

DECEMBER 1966

COUNTRY MUSIC LIFE

SPECIAL CONVENTION REPORT ISSUE



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LAURA FAIRBANK
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RUTH CHARON
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BEA & RED WILCOX
TEXAS JIM COOPER
Associate Editors

FRANK BLAKE
Art Director

R. E. CAULFIELD
Circulation Manager

JAMES E. HARRIS
Advertising Manager

FRANKIE STARR
Regional Advertising Manager
Nashville

14 *News*

FEATURE STORIES

20 *Music City Golf Tournament*

22 *Nashville Convention*

32 *Country Music Hall Of Fame*

DEPARTMENTS

4 *Letters To The Editor*

8 *Tips From The Top*

6 *Ten Top Tunes*

8 *Editorial*

12 *On The Go With Marve*

9 *Northwest - Canadian Notes*

10 *Westcoast - Midwest Notes*

11 *Nashville - Southeast Notes*

37 *Fan Club Guide*

38 *Where The Stars Are Shining*

ON THE COVER



Our Cover this month shows a preview of Convention Week in Nashville.

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**THIS
Month
In**



SPECIAL

CONVENTION REPORT ISSUE

Due to the tremendous amount of news and activities of Country Music Festival Week, we have devoted the entire December Issue to reporting these festivities to you. Our January Issue will feature the stories and articles previously planned for this December Issue.

MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR!

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

My Dear Mr. Harris:

Well pardner, I was a wee bit down in the mouth, as just day before yesterday I got the OCT issue of the C.M. LIFE, and naturally it was so late with all the datings of P A 's & etc. It's the first time it was so late, but I jumped out of my boots when this A.M. The November issue came and believe me, NO body but NO BODY could get this book without just forgetting the rest of the world exists until after you read it from cover to cover. (You can believe this or not) I was late for work the day I got the Oct. Issue because I couldn't lay it down.

Too, I find it I must send for a second subscription for myself so I can get two, for a simple fact I have to hide one so I can have it to read myself. Everyone who comes in reads this book and I make it possible to have it out in plain view in my living room, I feel honored to do so.

So please find enclosed \$5.00 for the second subscription, PLEASE.

Myrtle M. Evans, Pres.
REXINE ALLEN FAN CLUB
Chicago, Illinois 60640

The delay in receiving your October issue was due to thousands of mailbags of 2nd and 3rd class material "bogged" down in the Chicago Post Office. This situation has caused Country Music Life to be delayed all over the country as Chicago is a transfer point. Country Music Life is mailed promptly on the 25th of every month! If you do not receive your issue at the regular time, check with your local post office!

Ed.

Dear Sirs:

Country Music Life is the greatest C/W magazine on the market. I look forward to my issues each and every month. I don't know how I got along without it.

I would like to express my thanks to Texas Jim Cooper for the beautiful write-up he gave Jim Reeves in the October issue of Country Music Life.

Always Country,
Miss Linda Racicot
Southbridge, Massachusetts

Our hat is always off to Texas Jim Cooper... a dedicated writer and Historian. --

Ed.

Dear Mr. Harris,

Cheers to Texas Jim Cooper for the fabulous article Gentleman Jim - - - - At Rest, in your October 1966 issue of Country Music Life.

Jim Reeves will always be No. 1 singer in my heart. I'm looking forward to visiting Jim Reeves Memorial Park next summer.

I'll just end with the title of one of Jim's songs, "How Can I Write On Paper What I Feel In My Heart?"

Yours truly,
Beatrice Johnson
Toledo, Ohio 43613

P.S. How about a tribute to Jim in future issues?

Additional Jim Reeves features are planned for the coming year. --

Ed.

Dear Sir:

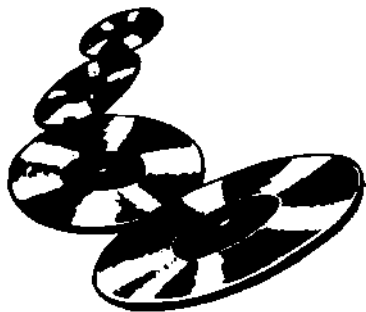
Congratulations on your first anniversary issue, and Happy Birthday to Country Music Life!

I have just finished reading the Westcoast notes by Jim Harris. I must admit I too had some doubts when I first heard about Country Music Life, but certainly not because, "Country Music people are listeners, not readers", but simply because there have been so many so called "Country Music" newspapers and magazines that have turned out to be anything but Country Music publications. When a real Country Music fan buys a Country Music magazine we don't want to read about Perry Como, Frank Sinatra, and the LBJ Ranch, and believe it or not I have read about all of these in a so called "Country Music" magazine. Now all of these people and others may be great in their own field, but in my opinion they don't belong in a Country Music magazine, we can read about them, if we choose, anytime, in the newspapers or other magazines. But when we read a Country Music magazine, we want it to be just that, and only that, Country Music and Country Stars. Give us good Country Music publications and you will find that we are Country Music listeners yes, but also very faithful Country Music readers.

We enjoy listening to our Country Music Stars much more when we know something about them, and how are we to know something about them if we don't read about them in Country Music magazines?

So I say again, Congratulations to Country Music Life, a magazine that lives up to its name and keeps getting better with every issue. You have the right to feel pleased with yourself Mr Harris, for we are very pleased indeed, with you, and your fine magazine. Thanks a million. You keep publishing, and we'll keep buying and reading, the best Country Music magazine I have ever seen, Country Music Life, but please take a weekend off and go swimming will you?

Continued on page 6



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TEN TOP TUNES

- 1  **I GET THE FEVER**
Bill Anderson—Decca 31999
- 2  **ALMOST PERSUADED**
David Houston—Epic 10025
- 3  **IT TAKES A LOT OF MONEY**
Warner Mack—Decca 32004
- 4  **OPEN UP YOUR HEART**
Buck Owens—Capitol 5705
- 5  **SOMEBODY LIKE ME**
Eddy Arnold—RCA Victor 8965
- 6  **ROOM IN YOUR HEART**
Sonny James—Capitol 5690
- 7  **TOUCH MY HEART**
Ray Price—Columbia 43795
- 8  **THE HURTIN'S ALL OVER**
Connie Smith—RCA Victor 8869
- 9  **BAD SEED**
Jan Howard—Decca 32016
- 10  **EARLY MORNING RAIN**
George Hamilton IV—
RCA Victor 8924

Congratulations, Good Luck, and God Bless You, from a very grateful reader.

Vickie Wolf
Granby, Connecticut

Dear Mr. Harris:

I have been subscribing to Country Music Life for several months now, and I enjoyed every issue.

There is one problem. I have long been a devoted "pop" music fan (since the "Hound Dog" days of Elvis Presley), and just recently have become a — — "Country" music fan, also I subscribe to a weekly "pop music" publication as well as Country Music Life in order to keep up with what's going on in both fields. My question is this: "Since Elvis Presley is referred to as, The King of Pop Music, why do I almost never read anything about him in either the "pop" magazines or the Country magazines"? It would seem to me that a "star" of Elvis' magnitude would rate an article in at least one of the magazines, and yet I never read anything about him. Personally I'm very disappointed. Can you tell me why you never mention anything about Elvis in your magazine?

Aside from that, keep up the fine work and I wish you continued success in the years to come.

Dave Fheinault
Los Angeles, Calif.

Although Elvis is still active in recording and makes at least one movie each year, he does not make the personal appearances he formerly made. — consequently, not as much news.

Ed..

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Season's Greetings

From



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editorial

CONVENTION WEEK

The 1966 convention week and celebration of the 41st Birthday of the Grande Ole Opry has come and gone for another year and with it the feeling of accomplishment of another successful convention, the pleasure of seeing old friends, renewing old friendships, meeting new and above all . . . the enjoyment of meeting people for the first time that you have been talking to on the telephone and corresponding.

The crazy antics and promotional gimmicks that were dreamed up hit an all time high. The promoter that made up signs, advertising that the entire second floor was reserved for a hospitality suite . . . and put the signs up on all one story buildings . . . simulated telegrams stuck on the doors of the various hotel rooms that were advertising impossible situations . . . stickers stuck to drinking glasses and china in the restaurants promoting someone's record or someone, etc, etc . . . but all in all . . . a lot of fun,

FAN CLUB CONVENTION

An enjoyable evening and big thrill was the banquet and awards for the Fan Clubs. Trina (Country Music Life's Fan Club Editor) presided over the awards and festivities and did her usual efficient and excellent job! Marvin Hoener presented special Fan Club Awards and trophies for Wizzard Records and Buster Doss. After the banquet entertainment is provided by the individual artists of the fan clubs. A countless parade of stars, artists and band entertained for hours. A true highlight of Convention Week that unfortunately many people miss!

THE C. M. A. HALL OF FAME

A previous showing of the new C.M.A. Hall we held during convention week. Although the interior of the beautiful building was not completely finished it did not detract for the spontaneous enthusiasm that everyone had for not only this new gorgeous building, but the reali-

TIPS FROM THE TOP



By Clyde Beavers

"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."

WHAT DOES IT TAKE TO BE A STAR?

What does it take to be a country music artist (I won't say star because I have never been that yet), and how do you go about getting into the business of displaying your talents to the world? I have been asked these questions thousands of times I guess, and until today I don't really know how to answer these questions.

I remember the days when I was a child and listened to the Grand Ole Opry. I would go out in the smokehouse and get my mother's old washboard and start beating a rhythm and day dream about how nice it would be if I could just be a singer and sing the things I felt in my heart, and have people's friendship all over the world. This would be the greatest thing that could ever happen to any man I thought. I would talk to daddy and he would say, "Son that would be good, but most of those people are born with that, and besides, you have to be rich to do that. If you will just be honest, work hard and always remember that friendship is the greatest possession you can ever have, if you have this you will make out all right". Then I remember the day I wrote my first song on the way to the spring to get a bucket of water. Little did I know that some day Jimmy Dickens would record that song. It was called, "Police, Police". I remember the night I cut my first song on tape at a radio station and sent it off and got a contract back through the mail. Then I remember the day I decided to be known by the world in some way, so I decided to ride a mule to the Disc Jockey Convention from Dalton, Georgia, which was 175 miles away. Then I remember the day I gave up a job as manager of a radio station, a T.V. show and a small record shop, all to sink or swim in the world of country music. Country music looked pretty rosy up until that day. That's the day I went to work among the professionals in Nashville, Tennessee. I remember the days that followed, and on into the months and years, of barely making a living for a wife and two children. I remember the day I had 50¢ in my pocket and ran out of gas on my way to town. I remember telling myself I must have faith. God gave me this

NOTES

By IRENE BEELER

Most radio stations programming Country Music in Canada celebrated Country Music Month; with many DJ's making the trip to Nashville for the Convention. This immediate area of Canada was represented by Ron Andrews of CKCK Regina, Sask. Speaking of Ron, CKCK and MCM Productions report a sell-out success with the Hank Snow Show in October. The next show booked to tour Western Canada is the Eddy Arnold All Star Show on Nov. 3. Along with Eddy will be Bonnie Guitar and Don Bowman. Following this show will be The Kitty Wells Show on November 26. Along with Kitty's show; which includes Kitty, Johnny Wright, Ruby Wright, Bill Philips and The Tennessee Mountain Boys, will be ever-popular Wilf Carter.

CKDM, Dauphin, Manitoba is doing an excellent job of promoting Canadian talent. Approximately one quarter of CKDM's hit parade is made up of Canadian artists. CKDM is responsible for many artists and Country dance-bands in Manitoba to begin and to become recognized by record companys. CKDM plays about ten hours of Country music a day and the C/W music is hosted by Bob Love.

Another station promoting Canadian talent is CKOM, Saskatoon, Sask.; where Dale Heath hosts the 'Let's Go West' show for two and one-half hours every day. Dale says he tries to play as much GOOD Canadian talent as possible. Of course we hear all of our Country Cousins to the south, whom of course, we certainly could not do without. CKOM has its own Country band as well, called the 'CKOM Prairie Suns'. They have a live show each Saturday night on CKOM. Bill Dole, who is part of the band also has a solo single record released called 'Most Of The Time', his own composition, on the Barb label, with another to be released soon. BARB is produced by Hi-Fi Recording Services of Saskatoon.

Odie Workman of 'Jack Built A House' fame has signed a recording contract with Spartan records. Petite Bonnie Huber originally from Burnaby BC., and now living in Vancouver has her first record released called 'Private Secretary', and it looks as though it will be a big record for Bonnie as it has been picked by many DJ's for the charts. Other new releases picked for the charts include a good folk-country sound by the Mercer Brothers on 'Whistle On The River', and The New Tavern Singers on 'Dream When You're Lonely'.

A young and very lovely lady that Saskatchewan is justly proud of is Gracie Dee from Canora, Sask. Her first record 'Talking In Your Sleep' is doing well all over Canada and in the USA. Gracie records for the Simms label and is managed by Mike Harris Associates of Vancouver. Gracie tours throughout Canada and much of the USA.

Continued on page 29

NOTES

By LARRY BRIEL

December is here, and brings with it holiday time -- that means many happy days for everyone with things to do, and places to go. A great number of folks around the Pacific Northwest are making their plans to enjoy a New Years Eve Country Music style.

So many of the top C/M artists have toured this part of the country in the past year, and the parade of stars will continue during 1967, with Buck Owens, Little Jimmy Dickens, Freddie Hart and others scheduled to be in this area with-in the next several weeks.

Some Northwest entertainers have had new records released since Nashville convention time. Among these are Bill Griffith, whose disk on the Belfair label couples "Hey, Little Judy" with "After A Heart Quake." For several years Bill has operated, and appeared weekends with his band at the Belfair Barn near Bremerton, Wash. Also, Burt Light, popular deejay at all-country KTW Radio, Seattle, has a new release. We wish both of these fine fellows all good luck with their latest efforts on wax.

An other Washington State talent who is bound to be discovered one of these days is Frank Cook from Wenatchee, who had a version of "Touch My Heart," which many people thought was tops. However, when Ray Price came out with the song, the Frank Cook record got lost in the shuffle.

Any disk jockeys interested in receiving releases by various Pacific Northwest C/M entertainers might drop me a card or letter, and I'll see about getting their names added to the mailing lists for such service. Write me at 1619 So. Mullen St., Tacoma, Wash. 98405, or c/o COUNTRY MUSIC LIFE in California. There is a lot of good talent in this region of the country that deserves nation-wide exposure.

Talking about records -- both the new single and album on Kapp by Bob Wills and the Texas Playboys, featuring Leon Rausch, are getting a good deal of attention and spins on C/M radio stations all over this Northwest area. The single pairs a couple of old favorites, "You're The Only Star In My Blue Heaven," and "My Adobe Hacienda." The album is titled "From The Heart of Texas." It looks like the master of western swing has done it again -- come out with more hits!

I think the Seattle-Tacoma locality is fortunate to have three outstanding C/M personalities here, in Chubby Howard, Jack Roberts, and George Richey. Chubby, in addition to being a deejay on KTW, Seattle, is an entertainer -- playing the steel and dobro guitars, and an emcee -- having had his own TV-show in Tacoma for nearly four years. He also has promoted Country Music stars in Northwest appear-

Continued on page 29

NOTES



By Jim Harris

By JIM HARRIS

Well winter has arrived in southern California and we here at CML are into our second year of publication looking forward to a bright future.

KGBS held a show at the Shrine auditorium in L.A., on Saturday night November 5th. Hosts for the giant extravaganza were all the guys that make up one of the fastest growing country music stations in the nation. Bill Thompson, "bachelor Bob" Kingsley, jolly Joe Nixon, Big John Fritz, and L.A.'s answer to Walter Kronkite - Frank Evans. On the bill were such stars as Pat Buttrán star of TV's "Green Acres" and his own show on KGBS in the mornings, Rex Allen, Jeanne Seely, Bobby Austin, Stonewall Jackson, Johnny Sea, and Rusty Draper, star of TV's "Swingin' Country". A great show in the tradition of "Giant 1020" and a good time was had by all. KGBS's GGM-(Joe Nixon for Giant General Manager) Dale Peterson announced a while back that the station would present "a show a month" so that means we've got one coming up in December - right? Right. The date-December 2nd - the place - the Shrine auditorium - the stars - Sonny James and his show, Connie Smith and her show, Leroy Van Dyke and his show and Marty Robbins and his show. Other stars are, to be added but CML will be in the mails by show time so I can't report on it at this time.

November 11th, Armistice Day, was show time for a gigantic extravaganza held at the Long Beach Municipal Auditorium. Staged by KFOX the blast featured the Carter Family, the Statter Brothers, the Boomers, Slim Whitman making his first southern California appearance. Grand Ole Opry comedian Archie Campbell (who incidentally came out two days early to play golf with our editor) and the star of the show, the incomparable Johnny Cash. People came from all over to see this line-up of talent and they were not disappointed KFOX puts on tremendous shows and this was one.

KGBS whom as I mentioned before only started broadcasting Country Music a short while ago, have branched off into yet another field. Operations and program director Bill Thompson announced that starting in January Giant 1020 and specifically Bill Thompson will host an hour long weekly color TV show. I don't know as yet what the format will be but this can only be a step in the right direction.

See you in December

NOTES



Mary Ann Cooper

A plea for help from Midwest radio station. WTOS, 11520 West Blumound Road, Wauwatosa, Wisconsin 53213, has had the great misfortune of losing their entire record collection through theft. Currently they are playing mostly "oldies" from private collections and fans in the area feel it is hurting country music there. Would any and everyone reading this who records, distributes, or sends out 45rpm and IP's, please put WTOS on your mailing list - and send them some late releases immediately. It is now that help is desperately needed.

The "Kansas Kountry Kid" Linda McCormick says that the fans in Kansas, Nebraska, Colorado, Oklahoma and Missouri are all real happy to have their favorite DJ Barefoot Bob Kinney back with KFDI, Wichita. Barefoot Bob is a very good, well loved promoter for Country Music, so this is wonderful news for the whole industry.

Ohio's native son, Paul Wayne, whose latest Starday release of "Everything But Love" is doing very well for him now, is elated over signing with Jack McFadden's and Buck Owens' OMAC Corporation of Bakersfield, California. Congratulations to a young man who has had more down's than up's so far in his musical career -- this could be the beginning of all the good things Paul so well deserves.

Congratulations are also in store for Moline, Illinois' Virginia Protsman. Virginia was named the most active fan clubber of the year by K-Bar-T Country Roundup. She was so stunned, Virginia could hardly rise from her seat at the 3rd Annual Fan Club Banquet held at the Noel Hotel, Nashville, in October. Several awards were presented and another of our Midwesterners, Fay McGinnis, president of the Stanley Brothers Fan Club, was given some beautiful roses as a very special "award" by her stars. I never say Fay again after that; I think she must have fainted and missed the rest of the convention activities!

K-Bar-T I am sure you know, is headed by our Fan Club Editor Blanche Trinajstick and is the organization all C&W fan clubs feel it a "must" to belong to. One very proud recipient of a K-T coveted award this year is MIKE HOYER! He received several awards and gave out some too, thru-out the convention festivities 19yy, but he says that the one from this particular organization naming him the Favorite C&W

Continued on page 36

Nashville

NOTES



By
By RUTH and PAUL CHARON

Though another Convention is over, we are all still tired and reminiscing. It was an extreme pleasure to have our Editor Frank Harris join us in the activities. To my dismay, we missed Johnny Mercer at the ASCAP Party and Roger Miller receiving his BMI honors. In addition, I deplore having missed so many of my old friends, because of the tremendous crowds.

Ken Galloway is the head man at the new Delta Talent Agency, in the Capitol Records Bldg. 806-16th Avenue So. Already he is booking 14 of your favorite artists; Chuck Wood (Mercury), Neal and Alice Joy Merritt, Kirk Hansard, Karen Wheeler, Don Chapel, Tammy Wynette, Mack Vickery, Rink Nardin, Danny Marcus, A.L. Owens(Dot) and Lee Hoover and others.

Capitol's young new star, Duane Dee, cut his first session Nov. 1st, under the direction of Marvin Hughes and his manager, Joe Taylor. Duane has been making regular guest spots on the Opry, the first one to do so, without a record contract; he has encoed every number. Peggy Steelman, my sec., and I enjoyed covering this session.

RCA artist, Charley Pride, made a short thank you speech at the Breakfast, and drew such applause, he was called back for a 3rd number. He came off the stage, awed and misty-eyed, after a moving rendition of "THE GREEN GREEN GRASS OF HOME".

Top steel man, Jimmy Day, is back at the strings and pedals, after being out of commission 4 months with a broken leg. He and his wife Lois, are the parents of a new boy, Realan Clayton.

Tammy Wynette is one of the first artists to appear on the Bobby Lord and Ralph Emery Shows, now in full color - WSM. She and Don Chapel tour Greenland in January, after his December 5th, first Musicor session.

Ray Pillow had some cute publicity stunts at the Convention, posing as a Vokes 'hood ornament' at the Volk's dealer's Open-House - - Richie Johnson's - Kenny Vemon, was a big attraction, with his band, in the Fender Room. Wayne Gailey is on steel, Kenny Peters on bass, and Johnny Callard on drums and harmony. They work the Caravan East Club in Albuquerque.

Continued on page 36

Southeast

NOTES



By
Red Wilcox

Now that the Fan Club and Disc Jockey Convention for 1966 is past history, Southeasterners are already showing much excitement over the rest of the '66 C/M season.

December 2, vicinity of Allentown, Penna., will be a show starring George Jones and the Jones Boys, Jean Shepard, Kenny Roberts, and The Osborn Brothers. On December 3rd, Red Foley joins this same line-up for a show in Gettysburg, Penna. On Dec. 4th, the entire troupe moves up to Trenton, N.J. for a big show spons ored by WAAT Radio there.

For those Washingtonians wanting to make advance reservations for New Year's Eve, our town has a dazzling array from which to choose. At Dairyland Jessup, Mad.) will be Stonewall Jackson and the Minutemen; at the Silver Spring (Md.) Armory will be Loretta Lynn and The Wilburn Brothers; and, at The Fredrick, Md., Armory will be George Jones and the Jones' Boys. Decisions, decisions, decisions!

A great big "country type" welcome to Larry Stonewall Jackson who is now spinning the country wax at WXRA Radio in Woodbridge, Va. Larry comes to us from the Midwest and is doing a great job evening-times. "Cousin Ray" who was formerly a country store owner, WXRA DeeJay, and area musician and band leader, is now a country jock at WRAE, Raeford, North Carolina.

Zeke Dawson is the latest area musician to make the big move to Nashville. Zeke, country fiddler par excellence, joins the Ray Price group. Zeke appeared in the movie "Country Music On Broadway" and played fiddle around Washington with groups like the Kountry Kings and WBMD DeeJay Bobby Brown's band.

The Compton Brothers and Johnny \$ Dollar have both just come back from road trips and have been seen all over town. Both have new Dot Record releases - - The Compton Brothers with "Pickin' Up The Mail" and Johnny with "Windbum". Johnny is actually plugging two Dot Records at the moment, his own and one that he penned - - "Bad Blood" recorded by Tommy Faile. At the Dot Luncheon in Nashville during the convention, the Compton Brothers were really suprised to be presented an oil protrait of themselves painted by Linda O'steen of Lamar, Colorado. Miss O'steen journeyed all the way to Nashville for the presentation.

Continued on page 36

Our Sincerist Season's Greetings

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I Wish
Rhinestones
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Walk Tall
Give Me Forty Acres
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My Dream
Women Do Funny
Things To Me
Artificial Rose
I'd Better Call the
Law on Me
Peel Me a Manner
Pen & Paper
Keeping Up With
the Joneses
Shoes of a Fool
Why Didn't Your Dog
Bite Nobody But Me
Yellow Bandana
Country Guitars
Nothing Left to Lose
It Makes You Happy
It Takes a Lot of
Money
Turn Me Loose 90
Proof
Lonelyville

When the Ship Hits
the Sand
Down in the Boon-
docks
Anne of a Thousand
Days
The Mon
Bright Lights &
Country Music
White Lighting Ex-
press
What We're Fighting
For
Our Ship of Love
If This House Could
Talk
Yes, Mr. Peters
Old Records
My Friend on the
Right
Down By the River
Sing a Little Song of
Maestocha
Second Hand Rose
Tiger Woman
Lookin' Back to See
Dear Harlan Howard
At Ease Heart
The World is Round
Sweet Love & Hap-
piness
Wallpaper Rose
... and all the others

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Record Row is a little less hectic since the big DJ Convention but only slightly less. Studios are humming as sessions stretch far into the early morning hours. Willie Ackerman, Jerry Reed, Roy Wiggins, among other leading Nashville session musicians, were busy packing their instruments the other early A.M., following Wizard Record's latest session. George Main, in for the convention, stayed over to nut his first session for the label. Miss Kay Arnold, hitting with "What's A Honky Tonk Woman", cut a strong piece of material, as did Kendall Hayes. All three set for early release dates

Jack Boles and the Home Folks, played the prison scene in Illinois recently and the "captured" audience roared their appreciation. Jack, along with Vernon Glen and Miss Ann Taylor, hit the overseas trail in January. Lots of luck in the "cold" country gang.

Jim & Lyn, popular Colorado recording artists, are busy "roaring like tigers": via the use of magnetic tape. Along with their daily Colo. radio shows, their now heard on the complete Nova Scotia network and in Europe radio as well. We're still looking for a big game hunter to keep up with these two "wild" artists.

In chatting with Dewey Groom, popular Longhorn Records prexy, at the convention, discovered that his big duo team, Janet McBride and Vern Stovall, are being booked across the nation by the Bob Neal Agency here. Their latest, "Where Did The Other Dollar Go", still has everyone baffled. . . all except Dewey who's two busy keeping up with the big chart action, not even to mention sales action. It's a BIG one for the label.

Southern Illinois songstress, Cindy Street, off on a junket entertaining our servicemen overseas.

Paul Charron, popular musician son of Charmin' gal Ruth Charron, getting dust on his shows, hitting the highways with both Skeeter Davis and Jack Boles.

Frank Darris recently leased his, "Angel Face & Devil Woman", to his own label, Thunder Records. This Tucson entertainer has a style all his own and, as leading Nashville DJ, Bob Jennings stated, "he has a real fine voice". That "voice" is being heard all around the far west and else where.

"The Kay Arnold Show" is "on the go" in Indiana these past weeks combining a special Country-

Continued on page 36

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NEWS NEWS NEWS



Donna (left) and Roni Stoneman, distaff members of the popular Stoneman family musical aggregation, cut up off-camera during filming of a segment of the family's nationally syndicated TV show, "Those Stonemans." The show's 27 markets will now receive the series in living color as a result of recently acquired cameras and techniques in Nashville's WSIX-TV taping center.

* * * * *

Everybody would like to get a million dollars for a birthday present—and Dottie West came close to it this year. Arranged by her husband, Bill, a surprise party consisting of "a million dollars worth of talent" awaited Dottie as she returned home from a shopping spree October 13. Guests were Billy and Boots Walker, Sonny James and the Southern Gentlemen, Luther and Martha Perkins, and Ralph Emery. Next day was another party, of sorts, as Dottie joined baseball Dizzy Dean on Ralph Emery's TV show in a version of "Wabash Cannonball."

* * * * *

The old "Movin' On Man," Hank Snow, has covered a lot of ground in Country Music with his immortal train songs, but his new RCA Victor album, "Hank Snow In Hawaii," has obviously deleted the train tunes as it deals with the only place in the U.S. a train can't go. Coming on the heels of Snow's "Life Story" album, the Hawaiian package highlights a smooth blend of the Snow style and beautiful melodies, all produced by local Victor chief Chet Atkins.

A last minute turn of events gave the Country Music Association two new presidents in one 24 hour period October 21 when both Jack Stapp and Paul Cohen were elected to that office. Stapp, who was elected by the board in a special meeting October 20, could not be reached during the rush of convention activities for confirmation that he could accept the office. By the time he was contacted, word had leaked to the press that he was the new CMA president. In a board of directors meeting at the new C/M Hall of Fame, Stapp met with CMA officials and outlined several projects which made it impossible for him to accept the post. Stapp told the group, "I am deeply flattered that you chose to honor me with the office of president. However, the increased activities and gigantic projects of the CMA will require a man who not only understands fully the goals of the CMA, but also a man who will be available here in Nashville 100% of the time. Business developments in the past few days including several which occurred during the convention will require my full attention. I will be traveling to Europe, South Africa, and other parts of the world and would not be available when you need me most. Therefore, I cannot accept the office of president at this time, but will be happy to serve the Country Music Association as executive vice-president and in any other way possible." Following Stapp's comments before the board, nominations were again opened for the office of president and Paul Cohen, a veteran music industry leader was elected by acclamation. Cohen stated, "I hope to do a great job as president—with 1700 members this year, I hope to have 3400 next year." Cohen made his first executive decision as CMA president as he signed a contract to issue a second album of Country Music Hall of Fame hits.

* * * * *

As an extension of the current album, "Singin' Stu Phillips," the RCA Victor artist will go back to the studio October 25, 26 and November 1 with producer Bob Ferguson to record an album titled "Grassroots Country," featuring such tunes as "The Last Thing on My Mind," "Bad Seed," "Green Green Grass of Home" and a new Harlan Howard tune, "Soft Spot."

* * * * *

One of the most unique promotion ideas in Country Music was implemented for the Country Music Convention in Nashville, as the hospitality suite for Audrey Williams Enterprises was not in one of the hotels, but rather in a downtown parking lot, housed in a trailer towed in for the occasion. Visitors were welcomed to see an interesting item of Country Music memorabilia, the 1951 Cadillac convertible owned by the late Hank Williams.

* * * * *

Carl Smith's latest Columbia release, "It's Only A Matter of Time," recently introduced a rare form of gamemanship into a casual disc jockey coffee clatch during the C/M festival in Nashville. The sport of it all involved the unique nature of some of the titles of Smith's biggest hits, and how they seemed to lend themselves into a rather cute story if arranged proper-

NEWS NEWS NEWS

ly. It took a WJJD spinner from Chicago 15 minutes to work up this ditty, "Hey, Joe,"

work up this ditty: "'Hey, Joe,' there's some 'Loose Talk' that 'The Man With a Plan' wants to 'Live A Little' and 'Let Ole Mother Nature Have Her Way,' so 'Don't Just Stand There' - 'Let's Walk Away Strangers' and listen closely to the 'Tall, Tall Gentleman' as he promises 'It's Only A Matter Of Time' and warns 'You Better Be Better To Me' ... as only Carl Smith can do.

* * * * *

RCA Victor recording artist Stu Phillips has been a consistent guest on the Grand Ole Opry of late but the call of the road has put an end to that. He recently appeared in Chicago on the TV "American Swing-around" and joined Marty Robbins and Bonnie Guitar in Rochester, N.Y. for personal appearances in Oct.

* * * * *

Nashville's channel 5 WLAC-TV is not generally considered "educational TV" but early morning viewers of Eddie Hill's "Country Junction" don't realize it. The last in the current series of visiting authorities on the subject of Country entertainment was Capitol artist/Tree writer Merle Travis. Rounding out the Travis touch with singing and guitar pickin' were informal lectures and group discussions on such subjects as his pickin' style, coal mining and miners, the music business in general, the concept of the solid-body guitar (which he designed), and a run-down of letters which came in during the week from former neighbors in Kentucky.

* * * * *

The mail overload has been an ever increasing problem for a good while but an interesting twist in its acuteness came to light on Record Row today when Larry Moeller of Moeller Talent received a package containing video tapes of Minnie Pearl that HE had sent air mail special delivery December 26, 1963 to New York City. The package was marked "return to sender—address unknown."

* * * * *

One of the oldest and all-time most popular members of the WWVA Jamboree is dead. Hamilton C. "Harry" Aliff, better known as "Big Slim, The Lone Cowboy," passed away October 13 in Taylor Brown Memorial Hospital, Waterloo, N. Y. following a long illness. His body was returned to Wheeling, with interment in Wheeling's Greenwood Cemetery. Big Slim came to the Jamboree in 1937 with Doc Williams and appeared regularly until his last appearance on December 25, 1965. In addition to the Saturday night Jamboree, Big Slim made many recordings and travelled extensively throughout the northeastern U. S. and Canada. He at one time had several live programs over WWVA Radio, the most popular being his "The Little Country Church." Big Slim was well known, too, as a song writer, and many of his works are considered standards, such as "Ain't Nobody Going To Miss Me When I'm Gone" and "Sunny Side of the Mountain."



David Houston sings his current chart topper, "Almost Persuaded," from the Jamboree stage where he originally introduced the blockbuster last spring after signing as a Jamboree regular. Additionally, WWVA Radio was the first station in the U.S. to air "Almost Persuaded" via pre-release dubbing provided by David's manager, Tillman Franks (left).

* * * * *

Roger Miller first had success writing songs for other artists to sing. He then made history singing the songs he had written and now a new turn in his genius is being revealed as he releases this week a song written by somebody else. Not just any song would be suitable for such a significant occasion and the classic "Heartbreak Hotel" (which catapulted Elvis Presley into fame) has been chosen to inaugurate this phase of the Roger Miller career.

* * * * *

No longer is Country Music confined to county fairs and country school houses, as booking agents report tremendous popularity of country artists in the nation's top nitespots. A new club in Latham, N.Y., The Double B Ranch, is getting into full swing with a heavy schedule of Nashville talent, including the Willis Bros. in October, Dottie West and Little Jimmy Dickens in November. Chicago's Rivoli Club will feature Carl Smith in November and Billy Walker holds forth at Toronto's Horseshoe Club in December. A somewhat different trend will occur when Merle Travis opens a 10 day stand December 2 at the Ash Grove, long a center for folk enthusiasts in the Los Angeles area.

* * * * *

Coinciding with his 20 years in show business, ABC Paramount has just released a new Ray Charles album depicting the depth of the singer and entitled "Ray's Mood." One of the songs in the package, "A Girl I Used to Know," by Jack Clement, well illustrates the blues singer's interpretive talent with country material.

* * * * *

Hank Williams, Jr. and The Cheating Hearts recently took a three day road break in Las Vegas and were honored guests one evening for Bobby Darin's night club act. Special recognition of Hank came in Darin's version of "Your Cheating Heart."

NEWS NEWS NEWS



Visitors from out of city, state and country who came to Nashville in October for the annual Country Music festival saw something new on Record Row. Flying from the entrance-way to Music City's RCA Victor Studios was a flag display permanently erected to coincide with their arrival. On hand to assist in erecting the display were Sam Fleming, Tennessee's civilian aide to Secretary of Army and president of Nashville's Third National Bank, Chet Atkins, Nashville manager of RCA Victor Records, and Jay Harville Tennessee American Legion commander. Gov. Frank Clement (absent) also assisted in arrangements.

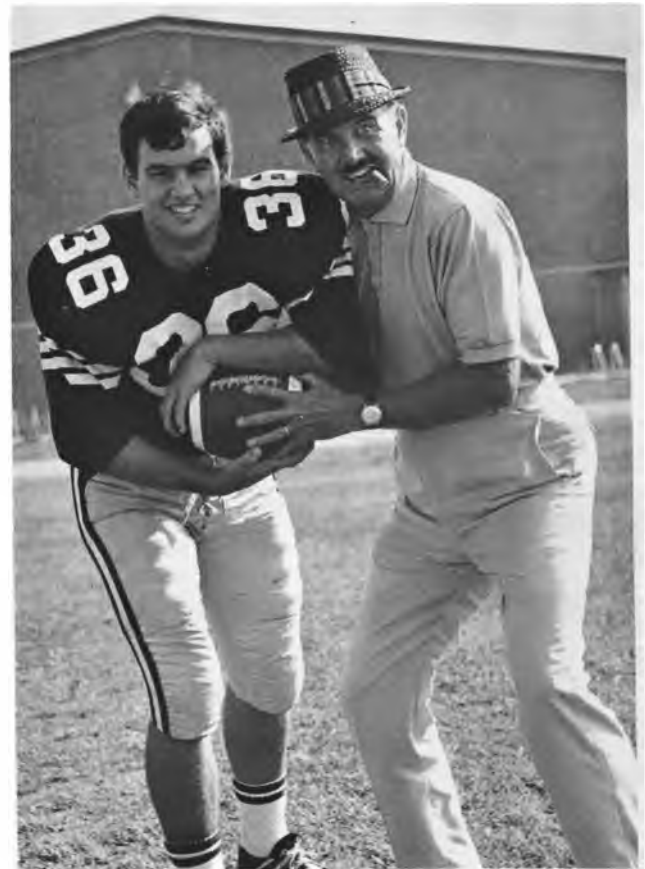
* * * * *

Where does Southern California end . . . and Northern California begin? . . . this was the question asked by KGBS morning personality, Joe Nixon. As it turned out, listeners didn't know either. So Mr. Nixon, along with KGBS news personality Frank Evans, plan to rent buses and take KGBS listeners in search of the border. When asked just how they plan to determine where it is, Joe Nixon commented that on the front of each bus will be pictures of Mayor Yorty and when we reach the point where people point at the picture and say who's that - then we will know! The caravan will leave the KGBS studio Saturday November 19 and will head up highway 99. A stop is planned in Bakersfield at KUZZ Radio where the group will be met by Buck Owens, who will take them on a tour of his station. They will then head for Fresno, where the border is reported to be. During the trip, KGBS listeners will be entertained by local country music artists.

The biggest group of outstanding guest stars in Janboree history appeared October 1 at Jamboree Hall to play before a packed house. Included were Merle Haggard, Bonnie Owens, Tommy Collins, Dick Curless, Kay Adams, Sandy Mason, Jamboree regulars Doc Williams, Kenny Roberts, Charlie Moore, Bill Napier, Leon Ashley, Margie Singleton, Crazy Elmer, Betty Amos, Mary Lou Turner, George Adams, Skinny Clark and Lee Moore. Director Lee Sutton announced the addition of singing team Leon Ashley and Margie Singleton to the cast of Jamboree regulars. Margie is well known for her duets with George Jones and Faron Young. Leon and Margie's latest Ashley release, "How Can We Divide These Little Hearts," is currently showing on WWVA "Big Country" charts.

* * * * *

Wizard Records released this week a wax featuring a unique new Bluegrass sound from Stamping Grounds, Ky. The Centers Bros. and Fred Spencer, out with their first major release, "High On A Mountain" have created the authentic Bluegrass sound. This is from their new album, "Authentic Bluegrass From Stamping Grounds, Ky."



"At's . . . m'Boy"—Grand Ole Opry humorist Archie Campbell is just like all other proud poppas across the nation when Friday night rolls around and high school football fever catches hold. Above, he is shown giving pointers to his "object of affection"—son Phillip, a burley 190-lb. 14-year-old right halfback for Franklin, Tenn. Franklin Rebel high school football team.

NEWS NEWS NEWS

Billy Walker's latest single, "Bear With Me A Little Longer," reminds fans that the label could hardly afford to do otherwise. Since switching over to the Monument label from Columbia early this year, "The Travelin' Texan" has done nothing but issue forth country hit after hit. Odds are that Monument will "Bear With Him A Little Longer"—like maybe forever at the rate he's going!

* * * * *

Nobody, but NOBODY, in Country Music misses the DJ convention that takes over Music City each autumn, but this year the Duke of Paducah is having to say to the DJs, "I'll see you fellas next year," because his pending engagement in Indianapolis coincides with the dates of the gala, October 20-23.

* * * * *

"Charley Pride knows a lot about Country Music, but more than anything else, he knows how to SING Country Music," writes Jack Clement in the liner notes of the new RCA Victor album, "Country Charley Pride," and the listener has no trouble believing that statement. In addition to his earlier released "Snakes Crawl at Night," "Atlantic Coastal Line," and "Before I Met You," the package includes such choice country material as "Distant Drums," "Folsom Prison Blues," and "Busted."



Pictured here are "kings" Buck Owens and Ray Price with A.V. Bamford as they appeared October 9 at the San Antonio Municipal Auditorium. It was the second big K-BER presentation of the fall season. Next show in November will celebrate K-BER's 5th anniversary.



65-year-old Duke of Paducah's Country Music summer sojourn ended back home in Tennessee October 5 when the "frost was on the pumpkin." The riotous old relic, who is always "going back to the barn because his shoes are killing him," undertook a summer's activity that would have done in a lesser man. From July 1 to October 5 he logged over 28,000 miles enroute to personal appearances across the U.S. and into Canada. Here he soaks "dogs" that saw more action this year than most see in a lifetime.

* * * * *

George Main, popular Detroit artist, made a recent guest appearance on the WWVA Jamboree. He had the distinction of receiving numerous encores and will be in Nashville shortly to cut a major session.

* * * * *

More proof of the wide appeal and popularity of country music ... WWVA Jamboree fans were treated to an unexpected surprise at a recent Jamboree when Big Swinger Bob Finnegan spotted a familiar face in the audience—one of the nation's best known pro basketball figures, John Havelcek who hails from Bridgeport, Ohio. "Big John," all pro guard of the world champion Boston Celtics of the NBA and former Ohio State basketball great, was coaxed on stage where he had these remarks: "It's a great pleasure for me to be at the WWVA Jamboree. In Boston, when I'm not playing on Saturday night, I always listen to the Jamboree and this is the fourth time I have attended the show this summer."

NEWS NEWS NEWS

Benny Martin, whose name has long been associated with the "greats" of America's fiddlers, was recently signed as an exclusive writer for Tree Publishing Co. He has worked with many of the biggest acts in Country Music and has attained previous prominence as a writer by virtue of such songs as "I Love You Too Much," "If I Could Stay Away," and "Me and My Fiddle."

* * * * *

The perfect vocal blend of the Harden Trio, a song that boasts of being a smash Roger Miller hit of the past ... and you have the current Columbia release by the Hardens, "Husbands and Wives." Released in October, the record shows all indications of being a successful followup to "Tippy Toeing" and "Little Boy Walk Like A Man."

* * * * *

ABC-TV's "Hollywood Palace" salutes Country Music November 5, as The Stonemans will be featured on the show hosted by another C/W advocate, Dale Robertson. The group will perform "Cripple Creek," a selection from their latest album.

* * * * *

The reputation Jim Edward Brown has earned for himself as a single is being strengthened this week as he is also increasing his importance as a song writer. His current release, "The Last Laugh," was co-written by Brown and fellow Tree Publishing Writers and Curley Putnam.

* * * * *

"Gentleman Sol" Winegraff was approached by the elevator operator of a Nashville hotel for his autograph. Being in the limelight of wrestling circles, Winegraff was pleased but considered the incident routine until the elevator boy looked at the piece of paper and exclaimed, "Oh, excuse me! I thought you were Archie Campbell!"

* * * * *

Rumor has it that Little Jimmy Dickens is the size he is from eating animal crackers lately in addition to cold taters, and his latest Columbia release adds weight to the rumor. Following up his swingin' singles about the bird of paradise and starvin' kangaroos is a new Vic McAlpine tune, "Where the Buffalo Trud." "Lord Potato" retains his interest in nutrition, however, as the flip is "Butter Beans."

* * * * *

Johnny \$ Dollar and Johnny Paycheck made it "money" week in Toronto recently. By strange coincidence, they found themselves booked in competing clubs during the same week—Dollar in the Horseshoe Club and paycheck in the Edison. Enjoying the time to visit, the two had a chance to discuss plans for the "money night" show they'll be putting on November 19 for the AmVets in Newport News, Va. Whether admissions are paid by check or by cash, these two hot C&W artists should rack up big box office receipts for the AmVets.

* * * * *

Released this week—Bill Carlisle's "If It Were You Instead Of Me" by Hickory Records and penned by Kay Arnold.



Television's Jackie Gleason points with pride to Country Music Great Buck Owens on the set of Gleason's CBS-TV Show in Miami. Buck and The Buckaroos will appear on the Coast To Coast Show later this year.

* * * * *

Vernon Glen's portrait, designed and drawn by popular promo gal-artist, Miss Loretta Johnson, is on display at the Parthenon Art Gallery, during the special Country Music Art Show there. During the recent DJ Convention, Glen and Miss Johnson, toured the exhibit.

* * * * *

Any growing tree is bound to have at least one twig and Tree Publishing Co. is no exception. A new subsidiary publishing company of Tree has been jointly announced by Tree president Jack Stapp and executive vice president Buddy Killen, who add that the name of the new firm, in which they hold the same positions, will be TWIG Music, Inc.

* * * * *

Independent producer Jack Clement is certainly living up to his title and "producing" is just what he is doing. With over a half dozen records to his credit on the Top 100 charts right now, Clement cut a single session with Hank Williams, Jr. last week and is recording The Stonemans this week. The Stonemans' "Five Little Johnson Girls" is still enjoying significant airplay, so the challenge of a follow-up hit will be present in the studio this week.

NEWS NEWS NEWS



On November 13, 1966, at the Municipal Auditorium in San Antonio, Marty Robbins headlined a great Country Music Show commemorating K-ber's fifth year on the air. Shown above, beside Marty Robbins, is K-ber's owner-manager, A.V. "Bam" Bamford and K-Ber's "Honey Bear", Gloria Merren. The show also included Hank Snow, Carl Smith, Skeeter Davis, Jimmy Dickens, Willie Nelson and Warren Smith.

* * * * *

A legendary figure, Hank Williams Sr., was given new birth in the entertainment field today when it was disclosed that more than 150 unpublished and recorded lyrics, written during his lifetime had been uncovered. In a legal action filed today in United States District Court, Montgomery, Ala., by Audrey M. Williams, widow of the immortal entertainer and his talented son, Hank Jr., it was charged that Irene W. Smith, sister of Hank Sr., and Fred Rose Music Inc., widely known Nashville publishing house, had conspired to conceal the existence of the hitherto unpublished lyrics by the Country and Western Hall of Fame member and to sell them at an artificially low price. The amended complaint, filed by counsel for Mrs. Williams and Hank Jr., who has become a performer of prominence in his own right the past few years, charged that the Williams' works had a value of between \$500,000 and \$1,000,000 and that the Rose interests had acquired the same for \$25,000 without notice to Mrs. Williams or her son.

The pending suit, to be tried Nov. 25 in Montgom-

ery, could have an overwhelming effect on the field of Country and Western music if the publishing rights of Acuff-Rose Publishing Co., in regards to the Hank Williams Sr. catalogue, are terminated. Presently, Acuff-Rose is the world's largest Country Music publishing company. Included among the titles which would conceivably be stripped from Acuff-Rose in the event Mrs. Williams should prevail are such standards as "Your Cheating Heart", "Cold, Cold Heart" and "Jambalaya". Hank Williams Jr. and his mother charged in the pending suit that Irene W. Smith, aunt of the young star, had conspired to avoid giving him notice of the attempted sale to Rose, to sell the material for less than its value, and otherwise destroy his rights. The action is the apparent culmination of a lengthy dispute among Hank Williams' family and gave rise to the disclosure of the unpublished material almost 15 years after the immortal's death.

* * * * *



Marvin L. Hoerner, Public Relations Consultant and Vice President of Wizard Records, greets Cactus Jack, popular country music DJ of KEEN Radio, San Jose, California, as he arrived at the Noel Hotel, during the recent fan club convention. Jack was presented Wizard Records, "Mr. D.J." plaque for his outstanding contributions on behalf of Country Music Fan Clubs. Awarded during the annual fan club banquet, he was nominated by Mrs. Wilma Orr, president of the Rex Allen Fan Club. Jack flew in especially to receive the award, and left Nashville the following day, in order to fulfill his radio and television commitments. Other award winners included Vorla Dotson, Bob Gallion club president, Best editorial (Gallion accepted the award for her); Mary Ann Cooper, Del Reeves Club President, Fan Club President Of The Year and Wilma Orr for Nominating the DJ of the year. (Rex Allen accepted her award). A special plaque was presented to Trina, Director of the Convention, Awards were presented through Wizard's fan club publication, "Fan Club Report".

Nashville's Second Annual Music City Pro-Celebrity Golf Tournament



Lawrence Welk and Minnie Pearl

**By
Frank Harris**

Convention week in Nashville got started with a "bang" with the Second Annual Music City Pro-Celebrity Golf Tournament held at the Blue Grass Country Club. Under the capable direction and untiring efforts of Starday Records Don Pierce and the many men and women in the industry who donated their time and talents, the tournament was complete success! Successful financially for the Professional Golfers, the celebrities that played in it, and for the crowds that paid to see it. Everyone said it was "a great tournament".

A driving rain delayed the start for about an hour, but then the sun broke through, the sky cleared and beautiful weather held for the two day event.

The celebrities who were invited to attend the gala event not only contributed their time, but paid their own expenses from all over the country in their efforts to help make "Country Music Week" a rousing success. Among the many celebrities were Perry Como, Lawrence Welk, Porter Wagoner, Del Reeves,

1966'S CONVENTION WEEK GETS A BIG KICK OFF WITH A SUCCESSFUL TOURNAMENT



Perry Como Tees off for the first hole.

Senator Ross Bass, Eddy Arnold, Pee Wee King, Bob Luman, Glenn Campbell, Bobby Lord, Lucky Moeller, Mary Reeves, Minnie Pearl, Teddy Wilburn, Ott Devine, and many others.

The Professionals competing for over \$1500. were Mason Rudolph, Herbert Adams, Bib Hamilton, J.C. Goosie, John Pott, Ray Barnes, Marvin Jones, Lloyd Foree, Hubert Smith, Herchel Spears, Bob Renaud, Vic Ghezzi, Joe Campbell, Tommy Bolt, Leon Butler, Peck Leslie, Bert Weaver, Sam Hicks, Dutch Harrison, Ted Rhodes, Herman Keiser, Hillman Robbins, Chick Harbert, Gary Toulson, Bobby Nichols, Ed Furgol, Jim Riggins, Jerry Duff, Harold Eller, Byron Nelson, Harry Berrier, Frank Brahan, Jake Fondren, Luther Hickman and E. E. Johnson.

The team play for the two days was the team of Mason Rudolph, Perry Como, and Amon Evans with a 118. In second place with a team total of 121 was Herb Adams, Boyce Hawkins and Grady Martin.

For the Professionals, Mason Rudolph walked away with \$3000. first place money with a sizzling 137 followed by Hubert Smith 139, Joe Campbell and Bob Hamilton both with 140.

Everyone is looking forward to the 1967 Music City Pro-Celebrity Tournament including your Editor, who's only claim to fame in the tournament was the sinking of a 30 foot putt on the 18th green in front of a gallery of thousands! (What could I possibly have done for an encore?)



Lawrence Welk starts a putt on its way to the cup.



Archie Campbell whips into a big drive.



Eddy Arnold tees off for the 10th hole.



Dizzy Dean relaxes with charming company while waiting his turn on the first tee.



Professional Dutch Harrison poses with Don Pierce of Starday Records, who worked so hard to make the Tournament a success.

Nashville Convention

By RUTH CHARON



Del Reeves plays the CMA Golf tournament, the morn after his first Grand Ole Opry appearance, as a regular new member!!!



Tennessee Governor Frank Clement and Eddy Arnold at the CMA Pro-Celebrity Golf Tournament.



All admirers greet Buck Owens at Capitol Party. Buck, Juanita Kennedy (WLPR-Terrabonte, Ind.), Chaw Mank of Staunton, Ill., and D.J. Peanut Faircloth.

The 41st Birthday Celebration of the Grand Ole Opry is now over and would you believe, my feet still hurt. With the majority of events being held at the Municipal Auditorium, the area between there, the Andrew Jackson and the Opry House was a lengthy trek. From the D.J. Conventions' beginning years, with registration around 100, that number has now increased to over 4,000. This rise necessitated this year's move, of the main activities, to the Auditorium. A full coverage of this event would consume a full length novel; so I will just fill you in on the highlights.

Music personalities began arriving over a week before Convention schedule time, for business appointments and the 2 day CMA Pro-Celebrity Golf Tournament. Immediately after the golfers finished their 18 holes, they, the sponsors and press, proceeded to Don Pierce's Old Hickory Lake Ranch, for his yearly songfest and barbecue.

Tuesday nite, my husband Andy, Frank Harris and I attended the invitational Decca party at Owen Bradley's Barn, hosted by the Bradley family and Milton Rackmil. Boots Randolph and his combo headlined the entertainment, along with Decca artists; Lenny Dee, Bill Anderson and Conway Twitty. Mayor and Mrs. Beverly Briley enjoyed the evening with us all, as well as attending many other Convention activities. Their buffet, as usual, was lavish in arrangement and taste; with ham, corn beef, dips, deviled eggs and all the trimmings.

Wednesday was so crowded that we wore ourselves out before the Festival 'legally' started. That morning, Peggy Steelman, Jean Matthews, Betty Ashworth and myself (of the Music City Women's Association) donated our services to the Country Music Association-by decorating their registration booth. Rushing to the National Fan Club Convention headquarters in the Noel Hotel, to deliver stacks of CML, I found the lobby already packed with presidents, members and artists. Registration was over and new friends were greeting each other before the official business meeting. Bill Williams, WSM Public Relations, made a welcome appearance, to invite those attending to remain in Music City for the rest of the weeks' activities. I had been invited to the Alice and Neal Merritt 2 p.m. recording session at Columbia, so I left the meeting early to watch my friends cut their first release on Boone label, a & r'd by the owner Bobby Bobo. Cliffie Stone joined us, with some very favorable comments on our CML issues.

Then after a quick costume change, I took in the Fan Club Banquet, award presentations and show.

Trina of K - T Roundup is the originator of this affair and she presided. Among those receiving awards were: Mary Ann Cooper, Jean Osborne, Wilma Orr (accepted by her star Rex Allen), Cactus Jack, Virginia Prottis- and Buck Owens (accepted by wife Phyllis). Ernest Tubb was the guest of honor and his Texas Troubadours provided background music for the show.

Barbara Ann Crane and I hated to leave this evening of fun so early, but the Billboard Award ceremony had begun at 8, so we trekked to the War Memorial Bldg. to report on them. When we left, Wizard Records 'Buster Doss, Kay Arnold, and Marve Hoemer, were presenting their awards-later on we found out, this event carried on 'til 1 A.M., with Opry stars and other guest artists performing.

This trade-press award show was extremely colorful, with a flower bedecked stage and many ladies sporting exquisite formal gowns. Gary Galbraith was even there, movie filming certain segments, to be shown on the color network "Swingin' Country Show" - - - I enjoyed changing comments, sitting amongst Leona and Chet Atkins, Boots Randolph and Connie Smith. The winners included; Eddy Arnold, Loretta Lynn, Chet Atkins, Ray Pillow, Jeanie Seeley, the Wilburns and Minnie Pearl received the Man? of the Year plaque. Each nite, after these late affairs, those-trappings to the Andrew Jackson lobby, found it crammed with folks and laughter, 'til all hours of the morning. Ralph Emery and Tex Ritter were there interviewing personalities 'til 4 a.m., on WSM.

Thursday morning 8 a.m. arrivals found registration already going full swing. Even though well over a thousand had pre-registered, the line was busy all day. Mrs. Bob Cooper and other WSM employees were on hand constantly, to assure this operation's running smoothly. Artists and their helpers, including lovely girls in black net stocking tights, were at this Auditorium entrance, keeping the tables supplied with free publicity souvenirs. These items ranged from Ethel Delaney matchbooks (matches included), Johnny Paycheck shopping bags and Jim Reeves notebooks-to Skeeter Davis Skeeter swatters - These registrant members then attended the 10 a.m. CMA meeting, where news of the year's work was discussed and election of officers was held. The WENO-Starday shuttle bus made hourly trips to transport delegates to the new Country Music Hall of Fame Building and Record Row.

All that afternoon, SESAC and NASCAR held their reception, with NASCAR Vice President Bill France Jr., and top stock car drivers as hosts. Color movies of the big races were shown and several of their cars were on display. Adjoining this area was the ASCAP donut and coffee booth, where many a tired soul and body enjoyed an appreciated snack.

The Andrew Jackson-Fender Company showroom was blasting with music-from 1 to 6 every day, and was a favored spot of the musicians. Kenny Vernon and his band furnished continual music and song...

The BMI formal dinner Award party was invita-



RCA Breakfast—Jerry Reed sitting, Homer and Jethro at RCA.



Bill Phillips and Dolly Parten sing their "Put It Off 'Til Tomorrow" duet at the Decca Party.



At the National Fan Club Convention Dinner-Awards, Del Reeves, greets his Club President Mary Ann Cooper, on presenting her charm bracelet gift, as she received Wizard Records' award as No. 1, Fan Club President. . . . Noel Hotel.



Ian Cook (CKPT Radio-Petersboro, Ont., Canada D.J. and Martin Gilbert—Producer of Country Music Hall of Fame albums.



Bob Woodel (WLAG—La Grange, Ga.), Johnny May (Duel Records) and Winnie Samples (Loretta Lynn Fan Club), examine the Vox Guitar booth at Auditorium.



Decca's Harold Morrison, Bobby Wright and Frank Harris — Decca Party — Charlie Bradley, on extreme R.



D.J. Jody Rainwater, of Crew, Va., radio tapes Red Foley at Decca Party, songwriter, Arnold Hester in center.



At the Auditorium Grand Ole Opry Network booth; Chaw Mank., Opry network shows' salesman, Jack Jackson and WENO D.J. Paul Perry.



Carl Smith receives his Award from Don Law at the Columbia luncheon.



Rose Lee Maphis, Mrs. Semi Moseley and Semi, Joe Maphis, Fay Sloan, Don Davis, gather at Registration booth. The Moseleys own the Mosrite Co. Fay is a Madison C & W Costume maker.



Merle Haggard, Tex Ritter and Mike Hoyer, (of WHO-Des Moines, in the crowded lobby).



Molly Bee and Memphis singer Bobby Wood in the MGM Suite just after Molly subscribed to CML.



Audrey Williams give Ray Pillow his prize as most promising male artist at (Billboard) Trade Press--Awards.



Cliffie Stone, Bettie and Merle Travis at the Capitol Pizza Party. Merle wants all to know, Cliffie is the one who first got him on Capitol and was his first A & R man.

tional only and the following tunes were among those winning top honors: "ALMOST PERSUADED", "KANSAS CITY STAR", "GET YOUR LIE THE WAY YOU WANT IT", "BABY", "MAY THE BIRD OF PARADISE FLY UP YOUR NOSE", "YOU AIN'T WOMAN ENOUGH", "FLOWERS ON THE WALL", and "WAITIN IN YOUR WELFARE LINE".

The usual Friday nite color taping of the Grand Ole Opry, was held on Thursday, in order to tie in with the other events. . . this day was topped off with the Premier of the Nashville-filmed color movie — "NASHVILLE REBEL" at the Tennessee Theater Waylon Jennings made his debut in the lead role; Merle Travis and Minnie Pearl were on the long credits list of this dramatic movie. The showing was preceded by a champagne party in the lobby, for stars and other Convention goers.

Friday festivities began at an early 8 a.m. with the WSM Breakfast and Spectacular. All the Opry stars, who were in town played and sang to make this show a gala parade of stars. Immediately following this, was the Panel Discussion, for the radio and TV personnel, versing them on the F.C.C. regulations.

By Friday noon, registrants were still pouring in and we had all talked up an appetite. The Dot Records Luncheon and Show provided more supremely delicious food and top rate entertainment. I was able to stay long enough to see veteran pro Mac Wiseman and the Compton Brothers vocalize on some fine bluegrass and comedy, then rushed out to the CMA Booth to work, taking membership applications and work the files for those picking up CMA Banquet tickets. Our Music City Women's Association donated our time, in 2 hour shifts, to help in this worthy cause. Jean Stromatt is one of our girls, who I didn't include in the previous mention—plus Audrey Winters.

Many suites of hospitality were open, on the most part hosted by the various recording companies. We spent the next 2 hours in the MGM Records room, hosted by New York publicity executive, Sol Handwerker. Our visit was extremely pleasant, visiting and picture taking with: Rex Allen, Molly Bee and Lamar Morris. The Stonemans dropped in and gave us a copy of their new album; Patsy was along, she isn't working with the family act, but has her own group. Sandy Posey gabbed with us for awhile; the deejays were raving over her current single record popularity. . . Most all these events I attended with Juanita Kennedy and Patsy Montana.

Along around 5:30 we devoured pretzels and 'pop' at the Decca Reception and show. We rehashed events of the past year with old friends: Richie Johnson, Bobby Buttrum, Slim Jim Lengual, Buddy Starcher and Red Foley. . . Again the crowd was treated to top level entertainment by Loretta Lynn, Bill Phillips with Dolly Parton, Bill Anderson, the Wilburn Brothers, etc. Later on I thoroughly enjoyed every moment of the CMA Banquet extravaganza, which will be covered by our editor. After congratulating Eddy Arnold on his Hall of Fame bronze plaque, I over-



CML advertiser, Ben McCloud, opened his new Varsity Recording Studios, during Convention time. Left: Grand Ole Opry's Cousin Jody, shakes hands with Ben, as one of Bens' first artists to record. I visited Ben in this studio, and must say this carpeting, sound sections and acoustics trappings are the most colorful! and ingenious in design. Ben is an Electronics Engineer, with fresh unique sound techniques up his sleeve. With this growing! business, GOOD New sound studios are in dire! demand!!!



Buck Owens and the Buckaroos at the Capitol Show.



Decca buffet caterer, Ruth Charon, and Conway Twitty (Decca performing artist) for the Bradley-Rackmil private party.



Frank Harris and CMA Executive Director, Jo Walker at Decca Bradley Barn Party...



Hank Jr. examines closely a full page photo of his Daddy, as Audrey Williams and MGM's Sol Nandwenger look on.



Mac Wiseman and the Compton Bros. on the Dot Luncheon Show.

heard him tell my friend, Jean Chapel, he was cutting her song on his next single record—wonderful news for that girl.

Saturday morn began, again at the early 8 a. m. hour, with the RCA Victor breakfast and star-studded show. Mr. Chet Atkins introduced the program, extending a hearty welcome to all, while we finished our sausage, eggs and grits. The remainder of the M. C. duties were handled by the illustrious Homer and Jethro, who also honored us with one of their preceless humor, song and precision instrumentals. The more established RCA stars were in the audience, while the show was more or less put on by the newer comers to that label. Charlie Pride, Jerry Reed, Ed Bruce, John Hartford, Bud Logan with the Blue Boys, and others headlined the performing lineup—proving their abilities for a bright future. (also Liz Anderson). Blue pink and white spotlights were shone on the other, stars, present at the dining tables Skeeter Davis, Stu Phillips, Connie Smith, Bobby Bare, Carl Belew, the Browns, Don Bowman, Lorene Mann, Waylon Jennings, Norma Jean, Archie Campell and Hank Snow.

Even during all this, a racing car movie was being filmed at the Fairgrounds Speedway, titled "A TRACK OF THUNDER", produced by Ambassador Films, starring Tommy Kirk and Faith Domergue. Look for me, dining at the table, in the Rachel's Kitchen nite club scene, while the Bobby Dyson Four plays.

Noon found the Convention congregation gathered at the Opry House for a super show and lunch, hosted by Columbia Records. Their gift to all this year, was an album "MUSIC CITY U.S.A." FEATURING THE Columbia artists. Minus his co-host this time, Jimmy Dean (who has switched to RCA). Carl Smith emceed the long list of performing stars. Nudie the Tailor is always present; Carl wore his white Western suit jacket-covered with multi-colored, diamond shaped designs-studded with rhinestones. Don Law presented Carl with The Don Law Award, the first of its' kind to this country gentleman. Carl was speechless with tears! As she did last year, little teener Debbie Lorie Kaye, stopped the show; this miss from Canada emotes a soulful rendition, in a most adult presentation and voice. "Melody Ranch" TV star, Billy Mize was another hitster, who quieted the D.J. audience with his talents and Sleepy La Beef proved why his Col. records are beginning to sell with zest. Flatt and Scruggs, Little Jimmie Dickens and many others on this lables' stable, made a show for all to remember.

Even before this show ended, the Johnny Paycheck, poolside Capitol Park Inn Barbecue was highlighted by: John and Sam Teardrop being thrown in the pool.

By 5 p.m. the Capitol Records show and Pizza party was in full swing; Buck Owens and the Buckaroos were literally mobbed, after they left the show stage, and Buck was on hand for photos and autographs. Bonnir Owens and Mele Haggard performed

roos were literally mobbed, after they left the show stage, and Buck was on hand for photos and auto-



CMA Banquet dignitaries: l. to r. Wesley Rose, Owen Bradley, Chet Atkins, Fred Gretsch, Mayor Beverly Briley and Jimmy Webster (he travels regular, doing concerts to display Gretsch guitars).

graphs. Bonnie Owens and Merle Haggard performed their duets with talent to prove why this label has chosen them. Tex Justice, who celebrates 27 years as a D.J. introduced Sonny James, his old friend. Tex Ritter and Merle Travis were around to enjoy their labels' festivities.

From this event, we barely made it on time to the Grand Ole Opry—where most all the regulars performed at their best, as did Skeeter Davis, with CML writer, Paul Charon, as her drummer.

Petite new artist, Christy Lane, sang on the Ernest Tubb Record Shop Show, but we had already headed for the Pamper Music Dance, another, and almost final for the Convention, glitter-studded event. President, Hal Smith is to be commended on his colorful event—where all the greats seemed to attend, tho already exhausted from a FULL week! As a guest at the table of Dorothy Randolph, Billy Mize sat with us, extending many gracious thank you's for the coverage CML has given him. Billy Gray and Myrna Gaye (Tom Tall's sister), expressed regrets, that they didn't live here in Music City with all the uprising excitement in our business. We were treated in ultimate style, to some glamorous dancing, by THE Ray Price and his band. Bobby Lewis, Hank Cochran and Jeanie Seeley, rendered ballads providing a glorious atmosphere for the dancers. Colleen Sharp drew magnetic attention in her black sequin, rhinestone edged slack suit (she is a new artist on the Boone label).

Sunday morning, the FINAL D.J. Convention regular Columbia Records Coffee Clatch was hosted by Frank Jones and Don Law, at the Hermitage Hotel. As usual, very few had the energy to attend, but these gentlemen hosts were on hand to bid fond adieu to delegates of the most glamorous Convention ever to grace the area of Nashville, Tennessee ! ! ! ! ! Freddie Hart and other dignitaries remained, to perform recording and other business duties, as the many thousands returned home, with memories to treasure for a lifetime. . . ! ! !

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zation of the amount of planning and hard work that had gone into this effort to make the Country Music Hall of Fame a tremendous reality. Be sure to put this on your "must see" list the next time you visit Nashville. Hats off to the C.M.A. for a tremendous job well done!

"THE COUNTRY MUSIC STORY"

A new book has been published with the above title by the Bobbs-Merrill Company, Inc. and written by Robert Shelton and Burt Goldblatt. A "picture history of the Country and Western Music" consists of 256 pages hard-bound. Here is a fascinating story of Country Music. The history, its origins, its varieties, its stars and its innovations. It is complimented by hundreds of photographs... an absolute "must" for any person interested in Country Music.

NORTHWEST NOTES

Continued from page 8

ances. Jack is mainly responsible for bringing the artists to this region on tours; he is a singer and guitarist, and has the popular "Evergreen Jubilee" on KOMO-TV, in Seattle on Saturday nights, which features his band, the Evergreen Drifters. George is a disk jockey at KAYO, Seattle. He also is a singer, plays a fine piano, emcees, and on occasion produces C&W records in Nashville for the Dot label, including recent Bonnie Guitar hits. As you can see, Chubby, Jack and George are very versatile people. Jack Roberts and George Richey attended the convention festivities in Music City during the latter part of October. There are other C/M performers around the Northwest deserving of mention, who we will get to in future columns.

The "Road To Nashville" Movie, with Marty Robbins, Richard Arlen, Doodles Weaver, Connie Smith, and so many others including COUNTRY MUSIC LIFE's own Ruth Charon, played it's first-run engagement in the Seattle-Tacoma area a few weeks ago, entirely at drive-in theaters. Due to bad weather, with rain, wind, and cold, attendance was held down at these outdoor locations. This excellent film should have been booked into some of the first-run indoor cinemas in the downtown localities to gain better results.

In closing for this month, I want to wish each and every one of you -- the readers of CML -- the most Merry Christmas, and I hope your 1967 is your happiest and best year yet! If you can, plan to celebrate New Years Eve at a ballroom or club which features Country Music. You'll be glad that you did!

Continued from page 8

strong desire to want to entertain people, if he hadn't wanted me to do this he would have taken it away from me. The next day while prowling through the glove compartment of an old car, I found a check for over \$100.00 that had been there for months forgotten about from a publishing company for songs I had written years before. Then I remember the people that would say "Clyde, you would be a great salesman, or a whiz in business, why don't you give up singing and get into something you can make some money at?" Then there would be a letter from some fan who would say I have followed your career from the time you began, please don't ever quit, and the time an old man came up and thanked me for my picture and said, 'I am so proud of this, I will hang it on my wall and keep it as long as I live'. That's the times I said I will never quit as long as I live. Then I remember the few times being on the Grand Ole Opry as guest, and then the long intervals when there were no guest spots, and I would walk back stage at the Opry and see all my friends working that night. They would ask me if I was on that night and I would have to say no, there was n't an opening this week, and have that empty feeling inside my stomach that says your not good enough.

This is some of the things you feel and go through when you decide to be a country music artist. It is a long way from the story book stories that you read. But there is one thing for sure, if you have to be a country music artist and can't rest or live without it, then you can make it. It takes that hard work and faith, faith, faith, but if you have that deep desire you will have to find a way to let that desire out. It is all worth it and you will forget it all when you walk out on the stage and sing your heart out and you hear the applause that says we love you. Then autograph time comes and people crowd around and say please write something special on there so I will have it to show my friends. That's when it's worth it all. When the world says we like you.

CANADIAN NOTES

Continued from page 8

The Horseshoe Tavern in Toronto has the following country artists booked for the next few weeks: October 31 through November 5, The Osbourne Brothers; November 7 through November 13, Justin Tubb; November 19, Carl and Pearl Butler; November 21 through November 26, Jean Shepard; November 28 through December 3, Doc Williams; December 5 through December 10, Billy Walker; December 12 through December 17, Red Sovine; December 26 through Dec. 31 and starring in the New Years Eve Show is Mac Wiseman.

I'd like to take this opportunity to wish everyone associated with Country and Western music a very happy and blessed holiday season!

Favorite Male Artist



BUCK OWENS

19

AWA

Most Promising Male Artist



WAYLON JENNINGS

Favorite Band



BUCK OWENS AND HIS BUCKAROOS

Favorite Singing Group



WILBURN BROTHERS



Favorite Single Record

WAITIN' IN YOUR WELFARE LINE



All-Time Favorite Single

YOUR CHEATIN' HEART



Favorite Album

ROLL OUT THE RED CARPET



All-Time Favorite Album

BEST OF JIM REEVES

66 RDS

Favorite Female Artist



CONNIE SMITH

Most Promising Singing Group



THE HARDIN TRIO

*Most Promising
Female Artist*



JEANIE SEALLY

As Polled By



Favorite Instrumentalist



CHET ATKINS

FOUR NEW MEMBERS

ELECTED TO

COUNTRY MUSIC

HALL OF FAME



One of the biggest highlights of the Country Music Festival drew the attention of the entire music industry when the Country Music Association presented four new members elected to the Hall of Fame. This marks the first time four new members have been elected in one year. During the past six years, the the Hall of Fame committee has elected one member each year. The increased number of Hall of Fame coincides with the completion of the new Country Music Hall of Fame and Museum Building on 16th Avenue South in Nashville.

The four new members who were elected to the coveted Hall include Uncle Dave Macon, Jim Denny, George D. Hay and Eddy Arnold. They will join the existing six members already honored (Jimmy Rodgers, Fred Rose, Hank Williams, Tex Ritter, Ernest Tubb and Roy Acuff) as recipients of this highest honor in the Country Music field.

The presentation highlighted a full evening of bers was announced jointly by Bill Denny, and Hal Cook, President and Chairman of the Board respec-

tively of the Country Music Association. Eddy Arnold who was in the audience, drew a standing ovation as he came to the stage to accept the coveted honor.

The presentation highlighted a full evening of entertainment by the Country Music Association. "The Heartaches", Dottie West's popular band, entertained during the Cocktail hour, with a star studded show featuring Faron Young; Lester Flatt & Earl Scruggs; The Jordanaires; Marion Worth; Sheb Wooley; Gil, Lewis & Dottie (the former Kerr's); and music under the direction of Bill Pursell; following a seated dinner.

Literally hundreds of Country Music's biggest stars and executives were on hand for the annual banquet with over 1000 people in attendance. CMA officials reported that over 500 requests for tickets could not be handled due to seating limitations. The banquet, which is one of the highlights of the convention each year, draws visitors from all over the United States and Canada.

Eddy Arnold



Jim Denny



**"Uncle Dave"
Harrison**



George Hay



EDDY ARNOLD

Like many others, this Hall of Fame Entry, Eddy Arnold, came up the hard way. His initial years were spent on a farm near Henderson, Tennessee, where he picked cotton, husked corn and spent hours at the plow. In the evenings he would play and sing wherever he could--at country dances and "candy-pullin's". At the age of nine he could play a harmonica and he had already started to teach himself guitar. At 18, Eddy decided on music as a career; and in 1940 he went on tour with Pee Wee King. The following year he had his first radio program in Nashville. A couple of years later RCA Victor signed him and his first record was released in 1945.

In addition to receiving Billboard's special survey award twice, Eddy has been nominated for NARAS awards in six categories. His total record sales are well over the remarkable total of 40,000,000 and the majority of his singles have sold a minimum of 200,000. At least half a dozen have gone over a million. As of 1966, 28 Arnold albums are in the RCA Victor catalog.

Steve Sholes, who probably knows Eddy as well as anyone, says: "He just naturally sings right. It's an unusual quality. Caruso had it, and so has Bing Crosby, but they're the only ones I can think of besides Eddy".

Now at the peak of a long career, Eddy is reaching new horizons. His trips to England have established him as a major star abroad.

We may mention, however, that in addition to his natural gifts, Eddy's success is due to hard work and dedication to his art. Nobody applies himself to rehearsals as much as the simple, unaffected man who in 1964 was honored by Governor Clement's proclamation of February as Eddy Arnold Month.

HIS INSCRIPTION IN THE HALL OF FAME READS:

COUNTRY MUSIC
HALL OF FAME
ELECTED 1966
EDDY ARNOLD

MAY 15, 1918

BORN NEAR HENDERSON, TENNESSEE, EDDY ARNOLD FIRST GAINED WIDESPREAD RECOGNITION IN 1946. AFTER A HUMBLE BEGINNING, HE ROSE TO GREAT HEIGHTS AS A PERFORMER AND AS A RECORDING ARTIST, SELLING MILLIONS OF RECORDS. HE HAS BEEN A POWERFUL INFLUENCE IN SETTING MUSICAL TASTES. HIS SINGING, WARM PERSONALITY, AND INFECTIOUS LAUGH HAVE ENDEARED EDDY TO FRIENDS AND FANS EVERYWHERE.

JIM DENNY

James Rae Denny, who passed away at the age of 52 was born in Buffalo Valley near Cookeville, Tennessee and came to Nashville when he was 11 years old. He owned exactly 40 cents and he eked out a living by selling newspapers and delivering telegrams. National Life and Accident Insurance Company, owner of WSM, recognized his energy and competence and gave him a job as a "helper" at the "Opry". Jim meanwhile took courses at night school and moved up in the National Life organization and in the "Opry". The latter was his chief love and in 1951 he became talent director and manager of the "Opry". Increasingly, Jim was attracted to the publishing and talent agency field. He set up Cedarwood in 1954 and shortly thereafter left WSM to take care of his two giant enterprises, Cedarwood and the Jim Denny Artists Bureau. Ultimately, he entered the broadcasting field too. In 1955 he was voted Country and Western Man of the Year by Billboard.

When Jim died, W. E. (Lucky) Moeller, a partner in the artists bureau and longtime friend stated: "No one will ever know just how much this great man has done for Country Music. All of us . . . have lost a loyal and trusted friend. He is gone, but his mark will remain among those of us who were fortunate enough to have known him and to have worked with him".

Jim's Hall of Fame plaque reads:

COUNTRY MUSIC
HALL OF FAME
ELECTED 1966
JAMES R. DENNY

FEBRUARY 28, 1911 AUGUST 27, 1963

JIM DENNY WAS A VITAL PERSON BEHIND THE SCENE IN COUNTRY MUSIC FOR MANY YEARS. BEING A LEADER IN THE PUBLISHING, MANAGEMENT, AND BROADCASTING FIELDS, HE SERVED TO PROMOTE, PROTECT, AND ENCOURAGE SOME OF THE MOST IMPORTANT ARTISTS IN THE INDUSTRY. HIS CONTRIBUTION TO COUNTRY MUSIC IS WIDELY RECOGNIZED, AND HIS UNTIMELY DEATH WAS A TRAGIC LOSS TO ALL.

"UNCLE DAVE" HARRISON

"Uncle Dave" (David Harrison) Macon was born in Warren County, Tennessee on October 7, 1870, and died in 1952 after a short illness. His colorful career included farming, freight hauling, and many years of Vaudeville before joining WSM Radio's Grand Ole Opry.

Dave learned his trade as a banjo picker and comedy singer as a lad in Nashville. His parents

operated a theatrical boarding house when Nashville was an important theatrical center. The leading stars of the American theater, drama and vaudeville, were guests at the Macon Hotel. The boy Dave was born a showman and developed his talents steadily.

Uncle Dave joined WSM's Grand Ole Opry in 1926 (at the age of 56) and ushered in a new era, as the first vocalist on the Opry. The name of Uncle Dave is immortal in the annals of Country Music. For 26 years "The King of the Hillbillies" picked his five-string banjo and sang folk-songs of the Old South, on the Opry. Uncle Dave earned his title "King of the Hillbillies" as a result of forty years experience as a mountain minstrel. With his plug hat, gold teeth, gates-a-jar color, three banjos and million dollar smile, Uncle Dave, even in his sixties, was the oldest young man in radio.

Asked to sketch briefly his professional career and any highlights that would be of interest, here's what Uncle Dave once said: "Banjoist and songster, liking religion and meetings, farming and thanking God for all his bountiful gifts in this beautiful world he has bestowed upon us".

GEORGE HAY

The time was 8:00 P.M. The date was November 28, 1925. The place was WSM's Studio "A", on the fifth floor of the National Life and Accident Insurance Company in downtown Nashville. The performer was Uncle Jimmy Thompson, and the announcer was George Dewey Hay, who introduced himself as "The Solemn Old Judge". All of this combined to form the beginning of what is today "The Grand Ole Opry", celebrating its 41st year of continuous Saturday night broadcasts.

Within a few weeks the cast of the show initially called the "WSM Barn Dance" had swelled to 25. The "Judge" was later to rename the program, in January of 1926, the "Grand Ole Opry", a title that has belonged to WSM since that time.

Chance was involved in a trip George Hay had made as a young reporter on the Memphis Commercial Appeal in search of a story in Nashville, which did not develop. Instead, he was feted by a rural family which took him to his first barn dance. He realized at once the appeal of country music. George Hay made the transition from newspaper to radio work in Chicago where he was adjudged America's number one radio announcer, and subsequently was hired by the new Nashville station WSM, to handle the programming. In those days of limited staff personnel, the program manager was not adverse to guiding visitors through the studios. During one such tour the Judge met Uncle Jimmy Thompson in a hallway outside the studio and the conversation quickly led to country music, and to Jimmy Thompson's abilities. The meeting took place on a Thursday, and on Saturday night, the show that was to become the Grand Ole Opry was on-the-air. Hay was later to

state in a book he wrote: "Because the Grand Ole Opry is a simple program, it started in a very simple program, it started in a very simple way." The response to the first broadcast was indicative of what was to follow. There were telegrams, there were letters and eventually there were visitors.

To this day the down to earth approach of the Opry remains unchanged, and remains a show without gimmicks. It is virtually unproduced, literally unrehearsed, spontaneously combustible. There remains a rapport between audience and entertainer unlike anything else in the world. The Opry creates an electrifying atmosphere which charges the assembled throng, and the rafters ring.

Hay remained on the Opry for many years and his familiar boat whistle signaled the beginning of another Grand Old Opry broadcast to hundreds of thousands of listeners each Saturday night. Judge Hay is now living in retirement near Norfolk, Virginia.

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NASHVILLE NOTES

Continued from page 11

Rex Allen and wife Bonnie, were a handsome couple at the Convention; warmly thanking us for the stories. . . Shot Jackson imported Curley Chalker from Vegas for his annual SHO-BUD jam sessions. Hal Rugg was back up steel man, Jimmy Day-bass, and Jack Green manned the drums. I heard more compliments on Jack's "There Goes My Everything", than any other record.

The ladies from Premier Entertainment Service of Milwaukee, subscribed to CML, and marvelled at the many activities, to numerous to visit all in one week. Skeeter Davis, Paul Charon and Ronnie Light cut another syndicated Grand Ole Opry TV Show, this week; look for Dave Dudley, who guested on this for the first time. . . mail your news to me at 710 Blackstone, Madison, Tennessee 37115.

SOUTHEAST NOTES

Continued from page 11

The Country (Bringing Mary Home) Gentlemen have just returned from a week in Canada and are eagerly looking around for a bus to use for road trips. "Gentlemen" John Duffy has a two-fold reputation in our town. Besides his talent as a musician, John is also one of the best guitar and other string-instrument repairmen in the area.

Washington, D.C. television has become even more Country Music oriented. Start off on weekday mornings at 9:30 with "Country Caravan" via Channel 5; at 11:00 AM Channel 4, carries daily the country-flavored "Pat Boone Show"; and, the afternoon starts off with "Swingin' Country" at 12:30 via Channel 4. For your evening viewing pleasure, Tuesday night at 7:00 be sure to tune to Channel 7, for the Mid-Western Hayride. Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday nights, those with UHF sets, or converters on older sets, can see "Country Music Time" at 8:30 via Channel 14. On Saturday nights, Channel 7 at 7:00 has the Porter Wagoner Show and UHF Channel 20 has the Ernest Tubb Show at 10:00.

For warmer weather, there is a big surprise in store for Washingtonians. . . a new country music park to be opened next season within twelve miles of the City itself. It will be accessible by a very good four-lane highway and special things of interest for children will be included. The park will feature top-name Nashville personalities. A similar surprise is in store for Baltimoreans.

ON THE GO

Continued from page 12

Gospel package. The Chuck Wagon Gang joined Kay, Sleepy LaBeef and Buck Cody, on this tour.

Vernon Glen flew into Quincy, Ill., to do his first appearance, as a regular on the top rated, "Possum Holler Opry" telecast. Hereafter, he will tape his segments, in order to continue his personal appearance schedule.

Ed Bruce, popular NEW RCA Victor singing sensation out with his first all country session. "Walker's Woods", a fast paced Kay Arnold tune, was chosen as his debut release.

Will close this month's column, with these words written by A. Hunt. . . "Music is the medicine of the breaking heart". Adios.

MIDWEST NOTES

Continued from page 10

DJ of the Year means the most. Mike admitted, over 50,000 watts of WHO Des Moines, that people connected with fan clubs are the most critical above all his listeners - he sometimes has arguments with them - he says they've proved he must be doing something right by voting for him, almost unanimously in K-T's annual poll.

Mike's 'front man' for his band The Nightlighters, JACK SELOVER is a very personable young man who is venturing out into the recording field in a big way these days. His "How's My Ex Treating You" is receiving much deejay attention. Jack mentioned his record to some people he met recently, one of which was named "Lewis". When Jack asked the young lady if she had heard of "How's My Ex Treating You" she replied "I should have, my brother recorded it first". (It was a hit for Jerry Lee Lewis a few years back). Jack tells us the prospects are very good for a television show for the group this fall.

A few months ago, I gave the address for Delmar Williams in this column and told you of his critical illness. The address, which I got from a leading trade paper, did not work though. I do wish there were some way we could get those cards to Delmar, as it would have helped so much. My apologies to all who had mail returned. The hospital in Dayton said they received them from almost every state and had to send them all back. Talking with a friend of Delmar's a couple of weeks ago, I learned that he has had several more heart attacks since this and isn't doing well at all. I hope that someone shows him this magazine so he will know we were all thinking about him anyway. Get well real soon, Delmar, you are just too young and enthusiastic to be ill!

Had the pleasure of meeting our smiling editor, Mr. Frank Harris, three whole days before the DJ convention, in Nashville's Wizard Records office. If Frank's infectious smile had some way to come out through these pages, we would all be smiling back right now! Also enjoyed short visits with Ruth Charon, Marvin Hoemer, Frankie Starr, Red and Bea Wilcox all of the "Country Music Life" staff. Our favorite magazine was so well received by everyone who was on hand, at the convention, to read a complementary copy - I heard several say they would be on the subscription list shortly. So welcome all!



FAN CLUB GUIDE

To have your fan club listed in COUNTRY MUSIC LIFE it must be officially registered through our Fan Club Editor. All correspondence in regard to fan clubs should be directed to Mrs. Blanche Trinajstic, 2730 Baltimore Avenue, Pueblo, Colorado 81003.

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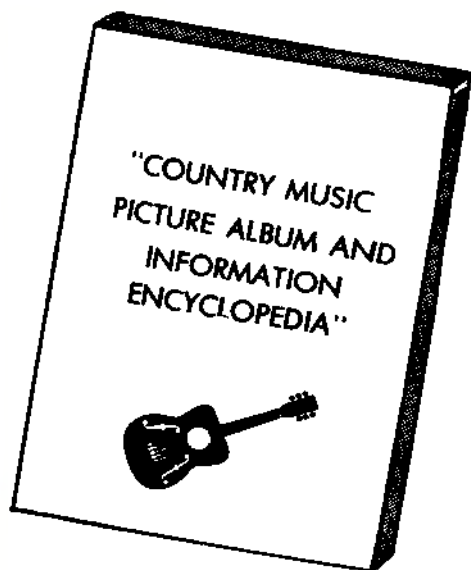
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Indianapolis, Ind.	3	Rockford, Ill.	23	BOBBI STAFF	
		Rockford, Ill.	24	La Grange, Ky.	22
ERNIE ASHWORTH		Janesville, Wis.	25		
Minneapolis, Minn.	5	Rockford, Ill.	28	DOLORES SMILEY	
Minneapolis, Minn.	6	Rockford, Ill.	30	Tuscaloosa, Ala.	10
Minneapolis, Minn.	7	Rockford, Ill.	31	La Grange, Ky.	22
Minneapolis, Minn.	8				
Minneapolis, Minn.	9	THE HOMESTEADERS		MERELE TRAVIS	
Minneapolis, Minn.	10	Cincinnati, Ohio	3	Los Angeles, Calif.	2
		Tuscaloosa, Ala.	10	Los Angeles, Calif.	3
CARL & PEARL BUTLER		La Grange, Ky.	22	Los Angeles, Calif.	4
Memphis, Tenn.	4			Los Angeles, Calif.	7
Jessup, Maryland	31	WAYLON JENNINGS		Los Angeles, Calif.	8
		Toronto - TV	6	Los Angeles, Calif.	9
ARCHIE CAMPBELL		Chicago, Ill.	9	Los Angeles, Calif.	10
La Grange, Ky.	22	Chicago, Ill.	10	Los Angeles, Calif.	11
Bainbridge, Ohio	31	Minneapolis, Minn.	12		
		Minneapolis, Minn.	13	JUSTIN TUBB	
CATES SISTERS		Minneapolis, Minn.	14	Opry	24
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Salina, Kansas	28	Minneapolis, Minn.	16	Salina, Kans.	28
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Sioux City, Iowa	30			Sioux City, Iowa	30
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		London, Ont., Canada	1		
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Muncie, Ind.	1	SLEEPY LaBEEF		Muncie, Ind.	1
Fort Wayne, Ind.	2	Muncie, Ind.	1	Fort Wayne, Ind.	2
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Rockford, Ill.	7	E. Patterson, N.J.	10	La Grange, Ky.	22
Rockford, Ill.	9	Toronto, Ontario	12	Topeka, Kansas	27
Rockford, Ill.	10	Toronto, Ontario	13	Salina, Kansas	28
Janesville, Wis.	11	Toronto, Ontario	14	Wichita, Kansas	29
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