

AMONG THE STARS



with **LEE IVORY**

Didn't I tell you quite some time ago that the Supremes never did get a million-selling record? It was a rumor for a long time in the music industry because knowledgeable people wanted to know how they got to the top of the recording heap so quickly.

Chicago Tribune columnist Herb Lyon, I was told, picked up the item from the Chicago Gazette--yet, nobody really knew for sure where the three girls got that "Gold Record" complex, since they had never had a coveted golden disc signifying a certified sale of either one million 45 rpm records or a million dollars worth of long playing elpees.

I guess this is why it was so interesting to me to read in a recent issue of Cash Box, one of the music trade publications, a complete absence of the Supremes in the million-selling category! Harry Dale, my buddy-buddy-friend, urged me to check out the rumor because it would make for a fascinating story if, in fact, the Supremes did not have a "Goldie."

But, as usual, I am not really interested in what is happening at Motown Record Corporation any longer. I could care less if they have ten million in sales or ten dollars since they do not feel it is important to their corporate image to let Negro entertainment writers know what in the world is going on!

AFTER SEVERAL long distance calls (at my expense!) produced no information from the powers-that-be in Detroit (if they are still in power; they change personnel so fast nowadays!), I decided to forget it. An enterprising reporter does not mind spending hard-earned cash for a "scoop" or "beat" on other columnists because we all like to say... "Remember, you read it here first!"

Well, now, the fact that the Supremes have not sold one million copies of their "hits" leads to the question: "How in the world did they get so big so fast?" I'm sure that Cash Box would not "forget" so important a group! Longevity of the group's tunes in the nation's record popularity charts can't be denied and probably plays an important part in the supposition that the Supremes are one of the top groups in America.

But the other fact remains that in a country with over 200-million people, there are few groups who reach the top of the ladder and remain there who do not, from time to time, boast a "Gold Record." No matter how you look at it, the rise of the Supremes was kind of fantastic.

Whatever the secret, Diana Ross and the Supremes did it! They rushed to the top of the pack. I will, however, always feel that they are reminiscent of puff adders, the snake that blows up its head with air to frighten away foes. I wonder what will happen when the foes don't run and decide to investigate? Will they find the greatest hoax in show business? Will they find the "magnificent put-on" of the decade?

Whatever the case, you can believe that according to the Record Industry Association of America, the Supremes are not million-selling singers and should not, to my way of thinking, occupy the throne that they now claim.

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Another Award For Sammy Davis



AWARD FOR SAMMY -- Sammy Davis, Jr., is presented with an award for his outstanding contributions to the entertainment world by Los Angeles City councilman Billy Mills, who recently announced his candidacy for the office of County Supervisor in that city, on the set of Sammy's current movie, Universal's "Sweet Charity," also starring Shirley MacLaine, Paula Kelly and Chita Rivera.

See Her About Applying For Housing For Elderly



MRS. GENEVIEVE VALAMORE who is currently managing the Archie Grant Park Housing facility will assume managerial responsibilities for the Harry C. Levy Gardens, on Washington Street near Tonopah when the Housing for the Elderly complex is opened for occupancy.

In the meanwhile, Mrs. Valamore is taking applications of eligible tenants for the Housing for the Elderly units at the office of the Archie C. Grant Park located at 1720 Searles.

It is suggested that those persons who have reached the age of 62 and who are not certain of their eligibility for admission to these low rental units should call on Mrs. Valamore at the Archie Grant Park office and discuss the provisions as defined by the Federal Agency, the participating financial assistant in the program.

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Wary Of Labor Pledges

MIAMI BEACH, Fla. - (NPI)--Civil rights leaders are skeptical of an AFL-CIO pledge to admit more Negroes to building trades unions and prohibit racial discrimination.

Among those taking a dim view of the giant union's announcement was Herbert Hill, NAACP national labor director.

"There have been many other voluntary compliance agreements in the past," he said.

"We recall that six years ago, leaders of the building trades unions entered into a similar agreement with President John F. Kennedy, but years later, nothing had changed for the Negro worker.

"We shall wait and hope that this so-called agreement is different from those empty public pledges made in the past."

The unions pledged to recruit young Negroes for apprenticeship programs and to work with "responsible" civil rights groups to carry out the program.

U.S. Labor Secretary W. Willard Wirtz was a party to the union agreement, which was aimed at "preventing any possible discrimination in the operation of local unions," according to C. J. Haggerty, AFL-CIO Building and Construction Trades Department President.

The unions also pledged to help Negroes and members of other minority groups improve their educational qualifications so they can qualify for apprenticeship programs.

The unions promised to disseminate information about apprenticeship openings and how to apply for them, among Negro organizations.