

Lamp Records

On June 12, 1954, Aladdin Records announced that they were preparing to open a subsidiary label – appropriately named Lamp. Instead of being spread across the genres of R&B and Jazz, Lamp was going to focus exclusively on Rhythm & Blues. Lamp Records sent out its first promotional releases near the end of June, and at the beginning of July, four Lamp singles appeared on the commercial marketplace.

Within a month, Aladdin opened an office in New York City, and Lamp Records took New York as its base of operations. Over the next six months, the new label released several batches of singles in two series. These were the 8000 series of R&B singles and two discs in the 9000 series, which was devoted to gospel music. Then, as suddenly as the label opened, Lamp closed its doors ... temporarily.

**Aladdin Subsidiary
Bows First Release . . .**
Aladdin Records' newly formed subsidiary label Lamp Records, bowed last week with its first release in a package of four records. Signed to the Lamp label are **Bonnie Evans**, **Clarence Samuels** and the **Sky Light Singers**, latter a gospel group. Firm will distribute thru Aladdin channels, with plans for additional talent to be added to the Lamp roster in the future.

Ed Mesner Opens NY Aladdin Office; Leo Heads Coast

NEW YORK, Aug. 14. — Eddie Mesner, Aladdin Record exec, has opened up an office here for the r.&b. firm. Aladdin has been a West Coast based outfit for many years, and the firm is retaining its West Coast office, with exec Leo Mesner in charge.

Eddie Mesner stated that he was opening offices here because the East had become the most important section of the country for r.&b. material. He said that the West Coast, once a key spot for material and talent, had dried up as a source. In addition to Eddie Mesner's working out of this city, Jesse Stone is handling Aladdin's new subsidiary label, Lamp Records, from Gotham, too.

Aladdin has just pacted two new pieces of talent—Margie Hendrix, a new thrush, and The Dodgers, a new vocal quintet.

by Frank Daniels

Aladdin Sets Lamp Label

NEW YORK, June 12.—Aladdin Records, West Coast r.&b. firm, is starting a new subsidiary label, Lamp Records. The label is being issued in conjunction with arranger Jesse Stone, who has worked closely with Atlantic Records here for the past two years.

The first record to be released on Lamp is with singer-composer Leonard Lee and will be available next week. Stone arranged and supervised the session.

Aladdin Forms New Label

BEVERLY HILLS, CALIF.—Edward Mesner, prexy of Aladdin Records, announced this week that the diskery, in conjunction with Jessie Stone, responsible for many of the hits on Aladdin, is introducing a new label to be known as Lamp Records. The label will feature new rhythm and blues artists and some of Aladdin's standbys.

Mesner stated that Lamp will receive all the backing and attention that Aladdin has been getting through the years.

The first release, samples of which were to be shipped June 7, stars Leonard Lee on two sides dubbed "When The Sun Goes Down" and "Tryin' To Fool Me." Both numbers were arranged by Stone and the sessions were supervised by him.

The matrix numbering at this time followed the system that Aladdin used more broadly, featuring a prefix indicating the recording place (e.g., TEX- for Texas or SF- for San Francisco) and a four-digit sequence number. Although the trade magazines did not always agree with their choice, Aladdin used the suffix "X" to mark the A-side of the single and a "Q" to indicate the B-side.

Lamp Singles, 8000 & 9000 Series



LEONARD LEE
Tryin' to Fool Me72
 LAMP 8001—Lee lets his girl know that he is “wise” to her deceptive ways. He projects a lot of emotion into this material and gets powerful, swinging support from the ork. Good debut disk for this new label, an Aladdin subsidiary. (Lamp Music, BMI)
When the Sun Goes Down . . . 70
 The singer has a slow, lonely blues here which he sells forcefully. Again, beat is solid and packs a real punch. (Lamp Music, BMI)

Lamp 8001

“When the Sun Goes Down”/ “Tryin’ to Fool Me”

Leonard Lee

First Mentioned in Trade Magazines: July 3, 1954

78 RPM single above; 45 RPM single below.



Lamp 8001

“When the Sun Goes Down”/ “Tryin’ to Fool Me”

Leonard Lee

Leonard Lee was the “second half” of the Aladdin duo, Shirley & Lee. They recorded their signature for Aladdin in 1956. That was “Let the Good Times Roll,” which was both a risqué R&B song and a tribute to their base of operations: New Orleans.



BONNIE EVANS
 (Lamp 8003)
“LEAVE YOUR LOVE TO ME”
 (2:15) [Fisher—Singleton] Strong voiced fem shouter knocks out a rhythmic item that should make a good jukebox number.
“GOOD LUCK TO YOU” (2:43)
 [Lamp—Kirk, Calhoun] Bonnie Evans sings out a bouncer with a spiritual flavoring. Deck has appeal.

Lamp 8003

“Good Luck to You”/ “Leave Your Love to Me”

Bonnie Evans

First Mentioned in Trade Magazines: July 10, 1954



Lamp 8003
Bonnie Evans

“Good Luck to You”/ “Leave Your Love to Me”



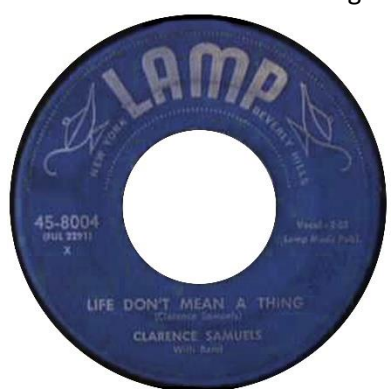
CLARENCE SAMUELS
(Lomp 8004)

- B+** “CRAZY WITH THE HEAT” (2:15) [Lamp-Samuels] Clarence Samuels sings with an enthusiastic quality that has this item moving. The Samuels vocal lends the tune drive as he shoots out the bouncing lyrics.
- C+** “LIFE DON’T MEAN A THING” (2:52) [Lamp-Samuels] Samuels sings a blues ballad with a straight approach. Relaxing bit of wax.

Lamp 8004
Clarence Samuels

“Life Don’t Mean a Thing”/ “Crazy With the Heat”

First Mentioned in Trade Magazines: July 17, 1954



Lamp 8004
Clarence Samuels

“Life Don’t Mean a Thing”/ “Crazy With the Heat”

Clarence Samuels recorded first for Aristocrat Records, the predecessor to Chess, in 1947. After that, he set out on tour, making records as he traveled around the country. This was to be the first of two singles for Lamp, but the label did not release the other single – the one that was to have been assigned the number 8005.



Lamp 9001

"Thank You, Jesus" / "I'm Going Back Home"

The Sky Light Singers

First Mentioned in Trade Magazines: July 17, 1954

There was a gospel group in the late 1940s with the same name; the two groups may be the same.



Lamp 9002

"Certainly Lord" / "Lord Have Mercy"

The Sky Light Singers

First Mentioned in Trade Magazines: July 17, 1954



MARGIE HENDRIX
Good Treatment71
LAMP 8002—The new thrush sings with spirit and a nice feeling for phrasing on a catchy item with a good beat.
Every Time....69
Same comment.

Lamp 8002

"Good Treatment" / "Every Time"

Margie Hendrix

First Mentioned in Trade Magazines: September 4, 1954

Margie did not have any hits on her own, but she became a member of the Cookies.



THE MELLOW-FELLOWS
Iddy Biddy Baby70
 LAMP 8006—The Mellow-Fellows, new group with the firm, come thru with a fair performance here on a swiny new effort. Okay side that could get some spins, mainly due to the vocal by the tenor lead.
My Friend Charlie....65
 The boys bow on the label with a so-so reading of a new rocker here. The lead singer is not strong enough to carry the disk.

Lamp 8006 "Iddy Biddy Baby"/ "My Friend Charlie"
The Mello-Fellows

First Mentioned in Trade Magazines: November 6, 1954

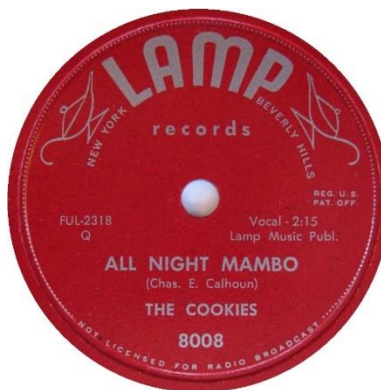
Songwriter Charles E. Calhoun was actually Jesse Stone, Lamp's chief officer and talent scout.



Lamp 8007 "Scoochie-Scoochie"/ "Forty 'Leven Dozen Ways"
The Cues

First Mentioned in Trade Magazines: October 23, 1954

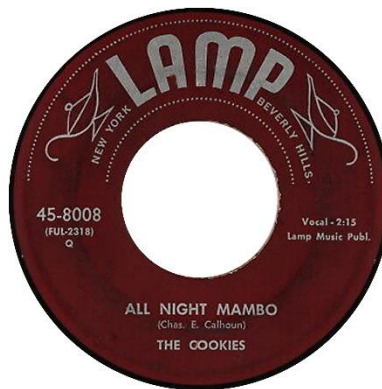
Although the Cues did not have a hit for Lamp, Jesse Stone took them with him to Atlantic when Lamp closed up shop. While they were never a hit group, they served as a session/backing group for some of Atlantic's R&B stars.



THE COOKIES
 (Lamp 8008)
B "ALL NIGHT MAMBO" (2:15) [Lamp-Calhoun] The Cookies romance to mambo rhythm. A middle beat r & b item that retains its R & B feel without losing the mambo tempo.
B "DON'T LET GO" (2:31) [Lamp-Calhoun] A slow blues ballad prettily sung by The Cookies, who have a sound of their own. The kids have a cute style with enough individuality to break thru.

Lamp 8008 "Don't Let Go"/ "All Night Mambo"
The Cookies

First Mentioned in Trade Magazines: November 20, 1954



Lamp 8008

"Don't Let Go"/ "All Night Mambo"

The Cookies

In this first incarnation, the Cookies were a trio from Brooklyn who recorded under this lineup for Lamp – to moderate success. Jesse Stone took them with him to Atlantic, where Margie Hendrix replaced Beulah Robertson in the group. There, they met up with Ray Charles and were rechristened the Raelettes. In 1961, Dorothy Jones from the Cookies/Raelettes reformed the “Cookies” group with two other young ladies. The second Cookies lineup scored a top-ten hit on their own and sang backup on other famous songs, such as Little Eva’s “Loco-Motion.”

... Leo and Eddie Mesner have
launched a new label called Lamp Records. An initial release of eight sides
are on the market.

Two years passed quietly, with Aladdin’s greatest successes coming under its main line. Then in March 1957, the Mesner brothers reopened Lamp Records.

Lamp Singles, 2000 Series

The 2000 series from 1957-58 swapped the color scheme from the original Lamp design, so that 45-RPM singles had maroon labels and 78-RPM singles had blue labels. Since most companies were giving consideration to eliminating the faster speed altogether, most of the singles in the 2000 series are not known to exist as 78s.



THE CAROLS (Lamp 2001)

B "KEKO" (1:58) [Lamp BMI—Clevelee Shanklin] The Carols team on a quick beat bouncer and the deck comes off a eute wax. Happy novelty that pleases.

C+ "MY SEARCH IS OVER" (2:52) [Lamp BMI—Marcus Bevins] The Carols offer a complete change of pace here. A soft ballad pretty comes off a fair wax.

Lamp 2001

The Carols

First Mentioned in Trade Magazines: March 30, 1957

"My Search is Over"/ "Keko"



THE TANTONES (Lamp 2002)

B "I LOVE YOU REALLY I DO" (2:00) [Lamp BMI — Leonard Bunn] The Tantes work over a rocker on this side, giving it an ok treatment that the kids will like. Deck comes off with life and a happy spirit.

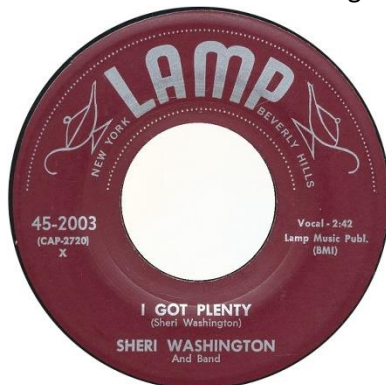
C+ "NO MATTER" (1:55) [Lamp BMI—Inez Bunn] The Tantes dish up a fair deck. Pretty melody, but treatment is dated.

Lamp 2002

The Tantes

First Mentioned in Trade Magazines: March 16, 1957

"No Matter"/ "I Really Love You So"



SHERI WASHINGTON

I Got Plenty 75
LAMP 2003—Novelty blues, and a real good one. Sheri shouts a story of her minks, diamonds and Cadillacs, and honking horns punctuate her phrases. Will get heavy play. (Lamp, BMI)

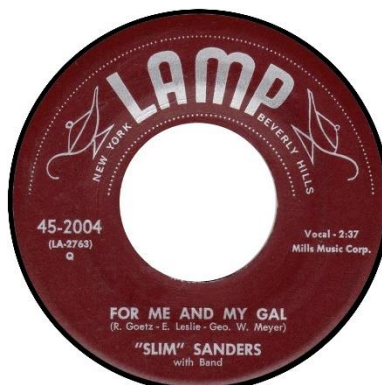
Ain't I Talkin' to You, Baby.... 74
Sheri Washington chants a solid blues. Material is strong, and the thrush belts it out with a solid beat. This one is likely to get some action with proper exposure. (Lamp, BMI)

Lamp 2003

Sheri Washington

First Mentioned in Trade Magazines: March 23, 1957

"I Got Plenty"/ "Sheri Washington"



"SLIM" SANDERS
(Lamp 2004)

B "FOR ME AND MY GAL" (2:37) [Mills-Goetz, Leslie, Meyer] Slim Sanders gets into the swing of things by cutting a swinging standard. Deck is given a driving interpretation, oik and vocal. Big jump wax.

B "NO ONE CAN LOVE LIKE I DO" (2:20) [Lamp BMI—LeBlanc] Sanders wails a quick beat blues with a rambling down home instrumental backing. Strongest appeal will be to the southern buyer.

Lamp 2004

"Slim" Sanders

First Mentioned in Trade Magazines: April 6, 1957

George Sanders LeBlanc recorded as Slim Saunders (different spelling) for Chess Records and also took the moniker "Skinny Dynamo" (as a tribute to Fats Domino).

"No One Can Love Like I Do" / "For Me and My Gal"



THE LOVERS
(Lamp 2005)

B "GOTTA WHOLE LOT OF LOVIN' TO DO" (2:35) [Lamp BMI—Henry Cager] The Lovers swing out with an infectious quick beat bouncer built into a standard melody. Happy side the kids can hop to.

B "DARLING IT'S WONDERFUL" (2:50) [Lamp BMI—Allen Bunn] The Lovers team on a slow beat pretty that floats along on a tender vein. Easy drift type wax. This side could command attention. The stronger etching.

Lamp 2005

The Lovers

First Mentioned in Trade Magazines: May 11, 1957

"Gotta Whole Lot of Lovin' to Do" / "Darling It's Wonderful"



Lamp 2005

The Lovers

The second group of Lamp singles came out in May. This time, there were just two singles in the group.

"Gotta Whole Lot of Lovin' to Do" / "Darling It's Wonderful"



JOHNNY COOK
(Lamp 2006)
B "MY DEAR, MY DARLING"
(2:47) [Lamp BMI — Cook]
Johnny Cook sings a slow rhythmic ballad with a rock-a-billy flavor. It isn't out and out rock-a-billy, but rather a combination of r & b and country. Pleasing melody and engaging delivery.
B "IT'S ALL IN YOUR MIND"
(2:45) [Shalimar BMI — Otis Blackwell] Cook delivers a slow beat ballad in solid manner. Deck is well turned out and Cook sounds strong. It is the teener shuffle beat that sells. Good exposure could kick this off.

Lamp 2006
Johnny Cook

"It's All in Your Mind"/ "My Dear, My Darling"

First Mentioned in Trade Magazines: May 4, 1957

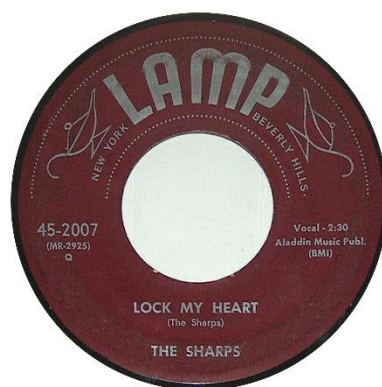


THE SHARPS
Our Love Is Here to Stay (Gershwin, ASCAP)
Lock My Heart (Aladdin, BMI)—Lamp 2007—The Gershwin standard is given a bright, bluesy treatment. The lead pours meaning into every word and gets solid support from the group. Flip, "Lock My Heart," is a gay, medium-tempo rocker. The lead also shines here with more of the same swingin' backing. Both sides are good bets to make it.

Lamp 2007
The Sharps

"Our Love is Here to Stay"/ "Lock My Heart"

First Mentioned in Trade Magazines: July 15, 1957



Lamp 2007
The Sharps

"Our Love is Here to Stay"/ "Lock My Heart"

Lamp put out three more singles in July 1957.



THE TANTONES
(Lamp 2008)

B "TELL ME" (1:53) [Aladdin BMI—Darwin Jackson] The Tantonnes offer a slow beat ballad blues in a smooth blend of vocal talents. Swingly wax with a pop-r & r treatment.

C+ "SO AFRAID" (2:38) [Aladdin BMI—Bunn] The Tantonnes team on a slow, shuffle beat blues. Romantic ditty chanted with an easy treatment. Melodic wax that comes off an ok deck.

Lamp 2008

"Merry-Go-Round Blues"/ "Bad Tale Boogie"

Jay McShann's Trio

First Mentioned in Trade Magazines: July 27, 1957

The Tantonnes' second single did not fare any better than their first had done.



THE TROOPERS
(Lamp 2009)

B "GET OUT" (2:45) [Aladdin BMI—Lincoln Alexander] The Troopers dish up a swinging dramatic blues with a well known musical theme. Good club material.

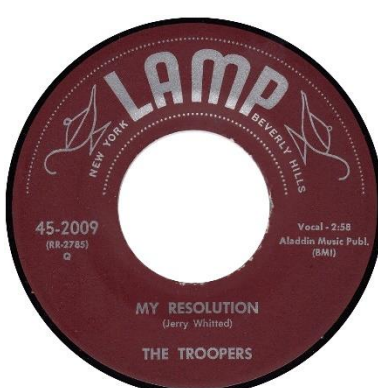
C+ "MY RESOLUTION" (2:58) [Aladdin BMI—Jerry Whitted] The Troopers blend softly on a tender, slow beat love ballad. A gentle reading of a drifts tune. Good, relaxing programming.

Lamp 2009

"Get Out"/ "My Resolution"

The Troopers

First Mentioned in Trade Magazines: July 20, 1957



Lamp 2009

"Get Out"/ "My Resolution"

The Troopers



THE HEART-THROBS (Lamp 2010)

B "ALL THE WAY HOME" (2:19) [Shalimar BMI—Holmes, Blackwell] The Heart-Throbs swing light-heartedly through a quick beat bouncer. The team has a commercial sound which should result in sales. Ok deck.

B "SO GLAD" (2:18) [Shalimar BMI—Holmes, Blackwell] The Heart-Throbs offer a middle beat bouncer in engaging fashion. Swingy, happy treatment with the hard riding band lending a powerful assist.

Lamp 2010

"So Glad"/ "All the Way Home"

The Heart-Throbs

First Mentioned in Trade Magazines: October 19, 1957

Two Lamp singles came out in October. Each was the only Lamp single by the artist.



DJ PROGRAMMING

REBECCA WILLIAMS

Please Give Me a Match (Aladdin, BMI)
Take Care of My Heart (Aladdin, BMI)—Lamp 2011—Listeners should get a bang out of these great performances. Top side tells the saga of a chick who has sunk to picking up butts, but resolves to go back to the farm. Interesting, off-beat blues is brassily chanted. "Heart" is a ballad that is wailed convincingly by the thrush. Both should find favor.

Lamp 2011

"Please Give Me a Match"/ "Take Care of My Heart"

Rebecca Williams

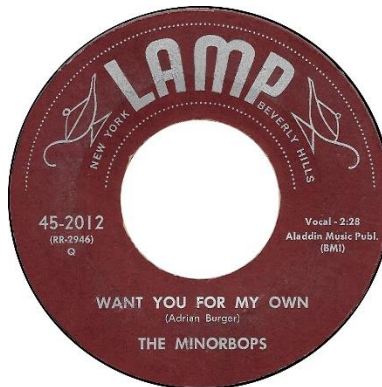
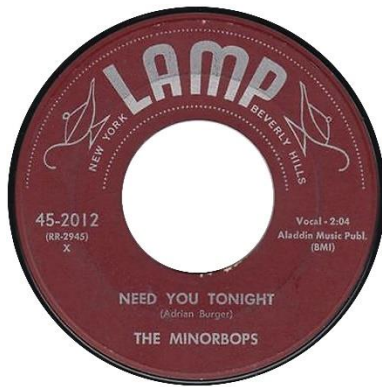
First Mentioned in Trade Magazines: October 7, 1957



Lamp 2011

"Please Give Me a Match"/ "Take Care of My Heart"

Rebecca Williams



THE MINORBOPS
(Lamp 2012)
B "NEED YOU TONIGHT" (2:04) [Aladdin BMI—Adrian Burger] The Minorbops blend with ease and softness telling a moving love story. Lifting ballad the kids should find headed along the right direction.
B "WANT YOU FOR MY OWN" (2:28) [Aladdin BMI—Adrian Burger] The Minorbops back with a quick beat jump and provide the teen market with a solid dance number with the beat that is currently so big. Ok deck.

Lamp 2012

"Need You Tonight"/ "Want You for My Own"

The Minorbops

First Mentioned in Trade Magazines: February 15, 1958



THE LOVERS
(Lamp 2013)
B "LET'S ELOPE" (2:14) [Aladdin BMI—Allen Bunn] The Lovers join voices on a soft, slow beat ballad with good effects. The group treats the tune with the proper ease and tenderness. Good listening.
B "I WANNA BE LOVED" (1:55) [Aladdin BMI—Allen Bunn] The Lovers turn to a middle beat jump on the flip and the result is a joyous, bouncy wax.

Lamp 2013

"Let's Elope"/ "I Wanna' be Loved"

The Lovers

First Mentioned in Trade Magazines: February 22, 1958



GARY VAN & THE STARLIGHTERS
(Intro 9000)
B "ROCKIN' TOO MUCH" (2:10) [Musiccountry SESAC—G. Petton] The label introduces Gary Van & the Starlighters on a swinging house-rocker that's sure to keep the coin-chutes jingling day and night. Attractive vocal and instrumental performance that has the hoofers in mind.
B "SLIPPIN' OUT" (2:30) [Musiccountry SESAC—G. Petton] On the under slicing Van puts his heart into his delivery of a moderate paced, crying towel lover's ballad. Another fine assist on this half supplied by the Starlighter crew. Splendid two-sided bow.

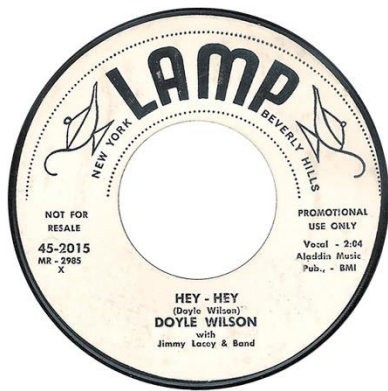
Lamp 2014

"Slippin' Out"/ "Rockin' Too Much"

Gary Van and the Starlighters

First Mentioned in Trade Magazines: July 26, 1958

As the Lamp label was about to fold, Aladdin moved this single onto their Intro subsidiary.

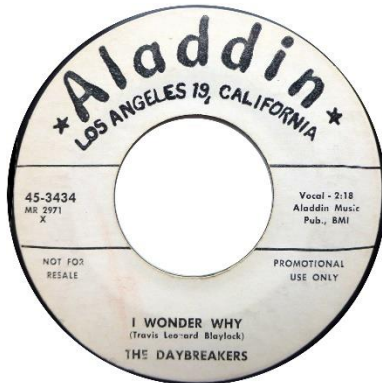


DOYLE WILSON
You're the One for Me.....74
 LAMP 2015—Uptempo item gets a strong, driving performance from Wilson and group. Could earn coin if exposed. (Aladdin, BMI)
Hey-Hey...71
 Wilson gives his own rocker a rhythmic reading. (Aladdin, BMI)

Lamp 2015 “You’re the One for Me”/ “Hey-Hey”

Doyle Wilson

First Mentioned in Trade Magazines: May 12, 1958



THE DAYBREAKERS
 (Aladdin 3434)
B+ “I WONDER WHY” (2:18)
 [Aladdin BMI—T. L. Blaylock]
 A new group, the Daybreakers, with a stand out lead vocal, tenderly wends its way thru this extremely pretty rock-a-ballad with heartfelt love lyrics. Top notch instrumental assist rounds out a winning, two-field item.
B “UP, UP AND AWAY” (1:55)
 [Aladdin BMI—T. L. Blaylock]
 Reverse etching finds the artists in the up tempo mood as they tastefully rock out a tale ‘bout a chick who left town via the air lanes. Solid box-hopper.

Lamp 2016 “I Wonder Why”/ “Up, Up and Away”

The Daybreakers

First Mentioned in Trade Magazines: September 13, 1958

This was the second of three Lamp singles that Aladdin moved to another subsidiary before releasing it.

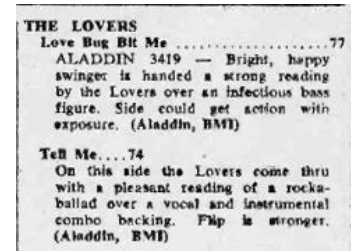


JIMMY SIMMS
Mystery of Love.....73
 LAMP 2017—Rocker with a Latin beat boasts strong job by singer. Action possible if side is exposed. (Aladdin, BMI)
Nobody But You...71
 Simms delivers his own rockaballad in so-so fashion. (Aladdin, BMI)

Lamp 2017 “Mystery of Love”/ “Nobody but You”

Jimmy Simms

First Mentioned in Trade Magazines: May 12, 1958



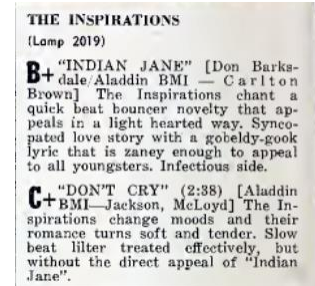
Lamp 2018

"Love Bug Bit Me" / "Tell Me"

The Lovers

First Mentioned in Trade Magazines: August 25, 1958

The third single by the Lovers went over to Aladdin prior to its scheduled release on Lamp.



Lamp 2019

"Indian Jane" / "Don't Cry"

The Inspirations

First Mentioned in Trade Magazines: May 17, 1958

During the short period of one and one-half years, Lamp Records made minor changes to their backdrop a couple of times. It might be the case that one or more of these alterations was associated with one of the pressing plants. There were just 25 singles on Lamp Records, but today many of them prove to be interesting samplings of classic rhythm and blues.

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Backdrops

