

Close Up

MAGAZINE

September 1989



1989 CMA Awards Finalists Announced

Rodney Crowell, Ricky Van Shelton and Hank Williams, Jr. have claimed the most nominations for the 1989 Country Music Association Awards, each garnering four nods apiece. Trailing the top contenders with three nominations are newcomer Clint Black, the Nitty Gritty Dirt Band, George Strait, Randy Travis and Keith Whitley. Johnny Cash, Rosanne Cash, the Desert Rose Band, Vern Gosdin, Patty Loveless, Kathy Mattea, Reba McEntire and Shenandoah each received two nominations.

In addition to a Male Vocalist of the Year nomination, Crowell was nominated for Single and Song of the Year honors for his self-penned "After All This Time". His video of "After All This Time" claimed a Video of the Year nomination for Director Bill Pope.

1988 Horizon Award winner Shelton received nods in the Entertainer and Male Vocalist of the Year categories. His LOVING PROOF lp garnered an Album of the Year nomination, while his number one hit, "I'll Leave This World Loving You" captured a Single of the Year nomination.

Two-time Entertainer of the Year (1987, 1988) Hank Williams, Jr. was again nominated for that honor. He also received two nominations in the Vocal Event of the Year category, one with Johnny Cash and another with his legendary father, Hank Williams, Sr. Bocephus' video for "There's A Tear In My Beer" racked up a nomination for Video Director Ethan Russell.

First-time CMA nominee Clint Black took an Horizon Award nomination. His single, "A Better Man", which he co-wrote with Hayden Nicholas received Single and Song of the Year nods.

The Nitty Gritty Dirt Band's much touted WILL THE CIRCLE BE UNBROKEN VOL II lp received an Album of the Year nomination and spawned a Vocal Event of the Year nomination for the group as well as fellow Coloradoan John Denver. Videc Director Bill Pope claimed a Video of the Year nomination for the album's title-track

Texan George Strait, a three-time CMA Award winner, is a contender for the Entertainer and Male Vocalist of the Year Award. His BEYOND THE BLUE NEON lp is also competing in the Album of the Year category.

Current Male Vocalist of the Year Randy Travis is again a nominee for that citation, Entertainer of the Year and Album of the Year (OLD 8 X 10).

The late Keith Whitley, who died May 9, was nominated for Horizon Award, Male Vocalist of the Year and Single of the Year ("I'm No Stranger To The Rain"). Songwriter Bob McDill garnered a nomination for the Whitley cut, "Don't Close Your Eyes".

The complete list of finalists in each category includes:



The press snap away as Hank Williams, Jr. announces the nominees during the press conference at The Merchants Restaurant in downtown Nashville.

— Photo by Alan Mayor

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On The Cover . . . The 1989 Horizon nominees (l to r) are Desert Rose Band and Patty Loveless, (bottom row) Clint Black, the late Keith Whitley and Shenandoah.



1988 CMA Entertainer of the Year Hank Williams, Jr. announces the nominations for the 23rd annual CMA Awards Show. The show, touted as America's Premier Music Awards, will be telecast live October 9 at 9:00 p.m. (EDT) on CBS-TV.

— Photo by Alan Mayor



Nashville tv reporter Lauren Thierry interviews Hank Williams, Jr. on his nominations after the press conference.

— Photo by Alan Mayor

The complete list of finalists in each category includes:

ENTERTAINER OF THE YEAR

- Reba McEntire
- Ricky Van Shelton
- George Strait
- Randy Travis
- Hank Williams, Jr.

SINGLE OF THE YEAR

- | | | |
|----------------------------------|-------------------|-----|
| A Better Man | Clint Black | RCA |
| After All This Time | Rodney Crowell | CBS |
| Chiseled In Stone | Vern Gosdin | CBS |
| I'll Leave This World Loving You | Ricky Van Shelton | CBS |
| I'm No Stranger To The Rain | Keith Whitley | RCA |

ALBUM OF THE YEAR

- | | | |
|------------------------------------|------------------------|--------------|
| Beyond The Blue Neon | George Strait | MCA |
| Loving Proof | Ricky Van Shelton | CBS |
| Old 8 X 10 | Randy Travis | Warner Bros. |
| Will The Circle Be Unbroken Vol II | Nitty Gritty Dirt Band | Universal |
| Willow In The Wind | Kathy Mattea | Mercury |

SONG OF THE YEAR

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| A Better Man | Clint Black/Hayden Nicholas |
| After All This Time | Rodney Crowell |
| Chiseled In Stone | Max D. Barnes/Vern Gosdin |
| Don't Close Your Eyes | Bob McDill |
| Eighteen Wheels And A Dozen Roses | Paul Nelson/Gene Nelson |

FEMALE VOCALIST OF THE YEAR

- Rosanne Cash
- Patty Loveless
- Kathy Mattea
- Reba McEntire
- Tanya Tucker

MALE VOCALIST OF THE YEAR

- Rodney Crowell
- Ricky Van Shelton
- George Strait
- Randy Travis
- Keith Whitley

VOCAL GROUP OF THE YEAR

- Alabama
- Desert Rose Band
- Highway 101
- Restless Heart
- Shenandoah

VOCAL DUO OF THE YEAR

- Baillie & The Boys (Kathie and Michael)
- The Bellamy Brothers
- Foster & Lloyd
- The Judds
- Sweethearts of the Rodeo

VOCAL EVENT OF THE YEAR

- Johnny Cash/Hank Williams, Jr.
- Johnny Cash/Rosanne Cash/The Everly Brothers
- John Denver/Nitty Gritty Dirt Band
- Buck Owens/Ringo Starr
- Hank Williams, Jr./Hank Williams, Sr.

MUSICIAN OF THE YEAR


- Jerry Douglas
- Paul Franklin
- Johnny Gimble
- Mark O'Connor
- Don Potter

HORIZON AWARD

- Clint Black
- Desert Rose Band
- Patty Loveless
- Shenandoah
- Keith Whitley

MUSIC VIDEO OF THE YEAR

- | | Performer | Director |
|--|------------------------|-----------------|
| After All This Time | Rodney Crowell | Bill Pope |
| Dear Me | Lorrie Morgan | Stephen Buck |
| There's A Tear In My Beer | Hank Williams, Jr. | Ethan Russell |
| Why'd You Come In Here Lookin' Like That | Dolly Parton | Jack Cole |
| Will The Circle Be Unbroken Vol. II | Nitty Gritty Dirt Band | Bill Pope |

The 23rd Annual CMA Awards Show, hosted by Anne Murray and Kenny Rogers, will be telecast live from Nashville on CBS-TV Monday, October 9 from 9:00 - 11:00 p.m. (ET). The show is produced by Bob Precht of Sullivan Productions and directed by Walter Miller. Irving Waugh serves as executive producer for CMA, and Donald Epstein scripts the show. For the seventh year, a stereo radio simulcast of the show will be satellite-delivered by Mutual Broadcasting System. CTV will also carry the show live in Canada. 

Country Video Is Coming Of Age

New Survey Says Outlets, Viewership Up

The latest survey by Aristo Video Promotions in Nashville — concluded June 30 — says that the number of outlets continues to increase for Country Music videos and that radio is finding more uses for the clips. The study also asserts that the growth of low-power television stations in major markets and the expansion of many cable systems from 36 to 55 channels spell good news for Country videos.

Aristo services and promotes videos for about half of Nashville's major Country labels, as well as for selected indie and gospel record companies.

Such established outlets as Country Music Television and The Nashville Network are also steadily enlarging their viewership, the report says. CMT, according to the survey, now reaches more than 13 million people, including 350,000 subscribers in Canada. "With its rotation structure and its extended library life of clips," the report notes, "CMT offers the opportunity for over 1,000 airings of any given clip in its first year of release if that clip reaches heavy-rotation status."

While The Nashville Network has not scheduled more time for videos, its two regular video shows, "Video Country" and "Country Clips," have the potential to reach 45.4 million homes. In addition, 13 "Video Country" shows are being broadcast in Italy this year, according to the Aristo study.

This fall, VH-1 will begin airing a Country segment, the report notes. A spokeswoman at VH-1 confirms that a half-hour Country segment is on the drawing boards and that it will probably air daily. Neither a title nor debut date has been determined, she says.

Other growth areas, the study contends, are regionally syndicated shows, national satellite programming services, the Armed Forces Network, Canada's Much Music channel, video pools, video jukeboxes, individual nightclubs, regional outlets, and radio stations.

Two regionally syndicated video programs, "The Country Record Guide" and "Hit Video Country," cover 42 markets in the Northeast, the mid-Atlantic, and the South.

Ten video pools, according to the survey, now service Country reels to more than 1,100 locations. Eight of these have expanded the length of their Country compilations or increased the frequency of Country reel distribution in the past year.


Rowe International uses 38 clips monthly on its Country reel and services it to 350 jukebox locations.

At least 70 regional outlets, the report continues, program Country videos. Of these, 31 are in the South, 19 in the Midwest, 11 in the East, and nine in the West.

Aristo polled 210 radio stations that report their playlists to trade publications to see if videos were making any impact on their programming or promotional activity.

Among the 55 stations that responded, 36 said videos had influenced their decision to program singles; 40 said videos had generated requests for records before radio had aired the songs in their markets; and 48 said they want to be serviced with videos on a regular basis.

Artists whose videos led to early requests for radio play, the respondents specified, included Clint Black ("Better Man"), Dolly Parton ("Why'd You Come In Here Lookin' Like That"), Kenny Rogers ("Planet Texas"), Hank Williams, Jr. ("There's A Tear In My Beer"), Reba McEntire ("Cathy's Clown"), Lionel Cartwright ("Give Me His Last Chance"), Becky Hobbs ("Jones On The Jukebox"), Lorrie Morgan ("Dear Me"), Suzy Bogguss ("Somewhere Between"), and Mason Dixon ("When Karen Comes Around").

Besides familiarizing station personnel with new acts and material, radio respondents said they used videos for listening parties, training new sales people, remote broadcasts, club and local television tie-ins, and contest prizes. Most stations, however, reported that they have no additional uses for videos. 

— Edward Morris

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Nashville "Home" For Three More Record Labels

Curb Records, Arista and Atlantic have opened offices in Nashville this summer while other labels are making plans to expand.

That's good news to the Country Music industry.

"One has to be 'bullish' about Country Music's future," said Ed Benson, CMA's associate executive director.

"It is a tremendous boost to have more major record labels involved in marketing the music. And the commitments by several existing labels to expand into new headquarters will reinforce Nashville's position as the industry center."

Curb Records first dabbled in Country 20 years ago with a roster that boasted Hank Williams, Jr., Mel Tillis and Tompall and the Glaser Brothers.

Now the label's roster includes Ronnie McDowell, Moe Bandy, Johnny Lee, pop-turned-Country star Bobby Vinton, Cee Cee Chapman, Jan Brown and Josh Logan. Curb also releases records in association with major labels. Acts represented include The Desert Rose Band and Lyle Lovett on MCA/Curb, The Judds on RCA/Curb, Sawyer Brown and Marie Osmond on Capitol/Curb and Hank Williams, Jr. on Warner Bros./Curb.

"Our roster has gotten the size that we need a headquarters here," said Dick Whitestone, president of Curb's Country division.

"One of the reasons we elected not just to open an office but to purchase an office on the Row was for the purpose of expansion."

Former independent promoter Mike Borchetta, Curb's new vice president of national promotion, and associate Sue Austin began work in July out of the new Nashville office located at 47 Music Square East.

Until recently Atlantic Records also had a Country roster but no Nashville office. Rick Blackburn, former

CBS/Nashville chief, and Producer Nelson Larkin will head Atlantic Records' Nashville operations.

The Atlantic roster includes Billy Joe Royal, Robin Lee, Billy "Crash" Craddock, Girls Next Door, Pal Rakes and Jeff Stevens & The Bullets. Country acts previously were recorded under the Atlantic America logo but will now appear only on the Atlantic label.

In May, Arista Records formed a Country division and opened a Nashville office at 29 Music Square East.

President and founder Clive Davis said he wanted to start a Country division 10 years ago but waited until the young company was on sound financial footing. This year the 14-year-old label will top \$100 million in sales for the second consecutive year.

Its pop roster includes Whitney Houston, Aretha Franklin, Dionne Warwick, Carly Simon and Barry Manilow.

A month after forming the division, Arista signed several Country acts including Asleep at the Wheel, Pam Tillis, Lee Roy Parnell, Alan Jackson and Canadian Michelle Wright.

Last December, Universal Records was formed with a strong roster of stars like Eddie Rabbitt, Eddy Raven, Joe Barnhill, Jr., Lacy J. Dalton, Larry Gatlin and The Gatlin Brothers, The Nitty Gritty Dirt Band, Carl Perkins and Roger Whittaker. Universal is headed by Producer Jimmy Bowen.

Three of Nashville's major labels are also planning new buildings.

BMG/RCA will locate its new headquarters at the corner of Music Circle East and Music Circle North. The 28,000-square-foot building will have two stories and a two-level parking garage. RCA expects to move in in February 1990. BMG Publishing, BMG Distribution and Arista Records will also be tenants.

Warner Bros. Records recently purchased a 55,000-square-foot tract at the corner of Music Square East and Music Circle North. A new building will be constructed on half the area. The other half will be sold. Construction is scheduled to begin next year, with completion planned for 1991.

Architects are working on building designs for CBS Records. That new building may be located beside Tree International on Music Square West. Tree, a major Nashville publishing company, and CBS are owned by Sony.

Opryland Music Group, which includes 16th Avenue Records, is building a \$1.8 million office complex at 65 Music Square West. It's expected to be completed by December.

Also, ASCAP is working on plans to expand. And CMA will move from its current location on Music Circle North into a new building of its own on Music Circle South. The building is planned for completion next summer. **Cy**



Universal Records President Jimmy Bowen congratulates Eddy Raven at a party held recently at ASCAP's Nashville office for his latest number one single, "In A Letter To You". Universal made history when the single hit number one on the charts within six months of Universal's start up. On hand for the festivities (l to r) are Helen Farmer of CMA; Raven; Bowen; Barry Beckett, producer of Raven's TEMPORARY SANITY lp; Connie Bradley, southern executive director of ASCAP; and David Conrad, vice president of Almo Irving Music, Nashville.



The Wagoners

They've been compared to a sensitive Ray Price, an exuberant Buddy Holly and a smooth Ricky Nelson. But ask the Wagoners to describe their music and they'll flatly answer Country — Wagoners' style.

Says lead singer Monte Warden, "I'm a Country singer. I'm a Country songwriter. And, I play a Martin guitar. Period. But the guys that I play with like rock 'n' roll and that's where our unique sound comes in.

"We don't consciously put an edge on our music, but I don't think those guys could or want to play 'Sally Gooden', and I know I wouldn't want to play 'Stairway To Heaven', so somewhere in the middle comes the Wagoners."

In addition to lead singer/guitarist Warden, the Austin, Texas-based quartet is composed of Tom Lewis on drums, guitarist Brent Wilson and bass player Craig Pettigrew.

Surprisingly, the average age of the group is 24; but don't let that fool you. Warden is quick to respond when

someone mentions his age. "I don't think you have to be 50 years old to make a Country record . . . Elvis Presley was 21 when it happened for him, Conway Twitty was 20. Hank Williams was 29 when the poor man died. I don't think anyone would accuse them of being too young. It's just somewhere along the line, Country turned 40 with Elvis and 50 with Conway Twitty."

The Wagoners are determined to help change that mentality.

“The Wagoners’ music is unencumbered by trends or regional colorations. There’s no West Texas weirdness, neo-Nashville noise or Country-rock fusion attempts in the band’s unflinchingly traditional sound and sensibility.”

— Michael Point, *Austin-American Statesman*

Despite their ages, the group boasts much experience. Warden, who's been writing songs since he was 11, sprouted from the musical landscape as the 15-year-old lead singer of Whoa! Trigger, which was voted Austin's best new band by readers of the *Austin Chronicle* in 1983. Lewis and Wilson flourished after a year on the road backing cult hero Sleepy LaBeef and Houston's popular Six Gun before that. "Playing with Sleepy was like going to the Berklee School of Music on the road," Lewis notes.

The first Country act to record on Herb Alpert's A&M Records since the Flying Burrito Brothers in the early 70s, the Wagoners signed with the label in November of 1987 and since

have released two lps — their first effort **STOUT AND HIGH** and the recently released **GOOD FORTUNE**.

On both albums, the group has remained in tune to their vision of playing "pristine, pre-outlaw Country Music". "You could bury me today with the first album," said Warden, who writes the majority of the material for the self-contained group, "but I will admit that our second album is far, far superior to the first."

¶¶The Wagoneers' musical game plan is designed for the long run. The group sees its future as a Country Music institution, performing its tried-and-true repertoire decades from now for the Country-Music faithful.¶¶

— Michael Point, *Austin-American Statesman*

"The first time around I let the headphones scare me a little bit, but I realized when I went in to record this last time that there is no difference in singing in a studio than singing in a club. You just put your heart and soul into it and if you have to throw your head back and wail a little bit, then that's what you do."

For **GOOD FORTUNE** the band reenlisted **STOUT AND HIGH** producer Emory Gordy, Jr., whose resume includes gigs with Roy Orbison and Elvis Presley and production for such acts as Steve Earle and bluegrass immortal Bill Monroe. "Emory Gordy's the best in the business at getting live sounds," says Warden. "And this time we wanted to show that the Wagoneers could put a fire underneath any honky tonk, maybe even a rock club or two."

The Wagoneers story isn't unlike most artists, but it does have some interesting twists. With a strong Texas following, the four musicians began performing throughout the Lone Star State in early 1987. That summer, with their sound intact and several Monte Warden tunes in their hat, they began doing showcases in Austin for such Nashville publishing houses as Almo-Irving, Screen Gems and Dick James Music. "Once they started coming down, so did just about every record company in Nashville."

Soon, deals began coming their way, with practically every major label in Nashville — one of those being CBS Records — offering the quartet a recording contract. Warden recalls, "Larry Hamby, who was with CBS/Nashville at the time offered us a deal and had told Patrick Clifford at A&M about us. He said he didn't mind telling Patrick because A&M didn't have any Country acts."

Unbeknownst to Hamby, though, A&M was thinking of entering the Country field. And the Wagoneers became the company's first target.

"They offered us a deal we couldn't refuse," Warden said. "What was nice was that we knew we would have priority at A&M because they weren't gonna go out and make themselves look foolish with their only Country band."

"A&M wants to show us off, but on the other hand, they're not sure what to do with us," Warden relayed.

"When I say they don't know what to do with us I mean that in a positive way because they're trying to take as many avenues as possible."

One of the first avenues the band traveled was in June of '88 in England. "They (A&M) threw us over in England and we played our first show to 20 people, ten of them being from A&M. Our second show was before about 150 people, our third to about 400 and by the time we got to our fourth and fifth show we had sold out a 600-seat hall with people lined around the block." The Wagoneers'


instant success in Europe led to another international tour just four months later.

But Europe isn't the only place the Wagoneers have left their mark. The band has toured Canada and, of course, they're making waves in the States touring with the likes of Emmylou Harris, Willie Nelson, George Strait, k. d. lang, and Randy Travis.

The Wagoneers' music seems to be transcending all demographic boundaries, with the group boasting a following anywhere from a squealing 14-year-old girl to a college crooner to a two-stepping 40-year-old.

"When we first started we noticed a representation in about every age group," Warden explained. "After the first album came out we had predominantly a college following, but with our latest video, which had a lot of close ups, our following has changed to a younger, female demographic."

If there's one challenge the Wagoneers are determined to meet, it's bringing Country Music into the hearts of all people — the old *and* the young. "Right now I think is the time to strike the blow and bring some younger listeners into Country Music," Warden said.

"I would like the Wagoneers to be regarded as a band that put something nice in Country Music and left it in a better state than they found it." 

— Kelley Gattis



*Epic recording artist Shelby Lynne recently showcased her upcoming album, **SUNRISE**, to a standing-room-only crowd at Nashville's 12th & Porter. The performance was held for college students/talent buyers who were in Nashville. Pictured after the showcase (l to r) are Joe Casey, vice president, promotion, CBS Records/Nashville; Roy Wunsch, senior vice president, CBS Records/Nashville; Bob Tubert, Lynne's manager; Lynne; Bob Montgomery, vice president, A&R, CBS Records/Nashville and Lynne's co-producer; and Mike Martinovich, vice president, marketing, CBS Records/Nashville.*

Chet Atkins



Be careful where you aim, because that's likely where you'll end up." Sage advice from a man who is living proof of his own adage.

Chet Atkins had one singular aim, one all-consuming goal as a boy growing up in Luttrell, a small town in eastern Tennessee — to be introduced as "the world's greatest guitar player". He dreamed about it all the time. He could hear the applause in his head.

Now the applause is real. The kudos are real. But nearly 40 years after landing exactly where he aimed, Chet is, in his own words, "still trying to get it right."

The trip from his rural beginnings in the Tennessee hills to his plush office on Nashville's Music Row was an arduous one, but Chet Atkins the man shows no outward signs of change as a result of it, and seems to be more taciturn than ever on the subject of his success. Chet Atkins the entertainer, however, speaks freely of his burning desire to stay on top.

"I think there are a few younger artists who are driven today, and those are the ones who excel. The cream rises to the top, and in this industry, the cream usually is the people who work the hardest, are the most driven and ambitious, and have the 'want-to' more than other people. Those are the people who make it. That's true in my case," Chet comments.

"I'm no more talented than anybody else, but I really had just an insatiable desire for success. And I still have. That's the reason I continue, I think, to sell a few records and to be on a major label today. I've always been trying to get it to sound right. And to play things that will please me. And I never have been able to do that."

♥ It's a byproduct of growing old, I guess, having the younger generation admire what you've done. You lose your youth, but you gain that adulation and respect from the young kids. And that's nice. ♥

Almost 120 albums later, Chet's quest to get his music right goes on. The CBS artist's latest effort is an upcoming album with Dire Straits' member Mark Knopfler. Knopfler has collaborated with Chet on several of his previous albums, including *SAILS* and *CHET ATKINS, C.G.P.*

"I guess somewhere along the line Mark was maybe influenced by me. He's one of those guys that doesn't do it according to the rules, and those are the guys that come up with something different. They figure out a better way to do it, so they come up with new sounds," Chet said.

"The people that come up with something different are usually the people that don't know any better. Mark sat around and played by himself and worked it all out by himself with no instruction from anyone. And as a result, he's very different," Chet remarks.

Chet thrives on the very thought of being different. He continuously strives to be different, to do different things with his music, in order to excite himself as well as his audiences.

"When I play, I just play a form that I like and then try to improvise within that form. And sometimes it comes off, and sometimes it's messy as all get out. But it keeps me on my toes. I find that if I play the same thing over and over perfectly, I get so bored with it that I convey that to the audience and it doesn't excite them," Chet explains.



MCA recording artist Marty Stuart takes time out from his session with co-producers Richard Bennett and Tony Brown for a picture. Stuart's debut album for the label, *HILLBILLY ROCK*, is due in early October. Pictured (l to r) are Bennett, Stuart and Brown.

"But when I play off the top of my head, play a rough form and improvise, it seems to work better for me and keeps me excited. And therefore the audience stays excited about my playing, too."

And those audiences *have* stayed excited over Chet's playing — for over three decades. He has fans in all corners of the world, and has influenced a generation of guitarists ranging from George Harrison to Earl Klugh. And he finds a certain satisfaction in knowing that the younger generation is aware of his accomplishments.

"I run into actors, rock 'n' roll artists, and all other kinds of people whom I'm amazed to find listen to my music. It's a byproduct of growing old, I guess, having the younger generation admire what you've done. You lose your youth, but you gain that adulation and respect from the young kids. And that's nice," Chet admits.

As a young boy, that same kind of admiration for an older adult is one of the things that drew him to the guitar.

"I suppose what influenced me to play the guitar was my brother. My older brother played guitar, and I just idolized him. He was my half brother, and he left home when I was 6 years old and moved to Nebraska. Maybe that had something to do with my fascination with the guitar," Chet said.

"Also, when I was a teenager, I was living with my dad. He wanted me to be a violinist or a piano player, and I rebelled like all kids do and played the guitar instead because he didn't like the guitar. He liked it, but he didn't think it had much future."

Fortunately, Chet did think it had a future, and the rest, as they say, is history. His devotion to his craft eventually brought him to Nashville, landed him a job on the Grand Ole Opry, and after years of hard work seated him at RCA Records as head of the A&R department. Long considered to be one of the best, if not *the* best producer in the business, Chet produced such greats as Elvis Presley, Hank Williams, Jim Reeves and Don Gibson. He credits one-time RCA A&R Director Steve Sholes with much of his success.

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S I D E B A R

A new audio processor is revolutionizing the music industry and making its way into the Country arena. The **Bedini Audio Spacial Environment**, or BASE component, enhances the audio signal beyond stereo, creating an open air, out-of-speaker audio image. Created by **Bedini Research and Development**, the component processes sound identical to the ultimate receiver — the human brain. The brain interprets the sound as a holographic audio image with natural live presence. A number of Nashville producers have been introduced to BASE and Universal Records President **Jimmy Bowen** has implemented the processor on most of his products released this year.



Mark Knopfler of Dire Straits has been working on several projects in Nashville recently and has formed a new group, **The Notting Hill Billies**. In a session at **Sound Stage Studio** in Nashville, Knopfler and the Hill Billies worked with musician **Paul Franklin** who played steel guitar overdubs for their debut album. Franklin was asked to tour with them in the spring. The BBC was on hand to film some of the Nashville sessions for a future documentary on the newly formed group.



The Deering Banjo Company recently obtained a patent on its electric banjo. It combines the solid body feature of the electric guitar with the skin head of the banjo. Allowing for placement of two custom pickups, it has wiring and controls similar to an electric guitar, yet still maintains the banjo sound. Already in use, **The Crossfire**, as it is called, is being played by musicians such as **Roy Clark** and **Bernie Leadon**, formerly with the **Nitty Gritty Dirt Band**.



A new line of high performance, moderate price microphones has been introduced by **Shure Brothers Incorporated**. The **L Series Wireless Microphones** were designed to provide professional features and outstanding reliability at an affordable price. L Series products are being offered in four complete systems developed to suit varying user needs.



At the **Music Mill Studio** in Nashville, **Mason Dixon** has been busy laying tracks and vocals for their new album. Players who worked on the project included **Brent Rowan** on electric guitar, **Lonnie Wilson** on drums, **Dennis Burnside** and **Matt Rollins** on keyboards, **Tom Robb** on bass and **Mark Casstevens** on acoustic guitar.

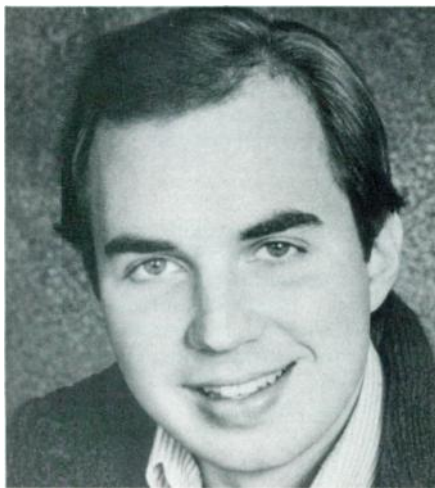


Nashville's **Fireside Recording Studio** has recently re-opened at 813 18th Avenue South. The phone number is (615) 329-1487. Originally owned by **Dolly Parton** and **Porter Wagoner**, the Fireside property is now owned by a group of Houston, TX investors. **Maggie Ward**, long-time assistant to **Mel Tillis**, has been appointed executive director. About \$50,000 has been spent to upgrade the facility.



AIRCHECK

“Country Today”



At the Tishman building at 666 Fifth Avenue, in Manhattan, the most important news of August 3 on the 12th floor was Bush's reaction to the hostage crisis. But on the 34th floor, the home for “Country Today”, the news that Reba McEntire is expecting a baby had everyone abuzz.

Even though “Country Today”, a syndicated radio show, doesn't hail from Music City, U.S.A., it has no problems staying in touch with the Country scene.

Host Dan Taylor describes the show as “The Entertainment Tonight” of Country Music. “In other words you're getting a lot of facts and a lot of

information within 60 minutes . . . there's no fat, no fluff. It's a lean, mean show.”

“Country Today”, a part of MJI Broadcasting, airs once a week across the United States. Country stations in various cities include the show as part of their format.

Diane Richey, the Nashville correspondent for the show, keeps listeners up-to-date with the hottest news from Nashville. She also has a two-minute segment in the program known as the Nashville Report.

“Country Today” reaches a broad demographic area, and to keep the show successful, it must please those from Seattle to St. Louis. Taylor reveals the show's secret. “You get a formula, and once you get the formula down, you let it go. It's kinda like if it works, don't fix it.”

“Country Today” has 11 key elements in its program, including the Feature Interview, Nashville Report, On The Road, On The Horizon, and The Big Picture.

The Feature Interview spotlights one of Country's brightest entertainers each week. Stars have no trouble opening up to Taylor. His method of interviewing is easygoing. “A lot of times I'll go into an interview without anything or any questions at all. I'll just know what the artist is doing. It just becomes a conversation and after a while you don't even think about it. Sometimes they ask me questions!

“I just sit down and think about what they would like to be asked. Put myself in their shoes. What would they wanna be talking about? I just make it up as I go.”

This style has proven to be a good one for Taylor. “I remember Anne Murray said she wanted to do a duet with Phil Collins or Sting.

T. G. Sheppard told a great story once about how he was on a plane sitting in front of a man who he recognized but couldn't place. They both did a double take of each other. Finally, they struck up a conversation and the man turned out to be Harrison Ford.”

On The Road moves the interview from the studio to the highways and byways of the U.S. Taylor claims, “There's always a roadie story, something that happens on the road. I say at the time maybe it wasn't so funny, but you can laugh at now. Like you ran over the manager's foot with the bus. The fans love that stuff.”

With the new surge of videos in Country Music, Taylor thought it would be a good idea to incorporate a video segment in the show. “The Big Picture is a feature where we talk about videos. There's always a good story about making videos because not everybody gets a chance to get up and perform in front of a camera.”

Keeping the show up-to-the-minute is tough, but they manage. “One of the ways we do it is just by keeping up with the latest information from the record companies. Rosemary Young, the writer of the show, does the chore of getting all the information compiled and whittled out. It's kind of like a news room. It's just a lot of detective work, and preparation remains an ongoing thing.”

When focusing on a star, Taylor keeps his interview somewhere between the *Wall Street Journal* and *PEOPLE* magazine.

“We try to focus on a combination of a star's personal life and career. I think that's so important and I think that's what turned me on to Country Music because with Country artists their career goes hand in hand with their everyday life.”

Of all the great artists Taylor has interviewed — Willie Nelson, Alabama, The Judds, Ricky Skaggs, and the list goes on — there is one man he has yet to catch — Merle Haggard. “I just like Merle; I like his writing. I've always come really close to interviewing him, but missed him every time.”

Maybe an interview with Merle will be the hot topic on the 34th floor of the Tishman building next week. 

— Jennifer Tindall

CMA Announces Broadcast Finalists

The third annual CMA Radio Broadcast Awards finalists have been named.

The awards were instituted to acknowledge the vital role radio broadcasters play in Country Music. They are presented in four categories — Station of the Year, General Manager of the Year, Program Director of the Year and Music Director of the Year — in three market sizes — small, medium and large.

Any full-time Country station was eligible to enter regardless of whether the station was a CMA member. Entries were submitted to an anonymous panel of judges, each of whom is an expert in the broadcast field.

The top three finalists in each category were chosen unless there was a tie or one vote difference, then the top four were selected. In the General Manager of the Year — Large Market category, only two entries were eligible.

The same panel of anonymous judges will evaluate different entries in the second round of voting. Winners will be announced in late September and receive their awards on October 10 at the annual CMA Membership Meeting in Nashville.

The finalists for 1989 are:

STATION OF THE YEAR

Large Market: KIKK, Houston Texas
KNIX, Phoenix, Arizona
KPLX, Dallas, Texas
WMZQ, Washington, DC

Medium Market: CHAM, Hamilton, Ontario, Canada
KASE, Austin, Texas
KSSN, Little Rock, Arkansas
WTCR, Huntington, West Virginia

Small Market: KLLL, Lubbock, Texas
KYKZ, Lake Charles, Louisiana
WAXX, Eau Claire, Wisconsin

GENERAL MANAGER OF THE YEAR

Large Market: Craig Magee, KIKK, Houston, Texas
Paul Wilensky, WMZQ, Washington, DC

Medium Market: Keith James, CHAM, Hamilton, Ontario, Canada
Jerry Atchley, KSSN, Little Rock, Arkansas
Jerdan Bullard, WZZK, Birmingham, Alabama

Small Market: Dick Maynard, KEKB, Grand Junction, Colorado
Henry Lazarone, KKRK, Alexandria, Louisiana
Sherrell Jackson, WKDX, Hamlet, North Carolina

PROGRAM DIRECTOR OF THE YEAR

Large Market: Bill Bradley, KUPL, Portland, Oregon
Robert Moody, WPOC, Baltimore, Maryland
Barry Mardit, WWWW, Detroit, Michigan


Medium Market: Doug Shane, KFM, Las Vegas, Nevada
Jim Murphy, WOKQ, Dover, New Hampshire
Jim Tice, WZZK, Birmingham, Alabama

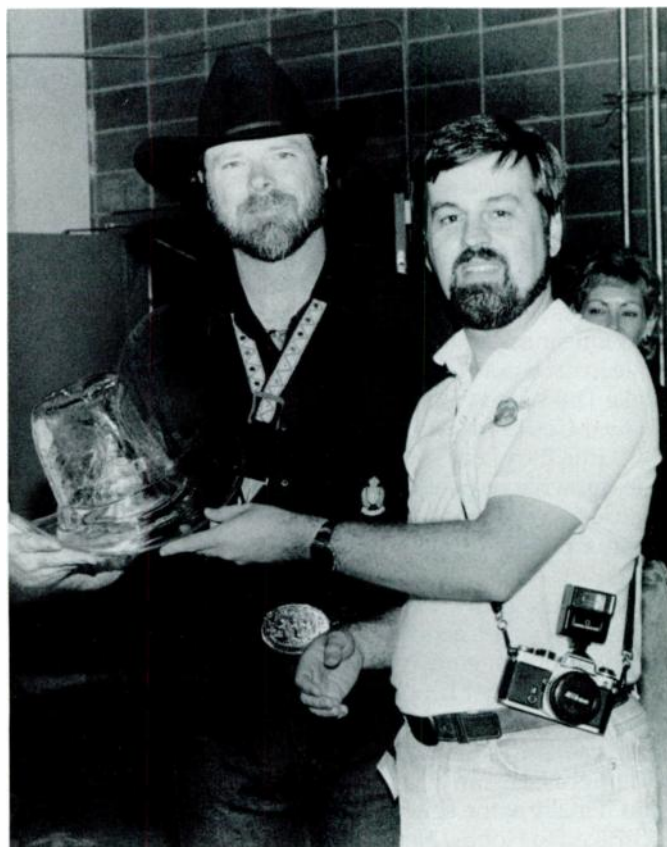
Small Market: Red Allen, KLAD, Klamath Falls, Oregon
Rick Mize, WKNN, Biloxi, Mississippi
Randy Chapman, KALF, Red Bluff, California

MUSIC DIRECTOR OF THE YEAR

Large Market: Mac Daniels, KPLX, Dallas, Texas
Greg Cole, WPOC, Baltimore, Maryland
Sharon Foster, WWWW, Detroit, Michigan

Medium Market: Steve Gary, KASE, Austin, Texas
Ron Dini, WSIX, Nashville, Tennessee
Bob Sterling, WZZK, Birmingham, Alabama

Small Market: Rudy Fernandez, KEAN, Abilene, Texas
Don Gilbert, KSTC, Sterling, Colorado
Bill Kelly, WTNT, Tallahassee, Florida 



Dan Seals accepts a full-size cowboy hat made of hand-blown glass from Mark Jesse, vice president and general manager of WTCR AM/FM in Huntington, West Virginia, following his concert at the Huntington Civic Center on July Fourth. The hat was made by Blenko Glass of Milton, West Virginia, which also makes the CMA Award statues.

I WRITE THE SONGS



Hank Cochran

The one thing Hank Cochran has held onto through 50 years of hard living is a pen. He is a master of the ballad, author of the sad poem of lost love.

His loneliness and heartache reverberate in each note of "I Fall To Pieces", "Make The World Go Away", "Don't You Ever Get Tired (Of Hurting Me)", and "Little Bitty Tear".

He can write so freely of lost love because he's experienced it. Hank's been married three times, divorced twice.

His parents' rocky marriage ended when Hank was 9, about the time he started writing poems. After the divorce, his mother kept him for a few months, then his father. Before long Hank was sent to St. Peter's orphanage in Memphis. He ran away time and again. Finally at the age of 12, he hitchhiked to Hobbs, New Mexico with an uncle and worked in the oil fields making good money for 1948 — \$1.80 an hour.

Who raised him?

"I guess me and everybody else," he says.

But being on his own made him self-reliant. "I've never seen anything that I really wanted to do that I couldn't."

That rock-solid confidence has made him believe in his songs when no one else did.

"When I wrote 'Make The World Go Away' I was so happy about the song, and I took it to Hal Smith (the owner of Pamper Music where Hank worked) and he thought it was the worst song I ever wrote. I said, 'Well, I can't believe you think that. It's gonna be one of the biggest songs in this catalog.' And it was."

After writing the classic "I Fall To Pieces", Hank said he played it for every producer in town. No one liked it. Finally he took it to famed producer Owen Bradley.

"I don't know what Owen saw in the song, but I'm sure glad he did. He thought it was a hit. Patsy (Cline) didn't like the song at first but she respected Owen's opinion. He believed in the song, and he believed in Patsy."

"I Fall To Pieces" became Hank's first number one hit. Before that, he plugged songs for Pamper Music.

"I was actually looking for writers and songs, and I ran into Willie (Nelson) at Tootsie's. He was just sittin' in the back room where we used to gather. He was singin' a song, and I asked him what publishing company he was with and he said, 'Nobody.'"

"You mean nobody's got any of those songs?"

"Nobody wants 'em.'"

"I said, 'Boy I sure want to talk to you.'"

"So he came to the office the next day. I was fixin' to get a raise cuz I was only makin' \$50 a week, and they were gonna raise me to \$100 a week. I wanted to sign Willie as a writer to the company, and I went to talk to Hal Smith and he said, 'You know we'd love to have him if you think we could get his songs recorded.' But he couldn't afford to pay him and I said, 'Well, instead of giving me the raise, give it to Willie.' So for a while each of them scraped by on \$50 a week.

About the time Hank charted with "I Fall To Pieces", he placed Willie's "Hello Walls" with Faron Young. He also was instrumental in Willie signing with Liberty Records as an artist.

Their friendship has weathered nearly three decades.

"I asked Willie a few years ago why he didn't get off the road and quit pickin' so much. He said, 'Hell, I like to pick. If I wasn't pickin' on the road, I'd be pickin' in some bar somewhere for nothin' so I might as well pick out there and make some money.' Same ole Willie."

Willie isn't the only writer Hank's helped. Harlan Howard had written several tunes like "Heartaches By The Number" when he moved from California to Nashville.

"Harlan would write songs, and I would go through this box that he had thrown stuff in and pull out songs that would turn out to be hits. One was 'Heartbreak U.S.A.'"

Merle Haggard has also relied on Hank's instincts for picking great songs.

"A few years back, Merle called and said he wanted me to come to California. He was just gettin' cold and everything. He got upset and he hated Nashville and wasn't gonna come back. And I said, 'Why don't you let me produce your album, pick the musicians, the songs? You don't have nothin' to worry about.'

"One night I was asleep and about 3 or 4 in the morning the phone rings. He said, 'I thought about it and yeah.'"

A week later The Hag was in the studio cutting "If I'm Not Back In Love By Monday" and "Always On A Mountain When I Fall".

"And one time he came into town and it was the same way again. He called and said, 'I'm gonna cut tomorrow or the next day. Have you got a song?' And I said, 'As a matter of fact, I do. I think it's a damn hit too. I just finished it this morning.'

"He said, 'What's the title of it?'

"'It's Not Love But It's Not Bad.'"

"He said, 'I'll cut it.'"

Hank co-wrote "It's Not Love But It's Not Bad" with his good friend and business partner Glenn Martin.

In May, Hank amicably ended his 20-year run with Tree International and decided to form a publishing company with Glenn called Co-Heart Music. Hank's enjoying doing what he does best — writing songs and plugging his tunes and those by other writers.

Besides writing songs, he's also serving as executive producer of an album and video project with Johnny Paycheck who's serving time in Chillicothe Corrections Institution in Ohio for bringing a firearm into a bar, a federal offense. Hank taped two shows Johnny performed for fellow inmates. George Jones, Vern Gosdin and Merle Haggard will probably be featured on the lp.

This summer Hank also formed a new record label, Gifted Few Records. The company's first release, "Home, Sweet Homeless People" by Jim Best, was shipped in August.

Hank says over the years his style hasn't changed, but now he's more

open to writing with others. By nature, Hank's a loner. He wrote most of his songs alone. If he did co-write a song, it was with an inner circle of friends that included his former wife Jeannie Seely and Harlan, Glenn and Willie.

But in the last several years he's written with more people such as Dean Dillon on George Strait hits like "The Chair" and "Ocean Front Property". And he co-wrote seven songs on Vern Gosdin's CHISELED IN STONE lp including "Set 'Em Up Joe" and "Who You Gonna Blame It On This Time". Hank personally took the songs to CBS and convinced label executives to sign Vern. He also co-wrote five songs on Vern's new ALONE lp.

Hank's career is going just as strong now as it was 28 years ago when "I Fall To Pieces" went number one. But if the fame, the reputation and the money disappeared tomorrow, Hank would still make it — alone — with his pen and the melodies in his head. **CJ**

— Teresa George

BACK-TO-BACK BREAKERS

Mary Chapin Carpenter



- ★ Like her first lp HOMETOWN GIRL, Mary Chapin Carpenter's latest effort, STATE OF THE HEART, combines the sounds of folk, blues, jazz and Country. Her first single "How Do", from her latest lp, reached number 19 on BILLBOARD's Country chart. Her second single, "Never Had It So Good", was released in August in conjunction with her first music video.
- ★ Born in Princeton, New Jersey, Carpenter lived in Tokyo, Japan for two years but calls Washington, DC home. She is a graduate of Brown University with a BA in American Civilization.
- ★ Carpenter recently swept the Washington, DC WAMMIE awards. The awards, sponsored by the Washington Area Music Association, are in honor of exceptional regional talent in the DC area. She won eight of the 10 awards for which she was nominated. For the second consecutive year, she received Artist of the Year and Songwriter of the Year. This brings her four-year total to 18.
- ★ Be on the listen for Carpenter as she hosts CBS Record's "Hitchhiker" radio program. This college-oriented show — which will feature such Country performers as Rodney Crowell, Rosanne Cash, the Indigo Girls and others — will air later this month.
- ★ Carpenter has been taking her talent on the road this summer, performing with the likes of John Haibt, Emmylou Harris, The Desert Rose Band and Merle Haggard.

CMA To Hold Town Meeting For Music Industry

If you want a chance to complain, compliment or question what's been going on in the music industry, the Town Meeting sponsored by CMA is your chance. The one-day meeting will be held November 1 at the Stouffer Nashville Hotel.

The Town Meeting will serve as an opportunity for music industry professionals to explore recent changes and upcoming issues they'll be faced with in 1990.

"Major and independent songwriters and publishers, record executives, artists, producers, trade journalists, promotion people and publicists are all significantly affected by recent buyouts, mergers and label expansions in Nashville," said David Conrad, CMA membership sub-committee chairman. "We feel like our town meeting concept is a perfect way for all involved to air their feelings and to hear opinions from some of the best professional minds in the business. CMA held a similar event three years ago, and it was very successful.

"The town meeting won't be a typical seminar where you sit quietly and listen to a speaker for 45 minutes," Conrad said.

"We're wanting to have more give and take, more input from those attending. We see it as more of a 'Donahue' type format — an excellent moderator, interesting panelists and great opinions and questions from the people attending. We're getting cordless mikes to make it easier on the moderator to get to everybody who wants to speak."

The schedule will be:

9:00 - 10:00 a.m.

Registration

Coffee and pastry bar

10:00 - 10:30 a.m.

Keynote Address

10:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Session (creative side of music industry)

12:30 - 2:00 p.m.

Lunch (included in registration fee)

2:00 - 4:00 p.m.

Session (business side of music industry)

4:00 - 5:30 p.m.

Cocktail party


Thom Schuyler will moderate the first session. Panelists confirmed include Tony Brown, MCA vice president of A&R; Producer Barry Beckett of Beckett Productions; Tim Wipperman of Warner/Chappell

Music; publishers Woody Bomar of Little Big Town Music and Karen Conrad of AMR Publications; songwriter Mike Reid, MCA artist Steve Wariner and RCA act Foster & Lloyd.

The second session will be moderated by Lon Helton of RADIO & RECORDS. Panelists will include Joe Galante, RCA Records/Nashville chief; CBS artist Rodney Crowell and his manager Bill Carter; Stan Byrd of Chart Attack promotions company; Moon Mullins, a consultant with Pollack Media; Jimmy Bowen, head of Universal Records and Roy Wunsch, head of CBS Records/Nashville and Capitol Records star Tanya Tucker.

The keynote speaker will be announced in the October issue of CLOSE UP.

Invitations will be mailed to about 3,000 CMA members in Tennessee and surrounding states in mid-September. The registration fee will be \$50 for CMA members and \$65 for non-members.

For more information about the Town Meeting, contact CMA's Membership Department, 7 Music Circle North, Nashville, TN 37202; (615) 244-2840. 




RCA artist Earl Thomas Conley has friends on hand to help him celebrate his first gold album to commemorate sales in excess of 500,000 units. His GREATEST HITS lp features nine of ETC's 18 chart toppers. Pictured (l to r) are Fred Caughran, Handleman Company; Tom Ryan, Handleman Company; Gene Rutkowski, K-Mart; Randy Goodman, RCA Records; Conley, Steve Salsberg, Handleman Company; and Tom Hilt, K-Mart.

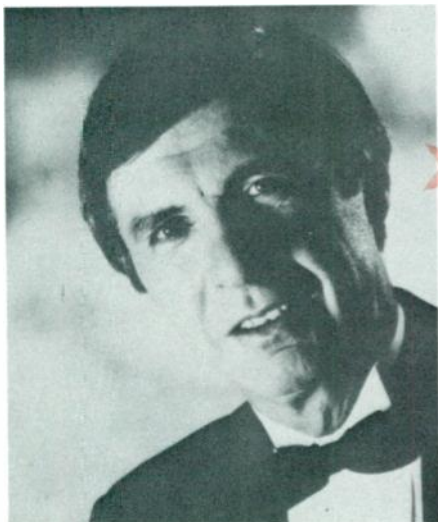
Grand Ole Opry Turns 64

The Grand Ole Opry is throwing a birthday party October 12 - 14 in Nashville to celebrate its 64-year-old musical heritage.

Some of the special events planned include a rousing performance of the Grand Ole Opry, two star-studded concerts at the Opry House, birthday activities at Opryland U.S.A. theme park, a scenic cruise on the General Jackson Showboat and an artist/dj reception on the "Hee Haw" set.

For more information write: Opryland Birthday Celebration, 2804 Opryland Drive, Nashville, TN 37214; (615) 889-7503. 

TBEM Keynote Presentation To Feature Amazing Kreskin



Be mystified by The Amazing Kreskin, challenged and inspired by industry leaders, and become a contributing author in a handbook on successful promotions all in one weekend!

Experience that and more as a part of CMA's 1989 Talent Buyers Entertainment Marketplace on October 6 - 8 at the Hyatt Regency in Nashville. Countless ideas will flow on "Making Money With Country Music" — the theme of this year's marketplace.

The three-day seminar will offer panel discussions on increasing profits, an agents' marketplace occupied by major talent agencies, a resource center supplying the most up-to-date concert information and an intriguing presentation by "the world's foremost mentalist", The Amazing Kreskin.

For over three decades The Amazing Kreskin has entertained and mystified audiences worldwide with his remarkable feats of mental power and concentration. The author of three compelling books, Kreskin has made over 200 talk show appearances and has been featured on television shows such as "Lifestyles Of The Rich And Famous" and "That's Incredible" for his amazing mental abilities.

A graduate of Seton Hall University with a degree in psychology, Kreskin has had an affinity for magic and the powers of the mind since he was very young. In his performances, through the power of suggestion, he illustrates

the potential influence man's ideas have over himself and others, and how it's possible to harness and use that influence in business.

"In recent years, a number of corporations and sales and management groups have approached me because they suspect there is an underlying pattern or quality to what I do that could be of use in daily life. So, I've developed techniques for training businessmen in intuitively tapping into the unconscious mind and making meaningful decisions," Kreskin explains.

"Many of the greatest business-people in modern history made their decisions intuitively — they didn't rely on statistics or reams of information brought in to them," Kreskin notes.

"These leaders of business and industry found ways of tapping into the unconscious mind, where the information we've accumulated is stored, and they've sifted through without the prejudices or preconceived notions we consciously have."

In his presentations, Kreskin takes the power of positive thinking one step further by showing people how the theory really can work.

"In the 40s, you could find stacks of books on positive thinking. Today, many people give talks on the subject — it's a formula kind of thing. You can buy 38,000 tapes that all draw the same conclusion on the subject.

"But it is seldom shown in a practical way how such a phenomena can realistically take place. In my performances as an entertainer, I show how people in the audience can concentrate so strongly that they can give off feelings that other people can pick up," Kreskin said.

"If I can cause things to happen which are seemingly incredible with people who perhaps never thought that such things could happen involving them, then it shows the potential that man has within his own mind."

The Amazing Kreskin will make his TBEM presentation on the morning of Sunday, October 8. Lee Greenwood will host the opening ceremonies on Saturday, October 7 and will present the SRO Award which goes to an


individual talent buyer or promoter who has made an extensive contribution to the advancement of Country Music over the past year.

Only two panel discussions will be held this year, so that registrants will be able to attend both panels and still have time to conduct business and visit the resource center and agents' marketplace in the afternoons. A dozen innovators in the Country Music industry will share their expertise during the sessions, which provide a forum for discussion of today's most urgent industry topics.

Panelists for the Saturday session will be Bill Bachand of Toolies Country; Gary Drake of Southern Illinois University; James Frost of the Minnesota State Fair; Allen Henson of Dollywood Entertainment; Mike Martinovich of CBS Records; and Mike Watts of the Budweiser Downtown Hoedown. Moderators will be Terry Cline of the Jim Halsey Co. and Gerald Roy of Stellar Entertainment.

Panelists for the Sunday session will be Randy Goodman of RCA Records; David Hart of Nederlander; Holmes Hendricksen of Harrah's; Steve Litman of Fox Concerts; Jon Stoll of Fantasma Productions; and Tom Trzos of Glass Palace Promotions. Moderators will be Steve Moore of Starwood Amphitheatre and Dan Wojcik of Entertainment Artists.

TBEM registrants will also have the opportunity to win money during the weekend for their most creative promotions. The four entries judged to be the most successful, innovative and unique will be awarded prizes totaling \$2,000, and winners will be announced at TBEM's opening ceremonies. Submitted ideas will be published in a handbook that will be distributed to all seminar registrants.

The TBEM registration fee for current CMA members and new members is \$150, if paid by September 16. After the deadline, the fee is \$200. Non-member registration is \$215 before September 16 and \$265 afterward. For TBEM information or registration brochures, contact CMA's Special Projects Department, 7 Music Circle North, P.O. Box 22299, Nashville, TN 37202; (615) 244-2840. 



▲ Mark Miller hams it up during the shooting of Sawyer Brown's video of "The Race Is On". Director of Photography Marc Ball (holding camera) discusses the next shot with Assistant Cameraman John Algee. The video was directed by Scene Three's John Lloyd Miller.



▲ Mercury artist Butch Baker shot his "Our Little Corner" video with the help of co-director Marc Ball (left), assistant cameraman Mark Ramey and director John Lloyd Miller. Produced by Scene Three, the video began airing in August.



▲ Scene Three Director of Photography Larry Boothby shoots Steven Wayne Horton in Scene Three's studio for Horton's new music video "Roll Over" on Capitol Records.



▲ During the filming of The Bellamy Brothers video, "You'll Never Be Sorry", David Bellamy took a turn behind the lens.

NEW MUSIC seminar



▲ Each year the New Music Seminar attracts up to 10,000 people from around the world. This year marked the first time Country Music has been showcased at this prestigious event. CMA, the Nashville Entertainment Association and the Tennessee Film, Entertainment and Music Commission shared a booth at the seminar highlighting music from Tennessee. Pictured here (l to r) are Diane Rankin, NEA; Radney Foster of Foster & Lloyd, Marsha Wood, film commission and Connie Westfall, NEA.

Kathy Mattea pleases the crowd during her set at the New Music Seminar held in July in New York. ▶

— Photo by Bill Davila



Experts held a panel on July 18 entitled "Making New Waves — Country Music In The Mainstream". Panelists (l to r) were Tom Kennedy, NewMarket Media Corp., Winston-Salem, North Carolina; Tim Wipperman, Warner/Chappell, Nashville; producer Kyle Lehning (Randy Travis, Anne Murray, Dan Seals), Nashville; panel moderator Nick Hunter, Warner Bros. Records, Nashville; PolyGram artist Kathy Mattea; Larry Fitzgerald, Fitzgerald/Hartley, Los Angeles; songwriter Michael Clark, Nashville; and Universal recording artist Gary Morris. ▼



U.K. Country Album Chart

CMA's United Kingdom Country Album Chart appears bi-weekly in MUSIC WEEK, the U.K.'s major trade magazine. It is featured on BBC Radio and in numerous consumer publications in the U.K. and Europe. The charts are compiled by Gallup, the organization which also compiles the British pop charts. Released every two weeks on Monday, the chart ranks the top 20 Country releases in combined sales of lps, cassettes and compact discs. The charts are compiled using Gallup's computer-based panel of 500 record outlets.

Country artist **Arne Benoni** recently released his second single in the U.S. "If I Live To Be A Hundred" was released August 1 on Round Robin Records.

The "Could You Love A Working Man" video by the Canadian act the **Stoker Brothers** has recently been added to Nashville's CMT Network and Much Music in Canada.

Irish singer **Mary Duff** was honored with winning the 1989 Euro Country Music Masters in Holland during July. Duff was the fourth Irish entertainer to receive this award in the event's eight-year history. Coverage of the event will be screened by Sky Television on September 26.

Twenty-two acts performed at the 12th All British Country Music Festival at the Pavilion in Worthing. The event, which has aired coast to coast on CBS in America, featured such Country acts as **Charlie Landsborough**, **Stu Page**, **Pete Naden** and others.

Canadians are receiving a treat this summer as they listen to the "Sounds Of Country". This syndicated Country Music radio show will air each Thursday and Friday morning on CIAO 790. The program is designed to promote Canadian talent by featuring a different artist each week in live and studio settings.

The **Jordanaires** recently performed in eight cities in Denmark, five cities in Norway and two appearances in London. They were promoting their new album **ELVIS MEMORIES** on World Wide Music. While in London the group had several recording sessions with RCA.

Pete Andrell, host of RTT/Radio Tirol has a new address — Wilhelm Kress-Gasse 8 B A-2353 Guntramsdord, Austria. His phone number is 011 43/2236/52264. He is the host of "Take Me Home, Country Road", which airs in parts of Austria, Northern Italy and the Southern part of West Germany.



RCA artist **Michael Johnson** talks about the upcoming trip to Japan as CMA's **Jo Walker-Meador** looks on. (See related story, page 23.)

THIS WEEK	TWO WEEKS AGO	August 19, 1989
1	3	COPPERHEAD ROAD Steve Earle — MCA
2	14	LYLE LOVETT AND HIS LARGE BAND Lyle Lovett — MCA
3	1	WHITE LIMOZEEN Dolly Parton — CBS
4	5	I NEED YOU Daniel O'Donnell — Ritz
5	4	FROM THE HEART Daniel O'Donnell — Telstar
6	2	RIVER OF TIME The Judds — RCA
7	6	DON'T FORGET TO REMEMBER Daniel O'Donnell — Ritz
8	7	ONE FAIR SUMMER EVENING Nanci Griffith — MCA
9	9	ABSOLUTE TORCH AND TWANG k. d. lang and the reclines — WEA
10	NEW	ONCE IN A VERY BLUE MOON Nanci Griffith — MCA
11	NEW	KENTUCKY THUNDER Ricky Skaggs — CBS
12	18	SOMETHING INSIDE SO STRONG Kenny Rogers — WEA
13	8	OLD 8 X 10 Randy Travis — WEA
14	11	BLUEBIRD Emmylou Harris — WEA
15	12	LONE STAR STATE OF MIND Nanci Griffith — MCA
16	10	WILL THE CIRCLE BE UNBROKEN VOL. 2 Nitty Gritty Dirt Band — MCA
17	NEW	POET IN MY WINDOW Nanci Griffith — MCA
18	RE-ENTRY	PONTIAC Lyle Lovett — MCA
19	16	LITTLE LOVE AFFAIRS Nanci Griffith — MCA
20	13	ALWAYS AND FOREVER Randy Travis — WEA

Country Music Association © 1989

Japan Opens Its Doors To Country Music

Seven acts will perform at the First Annual Country Gold Concert in Kumamoto, Japan on September 23.

Scheduled to appear are Roger Miller, The Wagoners, Michael Johnson, Hank Thompson, Bill Monroe and the Bluegrass Boys, Wanda Jackson and the clogging duo, Pride of America. The event will be held at Kumamoto's Aspecta, the world's largest outdoor stage. This will be Japan's first Country Music outdoor concert festival.

"I'm so thrilled to be a part of this festival," said Roger Miller. "It offers us the opportunity to open a new door for Country Music, and I'm extremely proud to participate in this landmark event."

The announcement was made by the Country Music Association and the Jim Halsey Company July 21 at a press conference at CMA's Music Row office. The Jim Halsey Company is the

exclusive booking agent and producer for the concert.

Charlie Nagatani, the primary coordinator of the event, flew in from Japan to make the announcement. He and his band, the Western Cannonballs, will also perform at the Country Gold Concert.

Nagatani has been an avid supporter of Country Music for years. He learned English from American GIs after World War II and adopted their love of Country Music. He and his band have played together in Japan for 28 years and he owns a successful Country nightclub in Kumamoto.


Nagatani enlisted the help and support of Kumamoto's Governor Morihiro Hosokawa and the Kumamoto Prefectural Government for the concert.

"I'm looking forward to the success of this Country concert and hope it becomes a wonderful festival for

promoting relations between the United States and Japan," Governor Hosokawa said in a letter.

"Through this event, we hope to further introduce Country Music to Japanese people and to deepen the relations and understanding between the United States and Japan by providing such an environment to the local citizens and resident Americans."

Ticket prices will be 3,000 yen which is about \$20. This is an extremely low price since the average jazz festival ticket is about \$50 and hotel dinner shows featuring U.S. Country acts are about \$250 and up. The concert is being publicized in Japanese newspapers and on radio and television.

Organizers of the event have already made plans to have a Country Gold concert each year in Japan to bring Country Music to new audiences. 

A COLORFUL, UNIQUE REVIEW OF THIS YEAR'S BEST

The Official 1989 Country Music Association Awards Program Book

A valuable keepsake for everyone in the Country Music industry!

This exclusive glossy, four color program book highlights the brightest night of the Country Music year with photos and bios of all nominees, lists of previous winners and informative articles on the nominees that you have chosen this year. Also included are features on the nominees to the Country Music Hall of Fame, and the history of the awards.

Don't miss out on our special offer. We are now offering a special CMA member price of \$7.50, which includes postage and handling. **All orders must be received by September 22, 1989.**

Please send me _____ copy(ies) of the 1989 CMA AWARDS PROGRAM BOOK at the special member price of \$7.50 per book, which includes postage and handling (4th Class Surface Mail).

Please send my order by: First Class Mail (Add \$2.50 per copy)
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CMA AWARDS BOOK, P.O. Box 22299, Nashville, Tennessee 37202



Steve Wariner chats with CNN talk show host Sonja Friedman on the set of her show. Wariner appeared on the July segment in Los Angeles and also played five concerts on the West Coast.

CMA Membership Meeting

The 31st Annual CMA Membership Meeting will be held Tuesday, October 10 in the Carroll Room at the Opryland Hotel in Nashville. Several items of importance will be considered during the meeting, including the election of new directors, presentation of several awards, and the president's annual address.

Polls will be open at 1:00 p.m., with the Call To Order at 2:00 p.m. 

New Organizational Members Approved

The CMA Board of Directors approved 34 radio stations as new broadcast members at the July Board of Directors meeting held at The Greenbrier in White Sulphur Springs, West Virginia.

WURL/Leeds, AL
 WEZZ/Clanton, AL
 WOWQ/DuBois, PA
 WDEC/Americus, GA
 KAGE/Winona, MN
 KUBB/Merced, CA
 KXNP/North Platte, NE
 KRVL/Kerrville, TX
 WWCC/Honesdale, PA
 WKJC/Tawas City, MI
 KBRX/O'Neil, NE
 WVSC/Somerset, PA
 KNAF/Fredericksburg, TX
 KPCR-AM/FM/Bowling Green, KY
 WMGE/Danville, KY
 KJUG/Tulare, CA
 KONY/St. George, UT

KUAD/Windsor, CO
 WIST/Lobelville, TN
 WKWT/Union City, TN
 WKVA/Lewiston, PA
 WQCH/Lafayette, GA
 KLAD/Klamath Falls, OR
 KLEA/Lovington, NM
 WADI-FM/WCMA-AM/Corinth, MS
 KERT-AM/FM/Las Cruces, NM
 WKQR/Citronelle, AL
 WSAK/Mattoon, IL
 KNEI-AM/FM/Waukon, IA
 WDDQ/Adel, GA
 KRTZ/Cortez, CO
 WMCI/Mattoon, IL
 KUOA/Siloam Springs, AR
 WDBL-AM/FM/Springfield, TN

Also approved as new members are:

Tour Merchandising Co., Hendersonville, TN
 North East Country Music, Altamont, NY
 Fitzgerald Hartley Co., Nashville, TN
 Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma, Durant, OK
 Six Flags Over Texas, Arlington, TX

Pro Star Inc., Lewiston, ID
 Country America, Des Moines, IA
 Imagemaker Productions Inc., Nashville, TN
 Heatherwood Productions, North Hollywood, CA
 Centurion Ventures, Inc. Wilmington, DE

Some of the many benefits available to organizational members include:

1. CLOSE UP, CMA's monthly magazine containing vital information about the Country Music industry.
2. CMA Awards Show tickets available for purchase.
3. Group insurance rates available to many CMA members.
4. A new marketing/sales package which includes a recent CMA-commissioned Arbitron Study, "The Country Music Radio Listener . . . A New Profile", a sales video based on the study, and a leave-behind piece.
5. CMA Album Service — Each participating member radio station will be placed on the priority mailing list of selected record companies for lp and cd service.

For more information concerning CMA membership, contact the membership department at (615) 244-2840. 

"Steve was a wonderful guy who took a chance on me and kept me on at RCA even when he should have let me go. He saw something in me, and believed in me. I was dedicated to him to help him in every way I could to make hit records," Chet said.

"I enjoyed my time at RCA very much, especially the time I spent in the studio working with the artists. I was lucky as a producer that I had always listened to all kinds of music, and I loved the melodies of songs. Because I listened to those other kinds of music, I could draw ideas from them and use them in the sessions. That helped me a lot as a producer, because my mind was open to newer sounds.

"The longer you stay in this business, the more analytical you get. You begin to conform more and more, and when something real different comes along, you don't recognize the value of it. I think you burn out after awhile. You get older, and your tastes are not like the record buying public. That's one of the reasons I don't produce much anymore, because I realize the public's tastes have changed since I was successful," Chet said.

❖The longer you stay in this business,
the more analytical you get.
You begin to conform more and more,
and when something real different comes
along, you don't recognize the value of it.❖

With a career that has spanned nearly half a century, and dozens of awards to his credit including six Grammys, 10 CMA Awards and four PLAYBOY Jazz Poll honors, one would think that Chet would be content in his international acclaim, that he would be ready to sit back and rest on his laurels, reaping the benefits after so many years of reaching for the top. Hardly.

"I'll always be poor in my mind, I suppose. I'll always be trying to accomplish things to keep the wolf away from the door. I'm not that concerned with money as long as I make a living, but I guess I came from the work ethic generation, where I'll always feel like I have to be accomplishing something or I'm backpeddling.

"I want to keep doing exactly what I'm doing right now in years to come. I want to keep learning, and selling some records. I want to go on being different, and non-conformist, and fighting mediocrity tooth and nail. Because that's what destroys you as a writer, as a musician, as anything — mediocrity. And the only reason people beat a path to your door ever, is because you're different from anyone else in the world."

Rest easy, Chet. 

— Lorie Hollabaugh

Win Free CMA Awards Show Tickets

CMA will be sponsoring a contest to award current members who recruit the most new or lapsed members to join CMA beginning November 1.

The contest will end September 1, 1990. The top three member recruiters for the two categories — Top Lapsed Members and Top New Members — will be awarded the following prizes:


First Place: Two free \$200 Awards Show/Party tickets, limousine service, a room at the Opryland Hotel and two American Airlines tickets from anywhere in the U.S.

Second Place: Gibson Guitar (Provided by Gibson U.S.A.).

Third Place: Sony portable disc player.

The six prize winners will be recognized at CMA's tenth annual membership meeting at the Opryland Hotel on October 10th.

"According to a recent research study, CMA's current members are our most effective advertising. Current members and lapsed members most likely learned about CMA from friends and other CMA members," said Janet Bozeman, CMA membership director. "Right now, CMA recognizes top recruiting members by spotlighting them in CLOSE UP each month. We think that the contest will be another special way to show our appreciation to members for their hard work in recruitment efforts," she said.

For more information about the contest, contact CMA's membership department at (615) 244-2840. 



Michael Bonagura (left) and Kathie Baillie of Baillie and the Boys work on a new show for their tour dates with choreographer Michael Peters (center). Peters is critically acclaimed for his work with Michael Jackson.

— Photo by Alan Mayor

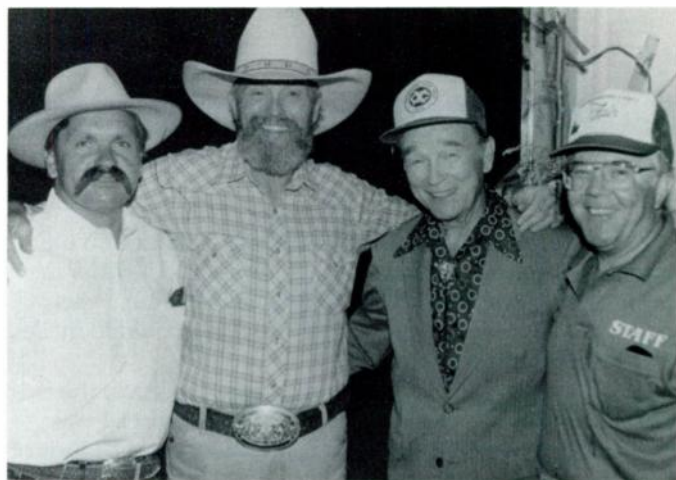
NEWSLINE

The first annual **Music City Celebrity Cookoff and Music Festival** will be Sunday, September 10 at Nashville's MetroCenter. **Charlie Daniels** will headline the non-stop concert which will feature **Asleep At The Wheel, Mason Dixon, Wild Rose** and **The Nashville Pops Songwriters Showcase**. Cooks from across the nation will be vying for the grand prize of \$1,000 and two free round-trip tickets on **American Airlines** to the **World Championship Cookoff** to compete for a \$35,000 grand prize. **Dawn Dishwashing Detergent, Pepto-Bismol, WSIX Radio, Miller Beer, MUSIC CITY NEWS** and **WTVF-TV** are event sponsors. Tickets are \$8 in advance and \$10 at the gate. Proceeds benefit the **Nashville Chapter of the National Academy of Recording Arts & Sciences**. For ticket information call Centratik at (615) 320-7172 or 1-800-877-172.

The second annual **Hager Twins Celebrity Magnum Musky Hunt For Charity** will be September 28 - October 1 in Cable, WI. Some of the participants include actors **Dan Haggarty, Burton "Bubba" Gilliam, John DiSanti, Denver** and **Tippi Pyle, Jim Varney, Sheb Wooley**, recording act **The Sanders**, singer/songwriter **Larry Henley** and Grand Ole Opry star **Little Jimmy Dickens**. Musky are similar to freshwater shark. Tournament sponsors include **Berkley-Trilene, G. Heileman Brewing Co., Inc., Merkt Enterprises Inc., the Wisconsin Department of Tourism** and the **Cable Chamber of Commerce**.



The queen of Dollywood hits Hollywood, as Dolly played two shows at Los Angeles' Universal Amphitheatre. The sold out house was treated to songs from Dolly's new album, **WHITE LIMOZEEN**. Backstage at the concert (l to r) are **Roy Wunsch**, senior vice president, **CBS Records/Nashville**; **Dolly Parton**; and **Mike Martinovich**, vice president, **CBS Records/Nashville**.



The king of the cowboys **Roy Rogers** greets **Charlie Daniels** backstage at the **San Bernardino Country Fair** in Victorville, California on July 31. Pictured (l to r) are **David Corlew**, Daniels' personal manager; **Daniels, Rogers** and show producer **Bill Hollingshead** of **Bill Hollingshead Productions Inc.**

The **Musicland Group Inc.** recently acquired **Yorktown Music Shop Inc.**, a chain of 34 music and home entertainment stores. The stores operating under the names **JR's, Oranges** and **Y.E.S.** are located primarily in shopping malls in **Illinois, Wisconsin, Michigan** and **Indiana**. Many of the stores will be renamed **Sam Goody** or **Musicland**. The purchase price was not disclosed.

The **Amusement & Music Operators Association** and **Miller Brewing Co.** will conduct a major jukebox promotion in eight markets this November. The promotion involves Miller's **High Life** brand saluting the 100th anniversary of the jukebox, which is being celebrated this year. Miller will underwrite the effort which includes a consumer promotion using local radio stations in each market that will give away a jukebox in a contest called "Win and Spin". The markets are **Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, Cleveland, Cincinnati, Detroit, Milwaukee, Birmingham** and **Montgomery, AL**.

A record 68,000 people attended **Jamboree In The Hills** near **St. Clairsville, OH** in July. The two-day outdoor festival featured **Willie Nelson, Kathy Mattea, George Jones, Highway 101, Restless Heart, The Bellamy Brothers** and others.

In August, board members of the **International Marketplace of Festivals (IMOF)** named **Rick Runyeon** as executive director. Runyeon is the president of **Star Ventures International Inc.**, a public relations firm specializing in event marketing and entertainment production. **IMOF '89** will be held October 5 - 9 in **Nashville**. Some events will be coordinated with **CMA's Talent Buyers Entertainment Marketplace** held at the **Hyatt Regency Hotel** October 6 - 8.

Manufacturers' sales of blank audio and video tape cassettes in the U.S. leveled off in 1988, according to the **International Tape/Disc Association**. The biggest increase was shown in sales of video tape pancakes, which were up 34 percent in units and 19 percent in dollars. Video tape pancakes are being used increasingly by video duplicators and blank tape loaders. The sale of **Beta cassettes** dropped 29 percent in units and 38 percent in dollars.

Lee Greenwood was among guests of **President and Mrs. Bush** at a barbecue on the **White House** lawn on July 20 in commemoration of the 20th anniversary of landing on the moon. Others on the guest list included former astronauts and **NASA** officials. **Greenwood** also performed and shared hosting duties for the "Take Pride In America" program and campaign **Bush** endorsed.

"Cruising With Conway" lets vacationers enjoy a week of Caribbean relaxation and the songs and sounds of Conway Twitty December 2 - 9. The cruise departs Miami, FL and includes stops in Cozumel and Grand Cayman. For more information, contact Artists Travel Connection, 2020 21st Ave. South, Nashville, TN 37212; (615) 297-5566.

Hank Williams, Jr. has been signed by ABC Sports to endorse this year's 20th anniversary season of "Monday Night Football". As part of the agreement, Williams re-recorded his classic 1984 hit "All My Rowdy Friends (Are Coming Over Tonight)" with a new set of self-penned lyrics. The result, "All My Rowdy Friends (Are Here For Monday Night)" will be the opening theme for the weekly telecasts. Promotional spots with Williams and his Bama Band began airing on ABC-TV in August.

Don and Phil Everly celebrated their second annual Everly Brothers Homecoming Reunion in Central City, KY on August 12. Guests were singer/songwriter John Prine, guitarist Duane Eddy, New Grass Revival and others.



Grand Ole Opry humorist Jerry Clower (left) presents David Lipscomb University baseball coach Ken Dugan with several sacks of fertilizer to be used on the Bison's new baseball field. The sacks represent "a couple of train car loads" of fertilizer Clower will donate when needed to the Nashville college.

RIAA CERTIFICATIONS
COUNTRY LPS
July
MULTI-PLATINUM
GREATEST HITS . . . Patsy Cline . . . MCA

PLATINUM
WILD-EYED DREAM . . . Ricky Van Shelton . . . Columbia

GOLD
I HAVE RETURNED . . . Ray Stevens . . . MCA
IN DREAMS: GREATEST HITS . . . Roy Orbison . . . Virgin
DON'T CLOSE YOUR EYES . . . Keith Whitley . . . RCA

January - June
PLATINUM
TAMMY WYNETTE'S GREATEST HITS . . . Tammy Wynette . . . Epic
GREATEST HITS VOLUME 2 . . . Ronnie Milsap . . . RCA
GUITARS, CADILLACS, ETC., ETC. . . Dwight Yoakam . . . Reprise
GREATEST HITS . . . Reba McEntire . . . MCA
THE JUDDS' GREATEST HITS . . . The Judds . . . RCA
'80s LADIES . . . K. T. Oslin . . . RCA
A DECADE OF HITS . . . Charlie Daniels Band . . . Epic
HEARTLAND . . . The Judds . . . RCA

GOLD
RIVER OF TIME . . . The Judds . . . RCA
BUENAS NOCHES FROM A LONELY ROOM . . .
Dwight Yoakam . . . Reprise
SOUTHERN STAR . . . Alabama . . . RCA
GREATEST HITS VOLUME 3 . . . Hank Williams, Jr. . . . Warner Bros.
BEYOND THE BLUE NEON . . . George Strait . . . MCA

cancer and leukemia research. Entry fees are \$250 per person or \$900 for a foursome. Corporate sponsors include **George Dickel Whisky** and **Trans World Airlines**. For more information, contact (213) 462-2351.

Bobbi Hasty and **Rhonda Wicks**, co-owners of the mother/daughter bookkeeping and accounting firm **Simply Accounting**, have recently moved to 38 Music Square East, Suite 114, Nashville, TN 37203; (615) 254-4178.

Bob Cummings Productions Inc. has moved its offices to 1204 Elmwood Avenue, Nashville, TN 37212; (615) 385-4400.



A W A R D S

The **Tennessee National Guard** has given **Johnny Russell** an award in recognition of his support for the organization. The award was presented to Russell by **Brig. Gen. Jack C. Clark** at Camp Shelby, MS, where Russell hosted a concert for members of the guard.

The **Opryland Hotel** has received its fifth consecutive **Pinnacle** award, designating it as one of the top meeting properties in North America. Pinnacle awards are presented each year by **SUCCESSFUL MEETINGS** magazine, the oldest periodical serving the meetings and conventions industry. The winner in the Western region was the **Broadmoor Hotel**, another property owned by **Opryland, U.S.A. Inc.**

Tammy Wynette was recently awarded a plaque in honor of her 10th anniversary performance benefiting the **Malden, MO Parks and Recreation Department**. Malden is the hometown of Wynette's husband/manager **George Richey**. Wynette presented nearby **Southeast Missouri State University** with a \$10,000 check to build a new room for its Malden extension campus.

Steve Wariner hosted his sixth annual benefit concert for disabled and mentally retarded children August 25 at the Russell County Fairgrounds in Russell Springs, KY. Wariner's brother **Terry** made his solo debut and **Glen Campbell** performed as a special guest.

The seventh annual **Academy of Country Music Celebrity Golf Classic** will be played on Burbank's De Bell Golf Course October 16. Proceeds benefit the **T. J. Martell Foundation** for



Signed to endorse this year's 20th anniversary season of ABC's "Monday Night Football", Hank Williams, Jr. has re-recorded his classic 1984 hit "All My Rowdy Friends (Are Coming Over Tonight)" with a new set of self-penned lyrics for the advertisements. Pictured here are "Monday Night Football" co-host Frank Gifford; Williams, Jr.; and his manager, Merle Kilgore.



MEDIA

T. G. Sheppard recently signed with the First National Bank of Marin, California as the national spokesman for First National BankCard Center. Sheppard will appear in a series of television commercials promoting the bank's new VISA/MasterCard service.

SunGroup, Inc., a publicly-owned broadcasting group, announced the acquisition, pending FCC approval, of its tenth radio station, WOWW-FM, in Pensacola, FL. SunGroup purchased the station from Colonial Broadcasting Company, Inc. for \$5 million.

WCOA broadcast personality Johnny Dark recently released his new album CRUISIN' 1968. The album is a step back in musical history to the days of free musical expression featuring tunes by Marvin Gaye, The Temptations, Steppenwolf and other artists.

KGEE-FM, in Odessa-Midland, TX, is under the new ownership of Tommy Vascocu and Michael Owens. Owens and Vascocu purchased the station from KGEE-FM Communications, Inc., a subsidiary of American General Media Corp.

K. T. Oslin will be taping a Canadian television show this month hosted by Anne Murray in Toronto. The show will air on the CBC television network next month.

Viacom International Inc. has formed Viacom Pictures, a motion picture production company. Films by Viacom Pictures will be distributed in a variety of media, domestically and overseas, with the exception of the U.S. theatrical market.

TNN recently realigned its primetime programming schedule. In the new primetime schedule, "Nashville Now", TNN's highly rated show, will move from 8:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. (EDT).

Don Williams will appear in a live concert special from Tucson, AZ on Friday, September 15 on TNN. "Don Williams' Prime Cuts" a 60-minute special, will be shown live from Tucson's Leo Rich Theatre.

TNN presents an up-close look at the life of Country Music legend, Patsy Cline, in a documentary, "The Real Patsy Cline". TNN will air the show this month. The show will include both friends and family such as husband Charlie Dick, Loretta Lynn, Producer Owen Bradley, Carl Perkins, and Dottie West.

Ernest Tubb will be featured in a TNN documentary this month. The 60-minute special, "Thanks, Troubadour, Thanks", will feature rare television footage and photographs along with those who share personal memories of Tubb including Loretta Lynn, son Justin Tubb, and Porter Wagoner.

Jimmy Dean, Holly Dunn, and Larry Gatlin open their homes and expose their personal lives to host Lorianne Crook in "Celebrities Offstage" this month. This is the fourth in a series of 60-minute specials in which Crook explores the private world of celebrities.

Loretta Lynn's entertainment tour for U.S. soldiers in Europe and the Mediterranean Sea will be telecast this month on TNN. Lynn visited bases in Germany, Crete, France and Spain, as well as the aircraft carrier John F. Kennedy on duty in the Mediterranean Sea. Lynn entertained the soldiers with hit songs such as "You Ain't Woman Enough To Take My Man" and "Don't Come Home A Drinkin'".

TNN celebrates American music in September with a star-studded 60-minute special hosted by Ray Stevens. "An American Music Celebration" will feature Brenda Lee, T. Graham Brown, Johnny Gimble, and The Girls Next Door. The show was taped before a live audience in Nashville's Grand Ole Opry House.

NewMarket Media Corporation, a North Carolina-based company, recently announced they have entered an agreement to purchase the assets of radio stations WNOE-AM and -FM in New Orleans, LA from the James A. Noe family. The sale is subject to approval by the Federal Communications Commission.



Edna Mae Henning Named Top CMA Recruiter

Each month CLOSE UP recognizes the CMA member who has recruited the most new members. This issue, CMA spotlights Edna Mae Henning of Henning Enterprises in Manchester, Pennsylvania. Others who have recruited members are Joe Scaife, Jennifer Pierce, Jean Adams, James Smith, Leonard John, Ronnie Trammell, Gayle Holcombe, Bonnie Goodman, Shellee Morris, Ralph Hacker, Vickie McBride, Jerry Bradley and Ellis Baggett.

Carolyn Rada Hollaran recently released volume one of "Our Brightest Stars In Country Music", a book covering the lives and careers of many Country Music stars.

Willie Nelson recently founded the Cowboy Television Network in Austin, with Texas entrepreneur Edward Yi. The network will feature 24-hour programming including movies, live shows, specials, serials, and videos. Nelson's ranch outside Austin is the network's headquarters.

Willie Nelson's estranged wife, Connie Nelson, is writing a book with Yolande Finch, detailing their marriage. "Good-Hearted Woman" is the title of the book and refers to the 1976 song Nelson wrote about Connie.



When President George Bush decided to entertain Congress recently, he invited one of his favorite groups, The Oak Ridge Boys, to the South Lawn of the White House. The President sat front and center and requested five encores before the Oaks could leave the stage.

— Photo by Kathy Gangwisch



George Strait thrills fans with an appearance at the grand opening of the newest Sound Warehouse store in Dallas. Strait was in Dallas for two nights of performances at the Starplex Amphitheater. More than 1,000 people showed up for the opening, and radio station KPLX broadcast live from the event.

Curb Records has announced the appointment of Mike Borchetta to vice president of national promotion for the label. Borchetta worked as regional promoter for Capitol, RCA and Mercury in the 60s before starting an independent promotion company in Nashville.

Lorna Greenwood has been appointed vice president in charge of artists relations at Entertainment Unlimited, a Music Row public relations firm.

Rocco Cosco has been named Southeast regional promotion manager for PolyGram Records. Cosco owned his own independent promotion firm before taking the position at PolyGram.

KIXX-FM in Newport, NH, has retained Ed Fisher as the station's production director.

Amy Busse has been named corporate publicist for EastCoast Entertainment, Inc. She will head all publicity and press operations for three offices in Richmond, VA, Charlotte, NC and Atlanta, GA. Busse was formerly director of publicity and public relations with The Jim Halsey Company in Nashville.

Stuart D. Goldberg was recently promoted to vice president of the Westwood One Company in their Audiotex division.

ON THE MOVE

Atlantic Records/Nashville has announced the company's first staff appointments by naming Bob Heatherly and Elroy Kahanek to the label's promotion team. Heatherly comes to the label from the national trade magazine RADIO & RECORDS. Kahanek is celebrating his 20th year as a record promoter and will carry the title national promotion director.

Don Fowler has rejoined Top Billing International as executive vice president and partner. Fowler most recently served as an officer with World Class Talent. He was previously with Top Billing for eight years as an agent.

Bobbie J. Joseph has been promoted to the position of sales support supervisor at KRMD-FM and KRMD-AM in Shreveport, LA. She was formerly assistant bookkeeper and sales secretary.

Steve Pope was recently promoted to professional manager of The Pride Music Group in Nashville.

SIGNINGS

Dean Dillon to McFadden & Associates . . . Moe Bandy to World Class Talent . . . Ralph Emery and Shotgun Red to RCA/Nashville . . . Wild Rose to Universal Records . . . Dottie West to Bobby Roberts Entertainment . . . Rebecca Holden to Tra-Star Records . . . Becky Hobbs and Jonathan Edwards to the 10/30 Music Group . . . Joey Wayne to Comstock.

SEPTEMBER

(* denotes birthdays)

- 1 *Conway Twitty (Harold Lloyd Jenkins); Friars Point, Mississippi
- *Boxcar Willie (Lecil Travis Martin); Sterratt, Texas
- Earthquake hits Tokyo, killing 200,000, 1923
- 2 *Johnnie Lee Wills; Hall County, Texas
- *Jimmy Connors
- World War II ends, Japan surrenders, 1945
- 3 *Tompall Glaser; Spaulding, Nebraska



*Hank Thompson; Waco, Texas

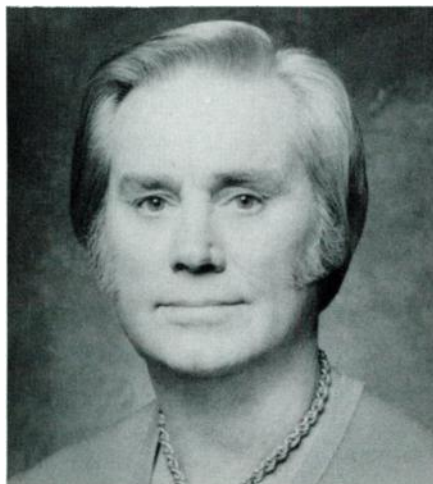
*Mary Ann Kennedy; Muskego, Wisconsin

Jim Reeves leaves Louisiana Hayride to join Grand Ole Opry, 1955

Rodney Crowell hits number one with "I Couldn't Leave You If I Tried", 1988

- 4 LABOR DAY
- *Shot Jackson; Wilmington, North Carolina
- *Paul Harvey
- Merle Haggard, John Schneider, Hank Snow, Mel Tillis, Tammy Wynette, among others announce the first Bakersfield to Chicago "FarmAid" train trip, 1985
- 5 *Bob Newhart
- *Raquel Welch
- The Country Music Association is chartered, 1958
- Glen Campbell's "Rhinstone Cowboy" awarded gold single, 1975
- 6 *Zeke Clements; Empire, Alabama
- *David Alan Coe; Akron, Ohio
- *Mel McDaniel; Checotah, Oklahoma
- Ernest Tubb dies, 1984
- 7 *Buddy Holly

- Elvis Presley tops the Country charts with his most successful release on Sun Records, "Mystery Train"/"I Forgot To Remember To Forget", 1955
- Jimmy Carter signs Panama Canal Treaty, 1977
- 8 *Milton Brown; Stephenville, Texas
- *Harlan Howard; Harlan County, Kentucky
- *Jimmie Rogers; Meridian, Mississippi
- *Patsy Cline; Winchester, Virginia
- *Peter Sellers
- Country Music Association charter signed, 1958
- 9 *Freddy Weller; Atlanta, Georgia
- *Tom Wopat; Lodi, Wisconsin
- *John McFee (Southern Pacific); Santa Cruz, California
- *Otis Redding
- Elvis Presley's first appearance on "Ed Sullivan Show", 1956
- Alabama's JUST US awarded gold album, 1988
- Mao Tse Tung dies, 1976
- 10 *Tommy Overstreet; Oklahoma City, Oklahoma
- *Charles Kuralt
- Nat Stuckey makes his chart debut with "Sweet Thang", 1966
- Ferlin Husky's "Wings Of A Dove" debuts on the Country charts, 1960
- Highway 101 hits number one with "(Do You Love Me) Just Say Yes", 1988
- 11 *Jimmie Davis; Quitman, Louisiana
- *Randy Wright; Wright City, Missouri
- *Tom Landry
- Barbara Mandrell has devastating car wreck, leaving her unable to perform for two years, 1984
- Bobby Gentry's "Ode To Billy Joe" awarded gold record, 1967
- Leon Payne dies, 1969
- Nikita Krushchev dies, 1971



12 *George Jones; Saratoga, Texas

- *Kenneth Threadgill; Travis County, Texas
- Rod Brasfield dies, 1958
- John F. Kennedy marries Jacqueline Bouvier, 1953
- 13 *Bill Monroe; Rosine, Kentucky
- Barbara Mandrell makes chart debut with "I've Been Loving You Too Long", 1969
- Randy Travis' OLD 8 X 10 awarded consecutive gold and platinum albums, 1988
- 14 Hank and Audrey Williams audition for Fred Rose, 1946
- Francis Scott Key writes words to "The Star Spangled Banner", 1814
- 15 *Roy Acuff; Maynardsville, Tennessee
- Patsy Cline marries Charlie Dick in Winchester, Virginia, 1957
- Billy Joe Shaver makes his chart debut with "Georgia On A Fast Train", 1973
- Hank Williams, Jr.'s BORN TO BOOGIE awarded gold album, 1987
- "Heart Worn Memories: A Daughter's Personal Biography Of Willie Nelson" by Susie Nelson is released, 1987
- Princess Grace dies, 1982
- Vernon Dalhart dies, 1948
- 16 *David Bellamy (Bellamy Brothers); Darby, Florida
- *B. B. King
- *Lauren Bacall
- Sonny James tops the charts with "When The Snow Is On The Roses", 1971
- Earl Scruggs first records with Bill Monroe, 1946
- 17 *Hank Williams, Sr.; Georgiana, Alabama
- *Anne Bancroft
- The world's first 33 1/3 rpm record is demonstrated by RCA in New York City, 1931
- The matchstick is invented in England, 1806
- Eddy Raven hits the top of the charts with "Joe Knows How To Live", 1988
- 18 *Frankie Avalon
- *Greta Garbo
- First Country Music show held at Carnegie Hall features Ernest Tubb, George D. Hay, Minnie Pearl and Rosalie Allen, 1947
- George Strait's #7 awarded gold album, 1986
- 19 *Bill Medley; Hollywood, California
- *David Bromberg
- *Twiggy
- Lee Greenwood makes his chart debut with "It Turns Me Inside Out", 1981

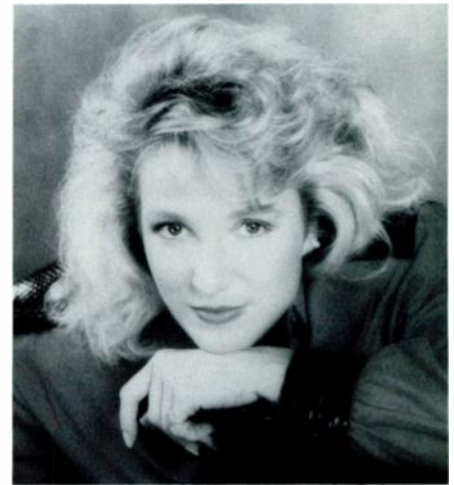
- Crystal Gayle debuts on the charts with "I've Cried", written for her by Loretta Lynn, 1970
Gram Parsons dies, 1973
Red Foley dies, 1968
- 20 ***Pearl Butler**; Nashville, Tennessee
***Sophia Loren**
Jim Croce dies at age 30 in a plane crash along with five other people, 1973
Steve Goodman, composer of "City Of New Orleans", dies 1984
- 21 ***Dickey Lee**; Memphis, Tennessee
***Kenny Stark**; Topeka, Kansas
Everly Brothers' "Wake Up Little Susie" hits Country and pop charts, 1957
- 22 ***Debby Boone**; Hackensack, New Jersey
***Andy Anderson**; Paducah, Texas
Riley Puckett makes his radio debut on WSB in Atlanta, 1922
- 23 ***June Forester**; Chattanooga, Tennessee
***Ray Charles**; Albany, Georgia
***Mickey Rooney**
***Bruce Springsteen**
Bob Wills takes his Texas Playboys to Dallas for their first recording on Brunswick Records, 1935
First ice cream cone introduced at the St. Louis World's Fair, 1904
O. B. McClinton dies, 1987
Anne Murray's SOMETHING TO TALK ABOUT awarded gold album, 1987
- 24 ***Lee Moore**; Circleville, Ohio
***F. Scott Fitzgerald**
Conway Twitty sits at the top of the charts with "I've Already Loved You In My Mind", 1976
Loretta Lynn's "Coal Miner's Daughter" released on Decca, 1973
Dan Seals hits the top of the charts with "Addicted", 1988
- 25 ***Royce Kendall**; St. Louis, Missouri
***Joe Sun**; Rochester, New York
***Ian Tyson**; British Columbia, Canada
Elvis Presley makes his first and only appearance on the Grand Ole Opry, 1967
Loretta Lynn employed by the Grand Ole Opry, 1967
Statler Brothers make their chart debut with "Flowers On The Wall", 1965
- 26 ***Lynn Anderson**; Grand Forks, North Dakota
***Marty Robbins**; Glendale, Arizona
***Olivia Newton-John**
Waylon Jennings' I'VE ALWAYS BEEN CRAZY awarded gold album, 1978
- 27 Connie Smith makes her chart debut with "Once A Day", 1964

- 28 ***Jerry Clower**; Liberty, Mississippi
***Tommy Collins**; Oklahoma City, Oklahoma
***Dan Seals**; McCarney, Texas
RCA Victor holds the first recording session in Nashville at the YMCA Hall, 1928
- 29 ***Gene Autry**; Tioga Springs, Texas
***Alvin Crow**; Oklahoma City, Oklahoma
***Jerry Lee Lewis**; Ferriday, Louisiana
- 30 ***Deborah Allen**; Memphis, Tennessee
The Grand Ole Opry televised for the first time, 1950
James Dean killed in an automobile accident in California at the age of 24, 1955

OCTOBER

- 1 ***Skeets MacDonald**; Greenway, Arkansas
***Bonnie Owens**; Blanchard, Oklahoma
***Julie Andrews**
***Jimmy Carter**
***Richard Harris**
Earl Thomas Conley tops the charts with Emmylou Harris in "We Believe In Happy Endings", 1988
- 2 ***Greg Jennings (Restless Heart)**; Oklahoma City, Oklahoma
***Leon Rausch**; Springfield, Missouri
***Jo-El Sonnier**; Rayne, Louisiana
***Don McLean**
***Groucho Marx**
Merle Haggard and the Strangers' OKIE FROM MUSKOGEE awarded gold album, 1970
- 3 ***Joe Allison**; McKinney, Texas
***Eddie Cochran**; Oklahoma City, Oklahoma
Elvis Presley sings in public for the first time at age 10 in a talent contest at a dairy show, 1945
Woodie Guthrie dies, 1967
- 4 ***Leroy Van Dyke**; Flat Creek, Missouri
***President Rutherford B. Hayes**
***Charlton Heston**
Willie Nelson tops the Country charts with "Blue Eyes Crying In The Rain", 1975
- 5 ***Johnny Duncan**; Dublin, Texas
***President Chester Arthur**
Eddie Rabbitt's STEP BY STEP awarded gold album, 1981
WSM Radio in Nashville airs for first time, 1925
THE JUDDS' GREATEST HITS awarded gold album, 1988
- 6 ***Tom Wright**; Indianapolis, Indiana
The first spoken words in a full-length motion picture mark the birth of talking films in "The Jazz Singer", 1927

- 7 ***Uncle Dave Macon**; Smart Station, Tennessee
***Jim Halsey**; Independence, Kansas
Merle Haggard and Leona Williams marry, 1978
The Judds' ROCKIN' WITH THE RHYTHM awarded platinum album, 1986
Dolly Parton's GREATEST HITS awarded platinum album, 1986
- 8 ***Peter Drake**; Atlanta, Georgia
***Susan Raye**; Eugene, Oregon
Alabama named CMA Entertainer of the Year for unprecedented third time, 1984
Hank Snow and Hubert Long elected to the Country Music Hall of Fame, 1979
Randy Travis hits the top of the charts with "Honky Tonk Moon", 1988
Anne Murray becomes first female to win the CMA Album of the Year Award, 1984
- 9 ***John Lennon**
Grandpa Jones elected to the Country Music Hall of Fame, 1978
Gene Autry's first recording session takes place, 1929
- 10 ***John Prine**; Maywood, Illinois



***Tanya Tucker**; Seminole, Texas

[Factfile is compiled from *The Illustrated Country Almanac* by Richard Wootton (Dial Press), *The Illustrated History of Country Music* by the editors of COUNTRY MUSIC magazine (Doubleday/Dolphin Books), *The People's Almanac #2* by David Wallechinsky and Irving Wallace (The Kingsport Press), *The Encyclopedia of Folk, Country and Western Music* by Irwin Stambler and Grelun Landon (St. Martin's Press), *Another Beautiful Day* by Rod McKuen (Harper & Row), *INSIDE COUNTRY* by Marie Cracknell and Linda Cauthen, and the Country Music Foundation's OFFICIAL 1989 COUNTRY MUSIC CALENDAR, as well as from original research.]

SEPTEMBER

- 2-4 Third Annual Michael Martin Murphey West Fest / Copper Mountain Resort, Colorado
- 4-10 Canadian Country Music Week / Ottawa, Ontario / Call (416) 252-1025 or (613) 724-4939 for details
- 7 Bud Country Talent Search / The Centre Point Theatre / Ottawa, Ontario
- 9 Canadian Country Music Awards / National Arts Centre / Ottawa, Ontario
- 7-9 10th Annual Bluegrass & Chili Festival / Tulsa, OK
- 10 First Annual Music City Celebrity Chili Cookoff / Metro-Center / Nashville, TN / Call (615) 255-8777 for details
- 11-13 Amusement & Music Operators Association Expo '89 / Las Vegas Hilton / Las Vegas, NV / Call (312) 644-6610 for details
- 15-24 Eleventh Annual Georgia Music Festival / Call (404) 656-3551 for details
- 19-22 International Bluegrass Music Association Trade Show and Fan Fest / Owensboro, KY / Call

- (919) 542-3997 for details
- 23 Eleventh Annual Georgia Music Hall of Fame Awards Banquet / Georgia World Congress Center / Atlanta, GA
- 24-26 AMUSEMENT BUSINESS & BILLBOARD Seventh Annual Sponsorship Seminar, "Winning At Sponsorship" / Hotel Inter-Continental / New Orleans, LA / Call (615) 321-4254 for details
- 25-27 NARM Retailers Conference / Biltmore Hotel / Coral Gables, FL
- 25-29 1989 National Quartet Convention / Municipal Auditorium / Nashville, TN
- 28- Hager Twins Celebrity Magnum
- Oct. 1 Musky Hunt / Cable, WI

OCTOBER

- 5-9 International Marketplace of Festivals (IMOF) / Nashville, TN
- 6-8 CMA Talent Buyers Entertainment Marketplace / Hyatt Regency Hotel / Nashville, TN / Call (615) 244-2840 for details
- 8 Sunday Mornin' Country / Roy Acuff Theatre / Opryland U.S.A. / Nashville, TN / Call (615) 822-4100 or (615) 373-5741 for details

- 9 CMA Awards Show / Grand Ole Opry House / Nashville, TN
- 10 CMA Board of Directors Meeting / Opryland Hotel / Nashville, TN
- CMA Annual Membership Meeting / Opryland Hotel / Nashville, TN
- 21-25 NARM Wholesalers Conference / Arizona Biltmore / Phoenix, AZ
- 29-31 Berlin Independence Days '89

NOVEMBER

- 1 CMA Town Meeting / Stouffer Nashville Hotel / Nashville, TN / Call (615) 244-2840 for details
- 10 CMA Board Meeting & Election of Officers / Sovran Bank - Downtown / Nashville, TN

JANUARY 1990

- 17-18 CMA Board Meeting / Orlando, FL

FEBRUARY

- 28 - Country Radio Seminar / Opry-Mar. 3 land Hotel / Nashville, TN

MARCH

- 10-13 NARM Convention / Century Plaza Hotel / Los Angeles, CA

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CMA board members gather for a quick photo after an August 17th press conference, to announce the nominees for the 1989 CMA Awards. Pictured (l to r) are songwriter Roger Murrah; Frances Preston, lifetime CMA board member; Irving Waugh, CMA Awards Show executive producer; Jo Walker-Meador, CMA executive director; and Connie Bradley, CMA president.

— Photo by Alan Mayor