



PRESENTATION — Frankie Beverly recently was presented with a copy of his "Grease" single by president Al Coury.

Frankie Honored As Man Of Year; Single Lets \$700,000

NEW YORK — More than 2,000 leaders from the music and motion picture fields recently gathered at the Americana Hotel in New York City to raise \$700,000 for the Unemployment Appeal's annual drive and to honor the 35-year-old Neil Bogart, president of Atlantic Record & FilmWorks, as Man of the Year by the U.S. Entertainment Division.

The ceremony for the evening included a master of ceremonies; Midge Dorn, former assistant to the President of the United States, who brought personal performance by Donna Summer, which was highlighted by a slide show chronicling Bogart's career;

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ent during which three of the children — Jill, Timothy and Midge — were with Summer.

Guests included Manhattan resident Andrew Stein; Kiss members Gene Simmons, Paul Stanley, Ace Frehley; Coen Solleveld, president of Polygram worldwide; Walter Reuther; and others.

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Two Discs To Release In Picture Disc

CA Records' first commercial picture disc will be "Elvis, A Legendary Performer Part 3." The limited edition disc, which features two full-color likenesses of Elvis on each side, will retail for \$12.95. The limited edition of the album will

also include two songs never before released, six songs in the picture disc have never before been released. There are interview with Elvis and a booklet with one of Tom Parker. Each LP will include a full-color poster and a 16-page booklet.

The first RCA's merchandising picture disc album will be an in-store release with the theme, "His and Her Things You Feel."

Campaign To Transform TK Into Album Label Succeeds

by Ken Terry

NEW YORK — In one 90-day period this year, TK albums by Peter Brown, KC and the Sunshine Band, Betty Wright, and Foxy all went gold. This was no accident; TK, which had its first hits with singles, has finally become a full-fledged album label.

Among the 40 or so LPs that TK now has on the market are Bobby Caldwell's self-titled debut on TK/Clouds, T-Connection's "On Fire" on TK/Dash, Latimore's "Dig A Little Deeper" on TK/Glades, Eddie Daniel's "Street Wind" on TK/Marlin, the Ritchie Family's "American Generation" on TK/Marlin, "Phil Upchurch" on TK/Marlin, Ralph McDonald's "The Path" on TK/Marlin, "USA/European Connection" on TK/Marlin, "Dorothy Moore" on TK/Malaco, Gwen McCrae's "Let's Straighten It Out" on TK/Cat, Gregg Diamond's "Star Cruiser" on TK/Marlin, Jimmy Bo Horne's "Dance Across The Floor" on TK/Sunshine Sound, Michal Urbaniak's "Ecstasy" on TK/Marlin, and Michael Bloomfield's "Count Talent and the Originals" on TK/Clouds. In addition, TK has recently signed deals with Jimmy Castor and Joe Tex, and albums should be forthcoming from them shortly.

This proliferation of albums on a label that used to be considered singles-oriented is the result of a conscious campaign that was initiated by Henry Stone, TK's president and founder, two years ago. "In the record business, you have to change with the times," Stone commented. "I made a commitment about two years ago to become an album company, and now it's a pure album company."

Naturally, only a small percentage of TK's LP output can be expected to go gold or platinum. But Stone points out that a fair number of his current records (e.g., Voyage, U.S.A. European Connection) are selling in the 150-200,000 range. "It's not gold or platinum," he said, "but it sure adds up to a lot of sales when you have eight or ten of those things going. Now we're on the way to gold album with Bobby Caldwell, another new artist."

New artists have been the lifeblood of TK since its establishment in 1970. All of the original artists on TK, including Betty Wright, Beginning of The End, Timmy Thomas, Latimore, George and Owen McCrae, and KC and the Sunshine Band, were newcomers to the music business when they had hits with the Miami-based label. And it is still Stone's policy to look for new acts with hit potential — a policy that has recently paid off handsomely with such artists as Peter Brown and Foxy.

An increasing number of well-known names, however, are beginning to crop up on the TK roster, including Joe Tex and Jimmy Castor. According to Stone, signing these acts is part of his campaign to build a strong album company.



Henry Stone

Another part of that strategy is TK's recent expansion out of its R&B and disco base into jazz, rock and gospel music. TK's Clouds label, for example, specializes in rock, with Bobby Caldwell as the major artist and other acts to be signed early next year. The Roots, another TK-distributed label, features such blues artists as Jimmy Reed, Gene Barge and Wild Child Butler. Marlin is a jazz fusion/disco label, where Michael Urbaniak and Eddie Daniels brush shoulders with Gregg Diamond and the U.S.A. European Connection. There are also two TK-distributed labels that specialize in gospel, Malaco and Gospel Roots.

Expand Base

"I'm trying to keep my base very strong, which is the R&B-disco thing," Stone commented, "and there is a need for us to expand. We've done it with the jazz fusion thing, and rock, I guess, is the next thing to get into. But we have to do it very selectively and very cautiously, because you can't go in there and not actually compete with the majors in that."

"We'll build our own rock acts — that's the main thing. I'll use my promotion know-how. I mean, there's still nothing like hit product, you know? If it's in the grooves,"

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Pic Disc Serves Notice To Alberti On Patent Issue

LOS ANGELES — Pic Disc, Inc., a picture disc manufacturing division of the Fitzgerald/Hartley Co., has put Alberti Record Mfg. on notice that its method of manufacturing discs may infringe on Pic Disc's exclusive patent.

The action came following the release of an Alberti-manufactured "Rocky Horror Picture Show" picture disc. A spokesperson for Alberti downplayed the written notice from Pic Disc and said that "we are breaking no law."

But Mark Hartley of Fitzgerald/Hartley said "with the popularity of picture discs, we are actively seeking to enforce our exclusive patents. The one in question with Alberti is U.S. patent no. 3,584,001."

Solleveld Affirms Commitment Of Polygram To U.S.

NEW YORK — Coen Solleveld, world president of Polygram, recently sent a letter to U.S. Polygram employees in which he explained his motivation for coming to America.

"My reason for coming is straightforward: to establish a strong, vigorous liaison and interchange among our rapidly growing U.S. businesses and our international operations," he noted.

"The growth and development of these markets are key to Polygram's continued success. In turn, the expertise generated by making Polygram pre-eminent in the entertainment industry will be invaluable for Polygram elsewhere around the world."

Solleveld emphasized the fact that "I'm here as worldwide president of Polygram is my intention to maintain all existing management and reporting lines."



After three consistently successful albums for Columbia, Journey is standing on the threshold of ... "Infinity." The group's fourth album for the label, which has been certified platinum, is a marked departure for the San Francisco-based group. Produced by Roy Thomas Baker (Queen, The Cars), "Infinity" introduces a fresh new emphasis on vocals with the addition of singer Steve Perry.

But Perry is not the only new member of the band. Steve Smith recently joined the group as a replacement for drummer Anthony Dunbar, who co-founded Journey along with bassist Ross Valory, pianist Gregg Rolie, and guitarist Neal Schon.

The members of Journey are no strangers to pop music fans. Valory is a veteran of the Steve Miller Band. Rolie was an integral part of the first four Santana albums, as was Schon, who joined Santana following their debut LP. Smith is a veteran of bands led by Jean-Luc Ponty and Ronnie Montrose, and Perry is a former member of ex-Vanilla Fudge bassist Tim Bogart's group.

With their combined experiences in all these well-known bands, Journey's members are beginning to meld together in one of the premiere rock acts of the '70s and '80s. Their potential is truly infinite.

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