

AUGUST 1966

50c

COUNTRY MUSIC LIFE

- HANK THOMPSON
- JUSTIN TUBB
- DEL REEVES
- CARL & PEARL BUTLER



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Dr. Paul Moore

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AUGUST 1966

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ON THE COVER



Roy Acuff (left) welcomes Dr. Paul Moore, Tennessee dentist-turned C/M singer, to the stage of Nashville's Grand Ole Opry. Dr. Moore sang "Country Music Show" & "Looks Like I Made It."

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**Next
Month
In**



Hank Williams, Jr.
Stu Phillips **Johnny Paycheck**

"TIPS FROM THE TOP" BY HOWARD VOKES

and many other exciting stories, news and articles plus our regular departments, such as "Tips From The Top," "Nashville Notes," "Where The Stars Are Shining," etc.

TIPS FROM THE TOP

"Tips From The Top" is primarily for the benefit of new and "up and coming" entertainers who are anxious to learn more about this wonderful Country Music "Show Business."

BILLY WALKER
is our guest columnist this month.



I'm flattered to death that *somebody* is interested in my advice on *something*. I say this jokingly, of course, but what prompts such a remark is simply the fact that I'm a father of four little ladies—two in their teens—and it is this latter group that almost convinces me at times that the best advice is simply none at all.

Certainly you readers with teenagers of your own will understand.

Seriously, though, I welcome the opportunity to sound off, by invitation, on the subject I know best — Country Music. Also, I'm delighted to be able to write for this publication. When Boots, my wife, and I received our first issue the week of the convention in Nashville, we were quite excited over it and the manner in which it represents the world we love.

Country Music has never known the excitement and success that it does at present. For this reason alone I could hardly be more enthusiastic about what the future holds.

Television gets much of the credit for the way things are today. There's little doubt that syndicated shows, and the subsequent exposure that they bring the performing artists, is one of the most significant shots-in-the-arm our trade has ever had.

Recently, I did a guest appearance on the Porter Wagoner Show. Then I realized more than ever the selling capability of Country Music through this powerful medium Porter told me after the show that they were syndicated into over 70 markets and played to an estimated weekly audience of 40 million viewers.

It occurred to me afterwards, however, that confronting that many people at the start of a show and retaining them through to the end was altogether a different thing, perhaps. And therein lies the major point I'd like to make in this article.

As a result of record sales and personal appearances, I'm convinced that there is not only an audience—but a big audience—which likes what it hears and sees. Why?

Our splendid communications system, and here I mean radio, newspapers and trade publications as well as television, are taking our goods to an eager audience as it has never been taken before. Also, the quality of songs being played and sung is vastly improved.

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Westcoast NOTES

By JIM HARRIS

I have decided that this month I am going to base my column on a question that was asked, not too cordially I might add, of me a while back.

A friend and I were glued to the "one-eyed monster" one night watching a country music show when he said, more talking to himself than to me, "Why do you persist in listening to that stuff?" After giving him some quick answer, I thought about it a little further and came up with the same question. Just why do I listen to country music?

Ten years ago, or even five for that matter, I was not a fan of country music. As a matter of fact I didn't like country music at all. Oh, there were a few old songs that I liked, but these were all songs that had been a big hit and nobody had bothered to classify whether they were country or not. I must be perfectly honest and say that my real interest in country music did not take hold until my association with CML. Since that time I have had the opportunity to meet some of these entertainers and talk with them. This along with reading and writing about them in CML has been the contributing factor in my interest in this type of music. But, lest I be misunderstood, it was not just a "professional interest." Country music is probably one of the most misunderstood things in the nation today. When a person has as close association with it as I have he can't help but see all sides of the story and not just the one side that most people see of our music.

One of the things that really "bugs" me is to hear someone refer to country music as "Okie." The general impression that a lot of people hold of country music and the people that are associated with it is that these people have about a 3rd grade education, if any education at all, and they have yet to don a pair of shoes. This is the "one side of the story." Sure there are a few entertainers that convey this impression with costumes and acts, but it is only an act and the particular act is along these lines because "this is where it all began." The majority of Country stars, and by this I mean a big majority, are very well educated people who "just happen to like this type of music." Many of these entertainers hold positions of prominence in business. You sure can't do that on a 3rd grade education, and any one will tell you that you have to wear shoes to the office. They are not, repeat, not people that couldn't make it in any other field so took country as a last resort. On this impression the public would believe that any country star that could make it big in the "pop" field would jump at the chance. I am sure that if a poll were ever taken of the entertainers as to how many of them wanted to stay in the country field, the show of hands would surprise you.

Most people when they think of country music think of an old barn dance or "hoedown," with Grandpa and his grandsons on stage with their fiddles and washtub bass. This is fine. A hoedown is one of the oldest

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Midwest

NOTES

By MARY ANN COOPER

Wilma Lee & Stoney Cooper have my vote for show business troupers of the year." With nary a complaint, instead many smiles, the Coopers and their Clinch Mountain Clan braved 100 degree heat, two electrical failures with the sound system (one for each show—afternoon and evening!) two million bugs at night, with Stoney just recovering from pneumonia . . . yet they put on terrific shows at Sangamon Park (Monticello, Ill.) this past Sunday. A more patient, entertaining group would be hard to find anywhere. Another *bravo* goes to Archie Campbell, who shared the bill with them. Archie *thought* he would fly to Champaign and rent a car for the remaining few miles to the park, but couldn't get a reservation and Ol' Arch wound up renting that car in Chicago around 150 miles away! He made it to the park in time to take one puff on that cigar of his, shake hands with Sangamon boss Bill Wood, throw on his jacket and get out on the stage. Our traveling C/W entertainers so often face such ordeals that no wonder they develop such aplomb and "stage presence" under all kinds of unnerving situations.

That same hot day at Sangamon Park, Bill Wood announced that the next project would be a cover for the audience as protection from sun and rain. Before the day was over a contractor who MUST love Country Music, offered to donate free services to do this. So many have worked hard to make this Illinois C/M park a success that Stoney Cooper's prediction will soon be a reality; "I think this park will become the biggest and best Country Music park in the whole country." One of the hardest little workers toward that goal, Sue (Mrs. Bill) is now undergoing surgery in the hospital — she kept right at it, with the pain and limping caused by a slipped disc in her back.

Opal Hardyman, Carl and Pearl Butler fan, was surprised on her birthday when the phone rang. There on the other end of the wire, singing *Happy Birthday, dear Opal*, who else but her favorites calling from North Carolina.

Last week's mail brought Norville Dollar's latest record, "I Feel Love Coming On" b/w "Continental Queen." I believe that this young man, who headquarters in St. Louis (we have told you about his TV show) will one day be a top name in Country Music. Norville has the voice, material, backing, looks and personality it takes—plus a very commercial name!

Leave it to WJJD to think of *different* give-away prizes. They have given away such useful items as a bowl of popcorn (to be eaten while reading the new phone book); a genuine gas can; a bucket of ice — with little extra bonuses attached — things like refrigerators and motor scooters. People who don't listen to WJJD are missing a lot of fun. The success

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Southeast

NOTES

By RED WILCOX

The hot Washington, D.C. summers are turning everyone out en masse to the coolness and shade of many of the area country music parks. The lineups of the parks are more spectacular than ever.

Recently this reporter told of steel guitarist Sonny Garrish leaving the area for that big move to Nashville to join the Bill Anderson Band. Word now is that head man of the Stringbusters, Bob Taylor, is now the drummer with the Dottie West group. Also, that lead man Jack Ledbetter has just turned in his two week notice to join Jan Howard's band. Washington has always been "mighty proud" of her C&W musicians! Best wishes, fellas!

Jack Rodgers, WDON C&W deejay, now has his own show. See it on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday nights at 8:30 and Saturday night at 9:30 on UHF channel 14. Washington's other UHF—channel 20—now features the Ernest Tubbs show at 10:00 PM on Sat. Also, new network daytime show "Swinging Country" on channel 4 daily at 12:30 PM. Channel 7 still has the Porter Wagoner Show Saturday nights at 7:00 PM and channel 5 has re-runs of the Grand Ole Opry shows at 10:30. A note or two to one or all of these channels stating how much you appreciate the country music shows will do much to insure their continuance and possibly bring in even more of the syndicated shows.

The Compton Bros. new Dot record — "Country Music" is really receiving "air play" throughout the area. With those boys, one show date brings in ten more as evidenced by a recent trip to Denver, Colo. for five days. The boys go back west again in Sept. this time on a scheduled five week tour. Bob Neal now represents the group in the East with Omac continuing from the West Coast.

A fan club has been established for Johnny Dollar and is headed up very ably by Mrs. Berniece Thompson, No. 8 Waples Estates, Fairfax, Va. Write to her for further information. Charlotte DeHaven — stage name—Penny Starr—has now come under the management wing of hardworking Dick Heard of New York City and has been appearing with Johnny \$ Dollar quite a bit recently. Penny will undoubtedly be a "Starr" of the first magnitude before too many more moons pass.

Hugh Clinton, WBUX Doylestown, Pa. DJ has started putting in shows at the skating arena up there. Understand that they are going great!

Veteran Va. promoter, Carlton Haney of Roanoke, has booked 58 shows as of this moment. Quite an impressive list, indeed, insuring the Old Dominion as well as some of the surrounding states a real abundance of country music in months to come.

Johnny Hopkins has a brand new record out on the Salem label—"Silent Treatment" b/w "Pretty As A Picture." Johnny's stage show is beginning to cause

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editorial



By PAUL & RUTH CHARON

August found Nashville star Connie Smith preparing for a European tour . . . premieres of Country movies . . . and WSIX-TV studios working 'round the clock, getting set for a big color schedule when new owners, General Electric, man the helm in the fall. Rumors from a reliable source tell us that a super-color network Jimmy Dean type show is planned. They say it will be high calibre, yet with a spontaneous quality—as if you were there. (This requires able directing and casting, with just the right color techniques.) They are planning to use some very talented new artists.

Most of our Record Row celebrities were playing the outdoor parks the July 4 weekend, but the stay-at-homes and Grand Ole Opry visitors were treated to some special performances of their own. Tennessee Ernie Ford made his rare and welcome bow on the Opry stage, while Les Leverett and anxious press photographers snapped many poses of our native son. Betty and Ern came here following his parents 50th wedding anniversary in Bristol, with their sons, Buck, 16, and Brian, 13. He was joined on stage by Minnie Pearl. This twosome kept the crowd roaring and demanding encores—hard acts for other stars to follow.

Minnie Pearl, Mrs. Henry Cannon, entertained the Ford family with a party in their honor. Other guests were the Eddy Arnolds, Jud Collins, the Chet Atkins, and the Owen Bradleys. There was little time for autographs or interviews — the uniformed escorts whisked him in and out of the Opry so fast, but he did autograph a copy of COUNTRY MUSIC LIFE, the issue with his photo on the cover.

Stars shining at the Centennial Park Concert Show (emceed by Elmer Minton and organ music by Leon Cole) were Cousin Jody, The Boys from Shiloh and Pam Dickinson. Visiting recording stars over the 4th were Homer & Jethro, Bonnie Guitar and Burl Ives. Like Merle Travis, he has joined the traveling camper-trailer sport.

During this same weekend Bobby Bare and Bob Luman became new fathers—the “Bare” baby a 9½ lb. boy, and the Luman baby a girl, Melissa Clare. Both boys appeared on the WSM “Opry Almanac” a few days before with Little Jimmie Dickens, Bill Carlisle, Del Reeves, Bobby Lord, Don Bowman, Ray Pillow, Waylon Jennings, Leroy Van Dyke, The Harden Trio and Eli Possumtrot.

Our usual Madison shopping trip took us into Walgreens where we found Jimmy Louis, Okie Jones, Billy Martin and Vern Horne. At Krogers we compared prices with Opry stage manager Vito Pelleteiri. In the post office we read cards from Penny Jay and Bobby Lewis, who were so busy on tour they thought we had

continued on page 9

COUNTRY MUSIC LIFE is proud to salute the organization which has done so much to advance Country Music—to make Country Music more acceptable to the public—to make Country Music more profitable for those earning their living from it—and to make the Country field more attractive to new talent.

The untiring efforts of President Bill Denny, Jo Walker, past president Tex Ritter, and the countless others who have donated their time and diversified talents to the cause they believed in, has unquestionably been the reason for the success of the Country Music Association.

Few realize the amount of work involved in behind-the-scenes promotion and public relations that is constantly being done. An example of this are the Country shows staged (with top name stars donating their talents) for private audiences of advertising executives to further “sell” them the advantages of our field of music; and the effectiveness of this approach is evidenced by the fantastic increase of new Country television shows. Without advertisers these shows cannot exist. The literature and sales portfolios published by CMA and distributed to radio stations informing them of the advantages of a Country format, have been so successful that hundreds . . . yes, I said hundreds . . . of stations throughout the nation have been converted from a “middle of the road” and “rock 'n roll” format to Country — just in the past year or two. President Bill Denny advised this editor that he had to “practically recount daily to get an accurate tally of Country stations!”

To the delight of those same radio stations who have made the switch to a Country format — they have had phenomenal increases in their listening audiences.

The growth of radio and TV coverage has brought improved quality in Country Music and many new top notch entertainers. Everybody is jumping onto the Country bandwagon . . .

If you would like to participate in the growth of a really fine organization . . . founded and dedicated to the advancement of the Country Music field . . . if you are a fan, an artist, promoter, musician, or anyone affiliated to the Country field in any manner, write to Mrs. Jo Walker, Country Music Association, 801 16th Avenue South, Nashville, Tenn. to find out how you can help.

There are two kinds of people — dreamers and doers — *which one are you?*

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Canadian NOTES

By IRENE BEELER

Gary Buck, Canada's top Country artist, has one of the fastest climbing records on the charts today. The song is, of course, "Sorry 'Bout That Chief"—a takeoff on TV's Maxwell Smart. The imitation of Agent 86 is done as well by Gary. The song was written by Neil Merrit who also wrote "May The Bird of Paradise Fly Up Your Nose." It should be No. 1 soon . . . *would you believe No. 2?*

The Country show at the Provincial Exhibition in Regina, Sask. this year will include Wilf Carter, Tommy Hunter, and The Midnight Ramblers featuring Susan Cristie. This will be a five day stand August 1-6 with three shows daily at the Exhibition Auditorium. The shows will be emceed by CKCK's Ron Andrews. He will also be broadcasting his Country show from the fairgrounds 1-4 p.m. with Wilf, Tommy and the others as guests. Tommy will also take his whole troupe from his TV show to Calgary and Edmonton the last week of August.

The plans for the first fall tour in Western Canada in September are being finalized. Appearing will be Hank Snow, Dottie West and Archie Campbell with others to be added.

Promoter Charlie Underhill of MCM Productions in Regina, Sask., reports a very successful tour of the Maritimes with Kitty Wells, Johnny Wright, Bill Phillips, Ruby Wright and The Tennessee Mountain Boys.

Congratulations to Joyce Smith and her husband George Myric on the birth of a baby boy. Joyce is Canada's most popular female Country artist. The group is very popular at fairs and rodeos during the summer. George is a champion rodeo rider and when he is not riding he plays bass guitar with Joyce's band. Joyce records for the Decca label.

It's great to see Myrna Lorrie back on the Country scene after a long absence. Her recording of "Count The Tears I'm Gone" is going strong on the charts. Myrna flew to Hollywood to record the song a few months ago. The flip side is a sentimental song she wrote herself—"Your Special Day" (Happy Birthday Mom). She records for the Gaiety/RCA Victor label, and works in and around her native Port Arthur, Ont.

Artists booked to appear at the Horseshoe Tavern in Toronto are as follows: July 18-23, Dottie West; July 25-30, Hardin Trio; August 1-6, Loretta Lynn. Be sure to watch for the bus tours that leave Toronto for Nashville and the Grand Ole Opry during the summer.

Ivan McNab, winner of Saskatchewan's Diamond Jubilee talent show and guest of TV's "Bonanza," has become a Country DJ. He has taken over the all night Country show on CKRM, Regina.

DJ Bernie Meehan is celebrating ten years of spinning Country Music at CFCH, North Bay, Ont. He hosts "Western Caravan" every day at CFCH.

Dick Damron of Bentley, Alberta, has completed a two month stand at Whitehorse, Yukon. He records for RCA Victor and writes most of his own material.

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TIPS FROM THE TOP

continued from page 4

As of this writing, four strictly C&W songs are listed in the Pop Charts, of all places! Consequently, an entirely new market of listeners is being introduced to the Country sound. And, as I said before, record sales and requests for personal appearances indicate that they like what they hear.

Taking all this into consideration, my advice to the young artist just starting out, or to the fan who would have a go at it, would be to thank your lucky stars that the present-day advantages are yours. Take advantage of them and play and sing as never before!

WESTCOAST NOTES

continued from page 4

forms of get-togethers in the nation. But a hoedown does no more represent, exclusively, country music than does any other one thing.

Country Music is one of the few industries in the nation that has not had its growth and expansion watched with an "eagle eye." Most people are not aware that country music has advanced at all. The record and sheet music businesses will vouch for the fact that country music has enjoyed a growth in the last 20 years that has been nothing short of phenomenal. People aren't afraid, in fact they are proud to admit that they like Country Music. Teenagers are going for it more and more every day, and anybody in the record business will tell you that is where the future market is.

But just because country music is getting accepted in the "better circles" doesn't mean that we can sit back, put our feet up on the desk and say "we made it." Sure as we do someone will come along and say, "Why do you persist in listening to that stuff?"

MIDWEST NOTES

continued from page 5

of WJJD has caused other radio stations to turn to Country Music and use essentially the same format. This is wonderful—the more the better for our music.

I have to break the news to all the Indiana-Illinois girlfriends of DJ-artist Bernie Waldon that he is getting married on September 10! Haven't met the lucky girl who won the heart of this Indianapolis all-night record spinner, but we hope to soon. Congratulations.

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SOUTHEAST NOTES

continued from page 5

quite a bit of comment—good comment—and so is the new record. Johnny is handled by Tacoma Park, Maryland's Marvin Myrtle.

WBMD Radio, Baltimore, Md. has a very interesting program daily from 1:30 'til 2:30 during which time they conduct interviews with leading country personalities, sports figures, people in government, and more. Persons in any of these categories are urged to contact Clark West, WBMD, Baltimore as far in advance as possible of the dates they will be "passing thru" Baltimore. Also, don't forget tickets for the WBMD Spectacular starring Buck Owens and the Buckaroos and George Jones and the Jones Boys appearing together at the Civic Center September 24. This promises to be a real evening of country music thrills!

NASHVILLE NOTES

continued from page 6

forgotten them. We saw Ferlin Husky pricing boats and gazing at the Colonial Drive-Inn marquee, where he and Jayne Mansfield were showing in "Las Vegas Hillbillies." Boyd Ingram, star of Renfro Valley Barn Dance, has moved to town, along with friend Lee Mysinger, former booker for Madison Square Garden's country shows.

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NEWS NEWS NEWS



Archie Campbell and Chet Atkins (left) tee-up for a session on the links — practicing up for October's annual Music City Golf Tourney. What a way to publicize Archie's latest Victor single, "Golf, Golf, Golf." He filled in for Paul Dixon July 25-29 on the "Paul Dixon Show" over WLWT-TV in Cincinnati while Paul vacationed. The show is patterned along Johnny Carson-Jack Parr lines.

* * * * *

A biographical film planned for Leroy Van Dyke is rapidly taking form. It will be based on Leroy's auctioneer days and titled "What's My Bid." Cast announcements will be out shortly.

* * * * *

Most popular thing since Telstar in Europe these days is Melba Montgomery, who has extended her tour of U.S. bases in Germany another week.

* * * * *

The Calhoun Twins, who complete The Shot Jackson-Donna Darlene show package, premiered on the Grand Ole Opry in June—they are both licensed pilots and frequently fly the group to engagements.

* * * * *

The annual Los Angeles County Fair, to be held September 16-18 in Pomona, Calif., will feature Country Music for the first time this year—in the form of Skeeter Davis and Ferlin Husky.

* * * * *

Rex Allen has been signed to perform in the "Rex Allen & Koko, Jr. Hollywood Circus," to be presented in Cedar Rapids Oct. 14, Des Moines Oct. 15, and Davenport Oct. 16.

Rex Allen, Buck Owens and Tex Williams have been nominated for the office of president in the Academy of Country & Western Music of Hollywood. Ballots have been mailed to all members and results will be announced soon.

* * * * *

Donna Stoneman, of the Stoneman Family, and husband-manager Bob Bean have moved into their new home in Nashville.

* * * * *

A recent video tape session of The Stoneman's TV show featured a call from the hospital to an expectant father with the news of his new arrival! It was a surprise on Van Stoneman secretly set up by his brothers and sisters for ultimate nationwide showing. "It was just a matter of staying before the camera long enough for the baby to come," laughed Roni Stoneman. "We had to play some mighty slow songs right there toward the last." As it was, the family was right in the midst of an old fashioned footstomper when Emcee Bob Jennings "interrupted" with an emergency phone call for Van, who received the announcement, forever captured on film, with a typical new father's calmness. It was a 6½ lb. son for the singer, but no big deal for Pop Stoneman, since he already had 33 grandchildren. Mother and child both doing well.

* * * * *

Connie Smith is recording in the French language this month at RCA Victor Studios for ultimate releases in France as a result of her popularity there evidenced by tremendous air play on her most recent album and last two singles currently being aired in English. Connie's album, "Miss Smith Goes To Nashville" is in the top of most album song charts, and her single, "Ain't Had No Lovin'," is being touted as her strongest since "Once A Day."

* * * * *

Latest Stu Phillips single by RCA Victor could easily be a double split—with both sides getting chart action in pop & C/W categories. Plug side, written by Cy Coben, is titled "The Great El Tigre" (47-8868) and is an emotion-packed commentary about a great man's fading lustre. "Another Day Has Gone" is the B-side of the single, executed with "Reeves-like" perfection by Phillips who also wrote it.

* * * * *

Mercury recording artists, the "Blues Magoos," have created considerable controversy on Record Row with latest single, "Tobacco Road." Both sides feature the latest twist in musical sound known as "Psychodelic Sound," a veritable potpourri of odd utterances being touted in the trade as the next "In" thing among the hep set.

* * * * *

To meet the demands of an extra heavy summer and fall PA schedule, Dottie West has assembled a new musical unit—"The Heartaches." Led by Bill West, members include Bob Taylor, Ray Wix and Danny Shannon.

NEWS NEWS NEWS

Kathy Dee arrived back from her trip to Thule AFB in Greenland as the only girl member of the exclusive *Knights of the Blue Nose*. Membership is granted only to those who have "endured the rigors of hurricane winds, endless days and nights, longhandles, mukluks, icebergs and the like, and having served the minimum apprenticeship of three long months north of the Arctic Circle, with the Armed Forces of the United States . . ." Kathy qualified for the award at the end of her third 4-week stand at Thule Air Base clubs early in May. She returned to WWVA Jamboree June 11.

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"Connie Smith Sings Great Sacred Songs" is the vocalist's first religious LP and is set for release this month. The Victor LP includes such favorites as "Just A Closer Walk With Thee," "In The Garden," "Where Could I Go But To The Lord" and "Wings Of A Dove."

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K-Ark Record's singing dentist, Paul Moore, and Diana Duke (Dollie Records) are campaigning with Tennessee gubernatorial candidate John J. Hooker July 2 through August 4. The two entertainers and C/M backup unit "The John J's" will cross the state with the candidate in his bid for election.

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House records at Joyland Country Music Center in St. Petersburg, Fla. were broken for the second time by Jimmy Newman in June. Art Reuben, president of WYOU radio who brought the show to Joyland, reported that the 800-seat club had over 100 people standing and several hundred were turned away. Jimmy had played to record crowds there last December.

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It was "Grand Ole Opry" Illinois-style the 4th of July weekend at Sangamon Park, Monticello, Ill. First to sink his spurs into this country holiday was Jack Reno, one of the "Country Gentlemen" from WXCL radio, Peoria. Following Reno were Wilma Lee and Stony Cooper and the Clinch Mountain Clan, Archie Campbell and Red Foley. Applause is in order for Bill and Sue Wood, hosts at Sangamon; they have made a fine effort to do their share to keep Country Music alive in the Midwest.

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All radio stations missed in the original mailing of Kay Arnold's new Wizard release "What's A Honky Tonk Woman," Janet McBride & Vern Stovall's "I'm Wild Bill Tonight," Lee Rose' "Walking On The Wild Side Of Life," or late releases by Vince Roberts, Jack Boles, Kendall Hayes, Lenora Ellyn, Curtis Leach, may receive their copies by writing Marve Hoerner, P. O. Box 99, Amboy, Illinois.

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"The 'Pops' Goes Country," a musical marriage of guitarist Chet Atkins and The Boston Pops Orchestra, conducted by Arthur Fiedler, has yielded a fast-selling album offspring, to the delight of RCA Victor officials who produced the unusual session.



Program director Ramblin' Lou has conducted bus tours from the Buffalo-Niagara Falls area at least twice a year for the past 15 years to the WWVA Jamboree. Here he is welcomed by Jamboree director Lee Sutton (left). Lou is with WWOL in Buffalo.

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Scheduled to appear in an afternoon matinee at O'Keith Center in Toronto, Can., and an evening performance in Coldwater, Mich. on the same day, Leroy Van Dyke had to hire a private plane to make both engagements.

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Billy Walker, who recently returned from a vacation on Dolphin Island off the coast of Mobile, is telling about the "big one that got away." The Travelin' Texan caught and brought to boat's bow a 10-ft. shark which he promptly cut free - and later latched on to an unidentified denison of the deep that fought for 1½ hours before snapping the singer's 120-lb. test line.

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Cajun Jimmy Newman headlined a big show in Brookhaven, Miss. in June to such enthusiastic crowds that promoter Bennon Case requested a return engagement within the next three months.

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Weldon Myrich, guitarist and RCA Victor artist, has accepted position of musical director to Connie Smith effective July 1. He has been steel man on all of her sessions to date and is credited with creating "the Connie Smith sound."

NEWS NEWS NEWS

Judy Lynn, who was scheduled to ride in the Rodeo Parade in Reno, Nevada June 25, had to cancel at the last minute when it was discovered that her white stallion, Old Utah, had developed a severe quarter crack in his left front foot. Since he will be confined to quarters for at least six months, stock producers at upcoming rodeos in Preston, Idaho and Great Falls, Mont. will provide Judy with other horses.

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Set to appear on Carl Smith's Canadian Country Music Hall are Grandpa Jones, August 9; the Osborne Bros., Sept. 26; Merle Travis, Sept. 27; and Waylon Jennings & Wailors, Nov. 2.

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Kitty Wells and grandson Larry Stephenson Jr. spent a week vacationing in California where they visited Disneyland and Kitty's brother, a Marine instructor who is Viet Nam bound.

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Music City mailmen have their problems—but still the mail goes through. Typical of the type that can tie up the flow was a card addressed: "America's Mr. Guitar, Chet Atkins, Nashville, USA" and bore the message, "We love you, keep up the good work." It had been mailed from Prague, Czechoslovakia 30 days previously.



World's Champion Fiddler (for the 7th consecutive year) Scotty Stoneman experiments with a bow and banjo in a recent Stoneman Family recording session. Session producer Jack Clement is originator of this "far out" idea.



Mark Sanders is shown here at the Cudahy Packing plant in Phoenix, Ariz. promoting the "Mark Sanders Bar-S Jamboree" held in Denver where it was videotaped. Guest stars of the one-hour spectacular included Jimmy Dean, Tex Ritter, Little Jimmy Dickens, Roy Clark, Mary Taylor, Jerry Naylor, Peggy Paxton, The Chuck Cassey singers, Duke of Paducah, The Marksmen Quartet and Mack and his band. The show is currently being shown in Atlanta, Chattanooga, Seattle, Amarillo and Omaha. Talent is now being booked for the next "Jamboree" to be held in Seattle.

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Ronnie Self, award-winning songwriter from Springfield, Mo., has signed a contract with Cedarwood Publishing Co. His major accomplishments have been with Brenda Lee, for whom he wrote "I'm Sorry," "Sweet Nothings," "Eventually," "Everybody Loves Me But You" and "It Takes One To Know One." Ronnie, his wife and their six children are moving to Nashville.



A C/W show at the Shiloh Dude Ranch in Dickerson, Md. brought these three together for a behind-the-scenes giggle. Left to right, Jimmy Martin, Johnny \$ Dollar, and Slim Moore, DJ for W/DON Washington, DC.

NEWS NEWS NEWS



Little Jimmy Dickens' recent Columbia single, "Who Licked The Red Off Your Candy?" prompted a peppermint party in the park for children of the musicians who worked on the session. The party's host (center) concluded that such get-togethers were great fun, but "mighty sticky business."

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The Keystone Jamboree, a C/M show held every six weeks in Doylestown, Pa., recently celebrated its first anniversary. Featured for the event on June 18 were Johnny Dollar, Country Music Gents Jack Turner and Tom Donahue, and local guest bands. DJ Hugh Clinton of Radio WBUX is sponsor of the Jamboree.



A banner audience of 36,932 was on hand when the St. Louis Cardinals presented a pre-game Country Music show at the new Busch Memorial Stadium. The turnout was the largest Saturday night crowd ever in the St. Louis Stadium and the fourth biggest in the team's long National League history. Pictured here are (left to right) Waylon Jennings, Faron Young, promoter Hap Peebles, Norma Jean and Cardinal 3rd baseman Charlie Smith. The Cards won 3-2 over the Philadelphia Phils.

Carl Smith is mighty glad he took a friend's advice and visited the dentist. The friend suggested that the Columbia crooner's off-again on-again headaches might be prompted by tooth trouble. A follow-up dental diagnosis confirmed the suspicion and last week an impacted molar was extracted "just in time." Lucky for Carl the friend with the timely tip was Dr. Paul Moore, former dentist who recently signed on with K-Ark as a Country singer.

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Burl Ives, Decca recording artist, is the latest star to join in the Country Music Foundation's fund raising drive with a pledge for the new Hall of Fame and Museum building in Nashville. Ives, whose contribution to the building fund pushes the total well over the halfway mark, will be listed in the foundation's "Walkway of the Stars" along with dozens of other recording artists who have donated to the fund. Bill Denny, president of CMA, has announced that the building should be completed in time for the annual Country Music Festival in October. Workmen have already finished most of the exterior surfaces with glass areas and landscaping next on the building agenda.

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The Jordanaires are lined up for a string of sessions with their favorite rocker, Elvis Presley. Presley used the foursome on a religious album the first week in June. He scheduled a session with the Jordanaires for a Christmas LP in mid-month and finalized plans for them to do the track for his next MGM movie in late June. The popular backing group will be in Los Angeles for six days and will then return to their busy backing schedule in Music City.

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What started out as a dream for a young Country Music executive will soon be a reality. With signed contracts in hand and months of planning behind, Stu Brooks, general manager of radio station WKCW in Warrenton announced that plans have been firmed up for the first International Bluegrass Festival to be held at beautiful Lake Whipperwill in Warrenton, Va. Headlining the affair are artists Bill Monroe and the Bluegrass Boys, Lester Flat and Earl Scruggs and the Foggy Mt. Boys, the Osborne Bros., Jim & Jesse and the Virginia Boys, Jimmy Martin and the Sunny Mt. boys, Mac Wiseman, and the Virginians. The Festival has captured the imagination of fans across the country and will bring visitors from as far away as Calif. It is sponsored by the Warrenton JayCee's and produced by Big "K" Radio in Warrenton. Sunday, July 10 is the date for the biggest "bluegrass" show in the history of fold-country music.

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Comedian Don Bowman has just returned from an extensive European tour — just in time to see his "Giddyup Donuts" parody gallop into the charts. On English humor he commented, "Folks over there don't laugh at the same things Americans don't think are funny either."

NEWS NEWS NEWS

Devastating tornados wrought complete havoc in Kansas recently, and specifically in the Topeka area where a large contingent of C/M musicians were set to perform. Loss was estimated in the millions, and the Topeka Auditorium, site of the show, was left in shambles. Still the show went on. Ferlin Husky, Wilma Lee and Stony Cooper, Stringbean, with the Taylor Sisters, Leon Douglas, Verne Stovall and Janet McBride produced a marathon benefit through WIBW-TV and the Kansas State network. Proceeds of the spectacular were donated to the Red Cross and Salvation Army. The fund raiser included appeals from Topeka Mayor Charles Wright and President Johnson and was emceed by Hap Peebles, with time donated by the artists.

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An increase in gross bookings of 37% over the first five months of 1965 has been noted by the Bob Neal Agency. "More gratifying is the fact that gross commission earnings have increased approximately 40%, reflecting a healthier margin in the booking operation. . . the balance of 1966—June through December—also gives every indication of showing at least as much increase and probably more than we have noted for the first five months of the year. Undoubtedly, this is going to be by far and away the biggest year since the Neal agency has been organized," Bob Neal announced.

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...Chicago-based Country cutups Homer and Jethro blew into Nashville from the Windy City recently for two album sessions under Victor chief Chet Atkins...

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Chet Atkins himself will cut two albums of Italian compositions for primary distribution in Italy, Argentina and Brazil. All sides, arranged by special request of Victor's foreign hierarchy, will contain the "Nashville Sound" for the 3-country concentration.

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Bill Anderson's TV producer chose a picturesque location for the outdoor shots in two future installments. Jefferson Productions crews drove over to Boone, N. C. where the famous "Tweetsie Railroad" operates. The Tweetsie is strictly a HOTterville operation for the kiddies, but this didn't prevent Anderson and cast from clowning around the coaches. The Bill Anderson show, now in about 30 markets, is slated to go all color in late summer.

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The population of Holden, Missouri is 1900 and 1800 of them were there to see the Country show put on by Ferlin Husky, Marvin & Orlo Thompson, Janet McBride, Vern Stovall, The Cantrells and Joan Sawtell. The performers were treated to a gigantic buffet prior to the show which the ladies of the town had spent two days preparing. It was the first successful Country show to be held in Holden, but it certainly won't be the last. "I did a little unofficial checking on the hundred who didn't come to the show," said Holden's police chief. "Somebody had to watch the town."



Signing on the dotted line to become a regular of the WWVA Jamboree is David Houston. He is surrounded here by Lee Sutton (left), director of the Jamboree and his manager, Tillman Franks (right).

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Bill Anderson has his own anti-poverty program going—with a specially designed traveling bus for his engagements in far-away places with the "Po Boys." Cost of the vehicle (with plumbing, a kitchen, a song-writing desk and lounge) is estimated at roughly the price of two fully-equipped Rolls-Royces.

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Instead of "The Streets of Baltimore," Bobby Bare walked the corridors of the Vanderbilt Hospital as he nervously awaited the arrival of 9 lb. 14½ oz. "BJ" Bare on June 28. Mother, baby and dad doing fine!

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"Watermelon Day" in Atlanta at the Farmers Market was enjoyed by 40,000 spectators as they were entertained by Porter Wagoner and The Wagonmasters. The event was July 17 and sponsored by the Atlanta Produce Dealers, who should celebrate — they sell 2½ million melons a season!

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Roy Drusky and band have been picked to christen a new Country Music nitery on Chicago's South Side. The club hopes to catch some of the magical quality of the Rivoli and will be called "The G-Bar-G Club."

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Ferlin Husky and The Hushpuppies have just closed out a rave engagement at the Horseshoe Club in Toronto. Now they will move to the Kansas and Nebraska area.

NEWS NEWS NEWS

David Houston's "Almost Persuaded" (Epic) has moved over 8,000 records in the Atlanta area!

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The "Carl Smith Country Music Hall" in Canada featured as guests during July Bill Anderson, Roy Drusky, The Carter Family, and Ferlin Husky.

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Del Reeves has the distinction of being the first Country artist to appear on Cleveland, Ohio, WEMS-TV "Upbeat" show, strictly a teen rocker program. Apparently Del's "Getting Any Feed For Your Chickens" has the needed teen appeal.

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Johnny Sea will be back from his German tour in time to appear with Marion Worth and Leroy Van Dyke in a special performance for a Nashville Pharmaceutical convention.

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Buckhorn Music has moved into Music City's Capitol Records Building and hired as their first receptionist, Leslie Martin. As part owner of Buckhorn, Hubert Long is his own tenant—he also owns the building.

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Marion Worth's new single, "Overtime," is out — written by Hugh X. Lewis. Marion is currently on a Midwestern tour which will include a stopover in Las Vegas.

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Vokes Records announces the release of "Old Shep" b/w "His Last Ride" by Howard Vokes and Betty Bee's recording of "Your Kisses and Lies" b/w "Who's to Blame." DJs needing copies may write to Vokes Records, P.O. Box 1203, New Kensington, Pa.



Monument Record's travelin' Texan Billy Walker rests his feet long enough to wade through a mountain of fan mail in response to his latest release, "A Million and One." According to Chuck Chellman, promotion director, this song is showing up on both Pop and Country charts, and could be Billy's biggest seller of all time.



Hank Williams Jr. autographs copies of his current MGM album hit, "Blues My Name" for Lufthansa stewardesses (left to right) Margaret Schulz Schlandraff and Ingrid Krehan, before boarding plane for Germany, where he is slated to visit 18 cities.

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Judy Lynn has sent two of her fabulous costumes to the Hawaii Cattlemen's Council in Honolulu. They are to be displayed during a Western fashion show for the purpose of promoting a rodeo there in November.

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Newest LP by Carl Smith is "Man With A Plan," with feature sides on the album including "Mommy Please Stay Home with Me," "The Bottle Is Just Fooling You," "Who Do I Think I Am," "Bouquet of Roses" and title song "Man With A Plan."

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Stu Phillips' guest appearance on the Grand Ole Opry in June marked two firsts for the RCA Victor artist: his first onstage appearance at the fabled C/M center and the first time his wife had seen the show since they moved from Canada 15 months ago. He chose for the event "The Great El Tigre," his most recent Victor release.

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WWVA Jamboree regular Kenny Roberts spent a busy four days in Nashville recently. He appeared on the Grand Ole Opry, on Ernie Tubb's Midnight Show, on the Roy Acuff Show at Centennial Park, on the Ralph Emery-Tex Ritter show over WSM, and did a "beeper interview" for the Bill Anderson Show on WHO, Des Moines, Ia., where Bill was subbing for Mike Hoyer. All this *besides* recording for Starday...

THE DYNAMIC DEL REEVES

By MARY ANN COOPER

Del Reeves must wonder if he *ever* will visit *all* the large cities that hold C&W shows. He keeps such a tight personal appearance schedule that he's seldom home—but Del is in constant demand to return to the same places he has already played. Described as "The Unforgettable Del Reeves" by many of the lucky folks who have seen his performance, Del is one of those rare entertainers who could play the same city twice within a month and draw a larger crowd the second time—the fans who attended the first show, plus their friends and relatives!

What makes Del so much in demand? I would say *ability*—the ability to hold an audience and keep them happy with his humorous songs and skits; exaggerated, yet realistic impersonations of other C&W artists; favorite sayings — "I just made that up" — "And that's a fact" — and "Doodle oo doo doo"; but most of all, the ability and sincere desire to please. This brings to mind another Reeves. "Gentleman Jim," in 1953, autographed a picture for a very young singer he was working with in a California night club. He signed the picture, "To Curly Reeves. I'm sure your ability will come through." Curly Reeves had the staff band at this club. One of the greatest artists of them all, Jim Reeves knew how to recognize talent.

Curly recorded for the Capitol record label not long after that. Ken Nelson changed his name to "Del" and they came up with a fair sized hit, "You're Not The Changing Kind." This was in '54. Do you remember what happened in the world of music about that time? A little (?) thing known as "rock 'n roll!" Capitol had Del go along with this trend for a while—two releases, which he is trying to locate copies of for his private collection. He recently asked me if I knew anyone who had them, because "Either my wife or I broke them." Needless to say, Del didn't care a whole lot for the idea of being a "rocker." The next releases were Country and how! He appeared as a guest on the Grand Ole Opry, singing "Time After Time," which was on the Peach Label of Atlanta, Ga.

Del was born July 14, 1933, the youngest of 11 children, in Sparta, N. C. and named after President Franklin Delano Roosevelt. In his teen years he already has his own radio program, "The Carolina Playboys," and was well on his way toward a fabulous career in Country Music. After serving a stint with the Air Force, Del moved to California where he had his own TV show in Sacramento for four years. This show was earned via his regular appearances on The Chester Smith TV show for three years previously.

Del moved once more, this time to Nashville in 1963 with a hit, "The Only Girl I Can't Forget."





Last minute discussion before show time in Kansas City—Hap Peebles and Del.

The song was written by Del and his songwriter wife, Ellen, and was a C&W chart-rider for a number of weeks. By this time, however, having songs on the charts was nothing new to Del Reeves, as his two Decca releases had made it—"Be Quiet Mind" and "He Stands Real Tall" written by Cal Veale.

"The Only Girl I Can't Forget" was the only record he did on the Reprise label and was followed by a Columbia smash—"Talking To The Night Lights" in 1964. Not until January of '65 though, came the record that brought nationwide fame to the dynamic Del. Of course, this was "Girl On The Billboard." This one was written by Hank Mills (better known as "Hank the Hat") and enjoyed the No. 1 spot on C/W charts in all the trade papers. As usual, with the success of a No. 1 hit, the label put out an album of the same title and in the summer of '65 United Artists released Del's first album, "Del Reeves Sings Girl On The Billboard." Four others have since been released and two more cut and waiting for distribution. Del jokes on stage, "I don't know which of my albums this song is from. They release more albums than singles I think." Recent singles are "Belles Of Southern Bell," "Women Do Funny Things To Me" and "One Bum Town."

"Talent Extraordinary" is another descriptive phrase that suits Mr. Del. Along with his singing, songwriting, impersonations and the knack to play any stringed instrument, Del Reeves is one of the new breed of actors. He has appeared in several films ("Forty Acre Feud" and "The Gold Guitar") and has signed a three year contract with United Artists Pictures to include movie and TV roles.

In their ranch style home in Nashville, Ellen and Del Reeves have two little girls—Kari and Anne—and they are expecting a third child. Del has two favorite hobbies—playing with his daughters and golf. Of his golf game, Wilma Burgess says, "He's good at it, too. Don't let him tell you any different!" Del is good at about everything he does — he's talented — he's the dynamic Del Reeves!



Signing autographs with a smile . . .



Ready to "hit the road," but Del always has time to pose for one last picture to please a fan such as Betty Sloane who snapped this one in York, Pa., of Del with WNOW DJ Jim Shannon.

COUNTRY MUSIC'S

Hank Thompson



By TEXAS JIM COOPER

The year was 1945. The place was Waco, Texas. The occasion was a three day public appearance by the ever-popular Tex Ritter, then riding high as a cinema cowboy and Capitol recording artist. Desiring to augment his show with local talent, Ritter accepted the entertainment services of a towering 20-year-old Waco native known then as "Hank the hired hand."

The youth's outward appearance—braces on his teeth, homemade Western duds which included an oversized cowboy hat, and a stature that could only be classified as exceedingly lanky—conjured up a vision of anything but the outstanding star he has since become. But Ritter did not judge the boy on his appearance—rather his vocal and stage promise, and that he was "a charming, sincere, and highly intelligent young man." Capitol Records has encouraged Ritter to keep an eye open for exciting new talent and the Dean of Texas Singers thus brought his discovery to Capitol. Subsequently, a contract with this major recording studio was signed by the "the hired hand." Today that Waco singer is famous to millions as Hank Thompson.

Hank, born Henry William Thompson, got his first taste of music when as a boy he showed a skill for singing the songs of the cowboy and expressed a knack for playing the French harp. Then one Christmas his parents gave him a second hand \$4 guitar and Hank further developed his artistry. It was after seeing the great Gene Autry perform in person that Hank decided to become a professional singer and it was following this decision that Tex Ritter entered the hopeful young harmonizer's life to give him a deserved helping hand. After a brief World War II Navy hitch, Hank started his rewarding climb to musical success.

In 1948, Hank recorded his composition "Humpty Dumpty Heart" and it sold a million copies. Since then big Hank Thompson has been, without question, one of Country Western Music's Top Ten Artists.

Hank Thompson is one Texan who, in the tradition of the Lone Star State, has accomplished mighty deeds in musical entertainment. To his credit are some 30 million record sales. Some of his greatest hits and most requested songs—many of which he has written or helped write—are most of all, "The Blackboard of My Heart," "Tears Are Only Rain," "Wake Up Irene," "We've Gone Too Far," "Breakin' the Rules," "Squaws Along the Yukon," "Green Light," "I Was The First One," "A Girl In The Night," "Waiting in the Lobby of Your Heart," "Rockin' in the Congo," "Swing Wide Your Gate of Love," "Six Pack to Go," "Oklahoma Hills," "Hangover Tavern," "Rub-A-Dub-Dub," "Whoa Sailor," and one that sold another individual million copies, "The Wild Side of Life."

For more than the past dozen years Hank's well known Brazos Valley Boys have been the number one



Tex Ritter, who gave Hank Thompson a helping hand by getting him a contract with a major recording studio—Capitol.

KING OF COUNTRY SWING

western swing band in America. For the fifteenth straight year Hank and his fine band will be an added attraction at the October State Fair of Texas at Dallas, the nation's most attended exposition. And for the seventh consecutive year they will highlight the Cheyenne, Wyo. Frontier Days Rodeo festivities.

Hank, who wears some of the most colorful costumes in the business, has a \$40,000 wardrobe which is quite a contrast to his homespun attire of 1945.

In 1948 he was married to Dorothy Jean Ray in the grand style of show business. Thousands of people witnessed the event. Some in person, some by radio, as Hank and Dorothy voiced their vows on stage during Hal Horton's "Cornbread Matinee" at the Arcadia Theater in Dallas. Since 1952 Hank and Dorothy have lived in Oklahoma City.

To his 240 or more annual personal appearances, this prolific Texan travels by way of his own Texas-sized bus or twin-engine Cessna aircraft. Yes, Hank Thompson has come a long way—and he will undoubtedly be a C/W success for decades to come!

Carl & Pearl Butler

By FRANK HARRIS

A lot of truth exists in the old saying used by many emcees on Country shows, "If there's anything we like better than Country Music, it's Country People." And two Country People universally liked as much as the fine Country Music they sing on Columbia Records are Carl and Pearl Butler.

The Lord and Lady of Crossover Acres (their beautiful ranch near Franklin, Tenn.) are the same down-to-earth, sincere, happy people, famous and successful though they may now be, that they were when \$20 was a lot of money and a meal was something that may come in groups of three a day . . . or less.

Someone has said, "The most effective way to determine the true nature of a man is to make him financially successful." People who knew Carl Butler during the lean days in Knoxville and the equally lean early days in Nashville remember him as a quiet, hardworking individual with deep religious convictions. People who have known Carl only since his ascent into the heights of stardom use the same terms to describe him.

Success hasn't changed the Butlers. In fact, it has merely provided them the wherewithal to engage more fully in the same things they have always been interested in. In addition to Carl's hobbies of hunting and collecting guns, he is deeply interested in the work of the Salvation Army and other worth while organizations, and a great deal of his time, talent, and resources are channeled to help the less fortunate.

The many miles traveled every year by the Butlers provide Pearl an opportunity to add to her impressive collection of dolls and general antiques with items from all over the world, but the same schedule makes it necessary for Carl's mother, Mom Butler, to take care of Pearl's other hobby most of the time—Crossover Acres.

This 135-acre ranch and the comfortable home on it symbolize the goal of having a nice home that Carl and Pearl worked so very hard for so many years. This goal has been reached, but Carl and Pearl are constantly striving to do even more . . . typical of their kind of people.

Determination and a love for Country Music, combined with a compulsion to help other people enjoy themselves, lie at the bottom of the Butler's success. They are always quick to acknowledge the importance of other people who have helped them on their way to stardom, in contrast to some who forget the helping hands they had to grasp in the past.

Knoxville businessman Cas Walker assumed the medical expenses incurred when Carl was seriously injured in a car wreck years ago and today Carl and Pearl list him among their "important" people. "Without Cas, the doctors say Carl wouldn't have lived," says Jack Andrews of Moeller Talent, Inc., so Cas Walker is indeed an important person to Country Music.



CROSSING OVER TO SUCCESS



Yes, a lot of hard work goes into a successful Country Music career, but seldom does an act go about developing with as much enthusiasm and dedication as Carl and Pearl Butler. As a result, their fans are beyond counting and their place at the top is permanent.



One of Music City's most stylish dressers off-stage as well as on, here Pearl and long time friend and fellow artist Hank Thompson meet backstage during last year's Nashville taping of "The Jimmy Dean Show."



An expert horseman, Carl often relaxes from the rigors of roadwork with a brisk workout on his favorite horse, "Holly," one of the 14 he keeps on his 135-acre ranch.



Pearl shares Carl's passion for horsemanship. With young playmate Gary Leverette in the saddle, she cautiously handles the reins of a previously unriden workhorse on her Franklin, Tenn. ranch "Crossover Acres."



A favorite philanthropy of the Butlers is The Salvation Army. Here the couple harmonize at a benefit last Christmas to raise money for the organization. Pete Drake, another Salvation Army advocate, accompanies on steel guitar at left.

PHOTO OF THE MONTH?



Piscatorial Spaceman? Dyed in the wool UFO advocates not only may just be seeing swamp gas, but might have sighted the above "spaceman" launching into a lake in early morning hours. Though often mistaken for a Martian, the above phenomenon is none other than C/M comedian Duke of Paducah donning his favorite fishing rig, a Custom Float with paddle pushers for his feet.



Kenny Roberts onstage at the WWVA Jamboree.



Kenny rehearsing for the WLW Midwestern Hayride Cincinnati.



Kenny Roberts with Tex Ritter at Country Music Association WSM convention, 1965.

KENNY ROBERTS

By RED AND BEA WILCOX

What makes a man become a legend?

For this interview, these reporters were closeted in a hotel room for several hours with Kenny Roberts—a man we thought we knew fairly well before. Little by little, as Kenny told us his life's story—interjected with comments by his manager, Reed Welty—we began to see why Kenny is so frequently described in adjectives like "amazing," "astounding," and "almost unbelievable."

Kenny's life started like that of most C/W entertainers, simply in the fact that he was born. From there on, Kenny was an individual. Most other entertainers are born all over the U.S. and migrate to Tennessee. Kenny was born in Tennessee and migrated to Massachusetts, then later on to Ohio and Michigan. As a child, Kenny had a normal enough passion; as he listened to the WWVA Jamboree and the WSM Grand Ole Opry, he dreamed of being a country and western entertainer someday himself. These dreams were, of course, realized and he undoubtedly thinks of them on performances on both of these great stages.

At the age of thirteen, a very scared Kenny Roberts entered an amateur contest in which he combined his vocal talent with the guitar and harmonica. He won the contest. At fifteen, he joined the Red River Rangers on WHAI in Greenfield, Mass. and at sixteen, he went with the Down Homers on WKNE in Keene, N. H. He accompanied this group to WOWO in Fort Wayne, Ind. for the Hoosier Hop. Here "Smilin' Ken" first began astounding others with his famous yodeling. From there, he did network shows from Fort Wayne and then KMOX in St. Louis. Still onward to bigger and better things, Kenny joined the staff of WLW in Cincinnati and started doing television work. He cut his first record at nineteen, "Out Where The West Winds Blow."

Kenny's career was progressing well and "Lady Luck" was caressing his every endeavor. At age 23 he cut a very special record — "I Never See Maggie Alone." "Lady Luck" jumped her traces and this record, besides earning a coveted gold record as a one million seller, made Kenny Roberts a national sensation. There was only one thing wrong! Kenny was a top star as a singer and yodeler, but still a very young and inexperienced businessman with no real idea of what to do with a hit record. Outrageously high offers—a thousand dollars a week. Fifteen hundred! All of this just confused and befuddled him. Then the money mongers moved in under the guise of guardian angels, and country-hearted trusting Kenny placed his future with them. Gradually, he began going down. There were no more hit records and bids for his services began going lower and lower.

By this time Kenny had a wife and family. In utter

disillusionment, he turned to the only people he really trusted—the little people—the kids. With four boys of his own, he knew the fun they had watching the daily television program, "The Jumping Cowboy." Kenny loved children and they loved him. Today, this same love is evidenced as he visits children's hospitals when on tour—simply to entertain them.

But still Lady Luck had her back turned. After four sons, a baby daughter was born to Kenny and Frieda—a beautiful little girl. At five months, completely without warning, she left this world. Within a three week span, Kenny lost his only daughter and his job. Barely managing to keep his head up in the face of so many bitter disappointments, his thoughts were for Frieda and the boys. It wasn't fair to put them through any more heartache—Kenny would leave the entertainment field and try to find something else.

But he reckoned without Frieda! "Not on your life will you leave the work you love on our account," she told him. And she got herself a job and supported the family while Kenny tried to pick up the broken pieces.

Broken pieces don't pick up easily, but little by little they began making progress. He found another television job, this time in Saginaw, Michigan—the land of hunting and fishing that the family learned to love. They had another boy ... then two girls! Now a total of seven children—Kenny, Bob, Mike, Jeff, Kevin, Debbie and Lisa.

Some special people entered into the lives of the Roberts family, beginning with Kenny's manager and best friend, Quentin "Reed" Welty. Then Starday Records entered the picture. They had Kenny record the album, "Indian Love Call," which contains "I Never See Maggie Alone" and some fine examples of his unparalleled yodeling.

Kenny Roberts is well on his way to the top again. He appeared on the 1964 Madison Square Garden C/W Spectacular and was a real "show-stopper." He pulled one of the rare encores on that show.

In 1965 he appeared twice on the Grand Ole Opry. He has guested on some of the top radio and television shows in the U.S. and Canada, including the WLW Midwestern Hayride, WGN National Barn Dance, the Carl Smith TV Show, the Tommy Hunter TV Show, the Maritime Tour with Bill Anderson and the Carter Family for CFOX, headlined a big KSOP (Salt Lake City) show, plus many appearances on the WWVA Jamboree. Besides many one-nighters, he has appeared for a week at the nationally known Flame Club in Minneapolis.

Kenny Roberts has proved beyond doubt that a comeback is possible. He will undoubtedly rise to even greater heights than when he first won a gold record. He will certainly be trying!

JUSTIN TUBB



Fate Helps Country Music

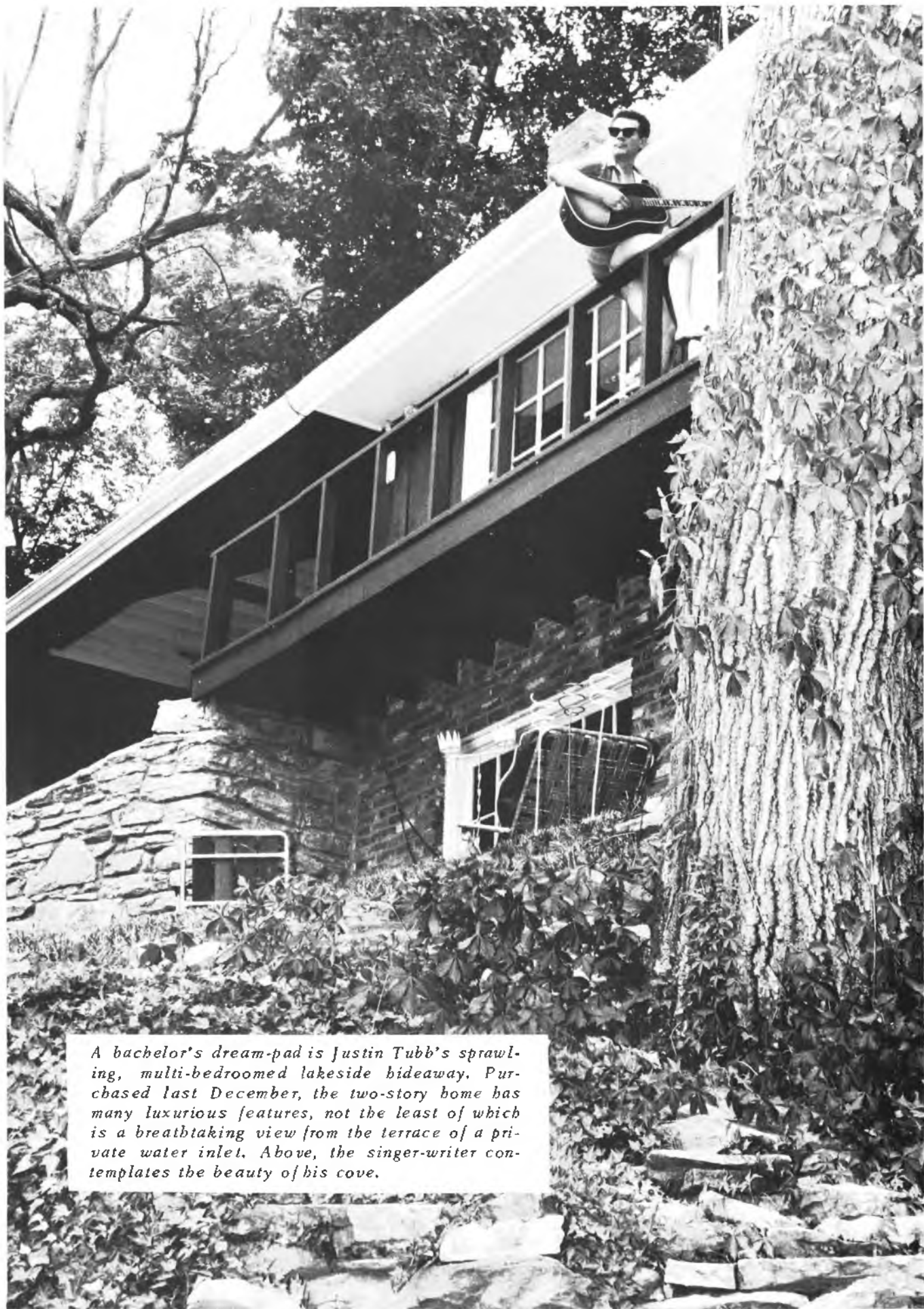
By **FRANK HARRIS**

On August 20, 1935, a young singer who was soon to become one of Country Music's all time greats became the father of a fine baby boy. Due to the success of Ernest Tubb in the world of Country Music, young Justin could have followed any line of interest or vocation that pleased his fancy.

Healthy and athletically inclined, he could have gone into professional baseball or basketball, or he might have become one of the American Bowling Congress' luminaries. Always a serious scholar and an energetic organizer, Justin could have become an important journalist, an educator, or a business leader.

It was quite evident that the most important thing concerning this young Texan's selection of a vocation was that it had to be something he could enjoy and derive a feeling of satisfaction from, rather than just make a living. Justin never seriously considered becoming a Country musician, although at age 10 he appeared on the Grand Ole Opry, and he entered the University of Texas in Austin to prepare himself for any future opportunities that might arise.

Fate, however, provided an opening for a small dance band for local clubs in the Austin area and it was only natural that the enterprising son of Ernest Tubb take the initiative in organizing such a band. Between dance dates and his studies at the Univer-



A bachelor's dream-pad is Justin Tubb's sprawling, multi-bedroomed lakeside hideaway. Purchased last December, the two-story home has many luxurious features, not the least of which is a breathtaking view from the terrace of a private water inlet. Above, the singer-writer contemplates the beauty of his cove.



sity, Justin still managed to practice his knack of transforming random ideas into Country songs, producing during his college days a lot of songs that were later to become hits for many artists, including himself.

Upon graduation and his return to Nashville and home, the multi-directed talents of Justin Tubb were channeled into a daily three hour Country Music record show on WHIN in neighboring Gallatin, Tenn. Working as a disc jockey created a genuine interest on his part in becoming an artist in Country Music. Chances are that he would have taken some other tack if Fate had not provided the band in Austin and the radio job in Gallatin.

Nonetheless, Justin followed Fate's lead and signed a recording contract with Decca, the same label which had heralded his father's many fine contributions to Country Music. At Decca, he lost no time in making his own contributions, scoring as writer and singer on such hits as "Ooh-La-La" and "The Story Of My Life," followed by the teamwork smash with Goldie Hill, "Looking Back To See."

As regular membership on the Grand Ole Opry came his way in 1955, his hit-production continued to increase. 1962 witnessed his appearance on RCA's Groove label and his Monumental recording of "Take A Letter, Miss Gray." Further contributions have included "The Village Idiot" and his collaboration with Lorene Mann on "Hurry, Mr. Peters" and "We've Gone Too Far Again."

Regardless of this game's outcome, it's a sure bet that a Tubb will be the winner. Here Justin's look-alike opponent is his sister Scooter whose husband is Wayne Walker, Cedarwood Publishing songwriter.



Justin's constant sidekick at the lakeside retreat is Skeet—a 3-year-old Pekingese. Here the two enjoy each other's company after a day of play.

Now singing on RCA Victor Records, writing for Tree Publishing Co. and making PAs through Moeller Talent Inc., Justin has developed into one of Country Music's brightest stars, and if Lady Fate is listening, we'd all like to say, "Thanks for steering him our way."

As "Old Hickory's Host With The Most," Justin is equipped to offer a "Tubbful" of hospitality to friends and guests on hand for a day or week end of relaxation.

"Just cruising around the lake" is a favorite Tubb pastime, and he claims, the best way in the world to unwind after a hard week or two of road work. Preparing for a spin in "Uncle Justin's" speedboat are two gleeful little Walkers, Darryn Chance (left) and Devonna Capri.



NASHVILLE MOVIES



By RUTH CHARON

Movie title: "Road To Nashville"

Producer: Robert Patrick

Director: Will Zens

Company: Robert Patrick Productions of Hollywood

Locations: WSIX TV Studios and roads leading to Nashville

Color: In Technicolor on wide screen Techniscope

Cast: Marty Robbins, Richard Arlen, Doodles Weaver, Connie Smith, Johnny Cash, Hank Snow, The Stone-mans, Dottie West, Porter Wagoner, Faron Young, The Kitty Wells Show, Webb Pierce, The Carter Family, Waylon Jennings, Lefty Frizzell, Norma Jean, Bill Phillips, The Osborne Brothers, Bill Anderson, Margie Singleton, and introducing Mrs. Eddie Crandall and Ruth Charon in their debut.

The story of "Road To Nashville" is concerned with the problems of a Hollywood production company whose object is to go to Nashville and film a real Country Music jamboree. The tough and demanding production boss is played by Richard Arlen; his aide,

Comedian Doodles Weaver with star of the show, Richard Arlen.

Doodles Weaver, who furnishes some fine comedy in the film. Boss Arlen gives Doodles Weaver one last chance—this zany character has flubbed every job he had ever been given—he is to go down south to line up the talent for the movie they plan to film in Music City. But Doodles, as usual playing the clown, forgets all about auditioning and becomes involved with Marty Robbins' racing and just has fun. He is jolted into action, however, by a screaming phone call from boss Arlen—the camera crew is on its way and shooting is scheduled for the next day! Doodles comes through by the skin of his teeth, with the aid of Marty Robbins and Connie Smith.

After these tribulations, "Road To Nashville" builds into one of the best, swingin', singin', Country Music movies ever made. Proof of a superb performance was back in Hollywood shortly after the lab had finished the first print. In the screening room the film was shown to an audience of company members,



Producer Robert Patrick with Hank Snow, Marty Robbins, director Will Zens and the Hank Snow Band.

directors, producers and visitors, who broke into a hand-clapping furor as the film ended with Marty Robbins singing his famous "El Paso."

With "Road To Nashville" completed, producer Robert Patrick is already at work on two TV pilot films, soon to be before the camera. One, "At Ease," is an Army comedy set in "boot camp" as three unwilling draftees carry on their private war against the Army. The other is a series called "The Mountaineers," location to be within the borders of Dixie. If you "dig" moonshine, white lightning and swingin' Country Music toe-tapping, you will stamp your O.K. on this series!

Robert Patrick was bitten by the show business bug in Georgia, where he began as a theater usher. Now as owner of Robert Patrick Productions, he is making plans with associate Marty Robbins to shoot two more pictures next year: "The Sands of Hawaii" and as yet untitled film to combine the drama of stock car racing with Country Music.

In 1965 Patrick scanned Georgia for a set location area and discovered the Okefenokee to be an ideal spot for shooting "Swamp Country" starring Rex Allen. From then on he abandoned the backlots of

Doodles Weaver and Ruth Charon, columnist for COUNTRY MUSIC LIFE, in a scene from "Road To Nashville." Mrs. Charon is very proud of her first movie lines—which producer Robert Patrick wrote in especially for her.





Director Will Zens with production mgr. Dallas Thomas during shooting of "Road To Nashville." Kitty Wells is seen in center stage.

Hollywood for the realism of on-the-spot locations.

Even before the termination of "Swamp Country," he was steaming the wires to writer-director Will Zens. These two bright photo bugs met for the first time in Hollywood when Patrick put Zens' production of "The Starfighter" on the market under the new organization, Robert Patrick Productions.

Then they filmed "To The Shores Of Hell" at the Camp Pendleton, Calif. Marine Base, starring Marshall Thompson and Richard Arlen—with Patrick as the executive producer and Zens the director. A fine thing resulted from this: Richard Arlen agreed to star in "Road To Nashville."

Mr. Arlen spent three gracious hours with Phyllis Dickinson and this reporter during the shooting of the film, relating endless stories of his glamorous days of Hollywood's growth. He told us of his role in "Wings," the Academy Award winner starring Jean

Harlow. She was very vivacious and warm, not the controversial figure described in a current book.

Arlen is not bothered by his mature 65 years—in fact he is proud of it and kids that he is eligible for Medicare. He is trim, tanned and friendly, willing to talk forever. We laughed until tears came at his imitation of the Gabor accent. He told us about Zsa Zsa, Eva, Spencer Tracy, Katherine Hepburn and the greatest of the greats—and tales of their fun and associations. Mr. Arlen spends much of his time now touring and lecturing on the evils of the LSD drug and juvenile problems.

While we were enjoying our interview with Mr. Arlen, we could hear strains of "Were You There When They Crucified My Lord?" coming from the rehearsal room by Johnny Cash and The Carters. No wonder crew duties and all jobs associated with the filming of this movie were so quickly filled. What a fine opportunity to combine business with pleasure, listening to top performers in some of their best numbers. Songs in the movie — "El Paso," "The One On The Right Is On The Left," "Would You Hold It



Director Will Zens discussing "Road To Nashville" with members of the cast Norma Jean and Porter Wagoner.

Against Me," "Count Me Out," "Nobody But A Fool" "Tupelo County Jail," "I Walk The Line," "I Love You Drops," "Skid Row Joe," "Devil Woman," "Up This Hill And Down," "Is Love Worth All These Heartaches," "Put It Off Till Tomorrow," "Anita You're Dreaming," "Were You There When They Crucified My Lord?" "You Ain't No Better Than Me" and "I've Been Everywhere." You can't afford to miss this show!

We are indebted to Robert Patrick for information and movie stills from "Road To Nashville." Thank you again, Mr. Patrick, for your wonderful help and cooperation.



Doodles Weaver and Richard Arlen in scene from "Road To Nashville."



Lovely Connie Smith, as she appears in "Road To Nashville."



THE COUNTRY MUSIC GENTS



Take a long look at these boys—left to right they are Gene Schebel, Tom Donahue and Jack Turner.

The Gents squeeze every bit of music they can from their instruments to make their sound as big as four or five men, simulating the recorded sound that comes out of Nashville. Combined in their sound is Tom Donahue's driving rhythm on the big guitar . . . Gene Schebel's modern touch on the pedal steel and his versatile style . . . Jack Turner's sound on the electric bass plus the pop he gets by slapping strings against pick up, doing away with the need for a rim shot on the drums.

Tom and Jack are vocalists, and their close harmonizing with equally close phrasing will send shivers up your spine. They have written several songs, individually and together.

Tom and Jack worked for nine years with the West Virginia Boys, performing on the WWVA Wheeling Jam-

boree, at parks, carnivals and clubs in many of the Eastern states. In 1965 they decided to try it on their own with Gene playing lead on the pedal steel. By the end of the year they were working four nights a week; had established their name; built a repertoire of songs and were able to put on a well rounded, fast moving show.

They joined Northeast Country Music, Inc. and soon after Jack Turner was elected to the board of directors and now handles publicity with Marvin Hoerner. The Gents have contracted with J.B. Artist & Record Promotions in Warrington, Pa. for nationwide promotion of their activities and records.

The boys are busy now with personal appearance tours—proof of the effectiveness of their teamwork and drive. It won't be long before the name, "Country Music Gents" will be spoken in Country Music circles almost as much as "yes" and "no."

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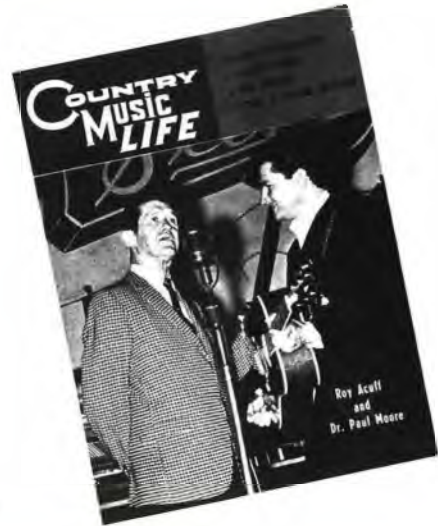
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