of the LOVE format and Howard Smith, assistant publisher of The Village Voice, who came in from New York for the affair. Brother John, LOVE's anchor man, was with us via tape. Must add that WLS-FM's Harvey Wittenberg was quite the host!

Sixteen year old performer Ginny Tiu is celebrating her tenth year in show business with two big events — the release of her new single "Billy Sunshine" (Amaret) and a TV special, June 14, sponsored by the McLennon

Pen Co. and produced by Jack Mulqueen! Josh White Jr. is due in this week for some p.a. work here and in Milwaukee with Transamerica's

Wayne Juhlin. Artist's new single is "Here I Am" (UA) from his latest LP "One Step Further." Summit's Bud Stebbins tops his plug list with the newly released "Totie Fields Live" LP (Mainstream). Blue Thumb album "Truckin With Albert Collins", "For His Namesake" by The Amboy Dukes (Mainstream), "We" by The Fun & Games (Uni) and The Turtles' latest "You Don't Have To Walk In The Rain" (White Whale). Wayne Cochran & The C. C. Riders are scheduled

for the College Inn 6/12-16, to be followed by O. C. Smith 6/17-30.

Paulsen and Jennifer make up the new Mister Kelly's bill opening 6/2. Metro's local promo rep Chuck Livingston has been on the move with releases "Brown Arms In Houston" Orpheus (MGM), The Cowbills' "Prophecy, etc." (MGM) and "My S timental Friend" by Herman's Hermits (MGM). Thee Prophets who've just completed their first album for Kapp produced by Carl Nafede, Lew Douglas and Dan Bell embark on a lengthy p.a. tour this summer. Group's current single "Some Kind A Wonderful"