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GUARANTEED to remove
UNWANTED HAIR
MORE COMPLETELY and
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3-way action bring you complete
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Jean's
RADIANT
WITH
MIDOL



1. Flip side flipped
Patti Page up to top.

2. Teen-age Paul Anka
writes his own winners.

3. The Kingston Trio
used a hanging theme.



GOLDEN RECORDS (Continued)

\$12,000 to \$30,000 apiece, depending on subsidiary revenues.

However, if you're Ross Bagdasarian, William Saroyan's cousin, you can make upwards of \$250,000 on just one golden record. He had one of the fastest-breaking hits of recent times, "The Chipmunk Song," a Christmas novelty ditty that sold approximately 4,000,000 disks.

Bagdasarian wrote the words and music. He recorded it himself. He simulated an entire trio, which he named "The Chipmunks," via multi-taping. Consequently, he reaps a golden harvest as composer-lyricist-recording artist-music publisher. Yes, he published it himself, too.

This brings up the delicate problem of what happens when a vocal group gets a million seller: who gets to keep the plaque? In the case of the "Four Lads," who won a golden record for "No, Not Much," they put it in the office of their manager—neutral territory for the whole gang.

Though the presentation of golden records is a comparatively modern phenomenon, many artists of yesteryear had million sellers. Probably the first was Enrico Caruso with "Vesti la Giubba" and "O Sole Mio." It is paradoxical that an opera star was

first to sell a million records while today only pop singers sell that many. There was also the 1924 Vernon Dahlhart lament, "The Prisoner's Song," that had Grandma and Grandpa cranking up the old phonograph.

The No. 1 champ had been Bing Crosby with 20 golden records. However, Elvis Presley recently tied that total with "I Need Your Love Tonight." Chances are Presley will emerge as the new champion before he even sheds his Army uniform.

ODDLY ENOUGH, such stars as Louis Armstrong, Dinah Shore, and Ella Fitzgerald can't seem to win a single golden record in today's market. But obscure groups and adolescent singers often do. An example is the little-known Kingston Trio with its million-seller, "Tom Dooley," which is about a hanging, of all things.

Equally strange is that many golden records are written by amateurs. The Presley hit, "Heartbreak Hotel," was composed by a Sunday-school teacher. "Diana," which has sold almost 4,000,000 records around the world, was knocked out by a 16-year-old schoolboy, Paul Anka, who also recorded the best-selling version.

Anka got his golden record on the

Ed Sullivan Show. This is pretty much the pattern: to have it awarded on a TV program with millions looking on. This widespread exposure brings added publicity to a record and the singer behind it.

As a result, some Tin Pan Alley circles believe that there are many fake golden records. Veteran music publisher Redd Evans says, "If somebody announces they've sold a million, chances are they mean 400,000!"

These fakes are known in the trade as "hypos." To rectify the situation, the Record Industry Association is trying to set up an auditing system, which would certify the legitimacy of sales claims.

Experts estimate there are about 10 or 15 authentic million-selling records a year. With 10,000 pop records put out each year, the chances of winning a golden record are roughly 1,000 to 1. And it's impossible to predict which ones will go to the top.

Take Patti Page. In 1950, she came out with "The Boogie Woogie Santa Claus." It was heavily plugged and promoted, but nothing happened.

However, on the reverse side was a tune that nobody thought too much of, "Tennessee Waltz." It has earned Patti five golden records!