

OCTOBER 1967

60¢

COUNTRY MUSIC LIFE

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TOMMY COLLINS
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IN HOLLYWOOD
LIFELINE: TEX WILLIAMS



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Country Music Life

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Tex Williams discusses his life and career with Bill Thompson in this month's COUNTRY MUSIC LIFELINE.

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**Next
Month
In**



**Kay Adams Bonnie Guitar
LIFELINE - Bill Anderson**

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TEN TOP TUNES

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10

TENDER LOVING CARE

Buck Owens

BRANDED MAN

Merle Haggard

ODE TO BILLIE JOE

Bobbie Gentry

MY ELUSIVE DREAMS

Tammy Wynette/David Houston

HOW LONG WILL IT TAKE

Warner Mack

TURN THE WORLD AROUND,

Eddy Arnold

WHAT DOES IT TAKE

Skeeter Davis

LOVE ME

Bobby Lewis

DOES MY RING HURT
YOUR FINGER

Charlie Pride

POP A TOP

Jim Ed Brown

MOVING?



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Top 10 Around The "Country"

NORTH

1. Tender Loving Care (Buck Owens)
2. No One's Gonna Hurt You Anymore (Bill Anderson)
3. Crazy (Roy Price)
4. My Elusive Dreams (Tammy Wynette/David Houston)
5. Goodbye Wheeling (Mel Tillis)
6. Fool, Fool, Fool (Webb Pierce)
7. I Don't Wanna Play House (Tammy Wynette)
8. Ninety Days (Jimmy Dean)
9. All My Love (Don Gibson)
10. Turn The World Around (Eddy Arnold)

WEST

1. Ode To Billie Joe (Margie Singleton)
2. I Don't Want To Play House (Tammy Wynette)
3. All My Love (Don Gibson)
4. The Chokin' Kind (Waylon Jennings)
5. Deep Water (Carl Smith)
6. Turn The World Around (Eddy Arnold)
7. Too Much Of You (Lynn Anderson)
8. Like A Fool (Dottie West)
9. Gay Divorcee (Boots Till)
10. Tobacco Road (Tommy Cash)

EAST

1. Your Tender Loving Care (Buck Owens)
2. Branded Man (Merle Haggard)
3. How Long Will It Take (Warner Mack)
4. My Elusive Dreams (Tammy Wynette)
5. Cincinnati, Ohio (C. Smith)
6. I'll Never Find Another You (S. James)
7. No One's Gonna Hurt You (B. Anderson)
8. Long Legged Guitar Pickin Man (J. Cash)
9. Pop A Top (J. Brown)
10. Tonight Carmen (M. Robbins)

SOUTH

1. Branded Man (Merle Haggard)
2. Elusive Dreams (Houston/Wynette)
3. Wine Drinker (Bob Mitchum)
4. Tender Loving Care (Buck Owens)
5. Break My Mind (George Hamilton IV)
6. No One's Gonna Hurt You (Bill Anderson)
7. She's Looking Good (Stan Hitchcock)
8. Cause I Have You (Wynn Stewart)
9. You Pushed Me (Ferlin Huskey)
10. Don't Put Your Hurt (Conway Twitty)

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.



Dear Editor:

I get my copies of Country Music Life (the finest magazine country music has ever had!) from a neighbor who subscribes to it. I pay her the full 50¢ price for her copies after she reads them.

I like the way that Ruth Charon and Mary Ann Cooper write especially; Ruth's articles on movies are always so interesting. I wish you would have Mary Ann to write more articles, I was impressed by her ability in writing, when several months ago I read a article on Mike Hoyer of WHO Des Moines, Iowa, which she wrote in Country Music Life. I understand from the fan club columns that this same Mary Ann Cooper is President of the Del Reeves Fan Club. I would certainly like to read an up-to-date story on this fine young performer.

Your Editorials are quite Frank . . . from Frank; and always catch my attention. I think you are a fellow who knows what he is doing, and doing a mighty fine job of it!

Sincerely,
John Waverly

Many thanks for the fine words.

Dear Sir:

I am a very much dedicated country music fan. Country Music Life Magazine is the very best in the field of country music. I enjoy every word in it from cover to cover. Can hardly wait from month to month to receive it.

Would like very much to see an article on my favorite female singer Norma Jean. She is great. Also an article on the great George Jones.

Keep up the good work.

Thank you,
James D. Fox
22 Kenec Drive
Middletown, Ohio

Plans are in the works for features on both artists.

Dear Mr. Harris—

Just finished reading Country Music Life. My for the life of me I don't see how you and your excellent staff manage to keep turning out each month, a "Master" informative magazine. Why you have topped your "Art" in the Country & Western field. Please keep up the excellent work.

Say, would appreciate reading more about Ernest Tubb. I understand I missed the issue that carried an excellent article all about him & his great fan club. How's about printing articles on C & W stars that have passed on — also on stars that have over the years become un-active in the C & W field. So far have not been able to catch any live C & W shows since my arrival here in the states & California. But will keep trying.

Sign off for now. Thanking you again for a great publication - the Bible of Country & Western Music.

A/c Jacob A. Tustin
Travis AFB, California

Dear Sirs:

Enclosed please find a money order for \$5.00 for a years subscription to "Country Music Life". I recently ordered five back issues for the purpose of reading an article about my favorite singer, Bill Anderson and The Po' Boys—"On Tour With Bill Anderson". It is needless to say I enjoyed the articles very very much. I not only enjoyed the articles about Bill and The Boys but I enjoyed the rest of the Magazine so much, I would like to receive it every month. Since you know who my favorite is now, I hope you will keep Bill Anderson and The Po' Boys in mind and feature them from time to time in your Magazine. It's so nice to see your favorite group in such a good Magazine. My husband, Frank, and I think Bill and all The Boys are TOPS. We've had the pleasure of meeting them in person, and they are all wonderful people.

Keep up the real good work.

Sincerely,
Always Country,
Reba Blocker
Denton, Texas



"Okay you guys, watch the birdie!" L-R MERLE HAGGARD, WYNN STEWART, BIFF COLLIE, JERRY WALLACE, and D.J. BOB KINGSLEY.

COLLIE'S CORNER

By Biff Collie

RED FOLEY in town (H'wd') last month and Disneyland'ed at the Country Music Jubilee, then off to Alaska for a troupe tour. RED presented his first guitar to the Country Music Hall of Fame & Museum, ditto SONNY JAMES . . . UNCLE ART SATHERLY, one of the true pioneers of Country Music as we know it today, called to say hello and inquire about reservations for the EDDY ARNOLD opening at the world famous Coconut Grove at the Ambassador Hotel in L.A. Uncle Art was responsible for starting and directing the recording careers of such greats as GENE AUTRY, BOB WILLS, ROY ACUFF and hundreds of others in his capacity as the A&R Country Producer-Director for Okah and later Columbia Records. Four of the most influential people in our history of Commercial Country Music were DAVE and brother JACK KAPP (who started the Vocaliam-Decca C&W era), RALPH PEER (who established the Country department at RCA, Bluebird-Victor Records) and UNCLE ART SATHERLY. What a story they would have to tell. Unfortunately, Uncle Art and Dave Kapp are the only two of the foursome still with us. I hope in a not-too-distant issue to have a story of Uncle Art's life and story, which should read like a "Country Confidential". He's now 78 years old, and going strong! . . . TENNESSEE ERNIE FORD back from vacation in Hawaii with his family and mulling many offers to jump into the TV comedy series swim. He'd be a natural for it! . . . JOHNNY & JONIE MOSBY, for years a key act at Columbia Country are bustin' buttons over their debut on Capitol, "Make a Left, Make a Right", and they're watchin' those "cards and letters comin' in" . . . BONNIE PRICE, who has operated the famous Foot-hill Club in Long Beach, has watched many a star be bom on her stage: i.e.: FERLIN HUSKY, STUART HAMBLIN, the KING SISTERS, MIKE WALLACE (the famous News commentator) and many more.

Continued on Page 42

THE GOSPEL TRAIL

By Marty Deacon

Received release from Pete Emery Productions, Nashville agency, stating that the Imperials are definitely not disbanding. Baritone, Gary McSpaden has left to accept a church in Fort Worth, Texas. We wish to extend our very best wishes to Gary. The excellent group . . . led by Jake Hess . . . are continuing to please audiences across the nation.

At the Ellis Auditorium, beginning on October 11th, the five day "National Quartet Convention", will begin full activities. Special programs, featuring all the leading acts in gospel music; talent contests and other activities, will be presented. This convention seems to grow with each year's passing and this year's affair promises to be even larger than before.

Porter Wagoner and The Blackwood Brothers are out with a new album for RCA. Titled, "More Of Grand Ole Gospel", the LP is a follow-up to their Grammy award winner of last year, "Grand Ole Gospel." Hope to review this album in our next column.

The Chuck Wagon Gang will be honored this year for more than thirty years of recording for Columbia. They also have a new album on the market these days. A great group . . . Skylite-Sing, the world's largest gospel recording company, have established new offices in Nashville . . . Michigan's first Gospel Music Convention was held at Frontier City, September 10th. This was the first time that all the major groups in Michigan came together for one big convention. Michigan has some excellent groups, including The Templeaires and The Marine Brothers, and we're most happy that they've organized.

During the month of October, The Blackwoods will be traveling across the Midwest and to the East Coast. One of the most traveled groups, these boys are constantly on the road . . . The Blue Ridge Quartet continue to please the large crowds attending the WWVA Jamboree in Wheeling, West Virginia. These boys are regulars on this top show. . . . Thirteen year old Nancy Bonsall recently joined The Singing B's trio as their new alto. These charming young ladies just came off a tour in the Northeast.

THE RECORDS SPIN

Terrific new LP, "The Old Country Church", by those 'masters of harmony', Jim Ed, Maxine & Bonnie Brown. Besides the title tune, other hit cuts include, "A Rusty Old Halo", "He Will Set Your Fields On Fire", "When I lift Up My Head", along with all the others. A must album for country-gospel music fans. It's, naturally, on RCA Victor.

The Statesmen Quartet have a sure seller on RCA, with their brand new "Showers Of Blessing" album. Twelve fine gospel tunes by Hovie Lister and the boys. What can you really say about this group that hasn't been said hundreds of times before. Give a listen to their latest and you'll know what I mean.

In my humble opinion, RCA has just released the finest gospel album in their long history of excellence . . . Jimmy Dean's first religious album. If you're a fan of this gentleman, this is one album to 'rush' out and purchase. Twelve tunes done as only

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Westcoast

NOTES



By Jim Harris

So what's new in Southern California? Lots. So much that I am never home anymore. A neighbor of mine told me that all he ever sees is my left or right profile, depending on whether I'm coming or going. If I was married, my wife would have pitched me out a long time ago.

August 27th KBBQ collaborated with KFOX to produce a show at the Shrine auditorium in L.A. that rivaled any we have seen. Performing were Buck Owens, Marty Robbins, George Jones, Jan Howard, and the Hank Penny show directly from Las Vegas. A fantastic show in the tradition of country music in the Southland. KBBQ, the new station in Burbank is really settin' 'em on fire out there.

An announcement was made at the last Academy meeting that last years Best Pianist winner, Billy Liebert, has been selected to produce next years awards banquet. The annual Country and Western Music Academy Awards show will be held March 4th at the beautiful Century Plaza Hotel in Century City. (I said that last month, didn't I?)

Saturday night, September 2nd was the site of another KGBS giant country music spectacular. Only this one was different. Instead of being in an auditorium, the event was in the form of a gigantic party at the world famous Hollywood Palladium. Drinks were available, as was dinner and the Palladium's huge dance floor was in constant use. Continuous entertainment was provided by the KGBS all-star band. Performing were Billy Mize, Bonnie Guitar, Johnny Bond, The Gosden Brothers, Jerry Wallace, Ron West, Pat Buttram, Ronnie Sessions, and Glen Campbell. Glen em-ceed the show and among the celebrities seen around were Sammy Jackson, and world famous orchestra leader Billy Vaughan. After that evening I wonder how long it will be before Billy comes out with an album of country music. The usual KGBS efficiency prevailed with Barbara John shouldering most of the chores. I know several times I tried to talk to her, only to get a "be back in a minute." This gal just never stands still. Sammy Jackson, currently riding high with his recording of "Troublemaker" was thrilled at having his story in CML. They don't come much of a bigger country music fan than Sammy Jackson. More of these KGBS

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Midwest

NOTES



Mary Ann Cooper

JUDY LYNN recently learned from experience something all the "back-seat sleepers" can benefit by . . . the word of CAUTION is "con't get out of the car unless your chauffeur knows it!" Somewhere in New Mexico, Judy and her husband John Kelly (the chauffeur in this case) stopped for gas. Judy was asleep but while John was out, she woke up and decided to take their dog for a little walk. During the "dog walk" she found a phone booth and called WHO Des Moines' deejay MIKE HOYER. A few hours later, Mike received another call from Judy . . . this time a rather "frantic" one asking her husband to drive back and pick her up. John thinking Judy was still asleep in the back seat, traveled clear to Kingman, Arizona, before realizing she just wasn't there. He didn't hear the radio broadcast either! Oh well, Judy and dog did make it home after a long wait, and a moneyless one at that, at a service station, when John finally made it back. She called Mike the next night to thank him for his help. (dunno . . . I think I probably would have either blamed MIKE or the pooch for the whole ordeal, in her place. ha) Judy also swallows a few bugs sometimes making these night-time phone calls, so she isn't exactly the luckiest in this aspect. She's one of the music biz's greatest and most colorful entertainers though and we love ya Judy!

Our friend CHAW MANK is writing another book, and this is one that I KNOW a lot of our country music stars can and should participate in. The publicity would be good and it will make the book a whole lot more interesting. "THOSE CRAZY MIXED UP DREAMS" . . . it will be a book telling of dream that were odd, mixed up, or came true, that entertainers have had. MERLE KILGORE wrote the song JOHNNY HORTON recorded a few years ago, "Johnny Reb" in his sleep. . . CHARLIE LOUVIN and his wife each dreamt an identical phone conversation between them . . . and I have heard of other unusual "dreams", so I wish you'd all (entertainers) send 'em to Chaw Mank, Drawer 30, Staunton, Ill. 62088.

Our COUNTRY MUSIC LIFE advertising manager FRANKIE STARR stopped by W.H.O. along with RAY GRIFF the other night, and gave C.M.L. a good "plug". Frankie's one of my favorite people - he got

Continued on Page 13

Nashville

NOTES



By
Paul and Ruth Charon

October is here and Convention time is knocking at the door again. Many of you readers have written that you plan to make it this year for the first time. You will enjoy an extravaganza not to be topped. It outgrows its bounds every year, as more stars attend and more new activities are planned. And girls, unless you have the strength of Atlas, bring plenty of low heeled shoes. There is just so much excitement, you won't want to sit down.

This past month found us spending a few weeks in San Diego again, thanks to the job for letting us enjoy the ocean shores. This border city and Mexico have lost their pioneer in Country and Western Music. Okie Bob was killed in a automobile tragedy, August 29th. He and Smokey Rogers practically introduced C & W in this area, many years before the present popular upsurge. Okie Bob emceed the Sunday morning Western Theater, featuring the good old cowboy films and a live Country band. This was on Channel 6 TV. Then for years, with his husky voice, he was the popular D.J. on the local Chula Vista C&W radio station. The Westerner Nite Club of National City, featured Wanda Jackson and her Party Timers and Mary Taylor on the end of August weekend. The crowd was raving for more as Wanda vocalized her new release, "And My Heart Gets All The Breaks". It was a thrill to me to see the elite of columnists, Walter Winchell, at the Del Mar Race track Press Box; he is doing his column from here . . . these summer months. Movie guitarist John Oliver, did some expert take-offs on Merle Travis and Chet Atkins on the San Diego Bob Dale new TV'er, which daily hosts the top Hollywood and Broadway stars. . .

Thanks for news and a call from Gene Nash. He is Leroy Van Dyke's manager and writer of "What Am I Bid", starring Leroy. October 8th, Leroy and the Auctioneers will head the entertainment at the famed Waldorf Astoria of New York City. Other headlines are: Tex Ritter, Jeanie Sealy, Ray Price, and the Stonemans. The event is a meeting and get-together of the Country Music Association and East Coast Country music radio and TV stations. The Chairman is Carl Brenner, owner of WBMD, Baltimore; the Co-chairman is Don McKinnon, head of KSON, San Diego.

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Northwest

NOTES



By LARRY BRIEL

It's hard to believe that another year has passed, and it's almost time for Country Music Festival activities in Nashville once again - including the 42nd anniversary celebration of the "Grand Ole Opry", the C/M Disk Jockey Convention, and various other doings. Country Music has made great strides forward during the past twelve months, blemished only by some of the established artists in the field, who have come to feel they're not Country entertainers after all - - but Pop singing idols! (They'll be sorry)

Talented people like Merle Haggard, Country Charley Pride, Jack Greene, David Houston, Tammy Wynette, Johnny Paycheck, and Jeannie Seely have come into their own this year, and all of them have the potential to continue on into the future as big record sellers and top personal appearance attractions in this writers opinion.

Speaking of big record sellers - Bob Wills, who has had many through the years, has a new single and album release on the Kapp label. The l.p. is titled "King of Western Swing", with Special Guest Mel Tillis, and Tagg Lambert handling vocals in the album, and two of the Tillis offerings from it put out as a single. This is Mel's first venture into Western Swing - - and he is a natural doing this kind of material.

I was saddened to learn of the death of Tommy Duncan, some weeks ago, following a performance in San Diego, Calif. Tommy became famous through his long association with Bob Wills, and he also had many records out, recorded on his own. I knew Tommy, and enjoyed his in-person appearances at different ballrooms, clubs, etc., so many times. When he was last in the Pacific Northwest, along with several club dates, Tommy was on TV, and cut a record. For several years, Tommy and his wife had lived on a ranch at Mariposa, Calif. He was 57 years of age when he passed away.

Another untimely death, was that of Austin Wood, 46, operator of the "Nashville Opry" Shows at the Lake of the Ozarks, Mo., who died of a heart attack. Austin, blind most of his life, was a widely known entertainer-promoter-disk jockey, long active in that part of the country, and a personal friend of many

Continued on Page 42

Canadian

NOTES

By IRENE BEELER

The Johnny Cash Show which toured the Maritimes in August by all reports was an outstanding success. Johnny's guitar is one of several musical instruments on display in the U.S. Pavillion at Expo '67 in Montreal.

Tommy Hunter and The Rythm Pals headlined the Grandstand show during the Provincial Exhibition in Regina, Sask. Upon their return to Toronto They began taping the Tommy Hunter TV Show for another season. Tommy and his wife Shirley will be lula-bying a new baby in September. They now have two boys.

Also during the Provincial Ex. in Regina was Dave Dudley for a oneweek stand. As if Dave doesn't get enough of singing during the year, Dave's stint in Regina was a part of his vacation. Just can't put down that guitar, huh, Dave? He took a few days off after that week and completed his vacation by fishing in some of our many excellent fishing-lakes in Sask. Accompanying Dave was CKCK's (Country) Ron Andrews and Charlie Underhill (booking agent for Western Canada). Ron and Charlie could easily make Dave sing 'where were you when my boat sank in the sand'.

This summer it was our pleasure to meet a wonderful lady from Atlanta, Georgia, Ann Whiten, who was combining business with pleasure by vacationing in Sask. and also doing some promotion work. She has her own booking agency in Atlanta, namely Ann's Booking and Promotion Agency; and works with United Artists, Dave Dudley, and independant records in the Atlanta distributing area and S.S.S. International. She also manages and books K-Ark recording artists Bobby Johnson and The Swinging Gentlemen two of which helped back Dave Dudley on his shows here.

Along with Dave Dudley was Jimmy Athur Ordge from Edmonton, Alberta. His record of "Irene Cheyenne" did real well not only in Canada but in many states of the U.S.A. His latest album is called "Irene Cheyenne" (Hit Version). He has another album called "Tears From A Country Heart" on Point records. He will have a new release in September on the Apex label. On the personal side Jimmy is 27 years old, and girls - he's single and eligible he tells me.

Country D.J. Hank Secord, formerly of CKRM, Regina, where he had an all-night C/W show has moved to CFCW, Camrose, Alberta. CFCW is a 24 hour daily C/W music radio station. We know Hank and his family will enjoy beautiful Camrose. This will give Hank more of an opportunity to entertain more. To make CFCW even more listenable is another

Northeast

Notes

By Doug LaValley

Well, everybody in the Northeast Country Music World is making plans to attend the big convention in Nashville.

I am happy to report that the Governors of New England are behind country music and country music month. As of this writing, I have already received proclamations from Gov. King (N.H.), Gov. Chaffe (R.I.), Gov. Hoff (VT), and have appointments to see the Governors of the remaining New England states. All have pledged the support of their own states.

Country music is still growing in the Northeast with many night clubs "going country" and many radio stations finding "gold in them thar hills of country music".

One of the newest is WOKO in Albany, N.Y. Other stations who have gone country in the past year or two are finding themselves in the ratings, some even in the number one spot in their areas. WHIM in Providence, R.I. changed their country format and then changed back to country. I guess it was an experiment to see if they would lose their rating. I guess this should prove that country music is a very marketable commodity for radio.

The Lone Star Ranch and the Circle Nine Ranch in New Hampshire were victims of the weatheman this season. Crowds were below normal all season, due to rainy weather.

The NECMI (Northeast Country Music Inc.) is a growing organization in the Northeast and has attracted many of the top recording stars as members.

Plans are now under way for next year's annual convention in Wheeling, W. Va.

The Boston area has a new country music headquarters, the Cal Club in Cambridge. The Fri. and Sat. entertainment features yours truly, along with Johnny White (who is a local favorite and a terrific yodeler) Jean Marie and our band. Since the closing of the Beacon Club the Cal now has the title of the top C&W club in the area. There are quite a few other spots around featuring C&W, but the Cal is the highest rated in the area.

Hal Lone Pine and Jeanne Ward are now headquartering in Utica, N.Y. along with Stan Fish and his band, they are doing a weekly TV show. Clyde Joy (proprietor of Circle Nine Ranch) was nearly "wiped out" when a freak tornado hit his park in July. He and his son were out working on the Park when the storm hit. It went right through the center of the grove and tore up about 90% of the park.

With the Fall season coming on, Abe Hamza, promoter out of Rochester, N.Y., is bringing in shows throughout the Northeast. The shows are made

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THE GOSPEL TRAIL

Continued

Jimmy can . . . including such real standards as, "I'll Fly Away", "You're Not Home Yet" (featuring Jimmy in his famous recitation style), "Old Time Religion", "These Hands" etc. Have played this album dozens of times and it continues to be 'fresh' with each spin. A must for the gospel fan!

Will close the column for this month, with these words by De Thou . . . "After what I owe to God, nothing should be more dear or more sacred than the love and respect I owe to my country."

NORTHEAST NOTES

Continued

up of some of the biggest country stars in the country. Areas played are from Rochester, N.Y. Throughout New England and N.Y.C. and New Jersey.

WWVA Jamboree stars are playing a lots of dates in the Northeast and are attracting large crowds in many areas. The Jamboree is fast becoming popular again and has won a lot of new fans throughout the country.

Dick Curless spent the summer at his summer home in Maine. Many of Dick's old friends were glad to see him. One good thing about "Old Dick", all of his success didn't change him and his old friends are proud of him for this. Me too!

The Country Music Gents from Penn. will be featured at Expo' in Montreal this month. They are a fine group and I know they will do us proud.

Smiley Willette is on TV again in Plattsburg, N.Y. and features guests, both local and well known on his shows. Smiley and Melody Al also have a new LP record out on the market.

Gene Laverne, longtime dj at WFEA in Manchester, N.H. recently left that station. Gene had finally got a country music show on every night from 8:00 p.m. to 1:00 a.m. It was really successful. Gene not only produced and dj'd the show, he spent his day-times out on the road selling it. When the station changed hands (it was bought by a couple of big name stars from the pop field who also grab songs made popular in the country field) the new owners didn't want country music to be aired on it. My hat is off to Gene Laverne for making his stand and all I can say is that some station (and there are several bidding for him right now) will get a real good man when he decides which offer to take up. At present Gene says he is enjoying the first vacation he's had in many a year. The only thing he wants to do for the next couple of weeks is relax. He still does a Sunday Show on WBNE FM in Fitchburg, Mass.

I'd like to write a little bit about Doug Lavalley now. I have just had a new release on the Starday Nashville Label and want you all to know about it. The songs were written by Doug Trenier of Montreal Canada. The plug side is "The Shadow of a Man". If you are a collector of records, I hope you will be including this one in your collection. If you are a dj, please help me get a hit, I could sure use it. With a little bit of luck I am planning to move back

down to Nashville soon.

New York has a new country music club known as the Nashville Club and through WJRZ they are bringing in big shows and the crowds are gratifying. WJRZ has sure opened a lot of doors for country music in an area where but a short time ago no one would have given country music as much of a chance to survive than a snowball in an oven.

WTHE on Long Island is enjoying some success with country music too.

Out on my rounds with my new record, I have talked to a lot of country dj's this past couple of days and in many cases the subject has come up about the present state of country music and where is it going. To the old timers who have been playing country music right along, the question is a big one. Mainly because a lot of stations claiming to be country are, in reality, still pop with an occasional country record thrown in. In some cases I have to go along with this opinion. I have tuned in to some of the stations they mentioned and found this to be true. I won't mention any of the stations for obvious reasons, but why do they have to go to pop records if they claim to be a country station?

One station I will mention is WEXT in Hartford, Conn. I mention them because Bob Regan, PD, has a policy I like. Bob says, "We will play anything a country artist records, as long as it is a good record. We do not play the pop stars version of a country record. There are enough pop stations that they can get played on and we are a country station. When you tune into WEXT you hear country music done by country artists." Bob is a country dj and knows the artists and plays their records. He really helps the country artist.

I stand on my soap box and say to you country stations, "If you call yourself country, play country. There are so many good country records today that you don't have to play the pop version. WEXT in a big city has done very well in a highly competitive market and they have done it with country. A country fan is a loyal fan and he knows what is country when he hears it. As long as he does, you can bet sure that he will be a loyal listener to your station."

It has been a pleasure to play in this part of the country and watch the steady growth of country music. I thank Country Music Life for allowing me this space to talk to you country music fans all over the world and let you in on what is happening in this area.

If you live anywhere in the Northeast and would like to let me know what is happening in your particular area so that I may pass the word along via this column, send your news to me c/o Dusty Miller, President of NECMI Amsterdam, N.Y. and he will forward the news to me.

It will also enable me to make my reports on a regular basis if I know what to write about, that is, news from the Northeast.

Until we meet again in the Northeast Notes section of Country Music Life, thank you for the visit.

WEST COAST NOTES

Continued

parties are to come, but I don't know when yet.

Word comes to me that a fan club has been formed for the fantastic Dillard's. Anyone wishing to join or know more about it should contact Jerrey Huddleston at 375 E. 18th St., Su. 1, Costa Mesa, California 92627. If you really feel rich you can call him at (714) 642-9413.

Country Music Jubilee at Disneyland has really been drawing the crowds this summer. Recent weeks saw Glen Campbell, Red Foley, Lynn Anderson, The Dillard's, Wanda Jackson, and Jody Miller. September 8th is the last one of the season and Disneyland in conjunction with KGBS is capping the whole thing off with Kay Adams, Dick Curless and the king Buck Owens and the Buckaroos. And what a successful summer it's been. The list of performers appearing on the series of 11 weekly shows is staggering. I understand that this will be a continuing feature every summer at the Magic Kingdom.

The story of my life department: The car I traded off a year ago is a \$1000 winner in a license number contest.

How's this for progress? In 1781 a city was founded with 44 people and called El Pueblo de Nuestra Senora la Reina de Los Angeles. 186 years later we have about 5,000,000 people and call it L.A.

MIDWEST NOTES

Continued

manager LEE STOLLER also books C&W shows in to Peoria, Ill., so it's quite a country music family!

A wonderful letter from an ole friend, BERNIE HARVILLE just reached my cluttered desk . . . Bernie's joining KXEN in St. Louis, to promote their new modern country sound. He asked if we plan to take up where we left off on the planning of a Mid-western convention of country music peoples in St. Louis, so this gives me a lead-in to inform readers of C.M.L. that YES, we are! I will be happy to send all the info. and details to ANYONE who is interested if you'll drop me a line at RFD 7, Box 406, Decatur, Ill. 62521.

Some of the ILLINOIS talent coming up these days, I'd like to mention . . . PAULETTA LEEMAN, the little 17 year old Taylorville, Ill. girl who co-starred with RANDY BOONE in the movie "COUNTRY BOY" and who has been featured in several issues of "Country Music Life", has her best record out to date "TRAIN TRAIN" which she happened to write herself, plus a new movie in the making! Can't help but be proud of Pauletta, since I was born only 15 miles from Taylorville, and besides that, she's such a sweet little girl.

JACK BARLOW still commutes to Moline for his monthly filming of four TV shows and recently appeared on Lee Stoller's show in Peoria as well as at Sangamon Park - he merited a well deserved en-

core at the latter but seemed so surprised someone had to put his guitar on him. Jack's "LONG GREEN" is the "A" side of the record I mentioned in the last issue (shows you how good I am at picking the wrong sides of records) "El Dorado", and he also does well singing on stage, a song he co-wrote with CURLY PUTNAM that DEL REEVES had such a hit on "THE PRIVATE".

12 year old PAM GILBERT has appeared alot around the area lately too, and was extra pleased to be able to do her first recording "HANG A LITTLE SIGN" at Sangamon Park, backed by the band who was on the record with her, PETE DRAKE AND THE MAVERICKS! You'd never believe, listening to her on records, that Pam is so young.

HAROLD CROSBY came through to my "plea" for news from Michigan and lets hope he'll continue to keep us informed. The news was quite sad though in that it concerned the death of VERA HOLLATZ, a writer for Music City News (Michigan has their own special supplement to the Nashville based paper). Harold Crosby is with Tornado records and tells us he has signed a manager's contract to handle a new recording artist JAY PRESTON who records for sound record label. (Can anyone think of a more appropriate name for a record label?)

Arlene Hayden, 8442 E. 42nd, Indianapolis, Ind., tells us she is forming a fan club for WAYLON JENNINGS, and since Waylon's just about the biggest up-coming entertainer in the Midwest these days (and probably everywhere else) I wanted to get that in.

Bye and I'll see ya'll (or some of ya!) at the Convention!

NASHVILLE NOTES

Continued

Jim Reeves' favorite collie passed away this summer, at the age of nine. His body was flown to Texas, to rest at his master's side. There is a great interview-variety type ABC TV show on the go now, called "Dateline Hollywood", with Joanna Barnes as hostess. This is produced by Richard Brill, who produced and directed, "Tennessee Beat". This was one of our Nashville-filmed technicolor C&W movies of last year starring Merle Travis, Minnie Pearl, Earl Sinks Richards etc.

Hank Mills, who until recently has made a nice living writing hit songs, laid down his pen and took up his guitar this summer. He cut his second session for Decca in August choosing a song by Hugh X. Lewis, "I Wasted all The Rest". A parody on what one free living soul considers the most important things in life. The session was produced by Owen Bradley. Before Hank's BMI royalty money started pouring in, he was a cameraman at Gulbenks Photo Engraving Co. (across from the Opry parking lot). One of his co-workers was this writer's husband, Andy. The associations in this story could go on and on. Among Hanks' hits are: "Girl On The Billboard"

NEWS NEWS NEWS



Dot recording star Bonnie Guitar is shown with KBBQ's Larry Scott during an interview on Larry's Midnight to 5:30 show. KBBQ is the new 24-Hour Country Station in the Los Angeles area. Bonnie was in Los Angeles on business with Dot Records.

Pat Shields a graduate of the University of Omaha, where he majored in speech, has been named manager of the Pamper Music, Inc. office in Hollywood, California. Shields, as manager of the Pamper Music West Coast operation, will coordinate relations with artists and writers there and work as liason between the artist and the Nashville office.

While Mike Hoyer of W-H-O in De Moines, Iowa, whiled away liesurely hours fishing at Lake of the Ozarks resort in Missouri, a steady procession of Nashville talent kept his mike warm. A series of stars from the Hubert Long Talent Agency "stable" took turns at the turntables during the first half of August. Roy Drusky did the emcee chares on August 7th and 8th. He was followed by lovely Jan Howard, who pushed buttons and turned knobs on the 9th and 10th. Former DeeJay, Bill Anderson, who learned the radio trade in his Georgia college days, laid down some professional patter on August 13th and 14th. Comic, Don Bowman, who was a top rated moming personality on Nashville's WKDA radio, stepped in during the 15th and 16th to fill out Hoyer's vacation period. Mike says he's certain his top-flight replacements didn't let his ratings slide.

ADVERTISE IN



THE LEADING COUNTRY MUSIC MAGAZINE

Bob Ferguson, recently recuperated from an appendectomy, returned to his duties as A&R Producer for RCA Victor to find that a song he had written has been recorded by Victor artist Waylon Jennings in his recent album "Love of the Common Common People". Entitled "Tacos, New Mexico," the tune reflects Ferguson's interest in Indian folklore and Western U.S. culture. Now working on a Ph. D. in Anthropology at Vanderbuilt University, Bob recently spent a week in Philadelphia, Miss. to produce the annual Choctaw Indian fair. Well heeled for background on the subject, he has already proved himself well-versed as a writer with "On the Wings of A Dove", recorded by Ferlin Huskey whom he managed for 2 yrs. before joining up with Victor.

Already vying for the title of "Most Populous" recording family, the talented Stonemans made a substantial bid Aug. 11 for breaking the longest standing attendance record. Attending the Jackson County Fair in Brownstown, Ind. were an estimated 42,000 at the Grand Stand Show, the largest crowd in the 102 yr. history of the fair. One thousand excited fans bought standing room tickets to see the single act while literally thousands of others were turned away.

Transplanted Westerner Waylon Jennings, now claimed by Music City, had quite a homecoming Aug. 8 in his old stompin' grounds of Phoenix on opening night of a week-long engagement at "J.D.'s" the Phoenix nightspot opened by Waylon and his band 3 yrs. ago. It was "Waylon Jennings Day" at KTUF, one of several stations owned by Buck Owens, who flew in for the occasion with all "The Buckaroos". Attending the Opening Night Show along with the Owens clan was Smokey Smith, of Des Moines. The luster of the first nighter continued as Jennings drew some of the club's biggest crowds ever for 7 consecutive nights.

One of Country Music's most enduring couples, Johnny Wright and Kitty Wells, will return to Music City for a well-deserved rest following Labor Day appearances in Hershey, Pa. The fruits of their month-long labors on the road are waiting for the popular husband and wife team. For each there's a single in the Charts: "American Power", Johnny's latest, and "Queen of Honky Tonk Street" by Kitty. Also showing in the charts is Kitty's latest album, "Together Again" recorded with old-friend Red Foley.

NEWS NEWS NEWS

Tree Publishing Co's global expansion has taken on another dimension with the opening of a West Coast office on Sunset Blvd. in Los Angeles, according to a joint announcement made today by Jack Stapp, President and W.D. "Buddy" Killen, Executive V.P. Named to head the LA headquarters is Rick Landy, 28-yr.-old native of the area whose background includes previous publishing experience as well as record production and personal management. Landy's main function will be to represent the Tree catalogue on the coast, as well as music belonging to such subsidiaries as Wilderness, Press, Twig and Allied Music. In addition to scouting new West Coast writing talent, Landy will also sign up artists for Tree's Dial label.

At present, Roger Miller is the only Tree writer on the West Coast. Tree's global growth was spurred approximately one year ago when Pres. Stapp traveled throughout Europe opening offices to represent Tree's catalogue. Today, the 14-yr.-old company has its music represented in 25 foreign countries, including the United Kingdom, Mexico, and South America. A Far Eastern junket will be made in mid-Sept. by Stapp and New York copy-right attorney Lee Eastman to expand the company's representation in that part of the world.

Goldie Hill, one of Country Music's all-time top female singers, will resume her recording career in early September on the Epic label under the name of Goldie Hill Smith, her married name. The resumption of her career will be restricted to studio work and will involve no personal appearances. For several years, up until a short time after wedding Columbia recording great Carl Smith, Goldie was a major artist on the Decca label. The last few years, however, have been devoted to managing the domestic end of "The Smith Ranch" in Franklin and the family's three young children: Lori-Lynn, Carl, Jr. and Larry Dean. Goldie's return to the recording world will be monitored by veteran independent producer Don Law, a longtime associate of the Smiths whose latest joint effort with Carl, "Deep Water", may develop into one of Carl's top single sellers.

Country Music may be making substantial inroads into Gleason territory. The first Country and Western nite club on Miami Beach will initiate its all-Country format Aug. 19 when Hank Williams, Jr. and his "Cheatin' Hearts" musical group will play a 2-day engagement at the Golden Gate Convention Hall. The stint was set by young Williams manager Buddy Lee of Aud-Lee Attractions.

In a joint statement issued this week, Elsenpeter Productions and the management of WGEM-TV, Quincy, Ill., announced that on September 15th, the "Possum Holler Opry" will begin telecasting in full color. After eight years, the viewers in the Tri-states, will have the opportunity of seeing Toby Dick Ellis' hair in "living" color.

"The Possum Holler Opry" cast appeared for nine days at the Illinois State Fair, with daily broadcasts aired over WXCL Radio, Peoria, Ill. Recently, they broke all attendance records, for a first night, at the Keokuk Street Fair, billed as "The world's largest street fair", in Keokuk, Iowa.

Jim & Lyn, the "Tigers" of Tiger Records, recently cut their third session for this Colorado based label. "Heartbreak Ship" b/w "Tears Are Falling", featured the harmony singing of Donna & Frances, The James Sisters.



Moss Rose Publications, Inc. writer, Hank Mills has mounted a tune penned by writer-artist, Hugh X. Lewis. The tune, "I Just Wasted The Rest" will be Hank's new Decca release. Hank (center) poses with Decca Executive and control room czar, Owen Bradley (l) and Moss Rose headman, Hubert Long (r) following the session.

Waylon Jennings' successful stint at Las Vegas nittery The Golden Nuggett last month has resulted in a confirmed rebooking for the young singer and his musical group "The Waylors" next July for one of the highest fees ever paid an entertainer there, according to Nashville Talent agent W.E. "Lucky" Moeller.

NEWS NEWS NEWS

Epic stars Tammy Wynette and Don Chapel, who are recently newlyweds, will have the opportunity to enjoy an extended honeymoon at the expense of their European fans. Tammy, who is enjoying state-side success with her "My Elusive Dreams" duet with David Houston, and her new Epic single "I Don't Wanna Play House", has been booked for a twenty-six day stint at U.S. Military bases in England and Germany. She and Don, who is also to fill European commitments, will depart September 1st.

Don Bowman stages a return turntable when he subs for Mike Hoyer on leave from WHO in Des Moines Aug. 17 and 18. The RCA Victor recording artist with a regular comic spot on the Bill Anderson TV show and with Eddy Arnold on personal appearances, won high ratings as a disc jockey in pre-recording days in such competitive markets as San Diego, San Francisco, St. Paul, Minn., and Nashville.



DONNA AND RONI STONEMAN (l to r), distaff members of MGM's highly popular singing unit, "The Stonemans", assist Nashville nightclub manager "Caddillac" Wilson with advance publicity prior to a return engagement at the Black Poodle Monday night. The week-long Poodle stint will mark an anniversary, of sorts, for both the act and the nightclub. The two merged assets two years ago introducing Country Music to Nashville's famous Printers Alley area. The innovation caught on and the Poodle's been packin' 'em in ever since.

Songsmith BOBBY GREGORY recently placed copies of over 1600 of his published songs in the COUNTRY MUSIC HALL OF FAME Library. Some of the songs date back to 1929 when Bobby wrote and recorded with the famous VERNON DALHART.



Dorothy Owens and General Jack McFadden look on with approval as Mayor R.V. Karlen of Bakersfield (or is it Buckersfield?) signs the proclamation naming August 12th BUCK OWENS DAY in the Tiger's hometown. Buck was on tour and was unable to be at the ceremonies. On his birthday (12th) The Bakersfield Flash headlined the bill at The Illinois State Fair, Springfield, Ill.

SAMMY JACKSON, who created the television role of "Will Stockdale" in the successful series "No Time for Sergeants", created a winner again in his new starring role as "LIL ABNER". The famous comic strip character came to life on TV for the first time in the special seen Tuesday September 5th. NBC-TV projected this as a spinoff of a new January series start. Currently garnering heavy exposure on his first singing effort on "TROUBLE-MAKER", current release on DALE ROGERS' Commerce label, Sammy is currently huddling with Dale and arranger BILL JUSTIS on plans for a complete album release to coincide with the series start in January.

This handsome North Carolinian is a friend of most Country artists who've frequented the coast of late, and hopes to integrate Country star performers into the "Lil Abner" script.

Many Country radio personalities have urged their listeners and friends to write NBC-TV, Hollywood enthusing over the Sept. 5th Special in the same manner hundreds of thousands rallied to support successfully the JIMMY DEAN TV'er. The series can be a real boon to the Country business with the use of the trade talent on the show. Since Sammy himself is such an enthusiastic supporter and now a Country record artist himself, it would be a natural combination.

NEWS NEWS NEWS



A man of many honors adds another as he becomes a regular member of WSM's Grand Ole Opry. Realizing a lifelong ambition, Charlie has been a guest on the Opry many times since 1954 . . . and now will be a member of this world-famed radio program. On Saturday night, August 19th, Walker made his first appearance as a member of the Opry.

Born on a farm in Collin County, Texas (near Dallas), he grew up with Jimmie Rodgers as his idol. Years later it was through Rodgers' widow that Charlie was brought to the attention of Ernest Tubb who helped him get his first recording contract. From listening to Rodgers records and to the Grand Ole Opry he became interested in country music and decided to become an entertainer. To hear the Opry, young Charlie had to walk 3 miles to a neighbor's house where he and his brother would take turns holding the wire aerial to get better reception on the battery operated radio. This same neighbor gave him his first guitar for Christmas when he was 10 years old. He taught himself to play the guitar and later the fiddle and mandolin.

His first experience in the music business came when he sang with Bill Boyd and His Cowboy Ramblers on WRR in Dallas. Later he had his own program over the Corpus Christi station KWBU. At the age of 18 he went into the army and spent most of his two years in Japan. There he formed an all GI country music band, had a radio show in Tokyo on the Armed Forces Radio Station for about a year, and had the first country music band ever to broadcast in Japan.

When he returned to the states he went back to KWBU as a disc jockey and singer. From there he joined KMAC in San Antonio and received the Billboard Award as one of America's Top Ten Country Music Disc Jockies for ten consecutive years. He was nominated by the San Antonio Chamber of Com-

merce as Outstanding Young Man of the Year, did the commentary on the Texas Open Golf Tournament for four years by the CBS Wide World of Sports radio series, was a competitor in the Sahara Invitational Tournament in Las Vegas, was honored by the Texas legislature as a "Favorite Son" and recorded numerous hit records.

Having appeared in just about every state in the U.S., Charlie has appeared abroad many times and is scheduled for a trip to England and Germany in October or November.

His list of disc hits include "Pick Me Up On Your Way Down", "Close All the Honky Tonks" and most recently "Don't Squeeze My Sharmin" on Epic. In the next several weeks, he will have several albums released.

Charlie now lives in Nashville with his wife, Shirley and their month old son, Arthur.



Grand Old Opry star Bill Anderson received the first annual South Carolina Country Musician of the Year award in Columbia, South Carolina. The award was presented by the Country Music Association of South Carolina in conjunction with their second annual jubilee. Anderson, who was born in Columbia and lived there for eight years, was acclaimed by the organization as "our fine state's number one international country music entertainer."

Anderson accepted the award in person, then stepped aside as his Po' Boys band judged the statewide talent contest. "You might have known," Anderson quipped after the results were in, "that my boys would pick a pretty girl as the winner!" Donna Branham of Columbia, a lovely 18 year-old singer, won the contest.

NEWS NEWS NEWS



Country Gentleman Bill Williams joined with all the D.J.'s at KBBQ, the New Los Angeles area country outlet, in welcoming Lynn Anderson back to California. The KBBQ staff honored her at a luncheon. Miss Anderson has joined the Lawrence Welk TV show. Bill and Lynn pose on a motorcycle as a reminder of one of Lynn's first big hits, "Ride, Ride, Ride".

Appropriately enough, Archie Campbell's most requested ditty during a recent PA in Abraham Lincoln's birthplace; Springfield, Ill., was "Abe Lincoln Comes Home", a "B" side he cut for RCA Victor last year . . .

Buster Doss President of Wizard Records Announces that as of Sept. 1, 1967, Wizard Records will launch it's new subsidiary label "Doss Records". Remaining on the Wizard Label will be Kirby (Sky King) Grant, Leon Douglas, The Cantrells, Ann Taylor, Donna Darlene and Shot Jackson, Kay Arnold and Linda Cassady. Doss Records kicks off with new releases by Sherry Hamilton, Vince Roberts, Burr Smith, and Jack Parris. All DJ's that are on Wizard's mailing list will receive all Doss releases. Doss Record's has over 20 other artists that will be released soon inherited from there Parent Co. Wizard. The two labels were decided on at a board meeting in August.

Seldom will an artist get many return bookings at major locations in the same season. But yodeling king, KENNY ROBERTS, has done it, in getting returns at Lake Compounce Park, Bristol, Conn. on Sept. 3rd and 4th; at Buck Lake Ranch, Angola, Indiana, Sept. 10th; and Echo Lake Park, Afton, New York, Sept. 17th. Kenny had played all locations earlier this summer. On Sept. 25th, Ken opens a week at the famed "Country Palace" in Montreal, his second stand there this season. He is followed into the "Palace" by another "B-2" star, Kathy Dee. Both are managed by Quentin "Reed" Welty of the B-W firm.

Bobby Parrish, Florida recording artist, spent several days in Nashville, recently selecting material for his next recording session. Consulting with Independent record producer, Floyd Wilson, Parrish will cut within the next few weeks. Mr. R. Elsenpeter, production head of the popular midwest telecast, "The Possum Holler Opry", recently reported that reaction continues to be "hot" on Bobby Parrish's appearances on the show. Elsenpeter reported, "All the teens are talking about him and the "older" generation want to mother him . . . and on the male side, they call him real 'cool'."

Moeller Talent, Inc., long recognized as Country Music's largest booking agency, now lays claim to being the most "versatile". The Moeller claim is based on the last-minute, pinch-hit performance of exec Jack Andrews who emceed last week's Country Music extravaganza at the Kentucky State Fair when the regular announcer failed to make curtain call. A grandstand crowd of 12,000 witnessed Andrews put another notch in his show biz merit badge by bringing on such name artists as Carl Smith, The Porter Wagoner Show, Little Jimmy Dickens and "The Country Boys", Carl and Pearl Butler, and Johnny Darrell.

Jando Music, Inc. Jack Clement's new ASCAP Publishing Company, makes a strong bid for attention with the second song in its catalogue. Charley Pride's latest Victor release "Does My Ring Hurt Your Finger", written by California writers Don Robertson and John Crutchfield, looks like Pride's biggest yet. Clement, Music Row's noted indie producer, has an already-well established BMI firm - Jack Music, Inc. - in which he has published most of his own songs such as current chart numbers "I Know One" Pride's previous single, and "West Canterbury Subdivision Blues", recorded by the Stonemans.

NEWS NEWS NEWS



HAPPY LANDING . . . The well-known trip pictured above met at Nashville's Metro Airport August 21 when RCA's Perry Como (left) arrived in the city to record with Victor's Nashville A&R chief Atkins (center). The two met Victor artist Archie Campbell enroute to the golf course where they were hoping to break a few records before beginning Como's first recording session in Music City since 1965.

The engagement and impending marriage of RCA Victor recording artist Norma Jean was announced today by Porter Wagoner, whose popular TV and road shows have featured Norma as lead female entertainer for seven years. Replacing Norma as a regular member of Wagoner's enterprises will be Dolly Parton. Dolly's two latest single releases, "Dumb Blonde" and "Something Fishy", have been major chart songs and best-sellers on the Monument label.

Norma, whose popularity resulting in heavy appearances and taping of TV shows has left little time for her personal life, is engaged to marry H.D. "Jody" Taylor, of Oklahoma City at a time to be decided in the near future. With marriage plans in the offing, she has decided to leave the Porter Wagoner TV Show because she will be unable to meet all road show commitments.

Wagoner's syndicated television show has featured Norma Jean since its inception in 1960. Instant success followed for both Norma and the show, which originally was syndicated in 18 markets and is today seen in over 80 major markets by millions of viewers.

Norma Jean will continue to be a member of the Grand Ole Opry cast and to record for RCA Victor Records. She will make personal appearances as a single act with limited engagements booked through Moeller Talent, Inc.

GARY PAXTON, successful arranger-producer of hit records found Vern & Rex, the GOSDIN BROS. in a rock & roll group. He asked them if they would like to make a Contemporary Country record. They jumped, he produced, they sang, and people are buying their new "HANGIN' ON" as if they were going out of style. Bakersfield International (1002) has just negotiated full national distribution with ERA Record Distributors and the single hit is now available all over the nation . . . and the Gosdin Bros. say they're just "HANGIN' ON"! Wouldn't You?

RCA Victor recording artist Hank Snow and his "Rainbow Ranch Boys" received the praise of prophets in their own country when 9,000 fans flocked to Centennial Park to see their featured performance. The attendance shattered all previous crowd records logged during 31 years of Sunday afternoon free park concerts sponsored by The Nashville Tennessean, this city's major morning daily. The appearance was Snow's first, however, previous performers over the years have been, with few exceptions, every major name act in Nashville today.



Gordon Smith (center) is flanked by Bobby Bare (left) and Chet Atkins during a recording session break in which Smith's British C & W recording group, "The Hillsiders", worked closely with Bare.

Merle Haggard is in Bakersfield relaxing and fishing before leaving on his next tour which will cover nine states. The Merle Haggard Show, one of the hottest country shows in the nation, stars Merle, The Strangers and features Bonnie Owens. It's reported the show is consistently playing to SRO throughout the nation. The group just completed a very successful appearance on ABC-TV's "Joey Bishop Show".

NEWS NEWS NEWS



In April of 1965, Ray Griff, a music minded Canadian, and Carla Scarborough, a native of Nashville, Tennessee, formed Blue Echo Music, Inc. The two partners first met in the offices of a music publishing company where they were both employed, Ray as a song-writer, reviewer and plugger, and Carla as business manager. Working together for over a year they became very good friends, each with a deep respect for the other's proficiency in his field. Therefore, when Ray decided to form a music publishing company he approached Carla with the idea of becoming his partner; she agreed, and in a short time Blue, Echo Music, Inc. was licensed with BMI.

There followed much hard work. Against seemingly impossible odds the young company began to make its way into the group of notable music publishers. Within just two years Blue Echo Music, Inc. had songs recorded by: EDDY ARNOLD, STONEWALL JACKSON, DOT TIE WEST, WAYNE NEWTON, GARY MARSHAL, TERESA BREWER, DIANE LEIGH, SLIM WHITMAN, CONNIE SMITH, RAY PILLOW, JEAN SHEPARD, WILMA BURGESS, DAVID HOUSTON, GEORGE MORGAN, GEORGE HAMILTON IV, TOMMY HUNTER, LAVERN BAKER, SHEB WOOLEY, ROY BEE, JOHNNY HARLOW, BILLY WALKER, JACK SCOTT, BOB LUMAN, and a number of other artists. Last year, after one year in business, they recieved a BMI award for the song "BABY" which was penned by Ray

Realizing that expansion is the key-note to success, Blue Echo Music, Inc. is taking another step forward, this being the formation of NOTE RECORDS. Their first release, which is scheduled for early August, is in the pop-country vein, and features Ray as the artist. The distributorship for NOTE RECORDS in the United States will be handled by Sounds Of Nashville whose operations originate in Nashville, Tennessee. The Canadian and European distributorship will be handled by Robert J. Stone Associates who are based in London, Ontario, Canada. A complete list of the label's distributors will be published in the trades at a later date.

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Rick Landy (center) head of Tree Publishing Co's new West Coast offices in Los Angeles prepares to take the fruits of his Nashville visit back to the coast with him. Assisting Landy with stacks of tapes and the Tree catalogue are Tree execs W.D. "Buddy" Killen (left), Executive VP, and Jack Stapp, Pres.

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The Du Quoin State Fair, Du Quoin, Ill., scored another great success with its opening day Country Music Spectaculars, according to Bill Hayes, President and Manager of the Fair. Saturday, Aug. 26 saw in excess of 10,000 paid in the main grandstand to watch JOHNNY CASH, LITTLE JIMMY DICKENS, CONWAY TWITTY, THE STATLER BROTHERS, CARL & PEARL BUTLER, MAMA MAYBELLE AND THE CARTERS, JOHNNY DARRELL AND OTHERS. The attendance was scored despite recurring thunderstorms and a heavy downpour at showtime!

Sunday, August 27's crowd was slightly greater than the Sunday night attendance a year ago with NAT STUCKEY, BILLY GRAMMER, FARON YOUNG, PORTER WAGONER, LEROY VAN DYKE, THE STONEMAN'S, STONEWALL JACKSON, NORMA JEAN, AND DELORES SMILEY featured! Aside from

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many County Fairs, Country Music has now scored resounding successes at both Illinois State Fairs. A Hap Peebles Opry Show Aug. 12 at Springfield, featuring ARCHIE CAMPBELL, JEANIE SHEPARD, SONNY JAMES AND THE SOUTHERN GENTLEMEN, JIMMY NEWMAN all from Nashville, and BUCK OWENS and BAND from California drew over 20,000 fans. "We are extremely well pleased with our opening night crowds," said Hayes. "Our main Grandstand show through the week stars Eddy Arnold and we're looking for fine business throughout the Fair." The Du Quoin packages were built and produced by Bob Neal of the Bob Neal Agency in Nashville for the 4th year.



It was "cake-sweet Saturday" when Radio Station KBBQ, full-time c/w Los Angeles outlet, hosted a birthday party in honor of Buck Owens' August 12th birth date. Ready to get their share of the "goodies" as they greeted several hundred guests who were members of the "KBBQ Country Club", are KBBQ Country Gentlemen, (l to r) Larry Scott, Harry Newman, Jim O'Brien, Bill Williams and Bob Jackson. The huge, 50-pound custom-made cake made as a replica of the Capitol Records Tower building in Hollywood, was created through the cooperation of Capitol Record's Buck Stapleton.

Background on the recent Glaser Brothers single "Through the Eyes of Love" is more academic and less psychedelic than the title implies. Jack Clement, Music Row's reknowned song-smith and indie producer, went straight to the source of information on the subject six yrs. ago when he wrote the hit with Dr. William Addington. Dr. Addington, holder of a Ph. D. in Psychology, was then on the faculty of Memphis State University.

ETHEL DELANEY . . . Swiss Miss Yodeler . . . Recording Artist on the OHIO label . . . upon her return from an extended tour throughout the GREAT NORTHEAST COUNTRY . . . was greeted with news via mail from the capital city of NEW YORK that her current release "ECHO VALLEY" on the OHIO label has been the most requested record in ALBANY during the past month. ETHEL had the pleasure of being in the NEW YORK CITY area for a number of appearances. Her schedule allowed her time enough to be in the audience of several network television shows . . . JOHNNY CARSON TONIGHT SHOW . . . EYE GUESS . . . CONCENTRATION . . . THE MATCH GAME. She made stops at numerous radio stations and visited with the C/M Dee-Jays . . . altho ETHEL was following up on ECHO VALLEY . . . she had several dubs of her recording session which took place in JUNE at the R.C.A. STUDIOS . . . w/LLOYD GREEN on steel; KELSO HERSTON on guitar; BILL PURCELL on piano - harpsichord; LARRY BUTLER on organ - piano; WILLIE ACKERMAN on drums; JUNIOR HUSKEY on bass; JIMMIE JOHNSON on rythm guitar . . . "SING ME A SONG OF SADNESS" b/w "GOIN' TO THE COUNTRY" . . . and the GREAT NORTHEAST got a sneak preview of the session . . . release to be in the mail to the d-j's the latter part of AUGUST.

Upon her return from the great NORTHEAST . . . she had one day of rest . . . then off to NASHVILLE for several days on business . . . visiting NASHVILLE d-j's (giving NASHVILLE a sneak preview of the new release which is due out the latter part of this month). ETHEL is back at home base in OHIO . . . preparing for the taping of a country music television show to be shown in the AKRON-CLEVELAND area . . . more details on this in about ten days.

Chattanooga, Tenn.'s Memorial Auditorium was the kick-off site Sept. 1 for the '67-'68 version of the "Masters Festival Of Music", according to X. Cosse, manager of the fabulously successful musical unit. Now entering its fourth season, the Festival features the individual and combined artistries of Chet Atkins, Boots Randolph and Floyd Cramer, three of Nashville's most famous and accomplished musicians, with a regular road band conducted by Joe Lane, and occassional visits by the "Music City Sound of Strings", a 10-piece string unit used for trio backing.

The new schedule consists of "99% repeat business", said Cosse, referring to the fact that virtually all of the cities on the agenda were played last year to SRO crowds. The one new addition is Ft. Lauderdale, Fla. which is sandwiched in between

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December engagements in Orlando and St. Petersburg. Other cities on the announced tour include Houston, Dallas, Ft. Worth, Oklahoma City, Amarillo, Lubbock, Columbus, Birmingham, Beaumont, Nashville, Charlotte, Knoxville, Augusta and Greensboro.

Format for this year's show is virtually unchanged, except for music updating and rearranging. The possibility does exist, however, that an additional headline act may join the trio at a later date. From its relatively meager origin in 1964, the Festival has evolved into one of the most successful show-business ventures ever to come out of this city. In the past two years, Cosse pointed out, all but two Festival dates (Louisville and Madison, Wisc.) have been sellouts.

In Nashville, a city reputed to not turn out for local performers, the Atkins-Randolph-Cramer show has totally soldout three times in succession.



"Line up for cake and coffee!" was the call, as hundreds of Buck Owens fans arrived at the studios of KBBQ, full-time Los Angeles c/w independent. Occasion marked the Saturday, August 12th birthday celebration in honor of the Capitol Records recording artist. Members of the KBBQ "Country Club" were invited guests to share a 50 pound birthday cake made in a replica of the Capitol Records Tower building in Hollywood. Along with Buck Stapleton of Capitol Records, KBBQ Country Gentlemen Larry Scott, Harry Newman, Jim O'Brien, Bill Williams and Bob Jackson served as hosts.

Jimmy Key, President of Rice Records, has announced the signing of Billy Grammer to an exclusive recording pact. "Billy's image as an artist," commented Key, "Represents the approach we are taking with Rice - - Flexibility." Referring to Grammer's past successes as a singer, instrumentalist

and TV host, Key revealed a wide range of other artists signed to the label including Al Terry, Linda Manning, George Kent, Buddy Meredith, Chase Webster and Helen Carter. Another aspect of the Rice expansion - - which coincides with overall growth in the other Key enterprises of Key Talent - - includes the naming of Johnny T. Talley as National Promotional and Sales Director. Talley will also handle promotion for the other Key firms.

Grammer's long career has produced records for Monument, Decca, and Epic and has taken him through many shows to the Grand Ole Opry where he has been a regular for several years. His new affiliation with Rice has begun with a vocal - - "MABEL, YOU HAVE BEEN A FRIEND TO ME" - - But a series of Gospel instrumentals is planned in keeping with his customary variety of material.



Allen McElroy, J.B. Artist & Record Promotions branch manager, announced the signing of a promotion and personal management contract with CHUCK HALL who records on the Banner label. His new release is "The Mother Of My Son" written by Dallas Frazer. Chuck, the pride and joy of Childress, Texas, is a Dee Jay at KLLL in Lubbock and is kept on the go playing at various night clubs in the area. He played at the Non-Commissioned Officer's Club at Reese Air Force Base, Texas, on Saturday, July 29th and by popular demand made a return engagement on Friday, August 4th. Chuck is well known throughout Texas, Oklahoma, New Mexico and Arizona, both as a Dee Jay and entertainer.

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Musicor Records has signed veteran country singer-songwriter Floyd Tillman. The initial album by the artist, titled "Floyd Tillman's Country," has been completed and is due for release early in July. Tillman is the writer of such famed country hits as "Slipping Around" and its well-known answer song, "I'll Never Slip Around Again." The former became a county standard through a recording in the early 50's by Margaret Whiting and Jimmy Wakely. Only two years ago it achieved new fame through versions from George Morgan and Marion Worth, and from Roy Drusky and Priscilla Mitchell. Tillman's debut LP for Musicor, his first recording for any firm in several years, will contain a number of his own tunes. Several among these are brand new and were written expressly for this album. Musicor's Melba Montgomery, meanwhile, who currently has a budding single country hit with "What Can I Tell The Folks" and "Back Home", both written by Dallas Frazier, has recorded another duet LP with Musicor country king George Jones. Also scheduled for early release, the set is titled "Let's Get Together". At the same time Musicor will release another Jones album, "Hits By George". Jones is due in Nashville this week for new discing sessions with Musicor country producing chief Pappy Daily.

Though known mainly for his hit consistency as a singer, RCA Victor's Waylon Jennings is no newcomer to the world of successful songwriting. His most recent writing, and probable best to-date, is "Julie", which was recorded by Porter Wagoner and appears a cinch for high chart action. Sold on the song after hearing only one verse, the Wagonmaster urged Waylon to write the rest with him in mind and the result is a single spotlighted across the country a future high riser. Previous efforts penned by Jennings include "Anita You're Dreaming", and "Just To Satisfy You", both co-authored with his best friend Don Bowman.

SAMMY JACKSON, TV's "Will Stockdale" in "NO TIME FOR SERGEANTS" last week was asked to speak at a teen girls' youth clinic. When he was introduced, the meeting turned into a mild storm and Sammy was forced to "Perform" instead of speak. He did . . . sang his first record release "TROUBLE-MAKER", to the delight of the entire gathering: They loved it! No wonder, his new Commerce record is "Pick" City on many Country & Pop radio outlets.

Sammy says TV series, movie work & now records are much more fun than shoveling sour mash for his uncle's still in his hometown of Henderson, North Carolina.



"UMMMMM! I know who sings like a songbird," says comic Smiley Sutter with a knowing look recently as he posed for Country Music Life with pretty country music lark Penny Starr backstage at the WWVA Jamboree Wheeling, West Va. Smiley (who's an excellent yodeler) appears on the Jamboree regularly with Penny Starr and other country music recording artists.

Sonny James and The Southern Gentlemen departed from Nashville, August 30th on a tour that will keep them away from Music City until convention time in October. The swing of dates starts at Allendale, South Carolina and will be made during this span of dates that covers territory from Rudand, Vermont in the East, Grand Forks and Fargo, North Dakota in the West and Houston, Austin, and San Antonio, Texas in the South with many stops between. At the same time, the new Sonny James release on Capitol, "It's The Little Things" is being sent out to all country music radio stations.

PEER IVAN, a country singer from Copenhagen, Denmark will soon make his recording mark in the USA, and the foreign countries on VOKES RECORDS. Peer Ivan became very popular in Denmark with his version of, "GREEN, GREEN, GRASS OF HOME". Peer has picked out several songs from the pen of Howard Vokes, owner of Vokes Records, and a single will be forth-coming. Peer Ivan has a style all his own, and should make a great showing with his first USA issue.

Country Music

Every singer is not necessarily an entertainer. Just because a man has a great singing voice, does not mean that people are going to be entertained watching him perform.

Our guest this month is one of the few that not only is good at both but excels at it. A man that has one of the best and most admired voices in country music and draws capacity crowds wherever he appears.

Tex Williams has been in country music since "way back when". He is still as sharp today if not more than he was when he started before I was even born. He has a string of hits "as long as your arm" and continues to crank them out year after year.

He is currently serving as president of the Academy of Country and Western Music after being elected to a second term by over 300 members making up the bulk of the music business in Southern California.

Once again we sit down with Bill Thompson of Radio Station KGBS Los Angeles as he conducts a candid conversation with a real veteran of country music.

Tex Williams



BILL: The year was 1947 and this was the song for Tex Williams. Smoke, Smoke, Smoke. That was the song that started it back in 1947 Tex, welcome.

TEX: Thank you Bill.

BILL: It sold over 2 million.

TEX: Yes, this particular record sold over two million. All in all, of course it was recorded by many different artists and in many different languages, over all, I would say that it sold way over ten million copies, everybody's record.

BILL: This was the song that you actually got together on with Merle Travis.

TEX: Yes sir, you bet. And it was a very lucky day for me that I ran across Merle at that particular time.

BILL: How did you team up on it? Did you write the words?

TEX: No, actually Merle had written practically all of the words. He had no melody, of course there is very little melody, just the chorus. And some of the things we had to change in it to get it played on all the stations. And that's about it. We put the arrangements behind it and Merle is responsible for the lyrics.

BILL: Well, this not only went big in the country field, it must have gone big in the pop field too.

TEX: It did, Bill . . . It went very well. Phil Harris recorded it shortly after I did and Phil sold 6 or 700,000 on it just immediately. And there were several records on it that sold well over a quarter of a million. Pop field as well as country.

BILL: What was the group that backed you up on this?

TEX: Well, that was my original band called the Western Caravan. Of course that was the era of the big swing band. . . the country swing band. That played dances mostly in those days, and you needed the big band with all the different sections. . . We had four fiddles and two lead guitars plus the steel which gave you your brass section effects, and your fiddles were used for your reed sections as you would use them in a pop band. Everything was arranged of course in those days and you needed it for the dance band era.

BILL: What has happened to the group since then? Do you still use part of them?

TEX: Not very often. I get to work with Smokey Rodgers, of course Smokey was on the original Western Caravan. As a matter of fact, Smokey was a partner in the venture. I work with Smokey, but he is strictly on his own, and I am sorry to say that a lot of the boys are gone. The piano player, Ozzie Godsen passed away about five years ago, Duke Spriggins the big bass player passed away last year, the kid that does the fine guitar on it, Johnny Wiess, passed

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away last year, so there's three or four of them that are gone.

BILL: Do you travel with a group now?

TEX: No actually I do most of my work as a single, work with the house band, practically every club has a house band, and with transportation the way it is, they might book you here and you get a call tonight to play Chicago Tomorrow, and of course you have to fly to get there on time and transportation is just impossible with a big group anymore.

BILL: It was interesting to note the song Closer, Closer, Closer. I think if you back the two songs up their very similar in nature. Maybe you could tell us something about this.

TEX: They are very similar, and I think that is what prompted us to do it. It had been several years since we had done Smoke, and Closer, Closer was published by the same publishing company, and they had presented the song to me several times and I thought possibly it was a little too close. Liberty records did too for a while but they finally said what the heck lets give it a chance and by it being that similar was probably why we did do the tune.

BILL: 1963 the date on that one, which was quite a few years after the 1947 success of Smoke, Smoke, Smoke and they are rather similar. How did the song do for you?

TEX: It did quite well, Bill. It got lots and lots of play throughout the country and it looked like it was going to be another great big one. It didn't quite come up to Smoke, we're sorry to say, but it was well worth doing for the exposure and the play that it got.

BILL: Getting back to Smoke, Smoke, Smoke for a moment here, two million copies is quite unheard of in the country field today and I think they figure that if you sell anywhere from 70,80, 100 thousand you've got a big hit record.

TEX: That is a big hit. That's a number one chart record. There's a lot of difference in the sales certainly. I think I mentioned the first record I did for Capitol in 1946 sold over a quarter of a million, and they were already to release me from the label. They said you're not selling enough records. I thought that was a pretty good sale and they said no, you got a big band, and like I said a while ago, thank God for Merle, and Smoke Smoke Smoke. It kept us on the label and things were real good for several years with Capitol.

BILL: Tex, how did it all start for you? When did you first get into the business?

TEX: Bill, that goes back a long ways. I'll try to boil it down to a very few words if I can. I was born,

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I guess you could say in to a musical family. My dad being, an old time fiddle player. And of course the brothers, I had eight brothers by the way, and two sisters and all the brothers played some type of stringed instrument, banjo, fiddle, guitar. And we used to have the little get together at the house. After supper Dad would get the fiddle, and those that could pick would second him. What we called second him. Play chords, rhythm, back-up, and actually it's the only thing I've ever been interested in, career wise, I did do a little to keep body and soul together, for a while. A little heat and refrigeration back in Illinois, but I was born into it and raised by a musical family and it was a natural normal thing I guess.

BILL: When did you come to the coast?

TEX: I came actually to the state of Washington, I guess in 1938. My first trip to this area, to Hollywood would have been in 1939 I believe. I came down with a band and we did a picture with Mr. Tex Ritter in 1939. He was doing the musical western where he used a different group in each picture and then I moved here in 1942. My homes been here since 1942, Bill.

Bill Thompson.



BILL: How many movies do you have to your credit?

TEX: I have 24 of my own, westerns, the action westerns, and of course I've worked in several besides that. I wouldn't know how many I've done maybe like a song or a bit part in several others, but 24 of my own.

BILL: When did you move from Capitol to Decca?

TEX: From Capitol? Lets see. That will take just a little figuring. '46 to '50? I guess 1950. No. there was a year in there . . . I've made 'em all Bill . . . there was a year with Victor. '49 to '50 I guess with Victor, and then to Decca in 1950 to 1955.

BILL: 1957 was a good year for you, with a song that Red Stewart wrote for you called Reno, Town of Broken Hearts. You play quite a bit up there now. In the Lake Tahoe . . . Reno area?

TEX: Yes I do. We're fortunate that we do have a couple of spots where we do work there. We work the big Sahara, in Tahoe and the Holiday in Reno. And they like this song up there very much. As a matter of fact, it's one of the most requested things when I do play a personal appearance of all . . . actually I would say possibly as many requests for Reno as for Smoke.

BILL: Where were you when the song was brought to you? Were you here in Los Angeles?

TEX: No, surprisingly enough I was in Nashville on a recording session. Doing a recording session when Charlie Adams brought the tune in. He'd just come from Louisville, Red had given him a dub, a record of the tune, and he played it during a break in the recording session. We did it right there. It took a matter of maybe a half hour, we had the finished product and it's been very good for me.

BILL: The year was 1957. A Red Stewart tune, Reno the Town of Broken Hearts, known for many other things . . . gambling and things like that, and Reno and Las Vegas . . . I guess you might call them the divorce centers of the world.

TEX: I would say they are.

BILL: Which is not really a good title, but . . .

TEX: But it's life . . .

BILL: What happened . . . I noticed that it one time in your life you were at WJBL in Decatur.

TEX: Yes. As a matter of fact that was my first . . . I like to call it my first professional job . . . I was thirteen at the time, Bill, and strangely enough I did, I had a half hour show, all by myself. I played at the time just a guitar accompaniment. I also played the five-string banjo. This was my original instrument. It had five strings. And you remember the little shoulder straps that held the harmonica?

BILL: A regular one-band band. How long was the show?

TEX: A half hour show. Once a week, on Saturday afternoons.

BILL: Would you just come in and handle it informally and just do what came to mind?

TEX: Very informally. Of course I wrote down the tunes I thought it would take to fill a half hour. I'd usually have an hour or an hour and a half worth of

tunes down, of course I had an announcer that worked with me and at that time I didn't talk quite as much as I do now, so it took an announcer to do the show with me.

BILL: Well the song that you wrote, Smoke Smoke Smoke, or rather collaborated with Merle Travis on, have you done much in the songwriting vein since then?

TEX: Actually, I haven't done too much. I have been co-writer on several tunes, Cliffie Stone and I did a tune called the Talking Boogie, Merle and I did two or three others, actually the one that comes to mind is Don't Make Love to Mary with Mabel on Your Mind and I did one that was very good for us that I wrote with Bob Newman several years ago. As a matter of fact it was before Smoke Smoke. It was called the Leaf of Love and It's a much requested tune. Thats about the limit of it. I wrote one, actually one tune to my credit that I am sole writer and we recorded it years ago for Columbia and it's never been released so thats the story of my writing.

BILL: I wonder when they'll release it.

TEX: I think probably they were afraid to hurt some of the other writers. They didn't want to . . . this thing would probably be a sensation.

BILL: Did you like songwriting?

TEX: Oh, I enjoy it. Of course with me it has to be an idea that just hits me so hard that you just sit down and work it out. And ideas are few and far between with me these days.

BILL: How had some of the past ideas come to you? Had it been like you wake up in the middle of the night and say Hey.

TEX: No, I think actually with me it would be an expression. Somebody made, you know. As a matter of fact, the title of the tune . . . I might as well go ahead and tell you. Probably never be released any way . . . the title was "I Can't Help It". Of course there has been a tremendously big hit written since, but this was an expression that the harp player that used to work with he would say that his mother used, the family was from Texas and the mother would always say well "I cain't he'p it". This gave me the idea for that and I think most songs come from an expression that somebody uses or an idea.

BILL: I've heard that in a joking sense where somebody would say "hey that would make a good song".

TEX: Right. And often times they go and write it.

BILL: Do you have any favorite songwriters? I know it puts you on the spot at this particular point, but through your career . . . maybe a favorite songwriter of songs that you have sung yourself or what you feel are some of the great songwriters that you enjoy.

TEX: Well Bill, actually there are so many great songwriters and have been, I would go back a good many years and say that one of my very favorite songwriters, and I think would have to be classed as one of the greatest, would be Fred Rose. And of course I was around and recording when Fred was writing some of his greatest stuff. Of course he organized the company Acuff-Rose with Roy Acuff.

Nowadays you have so many good songwriters, but . . . Willie Nelson is a great songwriter. Hank Cochran. Jeannie Seely is one of the finest songwriters in the business right now I think.

BILL: As you mentioned, Hank Cochran. That was a very big record for you in 1953 called the Late Movie. Can you tell us about this?

TEX: This had been done once before. I had never heard the tune. It was done in an album by Burl Ives and this was another case where we had gone into Nashville with Tommy Allsup who was my A&R man with Liberty in those days, and I heard this . . . well Hank did it with a guitar and I said this we got to do. I mean the tune . . . I think should have been one of the biggest sellers . . . I think one day will be. I still feel that it should be one of the biggest tunes of all times.

BILL: Well, Hank is what you might call an emotional songwriter. He really feels . . . I've heard some of his dubs and demos where he just goes to pieces on some of his own songs in getting the feeling across.

TEX: Right he is. He writes I think from the heart. Hank is a tremendous songwriter.

BILL: Hank has written a lot of great songs. A lot of ballads. He seems to sort of hang on ballads and personal experiences. This was quite a song for you I imagine. Did you have a feeling at the time? Do you when you record? Can you tell? About a certain record?

TEX: Well you sure can't tell, I've been proven wrong so many times. But you sure get a feeling. And this I thought, as I mentioned before, should have been one of the biggest and I think it will someday. Somebody will get it that is tremendous.

BILL: How does that work? In other words, could you ever sing the song again yourself?

TEX: It would be five years from the date of recording.

BILL: Which would place it about 1968. There's been a new sound in country music and I saw some editorials written when I was down at the convention last year. Some of the local papers that people had written in and said don't let country music be changed. Don't let it go away from what it was. What is your feeling on this?

TEX: Well, I think all types of music change. And I think they have to. They change for the better. I think country music has changed several times in the space of my career. When I started out as a kid it was strictly three chords and mostly cowboy songs, and of course the hill country songs . . . the Tennessee and Kentucky type songs and then we came into the era of the bigger bands which was a drastic change where from one fiddle you went to four, one guitar you went to three of four. I think the sound right now is just great, but it's changing gradually. I think the Nashville that it's called started with a maybe a five or six piece group. And it was great. But now they're adding another guitar, maybe two more guitars, and of course they're adding maybe four

six, maybe eight violins, but I think it's a great help to it. It still maintains the feeling, the great sound that they call Nashville, but they add so much wider scope to the music. I think it's great. It has to change.

BILL: Have you been able to define the Nashville? We've asked people before and they find some problem in saying just exactly what it is.

TEX: Well, actually I . . . the Nashville sound would be the Nashville musicians. As far as I'm concerned I think it's just the fact that these boys are so great and so versatile. You go in to do a recording session and each guy tries to help you get the sound that you think you want, they offer suggestions, which . . . I love the West coast and I've done my biggest records here and this is certainly nothing against the boys on the coast, but you just don't get the feeling amongst the group that you do in Nashville and I think it's strictly the men themselves. The entertainers. It isn't something electronically, as we know we can do anything here that they can electronically.

BILL: Of course they've got some great talent down there.

TEX: They do have. And this is a profession to them. Recording. Nashville, if you define it, Nashville has no clubs, the men that live there depend solely on recording. Grand Ole Opry is Saturday night and I think the check is \$18.50 or something, and this would be hard to raise your family on. This is a business with them and a very fine business. They make tremendous amounts of money a year.

BILL: Do you prefer to record in Nashville when you get the chance? Or are they getting more and more musicians out here?

TEX: Well, I'll tell you, and in just taking the chance . . . I certainly don't want to hurt anyone, and I probably won't as far as no more recording that I do . . . I do prefer to record in Nashville and it's strictly for the feeling that you have among the men. They'll do anything that you ask them or they will as least try it. I think I do now prefer to record in Nashville.

BILL: Do you spend quite a bit of time down there?

TEX: Well, actually if you're lucky and you get four tunes, which you usually try to do on a recording session, you would go about four times a year. So, you would have your two releases per trip down, and usually I am there more than that. You might have to go back and do an over-dub or something like that, but about six times a year is all I make it Nashville.

BILL: Your voice. Have you always had this deep resonant voice from the time you were a youngster?

TEX: Bill, I guess I have had it since I was around maybe fourteen or fifteen. Not quite as deep as it is right now, I pushed it down a little bit, and by that I mean if you vocalize, like riding along in the car and you just keep seeing how deep a note you can hit, eventually you can hit that note. So then next month or whenever it is you try for another one.



I pushed it down probably a few notes at least.

BILL: Did you have any voice training that you went through? Is this all natural?

TEX: No, what there is there is natural. No. No training at all.

BILL: Have you ever insured your voice? You know, like Betty Grable insured her legs . . .

TEX: There have been several items . . . No. I was asked about this in Germany. I just got back from three weeks in Germany and somebody over there asked me if I had my voice insured. And I don't think . . . I don't even know if you can or not. I've never heard of it being done.

BILL: I think Lloyds of London will do about anything . . .

TEX: I suppose for a certain fee, yes. But I don't know of anybody that has ever insured a voice.

BILL: How many times have you been on the Grand Ole Opry?

TEX: Gee, I don't know. But off hand I would say maybe a dozen times, Bill.

BILL: Are you a member of the opry?

TEX: No. I was never a member of the opry. Only as a guest.

BILL: You would almost have to move to Nashville.

TEX: That's right, you would have to be there. They require so many weeks out of the year. If you become a member of the Opry you are required to be there so many weeks out of the year.

BILL: How does this work for you to appear on the Opry as a guest? Are you asked by one of the regulars, like Porter Wagoner, or Ernest Tubb?

TEX: No you would be asked by Ott Devine or Some of the heads of the Opry. At one time I think they had the network. We go back to the days when Foley was there and Acuff. The network had an agency I think who hired guests and made arrangements for guests. This I don't know as they have anymore, but Ott Devine or someone will . . . or maybe one of the boys will say lets talk to Ott and get you on. If you happen to be there at convention time sometimes it happens that way.

BILL: I imagine it is quite a thrill to appear on the Opry before the audience that comes from all over the country . . . in fact somebody said that not many people from Nashville even go to the Opry. That it's all taken up by people from the surrounding states.

TEX: I would imagine so. I know there is so many months ahead on reservations and it is a great thrill, Bill. I think the first time I ever saw the Opry in person, my wife and I . . . I appeared on the Opry on Foleys section, the network part. We just sat down in the wings and watched the rest of the evening. More talent than I'd ever seen in my life went across the stage of the Ryman auditorium.

BILL: The audience is so responsive. They really make you feel at home. The year 1964. The year after Late Movie, you had another good one called Picking White Gold. A fred Carter composition.

TEX: This tune I love very much. I like Freds writing, I like Fred personally. He's a very warm wonderful guy, and he writes a little differently as you know from much of Freds tunes. It's more actually, more of a folk type of song. What I would consider would be folk type, and this would definitely be called folk I believe.

BILL: Do you have any preference in the type of songs that you like to record? Do you like a folk type song like this?

TEX: I enjoy doing a folk song. I enjoyed this one very much and then Fred wrote another one that I did a little later . . . I'll think of it as we go along. Actually, I love to do ballads. Of course I've really never had a ballad that sold real big. The ones that have sold for me have been noveltys. I would have to say that I enjoy . . . and I do enjoy doing the novelty type songs. I think I would prefer, if I could get some big ones, I would love to do ballads.

BILL: I imagine this is quite a problem for an artist such as yourself, you mentioned that you have sort of been stereotyped in to the novelty section, yet you would like to do a ballad. What do you feel on this? Is there any way to pull out of it?

TEX: I don't think so. I've tried it. Every record I've released had a ballad on one side of it or the other with the exception of Smoke. Now there was a polka on the other side which was an up tempo thing, certainly wouldn't be classed as a ballad, but I've tried many ballads and like I said, just never had a big ballad seller. And I would love to. There are so many beautiful ballads every day and very few noveltys that ever do anything.

BILL: After 1964 and Picking White Gold, you made a big switch and switched to the Boone label.

TEX: Well actually, the Boone label was more or less a holding company at the time I talked to Bobby Bobo, who is president of the company. Bobby had organized the label to record himself. And he is a very fine entertainer. He had released two or three numbers on it, and Bob fortunately had been a fan of mine for a good many years, done many of the tunes that I had recorded, and he said I would love to record you sometime. If your ever between contracts, I can sell records on you. Well, I said that sounds real good and if I'm ever between labels I'll sure give it a whirl. And he not knowing at that time that I had my release on my desk at that time, but I thought I'd let it go a little while. And of course then one of his salesman came back from Nashville and had a dub and I liked it so well, I said nows the time. I'll quit kidding you. I'd love to record for you. If your ready, call the musicians, and of course he was on the phone in about five minutes to Nashville.

BILL: Is this the one that sort of followed up the big Buck Owens hit?

TEX: Right. Yes sir.

BILL: The year was 1965 and it dealt with tigers. Too Many Tigers, and that was your first release for

Boone and one of many successful ones that you've had for them. I imagine you had a lot of fun doing that particular song.

TEX: Really did. The Anita Kerr's were on that, and that's Wayne Moss doing that great guitar solo, and . . . as a matter of fact, every session I've done for Boone has just been a ball. There just so easy to work with, and of course Bobo himself, being an entertainer, he gets more enthused than anybody else on the session.

BILL: Well actually, it was quite a timely song, because at that time Buck Owens had Tiger by the Tail and Tony the tiger on television and one of the leading gas companies had a tiger in your tank and it was quite a thing.

TEX: Yes, Sue Thompson had Paper Tiger . . . it was a very timely thing. That is what I think prompted the change to Boone and got us started on I think the correct road.

BILL: Do you have any favorites that you've recorded except maybe Smoke Smoke Smoke because it went over two million . . . of all the songs that you have done did you have any particular preference for any one?

TEX: Well, that one, I would have to call that one my favorite, I do have some favorite things that I've done. The Late Movie, and one that's of course became a back side of . . . I don't recall this . . . it's on Boone. It's called My Last Two Tens. It's a narration. Of course I love to do narrations, and possibly that's why I liked it so well, but it's one of my favorites.

BILL: Well your association with Boone has been a successful one and now you do all the recordings for Boone down in Nashville.

TEX: Yes. Actually the company is some 200 miles from Nashville, so it would be easier for me to go there than to shift it to the coast.

BILL: Where are they actually located?

TEX: They're in Union, Kentucky. It's about 14 miles down river from Cincinnati.

BILL: Well, they're building quite a stable down there. Kenny Price did so well with a song here recently.

TEX: Great. Kenny is a fine artist and a fine writer. I've done some of Kennys tunes. Hank Cochran did one of Kennys tunes. He's a fine writer and going to be a great writer I think.

BILL: Do they keep you pretty busy on the road?

TEX: They certainly have in this past year. I guess I've been busier than I have in ten years.

BILL: What would be the reason for this? Do you think the new boom in country music is causing this?

TEX: Yes. I think so. And of course sort of revitalized with some good records, good saleable records, and of course another thing that's very instrumental in it is that just last year I sold a night club that I owned and that sort of keeps you at home. Sort of keeps you tied down.

BILL: On the average, how much have you been on

the road?

TEX: I would say I've spent six months . . . at least six months on the road.

BILL: Do you enjoy your European tours?

TEX: Yes I do. Of course, I'm a wanderer I guess. I love to see what's over the next hill. Always have been, even as a child. And I still love to see the different parts of the world and I would like to see it all.

BILL: You mentioned Germany, and it's funny because everyone we've talked to says that this is where they get the greatest response to country music.

TEX: Germany is very good. I wouldn't say it was any better than . . . two years ago I took a trip that lasted about ten weeks up through the orient and I think the reception over there is equally as good as Germany, but it's very fine in Germany.

BILL: There doesn't seem to be a language barrier, does there?

TEX: No there isn't anymore. Most anywhere you go, you can get across. At least your songs and your music gets across. As far as doing an entire show like you would do it here in the states your jokes, your little patter doesn't mean so much. So you just put in a few more songs and as they say, music is a universal language.

BILL: Somebody was telling us, I think it was Buck Owens, about the Japanese and how they're starting to mimic. He said they're great mimics. And they are doing a fantastic job with some of the people like Faron Young and . . . have they mimiced you at all?

TEX: I don't believe so. As a matter of fact I've never heard a Japanese with quite this deep a voice, Bill. But they do like people like Faron and Hank Snow is very much . . . and they sound so much like. . . Marty Robbins is another that they just . . . you turn your head and you'd swear that it was Marty or Hank Snow or . . . it's great. And the instrumental part of it is very good. They're very sharp.

BILL: Isn't it the truth that a record may not sell . . . lets take country music. It may do so-so here but may bring you a gold record by selling 2 million . . . maybe that's a little high . . . in the European countries or the Far East.

TEX: Very very possible. You bet. You can have a record that might go 30 thousand here and might sell 400,000 which is tremendous in those small countries. You don't have the people you know. But, it happens often.

BILL: In 1965, the same year that Too Many Tigers did so well, you had another big one called Big Tennessee.

TEX: Yes. I mentioned Kenny Price just a while ago. Kenny wrote this and this was in another trend that is doing very well. The truck driving trend. And I think Kenny did a fine job on Big Tennessee.

BILL: And Kenny went on later to do very well himself with a thing called Walkin' On New Grass. You're quite active in the local Los Angeles scene with

a new group that has been formed called the Academy of Country and Western Music. In fact your the president. Maybe you could explain to us just briefly what the association is and its purpose and what you have to do.

TEX: Well, it's to further country and western music on the west coast. Certainly nothing against the CMA in Nashville, as a matter of fact I'm sure all of us that belong to the Academy also belong to the organization in Nashville. But of course, if you are away from the scene, you miss maybe some press releases, this and that, and we thought that we on the west coast should have an organization where you get these things done. It's strictly to promote country and western music. They snuck up while I was out of town and made me president and I feel it's a great thrill and an honor.

BILL: They did a great job last year on putting on an awards presentation that to me rivaled the Academy Awards. It was one of the smoothest and best run awards presentations I think I've ever seen.

TEX: It was beautiful Bill, just absolutely beautiful and of course we are going to try and out-do it this year along with . . .

BILL: And there has been talk about this, possibly because of the success of the last show and the way it was run, that it might be on national television.

TEX: I'm sure that it will be. At least syndicated for a later release.

BILL: Let's close off with a song that came out a year later and did well for you and you said that you have quite a bit of fun with this song in your night club act. It's called Bottom Of A Mountain.

TEX: Yes. This of course I can get a lot of mileage out of I started out with it a little higher than I did on the record and keep lowering it a tone. I can get about ten minutes out of this, Bill. I enjoy it and of course I like the tune very much.

BILL: That shatters my eardrums when you get down that low. Sort of what tweets the tweeters and woofs the woofers and I would say that that was a song that could only be done by Tex Williams.

TEX: That certainly did lay real good for me Bill, and I enjoy doing it.

BILL: Well it certainly looks like you have a very successful career ahead of you with the Boone Company, and . . . Too Many Tigers in 1965, Bottom of a Mountain in 1966, Big Tennessee in 1965, and you did quite well with Bottom Land, but we want to wish you the best, and thank you for taking the time to come in and talk and sort of let everybody in on the inside, or the other side of Tex Williams.

TEX: Thank you Bill, It was a pleasure.

Next Month

Bill Anderson

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MERLE HAGGARD



On Top

Where He Belongs

There are few country singers who have created the same interest and excitement among both the public and the trade as Capitol recording artist, Merle Haggard. From the time he burst into the lime-light with his initial recording on Tally Records "Singing My Heart Out", the singer was built a large and enthusiastic following.

Born and raised in Bakersfield, California, Merle grew up liking sports and fishing . . . an average All-American boy. Average, that is until he acquired his first guitar at the age of 12. Learning to cord along as he listened to records, Merle was soon singing and imitating Lefty Frizzell and Jimmie Rogers. Following graduation from high school, young Haggard worked in the oilfields and what little singing he got to do was in his spare time. But whenever possible, he would sing; and with the urging of friends entered a talent contest in Bakersfield in 1959 winning 2nd place.

Hired as a relief singer and rhythm guitar player in a local nightspot, he met his now good friend and Personal Manager, Fuzzy Owen. Fuzzy believing in

Merle's singing ability, asked him to record on his label. His first release "Singing My Heart Out" was recorded and a mere 200 records released. His next release on Tally "Sing Me A Sad Song", written by Wynn Stewart, hit No. 19 in the national charts, followed by "Sam Hill" which stirred more action for the Bakersfield boy. About this point in his career, Merle was considered "the guy who made the most expensive dubs in the country", his records being covered by some of the top names in the business.

Waiting for the right song for his next release, Merle met Liz Anderson and of all the great songs she sang for him, "Strangers" seemed to stand out as the greatest . . . it had that certain identity to it. "Strangers" seemed to stand out as the greatest . . . it had that certain identity to it. "Strangers" certainly had that identity because it brought him to the attention of Capitol A & R Chief, Ken Nelson, and earned him a long-term Capitol contract.

Merle followed "Strangers" with a string of his





Jerry Ward, Roy Nichols, Fuzzy Owen, Billy Mize, Merle, and Glen Campbell at Capitol Recording Session.



Merle Haggard & bass Jerry Ward playing "Stranger" on stage in Plainview, Texas, November 1, 1966.

Capitol singles and albums including "Just Between The Two of Us", a single that stayed on the Billboard best-seller charts for more than six months. Teamed with Merle on that single and album was another Bakersfield entry and the girl who was to become Mrs. Haggard, Bonnie Owens.

Merle's vocal talents were further recognized by the Academy of Country & Western Music when at their first Annual Awards Show, Merle won honors as the "Most Promising Male Vocalist" for 1965 and shared a second award with wife, Bonnie, for "Best Vocal Group". Again in 1966 Merle was honored by the Academy by being named "Top Male Vocalist" and again with Bonnie "Best Vocal Group".

Merle has also proven to be a talented songwriter. He has written some of his biggest hits and contributes numerous compositions to his Capitol albums.

Mayor W.H. Westbrooks, Mayor, Murfreesboro, Tenn., Merle, Bonnie, Fuzzy Owen, Pers. Mgr., receiving Key to City.

Two of his songs, "Swinging Doors" & "Bottle Let Me Down", were among the top five as "Song of the Year" at the Academy's 1966 Awards Show.

Besides recording and songwriting, Merle is one of the biggest Country entertainers in the country with TV guest shots on such shows as The Joey Bishop Show, Jimmy Dean, Swingin' Country, and Melody Ranch Show; plus a crowded personal appearance schedule that keeps him and his group, "The Strangers", on the road for more than eight months a year.

Merle Haggard is a colorful guy, energetic, restless, imaginative, with an abundance of enthusiasm, ideas, and talent; and when you see the "Swinging Doors Express" heading your way, we hope you'll have the chance to meet and hear Merle Haggard and the Strangers in person . . . you'll like them.

Merle, A & R exec. Capitol Records Ken Nelson, Billy Mize, Glen Campbell listen to playback.



Everybody Loves



By Jim Harris

KGBS PRESENTS A HOLIDAY PARTY blazoned the marquee above the world famous Hollywood Palladium.

The Palladium, located on Sunset Blvd. in the heart of Hollywood has played host to many great shows and stars, but Saturday night September 2nd it rocked to the sound of country music and 3000 people having the time of their lives.

On that date KGBS radio experimented with a new concept in country entertainment and to say it was a smash success would be making a gross understatement.

Country music in a party atmosphere is a little new to southern Californians. Prior to this most country stars appeared in an auditorium such as the Shrine in Los Angeles. There is certainly nothing wrong with that, but nothing compares with a party for making people loosen up and have a good time.

Drinks and dinner were available and the huge Palladium dance floor was in constant use.

To supply the entertainment KGBS rounded up some of the best talent in the business. Handling the em-cee job as well as performing was the great Glen Campbell, and anybody that thinks these people don't earn their money should have taken a look at Glen at around 2 A.M. Sharing the honors were Billy Mize, who is without question one of the most talented men in country music today. The beautiful voice of Miss Bonnie Guitar held the audience spellbound as they relinquished the dancing long enough to gather around the stage and hear Bonnie sing "The Green Green Grass of Home." One of the finest voices in the country today, Bonnie had the people shouting for more. Funny, funny man Pat Buttram kept everybody laughing as he always does. Also making guest appearances were Ron West, Jerry

Saturday

Night





Glen Campbell takes time out to sign autographs for his many fans.



Billy Mize, Bonnie Guitar, and Glen Campbell team up for a song.



Left to Right; Dottie Vance of Dot Records, KGBS General manager Dale Peterson, Bonnie Guitar, Billy Vaughan, both Dot recording artists, and KGBS morning man Bill Thompson.

Wallace, Ronnie Sessions and the great Johnny Bond. The music was supplied by the KGBS all-star band, and they kept the toes tapping until two in the morning.

Typical Hollywood atmosphere prevailed throughout the entire evening. Deeply tanned men in suits and tuxedos and beautiful women "dressed to the nines" mingled with celebrities of both movies and music. Among the show business people in attendance was movie and TV star Sammy Jackson, escorting beautiful actress Chris Noel. Over on the other side of the room one found Dot recording star and world famous orchestra leader Billy Vaughan. They don't come much of a bigger country music fan than Sammy

Jackson and after that evening we can't help but wonder how long it will be before Billy Vaughan releases a country album.

The responsibility for producing this mammoth show once again fell on the pretty shoulders of Barbara John. What a fantastic job this gal does.

KGBS says this was an experiment, and it was such a success that another one is planned for October 6th, but beyond that, they're pretty close-mouthed down there.

The Hollywood Palladium rocked out that night like it never did before and to use an old cliché "a good time was had by all".



A portion of the 3000 people in attendance gather around the stage to listen to Bonnie Guitar



Librian born people are; easy to get along with, have a gracious personality, a great imagination, they attract crowds, and there are more Librians in the field of entertainment than any other sign of the zodiac, so by putting all of these things together and by adding a good country singing voice along with the great sounds of a guitar, my friends you have the one and only TOMMY COLLINS.

Tommy first saw the light of day on September 28, 1930 in a small town near Oklahoma City, in the great state of Oklahoma. His growing up years were much like many other boys and girls that were raised on a farm during the years of the depression. Not to good - - - but - - - not to bad.

Tommy purchased his first guitar at a young age and a friend showed him C and G chords. After much practicing, which produced some sore fingers, however these eventually calloused, and he was soon picking and singing for his friends.

After graduation from high school Tommy enrolled at Central State Teachers College at Edmond, Oklahoma. It was during Tommys freshman year in school that he acquired a job on Radio Station KLPR in Capitol Hill. He would sing a couple of songs on the early morning program and then rush back to school for his 8 O'clock class. By this time "music was in his blood" and he was destined to be an entertainer. Tommy had already began penning some songs that later became No. 1 country songs across the nation.

Time rolls on and the year of 1950 found Tommy in the Marine Corps. After his discharge from the Marines he decided to go to California and see if he could make a name for himself in the country music business. Well - - - that is just what he has done over the past few years too!!! He also found himself a bride in California. Tommy and his lovely wife, Wanda, now make their home in Bakersfield, California and they have 5 wonderful children of which they are equally proud of.

By 1954 Tommy was appearing on Country and Western Shows across the nation. It was during this year that Tommy made his first appearance on the Grand Old Opry. This was one of the biggest thrills that had come Tommys way in connection to his music career. In 1954 Tommy was voted the Most Promising Male Artist of the Year and he also had records in the top 10 charts all across the country.

Tommy is a prolific writer of country songs. Many of his songs have been recorded by some of the big umers in the country and western field. Rose Maddox had a big hit with "Down, Down, Down"; Faron Young's big hit was "If You Ain't Loven', You Ain't Livin'"; Merle Haggards was "Sam Hill"; and Buck Owens recorded an entire album of Tommys songs. These are just to name a few of the many artists that look to Tommy Collins when they are searching for hit song material.

Tommy's first recording contract was with Capitol Record Co. Some of the songs that Tommy recorded and made popular himself are, "You Better Not Do

That", "It Tickles", "Bob-i-lak", "High On A Hilltop", "You Gotta Have A License", "Unxied", "I Got Mine", and many others. While with Capitol Records he made 4 albums. Tommy is now with Columbia and he has just recently had a single released that is going great for him. This single is titled "If You Can't Bite, Don't Growl" which Tommy penned himself and is backed with "Man Machine".

This record is on many of the charts across the country and is climbing fast. Tommy recently made an appearance on the Porter Wagoner Show which is televised weekly in some parts of the country. Tommy has been making appearances in other countries recently and he has visited and entertained in 12 different countries. His busy schedule keeps him hopping from one side of the world to the other. His wife, Wanda, accompanies him on many of his appearances and many times she sings with Tommy. They have recorded some together also. One of their hits is "It Tickles" and another one is "I Can Do That".

Tommy is a dexterous guitar picker, a fine vocalist and a natural comedian and you can wager that anytime you visit one of his shows that you will look forward to seeing and hearing him again. Tommy is not a conceited star - - - he is just a humble country boy doing his best to entertain you - - - his friends and fans. So friends, fans and country music lovers keep your ears and eyes open for this bundle of personality - - - your friend and mine - - - - - TOMMY COLLINS.

Yes, Virginia,

there is a

TOMMY

COLLINS

NASHVILLE NOTES

Continued

and "Little Ole Wine Drinker Me".

Friends of this column and newly weds, Tammy Wynette and Don Chapel, will be touring Europe this fall according to manager Hubert Long. What a fabulous chance for a belated honeymoon for our friends. Schoolboy Danny Husky toured with his daddy Ferlin this season. At the New Yorker Hotel Nashville Room he 'sat in' on the drums, while the Hush Puppies played for Ferlin. Ring side observers said that Danny looked and played like a pro, despite the seasoned musicians around him. But it's all up to Danny, Ferlin will not push him into the business. Johnny Darrell is booked on an eighteen day series of performances along the midwest fair circuit. This is the first full series of sawdust dates for the young star. David Houston played the Grafton Ballroom in Liverpool during August. Hubert's English associates felt that he was 'big' enough to break the 'cuvvue barrier' at a best known teen center. Until now the Country stars have played mostly the military service club circuit. Jim Ed Brown of this same agency was set for September bookings in England. The current success of his RCA "POP A TOP" has necessitated an extension of his tour plans.

SOURCE INC of Houston, Texas has been negotiating contracts with some of Country Music's top personalities, for syndicated TV shows. Some of the acts include: Kitty Wells, Ferlin Husky, Sonny James, the Homesteaders, and Lonzo and Oscar. The millions involved is supposed to mark the biggest effort so far in C & W TV. In the August issue, I forgot to say Happy Birthday Buck Owens, but I am sure he knows we all wish the best to the Tiger. Thanks to Skeeter Davis for the cute card from Florida. Keep those coming in. We will see you all soon, in the D.J. Convention issue.

NORTHWEST NOTES

Continued

C/M personalities. Austin can be heard on the "Hit-tin' The Road" Decca Album, introducing Ernest Tubb and the Texas Troubadours from the stage of his auditorium.

Both Tommy Duncan and Austin Wood will long be missed in the Country Music field, to which they contributed so much! They are gone, but will not be forgotten!

On the heels of the Northwest performances of the Hank Snow-Ferlin Husky Show, which also featured Waylon Jennings, came Tennessee Ernie Ford with a unit comprising Homer and Jethro, and Randy Sparks' Back Porch Majority. Both Spectaculars were well received. I don't want to forget to mention - Ferlin's side-kick Simon Crum was with him. Simon claims he is a bigger star than Ferlin is. (That remains to be seen!)

All-Country Music KMO Radio, in Tacoma, Wash., has been doing a schedule of Saturday afternoon

remotes over the last few months, including a 'live' broadcast with Billy Graham and Jim Nelly; a clown to entertain the kiddies; and Country Music with Grover (Nu Magic) Jackson and his band, featuring Nancy Claire, and "Shotgun Red" Hildrith, plus special guest star Chubby Howard, and added attraction Mike and Donita Stanton. Grover is a long-time TV favorite in Western Washington. His Man-Friday, John Nelson was also along for the programs. Locations of the remotes have been department stores, super markets shopping centers, etc. Generally, these events have been well received.

I wonder if KMO really does have listeners half-way around the world? Chubby Howard was telling me that he got a letter from a fellow clear up in Nome, Alaska who tunes in the "Nighthawk Show". Anyone care to guess just how far away Nome is from Tacoma? That shows the strong signal KMO puts out, especially at night.

As this (October) is Country Music Month 1967, proclaimed so as to tie in with the festivities in Nashville, I hope all of you COUNTRY MUSIC LIFE readers are planning to do your part to promote our FAVORITE kind of music. Whether it's attending a C/M show or dance, or writing to your local d.j., anything you can do will be most helpful! Why not take time to drop me a card or letter this month? Address me at 8201 So. Lawrence St., No. 8, Tacoma, Wash. 98409, or c/o CML in California. I'll be happy to hear from you during October, or anytime you can write. Until next month, when COUNTRY MUSIC LIFE will be two years old, and I will be completing my first year on the staff - - remember to KEEP IT COUNTRY!

COLLIES CORNER

Continued

Currently, BILLY MIZE (who just coast-sessioned for Columbia's BOB JOHNSTON) is holding the Bandstand spotlight on weekends filling out a busy schedule with his hosting of the popular "Melody Ranch" on Channel Five in Hollywood. Show recently started syndicat.

The GOSDIN BROS., who have an explosive smootie sneaking up the national C&W charts called "Hangin' On" could be the duet find of the year. One listen to their picture painting pretty and you'll fall in love with it. One good look at their "in-person" work and you'll know they're pros all the way. If you've had trouble finding this, or any favorite Country record currently, you can get them at my Nashville Record Shop at 12th & Pine, Long Beach, Ca. 90813. After years of trying to help fans find their Country hits I decided to do what I could to make them available. Anything that is on any charts nationally should be in the shop or available to us. Scuse me for plugging, but so many people constantly ask where they can order by mail and not worry about being cheated, and I couldn't help but

mention it. By the way, SAMMY JACKSON, who was the CML cover subject in last month's issue has a fine novelty called Troublemaker that we can get for you too. Sammy last month starred in an NBC-TV Color special as TV's first "LIL ABNER", which NBC thinks will be a mid-season starter as a weekly series. Sammy has three other TV pilots just waiting to be started. He will one day be a giant star in the entertainment sky, and thank goodness he loves country music. Sammy has already said that, when he gets a series weekly he'll spotlight as many country acts as possible with the script. That's great! . . .

RADIO ROUNDUP!

Some of the people who entertain you on the air deserve to be remembered and recognized. These I've received letters from this month and I thought you might enjoy seeing the name of one of your favorites in our Roundup!

JIM CLEMENS (formerly at KHEY El Paso) and DALE EICHOR (formerly of KMA Shenandoah, Iowa) just named Co-Music Directors at KBUC Radio-San Antonio . . . DICK HAYNES, K-FOX (Long Beach L.A.) was feature last month on the ANDY GRIFFITH TV'er in the title role on "Uncle Tim's Talent Time" segment. The early morning funny man allowed loads of laughs at the latest ACWM. KGBS, L.A. had a spectacular Dance Party at the famous Hollywood Palladium on Saturday Sept. 2 starring GLEN CAMPBELL, BONNIE GUITAR and BILLY MIZE. The tremendous success cues a reprise for the Country Giant. JOE NIXON exited his morning six to tenner rumored going into Advertising Agency business fulltime. BILL THOMPSON, P.D.-turned D.J. takes over the wakeup chores . . . LAWTON WILLIAMS, great song writer-performer for many years, now the "head boss" at Memphis' WMQM Country outlet is busy counting audience ratings in the Bluff City's radio market surveys. He's the kind of "Country" guy we need more of (whoops, watch your grammar, Biff) . . . RED JONES, formerly at WPLO Atlanta, now General Managing the new Country voice in JUNIOR SAMPLES' hometown of Cummin Georgia at WSNE Radio. BILL ROBINSON, WMNI-Columbus Ohio flash hawking hits by the houseful and reaping ratings regularly . . . RAY KINNEMAN, WYZE Atlanta Country pens pretty prose pertaining to the GOSDIN BROS. "Hangin' On" . . . MAC MC VEY posts from KZON Radio in Santa Maria, Calif. telling of new talent finds in his territory . . . GEORGE C. ANTHONY at KAWT, Douglas, Arizona, and DOUG DAVIS at KCLR - Ralls, Texas hanging out "standing room only" listening audience signs in their respective markets . . . CHUCK OWEN, KSON - San Diego Boss speaks highly of VERN STOVALL's current goodie about Big D. This "DALLAS" darlin' will make the Longhorn label stand taller than ever before . . . GOVERNOR JIMMIE DAVIS and EDDY ARNOLD guested on JOHNNY CARSON's Tonight Show on NBC-TV. DAVID HOUSTON should have

made his guest shot by press time. David's story has been nothing short of spectacular in the past twelve months . . . LYNN ANDERSON, pretty daughter of songwriter-singer (Victor) LIZ ANDERSON is now a regular weekly member of the great LAWRENCE WELK SHOW cast. She's a cutie too!

CANADIAN NOTES

Continued

of our very favorite D.J.'s, Bev Monroe. Bev. is very well known in Manitoba, Sask. and Alberta and is a songwriter and singer as well. He has a new record on Capital called "Babysitting With The Blues" which he wrote himself and it is doing very well, especially in Western Canada. Hank Secord is also a songwriter and singer, and both he and Bev have many, many friends and fans in the many areas of Canada where they worked and entertained. We wish them both the best of luck.

With the coming of fall will bring the Grand Ole Opry shows back to Western Canada for the fall, Winter, and Spring seasons. The first show in mid-Sept. will headline Ferlin Husky, Hank Snow, Waylon Jennings, and Marvis and Orlo Thompson who travel with Ferlin; and of course Ferlin's shadow, Simon Crum.

FAN CLUB CONVENTION!!!

Fan club members, Presidents and their artists will gather from all parts of the country for a one-day convention in Nashville on October 18, just ahead of the WSM celebration. This convention, sponsored by the K-Bar-T Country Roundup, 2730 Baltimore Avenue, Pueblo, Colorado will consist of a morning get-acquainted session in the lobby of the Noel Hotel, where registered members will pick up official badges, and meet others in for the convention. Immediately after lunch there will be a business meeting on the mezzanine where all fans and artists are urged to attend and take part in various discussions on fan clubs, and better ways in which they can promote their artist.

In the evening there will be a banquet dinner at the Hermitage Hotel. There is a limited seating capacity of 350 for the dinner and reservations are sold on a first-come, first served basis, for \$8.00 per person, in advance. Following the dinner, awards will be presented by K-Bar-T, and then the fans will enjoy an evening of informal entertainment by the attending artists, with music provided by Bill Anderson's Po' Boy Band.

All artists are welcome, whether they have a fan club or not, as long as space is available, but ALL reservations MUST be in advance - for dinner, OR for the entertainment. Reservations are available by contacting Mrs. Blanche Trinajstick at the address above.

See you in Nashville!

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Picture of the Month



“Colonel” Buck Owens and his manager “Colonel” Jack McFadden display the plaques awarded to them by the Governor of Alabama entitling them to the new “handles.”

FAN CLUB GUIDE

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

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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.

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ATLANTA, GA. 15 - 21

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KITTY WELLS**
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MADISON, WISC. 12
ROCHESTER, MINN. 13
MINNEAPOLIS, MINN. 14
DES MOINES, IOWA 15
MILWAUKEE, WISC. 28

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GREENBORO, N.C. 7
RICHMOND, VA. 8
WARREN, OHIO 13 - 15
CEDAR RAPIDS, IOWA 28

WAYLON JENNINGS
BELOIT, WISC. 7
ADAMS, WISC. 8
PITTSBURGH, PA. 29

GEORGE MORGAN
OMAHA, NEB. 1
GRAND FORKS, N.D. 3
FARGO, N.D. 4
WATERTOWN, S.D. 5
SALINA, KAN. 6
WICHITA, KAN. 7
KANSAS CITY, KAN. 8
SPRINGFIELD, ILL. 31

MINNIE PEARL
SARASOTA, FLA. 1
ATLANTA, GA. 23
NEW CASTLE, PA. 27
YORK, PA. 28
WASHINGTON, D.C. 29

WEBB PIERCE
PORTLAND, ORE. 27
SEATTLE, WASH. 28
VANCOUVER, B.C. 29

CARL SMITH
CHARLESTON, S.C. 6
COLUMBIA, S.C. 7
ST. LOUIS, MO. 22
CEDAR RAPIDS, IOWA 28

HANK SNOW
HOUSTON, TEX. 12
SHREVEPORT, LA. 14
SAN ANTONIO, TEX. 15
ST. LOUIS, MO. 22
NEW CASTLE, PA. 27
YORK, PA. 28
WASHINGTON, D.C. 29

RED SOVINE
WARREN, OHIO 13
NEW BEDFORD, OHIO 25

BOBBI STAFF
SARASOTA, FLA. 1
ADAMS, WISC. 8
TORONTO, CANADA 30 - 31

STONEMANS
LA CROSSE, WISC. 5
RIVOLI CLUB,
CHICAGO, ILL. 7
NEW YORK, N.Y. 9
ABINGDON, VA. 12
NASHVILLE, TENN. 16 - 21
TORONTO, CANADA 23 - 28
HAMILTON, ONTARIO
CANADA 29

MERLE TRAVIS
CHARLOTTE, N.C. 14

JUSTIN TUBB
FAR EAST 4 - 31

PORTER WAGONER
NEW ORLEANS, LA. 1
CALHOUN, GA. 5
LAVONIA, GA. 6
SHELBY, N.C. 25
ROCKY MOUNT, N.C. 26
GOLDSBORO, N.C. 27
NEW BERN, N.C. 28
PITTSBERG, PA. 29

DOTTIE WEST
CHARLOTTE, N.C. 14

BILLY WALKER
TORONTO, CANADA 9 - 14

WILLIS BROTHERS
EUROPE 1 - 8

FARON YOUNG
NEW ORLEANS, LA. 1
GREENVILLE, S.C. 6
MEMPHIS, TENN. 7
BATON ROUGE, LA. 8
ST. LOUIS, MO. 22
MITCHELL, S.D. 23
GRAND FORKS, N.D. 24
ABERDEEN, S.D. 25
SIOUX FALLS, S.D. 26
FARGO, N.D. 27
SIOUX CITY, IOWA 28
KANSAS CITY, KAN. 29

NOTICE

Many of the artists are sending their schedules too late for publication!

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