What's Happening

Is CBS stuck with $8 million invested in Stax Records?

By Ida Petera

For sometime this column has been trying to get the facts straight on what is going on between CBS Records and Stax Records . . . the black company producing Isaac Hayes.

Many reports have charged that CBS Records is responsible for Stax's declining fortunes ... and many members in our black communities throughout the country are upset.

Talked to M's Irene Gandy in N.Y. this week and asked for more info. She's Assistant Director of Press Information and Artists Affairs for Special Markets. Met her when she was PR person for the traveling show "Purlie" and later when she handled Gladys Knight and B.B. King.

Out of her office recently have come Wa Winfield and Barry Orms with CBS stars Bunny Sigler, O'Jays, Earthk, Wind Fire, Labelle and Herbie Hancock.

M's Gandy says that CBS being responsible for Stax decline is "Ridiculous on the face of it. Stax prosperity is the only means that CBS Records has of recovering its investment ... that investment now totals over $8 million including advance payments from CBS Records to Stax."

CBS Statement

In the recent weeks unfounded statements and misinformation appeared in the press regarding the CBS Records suit against Stax Records.

The most recent involved and erroneous report that the Congress of Racial Equality in Hollywood had adopted a plan to boycott CBS a report emphatically denied by Roy Innes national director of CORE.

To set the record straight and by way of background, the facts of the case are these:

On Oct. 24, 1972, CBS Records and Stax Records Inc. of Memphis Tenn. signed an agreement which granted to CBS Records their exclusive rights to distributive Stax phonograph records and tapes throughout the United States.

Certain foreign distribution rights were also included. As a part of the agreement, CBS made a loan of $6 million to Stax, a black owned company with an impressive lineup of artistic talent. CBS records felt that its own strong distribution network would complement Stax lineup of recording talent to the benefit of both companies.

The agreement gave CBS records responsibility for sales and distribution. Selection of artists, recording, promotion, advertising and publicity remained the responsibility of Stax.

Unfortunately, Stax performance did not live up to expectations. On Sept. 13, 1974, Stax terminated its contract with its most valuable artist, Isaac Hayes, after Mr. Hayes had sued Stax for fraud and non-payment of royalties.

This was done without the consent or knowledge of CBS Records and destroyed one of the principal basis of which CBS Records loan to at Stax's rested.

On Oct. 2, Stax officials informed CBS Records that they would no longer honor their committments and would instead deal with other record distributors, thus, unilaterally breaching the agreement with CBS Records.

Stax claimed dissatisfaction with the distribution performance of CBS Records according to the provisions of the 1972 agreement.

Stax officials have also indicated that they would not repay the loan from CBS Records and in fact have paid back none of the principal and little of the interest.

CBS Records filed suit against Stax Records in the U.S. District Court? The suits charged breach of contract. It did not see immediate payment of the loan but rather simply asked that Stax honor its contract with CBS Records.

The same day, the court granted CBS a temporary restraining order forbidding Stax to deal with other distributors pending the outcome of the case.

Music Notes

"PINOCCHIO" MUSICAL

The Mechanic Theatre will be closed to adults (unless the children decide to bring them along) when tion of the delightful family Reuben Budrows' production classic, "Pinocchio," opens a nine day engagement from Tuesday, Dec. 10 thru Wednesday, Dec. 18. The Broadway musical, especially designed for children will play for nineteen performances.

The exciting, toe-tapping, hand-clapping musical features world famous magical marionettes. It is set to the timeless tale of Collodi's epic childhood adventure and is just what the doctor ordered after a shortage of attractions designed to please the youngsters. Parents, grandparents, as well as school and organizational groups look forward to the children laughing at the zany clowns and cheering the hero, Pinocchio.

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BOWIE

The Department of Music at Bowie State College will present Dr. Marian Buck-Lew in concert on Sunday, December 8, at 4:00 p.m. in the Martin Luther King CAC Recital Hall.

Recipient of a Doctor of Musical Arts degree from West Virginia University, the young Chinese-American pianist will offer a program of works by Cimarosa, Beethoven, Ravel, Debussy, Ivey and Chopin.

In 1968, Dr. Buck-Lew won First Prize in the Mu Phi Epsilon International Competition. She followed that distinctive achievement with a two-year tour across the United States, and was a finalist in the 1971 International Competition for Musical Performers in Geneva, Switzerland.

Dr. Buck-Lew has studied under Mieczyslaw Munz of the Juilliard School of Music, Walter Hautzig of the Peabody Conservatory of Music, and Yvonne Lefebure, formerly of the Conservative de Musique de Paris.

A member of the faculty at the University of Maryland Baltimore County, Dr. Buck-Lew is presently developing a repertoire of twentieth century Oriental keyboard music.

The Sunday afternoon concert is open to the public free of charge.

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PEABODY PREP

Auditiois for the second semester at the Peabody Preparatory Department will be held during the week of January 20.

Instruction is available in voice and all instruments, including classical guitar and classical accordian, as well as Early Music Training for 6 and 7-year olds.

Also, beginning ballet and modern dance will be scheduled if there is sufficient enrollment. Theory studies may be arranged privately.

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TOWSON

The Towson State College Concert Band will present its free Wintre Concert on Sunday, December 8 at 6:15 p.m., in the Fine Arts Building Concert Hall, under the direction of Dr. Daivd Marchan.

Included in the program is "music for the royal fireworks" composed by George Friederich Handel and "Closing Doxology" and portions of Boito's "Mefistofele," which will be performed with the Towson State Community Chorus under the direction of Dr. Gilbert A. Brungardt.

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ARTS SOCIETY

The Chamber Ensemble of the Baltimore Choral Arts Society, conducted by Theodore Morrison, will present a concert of Christmas music at 4 p.m. Sunday (December 8) in the main court of the Walters Art Gallery, 600 North Charles Street.

"I Have a Dream' ... The Life of Martin Luther King" and "Black Music in America: From Then Till Now," films at the Pratt Library's Cherry Hill Center, 12:30 p.m.

"The Fabulous Harlem Globetrotters," "Battles for the Crown," and "Jeffries/Johnson 1910," films at the Pratt Library's Pennsylvania Avenue Branch, 12:30 p.m. "A Lad in the Lamp," "Billy the Kid," and "Dragon Stew," films at the Pratt Library's Cherry Hill Center, 3:30 p.m.

"J.T." and "The Great Toy Robbery," films at the Pratt Library's Edmondson Avenue Branch, 3:30 p.m.

Thurs., Dec. 12

"Self-Defense for Women," lecture and demonstration by Policewoman Linda Weinstein at the Pratt Library's Northwood Branch, 3:30 p.m.

"A Christmas Carol," film at the Pratt Library's Pimlico Branch, 4:00 p.m. "Munro" and "Help! My Snowman's Burning Down," films at the Pratt Library's Hollins-Payson Branch, 6:30 p.m.

Enoch Pratt

Tuesday, Dec. 10

"The Three Musketeers," film at the Pratt Library's Gorsuch Avenue Center, 4:00 p.m.

Wed., Dec. 11

"The Town Musicians" and "The Tinder Box," films at the Pratt Library's Hollins/Payson Branch, 3:30 p.m.

"Self-Defense for Women," lecture and demonstration by Policewoman Linda Weinstein at the Pratt Library's Northwood Branch, 3:30 p.m.

"A Christmas Carol," film at the Pratt Library's Pimlico Branch, 4:00 p.m. "Munro" and "Help! My Snowman's Burning Down," films at the Pratt Library's Hollins-Payson Branch, 6:30 p.m.

Thurs., Dec. 12

'The Klansman' explores modern KKK

The spectre of white-hooded figures moving stealthily through the night along Southern streets brought terror to the black race for many years. When the Klan moved, a black man could expect to end up strung up to a tree, a black family terrorized and a fiery cross burning by a door.

Generally, the public has felt that the era of the KKK is over in these modern, more sophisticated and better educated days.

The fact is that the KKK, mainly considered to operate only in the South, is more active today than ever before. Recent secret reports cited a total of 600,000 members of the Klan living in America today and more of them in the North than in the South. The film "The Klansman" starring Lee Marvin, Richard Burton and Cameron Mitchell explores the explosive force of the KKK at a small town in Alabama.

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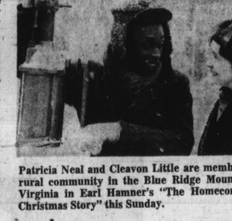
Similarly, while the Ku Kluxer has been depicte in movies and novels in the past as the typical redneck, often uneducated small-towner, the Klan today is run primarily by youth. The Grand Dragon in one area alone is a 23-year-old, who recently appeared on the Tom Snyder NBC Tomorrow Show and spoke with the eloquence and intelligence of a college graduate. His wrath was against not only the black man, but against the Jewish faith and anyone other than what he termed 100 per cent white.

The Klan rarely marches with burning crosses today but evidence of their existence is seen in their own organized publications and their influence in educational areas. There is still violence, but rarely is it attributed directly to the workings of the Klan.

Yet, only a few months ago, a frail, bespectacled 22-year-old man was convicted in Birmingham, Ala., of killing a black minister he did not know. He was one of three men identified as Klansmen, who was convicted of second-degree murder by an all-white male jury and sentenced to 30 years in prison.

The difference between earlier years and now can be seen by this man's murder conviction. Only a few years ago, he might never have been indicted.

Christmas Night watch



Patricia Neal and Cleavon Little are members of a rural community in the Blue Ridge Mountains of Virginia in Earl Hamner's "The Homecoming: A Christmas Story" this Sunday.

Earl Hamner's "The Homecoming:" A Christmas Story," award-winning drama starring Patricia Neal as the mother and Emmy winner Richard Thomas as the oldest son of a rural American mountain family during the Depression, will be rebroadcast as a holiday special Sunday, Dec. 8.

Also starring in the drama, which inspired the award-winning series "The Waltons" are Edgar Bergen, Andrew Duggan, Josephine Hutchinson, Cleavon Little, Dorothy Stickney and William Windom.

That happy-go-lucky Frosty, the snowman, who annually delights the hearts of millions with his corncob pipe, button nose and two eyes made of coal, will again brighten the holiday season when "Frosty the Snowman," animated musical special narrated by Jimmy Durante, is rebroadcast Sunday, Dec. 8.

A friendly family of mice, a kind and gentle clockmaker and a sensitive Santa Claus will combine to spread additional holiday cheer during the coming Yuletide season when "Twas the night Before Christmas," a half-hour animated musical special narrated by Joel Grey and adapted from Clement Moore's famous Christmas poem, is broadcast Sunday, Dec. 8.

A little soul goes a long way!

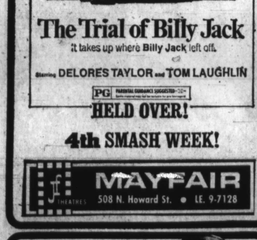
The front cover of Cash Box this week features Rufus, the funk quintet now Hollywood based, originally from the streets of Chicago.

Chaka Khan is featured on vocals Kevin Murphy on keyboards and synthesizers André Fisher on drums Tony Maiden on guitar and Bobby Watson on bass,

• • •

Their LP "Rags To Rufus" has turned gold and their single, "Tell Me Something Good" is gold too. Their latest single, "You Got The Love" is tops on the charts this week.

"She's Gone" by Tarvares is in second spot followed Barry White's "You're The First, The Last, My Everything."



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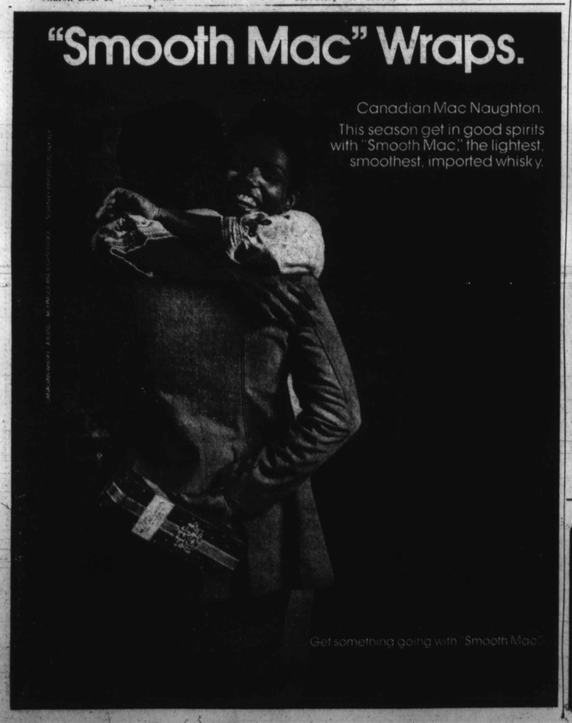

The McKenzie report

Stocking stuffers

By Vasnii McKenzie

How would you like to stuff your stocking with G. C. Cameron?

Before you react in the negative, I suggest you check this fine brother out and his new album from Motown: "Love Songs and Other Tragedies."

It's his first album and it's

Press releases have been coming to the desk of the city's west coast office about the singing ability of G. C. With so much print coming around, you tend to think he may be a pig in a poke.

But no, G. C. is a jewel and so far he's about the best thing to stuff in your lover's stocking for some Christmas morning sou

There is a lot of promise in his voice, a lot of punch and a lot of soul.

You'll get a good look at this handsome brother when you pick up his first release. Decked out in a white tie, black silk dress coat in his black shirt and white tie black silk drifting out of his breast pocket and a single sweet rose bud resting in his lapel.

He's bound to break a few hearts with his style of music ... it's soft soul.

Side Two is the best and it starts off with Stevie Wonder's All In love is Fair "Riverboat" is my favorite cut followed closely by "You Forgot To Remember Me."

Marvin Gaye and Willie Hutch did the background vocals on "I'm Gonna Give Your Respect" from Side One. Hutch also did a number on "Your Love Won't Turn Me Loose." There was a time, you know, when established singing stars and rising musical greats wouldn't come near a studio to lend background music for anyone, let alone an unknown.

But over the past few months Stevie Wonder can be heard on Syreeta's new album, The Jackson Five can be heard on someone else's; G. C. can be heard on a Syreeta album and there's a noted black singing trio singing backup on The Rolling Stones new LP.

Calling all you David Ruffin fans . . . now is the time to come to the aid of the party!

David is back with a new album and a new contract with his former company . . . Motown.

You remember David from his infamous Temptation's singing days. He did an exodus like to meet Temp. Eddie Kendricks some years ago. He hasn't done well as a sole artist.

David returns to Motown after seeing what they did for Eddie Kendricks who now has three or four gold singles and a gold album under his belt.

David Ruffin

The title of his new album "Me 'N Rock N Roll Are Here To Stay" has a social meaning for him. He feels, of course that both will endure forever.

The LP has a rock and roll flavor and is well produced. "I Want To Celebrate" should get the crowd bumping under the Mistle Toe along with "Smiling Faces Sometimes" and "City Stars"

Ruffin took time out following his set at the Whiskey in L.A. to express his views about his current status.

"Several years have gone by since I've felt as good as I am feeling about my career," he stated. "For the first time since going it alone, I firmly believe that I have total support from everyone connected with me. They're really in there pitching and determined that I'm going to make it.

"It looks as though this time, all of the pices will fit."

Prior to the release of David's latest album, things were a bit tough, his last album received mild acceptance and he shopped around for almost a year before deciding to return. "I have to admit that the fantastic job the company did in launching Kendricks as a single artist was very important to my re-signing," he added.

"There was never any doubt in my mind what the company could do, it was just a matter of whether they would do it for David Ruffin.

"I suppose getting adjusted to the move from Detroit to Los Angeles was an important factor for the company, but that old family feeling is again creeping into the Hollywood offices."

In the early years when Ruffin was with The Tempts, the company was indeed a family and everyone helped one another pounding out those hit records. When questioned about his new album association with Norman Whitfield he stated:

"It's just like a homecoming for me. You know that Norman was responsible for some of those oldies but goodies that I sang lead on with the Tempts and having him give his unique direction for the new album, could only be an asset.

"He very successfully guided the Temptations through the musical changes this business went through up until present, and most of all they never lost touch of what was happening in the marketplace.

• • •

The Christmas album releases are a plenty this year. Watch The McKenzie Report and find out which are the best holiday stocking stuffers.

Money is tight and no one wants to put the long green down on a non-winner.

The sale of 45 records is down. One of the reason why is because people want more for their money ... albums offer more of their favorite singer and more rongs. Albums are becoming an investment.

For The Record

Gods from outer space?

By Frederick I. Douglass

Was the Earth visited thousands of super intelligent beings from another p ver es who brought with them the advanced technology needed to construct the pyramids, to carve the monolithic statues on Easter Island and to build the mysterious temples of the ancient Incas and Mayas which served as sophisticated calendars and computers on the angles of which pi could be calculated, several places beyond the decimal point?

Did these ancient astronauts mate with primitive humans and cause the quantum leap from the Cro-Magnon and Zinjanthropous man to the breed of homo sapiens presently inhabiting the Earth?

These and many other questions which have puzzled man for centuries provide the basic themes for Erich von Daniken's three books: "Gods From Outer Space" "Gold of the Gods" and "Chariots of the Gods."

The material in these best-sellers also provided the substance for a TV special entitled "In Search of the Lost Astronauts" which was hosted and narrated by author and producer Rod Serling who is most famous for being the host for "Twilight Zone" and "Night Gallery."

According to history books, the Age of Technology began approximately 200 years ago with the Industrial Revolution, when it became possible to multiply the efforts of man to produce goods a thousand times or more through the use of machines. Prior to that time man was limited mainly to producing for himself and his immediate family. Man could not build the skyscrapers that dominate the urban landscape, nor could he fly from Baltimore to Washington, let alone to the moon and back.

Yet, how can the existence of the pyramids be explained? According to Von Daniken some of the stones in the pyramids weigh several tons. Furthermore these boulders had to be moved to the sites of the pyramids from stone quarries that were several miles away and then had to be moved into place. How did the ancient Egyptians do it? According to Von Daniken, they had technological assistance from members of an advanced civilization.

If one believe what von Daniken has to say, these ancient astronauts were laying down some heavy knowledge all over the place. He theorizes that they helped Joshua to compose his hit tune which was played on a sonic device and blew down the walls of Jericho; instructed Noah as to how to build his ark, and took Ezekiel on a plane ride. Throughout the book are biblical passages which the author attempts to use to indicate that many of the miracles described in the Bible were actually the work of visitors from another universe. There are also some very interesting pictures of ancient wall paintings and statues which with a little stretching of the imagination actually look like representations of the astronauts that have been sent into outer space in the past few years. There are also several pictures and diagrams of unique buildings as well as huge oaintings and carvings on the face of the Earth that could not have been made without someone flying overhead to guide the artist as there are no mountains for miles around.

Where is von Daniken coming from? Is he merely an excellent science fiction writer that has hit upon a million dollar formula for best-sellers, or is he laying some truths upon us that are hard to deal with? Whatever the case, the writings of von Daniken are definitely thought provoking and mind expanding.

Tony Orlando and Dawn (Thelma Hopkins and Joyce Vincent Wilson) star in the new comedy-music-variety series premiering this week.

TV Notes

William Shatner, Smokey Robinson, of the singing group Smokey Robinson and the Miracles, fame Barry Livingston, "My Three Sons," and Brenda Sykes of "Ozzie's Girls" guest-star in "Smack"-a drama about a high school drug ring, on "Police Woman," starrring Angie Dickinson and Karl Hollman, Friday, Dec. 6.

One of the top musical attractions of the day, Tom Jones, will host "The Midnight Special".

Guests will be Chuck Berry, and the Kiki Dee Band. The program's announcer is Wolfman Jack.

Ed Jack Albertson, reacts explosively to Chico's Freddie Prinze, plans to move to New York and the crisis continues until cousin Carlos, Rich and Enriquez, arrives at the garage, in "The Letter," "Chico and the Man" Friday, Dec. 6.

A program of music by three black composers, featuring the CBS Chamber Orchestra under the baton of Paul Freeman, will be broadcast on "Camera Three", Sunday, Dec. 8.

Two works by contemporary composers George Walker and Roque Cordero and one by 18th-century French musician Joseph St. Georges are presented on the program.

The rock 'n' roll supergroup, Sly and the Family Stone, headlines "Wide World: In Concert," Friday, Dec. 6, that also stars Donovan, Minnie Riperton and Rush.

Actress Barbara Feldon and the Rufus Musical Group are the guest stars and Ken Berry is the special guest star of "The Sonny Comedy Revue," on Sunday, Dec. 8.

Rookie Chris Owens falls for a lovely young photographer, unaware that she is being stalked by a professional killer who believes the woman has been secretly taking his picture, in "The Assassin" on "The Rookies," Monday, Dec. 9.

Bruce Fairbairn stars as Chris Owens, Georg Stanford Brown as Terry Webster.

A young man's death is blamed on deputy sheriff Nakia Parker and it's up to him to clear himself in "Roots of Anger," on "Nakia," Saturday, Dec. 7.

Lou Grant moves into Rhoda's old apartment and takes over Mary's private life in much the same way he runs things at the office, on "The Mary Tyler Moore Show" Saturday, Dec. 7.

Introducing: The Finishing Touch

The Finishing Touch

One of the most difficult aspects of beginning a professional recording career is that of having people take the time to listen to you, even if they have not heard much (or anything) about you. This has been the case with many of today's R and B groups, including such now established acts as Philly Groove's Delfonics and the First Choice.

On this note, it is appropriate to introduce The Finishing Touch, a trio of talented male singers whose debut single has just been released on Philly Groove records. Their first effort is entitled "Second Best (Is Never Enough)" b/w "Your Love Has Put a Spell On Me," and the thing The Finishing Touch has going for them is that the record is good.

"Second Best" is an uptempo, catchy, and well produced tune. The trio's vocal harmonies are rich and blend well together. And "The Last Word," The Finishing Touch's five piece self-contained rhythm section, compliments their performance in every way, adding vitality and depth to the recording.

The Finishing Touch has played before enthusiastic audiences all over the country, ranging from nighteries in New York and Philadelphia to California.

BSO

The Baltimore Symphony will give a free Family Christmas Concert at Poly-Western High School auditorium at 8 p.m. on Friday, December 13. Conductor Andrew Schenck has planned a program the entire family can enjoy, so bring friends and neighbors and join in this musical celebration of the Happy Season. The concert will end with carols we can all sing together.

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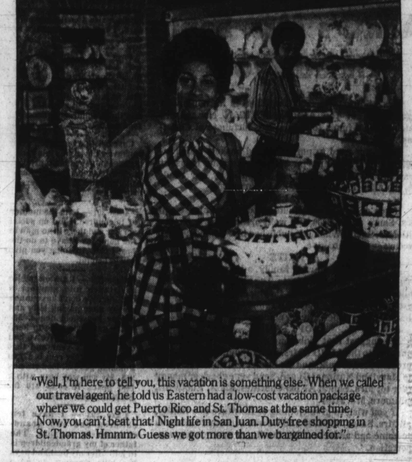

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