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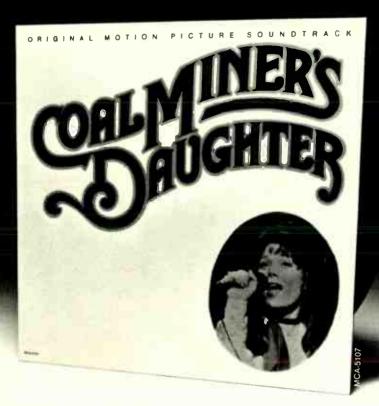


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DEPARTMENTS

4 Letters

10 Nashville Insider

DOLLY CARLISLE

13 Country Scene

Roping On Broadway, Cowboy Art, Charley Pride sings Hank Williams, The Flying Burrito Bros., & more.

- 31 Country Music Record & Book Buying Bonanza
- 56 Everyday People

JOHN PUGH

57 Record Reviews

Mel Tillis, Brenda Lee, George Hamilton IV, Robert Gordon, Bill Anderson, Chet Atkins, Roy Clark, Gail Davies, Johnny Cash, Rafe Van Hoy, Con Hunley, Gene Autry & Tom T. Hall reviews George Burns.

FEATURES

20 Larry Gatlin

DOLLY CARLISLE

He only sings the songs he writes and considers his music a gift from God, a gift that he and his brothers want to share.

26 Gail Davies

DOLLY CARLISLE

Her record company calls her the next Dolly Parton, as she writes and records her magic music.

28 Charlie Daniels

BOB ALLEN

Charlie insists he "ain't no star," but with a double platinum album and three CMA awards in 1979 including *Instrumentalist of the Year, Best Single of the Year and Instrumental Group of the Year,* you'd be hard put to call Charlie anything else.

44 Ray Price

JOHN MORTHLAND

After a seven year lay-off, "and keeping a low profile," Ray's busy again touring and cutting albums alone and with none other than his former band member Willie Nelson.

48 John Hartford

PETER STAMPFEL

Rollin 'On The River

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Letters

"The King"

We have just received our Jan/Feb 1980 issue of your wonderful magazine. Thank you for this beautiful tribute to Elvis. We appreciate this more than you can know. for we are devoted fans of his and shall always be. There are so many terrific performers today, and you always have the best articles about all of them. We enjoy vour magazine always.

MRS. D.J. CHASE CONCORD, CALIF.

I was very impressed with your January/ February issue, especially the article on the Million Dollar Quartet.

I met Carl Perkins on his recent stop in Minneapolis and he shared some stories about those early days at Sun Records. Sam Phillips had only three tracks back then and that was about it. Carl said that Sam would put a cardboard box over an amplifier, cut a small hole on one side and point it towards the wall. The resulting sound was Sun Records' "echo chamber" He would also have the singers face the wall and sing towards a board propped up again giving him that echo effect. Carl remembered Sam saying: "See there, that has a little different sound to it." They didn't have overdubbing in those days either.

Sam Phillips was indeed an innovative genius and could easily be considered the silent member of that "Million Dollar Quintet"

TOM WATSON MINNEAPOLIS, MINN.

Just want to say how much I enjoyed the Jan/Feb issue of your magazine. The articles on Elvis were great. Was really happy to see you devote an issue to the "King." I especially enjoyed the article by Peter Guralnick. It was the best I've read in a long time and expressed a lot of my feelings for Elvis. Thanks again for a great issue. Also enjoyed the article about Eddie Rabbitt and am looking forward to his "special." He's a great performer.

P. LUST LOUISVILLE, KY.

Your comprehensive coverage of Elvis Presley in your Special 1980 Collector's Edition was superb. I thought I had read all there is to know about this legendary performer, but the various articles about his life and times brought to light many facets that I had not before encountered.

I saw him perform only one time and consider myself fortunate to have shared a few hours of his past, as the futures shall always be filled with just his memory. As long as magazines such as yours continue to keep his image alive then he will not be forgotten for generations to come. As a poet wrote. "You give much, and know not that you give at all"-that was Elvis. He gave and gave, never realizing the impact that his music would have on the world. CHARLES G. GESSNER BEAN STATION, TENN.

Jim Reeves

I enjoyed the article about Jim Reeves very much and found it excellent and highly interesting.

I would like to make a few remarks about the article: First, the birthdate as on the plaque in the Hall Of Fame shows the year 1924, while in the Reeves' family Bible it's 1923, I've been told by Jim's cousin, the singer JOHN REX REEVES who lives in Humble, Texas.

There are 4 Jim Reeves fan clubs or appreciation societies. I run the NEW DUTCH REEVES FAN CLUB since 1974. At the moment we have over 150 members and have issues in the Dutch and English language respectively. We have members all over the globe. Other fanclubs/ appreciation clubs are in Germany (over 200 members), in Sweden and a recent one in England (approximately 200 members). Two years ago, one fan club, which once had 2000 members, was folded. It was founded 11 years earlier by Mary Reeves and was run by Dr. David Bussey who did an excellent job.

It is extremely difficult to supply members with interesting articles and pictures, after all, Jim Reeves is dead for over 15 years! That's one of the reasons the former British fan club folded up, another is that Mary Reeves gives little or no support to the fan clubs. I've been writing to her for over 5 years, in all she replied to perhaps 10% of my letters and I have not heard from her since Christmas 1977!

However, I am not having problems with supply of pictures and articles because I go out and discover them myself. I have been to South Africa and discovered an unknown source of excellent color and black & white pictures taken by the pilot who flew the airplane in which Jim Reeves, Chet Atkins and Floyd Cramer carried during the 1962 RCA tour in South Africa! I interview former colleagues of

Jim as well, like Ginny Wright, Floyd Cramer, Jimmy Day, etc. One thing is made clear during those interviews, people are reluctant to tell certain sides of Jim Reeves, in order not to wreck the "GENTLEMAN JIM" image. For myself, I admire Jim Reeves the singer only, but some do worship Jim. In England there is a woman who thinks she has a spiritual relation with Jim, she named her only son after Jim, believing her husband acted as an in between . . . and there are more cases like that one.

Like the real Hank Williams has come to light after his former wife died, it is my belief that the real life story will be published perhaps over 25 years. Nevertheless, Mary did the right thing by releasing unreleased tracks slowly. Although I might be called a purist, I do like some of the overdubbed songs. It is amazing how many young people are fans of the music of Jim Reeves. Thanks for your nice article!

ARIE DEN DULK RIJSWIK, HOLLAND

Mickey Gilley

I really enjoyed your Jan/Feb 1980 issue ... the articles on Elvis were very good.

I want to thank Art Maher for this review of Mickey Gilley's new album, Mickey Gilley. I love the album and the artist ... and think the review was very good.

All of Mickey's fans here in Texas are looking forward to reading an article about Mickey in one of your future issues.

Thank again for writing about Mickey

in your magazine.

I think Country Music is one of the very finest country magazines around. RITA MORA, TEX. REP.

MICKEY GILLEY FAN CLUB HOUSTON, TEXAS

We are happy that you enjoyed the review. A story about Mickey and his club is in the works, Ed.

Songwriters

I've been reading Country Music for about a year now and I wanted to compliment you and your staff for an outstanding job. I enjoy reading about the country music artists. But most of all 1 really enjoy reading about the songwriters, the people behind the artist. After all they are the backbone of country music.

Being a songwriter myself, I appreciated the stories about Ed Bruce "The Tennessean" in the Sept. 79 issue and Randy Goodrum in the July/Aug. 79 issue. Who knows maybe someday you'll run a story on me. All I have to do is get some of my songs published.

BILLY GLEN SINOR

BILLY GLEN SINOR STOCKTON, CA.

Rita Coolidge

I am one of the biggest fans of both your magazine and of singer Rita Coolidge, but I was disappointed to see the review of her latest album, Satisfied in your November issue. First of all, Satisfied is by no means a country album and I'm sure it was not intended to "satisfy" the typical country music listeners. Secondly, Mr. Maher was very narrowminded and unfair in his review of the album. He implies that Dave Loggins, Randy Goodrum, Gerry Goffin and Carole King are poor songwriters, that Booker T. Jones and Mike Utley are even worse arrangers and musicians, and that Rita herself is "weak in the vocal area." Evidently Mr. Maher does not have an ear for a clear voice or an instinctive emotional delivery or for that matter, musical talent at all, Rita's experience and credentials have established her as an identifiable and incredibly flexible artist. And the material and arrangements on her album are certainly not as "routine" or "hardly noteworthy" as suggested. I'm wondering how well Mr. Maher even listened to Satisfied since he didn't even get the number of songs on the album right. **RON HARMAN** TIONESTA, PA.

Bill Anderson

I'm writing to thank you for your article about Bill Anderson in the November 1979 issue of your magazine. I've been a reader of your magazine for several years now, and always look forward to each issue, especially when I find an article about Bill Anderson.

Since the late sixties I've been following the career of Bill Anderson, and was interested in reading your interpretation of his career changes, and how he has been able to change with the times.

I feel that one of the best changes he has made has been reorganizing his band in 1976. The Po Folks are a fantastic and versatile group of musicians. I still haven't come to understand why they have not, as yet, won any awards as a group, either as instrumentalists or as vocal group. Maybe this will come with time. They are all so multi-talented. It's hard to conceive what this world will be like in ten years, but I wish Bill the best of luck in attaining his goals. Along with performing the Nevada nightclub circuit, I hope he doesn't forget the places like Waukesha, Taylorville, Galesburg, Cedar Rapids. I hope he continues to come to these places, though maybe less frequently. When Bill speaks of his performing and recording receding at the end of ten years, I hope he doesn't mean to completely abstain from these aspects of his career. I've traveled many a mile, taken many a picture, recorded many a show, and made many lasting friend-ships through following the career of Bill. This makes it very hard for me to envision a time when Bill does choose to lessen his personal appearances in the smaller, but more easily accessable parts of the United States.

Thanks again for publishing this very informative article on Bill Anderson. Bill, I wish the best of luck to you in your dreams, but please don't forget those of us who dream of going to Waukesha, Taylorville, Galesburg, and Cedar Rapids, to see your dynamic show. With the ever improving changes you make with your show now, are you going to deny us the treat of seeing you perform in the heart of America, in the midwest in ten years? You know, I, for one, certainly hope not.

MARYANN KEMPF IOWA CITY, IA.

I read in your November issue where Bill Anderson's mother was very upset over the suggestive lyrics in his song. I Can't Wait Any Longer. They must be really shocked over his newest, More Than A Bedroom Thing. I know I am. Why are our singers turning to songs like these. Is it the only way to stay popular? It's getting so bad we can hardly listen to the radio any more. Let's keep country decent.

LYNN HENDERSON NEW BRUNSWICK, CANADA

P.S. Print a letter from Canada for a change.

Johnny Paycheck

I had the occasion to attend a Johnny Paycheck concert at the Sunrise Theatre in Ft. Lauderdale, Florida that was unforgettable for me. It was a moving experience that I feel the need to share with you.

Johnny Paycheck is a very kind and warm hearted man. His band is very understanding also. They care more about their fans than you can imagine.

Johnny Paycheck let me sit on the stage about five feet away from him, he just smiled and said not a word. After about five minutes his security guard asked me to move, so I stood on the stairs by the drummer. The drummer smiled and talked to me, and after the show, he gave me a drum stick that he used during the concert. We talked about Johnny Paycheck and the band and he kissed me before leaving.

This is a Top Star and band who really cares for the people they are entertaining. In today's world of music, this is an unusual phenomenan. Johnny Paycheck and his band deserve credit for being so giving of themselves and caring so much for their fans and the people they entertain.

CAROL MOBLEY HOMESTEAD, FLA.



Barbara Mandrell

After reading your delightful story about Barbara Mandrell in your November issue, I felt I had to write to tell you of my first-hand experience with her unselfishness and consideration toward others

I was traveling from Washington D.C. to Nashville with my four month old twin daughters, Laura and Jennifer, to visit their grandparents for the first time. While waiting for the plane I was surprised to see that Barbara Mandrell was checking in at the same gate and was shocked when she immediately came over and began talking to me and to the babies. When she found

out that I was alone, she not only offered to hold one of the babies during the trip but she even thought to suggest that I cancel my ticket—(infants not held by an adult have to be ticketed.)

Barbara's husband helped me carry the diaper bag, infant seat, etc. and one of the babies flew first class. Barbara held her, fed her, and yes, even changed her diaper.

Barbara is definitely a winner! I would like to publicly thank her for making my trip such a memorable one. (And the look on my Dad's face when she handed him his granddaughter was worth a million dollars.)

SANDRA FERON SPRINGFIELD, VA

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Doug Kershaw

I have been subscribing to your magazine for several years. It was about time your printed an article on my favorite performer Doug Kershaw! (November 1979 issue).

I have had the pleasure of attending three of his concerts and talking with him in person. I have also visited the great state of Louisiana several times. Doug is truly a wonderful guy onstage and off. He deserves much more recognition than he has received in the past and I believe he is on his way. I've been a Kershaw fan for 10 years.

MARIE O'DELL ILLINOIS

Janie Fricke

I agree with Florence Jackson of Willcox, Arizona in the new edition of Country Music. Janie Fricke deserves a front page cover. The past two award shows, Janie has been nominated for awards—everybody said—"Who is Janie Fricke." I've watched Janie for three years and she definitely will be a super star.

So let's have an article on a fabulous talent. Keep up the great magazine.

LARRY ROBBINS LOUISVILLE, KY. 40218

Check next issue. An article on Janie is in the works. Ed.

Willie Nelson

I enjoy your magazine every month and the articles about all the stars who I also enjoy on records and tapes.

Last year I caught a Rockford Files on TV. On this particular segment, Willie Nelson did the music. He sang a song entitled Heartaches of a Fool. I have looked everywhere in this area for a record or tape with this song on it. If you could help me find a recording of this song, I would be very grateful. I am a loyal Willie Nelson fan, and am constantly amazed at his range of talent. Since I'm in the over 30 group, I especially enjoyed Stardust. But so did my teenage daughter, good music has no age barriers.

If there is any way you could find out if he has recorded this song and where I could find it I would be very happy to hear from you.

PAULINE R. WOFFORD FOREMAN, ARK.

If any of our readers out there knows ubout this recording, please send us the information and we'll forward it to Ms. Wofford. Ed.

Kenny Rogers

Thank you! Thank you! for the pictures and article on my favorite singer Kenny

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free color literature and the Martin dealers who Rogers. I was just about ready to cancel my subscription because you haven't had a feature article on him since I have been a subscriber to your magazine. I don't like many country singers, but I do love Kenny Rogers. He can sing anything, and you can be sure this is one magazine I am going to keep.

I have had the pleasure of attending two of Kenny's concerts. He puts on a great show. Sure hope he will come back to Birmingham soon.

JOYCE STEWART OHATCHEE, AL.

Buddy Ray

Thank you so much for honoring disc jockey Buddy Ray of WWVA, Wheeling, W.Va. He truly is a great country music fan and a fine D.J. and I always enjoy him as MC of the Jamboree.

Also, thank you for the article on Barbara Mandrell. She truly is a talented lady and a fine entertainer and it is so good to hear her say that she is going to stay "country." You have my thanks.

I enjoy your magazine from cover to cover and thanks for the issue on Elvis.

ADA E. KING FRAZEYSBURG, OHIO

Country Fans

I am a country music fan. I've belonged to your Country Music Magazine for about a year and a half now, and just subscribed for 2 more years. I find your magazine very pleasurable. I've gotten seven of my friends interested in your magazine also. I've lent out my copies and my friends are starting their subscriptions. I enjoy your full stories on country stars. Ever since I've joined your magazine, I've become more involved with country music.

JANET GAMBETTI MCNAUGHTON, WISC.

Eddie Rabbitt

Just had to sit down and write to you after I received my most recent edition of Country Music. I have never been much of an Elvis fan, but you made a great choice. when you put an Eddie Rabbitt article in the same issue. All my family loves Eddie. I have heard it mentioned, at his concerts, that he has much charisma, and will soon take the place of Elvis in the hearts of many fans. Eddie is so genuine when you meet him, and you really captured that in the article. I am glad you will soon be doing a cover story on him. I can hardly wait each month to get my issue of your magazine. I think it is the best on the market. Keep up the good work.

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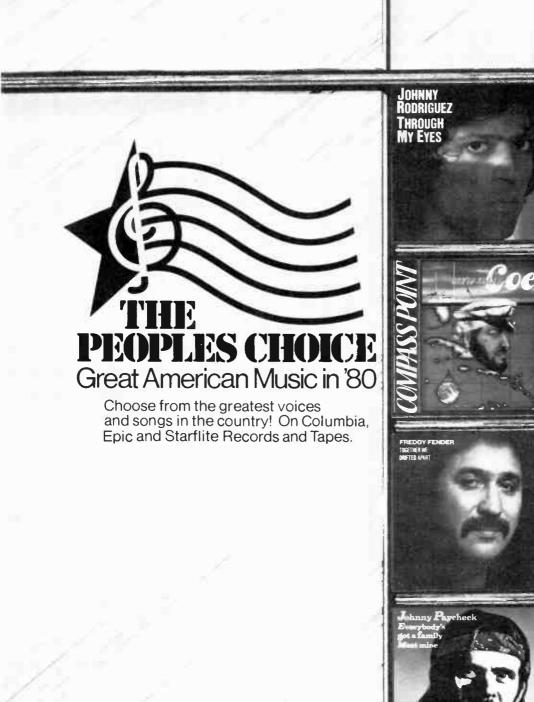
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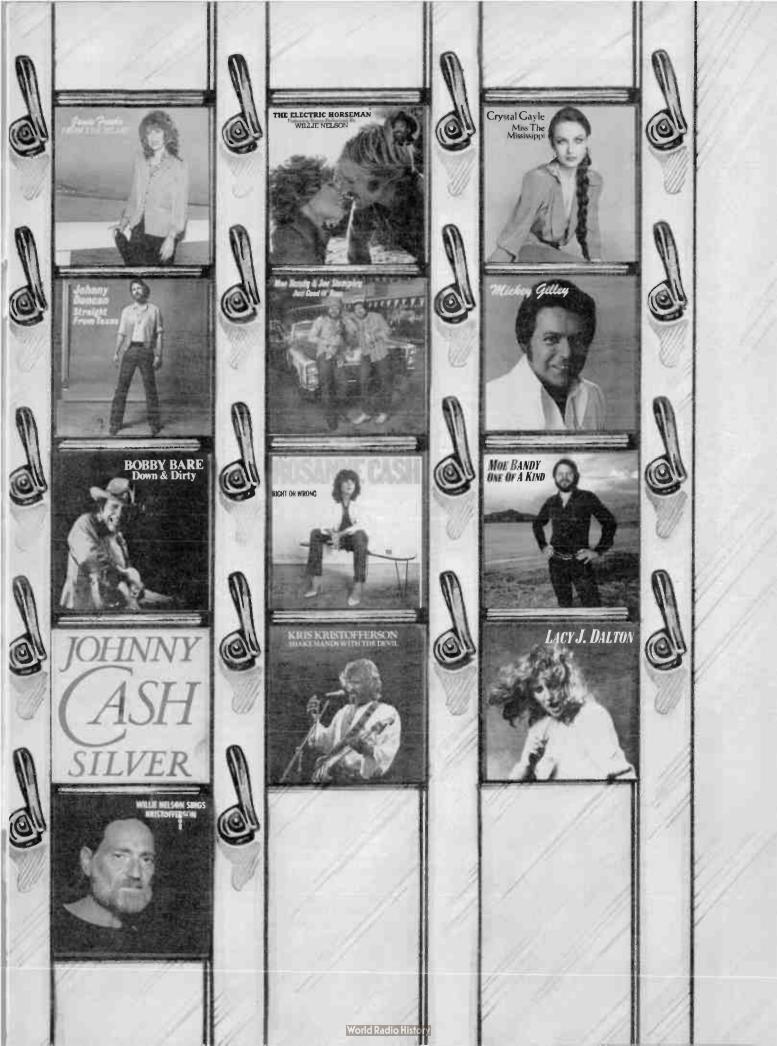
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Nashville Insider

I could have danced all night was probably how Barbara Mandrell felt recently when she made a guest appearance on the *Lawrence Welk Show*. Her invitation to appear on the ever popular show was an unusual one. She was reportedly the fifth "outsider" ever to appear on his show. What did she sing? Why *Country Roads*, of course.

We haven't heard much from Rav Stevens lately. Not since his hilariously funny Help Me Please, Barry Manilow. But he doesn't stay quiet for long, he's recently signed a new recording contract with friend Jerry Reed's label, RCA and promptly went to the studio and recorded the single, Shriner's Convention. The song, you see, is about this shriner who gets into big trouble at the annual Shriner's Convention. It seems he gets involved with too many women, drinks too much booze and tries to take his Harley motorcyle to one too many places. The reason for the song's popularity? "We can all relate to that song," commented one disc jockey.

Charlie Daniels' wife has fired her husband as a farm hand. Now how did all this come about? Well, Charlie almost cut his hand off when he got his right sleeve tangled in his post-hole digging machine while working on his Mt. Juliet (near Nashville) farm a few weeks ago. Reportedly, there was no permanent damage done to his ever important right

arm. But he did break the limb in three places plus he broke two of his fingers. Now that you know the story, can you blame her?

Rex Allen Jr. and his wife, Judy Maude are anxiously awaiting the arrival of their first child, due sometime this spring. But they're also waiting for the reaction to his new concept album Oklahoma Rose. The album is a little different for ole Rex. But he anticipates a wave of changes in the music industry in the next decade and he wants to be ahead of the game. "Each song stands on its own, but together they tell a story," he commented. He and Judy got the idea over a year ago and have been trying to find or write the songs ever since. They got the idea for the baby many years ago. But as Judy explained, "We had to wait until we were a little more settled."

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George & Tammy

First, he has signed a new contract with the Halsey Co. out of Tulsa, Oklahoma. Then he sat beside **Tammy Wynette**, his former wife and singing partner, to announce their professional reunion. Now ain't that sweet?

As Tammy's current and fifth husband, George Richey, explained, "We called up George at midnight the other night and asked him if he wanted to record a duet. He said sure. So Tammy got up and wrote the hit Two Story House and they recorded it the next day."

Well, nothing could be better for both careers than for them to put their sweet voices back together. Neither has been doing much lately in the record sales department. But George and Tammy also announced they'd be making a few concert appearances together. Now can you imagine George Richey, George Jones and Tammy Wynette on a tour bus together. I mean, what would they talk about?

Do you think Dolly Parton's sexy? Does the moon shine in the sky? Both questions seem about as ridiculous. But it seems that when our lovely Dolly showed up in a tee-shirt (and that's all) for a scene in her upcoming movie Nine to Five (also starring Jane Fonda and Lily Tomlin) there was some question on the set, if she was sexy enough. Now come on.

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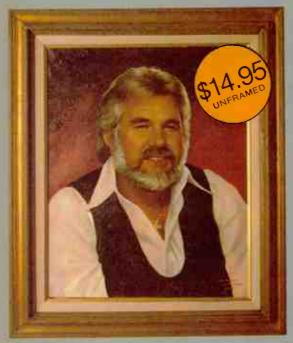
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Country Scene Roping On Broadway



Harry Groener, who plays Will Parker in the new version of "Oklahoma" on Broadway had to learn how to use a lariat for one of the dance numbers in the show.

Though he doesn't consider himself a cowboy, he's never gone to a rodeo and he's got no intention to rope cattle. "There's a lot of Will in me," said Harry Groener who plays Will Parker in Broadway's hit of the year. Oklahoma. "We both can dance, we're both in love and now we can both rope, but that took some doing."

Handsome, six foot Harry, born in Germany where no one ropes, had to learn how to dance with a lariat for Oklahoma's foot stomping dance number Kansas City. So Broadway bigwigs called in the best roper they knew-Montie Montana. After teaching the basic principles, which took just a week of lessons, Montana claimed Harry was "his best student." Harry still practices daily, although it's hard to find room in New York City and he is always learning new tricks. When the show was in Detroit, the viola player in the orchestra, Harold Smith taught Harry the "Shooting the Moon" routine. "The best roping stunt I've seen yet," said Harry, "was when Montie roped a moving car on opening night in Los Angeles."

"It came sort of naturally to me," said Harry. And when you watch him swing his 10 foot rope over his head; in front, in back and around his body; under his legs; you name it . . . you know he's not fibbing.

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stage is that when it works, people think it's a fake rope. But, when I cap the number by actually roping a cowboy and the audience sees the rope get loose so they think it's real—they are more surprised than entertained. The rope, or is it me, doesn't always work though. In California, when my whole family was in the audience and I dropped the ropeflunk on the floor, I picked it up and continued to the end (even though I went past my music cue), just to show my mother-an opera singer and my father-a pianist that I could rope. They were impressed. The funniest blooper was when I got totally tangled in the rope. All the actors on stage were whooping and hollering and I was in the spotlight, fighting my way out of the rope. But, when an audience sees you're in trouble they're for you. Maybe I should screw up on purpose."

Harry has a 10 foot and a 22 foot rope. He uses the 10 foot one on stage and is still trying to master the other. Before the show opened, the prop man bought Harry roping ropes from a horse specialty store, but they are not good for twirling. "You can't buy that kind, it's got to be custom-made because it requires a special weave. It can't be too loose but it needs some stiffness."

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What are Harry's other future plans? "I want to become an even more versatile actor, I want to get a cowboy hat, I want to listen to more Patsy Cline and get to a real hoe-down. Like I said, I'm just like Ol' Will."

NANCY TRACTENBERG

New Heights For The Flying Burrito Brothers

The Flying Burrito Brothers were greeted by a typically enthusiastic crowd at New York's premier honky tonk. But I suspect all the hooting and howling at The Lone Star Cafe was more a diversion than a reaction to the veteran countryrockers on stage. Which is not to say that the Burritos didn't perform an amply energetic set-interpolating renditions of Merle Haggard's White Line Fever, Bob Dylan's You Ain't Going Nowhere and the Rolling Stones classic Wild Horses into their repertoire of Burrito favorites, including Hot Burrito #2, Christine's Tune and a new number entitled Middle of Midnight.

I wondered, though, how much of this urban audience really knew who The Flying Burnto Brothers were . . . that their's is an epithet synonymous with a musical revolution, that they were "The original Bad Boys of Country Rock" responsible for injecting the electronic rock 'n roll of the late 60's with a dose of down home

country.

Led in 1968 by a Georgian visionary, ex-Byrd Gram Parsons, The Flying Burrito Brothers pioneered the genesis of a new musical era that wed traditional country rhythms with a contemporary rock sensibility. Instead of the typical "cry in your beer" odes to love and infidelity, their often cynical lyrics depicted subjects of social concern virtually untouched by country balladeers, thus alienating the Burritos from a mainstream country audience.

The band originated as a drummerless quartet consisting of Parsons with Chris Hillman, another former Byrd, pedal steel player Sneaky Pete Kleinow and bassist Chris Ethridge. They used session drummers to record the debut album, Gilded Palace of Sin, which revealed their potentially successful formula for hybrid country rock, showcasing Parsons' classic compositions and bittersweet vocals. A third Byrds refugee, Michael Clarke, signed on as drummer shortly after the LP's release.



This early shot of the band was taken when Greg Harris (far left) and Eddie Ponder (far Pete Kleinow and Gib Gibeau. (Not shown is drummer Micky McGee.)

The Burritos were not entirely alone in their experimentation with a country-rock fusion. While Dylan and the Beatles had dabbled in the country sound, a small fraternity of artists in southern California were seriously exploring it. Two clubs in Los Angeles were at the hub of the scene—Snoopy's Opera House and the Prelude, where musicians the likes of Bonnie & Delaney, J.J. Cale and Leon Russell hung out and jammed, and exchanged their thoughts and their music.

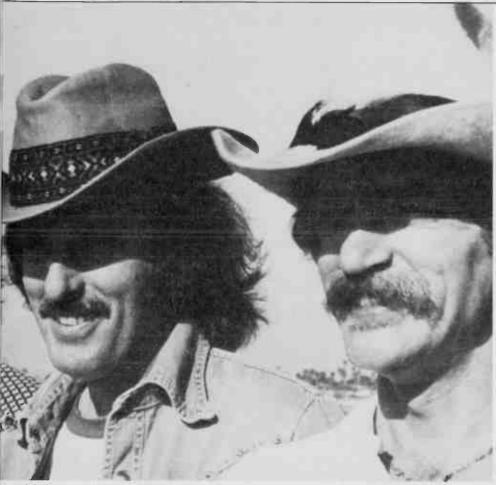
Encouraged by this, Parsons pursued the country angle with magnum force and catapulted the Burritos into the forefront of this burgeoning movement. But in spite of his pivotal influence on their music, Parsons plunged ever deeper into a drug-dominated lifestyle. He left the band as a result in 1970, and released two commercially unsuccessful solo efforts backed by Emmylou Harris, fiddler Byron Berline and three members of

Elvis Presley's troupe. Parsons died in 1973 . . . The Uncrowned Prince of Country-Rock. It was only later that his songs, now hailed as classics, were made popular via the talents of his protégé Emmylou Harris.

The first two years of their career signified the beginning of a tumultous decade for the Flying Burrito Brothers. They have since exhausted some of the great names in music, featuring in various incarnations, the euphonius singing of Rick Roberts, Bernie Leadon's cool guitar style and the firey blue-grass

fiddling of Byron Berline.

Never-the-less, the Burritos are still able to attract some top musicians to their ranks, as the present line-up suggests. With original member Sneaky Pete the group's one link to the past, the newest roster boasts ex-New Rider of The Purple Sage, Skip Battin on bass; and two Linda Ronstadt veterans,



right) were still with the group. The other members pictured are Skip Battin, Sneaky

fiddler-guitarist Gib Gilbeau and drummer Mick McGee.

After 12 years (with a temporary disbandment from 1972 to 1974), the Burritos transcend all prevailing definitons of the word 'band'. They are, rather, a "tradition" characterized by a metamorphic "family" of artists who have once been part of and contributed to the Burrito legacy. But the Father of Country Rock bands has so extensively bred and cross-bred that the outfit endures as little more than a faceless conglomeration of musical influences and styles: having spawned in the interim a litter of more commercially prosperous offspring, including the Eagles (formed by ex-Burrito Bernie Leadon) and Poco (with former Byrd & Burrito Chris Hillman). Not one of the nine albums released under the Flying Burrito Brother umbrella achieved more than nominal sales success, nor have they ever

had a hit record on country or rock charts. Unfortunately, the eclectic elements which worked uniquely in the band's favor simultaneously hindered their ability to produce a homogeneous, identifiable sound.

Undoubtedly, the diversified backgrounds of the present members will again influence the Burrito motif. And as creative artists they want to expand their musical scope, but feel locked into a standard formula defined by audience expectations.

Regarding commercial success drummer Micky McGee says, "Sure we want a hit record. The money has nothing to do with the musical integrity, but its a realistic thing—you need money to tour."

An undisputed fact. Without the support of a major record label (the band is currently on their own Regency Records), touring expenses end up coming out of the musicians' own pockets. But the Burritos are and always have been a "working" band. Touring is their mainstay and ultimately their best publicity. On the road a total of six months a year, they play the club and college circuit (they're not a big enough draw for major halls) to a small, but a loyal legion of fans.

Ironically, it is in Europe that the Burritos have savored their only real taste of fame. "I have a feeling that they think we're a valid representation of American country music," theorizes bass-player Battin. But their honest, nofrills sound has never really caught on in the United States. "We haven't crossed into pure country and don't do the Nashville circuit. Our sound isn't slick enough," Sneaky Pete explains. Nor is it glossy enough to highball them into the rock 'n roll spotlight. A frustrating dilemma.

It appears that their attitude toward Nashville may be changing, though. Citing Charlie Daniels' virgin romance with country stardom, McGee hints that the Burritos' next album may be more in that vein.

The renewed interest in country is already evident in the media. In addition to the flood of specials on TV, the motion picture industry has heartily invested in film extravaganzas such as Coal Miner's Daughter and The Electric Horseman and will be, according to McGee, "dumping \$80 million on spaghetti westerns this year," thus garnering the need for sound-track music. With offers already in hand, this opens some new doors for the band.

It is obvious that the Burritos are not just a band of the past. Born in the 1960's, they have survived the 70's and clearly intend to forge ahead into the '80's with renewed energy and optimism.

Since last summer, they have intermittently been in the studio, recording what will be their first album of this new decade. Producing it themselves, they are taking this project at a decidely leisurely pace, with the date of release yet to be determined. In fact, suggests Battin, of the seven tracks already completed, it is likely that none will appear on the LP.

Actually, McGee says philosophically, "All a recording is, is a piece of tape that captures a space of time." And what is time to a band that has been around as long as the Flying Burrito Brothers?

SUZAN CRANE

Cowboy Art — More Valuable Than Oil

If you were collecting country art all the time you were listening to country music, you would be rich by now. Whether you call it cowboy art, western art or western Americana—the price of American art of the west-portraying cowboys, Indians and their animals, at work, play and war (and inspirational landscapes) is rising faster than oil.

"Demand has been growing by leaps and bounds since the 50's but especially in the last two years," said Gerold Wunderlich, one of the owners of Kennedy Galleries in New York City which specializes in Western Art. "My biggest problem is finding enough good work. It's a question of supply and demand. Western Americana can only come from the American West so it's obviously a somewhat limited supply."

"It's emotional too. It taps the romantic aspect of the Western Frontier. People love that. Every kid grew up with Roy Rogers shooting up Indians," said Wunderlich whose grandfather established the gallery in 1874.

"Americans aren't the only ones who see cowboys and Indians on television or in the movies . . . the whole world does. The resurgence of interest in western art is worldwide. Europeans are eager to add it to their collections because they know it's going to rise in value even more," said Ronald Quinn who is involved in purchasing and sales at the Hammer Gallery that now has a special exhibition of western art. "The old frontier is their fantasy. To them it only exists in movies which increases its appeal."

"Only recently has western art been considered a significant artform," said Quinn. "Serious patrons never call it "cowboy art." "Oh that's cowboy art," used to be a put down—a derrogatory statement. Until recently it was considered too unsophisticated for the East. But, as long as it's done with good taste and is definately not hokey—it's a legitimate work of art."

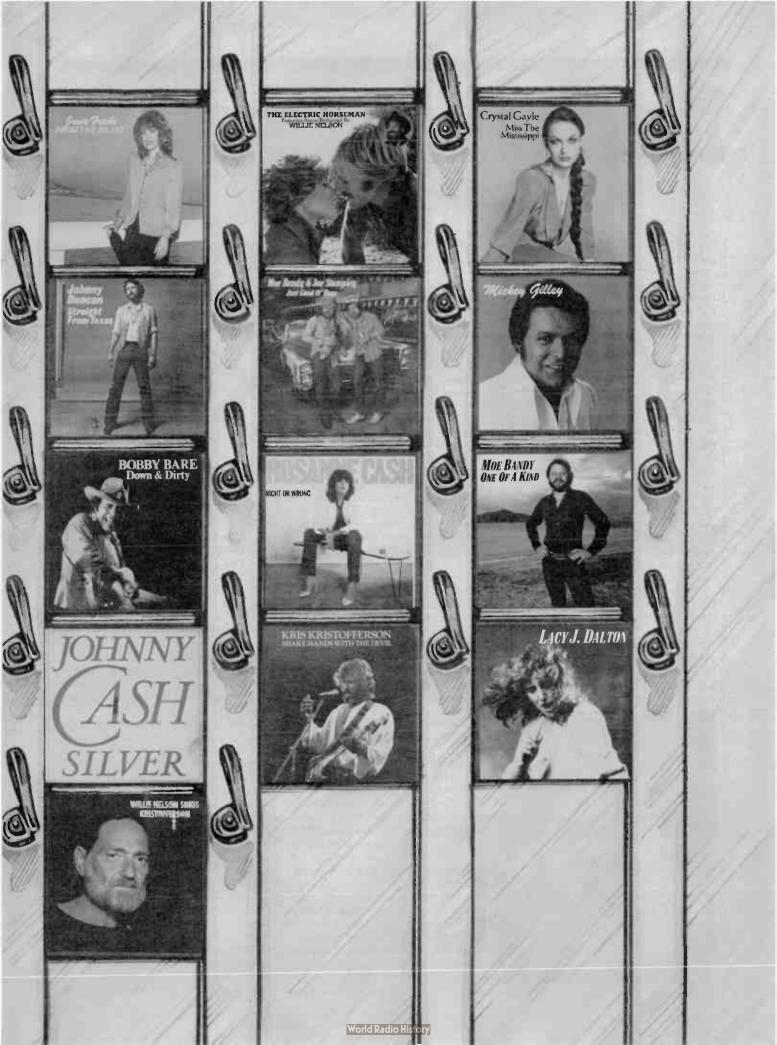
Another reason why western art is scaling the popularity peaks is that "contemporary artists are returning to a more figurative and realistic style of painting. Young painters are painting apples that look like apples," said Quinn, "which is a real departure from the accepted vogue of abstract expressionism in which often times you can't tell apples from oranges. Western art is distinctly realistic." Western artists were inspired by Impressionist painters and some of it looks very impressionistic and romantic.

"People seem to favor action paintings with horses moving. Some war scenes sell well but not if they are too gorey. If there's a lot of blood around it's usually hard to sell. The reason few of them have cowboys sitting around and playing music is because the point of western art is to portray the dynamic side of life," said Wunderlich. "Western paintings don't portray Indians as dumb. In fact, they show Indians as individuals with a very spiritual side."

George Catlin is credited as the first to paint Indians on their own turf. He started in the 1830's. The most popular (Continued on page 54)



At the Kennedy Galleries in New York Frederic Remington's 'Turn Him Loose, Bill' is one of the featured works of art in the Western Americana series.



Nashville Insider

I could have danced all night was probably how Barbara Mandrell felt recently when she made a guest appearance on the *Lawrence Welk Show*. Her invitation to appear on the ever popular show was an unusual one. She was reportedly the fifth "outsider" ever to appear on his show. What did she sing? Why *Country Roads*, of course.

We haven't heard much from Ray Stevens lately. Not since his hilariously funny Help Me Please, Barry Manilow. But he doesn't stay quiet for long, he's recently signed a new recording contract with friend Jerry Reed's label, RCA and promptly went to the studio and recorded the single, Shriner's Convention. The song, you see, is about this shriner who gets into big trouble at the annual Shriner's Convention. It seems he gets involved with too many women, drinks too much booze and tries to take his Harley motorcyle to one too many places. The reason for the song's popularity? "We can all relate to that song," commented one disc jockey.

Charlie Daniels' wife has fired her husband as a farm hand. Now how did all this come about? Well, Charlie almost cut his hand off when he got his right sleeve tangled in his post-hole digging machine while working on his Mt. Juliet (near Nashville) farm a few weeks ago. Reportedly, there was no permanent damage done to his ever important right



Jerry & Burt

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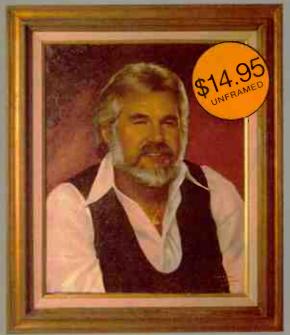
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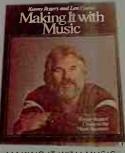


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What are Harry's other future plans? "I want to become an even more versatile actor, I want to get a cowboy hat, I want to listen to more Patsy Cline and get to a real hoe-down. Like I said, I'm just like Ol' Will."

NANCY TRACTENBERG

New Heights For The Flying Burrito Brothers

The Flying Burrito Brothers were greeted by a typically enthusiastic crowd at New York's premier honky tonk. But I suspect all the hooting and howling at The Lone Star Cafe was more a diversion than a reaction to the veteran countryrockers on stage. Which is not to say that the Burritos didn't perform an amply energetic set-interpolating renditions of Merle Haggard's White Line Fever, Bob Dylan's You Ain't Going Nowhere and the Rolling Stones classic Wild Horses into their repertoire of Burrito favorites, including Hot Burrito #2, Christine's Tune and a new number entitled Middle of Midnight.

I wondered, though, how much of this urban audience really knew who The Flying Burrito Brothers were . . . that their's is an epithet synonymous with a musical revolution, that they were "The original Bad Boys of Country Rock" responsible for injecting the electronic rock 'n roll of the late 60's with a dose of down home country.

Led in 1968 by a Georgian visionary, ex-Byrd Gram Parsons, The Flying Burrito Brothers pioneered the genesis of a new musical era that wed traditional country rhythms with a contemporary rock sensibility. Instead of the typical "cry in your beer" odes to love and infidelity, their often cynical lyrics depicted subjects of social concern virtually untouched by country balladeers, thus alienating the Burritos from a mainstream country audience.

The band originated as a drummerless quartet consisting of Parsons with Chris Hillman, another former Byrd, pedal steel player Sneaky Pete Kleinow and bassist Chris Ethridge. They used session drummers to record the debut album, Gilded Palace of Sin, which revealed their potentially successful formula for hybrid country rock, showcasing Parsons' classic compositions and bittersweet vocals. A third Byrds refugee, Michael Clarke, signed on as drummer shortly after the LP's release.



This early shot of the band was taken when Greg Harris (far left) and Eddie Ponder (far Pete Kleinow and Gib Gibeau. (Not shown is drummer Micky McGee.)

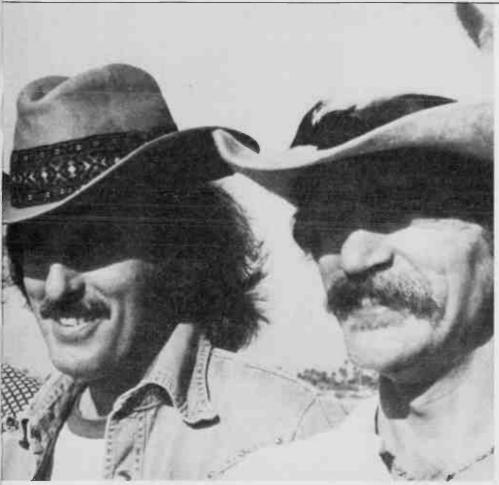
The Burritos were not entirely alone in their experimentation with a country-rock fusion. While Dylan and the Beatles had dabbled in the country sound, a small fraternity of artists in southern California were seriously exploring it. Two clubs in Los Angeles were at the hub of the scene—Snoopy's Opera House and the Prelude, where musicians the likes of Bonnie & Delaney, J.J. Cale and Leon Russell hung out and jammed, and exchanged their thoughts and their music.

Encouraged by this, Parsons pursued the country angle with magnum force and catapulted the Burritos into the forefront of this burgeoning movement. But in spite of his pivotal influence on their music, Parsons plunged ever deeper into a drug-dominated lifestyle. He left the band as a result in 1970, and released two commercially unsuccessful solo efforts backed by Emmylou Harris, fiddler Byron Berline and three members of

Elvis Presley's troupe. Parsons died in 1973 . . . The Uncrowned Prince of Country-Rock. It was only later that his songs, now hailed as classics, were made popular via the talents of his protégé Emmylou Harris.

The first two years of their career signified the beginning of a tumultous decade for the Flying Burrito Brothers. They have since exhausted some of the great names in music, featuring in various incarnations, the euphonius singing of Rick Roberts, Bernie Leadon's cool guitar style and the firey blue-grass fiddling of Byron Berline.

Never-the-less, the Burritos are still able to attract some top musicians to their ranks, as the present line-up suggests. With original member Sneaky Pete the group's one link to the past, the newest roster boasts ex-New Rider of The Purple Sage, Skip Battin on bass; and two Linda Ronstadt veterans,



right) were still with the group. The other members pictured are Skip Battin, Sneaky

fiddler-guitarist Gib Gilbeau and drummer Mick McGee.

After 12 years (with a temporary disbandment from 1972 to 1974), the Burritos transcend all prevailing definitons of the word 'band'. They are, rather, a "tradition" characterized by a metamorphic "family" of artists who have once been part of and contributed to the Burrito legacy. But the Father of Country Rock bands has so extensively bred and cross-bred that the outfit endures as little more than a faceless conglomeration of musical influences and styles; having spawned in the interim a litter of more commercially prosperous offspring, including the Eagles (formed by ex-Burrito Bernie Leadon) and Poco (with former Byrd & Burrito Chris Hillman). Not one of the nine albums released under the Flying Burrito Brother umbrella achieved more than nominal sales success, nor have they ever

had a hit record on country or rock charts. Unfortunately, the eclectic elements which worked uniquely in the band's favor simultaneously hindered their ability to produce a homogeneous, identifiable sound.

Undoubtedly, the diversified backgrounds of the present members will again influence the Burrito motif. And as creative artists they want to expand their musical scope, but feel locked into a standard formula defined by audience expectations.

Regarding commercial success drummer Micky McGee says, "Sure we want a hit record. The money has nothing to do with the musical integrity, but its a realistic thing—you need money to tour."

An undisputed fact. Without the support of a major record label (the band is currently on their own Regency Records), touring expenses end up coming out of the musicians' own pockets. But the Burritos are and always have been a "working" band. Touring is their mainstay and ultimately their best publicity. On the road a total of six months a year, they play the club and college circuit (they're not a big enough draw for major halls) to a small, but a loyal legion of fans.

Ironically, it is in Europe that the Burritos have savored their only real taste of fame. "I have a feeling that they think we're a valid representation of American country music," theorizes bass-player Battin. But their honest, nofrills sound has never really caught on in the United States. "We haven't crossed into pure country and don't do the Nashville circuit. Our sound isn't slick enough," Sneaky Pete explains. Nor is it glossy enough to highball them into the rock 'n roll spotlight. A frustrating dilemma.

It appears that their attitude toward Nashville may be changing, though. Citing Charlie Daniels' virgin romance with country stardom, McGee hints that the Burritos' next album may be more in that vein.

The renewed interest in country is already evident in the media. In addition to the flood of specials on TV, the motion picture industry has heartily invested in film extravaganzas such as Coal Miner's Daughter and The Electric Horseman and will be, according to McGee, "dumping \$80 million on spaghetti westerns this year," thus garnering the need for sound-track music. With offers already in hand, this opens some new doors for the band.

It is obvious that the Burritos are not just a band of the past. Born in the 1960's, they have survived the 70's and clearly intend to forge ahead into the '80's with renewed energy and optimism.

Since last summer, they have intermittently been in the studio, recording what will be their first album of this new decade. Producing it themselves, they are taking this project at a decidely leisurely pace, with the date of release yet to be determined. In fact, suggests Battin, of the seven tracks already completed, it is likely that none will appear on the LP.

Actually, McGee says philosophically, "All a recording is, is a piece of tape that captures a space of time." And what is time to a band that has been around as long as the Flying Burrito Brothers?

SUZAN CRANE

Cowboy Art — More Valuable Than Oil

If you were collecting country art all the time you were listening to country music, you would be rich by now. Whether you call it cowboy art, western art or western Americana—the price of American art of the west-portraying cowboys, Indians and their animals, at work, play and war (and inspirational landscapes) is rising faster than oil.

"Demand has been growing by leaps and bounds since the 50's but especially in the last two years," said Gerold Wunderlich, one of the owners of Kennedy Galleries in New York City which specializes in Western Art. "My biggest problem is finding enough good work. It's a question of supply and demand. Western Americana can only come from the American West so it's obviously a somewhat limited supply."

"It's emotional too. It taps the romantic aspect of the Western Frontier. People love that. Every kid grew up with Roy Rogers shooting up Indians," said Wunderlich whose grandfather established the gallery in 1874.

"Americans aren't the only ones who see cowboys and Indians on television or in the movies . . . the whole world does. The resurgence of interest in western art is worldwide. Europeans are eager to add it to their collections because they know it's going to rise in value even more," said Ronald Quinn who is involved in purchasing and sales at the Hammer Gallery that now has a special exhibition of western art. "The old frontier is their fantasy. To them it only exists in movies which increases its appeal."

"Only recently has western art been considered a significant artform," said Quinn. "Serious patrons never call it "cowboy art." "Oh that's cowboy art," used to be a put down—a derrogatory statement. Until recently it was considered too unsophisticated for the East. But, as long as it's done with good taste and is definately not hokey—it's a legitimate work of art."

Another reason why western art is scaling the popularity peaks is that "contemporary artists are returning to a

more figurative and realistic style of painting. Young painters are painting apples that look like apples," said Quinn, "which is a real departure from the accepted vogue of abstract expressionism in which often times you can't tell apples from oranges. Western art is distinctly realistic." Western artists were inspired by Impressionist painters and some of it looks very impressionistic and romantic.

"People seem to favor action paintings with horses moving. Some war scenes sell well but not if they are too gorey. If there's a lot of blood around it's usually hard to sell. The reason few of them have cowboys sitting around and playing music is because the point of western art is to portray the dynamic side of life," said Wunderlich. "Western paintings don't portray Indians as dumb. In fact, they show Indians as individuals with a very spiritual side."

George Catlin is credited as the first to paint Indians on their own turf. He started in the 1830's. The most popular

(Continued on page 54)



At the Kennedy Galleries in New York Frederic Remington's 'Turn Him Loose, Bill' is one of the featured works of art in the Western Americana series.

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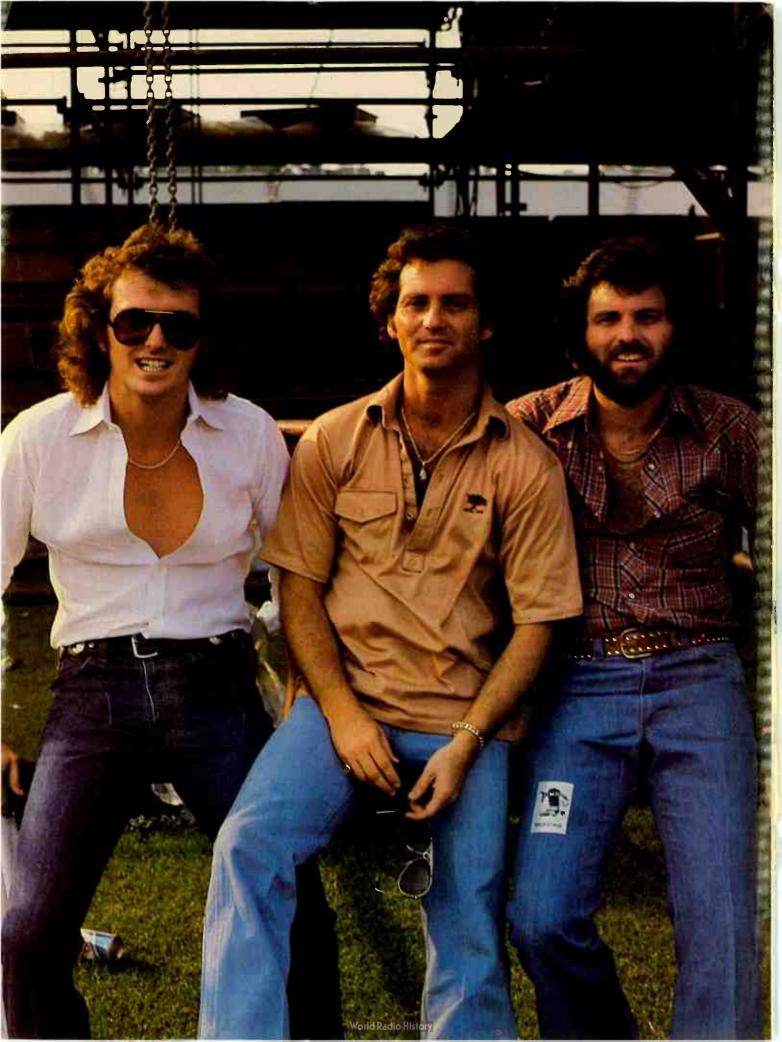
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LARRY GATLIN Straight Ahead

by Dolly Carlisle

It is mid-winter in Atlanta, Georgia. The dark misty evening is rainy and warm. The wet streets glimmer in the glow of the city's nightlights. It is a quiet Monday night and most Atlantans are home, watching Monday Night Football, wishing Howard Cosell would get laryngitis, doing typically what most Americans do on Monday night—nothing much of anything.

But at Alex Cooley's Capri Ballroom in northeast Atlanta, a curious mixture of people have converged. They have come to see firsthand, Larry Gatlin and the Gatlin Brothers Band.

Most entertainers, whether they be rock, pop, jazz, or country have a predictable standardized following. But tonight, people from every walk of life had come.

"He's the only singer I'd like to be a groupie to," says a lady lawyer without the slightest hint of a smile. "I play his songs over and over. I listen to them in a very personal way," the thirty-ish woman dressed in fadish black fringed jacket and matching suede boots added.

"He is God's man," noted one snaggledtooth 78 year old woman. "We drove 40 miles to see him," she added gesturing to include her 87 year old aunt and two daughters. "God takes care of Christians like Larry" pitched in the tiny, wrinkled, white-haired aunt.

"Why, Larry's the only singer the whole family listens to," explains one smartly dressed aftractive middle aged woman. "My two teen-age daughters just went to a Earth, Wind, and Fire concert two nights ago, so I didn't think they'd want to come with me tonight, but they did." "I really like his music," coos the sixteen year old daughter, nodding her head up and down.

"We first heard Larry when he started getting heavy play singing for Southern Bell about twelve years ago," says a telephone worker, clad in a miss-matched jacket and pea colored slacks with white socks and workshoes. "From the first time we heard him, we thought he was fantastic," agreed his wife, wearing a snugfitting Larry Gatlin t-shirt over her ample chest.

Larry Gatlin is different things to different people. He is an







arrogant young smartass to some, a prophetic truthseeker to others. A goodlooking, sexual fantasy to one, yet a fine young Christian man to another. But to everyone he is a writer and singer of heartrending, enduring songs. While some may not agree with his tactics, methods, philosophy, or style, he is undoubtedly one of the most talented songwriters who can now sing on the American musical frontier.

He did not come by this distinction easily. Texas bred, he and his brothers grew up singing gospel music. When he left for college, he had his sights set on becoming a lawyer. But after country-music singer Dottie West read a few of his songs, she sent him a one-way ticket to Nashville, and his life has never been the same.

He put aside the legal jargon and replaced those words with phrases about loving, living and caring. His goals have transcended the materialistic and the assured success he would have had as a lawyer (he has all the ingredients to be a successful lawyer—intelligence, good looks, quick wit and driving ambition). He has now directed his attention to the issues of his time—the age of mediocrity, man's misplaced values and a growing lack of concern for our fellow human being.

At first, he began alone. Eventually, his brothers Rudy and Steve joined him. But only recently with the switch to a new record label (Columbia) has Larry Gatlin become Larry Gatlin and the Gatlin Brothers Band. "We'd been singing together for 25 years," explains Larry. "It was the most natural thing in the world. But I was six years older than them. So while they were in school, I was already out of school, married and writing tunes. Then for a long time, we didn't know what direction it (the singing career) was going to take."

"I think we are much stronger as the triangle. We are three equal parts—an equilateral triangle. I'm the strongest of the three—outgoing, personality-wise. That's just because I'm the oldest, and I always was the master of ceremonies and the talker. It's the order of the universe. Steve is the strongest when it comes to the business. I'm a prissy when it comes to

business . . . I let people run over me. Money doesn't mean anything to me. It's just what I pay the bills with. It's not the guage by which I judge anything. Rudy is our social director. He is the one for keeping it all a little light. We all have a job to do within the group. We all know what it is, and we don't have to explain it to the other."

It seems to be understood among the three that Larry is the leader. He is surely the most gifted. For it is Larry who writes the songs.

He began back in 1973 with Sweet Becky Walker. It stayed on the charts 13 weeks but only topped out at about the fortieth position. The next year, he wrote and released The Bigger They Are, The Harder They Fall and Delta Dirt. The latter reached the fourteenth position on the charts, and Nashville began to talk about the young man named Larry Gatlin who hung around the studios of WSM television.

In 1975, Larry cut his most successful record of his career, Broken Lady. But real success still eluded him. Statues Without Heart zoomed to a fifth position on the charts in 1976. Anything But Leavin, I Don't Wanna Cry, Love Is Just A Game and I Just Wish You Were Someone I Loved followed in 1977. 1978 brought Night Time Magic, Do It Again Tonight, I've Done Enough Dyin' Today, and Oh Brother. In the latter part of 1978, Larry Gatlin had arrived, and he had concrete assurance that his singing career might succeed.

The first year or so was kinda rough," Larry admits. "I'd see someone in the business making it, and I'd think, my God, I'm better than they are. I have more ability than they have. I can sing better. I can write better. The natural tendency is to let that eat on you. And I question why I was shackled with a record company for seven years that couldn't sell a wood stove to an eskimo. But the simple fact is it just wasn't my time. I had to grow and learn. It was a learning experience, and, although I have now parted with that record company, I am thankful for Fred Foster for sticking

"The first year or so was kinda rough. I'd see someone in the business making it, and I'd think, my God, I'm better than they are . . . But the simple fact is it just wasn't my time."

by me and for Tex Davis for teaching me the record business.

On an individual basis, I felt like quitting and kept asking myself, what the hell am I doing this for. I was depriving myself of time with my wife and kids. But those years were my Camp Pendleton, my time of boot training, learning to be whatever it is that I am."

His latest album—Straight Ahead—a phrase that was indicative of his and his brothers' attitudes contains the most

successful single of their career, California Gold, which rocketed to the number one spot on the charts.

But the last cut of the album *The Midnight Choir* caused an amazing degree of controversy. Radio listeners called their dee-jays and requested that they not play the record. Larry was bombarded with mail that asked him what a nice young man was doing singing a tacky song like that. The commotion surprised Gatlin. "I wrote it because it's the truth, and it's probably the most positive song I'll ever write in my life," he says.

It was not long until the tune written and sung from the perspective of the men who hang out at Nashville's Union Mission, was released as a single. Apparently there were more who liked it than who were insulted by it because *The Midnight Choir* zoomed to the top of the charts.

"The reaction to the song has been incredible on stage," notes Larry. "It tears the house down every night. I explain it, the audience gets into it, and it does good. I really believe ninety-nine percent of the people who hear the explanation will understand. It is too idealistic of me to expect for somebody, at home, to listen to the song from front to back and understand exactly what I am trying to say. But for those who hear it the second or third time and still think they have the right to call to attention my spirituality, then they are the ones who need to hear it most. They are the ones who are completely cold toward their fellow man. They have no compassion, and it doesn't matter to them that





people are freezing and starving to death in Nashville. If it outrages them, if it calls up their righteous indignation, well let it be. That's between them and God. It's not my problem."

Although Gatlin has been sued by the Nashville Union Mission, the Atlanta Mission reported to him that the song had brought new attention to the plight of those who exist at their quarters. "It has brought positive results," continues Larry. "As a result of the song, the Mission down there started a campaign, and they started getting money, clothes and donations. So it's really helped."

Larry Gatlin is a man of contradictions. While he wants commercial success, he does not write songs for commercial appeal. "I could read the phone book, and if you put that with the right strings and arrangements and got Billy Sherrill to produce it, that would have a good chance of being a hit. I don't try to write hit records. What a shallow existence that (trying to write hit records) would be. I try to write good songs. Hit records take care of themselves.

His attitude toward writing flows over into what he sings. Gatlin refuses to sing songs other than his own. "Two years ago, I did the Noon Show (a local Nashville television show) the day after Freddie Prinze killed himself. I told the host that I wished Freddie Prinze had heard this song, Penny Annie before he committed suicide. I said it might not have helped at all, but it might have. You never know. That night I did the Opry with Tex Davis, and he came

up and told me a story about a lady who got up, heard that Freddie Prinze had committed suicide. He was one of her favorites. She was really despondent, went to work, and her boss handed her a pink slip telling her she was fired. So on her way home she filled a prescription for quaaludes and decided to commit suicide. She said to herself, if Freddie Prinze can't make it. who am I when he had everything, and I have nothing. Her roommate had left on the TV and she heard me sing on the Noon Show, After she heard the song, she went and flushed the quaaludes down the toilet. That's a true story. I'm responsible for a life. I didn't do it. It's the ability God gave me to write a song that saved somebody's life. Not me. But I've been given some ability. And I try to use it. That's why when someone hollers out to sing Your Cheatin' Heart, I say no thank you. It's a great song, but it doesn't have anything to do with me. I love Hank Williams, and I wish I had written it. But he doesn't have a place in what I do. Just think for a minute what would have happened if instead of Penny Annie I had sung Rocky Top. I think the music is important. I think it is a gift. It is a gift I want to share with people, but I will only share it on my terms. If the audience will accept those terms, we will share it. But since the gift has been given to me on God's terms, when I share it then it needs to be done in the right way. So I say sit down, shut up, and listen.'

Gatlin is close to his God. He talks of praying daily and acknowledges that his music and talents are a gift from his

Creator. But ironically, he speaks about spiritual goals with what many consider to be the vilest of words:

"There are some Christians whose lives are so pure and so clean, and they are so religious instead of being Christlike, that they wouldn't say 'shit' if they had a mouth full of it. I was in a park in Toronto with my drummer, and we saw this wino puking. He was going to die on his own puke. And all these people were walking by—a daddy with his little children just walked by and looked the other way talking about what a beautiful park it was. Everybody was just going to let him die because they were too sanctimonious to get their hands dirty. So me and Phillip rolled him over. It doesn't mean we are good guys. It just means I would want someone to roll me over if I was dying in my own vomit. I ain't too good to get my hands dirty. I've had

"I think the music is important. I think it is a gift. It is a gift I want to share with people, but I will only share it on my terms. If the audience will accept those terms, we will share it."

them dirty with my own puke. Puke is puke. It don't matter if it is your puke or my puke. I don't want to be so pure that I lose the ability to be human. If that ever happens to me, then nail down the lid on





my box and shovel the dirt on me."

Gatlin is an entertainer, but not in the classic sense. He wants people to come to his performance to hear his music. His show does not feature bright, flashing neon lights, sexual wiggling on stage or flashy costumes. Rather, his show is simple, straight forward with no gimmicks. He and his two brothers simply sing. But there can be no question that they sing to the best of their ability. "I love to make music with my brothers. That is the most fulfilling thing this side of making love to my wife and playing with my kids," Larry says. "When I walk off the stage I want people in no uncertain terms to say that little son of a bitch gave every bit he had. That's where lies all the trouble I've had with the press and with the fans. I'm uncompromising. Whatever it takes to do my job, and do it well, that's what I do. If that means not giving autographs, not fraternizing with everybody after the show, sitting on my butt and being quiet for a while,

"I don't want to be so pure that I lose the ability to be human. If that ever happens to me, then nail the lid on my box and shovel the dirt on me."

that is exactly what I'm going to do. Because I've got people coming in for a second show at midnight that deserve the same great show I did at eight o'clock.

Without a doubt, Gatlin could have achieved fame and fortune much earlier in his career if he had compromised the way he thought singing and recording should be done. But Gatlin has never viewed his music as a means to an end. He believes each song is a special message, each performance a gift from he and his brothers. And fame and fortune have never been the reason for their singing. "A couple of years ago, I was asked to sing on the Dean Martin Christmas Special. It is always the highest rated Christmas Show with something like 50 million viewers. The Dean Martin and Bob Hope Christmas Shows are like the Super Bowls of Christmas entertainment. But I didn't do it. They wanted me without my brothers, and they wanted me to lip sync the songs. But I told them that they didn't want me. I said my brothers are good enough to sing with me in Texas, then they are good enough to sing with me on Dean Martin's Christmas Show. They said lip syncing was necessary because of camera angles. But I said screw your camera angles. Lip syncing is for people who can't sing. It was as simple as that, The musical integrity of what we do is uncompromising."

"I want success to happen because I just want more people to be hooked to the music. I'd like to be able to pay my guys a little better. I'd like to work fewer days







and make a little more money so I could stay at home and enjoy my wife, my kids and all the other things we've been blessed with. But right now I'm feeding 31 people, counting all the guys, their wives and their kids. That's a lot of folks. To take care of all those people, I have to work harder than I want to. I really don't care about the adulation. My brothers and I are not just interested in a career in the entertainment business. It means so much more to us than that."

The Gatlin Brothers are a rare breed in the showbiz world. They seem cocky and very sure of themselves. But they appear that way because they are. They have maintained an understanding of why they are singing and have refused to let the bright lights of stardom blind their view. They have avoided drugs, still attend church when they are in town and are happy to introduce their wives and children from the stage. (Several entertainers refuse to acknowledge their wives and families because they fear it will diminish their sex appeal.) Their strength comes not from the praise and adoration, but from each other and from their homelife. And because of where they have placed their values, the Gatlin Brothers may survive. Unlike so many of their entertainment cohorts, the Gatlin Brothers may have a chance to grow old without the destructive scars of stardom, "People want a god. But there's one up there already who's doing a good job. Why don't we let him be God and let people just be human. But I guess that's idealism. If we didn't build up entertainers into gods, it would screw up the entertainment business.'

"Actually, I'm very simple," he says, "I'm very ordinary, but I do have opinions, and I do have either the stupidity or the balls to say what I think. If Larry Gatlin precludes me from being Larry Gatlin the human being, who's conscious of the world in which he lives and who cares about his fellow man and who cares what I'm leaving my boy Josh and my daughter Christy and their friends when

"I love to make music with my brothers. . . . I really don't care about the adulation. My brothers and I are not just interested in a career in the entertainment business. It means so much more to us than that."

I'm gone then it's wrong. I have opinions and I refuse to sit and fabricate answers to questions just because I think it is what John and Mary out there want to hear. If John and Mary like my music and have any respect for my music and for what I am trying to do, then please, I ask them to at least give me the chance to be a human being".

The Gatlin Brothers STEVE guitar that my

Back in the fall of 1971, Steve Gatlin was attending college in Texas "flunking courses I didn't want to take and up to my butt in studies I didn't enjoy," he reminisces. "I called Larry on the phone angry and upset. But he said to hold on and to give everything time to work out. He was already in Nashville trying to get established as a singer. I knew he was right. I didn't know when it was going to work out. But my brothers and I always knew that we'd end up singing together professionally."

Twenty-eight year old Steve finally did graduate with a pre-dental degree. "I was going to school knowing I'd never pull a tooth," but I wanted that degree."

His convictions were so strong about entering the country music business with his two brothers that on his first date with his wife, Cynthia, he told her not to fall in love with him unless she wanted to be an entertainer's wife.



Steve came to Nashville by way of Tammy Wynette. "Rudy and my sister. Donna, were part of Tammy Wynette's show. We were the ones singing the oohs and ahs. It was our way of getting a foot in the door and learning about the business. That experience made it a little easier when we were able to start singing with Larry. But then I'd already spent the time in the Holiday Inns of the world. I knew what the life was like."

It wasn't until the brothers had decided to form a band that Steve learned to play the bass guitar. "We like to say that we don't know enough music to let it get in our way of singing and playing," Steve says with a laugh."We never took piano lessons or any kind of private lessons. But we don't have to know how to read music. We use our throats as our primary musical instruments. I learned to play bass because when we first started we didn't have enough money to hire a bass player. Larry said I had to learn. I sat down and learned Broken Lady by rote and then went on to memorize where all my fingers went for the rest of the songs. I remember the first night I was on stage playing bass, I was scared to death. I pressed my hand so hard against the

guitar that my hand cramped. I had learned to play by looking where my fingers were going. Then that night on stage I realized that when you're not sitting down, you can't look at your hands. I prayed that I was going to get through that night."

Steve, his wife and three year old daughter Ashley live in a sprawling brick house in Brentwood, Tennessee, just around the corner from the Larry Gatlin crew. It is Steve's responsibility to take care of the business aspects of Larry Gatlin and the Gatlin Brothers Band. "I take the business problems on my shoulder. Larry gets emotionally torn up because a lady doesn't like Midnight Choir. But I grew into the financial aspect because I like it. The finances are what I get concerned about. Right now, things are good, but there was a time when I had to decide who got paid when there wasn't enough money to go around. It was usually me and my two brothers that came up on the short end.

Steve's immediate ambitions are to "sing Larry's songs" and to produce the best records ("Rudy and I did all the production work on the last album Straight Ahead, he said") and shows possible. His long-term plans were more ambiguous. "I know that I want to be associated with the music business in some way all my life. In what area, I don't know. All I'm concerned about now is spreading myself too thin. I know that eventually I have to settle down to one course, but right now I'm dabbling in as much as I can."

RUDY

Twenty-seven year old Rudy Gatlin is the youngest of the three Gatlin brothers and said to be the most carefree. The tall, bespeckled, tousled-haired singer is the only one of the three unmarried. It is a status that his brother Larry teases him about frequently on stage. "And girls, this one's free," Larry often proclaims to the audience, smiling as the girls start squealing.

"Yeah, I get tired of all that." Rudy said sad-faced, then abruptly asked, "By the way, what are you doing later?"

After a few more cute remarks, Rudy finally settled down to a more serious conversation. "Our singing together really started with Larry," he started reminiscing. "He was the oldest and could talk and all that. One day my aunts said hey, why don't you have the boys join you. So we did.

Rudy went to college and majored in business administration and finance. "It was too late in my life to start a major in music. My ability to sing and play was a God given talent. I never took piano and couldn't sight read. Basically, I learned by listening.

As with brother Steve, there was never any doubt in Rudy's mind that he would eventually join Larry to become a singing group. "We were put here on this good earth to do exactly what we're doing. We believe in divine guidance. We believe that the good Lord does, has and will continue to have his hand on us. It was meant to happen exactly like it's happening, or it wouldn't be happening.

Although Rudy now lives across town from his two brothers, he has recently purchased a large farm very near where Larry and Steve live. "It's weird the way that worked out. People say, oh isn't that nice that you live so close together. But I didn't buy that piece of property to be down the street from Larry and Steve," he explained. "I looked for six months for some good farm land. It just ended up that what I was looking for was next door to them".

Rudy sat on the couch in the office of the Gatlin Brothers Enterprises, clowning one minute and then the next talking about his spiritual life. His actions and his conversation seemed to epitomize the style of the Gatlin Brothers on stage, a serious moment followed by a joke. "I think we have a calling," he continued, after making yet another sly comment about his supposed wild dating life. "Some people are called to work in the peace corps, some are called to be Sunday School teachers. But we don't say okay let's hit the crowd with a couple of good numbers, then drop the religious number on them. We are entertainers. We're not perfect Christians, we're not angels. And I don't want anybody to get the idea that we think we are. I didn't make it out of bed last Sunday to go to church, but I turned it on TV"

His plans for the future are vague. He is the sort that lives each day to the fullest and lets the future take care of itself. "I'd like to lay back, exhausted and satisfied and have no regrets. I guess when I'm old I'd like to think that we will have accomplished what we'd set out to do—to do some good and help a few people along the way."





GAIL DAVIES Magic Music

by Dolly Carlisle

It is customary for promotional representatives to pump reporters full of dramatized hype about their artists. Hype is usually ignored, passed off as a necessary annoyance of the entertainment business. But the superlatives used to describe Warner Brothers new artist Gail Davies may not be overly exaggerated.

"She's one of the biggest talents to come along since Dolly Parton," proclaimed Bonnie Rasmussen, publicity director for the record label. "She writes her own lyrics, her own music, she does the arranging and she produced her new album. "Other than Dolly Parton, I don't know of any other female country artist who is capable of doing all those things. She's gonna be big."

A label executive would relish the thought of developing another Dolly Parton (speaking musically, and not physically, of course). And such professional heights may be ambitious wishing for Gail Davies. But the musical talents are definitely there as already exhibited in her new album The Game. The rest will depend on Gail's own drive and her particular goals.

She is a slender, almost frail looking woman at first meeting. She's tall enough, about 5'5", but her svelte frame carries no excess weight. Thin as a rail might be an appropriate description.

A man's medium blue shirt made of coarse cotton material hung from her slim shoulders the Saturday afternoon we met. Her loose fitting bluejeans couldn't have been more than a size seven. The ill-fitting clothing exaggerated her slight stature.

As a book cannot be wisely judged by its cover, Gail Davies' physical leanness does not accurately depict her inner character. For beneath that finespun body is a dynamo.

She invited me into her pleasant West Nashville brick home with great enthusiasm. I was yet another person with whom she could share a dream come true.

"This is the first place I've really ever

had to call my own," she explained, directing me from one disheveled room into another. The place was a wreck except for one small corner of the living room where Richard, her husband of three years, sat totally engrossed in a Saturday afternoon football game.

I was soon to learn that Gail Davies didn't see the house the way it was—exposed ceiling beams waiting to be stained, ripped out walls awaiting new wallpaper, wood floors in need of being stripped and waxed. She visualized it as it would be. "I tore this out so there would be more open space," she sputtered. We're going to put a skylight in the bedroom so we can look up at the stars at night. This wallpaper will go in here . . .," and on and on she chattered, skipping from room to room becoming overwhelmed by her own enthusiasm. "Won't it be beautiful?" she questioned with great glee.

I was soon to discover that the way in which she decorated her house was indicative of her approach to life and music. She does not limit herself to what is, but visualizes what can be and strives to make the dream reality. "I used to think that an optimist was somebody who thinks things are going to work out and I do think things are going to work out. But you make your own magic. I think luck is where preparation meets with opportunity."

She reflects that she was not ready to take advantage of several opportunities in the past, but now thinks her time has come. Her latest single *Blue Heartache* off her new album **The Game** is a clue of what will be. It meteored to the top of the charts almost immediately after its release in January.

Gail Davies was the second child and only daughter of musically inclined Oklahoman parents. She grew up materially poor ("When I was in grade school, we got a pair of shoes a year," she recalls. "When I was in junior high school, I can remember the soles were coming off the bottoms of my shoes in the middle of the school year. They would flop when I would walk down the halls and make this funny sound. The kids would laugh at me. . . My mother would go to the Salvation Army, buy an old dress, take all the yardage out of the full skirt and make a new dress for me.") but spiritually and musically rich.

"My dad was a guitar player, my mom sang a little," she reminisced, "and my brother wrote his first song when he was in the first grade. All my brothers sang. I have two younger brothers although one died and an older brother Ron. He is an incredible writer" (Ron's music has been recorded by such giants as Helen Reddy and Three Dog Night). "He writes beautiful songs. So Ron and Jim and I grew up singing. I was singing when I was three years old. By five, I could carry a tune and sing harmony. While we were still

little kids, we started singing together. My mom's got tapes today where the blend is so tight that we can't tell if it's me or Ron."

Gail grew up listening to the sounds of Patsy Cline, Ray Price, Hank Snow and Webb Pierce. As a teenager, she was drawn to the musical heros of her peers—The Beatles and Jefferson Airplane. Her musical spectrum continued to expand when she married a jazz musician and became esconsed in a world dominated by the singing of Ella Fitzgerald and Billy Holiday. "I think the more I listened to those people (jazz personalities) the more respect I had for Patsy Cline," observes Gail. "Patsy Cline and Billy Holiday were not that far apart as singers."

Gail's musical career ("I never had any other aspiration than to be a singer," she has said,) began as a rock and roll singer. It was a form of music that reflected her lifestyle. "I was pretty crazy at one time," she admits. "My brother died (he was killed when the car he was driving was struck by a drunk driver) and my husband walked out on me the same day. I was twenty-three years old. I couldn't understand my brother's death. Some people said it was God's will and I didn't believe it. I became an atheist for a long time."

But when she was 27 (five years ago), she lost her voice. "I got real bad nodes on my vocal cords and the doctor told me to quit singing for about six months," she explained.

Her seemingly ill-fated sabbatical from singing resulted in her first efforts at writing. "My brother was a songwriter and my dad wrote songs, so I thought it was maybe somewhat hereditary," she said. "So I took up writing."

The introspective writing efforts sparked a general metamorphic rejuvenation. She eventually re-established her belief in God and returned to her musical roots—country. While many Nashville artists were packing up their bags for the glamour of the west coast, Gail Davies decided to

"I write songs for the same reason I talk . . . because I want to tell something. There's a story behind every song. I can't make up something that never happened."

move from Los Angeles to Nashville.

Today she's a Bible student. "I try to study as much as I can," she reflects. "I felt like there was something in the Bible that would make life easier and there is. It makes logical sense."

She is a woman sure of herself, confident of her abilities and forceful with her ideas. The hazel eyes seem to view the world with a look of detached amusement

—as though she knows and understands the illusions and pitfalls that await her on the climb upward. "Happiness comes with resolving in your mind to be happy with what you have," she contends. "Happiness is a state of mind, not a state of finances. Some people think if you reach a certain state of fame and success, then you'll be happy. That's not true. Most times, the more fame and success you have, the less happy you are because the more demands you have on your personal life, privacy and values."

Her wisdom, she says has come as a result "of being kicked around alot." And she is attempting to share as much of that knowledge and insight as possible in her music. "I write songs for the same reason I talk," she adds, "because I want to tell something."

The result is a poetic, intimate personal style of music. "There's a story behind every song," she says. "I can't make up something that never happened and write about it."

Some of her songs are about people who have been important in her life. Gail wrote about her grandmother with the words "I loved her so and oh she was a special one. A lovely lady and a gentle old soul and she taught me to sing an old folk song" in a tune appropriately titled Grandma's Song. She reminisced about her step-father in the song Soft Spoken Man-"We were little and had no say about the man my mom was bringin' home that day. Now I'm a woman and plainly see that if I chose my dad, he'd be the one for me." And she was thinking of her husband, Richard, when she penned Never Seen A Man Like You. The words go "And I thought I knew what love was about, but in this case it just ain't true. And I don't seem to know what to do 'cause I ain't never seen a man like you.'

But Gail Davies also shares her thoughts on living in her songs as she did in Someone is Looking For Someone Like You. She wrote the song while feeling depressed, blue and lonely, then realizing that she was not alone in her mood, reflected "Somewhere a man's got no woman to turn to. Somewhere a woman is lonely and blue. Somewhere a child's got no mamma to hold her. . . Think of all the time you waste complaining. Think of all the good that could be done. . . Think of all the friends you could be gaining, if you lift your hand to help someone."

The Game is Gail's second album (she recorded her first about a year ago under a now defunct label "LifeSong") and her first self-produced. "I hope people just like the album and enjoy it," she said with a sigh, "and don't pick at it. It was my first production and the next one I will produce better. You don't do it perfect the first time. But I'm getting the hang of it."

I could only think how lucky we'd all be if our first efforts were as rich, vibrant and enjoyable as Gail Davies' had been.

Charlie Daniels

"I come from a laboring class of people, people who have to worry about scraping up the money to pay the light bill or for their next meal. Them's my people. That's where my heart's at. That's the people I want to communicate with and relate to. Them snobs can go to hell!"

Charlie Daniels

Double Platinum Fiddle Player

by Bob Allen

From 20 rows back in a large concert hall, Charlie Daniels, at center stage, looks meaner than a grizzly bear with his paw stuck in a hornet's nest. At 6 foot, two inches and 265 pounds, he commands the stage with all the subtlety of a Brahma Bull. He chords his guitar with a venegeance and seems to glare out threateningly from underneath his huge hat, thick beard, and dark glasses.

The hard-driving, country-flavored Southern rock music that Daniels and his band play often comes across the same way. They sing hard-driving, tough, and free-wheeling songs about "stayin" up late and drinkin' too damn much whiskey," and "The South's gonna rise again," and long-haired country boys and rednecks gettin "whipped" on, and whuppin' on each other (Uneasy Rider). They're songs about hard living and hard playing that generally reflect a sort of "devil-may-care, but you better-leave-this-long-haired-country-boy-alone, keep-outa-my-way-and-l'll-keep-outa-yours" attitude.

In fact, if there is a word or phrase that describes the form and philosophy of Charlie Daniels' music and lifestyle, it would be "DON'T TREAD ON ME!" He is a self-made man and a highly principled man, as full of compassion as he is of opinions, And as far as his opinions go, he

will seldom volunteer them unless asked, but once asked, he will often expound upon them at length.

"I ain't no star," Daniels insists with a polite bluntness that is characteristic of the man. "I don't want to act like one, and I don't care about being one. I'm a big, loud, boisterous old cowboy. I sing loud, talk loud, and enjoy being drunk once in a while."

But somehow, when Daniels makes statements like that to writers, they seem to come out in the harsh black and white of the printed word, sounding much nastier and hard-headed than they sound when he actually says them directly to you.

Don't get me wrong. At times, Charlie Daniels may be all of these things—hardheaded, loud, boisterous... There was the time, for instance, that some guy in New York City wouldn't shut up about Charlie's hat, and ended up getting pushed through a door (a closed one).

But beneath all that, there is the more essential Charlie Daniels: the man who's been married to the same woman for sixteen years ("I have the opportunity, but not the inclination for groupies," he says. "I've got too much goin' at home."); the man who would much rather spend a quiet Saturday night at home, lying on his sofa than he would in a bar, dodging beer

bottles. The essential Charlie Daniels is a man who, by instinct, more than anything else, seems to have found a formula for living that suits him; and if he at times sounds impatient with those who question his music or lifestyle too closely, it's because Charlie himself doesn't see the need for any lengthy analysis. He is a man who seems to have a much stronger sense of his own time and place than do most of his contemporaries. One whose strong sense of social responsibility leads him to do everything from lending hours of his time toward putting those he considers the right men in office, right down to small things like keeping his home thermostat at a chilly 65 degrees. He's the man who helped set up a memorial fund for their children, when his friends in the Lynyrd Skynyrd band were killed in a plane crash. He is the one who once gave a private concert in the hospital room of an 18-year-old Ohio boy who lost both hands and was badly burned when he fell on a transformer, trying to sneak into one of his concerts.

But still, there is that other Charlie Daniels that when put upon unjustly, will only show restraint for so long. Though he admits that he's only been in a couple of fights in his entire adult life, there have been those few times he's been tread on to the point where he had to pull his weight.



Like the time in New York and the guy who wouldn't shut up about his hat.

"He said somethin' like, 'That hat looks funny in New York," Charlie recalls with bearly concealed disdain. "I told him, 'I paid quite a bit of money for this hat, and I don't think it looks funny at all." But he kept on and on, and I made the mistake of standin' there and tryin' to argue with him," Charlie grimaces.

"I finally ended up callin' him a belligerent sonofabitch and grabbed him by the lapels of his suit. He was a pretty good-sized fellah. He wasn't no shrinkin' violet or nothin'," Charlie emphasized. "I picked him up and slung him through a bathroom door. I think he was kinda surprised about it.

"He still didn't shut up, but I finally left. Later, one of the boys cuffed him up pretty good, and the last time, I saw him, he was standin' in the hall, holdin' a wet rag up to

nis eye.

"Later, I was ashamed of myself though," Charlie shakes his head regretfully, "because I usually can walk away from situations like that. I usually have a bunch of people with me, and if I lose my cool, they lose theirs, and someone could get seriously hurt. The next guy that tells me

"I ain't no star. I don't want to act like one, and I don't care about being one. I'm a big, loud, boisterous old cowboy. I sing loud, talk loud, and enjoy being drunk once in a while."

that I have a funny hat, I'll just agree and walk away."

When Charlie is mellowed out at home, though, he seems a world away from the strain and irritation of such minor incidents. Home for him is a 75-acre farm about a 45-minute drive to the east of Nashville where he lives with his wife, Hazel, and their 14-year-old son, Charlie Jr. It's not in any kind of fancy neighborhood, mind you. In fact, it's practically in the middle of nowhere. The long, gravel driveway winds off of an isolated side road, past horse stables, a large garden and a bass pond, almost a mile, to a two-story log home that sits high atop a hill. And of course, there are signs of the old "DON'T TREAD ON ME": There's two or three big "Beware of Dog, No Trespassing" warnings posted, and there are two locked gates between the house and the public road. To Charlie, privacy, like family and country, is sacred.

Inside his big log house, Charlie is sprawled comfortably on a sofa in his club basement. Dressed in Levis, suspenders, a thermal underwear top, a red bandana, with matching red socks on his shoeless feet, he looks like anything but a loud,

boisterous cowboy. In fact, without his hat, it's amazing how life-sized he actually looks. Yawning contentedly, he leans forward just enough to spit a wad of spent chewing tobacco into a copper spittoon.

"This place is a perfect balance to bein' on the road," he explains as he stretched luxuriously and leans back again. "I can come home, lock two gates, and I'm here. You've either gotta bust a fence down or walk a good ways to get to me. I'm away so much that when I do get home, I'm so glad to be here that I could stay on this place and not go past the property line for a week, and it wouldn't bother me at all. I've got my horses and my cows, and I've got enough work to keep me busy for five years. I like to plant stuff and see it grow, and raise my own eggs-when the chickens are layin'. I'm gonna buy me a milk cow eventually. I like this kind of life."

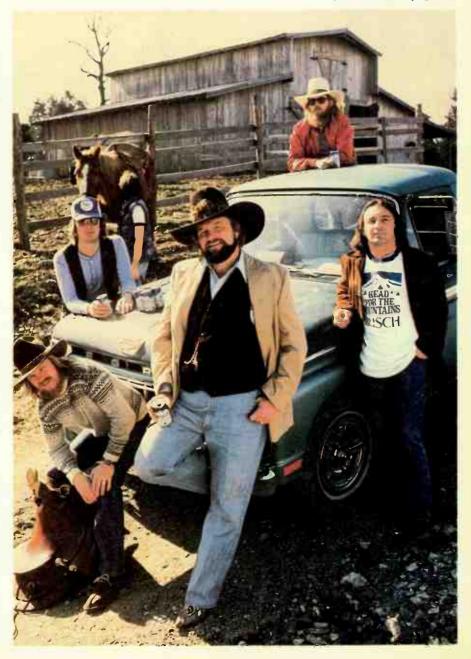
Here on the farm, Charlie's usually in bed early and up at the crack of dawn. Out here, the high-decibel strains of his music fall away from his ears for a while as he becomes more preocuppied with matters like the broken chainsaw and the firewood that needs to be cut, the deep-freeze full of home-grown vegtables that is on the blink, and the appointment that must be made with the county agent to figure out how to get the chemical balance in his bass pond straightened out. And in the morning, he'll be up at daybreak to see about getting these things taken care of.

"My life would bore the hell out of a lot of people," he insists. "I don't care anything about goin' to clubs anymore. I did that for 12 years. When I'm home, I

like to stay here."

The fact is, though, Charlie's not been home all that much in the past year. In

(Continued on page 39)



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14 Greats: Sooner Or Later/Heaven Knows/ Walking Through The Country/The River is Wide/Let's Live To-gether, many more! LP No. GT-0044 8 TK No. GT8-0044

16 Greatest Hits: I'm Slowly Dylng Of A Broken Heart/I Love You A 1000 Ways/ Slow Poke/Lonesome 7-7203, more! LP No. SD-3013 8 TK No. SDT-13013

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Matinee Idol: The St Bernard Dog/Throw Up In A Cab/Dirty Words, and more! LP No. KLP-1135 8TK No. KLPT-11135

Bare Facts: Recorded Live At The Redd Foxx Club-Hollywood California. LP No. KLP-1072 8TK No. KLPT-11072

Pass The Apple: Re-corded Live At The Redd Foxx Club, Hollywood, Cal. LP No. KLP-1073 8 TK No. KLPT-11073

In A Nutshell: Re-corded Live At The Redd Foxx Club, Hollywood, Cal. LP No. KLP-1074 8 TK No. KLPT-11074

R. Gallery & F P

Greatest Hits: Wall To Wall. Love/One Way Street/You Take The Table, I'll Take The Chair/Sweet Honey Lies/Yearning, more! LP No. SD-996 8 TK No. SDT-1996

Bobby Helms-Greatest Hits: Fraulein/Work
Things Out With Annie/The Midnight Of
My Mind/You Are My
Special Angel, more!
LP No. PO-283
8 TK No. PO-1283

The Best Of: It Start-ed All Over Again/So Many Ways/It's All Over/She's All Wom-an/Where Could I Go (But To Her), more! LP No. GT-0012 8 TK No. GT8-0012

Greates Hits Of: Just For You/Fallen Star/ Walkin' & Hummin'/ Money Greases Whe-els/The Wings Of A Dove/Timber, more! LP No. SD-3018 8 TK No. SDT-13018

George Jones-Crown Prince Of Country Music: 1 is A Lonely Number/One Woman Man/Heart Broken Me, 9 more! Power Pak LP No. PO-271 8 TK No. PO-1271

George Jones-Golden Hits: Why, Baby, Why/ Color Of The Blues/I Gotta Talk To Your Heart/Just One More, 7 more! Starday LP No. SLP440 8 TK No. SLPT-1440

George Jones-Greatest Hits: It's Okay/Boat Of Life/Still Hurting/ Taggin' Along/Ragged But Right/Hold Every-thing, more! Starday LP No. SLP-150 8 TK No. SLPT-1150

16 Greatest Hits: One
1s A Lonely Number/
Just One More/Uh Uh,
No/If I Don't Love
You/Color Of The
Blues, more! King
LP No. SD-3021
8 TK No. SDT-13021

Good Old Bible: Will The Circle Be Un-broken/We'll Under-stand It/Jesus Wants Me/Boat Of Life/The Title Song, more! LP No. GT-0043 8 TK No. GT8-0043

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15 Cents Is All I've Got: Title Song/Here Rattler Here/That Memphis Train, more! LP No. PO-301 8 TK No. PO-1301

16 Sacred Songs: The Arm Of God/Come & Dine/144,000 Were There, much more! LP No. KLP-822 8TK No. KLPT-1822

Grandpa Jones-24 Big Country Hits: Darby's Ram/I'm Tying The Leaves/My Little Nag-ging Wife/Going Down Town, morre! Starday LP No. KLP-967 8 TK No. KLPT-1967

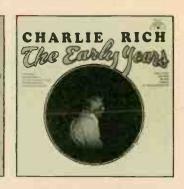
Grandpa Jones-Other Side Of: My Darling's Not My Darling Anymore/You'll Miss Me When I'm Gone/Tr-ouble, more! Starday LP No. KLP-888 8 TK No. KLPT-1888







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From The Vauits Of Sun: Hound Dog/The Wild Side Of Life, Rock & Roll Ruby/ Feel So Good/Sick & Tired, much more! LP No. PO-247

Jerry Lee Lewis-Gold-en Hits Vol. 1: Great Balls Of Fire/It'll Be Me/Breathless/Whole Lotta Shakin' Going On, 6 more! Sun LP No. S-102 8 TK No. ST-102

Jerry Lee Lewis-Goiden Hits Vol. 2: Save The Last Dance For Me/Fools Like Me/l'il Sall My Ship Alone/ Money, 7 more! Sun LP No. S-103 8 TK No. ST-103

Original Golden Hits, Vol. 3: One Minute Past Eternity/Lovin' Up A Storm/Sweet Little Sixteen/Love On Broadway, more! LP No. S-128 8 TK No. ST-128

one on Pine Fider

Play 14 Mountain Songs: Eatin' Out Of Your Hand/Lonesome Pine/Kentucky Hill Special/Two Timin' Special/Two Timil Baby, more! Starday LP No. SLP-155 8 TK No. SLPT-1155

Lulu Belle & Scotty-Sweethearts Still: I'll Be All Smiles Tonight/ Between You & Me/I Told Them All About You, more! Starday LP No. SLP-351 8 TK No. SLPT-1351

Warner Mile

The Best Of The Best Of: Is it Wrong/Sittin' On A Rock/The Bridge Washed Out/Drifting Apart/Talkin' To The Wall, more! LP No. GT-0042

Mainir's Mountaine

Mainer's Mountaineers-Good Ole' Mountain Music: The Lone-ly Train/The Forks Of The Road/Run Mountain/John Henry, more! LP No. KLP-666 8 TK No. KLPT-1666

Benny Martin-Greatest Hits: Me & My Fiddle/ Crackin' County Corn/ Sinful Cinderella/If I Could Stay Away Long Enough, many more! LP No. PO-223 8 TK No. PO-1-1013

Great Bluegrass Hits: Widow Maker/White Dove/Uncle Pen/Big Country/Taylor Made Sally Good/Goodbye Country/ Sally Good/Goodb Old Pal, more! LP No. GT-0003 8 TK No. GT8-0003

Cutte NoPete Dueling Banjos: Title Song/Home Sweet Home/Brassy Blue-grass/Old Joe Clark/ Doodlin' Banjos/Red Dress, much more! LP No. PO-236 8 TK No. PO-1-1026

or Miller

Roger Miller-Painted Poetry: Under The Spell Again/Poor Lit-tile John/Play Boy/I Ain't Never/Country Girl/Pillow, more! LP No. SD-3011 8 TK No. SDT-13011

Charlie Monroe

Charlie Monroe-Tally Ho: Lazy Day/Peni-tentary Blues/Hard To Believe/Willow Garden/Time Clock/I'm Going Away, more! LP No. SLP484 8 TK No. SLPT-1484 C Moor o B. Alapar

The Best Of: I'm Just The Best Of: I'm Just Your Stepping Stone/ Chain Gang/No One As Sweet As You/I've Got Over You/Down South, more! LP No. SLP-963 8 TK No. SLPT-1963

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George Morgan-Steal Away: Beyond The Sunset/Beautiful Isle Of Somewhere/Softly & Tenderly/Precious Memories, more! LP No. SLP413 8 TK No. SLPT-1413

Moen Mullican
Moon Mullican-Greatest Hits: 1'll Sail My
Ship, Alone/Louislana/
Mona Lisa/Bottom Of
The Glass/Jole Blon/
Farewell, many more!
LP No. SLP-398 TK No. SLPT-1398

Nashville Harmonics

Nashville Harmonica:
I'm So Lonesome I
Could Cry/Satin She
ets/Orange Blossom
Special/Me And Bobby McGee, more!
LP No. PO-219
8 TK No. PO-1-1009

Mashville Harmonica

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Riss An Angel Good
Morning/Bad Bad Leroy Brown/Why Me
Lord/Delta Dawn/Alabama Bound, more!
LP No. PO-257
8 TK No. PO-1257

Nashville Ham

Plays The Hits Of 1975: Before The Next Teardrop Falls/ Third Rate Romance/ Rhinestone Cowboy/ Sundown, more! LP No. PO-289 8 TK No. PO-1289

Machwille Sax

Plays Yakety Sax And Other Hits: You And Your Preclous Love/I Can Help/Rhinestone Cowboy/Bad, Bad Le-roy Brown, more! LP No. PO-314 8TK No. PO-1314

New Grass Revival

New Grass Revival-To-Day's Bluegrass: Cold Sallor/Pennies In My Pocket/Great Ball Of Fire/Lonesome Flddle Blues, much more! LP No. SLP-482 8 TK No. SLPT-1482

The Oak Rider Boys
Featuring: I Am A
Pilgrim/Shine Shine
Down On Me/Golden
Hills Ahead/There's A
Light Guiding Me/ Light Guiding Me Angel Band, more! LP No. SLP-356 8TK No. SLPT-1356

Onk Ridge Bo

Featuring: I Wouldn.t Take Nothing/Hide Thou Me/The Christ-ian Way/I Asked The Lord/One Of These Mornings, more! LP No. PG-716 8 TK No PG-1716

Onk Hillinge Quarter

Sing & Shout: At The Roll Call/Behind Your Tears/Do You Know Jesus/My All I Give/ Keep Me, many more! LP No. SD-984 8TK No. SDT-1984

Roy Orbison
Roy Orbison-Original
Sound: You're Gonna
Cry/Ooby, Dooby/it's
Too Late/I Never
Knew/Rock House/
Devil Doll, more! Sun
LP No. S-113
8 TK No. ST-113

Brother O mid
Bashful Brother Oswald: Southern Moon/
Weary Weary Blues/I
Like Mountain Music/
Columbus Stockade
Blues, more! Starday
LP No. SLP-192
8 TK No. SLP-1192

Johnny Physhack

Johnny Paycheck-At His Best: Who Needs Your Love/Forever Ended Yesterday/Jul-ie I'm Rememberlog, much more! Power Pak LP No. PO-284 8 TK No. PO-1284

Carl Perkins
Carl Perkins-Blue Suede Snoes: All Mama's
Children/Movle Magg/
Glad All Over/Gone,
Gone, Gone/Forever
Yours, more! Sun
LP No. S-112
8 TK No. ST-112

Carl Perkins-Golden Hits: Matchbox/Blue Suede Shoes/Dixie Fr-ied/Right String But The Wrong Yo Yo/ Only You, more! Sun LP No. S-111 8 TK No. ST-111

Greatest Hits: Girl On The Biliboard/There Wouldn't Be A Lonely Heart In Town/Be Glad/Dime At A Time, and many more! LP No. SD-998 8 TK No. SDT-1998

Don Rane

Don Reno-Fastest Five Don Reno-Fastest Five String Alive: Remint-on Ride/Double Banjo Blues/Interstate 81/ Banjo Riff/Old Ken-tucky Home, more! LP No. KLP-1065 8 TK No. KLPT-11065

Country Singing And Instrumentals: Wall Around Your Heart/ Follow The Leader/I Wouldn't Change You If I Could, more! LP No. KLP-776 8 TK No. KLPT-1776

D. Reno & R. Smiley

Last Time Together: Are You Waiting Just For Me/Row My Boat/ Yes Sir, That's My Baby/Family Bible/ Holiday Religion, and! LP No. SLP-485 8 TK No. SLPT-1485

D. Reno & R. Smiley

The Best Of: I'm The Talk Of Town/8 More Miles To Louisville/I Wouldn't Change You If I Could/Money, Marbles, Chak, more! LP No. SLP-961

D. Reno & R. Smill

D. Heno & R. Smiley-World's Best 5 String Banjo: My Old Ken-tucky Home/Green Mountain Hop/Bill Balley, more! LP No. KLP-861 8TK No. KLPT-1861

D. Reno & R. Smilly

D. Reno & R. Smiley-Country Songs: Blue And Lonesome/Dark As A Dungeon/Dork Let Your Sweet Love Die, more! Starday LP No. KLPT-1701 &TK No. KLPT-1701

16 Greatest Hits: I'm The Talk Of The Talk Of The Town/I Know You're Married/All I Have Is Just A Memory/Trall Of Sorrow, more! LP No. SD-3001 8 TK No. SDT-13001

Henn * Smiley
Hymns, Sacred Gospel Songs: In The Garden/He Will Set Your
Fields On Fire/The
Arm Of God/Mother's
Only Sleeping, more!
LP No. KLP-693
& TK No. KLPT-1693

Reno & Smiley

The World's Greatest Hymns: I Need The Prayers/Old Rugged Cross/Amazing Grace/ Rock Of Ages/Sweet Bye & Bye, more! LP No. KLP-853 8 TK No. KLPT-853

16 Greatest Gospel Hits: He Will Set Your Fields On Fire/The New Jerusalem/Jesus Is Walting/Tree Of Life, many more! LP No. GT-0015 8 TK No. GT8-0015

Chartie Rich Sun's Golden Trea-sures: Apple Blossom Time/Everything I Do (Is Wrong)/Gonna Be Walting/Time And A-gain, much more! LP No. S-134 8 TK No. ST-134

Cherle Hotel Lonely Weekends: The Title Song/That's How Much I Love You/I Need Your Love/C.C. Rider/Big Man, more! Sun LP No. 5-110

Charlie Rich-The Ear-Property News Action 19 Carrier Rich-Ine Early Years: Easy Money/
Big Man/Philadelphia
Baby/My Heart Cries/
I've Lost My Heart,
more! Sun
LP No. S-1 32
8 TK No. ST-1 32

The Memphis Sound:
C.C. Rider/Finally
Found Out/ Need
Your Love/It's Too
Late/Little Bit Sweet/ Late/Little Bit S Stay, more! Sun LP No. S-133 8 TK No. ST-133

Charle Rich
A Time For Tears:
Gentle As A Lamb/
The Wedding's Over/
You're Gonna Be You're Gonna Be Waiting/My Baby Done Left Me, more! LP No. S-123 8 TK No. ST-123

Charles Rich

Arkansas Traveler: Un-chained Melody/Time And Again/Ballad Of Billy Joe/Who Will The Next Fool Be/ Stop/Rebound, more! LP No. PO-245 8 TK No. PO-1245









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Jeannie C. Riley-Greatest Hits: Duty Desire/
The Girl Most Likely/
The Rib/TheMan/Harper Valley/Back Side
Of Dallas, more! Sun
LP No. PLP-13
8 TK No. PLT-13

Jeannie C. Riley

Country Gold: Games People Play/Help Me Make It Through The Night/Oakie From Muskogee/That's A No No, more! LP No. PO-250 8 TK No. PO-1250

Jeannie C. Riley

Jeannie C. Riley-Harp-er Valley P.T.A.: The Little Town Square/ Harper Valley/Widow Jones/Run Jeannie Run, much more! Sun LP No. PLP-1 8 TK No. PLT-1

Kenny Roberts

Kenny Hoberts
Kenny Roberts-Indian
Love Call: Maybe I'll
Cry Over You/Listen
To The Mockingbird/
Tavern Town/Chime
Bells, more! Starday
LP No. SLP-336
8 TK No. SLPT-1 336

T. Scott & C. Moody We've Played Every-place More Than Once: Curly Headed Baby/Come On Gim-me Some/Sugar Time/ Free Again, more! LP No. SD-999 8 TK No. SDT-1999

Jean Shep rd

Jean Shepard-Best Of: Many Happy Hang-overs To You/Haul Off And LoveMe/Satisfied Mind/2 Little Boys, 6 more! Power Pak LP No. PO-278 8 TK No. PO-1278

Jimmie Skinner
Jimmie Skinner-No. 1
Bluegrass: Everybody
Ought To Have A
Song/it's Blowin' Away/This Old Road/
Whoopie Liza, more!
LP No. SD-988
8 TK No. SDT-1988

Jimmy Skinner

Jimmy Skinner
Original Greatest Hits:
I Found My Girl In
The Good Old USA/
Jimmy's Ramblin'
Blues/Wrong Side Of
The Tracks, more!
LP No. PO-259
8 TK No. PO-1259

Arthur Smith

Mister Guitar: Guitar Boogle/Blue Boogle/ Fingers On Fire/Rub-ber Doll Rag/Pickin' & Playin'/Napoleon's Retreat, much more! LP No. SLP-173 8 TK No. SLPT-1173

R d Sovine

16 New Gospel Songs: Cheyenne/I'm Singing Hallelujah/Except The Lord/Lay Your Hands On Me, many more! LP No. GT-0013

Red Sovins

Red Sovine: Woodrow Wilson Sovine: You Left Your Door Wide Open/Daddy's Girl/ It'll Come Back/Little Joe, more! Starday LP No. SD-970 X 8 TK No. SDT-1970 X

Sunday With Sovine:
Brighten The Corner/
If Jesus Came To
Your House/Just A
Closer Walk With
Thee, much more!
LP No. SLP427
8 TK No. SLPT-1427

Red Sovine

Red Sovine
Red Sovine- Best Of:
Giddy Up Go/l Know
You're Married/One
Is A Lonely Number/
I Didn't Jump The
Fence, more! Starday
LP No. SLP-952
8 TK No. SLPT-1952

Red Sovine

Red Sovine-Phantom 309: In Your Heart/ That's Me/Bummin Around/Same Old Sit-uation/Phantom 309, more! Power Pak LP No. PO-270 8 TK No. PO-1270

Red Sovine
16 All Time Favorites: SatIsfied Mind/6 White Horses/I'm Only 17/The Gearjammer & The Hobo/I'm Gonna Move, more! LP No. SD-3010 8 TK No. SDT-13010

Red Sovine
16 Greatest Hits: In Your Heart/Class Of '49/Little Rosa/Ted-dy Bear/Giddyup Go/It'll Come Back/Dad-dy, more! Starday LP No. SD-991 X 8 TK No. SDT-1991 X

Classic Narrations: A
Dear John Letter/I
Think I Can Sleep Tonight/Giddyup Go/
Viet Nam Deck Of
Cards/21, more! LP No. SLP436 8TK No. SLPT-1436

Hills Of Home: Title Song/Darling Brown Eyes/The Kitten And The Cat/I Only Exist/ Medicine Springs/Cal-Ifornia, more! LP No. KLP-1069 8TK No. KLPT-11069

The Stanley Brothers
Folk Song Festival:
Still Trying To Get
To Little Rock/The
Drunken Driver/Daybreak in Dixle/There
Is A Trap, more!
LP No. SLP-791
8 TK No. SLP7-1791

The Stanley Brothers

Good Old Camp Meet ing Songs: Who Will Sing For Me/We Are Drinking From The Fountain/I'll Fly A-way/Leaning, more! LP No. KLP-805 8 TK No. KLPT-1805

The Stanley Brothers
Folk Concert: Lips
That Lie/Just Because/
My Brother's Bride/
He Went To Sleep/No
Letter Today/Hills Of
Roan County, more!
LP No. KLP-8/34
& TK No. KLPT-18/34

The Stanley Brothers

16 Greatest Hits: I'm A Man Of Constant Sorrow/Train 45/Oild Love Letters/There is A Tramp, much more! LP No. SD-3003 8 TK No. SDT-13003

The Stanley Brothers
Banjo In The Hills: 5
String Drag/Train 45/
Rang Tang/Red River
Valley/Snow Deer/
Lonesome Traveler/
Stoney Creek, more!
LP No. KLP-872
8 TK No. KLPT-1872

Featuring: Seemed So Near/How Mountain Girls Can Love/She's More To Be Pitled/ Your Selfish Heart/ Train 45, more! LP No. KLP615 8 TK No. KLP7-1615

The Stanley Brothers

Rank Strangers/How Far To Little Rock/ The Master's Bouq-uet/A Few More Sea-sons, more! Starday LP No. SLP453 8 TK No. SLP7-1953

The Stanley Broth

Stanley Bros.-In Per-son: Let Me Love You One More Time? Swannee River Hoe Down/Let Me Rest/ Sweet Thing, more! LP No. PO-273 8 TK No. PO-1273

The Stanley Brown

Sing The Songs They Like Best: Wild Side Of Life/The Window Up Above/The Story Of The Lawson Fam-ily/Jenny Lynn, more! LP No. KLP-772 8 TK No. KLPT-1772

Stenley Brothers

Hymns Of The Cross:
John, Three Sixteen/
I Just Dropped By/A
Crown He Wore/He's
Passing This Way/Oh,
Death, many more!
LP No. KLP418
8 TK No. KLP4-1918

Stanley Brothers

For The Good People: Four Books In The Bible/I'll Not Be A Stranger/Pass Me Not/ Jacob's Vision/Jordan, many more! LP No. KLP-698 8 TK No. KLPT-1698

Stanley Brothers

16 Greatest Gospel Hits: White Dove/I'll Fly Away/Who Will Sing For Me/Rank Strangers/Over in The Glory Land, more! LP No. GT-0016 8 TK No. GT8-0016

Carl Story

Get Religion: I Feel Like Traveling On/We Shall Meet Someday/ Give Me The Roses/ Unclouded Day/Just One Way, more! LP No. PO-272 8 TK No. PO-1272

Carl Story

Carl Story-16 Great-est Hits: Daddy Sang Bass/Family Reunion/ Mighty Close To Hea-ven/Sweeter Than The Flowers, much more! LP No. 5D-3004 8 TK No. SDT-13004

Carl Story

Carl Story-Songs 'Ot Life: Glory Hallelu-jah/Now I'm Satisf-ied/The Old Country Preacher/Dear Willow, more! Starday LP No. SLP-315 8 TK No. SLPT-1315

Carl Story

Carl Story-Gospel Revival: Light At The River/Be Kind To Mother/Ship That's Salling Down/Family Reunion, more! LP No. SLP-1278TK No. SLP-127

Stringbean

Stringbean-Salute Uncle Dave Macon: Tennessee Farmer/I'm The Man Who Rode Around The World, 10 more! Starday LP No. SLP-215 8 TK No. SLPT-1215

Another Woman's Man: Title Song/She's Mine/Come In This House/Get Way Back/ Right Back To My Arms, more! LP No. PO-305 8 TK No. PO-1305

B.J. Thomas

B.J. Thomas

B.J. Thomas-Best Of:
Raindrops Keep Fallin' On My Head/Most

Of All/Mighty Clouds

Of Joy/Rock & Roll

Lullaby, many more!

LP No. SD-992

8 TK No. SDT-1992

Mal Tillis

Mel Tillis & Friend: Stateside/Mr. Drop-out/Wine/Honey Hun-gry/Faded Love/I'm Gonna Moye, much more! Power Pak LP No. PO-295 8 TK No. PO-1295

Carl Tipton
The Carl Tipton Show:
Banks Of The Ohlo/
It Won't Be Very
Long/Hills Of Tennessee/Death Is Only A
Dream, much more!
LP No. SD-987
8 TK No. SDT-1987

Trucker Special

Radar Blues: Title Song/Truck Driver's Queen/Interstate 81— Hawshaw Hawkins; Grandpa Jones; Red Sovine, much more! LP No. KLP-1050 8 TK No. KLPT-11050

Trucker Special
16 Greatest Truck
Driver Hits: Convoy/
How Fast Them
Trucks Can Go—Red
Sovine/Benny Martin/
Pete Drake, more!
LP No. SD-3024
8 TK No. SDT-13024

Truck Driver Songs: 6 Days On The Road/ Truck Drivin' Man/ Passin' Zone-Moore & Napler; Bob Newman, and more! LP No. KLP-866 8 TK No. KLPT-1866

Trucker Special

Overloaded Diesel: I'm Movin' On/18 Wheels A Humming, Home Seet Home/Truck Dr-Iver's Blues, more ... Various Artists. LP No. PO-222 8 TK No. POI-1012

Truck r Sp si I
Heavy Haulers: Red
Sovine; Johnny Bond;
Willis Bros. ... Giddy
up - Go/Long Lonesome Road/The Last
Mile/Gears, more!
LP No. PO-290
8 TK No. PO-1290

Trucker Special

16 Greatest Truck Driver Hits: Red Sov-ine; Stanley Bros.; Del Reeves ... Girl On The Billboard/Big Footed Dan/Convoy, more! LP No. SD-3024 8 TK No. SDT-13024

Trucker Special

Diesel Smoke, Dan-gerous Curves: 6 Days On The Road/Pinball Machine-Willis Bros.; Red Sovine; Lonnle Irving, much more! LP No. SLP-250 8 TK No. SLPT-1250

Top Trucker Artists

Man Behind The Wheel: G. Morgan/R. Sovine/M. Pearl/Willis Bros...Phantom 309/ Title Song/The Hi-Jacker, much more! LP No. SLP404 8 TK No. SLPT-1404

Leroy Van Dyke

Leroy Van Dyke-The World's Famous Auc-tioneer: Black Cloud/ Be A Good Girl/Dim Dark Corner/Walk On By, more! Sun LP No. S-131 8 TK No. ST-131

Various Artists

Various Artists
Various Artists-Copas,
Hawkins, Cline/Gone
But Not Forgotten: I
Suppose/Love Sick Biues/Deck Of Cards,
much more! Starday
LP No. SLP-346
8 TK No. SLPT-1346

Various Artists

Various Artists-Famous Duets: Sovine & Shepard/Lulu Belle & Scotty/Jones & Hicks/Tillis & York/Carl & Pearl Butler, more! LP No. PO-1307

Various Artists

Various Artiss
The Bluegrass Hall Of
Fame: R. Allen/Flatt
& Scruggs/Stringbean/
J.E. Mainers Mountalneers/Carl Story/G.
Jones, more! Starday
LP No. SLP-181
& TK No. SLPT-1181

Billy Walker

The Best Of The Best Of: Cross The Brazos At Waco/She Goes Walking Through My Mind/Smoky Places/ El Paso, much more! LP No. GT-0040 8 TK No. GT8-0040

Dottie West

Dottie West- Country
Singing Sensation: Big
John/Walking in The
Dark/i Should Start
Running/Crazy, many
more! Power Pak
LP No. PO-274
8 TK No. PO-1274

Roy Wiggins

Memory Time: Bouquet Of Roses/One Klss To Many/Molly Darling/It's A Sin/I Walk Alone, many more! Power Pak LP No. PO-226 8 TK No. PO-1-1016









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Groovy Gubworn:
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Wheels/The Gold Eagle/Honky Tonk/Sad
Is The Lonely/Moose
Trot, more! Sun
LP No. PLP-7
8 TK No. PLT-7

Don Williams

Williams-Poco Don Don Williams-Poco Seco Singers: Ruby Tuesday/Tears/Story-book Children/On Her Way To Be A Woman, more! LP No. PO-285 8 TK No. PO-1285

The Willis Bros.

Willis Bros. Best Of: 6 Foot 2 By 4/Give Me 40 Acres/Buying Pop-corn/Blues Stay Away From Me/Private Lee, more! Starday LP No. SLP-960 8 TK No. SLPT-1960

SECTION TWO More Great POP And ROCK 'N' ROLL

Ray Charles

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Echoes Of The Past/
At The Alter/I'll Be
Ready/Well Done, My
Child/I Need The
Prayers, more!
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The Blackwoods

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Fine/Old Time Religion/Joy In The Camp/
He's Everything To
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Set: Release Me/A Man Without Love/I'm A Better Man/A Place In The Sun/Spanish Eyes/A Time For Us/Those Were The Days/Funny Familiar Forgotten Feelings/There Goes My Everything/The Last Waltz/Am I That Easy To Forget/The Way It Used To Be/What A Wonderful World/Can't Take My Eyes Off Of You/Quando, Quando, Quando, Quando/Cafe, more! LP No. R&B LP No. R8 B 8 TK No. T8 C LP-\$7.98/8 TK-\$9.98



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Set: Ernest performing
with Willie, Waylon,
Loretta, Merle and the
other topcountry names
... Featuring: Waltz Accross Texas/Answer The
Phone/Journey's End/
Walkin'The Floor Over
You/Set Up Two Glasses Joe/Filipino Baby/It's
Beeen So Long, Darling/Jimmy Rodgers Last
Blue Yodel/Blue Eyed
Elaine/You Nearly Lose
Your Mind, 20 in all!
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-2-Record Set: A Gay Ranchero/Back in The Saddle Again/Down in The Valley/El Rancho Grande/Mexicali Rose/Vaya ConDlos/Missourl Waltz/in A Little Spanish Town/Don't Bite The Hand That Feeds You/When Day is Done/It Happened in Old Monterey/A Boy From Texas, A Girl From Tennessee, more! LP No. R7N No Tape Available LP-\$7.98 -2 -Reway...Today I Started Loving You Again/Back Street Affair/Green, Green Grass Of Home/She Needs Someone To Hold Her; Loretta... Rated X/Don't Come Home A Drinkin'/Delta Dawn/Woman Of The World; Both...After The Fire Is Gone, more! LP No. R7P LP No. R7P 8 TK No. T7 Q LP-\$5.98/8 TK-\$7.98



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Two Step/White Heat/
Mexicali Rose/Corrinna,
Corrinna/My Confession/Steel Guitar Rag/
Stay A Little Longer/
That's What I Like About The South/Texas
Playboy Rag/Let's Ride
With Bob/Faded Love/
Time Changes Everything/Big Beaver/Take
Me To Tulsa/New San
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The Moment I Lost
You/Silver Bells/Roly
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Shoulder To Cry On/
Let The Chips Fall/
Crystal Chandellers/
Tennessee Girl/The
Easy Part's Over/I'd
Rather Love You/I'm
So Afraid Of Losing
You Again/Just Between You And Me/
She's Too Good To
Be True/Lovesick Blues/
Green, Green Grass Of
Home/The Snakes Crawl
At Night, much more! At Night, much more! LP No. R7 F 8 TK No. T7 G LP-\$7.98/8 TK-\$9.98



Record Set: Purple
People Eater/That's
My Pal/I Walk The
Line/Runnin' Bear/
15 Beers Ago/Detrolt
City/Harper Valley
PTA/Later The Same
Day/Don't Go Near
The Eskimos/Little The Eskimos/Little Green Apples/Hello Walls 2/Rollin' In My Sweet Baby's Arms/ Little Brown Shack/ Sunday Morning Fal-lin' Down, more!

Record Set:Never Had
It So Good/Denver/Mr.
Mailman/I Can't Tell A
Lie/Need To Belong/If
You Go Away/Maybe/
1000 Miles From Nowhere/I Just Don't
Maybe/Kentucky Woman/What's Your Game/
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Set: Rated X/Legend In My Mind/To Make A Man/Take Me Home Country Roads/I Am Again/Just A Closer Walk With Thee/Here I Am Again/Satin Sheets/Blueberry Hill/I Walk Alone/Once A Day/If Teardrops Were Pennies/Woman Of The World/I Wanna Be Free/Delta Dawn/ Manhattan, Kansas/Why Me Lord/Legend In My Mind, more! LP No. R3P 8 TK No. T3 Q 8TK No. T3Q LP-\$6.98/8TK-\$7.98





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Uncle Pen/Blue Moon
Of Kentucky/Preclous
Memorles/I Am A Pilgrim/Nine Pound
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Clark/Time Changes
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One/You Can Depand
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Alone Am I/Heart In
Hand/As Usual/Too
Many Rivers/Coming
On Strong/My Whole
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Set: Love Letter In The Sand/Little Blossom/I've Got No Use For The Women/Dark Hollow/The Wreck Of The 97/The Ballad Of The Lawson Family/May I Sleep in Your Barn Tonight, Mister/Bringing Mary Home/The Girl In The Blue Velvet Band/I'll Be All Smiles Tonight/6 More Miles/Little Box Of Pine, many more! LP No. R10 G
8 TK No. T10 H
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REATEST HITS—2Record Set: Act Naturally/My Heart Skips
A Beat/I Don't Care/
Big in Vegas/Buckaroo/
Think Of Me/Where
Does The Good Times
Go/Great Expectations/
Who's Gonna Mow Your
Grass/Tail Dark Stranger/Love's Gonna Live
Here/Together Again/
I've Got A Tiger By
The Tail/CryIn' Time/
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Baby Back Home/Be
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Dreamboat Comes
Home/I et The Four My Girl/When My Dreamboat Comes Home/Let The Four Winds Blow/Valley Of Tears/My Blue Heaven/You I Love/I Am Ready, and more!

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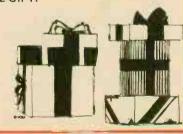


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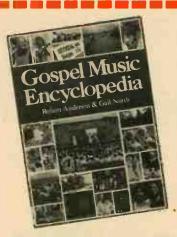


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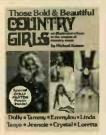
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(Continued from page 30)

fact, in the entire eight years since he formed the Charlie Daniels Band, 1979 has been one of the busiest.

First of all in 1979, there was his Million Mile Reflections LP, which he and the band spent nearly three months rehearsing for, and recording. (This is a departure in Nashville where it is more common for even top-selling albums to be routinely knocked out in two or three weeks worth of tightly scheduled studio sessions.)

Million Mile Reflections (the title of which is based on the distance that Charlie estimates he and the band have logged over the past eight years) was the Charlie Daniels Band's first collaboration with producer John Boylan, who produced the rock group, Boston's first album, as well as early Linda Ronstadt LP's. As it turned out, the extra weeks spent in writing,

weeks in Houston where he filmed a cameo appearance in *The Urban Cowboy*, an upand-coming motion picture in which he performs and lip-synchs the words of *The Devil Went Down to Georgia* during a John Travolta dance scene.

Charlie barely finished the movie production chores in Houston to hop a plane for Nashville and the annual Country Music Association Awards Show where he and the band really cleaned up this year. The CDB walked away with the trophies for Single of the Year and Instrumental Group Of The Year. On his own, Charlie won in the Instrumentalist of the Year category. The only other nominee to score with three separate awards this year was Kenny Rogers.

Shortly after that, Charlie and the band were off for a whirlwind promotional tour of Europe and England. Then after a little

his share. Born 43 years ago in Wilmington, North Carolina, he first learned a few chords on the guitar at age 15, and he's been playing music for a living ever since.

His assent to his present professional stature, though, was, admittedly, a long time coming. At age 34, after more than a decade and a half of playing beerjoints, he was still at the point where "the cupboard was bare a lot of the time, and I still didn't know if I was ever going to make it big."

The son of a lumber dealer, Charlie grew up in a relatively isolated rural setting, listening to bluegrass and square dance music. From playing square dances in his teens, he later graduated to local taverns. "I started out in 1956, in Jacksonville, North Carolina, where the Camp Lejune Marine base is, and I spread out from there."



During a dance scene in the up-coming motion picture, The Urban Cowboy starring John Travolta, Charlie performs his hit, The Devil Went Down To Georgia, filmed at Gilley's in Houston.

rehearsing and production paid off; Reflections has become Daniels' first millionselling (platinum) LP, and is now well on its way to double platinum status. A single off the album, The Devil Went Down To Georgia has also sold in excess of a million copies. It is the Charlie Daniels Band's first big pop hit since the ballad of the Uneasy Rider in 1972. The Devil Went Down To Georgia not only hit the top of the charts in the U.S.A., but in such farflung places as Italy and Israel as well.

This past summer, Charlie spent two

bit of time off for Christmas, they were off and running again. After a couple of weeks of pre-studio rehearsals for their next album, they left for a tour of Australia and New Zealand. "Circumstances have been such that we have not been able to take much leisure time this year," he admits. "But there's still a lot more mountains left for us to climb." More than likely, Charlie Daniels—out of nature and habit, if nothing else—will probably climb every mountain that's ever put in front of him—and more. Even so, he's already climbed

In 1959, Charlie had a band together and was passing through Texas to test out the waters in California. Through a friend in Texas, he met Bob Johnston, who in later years, would move to Nashville and produce artists like Johnny Cash and Bob Dylan. But when he met Johnston, Charlie was working in a helicopter factory by day and cutting records at night.

"He said, 'Let's cut a record,' and we did a thing called *Juguar*," Charlie recalls. "That was my first record, and ironically enough, it was on Epic (his current label). I

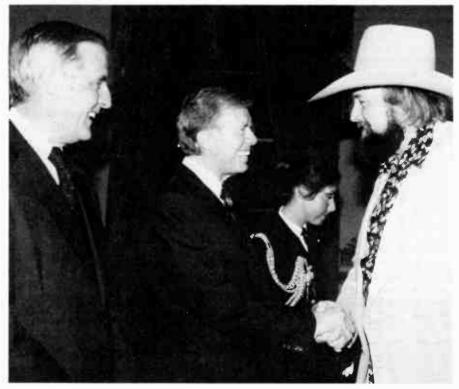
quickly renamed my group the Jaguarsafter the record came out!" he laughs.

But Daniels was still years away from his first hit record, and when Jaguar failed to make the charts, the band merely

"I played my heart out and impressed Dylan so much, he told them to pay the other guitarist to stay home so I could play the rest of the sessions."

changed their names again and went on about their business. But Charlie and Bob Johnston became friends, and they stayed in touch over the next eight years, as Charlie continued to work the Southern

club circuit in top 40 "copy" bands. By 1967, Johnston had settled in Nashville, and he let Charlie know that if he came up there, he would at least find him some studio work. Working with Johnson, he did sessions with artists like Marty Robbins, Flatt and Scruggs, Claude King and Ringo Starr. Still, on weekends, he was forced to make ends meet by playing clubs in Kentucky.



"Without Charlie Daniels I might not be President today," remarked Mr. "It would have been very difficult for me Carter after the 1976 election campaign.



Charlie with his wife Hazel and son Charlie in front of their new log home in Mt. Juliet, Tennessee.

to get into studio work without Bob," says Charlie. "I have never really been a noted Nashville musician. I never played the same style of music. I've always played a lot of rhythm and blues, and a lot of blues licks kept creepin' into my country. Plus, I never was really accepted by the studio crowd. I never was one of the boys. Maybe I wasn't good enough, or maybe they didn't like me personally," he shrugs. "I don't know, It don't make any difference now anyway."

But Bob Johnston looked after Charlie. He kept him in work and put him on a small salary with his production company. His association with Johnston also led him into some production work, and he produced several albums on the West Coast for the Youngbloods, a rock group that has since gone the way of the 40-cent gallon of gas.

Charlie's career got a significant boost when he got to play on a Nashville recording session with Bob Dylan. Johnston was producing the session, and Charlie got the job by default when the scheduled guitarist couldn't make it. "I knew that was my big break, and I played like a tiger," he recalls, "I played my heart out and impressed Dylan so much, he told them to pay the other guitarist to stay home so I could play the rest of the sessions."

Daniels finally landed a recording contract with Capitol Records to do two albums, but, "I did one, and then they gave me half the album budget not to do the other. They just didn't believe in me, and I guess I didn't give them a reason to."

But by this time, Charlie's confidence was back up to the point where this turned out to be nothing more than a temporary set-back. He was tiring of studio work and once again longed for the excitement of playing for live audiences. So in 1971, he put together the group that evolved into the present Charlie Daniels Band. Today's line-up includes Tom Crain (guitar and vocals); Joe "Taz" DeGregorio (keyboard and vocals); Charlie Hayward (bass); and Jim Marshall and Fred Edwards (percussion).

The band recorded for Kama Sutra, and really began to hit paydirt in 1972 with the hit single, Uneasy Rider, a comical narrative about a guy with long hair who is harrassed by rednecks while driving through the South, and by a strange turn of events, manages to turn the tables on them. Their Fire on the Mountain LP from this period, achieved gold status (500,000 copies sold), and later, when the group switched over to Epic Records, it was rereleased on that label, and went gold a second time. Today, eight albums later, the Charlie Daniels Band is still gaining momentum-and gaining it faster than ever. They long ago broke out of their limited status as a regionally successful Southern rock band, and have now made themselves a force on the national scene.

Part of this increased recognition has

been achieved by way of the Volunteer Jam, an annual musical event which Charlie initiated almost by accident, six years ago. In 1974, the band was working on an album, and decided to include some live cuts. So they booked themselves into Nashville's War Memorial auditorium for a show and proceeded to invite a few of their friends to come down and sing and play with them. The Marshall Tucker Band, the Allman Brothers and Willie Nelson were just a few of the people that showed up. The Volunteer Jam has since become a yearly event that draws a guest list that is nothing less than a "Who's Who" of country and Southern rock music. Out of the Jam, over the years, there has come a feature film, several television specials and at least two record albums. Practically all of the proceeds

have gone for charity, and all the musicians—including Charlie and the boys—work for free. "I love it," says Charlie. "The Jam has gotten to be a very special night in our lives."

More than likely, Charlie Daniels may be gearing up for yet another public involvement now that we approach the 1980 Presidential elections. In the 1976 election campaign, he lent hours of his time toward helping Jimmy Carter get elected. In fact, his activities were so extensive that Carter has since remarked that, "Without Charlie Daniels, I might not be President today."

Once he was in office, Carter did not forget Daniels. By special Presidential request, he performed at the 1976 Inauguration Ball in Washington D.C., and he's since been invited back for dinner at the White House several times.



The Charlie Daniels Band in Holland. First row from left, Charlie, keyboardist Taz DiGregorio; drummer Fred Edwards. Second row from left, bassist Charlie Hayward; guitarist Tom Crain; and drummer Jim Marshall.

During Jimmy Carter's ups and downs of the last three and a half years, Charlie has not shifted his sentiments for the man one bit. "I think he's the best man to ever hold the office in my lifetime," he says flatly. "I think he's a genuine person. What a lot of people see as bein' a weakness or a flaw in the man, I see as a strength. Just because he don't use tough language and get up and rave and carry on, doesn't mean he isn't a strong leader. He's a peace maker. He knows that this is not the day and time to be pushin' people around or jumpin' into anything too fast.

"I'm not sayin' he don't make mistakes," Charlie adds, "but I think one hundred percent of his mistakes are honestly made. I don't know of any other person in the world I want to see as my President for the next four years."

The tremendous success of the Charlie Daniels Band has afforded Charlie the opportunity to put his not inconsiderable influence to work toward the changes in the world that he sees as necessary. But he emphasized that the extent of his political involvement is lending his music to fundraising efforts, and that he is not about to get on a soapbox . . . not for anybody.

"I wouldn't have even brought it up tonight if you hadn't asked me about it," he says. "I don't use my place in the entertainment business as a platform to talk about politics unless somebody asks me for my opinion. And then I give it from the standpoint of a private citizen."

The most important thing for Charlie Daniels, in fact, seems to be this maintaining of this distinction between the private person and the public entertainer. What success has most enabled him to do is to cling to the kind of relatively simple style of very private, back-to-the-earth country living. When he comes home off the road, he can easily unwind with the fundamental pleasures of getting his hands dirty tending his garden or cutting his own firewood. Out here on his farm, he's got his quarter horses and his cattle and all his other outdoor pursuits to keep him happy. And out here, he seems to have found something that many other music celebrities in their gilded mansions and tailored clothes, have not been able to find. No matter how many times Charlie Daniels rents a tux and has dinner at the White House, and no matter how much he rubs shoulders with movie stars and politicians, it's not going to rub off on him one little bit. The essential Charlie Daniels, complete with cowboy hat, suspenders, red socks and mouthful of chewing tobacco, will remain rooted firmly on that piece of ground in Tennessee that he calls home.

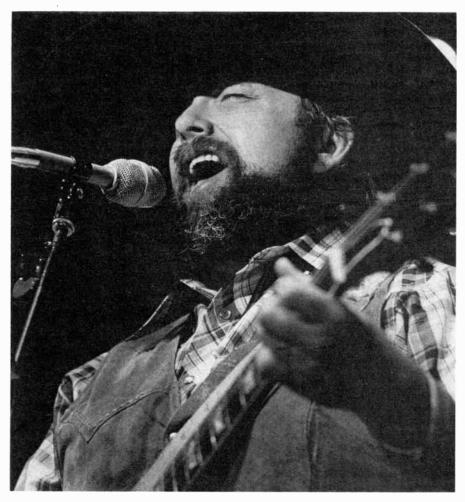
"This is my world out here," he smiles. "This is my personal life. When we moved here, it was home from the first night. I try to spend as much time here as I can. I'm gonna put me in a swimming pool and a tennis court and build me a big horse barn

eventually, "he adds, "because I want to surround myself here with all the things I like to do.

"You know, when the real estate agent called us to come look at this place, I almost didn't go, because I was so disgusted at lookin' at different places and not findin' anything I wanted. But I come

out here the first time, and walked up to the top of this hill, and once I saw it was flat enough to build a house on, I knew I wanted it."

Charlie leans back, stretches, and yawns again. Then he spits another generous glob of tobacco into the spittoon. "And I intend to stay on this hill the rest of my life."





Charlie gives his all performing at the Volunteer Jam, an annual event that has special meaning for Charlie. With his hat off, Charlie says "Thank you and good night."

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You Don't Mean; You've Got A Friend; Easy Lovin';
Here I Go Again; Whot's Made Milwaukee Famous;
Take Me Home, Country Roads; There's Never Been
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Rag; I Can't Tame Wild Women; Wah Hoo; River
Blues; Goofus; Saturday Night Rag; Fan It; Way
Out There; You Shall Be Free Monah; Guess Who's
In Town; Beaumont Rag; What's The Use; I've Got
Those Oklahoma Blues; New Spanish Two-Step; New
Fort Worth Rag; Lone Star Rag; La Golondrina; SingIng And Swinging For Me.

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Ing And Swinging For Me.

ROY CLARK - SABB-11264

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Sail My Ship Alone; I Miss You Already; When The
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A Good Old Girl; St. Louis Blues; Turkey In The
Straw; Overdue Blues; Caravan; The Driffer's Palka;
South; Just A Closer Walk with Thee; Finger Lickin';
Malaguena; Twelfth Street Rag.

Malaguena; Twelfth Street Rag.

THE PATSY CLINE STORY - MCA2-4038

2 RECORD SET SPECIAL PRICE \$6.00
Heartaches; She's Got You; Walking After Midnight;
Strange; Leavin' On Our Mind; South Of The Border; Back In Baby's Arms; Crazy; You're Stronger
Than Me; Seven Lonely Days; Sweet Dreams; Your
Cheatin' Heart; Foolin' Around; I Fall To Pieces; A
Poor Man's Roses; Tra Le La La Triagle; True Love;
Imagine That; San Antonio Rose; Why Can't He Be
You; The Wayward Wind; So Wrong; I Love You So
Much It Hurts; You Belong To Me.

Much It Hurts; You Belong To Me.

JIMMIE DAVIS - MCA-2-4085
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Wouldn't Take Nothin' For My Journey Now; Highway To Heaven; Where No One Stands Alone; How
Great Thou Art; The Three Nails; Sheltered In The
Arms Of God; One More Valley; If I Could Hea
My Mother Pray Again; In The Garden; Forgive Me
Santa; No One To Welcome Me Home; God's Last
Altar Call; You Are My Sunshine; Bury Me Beneath
The Willow; It Makes No Difference Now; There's
A New Moon Over My Shoulder; Nobody's Darlin'
But Mine. But Mine.

But Mine.
FLATT & SCRUGGS - 20 GREATS - CG-30
2 RECORD SET SPECIAL PRICE \$6.00
Foggy Mountain Breakdown; Jackson; Kansas City;
Wabash Connonball; Cripple Creek; I Still Miss Some
One; Sally Ann; The Soldier's Return; Detroit City;
Coal Miner's Blues; Salty Dog Blues; Petiticad Junction; Memphis; When Papa Played The Dobro; Lonesome Road Blues; You're Gonna Miss Me When I'm
Gone; Dig A Hole In The Meadow; The Ballod Of Jed
Clampett; 99 Years Is Almost For Life; John Menry.

Clampett; 99 Years Is Almost For Life; John Menry.
THE RED FOLEY STORY - MCA-2-405?
2 RECORD SET SPECIAL \$6.00
He'll Understand And Say Well Done; Blues in My Heart; God Walks These Hills With Me; Tennessee Saturday Night; Beyond The Sunset; Should You Go First; Jesus Loves Me; Just A Closer Walk With Thee; Old Shep; Hominy Grits; Take My Hand Precioudri; A Sarisfied Mind; Nobody; Chattanooga's Shoe Shine Boy; My God Is Real; Midnight; Mississippi; Old Pappy's New Banjo; Steal Away; Salty Dog Rag; I'll Be a Sunbeam; Peace In The Valley; Tennessee Border; Tennessee Polka; Hearts Of Stone.

nessee Border; Tennessee Polka; Hearts Of Stone.
TENNESSEE ERNIE FORD - SVBB-11325
2 RECORD SET SPECIAL PRICE \$6.00
Mule Train; 1'Il Never Be Free; Bright Lights And Blond-Haired Women; Shot Gun Boogie; The River Of No Return; The Ballad of Davey Crockett; First Born; I Gotta Hove My Baby Back; Nine Pound Hammer; Ev'rything Is Beautiful, Release Me: Rainy Night In Georgia; Don't Let The Good Life Pass You By; Mr. Word And Music; Daddy Frank; Farther Down The River; Colorado Country Morning; Daddy Usta Say; Printers Alley Stars.
JOHNNY HORTON - CG-20284

Usta Say; Printers Alley Stars.

JOHNNY HORTON - CG-30884

2 RECORD SET SPECIAL PRICE \$6.00

The Battle Of New Orleans; Sink The Bismarck; North
To Alaska; The Golden Racket; Rock Island Line;
Jahnny Roh: The Sinking Of Reuben James; I'm
Ready, If You're Willing; When It's Springilme In
Alaska; Honky-Tonk Man; I'm Coming Home; Got
The Bull By The Homs; Whispering Pines; All For
The Love Of A Girl; Johnny Freedom; The First
Train Heading South; Lost Highway; The Battle Of
Bull Run; John Paul Jones; Young Abe Lincoln.

BURL IVES - MCA-2-4089

BURL IVES - MCA-2-4089
2 RECORD SET SPECIAL PRICE \$6.00
A Little Bitty Tear; Call Me Mr. In-Between; Royal Telephone; The Long Black Veil; Lonesome 7-7203; Cool Waters; Mary Ann Regrets; Busted; Funny Way Of Laughin'; Poor Little Jimmie; Green, Green Grass Of Home; I'm The Boss; Pearly Shells (Popo O Ewal; This Is All I Ask; My Gal Sal; I Walk The Line; The Same Old Hurt; The Almighty Dollar Bill; The Blizzard; Forty Hour Week.

Blizzard; Forty Hour Week.

THE BEST OF THE INK SPOTS - MCA-2-400S

2 RECORD SET SPECIAL PRICE \$6.00

If I Didn't Care; We Three; My Prayer; Whispering Grass; It's Funny To Everyone But Me; I Don't Want To Set The World On Fire; To Each His Own; Do I Worry?; Address Unknown; Someone's Rockin' My Dreamboat; Street Of Dreams; Don't Get Around Much Anymore; The Gypsy; Maybe; When The Swallows Come Back To Capistrano; Please Take A Letter Miss Brown; Until The Real Thing Comes Along; Time Out For Tears; I Cover The Waterfront; We'll Meet Again; Java Jive; No Orchids For My Baby; I'll Never Smile Again; It's No Secret.

JIM AND JESSIE - BG-33746
2 RECORD SET SPECIAL PRICE \$6.00
1 Like Trains; Streamlined Cannon Ball; Wabash Cannon Ball; Pan American; Tennessee Central (Number 9); The Golden Rocket; A Freight Train In Maj Mind; Yonder Comes A Freight Train; Fire Ball Mail; (I Heard That) Lonesome Whistle; Diesel On My Tail; Sam's Place; Ballad Of Thunder Road; Lovin' Machine; Hot Rod Race; Truck Drivin' Man; Girl On The Billboard; Give Me Forty Acres; Tijuana Taxi.

STONEWALL JACKSON - CG-31411

2 RECORD SET SPECIAL PRICE \$6.00

Me And A Dog Named Boo; Waterloo; Don't Be
Angry; I Washed My Hands In Muddy Water; "Never
More" Quote The Raven; Mary Don't You Weap;
A Wound Time Can't Erase; B. J. the D. J.; Blue
Field; Help Stamp Out Loneliness; If This House
Could Talk; Blues Plus Booze; Life Is GI; Old Showboat; Leona; Promises And Hearts; Why I'm Walking;
Greener Pacture; Smoke Along The Tracks; That's
All This World Neels; Angry Words; A Little Guy
Called Joe.

WAYNE KING - VPM-6084 RCA
2 RECORD SET SPECIAL PRICE \$6.00
The Waltz You Saved For Me; Lullaby For Latins,
Poem; Why Do I Love You; Good Night Sweetheart;
Amor; Tennessee Waltz; The Night Is Young And
You're So Beautiful; None But The Lonely Heart;
Poem-Alone; Song Of The Islands; All Alone; Josephine; I'm Forever Blowing Bubbles; Tales From
The Vienna Woods Poem-I Love You; Wabash Moon;
Poor Butterfly; Goofus; Villa; Because You Love Me;
Poem-Meditation; Intermezzo; Always; Beautiful Lady
In Blue

In Blue.

THE BEST OF THE MILLS BROTHERS - MCA2-4039

2 RECORD SET SPECIAL PRICE \$6.00

Paper Doll; Till Then; You Tell Me Your Dreams And I'll Tell You Mine; Across The Alley From The Alamo; Basin Street Blues; You Always Hurt The One You Love; The Glow Worm; Gloria; If I Had My Way; Dream Of You; Queen Of The Senior Prom; The Window Washer Man; I Yi Yi Yi Amigo; You're Nobody Till Somebody Loves You; She Was Five And He Was Ten; How Blue?; Say Si Si; Snack Dab In The Middle; Be My Life's Companion; Daddy's Little Girl; I'll Be Around; Someday (You'll Want Me To Want You); Opus, One; Jones Boy.

Me To Want You); Opus, One; Jones Boy.

BILL MONROE - MCA2-4090
2 RECORD SET SPECIAL PRICE \$6.00
The Gold Rush; Blue Moon Of Kentucky; Close By;
Memories Of Mother And Dad; Is The Blue Moon
Still Shining; Kentucky Mandolin; I'm Going Back To
Old Kentucky; Footprints In The Snow; The Little
Girl And The Dreadful Snake; Highway Of Sorrow
Uncle Pen; Let Me Rest At The End Of My Journey;
Blue Grass Twist; It's Mighty Dark To Travel; Roane
County Prison; Pretty Fair Maiden In The Garden;
The First Whipporwill; I Love In The Past; Come
Back To Me In My Dreams; Put My Little Shoes

Away.

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Red Shoes; Nine-Pound Hammer Is Too Heavy, On
Some Foggy Mountain Top; Drifting Too Far From
Shore; In My Dear Old Southern Home; New River
Train; Watermelon Hanging On The Vine; On The
Banks Of The Ohio; God Holds The Future In His
Honds; Darling Corey; Will The Circle Be Unbroken?; The Saints Go Marching In; Roll In My Sweet
Baby's Arms; Where Is My Sailor Boy?; Some Glad
Day; Katy Kline; Roll On Buddy; Weeping Willow
Tree; On That Old Gospal Ship: All The Good Times
Are Passed And Gone; He Will Set Your Fields On
Fire; Sinner You Better Get Ready; Have A Feast
Here Tonight; Goodbye Maggie; Rollin' On; Little Joe;
A Beautiful Life; Pearly Gates; When Our Lord Shall
Come Again.

WEBB PRICE - MCA-2-4087 2 RECORD SET SPECIAL PRICE \$6.00

2 RECORD SET SPECIAL PRICE \$6.00
In The Jailhouse Now; Wondering; I'm Walking The Dog; Slowly; More And More; Honky Tonk Song; Backstreet Affair; Love, Love, Love; Missing You; There Stands The Glass; I Ain't Never; Is It Wrong (For Loving You); I'm Tired; Walking The Street; Don't Do It Darlin'; Tupelo County Jail; Alla My Love; That's Me Without You; I Don't Care; It's My Winy. My Way. RAY PRICE - CG-33633

RAY PRICE - CG-33633

2 RECORD SET SPECIAL PRICE \$6.00
For The Good Times; Gonna Burn Some Bridges;
Crazy Arms; 1'Il Go To A Stronger; Black And
White Lies; Crazin' In Greener Pastures; Help Me
Make It Through The Night; Lonely World; You Can't
Take It With You; A Cold Day In July; Heartaches
By The Number; I Won't Mention It Again; Kiss
The World Goodbye; Sunday Morning Comin' Down;
The Burden Of Freedom; Forgive Me Heart; 1'd Rather
Be Sorry; Loving Her Was Easier; Bridge Over
Troubled Water; When I Loved Her; Sweet Memories; Jess Younger.

ories; Jess Younger.

JIMMIE RODGERS - VSP-6091 RCA
2 RECORD SET SPECIAL PRICE \$6.00
Any Old Time; Away Out On The Mountain; Blue
Yodel #1; #4; Blue Yodel #8; (Mule Skinner
Blues); Brakeman's Blues; Daddy And Home; Dear
Old Sunny South By The Sea; Frankie And Johnny;
In The Jailhouse Now; My Carolina Sunshine Girl;
My Old Pal; My Rough And Rowdy Ways; Never
No Mo' Blues; Peach Pickin' Time Down In Georgia; Treasures Untold; Waiting For A Train; Pistol
Packin' Papa.

MARTY POBBINS - CG-33630

MARTY ROBBINS - CG-33630 2 RECORD SET SPECIAL DRICE

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Big Iron; Cool Water; Billy The Kid; 160 Acres;
They Are Hanging Me Tonight; Strawberry Roan;
El Paso; In The Valley; Masters Call; Running From
Utah Carol; Little Green Valley; My Woman, My
Woman, My Wife; I've Got a Woman's Love; 3
Littye Fords; Maria; Masters Touch; My Happy
Heart; Without You To Love; Very Special Way;
Martha Ellen Jenkins.

Martha Ellen Jenkins.

THE ERNEST TUBB STORY - MCA2-4040

2 RECORD SET SPECIAL PRICE \$6.00

1'II Get Along Somehow; Slippin' Around; Filipino
Baby; When The World Has Turned You Down; Have
You Ever Been Lonely; Here's A Little Bit of Everything; In Texas; Walkin' The Floor Over You;
Driftwood On The River; There's Nothing More Toay;
Rainbow At Midnight; 1'II Always Be Glad To
Take You Back; Let's Say Goodbye Like We Said
Hello; Careless Darlin'; Don't Rob Another Man's
Castle; I Wonder Why You Said Goodbye; Last Night
I Dreamed; Letters Have No Arms; Though The
Days Were Only Seven; I Love You Because; You
Nearly Lose Your Mind; 1'II Miss You When You
Go; It's Been So Long Darling; Tomorrow Never

Day's Were Only Seven; I Love You Because; You Nearly Lose Your Mind; I'll Miss You When You Go; It's Been So Long Darling; Tomorrow Never Comes; Blue Christmas.

THE KITTY WELLS STORY - MCA2-4031

2 RECORD SET SPECIAL PRICE \$6.00

It Wasn't God Who Made Honky Tonk Angels; I Heard The Jube Box Playing; A Wedding Ring Ago; Paying For That Back Street Affair; I Don't Claim To Be An Angel; Whose Shoulder Will You Cry On; I Gave My Wedding Dress Away; Release Me; Affer Dark; Lonely Side Of Town; Making Believe; Searching; Repenting; Your Wild Life's Gonna Get You Down; Three Ways; She's No Angel; Touch And Go Heart; Jealousy; I Can't Help Wondering; Mommy For A Day; Amigo's Guitar; All The Time; The Other Cheek; Left To Right.

BOB WILLS ANTHOLOGY - CG-32416

2 RECORD SET SPECIAL PRICE \$6.00

Asage Stomp; Spanish Step; Maiden's Prayer; Mexicali Rose; Old Fashioned Love; Sittin' On Top Of The World; Corrina Carrina; Big Beaver; Honey What You Gonna Do; I Found A Dream; Take Me Back To Tulsa; Steel Guitar Rag; Blue Yodel No. 1; Silver Bell; That's What I Like About The South; I'll See You In My Dreams; The Waltz You Saved For Me; New San Antonio Rose; I Knew The Moment I Lost You; Twin Guitar Special; Mississippi Delta Blues; Roly Poly; Brain Cloudy Blues.

TAMMY WYNETTE - BG-33773

2 RECORD SET SPECIAL PRICE \$6.00

Stand By Your Man; It's My Way; Forever Yours; I Stayed Long Enough; It Keeps Slipping My Mind; My Arms Stayed Open Late; I've Learned; Cry, Cry, Again; Joey; If I Were A Little Girl; Don't Make Me Go To School; Bedtime Story; That's When I Feel It; Take Me Home And Love Me; If This Is Our Last Time; Tonight By Baby's Coming Home; Love's The Answer; I'm Gonna Keep On Loving You; I Got Me A Man; Your Love's Been A Long Time Coming; Reach Out Your Hand

OSBORN BROTHERS - MCA-2-4086

2 RECORD SET SPECIAL PRICE \$6.00

Rocky Top; Beneath Still Waters; The Kind Of

Woman I Got; My Favorite Memory; Siempere; Ten
nessee Mound Dug, Malting Plans; San Of A Saw
mill Man; Gal, You Got A Job To Do; This Heart

Of Mine (Can Never Say Goodbye); Ruby, Are You

Mad; Listening To The Rain, Kentucky; Georgia

Down; Memories; Roll Muddy River; You Win Again;

RAY PRICE Back On The Road

by John Morthland

It is a motel room like any other chain motel room: the double beds with night-stand between them, the long dresser facing them, the static-filled television, the dull pastel colors of the rugs and walls, the mass-produced landscape paintings that pass for decoration. In a career closing in on thirty years, Ray Price has undoubtedly seen hundreds just like it.

In fact, Price, back on the road about 18 months now after a seven-year layoff, blends right in. Stretched out on one of the beds, dressed in a white pullover sweater, casual blue slacks and reddish brown penny loafers, he could be a businessman trying to relax between important meetings. Instead, later this evening he will change into a three-piece pinstripe suit and silk shirt with red and blue tie and he will croon before a 16-piece orchestra at a sold-out Tulsa supper club where even the plastic plants have been painted silver and purple. It will be the sort of slick orchestral sound that gave hard country fans apoplexy when Price first unveiled it twelve years ago, though it will be what the crowd tonight paid to hear.

And then in two days, Ray Price will begin rehearsing with something new that he calls the Cherokee Cowboys Plus Eight—consisting of two guitars, a piano, a Fender Rhodes piano, a stand-up bass, an electric bass, drums, the legendary Buddy Emmons back on steel, and eight fiddles. "We'll put a western swing band on 'em like they've never heard in their life," Price vows between sips of room service tea on a chilly November afternoon.

That's not all, he adds. Soon, he will go into the studio with Willie Nelson, his former employee, to cut an album of duets that will be released later this year, at which time he and Willie will tour together for about 30 dates. For another 25 or so dates, Price will spurn the supper clubs and concert halls to play the honky tonks where he started. So in some respects, things have come full circle for Price, at least temporarily.

"I'm gonna come out in the open; I've been keeping a low profile and I'm out now," he grins, and suddenly Ray Price stands out a little more in this bland motel room than he did a few minutes earlier.

The Willie connection goes back to the early Sixties. Price, then at the top of the country field for a decade, gave Willie a

place in his Cherokee Cowboys, the seminal band that also spawned Roger Miller, Johnny Paycheck, Johnny Bush, and Buddy Emmons. ("I feel so like a dad, really," Price says, a little wistfully, "and I'm not all that much older than those cats.") Willie also wrote songs for Ray's Pamper Music, and Price gave him his



After recording an album of duets with Willie Nelson, his former employee, Ray and Willie will tour together for about thirty dates.

first big hit in 1963 when he cut Willie's Night Life.

"And you know, I've talked about Willie during my shows ever since then," Price points out. "Because there was so many I had in that band at one time or another, but Willie was someone that was closer than most of them to me. Willie used to come around, and we'd hang out together all the time.

"Let's face it, Willie worked like hell. He took a lot of abuse from a lot of people. He made it the same way I did. He didn't wanna be tied to that scene. Like, I'm not ashamed of Nashville; I like Nashville. But I don't wanna be in the Nashville scene. I don't wanna be a Nashville-based act because I have so many other things I wanna do."

Price himself left Nashville in 1968, for a variety of reasons. He was taking a lot of heat from industry purists for having cut Danny Boy with a 47-piece orchestra the year before. His marriage was in trouble and ultimately ended in divorce. (He remarried in 1971; his wife Janie Mae runs his office in Dallas.) His father was near death in Texas. So he went back home and retrenched.

Not long after setting up shop in Dallas,

he quit touring. He has recorded throughout the last decade, though, and if he is no longer a consistent Top Ten artist, his work still sells. He bought a ranch in Perryville, about 100 miles from Dallas, where he mainly raised thoroughbreds; in 1978-79, he gave them all to Texas A&M. Around that time, he also decided to hit the road again. It was not, he says, because his career had dwindled down to nearly nothing; rather, he had come to miss "the whole thing: the applause, the people, gettin' out, bein' active again, you know. It's a challenge to me again."

Meanwhile, he had watched his former protege Willie Nelson bring country music to people who had previously considered it beneath contempt. Since Price had sought to do the same years earlier, it's hardly surprising that their paths should cross again. In 1978, when Willie was playing Lake Tahoe and Ray was working in Reno, they got together for a little golf and conversation. That's when they first discussed the album and tour.

"Willie said to me, 'Don't you see, Ray, what I've done? I've worked my whole show a lot like you used to. I got that from you.' When Willie worked with me, there was never a set policy, but the minute a

song ended a new one began. And you get 'em up and shake 'em real hard and then you drop 'em with a soft pretty song. And after you get 'em in a certain frame, then you lift 'em up again. Willie works that perfectly."

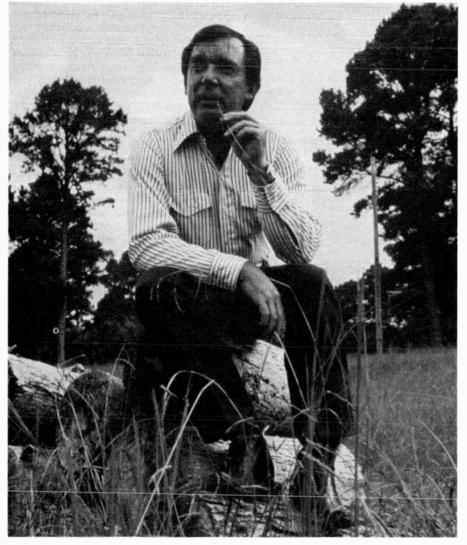
There is at least one other thing I suspect Willie learned from Price. Ray has this amazing ability to look you right in the eye, answer all questions and follow the line of conversation, while still giving the distinct impression that he's a thousand miles away. It's hard to pin down just what leaves that impression, but it definitely comes in handy if you're a basically private man who, because you're in the public eye, must constantly be polite towards fans, deejays, writers and others who all want a little piece of you for themselves. The only other country star I've ever seen who's able to actually pull off that kind of Zen-like composure is ... Willie Nelson. But before I can think of a tactful way of composing a question along those lines, Price has already picked the conversation back

"Then, see, I've learned a lot back from Willie, especially these last few weeks. He invited me to come have a part in the concert scene of that movie Honeysuckle Rose they're shootin' down in Austin right now. I went, but the day they were supposed to shoot the scene the wind was blowing so hard they never got what they wanted. We ran out of time, and I didn't get to be in on it. But we sang together for the folks there anyhow, and I got to see this whole new crowd he's attracted. They want their country music without the razzle dazzle, and he's going to be kind enough to expose me to that crowd. And I'll expose him to a lot of people in my audience.

"Now on the album, he's already cut a whole album of my songs, so we won't be doin' too many of them. Hank Cochran's helpin' us get the material together. And what'll happen, I'm gonna tell you how this album will go: We'll walk into the studio and one of us'll say to the other, 'What do you think about So-and-So?' 'Yeah, let's try that one.' And then we'll start and the band'll play. And that's how this album will come about. We'll just do it as we go, because both of us are straightforward-thinkin' cats and kinda set in our ways."

Ray Price may be due for some major changes this year, but remember also these two things. One, he is not forsaking the orchestrated ballads that may sound overly lush and sweet to you and me, because that's still the kind of music he likes best, and he's got a whole flock of fans out there who concur. Rather, he is merely taking on some new and different projects in addition to that. Two, Price is no stranger to change, or controversy.

The first instance was in 1956, when Price had been singing four years and already had a respectable string of country hits under his belt. He was in the studio



trying to get tracks down on an odd song called *Crazy Arms*, and at first it just wasn't going right. So he improvised.

"The sound they had going at the time in country was a 2-4 sound and a double stop fiddle. I added drums to it, which had been done before, but not much, and a 4-4 bass and shuffle rhythm and the single string fiddle. We came up with it right there on the session, I don't know why or where from; that's just what I wanted. You know, that's the way things happen, on the spur of the moment. Everybody at the session thought it was the funniest thing they ever heard. The new sound, and just the words: 'Crazy arms that long to hold somebody new...' They just thought it was strange. It was—and it was on the charts for 45 weeks

It also redefined the basic country sound for years to come. Price himself stuck to it for a shorter period of time, then moved on to other things. In 1957, he used the Anita Kerr Singers and seventeen violins to record a religious album called Faith. It did much better than religious albums are supposed to.

"That got me on a track that people liked strings, so I began adding strings down through the years to certain songs. I was experimenting, until I did *Danny Boy*. That's when I went all out, and that's when it all hit the fan."

Danny Boy was released in 1967. It made the Top Ten, as did a few subsequent releases, but any number of Nashville artists accused Price of selling out country music, and more than a few deejays simply refused to play his records in the new style. Ray insists that it's "all forgotten now," but it must be significant that more than a decade later, he still remembers the names of the deejays. It wasn't until 1970 and his version of Kristofferson's For The Good Times—still far and away his most credible effort in this style—that he was vindicated. The song went to Number One.

But the question of country's

relationship to pop had been kicking around in Price's head for years; ironically, it was inspired by the greatest pure country singer of them all. Hank Williams. When he first came to Nashville in 1951, Price roomed with Hank, who got him a spot on the Opry. When Hank then died, his band, the Drifting Cowboys, went to work for Ray. So Price saw up close Hank's elation when his own songs were made into pop hits by singers like Tony Bennett, Jo Stafford and Rosemary Clooney. And as far as Ray could see, selling out country music by making it pop was simply not an issue with Hank. Even back then, understandably enough, crossing over was the name of the game. It was just a harder thing to do in that era: Hank's songs could make it, but he himself couldn't.

"He was thrilled to death. How could you be anything other than thrilled by that?" Ray asks. "If he resented never crossing over himself, he never said anything to me about it. No, he may have resented it in a way, but Hank couldn't cope with the success he was having on just the country side of the spectrum. So he was just proud those songs were makin' it.

"But it burned me up to see it happening like that; I used to resent it. I didn't resent those pop artists, don't misunderstand me. I resented the line that was called pop music and country music, and I resented that a country boy just wasn't good enough to cross that line. There was no doubt it was discrimination. But I'm gonna tell you what, from the Hank Williams I knew. If he had lived three more years, he'da been doin' it, he'da been right in the forefront of that crossin' over."

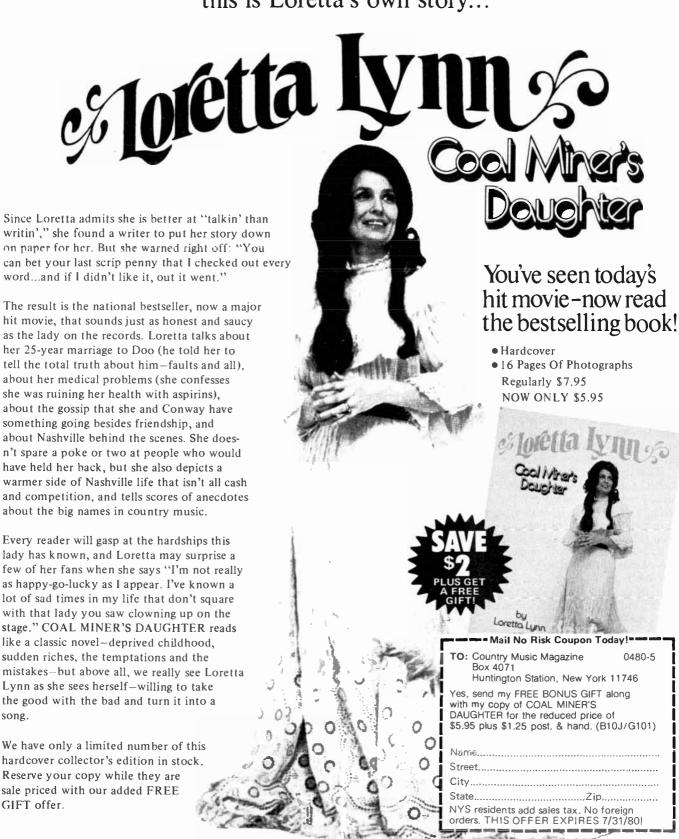
Price gets up and walks across the room to pour himself another cup of tea. He is getting restless, clearly thinking ahead to the show now only a couple hours away, and then to the five-hour drive home afterwards. But a final question, thrown in almost as an afterthought, brings his most outwardly emotional response of the afternoon, and also seems to provide vital clues as to just what makes the man tick through all his ups and downs, retirements and semi-retirements and comebacks, changes in music and roles. Does the move back to the honky tonks and dancehalls mean he'll be taking those classic old rhinestone western suits out of mothballs? He laughs his only big, full laugh of the afternoon.

"I'd just as soon go out in a G-string," he declares smirking now. "It served its purpose, it got attention. The first week I wore one of 'em I got a full page in color in Life Magazine. So it did what I wanted it to do. But it's too much bother, and it's just not me anyhow, even if it was my idea." Ray Price takes one last sip of tea and stares straight ahead. "I'll tell ya, anything that has happened to me, it was my idea. I can't blame anybody for anything in my life, because I caused everything that ever happened to me."



"If he had lived three more years, he'da been right in the forefront of that crossin" over," says Ray of Hank Williams his friend and inspiration.

From being nervous and pregnant and poor in Butcher Holler to living with wealth and fame as the queen of country music—this is Loretta's own story...



John Hartford Rollin' On The River

by Peter Stampfel

Country Music: I heard you're involved in a projected version of Mark Twain's Life on the Mississippi that somehow involves Kurt Vonnegut.

John Hartford: The show will be on television sometime in 1980, there'll be two onehour segments. I see Kurt Vonnegut's name all over the place, but I never did get to meet him. He never showed up while I was there, but I think it's going to be a good show. If they got on film the way the sets looked, it's going to have a really good flavor to it. They completely made the same boat over twice so it'll look like two different boats, the Paul Jones and the Alex Scott. But you've got to take into consideration that all the boats that Samuel Clemmens was on-he called himself Samuel Clemmens then, not Mark Twain-were sidewheelers. In the days when they had a lot of sidewheelers and sternwheelers, you were either a sidewheeler pilot or a sternwheeler pilot. A few virtuosos were able to pilot both. If you got used to a sidewheeler, you would have trouble with a sternwheeler, and vice versa, because you're thinking differently in terms of wheels and rudders.

Country Music: You're in your early forties, and you have a body that would make a twenty year old envious. Do you exercise? Fiddling, dancing, and singing at the same time is pretty hard work.

John Hartford: It becomes exercise of its own. There's two ways to approach exercise. Arnold Schwarzenegger says when you can't do anymore, then you make yourself do one or two more anyway that's when you gain it; and I'm sure that's what makes your muscles bigger. But there's another way to look at exercise like the classical guitarists teach in the books I've read and the people I've talked to about technique say, when you start to strain, you should stop, so that it's always relaxed and easy. So in learning to dance and play the fiddle, I approached it that way. So I'm not approaching it as an exercise, but as a music technique. It seems like when you do it from an athletic standpoint, you do that last extra pushup or whatever it is that hurts in order to gain the few extra feet on your throw or whatever it is. But musically, you stay back within that. I notice that when the orientals teach yoga they tell you never to strain yourself, just like the musical approach. I do yoga very sporadically, and I considered taking



ballet dancing at one time, I was fascinated by that. In fact I got some books and looked at some of the poses. I do them around the house. It really makes me feel good. I like to take a real hot bath so that I feel my muscles are going to melt right off, and then I try to make myself taller and wider and longer.

Country Music: I heard you went to Japan lately. How did you like it?

John Hartford: I loved Japan. We were there last year. I was impressed by the fact that they didn't have any crime. I'm not sure that I would like us to be the way we would have to be in order not to have any crime the way they do in Japan, but nevertheless...

I was very impressed with their transportation. Boy, their rail system is probably the best in the world. I was very impressed with their media. Their television is fantastic, and so are their publications and graphics. Beautiful. Particularly in the field of bluegrass music. And their use of space. The density of life and commerce in Tokyo is amazing. It makes New York look like an empty room. All those thousands of little streets and little stores the size of closets with inventory stuck in every conceivable corner. And in Japan, of course, they're able to display everything on the street because nobody steals. Everything's clean, with incredible use of space. And I love the food. We went over to work with Robert Tanaka, the first night he took us to a steak house and ordered us a steak which was probably one of the best I've ever had in my life. After he sat us down at a table -Marie and I and Keith and Penny-and

got us all served, he and his secretary and his promotion man jumped up on a little stage and put on cowboy hats, and grabbed a dobro, a guitar, and a bass, and started singing old Roy Acuff songs—vintage 1930! It was great, we sat and ate our steaks and listened to *The Gleat Atomic Plower*, and, well, no, that wasn't it. What did they sing?

Country Music: Precious Jewel? John Hartford: Precious Jewel.

Country Music: Wabash Cannonball? John Hartford: Well, no, it was like an esoteric Bill Monroe concert where you do everything but *Uncle Penn*—like when people do bluegrass for other bluegrass people, they don't do *Orange Blossom Special*. I don't remember the other songs they did. Oh, yeah, *Little Pal*. (Sings) "Please come back, little pal. . ." That era of Roy Acuff. He doesn't do that stuff in the Opry anymore.

Country Music: In the Second World War, Japanese soldiers used to yell, "To hell with Roy Acuff," to get our soldiers mad. Speaking of Japan, about 1960 when I was in California, I heard that a Japanese banjo player came to America with one of those Vega "Earl Scruggs model" banjos that was finished like a rhinestone studded toilet bowl, and which Scruggs never played. His plan was to go to Nashville and have Scruggs teach him how to play. He wanted to be the first Japanese Scruggs picker. But when he got to California, he discovered that there were so many Scruggs pickers there he didn't have to go to Nashville to learn.

John Hartford: He's the guy who went to the Opry and played there with Earl? I think there's a picture of him in an old Flatt and Scruggs song book.

Country Music: I think that's him. John Hartford: He's the brother of the guy who promoted me in Japan, he's Robert Tanaka's brother. He's now a Japanese business man. I think that's the same guy.

Country Music: Twenty years ago I was just finding out how full of bluegrass fans the world is.

John Hartford: Did you read that interview in the new *Frets* magazine of Ravi Shankar? Towards the end of the interview, they asked him what other kinds of music he admires, and he said he liked bluegrass. He liked American country pickin', fiddle and banjo music.

Country Music: What are the audiences

like in Japan?

John Hartford: Good, real good. They do the audience participation things more accurately than American audiences. And the level of comprehension is real good. All the while I was over there, I had this banjo from a friend that I had this big idea about selling. I carried it around with me, and when I'd be cleaning up my instruments and when people would come up for autographs and stuff, I'd have the banjo right there with the case open so anyone could try it out. These kids kept coming by and playing my solos, note perfect. I mean, I heard the banjo break from Don't Leave Your Records in the Sun played two or three different times by different people in different parts of Japan, and sung by kids who couldn't speak any English.

Country Music: Have you read the book, Country, by Nick Tosches, about country

music?

John Hartford: Yeah, I sure did. It's the one with all the inside stuff—scandals and what have you.

Country Music: It's the best book about country music I've ever read.

John Hartford: Yeah.

Country Music: A book about country music that is as broad as its subject. The only thing I didn't like was that he put down a novel about country music called Ruby Red.

John Hartford: By William Price Fox.

Country Music: I thought it was a good book.

John Hartford: Yeah. William Price Fox is a fine writer. They were supposed to make a movie of it, but it never came out.

Country Music: By the way, Is Slumberin' on the Cumberland your latest record on Flying Fish?

John Hartford: Yeah, it came out last summer.

Country Music: And Going Down to the Mystery Below was the one before that. John Hartford: Right.

Country Music: I'm glad you're making more than one album a year.

John Hartford: I kinda make 'em sporadically. I put them to bed, and turn around one day, and there's a stack of new songs on the coffee table.

Country Music: Do you have any plans for your next record? A specific theme or anything?

John Hartford: It's real hard to talk about that when I'm in the process of actually making decisions, 'cause then I think, "Oh gee, I already said I was going to...," so what I do is, I never talk about it until it's wrapped up.

Country Music: Is there anything special you'd like to talk about? Something that's made a difference in your life?

John Hartford: Well, did I tell you about 3 x 5 index cards?

Country Music: Go ahead.

John Hartford: I keep everything written down and organized on 3 inch by 5 inch in-

dex cards, held vertically, like playing cards. I hold them in my hand like a deck. Easier to write on when you're standing up that way. I'm right handed, so I hold them in my left hand, and I can write while I'm walking, standing, waiting in line, or riding in a jiggleing car. If you hold your elbows away from your body, it absorbs the jiggle. Also, each card is replaceable, so you can keep it current with everywhere you have to go, with phone numbers and what have you. Also, when you get song ideas while you're on the move, you can write them down real quick. When you're driving, you can just hold the steering wheel with your knee, and write it down. It's organized and predicated on the fact of the old card trick. No matter how many times you cut the deck, it's still in the same order. You can always put what you're working on right on top, and never get it out of order.

Country Music: Writing things down can make the difference between success and lack of success. Are you still playing the Barcus-Berry five string fiddle?

John Hartford: Yes, I am.

Country Music: How do you think it compares with an amplified acoustic fiddle? John Hartford: Obviously, a real good violin has a better tone, but the argument is between tone, and the fifth string, and a well balanced electrical setup. Taking all those things into consideration, it's a real

good piece of equipment.

Country Music: They make five string violins in Europe. Have for years. (There have the combined range of a violin and a viola.)

John Hartford: Real fine ones?

Country Music: Yeah.

John Hartford: Boy, I'd like to get a hold of one.

Country Music: What kind of strings do you use?

John Hartford: I used to use another brand until Vassar Clements turned me on to Doctor Thomastics with a flat wound "E" string. I use the blue tips. They come in red, blue, and green.

Country Music: To close things off, I was wondering, what were some of your favorite songs in the last year?

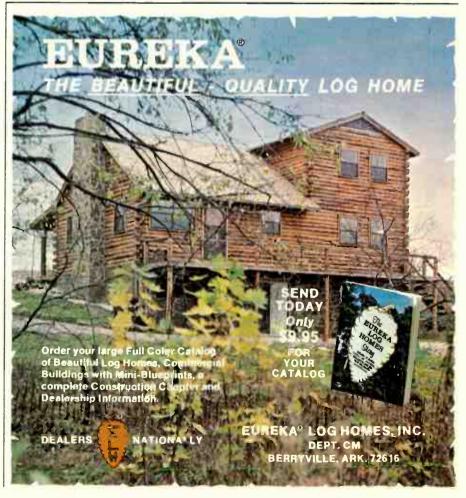
John Hartford: Mine or other people's?

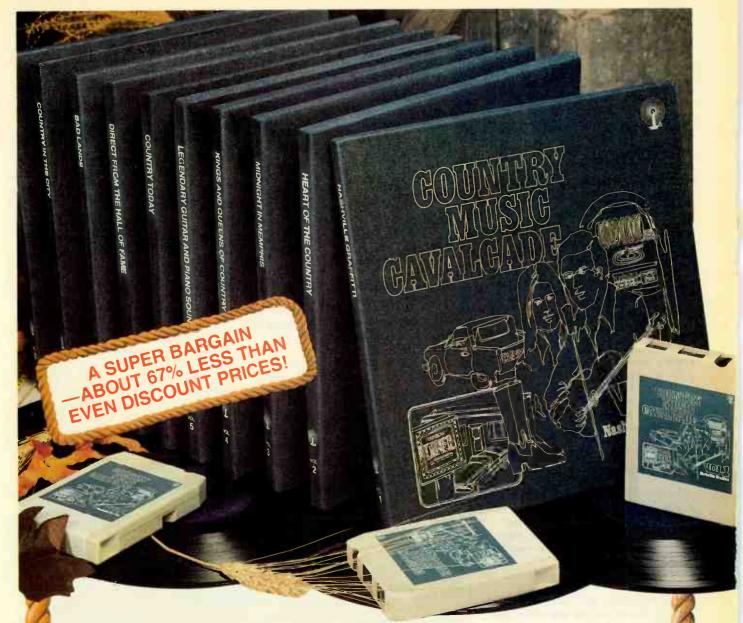
Country Music: Either.

John Hartford: I'll tell you a performance of a song I really love that I've just gotten into in the last few days. It's Ricky Scaggs and the Boone Creek singers, doing *Daniel Prayed*. Have you heard that one?

Country Music: No.

John Hartford: Look for Boone Creek. I think the album's called *One Way*, it's the only one of their albums with that song on it. It's an old Stanley Brothers tune, and they do the best version I ever heard. No offense to ol' Carter Stanley.





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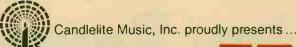
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Gotta Travel On ● Release Me ● Flowers On The Wall ●
Just Walkin' In The Rain ● North To Alaska ● The Battle Of
New Orleans ● Make The World Go Away ● Heartaches By
The Number ● Wolverton Mountain ● Don't Take Your
Guns To Town ● Roses Are Red ● Devil Women ● Blue
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Country Scene

(Continued from page 16)

western artists are Frederic Remington from New York and Charles Russell from Missouri. "Their paintings bring in well over six figures," said Wunderlich who knows of many that were sold for a million dollars. Other important artists of their period include Albert Bierstadt and Thomas Moran who were both born in Europe.

The second period of western art-from 1900-1950's was called "Taosist." The painters of their period were more academic than their predecessors and were often schooled in Europe. They portrayed everyday life and often had an air of serenity. They concentrated more on Indians than on cowboys. The most prominent painters of this movement were Olaf Seltzer and Eanger I. Couse.

There are over 100 modern western Americana painters. "Most are mediocre or bad. The hottest living western painter is Michael Coleman from Utah. He's way ahead of everyone else though Gordon Phillips from Maryland, John Clymer from Wyoming and Tom Lovell of New Mexico are important too. Most are painting historical scenes which are in demand. They fill a gap. Technically they are quite good," said Wunderlich.

Western sculptures, which are almost all cast in bronze though some are silver are also skyrocketing in value. Remington and Russell are the big names here too. Recently Coming Through the Rue, a 27" high and three foot wide sculpture by Remington was sold for \$400,000. Harry Jackson, a modern sculptor that gets about \$75,000 a work is "head and shoulders above everyone else in the field," said Wunderlich. "In other words," said Quinn, "an artist doesn't have to be dead to be good."

If you want to start a collection begin by learning about it. There are several magazines about it. Portraits of the Old West by Harold MacCracken is a good general survey of western art. To see the masterpieces go to the Thomas Gilcrease Museum in Tulsa Oklahoma; the National Cowboy Hall of Fame in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, the Buffalo Bill Historical Center in Cody, Wyoming; the Amon Carter Museum in Fort Worth, Texas or The Rockwell-Corning Museum in Corning, New York. Then go to reputable art dealers and see what they recommend. But beware, for under \$1000 you can't get an oil painting but, you may consider a watercolor illustration. The largest western art collection in New York City is the Kennedy Gallery. Presently there is a special exhibit at the Hammer Gallery featuring Truman Bolinger, a sculptor from Sheridan, Wyoming. The salesmen here will be glad to help you.

Is there a correlation between country



music and western art? "The virtues of both are similar. They both have deep roots in our history and they are both simple. Both are sometimes plaintive. It's how they get to the point. It can be like a soap opera—Twang, Twang, Wang, Wang or very profound like Willie Nelson."

The point is—western art is up and coming. Whether it be for enjoyment or investment—it's worth checking out real soon!!!

NANCY TRACHTENBERG

Charley Pride Sings Hank Williams



"Well Hank I never met you, but I sure heard you sing. As a little bitty boy down in Mississippi, you filled my heart with dreams. I got an old guitar that I learned how to sing as you did the lovesick blues. So Hank if you're listening, this one's just for you."

From "A Little Bit of Hank In Me"

Charlie Pride sat in the private lounge area of American Airlines airport in Nashville awaiting the plane that would whisk him off to his home town of Dallas. He was his usual impatient self, tapping his foot. flipping through a magazine, nervously awaiting to get on with his life, to move closer to the next project on his busy agenda.

He had been in Nashville for a week, recording and conducting short interviews about his new record. There's A Little Bit Of Hank In Me. Ralph Emery (country music's perennial disc jockey) told me that of all the people he had heard do Hank Williams, he felt that I

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complimented his songs more than anybody he'd heard. That made me feel real good, coming from a guy that's been in the business as long as he."

"Do you want to hear the new album?" Charlie asked with a huge grin on his face. So, he pulled out a cassette tape from his briefcase and dropped the cassette into a player. "I really enjoyed doing this one," he uttered, closing his eyes, and muttering the words along with the cassette. "We tried to pick songs that hadn't been done over and over again." The words of My Son Calls Another Man Daddy, Moaning the Blues, Loveless Mansion on the Hill filled the room.

"I never met the man, but I've always tried to figure out what he was trying to say." continued Charlie after a few songs had played. "I feel like music is a product that you try to sell. So I'm singing Hank's music trying to sell the thoughts that I think are behind the words. I get all these feelings when I hear I'm so Lonesome I Could Crv. I think the man is great even with all his sadness and drinking. He had a brilliant mind. I also think that wherever we're trying to get that he's already there. Cause in a sense, he's still around. When you hear his songs and listen to them, especially the way I have tried to put them across. I think you understand how his life went, why it ended. He may have been trying to say to everyone, don't do it my way even though this is what I've done.

"Hank wasn't my only hero, of course," continued Charlie. "He's just a part of that whole spectrum of people like Eddie Arnold, Roy Acuff, Ernest Tubb and Bill Monroe. We used to listen to them ut noon when we'd come out of fields. But alot of my fans have told me they thought I did Hank Williams so nicely that why didn't I do an album. I've always said maybe sometime. Well that time has come."

DOLLY CARLISLE

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Everyday People by John Pugh

Goodbye Young Lovers

All names in the following narrative are fictitious to protect the privacy of the individuals involved.

Wesley Payne has had only indifferent success peddling his songs, but that doesn't matter to him nearly so much as the writing, itself. In the timeless tradition of country songwriters, Wesley writes mostly to purge himself of remorse, guilt, bittersweet memory. Writing alleviates the heartbreak, the emptiness, the soulsearching. It passes the long, lonely hours when he sits alone and thinks of Diane. With his pencil and paper he can say the words he wished he'd said so long ago; with his guitar he can pick out a melody that expresses his unquenchable love. And if none of his songs ever makes the top ten, at least they mean that something worthwhile has come from all the remembrances.

"Her name was Diane Johnson," Wesley began. "I met her in college in a seminar class. She sat across the table from me every week and I used to just stare at her. She was beautiful, with blue eyes, blonde hair, like an early Cybil Shepherd. I used to think, 'I could never be that lucky. I wonder who is the man in her life.' Then one day we had a break in class and I was sitting outside under a tree, soaking in a nice spring day, kind of lost in thought. Suddenly I looked up and she was standing there with a cup of water. She handed it to me and said, 'Why do you hate me?'"

"I said, 'I don't hate you.' "

She said, 'Then why do you stare at me in class?"

"I said, 'Because you're so beautiful I can't take my eyes off you."

"She sat with me, we talked awhile, then went back to class. Then I really couldn't take my eyes off her. When class was over I said, 'Let's go for a ride.' We went for a drive in the country and the chemistry just flowed. We came back to my apartment and went to bed. It was the greatest thing that had ever happened to me in my whole

life. We just lay in bed staring at each other for the longest time. I was almost afraid to touch her, she was so perfect looking. I don't believe in reincarnation, but the first time I kissed her I felt as if I were connecting with someone I had loved in another life. We were both in love from that moment on."

Everybody's reaching out for someone Everybody's knocking on some door Long before I ever found you

You're the one that I was reaching for "Then one day she told me that Butch, her former boyfriend, had called and was coming back to school. Butch was one of those blond, blue-eyed surfer types, a typical pleasure-seeking, dope-smoking dropout of the early '70's. He had dropped out of school and split for Florida for a while. He wasn't interested in a relationship with Diane like I was. But that didn't seem to matter to her; when he got back she started dividing her time between us. Then one afternoon we went to bed and I realized she had just come to my bed from his. It was like an explosion in my head; the shock of it almost killed me. I said. 'How could you come to me like this?' She said she loved us both. I told her right then to choose one or the other of us. She chose him. She dropped out of school, married him, got pregnant, and was divorced before the child was even born."

I thought I'd make her happy if I stepped aside

But I knew her love would never set me free

And even on the day that she became another's bride

I said they'll never ever take her love from me²

"Looking back on it, I don't think she was trying to hurt me. She was only 18 or 19 and just didn't know what she wanted. The hell of it all was that she ended up with an illegitimate child and neither one of us for a father. I once asked her whose child it was. She said it was Butch's. I said, 'How

do you know?' She said, 'A woman just knows such things.' After she had Butch's son, I just couldn't be his father. I went through a lot of guilt about that. I realize now I should have said, 'I don't care whose child it is. I love you. Please marry me.'

"After that I came to Nashville to be a songwriter. I have thought that she knew that was my dream and that, as a struggling songwriter, I couldn't be encumbered with a wife and child, but that she had to have a name for her son. I saw her and the boy some years later and I couldn't tell physically which one of us was the father, but I was immediately struck by how intelligent the boy was and I knew he couldn't have gotten that from Butch. Sometimes I'll pass a schoolyard and see the kids at play and I'll think, 'Somewhere I have a son just about their same age.'

Now she lives a quiet life and is the mother of a little girl

And every time I pass her house, my thoughts go back into another world

For there I see a little girl, her nose is pressed against the window pane

And she knows I'm a lonely man who wants to come inside out of the rain'

"I've thought about it a lot. Even after all these years she's always on my mind to some extent. Mostly I remember a beautiful love affair with a beautiful girl that netted me a lot of great memories—and a lot of songs. For a long time she was my only inspiration. I've had others, but she's still the main one. At least one time in my life I had love. If one ever comes again like she did then, I won't care where she's been, what she's done, how many lovers she's had. I'll just say, 'I don't care. I love you.'"

- Leverybody's Reaching Out For Someone Written by Dicky Lee
- ². They'll Never Take Her Love From Me Written by Hank Williams
- 3. Days Of Sand And Shovels Written by Bud Reneau.

Tom T. Hall Disqualifies Himself As Critic, Then Reviews George Burn's New Record

George Burns I Wish I Was Eighteen Again Mercury SRMI-5025

Well, we know right off that George Burns did not wear them jeans, eat them beans, and pick and grin with us. I've never done an album review, and George has never done a country album. Two of my own songs are in this album (Old Dogs and Children and Watermelon Wine, and One of The Mysteries of Life). That alone should disqualify me as a critic, but I found out that we get free albums. I grabbed this grand opportunity because I admire anyone who has lived as long as George Burns: almost three times as long as Hank Williams or Jimmie Rodgers. George's credentials are as long as a trip to the Opry in a Volkswagon.

This is a super good album. The decision to release I Wish I Was Eighteen Again was exactly the right thing to do. I hummed it for three days after I first heard it.

Jerry Kennedy, an old friend, worked with me in the studio for ten years and we never had a disagreement. We have none here. George Burns has been allowed to be the great showman that he is. There are no fancy support licks or embarrassing embellishments. He is even allowed to drift over into his vaudeville, soft shoe, routine once in a while; a thing he obviously enjoys.

I think the thing that makes this venture so entertaining is the obvious ease with which George has handled the material. I was also overjoyed to find that the album cover did not have a bale of hay on it.



My favorite songs are, 1 Wish I Was Eighteen Again, Arizona Whiz, The Only Way to Go and A Real Good Cigar -should I mention my own songs? (Editor's Note: You already did, Hall.)

There's something about George Burns that makes a perhim. It must be talent. When I formed, the millions of miles he from some small town in the

must have traveled, the hits, the flops, the heartaches, the laughter, and of course the joy he has brought. Jerry Kennedy and the folks at Mercury-Phonogram are to be congratulated.

George Burns is not going to buy a bus, hire a band and have son feel good when listening to a picnic in California every Fourth of July. He is not going put this album on the stereo I to buy a honkytonk in Nashwas taken back to a thousand ville and work the Opry when wonderful places where this he is not busy. He is not going gentleman must have per- to do a duet with a pretty girl

midwest who will not let him smoke cigars and eat beans on his bus. He will probably keep on doing what he does, which is O.K. with almost everybody.

As a critic I do not have a rating system (you know) ten stars, four stars, etc., etc., and so, on a scale of one hundred I would give this album a ninetynine. George Burns is a great entertainer, but after all, he didn't eat them beans, wear them jeans and pick and grin with us.

TOM T. HALL

Gail Davies The Game Warner Bros., BSK 3395

Whether it's live, or on an album like The Game (her first for Warner Bros.) it's always a pleasure to hear Gail Davies sing. There is something pure and unadulturated about her, unaffected up-country vocal style: and her maturity of delivery and theme is downright soothing. Something about it hints of wintery nights, roaring fireplaces and homemade strawberry wine-all symbols of some quiet peace of mind that too many of us yearn for.

Often, Gail Davies' singing is vaguely reminiscent of that of Anne Murray; yet as a singer, Davies is perhaps even a bit more nimble and subtle than the Snowbird lady herself.

songs (including the spirited from Davies did all the writing on preoccupation on The Game



The Game herself. In theme, With the exception of two she has, in fact, drifted away the sort Blue Heartache, a 1972 title autobiographical material that from the catalogue of the il- stood out on her debut CBS lustrious Paul Craft), Ms. album a year or so ago. Her

seems to be with more seasoned examinations of love-love gone right and love gone wrong. The songs are not all gems, but some of them, like the title song and Love Is Living Around Us.

Ms. Gail Davies also handled the producing and arranging on The Game, and her instincts have served her well in this capacity. The arrangements are, for the most part, austere; they stick close to the basics of electric and acoustic guitar, drums and bass, with occasional tasteful flourishes of fiddle, steel guitar and keyboards. At no time do they draw attention away from Ms. Davies' excellent vocals, which are really what The Game is all about. Occasionally, the vocals are enhanced still more as she sings various accompaniments along with herself, through the skillful use of multitracking.

The Game offers a welcome relief from much of the slick, cutesy, calculated music that we seem to be getting from most of the female vocalists who dominate the charts today. On that basis alone—its understated excellence notwithstanding-this album deserves to be heard.

BOB ALLEN



Con Hunley

I Don't Want To Lose

Warner Brothers BSK 3378

on Hunley's latest album displays a curious duality of approach, With slightly more than half the songs he proves himself to be one of country music's finest late-night rainyevening ballad singers, while on the rest he displays verve and ability as a fine white bluesman, loping with the aggressive beat and singing nearly as mushmouthed as Rickie Lee Jones.

It is a little unsettling because the quality of the voices as well as the feel of the music is so different depending on approach. It is doubtless a tribute to his talent that both

approaches succeed-some, of course, better than others.

The quality of both the ballads and the blues material in this album is remarkably high, though there is a sag or two. Generally the songs are memorable and are delivered with believability. Among the ballads I Don't Want To Lose You is the most affecting, while Rhythm and Blues is the cream of the funky set.

Perhaps this noticeable duality is simply versatility; it is striking and a touch uncomfortable at the same time. Still, though he attempts to perform in two very different styles at the same time, Con Hunley's effort is all the more remarkable in his ability to pull

DOUGLAS B. GREEN



Johnny Cash

A Believer Sings The

Cachet Records CL-3-9001 (0998)

his double record set is called A Believer Sings the Truth. Johnny Cash is the Believer. He surely has one of the most believable voices in the world. Remember his Pepsi ad? When he sang, "You've got a lot to live and Pepsi's got a lot to give", it not only seemed to mean something, it seemed to mean something important. What I mean is we don't know if Johnny really believes in Pepsi, but we know he really believes in Jesus.

There are twenty songs here. Three are in the black gospel tradition. Two, Don't Take Everybody For Your Friend and There Are Strange Things Happening Every Day are by Sister Rosetta Tharpe. The third is Dorothy Love Coats' That's Enough. Two songs, Go Where I Send Thee and This Train Is Bound For Glory go back far enough to be the Grand-daddys of the other songs on the record. There's also a white gospel classic,

Angel Band, with harmony assistance from the whole Carter Family, who also lend individual harmonies to several songs here. Sounds like a lot of gospel styles, but there's more. Gospel Boogie (Wonderful Time Up There) is done in a credible Sun Label rockabilly style, and a few cuts have a dollup of dixieland horns. It all works. There's not a matchstick of dead wood here. In the liner notes Johnny calls this "my proudest work". There's good reason.

A high point is the remarkably beautiful song, Lav Me Down In Dixie. This song pays to the south the love and respect the other songs here pay to heaven. There are religious references here, but the emphasis is on Dixie. The result is a piece of heaven brought to earth. Cindy Cash adds a harmony of heartbreakingly gentle beauty.

Finally there are eight songs that Johnny wrote himself. They all stand tall and proud as the rest of the songs, fitting pieces in an album that's an immediate classic.

Robert Gordon

Bad Boy RCA AFL1-3523

You could have called Robert Gordon's first album a rout. It made mincemeat of all those small label entrepreneurs who thought all it took to recapture the spirit of Memphis, 1954 were a few musicians in a crummy studio, a few slaps on a bass fiddle and plenty of echo. Gordon and his partner, fifties rock guitar god Link Wray recorded in a good studio and came up with a wild, uninhibited LP of rockabilly classics that equalled, and in some cases even cut the originals.

Then Gordon screwed up his second album by relying on rockabilly cliches, a trend that became even more ominous on his next one where only one

downward. As before, only one song, Is It Wrong survives, for in spite of his past triumphs, Gordon's adopted a by-thenumbers approach to a music that can be a lot of things, but never cut and dried. Why, for example do we need musical xeroxes of rockabilly staples like Jimmy Lee and Johnny Mathis's Sweet Love On My Mind and Bill Haley's Crazy Man Crazy that reenact, note for note, the originals without adding a thing (the originals win out)? It's as bad as the folksingers who'd copy old field recordings so closely they'd even learn the sour notes. The other songs simply string together more cliches ranging from Nervous, a tune dominated by loud, tasteless guitar to Born To Lose (not the country standard) which com-



song managed to show any of that febrile spirit. Indeed, most of the musical high points came from his new partner, British rock guitarist Chris Spedding. I was sure Gordon would pull out of his tailspin on the fourth LP; he had to.

Fraid not, friends. Bad Boys PETER STAMPFEL is just one more step

bines a disco beat, Tex-Mex music and a roller rink organ with ludicrous results.

Gordon's more than an Elvis clone or a Sha-Na-Na satirist. but he better knock off this Get The Sun Sound in Three Easy Lessons stuff if he wants to avoid that kind of typecasting.

RICH KIENZLE

Rafe Van Hoy

Prisoner Of The Sky

Though he's only 24 years old—and looks even younger—Rafe Van Hoy has already distinguished himself as one of Nashville's first-string songwriters. He's turned out dozens of enduring hits for top artists, including Tammy Wynette and George Jones (Golden Ring), The Oak Ridge Boys (Cryin' Again), Anne Murray (Let's Keep It That Way), and Barbara Mandrell (Tonight), just to mention a few

Prisoner Of The Sky is Van Hoy's debut album, and as such, it not only showcases his exceptional songwriting skills on new songs like Keep Me Hangin' On and Silver Saxaphone, but it also demonstrates, on songs like Love Crazy Love (a great track!), that he can handle the vocal chores with as much flair and conviction as all those big name-artists he's been writing for.

Despite all the neo-country, standards that Van Hoy has written in the past few years, Prisoner Of The Sky shows that his real musical sensibilities run more toward the mellow rock and pop vein of artists like

Jackson Browne, Gene Cotton and Jerry Rafferty. This is demonstrated not only by the choice of original material on Prisoner Of The Sky (All of the songs were either written by Rafe or co-written with other distinguished writers from the stable of Tree International, his publishing company,) but also by his overall vocal interpretations and the choice of arrangement made by co-producers Don Gant and Ron Chancey.

Prisoner Of The Sky has its weak spots—as do most debut albums. As a singer, Van Hoy lacks a certain confidence, but that will surely come with time. And there is, perhaps, one too many laments to indifferent love included herein. (I counted four.) But the best songs on Prisoner Of The Sky give every indication that Rafe is going to have a long, full career ahead of him as a recording artist—most likely in the pop charts.

So three or four LP's from now, when Rafe Van Hoy has his own band together and is laying siege to the top 40 charts, just remember way back in 1980, I'm the one who told you just what everyone has been trying to tell me for the past year or so: This kid is really good.

BOB ALLEN

Chet Atkins

The Best of Chet On The Road ... Live

No single album can present the essential Chet Atkins. There are just too many facets to his genius. But this LP makes a hell of a good try. It is awesomely good. Listen to it once, and you say, "Wow." Listen to it again, and you realize that "wow" was an understatement.

The cuts were recorded during concerts in Nashville and Paris. So along with Chet's virtuosity on the guitar, you get a sense of his reserved, yet amiable and droll stage personality.

Delightful plusses abound—fine licks by the backup musicians, some excellent duets by Chet and Paul Yandell, a duet with French virtuoso Marcel Daddi. Also, Chet does some surprisingly good singing, and shows a nice sense of timing as here and there he throws out a comic line or word.

But the overriding strength of the disc is, of course, Chet's playing on both electric and classical guitar. In *Dance With Me*, he is smooth, sweet and lively. In a brief modern chord

solo of Elizabeth Cotton's Freight Train he sounds like the chord-solo master himself, George Van Eps. In a spirited acoustic rendition of Stars And Stripes Forever, Chet dazzles you with simultaneous melody, counterpoint and bass line, interspersed with some impressive riffs. When You Wish Upon A Star is filled with as good a rendering of artificial harmonics as you're likely to hear. Like few other musicians, Chet can take a simple. hackneyed old piece and pull out music you didn't know was there. In case that statement leaves you cold, it puts him in the kind of league that is peopled by violinist Fritz Kreisler and conductor Anturo Toscanini.

And while we're on a classical note, a high point of this album is a fine performance of the bittersweet tremelo masterpiece, *Recuerdo de la Hambra*, Chet does it with exquisite poignancy.

There's more on this album I could praise, but a reviewer who says too many nice things automatically loses his union card.

Chet, you may regret this album. It'll be a hard act to follow.

ART MAHER

Bill Anderson

Nashville Mirrors

F ew people in show biz are as good as Bill Anderson at reading trends, then providing what the market wants in a straightforward, professional manner. Some reviewers scoff at that kind of ability, labeling it "sheer commercialism". But the only time commercialism is bad is when it gets in the way of all the other values a performance must have. In this album, the commercialism does not get in the way.

Lately, Bill has been respon-

ding to the market for sexy lyrics full of double entendres. After hearing this album, I think someone had better douse him with cold water before he burns up not only himself, but Music Square as well.

In the well-done I Want That Feeling Again, Bill and the backup singers say things like, "I want it. I want it." What do they mean by "it"? Can anyone tell me? Anyway, those lines are heard against an instrumental arrangement that builds from a simple opening to—you should pardon the expression—a climax.

In She Made Me Remember,

Bill seeks a woman's lips, bed and presumably a few other things. His purpose? To forget a lost love. But, alas. The aforementioned lips, bed, etc., bring not forgetfulness. but reinforced memories of the lost love.

More Than A Bedroom Thing says that while his favorite room is the bedroom, his love for the woman he's singing to transcends mere sexuality. And, indeed, all is not sex in this album. The title cut is an intriguing set of vignettes depicting country music characters—a striver, a reluctant victim of a stage father and an award-winning outlaw.

There's also (Her Wedding Ring's A) One Man Band, a clever tapestry of song titles like Wild Side Of Life, Back Street Affair, and Stand By Your Man—all woven into the message, "Stay away from my woman, 'cause she won't bother with you anyway." Then, there's I'm Used to The Rain, which offers a strong shoulder for a woman to cry on.

In all, I'd call this a highly successful effort by a real pro in company with fine musicians, co-writers, backup singers and production people.

ART MAHER



track, a silly, pretentious number by anyone's standards. Songs like Towns Van Zandt's I'll Be Here In The Morning, the traditional Wild Mountain Thyme, Gordon Lightfoot's Spin Spin, Catfish Bates, and Alex Harvey epic, and Gail Davies' Someone Is Looking For Someone Like You all work beautifully in the hands of Hamilton-Reynolds-Fundis, who give each note their attention without killing its spontaneity.

In an era when great per-

formers are all too often stuck with the wrong producer, with disastrous results, it is gratifying to see an exception to the rule. I expect more gems from this crew. They make it seem so damn easy.

RICH KIENZLE

George Hamilton IV Forever Young MCA-3206

Strange how certain American artists wind up as popular-or more so-across the pond than here. It happened to Jim Reeves in Europe and Africa, and his influence there is still huge. But if anyone replaced Reeves after his death, it's been George Hamilton IV, so much so that he really hasn't been a major force over here in recent years; one could almost say he's been overlooked. Not surprising for one who avoids odes to Lone Star, Outlaw anthems or Vegas countrypolitan pap in favor of quiet, restrained folk-based music relying heavily on understatement. Sounds a lot like Don Williams, eh?

No wonder. In one of the best moves ever, George made the most of his new label by connecting with Williams former producer, Allen Reynolds and engineer Garth Fundis to create an album that fuses his music perfectly with the same intimate, acoustic-based sound that works so well for Williams: straightforward, and devoid of frills.

One thing that hasn't changed much is his material, which still draws from the best contemporary folk composers like Gordon Lightfoot and Billy Edd Wheeler as well as country song-smiths. Every song here was perfectly matched to him, though his best efforts can't save the Bob Dylan-penned title

BURIED TREASURES

by Rich Kienzle

I've said it before and I'll say it again: most country import LPs are bargains, even though many are priced above the \$6.98-\$7.98 list price of domestic albums and they're rarely found in the average record store. The material within many is not only good listening, but the sort well-heeled collectors pay big bucks for in its original form.

Some of the best recent imports are Japanese reissues of RCA LPs released here in the fifties and sixties. The covers are identical to the originals. though you'll need an interpreter for everything except the song titles and album title. Two of the most important are Homer & Jethro's Playing It Straight (RCA 5038) and It Ain't Necessarily Square (RCA 5043), both of which had much to do with inspiring the "jazzgrass" movement in today's acoustic music. Here, the legendary "song butchers" leave their instruments up front and show off their jazz abilities on swing and pop instrumentals. Jethro Burns's mandolin, driven by the jazzy rhythm guitar of the late Homer Haynes, shows the same inventiveness that dominates his current work, particularly on If Dreams Come True and Nanner Puddin (Playing It Straight) and Take The 'A' Train (Necessarily Square) though the latter album suffers from occasional overproduc-

Ernest Tubb's The Legend And The Legacy tribute LP has done much to revive interest in his earlier music (if indeed it needed reviving . . .). But finding the earliest Tubb classics on Decca has been about as easy as finding 25c a gallon gas. Those MCA Greatest Hits LPs actually contain later re-recordings not originals. Happily, British MCA's new Country Hall of Fame series has taken a valuable first step with Ernest Tubb (CDLM 8078). Beginning with the original 1941 version of Walkin' The Floor Over You, featuring Tubb alone with only electric guitar backing, follows his career through 16 of his finest songs to 1973. There's Let's Say Goodbye Like We Said Hello along with a 1953 Hank Williams tribute, a stomping cover version of Chuck Berry's Thirty Days and duets with Red Foley, the Wilburn Brothers and Loretta Lynn, as well as The Texas Troubadour, one of his final MCA singles. With fine liner notes and rare photos, this collection not only underscores Tubb's momentous contributions, but makes one wonder why MCA, dropped him a few years ago.

Also in the new MCA series is Patsy Cline (CDL 8077), a 16 song retrospective beginning with Walkin' After Midnight, her first big hit from 1957 and proceeding through Crazy, Leavin' On Your Mind and later, posthumous hits like Faded Love. If you have Loretta Lynn's I Remember Patsy

LP, this is a perfect companion.

Not long ago, a German label reissued Waylon's A & M sides. Now, British MCA has done even better with The Early Years (CDL 8501). This 14 song set combines some of the rarest Waylon material, including Rave On and Jole Blon, cut with Buddy Holly And The Crickets (and King Curtis on sax) in 1958, his first recording. Filling out the album are the legendary sides he and his original Waylors cut in 1964 for the Bat label in Phoenix. What these 12 songs show is a Waylon in many ways not that different from today's model (though he's only recognizable in the photos by his leatherveneered guitar), particularly on Lorena, Burning Memories and Don't Think Twice, It's All Right. An essential album.

Britain's highly successful CBS Rockabilly series continues with Volume 3 (CBS 83911). Two 1958 treasures by Mel Tillis (Teenage Wedding) and Billy "Crash" Craddock (Ah, Poor Little Baby) are included as well as Ersel Hickey's classic Bluebirds Over The Mountain, Hurricane, a hot Joe Maphis/Larry Collins guitar duet and 16 more rockabilly and rocking country tracks.

All these albums are available from Down Home Music, 10341 San Pablo Avenue, El Cerrito CA 94530. The Waylon is 7.98 plus \$2.00 postage. Write for prices on the others, and ask for their current newsletter. It's free.

Brenda Lee Even Better MCA-3211

"comeback" for Brenda Lee because she never left us. That's true, and what's amazing is that after twenty some odd years of making records, she's only thirty-four. It has been a while since she broke into the top ten. and she marks the occasion by including Tell Me What It's Like in this album.

Unfortunately, there is not nearly enough outstanding material here to build a revitalized momentum for Brenda. Two of the strongest ballads are I Wish That I Could Hurt That Way Again and The Cowgirl and the Dandy, both of which have turned up repeatedly on other artists' albums lately. What she needs is a lot of strong fresh new material.

Many of the ballads on side one seem a bit sluggish. Tunes such as Keeping Me Warm for You, Love Ain't Seen the Last of Me, and Goodbye Love, lend The liner notes remind us that themselves to interpretation of this is definitely not a melody, but not much more. In her greatest moments, Brenda Lee has shown an ability to almost transmit sadness through such powerful songs as I Want to Be Wanted, Fool #1, and, especially All Alone Am I. With the right material, which is missing from this album, she could still create and build a

On the plus side, there are two notable selections which could become contemporary chart hits. One is Do You Wanna Spend the Night, not for its lyrical content, but for its catchy feel. You Only Broke My Heart, is as close to a Brenda Lee ballad as the album offers, and it's, well, O.K. What is a Brenda Lee ballad? Listen to her sing At the



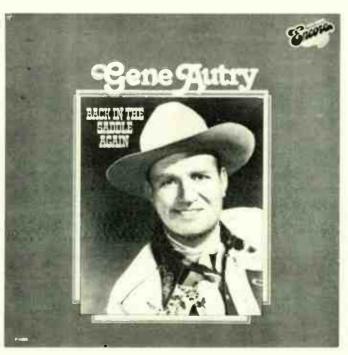
Moonlight, and picture yourself ties. Then you'll remember. at a drive-in movie in the six-

BILL OAKEY

Gene Autry Back In The Saddle Again Encore (CBS) P 14380

t is extraordinarily difficult to sum up the career of one of the four or five most important figures in country music with twelve representative songs, particularly the career of Gene Autry, which is not only of tremendous length (50 years) but which has been characterized by a steady flow of hit records in a dazzling variety of styles: Jimmie Rodgers-style blues, sentimental country songs, traditional western, modern western, country love songs, pop love songs. Latin-flavored songs, and children's songs.

Back In The Saddle Again's obvious flaw is that it presents too few of these many styles: there is quite a bit of early Jimmie Rodgers flavored material,



a bit of the sentimental country, western, but nothing else. and a healthy dose of the

On the other hand, it

presents several rare and extremely illuminating recordings which are available nowhere else, and in doing so does a great service to all of us who better wish to understand Gene Autry's fascinating and extremely important career.

In short, this album does not present a balanced and representative view of Autry's career—and is not aided by a vapid set of liner notes, always crucial on historical reissues. It does however, provide a potpourri on excellent, exciting cuts from Gene Autry's formative years (and a couple from his successive years). It is a joyful, fascinating, absolutely necessary album for anyone with the least interest in western music, and the music of Gene Autry, which in ways far too profound to enumerate here had much to do with the shaping of country music of the past and even of the present.

DOUGLAS B. GREEN

Mel Tillis M-M-Mel Live MCA-3208

Sometimes after an artist has swept all of the awards, he begins to mellow out and become stale. I can't imagine that ever happening to Mel Tillis. Figure in his energy and enthusiasm, add to that his smooth voice and personalized humor. Subtotal, and enter some of the best songs he's ever written, along with several recent hits, performed with his well seasoned band, the Statesiders. The net result is a live album that will simply make you feel good.

There is an art to re-creating the highlights of a live show on disc. MCA pulls it off fine from the beginning. It opens with the audience stomping and clapping to the beat of Remember Me. The rhythm continues as



Mel receives his introduction and breaks into the song.

Mel's comic side and the interaction with the audience do

not dominate the entire record. and that's not a bad deal. If you want to pull it out and get the best flavor of the music, it's there on side one. The crowd keeps it exciting, but they don't interfere. Send Me Down to Tuscon, last year's best cheatin' song with a plot, trails off into a medley of honky tonk classics, Good Woman Blues, I Got the Hoss, and Heart Over Mind.

Dialogue and humor gets into the act on side two. The most hilarious part is during Who's Julie. Mel's conscience comes out to taunt him, and part of his response is a perfect impersonation of Richard Nixon. Mel's status as a top entertainer is reaffirmed throughout. I can only think of one reason why a person would buy this album and only play it a couple of times. And that would be if he lent it to somebody and never got it back.

BILL OAKEY

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Roy Clark My Music MCA-3189

Like the superstar he is, Roy Clark gives every performance his best shot. This album is no exception. Roy sings with intensity and great feeling, being interpretive as well as musically correct. But in too many places, the production becomes overpowering. Melodramatic crescendos climb to the heavens behind Roy's voice, the strings flow too sweetly, or the instrumentation gets too intricate.

Most of the material is firstrate, with sophisticated lyrics that only occasionally become too slick or catchy. And in some places, as in *Chain Gang* Of Love and If There Were

Only Time For Love, the vocals and instrumentals move along nicely, letting the lyrics get their point across in a simple and direct fashion. The last cut on side two is a change of pace -Roy singing Leon Payne's, No They Will Never Take Her Love Away From Me with nothing more to back him up than acoustic guitar arpeggios. It's an effective approach completely different from the one Hank Williams used away back when, and completely different from the rest of the album. More simplicity of this type would have been welcome.

Many fans of contemporary middle-of-the-road country will dig this album, and there is much to recommend it. But it does suffer from overproduction.

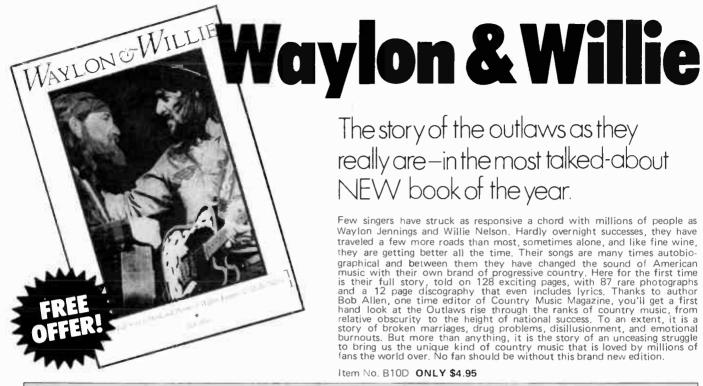
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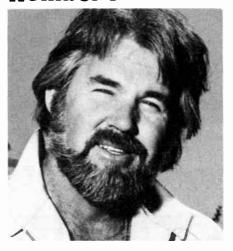
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- 6 Willie Nelson Sings Kristofferson Willie Nelson
- 7 I'll Always Love You Anne Murray
- 8 Classic Crystal Crystal Gayle
- 9 Straight Ahead Larry Gatlin And The Gatlin Brothers Band
- 10 Whiskey Bent And Hell Bound Hank Williams Jr.
- 11 Ten Years Of Gold Kenny Rogers
- 12 The Best Of The Statler Brothers Rides Again, Vol. II
- 13 The Best Of Eddie Rabbitt
- 14 Portrait Don Williams
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