



Album Reviews

POPULAR PICKS OF THE WEEK



"SWING ALONG WITH ME"—Frank Sinatra—Reprise R-1002

The most swingin'est Sinatra here, cavorting with a collection of bright bouncers. Billy May supplies the pungent brass punch as Sinatra swings along with "Falling In Love With Love," "Don't Be That Way," "Have You Met Miss Jones" and "Granada." A ballad or two are quieting interludes.



"COME SWING WITH ME!"—Frank Sinatra—Capitol SW 1594

Previously beckoning to "Fly" and "Dance" with him, Sinatra now invites a swinging date and couldn't have done a better job. He's got the bold and brassy Billy May band backstopping him vigorously on such tasty tidbits as "Day By Day," "I've Heard That Song Before," "Five Minutes More" and "Almost Like Being In Love." A real swinging roundup of great tunes by a great artist.



"PAUL ANKA SINGS HIS BIG 15"—Vol. 2—Paul Anka—ABC-Paramount ABC-390

Anka's second encore album. As the multitude of Anka fans responded to the first "Big 15," this followup edition also promises a bonanza sale. It includes the songster's reprise of hits "My Home Town," "Tonight, My Love, Tonight," "The Story Of My Love," "Summer's Gone," "Dance On Little Girl" and others.



"JUDY AT CARNEGIE HALL"—Judy Garland—Capitol SWBO 1569

The long-awaited two-disk package cut at the history-making April 23rd Carnegie Hall concert lives up to its pre-release touting. It contains a solid hour-and-a-half of fabulous entertainment by "Miss Showbusiness" playing directly to her fans. Naturally there are performances of such Garland traditionals as "The Trolley Song," "You Made Me Love You," "For Me And My Gal" and "Over The Rainbow" as well as a host of other excellent songs. Should be one of the big LP's of the year.



"RAY CHARLES AND BETTY CARTER"—ABC-Paramount ABC 385

All the ingredients point to a tremendously successful album: Ray Charles' gripping vocal portrayals, Betty Carter's vibrant warbling, Marty Paich's intelligent orchestrations with the Jack Halloran Singers written in in vital spots. The tunes all lend themselves to the duet treatment and Ray's and Betty's styles fit neatly together. Among the selections are "Ev'ry Time We Say Goodbye," "For All We Know," "Alone Together" and "We'll Be Together Again." Has chart status.



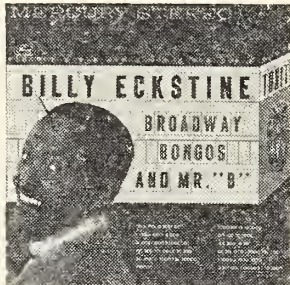
"DANCE 'TIL QUARTER TO THREE WITH U. S. BONDS"—Legrand LLP 3001

With two #1 hits to his credit and his latest, "School Is Out," winging its way upward, Bonds has acquired an army of teen fans for his infectious rocking style. This first LP includes the hits "New Orleans," "Quarter To Three," "School Is Out" plus nine other vigorous rockers. Powerful package goods.



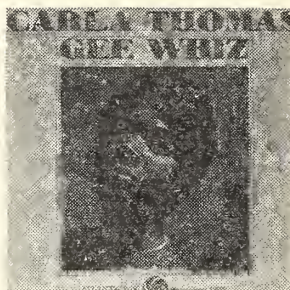
"RUNAWAY WITH DEL SHANNON"—Big Top 1303

Virtually catapulted into the top strata of disk stars by dint of the sensational "Runaway," Del Shannon debuts his initial LP. The lineup includes, of course, "Runaway," as well as strong teen-angled items penned by Shannon and others—"Misery," "I Wake Up Crying" and "He Doesn't Care." Should amass teen sales.



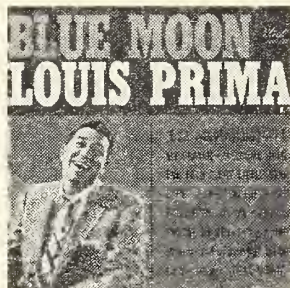
"BROADWAY, BONGOS AND MR. 'B'"—Billy Eckstine—Mercury SR 60637

The durability of the creamy smooth Eckstine voice is aptly demonstrated in this session. Here he sails easily through a lineup of a dozen of Broadway's best overcoming the occasional heaviness of the Latin arrangements by Hal Mooney. It's Eckstine stylishness all the way; the album reaching its high points on "From This Moment On," "Tonight," "Stranger In Paradise" and "On The Street Where You Live"—where the singer and the ork are in complete agreement. A boon for Mr. B fans.



"GEE WHIZ"—Carla Thomas—Atlantic 8057

In her initial LP date, the thrush is spotlighted in her click disks "Gee Whiz (Look At His Eyes)" and "A Love Of My Own" plus additional new material with a sprinkling of evergreens. Of all her vocal attributes, "soul" is her biggest commodity and she communicates this earthy feeling in all her work, both ballad and upbeat. Other noteworthy selections include "Dance With Me," "Fools Fall In Love" and "The Masquerade Is Over." Could be a big one.



"BLUE MOON"—Louis Prima—Dot DLP 3385

The Prima solo trumpet here in instrumental stylings of a dozen pop tunes. Prima plays a sweet, melodic horn and is faithful to the melodies of "Blue Moon," "Tenderly," "I'm In The Mood For Love," "I've Told Ev'ry Little Star" among others. An ork-chorus backdrop is a flavorful addition to the picture. An easy-on-the-ears musical date.



"THE WORLD'S GREAT WALTZES"—The Clebanoff Strings—Mercury SR 60237

The Clebanoff strings at their best here in a fine stereo reading of twelve charming waltz evergreens. Maestro Herman Clebanoff has charted a lilting string course for "Drigo's Serenade," "I Love You Truly," "True Love" and "Maria Elena" among others. Saleable merchandise in all markets.



"MAKIN' THE SCENE"—The Zeniths—Atlantic 8043

Bowing in on Atlantic, the Zeniths can easily claim to be one of the most exciting new vocal groups in recent years. Their smart, sophisticated approach to better pop songs is thoroughly refreshing and inventive and they prove adventurous in performing a handful of standard blues tunes. They maintain a relentless pace right through from the opening "Sugar Plum" to the closing "My Funny Valentine." Other selections include "Little Girl Blue," "Roll 'Em Pete" and "Smack Dab In The Middle." Of big interest.



"PROVOCATIVE PIANO"—Vol. 2—Dick Hyman and his Orch.—Command RS 824 SD

The Dick Hyman piano is showcased a second time performing personal interpretations of famed piano pieces. With a full string ork as a backdrop Hyman treads lightly and spiritedly on the melodies of "Soft Summer Breeze," "Theme From The Apartment," "Boogie Woogie," "Kitten On The Keys" and "Moonglow/Theme From Picnic." Command's stereo is large and consistent and plays an important role in the set's commerciality.



"KERMIT SCHAFER PRESENTS BLOOPERAMA"—Vol. 1—BL-1

Kermit Schafer, who parlayed other peoples mistakes into a fortune-earning LP series, "Pardon My Bloopers," has edited this series down into one package purported to contain the best of the lot. And it does contain a host of hilarious radio and TV slips that will be entertaining for many.