

The Beginnings of Jubilee Records

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JERRY BLAINE and his band open at the Park Central, New York, December 3 for CRA with an NBC wire. Follow Dick Messner.

After a stint at Stanford University, where he both boxed and played football, Jerry Blaine from Brooklyn pursued his goal of becoming a bandleader. By December 1936, Jerry's band was playing at the Cocoanut Grove club at the Park Central Hotel in New York City.

In March 1937, Blaine and his Orchestra recorded three songs for the Master Record label, which was best-known for Duke Ellington. Master/Varsity seems not to have released any of the songs.

Before the end of 1937, Blaine had signed with Paramount Pictures to appear in several short features, and Bluebird Records (RCA Victor) had roped him in for three recording sessions – each of which produced three singles.

Singles recorded on October 15, 1937:

- B-7227 "Farewell My Love"/ "Sweet Varsity Sue" [with Johnny McKeever]
- B-7228 "The Snake Charmer"/ "Dipsy Doodle" [B-side with Phyllis Kenny]
- B-7244 "Moaning in the Morning"/ "Down With Love" [A-side with Phyllis Kenny]

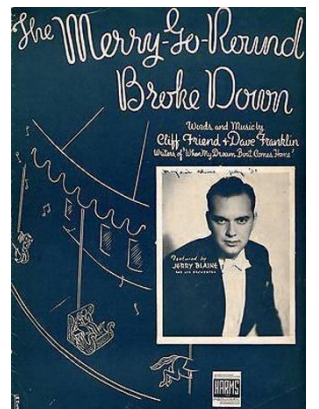
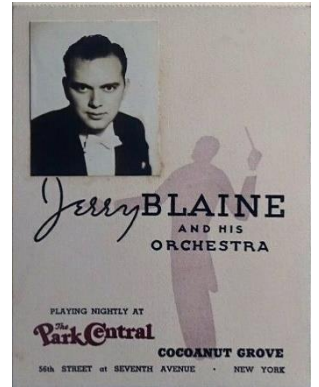
Singles recorded on December 17, 1937:

- B-7344 "Bei Mir Bist du Schön"/ "The Big Dipper" [with Phyllis Kenny]
- B-7354 "I Double Dare You"/ "You're Out of This World" [with Phyllis Kenny]
- B-7357 "Sail Along, Silv'ry Moon"/ "Always and Always" [with Phyllis Kenny]

Singles recorded on February 18, 1938:

- B-7443 "Ti-Pi-Tin"/ "Prove It" [with Phyllis Kenny]
- B-7445 "Two Bouquets"/ "When I Walk With You" [with Phyllis Kenny]
- B-7455 "Romance in the Dark"/ "Let's Sail to Dreamland" [with Phyllis Kenny]

Jerry's band was known at first as the Stream Line (or Streamlined) Rhythm Orchestra. Later, the name morphed into the Dream-Lined Rhythm Orchestra. His regular female vocalist, Phyllis Kenny, went on to join Shep Fields (1938) and then Van Alexander (1939-42). Blaine and company appeared regularly on NBC radio programs. Blaine and his orchestra had steady work through 1941. At that point, World War II intervened.



NOW RECORDING EXCLUSIVELY FOR COSMO

EVELYN BARTON - Dynamic teenage radio singing sensation... star of her own network show.

BUDDY MARINO - Bright new voice in movies and radio... will hit the top ten soon!

SUSAN REED - Taking New York by storm with her old-time ballads and folk songs.

THESE NEW COSMO HIT RELEASES bring you sparkling, "as if you were there" realism... on ever-lasting records *it's* staying for life... because they're made of COSMOLITE!

Ann Wilson
REMEMBER WHEN (E-811)

John Edwards
YOU OR TRY (E-432)

Ray Charles
WON'T YOU LOVE OLD MAN JOE (E-433)

Many Stars
I DON'T CARE WHO KNOWS IT (E-434)

John Edwards
SAY IT OVER AGAIN (E-435)

John Edwards
HOW DEEP IS THE OCEAN (E-436)

Many Stars
DOING MEAT (E-437)

John Edwards
I WISH THERE WERE YOU LEFT (E-438)

John Edwards
ROSEMARY (You-Sell-Records) (E-439)

Many Stars
I'M GOING LOVE THAT GAL (E-440)

John Edwards
DO IT ALL OVER AGAIN (E-441)

John Edwards
GOODNIGHT MY SWEET (E-442)

John Edwards
LET'S GO TO MOJO, YOU (E-443)

John Edwards
EVERYBODY'S SAYING (E-444)

John Edwards
TAKE IT AWAY (You-Sell-Records) (E-445)

**Cosmo
Distributors:**

COMETOPOLITAN RECORDS, INC.
745 FIFTH AVE., N.Y.C. 22, N.Y.
ASSOCIATED MUSIC CO.
Tulsa, Tulsa, Tulsa, Tulsa

REPUBLIC MUSIC SUPPLIES
214 N. 10TH ST., N.C. 10, N.C.
ALLIED MUSIC SALES CO.
1000 Broadway Ave., New York, N.Y.

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JANIS H. MARTIN CO.
1000 Broadway Ave., New York, N.Y.

STEFANSON PLEX CO.
814 E. 10TH ST., Tulsa, Tulsa.
LARRY E. STEPHENSON CO.
512 W. 10TH ST., Tulsa, Tulsa.

COSMOPOLITAN RECORDS, Inc., 745 Fifth Ave., New York 22, N.Y.

MANUFACTURED BY COSMOPOLITAN RECORDS, INC. NEW YORK, N.Y.

cosmo

(6003)

REMEMBER WHEN
(Rom-Addy)

JERRY WAYNE
Orchestra Under Direction of
Ernie Flo Rito

451

THIS RECORDING IS FOR HOME USE ONLY. IT IS NOT LICENSED FOR BROADCAST PURPOSES

Reportedly, Blaine got off to a rocky start. He recorded two singles by Ernestine Washington, and two more by Two Gospel Keys. These were to have been Jubilee 2501 through 2504, but they all went unreleased, and as *Billboard* announced on June 29th, Blaine continued working for Cosmopolitan.

NEW YORK, March 23.—Jerry Blaine, erstwhile sales manager for Cosmopolitan Records, is starting a diskery of his own. Company and label name not yet set, tho Blaine does have production facilities lined up and expects to get started shortly. Cute twist in Blaine plattery operation is fact that music publisher Gil Mills is acting as press agent for Blaine. He sent out first announcement on Blaine's plans this week in regular tub-thumper release style, but on Gil Mills Music stationery.

From National Records comes word that Jerry Blaine, former Cosmo sales head, has become General Manager of their label, and second in command to A. B. Green, the prexy. Big plans and big announcements are being readied and Ralph Berson, press and sales chief, declares lots of news will be sprung at the luncheon the firm will tender this week.

NEW YORK, March 1.—National Records has signed Enric Madriguera's ork to a waxing pact for two years with options calling for "substantial guarantees." Madriguera formerly waxed for Vogue. National's general sales manager, Jerry Blaine, is leaving the diskery to take over the Cosnat distrib firm, which serves as New York outlet for National and other labels.

As we can see, he was leaving to take over Cosnat distributing – which he reportedly purchased. Cosnat took over the distribution duties for several small labels in 1947. This allowed him to get ready to roll out some Jubilee singles. By this time, he had reportedly purchased Abramson's share of the label. Meanwhile, the Cosmo label collapsed and became the subject of lawsuits.

Jubilee Record Firm

Jerry Blaine, president of Jubilee Records, 760 Tenth Ave., New York City, announced that Cosnat Distributors will handle his firm's records in the New York, Conn., Mass., and New Jersey territories. Jubilee releases feature Lee Tully in "Essen, Parts I and II," and "Today I Am A Man" coupled with "Annie's Got A Fella."



"Essen" is a two-sided routine.

The B-side of "Today I am a Man" is "Annie's Got a Fella."

"Why Do they Fall in Fallsburg" is two-sided.

The B-side of "I Found Gold" is "Louisa Learned the Rumba from her Goomba."

Single 3505 – The Harmonakings "Sabre Dance"/ "Honeymoon" (November 1947)

Single 3506 – The Harmonakings "Please Don't Play No. 6 Tonight"/ "Devotion" (November 1947)

Single 3507 – Willie Howard "Salty Saul Peter". The B-side is "French Taught in a Hurry," but only the artists' names are shown. (spring 1948)

Single 3508 – Ralph Young "I Remember Mama"/ "A Thousand Times a Day" (June 1948)

Single 3511 – Lee Tully "Heine-Family Polka"/ "The Girl Who Comes from 69th and Lexington Ave." (c. June 1948)

Single 3512 – Lee Tully "Buck from Old Kentuck"/ "Naf-Tully Calypso" (c. June 1948)

The series continued to release records in 1948 at least through 3514. After Jubilee rebooted (see below), they introduced the 3501 series again in 1951. Noteworthy among its releases were Jubilee 3520 and Jubilee 3521, which featured a comedian calling himself "Eln Shoyman." This was actually Allan Sherman, who later became famous for a few of his routines. Happy Lewis released his parody of Dragnet (called "Dregnet") as Jubilee 3525 and "Romeo & Juliet" (3526) in 1953 and 1954, respectively. Jubilee's most famous series, devoted mainly to rhythm and blues, was about to begin.

The October 1947 issue of *Radio & Television Retailing* indicates that Blaine was going to use Cosnat to distribute records from Jubilee. The label released Jewish singles beginning that month and continued to release them (as series 3501) throughout the coming months.

ESSEN
THE ORIGINAL JUBILEE SMASH HIT ...

LEE TULLY
Comedy Star

#3501
Jubilee gives you the laff hit of the year, featuring the talented comedian, Lee Tully, in his hilarious version that took New York by storm.
A real over-the-counter number that will keep your customers laughing and your cash register ringing.

WHY DO THEY FALL IN FALLSBURG

#3503
A hilariously funny hit from the heart of the Jewish Alps. A vacation in itself, with laffs from start to finish. Hear the inimitable Lee Tully in this fast moving number that brings out all the racy humor of a week in Fallsburg.

TODAY I AM A MAN

#3502
The laffingest record ever played. For sparkling humor and popular appeal, Lee Tully's version of this famous Jubilee best seller can't be beat.

I FOUND GOLD

#3504
A new Jubilee comedy sensation. Already a national seller, Lee Tully, the brilliant Jubilee comedian, blends clever lyrics with smart, racy comedy to make this a sure-fire nickel grabber.

TERRITORIES OPEN FOR LIVE WIRE DISTRIBUTORS

Jubilee RECORD COMPANY
Manufacturers of Phonograph Records
760 TENTH AVENUE, NEW YORK 17, N. Y.

Jerry Blaine worked at National with Sid de May, who left in August 1948 to found Natural Records. De May put out "Barbra Lee" / "Too Soon to Know," by the Orioles (review August 21, 1948). According to *Cash Box*, Jerry Blaine was promoting it.

One week later, *Billboard* was reporting that the record was becoming a huge hit. *Cash Box* joined in the praise soon after.

**"Too Soon," by
Obscure Quintet,
Latest Boom Disk**

NEW YORK, Aug. 28.—Latest boom "Rip Van Winkle" recording to awaken in left field is *It's Too Soon To Know*, by a heretofore obscure vocal quintet called the Orioles, who come, appropriately enough, from Baltimore.

Side is the first release of a new label called Natural, said to be owned by Sid de May, and being distributed here by Cosnat. De May formerly was a partner in Cosnat with Jerry Blaine, who now owns the distributery outright.

Tune, a slow ballad, was written by Deborah Chessler, who has had no previous songs of significant magnitude. Buddy Morris pubbery bought the number last Wednesday (25) for a reported \$7,500—a solid sum these days for any ditty, let alone the work of a relatively unknown tunesmith.

RACE DISK O' THE WEEK

"Barbra Lee" (2:08)
"It's Too Soon To Know" (2:49)

THE ORIOLES
(Natural 5000)



THE ORIOLES

● A new vocal quintet on a new disk that speeds right into the top spot of the race disks this week and is really something to listen to. The five boys harmonizing on this tune, featuring a new, young tenor,

Sonny Til, who spoons the lyrics of "Barbra Lee" to a fare-thee-well. It's great wax and it's got every possibility of hitting the top everywhere in the nation. What's more, as far as juke boxes are concerned, it's terrific from the standpoint it spins in only 2 minutes and 8 seconds. This means faster take for juke box ops and, combined with a great tune, it should prove a winner from every angle. On the flip, "It's Too Soon To Know," The Orioles, once again featuring Sonny Til, produce another side of wax that's sure to set 'em battlin' as to which is the best of the two sides on this platter. Both sides are set to spin themselves into ribbons on any location where they like their music soft, sweet and mellow. Grab a boxful and spread 'em around. This disk's got "it."

IT'S A NATURAL RECORDS

HAVE THE SONG OF THE YEAR
--IT'S TOO SOON TO KNOW--
backed by
"BARBRA LEE"

Sensationally Recorded by The Nation's Newest and Greatest Singing Quintet
The Orioles
On NATURAL RECORD #5000

#1 HOT IN HARLEM—from THE CASH BOX, Sept 11th
Dist. WRITE—WIRE for Available Territories

NATURAL RECORDS

220-224 W. 42nd St. (Phone: WI 7-6092) New York, N. Y.

That disc, Natural 5000, sold well enough that its sales prompted Jerry Blaine to take notice. Within two months' time, there were nine cover versions of "It's Too Soon to Know" on the market.



Billboard announced on October 23rd that Blaine and De May were uniting to form Jubilee Music Company. Within a week, Blaine was reissuing Natural 5000 on a revitalized Jubilee Records. Their ad in *Cash Box* promoted the connection to Natural Records.

NO. 1 — in the Juke Boxes — 6 Consecutive Weeks
— from The Cash Box, HOT IN HARLEM

"IT'S TOO SOON TO KNOW"
by
The Nation's Greatest Singing Quintet
The Orioles
It's a NATURAL Hit! # 5000

WATCH FOR THEIR NEW RELEASE NOV. 4th

JUBILEE RECORD CO., Inc.
764 10th AVENUE NEW YORK, N. Y.

Blaine, De May Form Jubilee Music Pub'ry

NEW YORK, Oct. 23.—Jerry Blaine, Cosnat distribber, and Sid De May, Natural Records prexy, have formed a pubbery, the Jubilee Music Company, to publish tunes out of the Natural catalog. Deborah Chessler, who penned *It's Too Soon To Know*, has been signed to a five-year writing pact with Jubilee, and the Orioles, whose platter of the tune is now riding high in race lists, have entered into a five-year recording contract with Natural. *Too Soon* will not figure in the Jubilee deal, Miss Chessler having sold the number to the Buddy Morris pubbery some weeks ago for a reported \$7,000.

The Orioles forthcoming Natural release, due next week, features a new tune by Miss Chessler.

The first Jubilee single used the same printer, the same typeface, and the same catalog number (5000) as the Natural release. Sure enough, the previously-announced follow-up single by the Orioles was Jubilee 5001 – first appearing in the trade magazines on November 13, 1948. The original B-side to Jubilee 5001 was "(It's Gonna be a) Lonely Christmas." Surprising Jerry Blaine, the B-side turned out to be a hit, while the A-side faltered. After the Christmas season passed, Jubilee re-released single 5001 with "Dare to Dream" and "To Be to You" together.



The Orioles' next single, "Please Give My Heart a Break" backed with "It Seems So Long Ago" (Jubilee 5002) first appeared in the trade magazines on January 22, 1949. Some reviews predicted good things for the single, but it being a bit formulaic, it scored well only in a few markets.

Jubilee RECORDS 

Follow Up With Another NATURAL
by THE NATION'S GREATEST
Quintet

THE ORIOLES
SINGING TWO ORIGINAL TUNES

No. 1 "TO BE TO YOU"
BACKED WITH
(IT'S GONNA BE A)

No. 2 LONELY CHRISTMAS
on JUBILEE # 5001
TWO SOCK "A" SIDES—
DOUBLE YOUR MONEY'S WORTH

STILL LEADING THE PARADE
THE ORIOLES
SENSATIONAL VERSION OF
"IT'S TOO SOON TO KNOW"
JUBILEE # 5000

Jubilee RECORD CO., INC.
764 10th AVE. NEW YORK, N.Y.

**50,000 OPERATORS
CAN'T BE WRONG**
Two Sensational NEW Releases by..

THE ORIOLES

'PLEASE GIVE MY HEART A BREAK' backed by 'IT SEEMS SO LONG AGO' JUBILEE #5002	'DARE TO DREAM' backed by 'TO BE TO YOU' JUBILEE #5001A
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**Both These GREAT HITS a
MUST in Your Boxes**
WATCH THE ORIOLES IN 1949

Jubilee RECORD CO., INC.
764 10th AVE. NEW YORK, N.Y.

Jubilee advertised the next two singles in late February. Single 5003, LaVerne Ray's "Hot Sweet Potatoes" and "Rockabye Boogie," came out immediately, but Jubilee held back the release of the Master Keys' "I Got the Blues in the Morning" and "You're Not the Only Apple on the Apple Tree" (Jubilee 5004) until April.



Of the two releases, La Verne Ray's "Hot Sweet Potatoes" and "Rockabye Boogie" (Jubilee 5003) seemed like the stronger one because Ms. Ray had signed to Jubilee and was recording new music, whereas the two sides of the Master Keys' single were reissues of Top Records 1146B and 1147A from August 1945.

"Rock-A-Bye-Boogie" (2:44)
"Hot Sweet Potatoes" (2:39)
LaVERNE RAY AND THE THREE RIFFS
 (Jubilee 5003)

● Wait'll music ops and fans hear this biscuit. Bowing into the disk spotlight in a blaze of glory, piper LaVerne Ray steps out on the right foot with this thing titled "Rock-A-Bye-Boogie." Song is a parody on the "Rock-A-Bye-Baby" lullaby, with cute lyrics on a bop kick making this item the hot thing it is. Vocal spot by LaVerne and The Three Riffs is first rate from start to finish. The flip, "Hot Sweet Potatoes" is a calypso tune weaving around the title. Top deck rates a spot in ops machines—get it.

"I Got The Blues In The Morning" (2:47)
"You're Not The Only Apple On The Apple Tree" (2:32)
THE MASTER KEYS
 (Jubilee 5004)

● Here come the Master Keys to present one of the most harmonious combinations yet heard. With some grand whistling and even grander harmony, the boys sell these two sides to make up one of the very best platters heard in a long time. Here's melody, lyrics, great harmony, beautiful vocalizing and simply outstanding music. From any standpoint a platter you can order by the boxful—a surefire nickel nabber.



NEW JUBILEE RELEASES THAT WILL MAKE THE JUKES JINGLE

"I GOT THE BLUES IN THE MORNING"
 (Thinkin' About The Night Before)
 backed with
"YOU'RE NOT THE ONLY APPLE ON THE APPLE TREE"
 by THE MASTER KEYS
 JUBILEE # 5004

"HOT SWEET POTATOES"
 backed with
"ROCKABYE BOOGIE"
 by
LA VERNE RAY and The Three Riffs
 JUBILEE # 5003

Stronger Than Ever . . . by The Nation's No. 1 Singing Group

THE ORIOLES
 "PLEASE GIVE MY HEART A BREAK" and "DARE TO DREAM"
 and
 "IT SEEMS SO LONG AGO" and "TO BE TO YOU"
 JUBILEE # 5002 JUBILEE # 5001

New Jazz Series—"BUZZY" (Part 1 & 2)
 featuring England's All-Star Instrumentalists

Jubilee RECORD CO., INC.
 764 10th AVE. NEW YORK, N.Y.



POPULAR

THE ORIOLES
 (Jubilee 5005)
Deacon Jones 72--71--70--74
 Zestful chanting of a revival takeoff rhythm tune by the popular quintet.

Tell Me So 83--83--82--84
 One of those slow, easy torch ballads that lend themselves to the group's glazing, note-blending style. Could be an important platter in the race mart.

Billboard gave high marks to the Orioles' next single (Jubilee 5005), which they reviewed in the issue dated April 30, 1949. "Tell Me So" came out on top and remained a steady seller for the rest of the year. Both sides were strong, though, and the pairing provided them with their biggest hit to date.

The June 25th issue of *Cash Box* advertised the release of two new Jubilee singles – these by artists that had not previously appeared on the label. Joya Sherrill paired a children’s song with a blues number – something she later did on her second Jubilee single. Either she had no success whatsoever or both of her records were withdrawn, for no copies of Jubilee 5006 are known to have been sold online. Single 5007, Viola Watkins’ “Jelly and Bread” and “That’s for Sure” did not “climb to the top. In fact, it is somewhat scarce.



Jubilee was off and running, though, signing new artists and releasing more singles by the Orioles. As this July 9, 1949, ad for single 5008 indicates, their initial address was 764 Tenth Avenue in New York City, which was the address of Cosnat Distributing.

“I Challenge Your Kiss” did well, but it took a month or so to gain traction; “Donkey Serenade” was forgotten quickly. August 13, 1949, brought the next Orioles single, though. The A-side, “A Kiss and a Rose,” wound up in the Top Ten R&B (“race”) charts in several local markets.



RACE DISK O' THE WEEK

“A Kiss And A Rose” (3:10)
“It's A Cold Summer” (2:45)

THE ORIOLES
(Jubilee 5099)

should prove to be one of their best and most popular. Titled “A Kiss And A Rose,” the vocal group display an avalanche of grand vocal harmony on the side to set the stage for some torrid coin play. The ditty is a smart, tooting ballad that makes you wanna listen. It's great stuff the group offer, and easy on the ears from the very first note. Slow infectious tempo, added to the plush air surrounding the disk, adds to the winning incentive found here. On the other end with “It's A Cold Summer.” The Orioles turn in another excellent performance to keep the platter sizzling hot. Ditty is a clever romantic ballad that should catch on and go. Music ops won't have to hesitate with this one—it's a winner—and a big one at that!

● There's no stopping this group! Right on the heels of their smash dishing of “I Challenge Your Kiss,” The Orioles come up with another winner in this latest recording that

In mid-September, along came another new Jubilee artist. Ali Abdul’s “I Wonder When” (Jubilee 5010) faced mediocre reviews after being introduced on August 13th, and unfortunately, customers agreed.

A JUBILEE 7th to THE CASH BOX

It's Also a ★ **JUBILEE RECORD YEAR** with These Top 7 HITS

No. 1 On All Race Charts THE ORIOLES—5005 “TELL ME SO” “DEACON JONES”	THE MASTER KEYS—5004 “I GOT THE BLUES IN THE MORNING” “YOUR'RE NOT THE ONLY APPLE ON THE APPLE TREE”
THE ORIOLES—5000 “IT'S TOO SOON TO KNOW” “BARBRA LEE”	THE ORIOLES—5002 “IT SEEMS SO LONG AGO” “PLEASE GIVE MY HEART A BREAK”
THE ORIOLES—5001 “TO BE TO YOU” “DARE TO DREAM”	The Duchess of Song (FORMERLY WITH ELLINGTON) JOYA SHERRILL—5006 “MARY HAD A LITTLE LAMB” “NEVER LET IT BE SAID”

Watch This One Climb to the Top
VIOLA WATKINS—5007
“JELLY & BREAD”
“THAT'S FOR SURE”

Jubilee RECORD CO., INC.
764 10th AVE. NEW YORK, N.Y.

“TELL ME SO” is ON TOP
on ALL CHARTS
BUT—

Pressure by JUKE BOX OPERATORS, DISTRIBUTORS and DEALERS Have Forced Us To Release

THE ORIOLES'
GREATEST To Date

“I CHALLENGE YOUR KISS”

Backed by
“DONKEY SERENADE”
JUBILEE #5008

Orders totaling over 22,000 so far AND RELEASE DATE IS JULY 5th. Place Your Orders NOW—They will be filled as they come in.

Jubilee RECORD CO., INC.
764 10th AVE. NEW YORK, N.Y.

JUBILEE RECORDS
★ **ADDS ANOTHER GREAT STAR** ★
(TO ITS FAST GROWING ROSTER)

Ali **ABDUL**

★ **“I WONDER WHEN”** ★
backed by
★ **“NOW WE ARE APART”** ★
★ Immediate Release ★

JUBILEE 5010

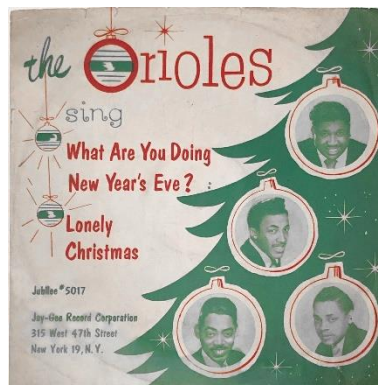
Jubilee RECORD CO., INC.
764 10th AVE. NEW YORK, N.Y.

Not only is single 5010 scarce, but so are several of the singles that emerged from the Jubilee label in October.



Among the releases for that month, "Chitling Switch" (Jubilee 5015) was a regional success in a few markets, but singles 5011, 5012, 5013, and 5014 more or less vanished into obscurity. June Nelson's calypso tracks, "Tomato" and "Siesta" (5014) deserved better, certainly.

The Orioles jumped back onto the charts with "Forgive and Forget," and the song merited recognition from *Cash Box*. The single continued to sell actively for the next several months. Meanwhile, by the end of the year, Jubilee had decided to reissue "Lonely Christmas." This time, however, they adorned the single with a colorful picture sleeve, promoting both sides of the record and sporting four photographs of the Orioles themselves.



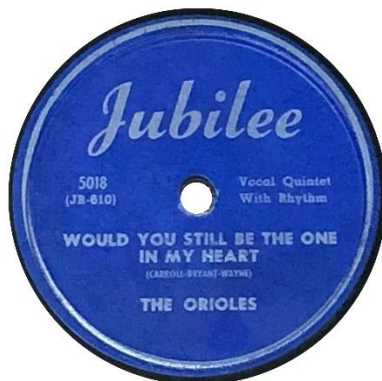
The Orioles' rendition of the A-side may be the definitive recording of the song.

Eager to pull in some coin in the new year, Jubilee started off 1950 with some recording sessions. The January sessions produced four immediate singles, as well as some sides for future singles. As usual, it was the Orioles who attracted the most attention. Their platter, "Would You Still Be the One in My Heart" and "Is My Heart Wasting Time" (Jubilee 5018) wound up "catching on like wildfire" by mid-February and was charting in some local markets.



June Nelson's second calypso single for Jubilee (numbered 5019) fared no better than her first "Sh-sh Don't Wake the Neighbor Next Door" and "Gumbo Lay Lay" are both interesting songs; these two and "Tomato" wound up on an EP for Jubilee later in the decade, but for now they were overlooked.

René Hall was also back with "Rene's Boogie" and "Blowing Awhile" (Jubilee 5020). Recorded in 1949, these sides (5015, 5020) were the jazz guitarist's first recordings as the leader of his own band. "Rene's Boogie" was ahead of its time, sounding less like most jazz and more like what would become known as rock and roll. It did well in some of the local markets.



The fourth single, "Red Sails in the Sunset" and "It Ain't Right" (5021) featured stylings by the R&B vocal group known as the Balladeers. Both sides were picked up in local markets, giving Jubilee another moderate seller to start the new year.



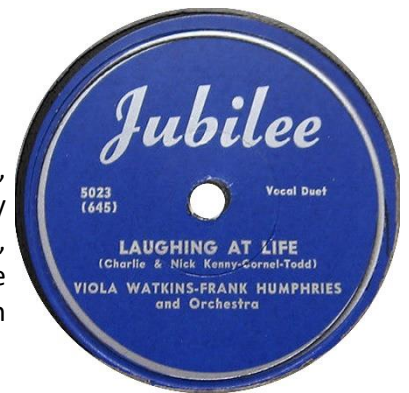
"Red Sails In The Sunset" (2:44)
 "It Ain't Right" (2:50)
 THE BALLADEERS
 (Jubilee 5021)

- New vocal group bows on Jubilee wax, with the refrain of "Red Sails In The Sunset" and "It Ain't Right" seeping thru the platter. Harmony this group displays is top notch right from the very start. They turn in a wonderful job on the top deck, a well known standard. The flip picks up in tempo a bit, with the lyrics spinning around the title. Side to ride with is "Red Sails In The Sunset."

Meanwhile, Jubilee was recording several new records for release in the spring. Foremost among these in retrospect may have been René Hall's second foray into the R&B genre. La Verne Ray added Arlene Talley to the A-side of single 5022, with Hall's Sextet joining Ray on both sides. The title of the song, authored by Ray, left no doubt that the song was "Rock and Roll." This was not the first song with that title, nor was it the most important to the developing genre at that time – for Fats Domino's debut single had just come out on Imperial, but coming when it did, it heralded the explosion of R&B into the popular-music scene. This was precisely the sort of music that DJ Alan Freed began listening to. One year later, he would introduce Cleveland to "rock and roll" on radio station WJW. At this point in time, though, most radio was segregated, and the larger stations were not playing R&B on the air.



Viola Watkins was next with “Laughing at Life” and “Red Riding Hood” (Jubilee 5023), and both Billy Mathews and René Hall’s band joined the Balladeers for “If You Only Knew” and “I Never Knew I Loved You” (Jubilee 5024). The Orioles were on top again, however, with two singles that received strong promotion and earned airplay. Single 5025, “At Night” and “Every Dog-Gone Time” came out ahead of the other single in March.



The Orioles dominated the rest of the spring with “Moonlight,” released in April and backed by “I Wonder When” as single 5026.



Now beginning to expand, Cosnat moved to a larger headquarters on May 1, 1950. That new location, 315 West 47th Street, would become Jubilee’s base of operations for the next several years. It was there that they introduced their 45 RPM singles and long-playing albums.