You Could Say They Have A ‘Chance’

Local Combo ‘Goes On Record’

By LARRY DUN

(TIMES Staff Writer)

A local rock ‘n roll group

known as Ken Owens and the

Del Reys will make at least a

one-shot push within the next

few weeks for national recogni-
tion in the popular recording

field.

Owens and his four-man backing

lineup recently cut a 45 on the

Chance label featuring a pair of

songs written by the lead singer

himself. Though Ken hesitates to

predict which side will go over

best, it appears that a number

philosophically entitled

“That’s Tough” has the best

chances.

It combines a moderate, easy-
to-dance-to-if-you-know-how beat and an audible set of lyrics

which Owens delivers smoothly.

The reverse side, “You’re Far

Away,” is not quite as good from

a lyrical standpoint, but none-

theless provides dancers a

change of pace with its lighter

beat, reminiscent of a couple of

the late Buddy Holly’s tunes.

All in all, the record could

easily “make it” providing it

goes over early in selected

towns outside the singer’s home

area.

Moreover, the recording

company which as local as the

young man who records the

project to push it soon in Oklaho-

ma City, a fertile area these
days for records to “break out”
on a national scale.

Phil Eagle, who heads the com-

pany, has nothing but praise

for the group which includes his

company’s second crack at the

recording business. Last year

Eagle cut a record for Johnny

Kellison, a Fayetteville musican

who for years was tops on the

University campus in the rock

‘n roll department.

The Del Reys, who back

Owens instrumentally as well

as vocally, are Ronnie Watson on

the electric bass, Ernie Cole on

the electric organ, Handy Fa-

vourite on drums and Carl Coo

de head guitar.

Owens joined the group in 1961

after a short stint with a group

known as the Treble.

Ken, personally, is a far cry

from the dark-tailed, button-

downed entertainers sometimes

found in the college night spots

around the country. Having for-
pone the “Pretender image” in Fa-

tasy of an education, he is strict-

ly a family man and has a wife

and 5-month-old son, Kenneth

Wayne.

Owens received a degree in

history last January from the

University and plans to teach

when he gives up the “night

cabaret-dance” grind.

He got his start in his home-
town, Hindsville, singing at the

Legion Hut. Later he got what he

considered his “real start” at the

old Garden Restaurant which was

taxed weekly and played over

KERR in Springdale.

The two recorded songs are

among 10 rock ‘n roll and over

200 country and western num-
bere he has written. And the sur-
pprising part is that Owens can

just barely read music.

Owens and the Del Reys over

the weekend made their first ap-
ppearance of note in Fayetteville

since last spring, at the Rock-

wood. During the summer they

appeared regularly at night

spots in Joplin, Mo.

Ken, admittedly, feels a cer-
tain affinity for Joplin because

it was there that his record was

released Aug. 19. Early reports

indicate it’s doing all right, too.

Just after it was released, a

Joplin record shop and a radio

station pegged “That’s Tough”

and “You’re Far Away” as their

“Pick Hits of the Week.”

There are a few copies of the

record now available in Fayet-

eville at McEnally’s, and one of

the radio stations is giving it

sporadic play. But not until the

college set returns in force will

the promoters (Owen and Ka-

dence) try to give it a big local

push.

The big play will come

around registration week at the

University. Owens and the Del

Reys have a two-night engage-
m ent (Sept. 5 and 7) at the

Rockwood and a day or two af-

ter that they’re hoping for big

help from the DJ’s.