

# SHORE REPORT

## JR. SMOOTS AND THE DISTURBERS SET FOR REUNION GIG

by Robert Santelli

WHEN JUNIOR SMOOTS and the disturbers broke up last Autumn, the split marked the end of reggae at the Jersey Shore. Despite a loyal and growing following, Smoots, tired of the workload and interested in perhaps pursuing other musical directions, temporarily "retired" while the Disturbers unsuccessfully sought to re-group and find a new frontman.

According to Smoots, "I've really missed playing in front of a crowd, and besides, a whole lot of people wanted us to start playing again. So I guess it was sort of natural that we decided to pick a date for a gig and give it another try. You know, see how it feels."

The reunion gig is set for Friday, Feb. 24th at the Stone Pony in Asbury Park. It will mark the first time the entire band has played on the same stage in more than six months, and "special guests," says Smoots, are scheduled to sit in.

"We've been rehearsing and we've managed to work in some new material," continues Smoots. "And we won't

be doing just reggae. A lot of people think that's all we used to do, but I've written some African things in the past that we had in our set, and I got some brand new things, too. With those and a James Brown cover or two, things could be pretty exciting at the Pony."

Could the reunion lead to a more permanent relationship with the Disturbers?

"It's possible," says Smoots. "You know, I'm not going to close anything off before I get a chance to see how it goes. Things could begin happening for us again on a regular basis. We'll have to wait and see."

### MUTHA RECORDS SIGNS BMT'S

In what registers as a sort of departure for Mutha Records, known mostly for its Jersey Shore hardcore punk roster, Mark Chesley, president of the label, reports the signing of the BMT's, a New York-based rock and roll outfit.

"Mutha Records has always been interested in expanding beyond hardcore," explains Chesley. "That doesn't mean we're abandoning our com-

mitment to hardcore. It just means that if a band is good and plays good music, then we're gonna be receptive to it."

Chesley describes the BMT's as a "back to the roots rock and roll band." Presently the group is selecting tracks to comprise its debut album on Mutha, tentatively due out early Summer. The material was recorded in Memphis at Sam Phillips' recording studio.

"I think people are going to get real excited when they hear the record," says Chesley. "These guys are incredible rockers. They know their roots."

### BILL CHINNOCK SETS HIS AIM SOUTH

As reported in a previous *Shore Report*, Bill Chinnock, one of the more popular performers at the Shore, is moving to Nashville with the hope of securing a record contract and a "new beginning."

"I've gotten some real good feedback from some producers and record people down there," explains an excited Chinnock. "I've been down there a few times in the last couple of months, re-