

After six months, it has the gold and Platinum records

What is left for-

# 'Mr. Big Stuff'

Stax vice president of sales, Ewell Roussell, has announced that Stax artist Jean Knight has made the two million mark with her first record on the Stax label.

The national hit, "Mr. Big Stuff" first brought Miss Knight a Gold Single Record and now a Platinum Single Record.

"Mr. Big Stuff" began to soar at a pace of 100,000 sales a week and in approximately six weeks, the record had made number one on every major radio chart. And, it was also listed in the Canadian Top Five.

"Mr. Big Stuff" has been selected as "No. 3 Record" and Miss Knight was named "No. 1 Top New Female Vocalist" at the recent Annual Record World R & B Awards Presentation.

She's sexy, brainy, and thoroughly feminine and when she puts her hands on her hips then points her fingers and sings "Mr. Big Stuff, who do you think you are?" she reminds you of a sassy little girl getting back at her mischievous boy friend.

"And my fans really like it when I do that," says Jean Knight in reference to her hit "Mr. Big Stuff." "Around New Orleans, they've even made a dance out of it—you know, like putting their hands on their hips."

Jean, who had made special novenas to St. Jude, explains that there were a group of young singers who were being signed by major companies when she decided to go to Stax. Most of the group wanted to go and did go to Atlantic.

"But I didn't want to," she says, "because Atlantic already had Aretha Franklin."

This same "first thought" also helped her to choose "Mr. Big Stuff" as her first

Stax's release.

"There were four other songs that I was looking at, but I liked the title "Mr. Big Stuff," Jean says, "besides, I felt that it would be a hit."

Jean has always been a professional singer. She had been singing with bands in New Orleans nightclubs and had recorded her first record five years ago on the Maeux label (Jet Stream label of Dallas, Texas). The song was "A Tear" and did well locally. She then recorded "The Girl That Was Meant For You" and "Soldier Boy."

Later, she was approached by Mr. Wardell Quezergue, an independent producer, who is now her manager, producer, and close friend.

## BEGAN WRITING

"I had also been writing songs," says Jean, "and he (Mr. Quezergue) thought that I could get my songs over better than anyone else."

And the rest of Jean's career has been made by "Mr. Big Stuff" which became a national hit in six weeks and number one on every major radio chart.

When speaking to Jean about her soaring success, she simply exclaims, "I love it! It's hard to believe that you're a 'nobody' yesterday, and today you're 'nobody.' I really love it."

Jean like her voice, has been described as being "sexy."

"And I love that too," she adds, "I like being a woman."



MISS JEAN KNIGHT

During her high school days (Joseph S. Clark in New Orleans), she gave "the boys a lot of competition."

## ALWAYS IN ELECTIONS

"Because I was always running for elections," she explains, "and I won several of them. And those classes where I wasn't president, I was vice president."

Yet, it must be pointed out that even though she was a political buff in high school, she still was a "woman first."

"I don't think that a woman should walk behind a man or in front of him. I think a woman should walk next to him," she says.

As for Women's Lib, Jean says, "I don't care about the Movement because I feel men were put here to lead in some ways just as women were too — like men go into the armed services. I don't want to go into the armed services," she admits frankly.

She then adds candidly, "Perhaps, Women's Lib is jeopardizing some of the rights that have been made to protect women too."

The other side of Jean is that of a 'very feminine woman.'

She likes hot pants, Minis, minis and likes for them to be red.

"Red is my favorite color because it's so lively," she explains.

Jean also thinks that today's girls are "getting away from femininity."

"Today, girls can wear pants or anything else to church," she says. "Maybe I'm old-fashioned about that, but I do like to see dresses. I'm old-fashioned about that of today's fashions are robbing girls of their respect and femininity. It seems as though women's fashions are becoming more masculine and men's fashions are becoming more feminine," she sighs.

is an outgoing person who lists picnics and sports among her hobbies along with reading. She especially likes to watch football (the Baltimore Colts is her favorite team), and she likes to participate in softball, volley ball, tennis, and bowling.

"I was born an Aquarian (January 26, 1943) and this must be my age because the 'sunshine' has certainly come in for me."

So Miss Jean Knight, "who do you think you are?" But who has to answer that? she's a star—a very talented star.

## OUTGOING

The Stax recording artist

BALTIMORE  
AFRO-AMERICAN  
NEW JERSEY  
AFRO-AMERICAN  
RICHMOND  
AFRO-AMERICAN  
WASHINGTON  
AFRO-AMERICAN  
AFRO-AMERICAN