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"Cowboy" Jack Clement: Still Crazy, Plans Trip To Outer Space

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P. 28 Jack Clement, Nashville's own Space Cowboy.

> P.34 Barbara Mandrell, country music's answer to feminism.





P. 40 Stonewall Jackson, 22 years on the Opry and still going strong.

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LETTERS

opportunity to spend some time traveling with Josh and he excited audiences everywhere. He is truly one of country music's finest.

TOM OLIVER ALBANY, GA.

It's Crystal Clear

Thanks so much for the fantastic article about Crystal Gayle. Michael Bane has done it again! I've admired his work in Country Music magazine for a long time and this article is proof that he still has the touch. Crystal Gayle's songs and voice touch real people and Mr. Bane has shown us that this wonderful singer is a real person too. It is so refreshing to learn that the person behind the sweet lilting voice on the radio is truly bubbling with joy.

What more can I say? Thank you, thank you, thank you... PAULA KNUTZEN ST. PAUL, MINN.

I just wanted to let you know, you're wrong about Crystal Gayle. Loretta Lynn and Tammy Wynette are the women of the hour. Crystal may be able to sing, but let's not run it down in the ground . . . LINDA CARR WELLS, TEXAS inconceivable that you think he makes a mess of 'em. The arranging is superb and that made a believer out of my husband.

Sinatra and Charles are great, but Willie has them beat on **Stardust** all the way to heaven and back.

As far as cocktail music is concerned, I'd rather listen to Willie than anybody else in a lounge, bar or anywhere.

And, since Kansas City was picked to host the Willie Nelson picnic, I guess you know where a large portion of his fans are located. If you people in the east don't like him, we'll take him. You don't know what you're missing SUSAN NEPOTE GIRARD, KANSAS

On The Last Of The Hillbillies

Cash And Carter On TV

We watched the *Johnny Cash Spring Fever Special* on TV the other night and think it needs to be acclaimed as the number one Country Music show of the year. It was so good. There are many good Country Music entertainers, but June and Johnny Cash are the very best. They are both wonderful.

June can really sing. She should put out some albums on her own.

I love to hear June and Johnny sing duets. They are the best—singly or together.

Hats off to the best, and to a very nice couple.

LORENE JORDAN OXFORD, ALA.

Congratulations! I had just about given up on your Country Music Magazine when I received your July issue. Thanks for the fine feature on Crystal Gayle. Her pictures, (including the cover) are now occupying their rightful place in my Crystal Gayle gallery. J. PAUL STEELE

FRANKLIN, OHIO

On Ol' Willie

I have just received the July issue of your magazine. I think you have the finest publication in the country music field. However, I must take exception to the two star rating of Willie Nelson's **Stardust** given by Susan Toepfer.

Evidently Ms. Toepfer cannot recognize great vocal talents when they are presented. The selections on this album are only enhanced by Willie's vocal accomplishments. Granted, Willie Nelson is no Frank Sinatra or Ray Charles, his many and varied talents far exceed those of these gentlemen. **Stardust** is a classic in the Nelson style. Be it vocalist, songwriter, stylist, Willie Nelson is a living legend and I greatly appreciate the opportunity of having viewed his talents. Ms. Toepfer, Go Back To The Lounge. FRED B. CAPPS WILLIAMSTON, N.C. Hooray for Porter Wagoner! John Morthland's article on Porter in the July issue was one of the best ever. Country fans enjoy reading about dyed-in-the-wool country artists—the superstars who have stayed "country" through all the trends.

I applaud Porter's statements regarding the unfairness of artists that do a show, then leave. He feels, as do hundreds of thousands of fans, that signing autographs or just shaking hands with the people that put that artist where he is, is part of his job. I disagree violently with artists that argue that "all I owe the fans is a good performance." Granted, it is not always possible for an artist to stay around after a show to be photographed, sing, chat, etc., but most of the time it is. Country fans are probably the most loyal people on earth . . . Porter remained a true gentleman throughout the problems and break with Dolly. I wonder where she would be today without him?...

JANICE SMITH TWO-TERM SECRETARY ACADEMY OF COUNTRY MUSIC

I just read "Porter Wagoner" (The Last of the Hillbillies Speaks His Mind) by John Morthland in your July issue and enjoyed it very much. I saw Porter and Dolly perform twice in Columbus, Ga. and all I can say is, thank goodness there's still one down to earth Country singer left in the music business...

A Fan Speaks Out

Just a few lines I feel that I must write to Country Music. I have been a C&W fan for many years. I remember the near death of C&W music in the late 50's and early 60's. I was glad to see it bounce back in the mid 60's.

I have had two part time D.J. jobs. The first at a station promoting the 1950 R&R era. My newest, about 4 months old, is at a C&W station about 50 miles from New Orleans in Bat St. Louis, Miss. It is an AM station.

It seems strange that this is the only station in this area which really promotes the Outlaws (whatever an Outlaw is). We play a variety of progressive and traditional C&W music.

I am glad to see people like Jerry Jeff, Alvin Crow, David Allen Coe, Jessi Colter, Barefoot Jerry & Juice Newton in the C&W field. They are helping the field more than people know. If these guys and gals weren't around, many younger people would turn away from C&W. I have received many calls from people saying they like these stars that they never had before.

FLORA BROOKS CUTHBERT, GA.

You people really do amaze me. I can't imagine where your heads are! Willie Nelson's **Stardust** album is one of his best. For those of us who recognize good songs of old such as *Stardust*, *Blue Skies*, *September Song* and *Moonlight in Vermont*, it is

The King Of The Dobro

I was very pleased to see your article on Josh Graves in the June issue. I have had the pleasure of knowing "Uncle Josh" professionally since 1973. He is a wonderful person both on and off stage. I had the FRANK COX WEEKEND D.J. WXGR BAY ST. LOUIS, MISS.

Help Wanted

In addition to letters about what we publish, we want to hear from you readers on other subjects. Like: your opinion about the latest album you bought, good or bad; your review of the last concert you saw, were you delighted or dismayed. So don't be bashful. We can't answer all your letters personally, but we read them all and we'll publish the most representative ones. - Ed.



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CHARLIE DANIELS: 20 Years & A Million Miles In Music



sound, as no limitations place them in any musical genre. Country raunch, soulful blues, hard-driving rock, and hot licks and high harmonies make up the CDB sound.

"The reason the band works so well is because we have carefully taken the time to get it together. Everybody in the band has the same amount of freedom to express themselves whether it's writing, singing or playing. And everybody, be they band member or road crew, is expected to do their job. I handle the music while our manager, Joe Sullivan, contends with all the business." With a schedule of two hundred eighty days a year on the road in 1978, it would appear that Daniels' time would be pretty well filled. But, instead of going to his farm in Mt. Juliet, Tennessee, to relax, he will be heading for Nashville and the studios where he will produce a second album for Jim Owens. Another major project is in the offing. Louis L'Amour, one of the world's most prolific Western authors (How the West was Won), will see several more of his novels turned into movies. A personal friend of Daniels,' he has asked him to score his next film. "I did a movie for Paramount starring" Christopher George, called Whiskey Mountain. We went to a screening and before we were half way home I had most of the song written. Now I'm reading one of Louis' books, Down the Long Hill, and I'm already thinking about what songs I have that will fit and the new songs I'm going to write. And I'm not even finished with the book. Since Daniels is able to write anywhere and at any time, perhaps he will have a chance to get started on the log house he, his wife and son plan to build on their farm. Much more fun than a 'working' farm, it is ideal for someone who likes to ride horses and chase cows. "I would love to have a prize bull to go with my white face cows. I don't want to make a profession out of it but as a sideline it fascinates me. I've also got some Tennessee Walkers—one of them is show quality but I just have him for pleasure. I could probably get into having someone else show him. The blue ribbons would be nice to have but they're not a priority in my life. Right now, I'm sure liking those platinum records and sold-out concerts." GAIL RAY

" I don't look at the music the CDB plays as being innovative, I just see it as being the product of seven people," says Daniels.

Waylon wore black leather wrist bands, tion of past records, recording sessions, Tompall was a Glaser brother, and performances and every lick I've ever Charlie Daniels was ... well, Charlie Daniels? No radical changes seem to have taken place in either his personal or musical life. And even the addition of a second drummer to the Charlie Daniels Band appears to be more of a 'natural progression' than an 'evolutionary process.' 'Revolutionary' doesn't enter into Daniels' thought patterns.

"This is my twentieth year and millionth mile in this business and I'm a combination of everything I've ever done, limited. No boundaries exists in the flow of

Remember when Willie had short hair, before or since. My music is a combinathought or played.

"I figure I've been doing this long enough not to follow trends or be influenced by anyone. I don't look at the music the CDB plays as being innovative, I just see it as being the product of seven people."

Seven people—some of whom have been together since its inception eight years ago-with very different backgrounds surely, because their music is un-

Ountry scene

WATCH THIS FACE JACKY WARD: Strikes It Rich The Third Time Around

It would take you all of about thirty seconds to figure out that Jacky Ward is an ex-disc jockey: The glad hand, the flashy smile, the always-on personality, the innumerable impressions ("Did you hear the one about Gabby Hayes, Chill Wills, John Wayne, and Walter Brennan lost in the desert?"). He is but one of a long line of DJ's (Jim Reeves was one) who became successful singers, and coming off two top ten records—*Lover's Question* and *Fools Fall in Love*—he has already become one of the most successful of all.

Jacky started, in his words, "as a drivetime jock in Houston at \$78 a week." He



they look hot; had Sharon Vaughn, Narvel Felts...and then *they* went broke." He signed on at last with Mercury—which, he is assured, is financially sound—and began a string of chart records culminating in his two most recent top ten hits.

With his singing career on a powerful upswing, Jacky hopes to further develop his potential as an actor, having given a creditable performance in the ill-fated TV series *Nashville* 99: "When I got my taste of acting I wanted to do more! But my first love is entertaining, getting out there and singing for the people. I love to play. I love it." Definitely a face to watch.

DOUGLAS B. GREEN

DON WILLIAMS & ERIC CLAPTON: Where Country Meets Rock

supplemented this meager income by singing in clubs at night, and—he swears it's true—selling portable toilets in the morning. He cut a song called *Big Blue Diamond* in 1974, and after it sold ten thousand locally it was picked up by Target Records, which was distributed by Mega, then an up and coming label. Target proceeded to sell the record nationally, then up and went out of business. Mega was eager to take him on, but after about two releases they too folded up. Needless to say, he did not immediately quit his radio job.

get Records, which was distributed by Undaunted, Jacky jumped at a chance Mega, then an up and coming label. Tar- to go with Cinnamon Records: "Boy, did



At first glance, it seems like a highly unlikely musical alliance: Don Williams, the Quiet Man of Country, and Eric Clapton, the archpriest of high-decibel British rock guitarists. But for the past two years, the two of them have become close friends and occasional musical companions.

It all began when Don was touring England (where he enjoys immense popularity) on the strength of his British pop hit, *I Recall a Gypsy Woman*. While there, he was befriended by Clapton and fellow rocker, Pete Townshend of the Who. On a later tour, Clapton sat in and played dobro on some of Don's appearances.

"When we first sat down and played together, we didn't have any problem at all," Don recalls. "And we have just kind of kept in touch since then."

As a tribute to his friend, Clapton included We're All the Way, a Don Williams song, on his recent LP, Slowhand. And it was no coincidence that the two of them also appeared on the same bill at a packed house of 10,000 at Nashville's Municipal Auditorium not long ago. It was in fact, by Clapton's special request that Don opened the show. The elbow-to-elbow capacity crowd was probably the toughest that Don has ever been up against. (Clapton, with some annovance, later described it as one of the rowdiest he'd ever played for.) These folks like their music loud and they liked it hard; and it's a fair guess that half of them didn't know Don Williams from Igor Stravinsky. But Don, with his unpretentious, flatfooted stage presence, and his characteristic humility, is a hard man not to like. As he moved quickly through a set of

Just Fiddlin' Around With Hank Jr. & Friends

Some of country's best fiddlers greeted [Williams, who's no slouch at fiddling Hank Williams, Jr. at Hollywood's Palomino Club during a recent engagement. Jae, Bryron Berline and John Hartford.



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songs like Amanda, and She Never Knew Me, he made believers out of a fair share of those in attendance.

Later in the show, Clapton, who calls Don one of his favorite musicians, paused in the midst of a long set of his own electrified hits like Layla, Badge, and J.J. Cale's *Cocaine*, to do a brief acoustical set of Don Williams songs.

After the show, Eric and his constant companion, Patti Harrison (George Harrison's ex-wife) were seen leaving their hotel, riding with Don and his wife in the Williams's old white Ford, heading for Don's farm in nearby Ashland City.

"I had some second thoughts about doing that concert," Don admitted some time later. "Eric, at that point, was at the top of the charts with both an album (Slowhand) and a single (Lay Down, Sally), and there were a lot of top-40 kids there. So it was kind of an uphill fight. Some comments were made when I first came out, and that sort of thing.... "But I'm sure Eric and I are going to do some more things together later, when we get it kind of figured out," Don adds. "But I never have gone over to England with a lot of extra time to do what I want, and he's pretty much the same when he comes y'know!"



Happy Trails At Opryland

Don't be at all surprised to find yourself giving additional time to Opryland's newest attraction. Beginning this year, the world-famous Tennessee Walking Horse has become the official mount of the Horse Mounted Rangers at the park. Provided by the Tennessee Walking Horse Breeders' and Exhibitors' Assoc., the entire mounted security patrol will be riding black walking horses and will, in addition to many rides and the expansive park facilities, be an added treat for all Opryland guests.

Each ranger spends some fifty hours per week that includes riding, training and grooming his mount. Although Opryland's mounted patrol consisted of quarterhorses since its construction in '69, officials there thought it beneficial to have overall uniformity as to color and size. The horses are bred for a long comfortable ride and have a free, easy gait that exerts neither rider or horse. Now that's especially comforting to know when you BOBALLEN | have a shift in the parking lot!

Don Williams & friends: Ronnie Lane, Pete Townsend, Danny Flowers & Eric Clapton.

over here.

"It's a long ways from here to England,

Tanya Tucker On A New Crusade

If there's anything that would stop Tanya Tucker in her tracks, it most certainly would be an animal in trouble. And today as the National Honorary Chairman, Tanya has dedicated her energies opposing the annual massacre of some 200,000 baby seals in and around the Canadian Magdalen Islands.

"I'm not different now than I was before I became an official protestor. I was always for animals... I've been protesting my head off all my life," Tanya said recently in an interview. Her prime concern is alerting the public and appealing for assistance in the inhumane cruel treatment of the harp seals and is so sincerely dedicated in her fight that she, along with producer Jerry Goldstein, composed the music and lyrics for Save Me. This single will be included on her upcoming album for MCA. "In our country, millions of people are already involved and have been for years, but Canada has not stopped the killing," Tanya continued to explain. "I just felt that the more universal the protest can be, the more chance to bring it to an end." The Animal Protection Institute of America claims some seventeen-and-ahalf million seals have been killed since 1897. Today, the seal population has

very real threat that the endangered animals will in fact become extinct in the not too distant future.

"Meantime," Tanya said, "you have all these baby seals crushed by a method of killing the Canadian officials says is humane. Maybe it will take a new generation of Canadians to bring it to an end... people who are going to detest the seal-

dwindled to less than a million with the clubbing like Americans learned to detest how we killed the whales."

What's most needed at this point, Tanya indicated, "is world policy rather than national policy. That policy should be compassion.'

To join Tanya in her fight against this unnecessary treatment of seals and animal cruelty write: SAVE ME, P.O. Box 17126, Nashville, Tennessee 37217.





"If you like country music in any form, this album is a must." Putton



Ask any Nashville visitor and you'll find that "Country Music U.S.A" is the name of the worldtraveled country music show from Opryland U.S.A.® If



you get the chance to visit

beautiful, exciting Opryland, you'll never forget the inspired singing and dancing of this spectacular show. But if you *can't* visit Opryland this year, here's exciting news: The music of "Country Music U.S.A" is now available on a fantastic new record album sung by



the talented young cast of the show, and produced by Mr. Porter Wagoner himself!

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Porter Wagoner says that "Country Music U.S.A." is "not only the most entertaining album that I ever produced, but also the most entertaining that I ever heard! The young people on this album made me proud that I am a country entertainer...The album is a

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music fans, the album contains portions of 63 of the greatest hits ever from the rich history of country music. All the way from the great classics of Jimmie Rodgers and Hank Williams to the newest super-hits by today's greatest stars. All are beautifully arranged and skillfully woven together, making "Country Music U.S.A" a joyful



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nstead of buying a new guitar, invest in a new Gibson. Because today's Gibsons have a habit of becoming tomorrow's legends.

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Just go back a few years to Gibson's original Flying V. It isn't even as old as rock & roll. Yet, the Flying V's value has risen 600%. Today, some '58 Les Pauls go for \$2,000. Before solid bodies were the thing to buy, Les Pauls went for \$300. Gibson has made a lot of legends in its lifetime. The L-5 is one of the grandaddies of them all. Back when arched tops and

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auntry scene

THE LOUVIN BROTHERS: Memories Abound In A Record Shop Museum

Clean restrooms and ice water says the advertisement prominently displayed on the window of a Nashville record shop. Somehow, those words catch your attention before you can focus on the main message. The poster publicizes the latest collection of country music memorabilia, the Louvin Brothers Museum, located in the Nashville suburb of Hendersonville. Actually, the advertisements are much easier to find than the museum, which can be found in a small record shop on the lower level of a reality building.

After years of dreaming of a place where he could share mementoes of the twenty-year (1943-1963) singing career of the Louvin Brothers, Charlie Louvin opened the admission-free museum late last year. Its walls are lined with album covers, pictures and awards Charlie and Ira won as a sacred and country music duet. "We used to have the awards down lower, but when the first tour group came through, someone walked off with one!" Charlie explained. In his search for a name that would include both his museum and the record shop that houses it, Charlie came up with "Mecca," which means, place where

friends gather. The poster reference to restrooms and water temperature is for the benefit of tour groups, Charlie's wife Betty later explained.

Glass display cases in the museum preserve a stage costume, a clock from the old Louvin homeplace in Henagar, Alabama, and one of Ira's mandolins. New fans eager to learn about the kind of music the Louvins played spend hours pouring over the scrapbooks of old newspaper and magazine clippings. The majority of the gallery display focus on the brothers as a duet, although Charlie became a successful single act after he and Ira split in 1963. It is, however, the group pictures of the Missouri automobile crash, that claimed Ira's life on Father's Day 1965, that capture your attention. One vivid photograph shows Ira's body at the very scene before police and ambulance attendants found him. "My sister thinks that's morbid," Charlie said. "But some of our newer fans were just born when Ira and me were in our heyday. When they ask why we aren't recording together anymore, I just point to these pictures," he said.

JOHNNY BOND: A Man Of Quiet **Dignity Will Be Remembered**



Johnny Bond was a fulfilled man in the twilight of his forty-odd year performing career. He'd renewed his longtime interest in writing by producing excellent biographies of old friends Tex Ritter and Gene Autry and an autobiography. Then he suffered a heart attack, followed by a crippling stroke. In the midst of his rehabilitation came a second stroke, and he died in California on June 12, eleven days after his 63rd birthday. Born in rural Oklahoma in 1915, Bond began playing guitar as a teenager. he moved to Oklahoma City in 1934, where he joined Jimmy Wakely's trio. In 1940 he connected with Gene Autry in Hollywood where his singing, comedy and guitar work got him into 37 western movies and onto Columbia Records in 1941. He worked TV's Town Hall Party in the fifties as a singer/comedian. After leaving Columbia in 1957, he label-hopped until he settled at Starday Records in 1962. A year later he became one of the Country Music Association's Board of Directors. Throughout his career, Bond garnished his singing and songwriting with a raffish humor. And though he was no renegade he helped break the taboo that drinking songs could only be remorseful by laughing at hangovers in Sick, Sober and Sorry and gleefully downing homebrew in Ten Little Bottles, his number one hit of 1964. Yet he also wrote and performed Gears, a chilling tale of trucker violence and the classic western ballad Cimarron. He was a man of quiet dignity and keen insight. As his colleague Hank Penny put it, "Johnny contributed an awful lot to our profession in a quiet way; he was never the grandstand type." Reflecting on his own contributions in his autobiography, Bond concluded, "I don't claim to have done much, but at least it's good to say 'I was there.' "

ELAINE H. MILLER

CARLENE CARTER: A Definite Winner!

Her name is Carlene Carter and there's a good chance you'll be hearing a lot more about this talented singer/songwriter in the near future. And indeed having such legendary parents like Johnny Cash and June Carter Cash doesn't hinder a budding career either (Carlene is June's daughter from her first marriage to Carl Smith). Already Ms. Carter's talent as a songwriter has been recognized: Emmylou Harris recorded Carlene's Easy From Rumor. A sure winner!

Now On (co-written with Susanna Clark) for the much acclaimed album Quarter Moon in a Ten Cent Town. In addition, Tracy Nelson will include Friends of A Kind in her upcoming album on the Flying Fish label.

With her career now in full swing, she's recorded her debut album for Warner Bros. in London-entitled Carlene Carter -with producers Brinsley Schwarz and Bob Andrews, backed by a rock band which includes Nick Lowe and Dave Edmunds and a rhythm section from The



RICH KIENZLE





he's got a new album and it's titled after his beautiful smash single

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by MICHAEL BANE

(Mis)understanding Gountry Music

White Mansions, the album's called, and it features a whole lot of people who should know better-Waylon Jennings, Jessi Colter, Eric Clapton, various and sundry members of the Ozark Mountain Daredevils, and who knows who else recorded in England. The concept (at least, the alleged concept) was to produce a fable about the American Civil War.

What we actually have here is a severe misunderstanding, an album so bad that it may well start the Civil War all over again.

But the problem with White Mansions is a common enough one-what happens when a bunch of rock and roll people decide to do a little country music, or, the If-A-Dumb-Hillbilly-Can-Do-It-So-Can-We syndrome. There are actually two variations on the same disease. Variation One is the *accidental country* musician, best personified in the person of Olivia Newton-John and most recently confronted in Bonnie Tyler's It's A Heartache and the Carpenters' Sweet Sweet Smile. This particular variation is inevitably followed by an interview where the accidental country musician claims to have never heard country music before his/her manager/lover/agent/record company played The Complete Works Of Jimmie Rodgers one night at dinner, or, alternately, that the steel guitar heard on the record was actually the result of a faulty mix. Variation Two is much more insidious: what will undoubtedly become known as the White Mansions corollary. In this case, a number of rock and roll musicians (usually English but not always) decide to add a little country music, perhaps to broaden their horizons, perhaps to sell a few records, perhaps just for the hell of it. Unfortunately, they misunderstand the idiom, and even the most sincere attempt ends up a parody. In fact, sometimes it's hard to tell where the sincere attempt ends and the parody begins.

parody level. (On their most recent tour, the Stones allowed bluesman Furry Lewis to join them on stage in Memphis. One suspects, though, that Furry would have settled for, say, ten percent of the gross tour revenues rather than a shot at the limelight. Picky, picky.) Both blues and country are uniquely American music, indigenous to the South and springing from a working class tradition. But where the blues have made the transition-indeed, providing the basis for the rock and roll explosion of the 1960s—country music remains, for the most part, misunderstood and firmly rooted in its motherland.

There are a couple of interesting exceptions. An album by the Who (most noted for their rock musical *Tommy*) a couple of years back featured a single called Mama's Got A Squeeze Box which, by all rights, should have been a huge country hit. It *felt* country, without the attendant

traumas of pretension and parody. On the American front, the late, lamented Allman Brothers Band—themselves Southerners was always able to shift effortlessly from hard rock to country, and some of their best-known songs-Ramblin' Man, Blue Sky, Jessica—if they were released today, would probably find a home on the country charts.

It is interesting, though, to see rock and roll people, outsiders, dabbling in country, because it provides a mirror of how country music is viewed by people who don't listen to it. I think it's sad that such people haven't gained a little more understanding into the idiom; that country music is, to a certain extent, still saddled with an aging, fading image. That's not to say we should panic and head for the Tonight Show-Vegas routine either. Still, ya gotta be careful when somebody asks you to go to England to cut a record...



Take, if you will, The Girl With The Far Away Eyes on the most recent Rolling Stones album. If the boys wished to poke gentle fun at the American idiom, the least they could have done is tuned the steel guitar. Or, as one New York disc jockey put it: "Well, I suppose they can't all be winners."

Again, a question of misunderstanding the idiom. It's odd, perhaps, that the blues found such ready understanding and acceptance, while country remains on the bronze strings, their popularity in America is growing even faster.

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1 Charles Line

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For anyone who owns a radio, music constantly percolates from the sky. The supply is inexhaustible, and taping it off the air has become a favorite indoor sport. More and more music fans are buying high-quality stereo tape decks to add to their sound systems so they can catch this airborne bonanza with all the fidelity of the original broadcast.



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But to get the best possible results in taping off the air, you have to do it right. I was surprised to learn from my reader



At \$200, the Sony TC-K2A cassette deck offers advanced features and fine performance at a budget price.

mail how many otherwise savvy listeners still go about recording by putting microphones in front of their loudspeakers. This primitive method hampers the recording in three ways:

1. Your dog, dishwasher, telephone, spouse, or the car honking out in the street will all be on the tape along with the music. Family mementos are fine, but not as a background for Dolly Parton. 2. The acoustics of your room sneak into the mikes and overlay the original studio acoustics. The result blurs the music. 3. The tonal range of your recording is limited by your speakers and micro-



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There is a simple way to get around all these pitfalls. Just make a direct connection between your stereo system and your cassette deck. Being able to do this is one of the main advantages of owning a component-type sound system. If you have a component-type stereo receiver, you'll find clearly marked terminals at the rear for connecting your cassette deck, and the operating instructions that come with your sound gear will explain just how to make these connections on your particular model. It's as easy as plugging in a

by HANS FANTEL

lamp, and once you've got the deck hooked up, just leave it that way and tuck in the cables neatly out of sight. Then you'll always be ready to record at the touch of a button—for any radio program (or any record played on your turntable) is then automatically piped to your tape deck. And in playback, you get the benefit of the full power and range of your stereo system.

Aside from assuring a "good take" and instant readiness, this kind of tape-deck hookup has yet another advantage. It lets you record without actually listening. You can turn down the volume control of your receiver so that no sound emerges from the speakers during the recording of a broadcast. The signal then flows silently to your cassette deck to be stored there for later replay.

Some of the recent tape decks take you a step further. They feature a special stand-by switch that permits an external timer to start the recording (even when you're not there). That way you can eatch programs you otherwise would have missed. Current decks that offer this are **Toshiba's PC-3060** (\$200), **JVC's KD-35** (\$260), **Sony's TC-K5** (\$300), **Technics' RS-630TUS** (\$250), and most decks in the higher price brackets.

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In preparing to make such an "absentee" recording, it is a good idea to preset the recording level by taping a few minutes of an earlier program from the same station before you go out. Make sure the level is set correctly—neither too soft nor too loud. Then roll back the cassette to the start and set the timer. Since most radio stations keep a fairly constant signal level from one program to the next, chances are that the controls will be set correctly for the program to be aired and recorded while you are away. Setting the proper recording level is the most important single factor in getting a good take. Some simple cassette recorders (usually those built into portable radios) (Continued on page 55)

Shep Messing

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by MICHAEL GOODWIN

Hank Williams Rewriting The Legend

What does Hank Williams have in common with a) bloody massacres on New York's scungy lower east side, b) violent "road-tests" of traditional Japanese weapons of destruction in modern-day Tokyo, c) Yaphet Koto's murder-by-spraypainting (blue) in a Detroit auto factory and, d) the adventures of a deeply-religious man who gets a lead on his runaway daughter when he sees her "acting" in a hard-core sex film?

Answer: brilliant Hollywood writerdirector Paul Schrader, whose scripts for a) Taxi Driver, b) The Yakuza, c) Blue Collar and d) Hard Core (presently being completed) have made him a millionaire at age 33, and one of the hottest young filmmakers in action today. The connection? Schrader is about to rewrite the Hank Williams legend with a filmed biography so terrifying, so revolutionary, so heart-breaking, that the world of country music may never recover. None of Schrader's films suggest much interest in country music, but a look at the jukebox in his office at the Burbank Studios tells a different tale. The picture slot at the top of the juke frames a vintage shot of Patsy Cline singing "Leaving On Your Mind," b/w "Tra Le La Le La Triangle," and the records inside the box include rare sides by Bob Wills, Floyd Tillman, Lefty Frizzell, Merle Haggard, Buddy Holly, Ray Price, Hank Thompson, the Everly Brothers, Tammy Wynette, Tompall and the Glaser Brothers, and more Hank than five Nashville jukes (or two Austin jukes) put together. It may be the hippest damn jukebox I've ever seen. Fact is, Schrader has been a country fan for years, with a long-standing determination to get to the bottom of the real Hank Williams story. Schrader was not impressed with Hollywood's prettied-up bio-pic Your Cheatin' Heart, despite Hank Jr.'s creditable singing job, so he and fellow-researcher Stu Werbin headed South. They turned up many "lost" figures in Hank's life, and got them talking about things they'd never talked about before. They found hospital reports, drug records, and a photograph of Hank in jail that's enough to chill your soul. (Rumors that they found a copy of Hank's last, unpublished, song remain unconfirmed.) They uncovered a side of Hank's tortured career that's never been acknowledged,



I read it in a night, all alone in a friend's house, with Hank Williams records on the record player-and it scared the hell out of me. The story moves with the inexorable momentum of a Greek tragedy, building a deeply-moving picture of Hank's troubled soul. I never realized before that Hank's music was such a desperate defense against his inner demons—a defense that failed him completely. Like black bluesman Robert Johnson, Hank Williams seems almost to have sold his soul to the Devil. Warner Brothers owns the script, and they're ready to start shooting whenever Schrader gives them the word. But Schrader has been busy with Blue Collar, and now Hard Core; furthermore, he's holding out for a TV special. "I find myself thinking of it more and more in terms of TV," he told me. "It's not a 90 or 100-minute format. It needs to be longer. It's a loose format that can be interspersed with commercials and trips to the refrigerator." He might add that the script needs an occasional breakaway so the tension can let up. TV seems just right, even if several scenes would have to be eliminated. (Parts of Hank's life are still too real for prime-time.) Schrader emphasizes that nothing in the script is guesswork; it's all backed up with interviews, preferably confirmed by at least two witnesses. The question is whether the world is ready for the truth about Hank Williams, or whether it might prefer to stick with Your Cheatin' Heart. There's a famous line from an old John Ford western that goes, "When legend becomes truth, print the legend." Still, country music has always leaned toward the cold, hard facts of life-and Hank matters enough for the truth to

"The question is whether the world is ready for the truth about Hank Williams...."

even by Hank's closest friends. And when

the research was done, Schrader turned it into a script etched in acid with the working title Seven Scenes From the Life of Hank Williams.

Copies of the script are being held under relatively tight security. The copy loaned to me was numbered, and every page was coded so "leaks" could be traced back to the guilty party. In purely business terms, the script is a big investment of time and money—and Schrader doesn't want anything to go wrong now. Then, too, none of the names have been changed yet, and the script could cause trouble in the wrong hands. matter too. Stay tuned for further details.

You've just read the first in a series of columns more-or-less on the movies. Sometimes it'll be movie reviews, especially when there are films of special interest to country fans. Other times it might be special pre-production reports, or interviews with stars and filmmakers. Write and tell us what kinds of movies you like, who your favorite stars are, and what kind of movie coverage you'd like to see in *Country Music*.





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Vorld Radio History	





By PAT NELSON

It's Fan Fair time in Nashville. Granted, everyone in the industry is tickled pink that 14,000 country music fans have seen fit to visit Music City for a week, but for those involved in the business end of it, Fan Fair also means another pile of work. So all through the week on music row, you hear office grumbles of how relieving it will be when things get back to normal. Just as an RCA employee and I are discussing our own exhausting work loads, Dave Rowland, Vicki Baker and Sue Powell-collectively known as Dave & Sugar—bound into the office genuinely energized by the week-long opportunity to interact with their many fans.

"When Mom and Dad took me to gospel concerts it cost them a fortune because I wanted every album they had for sale," he remembers. "Then I'd go home and stay up the whole night learning the songs and playing piano. That's how keyed up I was about music even then. I really got into harmonies and that kind of sound." Dave went on to perform in church where his father was a minister and eventually took up the trumpet along with piano and singing. He went through the usual local high school bands and eventually ended up with the Stamps Quartet as part of the Elvis Presley show. Still feeling compelled to get more into country music, Dave spent nine months with the Four Guys before striking out to find his own group sound by first experimenting with different vocal combinations. "I've been in harmony situations all my life and I love that sound," he says recounting the establishment of the group. "I wanted to devise a sound that would enhance country music. You can put a song together with harmonies and it sounds altogether different than if you're singing it by yourself. And if by doing that we can expand the perimeters for people who listen to country music then we feel like we're on the right track." Vicki, a member of the trio since its inception, was into folk groups during high school and college and checked out the contemporary opera and jazz fields before doing a five year-stint in rock 'n' roll bands.

spot open in Dave & Sugar. It had been vacated by Jackie Frantz, the trio's other original member.

Sue came to Nashville, auditioned, and was back in Fort Worth with the band

"There was a lady down at the booth who'd seen us in Belfast a year and a half ago," Dave beams.

"Yeah, and there were a whole bunch of people there who'd seen us in England," Vicki, the veteran "Sugar," adds.

It turns out during the two months prior to Fan Fairs' festivities, the trio has jetted to London three times—first for concerts and special television tapings in Holland and Scotland; then for the taping of the Kenny Rogers special, then for a special all their own.

Chart-topping singles, international tours, television appearances, and major concert dates seem to have become a way of life for country music's continually rising trio, and they seem to have taken it in their stride. when she got the offer to join up.

Since their creation, approximately three-fourths of Dave & Sugar's road time has been spent with the Charley Pride show performing in the U.S. to points abroad—Ireland, Japan, Australia, New Zealand and other corners of the globe.

"People are just incredible everywhere," Vicki relates in regard to their overseas adventures. "Music is so universal that even when they can't understand the words they love it—especially in the areas where entertainment is fairly inaccessible. In Ireland we were virtually unknown but when we went on stage they gave us a standing ovation. They're just starved for entertainment and music because not that many artists will go there."

Understandably so—especially when Dave recalls that the hall they played in Belfast was later destroyed by bombings.

"It's funny though," Vicki adds remembering some conversations with Irish citizens. "They're pretty much used to the conditions they have to live in and some of the people had heard so many bad things about New York that they said they'd rather live in Belfast."

Besides an extremely amiable relationship with Charley Pride-"he's a fan of ours too"-one of Dave's biggest thrills has been the experience of having a No. 1 record. It first hit him when Dave & Sugar's second single, The Door Is Always *Open*, reached the top. "Fans don't realize the feeling an artist has when a song they've recorded becomes No. 1 in the nation. It's one of the greatest experiences there is and no matter how long I'm at this I hope I never lose the feeling of exhilaration from it." "We don't choose a song because we think it will appeal to a particular audience," Sue adds. "We choose it because (Continued on page 55)

But the thrill that each of them displays when confronted with their popularity is as real today as it was when they first started.

"People haven't seen what Dave & Sugar are really capable of yet," says Sue, the attractive and petite blonde member of the group. "There's a lot of potential in this group and so many things still to do, that we've just really started to get going."

It's been 3½ years since Dave—who got started playing piano along with gospel albums while still in grade school—conceived what has become a major act for RCA Records. "I decided to quit that and take a little break, so I came to Nashville to stay with some friends of mine for a while."

She connected.

Three weeks later she had auditioned for a part in what Dave had decided would be a trio consisting of himself and two ladies.

The group's other female member, Sue, was born in Tennessee and raised in a small Indiana town. She had been touring with another group when she heard through Vicki's mom that there was a

Cowboy Jack Clement

"It ain't that my record is all that good... ...it's just that everything else is so bad."

By PETER GURALNICK



Let's All Help The Cowboy Sing The Blues

"He does a little Shakespeare, and he sings He plays the mandolin and other things He looks for love and beauty and IQ And that's what makes the Cowboy sing the blues."

"I have discovered," says Cowboy Jack Clement, writer, producer, ex-brother-inlaw of Waylon Jennings, Sun Records confrere of Sam Phillips, one-time Aurthur Murray dance instructor, discovverer of Don Williams and Charley Pride, and would-be recording star, "the third universal truth." The first, of course, is that all people from Memphis speak in parable. The second is that women don't like steel guitars. And the third? "You can't sing a three minute song in a minute and a half. You'd be amazed at how many people try. You see, when the creative thing hits, you can't hurry it. You know," he goes on, in no particular order, but following a logic of free association which has taken him from the heights (when as president of JMI, his own label, he was proprietor of three studios, a couple of publishing companies, a graphics arts studio, the Dipsy Doodle Construction Company and had 46 people on his payroll) to the depths (when, as producer of "Dear Dead Delilah," a fullscale, sub-Hollywood epic starring Will Geer and Agnes Moorehead, he lost it all save for Jack Publishing, his main catalogue, and in the process became of the prime examples in Nashville legend of the perilous paths of genius). "You know," he repeats, "I always wanted to make movies, ever since I was a little kid. Then I turned into one. I've been making real life movies for the last seven years, they just don't go by in an hour and forty five minutes. So now I've just got to

find the story. I was always gonna write a book. Now I may not, because I don't know if I got anything to say. When you're young, you've got lots to say, but you don't know how to say it. Now I'd like to write a novel, but I ain't got a story. I got everything but a story. Which is why I want to make a movie."

Jack Clement strokes his pepper and salt beard and runs his fingers lightly through his recently peroxided hair. Despite his trademark name, Cowboy is dressed in country club casual, with darkcolored slacks, an untucked sports shirt smoothed out over a ballooning stomach, and black patent leather loafers ("I can't wear cowboy boots," says Jack, "because they hurt my feet. I'm what you call one of them drugstore cowboys. But I can ride a horse pretty good. Well, a Shetland

attic studio, at the professional recording console which sits in what was once Pat Boone's grandparents' dining room. Despite the constant entrances and exits, projects taken up and projects abandoned, sometimes it seems as if nothing is really happening, but that, according to Cowboy, is something of an illusionist's trick, too. "It's all happening right now," explains Cowboy, with an expansive gesture, his fingers trailing lazily in the air. He gets up out of his seat, twirls around in plump and stately fashion, and sits back down again. "It's like poetry. You just don't see it. Most people think if they don't see it, it's not happening, but that's not true. You know, I'm a lot more serious than I tell people. I quit being nostalgic a long time ago. I decided I was ready for the space age." Jack Clement was probably ready for the space age long before most people. Certainly his credits attest to the fact that he was ahead of his time, and he has received tributes to his genius from sources as far removed as Chet Atkins, Hank Snow, Johnny Cash, and Louis Armstrong. "I've got a bunch of people who say I'm a genius," he told Lola Scobey. "That don't make me a genius. But you've got to be pretty smart to get all them people to say that on cue." He has even received the ultimate accolade, praise from Jerry Lee Lewis, who a few years ago in a moment of excess zeal jumped up on a studio console and as a result no longer drops by to visit ("Not lately," says Cow-

pony anyway." Ja

Around him in the fabled house on Belmont Avenue (only recently converted into a recording studio) there is a whirlwind of activity. The secretary is typing letters. The business manager is taking care of business. Singers and musicians pop in and out. Stoney Edwards is hanging around waiting for Cowboy to cut some sides on him. Townes Van Zandt arrives with the acetate of his new album and anxiously awaits Jack's verdict. A Pitney Bowes copying machine sits in one corner. The telephone connects to California. In the kitchen someone is frying up a Clementburger. And Jack is playing tapes of his latest band, recorded in his



"You don't need a voice to be a singer. Singers are just something to make my machines sound good."

boy, who takes his machines seriously. "I don't dig people jumping up and down on my console while I'm trying to make records. It's a little distracting.") Jerry Lee for his part has lumped Cowboy with Sam Phillips and the Killer himself, "nutty as a fox squirrel, ain't go no sense. Birds of a feather flock together. It took all of us together to really screw up the world. We've done it."

And now, 20 years later, Jack Clement is trying to do it again, having spent the last year and a half making his very own record album, his first, which, he proclaims with magisterial calm, will probably be "kind of like when Elvis hit and the bottom dropped out of country music. A lot of stuff that's popular now will just kind of vaporize; it can only happen once in a generation." Well, all right, but why did he wait all these years; he is 47 now, an unlikely age for a matinee idol, even so unlikely a matinee idol as this drugstore Cowboy. "Well," he explains, his eyes narrowing, "it's something that's easy to put off. You know, it's a lot of work to cut an album. Although it's something I was intending all along. You see, it's a little disheartening when you write a song, and then nobody ever sings it right. You don't need a voice to be a singer. Singers are just something to make my machines sound good. I never really wanted to be a songwriter. I've written songs for years and had 'em butchered by a bunch of real talented people. I got tired of fooling with all them hogcallers, singers are a bunch of up-tight, ego-driven people, can't deal with them anyway except by trickery. And, you see, I can become invisible real quick. I guess I'm privileged in a certain sense. I've never done anything but music in my whole life. I guess I was protected in a sense, but now I'm old and wily as a fox, and I feel like I can go back—either that or fly, or float about 6 inches from the ground-I feel like I can go back in time or forward in time. Because the future's already happened."



perience, cutting Roy Orbison on the first day, getting Whole Lotta Shakin' down on tape almost as an afterthought at the end of a Jerry Lee Lewis session, writing Ballad of a Teenage Queen and Guess Things Happen That Way for Johnny Cash, and recording, quite incidentally, a couple of singles of his own that went absolutely nowhere. "After I was there three weeks, Sam never came to the office again," Cowboy says occasionally today. Or: "I learned something from Sam all the time. Of course I thought he was full of shit when I worked for him. He still is. But he had this little thing I didn't understand then—" What it was can vary from account to account (Sam's ear, his gift for psychology, his willingness to just let things happen, the proximity of a cafe to the studio, the absence of an office, the "live" sound of the records, though in retrospect "Sam was too much into highs, there was never enough bass"), but whatever it was, when Jack went off on his own he claims he put all these lessons into practice. He went off on his own rather abruptly when Sam fired him over what Cowboy claims, in typically elliptical fashion, was "a silly little misunderstanding." He had already been evicted from his apartment for diving off the roof into the swimming pool, and after briefly starting his own label, Summer ("Summer hits, summer not, hope you like the ones we got"), he went to work as a producer and staff writer for Chet Atkins at RCA in 1960. Next came a move to Beaumont, Texas in 1963, where he, Bill Hall and fellow Sun alumnus, Allen Reynolds, ran a record label and publishing firm which saw, among other things, the success of fellow Memphian Dicky Lee with Patches and the entrance into the Clement catalogue of Lee's She Thinks I Still Care. It was in Beaumont, too, that he acquired his permanent nickname (originally it was Cowboy Waliasky while Allen Reynolds was Red River Sylvester) which -along with the built-in advantage of allowing him to refer to himself in the third person-has given Clement instant identi-

Jack Henderson Clement was born not on Krypton or on Alpha Centauri, the planet he hopes some day somewhat whimsically to colonize ("All I got to do is get a billion dollars together, find some other nuts who have a billion dollars, and then get myself a spaceship. It it possible for me to ride in a spaceship? You never know. I'm just not going to get in no hurry about it; that's the whole thing about outer space."), but in White Haven, a suburb of Memphis, where his father was choir director and worked in a jewelry store, and his mother—who lives with him today—was, then as now, a pillar of the community. He would have become a dentist like his grandfather and uncles if

his father had had anything to say about it, but instead he enlisted in the Marines, and while stationed in Washington he became a member of the Marine Corps drill team and started playing music professionally, forming a bluegrass group (Jack Clement and the Tennessee Troupers), with Buzz Busby and various members of the Stoneman family around the D.C. area. When he got out he and Buzz went first to Wheeling and then to Boston, for the WCOP Hayloft Jamboree, as Buzz and Jack and the Bayou Boys.

When he returned to Memphis in 1954 on what was intended to be a brief vacation, he enrolled instead at Memphis State on the GI Bill, through a friend became a dance instructor at Arthur Murray ("I hadn't ever danced a lick in my life. I came in on Waltz Week."), fronted a big dance band at the Eagle's Nest for which the floor show was that brand-new Memphis sensation, Elvis Presley, and hooked up with Slim Wallace, truckdriver, country music fan, and fledgling record company mogul, whose label, Fernwood, would shortly take its name from his home on Fernwood Drive. Jack got him to buy a tape recorder from Sleepy Eyed John, proprietor of the Eagle's Nest and a well known disc jockey in West Memphis, and cut a record on a local singer named Billy Lee Riley. He took the record over to the Sun studio to have a master made (Sam Phillips still did custom recording, even after the success of Presley, Carl Perkins, and Johnny Cash). Phillips liked the tape and leased it from Fernwood still only a name-putting it out on his own label and hiring Jack Clement as his first engineer-producer at \$90 a week. From the beginning it was a heady ex-

fication in a world of first names.

Finally with his new monicker firmly entrenched, Cowboy Jack Clement moved back to Nashville for good, where—before starting up JMI in 1971, building two of the most successful studios in town, and becoming one of the most sought-after independent producers around—he came across Charley Pride and produced the first of 13 gold record albums which became the basis of his commercial viability.

Up to here it is a conventional enough story by Music City standards. Jack Clement as a producer was probably best





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"I don't dig people jumping up and down on my console...while I'm trying to make records."

summed up by his one-time protege, Dicky Lee. "I thought he was a real bastard," said Lee of the Sun days. "We would go into the studio feeling like heroes, and Jack would be sitting there reading a comic book . . . it really deflated me."

"You don't want to be too proper," says Jack. "You've got to keep the singer right on the edge of anger, because singers sing their best when they're thinking of anything but the song. You've got to use 2 or 3 kinds of reverse psychology in this game." As a businessman, too, he seemed to have things well in hand, as witness this 1970 description by Nashville writer Teddy Bart. "Jack Clement is a songwriter, an independent record producer, owner of several publishing companies and his own building which houses his operation plus a modern new recording studio. His many-faceted life is managed successfully in a subdued, quiet manner ... Jack Clement doesn't talk, but silence has style." What happened then? Is this the very same Jack Clement who has been raving on non-stop about Shakespeare, space travel, the videotape revolution and the need to install new order in his life ("We've got to get some systems into this crazy business. We've got to establish some disciplines."). It would, I think, be useless to speculate just what caused the transformation, but suffice it to say it may have had something to do with his discovery of a world which even today upsets his Baptist sense of propriety ("I've got books and documents," he tantalizes, "I just might show some writer, if he promised he wouldn't write nothing about my throwing parties or drinking beer or smoking Turkish cigaretts or any other little thing my mother might read. Of course I think she knows it all already; she just don't want to read about her son doing those kinds of things.").



it, he does not really have any regrets. He may have been forced to divest himself of nearly all his holdings. He saw the empire which he had carefully assembled crumble and disappear in one "swell foop." He has spent the last five years digging out of the financial mess in which his unwise investment left him. But he still owns the movie and the rights to one other and all those material possessions were weighing on him anyway. Now that he's got it whittled down to a more manageable \$100,000 he can speak with equanimity of past travails and declare without a blush, "I never really lost any money. All I did was spend it. I think I'm gonna get to where I don't need money anyway." Unless he seriously decides to go into the space ship business, in which case he may have to mint it. And so on. And so on. In perfect circles that never meet. "He's crazy as a woodpecker, ain't he?" says Stoney Edwards, who has been sitting around all afternoon waiting to make records. "Stoney," responds Jack indirectly, with a Cheshire cat smile, "can do anything he wants to do, if he is prepared to do it 40 times. I'll cut a single on you today, and we'll have it in the Ernest Tubb Record Shop on Sunday, and it'll be a hit by Friday. You just gotta do it 40 times. And you can't fake it either, cause we ain't got a control room window—we ain't even got a control room—and if the band ain't enjoying themselves we can tell. I ain't run nobody through this mill in 7 years. Stoney can do anything he wants. I can go to Florida, and Stoney can stay in the ******** studio, so long as he's prepared to do it 40 times." Anything less, says Cowboy Jack Clement, his producer's cap on, wouldn't be proper. It's all very amusing, and, of course, it's great copy. Hanging around Jack Clement for any length of time you can get vaporized yourself by the endless string of one-liners, ear gags, and polished bon

mots, all delivered with the practiced ease of a slightly stoned stand-up comedian. You can be dazzled by the ceaseless flow of energy and ideas, confused by the free⁻ form structure of the monologues, amused by the double and triple reverses which make up the Cowboy's normal conversational mode. And indeed it may all be a benign put-on. "I don't read contracts," boasts Cowboy. On the other hand, he points out, he has a business manager trained to read them. He doesn't read music either, but there's always someone to write out the horn parts. "I've got all kinds of eggheads hanging around to give me the proper answers."

On a more prophetic plane many of his visions of the future could well turn out to be true. Nashville may very well become a major video center. Certainly Clement's ideas on production ("I'm into a very simplistic way of making records, using space age technology") make eminently good sense when stripped of their more poetic excesses. His intention to build a dance band ("I want to get a physical reaction from people. I want to get 'em on the dance floor before they even think about it") with a wide-based repertoire (Brazil, Tutti Frutti, Hold On I'm Coming, Alabama Jubilee) which can be reproduced live at a moment's notice has the immediacy of an idea whose time has come-again. His firm belief that "music is coming around to where it's gonna be natural again; it'll be a lot more acrobatic, it's too mental nowadays" is probably not so wide of the mark. With his videotaping, his proposed concept LPs (a dance album, and "ear show" which presents Bo Diddley, Shakespeare, barbershop quartet, octet, and clarinet polkas, all available in one colorful stereoscopic 30 minute package), his not so fanciful marketing ideas ("Sell the back cover to Coca Cola. To hell with liner notes!"), what Jack Clement clearly wants to do is to restore some of the magic that Captain Video, Jack Benny, and Sun Records brought to the world. In none of this can he be faulted. When he shows off his latest studio, his ninth—it embodies the very concepts that he has been talking about. There are no limiters, no equalizers, no baffles, no control room, everything is cut "live," everything is cut flat, the whole intention is to get a true, live sound. "Nobody can believe it," says Cowboy convincingly, "because recording studios are all alike. What they don't realize is that they're all wrong." The one videotape that he has made so far to showcase his album-and his Shakespearean soliloquies-is an equally brilliant realization of his various (Continued on page 56)

And then, of course, there was the movie. It must have seemed like a good idea at the time. John Ferris, a classmate at White Haven High and best-selling author of *The Fury* among others, wanted to make his directorial debut after writing a number of film scripts. Jack Clement, Renaissance man, wanted to get into the movies himself, putting up all the money (It didn't even occur to me to be funded. I'm into that now."), handling all the production chores, and eventually taking over the final edit, which involved cutting out 12 minutes of story line because of an inept cinamatographer. "So the story is a little confusing," says Jack, who insists that if it hadn't been for that director of photography he might still have pulled it off. In any case, to hear the Cowboy tell









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On The Road With The Mad Mandrells



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her profession. In a field with only one Loretta and only one Tammy and only one Dolly, it's difficult to imagine any of the numerous other fledglings breaking the surface and adding a fourth name to the established trio. But if anyone does it, it will be Barbara Mandrell.

Barbara is the queen of the song. The double entendre must've been invented for her, so she could titillate listeners with phrases like, You must think my bed's a bus stop, the way you come and go (Standing Room Only)... or And I'll feel kind of dirty, because I'll have the midnight oil all over me (The Midnight Oil).

You can't help but wonder if she knows all the connotations of these deceptively simple lyrics. And, although she didn't write them, you can't imagine anyone else singing them with as much soul.

Songs like these are rapidly propelling her to the top. She's been nominated for Female Vocalist of the Year by CMA, among numerous other awards and nominations. And this year her name was even in the running for a Grammy-a major step for any performer.

"In the last six months," she said later, "we have turned down two network television shows. One of them would have been as a co-host, the other would have been just me. If anybody had told me a year ago that I was going to be offered a network show, I would've been . . . (she gasps delightedly and claps her hands), but now, once the point in time's arrived, I'm not interested in one. It's a big decision. It would have to be really right up my alley for me to say yes. At this point in time, the immediate future, what I'm interested in is to do frequent guest spots on other people's shows. I feel that this is really beneficial to me right now, to get the right type of exposure, because each time you see me, it would put me in a different light.

"And I'm wide open to do—say, variety shows, where I might also be called on to do dancing, choreography... I definitely am going to try acting. I'd like to try situation comedy and drama, whatever. I would also like to do variety shows where there's comedy skits where I can put on those ridiculous wigs and clothes and do silly things. I love that. I eat that up. A lot of people think I don't because if I'm going in public I try to dress properly, but the people that know me personally as a friend, know how silly I can be." Barbara is definitely at the point in her career (which, by the way, began at an early age when she convinced Norman



Well, that's it for the preparation. It's time to take that trip with the Mad Mandrells, as she herself referred to time spent with Barbara Mandrell & Company.

Barbara bounced into the kitchen to prepare dinner for that night and vegetables to take on the ensuing trip. When



crossed over-surprisingly to rhythm and blues audiences. But she's taking more conscious action, such as signing with a Los Angeles-based publicity firm, and negotiating with one of the industry's top booking agencies. (The negotiations ended in mutual disappointment.)

Barbara's ready for the big-time, but she wants to do it right and still relies on the advice of her father-manager Irby Mandrell—and on the good sense of her husband, Ken Dudney.

The Mad Mandrells: The boys in the band, sister Louise, Barbara and father, Irby (right).

she wasn't cutting and dicing, she was answering the phone to talk about television deals and softball games.

As for the first, she's attempting to do as many guest appearances as possible putting her in many different situations.

Hamlet-later to be Merle Haggard's steel player-to teach her how to play steel guitar) where she wants to branch out.

Her music alone helps her, since songs like We're Married, But Not to Each Other and Woman to Woman have

Between telephone calls and cucumbers, Barbara's family begins arriving in spurts and starts. First come Beth Kurtz, Ken's mother and Barbara's right-hand, with the two children, second-grader Matthew and two year old Jaime.

"Oh, I just love little kids," enthuses Barbara. "When I got married, I wanted four, Ken wanted two. So we had compromised in our minds that we would have three-now we don't know. But I was going to have Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. But I blew it on the second one-I'm glad I blew it," she laughs.

Interestingly enough, Barbara's Biblical intentions were interrupted not only



by nature, but also by TV. Jaime was named after none other than the Bionic

Ken and Barbara began dating when she was 14 and he was 22. They married shortly before her high school graduation so they would have time to be husband and wife before she went on an overseas tour directly upon graduating. When she returned, they settled down, she with full intentions of being a full-time housewife.

Then Ken went overseas in the service, and Barbara moved in with her parents who had moved from California to Nashville. It was there that Barbara rediscovered the entertainment business and decided she wanted to be a participant, not a spectator. Irby agreed to act as her manager, and Ken agreed that there was absolutely nothing wrong with his wife having the career she wanted.

"Now Ken," says Barbara, "he is secure enough in the knowledge that he is a man



Woman and considering the Mandrell women's propensity for being super-girls, Jaime is likely to be one tough young lady.

Shortly after the children's arrival, Irby and Mary Ellen Mandrell came over for the steak teriaki dinner their oldest daughter had promised. Irby is the powerhouse behind Barbara's success so far, and although it is rumored that he'll nix anything that might seem suggestive (tight jeans, low-cut gowns), they both insist the arrangement is a partnership, not a dictatorship.

Right now he was concerned about the photographs taken for *Country Music*, hoping they wouldn't give the people the wrong impression. When assured that they were very tasteful and Barbara looked terrific, not sleazy, Irby relaxed enough to suggest a headline for the story:

"The only thing sexy about Barbara Mandrell," he quipped, "is her Daddy!"

The groans that greeted this were unanimous, and his wife joined Barbara in the kitchen to help sort out the mess of phone messages and food.

Mary Mandrell is as tiny and adorable as Barbara. The two together look like salt and pepper shakers, blonde Barbara and her dark-haired mother.

"My dad and mom were not only country fans," Barbara recalls, "but they both played; my mom was a music teacher. She taught both piano and accordian, and she taught music theory. so her background is very wide, too. She's strictly a country music fan... ('and gospel,' interjects Irby). Oh, yeah, and gospel. We all really get off on gospel. It has heavily influenced my music and most of the people I know in country music."

Finally, Ken Dudney arrives home—the family is, for tonight, complete.

World Radio History



Barbara, always small, had lost weight earlier due to a lengthy bout with a virus. Then, in an effort to help her health, she'd quit smoking —and immediately began gaining weight, much to everyone's joy, since she put it all on in the right places. Even Patsy was glad to see the new curves, but not tonight, with tour time so close.

Eventually, all the spaghetti was packed, the seams that could be restitched were done so, nicely. Barbara rolled some kinks out of her tired back, then cleaned the lipstick off Jaime's face. Everybody piled into the car to take off for Irby's and the bus, and as we pulled out of the driveway—Barbara still talking a-mile-a-minute to Ken, running alongside the car—Jaime, who would go on this trip, looked back at the house and waved:

"There goes the house," she yelled, and indeed, there it went.

And here came the bus--a compact home on wheels for Barbara, Beth, Jaime, Irby, sister Louise, five band members and a temporary visitor. Everybody retires (Barbara missed the departure time by an hour and it is now 1 a.m.). After the all night drive, wakefulness doesn't begin till mid-day. The bus is headed for Lake Charles, Louisiana, where Barbara will perform with the Statler Brothers. And, as it rolls sedately through Mississippi, everybody's own quiet reflections are interrupted by the flashing light in the rearview mirror and the driver's attempt to pull over and figure out whether he had been speeding or not. But no, he hadn't, and everybody quickly discovers what's on the Mississippi Highway Patrolman's mind as his voice comes booming in: "Is Barbara Mandrell on this bus?" Yes, Barbara's on the bus—with pigtails and without make-up, but looking as perky as ever and quite willing to sign a picture for the enterprising officer who chats for awhile, then sends the bus on its way. Says Barbara: "It really perturbs me when some performers are bothered by autograph seekers. To tell you the truth, not only does it not bother me when they do, it would bother me more if they didn't. Because I worked awfully hard to get to the point where people would do that. There's been a lot of sweat and tears and frustrations and joys and sorrow and everything through the years to get to a point like that. So why should I not want it? I'm thankful, I earned it."

and has enough self-pride, and he doesn't feel inferior, he doesn't feel threatened his masculine ego—by the fact that his wife has a name that is well-known and that I'm the major breadwinner. And I don't hesitate to say this because Ken's been asked this point-blank in interviews before, and I've seen this cause divorce and unhappiness in many marriages. It can be very difficult if a man is the least bit insecure. I guess what I'm trying to say is Ken's a great guy, and he knows it," she laughs.

and ends slated for the bus. Dinner was a success, eaten on the back porch overlooking Lake Hickory, the new boat dock and the two St. Bernards.

* * *

Right now, this great guy is in the kitchen dishing some of Barbara's leftover spaghetti into several meal-in-a-minute bags to add to the growing pile of odds While Ken dished up spaghetti and talked about his publishing company and the chances of success for his and Barbara's softball teams, Barbara retired to the bedroom with friend Patsy Sled who had arrived with a last-minute wardrobe. Unfortunately, Patsy's pain-stakingly sewn sequins were for naught—Barbara, it seems, had put on a few pounds and the clothes would have to be reworked. Patsy despaired, while Barbara plopped down on the bed—still more telephoning to be done, despite the late hour and the rapidly impending midnight departure.

The bus arrives in Lake Charles, and Barbara retires to her small room to prepare for the show. The boys in the band cross the street to eat and, as they enter the totally empty, classy seafood restaurant, are informed that the place is full and next time they should make reservations. The boys, it seems, were wearing



as opposed to bikinis are part of the theory that any woman wants to look good all the time.

Lying by the pool and wishing, like most people do, that she could be paid for sun-bathing and not worry about anything else, she talks about her music—and the recurring theme with the Mandrells. Not only does Barbara play traditionally male instruments during her show—the steel guitar, the saxophone, the banjo and the electric bass—it turns out that *The* Midnight Oil ("I'm amazed at its impact, because every year I think 'Well, I'm gonna pull that out of the show' and there's no way'') was written for a man. It now has the reputation of being the definitive cheating song—for a woman. Barbara Mandrell did it.

"Well, definitely too, the timing when it came out...it was unheard of for a woman...to come right out and say "Tonight I'll cheat again'—to use the word cheat. (Continued on page 64)



jeans, a no-no for the seafood place. So, it's on to Hardee's for another junk-food hamburger. Ironically, recent articles about Barbara have called her Snow White for her reputation of not allowing liquor on the bus (true) or the band members to wear jeans (false—Snow White herself relaxes in jeans).

Barbara emerges from the bus looking spectacular, does a show which includes the comedy and the music she loves so much, dressed in the form-fitting outfits that Patsy Sled resurrected the hectic night before, changes to a tough, red jumpsuit and signs autographs for at least an hour after the show.

She returns to the bus and, rather than conking out from a schedule that could kill a horse, she prepares a meal of spaghetti (remember Ken and the meal-in-aminute bags?) for herself and Jaime, then turns the TV to watch a tribute to Willie Nelson on *The Midnight Special*.

Finally, after some quiet reflections on the effects of drugs and liquor, she goes to bed—and once again the dark bus rolls on silently, destination Ft. Worth.

Ft. Worth. "Cow-town," Irby Mandrell informs us over a Holiday Inn breakfast. I caught a brief glimpse of Barbara on the bus, touseled and in pajamas, looking much like a grumpy two-year-old, and haven't seen her since. Louise is ready for a ball-game, and the band is ready to sunbathe. Barbara emerges at last, looking slick in a one-piece bathing suit and confirming the first impression that she is, indeed, a dish. She always insists on looking her best—the well-kept hair, the obsession with make-up and one-piece bathing suits

Barbara with daughter, Jaime (top) at poolside (at right).





Stonewall has logged hundreds of thousands of miles in his \$100,000 Trailways Silver Eagle Bus.



though he's only 46 years old, one gets the impression that Stonewall, with his guilded heritage and his legendary hard-headedness, has been 'a part of country music nearly forever, or at least ever since he rode his pick-up truck up from the Georgia backlands in the early fifties. Perhaps part of the obscurity that has surrounded Stonewall these last few years has to do with the fact that he's had no hit records lately. Though he still performs regularly on the Opry-as he has since he became a member of that institution in 1956—and though he still plays to capacity crowds up and down the East Coast and Canada, Stonewall hasn't

Stonewall Jackson, so the legend goes, drove up from South Georgia in a pick-up truck one day, double parked it in front of the WSM offices in downtown Nashville, and came out an hour later with a Grand Ole Opry contract in his hand.

Though the years have embroidered the facts just a little -it didn't quite happen that

way-that particular Stonewall Jackson legend isn't really too far from the truth. Stonewall didn't actually get an Opry contract in one daynobody does that. He had to struggle a little just like everyone else...It took him two days.

Then again, Stonewall has always been the kind of fellow about whom legends are made.

To this day, publisher Wesley Rose of Acuff-Rose, who was instrumental in discovering Stonewall, calls him a "fairy tale." There's also that name (Stonewall really is his given name) that conjures up grim distant scenes from Civil War battles. (His great-great grandfather was General Thomas Jonathon "Stonewall" Jackson, the Confederate hero.) And been in a recording studio for







With son, Turp: "He's all growed-up now."



A peaceful place to write songs.



With son and dog.

association with Columbia Rec-Today, Stonewall tries to covered with canvas. "I never Stonewall looks again at the ords which produced 25 LP's, hold his appearances down to use it anymore. My son, Turp house and at the lake. His voice and over 20 number one recten dates a month. Any time (who plays drums in his drops and his eyes sharpen into ords, including million-sellers he's in town, he'll play every a look of shrewd, down-home father's band) is all growed up like Waterloo, Don't Be Angry, pride and self-assurance. "I've Opry performance that he can now, and he don't use it." and Why I'm Walkin', came to | --sometimes as many as five or | Stonewall surveys his acreage | come a long way since I was proudly. "When my first big livin' in them shacks down in an abrupt end in 1975. six in one weekend. "Even though I haven't re- Most of his time, though, is royalty check from Waterloo Georgia, where you could look corded for awhile, the Opry spent at his home which is came in, I put it down on this down through the floorboards keeps me up there," Stonewall | located about 15 minutes out | place here. We been here since | and count the chickens roostin'. You know my wife, Juanita, is explains. "I draw as well at of Nashville, on the outskirts of 1960, and I'm getting to the a Nashville girl and collegeconcerts as I ever did. For the exclusive Brentwood. His point where it's all paid for. I estate is complete with an was always careful with my educated. Back in 1959 when instance, a couple weeks ago I played in some little 'ole park | eight-acre artificial lake, bor- | money. Never had no big par- | her friends found out she was up in New York State, in a dered by huge willow trees. ties or nothin'. Never drank gonna marry me, they all told In the kitchen of the spacious much. I had a fellow call me her she was crazy. But now she town so small I almost had gets a new Cadillac to wear ranch-style home, Stonewall's the other day and offer me a t'call the highway patrol to | wife, Juanita, is washing the million dollars for this place. [out every year," he chuckles help me find it. We drew over dishes. Stonewall slips his shoes He said that's what it was softly. "I wonder what they 12,000 people up there! Country fans seem to have a longer on over his stockinged feet to worth subdivided. I told him think now?" The irascible Stonewall Jackmemory than most other kinds give a visitor a guided tour of that's OK; it's alright just like of fans do, and that comes in the place. Out back, the large it is as long as I can play that son was born in 1932 in Tabor World Radio History

quite some time. His 18-year | awful handy in my case." 'ole guitar!'' swimming pool is empty and

City, North Carolina. "They call it 'tater City, 'cause that's where there's more sweet potatoes grown than anywhere else in the world," he laughs.

When Stonewall, the third of nine children, was just a baby, his 28-year-old father died of cancer. Facing poverty, the family moved to an uncle's farm in South Georgia. Somewhere along the line, he managed to pick up an eighth grade education. "I was in the field plowin' by the time I was eight, and I was in the woods pullin' a cross-cut saw a year later," he recalls. "We just piddled around and got by like poor sharecroppers until I was 14. Then I left out from there and went back up to my grandmother's in North Carolina."

Stonewall's musical career began in Carolina when he traded a tire-less \$5.00 bicycle for a battered guitar. "If there was ever a little church-gatherin' or a weenie roast, I'd be there singin'," Stonewall smiles. 'I use'ta carry my guitar to school and sing for the other kids. I had this buddy, and he and I could harmonize like the Louvin Brothers. We done that for this preacher who had a tent revival thing. We worked regular for him for awhile. We'd go to all the surrounding communities, and he'd give us a percentage of the donations." In 1949, Stonewall joined the Navy. When he was discharged five years later, he headed back to Georgia and farmed for a couple more years. "I was just tryin' to get ahead a little bit so's I could get into this business. I worked at just about anything. I'd clean out wells. In the winter, I'd log pulp wood. It would get real cold out in those swamps and sometimes you'd get bogged down in mud clear up to your knees. That's a rough way to make a livin'," Stonewall shakes his head, "a gross way to make four bucks a day! "But I finally saved three or 400 dollars, and bought me a new '55 Chevy pick-up truck and headed to Nashville." It's sometimes said that everyone is entitled to have at least one dream come true in their lifetime. If so, then Stonewall Jackson's already had his: "People always ask me, 'Stonewall, can you tell me how to get into the music business?' Well, I don't know much what

to tell 'em because I came into it in such weird circumstances . . .

"When I got to town, I figured the first place I'd go audition was Acuff-Rose. So I was drivin' down there from my motel, but I got so scared of all the city traffic that I ended up parkin' my truck in a service station 'n walkin'. I got down there and just left my tapes with the guy that was runnin' the place, and went on back to my motel. One of the songs I left was Don't Be Angry, but I didn't really figure I'd hear from them again.

"Then when I got back to my motel, I was just fixin' to go back into town and try someplace else when the phone rang. I thought who in God's world could be callin' me? I don't know nobody in this town! So I picked up the phone, and the guy on the other end said—I remember the words to this day—'This is Wesley Rose all over again. over at Acuff-Rose. I was just The blockbuster for Stonelistenin' to your tapes, and I wall, however, was a song

he just went down in one day and knocked 'em out!"

In the short period of time that followed, Stonewall signed with Columbia Records. In the meantime, Ernest Tubb, who has referred to Stonewall as his "son," took him under his wing and gave him a spot on his road show.

Several hit records quickly followed, and in 1958 while Stonewall was on tour with George Jones, they cowrote a song called Life to Go, and it became Stonewall's first number one record. Later, Stonewall released Don't Be Angry, a song that he had cowritten with his older brother, Wade, years earlier, and it also went number one. Since then, the song has been recorded by numerous artists, and has sold well over a million copies. Earlier in 1977, Donna Fargo had a number one hit with it

DO?' It spooked me so bad I got down and looked under the bed and in the closets! If it hadn't happened to me, I wouldn'ta believed it. It straightened me out! I haven't smoked or drank since!"

Stonewall enjoyed nearly 20 vears worth of hit records until his long association with Columbia Records ended in 1975. "I guess they were just too busy with someone else at the time, but they just weren't doin' the job for me anymore. I had a song that was number one in airplays, and the distributors were callin' me, tryin' to find out why they couldn't get copies of it. So I just quit recordin' before my records had a chance to start dwindlin'.

"So now," he continues, "I don't have t'make no apologies to anybody. This way, when the disc jockeys see me, they say, 'When you gonna have another record for us, Stonewall?' It ain't like they're sayin', 'Oh no, here comes 'ole Stonewall again with another one of those piddlin' records!' '' Today Stonewall is patiently laving groundwork for his return to recording—although admittedly, he's in no real hurry. In the meantime, he's writing, touring and playing the Opry more than ever. "A lot of people just think, 'Well, 'ole Stonewall's record company dropped him, and he's just a has-been," he explains in an assured voice. "Well, as they say down on the street, they done stuck alot of forks in me, but now I'm in real good shape. I'm free and I can start over and go in any direction I want to. I can start a whole new career. I've put out religious singles and albums before, and if I want to, I can do it again. "Y'see," Stonewall continues, "this little gap in my recording career is in my favor in a way. You can't do an encore until you've left the stage. And that's kind of where I am in my career right now. I've already had one good career," he gestures in the direction of the walls full of plaques and awards that line his living room, "and I'm ready to try again. "After all," he slaps his knee, grins, leans back on the sofa, and takes a long sip of Dr. Pepper, "I'm just a little over 40, and in *this* business that makes me a Spring Chicken!"



With wife, Juanita: checking for fan mail.

kinda think the Opry might be interested in you!' "

Oddly enough, the Opry was interested in Stonewall. The next morning he auditioned for George D. Hayes. A few hours later, he had a contract. "I got to town on a Wednesday, auditioned on Thursday, and Friday night, I was playin' on the Opry," Stonewall recalls, as if he is still somewhat mystified. "It was weird." "It was kind of strange the way it happened," agrees Wesley Rose. "Nobody will believe it, and it couldn't happen again in a million years. Back when we tried to get Hank Williams on the Opry, we had to work on it for three months, he had hits at the time. Stonewall had never had *any* records, but

called Waterloo, written by Marijohn Wilkins. It sold nearly two million copies, and landed Stonewall smack on network television when he made three appearances on The Dick Clark Show.

The hits continued for Stonewall, but then one night around that time, he had another experience that has influenced his life ever since: "I had one of those audible deals where I was spoke to out loud by the Boss Man," says Stonewall. "I had got to where I was hittin' the booze before goin' on stage. Not much, but maybe enough to damage myself. I was alone one night in a motel room before a show, and this voice asked me out loud: 'SON, WHAT ARE YOU TRYIN' TO



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JIMMIE DAVIS - MCA-269 ALBUM \$2.98 I Wouldn't Take Nothin' For My Journey Now; How Great Thou Art; One More Valley; Someone To Care; Wasted Years; Supper Time; When God Dips His Love In My Heart; Taller Than Trees; Who Am I?; Near The Cross; His Marvelous Grace. 8 TRACK TAPE - MCAT-269 \$4.98

RED FOLEY - MCA-147 ALBUM \$2.98 Beyond The Sunset; Should You Go First; Peace In The Valley; Steal Away; Just A Closer Walk With Thee; Our Lady Of Fatima; The Place Where I Worship; Someone To Care; The Rosary; Will The Circle Be Unbroken; Old Pappy's New Banjo; I Hear A Choir: When God Dips His Love In My Heart. 8 TRACK TAPE - MCAT-147 \$4.98

TOMMY JACKSON - MCA-162 ALBUM \$2.98 FIDDLE MUSIC: Snowflake Reel; Little Ida Red; Run, Johnny, Run; Bitter Creek Breakdown; Fiddler's Dream; Clarinet Polka; 14 Days In Georgia; Acorn Hill Breakdown; Big Sandy; Stay A Little Longer; Done Gone: Jesse Polka. NO TAPE AVAILABLE

LORETTA LYNN - MCA-5 ALBUM \$2.98 Everybody Wants To Go To Heaven; Where No One Stands Alone: When They Ring Those Golden Bells; Peace In The Valley; If I Could Hear My Mother Pray Again; The Third Man; How Great Thou Art; Old Camp Meetin' Time; When I Hear My Children Pray; In The Sweet Bye And Bye; Where I Learned To Pray; I'd Rather Have Jesus. **8 TRACK TAPE - MCAT-5 \$4.98**

BILL MONROE - MCA-500 ALBUM \$2.98 Jenny Lynn; Methodist Preacher; Goin' UP Caney: The Dead March; The Lee Weddin' Tune: Poor White Folks; Candy Gal; Texas Gallop: The Old Gray Mare Came Tearing Out Of The Wilderness; Heel And Toe Polka; Kiss Me Waltz.

8 TRACK TAPE - MCAT-500 \$4.98

BILL MONROE - MCA-426 ALBUM \$2.98 Road Of Life; This World Is Not My Home; Out In The Cold World; It's Me Again; Lord; I Will Sing For The Glory Of God; Beyond The Gate: Just Over The Glory Land; Pass Me Not: The Old Country Baptizing; Somebody Touched Me; Were You There. 8 TRACK TAPE - MCAT-426 \$4.98

BILL MONROE - MCA-17 ALBUM \$2.98 Molly And Tenbrooks; In The Pines; New Mule Skinner Blues; Uncle Pen; Cheyenne; Footprints In The Snow; Y'All Come; Gotta Travel On; Danny Boy; Roanoke; Four Walls. 8 TRACK TAPE - MCAT-17 \$4.98

BILL MONROE - MCA-82 ALBUM \$2.98 Linda Lou; Little Joe; Seven Year Blues; You Live In A World All Your Own; Time Changes Everything; Blue Grass Part One; Big River; Flowers Of Love; It's Mighty Dark To Travel; Sold Down The River; Put My Rubber Doll Away; Lonesome Road Blues.

BILL MONROE - MCA-116 ALBUM \$2.98 Turkey In The Straw; I Wonder Where You Are Tonight; That's All Right; All The Good Times Are Past And Gone; Pretty Fair In The Garden; Roll On Buddy Roll On; Blue Night; Midnight On The Stormy Deep; Were You There: It Makes No Difference; Dusty Miller: When My Blue Moon Turns To Gold. 8 TRACK TAPE - MCAT-116 \$4.98

BILL MONROE - MCA-310 ALBUM \$2.98 I Haven't Seen Mary In Years; Love, Please Come Home; When The Golden Leaves Begin To Fall; Tall Pines; Banks Of The Ohio; Mother's Only Sleeping; Foggy Mountain Top; Walls Of Time; Bonny; Sweetheart You Done Me Wrong; What Should You Give In Exchange.

8 TRACK TAPE - MCAT-310 \$4.98

BILL MONROE - MCA-140 ALBUM \$2.98 Mule Skinner Blues; Kentucky Waltz; Get Up John; You'll Find Her Name Written There; Blue Moon Of Kentucky; Put My Little Shoes Away; Rocky Road Blues; The Girl In The Blue Velvet Band; Summertime Is Past And Gone; Footprints In The Snow; The Gold Rush.

8 TRACK TAPE - MCAT-140 \$4.98

BILL MONROE - MCA-226 ALBUM \$2.98 I'll Meet You In Church Sunday Morning; Drifting Too Far From The Shore; Master Builder; I Found The Way; We'll Understand It Better; Let Me Rest At The End Of The Journey; Going Home; One Of God's Sheep; Way Down Deep In My Soul; On The Jericho Road; Farther Along; The Glory Land Way. 8 TRACK TAPE - MCAT-226 \$4.98

JIMMY MARTIN - MCA-96 ALBUM \$2.98 Prayer Bells Of Heaven; Goodbye; Give Me Roses Now: What Would You Give In Exchange; Voice Of My Savior; Shut In's Prayer; This World Is Not My Home; Pray The Clouds Away; Lord I'm Coming Home; Give Me Your Hand; Little White Church; God Guide Our Leaders Hand. 8 TRACK TAPE - MCAT-96 \$4.98

JIMMY MARTIN - MCA-91 ALBUM \$2.98 There Ain't Nobody Gonna Miss Me When I'm Gone; Pretending | Don't Care; Leavin' Town; Don't Give Your Heart To A Rambler; Train Forty-Five; Drink Up And Go Home; I Can, I Will, I Do Believe; There Was A Love; Hit Parade Of Love; Steppin' Stones; The Joke's On You; Skip, Hop And Wobble. 8 TRACK TAPE - MCAT-91 \$4.98

JIMMY MARTIN - MCA-79 ALBUM \$2.98 Sunny Side Of The Mountain; It Takes One To Know One; Guitar Picking President; Shenandoah Waltz; Poor Ellen Smith; I'd Rather Have America; There's Better Times A Comin': 20-20 Vision: I'm Comin' Back But I Don't Know When; Snow White Grave; John Henry: In The Pines. 8 TRACK TAPE - MCAT-79 \$4.98

JIMMY MARTIN - MCA-81 ALBUM \$2.98 You Don't Know My Mind; Homesick; Bear Tracks: Night: Grand Ole Opry Song; Who'll Sing For Me; Hold Whatcha Got; Before The Sun Goes Down; Cripple Creek; It's Not Like Home; All The Good Times Are Past And Gone: I Like To Hear 'Em Preach It. 8 TRACK TAPE - MCAT-81 \$4.98

JIMMY MARTIN - MCA-101 ALBUM \$2.98 Widow Maker; Six Days On The Road; I'll Never Take No For An Answer; I'm Thinking Tonight Of My Blue Eyes; There's More Pretty Girls Than One; Hey Lonesome; My Walking Shoes; Truck Driving Man; Ocean Of Diamonds; Truck Driver's Queen; The Old Man's Drunk Again; In Foggy Old London. 8 TRACK TAPE - MCAT-101 \$4.98

8 TRACK TAPE - MCAT-82 \$4.98

BILL MONROE - MCA-88 ALBUM \$2.98 Little Maggie; Bugle Call Rag; Toy Heart; I'm Going Back To Old Kentucky; Live And Let Live; Nine Pound Hammer; Cotton Fields; John Hardy; Shady Grove; Danny Boy; Journey's End; Old Joe Clark. NO TAPE AVAILABLE

BILL MONROE - MCA-97 ALBUM \$2.98 Blue Ridge Mountain Blues; Columbus Stockade Blues; There Was Nothing We Could Do; I Was Left On The Street; Big Sandy River: Cheap Love Affair; Who Will I Explain About You; Foggy River; Careless Love; I'm So Lonesome I Could Cry; Baker's Breakdown: When The Bees Are In The Hive. 8 TRACK TAPE - MCAT-97 \$4.98

BILL MONROE - MCA-104 ALBUM \$2.98 Stoney Lonesome; Sailor's Hornpipe; Tall Timber; Get Up John; Brown County Breakdown, Panhandle Country; Big Man; Santa Claus: Scotland; Raw Hide; Monroe's Hornpipe: Wheel Hoss.

NO TAPE AVAILABLE

BILL MONROE - MCA-110 ALBUM \$2.98 My Little Georgia Rose; Letter From My Darlin'; Memories Of Mother And Dad; Highway Of Sorrow; On The Old Kentucky Shore: On And On; My Dying Bed; Memories Of You; Whitehouse Blues; Sugar Coated Love; I'm Blue, I'm Lonesome; When The Golden Leaves Begin To Fall. NO TAPE AVAILABLE

BILL MONROE - MCA-124 ALBUM \$2.98 No One But My Darlin'; I'm Old Kentucky Bound; Poison Love; Why Did You Say Goodbye: Louisville Breakdown; An Angel In Disguise; I'm Weary Of Heartaches; The First Whippoorwill; Weep And Cry; You're Drifting Away; That's What I Like About You. 8 TRACK TAPE - MCAT-124 \$4.98

BILL MONROE - MCA-131 ALBUM \$2.98 Let The Light Shine Down On Me; Lord Protect My Soul; Wait A Little Longer Please Jesus; A Voice From On High; I'm Working On A Building; Don't Put Off Till Tomorrow; He Will Set Your Fields Afire; Get Down On Your Knees And Pray; Boat Of Love; Walking In Jerusalem Just Like John; River Of Death. 8 TRACK TAPE - MCAT-131 \$4.98

OSBORNE BROTHERS - MCA-105 ALBUM \$2.98

Take This Hammer; Pathway Of Teardrops; Cotton Fields: Kentucky; Me And My Old Banjo; Bluegrass Express; The Cuckoo Bird; Don't Even Look At Me; Charlie Cotton; This Heart Of Mine; Bugle On The Banjo; Salty Dog Blues.

8 TRACK TAPE - MCAT-105 \$4.98

OSBORNE BROTHERS - MCA-119 ALBUM \$2.98

Will You Be Loving Another Man; Molly And Tenbrooks: I'll Never Shed Another Tear; My Little Girl In Tennessee; I'll Never Love Another; I'll Go Stepping Too; Rocky Top; Gal. You've Got A Job To Do; My Favorite Memory: Drivin' Nails In My Coffin; If I Could Count On You.

8 TRACK TAPE - MCAT-119 \$4.98

OSBORNE BROTHERS - MCA-125 ALBUM \$2.98

i Bowed On My Knees And Cried "Holy"; How Great Thou Art; Rock Of Ages; Steal Away And Pray; I Pray My Way Out Of Trouble; Will You Meet Me Over Yonder; Light At The River; What A Friend We Have In Jesus: Medals For Mothers; Jesus Sure Changed Me; Where We'll Never Grow Old. 8 TRACK TAPE - MCAT-125 \$4.98

OSBORNE BROTHERS - MCA-135 ALBUM \$2.98

Ruby, Are You Mad; Listening To The Rain; Thanks For All The Yesterday's; Siempre; Let Me Be The First To Know; The Fightin' Side Of Me; Tennessee Hound Dog; World Of Forgotten People; Somebody's Back In Town; Put If Off Until Tomorrow; Midnight Angel.

8 TRACK TAPE - MCAT-135 \$4.98

JIMMY MARTIN - MCA-115 ALBUM \$2.98 Big Country: Red Rooster: Crow On The Banjo; You Are My Sunshine; Uptown Blues; Orange Blossom Special; Wild Indian; Going Up Dry Branch; Little Maggie, She's So Sweet; Union County; Red River Valley; Theme Time.

8 TRACK TAPE - MCAT-115 \$4.98

JIMMY MARTIN - MCA-137 ALBUM \$2.98 Singing All Day And Dinner On The Ground; Lift Your Eyes To Jesus; My Lord Keeps A Record: God Is Always The Same: When The Savior Reached Down For Me; Shake Hands With Mother Again; Help Thy Brother; A Beautiful Life; Stormy Waters; Hold To God's Unchanging Hand; Little Angels in Heaven.

8 TRACK TAPE - MCAT-137 \$4.98

BILL MONROE - MCA-136 ALBUM \$2.98 | Live In The Past; Cripple Creek; Last Old Dollar: The Long Black Veil; Log Cabin In The Lane; I Want To Go With You; Kentucky Mandolin: Sally Goodin: Never Again: Is The Blue Moon Still Shining: Fire On The Mountain. 8 TRACK TAPE - MCAT-136 \$4.98

BILL MONROE - MCA-527 ALBUM \$2.98 I Saw The Light: I'll Meet You In The Morning: Life's Railway To Heaven; Lord, Lead Me On; Wayfaring Stranger; Beautiful Life; Precious Memories: House Of Gold: I've Found A Hiding Place: Jesus Hold My Hand; I Am A Pilgrim, Lord, Build Me A Cabin In Glory. 8 TRACK TAPE - MCAT-527 \$4.98

ERNEST TUBBS - MCA-84 ALBUM \$2.98 I'll Get Along Somehow; Slipping Around; Filipino Baby; When The World Has Turned You Down; Have You Ever Been Lonely; There's A Little Bit Of Everything In Texas; Walking The Floor Over You; Driftwood On The River; There's Nothing More To Say; Rainbow At Midnight; I'll Always Be Glad To Take You Back; Let's Say Goodbye Like We Said Hello.

8 TRACK TAPE - MCAT-84 \$4.98

KITTY WELLS - MCA-149 ALBUM \$2.98 Dust On The Bible: | Dreamed | Searched Heaven For You; Lonesome Valley; My Ones Are Waiting For Me; I Heard My Savior Call; The Great Speckled Bird; He Will Set Your Fields On Fire; We Buried Her Beneath The Willows; One Way Ticket To The Sky; I Need The Prayers; Matthew Twenty-Four; Lord I'm Coming Home.

8 TRACK TAPE - MCAT-149 \$4.98

) 위 (([]) (]] (] (]] Questions And Answers

You ask the questions and the Mandolin Bros. give the answers.

Well, here's our latest answers, handselected from another big batch of letters on vintage instruments. We'd welcome more inquiries like these—and remember we can also answer questions on electric guitars, pedal steels, and of course, vintage acoustic guitars, mandolins and banjos. As you can see by reading some of these, we like letters which make us do our homework. Keep us busy-we enjoy answering questions as much as we enjoy pickin', grinnin', and horse tradin'.



Q. I need some advice. First, is the F-model Gibson mandolin superior to the A-model for the bluegrass or country musician? Everybody seems to like the Style F- better—but I'm not sure I can tell much of a difference. Second, what is the scoop on the square neck and round neck Dobros? Would one be preferable to the other? D.S., Miami, Florida.

A. Your first question is asked of us all the time. At the time Orville Gibson developed the carved top/earved back mandolin in 1898, the mandolin was the most popular musical instrument that had ever hit the nation. He shocked the music world with the beautiful "Florentine" art nouveau design which is still used to this day, known as the "Style F." It has a scroll on one side of the body, and points on the other, and matching scrolls on the peghead. The workmanship which goes into making an instrument like this is extensive and, of course, expensive. So for those who could not spend as much, Orville invented the less ornate teardropshaped mandolin which he called the "Style A." The main difference in sound is the result of the design differences between the earlier oval soundhole Gibson mandolins and those later ones (post-1922) having two violin-type *f*-holes in the face. Oval soundhole mandolins sound bassy and mellow. The *f*-hole mandolins sound sharper and brighter. For stage use many mandolinists will use the *f*-hole Gibson mandolin, in either Florentine or teardrop body design, for its projection and volume. But for any other use, including recording, some musicians prefer the oval soundhole Gibsons. Due to their rarity and beauty the scroll bodied Style F will always be the more valuable, and, from the collector's standpoint, more desirable. But if price is more important than aesthetic consideratons, you cannot

Brother Stan with the harp-guitar.

find a finer inexpensive mandolin than the Gibson Style A-s made from the turn of the century on, with either oval soundhole or two *f*-holes on the top.

Your second question is much easier to answer since the difference between round neck and square neck Dobros is much less subtle. The acoustic resonator guitar was invented in the 1930s and called DOBRO as an abbreviation of it's founders' names, the *Dopera Brothers*. When the guitar is used only for slide work, in the Hawaiian style, it is generally preferable to have the square neck model, which has the tuners facing upward so you can tune from the playing position. When the musician wishes to play fingerstyle as well, as for blues or ragtime, the round neck Dobro has a standard fretted fingerboard and low string height (action), and can be played either as a regular guitar or slide guitar.

Q. I recently spoke with someone at your company and was told to send a photo of my harp-guitar. The label inside the soundhole reads: "C. Knutsen, Sole Presenter of the Harp-Guitar, with 11 strings,

with the bottom five tuned DCBAG." If you can provide any information, please do. J.R., Portland, Oregon.

A. Harp-guitars are enormously widebodied guitars with two necks. The lower neck is a normal 6-string guitar, while the upper neck is often an extension of the body, a hollow wooden chamber with 5, 8 or 10 or more bass strings attached. The bridge is very long, to accomodate 11 to 16 strings. Quite a few of these monsters were made between 1900 and 1920. The Gibson Company called theirs the "Style" U," originally having a ten-string bass which did not feature the hollow second



by STAN JAY & HAP KUFFNER AKA THE MANDOLIN BROS.

neck, but instead provided the instrument with a wide oval soundhole which the extra bass strings passed over.

We've seen many brands of harpguitars, and it is our assumption that Knutsen was a small maker in or near the area you purchased the instrument. These obsolete Gargantua tend to make people say "wow!" but there are no musicians playing them professionally, and chances are few people today even remember how to play them. They were designed for one player to pick both bass and melody on a single instrument. In excellent original condition a harp-guitar could be priced as high as \$1000, but whenever we've seen them bought and sold they have chiefly gone for between \$350 and \$750 depending on brand, originality and ornateness.

Q. Do you know what ever happened to a fine five-string banjo picker whose name was Snuffy Jenkins? My husband says he knew him years ago. Also, do you know the present address of the banjo company called OME? I ordered a banjo from them and got it, but wrote there and they said the company was gone. J.M., Yakima, Washington.

Osear Schmidt Company, Jersey City, New Jersey for about 50 years, beginning in the mid-1920s. We run into them constantly-at flea markets, garage sales and antique shows. Normally they are priced at or less than their original price of \$35. According to collector Michael Holmes, the large number of instruments remaining is not due as much to it's popularity as to the way in which it was sold. Door to door salesmen travelled the roads of rural America demonstrating the Ukelin to homeowners, making sales after pointing out the availability of a time-purchase plan. The salesman would leave the instrument and leave the area, and most often the purchaser never learned to play

the instrument.

Although there are collectors of everything, even Ukelins, the supply is great and the demand almost non-existent.

HELP WANTED

Country Music Magazine would like to hear from both professional and amateur pickers, singers and musicians generally. If you have a personal story, which you think will be of interest to our readers, write it up (not more than 1,000 words please) and send it to: Pickers, c/o *Country Music Magazine*, 475 Park Avenue South, New York, New York 10016.



A. Snuffy Jenkins is still alive and well and working for a Chevrolet dealership in Columbia, South Carolina. Even at age 70 he still picks banjo with "Pappy" Sherrill on fiddle, and earlier this year he and Pappy performed with New York City's Joffrey Ballet. Snuffy is credited with being one of the originators of the three-finger banjo style, and, although he's too modest to admit it, many people feel that he actually taught that style to bluegrass greats Earl Scruggs and Don Reno. Having played with the famed J.E. Mainer's Mountaineers in the late '30s, and later as a novelty music act on WLS. radio and television, Jenkins is considered somewhat of a living legend today; a major contributor to the development of five-string banjo.

Also alive and well is the OME Banjo Company, which you can contact at 5595 Arapahoe, Boulder, Colorado.

The Second Generation



Almost 150 years have passed since the first Martin instruments saw the light of day. Today, the quality, care and tradition are still there in the modern day line of instruments. And now there are the Sigma Guitars. A Second Generation of Sigma Guitars inspired by the Martin attention to detail in construction and materials. Sigma guilars were designed by CF Martin personnel and each guitar must pass a rigid inspection by CF Martin people in Nazareth, Pa. Sigma quitars are also warranted by the CF Martin Organisation . . . an important point when buying instruments from abroad. Sigma Guitars, reasonably priced from \$99.50 to \$500.

Q. I recently bought an instrument which I think belongs in the "collectors" class or perhaps in a museum. It has a decal colored gold, embossed on black, which states: "Ukelin, Price \$35. Copyright 1926." It has strings which are played with a bow, and strings which are strummed with the fingers. The person I bought it from had purchased it in 1926 or 1927, however it was used very little. S.A.J., Worthington, Minnesota.

A. Ukelins were manufactured by the

GUTARS

Sigma guitars, a Second Generation of quality instruments from CF Martin. Nazareth, Pennsylvania



Crystal Gayle

When I Dream United Artists UA-LA858H nce upon a time, there was U a nation of farmers and village dwellers who supported the growth of a music which had great visceral meaning for them. A surprisingly large industry eventually grew and prospered around this musical style, which came to be called country music, much of it based in a city called Nashville in the kingdom of Tennessee.

As timed passed the sons and daughters of these yeomen grew and moved to farflung cities and new dwellings called suburbs, where the music of their parents, with its themes of hard living, hard work, and heartache, were obsolete. The music of their parents, while admired by man for the very honesty which caused its obsolescence, was eventually replaced by a glossy music called pop, the heir of a city-bred music which was submerged by a fierce and energetic dragon called rock and roll for a generation before resurfacing not in its homeland, the mythical land of New York, but in that city of Nashville in the mountain kingdom of Tennessee. It came to pass that the old between the old and new. But gods of this kingdom-who went by strange and hallowed names like Jimmie Rodgers, Hank Williams, Webb Pierce, bency and brilliance, winning Roy Acuff, and Kitty Wellswere supplanted by new gods ways. and goddesses, who usually

tail hour entertainer with a great set of pipes. Producer Jerry Kennedy's heavy hand with the strings doesn't help much either. Here and there, the lush starts turning to mush, and you can almost hear the champagne glasses clinking.

Johnny really seems to get an edge on great songs like Hargrove's Leavin' As Fast As I Can Crawl, and Make Believe It's Your First Time. He really gets behind the lyric and comes up with something believable. But on cuts like Ramblin' Rose and Randy Newman's Marie, the effort comes off with technical perfection and that's all. The only emotional impact is the kind of yawn-inducing blahs that one normally expects from second-string crooners on daytime talk shows. Often, the difference between an artist and just another entertainer with a great voice is a thing called style. Rodriguez already has the great voice—he's one of the best. And if he, and the people behind him, ever decide which way they want to go with his music, I'm sure he'll work wonders. But for the meantime, the biggest thing this album proves is the limitations of this stylistic scatter-shooting approach to making an album. BOB ALLEN



one-the sister, no less, of one of the last and greatest of the supplanted-shone with lam-

Her name is Crystal Gayle, pop albums from Nashville, or looked inept and foolish as and her new album When I anywhere. they tried to straddle the gap Dream is one of the finest pop DOUGLAS B. GREEN

albums of the year. Though it leans too much to the formulaic-there's the obligatory piano bar number (Cry Me A River), the obligatory dixielandish tune (Paint This Old Town Blue), the obligatory revamped pop hit (Wayward Wind)—it is very fine music. Unlike many Nashville albums which crassly, blatantly, ooze crossover, When I Dream has the feel of a record made for the music, not for the marketing potential. It is this rare musical integrity more than any other factor which makes many converts to the new this album stand head and shoulders above most of the



Johnny Rodriguez Love Me With All Your Heart Mercury SRM-1-5011 A fter listening to Love Me H With All Your Heart, I am tempted to make the request usually posed by the host of *I've Got A Secret*; will the *real* Johnny Rodriguez please stand up.

There is an incredible range of musical styles here: Tex-Mex



(the title song, which has several choruses in Spanish); some easy-listening (Ramblin' Rose and Spanish Eyes); and some good, hard country (Linda Hargrove's Leavin' As Fast As I Can Crawl). In fact, there is such an incredible range that the quintessential Johnny Rodriguez tends to get mislaid in the final mix. And instead, we have just another slick, cock-



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NBC, Feb. 25, 1973, Host-Tennessee Ernie Ford.

- COUNTRY MUSIC AWARDS, CBS, Oct. 15, 1973, Host-Johnny Cash.
- I BELIEVE IN MUSIC, NBC, Nov. 24, 1973, Host-Mac Davis.
- COUNTRY MUSIC HIT PARADE, CBS, Feb. 4, 1974, Host-Eddy Arnold.
- JOHNNY CASH'S COUNTRY MUSIC, NBC, Feb. 23, 1974, Host-Johnny Cash.
- COUNTRY COMES HOME, NBC, April 26, 1974, Host-Johnny Cash.
- COUNTRY MUSIC AWARDS, CBS, Oct. 14, 1974, Host-Johnny Cash.
- COMO COUNTRY, CBS, Feb. 17, 1975, Host-Perry Como.
- COUNTRY MUSIC AWARDS
- CBS, Oct. 13, 1975, Hosts-Glen Campbell and Charley Pride.
- COUNTRY MUSIC HIT PARADE, CBS, Nov. 28, 1975, Host-Roy Clark.

Four CBS summer hours: JOHNNY CASH AND FRIENDS Aug. and Sept., 1976, Host—Johnny Cash.

- JOHNNY CASH CHRISTMAS SPECIAL, CBS, Dec. 6, 1976, Host-Johnny Cash.
- COUNTRY MUSIC HIT PARADE, NBC, May 3, 1977, Host-Jimmy Dean.
- JOHNNY CASH CHRISTMAS SPECIAL, CBS, Nov. 30, 1977, Host-Johnny Cash.
- NASHVILLE REMEMBERS ELVIS ON HIS BIRTHDAY

NBC, Jan. 8, 1978, Host-Jimmy Dean.

• FIFTY YEARS OF COUNTRY MUSIC

NBC, Jan. 22, 1978, Hosts-Glen Campbell, Roy Clark and Dolly Parton.

• JOHNNY CASH: SPRING FEVER, CBS, May 7, 1978, Host-Johnny Cash.

• COUNTRY NIGHT OF STARS

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World Radio History

Records

Ronnie Milsap

Only One Love In My Life RCA AFL 1-2780 h, no! They're cloning records these days! Sure, it's always been true that when you buy a given copy of a given record it's identical to any other copy of that record, but now they're making different records that are identical to each other! Ronnie Milsap, unfortunately, is the first artist to have this experimental technique applied to his work on his new album It Was Almost Li—uh, I mean Only One Love In My Life.

His last album, It Was Almost Like A Song (yeah, that's right), showed him getting more pop, and minutes after its release, he got the CMA award, so the album did very well for him. Not wanting to mess up a good thing, he just cloned it for a followup. I'm not completely joking, either more than once, listening to this album, I found myself singing words to a tune from



Chet Atkins & Les Paul Guitar Monsters RCA APL1-2786

t's no surprise this record is so good, for Les Paul was collaborating with the Atkinses long before the first **Chester** & Lester album. He and Chet's late brother Jim were twothirds of the Les Paul Trio back in the late thirties. And just as Les was an amalgam of nearly all the jazz guitar stylists of the Thirties, Chet has catalyzed literally all of the country pickers of the Forties and Fifties into a coherent style. Their styles complement each other even more, considering the fact that Les began his career as a hillbilly named song *I've Got the Music In Me* "Rhubarb Red" and Chet used



the last one.

vou, retreads aren't nearly as tism. Maybe next time. high-quality as new tires, so

stand out at all, the latter only because it is so unlike the rest. I'm really disappointed in this record, although I'll admit it may yet grow on me, and I'm disappointed in Milsap's As any truckdriver will tell increasing musical conserva-

to regularly grab licks from Les, even as a struggling guitarist on country radio.

But what makes this the best recording by either man in many moons is the looseness of the entire operation. Too many of Chet's solo recordings have ED WARD been mechanical efforts.

The Lost Gonzo Band Find Themselves In Their New Album Signs Of Life. You've heard these fine musicians behind Michael Murphey, B.W. Stevenson and Jerry Jeff Walker and have enjoyed that neo-classic anthem of Texas—"London Homesick Blues"—included in their new album on Capitol Records and Tapes. You'll find The Lost Gonzo Band does good things to you.





Records



the Country All Stars over twenty years ago. And Les is at his most inventive here, responding to Chet's every lick with one equally facile. Some of the playing here is almost frightening, such as Chet's Travis-style interpretations of Meditation and It Don't Mean A Thing (If It Ain't Got That Swing) with Les throwing in cascades of counterpoint notes. Give My Love To Nell starts out as off the wall country, country. then jumps into some of the hottest swing this side of Charlie Christian. Les's old hit Brazil is half Gibson electric, half Chet's gutstring. And their wisecracking culminates in I'm Your Biggest Fan, a pastiche of misattributed guitar licks and mutual admiration. In short, this is the kind of spontaneity we seldom hear on Nashville recordings any more. I just hope that the sales of Guitar Monsters are strong enough to guarantee a volume three—and another Grammy.

Larry Gatlin Oh! Brother

Monument MG 7626 ere's an album that con-T tains something for everybody-Tony Orlando, Anthony Newley, John Davidson and the folks at Pepsi Cola. Sparkling like the sequins in a Vegas extravaganza, it takes Gatlin clearly away from his Broken Lady tenderness, and in fact, a far distance from

Larry's lyrics remain clever, but the ingenuity now is merely that of a practiced songwriter; his music here verges from upbeat quasi-rock to Broadway show tunes to a kind of mock-gospel freneticism. Within those forms, however, there's a nice mixture of moods, oceasional rhythmic brilliance and a fairly skillful use of strings. The most country-oriented cut is Everything I Know About Cheatin'-but it's also just about as original as the RICH KIENZLE | topic. Nothin' You Do is a solid

fraught with arrangements as stiff as these are loose. This is the most relaxed I've heard him since his recordings with



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Records

masochistic love song seemingly designed to be sung around a campfire; I've Done Enough Dyin' Today the pop ballad Newley should sing. But Cold Day In Hell, a really energetic, end-of-the-relationship



number, just may redeem the whole LP. Though it falters in the middle, the song's an amusing, catchy, distinctly unmellow contortion of cliches. There's certainly a place for Gatlin's well-arranged, variant mood music, and though his fans may be a bit surprised by some of the new razzle-dazzle, I don't think they'll be disappointed. But oh, brother! I wish he'd keep away from those high notes.

Jerry Jeff Walker Contrary to Ordinary MCA-3041

There's more different kinds of material here on Contrary to Ordinary than on your ordinary country album, but it's mostly basic country mellow—the stuff that crosses over into Easy Listening programming more often than onto the rock charts.





pact of Saturday Night Special. The arrangement makes brilliant use of two mid-Sixties hooks, one from Fontella Bass' Jerry's only unmellow here Rescue Me and the other from three times. The singing on Sa- Buffalo Springfield's On the turday Night Special is raw Way Home. Listening to those and tough. His voice sounds two hooks float by is like saymore experienced than it does ing hi to a couple old friends. on the album's other songs. The song itself has an old coun-The other two rough-sung try feel, as well as a light cajun songs here are in the rag/boo-touch, and the rhythm is early gie/good timey frame, one on reggae. It's catchy enough for each side. They balance out two singles. The other songs each other, and the album, are okay, especially What Are We Doing, but those two best PETER STAMPFEL

Narvel Felts Inside Love ABC AY 1080

t is nothing short of amazing how quickly so many artists, having struggled so long to reach the top, become so complacent after getting there. All those years of obscurity -of doubts, discouragement and depression-seem to get wiped out with just one or two hits-and one or two royalty checks. And the talent and creativity that the artist nurtured for so long go the way of last year's suit, something to be mothballed away, as if he was embarrassed that he ever wore it.

The latest artist to join the club is Narvel Felts, former singer and entertainer extraordinary, who has hastily put all his feverish talent in the closet in favor of good ole, slick, over-produced, over-arranged, dull, bland, middle of the road pop. Witness his latest album,

SUSAN TOEPFER

Margo Smith

Don't Break the Heart That Loves You Warner Bros. BSK-3173

Margo Smith seems to have a IV lot of worries, but they all boil down to one thing: her man. She worries about longpast flings from her youth, she worries about the fact that other women find her man so





quite well.

But *Deeper Than Love* is the songs are hard to match. only other song with the im-

desirable, she worries about

This, as one song puts it, and the stance that Margo takes on this collection of hurtin' songs is that of the classic country 1 hit from earlier this year, proves there are still plenty of people out there who'd rather hear this than the more modern types. That song is very typical of this whole althe Texas-flavored horn voicaway from Margo, which is country music star. not so good.

World Radio History

52

These are matters of producbeing lied to, she worries about tion and arrangement, a conbeing left. She does so in a lan- cession to radio, and if this alguorous, slightly-pinched voice bum as a whole is not as satisthat oozes innocence and vulfying as its brightest moments, nerability. the problem rests there as well But Memories Are Made of as with the songs. Too many of these melodies and tempos are too much alike, and the lyrics are too often readymades that sound dull. If she and her progirl singer. Don't Break the ducer Norro Wilson are having The Night and Just Keep It Up Heart That Loves You, her No. difficulties coming up with a better batch of songs, Margo should look no further than the nearest mirror. Her own Ode To A Cheater, a tale of good intentions that backfire, is by far the most imaginative song bum. Besides its theme, there's on this album, an old story told a new way. More songs like ings, which are good, and this one and there's at least one there's a huge bank of strings thing Margo won't have to that almost takes the song worry about: her future as a JOHN MORTHLAND



Inside Love. The title, alone, almost tells you that the album is nothing but ten stagnant love songs, ground out in another assembly line type production. To be sure, there are the two obligatory Fifties songs, on which Narvel usually shines, this time In The Still Of And See What Happens. But even they come across as high school sock hop fare, done in by a chorus so tentative that you'd swear it thought "Do-Wah" was a Sanskrit phrase it'd never heard before. Rather a sad effort from country music's Mr. Excitement. But then, ole Narvel's finally got it made by now. Which means he can be as lousy as he wants to.

JOHN PUGH



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Mel Tillis

I Believe In You MCA-2364

f you heard Love's Troubled Waters, Mel's last album, then this one will hold few surprises. Again there are no Tillis



originals; the songs he picked range from excellent to throwaway, resulting in several creditable performances laced with useless filler. It's hardly surprising, since Mel seems to with lyrics like "She's Ameri- network TV exposure has spend more time in TV studios ca's sweetheart/the working- ruined more good country than in recording studios. troit City and Ruby would again?" Kiss mah grits, inwaste his time on I Believe In deed. You, a tune far better suited to Jerry Vale, and Tennessee, a work better. Long Gone Blues, shallow ode to country life, Broken Man and West Bound with the rural ambience of an Trains are all fine laments. acre of astroturf, is puzzling. And only he and Moe Bandy So is his deadly serious reading still dabble in pure Texas shufof the satirical Ain't No Cali-fles like What Comes Natural. fornia, which effectively Even She Don't Trust You Dadrenders the song comatose. dy works well, largely because Worse yet is America's Sweet- of a total absence of cuteness. heart, a salute to waitresses



Bill & James Monroe Together Again MCA-2367 Star Rating:

D ill Monroe is a legendary D performer who's been called the "Father of Bluegrass" and he was the first bluegrass musician to be elected to the Country Music Hall of Fame. Together Again is the second LP he's recorded with his son, James, also a popular bluegrass performer who fronts his own band.

Together they rip through some old standards and some new tunes with the bluegrass style they obviously love. Corina, Corina and Who's Gonna Shoe Your Pretty Little Feet are two old standards handled well while Bill Monroe also contributes two classic originals, Six Feet Under The Ground and I'm Going Back *To Old Kentucky*. Of the newer songs, two contributed by Damon Black, Hard Times Have Been Here and Jake Satterfield are among the best. James Monroe sometimes sounds a little like the late

man's friend/With a chewing singers than either pills or But why the author of De- gum smile and a 'Fill er up

> Luckily his other choices Let's face it, though. Heavy

booze. Nobody, not Tennessee Ernie Ford, Jimmy Dean, Roger Miller or Buck Owens, regained his musical integrity after they hit the tube. It took Johnny Cash several years after his TV interlude to regain his. Mel's showing all the danger signals; I just hope the determination that got him out of Pahokie, Florida, can get him through mass fame.

RICH KIENZLE



Jerry Lee Lewis

Jerry Lee Lewis Keeps Rockin' Mercury SRM-1-5010

T he hardest part about sitting through American Hot Wax the quasi-documentary film about disc jockey Alan Freed and the birth of rock and roll was watching Chuck Berry, Screaming Jay Hawkins and Jerry Lee Lewis play themselves as they were 20 years ago. Not that a real Hollywood actor could have played a more convincing role, but each artist had obviously lost some of that old fireball spunk of Lee's voice for the album's live), then he should disconyesteryear. That same spiritual drought one must only remember that titles, drop his rockin' manneroccurs on this album. Produc- this is the same producer who ism, and be content with offerer Jerry Kennedy may occa- promised a JLL hit without pi- ing mundane ditties to grow sionally show signs of sincerity, ano, and delivered with Mid- old with. such as when he adds a simu- dle-Aged Crazy, in order to



understand why the boogie woogie piano pounding that totally rips up Sweet Little Six- Johnny Horton. Bill Monroe teen is lost in a muddy mix on sounds like Bill Monroe. Sing-Blue Suede Shoes.

this was a shoddy effort to be-only brothers, sisters, and, gin with, or else he wouldn't sometimes fathers and sons,

ing together they have that Kennedy must have realized special kind of harmony that

have padded the album with seem able to achieve.

country muzak numbers like Wild and Wooley Ways and both their bands, the Monroes Arkansas See Saw, more befit- are backed by plenty of guiting of today's Jerry Lee. If the tars, mandolins, banjos, fid-Killer can't or doesn't want to raise his dander like he used to

lated Sun studio echo to Jerry (and still occasionally does, three authentic rockers. But tinue using misleading album

JOE NICK PATOSKI

Using various members from dles, and an upright bass. Bill Monroe is a master of the mandolin and the rippling beauty he invokes from it shines throughout.

If you're a bluegrass fan this record is probably a must; if not, then be forewarned—there ain't no drums on this album. NELSON ALLEN



AUDIO (Continued from page 23)

have an automatic level control, so you don't have to bother with it at all. But this kind of convenience does a lot more harm than good, for it just flattens out the differences between loud and soft, robbing the music of its dramatic expression. Setting the recording level according to the pointers on the meter will give you far better results. This means developing the right "feel" for reading the meters on your tape deck as their pointers swing up and down with the loudness of the music.

Most meters are calibrated in decibels on a scale that runs from about -20 db through zero to +3 db. The plus part of the scale is usually marked in red, and it's forbidden territory: If you want clean sound, the pointer should never go there. The usual working range of the meter for musical recording lies between -15 db and 0, but the actual numbers don't mean much for practical purposes. What is important to remember is that zero is the upper limit. If the pointer swings beyond zero, too strong a signal is pushed on the tape. Result: the sound gets fuzzy. To avoid this happening at loudness peaks, set the recording level so that in musical passages of average loudness the meter reads no more than -6 db or thereabouts. Only at the loudest moments should the pointer hit zero. If you find during the broadcast you are recording, that the level is either too high or too low, you may have to readjust it while the recording is in progress. Engineers call this "gain riding" and it has to be done very carefully. Nothing is so jarring as a sudden volume change right in the middle of a piece, and an abrupt adjustment could ruin your tape. So, if you have to adjust the level while the music plays, turn the knobs very slowly and very slightly, and turn both channels simultaneously. Of course, to get top results you need a quality cassette deck designed to meet the performance standards of component equipment. If you use such a deck, your own tape copy of a broadcast should sound every bit as good as the original program. Prices for such decks start around \$175 and lots of good models are available. There are excellent units such as Pioneer's CT-F500 (\$175), Radio Shack's Realistic SCT-15 (\$200), Sony's **TC-K2A** (\$200), **Kenwood's KX-620** (\$225), and Aiwa's AD-1250 (\$240). All offer reliable performance and excellent dollar value. With equipment of this caliber, it is almost as easy to make a fine recording as to buy one.

SUGAR (Continued from page 27)

we believe in it and sometimes it sounds country, and sometimes it's easy listening. The song just evolves in its own way."

Towards the end of the year, the trio will gradually perform less with Charley Pride in order to make a more concerted effort toward their own identity.

"We feel good about it because it means our own careers are progressing," Dave says.

"Charley is so happy for us," Vicki adds. "It's really thrilling for him because everybody who's worked with him has gone on to bigger and better things."

Frank Mancini, Dave & Sugar's manager of seven months, previously with RCA, has joined the gathering as the threesome prepares to go their separate ways for a brief vacation before hitting the road again. He's got some strategies cooking in the back of his mind that are likely to enforce Sue's belief that fans have yet to see the best of Dave & Sugar.

"Our main project now is to put together what each of us considers a topnotch act," Mancini explains. "That's not demeaning what they do now, it's just that it doesn't really bring out all the things they can do. We want to structure something that gets away from just doing the hit and give each of them more of a chance to express themselves on stage by developing more conceptually what each one has to contribute." And with true managerial conviction he adds: "There'll be a time when Dave & Sugar and Charley Pride on the same stage together will be a classic."



PHOTO CREDITS

- P. 8 Charlie Daniels Ron McKeown/ Stan King/Courtesy Epic
- P. 10 Jacky Ward Courtesy Mercury
- P. 10 Hank Williams, Jr. Chuck Krall
- P. 12 Don Williams Courtesy ABC
- P. 12 Tanya Tucker Courtesy MCA
- P. 16 Johnny Bond Courtesy Gusto
- P. 16 Carlene Carter Courtesy Warner Bros./Russel E. Reif
- P. 25 Hank Williams Courtesy Bob Pinson - CMF.
- P. 26 Dave & Sugar Herb Burnett
- P. 28-32 Jack Clement Alan Whitman



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COWBOY (Continued from page 32)

theories, and there seems little question that if he should get the opportunity to present either his tape or himself on *Saturday Night Live* as he wishes, he could enthrall a nation-wide audience as easily as he has captivated small-town Nashville over the years. Jack Clement could be the only show in every town.

At the same time one fears that in seeking to blind the world with his fancy footwork, like so many other flim flam men the Cowboy may only have succeeded in blinding himself. For lurking just beneath the surface of all the elegant show and repartee, seems to be the fear that Jack Clement himself, the real Jack Clement, is a fraud, that whatever success he has enjoyed has come as the result of a misunderstanding, that he may have parlayed his talents as a novelty songwriter and entertainer into a \$100,000 record contract, but maybe that is as far as he can go. I don't know that there's any basis in reality for this fear; certainly the real Jack Clement has had his share of solid, measurable success. And yet, like many geniuses whose theories are equally unassailable, he seems almost incapable of going out and exposing these carefully nurtured creations to an indifferent world. The new album, for example, contains a love song so immediate, so direct, so powerful that it should be played on every radio station, country or pop, in the nation. Even Sam Phillips has pronounced When I Dream (I Dream of You) an AOR (All Over the Road) Hit. Whether or not it will ever become one, though, is anyone's guess, because for all of his lofty promises, for all of his grandiose plans, it is doubtful whether Jack Clement would ever do anything so mundane as go out and work the song; like Elvis, Howard Hughes, and other superstars he rarely ventures outside unless the air is right. Similarly one suspects that the band-and all the tracks that they have recorded—will meet the same fate as past bands, past tracks, not because what they are doing is not worthwhile but simply because the money will run out before the Grand Experiment is ever launched. Even the album itself, while charming in an insubstantial sort of way, was more earthshaking in its nearly two years aborning than in its somewhat timid realization (all that labor to produce a mouse), having violated nearly every one of the rules which Jack Clement, producer, would impose upon any of his artists ("I had to go to Florida to realize it was finished") and in the process forfeited the very spontaneity which is the cornerstone of his new artistic credo. "Every time I get ready to go out," complains Cowboy, "I lose my voice for about a month at a time," and one fears that the audience of

Saturday Night Live may have to wait a long time before they ever get to see Cowboy Jack Clement's Traveling Band. Sometimes in fact it seems as if Jack Clement keeps talking simply for fear of what the silence might reveal.

The consequences of always having to be "on" can be disastrous both for himself and for others. To Stoney Edwards the casual nonchalance of the hipster can seem almost like cruel disdain, and even if Jack cuts a hit with this most original of stylists there can be no excuse for his callous disregard of an equally sensitive fellow artist. "Charley just got scared of him," says a knowledgeable insider of Charley Pride's departure from the Clement fold. "For about two years he was just acting like a crazy man." "Jack Clement," says a veteran Nashville superstar with no hint of judgment, "is a fine boy. He's brought me some good songs, and there isn't anyone smarter than Jack when he's straight. Now if he can just lay off them funny cigarettes-" Everyone wonders about Jack, everyone is concerned about Jack, everyone secretly fears, or hopes, that behind the inscrutable mask is—not just another impenetrable disguise, but The Truth. And who knows—maybe there is. Maybe it doesn't matter anyway. Perhaps, as Jack insists, it's the show that counts, and if he never does harness all these ideas and focus all that energy to become Jack Clement Superstar, then maybe it's just the journey, not the arrival that matters. In any case Jack Clement is a man in motion, making plans, hatching schemes, spinning out harmless fantasies, preparing for his ascension. Sitting at his executive's desk, he flashes back and forward in time, admits to no regrets ("oh there was some times when I wasn't having as much fun as I thought I oughta be having at some time in the future, but I'm pretty positive all the time. It's just when I get tired that I get kind of negative."), produces pictures to substantiate stories told hours, or days, before. Yes, there he is; sure enough, a teenage Jack Clement is standing atop a Shetland pony (remember the Shetland pony? Remember the drugstore cowboy?) twirling a lariat—only it is not, an older but not wiser Jack Clement explains, really a lariat, it is piece of wire bent into the shape of a lariat. An illusionist even 35 years ago-even his most fanciful claims are rooted in reality. A friend calls from New York and asks what he's doing. "Oh, I'm sitting around with a houseful of journalists, planning my second childhood." He winks at the lone journalist—or does he? Sometimes it is difficult to tell, for what must once have been merely a cheerful twinkle in his eye has become instead a kind of involuntary response. How long does this story have to be? he asks idly, and then opines that it should be kept under 1000 words, 1000 well-chosen words so as to avoid putting undue strain

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on the reader. Asked another question, he winces slightly, suggests "Well, that's kind of a long story. It's not a particularly interesting one either. Why don't you just make up another?", then relates the tale in its entirety.

As I am leaving, we are met by the arrival of what Cowboy has come to refer as "my latest album". This is the first time he has actually seen it in its jacket, and he spends a good deal of time admiring its Dickensian Portraits of the Middle Aged Artist on a Swing (with top hat and mandolin), turning it over a couple of times, his languid air unable to mask a real excitement. "Well," he says in his W.C. Fields drawl to no one in particular, "there really is a Jack Clement album." His only other current project, he says, is to cut another 40 or 50 sides with his band and then to go waterskiing for the rest of the sumer. "We'll rehearse it and perform it and release it. If they don't sound like hits, then at least we had a good party." And if his own record doesn't sell? Then, he says, maybe he'll sell all his equipment, pack what's left in his Chevrolet Caprice (Tennessee License plates R2D2), buy a boat, and go waterskiing anyway. Jack Clement winks and concludes with the greatest good humor that he doesn't think that this will happen. "It ain't that my record is all that good," he explains. "It's just that everything else is so bad."

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By ALANNA NASH

keptics disclaim her, fans adore her, but whatever she is, none can ignore her. Dolly Parton's star is on the rise, and now author Alanna Nash makes us part of Dolly's dazzling success story in this intimate new biography that fans have long awaited.

Based on interviews with Dolly herself, and with others who have known her all her life, DOLLY PARTON reads like a true Cinderella story – one of twelve children growing up in the Smokey Mountains of Tennessee, the first album for Monument Records, her big break with the Porter Wagoner Show, the first platinum album by a female country music singer. But above all, Ms. Nash takes us beyond the flashy exterior to reveal the true Dolly – a bright, articulate woman who knows exactly what she wants and where she is going. Dolly is currently music's most visible songstress, but she still wants to write, produce, direct and star in her own movie. Will Dolly's staying power with her new found pop audience be as strong as it has proved to be in Nashville? Once you've read DOLLY PARTON, you know she'll do it all.

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Published by Country Music Magazine Press & Reed Books, Hardcover, 6 x 9, 200 pp, 45 b&w & 12 Color Photos





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BARBARA (Continued from page 39)

"But let me also say this, going back to the woman's thing again: much as I hate to say this, it was not written for a woman, it was written for a man. It was not 'While I'm puttin' on my make-up,' it was 'While I'm puttin' on my coat and tie.' And, 'The girls all got together' was originally, 'The guys all down at Harry's called to see if I could have a beer.'

"But Billy Sherrill was my producer at the time, I was on Columbia Records (she's now with ABC), and he played it for me. It had been submitted for one of his male artists and I got goose bumps and said, 'Billy, I've got to record that song, please can't we rewrite it?' So he and I sat there and came up with, 'Let's see, she puts on her make-up...she puts on her girdle (she laughs)—and we decided make-up was more commercial. That's how it came about."



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Barbara (on the bus above) chats on the CB and (below) checks her make-up before the show.

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It figures. Anything *anyone* can do, Barbara can do better. Already, she's tired of relaxing and jumps up into the pool, poses for pictures, plays with Jaime, teases the band and Louise.

Fortunately, before she decides to play softball, it's time for me to leave and, after saying good-bye to all the Mad Mandrells I do.

One quick glance over the shoulder and sure enough: Barbara Mandrell is already talking about something else—family or tours or softball games or TV or charities or airplane tickets or...

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