However, AM stereo system manufacturers are amplifying their efforts at the NRBA confab here Sunday through Wednesday. Kahn Communications is hoping to demonstrate distant reception for AM stereo in its booth and suite. The manufacturer expects to pick up a lot of buzz.

Out Of The Box

PROVIDENCE—The new Steel Breeze single, "You Don't Want Me Anymore" (RCA), "differs from all the other junk," says Todd Chase, program director for WPJB-FM. "It adheres to the medium-tempo rock formula, but it's also the kind of hit record that, very easy to program." He notes the "New World Man" by Rush (Mercury) is a good bet for stations looking to "up their top 40 profile with a group that makes an easy transition from AOR to a contemporary hit format." The programmer adds that "Pressure," the new Billy Joel single (Columbia), is "unusually hard-rocking for him. I think it's going to confound a lot of stations that call themselves AC."

We'll show you how

to make lots of this.

If you're not already in the high-quality, high-impact Hot AC format, you need to be. We'll show you how to make lots of this.

Need more? Easy. Add up to nine more..."
Tanya Tucker—Changes, Arista AL9596. Produced by Dave Malloy, Tanya Tucker, whose career has spanned country and rock 'n' roll, has a new label and a new direction. Now her orientation is toward MOR and AC pop. The previous influences are there, of course, but mostly the songs have been slowed down and sweet. Fortunately Tucker's voice is so strong and distinct and the production is subtle enough, that her unique persona still comes through. There is still an endearing roughness, and a hard edge to keep the LP from totally dissolving into commercial pop.

"BARRY MANILOW—Oh, Julie, Arista AB2500. Produced by Barry ManiLOW. ManiLOW's latest is a four-song EP, priced at $5.98, on which he moves from his trademark romanticism into a spare pop-rock sound. The project is keyed to the top 40 single "Oh, Julie," a cover version of a Streamliners song was No. 1 in the U.K. in January. Two of the other songs are ManiLOW originals, the fourth is an offbeat reading of the venerable "I'm Gonna Sit Right Down And Write Myself a Letter.""

RUSH—Signals, Mercury SRM-1-4063 (PolyGram). Produced by Rush & Terry Brown. Canada's platinum rock trio takes swings toward new musical influences in this latest concept set. If the songs' futuristic themes aren't new to the band, their delivery is: as previewed on "New World Man," already a fast add at AOR since its release as the first single, Geddy Lee rears his usual melodramatic vocals to a gentler, lower register, and punches up his synthesizer textures to give the new wave of techno-pop bands a run for the money. Partners Alex Lifeson and Neil Peart likewise rise to the challenge, Lifeson's guitars heaving to cyclical figures more than howling leads and Peart's drums providing an appropriate array of off-center rhythms to underline the high-tech sensibilities of "Subdivisions," "Chemistry" and similar topics.

of the Statler Brothers. The Thrashers' roots are traditional country, typified here with "Magic On The Mountain," "High Cotton," and the title cut, yet leaving room for harmonic ballads such as Alabama's "I Wanna Be With You Tonight" and "Wherever You Are."

black

FAMILY PLAYERS—I Love Funk 'N Roll, MCA-5356. Produced by Isaac Belden. The Family Players charge through a hip, happy soul funk parade led by their twist of the Joan Jett hit, "I Love Funk 'N Roll" and "We're Live In Video." Unpretentious good-time workouts are the Family's plan, and the New Orleans production punches up the positives as does Derrick Lewis' power vocals. The band is extra-light and crisp, and there's drive enough in Lewis' heavy delivery to bring the group to the charts.

jazz

JIMMY FORREST—Heart Of The Forrest, Palo Alto Jazz PA8021. Produced by Betty Forrest. The late St. Louis tenor saxophonist is heard on only five tracks in this posthumous LP, but all live run long and of course, his "Night Train" is included on side one. Forrest was an outstanding soloist. 