

MARCH - APRIL 1967

# COUNTRY MUSIC LIFE

60¢

- Minnie Pearl
- Ernest Ashworth
- Bobby Lewis
- Johnny Dollar





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MARCH - APRIL 1967

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Minnie Pearl says "howdee" from the bustling metropolis of Grinders Switch! See story on page 24.

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## TO OUR SUBSCRIBERS

To get your magazine to you earlier, Country Music Life is making a complete change in production schedules. In order to make this possible we have had to double up and make this issue the March-April issue. This will not effect your subscription in any way! You will still receive 12 issues or all of your subscriptions of Country Music Life!

Your next issue will be the May issue and will be mailed earlier!

# LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Mr. Harris:

The Letter of Howdy Smith of Anchorage, Alaska prompts me to write and ask this question. Why is it that Places like Alaska enjoy "Country Music", while the rest of us take it for granted? I wonder if anybody could answer the question honestly.

Am in Area where the only time you hear about "Country Music" is when County Fair comes to town, rest of time you may never hear the word.

If anybody can answer the question, I wish they would let me know, because I haven't been able find the answer.

Yours truly,  
Janet Wadlow  
226 South Curtis  
Jerseyville, Illinois 62052

Dear Sir:

A few months ago I discovered CML, and since then I have subscribed. Being an avid Country Music Fan, I enjoy your magazine, and look forward to it each month. Although I think you should have a LP review, and a longer Hit Parade listings.

Enclosed is a small tribute to Johnny Horton, if you would see fit to publish some, I'd be indeed grateful.

Thanks anyways!

Sincerely  
Gerald Saunders

## IN MEMORY OF JOHNNY HORTON

*Though gone-he lingers in our memories,  
Though silenced-yet heard more still . . .  
'Cause his voice lives on forever;  
Perpetual as the everlasting hill.  
I salute a sound, a singer-his songs;  
Not a few years of right or wrongs!  
Let him without -- cast the first stone.  
In his ways of living he was not alone . . .  
To say he was good person??  
I do not really know . . .  
Suffice to say: he came he sang  
and we loved him so.  
Turn a knob -- a record spins  
And Johnny Horton lives anew!!  
A unique style, a trilling voice  
From Eternity breaks thru . . .  
"North to Alaska" down to "The Battle of New Orleans"  
"Johnny Reb" listens to "The Whispering Pines"  
it seems!*

A "Honky-Tonk Man" known as "Sleepy-eyed John" met "Johnny Freedom" and "Ole Slew-foot" at "The Battle of Bull Run"

"When It's Spring-time In Alaska" he'll ride "Comanche"

out to "The mansion You Stole"

And receive the "Words" from "Miss Marcy" about "The Same Old Tale The Crow Told -- --"

He's "Done Rovin'" now but it was "A Long Rocky Road" tis true

From "My Home In Shelby County" and "The Shadows On The Bayou"

But it was "All For The Love Of A Girl"?? ? ?  
And you know Johnny -- -- "I Can't Forget You"

Gerald Saunders  
Baie Verte, Nfld., Canada

Dear CML Editor and Staff:

Just a few lines to say how happy we are to have a really good country music magazine coming to our door every month. I used to wish that someone would come out with a sharp, classy magazine which would really do justice to the country music field and its artists, and finally, here it is . . . . hope you go on putting it out for many years to come! We would love to see a layout on Marvin Rainwater . . . . he is one of our favorite people, and we make it a point to see him whenever he appears in our area. Do you suppose you could do a feature on him within this coming year? Loretta Lynn is my favorite female artist . . . . she is such an attractive personality, and puts a certain magic into her songs which will take her far in her career as a country music singer and entertainer. Would love to see some material and pictures on her, too, in your fabulous magazine. Good luck!

Very Sincerely,  
Jean & Bill Wemer  
Slinger, Wisconsin 53086

*Both Marvin Rainwater and Loretta Lynn are scheduled for the coming year.* -Ed

Dear Mr. Editor:

I am very happy with my Country Life & I love all the stars but my favorites are Chit Atkins & George Morgan. Please put more of them in your Country Music. I listen to Skeets here in St. Louis & sure miss Jennie Jamison. Wish her back.

Keep up your wonderful Country Life it is great to read.

Mary G. Whitmire  
St. Louis, Missouri 63118



# ON THE GO



WITH  
**Marve  
Hoerner**

"With a song in my heart", goes the tune, but what about without a song for a recording session. Man, that's trouble. Songwriters are a mighty important part of this business. Miss Kay Arnold humming with tunes cut by Ed Bruce, Porter Wagoner, Bill Walker, Stan Hitchcock. . . just to name a few people. And what about Floyd Wilson, Rep. for Peer-Entertainment here. Man, the stuff he writes . . . and what's more, he places material . . . ALL material accepted by them. Whether you realize it or not, it isn't much of a problem to get something published BUT recorded is another thing and Floyd places with the leading names. New release, written by him, coming out by Carl Perkins, Roy Clark and dozens of others. Oh, to be a songwriter!

All the lovely (and they are too) secretaries' hearts were a flutter here on Music Row, when Hollywood actor, Robert Mitcham was here to cut a session for Monument. He thrilled one of his most loyal fans, Kay Arnold, when he cut her tune, "Walker's Woods." But to top it off, she was in Indiana doing personals when he was here. As she said, "I miss everything." Speaking of never being the same, Music Row will never get back to normal after the recent session by Roger Miller. "The Wild Child" was at his best. And what about that car, even equipped with a phone, which he frequently uses.

And, speaking of great sounds, Jack Hess and the Imperials, have a new sound that is "rocking" the Gospel Music field. Featuring piano, organ, drums and guitar, these boys have arrangements that make you feel like you've already reached heaven.

Had the pleasure of seeing The Singing Rambos off on their Viet Nam tour. These kids were so excited and only wish I had the chance to go with them/ Might get that chance one of these up-coming weeks. . . thanks to the USO not Uncle Sam.

While back in Illinois a short time ago, visiting the "home" folks, journeyed with Vernon Glen (and BIG things are developing for him . . . business and career wise) to tape the "Possum Holler" TV show. While down that direction, visited WXCL Radio in Peoria, Illinois. Held my breath as they played his latest Wizard release, "Adios Mi' Amor" and asked the listeners to vote yes or no. After the final tabulation, the results were 37 yes against 6 no's. All this action in just five minutes. Could relax some after it was all over. WXCL is the only 24 hour a day station in Illinois, playing C & W music.

*continued on page 13*

# Northeast

## Notes

By Doug LaValley

Well, it's been some time since I've submitted a report from the Northeast, so I've a lot of catching up to do.

First, let's mention the Ranch Bar in Albany, New York, where Harold Valentine features Nashville and Wheeling talent on the Ranch Bar Jamboree every Sunday - broadcast over WEEE radio.

On Jan. 28th and 29th the annual Cerebral Palsey Telethon was held at the new shopping Mall in Colonie, N.Y. Broadcast on WTEN - TV the program drew in excess of \$169,000.00 for Cerebral Palsey. Johnny Tillotson was the M.C. and sang many country songs. Also chipping in were Bob Denver (Gilligan) and Alan Hale Jr. (Skipper) from the TV Show "Gilligan's Island". Maury Wills of the Pittsburg Pirates showed up and "plucked" some tunes on the banjo.

Van Trevor, a new and promising star - Jean Marie and yours truly pitched in to do our share on behalf of country music.

From Albany, N.Y. I ventured to Boston, Mass. and covered the Ray Price Show, held at the John Hancock Hall. The show was well received by the large Boston crowd and MC'd by WHIL's Bob Ness. Ray sang many of his hits and the crowd thoroughly enjoyed every minute of it. You could hear a pin drop when Ray sang his new record "Danny Boy".

Talking to Billy Gray - the band leader of Ray's "Cherokee Cowboys" - I learned of the success of their tour of the Northeast. Billy cited Akron, Ohio especially. They played two shows to "tum away crowds."

Ray Price has one of the tightest groups on the road to-day. With Billy Gray as band leader, the "Cherokee Cowboys" consist of, Buddie Emmons, recognized by all other steel players as the "King" of steel players, Bob White, Zeke Dawson, Gene Gassaway and Buck Buchannon, fiddle players, Wes Potts on bass, Tommy Dee, drums, and Blondy Caldron vibes. Ray's road managers also travel with the show. They are Billy Barbour and Larry Trader. Noel Gaudet and Bella Lee, two local favorites were featured on the opening of the show backed by Gus and Obie.

This tour saw the gang cover Toronto - Smith Falls, Kitchener and Peterboro, Ontario; Syracuse, Rochester, Buffalo, Gloversville (Van Trevor was on this show) Glens Falls and Potsdam, N.Y. - Trenton and Jersey City, N.J. - Providence, R.I., Hartford, Ct. - Portland, Me. and Boston, Mass., Akron, Ohio Scranton, Pa. - York, Pa. and Richmond, Va.

Ray and the boys will invade Texas for 20 days

*continued on page 13*

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## TEN TOP TUNES

1



**WHERE DOES THE GOOD  
TIMES GO**  
Buck Owens

2



**DON'T COME HOME  
A DRINKIN'**  
Loretta Lynn

3



**I'M A LONESOME FUGITIVE.  
SOMEONE TOLD MY STORY**  
Merle Haggard

4



**HAPPY TRACKS**  
Kenny Price

5



**A LOSER'S CATHEDRAL**  
David Houston

6



**THERE GOES MY EVERYTHING**  
Jack Greene

7



**GREEN RIVER**  
Waylon Jennings

8



**JUST BETWEEN YOU AND ME**  
Charlie Price

9



**ONCE**  
Ferlin Husky

10



**I NEVER HAD THE ONE  
I WANTED**  
Claude Gray

# Top 10 Around The 'Country'

## NORTH

1. Don't Come Home A Drinkin' (Loretta Lynn)
2. Where Does The Good Times Go (Buck Owens)
3. A Loser's Cathedral (David Houston)
4. There Goes My Everything (Jack Greene)
5. Green River (Waylon Jennings)
6. I'm A Lonesome Fugitive/Someone Told My Story (Merle Haggard)
7. Happy Tracks (Kenny Price)
8. Just Between You And Me (Charlie Pride)
9. Hurt Her Once For Me (Wilburn Bros.)
10. Once (Ferlin Husky)

## WEST

1. The Fugitive (Merle Haggard)
2. Burning Bridges (Glen Campbell)
3. Birmingham (Tommy Collins)
4. There Goes My Everything (Jack Greene)
5. Where Does The Good Times Go (Buck Owens)
6. Get While The Gettin's Good (Bill Anderson)
7. Don't Come Home A Drinkin' (Loretta Lynn)
8. Mr. Shorty (Marty Robbins)
9. Unmitigated Gall (Faron Young)
10. Would You Believe A Lifetime (Donna Fargo)



## EAST

1. Where Does The Good Times Go (Buck Owens)
2. There Goes My Everything (Jack Greene)
3. Cold Hard Facts of Life (Porter Wagoner)
4. Don't Come Home A Drinkin (Loretta Lynn)
5. The Fugitive (Merle Haggard)
6. Just Between You And Me (Charlie Pride)
7. Loser's Cathedral (David Houston)
8. Hurt Her Once For Me (Wilburn Brothers)
9. Don't Let The Doorknob Hit You (Norma Jean)
10. I'm Just Not Smort (Kitty Wells)

## SOUTH

1. Don't Come Home A Drinkin (Loretta Lynn)
2. There Goes My Everything (Jack Greene)
3. Once (Ferlin Husky)
4. Hurt Her Once For Me (Wilburn Bros.)
5. Fugitive (Merle Haggard)
6. Where Does Good Times Go (Buck Owens)
7. Losers Cathedral (David Houston)
8. I Never Had The One (C. Gray)
9. Misty Blue (W. Burgess)
10. Bear With Me (B. Walker)

COUNTRY MUSIC LIFE'S 10 TOP TUNES AND TOP 10 AROUND THE "COUNTRY" ARE BASED UPON SURVEYS AS OF THE 10TH OF THE MONTH PRECEDING PUBLICATION.



# Westcoast

## NOTES



By Jim Harris

Southern California has a street unlike any other street in the country and more famous too. Located out on Wilshire Blvd. is the business district, automobile dealers selling everything from Cadillacs to Rolls Royces to Ferraris, and many, many night clubs and hotels. One of these hotels is about the most famous in the world.

The Beverly Hilton is a luxurious Hotel known for its class and clientele. It's also known for its entertainment lounges.

March 6th the Beverly Hilton plays host to the biggest event in country music in Southern California, and the climax to a successful year, which is getting more and more successful every year.

The 2nd Annual Country and Western Music Academy Awards, promises to be one of the biggest events in country music anywhere. With the men in tux's and women in formal gowns and decked out with all their jewelry, a good time by all is guaranteed. This will be my first experience with an event of this magnitude and to say that I'm looking forward to it is an understatement of the highest caliber. However, I have one tip for all the men planning to attend. If you want to play safe don't let yourself make the decision what your wife or girlfriend will wear. I ran into a little snag on this problem. My girlfriend kept bugging me to find out what the women will be wearing, so just to give myself a little peace of mind I called someone and asked. Well, she said "formals". So, I thinking I had the problem well in hand, forwarded the information only to find out theres several kind of formals. I just gave up- Women. You can't live with 'em and you can't live without 'em. It's a losin' fight.

Host MC of the awards show will be Lorne Greene, and some of the performing acts set to appear so far are: Tex Ritter, Sons of the Pioneers, Shet Wooley, Roy Rogers & Dale Evans, and Tex Williams. More to come, but I don't have the information.

Next issue I will do my best to report on the awards so don't miss it.

Just a little note before I sign off. Dick Haynes, morning voice on KFOX just named No. 1 Country Personality-Comic in Hollywood . . . . KGBS planning a show sometime in April but no details as yet . . . . Flatt & Scruggs just finished a very successful

*continued on page 13*

# Midwest

## NOTES



Mary Ann Cooper

The happiest gal in all the Midwest just has to be DOTTIE MOORE from Michigan! With the current number one song on Flint's C & W outlet, W.K.M.F. "THE HAND THAT ROCKS THE CRADLE" (Star-day), Dottie has just completed an extensive promotional tour including visits with WJJD, WHO, WSM, WLAC and a guest appearance on the WWVA Jamboree in Wheeling, West Virginia. To talk with this lovely, friendly lady, it would be hard to believe that just a few months ago, Dottie seriously considered giving up her promising career as an entertainer when she learned she would soon become blind. Dottie is now legally blind, but it isn't a handicap to the three important ingredients of success in an entertainer . . . looks, personality, and the ability to ENTERTAIN well!

LEROY VAN DYKE and TEX RITTER will long remember a show they hadn't planned on! On their way to Wisconsin for personal appearance dates during the BIG Midwestern snow and ice storms the latter part of January, the two, with their bands, were stopped in Gilman, Illinois. Not being allowed to take their cars any further that night, it was spent in a school with other stranded motorists. I say if you're gonna be stranded, what better company than this could one be stranded with - especially when they give out with an impromptu benefit show!

CHRIS LAND of WJJD sez he'll be mighty happy to see March 10th come - that's when he's going to Hawaii and taking a group of listeners with him! Just wait, Chris, we'll have GREAT weather while you're gone. (I'm only thinking of nasty things to say, because I'd like to go too, but can't!) I listened to 'JJD most of the time during the snowy week (that is, when we had electricity!) and just must congratulate them publicly for their FINE public service programming during this hectic time! A woman who was left stranded by the storm, and had no phone at home, had only to call WJJD to let her husband know she was alright . . . many such incidents were reported, bringing about the type of friendly service not expected for a 50,000 watter in a large city. Country Music can be soooo very proud to have this wonderful radio station with us - now going into its third year of featuring C & W Music.

Another terrific C & W radio station serving prac-

*continued on page 11*



## NOTES



By  
**Paul and Ruth Charon**

By next issue you will be hearing rambling - vagabond stories from us, since tomorrow, I jet to San Diego, Hollywood and San Francisco for one month and Paul goes to Miami, Florida - with Skeeter D. and Ronnie Light for a week. They are doing shows and spending several days on the beach. I am visiting my parents, daughter Marilyn, doing publicity for CML and Robert Patrick Movie Productions.

On flight eve, some new recording artists brought over a few copies for me to take. Co-incidentally, they are all my friends, but this doesn't make for a slanted opinion, since all their records are now taking off with a bang in Nashville - Jerry Green with "Tripod" (the three legged dog) on P.B.D. label, produced by the late Dana King. Tripod, the real live dog, was flown from Houston for Jerry's 2 week promotional work; he became very popular on Record Row and on Music City radio and TV stations. Very embarrassed were all on the Eddie Hill WLAC show, as they just had to laugh; Tripod started howling and singing, as David Reece sang his gospel song. Usually, the only song he 'sings' to is "Good-night Irene". Neal (Bird of Paradise) Merritt, with "Gentlemen Be Seated" on Boone; Tammy Wynette's "Apartment N. 9" on Epic and Don Chapel's "All Track Of Me" on Musicor. This first chart-seller of Tammy's has gained her a contract with Hubert Long Talent, with bookings coming in fast. Her new single, "Your Good Girl's Gonna Go Bad", comes highly recommended in its' writers, Billy Sherrill and Glen Sutton (of "Almost Persuaded" fame).

Then, as I reached the airport, Connie Smith was at my same ticket window trying to catch a last minute Astrojet to a Detroit booking. Lightnin' Chance was on my same flight, getting off in Memphis. Knowing how these stars rush in and out so often one wonders how they manage to keep the pace. Then arriving at the L.A. port, 3 hours later, I noticed the signs of the times. Several bearded folk singers, carrying guitars, accompanied by their long haired girlfriends, were boarding their planes for points north and south. Saturday found us at the San Diego Concourse, catching a fabulous show, with Roger Miller and Baja Marimba Band. Watch for pictures in

*continued on page 13*

## NOTES



By  
**Red Wilcox**

At the current rate, before the first of the cherry blossoms bloom in Washington, D.C., most of the park, fair, and carnival dates using country music in the area will all be booked until late fall. Jim Gemmill Productions, Inc., of Richmond reports that he has already signed contracts for fair dates for the Barbara Allen Show - - seventeen as of January 31st! Jim is also handling Wil-Helm Talent for parks and fairs for the 1967 season and reports fantastic success. Barbara Allen, after a recent appearance on the "Midwestern Hayride", will be headlining the annual South Carolina Electric Tour for five weeks working 33 towns in South Carolina beginning May 2.

The Jimmy Case show, recently back from Viet Nam and Puerto Rico, will be going back to Viet Nam in March - - for two months. Jimmy was state-side long enough to record for the WISE label (Mac Wiseman) - - LAST CALL FOR ALCOHOL/THANKS TO YOUR LOVE. "Last Call" was penned by Clyde Beavers. The pace of the shows in Viet Nam is very strenuous - - Jimmy lost fifteen pounds and came back almost dehydrated; sideman, Chuck Henderson is currently confined to the V.A. Hospital in Baltimore with T.B. Chuck will be hospitalized from six to eight months.

After a very successful show for the WCMS Radio Ranch, Norfolk, Virginia, The Compton Brothers were invited to stay over a day as WCMS DeeJays. Listener response was tremendous. The "zany", very funny, hilarious Compton Brothers read copy, pushed buttons, and announced records. The WCMS staff is still recuperating!

Sweet Evalena (Chenault) had a new record released and left immediately for the Arkansas Enterprises For the Blind in Little Rock. Lengthly treatment at the center will enable Evalena to adjust to her failing sight.

Luke Gordon, famous for hit records such as "DARK HOLLOW" will start recording again after an absence of several years. Luke has a tremendous following around Washington from the old Jimmy Dean T.V. show days. He will be managed by Otis Woody.

Country music people from around the Washington, D.C. area again showed their heart during a recent benefit show for former WXRA Disc Jockey Bobby

*continued on page 11*

## NOTES

By IRENE BEELER

History in song is Jeff Howards new release called "Riel, Riel, Riel" (or "The Ballad of Louis Riel"), and of course this is part of Saskatchewan's history. Jeff is now living in Saskatoon; and is backed on the record by "The Smoky Cabin Boys" who have their own T.V. show on CKOM T.V. in Saskatoon. The record is released on the Jubilee label in commemoration of Canada's Centennial Year 1967.

Still more Saskatchewan history in another song. The song is "The Ft. Qu'Appelle Song" by Jim Roberts, on the Quality label. The record was released in early February in conjunction with the annual Ft. Qu' Appelle Winter Festival; this year celebrating Canada's Centennial in Saskatchewan's legendary Qu'Appelle Valley. Jim Roberts is promotion director for CKCK Regina, and all proceeds from the sale of this record will go to the CKCK Save The Children Fund". The band backing Jim on the record is the CKCK Caravaners, by name; Johnny Clemchuck, Tex Emery, Ken Jefferson, and Don Meadows.

MCM Productions of Regina has announced the booking of a March tour through Western Canada. The show will headline Saskatchewan's "adapted" son, Dave Dudley, along with Bobby Bare, Jimmy Newman, Bill Grammar and George Hamilton IV. April 1-9 will see the tremendous Johnny Cash Show in Western Canada. The dates are April 1 - Winnipeg; April 2 Minot, North Dakota; April 3 - Regina; April 4 - Saskatoon; the other dates are set but were unavailable at the writing of this report.

Debbie Lori Kaye of Sault St. Marie, Ontario, has been signed for the "Tommy Hunter Show" for the remainder of the season in the female vocalist spot. Debbie is filling in for Pat Hervey who is looking forward to a second visit from Sir Stork in the spring. Debbie's new record is called "Playground".

Claude King spent much of last November in Ontario, appearing at the Edison Hotel for a week and also played London, Ontario, where he was introduced on stage by his fan club president, Hennie Beltman, 330 Duke Street West, Kitchener, Ontario.

The lineup for the Horseshoe Tavern in Toronto is; Tommy Collins, Jan. 30 - Feb. 4; Jimmy Newman, Feb. 6 - Feb. 11; Bill Carlisle, Feb. 13 - Feb.18; Bobby Bare, Feb. 20 - Feb. 25; Charlie Walker, Feb. 27 - March 4; Dottie West, March 6 - March 11; with a Special Country Music Spectacular March 13 - March 18 with the very popular Stoneman Family.

So happy to hear the Orval Prophet has a newly organized fan club. Orval is originally from Ottawa and has been singing for several years now. Anyone interested in joining the Club can write to Donna Mattison, R.D. 1, Saratoga Springs, New York, 12866. An excellent club for a great singer and performer.

## NOTES

By LARRY BRIEL

This month of March will be another BIG one for Country Music all around the Pacific Northwest, topped off by appearances of a "Spectacular" featuring George Jones and the Jones Boys, Lefty Frizzell, Mary Taylor, Roy Clark, and others. With the past successes of C/M stage shows in the area, this one will most likely attract capacity crowds in the cities it will play also.

Jimmy Wakely (singing as good as ever), was on tour in this part of the country recently, at various military bases and other locations. He had a seven-piece band with him, including his son Johnny, and daughter Linda; and Jimmy Smith on steel guitar. The new Jimmy Wakely single release on Dot Records pairs "Cowboy" with "Midnight Wind". Both sides are showing up on disk jockey listings over the Northwest region.

A favorite young lady with Western Washington C/M fans has her very first record out. Judy Fourcier, whose last name was Kuneman when she was a regular performer on Chubby Howard's "Western Jamboree" TV show in Tacoma, Wash., for nearly four years before she got married, waxed for the Spur label, out of Seattle. The songs are "Make A Happy Face," b/w "Pay The Piper". Judy is currently entertaining at clubs in Seattle.

Frank Cook, whose version of "Touch My Heart" was out on Spur, was in Seattle a few days ago making preparations for his next recording session. Frank and his band are appearing six nights a week at the Columbian Hotel in Wenatchee, Washington.

I'm happy to see the Jim Reeves "Yours Sincerely" Album on RCA Victor doing so well these last several weeks. It's along the lines of Hank Snow's "This is My Story" l.p., also on Victor, telling of "Gentleman Jim's" career and background, with some of the actual sounds, etc. I could listen to Jim's pleasing voice, whether singing or talking, for hour after hour, and I'm sure most of you CML readers feel the same.

In this column last month I mentioned the names of some of the people involved with helping Country Charlie Pride to stardom in the C/M field. I unintentionally left out the name of a person who is very important to Charlie - - his personal manager, Jack D. Johnson. Jack always believed in him, and knew he could make it in a BIG way, even when nobody else thought he had a chance. Now, Charlie Pride is one of the hottest new entertainers in the business!

I'm so grateful for all of the mail that I have been receiving, with most every writer saying how much they enjoy, and look forward to COUNTRY MUSIC LIFE each and every month. I only have space here to list the correspondence of the past few days,



including an interesting communication from artist-publisher Howard Vokes in New Kensington, Pa., a nice card from Mrs. Jim (Mary) Reeves, a welcome letter from Jackie Whittenberg, Oregon Rep. of the Johnny Cash Society, passing along word that Johnny will be in the Northwest this summer. (We will have more information in future columns.) I also got the new release by Kenny Seratt on Crossfire Records from Chaw Mank, Staunton, Illinois. The disk couples "Blinded By The Bright Lights," and "Memories of Jimmie Rodgers". Kenny has been appearing in Southern California and Nevada.

On the radio scene . . . Burt Light has shifted his C/M record spinning activities from KTW, Seattle, to KMO, Tacoma, Wash., where he now is heard five nights a week, and Saturday afternoons. Burt was telling me his night-time show is pulling in mail from as far away as Arkansas. What a signal! KTW was recently sold to Nor-Don, Inc. The new ownership is continuing a C/M format on the station. Don Lane left KRDR, Portland, Oregon, and he is presently at KTOH, in Lihue, Kauai, Hawaii. There have been new additions to the KRDR broadcast staff.

As for me, I'm still here hoping to hear from you. I can be reached at 1619 So. Mullen St., Tacoma, Wash. 98405, or c/o CML in California. So, send along a card or letter when you can. Until next time. . . . . KEEP IT COUNTRY!!!

## SOUTHEAST NOTES

*Continued from page 9*

Colloway. WXRA's Larry Jackson acted as EmCee of the huge success along with Dot Records' Johnny \$ Dollar. All of the advertisement of the benefit was carried on WXRA Radio. Some of the artists participating were: Johnny Hopkins, Floyd Collins, Ralph Case and his square dancers. The Oxon Hill Cloggers, Evalena Chenault, Chick Stripland - - and, of course, Johnny \$ Dollar.

Seen around our town - - Johnny \$ Dollar in his new cougar . . . Lil Darlin's Aubrey Mayhew in town for a day of business . . . Compton Brothers' bass man, Dave Murray, back from a visit with his in-laws in Music City and driving a new Barracuda . . . WAAT (Trenton, N.J.'s) Len Murray in Baltimore for a day of business and pleasure.

Roanoke promoter Carlton Haney reports a very full schedule of shows coming to many different areas. Carlton will be promoting three shows in Alabama in June. Washington promoter, Jim Clark also reports a very heavy schedule with shows scattered throughout Pennsylvania, New York, and New Jersey.

A bus-man's holiday? Barry Long, son of Shorty Long of Broadway fame for the comic lead in "A MOST HAPPY FELLA", spent a February vacation as drummer for the Compton Brothers on dates in Michigan, New York state, and Ontario, Canada. This was Barry's first road trip as a drummer with a

traveling group. A vacation on a bus, in Canada, in February!?!

Plans are now being formulated for the next North-east Country Music Incorporated Convention to be held in Wheeling, West Virginia. For further information and/or membership blanks, write to Eleanor M. Burdo, P. O. Box 151, Florence, Mass. Membership is not limited to the Northeast but offers advantages to all country music lovers everywhere.

## MIDWEST NOTES

*Continued from page 8*

tically the entire Midwest is W.S.L.R. in Akron, Ohio. It's a 24 hour a day operation and reaches many states at night. My ears have heard the "sounds of Akron" much lately and can truthfully say I know of no radio station with a finer choice of records to play - only the BEST, yet still not a complete "top 40" format, as you'll hear records by some of the newer artists you may never hear elsewhere. Quality counts! W.S.L.R. also publishes a "quality" paper monthly "THE WHISTLER HITLINER" - gaining wide acceptance and only two months old. From the "grapevine" (in other words, W.S.L.R.'s biggest fan, Ruth Huffman), we learn that RAY PRICE pulled in the largest crowd ever to attend a C & W show in Akron during his January 15th appearance there. You guessed it, the show was promoted by W.S.L.R.! One of the happy WSLR listeners is a young temporarily shut-in boy, Joey Henry. Joey received a transistor radio in the mail from his favorite singer, DEL REEVES.

GENE NORELL, a former side man with the DAVE DUDLEY group, now promoting shows and deejaying in Duluth, Minnesota (K.A.O.H.) has a new record release on the way, joining the legion of "singin' deejays" widely heard on phonograph record these days! Lotsa Luck Gene!

Cards and letters have happily won out again as has been the case several times with C & W T.V. shows in Central Illinois . . . . The sponsors of "CORNBELT COUNTRY STYLE" have only to tell their host, JOHNNY BARTON his show may be taken off TV - Johnny tells his RADIO audience, and hundreds of fan letters provide the necessary encouragement for a very entertaining half hour every Saturday afternoon. This program can be seen almost anywhere in Illinois as it is shown on several channels thru-out the area . . . recent guest was Indianapolis' BERNIE WALDON, as well as a former Miss America contestant who sells bread??!!

Eula Penrod informs us her book dedicated to her favorite star, MY IMPRESSION OF BILL ANDERSON, is now ready for distribution to fans of Bills. If interested (and it's only \$1.00) write Eula at:

722 W. Grand River, Howell, Michigan 48843.

ADVERTISE IN  
COUNTRY MUSIC LIFE



# So You Don't Want A Fan Club?

By Blanche Trinajstick

Any artist who enjoys any measure of success in the music business owes a debt of gratitude to his fans, for it is their support and loyalty which makes him successful. The fans buy records, they make up the audience at any country music show, and they frequently ask their local disc jockey to play your records. These are only a few ways in which the fans are instrumental in building a successful career for an artist. They also join fan clubs to promote their favorite artist.

An active fan club which has the artist's support and cooperation is the best way in which an artist can show his appreciation for his fans. Because it provides a contact between him and his fans that can be duplicated in NO other way.

I get letters regularly asking if some particular artist has a fan club. If so, the address is requested; if not, WHY? Too often I have to say, "Sorry, no". What reason can you give a fan that his/her favorite artist does not have a fan club??? That he doesn't want one?? This would be the same as saying he doesn't appreciate his fans! Yet in more than one case this is the only thing I can say - because it is the truth!

I can't help but wonder about an artist who doesn't WANT a fan club! I do realize that an unhappy experience with a fan club can make an artist cautious, but just because you find ONE rotten apple in a barrel, you don't throw the whole barrel away, now do you? And certainly it pays to be a little particular about the person you choose to head your fan club. But if you have - or have had - a fan club that was 'a nuisance' to you; that made too many demands on you; or that was just a waste of time, then you had the wrong person in charge of your fan club!

I don't believe that most artists realize that a fan club is not only an asset to their career, but it also expresses his gratitude to those fans for the support they give him. It is as much for the fans benefit as yours - almost! Because it can be a way for you to express your appreciation of them - as well as an opportunity for them to work in your behalf.

And if you have ANY doubt that a fan club does anything worthwhile for an artist, you are cordially invited to join us at the 4th Annual Fan Club Convention in 1967 and see for yourself just what the clubs are accomplishing!

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## WEST COAST NOTES

*Co. Continued from page 8*

fun at Doug Westons famed "Troubador" . . . . .  
KGBS long awaited TV show set to debut soon . . .  
Bill Thompson hosted "Country Music Portrait"  
shows very successful on KGBS Sunday nights.  
Some of the "Portraits" have been, Tex Williams,  
Glen Campbell, Cliffie Stone, Skeets McDonald,  
Bonnie Guitar, Johnny Bond, Billy Mize etc, etc . . .  
Buck Owens "Where Does the Good Times Go" on  
the way to becoming Buck's umpteenth No. 1 record.  
. . . . .

Until next month . . . . .

## ON THE GO

*Continued from page 5*

Short note from the lovely one, Janet McBride,  
informing that they are asking the DJ's to pick Jan  
and Vern Stoval's next releases from their smash  
Longhorn album, "Country Dozen." And Jan is tick-  
led pink with the outstanding DJ re-action to her  
yodel cut, "Jan's Yodel." Come on, Dewey, let's  
have that gal do a yodel tune the next time out.  
Speaking of lovely gals, Doc Whiting's pride and joy,  
Kitty Hawkins, has a release taking off. It's Capa's  
latest, "Forgetting You." DJ's are definately not  
forgetting it as spins and listings are everywhere.

Before I close, just a brief reminder. Get a COUN-  
TRY song in your heart and you'll keep country  
music the real "heart" music of America.

## NASHVILLE NOTES

*Continued from page 9*

the next issue. Our on-air interview at Country KSON  
Radio, found us re-hashing a long-time acquaintance  
with D.J. Buck Wayne, formerly of XERB, Roarito-  
Beach, Mexico.

Back to the Nashville news. January's end brought  
another unlikely celebrity movie star in to record at  
Fred Fosters' Monument Records, Robert Mitchum.  
At the same time Eddie (Green Acres) Albert was here  
getting atmosphere ideas for several CBS network  
Country TV'ers; the last trip here, he brought the  
house down, with his vocal renditions at the Opry . .  
Connie Smith's bandsman, Larry Fullon, informed us  
she has a contract to re-appear on the Lawrence  
Welk Show, every 2 months-sans her band, as the  
show already has enough; too bad for the boys! . .  
WLAC's Bob Jennings left Feb. 3rd for 3 weeks in  
Germany quoting that, it was a big thrill for a local  
country boy, entertaining on the Continent . . . New  
Challenge artist, Jean Chapel is still pinching her-  
self; her first release, "I'm Your Woman" climbs  
steadily on (pop) and Country charts, plus the song  
from her pen, "Lonely Again", is making fast paces  
by Eddy Arnold. Another of her terrific efforts was  
cut by the Dino Martin.

Pennsylvania's Howard Vokes, visited Music  
City, February 3rd, to record his label's artist, Betty

Bee (an up and comer, whom we met at the Conven-  
tion) Marve Hoerner and Buster Doss are working  
around the clock, in their RCA office, arranging a  
full schedule of bookings for their artists, Kay Ar-  
nold and Vernon Glen . . . Eddie Cummings has re-  
signed his post at the Nashville Jerry Pursell Agen-  
cy, to establish his own Eddie Cummings Productions  
. . . Boots Randolph's wife, Dolores, is having fun  
keeping her girlish figure by pitching hay to feed  
their 5 horses . . . Pauletta Leemen wants the D.J.s  
to know that her Sims record "Little Bit", was a  
scratchpressing and hopes her next one will be a  
better cut . . . Noted yodeler, Kenny Roberts, is  
booked solid the month of April, in the North-Mid-  
west and Canada; followed at the "Horseshoe" and  
"Country Palace", of Toronto and Montreal by  
another Reed Welty artist, Kathy Dee . . . The dates  
were co-ordinated by Moeller Talent of Nashville . . .  
Mike Ralph of KFRM, Salina, Kansas, reports; the  
Marty Robbins Show packed 'em to the rafters, and  
begged encores on his new tune "No Tears My  
Lady", from his new movie, "Hell On Wheels" . . .

Dallas Frazier will have a nice BMI Bank Account  
next year - as Pappy Dailey was in town, to record  
George Jones - This burhead is doing an entire  
longplay o Dallas's songs - called "George Jones  
Sings Dallas Frazier". I think both George & Neal  
Merritt's current singles will be smasharoos.

Just before my West Coast trip, a call from CMA  
reports their new building will be finished, come  
April. At time of call, Jo Walker & many other offi-  
cials were in the tropical San Juan Puerto Rico -  
for the winter's meeting, the purpose of this locale  
choice was to promote more C & W Music in those  
areas . . . Little Bobby Lewis is excited over his  
many TV show guest spots, as a result of his current  
1st hit.

See you all next month, with a full report of my  
month long West Coast trip.

## NORTHEAST NOTES

*Continued from page 5*

starting Feb. 14th to March 5th.

After the show at Boston, Ray, the band and yours  
truly paid a visit to a new C & W Club opening at  
400 Main St., Everett, Mass. The place is called  
the Beacon Club and was filled to overflowing.  
The entertainment was great and we want to wish  
all the luck in the world to the Beacon Club.

On the show were - Bob Riley, Bella Lee, Doug  
Terry, Ernie Aucoin and the "Nashville Sounds",  
undoubtedly the finest stars in this area. Future  
bookings at the Beacon include Claude King, March  
17 and David Houston soon after.

From Montreal, Quebec some sad news and some  
good news.

CFOX - one of the stations to "go country" and  
make a success had gone to a "hard rock" format.  
We were very sorry to hear this. I was at the Country  
Palace in Montreal the week of Jan. 18 to Jan. 23

*Continued on page 37*



# NEWS NEWS NEWS



"THIS ONE LOST, ARCH" — — — A clear case of the winner getting the loser, Chet Atkins presents Archie Campbell with RCA Victor's "Cockfight Trophy", as A & R man Bob Ferguson looks on. The trophy was in recognition of the "winning" results of Archie's current single on Victor, "The Cockfight".



These two young Hubert Long Talent Agency signees have things going for them these days. Blond Tammy Wynette (L), a transplanted Mississippian, is being acclaimed as one of the year's top femme finds, after the success of her Epic recording of "Apartment No. 9". Tammy is also a gifted writer. Hank (The Hat) Mills (eq) is topping his successful writing career with his first Decca offering. Hank, who has seen more than a half-hundred compositions turn to plastic, is celebrating his release of "Happy Songs" B/W "A Stitch In The Hand".

\*\*\*\*\*

The Duke of Paducah recently sent out to "a few old cronies" complimentary copies of the serialization of "I Never Forgot to Pray" and the mailing list could easily have come from Grauman's Chinese Theatre. Former boss and Mrs. Gene Autry, Mr. and Mrs. Roy Rogers, Mr. and Mrs. Tex Ritter, New York Yankee Pitching Coach and Mrs. Jim Turner, Mr. and Mrs. Dizzy Dean, Mr. and Mrs. Pee Wee King, Col. Tom Parker, and Elvis Presley were among recipients of the two-part article, which the Duke wrote especially for publication in the Jan. and Feb. issues of NEW magazine.

\*\*\*\*\*

On the heels of her successful "The Hurin's All Over", RCA Victor will release a new single by Connie Smith in February, according to the singer's agent, Jimmie Klein. Top side, "I'll Come Running" was written by Miss Smith and published by Brush Arbors Music, Inc., a Smith-Klein enterprise.

\*\*\*\*\*

For the first visit since the termination of his NBC TV show, Roger Miller has been in Nashville for a few days to get caught up on his Smash recording sessions. The "Wild Child" put on a performance, of sorts, for local fans via a telephone interview that was broadcast by a Nashville radio station. In addition to asking if the interview was for television "so I can wave to my folks", Miller had a quick answer to the question of where he got his song ideas: "That's between me and God".

\*\*\*\*\*

The worst snow storms of the century played havoc with show dates for a number of the top attractions from Bob Neal Agency last week-end! A package consisting of SONNY JAMES and the SOUTHERN GENTLEMEN, CONWAY TWITTY and THE LONELY BLUE BOYS and TOMMY CASH were scheduled for appearances January 27th at Port Huron, Michigan, 28th at Kalamazoo, Michigan and 29th at Muskegon, Michigan. Although SONNY JAMES and his group and TOMMY CASH managed to get through the snow storms to Port Huron, it was eventually decided to cancel all three dates with reports of over 20 inches of snow in Kalamazoo and a like amount in Muskegon. The Neal Agency is working with promoter Phil Simon to reschedule dates in the near future.

Another top Neal attraction, STONEWALL JACKSON and THE MINUTE MEN, were not as badly affected by the storms, as they were playing the Edison Hotel Lounge in Toronto. Although the snow was heavy in Toronto, capacity business was reported for the week. However, a booking for Sunday night January 29 at Flint, Michigan had to be cancelled because of the impassable roads.

The drastic weather forced a reshuffling in other



# NEWS NEWS NEWS

bookings by the Neal Agency. JOHNNY PAYCHECK, LEROY VAN DYKE and TEX RITTER were scheduled to appear in LaCrosse, Wisconsin on Friday nights the 27th. However, ice and impassable roads kept all three from reaching LaCrosse on the 27th. Fortunately, it was possible to reschedule the engagement for Sunday, the 29th. However the JAMES and JACKSON units, JOHNNY PAYCHECK and CONNIE SMITH were able to head on immediately for Winnipeg to start a tour there on Wednesday, February 1.

\* \* \* \* \*

Herb Golombeck, Vice-President and General Manager of WPLO Radio, has announced the appointment of Red Jones as Operations Manager and air personality. Jones joins the full-time Atlanta Country and Western station after a five-year stand at WQXI in Atlanta, where he was formerly Assistant General Manager.

Although new to WPLO, A Plough, Inc., station, Jones is no stranger to the C & W field. He spent nine years spinning the country sound in Texas, and with AFN, in Berlin, Germany. Red was named one of the nations' top C & W deejays in the years 1950 thru 1952, and was also active in promoting country shows, writing for the trades, and even tried his hand at songwriting. He promoted "Opry-type" shows in Europe, and was named the favorite English-speaking deejay by both German and English trade publications. Jones spend four years with KILT, the McLendon affiliate in Houston, as Program Director before joining WQXI in 1951.

"I feel this a great move and opportunity for me," Jones said. "And, I see a greater future for country music than ever before. Producers of the country-oriented product are certainly to be congratulated on their successful efforts to showcase so well the music that is truly the American tradition."

\* \* \* \* \*

The Wilburn Brothers TV Show has just finished its first series of color shows. Some of the guests were Tex Ritter, Don Bailey, Jean Shepard, Jack Webb, Del Reeves, Wilma Burgess, Johnny Russell, Warner Mack, Stan Hitchcock, and Nat Stuckey. The show continues to be directed by Ed Steiner and is now being produced for Show-Biz, Inc. by Mrs. Janice Linsert. Regulars still include Loretta Lynn, Harold Morrison and band.

\* \* \* \* \*

Bob Homan, Yakima, Washington recording artist, reports that the most requested numbers during his present Holiday Inn engagements, include: "Mountain Dew" and "Pistol Packin' Mama". It seems that people still remember the "old" tunes after all.

Not too long ago, RCA Victor issued a "Wanted for Murder" poster for Homer and Jethro on the jacket of their latest Victor album. News in Nashville has been received that the musical marauders have decided to turn themselves in and collect the reward and are due here Feb. 2 and 3. They have also been in contact with Chet Atkins in regards to recording another album while in town to pick up the loot, according to Bob Ferguson of Victor's Nashville office.



Tonight in historic, old beantown, the music of Nashville arrived with a bang! The NEW BEACON CLUB opened its' doors as the Boston area's only Country and Western night-club, and had to turn away over 250 rabid fans! Columbia recording star RAY PRICE (shown here with members of his road company, and standing L to R: "Darr" Mattuchio owner of the nitery and Bob Riley director of the club's operations) was on hand for the occasion and sang his famous: NITE LIFE to a wildly enthusiastic standing ovation. The idea of a country and western night-club in Boston, is the brain-child of popular artist-promoter Bob Riley, who has been a crusader in bringing modern Town & Country entertainment to New England.

Stars already slated to appear at the NEW BEACON CLUB include: CLAUDE KING, BOBBY HELMS, DAVID HOUSTON and DICK CURLESS; with many other top names to follow.

\* \* \* \* \*

# NEWS NEWS NEWS



GEORGE JONES and GRANDPA JONES talk it over with A.V. BAMFORD during K-BER'S Country Music Show at The Municipal Auditorium in San Antonio, Texas on January 29, 1967.

This is one of the rare instances in which Grandpa Jones is photographed without his make-up.

\*\*\*\*\*

Kay Arnold's penned tune, "Walker's Woods", is proving to be a top favorite among Nashville's leading artists. Ed Bruce's version on RCA is presently hitting the national charts and regional reports have been excellent. Recently Bill Walker cut the tune, while actor Robert Mitchum cut the song during his recent Nashville session for Monument. This tune could prove to be Kay's hottest entry in the field.

\*\*\*\*\*

"Pioneer" Jim Williams, in association with Rev. Joseph Robbins, recently formed "Christian Pioneers, Inc.", a Texas based non-profit Corp. CPI is designed to relate religious and moral principles to the pioneer history and development of our country and to the problems of our time. The "Gospel Roundup" show is a unique new development in the field of gospel music.

\*\*\*\*\*

Vince Roberts, Wizard recording artist, recently decided that if you can't get a record shop to stock your releases, buy the store and do it yourself. That's what he accomplished when he recently opened his own record shop in Ypsilanti, Michigan. Besides

his business activities, he continues to play club dates throughout the Detroit area.

\*\*\*\*\*

Kitty Hawkins' latest Capa Records release, "Forgetting You", is off to an early regional chart action. Barely out two weeks, the release received numerous station picks, with a major record label showing interest in this early 67 entry.

\*\*\*\*\*

Ray Shouse, Program Manager for WSIX-TV, has announced an airing change for "Those Stonemans" from Sunday afternoons to Saturdays at 5:30 p.m. in the Nashville viewing area. The change of schedule for the popular Jet Star production involves only Channel 8.

\*\*\*\*\*

A new oil painting by Music City artist "Gil" is hanging on the wall of Jack Clement's 18th Ave. office. The jungle scene depicts a massive beast with the mane, muscles, and apparant might of a lion, but with the head of Record Row's "King of the Jungle", Jack Clement.

\*\*\*\*\*

Buddy Killen, Executive Vice President of Tree Publishing Co., has announced the schedule of stops on Tree President Jack Stapp's overseas journey to set in motion a chain of foreign Tree subsidiaries.

\*\*\*\*\*

RCA Victor's strong entries in the field of female Country vocalists, Connie Smith and Dottie West, are further highlighted by two new albums scheduled for early release by the label. "Downtown Country" will demonstrate a flexibility of style on the part of "Cute 'n' Country" Connie and the unmistakable Dottie West style is shown in strong fashion in "With All My Heart and Soul".

\*\*\*\*\*

Perhaps no one in Music City better symbolizes the appeal of Country Music than Chet Atkins, who is constantly being sought out by fans, song writers, guitar pickers, and a vast array of various individuals for a few minutes of his time. Chet's personal secretary Mary Lynch observed that people telephone for him on the average of one call every 6 minutes. The origins of these calls may be as close as Porter Wagoner's office on the second floor of the same building or as far away as London or Johannesburg, but most of them are from people with songs or talent to pitch.

Having to come through Victor receptionist Betty Guthrie and Miss Lynch, many of the more than 20,000 calls per year never reach "Mr. Guitar", or he would have no time left to do anything else. It could easily be that Chet is in line for some type of "business-booster" award from the Bell System.



# NEWS NEWS NEWS

Lindy Cassady, who hit with her first Wizard release, "It's Not Your Fault", is off and running with her latest, "Trouble Is A Thing Called Love" b/w "Legal Rights". The petite 5 foot artist, although small in stature, has been making giant strides with personal appearances across the midwest.

\*\*\*\*\*

Jack Turner & Tom Donahue, The Country Music Gents, were forced to cancel numerous appearances on the East coast, in order to fly to Music City and cut their first release on the Wizard label. The session featured their talents . . . vocally and instrumentally . . . with leading Nashville musicians adding their talents to the boys full East coast sound.

\*\*\*\*\*

Dewey Groom, prexy of Longhorn Records, reports excellent station action for Janet McBride and Vern Stovall's first album for the label. "Country Dozen" is just what it states, twelve excellent offerings by this talented duo. Besides their two big hits, "I'm Wild Bill Tonight" and "Where Did The Other Dollar Go" it also features new material that spotlights the talents of the "mighty two".

\*\*\*\*\*

Capa recording artist, Kitty Hawkins, hits the Wisconsin circuit with numerous PA's the latter part of January. Appearing with Kitty will be Leroy Van Dyke, Johnny Paycheck and others.

\*\*\*\*\*

An interesting development in music publishing was achieved by the shipping of Vol. 1 of Tree Publishing Company's song catalogue for A & R men in Nashville and across the country. Although not the first of such efforts, the catalogue practice has never been done quite like this before. Each recipient's name is embossed in gold on an elaborate green cover, which presents 750 Tree songs, handily indexed and classified.

\*\*\*\*\*

Country entertainers spend a lot of time traveling and Tennessee Tech alumnus Dottie West and her group, the Heartaches, have decided to spend that time doing something more creative than sleeping while traveling to and from personal appearances. All individuals in the troupe make an effort to study up on historical and general educational material when not on the road, then the miles are whiled away by a question-answer game which keeps everybody alert . . . and a little better educated.

\*\*\*\*\*

Monument Records prexy Fred Foster has noted a tinge of inconsistency in the title of Billy Walker's current Monument release, "Bear With Me A Little Longer". The disk is his third hit in as many releases with the label, so Foster doesn't believe that makes Walker very hard to "bear with".



It may not be as profitable, but Little Jimmy Dickens seems confident that this USAF jet will fly better than the Bird of Paradise. His reason for being at Oxnard AFB in California was to entertain the service men, but a little time was found to play with ideas, and nobody has higher-flying ideas than Little Jimmy Dickens.

\*\*\*\*\*

The vast popularity of Country Music has helped bring the affairs of different cities closer together, as the January 16 fire in Chicago caused an immediate reaction in Nashville. Talent magnate W.E. "Lucky" Moeller had booked a mammoth "Shower of Stars" Country Music show for January 22, in conjunction with WJJD's "Western Gentlemen", to be held at Aerie Crown Theatre, part of the McCormick Place exposition complex. Just as soon as Moeller received word that a fire at McCormick Place was in progress, he got on the phone to reserve Chicago's Civic Opera House for the two January 22 shows, which will spotlight Carl Smith, Porter Wagoner, Norma Jean, the Wagon Masters, Little Jimmy Dickens, Ferlin Huskey, Stonewall Jackson, and Waylon Jennings. Less than an hour after Moeller clinched the change of location, the Civic Opera House was deluged by requests from other bookers who also were looking for alternate locations. Moeller added that the Opera House will not seat as many Country Music fans as Aerie Crown, but is acoustically excellent.

\*\*\*\*\*



# NEWS NEWS NEWS



RCA Victor's Canadian C & W crooner Stu Phillips (left) and Acuff Rose President Wesley Rose confirm a new booking and personal management pact on the eve of Phillips' latest Victor offering "Walk Me To The Station". Under the new arrangement, Phillips' personal appearances will be booked through the Acuff-Rose Artists Bureau and his career development monitored by Rose personally.

\*\*\*\*\*

A Rock-and-Roll show in Memphis, billed as the "World's Biggest Sock, Dance", was headlined last weekend by one of Country Music's biggest names! The affair, held at Mid-South Coliseum for the benefit of the United Heart Fund, was topped by Hank Williams, Jr. and the Cheating Hearts, who received a tumultuous ovation from the 7,500 teenagers present. The show, purchased and packaged by Holiday Inn Board Chairman Kemmons Wilson and Sun Records head Sam Phillips, also featured Charlie Rich, the Daytonas, Sam the Sham, and the Paroahs, and the Gentrys.

\*\*\*\*\*

Two of the old "Trio of Giants" that put Memphis in the recording business are back together. On the road again as a new addition to the Johnny Cash Show is Dollie artist Carl Perkins. The troupe is currently on a seven-day swing through Ga., S.C., and Fla., according to Roger Sovine of Dollie Records.

\*\*\*\*\*

Vernon Glen, Wizard recording artist, recently headlined a special benefit show at Rockford, Ill. Also featuring local entertainers on the benefit show which was held for Dick Brough, Illinois entertainer, who is seriously ill in a Rockford hospital.

\*\*\*\*\*

Bob Homan, Heb recording artist, continues to packem in at the Holiday Inn, Yakima, Washington. Along with Club activities, he's booked on major package shows in the area, including Radio KUTI's "Country Music Spectacular," in February.

MGM's third single release for the Stonemans, "Bottle of Wine", is due out at any minute, according to the group's manager, Jack Clement. A follow-up to their successful "Five Little Johnson Girls", the song was written by Tom Paxton. Flip is "Back in Nashville, Tennessee", another Jack Clement entry.

\*\*\*\*\*

SONNY JAMES, Capitol Records' "Southern Gentleman" will make one of his rare network TV appearances on The Pat Boone Show February 15 on NBC Television. Sonny, long-standing friend of Pat Boone taped the appearance during a recent trip to the West Coast. Aside from the singing presentations Sonny and Pat will reminiscence about old times!

\*\*\*\*\*

"Those boys are doin' a marvelous job over there and I think we owe it to them to back 'em in every way", commented Hank Snow in regard to his recent Christmas entertainment tour of South Viet Nam. Snow's trip to the jungles infested by Viet Cong terrorists began with a letter he received some time back from a soldier in Viet Nam who requested a record album for the hospital. The 20-year RCA Victor veteran sent the lad 17 Country albums and started thinking about what could be done on his part to support the activity there. While in Germany during the summer of 1966, he decided that he would just GO to the soldiers who were actually in combat to protect his very way of life and wired President Johnson voicing these feelings. Snow was authorized to set up the tour on his own and his evangelist-son, Jimmie Rogers Snow, and his wife, Carol, volunteered to accompany the elder Snow and his band the Rainbow Ranch Boys. The tour was strictly Hank's idea, and neither he or his received any pay whatsoever.

The group's 18 days in Viet Nam involved many flights over Viet Cong concentrations and a large number of outdoor shows, all performed in front of a tank or armored personnel carrier for retreat in case of attack. One of the shows was done for 80 members of the green berets and they were frequently in rain and 100° temperatures. Although reluctant for much publicity about the tour at first, Snow told an interviewer soon after his return that he would like the world to know that he's been there and that he feels every entertainer would do himself and his country a favor by going over there and showing the troops that we're behind them, 100%.

\*\*\*\*\*

Diana Duke, first artist to sign with Dollie Records, has just completed a recording session at Nashville's Columbia studios. According to Dollie Exec Bill Denny several singles were cut during the session and the best will be selected to release as a follow-up to her recent "Cold Cup of Coffee".

# NEWS NEWS NEWS

Clyde Beavers has just opened a new office at 327 W. Main St. in Hendersonville, Tenn. for his publishing company Jackpot Music and a talent Agency under the name of Beaverwood Talent Agency, working with Clyde and managing the business is Jim Woodard. Jim will be booking Clyde and other talent, he also works on the road as a member of the Clyde Beavers show. The Clyde Beavers show played to 1200 Inmates at the Tennessee State Prison on Dec. 28th. Plans are now for the Beavers to play at least one charity show per month worthy charities anyone interested, please contact Clyde at 327 W. Main St., Hendersonville, Tenn. When they are in the area they will be glad to help you with a show.

\*\*\*\*\*

Marijohn Wilkin, helmswoman of Buckhorn Music has ventured into the studio once more with an outstanding bit of material. Marijohn, using the pseudonym of Romy Spain, has taken the catch-phrase from the "Get Smart" TV show and parlayed it into a chart-climbing record. Marijohn's "Sorry About That" was released on the Dot label. This isn't Marijohn's first record appearance, although she prefers beaming her activities toward song-writing and publishing. She wrote "After The Hurt Is Gone", the flip side.

\*\*\*\*\*

Hugh X. Lewis isn't trying to "bug" anyone with his new Kapp offering, but he is making a definite plea for tolerance of insects. Hugh recorded "Tender Hearted Me" at little RCA, in Nashville, in mid-January. The song, written by West Coast clefsmen Cliff Crofford, is a self-description of a guy who literally wouldn't harm a fly and wonders why his gal is trying to give him the brush-off. Lewis may be appealing to a new market; after all insects outnumber Homo Sapiens by several billions.

\*\*\*\*\*

Charlie Champion the durable Daddy of Knoxville teen radio has announced the airing of a new Pop Music Record Party on the city's Channel 26. Champion will host the color show, which occupies an hour following the Saturday afternoon Dick Clark Showcase. The format includes lip-syncs of top tunes, spotlight dances and interviews, plus several original Champion innovations. Taping sessions are slated for Tuesday nights at 7:30 for re-play on the following Saturday. Alen Dennis, fellow air-mate of Champion's will assist in the formal host role. Champion requests that artists interested in guesting on the show make contact with him in person, by phone, or by writing to P.O. Box 1750 in Knoxville. He also calls for records of the top sixty variety through the same mailing address. The show is tentatively titled the "Disc-o-teen Party".



THE ARTHUR SMITH SHOW has arranged to appear at several of the state and county agricultural fairs in the two Carolinas, Virginia, and Tennessee. Many of the Fair Managers are using grandstand shows to give their visitors a brief rest from the rides and exhibitions while continuing the entertainment. ARTHUR SMITH'S SHOW is one of the busiest on the Fair circuit during the late summer and early fall, and is appearing at more fairs this year than they ever have before.

\*\*\*\*\*

During a recent four-day stand at Magoo's in Phoenix, Jimmy Newman was honored at the Arizona Downs Race Track with a special race called the "Jimmy Newman Purse". The winning horse was 'Right Lane', which is just what Jimmy is in with his new Decca release DROPPING OUT OF SIGHT. Reports from stations all over the country testify to another smash for the Alligator Man.

\*\*\*\*\*

Roger Field of London, England, has been a Chet Atkins fan for a long time, so he grabbed an opportunity two years ago to attend college in the United States because of the possibility of getting to Nashville. The recent holiday break from his studies in Berkeley, Calif. provided a car trip to St. Louis with a fellow student and Roger spent six days on the telephone to Music City aiming for an appointment with Atkins. Rather than take a continual "Mr. Atkins is in a session" or "Mr. Atkins is busy", the lad took the next plane to Nashville, got a room for overnight, and walked into the RCA Victor building, guitar case in hand. As luck would have it, he got an immediate audience with his idol and not only did Atkins listen to Field play, but he demonstrated several licks to Roger. The remainder of Roger's time in Music City included meeting such famed guitarists as Grady Martin, Jerry Reed, and Buck Trent, and watching, at Chet's invitation, a recording session by Jimmy Dean.



# NEWS NEWS NEWS

"A collection of material about children with appeal to adults" was A & R man Bob Ferguson's description of the new Archie Campbell album recently recorded at RCA Victor's Nashville studios. The package is due for a late June release.

\*\*\*\*\*

Freedom Hall in Louisville, Ky., will house a major example of Country Music's concern for others when a show staged to benefit the March of Dimes will feature Hank Snow & "The Rainbow Ranch Boys", The Stonemans, Jimmy Dean, Marty Robbins, Hank Williams Jr. & "The Cheating Hearts", and Dottie West and "The Heartaches".

\*\*\*\*\*

Decca's Earl Scott takes time out for a singles session at Nashville studios in February.

\*\*\*\*\*

A "Big Star" of WPLO's Shower of Stars on February 25th will be a huge, near two-foot high Silver Trophy, embellished with the words "WPLO Country Artist of the Year". The name of the winner will be a well-kept secret until the stage presentation, but postcard votes are pouring into the WPLO Studios by the thousands as loyal listeners vote for their WPLO favorite Country and Western artists.

Leading the voting for the hotly contested lead are Bill Anderson, Eddy Arnold, Don Gibson, Dave Houston, George Jones, Connie Smith, Buck Owens and Loretta Lynn, with a galaxy of stars right at their heels. To date, the lead has changed with every postal delivery, according to Herb Golombeck, WPLO General Manager. "We intend to make the Country Artist of the Year Award an annual affair", said the WPLO Manager, "and we're real excited at the amount of interest in the voting. From the way it looks, we'll be counting votes right up to show time."

The Country Artist of the Year Award is part of the WPLO celebration of its first year on the air as a full-time Country and Western outlet. WPLO, a Plough Broadcasting station, began programming the country-side sound in January of 1966. The Birthday celebration will be climaxed at the February 25th Shower of Stars, starring Don Gibson, Connie Smith, Ferlin Husky, David Houston and Simon Crum.

\*\*\*\*\*

Carl Smith, recipient of Columbia Records first annual "Don Law Country Gentleman Award" last year, is the vocalist on a new Columbia album entitled "The Country Gentleman" (CL 2610), according to Larry Moeller of Moeller Talent, Inc. The solid country style of Smith can be easily recognized throughout the album on such tunes as "Let's Walk Away Strangers", "Ain't Love A Hurting Thing?", "The Best Dressed Beggar (in Town)", and "Sweet Little Country Girl".

20



JACK GREEN, much in demand since his recent success with No. 1 chart tune "THERE GOES MY EVERYTHING", made several appearances without the "TROUBADORS" and is pictured here with the "COUNTRY MUSIC GENTS" (Left to Right) Gene Schibel, Jack Turner, Jack Green, Tom Donahue.

This popular East Coast trio with JACK GREEN, made quite a hit at a North Jersey Country Music nite club.

\*\*\*\*\*

Vernon Glen, Wizard recording artist, has added an additional work load to his already heavy schedule, along with headlining the "Possum Holler" TV Show, and his personal appearance-club dates, he's a featured member of the new "Town & Country Show" over Station WRRR, Rockford, Illinois.

\*\*\*\*\*

KBOX, (Dallas, Texas) the Flagship Station of the Balaban radio group changed formats last Sunday moving from a "top-forty" format to full-time modern country music.

Irene Runnels, the General Manager of the station, announced that KBOX will continue to provide polished modern programming to serve the people of Dallas and Fort Worth. Mrs. Runnels said, "There are several reasons we are making the change at this time. We have been watching the growing popularity of Country music all over the United States for some time, but it was only in the last few weeks that research into listeners' interest in Dallas proved without question that there is a tremendous potential audience for Country music and the "Nashville Sound" here in the Dallas-Fort Worth area. There is a definite need for a full-time, 24-hour modern Country music station."

Mrs. Runnels also announced that Jack Gardiner, formerly Program Director of WPLO, a highly successful C & W station in Atlanta, Georgia, will be Program Director of KBOX. Bill Ward will remain with KBOX as Operations Director.

# NEWS NEWS NEWS



Marve Hoerner recently signed Don Teague to a personal management contract. The Nashville artist has had previous record exposure and will cut another Nashville session shortly. He has appeared with leading country music names and is being placed with a major booking agency for all future bookings. Teague joins Vernon Glen in signing personal management contracts with Hoerner.

\*\*\*\*\*

Tommy Ingram, leader of the Star-Lighters, was forced to cancel numerous Michigan dates, when he contacted a virus and was forced out of action a few weeks. Michigan's award winning C & W band expect a new release shortly.

\*\*\*\*\*

Jack Turner and Tom Donahue, The Country Music Gents, flew into Nashville to cut their first session for the Wizard label. Among the tunes cut in the full session, was "Cinderella", which is slated for an early release date. Understand, a number of stations will be contracted concerning a "special" promotion with this release.

\*\*\*\*\*

Dewey Groom, Longhorn Record's Prexy, recently announced the appointment of Claude McBride, President of Deepcross Music, as national Promotions representative for the label. McBride will travel for the label, contacting DJ's, Distributors and regional promotional men. Current activity concerns Janet McBride & Vern Stovall's new album, "Country Dozen" plus a new single by Leon Raush will be out shortly.

June 6, 1944, marked the Allied Invasion of Europe to bring about the downfall of Nazism. Twenty-three years later, another invasion is taking place on the Continent, and the purpose will again help transmit the American ideals of freedom and happiness. On June 2 MGM's popular swingers, The Stone-mans, will begin an 18-day tour of Germany, and no opposition to this invasion is expected from any quarters.

\*\*\*\*\*

Jack Clement isn't really a doctor, but the way singers are flocking to the independent producer, it would seem obvious that he's good at injecting pep into the sound of record sales. Little Darlin' Records has commissioned Clement to produce a Bill Dudley session this week and he will also pilot a session with Little Richie Jarvis for MGM.

\*\*\*\*\*

DAVE DUDLEY DAY was proclaimed last Friday at all-country WMIN, Minneapolis-St. Paul. The Mercury recording star's long string of hits were played continuously throughout the day, sparked with an in-person visit to the station by Dave Dudley himself, who for several hours answered questions from the staff and listeners phoning in. The gala event was crowned with the announcement that Dave's latest record "MY KIND OF LOVE" had been selected as WMIN's Pick Hit!

\*\*\*\*\*

The all-country NASHVILLE RECORD SHOP in Long Beach, California last week hosted an unexpected (and uninvited) Country fan last week. In the dark of night and the peak of traffic-stopping fog, the culprit entered through the air conditioner (after removing it), shopped freely and carried off over \$1,000 of Country hits, drank the last coke in the box and departed, but not before he (she?) left a note saying: "You're out of David Houston's 'Almost Persuaded' Album.

P.S. It's now back in stock, but don't tell . . .

"You'll Never 'Guitar'ed' of Country Music"

\*\*\*\*\*

Mr. & Mrs. Ralph Williams of L.A. discovered a new star on a recent trip to Las Vegas. While waiting to see their favorite, Merle Haggard, the Golden Nuggett was presenting KENNY VERNON. They came to Nashville Record Shop looking for "anything he has on record" and especially his "It Makes You Happy", currently showcasing his singing on Epic.

\*\*\*\*\*

Janet McBride's Yodel tune, "Jan's Yodel", is receiving top comments after the release of Jan and Vern Stovall's new Longhorn album, "Country Dozen"; Watch for her exciting yodel technique on a single shortly.



# NEWS NEWS NEWS

The just-released Feb. issue of PLAYBOY MAGAZINE carries the results of that publication's annual Jazz Poll and further proof of Nashville's strength in the world music picture. PLAYBOY'S readers picked Chet Atkins as number 2 in the guitar category, under Charlie Byrd and over a field of 25 other finalists. In the tenor sax running, Stan Getz and John Coltrano led Music City's Boots Randolph over 26 others. The poll, which includes a variety of jazz instrumentation groupings, has become an important sampling of public taste in that field.

\*\*\*\*\*

A name change from JED International Records to simply JED Records is part of the change that is making JED a bigger company with a briefer name. JED prexy John E. Denny has announced a distribution set-up through AMY-Mala Records of New York and every ounce of effort is being exerted toward expansion. The first JED release through the new operation features Rusty Adams with a strong delivery of "Long Black Veil". The flip is an equally potent "Gonna Hang John Sutton".

\*\*\*\*\*

Guy, Skeeter, and Vic, the Willis Brothers, have contributed enormously to the vast background of recorded Country Music, but the trio is jubilant over the possibility of their latest Starday release being the biggest record in their career. Written by Jack Clement and by Vince Matthew, the song causing the excitement is "Bob" and the new sound of the Willis Brothers on this recording can be attributed to a habitual "new sound creator", Jack Clement, who produced the session.

\*\*\*\*\*

The Stonemans' two-week stint last fall at the Flame Club in Minneapolis resulted in a mad scramble toward the famed nitery, with groups even coming in by chartered bus. The club's owner, Ray Perkins, believes in making the best of a good thing so it will be back to the Flame for the Stonemans, but the group's heavy schedule can only permit one week this time.

\*\*\*\*\*

Palito Ortega, the "Elvis Presley of Argentina", has experienced tremendous success from his previous Nashville recording session last fall, so he is planning to return to Music City, U.S.A., in the near future. Ortega will bring four songs with him for the session, but wants to also do four Nashville numbers. Victor's Bob Ferguson, who A & R'd the previous Ortega effort, is currently conducting a search for these four songs throughout Record Row's ranks of writers and publishers.

\*\*\*\*\*

It seems feasible that Hank Snow might just start keeping a kimono in his guitar case, as his Oriental

activities continue to be a big part of his career. Snow, who toured Viet Nam during Christmas, will be back in the Far East the first 15 days of March, visiting Japan, Tapeii, Okinawa, Thailand, and Viet Nam. In addition to entertaining military personnel in these areas, Snow and the Rainbow Ranch Boys will be performing in first class night clubs, theatres, and music halls for the native populations, according to W.E. "Lucky" Moeller, Nashville talent agency executive.

\*\*\*\*\*

"How much "Ram" could RAMCO ram if DONNA FARGO could go far?" Would you believe far? Go? This new-found Country cutie (a Covina, California schoolteacher) is making some mighty musical marks for herself by keeping D.J.'s "after school", and they like it! DONNA'S A DANDY!

\*\*\*\*\*

While in the RAMCO Records Corner, "They Call Me COUNTRY" is "Sanfordizing" Country D.J.'s everywhere. A handsome 6'6"er, SANFORD CLARK, whose Ramco romper has all who hear it mumbling, "Dal, Dal, Dal, Dal, Dal." All D.J.'s who missed mailing or need more copies write "dal", 2021 Greenbrier Rd., Long Beach, Ca. 90815.

\*\*\*\*\*

From early sales reaction, JIM REEVES' "I Won't Come In While He's There" could be his biggest since "He'll Have To Go". Pop play & City Sales are commonplace for this Hall Of Famebound late star.

\*\*\*\*\*

Country Music's "Pickers and Grinders" are also a successful bunch of "Pickers and Pensmen". Long-time fiddlin' favorite Benny Martin has something to grin about - an exclusive writer's contract with Tree Publishing Co. - as the firm's Executive Vice-President Buddy Killen looks on. Martin joins such successful instrumentalists as Merle Travis, Bill West, Onie Wheeler and Larry Butler on Tree's writers roster.

\*\*\*\*\*

Bobby Bare's February tour schedule takes him through the northwestern states and includes a week's stand at the famous Horseshoe in Toronto, Ontario.

\*\*\*\*\*

Jimmy Newman is in the middle of a seven-week tour which takes him on a series of one-nighters from Mississippi to Canada. The Cajun's recent record smashes have given him the heaviest personal appearance schedule of his career.

\*\*\*\*\*

Dave Dudley and the Roadrunners entertain the nightclub set at a week's stand at Cactus Pete's in Jackpot, Nevada beginning February 21st.

# NEWS NEWS NEWS

IRENE BELLE has a way with a song fit for a queen. It stands to reason therefore that her STADIUM release should be "queen of sheba". Irene gives it a royal treatment. With her vast background, and understanding of Country Music and interpreting a song, she showcases her exceptional talent to the fullest on this one and is a shoo-in for turntable honors. IRENE RINGS THE BELLE!

\*\*\*\*\*

SKIP GRAVES climbed on the Country bandwagon in his native state of Ohio after graduating broadcasting school. Since then, Skip has galloped across the nation flying the Country banner and starring in clubs and charming Country Radio audiences in L.A. He recently found the perfect setting to call his home in world famous Apple Valley California. His current STADIUM record showcases an outstanding original ballad "You Tell Me", delivered with the warmth and understanding that only one who writes a good song can. Pardon the pun, but "YOU'LL REALLY DIG SKIP GRAVES".

\*\*\*\*\*

For several years, the Houston, Tex., Fire Department has added fuel to its Burial and Pension Fund by keeping the flame of Country Music burning brightly. A series of annual Country extravaganzas since 1961, for example, has netted the fund approximately \$180,000 and work is underway to make this year's show the biggest financial bonanza of all. Talent for this series is co-ordinated by W.E. "Lucky" Moeller of Moeller Talent, Inc., of Nashville, who works in conjunction with Houston Fire Chief John Little, Show Chairman. Each Moeller-Little effort has brought about an increase of several thousand dollars over the preceding year for every year of the series and last year the crowd spilled over from the Houston Coliseum into an adjoining Music Hall, with the talent "bicycling" between the two buildings. This year's spectacular will run Mar. 17 and 18, and present Boots Randolph, Ferlin Husky and "The Hushpuppies" with Simon Crum, Sonny James and "The Southern Gentlemen", George Morgan, the Harden Trio, and Dottie West and "The Heartaches", to Country Music lovers in the Houston area.

\*\*\*\*\*

The offices of JACK O'DIAMONDS RECORDS are receiving mail requesting DON ADAMS to do his new hit single "TWO OF THE USUAL" on the "GET SMART" TV Series. WOULD YOU BELIEVE . . . that "ain't" the right Don Adams? But we thank you for your requests anyway!

\*\*\*\*\*

On January 18th, the Kathy Dee Show arrived back in the states from a three-week tour to Goose Bay, Labrador and Sondrestrom, Greenland. Last week Kathy received a call from the NCO Club at

Sondrestrom . . . could she bring the show back again starting February 2nd? With the help of her manager, Quentin "Reed" Welty and a couple co-operative clubs, the schedules were changed and Kathy and her show are again entertaining the Air Force personnel in Greenland. This is her fifth trip to the island bases in the past 24-months!

\*\*\*\*\*

Linda Cassidy, Wizard record's "Miss Petite", continues to hit the personal appearance trails, thanks to her latest release, "Trouble Is A Thing Called Love". Busy throughout the midwestern states, she teams up with Ernest Ashworth for a number of dates.

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Illinois songstress, Cindy Street, continues active with a long string of personals across the midwest appearing with The Robertson Brothers on Nashville, Cindy expects to take a few days off and travel here to arrange her first recording session.

\*\*\*\*\*

Although the battle of the Titans between the Kansas City Chiefs and the Green Bay Packers warmed the tubes of a record number of TV sets on January 15th, loyalty prevailed in St. Louis. DICK BLAKE'S SPONSORED EVENTS brought a star-filled Country Music Package to St. Louis' Kiel Opry House on the afternoon of the game. Despite conflicting hours, the Country faithful flocked to the stage presentation in record numbers. The evening performance, according to BLAKE, also did a turn-away business.

\*\*\*\*\*

It was strictly a musical duel between the Nashville flash and the West Coast wonder when FERLIN HUSKY brought his Hush Puppies to Tulsa's Cain Ballroom on January 15th. Across town BUCK OWENS the unofficial mayor of Bakersfield, California, ushered his Buckaroos into the Trianon. Official figures are unavailable, but MUSIC CITY claims to have won out on the head count. Tulsans, who were thankful to have two top names to choose from, gave both performers lengthy ovations.

\*\*\*\*\*

Jimmy Newman and Kenny Price are scheduled for repeat performances on the syndicated American Swingaround TV'er from Chicago.

\*\*\*\*\*

The latest in a successful series of Connie Smith albums is due for release February 1, according to RCA Victor's Bob Ferguson. Entitled "Downtown Country", the album is a blend of rural and urban flavorings and includes such selections as "Downtown", "Ride, Ride, Ride", "Everybody Loves Somebody", "The Hurtin's All Over", and "Born A Woman".



# Everybody's

## So Proud of

A very casual incident in a super market near Nashville's Hippodrome arena recently helped illustrate the drawing power of one of Country Music's most magnetic personalities. A lady commented about all of the cars parked close by as she entered the store and asked to anyone who might know what was going on. Another lady cleared the mystery of the crowds: "Minnie Pearl, the Glaser Brothers, and a whole bunch of others are doing a benefit show at the Hippodrome tonight". The first lady voiced a deep sense of immediate disappointment in her reply: "Minnie Pearl! If I had known Minnie Pearl was gonna be there, I would have gone."

Just as famous as the "howdee" and hat of Minnie Pearl is the equally-loved land of Grinder's Switch and its interesting population of Minnie's kinfolk. Hickory artist David Price has learned that people are not familiar with his home town of Centerville, Tenn., so he jokes about Centerville being a suburb of Grinder's Switch and folk feel like they could go straight to his home.

A restaurant in Centerville features a beautiful mural on the back wall depicting an old steam engine coming up to a sign that reads "Grinder's Switch". The area's citizens are justly proud of the fame which has been won for them by a railroad switch track now grown up in weeds, all because a local girl with a flair for down-home comedy decided Grinder's Switch was a good place for a Country girl to come from.

The groundwork of Grinder Switch's fame goes back a long time, but perhaps the most important era involved the many years Minnie Pearl and Rod Brassfield got together each week aired the private affairs of the hilarious imaginary characters of Grinders Switch and Howenwald before the vast audience of the Grand Ole Opry.

During those days before television, a lot of people came to think of Minnie and Rod as humorous relatives and of their rural creations as real people. Today, the world has lost Rod Brassfield, but Minnie Pearl is still going strong. In fact, on an October appearance of the Opry this year, she told the same joke that she used for her Opry debut 26 years ago and got just as big a laugh as any of her other jokes.

The world of Grinders Switch was given a prominent place in literature in 1963 when The Abington Press published "Christmas at Grinders Switch" and who could have written such a book better than Minnie Pearl? Just as audiences everywhere relish in replying thunderously to her "Howdeee!", a lot of people are beginning to consider a reading or re-reading of Christmas at Grinders Switch as a regular part of the holiday season.



*Old Ern and his favorite cousin have no trouble re-creating life in the bills, even if they are standing on a flat stage with nothing but a straight curtain behind them.*

# Minnie Pearl



*Two of Country Music's most-traveled personalities are Sarah Cannon and her toy poodle Sam, who help husband Henry Cannon take the happiness of Minnie Pearl to her millions of fans.*

The story of Minnie Pearl is also the story of Sarah Colley Cannon, wife of a pilot who recently sold his interest in an airline to devote fulltime to managing the business affairs of Minnie Pearl.

The origin of Minnie Pearl is an American legend, told as often and as fondly as the tales of Johnny Appleseed and the Wright Brothers. In a way, there is a strong parallel between these characters of Americana, as Sarah Colley saw the good in making the seeds of laughter in as many places as possible. Although her humor is based on 19th Century life in the South, she has crossed many "frontiers" and has planted her seeds of laughter in such unlikely places as fashionable concert halls and TV studios from which originate such offerings as Steve Lawrence, Al Hirt, Les Crane, and Merv Griffin.

The fruit of Minnie Pearl has been equally obvious in her interest in other people just because they are people. Her assistance in the development of new showbusiness careers has become as legendary as the way she can get big laughs out of the same jokes the audience has heard her tell time after time. "Her work with various charities is just



*There's enough ham here for a whole town's Sunday dinner as Tennessee Ernie Ford, Cousin Minnie Pearl, and a non-professional ham proclaim the virtues of Country eatin' and Country humor.*

as well known and is just as important to her," adds Larry Moeller, who books all of Minnie's personal appearances.

The harvest has indeed been plentiful for Minnie Pearl, as she is truly among the entertainment greats. Show business has been good to the Cannons and they have remained the kind of folk that everybody likes to be around. Yep, the whole world is "jest so proud" to have Minnie Pearl a part of it.





*"May I cut in?" has a different ring from the voice of Eddy Arnold upon the ears of Lawrence Welk. The popular dancing partner is, of course, Cousin Minnie Pearl in the role of Sarah Cannon.*



*Always looking for a "feller", Minnie Pearl has captured another Country Music Great, Roy Acuff.*

# Green, Green, Grass Of Home Is Big Hit In Europe!

*On the eve of Jack Stapp's overseas trip to set up foreign subsidiaries of Tree Publishing Co. comes the announcement that the Tom Jones recording of "GREEN, GREEN GRASS OF HOME" has sold over 1,000,000 copies in Great Britain alone.*

*The Curley Putman tune, published by Tree, is indicative of the world-wide demand for the Nashville product on the international record mart.*

In response to news that his song, "The Green, Green Grass of Home", is an international smash hit, song writer Curley Putman is happy that his years of perseverance were worth while.

Interviewed at his office at Tree Publishing Co. in Nashville, Putman revealed some difficulty in getting the song recorded at first, but now there have been at least 22 different recordings made of it.

"I've always been concerned with the feeling of finality surrounding someone in prison and especially those awaiting execution, so I decided to write a song about it," explained the amiable Alabamian. "The song was written in 1964 and Chet Atkins took it for Bobby Bare, but Bobby didn't cut it. However, Johnny Darrel had just signed with United Artists and Bobby let Johnny hear the demo. Johnny and his A & R man, Kelso Herston, decided to record it and the record took off real well, especially since it was Johnny's first".

The summer of 1965 was filled with activity for "The Green, Green Grass of Home" as Porter Wagoner, Gwen Collins, and Jerry Lee Lewis recorded it in short order. The Darrell and Wagoner renditions reached the Number Three position on national charts and the song became a "must" for just about all albums that were recorded in the following months.

A year or so later, Putman's tune was recorded by English favorite Tom Jones, whose recording was an immediate hit in Britain.

"Jack Stapp called last Saturday from London," Curley said, "and told us that Tom's record is the biggest thing in recording history over there right now and I'm plumb tickled." The Jones record is currently on top of the popularity charts in England, Ireland, and Holland, is Number Three in Australia and is in the top five in South Africa and Norway.



*CURLEY PUTMAN (above) discusses "GREEN, GREEN GRASS OF HOME", one of Country Music's all-time hits.*

The recent release in the United States came to Number 19 this week with an indication that it is climbing rapidly.

The most phenomenal aspect of this song's success is the personality of Putman himself. "A lot of people have asked me if I've ever been in prison", he laughed, "but I haven't, thank goodness! I just happen to feel for such folks. I wanted to say in a song that a guy in prison is a human being and that, no matter how terrible a thing he might have done, his family and friends still love him."

Putman talks continually of the people who have helped him and the most frequent names that come up are Roger Miller and Buddy Killen.

"Roger liked my writing when I came to Nashville the first time, back in '59, and he took me to Buddy here at Tree. I was selling shoes here and got transferred by the company to Memphis, so it didn't take any persuasion in 1963 when Buddy asked me to come here and handle the Country Music department of Tree. Roger always told me to write like myself, no matter how everybody else was writing and his advice has paid off for him . . . . and me too."

In the full swing of life's irony, a song about a man who was losing everything has been the maker of success for a song writer that refer's to himself as a "pore ole Country Boy that never did have nothin'."



# Mr. Personality...

The band is playing "Stop the Start," and the spotlight is shining on a tall, handsome Texan in a red diner jacket and flashy red boots. You sit down, listen a minute, and without even realizing it, you relax and begin to feel at home.

The man at home at the mic is Johnny Dollar, and you are one of the many hundreds of people who've given him the nickname, Mr. Personality.

Always eager to meet and get to know the people who come to hear him sing, Johnny Dollar is fast-becoming one of the most popular vocalists on today's country music scene.

From his birth in Kilgore, Oklahoma, thru his teen years in Texas and Arizona, Johnny has always had many friends. He got along well with his Marine Corps buddies during his hitch for Uncle Sam, and, upon discharge, he hitchhiked through the West, bought a \$14.00 guitar, and began singing for his supper. It wasn't long before a west Texas band welcomed him to their group as their featured vocalist.

As much at home with a song as he is with people, his popularity grew and soon he was in demand for shows throughout the great Southwest. He performed

on the famed Louisiana Hayride in Shreveport, La., and on the Big D Jamboree in Dallas, Texas.

His earliest recording efforts, for small labels, showed his warmth and personality and his potential as a top recording star.

Columbia Records A & R supervisors Don Law and Frank Jones, in listening to one of those early recordings, "Lumberjack," recognized Johnny's unique qualities and great potential and signed him to his first contract with a major label. It was while he was with Columbia that Johnny recorded such hits as "Big Red the Hound," "Tear Talk," and "Stop the Start".

This lead to Johnny's becoming one of the regular members of the cast of the famed WWVA Jamboree in Wheeling, West Va. At this point things were moving so fast for the young singer that he found he was devoting more and more time to business details and less and less time to the things he loved -

*With a background of teen years in Texas and Arizona, Johnny still loves the great outdoors and spends as much time as possible fishing, hunting, and horseback riding.*



# JOHNNY \$ DOLLAR



*Johnny's personality shines through in his lyrics and melodies.*

singing, writing, and most of all, his fans. Johnny asked around, in hopes of finding a personal manager, and it was at that time that he met an enterprising young country music promoter, Dick Heard. After a few hours together, Dollar and Heard formed a mutual admiration society, resulting in an exclusive management contract. Before long, Johnny found life much easier with Dick handling the business, a long-term recording contract with Dot Records, two leading booking agents, Bob Neal Agency in Nashville and Wise-O-Man Agency in Wheeling handling his personal appearances and tours.

A talented tunesmith as well as singer, Johnny writes most of the songs he records, and his personality often shines through in the melodies and lyrics he creates. In "Tear Talk", for instance, he literally talked of the tears that he and everyone else has known. In "Big Red" he described the fun he'd had with a hunting hound. And in his latest release for Dot, a lovely ballad entitled "Your Hands" the warmth and sincerity of the lyric and of his performance indicates that Johnny is speaking from experience, telling a real life story that happened in his past. That, essentially, is what makes country music thrive while other forms of music fade away - - having real life stories told by real life people who are not only talented, but also gifted in





*JOHNNY clowns it up on stage in Gettysburg, Pa., with, left to right, Roy Self of the Stringdusters band, CML's own Red Wilcox, former WDON deejay Slim Moore, (Johnny), and emcee Bob Englar.*



*Johnny Dollar chats with friend Jean Sheppard at a recent country music concert.*



the art of just being themselves.

The lyric of Johnny's new Dot release says "Your hands tell me so much about you - - what you want, think and need, how you feel . . ." And "Your Hands" tells us so much about Johnny Dollar, a sensitive, likeable and talented young artist who, if his fans and friends have their way, is going all the way to the top.

*JOHNNY DOLLAR - at home at the mic, with friends and fans, and on the TV set.*

*Some good country harmonizing between Cal Smith and Johnny Dollar at a Christmas show in Fairfax, Va.*





# Little Richie Johnson



By Slim Jim Lenzgel  
of ICMS

At an early age, this boy, Little Richie Johnson, was born in Brookfield, Illinois, where he stayed long enough to finish his schooling. And during these years he got his first taste of country music, and although the only show he got to hear was Randy Blake and the famous Supper Time Frolics, this country music stayed with him. For it seems at that time you just couldn't get this style of music anytime you desired. Along with the little known facts about this little guy, and he is small Richie played, pro-baseball when leaving high school, and later became a professional stock car and stunt car driver. He performed in many of the top tracks, doing different types of dare-devil driving. After living through four years of this, he decided it was time for a change of scenery. So, on to Florida for a short stay, and then on to New Mexico, where he is now living. With that country music still in his system, he joined KLOS radio as a country and western disc-jockey, in New Mexico. You would think that with his fingers in so many different types of living, he would have four hands, but honestly, he is just like you and me. He was Mr. DJ in 1963.

Now this Little Richie still does several DJ shows, with a background covering so many aspects of the music business behind him as being an artist, writer A & R man, and well it all boils down to just about this . . . you name it, and he has probably done it. With his offices in Belen, New Mexico, he still keeps learning everything he can about music and especially Country and Western Styles of music. Besides being an artist and record promoter at present, he also operates the R & J Advertising Company, which specializes in just about everything. He



has and still does, supply the recording artists, big and small, with a great variety of, well you name it, and he's got it, and not only in New Mexico, but in other states as well.

Little Richie Johnson, seems to be in just about every place at once, with his time in the office, on the road promoting an artist, and well, it seems that you can reach him at his office just about anytime of the day or night. You could never find a better person who tries to help all he can, and do them the best job of promotion. Even with all this, he still finds time to give the fan clubs any advice and (that word again), help. He can!

There are very few people who haven't met Richie personally, even during the turmoil of a convention, where if you don't see him, he sees you. Even though he receives hundreds of letters a week, he still finds time to answer each of them personally. He has worked for just about every artist, at one time or another, and still does today, giving them the greatest coverage, promotion-wise, than anyone I know. Faron Young has been a steady customer of his for the past years, and big or small, he helps them all. And that's why . . . I've never had a better friend than . . . . .

Little Richie Johnson -

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# ON TOUR WITH Bill Anderson

Reporter EARL SIMKINS traveled, lived, ate and slept with BILL ANDERSON and the PO BOYS for 10 days. In the following five issues he will take you inside the life of Country star BILL ANDERSON.

*Second in a series of articles by reporter Earl Simpkins who has just returned from a 10-day trip with singer Bill Anderson's troupe, which took him from Atlanta to Rutland, Vermont.*

If you are a country and Western singer, sooner or later you are going to have to work with a political candidate stumping his district or state. It's an occupational hazard.

Grand Ole Opry star Bill Anderson and his Po' Boys made the circuit with Frank Clement in his successful bid for the Democratic nomination for the U.S. Senate from Tennessee earlier this year, then on Sept. 3 found themselves in Georgia for another such tour.

This one was with Zell Miller, a young college teacher from Young Harris, Ga., running against veteran Rep. Phil Landrum of Georgia's Ninth District.

We left Nashville by airplane at 10:30 Nashville time Friday night, and arrived in Atlanta at about 3 a.m. Saturday, Atlanta time, there being a one-hour time difference between the two cities.

The tour started with a show in Buford at 9 a.m. and there were six other shows scheduled that day before Bill was to return to Nashville for the Grand Ole Opry that night.

The people at one of the scheduled stops - Blairsville, Ga. - never saw the show, however, but for good reason. The Plane carrying Bill and Miller never did show in Blairsville. After much worry by other band members about what had happened to their leader, a call came for them to fly to Toccoa.

It turned out that the commercial airline pilot flying the other plane was used to instruments and not to visual navigation, and he had not been able to find Blairsville, so he flew to Toccoa instead.

This was just one of many things that went wrong that day.

The worst part, though, was to come late that night. We had started to fly back from Gainesville, Ga., to Nashville for the Grand Ole Opry, and the pilot of the plane on which I was flying - all the others were on another plane - leveled out at about 8,500 feet and remarked, "This sure has been a hectic day."

Not recognizing him, I asked if he had been with us during the day.

"Yeah," came the reply. "I'm the guy who couldn't find Blairsville."

Needless to say, the lights of Nashville Airport were a wonderful sight.

Also, I came back into Nashville wearing a new pair of trousers. It seems the ones made these days just can't take the strain put on them by a slightly overweight reporter climbing onto a flatbed truck which is being used as a stage.

The only good thing about the whole deal was that it happened just across the street from a store which had ready-cuffed trousers which were the right size.

From Gainesville that night, it was back to Nashville by chartered plane to do the Grand Ole Opry.

Discussing it later, Bill noted that after all taxes, he was paid \$18.99 for his appearance on the Opry. When asked why the Opry could get away with such low pay, he explained:

"I guess they feel that the performers need the Opry. This may sound comy, but if it does, then it's just comy, but I feel that I need the Opry."

"It is one thing to go into a town for a show with a sign reading 'Bill Anderson.' It is something else when you go in with a sign reading 'Star of The Grand Ole Opry, Bill Anderson.' The Opry is a magic word.

"Then, too, I look around at the people who have, stayed at the Opry over the years. Ernest Tubb has stayed. Hank Snow has stayed. Marty Robbins has stayed. If these people stay at the Opry, I can't see where Bill Anderson has any right to leave."

Bill and Jimmy Gately like to tell the story of a conversation of Opry performers in a parking lot behind the Opry House one Saturday night. There were numerous complaints concerning the money paid for appearances on the show.

Finally, Justin Tubb son of Ernest Tubb, turned to String Bean, a long time star of the Opry who just had bought a new Cadillac and asked, "What do you think about the pay String?"

In a gesture for which he is famous, String extended his arm, palm up, until it was fully extended and then turned the palm down, all the while pointing in the direction of the new Cadillac, and explained to



## THE BILL ANDERSON SHOW

Featuring

**BILL ANDERSON & PO' BOYS & JAN HOWARD**

young Tubb:

"Chief, I come here a-walking."

There were no more complaints about the pay.

On this particular night, Bill appeared on the 11 o'clock Opry, (which would be 1 a.m. Roanoke time) which featured Hank Snow and his Rainbow Ranch Boys this night.

This turned out to be a pretty good night for Bill. He was scheduled to do two numbers, but he was called back for encores on both, something which always makes every performer happy.

After the Opry show he returned home to eat and to pack for the tour which was to begin at 2 a.m. Sunday. There also was a new sound system to be picked up from Shot Jackson at Sho-Bud, THE equipment firm for Opry stars.

Bill's youngest daughter, 9-month-old Jennifer, was asleep already, but the other, 5-year-old Terri, who was scheduled to start kindergarten that week, was very unhappy to hear that her father was leaving that night. She had thought he was going to be home for a week.

At 2 p.m. he met other members of the band at the spot where the bus is parked, and the Po' Boys left for Waynesboro, Va., and the East Coast Talent Show, which they would work Sunday afternoon.



**Bill Anderson**





*Snuffy Miller & Sommy Garrish, Eat & Run!*



*Jim Luce - (with spear) & Jimmy Gateley - Horse -  
play on bus to pass the hours.*

*On Tour with Bill Anderson will be continued next  
month.*



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## NORTHEAST NOTES

*Continued from page 5*

and talked to a lot of sorrowed country fans who felt a deep loss when CFOX "pulled the rug out".

While in Montreal, I got two new songs from Dougie Trenier, who heads the house band at the Palace. I liked this group so much that I cut the both songs with this group. Dougie plays "mucho" guitar, Niel Flanz plays steel like he's part of it, Don Sailor on bass, Paul Currey on guitar also doing a great job. And Jerry O'Brien on drum.

Four of this group sing and it is very rare that you will ever run across a group like this that sounds like they are "fresh out of Nashville" and four out of four singers sound like each could be a top recording star, given the breaks.

Country Music in Portland, Me. is very strong since Johnny Dollar (not Doc's Johnny) changed the format at WJAB to country.

Bangor, Me. is starting to "swing" with country music again.

Dick Curless, originally from Maine, made a visit back to the Thorndike Hotel in Rockland, Me. where he used to play before "Tombstone" and the crowd was backed up a block waiting to see their own boy back again.

Barry Frank is still making hits for a lot of artists via WEEE in Albany, N.Y.

Doc Williams and his "Border Riders" featuring Chickie, made their annual tour of Maine and as usual filled every doggone place.

Now, yours truly - Jean Marie and the Vandergrift Brothers are off for a tour of Newfoundland and the Maritime Provinces of Canada.

This will be our second trip up there. I hope to have a lot of good news to report on country music when we get back.

By the way, you New Englanders nake sure to listen to these C & W stations in your areas:

- WHIL - Bob Ness, Larry Laporre, Bob Edgerly  
Boston, Mass.
- WLAM - Lewiston, Maine
- WMAS - Springfield, Mass.

- WEXT - Hartford, Connecticut
- WJRZ - Newark, New Jersey
- WWVA - Wheeling, West Virginia
- WEEE - Aibany, New York
- WAFS - Amsterdam, New York
- WSEN - Baldwinsville, New York
- WPAW - Syracuse, New York
- WNYR - Rochester, New York
- WWOL - Niagra Falls, New York

To any of you d.j.'s in the Northeast I've left out write to me % Halaz Promotions, Box 21, Elgin, Pa. and send me your news, call letters etc. And be looking for my new record "The Shadow" b/w "Bottle and a Broken Heart."

And above all - tell all your friends about Country Music Life.

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# Talk Back Darling . . To . . .



# ERNIE ASHWORTH

Star of WSM's "Grand Ole Opry"

A lot of people like to visit backstage at the Grand Ole Opry because performers are famous for being the kind of people you like to visit with. One of the favorites of these visitors and the other performers alike is a thin, reddish-haired lad with a big grin on his face and lips all over his suit; Ernie Ashworth.

The grin comes from the simple fact that he's happy and the rhinestone-studded lips which adorn many of his stage costumes are in honor of the song that hurled him to the heights of stardom, "Talk Back Trembling Lips".

Fans really dig Ernie because he makes them feel that every ounce of his energy is devoted to one goal - - increasing their enjoyment of Country Music. The affair between Ernie Ashworth and Country Music has been one of mutual benefit, as he has been one of the most consistent big-sellers in the recording industry since "Trembling Lips". In return, his fame and success in Country Music have been most note-worthy.

A native of Huntsville, Ala., Ernie is one of the  
*Sometimes Ernie doesn't sing; he just talks and says "Thanks" for an award received at the WSM Breakfast during the 1964 Country Music Convention.*



many in Country Music whose success has resulted from a long, hard climb, stimulated by determination and perseverance. Singing is not all this happy lad is capable of doing, as he worked for a while at Huntsville, Alabama's Redstone Arsenal in guided missile work, but singing is what best makes him feel like he is doing his best for the most people. So singing is what he has stuck with.

His career started at a very young age and has been closely linked with Nashville since 1950, when he and his band were working on WSIX radio and doing nightclub work in Music City. His story is a saga of determination, not seeking just the fame and glory, but the best possible way to make a living making the most people happy. His time spent chatting with fans and other performers indicates seriousness of his interest in other people.

Therefore, there couldn't be a more fitting symbol for Ernie Ashworth than the lips on his suits, because lips mean talking and talking means people.

*Two blondes and a redhead; for those not seeing this picture in color, the redhead is Ernie Ashworth (in the middle) taking time for a backstage chat with Jean Shepard and Skeeter Davis.*







*There's always time to talk to the boss as Ernie and Grand Old Opry manager Ott Devine stand in the midst of the backstage clamor.*



*The reasons Emie Ashworth works so hard are multiple; five of the best reasons are seen here with him in the Ashworth front yard. The baby is Paul (2 year old) and in front of wife Betty are the older boys, Mark (9) and Mike (11). Daughter Rebecca is 14.*

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# BOBBY LEWIS

"How Long Has It Been" . . . and finally a hit; after 14 years in the Country Music business, that's fortitude! Six singles, 1 album later, Bobby Lewis finally has a record, growing with steady rapidity in the charts.

This story can be written with true reality, as I have known Bobby since his first trip to Nashville, 5 years ago. Then 2 years ago, he and his wife Patsy made the move to Music City. Especially did I notice him because; though small in stature, he has a neat trim appearance and big voice, as does the great Hank Snow. Added to this, Bobby has the immaculate manners of a gentleman, along with extended appreciation to all, for every small favor that is done for him. In him you can be assured, these qualities will not disappear as he reaches the mountain top of success.

Bobby Lewis was born and raised in Hodgenville, Kentucky, near Churchill Downs. With his small size and slim trim fleetness of an antelope, he was invited to become a jockey. He recalls, "I didn't know what to do, as indeed this is a good living trade". Music was my first love and Pat didn't want me to be a jockey; so after researching our thoughts, we decided to combine all our efforts in the music business". I commend him for this, as heart and love make for the 'whole' life in a career.

The first time Bobby appeared on the Grand Ole Opry he received an encore; Mrs. Ernest Tubb was listening and she called Haze Jones at Hal Smith Artist Productions. They book Ernest and The Troubadours. She hastily informed Haze, "There's a new boy I heard on the Opry, with tremendous talent; you would be wise to see about signing him".

Haze was thoroughly amused and proud of his own perception, "That's a wonderful idea". He didn't let on to Olene that he had signed Bobby the week before. These circumstances prove that our Bobby really has something big to offer the world of entertainment, as hundreds of artists flow in here each week, with few deserving this special attention. The ensuing months were exciting and busy for the young Lewis family, settling down in our record city glamour and making his own way in the star-filled city group. Several appearances were made on the WSM Ernest Tubb Record Shop Show, and then Olene invited him to headline the show one night. "This was a special mark in my career, I was overcome with awesome emotion; all the leaders on this prime spot are big names and Opry stars". This was the spark that gives an 'unknown' the rugged confidence to go on, because someone important has the

trust in his ability. Since that time, Bobby has headlined this production many times, adding stamina to his soul.

Bobby then began to work numerous show tours with Ernest, since they booked with the same agency. During these memorable times, their mutual respect for each other grew and Bobby absorbed the environment of the seasoned 'pro'. He fondly admits to two ambitions; one is to be honored as a regular member of the Grand Ole Opry; the other is for Mr. and Mrs. Tubb to be proud of him. When someone invests an unsolicited time-consuming stake in your future, an extra special effort is put forth, with subconscious gratitude, to assure their returns. Bobby told these desires to Ernest one night, and the star answered, "Why I am proud of you now, son".

You wouldn't think a busy perfectionist would have time for hobbies, but Bobby does. His are a saviour to the pocketbook, as well as, fun for him. He hasn't been in a barber shop for 5 or 6 years; would you believe he cuts his own hair. "I like to do things with my hands; it relaxes me and lends fibre to my creative instincts", quoted Bobby. His woodworking talents have lended a pleasant hand to their home atmosphere, in their unique design and dollar savings. When Pat longed for an antique what not, he searched for a natural piece of walnut, later presenting her with a mirror and matching wall sconces. Bobby's heart is wrapped in all he tackles,



Bobby Lewis and Patsy take to the road in their travel trailer.





*Bobby attempts to hold still as wife Pat measures a fitting on a new stage outfit.*



*Bobby works at home doing a D.J. promo tape. He has installed sound equipment, suitable for cutting discs.*



*Backstage at the Opry, Ernest Tubb pauses to congratulate Bobby on the success of his current record, "How Long Has It Been".*



*Bobby Lewis poses during intermission on show with fellow Hal Smith artist, Ray Price.*

whether it be; haircuts, woodwork, fishing, water-skiing, golf, entertaining or songwriting. With the energy of a dynamo, Bobby grasps each day with the power of 7 lions, usually slaying them all by sundown.

Amazingly added to these interests, Bobby relates, "I like to juggle and walk the tightwire, guess I'm just a little clown". Pat chimed in, "He built a real ferris wheel in his backyard, trimmed with Christmas lights, all sorts of people flowed in, paying a dime to ride". This young man is a showman to the highest degree, with versatility to spare.

The story of Bobby's first recording is an interesting one. Among many of his songwriting efforts was one called "Sandra Kay", which Sonny James came very close to recording. When he didn't, the company decided to let Bobby do it. This young man grinned, "You might say, the best favor Sonny ever did was NOT to record my song". The sultry smooth voice of Judy Thomas joined him on this release,

which mystified me in its' not becoming a chart seller.

On this Saber label he cut a followup disc, which he considers the story of his life, "Forty Dollars A Week". Still with no noticeable acclaim he moved on to Fraternity Records, with the soulful ditty, "Crying In Public".

Following this, he was indeed fortunate to be noticed by Kelso Nerston and signed with United Artists Records. This guitarist - A & R man had the genius to see the potential in Bobby and groom him to enter the top echelon of stardom. Their first release was "Perfect Example Of A Fool", followed by "Six Days A Week and Twice On Sunday".

Each waxing gained speed over its' predecessor and Bobby penned his next number, "You Remind Me Of Myself", a well known quote, from which his idea stemmed. Bobby is a signed writer with Pamper Music, an affiliate of Hal Smith Artists, other Coun-



try greats are members: Hank Cochran, Willie Nelson, Ray Price, etc.

Having now gained some national momentum, Kelse and Bobby made a jet trek to New York; here they cut our little star's first album, "Bobby Lewis, Little Man With The Big Heart".

Now, at press time, Bobby has a terrific current hit, "How Long Has It Been", climbing the charts like a jetstream into outerspace, gaining him the acclaim I knew he deserved, when given the proper exposure and material.

Bobby worked his way towards the music business by playing the trumpet in his high school band. He auditioned for a Kentucky TV show "High Varieties", a 'pop' show; fearing he wouldn't make it with Country Music, he auditioned with the trumpet. After several appearances, he bugged the producer until he finally became weak and listened to him with his guitar. From then on, Bobby could leave his trumpet at home and picked at every talent show and all contests he could. Persistence is a necessary attribute in this music field, as most all the top stars will tell you.

Pat lovingly works along with Bobby in all his efforts and her knowledge of this business often aids him an objective point of view; two heads are better than one so very often.

Bobby designs all his own stage costumes, then Patsy takes needle, thread and scissors to bring the design into reality. The suave drape, rhinestones, sequins and perfect fit would cause one to doubt, that it could be accomplished at home. She files material, answers fan mail, writes the disc jockeys and efficiently sees that all is in order-in this complicated world of music, with so many demands. She travels the road with him in their travel trailer, their 'home away from home', equipped with office, food and sleeping needs.

The lute is Bobby's trademark; he came by it in a shop in Kentucky. Wondering how it sounded, he decided to buy it before knowing its' name. He didn't decide on it as a trade gimmick, but because this instrument is small and gives him a chance to be seen!

The recent four months ago found Bobby playing for our servicemen in Guzanamo Bay, Cuba and the Dominican Republic. Like most other artists, he found them the most appreciative artists in the world! In reference to my previous mention of Bobby's appearance to that of Hank Snow; a strange trick of fate finds they were both born on May 9th. This might be a symbol of the horoscope, that Bobby will have such an illustrious future; I am sure of it!!!!







# Meet "Miss Petite" Linda Cassady

told this reporter, "She really impressed me at that time. I felt she had real talent and should give that talent a chance to develop so I invited her to be a regular on the show. It took a good deal of doin' but she finally consented and has been a regular ever since."

Taking a bite on a candy bar (she can eat high calorie foods without gaining an ounce), she continued on, "Well, after that, I was hooked again. Country Music won the battle. Toby got me an audition with Wizard and I was signed to a contract. My first release, "It's Not Your Fault", did pretty good and here I am again in Nashville." Would like to inject here, that this was an album session as Wizard saw a big potential in Linda.

"I don't know how you can write a story about me as I really haven't done anything except enjoy myself," she said with that warm smile, again coming through.

Along with a fine and natural talent, this tiny bundle of determination, is also very modest. She neglected to say that she has appeared on the Ernest Tubb Midnight Jamboree show numerous times and is always invited to appear everytime she comes to Nashville. She never mentions that her booking schedule keeps her moving, as she appears with the leading names of country music, including David Houston, Ernest Ashworth, The Homesteaders and dozens of others.

Linda's story hasn't any ending. It has just started, for this talented artist has a light all her own . . . a light that is destined to shine brightly in country music for many years to come.

by Mark Tyme

Perched on a stool at Wizard Records office, at The RCA Building in Nashville, The little bundle of Talent (all 5' 9 1/2 lbs. of her) exuded charm and determination to make it in country music. As this reporter listened he became involved in that determination.

"How does one really start in country music . . . with me, I guess, it all began when my father brought in the house a guitar and layed it on the table. He told us kids, the first one to play it could have it. I picked it up first and made up my mind, I would be the one," she said with a warm smile and a twinkle in her eye.

At that time, she was just 13 and lived on a small farm near Rushville, Illinois. She had two older sisters and an older brother so she had competition for all-important guitar. However, her determination won out and the prized instrument became her special gift.

Taking another sip of coffee, Linda continued, "By the time I was 14, I decided to try my luck. I entered a talent contest in Jacksonville, Ill., and much to my surprise, I won. While keeping up with my high school studies, I appeared on two weekly radio programs over two local radio stations. By the time, I was 17, I had formed my own band and began playing clubs and fairs."

As you can easily see, she was a mighty busy little gal during those years. After graduation from high school, she entered the Quincy Beauty Academy, and received her diploma eight months later. She decided to open her own beauty saloon and began to devote all her time to her new business venture.

"I guess, I forgot all about Country Music, as I was so busy," Linda said quietly. "In 1965, Toby Dick Ellis invited me to appear as a guest artist on his "Possum Holler" TV Program. I guess someone told him about my singing or something. Anyway, I dug the old guitar out and made an appearance."

Later, I asked Toby about this appearance and he



LINDA, BILLY GRAMMER and MISS KAY ARNOLD, pictured during her latest Wizard session.



# WHERE THE STARS ARE SHINING

Artists wishing to be listed in "Where The Stars Are Shining" should have their itinerary for the next month in C.M.L.'S offices by the first of the preceding month (i.e.: June schedule by May first) Country Music Life cannot be responsible for inaccuracies in itineraries.

**ERNE ASHWORTH** March  
COLUMBUS, GA. 4  
EUROPE 31  
April  
EUROPE 14-16

**CARL & PEARL BUTLER**  
CHATTANOOGA, TENN. 10  
BIRMINGHAM, ALA. 12  
CHARLOTTE, N.C. 18  
ATLANTA, GA. 19

**JIMMY DICKENS**  
JERSEY CITY, N.J. 3  
PHILADELPHIA, PA. 4  
AKRON, OHIO 5  
SCHENECTADY, N.Y. 8  
OTTAWA, ONTARIO 9  
HERSHEY, PA. 10  
BUFFALO, N.Y. 11  
ROCHESTER, N.Y. 12  
KITCHENER, ONT., CAN. 15  
TORONTO, ONT., CAN. 16  
PROVIDENCE, R.I. 17  
SCRANTON, PA. 18  
HARTFORD, CONN. 19

April  
FREEPORT, ILL. 1  
ST. LOUIS, MO. 2  
INDIANAPOLIS, IND. 9  
MONTGOMERY, ALA. 15  
ATLANTA, GA. 16  
NASHVILLE, TENN. 17  
THROUGH 22  
DETROIT, MICH. 23  
BRECKENRIDGE, TEX. 28  
ENID, OKLAHOMA 29

**DUKE OF PADUCAH** April  
MT. VERNON, OHIO 8  
GREENSBORO, N.C. 15  
GREENVILLE, S.C. 16  
LAUREL, MISS. 22  
WINSTON-SALEM, N.C. 29  
NORFOLK, VA. 30

**LEFTY FRIZZELL**  
PORTLAND, ORE. 16  
SPOKANE, WASH. 17  
SEATTLE, WASH. 18  
VANCOUVER, B.C. CAN. 19

**DON GIBSON**  
CHARLOTTE, N.C. 18  
April  
COLUMBIA, S.C. 1  
CHARLESTON, S.C. 2

**HARDEN TRIO**  
MINNEAPOLIS, MINN. 6-11  
HOUSTON, TEXAS 17  
HOUSTON, TEXAS 18  
April  
DAYTONA BEACH, FLA. 1  
TAMPA, FLA. 7  
MONTGOMERY, ALA. 15  
ATLANTA, GA. 16

**THE HOMESTEADERS**  
VALLEY CITY, N.D. 8  
VALLEY CITY, N.D. 9  
ATLANTA, GA. 19

**JOHNNY WRIGHT - KITTY WELLS**  
ROANOKE, VA. 3  
DANVILLE, VA. 4  
NORFOLK, VA. 5  
CHATTANOOGA, TENN. 10  
BIRMINGHAM, ALA. 11  
ASHEVILLE, N.C. 12  
BEAVER FALL, PA. 17  
JOHNSTOWN, PA. 18  
NEW TRIPOLI, PA. 31  
GRANVILLE, OHIO 31  
April

INDIANAPOLIS, IND. 9  
CHARLOTTE, N.C. 15  
PITTSBURG, PA. 16  
SALINA, KANS. 20  
OMAHA, NEBRASKA 21  
ST. JOSEPH, MO. 22  
KANSAS CITY, KANS. 23  
SIOUX FALLS, S.D. 25  
SIOUX CITY, IOWA 26  
TOPEKA, KANS. 27  
WICHITA, KANS. 28-29

**WAYLON JENNINGS**  
EL PASO, TEXAS 4  
ODESSA, TEXAS 7  
LAS VEGAS, NEV. 9-24  
SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS 24  
HOUSTON, TEXAS 25  
April

DALLAS, TEXAS 7  
FT. WORTH, TEXAS 8  
MIAMI, FLA. 20  
JACKSONVILLE, FLA. 22  
ORLANDO, FLA. 23  
ATLANTA 30  
JONESBORO, GA. 30

**GRANDPA JONES**  
ROANOKE, VA. 3  
EPHRATA, PA. 4  
NORFOLK, VA. 5  
VALLEY CITY, N.D. 4  
VALLEY CITY, N.D. 9  
ROCHESTER, MINN. 11  
DES MOINES, IOWA 12  
WICHITA, KANS. 16  
OMAHA, NEB. 17  
SALINA, KANSAS 18  
KANSAS CITY, KANSAS 19

April  
ST. LOUIS, MO. 2  
INDIANAPOLIS, IND. 9  
CHARLOTTE, N.C. 15  
PITTSBURG, PA. 16  
JACKSONVILLE, FLA. 22

**GERRIE LYNN** April  
MONTGOMERY, ALA. 15  
ATLANTA, GA. 16

**GEORGE MORGAN**  
HOUSTON, TEXAS 17  
HOUSTON, TEXAS 18

**MINNIE PEARL**  
RENO, NEV. 1  
WEST COVINA, CALIF. 3  
WEST COVINA, CALIF. 4

April  
ST. LOUIS, MO. 2  
BALTIMORE, MD. 15  
PITTSBURG, PA. 16  
CHICAGO, ILL. 22  
DETROIT, MICH. 23  
MEMPHIS, TENN. 25  
ATLANTA 30  
JONESBORO, GA. 30

**WEBB PIERCE**  
CHATTANOOGA, TENN. 10  
BIRMINGHAM, ALA. 12  
WICHITA, KANSAS 16  
OMAHA, NEB. 17  
SALINA, KANSAS 18  
KANSAS CITY, KANSAS 19

April  
DALLAS, TEXAS 7  
FT. WORTH, TEXAS 8  
CHICAGO, ILL. 22

**MAX POWELL** April  
CHICAGO, ILL. 22

**BEN SMATHERS & THE STONEY MOUNTAIN CLOGGERS**  
RENO, NEV. 1  
WEST COVINA, CALIF. 3  
WEST COVINA, CALIF. 4

**DOLORES SMILEY**  
VALLEY CITY, N.D. 8  
VALLEY CITY, N.D. 9

April  
MT. VERNON, OHIO 8

**CARL SMITH**  
ROANOKE, VA. 3  
PHILADELPHIA, PA. 4  
NORFOLK, VA. 5  
ATLANTA, GA. 19

**HANK SNOW** April  
MONTGOMERY, ALA. 15  
ATLANTA, GA. 16  
DAVENPORT, IOWA 23

**RED SOVINE**  
GRANVILLE, OHIO 31  
April  
MT. VERNON, OHIO 8

**MERLE TRAVIS**  
FAR EAST 1  
April  
FAR EAST 1-11

**JUSTIN TUBB**  
CHATTANOOGA, TENN. 10  
BIRMINGHAM, ALA. 11  
ASHEVILLE, N.C. 12  
April  
GREENVILLE, S.C. 14  
GREENSBORO, S.C. 15  
ATLANTA, GA. 16

**PORTER WAGONER WITH NORMA JEAN**  
GALVESTON, TEXAS 8  
TEXARKANA, TEXAS 9  
KILLEEN, TEXAS 10  
DALLAS, TEXAS 11  
LAFAYETTE, LA. 12  
NEWPORT, TENN. 17  
CHARLOTTE, N.C. 18  
ATLANTA, GA. 19  
LYNCHBURG, VA. 31

April  
KNOXVILLE, TENN. 1  
RICHMOND, VA. 2  
MIAMI, FLA. 20  
JACKSONVILLE, FLA. 22  
ORLANDO, FLA. 23  
ROANOKE, VA. 28  
WINSTON-SALEM, N.C. 29  
NORFOLK, VA. 30

**BILLY WALKER**  
JOHNSTOWN, PA. 18  
NEW TRIPOLI, PA. 19

April  
ST. LOUIS, MO. 2  
DALLAS, TEXAS 7  
FT. WORTH, TEXAS 8  
DETROIT, MICH. 23

**DOTTIE WEST**  
TORONTO, ONT. 6-11  
FORT ARTHUR, TEX. 16  
HOUSTON, TEX. 17  
HOUSTON, TEX. 18  
EUROPE 30

April  
EUROPE 1-16  
BIRMINGHAM, ALA. 20  
ATLANTA 20  
JONESBORO, GA. 30

**WILLIS BROTHERS**  
VALLEY CITY, N.D. 7

**FARON YOUNG**  
JERSEY CITY, N.J. 3  
PHILADELPHIA, PA. 4  
AKRON, OHIO 5  
SCHENECTADY, N.Y. 6  
OTTAWA, ONT., CAN. 9  
HERSHEY, PA. 10  
BUFFALO, N.Y. 11  
ROCHESTER, N.Y. 12  
PETERBOROUGH, ONT. 14  
KITCHENER, ONT. CAN. 15  
TORONTO, ONT. CAN. 17  
PROVIDENCE, R.I. 17  
SCRANTON, PA. 18  
HARTFORD, CONN. 19

April  
KNOXVILLE, TENN. 1  
RICHMOND, VA. 2  
DAYTON, OHIO 8  
TRENTON, N.C. 15  
PITTSBURG, PA. 16  
DAVENPORT, IOWA 23  
FT. WAYNE, IND. 24  
ROANOKE, VA. 28  
WINSTON-SALEM, N.C. 29  
NORFOLK, VA. 30

**VAN TREVOR**  
LYNCHBURG, VA. 17  
BINGHAMTON, N.Y. 19

**JOHNNY \$ DOLLAR**  
SYRACUSE, N.Y. 3  
PHILADELPHIA, PA. 4  
AKRON, OHIO 5  
SCHENECTADY, N.Y. 8  
SMITH FALLS, ONTARIO 9  
SCRANTON, PA. 10  
BUFFALO, N.Y. 11  
ROCHESTER, N.Y. 12  
KITCHENER, ONTARIO 15  
TORONTO, ONTARIO 16  
JERSEY CITY, N.J. 17  
YORK, PA. 18  
HARTFORD, CONN. 19  
W. STOCKBRIDGE, MASS. 26

**VERNON GLEN** April  
ROCKFORD, ILL. 1  
JANESVILLE, WISC. 2  
ROCKFORD, ILL. 5-8  
JANESVILLE, WISC. 9  
ROCKFORD, ILL. 12-15  
JANESVILLE, WISC. 16  
ROCKFORD, ILL. 19-22  
JANESVILLE, WISC. 23  
ROCKFORD, ILL. 26-29  
JANESVILLE, WISC. 30

**JAKE HESS AND THE IMPERIALS** April  
ATLANTA, GA. 1  
TRAZEVANT, TENN. 6  
ST. LOUIS, MO. 7  
SIKESTON, MO. 8  
GREENVILLE, S.C. 15  
MADISON, N.C. 16  
ELKTON, MICH. 20  
FLINT, MICH. 21  
NEW CASTLE, PA. 22  
BIRMINGHAM, ALA. 23  
RACELAND, KY. 27  
AKRON, OHIO 28  
INDIANAPOLIS, IND. 29

**HAPPY GOODMAN FAMILY** April  
ATLANTA, GA. 1  
MAYSVILLE, KY. 6  
ST. LOUIS, MO. 7  
FT. WORTH, TEXAS 8  
LOGAN, W. VA. 15  
LAKE NORMAN, N.C. 22  
HARRISBURG, PA. 28-29

**OAK RIDGE BOYS** April  
BLOOMINGTON, IND. 1  
ST. LOUIS, MO. 7  
BOONE, IOWA 8  
SASKATOON, 10  
SASKATCHEWAN 10  
SWIFT CURRENT, SASK. 11  
CALVARY, ALBERTA 12  
VANCOUVER, B.C. 13  
PORTLAND, OREGON 14  
SEATTLE, WASH. 15  
BELLINGHAM, WASH. 17  
OAKLAND, CALIF. 21  
SACRAMENTO, CALIF. 22  
LONG BEACH, CALIF. 23  
ABILENE, TEXAS 25  
AKRON, OHIO 28  
INDIANAPOLIS, IND. 29

**CHUCK WAGON GANG**  
NASHVILLE, TENN. 7  
CANTON, GA. 8  
LOGAN, W. VA. 15  
LAKE NORMAN, N.C. 22  
STOKESDALE, N.C. 28  
HARRISBURG, PA. 29

**PROPHETS AND THE SPEER FAMILY** April  
AUGUSTA, GA. 8

**THE BLACKWOOD BROS.** April  
CHATTANOOGA, TENN. 1  
KNOXVILLE, TENN. 2  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 7  
FINDLAY, OHIO 8  
ST. JOHN, NEW BRUNSWICK 11  
MONCTON, N.B. 12  
CENTREVILLE, N.B. 13  
FREDERICKTON, N.B. 14-15  
AUGUSTA, MAINE 16



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