

'Gold' Records Presented To Singers As Coveted As 'Oscars' in Hollywood

New York — (U.P.)— Those "gold" records presented to singers after one of their records sells 1,000,000 copies are as coveted around here as "Oscars" are in Hollywood. But the secret must come out: They wouldn't be worth more than a few bucks in a pawnshop.

They won't even play. Gold paint or electroplate clogs up the grooves.

But if your name is on the record, you don't care. You are a poor prospect for the pawnbroker, having made a mint in royalties from a million-selling hit record.

The custom of presenting an artist with a gold record goes back 17 years and symbolizes success in the most basic way. No nominations are made, no votes are counted. The record companies just add up figures in the sales department.

Since a performer's royalty on each record sold may range from two cents to six cents, depending on what kind of contract he has, the gold record is only a postscript to the \$20,000 to \$60,000 he has already earned in royalties, and the enhanced reputation a million record brings.

Decca Records claims to have started the gold record custom in 1938, when company officials thought it would be nice to give something special besides money to Bing Crosby. His recording of the Christmas carol "Silent Night" had sold 1,000,000 copies.

"Bing got 18 more gold records after that," a Decca spokesman said. "Silent Night is still a bestseller every year although Bing's White Christmas has out-sold it now. White Christmas went over 10,000,000 last season and Silena Night has sold about 8,000,000."

Crosby has more gold records on his wall than any other performer. Perry Como has eight, while the bandleader most often honored is the late Glenn Miller, whose name appears eight times on RCA Victor's list of million-sellers.

200 Champs
You have to take the record company's word for how many records are sold. Lists furnished by the companies show almost 200 records have reached million-sellerdom over the past 35 years.

The earliest was Paul Whiteman's RCA Victor recording of "Whispering" which came out in 1920.

The list includes sentimental ballads like "Prisoner of Love" and "To Each His Own," and many novelties such as Spike Jones' version of "Cocktails For Two" or Kay Kyser's "Three Little Fishies." There are corny

western tunes "On Top of Old Smoky" and patriotic airs ("There's A Star Spangled Banner Waving Somewhere.") Some records sell a million copies in a few months and then take a quick nosedive in popularity. Others hit the million mark the hard way, such as Clyde McCoy's "Sugar Blues," an oldie that just made gold record status at Decca.



ACQUITTED — Hands reach in to congratulate Herman (Hank) Greenspan and his wife, Barbara, after he was acquitted by a federal jury of six men and six women in Las Vegas, Nev. Greenspan, publisher of The Las Vegas Sun, had been charged with attempting to incite the murder or assassination of Senator Joseph McCarthy by an article written in his paper. The verdict was greeted by cheers from court-room spectators.

Seed Law Violations Charged in Albany

Albany, Ore. — (U.P.)—Two hundred indictments, each charging a violation of state law regulating sale of seed, have been returned by a Linn county Circuit Court grand jury in a history-making action against Frank T. Glaser, prominent Tangent seed grower.

Bail for each indictment was set at \$250, or a total of \$50,000. The new indictments each accused Glaser of having on October 20 sold and delivered to Northrup and King, which company maintains a plant at Albany, a sack of adulterated English perennial rye grass seed, each sack bearing a blue certifi-

cation tag guaranteeing the contents to be pure within the limits of state law.

A previous indictment charged obtaining money under false pretense by selling 1866 sacks of falsely packed seed.

ANIMAL REPORT
Boston — (U.P.)—More than 50,000 animals were treated last year by the Massachusetts Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals.

Only the United States and New Zealand have a generally established 40-hour work week; a 48-hour work week prevails in most other industrial nations.

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Second Section

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Atomic Explosions Usually Given Away To Scientists Wherever They Occur

Editor's note: A scientist reported this week that radiiodine from Soviet atomic explosions was found in the thyroid glands of U.S. cattle. His findings illustrate the fact that atomic blasts, wherever they are set off, tend to advertise themselves. A classic example of this is discussed in the following dispatch.

By JOSEPH L. MYLER
United Press Correspondent

Washington — (U.P.)—It's practically impossible to keep atomic explosions secret.

The Russians and the U.S. Atomic Energy commission try. But the exploding atom usually gives itself away.

From time to time this country detects, and sometimes reports, atomic explosions in the U.S.S.R. and Russia presumably is well aware of U.S.S. atomic tests, their scope and nature.

How hard it is to hush up the atom was underscored this week by a researcher's disclosure in San Francisco that radiiodine, a product of nuclear fission, cropped up in U.S. cattle after atomic tests in Russia.

It was just another example of the fact that atomic secrets contain built-in self-betrayers. Easily detected nuclear debris from atomic explosions rides far and wide on fast-moving high atmospheric winds, sometimes circling the planet more than once.

A new classic illustration of atomic detection came to public attention after last spring's N.S. H-bomb tests in the Pacific. The Sherlocks of this story are the scientists of Japan.

The AEC did its best at first to suppress any information about the big shots it was setting off in the Marshall Islands in the spring of 1954. Repeatedly in official releases it described as

"routine" explosions since revealed to be the most powerful and frightening ever detonated by man.

Even now the commission refuses to give the U.S. public certain information about those tests which long since has been in the possession of scientists everywhere.

Such facts as are in the public domain might still be secret, as far as the layman is concerned, except for an accident—or an "act of God"—as one atomic official called it.

Some Japanese happened to be fishing for tuna, in a Pacific area where they had every right to be, when a test H-bomb was exploded at Bikini March 1, 1954.

And there just happened to be a wind shift at the crucial moment.

So the 23 fishermen and their ship, 90 miles from the explosion, got showered with radioactive fallout. All got sick—one ultimately died—but they managed to get home with their contaminated ship and cargo.

Japanese scientists went to work on "Bikini ashes" scraped off the fishing boat. At the same time they subjected to close scrutiny sundry instrumental readings on air and sea energy waves obtained during the period of the tests.

For a while the AEC suggested the possibility that the fishermen had been hurt not by radioactivity but by lime burns from coral pulverized and hurled into the atmosphere by the March 1 explosion.

It finally admitted, however, that what hit the fishermen was "hot" fallout. And nearly a year after the shot, it reported that the March 1 fallout temporarily poisoned an area of 7000 square miles.

But months before, Japanese scientists had published results of exhaustive tests that told much more about some aspects of the tests than the AEC ever reported.

Conflicting Stories
The AEC told the American public it set off three shots in the 1954 spring tests—on March 1, May 26, and April 6. It never corrected the general impression that the March 1 explosion was the biggest of the series.

The Japanese reports reveal, however, that there were two additional shots—on April 28 and May 5—for a total of five. They also disclose that the last of the explosions probably was the giant of them all.

By radiochemical analysis of the Bikini ashes, the Japanese discovered a strange substance among the expected products of atomic fission. It was uranium-237. As a U.S. scientist said later, that was "really weird."

Not Found in Nature
U-237 is not found in nature. It is formed under special circumstances by neutron action on U-238, and U-238 was not previously believed to figure in nuclear weapons.

However, U-237 may have got into the Bikini ashes, its presence led to speculation that atomic weapons had found a cheap way of souping up the H-bomb—cheap because U-238 is far less

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Woonsocket, R. I. — (U.P.)— A Holstein cow belonging to Adelbert H. Whipple, dairy farmer, gave birth to triplets that weighed 70 pounds each.

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