



DENIECE WILLIAMS

It's Only The Beginning

As calendar year 1976 ends, quite a few things are apparent. There seems to be no visible life on Mars, Jimmy Carter will be the 40th President of the United States, and Columbia recording artist Deniece Williams is the brightest female singer to hit the musical scene since Natalie Cole.

The latter is backed by the fact that Miss Williams' debut album, "This Is Niecey," is shooting up the charts like she was a seasoned veteran widely known to the public.

Certainly, she wasn't known to the general public, but a seasoned veteran she is. Before writing and recording her own album, she toured and participated in every Stevie Wonder album, since 1972, including the most recent, "Songs In The Key Of Life."

But she felt singing wasn't her bag, so she left Wonderlove to pursue a songwriting career. And she was pretty successful. Her songs were recorded by Frankie Valli, the Soul Train Gang, Merry Clayton and the Emotions. But, as the saying goes, all good things must come to an end. In Deniece's case, it came to an end for the better.

For a while trying to get Maurice White, the talented leader of Earth, Wind, & Fire to record some of her songs, he told her emphatically, No! White went on to say that if anybody was going to record her songs, it should be her. Thinking about what he had said, she hesitantly followed

his advice and asked him to produce her. He did, and the rest is history.

Deniece expresses a strong admiration for White; a feeling that is entirely reciprocal.

As for why she was hesitant on becoming a solo artist, she explained, "Singing never meant much to me. . . . Singing was something I just did, instinctively. To be truthful, I didn't respect the talent until I found out that not everyone can sing well."

Before Deniece got into music, she wanted to be a nurse. But fate, and others, were not going to let her have her way.

Naturally Deniece thinks Stevie is one heck of a musician and she's very thankful to him for giving her a start in the show business. As far as the future is concerned she says "It's only the beginning for me." So keep an eye, or ear, out for her.

E. M. Marshall Named Sales Representative

Ethel M. Marshall has been named as a sales representative in Metro Chicago for Seagram Distillers Company, according to an announcement by Robert Goldberg, Metro Chicago manager.

The company markets Seagram's 7 Crown, Seagram's V.O., Seagram's Crown Royal, Seagram's 100 Pipers Scotch, Seagram's Benchmark Bourbon, Seagram's Extra Dry Gin, Wolfshmidt Vodka, James Foxe Canadian, el Charro Tequila, The Glenlivet Scotch, Something Special Deluxe Scotch, and Myers's Jamaican Rum.

A native of Pentoc, Miss. Ms Marshall attended the University of Wisconsin and Milwaukee Institute of Technology. A graduate of the John Powers Modeling School, she has had special sales promotion assignments for Seagram Distillers Company in the Milwaukee market.

Ms. Marshall lives in Park Forest South, Ill., with her two children. She is past president of the Bern Club of Milwaukee.

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H. Mann/Bird In A Cage Silver Cage

Even Herbie finds it difficult to express why this German sense of pop music recording technology is such a

turn-on. Listening to everything from the Rolling Stones' "HOT STUFF" to Boney M's "DADDY COOL," it's obvious

that the Germans have an entirely unique way of hearing bass and drum sounds -- more than anything, Herbie sought to bathe his flute in that particular sound when he journeyed to Munich in October. Working at the famed Union Studios there with the Michael Kunze/Sylvester Le-vay/Silver Convention team, he emerged with a thoroughly sensuous album that is key-noted by its 13 minute opening title-tune, an exploration through the various sonic devices that characterize that feeling of German "disco." If the first side, featuring the lushly romantic "ARIA" (already picking up steam in Europe and Canada, as a smash disco single) is the so-called "lovenaking" side -- then the second side has to be the "dancing" side. There's a potential new step-craze introduced in "BIRDWALK"; that familiar Soul Train-like theme carried through "YEARS OF LOVE"; and Herbie's "pied" flute solos that weave through its composition, "THE PIPER." Without any question, here is his most fascinating endeavor since Memphis, Muscle Shoals, Jamaica, and "HI-JACK" -- destined to be among his most commercially successful albums as well.

Side One: Bird In A Silver Cage * Aria (with Penny McLean) * Fly, Robin, Fly.
Side Two: Birdwalk * Years Of Love * The Piper

TRAMMPS DISCO INFERNO

Earlier, we had been reminded of the occasion (preceding the release of our 1st Trampps album last April) when, in an informal situation, Jerry Greenberg had referred to the Trampps as 'the Led Zeppelin of disco.' Now, in the wake of "THAT'S WHERE THE HAPPY PEOPLE GO," "SOUL SEARCHING TIME," and the current "99 1/2" -- all drawn off the Trampps' 1st Atlantic LP -- we realize that Jerry Greenberg's comparison was justified. And even more so after just one listening to the 11 minute LP title-tune that opens up the second side here. As before, the Trampps prove themselves an all-star five man vocal group/rhythm section, as Jimmy Ellis, Stapley Wade, Harold Wade, Earl Young, and Robert Upchurch do up an album that, if such a thing is possible, even outdoes all their previous sets. The finer credits to this album read

like a "Who's Who" of the Philadelphia disco/R&B scene, led by the Ronald Baker/Norman Harris/Earl Young production setup; arrangers Ron "Have Mercy" Kersey and T. G. Conway, along with Baker and Harris; songwriters on the order of Ron Tyson, Allan Felder, included virtually all of the aforementioned names, plus guitarist T. J. Tindall, Larry Washington on congas, Bobby Eli sitting in on keyboards, and the great backing vocals of Barbara Ingram, Carla Benson, and Evette Benton. Put it all together at Sigma Sound Studios in Philly, and hand the tapes over to Tom Moulton for the mix -- and watch the fur fly!

Side One: Body Contact Contract * Starvin' * I Feel Like I've Been Livin' (On The Dark Side of the Moon)

Side Two: Disco Inferno * Don't Burn Your Bridges * You Touch My Hot Line

THEATRICAL WORLD

NEW YORK -- Clint Eastwood's latest "Dirty Harry" film, "The Enforcer," which features Albert Popwell in his third such film, is shaping up as a big money winner in New York, Kansas City, St. Louis, Buffalo, Los Angeles, Pittsburgh, Boston, Denver, Philadelphia, to name a few. The Warner Bros. release should be high on the "50 top-grossing films" list when it hits there for the first time soon.

Mall in Boston, Mass., Jan. 12-16 and into Marco Polo Hotel in Miami Beach, Fla., Jan. 21-31.

The two black girls who make up the Orees and back Barbara Streisand in "A Star is Born" are Vanetta Fields - not Fielsa, and Clydie -- not Clyde-King. This \$8 million Warner Bros. release is all Streisand, which is music to her fans.

There's a new disco-rock group in the tri-state area of New York, New Jersey and Connecticut. Called "Exact Change," it's composed of a group of nine talented, dedicated musicians and vocalists. They blend Latin, reggae, jazz, Afro-Cuban, and blues into the most intoxicating of contemporary disco-rock sounds. Watch the name, Exact Change.

"Big Blue Marble" spokesperson Melba Moore at Paul's

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SHADY ROLLO WORKER IN REAL LIFE

Rollo, on NBC-TV's "Sanford and Son," is Fred Sanford's primary candidate for prison. But actually Nathaniel Taylor, who plays the role, is a primary contender for outstanding community worker.

Taylor principally makes his living as an actor and as program director for PASLA, the Performing Arts Society of Los Angeles. After majoring in theatre arts at Los Angeles City College, he enrolled in PASLA's drama workshop and within seven years had attained his present position.

As head of the society, he coordinates the drama and dance workshops for 125 young adults in South Central Los Angeles. In addition, kids, identifying with the character Rollo, ask for and accept his advice.

Consequently, administrators of the L. A. Unified School district utilize him frequently for lectures to teachers and school personnel on what the children of today expect from adults. He is, thereby, helping the schools bridge the gap between students and faculty.

Having completed her first film, "Pipe Dreams," Gladys Knight's hubby, Barry Hankerson is already at work on a second vehicle for Avco Embassy which again will star his wife. It centers around the "Chitling Circuit," the network of theatres in urban centers where many of today's best-known black entertainers played during the late 1950's and early 1960's including Gladys Knight.

Marvin Walters, spokesman for the Coalition of Black Stuntmen and Stuntwomen in Hollywood has quit his \$1,000 a month, 16 hour a week job as affirmative action consultant at MGM to dramatize his protest against what he calls is the studio's foot-dragging on minority hiring.

Johnny Mathis is being billed as the first American entertainer to perform before a racially mixed audience in South Africa when he goes there this month. It's not true; other American artists have appeared there before mixed audiences.

Isaac Hayes, who has filed a personal bankruptcy petition for \$6-million in debts has one good note coming from his house. He and Dionne Warwick will team up for an ABC album featuring a January live concert.

Durham Blues To Be Featured On Folklore

WUNC Radio and the Folklore Department at UNC-Chapel Hill will present the first in a five part series focusing on the music and life native to North Carolina each Saturday at 8 p.m. throughout January. The programs are the result of a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts, and feature such North Carolina musicians as Willie Brooks and Howard Cotton from Chatham County, Tommy Jarrell from Mount Airy, and Cas Wallin of Madison County.

The New Year's Day premier program featured "Primitive Baptist Music" recorded during the past year in both white and black churches. On January 8, "Durham Blues" will be aired; and on January 15, Cas Wallin will sing many of the old British ballads in his powerful, forceful style. January 22 features "Chatham County Lies and Blues," with Willie Brooks and Howard Cotton, old friends who play the blues and tell tall tales. And on the 29th, Tommy Jarrell, a well-known fiddler

from Mount Airy, plays his fiddle and tells fascinating stories about his experiences. WUNC Radio invites listeners to write the Station to

receive information about monthly program listings. The address is WUNC Radio, Swain Hall 044-A, UNCCH, Chapel Hill, N. C. 27514.

Inaugural Concert To Feature Top Black Stars

WASHINGTON, D. C. -- The New Spirit Inaugural Concert, in honor of President-elect Carter and Vice-President-elect Walter Mondale, will be held in the Opera House of the Kennedy Center at 7 p.m. January 19.

The concert will include stars Sidney Poitier, Stevie Wonder, Bette Davis, Jack Albertson, Freddie Prince, Jean Stapleton, Redd Foxx, Lily Tomlin, John Wayne, Joanne Woodward, Shirley MacLaine, Paul Newman and Henry (Hank) Aaron.

For the first time the traditional concert that pre-

cedes a presidential inauguration will be shared with the television audience throughout America and possibly throughout the world.

CBS Television Network will tape the entertainment live, broadcasting it on Jan. 19 within two hours after the performances begin.

The announcement was made by Baryl Tirana and Vickie Rogers, co-chairpersons of the 1977 Presidential Inaugural Committee and Robert Wussler, president of the network.

COURTHOUSE SQUARES



TIME OUT NECESSARY -- Richard Pryor, best known as a comedian is also a writer, actor, who takes his work very seriously. As a result, every year he takes a two month, "time out," to work out new lines. He says a comedian can't go out on the road with the same material done on records as singers do, he has to have new acts and jokes. (UPI).

DISCOS

- THE BABY GRAND CLUB, 915 Ramseur St., Durham Every Wed. 9 p.m. - 1 a.m. Open \$3 Cover, Henry Bates, mng.
- THE UNDERGROUND DISCO, 1205 Duke University Road Durham - 7 days, 5 p.m. - 3 a.m. Memberships only, Fletcher Burnett, mng.
- THE ROYAL VILLA HOTEL, Off Hgwy I-85, Greensboro 7 days, 6:30 p.m. - 2 a.m. Dinner 'til 9, Bill Stockwell, in charge
- DISCO '76, in Washington Duke Motor Inn, 605 W. Chpl. Hill St., Durham, 7 days a week 8 p.m. - 1. Open with cover. Memberships available. Cary Edgerton, manager.
- THE MAIN EVENT, Durham - Chapel Hill Blvd. across from the Blue Cross-Blue Shield Building, 7 days, 8-1. \$2 plus membership.

LIVE MUSIC

- THE BABY GRAND CLUB, 915 Ramseur St., Durham. Fri. & Sat. Live bands with name entertainment. 10 p.m. - 3 a.m.
- PARKWOOD (AFTER HOURS) RESTAURANT & LOUNGE, 5124 Revere Rd., Durham. Sat., 'til 1 a.m. - 6 days, Closed Sunday. 11:30 a.m. 11 p.m. Mond.-Fri. "Red" Freeman, mng.
- RAMADA INN LOUNGE-DOWNTOWN, 600 Willard St., Durham - Thurs., Fri. & Sat., 9:15 - 1:15. Open at 4 p.m. Closed Sun. M-W 'til 12 p.m., Don McKeller, mng.
- RED VELVET CLUB & RESTAURANT, 1222 N. Alston Ave., Durham. Fri. & Sat., live bands, 9 p.m. - 2 a.m. Closed Mon. W. J. Mitchell, mng.
- CHARLIE GOODNIGHTS, 861 W. Morgan St., Raleigh.

CALENDAR

- January 8 -- FUND RAISING GROUP TO SPONSOR BAKE SALE -- The Fund Raising Group Committee of the Y. E. Smith School will sponsor a bake sale on Saturday from 10 a.m. until 5 p.m. at the South Square Shopping Center Mall. Funds raised from the sale will go toward purchasing items for the school programs.
- January 8 -- The Durham Recreation Department invites everyone to attend the Open House and Grand Opening of the Edison Johnson Recreation Center at 600 W. Murray Avenue. This new Recreation Complex features a gymnasium, three handball courts, a dance studio, a ceramics/pottery studio and several meeting rooms. Activities begin at 10 a.m. At 1 p.m. Mayor Cavin and other city officials will conduct a formal ribbon cutting ceremony. At 1:30 Brother Yusuf Salim and his trio will perform and gymnastics instructor, John Row will conduct a demonstration with competitive gymnasts and filmed highlights of competitions during this same time period (1:30-3 p.m.).

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