

COUNTRY MUSIC LIFE

THE NEWS AND VIEWS OF

Country Music

SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER 1968



**MOLLY BEE
THE LEIGHTONS
GEORGE LINDSEY
COLORADO C/M FESTIVAL**

Buck Owens

And His BUCKAROOS
sing

~

Sweet Rosie Jones

Capitol (no. 2142)



Buck Owens Fan Club

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Country Music Life



Pert Molly Bee smiles over her shoulder for this month's cover. See page 22.

12. News

FEATURE ARTICLES

- 22. *CML Lifeline: Molly Bee*
- 32. *Colorado Country Music Festival*
- 36. *The Leightons: John and Sharon*
- 39. *Millionaire Gambles on Country Music*
- 40. *Mayberry's Favorite Son*

DEPARTMENTS

- 4. *Mail*
- 5. *Editorial/Review*
- 6. *Ten Top Tunes*
- 7. *Las Vegas / N'east*
- 8. *Hollywood/N'west*
- 9. *M'west/Nashville*
- 10. *Canadian/Gospel Trail*
- 47. *Fan Club Guide*

Due to a complete change in production policy, which includes the moving of the COUNTRY MUSIC LIFE offices, and the revision of the production schedules, we are changing the cover date on the issue you now have. We have moved the mailing date up from the 25th of the month to the 15th in order for you to get your magazine earlier. THIS WILL NOT EFFECT YOUR SUBSCRIPTION IN ANY WAY. You will still receive twelve issues of the magazine. We regret having to do this, but the tremendous growth of CML in the last year makes it necessary.

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Dear Mr. Harris:

Enjoy the Country Music Life Line very much and would like to see an article on Charley Pride. Had the opportunity of meeting him, besides having a beautiful voice he also has a wonderful personality. The job you are doing is terrific. Keep up the good work.

William Beckman
Beloit, Wisconsin, 53511

We are anticipating a lifeline on Charlie Pride in the near future, but details have not been finalized as yet. —JH.

Dear Mr. Harris,

Do you suppose that your best in the field magazine could feature a department toward helping amateur lyric writers have talented song writing people review the amateur's work? As you know, sometimes all an amateur needs is a start.

Sincerely,
Luther A Purcell
East St. Louis, Ill., 62203

Letter to the Editor:

Could you give me (all of us beginning lyric writers of Country-Western) a list of firms (names and address) of those that we could contact with our 'words'. I have written a couple sets that I'm proud of and would like to submit them to someone.

Tom Walters
Houston, Texas 77008

Write to Mrs. Jo Walker, Country Music Association, 700 - 16th Avenue South, Nashville, Tenn. She will be glad to help. —JH.

Dear Mr. Harris,

I am trying to get a copy of an old record that is no longer in press & therefore no longer available through the record stores. I feel like some of your readers probably have a copy of the record & I would be willing to buy it from one of them if they would consider selling it to me.

The name of the record is "She's Done & Gone & Gave Her Heart to Me" (or something very similar to that) by Sonny James. It was popular around 1954-1955 & was on a 45 RPM. I really would like to obtain the record & will deeply appreciate hearing from anyone that might have it in their collection or anyone that may be able to give me information as to where I could buy it.

Many thanks,
Mrs. Chester Galbraith, Jr.
8223 Hermitage Drive
Ft. Smith, Arkansas.
72901

If you do not get any response from here, I suggest you write to Bob Neal, 817 18th Ave. South, Nashville, Tenn. 37203. He is Sonny's Manager. —JH.

Dear Jim;

You have been doing such an excellent job these many past months that it is only natural for you to step into these positions.

I know that Country Music Life will continue to be the finest country music entertainment magazine. My thanks to you, and to Frank for giving the industry the very best. The magazines quality cannot be surpassed.

Sincerely, your friend,
Doug Warren

We are very honored to have compliments like these. And when they come from one of the most in demand young Gospel singers, we are especially appreciative. —JH.

Dear Mr. Harris:

I'm an avid reader of Country Music Life and would like to see more on Willie Nelson.

I'm interested in getting his first 2 albums, they are (Here's Willie Nelson) (And Then I Wrote) they are both on Liberty Labels. Or anything he has on a 45, also on Liberty or Sunset Label.

I would be interested to hear from anyone who has these records and would like to give them away or sell at a reasonable price.

Please contact,
Lu Dotterer
Kempton, Pa., 19529

Dear Mr. Harris:

I'm writing in regards to the magazine and my renewal. I certainly enjoy it. But regret you don't have more information about Rex Allen.

Sincerely,
Paula Perkins,
Concord, Calif. 94521

Rex Allen has not been forgotten by our office. We are planning a feature on him shortly. —JH.

Dear Mr. Harris,

I enjoy my Country Music Life so very much. I sure would like to read a very large article on Boots Randolph that would tell about his life, his age, if he has any children, and if his wife is interested in music.

Sincerely yours,
M. S.
Pacific, Mo.

We would like very much to do a Lifeline on Mr. Randolph, and as soon as the opportunity presents itself, we will. — JH.

SAHARA HOTEL

JIM HARRIS



A review
by Bob Bee

I recently saw a cartoon of that naive little character called B.C. The picture showed one cave-man sending out a message on a log, and another smashing flint with a rock, while a third stands off to the side and calmly remarks while snapping his fingers "wild group man, who's on rocks". What has this got to do with country music?

Have you noticed lately how the country records are becoming more and more orchestrated? Instruments and arrangements never before heard or even thought of on country records are now commonplace. It used to be that they would not allow any electrified instruments on the stage at the Grand Ole Opry. After the amplified guitars were allowed the ban was on drums. Now the records coming out of Nashville not only have drums and amplified guitars but violins, trumpets, and other brass, pianos and even the organ has come into play. Whereas before the country music public was satisfied with a guitar and a fiddle and maybe a bass, they now demand more quality to their music and are creating a demand for bigger and better arrangements to be put to the simple melody of the country song. Some people maintain that they have ruined the image of country music, but we disagree. The basic content of country music has not changed, just the manner in presenting it. And we feel that it is a step in the right direction.

We here at CML periodically get letters asking if we support our Fan Club Editor, Blanche Trinajstich. Of course we support her, or she wouldn't be our fan club editor. We are well aware of the fact that she has some rigid requirements for listing in the fan club guide, but one thing stands out above everything else. Every one of the clubs in this guide is a legitimate fan club and is actively involved in supporting their chosen artist. She keeps the list up to date and makes sure that every one of them is an honorable organization, and is doing the thing for which it was formed. The fan club is a very important part of country music and all it takes is a bad experience with one to turn a person against all clubs. Trina makes

Continued

If there was ever any doubt that RUSTY DRAPER would be able to draw his fans into the plush, "Sahara Hotel", its been answered now. The versatile performer broke all attendance records, while proving he has one of the top lounge and nightclub acts in the country.

From his first tune, "Freight Train", through "Whispering Sands", "Gamblers Guitar", and "The Train Goes Through The Middle Of The House", the tough Tahoe audience was on his side. Draper gives you the feeling that he is really enjoying himself, and that feeling is passed on to the crowd, which shows him more than once, just how friendly a Tahoe audience can be. (*When it wants to*)

Many a star has fallen on their face trying to get the audience to take part in SING-A-LONGS. But Rusty has no problem at all. The S.R.O. crowd eagerly joined in at his first request and never has to be asked again. In fact, the red headed star was hard-pressed to add more songs to this segment.

The Banjo medley of "Mame", "By By Blues", and "Buffalo Nickle" were stand outs. "Nickle", is Rusty's latest for Monument, and could be another hit for him. "I Left My Heart In San Francisco", and "I'll Take Care Of Your Cares", should be brought out for special attention. . . . Two guitars solo's, "Wildwood Flower", and "A Walk In The Black Forest", were also well received.

The Chuck Hicks Trio back Rusty up, and is more than just effective. The boys work hard, and look good on stage. Chuck Hicks does a solid performance with a "Buck Owens" medley, and Tommy Williams handles "Floyde Cramer's", "Last Date", just like the master.

"Night Life", closes the show, and to no ones surprise get the biggest reaction of the night. The act is varied, and well-paced. Using *Country*, *Pop*, and updated *Standards*. "THE RUSTY DRAPER SHOW", is geared to please all . . . and does.

Next month I'll be in TEXAS and OKLAHOMA to try and cover one of Americas more colorful,

Continued

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TEN TOP TUNES

1
2
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6
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9
10

FOLSOM PRISON BLUES
Johnny Cash

ALREADY IT'S HEAVEN
David Houston

YOU'VE JUST STEPPED IN
Loretta Lynn

WHAT MADE MILWAUKEE
Jerry Lee Lewis

HEAVEN SAYS HELLO
Sonny James

YOUR TIME HASN'T COME
Elvis Presley

DREAMS OF THE HOUSEWIFE
Glen Campbell

MAMA TRIED
Merle Haggard

MENTAL JOURNEY
Leon Ashley

IT'S MY TIME
Jody Miller

NORTHEAST

NOTES



BOB RILEY

Greetings from the North in the heart of "Yankeeland" where country music continues to be loved by thousands of New Englanders. This is Bob Riley welcoming you to our portion of CML for the first time and looking forward to keeping you posted on country music activities in this area.

My headquarters is in Boston where country music fights a tough battle with the overpowering Top 40 radio stations. Due to the untiring efforts of BOB NESS popular D.J. and Program Director of WHIL F.M., our music has an outlet in town though admittedly some good, solid A.M. programming would make the task of local C & W promoters a lot easier.

After much effort the NASHVILLE SOUNDS have become recognized as the top country unit in this area; working in conjunction with the many top stars I've had the pleasure of bringing into New England.

Just had my first chance to bring in BILL ANDERSON and The PO' BOYS, and it is my humble opinion that there is no finer or more professional artist in country music than big BILL. His group now ranks with the best in the business like the TEXAS TROUBADORS, the BRAZOS VALLEY BOYS, and the BUCKAROOS . . . top shelf all the way!

Will be in Sanford, Maine with BOBBY HELMS his lovely wife DORI (fine people) and STONEWALL JACKSON and The MINUTEMEN . . . should be a good show!

Just ran a series of one-niters on Cape Cod with ELTON BRITT, KENNY ROBERTS, BOBBY HELMS, HANK LOCKLIN and DON GIBSON; successes all I'm happy to report.

On other Massachusetts fronts Cousin Dave of WBSN in New Bedford will continue to promote live shows in the fall, already packed: HANK WILLIAMS, Jr., and the "Cheatin' Hearts", New England's most beautiful summer park the Indian

Continued

LAS VEGAS

NOTES



Hal Blu

This month's column will be somewhat hurried and maybe a little brief, because I am late in submitting it. The reason I am late is because I had hoped to have some exciting information regarding a country music extravaganza to include in the column. Unfortunately the event fell through. By way of explanation, I have been wanting (and trying) to promote a country music extravaganza here in Las Vegas for the past three years. As you know an undertaking of this sort takes quite a large sum of cash, plus a place with a large seating capacity available on a given date. Needless to say a country disc jockey (myself in particular) does not usually have this kind of cash available. To make a long story short, I found a country music lover to finance the show, made arrangements to rent Cashman Field, which will seat 13,000 people, on August 31st. Then when I started trying to book the artists I had in mind, Glen Campbell, Johnny Cash, etc., I discovered that all the stars of country music and most of the lesser artists are booked solid for this year and some of them into next year. So all my plans for a big country show here will have to be set back for a while. The one consolation in the whole thing is this proves once again how strong and popular country music really is, and that it is even more in demand today than in the past. I can remember not too far back when you could always find a well known artist, or several, to fill a given date. I might explain that we have good country music shows going constantly here in Las Vegas, at the Golden Nugget, The Mint Hotel, The Silver Dollar, Nashville Nevada, and Larriat Club. They all bring in well known artists. But my idea in presenting a show, and the reason I feel it would be a success, is because, in every instance here in Las Vegas, where a country music show is presented, it's in conjunction with liquor being served, which prohibits anyone under 21 years of age, and also a large segment of the population who do not drink or dance, but still love country music. That is the reason that I will eventually stage a show or shows here, so that anyone regardless of age, religion, etc. will be able to see and meet their favorite artists.

In coming events here in Las Vegas, here's the way it shapes up right now . . . The Golden Nug-

Continued

HOLLYWOOD NOTES



Jerrey Huddleston

The SMOTHERS BROTHERS sure did make a wise decision when they chose GLEN CAMPBELL for the host of the summer session of the show of the same name. GLEN has done a magnificent job with the show, as evidenced by the appearance of TOMMY SMOTHERS on the JULY 27TH'S taping session, which this reporter witnessed. TOM congratulated GLEN on his success with the show, and said that he hoped that they could do it again and again. This taping was the last show of the fifteen-week series, and was the 'Country Music' show of the season, as you will evidence when the program is aired over local stations in your areas, it will be seen here in the L.A. area on August 18th, on CBS, Channel 2.

On the show with GLEN for this the last show, were the most exciting group of folks that I have yet to meet: THOSE FABULOUS STONEMANS. They are just too much! I had the pleasure of talking at length with DONNA and RONNIE, (*both female*) and I could go on and on, so I'll just say that the evening was the most enjoyable that I have spent in many a moon, and you may well watch for a story on THE STONEMANS in an upcoming issue.

Also on the show was the one and only JOHNNY CASH. I thought that I was going to get a few minutes to converse with JOHNNY, until his beautiful JUNE appeared at the studio, with JOHN'S two daughters, and then it was all over as JOHN is a family man now, and his time with them is most scarce. So, I talked with him only a second or two, and with JUNE later on . . . they both are very happy, and JOHN especially, as anyone who has seen him lately will testify to that fact!

To round out the compliment of the show, MASON WILLIAMS, JOHN HARTFORD, the great PAT PAULSEN, whom I understand is still campaigning as a non-candidate in the up-coming Presidential election, and the show would not be complete without the talents of one MISS LEIGH FRENCH . . . she's great!

After the taping, everyone adjourned to the fabulous Beverly Hills home of TOMMY

NORTHWEST NOTES



Larry Briel

Washington Governor Daniel J. Evans recently signed an official proclamation designation October 1968 to be recognized and observed as Country Music Month in the State of Washington for this year. Dan Evans was the first of the fifty State governors to do so, and the others are following suit at this time. Present in his office for the signing and pictures were Dot Recording Star Bonnie Guitar; Jack Roberts, Seattle promoter and band leader; Chubby Howard, C/M personality and deejay; Western entertainers Mike and Donita Stanton; vocalist Kathy Robinson; yours truly; and others. It was this reporters second visit at the capitol in Olympia on the Country Music Month matter, and again this trip everyone there was really pleasant and nice. It won't be long and the Nashville Convention will be taking place!

Country Music Spectacular "package" stage shows resume in the Northwest in September, with appearances in different cities of a unit headlining Hank Snow and the Rainbow Ranch Boys, Sonny James and His Southern Gentlemen, Dottie West and Her Heartaches, and Grandpa Jones. No doubt about it - it'll be a big one to start off the fall entertainment season! And C/M fans in the region are jumping with joy, because upcoming months will see Johnny Cash in October, and Marty Robbins in November. Many other artists and shows are all lined up to follow. I will do my best to keep you completely posted on these presentations in future columns here in COUNTRY MUSIC LIFE.

It's good to have Hank Thompson and His Brazos Valley Boys back on the active recording scene after too long an absence. They are now on the Dot label. Hank's first single for Dot top-sides "On Tap In The Can Or In The Bottle", (a song in the tradition of "A Six Pack To Go", and "Hangover Tavern"), with "If I Lose You Tomorrow". The new Thompson album on Dot is titled "Hank Thompson Sings The Gold Standards". Hank and his band have always been a top draw attraction in this region, and folks are looking forward to them coming back soon.

For those of you who might think that blue-

MIDWEST NOTES



Mary Ann Cooper

A new "nightclub" for country music has recently opened in the old Gaslight Square section of St. Louis - we'll tell you more about this as they begin featuring more of the Nashville talent, which we understand the club plans to do.

REX ALLEN was in Illinois for several days the week after Senator Kennedy was assassinated. It was because of this terrible incident and a trip to visit President Lincoln's Tomb in Springfield which brought back memories as to what caused these things to happen . . .

GUNS . . . that Rex Allen decided once and for all, he is one cowboy who will never be seen in public wearing a gun again. Rex says he felt better about it as soon as he made the decision. He was in Springfield for a charity horse show.

W.I.L. St. Louis, I understand, will be "going country" two weeks from when I am writing this (in July). Their program director is the same young man who did so much to get C & W stations going in Atlanta, Oklahoma, New Jersey, Seattle, and of course WJJD Chicago . . . Mr. CHRIS LANE. Good to have Chris back in radio. This news, oddly enough, came to us via the CHRISTY LANE route - Christy is a lil' gal singer in Peoria who is a namesake of the famed discjockey.

The newest 24 hour-a-day radio station programming full-time "country", W.I.L. St. Louis, has gotten off with a "Bang" according to all the reports. Known as the "Western Gentlemen" (St. Louis IS the "Gateway to the West" as you know), the DJ's include CHRIS LANE, DAVID LEE, DICK BYRD, WATER VAUGHN, DAN DALY, and MIKE HANES. The station is planning live C & W stage shows every month . . . the first starred RAY PRICE and was held June 19th, just 11 days after W.I.L. began the new schedule. The August 23rd show starred BUCK OWENS and many more should follow.

K.S.T.L. St. Louis recently joined in a nationwide Columbia Records contest. The result is that Columbia's JOHNNY DUNCAN is now one of the area's "biggest stars"! The contest brought Johnny to the city to have dinner with area winners. One of them, Alice Kennison describes Johnny to us

NASHVILLE NOTES



Ruth and Paul Charon

I just can't imagine where the long hot summer has gone and disappeared into a short one. The only legitimate reason I can figure is that; we spent it in Nashville, Dallas and Phoenix-staying very busy. Taking in Country Music shows, playing daily tennis, cooking and travel, round out the months with a very pleasant variety. I told you that Dallas was number one with the most exciting Country Music activity; now I rate Phoenix as running a close parallel. 'Course these folks are just naturally western by their very location; places where you can walk down the street, or into a swank restaurant - in cowboy boots and stetson, without receiving a single weird stare. It's just the greatest, because mod clothes and dignified wear get rather boring to me.

Ray Odom, owner of KHAT Phoenix radio, is just the most in keeping the folks reminded of how wonderful Country Music is. He keeps all kinds of contests and promotions going on around the area: the giant KHAT remote trailer is seen all around with a giant cowboy hat perched on the roof; the only clothes in his most exquisite wardrobe are all western, even the dress-up wear. Tall and somewhat slim, with dark hair and mustache, he gives honor to the colorful western outfit. I am sure all you readers, either know or have seen him at our Nashville D.J. Convention. Ray served the past two years, on the Board of the Country Music Association. While on the CMA subject, I wish to thank Mrs. Jo Walker, the Executive Director, for helping me with problems, when I was out of town this year. They are so busy there, at the Country Music Hall Of Fame, I don't see how she has time to answer my letters. I guess there really are 'superwomen'.

Jo has been our close friend since 1960, when Paul joined the CMA, in its infancy. We were living in San Diego at the time; the late Mrs. Jimmie Rodgers told us of this new organization, that it would surely help boost our C & W if all in the business would join. She was out there for a month, visiting friends for a month, at the very beginning of her long illness.

I am sure that you were all as saddened as we

THE GOSPEL TRAIL

By Marty Deacon

We just returned home from the 6th Annual Colorado Country Music Festival, which proved to be the most successful one yet. Our sincere congratulations to Miss Gladys Hart and all the CMF of Colorado Members. A fine time was had by all attending. Mark Tyme covered the festivities for Country Music Life, so you'll be fully informed on all the activities.

Upon my arrival home, I discovered the long awaited for copy of Jake Hess' first RCA album . . . and it's well worth waiting for. Mr. Hess, a real gentleman in Gospel Music, is a warm individual . . . both off stage as well as on. This LP, "The Incomparable Jake Hess", features some of the finest sides, these tired old ears have heard in many a year. "Church Twice On Sunday", "Faith Unlocks The Door", "I'm Waitin' My Time" and "How Great Thou Art" are prime examples of the distinctive style of this fine performer. This one is a must for all gospel music fans.

Skylite Recording Company signed the Statesmen Quartet, Georgia's Ambassadors of Goodwill, to an exclusive five-year recording contract. The New recording pact ended a fifteen year era of the Statesmen recording exclusively for RCA. Hovie Lister and the boys are one of the pillars of the gospel music industry.

Nashville based recording companies walked away with awards and recognition at the 17th Annual National Evangelical Film Foundation Awards banquet, held recently in Philadelphia, Pa.

Joel Gentry, President of both Skylite and Christian Faith was on hand to receive two awards for his artists, the Stamps Quartet and the Millie Pace Trio. The Stamps received the NEFF Oscar as the best gospel quartet for their Skylite album, "J. D. Sumner and the Colorful Stamps Quartet". Christian Faith sacred artists, the Millie Pace Trio, won the award for the best trio for 1967.

Dr. Harry G. Bristow, President of the National Evangelical Film Foundation, said the awards were made on the basis of outstanding Christian contribution to the field of films and records.

The highlights of the awards banquet was the annual award for the "Outstanding Christian Witness of the Year", presented to Vonda Kay VanDyke, Miss America of 1965.

The best overall Record of the Year Award, went to Heart Warming artist, Doug Oldham, for his recording of "Something Worth Living For".

In the category of Best Folk Singing, The New Folk, were the recipients of the Oscar for their Impact recording, "On Campus". Impact is a divi-

CANADIAN

NOTES

By IRENE BEELER

"Calgary Alberta" is Gary Buck's latest release on Capitol records. It was written by an ex-Californian, Ray Grift who now lives in Nashville. Gary Buck is also a Canadian so this song is almost all Canadian except that it was recorded in Nashville.

Henson Cargill appeared at the "Lobster Trap" in Halifax in June. Henson's "Row, Row" is doing well on the charts as it deserves to be.

D.J. Chuck Davis hosts the "Good and Country" Show every Monday night at 8:30 on CBC radio heard on 229 outlets. He spins only Canadian discs.

Ernie Farrar of WVMT, Burlington, Vermont is spinning a lot of Canadian talent and he made a special trip to Montreal to meet local performers.

Doug Benson of Toronto prints a very informative newsletter of bluegrass news and c/w news in general, called "Bluegrass Breakdown". Contact Doug at Apt. 704, 45 Oakmount, Toronto 9, Ont.

Bob Fuller's "Oldtime Country Music Record Club of Canada" is growing in membership. They are pledged to the following ideals: Preservation of the grand old traditional Country songs; Promotion of Canada's many oldtime fiddlers; Introduction of bluegrass music to Canada; Help to people who wish to collect oldtime records. I highly recommend it especially for people looking for old records. It's doubtful you will find a better place anywhere. Write to Bob at: 7280 Casgrain Street, Montreal, Quebec. There are no dues to join the Club but they do ask that you be sincerely interested in promoting authentic C/W music. Bob also is a performer at the Blue Angel in Montreal where he and his Bluegrass band appear regularly. They also appeared on Carl Smith's Country Music Hall TV show a few times.

The Southern Gentlemen are appearing at the Clifton Hotel in Port Stanley. Jim Parrish is the leader, with flat-top, lead, steel, fiddle, mandolin, and bass.

On March 4, the Times Square club celebrated its first year anniversary of entertainment by Scotty Stevenson and his New Canadian Nighthawks. Most of the Country style bands from the Montreal area were in attendance. It was a complete success, the club was filled early in the evening.

The Bill Anderson TV Show used to be produced in Windsor, Ont. and of course it was shown there. Now that Bill's show is taped in Nashville, Windsor has suddenly cancelled the show. How come, Windsor???

A new Country music hall is being built in

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NEWS NEWS NEWS



Country music star Van Trevor recently headlined at the famed PLAYROOM in Atlanta. On hand to greet him on opening night are, left to right, his personal manager, Dick Heard, Buddy (Van Trevor) and Annette McMahon, owners of the club, and Joe Taylor. Van had just recently signed an exclusive booking contract with the Joe Taylor Agency in Nashville, and the Playroom was the first date he played under the new booking agreement.

* * * * *

Little Richie Johnson just returned from a promotion trip which took him through parts of Colo., Ariz., and Calif. and so on. DJ's that are not on his mailing list may write him at Box 3, Belen, New Mexico.

* * * * *

Judy Lynn, America's Western Sweetheart, has just completed a record breaking 17-week stand at Harrah's in Reno and Lake Tahoe, having started on March 7th and closing out July 10th. This is the longest period of time Judy has spent in one place in 12 years.

Immediately on closing at Harrah's the group hits the fair and rodeo circuit, with a tour of Europe sandwiched in, which will carry them right into the middle of October, when they return to Las Vegas for their final engagement at the Golden Nugget on the 17th.

* * * * *

Little Richie Johnson has several new records available. Including singles by Sonny James,

David Houston, Dec Mullins, Donna Fargo, Jean Chapel, Bill and Cathy, Claude Gray, and several new singles on the Wayside label. DJ's needing copies may write Little Richie at Box 3, Belen, New Mexico.

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IT'S NOW COLONEL MONROE SUH! Bill Monroe, right, was presented a commission making him a Colonel on the staff of Louisiana Governor John J. McKeithen when he and the Blue Grass Boys performed at the Memorial Service at the Grave of the Unknown Confederate Soldier near Marthaville, La. Mr. Monroe was also given a certificate by U. S. Rep. Speedy O. Long of Louisiana's Eighth District making him an Honorary Congressman.

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Country artist Dick Rich recently returned from the Country Music Festival in Aurora, Colorado held at the Four Seasons Club where he received a plaque from the Country Awards Foundation and Gladys Hart director of the Festival. Lois Jefferson who is prexy of Dick's fan club received a certificate for outstanding fan club work, and much to the surprise of a promotion man and personal manager of Dick Rich, Jack Turner of the J.B. Staff received an award in the form of a certificate for his outstanding contribution to the field of Country music. From Dick, Lois, and the J.B. Staff, many thanks!

NEWS NEWS NEWS

J. B. Promotions announces the signing of a promotion contract with Chestnut Record artist Les Severs. Les has a hot single moving for him, "Lilly" written by Bernie Chianco. "Lilly" was recorded in Nashville and utilized the services of many of Music City's top musicians and background singers.

Reprots in from various parts of the country indicate early action for Les with "Lilly" and it is already gathering chart positions on many top country stations. D.J.'s missed in the original mailing can get copies by writing to Don-El Productions, 2020 Ridge Avenue, Phila., Penna.

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Jack Turner of J. B. Artist Management announced that he has signed Country Comedian Rod Harris and Country Singer Cathy Cass to a personal management contract. Rod and Cathy both record for the Wayside Record Co. of Maynard, Mass. They have been making personal appearances together lately, providing a mixture of country style comedy and songs. Rod and Cathy have new releases for Wayside in the month of July.

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The Grand Ole Opry is instituting a matinee to supplement the regular two-show schedule which has become a regular warm-weather-feature with the world's most enduring radio program. The Opry House doors will open for a 3:00 P.M. show, starting on July 6. The two-hour matinee performances will continue through the peak summer season to accomodate the overflow. Complete Opry shows are conducted at 6:30 P.M. and 9:30 P.M. during the summer. The matinee was introduced last summer when the growth of the Opry's popularity brought in more Country Music fans than the two-show schedule could accomodate. The 8:00 P.M. Friday Night Opry is also playing to capacity crowds.

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Country Music was well represented when the famed Merle Haggard show appeared at the California State Fair and Exposition in Sacramento, California on August 2nd. The ever-popular Merle Haggard Show stars Merle Haggard, presently riding high with his Capitol recording of "Mommy Tried", The Strangers and features lovely Bonnie Owens and Red Simpson.



Glen Campbell, Sandra Shaffer and Ray Odom. CML photographer grouped these celebrities at the giant Phoenix Colesium show. The night was festive with events and the setting was overwhelming, in this hugh modern Colesium, an architectural wonder, constructed on the Arizona State Fairgrounds in this desert city. One week it will house the Barnum and Bailey Circus, the next a Country Music Spectacular...Glen and the Stars of the Lawrence Welk Show headlined the night of this photograph. (This was the evening before Glen's debut as host on the Smothers' Brothers' Summer Replacement TV'er. Frank Fontaine was the other headliner. Crazy Gugenham of the Jackie Gleason Show.) Sandra Shaffer had just been crowned "Miss Country Music Phoenix" and presented to the audience that nite, by Ray Odom. She represented the Arizona area in this contest and was readying for her trip to the Finals at Hemisfair '68 in San Antonio. Also this nite, were the ceremonies crowning Miss Arizona Dairy Princess. The Lawrence Welk band did a fabulous job providing the music for these events.

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Columbia artist, Harold Lee, currently riding with "Two Sides Of Me", has signed as an exclusive writer with Moss Rose Publications, Inc. Lee, who has worked extensively in the Chicago area, will work under the direction of Moss Rose exec. Audie Ashworth. Lee is also a Hubert Long Talent Agency artist.

NEWS NEWS NEWS



Some old friends get together. Mr. and Mrs. Ferlin Husky and Jerry Wallace visit the "Hugh Jarrett Show" on KBBQ. The visit was shortly after Husky's and Wallace's appearance on the "KBBQ Anniversary Show" at the Shrine Auditorium in Los Angeles. Hugh, a former member of the Jordonaires, has worked with many of the top country stars on recording sessions.

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Billy Deaton was on tour from June 1 through June 30 with Charley Pride, they played to a total of 23 dates. They have played to capacity crowds everywhere. All attendance records were broken at the Panther Hall, Fort Worth, Texas "believed to be the largest country music hall in the U.S." There were over 2600 in attendance. On June 27th at Dewey Grooms Longhorn Ballroom in Dallas which is the second largest club, they played to over 1700 people. In the little town of Llano, Texas on June 12 with a population of only 2400, there were 942 paid admissions. Deaton reports the man is a "magician" when it comes to attracting people. Charley is a shining light where ever he appears. The best part is Charley Pride was born in Sledge, Mississippi, son of a barber but had made his home in Great Fall, Montana for the last eight years. He is the most humble and appreciative singer around. He loves to talk to his thousands of fans. Deaton was one of the first promoters to book him at dances in Texas. In 26 months he has come from an unknown to one of the most popular country and western entertainers in the state of Texas. Deaton states he was born and raised 40 miles from Sledge, Mississippi but Charley and him never met until 2 years ago. He is getting bigger and bigger by the day.

NINE YEAR OLD "RUSTY" DELANEY is receiving very good reports from many markets on his current OHIO release "STAKE ME A CLAIM DAD"...OHIO No. 36814...in some areas it is now in the TOP 10.

"RUSTY" made his TV DEBUT on the syndicated "POCKA VARIETIES" TV SHOW...Wednesday-July 10th...on WEWS-TV...Channel 5...Cleveland, Ohio...live performances with the BUCKEYE STRINGS backing him.

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Epic Recording star, David Houston, is going to be heard in a new context as the result of a recording session executed in Nashville recently. Houston recorded a singing commercial for Falstaff Beer for use in the beverage concern's radio advertising campaign. Music Row observers present at the commercial session, report Houston turned in the same polished performance which distinguishes his regular releases. David went into the studio following a three-show stint at the Golden Nuggett in Las Vegas. The Nuggett series drew SRO crowds so large the management had to place the overflow eight deep behind the outer perimeter of the audience area.

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Decca thrus Wilma Burgess worked June 24-27 at a new Dallas, Texas nitery. Wilma was the first act to play the Countrytown Club, and assisted in the opening ceremonies for the all-Country oasis.

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Grand Ole Opry star, Charlie Walker, has been set for a series of appearances in South Viet Nam. The series was announced by the Hubert Long Talent Agency. Charlie and his band will depart from the West Coast on September 5th and will be in Southeast Asia until mid-October.

The Walker group will base in Siagon and radiate out to U.S. Military installations. "American servicemen stationed in Viet Nam have expressed an interest in hearing more Country Music from back home," Long commented, "and Charlie responded instantly to the idea of making the tour."

Prior to debarkation to the war area Walker and band will perform in the San Diego area, especially fitting in view of the fact that Charlie's current single on Epic is titled "San Diego".

NEWS NEWS NEWS

Opry songstress, Skeeter Davis, who seems to have an affinity for off-beat places to sing, has been slated for a colorful repeat concert on July 14th. "Skeeter D" will appear at the Annual Watermelon Festival, in Atlanta. The event taking place at Atlanta's Farmers Market (Skeeter performed at the 1966 edition) is sponsored by the Georgia Department of Agriculture, in an effort to underscore the state's watermelon industry. Skeeter will also appear on Atlanta TV during her sojourn.



These four WWVA Big Country Swingers traveled to Steubenville, Ohio, to do the summer series of 20-second color video-tape spots for WWVA at WSTV-TV. Shown, left to right, before the taping began: Darrell Edwards, Bob Finnegan and Bill Quay, while Steve Mazure is kneeling.

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WSM-TV performer Pete Sayers, who returned from a visit to his native England, has been named a correspondent for the British Broadcasting Corporation. In this capacity, Sayers will provide tape interviews and Music City information for the "Country Meets Folk" program which is broadcast on "Radio One" and "Radio Two" of the multi-network medium.

"Country Meets Folk," produced by Ian Grant, brings together live talent from England, Australia, and the states. The show, broadcast on

Saturday afternoons, also features record reviews and tape inserts such as the ones Sayers will provide.

The young English performer is making arrangements for Grant to visit Nashville during the 43rd Annual Grand Ole Opry Birthday Celebration to be held on October 17, 18 and 19 this year.

The B.B.C. record library relayed, through Sayers, a request for current Country Music records. Promising singles should be addressed to Ian Grant, B.B.C., Aeolian Hall, New Bond Street, London W-1, England.



Miss Country Music U.S.A., Miss Mary Gard right, with Miss Mary Ann Wertz second runner up and Miss Linda Ginochio, first runner up. (left to right)

A tall statuesque New Mexico girl who lives on a ranch, helps her Dad break horses and herd cattle, and has her own livestock brand Wednesday night, July 3rd, was crowned the first Miss Country Music, U.S.A.

Country Music Queen for a year is Miss Mary Gard, 19, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John Gard of Gladstone, N.M. Miss Gard entered the Miss Country Music contest as Miss El Paso, representing radio station KHEY.

NEWS NEWS NEWS

The Miss Country Music U.S.A. crown is the second she has captured this year. She was recently crowned Miss New Mexico Universe and will represent New Mexico in The Miss U.S.A. beauty pageant next May.

First runner up was Linda Ginocchio, 20, Antioch, Calif. Miss Ginocchio entered the beauty pageant as Miss Sacramento and representing radio station KRAK.

Second runner up was Mary Ann Wertz, 20, Fort Lauderdale, Fla. Miss Wertz entered the beauty pageant as Miss Miami, representing radio station WGMA in Hollywood, Fla.

Elected Miss Congeniality by the 20 girls who competed was Debbie Leddy, San Angelo, Texas.

Miss Country Music, U.S.A.'s crown was placed on her head in front of the biggest country music audience ever assembled under one roof in the U.S.

An estimated 10,500 persons turned out for the K-BER Radio sponsored Grand Ole Opry - Miss Country Music, U.S.A. contest.

Extra seats had to be placed on the floor to handle the country music fans who came to Hemisfair '68.

The program featured the most outstanding array of country music talent ever brought to San Antonio on the same program.

The lineup included Charlie Pride, Ray Price, Loretta Lynn, Willie Helson, David Houston, Johnny Bush and Minnie Pearl.

Miss Gard is a sophomore at New Mexico State University. She plans to major in Agricultural Business.

Her father operates a 2,400 - acre ranch plus at Gladstone and Miss Gard has been riding ever since she could remember.

She said her grandfather, Ray Leighton, Clayton, N.M., is a "75-year-old cowboy."

She has ridden in rodeos in Barrell Racing events, and she, her father, three brothers and a sister ride herd on about 200 head of cattle in addition to breaking cow ponies.

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Jack Brumley of OMAC ARTIST CORPORATION announces from his bakersfield office that KAPP recording artist, Freddie Hart, was in Nashville for a series of recording sessions, July 24 through July 26, under the direction of Owen Bradley. Bradley will be producing both a new album and single for Hart. Freddie is currently riding high on the charts with his smash single "BORN A FOOL".



Gene Wyatt has been winning fans for several years now with his congenial personality and unique vocal style. Gene was Fortman for David Houston. Touring from coast to coast, Canada, England and Germany. He left this position only a few months ago to devote his full efforts toward a recording career of his own. Paula Records is proud to say Gene Wyatt is one of their own now.

Gene's last release was on the Mercury label "I Stole The Flowers From Your Garden" which sold over 150,000. His current release is "I Just Ain't Got (as much as he's got going for me)" which is on the Paula label. It is already on the charts in Chicago, Cincinnati and Birmingham.

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Bobby Parrish, Georgia TV & recording personality, was awarded the coveted 'Golden Guitar' Award, by the Colorado Country Music Festival, during their recent convention in Denver. Presented during the Awards Banquet at the Holiday Inn, the plaque was awarded for his 'Dedication to the country music industry.'

Parrish brought in his complete show cast for performances during the festivities.

NEWS NEWS NEWS



Backstage at the KBBQ First Anniversary Show, Ray Price chats with one of the Stars of the show, Tex Williams. Looking on are Hugh Jarrett (left) and Nudie (right). The event was the KBBQ First Anniversary Show at the Shrine. Other stars of the show include: Merle Haggard, Bonnie Owens, Ferlin Husky, Jimmy Wakely, Jerry Wallace, Sheb Wooley, Freddie Hart and Cheryl Poole.

Triple T Talent, Midwestern management firm, won over twelve awards at the recent Colorado Country Music Festival, held in Denver. Marve Hoerner, prexy of the firm, received a special "Appreciation" Plaque, and two Citations. Bobby Parrish walked off with the "Golden Guitar" Plaque and a special Citation. The Possum Holler Opry telecast was presented a "Golden Guitar" Plaque, with regulars, Toby Dick Ellis, Lenora Ellyn and Al Harvey, receiving Citations. The James Sisters and Dave Finn, along with the six other Bobby Parrish Show cast members, each walked off with "Golden Guitar" Plaques.

In addition, Marve Hoerner surprised Parrish with a special "Open Door" Award, for his, "A Woman's Love" release, which opened the door for him in country music. Immediately after the presentation, Hoerner was "floored", when Parrish presented him with an encribed silver platter. Marve later stated, "I've never been more surprised or more pleased in my life."

Ten thousand country music fans were on hand July 4th at Bakersfields Hart Park for the KUZZ 4th annual fun in the sun day. Fans came as far

away as Illinois and Ohio.

Entertainment was provided by Capitol Record's recording stars, The Chapparral Brothers. The highly talented duo performed many of the great country hits in their own impressive style. Their performance was highlighted by their most recent Capitol release "Standing In The Rain". Also on hand to entertain the large crowd in the day long festivities was the Sandlin Brothers, Johnny Russell, Leon Copeland, and Judy King. Providing the backup music for the singers was KUZZ D.J. Larry Daniels and his Buckshots.

The highlight of the day was the watermelon eating contest in which KUZZ D.J. Wally Wasem lost miserably, but after the contest he was overheard saying it was rigged. Everyone who attended enjoyed the free entertainment and watermelon, and everyone is looking forward to the next picnic.

Little Richie Johnson just returned from another ten days on the road and promoting several new releases. DJ's may get on Little Richie's mailing list by writing him at Box 3, Belen, New Mexico.



Hank Williams, Jr. entertained with his own special brand of country music magic at the WWVA Big Country Jamboree recently and had the packed audience begging for more! Both performances of the Jamboree that night were packed.

NEWS NEWS NEWS



When the recent color video-taping session at WSTV-TV (Steubenville, Ohio) was finished, the WWVA roving camera caught the WWVA Big Country Swingers in their "commercial" garb. In the foreground, at left is Darrell "sleepyhead" Edwards, while Bill "swinging guru" Quay is at the right. Standing at left is Steve "fight-the-mid-morning-slump" Mazure, while PD Bob "morning-after-remedy" Finnegan is at the right. The WWVA DJ's definitely are "hammy!"

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The Stonemans' syndicated color television program has moved into the nation's largest market -- Los Angeles -- under sponsorship of the world's largest Dodge dealership, according to an announcement by Gene Goforth, producer of the show.

The program is on KCOP-TV. Worthington Dodge is the sponsor.

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Country artist ROCKY JONES returns to the recording scene on WASP Records singing two great songs entitled, "BREAK THE NEWS (But Break It Gently) & "T FOR TEXAS". Disc has a great sound, and should be a sure winner. DJ'S write on your station letterhead for a quick copy: WASP RECORDS Box 7171, Tacoma, Washington.

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A completely revised service program, unique to the industry, has been introduced by Thomas Organ Company for both Thomas and VOX products, it was announced by Donald A. John, Thomas National Service Manager.

Called "Guaranteed Landed Quality," the new manufacturing warranty policy is highlighted by the promise that all Thomas and VOX equipment will work when it arrives at dealers' stores or the company pays for repairs.

In another major innovation, a new protective plastic skin-pack system for packaging parts has been instituted, assuring arrival of parts in perfect condition -- not marred, scratched, bent, broken or tangled.

Under Guaranteed Landed Quality, any dealer may proceed with required repairs without factory approval if labor costs fall within a prepared rate schedule. If repair costs are more than the schedule, company field sales representatives may authorize additional expenditure.

It is no longer necessary to have defective parts returned to the factory for credit, Mr. John said. Factory sales representatives are authorized to make credit adjustments in dealers' stores, thus eliminating postage, handling and waiting periods.

"We feel this new policy will eliminate much of the guesswork that took place in the past and outlines a policy of action we intend to follow in our product," Mr. John said.

As a direct adjunct to Guaranteed Landed Quality, Mr. John announced a more aggressive policy by Thomas Organ Company in parts sales.

Two major steps in this direction has been the skin-pack packaging and complete revision of parts pricing, lowering all parts prices to make Thomas and VOX parts fully competitive in an effort to capture a large portion of the huge national parts market.

Special equipment has been purchased to allow skin-packaging of all types of parts from the smallest diode or contact to large Thomas and VOX kits of the most often used parts.

Every company part now is prepacked with complete identification on the package. These parts are stored under a new system allowing fast, easy accessibility for fast shipping.

When a parts order is received from a dealer, immediate acknowledgement of the order is sent out.

"In most instances, we expect the part to arrive at the dealer at the same time as the acknowledgement," Mr. John said.

In an effort to make parts ordering as easy and

NEWS NEWS NEWS

fast as possible, a new parts catalogue now is in preparation which will list every part for every Thomas and VOX product and what other products it will fit. A simple coding system will allow ordering with a minimum of paper work.

"We consider this a quality product/parts service - the best in the industry," Mr. John said.

"We will constantly seek to improve it and see that it remains the best in the industry."



CANARY RECORD COMPANY, Redwood City, California has signed Bobby Wyld, a native of Savannah, Ga., to their fast growing roster of artists. "AND I SEE YOU" scheduled for immediate release is only one of the many songs that Bobby has written since early childhood. One of a family of five children, Bobby learned to accept responsibility early in life and with it grew a profound love for country music and the intense desire to further develop his talent and entertain people.

After a hitch in the Navy and a brief marriage which made him the proud father of two, he organized his own band known as "The Country-men" and is currently making personal appearances on the west coast. His home is in Pacifica, California.

Bobby stands 5'5" tall and has hazel eyes and jet black hair. An all-round country boy, graduate nurse, and a former jockey for many of the leading race horse farms in Kentucky. He states to Canary's top songwriter Earl Miles, that he has worn out a lot of shoe leather attempting to

break into the C & W recording field. Now, with boundless enthusiasm and a magnetic personality plus a voice bursting with potential; this record release, his fans feel is only the first of a series of steps taken in the right direction.



Backstage at the First Annual KBBQ ("Red Baron-Sopwith Camel-Snoopy") Fly-in Los Angeles.

The infamous and dreaded Clyde (Merle) Barrow chats with the World War I aces. Pictured (left to right) Red (Goober) Baron, "Snoopy" Griffith, Clyde (Merle) Barrow and Jack (Sopwith) Dodson.

A sidelight of the evening was the outstanding performance by nine top country music stars for KBBQ, celebrating its first anniversary.

R. Elsenpeter Productions, in association with Averbeck-Warren & Associates, Inc., presented their annual 'Jug Of Happiness' Award, during the recent Colorado Country Music Festival, held in Denver. The antique 'moonshinner's jug' was presented on behalf of the TV series, "Possum Holler RFD." The special presentation was made to Walt Alkire, owner of the Four Seasons Club in that city, for his sponsorship of the annual convention at his club. Last year, the 'jug' was awarded to Miss Gladys Hart, director of the Festival.

Clyde Beavers and the Eager Beavers Band recently returned from a tour of military bases in Newfoundland, left again June 28th for a three weeks tour of our bases in Greenland.

NEWS NEWS NEWS

Robbie Attaway of Beaumont, Texas is the bass player and the latest addition to the group.

Kenny Hart & The Country Knights have played at some of the top rated clubs in the country such as "The Caravan East" in Albuquerque and "The Golden Nugget" in Las Vegas.

One of the finest country unit's to be formed North of Nashville is the all new Larry Heaberlin group called the "The Traveler's" feature Garland Dye on peddle steel, John Bertelson, drum's and Gary Audsley on bass.

"The Traveler's" have worked with many of the Nashville artist's and "Grand Ole Opry" unit's for the Smokey Smith Enterprises of Des Moines.

"The Traveler's" are featured weekend's with Larry at the "New Gas Lite Lounge", in Des Moines, Iowa.

K-ARK artist Larry Heaberlin, "Honda" (68), "World" (68) and group "The Traveler's" are now booked through the "Town Of Talent" agency, 728 16th Avenue S., Nashville, Tennessee 37203.

Heaberlin has appeared on such show's as the "Grand Ole Opry", The Buck Owens Show, "Kitty Wells Show", Porter Wagoner Show and many other's.

It has just been announced by Frank Lee, operations manager of KOOO, the country power house in Omaha, Nebraska, that the winner of their most recent popularity poll was Buck Owens. This was determined by the thousands of votes that poured into the station over a month's time, and the final tabulation had Buck Owens the winner by a majority of three out of five with Merle Haggard in second place.

Lee also stated that Buck Owens and his Buckaroos are set for a concert in Omaha on Friday, September 13, and everyone is looking forward to the concert with great excitement.

Tammy Wynette, the blonde hit-maker, whose Epic recordings have consistently rated chart action, during her young career, is being accorded a unique tribute by the citizens of her hometown. Red Bay, Alabama, is naming a new city park for



Introducing a new face in the wide wonderful world of country music, Kenny Hart was born on April 24 in Bloomburg, Texas. A small town about 28 miles south of Texarkana, Texas.

At the age of 13 he began to sing and strum a guitar to the wild popular sounds of Elvis Presley.

In February of 1967 his obsession for C & W music motivated him to form a band. Thus began the nation wide travels of "Kenny Hart & The Country Knights". Bob "Quick Draw" McCormick, the steel player, is also an avid fast draw artist. Recently while on tour Bob was polishing up on his championship technique with a proverbial "unloaded gun" and shot himself in the leg. Bob showed his championship qualities as a musician that night by appearing as usual with the group. Wearing a sheepish grin his only comment was "The show must go on".

Robert Wells, guitarist, known as the genius of the group is also the all around FIX-IT man. He is always available when needed or when not needed.

John Alexander, drummer, was formerly a member of a well known pop-rock group. John left them to join The Country Knights. He is quick to announce country music is where it's happening.

NEWS NEWS NEWS

its' famous citizen. Tammy, her husband Don, daughter Donna Marie and the "Countryropolitans" appeared before a capacity audience at the Red Bay High School Gym, on August 15th, for a benefit performance. Proceeds from the show went to improvements in the park. The show was co-sponsored by Radio Station WRNG. The Tammy Wynette Park will feature advance-design recreation equipment and is strategically located to serve the entire community.



"Jimmy Latour, popular country & western artist in the northeast New York area recently returned from a five month tour of Vietnam. Jim was with The Jimmy Case Show, which featured Lynda K. Lance. Upon returning to the states Jim headlined a show at The Blue Jay Club in Schenectady, N.Y. and was very well received by the hundreds of fans of his that had not seen him since his tour. Jim will soon be an associate of Northeast Music, Inc., as manager of our international affairs.

Jim Nesbitt, whose latest release for Chart, "Clean the Slate in '68", currently appearing at the "Wisk A Go Go" in Mason City, Iowa.



Smash recording star Jerry Lee Lewis gets a toast from the KBBQ Country Gentlemen (left) Bob Jackson and (right) Larry Scott along with guitar wiz Jimmy Bryant.

A toast, of coffee, for Jerry's current hit record, "What Made Milwaukee Famous".

Jerry was in Los Angeles to do the Joey Bishop Show and while in town dropped in to visit on the Bob Jackson Show on KBBQ, the 24-hour Los Angeles area country station.

Bob Homan, Yakima, Washington, personality, recently issued his latest HEB Records release, "Beamin' All Over" b/w "Charming Stranger."

Both sides were published by Buck Owens Publishing Co., Blue Book Music.

Bobby Parrish, Georgia recording artist-TV personality, appeared as a special guest at the recent Colorado Country Music Festival. Appearing Friday and Saturday evenings to enthusiastic audiences, Parrish worked with his complete ten member show cast. Receiving encores both nights, at the Four Seasons club, he was immediately re-booked by the management for future dates at the leading night spot in Denver.

Besides the Four Seasons engagement, Parrish also appeared at the Fall River Ranch, leading tourist attraction near Estes Park, Colorado. A re-booking is also being scheduled for this spot in the near future.

While in the area, he introduced his latest Omar Records release, "In A Little While" b/w "Trouble Down The Road."

Country Music



People are constantly asking us to feature many more of the girls in the country music field. We like girls too, but there just isn't that many of them. Of the ones there are, one stands out. Molly Bee.

For over ten of her years Molly Bee has stood out as one of the outstanding female country entertainers of our time. She is truly a dynamic performer that never ceases to entertain her many fans.

One week we might find her working the fabulous hotels along the strip in Las Vegas and the next week she will be playing a rodeo in Nebraska. Personality is the key to this girls existence and she has plenty of it.

This was undoubtedly the hardest of the life-lines we here at CML have had to get. We started at a restaurant near her home in Burbank, California, went from there to her home and were just getting down to the business of getting Molly on tape when the phone rang and she was called to a sudden appearance in Las Vegas. Off we went to the 24 hour city. We got a little more there and when Molly had to return to southern California, we could not get together with her again until she appeared at Disneyland. We finally finished up in her suite at the Disneyland Hotel.

We feel that she has a fascinating story to tell, so here it is.

CML: I believe that the best place to start Molly, would be to find out where you were born, and how you first "got started" in this fabulous thing called Country Music . . . so why don't we

MOLLY: Oh goodness sakes, that goes back quite a while now . . . actually I am from a place called Bellbuckle, Tennessee, and my dad was a Truck Driver so we moved about quite a bit, and I was living in Tuscon, Arizona when I met a young actor by the name of Rex Allen, and I sang for him when I was about seven or eight years old. He suggested that I come out to California, and so I did, and while on a vacation out here . . . actually which, strangely enough was paid for by the Air Force at Davis Monothan, they thought I should try my hand at show biz, so they all got together enough money for Mother and I to flyout, which I, which is one of the reasons I like to work with the military now so much. But we did, we came out on a vacation and while I was visiting my aunt and uncle we had occasion to go to the market and do some shopping . . . and Doye O' Dell was appearing there, doing a little special show there in the market . . . they insisted that I go up and sing a little bit with them, as I had been singing in Tuscon, well, naturally you don't want to you know, but you do what ever the aunt and uncle says, so I did, and Doye O' Dell was kind enough to take me over to Channell Five and have me appear on his television show, which just happened to have been seen by a gentleman by the name of Cliffie Stone . . . and Milt Hoffman, who was the producer of the show . . . so, they invited me to come over and do a kind of a semi-audition at the radio show that Cliffie did at that time every day . . . and he said that the mail was so great that would I consider staying on all of the time, and of course I was thrilled to death . . . because I did

not know anything about television I hadn't even seen one until then, but I knew to sing on the red light like he told me, so that started an association with some of the most fabulous people in the world, which I did not realize, of course, at that time . . . and that one of the young gentlemen on the show at that time was Mr. Tennessee Ernie Ford, and that the producer of the show, Milt Hoffman, would one day wind up producing the Ford Show, and of course, Cliffie managed Ernie and myself, and that the director would direct the Ernie Ford Shows . . . and let me see, there was Billy Strange . . . in the band, and you know Billy does all of the stuff for Nancy Sinatra now, and Billy Liebert, who is the head of CBS Music, and

MOLLY BEE

there was a fellow by the name of Terry Preston on the show, and of course we know him as . . . he went back to his real name of Ferlin Husky, and Dallas Frazier, and let me think . . . Rose and Joe Maphis, Mr. Merle Travis, and Johnny Horton came on the show . . . For example . . . to do a fly casting demonstration for Gold's Furniture Store . . .

CML: And wound up being the singer on the show?

MOLLY: Yes . . . wound up being the singer on the show, and you can just go on and on . . . every musician in that orchestra like Speedy West and Jimmy Bryant are still considered the best in the business, and the drummer, Roy Hart, who owns "Drums City", still is one of the greatest drummers in the world. I seem to have great luck, because I fell into a situation where I was expected to learn to do things the right way, and not just half-way, and it comes automatically if you start with children young enough, and they do not know that it's the difficult way to learn it, it is perfectly easy if you assume that that's the only way you do it, so that training has been invaluable to me all of my life . . .

CML: Then you are not unhappy at all about having began your career as a child?

MOLLY: Oh no, as it turned out, my father died when I was ten, and it was a good thing I had started, because that was three months after I had joined the show, and it was a good thing that I was able to continue in show business, because it was truly a blessing, to take care of my family, because I had four people to raise after that . . . and "Hometown" started something, because Capitol Records needed someone to cover a record made by Jimmy Boyd, called; "I Saw Mommy Kissin' Santa Clause", so I was the only kid they knew . . . and I was elected, that was my first record, and of course I thought that every record after that sold a million. I thought: "Oh boy, I sold a million records, I get to go and do the Ed Sullivan Show, and the Jackie Gleason Shows, I had learned the hard way that that is not the case.

CML: Pinky Lee comes into the picture about here, does he not?

MOLLY: Yes, that led to another show, with Pinky Lee. I did two-and-one-half years on NBC Network with Pinky . . .

CML: Who can ever forget Pinky Lee, with the big bow tie, the slurred style in which he spoke?

NOTE: With that, Molly launched into an almost identical imitation of Pinky Lee . . . and for this reporter, brought back some memories!

MOLLY: But after that, Ernie Ford came to me and he said that he was starting a television show, and would I leave Pinky's Show. There was no question, so I left and went with Ernie, which was four (4) years, and then to the night show, which lasted five, and I did my first motion picture, with Johnny Saxon and Jill St. John.

CML: I have been sitting here, fascinated with your story, and literally carried away . . . approximately what age were you at this stage . . . your first movie?

MOLLY: I was about seventeen years old here . . . so let's see . . . the Ford Show led to my going on a trip with Bob Hope in 1958, my first U.S.O. trip, Christmas trip overseas.



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CML: I would imagine that this was one of the biggest thrills of your life?

MOLLY: It was, it really was: Italy, Spain, Germany, France, North Africa, Iceland, and the Azores, but the greatest thrill was the opportunity to meet Bob; and to stay friends with him all of these years. He's one of the most fabulous people that ever lived, I think, not only as an entertainer, I count that, but I do not count that really strong, I count what they really are offstage when you get to know how they think and how they operate under pressure, under all sorts of conditions, and Bob is an exceptional human being, he's like Tennessee Ernie Ford . . . those are people that . . . it's an honor to even know them at all, because they

CML: And they never do forget you either.

MOLLY: Oh no, they are as great off-stage, they may be even greater people as individuals, they would have been great in any business they took because that is what they are as humans. But anyway, the Bob Hope Tour led to meeting Bobby Darin, who in turn introduced me to George Burns, and I replaced Bobby in George Burns' night club act, which . . . then I met Jack Benny . . . and Jack asked me to join him the following year, and even though I did not think that he would remember . . . but he did. So I joined Jack Benny the next year, up in Lake Tahoe on his show. After that . . . I did a play in San Francisco, called "*The Boy-Friend*", where I took the dancing lead for a change.

CML: Molly, do you read music?

MOLLY: Yes . . . but not enough to hurt my singin', I hope . . . (*chuckle*)

CML: No . . . it definitely has not hurt that, at all! You are great!!

MOLLY: That's an old running gag about reading music, they say it hurts sometime. But anyway . . . Then I got a call from the Jimmy Dean Office in New York to come in and do a guest shot on Jimmy's Show, which . . . I immediately did, because it was a chance to get back to singing the kind of music I love the most, which has always been Country & Western, and I couldn't resist it at all, so I went to New York just to do one shot and I wound up three years later still doing his show. And during that period, we joined MGM Records and started doing our albums for them . .

CML: How do you like working for Jimmy Dean? What do they call him . . . the Tall Texan, or something like that, isn't it?

MOLLY: Oh yes . . . we call him: "Our East Coast Ernie Ford" . . . but it's funny, did you ever sing a duet with a belt buckle? He's tall!! He's a fine boy and I enjoyed doing his show, it was a great kick. We've done a lot of tours together, and Jimmy is fun to work with . . .

CML: What was your first 'Big' record on MGM, Molly?

MOLLY: Gee . . . I don't think I've really had what I would call 'a big record' . . . the only record that I suppose . . . it didn't sell much, but it got me one of the biggest thrills of my life, a nomination for a grammy, and the song was "*A Single Girl Again*". They don't go by record sales . . . they go more by performance, or so they tell me, they'd had to, cause it didn't sell that much! It was my first record on MGM, and

CML: It's an excellent record!

MOLLY: Thank-you . . . it was nominated for a grammy over two-hundred-and-fifty artists, for Best Girl Singer, it didn't win, actually Roger Miller beat me; (*chuckle*) that was the year that "King Of The Road" was winning everything, and also "Queen Of The House" beat me right out, and I told Roger that I didn't mind him getting nine grammys, but he didn't need that tenth one for Best Girl Singer, he could have been a little less greedy then.

CML: That was a Harlan Howard song, wasn't it?

MOLLY: Yes, Harlan wrote the song, and he's a doll . . . I love him as a person, and as a writer . . . he is unbelievable!!

CML: Molly, if you were to have to attribute your early, and present success to any one person, could you? And if so, who is that person?

MOLLY: Yes . . . of course . . . Ernie Ford and the Ernie Ford Show. This was the one thing . . . a) I learned the most from Ernie, as an entertainer, and b) I owe him a great deal more than that, because he practically raised me after my father died. Along with Cliffie Stone of course, also the show did more for me than any other show had ever

done, because we were on so long that people . . . you became part of their family, and I still get that great warmth from an audience like you are the 'Little girl they raised' because they practically did raise me from the time I was fifteen years old when I joined the show. So that would be the single thing I would say that would be the most important.

CML: I understand that Ernie Ford is a very 'warm' person to know. Ernie has done a lot for Country Music . . . Country Music on TV too!

MOLLY: Yes he has . . . Oh, he was the first one that broke the ice for all of us and of course another person that has done a great deal is Jimmy Dean, and Eddie Arnold, who happens to be a distant cousin of mine who I am so extremely proud of, one of the greatest singers I guess in the whole world . . . and Eddie . . . Ahhh Minnie Pearl, is a love, all of these people . . . and the greatest thing about them is they work so very hard to break down the false idea: That if you sing country, or you like country music, you have to have an I.Q. of -4 . . . These people are so marvelous that they show the other people that we work with and the whole country that that is not the case a-t-a-ll!

That most of these people are more intelligent than some of your "pop" artists, you know, that don't have to fight this battle of . . . ahhh, you know, people tending to look down upon country music. And Minnie is such an attractive, ordinary person too . . . she's a college graduate, an extremely bright person, you know that her best friends happen to be the Billy Grahams, and just to 'sit and talk' with Minnie, boy . . . we had lunch when we were out in Nashville. And I want you to know that besides giggling all of the way through it, she comes up with some statements that you sit and think about, for six and eight days because they are so bright that you think: "Wow . . . why didn't I think of that? It was so simple, and right before me, and it takes a mind like hers to decipher it" . . . you know.

CML: A little earlier, we were talking about when I first met Minnie, and it was backstage at the big KGBS Show at the Shrine Auditorium; and Minnie was on stage, doing her bit, and a rather large fellow asked if he could get past me . . . it was Jim Nabors. TV's Gomer Pyle. You could have knocked me over with a feather, as I had never been that close to many of the stars before, let alone one of Jim Nabors stature. Anyhow, Jim walked right up to the end of the curtain and stood there watching Minnie do her thing, then all of a sudden he walked out on the stage, and that is when the pandemonium broke loose . . . Jim and Minnie then proceeded to 'break-up' the audience . . . and I can tell you that I have yet to see two of the funniest people on a stage at the same time, but the topper of the whole thing was this . . . Jim broke Minnie up so bad that she had to sit down on the stage and literally 'sit out her laughing spell' . . . it was terrific.

MOLLY: Boy . . . would I have loved to have seen that!

CML: I have a question to ask that has been running through my mind ever since we began talking about Minnie: In your own opinion, how much of a part do you think that comedy has played in respect to the country music field? Is comedy becoming an integral part of country music, is it here to stay?

MOLLY: Well, I think some of the greatest minds in comedy today are in the country music field . . . There is something so hysterically funny about someone with as sharp as mind as Minnie Pearl's, and yet she plays a sort of illiterate sort of character; supposedly the man-hungry character, and when she says something sharp and stunning it makes double the impact when it is coming from a supposedly illiterate person. The same thing is true with Roger Miller . . . we call him our "Un-hokey Oakie", because he is so sharp . . . well, it is taking Will Rogers' theory basically, he played it down home and simple, and he was one of the brightest men in the world; but had he of said:

I am bright, therefore I am not country, I am very sheik and cosmopolitan" . . . He wouldn't have made near the impact, because then you have to compete with great minds in the contemporary field . . . and there are many great minds there, I am not saying that only country music has it, if

you love country music, or if you love any form of music or any form of comedy or the world in general, you've got to realize that in each of the various fields there are brilliant people, but I tend to naturally defend 'our' people because this is what I know best and what I love . . .

CML: Such as Roy Clark, Pat Buttram . . .

MOLLY: Right . . . I'm not putting down somebody like a Dean Martin, who is brilliant in his field, or . . .

CML: Or maybe . . . Bob Hope?

MOLLY: Of course, Hope, Benny . . . and all of the others, but in our field we also have brilliant minds; you're Grandpa Jones is one of the funniest people in the whole wide world, ahhh . . . Ernie Ford is a marvelous mind. His mind is so quick and so fast, and it is a great thrill to see the way, let's say for an example: the way that Joey Bishop falls on the ground from Homer and Jethro, who again are two extremely bright people, but by playing their characters as 'dumb' . . . it makes them . . . twice the impact on you when they say something that is absolutely out of sight, it sounds like something that Mort Saul might say, and they do not expect it to come from the supposed rural area, and this is the key to it . . . I think.

CML: You think comedy will continue to play a big part in the country music field?

MOLLY: Well . . . comedy is a way . . . anytime I meet somebody that is devoid of a sense of humor, it makes me nervous. In humor and music and anything else, if you don't have a sense of humor . . . you are going to be in trouble, you know, because humor is our way of looking at our mistakes, and accepting them and bringing them out into the open instead of having to defend them or our having to be self conscious or carry around a guilt thing . . . humor is the beginning of it all, and it is escapism also, but it is honesty most of all . . . and all forms of country music are making an impact, the music side is really making an impact, the comedy side you see the Geezinslaw Brothers on every major show . . . and they are all doing fantastic business everywhere they go! So, it is all one big thing, country music does not just

consist of country, it consists of the great Don Bowmans, people like this who bring our music right up to the upper echelon where it belongs.

CML: You broke a twenty-three year old precedent in Las Vegas by putting country music on the strip . . . something that has never before been done?

MOLLY: This was on the strip at the Desert Inn . . .

Country music was always played downtown at the Mint and the Golden Nugget, and a lot of places, great places, the Showboat, but it had never been on the Las Vegas Strip where the Sahara, Riviera, and places like this. And Dean Martin and Phil Harris . . . bless their hearts . . . got me permission to bring in an all country show, to do it straight country, where I could wear my rodeo outfits, I had my steel guitars, and the whole bit . . . straight country western, and it was one of the great thrills of my life once it worked . . . I was scared to death, and Dean . . . bless his heart . . . flew all of the way from Mexico to be there on opening night, which he didn't tell me about . . . and it scared me to death, when I looked out into the audience I could see somebody coming up on stage, and I couldn't think who on earth it could be . . . I was going to head out the other way . . . I said "I knew we weren't good, but I didn't know they were getting hostile" . . . *(chuckle)* . . . You know . . . and it was Dean, and the show proceeded to break all attendance records there, for three months as a matter of fact . . .

CML: Don't you think that Vegas has, and is becoming more and more country music minded?

MOLLY: Well, you see . . . they play downtown, because Vegas knows that they have a lot of people come in that like country music, they always have and it will always be big . . . However, so far, for some silly reason they have limited it to the downtown area which is wonderful, except that I feel just as I feel that country music deserves a time slot on network TV every week, it also deserves to be on the Las Vegas Strip, where they call the 'High Rollers', or the money people go.

CML: We are putting two gold stars on your chart for that Molly!!

MOLLY: *(Chuckle)* Thank you . . . well, I really do, I feel that they are doing our acts you know, anyway, they're all doing country music, now if the music is good enough to be done by people who . . . let's say . . . sometimes do not always do it as well as our own people, why is it that they don't have Buck Owens appearing at Caesar's . . . why isn't the Hank Thompson Show at the Frontier . . . I get so angry because our performers are as good or better than two-thirds of the acts that are there, and it's just the breaking down of the old rule . . . it'll take time, but it's going to be done . . . and the fact that we were fortunate enough through the help of great people like Dean showing up to kick us off the right way, and Connie Francis coming in and wanting to sing . . . she wanted to get an outfit and be a cowboy too, and Sarah Vaughn sitting in and Della Reese showing that all . . . Ella Fitzgerald was the biggest country music fan I know, she cried when "Swingin' Country" went off . . . and she was really in tears, she came over to the studio and . . .

it is a frightening thing to realize.

CML: Ella is doing a lot of country material now isn't she?

MOLLY: They all love it because they know that musically it tells it like it is, that the melodies are gorgeous and they can listen to a lyric and see that there is great depth there, a great honesty in our our writers, our writers don't bother to be coy or cute, they are frank, and they are deep, and they are honest . . . and this is why the teenagers today are taking up country, they're picking up on it because you find that they want truth too . . . They do not want a bunch of flowers anymore and a bunch of story-book fairytales, they want to tell it like it is . . . they want to hear it that way, that's why all of this rebellion is going on I think, and they find that country music satisfies a little bit more or this desire of truth and honesty as opposed to fantasyland and . . . the telling about the birds and the bees, instead of telling children the truth, and I think that truth is always so much better and simpler, there's no problems when you tell the truth. You do not have to remember what you said, and kids are capable of comprehending so much more than we give them credit for.

CML: Molly, I could sit here and listen to you all day long, but we've got an interview to finish, and we had better do it!

MOLLY: You mean that you are writing this down?

CML: I'm the interviewer, remember?

MOLLY: Good show!!! . . . Where were we? Do you want to talk about what is coming up?

CML: All right, I think that we have about covered everything up to the immediate future . . . so let's go!!!

MOLLY: O.k. . . . well as you know, I am going into the "Sands" Hotel in Vegas which will be exciting, and then when I finish that I'm going to Germany for the sixth time, for the Military . . . and then I come back from there . . .

CML: Who is . . . pardon me . . . who is going with you to Germany?

MOLLY: I'm taking . . . actually no one . . . because I met a group while I was in Europe last year, from Liverpool, and they told me that 'My' band was from Liverpool, I said: "Well listen, I got a plane to catch" . . . I was going to leave right then . . . I thought . . . "Oh boy, I've got . . . like a Rock 'N' Roll Band, that's going to be wonderful" . . . A group called "The Hillsiders", who . . . Bobby Bare used them, he brought them over . . . here with Chet Atkins, and they cut an album together called "Nashville Meets Liverpool" . . . They talk like this . . . *(And with this readers, Molly 'blasts off' into a sentence using an English accent . . . right out of London . . . Follow me?)* . . . I call them, "My British Buckaroos", though, because they hit a chord and they sing: "Pour Me Another Cup of Couffee *(Coffee)*", they have a

worse Southern accent than I do when they sing.
CML: Well, you cannot detect their accents too well when they sing?

MOLLY: Never! They are fantastic . . . and better than that, they are such darling boys; When I arrived . . . they only made \$45.00 a month in Liverpool, when and if they could get work, and they all had children . . . and they were about twenty-six years old . . . that was about the general age. But . . . somebody spent his whole week's salary and bought all of my albums, so that they could know every key . . . every chord change . . . everything . . . and that's the most professional group that I have ever worked with, now-a-days we get very lax over here you know . . . very sloppy . . . those boys love the music so much that they want to be the best, and they wanted to know everything I did so that they *could be good*, now only if we could instil that enthusiasm in more of our artists here, but, unfortunately a lot of us get very blase . . . and I guess that is why I fell in love with them, 'cause I said: "Yes, I think I do that song in about the key of 'G'" . . . and they said: "No 'ya don't mate, 'ya do it in 'A'. (*Again the British accent*) . . . Because they had memorized it . . . one boy can yodel higher than I can; play guitar just like Merle Travis . . . and they switch off guitar, one guitar player might take bass, the bass player might take drums, and they sing another part . . . remarkable group . . . so I'm using them . . . I'm flying them over from Liverpool, and they will meet me in Germany.

CML: Your life has been so full Molly . . . singing acting, traveling . . .

MOLLY: Twenty-eight years is a long time, and I've worked nineteen of that twenty-eight you know . . .



CML: I do not want to get to far ahead . . . however you have been on the Joey Bishop Show . . . what? Five or six times now . . . right?

MOLLY: Oh goodness . . . Oooohhhh, sometimes I think that it is my show instead of Joey's.

CML: Joey is doing an awful lot for country music; as a matter of fact, I'd say a major contributor in regards to exposing country talent via television.

MOLLY: Joey has been a country music fan since 1940 . . . and when he was driving me over to his house the first night for dinner, he sang me some country songs that I hadn't heard, didn't even know . . . and he's too shy at that point to admit it, that he knew a lot of country . . . and I noticed he was singing songs like: "Wreck on the Highway" . . . which is just not an ordinary song anyone would know, and so we discussed it and I found out that he used to go to see shows . . . you know . . . that no longer even exist; that's what a fan he is. And he loves country with such a passion that I had an electric mandolin made for him, with his name on it, because we are going to go down to Nashville eventually, if we can do it, and do six days in Nashville . . . of nothing but all country . . . And I call him "My Little Hebrew Hillbilly", 'cause that's what he is, he's a country artist at heart and he loves it with the same passion I do, and Dean does . . . And these are the people that I love to hear cut country, 'cause they don't do it for money, they do it for love.

CML: Joey was voted "Man of The Year" by the Academy of Country and Western Music, wasn't he . . . just this year?

MOLLY: Yes, he was . . . and he was so thrilled. And it was kind of a battle to get him elected that, because a lot of people didn't feel . . . in the Academy . . . that he was country, but you've got to realize that he is the one that exposed the music . . . You cannot always give that award, it should be a special award for assistance to the music, really, and I just read the ballot where they are changing it to that; where you give one award to an artist for being the Best Artist of the year, you give another to someone like Joey, and of course we got one for Dean the year before, he was the first; To the people that give our music the belief . . . and that . . . if Joey believes in the music and believes in the artist and he instills that confidence in you before you go on, and he has booked every major country act that I know of on his show, which is something that had never been done before.

CML: I heard that Joey had tears in his eyes the night of the awards presentation . . . I couldn't get there myself . . .

MOLLY: I was sitting with him . . . Well, he knew about the award, but he knew he had been nominated . . . I told his wife about it . . . But I said, you know, make sure that he goes, and of course

she insisted that he come . . . Well, he would have come anyway!!! At the time that he was elected, I was dying, 'cause I was sitting between Tommy Smothers and Joey, and Joey didn't really know, and I tell you I was dying . . . I wanted to lean over and tell him. And Jan Howard was sitting behind us, and she's looking at me and she say's "Don't you say a word, don't you say a word!" And I let out a faint . . . "Oh, I really want to tell him", type of sigh, you know? Because I love Joey!

CML: I'll bet that it was one, if not the biggest thrill in his life?

MOLLY: It really was . . . he couldn't believe that the people would take the time to thank him for what he's done; and that is basically what we were doing, saying: "Thank you for believing" . . . in me, and Minnie Pearl and in Roy Clark, and in Glen Campbell, and the Collins Kids, and Homer & Jethro, The Geezinslaws, everybody . . . He's had every act on . . . you could go on and on, naming the people that he has put on the show, Henson Cargill, if I'd call Joey and say: "Now you may not yourself have heard about this which is silly, because he has too, he's pretty sharp, he's way up on it, but believe me, this act will kill you, and he will book them without ever seeing them . . . because he believes in our music and in the fact that in country music there's a kind of a code of the hills, you know, integrity is the most important thing, if you give your word, you don't need a contract . . . I never had a contract with Cliffie Stone, nineteen years, and neither has Ernie Ford, but a handshake and your word is never broken. You can break a contract, but if you break your word to me, or to Ernie, or to anyone else, that's unforgivable . . . and that is why Joey takes my word for it!

CML: Molly, you are most active in rodeo work . . . May we briefly cover that for the readers, some talk about your rodeo activities will put the finishing touches on this . . . although I hate to see this interview end . . . it's been fun!

MOLLY: All righty . . . it started about five years ago, in San Antonio, Texas, at one of the great rodeos, co-starring with Rex Allen, and it is a ten day rodeo and it was really quite a thrill . . . ahhh, they do just absolutely fantastic business . . . it's something else . . . you finally learn to love it so much you'd pay them to work a rodeo. There is quite a thrill to working to . . . maybe, thirty . . . forty thousand people at a time. I know I worked Omaha, I was the first girl that ever headlined the Omaha State Fair and Rodeo, and we got a plaque up in their Hall Of Fame for ninety-eight thousand people . . . And you just can't believe it, you know . . . it is just out of sight

CML: Now, basically, you just get out in the middle of the ring, or arena, and sing . . . don't you? . . . You do not ever get on a horse and ride, do you?

MOLLY: Oh yes I do!!

CML: You do? Really?

MOLLY: I ride out, and circle the arena, get off of the horse, sing; after I've done that, I walk the arena on the horse, so that you can shake hands and then you run at full run . . . out of the arena. The great thing about rodeo is that is's once a night . . .

CML: You'll have to put up with me . . . I've not had the obvious pleasure of getting to see a rodeo . . . so I'm going at this thing blindly . . . and it shows.

MOLLY: Really . . . you've never been? Well, at least you pronounce it right; a lot of people . . . when they start with the 'ro-day-o', I get kind of cringing, I suppose that it is correct . . . but I've just never heard a cowboy say it that way . . .

CML: Didn't you do the big rodeo at Houston, in the Astrodome; when was that?

MOLLY: Two years ago . . . and what a thrill! Dale Robertson and I co-starred that rodeo, and this year, I was working the Cork Club, unfortunately, and couldn't do it . . . But they had a few people where they alternated days, like, Wayne Newton, Tennessee Ernie, Jimmy Dean, and Roy Rogers and Dale Evans, . . . let me think now, Little Joe and the "Bonanza" group, the group from the Beverly Hillbillies . . . it was just a phenomenon . . . And I'm looking forward to it next year, being part of the group, cause that's my favorite place.

CML: Among some of these pictures that I have here, there are some taken at the Aksarben Rodeo, and it looks to be a large affair . . .

MOLLY: Oh yes . . . some of them are just huge . . . let me think of some of the best ones . . . Now the Albuquerque State Fair and Rodeo . . . always fantastic! I love that one . . . It's another ten dayer, where you stay the entire length of the run . . . sometimes they will work it where you stay from two to three days, but I love it when you run the whole run, because then you can see from the very beginning . . . because you become very good friends with the cowboys . . . it takes a lot of work . . . took me two years to become good friends with them . . . They test you out to see if you are a good sport or not; like they'll give you a rotten horse to ride, and if you stay with it, and you don't ask for a different horse, that gives you a point . . .

CML: Then you are a cowboy?

MOLLY: Well, they . . . they want you, and little by little, you gain their friendship . . . because they feel that anytime an artist is there . . . see they are taking a portion of the purse . . . The cowboys feel could be going to them, naturally. Now, you have to look at it this way: If it is a full house . . . or no, let's say that it is a small house . . . then they say: "Huh, told you they didn't need a star" . . . you know . . . a star can't draw . . . Now if it's a big house . . . it is because bull number seven is coming out, so you can't win for losing, you see! But . . . once they become your friends, they never leave . . . they are the greatest people that I've ever known . . . The men are that last outpost to masculinity, the women are forever loyal, and will do anything on earth for you, and June Ivory, who is Rodeo Secretary for the R.C.A. Rodeo, is my very best friend in the whole wide world; and we met accidentally when I went to San Antonio, my first rodeo, and didn't bring the proper clothes, it dawned on me that you couldn't ride a horse in a dress, I thought it was like a fair . . . and I thought that they were gonna kill me! So, I borrowed her clothes . . . and forgot to tell her husband, who walked right up and gave me a little pat and liked to scared him and me both to death, (*chuckle*) . . . you know . . . and I said: "As long as I wear her clothes, it's quite all right". But it was really fantastic . . . she gave me ten-thousand dollars worth of wardrobe to wear in that rodeo.

CML: It came in handy then, that you could wear her clothes?

MOLLY: I should say so, and she still designs all my clothes that I wear in rodeo's . . . Nudie makes them, but she designs them.

CML: Never having attended a rodeo, and at the same time picked up heresay about it, I'd say that it is a most dangerous, type of sport . . . wouldn't you say?

MOLLY: Yes . . . it is dangerous! So is road racing, boxing . . .

CML: Then it is an occupation . . . therefore having it's occupational hazards, just as any . . .

MOLLY: Yes it is . . . definitely, full time! Because these boys pay money to enter you see, and if they get what we call a "No score", then they lose their entry fee, and that is why you will sometimes see them riding with busted feet and arms, because they don't want to get a "No score", naturally, occasionally one or two will get killed: I remember one of the greatest moments in history happened in Houston, when A.J. Foyt, the three time Indianapolis speedway winner was sitting on one side of the couch, and over on the other side was Harry Tompkins, who I believe is six or seven times world champion Brahma bull rider, and they are both from Houston, and they are talking, talking, talking, . . . and I must've smoked forty-seven cigarettes, just trying to keep awake basically, 'cause I didn't know a soul they were

talking about. And they looked at me almost simultaneously and said: "You know you shouldn't smoke . . . that's dangerous". And I thought . . . the day I get in an Indianapolis car, or the day you put me on a Brahma bull coming out of chute number six, then I'll worry about it . . . But until then, I'll stick to the little cigarette, you know . . . but it is a sport that they love, it's a sport that they realize the dangers, and when a man is doing what a man must do, then you cannot look upon it as depressing or gory, because that's their life, and they know the risks . . . their wives know the risks, and so long as you go down swingin' doing what you want to do, I can't see that it is particularly depressing. Of course, we all don't want to see a friend hurt; no one does, but then again he's doing what he loves . . . so as long as he's doing what he loves, I think that's the way everyone should feel.

CML: Something else that we haven't yet touched on, to any great extent that is . . . is your work with Bob Hope and the USO Tours . . . let's go into that for a minute. When did you begin doing these tours, at what age?

MOLLY: Well . . . let me see . . . the first one started when I was seventeen; I did a benefit with Bob for Springhill College, in Tampa, Florida. Tampa was one stop, but we went on to Mobile, Alabama to do a show, with . . . let me see . . . Gary Crosby, Hugh O'Brien, Erin O'Brien, The Clown . . . the marvelous clown . . . Emmett Kelly, and Jerry Colona, his orchestra, and Les Brown and his orchestra, and this was my very first trip with Bob. And it started off as a funny bit when he asked me my real name, just to try to break the ice, 'cause I was terrified of these people, I just kept staring at them . . . he said: "What's your real name, where you from?" and I said: "My name is (throat clearing time) my throat never would work: Molly Beachboard . . . and we're from Bellbuckle, Tennessee, and he said: "wait for your laugh!" . . . And that was the beginning, 'cause he used it in three books after that . . . 'Beachboard from Bellbuckle' . . . so when I was nineteen, I was the youngest person he ever took on a U.S.O. trip.

CML: How do you like working with Bob?

MOLLY: I think maybe . . . that he is the most marvelous man in the whole wide world, he teaches you many things.

CML: Well Molly . . . that certainly sounded as if it came from the heart, I only wish that our readers could be sitting here with us . . . The impact of this interview would give them a whole new slant on . . . Miss Molly Bee . . . and I'm sure . . . on country music. I'd like to thank you for being so kind and generous with your time . . . and for putting up with me . . . it's been a blast!

MOLLY: You are entirely welcome . . . you see, it was *my* pleasure!

COLORADO COUNT

by Mark Tyme



The Parrish Show Cast captivate the audience, during their appearances. Were one of the outstanding attractions at this year's Festival.



A small portion of the large crowd, attending the Awards Banquet, Saturday evening at the Holiday Inn.

Bobby Parrish (front center) poses before 'show-time' with members of his show. Front (l-r), Smokey and Denny Kurtz; Bobby; Frank James and Dave Finn. Standing, (l-r), Donna Cay, Frances Ann and Sherrie Lyn James; Donna Ward.



Delegates from ten states were among the hundreds who registered, at the Four Seasons Club, as the 6th Annual Colorado Country Music Festival swung into action on June 10th. The snow capped Rockies, formed a perfect background for the Denver festivities.

Every afternoon found a swingin' 'jam' session in progress . . . while each evening continuous entertainment for over five hours was in store for the large crowds that attended the six day event. A large array of bands alternated each hour, with special entertainment, sandwiched in between band appearances. Individual artists were programmed during the various segments each evening. Talent co-ordinators for the Festival were, Jim Peters, Glen Brookins, Pat Gallagher, Frank James, Denny Ellis, Sandy Jarrad, George Ward and Marve Hoerner.

As you looked over the audiences each day, familiar faces in country music were easily spotted. Had the pleasure of chatting with Miss Patsy Montana (Calif.); Sonny Wright (Nash.); Jim Birdwell (Texas); Curley Rhodes of Cederwood Publishing Co. (Nash.); Brownie Johnson and Miss Jean Steakley (Nash.); Durwood Erwin (Calif.) Muriel Wess, Pres. of Canary Records (Calif.); The Page Family (Okla.); The Clossey Bros. (Wis.); Dr. & Mrs. James A. Whiting, Pres. of Capa Records (Ala.); Bill Williams, Southern editor for Billboard (Nash.); Billy C. Cole (KRFM, Salina, Kan.); Larry Marney & The Country Showmen (Kan.); Dick Rich (Penn.); Jim & Lyn Stone (Colo.); Tom Dunbar (Nash.) and Doug & Jean LaValley (Nash.). All were appreciated by the responsive crowds.

Bobby Parrish, Georgia recording artist-TV personality, brought in his complete ten member cast for shows on Friday & Saturday evenings. Also spotlighted was Lefty Carlson, noted trick roping specialist, who also handles public relation shows for Frontier Airlines. We talked for hours with Bobby and Lefty, as they received outstanding acceptance from the audiences and performed for the camera buffs.

Those Ellis Brothers, local personalities, provided entertainment of their own when they departed from in front of the Four Seasons Saturday morning, for Nashville. Carrying letters from the Denver mayor and Gov. John A. Love of Colo. to be presented to their counterparts in Tenn., they climbed aboard their covered wagon for the long trip. Denny, Roger & Freddy Ellis, planned the venture to promote country music in Colorado and their first record release.

RY MUSIC FESTIVAL

Local entertainers that performed before the barrage of mikes on the Four Seasons stage (The Bobby Parrish Show used eight mikes alone), included the fine bands of, Jim Peters and The Western Ramblers; Dusty Lenhart & The Wild-Boys; Those Ellis Bros.; Elmer Possumtrot & The Possum Trotters; The James Gang; with their 'leader', Frank James; The Skinner Bros. & The The Colo. Ranch Boys; The Stardusters & Bobby Sands and The Sandmen. Individual performers included: Vicki & Carmen Peters; Bill Archer; Leah Anderson; Yvonne & Rena Lee Beck; Glen & Mary Beth Brookins; Rick Votruba; Pat Gallagher; Linda & Dan Crowley; Sharon Bergman; Diane Bishop, among many other fine performers.

The Festival not only included excellent entertainment, but meetings were also scheduled for fan clubs; DJ's and Songwriters & Publishers. These proved to be fruitful, as ideas and questions were brought forth, concerning various aspects of the country music field.

Again, this year, the Awards Banquet was an outstanding feature. Over 250 awards, plaques and citations, were presented in a two hour program. Eighteen Denver and area businessmen, donated over 800 hundred dollars for this year's awards show. Country Music Life was cited for 'Dedication to the Country Music Industry' and was awarded a plaque. Leading name artist winners were Jim Ed Brown, RCA Victor; Ernest Tubb, Decca; Sonny Wright, Columbia; Bobby Parrish, Omar;



Miss Patsy Montana proved again why she still is a top performer.

Jim Peters being presented a special trophy for having done the most during the past year for country music in Colorado.



Disc Jockeys Johnny Bell, KLAk, Denver and Billy C. Cole, KFRM, Salina, Kan., preside at the awards dinner with Festival Director, Gladys Hart.





The Clossey Brothers band of Janesville, Wis., proved to be a popular group during their week long appearances at the Four Seasons.

Billy C. Cole, air personality of KFRM, Salina, Kan., makes guest appearance during festivities.



Lefty Carlson, trick rope specialist, was a big favorite during his convention appearances.





CML'S MR. & MRS. SERIES

JOHN AND SHARON

THE LEIGHTONS

Husband and wife teams are nothing new to country music. On the contrary, they are more predominate in the country field than in most other fields of entertainers. There are successful ones and some not so successful, but they all aspire to see themselves up with the likes of Wilma Lee and Stoney, Johnny and Kitty, Carl and Pearl, etc.

Southern California is not the biggest area in the world for country music, but it is big. Don't ever doubt that. Located down there in that vast wasteland called L.A. lives a young couple also aspiring to become among the greats. Their names are John and Sharon Leighton and they sing.

Born in Yates Center, Kansas, John Rowland Leighton, like so many other young boys dreamed of someday becoming an entertainer, but also like so many boys never thought he had the "stuff". John spent his early years working as a ranch hand and playing drums with a dance band for spare time enjoyment. He left school during the seventh grade, and it was his good friend "paco" that was the deciding force in learning the guitar and heading for a career in music. "Paco" is now living under the name of Buster Jenkins and working as a disc jockey at KLAQ in Denver. John joined the Air Force at the age of 17 and upon discharge settled in Washington State. He came to California in 1959 where he has lived ever since.

Sharon Lee Leighton was born to show business parents and spent her early years traveling with her parents on the vaudeville and nightclub circuit. She worked as a tap dancer and singer and when her Mother and Father retired from show business Sharon continued with a teenage talent group in

the town of Bell Gardens, just outside of Los Angeles. After graduation Sharon joined a little Theater group where she was to meet her future husband.

It was some time before John and Sharon learned of each others love of music and with Johns roommate they began to sing as a folk trio under the name of The Neighbors. In October of 1963 they traveled to Honolulu where they worked as a duo under the management of Bob Smith (Sgt. Sacto of daytime TV). Starting with folk music, they gradually turned to their real love . . . country music.

Working both as headliners and as part of a package with such artists as Skeets McDonald, Johnny Bond, and Joe and Rose Maphis they played night clubs and military bases on the island before returning to the mainland in October 1965. Once back in California they worked very quickly into the very tight Los Angeles market.

In 1967 they were voted among the top five vocal groups by the Academy of Country and Western Music and in 1968 Sharon was nominated for most promising female vocalist.

Both are exceptional singers as singles, with Sharon coming across with one of the most soulful voices this writer has heard in a long time. Their fan club is headed up by Donna Miller, 2318 Double Tree Lane in Rowland Heights, Calif. and their new release is called *LETS TALK IT OVER*.

John and Sharon are headed for stardom in this wonderful world of country music, and they are most deserving of it. They love it and it loves them.

**Pick one to die.
Pick one for jail.
Pick one to waste away.
Pick three for happiness.**



Photo contributed by Bruce Pendleton

Some children find happiness easily. Others need the help and guidance only a trained person can provide, medical attention they cannot afford, love they have been denied. When you decide to give to your United Fund or Community Chest, you may change a life.

Your fair share gift works many wonders  **THE UNITEDWAY**  

27.5 million families benefit from child care, family service, youth guidance, health programs, disaster relief and services for the Armed Forces through 31,300 United Way agencies.

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MILLIONAIRE TAKES MILLION \$ GAMBLE

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Recently a modern country music concert was staged at the new Anaheim Convention Center featuring Grammy winner Glen Campbell, Marty Robbins, Ray Price, and Roy Clark.

The "sold out" sign was up a week before the concert.

Earlier, Radio Station KBBQ sponsored a modern country music show at the Shrine Auditorium in Los Angeles, and the artists played to a "standing room only" crowd.

These, and similar incidents in the past year show the tremendous popularity of modern country music in the past couple of years.

Now a Palm Springs millionaire, George Cameron, Jr. is taking a million-dollar gamble by investing in a 24 hour-a-day station that features only modern country music — KBBQ in the San Fernando Valley, serving Los Angeles.

Cameron, a self-made man who made his money as an oil producer in Colorado and Oklahoma, now makes his home in Palm Springs where he owns two other radio stations — KDES, the number-one station there which has 57% of the audience, and KGEC-FM.

Recently, Cameron sold his newspaper to Leonard Firestone because he wants to build up his radio properties. He hopes to ultimately own seven AM radio stations, the maximum an individual can own.

Cameron, who has been a member of the Los Angeles Press Club for many years, has installed special equipment in his home so he can receive KBBQ in Palm Springs and keep tabs on his station.

But to make certain the station continues to move ahead, Cameron has installed his business manager, Bob McWhirter, as President and General Manager of KBBQ.

Helping sell it is where Program Director Bill Ward comes in. And he was brought in, in typical Cameron "do it now" style.

Ward was program director at KBOX in Dallas, Top 40 (rock 'n roll) station, which was competing for nine years against another Top 40 station. Ward made a study and knew there was a need for a modern country music station in Dallas. Since there was no full-time country music station there, Ward converted KBOX to this style.

"The secret is to streamline the programming", Ward said, "and to improve the standard of disc jockeys. The old school of hillbilly disc jockey is out."

Within 90 days after the conversion, KBOX became the number one station in Dallas.

Cameron called Ward at the station one Friday afternoon, and the next morning Ward was on a plane to spend the weekend with Cameron in Palm Springs, and thereafter became an employee of KBBQ.

KBBQ had the same problem . . . it was a Top 40 station, and as a rock and roller, was losing great sums of money. Therefore, Cameron and McWhirter decided to make a study to see what they could convert to. They considered an all-talk station, modern jazz, just blues and even foreign language programs. But the one type of program that stood out above all others was modern country music.

The trend is now parallel to other stations throughout the country who converted from rock and roll to country music.

Cameron bought this station in 1963 when it was KBLA, a Top 40 station with only 250 watts of power on 1490 kilocycles. He hired an engineer and moved the frequency to 1500 on the radio dial and increased the power to 10,000 watts. Just last month — three years to the day from the time he applied to the FCC for this frequency — he was given the new license.

Now KBBQ is on the move. They have 10,000 watts during the day, but only 1,000 at night. Cameron is still trying to get this increased to 10,000 at night. If the FCC approves his request, it will probably cost Cameron another million dollars. But he wants to do it, and when Cameron moves . . . he moves.

The millionaire's multi-million dollar gamble looks as if it's going to pay off.

George E. Cameron, Jr. (right) at his home in Palm Springs with his Business Manager and President of KBBQ Robert B. McWhirter.



MAYBERRY'S FAV



ORITE SON

George Lindsey hands out golden peanuts to friends, acquaintances and strangers, to identify himself with Goober, the character he has portrayed for the past four years on "The Andy Griffith Show" and provides him with co-star billing on "Mayberry R.F.D.", to be launched on CBS-TV this fall.

Meanwhile, George is on the horizon of a new career as a country-western singer because of the album he recently completed for Capitol Records in Nashville, Tenn.

By an odd coincidence, the album is titled "Goober Sings", but it is no coincidence that his friend and boss, Andy Griffith readily agreed to do the liner notes as soon as he heard a dub of the recording.

"I got kind of puffed up when Andy volunteered to do the liners", says Lindsey. "He wouldn't do such a thing unless my singing efforts were up to the professional standards he sets for himself".

Despite the impression he gives on the screen as an amiable joker; fundamentally he is a perfectionist who is repelled by sloppy performances by actors or technicians.

"At his home, he removes his shoes, invites a few friends in for tonic, and we all shoot the breeze and watch the boob tube".

"Andy brought the Goober character along slowly and carefully, so Pyle is not a caricature of people in the hill country."

"There's a Goober in every town. He's a solid citizen, a little slow on the up-take, but honest in his approach to his customers and associates."

Don't let that sliced beanie and country bumpkin facade fool you into thinking that Goober and George Lindsey are one and the same. George is a smart cookie but not a smartie, despite his irrespressible impulse to crack wise during most of his waking hours.

He is a well-educated, sophisticated man, but, withal, tied closely to his family life in the hills of Tarzana. His wife, Joy, is far removed from

show business — teaching leaders in the Girl Scout movement, studying for her master's degree at Pierce College, and tending their two youngsters, George, Jr., 6, and Camden Joe, 4.

A native of Jasper, Alabama, some of the deep-South speech patterns still linger in George's everyday conversation. That's why he feels particularly at home with his pals, Griffith, Ken "Gunsmoke" Curtis and Pat Buttram.

He says he knew poverty in his early days and "I was 30 before I knew macaroni wasn't meat".

Lindsey knows now. He does much of the cooking in the patio of his spacious ranch home in the San Fernando Valley, and his family is quick to admit that dad is no slouch as a chef.

He attended Florence State College on a football scholarship and soon found himself devoting as much time to campus theatricals as to the playing field.

After three years in the U.S. Air Force, George coached high school baseball and football; then moved to New York to enroll in the American Theatre Wing. He developed a comedy routine for New York night club engagements and made his TV debut on "The Jack Paar Show" in 1961.

In the same year he also played Moose in "All American" on Broadway. Joshua Logan, who directed the play, later gave Lindsey a lead in the movie, "Ensign Pulver". TV roles came in abundance and variety—heavies, dunderheads, smarties on "Gunsmoke", "The Alfred Hitchcock Hour", "Voyage to the Bottom of the Sea" and some 40 others.

He also gave vent to his abilities to clown, improvise and ad-lib on such talk offerings as "The Mike Douglas Show", "The Joey Bishop Show" and, more recently, two smash appearances on "The Woody Woodbury Show".

The Lindsey album, "Goober Sings", is set for September release, simultaneously with the launching of "Mayberry, RFD".

NORTH NOTES

Continued

Ranch has opened for another season.

In Conn. BOB ARDREY of WWCO continues to play country music and reports a weekly Saturday nite country music policy in one of the leading hotels complete with live broadcast. Let's hope this continues!

In subsequent columns I plan to keep you informed on activities in other NORTHEASTERN areas where country music continues to make its' mark.

In the nice guys department: KENNY ROBERTS and Mgr. QUENTIN WELTY . . . our kind of people!

THUMBS CARLISLE . . . nobody can play like that, he must be pre-recorded! After watching him "jam" I still don't believe it!

Quote of the day from a Boston "rock" D.J. "Country Music is the music all America loves but is too embarrassed to admit". Out of the mouths .

One of the real "Pros" in the business: ARCHIE CAMPBELL a tough act to follow. A most talented artist, his signature is a thing of beauty.

Have you seen the tiny, portable guitar practice amplifier GEORGE HAMILTON IV carries constantly backstage? His band The Numerals are always ready for what they call: "Instant Rehearsal"!

Purists will hate me but I think HANK WILLIAMS SR. with strings and chorus only adds to the magnificence of his talent by beautifying the background on his records.

Determination plus . . . Lou Cassella Prexy of WAYSIDE RECORDS in Maynard, Mass. has just seen two of his label's singles as well as his first album make the national charts . . . Most sincere congratulations from this corner!

Just finished watching another Glen Campbell show, as usual top-drawer all the way.

I have long felt that someone would come along with a style and sound that could successfully bridge the gap between dyed-in-the-wool country music fans and the non-followers so to speak. There is no question in my mind that Glen has done that very thing. He is a fantastic musician and a fine singer, who can run the gamut from bluegrass to pop with a smattering of rock, soul and folk-country thrown in for good measure. In short he has something for everyone musically, with an on camera presence best described as extremely professional yet always natural and sincere.

After being subjected to the pantomimed, overdubbed so-called "record stars" saturating the net-
who couldn't sing or play live even

close to their records; it is like a breath of fresh air to listen to Glen perform live with his fine rhythm group augmented by the great Nelson Riddle. Bravo all the way!

Then there's Curly, Buddy and Julian taking on all comers.

Ever wonder why Opry artists insist on cash? It seems every year a rash of rubber checks from promoters bounce all over the country-side. In GOD we trust, all others pay cash!

CANADIAN NOTES

Continued

Hepworth, Ont. near Sauble Beach with shows planned for every week-end during the summer.

The Carl Smith Country Music Hall TV Show, and Waylon Jennings and The Wailors, Tex Ritter, and Bobbi Staff appeared at the Brantford Civic Center in June.

Canadian artists - please send news and personal appearance schedules to me at: P.O. Box 14, Tyvan, Sask.

THE GOSPEL TRAIL

Continued

sion of Heart Warming Records of Nashville, and is run by Bob Benson, Vice-President.

Someone once wrote . . . "There has to be a song. There are to many dark nights; to many worrisesome miles - there has to be a song.

To make our burdens bearable; to make our burdens bearable; to make our hopes believable; to transform our successes into praise; to release the chains of past defeats - somewhere - down deep in a forgotten corner at one's heart . . . there has to be a song.

Like a cool drink of water, like the gentle warmth of sunshine, like the tender love of a child, there has to be a song".

The above is so very true. What would we do without a song. What a better world this is . . . with the simple strains of a song.

To bring these songs to millions of people, quartets have had to travel countless thousands of miles each year. Traveling has always been the basic problem in gospel music. Many years ago, The Blackwood Brothers, started the trend that is presently used today. They had the insight to try the bus . . . and bus travel seems to be the answer. Carrying members, clothes and equipment . . . including complex sound equipment . . . the bus travels across the nation from coast to coast. As one travels the highways of our nation, you will frequently see one of these buses . . . and you may be assured, that music is being brought to every hamlet, village and city across this great country of ours.

Speaking of busses, this columnist is presently searching for just such a vehicle. If you have a bus for sale . . . or know of someone who does . . .

I would deeply appreciate you contacting me at P. O. Box 99, Amboy, Illinois.

The Jacob Brothers recently conducted their first missionary journey in British Guiana, South America. Just an example of how gospel music is being sung around the world.

A true gentleman in gospel music, and a good friend of your columnist, Jake Hess, has recently released his first solo album on RCA. "The Incomparable Jake Hess" aptly spotlights the distinctive talents of this fine performer, with such cuts as . . . "Church Twice On Sunday"; "How Great Thou Art" and "Do You Really Care". The founder of The Imperials . . . Mr. Hess, has an album that deserves to be in every record collection.

Tony Fontaine, who left a budding pop music career, to join the gospel music forces, has "Decision . . . Comfort . . . Assurance" on the RCA label. The style and delivery of this talented young performer, is clearly expressed with such tunes as, "The Bible My Mother Left To Me"; "Lord I'm Coming Home" and "A Shelter In The Storm".

May we leave you for this month, with these words by Wendell Phillips . . . "What is defeat? . . . Nothing but education; nothing but the first step to something better".

LAS VEGAS NOTES

Continued

get will have Billy Walker, Monument recording artist.

The Mint Hotel has instituted a new policy of always having at least one country show in the lounge. They had Jody Miller, of Capitol Records, from July 16th through Aug. 13th. You'll remember Jody for her recording "Queen Of The House". Aug. 13th through Sept. 2nd it'll be Eddie Cash and His Band, and the ever popular Suzi Arden and The Ardenaires are booked from Sept. 3rd through Oct. 8th at the Mint. As you probably know, The Mint Hotel has been putting on a big country show in their auditorium every month, this year, thru June. And with great success. According to Bob Plummer, The Mint's Entertainment Director, The Mint's next Jamboree will be sometime in September, and we'll probably be able to give you the details in our next column.

Here's something that might be of interest to you businessmen, especially country music promoters and night club owners, I just spoke to the owner of the Nashville Nevada and the Larriat Club in regards to who he will have as guest artists in the near future, and I learned that he doesn't have any guest artist scheduled because he would like to sell both clubs!! It seems that he has out of state business interests that are consuming his time and he has to sell these clubs. I might tell you that these are the two largest night clubs in

Las Vegas. The Larriat has the largest dance floor in Nevada and The Nashville runs it a close second. If you are interested, contact me at K.V.E.G. Radio, Castaways Hotel, Las Vegas, Nevada, and I'll be glad to give you any information I can in regards to the clubs, their potential, etc. and put you in touch with the owner. What I personally would like to see, and what I think would be an ideal set up would, be for some country artist to buy one or both of these clubs and use them for a home base. With the tourist factor here, a known artist would always be highly successful.

Since our last column we had the pleasure of seeing (once again) Hank Thompson and The Brazo's Valley Boys, and Cousin Minnie Pearl at the Mint Hotel's Country and Western Jamboree. By way of review, the remarkable thing about Hank Thompson, who sang all of his oldies, plus his latest hit "On Tap, In The Can, Or In The Bottle", is that his voice hasn't changed at all from his first recordings. Cousin Minnie Pearl sang a tune or two. But as usual her main act is comedy and although I had heard a lot of her material before, she still makes you belly-laugh with her delivery and needless to say they played to a full house for all four shows.

I also attended the Epic Record Company's Awards Show and representing the Country Music Field, there were performances by Charlie Rich, who accompanied himself on piano. David Houston backed up by The Persuaders and Tammy Wynette, looking very chic in a pink semi-formal. Her 16 year old daughter sang harmony for her and Joe Gersho and Company (A pop orchestra) backed her up beautifully. The next night David and The Persuaders appeared at The Golden Nugget to standing room only audiences!

One thing I am very proud of (In case you're coming to Las Vegas) is that K.U.L.A. F.M. which is the companion station to K.V.E.G. now has the Grand Ole Opry Show on from midnite to 1:00 A.M. five nights a week, so be sure and tune in when you're in Las Vegas.

It's five before midnite right now, and if I'm going to do my radio show from 6:00 A.M. to 10:00 A.M. tomorrow, I'd better sign off till next month. Be good, be careful, and above all be country . . .

RUSTY DRAPER

Continued

and best loved Rodeo Clowns, "THE KAJUN KIDD".

Kajun has given me permission to travel with him for two weeks, in order to bring to you, the readers of C.M.L., a true picture, and a somewhat inside story of the wild and dangerous world of RODEO, featuring the RODEO CLOWN.

I plan to bring my camera along, and devote a lot of time to this special REVIEW.

To complete the story, its back to TEXAS for the "TOP 'O TEXAS" Rodeo. Their star this year is a young lady I've been wanting to meet for a long time . . . "MISS JUDY LYNN".

Already one of our best night club performers, it should be interesting to watch her in the Rodeo Arena.

My thanks to the, "TOP 'O TEXAS" Rodeo Committee, and to Dr. Jim Bailey for their aid. I'm looking forward to my visit to PAMPA.

Before closing, I'd like to thank the, "SAHARA HOTEL", Tahoe City, Nevada. It was a pleasure working with you on the DRAPER REVIEW. Hope we work together again soon.

editorial

Continued

sure that none of the clubs listed in CML falls into this category.

With this issue we welcome another new columnist to our ranks. For those of you that have been regularly pleading for an eastern representative, you now have one in the person of Bob Riley. Give him your help and he will do a good job for you. Welcome Bob.

WEST COAST NOTES

Continued

SMOTHERS, for a buffet dinner, and a relaxing evening. I wanted to play some ping-pong, but I never did get the chance as this is un-doubtedly GLEN'S favorite game . . . and he is pretty good at it too. For those of you who do not know TOMMY SMOTHERS, he is everything they say, a most warm human being, congenial, and a wonderful host. My personal thanks to you TOM, for a most enjoyable evening. Before I forget it . . . KGBS' BATCHELOR BOB KINGSLEY was the on-camera announcer for this particular show, Bob was filling in for BILL THOMPSON, who is on tour, and BOB did his usual best . . . don't think he is capable of doing anything wrong when it comes to D.Jaying, or radio and T.V. work of any kind . . . congrats to BOB, and gals . . . he's still a batchelor!!!

At this point in the column I wish to stop and give credit where credit is due. How many of you read and enjoyed the story on Bobby Bare in the June issue? Was that NOT a beautiful story???? Bet you didn't see a by-line underneath the title did you? There wasn't one . . . because the guy that wrote that story 'goofed' . . . (*I think*) . . . and HE'S THE EDITOR!!!! You got a small sample of what JAMES HARRIS is capable of writing when he wants to . . . and he thinks that my first column for this magazine was better than anything he has ever written!!! HAH! I think that JIM literally outdid himself . . . even to the point of receiving some mail in regards to the article .

A few things from the 'HERE 'N' THERE' department' MITCH JAYNE forfeited a year on July 5th; KGBS' BARBARA JOHN is putting together a show to be presented in October; and KGBS' P.D., RON ERWIN got his beads caught in an Ampex tape recorder, while in the 'rewind' position . . . and running!; RON is currently reading a book titled: "HOW TO UNWIND" . . . a favorite 'entertainer' of ours, "BIG NANCE HARRIS" is vacationing in the San Francisco Bay area; and tropical fish fancier ROD DILLARD silently cursing the salesman that sold him that 'bargain-batch-o-fish', the guy said that they were 'active community tank fish' . . . as it turned out they were of a rare type called PIRHANA; AL PERRY of TEXAS is currently penning a new song; "Don't Play The Steel Guitar With Wet Hands", or, "How To Put The Waves Back Into Your Hair"; and a JUICY bit of news recently overheard at the last KBBQ-KFOX Spectacular . . . EDDIE BRIGGS of KBBQ considering going on a diet?

PUT UP WITH ME . . . WILL 'YA, I am sincere, really I am!!

MIDWEST NOTES

Continued

this way . . . "really sincere and has loads of talent. He's on his way up and I told him he'd have my support from now on". Needless to say, Johnny Duncan makes friends wherever he goes. His rendition of "To My Sorrow" brings the old tune back in "grand style".

Have seen a couple of new groups at Sangamon Park this year which I think show very good star potential, CHARLEY MOTT & THE JOKERS who appear regularly at Riverfront Park near Hartford, Michigan, and MILLIE LEE & THE LEE WAYS. Keep those names in mind!

THE RED TOP club in Willow Springs, Illinois, features some of the biggest C & W artists - recently have had such stars as GEORGE JONES and DEL REEVES. Willow Springs is just southwest of Chicago.

Songwriter LORI WILD wrote a nice letter to tell us about Ohio Record Label's BUD CUT-RIGHT. Lori says Bud is creating quite a stir around the Akron area and is now enjoying an extended engagement at Akron's foremost country music club, the Hillcrest Ballroom. One of our favorite yodelin' gals, ETHEL DELANEY handles bookings and the management for this up-coming young talent, I understand.

JIMMY MACK, KDEX, Dexter, Missouri, writes that he is having a hard time getting records. KDEX is trying to program more and more country music naturally, they need help! So, artists, club prexies, and record companies?? (Jimmie has written a lot of record labels but with very little results . . .)

The first "guest disc jockey" while MIKE

HOYER was on vacation in July and the first of August, DOTTIE WEST started her show just as many other "new" deejays do, by introducing the wrong record . . . Dottie said she was going to play the "Number one record in the world", Johnny Cash's "Folsom Prison Blues" which turned out to be Norma Jean singing "You Changed Everything About Me". So, just to be fair, she decided to introduce the next record (which really was Johnny Cash's) as Norma Jean. That's one way to do it, hun. Seriously, Dottie and all of the replacement dj's for Mike have done a great job. Non-listeners to W.H.O. Des Moines, miss a lot, I tell ya!

In May of 1967, Walter Lierz and two of his brothers and a young man from Philadelphia, founded the new Hiawatha Recording Company of Kansas. They have been fortunate in signing two talented gentlemen, BOB LEERS & THE CROSS COUNTY BOYS of Topeka (known as "The Singing Schoolteacher") and ROD MORRIS the writer of Jim Reeves' "BIMBO". Their promotion is good and I think we can look for some future "hits" from Hiawatha.

Just a few more weeks til the big Country Music Festival in Nashville, where I am hoping to see a lot of old friends and to meet many of you Country Music Life readers. Don't forget the Music City Pro-Celebrity Golf Tournament is October 12-13; the K-T and the IFCO fan club banquets (and we have our choice of the two) are held Wednesday night, October 16th and the main part of the Disc Jockey Convention is October 17, 18, and 19. So, will see you d.j.'s, artists, promoters, and fan club people THEN

NORTHWEST NOTES

Continued

grass music is not very popular in these parts - Lester Flatt and Earl Scruggs with their Foggy Mountain Boys pulled capacity and over-flow crowds at recent performances in such cities as Seattle, and Salem, Oregon. Many people couldn't even get in to see them when they thought they had come early enough, because others had arrived earlier! I would have to report if these dates are any indication, bluegrass music in the Northwest is in a healthy state indeed.

Mike Stanton, the 15 year old steel guitar player with Jack Roberts' Evergreen Drifters, was on hand when the western-swing combo backed up Bonnie Guitar, and Faron Young in Seattle-area appearances not long ago. The Drifters will be doing the same soon for Lefty Frizzell, and are also scheduled for the Snohomish County Evergreen Fair with the Crossroads Quartet as an added attraction. Dave Darragh has left the band and Floyd Thomas has taken over playing lead guitar with the group.

Chubby Howard is back on the radio in Western

Washington, spinning Country records. He is heard each Saturday morning from 6 a.m. till noon over KAYE, Puyallup, Wash. Station covers the greater Tacoma-Pierce County area, including McChord Air Force Base and Fort Lewis Army Base, and the KAYE 1,000 watt signal reaches into the south part of Seattle. Bonnie Guitar was the special guest on Chubby's first program. She has a ranch near Orting, Wash., and was born in the state. Welcome back to the air waves Chubby!

Tacoma, Wash. Country Music entertainment favorites Grover Jackson, "Sweet Lorraine" Schwebs, and Cole Shelton have been doing some Sunday performances at Madigan Army Hospital for wounded Vietnam veterans who really appreciate the shows. A COUNTRY MUSIC LIFE salute to Grover, Lorraine, and Cole for their efforts, in addition to an already busy personal appearance schedule which they have.

While we're on the subject of radio, I had a nice long distance call from Lila Powell in Vancouver, Wash. (this seems like a plug Vancouver column), and she was filling me in on the KRDR Radio Boosters Club, which has 233 members in the Portland, Ore. - Vancouver, Wash. sector. They spend every spare minute of their time (or almost every minute) in boosting and promoting, and getting more and more listeners for KRDR, which is one of the Country stations covering that area. I think any operation would be extremely pleased to have a hustling group like the KRDR R.B.C. working in their behalf! It was especially good to hear from Lila, who is a long time subscriber of CML, as back when I joined the staff of this magazine in late 1966, and my initial column came out, Lila was the very first person to write me. I still have her letter and treasure it ever so much!

The dynamic Judy Lynn Show, which got such a tremendous reception on it's Washington State appearances in July, will return this month to play the Central Washington Fair in Yakima, September 25-29. Judy has a new single out on Columbia Records, and in March the Judy Lynn unit will cut a "live performance" album at Caesar's Palace on the Las Vegas Strip.

Remember the Country Music Spectacular that's in the Northwest this month, starring Hank Snow, Sonny James, Dottie West, and Grandpa Jones. In October - the Johnny Cash Show.

As I close, just this reminder to drop me a card or letter when you can, to 8201 So. Lawrence St., No. 8, Tacoma, Wash. 98409 or c/o CML in California. Until next time when it will be Country Music Month - SUPPORT COUNTRY MUSIC!

NASHVILLE NOTES

Continued

were, at the passing of Pop Stoneman in June. He had been ill for some time, but was slowly recovering. The 'kids' were keeping the show on the road, with the know-how gained from his cradle to the stage tutoring. I feel honored to remember Pop, from their early '60's Starday recording sessions. Dixie Deen, arriving in Nashville, boarded at our home several years. She had just arrived from a year's stopover in Virginia, after leaving her home in England. Dixie was raving about the Stoneman Family, so I just had to go see their work. Then in 1966, I was privileged to work in the Robert Patrick-Marty Robbins' movie, "Road To Nashville", with the fabulous Stonemans. Incidentally, Dixie is now Mrs. Tom T. Hall.

A charter member of Nashville's music colony passed away recently, following a cerebral hemorrhage, in St. Thomas Hospital, May 14th. Mr. Beasley Smith was a musician - songwriter and composer of many hits. In 1933, Mr. Smith left his orchestra to become music director for WSM Radio. In 1953, he left WSM to form Randy-Smith Corp. Music Publishers. His "Night Train To Memphis", "Adios Amigos", "Beg Your Pardon", and "The Old Master Painter" are well loved favorites. I am sure that all music lovers, as well as my family, will all miss the presence of this great person.

The new Grand Ole Opry Manager, Bud Wendell, is doing a real fine job, but I am sure everyone will still miss Mr. Ott Devine, who is busy in other activities at WSM.

It has been such a fabulous education seeing how each area presents its country music shows and programs. I remember Jim Harris saying that he will appear on the Convention scene this year; if his plans materialize, it will be just great for us all.

Though I won't be a player, I already have my golf shoes and sweater for the CMA Pro - Celebrity Tournament. The shoes I purchased at Barry Goldwater's Phoenix Store, no less. When picking out the sweater, in the all western famous Scottsdale, I ran into Snuff Garrett and his wife Yolanda. He runs a show biz productions in Hollywood. When seeing the Western heroes Wax Museum and Red Dog Saldon, I thought of Les Leverett and the other Music City album cover photographers. Bill Forshee and the others would find a wealth of fantastic material there.

The old fans and friends of Waylon Jennings, at J.D.'s in Scottsdale, were hoping for him to make an appearance after his two week run in July, at the Nugget in Las Vegas. The few weeks before, Jerry Lee Lewis had a very successful engagement at this nite spot. His "What Made Milwaukee Famous" is number one on Phoenix KHAT Radio at presstime. When interviewing Jerry and his sister,

Linda Gail, in Grand Prairie, Texas this winter, I knew he really loved to perform country music. You can tell he is so sincere, just by the way he acts, talks and sings it on the stage. Comparing his polish to Liberace's, you can really call Jerry Lee, Mr. Entertainer. Talking with Jerry and Linda for hours offstage, they are so very warm and kind, you just can't help but love them. They both still make their home in Memphis.

"Honey" was so good to Bobby Goldsboro, that he is spending some of the royalties on a \$100,000 home in the Nashville-Hillsboro area. The decor and architectural style compose, Asian and modern. He will guest shot on Glen Campbell's Smothers' Brothers summer replacement, Mike Douglas and Merv Griffen. When completed, Bobby will be enjoying the new mansion with his wife, Mary Alice and two kiddies; a son and daughter, ages three and two. I think we all enjoyed Bobby and his duet with Del Reeves, at the United Artists show during the Convention. For me, I got a thrill attending Bobby's session at Fred Foster's Studio almost two years ago. Bobby, Willie Ackerman, the drummer, and I made some fine pictures together. I knew "Honey" would be big, the first time I heard it on Dallas KBOX Radio.

Chet Atkins received an unwelcome present for his June birthday . . . the virus. This present cancelled a party planned at St. Clair's, in his honor. The Nashville guests are likely planning a later rain check party date. This could be a good excuse for Mr. Atkins to spend more time on the golf course, for the sun to bake out the flu bug; but he is too dedicated to his music for that; so many great stars are in Nashville and record on RCA, others come from the big cities and rely on his creative genius of direction and sound!

Like Skeeter Davis . . . Red O'Donnell, most popular Nashville, C & W newspaper columnist, says: "Wanna' hear some toe tapping music? Listen to Skeeter Davis's "There's A Fool Born Every Minute" . . . Skeeter's best in recent years . . . Quote mother Ruth Charon, her drummer, Paul Charon, picks on the flip side, as well he did on the last several releases. Don't tell him I said this, as he is bashful about publicity! From whom he inherited it, I guess his father, as you know I am not bashful about the limelight, to any extent.

Pete Sayers is just back from a visit to his native England, he is now named Music City correspondent for the British Broadcasting Corp. He is to tape interviews with the C & W artists, for the BBC. Eddy Arnold has been talking to NBC about hosting an hour Sunday night program for 1969. It's only word of mouth, but Dean Martin may visit Nashville for a surprise Grand Ole Opry appearance; by now, you all know Dino loves Country Music. Lorrie Collins, of the Collins Kids has recuperated from her appendectomy .

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 Trinojstick, 2730 Baltimore Avenue, Pueblo, Colorado 81003.

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