

How it all began.

Walt Says – the first!

© Walt Grealis, 24 February 1964. Walt Grealis, editor and publisher of RPM co-founded RPM with Stan Klees to promote domestic airplay and to build a Cancon record industry.

©Walt Grealis February 24, 1964.

JERRY ROSS wrote a feature article in the Toronto Telegram recently titled “Canada has a Booming Record Industry (But Only Because It's 95% American)” and the controversy began. Some of the notable quotes were “We have so many good records available to us from the states that there's really not much point in doing a great deal of recording up here. Remember that anything we put out is just added competition to the American stuff we have to promote” and a quote like this one could only lead us to believe there isn't going to be much more of an industry here. The sad thing is that Mr. Ross set into print exactly the feeling that does exist in Canada. We can't agree with the people that have since tried to convince the public with letters to the editor that the record industry is everything it should be. Let us say it hasn't been good but we are going to make it BETTER. Our thanks to JERRY ROSS for starting the industry thinking.

GARY FERRIER and the CHUMINGBIRDS have just released through Quality a new single dedicated to the “Brotherhood of Man” (and that's the title). This one could and should start showing chart action nationally. The recording was done in Toronto at HALLMARK STUDIOS. Gary inked both sides. We feel that the spinners across Canada will overlook the origin being from another radio station and give this single the spins it deserves.

PAT HERVEY is making it twice. Once with her chart-climber “Walking in Bonnie's Footsteps” and again in the Weekend Magazine with a feature story. Her CBC appearances are another feather in the cap of a real showman. Her latest single can only be the biggest hit she's had so far.

Nationally, BOBBY CURTOLA has come up with another winner for TARTAN RECORDS. “Little Girl Blue” showcases a newer Curtola sound and already the record is chart topping. The next thing for Bobby is a BIG hit in the US.

STAN JACOBSEN and CBC's MUSIC HOP have opened the door for a great number of youthful Canadian artists. This program has turned out to be a very successful showcase of our newcomers. Stan and

his staff is doing a great job and again we can say it's a further step toward bringing our performers into the eyes of the international market.

CHRIS LAWRENCE of CHFI Toronto brought this to our mind some months ago and we are presently working on a complete list of Canadian LPs for programming. When we print this list, in the not too distant future, you'll be surprised how many Canadian artists have cut LPs. This list will be an excellent programming aid. Additional copies will be available.

Congratulations to LAWSON COOK who originated the idea, produced, and placed the masters of two excellent classical LPs of Margaret Ireland with Capitol Records. These two LPs have already surpassed any early expectations of their sales potential. Lawson has since joined Tamarac Records and is presently producing all classical masters for Tamarac. Fort William (where much of Canada's talent has originated) has produced another Canadian artist. JERRY PALMER has just cut a new LP in Nashville which will be released shortly by Quality Records. RITCHIE KNIGHT and the Midnights have just released “Homework” on the ARC label. Eight months ago Ritchie's first record for Arc climbed to the number one spot on the charts across Ontario; “Charlena” recorded in Toronto.

~~~~~  
Each week as the hit-breaking centres across Canada report, we will feature a breakdown of chart action from coast to coast of domestic origin. This week CHUM in Toronto lists these Canadian singles:

CHUM CHART - TORONTO  
# 7 Little Girl Blue–Bobby Curtola–Tartan  
#10 Big Town Boy–Shirley Matthews–Tamarac  
#39 Brotherhood of Man–Chummingbirds–Qlty.  
#49 Bonnie's Footsteps–Pat Hervey–RCA



## How it all ended.

*Walt Says – the end!*

© Walt Grealis, founding publisher and editor brings down the curtain on more than 37 years of RPM. With his alter ego, **E.C. Elvira Caprese** was there for most of the existence of RPM!!!

©Walt Grealis November 13, 2000.

The last words!!! Ellie, it would be rude, crass, ignorant, and uncaring to leave with this last issue and not say thank you to a lot of people. **(EC: But no sour grapes! After all it has been a wonderful journey over the 36 plus years!!!)** It was truly an adventure. **(EC: Is that a tear in your eye???)** No! Just a big lump in my throat. I'll miss writing this column and tussling verbally with you every week. It was a labour of love and maybe we just didn't want to admit the end was coming. We hung on too long because we may have thought that closing would mean we were deserting the people who depended on us over the years. The singers, musicians, songwriters, producers,

managers, bookers, engineers, radio personalities, TV guys, they all made it possible to tell the stories! **(EC: Sheila Copps!!!)** Hear the voices! **(EC: Copps again!!!)** The sound heard 'round the world. **(EC: Cancon!!!)** The hit makers! The radio people who played Cancon and got the artists started. Look at the stars they produced and think of how proud Canadians must be to travel the world and hear Canada's artists being accepted in other countries. That was really what it was all about and there were people in radio who cared. I feel like I'm standing on a soapbox. **(EC: It's allowed! Continue!!!)** It matters. It's a case of being proud of what you do and doing it well. Canadian radio did it well and look at the results. Or, if you weren't around in 1964, ask somebody! Back then, it was ... Canadian? Who cares? Everything helps!!! The promotion, publicity and merchandising people, the photographers and graphic artists who all worked to create the image of the stars and started the hits on their climb up the charts contributed to the industry. In a business where a small thing can make the difference, they look after the details. There are a great number of Canadian artists who have become world-class stars. Who would have believed in the mid-sixties that Canada would emerge as a power on

the international scene? **(EC: I'm about to take my hat off and put my hand on my heart!!!)**

I can't help but mention the people around the world who helped along the way. The legends who agreed to come to Canada and speak at our conferences, the people who opened doors and did so just to be good people with no hint of profit, the business that was done in the south of France, and the contacts and connections that were made. It all had to happen to build Cancon. **(EC: And it happened and it worked!!!)** Fuelling the fire! I have to thank the advertisers who found it useful to put their messages in RPM over the years ... the people who came to our events and helped us create that star image for Canadian artists. What a great time we had at all the events across Canada. How soul-satisfying it was to stand back and see all the people in the industry together communicating and making the business grow. **(EC: You mean the communication meetings and the awards shows etc.)** It was about building an industry and creating a star system. **(EC: And making it fun to be in the business, producing records, playing records, making records!!!)** The alumni. I have to thank the people who worked for RPM over the years ... right back to 1964 when it all began. Many of them went on to become very important in our industry. Many went on to become famous in media and other industries. They wrote, interviewed, tabulated, and socialized in the industry and created over 1,700 issues of RPM that informed, entertained, amused, **(EC: My department!!!)** promoted, and sold records. It was a pleasure and an honour to work with them. The “R” word!!! Yes, I've heard that this is my retirement but with all the knowledge, history, and the ability to go on, I hope I don't have to get a job as a greeter at Zellers. **(EC: They're hiring???)** I'd like the industry to think of it as going on to bigger and ... well, it couldn't be better things. This was the best. Doing what I did best ... informing the industry. The end! That's it I guess ... and I would like to leave with the famous words of Arnold Schwarzenegger who said “I might be back!” **(EC: I think he said “I'll be back!!!”)** Whatever!