

RECORD WORLD

Eagles, Wonder, Mitchell Take Top 'Rocky' Honors

■ LOS ANGELES — The Eagles, Joni Mitchell and Stevie Wonder, winning awards for best group, best female and male vocalist, respectively, led the list of honorees in the first annual Rock Music Awards which aired live on CBS from the Santa Monica Civic Center here August 9. The awards show was hosted by Elton John and Diana Ross, and presenters included Alice Cooper, Roger Daltrey, Olivia Newton John, Tony Orlando and Dawn, Bernie Taupin and Ella Fitzgerald. Don Kirshner served as executive producer.

With the exception of the Eagles, whose Glen Frey and Don Henley (along with J.D. Souther) were also recipients of best song composer awards for "Best Of My Love," no one artist won in more than one category, a rare occurrence in this era of the awards show sweep.

Entertainment between presentations was provided by Chuck

Rack Jobbers Meet Planned by NARM

■ CHERRY HILL, N.J.—The First Annual NARM Rack Jobbers Conference will be held at the Hyatt on Union Square in San Francisco, California, Thursday and Friday, September 18-19. The rack jobbers program will be the focal point of a series of meetings which will also include meetings of the 1976 convention committee, of the NARM board of directors, and of the manufacturers advisory committee. Advance registration forms have been sent this week to all NARM regular members.

Meetings

Preliminary meetings to be held on Wednesday, September 17 are convention committee meetings and one of the board of directors. Thursday's schedule calls for a board of directors breakfast meeting; a joint session with the board of directors and the manufacturers advisory committee; a rack jobbers meeting; a rack jobbers-only "Operations Rap;" and a cocktail reception and dinner meeting to be attended by rack

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Berry, the Manhattan Transfer, Labelle and via filmclip, the Rolling Stones and the Edgar Winter Group. The venerable Nelson Riddle served as musical director.

Winners of the first "Rockies" were as follows:

New Female Vocalist—Phoebe Snow; Female Vocalist — Joni Mitchell; New Male Vocalist—Dan Fogelberg; Male Vocalist—Stevie Wonder; Group — Eagles;

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Allman Tour, Album Announced by Walden

By DON CUSIC

■ MACON, GA. — After a long absence from the music scene, the Allman Brothers Band has announced plans for a new album and a forthcoming tour. The announcement was made at a press conference in Macon (12) by Phil Walden, president of Capricorn Records.

Walden told *Record World* that the tour will have the theme "The Pride of The South" and will be divided into three parts, with the first part of the tour opening in New Orleans on August 31 at the Louisiana Superdome. Also appearing on the Louisiana date will be the Marshall Tucker Band, Wet Willie, and the Charlie Daniels Band.

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Anka Action



The stars came out for Paul Anka's recent appearance at Los Angeles' Greek Theatre. Shown at an after-opening-night-concert party held in a huge tent across from the Greek Theatre are *Record World* vice president Spence Berland (second from left) presenting Anka (center) with a special copy of RW's recent Anka special as (from left) Bob Skaff; Al Teller, president of United Artists Records; and Odia Coates look on.

Soul Sizzles on Album Chart

By ROBERT ADELS

■ NEW YORK—The 20th Annual NATRA meet coincided with one of the most impressive sales weeks for black product on The Album Chart. Black acts hold down both the number one and Chartmaker positions and account for three top ten packages, including the top 10's longevity champion.

Bullethead back at 1 this week is the Isley Brothers' "The Heat Is On" (T-Neck), in its third appearance in the top spot, after yielding for one week to the Eagles (Asylum).

War, EW&F

United Artists supergroup War holds down the number 6 spot with "Why Can't We Be Friends" while Earth, Wind & Fire (Columbia) have the longest-charted top 10 album of the week with "That's the Way of the World," at 8 after 24 weeks.

At 18 with a bullet is Graham Central Station (WB). Their package "No 'Bout-a-Doubt It" is currently the fastest-rising album to break top 20 (reaching that status after only four chart weeks). The lp is also "Salesmaker of the Week" on The Retail Report.

Last week's Chartmaker, Ohio Players (Mercury), sees their "Honey" package become the fastest-rising album to break into the top 50 where it is a bulleted 44 after two chart weeks. Chartmaker for this week is again a black act, Quincy Jones (A&M)

and his "Mellow Madness" set, debuting at a bulleted 66.

The biggest comedy album of the day is also black, Richard Pryor's "Is It Something I Said" (WB), bulleted at 54 after just two weeks in release.

Within the top 50, only one album (Elton John's "Greatest Hits" on MCA), can top The Temptations in the longevity department: their Gordy package, "A Song for You" (at 48) is in its 29th chart week.

B.T. Express

B. T. Express have cemented their identity as an album act with their "Non Stop" lp on Roadshow becoming their second big effort, at a bulleted 21 after four chart weeks. The pattern of initially breaking off of a hit single, "Get Down Tonight," has worked for KC & The Sunshine Band (TK) whose namesake album is already a bulleted 36 after three weeks on the top 100.

Spinners (Atlantic) see their "Pick of the Litter" package bullet into the 22 spot after three chart weeks, reaffirming their po-

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Pride and Campbell To Host CMA Awards

■ NASHVILLE — The Ninth Annual Country Music Association Awards will take place on Monday night, October 13, at 9 p.m., Central Daylight Time. According to CMA board chairman Bill Denny, the show, which is sponsored by Kraft Foods Corporation, will be broadcast live on CBS-TV from the stage of the Grand Ole Opry House and co-hosted by Charley Pride and Glen Campbell.

Categories

There will be awards presented in 10 categories of achievement: Entertainer of the Year, Song of the Year, Single of the Year, Male Vocalist of the Year, Female Vocalist of the Year, Album of the Year, Instrumentalist of the Year, Instrumental Group or Band of the Year, Vocal Duo of the Year and Vocal Group of the Year. The awards are determined by vote of the CMA membership, with the certified public accounting

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At The Rock Awards



Pictured at the Rock Awards Show and party are, from left, top row: Cher, Elton John and Diana Ross; Raquel Welch and Minnie Riperton; Bill Graham and Don Kirshner. Bottom row: Ringo Starr, Keith Moon, Alice Cooper, director Stanley Dorfman and Kirshner; and Kirshner, Melissa Manchester and Phoebe Snow.

CONCERT REVIEW

BTO Brings It All Back Home

■ REGINA, SASK. — A Bachman-Turner Overdrive (Mercury) concert in Regina (28), staged as a prelude to what is being billed as the most lucrative rock tour ever made in Canada, drew 12,500 wildly enthusiastic fans and resulted in BTO playing for 90 minutes and being called back for two encores.

It was almost a return home performance for BTO, which was formed, as Brave Belt, in the nearby Winnipeg area, and each member had played throughout this area for many years. Ironically, following BTO's concert, bassist Fred Turner met with some musicians he had played with several years ago. They were playing at the lounge of the Regina Inn where BTO members were staying.

There's no doubt that the group returned to the area as full-fledged pop idols, and it seems that their 13-date tour will underline that. It's taken considerably longer for the BTO influence to be felt here, but they have had the sense to wait until a high-grossing tour was possible before putting together this series of shows.

Yet, in concert, BTO really doesn't present any surprises for its fans. The Regina concert started slowly, the band dwelling on some lengthy, worked-out "jams" that seemed out of place, but moved rapidly once the band started playing their hit singles.

The familiar material is where BTO is strongest, especially that from the first three albums.

Standouts for the evening were "Takin' Care of Business" and "You Ain't Seen Nothin' Yet." The two are probably BTO's strongest tunes — along with "Gimme Your Money" and "Hold Back The Water" — and leader/guitarist Randy Bachman left few doubts in the minds of critics of BTO that he's playing the music he loves.

There's been a great deal of criticism over BTO's iron rock formula in recent months. "Four Wheel Drive" indicated that their hard rock was drying up and everyone is wondering what direction the group will take in the future. In concert, they rarely tamper with the hit formula because it works so well for them.

In a press conference the afternoon of the concert Randy Bachman indicated that there was going to be a great change in the next BTO album — likely to be recorded at Stoney Mountain Studio in Vancouver in September. He admitted the band was beginning to feel restricted by the hard rock structure and would likely be extending their reach on the next project.

The press conference, arranged by Polydor Canada's Allan Katz and Lori Bruno and attended by about 20 of Canada's top journalists, was a bit of a strange confrontation between a group

whose management had consistently criticized the Canadian press and a press that had largely ignored the band until U.S. acceptance came about.

At the end of the press conference, promoter Donald Tarleton of DKD Productions in Montreal presented the group with a plaque in honour of their award-winning Canadian dates.

Larry LeBlanc

Spanky's Gang



Following their recent appearance, Epic's Spanky and Our Gang were joined by friends and well-wishers backstage at the Palomino Club. Shown, from left, are Maria Muldaur, Dan Hicks and Spanky McFarland, with Epic's Gregg Geller in the background, listening attentively to Palomino regular Art Fein. Spanky and Our Gang's first lp for the label is due for release shortly.

Rock Awards Score In Nielsen Ratings

■ LOS ANGELES—The first annual presentation of the Rock Awards received 37 average shares in the national Nielsen ratings, scoring a 15.2. The program which aired nationally on CBS, easily outpaced competing programming on ABC, which scored an average 22 shares and NBC, which generated 27.

Ratings Non-Inclusive

The ratings are not inclusive of the Philadelphia and Chicago markets, where the telecast was delayed; the addition of the latter markets is expected to boost the Rock Awards' ratings.

Rock Awards

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New Group—Bad Company; Producer—George Martin; Composer—Don Henley, Glen Frey and J.D. Souther for "Best Of My Love;" R&B Single—"Lady Marmalade (Labelle);" R&B Album—"That's The Way of The World" (Earth, Wind and Fire); Public Service Award—Joan Baez; Rock Personality of the Year—Elton John; Rock Music Hall of Fame—Chuck Berry; Single Record—"You're No Good" (Linda Ronstadt); Album—"Blood on the Tracks" (Bob Dylan); Rock Movie or Theatrical Presentation—"Tommy."

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