

along with Edward J. and Dennett Barrett, had gained complete control of The Chicago Record Company no later than one year after its formation. The connection of the Barretts and Fred Gennett is one which is certainly open for a considerable amount of speculation. It is possible that the Barretts of 222 Michigan Avenue in Sheboygan, Wisconsin, were in the phonograph and record business, though a listing of all dealers for Black Patti records published on August 6, 1927, shows no dealers in that city. <sup>(doubt whether Sheboygan was a hot race-record town)</sup> It is known that the Gennetts never passed up the chance to make a nickle when the opportunity presented itself. It's just possible that Fred Gennett and the Barretts bought out J. Mayo so that more capital could be brought into play to exploit the Negro record market. Mayo, again in his letter of 1965, states that "Fred Gennett and I were were both officers and directors" of The Chicago Record Company. This would seem to indicate that Fred entered the picture sometime after the formation of the company but prior to the end of the first year's operation. Perhaps Mayo needed not only the Gennett's help in providing the masters for the Black Patti records and the pressing and labeling of them, but also the financial backing needed for sales and distribution.

Other interests crept into the State Street Music Publishing Co. by 1929. Jack Kapp, his wife Frieda, and his brother(?) David along with J. Mayo ~~XXXX~~ constituted the officers and directors of that firm by 1929. It is known that Jack Kapp was President and J. Mayo was <sup>the</sup> business agent for/Vocalion division of Brunswick in August of 1929. What this has to do with the other companies is not yet known. Perhaps the Kapps, like the Gennetts and the Barretts, were a source of funds for the expansion and growth that Mayo and his friends and relatives could not provide. At any rate, the Chicago Record Company was dissolved just two years, <sup>(by court order)</sup> one month after formation, whereas the State Street