

East Coastings/Points West

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first album since signing with Rolling Stones Records is tentatively set for a September release, while a single, featuring a Tosh/Mick Jagger duet, should be out at the end of August. . . . One last Tosh/Stones note: Following Tosh's final Starwood performance, **Rod Stewart's** manager invited a dozen or so friends over to his place in Hollywood for an after-concert party. Thinking the Stones were there, hundreds of fans showed up and kept



ALESSI MEETS GIBB — A&M recording duo Alessi recently met Andy Gibb backstage during the first leg of his American tour. Alessi is scheduled to serve as the supporting group on the second leg of Gibb's tour beginning in Oakland on July 31. Pictured (l-r) are: Bobby Alessi; Gibb; and Billy Alessi.

knocking on the door asking if the Rolling Stones were inside. One of the Stones' publicists told Stewart's manager, "You should have had Rod answer the door and say, 'I'm sorry, but Mick's not here.'" **PLUGGED IN** — Cash Box staffer **Joey Berlin** journeyed up to Oakland July 23 for **Bill Graham's** Day On The Green III and reports that the event was a rousing success. He came back particularly impressed with Atlantic's dynamic rock 'n' roll powerhouse, **AC/DC** and especially group leaders **Angus Young** and **Bon Scott**. Following a strong set which opened the show at the ungodly hour of 10:30 a.m., backstage Angus was the personification of rock energy in the extreme. "Money is secondary with us," Angus insisted. "We want blood. It's like the lions and the Christians out there, but I love it!" . . . A recent benefit which was entirely up front in its intentions was the Hollywood Squares All-Star Celebrity soccer game in which the team played the Penny Lane Centerfolds (formerly the Penthouse Pets) squad. **Lee Oskar**, lead harmonica player for **War**, acted as celebrity coach for the Centerfolds, while **Ike Turner** filled in a last minute spot in the Hollywood Squares team. The charity of the day was Childrens Hospital of Orange County. And Far Out Productions' **Jerry Goldstein** volunteered his services as a sub for the Hollywood Squares club. The match took place at half-time during the regularly scheduled game between the California Surfs and Oakland Stompers pro soccer teams. . . . **Willie Aames**, one star of ABC-TV's "Eight Is Enough," has signed with manager **Joel Cohen** of Kudo II Management and currently is seeking a recording contract with a major label. . . . **Tavares** will go on a major tour in August beginning Aug. 1 in Hampton Beach, N.J., continuing through nine cities, ending at Magic Mountain in CA with a four-night stand Aug. 24-27.

SCANDALS IN L.A. — No, this isn't a reference to the "white collar crime" inquiry currently being conducted by the L.A. County District Attorney's office. It's the name of a new Las Vegas-style nightclub which will open here August 15. The aim of "Scandals" is to attract top name superstar showroom acts that normally stick to the big rooms in Las Vegas or Lake Tahoe. **Peggy Lee** will open the \$2½ million complex with a 9 p.m. dinner show and 11 p.m. supper show. In addition to its 400-seat showroom, Scandals will have a discotheque, which will accommodate 600 dancers, a restaurant and several bars. . . . More than 100 people showed up at the Woodland Hills home of **Phil Willen** when he hosted a barbeque in honor of Pickwick International's rack sales division. The party was attended by Pickwick rack people as well as staffs from a number of labels represented by Phil Willen Marketing. Butterfly Records brought mime **Eg Manan** to perform songs from **Bob McGilpin's** new album. Party-goers munched on beef shish-ka-bob, beef stroganoff and roast corn among other dishes. . . . **Leo Sayer** has added guitarist **Earl Slick** and bassist **Ken Altman** to his touring band. . . . Composer **Robert Ragland** will score two episode's of CBS-TV's "Wonder Woman."

SHORT TAKES — Details of a contract may not be fully settled yet, but **Bill Graham** is now handling management of **Van Morrison**. Some of Graham's people were down from San Francisco last week drawing up a contract with Warner Bros. Records, Morrison's label. Morrison's new album, "Wavelength," after several delays is said to be on target for September release. . . . **The Captain & Tennille** have signed a multi-engagement contract with the Las Vegas MGM Grand Hotel. The duo reutrs to the Grand Dec. 26 for a 16-day stint. . . . RCA's **Cleo Laine** will be on a U.S. tour beginning Aug. 3 running through Oct. 7. . . . **Cheech & Chong's** next film "Up In Smoke" will use **War's** "Low Rider" as its theme song, from the band's 1975 album "Why Can't We Be Friends". . . . And **Creedence Clearwater Revival's** 1970 hit "Who'll Stop The Rain" is being used as the theme and title of the new **Herb Jaffe/Gabriel Katzka** production starring **Nick Nolte**. The film previously was titled "Dog Soldiers," from a book by **Robert Stone** on which it is based. . . . Capitol's **Dr. Hook** will have a new album out in September. A single from it, "I Don't Want To Be Alone Tonight" (written by **Shel Silverstein**, has just been released. . . . WB has released a new single by **Nick Ashford** and **Valerie Simpson** entitled "It Seems To Hang On." Orders for the single in its first week reportedly totalled 150,000. . . . **Bob Esty** and **Michele Aler** have signed with Rick's Music Publishing, the publishing division of Casablanca Record and FilmWorks. The pair began writing two years ago and perform as **Aler & Esty**.

SLICK OFF — **Jefferson Starship's Grace Slick** is taking a sabbatical from performing for at least one month and may not be back with the group for its sold out four-night engagement at the Universal Amphitheatre beginning Sept. 2. A group spokesman said Slick had lingering anxiety over the band's June 17 concert in Germany which was cancelled because of Slick's illness. A riot following the cancellation "devastated" her and "she hasn't fully recovered yet," the spokesman said. . . . Warner Bros. Records hosted a celebration at Chasen's for **Andy Wickham** in honor of his promotion to vice president of A&R. . . . **Chris Mankiewicz**, vp of west coast production for United Artists Corp., wants to do more music type films and will be involved in the upcoming movie version of "Hair". . . . Local music writer/publicist **Justin Pierce** brings his band "Justin Time" to the Starwood Aug. 13 for a chance to be on the other side of the artistic fence. . . . Producer **Henry Lewy**, who was responsible for getting **Jose Feliciano** to play on **Joni Mitchell's** "Free Man In Paris," is after Jose once again, this time to lend his hand(s) on Bill Hughes new album for Epic. . . . Country music song entries will be judged in Nashville for the first time in this year's American Song Festival. . . . **Nicholas Johnson**, former commissioner of the FCC is forming a coalition of 100 public-interest groups to voice opposition to the rewrite of the Communications Act of 1934 currently underway. The goal of the coalition is "to make sure that the public's views on the rewrite are amplified". . . . Actress **Britt Eklund** has signed a management contract with Jet Records president **Don Arden**. The agreement does not call for recording. . . . Artist signings formalized last week at the CBS convention include **David Crosby & Graham Nash**, **Marilyn McCoo & Billy Davis Jr.**, **Johnny Rodriguez**, **Barry White** (and his Unlimited Gold Records), and, pending current litigation, **Gladys Knight**.

randy lewis

Lane Combines Experience With Expertise In The Studio

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music." In his teens, Lane formed a gospel group, and, when he was in his last year of high school, a preacher brought the young singers to New York to perform in churches.

"We were only supposed to stay for that summer," Lane remembered, "and many of the kids had to go back home to finish school. But I saw great opportunities here in the music industry, and I stayed."

During his first three years in New York, Lane sang with various "big-name" gospel groups, but made little money from his vocalizing. "I figured I ought to be making a living, and we were all working 9-5 jobs, and singing on the weekend, because there was no income from what we were doing."

With two of his friends who had formerly sung with a group called the Shells, Lane formed an R&B band. But they weren't able to get a decent recording contract. Then one of the Shells' old records, "Baby Oh Baby," became a surprise hit in 1960. The group was hastily resurrected, and Lane became a fill-in singer with them, as well as several other aggregations, before going solo.

After his solo career ran into a dead end, Lane went into the shoe business in Brooklyn. Within a year, he discovered Brass Construction playing in a basement in Brownsville. Although he said they were "unbelievable musicians," he knew they weren't ready to record yet. Not only was their style too jazz-oriented, but they didn't have a vocalist. So he helped them develop a new sound while using them as a backup band for other artists he was recording. "I would use their musicianship and give them some studio experience until the right kind of material came along and we could develop some vocalists within the group."

Meanwhile, Lane heard B.T. Express — then called the King David House Rockers

Castor, Urbaniak Ink With TK Subsidiaries

NEW YORK — The signing of Jimmy Castor to TK's Drive label and Michael Urbaniak to TK's Wolf label, in addition to new releases by Joe Thomas, Latimore, Gregg Diamond, and Beautiful Bend highlight TK's plans for July.

Castor's debut single for Drive is called "Bertha Butt Encounters Vader," while Urbaniak is completing his debut LP for Wolf entitled "Ecstasy."

TK/Glades artist Latimore will release his fifth album for the label, "Dig A Little Deeper," next month. The LP was produced by TK vice president Steve Alaimo. TK/LRC artist Joe Thomas has released a new single called "Plato's Retreat," and Beautiful Bend debuts with an LP on TK's Marlin label "Make That Feeling Come Again." Additionally, Gregg Diamond will release his TK/Marlin debut with a new LP called "Star Cruiser."

Penumbra Label Being Launched By Leder

NEW YORK — Howard Leder has formed Penumbra Records, of which he will be president and producer. Bruce Marcus has been named promotion coordinator, and Robert Goldes has been named marketing coordinator. Stephen Penn has been retained as attorney and Nadine Leder as secretary and treasurer.

Penumbra's first release will be a single by the disco group, The Voodoo Machine Orchestra. Also signed to the label are Brookstream, the Winiker Swing Orchestra, Medium Rare and Joshua Pierce.

David Salidor and David Davidson of OGE Communications have been retained to coordinate press and public relations for the label.

— at a dance that was held at his wife's social club. "I thought they were great," he recalled. "They didn't have the problems at the time that Brass Construction did, because they had good singers in the group. So I worked with them for a year to find the right concept and develop the material." Three years after he signed B.T. Express, in 1975, the group had a hit with "Do It To Your Satisfaction," and Lane was on his way to becoming a successful producer.

Lane remembers that, when he was a recording artist, he'd go into the studio and a producer "would give me a song that was probably written for a white artist and say, 'This is your next record.' I don't do that with my acts today. If they really don't like a song, we won't do it."

On the other hand, Lane feels that it is crucial for a producer to maintain firm control over what is happening in the studio. "There are artists today who are super in producing themselves," he commented. "But I've noticed, when I'm mixing something in the studio that the horn players are concerned about the horns being loud, and the bass player will come and say, 'Hey, the bass is a little low. I think you should bring it up a little bit.' So the musicians tend to lean toward what each of them is doing, rather than the overall project."

Lane is not at all bashful about admitting that overdubs are an essential ingredient of his art. "My first concern is about making a hit record in the studio, regardless of what it takes," he said. "If it's a five-piece group and I feel that I need a 100-piece sound, that's what I'm going to go after. But lately I find that, especially with a self-contained group I try to minimize it. For example, maybe I'll decide to overdub three guitars when there's only one player on the stage. Maybe we'll double or triple the horns, and make it sound like there's 20 guys playing."

"When you're recording and you just want to do one track of vocals, it's just not strong enough. You're trying to make a really hot record, and it doesn't pull strong enough, so you end up doing a lot of overdubs. But one thing you have to remember: If there's no hit records, there's no live performances."

Stigwood Sued By Theater Producer

NEW YORK — A claim for more than \$1.3 million for breach of contract against the Robert Stigwood Organization has been filed by Steven Singer, president of Vidicom Systems, Inc.

Singer charged that the Stigwood Organization conspired to prematurely close the 1975 theatrical production of "Sgt. Pepper" at the Beacon Theatre, thereby depriving Singer and Vidicom of millions of dollars in profits from an extended run of the production.

Leon Fine, an attorney for Singer, claimed that under the terms of the agreement, their production contract was binding as long as "Sgt. Pepper" grossed a certain amount at the box office. Fine alleged that, while the play was grossing an acceptable level, the Stigwood organization advertised in various theatres in the Metropolitan area and Philadelphia that the play was about to be produced there and was about to close at the Beacon. This hurt box office sales at the Beacon enough to force the shutting down of the play.

Martin Silfen, an attorney for the Stigwood Organization, contended that the suit was in fact a counterclaim to a request for an arbitration initially made by the Stigwood Organization in 1975. At that time, Singer and Vidicom declared bankruptcy and, according to Silfen the matter had lain dormant until now.