Ray Barretto's newly-formed orchestra made its debut in Madison Square Garden on July 26th, 1974 during the Fania All-Star concert... Panamanian-born Ruben Blades will be singing lead voice for Ray.

Veteran singer Tony Molina has come in from Puerto Rico, and is the featured vocalist on Hector Rivera's upcoming album.

TIPICA 73 will be in Caracas, Venezuela and in Miami later on this month.

"The Man With The Fingers of Soul," Mr. Eddie Palmieri, will be going into the studio to record soon. The new album will be titled "The Sun of Latin Music," and Eddie feels it will be his best yet!

Ismael Quintana, who has sung lead vocals for the Eddie Palmieri Orchestra for the past eleven years plus, has recorded a solo LP for the Vaya label entitled "Quintana" which should be released in late August.

"El Nino Aguadeno," Ismael Miranda, has also recorded. His album is called "En Fa Menor," and the release date is expected to be in late August.

Joe Gaines interviewed Johnny Pacheco and Bobby Valentin, appropriately enough, a week before the Fania All Star concert. Funny thing about the interview was that it seemed as if somebody had straight-jacketed Bobby Valentin's tongue cause he uttered very few words during the entire interview... anyway, I did get at least something out of the interview... Johnny Pacheco mentioned that his flute had been ripped off at the Corso while he was signing some autographs.

I am in the process of coordinating a free mini-concert to be held on August 29th at the Soi Lain Park on the Lower East Side of Manhattan. The park is located on Henry Street (5 minutes from Delancey Street) between Montgomery and Grand Streets. Remember the 5 Stairsteps, the group that did "O-O-H Child." Well, they, along with Ricardo Marrero and the Group, and Conjuntio Tipico will be appearing at the mini-concert. Remember the date: Thursday, August 29th from 5:30 P.M.-9:30 P.M. my thanks to Yuquiui Records for supplying most of the great talent.

Eddie Colon, ex-timbaleiro for the Orchestra Harlow is now playing drums with a soul group. Eddie took part in one of Harlow's better recordings ("Salsa") and one of my favorite bongo players, Pablito Rosario, who also recorded on the "Salsa" LP, has also left the Orchestra Harlow, and is now playing with the rock group of David Bowie.

Tony Carrion broadcasted a rerun for the July 12th show of Noticias Latinas over WKCR. His guest was Max Salazar and the show centered around the Latin Musicians Circle issue. If you remember, Max was the man responsible for suggesting to Councilman Carter Burden that a bill be introduced to rename Frawley Circle at 110th Street and 5th Avenue to Latin Musicians Circle. Councilman Burden made the proposal to the City Council, and when the bill reached the Council, Committee Chairman Walter Ward postponed consideration of the bill to a later date. Now, Max tells me that Councilman Gigante, whose political jurisdiction as councilman includes 110th Street and 5th Avenue, is planning to reintroduce the bill in the future... once again, we urge our readers to write to show that you are in support of the bill. Write to: The Honorable Walter Ward, Committee Chairman, Parks and Recreation, City Hall, New York, New York (CONTINUED ON PAGE 8).