

# New Country Showcase For L.A.

By GERRY WOOD

NASHVILLE—Citing a "crying need" for such a facility, Chuck Landis, co-owner of the popular Roxy in Los Angeles, plans to open a \$3 million country music-oriented club.

To be located at Sherman Way and Reseda in the San Fernando Valley area, the country music nitery should be completed within three months.

The venue is being adapted for television location work, motion picture facilities and recording.

"This has everything I've always wanted in a club because it's the first time I've been able to build one from the ground up," comments Landis. The seating capacity of 1,000 will allow Landis to "get the top names in country music and showcase them properly."

Noting that two shows per night can accommodate a crowd of 2,000, Landis adds, "Now we can pay Las Vegas salaries." He has booked country crossover acts at the Roxy, but that club's limited capacity normally precludes grosses that can attract the biggest names in the business.

Though he emphasizes that no one has yet been booked because the opening date is not firm, Landis is looking for acts the stature of Dolly

Parton, Linda Ronstadt, Rick Nelson and Glen Campbell. "There isn't any nightclub atmosphere on the whole West Coast to showcase these acts properly," claims Landis.

The need for such a facility and the recent growth of country music on the West Coast has Landis predicting a "tremendous future" for the country concert scene.

"Especially in this area, they're really turning out for concerts and in record stores," he says.

Named Chuck Landis' Country Club, the venue will feature highly sophisticated sound and lighting systems. "We'll have a full range sound reinforcement system guided through a permanent in-house 24 pre-set computer board," explains Jerry Laidman, the audio and lighting designer.

Sound Chamber Audio, designed the audio and lighting systems, including a power generator capable of yielding 180,000 watts of lighting for filming ease.

The 25,000 square foot site con-  
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Billboard photo by Chuck Pulin  
**PETER FAN**—A young fan joins Tom Petty onstage at the Palladium Theatre in New York recently. After kissing Petty, left, she was escorted offstage by the security man in the background.

## Bob Marley a Philosopher As Well As a Top Artist

By CARY DARLING

LOS ANGELES—"This tour is different from the previous ones. It's about the fire and the struggle," says

Island artist Bob Marley of his current North American trek. "We are living in the judgment times."

These words sound strange coming from a music artist but Marley is no average music star. A member of the Rastafarian religion, which states that the West will destroy itself imminently and all blacks will return to the African homeland, Marley has survived much, including an assassination attempt several years ago.

His personal, spiritual and political survival—as well as that of his fellow Jamaicans and all Third World peoples—is documented on his LP titled just that, "Survival." It is oppression as he sees it which leads to his music.

"This is the source of the music. It comes from that. There is a greater force at work than music and that's where music comes from," he states.

The new album is much more political and militant than last year's "Kaya" which featured love songs. However, Marley sees no contradiction between his current hard-boiled militancy and his earlier romanticism.

Recalls Marley: "People have to see what we're all about. There's more to us than just one thing. We're not just about this or that. That's what we showed with 'Kaya'."

Part of the American audience he wants to reach is American blacks who have received reggae coolly. He believes this is due to the fact the music has been marketed to whites. "It's because you have a black store and a white store. What the record companies put in one, you don't have in the other. What they don't realize is that music is for all people," notes Marley.

On the current tour, he and his band are playing such large halls as UCLA's 12,000-seat Pauley Pavilion. However, he is also doing dates in such venues as Harlem's Apollo Theatre and Los Angeles' Roxy. "There are people who want to see you and you have to play places large enough for them but I like the small places," Marley notes.

## Bluegrass Scores At Lincoln Center

NEW YORK—A capacity crowd turned out for a four-hour bluegrass extravaganza at Lincoln Center's Avery Fisher Hall Dec. 8.

Promoter Geoff Berne emceed the affair, which starred the Dirt Band's John McEuen, Doc Watson, Tex Logan, Ralph Stanley, Pete Rown and autoharpist Bryan Bowers.

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