

Little Richard Records (1951 to 1958)

by Frank Daniels

Richard Penniman was one of the originators of rock-and-roll music as we know it. As a performer, he got his start at age 14 when Sister Rosetta Tharpe invited her to open for him at a concert. He began singing rhythm-and-blues in 1949. Within the next year, he had become influenced by Billy Wright's flamboyant stage persona and incorporated elements of it into his own. By 1951, Wright had gained Richard the introductions that he needed to obtain a recording contract with RCA Victor. That same year, he began playing the piano, for which he would develop a unique, frenzied style. These pages identify the first pressings of each of Little Richard's records from 1951 through 1958, and provide brief information through 1960. All of his hits are here. As this page brings his music to mind, you will no doubt realize why Richard considered himself the personification of rock and roll.

Little Richard at RCA Victor

“Taxi Blues”/ “Every Hour”

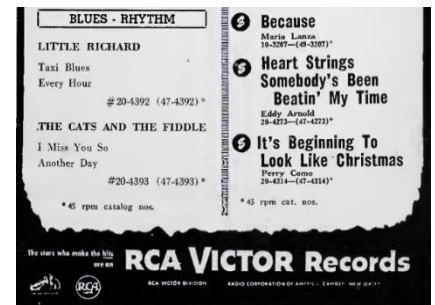
1st Appearance in Trade Magazines:

20-4392/47-4392

November 24, 1951



LITTLE RICHARD	
Every Hour	72--74--70--71
VICTOR (45) 47-4392—Victor has a good blues singer by the showing on this disk. Richard combines Southern blues feeling with city diction in a good piece of material.	
Taxi Blues	65--70--60--65
Synthetic blues material doesn't give the chanter an opportunity to sell. The set does well enough.	



“Get Rich Quick”/ “Thinkin’ ‘Bout My Mother”

1st Appearance in Trade Magazines:

20-4582/47-4582

March 29, 1952



“THINKIN’ ‘BOU MY MOTHER” (2:50)
 “GET RICH QUICK” (2:12)
 LITTLE RICHARD
 (RCA Victor 20-4582)

● Little Richard sends a change of pace tune thru the mill as his vocal ranges from slow and easy to fast and shouty. Backed with a strong instrumental backdrop and a soaring arrangement Richard brings in a pleasing deck. The other side is a driving, big beat that Richard belts out with much fervor. Ops have two good sides here.



“Ain’t Nothin’ Happenin’”/ “Why Did You Leave Me”

20-4772/47-4772

1st Appearance in Trade Magazines: July 19, 1952

This was the first Little Richard release on Label 52.



LITTLE RICHARD
 (RCA Victor 20-4772; 47-4772)
B “WHY DID YOU LEAVE ME” (2:28) Little Richard gives a slow item a low down blues reading. Soft piano backing supports the blues shouter.
B “AIN’T NOTHIN’ HAPPENIN’ ” (2:30) A fast beat rocker is taken for a ride by the talented singer. Orking is good.



“Please Have Mercy on Me”/ “I Brought it All on Myself”

20-5025/47-5025

1st Appearance in Trade Magazines: November 1, 1952



RHYTHM-BLUES
STEVE GIBSON AND THE ORIGINAL RED CAPS.
 Why Don't You Love Me
 Faithfully 20-0410—(47-5015)*
LITTLE RICHARD
 Please Have Mercy on Me
 I Brought It All on Myself 20-5025—(47-5025)*

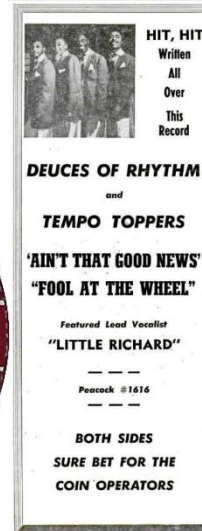


Little Richard at Peacock and Specialty

“Ain’t That Good News”/ “Fool at the Wheel”

(5-) 1616

1st Appearance in Trade Magazines: May 30, 1953



Shown as by the Deuces of Rhythm & Tempo Toppers

“Always”/ “Rice, Red Beans, and Turnip Greens”

(5-) 1628

1st Appearance in Trade Magazines: March 13, 1954



Shown as by the Tempo Toppers.



“Tutti-Fruitti”/ “I’m Just a Lonely Guy”

561

1st Appearance in Trade Magazines: October 13, 1955



LITTLE RICHARD
Tutti-Fruitti76
SPECIALTY 561—A cleverly styled novelty with nonsense words delivered rapid-fire. The singer shows a compelling personality and an attractive vocal style. (Venice, BMI)
I'm Just a Lonely Guy...72
A slow tearful blues, which Little Richard belts out with powerful pipes. On performance, rather than material, this disk is strong. (Venice, BMI)



“Little Richard’s Boogie”/ “Directly from My Heart to You”

(5-) 1658

1st Appearance in Trade Magazines: March 10, 1956



ANOTHER HIT BY
Little Richard
“DIRECTLY FROM MY HEART TO YOU” b/w
“LITTLE RICHARD'S BOOGIE”
Peacock # 1658
PEACOCK RECORDS, Inc.
2809 Erastus Street,
Houston 26, Texas



“Long Tall Sally”/ “Slippin’ and Slidin’”

572

1st Appearance in Trade Magazines: March 17, 1956



CENSOR CAN'T DIG 'SALLY'

NEW YORK, March 10.—NBC's song-censorship rules are sometimes considered to be decidedly on the prim side, so the trade was considerably startled when Little Richard's spicy new Specialty disk, "Long Tall Sally," was played last night (9) over the web's "National Radio Fan Club" show.

The record was screened before airing, but after listening to it several times, the censor exec finally just shook his head and told the show's producer Parker Gibbs: "How can I restrict it when I can't even understand it?" The program's teen-age audience dug it tho, and voted the r.&b. disk the No. 1 record of this week's new releases.



• Review Spotlight on . . . RECORDS

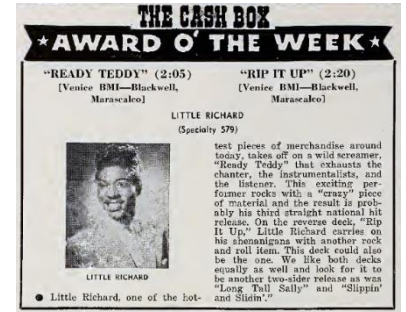
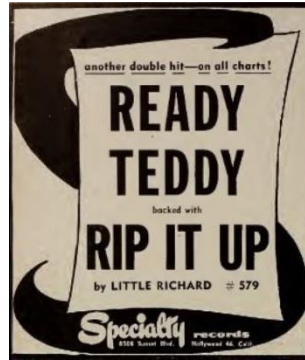
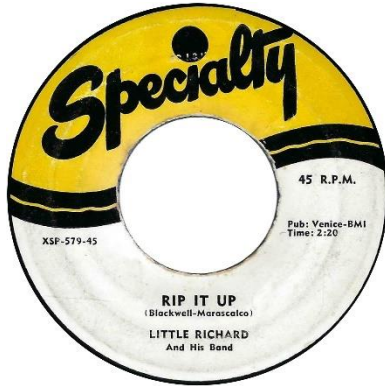
LITTLE RICHARD
Slippin' and Slidin' (Venice, BMI)
Long Tall Sally (Venice, BMI)—Specialty 572—Little Richard has a sock follow-up to "Tutti Fruitti" in this two-sided hit, which should grab off plenty of play in both the r.&b. and pop markets. "Slippin' and Slidin'" is a swingy rhythm-novelty with a rockin' beat, spicy lyrics and a showmanly vocal performance. "Long Tall Sally" is an equally effective rhythm-novelty team with humorous lyrics and another great warbling job by the artist.

“Rip It Up”/ “Ready Teddy”

1st Appearance in Trade Magazines:

579

June 16, 1956



“Heeby-Jeebies”/ “She’s Got It”

1st Appearance in Trade Magazines:

584

October 13, 1956

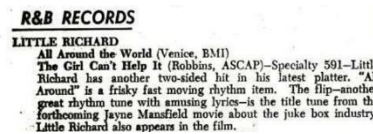


“The Girl Can’t Help It”/ “All Around the World”

1st Appearance in Trade Magazines:

591

November 24, 1956



"Lucille"/ "Send Me Some Lovin'"

1st Appearance in Trade Magazines:

598

March 2, 1957



LITTLE RICHARD
 Lucille (Venice, BMI)
 Send Me Lovin' (Venice, BMI)—Specialty 598—The first disk by the dynamic stylist in some weeks looks like an easy double smash. The top side is a wild, wailing tribute to "Lucille." The flip is a switch to a slow-paced blues which strongly resembles the melody of the old blues, "Birmingham Jail." Both these have power aplenty.



Here's Little Richard

1st Appearance in Trade Magazines:

SP-100

March 23, 1957



In about September 1957, this album was reissued with a new catalog number, SP-2100. This was the only album that Little Richard released while he was under contract to Specialty Records.

LITTLE RICHARD IS TOPS ...and no wonder, for every Little Richard record makes the Billboard and Cash Box Hit Charts! Even his newest record "Lucille" b/w "Send Me Some Lovin'" made all charts one week after its release. Now six of Little Richard's hits and six brand new songs of hit calibre are available in a great LP "Here's Little Richard" (SP 100... also in 3 EP's #400, 401, 402).

Specialty records
 8508 Sunset Boulevard
 Hollywood 46, California

"Maybe I'm Right"/ "I Love My Baby"
 1st Appearance in Trade Magazines:

(5-) 1673
 May 4, 1957



The HEAT is on
 with 4 Big Peacock Releases ...

Already Hitting The Charts	From Rhythm Street— The Big Beat
Little Richard's "I LOVE MY BABY" b/w "MAYBE I'M RIGHT" Peacock #1673	Johnny Otis and Orchestra "BUTTERBALL" b/w "SANDY'S BOOGIE" Peacock #1673
WAXING HOT ALL OVER!	
Blue Giant Big Walter's "I'LL CRY FOR YOU" Peacock #1674	Inspiring! The Spirits of Memphis "I NEED THEE" b/w "COME AND GO WITH ME" Peacock #1776

PEACOCK RECORDS, INC. 4184 LYONS AVE. HOUSTON, TEXAS



"Jenny, Jenny"/ "Miss Ann"
 1st Appearance in Trade Magazines:

606
 May 27, 1957



POP RECORDS
 LITTLE RICHARD... Specialty 606..... JENNY, JENNY (Venice, BMI)
 MISS ANN (Venice, BMI)
 Two great sides here, with the top in the frantic, dedicated, hootin' and howlin' mood of "Lucille." Flip, another top contender, is a moderate-paced swinging blues. Both have top money potential.

Little Richard

single records			
TUTTLEBUTH - I'M JUST A LONELY GUY	501		
LONG TALL SALLY - SLEPPIN' AND SLIDIN'	372		
RIIP IT UP - READY YEDDY	379		
HERRY HERRIES - SHE'S GOT IT	584		
THE GIRL CAN'T HELP IT - ALL AROUND THE WORLD	398		
TUTTLES - SEND ME SOME LOVIN'	388		
JENNY, JENNY - MISS ANN	606		
45 ep albums			
SEP-600 LONG TALL SALLY	45A	MISS ANN	45B
SLEPPIN' & SLIDIN'	45A	CANT BELIEVE YOU WANNA LEAVE	45B
READY YEDDY	45A	HERRY HERRIES	45B
TUTTLEBUTH	45A	THE GIRL CAN'T HELP IT	45B
RIIP IT UP	45A	JENNY, JENNY	45B
long play album			
"HERE'S LITTLE RICHARD"	50-62		
TUTTLEBUTH	50-60	LONG TALL SALLY	50-61
THE GIRL CAN'T HELP IT	50-63	MISS ANN	50-64
CANT BELIEVE YOU WANNA LEAVE	50-65	RIIP IT UP	50-66
READY YEDDY	50-67	JENNY, JENNY	50-68
SLEPPIN' AND SLIDIN'	50-69	SHE'S GOT IT	50-70

SPECIALTY RECORDS, INC. 6206 SUNSET BOULEVARD, HOLLYWOOD, CALIFORNIA

"Keep a' Knockin'"/ "Can't Believe You Wanna Leave"
 1st Appearance in Trade Magazines: September 9, 1957

611



POP RECORDS
 LITTLE RICHARD... Specialty 611..... KEEP A' KNOCKIN' (Venice, BMI)
 CAN'T BELIEVE YOU WANNA LEAVE (Venice, BMI)
 Little Richard fairly explodes with energy in his selling of "Knockin'", a fast rocker. "Can't Believe" is a ballad on which the artist uses a shoutin' approach that should easily find favor. The two strong readings should keep his dual-market streak going.

single records			
TUTTLEBUTH - I'M JUST A LONELY GUY	501		
LONG TALL SALLY - SLEPPIN' AND SLIDIN'	372		
RIIP IT UP - READY YEDDY	379		
HERRY HERRIES - SHE'S GOT IT	584		
THE GIRL CAN'T HELP IT - ALL AROUND THE WORLD	398		
TUTTLES - SEND ME SOME LOVIN'	388		
JENNY, JENNY - MISS ANN	606		
45 ep albums			
SEP-600 LONG TALL SALLY	45A	MISS ANN	45B
SLEPPIN' & SLIDIN'	45A	CANT BELIEVE YOU WANNA LEAVE	45B
READY YEDDY	45A	HERRY HERRIES	45B
TUTTLEBUTH	45A	THE GIRL CAN'T HELP IT	45B
RIIP IT UP	45A	JENNY, JENNY	45B
long play album			
"HERE'S LITTLE RICHARD"	50-62		
TUTTLEBUTH	50-60	LONG TALL SALLY	50-61
THE GIRL CAN'T HELP IT	50-63	MISS ANN	50-64
CANT BELIEVE YOU WANNA LEAVE	50-65	RIIP IT UP	50-66
READY YEDDY	50-67	JENNY, JENNY	50-68
SLEPPIN' AND SLIDIN'	50-69	SHE'S GOT IT	50-70

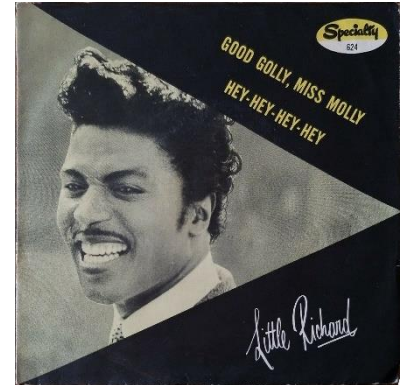
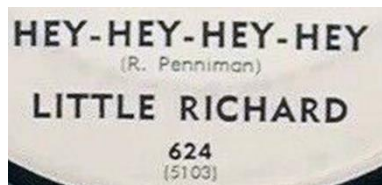
SPECIALTY RECORDS, INC. 6206 SUNSET BOULEVARD, HOLLYWOOD, CALIFORNIA

It was at this time that Specialty reissued Little Richard's first album as SP-2100. At the same time, they also released an LP by the Gerald Wiggins Trio, *Around the World in 80 Days* (SP-2101). The following month, another Specialty album came out. That release was Hal Hideo's album of *Barroom Music With a Broad Appeal* (SP-2102).

Meanwhile, in Australia on October 12, Little Richard announced that he was leaving the world of rock and roll to become a gospel minister. The news in that article, "Little Richard Gets the Call," was a surprise to the many rock-and-rollers who had looked forward to each of Richard's records.

"Good Golly Miss Molly" / "Hey-Hey-Hey-Hey!" 624

1st Appearance in Trade Magazines: January 20, 1958

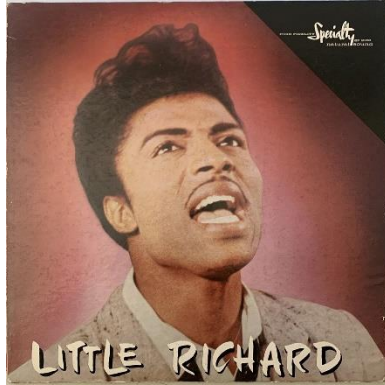


LITTLE RICHARD... Specialty 624.....GOOD GOLLY, MISS MOLLY (Venice, BMI)
 The frantic cat at his vigorous best on this rocker. *Ork* backing is good and helps give side potential. It can click in both pop and r.&b. marts. Flip is a blues, "Hey-Hey-Hey-Hey!" (Venice, BMI).

“Evelyn”/ “Dedicated to You”

SP-2103

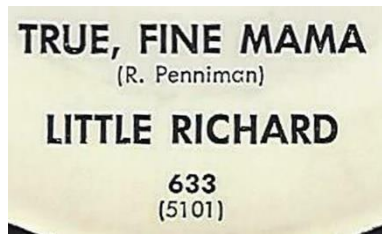
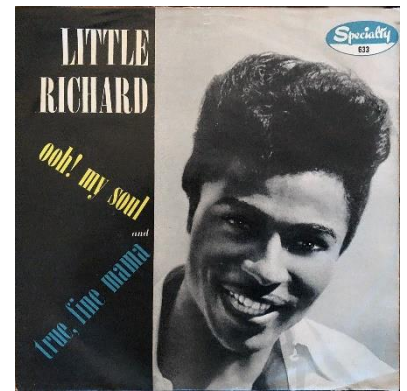
1st Appearance in Trade Magazines: **March 30, 1958**



“Ooh! My Soul”/ “True Fine Mama”

633

1st Appearance in Trade Magazines: **May 19, 1958**



LITTLE RICHARD... Specialty 633.....OOH! MY SOUL (Venice, BMI)

TRUE, FINE MAMA.....(Venice, BMI)

“Baby Face”/ “I’ll Never Let You Go”

645

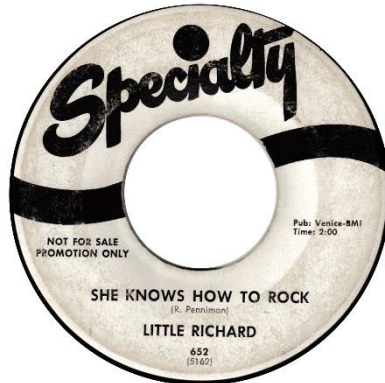
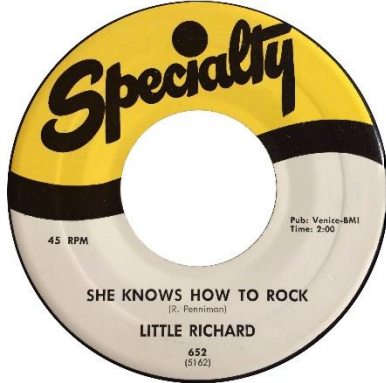
1st Appearance in Trade Magazines: **September 8, 1958**



Little Richard is wild in his reading of “Soul,” a funky blues. He gives out with a generous portion of his shouts, hoots and howls. “Mama” is also a blues on which the artist is in great form. Excellent bet to score in pop and r.&b. marts.

“She Knows How to Rock”/ “Early One Morning” 652

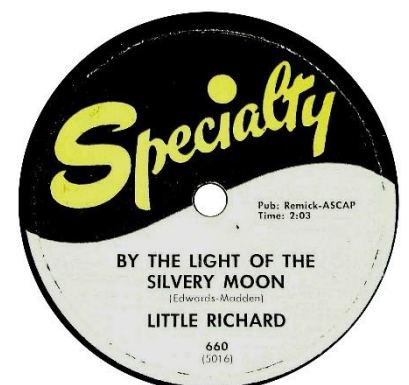
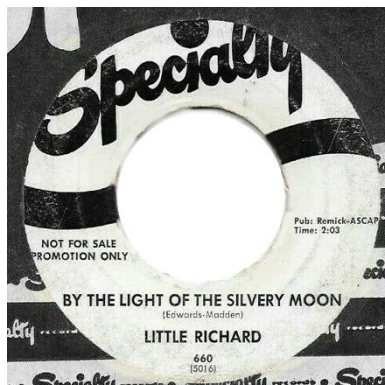
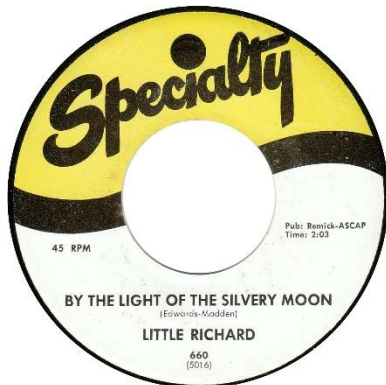
1st Appearance in Trade Magazines: November 17, 1958



The January 26, 1959, issues of *Billboard* announced that Little Richard had signed a contract to record gospel music. That contract led to two records from Goldisc in early 1960: *I'll Never Walk Alone* (GD-4001) and *I Believe* (GD-4002).

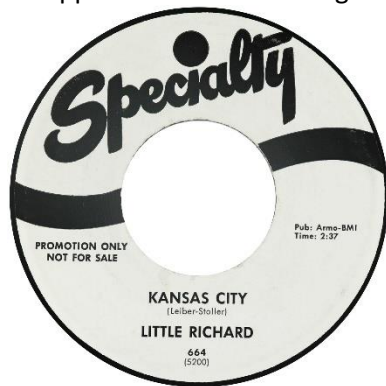
“By the Light of the Silvery Moon”/ “Wonderin” 660

1st Appearance in Trade Magazines: February 21, 1959




“Kansas City”/ “Lonesome and Blue” 664

1st Appearance in Trade Magazines: April 6, 1959



LITTLE RICHARD
 KANSAS CITY (Armo, BMI)
 LONESOME AND BLUE (Benice, BMI)
 Little Richard's pitch in the "Kansas City" sweepstakes will offer strong competition. The sides are from an earlier album by the artist. He knows how to shout the blues, and this version should figure. Flip is a slow blues that is also well handled. Specialty 664




The Fabulous Little Richard SP-2104

1st Appearance in Trade Magazines:

May 2, 1959



Also in May, Specialty released an album by Lloyd Price (SP-2105), with it following his huge hit, "Personality," from ABC/Paramount.

"Shake a Hand"/ "All Night Long"

670

1st Appearance in Trade Magazines:

June 15, 1959



LITTLE RICHARD
★★★★ SHAKE A HAND – SPECIALTY 670 – Richard really shouts this one out. It's the oldie, and he does a great performance with support from a fem vocal group. Fine side can go. (Angel, BMI)
★★★★ ALL NIGHT LONG – A real grass-roots blues effort by Richard has the sound. Solid piano and rhythm backing in the gospel framework. Either side here. (Venice, BMI)

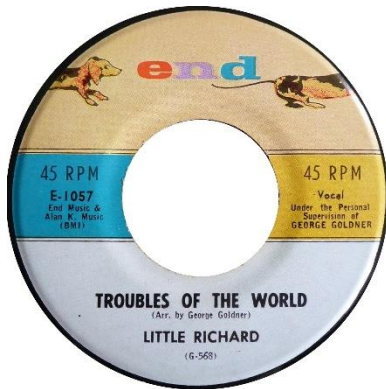


By this time, Specialty had begun reissuing old material from Little Richard and digging items out of the Specialty archives for release. A few more singles followed, but Little Richard had moved on, and Specialty was preparing to do the same. Several album collections followed, but after 1960, the label basically closed up shop, continuing to press Little Richard records and issuing only a few more singles. Not wishing to be involved in the pay-to-play scheme known as Payola, owner Art Rupe essentially shuttered the label. It reopened briefly in the late 1960s, releasing only reissues.

Little Richard Penniman bounced around from label to label after that. After End Records, he released singles for Little Star, Mercury, and Atlantic before returning briefly to Specialty in 1964. After that, he went on to Vee-Jay Records, then Modern, then Okeh, and by 1970 he was on Reprise. His last Top-Forty single, though, was "Ooh! My Soul" (Specialty 633). All in all, he scored seven major hits for Specialty and released quite a few other songs of note.

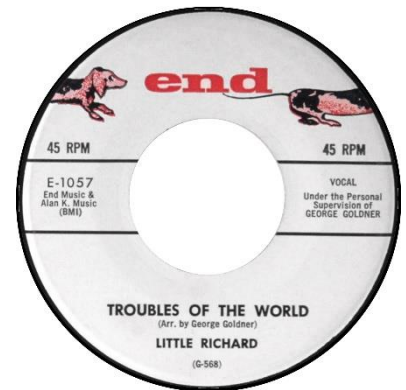
“Save Me, Lord”/ “Troubles of the World” End 1057

1st Appearance in Trade Magazines: August 28, 1959



“TROUBLES OF THE WORLD” (End & Alan K. BMI—Arr. by Goldner)
 “SAVE ME LORD” (End & Alan K. BMI—Arr. by Goldner)
 LITTLE RICHARD (End 1057)

● Little Richard, who left the disk scene awhile back to enter the ministry, returns on the Gone with sessions in keeping with his new calling. “Troubles Of The World” is a thrilling portrayal of the spiritual, one that can command chart attention in pop-R&B-gospel fields. Richard’s familiar shout technique is expertly employed within the framework of a gospel group. “Save Me Lord” again generates gospel authority.



“Milky White Way”/ “I’ve Just Come from the Fountain” End 1058

1st Appearance in Trade Magazines: September 7, 1959



★ ★ ★ ★

LITTLE RICHARD
 ★★★★★ I’ve Just Come From the Mountain — END 1058 — Little Richard with chorus delivers an uptempo, emotional item. Packs plenty of excitement, which it maintains thruout. (End & Alan K, BMI)

★★★★ Milky White Way — In contrast to flip, this is in slower tempo, and it’s chanted with a world of heart. Chorus and organ back the lead. (End & Alan K, BMI)

“Whole Lotta Shakin”/ “Maybe I’m Right” 680

1st Appearance in Trade Magazines: October 12, 1959

LITTLE RICHARD
WHOLE LOTTA SHAKIN’ (Copar-Martyn, BMI)—The frantic chanter wails this rocker at a high pitch and maintains the excitement all the way. It’s the old Jerry Lee Lewis click, and it could also prove a winner this time. Flip is “Maybe I’m Right (Lion, BMI). Specialty 680

“I Got It”/ “Baby” 681

1st Appearance in Trade Magazines: January 11, 1960

LITTLE RICHARD
I GOT IT (Venice, BMI)—**BABY** (Venice, BMI)—The frantic chanter has two rockers that can grab coin in pop and r.&b. marts. Both get his vigorous approach, and peppy band backing pushes him all the way. Specialty 681

“Directly from My Heart”/ “The Most I Can Offer” 681

1st Appearance in Trade Magazines: April 25, 1960

LITTLE RICHARD
 ★★★★★ **DIRECTLY FROM MY HEART** — SPECIALTY 686 — Little Richard delivers this ballad with beat in fairly sedate style, backed by a fem chorus. It should sell. (Lion, BMI)

★★★★ **THE MOST I CAN OFFER** — Bluesy ballad is also handled in less-vigorous style than usual by the shouter. Nice side. (Venice, BMI)