

Wednesday, January 15, 2020

**Statement from Curb Records Chairman Mike Curb,
on the January 14, 2020 passing of long-time Curb
Records CEO, Dick Whitehouse:**

Curb Records long-time CEO, Dick Whitehouse, died last night (January 14, 2020) in California. Dick served for 55 years with the company, 35 as CEO, and was still serving as a board member and trustee at the time of his death. Curb Records Chairman Mike Curb shared the following about his friend and colleague, No one has ever done more for Curb Records than Dick Whitehouse. He was there from our start in 1964 and was responsible for some of the greatest artist signings in the history of our company. Dick was that rare record executive who understood the totality of our complicated industry. Dick played a major role in signing The Judds, Lyle Lovett, Junior Brown, Sawyer Brown, The Desert Rose Band and many others. I'm happy to say that Dick was surrounded by his wife Joan, his two daughters, Shelley and Debbie, and all of his grandchildren, sharing in what the family referred to as a living memorial. The family does not plan for a funeral service, however if anyone has any tributes to Dick, please send them in and we will put those together as a tribute to him and pass them along to the family. Please keep Dick's family in your thoughts and prayers.

From: Mike Curb

Date: December 9, 2019 at 9:54:20 PM EST

To: Shelley Whitehouse

Subject: Dick

I have always said that Dick Whitehouse was the greatest executive that I ever worked with. Nevertheless, there is nothing better than having a family that is proud of the achievements of their father and grandfather. I witnessed this on Dick's final trip to Nashville. Dick's grandkids Will and Brynn joined Dick and me at my home and both of them displayed an incredible desire to learn and preserve the amazing accomplishments of their grandfather. I was so impressed with Will and Brynn that I decided to finish a book that I had been working on for years. Dick was very moved by his grandkids and he reworked chapters in the book and I authorized the printing of 150 copies for the Publisher and 150 copies for Dick and me and our Families and friends. Linda and I know from our own family experiences that it is very rare to have this kind of outpouring of love and admiration from both of his daughters (Shelley and Debra) and his grandkids and his incredible wife Joan.

I have to thank Dick for sharing his entire business life with me and allowing me to be a part of his very special family.

Mike

From: Mike Curb
Sent: Tuesday, January 14, 2020 2:50 PM
To: Shelley Whitehouse
Subject: Dick Whitehouse

Dick Whitehouse was far and away the best executive in the history of Curb Records, which I'm told is the oldest company still owned by it's original owner, 55 years. Many of Dick's accomplishments are part of a recent book that I wrote with Dick's help.

Shelley asked me to write about an interesting moment that I experienced with Dick, of which there were many. When I was first starting the company as a teenager, I persuaded Dick to leave Capitol and join me as we tried to build a record company with no outside investment. Dick immediately was concerned that I was working seven days and seven nights a week and that I was going to damage my health if I continued doing that. He told me I needed to learn how to ski and then proceeded to tell me about his great skiing ability. As a birthday gift to Dick I offered to drive him to Mammoth, which was his favorite place to ski, even though I had never skied at that time. During the entire trip to Mammoth, Dick gave me all kinds of skiing tips and directions and also continued to talk about his incredible abilities as a skier. After several hours of driving, we finally got to the ski lodge and Dick said there is still time for me to go up to the top and ski down the hill and give you an idea of what skiing is like. I watched him from the lodge below, and Dick proceeded to get on the ski lift and go to the very top of the hill and wave at me. I waved back and he started down the hill and was skiing at an amazing pace, and he looked very professional. Unfortunately, just before he got to the bottom of the hill one of his skis turned sideways and he started flipping. The next thing I saw was Dick lying motionless on the ground in the snow. I immediately got in touch with the medical staff and we rushed up the hill. Dick was awake and lying there in great pain. We loaded him on a stretcher and took him to the hospital where he was diagnosed with various injuries, including a broken ankle. I stayed overnight at the hospital with him and the next day they told me they could release him if I could remove one of the seats in my car that I was driving at the time. With the help of three people, we removed one of the seats and I then spent the next day driving him home. The good news is that Dick was not telling me anything more about his skiing abilities and we were able to talk a little bit about the music business. Nevertheless, Dick was right because I'm still working seven days a week. One thing for sure though is that I've still never skied.

From: Benson Curb

Subject: RE: Dick Whitehouse

Date: January 15, 2020 at 5:53:06 PM EST

To: Mike Curb

Mike,

This is very sad news. I didn't get the chance to work with Dick for that long, but for the time I did it was incredible. His passion and energy can be heard through his big and distinct voice never to be forgotten. He signed two of my favorite artists-Junior Brown and The Judds. I am thinking about you and Linda during this time.

Sincerely,

Benson

From: Bill Ivey

Date: January 15, 2020 at 10:32:51 AM

To: Mike Curb

Subject: From Bill re: Dick Whitehouse

Mike:

Very sorry to receive this news about Dick. I never met him but in every conversation about the Curb legacy and the development of both the entertainment company and MCF and other charitable work it has been clear to me that over many years Dick Whitehouse was a steady and strong presence. I know you and Linda worked hard to find ways to help Dick during his long illness, and I know he will be missed as both a loyal friend and trusted colleague.

Please accept my sympathy and best wishes as you deal with this significant loss.

Bill

From: Blair McDermott

Subject: Re: Dick Whitehouse

Date: January 15, 2020 at 10:22:27 AM
EST

To: Mike Curb

I'm sorry to hear this Mike.

Thank you for letting us know.

From: Blake Chancey
Subject: Was Just Thinking about Dick Whithouse
Date: January 17, 2020 at 12:46:37 PM EST
To: Mike Curb

Hey Mike, Very sorry to hear about Dick. He was my favorite A&R guy to watch when I first started 100 years ago. He was everywhere and into everything..

I once went to a bachelor party in Austin Tx. It was truly in the middle of no where. Hour outside of town in a small cinder block building. A bunch of pool tables, Picnic Tables, Grandparents all the way down to babies in this bar (gotta love TX). In the corner was a tiny tiny stage with on hanging light bulb. I'm shooting pull and someone behind me says Blake Chancey, what are you doing here and how did you find out about this guy. Turned around and who do i see, Dick.. Told him I had no idea anyone was playing, and how great it was to see him. Introduced him to all my friends then he made me go watch the guy he was chasing. It was Dale Watson, and he was great.

Dick understood commerce, but more importantly he understood credibility. He was the guy who explained to me Grammy cool . If you can have success at country radio, but get all the Grammy cool folks who hate country music to buy in, it can be huge.. That advice worked really really well for me

Love Love Love me some Dick Whithouse. A true A&R Man

all my best
bc

From: Robert K Lifton

Subject: Re: Dick Whitehouse

Date: January 15, 2020 at 4:53:28 PM EST

To: Mike Curb

Mike, thanks for letting me know. He was skilled, dependable and loyal, who always had your interests at heart.

I'm sorry for his loss.

By coincidence, Debbie will be performing in my area soon and Pat is receiving an honor at the same time. I still haven't fully decided whether or not to go.

Hope to see you and Linda soon.

Best.

Bob

From: Bob Mitchell
Subject: Dick Whitehouse
Date: January 15, 2020 at 6:00:44 PM EST
To: Mike Curb

I first met Dick when I was in radio at KFRE/Fresno. I was one of the out-of-the-box stations on Lyle Lovett's Cowboy Man single. Dick got a kick out of this story. I grew up in Bakersfield and live there again now. Buck Owens and I were good friends. Buck used to listen to my show in Fresno sometimes on the drive in from his ranch to KUZZ. He heard me play Cowboy Man. KUZZ PD Evan Bridwell told me that Buck only did this twice in 25+ years working as Buck's PD. That day, Buck walked in, found Lyle's single and walked it into Evan and said, Start playing this. I served on the ACM board a few times with Dick. I always tried to sit by him because he always had something interesting to say. But, my favorite hang with Dick was at the Highland Grounds in Hollywood after I got into the record business with Sony Music. Billy Block used to host a weekly songwriter hootenanny. It was so much fun! Several times, I sat between Dick and the actress Katey Sagal and thought to myself, I am indeed in show business." Just a ladder rung or two above juggler, but show business nonetheless!

What a sweet man. A real recordman that I was proud to know.

Bob Mitchell
Redneck Records

From: Brent Maher

Subject: Re: Dick Whitehouse

Date: January 16, 2020 at 7:09:35 PM EST

To: Mike Curb

Hello Mike... So sorry to hear the news about Dick. I know how close you both were and I can only imagine how much you'll miss him. I've told people over and over again that Dick was one of the most passionate music loving executives I ever had the pleasure to work for. Once Dick's musical button was pushed by a certain artist or song that was that.

There was no question that Dick would always do his level best to see his commitment through. On top of that he had great taste and believed you could be innovative and commercial at the same time. I can never thank Dick and You enough for being the first believers in the Judds. You and Dick have had a major influence on our industry, our city, and countless lives through your generosity and the great music you've brought to life. I'm proud to have played a small part in the Curb Records history.

Any time you'd like to get together just let me know. I'd truly enjoy it.

God bless You and Dick's family..Brent

From: Bryan Stewart

Subject: RE: Dick Whitehouse

Date: January 15, 2020 at 1:52:03 PM EST

To: Mike Curb

While I only got to work with Dick for a short period of time, it was an absolute privilege to work with someone with his incredible knowledge and passion for music and artists. He was a shining example of integrity in an industry sometimes lacking that quality. I am personally grateful for his leadership, wisdom and hard work in helping to build the company that is Curb I Word Entertainment today. He will be greatly missed but his contributions to music will last forever.

Bryan Stewart | SVP, A&R and Finance
Curb I Word Entertainment

From: Carole Curb

Subject: Re: Dick Whitehouse

Date: January 15, 2020 at 12:24:14 PM
EST

To: Mike Curb

I am so sorry to hear the sad news. I will always remember our first office with Dick, Harley, Carole Haney, you and I. We worked so hard

but we have great memories from that time. I know you must have a heavy heart because I am feeling it as well.

Sending love,
Carole

From: Cary Agajanian"

Subject: Re: Dick Whitehouse

Date: January 15, 2020 at 4:48:54 PM EST

To: Mike Curb

Mike, That is very sad to hear. It was always a pleasure for me to just visit with Dick or work on a project with him.

Please pass along my condolences to his family as well. cja

From: Charlie Cook

Subject: Dick Whitehouse

Date: January 15, 2020 at 5:40:44 PM EST

To: Mike Curb

Please accept my condolences. I was so lucky to have many encounters with Dick while I was in LA at KHJ and KLAC. I remember him as a first class, smart record person who genuinely cared about his business and my business. I will stop and say a prayer for his soul tonight as I go to bed. God Bless his family.

My best,

Charlie Cook

VP Country-Cumulus

Ops Mgr Nashville

From: Cheryl Broz

Subject: Re: Dick Whitehouse

Date: January 15, 2020 at 10:45:22 AM
EST

To: Mike Curb

I am soooooooo sorry to hear this news.
Praying for his friends and family.

Cheryl

From: Chris Hillman

Subject: Re: Dick

Date: January 15, 2020 at 9:25:40 PM EST

To: Mike Curb

Dear Mike,

So sorry to hear of Dick's passing. He was a true gentleman and a devoted fan of music. If not for Dick's and your involvement there would have been no Desert Rose Band.

I will always remember his enthusiastic phone calls to me each week with news of our recent single release's chart movement.

My condolences to his wife Joan, Shelly, Debbie and family.

A true hero from the grand days of music.

Mike, would you please pass this on to the Family.

Thank you,

Chris

Dear Joan, Shelly, Debbie and family,

We loved Dick so much while working with him in the Desert Rose Band. He made and nurtured our success, a true friend and mentor.

Chris Hillman

From: Chuck Morris

Subject: Dick Whitehouse

Date: January 18, 2020 at 4:08:57 PM EST

To: Mike Curb

Mike, As you probably remember I managed Lyle Lovett the first 4 years of his career and also Chris Hillman and Desert Rose. I was the biggest fan of Dick and just heard the sad news. Got your info from my great friend John Huie who I've worked with since he was a rookie agent all those years ago at Paragon Agency in Macon Georgia. If there is going to be a celebration of his life or funeral open to friends I would love to fly out to be there. Let me know if I could call family or you could just get permission for me to come. You probably know for last 14 years I have been CEO of AEG for the this part of the U.S. Needless to say I thought the world of Dick and was so saddened by his passing. My condolences to you as well knowing your years of work with Dick. I can be reached on my cell 303 6015150 all weekend or my office Tuesday at AEG.in Denver. 720 9318710. Again my sincere condolences to the Whitehouse family and the Curb family. There will never be another one like Dick. Chuck Morris

From: Chuck Thompson

Subject: Please pass along to Dick's family

Date: January 16, 2020 at 10:13:19 AM
EST

To: Mike Curb

I first met Dick in the early '80s. His understanding of a complicated business, combined with his sense of style, made him a unique, larger-than-life character. He was always a consummate gentleman and will be sorely missed.

Our thoughts are with you in this time of sorrow.

Chuck Thompson

Thompson Entertainment Group, LLC

From: Colt Murski

Subject: Re: Dick Whitehouse

Date: January 15, 2020 at 10:54:39 AM
EST

To: Mike Curb

Sorry to hear the loss of Dick.

I wish I had the chance to meet him.

On Jan 15, 2020, at 2:20 PM,
Courtney Childress wrote:

Thank you for letting me know. He was such a great man. I wrote him an email a couple of weeks ago thanking him for the amazing support he gave all of us. I hope he was able to read it. He was the very best. I know he was a best friend to you, and I am so sorry for your loss too.

From: David Smallbone"

Subject: Just heard about Dick

Date: January 18, 2020 at 3:18:46 AM EST

To: Mike Curb

Hi Mike. Down under but wanted to let you know that I just saw information in Billboard about the passing of Dick. We're very sorry to hear of your loss and your words about him were truly inspirational. In our very interesting industry, few friendships let alone working relationships last as long as yours and his did. It encourages me to hear these stories.

Our thoughts and prayers are with his family, Linda and yourself at this time.

Warm regards. David

From: Dennis Hannon
Subject: Re: Dick Whitehouse
Date: January 15, 2020 at 12:35:20 PM EST
To: Mike Curb

Dick Whitehouse was a huge influence and great help to me when I joined Curb thirty years ago. His love of music combined with, what seemed, boundless energy and enthusiasm, was a powerful and infectious environment to be a part of. His integrity was beyond reproach. He helped me to understand the positive difference an independent record company could make to this industry.

Dick was motivated every day by the music, the music, the music.

I will miss Dick Whitehouse.

Dennis P. Hannon I
Executive Vice President
Operations & Strategic Development
Curb I Word Entertainment

From: Don Cusic

Date: January 15, 2020 at 8:39:28 AM EST

To: Mike Curb

Subject: Re: Dick Whitehouse

Dick was always so jolly when I saw him-- full of energy. A positive life force.

I know how much he meant to you, Mike-- and I appreciate the emails you sent about the five year plans you two worked on. It gave a good insight into the working relationship you and Dick had.

I'm sorry to hear of your loss. Some people just can't be replaced--and Dick Whitehouse was one of those.

Don

From: Greg Hill

Subject: Dick Whitehouse

Date: January 15, 2020 at 6:45:16 PM EST

To: Mike Curb

Mike-

I was so sorry to hear about Dick's passing. I am sorry I never had a chance to work with him. You and his family are in my thoughts and prayers.

GH

Greg Hill

Hill Entertainment Group

From: Herb Pedersen
Subject: Dick Whitehouse
Date: January 15, 2020 at 8:21:45 PM EST
To: Mike Curb

Mike: Dick was always a source of amusement, guidance and friendship. He loved music

just like the rest of us on Curb Records. His excitement never wavered and always had a positive suggestion. The entire Desert Rose Band will miss him dearly.

Herb Pedersen
Desert Rose Band

From: Jay Senter

Subject: Dick Whitehouse

Date: January 15, 2020 at 8:39:35 PM EST

To: Mike Curb

I was saddened to learn of Dick's passing today and wanted to offer my deepest sympathies to his family as well as all of those at Curb Records.

Dick and I first met on the tennis court in the mid-70's, while playing a music industry tennis tournament. We played somewhat regularly for several years and had a warm friendship, which on occasion produced some business for Curb records and me as well as some really good tennis!

I have been long gone from California and probably the last time I saw Dick was in the late 90's in Nashville at lunch. He was a wise and gentle man with compassion and respect for everyone. A man willing to understand the music, the people making it, as well as the business transactions that were essential to growth and success.

Remembering Dick Whitehouse is filled with memories that bring a smile to my face and I hope, comfort to you all.

Jay Senter

From: Jeff Edmondson
Subject: Re: Dick Whitehouse
Date: January 15, 2020 at 7:26:52 PM EST
To: Mike Curb

The passing of Dick Whitehouse is a profound loss for all of us who had the honor to know him. I extend my condolences to his family, Mike, Linda, Carole, Tracy, and Dennis.

Although I came to Curb Records after Dick's retirement, he was a mentor and role model and was always just a phone call away when needed.

For over 50 years, he has been a partner and trusted advisor to Mike and, despite his retirement, was always a significant part of any major decision involving Curb up to the time of his passing.

When you spoke to Dick about an issue and sought his advice, you were always reassured by his careful consideration, his extensive experience and judgment, and if that wasn't enough, you were fully inspired by his deep and steady voice.

In 2016, Dick and his family, including his Granddaughter Brynn, visited Nashville and I had the honor to spend some time with them. It provided me an opportunity to personally thank Dick for all that he and Mike have accomplished, which has paved the way for all of us who are privileged to be a part of Curb. In typical Dick Whitehouse fashion, he was very modest and instantly shifted the credit to others, but his pride in Curb, its amazing history, and its exciting future was deep and profound. Any time you talked to Dick, Curb is just getting started!

For those who did not have the privilege to know Dick, I would encourage you to read about him in Mike's books and online at MikeCurb.com. You will be as inspired as I have been.

Respectfully,
Jeff Edmondson

From: Jeff Tuerff

Date: January 15, 2020 at 9:45:54 AM EST

To: Mike Curb

Subject: Re: Dick Whitehouse

Mike,

I am so sorry to hear this news. I have such fond memories of Dick coming to Nashville. He was so kind to me and indeed represented the company in a way that was a model for all who followed. Prayers are up for he and his family.

Jeff Tuerff | SVP, Marketing & Creative
Curb | Word Entertainment

From: Jeri Cooper

Subject: Re: Dick Whitehouse

Date: January 15, 2020 at 10:28:21 AM
EST

To: Mike Curb

Sorry to hear this Mike.

Sent from my iPhone

I can't think of a better way to say it other than Dick Whitehouse (always Richard to me), was a very special person in my life! He inspired me in ways that still resonate to this day.

I first met Dick in the early 80s when he was pitching new Curb artists to Warner Bros Nashville. I'd just started working for the company and these were the halcyon days for the company and the beginning of an incredible run of successes for this wonderful rag tag collection of optimists and nonconformists.

Along with the music, Dick would always offer some morsel of wisdom about the business. I never forgot it and put it to good use when planning for the future. He was always so present and never condescending to this young wayfarer just getting started.

I first heard the music of Jr. Brown, The Judds, Lyle Lovett and The Desert Rose Band from Dick. It gave me hope and challenged me. He more than anyone else let me know what was possible!

Lincoln's Gettysburg address was 272 words. I'm not as eloquent but my heart is heavy and my love, respect, and admiration for Richard is as deep.

God speed my friend and Much Aloha
Jim Ed Norman

From: Joe Galante

Subject: Dick

Date: January 16, 2020 at 7:16:40 AM EST

To: Mike Curb

I met him in 1980 at the CRS when it was out at the airport. I knew of his reputation of being smart , friendly and straight to the point and wanted to meet him which I did. From that point forward he would come to the office or we would meet for lunch once a twice a year aside from seeing at CMA or ACM events.

I loved my time with him. He was so insightful in his views about the business. Always willing to help you if needed an intro or had a question.

Obviously that time paid off with the work tape he had on the Judds when we met at Le Parc in LA....that led to our signing them.

You wont find anyone who did business with him will ever have anything but praise for him. He had an impeccable reputation which he deserved

He had a great smile and amazing speaking voice too... could have done hosting for any show , not that he wanted that headache.

Dick was made in difference in my life personally and professionally . He was important part of building what is our country business today.

Multitasking excuse spelling/abbreviations

From: Joel Strote
Sent: Tuesday, February 02, 2021 2:12 PM
To: Mike Curb
Subject: Re: Dick Whitehouse

Dear Mike:

Thanks for giving me the opportunity to say a few words for the Dick Whitehouse tribute book.

Dick (or as I called him "RWW") was a truly unique individual. Besides being an extraordinary lawyer, negotiator and deal maker, he also excelled as a fun loving guy who was always the life of the party.

I will always remember RWW as a great friend, mentor and partner. It was an honor and privilege to be his law partner for so many years. People like Dick come along once in a lifetime and I feel honored to have been friends with him for so long.

Rest in peace, dear friend.

Joel Strote
The Strote Law Group

From: John Esposito

Subject: Re: Dick Whitehouse

Date: January 16, 2020 at 5:19:16 PM EST

To: Mike Curb

Mike,

Thanks for letting me know. He sure did make a significant impact on the world of music. Your message is great.

Best,

John

From: John Jorgenson"
Subject: Re: Dick Whitehouse
Date: January 20, 2020 at 1:29:57 AM EST
To: Mike Curb

Thank you Mike, and my condolences to you especially for the loss of your longtime friend and colleague.

Fondly,
John

Sent from my iPad

On Jan 19, 2020, at 5:28 PM, Mike Curb wrote:

John, Your note is so thoughtful and I will make sure Dick's family sees your kind words. Thank you for sharing your great talent with Dick and our company. Thanks, Mike

Sent from my iPhone

From: John Jorgenson"

Subject: Dick Whitehouse

Date: January 16, 2020 at 2:41:31 AM EST

To: Mike Curb

So very sorry to hear of Dick's passing, he really was a gem of a guy.

I know he really loved music and respected performers, and his joy and enthusiasm was quite contagious. As a young recording artist, Dick made me feel like the Curb company was really behind me as an artist and I always loved visiting him in his office. His kindness and smile will live on in my memory, and I'm grateful that I got to know and work with him.

John Jorgenson

Curb Records solo artist and founding member of the Desert Rose Band.

Sent from my iPad

From: John Nemoy

Subject: FW: Dick Whitehouse

Date: January 16, 2020 at 10:12:30 AM
EST

To: Mike Curb

Mike

I was very sad when I learned of Dick's passing, but I was instantly reminded of what a great person he was. He taught me a great deal about the music industry and how to be a lawyer; while at the same time bringing laughter and joy into the office.

From: John Singleton
Date: February 6, 2020
To: Mike Curb

Hello Mike:

I hope you, Linda and your family are well.

We were very sorry about Dick Whitehouse's passing and know he was a very important member of your team from the beginning of your company. I never met Dick, but I am very impressed by his reputation and your comments about him.

Best regards,

John A. Singleton
President

SUN ENTERTAINMENT CORPORATION

From: Gissell, Jolyon

Subject: Re: Dick Whitehouse

Date: January 15, 2020 at 8:17:29 PM EST

To: Mike Curb Jeff those are tremendous comments for a great person.

Patty and I knew Dick well as we had many events to work on, however one stands out. We were all at the Indy 500 eating dinner in a kinda run down restaurant. (Had to go a second time that year as it rained out the first weekend) The Musact was playing elevator music, but a song came by The Desert Rose band. Mike puked up and Dick got up to find out who the band was. Come to learn that Dick and Mike signed the group from the run down cafe.

Dick set a high bar, was the best and a very cool hand. He'll be missed by all of us.

From: Ken Levitan

Subject: Re: Dick Whitehouse

Date: January 16, 2020 at 3:46:31 PM EST

To: Mike Curb

Thank you for sending me this. He was a great man. Was he sick? Hope you are well.

From: Lon Helton

Subject: Dick

Date: January 17, 2020 at 12:56:07 PM

To: Mike Curb

Mike — My sincerest condolences on the passing of your long-time friend Dick Whitehouse. Your 50+ years of friendship and working together is simply amazing.

Thoughts and prayers are with his family and friends.

Lon Helton

From: Lori Hartigan

Subject: Re: Dick Whitehouse

Date: January 15, 2020 at 8:21:09 PM EST

To: Mike Curb

I was fortunate enough to meet Dick Whitehouse when I worked at CEMA in Burbank and John Brown was the Curb rep (John Curb was at Capitol Nashville at the time). Every time I crossed paths with Mr. Whitehouse he was a kind, friendly, and such a gentleman. He has much respect in our industry. I'm so sorry to hear of his passing.

Lori Hartigan

Curb Records

From: Lyle Lovett

Subject: Re: Dick Whitehouse

Date: January 18, 2020 at 8:36:37 PM EST

To: Mike Curb

Howdy, Mike.

Thank you for letting me know about Dick's passing. I'm so sorry to hear it.

He was always so good to me, as you are.
I'll miss him.

I hope to see you again soon as well.

Lyle

From: Maria

Subject: Re: Dick Whitehouse

Date: January 15, 2020 at 11:28:43 AM
EST

To: Mike Curb

Hola Mike and Linda, I'm sorry for you loss,
They will be on our prayers.

Sent from my iPhone

From: Mark Miller

Subject: Re: Dick Whitehouse

Date: January 15, 2020 at 10:02:13 PM
EST

To: Mike Curb

Mike , this is the saddest news ! What a wonderful man and friend , he was a true champion of our band . He had an incredible love for music and for great songs , it was contagious !!! I am flooded with memories of his passion and a relentless pursuit in signing us. I think he was at every taping of star search , he was the reason you and I have this incredible 35 plus year friendship! Let's get together soon and share Dick Whitehouse stories . Please let me know if there will be a memorial .

Sincerely Mark

Sent from my iPhone

From: Megan Dunphy

Date: January 15, 2020 at 3:56:59 PM EST

To: Mike Curb

Subject: Re: Dick Whitehouse

So very sad to hear about Dick! What a force and so full of life! Always brought a smile to my face and others. Rest In Peace, Dick & the very Deepest Sympathy to his family♥

Sent from my iPhone

From: megan cox
Date: February 9, 2020
To: Mike Curb
Subject: Dick Whitehouse

Dick Whitehouse is a man I remember with the following words: Laughter. Love. Hilarity. Fun. As a child, I admired his silliness and self-confidence. As an adult, I admired the same qualities in addition to his honesty and wise advice. To me, Dick will always be a light on the darkest of days.

From: Micha Ligon

Date: January 15, 2020 at 1:32:57 PM EST

To: Mike Curb

Subject: FW: Dick Whitehouse

Mike,

I'm so sorry to hear about the loss of your good friend. I know it must be a sad time for you and Linda. Dick was a wonderful man and will be greatly missed! I am thankful to have had the chance to know him.

Best,

Micha

From: Mike Borchetta"

Subject: Dick Whitehouse

Date: January 15, 2020 at 7:37:50 PM EST

To: Mike Curb

Mike

He is responsible for hire me and in turn was responsible for you moving to Nashville. Together we changed the landscape of Nashville.

He will be missed.

Mike Borchetta

From: Mike Rogers

Subject: RE: Dick Whitehouse

Date: January 15, 2020 at 10:05:00 AM
EST

To: Mike Curb

Man, this hurts. He was a great human for sure. Positive thoughts and prayers to his family. RIP.

From: Nola Leone
Subject: RE: Dick Whitehouse
Date: January 15, 2020 at 4:32:26 PM EST
To: 'Mike Curb'

Dear Mike,
I'm so sorry to hear this very sad news but appreciate you letting me know so I can reach out to Dick's family. Toward that end, can you send me his wife's address.
I have many fond memories of Dick and all the wonderful 'Curb' adventures we all shared.

I look forward to seeing you soon as well and making more memories. I'll let you know when I'm next in Nashville and I hope you will contact me if you are in New York City.
With love to you, Linda and your beautiful family,
Nola xoxo

NOLA LEONE/ACE MUSIC SERVICES LLC

From: Pedro Vigil

Subject: Re: Dick Whitehouse

Date: January 15, 2020 at 11:10:07 AM
EST

To: Mike Curb

Our deepest condolences to the whole family, the Lord grant them strength and resignation for their painful loss.

Pedro Vigil

CURB I Word Entertainment

From: Rex Benson
Subject: Dick Whitehouse Tribute
Date: January 16, 2020 at 9:16:55 AM EST
To: Mike Curb
Hey Mike:

L.A. Publisher Rex Benson here...

Way back in the day, we may have met when Steve Gillette and I were writing together, and Phil Gernhard was our 'sounding board'...

Around that same time, I became friends with Dick Whitehouse...What a great soul...I happened to be in The Bluebird, the night he signed Hal Ketchum...He also signed my friend Jann Browne...and one story I remember in particular was attending a Tim McGraw concert at Pacific Amphitheater, and Tim introducing Dick 3 times to the audience...I guess he was pretty grateful...

Very much like JEN now, Dick was a Giant, with a Great Heart...

My Sincere Condolences to You, the Whitehouse family, and the Curb family...

Onward and Godspeed...

Rex Benson
REX BENSON MUSIC GROUP

From: RJ Meacham

Subject: Re: Dick Whitehouse

Date: January 15, 2020 at 11:44:31 AM
EST

To: Mike Curb

Mike,

Sorry to hear about the loss of Dick. I wasn't fortunate enough to have met him but have loved hearing the stories about him from you and Dennis. Sounds like he's left quite the personal and professional legacy.

Re: Dick Whitehouse

Date: Thu, 16 Jan 2020 21:57:10 +0000

From: Ronnie McDowell

So sorry to hear this, I have such wonderful memories of him , I will always remember the phone message I got from Dick White House saying to me Ronnie McDowell you and Conway Twitty have a smash I wouldn't take anything for that

Ronnie McDowell

2/2/20

Mike and Linda-

...they live on
in our memories
and in our hearts.

Thinking of you and Linda
at this difficult time.

Thanks again for letting me know
about Dick's passing. I realize how
important a friend he was to both
of us, as well as to your family.

Peace to you both during this time
of loss, Dick was an amazing person
and good man.

Best, Santa & Robert Stewart

From: Scott Borchetta"

Subject: Dick Whitehouse

Date: January 16, 2020 at 12:06:39 AM
EST

To: Mike Curb

Dick was a force of nature. Eternally upbeat about his artists, strict and rigid in his expectations, and had an infectious laugh that resonated through walls.

He may have been small in stature but when he spoke he was 10 feet tall. Made a big impact on me in my early Nashville years.

From: Tanya Dureaux
Subject: RE: Dick Whitehouse
Date: January 15, 2020 at 3:36:54 PM EST
To: Mike Curb

Saddened too here the news about Dick, he was a man of high integrity and an excellent asset to Curb and the business of music. Mr. Richard Whitehouse, you will be missed.
Tanya

To: Mike Curb

Subject: RE: Dick Whitehouse

Mike, I'm very sorry to hear of Dick's passing. I remember how helpful he was when we were negotiating the joint venture with Warner Music Group in 2001 - 2002. It sounds as though he was not suffering at the time of his death. Thank heaven for that.

Tom

Tom Sherrard

From: Tony Brown

Subject: Re: Dick Whitehouse

Date: January 16, 2020 at 10:40:58 PM
EST

To: Mike Curb

MIKE.... I'm sorry to hear that . Dick was a great A&R person who did such a great service for CURB RECORDS . I will miss him .

My best, TONY B

Sent from my iPhone

Dick was one of the true masters in our industry,” Sheppard tells Billboard. He was one of the most thorough people I have ever had the pleasure of working with and was there for me in the early years of my career.

T.G. Sheppard

From: Woody Bowles
Sent: Wednesday, February 19, 2020
To: Mike Curb
Subject: To the family of Dick Whitehouse and to Mike Curb

I am so sad to hear about Dick Whitehouse's passing. I had first gotten to know Dick when I was the Director of Press and Public Information for CBS Records, Nashville in the early 1980's. After leaving CBS to start my own management and PR firm in mid 1982, I began working with Wynonna and Naomi Judd along with producer, Brent Maher. In early January of 1983, my wife and I were on our honeymoon in L.A. I called Dick and asked him if he would have time to see me. I told him all about The Judds and Dick gave us a \$100.00 budget to do some simple guitar / vocal demos of three songs. I Fed-Xed the cassette to him and the next day he called me and said, "Woody, on a scale of 1 to ten this is an eleven!" Over the next few weeks we spoke about how he could be involved. I told him I wanted a Curb / RCA deal. Dick told me he only had Curb / Capitol and Curb / Warner Records arrangements at that time. I felt that there was inter-label competition with Capitol and Warner and I really pushed for a Curb / RCA deal. After a few months of negotiations Dick and I set up an audition in Joe Galante's office at RCA. After that audition, Brent, the Judds and I went to O'Charley's restaurant just off of Music Row while Dick met with Joe Galante. One hour later, Dick walked into the restaurant and announced, "Congratulations, you are now Curb / RCA artists!"

Over the next several years, Dick, Brent Maher and I worked closely together on A&R, promotion and PR. Of course, the act was a huge success!

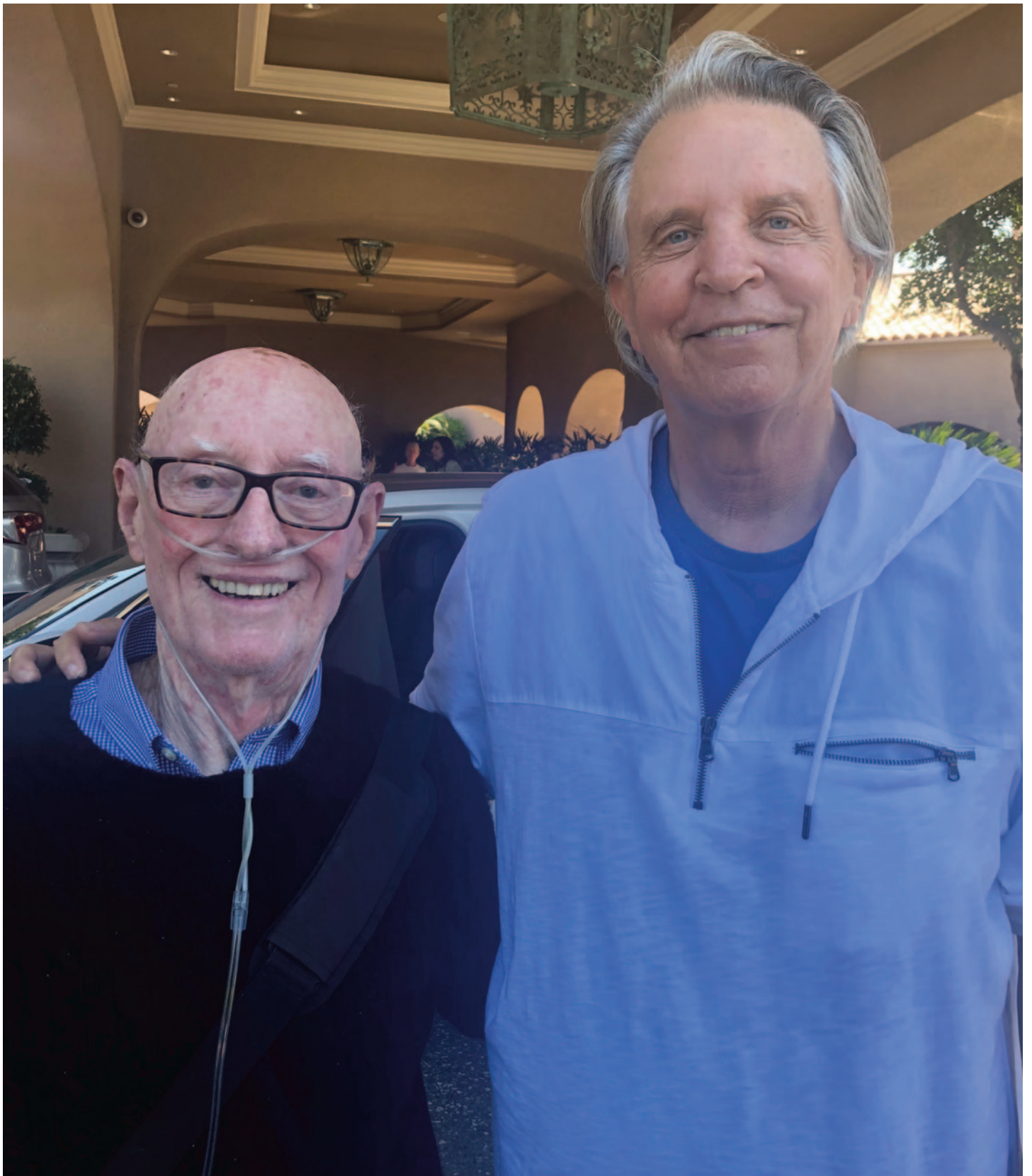
After five years I sold my interest in their management to my partner and moved on with four other acts. One of those was Moe Bandy, who had been dropped from CBS Records one year prior. I approached Dick and told him that I knew how to orchestrate his come-back. I had brought Jerry Kennedy on board to produce Moe's project. By this time Dick had become my friend, mentor and cheerleader. Once again he believed in me and made the decision to give Moe a shot. I found the first two singles, "Till I'm Too Old To Die Young" and "You Haven't Heard The Last Of Me". The first one went #1 on Cashbox and the latter was top-five. We followed with the hit, "Americana" which became the theme song for George H.W. Bush's Presidential campaign.

I think back to these times with such warm fondness. Dick continued to follow me and my endeavors. In the 1990's I was managing country singer / songwriter, Terri Clark. Dick wanted to sign Terri but said he was unable to get the rest of the label staff to make the commitment. I went on to sign her to Mercury Records and had several gold and platinum projects with her. Throughout this time, Dick continued to be my cheerleader, friend and believer. Dick taught me so much and he and I gelled. He was one of my most valued friends and partners during my 35 years in the music business. Dick loved to tell the story that I had written the 1977 Hoyt Axton single, "You're The Hangnail In My Life And I Can't Bite You Off", which made him laugh.

I am so grateful to have had Dick Whitehouse play such a prominent role in my life and career. He was a one-in-a-million type of person and he had an incredible life. I am sad that he is gone, but I celebrate his life and all that he did with and for me.

God Bless the Whitehouse family in your time of grief. Please know that he impacted so many lives in such a positive way. Thank you Dick for all you did for me and for all you have meant to me!

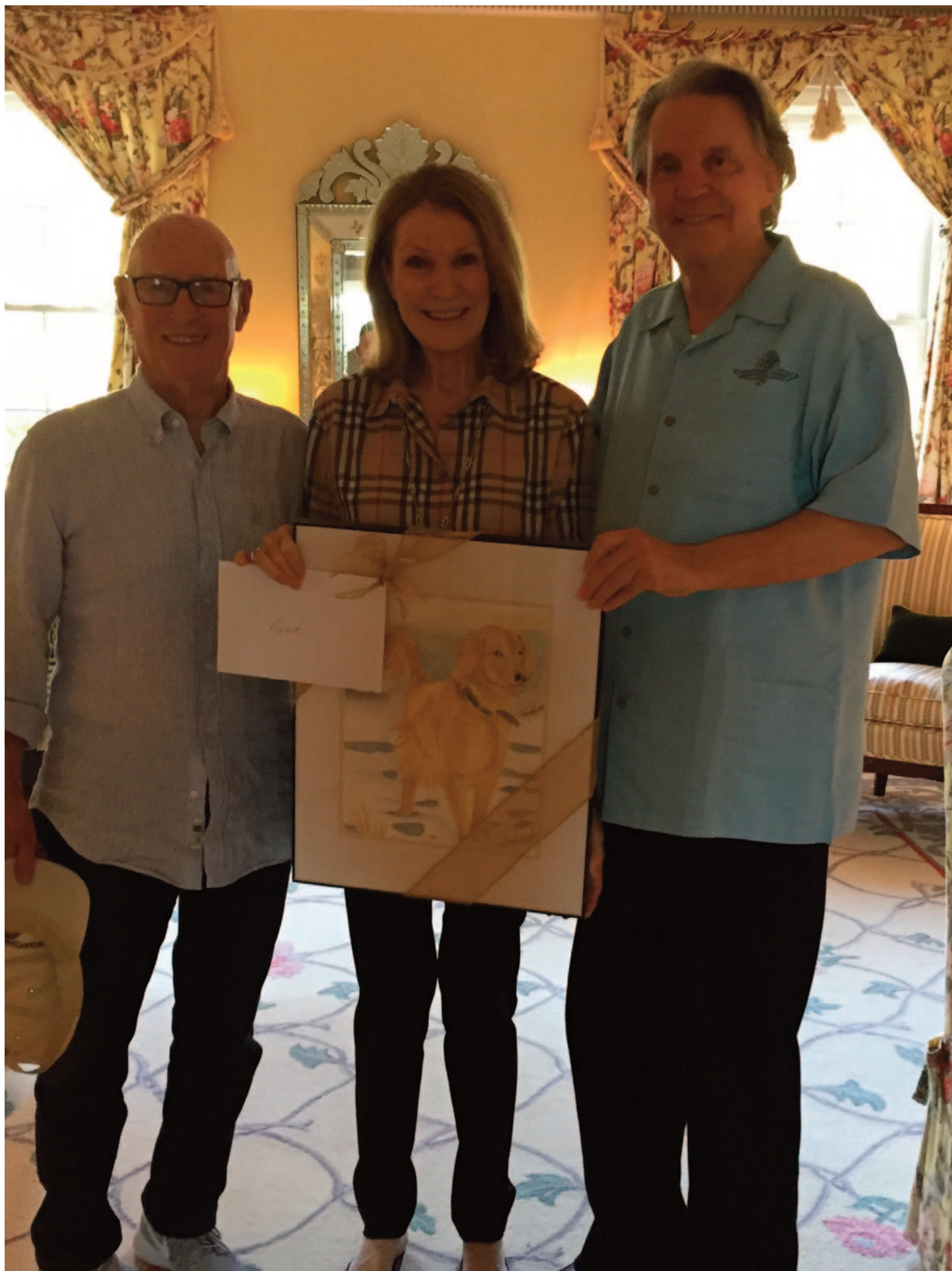
Woodson (Woody) Bowles























VSDA Sponsoring Riot-Relief Effort Collecting Used Tapes To Give L.A. Retailers

BY PAUL SWEETING
and CHRIS MORRIS

NEW YORK—Video distributors in Los Angeles have agreed to a plan to help area retailers whose stores were hurt in the recent riots to rebuild their businesses by collecting and disseminating used inventory donated by other dealers.

The L.A. Riot Relief Fund, a charity sponsored by the local chapter of the Video Software Dealers Assn., has asked distributors who operate in the Los Angeles market to collect used tapes donated by their customers between now and Aug. 1. The tapes will then be shipped to Baker & Taylor's Los Angeles facility for redistribution to affected retailers.

Baker & Taylor will distribute the tapes at its own expense under the guidance of the local VSDA chapter.

According to the VSDA, approximately 100 video stores in the Los Angeles area were looted or burned in the riots that followed the verdict in the Rodney King case.

The Riot Relief Fund has furnished distributors with a letter asking for donated tapes and is requesting that they send it to their accounts in the Los Angeles market. The used tapes are intended to help affected retailers restock their catalog inventory.

In addition to Baker & Taylor, distributors who operate in the Los Angeles market include Comtron, Ingram Entertainment, ETD, Video Products Distributors, and Major Video Concepts.

According to distributors planning

to participate in the program, the key to making the relief effort work is sorting out requests for assistance from retailers.

"The major problem is putting a real number on the stores affected," one distributor source says. "We had 14 accounts whose stores were damaged to one degree or another. And it looks like about half of those have no intention of going back into business at all. So how do you sort out who really needs help? Obviously, you don't want to be opportunistic in the face of something like this, but you don't want to be taken advantage of, either."

According to Baker & Taylor senior VP James Ulsamer, "Who will get how much product will be sorted out by VSDA. We'll be guided by them."

Linda Plaks, owner of Moorpark Video and president of the Los Angeles VSDA chapter, could not be reached by press time.

Ulsamer says he cannot yet estimate how much the relief effort will cost Baker & Taylor because he does not yet know how much product will be involved. "The outbound freight could add up, but if we only have to ship once to each store it shouldn't be too bad. Also, some dealers may just want to come in and pick up the product. We may also ask our shippers about donating part of their services. But our operations people are on top of this, so we're not expecting any problems."

In other relief-related news, the Music Relief Fund has so far raised a

total of \$81,000 for the relief effort, according to Sam Ginsburg of Abbey Road Distributors. New contributors include Sony Music and the 64-store Spec's Music chain in Miami.

Retailers whose stores were damaged in the disturbances may contact the Federal Emergency Management Administration toll-free at 800-525-0321 for general information and advice on small-business loans, income taxes, insurance, and other business-related concerns.

Anyone wishing to volunteer for service in the L.A. rebuilding and cleanup effort may call the Emergency Volunteer Service Center at 213-617-0294.



You've Gotta Lovett. Grammy-winning recording artist Lyle Lovett is congratulated after his 12 sold-out showcases in Fort Worth, Texas, New York, and Los Angeles, which launched his worldwide tour in support of his fourth MCA/Curb album, "Joshua Judges Ruth." The album features the single "She's Already Made Up Her Mind." Shown at a postconcert party at Spago in Los Angeles, from left, are Mike Curb, chairman, Curb Records; Al Teller, chairman, MCA Music Entertainment Group; Lovett; Richard Palmese, president, MCA Records; and Dick Whitehouse, president, Nashville division, Curb Records.

LIVE Seeks \$20 Million Advance From WEA 1st-Qtr. Revenue Losses Cut Further Into Cash Flow

BY DON JEFFREY

NEW YORK—With a sharp decline in first-quarter revenues exacerbating financial problems, LIVE Entertainment Inc. is attempting to relieve its current cash-flow crunch by obtaining a \$20 million advance from WEA Corp. on their recently formed home video distribution agreement.

In the three months that ended March 21, LIVE lost \$1.88 million, compared with a profit of \$1.79 million a year ago. Revenues plunged 21.3% to \$67.6 million from \$85.9 million in the year-earlier period.

The Van Nuys, Calif.-based company blames the decline in revenues and the net loss on the lack of major movie releases on home video, "disappointing results" from its retail chains, and higher interest and amortization costs.

LIVE needs a \$20 million advance on distribution fees from WEA to "meet the company's immediate liquidity needs," according to the company's quarterly financial statement.

Rodney Trovinger, senior VP and acting CFO, says the advance would be used for "operating needs and film acquisitions" at LIVE Home Video.

WEA would recoup that advance from distribution revenues at a rate of \$555,555 a month plus interest. The three-year WEA agreement for domestic distribution of home video replaces an expired pact with Uni Distribution.

What is holding up the agreement on the advance is WEA's demand for "first priority security interest" in catalog titles under LIVE's children's video unit, Family Home Entertainment. Currently, LIVE's banks hold all rights to its video library as collateral for loans. Talks on the transfer of the rights are "still in progress," says Trovinger.

LIVE Home Video's sales declined an undisclosed amount in the first quarter, but the company says the unit made an operating profit. Internationally the news was better: LIVE's VCL/Carloco subsidiary, a Munich-based home video distribution company, had an 11.8% increase in sales, mainly because of the video release of "Terminator 2: Judgment Day" in Germany. The movie was produced by Carloco Pictures Corp., which owns 53% of LIVE.

LIVE's Specialty Retail Division, comprising the music chains Straw-

berries and Waxie Maxie, had a 7.7% decline in sales because of "continued weak economic conditions in the Northeastern U.S., continued liquidity problems that limited the amount of product available... and the closure of five stores during the last nine months of 1991." Same-store sales (for units open at least one year) fell 5% in the first quarter from a year ago. The company says retail profits were at "break-even" level.

Trovinger says LIVE is attempting to obtain a \$10 million line of credit to provide working capital for the retail

operations.

In a separate lending agreement, LIVE has \$50 million outstanding under a revolving credit facility with its banks. But that expires in December and LIVE is trying to line up something to replace it.

LIVE also missed a \$7.9 million interest payment due May 15 on its \$110 million worth of subordinated debt. The company has hired two investment firms to explore the possible restructuring of the debt. In the meantime, LIVE took advantage of a

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Lannert To Lead Billboard's New Latin/Carib Expansion

NEW YORK—John Lannert has joined Billboard on a full-time basis in the new position of Caribbean/Latin American bureau chief. Lannert had been Latin music editor and Latin chart manager for the magazine.

Lannert's new role is part of Billboard's growing coverage of the global Latin music market. Among other changes:

- Effective with this issue, the Hot Latin Tracks chart will appear each week in Billboard and the chart's No. 1 title will appear on the magazine's cover along with the top titles from other key charts. The chart, which ranks the most popular Latin songs in the U.S., had been running on a biweekly basis. (The Top Latin Albums chart will continue to run biweekly.)

- A Latin Albums section has been added to the weekly Album Reviews feature (see page 45). The reviews will be handled by Lannert.

- Additional space will be allotted each week in the Artists & Music section for coverage of Latin music.

Lannert, who is based in Miami, will continue to author the weekly

Latin Notas column, cover news of the Latin market, and manage both Latin charts. In addition, he is charged with establishing and overseeing a network of Billboard correspondents in major markets throughout the Caribbean and South and Central America.

"John is uniquely qualified for this newly created position at Billboard," says editor in chief Timothy White, "because his passion for music and home entertainment in the southern section of this hemisphere is huge. At the same time, he's a deeply curious and knowledgeable journalist who follows not just the wealth of talent in these unique markets but also the local retail, radio, and video developments—plus, the quality of the coverage they currently receive in their own countries. In the next few years, Billboard will be making an unprecedented commitment to chronicling the lively arts and creative commerce in Latin America and the Caribbean, and John will be playing a key role in this enormously exciting initiative. If there is something pending in a Latin or Caribbean nation, John will help ensure our international audience reads about it first in Billboard."

Lannert also will function as Billboard's chief South Florida correspondent, covering regional stories

(Continued on page 77)

Sony Sets Japanese Launch Of MiniDisc Portable Units

BY STEVE McCURE

TOKYO—Sony will introduce two MiniDisc portable units in Japan Nov. 1, the company announced here May 26.

One unit will feature record/playback capabilities and will have a target retail price of \$80,000 yen (\$620), while a playback-only model will sell in the 60,000-yen (\$465) range. Monthly production estimates for the two battery-powered decks are not yet available.

The firm says it plans to start selling MD units in overseas markets by Christmas, with prices and other details yet to be announced.

So far, 22 hardware manufacturers, eight software-related companies, and 10 blank-media manufacturers have signed licensing agreements for MD technology.

In contrast to Matsushita's May 6 unveiling of its RS-DC10 home-use DCC deck, which goes on the market here Sept. 21, Sony displayed prototype portable MD units in what could be seen as an attempt to steal some of Matsushita's thunder. A large, commercial-use MD deck was used to demonstrate the MD format's capabilities.

Also worth noting is that, at 135,000 yen (\$1,046), the RS-DC10 is significantly more expensive than the MD portables, although Sony has yet to make an announcement regarding a home MD unit.

Kozo Ohsone, a Sony senior managing director responsible for audio

development, says the firm believes the new format will penetrate the market faster than CDs due to the MD's recording capability.

In order to ensure software support for MD—which uses the Serial Copy Management System to prevent multigeneration digital copying—Sony announced it has completed development of premastering and mastering equipment for prerecorded MD

(Continued on page 83)

Rock The Vote Assists Passage Of 'Motor' Bill

BY BILL HOLLAND

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Senate staffers say the music industry's Rock the Vote campaign played an instrumental part in grassroots lobbying to convince senators to pass a pending federal-voter registration bill May 20 by a vote of 61-38.

The National Voter Registration Act, also known as the Motor Voter bill, would make it easier for millions of Americans 18 and over to register to vote by requiring states to enroll people automatically when they apply for or

(Continued on page 81)

Capitol, Curb Join In Country Label Deal



Sealing the Curb/Capitol deal are (l-r) Curb's President/Country Dick Whitehouse and Chairman Mike Curb, Capitol-EMI President/CEO Joe Smith, Capitol/Nashville President Jimmy Bowen, and CEMA's VP/Business Affairs David Kronemyer and President Russ Bach.

Capitol/Nashville and Los Angeles-based Curb Records have entered into a joint venture to release product under the Curb/Capitol Nashville label.

Among the artists signed to the new label is Sawyer Brown, who have inked a five-year deal. The band has been on Capitol/Nashville through a production deal with Curb. Other acts to be released on the joint label include Cee Cee Chapman, whom Bowen will produce, and newcomer Jara Lane. Other signings are expected soon.

The new agreement also allows Curb to license selected Capitol master recordings for inclusion on Curb or Curb/Capitol Nashville compilation albums, subject to Capitol's own release plans. The deal does not affect Curb's logo deals with other Nashville majors, or Curb Records itself.

Capitol/Nashville President Jimmy Bowen said, "Curb has continually demonstrated its ability to be a major creative force in country music, discovering and developing a number of the industry's top artists."

CURB/CAPITOL/See Page 38



CURB RECORDS

July - August 1989
Vol. 001



Ken Stilts, Mike Curb, Don Dortch, Mike Borchetta, Joe Meador, Ronnie McDowell, Moe Bandy, Merlin Littlefield, Dick Whitehouse.

**Curb Records Hits
Nashville!**















