

----- { MIKE CURB : 50 Years } -----

Titanic Records was the first label to release a song by Mike Curb's group. "Our band was willing to work under any name," Mike says. "In those days, record companies wanted to have names they could continue to use if the record was a hit. Our band didn't want to get locked into any one record company, so we let any company we worked with name us whatever they wanted to name us." Titanic chose to call the group The Heyburners and released "Speedway," a song Mike had written.

----- { 1964 } -----

"Our band didn't want to get locked into any one record company, so we let any company we worked with name us whatever they wanted to name us."

—MIKE CURB

Curb recorded a number of songs that were released on small, independent labels during the early 1960s. He and his band recorded "Pow Wow" as The Sudells, which was released on American Artists, and "Slinky" as The Zanies on Dore.

Although Mike's groups recorded under a variety of names, the core band of Davie Allan on guitar, Larry Brown on drums and Curb on piano or organ remained the same. There were several different bass guitarists, keyboard players and saxophonists along the way, but the group that evolved into Davie Allan and The Arrows was the same group

previously known as The Heyburners, The Streamers, The Zanies, and Mike Curb and The Curbstones.

During the earliest years, Curb's group generally rehearsed some songs, booked a studio as cheaply as possible, then recorded the songs and took the master to the labels. The label heard a finished product before they agreed to release the recording.

Although many record labels released the instrumentals of Curb's high-school band, an

existing record label did not initially release "War Path." For this reason, Mike – with the encouragement of his friend and fellow songwriter Mary Dean – created a new label using the first two letters of both of their names (Cude). Shortly after it was released on Cude, the record received local radio airplay and caught the attention of Marc Records.

"Slipstream," released on Dot under the name The Streamers, is another example of a young Mike Curb writing and performing an instrumental. This record captures the energy of young, hip southern California before the rest of the country caught on to that sound, through guitar groups like The Ventures.

In addition to recording, the group performed at fraternity parties and wherever else they could find a paying gig. For live shows, they incorporated three African-American female singers into the group. Before long, the three singers were joining them in the studio.

Del-Tone Records was owned by the father of Dick Dale, a legendary surfer guitarist whose pioneering licks influenced a whole West Coast generation, including The Ventures and The Beach Boys.

Dale and his father were attracted to the voices of the three African-American girls in Curb's group and released "Look To The Stars" under the name The Ja-Dettes, with a doo-wop sound and street-corner harmonies. The song was written by Curb for the group.

Ken & Carol performed with Mike Curb's rock band in and around Los Angeles. The song "Make Up Your Mind," also written by Curb, has the duet style heard on records by Dick and DeDee, Paul and Paula, and others of that era. Amazingly, it was released by Columbia Records.

"The Rebel (Without A Cause)" by Mike Curb and The Rebelairs was released on the same Buddies album as "Little Honda," and Nick Venet decided to release it under the name Mike Curb and The Rebelairs on Mercury's Smash label.



Mike Curb and Davie Allan, the leaders of Curb's high school and college band that recorded under various names before becoming The Arrows

DISCOGRAPHY

1 "SPEEDWAY" ARTIST: **THE HEYBURNERS** WRITER: MIKE CURB
PUBLISHER: GOLD BAND MUSIC (BMI)
TIME: 2:23 PRODUCER: MIKE CURB THANKS:
DEAN-SALERNO TITANIC 5009, 1962

1A "WAR PATH" ARTIST: **DAVIE ALLAN**
WRITER: DAVIE ALLAN, MIKE CURB
PUBLISHER: ARROW DYNAMIC MUSIC
(BMI)/MIKE CURB MUSIC (BMI) TIME: 2:04
PRODUCER: MIKE CURB SPECIAL THANKS:
MARY DEAN CUDE 101, 1963

1B "POW WOW" ARTIST: **THE SUDELLS**
WRITER: MIKE CURB PUBLISHER: MIKE CURB
MUSIC (BMI)/ UNICHAPPELL MUSIC, INC. (BMI)
TIME: 2:00 PRODUCER: MIKE CURB
AMERICAN ARTISTS 12, 1963

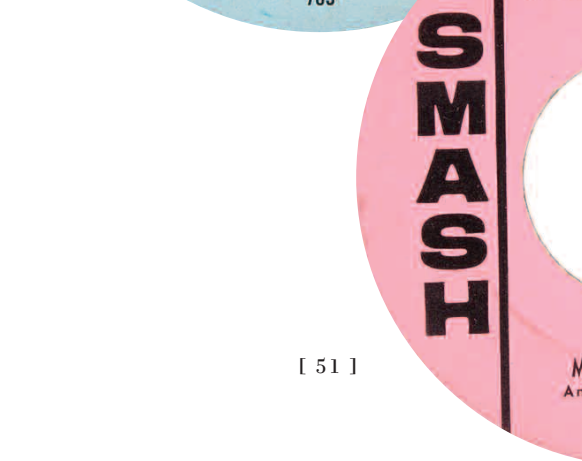
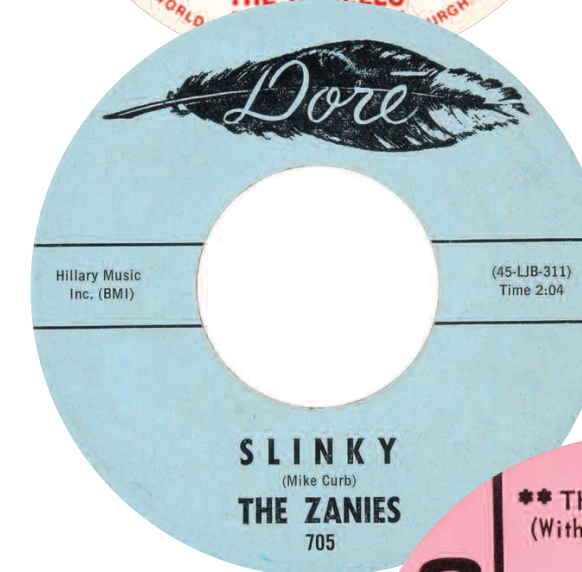
1C "SLINKY" ARTIST: **THE ZANIES** WRITER:
MIKE CURB PUBLISHER: HILLARY MUSIC (BMI)
TIME: 2:04 PRODUCER: MIKE CURB THANKS:
LOU BEDELL DORE LIB-311, 1963

1D "SLIPSTREAM" ARTIST: **THE STREAMERS** WRITER: MIKE CURB, DAVIE
ALLAN PUBLISHER: MIKE CURB MUSIC
(BMI)/ARROW DYNAMIC MUSIC (BMI) TIME:
2:06 PRODUCER: MIKE CURB THANKS: RANDY
WOOD DOT 1664B, 1963

1E "LOOK TO THE STARS" ARTIST: **THE JA-DETTES** WRITER: MIKE CURB PUBLISHER:
SURMON MUSIC (BMI) TIME: 2:12 PRODUCER:
MIKE CURB DELTONE 5022-2, 1964

1F "MAKE UP YOUR MIND" ARTIST:
KEN AND CAROL WRITER: MIKE CURB
PUBLISHER: EMI BLACKWOOD MUSIC,
INC./KEN GEN MUSIC CO. (BMI) TIME: 2:17
PRODUCER: KEN GEN PRODUCTIONS
COLUMBIA 4-44347, 1964

1G "THE REBEL (WITHOUT A CAUSE)"
ARTIST: **MIKE CURB AND THE REBELAIRS**
WRITER: MIKE CURB PUBLISHER: MER-VEN
MUSIC, INC. (BMI) TIME: 2:03 PRODUCER:
BEN-VEN PRODUCTIONS SPECIAL THANKS:
NICK VENET SMASH 1963



----- { MIKE CURB : 50 Years } -----



2 “GO LITTLE HONDA (YOU MEET THE NICEST PEOPLE ON A HONDA)” ARTIST: **THE HONDELLS** WRITER: MIKE CURB PUBLISHER: MIKE CURB MUSIC (BMI) TIME: 1:42 PRODUCER: MIKE CURB SPECIAL THANKS: NICK VENET MERCURY 72479, 1964

In 1963, Mike Curb and his high-school band went to audition for Mercury Records Vice President of A & R Nick Venet in Los Angeles. The band already had some recording experience, but nothing had really become a big hit. Venet was impressed with Mike and hired him to work in the A&R department, and encouraged him to put together a studio group, The Buddies, who recorded an album of motorcycle songs. On that initial Buddies album was “Little Honda,” written by Brian Wilson and Mike Love and released originally on the Beach Boys album *All Summer Long*.

Venet had the idea to use the name The Hondells, and to release the song as a single. On the single, Chuck Girard, who had been with The Castells, was brought in to sing over Curb’s original vocal – so

the hit single, which entered the *Billboard* Hot 100 chart on September 2, 1964, and rose to number nine, has Girard singing lead. Also on this chart recording is Glen Campbell playing guitar.

One of the songs recorded by The Hondells was “Go Little Honda,” and with the line “You meet the nicest people on a Honda,” it ended up in a national commercial for the motorcycle company. This was a turning point in Curb’s life, as he began focusing on music for radio and television and film soundtrack albums. This is the original recording of “Go Little Honda (You Meet The Nicest People On A Honda).” It was written and produced by Mike Curb and was released as a single by Mercury Records. Curb went on to write 10 songs and produce 13 songs for The Hondells.

3 “HOT DAWG” ARTIST: **MIKE CURB AND THE CURBSTONES** WRITER: MIKE CURB PUBLISHER: MIKE CURB MUSIC (BMI) TIME: 1:40 PRODUCER: MIKE CURB SPECIAL THANKS: MO OSTIN REPRISE 0287, 1964

3 “VELOCITA” ARTIST: **MIKE CURB AND THE CURBSTONES** WRITER: MIKE CURB PUBLISHER: CUDE MUSIC PUBLISHERS (BMI) TIME: 1:40 PRODUCER: MARMIKE PRODUCTIONS SPECIAL THANKS: JIMMY BOWEN REPRISE 0287, 1964

Mike Curb recorded two records for Reprise – “Hot Dawg” and “Velocita.” In the latter, Davie Allan took the lead with his guitar and created a sound reminiscent of the great surfer guitarists like Dick Dale. The saxophone also has a lead section, but it primarily featured Allan backed by a tight instrumental group.

“Hot Dawg” was composed by Mike when he was a freshman at California State University, in the San Fernando Valley. Curb and his group had recorded the bouncy, country-flavored instrumental, much like the style of legendary Nashville studio pianist Floyd Cramer, but played

with a touch of West Coast rock n’ roll.

Curb played the recording for Mo Ostin, head of Reprise Records, and the label released it in 1964. Mike Curb and The Curbstones was the first group signed to the newly merged Warner/Reprise company, and Mike got some career changing advice from Ostin – he told the young man, “You ought to concentrate on being a producer rather than an artist.” Curb took it to heart, and while he continued to sing with The Curbstones, he went on to produce so many hits over the course of the next decade that Mo Ostin invited him to form a label in partnership with Warner Brothers.



Mike with Mo Ostin

4 “OUT OF SIGHT” ARTIST: **THE BISHOPS** WRITER: MIKE CURB, MARY DEAN PUBLISHER: DEMIAL MUSIC, INC. (BMI) TIME: 2:03 ARRANGED AND CONDUCTED BY: JIMMIE HASKELL CAPITOL 53463, 1964

“When Jimmy Haskell, a producer who worked with Ricky Nelson, allowed me to watch his sessions at Gold Star,” says Mike Curb, “I played him ‘Out Of Sight,’ a rhythm and blues song that Mary Dean and I had written. Jimmy recorded it with The Bishops, an

African-American quartet.” This song was heavily influenced by the doo-wop groups Mike had heard while growing up in Compton, California. This was the first time a major record label (Capitol) released a song that Curb had co-written.



5 “THOUGHTLESS” ARTIST: **THE CRICKETS** WRITER: JERRY NAYLOR, MIKE CURB PUBLISHER: NICATOR MUSIC, INC. (BMI) TIME: 2:04 PRODUCER: NORMAN PETTY SPECIAL THANKS: NORMAN PETTY – STUDIO CORAL, 1964

As a high-school student, Mike Curb had written a version of “Thoughtless,” an inspirational song that he wanted to audition for Jarrell McCracken, head of leading gospel label Word Records in Waco, Texas. Mike’s father promised him he could drive the family car to Waco after he graduated. Curb played the song for McCracken, who liked it but wanted a higher-quality recording.

Mike and his friend, Jerry Naylor, drove to Norman Petty’s studio in Clovis, New Mexico, and while they were re-recording “Thoughtless,” Petty asked if they would re-write the lyrics for The Crickets. Naylor had performed with The Crickets since 1961, and on this cut, Naylor sang lead. It was very exciting for Curb to have his song recorded by The Crickets, who were an important

rock group. Curb’s song was released on The Crickets Greatest Hits album.

“I think Jarrell McCracken just wanted to give me encouragement.” The Mike Curb Congregation completed an album for Word Records several years later that would be successful.

When Mike played “Thoughtless” for Mercury head Charlie Fach, with Naylor singing lead, Fach decided to record Naylor as a solo artist. Curb and Naylor wrote “I Found You,” a song reminiscent of the double-clutch rhythm of the Buddy Holly hit “Peggy Sue.” The record was released on Smash, a label under the Mercury umbrella.



Mike Curb with The Crickets at the Music City Walk of Fame ceremony

----- { 1963 } -----

“Basically, if someone was willing to pay us a thousand dollars to do a soundtrack, we’d do it. I built my own little studio, and, using our group of musicians, we were able to create a soundtrack inexpensively. In exchange we were allowed to release it on our label. We did not have the money to promote these records extensively, but we released some singles to radio and did pretty well. Everything we did was to make enough money to survive to get to the next record.”

—MIKE CURB, ON THE FIRST FIVE YEARS OF SIDEWALK RECORDS (1964 – 1969)

----- { MIKE CURB : 50 Years } -----



6 “ALWAYS WAITIN’” ARTIST: **THE PARIS SISTERS** WRITER: MIKE CURB
PUBLISHER: ALLEY MUSIC CORP. (BMI)/ TRIO MUSIC COMPANY (BMI) TIME: 2:24
PRODUCER: MIKE CURB SPECIAL THANKS: CLANCY GRASS MERCURY 72468, 1964

Nick Venet signed The Paris Sisters – Sherrell, Albeth and Priscilla – to Mercury; the group was formed in the early 1950s by their opera-singing mother and began working in Las Vegas before they were legally of age. They teamed with Phil Spector and recorded “I Love How You Love Me,” which became a top-five hit in 1961. Following several more singles, an appearance in a British rock n’ roll

movie, and tours performing with Dion and The Belmonts, The Marvelettes and others, Venet assigned Curb the job of producing them. Albeth’s husband, Clancy Grass, heard Curb’s song “Always Waitin’” and liked it, which led to their recording of this tender ballad. The song was also performed by Reparata & The Delrons on RCA (RCA 47-9185, 1964).

6A “ALWAYS WAITIN’” ARTIST: **REPARATA AND THE DELRONS** WRITER: MIKE CURB PUBLISHER: T.M. MUSIC, INC. (BMI) TIME: 2:49

When Reparata and The Delrons recorded Curb’s song “Always Waitin,’” it was the first time one of his songs had been re-recorded by another artist. Yet, while he was still a teenager, Mike had

written songs that had been released on all the major labels, including RCA Victor, Columbia, Capitol, Mercury, Decca-Brunswick, Dot, United Artists and Warner-Reprise.



7 “ALL THE WINDS” ARTIST: **THE FOUR LADS** WRITER: MIKE CURB PUBLISHER: ALLEY MUSIC CORP./TRIO MUSIC COMPANY PRODUCER: GARY GRANAHAN SPECIAL THANKS: BOBBY DARIN UNITED ARTISTS UA 962 1964

Mike Curb met Bobby Darin in an elevator in the Capitol Building in Hollywood, and was asked to pitch some songs. He played “Follow Your Heart,” which impressed Darin enough to sign him to a songwriting contract with his publishing firm and give him a weekly “draw.”

The teen-aged Mike Curb was filled with energy and activity, and he began writing songs and producing – first for The Buddies (on their two albums, he wrote or co-wrote 18 of the 20 songs) and then on The Hondell’s albums, where he wrote or co-wrote 10 songs and produced 14 of those cuts.

The Four Lads were former choirboys at St. Michael’s Cathedral Choir School

in Toronto. They moved to New York and appeared at the Le Ruban Bleu nightclub and on TV shows starring Perry Como and Dave Garroway. Mitch Miller heard them and signed them in 1950 as back-up singers for Columbia recording sessions; in 1951, they sang backup on “Cry” by Johnny Ray. In 1952, they began their own recording career, highlighted by their hits “Moments To Remember” (1955), “No, Not Much” (1956), and “Standing On The Corner” (1956).

Bobby Darin thought Curb’s song “All The Winds” would be perfect for the group. By this time, The Four Lads had left Columbia and joined United Artists; “All The Winds” was released as a single on that label in the early 1960s.

8 “LIFE” ARTIST: **JOE LEAHY** WRITER: JOE LEAHY AND MIKE CURB PUBLISHER: SPOONE MUSIC (ASCAP)/ MIKE CURB MUSIC (BMI) TIME: 2:21 PRODUCER: JOE LEAHY AND MIKE CURB SPECIAL THANKS: JOE LEAHY TOWER 150, 1965

“Life” was the first song written by Mike Curb to reach the Billboard Adult Contemporary chart, rising to number 33. “Joe was the engineer at the H&R Recording Studios, where I was recording groups like The Arrows and The Hondells,” Curb remembers. “He also played trumpet and

produced records. One day, I suggested we try to make a contemporary sounding instrumental. It sounded a lot like the Tijuana Brass.” Later, Joe Leahy contributed to the soundtrack for *The Wild Angels*, writing “Arriba” with Curb when a mariachi-type song was needed.



Sonny James, Linda Curb, Doris James and Mike Curb

9 “YOU’RE THE ONLY WORLD I KNOW” ARTIST: **SONNY JAMES** WRITER: SONNY JAMES, ROBERT TUBERT PUBLISHER: MIKE CURB MUSIC (BMI) TIME: 2:12

Sonny James charted 72 country hits, and 21 of those records reached the number-one position. In addition, Sonny hit number one on the *Billboard* Pop/Rock charts with the classic recording of “Young Love” that launched his career. Sonny was later inducted into the Country Music Hall of Fame and received a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame. Eighteen of his country records crossed

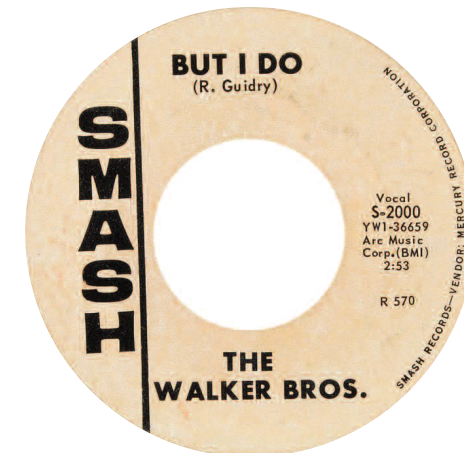
over to the pop/rock charts, and many of his greatest songs were self-composed. Curb Music Company was very fortunate to have the opportunity to be Sonny James’ music publisher. After “Young Love,” Sonny’s first major country hit was “You’re The Only World I Know,” which launched a string of hits that dominated the charts for two decades.



10 “BUT I DO” ARTIST: **WALKER BROTHERS** WRITER: PAUL GAYTEN/ROBERT GUIDRY PUBLISHER: ARC MUSIC CORP. (BMI) TIME: 2:53

Shortly after Mike Curb started working with The Hondells, Nick Venet asked him to collaborate with The Walker Brothers, comprised of Scott Engel, Gary Leeds and John Maus. The group was very similar to the “Blue-eyed Soul” style of The Righteous Brothers. The Walker Brothers’ recording of “But I Do” was originally recorded by Clarence “Frog Man” Henry, and demonstrated their tremendous ability to interpret R&B music.

Curb recommended to Nick Venet that the group record the song “The Sun Ain’t Gonna Shine Anymore,” written by Bob Gaudio and previously released by Frankie Valli as a solo record. The Walker Brothers’ version became a hit, and while they were from Los Angeles, the group ultimately became more popular in the UK, where they charted 10 hits.



11 “TEARDROPS ‘TIL DAWN” ARTIST: **TIMI YURO** WRITER: THOMAS BAKER KNIGHT PUBLISHER: SONY/ATV ACUFF ROSE MUSIC (BMI) TIME: 2:14 PRODUCER: NICK VENET AND MIKE CURB SPECIAL THANKS: FRED BENSON MERCURY 72478, 1964

Timi Yuro had a top-five hit with “Hurt” on Liberty Records in 1961, at the age of 18. She signed with Mercury in 1964, around the same time that Mike Curb

joined the A&R department as assistant to Nick Venet at Mercury. “Teardrops ‘Til Dawn” was the first song Curb recorded with Timi Yuro.



----- { MIKE CURB : 50 Years } -----



12 "SKATERDATER 1" (FROM THE UNITED ARTISTS MOTION PICTURE *SKATERDATER*)
 ARTIST: **MIKE CURB AND THE SIDEWALK SOUNDS** WRITER: MIKE CURB
 PUBLISHER: NICATOR MUSIC (BMI) TIME: 1:59 PRODUCER: MIKE CURB
 SPECIAL THANKS: NOEL BLACK/MARSHALL BACKLAR MIRA, 1965

SkaterDater was a breakthrough soundtrack for Mike Curb in 1965. Noel Black, the director and writer of the film, and Marshall Backlar, the producer, had heard his commercial 'You Meet The Nicest People On A Honda,' and "wanted West Coast rock music in a film," Curb said. "Most films had Les Baxter-type orchestras playing."

In producing the music, Mike used Davie Allan, whose guitar sounds coordinated with kids jumping their skateboards. The short film won the Grand Prix Award at the Cannes Film Festival and was nominated for an Academy Award. Roger Corman liked what he heard in the film, which convinced him to invite Curb to score the movie *The Wild Angels*.

13 "APACHE '65" ARTIST: **THE ARROWS** WRITER: JORGEN INGMANN PUBLISHER: REGENT MUSIC CORPORATION (BMI) TIME: 2:13 PRODUCER: MIKE CURB
 SPECIAL THANKS: EDDIE RAY SIDEWALK 1, 1965

Mike Curb formed Sidewalk Records in 1964, and the first release for the label was "Apache '65" by The Arrows. The song was written by Jorgen Ingmann, who had a top-five hit in 1961; that same year, Sonny James also reached the chart with a version of the song. The Arrows' recording was a West Coast rock n' roll version of "Apache." Eddie Ray, Vice President of Capitol Records, agreed to distribute Curb's new

Sidewalk record label, which gave Curb Records its start. The song did so well that Capitol decided to move it over to its Tower label, and put additional promotion behind it. The song eventually landed at number 64 on the *Billboard* Hot 100 chart, which made it an important – and successful – first step for the fledgling label, and for Mike Curb as a producer and label owner.



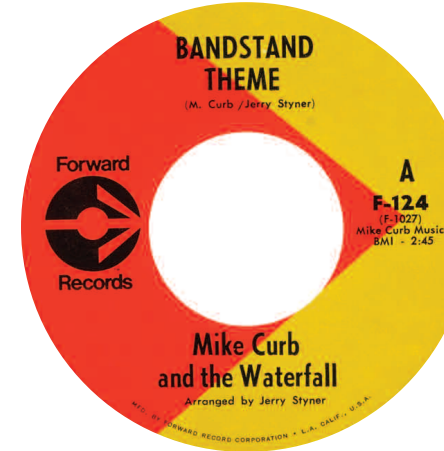
DISCOGRAPHY



14 "JUG BAND MUSIC" ARTIST: **THE MUGWUMPS** WRITER: JOHN SEBASTIAN PUBLISHER: FAITHFUL VIRTUE MUSIC (BMI) TIME: 2:25

"Jug Band Music" was one of the early Sidewalk recordings, featuring Jared Melemud. The song was written by John Sebastian and was considered by many to be

one of the first West Coast garage band recordings. The song hit the *Billboard* charts in the mid-'60s.



15 "THEME FROM AMERICAN BANDSTAND" ARTIST: **MIKE CURB AND WATERFALL** WRITER: MIKE CURB, JERRY STYNER PUBLISHER: MIKE CURB MUSIC (BMI) TIME: 2:45 PRODUCER: MIKE CURB SPECIAL THANKS: DICK CLARK FORWARD 124, 1965

Shortly after Mike Curb did the music for the *SkaterDater* motion picture and *The Wild Angels*, Mike was seated next to Dick Clark on a flight from Los Angeles to New York. On that flight, they realized they had a tremendous mutual interest in music-business history and trivia. They spent the entire flight talking about

the business, and toward the end, Clark asked Mike if he had any interest in writing a new theme for *American Bandstand*. Within two weeks, he had written and recorded the theme with the help of Jerry Styner. Dick Clark liked the music and immediately started using it as the theme on his daily *Bandstand* show.

----- { 1966 } -----

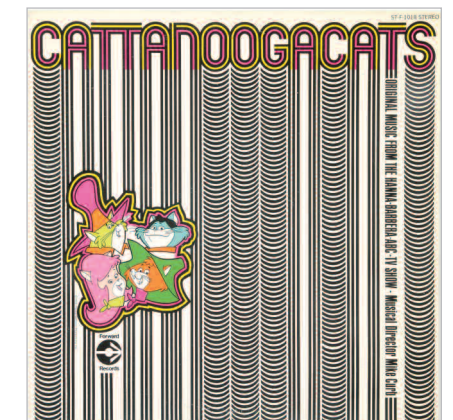
"American Bandstand is a legend in the music business—and so are you, Mike. Thanks for writing the Bandstand theme song."

—DICK CLARK

16 "THE CATTANOOGA CATS THEME" (FROM THE ABC TV SERIES *THE CATTANOOGA CATS*)
 ARTIST: **CATTANOOGA CATS** WRITER: JOSEPH BARBERA, WILLIAM HANNA, MIKE CURB PUBLISHER: ANIHANBAR MUSIC COMPANY (BMI)/ UNICHAPPELL MUSIC INC. (BMI) TIME: 1:15 PRODUCER: MICHAEL LLOYD AND MIKE CURB
 SPECIAL THANKS: MICHAEL EISNER FORWARD ST1018, 1965

"The Cattanooga Cats Theme" was written for the cartoon television series on ABC, created by Hanna-Barbera (William Hanna and Joseph Barbera). Michael Eisner, then-head of daytime programming for ABC Television, recommended Curb to Hanna-Barbera, who needed a theme song for their new show. It was the first time

Michael Lloyd and Mike Curb had worked together, beginning a relationship that has continued for more than 40 years. The success of the show led to an album by The Cattanooga Cats, and the hour-long show ran from 1969-1971, featuring the voices of Jim Begg, Julie Bennett, William Callaway, Casey Kasem, and Paul Lynde.



17 "HOT WHEELS THEME" (FROM THE ABC TV SERIES *HOT WHEELS*) ARTIST: **MIKE CURB** WRITER: MIKE CURB
 PUBLISHER: MIKE CURB MUSIC (BMI)/ ANIHANBAR MUSIC CO. (ADM. BY WARNER TAMERLANE PUBLISHING) (BMI)
 TIME: 2:10 PRODUCER: MIKE CURB SPECIAL THANKS: HANNA-BARBERA FORWARD 1023, 1965

Hot Wheels was a 30-minute show created by Peter Dixon to promote a line of toy cars. The animated program featured the voices of Bob Arbogast, Albert Brooks, Melinda Casey, Susan Davis and Casey Kasem. Hanna-

Barbera produced the show, and due to the success of *The Cattanooga Cats*, invited Mike to write the music. As a long-time auto racing fan, Curb had a lot of fun writing the theme song for this cartoon.

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18 “THEME FROM THE WILD ANGELS” (FROM THE MOTION PICTURE *THE WILD ANGELS*) ARTIST: **THE VENTURES**
 WRITER: MIKE CURB PUBLISHER: DONNA DIJON MUSIC PUBLISHING TIME: 1:40 PRODUCER: MIKE CURB SPECIAL THANKS:
 ROGER CORMAN DOLTON 327, 1966

19 “BLUE’S THEME” (FROM THE MOTION PICTURE *THE WILD ANGELS*) ARTIST: **DAVIE ALLAN AND THE ARROWS**
 WRITER: MIKE CURB, DAVIE ALLAN PUBLISHER: DONNA DIJON MUSIC PUBLISHING TIME: 2:12 PRODUCER: MIKE CURB
 SPECIAL THANKS: GORDON FRASER TOWER 295, 1966

From the very beginning of his career, Mike Curb has been involved in movie soundtracks; in fact, it was a soundtrack he produced that opened doors for him to produce, write, score and build his record label.

The Wild Angels, directed by Roger Corman and released in 1966, features Peter Fonda as “Blues,” the leader of a Hell’s Angels gang whose friend, “The Loser” (Bruce Dern), loses his motorcycle before getting shot while trying to steal one from the police. Also in the movie were Nancy Sinatra, Diane Ladd and Michael J. Pollard. The film was a low-budget biker film that found national popularity.

“I was only given a couple thousand dollars to do it,” remembers Curb, “but it opened the door for me to do the music for a number of other films.” The soundtrack was “a big album, because in those days it was unheard of for soundtracks to be on the charts,” he says. The original soundtrack featured Curb’s old high-school band, Davie Allan and The Arrows, but it was the recording by Rock and Roll Hall of Famers, The Ventures, the top guitar group of the time, who recorded it on their *Guitar Freak-Out* album and released it as a single. The soundtrack album reached the Top Ten on the charts in *Record World*, and the top 20 on *Billboard* and *Cashbox*.

“Blue’s Theme,” which captures Davie Allan’s trademark

fuzz-tone guitar sound, was the hit single. This was a key record for Curb’s label; it was number one on some West Coast radio stations and became a top-40 national hit on *Billboard*’s Hot 100.

Tower was the division of Capitol that distributed other labels; Gordon “Bud” Fraser was vice president of that division. In signing Sidewalk for distribution, Mike agreed that “if something was really good,” he could move it over to Tower, which he did in the case of “Blue’s Theme.” This led George Sherlock, Tower’s promotion person, to work the record at radio.

The Wild Angels film produced two soundtrack albums. “It was almost unprecedented for a soundtrack album to have enough music and popularity for a Volume II,” said Mike Curb. “I believe that our music, combined with Roger Corman’s vision, forever changed the relationship between rock music and movies.”

In 2009, Roger Corman was awarded an honorary Oscar for his work with independent films, such as *The Wild Angels*. “It was very exciting to watch Roger Corman receive his well-deserved honor from the Motion Picture Academy,” said Curb. “I am very proud to have been in charge of the music for his earliest hits (*The Wild Angels* and *The Trip*).



{ MIKE CURB : 50 Years }



Aaron McNeil

20 "SO HIGH, SO LOW" ARTIST: **AARON MCNEIL** WRITER: LAVERN BAKER PUBLISHER: PROGRESSIVE MUSIC PUBLISHING COMPANY, INC. (BMI) TIME: 2:20 PRODUCER: MIKE CURB FOR SIDEWALK PRODUCTIONS

Eddie Ray and Mike Curb formed a new label, Uptown Records, to promote African-American talent. They started the label with a release of Aaron McNeil doing Lavern Baker's "So High, So Low," which Curb produced. They also released recordings by African-American artists The Starlettes and Johnny Pray.



The Rev. Jesse Jackson, Casey and Jean Kasem and Acting Gov. Mike Curb. Mike worked with Rev. Jesse Jackson on the Push for Education project and served as Casey Kasem's best man while Rev. Jackson presided over the wedding.

Mike Curb and Casey Kasem



DISCOGRAPHY

21 "BLACK SOULS" (FROM THE MOTION PICTURE *THE GLORY STOMPERS*) ARTIST: **CASEY KASEM** WRITER: MIKE CURB, GUY HEMRIC, JERRY STYNER PUBLISHER: MIKE CURB MUSIC (BMI) TIME: 2:25 PRODUCER: MIKE CURB, HARLEY HATCHER AND JERRY STYNER SIDEWALK 5910, 1967

21A "FORGET HIM" (CASEY KASEM'S THEME) ARTIST: **CASEY KASEM & THE SIDEWALK SOUNDS** WRITER: CASEY KASEM, MIKE CURB PUBLISHER: MIKE CURB MUSIC (BMI) TIME: 2:29 PRODUCER: MIKE CURB

Casey Kasem was a well-known disc jockey in Los Angeles before he became nationally recognized for his countdown shows on radio. Kasem was Mike Curb's best friend in L.A. and dated Curb's sister, Carole, who was actively involved in her brother's fledgling label, Sidewalk. Curb produced an album of recitations by Kasem, which included "Forget Him," which became Kasem's theme. During these sessions, he encouraged Kasem to

try voice-over work and introduced him to Charles Stern, an agent who represented actors and announcers who did voice-overs. Kasem became one of the most in-demand voices in the recording industry, doing commercials, promotions and movie trailers, as well as a nationally syndicated radio show. After this album, Curb produced another one with Kasem, titled "Astrology for Young Lovers."

21 "RIOT ON SUNSET STRIP" (FROM THE MOTION PICTURE *RIOT ON SUNSET STRIP*) ARTIST: **THE STANDELLS** WRITER: EMILIO BELLISSIMO, JOHN FLECK PUBLISHER: DONNA DIJON MUSIC PUBLICATIONS (ASCAP) TIME: 2:26 PRODUCER: MIKE CURB FOR SIDEWALK PRODUCTIONS TOWER T 5065, 1966

21A "SUNSET THEME" (FROM THE MOTION PICTURE *RIOT ON SUNSET STRIP*) ARTIST: **THE SIDEWALK SOUNDS** WRITER: MIKE CURB PUBLISHER: DONNA DIJON MUSIC PUBLICATIONS (BMI) TIME: 2:25 PRODUCER: MIKE CURB TOWER T 5065, 1966

Riot on Sunset Strip featured performances by The Standells, a punk rock group recording for Tower Records whose lead singer was former Mouseketeer Dick Dodd. Eddie Ray had asked Curb to find an opportunity to record them for a movie soundtrack. The Standells

recorded the movie's title track. Mike also wrote and produced "Sunset Theme," performed by his studio group The Sidewalk Sounds. The lead instrument is the electric piano, followed by Davie Allan's distinctive lead guitar. Both singles were released on Tower Records.



22 "DEVIL'S ANGELS" (FROM THE MOTION PICTURE *DEVIL'S ANGELS*) ARTIST: **DAVIE ALLAN AND THE ARROWS** WRITER: HEMRIC, STYNER, CURB PUBLISHER: DONNA DIJON MUSIC PUBLISHING TIME: 1:48 PRODUCER: MIKE CURB SPECIAL THANKS: AL SIMMS TOWER 341, 1967



22A "HELL RIDER" ARTIST: **THE ARROWS** WRITER: ALLAN, CURB PUBLISHER: DONNA DIJON MUSIC (BMI) TIME: 2:12 PRODUCER: MIKE CURB

"Devil's Angels" from the biker film by the same name was "the first time we used studio musicians with The Arrows and Davie Allan did multi-guitars," said Curb. "Hell

Rider," from the same motion picture, is a rare recording of Curb's group singing, led by Davie Allan and Mike. "Devil's Angels" hit the *Billboard* Hot 100 chart in 1967.

23 "LAST WAVE OF THE DAY" (FROM THE MOTION PICTURE *MONDO HOLLYWOOD*) ARTIST: **THE RIPTIDES** WRITER: MIKE CURB, ROBERT COHEN PUBLISHER: MIKE CURB MUSIC (BMI) TIME: 2:37 PRODUCER: MIKE CURB TOWER T5083, 1967

23A "THE MAGIC NIGHT (THEME FROM MONDO HOLLYWOOD)" ARTIST: **MIKE CLIFFORD** WRITER: HARLEY HATCHER, ROBERT COHEN, MIKE CURB PUBLISHER: MIKE CURB MUSIC (BMI) TIME: 3:38 PRODUCER: MIKE CURB SPECIAL THANKS: ROBERT COHEN TOWER T5083, 1967

The Riptides was another name used by Curb's group for a recording. On "Last Wave of the Day," group members again sang on this selection, which came from the movie *Mondo Hollywood*. Mike Curb co-wrote this song

with Robert Cohen, who produced the movie. Mike Clifford sang the film's title song, "The Magic Night," which Curb co-wrote with Robert Cohen and Harley Hatcher.



25 "THEME FROM THUNDER ALLEY" (FROM THE MOTION PICTURE *THUNDER ALLEY*) ARTIST: **BAND WITHOUT A NAME** WRITER: HEMRIC, STYNER PUBLISHER: DIJON MUSIC (BMI) TIME: 1:50 PRODUCER: MIKE CURB SPECIAL THANKS: CASEY KASEM SIDEWALK 913, 1967

25A "WHAT'S A GIRL TO DO" (FROM THE MOTION PICTURE *THUNDER ALLEY*) ARTIST: **ANNETTE FUNICELLO** WRITER: JERRY STYNER, GUY HEMRIC PUBLISHER: UNIVERSAL-SONGS OF POLYGRAM INTERNATIONAL TIME: 2:50 PRODUCER: MIKE CURB AND JERRY STYNER TOWER, 1967

Thunder Alley, co-starring Annette Funicello and Fabian, included songs by the "Band Without a Name," a group of musicians pulled together by Mike Curb and Casey Kasem featuring Eddie Haddad. The soundtrack

album was released on Curb's Sidewalk label. Jerry Styner and Guy Hemric wrote "What's A Girl To Do" for *Thunder Alley*. The recording was produced by Styner and Curb, who supervised the music for the film.



26 "ALONE NEVER TO LOVE AGAIN" (FROM THE MOTION PICTURE *BILLY JACK*) ARTIST: **TERRY STAFFORD** WRITER: BOB SUMMERS, MEL SHAUER, MIKE CURB PUBLISHER: UNIVERSAL-SONGS OF POLYGRAM INTERNATIONAL, INC. TIME: 2:00 PRODUCER: BOB SUMMERS AND MIKE CURB SPECIAL THANKS: TOM LAUGHLIN TOWER 5082, 1967

Released in 1971, *Billy Jack* (*The Born Losers*) was a popular film about a Native American trying to save wild horses, directed by Tom Laughlin and starring Laughlin, Delores Taylor, Clark Howat and Victor Izay. Laughlin had heard the soundtrack to *The Wild Angels* and asked Mike to work on *Billy Jack*. Curb was in the midst of the

Devil's Angels soundtrack score with Davie Allan and The Arrows, so he asked Bob Summers to help; the two wrote "Alone Never To Love Again" and co-produced it. The singer is Terry Stafford, who had the hit "Suspicion," produced by Summers. Curb and Summers were also partners in a studio in El Monte.



----- { MIKE CURB : 50 Years } -----



27 **"MR. TAMBOURINE MAN"** ARTIST: **THE BYRDS** WRITER: BOB DYLAN PUBLISHER: SPECIAL RIDER MUSIC
TIME: 4:58 PRODUCER: JIM DICKSON SPECIAL THANKS: TERRY NELCHER POPTONES MC5044, 1969

The Byrds recorded their big hits for Columbia; prior to that, they were named The Jet Set and The Beefeaters. Producer Terry Melcher produced The Byrds, and a collection of their early recordings titled *Preflyte* was released

on Together Records, a label formed by Mike Curb and Melcher. This is an early recording of their first hit that later became a Bob Dylan classic, "Mr. Tambourine Man." It was released on the *Preflyte* album in 1969.

28 **"WILD RACERS THEME"** (FROM THE MOTION PICTURE *WILD RACERS*) ARTIST: **THE SIDEWALK SOUNDS**
WRITER: MIKE CURB, DAVIE ALLAN PUBLISHER: DONNA DIJON MUSIC PUBLICATIONS (BMI) TIME: 1:45 PRODUCERS:
MIKE CURB AND BOB SUMMERS SIDEWALK 5914, 1967

Fabian played race car driver Joe Joe Quillico in the film *Wild Racers*, which also featured Katherine Pearson and Talia Shire. In the film, Quillico goes to Europe to pursue Grand Prix racing and wins the Spanish Grand

Prix. The "Wild Racers Theme" was written by Mike Curb and Davie Allan and performed by their studio group under the name The Sidewalk Sounds.



29 **"GREEN AND GOLD"** (FROM THE MOTION PICTURE *THE TRIP*) ARTIST: **ELECTRIC FLAG, FEATURING MIKE BLOOMFIELD AND BUDDY MILES** WRITER: MIKE
BLOOMFIELD PUBLISHER: DONNA DIJON MUSIC PUB. ADMIN. BY SONGS OF POLYGRAM
INTERNATIONAL, INC. (BMI) TIME: 2:45 PRODUCER: JOHN COURT SPECIAL THANKS:
SAMUEL ARKOFF SIDEWALK 929, 1967

In the film *The Trip*, advertising executive Paul Groves (Peter Fonda) is going through a bitter divorce and decides to take a psychedelic trip; the result is *The Trip*, an accurate snapshot of California psychedelia in the mid-1960s. The film was directed by Roger Corman and written by Jack Nicholson, before he had achieved stardom as an actor. In addition to Fonda, Susan Strasberg, Bruce Dern, Dennis Hopper and Salli Sachse are also featured.

After his success with *The Wild Angels* soundtrack, Curb was presented with the opportunity to work on *The Trip*. The LP was released on Sidewalk, and Curb was excited about the artists on the album. Mike Bloomfield and Buddy Miles went

on to become major cutting edge recording artists. Also on records released by Sidewalk were Linda Ronstadt and The Stone Poneys, Davie Allan and The Arrows, and The Electric Flag.

"I don't think we realized what we had; we were right at the forefront of what was called 'underground' music," Curb said. "We were right in the middle of it." It was around this time that Mike began working full-time as a record executive, dropping out of groups like The Arrows to make the transition to a label owner.

"Green and Gold" has an ethereal feel about it, an aimless wandering in the altered-state sound of the music.

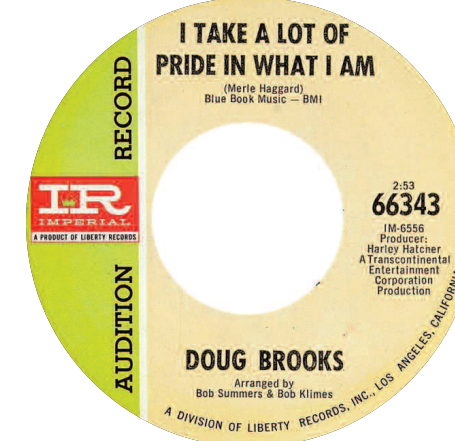
30 **"FLASH, BAM, POW"** (FROM THE MOTION PICTURE *THE TRIP*) ARTIST: **BUDDY MILES** WRITER: MIKE
BLOOMFIELD PUBLISHER: DONNA DIJON MUSIC PUBLICATIONS (BMI) TIME: 1:28 SIDEWALK 5908, 1967

Buddy Miles, a legendary drummer who grew up playing jazz in his father's band, toured with Wilson Pickett and was in the Paul Butterfield Blues Band before he and Mike Bloomfield left that group to form The Electric Flag, who made their debut at the Monterey Pop Festival. Bloomfield wrote "Flash, Bam,

Pow," which was in the film *The Trip*. After The Electric Flag, Miles performed with Jimi Hendrix's Band of Gypsies, and played on Hendrix's *Electric Ladyland* album, as well as on the all-star jam session for Muddy Waters' *Fathers and Sons* album.



31 **"I TAKE A LOT OF PRIDE IN WHAT I AM"** ARTIST: **DOUG BROOKS** WRITER: MERLE HAGGARD
PUBLISHER: SONY/ATV TREE PUBLISHING (BMI) TIME: 2:54 PRODUCER: HARLEY HATCHER SPECIAL THANKS: EDDIE RAY
IMPERIAL 66343, 1965



Aside from his rock n' roll band, Mike Curb had also sung in a folk music trio in junior high and high school. The group was comprised of Doug Brookins (who later changed his name to Doug Brooks), Randy Wooley and Curb. Brooks later became a member of the New Christy Minstrels.

Just before Eddie Ray left Imperial Records, he agreed to release one of Brooks' songs. That song was "I Take A

Lot Of Pride In What I Am," written by Merle Haggard as a follow-up to his hit single "Mama Tried" from the Killer's Three soundtrack.

Harley Hatcher, who was the first employee of Curb's company, "had the idea to do this song with Doug," said Curb. Hatcher and Curb have worked together for almost 50 years.

32 **"SO FINE"** ARTIST: **STONE PONEYS (FEATURING LINDA RONSTADT)** WRITER:
JOHNNY OTIS PUBLISHER: EL DORADO MUSIC COMPANY (BMI) ADM. BY BUG TIME: 2:17
PRODUCER: MIKE CURB SIDEWALK 937, 1967

33 **"EVERYBODY HAS THEIR OWN IDEAS"** ARTIST: **STONE PONEYS (FEATURING LINDA RONSTADT)** WRITER: BOB KIMMEL PUBLISHER: MIKE CURB
MUSIC (BMI) KEN-GEN MUSIC (BMI) ADMINISTERED BY MIKE CURB MUSIC TIME: 2:27
PRODUCER: MIKE CURB

When Mike Curb signed and produced The Stone Poneys for Sidewalk Records, it was an historical milestone for the company. The first single on Sidewalk was "So Fine" by The Stone Poneys, with Linda Ronstadt on lead vocals. The song was written by the legendary Johnny Otis and recorded originally by The Fiestas.

Curb's friend and mentor Nick Venet had moved back to Capitol from Mercury. When he heard the record, he loved it. He approached Curb with a proposition. Mike recalls Venet telling him, "You

always said you'd do me a favor. Well, I'd like to move The Stone Poneys to Capitol." In return, Venet promised Curb that in addition to collaboration on the music, he would help build Curb's relationship with Capitol.

Nick Venet produced "Different Drum," a song written by Michael Nesmith of The Monkees that became a Top 20 hit in late 1967 and early 1968. And Venet kept his word – he helped Curb with his distribution agreement with Capitol for the growing Sidewalk label.

