-NO HALF STEPPING

(Continued from Page 10)

him and I won't discourage him. If he wants to be in the music business, I'd like to see him president of a record company or a manager."

Afraid to Fly

Sometimes her family travels with her, especially when she flies out to San Francisco to record. But she doesn't like them to fly together because she's afraid to fly.

"I'm a nervous wreck until I get off the airplane. I just condition my mind so I can get on the airplane but if I can take a bus or train, I will."

Good songs are hard to find and Labelle puts in a lot of effort to find just the right number for her style.

"I look for pretty melodies with nice lyrics that are not demeaning," she said. "I listen to a lot of music, some 200 pieces over two months. Sometimes I can tell from the first three bars if a piece is right for me.

"I'm not a radio person or record playing person, unless I'm looking for something to record or use on stage."

There isn't another performer like Labelle on stage. Her voice fantastically blends R & B and funk in saucy ballads and get down uptempo numbers.

"I would like to become a perfectionist," she said. "I want to be the best performer out there."

"I listen to my show after I do it to see what I did wrong and see what I did right.

Listens To Show

"I want to get out there and be a household word. Once that happens the big money comes after. "I'm not doing badly financially now but I would like to be a household word."

Labelle would like to branch out into movies and TV specials but not just yet. She's received offers but doesn't want to do just anything to get onto the silver screen.

Wife, mother and entertainer is enough for any one person to handle. But Labelle is adding yet another skill to her stable of talents.

"This is the first time for me coproducing," she said. "It's challenging." The next step is to

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become the best co-producer and then producer."

Her main job in the studio recently is to assist the producer. She's taken over producing all the vocal parts, writes out string and horn parts and helps in the selection of musicians.

Feels Limited

"I guess since it's the first time working with two young ladies from Philadelphia I feel limited.

After I heard the results, I do think I am capable."

It's obvious that Labelle is capable in many areas. And it's her attitude that makes a difference.

"I just get up everyday and try to do better than what I did yesterday," she said.

"If I get up and think that I can be a real mother, real entertainer, real co-producer, then I can. I must get it from myself. It's just up to me and I must be 100%. "I can't half-step no more."



LaBelle as she puts over a song.



No entertainment issue would be complete without something about the Commodores in action. So — here they are.

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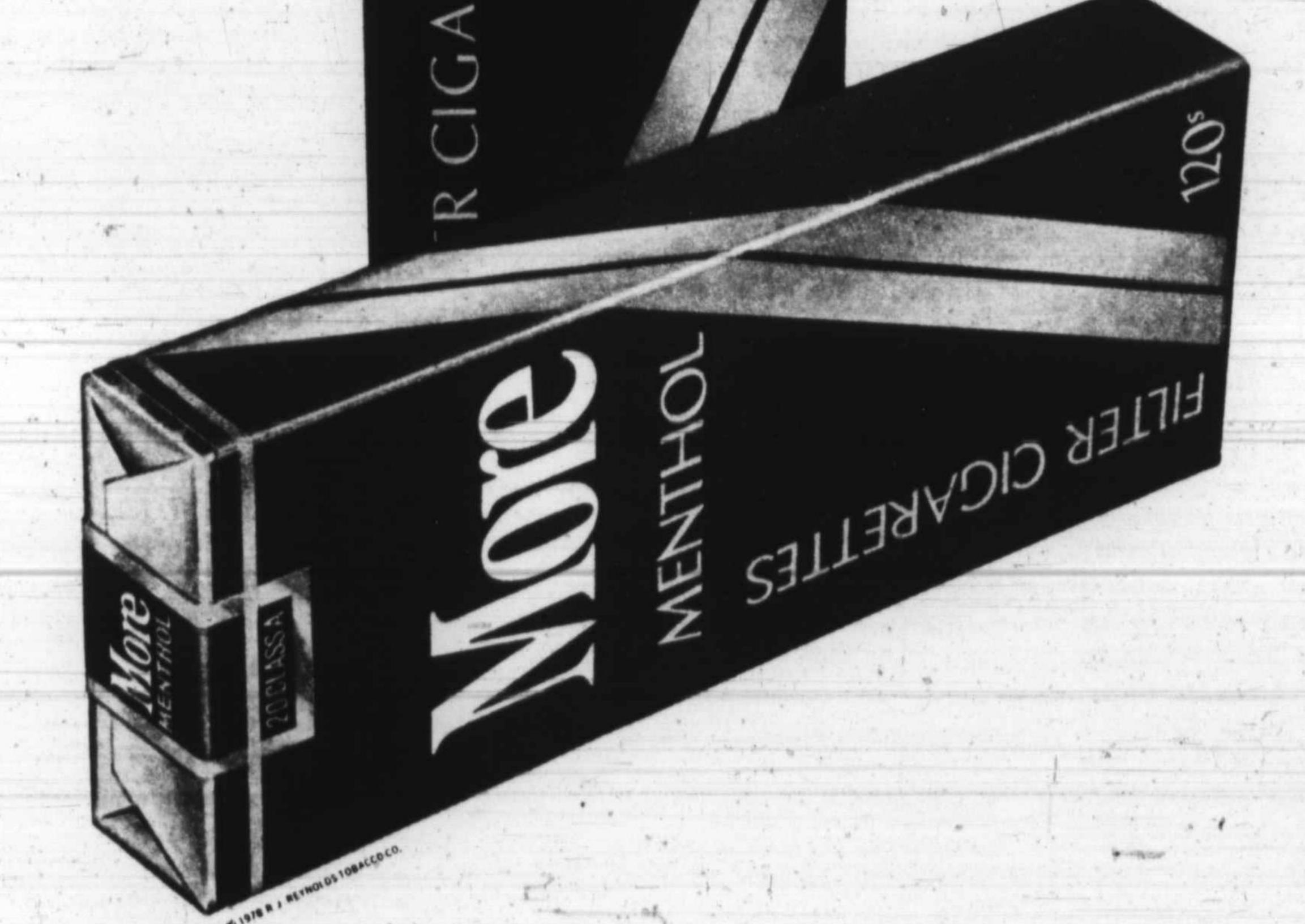
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